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## Covers in $p$ -adic analytic geometry and log covers II: cospecialization of the $(p')$ -tempered fundamental group in higher dimensions

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# Covers in $p$ -adic analytic geometry and log covers II: cospecialization of the $(p')$ -tempered fundamental group in higher dimensions

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## ABSTRACT

The tempered fundamental group of a  $p$ -adic variety classifies analytic étale covers that become topological covers for Berkovich topology after pullback by some finite étale cover. This paper constructs cospecialization homomorphisms between the  $(p')$  versions of the tempered fundamental group of the fibers of a smooth morphism with polystable reduction. We study the question for families of curves in another paper. To construct them, we will start by describing the pro- $(p')$  tempered fundamental group of a smooth and proper variety with polystable reduction in terms of the reduction endowed with its log structure, thus defining tempered fundamental groups for log polystable varieties.

## Introduction

This paper is a follow on to [Lep09]. In that article we studied the behavior of the tempered fundamental groups of the fibers of a  $p$ -adic family of curves. More precisely, we proved the following theorem.

**THEOREM 0.1** [Lep09, Theorem 0.1]. *Let  $K$  be a complete discretely valued field. Let  $\mathbb{L}$  be a set of primes that does not contain the residual characteristic of  $K$ . Let  $Y \rightarrow O_K$  be a morphism of log schemes. Let  $Y_0 = Y_{\text{tr}} \cap \mathfrak{Y}_\eta \subset Y^{\text{an}}$ , where  $\mathfrak{Y}$  is the completion of  $Y$  along its closed fiber. Let  $X \rightarrow Y$  be a proper semistable curve with compatible log structure. Let  $U = X_{\text{tr}}$ . Let  $\eta_1$  and  $\eta_2$  be two Berkovich points of  $Y_0$  whose residue fields have discrete valuation, and let  $\bar{\eta}_1, \bar{\eta}_2$  be geometric points above them. Let  $\bar{s}_2 \rightarrow \bar{s}_1$  be a log specialization of their log reductions such that there exists a specialization  $\bar{\eta}_2 \rightarrow \bar{\eta}_1$  for the algebraic étale topology such that the diagram of specialization maps*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bar{\eta}_2 & \longrightarrow & \bar{\eta}_1 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \bar{s}_2 & \longrightarrow & \bar{s}_1 \end{array}$$

is commutative. Then there is a cospecialization homomorphism

$$\pi_1^{\text{temp}}(U_{\bar{\eta}_1})^{\mathbb{L}} \rightarrow \pi_1^{\text{temp}}(U_{\bar{\eta}_2})^{\mathbb{L}}.$$

Moreover, it is an isomorphism if  $\overline{M}_{Y, \bar{s}_1} \rightarrow \overline{M}_{Y, \bar{s}_2}$  is an isomorphism.

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The aim of this paper is to generalize this result in higher dimension. However, in this paper, we will only consider the case of vertical semistable morphisms  $X \rightarrow Y$  (which means mainly that  $U_{\bar{\eta}_i} = X_{\bar{\eta}_i}$ ).

Recall that, if  $\mathbb{L}$  is a set of primes, the  $\mathbb{L}$ -tempered fundamental group is the prodiscrete group that classifies the  $\mathbb{L}$ -tempered covers, which are étale covers in the sense of A. J. de Jong (that is to say, locally on the Berkovich topology, it is a direct sum of finite étale covers) such that, after pulling back by some  $\mathbb{L}$ -finite étale cover, they become topological covers (for the Berkovich topology).

In this article, we shall study the following situation. Let  $K$  be a discretely valued field,  $O_K$  be its valuation ring,  $k$  be its residue field and  $p$  be its characteristic (which can be 0). Let  $X \rightarrow Y$  be a proper pluristable (for example semistable) morphism of schemes over  $O_K$  with geometrically connected fibers.

Let  $\mathbb{L}$  be a set of primes that does not contain  $p$ . If  $\eta_1$  is a (Berkovich) point of the generic fiber of  $Y$ , we first want to describe the geometric  $\mathbb{L}$ -tempered fundamental group of  $X_{\eta_1}$  in terms of  $X_{s_1}$ , where  $s_1$  is the reduction of  $\eta_1$ . To be sure that this reduction exists, we have to assume  $\eta_1$  is in the tube  $\mathfrak{Y}_\eta$  of the special fiber of  $Y$ . Let us make sure at first that we can get such a description for the pro- $\mathbb{L}$  completion, i.e. the algebraic fundamental group. One cannot apply directly Grothendieck's specialization theorems since the special fiber is not smooth but only pluristable. Indeed, a pro- $\mathbb{L}$  geometric cover of the generic fiber will generally only induce a Kummer cover on the special fiber. These are more naturally described in terms of *log geometry* and of the log fundamental group. The log fundamental group classifies Kummer log étale covers (or, equivalently, finite log étale covers): étale locally, these covers are pullbacks of a morphism  $\text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[Q] \rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[P]$  of a morphism of monoids  $P \rightarrow Q$ , where  $Q$  is the saturation of  $P$  in an extension of  $P^{\text{gp}}$  of finite index invertible on the log scheme. For a proper and log smooth log scheme over a complete discrete valuation ring, there is, as in the proper and smooth case for Grothendieck's fundamental group, a specialization morphism from the pro- $\mathbb{L}$  log fundamental group of the generic fiber (which is isomorphic to the pro- $\mathbb{L}$  algebraic fundamental group of the maximal open subset of the generic fiber, where the log structure is trivial) to the pro- $\mathbb{L}$  log fundamental group of the closed fiber. We will have to assume the field  $\mathcal{H}(\eta_1)$  to be with discrete valuation in order to get log schemes with good finiteness properties (more precisely to be fs). Then one can endow  $X_{s_1}$  with a natural log structure. The pro- $\mathbb{L}$  fundamental group of  $X_{\eta_1}$  is isomorphic to the pro- $\mathbb{L}$  log fundamental group of  $X_{s_1}$ . To try to describe the  $\mathbb{L}$ -tempered fundamental group, one has to describe the topological behavior of any  $\mathbb{L}$ -algebraic cover of  $X_{\eta_1}$ . Berkovich, in [Ber99], constructed a combinatorial object (more precisely a *polysimplicial set*) depending only on  $X_{s_1}$  such that the Berkovich generic fiber  $X_{\eta_1}$  is naturally homotopically equivalent to the geometric realization of this combinatorial object, thus generalizing the case of curves with semistable reduction, where the homotopy type of the generic fiber can be naturally described in terms of the graph of this semistable reduction. We will extend such a description to our log covers: for every log cover  $S \rightarrow X_{O_{\mathcal{H}(\eta_1)}}$ , we will construct a combinatorial object  $C(S)$ , depending only on  $S_{s_1}$ , such that its geometric realization  $|C(S)|$  is naturally homotopically equivalent to the Berkovich generic fiber  $S_{\eta_1}$ . This will enable us to define a  $\mathbb{L}$ -tempered fundamental group of our log reduction, which is isomorphic to the tempered fundamental group of the generic fiber: for any Galois két cover  $f : S \rightarrow X_{s_1}$ , there is an action of  $\text{Gal}(S/X_{s_1})$  on  $C(S)$ . Such an action defines an extension  $G_S$  of  $\text{Gal}(S/X_{s_1})$  by  $\pi_1^{\text{top}}(|C(S)|) : G_S = \{(g_1, g_2) \in \text{Aut}(|C(S)|^\infty) \times \text{Gal}(S/X_{s_1}) \mid \pi g_1 = g_2 \pi\}$ , where  $\pi : |C(S)|^\infty \rightarrow |C(S)|$  is the universal topological cover of  $|C(S)|$ . The  $\mathbb{L}$ -tempered fundamental

group of  $X_{s_1}$  is the projective limits of these extensions  $G_S$ , where  $S$  runs through pointed két Galois covers of  $X$  of  $\mathbb{L}$  order. In particular, one gets the following theorem.

**THEOREM 0.2** (see Theorem 3.2). *The  $\mathbb{L}$ -tempered fundamental group of  $X_{\eta_1}$  only depends on the log reduction  $X_{s_1}$ .*

Once we have a definition for the log geometric tempered fundamental group  $\pi_1^{\text{temp-geom}}(X_{s_1})$  of the log fibers in the special locus of  $Y$ , one can reformulate our cospecialization problem only in terms of this special locus.

We will prove the following theorem.

**THEOREM 0.3** (Theorem 4.11). *Let  $\eta_1$  and  $\eta_2$  be two Berkovich points with discrete valuation fields of  $Y_0 = Y_{\text{tr}}^{\text{an}} \cap \mathfrak{Y}_\eta$ . Let  $\bar{\eta}_1, \bar{\eta}_2$  be geometric points above them. Let  $\bar{s}_2 \rightarrow \bar{s}_1$  be a specialization of their log reductions such that there exists a specialization  $\bar{\eta}_2 \rightarrow \bar{\eta}_1$  for the algebraic étale topology such that the obvious diagram of specialization maps commutes. Then there is a cospecialization homomorphism  $\pi_1^{\text{temp-geom}}(X_{\bar{\eta}_1})^{\mathbb{L}} \rightarrow \pi_1^{\text{temp-geom}}(X_{\bar{\eta}_2})^{\mathbb{L}}$ .*

Moreover, one can give a criterion for this cospecialization homomorphism to be an isomorphism. To do this, we will have to make an assumption on the combinatorial behavior of the geometric fibers of  $X \rightarrow Y$ . More precisely, the polysimplicial set associated to those geometric fibers will be assumed to be interiorly free (this is for example the case if  $X \rightarrow Y$  is strictly polystable or if  $X \rightarrow Y$  is of relative dimension one, which explains why such a condition did not appear in [Lep09]). If the morphism of monoids  $\bar{M}_{Y, \bar{s}_1} \rightarrow \bar{M}_{Y, \bar{s}_2}$  is an isomorphism and the polysimplicial sets of the geometric fibers of  $X \rightarrow Y$  are interiorly free, then the cospecialization homomorphism  $\pi_1^{\text{temp-geom}}(X_{\bar{\eta}_1})^{\mathbb{L}} \rightarrow \pi_1^{\text{temp-geom}}(X_{\bar{\eta}_2})^{\mathbb{L}}$  is an isomorphism.

Let  $K$  be a complete discretely valued field. Let  $\mathbb{L}$  be a set of primes that does not contain the residual characteristic of  $K$ . Let  $X \rightarrow Y$  be a proper polystable fibration with compatible log structures over  $O_K$  and with geometrically connected fibers. Let  $\eta_1$  and  $\eta_2$  be two Berkovich points with discrete valuation fields of  $Y_0 = Y_{\text{tr}}^{\text{an}} \cap \mathfrak{Y}_\eta$ . Let  $\bar{\eta}_1, \bar{\eta}_2$  be geometric points above them. Let  $\bar{s}_2 \rightarrow \bar{s}_1$  be a specialization of their log reductions such that there exists a specialization  $\bar{\eta}_2 \rightarrow \bar{\eta}_1$  for the algebraic étale topology such that the obvious diagram of specialization maps commutes.

The first thing we need to construct the cospecialization homomorphism for tempered fundamental groups is a specialization morphism for the  $\mathbb{L}$ -log geometric fundamental groups of  $X_{\bar{s}_1}$  and  $X_{\bar{s}_2}$ . More precisely, we would like to extend any  $\mathbb{L}$ -log geometric cover of  $X_{s_1}$  to a két neighborhood of  $s_1$ . By restricting this extension to  $X_{\bar{s}_2}$ , one obtains a functor from  $\mathbb{L}$ -log covers of  $X_{\bar{s}_1}$  to  $\mathbb{L}$ -log covers of  $X_{\bar{s}_2}$ ; this functor induces the wanted specialization morphism of  $\mathbb{L}$ -log geometric fundamental groups. If one has such a specialization morphism, by comparing it to the fundamental groups of  $X_{\bar{\eta}_1}$  and  $X_{\bar{\eta}_2}$  and using Grothendieck’s specialization theorem, we will easily get that it must be an isomorphism. These specialization morphisms have already been constructed in [Lep09, Proposition 2.10].

Then we have to study the combinatorial behavior of a két cover with respect to cospecialization. By étale localization, one can assume that  $Y$  is strictly local with special point  $\bar{s}_1$ . Thanks to our specialization results for log fundamental groups, any két cover  $U_{\bar{s}_1}$  of  $X_{\bar{s}_1}$  extends, up to két localization of  $Y$ , to a két cover  $U$  of  $X$ . Up to further két localization of  $Y$ ,  $U \rightarrow Y$  is saturated. For a stratum  $u$  of  $U_{\bar{s}_1}$ , there is among the strata of  $U_{s_2}$  whose closure contains  $u$  a stratum  $u'$  with smallest closure (i.e. a biggest stratum for specialization): it defines a map  $\text{Str}(U_{\bar{s}_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(U_{s_2})$ . The fact that  $U \rightarrow Y$  is saturated implies that the closures

of the strata of  $U$  are flat over their images in  $Y$  and have geometrically reduced fibers. Thanks to [EGA4, Corollary 18.9.8]), this implies that  $u'$  is geometrically connected, whence a cospecialization map  $\text{Str}(U_{\bar{s}_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(U_{\bar{s}_2})$ . This cospecialization map can be extended into a morphism of polysimplicial sets. One gets by pullback a specialization functor between the category of topological covers of the polysimplicial sets  $U_{\bar{s}_2}$  and  $U_{\bar{s}_1}$ . Since the cospecialization morphisms of polysimplicial sets commute with két covers, the specialization functor can be seen as a functor of fibered categories over the category of  $\mathbb{L}$ -log covers of  $X_{\bar{s}_1}$  (or, equivalently, of  $\mathbb{L}$ -finite étale covers of  $X_{\bar{\eta}_1}$ ). But the fibered category of tempered covers over the category of  $\mathbb{L}$ -finite étale covers of  $X_{\bar{\eta}_1}$  is naturally equivalent to the stack associated to the fibered category of topological covers over the category of  $\mathbb{L}$ -finite étale covers of  $X_{\bar{\eta}_1}$ . Thanks to the specialization isomorphism of log fundamental groups, the fibered category over the category of  $\mathbb{L}$ -log covers of  $X_{\bar{s}_1}$  can also be considered as a category over the category of  $\mathbb{L}$ -log covers of  $X_{\bar{s}_2}$ : thus, one gets a similar description of the stack associated to the fibered category of topological covers over the category of  $\mathbb{L}$ -finite étale covers of  $X_{\bar{\eta}_1}$ . Thus, the topological specialization functor gives us the wanted tempered specialization functor.

Let us now discuss the organization of the paper.

The first section of this paper will be devoted to recall the main tools we will need later. We will recall the definition of the tempered fundamental group and its basic properties. We will also consider an  $\mathbb{L}$ -version of the tempered fundamental group, where  $\mathbb{L}$  is a set of prime numbers ( $\mathbb{L}$ -tempered fundamental groups were already introduced in [Moc06] in the case of curves). We will then recall the basics of log geometry, especially the theory of két covers and log fundamental groups. We will end this part by recalling the topological structure of the generic fiber (considered as a Berkovich space) of a pluristable formal scheme, as studied in [Ber99] and in [Ber04].

In § 2, we define the tempered fundamental group of a nonempty connected pluristable log scheme  $X$  over a log point. To do this, we define a functor  $C$  from the Kummer étale site of our pluristable log scheme  $X$  to the category of polysimplicial sets (which extends the definition of the polysimplicial set associated to a pluristable scheme defined by Berkovich in [Ber99]). We also define a log geometric version by taking the projective limit over connected két extensions of the base log point.

In § 3, for a connected, proper, generically smooth and pluristable scheme  $X$  over a complete discretely valued ring  $O_K$  (thus endowed with a canonical log structure), we construct a specialization morphism between the  $\mathbb{L}$ -tempered fundamental group of the generic fiber, considered as a Berkovich space, and the  $\mathbb{L}$ -tempered fundamental group of the special fiber endowed with the inverse image log structure, which is an isomorphism if the residual characteristic of  $K$  is not in  $\mathbb{L}$ .

This specialization morphism is induced by the specialization morphism from the algebraic fundamental group of the generic fiber to the log fundamental group of the special fiber, and by the fact that the geometric realization of the polysimplicial set  $|C(S)|$  of a két cover  $S$  of the special fiber of  $X$  is canonically homotopically equivalent to the Berkovich space  $S_{\eta}^{\text{an}}$  of the corresponding étale cover of the generic fiber. This homotopy equivalence is obtained by extending the strong deformation retraction of  $X_{\eta}^{\text{an}}$  to a strong deformation retraction of  $S_{\eta}^{\text{an}}$  onto a subset canonically homeomorphic to  $|C(S)|$ .

In § 4, we construct cospecialization morphisms between the polysimplicial sets of the geometric fibers of a polystable fibration. To do so, we first prove that, up to étale localization

of  $Y$  at  $\bar{s}_1$ , for any stratum  $x$  of  $X_{\bar{s}_1}$ , the set of strata of  $X_{\bar{s}_2}$  whose closure contains  $x$  has a biggest element (for the order induced by existence of specialization), and this biggest stratum is geometrically irreducible. This will induce cospecialization morphisms on the set of strata of the geometric fibers of  $X \rightarrow Y$ . Up to két localization of  $Y$ , the same result is also true for két covers of  $X$ . These cospecialization maps of sets of strata in fact come from maps of polysimplicial sets. If we identify the categories of  $\mathbb{L}$ -két covers of  $X_{\bar{s}_1}$  and  $X_{\bar{s}_2}$  by using our specialization isomorphism of két fundamental groups, one gets, for  $U$  in this category, a map  $|C(U_{\bar{s}_1})| \rightarrow |C(U_{\bar{s}_2})|$  functorially in  $U$  (and, in particular, when  $U$  is Galois, compatible with the action of the Galois group of  $U$ ). We get from this cospecialization morphisms between the  $\mathbb{L}$ -geometric tempered fundamental groups of the fibers of our strictly polystable log fibration.

Thanks to the isomorphisms between the  $\mathbb{L}$ -geometric tempered fundamental group of the fiber over a discretely valued Berkovich point of the generic part of our base log scheme and the  $\mathbb{L}$ -geometric tempered fundamental group of the fiber over the reduction log point, we will get Theorem 0.3.

## 1. Reminder of the skeleton of a Berkovich space with pluristable reduction

### 1.1 Polystable morphisms

Let  $K$  be a complete non-Archimedean field and let  $O_K$  be its ring of integers.

If  $\mathfrak{X}$  is a locally finitely presented formal scheme over  $O_K$ ,  $\mathfrak{X}_\eta$  will denote the generic fiber of  $\mathfrak{X}$  in the sense of Berkovich [Ber94, § 1].

Recall the definition of a polystable morphism of formal schemes.

DEFINITION 1.1 ([Ber99, Definition 1.2], [Ber04, § 4.1]). Let  $\phi : \mathfrak{Y} \rightarrow \mathfrak{X}$  be a locally finitely presented morphism of formal schemes over  $O_K$ . Then  $\phi$  is said to be:

- (i) *strictly polystable* if, for every point  $y \in \mathfrak{Y}$ , there exist an open affine neighborhood  $\mathfrak{X}' = \text{Spf}(A)$  of  $x := \phi(y)$  and an open neighborhood  $\mathfrak{Y}' \subset \phi^{-1}(\mathfrak{X}')$  of  $y$  such that the induced morphism  $\mathfrak{Y}' \rightarrow \mathfrak{X}'$  factors through an étale morphism  $\mathfrak{Y}' \rightarrow \text{Spf}(B_0) \times_{\mathfrak{X}'} \cdots \times_{\mathfrak{X}'} \text{Spf}(B_p)$ , where each  $B_i$  is of the form  $A\{T_0, \dots, T_{n_i}\}/(T_0 \cdots T_{n_i} - a_i)$  with  $a \in A$  and  $n \geq 0$ . It is said to be *nondegenerate* if one can choose  $\mathfrak{X}'$ ,  $\mathfrak{Y}'$  and  $(B_i, a_i)$  such that  $\{x \in (\text{Spf}(A)_\eta) \mid a_i(x) = 0\}$  is nowhere dense;
- (ii) *polystable* if there exists a surjective étale morphism  $\mathfrak{Y}' \rightarrow \mathfrak{Y}$  such that  $\mathfrak{Y}' \rightarrow \mathfrak{X}$  is strictly polystable. It is said to be *nondegenerate* if one can choose  $\mathfrak{Y}'$  such that  $\mathfrak{Y}' \rightarrow \mathfrak{X}$  is nondegenerate;
- (iii) *trivially polystable* if, locally on the étale topology, it is isomorphic to  $\mathfrak{Z} \times_{\text{Spf } O_K} \mathfrak{X} \rightarrow \mathfrak{X}$ , where  $\mathfrak{Z} \rightarrow \text{Spf } O_K$  is a polystable morphism.

Then a (*nondegenerate*) *polystable fibration* of length  $l$  over  $\mathfrak{S}$  is a sequence of (nondegenerate) polystable morphisms  $\underline{\mathfrak{X}} = (\mathfrak{X}_l \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow \mathfrak{X}_1 \rightarrow \mathfrak{S})$ .

Then  $K\text{-}\mathcal{P}stf_l^{\text{ét}}$  (respectively  $K\text{-}\mathcal{P}stf_l^{\text{sm}}$ ,  $K\text{-}\mathcal{P}stf_l^{\text{tps}}$ ) will denote the category of polystable fibrations of length  $l$  over  $O_K$ , where a morphism  $\underline{\mathfrak{X}} \rightarrow \underline{\mathfrak{Y}}$  is a collection of étale (respectively smooth, trivially polystable) morphisms  $(\mathfrak{X}_i \rightarrow \mathfrak{Y}_i)_{1 \leq i \leq l}$  which satisfies the natural commutation assumptions.

$\mathcal{P}stf_l^{\text{ét}}$  (respectively  $\mathcal{P}stf_l^{\text{sm}}$ ,  $\mathcal{P}stf_l^{\text{tps}}$ ) will denote the category of couples  $(\underline{\mathfrak{X}}, K_1)$ , where  $K_1$  is a complete non-Archimedean field and  $\underline{\mathfrak{X}}$  is a polystable fibration over  $O_{K_1}$ , and a

morphism  $(\underline{\mathfrak{X}}, K_1) \rightarrow (\underline{\mathfrak{Y}}, K_2)$  is a couple  $(\phi, \psi)$ , where  $\phi$  is an isometric extension  $K_2 \rightarrow K_1$  and  $\psi$  is a morphism  $\underline{\mathfrak{X}} \rightarrow \underline{\mathfrak{Y}} \otimes_{O_{K_2}} O_{K_1}$  in  $K_1\text{-}\mathcal{P}stf_l^{\text{ét}}$  (respectively  $K_1\text{-}\mathcal{P}stf_l^{\text{sm}}, K_1\text{-}\mathcal{P}stf_l^{\text{tps}}$ ).

$\mathcal{P}st_l^{\text{ét}}$  (respectively  $\mathcal{P}st_l^{\text{sm}}, \mathcal{P}st_l^{\text{tps}}$ ) will denote the full subcategory of  $\mathcal{P}stf_l^{\text{ét}}$  (respectively  $\mathcal{P}stf_l^{\text{sm}}, \mathcal{P}stf_l^{\text{tps}}$ ) consisting of couples  $(\underline{\mathfrak{X}}, K_1)$ , where  $K_1$  has trivial valuation. Equivalently, this amounts to working over fields instead of complete non-Archimedean fields and to replace in the previous definitions formal schemes over  $O_K$  by schemes over  $K$ . If  $l = 1$ , we may omit the index  $l$  in the notation.

Let  $k$  be a field. Let  $X$  be a  $k$ -scheme locally of finite type.

The normal locus  $\text{Norm}(X^{\text{red}})$  is a dense open subset of  $X$ . Let us define inductively  $X^{(0)} = X^{\text{red}}, X^{(i+1)} = X^{(i)} \setminus \text{Norm}(X^{(i)})$ . The irreducible components of  $X^{(i)} \setminus X^{(i+1)}$  are called the strata of  $X$  (of rank  $i$ ). This gives a partition of  $X$ . The set of the generic points of the strata of  $X$  is denoted by  $\text{Str}(X)$  (this set is in natural bijection with the set of strata of  $X$ ). There is a natural partial order on  $\text{Str}(X)$  defined by  $x \leq y$  if and only if  $y \in \overline{\{x\}}$ .

Berkovich defined another filtration  $X = X_{(0)} \supset X_{(1)} \supset \dots$  such that  $X_{(i+1)}$  is the closed subset of points contained in at least two irreducible components of  $X_{(i)}$ .  $X$  is said to be *quasinormal* if all of the irreducible components of each  $X_{(i)}$ , endowed with the reduced subscheme structure, are normal (this property is local for the Zariski topology and remains true after étale morphisms). If  $X$  is quasinormal, then  $X_{(i)} = X^{(i)} \cdot X$  is quasinormal if and only if the closure of every stratum is normal. A strictly plurinodal scheme over a field is quasinormal [Ber99, Proposition 2.1].

We say that a strictly plurinodal scheme  $X$  over a field  $K$  is *elementary* if  $\text{Str}(X)$  has a biggest element; we say that it is *geometrically elementary* if it is elementary and all the strata are geometrically irreducible. Finally, a strictly pluristable morphism  $Y \rightarrow X$  is *geometrically elementary* if all the fibers are geometrically elementary.

### 1.2 Polysimplicial sets

Berkovich defined *polysimplicial sets* in [Ber99, §3] as follows.

For an integer  $n$ , let  $[n]$  denote  $\{0, 1, \dots, n\}$ .

For a tuple  $\mathbf{n} = (n_0, \dots, n_p)$  with either  $p = n_0 = 0$  or  $n_i \geq 1$  for all  $i$ , let  $[\mathbf{n}]$  denote the set  $[n_0] \times \dots \times [n_p]$  and  $w(\mathbf{n})$  denote the number  $p$ .

Berkovich defined a category  $\mathbf{\Lambda}$  whose objects are  $[\mathbf{n}]$  and morphisms are maps  $[\mathbf{m}] \rightarrow [\mathbf{n}]$  associated to triples  $(J, f, \alpha)$ , where:

- $J$  is a subset of  $[w(\mathbf{m})]$  assumed to be empty if  $[\mathbf{m}] = [0]$ ;
- $f$  is an injective map  $J \rightarrow [w(\mathbf{n})]$ ;
- $\alpha$  is a collection  $\{\alpha_l\}_{0 \leq l \leq p}$ , where  $\alpha_l$  is an injective map  $[m_{f^{-1}(l)}] \rightarrow [n_l]$  if  $l \in \text{Im}(f)$ , and  $\alpha_l$  is a map  $[0] \rightarrow [n_l]$  otherwise.

The map  $\gamma : [\mathbf{m}] \rightarrow [\mathbf{n}]$  associated to  $(J, f, \alpha)$  takes  $\mathbf{j} = (j_0, \dots, j_{w(\mathbf{m})}) \in [\mathbf{m}]$  to  $\mathbf{i} = (i_0, \dots, i_{w(\mathbf{n})})$  with  $i_l = \alpha_l(j_{f^{-1}(l)})$  for  $l \in \text{Im}(f)$ , and  $i_l = \alpha_l(0)$  otherwise.

A polysimplicial set is a functor  $\mathbf{\Lambda}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Set}$ . Polysimplicial sets form a category denoted by  $\mathbf{\Lambda}^\circ \text{Set}$ .

One considers  $\mathbf{\Lambda}$  as a full subcategory of  $\mathbf{\Lambda}^\circ \text{Set}$  by the Yoneda functor. If  $C$  is a polysimplicial set,  $\mathbf{\Lambda}/C$  is the category whose objects are morphisms  $[\mathbf{n}] \rightarrow C$  in  $\mathbf{\Lambda}^\circ \text{Set}$  and morphisms from  $[\mathbf{n}] \rightarrow C$  to  $[\mathbf{m}] \rightarrow C$  are morphisms  $[\mathbf{n}] \rightarrow [\mathbf{m}]$  that make the triangle commute. Objects of  $\mathbf{\Lambda}/C$  are called *polysimplices* of  $C$  and, if  $x : [\mathbf{n}] \rightarrow C$  is a polysimplex,  $\mathbf{n}$  will be denoted by  $\mathbf{n}_x$ .

A polysimplex  $x$  of a polysimplicial set  $C$  is said to be *degenerate* if there is a nonisomorphic surjective map  $f$  of  $\mathbf{\Lambda}$  such that  $x$  is the image by  $f$  of a polysimplex of  $C$ . Let  $C_{\mathbf{n}}^{\text{nd}}$  be the subset of nondegenerate polysimplices of  $C_{\mathbf{n}}$ .

Thanks to an analog of the Eilenberg–Zilber lemma for polysimplicial sets [Ber99, Lemma 3.2], a morphism  $C' \rightarrow C$  is bijective if and only if it maps nondegenerate polysimplices to nondegenerate polysimplices and  $(C')_{\mathbf{n}}^{\text{nd}} \rightarrow C_{\mathbf{n}}^{\text{nd}}$  is bijective for any  $\mathbf{n}$ .

There is a functor  $O : \mathbf{\Lambda}^\circ \text{Set} \rightarrow \text{Poset}$ , where  $O(C)$  is the partially ordered set associated to  $\text{Ob}(\mathbf{\Lambda}/C)$  endowed with the preorder, where  $x \leq y$  if there is a morphism  $x \rightarrow y$  in  $\mathbf{\Lambda}/C$ . If one sees  $O(C)$  as a category, there is an obvious functor  $\mathbf{\Lambda}/C \rightarrow O(C)$ . As a set,  $O(C)$  coincides with the set of equivalence classes of nondegenerate polysimplices.

A polysimplicial set  $C$  is said to be *interiorly free* if  $\text{Aut}(\mathbf{n})$  acts freely on  $C_{\mathbf{n}}^{\text{nd}}$ . If  $C_1 \rightarrow C_2$  is a morphism of polysimplicial sets mapping nondegenerate polysimplices to nondegenerate polysimplices such that  $O(C_1) \rightarrow O(C_2)$  is an isomorphism and  $C_2$  is interiorly free, then  $C_1 \rightarrow C_2$  is an isomorphism.

Berkovich also defined a *strictly polysimplicial category*  $\mathbf{\Lambda}$  whose objects are those of  $\mathbf{\Lambda}$ , but with only injective morphisms between them. The functor  $\mathbf{\Lambda} \rightarrow \mathbf{\Lambda} \rightarrow \mathbf{\Lambda}^\circ \text{Set}$  extends to a functor  $\mathbf{\Lambda}^\circ \text{Set} \rightarrow \mathbf{\Lambda}^\circ \text{Set}$  which commutes with direct limits (the objects of  $\mathbf{\Lambda}^\circ \text{Set}$  will be called *strictly polysimplicial sets*).

Berkovich then considered a functor  $\Sigma : \mathbf{\Lambda} \rightarrow \mathcal{K}e$  to the category of Kelley spaces, i.e. topological spaces  $X$  such that a subset of  $X$  is closed whenever its intersection with any compact subset of  $X$  is closed. This functor takes  $[\mathbf{n}]$  to  $\Sigma_{\mathbf{n}} = \{(u_{il})_{0 \leq i \leq p, 0 \leq l \leq n_i} \in [0, 1]^{[\mathbf{n}]} \mid \sum_l u_{il} = 1\}$ , and takes a map  $\gamma$  associated to  $(J, f, \alpha)$  to  $\Sigma(\gamma)$  that maps  $\mathbf{u} = (u_{jk})$  to  $\mathbf{u}' = (u'_{il})$  defined as follows: if  $[\mathbf{m}] \neq [0]$  and  $i \notin \text{Im}(f)$  or  $[\mathbf{m}] = [0]$ , then  $u'_{il} = 1$  for  $l = \alpha_i(0)$  and  $u'_{il} = 0$  otherwise; if  $[\mathbf{m}] \neq [0]$  and  $i \in \text{Im}(f)$ , then  $u'_{il} = u_{f^{-1}(i), \alpha_i^{-1}(l)}$  for  $l \in \text{Im}(\alpha_i)$  and  $u'_{il} = 0$  otherwise.

This induces a functor, the *geometric realization*,  $\| : \mathbf{\Lambda}^\circ \text{Set} \rightarrow \mathcal{K}e$  (by extending  $\Sigma$  in such a way that it commutes with direct limits). If  $O(C)$  is finite (respectively locally finite), then  $\|C\|$  is compact (respectively locally compact).

There is also a bifunctor  $\square : \mathbf{\Lambda}^\circ \text{Set} \times \mathbf{\Lambda}^\circ \text{Set} \rightarrow \mathbf{\Lambda}^\circ \text{Set}$  which commutes with direct limits and defined by  $[(n_0, \dots, n_p)] \square [(n'_0, \dots, n'_p)] = [(n_0, \dots, n_p, n'_0, \dots, n'_p)]$ . Thus,  $\|C \square C'\| = \|C\| \times \|C'\|$ , where the product on the right is the product of Kelley spaces (which is the same as the product of topological spaces whenever  $O(C)$  and  $O(C')$  are locally finite).

### 1.3 Polysimplicial set of a polystable fibration

If  $X$  is strictly polystable over  $k$  and  $x \in \text{Str}(X)$ ,  $\text{Irr}(X, x)$  will denote the metric space of irreducible components of  $X$  passing through  $x$ , where  $d(X_1, X_2) = \text{codim}_x(X_1 \cap X_2)$ . On a tuple  $[\mathbf{n}]$ , one can consider the metric  $d$  defined by  $d((n_0, \dots, n_p), (n'_0, \dots, n'_p)) = |\{i \in [0, p] \mid n_i \neq n'_i\}|$ . Then there is a unique tuple  $[\mathbf{n}]$  such that  $\text{Irr}(X, x)$  is bijectively isometric to  $[\mathbf{n}]$ . If  $[\mathbf{m}] \rightarrow [\mathbf{n}]$  is isometric, there exist a unique  $y \in \text{Str}(X)$  with  $y \leq x$  and a unique isometric bijection  $[\mathbf{m}] \rightarrow \text{Irr}(X, y)$  such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} [\mathbf{n}] & \longrightarrow & \text{Irr}(X, x) \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ [\mathbf{m}] & \longrightarrow & \text{Irr}(X, y) \end{array}$$

commutes.

The functor which associates to  $[\mathbf{n}]$  the set of couples  $(x, \mu)$ , where  $x \in \text{Str}(X)$  and  $\mu$  is an isometric bijection  $[\mathbf{n}] \rightarrow \text{Irr}(X, x)$ , defines a strict polysimplicial set  $C(X)$  (and thus a polysimplicial set  $C(X)$ ).

There is a functorial isomorphism of partially ordered sets  $O(C(X)) \simeq \text{Str}(X)$ .

PROPOSITION 1.2 [Ber99, Proposition 3.14]. *One has a functor  $C : \mathcal{P}st^{\text{sm}} \rightarrow \mathbf{\Lambda}^\circ \text{Set}$  such that  $C(X)$  is defined as above if  $X$  is strictly polystable and, for every étale surjective morphism  $X' \rightarrow X$ ,*

$$C(X) = \text{Coker}(C(X' \times_X X') \rightrightarrows C(X')).$$

This functor extends to a functor  $C$  for polystable fibrations over  $K$  of length  $l$ .

PROPOSITION 1.3 [Ber99, Proposition 6.9]. *There is a functor  $C : \mathcal{P}st_l^{\text{tps}} \rightarrow \mathbf{\Lambda} \text{Set}$  such that:*

(i) *for every étale surjective morphism of polystable fibrations  $X' \rightarrow X$ ,*

$$C(X) = \text{Coker}(C(X' \times_X X') \rightrightarrows C(X'));$$

(ii)  $O(C(\underline{X})) \simeq \text{Str}(X)$ .

By étale descent, one reduces to the case of strictly polystable fibrations, and one builds this functor inductively on  $l$ .

Let us assume we already constructed  $C$  for strictly polystable fibrations of length  $l - 1$  such that  $O(C(\underline{X})) = \text{Str}(X_{l-1})$ . Let  $\underline{X} : X_l \rightarrow X_{l-1} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \text{Spec } k$  be a strictly polystable fibration, and let  $\underline{X}_{l-1} : X_{l-1} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \text{Spec } k$ . Then, for every  $x' \leq x \in \text{Str}(X_{l-1})$ , one has the following lemma.

LEMMA 1.4 [Ber99, Corollary 6.2, Proposition 2.9]. *There is a canonical cospecialization morphism  $C(X_{l,x}) \rightarrow C(X_{l,x'})$  and, if  $x'' \leq x' \leq x$ , the morphism  $C(X_{l,x}) \rightarrow C(X_{l,x''})$  coincides with the composition  $C(X_{l,x}) \rightarrow C(X_{l,x'}) \rightarrow C(X_{l,x''})$ .*

*The induced map  $\text{Str}(X_{l,x}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{l,x'})$  obtained by applying the functor  $O$  is characterized by the following property: the image of a stratum  $z \in \text{Str}(X_{l,x})$  is the biggest element of  $\{z' \in \text{Str}(X_{l,x'}) \mid z \text{ is in the closure of } z'\}$ .*

This gives a functor  $\text{Str}(X_{l-1})^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{\Lambda}^\circ \text{Set}$  that maps an object  $x$  in  $\text{Str}(X_{l-1})^{\text{op}}$  to  $C(X_{l,x})$  and an arrow  $x' \rightarrow x$  to the cospecialization morphism  $C(X_{l,x}) \rightarrow C(X_{l,x'})$  given by Lemma 1.4. If one composes this functor with  $(\mathbf{\Lambda}/(C(\underline{X}_{l-1})))^{\text{op}} \rightarrow O(C(\underline{X}_{l-1}))^{\text{op}} = \text{Str}(X_{l-1})^{\text{op}}$ , one gets a functor

$$D : (\mathbf{\Lambda}/(C(\underline{X}_{l-1})))^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{\Lambda}^\circ \text{Set}.$$

Berkovich then defined a polysimplicial set (where we set  $C = C(\underline{X}_{l-1})$ )

$$C(\underline{X}) = C \square D := \text{Coker} \left( \coprod_{y \rightarrow x \in \mathbf{\Lambda}/C} [\mathbf{n}_y] \square D_x \rightrightarrows \coprod_{x \in \mathbf{\Lambda}/C} [\mathbf{n}_x] \square D_x \right),$$

where, for a morphism  $f : y \rightarrow x$  in  $\mathbf{\Lambda}/C$ , the upper arrow sends  $[\mathbf{n}_y] \square D_x$  to  $[\mathbf{n}_x] \square D_x$  by the morphism  $[f] \square \text{id}_{D_x}$  and the lower arrow sends  $[\mathbf{n}_y] \square D_x$  to  $[\mathbf{n}_y] \square D_y$  by the morphism  $\text{id}_{[\mathbf{n}_y]} \square D_f$ .

### 1.4 Skeleton of a Berkovich space

Berkovich attached to a polystable fibration  $\underline{\mathfrak{X}} = (\mathfrak{X}_l \rightarrow \mathfrak{X}_{l-1} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \text{Spf}(O_K))$  a subset of the generic fiber  $\mathfrak{X}_{l,\eta}$  of  $\mathfrak{X}_l$ , the *skeleton*  $S(\underline{\mathfrak{X}})$  of  $\underline{\mathfrak{X}}$ , which is canonically homeomorphic to  $|C(\underline{\mathfrak{X}}_s)|$

(see [Ber99, Theorem 8.2]). In fact, when  $\underline{\mathfrak{X}}$  is nondegenerate, for example generically smooth (we will only apply the results of Berkovich to such polystable fibrations), the skeleton of  $\underline{\mathfrak{X}}$  depends only on  $\mathfrak{X}_l$  according to [Ber04, Proposition 4.3.1(ii)]; such a formal scheme that fits into a polystable fibration will be called *pluristable*, and we will denote this skeleton by  $S(\mathfrak{X}_l)$ .

In this case, [Ber04, Proposition 4.3.1(ii)] gives a description of  $S(\mathfrak{X}_l)$ , which is independent of the retraction. For any  $x, y \in \mathfrak{X}_{l,\eta}$ , we write  $x \preceq y$  if, for every étale morphism  $\mathfrak{X}' \rightarrow \mathfrak{X}_l$  and any  $x'$  over  $x$ , there exists  $y'$  over  $y$  such that for any  $f \in O(\mathfrak{X}_\eta)$ ,  $|f(x')| \leq |f(y')|$  ( $\preceq$  is a partial order on  $\mathfrak{X}_{l,\eta}$ ). Then  $S(\mathfrak{X}_l)$  is just the set of maximal points of  $\mathfrak{X}_{l,\eta}$  for  $\preceq$ .

Moreover, there is a strong deformation retraction of  $\mathfrak{X}_{l,\eta}$  to  $S(\underline{\mathfrak{X}})$  and this construction is compatible with étale morphisms; more precisely, one has the following theorem.

**THEOREM 1.5** [Ber99, Theorem 8.1]. *There is, for every polystable fibration  $\underline{\mathfrak{X}} = (\mathfrak{X}_l \xrightarrow{f_{l-1}} \dots \xrightarrow{f_1} \mathfrak{X}_1 \rightarrow \text{Spf}(O_K))$ , a natural proper strong deformation retraction  $\Phi^l : \mathfrak{X}_{l,\eta} \times [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathfrak{X}_{l,\eta}$  of  $\mathfrak{X}_{l,\eta}$  onto a closed subset  $S(\underline{\mathfrak{X}})$  of  $\underline{\mathfrak{X}}$ , which is called the skeleton of  $\underline{\mathfrak{X}}$ . It satisfies the following properties:*

- (i)  $S(\underline{\mathfrak{X}}) = \bigcup_{x \in S(\underline{\mathfrak{X}}_{l-1})} S(\mathfrak{X}_{l,x})$  (set-theoretic disjoint union), where  $\underline{\mathfrak{X}}_{l-1} := (\mathfrak{X}_{l-1} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \text{Spf}(O_K))$  and  $S(\mathfrak{X}_{l,x})$  is the skeleton of the polystable morphism  $\mathfrak{X}_l \times_{\mathfrak{X}_{l-1}} \text{Spf } O_{\mathcal{H}(x)} \rightarrow \text{Spf } O_{\mathcal{H}(x)}$ ;
- (ii) if  $\phi : \mathfrak{Y} \rightarrow \underline{\mathfrak{X}}$  is a morphism of fibrations in  $\mathcal{P}stf_l^{\text{ét}}$ , one has  $\phi_{l,\eta}(y_t) = \phi_{l,\eta}(y)_t$  for every  $y \in \mathfrak{Y}_{l,\eta}$ .

Let us describe more precisely how the retraction is defined. First assume  $l = 1$ .

If  $\mathfrak{X} = \text{Spf } O_K\{P\}/(p_i - z_i)$ , where  $P$  is isomorphic to  $\bigoplus_{0 \leq i \leq p} \mathbf{N}^{n_i+1}$ ,  $p_i = (1, \dots, 1) \in \mathbf{N}^{n_i+1}$  and  $z_i \in O_K$ , let  $\mathfrak{G}_m$  be the formal multiplicative group  $\text{Spf } O_K\{T, 1/T\}$  over  $O_K$ , let us denote for any  $n$  by  $\mathfrak{G}_m^{(n)}$  the kernel of the multiplication  $\mathfrak{G}_m^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathfrak{G}_m$  and let  $\mathfrak{G}$  be the formal completion at the identity of  $\prod_i \mathfrak{G}_m^{(n_i)}$  (it is a formal group). Then  $\mathfrak{G}$  acts on  $\mathfrak{X}$ . The group  $G = \mathfrak{G}_\eta$  acts then on  $\mathfrak{X}_\eta$ . The group  $G$  has canonical subgroups  $G_t$  for  $t \in [0, 1]$  defined by the inequalities  $|T_{ij} - 1| \leq t$ , where  $T_{ij}$  are the coordinates in  $G$ . The space  $G_t$  has a maximal point  $g_t$ . Similarly, for any complete extension  $K'/K$ ,  $G_t \otimes_K K'$  has a maximal point  $g_{t,K'}$ . If  $x \in X$ , one defines  $x_t := g_t * x$  to be the image of  $g_{t,\mathcal{H}(x)}$  by the map  $G_t \otimes_K K' = (G_t \times X)_x \subset G_t \times X \rightarrow X$ .

If  $\mathfrak{X}$  is étale over  $\text{Spf } O_K\{P\}/(p_i - z_i)$ , the action of  $\mathfrak{G}$  extends in a unique way to an action on  $X$ , and  $x_t$  is still defined by  $g_t * x$ . For any  $\mathfrak{X}$  polystable over  $O_K$ , one has thus defined the strong deformation locally for the quasi-étale topology of  $\mathfrak{X}_\eta^{\text{an}}$ , and Berkovich checked that it indeed descends to a strong deformation on  $\mathfrak{X}$ .

Consider now the case  $l$  bigger than 1. Let  $\mathfrak{X} \rightarrow \mathfrak{X}_{l-1} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \text{Spf } O_K$  be a polystable fibration. Let  $S(\mathfrak{X}/\mathfrak{X}_{l-1}) := \bigcup_{x \in \mathfrak{X}_{l-1,\eta}} S(\mathfrak{X}_{l,x})$ .

First assume that  $\mathfrak{X} \rightarrow \mathfrak{X}_{l-1}$  is of the kind  $\text{Spf } B \rightarrow \text{Spf } A$  with  $B = A\{P\}/(p_i - a_i)$  (this will be called a *standard* polystable morphism); then one first retracts fiber by fiber on  $S(\mathfrak{X}/\mathfrak{X}_{l-1})$ , which are strictly polystable. The image obtained can be identified with  $S = \{(x, \mathbf{r}_0, \dots, \mathbf{r}_p) \in \mathfrak{X}_{l-1,\eta}, r_{i0} \dots r_{in_i} = |a_i(x)|\}$ ; one then has a homotopy  $\Psi : S \times [0, 1] \rightarrow S$  defined by

$$\Psi(x, \mathbf{r}_0, \dots, \mathbf{r}_p, t) = (x_t, \psi_{n_0}(\mathbf{r}_0, |a_0(x_t)|), \dots, \psi_{n_p}(\mathbf{r}_p, |a_p(x_t)|)),$$

where  $\psi_n$  is some strong deformation of  $[0, 1]^{n+1}$  to  $(1, \dots, 1) \in [0, 1]^{n+1}$  defined by Berkovich (we will just need that  $\psi_n(r_i, t)_k^\lambda = \psi_n(r_i^\lambda, t^\lambda)_k$  for any  $\lambda \in \mathbf{R}^{*+}$  and any  $k \in [0, n]$ ), and  $x_t$  is defined by the strong deformation of  $\mathfrak{X}_{l-1,\eta}$ .

If  $\mathfrak{X} \rightarrow \mathfrak{X}' \rightarrow \mathfrak{X}_{l-1}$  is a geometrically elementary composition of a surjective étale morphism and a standard polystable morphism, then  $S(\mathfrak{X}/\mathfrak{X}_{l-1}) \rightarrow S(\mathfrak{X}'/\mathfrak{X}_{l-1})$  is an isomorphism, so that we deform  $\mathfrak{X}$  fiber by fiber onto  $S(\mathfrak{X}/\mathfrak{X}_{l-1})$ , then we just do the same retraction as for  $S(\mathfrak{X}'/\mathfrak{X}_{l-1})$ . For an arbitrary polystable fibration  $X \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow O_K$ , this defines the retraction locally for the quasi-étale topology of  $\mathfrak{X}_\eta$ , and Berkovich checked that it descends to a deformation retraction on  $X$ .

Berkovich deduced from Theorem 1.5(ii) the following corollary.

**COROLLARY 1.6** [Ber99, Corollary 8.5]. *Let  $K'$  be a finite Galois extension of  $K$  and let  $\underline{\mathfrak{X}}$  be a polystable fibration over  $O_{K'}$  with a normal generic fiber  $\mathfrak{X}_{l,\eta}$ . Suppose we are given an action of a finite group  $G$  on  $\underline{\mathfrak{X}}$  over  $O_K$  and a Zariski open dense subset  $U$  of  $\mathfrak{X}_{l,\eta}$  which is stable under the action of  $G$ . Then there is a strong deformation retraction of the Berkovich space  $G \backslash U$  to a closed subset homeomorphic to  $G \backslash |C(\underline{\mathfrak{X}})|$ .*

More precisely, in this corollary, the closed subset in question is the image of  $S(\underline{\mathfrak{X}})$  (which is  $G$ -equivariant and contained in  $U$ ) by  $U \rightarrow G \backslash U$ .

Theorem 1.5 also implies that the skeleton is functorial with respect to pluristable morphisms.

**PROPOSITION 1.7** [Ber04, Proposition 4.3.2(i)]. *If  $\phi : \mathfrak{X} \rightarrow \mathfrak{Y}$  is a pluristable morphism between nondegenerate pluristable formal schemes over  $O_K$ ,  $\phi_\eta(S(\mathfrak{X})) \subset S(\mathfrak{Y})$ .*

It follows more precisely from the construction that  $S(\mathfrak{X}) = \bigcup_{y \in S(\mathfrak{Y})} S(\mathfrak{X}_y)$ .

## 2. Tempered fundamental group of a polystable log scheme

In this section, we define a tempered fundamental group for a polystable fibration over a field, endowed with some compatible log structure (we will call this a polystable log fibration). To define our tempered fundamental group, we will need a notion of ‘topological cover’ of a két cover  $Z$  of our polystable log fibration  $X \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow k$ . To do this, we will define for any  $Z$  a polysimplicial set  $C(Z)$  over the polysimplicial set  $C(X)$ , functorially in  $Z$ . Thus, if  $Z$  is a finite Galois cover of  $X$  with Galois group  $G$ , there is an action of  $G$  on  $C(Z)$  which defines an extension of groups:

$$1 \rightarrow \pi_1^{\text{top}}(|C(Z)|) \rightarrow \Pi_Z \rightarrow G \rightarrow 1.$$

Our tempered fundamental group will be the projective limits of  $\Pi_Z$  when  $Z$  runs through pointed Galois covers of  $X$ .

### 2.1 Polystable log schemes

All monoids are assumed to be commutative. We will use multiplicative notation. If  $X$  is an fs log scheme, we will denote by  $\overset{\circ}{X}$  the underlying scheme, by  $M_X$  the étale sheaf of monoids on  $\overset{\circ}{X}$  defining the log structure and by  $X_{\text{tr}}$  the open subset of  $X$  where the log structure is trivial.

A strict étale morphism of an fs log scheme  $Y \rightarrow X$  is a strict morphism of log schemes such that  $\overset{\circ}{Y} \rightarrow \overset{\circ}{X}$  is étale. If we talk about étale topology on  $X$ , it will mean strict étale topology on  $X$  (or, equivalently, étale topology on  $\overset{\circ}{X}$ ), and not log étale topology.

Let  $S$  be an fs log scheme.

**DEFINITION 2.1.** A morphism  $\phi : Y \rightarrow X$  of fs log schemes will be said to be:

- *standard nodal* if  $X$  has an fs chart  $X \rightarrow \text{Spec } P$  and  $Y$  is isomorphic to  $X \times_{\text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[P]} \mathbf{Z}[Q]$  with  $Q = (P \oplus u\mathbf{N} \oplus v\mathbf{N})/(u \cdot v = a)$  with  $a \in P$ ;

- a *strictly plurinodal morphism of log schemes* if, for every point  $y \in Y$ , there exist a Zariski open neighborhood  $X'$  of  $\phi(y)$  and a Zariski open neighborhood  $Y'$  of  $y$  in  $Y \times_X X'$  such that  $Y' \rightarrow X'$  is a composition of strict étale morphisms and standard nodal morphisms (in particular,  $X$  and  $Y$  are Zariski log schemes);
- a *plurinodal morphism of log schemes* if, locally for the étale topology of  $X$  and  $Y$ , it is strictly plurinodal;
- a *strictly polystable morphism of log schemes* if, for every point  $y \in Y$ , there exist an affine Zariski open neighborhood  $X' = \text{Spec } A$  of  $\phi(y)$ , an fs chart  $P \rightarrow A$  of the log structure of  $X'$  and a Zariski open neighborhood  $Y'$  of  $y$  in  $Y \times_X X'$  such that  $Y' \rightarrow X'$  factors through a strict étale morphism  $Y' \rightarrow X' \times_{\mathbf{Z}[P]} \mathbf{Z}[Q]$ , where  $Q = (P \oplus \bigoplus_{i=0}^p \langle T_{i0}, \dots, T_{in_i} \rangle) / (T_{i0} \cdots T_{in_i} = a_i)$  with  $a_i \in P$  (in particular,  $X$  and  $Y$  are Zariski log schemes);
- a *polystable morphism of log schemes* if, locally for the étale topology of  $Y$  and  $X$ , it is a strict polystable morphism of log schemes.

A *polystable log fibration* (respectively *strictly polystable log fibration*)  $\underline{X}$  over  $S$  of length  $l$  is a sequence of polystable (respectively strictly polystable) morphisms of log schemes  $X_l \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow X_1 \rightarrow X_0 = S$ .

A morphism of polystable log fibrations of length  $l$   $f: \underline{Y} \rightarrow \underline{X}$  is given by morphisms  $f_i: Y_i \rightarrow X_i$  of fs log schemes for every  $i$  such that the obvious diagram commutes.

A morphism  $f$  of polystable fibrations will be said to be *két* (respectively *strict étale*) if  $f_i$  is *két* (respectively *strict étale*) for all  $i$ .

A polystable (respectively strictly polystable) morphism of log schemes is plurinodal (respectively strictly plurinodal).

A plurinodal morphism is log smooth and saturated.

*Remark.* If  $\phi: Y \rightarrow X$  is a strictly polystable morphism of log schemes, then for any  $y \in Y$ , for any Zariski open neighborhood  $X'$  of  $\phi(y)$  and for any chart  $X' \rightarrow \text{Spec } P$ , there are a Zariski open neighborhood  $X'' \subset X'$  of  $\phi(y)$  and a Zariski open neighborhood  $Y'$  of  $y$  in  $Y \times_X X''$  such that  $Y' \rightarrow X''$  factors through a strict étale morphism  $Y' \rightarrow X'' \times_{\mathbf{Z}[P]} \mathbf{Z}[Q]$ , where  $Q = (P \oplus \bigoplus_{i=0}^p \langle T_{i0}, \dots, T_{in_i} \rangle) / (T_{i0} \cdots T_{in_i} = a_i)$  with  $a_i \in P$ .

LEMMA 2.2. *Let  $\phi: Y \rightarrow X$  be a plurinodal (respectively strictly plurinodal, respectively polystable, respectively strictly polystable) morphism of schemes, such that  $X$  has a log regular log structure  $M_X$  and  $\phi$  is smooth over  $X_{\text{tr}}$ . Then  $(Y, O_Y \cap j_* O_{Y_{X_{\text{tr}}}}^*) \rightarrow (X, M_X)$  is a plurinodal (respectively strictly plurinodal, respectively polystable, respectively strictly polystable) morphism of log schemes.*

*Proof.* Let us prove it for the case of a strictly polystable morphism.

One can assume that  $X = \text{Spec}(A)$  has a chart  $\psi: P \rightarrow A$  and that  $Y = B_0 \times_X \cdots \times_X B_p$  with  $B_i = \text{Spec } A[T_{i0}, \dots, T_{in_i}] / T_{i0} \cdots T_{in_i} - a_i$  with  $a_i \in A$ . Since  $\phi$  is smooth over  $X_{\text{tr}}$ ,  $a_i$  is invertible over  $X_{\text{tr}}$ ; thus, after multiplying  $a_i$  by an element of  $A^*$  (we can do that by also multiplying  $T_{i0}$  by this element), we may assume that  $a_i = \psi(b_i)$  for some  $b_i \in P$ . Thus,  $Y = X \times_{\mathbf{Z}[P]} \mathbf{Z}[Q]$ , where  $Q = (P \oplus \bigoplus_{i=0}^p \langle T_{i0}, \dots, T_{in_i} \rangle) / (T_{i0} \cdots T_{in_i} = b_i)$  with  $b_i \in P$ . If we endow  $Y$  with the log structure  $M_Y$  associated to  $Q$ ,  $Y \rightarrow X$  becomes a strictly polystable morphism of log schemes. In particular,  $Y$  is log regular [Kat94, Theorem 8.2]. Since the set of points of  $Y$  where  $M_Y$  is trivial is  $Y_{X_{\text{tr}}}$ ,  $M_Y = O_Y \cap j_* O_{Y_{X_{\text{tr}}}}^*$  according to [Niz06, Proposition 2.6]. □

### 2.2 Strata of log schemes

For a polystable (log) fibration  $\underline{X} : X \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow \text{Spec } k$ , Berkovich defined a polysimplicial set  $C(\underline{X})$ . In this part, we want to generalize this construction to any két log scheme  $Z$  over  $X$ . To do this, we will study the stratification of an fs log scheme defined by  $\text{rk}(z) = \text{rk}(\overline{M}_z^{\text{gp}})$ , which corresponds to Berkovich stratification for plurinodal schemes, and we will show that étale locally a két morphism  $X \rightarrow Y$  induces an isomorphism between the posets of the strata of  $X$  and  $Y$ . This will enable us to define the polysimplicial set of  $Z$  étale locally. We will then descend it so that it satisfies the same descent property as in Proposition 1.3.

Let  $Z$  be an fs log scheme; one gets a stratification on  $Z$  by saying that a point  $z$  of  $Z$  is of rank  $r$  if  $\text{rk}^{\text{log}}(z) = \text{rk}(M_{\bar{z}}^{\text{gp}}/\mathcal{O}_{\bar{z}}^*) = r$  (where  $\bar{z}$  is some geometric point over  $z$  and where  $\text{rk}$  is the rank of an abelian group of finite type).

The subset of points of  $Z$  such that the rank is  $\leq r$  is an open subset of  $Z$  [Ogu, Corollary II.2.3.5]. We thus get a good stratification.

The strata of rank  $r$  of  $Z$  are then the connected components of the subset of points  $z$  of rank  $r$ . This is a partition of  $Z$ , and a stratum of rank  $r$  is open in the closed subset of points  $x$  of rank  $\geq r$ . It is endowed with the reduced subscheme structure of  $Z$ .

The set of strata is partially ordered by  $x \leq y$  if and only if  $y \subset \bar{x}$ . One denotes by  $\text{Str}_x(Z)$  the poset of strata below  $x$ . More generally, if  $z$  is a point of  $Z$ , we denote by  $\text{Str}_z(Z)$  the set of strata  $y$  of  $Z$  such that  $z \in \bar{y}$  ( $\text{Str}_z(Z)$  is simply  $\text{Str}_x(Z)$ , where  $x$  is the stratum of  $z$  containing  $x$ ). If  $\bar{z}$  is a geometric point of  $Z$ , let  $\text{Str}_{\bar{z}}^{\text{geom}}(Z) = \varprojlim_{(U, \bar{u})} \text{Str}_{\bar{u}}(U)$ , where  $(U, \bar{u})$  goes through étale neighborhoods of  $\bar{z}$ ; it can be identified with  $\text{Str}(Z(\bar{z}))$ , where  $Z(\bar{z})$  is the strict localization of  $Z$  at  $\bar{z}$ .

If  $f : Z' \rightarrow Z$  is a két morphism and  $x \in Z'$ , then  $\text{rk}^{\text{log}}(x) = \text{rk}^{\text{log}}(f(x))$ , so the strata of  $Z'$  are the connected components of the preimages of the strata of  $Z$ .

If  $f : P \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_Z$  is an fs chart of  $Z$ , it induces a continuous map  $f^* : Z \rightarrow \text{Spec } P$  that maps a point  $z$  to the prime  $\mathfrak{p}_z = P \setminus f^{-1}(\mathcal{O}_{Z,z}^*)$  of  $P$ . If  $F_z = P \setminus \mathfrak{p}_z$  is the corresponding face, then  $\overline{M}_{Z,z} = P/F_z$ . One deduces from it that the strata of  $Z$  are exactly the connected components of the preimages by  $f^*$  of points in  $\text{Spec } P$ . In particular, one gets a map  $\text{Str}(Z) \rightarrow \text{Spec } P$ . If  $z$  is a point of  $Z$ , the map  $Z(z) \rightarrow \text{Spec } P$  factorizes through a map  $Z(z) \rightarrow \text{Spec } M_{Z,z}$ , which does not depend on the choice of the chart. One gets a map  $\text{Str}_z(Z) \rightarrow \text{Spec } M_{Z,z}$ . For a general fs log scheme  $Z$ , if  $\bar{z}$  is a geometric point of  $Z$ , one gets a map  $\text{Str}_{\bar{z}}^{\text{geom}}(Z) \rightarrow \text{Spec } M_{Z,\bar{z}}$ .

Let  $P$  be a sharp fs monoid. Let us look at the structure of the strata of  $\text{Spec } k[P]$  endowed with the log structure for which  $f : P \rightarrow k[P]$  is a chart. Let  $f^*$  denote the map  $\text{Spec } k[P] \rightarrow \text{Spec } P$ , let  $\mathfrak{p}$  be a prime of  $P$  and let  $F = P \setminus \mathfrak{p}$  be the corresponding face of  $P$ . Then  $f^{*,-1}(\overline{\{\mathfrak{p}\}})$  is a closed subset of  $\text{Spec } k[P]$ , which, endowed with its structure of reduced closed subscheme, is  $\text{Spec } k[P]/(\mathfrak{p})$ , where  $(\mathfrak{p}) = \bigoplus_{p_i \in \mathfrak{p}} k \cdot p_i \subset k[P]$  ( $(\mathfrak{p})$  is a prime ideal of  $k[P]$ ). Moreover, the obvious morphism of rings  $k[F] \rightarrow k[P]/(\mathfrak{p})$  is an isomorphism, inducing thus an isomorphism of schemes  $f^{*,-1}(\overline{\{\mathfrak{p}\}}) = \text{Spec } k[P]/(\mathfrak{p}) \simeq \text{Spec } k[F]$ . However, the log structure on  $\text{Spec } k[F]$  for which  $F$  is a chart does not correspond in general with the log structure on  $\text{Spec } k[P]/(\mathfrak{p})$  for which  $P$  is a chart. The open immersion  $f^{*,-1}(\{\mathfrak{p}\}) \subset f^{*,-1}(\overline{\{\mathfrak{p}\}})$  corresponds then to the open immersion  $\text{Spec } k[F^{\text{gp}}] \rightarrow \text{Spec } k[F]$ . Since  $P$  is sharp,  $F^{\text{gp}}$  is torsionfree and  $\text{Spec } k[F^{\text{gp}}]$  is connected. In particular, there is a unique stratum of  $\text{Spec } k[P]$  above  $\mathfrak{p}$  and thus  $\text{Str}(\text{Spec } k[P]) \rightarrow \text{Spec } P$  is bijective.

Let  $Z$  be a plurinodal log scheme over some log point  $(k, M_k)$  of characteristic  $p$  and of rank  $r_0$  and let  $z$  be a point of  $Z$ . One has  $\text{rk}^{\text{log}}(z) = r_0 + \text{rk}(z)$ , where  $\text{rk}(z)$  is the codimension of

the strata containing  $z$  in  $Z$  for the Berkovich stratification of plurinodal schemes. Thus, the strata are the same for this stratification and the stratification of Berkovich. The strata of  $Z$  are normal.

We will often denote abusively in the same way a stratum and its generic point.

Recall that  $Z$  is said to be quasinormal if the closure of any stratum endowed with its reduced scheme structure is normal.

LEMMA 2.3. *Let  $f : Z \rightarrow S = \text{Spec } k$  be a log smooth morphism. Let  $\bar{z}$  be a geometric point of  $Z$ . Let  $f_*$  denote the natural morphism  $\text{Spec } M_{Z,\bar{z}} \rightarrow \text{Spec } M_{S,\bar{s}}$ . Let  $\mathfrak{p}_0 \in \text{Spec } M_{S,\bar{s}}$  be the prime  $M_{S,\bar{s}} \setminus M_{S,\bar{s}}^*$ . Then  $\phi_{Z,\bar{z}} : \text{Str}_{\bar{z}}^{\text{geom}}(Z) \rightarrow \text{Spec } M_{Z,\bar{z}}$  is injective and its image is  $f_*^{-1}(\mathfrak{p}_0)$ . Moreover,  $Z(\bar{z})$  is quasinormal. In particular, every stratum of  $Z$  is normal.*

*Proof.* Since the unique stratum of  $S$  is mapped to  $\mathfrak{p}_0$  by the map  $\text{Str}_S^{\text{geom}}(S) \rightarrow \text{Spec } M_{S,\bar{s}}$ , one has  $\text{Im } \phi_{Z,\bar{z}} \subset f_*^{-1}(\mathfrak{p}_0)$ .

The lemma can be proven étale locally: one can assume that  $S$  has a chart  $S \rightarrow \text{Spec } k[P]$ , where  $P$  is sharp, and that  $Z = S \times_{\text{Spec } k[P]} \text{Spec } k[Q]$ , where  $\psi : P \rightarrow Q$  is injective and the torsion part of  $\text{Coker } \psi^{\text{gp}}$  is finite. Let  $\mathfrak{q}' \in f_*^{-1}(\mathfrak{p}_0)$  and let  $\mathfrak{q}$  be its image in  $\text{Spec } Q$ . The image of  $\mathfrak{q}$  in  $\text{Spec } P$  is the image  $\mathfrak{p}$  of  $M_{S,\bar{s}}^*$ . Let  $F = Q \setminus \mathfrak{q}$  and  $F_0 = P \setminus \mathfrak{p}$ . The morphism  $S \rightarrow \text{Spec } k[P]$  factors through  $\text{Spec } k[F_0^{\text{gp}}]$ . Let  $\phi : Z \rightarrow \text{Spec } Q$  and let  $Z_F$  be the closed subset  $\psi^{-1}(\overline{\{\mathfrak{q}\}})$  of  $Z$  ( $\bar{z}$  lies in  $Z_F$ ). Then  $Z_F$  is the support of the closed subscheme  $Z \times_{\text{Spec } k[Q]} \text{Spec } k[Q]/(\mathfrak{q})$ , which we also denote by  $Z_F$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} Z_F &= Z \times_{\text{Spec } k[Q]} \text{Spec } k[F] = S \times_{\text{Spec } k[P]} \text{Spec } k[F] \\ &= S \times_{\text{Spec } k[F_0]} \text{Spec } k[F] = S \times_{\text{Spec } k[F_0^{\text{gp}}]} \text{Spec } k[F_0^{\text{gp}}]. \end{aligned}$$

Let  $T_0$  be the saturation of  $F_0^{\text{gp}}$  in  $F^{\text{gp}}$  and let  $T_1$  be a subgroup of  $F^{\text{gp}}$  such that  $F^{\text{gp}} = T_0 \oplus T_1$ . The morphism  $S' := S \times_{\text{Spec } k[F_0^{\text{gp}}]} \text{Spec } k[T_0] \rightarrow S$  is finite étale and Galois, so that  $S'$  is a disjoint union  $\coprod_i \text{Spec } k'$  of copies of  $\text{Spec } k'$  for some separable extension  $k'$  of  $k$ . Then  $Z_F = S' \times_{\text{Spec } k'[T_0]} \text{Spec } k'[FF_0^{\text{gp}}] = \coprod_i \text{Spec } k'[FF_0^{\text{gp}} \cap T_1]$ . But  $FF_0^{\text{gp}} \cap T_1$  is a saturated monoid, hence  $\text{Spec } k'[FF_0^{\text{gp}} \cap T_1]$  is normal. Thus,  $Z_F(\bar{z})$  is irreducible. Moreover, if  $F' \subsetneq F$ , then  $Z_{F'}$  does not contain any connected component of  $Z_F$ : the generic point of each component of  $Z_F$  lies above  $\mathfrak{q}$ . One thus obtains that there is a unique stratum of  $Z(\bar{z})$  lying above  $\mathfrak{q}$ .  $\square$

LEMMA 2.4. *Let  $Z$  be a Zariski log scheme, let  $Z \rightarrow \text{Spec } k$  be a log smooth morphism and let  $Z' \rightarrow Z$  be a két morphism. The natural map  $\text{Str}_{z'}(Z') \rightarrow \text{Str}_z(Z)$  is an isomorphism of posets.*

*Proof.* There is the following commutative diagram.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Str}_{\bar{z}'}^{\text{geom}}(Z') & \longrightarrow & \text{Str}_{\bar{z}}^{\text{geom}}(Z) & \hookrightarrow & \text{Spec } M_{Z,\bar{z}} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \parallel \\ \text{Str}_{z'}(Z') & \longrightarrow & \text{Str}_z(Z) & \longrightarrow & \text{Spec } M_{Z,z} \end{array}$$

Since  $\text{Str}_{\bar{z}}^{\text{geom}}(Z) \rightarrow \text{Spec } M_{Z,\bar{z}}$  is injective,  $\text{Str}_{\bar{z}}^{\text{geom}}(Z) \rightarrow \text{Str}_z(Z)$  must be bijective. The morphism  $\text{Str}_{\bar{z}'}^{\text{geom}}(Z') \rightarrow \text{Str}_{\bar{z}}^{\text{geom}}(Z)$  is bijective thanks to Lemma 2.3 because  $\text{Spec } \overline{M}_{Z',z'} \rightarrow \text{Spec } \overline{M}_{Z,z}$  is bijective since  $\overline{M}_{Z,z} \rightarrow \overline{M}_{Z',z'}$  is Kummer. Hence,  $\text{Str}_{z'}(Z') \rightarrow \text{Str}_z(Z)$  must also be bijective.

If  $z'_1$  and  $z'_2$  are elements of  $\text{Str}_{z'}(Z')$ , then  $\text{Str}_{z'_1}(Z'_1) \rightarrow \text{Str}_{z_1}(Z_1)$  is also bijective, so that  $z'_2 \in \text{Str}_{z'_1}(Z'_1)$  if and only if  $z_2 \in \text{Str}_{z_1}(Z_1)$ , i.e.  $z'_2 \leq z'_1$  if and only if  $z_2 \leq z_1$ .  $\square$

In particular, one can apply Lemma 2.4 if  $Z$  is strictly plurinodal.

### 2.3 Polysimplicial set of a k et log scheme over a polystable log scheme

Let  $C \rightarrow C'$  be a morphism of polysimplicial sets. Let  $\alpha : S \rightarrow O(C)$  (respectively  $\alpha' : S' \rightarrow O(C')$ ) be a morphism of posets such that  $S_{\leq x} \xrightarrow{\simeq} O(C)_{\leq \alpha(x)}$  (respectively  $S'_{\leq x} \xrightarrow{\simeq} O(C')_{\leq \alpha'(x)}$  for any  $x$ ). Then  $\alpha$  defines a functor  $O(C)^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Set}$  by sending  $c$  to  $\alpha^{-1}(c)$  and, if  $c \leq c'$ , then the map  $\alpha^{-1}(c') \rightarrow \alpha^{-1}(c)$  sends  $x' \in \alpha^{-1}(c')$  to the unique preimage of  $c$  by the map  $S_{\leq x'} \rightarrow O(C)_{\leq c'}$ . One gets a functor  $F : (\mathbf{\Lambda}/C)^{\text{op}} \rightarrow O(C)^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Set}$  (respectively  $F' : (\mathbf{\Lambda}/C')^{\text{op}} \rightarrow O(C')^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Set}$ ), which defines a polysimplicial set  $D = C \times F$  (respectively  $D' = C' \times F'$ ):

$$D = \text{Coker} \left( \coprod_{x \rightarrow y} \coprod_{F(x)} [\mathbf{n}_y] \rightrightarrows \coprod_x \coprod_{F(x)} [\mathbf{n}_x] \right).$$

If we consider  $F$  as a functor  $(\mathbf{\Lambda}/C)^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \mathbf{\Lambda}^{\circ} \text{Set}$ , then  $D$  is nothing else than  $C \square F$  (but this is a very simple case of  $\square$ -product where all the fibers are discrete). To give a slightly more explicit description of  $D$ ,  $D_{\mathbf{n}} = \coprod_{x \in C_{\mathbf{n}}} F(x)$  and, if  $f : \mathbf{m} \rightarrow \mathbf{n}$  is a morphism of  $\mathbf{\Lambda}$  and  $z \in F(x)$  with  $x \in C_{\mathbf{n}}$ ,  $f^*(z) = F(\bar{f}) \in F(f^*(x))$ , where  $\bar{f}$  is the morphism  $f^*(x) \rightarrow x$  in  $\mathbf{\Lambda}/C$ . Since  $F$  maps surjective morphisms to isomorphisms, a polysimplex  $z \in F(x)$  of  $D$  is nondegenerate if and only if  $x$  is nondegenerate. One gets that  $O(D) = S$  and that  $D$  is interiorly free if  $C$  is.

If  $\alpha : S \rightarrow O(C)$  is an isomorphism, then the natural morphism  $D \rightarrow C$  is also an isomorphism.

Then any morphism of posets  $f : S \rightarrow S'$  such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S & \longrightarrow & S' \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ O(C) & \longrightarrow & O(C') \end{array}$$

is commutative induces a unique morphism of polysimplicial sets  $\underline{f} : D \rightarrow D'$  over  $C \rightarrow C'$  such that  $O(\underline{f}) = f$ .

Let us consider now a strictly polystable log fibration  $\underline{X} : X \rightarrow X_{l-1} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow s$ , where  $s$  is an fs log point. In particular,  $X$  is a Zariski log scheme. If  $f : Z \rightarrow X$  is k et, the map of posets  $\text{Str}(f) : \text{Str}(Z) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X) = O(C(\underline{X}))$  is such that  $\text{Str}(Z)_{\leq z} \simeq \text{Str}(X)_{\leq f(z)}$  for any  $z \in \text{Str}(Z)$  according to Lemma 2.4. Thus, one gets a functor  $D_Z = (\mathbf{\Lambda}/C(\underline{X}))^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Set}$  and a polysimplicial set  $C_{\underline{X}}(Z) = C(\underline{X}) \times D_Z$  (we will often write  $C(Z)$  instead of  $C_{\underline{X}}(Z)$ ). This polysimplicial set is still interiorly free and  $O(C(Z))$  is functorially isomorphic to  $\text{Str}(Z)$ .

LEMMA 2.5. *If  $\underline{X} \rightarrow \underline{X}'$  is a k et morphism of strictly polystable log fibrations, then there is a canonical isomorphism  $C_{\underline{X}'}(X_l) \simeq C(\underline{X})$  such that  $\text{Str}(X_l) = O(C_{\underline{X}'}(X_l)) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_l) = O(C(\underline{X}))$  is the identity of  $\text{Str}(X_l)$ .*

*Proof.* Assume we have already constructed the isomorphism  $C_{\underline{X}'_{l-1}}(X_{l-1}) \simeq C(\underline{X}_{l-1})$ . Then  $C_{\underline{X}'}(X_l) = D_1 \square C(\underline{X}'_{l-1})$  and  $C(\underline{X}) = D_2 \square C(\underline{X}'_{l-1})$ , where, if  $x$  is the generic point of a stratum of  $\underline{X}'_{l-1}$ ,  $D_1(x) = C_{\underline{X}'_{l-1}}(X_{l,x})$  and  $D_2(x) = C(X_{l,x})$ . By induction on  $l$ , the problem is thus reduced to the case where  $l = 1$  and  $X \rightarrow X'$  is a k et morphism of strictly polystable objects over  $\text{Spec } k$ .

We have  $C_{X'}(X) = D_X \times C(X')$ , where  $D_X$  maps  $x' \in \text{Str}(X')$  to the set of strata of  $X$  above  $x'$ . Then  $C_{X'}(X)$  is associated to the strictly polysimplicial set  $C' = D_X \times C(X')$ . Then

$$C'_n = \{(x, x', \mu), x \in \text{Str}(X), x' = f(x), \mu : \mathbf{n} \simeq \text{Irr}(X', x')\} = \{(x, \mu), x \in \text{Str}(X), \mu : \mathbf{n} \simeq \text{Irr}(X, x)\}$$

because  $\text{Irr}(X, x) \rightarrow \text{Irr}(X', x')$  is an isomorphism. Thus,  $C'_n \simeq C_n$  (and the bijection is compatible with maps of  $\Lambda$ ), which gives the wanted isomorphism.  $\square$

Let us consider a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Z & \longrightarrow & Z' \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \underline{X} & \longrightarrow & \underline{X}' \end{array}$$

where  $\underline{X} \rightarrow \underline{X}'$  is a két morphism of strictly polystable log fibrations and  $Z \rightarrow X_l$  and  $Z' \rightarrow X'_l$  are két morphisms. Then

$$\begin{aligned} C_{\underline{X}}(Z) &= D_{Z/X} \times C(\underline{X}) \simeq D_{Z/X} \times C_{\underline{X}'}(X) \\ &= D_{Z/X} \times (D_{X/X'} \times C(X')) = D_{Z/X'} \times C(X') = C_{\underline{X}'}(Z), \end{aligned}$$

where  $D_{Z/X}(x) = \text{Str}(Z \rightarrow X)^{-1}(x)$ ,  $D_{X/X'}(x') = \text{Str}(X \rightarrow X')^{-1}(x')$  and  $D_{Z/X'}(x') = \text{Str}(Z \rightarrow X')^{-1}(x')$ . There is a morphism of functors  $D_{Z/X'} \rightarrow D_{Z'/X'}$  which induces a morphism of polysimplicial sets

$$C_{\underline{X}}(Z) = D_{Z/X'} \times C(X') \rightarrow D_{Z'/X'} \times C(X') = C_{\underline{X}'}(Z').$$

This morphism is an isomorphism if and only if  $\text{Str}(Z) \rightarrow \text{Str}(Z')$  is bijective.

Let  $\bar{X} : X \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow s$  be a strictly polystable log fibration and let  $Z \rightarrow X$  be a két morphism. Let  $Z' \rightarrow Z$  be a két covering, let  $Z'' = Z' \times_Z Z'$  and let  $x$  be a stratum of  $X$ ; then  $D_Z(x) = \text{Coker}(D_{Z''}(x) \rightrightarrows D_{Z'}(x))$ . We deduce from it that

$$C(Z) = \text{Coker}(C(Z'') \rightrightarrows C(Z')).$$

One may also define  $C_{\underline{X}}(Z)$  for  $\underline{X}$  a general polystable fibration. Let  $\underline{X}' \rightarrow \underline{X}$  be an étale covering, where  $\underline{X}'$  is strictly polystable, let  $\underline{X}'' = \underline{X}' \times_{\underline{X}} \underline{X}'$  and let  $Z'$  and  $Z''$  be the pullbacks of  $Z$  to  $X'$  and  $X''$ . Then one defines  $C_{\underline{X}}(Z) = \text{Coker}(C_{\underline{X}''}(Z'') \rightrightarrows C_{\underline{X}'}(Z'))$  (it does not depend of the choice of  $\underline{X}'$ ).

If  $Z' \rightarrow Z$  is a surjective morphism between két log schemes over  $X$  and  $Z'' = Z' \times_Z Z'$ ,  $\text{Str}(Z) = \text{Coker}(\text{Str}(Z'') \rightrightarrows \text{Str}(Z'))$ . One thus gets the following proposition ( $\text{két}(X)$  denotes the category of két log schemes over  $X$ ).

**PROPOSITION 2.6.** *Let  $\underline{X} : X \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow s$  be a polystable log fibration; one has a functor  $C_{\underline{X}} : \text{két}(X) \rightarrow \Lambda^\circ \text{Set}$  such that:*

- if  $Z' \rightarrow Z$  is a két covering of  $\text{két}(X)$ , then

$$C_{\underline{X}}(Z) = \text{Coker}(C_{\underline{X}}(Z' \times_Z Z') \rightrightarrows C_{\underline{X}}(Z'));$$

- $O(C_{\underline{X}}(Z))$  is functorially isomorphic to  $\text{Str}(Z)$ .

*Remark.* If one has a két morphism  $\underline{Y} \rightarrow \underline{X}$  of polystable fibrations of length  $l$ , the polysimplicial complex  $C(Y_l)$  we have just defined by considering  $Y_l$  as két over  $X_l$  is canonically isomorphic to the polysimplicial complex of the polystable fibration  $C(\underline{Y})$  defined by Berkovich.

We say that an fs log scheme  $Z$  over a log point  $s$  is log geometrically irreducible if the underlying scheme of  $Z \times_s s'$  is irreducible for any morphism  $s' \rightarrow s$  of log points. If  $\overset{\circ}{Z}/\overset{\circ}{s}$  is geometrically irreducible and  $Z \rightarrow s$  is saturated, then  $Z/s$  is log geometrically irreducible since the underlying scheme of  $Z \times_s s'$  is  $\overset{\circ}{Z} \times_{\overset{\circ}{s}} s'$ .

If  $Z$  is quasicompact, then there is a connected két cover  $s' \rightarrow s$  such that all the strata of  $Z_{s'}$  are geometrically irreducible and  $Z_{s'} \rightarrow s'$  is saturated. Then all the strata of  $Z_{s'}$  are log geometrically irreducible. In particular, for any morphism of fs log points  $s'' \rightarrow s'$ ,  $C(Z_{s''}) \rightarrow C(Z_{s'})$  is an isomorphism. The polysimplicial complex  $C(Z_{s'})$  for such an  $s'$  is denoted by  $C_{\text{geom}}(Z/s)$ .

Let  $\bar{z}$  be a geometric point of  $Z$ . Let  $U$  be an étale neighborhood of  $\bar{z}$  such that  $\text{Str}_{\bar{z}}^{\text{geom}}(Z) \rightarrow \text{Str}(U)$  is an isomorphism. One defines  $C(Z)_{\bar{z}} := C(U)$  (it does not depend on the choice of  $U$ ). If  $Z \rightarrow X$  is két,  $C(Z)_{\bar{z}} \rightarrow C(X)_{\bar{x}}$  is an isomorphism of polysimplicial sets.

LEMMA 2.7. *The space  $|C(Z)_{\bar{z}}|$  is contractible.*

*Proof.* Let  $\Phi_{\mathbf{n}} : |\mathbf{n}| \times [0, 1] \rightarrow |\mathbf{n}|$  be defined by  $\Phi_{\mathbf{n}}((u_{il}), t)_{il} = (1 - t)u_{il} + (t/n_i)$ . This is a deformation retraction to a point. These deformation retractions are compatible with surjective maps  $\mathbf{m} \rightarrow \mathbf{n}$ .

One can assume that  $X \xrightarrow{\psi} X_{l-1} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow s$  is a strictly polystable fibration of length  $l$  and that  $Z = X$ . Let  $\bar{x}'$  be the image of  $\bar{x} := \bar{z}$  in  $X_{l-1}$ . One can also assume that  $\text{Str}_{\bar{x}'}^{\text{geom}}(X) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X)$  and  $\text{Str}_{\bar{x}'}^{\text{geom}}(X_{l-1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{l-1})$  are bijections. By induction on  $l$ , one can assume that  $|C(X_{l-1})|$  is contractible.

If  $y'$  is a stratum of  $X_{l-1}$ ,  $X_{y'}$  has a biggest stratum  $y$  and  $C(X_{y'}) \simeq [\mathbf{n}_y]$ . Then

$$|C(X)| = \text{Coker} \left( \coprod_{\substack{f: y_1 \rightarrow y_2 \in \\ \Lambda / C(X_{l-1})}} |\mathbf{n}_{y'_1}| \times |\mathbf{n}_{y_2}| \xrightarrow{a,b} \coprod_{y' \in \Lambda / C} |\mathbf{n}_{y'}| \times |\mathbf{n}_y| \right),$$

where  $a$  maps  $|\mathbf{n}_{y'_1}| \times |\mathbf{n}_{y_2}|$  to  $|\mathbf{n}_{y'_1}| \times |\mathbf{n}_{y_1}|$  by  $\text{id} \times f_0$ , where  $f_0$  is the cospecialization map  $C(X_{y_2}) \rightarrow C(X_{y_1})$  given by Lemma 1.4, and  $b$  maps  $|\mathbf{n}_{y'_1}| \times |\mathbf{n}_{y_2}|$  to  $|\mathbf{n}_{y'_2}| \times |\mathbf{n}_{y_2}|$   $f^* \times \text{id}$ .

One defines a deformation retraction  $\Phi$  of  $\coprod_{y' \in \Lambda / C(X_{l-1})} |\mathbf{n}_{y'}| \times |\mathbf{n}_y|$  by  $\Phi(u, v, t) = (u, \Phi_{\mathbf{n}_y}(v, t))$ . Moreover, if  $(z_1, z_2) \in |\mathbf{n}_{y'_1}| \times |\mathbf{n}_{y_2}|$ ,

$$\Phi(a(z_1, z_2), t) = (z_1, \Phi_{\mathbf{n}_{y_1}}(f_0(z_2), t)) = (z_1, f_0(\Phi_{\mathbf{n}_{y_2}}(z_2, t))) = a(z_1, \Phi_{\mathbf{n}_{y_2}}(z_2, t))$$

because the map  $\mathbf{n}_{y_2} \rightarrow \mathbf{n}_{y_1}$  inducing  $f_0$  is surjective, and

$$\Phi(b(z_1, z_2), t) = (f^* z_1, \Phi_{\mathbf{n}_{y_2}}(z_2, t)) = b(z_1, \Phi_{\mathbf{n}_{y_2}}(z_2, t)).$$

Thus,  $\Phi$  induces a deformation retraction of  $C(X)$ , also denoted by  $\Phi$  by abuse of notation. This retraction is compatible with  $\psi : |C(X)| \rightarrow |C(X_{l-1})|$  in the sense that  $\psi(\Phi(z, t)) = \psi(z)$  for every  $t \in [0, 1]$ . Let  $S$  be the image of this retraction. Let  $u \in |C(X_{l-1})|$  and let  $y'$  be the stratum of  $X_{l-1}$  corresponding to the cell of  $|C(X_{l-1})|$  containing  $u$ . Then  $\psi^{-1}(u)$  is canonically homeomorphic to  $|\mathbf{n}_y|$  (cf. [Ber99, Corollary 6.6]), and the deformation retraction of  $\psi^{-1}(u)$  induced by  $\Phi$  is just  $\Phi_{\mathbf{n}_y}$ . Thus,  $S \cap \psi^{-1}(u)$  is reduced to a point: the map  $S \rightarrow |C(X_{l-1})|$  is bijective. Since  $\text{Str}(X)$  is finite,  $|C(X)|$  is compact and  $S$  is also compact since it is the image of  $|C(X)|$  by a continuous map. The map  $S \rightarrow C(X_{l-1})$  is thus a homeomorphism, and  $C(X_{l-1})$  is contractible by induction. Thus,  $C(X)$  is contractible.  $\square$

**2.4 Tempered fundamental group of a polystable log fibration**

Here we define the tempered fundamental group of a log fibration  $\underline{X}$  over an fs log point. If  $T$  is a k et cover of  $X$ , the topological covers of  $|C(T)|$  will play the role of the topological covers of  $T$ .

Let us start by a categorical definition of tempered fundamental groups that we will use later in our log geometric situation.

Consider a fibered category  $\mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  such that:

- $\mathcal{C}$  is a Galois category;
- for every connected object  $U$  of  $\mathcal{C}$ ,  $\mathcal{D}_U$  is a category equivalent to  $\Pi_U$ -Set for some discrete group  $\Pi_U$ ;
- if  $U$  and  $V$  are two objects of  $\mathcal{C}$ , the functor  $\mathcal{D}_U \amalg \mathcal{D}_V \rightarrow \mathcal{D}_U \times \mathcal{D}_V$  is an equivalence;
- if  $f : U \rightarrow V$  is a morphism in  $\mathcal{C}$ ,  $f^* : \mathcal{D}_V \rightarrow \mathcal{D}_U$  is exact.

Then one can define a fibered category  $\mathcal{D}' \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  such that the fiber in  $U$  is the category of descent data of  $\mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  with respect to the morphism  $U \rightarrow e$  (where  $e$  is the final element of  $\mathcal{C}$ ).

Let  $U$  be a connected Galois object of  $\mathcal{C}$  and let  $G$  be the Galois group of  $U/e$ . Then  $\mathcal{D}'_U$  can be described in the following way:

- its objects are couples  $(S_U, (\psi_g)_{g \in G})$ , where  $S_U$  is an object of  $\mathcal{D}_U$  and  $\psi_g : S_U \rightarrow g^* S_U$  is an isomorphism in  $\mathcal{D}_U$  such that for any  $g, g' \in G$ ,  $(g^* \psi'_g) \circ \psi_g = \psi_{g'g}$  (after identifying  $(g'g)^*$  and  $g^* g'^*$  by the canonical isomorphism to lighten the notation);
- a morphism  $(S_U, (\psi_g)) \rightarrow (S'_U, \psi'_g)$  is a morphism  $\phi : S_U \rightarrow S'_U$  in  $\mathcal{D}_U$  such that for any  $g \in G$ ,  $\psi'_g \phi = (g^* \phi) \psi_g$ .

There is a natural functor  $F_0 : \mathcal{D}'_U \rightarrow \mathcal{D}_U$ , which maps  $(S_U, (\psi_g))$  to  $S_U$ . Let  $F_U$  be a fundamental functor  $\mathcal{D}_U \rightarrow \text{Set}$  such that  $\text{Aut } F_U = \Pi_U$ .

Let  $F = F_U F_0 : \mathcal{D}'_U \rightarrow \text{Set}$  and  $\Pi'_U = \text{Aut } F$ . The functor  $F$  can be enriched into a functor  $\mathcal{F} : \mathcal{D}'_U \rightarrow \Pi'_U\text{-Set}$ .

PROPOSITION 2.8. (i) *The functor  $\mathcal{F} : \mathcal{D}'_U \rightarrow \Pi'_U\text{-Set}$  is an equivalence.*

(ii) *There is a natural exact sequence*

$$1 \rightarrow \Pi_U \rightarrow \Pi'_U \rightarrow G \rightarrow 1.$$

*Proof.* First notice that  $\mathcal{D}'_U$  is a boolean topos (i.e. if  $A$  is a subobject of an object  $S$ , there exists a subobject  $B$  of  $S$  such that  $S = A \amalg B$ ) and that  $F$  is a conservative point of the topos  $\mathcal{D}'_U$ .

A *pointed object* of  $\mathcal{D}'_U$  is by definition a pair  $(S, s)$  with  $S$  an object of  $\mathcal{D}'_U$ , and  $s \in F(S)$ . Let us show that, to prove (i), it is enough to show that there exists a pointed object  $(T^\infty, t^\infty)$  of  $\mathcal{D}'_U$  such that for every pointed object  $(S, s)$  of  $\mathcal{D}'_U$ , the map  $\text{Hom}(T^\infty, S) \rightarrow F(S)$  that maps  $f$  to  $F(f)(t^\infty)$  is bijective (i.e.  $T^\infty$  represents the functor  $F$ ).

First we remark that the only subobjects of  $T^\infty$  are  $\emptyset$  and  $T^\infty$ . Otherwise, by booleanness of  $\mathcal{D}'_U$ , one would have a nontrivial decomposition  $T^\infty = A \amalg B$ . By symmetry, one can assume  $t^\infty \in F(A)$ . Then one easily constructs two different morphisms  $T^\infty \rightarrow A \amalg B \amalg B$  mapping  $t^\infty$  to the same element of  $F(A) \subset F(A \amalg B \amalg B)$ .

Thus, if  $f : T^\infty \rightarrow T^\infty$  is a morphism, its image is a nonempty subobject of  $T^\infty$ ; therefore, it must be  $T^\infty$ , and thus  $F(f)$  is surjective. Let  $t_0 \in (F(f))^{-1}(t^\infty)$  and let  $g$  be the unique morphism  $T^\infty \rightarrow T^\infty$  mapping  $t^\infty$  to  $t_0$ . Then  $fg$  maps  $t^\infty$  to  $t^\infty$  and therefore  $fg = \text{id}_{T^\infty}$ .

Since  $F(g)$  must be surjective,  $F(f)$  is bijective, and thus  $f$  is an isomorphism. Thus,  $\text{End } T^\infty = \text{Aut } T^\infty$ .

The group  $\text{Aut}(T^\infty)$  acts on  $\text{Hom}(T^\infty, S) = F(S)$  by action on the left compatibly for every  $S$ : one gets a morphism  $a : \text{Aut}(T^\infty) \rightarrow \text{Aut}(F)$ , which is bijective by Yoneda's lemma.

If  $\underline{S}_0 \subset F(S)$  is stable by  $\text{Aut } F$ , then the subobject  $S_0$  of  $S$  defined as the union of the images of morphisms  $\phi : T^\infty \rightarrow S$  such that  $F(\phi)(t^\infty) \in \underline{S}_0$  satisfies  $F(S_0) = \underline{S}_0$ . Thus, if  $S, S'$  are objects of  $\mathcal{D}'_U$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hom}(S, S') &= \{S_0 \hookrightarrow S \times S' \mid S_0 \xrightarrow{\sim} S\} \\ &= \{\underline{S}_0 \subset F(S) \times F(S') \text{ stable by the action of } \text{Aut } F \mid \underline{S}_0 \xrightarrow{\sim} F(S)\} \\ &= \text{Hom}_{\Pi'_U}(F(S), F(S')). \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $\mathcal{F}$  is fully faithful. Let  $\underline{S}$  be a  $\Pi'_U$ -set. There exists an epimorphism  $\underline{S}' \rightarrow \underline{S}$  such that  $\Pi'_U$  acts freely on  $\underline{S}'$  and on  $\underline{S}'' := \underline{S}' \times_{\underline{S}} \underline{S}'$ . Thus, there exist  $S''$  and  $S'$  such that  $\mathcal{F}(S') = \underline{S}'$  and  $\mathcal{F}(S'') = \underline{S}''$  ( $S'$  and  $S''$  are direct sums of copies of  $T^\infty$ ). Let  $S = \text{Coker}(S'' \rightrightarrows S')$ , where the two morphisms are defined thanks to the full faithfulness of  $\mathcal{F}$ . Then  $\mathcal{F}(S) = \underline{S}$ . Thus,  $\mathcal{F}$  is an equivalence.

Let us construct  $T^\infty$ . If  $S$  is an object of  $\mathcal{D}_U$ , let  $\tilde{S} = \coprod_{g \in G} g^*S$ , and

$$\psi_h : \tilde{S} = \coprod_{g \in G} g^*S = \coprod_{gh \in G} (gh)^*S \xrightarrow{\cong} \coprod_{g \in G} h^*g^*S = h^*\left(\coprod_{g \in G} g^*S\right) = h^*\tilde{S}.$$

This defines an object  $\tilde{S}$  of  $\mathcal{D}'_U$ . Then, for any object  $T$  of  $\mathcal{D}'_U$ , there is a natural map

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}'_U}(\tilde{S}, T) \xrightarrow{\alpha} \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}_U}(S, F_0(T))$$

that maps  $\psi$  to the restriction of  $F_0(\psi)$  to the subobject  $S$  of  $F_0(\tilde{S})$ .

The restriction of  $F_0(\psi)$  to  $g^*S \subset F_0(\tilde{S})$  is  $\psi_g^{-1}g^*\alpha(\psi)$ . Hence,  $F_0(\psi)$  only depends on  $\alpha(\psi)$ , which shows the injectivity of  $\alpha$ , since  $F$  is faithful. Conversely, if  $\beta \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}_U}(S, F_0(T))$ , one defines  $\beta_0 : F_0(\tilde{S}) = \coprod_g g^*S \rightarrow F_0(T)$  by glueing the composite morphisms  $g^*S \xrightarrow{g^*\beta} g^*F_0(T) \xrightarrow{\psi_g^{-1}} F_0(T)$ . The following diagram is commutative.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} F_0(\tilde{S}) = \coprod g^*S & \longrightarrow & \coprod g^*F_0(T) & \xrightarrow{\coprod \psi_g^{-1}} & F_0(T) \\ \parallel \psi_h & & \parallel & & \downarrow \psi_h \\ h^*F_0(\tilde{S}) = \coprod h^*g^*S & \longrightarrow & \coprod h^*g^*F_0(T) & \xrightarrow{\coprod h^*\psi_g^{-1}} & h^*F_0(T) \end{array}$$

Thus,  $\beta_0$  defines a morphism  $\psi \in \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}'_U}(\tilde{S}, T)$  such that  $\alpha(\psi) = \beta$ . Thus,  $\alpha$  is bijective.

If  $(S^\infty, s^\infty)$  is a universal pointed object of  $\mathcal{D}_U$ , then, for every  $T$ ,

$$\text{Hom}(\tilde{S}^\infty, T) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Hom}(S^\infty, F_0(T)) \xrightarrow{\sim} F(T).$$

Thus,  $(\tilde{S}^\infty, s^\infty)$  is a universal pointed object of  $\mathcal{D}'_U$ .

The functor  $F_0$  induces a morphism  $\Pi_U \rightarrow \Pi'_U$ . There is also a natural exact functor  $F_1 : G\text{-Set} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}'_U$  which maps a  $G$ -set  $Y$  to  $(Y = \coprod_{y \in Y} \{y\}, (\psi_h))$ , where  $Y$  is a constant object of  $\mathcal{D}_U$  and  $\psi_h$  maps  $y$  to  $h \cdot y$ .  $FF_1$  is canonically isomorphic to the forgetful functor,  $G\text{-Set} \rightarrow \text{Set}$ , the functor  $F_1$ , and thus induces a morphism  $\Pi'_U \rightarrow G$ . Since  $\Pi_U = F_U(S^\infty)$  and  $\Pi'_U = F(\tilde{S}^\infty)$ ,

one only has to see that the following exact sequence of pointed sets is exact:

$$1 \rightarrow F_U(S^\infty) \rightarrow F(\tilde{S}^\infty) = \coprod_g F_U(g^*S^\infty) \rightarrow G \rightarrow 1,$$

where the map  $\coprod_g F_U(g^*S^\infty) \rightarrow G$  maps  $F_U(g^*S^\infty)$  to  $g$ . □

If  $(U_i, u_i)_{i \in I}$  is a cofinal projective system of pointed Galois objects (and let  $P$  be the corresponding object of  $\text{pro-}\mathcal{C}$ ), one may define  $\mathcal{B}^{\text{temp}}(\mathcal{D}/\mathcal{C}, P)$  to be the category  $\varprojlim_i \mathcal{D}'_{U_i}$ . An isomorphism of pro-objects  $P \rightarrow P'$  induces an equivalence  $\mathcal{B}^{\text{temp}}(\mathcal{D}/\mathcal{C}, P') \rightarrow \mathcal{B}^{\text{temp}}(\mathcal{D}/\mathcal{C}, P)$ , so that  $\mathcal{B}^{\text{temp}}(\mathcal{D}/\mathcal{C}, P)$  does not depend up to equivalence on the choice of  $(U_i)_i$ . Moreover, if  $h \in G_i = \text{Gal}(U_i/e)$ , the endofunctor  $h^* : \mathcal{D}'_{U_i} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}'_{U_i}$  maps  $S = (S_{U_i}, \psi_g)$  to  $h^*S = (h^*S_{U_i}, \psi_{hg}\psi_h^{-1})$ . Then  $\psi_h : S_{U_i} \rightarrow h^*S_{U_i}$  defines an isomorphism  $S \rightarrow h^*S$  functorially in  $S$ . Thus,  $h^* : \mathcal{D}'_{U_i} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}'_{U_i}$  is canonically isomorphic to the identity of  $\mathcal{D}'_{U_i}$ . Thus, every automorphism of the pro-object  $P$  induces an endofunctor of  $\mathcal{B}^{\text{temp}}(\mathcal{D}/\mathcal{C}, P)$  which is canonically isomorphic to the identity (functorially on  $\text{Aut } P$ ).

Let  $(F_i)_{i \in I}$  be a family of fundamental functors  $F_i : \mathcal{D}_{U_i} \rightarrow \text{Set}$  and assume one has a family  $(\alpha_f)_{f:U_i \rightarrow U_j}$ , indexed on the set of morphisms in  $I$ , of isomorphisms of functors  $F_i f^* \rightarrow F_j$  such that for any  $U_i \xrightarrow{f} U_j \xrightarrow{g} U_k$ ,  $\alpha_g(\alpha_f \cdot g^*) = \alpha_{gf}$  (after identifying  $(gf)^*$  and  $f^*g^*$  to lighten the notation). Such a family exists if  $I$  is just  $\mathbf{N}$ . Then this induces a projective system  $(\Pi'_{U_i})_{i \in I}$  (unique up to isomorphism independently of  $(\alpha_f)$  if  $I = \mathbf{N}$  and the functors  $\mathcal{D}'_{U_i} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}'_{U_j}$  are fully faithful), so that one can define

$$\pi_1^{\text{temp}}(\mathcal{D}/\mathcal{C}, (F_i)) = \varprojlim \Pi'_{U_i}.$$

Assume one has a 2-commutative diagram with fibered vertical arrows:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{D}_1 & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{D}_2 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathcal{C}_1 & \xrightarrow{f} & \mathcal{C}_2 \end{array}$$

such that  $f : \mathcal{C}_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_2$  is exact, and  $\mathcal{D}_{1,U} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}_{2,f(U)}$  is exact for every object  $U$  of  $\mathcal{C}_1$ .

One then gets a functor  $\mathcal{B}^{\text{temp}}(\mathcal{D}_1/\mathcal{C}_1) \rightarrow \mathcal{B}^{\text{temp}}(\mathcal{D}_2/\mathcal{C}_2)$ .

For example, let  $X$  be a smooth variety over  $K$ ,  $\mathcal{C}$  be the category of finite étale covers of  $X$  and  $\mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  be the fibered category such that  $\mathcal{D}_U$  is the category of topological covers of  $U^{\text{an}}$ . Then, since finite étale covers are morphisms of effective descent for tempered covers,  $\mathcal{D}'_U$  can be identified functorially with the full subcategory of  $\text{Cov}^{\text{temp}}(X)$  of tempered covers  $S$  such that  $S_U$  is a topological cover of  $U^{\text{an}}$ . If  $(U_i, u_i)$  is a cofinal system of pointed Galois covers of  $(X, x)$ , then  $\mathcal{B}^{\text{temp}}(\mathcal{C}/\mathcal{D})$  becomes canonically equivalent with  $\text{Cov}^{\text{temp}}(X)$ .

Let us apply our categorical definition of tempered fundamental groups to our log geometrical case.

Let  $\underline{X} : X \rightarrow X_{l-1} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \text{Spec}(k)$  be a polystable log fibration, and assume that  $X$  is connected.

Let  $\text{KCov}(X)$  be the category of két covers of  $X$ .

Then one has a functor  $\text{C}_{\text{top}} : \text{KCov}(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{K}\text{e}$  obtained by composing the functor  $\text{C}$  of Proposition 2.6 with the geometric realization functor.

One can thus define a fibered category  $\mathcal{D}_{\text{top}} \rightarrow \text{KCov}(X)$  such that the fiber of a két cover of  $Y$  of  $X$  is the category of topological covers of  $\text{C}_{\text{top}}(Y)$  (which is equivalent to  $\pi_1^{\text{top}}(\text{C}_{\text{top}}(Y))\text{-Set}$ ).

Let  $\mathbb{L}$  be a set of prime numbers. By restriction to the category  $\text{KCov}(X)^{\mathbb{L}}$  of k et covers with order a product of elements of  $\mathbb{L}$ , one gets a fibered category abusively denoted by  $\mathcal{D}_{\text{top}} \rightarrow \text{KCov}(X)^{\mathbb{L}}$ . One defines the category of tempered covers of  $X$  to be

$$\mathcal{B}^{\text{temp},\mathbb{L}}(X) := \mathcal{B}^{\text{temp}}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{top}}/\text{KCov}(X)^{\mathbb{L}}).$$

Let  $x$  be a log geometric point of  $X$  and let  $(Y, y)$  be a log geometrically pointed connected Galois k et cover of  $(X, x)$ . Let  $\tilde{y} := |\text{C}(Y)_y| \rightarrow |\text{C}(Y)|$ . The space  $\tilde{y}$  is contractible according to Lemma 2.7. Then one has a fundamental functor  $F_y : \mathcal{D}_{\text{top}Y} \rightarrow \text{Cov}^{\text{top}}(\tilde{y}) = \text{Set}$  that corresponds to the base point  $\tilde{y}$  ( $F_y(S)$  is the set of connected components of  $S \times_{|\text{C}(Y)|} \tilde{y}$ ). Moreover, for any morphism  $f : (Y', y') \rightarrow (Y, y)$ , the two functors  $F_{y'}f^*$  and  $F_y$  are canonically isomorphic.

Then one defines

$$\pi_1^{\text{temp}}(X, x)^{\mathbb{L}} = \pi_1^{\text{temp}}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{top}}/\text{KCov}(X)^{\mathbb{L}}, (F_y)).$$

If  $x_2 \rightarrow x_1$  is a specialization of log geometric points of  $X$ , it induces a natural equivalence between the category of pointed covers of  $(X, x_2)$  and the category of pointed covers of  $(X, x_1)$  (we thus identify the two categories). If  $Y$  is a pointed cover  $(Y, y_1)$  of  $(X, x_1)$ , the corresponding pointed cover of  $(X, x_2)$  is  $(Y, y_2)$ , where  $y_2$  is the unique log geometric point above  $x_2$  such that there is a specialization  $y_2 \rightarrow y_1$  (and this specialization is unique). There is the following commutative diagram.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \tilde{y}_1 & \longrightarrow & \tilde{y}_2 \\ & \searrow & \downarrow \\ & & |\text{C}(Y)| \end{array}$$

This induces a canonical isomorphism  $F_{y_1} \simeq F_{y_2}$ , functorial in  $Y$ , so that one gets a canonical isomorphism  $\pi_1^{\text{temp}}(X, x_1)^{\mathbb{L}} \rightarrow \pi_1^{\text{temp}}(X, x_2)^{\mathbb{L}}$ . If  $X$  is connected and  $x_1, x_2$  are two log geometric points of  $X$ , there exists a sequence of specializations and cospecializations joining  $x_1$  to  $x_2$ , so that  $\pi_1^{\text{temp}}(X, x_1)^{\mathbb{L}}$  and  $\pi_1^{\text{temp}}(X, x_2)^{\mathbb{L}}$  are isomorphic.

One has an equivalence of categories between  $\mathcal{B}^{\text{temp},\mathbb{L}}(X, x)$  and the category  $\pi_1^{\text{temp}}(X, x)^{\mathbb{L}}\text{-Set}$  of sets with an action of  $\pi_1^{\text{temp}}(X, x)^{\mathbb{L}}$  that goes through a discrete quotient of  $\pi_1^{\text{temp}}(X, x)^{\mathbb{L}}$ .

Assume now that  $X$  is log geometrically connected, i.e. that  $X_{k'}$  is connected for any k et extension  $k'$  of  $k$ . Let  $\bar{k}$  be a log geometric point on  $k$  and let  $\bar{x} = (\bar{x}_{k'})$  be a compatible system of log geometric points of  $X_{k'}$ , where  $k'$  runs through k et extensions of  $(k, \bar{k})$  (for every  $k'$ , the set of geometric points above  $\bar{x}_k$  is a nonempty finite set and thus the set of compatible systems of log geometric points is a nonempty profinite set).

Then one defines  $\pi_1^{\text{temp-geom}}(X, \bar{x})^{\mathbb{L}} = \varprojlim_{k'} \pi_1^{\text{temp}}(X_{k'}, \bar{x}_{k'})^{\mathbb{L}}$ , where  $k'$  runs through k et extensions of  $k$  in a log geometric point  $\bar{k}$ . Let  $\text{KCov}_{\text{geom}}(X) = \varinjlim \text{KCov}(X_{k'})$ , where  $k'$  runs through k et extensions of  $k$  in  $\bar{k}$ . It is the category of log geometric covers of  $X$ .

If  $Y \rightarrow X$  is a log geometric cover, defined over  $k'$ ,  $\text{C}_{\text{geom}}(Y_{k'})$  does not depend on  $k'$ , so that one gets a functor  $\text{KCov}_{\text{geom}}(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{K}e$  which maps  $Y$  to  $|\text{C}_{\text{geom}}(Y)|$ . One thus get a fibered category  $\mathcal{D}_{\text{top-geom}} \rightarrow \text{KCov}_{\text{geom}}(X)$ , whose fiber in  $Y$  is the category of topological covers of  $|\text{C}_{\text{geom}}(Y)|$ . Let

$$\mathcal{B}^{\text{temp-geom},\mathbb{L}}(X, \bar{x}) := \mathcal{B}^{\text{temp}}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{top-geom}} / \text{KCov}_{\text{geom}}(X)^{\mathbb{L}}).$$

Let  $\bar{x}$  be a compatible system of log geometric points of  $X_{k'}$ . For any pointed log geometric cover  $(Y, \bar{y})$  of  $(X, \bar{x})$ , one gets a fundamental functor  $F_{\bar{y}}$  of  $\mathcal{D}_{\text{top-geom}Y}$ ; for any

morphism  $f : (Y', \bar{y}') \rightarrow (Y, \bar{y})$ , the two functors  $F_{y'}f^*$  and  $F_y$  are canonically isomorphic. Then

$$\pi_1^{\text{temp-geom}}(X, \bar{x})^{\mathbb{L}} := \pi_1^{\text{temp}}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{top-geom}}/\text{KCov}_{\text{geom}}(X), (F_{\bar{y}})^{\mathbb{L}}).$$

### 3. Comparison result for the pro- $(p')$ tempered fundamental group

If  $\underline{X} : X \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \text{Spec}(O_K)$  is a proper polystable log fibration, we want to compare the tempered fundamental group of the generic fiber  $X_\eta$  with the tempered fundamental group of the special fiber endowed with its natural log structure. The specialization theory of the log fundamental group already gives us a functor from k et covers of the special fiber to algebraic covers of the generic fiber. To extend this to tempered fundamental groups, one has to compare, for any k et cover  $T_s$  of the special fiber, the topological space  $C(T_s)$  with the Berkovich space of the corresponding cover  $T_\eta$  of the generic fiber. Thus, we will define, as in [Ber99], a strong deformation retraction of  $T_\eta^{\text{an}}$  to a subset canonically homeomorphic to  $|C(T_s)|$ . We will construct this retraction  tale locally, where  $T$  has a Galois cover  $V'$  by some polystable log fibration over a finite tamely ramified extension of  $O_K$ . Then the retraction of the tube of  $T_s$  is obtained by descending the retraction of the tube of  $V'_s$ , defined in [Ber99]. We will then check that the retraction does not depend on the choice of  $V'$ , so that we can descend the retraction we defined  tale locally.

#### 3.1 Skeleton of a k et log scheme over a pluristable log scheme

If  $X \rightarrow \text{Spec } O_K$  is a morphism of finite type, we denote by  $\mathfrak{X}$  the completion of  $X$  along the closed fiber  $X_s$ . The generic fiber, in the sense of Berkovich, of a locally topologically finitely generated formal scheme  $\mathfrak{X}$  over  $\text{Spf } O_K$  will be denoted by  $\mathfrak{X}_\eta$ .

Let  $\underline{X} : X \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \text{Spec}(O_K)$  be a polystable log fibration over  $\text{Spec}(O_K)$ .

**PROPOSITION 3.1.** *For every k et morphism  $T \rightarrow X$ , let  $\mathfrak{T}_\eta$  be the generic fiber, in the sense of Berkovich, of the formal completion of  $T$  along its special fiber. Then there is a functorial map  $|C(T_s)| \rightarrow \mathfrak{T}_\eta$  which identifies  $|C(T_s)|$  with a subset  $S(T)$  of  $\mathfrak{T}_\eta$  on which  $\mathfrak{T}_\eta$  retracts by strong deformation.*

*Remark.*  $\mathfrak{T}_\eta$  is naturally an analytic subdomain of  $T_\eta^{\text{an}}$ . Moreover, if  $T$  is proper over  $O_K$  (for example, if  $X$  is proper, and  $T$  is a finite k et cover), then  $\mathfrak{T}_\eta \rightarrow T_\eta^{\text{an}}$  is an isomorphism.

*Proof.* Let  $f : T \rightarrow X$  be a k et morphism. Let  $x \in T_s$ . Let  $\underline{U} : U_l \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow U_0$  be a polystable fibration  tale over  $\underline{X}$  such that  $(U_l, x_l)$  is an  tale neighborhood of  $f(x)$  such that, for every  $i$ ,  $U_i$  has an exact chart  $P_i \rightarrow A_i$  and compatible morphisms  $P_i \rightarrow P_{i+1}$  such that the induced morphism  $U_{i+1} \rightarrow U_i \times_{\text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[P_i]} \text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[P_{i+1}]$  is  tale. One has an  tale neighborhood  $i : (V, x') \rightarrow (T, x)$  of  $x$ , a  $(p')$ -Kummer morphism  $P_l \rightarrow Q$  such that  $V \rightarrow X$  factors through an  tale morphism  $V \rightarrow U_l \times_{\text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[P_l]} \text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[Q]$ . By definition of a  $(p')$ -Kummer morphism, there exists  $n$  prime to  $p$  such that  $P_l \rightarrow (1/n)P_l$  factors through  $P_l \rightarrow Q$ . Thus,  $V$  has a k et Galois cover that comes from a polystable fibration  $\underline{U}' = V' \rightarrow U'_{l-1} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \text{Spec } O_{K'}$ , where  $U'_i = U_i \times_{\text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[P_i]} \text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[(1/n)P_i]$  for  $i \leq l$  and  $V' = V \times_{\mathbf{Z}[Q]} \mathbf{Z}[(1/n)P_l]$  (so that there is a strict  tale morphism  $V' \rightarrow U'_l$ ) over  $O_{K'}$  for some finite tamely ramified extension  $K' = K[\pi^{1/n}]$  of  $K$ . Let us call  $G = ((1/n)P^{\text{gp}}/Q^{\text{gp}})^\vee$  the Galois group of this k et cover.

The deformation retraction of  $\mathfrak{V}'_\eta$  defined in Theorem 1.5 is  $G$ -equivariant, so that it defines a deformation retraction of  $\mathfrak{V}_\eta$ . Let  $S(\ )$  denote the image of the retraction of  $(\ )_\eta$ . Then  $S(\mathfrak{V}_\eta) = G \backslash S(\mathfrak{V}'_\eta) = G \backslash |C(V'_s)| = |G \backslash C(V'_s)| = |C(V_s)|$  (Corollary 1.6).

Let us show that the previously defined retraction of  $\mathfrak{U}_\eta$  does not depend on  $n$ . Let us start with the case of a polystable morphism.

Let

$$\psi : Z_1 = \text{Spec } A[P]/(p_i - \lambda_i) \rightarrow Z_2 = \text{Spec } A[P]/(p_i - \lambda_i^s)$$

be induced by the multiplication by  $s$  on  $P$ , where  $P = \mathbf{N}^{|r|} = \bigoplus_{(i,j) \in \mathbf{r}} \mathbf{N}e_{ij}$ ,  $p_i = \sum_j e_{ij}$ ,  $s$  is an integer prime to  $p$  and  $\lambda_i \in A$ .

Let  $G$  be the generic fiber of the formal completion of  $\mathbf{G}_m^{(\mathbf{r})}$  at the identity; it acts on  $Z_1$  and  $Z_2$ . One has  $\psi(g \cdot x) = g^s \cdot \psi(x)$ .

Let  $T_{ij}$  be the coordinates of  $G$ . Then  $|T_{ij}^s - 1| = |T_{ij} - 1|$  if  $|T_{ij} - 1| < 1$ . Thus, for  $t < 1$ ,  $(\ )^s : G \rightarrow G$  induces an isomorphism  $(\ )^s : G_t \rightarrow G_t$ , and  $g_t^s = g_t$ .

Thus, if  $t < 1$  (and also for  $t = 1$  by continuity),

$$\psi(x_t) = \psi(g_t * x) = g_t^s * \psi(x) = g_t * \psi(x) = \psi(x)_t.$$

For a standard polystable fibration, the same result will easily follow by induction using that  $\psi_n(r_i, t)^{1/s} = \psi_n(r_i^{1/s}, t^{1/s})$  (we kept the notation from the sketch of the proof of Theorem 1.5).

More precisely, suppose we have the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} B = B'[Y_{ij}]/(Y_{i0} \cdots Y_{in_i} - b_i) & \longleftarrow & B' \\ \uparrow \phi & & \uparrow \phi' \\ A = A'[X_{ij}]/(X_{i0} \cdots X_{in_i} - a_i) & \longleftarrow & A' \end{array}$$

where  $\phi(X_{ij}) = Y_{ij}^s$  and thus  $\phi'(a_i) = b_i^s$ , and  $\tilde{\phi}' := \text{Spf } \phi' : \text{Spf } B' \rightarrow \text{Spf } A'$  is a k et morphism of polystable log fibrations and assume by induction that we already know that  $\tilde{\phi}(x_t) = \tilde{\phi}(x)_t$ .

Let  $\mathfrak{X}$  (respectively  $\mathfrak{X}'$ ,  $\mathfrak{Y}$ ,  $\mathfrak{Y}'$ ) denote  $\text{Spf } A$  (respectively  $\text{Spf } A'$ ,  $\text{Spf } B$ ,  $\text{Spf } B'$ ).

The first part of the retraction of  $\mathfrak{X}_\eta^{\text{an}}$  and  $\mathfrak{Y}_\eta^{\text{an}}$  (consisting of the retraction fiber by fiber) commutes with  $\tilde{\phi} := \text{Spf } \phi$  according to the previous case. We thus just have to study the second part of the retraction.

The morphism  $\tilde{\phi}$  induces a map

$$\begin{array}{c} S_A = \{(x, r_{ij}) \in (\mathfrak{X}')_\eta^{\text{an}} \times [0, 1]^{|n|} \mid r_{i0} \cdots r_{in_i} = |a_i(x)|\} \subset \mathfrak{X}_\eta^{\text{an}} \\ \downarrow \\ S_B = \{(y, r_{ij}) \in (\mathfrak{Y}')_\eta^{\text{an}} \times [0, 1]^{|n|} \mid r_{i0} \cdots r_{in_i} = |b_i(y)|\} \subset \mathfrak{Y}_\eta^{\text{an}} \end{array}$$

which maps  $(x, r_{ij})$  to  $(\tilde{\phi}'(x), r_{ij}^{1/s})$  (we remark that  $|a_i(x)| = |b_i(\tilde{\phi}'(x))|^s$ ).

Then, if  $(x, r_{ij}) \in S_A$  (we will write  $y := \tilde{\phi}'(x)$ ; by the induction assumption,  $\tilde{\phi}'(x_t) = y_t$ )

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\phi}((x, r_{ij})_t) &= \tilde{\phi}((x_t, \psi_{n_i}(r_{ij}, |a_i(x_t)|)_k)) \\ &= (y_t, \psi_{n_i}(r_{ij}, |a_i(x_t)|)_k^{1/s}) \\ &= (y_t, \psi_{n_i}(r_{ij}^{1/s}, |a_i(x_t)|^{1/s})_k) \\ &= (y_t, \psi_{n_i}(r_{ij}^{1/s}, |b_i(y_t)|)_k) \\ &= (y, r_{ij}^{1/s})_t \\ &= \tilde{\phi}(x, r_{ij})_t. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we get that the retraction of  $\mathfrak{U}_\eta$  does not depend on  $n$ .

Let  $W \rightarrow T$  be another neighborhood of  $x$  satisfying the same properties as  $V$ , and  $W'$  defined in the same way. One may assume by the previous remark that we chose the same  $n$ . Let  $W'' = V' \times_T W'$ . We have the following commutative diagram.

$$\begin{CD} W'' @>p'>> W' \\ @VpVV @VVi'V \\ V' @>i>> T \end{CD}$$

Let us show that  $p : W'' \rightarrow V'$  is étale (symmetrically,  $p'$  is étale too). Since  $p$  is k et, it is enough to prove that  $p$  is strict, i.e. that for any geometric point  $z \in W''$ ,  $\overline{M}_{V',p(z)} \rightarrow \overline{M}_{W'',z}$  is an isomorphism. Let  $v = p(z)$ ,  $w = p'(z)$ ,  $\tau = i(v) = i'(w)$  and  $\xi = f(\tau) \in X$ . Then  $\overline{M}_{X,\xi} = P_l/F$ , where  $F$  is a face of  $P_l$ . Then  $\overline{M}_{V',v} = (1/n)P_l/F_n = (1/n)\overline{M}_{X,\xi}$ , where  $F_n$  is the saturation of  $F$  in  $(1/n)P$ . Symmetrically, one also has  $\overline{M}_{W',w} = (1/n)\overline{M}_{X,\xi}$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{M}_{W'',z} &= \overline{M_{V',v} \oplus_{M_{T,\tau}} M_{W',w}} \\ &= \overline{\overline{M}_{V',v} \oplus_{\overline{M}_{T,\tau}} \overline{M}_{W',w}} \\ &= \overline{\frac{1}{n}\overline{M}_{X,\xi} \oplus_{\overline{M}_{T,\tau}} \frac{1}{n}\overline{M}_{X,\xi}} \\ &= \overline{\frac{1}{n}\overline{M}_{X,\xi} \oplus \frac{1}{n}\overline{M}_{X,\xi}^{\text{gp}}/\overline{M}_{T,\tau}^{\text{gp}}} \\ &= \frac{1}{n}\overline{M}_{X,\xi}, \end{aligned}$$

where the sums are sums in the category of fs monoids. Thus,  $p$  is strict, and therefore  etale.

Let thus  $v \in \mathfrak{V}'_\eta$  and  $w \in \mathfrak{W}'_\eta$  with the same image  $\tau$  in  $\mathfrak{X}_\eta$ . Let  $z \in \mathfrak{W}''_\eta$  be above  $v$  and  $w$ . Then, for every  $t \in [0, 1]$ ,  $v_t = p(z_t)$  and  $w_t = p'(z_t)$  according to Theorem 1.5(ii). Thus,  $i(v_t) = ip(z_t) = i'p'(z_t) = i'(y_t)$ . Thus, the retractions of the different  $\mathfrak{V}_\eta$  are compatible and define a map  $\mathfrak{X}_\eta \times [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathfrak{X}_\eta$ . This map is continuous, since  $\coprod \mathfrak{V}_i$  is a covering of  $\mathfrak{X}$ ,  $\coprod \mathfrak{V}_{i,\eta} \rightarrow \mathfrak{X}_\eta$  is quasi- etale and surjective and thus a topological factor map (as in the proof of Theorem 1.5 of Berkovich; cf. [Ber99, Lemma 5.11]). Moreover, if  $\phi : T_1 \rightarrow T_2$  is a k et morphism of k et log schemes over  $X$ ,  $\phi(x_t) = \phi(x)_t$ . As in Theorem 1.5(vi), it is also compatible with isometric extensions of  $K$ .

Let  $\tilde{V} = \bigcup_i V_i$  be a covering of  $T$  such that every  $V_i$  satisfies the same property as  $V$ . Since  $f : \tilde{\mathfrak{V}}_\eta \rightarrow \tilde{T}_\eta$  is a topological factor map,  $S(\tilde{\mathfrak{V}}_\eta) = f^{-1}(S(\tilde{T}_\eta)) \rightarrow S(\tilde{T}_\eta)$  is also a topological factor map. Thus one gets an isomorphism, functorial in  $T$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} S(\mathfrak{X}_\eta) &= \text{Coker}(S(\tilde{\mathfrak{V}}_\eta) \times_{S(\mathfrak{X}_\eta)} S(\tilde{\mathfrak{V}}_\eta) \rightrightarrows S(\tilde{\mathfrak{V}}_\eta)) \\ &= \text{Coker}(|C(V_s)| \times_{|C(T_s)|} |C(V_s)| \rightrightarrows |C(V_s)|) = |C(T_s)|. \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

### 3.2 Comparison theorem

Let  $K$  be a complete discrete valuation field. Let  $p$  be the residual characteristic (which can be 0). Let  $\underline{X} : X \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \text{Spec } O_K$  be a proper polystable log fibration.

Let us now compare the tempered fundamental group of the generic fiber, as a  $K$ -manifold, and the tempered fundamental group of its special fiber as defined in § 2.4.

A geometric point  $\bar{x}$  of  $X_\eta^{\text{an}}$  is given by an algebraically closed complete non-Archimedean extension  $\Omega$  of  $K$  and a  $K$ -morphism  $\bar{x} : \text{Spec } \Omega \rightarrow X$ . Since  $X \rightarrow \text{Spec } O_K$  is proper,  $\bar{x}$  extends uniquely to a morphism  $\text{Spec } O_\Omega \rightarrow X$ . If one endows  $\text{Spec } O_\Omega$  with the log structure induced

by  $O_\Omega \setminus \{0\}$ , one can extend  $\text{Spec } O_\Omega \rightarrow X$  into a morphism of log schemes. By looking at the closed fiber, one gets a morphism of log schemes  $\tilde{x} : \text{Spec } k_\Omega \rightarrow X_s$ , where  $\text{Spec } k_\Omega$  has the log structure induced by  $O_\Omega \setminus \{0\}$  (it is a log geometric point). The log geometric point  $\tilde{x}$  is called the log reduction of  $\bar{x}$ .

**THEOREM 3.2.** *Let  $\bar{x}$  be a geometric point of  $X_\eta^{\text{an}}$  and let  $\tilde{x}$  be its log reduction. One has a morphism  $\pi_1^{\text{temp}}(X_\eta^{\text{an}}, \bar{x})^{\mathbb{L}} \rightarrow \pi_1^{\text{temp}}(X_s, \tilde{x})^{\mathbb{L}}$  which is an isomorphism if  $p \notin \mathbb{L}$ .*

These morphisms are compatible with finite extensions of  $K$ .

*Proof.* One has two functors  $\mathbb{L}\text{-KCov}(X) \rightarrow \mathbb{L}\text{-Cov}^{\text{alg}}(X_\eta)$ , which is an equivalence of categories if  $p \notin \mathbb{L}$  (see [Ill02, Theorem 7.6]), and  $\mathbb{L}\text{-KCov}(X) \rightarrow \mathbb{L}\text{-KCov}(X_s)$ , which is an equivalence of categories (see [Lep09, Theorem 2.4]). One has a fibered category  $\mathcal{D}_{\text{top}}^{\text{an}}(X_\eta)$  over  $\mathbb{L}\text{-Cov}^{\text{alg}}(X_\eta)$  whose fiber at a  $\mathbb{L}$ -finite étale cover  $T$  of  $X_\eta$  is the category of topological covers of  $T^{\text{an}}$ . Let us call  $\mathcal{D}_{\text{top}}^{\text{an}}(X)$  the pullback of  $\mathcal{D}_{\text{top}}^{\text{an}}(X_\eta)/\mathbb{L}\text{-Cov}^{\text{alg}}(X_\eta)$  to  $\mathbb{L}\text{-KCov}(X)$ : the fiber at a  $\mathbb{L}$ -finite két cover  $T$  of  $X$  is the category of topological covers of  $T_\eta^{\text{an}}$ . One has also another fibered category  $\mathcal{D}_{\text{top}}^{\text{sp}}(X)$  over  $\mathbb{L}\text{-KCov}(X)$  obtained by pulling back the fibered category  $\mathcal{D}_{\text{top}}(X_s) \rightarrow \mathbb{L}\text{-KCov}(X_s)$  defined in Part 2.4 along  $\mathbb{L}\text{-KCov}(X) \rightarrow \mathbb{L}\text{-KCov}(X_s)$ : the fiber at a  $\mathbb{L}$ -finite két cover  $T$  of  $X$  is the category of topological covers of  $|C(T_s)|$ . Proposition 3.1 induces an equivalence of fibered categories  $\mathcal{D}_{\text{top}}^{\text{an}}(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}_{\text{top}}^{\text{sp}}(X)$ , and thus an isomorphism  $\pi_1^{\text{temp}}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{top}}^{\text{an}}(X)/\mathbb{L}\text{-KCov}(X)) \simeq \pi_1^{\text{temp}}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{top}}^{\text{sp}}(X)/\mathbb{L}\text{-KCov}(X))$ .

The 2-commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{D}_{\text{top}}^{\text{an}}(X) & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{D}_{\text{top}}^{\text{an}}(X_\eta) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathbb{L}\text{-KCov}(X) & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{L}\text{-Cov}^{\text{alg}}(X_\eta) \end{array}$$

induces a morphism

$$\pi_1^{\text{temp}}(X_\eta^{\text{an}})^{\mathbb{L}} = \pi_1^{\text{temp}}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{top}}^{\text{an}}(X_\eta)/\mathbb{L}\text{-Cov}^{\text{alg}}(X_\eta)) \rightarrow \pi_1^{\text{temp}}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{top}}^{\text{an}}(X)/\mathbb{L}\text{-KCov}(X))$$

which is an isomorphism if  $p \notin \mathbb{L}$ . Similarly,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{D}_{\text{top}}^{\text{sp}}(X) & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{D}_{\text{top}}^{\text{sp}}(X_s) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathbb{L}\text{-KCov}(X) & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{L}\text{-KCov}(X_s) \end{array}$$

induces an isomorphism

$$\pi_1^{\text{temp}}(X_s)^{\mathbb{L}} \rightarrow \pi_1^{\text{temp}}(\mathcal{D}_{\text{top}}^{\text{sp}}(X)/\mathbb{L}\text{-KCov}(X))$$

since  $\mathbb{L}\text{-KCov}(X) \rightarrow \mathbb{L}\text{-KCov}(X_s)$  is an equivalence of categories. □

### 3.3 Geometric comparison theorem

We will assume in this section that  $p \notin \mathbb{L}$ .

**THEOREM 3.3.** *There is a natural isomorphism*

$$\pi_1^{\text{temp-geom}}(X_s)^{\mathbb{L}} \simeq \pi_1^{\text{temp}}(X_\eta)^{\mathbb{L}}.$$

*Proof.* One knows, according to [And03, Proposition 5.1.1], that

$$\pi_1^{\text{temp}}(X_{\bar{\eta}}) \simeq \varprojlim_{K_i} \pi_1^{\text{temp}}(X_{K_i}),$$

where  $K_i$  runs through the finite extensions of  $K$  in  $\bar{K}$ . This induces an analogous result for the  $\mathbb{L}$ -version.

However, we would like to know, in the case where  $p \notin \mathbb{L}$ , if one can only take the projective limit over tamely ramified extensions of  $K$  (i.e. két extensions of  $O_K$ ). Then the isomorphism we want would simply be obtained from Theorem 3.2 by taking the projective limit over két extensions of  $O_K$ .

We have to show that any  $\mathbb{L}$ -tempered cover of  $X_{\bar{\eta}}$  is already defined over some tamely ramified extension of  $K$ . One only has to prove this for a cofinal set of  $\mathbb{L}$ -tempered covers of  $X_{\bar{\eta}}$ , for example universal topological covers of  $\mathbb{L}$ -finite étale covers of  $X_{\bar{\eta}}$ . Thus, we have to show that if  $T'$  is a  $\mathbb{L}$ -finite két geometric cover of  $X$  (which is defined over a finite tamely ramified extension of  $K$  according to [Kis00, Proposition 1.15]: one can thus assume that  $T'$  is defined over  $K$ ), the universal topological cover  $\tilde{T}'_{\bar{\eta}}$  of  $T'_{\bar{\eta}}$  is defined over some tamely ramified extension of  $K$ .

By changing  $\text{Spec } O_K$  by some két cover (which amounts to changing  $K$  by some tamely ramified extension), one may assume that  $T' \rightarrow \text{Spec } O_K$  is saturated.

One already knows that  $\tilde{T}'_{\bar{\eta}}$  is defined over some finite extension  $K_2$  of  $K$  (see [And03, Lemmas 5.1.3, 5.1.4]). Let  $K_1$  be the maximal unramified extension of  $K$  in  $K_2$ . As  $T' \rightarrow O_K$  is saturated, the underlying scheme of  $T'_{O_{K_2}}$  is obtained by the base change of schemes  $\text{Spec } O_{K_2} \rightarrow \text{Spec } O_{K_1}$  of the underlying scheme of  $T'_{O_{K_1}}$ . By looking at the special fiber, as  $k_1 = k_2$  (as schemes), the morphism  $T'_{k_2} \rightarrow T'_{k_1}$  induces an isomorphism between the underlying schemes, thus a bijection between their strata and thus homeomorphisms  $|C(T'_{k_2})| \rightarrow |C(T'_{k_1})|$  and  $S(T'_{O_{K_2}}) \rightarrow S(T'_{O_{K_1}})$ . Thus,  $\tilde{T}'_{\bar{\eta}}$  is defined over  $K_1$ .  $\square$

This isomorphism is  $\text{Gal}(\bar{K}, K)$ -equivariant (since the isomorphism for each Galois extension  $K_i$  of  $K$  is  $\text{Gal}(K_i/K)$ -equivariant).

*Remark.* If  $X$  is a proper and smooth  $K$ -variety that does not have log smooth reduction, it is not true in general that the universal cover of  $X$  is defined over a tamely ramified extension of  $K$ .

Indeed, let  $E = \mathbf{G}_m / q^{\mathbf{Z}}$  be a Tate elliptic curve over  $K$ . The principal homogeneous spaces of  $E$  are parameterized by  $H^1(G_K, E(\bar{K}))$ . Since  $H^1(G_K, \bar{K}^*) = 0$ , the exact sequence  $0 \rightarrow \mathbf{Z} \rightarrow \bar{K}^* \rightarrow E(\bar{K})$  gives us  $H^1(G_K, E(\bar{K})) = \text{Ker}(H^2(G_K, \mathbf{Z}) \rightarrow H^2(G_K, \bar{K}^*))$ . Assume now that  $BrK = 0$  (e.g.  $K = \mathbf{Q}_p^{ur}$ ), so that principal homogeneous spaces of  $E$  are parameterized by  $H^2(G_K, \mathbf{Z}) = \text{Hom}(G_K, \mathbf{Q}/\mathbf{Z})$ . If  $X$  is a principal homogeneous space corresponding to a morphism  $\psi : G_K \rightarrow \mathbf{Q}/\mathbf{Z}$ , then  $\pi_1^{\text{top}}(X_{\bar{\eta}}) = \pi_1^{\text{top}}(E_{\bar{\eta}})$  is a subgroup of index the cardinal of  $\text{Im}(\psi)$  of  $\pi_1^{\text{top}}(X) \simeq \mathbf{Z}$ . Thus, the universal topological cover of  $X$  is defined over  $K$  if and only if  $X$  is a trivial principal homogeneous space. If  $\psi$  is chosen to be nontrivial on the wild ramification subgroup of  $G_K$ , then  $X$  does not become trivial after any tamely ramified extension of  $K$ . Therefore, the universal topological cover of  $X_{\bar{\eta}}$  is not defined over any tamely ramified extension of  $K$ .

#### 4. Cospecialization of pro- $(p')$ tempered fundamental groups

Let  $X \rightarrow Y$  be a proper polystable log fibration such that  $Y$  is proper over  $O_K$  (the properness of  $Y \rightarrow O_K$  is only assumed so that every point of  $Y_\eta$  has a reduction in  $Y_s$ , but the cospecialization morphisms we will construct only depend on  $Y$  locally). In this section, we will construct the cospecialization morphisms for the  $(p')$ -tempered fundamental group of the geometric fibers of  $X_\eta \rightarrow Y_\eta$ . Thanks to Theorem 3.3, we will be reduced to construct cospecialization morphisms for the  $(p')$ -tempered fundamental group of the log geometric fibers of  $X_s \rightarrow Y_s$ . Let thus  $\bar{s}_2 \rightarrow \bar{s}_1$  be a specialization of log geometric points of  $Y$ , where  $\bar{s}_1$  and  $\bar{s}_2$  are the reductions of geometric points  $\bar{\eta}_1, \bar{\eta}_2$  of  $Y_\eta$ .

We constructed in [Lep09, Theorem 0.2] an equivalence of geometric  $(p')$ -két covers of  $X_{s_1}$  and  $X_{s_2}$ . Now we must compare, for any such két cover  $Z_{s_1}$  corresponding to  $Z_{s_2}$  (which extends over the preimage  $X_U$  of some két neighborhood  $U$  of  $s_1$  in  $Y$ ), their polysimplicial sets as defined in Proposition 2.6. We will construct the cospecialization morphism of polysimplicial sets étale locally, so that we can assume  $X$  to be strictly polystable (the properness will not be used for this). This cospecialization morphism of polysimplicial sets will be constructed in the following way. Let  $z$  be a geometric stratum of  $Z_{s_1}$ . After some két localization of the base,  $Z_U$  becomes saturated. Then the set of strata  $z_2$  of  $Z_{s_2}$  such that  $z$  is in the closure of  $z_2$  has a unique maximal element (as in Lemma 1.4), which we call  $z'$ . Then, thanks to the fact that  $Z_U \rightarrow U$  is saturated, the closure of  $z'$  in the strict localization of the generic point of the stratum  $z$  in  $Z$  is separable onto its image. According to [EGA4, Corollary 18.9.8],  $z'$  is geometrically connected, thus defining a geometric stratum of  $Z_{s_2}$ . One thus obtains a map from the set of geometric strata of  $Z_{s_1}$  to the set of geometric strata of  $Z_{s_2}$ ; this map induces a morphism of polysimplicial sets. In the case where polysimplicial sets of the geometric fibers of  $Y \rightarrow X$  are interiorly free, the cospecialization morphism of polysimplicial sets is an isomorphism if  $s_1$  and  $s_2$  are in the same stratum. We will end this article by glueing our specialization isomorphism of  $(p')$ -log tempered fundamental groups with our cospecialization morphisms of polysimplicial sets in a cospecialization morphism of tempered fundamental groups.

##### 4.1 Cospecialization of polysimplicial sets

In this section, we construct a cospecialization map of polysimplicial sets for a composition of a két morphism and of a log polystable fibration.

LEMMA 4.1. *If  $\phi : P \rightarrow Q$  is an integral (respectively saturated) morphism of fs monoids and  $F'$  is a face of  $Q$ , let  $F = \phi^{-1}(F')$ . Then  $F \rightarrow F'$  is also integral (respectively saturated).*

*Proof.* To prove that  $F \rightarrow F'$  is integral, thanks to [Ogu, Proposition I.4.3.11], one only has to prove that if  $f'_1, f'_2 \in F'$  and  $f_1, f_2 \in F$  are such that  $f'_1 \phi(f_1) = f'_2 \phi(f_2)$ , there are  $g' \in F'$  and  $g_1, g_2 \in F$  such that  $f'_1 = g' \phi(g_1)$  and  $f'_2 = g' \phi(g_2)$ .

But there exist  $g' \in Q$  and  $g_1, g_2 \in P$  that satisfy those properties, since  $P \rightarrow Q$  is integral. But, since  $F'$  is a face of  $Q$ ,  $g', \phi(g_1), \phi(g_2)$  must be in  $F'$ , and thus  $g_1$  and  $g_2$  are in  $F$ .

Thanks to a criterion of Tsuji [Tsu97, Proposition 4.1], an integral morphism of fs monoids  $f : P_0 \rightarrow Q_0$  is saturated if and only if for any  $a \in P_0, b \in Q_0$  and any prime number  $p$  such that  $f(a)|b^p$ , there exists  $c \in P_0$  such that  $a|c^p$  and  $f(c)|b$ . Let  $a \in F, b \in F'$  and  $p$  be a prime such that  $\phi(a)|b^p$ . Then, since  $\phi : P \rightarrow Q$  is saturated, there exists  $c \in P$  such that  $a|c^p$  and  $f(c)|b$ . But  $f(c)|b$  implies that  $f(c) \in F'$ , whence  $c \in F$ .  $\square$

PROPOSITION 4.2. *Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a saturated log smooth morphism of fs log schemes. Assume  $\mathring{Y}$  is noetherian and strictly henselian of special point  $\bar{y}_1$  and let  $y_2 \in Y$ . Let  $x \in X_{\bar{y}_1}$ . The set  $A := \{Z \in \text{Str}(X_{y_2}) \mid x \in Z\}$  has a biggest element  $Z_0$ . Moreover,  $Z_0$  is geometrically connected. The stratum  $Z_0$  is characterized in  $A$  by the fact that the map  $\overline{M_{X,x} \oplus_{\overline{M_{Y,\bar{y}_1}}} M_{Y,\bar{y}_2}} \rightarrow \overline{M_{X,\bar{z}_0}}$  is an isomorphism, where the amalgamated sum is an amalgamated sum in the category of fs monoids and  $\bar{z}_0$  is a geometric point over the generic point of  $Z_0$ .*

*Proof.* Up to replacing  $\mathring{Y}$  by a closed subscheme, one can assume that  $\mathring{Y}$  is integral and  $y_2$  is the generic point of  $Y$ . One can assume that  $f$  has a chart

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X' & \longrightarrow & \text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[Q] \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ Y & \longrightarrow & \text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[P] \end{array}$$

where  $P$  is sharp,  $\phi : P \rightarrow Q$  is an injective saturated morphism of fs monoids,  $X' \rightarrow Y_Q = Y \times_{\text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[P]} \text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[Q]$  is étale,  $X' \rightarrow Y$  factorizes through  $f$  and  $g : X' \rightarrow X$  is étale. One also assumes that  $X'$  has a unique point  $x'$  above  $x$ . If  $A' := \{Z' \in \text{Str}(X'_{y_2}) \mid x' \in Z'\}$  has a biggest element  $Z'_0$ ,  $g(Z_0)$  is the biggest element of  $A$ . Moreover, if  $Z'_0$  is geometrically connected,  $g(Z'_0)$  is also geometrically connected. One can thus assume  $X' = X$ .

Let  $F'_2$  be the preimage of the face  $M_{Y,y_2}^*$  by the map  $P \rightarrow M_{Y,y_2}$  and let  $\mathfrak{p}_2 := P \setminus F'_2$ . Since  $y_2$  is the generic point of  $Y$ ,  $Y \rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[P]$  factorizes through  $Y \rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[P]/(\mathfrak{p}_2) \simeq \mathbf{Z}[F'_2]$ . Let  $F_1$  be the preimage of the face  $M_{X,x}^*$  by the map  $Q \rightarrow M_{X,x}$  and let  $\mathfrak{q}_1 = Q \setminus F_1$ . Let  $F = \langle F_1, \phi(F'_2) \rangle$  be the face of  $Q$  generated by  $F_1$  and  $\phi(F'_2)$ , and let  $\mathfrak{q}_2 = Q \setminus F$ . Then  $\mathfrak{q}_2$  is the biggest element of  $\text{Spec } Q$  above  $\mathfrak{p}_2$  contained in  $\mathfrak{q}_1$ . Let  $X_0 := X \times_{\text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[Q]} \text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[Q]/(\mathfrak{q}_2)$ : it is a closed subscheme of  $X$ . Set-theoretically, it is the union of the strata of  $X$  whose image  $\mathfrak{q}$  by  $\text{Str}(X) \rightarrow \text{Spec } Q$  satisfies  $\mathfrak{q}_2 \subset \mathfrak{q}$ . Thus,  $x \in X_0$ , since  $\mathfrak{q}_2 \subset \mathfrak{q}$ .

Let us show that  $X_0 \rightarrow Y$  is separable (i.e. flat with geometrically reduced fibers). Since  $X_0 \rightarrow Y_F = Y \times_{\text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[P]} \text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[Q]/(\mathfrak{q}_2) \simeq Y \times_{\text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[F'_2]} \text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[F]$  is étale, it is enough to show that  $\text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[F] \rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[F'_2]$  is separable. But  $F'_2 \rightarrow F$  is saturated thanks to Lemma 4.1; this implies that  $\text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[F] \rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[F'_2]$  is separable. Since  $Y$  is noetherian and strictly henselian and  $X_0 \rightarrow Y$  is separable and locally of finite type, one can apply [EGA4, Corollary 18.9.8]: for every  $y \in Y$ ,  $X_0(x)_y$  is geometrically connected (where  $X_0(x)$  denotes the localization of  $X_0$  at  $x$ ). Set-theoretically,  $X_0(x)_{y_2}$  is the subset of  $X_{y_2}$  consisting of points  $z$  which specialize to  $x$  and such that the preimage  $F_z$  of  $M_{X,z}^*$  by the map  $Q \rightarrow M_{X,z}$  is contained in  $F$ . For every point  $z$  of  $X_0(x)_{y_2}$ , the face  $F_z$  of  $Q$  corresponding to  $z$  is contained in  $F$ , contains  $F_1$  because  $x$  is a specialization of  $z$  and contains  $\phi(\phi^{-1}(F_z)) = \phi(F'_2)$  because the face corresponding to  $y_2$  is  $F'_2$ : thus,  $F_z = F$ . In particular,

$$\overline{M_{X,z}} = Q/F = Q/\langle F_1, \phi(F'_2) \rangle = \overline{Q/F_1 \oplus_P P/F'_2} = \overline{M_{X,x} \oplus_{\overline{M_{Y,\bar{y}_1}}} M_{Y,\bar{y}_2}}.$$

Since the image of  $X_0(x)_{y_2} \rightarrow \text{Spec } Q$  has a unique element  $F$  and  $X_0(x)_{y_2}$  is connected,  $X_0(x)_{y_2}$  is contained in a single stratum  $Z_0$  of  $X_{y_2}$  ( $Z_0$  is an element of  $A$ ). Since  $X_{0,y_2}$  is a union of strata of  $X_{y_2}$ , the generic point  $z_0$  of  $Z_0$  lies in  $X_{0,y_2}$ . Since  $X_0(x)_{y_2}$ , seen as a subset of  $X_{0,y_2}$ , is stable under generization,  $z_0$  is in  $X_0(x)_{y_2}$ . Since  $z_0$  is the generic point of  $Z_0$  and  $X_0(x)_{y_2} \subset Z_0$ ,  $z_0$  is also the generic point of  $X_0(x)_{y_2}$ . Therefore,  $Z_0$  must also be geometrically connected.

Let  $Z \neq Z_0$  be in  $A$  a maximal element and let  $z$  be its generic point. Let  $\mathfrak{q}_Z$  be the corresponding prime of  $Q$ . Then  $\mathfrak{q}_Z \subset \mathfrak{q}_1$  and  $\phi^{-1}(\mathfrak{q}_Z) = \mathfrak{p}_2$ . Thus,  $\mathfrak{q}_Z \subset \mathfrak{q}_2$ . Let  $X_{\mathfrak{q}_Z} = X \times_{\text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[Q]}$

$\text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[Q]/(\mathfrak{q}_Z)$  (this is the union of the strata of  $X$  whose image  $\mathfrak{q}$  by  $\text{Str } X \rightarrow Q$  satisfies  $\mathfrak{q}_Z \subset \mathfrak{q}$ ). As previously,  $X_{\mathfrak{q}_Z}(x)_{y_2}$  is geometrically connected and contains  $z$  as a generic point. It also contains  $z_0$ . Since  $Z$  is open in  $(X_{\mathfrak{q}_Z})_{y_2}$ , and  $Z \cap X_{\mathfrak{q}_Z}(x)_{y_2} \subsetneq X_{\mathfrak{q}_Z}(x)_{y_2}$ ,  $z$  must specialize in  $X_{\mathfrak{q}_Z}(x)_{y_2}$  to an element  $z'$  that is not in  $Z$ . The stratum containing  $z'$  is in  $A$  and is bigger than  $Z$ . Thus,  $A$  has no maximal element other than  $Z_0$ . Since  $A$  is locally finite,  $Z_0$  must be the biggest element of  $A$ . If  $Z \neq Z_0 \in A$ , then  $\text{rk}^{\log}(Z) < \text{rk}^{\log}(Z_0)$  and therefore the description of  $\overline{M}_{X, \bar{z}_0}$  characterizes  $Z_0$  in  $A$ .  $\square$

If  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is a saturated log smooth morphism of fs log schemes with  $\mathring{Y}$  locally noetherian and  $\bar{y}_2 \rightarrow \bar{y}_1$  is a specialization of geometric points of  $\mathring{Y}$ , then one can apply Proposition 4.2 to the pullback of  $f$  to the strict henselization of  $\bar{y}_1$ : one gets a nondecreasing map  $\text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_2})$ .

If  $Z \rightarrow X$  is k et, if  $X \rightarrow Y$  is a saturated log smooth morphism of fs log schemes and  $\bar{y}_2 \rightarrow \bar{y}_1$  is a k et specialization of log geometric points, there exists a k et neighborhood  $U$  of  $\bar{y}_1$  such that  $X_U := X \times_Y U \rightarrow U$  is saturated. One thus gets a cospecialization map

$$\text{Str}(Z_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(Z_{\bar{y}_2}).$$

PROPOSITION 4.3. *Let  $X \rightarrow Y$  be a saturated log smooth morphism of fs log schemes with  $\mathring{Y}$  locally noetherian and let  $\bar{y}_3 \rightarrow \bar{y}_2 \rightarrow \bar{y}_1$  be specializations of geometric points of  $\mathring{Y}$ . Then the diagram*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_1}) & & \\ \downarrow & \searrow & \\ \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_2}) & \longrightarrow & \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_3}) \end{array}$$

is commutative.

*Proof.* Let  $Z_1$  be a stratum of  $X_{\bar{y}_1}$ , let  $Z_2$  be the corresponding stratum of  $X_{\bar{y}_2}$ , let  $Z_3$  be the image of  $Z_2$  by the map  $\text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_2}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_3})$  and let  $Z'_3$  be the image of  $Z_1$  by the map  $\text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_3})$ . Since  $Z_3$  specializes to  $Z_1$ ,  $Z_3 \leq Z'_3$ . Let  $\bar{z}_3 \rightarrow \bar{z}_2 \rightarrow \bar{z}_1$  be cospecializations between geometric generic points of  $Z_3$ ,  $Z_2$  and  $Z_1$ . Then

$$\overline{M}_{X, \bar{z}_3} = \overline{M}_{X, \bar{z}_2} \oplus_{\overline{M}_{Y, \bar{y}_2}} \overline{M}_{Y, \bar{y}_3} = (\overline{M}_{X, \bar{z}_1} \oplus_{\overline{M}_{Y, \bar{y}_1}} \overline{M}_{Y, \bar{y}_2}) \oplus_{\overline{M}_{Y, \bar{y}_2}} \overline{M}_{Y, \bar{y}_3} = \overline{M}_{X, \bar{z}_1} \oplus_{\overline{M}_{Y, \bar{y}_1}} \overline{M}_{Y, \bar{y}_3}.$$

Therefore,  $Z_3 = Z'_3$ .  $\square$

PROPOSITION 4.4. *Let  $X \rightarrow Y$  be a saturated log smooth morphism of fs log schemes with  $\mathring{Y}$  locally noetherian and let  $\bar{y}_2 \rightarrow \bar{y}_1$  be a specialization of geometric points of  $\mathring{Y}$ . If  $X \rightarrow Y$  is proper and  $\overline{M}_{Y, \bar{y}_1} \rightarrow \overline{M}_{Y, \bar{y}_2}$  is an isomorphism, then the cospecialization map  $\text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_2})$  is bijective.*

*Proof.* Assume  $\mathring{Y} = \text{Spec } A$  is strictly local with special point  $\bar{y}_1$ , integral with generic point  $\bar{y}_2$ , and  $X \rightarrow Y$  is saturated. By pulling back along the normalization of  $\mathring{Y}$ , one can also assume that  $A$  is normal. Let  $\psi : \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_2})$ .

First we remark that if  $Z_1$  is a stratum of  $X_{\bar{y}_1}$  and  $Z_2$  is the corresponding stratum of  $X_{\bar{y}_2}$  by the cospecialization map, then

$$\overline{M}_{X, \bar{z}_2} = \overline{M}_{X, \bar{z}_1} \oplus_{\overline{M}_{Y, \bar{y}_1}} \overline{M}_{Y, \bar{y}_2} = \overline{M}_{X, \bar{z}_1},$$

where  $\bar{z}_2 \rightarrow \bar{z}_1$  is a specialization between geometric generic points of  $Z_2$  and  $Z_1$ . Conversely, if  $Z_1$  is a stratum of  $X_{\bar{y}_1}$  and  $Z_2$  is a stratum of  $X_{\bar{y}_2}$  such that the image of  $Z_1$  in  $X$  is contained

in the closure of  $Z_2$  in  $X$  and such that  $\overline{M}_{X, \bar{z}_1} \rightarrow \overline{M}_{X, \bar{z}_2}$  is an isomorphism, then  $Z_2$  is the image of  $Z_1$  by the cospecialization map  $\text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_2})$ .

Let  $Z$  be a stratum of  $\overset{\circ}{X}_{\bar{y}_2}$  and let  $z$  be its generic point. Let  $\tilde{Z}$  be the normalization of the closure  $\overline{Z}$  of  $Z$  (endowed with the pullback log structure). Let  $v : V \rightarrow X$  be an étale morphism such that  $V \rightarrow Y$  has a global chart

$$\begin{array}{ccc} V & \longrightarrow & \text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[Q] \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ Y & \longrightarrow & \text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[P] \end{array}$$

such that  $V \rightarrow Y_Q = \text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[Q] \times_{\text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[P]} Y$  is étale,  $P$  is sharp and  $\phi : P \rightarrow Q$  is injective and saturated.

Let  $\mathfrak{p} \in \text{Spec } P$  be the image of  $\bar{y}_2$  by the map  $Y \rightarrow \text{Spec } P$ . Let  $F$  be  $P \setminus \mathfrak{p}$ , i.e.  $F$  is the preimage of  $M_{Y, \bar{y}_2}^*$  by the map  $P \rightarrow M_{Y, \bar{y}_2}$ . Since  $\overline{M}_{Y, \bar{y}_1} \rightarrow \overline{M}_{Y, \bar{y}_2}$  is an isomorphism,  $F$  is also the preimage of  $M_{Y, \bar{y}_1}^*$  by the map  $P \rightarrow M_{Y, \bar{y}_1}$ . The morphism  $Y \rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[P]$  factorizes through  $Y \rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[F]$ , where  $\text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[F]$  is the closure of the stratum of  $\text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[P]$  corresponding to  $\mathfrak{p}$ . Since  $\overline{M}_{Y, \bar{y}_1} \rightarrow \overline{M}_{Y, \bar{y}_2}$  is an isomorphism, it even factorizes through  $Y \rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[F^{\text{gp}}]$ , where  $\text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[F^{\text{gp}}]$  is the stratum of  $\text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[P]$  corresponding to  $\mathfrak{p}$ .

Let  $(z_i)_{i \in I}$  be the family of preimages of  $z$  in  $V$ . Let  $\mathfrak{q}_i \in \text{Spec } Q$  be the image of  $z_i$  by the map  $V \rightarrow \text{Spec } Q$ . Let  $F_i = \text{Spec } Q \setminus \mathfrak{q}_i$ . According to Lemma 4.1,  $F \rightarrow F_i$  is a saturated morphism of fs monoids. Then  $\{\overline{z_i}\}$  is an irreducible component of  $V_{F_i} = V \times_{\text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[Q]} \text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[F_i]$ , which is étale above  $Y_Q \times_{\text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[Q]} \text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}[F_i] = \text{Spec } A \otimes_{\mathbf{Z}[F^{\text{gp}}]} \mathbf{Z}[F^{-1}F_i] = \text{Spec } A[F^{-1}F_i \cap T]$ , where  $T$  is a direct summand of  $F^{\text{gp}}$  in  $Q^{\text{gp}}$ . The monoid  $F^{-1}F_i \cap T$  is saturated: according to [Ogu, Proposition I.3.3.1],  $\text{Spec } A[F^{-1}F_i \cap T]$  is normal. Hence,  $\{\overline{z_i}\}$  is a connected component of  $V_{F_i}$  and is normal. Thus,  $\tilde{Z} \times_X V = \coprod \{\overline{z_i}\}$ . Since the geometric fibers of  $\text{Spec } A[F^{-1}F_i \cap T] \rightarrow \text{Spec } A$  are normal for any choice of  $V$ , the geometric fibers of  $\tilde{Z} \rightarrow Y$  are also normal, and in particular reduced. Moreover,  $A[F^{-1}F_i \cap T]$  is a free, hence flat,  $A$ -module:  $\tilde{Z} \rightarrow Y$  is therefore flat.

Moreover, the generic point of any fiber of  $\text{Spec } A \otimes_{\mathbf{Z}[F^{\text{gp}}]} \mathbf{Z}[F^{-1}F_i] \rightarrow \text{Spec } A$  maps to  $\mathfrak{q}_i$  via the map  $\text{Spec } A \otimes_{\mathbf{Z}[F^{\text{gp}}]} \mathbf{Z}[F^{-1}F_i] \rightarrow \text{Spec } Q$ . Therefore, the generic point  $v_i$  of  $(\{\overline{z_i}\})_{\bar{y}_1}$  maps also to  $\mathfrak{q}_i$ , and thus  $\overline{M}_{\tilde{Z} \times_X V, v_i} \rightarrow \overline{M}_{\tilde{Z} \times_X V, z_i}$  is an isomorphism (both are isomorphic to  $Q/F_i$ ).

The morphism  $\tilde{Z} \rightarrow Y$  is proper. Let  $\tilde{Z} \rightarrow W \rightarrow Y$  be its Stein factorization. Since  $\tilde{Z} \rightarrow Y$  is separable, according to [SGA1, Proposition X.1.2],  $W \rightarrow Y$  is an étale cover. Since  $Y$  is strictly henselian,  $W$  is a direct sum of copies of  $Y$ . Since  $\tilde{Z}_{\bar{y}_2}$  is connected,  $W = Y$ . Thus, all the fibers of  $\tilde{Z} \rightarrow Y$  are geometrically connected. Since they are normal, they are also geometrically irreducible. Since  $\tilde{Z} \rightarrow \overline{Z}$  is surjective,  $\overline{Z}_{\bar{y}_1}$  is also irreducible. Let  $z_1$  be the generic point of  $\overline{Z}_{\bar{y}_1}$ . Let  $\bar{z} \rightarrow \bar{z}_1$  be a specialization of geometric points above  $z \rightarrow z_1$ . If  $V$  is an étale neighborhood of  $\bar{z}$  as considered before, the homomorphism  $\overline{M}_{\tilde{Z} \times_X V, \bar{z}_1} \rightarrow \overline{M}_{\tilde{Z} \times_X V, \bar{z}}$  is an isomorphism. Since the log structure of  $\tilde{Z} \times_X V$  is the pullback of the log structure of  $X$ , one gets that  $\overline{M}_{X, \bar{z}_1} \rightarrow \overline{M}_{X, \bar{z}}$  is an isomorphism and therefore the stratum  $Z_1$  of  $X_{\bar{y}_1}$  cospecializes to  $Z$ . This shows the surjectivity of  $\text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_2})$ .

If  $Z'_1 \in \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_1})$  cospecializes to  $Z$ , then  $Z'_1 \subset \overline{Z}_{\bar{y}_1}$  and thus  $Z'_1$  is bigger than  $Z_1$  but then the morphism  $\overline{M}_{X, \bar{z}'_1} \rightarrow \overline{M}_{X, \bar{z}_1}$ , where  $\bar{z}'_1$  is a geometric point over the generic point of  $Z'_1$ , is also an isomorphism, and thus  $Z'_1 = Z_1$ , which shows the injectivity of the cospecialization map.  $\square$

We now want to define cospecialization maps of polysimplicial complexes.

PROPOSITION 4.5. *Let  $\underline{X}$  be a polystable log fibration over  $Y$  of length  $l$  with  $\mathring{Y}$  locally noetherian. Let  $\bar{y}_2 \rightarrow \bar{y}_1$  be a két specialization of log geometric points. There is, for every két morphism  $Z \rightarrow X$ , a cospecialization map  $\psi : C_{\text{geom}}(Z_{y_1}/y_1) \rightarrow C_{\text{geom}}(Z_{y_2}/y_2)$ , functorial in  $Z$ , in  $\underline{X}$  for két morphisms of polystable log fibration and in  $\bar{y}_1 \rightarrow \bar{y}_2$ , such that  $O(\psi)$  is the cospecialization map  $\phi : \text{Str}(Z_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(Z_{\bar{y}_2})$ . If  $\overline{M}_{Y,\bar{y}_1} \rightarrow \overline{M}_{Y,\bar{y}_2}$  is an isomorphism, then  $\psi$  maps nondegenerate polysimplices to nondegenerate polysimplices.*

We will construct  $\psi$  in different steps and check functoriality at every step.

The first step of the proof is the case where  $Z = X$  and  $X \rightarrow Y$  is a strictly polystable morphism. The construction of the cospecialization map  $\psi$  is perfectly identical in this case to the construction of the cospecialization map of Lemma 1.4 given by Berkovich in [Ber99, Lemma 6.1, Corollary 6.2].

The second step is the case where  $Z = X$  and  $\underline{X}$  is a strictly polystable fibration. The cospecialization map is constructed by induction on  $l$ . To do so, we construct for every generic point  $x_1$  of a stratum of  $X_{l-1,\bar{y}_1}$  a morphism  $C(X_{x_1}) \rightarrow C(X_{x_2})$ , where  $x_2$  is the image of  $x_1$  by the cospecialization map  $\text{Str}(X_{l-1,\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{l-1,\bar{y}_2})$ . We remark that if  $\bar{x}_2 \rightarrow \bar{x}_1$  is a specialization of geometric points above  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ , the first step already gives us a morphism  $C(X_{\bar{x}_1}) \rightarrow C(X_{\bar{x}_2})$ . The cospecialization map  $\text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_2})$  maps  $\text{Str}(X_{x_1}) \subset \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_1})$  to  $\text{Str}(X_{x_2}) \subset \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_2})$ . One thus gets a map  $\text{Str}(X_{x_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{x_2})$  and one can construct  $C(X_{x_1}) \rightarrow C(X_{x_2})$  in the same way as in Step 1 and Lemma 1.4. The functoriality of  $C(X_{\bar{x}_1}) \rightarrow C(X_{\bar{x}_2})$  with respect to  $\bar{x}_1 \rightarrow \bar{x}_2$  proven in Step 1 ensures the compatibility of  $C(X_{x_1}) \rightarrow C(X_{x_2})$  with respect to change of stratum  $x_1$ : one can then glue this morphism  $C(X_{x_1}) \rightarrow C(X_{x_2})$  to get a morphism  $C(X_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow C(X_{\bar{y}_2})$ .

One then gets the result for a general  $Z$  by using the remark at the beginning of § 2.3 and for a general polystable fibration by étale descent using the functoriality with respect to étale morphisms proven in the previous steps.

*Proof. Step 1.*  $Z = X$  and  $X \rightarrow Y$  is a strictly polystable morphism.

Let us begin with an analog of [Ber99, Lemma 6.1].

LEMMA 4.6. *Let  $X \rightarrow Y$  be a strictly polystable morphism of log schemes with  $\mathring{Y}$  locally noetherian and let  $\bar{y}_2 \rightarrow \bar{y}_1$  be a specialization of geometric points of  $Y$ . Let  $x_1$  be a stratum of  $X_{\bar{y}_1}$  and let  $x_2$  be its image in  $\text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_2})$  by the cospecialization map. Then, given an isometric bijection  $\mu : [\mathbf{n}] \rightarrow \text{Irr}(X_{\bar{y}_1}, x_1)$ , there exists a unique couple  $(I, \mu')$  consisting of a subset  $I \subset [w(\mathbf{n})]$  and of an isometric bijection  $\mu' : [\mathbf{n}_I] \rightarrow \text{Irr}(X_{\bar{y}_2}, x_2)$  such that*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} [\mathbf{n}] & \longrightarrow & \text{Irr}(X_{\bar{y}_1}, x_1) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ [\mathbf{n}_I] & \longrightarrow & \text{Irr}(X_{\bar{y}_2}, x_2) \end{array}$$

*commutes. If moreover  $\overline{M}_{Y,\bar{y}_1} \rightarrow \overline{M}_{Y,\bar{y}_2}$  is an isomorphism, then  $I = [w(\mathbf{n})]$ .*

*Proof.* The uniqueness is obvious, since there is no isometric bijection  $[\mathbf{n}_I] \rightarrow [\mathbf{n}_J]$  for  $I \neq J$  and  $[\mathbf{n}] \rightarrow [\mathbf{n}_I]$  is surjective. One can replace  $Y$  by its strict henselization at  $\bar{y}_1$  and assume  $Y = \text{Spec } A$ . Let  $\pi : M_{Y,\bar{y}_1} \rightarrow A$ . Thanks to [Ber99, Lemma 2.10], the proposition is local on the étale topology of  $X$  so that one can assume  $X = \text{Spec } B$ , where  $B = B_1 \otimes_A \cdots \otimes_A B_p \otimes_A C$ , where  $p = w(\mathbf{n})$

and

$$B_i = A[T_{i0}, \dots, T_{in_i}]/(T_{i0} \cdots T_{in_i} - \pi(m_i))$$

with  $\pi(m_i)(\bar{y}_1) = 0$  and  $C$  smooth over  $A$ . Let  $I = \{i \in [p] \mid \pi(m_i)(\bar{y}_2) = 0\}$ . Then one gets an isometric bijection  $\text{Irr}(X_{\bar{y}_2}, x_2) \simeq [\mathbf{n}_I]$ . If  $\bar{M}_{Y, \bar{y}_1} \rightarrow \bar{M}_{Y, \bar{y}_2}$  is an isomorphism, for every  $i \in [w(\mathbf{n})]$ , the image of  $\pi(m_i)$  in  $\bar{M}_{Y, \bar{y}_2}$  is not invertible and therefore  $\pi(m_i)(\bar{y}_2) = 0$ : one gets that  $I = w(\mathbf{n})$ .  $\square$

We will now deduce from Lemma 4.6 our cospecialization morphism  $C(X_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow C(X_{\bar{y}_2})$ , in the same way that one deduces [Ber99, Corollary 6.2, Lemma 6.1].

Recall that if  $X \rightarrow \text{Spec } k$  is strictly polystable, then  $C(X)$  is the polysimplicial set which associates to  $[\mathbf{n}]$  the set of triples  $(x, I, \mu)$ , where  $x \in \text{Str}(X)$ ,  $I \subset w(\mathbf{n})$  and  $\mu$  is an isometric bijection  $[\mathbf{n}_I] \rightarrow \text{Irr}(X, x)$ . Thus, if  $X \rightarrow Y$  is strictly polystable and  $\bar{y}_2 \rightarrow \bar{y}_1$  is a specialization of geometric points of  $Y$ , then  $\text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_2})$  induces a natural cospecialization morphism of polysimplicial sets  $C(X_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow C(X_{\bar{y}_2})$  that maps  $(x_1, I_1, \mu_1)$  to  $(x_2, I_2, \mu_2)$ , where  $x_2$  is the image of  $x_1$  by the cospecialization map  $\text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_2})$  and  $(I_2, \mu_2)$  is the unique couple consisting of a subset  $I_2 \subset I_1 \subset [w(\mathbf{n})]$  and of an isometric bijection  $\mu_2 : [\mathbf{n}_{I_2}] \rightarrow \text{Irr}(X_{\bar{y}_2}, x_2)$  such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} [\mathbf{n}_{I_1}] & \longrightarrow & \text{Irr}(X_{\bar{y}_1}, x_1) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ [\mathbf{n}_{I_2}] & \longrightarrow & \text{Irr}(X_{\bar{y}_2}, x_2) \end{array}$$

commutes.

*Remark.* In the particular case where  $Y$  fits in a polystable fibration  $Y \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow \text{Spec } k$  over some field and  $\bar{y}_1$  and  $\bar{y}_2$  lie over generic points  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  of strata of  $Y$ , the morphism  $C(X_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow C(X_{\bar{y}_2})$  we have just constructed is compatible with the morphism  $C(X_{y_1}) \rightarrow C(X_{y_2})$  given by Lemma 1.4, i.e. the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C(X_{\bar{y}_1}) & \longrightarrow & C(X_{\bar{y}_2}) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ C(X_{y_1}) & \longrightarrow & C(X_{y_2}) \end{array} \tag{1}$$

commutes, and one could have used in this particular setting the construction of the beginning of § 2.3 and Lemma 1.4 to define the morphism  $C(X_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow C(X_{\bar{y}_2})$ .

If  $\bar{M}_{Y, \bar{y}_1} \rightarrow \bar{M}_{Y, \bar{y}_2}$  is an isomorphism, then, with the previous notation,  $I_2 = I_1$ , and therefore  $C(X_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow C(X_{\bar{y}_2})$  maps nondegenerate polysimplices to nondegenerate polysimplices.

Let us check now the wanted functorialities of the cospecialization morphism. Keeping the same notation, if  $\bar{y}_3 \rightarrow \bar{y}_2$  is a specialization of geometric points, and  $(x_3, I_3, \mu_3)$  is the image of  $(x_2, I_2, \mu_2)$  by the cospecialization morphism  $C(X_{\bar{y}_2}) \rightarrow C(X_{\bar{y}_3})$ , then

$$\begin{array}{ccc} [\mathbf{n}_{I_1}] & \longrightarrow & \text{Irr}(X_{\bar{y}_1}, x_1) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ [\mathbf{n}_{I_3}] & \longrightarrow & \text{Irr}(X_{\bar{y}_3}, x_3) \end{array}$$

also commutes and therefore  $(x_3, I_3, \mu_3)$  is the image of  $(x_1, I_1, \mu_1)$  by the cospecialization morphism  $C(X_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow C(X_{\bar{y}_3})$ . Therefore, the cospecialization morphisms of polysimplicial sets are functorial with respect to specializations of geometric points.

Let  $X' \rightarrow X$  be a két morphism such that  $X' \rightarrow Y$  is strictly polystable, let  $x'_1$  be a stratum of  $X'_{\bar{y}_1}$ , let  $x_1$  be the image of  $x'_1$  in  $\text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_1})$ , let  $x'_2$  be the image of  $x'_1$  by the cospecialization map  $\text{Str}(X'_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X'_{\bar{y}_2})$  and let  $x_2$  be the image of  $x'_2$  in  $\text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_2})$ . The diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Irr}(X'_{\bar{y}_1}, x'_1) & \longrightarrow & \text{Irr}(X_{\bar{y}_1}, x_1) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \text{Irr}(X'_{\bar{y}_2}, x'_2) & \longrightarrow & \text{Irr}(X_{\bar{y}_2}, x_2) \end{array}$$

is commutative and the horizontal maps are isometric bijections. Therefore, if

$$\begin{array}{ccc} [\mathbf{n}_{I_1}] & \longrightarrow & \text{Irr}(X'_{\bar{y}_1}, x'_1) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ [\mathbf{n}_{I_2}] & \longrightarrow & \text{Irr}(X'_{\bar{y}_2}, x'_2) \end{array}$$

is a commutative diagram such that the horizontal maps are isometric bijections, then the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} [\mathbf{n}_{I_1}] & \longrightarrow & \text{Irr}(X_{\bar{y}_1}, x_1) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ [\mathbf{n}_{I_2}] & \longrightarrow & \text{Irr}(X_{\bar{y}_2}, x_2) \end{array}$$

is also commutative and the horizontal maps are isometric bijections. Therefore, the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{C}(X'_{\bar{y}_1}) & \longrightarrow & \text{C}(X'_{\bar{y}_2}) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \text{C}(X_{\bar{y}_1}) & \longrightarrow & \text{C}(X_{\bar{y}_2}) \end{array} \tag{2}$$

is commutative.

*Step 2.*  $Z = X$  and  $\underline{X}$  is a strictly polystable log fibration.

Let us now construct cospecialization morphisms of polysimplicial sets for a strictly polystable fibration of length  $l$  by induction on  $l$ .

Let  $\underline{X} : X = X_l \xrightarrow{\alpha} X_{l-1} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow Y$  be a strictly polystable fibration. Assume  $Y$  to be strictly local. We want to construct a cospecialization morphism  $\psi : \text{C}(X_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \text{C}(X_{\bar{y}_2})$  compatible with the cospecialization map  $\phi : \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_2})$ .

Assume by induction that we already constructed a cospecialization morphism of polysimplicial sets  $\psi_{l-1} : \text{C}(X_{l-1, \bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \text{C}(X_{l-1, \bar{y}_2})$  such that the induced map  $\phi_{l-1} : \text{Str}(X_{l-1, \bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{l-1, \bar{y}_2})$  obtained by applying  $O$  is the cospecialization map already defined. One has  $\text{C}(X_{\bar{y}_1}) = \text{C}(X_{l-1, \bar{y}_1}) \square D_1$  and  $\text{C}(X_{\bar{y}_2}) = \text{C}(X_{l-1, \bar{y}_2}) \square D_2$ , where  $D_1 : \text{Str}(X_{l-1, \bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \mathbf{\Lambda}^\circ \text{Set}$  is the functor mapping a stratum  $x_1$  to the polysimplicial set  $\text{C}(X_{x_1})$  and  $D_2 : \text{Str}(X_{l-1, \bar{y}_2}) \rightarrow \mathbf{\Lambda}^\circ \text{Set}$  is the functor mapping a stratum  $x_2$  to the polysimplicial set  $\text{C}(X_{x_2})$ .

To construct the morphism  $\psi : \text{C}(X_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \text{C}(X_{\bar{y}_2})$ , we shall first construct a morphism of functors  $\psi_0 : D_1 \rightarrow D_2 \phi_{l-1}$ . Such a functor induces a morphism  $\text{C}(X_{l-1, \bar{y}_1}) \square D_1 \rightarrow \text{C}(X_{l-2, \bar{y}_2}) \square D_2$ , i.e. a morphism  $\psi : \text{C}(X_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \text{C}(X_{\bar{y}_2})$ , in the following way. One gets a map

$$\coprod_{x \in \mathbf{\Lambda} / \text{C}(X_{l-1, \bar{y}_1})} [\mathbf{n}_x] \square D_{1,x} \rightarrow \coprod_{x' \in \mathbf{\Lambda} / \text{C}(X_{l-2, \bar{y}_2})} [\mathbf{n}_{x'}] \square D_{2,x'}$$

by glueing the maps  $[\mathbf{n}_x] \square D_{1,x} \xrightarrow{\text{id} \square \psi_0(x)} [\mathbf{n}_{\phi(x)}] \square D_{2,\phi(x)}$ , since  $\mathbf{n}_x = \mathbf{n}_{\phi(x)}$  by definition of morphisms of polysimplicial sets. Similarly, one gets a map

$$\coprod_{y \rightarrow x \in \mathbf{\Lambda} / C(X_{l-1, \bar{y}_1})} [\mathbf{n}_y] \square D_{1,x} \rightarrow \coprod_{y' \rightarrow x' \in \mathbf{\Lambda} / C(X_{l-2, \bar{y}_2})} [\mathbf{n}_{y'}] \square D_{2,x'}$$

by glueing the maps  $[\mathbf{n}_y] \square D_{1,x} \xrightarrow{\text{id} \square \psi_0(x)} [\mathbf{n}_{\phi(y)}] \square D_{2,\phi(x)}$ . Taking the cokernel, one gets the wanted morphism  $C(X_{l-1, \bar{y}_1}) \square D_1 \rightarrow C(X_{l-2, \bar{y}_2}) \square D_2$ .

Let  $x_1 \in \text{Str}(X_{l-1, \bar{y}_1})$  and let  $x_2 := \phi_{l-1}(x_1)$ ; we have to build a morphism  $D_1(x_1) \rightarrow D_2\phi_{l-1}(x_1)$ , i.e. a morphism  $C(X_{x_1}) \rightarrow C(X_{x_2})$ . Let us first build the map  $\text{Str}(X_{x_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{x_2})$ . To do so, we consider  $\text{Str}(X_{x_1})$  as a subset of  $\text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_1})$  and  $\text{Str}(X_{x_2})$  as a subset of  $\text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_2})$  (as in [Ber99, Proposition 2.7(ii)]) and show that the cospecialization map  $\text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_2})$  maps  $\text{Str}(X_{x_1})$  to  $\text{Str}(X_{x_2})$ .

LEMMA 4.7. *Let  $\bar{x}_1$  (respectively  $\bar{x}_2$ ) be a geometric point of  $X_{l-1}$  lying at  $x_1$  (respectively  $x_2$ ) and let  $\bar{x}_2 \rightarrow \bar{x}_1$  be a specialization above  $\bar{y}_2 \rightarrow \bar{y}_1$ . The diagram*

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Str}(X_{\bar{x}_1}) & \twoheadrightarrow & \text{Str}(X_{x_1}) & \hookrightarrow & \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_1}) \\ \downarrow & & & & \downarrow \\ \text{Str}(X_{\bar{x}_2}) & \twoheadrightarrow & \text{Str}(X_{x_2}) & \hookrightarrow & \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_2}) \end{array}$$

*commutes. In particular, the map  $\text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_2})$  maps  $\text{Str}(X_{x_1})$  into  $\text{Str}(X_{x_2})$  and the induced map  $\text{Str}(X_{x_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{x_2})$  makes the whole diagram commute.*

*Proof.* Let  $a_1$  be a stratum of  $X_{\bar{x}_1}$  and let  $a_2$  be its image by the cospecialization map  $\text{Str}(X_{\bar{x}_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{\bar{x}_2})$ . Let  $b_1$  (respectively  $b_2$ ) be the image of  $a_1$  (respectively  $a_2$ ) in  $\text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_1})$  (respectively  $\text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_2})$ ). Let  $b'_2$  be the image of  $b_1$  by the cospecialization map  $\text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_2})$ . Since the image of  $a_1$  in  $X_{X_{l-1}(\bar{x}_1)}$  is in the closure of the image of  $a_2$ , the image of  $b_1$  in  $X_{Y(\bar{y}_1)}$  is also in the closure of the image of  $b_2$ . Therefore,  $b_2 \leq b'_2$ .

Since  $X_{\bar{x}_1} \rightarrow X_{\bar{y}_1}$  (respectively  $X_{\bar{x}_2} \rightarrow X_{\bar{y}_2}$ ) is a strict morphism of log schemes,  $\overline{M}_{X_{\bar{y}_1}, b_1} \rightarrow \overline{M}_{X_{\bar{x}_1}, a_1}$  (respectively  $\overline{M}_{X_{\bar{y}_2}, b_2} \rightarrow \overline{M}_{X_{\bar{x}_2}, a_2}$ ) is an isomorphism. Moreover, according to Proposition 4.2,

$$\overline{M}_{X_{l-1}, \bar{x}_2} = \overline{M}_{X_{l-1}, \bar{x}_1} \oplus_{M_{Y, \bar{y}_1}} M_{Y, \bar{y}_2}.$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{M}_{X_{\bar{y}_2}, b_2} &= \overline{M}_{X_{\bar{x}_2}, a_2} \\ &= \overline{M}_{X_{\bar{x}_1}, a_1} \oplus_{M_{X_{l-1}, \bar{x}_1}} M_{X_{l-1}, \bar{x}_2} \\ &= \overline{M}_{X_{\bar{y}_1}, b_1} \oplus_{M_{Y, \bar{y}_1}} M_{Y, \bar{y}_2}. \end{aligned}$$

According to Proposition 4.2, this shows that  $b_2 = b'_2$ . □

Let us now construct a morphism  $C(X_{x_1}) \rightarrow C(X_{x_2})$  from the map  $\text{Str}(X_{x_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{x_2})$  we constructed. Let  $\bar{x}_2 \rightarrow \bar{x}_1$  be a specialization morphism as in Lemma 4.7. Let  $z_1$  be a stratum of  $X_{x_1}$  and let  $z_2$  be the image of  $z_1$  in  $\text{Str}(X_{x_2})$ . Let  $\bar{z}_1 \in \text{Str}(X_{\bar{x}_1})$  be a preimage of  $z_1$  and let  $\bar{z}_2$  be the image of  $\bar{z}_1$  by  $\text{Str}(X_{\bar{x}_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{\bar{x}_2})$ , so that  $\bar{z}_2$  is also a preimage of  $z_2$ . Since every irreducible component of  $X_{x_1}$  (respectively  $X_{x_2}$ ) is smooth over  $x_1$  (respectively  $x_2$ ), the map  $\text{Irr}(X_{\bar{x}_1}, \bar{z}_1) \rightarrow \text{Irr}(X_{x_1}, z_1)$  (respectively  $\text{Irr}(X_{\bar{x}_2}, \bar{z}_2) \rightarrow \text{Irr}(X_{x_2}, z_2)$ ) is an isomorphism. Therefore, by applying Lemma 4.6 to  $\text{Irr}(X_{\bar{x}_1}, \bar{z}_1)$  and  $\text{Irr}(X_{\bar{x}_2}, \bar{z}_2)$ , one gets that, given an

isometric bijection  $\mu : [\mathbf{n}] \rightarrow \text{Irr}(X_{x_1}, z_1)$ , there exists a unique couple  $(I, \mu')$  consisting of a subset  $I \subset [w(\mathbf{n})]$  and of an isometric bijection  $\mu' : [\mathbf{n}_I] \rightarrow \text{Irr}(X_{x_2}, z_2)$  such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} [\mathbf{n}] & \longrightarrow & \text{Irr}(X_{x_1}, z_1) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ [\mathbf{n}_I] & \longrightarrow & \text{Irr}(X_{x_2}, z_2) \end{array}$$

commutes. This induces, as in Step 1, a morphism  $C(X_{x_1}) \rightarrow C(X_{x_2})$ , i.e. a morphism  $D_1(x_1) \rightarrow D_2\phi_{l-1}(x_1)$ , such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C(X_{\bar{x}_1}) & \longrightarrow & C(X_{\bar{x}_2}) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ C(X_{x_1}) & \longrightarrow & C(X_{x_2}) \end{array} \tag{3}$$

commutes. Since  $\overline{M}_{X_{l-1}, \bar{x}_1} = \overline{M}_{X_{l-1}, \bar{x}_1} \oplus_{\overline{M}_{Y, \bar{y}_1}} \overline{M}_{Y, \bar{y}_2}$  according to Proposition 4.2, if  $\overline{M}_{Y, \bar{y}_1} \rightarrow \overline{M}_{Y, \bar{y}_2}$  is an isomorphism, then  $\overline{M}_{X_{l-1}, \bar{x}_1} \rightarrow \overline{M}_{X_{l-1}, \bar{x}_2}$  is also an isomorphism. Thus,  $C(X_{\bar{x}_1}) \rightarrow C(X_{\bar{x}_2})$  maps nondegenerate polysimplices to nondegenerate polysimplices, and therefore so does  $C(X_{x_1}) \rightarrow C(X_{x_2})$ .

Consider now a specialization  $\bar{y}_2 \rightarrow \bar{y}_3$ , and let  $x_3$  be the image of  $x_2$  by the map  $\text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_2}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_3})$ . According to Proposition 4.3,  $x_3$  is also the image of  $x_1$  by the map  $\text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_3})$ . Let  $\bar{x}_3$  be a generic point above  $x_3$  and  $\bar{x}_2 \rightarrow \bar{x}_3$  be a specialization compatible with  $\bar{y}_2 \rightarrow \bar{y}_3$ . Then, according to Step 1, the following diagram of cospecialization morphisms is commutative.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C(X_{\bar{x}_1}) & & \\ \downarrow & \searrow & \\ C(X_{\bar{x}_2}) & \longrightarrow & C(X_{\bar{x}_3}) \end{array}$$

Since  $C(X_{\bar{x}_1}) \rightarrow C(X_{x_1})$  is surjective and diagrams such as (3) are commutative, the following diagram is also commutative.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C(X_{x_1}) & & \\ \downarrow & \searrow & \\ C(X_{x_2}) & \longrightarrow & C(X_{x_3}) \end{array} \tag{4}$$

Let  $\overline{X}' \rightarrow \overline{X}$  be a k et morphism of strictly polystable log fibrations. Let  $x'_1$  be a stratum of  $X'_{l-1, \bar{y}_1}$ , let  $x'_2$  be the image of  $x'_1$  by the cospecialization map  $\text{Str}(X'_{l-1, \bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X'_{l-1, \bar{y}_2})$  and let  $x_1$  (respectively  $x_2$ ) be the image of  $x'_1$  (respectively  $x'_2$ ) in  $\text{Str}(X_{l-1, \bar{y}_1})$  (respectively  $\text{Str}(X_{l-1, \bar{y}_2})$ ). Let

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bar{x}'_1 & \longrightarrow & \bar{x}'_2 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \bar{x}_1 & \longrightarrow & \bar{x}_2 \end{array}$$

be a commutative diagram of geometric points, where  $\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}_2, \bar{x}'_1$  and  $\bar{x}'_2$  lie above  $x_1, x_2, x'_1$  and  $x'_2$ . Then, since the diagram (2) is commutative, the diagram

$$\begin{CD} C(X'_{\bar{x}'_1}) @>>> C(X'_{\bar{x}'_2}) \\ @VVV @VVV \\ C(X_{\bar{x}_1}) @>>> C(X_{\bar{x}_2}) \end{CD}$$

is commutative, and since  $C(X'_{\bar{x}'_1}) \rightarrow C(X'_{x'_1})$  is surjective and diagrams such as (3) are commutative, the diagram

$$\begin{CD} C(X'_{x'_1}) @>>> C(X'_{x'_2}) \\ @VVV @VVV \\ C(X_{x_1}) @>>> C(X_{x_2}) \end{CD} \tag{5}$$

is also commutative.

We now have to check that the morphism  $D_1(x_1) \rightarrow D_2\phi_{l-1}(x_1)$  we constructed for every  $x_1 \in \text{Str}(X_{l-1, \bar{y}_1})$  induces a morphism of functors  $D_1 \rightarrow D_2\phi_{l-1}$ .

LEMMA 4.8. *If  $x'_1 \leq x_1 \in \text{Str}(X_{l-1, \bar{y}_1})$  and  $x'_2$  is the image of  $x'_1$  by the cospecialization map  $\text{Str}(X_{l-1, \bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{l-1, \bar{y}_2})$  (thus  $x'_2 \leq x_2$ ), then the following diagram is commutative.*

$$\begin{CD} C(X_{x_1}) @>>> C(X_{x'_1}) \\ @VVV @VVV \\ C(X_{x_2}) @>>> C(X_{x'_2}) \end{CD}$$

Here the horizontal arrows are given by Lemma 1.4.

*Proof.* Let  $\bar{x}_1, \bar{x}'_1, \bar{x}_2$  and  $\bar{x}'_2$  be geometric points above  $x_1, x'_1, x_2$  and  $x'_2$  with compatible specializations of geometric points. Since  $C(X_{\bar{x}_1}) \rightarrow C(X_{x_1})$  is surjective and the diagrams (1) and (3) are commutative, it is enough to show that the diagram

$$\begin{CD} C(X_{\bar{x}_1}) @>>> C(X_{\bar{x}'_1}) \\ @VVV @VVV \\ C(X_{\bar{x}_2}) @>>> C(X_{\bar{x}'_2}) \end{CD}$$

is commutative, but this comes from the functoriality of cospecialization morphisms of polysimplicial sets for strictly polystable morphisms with respect to specializations of geometric points. □

Thus, the morphism  $D_1(x_1) \rightarrow D_2\phi_{l-1}(x_1)$  is functorial in  $x_1$ : one has a morphism of functors  $\psi_0 : D_1 \rightarrow D_2\phi$ .

This induces a morphism  $\psi : C(X_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow C(X_{\bar{y}_2})$  above the morphism  $\psi_{l-1}$ . Since the map  $\text{Str}(X_{x_1}) = O(D_1(x_1)) \rightarrow O(D_2\phi_{l-1}(x_1)) = \text{Str}(X_{x_2})$  is the one induced by  $\phi : \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_2})$ , one has  $O(\psi) = \phi$ .

If  $\overline{M}_{Y, \bar{y}_1} \rightarrow \overline{M}_{Y, \bar{y}_2}$  is an isomorphism, then  $D_1(x_1) \rightarrow D_2\phi_{l-1}(x_1)$  maps nondegenerate polysimplices to nondegenerate polysimplices. By induction on  $l$ , one gets that  $C(X_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow C(X_{\bar{y}_2})$  maps nondegenerate polysimplices to nondegenerate polysimplices.

Let us now check functoriality of the cospecialization map. If  $\bar{y}_2 \rightarrow \bar{y}_3$  is a specialization map, then, since the diagram (4) is commutative, the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} D_1 & & \\ \downarrow & \searrow & \\ D_2\phi_{l-1} & \longrightarrow & D_3\phi'_{l-1}\phi_{l-1} \end{array}$$

where  $\phi'_{l-1}$  is the cospecialization map  $\text{Str}(X_{l-1, \bar{y}_2}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{l-1, \bar{y}_3})$ , is commutative and therefore one gets by induction on  $l$  that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C(X_{\bar{y}_1}) & & \\ \downarrow & \searrow & \\ C(X_{\bar{y}_2}) & \longrightarrow & C(X_{\bar{y}_3}) \end{array}$$

is commutative.

If  $f : X' \rightarrow X$  is a k et morphism of strictly polystable fibrations, then, since the diagram (5) is commutative,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} D'_1 & \longrightarrow & D'_2\phi'_{l-1} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ D_1f_{1,*} & \longrightarrow & D_2\phi'_{l-1}f_{1,*} \end{array}$$

where  $f_{1,*} : \text{Str}(X'_{l-1, \bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(X_{l-1, \bar{y}_1})$  is the map induced by  $f$ , is commutative and, therefore, by induction on  $l$ , one gets that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C(X'_{\bar{y}_1}) & \longrightarrow & C(X'_{\bar{y}_2}) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ C(X_{\bar{y}_1}) & \longrightarrow & C(X_{\bar{y}_2}) \end{array}$$

is commutative.

*Step 3.*  $\underline{X}$  is a strictly polystable fibration.

If  $Z \rightarrow X$  is a k et morphism, then, according to §2.3, the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Str}(Z_{\bar{y}_1}) & \longrightarrow & \text{Str}(Z_{\bar{y}_2}) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ O(C(X_{\bar{y}_1})) = \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_1}) & \longrightarrow & O(C(X_{\bar{y}_2})) = \text{Str}(X_{\bar{y}_2}) \end{array}$$

induces functorially a morphism  $C_{\text{geom}}(Z_{y_1}/\bar{y}_1) \rightarrow C_{\text{geom}}(Z_{y_2}/y_2)$ .

Step 4. The general case.

Assume now  $\underline{X}$  is a polystable fibration over  $Y$  and  $Z \rightarrow X$  is k et. Let  $\underline{X}' \rightarrow \underline{X}$  be  tale and surjective such that  $\underline{X}$  is a strictly polystable fibration over  $Y$ . Let  $\underline{X}'' = \underline{X}' \times_X \underline{X}'$ ,  $Z' = Z \times_X X'$  and  $Z'' = Z \times_X X''$ . Then the commutative diagram

$$\begin{CD} C_{\text{geom}}(Z''_{y_1}/y_1) @>>> C_{\text{geom}}(Z'_{y_1}/y_1) \\ @VVV @VVV \\ C_{\text{geom}}(Z''_{y_2}/y_2) @>>> C_{\text{geom}}(Z'_{y_2}/y_2) \end{CD}$$

induces functorially a cospecialization morphism of polysimplicial sets  $C_{\text{geom}}(Z_{y_1}/y_1) \rightarrow C_{\text{geom}}(Z_{y_2}/y_2)$ , which does not depend on the choice of  $\underline{X}'$  thanks to the functoriality of the construction in Steps 2 and 3 with respect to  tale morphisms.  $\square$

Let us assume now that  $Z \rightarrow Y$  is proper and that  $\overline{M}_{Y,\bar{y}_1} \rightarrow \overline{M}_{Y,\bar{y}_2}$  is an isomorphism. The morphism  $C_{\text{geom}}(Z_{y_1}/y_1) \rightarrow C_{\text{geom}}(Z_{y_2}/y_2)$  maps nondegenerate polysimplices to nondegenerate polysimplices and, according to Proposition 4.4,  $\text{Str}(Z_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \text{Str}(Z_{\bar{y}_2})$  is bijective.

Therefore, if one assumes moreover that  $C_{\text{geom}}(Z_{y_2}/y_2)$  is interiorly free, then

$$C_{\text{geom}}(Z_{y_2}/y_1) \rightarrow C_{\text{geom}}(Z_{y_2}/y_2)$$

is also an isomorphism. It can be hoped that it is also true in the noninteriorly free case.

### 4.2 Specialization of tempered fundamental groups of log schemes

First, recall the result we proved in [Lep09,   2.4] about specialization of log fundamental groups.

Let  $X \rightarrow Y$  be a proper and saturated morphism of log schemes with  $\mathring{Y}$  locally noetherian. Assume moreover  $X \rightarrow Y$  to have log geometrically connected fibers. Let  $\bar{y}_2 \rightarrow \bar{y}_1$  be a specialization of log geometric points of  $Y$ .

Let  $T$  be the strictly local scheme of  $Y$  at  $\bar{y}_1$  endowed with the inverse image log structure, and let  $z$  be its closed point, endowed with the inverse image log structure.

One has the following arrows (defined up to inner homomorphisms):

$$\pi_1^{\text{log-geom}}(X_{y_2}/y_2)^{(p')} \rightarrow \pi_1^{\text{log-geom}}(X_z/z)^{(p')} \xrightarrow{\simeq} \pi_1^{\text{log-geom}}(X_T/T)^{(p')} \leftarrow \pi_1^{\text{log-geom}}(X_{y_1}/y_1)^{(p')}.$$

THEOREM 4.9 [Lep09, Proposition 2.4]. *One has a specialization morphism*

$$\pi_1^{\text{log-geom}}(X_{\bar{y}_2}/y_2)^{(p')} \rightarrow \pi_1^{\text{log-geom}}(X_{\bar{y}_1}/y_1)^{(p')}$$

that factors through  $\pi_1^{\text{log-geom}}(X_T/T)^{(p')}$ .

It would be interesting to know in the case where  $X \rightarrow Y$  is log smooth if this specialization morphism is an isomorphism. It is known to be true for example in the case where  $Y$  is moreover log regular. It is also true in the setting of   4.3.

We can now use Theorem 4.9 with our cospecialization morphism of polysimplicial sets when these are isomorphisms.

PROPOSITION 4.10. *Let  $Y$  be an fs log scheme and let  $X \rightarrow Y$  be a proper polystable log fibration with geometrically connected fibers. Assume moreover that the polysimplicial set  $C_{\text{geom}}(X_{\bar{s}})$  of any geometric fiber is interiorly free. Let  $\bar{y}_2 \rightarrow \bar{y}_1$  be a specialization of log geometric points over fs log points  $y_2 \rightarrow y_1$  of  $Y$  such that  $\overline{M}_{Y,\bar{y}_1} \rightarrow \overline{M}_{Y,\bar{y}_2}$  is an isomorphism. Let  $\mathbb{L}$  be a*

set of primes which does not contain the residual characteristic of  $y_1$ . One has a specialization morphism defined up to inner automorphism:

$$\pi_1^{\text{temp-geom}}(X_{\bar{y}_2})^{\mathbb{L}} \rightarrow \pi_1^{\text{temp-geom}}(X_{\bar{y}_1})^{\mathbb{L}}.$$

*Proof.* One can assume that  $\mathring{Y}$  is strictly local with closed point  $y_1$ . There is a functor

$$F : \text{KCov}_{\text{geom}}(X_{y_1}/\bar{y}_1)^{\mathbb{L}} \rightarrow \text{KCov}_{\text{geom}}(X_{y_2}/\bar{y}_2)^{\mathbb{L}}.$$

According to Theorem 4.9, if  $Z_{\bar{y}_1}$  is some geometric k et cover of  $X_{y_1}/y_1$ , it extends to a geometric k et cover of  $X/Y$ : there is a connected finite pointed k et cover  $(U, \bar{u}_1)$  of  $(Y, \bar{y}_1)$  such that  $Z_{\bar{y}_1}$  extends to a k et cover  $Z_U \rightarrow X_U := X \times_Y U$ . This extension becomes unique after replacing  $U$  by some bigger cover. If  $\bar{u}_2 \rightarrow \bar{u}_1$  is the k et specialization of log geometric points lifting  $\bar{y}_2 \rightarrow \bar{y}_1$ , then  $(Z_U)_{\bar{u}_2}$  is nothing but the geometric k et cover  $F(Z_{\bar{y}_1})$  of  $X_{\bar{y}_2}$ . We will simply denote it by  $Z_{\bar{y}_2}$ . One has an isomorphism  $C_{\text{geom}}(Z_{y_1}/y_1) \simeq C_{\text{geom}}(Z_{y_2}/y_2)$  functorially in  $Z_{\bar{y}_1}$ . One gets a specialization functor of fibered categories:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{D}_{\text{top-geom}}(X_{\bar{y}_1}) & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{D}_{\text{top-geom}}(X_{\bar{y}_2}) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \text{KCov}_{\text{geom}}(X_{y_1}/y_1)^{\mathbb{L}} & \longrightarrow & \text{KCov}_{\text{geom}}(X_{y_2}/y_2)^{\mathbb{L}} \end{array}$$

and thus a specialization morphism  $\pi_1^{\text{temp-geom}}(X_{\bar{y}_2})^{\mathbb{L}} \rightarrow \pi_1^{\text{temp-geom}}(X_{\bar{y}_1})^{\mathbb{L}}$ . □

### 4.3 Cospecialization morphisms of pro- $(p')$ tempered fundamental groups

Let  $K$  be a discrete valuation field, let  $\text{Spec } O_K$  be endowed with its usual log structure and assume that the residual characteristic  $p$  of  $K$  is not in  $\mathbb{L}$ . Let  $Y \rightarrow \text{Spec } O_K$  be a morphism of fs log schemes such that  $\mathring{Y}$  is locally noetherian. Let  $\mathfrak{Y}$  be the formal completion of  $Y$  along its closed fiber. Then  $\mathfrak{Y}_\eta$  is an analytic domain of  $Y_K^{\text{an}}$ . Let  $Y_0 = \mathfrak{Y}_\eta \cap Y_{\text{tr}}^{\text{an}} \subset Y_K^{\text{an}}$ .

Let  $X \rightarrow Y$  be a proper and polystable log fibration with geometrically connected fibers.

Let  $\tilde{y}$  be a  $K'$ -point of  $Y_0$ , where  $K'$  is a complete extension of  $K$ . One has a canonical morphism of log schemes  $\text{Spec } O_{K'} \rightarrow Y$ , where  $\text{Spec } O_{K'}$  is endowed with the log structure given by  $O_{K'} \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow O_{K'}$ . The *log reduction*  $\tilde{s}$  of  $\tilde{y}$  is the log point of  $Y$  corresponding to the special point of  $\text{Spec } O_{K'}$  with the inverse image of the log structure of  $\text{Spec } O_{K'}$ . If  $K'$  has discrete valuation, then  $\tilde{s}$  is an fs log point. If  $K'$  is algebraically closed,  $\tilde{s}$  is a geometric log point.

Let  $\widetilde{\text{Pt}}^{\text{an}}(Y)$  be the category whose objects are geometric points  $\bar{y}$  of  $Y_0$ , such that  $\mathcal{H}(y)$  is discretely valued (where  $y$  is the underlying point of  $\bar{y}$ ) and  $\text{Hom}(\bar{y}, \bar{y}')$  is the set of k et specializations from  $\bar{s}$  to  $\bar{s}'$ , where  $\bar{s}$  and  $\bar{s}'$  are the log reductions of  $\bar{y}$  and  $\bar{y}'$ , such that there exists some specialization  $\bar{y} \rightarrow \bar{y}'$  of geometric points in the sense of algebraic  etale topology for which the following diagram commutes.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bar{y} & \longrightarrow & \bar{s} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \bar{y}' & \longrightarrow & \bar{s}' \end{array}$$

Let  $\text{Pt}^{\text{an}}(Y)$  be the category defined from  $\widetilde{\text{Pt}}^{\text{an}}(Y)$  by inverting the class of morphisms  $\bar{y} \rightarrow \bar{y}'$  for which  $\bar{s} \rightarrow \bar{s}'$  is an isomorphism in the category of points of the k et topos of  $Y$ , i.e. the underlying Zariski points  $s$  and  $s'$  are equal.

Let  $\text{Pt}_0^{\text{an}}(Y)$  be the category obtained from  $\widetilde{\text{Pt}}^{\text{an}}(Y)$  by inverting the class of morphisms  $\bar{y} \rightarrow \bar{y}'$  such that  $\overline{M}_{Y, \bar{s}'} \rightarrow \overline{M}_{Y, \bar{s}}$  is an isomorphism.

Let  $\text{OutGp}_{\text{top}}$  be the category of topological groups with outer morphisms.

**THEOREM 4.11.** *There is a functor  $\pi_1^{\text{temp}}(X_{(\cdot)}) : \text{Pt}^{\text{an}}(Y)^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{OutGp}_{\text{top}}$  sending  $\bar{y}$  to  $\pi_1^{\text{temp}}(X_{\bar{y}})$ .*

*If, for every geometric point  $\bar{s}$  of  $Y$ , the polysimplicial set  $C(X_{\bar{s}})$  is interiorly free, then the functor  $\pi_1^{\text{temp}}(X_{(\cdot)})$  factors through  $\text{Pt}_0^{\text{an}}(Y)^{\text{op}}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\bar{y}_2 \rightarrow \bar{y}_1$  be a morphism in  $\widetilde{\text{Pt}}^{\text{an}}(Y)$ . One has to construct a cospecialization morphism  $\pi_1^{\text{temp}}(X_{\bar{y}_1}) \rightarrow \pi_1^{\text{temp}}(X_{\bar{y}_2})$ .

One has a cospecialization functor

$$F : \text{KCov}_{\text{geom}}(X_{s_1}/s_1)^{\mathbb{L}} \rightarrow \text{KCov}_{\text{geom}}(X_{s_2}/s_2)^{\mathbb{L}}$$

which factors through  $\text{KCov}_{\text{geom}}(X_T/T)^{\mathbb{L}}$ , where  $T$  is the strict localization at  $s_1$ .

The cospecialization functor  $\text{KCov}_{\text{geom}}(X_{s_i}/s_i)^{\mathbb{L}} \rightarrow \text{Cov}^{\text{alg}}(X_{\bar{y}_i})$  is an equivalence, since  $y_i \in Y_{\text{tr}}$  [Kis00, Theorem 1.4]. If one chooses a specialization  $\bar{y}_2 \rightarrow \bar{y}_1$  above  $\bar{s}_2 \rightarrow \bar{s}_1$ , the functor  $\text{Cov}^{\text{alg}}(X_{\bar{y}_1})^{\mathbb{L}} \rightarrow \text{Cov}^{\text{alg}}(X_{\bar{y}_2})^{\mathbb{L}}$  is also an equivalence. One gets that  $F$  is an equivalence.

If  $Z_{s_1}$  is some geometric k et cover of  $X_{s_1}$ , it extends thanks to Corollary 4.9 to some k et neighborhood  $(U, \bar{u}_1)$  of  $\bar{s}_1$  in  $T$ . Let  $Z_U \rightarrow U$  be this extension (unique after replacing  $U$  by some smaller neighborhood of  $\bar{s}_1$ ). Let  $\bar{u}_2 \rightarrow \bar{u}_1$  be the unique lifting of  $\bar{s}_2 \rightarrow \bar{s}_1$ . Then  $Z_{\bar{s}_2} := F(Z_{\bar{s}_1})$  is nothing but  $Z_{\bar{u}_2}$ . One has a cospecialization morphism  $C_{\text{geom}}(Z_{\bar{s}_1}) \rightarrow C_{\text{geom}}(Z_{\bar{s}_2})$ , which induces a specialization functor

$$\mathcal{D}_{\text{top-geom}}_{X_{s_2}}(Z_{s_2}) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}_{\text{top-geom}}_{X_{s_1}}(Z_{s_1}).$$

It is an equivalence of categories if  $\bar{s}_2 \rightarrow \bar{s}_1$  is a cospecialization isomorphism or if  $\overline{M}_{Y, \bar{s}_1} \rightarrow \overline{M}_{Y, \bar{s}_2}$  is an isomorphism and all the geometric fibers of  $X \rightarrow Y$  have interiorly free polysimplicial sets.

Thus, we have the following 2-commutative diagram.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{D}_{\text{top-geom}}_{X_{s_2}} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{D}_{\text{top-geom}}_{X_{s_1}} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \text{KCov}_{\text{geom}}(X_{s_2}/s_2)^{\mathbb{L}} & \xrightarrow{F^{-1}} & \text{KCov}_{\text{geom}}(X_{s_1}/s_1)^{\mathbb{L}} \end{array}$$

Here  $F^{-1}$  is some quasi-inverse of  $F$ . This induces a cospecialization outer morphism

$$\pi_1^{\text{temp-geom}}(X_{s_1}/s_1)^{\mathbb{L}} \rightarrow \pi_1^{\text{temp-geom}}(X_{s_2}/s_2)^{\mathbb{L}}.$$

The comparison of morphisms of Theorem 3.3 gives us the wanted morphism, which is an isomorphism if  $\bar{s}_2 \rightarrow \bar{s}_1$  is an isomorphism or if  $\overline{M}_{Y, \bar{s}_1} \rightarrow \overline{M}_{Y, \bar{s}_2}$  is an isomorphism and all the geometric fibers of  $X \rightarrow Y$  have interiorly free polysimplicial sets.  $\square$

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