

# PUSHFORWARD OF STRUCTURE SHEAF AND VIRTUAL GLOBAL GENERATION

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*Abstract* Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a generically smooth morphism between irreducible smooth projective curves over an algebraically closed field of arbitrary characteristic. We prove that the vector bundle  $((f_*\mathcal{O}_X)/\mathcal{O}_Y)^*$  is virtually globally generated. Moreover,  $((f_*\mathcal{O}_X)/\mathcal{O}_Y)^*$  is ample if and only if  $f$  is genuinely ramified.

*Keywords:* virtual global generation; genuinely ramified map; ampleness

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## 1. Introduction

Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be irreducible smooth projective curves over an algebraically closed field  $k$  – there is no assumption on the characteristic of  $k$  – and let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a generically smooth morphism. Then, we have  $\mathcal{O}_Y \subset f_*\mathcal{O}_X$ . In [4] it was shown that the homomorphism of étale fundamental groups  $f_* : \pi_1^{\text{ét}}(X) \rightarrow \pi_1^{\text{ét}}(Y)$  induced by  $f$  is surjective if and only if  $\mathcal{O}_Y$  is the unique maximal semistable subsheaf of  $f_*\mathcal{O}_X$ . We call  $f$  to be genuinely ramified if  $\mathcal{O}_Y$  is the unique maximal semistable subsheaf of  $f_*\mathcal{O}_X$ . On the other hand,  $f$  is called primitive if the above homomorphism  $f_*$  of étale fundamental groups is surjective [5]. So  $f$  is genuinely ramified if and only if it is primitive.

The main result of [4] says the following: If  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is genuinely ramified, and  $E$  is a stable vector bundle on  $Y$ , then  $f^*E$  is also stable. This was proved by investigating the quotient bundle  $(f_*\mathcal{O}_X)/\mathcal{O}_Y$ .

The dual vector bundle  $((f_*\mathcal{O}_X)/\mathcal{O}_Y)^*$  is called the Tschirnhausen bundle for  $f$  (see [5]). The following is the main result of [5]: Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a general primitive



degree  $r$  cover, where  $\text{genus}(X) = g$  and  $\text{genus}(Y) = h$ , over an algebraically closed field of characteristic zero or greater than  $r$ . Then

- (1)  $((f_*\mathcal{O}_X)/\mathcal{O}_Y)^*$  is semistable if  $h = 1$ , and
- (2)  $((f_*\mathcal{O}_X)/\mathcal{O}_Y)^*$  is stable if  $h \geq 2$ .

Note that the above mentioned result of [4] can be reformulated as follows: Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a generically smooth morphism between irreducible smooth projective curves. Then  $f^*E$  is stable for every stable vector bundle  $E$  on  $Y$  if and only if:

$$\mu_{\min}(((f_*\mathcal{O}_X)/\mathcal{O}_Y)^*) > 0.$$

(Recall that  $\mu_{\min}$  denotes the slope of the smallest quotient [9, p. 16, Definition 1.3.2].) See [5] for more on Tschirnhausen bundles.

A vector bundle on an irreducible smooth projective curve  $Z$  is called virtually globally generated if its pullback, under some surjective morphism to  $Z$  from some irreducible smooth projective curve, is generated by its global sections; see §3.

We prove the following (see Theorem 3.3):

*Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be irreducible smooth projective curves and:*

$$f : X \rightarrow Y,$$

*a generically smooth morphism. Then  $(f_*\mathcal{O}_X)^*$  is virtually globally generated.*

Note that this implies that:  $((f_*\mathcal{O}_X)/\mathcal{O}_Y)^*$  is virtually globally generated (see Corollary 3.5).

In Remark 3.6 it is shown that Corollary 3.5 fails in higher dimensions.

We prove the following (see Corollary 3.2):

*Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a generically smooth morphism between two irreducible smooth projective curves. Then  $f$  is genuinely ramified if and only if  $((f_*\mathcal{O}_X)/\mathcal{O}_Y)^*$  is ample.*

It may be mentioned that the condition in Theorem 3.3 and Corollary 3.2 that  $f$  is generically smooth is essential. To give an example, take  $Y$  to be a smooth projective curve of genus at least two, and let  $F_Y : Y \rightarrow Y$ , be the absolute Frobenius morphism of  $Y$ . Then  $(F_{Y*}\mathcal{O}_Y)/\mathcal{O}_Y$  is in fact ample.

## 2. Genuinely ramified maps, direct image and ampleness

The base field  $k$  is assumed to be algebraically closed. For a vector bundle  $E$  on an irreducible smooth projective curve  $X$ , if

$$E_1 \subset \dots \subset E_{n-1} \subset E_n = E,$$

is the Harder–Narasimhan filtration of  $E$ , then define  $\mu_{\max}(E) := \mu(E_1)$  and  $\mu_{\min}(E) = \mu(E/E_{n-1})$  [9]. The subbundle  $E_1 \subseteq E$  is called the maximal semistable subsheaf of  $E$ .

Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be irreducible smooth projective curves and

$$f : X \longrightarrow Y, \tag{2.1}$$

a dominant generically smooth morphism. It is straight-forward to check that:

$$\mu_{\max}(f_*\mathcal{O}_X) = 0. \tag{2.2}$$

Indeed,  $\mu_{\max}(f_*\mathcal{O}_X) \leq 0$  because  $\text{degree}(\mathcal{O}_X) = 0$  [4, p. 12824, Lemma 2.2]. On the other hand, we have  $\mathcal{O}_Y \subset f_*\mathcal{O}_X$ , which implies that  $\mu_{\max}(f_*\mathcal{O}_X) \geq 0$ , and thus (2.2) holds.

The following proposition was proved in [4].

**Proposition 2.1.** ([4, p. 12828, Proposition 2.6] and [4, p. 12830, Lemma 3.1]). *The following five statements are equivalent:*

- (1) *The maximal semistable subsheaf of  $f_*\mathcal{O}_X$  is  $\mathcal{O}_Y$ .*
- (2)  $\dim H^0(X, f^*f_*\mathcal{O}_X) = 1$ .
- (3) *The fibre product  $X \times_Y X$  is connected.*
- (4) *The homomorphism of étale fundamental groups  $f_* : \pi_1^{\text{ét}}(X) \longrightarrow \pi_1^{\text{ét}}(Y)$  induced by  $f$  is surjective.*
- (5) *The map  $f$  does not factor through any nontrivial finite étale covering of  $Y$ .*

Any morphism  $f$  as in (2.1) is called *genuinely ramified* if the (equivalent) statements in Proposition 2.1 hold [4, p. 12828, Definition 2.5].

**Proposition 2.2.** *Let  $f : X \longrightarrow Y$  be a genuinely ramified morphism of smooth projective curves. Then the vector bundle  $((f_*\mathcal{O}_X)/\mathcal{O}_Y)^*$  is ample.*

**Proof.** Since  $f$  is genuinely ramified, from Proposition 2.1 it follows that:

$$\mu_{\max}((f_*\mathcal{O}_X)/\mathcal{O}_Y) < 0,$$

and hence we have:

$$\mu_{\min}(((f_*\mathcal{O}_X)/\mathcal{O}_Y)^*) = -\mu_{\max}((f_*\mathcal{O}_X)/\mathcal{O}_Y) > 0. \tag{2.3}$$

When the characteristic of  $k$  is zero, a vector bundle  $W$  on  $Y$  is ample if and only if the degree of every nonzero quotient of  $W$  is positive [7, p. 84, Theorem 2.4]. Therefore, from (2.3) we conclude that:  $((f_*\mathcal{O}_X)/\mathcal{O}_Y)^*$  is ample, when the characteristic of  $k$  is zero. However, this characterization of ample bundles fails when the characteristic of  $k$  is positive (see [7, Section 3] for such examples).

We will inductive construct a sequence of vector bundles  $\{V_i\}_{i \geq 0}$  on  $Y$ . First set  $V_0 = \mathcal{O}_Y$ . For any  $i \geq 1$ , let  $V_i = f_* f^* V_{i-1}$ . Since we have

$$\mathcal{O}_Y \subset V_1 = f_* f^* \mathcal{O}_Y = f_* \mathcal{O}_X,$$

it can be deduced that:

$$\mathcal{O}_Y \subset V_i, \tag{2.4}$$

for all  $i \geq 0$ . Indeed, this follows inductively, as the inclusion map  $\mathcal{O}_Y \hookrightarrow V_j$  produces:

$$\mathcal{O}_Y \subset f_* \mathcal{O}_X = f_* f^* \mathcal{O}_Y \hookrightarrow f_* f^* V_j = V_{j+1}.$$

This proves (2.4) inductively.

Next we will show that the subsheaf  $\mathcal{O}_Y$  in (2.4) is the maximal semistable subsheaf of  $V_i$ . This will also be proved using an inductive argument.

First,  $\mathcal{O}_Y$  is obviously the maximal semistable subsheaf of  $V_0$ . Next, from Proposition 2.1 we know that  $\mathcal{O}_Y$  is the maximal semistable subsheaf of  $V_1$  (recall that  $f$  is genuinely ramified). Let

$$\mathcal{O}_Y = E_1^1 \subset E_2^1 \subset \dots \subset E_{n_1-1}^1 \subset E_{n_1}^1 = V_1,$$

be the Harder–Narasimhan filtration of  $V_1$ . Since  $f^*W$  is semistable if  $W$  is so (see [4, pp. 12823–12824, Remark 2.1]), we conclude that:

$$\mathcal{O}_X = f^* E_1^1 \subset \dots \subset f^* E_{n_1-1}^1 \subset f^* E_{n_1}^1 = f^* V_1, \tag{2.5}$$

is the Harder–Narasimhan filtration of  $f^*V_1$ .

For any vector bundle  $B$  on  $X$ , we have  $\mu_{\max}(f_* B) \leq \mu_{\max}(B)/\text{degree}(f)$  [4, Lemma 2.2, p. 12824]. In view of the Harder–Narasimhan filtration in (2.5), this implies that:

$$\mu_{\max}((f_* f^* E_{j+1}^1)/(f_* f^* E_j^1)) < 0,$$

for all  $1 \leq j \leq n_1 - 1$ , because  $\mu_{\max}((f^* E_{j+1}^1)/(f^* E_j^1)) < 0$ . Also, as noted before, the maximal semistable subsheaf of  $f_* \mathcal{O}_X$  is  $\mathcal{O}_Y$ . Combining these we conclude that  $\mathcal{O}_Y$  is the maximal semistable subsheaf of  $f_* f^* V_1 = V_2$ .

The above argument works inductively. To explain this, let

$$\mathcal{O}_Y = E_1^\ell \subset E_2^\ell \subset \dots \subset E_{n_\ell-1}^\ell \subset E_{n_\ell}^\ell = V_\ell,$$

be the Harder–Narasimhan filtration of  $V_\ell$ . As before, we have:

$$\mu_{\max}((f_* f^* E_{j+1}^\ell)/(f_* f^* E_j^\ell)) < 0,$$

for all  $1 \leq j \leq n_\ell - 1$ , because  $\mu_{\max}((f^* E_{j+1}^\ell)/(f^* E_j^\ell)) < 0$ . Using this together with the fact that the maximal semistable subsheaf of  $f_* \mathcal{O}_X$  is  $\mathcal{O}_Y$  we conclude that  $\mathcal{O}_Y$  is the maximal semistable subsheaf of  $f_* f^* V_\ell = V_{\ell+1}$ .

The projection formula (see [8, p. 124, Ch. II, Ex. 5.1(d)], [11]) gives that  $V_{i+1} = f_* f^* V_i = V_i \otimes (f_* \mathcal{O}_X)$  for all  $i \geq 1$ . This implies that:

$$V_i = (f_* \mathcal{O}_X)^{\otimes i} = V_1^{\otimes i}, \tag{2.6}$$

for all  $i \geq 1$ .

Now we assume that the characteristic of  $k$  is positive (recall that the proposition was proved when the characteristic of  $k$  is zero). Let  $p$  be the characteristic of  $k$ . Let

$$F_Y : Y \longrightarrow Y$$

be the absolute Frobenius morphism of  $Y$ . For any vector bundle  $W$  on  $Y$ , we have the inclusion:

$$F_Y^* W \subset W^{\otimes p},$$

it is constructed using the map  $W \longrightarrow W^{\otimes p}$  defined by  $v \longmapsto v^{\otimes p}$ . Therefore, from (2.6) we have

$$(F_Y^n)^* V_1 \subset (V_1)^{\otimes np} = V_{np} \tag{2.7}$$

for all  $n \geq 1$ . Since  $\mathcal{O}_Y$  in (2.4) is the maximal semistable subsheaf of  $V_i$ , from (2.7) we have:

$$(F_Y^n)^*(V_1/\mathcal{O}_Y) = ((F_Y^n)^*V_1)/\mathcal{O}_Y \subset V_{np}/\mathcal{O}_Y,$$

and

$$\mu_{\max}((F_Y^n)^*(V_1/\mathcal{O}_Y)) < 0, \tag{2.8}$$

because  $\mu_{\max}(V_{np}/\mathcal{O}_Y) < 0$ .

From (2.8) it follows that:

$$\mu_{\min}((F_Y^n)^*(V_1/\mathcal{O}_Y)^*) = -\mu_{\max}((F_Y^n)^*(V_1/\mathcal{O}_Y)) > 0,$$

for all  $n \geq 1$ . This implies that  $(V_1/\mathcal{O}_Y)^* = ((f_* \mathcal{O}_X)/\mathcal{O}_Y)^*$  is ample [1, p. 542, Theorem 2.2]. □

### 3. Virtual global generation

Let  $E$  be a vector bundle on an irreducible smooth projective curve  $Z$ . It will be called *virtually globally generated* if there is a finite surjective morphism:

$$\phi : M \longrightarrow Z,$$

from an irreducible smooth projective curve  $M$  such that  $\phi^* E$  is generated by its global sections. The vector bundle  $E$  is called *étale trivializable* if there is a pair  $(M, \phi)$  as above such that  $\phi$  is étale and  $\phi^* E$  is trivializable.

If  $\text{degree}(E) < 0$ , then  $E$  is not virtually globally generated. More generally,  $E$  is not virtually globally generated if it admits a quotient of negative degree. To give a nontrivial example of vector bundle which is not virtually globally generated, let  $Z$  be a compact connected Riemann surface of genus  $g$ , with  $g \geq 2$ . Note that the free group of  $g$  generators is a quotient of  $\pi_1(Z)$ . To see this, express  $\pi_1(Z)$  as the quotient of the free group, with generators  $a_1, \dots, a_g, b_1, \dots, b_g$ , by the single relation  $\prod_{i=1}^g [a_i, b_i] = 1$ . Then the quotient of  $\pi_1(Z)$  by the normal subgroup generated by  $b_1, \dots, b_g$  is the free group generated by  $a_1, \dots, a_g$ . Therefore, there is homomorphism:

$$\rho : \pi_1(Z) \longrightarrow U(r),$$

where  $U(r)$  is the group of  $r \times r$  unitary matrices, such that  $\rho(\pi_1(Z))$  is a dense subgroup of  $U(r)$  (the subgroup of  $U(r)$  generated by two general elements of it is dense in  $U(r)$ ). Let  $E$  denote the flat unitary vector bundle on  $Z$  given by  $\rho$ . This vector bundle  $E$  is stable of degree zero [10]. Let  $M$  be a compact connected Riemann surface and

$$\phi : M \longrightarrow Z,$$

a surjective holomorphic map. Since the image of the induced homomorphism:

$$\phi_* : \pi_1(M) \longrightarrow \pi_1(Z),$$

is a subgroup of  $\pi_1(Z)$  of finite index, the image of the following composition of homomorphisms:

$$\pi_1(M) \xrightarrow{\phi_*} \pi_1(Z) \xrightarrow{\rho} U(r),$$

is a dense subgroup of  $U(r)$ . This implies that  $\phi^*E$  is a stable vector bundle of degree zero [10]. In particular, we have

$$H^0(M, \phi^*E) = 0.$$

Hence  $E$  is not virtually globally generated.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be irreducible smooth projective curves over  $k$  and*

$$f : X \longrightarrow Y,$$

*a generically smooth morphism. Then  $f_*\mathcal{O}_X$  fits in a short exact sequence of vector bundles on  $Y$ :*

$$0 \longrightarrow E \longrightarrow f_*\mathcal{O}_X \longrightarrow V \longrightarrow 0,$$

*where  $E$  is étale trivializable and  $V^*$  is ample.*

**Proof.** Let

$$S^f \subset f_*\mathcal{O}_X, \tag{3.1}$$

be the maximal semistable subbundle. From (2.2) we know that  $\text{degree}(S^f) = 0$ .

The algebra structure of  $\mathcal{O}_X$  produces an algebra structure on the direct image  $f_*\mathcal{O}_X$ . The subsheaf  $S^f$  in (3.1) is a subalgebra. Moreover, there is an étale covering  $g : Z \rightarrow Y$  such that:

- $f$  factors through  $g$ , meaning there is a morphism:

$$h : X \rightarrow Z \tag{3.2}$$

such that  $g \circ h = f$ , and

- the subsheaf  $g_*\mathcal{O}_Z \subset f_*\mathcal{O}_X$  coincides with  $S^f$ .

(See the proof of [4, p. 12828, Proposition 2.6] and [4, p. 12829, (2.13)].) Moreover, the map  $h$  in (3.2) is genuinely ramified [4, p. 12829, Corollary 2.7].

Consider the short exact sequence of vector bundles on  $Y$ :

$$0 \rightarrow S^f \rightarrow f_*\mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow Q := (f_*\mathcal{O}_X)/S^f \rightarrow 0. \tag{3.3}$$

The pullback  $g^*Q$ , where  $Q$  is the vector bundle in (3.3), is identified with  $(h_*\mathcal{O}_X)/\mathcal{O}_Z$ , where  $h$  is the map in (3.2). From Proposition 2.2 we know that  $((h_*\mathcal{O}_X)/\mathcal{O}_Z)^*$  is ample. Since  $((h_*\mathcal{O}_X)/\mathcal{O}_Z)^* = g^*Q^*$ , this implies that  $Q^*$  in (3.3) is ample (see [6, p. 73, Proposition 4.3]).

Since  $Q^*$  is ample, in view of (3.3), it suffices to prove that  $S^f$  is a finite vector bundle.

Fix an étale Galois covering  $\varphi : M \rightarrow Y$  that dominates  $g$ . In other words, there is a morphism:

$$\beta : M \rightarrow Z$$

such that  $g \circ \beta = \varphi$ . Since  $\varphi$  is an étale Galois covering, the vector bundle  $\varphi^*\varphi_*\mathcal{O}_M$  is trivializable. On the other hand,

$$S^f = g_*\mathcal{O}_Z \subset \varphi_*\mathcal{O}_M,$$

and  $S^f$  is a subbundle of  $\varphi_*\mathcal{O}_M$ . Consider the subbundle

$$\varphi^*S^f \subset \varphi^*\varphi_*\mathcal{O}_M. \tag{3.4}$$

We have  $\text{degree}(\varphi^*S^f) = 0$ , because  $\text{degree}(S^f) = 0$ , and we also know that  $\varphi^*\varphi_*\mathcal{O}_M$  is trivializable. Consequently, the subbundle  $\varphi^*S^f$  in (3.4) is also trivializable. Hence  $S^f$  is étale trivializable. □

**Corollary 3.2.** *Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a generically smooth morphism between two irreducible smooth projective curves. Then  $f$  is genuinely ramified if and only if  $((f_*\mathcal{O}_X)/\mathcal{O}_Y)^*$  is ample.*

**Proof.** In view of Proposition 2.2 it suffices to show that  $((f_*\mathcal{O}_X)/\mathcal{O}_Y)^*$  is not ample if  $f$  is not genuinely ramified. If  $f$  is not genuinely ramified, then  $\text{rank}(S^f) \geq 2$  (see (3.1)). Hence  $(S^f/\mathcal{O}_Y)^*$  is a quotient of  $((f_*\mathcal{O}_X)/\mathcal{O}_Y)^*$  (see (3.3)). But  $\text{degree}((S^f/\mathcal{O}_Y)^*) = 0$  because  $\text{degree}(S^f) = 0$ . Now  $((f_*\mathcal{O}_X)/\mathcal{O}_Y)^*$  is not ample because its quotient  $(S^f/\mathcal{O}_Y)^*$  is not ample.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.3.** *Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be irreducible smooth projective curves and*

$$f : X \longrightarrow Y,$$

*a generically smooth morphism. Then  $(f_*\mathcal{O}_X)^*$  is virtually globally generated.*

**Proof.** First assume that the characteristic of  $k$  is zero. We will show that the short exact sequence in (3.3) splits. First, the inclusion map  $\mathcal{O}_Z \hookrightarrow h_*\mathcal{O}_X$  splits naturally, where  $h$  is the map in (3.2); in other words,

$$h_*\mathcal{O}_X = \mathcal{O}_Z \oplus F;$$

the fibre of  $F$  over any  $z \in Z$  is the space of functions on  $h^{-1}(z)$  whose sum is zero. Now we have

$$f_*\mathcal{O}_X = g_*h_*\mathcal{O}_X = g_*(\mathcal{O}_Z \oplus F) = (g_*\mathcal{O}_Z) \oplus g_*F = S^f \oplus g_*F. \tag{3.5}$$

From (3.3) and (3.5) it follows that the vector bundle  $g_*F$  is isomorphic to  $Q$ . Therefore, from (3.5) we have

$$(f_*\mathcal{O}_X)^* = (S^f)^* \oplus Q^*. \tag{3.6}$$

Now  $(S^f)^*$  is virtually globally generated because  $S^f$  is étale trivializable, and  $Q^*$  is virtually globally generated because  $Q^*$  is ample by Theorem 3.1 (see [3, p. 46, Theorem 3.6]). Therefore, from (3.6) it follows that  $(f_*\mathcal{O}_X)^*$  is virtually globally generated.

Next assume that the characteristic of  $k$  is positive. As before,

$$F_Y : Y \longrightarrow Y$$

is the absolute Frobenius morphism of  $Y$ . Consider the exact sequence in (3.3); recall that  $S^f$  is the maximal semistable subsheaf of  $f_*\mathcal{O}_X$ . Therefore, there is an integer  $n_0$  such that for all  $n \geq n_0$ , we have

$$(F_Y^n)^*f_*\mathcal{O}_X = (F_Y^n)^*S^f \oplus (F_Y^n)^*Q$$

[2, p. 356, Proposition 2.1]. Therefore,

$$(F_Y^n)^*(f_*\mathcal{O}_X)^* = (F_Y^n)^*(S^f)^* \oplus (F_Y^n)^*Q^*. \tag{3.7}$$

Now  $(F_Y^n)^*(S^f)^*$  is virtually globally generated because  $S^f$  is étale trivializable and the Frobenius morphism commutes with étale morphisms. Also,  $Q^*$  is virtually globally generated because  $Q^*$  is ample by Theorem 3.1 (see [2, p. 357, Theorem 2.2]). Therefore, from (3.7) it follows that  $(f_*\mathcal{O}_X)^*$  is virtually globally generated.  $\square$



**Corollary 3.4.** *Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be irreducible smooth projective curves and*

$$f : X \longrightarrow Y,$$

*a generically smooth morphism. Then the following statements hold:*

- *If the characteristic of  $k$  is zero, then*

$$(f_*\mathcal{O}_X)^* = E \oplus A,$$

*where  $E$  is étale trivializable and  $A$  is ample.*

- *If the characteristic of  $k$  is positive, then there is an integer  $n$  such that:*

$$(F_Y^n)^*(f_*\mathcal{O}_X)^* = E \oplus A,$$

*where  $E$  is étale trivializable and  $A$  is ample.*

**Proof.** In view of Theorem 3.3, this follows immediately from [3, p. 40, Theorem 1.1]. □

**Corollary 3.5.** *Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be irreducible smooth projective curves and*

$$f : X \longrightarrow Y,$$

*a generically smooth morphism. Then  $((f_*\mathcal{O}_X)/\mathcal{O}_Y)^*$  is virtually globally generated.*

**Proof.** From Theorem 3.3 we know that there is a finite surjective map:

$$\phi : M \longrightarrow Y,$$

such that  $\phi^*(f_*\mathcal{O}_X)^*$  is generated by its global sections. We have the short exact sequence of vector bundles on  $M$ :

$$0 \longrightarrow \phi^*((f_*\mathcal{O}_X)/\mathcal{O}_Y)^* \longrightarrow \phi^*(f_*\mathcal{O}_X)^* \longrightarrow \phi^*(\mathcal{O}_Y)^* = \mathcal{O}_M \longrightarrow 0. \tag{3.8}$$

Since  $\phi^*(f_*\mathcal{O}_X)^*$  is generated by its global sections, it has a section that projects to a nonzero section of  $\mathcal{O}_M$ . Choosing such a section we obtain a splitting of (3.8). Since  $\phi^*(f_*\mathcal{O}_X)^*$  is generated by its global sections, its direct summand  $\phi^*((f_*\mathcal{O}_X)/\mathcal{O}_Y)^*$  is also generated by its global sections. □

**Remark 3.6.** Corollary 3.5 is not valid in higher dimensions. To give an example, let  $X$  denote  $\mathbb{C}P^2$  blown up at the point  $(1, 0, 0)$ . The involution of  $\mathbb{C}P^2$  defined by

$(x, y, z) \mapsto (x, -y, -z)$  lifts to  $X$ ; let

$$\tau : X \longrightarrow X,$$

be this lifted involution. Set  $Y := X/(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$  to be the quotient of  $X$  for the action of  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$  given by  $\tau$ . Let

$$f : X \longrightarrow X/(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) = Y,$$

be the quotient map. Then the line bundle  $((f_*\mathcal{O}_X)/\mathcal{O}_Y)^*$  is not virtually globally generated. To see this, first note that the line bundle  $f^*(((f_*\mathcal{O}_X)/\mathcal{O}_Y)^*)$  is virtually globally generated if  $((f_*\mathcal{O}_X)/\mathcal{O}_Y)^*$  is virtually globally generated. But

$$f^*(((f_*\mathcal{O}_X)/\mathcal{O}_Y)^*) = \mathcal{O}_X(D_e + D_\infty),$$

where  $D_e \subset X$  is the exceptional divisor and  $D_\infty \subset X$  is the inverse image of

$$\{(0, y, z) \in \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2 \mid y, z \in \mathbb{C}\} \subset \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2.$$

It is easy to see that  $\mathcal{O}_X(D_e + D_\infty)$  is not virtually globally generated. Indeed, if

$$\varpi : Z \longrightarrow X$$

is a finite surjective proper map, then every section of  $\varpi^*\mathcal{O}_X(D_e + D_\infty)$  vanishes on  $\varpi^{-1}(D_e)$ .

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