

## STABLE MAPS OF CURVES

ROBERT F. COLEMAN

Received: October 31, 2002

Revised: February 21, 2003

ABSTRACT. Let  $h: X \rightarrow Y$  be a finite morphism of smooth connected complete curves over  $C_p$ . We show  $h$  extends to a finite morphism between semi-stable models of  $X$  and  $Y$ .

2000 Mathematics Subject Classification: 11G20

Keywords and Phrases: Stable models, wide opens

Let  $p$  be a prime. It is known that if  $C$  is a smooth proper curve over a complete subfield  $K$  of  $C_p$ , there exists a finite extension  $L$  of  $K$  in  $C_p$  and a model of the base extension of  $C$  to  $L$  over the ring of integers,  $R_L$ , of  $L$  whose reduction modulo the maximal ideal has at worst ordinary double points as singularities. In fact, if  $g(C)$ , the genus of  $C$ , is at least 2 or  $g(C) = 1$  and  $C$  has a model with good reduction, there is a minimal such model, which is called the stable model. Indeed, if  $L'$  is any complete extension of  $L$  in  $C_p$ , the base extension of a stable model over  $R_L$  is the stable model over  $R_{L'}$ .

Liu and Lorenzini showed [L-L; Proposition 4.4(a)] that a finite morphism of curves extends to a morphism of stable models, but the extension is not in general finite. E.g., Edixhoven has shown that the natural map from  $X_0(p^2)$  to  $X_0(p)$  does not in general extend to a finite morphism of stable models [E] (see also [C-M]). However, we show,

**THEOREM.** *Suppose  $h: X \rightarrow Y$  is a finite morphism of smooth connected complete curves over  $C_p$ . Then there are semi-stable models  $\mathcal{X}$  and  $\mathcal{Y}$  of  $X$  and  $Y$  over the ring of integers of  $C_p$  such that  $h$  extends to a finite morphism from  $\mathcal{X}$  to  $\mathcal{Y}$ .*

(We work over  $C_p$  to avoid having to worry about base extensions and because reduced affinoids over  $C_p$  have reduced reductions.)

In fact, when  $X$  has a stable model (i.e.,  $g(X) \geq 2$  or  $g(X) = 1$  and  $X$  has good reduction) and either  $X/Y$  is Galois, or the model has irreducible reduction and  $Y$  has a stable model, one can take  $\mathcal{X}$  to be the stable model for  $X$ . In the latter case  $\mathcal{Y}$  will be the stable model for  $Y$ , which, a fortiori, will have irreducible reduction.

Abbes has informed us that this result also follows from results of Raynaud (in particular Proposition 5 of [R] (and its corollary)).

We say such a morphism is semi-stable, and stable if it is the minimal object in the category of semi-stable morphisms from  $X$  to  $Y$  (which may not exist).

#### *Terminology and Notation*

If  $Z$  is a rigid space  $A(Z)$  will denote the ring of analytic functions on  $Z$  and  $A^0(Z)$  the subring of functions whose spectral norm is bounded by 1.

If  $X$  is an affinoid over  $C_p$ ,  $\bar{X} = \text{Spec}A^0(X)/\mathfrak{m}A^0(X)$ , where  $\mathfrak{m}$  is the maximal ideal of  $R_p$  and if  $x \in \bar{X}(\bar{F}_p)$ ,  $R_x$  will denote the corresponding residue class in  $X$ . (Residue classes are also called formal fibers.)

By a REGULAR SINGULAR POINT on a curve we mean a singular point which is an ordinary double point. If  $C$  is a curve, let  $S(C)$  denote the set of irregular singular points on  $C$ .

### 1. WIDE OPENS

In this section, we review and extend the results on wide open spaces discussed in [RLC].

A (smooth one-dimensional) WIDE OPEN is a rigid space conformal to  $C - D$  where  $C$  is a smooth complete curve and  $D$  is a finite disjoint union of affinoid disks in  $C$ , which contains at least one in each connected component. A wide open disk is the complement of one affinoid disk in  $P^1$  (it is conformal to  $B(0, 1)$ ) and a wide open annulus is conformal to the complement of two disjoint such disks (it is conformal to  $A(r, 1)$  where  $r \in |C_p|$ ,  $0 < r < 1$ ).

An UNDERLYING AFFINOID  $Z$  of a wide open  $W$  is an affinoid subdomain  $Z$  of  $W$  such that  $W \setminus Z$  is a finite disjoint union of annuli none of which is contained in an affinoid subdomain of  $W$ . An end of  $W$  is an element of the inverse limit of the set of connected components of  $W \setminus Z$  where  $Z$  ranges over subaffinoids of  $W$ .

We slightly modify the definition of basic wide open given in [RLC] and say a wide open  $W$  is BASIC if it has an underlying affinoid  $Z$  such that  $Z$  is irreducible and has at worst regular singular points.

Suppose  $X$  is a smooth one dimensional affinoid over  $C_p$  and  $x \in \bar{X}$ . Because  $A^0(R_x)$  is the completion of  $A^0(X)$  at  $x$ , we have,

LEMMA 1.1. *Then  $x$  is a smooth point of  $\bar{X}$  if and only if  $R_x$  is a wide open disk and a regular singular point if and only if  $R_x$  is a wide open annulus.*

We have the following generalization of Proposition 3.3(ii) of [RLC],

LEMMA 1.2. *The residue class,  $R_x$ , is a connected wide open and its ends can naturally be put in 1-1 correspondence to the branches of  $\bar{X}$  through  $x$ .*

*Proof.* That  $R_x$  is connected is a consequence of Satz 6 of [B].

Theorem A-1 of [pAI] and its proof naturally generalizes to SEMI-DAGGER ALGEBRAS. These are quotients of the rings of series  $\sum_{I,J} a_{I,J} x^I y^J$  in  $K[x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_m]$ , where  $K$  is a complete non-Archimedean valued field, such that there exists  $r \in R > 1$  so that

$$\lim_{s(I,J) \rightarrow \infty} |a_{I,J}| r^{s(I,J)} = 0,$$

where  $I$  and  $J$  range over  $Z_{\geq 0}^n$  and  $Z_{\geq 0}^m$  and  $s(M)$ , where  $M$  is a multi-index, is the sum of its entries. What this implies in our context is that if  $R$  is an affinoid over  $C_p$  whose reduction is equal to the normalization of  $\bar{X}$  and  $S$  is the set of points of  $\bar{R}$  above  $T$ , the singular points of  $\bar{X}$ , then the rings

$$\lim_{\substack{\rightarrow \\ M}} A(R \setminus M) \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{\substack{\rightarrow \\ N}} A(X \setminus N)$$

are isomorphic, where  $M$  ranges over the subaffinoids of  $\bigcup_{s \in S} R_s$  and  $N$  ranges over the subaffinoids of  $\bigcup_{x \in T} R_x$ . Since  $\bigcup_{s \in S} R_s$  is a union of wide open disks which correspond to the set,  $B$ , of branches of  $\bar{X}$  through points in  $T$ , this, in turn, implies that there exists a subaffinoid  $N$  of  $\bigcup_{x \in T} R_x$  such that  $\bigcup_{x \in T} R_x - N$  is a finite union of wide open annuli which correspond to the elements of  $B$ . One can now glue affinoid disks to  $\bigcup_{x \in T} R_x$  to make a smooth complete curve, using [B; Satz 6.1] and the direct image theorem of [K], as in the proof of Proposition 3.3 of [RLC]. The result follows. ■

It follows from Lemmas 3.1 and 3.2 of [RLC] that,

LEMMA 1.3. *if  $A$  and  $B$  are disjoint wide open annuli or disjoint affinoids in a smooth curve  $C$  over  $C_p$ , then  $A$  is disconnected from  $B$  in  $C$ .*

If  $W$  is a wide open space

$$H_{DR}^1(W) = \Omega_W^1 / dA(W),$$

where  $\Omega_W^1$  is the  $A(W)$ -module of rigid analytic differentials on  $W$ . It follows from Theorem 4.2 of [RLC] that  $H_{DR}^1(W)$  is finite dimensional over  $C_p$ .

LEMMA 1.4. *Suppose  $f: W \rightarrow V$  is a finite morphism of wide opens. Then, if  $W$  is a disk or annulus, the same is true for  $V$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $W$  is a disk and  $f$  has degree  $d$ . Then  $V$  has only one end. Suppose  $\omega$  is a differential on  $V$ . Then  $f^*\omega = dg$  for some function  $g \in A(W)$  since  $\dim H_{DR}^1(W) = 0$ , in this case. Hence  $\omega = d \operatorname{Tr}(g/d)$ . Thus  $H_{DR}^1(V) = 0$ . Let  $C$  be a proper curve obtained by glueing a wide open disk  $D$  to  $V$  along the end, as in the proof of Proposition 3.3 of [RLC]. From the Meyer-Vietoris long exact sequence, we see that  $C$  has genus zero and as  $B := D \setminus V$  is an affinoid disk  $V = C \setminus B$  is a wide open disk.

The argument in the case where  $W$  is an annulus is similar, except one has to use residues. ■

PROPOSITION 1.5. *Suppose  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  is a finite map of smooth one dimensional affinoids over  $C_p$ . Then, if the reduction of  $X$  has only regular singular points, the same is true of  $Y$ .*

*Proof.* We know the map  $f$  induces a finite morphism  $\bar{f}: \bar{X} \rightarrow \bar{Y}$ . Let  $y$  be a point of  $\bar{Y}$ . Let  $x \in \bar{X}$  such that  $\bar{f}(x) = y$ . Then  $f$  restricts to a finite morphism  $R_x \rightarrow R_y$ . But  $R_x$  is a disk or annulus. It follows from Lemma 1.2 that  $R_y$  is a wide open and hence by Lemma 1.4 is a disk or annulus, as well. Hence  $y$  is either smooth or regular singular by Lemma 1.1. ■

This implies the well known result that if  $h: X \rightarrow Y$  is a finite morphism of curves and  $X$  has good reduction so does  $Y$ . In fact, it implies the result of Lorenzini-Liu, [L-L; Corollary 4.10], that, in this case if  $g(Y) \geq 1$ ,  $h$  extends to a finite morphism between the unique models of good reduction. It also implies that if  $X$  has a stable model with irreducible reduction, so does  $Y$ .

LEMMA 1.6. *Suppose  $\phi: X \rightarrow Y$  is a non-constant rigid morphism of smooth one dimension affinoids over  $C_p$ . Suppose  $G$  is a finite group acting on  $X$  such that  $\phi^\sigma = \phi$  for  $\sigma \in G$  and  $\bar{X} = \bigcup_{\sigma \in G} V^\sigma$  where  $V$  is an irreducible component of  $\bar{X}$ . Then  $\phi$  surjects onto an affinoid subdomain of  $Y$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $x \in X$ . Because  $\phi$  is non-constant we can find an element  $f$  of  $A(Y)$  such that  $f(\phi(x)) = 0$  and  $|\phi^* f|_X = 1$ . We can and will replace  $Y$  with the affinoid subdomain  $\{y \in Y: |f(y)| \leq 1\}$ . Then  $\bar{\phi}|_V$  is non-constant. Since  $\bar{\phi}\bar{X} = \bar{\phi}V$  and  $V$  is irreducible,  $\bar{\phi}$  factors through the inclusion of an irreducible component  $S$  of  $\bar{Y}$ . Let  $S^0$  be the complement in  $S$  of the other irreducible components of  $\bar{Y}$ . Then,  $Z = \text{red}^{-1}S^0$  is an affinoid subdomain of  $Y$  whose reduction is  $S^0$ . Let  $X'$  be the affinoid subdomain of  $X$ ,  $\phi^{-1}Z$ . This is just  $X$  minus a finite number of residue classes stable under the action of  $G$  so its reduction is the union of the  $G$ -conjugates of  $V' = V \setminus \bar{\phi}^{-1}(S \setminus S^0)$  which is irreducible. Suppose  $s \in \bar{\phi}\bar{X} \cap S^0$ . We claim that  $R_s \subset \phi(X)$ .

Suppose  $y_0 \in R_s \setminus \phi(X)$ . Since the class group of  $Z$  is torsion, there exists an  $h \in A(Z)$  such that  $y_0$  is the only zero of  $h$ . Because  $\bar{Z}$  is irreducible, we can also suppose  $|h|_Z = 1$ . Since  $h(y_0) = 0$ , it follows that  $|h(y)| < 1$  for  $y \in R_s$ . Let  $g = \phi^* h \in A^0(X')$ . If  $y_0 \notin \phi(X)$ ,  $1/g \in A(X')$  but  $|1/g|_{X'} = |c| > 1$ , for some  $c \in C_p$ , since  $s$  is in the image of  $\bar{\phi}_{\bar{X}'}$ . However,

$$|g(1/cg)|_{X'} = |c^{-1}| < 1 = |g|_{X'} |(1/cg)|_{X'}.$$

This implies  $\bar{g}_V = 0$  or  $\overline{(1/cg)}_V = 0$ , but as  $X' = \bigcup_{\sigma \in G} V'^\sigma$ , this implies the contradiction that  $\bar{g} = 0$  or  $\overline{(1/cg)} = 0$ .

We will finish the proof by showing  $X = X'$ .

Let  $Y'$  be the affinoid obtained by glueing in disks to  $\text{red}^{-1}S$  at the ends of the wide open  $\text{red}^{-1}S \setminus S^0$  corresponding to irreducible components of  $\bar{Y}$  distinct from  $S$ . The reduction of this affinoid is naturally isomorphic to  $S$ . Then as  $\phi$  factors through the inclusion of  $\text{red}^{-1}S$  in  $Y$  we naturally obtain a morphism  $\phi': X \rightarrow Y'$ . Since by construction, for each point  $s \in S \setminus S^0$ , there is a point in

the residue class of  $Y'$  not in the image of  $X$  the above argument implies no point in this residue class is in the image of  $X$  and so  $\phi'(X)$  in the reduction inverse in  $Y'$  of  $S^0$ . As this latter is naturally isomorphic to  $Z$ ,  $X = X'$ . ■

Suppose  $W$  is a wide open annulus. If  $\sigma: W \rightarrow W$  is a rigid analytic morphism, define  $\rho(\sigma)$  by

$$\rho(\sigma) \operatorname{Res} \omega = \operatorname{Res} \sigma^* \omega.$$

The restriction of  $\rho$  to the group of rigid analytic automorphisms of  $W$  is a homomorphism from  $\operatorname{Aut}(W)$  onto  $\{\pm 1\}$ . We say  $\sigma$  is ORIENTATION PRESERVING if  $\rho(\sigma) = 1$ .

LEMMA 1.7. *Suppose  $G$  is a finite group of rigid automorphisms of the wide open annulus  $W = A(r, 1)$  of order  $m$ . Then there is a rigid morphism  $\phi: W \rightarrow V$  of degree  $m$  such that  $A(W)^G = \phi^* A(V)$ , where  $V = A(r^m, 1)$  if  $G$  is orientation preserving and  $V = A(B(0, 1))$  if not.*

*Proof.* First, if  $\sigma \in G$

$$\sigma^* T = c_\sigma T^{\rho(\sigma)} h_\sigma(T),$$

where  $h_\sigma(T) \in A(W)$ ,  $|h_\sigma(t) - 1| < 1$ , for  $t \in W$ , and  $c_\sigma \in C_p$ ,

$$|c_\sigma| = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \rho(\sigma) = 1 \\ r & \text{if } \rho(\sigma) = -1 \end{cases}.$$

Let  $G^\circ = \operatorname{Ker} \rho$  and  $n = |G^\circ|$ . Let  $S = \prod_{\tau \in G^\circ} \tau^* T$ . Then

$$S(T) = T^n g(T),$$

where  $|g(t)| = 1$ . Let  $\alpha: W \rightarrow A(r^n, 1)$ , be the map

$$t \mapsto S(t).$$

It is easy to see this map has degree  $n$  and  $R := \alpha^* A(A(r^n, 1)) \subseteq A(W)^G$ . In particular,  $R$  is an integral domain and its fraction field is  $K^G$  where  $K$  is the fraction field of  $A(W)$ . Since,  $R$  and  $A(W)$  are Dedekind domains, it follows that  $R = A(W)^{G^\circ}$ . If  $G$  is orientation preserving,  $G = G^\circ$  and taking  $\phi = \alpha$  completes the proof, in this case.

Suppose now  $G$  is not orientation preserving. Then  $G/G^\circ$  has order 2. Using, the result of the last paragraph we can replace  $W$  with  $A(r^n, 1)$  and assume  $G^\circ$  is trivial. Let  $G = \{1, \sigma\}$  and

$$U(T) = T + \sigma^* T = T + c_\sigma T^{-1} h_\sigma(T).$$

Now, if we define  $\phi: W \rightarrow B(0, 1)$  to be the morphism

$$t \mapsto U(t),$$

we can apply the same argument, as above, to complete the proof. ■

REMARK. *One can show:*

PROPOSITION. *Suppose  $p$  is odd  $G$  is a finite group of automorphisms of  $A(r, R)$ . Then there is a natural homomorphism of  $G$  into  $\text{Aut } G_m^{\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p}$  whose kernel is the unique  $p$ -Sylow subgroup of  $G^o$ . Moreover, the exact sequence,*

$$1 \rightarrow G^o \rightarrow G \rightarrow G/G^o \rightarrow 1,$$

*splits.*

For example: Suppose  $p = 3$ ,  $1 > |r| > |27|$  and  $V = A(r, 1)$ . Let  $s$  be the parameter on  $A^1$ . Then the integral closure of  $A(V)$  in the splitting field of  $X^3 + sX = s$  over  $K(V)$  is the ring of analytic functions on an annulus  $W$  which is an étale Galois cover of  $V$ . If  $G$  is the Galois group,  $G = G^o \cong S_3$ .

## 2. SEMI-STABLE COVERINGS

A SEMI-STABLE COVERING of a curve  $C$  is a finite admissible covering  $\mathcal{D}$  of  $C$  by connected wide opens such that

- (i) if  $U \neq V \in \mathcal{D}$ ,  $U \cap V$  is a finite collection of disjoint wide open annuli,
- (ii) if  $T, U, V \in \mathcal{D}$  are pairwise distinct,  $T \cap U \cap V = \emptyset$ .
- (iii) for  $U \in \mathcal{D}$ , if

$$U^u = U \setminus \left( \bigcup_{\substack{V \in \mathcal{D} \\ V \neq U}} V \right),$$

$U^u$  is a non-empty affinoid whose reduction is irreducible and has at worst regular singular points.

In particular, if  $U \in \mathcal{D}$ ,  $U$  is a basic wide open and  $U^u$  is an underlying affinoid of  $U$ . We let  $E(U)$  denote the set of connected components of  $U \setminus U^u$ . These are all wide open annuli.

PROPOSITION 2.1. *Semi-stable models of  $C$  whose reductions have at least two components correspond to semi-stable covers of  $C$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $\mathcal{C}$  is a semi-stable model for  $C$  whose reduction  $\overline{\mathcal{C}}$  has at least two components. Let  $I_{\mathcal{C}}$  denote the set of irreducible components of  $\overline{\mathcal{C}}$ . If  $Z \in I_{\mathcal{C}}$  let  $Z^0 = Z \setminus \bigcup_{\substack{A \in I_{\mathcal{C}} \\ A \neq Z}} A$  and  $W_Z := \text{red}^{-1}Z$ . As every singular point of

$\overline{\mathcal{C}}$  is regular it follows from Lemma 1.2 that  $W_Z$  is a basic wide open with underlying affinoid  $\text{red}^{-1}Z^0$  and  $\{W_Z: Z \in I_{\mathcal{C}}\}$  is a semi-stable cover.

Conversely, suppose  $\mathcal{D}$  is a semi-stable cover of  $C$ . For  $U, V \in \mathcal{D}$ , let  $Z_U = \text{Spf } A^0(Z)$  and  $Z_{U,V} = \text{Spf}(U \cap V)$ . Then the formal schemes  $Z_U$  glue by means of the glueing data

$$Z_{U,V} \rightarrow Z_U \amalg Z_V$$

into a model  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{D}}$  of  $C$ . ■

If we have semi-stable coverings  $\mathcal{D}_X$  and  $\mathcal{D}_Y$  such that for every  $W, V \in \mathcal{D}_X$ ,  $h(W) \in \mathcal{D}_Y$  and there exist  $W', V' \in \mathcal{D}_X$  such that  $h(W) \cap h(V) = h(W' \cap V')$ , then  $f$  extends to a finite morphism from  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{D}_X}$  to  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{D}_Y}$ . We say  $h$  induces a FINITE MORPHISM OF SEMI-STABLE COVERS from  $\mathcal{D}_X$  to  $\mathcal{D}_Y$ .

3. PROOF OF THEOREM

First, let  $h': X' \rightarrow Y$  be the Galois closure of  $h$  with Galois group  $G$ . Let  $\mathcal{D}$  be a semistable cover  $X'$  of such that  $Y \notin \mathcal{C}$  where

$$\mathcal{C} = \{h'(U): U \in \mathcal{D}\}.$$

Then we claim  $\mathcal{C}$  is a semi-stable cover of  $Y$ . Clearly  $\mathcal{C}$  is a finite admissible open cover. By Lemma 1.7, if  $W \in \mathcal{D}$  and  $A \in E(W)$ ,  $h'(A)$  is a wide open disk or annulus. Since  $h'(W) \neq Y$ ,  $h'(A)$  cannot be a disk for all  $A \in E(W)$ . It follows by a glueing argument, as in the proof of Lemma 1.2, that  $h'(W)$  is a connected wide open. Now suppose  $U, V \in \mathcal{D}$  and  $h'(W) \neq h'(V)$ . We must show  $h'(W) \cap h'(V)$  is a finite union of disjoint annuli. First, we remark that  $h'(W^u)$  and  $h'(V^u)$  are disjoint affinoids in  $Y$ , using Lemma 1.6. Suppose  $A$  is a component of  $W \cap V$  so  $A \in E(W) \cap E(V)$ . Suppose  $(x_n)$  is a sequence of points in  $A$ . If  $x_n \rightarrow W^u$ ,  $h'(x_n) \rightarrow h'(W^u)$  and if  $x_n \rightarrow V^u$ ,  $h'(x_n) \rightarrow h'(V^u)$ . It follows that  $h'(A)$  is an annulus. Also, we know that if  $U$  is a connected component of  $h'(W) \cap h'(V)$ ,  $U = \bigcup_{\sigma \in S} h'(A_\sigma)$  where the  $A_\sigma$  are in  $E(W) \cap E(V^\sigma)$ , for some subset  $S$  of  $G$ . Now it follows from Lemma 1.3 that if  $S$  has more than one element and  $\sigma \in S$  there must be a  $\tau \in S$  such that  $\tau \neq \sigma$  and  $A_\sigma \cap A_\tau \neq \emptyset$ . Then  $A_\sigma \cup A_\tau$  is an annulus, arguing as in the proof of Corollary 3.6a of [RLC] ( $A_\sigma \cup A_\tau \neq Y$  since  $W^u \cap (A_\sigma \cup A_\tau) = \emptyset$ ). The fact that  $A_\sigma$  and  $A_\tau$  are connected to both  $W^u$  and  $V^u$  implies  $A_\tau = A_\sigma \cup A_\tau = A_\sigma$ . We conclude that all the  $A_\sigma$  equal  $U$ , for  $\sigma \in S$  and so  $U$  is a wide open annulus.

Suppose  $U, V, W \in \mathcal{D}$  are such that  $h'(U), h'(V), h'(W)$  are distinct. If  $y \in h'(U) \cap h'(V) \cap h'(W)$ , there exist  $\sigma, \tau \in G$  and  $x \in U \cap V^\sigma \cap W^\tau$  such that  $y = h'(x)$ . But this implies  $U, V^\sigma, W^\tau$  are not distinct which in turn implies  $h'(U), h'(V), h'(W)$  are not distinct.

We must show for  $U \in \mathcal{D}$ ,  $h'(U)^u$ , which equals

$$h'(U) \setminus \left( \bigcup_{\substack{V \in \mathcal{C} \\ V \neq h'(U)}} V \right),$$

is an affinoid whose reduction is irreducible and only has regular singular points. Now,

$$h'(U)^u = h' \left( \bigcup_{\sigma \in G} (U^\sigma \setminus \bigcup_{\substack{A \in E(U^\sigma) \cap E(V) \\ V \in \mathcal{D}, V \neq U^\tau, \tau \in G}} A) \right)$$

and also

$$= h'(U^u) \cup \bigcup_{\substack{A \in E(U) \cap E(U^\sigma) \\ \sigma \neq 1 \in G}} h'(A).$$

It follows from the first equality that  $h'(U)^u$  is an affinoid using Lemma 1.6 and Proposition 3.3 of [RLC]. Its reduction is irreducible as the reduction  $U^u$  is, and from Proposition 1.5 it has at worst only regular singular points. Finally, since all the  $h'(A)$  are disks or annuli by Lemma 1.7 whose ends are connected to  $h'(U^u)$ ,  $h(U)^u$  is an affinoid and these  $h'(A)$  must, by Lemma 1.1, be smooth or regular singular classes of  $h'(U)^u$ , and thus, in particular,  $h'(U)^u$  must have irreducible reduction. Thus  $\mathcal{C}$  is a semi-stable cover and clearly  $h'$  induces a finite map of semi-stable covers from  $\mathcal{D}$  to  $\mathcal{C}$ .

We also know  $X'/X$  is Galois and if  $r: X' \rightarrow X$  is the corresponding morphism,

$$\mathcal{E} := \{r(U): U \in \mathcal{D}\}$$

does not contain  $X$  so is a semi-stable cover of  $X$  and  $r$  induces a finite map of semi-stable covers from  $\mathcal{D}$  to  $\mathcal{E}$ . It follows that  $h$  induces a finite map of semi-stable covers from  $\mathcal{E}$  to  $\mathcal{C}$  and hence extends to the corresponding semi-stable models.

Now we must explain how we can find a cover  $\mathcal{D}$  of  $X'$  with the required properties. If  $X'$  has a stable model  $\mathcal{X}$ , then  $\mathcal{X}$  is preserved by  $G$ . Let  $D$  be a wide open disk in  $X'$  such that  $D^\sigma \cap D = \emptyset$  for all  $\sigma \neq 1 \in G$  and  $B$  an affinoid ball in  $D$ . Let  $\mathcal{X}'$  be the minimal semi-stable refinement of  $X$  such that no two elements of  $\{D^\sigma: \sigma \in G\}$  are contained in the same residue class. Let  $E = \bigcup_{\sigma \in G} B^\sigma$ . Then we can take for  $\mathcal{D}$ ,

$$\{(\text{red}^{-1}Z) \setminus E: Z \text{ is an irreducible component of } \overline{\mathcal{X}'}\} \cup \{D^\sigma: \sigma \in G\}.$$

If  $g(X') \leq 1$  and the set of ramified points  $S \subset X'$  contains at least  $3 - 2g(X')$  elements we do the same thing starting with the minimal semi-stable model with the property that  $S$  injects into the smooth points of the reduction of this model. The remaining cases are easier.



## REFERENCES

- [B] Bosch, S., Eine bemerkenswerte Eigenschaft der formellen Fasern affinoider Räume, *Math. Ann.* 229 (1977) 25-45.
- [pAI] Coleman, R., Torsion points on curves and p-adic Abelian integrals, *Ann. Math.* 121 (1985), 111-168.
- [RLC] \_\_\_\_\_, Reciprocity Laws on Curves, *Compositio*, 72, (1989) 205-235.
- [C-M] \_\_\_\_\_ and W. McCallum, Stable Reduction of Fermat Curves and Local Components of Jacobi Sum Hecke Characters, *vvJ. reine angew. Math.* 385 (1988) 41-101.
- [E] Edixhoven, S., Stable models of modular curves and applications, PhD thesis.
- [K] Kiehl, R., Der Endlichkeitssatz für eigenliche Abbildungen in der nichtarchimedischen Funktionentheorie, *Math. Z.*, (1967) 191-214.
- [L-L] Liu, Q. and D. Lorenzini, Models of curves and finite covers, *Compositio*, 118, (1999) 62-102.
- [R] Raynaud, M., p-groupes et reduction semi-stable des courbes, *Grothendieck Festschrift III*, Birkhäuser (1990) 179-197.

Robert F. Coleman  
Department of Mathematics  
University of California  
California, USA 94530  
coleman@math.berkeley.edu

