

# UNIVERSAL LOCAL ACYCLICITY

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In this note,  $k$  can be any perfect field. We recall the definition of *universal local acyclicity* as in [Del77]. Let  $S$  be a scheme and  $s$  a geometric point of  $S$ . We denote by  $S_{(s)}$  the strict Henselisation of  $S$  at  $s$ . We will formally write  $t \rightarrow s$  if  $t$  is a geometric point of  $S_{(s)}$ .

**Definition 1.** Let  $f : Y \rightarrow S$  be a morphism of schemes of finite type over  $k$ . An object  $\mathcal{F} \in D_c^b(Y)$  is called *locally acyclic* with respect to  $f$  if for every geometric point  $y$  of  $Y$  and every specialisation  $t \rightarrow f(y)$ , the natural map  $R\Gamma(Y_{(y)}, \mathcal{F}) \rightarrow R\Gamma(Y_{(y)} \times_{S_{(f(y))}} t, \mathcal{F})$  is an isomorphism.

It is called *universally locally acyclic (ULA)* if it is locally acyclic after arbitrary base change  $S' \rightarrow S$ .

We refer the reader to [Del77], [Zhu17, §A.2] for a review of the ULA property. In particular, the property is local in the smooth topology on the source and target (cf. [Zhu17, Theorem A.2.5]), meaning: Let  $f : Y \rightarrow S$  be a morphism of finite type  $k$ -schemes and  $\mathcal{F} \in D_c^b(Y)$ .

1. If  $g : Y' \rightarrow Y$  is a smooth (resp. smooth and surjective) map, then  $g^*(\mathcal{F}) \in D_c^b(Y')$  is ULA with respect to  $f \circ g : Y' \rightarrow S$  if (resp. if and only if)  $\mathcal{F}$  is ULA with respect to  $f : Y \rightarrow S$ .
2. If  $g : S \rightarrow S'$  is a smooth map and  $\mathcal{F}$  is ULA with respect to  $f : Y \rightarrow S$ , then  $\mathcal{F}$  is ULA with respect to  $g \circ f : Y \rightarrow S'$ .

Therefore, it makes sense to extend the definition of ULA to morphisms between algebraic stacks of finite type over  $k$ . We continue to work with schemes in this appendix, but one can easily generalize the statements to stacks.

In [BG02, §5.1, Theorem B.2], the authors introduced an equivalent definition (Definition 2 below) of locally acyclic complexes when the base  $S$  is smooth. In this appendix we will prove some properties of ULA complexes when the base  $S$  is possibly *not* smooth, following the arguments in the proof of [BG02, Theorem B.2], with the goal of proving Lemma 7.

First, we have the following reformulation of Definition 1 by [BG02]:

Let  $j : S_0 \hookrightarrow S$  be a smooth locally closed subvariety and let  $\mathcal{L}$  be a lisse sheaf on  $S_0$ . Consider the Cartesian diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Y_0 & \xrightarrow{f_0} & S_0 \\ \downarrow j' & & \downarrow j \\ Y & \xrightarrow{f} & S \end{array}$$

By the  $(j'^*, j'_*)$ -adjunction we have a natural map

$$(1.1) \quad \mathcal{F} \otimes f^*(j_*(\mathcal{L})) \rightarrow j'_*(j'^*(\mathcal{F}) \otimes f_0^*(\mathcal{L})).$$

One observes that  $\mathcal{F} \in D_c^b(Y)$  is locally acyclic with respect to  $f$  if and only if for all  $S_0$  and  $\mathcal{L}$  as above, the map (1.1) is an isomorphism.

Now let  $\mathcal{G} \in D_c^b(S)$  be arbitrary. We have a natural map

$$(1.2) \quad f^*(\mathcal{G}) \otimes f^!(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell) \rightarrow f^!(\mathcal{G}),$$

which comes by adjunction from the map

$$f_!(f^*(\mathcal{G}) \otimes f^!(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)) \cong \mathcal{G} \otimes f_!f^!(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell) \rightarrow \mathcal{G} \otimes \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell.$$

The map (1.2) induces a natural map

$$(1.3) \quad \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, f^!(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)) \otimes f^*\mathcal{G} \rightarrow \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, f^!(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell) \otimes f^*\mathcal{G}) \xrightarrow{(1.2)} \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, f^!\mathcal{G})$$

where  $\underline{\mathrm{Hom}}$  is the (derived) internal Hom.

Let  $\mathbb{D}$  denote the duality functor. By Grothendieck's six functor formalism, there is a functorial isomorphism

$$(1.4) \quad \mathbb{D}(\mathcal{F}_1 \otimes \mathcal{F}_2) \cong \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_2), \quad \mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_2 \in D_c^b(Y)$$

([SGA77, Exposé I, Proposition 1.11(c)]). Therefore, we have  $\underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, f^!\mathcal{G}) \cong \mathbb{D}(\mathcal{F} \otimes f^*\mathbb{D}\mathcal{G})$ .

Let  $\mathcal{F}_1 \otimes^! \mathcal{F}_2 := \mathbb{D}(\mathbb{D}\mathcal{F}_1 \otimes \mathbb{D}\mathcal{F}_2)$  denote the conjugate of  $\otimes$  by  $\mathbb{D}$ .

If  $S$  is smooth, then  $\underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, f^!(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)) = \mathbb{D}(\mathcal{F})(-d)[-2d]$  where  $d : \pi_0(S) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  is the dimension. Then using (1.4), we deduce that the Verdier dual of (1.3) is a map

$$(1.5) \quad \mathcal{F} \otimes f^*(\mathbb{D}\mathcal{G}) \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \otimes^! f^!(\mathbb{D}\mathcal{G})(d)[2d].$$

Then [BG02, Theorem B.2] showed that Definition 1 is equivalent to the following:

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $f : Y \rightarrow S$  be a morphism of schemes of finite type over  $k$  where  $S$  is smooth. An object  $\mathcal{F} \in D_c^b(Y)$  is locally acyclic with respect to  $f$  if and only if (1.5) is an isomorphism for every  $\mathcal{G} \in D_c^b(S)$ .*

We now use Theorem 2 to deduce several properties of ULA complexes with respect to morphisms  $f : Y \rightarrow S$  where the base  $S$  is not necessarily smooth. These properties are presumably known to experts<sup>1</sup> but we provide proofs as they do not seem to appear in the literature.

**Proposition 3.** *If  $\mathcal{F}$  is ULA with respect to  $f : Y \rightarrow S$ , then for every  $\mathcal{G} \in D_c^b(S)$ , the natural map (1.3) is an isomorphism*

$$\underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, f^!(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)) \otimes f^*\mathcal{G} \cong \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, f^!\mathcal{G}).$$

*Proof.* We may assume  $S$  is reduced and hence generically smooth. Let  $j : S_0 \hookrightarrow S$  be a smooth open dense subvariety of  $S$  such that  $j^*\mathcal{G}$  has lisse cohomology sheaves. Let  $i : S_1 \hookrightarrow S$  denote the complementary closed embedding. Let  $j' : Y_0 \hookrightarrow Y$  and  $i' : Y_1 \hookrightarrow Y$  denote the corresponding embeddings after base change to  $Y$  and  $f_i : Y_i \rightarrow S_i$  the projection. The  $j_!j^! \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow i_*i^*$  distinguished triangle applied to  $(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)_S$  and  $\mathcal{G}$  gives a map of distinguished triangles

$$(3.1) \quad \begin{array}{ccccc} \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, f^!j_!(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)_{S_0}) \otimes f^*\mathcal{G} & \longrightarrow & \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, f^!(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)) \otimes f^*\mathcal{G} & \longrightarrow & \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, i'_*f_1^!(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)_{S_1}) \otimes f^*\mathcal{G} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, f^!j_!j^*\mathcal{G}) & \longrightarrow & \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, f^!\mathcal{G}) & \longrightarrow & \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, i'_*f_1^!i^*\mathcal{G}). \end{array}$$

We will show that the left and right vertical arrows are isomorphisms, which implies the middle arrow is also an isomorphism.

<sup>1</sup>We learned of the statements from [KHW17, Theorem 4.6.3], which lives in the more nuanced setting of  $p$ -adic geometry.

By (1.4) we have  $\underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, f^! j_1(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)_{S_0}) \cong \mathbb{D}(\mathcal{F} \otimes f^* j_* (\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)_{S_0}(d_0)[2d_0])$ , where we have used that  $S_0$  is smooth of dimension  $d_0 : \pi_0(S_0) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ . Therefore, the isomorphism of (1.1) gives

$$(3.2) \quad \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, f^! j_1(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)_{S_0}) \otimes f^* \mathcal{G} \cong j_1' \left( \mathbb{D}(j'^* \mathcal{F}) \otimes f_0^*(j^* \mathcal{G}) \right) (-d_0)[-2d_0].$$

Since  $\mathcal{F}$  is ULA,  $\mathbb{D}(j'^* \mathcal{F})$  is ULA with respect to  $f_0 : Y_0 \rightarrow S_0$  where  $S_0$  is smooth. Thus, using Theorem 2, we have a canonical isomorphism

$$\mathbb{D}(j'^* \mathcal{F}) \otimes f_0^*(j^* \mathcal{G})(-d_0)[-2d_0] \cong \mathbb{D}(j'^*(\mathcal{F})) \otimes f_0^!(j^* \mathcal{G}) \cong j'^* \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, f^! \mathcal{G}),$$

where we are using (1.4) in the second isomorphism. To summarize, we have a canonical isomorphism  $\underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, f^! j_1(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)_{S_0}) \otimes f^* \mathcal{G} \cong j_1' j'^* \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, f^! \mathcal{G})$ . On the other hand, since  $j^* \mathcal{G}$  is lisse, the same argument as above using the isomorphism (1.3) gives an isomorphism

$$\underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, f^! j_1 j^* \mathcal{G}) \cong j_1' \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(j'^* \mathcal{F}, f_0^! j^* \mathcal{G}) \cong j_1' j'^* \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, f^! \mathcal{G}).$$

Thus, we have shown that the left vertical arrow in (3.1) is an isomorphism.

For the right vertical arrow, we have a natural isomorphism

$$\underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, i_*' f_1^!(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)_{S_1}) \otimes f^* \mathcal{G} \cong i_*' \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(i'^* \mathcal{F}, f_1^!(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)_{S_1}) \otimes f_1^*(i^* \mathcal{G})$$

by adjunction and projection formula. Since  $\mathcal{F}$  is ULA, after base change  $i'^* \mathcal{F}$  is ULA with respect to  $f_1$ . Hence by noetherian induction on  $\dim(S)$  we may assume that we have a canonical isomorphism

$$\underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(i'^* \mathcal{F}, f_1^!(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)_{S_1}) \otimes f_1^*(i^* \mathcal{G}) \cong i_*' \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(i'^* \mathcal{F}, f_1^!(i^* \mathcal{G})) \cong \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, f^! i_*' i^* \mathcal{G}),$$

which is the isomorphism of the right vertical arrow in (3.1).  $\square$

Now consider a Cartesian diagram of schemes of finite type over  $k$ :

$$(3.3) \quad \begin{array}{ccc} Y' & \xrightarrow{f'} & S' \\ g' \downarrow & & \downarrow g \\ Y & \xrightarrow{f} & S \end{array}$$

For  $\mathcal{F} \in D_c^b(Y)$ , there is a natural map

$$(3.4) \quad (g')^* \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, f^! \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell) \rightarrow \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}((g')^* \mathcal{F}, (f')^! \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)$$

which comes by the  $(g'^*, g'_*)$ -adjunction from the map

$$\underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, f^! \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell) \rightarrow \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, f^! g_* g^* \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell) \cong \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, g'_*(f')^! \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell) \cong g'_* \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}((g')^* \mathcal{F}, (f')^! \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell),$$

where we used proper base change in the second arrow.

**Proposition 4.** *In the setup above, if  $\mathcal{F}$  is ULA with respect to  $f$ , then the natural map (3.4) is an isomorphism*

$$(g')^* \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, f^! \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell) \cong \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}((g')^* \mathcal{F}, (f')^! \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell).$$

*Proof.* The assertion is Zariski-local on  $S'$ , so we may assume that  $S, S'$  are affine and  $g$  factors as  $S' \xrightarrow{i} \mathbb{A}^n \times S \xrightarrow{\mathrm{pr}_2} S$  where  $i$  is a closed embedding. The isomorphism of (3.4) when  $g$  is smooth follows from the isomorphism

$$(g')^! \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, f^! \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell) \cong \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}((g')^* \mathcal{F}, (g')^! f^! \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell),$$

which always holds in the six functor formalism. Therefore, after base change along  $\mathrm{pr}_2 : \mathbb{A}^n \times S \rightarrow S$ , we may assume that  $g : S' \hookrightarrow S$  is a closed embedding and  $S', S$  are reduced. The open complement  $S - S'$  is nonempty (otherwise we are done) so there exists a smooth dense open subvariety  $j : S_0 \hookrightarrow S$  inside  $S - S'$ . Let  $i : S_1 \hookrightarrow S$  denote the complement of  $S_0$ , so

$g$  factors as  $S' \xrightarrow{g_1} S_1 \xrightarrow{i} S$ . Let  $i', j', g'_1$  denote the preimages in  $Y$  and  $f_i : Y_i \rightarrow S_i$  the base change of  $f$ . The  $j_! j^! \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow i_* i^*$  distinguished triangle induces a distinguished triangle

$$(g')^* \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, f^! j_! \overline{\mathcal{Q}}_\ell) \rightarrow (g')^* \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, f^! \overline{\mathcal{Q}}_\ell) \rightarrow (g'_1)^* \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(i'^* \mathcal{F}, f_1^! \overline{\mathcal{Q}}_\ell)$$

Just as in the proof of Proposition 3, (3.2), we have a canonical isomorphism

$$\underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, f^! j_! \overline{\mathcal{Q}}_\ell) \cong j'_! j'^! (\mathbb{D}\mathcal{F})(-d_0)[-2d_0].$$

Therefore, the leftmost term in the distinguished triangle vanishes, and hence the second arrow is an isomorphism. Now  $i'^* \mathcal{F}$  is ULA with respect to  $Y_1 \rightarrow S_1$ , so by induction on the codimension of  $S'$  in  $S$ , we conclude that

$$(g')^* \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(\mathcal{F}, f^! \overline{\mathcal{Q}}_\ell) \cong (g'_1)^* \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(i'^* \mathcal{F}, f_1^! \overline{\mathcal{Q}}_\ell) \cong \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}(g'^* \mathcal{F}, f'^! \overline{\mathcal{Q}}_\ell),$$

and this isomorphism coincides with (3.4).  $\square$

Again in the setting of the diagram (3.3), given  $\mathcal{F} \in \mathrm{D}_c^b(Y), \mathcal{F}' \in \mathrm{D}_c^b(S')$  we let

$$\mathcal{F} \boxtimes_S \mathcal{F}' := (g')^* \mathcal{F} \otimes (f')^* \mathcal{F}'(-\frac{d}{2})[-d] \in \mathrm{D}_c^b(Y')$$

where  $d : \pi_0(S) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  denotes the dimension of each connected component of  $S$ .

**Corollary 5.** *In the diagram (3.3), assume that  $S$  is rationally smooth, i.e., the dualizing complex of  $S$  is isomorphic to  $\overline{\mathcal{Q}}_\ell(d)[2d]$ . Let  $\mathcal{F} \in \mathrm{D}_c^b(Y), \mathcal{F}' \in \mathrm{D}_c^b(S')$  and assume that  $\mathcal{F}$  is ULA with respect to  $f : Y \rightarrow S$ . Then there is a natural isomorphism*

$$\mathbb{D}\mathcal{F} \boxtimes_S \mathbb{D}\mathcal{F}' \cong \mathbb{D}(\mathcal{F} \boxtimes_S \mathcal{F}').$$

*Proof.* We have the sequence of isomorphisms

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{D}\mathcal{F} \boxtimes_S \mathbb{D}\mathcal{F}' &= (g')^* (\mathbb{D}\mathcal{F}) \otimes (f')^* (\mathbb{D}\mathcal{F}')(-\frac{d}{2})[-d] \\ &= (g')^* \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}\left(\mathcal{F}, f^! \overline{\mathcal{Q}}_\ell(\frac{d}{2})[d]\right) \otimes f'^* (\mathbb{D}\mathcal{F}') \\ &\cong \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}((g')^* \mathcal{F}, (f')^! \overline{\mathcal{Q}}_\ell(\frac{d}{2})[d]) \otimes f'^* (\mathbb{D}\mathcal{F}') && \text{(Prop. 4)} \\ &\cong \underline{\mathrm{Hom}}((g')^* \mathcal{F}, (f')^! \mathbb{D}\mathcal{F}')(\frac{d}{2})[d] && \text{(Prop. 3)} \\ &\cong \mathbb{D}((g')^* \mathcal{F} \otimes (f')^* \mathcal{F}'(-\frac{d}{2})[-d]) && (1.4) \\ &= \mathbb{D}(\mathcal{F} \boxtimes_S \mathcal{F}') \end{aligned}$$

where we are applying Proposition 3 to  $(g')^* \mathcal{F}$ , which is ULA with respect to  $f' : Y' \rightarrow S'$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 6.** *In the diagram (3.3), assume that  $S$  is smooth. Let  $\mathcal{F} \in \mathrm{D}_c^b(Y), \mathcal{F}' \in \mathrm{D}_c^b(S')$  and assume that  $\mathcal{F}$  is ULA with respect to  $f : Y \rightarrow S$ . If  $\mathcal{F} \in {}^p\mathrm{D}^{\leq 0}(Y)$  and  $\mathcal{F}' \in {}^p\mathrm{D}^{\leq 0}(S')$ , then*

$$(6.1) \quad \mathcal{F} \boxtimes_S \mathcal{F}' = (g')^* \mathcal{F} \otimes (f')^* \mathcal{F}' \in {}^p\mathrm{D}^{\leq 0}(Y').$$

*Proof.* By taking open neighborhoods of  $S$  and  $S'$ , we may assume that  $g$  factors as  $S' \hookrightarrow \mathbb{A}^n \times S \xrightarrow{\mathrm{pr}_2} S$  where  $S' \hookrightarrow \mathbb{A}^n \times S$  is a closed embedding. Replacing  $\mathcal{F}$  and  $S$  with  $\mathrm{pr}_2^*(\mathcal{F})(\frac{n}{2})[n]$  and  $\mathbb{A}^n \times S$ , respectively, we reduce to the case when  $g$  is a closed embedding.

By decomposing  $\mathcal{F}'$  in the derived category with respect to a smooth stratification of  $S'$ , we may assume that  $g : S' \hookrightarrow S$  is a smooth locally closed embedding and  $\mathcal{F}'$  has lisse (usual) cohomology sheaves. If  $\dim(S') < \dim(S)$ , there exists an open  $U \subset S$  and a smooth function  $u : U \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^1$  such that  $U \cap S' \subset u^{-1}(0)$ . By induction on  $\dim(S)$ , we assume that (6.1) holds when  $*$ -restricted to  $S - U$ , so we can replace  $S$  with  $U$ . Then we have  $S' \hookrightarrow S_0 \xrightarrow{i} S$ , where

$S_0 = u^{-1}(0)$  is smooth of dimension  $\dim(S) - 1$  and  $i$  is a closed embedding. Now  $\mathcal{F}$  is ULA with respect to  $u \circ f : S \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^1$ , so the isomorphism (1.5) implies that we have a natural isomorphism

$$i'^* \mathcal{F}(-\tfrac{1}{2})[-1] \cong i'^! \mathcal{F}(\tfrac{1}{2})[1]$$

where  $i'$  is the base change of  $i$ . Since  $i'^*$  has cohomological amplitude  $[-1, 0]$  while  $i'^!$  has cohomological amplitude  $[0, 1]$  ([BBDG18, Corollaire 4.1.10]) we conclude that  $i'^* \mathcal{F}(-\frac{1}{2})[-1] \in {}^p\mathcal{D}^{\leq 0}(Y \times_S S_0)$ . Since  $g : S' \rightarrow S$  factors through  $S_0$ , we can replace  $S$  by  $S_0$  (without changing  $S'$ ). Continuing in this way, we reduce to the case where  $\dim(S') = \dim(S)$ . Now  $\mathcal{F}'$  has usual cohomology sheaves only in degrees  $\leq -\dim(S)$ , so (6.1) holds.  $\square$

Finally we present a proof of a result from [BG02].

**Lemma 7** ([BG02, Lemma 7.1.3]). *Consider a Cartesian diagram of finite type algebraic stacks*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Y' & \xrightarrow{f'} & S' \\ g' \downarrow & & \downarrow g \\ Y & \xrightarrow{f} & S \end{array}$$

where  $S$  is smooth. Let  $j : Y_0 \hookrightarrow Y$  be an open dense substack such that the map  $f \circ j : Y_0 \rightarrow S$  is smooth. In addition, assume that the complexes  $\mathrm{IC}_Y$  and  $j_!(\mathrm{IC}_{Y_0})$  are ULA with respect to the map  $f$ .

Denote the closure<sup>2</sup> of  $Y_0 \times_S S'$  in  $Y'$  by  $\overline{Y_0 \times_S S'}$ . Then there is a natural isomorphism

$$\mathrm{IC}_{\overline{Y_0 \times_S S'}} \cong \mathrm{IC}_{S'} \boxtimes_S \mathrm{IC}_Y := f'^*(\mathrm{IC}_{S'}) \otimes g'^*(\mathrm{IC}_Y)[- \dim S],$$

where the left hand side is implicitly extended by zero to  $Y'$ .

*Proof.* Let  $Y'_0 := Y_0 \times_S S'$  denote the open substack of  $Y' = Y \times_S S'$ . The uniqueness property of intermediate extensions implies that the lemma amounts to showing:

- (i) The  $*$ -restriction of  $\mathrm{IC}_Y \boxtimes_S \mathrm{IC}_{S'}$  to  $Y' - Y'_0$  lives in  ${}^p\mathcal{D}^{< 0}(Y' - Y'_0)$ .
- (ii) The  $!$ -restriction of  $\mathrm{IC}_Y \boxtimes_S \mathrm{IC}_{S'}$  to  $Y' - Y'_0$  lives in  ${}^p\mathcal{D}^{> 0}(Y' - Y'_0)$ .
- (iii)  $\mathrm{IC}_{Y_0} \boxtimes_S \mathrm{IC}_{S'} \cong \mathrm{IC}_{Y'_0}$ .

Assertion (iii) is immediate from smoothness of  $f \circ j : Y_0 \rightarrow S$ . The other assertions are local in the smooth topology, so we may assume that all stacks are reduced schemes. Corollary 5 implies that  $\mathrm{IC}_Y \boxtimes_S \mathrm{IC}_{S'}$  is Verdier self-dual, so it suffices to check the first assertion. Let  $i : Y - Y_0 \hookrightarrow Y$  denote the closed embedding complementary to  $j$  and let  $i' : Y' - Y'_0 \hookrightarrow Y'$  denote its base change. We have a distinguished triangle

$$j_!(\mathrm{IC}_{Y_0}) \rightarrow \mathrm{IC}_Y \rightarrow i_* i^*(\mathrm{IC}_Y).$$

Since  $j_!(\mathrm{IC}_{Y_0})$  and  $\mathrm{IC}_Y$  are both assumed to be ULA with respect to  $f$ , it follows that  $i_* i^*(\mathrm{IC}_Y)$  is also ULA with respect to  $f$ . On the other hand, by proper base change and projection formula, we have a natural isomorphism

$$i_* i^*(\mathrm{IC}_Y) \boxtimes_S \mathrm{IC}_{S'} \cong i'_* i'^*(\mathrm{IC}_Y \boxtimes_S \mathrm{IC}_{S'}),$$

so it suffices to show that the left hand side lives in strictly negative perverse cohomological degrees. By definition of  $\mathrm{IC}_Y$ , we know that  $i_* i^*(\mathrm{IC}_Y) \in {}^p\mathcal{D}^{< 0}(Y)$ . Therefore, assertion (i) follows from Lemma 6 with  $\mathcal{F} = i_* i^*(\mathrm{IC}_Y)(-\frac{1}{2})[-1]$  and  $\mathcal{F}' = \mathrm{IC}_{S'}$ .  $\square$

<sup>2</sup>In general it is possible for  $Y'$  to have more irreducible components than  $\overline{Y_0 \times_S S'}$ .

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