

COMPACTIFICATION OF REDUCTIVE GROUP SCHEMES

AYAN NATH

ABSTRACT. Let G be an isotrivial reductive group over S . We construct a smooth projective S -scheme containing G as a fiberwise-dense open subscheme equipped with left and right actions of G which extend the translation actions of G on itself. This verifies a conjecture of Česnavičius [Čes22]. When G is adjoint, we recover fiberwise the wonderful compactification. Finally, we give an example of a non-isotrivial torus admitting no equivariant compactification.

1. INTRODUCTION

A reductive group scheme G over a base scheme S is called *locally isotrivial* if each point $s \in S$ has a Zariski open neighborhood $U_s \hookrightarrow S$ admitting a finite étale cover $U'_s \rightarrow U_s$ such that $G \times_S U'_s$ is split. This is equivalent to local isotriviality of the central torus [SGA3, Exposé XXIV, Théorème 4.1.5]. A reductive group is called *isotrivial* if U_s can be chosen to be S .

Česnavičius conjectured that every isotrivial reductive group scheme G has a compactification equipped with a left action of G extending that of G on itself:

Conjecture 1.1 ([Čes22, Conjecture 6.2.3]). *For an isotrivial reductive group G over a Noetherian scheme S , there are a projective, finitely presented S -scheme \overline{G} equipped with a left G -action and a G -equivariant S -fiberwise dense open immersion*

$$G \hookrightarrow \overline{G}.$$

When G is an isotrivial torus, this is shown in [Čes22, §6.3]. Using a variant of the Artin–Weil method of birational group laws, [Li25] considers the case of adjoint G and obtains an equivariant compactification whose geometric fibers agree with classical wonderful compactifications. In this paper, we construct a smooth projective $G \times_S G$ -equivariant compactification for any isotrivial reductive group over an arbitrary base, thus verifying Conjecture 1.1:

Theorem 1.2. *Let G be an isotrivial reductive group scheme over a scheme S . Then there exists a smooth projective S -scheme \overline{G} containing G as a fiberwise-dense open subscheme equipped with a left and right action of G extending that on G given by left and right multiplication.*

When G is semisimple, we can do more:

Theorem 1.3. *Let G be a semisimple reductive group scheme over S . Then there exist projective S -schemes \overline{G} and \overline{G}_{ad} containing G and G_{ad} , respectively, as fiberwise-dense open subschemes, equipped with left and right actions of G and G_{ad} extending those on G and G_{ad} by themselves such that*

- *there is an equivariant morphism $\overline{G} \rightarrow \overline{G}_{\text{ad}}$ extending the central isogeny $G \rightarrow G_{\text{ad}}$ which is a normalization over each geometric point of S ,*
- *\overline{G}_{ad} is smooth and agrees with the de Concini–Procesi wonderful compactification over geometric points of S , and*

- its boundary $\overline{G}_{\text{ad}} \setminus G_{\text{ad}}$ is the union of S -smooth relative effective Cartier divisors with relative normal crossings¹.

All our constructions commute with base change on S . We also verify that our construction agrees with that of [Li25] for adjoint G (Proposition 4.5). In §5, we prove that Conjecture 1.1 is false without the isotriviality assumption by showing that the standard example of a non-isotrivial torus over the nodal rational curve [SGA3, Exposé X, §1.6] does not admit an equivariant compactification.

1.1. Acknowledgments. The author is grateful to Bjorn Poonen for many helpful discussions. The author also thanks Kęstutis Česnavičius for helpful email correspondence. This work was supported in part by Simons Foundation grant #402472 to Bjorn Poonen.

2. AFFINE MONOIDS

2.1. Vinberg monoids. Let G be a split reductive group scheme over a connected base S . Let T be an abstract Cartan. Define $G_+ := T \times_S^{\mathbb{Z}G} G$ and $T_{\text{ad}} := T/\mathbb{Z}G$. Choose a Borel $B \subset G$. Evaluating at the system of simple roots gives a canonical toric embedding $T_{\text{ad}} \hookrightarrow T_{\text{ad}}^+$ where T_{ad}^+ is an affine space over S of relative dimension equal to that of T_{ad} . Here, T_{ad}^+ is viewed as an S -monoid with unit group T_{ad} . Then there is a reductive monoid scheme V_G over S , called the *Vinberg monoid*, equipped with an abelianization homomorphism $\alpha: V_G \rightarrow T_{\text{ad}}^+$.

Let us briefly recall the construction of the Vinberg monoid given in [XZ19, §3.2]. The same works over \mathbb{Z} and hence for any split reductive group over an arbitrary base. Let us assume $S = \text{Spec } \mathbb{Z}$. Let $\mathbf{X}^\bullet(T_{\text{ad}})_{\text{pos}}$ be the submonoid of $\mathbf{X}^\bullet(T)$ generated by the simple roots. We equip $\mathbf{X}^\bullet(T)$ with the partial order \preceq defined by $\lambda \preceq \mu$ if $\mu - \lambda \in \mathbf{X}^\bullet(T_{\text{ad}})_{\text{pos}}$.

The coordinate ring $\mathbb{Z}[G]$ admits a canonical multi-filtration indexed by $\mathbf{X}^\bullet(T_{\text{ad}})_{\text{pos}}$ induced by the $G \times_S G$ action on $\mathbb{Z}[G]$ via left and right translation. For $\nu \in \mathbf{X}^\bullet(T_{\text{ad}})_{\text{pos}}$, let $\text{fil}_\nu \mathbb{Z}[G]$ be the \mathbb{Z} -submodule of matrix coefficients of representations V_λ with highest weight $\lambda \preceq \nu$. Explicitly, this is the saturated submodule such that for any weight space $V(\mu_1, \mu_2)$ under the $(G \times_S G)$ -action, non-vanishing implies $\mu_1 \preceq -w_0(\nu)$ and $\mu_2 \preceq \nu$.

The Vinberg monoid V_G is defined as the spectrum of the Rees algebra associated to this filtration:

$$V_G := \text{Spec} \left(\bigoplus_{\nu \in \mathbf{X}^\bullet(T_{\text{ad}})_{\text{pos}}} \text{fil}_\nu \mathbb{Z}[G] \right).$$

The abelianization homomorphism $\pi: V_G \rightarrow T_{\text{ad}}^+ := \text{Spec } \mathbb{Z}[\mathbf{X}^\bullet(T_{\text{ad}})_{\text{pos}}]$ is induced by the inclusion of the base ring $\mathbb{Z}[\mathbf{X}^\bullet(T_{\text{ad}})_{\text{pos}}]$ into the Rees algebra.

Theorem 2.1.1. *The monoid V_G fits into a Cartesian diagram*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G_+ & \hookrightarrow & V_G \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ T_{\text{ad}} & \hookrightarrow & T_{\text{ad}}^+ \end{array}$$

and

- G_+ is the unit group of V_G ,

¹Following [SGA1, Exposé XIII, §2.1], for an S -scheme X , we say that a relative Cartier divisor $D \subset X$ is *strictly with relative normal crossings* if there exists a finite family $(f_i \in \Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X))_{i \in I}$ such that (1) $D = \bigcup_{i \in I} V_X(f_i)$, and (2) for every $x \in \text{Supp}(D)$, X is smooth at x over S , and the closed subscheme $V((f_i)_{i \in I(x)}) \subset X$ is smooth over S of codimension $|I(x)|$, where $I(x) = \{i \in I \mid f_i(x) = 0\}$. The divisor D has *relative normal crossings* if étale locally on X it is strictly with relative normal crossings.

- the $\mathbf{T} \times_S \mathbf{G} \times_S \mathbf{G}$ action on \mathbf{G}_+ given by \mathbf{T} acting on the first component and \mathbf{G} acting on itself by left and right multiplication extends to an action on $V_{\mathbf{G}}$,
- \mathfrak{a} is faithfully flat.

Proof. See [XZ19, Proposition 3.2.2]. \square

2.2. Nondegenerate locus. Choose a Cartan subgroup $c: \mathbf{T} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{B}$. Let \mathbf{U}_+ be the unipotent radical of \mathbf{B} and \mathbf{U}_- be that of the opposite Borel.

Proposition 2.2.1. *There is a canonical section $\bar{\mathfrak{s}}: \mathbf{T}_{\text{ad}}^+ \rightarrow V_{\mathbf{G}}$ extending $\mathfrak{s}: t \mapsto (t, c(t)) \pmod{Z_{\mathbf{G}}}$ on respective unit groups.*

Proof. We identify \mathbf{T} with the image of c and assume $S = \text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}$. The restriction ring map $r: \mathbf{Z}[\mathbf{G}] \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}[\mathbf{T}]$ sends the filtered piece $\text{fil}_{\nu} \mathbf{Z}[\mathbf{G}]$ into the span of characters e^{λ} satisfying $\lambda \preceq \nu$. Here, e^{λ} denotes the character corresponding to λ .

We define a retraction $\phi: \mathbf{Z}[V_{\mathbf{G}}] \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}[\mathbf{T}_{\text{ad}}^+]$ by composing the restriction with the projection onto the trivial weight space. Explicitly, for a homogeneous element $f_{\nu} \in \text{fil}_{\nu} \mathbf{Z}[\mathbf{G}]$, we define

$$\phi(f_{\nu}) = (\text{coefficient of } e^0 \text{ in } r(f_{\nu})) \cdot e^{\nu}.$$

This map is well-defined: if the trivial character e^0 appears in the restriction of f_{ν} , then we must have $0 \preceq \nu$. This condition holds for all ν in the grading monoid $\mathbf{X}^{\bullet}(\mathbf{T}_{\text{ad}})_{\text{pos}}$ since it is generated by simple roots. Since ϕ maps the element $1 \cdot e^{\nu} \in \mathbf{Z}[V_{\mathbf{G}}]$ to $e^{\nu} \in \mathbf{Z}[\mathbf{T}_{\text{ad}}^+]$, it forms a section of the abelianization. Restricted to the unit group, the condition $\lambda = 0$ corresponds to the identity element of the fiber, matching the definition of \mathfrak{s} . \square

Proposition 2.2.2. *The multiplication map $m: \mathbf{U}_- \times_S \mathbf{T} \times_S \mathbf{T}_{\text{ad}}^+ \times_S \mathbf{U}_+ \rightarrow V_{\mathbf{G}}$ given by $(u_-, t, a, u_+) \mapsto u_- t \bar{\mathfrak{s}}(a) u_+$ is an open embedding.*

Proof. We assume $S = \text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}$. By [Vin95, Proposition 14], m is an open embedding over geometric points of S , hence in particular, fiberwise unramified. By fibral criteria for flatness, m is flat. Thus, m is an étale monomorphism and we conclude by [Stacks, Tag 025G]. \square

Lemma 2.2.3. *Let H be a flat group scheme locally of finite presentation over a scheme S acting on an S -scheme X . Let $U \subseteq X$ be an open subscheme. Then the saturation $H \cdot U$ of U is an H -stable open subscheme of X . If in addition*

- U is S -flat then so is $H \cdot U$,
- U is locally of finite presentation over S then so is $H \cdot U$,
- U is S -smooth then so is $H \cdot U$.

Proof. The H -saturation $H \cdot U$ is defined as the image of the composition

$$H \times_S U \hookrightarrow H \times_S X \xrightarrow{(h,x) \mapsto (h, h \cdot x)} H \times_S X \xrightarrow{(h,x) \mapsto x} X.$$

The middle map is an isomorphism and the last map is a projection. Since flat morphisms of locally finite presentation are universally open [Stacks, Tag 01UA], it follows that $H \cdot U$ is open. The induced map $H \times_S U \rightarrow H \cdot U$ is fppf. Since flatness and being locally of finite presentation are fppf local on source [Stacks, Tag 06ET, Tag 06EV], S -flatness of $H \cdot U$ is equivalent to that of $H \times_S U$ and the same is true for being locally of finite presentation. When U is smooth, we reduce to the case of S an algebraically closed point by [Stacks, Tag 01V8], in which case smoothness follows because translations of U cover $H \cdot U$. \square

The $\mathbf{G} \times_S \mathbf{G}$ -saturation of the image of m in Proposition 2.2.2 is called the *nondegenerate locus*, denoted $V_{\mathbf{G}}^{\circ}$. It is independent of the choice of Cartan subgroup, $\mathbf{T} \times_S \mathbf{G} \times_S \mathbf{G}$ -stable, and contains \mathbf{G}_+ by construction.

Corollary 2.2.4. $V_{\mathbf{G}}^{\circ}$ is smooth over S .

3. PROOF OF THEOREM 1.2

3.1. Preliminary reductions. Let \mathbf{G} be the split form of G . Fix a pinning of \mathbf{G} . This canonically determines a presentation of the automorphism group scheme $\mathrm{Aut}_{\mathbf{G}/S}$ as a semidirect product of \mathbf{G}_{ad} and $\mathrm{Out}_{\mathbf{G}/S}$ and hence a unique quasi-split inner form $\mathbf{G}_{\mathrm{q-ép}}$ of G endowed with a quasi-pinning¹ [SGA3, Exposé XXIV, Corollaire 3.12].

Since G is assumed to be isotrivial, the étale local \mathbf{G}_{ad} -torsor corresponding to $\mathbf{G}_{\mathrm{q-ép}}$ is isotrivial too. As finite étale morphisms satisfy effective descent for projective schemes, it suffices to prove the theorem for $\mathbf{G}_{\mathrm{q-ép}}$. Indeed, this essentially boils down to the fact that finite group quotients of projective schemes are representable by projective schemes.

Choose a finite étale Galois cover $S' \rightarrow S$ splitting $\mathbf{G}_{\mathrm{q-ép}}$ with Galois group Γ . The data of $\mathbf{G}_{\mathrm{q-ép}}$ is then equivalent to the data of a Γ -action on the $\mathbf{G}_{\mathrm{q-ép}} \times_S S'$. Thus, it suffices to find an equivariant compactification equipped an action of Γ extending that on $\mathbf{G}_{\mathrm{q-ép}} \times_S S'$. The quasi-pinning on $\mathbf{G}_{\mathrm{q-ép}}$ induces a pinning on $\mathbf{G}_{\mathrm{q-ép}} \times_S S'$. Note that Γ additionally acts on the pinning of $\mathbf{G}_{\mathrm{q-ép}} \times_S S'$.

From now, we replace our setup with a pinned reductive group $(\mathbf{G}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{T}, \{u_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \Delta})$ over S equipped with an action of a finite group Γ .

3.2. Cox-Vinberg hybrid. We perform the Cox-Vinberg construction introduced in [MT16, §6] in a Γ -equivariant fashion. As usual, let $\mathbf{X}_\bullet(\mathbf{T})$ be the coweight lattice, $\mathbf{X}_\bullet(\mathbf{T})_{\mathbb{Q}}^+$ the dominant chamber, and W the Weyl group. Of course, the dominant chamber is Γ -stable.

Lemma 3.2.1. *There exists a Γ -stable fan Σ which is a subdivision of the rational polyhedral set $\mathbf{X}_\bullet(\mathbf{T})_{\mathbb{Q}}^+$ such that $W\Sigma$, the W -saturation of Σ , is smooth and projective.*

Proof. Subdivide the Weyl chambers in $\mathbf{X}_\bullet(\mathbf{T})$ to obtain a projective fan Σ' . Now apply [CHS05, Théorème 1] to Σ' with $W \times \Gamma$ as the finite group acting on $\mathbf{X}_\bullet(\mathbf{T})$. This yields a new smooth projective $W \times \Gamma$ -stable fan Σ'' which is a subdivision of Σ' . Then take $\Sigma = \Sigma'' \cap \mathbf{X}_\bullet(\mathbf{T})_{\mathbb{Q}}^+$. \square

Remark 3.2.2. When \mathbf{G} is semisimple, we have the canonical choice of taking Σ to be the fan consisting of the single cone $\mathbf{X}_\bullet(\mathbf{T})_{\mathbb{Q}}^+$. Note that this fan does not depend on the choice of Galois cover $S' \rightarrow S$.

Choose primitive lattice generators $\beta = \{\beta_i\}_{i \in I}$ of all the rays in Σ . The finite group Γ stabilizes β and hence lifts to an action on the finite set I . The β_i 's induce monoid homomorphisms $\bar{\beta}_i: \mathbf{A}_S^1 \rightarrow \mathbf{T}_{\mathrm{ad}}^+$. Multiplying these, we get a monoid homomorphism $\mathbf{A}_S^I \rightarrow \mathbf{T}_{\mathrm{ad}}^+$. Define $V_{\mathbf{G}, \beta}$ so that the following square is Cartesian:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} V_{\mathbf{G}, \beta} & \longrightarrow & V_{\mathbf{G}} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \alpha \\ \mathbf{A}_S^I & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{T}_{\mathrm{ad}}^+ \end{array}$$

Then $V_{\mathbf{G}, \beta}$ is a Γ -equivariant reductive monoid scheme over S such that all diagrams in the above square are Γ -equivariant. Also, it has $\mathbf{G}_{\mathrm{m}, S}^I \times_S \mathbf{G}$ as its group of units. For any $\sigma \subseteq I$, let $U_\sigma := \{x \in \mathbf{A}_S^I : x_i \neq 0 \text{ if } i \notin \sigma\}$. Then let $\mathbf{A}_{S, \beta}^\sigma$ be the union of all U_α such that $\langle \beta_i : i \in \sigma \rangle$ is a cone in Σ . Define $V_{\mathbf{G}, \beta}^\sigma := \mathbf{A}_{S, \beta}^\sigma \times_{\mathbf{T}_{\mathrm{ad}}^+} V_{\mathbf{G}}^\sigma$. This is called the *nondegenerate locus* in [MT16].

¹A quasi-pinning is the data of a Killing pair (\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{T}) a section $s \in H^0(\mathrm{Dyn} \mathbf{G}_{\mathrm{q-ép}}, \mathfrak{g}^\mathfrak{D})^\times$ where $\mathrm{Dyn} \mathbf{G}_{\mathrm{q-ép}}$ is the scheme of Dynkin diagrams of $\mathbf{G}_{\mathrm{q-ép}}$ and $\mathfrak{g}^\mathfrak{D}$ is a certain line bundle on $\mathrm{Dyn} \mathbf{G}_{\mathrm{q-ép}}$. When $\mathbf{G}_{\mathrm{q-ép}}$ is split and Δ a system of simple roots, $\mathrm{Dyn} \mathbf{G}_{\mathrm{q-ép}} \simeq S \times \Delta$ and $\mathfrak{g}^\mathfrak{D}$ is the line bundle which restricts to the eigenspace \mathfrak{g}_α over $S \times \{\alpha\}$ for each $\alpha \in \Delta$. That is, the notion of quasi-pinning coincides with that of pinning for split reductive groups. See [SGA3, Exposé XXIV, §3.9] for more details.

3.3. Compactification as a GIT quotient. We apply geometric invariant theory developed over general bases in [Ses77]. As in [MT16, §8], we consider quotients $V_{\mathbf{G},\beta} //_{\rho} \mathbf{G}_{m,S}^I$ with respect to a suitable linearization ρ on the trivial line bundle. Note that the formation of such GIT quotients is compatible with arbitrary base change and in particular, passing to geometric fibers, by virtue of *linear* reductivity of tori. Semistable and stable loci are defined as open subschemes and their formation commutes with arbitrary base change essentially by construction [Ses77, §II]. In particular, one can use Hilbert-Mumford criterion along geometric fibers to identify stable and semistable geometric points. Therefore, the same argument as in the proof of [MT16, Theorem 8.1] works to show that there is a linearization ρ such that $V_{\mathbf{G},\beta}^{\circ}$ is the semistable (and stable) subscheme. As a result, the GIT quotient $\overline{\mathbf{G}} := V_{\mathbf{G},\beta} //_{\rho} \mathbf{G}_{m,S}^I$ contains \mathbf{G} as a fiberwise-dense open subscheme by virtue of compatibility with formation of this quotient and restricting to geometric points. It also acquires an action of Γ , being a geometric quotient of $V_{\mathbf{G},\beta}^{\circ}$ by $\mathbf{G}_{m,S}^I$.

Proposition 3.3.1. *$\overline{\mathbf{G}}$ is separated and finitely presented over S .*

Proof. Let \mathbf{G}_{Ch} be the Chevalley group scheme over $\text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}$ for \mathbf{G} . The same fan Σ as in Lemma 3.2.1 can be used to produce a compactification $\mathbf{G}_{\text{Ch}} \hookrightarrow \overline{\mathbf{G}_{\text{Ch}}}$ so that $\overline{\mathbf{G}} = \overline{\mathbf{G}_{\text{Ch}}} \times_{\mathbf{Z}} S$. Therefore, it suffices to check that $\overline{\mathbf{G}_{\text{Ch}}} \rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}$ is separated and finitely presented, which is readily true by standard properties of GIT as \mathbf{Z} is universally Japanese (c.f. [Ses77, §4]). \square

Proposition 3.3.2. *$\overline{\mathbf{G}}$ is S -smooth.*

Proof. Proposition 2.2.2 gives an open cell $m_{\beta}: \mathbf{U}_{-} \times_S \mathbf{T} \times_S \mathbf{A}_S^I \times_S \mathbf{U}_{+} \hookrightarrow V_{\mathbf{G},\beta}$ by base changing m . The $\mathbf{G} \times_S \mathbf{G}$ translates of m_{β} cover $V_{\mathbf{G},\beta}^{\circ}$ since the same is true for m and $V_{\mathbf{G}}^{\circ}$ by definition. This open embedding is equivariant for the obvious action of $\mathbf{G}_{m,S}^I$ on \mathbf{T} and \mathbf{A}_S^I . Passing to GIT quotients with the same linearization as before, we thus get an open embedding

$$\mathbf{U}_{-} \times_S \overline{\mathbf{T}} \times_S \mathbf{U}_{+} \hookrightarrow \overline{\mathbf{G}},$$

where $\overline{\mathbf{T}}$ is the toric scheme for \mathbf{T} corresponding to the fan Σ . This toric scheme can be constructed as $\mathbf{T} \times_S \mathbf{A}_S^I //_{\rho} \mathbf{G}_{m,S}^I$ with semistable (and stable) subscheme equal to $\mathbf{T} \times_S \mathbf{A}_{S,\beta}^{\circ}$ (see, for e.g., [CLS11, §5.1]). Since $W\Sigma$ is smooth by construction (Lemma 3.2.1), so is Σ . Therefore, $\overline{\mathbf{T}}$ is smooth. The desired result follows by Lemma 2.2.3 since the $\mathbf{G} \times_S \mathbf{G}$ -saturation of $\mathbf{U}_{-} \times_S \overline{\mathbf{T}} \times_S \mathbf{U}_{+}$ is $\overline{\mathbf{G}}$. \square

The proof of Proposition 3.3.2 also shows

Proposition 3.3.3. *There is an open cell*

$$\Omega: \mathbf{U}_{-} \times_S \overline{\mathbf{T}} \times_S \mathbf{U}_{+} \hookrightarrow \overline{\mathbf{G}}$$

whose $\mathbf{G} \times_S \mathbf{G}$ -saturation is $\overline{\mathbf{G}}$.

What remains is to check projectivity of $\overline{\mathbf{G}}$. In [MT16], properness is shown by realizing $\overline{\mathbf{G}}$ as the coarse space associated to a certain proper moduli stack of bundles. We resort to an alternative approach as we don't have a modular interpretation at hand.

Proposition 3.3.4. *$\overline{\mathbf{G}}$ is S -projective.*

Proof. As in the proof of Proposition 3.3.1, we may assume $S = \text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}$. Because $\overline{\mathbf{G}}$ is constructed as a GIT quotient, it suffices to check properness. We use valuative criterion for properness. For this, we may assume that S is the spectrum of a discrete valuation ring R with fraction field K . By [Rom13, Lemma 4.1.1], it is enough to check that any K -point $x_K \in \mathbf{G}(K)$ extends to an R -point of $\overline{\mathbf{G}}$. Using the Cartan decomposition of $\mathbf{G}(K)$, we can assume $x_K = \lambda(\pi) \in \mathbf{T}(K)$ for some dominant coweight λ and uniformizer π . Such a point induces an R -point of $\mathbf{T}_{\text{ad}}^{+}$ which in turn induces an R -point x_R of $V_{\mathbf{G}}^{\circ}$ by applying the canonical section $\bar{\mathfrak{s}}$ (c.f. §2.2). Base changing, we get a map $\mathbf{A}_S^I \times_{\mathbf{T}_{\text{ad}}^{+}} x_R \rightarrow V_{\mathbf{G},\beta}$ and choosing an arbitrary S -morphism of affine spaces $\mathbf{A}_S^I \rightarrow \mathbf{T}_{\text{ad}}^{+}$, not necessarily a section, we get a map

$x_R \rightarrow V_{\mathbf{G}, \beta}$. By construction, the generic point of x_R lies inside the unit group $\mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{m}, S}^I \times_S \mathbf{G}$ where its second component is x_K . Then the image of x_R along the GIT quotient morphism gives the desired point. \square

Remark 3.3.5. It is likely possible to obtain a complete combinatorial classification of all equivariant compactifications of an isotrivial reductive group scheme by following the methods of [MT16], but we do not pursue this here.

4. THE SEMISIMPLE CASE

We prove Theorem 1.3 in this section. Let \mathbf{G} be a semisimple reductive group scheme over S . By [SGA3, Exposé XXIV, Théorème 4.1.5], \mathbf{G} is locally isotrivial. This allows us to carry out the construction of §3 Zariski locally on S where we always choose Σ according to Remark 3.2.2. Since this choice is independent of the finite étale Galois covers, they glue to give $\overline{\mathbf{G}} \rightarrow S$. By [Vin95, Theorem 8] and compatibility of such GIT quotients with base change, geometric fibers of $\overline{\mathbf{G}}_{\text{ad}}$ are indeed classical wonderful compactifications of de Concini and Procesi. We have shown that $\overline{\mathbf{G}}_{\text{ad}}$ is smooth projective over S . There is a morphism $\overline{\mathbf{G}} \rightarrow \overline{\mathbf{G}}_{\text{ad}}$ coming from a natural map of Cox-Vinberg monoids, extending the central isogeny $\mathbf{G} \rightarrow \mathbf{G}_{\text{ad}}$. By [MT16, Lemma 9.2], $(\overline{\mathbf{G}})_s$ is the normalization of \mathbf{G}_s in $(\overline{\mathbf{G}}_{\text{ad}})_s$ for each geometric point $s \rightarrow S$. What remains is to prove the statement about the boundary.

Assumption 4.1. From now on, we assume \mathbf{G} is adjoint.

Proposition 4.2. $\overline{\mathbf{G}} \setminus \mathbf{G}$ is the union of S -smooth relative effective Cartier divisor with normal crossings.

Proof. By construction, the formation of $\overline{\mathbf{G}} \setminus \mathbf{G} \hookrightarrow \overline{\mathbf{G}}$ commutes with base change on S . Since smoothness, being a relative divisor, and having normal crossings are étale local on the base, we may assume that \mathbf{G} is split and $S = \text{Spec } \mathbf{Z}$. By Proposition 3.3.3, there is an open cell

$$\Omega: \mathbf{U}_- \times_S \overline{\mathbf{T}} \times_S \mathbf{U}_+ \hookrightarrow \overline{\mathbf{G}}$$

where the toric embedding $\mathbf{T} \hookrightarrow \overline{\mathbf{T}}$ looks like $\prod_{\alpha \in \Delta} \mathbf{G}_{\mathbf{m}, S} \hookrightarrow \prod_{\alpha \in \Delta} \mathbf{A}_S^1$. The complement $\overline{\mathbf{T}} \setminus \mathbf{T}$ is clearly an S -flat divisor, therefore by Lemma 2.2.3, so is the whole boundary $\overline{\mathbf{G}} \setminus \mathbf{G}$. By [Stacks, Tag 062Y] and the fact that translates of Ω cover $\overline{\mathbf{G}}$ when S is an algebraically closed point, it follows that $D := \overline{\mathbf{G}} \setminus \mathbf{G}$ is a relative effective Cartier divisor. Since \mathbf{G} is connected, irreducible components, say D_i , of this divisor are $\mathbf{G} \times_S \mathbf{G}$ -stable. Since Ω is dense in $\overline{\mathbf{G}}$, it intersects each D_i in a dense open subscheme, which implies that D_i is the $\mathbf{G} \times_S \mathbf{G}$ -saturation of the dense open $\Omega \cap D_i$ inside D_i . Hence, we obtain that D_i is S -smooth by Lemma 2.2.3. What remains is to check that $D = \sum_i D_i$ has relative normal crossings. We know that D_s has normal crossings for each geometric point $s \rightarrow S$ since translates of Ω_s cover $\overline{\mathbf{G}}_s$. The desired result now follows from Lemma 4.4. \square

Remark 4.3. In fact, we end up proving a bit more when \mathbf{G} is split: irreducible components of the boundary divisor are indexed by a set of system of simple roots Δ and $\mathbf{G} \times_S \mathbf{G}$ -stable subschemes of $\overline{\mathbf{G}} \setminus \mathbf{G}$ correspond to subsets of Δ .

Lemma 4.4. Let X be a smooth S -scheme equipped with a relative effective Cartier divisor D with S -smooth irreducible components. Assume that for each geometric point $s \in S$, D_s has normal crossings in X_s . Then D has relative normal crossings over S .

Proof. Let $x \in X$ be a point with image $s \in S$, and D_1, \dots, D_n the irreducible components of D passing through x . Choose an affine open neighborhood U of x such that $D_i \cap U$ is cut out by $f_i = 0$ for $f_i \in H^0(U, \mathcal{O}_X)$. The images of f_i in $\Omega_{X/S} \otimes \kappa(x)$ are linearly independent because $\Omega_{X/S} \otimes \kappa(x) \simeq \Omega_{X_s/s} \otimes \kappa(x)$ and the same is true in $\Omega_{X_{\overline{s}}/\overline{s}} \otimes \kappa(x)$ by assumption, where \overline{s} is an arbitrary geometric point lying over s . Let N be the rank of $\Omega_{X/S}$ at x . By Nakamaya and possibly shrinking U , extend these to a set of functions $\{f_1, \dots, f_n, f_{n+1}, \dots, f_N\}$ each of which vanish at x such that their differentials form a basis for the trivial

vector bundle $\Omega_{U/S}$. We thus obtain an *étale* S -morphism

$$f: U \xrightarrow{(f_1, \dots, f_N)} \mathbf{A}_S^N$$

such that $D \cap U$ is the preimage of the relative normal crossing divisor $x_1 x_2 \cdots x_n = 0$ in \mathbf{A}_S^N . \square

Proposition 4.5. \overline{G} agrees with the equivariant compactification \mathcal{X} of [Li25, Theorem 1].

Proof. Firstly, it suffices to check this for quasi-split G because our \overline{G} and the compactification \mathcal{X} of [Li25, Theorem 1] is obtained by first making the same constructions for split G and then performing the obvious inner twist. The construction for quasi-split G is basically the same as the construction for split G where everything is equipped with the action of a finite abstract group preserving a pinning. Thus, we reduce to the split case. By Proposition 3.3.3, we have an open cell $\Omega: U_- \times_S \overline{T} \times_S U_+ \hookrightarrow \overline{G}$ whose $G \times_S G$ -saturation is \overline{G} . The method of [Li25] starts by defining a *rational* $G \times_S G$ -action π on Ω [Li25, Theorem 3.4] and then defining \mathcal{X} as an appropriate fppf sheaf quotient of $G \times_S \Omega \times_S G$. Due to the uniqueness assertion of [Li25, Theorem 3.4], we reduce to checking that the rational S -morphism $G \times_S \Omega \times_S G \dashrightarrow \Omega$ induced by the action map $G \times_S \Omega \times_S G \rightarrow \overline{G}$ given by $(g_1, \omega, g_2) \mapsto g_1 \omega g_2$ satisfies the conditions of *loc. cit.*, but this is clear. \square

5. A TORUS ADMITTING NO EQUIVARIANT COMPACTIFICATION

Let k be an algebraically closed field. We recall the construction of [SGA3, Exposé X, §1.6]. Let S_1 be the Néron 1-gon, obtained by glueing sections 0 and ∞ of \mathbf{P}_k^1 . It can be realized as the nodal cubic curve $\text{Proj } k[x, y, z]/(y^2 z - x^3 + x^2 z)$ equipped with the normalization $\pi_1: \mathbf{P}_k^1 \rightarrow S_1$. Let S_∞ be the Néron ∞ -gon which comes equipped with a finite morphism $\pi_\infty: \mathbf{P}_k^1 \times \mathbf{Z} \rightarrow S_\infty$ which glues the ∞ -section of $\mathbf{P}_k^1 \times \{i\}$ with the 0-section of $\mathbf{P}_k^1 \times \{i+1\}$. There is an infinite connected étale Galois cover $S_\infty \rightarrow S_1$ with Galois group \mathbf{Z} which is covered by the trivial \mathbf{Z} -torsor $\mathbf{P}_k^1 \times \mathbf{Z} \rightarrow \mathbf{P}_k^1$ where k acts on the source via $j \cdot (x, i) = (x, i+j)$.

Define an action of \mathbf{Z} on the constant torus $\mathbf{G}_{m,k}^2 \times S_\infty$ by $1 \cdot (t, x) = (Mt, 1 \cdot x)$ where M is the *infinite* order automorphism of $\mathbf{G}_{m,k}^2$ given by $(t_1, t_2) \mapsto (t_1, t_1 t_2)$. By Galois descent, we thus obtain a rank 2 torus $T_{S_1} \rightarrow S_1$. Since T_{S_1} has infinite monodromy by construction, T_{S_1} is a quasi-isotrivial¹ torus that is not isotrivial. Alternatively, T_{S_1} can be constructed by taking the constant torus $\mathbf{G}_{m,k}^2 \times \mathbf{P}_k^1 \rightarrow \mathbf{P}_k^1$ and glueing the fibers over 0 and ∞ via the automorphism M .

Proposition 5.1. *There is no projective S_1 -scheme \overline{T}_{S_1} containing T_{S_1} as a fiberwise dense open subscheme such that the translation action of T_{S_1} on itself extends to \overline{T}_{S_1} .*

Assume the contrary that such a \overline{T}_{S_1} exists. First, replace \overline{T}_{S_1} by its reduction so that it's a genuine k -variety— we know that it is irreducible because it contains a torus as an open dense subvariety. Let X be the base change of \overline{T}_{S_1} along the normalization $\pi_1: \mathbf{P}_k^1 \rightarrow S_1$. Let $T := \mathbf{G}_{m,k}^2 \times_k \mathbf{P}_k^1$ be the open dense torus inside X .

Since X is irreducible, it must be flat over \mathbf{P}_k^1 . Set $T := \mathbf{G}_{m, \mathbf{P}_k^1}^2$. We use the following result of Brion:

Theorem 5.2 ([Bri15, Theorem 4.8]). *Let G be a split torus over a field k . Then every quasiprojective k -variety X equipped with an action of G admits a finite étale G -equivariant cover $f: Y \rightarrow X$, where Y is the union of open affine G -stable subvarieties.*

We may view X as a projective variety with $\mathbf{G}_{m,k}^2$ -action by identifying $T \times_{\mathbf{P}_k^1} X \simeq \mathbf{G}_{m,k}^2 \times_k X$ in the source of the action map. By applying Theorem 5.2, we get a $\mathbf{G}_{m,k}^2$ -equivariant finite étale cover $\pi: Y \rightarrow X$ such that Y is the union of open affine $\mathbf{G}_{m,k}^2$ -stable subvarieties.

¹This means it is split by an étale cover.

Lemma 5.3. $\pi: \pi^{-1}(T) \rightarrow T$ is a trivial cover.

Proof. Any finite étale cover of T comes from a finite étale cover $U \rightarrow \mathbf{G}_{m,k}^2$. Indeed, the projection $T \rightarrow \mathbf{G}_{m,k}^2$ is a \mathbf{P}_k^1 -bundle and hence induces an isomorphism on étale fundamental groups by the homotopy exact sequence. A connected finite étale cover $U \rightarrow \mathbf{G}_{m,k}^2$ must be an étale self-isogeny induced by a linear endomorphism of the character lattice. Equivariance forces such an isogeny to be an isomorphism. \square

Label the components of $\pi^{-1}(T)$ as T_1, T_2, \dots, T_n . Each of these are abstractly isomorphic to T and map down to $T \subset X$ via identity. The $\mathbf{G}_{m,k}^2$ -action on \bar{T}_i upgrades to a T_i -action extending the one on T_i by itself. The union $\bigcup_i T_i \subset Y$ is a \mathbf{P}_k^1 -fiberwise open-dense subscheme since the same is true for $T \subset X$. Denote by t a closed point of \mathbf{P}_k^1 . The fiber Y_t has irreducible components given by the (scheme-theoretic) closures of $(T_1)_t, (T_2)_t, \dots, (T_n)_t$. In particular, each fiber of Y has n irreducible components. Every closure \bar{T}_i , $1 \leq i \leq n$, is faithfully flat over \mathbf{P}_k^1 and hence has fibers of pure dimension 2. Therefore, each $(\bar{T}_i)_t$ is the union of closures of a nonempty subset of $\{(T_1)_t, (T_2)_t, \dots, (T_n)_t\}$. For $i \neq j$, $(\bar{T}_i)_t$ and $(\bar{T}_j)_t$ cannot have an irreducible component in common, say the closure of $(T_h)_t$, because Y_t is generically reduced. Alternatively, if ξ is the generic point of $(T_h)_t$, the local ring $\mathcal{O}_{Y,\xi} \simeq \mathcal{O}_{T_h,\xi}$ is a DVR and hence cannot contain more than one minimal prime. We thus obtain:

Proposition 5.4. *Every \bar{T}_i is a flat projective variety over \mathbf{P}_k^1 containing the split torus T_i as a fiberwise dense open subvariety such that the action of T_i on itself extends to \bar{T}_i in a way that \bar{T}_i can be covered by $\mathbf{G}_{m,k}^2$ -stable open affine subvarieties. Furthermore, there is an isomorphism between the normalizations of the 0-fiber and ∞ -fiber of \bar{T}_i restricting to $(x, y) \mapsto (x, xy)$ on $\mathbf{G}_{m,k}^2$.*

Proof. The first part is clear from the previous discussion. For the second part, note that there is a finite birational morphism $(\bar{T}_i)_t \rightarrow X_t$ because it restricts to identity on the toral part and hence induces an isomorphism on normalizations by Zariski's main theorem. \square

Set $W := \bar{T}_1$ and rename T_1 as T for ease of notation. Denote $W \rightarrow \mathbf{P}_k^1$ by f . Let $U \subset W$ be a nonempty $\mathbf{G}_{m,k}^2$ -stable open affine subvariety. Then $V := f(U)$ is a nonempty open subvariety of \mathbf{P}_k^1 . Of course, U is \mathbf{P}_k^1 -fiberwise open and hence intersects $T_V = \mathbf{G}_{m,V}^2$ fiberwise. Due to $\mathbf{G}_{m,k}^2$ -invariance, U must contain whole of T_V . The $\mathbf{G}_{m,k}^2$ -action on U can be upgraded to an action of T_V . Therefore,

Proposition 5.5. *Let $\underline{x}: \text{Spec } \mathcal{O}_{\mathbf{P}_k^1, x} \rightarrow \mathbf{P}_k^1$ be the local scheme at a closed point $x \in \mathbf{P}_k^1$. Then $W_{\underline{x}}$ can be covered by $T_{\underline{x}}$ -stable affine open neighborhoods of $T_{\underline{x}} \subset W_{\underline{x}}$.*

Lemma 5.6. *Let X be an integral affine scheme over a discrete valuation ring R which contains a split R -torus T as a fiberwise dense open subscheme such that the action of T on itself extends to X . Then the fibers of the normalization \tilde{X} as an R -scheme are irreducible and normal.*

Proof. Let M be the character lattice of T . Such an affine toric scheme X is given by a graded sub- R -algebra A of the M -graded group ring $R[M]$, which in turn is equivalent to the data of a finitely generated submonoid Q of M which generates M as a group. The last bit ensures that X contains $\mathbf{G}_{m,R}^n$ as an open dense subscheme. The normalization of A then corresponds to the saturation monoid \tilde{Q} of Q defined as $\{a \in M: na \in Q \text{ for some } n \in \mathbf{Z}\}$. The special fiber of \tilde{X} is then the spectrum of the monoid ring $k[\tilde{Q}]$, where k is the residue field of R . Since $k[\tilde{Q}]$ is a subring of the integral domain $k[M]$, it follows that the special fiber of \tilde{X} is irreducible. Since \tilde{Q} is saturated, $k[\tilde{Q}]$ is also integrally closed. \square

Let $\widetilde{W}_{\underline{x}} \rightarrow W_{\underline{x}}$ be the normalization. By Proposition 5.5 and Lemma 5.6, it follows that $\widetilde{W}_{\underline{x}}$ is a flat projective normal $T_{\underline{x}}$ -toric scheme over $R := k[t]_{(t)}$ with irreducible normal fibers. Consider \widetilde{W}_0 and \widetilde{W}_{∞} . The generic fibers of these are identified and there is an isomorphism between their special fibers which restricts to $(x, y) \mapsto (x, xy)$ on respective toral parts. By the theory of normal toric schemes over DVRs [Kem+73, item e) at p. 192], these are classified by two complete rational polyhedral fans Σ_1 and Σ_2 in

$\mathbf{R}^2 \times \mathbf{R}_{\geq 0}$, respectively. Let $\pi: \mathbf{R}^2 \times \mathbf{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^2$ be the natural projection where we often view the target as sitting inside $\mathbf{R}^2 \times \mathbf{R}_{\geq 0}$ as $\mathbf{R}^2 \times \{0\}$. We recall the following two facts:

- By [Kem+73, item e') at p. 192], the recession fan of Σ_i , defined as the image of $\Sigma_i \cap (\mathbf{R}^2 \times \{0\})$ along π , classify the respective generic fibers, and are therefore equal, to say Σ_∂ .
- There is an embedding of fans $\{0\} \times \mathbf{R}_{\geq 0} \hookrightarrow \Sigma_i$ corresponding to the open embedding of toric schemes $\mathbf{G}_{m,R}^2 \hookrightarrow \widetilde{W}_0$ and $\mathbf{G}_{m,R}^2 \hookrightarrow \widetilde{W}_\infty$. Indeed, the toric scheme $\mathbf{G}_{m,R}^2 \rightarrow \text{Spec } R$ is classified by the cone $\{0\} \times \mathbf{R}_{\geq 0}$. Therefore, the components of the special fiber containing $\mathbf{G}_{m,k}^2$ are classified by the (complete) fan $\Delta_i := \{\pi(\sigma): \sigma \in \Sigma_i, \{0\} \times \mathbf{R}_{\geq 0} \subseteq \sigma\}$ as a toric variety. Furthermore, there is a one-to-one correspondence between irreducible components of the special fiber and vertices of the polyhedral complex $\Sigma_i \cap (\mathbf{R}^2 \times \{1\})$ (c.f. [Wal13, Proposition 7.15] or [BPS18, Remark 3.5.9]).

We thus conclude that every ray in Σ_i not equal to $\{0\} \times \mathbf{R}_{\geq 0}$ must be contained in the boundary $\mathbf{R}^2 \times \{0\}$. That is, \widetilde{W}_x is a constant family— the base change of a normal toric variety over k . Now, the fact that there is an isomorphism between the special fibers of \widetilde{W}_0 and \widetilde{W}_∞ extending $(x, y) \mapsto (x, xy)$ on the toral part corresponds to the fact that $A(\Delta_1) = \Delta_2$ where $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$. However, $\Delta_1 = \Sigma_\partial = \Delta_2$. Thus, Σ_∂ is a complete fan in \mathbf{R}^2 which is stable under the automorphism A . There must exist a ray $\ell \in \Sigma_\partial$ which is not contained in the x -axis for otherwise it wouldn't be complete. Then $\{A^n \ell: n \in \mathbf{Z}\}$ is an infinite set. This contradicts the finiteness of Σ_∂ . The proof is complete.

REFERENCES

- [BPS18] J. I. Burgos Gil, P. Philippon, and M. Sombra, *Arithmetic Geometry of Toric Varieties. Metrics, Measures and Heights*, Astérisque (Nov. 6, 2018).
- [Bri15] M. Brion, *On linearization of line bundles*, J. Math. Sci. Univ. Tokyo 22 1 (2015).
- [Čes22] K. Česnavičius, *Problems About Torsors over Regular Rings*, Acta Mathematica Vietnamica 47 (2022).
- [CHS05] J.-L. Colliot-Thélène, D. Harari, and A. N. Skorobogatov, *Compactification équivariante d'un tore (d'après Brylinski et Künnemann)*, Expositiones Mathematicae 23 2 (2005).
- [CLS11] D. A. Cox, J. B. Little, and H. K. Schenck, *Toric Varieties*, vol. 124, Graduate Studies in Mathematics, Providence, RI: American Mathematical Society, 2011.
- [Kem+73] G. Kempf et al., *Further Applications*, in: *Toroidal Embeddings I*, Berlin, Heidelberg: Springer Berlin Heidelberg, 1973.
- [Li25] S. Li, *An Equivariant Compactification for Adjoint Reductive Group Schemes*, arXiv:2308.01715 (June 2025).
- [MT16] J. Martens and M. Thaddeus, *Compactifications of reductive groups as moduli stacks of bundles*, Compositio Mathematica 152 1 (2016).
- [Rom13] M. Romagny, “Models of Curves”, in: *Arithmetic and Geometry around Galois Theory*, ed. by P. Dèbes et al., Basel: Springer Basel, 2013.
- [Ses77] C. S. Seshadri, *Geometric reductivity over arbitrary bases*, Advances in Mathematics 26 3 (1977).
- [SGA1] A. Grothendieck and M. Raynaud, eds., *Revêtements étales et groupe fondamental (SGA 1)*, Documents Mathématiques (Paris), Séminaire de géométrie algébrique du Bois Marie 1960–61, Paris: Société Mathématique de France, 2003.
- [SGA3] M. Demazure and A. Grothendieck, *Schémas en groupes (SGA 3)*, vol. 151, 152, 153, Lecture Notes in Mathematics, Séminaire de Géométrie Algébrique du Bois Marie 1962/64, New York: Springer-Verlag, 1970.
- [Stacks] The Stacks Project Authors, *The Stacks Project*, <https://stacks.math.columbia.edu>, 2025.
- [Vin95] E. B. Vinberg, *On reductive algebraic semigroups*, in: *Lie Groups and Lie Algebras: E. B. Dynkin's Seminar*, vol. 169, American Mathematical Society Translations: Series 2, Providence, RI: American Mathematical Society, 1995.
- [Wal13] G. Walter, *A Guide to Tropicalizations*, Contemporary Mathematics (May 2013).
- [XZ19] L. Xiao and X. Zhu, *On Vector-Valued Twisted Conjugate Invariant Functions on a Group*, Jan. 15, 2019, URL: <http://arxiv.org/abs/1802.05299>.

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, CAMBRIDGE, MA, USA

Email address: ayannath@mit.edu