1. Introduction

The material in this chapter and more can be found in the preprint [BS13].

The goal of this chapter is to introduce the pro-étale topology and show how it simplifies the introduction of \( \ell \)-adic cohomology in algebraic geometry.

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A brief overview of the history of this material as we have understood it. In [Gro77, Exposés V and VI] Grothendieck et al developed a theory for dealing with \( \ell \)-adic sheaves as inverse systems of sheaves of \( \mathbb{Z}/\ell^n\mathbb{Z} \)-modules. In his second paper on the Weil conjectures ([Del74]) Deligne introduced a derived category of \( \ell \)-adic sheaves as a certain 2-limit of categories of complexes of sheaves of \( \mathbb{Z}/\ell^n\mathbb{Z} \)-modules on the étale site of a scheme \( X \). This approach is used in the paper by Beilinson, Bernstein, and Deligne ([BBD82]) as the basis for their beautiful theory of perverse sheaves. In a paper entitled “Continuous Étale Cohomology” ([Jan88]) Uwe Jannsen discusses an important variant of the cohomology of a \( \ell \)-adic sheaf on a variety over a field. His paper is followed up by a paper of Torsten Ekedahl ([Eke90]) who discusses the adic formalism needed to work comfortably with derived categories defined as limits.

The goal of this chapter is to show that, if we work with the pro-étale site of a scheme, then one can avoid some of the technicalities these authors encountered. This comes at the expense of having to work with non-Noetherian schemes, even when one is only interested in working with \( \ell \)-adic sheaves and cohomology of such on varieties over an algebraically closed field.

2. Some topology

Some preliminaries. We have defined spectral spaces and spectral maps of spectral spaces in Topology, Section 23. The spectrum of a ring is a spectral space, see Algebra, Lemma 25.2.

Lemma 2.1. Let \( X \) be a spectral space. Let \( X_0 \subset X \) be the set of closed points. The following are equivalent

1. Every open covering of \( X \) can be refined by a finite disjoint union decomposition \( X = \bigsqcup U_i \) with \( U_i \) open and closed in \( X \).

2. The composition \( X_0 \rightarrow X \rightarrow \pi_0(X) \) is bijective.

Moreover, if \( X_0 \) is closed in \( X \) and every point of \( X \) specializes to a unique point of \( X_0 \), then these conditions are satisfied.

Proof. We will use without further mention that \( X_0 \) is quasi-compact (Topology, Lemma 12.9) and \( \pi_0(X) \) is profinite (Topology, Lemma 23.8). Picture

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
X_0 & \rightarrow & X \\
\downarrow f & & \downarrow \pi \\
\pi_0(X) & \rightarrow & 
\end{array}
\]

If (2) holds, the continuous bijective map \( f : X_0 \rightarrow \pi_0(X) \) is a homeomorphism by Topology, Lemma 17.8. Given an open covering \( X = \bigcup U_i \), we get an open covering \( \pi_0(X) = \bigcup f(X_0 \cap U_i) \). By Topology, Lemma 22.4 we can find a finite open covering of the form \( \pi_0(X) = \bigsqcup V_j \) which refines this covering. Since \( X_0 \rightarrow \pi_0(X) \) is bijective each connected component of \( X \) has a unique closed point, whence is equal to the set of points specializing to this closed point. Hence \( \pi^{-1}(V_j) \) is the set of points specializing to the points of \( f^{-1}(V_j) \). Now, if \( f^{-1}(V_j) \subset X_0 \cap U_i \subset U_i \), then it follows that \( \pi^{-1}(V_j) \subset U_i \) (because the open set \( U_i \) is closed under generalizations). In this way we see that the open covering \( X = \bigsqcup \pi^{-1}(V_j) \) refines the covering we started out with. In this way we see that (2) implies (1).
Assume (1). Let $x,y \in X$ be closed points. Then we have the open covering $X = (X \setminus \{x\}) \cup (X \setminus \{y\})$. It follows from (1) that there exists a disjoint union decomposition $X = U \cup V$ with $U$ and $V$ open (and closed) and $x \in U$ and $y \in V$. In particular we see that every connected component of $X$ has at most one closed point. By Topology, Lemma 12.8 every connected component (being closed) also does have a closed point. Thus $X_0 \to \pi_0(X)$ is bijective. In this way we see that (1) implies (2).

Assume $X_0$ is closed in $X$ and every point specializes to a unique point of $X_0$. Then $X_0$ is a spectral space (Topology, Lemma 23.4) consisting of closed points, hence profinite (Topology, Lemma 23.7). Let $x,y \in X_0$ be distinct. By Topology, Lemma 22.4 we can find a disjoint union decomposition $X_0 = U_0 \cup V_0$ with $U_0$ and $V_0$ open and closed and $x \in U_0$ and $y \in V_0$. Let $U \subset X$, resp. $V \subset X$ be the set of points specializing to $U_0$, resp. $V_0$. Observe that $X = U \cup V$. By Topology, Lemma 24.7 we see that $U$ is an intersection of quasi-compact open subsets. Hence $U$ is closed in the constructible topology. Since $U$ is closed under specialization, we see that $U$ is closed by Topology, Lemma 23.5. By symmetry $V$ is closed and hence $U$ and $V$ are both open and closed. This proves that $x,y$ are not in the same connected component of $X$. In other words, $X_0 \to \pi_0(X)$ is injective. The map is also surjective by Topology, Lemma 12.8 and the fact that connected components are closed. In this way we see that the final condition implies (2).

\[\square\]

**Example 2.2.** Let $T$ be a profinite space. Let $t \in T$ be a point and assume that $T \setminus \{t\}$ is not quasi-compact. Let $X = T \times \{0,1\}$. Consider the topology on $X$ with a subbase given by the sets $U \times \{0,1\}$ for $U \subset T$ open, $X \setminus \{(t,0)\}$, and $U \times \{1\}$ for $U \subset T$ open with $t \notin U$. The set of closed points of $X$ is $X_0 = T \times \{0\}$ and $(t,1)$ is in the closure of $X_0$. Moreover, $X_0 \to \pi_0(X)$ is a bijection. This example shows that conditions (1) and (2) of Lemma 2.1 do no imply the set of closed points is closed.

It turns out it is more convenient to work with spectral spaces which have the slightly stronger property mentioned in the final statement of Lemma 2.1. We give this property a name.

**Definition 2.3.** A spectral space $X$ is \emph{w-local} if the set of closed points $X_0$ is closed and every point of $X$ specializes to a unique closed point. A continuous map $f : X \to Y$ of w-local spaces is \emph{w-local} if it is spectral and maps any closed point of $X$ to a closed point of $Y$.

We have seen in the proof of Lemma 2.1 that in this case $X_0 \to \pi_0(X)$ is a homeomorphism and that $X_0 \cong \pi_0(X)$ is a profinite space. Moreover, a connected component of $X$ is exactly the set of points specializing to a given $x \in X_0$.

**Lemma 2.4.** Let $X$ be a w-local spectral space. If $Y \subset X$ is closed, then $Y$ is w-local.

**Proof.** The subset $Y_0 \subset Y$ of closed points is closed because $Y_0 = X_0 \cap Y$. Since $X$ is w-local, every $y \in Y$ specializes to a unique point of $X_0$. This specialization is in $Y$, and hence also in $Y_0$, because $\{y\} \subset Y$. In conclusion, $Y$ is w-local. \[\square\]
Lemma 2.5. Let $X$ be a spectral space. Let

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
Y & \rightarrow & T \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
X & \rightarrow & \pi_0(X)
\end{array}
$$

be a cartesian diagram in the category of topological spaces with $T$ profinite. Then $Y$ is spectral and $T = \pi_0(Y)$. If moreover $X$ is $w$-local, then $Y$ is $w$-local, $Y \rightarrow X$ is $w$-local, and the set of closed points of $Y$ is the inverse image of the set of closed points of $X$.

**Proof.** Note that $Y$ is a closed subspace of $X \times T$ as $\pi_0(X)$ is a profinite space hence Hausdorff (use Topology, Lemmas 23.8 and 3.4). Since $X \times T$ is spectral (Topology, Lemma 23.9) it follows that $Y$ is spectral (Topology, Lemma 23.4). Let $Y \rightarrow \pi_0(Y) \rightarrow T$ be the canonical factorization (Topology, Lemma 7.8). It is clear that $\pi_0(Y) \rightarrow T$ is surjective. The fibres of $Y \rightarrow T$ are homeomorphic to the fibres of $X \rightarrow \pi_0(X)$. Hence these fibres are connected. It follows that $\pi_0(Y) \rightarrow T$ is injective. We conclude that $\pi_0(Y) \rightarrow T$ is a homeomorphism by Topology, Lemma 17.8.

Next, assume that $X$ is $w$-local and let $X_0 \subset X$ be the set of closed points. The inverse image $Y_0 \subset Y$ of $X_0$ in $Y$ maps bijectively onto $T$ as $X_0 \rightarrow \pi_0(X)$ is a bijection by Lemma 2.1. Moreover, $Y_0$ is quasi-compact as a closed subset of the spectral space $Y$. Hence $Y_0 \rightarrow \pi_0(Y) = T$ is a homeomorphism by Topology, Lemma 17.8. It follows that all points of $Y_0$ are closed in $Y$. Conversely, if $y \in Y$ is a closed point, then it is closed in the fibre of $Y \rightarrow \pi_0(Y) = T$ and hence its image $x$ in $X$ is closed in the (homeomorphic) fibre of $X \rightarrow \pi_0(X)$. This implies $x \in X_0$ and hence $y \in Y_0$. Thus $Y_0$ is the collection of closed points of $Y$ and for each $y \in Y_0$ the set of generalizations of $y$ is the fibre of $Y \rightarrow \pi_0(Y)$. The lemma follows. □

3. Local isomorphisms

**Definition 3.1.** Let $\varphi : A \rightarrow B$ be a ring map.

1. We say $A \rightarrow B$ is a local isomorphism if for every prime $q \subset B$ there exists a $g \in B$, $g \not\in q$ such that $A \rightarrow B_g$ induces an open immersion $\text{Spec}(B_g) \rightarrow \text{Spec}(A)$.
2. We say $A \rightarrow B$ identifies local rings if for every prime $q \subset B$ the canonical map $A_{\varphi^{-1}(q)} \rightarrow B_q$ is an isomorphism.

We list some elementary properties.

**Lemma 3.2.** Let $A \rightarrow B$ and $A \rightarrow A'$ be ring maps. Let $B' = B \otimes_A A'$ be the base change of $B$.

1. If $A \rightarrow B$ is a local isomorphism, then $A' \rightarrow B'$ is a local isomorphism.
2. If $A \rightarrow B$ identifies local rings, then $A' \rightarrow B'$ identifies local rings.

**Proof.** Omitted. □

**Lemma 3.3.** Let $A \rightarrow B$ and $B \rightarrow C$ be ring maps.
(1) If $A \to B$ and $B \to C$ are local isomorphisms, then $A \to C$ is a local isomorphism.

(2) If $A \to B$ and $B \to C$ identify local rings, then $A \to C$ identifies local rings.

Proof. Omitted. □

**Lemma 3.4.** Let $A$ be a ring. Let $B \to C$ be an $A$-algebra homomorphism.

(1) If $A \to B$ and $A \to C$ are local isomorphisms, then $B \to C$ is a local isomorphism.

(2) If $A \to B$ and $A \to C$ identify local rings, then $B \to C$ identifies local rings.

Proof. Omitted. □

**Lemma 3.5.** Let $A \to B$ be a local isomorphism. Then

(1) $A \to B$ is étale,

(2) $A \to B$ identifies local rings,

(3) $A \to B$ is quasi-finite.

Proof. Omitted. □

**Lemma 3.6.** Let $A \to B$ be a local isomorphism. Then there exist $n \geq 0$, $g_1, \ldots, g_n \in B$, $f_1, \ldots, f_n \in A$ such that $(g_1, \ldots, g_n) = B$ and $A_{f_i} \cong B_{g_i}$.

Proof. Omitted. □

**Lemma 3.7.** Let $p : (Y, \mathcal{O}_Y) \to (X, \mathcal{O}_X)$ and $q : (Z, \mathcal{O}_Z) \to (X, \mathcal{O}_X)$ be morphisms of locally ringed spaces. If $\mathcal{O}_Y = p^{-1}\mathcal{O}_X$, then

$$\text{Mor}_{\text{LRS}/(X, \mathcal{O}_X)}((Z, \mathcal{O}_Z), (Y, \mathcal{O}_Y)) \to \text{Mor}_{\text{Top}/X}(Z, Y), \quad (f, f^\sharp) \mapsto f$$

is bijective. Here $\text{LRS}/(X, \mathcal{O}_X)$ is the category of locally ringed spaces over $X$ and $\text{Top}/X$ is the category of topological spaces over $X$.

Proof. This is immediate from the definitions. □

**Lemma 3.8.** Let $A$ be a ring. Set $X = \text{Spec}(A)$. The functor

$$B \mapsto \text{Spec}(B)$$

from the category of $A$-algebras $B$ such that $A \to B$ identifies local rings to the category of topological spaces over $X$ is fully faithful.

Proof. This follows from Lemma 3.4 and the fact that if $A \to B$ identifies local rings, then the pullback of the structure sheaf of $\text{Spec}(A)$ via $p : \text{Spec}(B) \to \text{Spec}(A)$ is equal to the structure sheaf of $\text{Spec}(B)$. □

4. Ind-Zariski algebra

We start with a definition; please see Remark 6.9 for a comparison with the corresponding definition of the article [BS13].

**Definition 4.1.** A ring map $A \to B$ is said to be ind-Zariski if $B$ can be written as a filtered colimit $B = \text{colim} B_i$ with each $A \to B_i$ a local isomorphism.

An example of an Ind-Zariski map is a localization $A \to S^{-1}A$, see Algebra, Lemma 9.9. The category of ind-Zariski algebras is closed under several natural operations.
Lemma 4.2. Let $A \to B$ and $A \to A'$ be ring maps. Let $B' = B \otimes_A A'$ be the base change of $B$. If $A \to B$ is ind-Zariski, then $A' \to B'$ is ind-Zariski.

Proof. Omitted. □

Lemma 4.3. Let $A \to B$ and $B \to C$ be ring maps. If $A \to B$ and $B \to C$ are ind-Zariski, then $A \to C$ is ind-Zariski.

Proof. Omitted. □

Lemma 4.4. Let $A$ be a ring. Let $B \to C$ be an $A$-algebra homomorphism. If $A \to B$ and $A \to C$ are ind-Zariski, then $B \to C$ is ind-Zariski.

Proof. Omitted. □

Lemma 4.5. A filtered colimit of ind-Zariski $A$-algebras is ind-Zariski over $A$.

Proof. Omitted. □

Lemma 4.6. Let $A \to B$ be ind-Zariski. Then $A \to B$ identifies local rings.

Proof. Omitted. □

5. Constructing w-local affine schemes

An affine scheme $X$ is called w-local if its underlying topological space is w-local (Definition 2.3). It turns out given any ring $A$ there is a canonical faithfully flat ind-Zariski ring map $A \to A_w$ such that $\text{Spec}(A_w)$ is w-local. The key to constructing $A_w$ is the following simple lemma.

Lemma 5.1. Let $A$ be a ring. Set $X = \text{Spec}(A)$. Let $Z \subset X$ be a locally closed subscheme which is of the form $D(f) \cap V(I)$ for some $f \in A$ and ideal $I \subset A$. Then

1. there exists a multiplicative subset $S \subset A$ such that $\text{Spec}(S^{-1}A)$ maps by a homeomorphism to the set of points of $X$ specializing to $Z$,
2. the $A$-algebra $A_Z = S^{-1}A$ depends only on the underlying locally closed subset $Z \subset X$,
3. $Z$ is a closed subscheme of $\text{Spec}(A_Z)$,

If $A \to A'$ is a ring map and $Z' \subset X' = \text{Spec}(A')$ is a locally closed subscheme of the same form which maps into $Z$, then there is a unique $A$-algebra map $A_Z \to (A')_{Z'}$.

Proof. Let $S \subset A$ be the multiplicative set of elements which map to invertible elements of $\Gamma(Z, O_Z) = (A/I)_f$. If $p$ is a prime of $A$ which does not specialize to $Z$, then $p$ generates the unit ideal in $(A/I)_f$. Hence we can write $f^n = g + h$ for some $n \geq 0$, $g \in p$, $h \in I$. Then $g \in S$ and we see that $p$ is not in the spectrum of $S^{-1}A$. Conversely, if $p$ does specialize to $Z$, say $p \subset q \supset I$ with $f \notin q$, then we see that $S^{-1}A$ maps to $A_q$ and hence $p$ is in the spectrum of $S^{-1}A$. This proves (1).

The isomorphism class of the localization $S^{-1}A$ depends only on the corresponding subset $\text{Spec}(S^{-1}A) \subset \text{Spec}(A)$, whence (2) holds. By construction $S^{-1}A$ maps surjectively onto $(A/I)_f$, hence (3). The final statement follows as the multiplicative subset $Z' \subset A'$ corresponding to $Z'$ contains the image of the multiplicative subset $S$. □
Let $A$ be a ring. Let $E \subset A$ be a finite subset. We get a stratification of $X = \text{Spec}(A)$ into locally closed subschemes by looking at the vanishing behaviour of the elements of $E$. More precisely, given a disjoint union decomposition $E = E' \amalg E''$ we set

\[ (5.1.1) \quad Z(E', E'') = \bigcap_{f \in E'} D(f) \cap \bigcap_{f \in E''} V(f) = D(\prod_{f \in E'} f) \cap V(\sum_{f \in E''} fA) \]

The points of $Z(E', E'')$ are exactly those $x \in X$ such that $f \in E'$ maps to a nonzero element in $\kappa(x)$ and $f \in E''$ maps to zero in $\kappa(x)$. Thus it is clear that

\[ (5.2.1) \quad A_E = \prod_{E = E' \amalg E''} A_{Z(E', E'')} \]

with notation as in Lemma 5.1. This makes sense because $(5.1.1)$ shows that each $Z(E', E'')$ has the correct shape. We take the spectrum of this ring and denote it

\[ (5.2.2) \quad X_E = \text{Spec}(A_E) = \prod_{E = E' \amalg E''} X_{E', E''} \]

with $X_{E', E''} = \text{Spec}(A_{Z(E', E'')}$. Note that

\[ (5.2.3) \quad Z_E = \prod_{E = E' \amalg E''} Z(E', E'') \longrightarrow X_E \]

is a closed subscheme. By construction the closed subscheme $Z_E$ contains all the closed points of the affine scheme $X_E$ as every point of $X_{E', E''}$ specializes to a point of $Z(E', E'')$.

Let $I(A)$ be the partially ordered set of all finite subsets of $A$. This is a directed partially ordered set. For $E_1 \subset E_2$ there is a canonical transition map $A_{E_1} \to A_{E_2}$ of $A$-algebras. Namely, given a decomposition $E_2 = E_2' \amalg E_2''$ we set $E_1' = E_1 \cap E_2'$ and $E_1'' = E_1 \cap E_2''$. Then observe that $Z(E_1', E_1'') \subset Z(E_2', E_2'')$ hence a unique $A$-algebra map $A_{Z(E_1', E_1'')} \to A_{Z(E_2', E_2'')}$ by Lemma 5.1. Using these maps collectively we obtain the desired ring map $A_{E_1} \to A_{E_2}$. Observe that the corresponding map of affine schemes

\[ (5.2.4) \quad X_{E_2} \longrightarrow X_{E_1} \]

maps $Z_{E_2}$ into $Z_{E_1}$. By uniqueness we obtain a system of $A$-algebras over $I(A)$ and we set

\[ (5.2.5) \quad A_w = \colim_{E \in I(A)} A_E \]
This $A$-algebra is ind-Zariski and faithfully flat over $A$. Finally, we set $X_w = \text{Spec}(A_w)$ and endow it with the closed subscheme $Z = \lim_{E \in I(A)} Z_E$. In a formula

$$(5.2.6) \quad X_w = \lim_{E \in I(A)} X_E \supset Z = \lim_{E \in I(A)} Z_E$$

\begin{lemma}
Let $X = \text{Spec}(A)$ be an affine scheme. With $A \to A_w$, $X_w = \text{Spec}(A_w)$, and $Z \subset X_w$ as above.

1. $A \to A_w$ is ind-Zariski and faithfully flat,
2. $X_w \to X$ induces a bijection $Z \to X$,
3. $Z$ is the set of closed points of $X_w$,
4. $Z$ is a reduced scheme, and
5. every point of $X_w$ specializes to a unique point of $Z$.

In particular, $X_w$ is $w$-local (Definition 2.3).
\end{lemma}

\begin{proof}
The map $A \to A_w$ is ind-Zariski by construction. For every $E$ the morphism $Z_E \to X$ is a bijection, hence (2). As $Z \subset X_w$ we conclude $X_w \to X$ is surjective and $A \to A_w$ is faithfully flat by Algebra, Lemma 38.16. This proves (1).

Suppose that $y \in X_w$, $y \not\in Z$. Then there exists an $E$ such that the image of $y$ in $X_E$ is not contained in $Z_E$. Then for all $E \subset E'$ also $y$ maps to an element of $X_{E'}$ not contained in $Z_{E'}$. Let $S_{E'} \subset X_{E'}$ be the reduced closed subscheme which is the closure of the image of $y$. It is clear that $T = \lim_{E \subset E'} T_{E'}$ is the closure of $y$ in $X_w$. For every $E \subset E'$ the scheme $T_{E'} \cap Z_{E'}$ is nonempty by construction of $X_{E'}$. Hence $\lim_{E \subset E'} T_{E'} \cap Z_{E'}$ is nonempty and we conclude that $T \cap Z$ is nonempty. Thus $y$ is not a closed point. It follows that every closed point of $X_w$ is in $Z$.

Suppose that $y \in X_w$ specializes to $z, z' \in Z$. We will show that $z = z'$ which will finish the proof of (3) and will imply (5). Let $x, x' \in X$ be the images of $z$ and $z'$. Since $Z \to X$ is bijective it suffices to show that $x = x'$. If $x \neq x'$, then there exists an $f \in A$ such that $x \in D(f)$ and $x' \in V(f)$ (or vice versa). Set $E = \{f\}$ so that

$$X_E = \text{Spec}(A_f) \amalg \text{Spec}(A_{V(f)})$$

Then we see that $z$ and $z'$ map $x_E$ and $x'_E$ which are in different parts of the given decomposition of $X_E$ above. But then it impossible for $x_E$ and $x'_E$ to be specializations of a common point. This is the desired contradiction.

Recall that given a finite subset $E \subset A$ we have $Z_E$ is a disjoint union of the locally closed subschemes $Z(E', E'')$ each isomorphic to the spectrum of $(A/I)_{\bar{f}}$ where $I$ is the ideal generated by $E''$ and $f$ the product of the elements of $E'$. Any nilpotent element $b$ of $(A/I)_{\bar{f}}$ is the class of $g/f^n$ for some $g \in A$. Then setting $E' = \bar{E} \cup \{g\}$ the reader verifies that $b$ is pulled back to zero under the transition map $Z_{E'} \to Z_E$ of the system. This proves (4).
\end{proof}

\begin{remark}
Let $A$ be a ring. Let $\kappa$ be an infinite cardinal bigger or equal than the cardinality of $A$. Then the cardinality of $A_w$ (Lemma 5.3) is at most $\kappa$. Namely, each $A_E$ has cardinality at most $\kappa$ and the set of finite subsets of $A$ has cardinality at most $\kappa$ as well. Thus the result follows as $\kappa \otimes \kappa = \kappa$, see Sets, Section 6.
\end{remark}

\begin{lemma}[Universal property of the construction]
Let $A$ be a ring. Let $A \to A_w$ be the ring map constructed in Lemma 5.3. For any ring map $A \to B$ such that $\text{Spec}(B)$ is $w$-local, there is a unique factorization $A \to A_w \to B$ such that $\text{Spec}(B) \to \text{Spec}(A_w)$ is $w$-local.
\end{lemma}
Recall that \( A = \text{Spec}(B) \) and \( Y \subset X \) the set of closed points. Denote \( f : Y \to X \) the given morphism. Recall that \( Y \) is profinite, in particular every constructible subset of \( Y \) is open and closed. Let \( E \subset A \) be a finite subset. Recall that \( A_w = \colim A_E \) and that the set of closed points of \( \text{Spec}(A_w) \) is the limit of the closed subsets \( Z_E \subset X_E = \text{Spec}(A_E) \). Thus it suffices to show there is a unique factorization \( A \to A_E \to B \) such that \( Y \to X_E \) maps \( Y_0 \) into \( Z_E \). Since \( Z_E \to X = \text{Spec}(A) \) is bijective, and since the strata \( Z(E', E'') \) are constructible we see that

\[
Y_0 = \coprod f^{-1}(Z(E', E'')) \cap Y_0
\]

is a disjoint union decomposition into open and closed subsets. As \( Y_0 = \pi_0(Y) \) we obtain a corresponding decomposition of \( Y \) into open and closed pieces. Thus it suffices to construct the factorization in case \( f(Y_0) \subset Z(E', E'') \) for some decomposition \( E = E' \amalg E'' \). In this case \( f(Y) \) is contained in the set of points of \( X \) specializing to \( Z(E', E'') \) which is homeomorphic to \( X_{E', E''} \). Thus we obtain a unique continuous map \( Y \to X_{E', E''} \) over \( X \). By Lemma 3.7 this corresponds to a unique morphism of schemes \( Y \to X_{E', E''} \) over \( X \). This finishes the proof. \( \square \)

Recall that the spectrum of a ring is profinite if and only if every point is closed. There are in fact a whole slew of equivalent conditions that imply this. See Algebra, Lemma 25.5 or Topology, Lemma 23.7.

**Lemma 5.6.** Let \( A \) be a ring such that \( \text{Spec}(A) \) is profinite. Let \( A \to B \) be a ring map. Then \( \text{Spec}(B) \) is profinite in each of the following cases:

1. if \( q, q' \subset B \) lie over the same prime of \( A \), then neither \( q \subset q' \), nor \( q' \subset q \),
2. \( A \to B \) induces algebraic extensions of residue fields,
3. \( A \to B \) is a local isomorphism,
4. \( A \to B \) identifies local rings,
5. \( A \to B \) is weakly étale,
6. \( A \to B \) is quasi-finite,
7. \( A \to B \) is unramified,
8. \( A \to B \) is étale,
9. \( B \) is a filtered colimit of \( A \)-algebras as in (1) – (8),
10. etc.

**Proof.** By the references mentioned above (Algebra, Lemma 25.5 or Topology, Lemma 23.7) there are no specializations between distinct points of \( \text{Spec}(A) \) and \( \text{Spec}(B) \) is profinite if and only if there are no specializations between distinct points of \( \text{Spec}(B) \). These specializations can only happen in the fibres of \( \text{Spec}(B) \to \text{Spec}(A) \). In this way we see that (1) is true.

The assumption in (2) implies all primes of \( B \) are maximal by Algebra, Lemma 34.9. Thus (2) holds. If \( A \to B \) is a local isomorphism or identifies local rings, then the residue field extensions are trivial, so (3) and (4) follow from (2). If \( A \to B \) is weakly étale, then More on Algebra, Lemma 91.17 tells us it induces separable algebraic residue field extensions, so (5) follows from (2). If \( A \to B \) is quasi-finite, then the fibres are finite discrete topological spaces. Hence (6) follows from (1). Hence (3) follows from (1). Cases (7) and (8) follow from this as unramified and étale ring map are quasi-finite (Algebra, Lemmas 147.6 and 141.6). If \( B = \colim B_i \) is a filtered colimit of \( A \)-algebras, then \( \text{Spec}(B) = \varprojlim \text{Spec}(B_i) \) in the category of
topological spaces by Limits, Lemma 4.2. Hence if each \( \text{Spec}(B_i) \) is profinite, so is \( \text{Spec}(B) \) by Topology, Lemma 22.3. This proves (9). \( \square \)

**Lemma 5.7.** Let \( A \) be a ring. Let \( V(I) \subset \text{Spec}(A) \) be a closed subset which is a profinite topological space. Then there exists an ind-Zariski ring map \( A \rightarrow B \) such that \( \text{Spec}(B) \) is \( w \)-local, the set of closed points is \( V(IB) \), and \( A/I \cong B/IB \).

**Proof.** Let \( A \rightarrow A_w \) and \( Z \subset Y = \text{Spec}(A_w) \) as in Lemma 5.3. Let \( T \subset Z \) be the inverse image of \( V(I) \). Then \( T \rightarrow V(I) \) is a homeomorphism by Topology, Lemma 17.8. Let \( B = (A_w)_{\gamma} \), see Lemma 5.1. It is clear that \( B \) is \( w \)-local with closed points \( V(IB) \). The ring map \( A/I \rightarrow B/IB \) is ind-Zariski and induces a homeomorphism on underlying topological spaces. Hence it is an isomorphism by Lemma 3.8. \( \square \)

**Lemma 5.8.** Let \( A \) be a ring such that \( \text{X} = \text{Spec}(A) \) is \( w \)-local. Let \( I \subset A \) be the radical ideal cutting out the set \( \text{X}_0 \) of closed points in \( \text{X} \). Let \( A \rightarrow B \) be a ring map inducing algebraic extensions on residue fields at primes. Then

1. every point of \( Z = V(IB) \) is a closed point of \( \text{Spec}(B) \),
2. there exists an ind-Zariski ring map \( B \rightarrow C \) such that
   (a) \( B/IB \rightarrow C/IC \) is an isomorphism,
   (b) the space \( Y = \text{Spec}(C) \) is \( w \)-local,
   (c) the induced map \( p : Y \rightarrow X \) is \( w \)-local, and
   (d) \( p^{-1}(X_0) \) is the set of closed points of \( Y \).

**Proof.** By Lemma 5.6 applied to \( A/I \rightarrow B/IB \) all points of \( Z = V(IB) = \text{Spec}(B/IB) \) are closed, in fact \( \text{Spec}(B/IB) \) is a profinite space. To finish the proof we apply Lemma 5.7 to \( IB \subset B \). \( \square \)

### 6. Identifying local rings versus ind-Zariski

An ind-Zariski ring map \( A \rightarrow B \) identifies local rings (Lemma 4.6). The converse does not hold (Examples, Section 49). However, it turns out that there is a kind of structure theorem for ring maps which identify local rings in terms of ind-Zariski ring maps, see Proposition 6.6.

Let \( A \) be a ring. Let \( X = \text{Spec}(A) \). The space of connected components \( \pi_0(X) \) is a profinite space by Topology, Lemma 23.8 (and Algebra, Lemma 25.2).

**Lemma 6.1.** Let \( A \) be a ring. Let \( X = \text{Spec}(A) \). Let \( T \subset \pi_0(X) \) be a closed subset. There exists a surjective ind-Zariski ring map \( A \rightarrow B \) such that \( \text{Spec}(B) \rightarrow \text{Spec}(A) \) induces a homeomorphism of \( \text{Spec}(B) \) with the inverse image of \( T \) in \( X \).

**Proof.** Let \( Z \subset X \) be the inverse image of \( T \). Then \( Z \) is the intersection \( Z = \bigcap Z_\alpha \) of the open and closed subsets of \( X \) containing \( Z \), see Topology, Lemma 12.12. For each \( \alpha \) we have \( Z_\alpha = \text{Spec}(A_\alpha) \) where \( A \rightarrow A_\alpha \) is a local isomorphism (a localization at an idempotent). Setting \( B = \text{colim} A_\alpha \) proves the lemma. \( \square \)

**Lemma 6.2.** Let \( A \) be a ring and let \( X = \text{Spec}(A) \). Let \( T \) be a profinite space and let \( T \rightarrow \pi_0(X) \) be a continuous map. There exists an ind-Zariski ring map \( A \rightarrow B \)
such that with $Y = \text{Spec}(B)$ the diagram

\[
\begin{array}{c}
Y \\
\downarrow \\
X
\end{array} \longrightarrow \begin{array}{c}
\pi_0(Y) \\
\downarrow \\
\pi_0(X)
\end{array}
\]

is cartesian in the category of topological spaces and such that $\pi_0(Y) = T$ as spaces over $\pi_0(X)$.

**Proof.** Namely, write $T = \lim T_i$ as the limit of an inverse system finite discrete spaces over a directed set (see Topology, Lemma 22.2). For each $i$ let $Z_i = \text{Im}(T \to \pi_0(X) \times T_i)$. This is a closed subset. Observe that $X \times T_i$ is the spectrum of $A_i = \prod_{t \in T_i} A$ and that $A \to A_i$ is a local isomorphism. By Lemma 6.1 we see that $Z_i \subset \pi_0(X \times T_i) = \pi_0(X) \times T_i$ corresponds to a surjection $A_i \to B_i$ which is ind-Zariski such that $\text{Spec}(B_i) = X \times_{\pi_0(X)} Z_i$ as subsets of $X \times T_i$. The transition maps $T_i \to T_{i'}$ induce maps $Z_i \to Z_{i'}$ and $X \times_{\pi_0(X)} Z_i \to X \times_{\pi_0(X)} Z_{i'}$. Hence ring maps $B_i \to B_i'$ (Lemmas 3.8 and 4.6). Set $B = \text{colim} B_i$. Because $T = \lim Z_i$ we have $X \times_{\pi_0(X)} T = \lim X \times_{\pi_0(X)} Z_i$ and hence $Y = \text{Spec}(B) = \lim \text{Spec}(B_i)$ fits into the cartesian diagram

\[
\begin{array}{c}
Y \\
\downarrow \\
X
\end{array} \longrightarrow \begin{array}{c}
T \\
\downarrow \\
\pi_0(X)
\end{array}
\]

of topological spaces. By Lemma 2.3 we conclude that $T = \pi_0(Y)$. \hfill \square

**Example 6.3.** Let $k$ be a field. Let $T$ be a profinite topological space. There exists an ind-Zariski ring map $k \to A$ such that $\text{Spec}(A)$ is homeomorphic to $T$. Namely, just apply Lemma 6.2 to $T \to \pi_0(\text{Spec}(k)) = \{\ast\}$. In fact, in this case we have

$$A = \text{colim} \text{Map}(T_i, k)$$

whenever we write $T = \lim T_i$ as a filtered limit with each $T_i$ finite.

**Lemma 6.4.** Let $A \to B$ be ring map such that

1. $A \to B$ identifies local rings,
2. the topological spaces $\text{Spec}(B)$, $\text{Spec}(A)$ are $w$-local,
3. $\text{Spec}(B) \to \text{Spec}(A)$ is $w$-local, and
4. $\pi_0(\text{Spec}(B)) \to \pi_0(\text{Spec}(A))$ is bijective.

Then $A \to B$ is an isomorphism

**Proof.** Let $X_0 \subset X = \text{Spec}(A)$ and $Y_0 \subset Y = \text{Spec}(B)$ be the sets of closed points. By assumption $Y_0$ maps into $X_0$ and the induced map $Y_0 \to X_0$ is a bijection. As a space $\text{Spec}(A)$ is the disjoint union of the spectra of the local rings of $A$ at closed points. Similarly for $B$. Hence $X \to Y$ is a bijection. Since $A \to B$ is flat we have going down (Algebra, Lemma 38.18). Thus Algebra, Lemma 40.11 shows for any prime $q \subset B$ lying over $p \subset A$ we have $B_q = B_p$. Since $B_q = A_p$ by assumption, we see that $A_p = B_p$ for all primes $p$ of $A$. Thus $A = B$ by Algebra, Lemma 22.1 \hfill \square

**Lemma 6.5.** Let $A \to B$ be ring map such that

1. $A \to B$ identifies local rings,
(2) the topological spaces Spec(B), Spec(A) are w-local, and
(3) Spec(B) → Spec(A) is w-local.

Then A → B is ind-Zariski.

**Proof.** Set X = Spec(A) and Y = Spec(B). Let X₀ ⊂ X and Y₀ ⊂ Y be the set of closed points. Let A → A' be the ind-Zariski morphism of affine schemes such that with X' = Spec(A') the diagram

\[ X' \to \pi_0(X') \]

\[ \downarrow \quad \downarrow \]

\[ X \to \pi_0(X) \]

is cartesian in the category of topological spaces and such that \( \pi_0(X') = \pi_0(Y) \) as spaces over \( \pi_0(X) \), see Lemma 6.2. By Lemma 2.5 we see that \( X' \) is w-local and the set of closed points \( X'_0 \subset X' \) is the inverse image of \( X_0 \).

We obtain a continuous map \( Y \to X' \) of underlying topological spaces over \( X \) identifying \( \pi_0(Y) \) with \( \pi_0(X') \). By Lemma 5.8 (and Lemma 4.6) this is corresponds to a morphism of affine schemes \( Y \to X' \) over \( X \). Since \( Y \to X' \) maps \( Y_0 \) into \( X_0 \), i.e., \( Y \to X' \) is w-local. By Lemma 6.4 we see that \( Y \cong X' \) and we win. □

The following proposition is a warm up for the type of result we will prove later.

**Proposition 6.6.** Let \( A \to B \) be a ring map which identifies local rings. Then there exists a faithfully flat, ind-Zariski ring map \( B \to B' \) such that \( A \to B' \) is ind-Zariski.

**Proof.** Let \( A \to A_w \), resp. \( B \to B_w \) be the faithfully flat, ind-Zariski ring map constructed in Lemma 5.3 for \( A \), resp. \( B \). Since Spec(\( B_w \)) is w-local, there exists a unique factorization \( A \to A_w \to B_w \) such that Spec(\( B_w \)) → Spec(A_w) is w-local by Lemma 5.5 Note that \( A_w \to B_w \) identifies local rings, see Lemma 3.4. By Lemma 6.5 this means \( A_w \to B_w \) is ind-Zariski. Since \( B \to B_w \) is faithfully flat, ind-Zariski (Lemma 5.3) and the composition \( A \to B \to B_w \) is ind-Zariski (Lemma 4.3) the proposition is proved. □

The proposition above allows us to characterize the affine, weakly contractible objects in the pro-Zariski site of an affine scheme.

**Lemma 6.7.** Let \( A \) be a ring. The following are equivalent

1. every faithfully flat ring map \( A \to B \) identifying local rings has a section,
2. every faithfully flat ind-Zariski ring map \( A \to B \) has a section, and
3. \( A \) satisfies
   a. Spec(A) is w-local, and
   b. \( \pi_0(\text{Spec}(A)) \) is extremally disconnected.

**Proof.** The equivalence of (1) and (2) follows immediately from Proposition 6.6. Assume (3)(a) and (3)(b). Let \( A \to B \) be faithfully flat and ind-Zariski. We will use without further mention the fact that a flat map \( A \to B \) is faithfully flat if and only if every closed point of Spec(\( A \)) is in the image of Spec(\( B \)) → Spec(A) We will show that \( A \to B \) has a section.
Let $I \subset A$ be an ideal such that $V(I) \subset \text{Spec}(A)$ is the set of closed points of $\text{Spec}(A)$. We may replace $B$ by the ring $C$ constructed in Lemma 5.8 for $A \to B$ and $I \subset A$. Thus we may assume $\text{Spec}(B)$ is w-local such that the set of closed points of $\text{Spec}(B)$ is $V(IB)$.

Assume $\text{Spec}(B)$ is w-local and the set of closed points of $\text{Spec}(B)$ is $V(IB)$. Choose a continuous section to the surjective continuous map $V(IB) \to V(I)$. This is possible as $V(I) \cong \pi_0(\text{Spec}(A))$ is extremally disconnected, see Topology, Proposition 26.6. The image is a closed subspace $T \subset \pi_0(\text{Spec}(B)) \cong V(JB)$ mapping homeomorphically onto $\pi_0(A)$. Replacing $B$ by the ind-Zariski quotient ring constructed in Lemma 6.1 we see that we may assume $\pi_0(\text{Spec}(B)) \to \pi_0(\text{Spec}(A))$ is bijective. At this point $A \to B$ is an isomorphism by Lemma 6.3.

Assume (1) or equivalently (2). Let $A \to A_w$ be the ring map constructed in Lemma 5.3. By (1) there is a section $A_w \to A$. Thus $\text{Spec}(A)$ is homeomorphic to a closed subset of $\text{Spec}(A_w)$. By Lemma 2.4 we see (3)(a) holds. Finally, let $T \to \pi_0(A)$ be a surjective map with $T$ an extremally disconnected, quasi-compact, Hausdorff topological space (Topology, Lemma 26.9). Choose $A \to B$ as in Lemma 6.2 adapted to $T \to \pi_0(\text{Spec}(A))$. By (1) there is a section $B \to A$. Thus we see that $T = \pi_0(\text{Spec}(B)) \to \pi_0(\text{Spec}(A))$ has a section. A formal categorical argument, using Topology, Proposition 26.6 implies that $\pi_0(\text{Spec}(A))$ is extremally disconnected.

**Lemma 6.8.** Let $A$ be a ring. There exists a faithfully flat, ind-Zariski ring map $A \to B$ such that $B$ satisfies the equivalent conditions of Lemma 6.7.

**Proof.** We first apply Lemma 5.3 to see that we may assume that $\text{Spec}(A)$ is w-local. Choose an extremally disconnected space $T$ and a surjective continuous map $T \to \pi_0(\text{Spec}(A))$, see Topology, Lemma 26.9. Note that $T$ is profinite. Apply Lemma 6.2 to find an ind-Zariski ring map $A \to B$ such that $\pi_0(\text{Spec}(B)) \to \pi_0(\text{Spec}(A))$ realizes $T \to \pi_0(\text{Spec}(A))$ and such that

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{Spec}(B) & \longrightarrow & \pi_0(\text{Spec}(B)) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
\text{Spec}(A) & \longrightarrow & \pi_0(\text{Spec}(A))
\end{array}
$$

is cartesian in the category of topological spaces. Note that $\text{Spec}(B)$ is w-local, that $\text{Spec}(B) \to \text{Spec}(A)$ is w-local, and that the set of closed points of $\text{Spec}(B)$ is the inverse image of the set of closed points of $\text{Spec}(A)$, see Lemma 2.5. Thus condition (3) of Lemma 6.7 holds for $B$.

**Remark 6.9.** In each of Lemmas 6.1, 6.2, Proposition 6.6 and Lemma 6.8 we find an ind-Zariski ring map with some properties. In the paper [BS13] the authors use the notion of an ind-(Zariski localization) which is a filtered colimit of finite products of principal localizations. It is possible to replace ind-Zariski by ind-(Zariski localization) in each of the results listed above. However, we do not need this and the notion of an ind-Zariski homomorphism of rings as defined here has slightly better formal properties. Moreover, the notion of an ind-Zariski ring map is the natural analogue of the notion of an ind-étale ring map defined in the next section.
7. Ind-étale algebra

Definition 7.1. A ring map $A \to B$ is said to be ind-étale if $B$ can be written as a filtered colimit of étale $A$-algebras.

The category of ind-étale algebras is closed under a number of natural operations.

Lemma 7.2. Let $A \to B$ and $A \to A'$ be ring maps. Let $B' = B \otimes_A A'$ be the base change of $B$. If $A \to B$ is ind-étale, then $A' \to B'$ is ind-étale.

Proof. This is Algebra, Lemma 149.1.

Lemma 7.3. Let $A \to B$ and $B \to C$ be ring maps. If $A \to B$ and $B \to C$ are ind-étale, then $A \to C$ is ind-étale.

Proof. This is Algebra, Lemma 149.2.

Lemma 7.4. A filtered colimit of ind-étale $A$-algebras is ind-étale over $A$.

Proof. This is Algebra, Lemma 149.3.

Lemma 7.5. Let $A$ be a ring. Let $B \to C$ be an $A$-algebra map of ind-étale $A$-algebras. Then $C$ is an ind-étale $B$-algebra.

Proof. This is Algebra, Lemma 149.4.

Lemma 7.6. Let $A \to B$ be ind-étale. Then $A \to B$ is weakly étale (More on Algebra, Definition 91.1).

Proof. This follows from More on Algebra, Lemma 91.14.

Lemma 7.7. Let $A$ be a ring and let $I \subset A$ be an ideal. The base change functor ind-étale $A/I$-algebras $\to$ ind-étale $A$-algebras, $C \mapsto C/IC$ has a fully faithful right adjoint $v$. In particular, given an ind-étale $A/I$-algebra $C$ there exists an ind-étale $A$-algebra $C = v(C)$ such that $C = C/IC$.

Proof. Let $C$ be an ind-étale $A/I$-algebra. Consider the category $C$ of factorizations $A \to B \to C$ where $A \to B$ is étale. (We ignore some set theoretical issues in this proof.) We will show that this category is directed and that $C$ is an ind-étale $A$-algebra such that $C = C/IC$.

We first prove that $C$ is directed (Categories, Definition 19.1). The category is nonempty as $A \to A \to C$ is an object. Suppose that $A \to B \to C$ and $A \to B' \to C$ are two objects of $C$. Then $A \to B \otimes_A B' \to C$ is another (use Algebra, Lemma 141.3). Suppose that $f, g : B \to B'$ are two maps between objects $A \to B \to C$ and $A \to B' \to C$. Then a coequalizer is $A \to B' \otimes_{f,B,g} B' \to C$. This is an object of $C$ by Algebra, Lemmas 141.3 and 141.8. Thus the category $C$ is directed.

Write $C = \text{colim} B_i$ as a filtered colimit with $B_i$ étale over $A/I$. For every $i$ there exists $A \to B_i$ étale with $B_i = B_i/IB_i$, see Algebra, Lemma 141.10. Thus $C \to C$ is surjective. Since $C/IC \to C$ is ind-étale (Lemma 7.5) we see that it is flat. Hence $C$ is a localization of $C/IC$ at some multiplicative subset $S \subset C/IC$ (Algebra, Lemma 107.2). Take an $f \in C$ mapping to an element of $S \subset C/IC$. Choose $A \to B \to C$ in $C$ and $g \in B$ mapping to $f$ in the colimit. Then we see that $A \to B_g \to C$ is an object of $C$ as well. Thus $f$ is an invertible element of $C$. It follows that $C/IC = C$. 
Next, we claim that for an ind-étale algebra $D$ over $A$ we have

$$\text{Mor}_A(D, C) = \text{Mor}_{A/I}(D/ID, \overline{C})$$

Namely, let $D/ID \to \overline{C}$ be an $A/I$-algebra map. Write $D = \text{colim}_{i \in I} D_i$ as a colimit over a directed set $I$ with $D_i$ étale over $A$. By choice of $C$ we obtain a transformation $I \to C$ and hence a map $D \to C$ compatible with maps to $\overline{C}$. Whence the claim.

It follows that the functor $v$ defined by the rule

$$\overline{C} \mapsto v(\overline{C}) = \text{colim}_{A \to B \to C} B$$

is a right adjoint to the base change functor $u$ as required by the lemma. The functor $v$ is fully faithful because $u \circ v = \text{id}$ by construction, see Categories, Lemma 24.3.

8. Constructing ind-étale algebras

Let $A$ be a ring. Recall that any étale ring map $A \to B$ is isomorphic to a standard smooth ring map of relative dimension 0. Such a ring map is of the form

$$A \to A[x_1, \ldots, x_n]/(f_1, \ldots, f_n)$$

where the determinant of the $n \times n$-matrix with entries $\partial f_i/\partial x_j$ is invertible in the quotient ring. See Algebra, Lemma 141.2.

Let $S(A)$ be the set of all faithfully flat standard smooth $A$-algebras of relative dimension 0. Let $I(A)$ be the partially ordered (by inclusion) set of finite subsets $E$ of $S(A)$. Note that $I(A)$ is a directed partially ordered set. For $E = \{A \to B_1, \ldots, A \to B_n\}$ set

$$B_E = B_1 \otimes_A \ldots \otimes_A B_n$$

Observe that $B_E$ is a faithfully flat étale $A$-algebra. For $E \subset E'$, there is a canonical transition map $B_E \to B_{E'}$ of étale $A$-algebras. Namely, say $E = \{A \to B_1, \ldots, A \to B_n\}$ and $E' = \{A \to B_1, \ldots, A \to B_{n+m}\}$ then $B_E \to B_{E'}$ sends $b_1 \otimes \ldots \otimes b_n$ to the element $b_1 \otimes \ldots \otimes b_n \otimes 1 \otimes \ldots \otimes 1$ of $B_{E'}$. This construction defines a system of faithfully flat étale $A$-algebras over $I(A)$ and we set

$$T(A) = \text{colim}_{E \in I(A)} B_E$$

Observe that $T(A)$ is a faithfully flat ind-étale $A$-algebra (Algebra, Lemma 38.20). By construction given any faithfully flat étale $A$-algebra $B$ there is a (non-unique) $A$-algebra map $B \to T(A)$. Namely, pick some $(A \to B_0) \in S(A)$ and an isomorphism $B \cong B_0$. Then the canonical coprojection

$$B \to B_0 \to T(A) = \text{colim}_{E \in I(A)} B_E$$

is the desired map.

097R [Lemma 8.1. Given a ring $A$ there exists a faithfully flat ind-étale $A$-algebra $C$ such that every faithfully flat étale ring map $C \to B$ has a section.]

\footnote{In the presence of flatness, e.g., for smooth or étale ring maps, this just means that the induced map on spectra is surjective. See Algebra, Lemma 38.16}
Proof. Set \( T^1(A) = T(A) \) and \( T^{n+1}(A) = T(T^n(A)) \). Let
\[ C = \operatorname{colim} T^n(A) \]
This algebra is faithfully flat over each \( T^n(A) \) and in particular over \( A \), see Algebra, Lemma \[88.20\]. Moreover, \( C \) is ind-étales over \( A \) by Lemma \[7.4\]. If \( C \to B \) is étale, then there exists an \( n \) and an étale ring map \( T^n(A) \to B' \) such that \( B = C \otimes_{T^n(A)} B' \), see Algebra, Lemma \[141.3\]. If \( C \to B \) is faithfully flat, then \( \operatorname{Spec}(B) \to \operatorname{Spec}(C) \to \operatorname{Spec}(T^n(A)) \) is surjective, hence \( \operatorname{Spec}(B') \to \operatorname{Spec}(T^n(A)) \) is surjective. In other words, \( T^n(A) \to B' \) is faithfully flat. By our construction, there is a \( T^n(A) \)-algebra map \( B' \to T^{n+1}(A) \). This induces a \( C \)-algebra map \( B \to C \) which finishes the proof. \( \square \)

Remark 8.2. Let \( A \) be a ring. Let \( \kappa \) be an infinite cardinal bigger or equal than the cardinality of \( A \). Then the cardinality of \( T(A) \) is at most \( \kappa \). Namely, each \( B_E \) has cardinality at most \( \kappa \) and the index set \( I(A) \) has cardinality at most \( \kappa \) as well. Thus the result follows as \( \kappa \otimes \kappa = \kappa \), see Sets, Section \[6\]. It follows that the ring constructed in the proof of Lemma \[8.1\] has cardinality at most \( \kappa \) as well.

Remark 8.3. The construction \( A \mapsto T(A) \) is functorial in the following sense: If \( A \to A' \) is a ring map, then we can construct a commutative diagram
\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
A & \longrightarrow & T(A) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
A' & \longrightarrow & T(A')
\end{array}
\]
Namely, given \( (A \to A[x_1, \ldots, x_n]/(f_1, \ldots, f_n)) \) in \( S(A) \) we can use the ring map \( \varphi : A \to A' \) to obtain a corresponding element \( (A' \to A'[x_1, \ldots, x_n]/(f_1^\varphi, \ldots, f_n^\varphi)) \) of \( S(A') \) where \( f^\varphi \) means the polynomial obtained by applying \( \varphi \) to the coefficients of the polynomial \( f \). Moreover, there is a commutative diagram
\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
A & \longrightarrow & A[x_1, \ldots, x_n]/(f_1, \ldots, f_n) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
A' & \longrightarrow & A'[x_1, \ldots, x_n]/(f_1^\varphi, \ldots, f_n^\varphi)
\end{array}
\]
which is a in the category of rings. For \( E \subset S(A) \) finite, set \( E' = \varphi(E) \) and define \( B_E \to B_E' \) in the obvious manner. Taking the colimit gives the desired map \( T(A) \to T(A') \), see Categories, Lemma \[14.7\].

Lemma 8.4. Let \( A \) be a ring such that every faithfully flat étale ring map \( A \to B \) has a section. Then the same is true for every quotient ring \( A/I \).

Proof. Omitted. \( \square \)

Lemma 8.5. Let \( A \) be a ring such that every faithfully flat étale ring map \( A \to B \) has a section. Then every local ring of \( A \) at a maximal ideal is strictly henselian.

Proof. Let \( m \) be a maximal ideal of \( A \). Let \( A \to B \) be an étale ring map and let \( q \subset B \) be a prime lying over \( m \). By the description of the strict henselization \( A^h_m \) in Algebra, Lemma \[150.13\] it suffices to show that \( A_m = B_q \). Note that there are finitely many primes \( q = q_1, q_2, \ldots, q_n \) lying over \( m \) and there are no specializations between them as an étale ring map is quasi-finite, see Algebra, Lemma \[141.6\]. Thus
q_i is a maximal ideal and we can find g ∈ q_2 ∩ ... ∩ q_n, g /∈ q (Algebra, Lemma 14.2). After replacing B by B_q we see that q is the only prime of B lying over m. The image U ⊂ Spec(A) of Spec(B) → Spec(A) is open (Algebra, Proposition 40.8). Thus the complement Spec(A) \ U is closed and we can find f ∈ A, f /∈ p such that Spec(A) = U ∪ D(f). The ring map A → B × A_f is faithfully flat and étale, hence has a section σ : B × A_f → A by assumption on A. Observe that σ is étale, hence flat as a map between étale A-algebras (Algebra, Lemma 14.2). Since q is the only prime of B × A_f lying over A we find that A_p → B_q has a section which is also flat. Thus A_p → B_q → A_p are flat local ring maps whose composition is the identity. Since a flat local homomorphism of local rings is injective we conclude these maps are isomorphisms as desired. □

Lemma 8.6. Let A be a ring such that every faithfully flat étale ring map A → B has a section. Let Z ⊂ Spec(A) be a closed subscheme of the form D(f) ∩ V(I) and let A → A_Z be as constructed in Lemma 5.4. Then every faithfully flat étale ring map A_Z → C has a section.

Proof. There exists an étale ring map A → B' such that C = B' ⊗_A A_Z as A_Z-algebras. The image U' ⊂ Spec(A) of Spec(B') → Spec(A) is open and contains V(I), hence we can find f ∈ I such that Spec(A) = U' ∪ D(f). Then A → B' × A_f is étale and faithfully flat. By assumption there is a section B' × A_f → A. Localizing we obtain the desired section C → A_Z. □

Lemma 8.7. Let A → B be a ring map inducing algebraic extensions on residue fields. There exists a commutative diagram

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
B & \to & D \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
A & \to & C
\end{array}
\]

with the following properties:

1. A → C is faithfully flat and ind-étale,
2. B → D is faithfully flat and ind-étale,
3. Spec(C) is w-local,
4. Spec(D) is w-local,
5. Spec(D) → Spec(C) is w-local,
6. the set of closed points of Spec(D) is the inverse image of the set of closed points of Spec(C),
7. the set of closed points of Spec(C) surjects onto Spec(A),
8. the set of closed points of Spec(D) surjects onto Spec(B),
9. for m ⊂ C maximal the local ring C_m is strictly henselian.

Proof. There is a faithfully flat, ind-Zariski ring map A → A' such that Spec(A') is w-local and such that the set of closed points of Spec(A') maps onto Spec(A), see Lemma 5.3. Let I ⊂ A' be the ideal such that V(I) is the set of closed points of Spec(A'). Choose A' → C' as in Lemma 8.1. Note that the local rings C''_m, at maximal ideals m' ⊂ C' are strictly henselian by Lemma 8.6. We apply Lemma 5.8 to A' → C' and I ⊂ A' to get C' → C with C'/IC' ∼ C/IC. Note that since A' → C' is faithfully flat, Spec(C'/IC) surjects onto the set of closed points of A' and in particular onto Spec(A). Moreover, as V(IC) ⊂ Spec(C) is the set of
closed points of $C$ and $C' \to C$ is ind-Zariski (and identifies local rings) we obtain properties (1), (3), (7), and (9).

Denote $J \subset C$ the ideal such that $V(J)$ is the set of closed points of $\text{Spec}(C)$. Set $D' = B \otimes_A C$. The ring map $C \to D'$ induces algebraic residue field extensions. Keep in mind that since $V(J) \to \text{Spec}(A)$ is surjective the map $T = V(JD) \to \text{Spec}(B)$ is surjective too. Apply Lemma 5.8 to $C \to D'$ and $J \subset C$ to get $D' \to D$ with $D'/JD' \cong D/JD$. All of the remaining properties given in the lemma are immediate from the results of Lemma 5.8.

□

9. Weakly étale versus pro-étale

Recall that a ring homomorphism $A \to B$ is weakly étale if $A \to B$ is flat and $B \otimes_A B \to B$ is flat. We have proved some properties of such ring maps in More on Algebra, Section 91. In particular, if $A \to B$ is a local homomorphism, and $A$ is a strictly henselian local rings, then $A = B$, see More on Algebra, Theorem 91.25. Using this theorem and the work we’ve done above we obtain the following structure theorem for weakly étale ring maps.

Proposition 9.1. Let $A \to B$ be a weakly étale ring map. Then there exists a faithfully flat, ind-étale ring map $B \to B'$ such that $A \to B'$ is ind-étale.

Proof. The ring map $A \to B$ induces (separable) algebraic extensions of residue fields, see More on Algebra, Lemma 91.17. Thus we may apply Lemma 8.7 and choose a diagram

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
B & \rightarrow & D \\
\uparrow & & \uparrow \\
A & \rightarrow & C \\
\end{array}
$$

with the properties as listed in the lemma. Note that $C \to D$ is weakly étale by More on Algebra, Lemma 91.11. Pick a maximal ideal $m \subset D$. By construction this lies over a maximal ideal $m' \subset C$. By More on Algebra, Theorem 91.25 the ring map $C_m \to D_m$ is an isomorphism. As every point of $\text{Spec}(C)$ specializes to a closed point we conclude that $C \to D$ identifies local rings. Thus Proposition 6.6 applies to the ring map $C \to D$. Pick $D \to D'$ faithfully flat and ind-Zariski such that $C \to D'$ is ind-Zariski. Then $B \to D'$ is a solution to the problem posed in the proposition.

□

10. The $V$ topology and the pro-$h$ topology

The $V$ topology was introduced in Topologies, Section 10. The $h$ topology was introduced in More on Flatness, Section 34. A kind of intermediate topology, namely the $ph$ topology, was introduced in Topologies, Section 8.

Given a topology $\tau$ on a suitable category $C$ of schemes, we can introduce a “pro-$\tau$ topology” on $C$ as follows. Recall that for $X$ in $C$ we use $h_X$ to denote the representable presheaf associated to $X$. Let us temporarily say a morphism $X \to Y$ of $C$ is a $\tau$-cover if the $\tau$-sheafification of $h_X \to h_Y$ is surjective. Then we can define the pro-$\tau$ topology as the coarsest topology such that

This should not be confused with the notion of a covering. For example if $\tau = \text{étale}$, any morphism $X \to Y$ which has a section is a $\tau$-covering. But our definition of étale coverings $\{V_i \to Y\}_{i \in I}$ forces each $V_i \to Y$ to be étale.
(1) the pro-$\tau$ topology is finer than the $\tau$ topology, and
(2) $X \to Y$ is a pro-$\tau$-cover if $Y$ is affine and $X = \lim X_\lambda$ is a directed limit of
affine schemes $X_\lambda$ over $Y$ such that $h_{X_\lambda} \to h_Y$ is a $\tau$-cover for all $\lambda$.

We use this pedantic formulation because we do not want to specify a choice of pro-$\tau$ coverings: for different $\tau$ different choices of collections of coverings are suitable. For example, in Section 12 we will see that in order to define the pro-étale topology looking at families of weakly étale morphisms with some finiteness property works well. More generally, the proposed construction given in this paragraph is meant mainly to motivate the results in this section and we will never implicitly define a pro-$\tau$ topology using this method.

The following lemma tells us that the pro-V topology is equal to the V topology.

Lemma 10.1. Let $Y$ be an affine scheme. Let $X = \lim X_i$ be a directed limit of
affine schemes over $Y$. The following are equivalent

(1) $\{X \to Y\}$ is a standard $V$ covering (Topologies, Definition 10.1), and
(2) $\{X_i \to Y\}$ is a standard $V$ covering for all $i$.

Proof. A singleton $\{X \to Y\}$ is a standard $V$ covering if and only if given a
morphism $g : \text{Spec}(V) \to Y$ there is an extension of valuation rings $V \subset W$ and a
commutative diagram

$$
\text{Spec}(W) \longrightarrow X \\
\downarrow \downarrow \\
\text{Spec}(V) \quad \qquad \text{Spec}(V) \quad \qquad \text{Spec}(V) \to Y
$$

Thus (1) $\Rightarrow$ (2) is immediate from the definition. Conversely, assume (2) and let
$g : \text{Spec}(V) \to Y$ as above be given. Write $\text{Spec}(V) \times_Y X_i = \text{Spec}(A_i)$. Since
$\{X_i \to Y\}$ is a standard $V$ covering, we may choose a valuation ring $W_i$ and a
ring map $A_i \to W_i$ such that the composition $V \to A_i \to W_i$ is an extension of valuation rings. In particular, the quotient $A_i'$ of $A_i$ by its $V$-torsion is a faithfully
flat $V$-algebra. Flatness by More on Algebra, Lemma [22.10] and surjectivity on
spectra because $A_i \to W_i$ factors through $A_i'$. Thus

$$
A = \text{colim} A_i'
$$

is a faithfully flat $V$-algebra (Algebra, Lemma [38.20]). Since $\{\text{Spec}(A) \to \text{Spec}(V)\}$
is a standard fpqc cover, it is a standard $V$ cover (Topologies, Lemma 10.2), and hence we can choose $\text{Spec}(W) \to \text{Spec}(A)$ such that $V \to W$ is an extension of valuation rings. Since we can compose with the morphism $\text{Spec}(A) \to X = \text{Spec}(\text{colim} A_i)$ the proof is complete.

The following lemma tells us that the pro-h topology is equal to the pro-ph topology
equivalent

Lemma 10.2. Let $X \to Y$ be a morphism of affine schemes. The following are equivalent

(1) $\{X \to Y\}$ is a standard $V$ covering (Topologies, Definition 10.1),
(2) $X = \lim X_i$ is a directed limit of affine schemes over $Y$ such that $\{X_i \to Y\}$
is a ph covering for each $i$, and
(3) $X = \lim X_i$ is a directed limit of affine schemes over $Y$ such that $\{X_i \to Y\}$
is an $h$ covering for each $i$.
Proof. Proof of (2) ⇒ (1). Recall that a V covering given by a single arrow between affines is a standard V covering, see Topologies, Definition 10.7 and Lemma 10.6. Recall that any ph covering is a V covering, see Topologies, Lemma 10.10. Hence if $X = \lim X_i$ as in (2), then $\{X_i \to Y\}$ is a standard V covering for each $i$. Thus by Lemma 10.1 we see that (1) is true.

Proof of (3) ⇒ (2). This is clear because an h covering is always a ph covering, see More on Flatness, Definition 34.2.

Proof of (1) ⇒ (3). This is the interesting direction, but the interesting content in this proof is hidden in More on Flatness, Lemma 34.1. Write $X = \text{Spec}(A)$ and $Y = \text{Spec}(R)$. We can write $A = \colim A_i$ with $A_i$ of finite presentation over $R$, see Algebra, Lemma 126.2. Set $X_i = \text{Spec}(A_i)$. Then $\{X_i \to Y\}$ is a standard V covering for all $i$ by (1) and Topologies, Lemma 10.6. Hence $\{X_i \to Y\}$ is an h covering by More on Flatness, Definition 34.2. This finishes the proof. □

The following lemma tells us, roughly speaking, that an h sheaf which is limit preserving satisfies the sheaf condition for V coverings. Please also compare with Remark 10.4.

**Lemma 10.3.** Let $S$ be a scheme. Let $F$ be a contravariant functor defined on the category of all schemes over $S$. If

1. $F$ satisfies the sheaf property for the h topology, and
2. $F$ is limit preserving (Limits, Remark 6.2),

then $F$ satisfies the sheaf property for the V topology.

**Proof.** We will prove this by verifying (1) and (2') of Topologies, Lemma 10.12. The sheaf property for Zariski coverings follows from the fact that $F$ has the sheaf property for all h coverings. Finally, suppose that $X \to Y$ is a morphism of affine schemes over $S$ such that $\{X_i \to Y\}$ is a V covering. By Lemma 10.2 we can write $X = \lim X_i$ as a directed limit of affine schemes over $Y$ such that $\{X_i \to Y\}$ is an h covering for each $i$. We obtain

$$\text{Equalizer}( F(X) \to F(X \times_Y X) )$$

$$= \text{Equalizer}( \colim F(X_i) \to \colim F(X_i \times_Y X_i) )$$

$$= \colim \text{Equalizer}( F(X_i) \to F(X_i \times_Y X_i) )$$

$$= \colim F(Y) = F(Y)$$

which is what we wanted to show. The first equality because $F$ is limit preserving and $X = \lim X_i$ and $X \times_Y X = \lim X_i \times_Y X_i$. The second equality because filtered colimits are exact. The third equality because $F$ satisfies the sheaf property for h coverings. □

**Remark 10.4.** Let $S$ be a scheme contained in a big site $\text{Sch}_h$. Let $F$ be a sheaf of sets on $(\text{Sch}/S)_h$ such that $F(T) = \colim F(T_i)$ whenever $T = \lim T_i$ is a directed limit of affine schemes in $(\text{Sch}/S)_h$. In this situation $F$ extends uniquely to a contravariant functor $F'$ on the category of all schemes over $S$ such that (a) $F'$ satisfies the sheaf property for the h topology and (b) $F'$ is limit preserving. See More on Flatness, Lemma 35.4. In this situation Lemma 10.3 tells us that $F'$ satisfies the sheaf property for the V topology.
11. Constructing \( w \)-contractible covers

In this section we construct \( w \)-contractible covers of affine schemes.

**Definition 11.1.** Let \( A \) be a ring. We say \( A \) is \( w \)-contractible if every faithfully flat weakly-etale ring map \( A \to B \) has a section.

We remark that by Proposition 9.1 an equivalent definition would be to ask that every faithfully flat, ind-étale ring map \( A \to B \) has a section. Here is a key observation that will allow us to construct \( w \)-contractible rings.

**Lemma 11.2.** Let \( A \) be a ring. The following are equivalent

1. \( A \) is \( w \)-contractible,
2. every faithfully flat, ind-étale ring map \( A \to B \) has a section, and
3. \( A \) satisfies
   1. \( \text{Spec}(A) \) is \( w \)-local,
   2. \( \pi_0(\text{Spec}(A)) \) is extremally disconnected, and
   3. for every maximal ideal \( m \subset A \) the local ring \( A_m \) is strictly henselian.

**Proof.** The equivalence of (1) and (2) follows immediately from Proposition 9.1. Assume (3)(a), (3)(b), and (3)(c). Let \( A \to B \) be faithfully flat and ind-étale. We will use without further mention the fact that a flat map \( A \to B \) is faithfully flat if and only if every closed point of \( \text{Spec}(A) \) is in the image of \( \text{Spec}(B) \to \text{Spec}(A) \). We will show that \( A \to B \) has a section.

Let \( I \subset A \) be an ideal such that \( V(I) \subset \text{Spec}(A) \) is the set of closed points of \( \text{Spec}(A) \). We may replace \( B \) by the ring \( C \) constructed in Lemma 5.8 for \( A \to B \) and \( I \subset A \). Thus we may assume \( \text{Spec}(B) \) is \( w \)-local such that the set of closed points of \( \text{Spec}(B) \) is \( V(IB) \). In this case \( A \to B \) identifies local rings by condition (3)(c) as it suffices to check this at maximal ideals of \( B \) which lie over maximal ideals of \( A \). Thus \( A \to B \) has a section by Lemma 6.7.

Assume (1) or equivalently (2). We have (3)(c) by Lemma 8.5. Properties (3)(a) and (3)(b) follow from Lemma 6.7.

**Proposition 11.3.** For every ring \( A \) there exists a faithfully flat, ind-étale ring map \( A \to D \) such that \( D \) is \( w \)-contractible.

**Proof.** Applying Lemma 8.7 to \( \text{id}_A : A \to A \) we find a faithfully flat, ind-étale ring map \( A \to C \) such that \( C \) is \( w \)-local and such that every local ring at a maximal ideal of \( C \) is strictly henselian. Choose an extremally disconnected space \( T \) and a surjective continuous map \( T \to \pi_0(\text{Spec}(C)) \), see Topology, Lemma 26.9. Note that \( T \) is profinite. Apply Lemma 6.2 to find an ind-Zariski ring map \( C \to D \) such that \( \pi_0(\text{Spec}(D)) \to \pi_0(\text{Spec}(C)) \) realizes \( T \to \pi_0(\text{Spec}(C)) \) and such that

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{Spec}(D) & \longrightarrow & \pi_0(\text{Spec}(D)) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
\text{Spec}(C) & \longrightarrow & \pi_0(\text{Spec}(C))
\end{array}
\]

is cartesian in the category of topological spaces. Note that \( \text{Spec}(D) \) is \( w \)-local, that \( \text{Spec}(D) \to \text{Spec}(C) \) is \( w \)-local, and that the set of closed points of \( \text{Spec}(D) \) is the inverse image of the set of closed points of \( \text{Spec}(C) \), see Lemma 2.5. Thus it
is still true that the local rings of $D$ at its maximal ideals are strictly henselian (as they are isomorphic to the local rings at the corresponding maximal ideals of $C$). It follows from Lemma 11.2 that $D$ is w-contractible.

Remark 11.4. Let $A$ be a ring. Let $\kappa$ be an infinite cardinal bigger or equal than the cardinality of $A$. Then the cardinality of the ring $D$ constructed in Proposition 11.3 is at most $\kappa^{2^{2^\kappa}}$.

Namely, the ring map $A \to D$ is constructed as a composition

$$A \to A_w = A' \to C' \to C \to D.$$ 

Here the first three steps of the construction are carried out in the first paragraph of the proof of Lemma 5.7. For the first step we have $|A_w| \leq \kappa$ by Remark 5.4. We have $|C'| \leq \kappa$ by Remark 8.2. Then $|C| \leq \kappa$ because $C$ is a localization of $(C')_w$ (it is constructed from $C'$ by an application of Lemma 5.7 in the proof of Lemma 5.8). Thus $C$ has at most $2^\kappa$ maximal ideals. Finally, the ring map $C \to D$ identifies local rings and the cardinality of the set of maximal ideals of $D$ is at most $2^{2^{2^\kappa}}$ by Topology, Remark 26.10. Since $D \subset \prod_{m \in D} D_m$ we see that $D$ has at most the size displayed above.

Lemma 11.5. Let $A \to B$ be a quasi-finite and finitely presented ring map. If the residue fields of $A$ are separably algebraically closed and $\text{Spec}(A)$ is extremally disconnected, then $\text{Spec}(B)$ is extremally disconnected.

Proof. Set $X = \text{Spec}(A)$ and $Y = \text{Spec}(B)$. Choose a finite partition $X = \coprod X_i$ and $X_i' \to X_i$ as in Étale Cohomology, Lemma 71.3. Because $X$ is extremally disconnected, every constructible locally closed subset is open and closed, hence we see that $X$ is topologically the disjoint union of the strata $X_i$. Thus we may replace $X$ by the $X_i$ and assume there exists a surjective finite locally free morphism $X' \to X$ such that $(X' \times_X Y)_{\text{red}}$ is isomorphic to a finite disjoint union of copies of $X'_{\text{red}}$. Picture

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\prod_{i=1, \ldots, r} X' & \longrightarrow & Y \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
X' & \longrightarrow & X
\end{array}$$

The assumption on the residue fields of $A$ implies that this diagram is a fibre product diagram on underlying sets of points (details omitted). Since $X$ is extremally disconnected and $X'$ is Hausdorff (Lemma 5.6), the continuous map $X' \to X$ has a continuous section $\sigma$. Then $\prod_{i=1, \ldots, r} \sigma(X_i) \to Y$ is a bijective continuous map. By Topology, Lemma 17.8 we see that it is a homeomorphism and the proof is done.

Lemma 11.6. Let $A \to B$ be a finite and finitely presented ring map. If $A$ is w-contractible, so is $B$.

Proof. We will use the criterion of Lemma 11.2. Set $X = \text{Spec}(A)$ and $Y = \text{Spec}(B)$. As $Y \to X$ is a finite morphism, we see that the set of closed points $Y_0$ of $Y$ is the inverse image of the set of closed points $X_0$ of $X$. Moreover, every point of $Y$ specializes to a unique point of $Y_0$ as (a) this is true for $X$ and (b) the map $X \to Y$ is separated. For every $y \in Y_0$ with image $x \in X_0$ we see that $\mathcal{O}_{Y,y}$ is strictly
henselian by Algebra, Lemma \[148.4\] applied to \( \mathcal{O}_{X,x} \to B \otimes_A \mathcal{O}_{X,x} \). It remains to show that \( Y_0 \) is extremally disconnected. To do this we look at \( X_0 \times_X Y \to X_0 \) where \( X_0 \subset X \) is the reduced induced scheme structure. Note that the underlying topological space of \( X_0 \times_X Y \) agrees with \( Y_0 \). Now the desired result follows from Lemma \[11.6\]. \qed

**Lemma 11.7.** Let \( A \) be a ring. Let \( Z \subset \text{Spec}(A) \) be a closed subset of the form \( Z = V(f_1, \ldots, f_r) \). Set \( B = A^\sim_Z \), see Lemma \[5.1\]. If \( A \) is w-contractible, so is \( B \).

**Proof.** Let \( A^\sim_Z \to B \) be a weakly étale faithfully flat ring map. Consider the ring map
\[
A \to A_{f_1} \times \ldots \times A_{f_r} \times B
\]
this is faithful flat and weakly étale. If \( A \) is w-contractible, then there is a section \( \sigma \). Consider the morphism
\[
\text{Spec}(A^\sim_Z) \to \text{Spec}(A) \xrightarrow{\text{Spec}(\sigma)} \coprod \text{Spec}(A_{f_i}) \sqcup \text{Spec}(B)
\]
Every point of \( Z \subset \text{Spec}(A^\sim_Z) \) maps into the component \( \text{Spec}(B) \). Since every point of \( \text{Spec}(A^\sim_Z) \) specializes to a point of \( Z \) we find a morphism \( \text{Spec}(A^\sim_Z) \to \text{Spec}(B) \) as desired. \qed

### 12. The pro-étale site

The (small) pro-étale site of a scheme has some remarkable properties. In particular, it has enough w-contractible objects which implies a number of useful consequences for the derived category of abelian sheaves and for inverse systems of sheaves. Thus it is well adapted to deal with some of the intricacies of working with \( \ell \)-adic sheaves.

On the other hand, the pro-étale topology is a bit like the fpqc topology (see Topologies, Section \[9\]) in that the topos of sheaves on the small pro-étale site of a scheme depends on the choice of the underlying category of schemes. Thus we cannot speak of the pro-étale topos of a scheme. However, it will be true that the cohomology groups of a sheaf are unchanged if we enlarge our underlying category of schemes.

Another curiosity is that we define pro-étale coverings using weakly étale morphisms of schemes, see More on Morphisms, Section \[56\]. The reason is that, on the one hand, it is somewhat awkward to define the notion of a pro-étale morphism of schemes, and on the other, Proposition \[9.1\] assures us that we obtain the same sheaves with the definition that follows.

**Definition 12.1.** Let \( T \) be a scheme. A **pro-étale covering** of \( T \) is a family of morphisms \( \{f_i : T_i \to T\}_{i \in I} \) of schemes such that each \( f_i \) is weakly-étale and such that for every affine open \( U \subset T \) there exists \( n \geq 0 \), a map \( a : \{1, \ldots, n\} \to I \) and affine opens \( V_j \subset T_{a(j)} \), \( j = 1, \ldots, n \) with \( \bigcup_{j=1}^n f_{a(j)}(V_j) = U \).

To be sure this condition implies that \( T = \bigcup f_i(T_i) \). Here is a lemma that will allow us to recognize pro-étale coverings. It will also allow us to reduce many lemmas about pro-étale coverings to the corresponding results for fpqc coverings.

**Lemma 12.2.** Let \( T \) be a scheme. Let \( \{f_i : T_i \to T\}_{i \in I} \) be a family of morphisms of schemes with target \( T \). The following are equivalent

---

\[\text{To be precise the pro-étale topology we obtain using our choice of coverings is the same as the one gotten from the general procedure explained in Section \[10\] starting with } \tau = \text{étale}.\]
(1) \( \{ f_i : T_i \to T \}_{i \in I} \) is a pro-étale covering,
(2) each \( f_i \) is weakly étale and \( \{ f_i : T_i \to T \}_{i \in I} \) is an fpqc covering,
(3) each \( f_i \) is weakly étale and for every affine open \( U \subset T \) there exist quasi-
compact opens \( U_i \subset T_i \) which are almost all empty, such that \( U = \bigcup f_i(U_i) \),
(4) each \( f_i \) is weakly étale and there exists an affine open covering \( T = \bigcup_{\alpha \in A} U_\alpha \)
and for each \( \alpha \in A \) there exist \( i_{\alpha,1}, \ldots, i_{\alpha,n(\alpha)} \in I \) and quasi-compact opens
\( U_{\alpha,j} \subset T_{i_{\alpha,j}} \) such that \( U_\alpha = \bigcup_{j=1}^{n(\alpha)} f_{i_{\alpha,j}}(U_{\alpha,j}) \).

If \( T \) is quasi-separated, these are also equivalent to
(5) each \( f_i \) is weakly étale, and for every \( t \in T \) there exist \( i_1, \ldots, i_n \in I \) and
 quasi-compact opens \( U_j \subset T_i \) such that \( \bigcup_{j=1}^{n} f_{i_j}(U_j) \) is a (not necessarily open) neighbourhood of \( t \) in \( T \).

**Proof.** The equivalence of (1) and (2) is immediate from the definitions. Hence
the lemma follows from Topologies, Lemma \[9.2\].

**Lemma 12.3.** Any étale covering and any Zariski covering is a pro-étale covering.

**Proof.** This follows from the corresponding result for fpqc coverings (Topologies,
Lemma \[9.6\], Lemma \[12.2\] and the fact that an étale morphism is a weakly étale
morphism, see More on Morphisms, Lemma \[56.9\]).

**Lemma 12.4.** Let \( T \) be a scheme.

(1) If \( T' \to T \) is an isomorphism then \( \{ T' \to T \} \) is a pro-étale covering of \( T \).
(2) If \( \{ T_i \to T \}_{i \in I} \) is a pro-étale covering and for each \( i \) we have a pro-étale
covering \( \{ T_{ij} \to T_i \}_{j \in J_i} \), then \( \{ T_{ij} \to T_i \}_{i \in I, j \in J_i} \) is a pro-étale covering.
(3) If \( \{ T_i \to T \}_{i \in I} \) is a pro-étale covering and \( T' \to T \) is a morphism of
schemes then \( \{ T' \times_T T_i \to T' \}_{i \in I} \) is a pro-étale covering.

**Proof.** This follows from the fact that composition and base changes of weakly
étale morphisms are weakly étale (More on Morphisms, Lemmas \[56.5\] and \[56.6\],
Lemma \[12.2\] and the corresponding results for fpqc coverings, see Topologies,
Lemma \[9.7\]).

**Lemma 12.5.** Let \( T \) be an affine scheme. Let \( \{ T_i \to T \}_{i \in I} \) be a pro-étale covering
of \( T \). Then there exists a pro-étale covering \( \{ U_j \to T \}_{j=1}^{n} \) which is a refinement of
\( \{ T_i \to T \}_{i \in I} \) such that each \( U_j \) is an affine scheme. Moreover, we may choose
each \( U_j \) to be open affine in one of the \( T_i \).

**Proof.** This follows directly from the definition.

Thus we define the corresponding standard coverings of affines as follows.

**Definition 12.6.** Let \( T \) be an affine scheme. A **standard pro-étale covering** of \( T \)
is a family \( \{ f_i : T_i \to T \}_{i=1}^{n} \) where each \( T_j \) is affine, each \( f_i \) is weakly étale, and
\( T = \bigcup f_i(T_i) \).

We interrupt the discussion for an explanation of the notion of w-contractible rings
in terms of pro-étale coverings.

**Lemma 12.7.** Let \( T = \text{Spec}(A) \) be an affine scheme. The following are equivalent
(1) \( A \) is w-contractible, and
(2) every pro-étale covering of \( T \) can be refined by a Zariski covering of the form \( T = \coprod_{i=1}^{n} U_i \).
Proof. Assume $A$ is $w$-contractible. By Lemma 12.5 it suffices to prove we can refine every standard pro-étale covering $\{f_i : T_i \to T\}_{i=1,\ldots,n}$ by a Zariski covering of $T$. The morphism $\coprod T_i \to T$ is a surjective weakly étale morphism of affine schemes. Hence by Definition 11.1 there exists a morphism $\sigma : T \to \coprod T_i$ over $T$. Then the Zariski covering $T = \coprod \sigma^{-1}(T_i)$ refines $\{f_i : T_i \to T\}$.

Conversely, assume (2). If $A \to B$ is faithfully flat and weakly étale, then $\{\Spec(B) \to T\}$ is a pro-étale covering. Hence there exists a Zariski covering $T = \coprod U_i$ and morphisms $U_i \to \Spec(B)$ over $T$. Since $T = \coprod U_i$ we obtain $T \to \Spec(B)$, i.e., an $A$-algebra map $B \to A$. This means $A$ is $w$-contractible.

We follow the general outline given in Topologies, Section 2 for constructing the big pro-étale site we will be working with. However, because we need a bit larger rings to accommodate for the size of certain constructions we modify the constructions slightly.

**Definition 12.8.** A big pro-étale site is any site $\Sch\pro\etale$ as in Sites, Definition 6.2 constructed as follows:

1. Choose any set of schemes $S_0$, and any set of pro-étale coverings Cov$_0$ among these schemes.
2. Change the function $\Bound$ of Sets, Equation (9.1.1) into
   \[
   \Bound(\kappa) = \max\{\kappa^{2^{2^n}}, \kappa^{\aleph_0}, \kappa^+\}.
   \]
3. As underlying category take any category $\Sch_\alpha$ constructed as in Sets, Lemma 9.2 starting with the set $S_0$ and the function $\Bound$.
4. Choose any set of coverings as in Sets, Lemma 11.1 starting with the category $\Sch_\alpha$ and the class of pro-étale coverings, and the set Cov$_0$ chosen above.

See the remarks following Topologies, Definition 3.5 for motivation and explanation regarding the definition of big sites.

Before we continue with the introduction of the big and small pro-étale sites of a scheme, let us point out that (1) our category contains many weakly contractible objects, and (2) the topology on a big pro-étale site $\Sch\pro\etale$ is in some sense induced from the pro-étale topology on the category of all schemes.

**Lemma 12.9.** Let $\Sch\pro\etale$ be a big pro-étale site as in Definition 12.8. Let $T = \Spec(A)$ be an affine object of $\Sch\pro\etale$. If $A$ is $w$-contractible, then $T$ is a weakly contractible (Sites, Definition 40.2) object of $\Sch\pro\etale$.

**Proof.** Let $\mathcal{F} \to \mathcal{G}$ be a surjection of sheaves on $\Sch\pro\etale$. Let $s \in \mathcal{G}(T)$. We have to show that $s$ is in the image of $\mathcal{F}(T) \to \mathcal{G}(T)$. We can find a covering $\{T_i \to T\}$ of $\Sch\pro\etale$ such that $s$ lifts to a section of $\mathcal{F}$ over $T_i$ (Sites, Definition 11.1). By Lemma 12.7 we can refine $\{T_i \to T\}$ by a Zariski covering of the form $T = \coprod j=1,\ldots,m V_j$. Hence we get $t_j \in \mathcal{F}(U_j)$ mapping to $s|_{U_j}$. Since Zariski coverings are coverings in $\Sch\pro\etale$ (Lemma 12.3) we conclude that $\mathcal{F}(T) = \coprod \mathcal{F}(U_j)$. Thus, taking $t = (t_1,\ldots,t_m) \in \mathcal{F}(T)$ is a section mapping to $s$.

**Lemma 12.10.** Let $\Sch\pro\etale$ be a big pro-étale site as in Definition 12.8. For every object $T$ of $\Sch\pro\etale$ there exists a covering $\{T_i \to T\}$ in $\Sch\pro\etale$ with each $T_i$ affine and the spectrum of a $w$-contractible ring. In particular, $T_i$ is weakly contractible in $\Sch\pro\etale$. 
11.3. The family of morphisms \( \text{flat, ind-étale ring maps} \) can show that \( \{ T_i \to T \} \) will be combinatorially equivalent to a covering of \( \text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}} \) by the construction of \( \text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}} \) in Definition 12.8 and more precisely the application of Sets, Lemma 11.1 in the last step. To prove \( \text{Spec}(D_i) \) is isomorphic to an object of \( \text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}} \), it suffices to prove that \( |D_i| \leq \text{Bound}(\text{size}(T)) \) by the construction of \( \text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}} \) in Definition 12.8 and more precisely the application of Sets, Lemma 9.2 in step (3). Since \( |A_i| \leq \text{size}(U_i) \leq \text{size}(T) \) by Sets, Lemmas 9.4 and 9.7 we get \( |D_i| \leq \kappa^{2^2} \) where \( \kappa = \text{size}(T) \) by Remark 11.4. Thus by our choice of the function \( \text{Bound} \) in Definition 12.8 we win. 

**Proof.** Namely, we first let \( \{ V_k \to T \} \) be a covering as in Lemma 12.10. Then the pro-étale coverings \( \{ T_i \times T V_k \to V_k \} \) can be refined by a finite disjoint open covering \( V_k = V_{k,1} \amalg \ldots \amalg V_{k,n_k} \), see Lemma 12.7. Then \( \{ V_{k,i} \to T \} \) is a covering of \( \text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}} \) which refines \( \{ T_i \to T \} \). 

**Definition 12.12.** Let \( S \) be a scheme. Let \( \text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}} \) be a big pro-étale site containing \( S \).

\begin{enumerate}
  \item The big pro-étale site of \( S \), denoted \( \text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}}/S \), is the site \( \text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}}/S \) introduced in Sites, Section 25.
  \item The small pro-étale site of \( S \), which we denote \( S_{\text{pro-étale}} \), is the full subcategory of \( \text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}}/S \) whose objects are those \( U/S \) such that \( U \to S \) is weakly étale. A covering of \( S_{\text{pro-étale}} \) is any covering \( \{ U_i \to U \} \) of \( \text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}}/U \in \text{Ob}(S_{\text{pro-étale}}) \).
  \item The big affine pro-étale site of \( S \), denoted \( \text{Aff}/S_{\text{pro-étale}} \), is the full subcategory of \( \text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}}/S \) whose objects are affine \( U/S \). A covering of \( \text{Aff}/S_{\text{pro-étale}} \) is any covering \( \{ U_i \to U \} \) of \( \text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}}/S \) which is a standard pro-étale covering.
\end{enumerate}

It is not completely clear that the small pro-étale site and the big affine pro-étale site are sites. We check this now.

**Lemma 12.13.** Let \( S \) be a scheme. Let \( \text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}} \) be a big pro-étale site containing \( S \). Both \( S_{\text{pro-étale}} \) and \( \text{Aff}/S_{\text{pro-étale}} \) are sites.

**Proof.** Let us show that \( S_{\text{pro-étale}} \) is a site. It is a category with a given set of families of morphisms with fixed target. Thus we have to show properties (1), (2) and (3) of Sites, Definition 6.2. Since \( \text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}} \) is a site, it suffices to prove that given any covering \( \{ U_i \to U \} \) of \( \text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}}/U \in \text{Ob}(S_{\text{pro-étale}}) \) we also have \( U_i \in \text{Ob}(S_{\text{pro-étale}}) \). This follows from the definitions as the composition of weakly étale morphisms is weakly étale.
To show that \((\text{Aff}/S)_{\text{pro-étale}}\) is a site, reasoning as above, it suffices to show that the collection of standard pro-étale coverings of affines satisfies properties (1), (2) and (3) of Sites, Definition 6.2. This follows from Lemma 12.2.2 and the corresponding result for standard fpqc coverings (Topologies, Lemma 9.10).

**Lemma 12.14.** Let \(S\) be a scheme. Let \(\text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}}\) be a big pro-étale site containing \(S\). Let \(\text{Sch}\) be the category of all schemes.

1. The categories \(\text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}}, (\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{pro-étale}}, \text{S}_{\text{pro-étale}}, \) and \((\text{Aff}/S)_{\text{pro-étale}}\) have fibre products agreeing with fibre products in \(\text{Sch}\).
2. The categories \(\text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}}, (\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{pro-étale}}, \text{S}_{\text{pro-étale}}\) have equalizers agreeing with equalizers in \(\text{Sch}\).
3. The categories \((\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{pro-étale}}\), \(\text{S}_{\text{pro-étale}}\) both have a final object, namely \(S/S\).
4. The category \(\text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}}\) has a final object agreeing with the final object of \(\text{Sch}\), namely \(\text{Spec}(\mathbb{Z})\).

**Proof.** The category \(\text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}}\) contains \(\text{Spec}(\mathbb{Z})\) and is closed under products and fibre products by construction, see Sets, Lemma 9.9. Suppose we have \(U \rightarrow S\), \(V \rightarrow U\), \(W \rightarrow U\) morphisms of schemes with \(U, V, W \in \text{Ob}(\text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}})\). The fibre product \(V \times_U W\) in \(\text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}}\) is a fibre product in \(\text{Sch}\) and is the fibre product of \(V/S\) with \(W/S\) over \(U/S\) in the category of all schemes over \(S\), and hence also a fibre product in \((\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{pro-étale}}\). This proves the result for \((\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{pro-étale}}\). If \(U \rightarrow S\), \(V \rightarrow U\) and \(W \rightarrow U\) are weakly étale then so is \(V \times_U W \rightarrow S\) (see More on Morphisms, Section 56) and hence we get fibre products for \(\text{S}_{\text{pro-étale}}\). If \(U, V, W\) are affine, so is \(V \times_U W\) and hence we get fibre products for \((\text{Aff}/S)_{\text{pro-étale}}\).

Let \(a, b : U \rightarrow V\) be two morphisms in \(\text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}}\). In this case the equalizer of \(a\) and \(b\) (in the category of schemes) is

\[
V \times_{\Delta_{\text{Spec}(\mathbb{Z})}, V \times_{\text{Spec}(\mathbb{Z})} V} (a, b) \cdot (U \times_{\text{Spec}(\mathbb{Z})} U)
\]

which is an object of \(\text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}}\) by what we saw above. Thus \(\text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}}\) has equalizers. If \(a\) and \(b\) are morphisms over \(S\), then the equalizer (in the category of schemes) is also given by

\[
V \times_{\Delta_{V/S}, V \times_{S} V} (a, b) \cdot (U \times_{S} U)
\]

hence we see that \((\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{pro-étale}}\) has equalizers. Moreover, if \(U\) and \(V\) are weakly-étale over \(S\), then so is the equalizer above as a fibre product of schemes weakly étale over \(S\). Thus \(\text{S}_{\text{pro-étale}}\) has equalizers. The statements on final objects is clear.

Next, we check that the big affine pro-étale site defines the same topos as the big pro-étale site.

**Lemma 12.15.** Let \(S\) be a scheme. Let \(\text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}}\) be a big pro-étale site containing \(S\). The functor \((\text{Aff}/S)_{\text{pro-étale}} \rightarrow (\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{pro-étale}}\) is a special cocontinuous functor. Hence it induces an equivalence of topos \(\text{Sh}((\text{Aff}/S)_{\text{pro-étale}}) \rightarrow \text{Sh}((\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{pro-étale}})\).

**Proof.** The notion of a special cocontinuous functor is introduced in Sites, Definition 29.2. Thus we have to verify assumptions (1) – (5) of Sites, Lemma 29.1. Denote the inclusion functor \(u : (\text{Aff}/S)_{\text{pro-étale}} \rightarrow (\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{pro-étale}}\). Being cocontinuous just means that any pro-étale covering of \(T/S\), \(T\) affine, can be refined by
a standard pro-étale covering of $T$. This is the content of Lemma 12.15. Hence (1) holds. We see $u$ is continuous simply because a standard pro-étale covering is a pro-étale covering. Hence (2) holds. Parts (3) and (4) follow immediately from the fact that $u$ is fully faithful. And finally condition (5) follows from the fact that every scheme has an affine open covering.

\[ i_f : Sh(T_{pro-\text{étale}}) \longrightarrow Sh((Sch/S)_{pro-\text{étale}}) \]

For a sheaf $G$ on $(Sch/S)_{pro-\text{étale}}$ we have the formula $(i_f^{-1}G)(U/T) = G(U/S)$. The functor $i_f^{-1}$ also has a left adjoint $i_{f,1}$ which commutes with fibre products and equalizers.

**Proof.** Denote the functor $u : T_{pro-\text{étale}} \to (Sch/S)_{pro-\text{étale}}$. In other words, given a weakly étale morphism $j : U \to T$ corresponding to an object of $T_{pro-\text{étale}}$ we set $u(U \to T) = (f \circ j : U \to S)$. This functor commutes with fibre products, see Lemma 12.14. Moreover, $T_{pro-\text{étale}}$ has equalizers and $u$ commutes with them by Lemma 12.14. It is clearly cocontinuous. It is also continuous as $u$ transforms coverings to coverings and commutes with fibre products. Hence the lemma follows from Sites, Lemmas 21.5 and 21.6.

\[ \pi_S : (Sch/S)_{pro-\text{étale}} \longrightarrow S_{pro-\text{étale}} \]

and a morphism of topos

\[ i_S : Sh(S_{pro-\text{étale}}) \longrightarrow Sh((Sch/S)_{pro-\text{étale}}) \]

such that $\pi_S \circ i_S = id$. Moreover, $i_S = i_{id_S}$ with $i_{id_S}$ as in Lemma 12.16. In particular the functor $i_S^{-1} = \pi_{S,*}$ is described by the rule $i_S^{-1}(G)(U/S) = G(U/S)$.

**Proof.** In this case the functor $u : S_{pro-\text{étale}} \to (Sch/S)_{pro-\text{étale}}$, in addition to the properties seen in the proof of Lemma 12.16 above, also is fully faithful and transforms the final object into the final object. The lemma follows from Sites, Lemma 21.8.

\[ Mor_{Sh(S_{pro-\text{étale}})}(F|_{S_{pro-\text{étale}}}, G) = Mor_{Sh((Sch/S)_{pro-\text{étale}})}(F, i_{S,*}G) \]

\[ Mor_{Sh(S_{pro-\text{étale}})}(G, F|_{S_{pro-\text{étale}}}) = Mor_{Sh((Sch/S)_{pro-\text{étale}})}(\pi_S^{-1}G, F) \]

Moreover, we have $(i_{S,*}G)|_{S_{pro-\text{étale}}} = G$ and we have $(\pi_S^{-1}G)|_{S_{pro-\text{étale}}} = G$. In the situation of Lemma 12.17 the functor $i_S^{-1} = \pi_{S,*}$ is often called the restriction to the small pro-étale site, and for a sheaf $F$ on the big pro-étale site we denote $F|_{S_{pro-\text{étale}}}$ this restriction.
098S **Lemma 12.19.** Let $\text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}}$ be a big pro-étale site. Let $f : T \to S$ be a morphism in $\text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}}$. The functor

$$u : (\text{Sch}/T)_{\text{pro-étale}} \to (\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{pro-étale}}, \quad V/T \mapsto V/S$$

is cocontinuous, and has a continuous right adjoint

$$v : (\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{pro-étale}} \to (\text{Sch}/T)_{\text{pro-étale}}, \quad (U \to S) \mapsto (U \times_S T \to T).$$

They induce the same morphism of topoi

$$f_{\text{big}} : \text{Sh}((\text{Sch}/T)_{\text{pro-étale}}) \to \text{Sh}((\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{pro-étale}})$$

We have $f_{\text{big}}^{-1}(G)(U/T) = G(U/S)$. We have $f_{\text{big},*}(\mathcal{F})(U/S) = \mathcal{F}(U \times_S T/T)$. Also, $f_{\text{big}}^{-1}$ has a left adjoint $f_{\text{big}}$ which commutes with fibre products and equalizers.

**Proof.** The functor $u$ is cocontinuous, continuous, and commutes with fibre products and equalizers (details omitted; compare with proof of Lemma 12.16). Hence Sites, Lemmas 21.5 and 21.6 apply and we deduce the formula for $f_{\text{big}}^{-1}$ and the existence of $f_{\text{big}}$. Moreover, the functor $v$ is a right adjoint because given $U/T$ and $V/S$ we have $\text{Mor}_S(u(U), V) = \text{Mor}_T(U, V \times_S T)$ as desired. Thus we may apply Sites, Lemmas 22.1 and 22.2 to get the formula for $f_{\text{big},*}$. \hfill $\Box$

098T **Lemma 12.20.** Let $\text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}}$ be a big pro-étale site. Let $f : T \to S$ be a morphism in $\text{Sch}_{\text{pro-étale}}$.

1. We have $i_f = f_{\text{big}} \circ i_T$ with $i_f$ as in Lemma 12.16 and $i_T$ as in Lemma 12.17.

2. The functor $S_{\text{pro-étale}} \to T_{\text{pro-étale}}, (U \to S) \mapsto (U \times_S T \to T)$ is continuous and induces a morphism of topoi

$$f_{\text{small}} : \text{Sh}(T_{\text{pro-étale}}) \to \text{Sh}(S_{\text{pro-étale}}).$$

We have $f_{\text{small},*}(\mathcal{F})(U/S) = \mathcal{F}(U \times_S T/T)$.

3. We have a commutative diagram of morphisms of sites

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
S_{\text{pro-étale}} & \xrightarrow{\pi_S} & (\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{pro-étale}} \\
| & f_{\text{small}} & | \\
\pi_T & (\text{Sch}/T)_{\text{pro-étale}} & f_{\text{big}} \\
\end{array}$$

so that $f_{\text{small}} \circ \pi_T = \pi_S \circ f_{\text{big}}$ as morphisms of topoi.

4. We have $f_{\text{small}} = \pi_S \circ f_{\text{big}} \circ i_T = \pi_S \circ i_f$.

**Proof.** The equality $i_f = f_{\text{big}} \circ i_T$ follows from the equality $i_f^{-1} = i_T^{-1} \circ f_{\text{big}}^{-1}$ which is clear from the descriptions of these functors above. Thus we see (1).

The functor $u : S_{\text{pro-étale}} \to T_{\text{pro-étale}}, u(U \to S) = (U \times_S T \to T)$ transforms coverings into coverings and commutes with fibre products, see Lemmas 12.4 and 12.14. Moreover, both $S_{\text{pro-étale}}, T_{\text{pro-étale}}$ have final objects, namely $S/S$ and $T/T$ and $u(S/S) = T/T$. Hence by Sites, Proposition 14.7 the functor $u$ corresponds to a morphism of sites $T_{\text{pro-étale}} \to S_{\text{pro-étale}}$. This in turn gives rise to the morphism of topoi, see Sites, Lemma 15.3. The description of the pushforward is clear from these references.

Part (3) follows because $\pi_S$ and $\pi_T$ are given by the inclusion functors and $f_{\text{small}}$ and $f_{\text{big}}$ by the base change functors $U \mapsto U \times_S T$. 


Statement (4) follows from (3) by precomposing with \( i_T \).

In the situation of the lemma, using the terminology of Definition 12.18 we have:

\[
(f_{\text{big} \ast} F)|_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}} = f_{\text{small} \ast}(F|_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}}).
\]

This equality is clear from the commutativity of the diagram of sites of the lemma, since restriction to the small pro-\acute{e}tale site of \( T \), resp \( S \) is given by \( \pi_{T, \ast} \), resp. \( \pi_{S, \ast} \).

A similar formula involving pullbacks and restrictions is false.

**Lemma 12.21.** Given schemes \( X, Y, S \) in \( \text{Sch}_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}} \) and morphisms \( f : X \to Y \), \( g : Y \to Z \) we have \( g_{\text{big}} \circ f_{\text{big}} = (g \circ f)_{\text{big}} \) and \( g_{\text{small}} \circ f_{\text{small}} = (g \circ f)_{\text{small}} \).

**Proof.** This follows from the simple description of pushforward and pullback for the functors on the big sites from Lemma 12.19. For the functors on the small sites this follows from the description of the pushforward functors in Lemma 12.20. \( \square \)

We can think about a sheaf on the big pro-\acute{e}tale site of \( S \) as a collection of sheaves on the small pro-\acute{e}tale site on schemes over \( S \).

**Lemma 12.22.** Let \( S \) be a scheme contained in a big pro-\acute{e}tale site \( \text{Sch}_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}} \). A sheaf \( F \) on the big pro-\acute{e}tale site \( \text{Sch}_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}} \) is given by the following data:

1. For every \( T/S \in \text{Ob}((\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}}) \) a sheaf \( F_T \) on \( T_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}} \),
2. For every \( f : T' \to T \) in \( (\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}} \) a map \( c_f : f_{\text{small}}^{-1} F_T \to F_{T'} \).

These data are subject to the following conditions:

(a) given any \( f : T' \to T \) and \( g : T'' \to T' \) in \( (\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}} \) the composition \( g_{\text{small}} c_f \circ c_g \) is equal to \( c_{f \circ g} \), and

(b) if \( f : T' \to T \) in \( (\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}} \) is weakly \acute{e}tale then \( c_f \) is an isomorphism.

**Proof.** Identical to the proof of Topologies, Lemma 4.19. \( \square \)

**Lemma 12.23.** Let \( S \) be a scheme. Let \( S_{\text{affine,pro-\acute{e}tale}} \) denote the full subcategory of \( S_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}} \) consisting of affine objects. A covering of \( S_{\text{affine,pro-\acute{e}tale}} \) will be a standard \acute{e}tale covering, see Definition 12.6. Then restriction

\[
F \mapsto F|_{S_{\text{affine,pro-\acute{e}tale}}}
\]

defines an equivalence of topoi \( \text{Sh}(S_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}}) \cong \text{Sh}(S_{\text{affine,pro-\acute{e}tale}}) \).

**Proof.** This you can show directly from the definitions, and is a good exercise. But it also follows immediately from Sites, Lemma 29.1 by checking that the inclusion functor \( S_{\text{affine,pro-\acute{e}tale}} \to S_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}} \) is a special cocontinuous functor (see Sites, Definition 29.2). \( \square \)

**Lemma 12.24.** Let \( S \) be an affine scheme. Let \( S_{\text{app}} \) denote the full subcategory of \( S_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}} \) consisting of affine objects \( U \) such that \( \mathcal{O}(S) \to \mathcal{O}(U) \) is ind-\acute{e}tale. A covering of \( S_{\text{app}} \) will be a standard pro-\acute{e}tale covering, see Definition 12.6. Then restriction

\[
F \mapsto F|_{S_{\text{app}}}
\]

defines an equivalence of topoi \( \text{Sh}(S_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}}) \cong \text{Sh}(S_{\text{app}}) \).
Let us first apply Deligne’s criterion to show that there are enough points. The lemma follows from Sites, Lemma \[29.1\] by checking that the inclusion functor \(S_{\text{affine,pro-}\text{étale}} \to S'_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}\) is a special cocontinuous functor, see Sites, Definition \[29.2\]. The conditions of Sites, Lemma \[29.1\] follow immediately from the definition and the facts (a) any object \(U\) of \(S'_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}\) has a covering \(\{V \to U\}\) with \(V\) ind-étale over \(X\) (Proposition \[9.1\]) and (b) the functor \(u\) is fully faithful. 

Next we show that cohomology of sheaves is independent of the choice of a partial universe. Namely, the functor \(g_*\) of the lemma below is an embedding of pro-étale topoi which does not change cohomology.

**Lemma 12.24.** Let \(S\) be a scheme. Let \(S'_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}} \subset S'_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}\) be two small pro-étale sites of \(S\) as constructed in Definition \[12.12\]. Then the inclusion functor satisfies the assumptions of Sites, Lemma \[21.8\]. Hence there exist morphisms of topoi 

\[
Sh(S_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}) \xrightarrow{g} Sh(S'_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}) \xrightarrow{f} Sh(S_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}})
\]

whose composition is isomorphic to the identity and with \(f_* = g^{-1}\). Moreover,

1. for \(F \in Ab(S'_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}})\) we have \(H^p(S'_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}, F) = H^p(S_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}, g^{-1}F)\),
2. for \(F \in Ab(S_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}})\) we have \(H^p(S_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}, F) = H^p(S'_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}, g_*F)\).

**Proof.** The inclusion functor is fully faithful and continuous. We have seen that \(S_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}\) and \(S'_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}\) have fibre products and final objects and that our functor commutes with these (Lemma \[12.14\]). It follows from Lemma \[12.11\] that the inclusion functor is cocontinuous. Hence the existence of \(f\) and \(g\) follows from Sites, Lemma \[21.8\]. The equality in (1) is Cohomology on Sites, Lemma \[8.2\]. Part (2) follows from (1) as \(F = g^{-1}g_*F = g^{-1}f^{-1}F\).

**Lemma 12.26.** Let \(S\) be a scheme. The topology on each of the pro-étale sites \(S_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}, (\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}, S'_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}\), and \((\text{Aff}/S)_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}\) is subcanonical.

**Proof.** Combine Lemma \[12.2\] and Descent, Lemma \[10.7\].

**Lemma 12.27.** Let \(S\) be a scheme. The pro-étale sites \(S_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}, (\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}, S'_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}\), and \((\text{Aff}/S)_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}\) and if \(S\) is affine \(S_{\text{affine,pro-}\text{étale}}\) have enough quasi-compact, weakly contractible objects, see Sites, Definition \[10.2\].

**Proof.** Follows immediately from Lemma \[12.10\].

13. Points of the pro-étale site

We first apply Deligne’s criterion to show that there are enough points.

**Lemma 13.1.** Let \(S\) be a scheme. The pro-étale sites \(S_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}, (\text{Sch}/S)_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}, S'_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}\), and \((\text{Aff}/S)_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}\) have enough points.

**Proof.** The big topos is equivalent to the topos defined by \((\text{Aff}/S)_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}\), see Lemma \[12.15\] The topos of sheaves on \(S_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}\) is equivalent to the topos associated to \(S'_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}\), see Lemma \[12.23\]. The result for the sites \((\text{Aff}/S)_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}\) and \(S'_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}\) follows immediately from Deligne’s result Sites, Lemma \[39.4\].
Let $S$ be a scheme. Let $\pi: \text{Spec}(k) \to S$ be a geometric point. We define a pro-étale neighbourhood of $\pi$ to be a commutative diagram

\[ \begin{array}{ccc}
\text{Spec}(k) & \xrightarrow{\pi} & U \\
\downarrow \pi & & \downarrow \\
S & & 
\end{array} \]

with $U \to S$ weakly étale. In exactly the same manner as in Étale Cohomology, one shows that the category of pro-étale neighbourhoods of $\pi$ is cofiltered. Moreover, if $(U, \pi)$ is a pro-étale neighbourhood, and if $\{U_i \to U\}$ is a pro-étale covering, then there exists an $i$ and a lift of $\pi$ to a geometric point $\pi_i$ of $U_i$. For $\mathcal{F}$ in $\text{Sh}(S_{\text{pro-étale}})$ define the stalk of $\mathcal{F}$ at $\pi$ by the formula

\[ \mathcal{F}\pi = \text{colim}_{(U, \pi)} \mathcal{F}(U) \]

where the colimit is over all pro-étale neighbourhoods $(U, \pi)$ of $\pi$ with $U \in \text{Ob}(S_{\text{pro-étale}})$. A formal argument using the facts above shows the functor $F \mapsto F\pi$ defines a point of the topos $\text{Sh}(S_{\text{pro-étale}})$: it is an exact functor which commutes with arbitrary colimits. In fact, this functor has another description.

**Lemma 13.2.** In the situation above the scheme $\text{Spec}(\mathcal{O}_{S, \pi}^{sh})$ is an object of $X_{\text{pro-étale}}$ and there is a canonical isomorphism

\[ \mathcal{F}(\text{Spec}(\mathcal{O}_{S, \pi}^{sh})) = \mathcal{F}\pi \]

functorial in $\mathcal{F}$.

**Proof.** The first statement is clear from the construction of the strict henselization as a filtered colimit of étale algebras over $S$, or by the characterization of weakly étale morphisms of More on Morphisms, Lemma 56.11. The second statement follows as by Olivier’s theorem (More on Algebra, Theorem 91.25) the scheme $\text{Spec}(\mathcal{O}_{S, \pi}^{sh})$ is an initial object of the category of pro-étale neighbourhoods of $\pi$. $\square$

Contrary to the situation with the étale topos of $S$ it is not true that every point of $\text{Sh}(S_{\text{pro-étale}})$ is of this form, and it is not true that the collection of points associated to geometric points is conservative. Namely, suppose that $S = \text{Spec}(k)$ where $k$ is an algebraically closed field. Let $A$ be an abelian group. Consider the sheaf $\mathcal{F}$ on $S_{\text{pro-étale}}$ defined by the rule

\[ \mathcal{F}(U) = \frac{\{\text{functions } U \to A\}}{\{\text{locally constant functions}\}} \]

Then $\mathcal{F}(U) = 0$ if $U = S = \text{Spec}(k)$ but in general $\mathcal{F}$ is not zero. Namely, $S_{\text{pro-étale}}$ contains quasi-compact objects with infinitely many points. For example, let $E = \lim E_n$ be an inverse limit of finite sets with surjective transition maps, e.g., $E = \lim \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$. The scheme $\text{Spec}(\text{colim } \text{Map}(E_n, k))$ is an object of $S_{\text{pro-étale}}$ because $\text{colim } \text{Map}(E_n, k)$ is weakly étale (even ind-Zariski) over $k$. Thus $\mathcal{F}$ is a nonzero abelian sheaf whose stalk at the unique geometric point of $S$ is zero.

The solution is to use the existence of quasi-compact, weakly contractible objects. First, there are enough quasi-compact, weakly contractible objects by Lemma 12.27. Second, if $W \in \text{Ob}(S_{\text{pro-étale}})$ is quasi-compact, weakly contractible, then the functor

\[ \text{Sh}(S_{\text{pro-étale}}) \to \text{Sets}, \quad \mathcal{F} \mapsto \mathcal{F}(W) \]
is an exact functor $\text{Sh}(S_{\text{pro-étale}}) \to \text{Sets}$ which commutes with all limits. The functor

$$\text{Ab}(S_{\text{pro-étale}}) \longrightarrow \text{Ab}, \quad \mathcal{F} \mapsto \mathcal{F}(W)$$

is exact and commutes with direct sums (as $W$ is quasi-compact, see Sites, Lemma 17.5), hence commutes with all limits and colimits. Moreover, we can check exactness of a complex of abelian sheaves by evaluation at the quasi-compact, weakly contractible objects of $S_{\text{pro-étale}}$, see Cohomology on Sites, Proposition 47.2.

14. Compact generation

Let $S$ be a scheme. The site $S_{\text{pro-étale}}$ has enough quasi-compact, weakly contractible objects $U$. For any sheaf of rings $\mathcal{A}$ on $S_{\text{pro-étale}}$ the corresponding objects $j_{U!} \mathcal{A}_U$ are compact objects of the derived category $D(\mathcal{A})$, see Cohomology on Sites, Lemma 48.5. Since every complex of $\mathcal{A}$-modules is quasi-isomorphic to a complex whose terms are direct sums of the modules $j_{U!} \mathcal{A}_U$ (details omitted). Thus we see that $D(\mathcal{A})$ is generated by its compact objects.

The same argument works for the big pro-étale site of $S$.

15. Derived completion in the constant Noetherian case

We continue the discussion started in Algebraic and Formal Geometry, Section 6; we assume the reader has read at least some of that section. Let $C$ be a site. Let $\Lambda$ be a Noetherian ring and let $I \subset \Lambda$ be an ideal. Recall from Modules on Sites, Lemma 41.4 that $\Lambda^\wedge = \lim \Lambda/I^n$ is a flat $\Lambda$-algebra and that the map $\Lambda \to \Lambda^\wedge$ identifies quotients by $I$. Hence Algebraic and Formal Geometry, Lemma 6.17 tells us that $D_{\text{comp}}(C, \Lambda) = D_{\text{comp}}(C, \Lambda^\wedge)$.

In particular the cohomology sheaves $H^i(K)$ of an object $K$ of $D_{\text{comp}}(C, \Lambda)$ are sheaves of $\Lambda^\wedge$-modules. For notational convenience we often work with $D_{\text{comp}}(C, \Lambda)$.

**Lemma 15.1.** Let $C$ be a site. Let $\Lambda$ be a Noetherian ring and let $I \subset \Lambda$ be an ideal. The left adjoint to the inclusion functor $D_{\text{comp}}(C, \Lambda) \to D(C, \Lambda)$ of Algebraic and Formal Geometry, Proposition 6.12 sends $K$ to

$$K^\wedge = \text{R} \lim(K \otimes_{\Lambda}^{\mathbb{L}} \Lambda/I^n)$$

In particular, $K$ is derived complete if and only if $K = \text{R} \lim(K \otimes_{\Lambda}^{\mathbb{L}} \Lambda/I^n)$.

**Proof.** Choose generators $f_1, \ldots, f_r$ of $I$. By Algebraic and Formal Geometry, Lemma 6.9 we have

$$K^\wedge = \text{R} \lim(K \otimes_{\Lambda}^{\mathbb{L}} K_n)$$

where $K_n = K(\Lambda, f_1^n, \ldots, f_r^n)$. In More on Algebra, Lemma 84.1 we have seen that the pro-systems $\{K_n\}$ and $\{\Lambda/I^n\}$ of $D(\Lambda)$ are isomorphic. Thus the lemma follows. \qed

**Lemma 15.2.** Let $\Lambda$ be a Noetherian ring. Let $I \subset \Lambda$ be an ideal. Let $f : \text{Sh}(\mathcal{D}) \to \text{Sh}(\mathcal{C})$ be a morphism of topoi. Then

1. $Rf_*$ sends $D_{\text{comp}}(\mathcal{D}, \Lambda)$ into $D_{\text{comp}}(\mathcal{C}, \Lambda)$,
2. the map $Rf_* : D_{\text{comp}}(\mathcal{D}, \Lambda) \to D_{\text{comp}}(\mathcal{C}, \Lambda)$ has a left adjoint $Lf_{\text{comp}}^* : D_{\text{comp}}(\mathcal{C}, \Lambda) \to D_{\text{comp}}(\mathcal{D}, \Lambda)$ which is $Lf^*$ followed by derived completion,
(3) $Rf_*$ commutes with derived completion,
(4) for $K$ in $D_{comp}(D, \Lambda)$ we have $Rf_* K = R \lim Rf_*(K \otimes^L_\Lambda \Lambda/I^n)$.
(5) for $M$ in $D_{comp}(C, \Lambda)$ we have $Lf^* M = R \lim (M \otimes^L_\Lambda \Lambda/I^n)$.

**Proof.** We have seen (1) and (2) in Algebraic and Formal Geometry, Lemma 6.18. Part (3) follows from Algebraic and Formal Geometry, Lemma 6.19. For (4) let $K$ be derived complete. Then
$$Rf_* K = Rf_*(R \lim K \otimes^L_\Lambda \Lambda/I^n) = R \lim Rf_*(K \otimes^L_\Lambda \Lambda/I^n)$$
the first equality by Lemma 15.1 and the second because $Rf_*$ commutes with $R \lim$ (Cohomology on Sites, Lemma 23.3). This proves (4). To prove (5), by Lemma 15.1 we have
$$Lf^* M = R \lim (Lf^* M \otimes^L_\Lambda \Lambda/I^n)$$
Since $Lf^*$ commutes with derived tensor product by Cohomology on Sites, Lemma 19.4 and since $Lf^* \Lambda/I^n = \Lambda/I^n$ we get (5). □

16. Derived completion on the pro-étale site

Let $\mathcal{C}$ be a site. Let $\Lambda$ be a Noetherian ring. Let $I \subset \Lambda$ be an ideal. Although the general theory (see Algebraic and Formal Geometry, Section 6 and Section 15) concerning $D_{comp}(\mathcal{C}, \Lambda)$ is quite satisfactory it is somewhat useless as it is hard to explicitly give examples of derived complete complexes. We know that
(1) every object $M$ of $D(\mathcal{C}, \Lambda/I^n)$ restricts to a derived complete object of $D(\mathcal{C}, \Lambda)$, and
(2) for every $K \in D(\mathcal{C}, \Lambda)$ the derived completion $K^\wedge = R \lim (K \otimes^L_\Lambda \Lambda/I^n)$ is derived complete.

The first type of objects are trivially complete and perhaps not interesting. The problem with (2) is that derived completion in general is somewhat mysterious, even in case $K = \Lambda$. Namely, by definition of homotopy limits there is a distinguished triangle
$$R \lim(\Lambda/I^n) \to \coprod \Lambda/I^n \to \coprod \Lambda/I^n \to R \lim(\Lambda/I^n)[1]$$
in $D(\mathcal{C}, \Lambda)$ where the products are in $D(\mathcal{C}, \Lambda)$. These are computed by taking products of injective resolutions (Injectives, Lemma 13.4), so we see that the sheaf $H^p(\coprod \Lambda/I^n)$ is the sheafification of the presheaf
$$U \mapsto \prod H^p(U, \Lambda/I^n).$$
As an explicit example, if $X = \text{Spec}(\mathcal{C}[t, t^{-1}]), \mathcal{C} = X_{\acute{e}tale}, \Lambda = \mathbb{Z}, I = (2)$, and $p = 1$, then we get the sheafification of the presheaf
$$U \mapsto \prod H^1(U_{\acute{e}tale}, \mathbb{Z}/2^n \mathbb{Z})$$
for $U$ étale over $X$. Note that $H^1(X_{\acute{e}tale}, \mathbb{Z}/m \mathbb{Z})$ is cyclic of order $m$ with generator $\alpha_m$ given by the finite étale $\mathbb{Z}/m \mathbb{Z}$-covering given by the equation $t = s^m$ (see Étale Cohomology, Section 6). Then the section
$$\alpha = (\alpha_{2^n}) \in \prod H^1(X_{\acute{e}tale}, \mathbb{Z}/2^n \mathbb{Z})$$
of the presheaf above does not restrict to zero on any nonempty étale scheme over $X$, whence the sheaf associated to the presheaf is not zero.
However, on the pro-étale site this phenomenon does not occur. The reason is that we have enough (quasi-compact) weakly contractible objects. In the following proposition we collect some results about derived completion in the Noetherian constant case for sites having enough weakly contractible objects (see Sites, Definition 40.2).

**Proposition 16.1.** Let $\mathcal{C}$ be a site. Assume $\mathcal{C}$ has enough weakly contractible objects. Let $\Lambda$ be a Noetherian ring. Let $I \subseteq \Lambda$ be an ideal.

1. The category of derived complete sheaves $\Lambda$-modules is a weak Serre subcategory of $\text{Mod}(\mathcal{C}, \Lambda)$.
2. A sheaf $\mathcal{F}$ of $\Lambda$-modules satisfies $\mathcal{F} = \lim F/I^n F$ if and only if $\mathcal{F}$ is derived complete and $\bigcap I^n F = 0$.
3. The sheaf $\Lambda^\wedge$ is derived complete.
4. If $\ldots \to F_3 \to F_2 \to F_1$ is an inverse system of derived complete sheaves of $\Lambda$-modules, then $\lim F_n$ is derived complete.
5. An object $K \in D(\mathcal{C}, \Lambda)$ is derived complete if and only if each cohomology sheaf $H^p(K)$ is derived complete.
6. An object $K \in D^{\text{comp}}(\mathcal{C}, \Lambda)$ is bounded if $K \otimes_{\Lambda} \Lambda/I$ is bounded above.
7. An object $K \in D^{\text{comp}}(\mathcal{C}, \Lambda)$ is bounded if $K \otimes_{\Lambda} \Lambda/I$ has finite tor dimension.

**Proof.** Let $B \subseteq \text{Ob}(\mathcal{C})$ be a subset such that every $U \in B$ is weakly contractible and every object of $\mathcal{C}$ has a covering by elements of $B$. We will use the results of Cohomology on Sites, Lemma 47.1 and Proposition 47.2 without further mention.

Recall that $\mathcal{R}\text{lim}$ commutes with $\mathcal{R}\Gamma(U, -)$, see Injectives, Lemma 13.6. Let $f \in I$. Recall that $T(K, f)$ is the homotopy limit of the system

$$\ldots K \xrightarrow{f} K \xrightarrow{f} K$$

in $D(\mathcal{C}, \Lambda)$. Thus

$$\mathcal{R}\Gamma(U, T(K, f)) = T(\mathcal{R}\Gamma(U, K), f).$$

Since we can test isomorphisms of maps between objects of $D(\mathcal{C}, \Lambda)$ by evaluating at $U \in B$ we conclude an object $K$ of $D(\mathcal{C}, \Lambda)$ is derived complete if and only if for every $U \in B$ the object $\mathcal{R}\Gamma(U, K)$ is derived complete as an object of $D(\Lambda)$.

The remark above implies that items (1), (5) follow from the corresponding results for modules over rings, see More on Algebra, Lemmas 82.1 and 82.6. In the same way (2) can be deduced from More on Algebra, Proposition 82.5 as $(I^n F)(U) = I^n \cdot F(U)$ for $U \in B$ (by exactness of evaluating at $U$).

Proof of (4). The homotopy limit $R\lim F_n$ is in $D^{\text{comp}}(X, \Lambda)$ (see discussion following Algebraic and Formal Geometry, Definition 6.4). By part (5) just proved we conclude that $\lim F_n = H^0(\mathcal{R}\lim F_n)$ is derived complete. Part (3) is a special case of (4).

Proof of (6) and (7). Follows from Lemma 15.1 and Cohomology on Sites, Lemma 44.9 and the computation of homotopy limits in Cohomology on Sites, Proposition 47.2. □
17. Comparison with the étale site

Let $X$ be a scheme. With suitable choices of sites (as in Topologies, Remark 11.1) the functor $u : X_{\text{étale}} \to X_{\text{pro-étale}}$ sending $U/X$ to $U/X$ defines a morphism of sites

$$\epsilon : X_{\text{pro-étale}} \to X_{\text{étale}}$$

This follows from Sites, Proposition 14.7. A fundamental fact about this comparison morphism is the following.

**Lemma 17.1.** Let $X$ be a scheme. Let $Y = \lim Y_i$ be an inverse limit of quasi-compact and quasi-separated schemes étale over $X$ with affine transition morphisms. For any sheaf $F$ on $X_{\text{étale}}$ we have $\epsilon^{-1}F(Y) = \text{colim} F(Y_i)$.

**Proof.** Let $F = h_U$ be a representable sheaf on $X_{\text{étale}}$ with $U$ an object of $X_{\text{étale}}$. In this case $\epsilon^{-1}h_U = h_{u(U)}$ where $u(U)$ is $U$ viewed as an object of $X_{\text{pro-étale}}$ (Sites, Lemma 13.5). Then

$$(\epsilon^{-1}h_U)(Y) = h_{u(U)}(Y) = \text{Mor}_X(Y,U) = \text{colim} \text{Mor}_X(Y_i,U) = \text{colim} h_{u(U)}(Y_i) = \text{colim} (\epsilon^{-1}h_U)(Y_i)$$

Here the only nonformal equality is the 3rd which holds by Limits, Proposition 6.1. Hence the lemma holds for every representable sheaf. Since every sheaf is a coequalizer of a map of coproducts of representable sheaves (Sites, Lemma 12.5) we obtain the result in general. □

**Lemma 17.2.** Let $X$ be a scheme. For every sheaf $F$ on $X_{\text{étale}}$ the adjunction map $F \to \epsilon_* \epsilon^{-1}F$ is an isomorphism.

**Proof.** Suppose that $U$ is a quasi-compact and quasi-separated scheme étale over $X$. Then

$$\epsilon_* \epsilon^{-1}F(U) = \epsilon^{-1}F(U) = F(U)$$

the second equality by (a special case of) Lemma 17.1. Since every object of $X_{\text{étale}}$ has a covering by quasi-compact and quasi-separated objects we conclude. □

**Lemma 17.3.** Let $X$ be an affine scheme. For injective abelian sheaf $I$ on $X_{\text{étale}}$ we have $H^p(X_{\text{pro-étale}}, \epsilon^{-1}I) = 0$ for $p > 0$.

**Proof.** We are going to use Cohomology on Sites, Lemma 11.9 to prove this. The idea is simple: We show that every standard pro-étale covering of $X$ is a limit of coverings in $X_{\text{étale}}$. If this holds then Lemma 17.1 will kick in to show the Čech cohomology groups of $\epsilon^{-1}I$ are colimits of those of $I$ which are zero in positive degree.

Here are the details. Let $\mathcal{B} \subset \text{Ob}(X_{\text{pro-étale}})$ be the set of affine schemes $U$ over $X$ such that $\mathcal{O}(X) \to \mathcal{O}(U)$ is ind-étale. Let Cov be the set of pro-étale coverings $\{U_i \to U\}_{i=1,\ldots,n}$ with $U, U_i \in \mathcal{B}$ such that $\mathcal{O}(U) \to \mathcal{O}(U_i)$ is ind-étale for $i = 1,\ldots,n$. Properties (1) and (2) of Cohomology on Sites, Lemma 11.9 hold for $\mathcal{B}$ and Cov by Proposition 9.1 (it also follows from Lemma 12.10).
To check condition (3) suppose that \( \{U_i \to U\}_{i=1,...,n} \) is an element of Cov. Then we can write \( U = \lim_{i \in B} U_b \) with \( U_i,a \to U \) étale and \( U_i,a \) affine. Next we write \( U = \lim_{i \in B} U_b \) with \( U_b \) affine and \( U_b \to U \) étale. By Limits, Lemma \[10.1\] for each \( i \) and \( a \in A_i \) we can choose a \( b(i,a) \in B \) and for all \( b \geq b(i,a) \) an affine scheme \( U_{i,a,b} \) étale over \( U_b \) such that \( U_{i,a} = \lim_{b \geq b(i,a)} U_{i,a,b} \). Moreover, any transition map \( U_{i,a} \to U_{i,a'} \) comes from an essentially unique morphism \( U_{i,a,b} \to U_{i,a',b} \) for \( b \) large enough (by the same reference). Finally, given \( a_1 \in A_1, \ldots, a_n \in A_n \) the morphism \( U_{1,a_1} \times U_{2,a_2} \times \cdots \times U_{n,a_n} \to U \) is surjective, hence for \( b \) large enough the map \( U_{1,a_1,b} \times U_{2,a_2,b} \times \cdots \times U_{n,a_n,b} \to U_b \) is surjective by Limits, Lemma \[8.14\]. Let \( D \) be the category of coverings \( \{U_{i,a,b} \to U_b\}_{i=1,...,n} \) so obtained. This category is cofiltered. We claim that, given \( i_0, \ldots, i_p \in \{1, \ldots, n\} \) we have

\[
U_{i_0} \times_U U_{i_1} \times_U \cdots \times_U U_{i_p} = \varprojlim D U_{i_0,a_{i_0},b} \times_U U_{i_1,a_{i_1},b} \times_U \cdots \times_U U_{i_p,a_{i_p},b}
\]

This is clear from the fact that it holds for \( p = -1 \) (i.e., \( U = \lim D U_b \)) and for \( p = 0 \) (i.e., \( U_i = \lim D U_{i,a} \)) and the fact that fibre products commute with limits. Then finally it follows from Lemma \[17.1\] that

\[
\check{H}^i((U_i \to U), \epsilon^{-1}\mathcal{I}) = \colim_{D \text{pro-affine}} \check{H}^i((U_{i,a,b} \to U_b), \mathcal{I})
\]

Since each of the Čech complexes on the right hand side is acyclic in positive degrees (Cohomology on Sites, Lemma \[11.2\]), it follows that the one on the left is too. This proves condition (3) of Cohomology on Sites, Lemma \[11.9\]. Since \( X \in \mathcal{B} \) the lemma follows.

---

**Lemma 17.4.** Let \( X \) be a scheme. For an abelian sheaf \( \mathcal{F} \) on \( X_{\text{étale}} \) we have \( R\epsilon_* (\epsilon^{-1}\mathcal{F}) = \mathcal{F} \).

**Proof.** Let \( \mathcal{I} \) be an injective abelian sheaf on \( X_{\text{étale}} \). Recall that \( R\epsilon_* (\epsilon^{-1}\mathcal{I}) \) is the sheaf associated to \( U \to H^q(U_{\text{pro-étale}}, \epsilon^{-1}\mathcal{I}) \), see Cohomology on Sites, Lemma \[8.4\]. By Lemma \[17.3\] we see that this is zero for \( q > 0 \) and \( U \) affine and étale over \( X \). Since every object of \( X_{\text{étale}} \) has a covering by affine objects, it follows that \( R\epsilon_* (\epsilon^{-1}\mathcal{I}) = 0 \) for \( q > 0 \). Combined with Lemma \[17.2\] we conclude that \( R\epsilon_* \epsilon^{-1}\mathcal{I} = \mathcal{I} \) for every injective abelian sheaf. Since every abelian sheaf has a resolution by injective sheaves, the result follows. (Hint: use Leray acyclicity theorem – Derived Categories, Lemma \[17.7\]).

---

**Lemma 17.5.** Let \( X \) be a scheme. For an abelian sheaf \( \mathcal{F} \) on \( X_{\text{étale}} \) we have

\[
H^i(X_{\text{étale}}, \mathcal{F}) = H^i(X_{\text{pro-étale}}, \epsilon^{-1}\mathcal{F})
\]

for all \( i \).

**Proof.** Immediate consequence of Lemma \[17.4\] and the Leray spectral sequence (Cohomology on Sites, Lemma \[15.6\]).

---

**Lemma 17.6.** Let \( X \) be a scheme. Let \( \mathcal{G} \) be a sheaf of (possibly noncommutative) groups on \( X_{\text{étale}} \). We have

\[
H^1(X_{\text{étale}}, \mathcal{G}) = H^1(X_{\text{pro-étale}}, \epsilon^{-1}\mathcal{G})
\]

where \( H^1 \) is defined as the set of isomorphism classes of torsors (see Cohomology on Sites, Section \[5\]).

---

\footnote{To be sure, we pick \( U_{i,a,b} = U_b \times_U U_{i,a,b(i,a)} \) although this isn’t necessary for what follows.}
Let a covering \( X \) to show that any \( H \) is étale locally trivial. To do this we may assume that \( X \) is affine. Thus we reduce to proving surjectivity for \( X \) affine.

Choose a covering \( \{ U \to X \} \) with (a) \( U \) affine, (b) \( \mathcal{O}(X) \to \mathcal{O}(U) \) ind-étale, and (c) \( \mathcal{F}(U) \) nonempty. We can do this by Proposition 9.1 and the fact that standard pro-étale coverings of \( X \) are cofinal among all pro-étale coverings of \( X \) (Lemma 12.5). Write \( U = \lim U_i \) as a limit of affine schemes étale over \( X \). Pick \( s \in \mathcal{F}(U) \).

Let \( g \in \epsilon^{-1}\mathcal{G}(U \times_X U) \) be the unique section such that \( g \cdot \text{pr}^*_1 = \text{pr}^*_2 \) in \( \mathcal{F}(U \times_X U) \).

Then \( g \) satisfies the cocycle condition

\[
\text{pr}^*_1 g \cdot \text{pr}^*_2 g = \text{pr}^*_1 g
\]

in \( \epsilon^{-1}\mathcal{G}(U \times_X U \times_X U) \). By Lemma 17.1 we have

\[
\epsilon^{-1}\mathcal{G}(U \times_X U) = \text{colim} \mathcal{G}(U_i \times_X U_i)
\]

and

\[
\epsilon^{-1}\mathcal{G}(U \times_X U \times_X U) = \text{colim} \mathcal{G}(U_i \times_X U_i \times_X U_i)
\]

hence we can find an \( i \) and an element \( g_i \in \mathcal{G}(U_i) \) mapping to \( g \) satisfying the cocycle condition. The cocycle \( g_i \) then defines a torsor for \( \mathcal{G} \) on \( X_{\text{étale}} \) whose pullback is isomorphic to \( \mathcal{F} \) by construction. Some details omitted (namely, the relationship between torsors and 1-cocycles which should be added to the chapter on cohomology on sites).

\[\square\]

Let \( X \) be a scheme. Let \( \Lambda \) be a ring.

1. The essential image of \( \epsilon^{-1} : \text{Mod}(X_{\text{étale}}, \Lambda) \to \text{Mod}(X_{\text{pro-étale}}, \Lambda) \) is a weak Serre subcategory \( \mathcal{C} \).

2. The functor \( \epsilon^{-1} \) defines an equivalence of categories of \( D^+(X_{\text{étale}}, \Lambda) \) with \( D^+_C(X_{\text{pro-étale}}, \Lambda) \).

**Proof.** To prove (1) we will prove conditions (1) – (4) of Homology, Lemma 9.3.

Since \( \epsilon^{-1} \) is fully faithful (Lemma 17.2) and exact, everything is clear except for condition (4). However, if

\[
0 \to \epsilon^{-1}\mathcal{F}_1 \to \mathcal{G} \to \epsilon^{-1}\mathcal{F}_2 \to 0
\]

is a short exact sequence of sheaves of \( \Lambda \)-modules on \( X_{\text{pro-étale}} \), then we get

\[
0 \to \epsilon_* \epsilon^{-1}\mathcal{F}_1 \to \epsilon_* \mathcal{G} \to \epsilon_* \epsilon^{-1}\mathcal{F}_2 \to R^1 \epsilon_* \epsilon^{-1}\mathcal{F}_1
\]

which by Lemma 17.3 is the same as a short exact sequence

\[
0 \to \mathcal{F}_1 \to \epsilon_* \mathcal{G} \to \mathcal{F}_2 \to 0
\]

Pulling back we find that \( \mathcal{G} = \epsilon^{-1} \epsilon_* \mathcal{G} \). This proves (1).

By (1) and the discussion in Derived Categories, Section 13 we obtain a strictly full, saturated, triangulated subcategory \( D_C(X_{\text{pro-étale}}, \Lambda) \). It is clear that \( \epsilon^{-1} \) maps \( D(X_{\text{étale}}, \Lambda) \) into \( D_C(X_{\text{pro-étale}}, \Lambda) \). If \( M \) is in \( D^+(X_{\text{étale}}, \Lambda) \), then Lemma 17.4 shows that \( M \to R\epsilon_* \epsilon^{-1}M \) is an isomorphism. If \( K \) is in \( D^+_C(X_{\text{pro-étale}}, \Lambda) \), then the spectral sequence

\[
R^q \epsilon_* H^p(K) \Rightarrow H^{p+q}(R\epsilon_* K)
\]

and the vanishing in Lemma 17.4 shows that \( H^p(R\epsilon_* K) = R\epsilon_* H^p(K) \). Since \( \epsilon \) is a flat morphism of ringed sites (ringed by the constant sheaf \( \Lambda \)) we see that \( \epsilon^{-1} R\epsilon_* K \)
Let $\Lambda$ be a ring. In Modules on Sites, Section 42 we have defined the notion of a locally constant sheaf of $\Lambda$-modules on a site. If $M$ is a $\Lambda$-module, then $M$ is of finite presentation as a sheaf of $\Lambda$-modules if and only if $M$ is a finitely presented $\Lambda$-module, see Modules on Sites, Lemma 41.5.

**Lemma 17.8.** Let $X$ be a scheme. Let $\Lambda$ be a ring. The functor $\epsilon^{-1}$ defines an equivalence of categories

$$
\begin{align*}
\{ \text{locally constant sheaves} \} & \quad \subset \{ \text{of finite presentation} \} \\
\{ \text{of } \Lambda\text{-modules on } X_{\text{etale}} \} & \quad \leftrightarrow \quad \{ \text{of } \Lambda\text{-modules on } X_{\text{pro-\'etale}} \}
\end{align*}
$$

**Proof.** Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a locally constant sheaf of $\Lambda$-modules on $X_{\text{pro-\'etale}}$ of finite presentation. Choose a pro-\'etale covering $\{U_i \to X\}$ such that $\mathcal{F}|_{U_i}$ is constant, say $\mathcal{F}|_{U_i} \cong M_{\text{etale}}$. Observe that $U_i \times_X U_j$ is empty if $M_i$ is not isomorphic to $M_j$. For each $\Lambda$-module $M$ let $I_M = \{ i \in I \mid M_i \cong M \}$. As pro-\'etale coverings are fpqc coverings and by Descent, Lemma 10.6 we see that $U_M = \bigcup_{i \in I_M} \text{Im}(U_i \to X)$ is an open subset of $X$. Then $X = \bigcup U_M$ is a disjoint open covering of $X$. We may replace $X$ by $U_M$ for some $M$ and assume that $M_i = M$ for all $i$.

Consider the sheaf $\mathcal{I} = \text{Isom}(M, \mathcal{F})$. This sheaf is a torsor for $\mathcal{G} = \text{Isom}(M, \mathcal{M})$. By Modules on Sites, Lemma 42.4 we have $\mathcal{G} = G$ where $G = \text{Isom}_\Lambda(M, \mathcal{M})$. Since torsors for the \'etale topology and the pro-\'etale topology agree by Lemma 17.6 it follows that $\mathcal{I}$ has sections \'etale locally on $X$. Thus $\mathcal{F}$ is \'etale locally a constant sheaf which is what we had to show.

**Lemma 17.9.** Let $X$ be a scheme. Let $\Lambda$ be a Noetherian ring. Let $D_{\text{flc}}(X_{\text{etale}}, \Lambda)$, resp. $D_{\text{flc}}(X_{\text{pro-\'etale}}, \Lambda)$ be the full subcategory of $D(X_{\text{etale}}, \Lambda)$, resp. $D(X_{\text{pro-\'etale}}, \Lambda)$ consisting of those complexes whose cohomology sheaves are locally constant sheaves of $\Lambda$-modules of finite type. Then

$$
\epsilon^{-1} : D^+_d(X_{\text{etale}}, \Lambda) \longrightarrow D^+_d(X_{\text{pro-\'etale}}, \Lambda)
$$

is an equivalence of categories.

**Proof.** The categories $D_{\text{flc}}(X_{\text{etale}}, \Lambda)$ and $D_{\text{flc}}(X_{\text{pro-\'etale}}, \Lambda)$ are strictly full, saturated, triangulated subcategories of $D(X_{\text{etale}}, \Lambda)$ and $D(X_{\text{pro-\'etale}}, \Lambda)$ by Modules on Sites, Lemma 42.5 and Derived Categories, Section 13. The statement of the lemma follows by combining Lemmas 17.7 and 17.8.

**Lemma 17.10.** Let $X$ be a scheme. Let $\Lambda$ be a Noetherian ring. Let $K$ be an object of $D(X_{\text{pro-\'etale}}, \Lambda)$. Set $K_n = K \otimes^L_{\Lambda} \Lambda/I^n$. If $K_1$ is

1. in the essential image of $\epsilon^{-1} : D(X_{\text{etale}}, \Lambda/I) \to D(X_{\text{pro-\'etale}}, \Lambda/I)$, and
2. has tor amplitude in $[a, \infty)$ for some $a \in \mathbb{Z}$,

then (1) and (2) hold for $K_n$ as an object of $D(X_{\text{pro-\'etale}}, \Lambda/I^n)$.

**Proof.** For assertion (2) this follows from the more general Cohomology on Sites, Lemma 44.9. The second assertion follows from the fact that the essential image..
of $\epsilon^{-1}$ is a triangulated subcategory of $D^+(\mathcal{X}_{\text{pro-étale}}, \Lambda/I^n)$ (Lemma \[17.7\]), the distinguished triangles
\[ K \otimes^L \Lambda I^n/I^{n+1} \to K_{n+1} \to K_n \to K \otimes^L \Lambda I^n/I^{n+1}[1] \]
and the isomorphism
\[ K \otimes^L \Lambda I^n/I^{n+1} = K_1 \otimes^L \Lambda/I \Lambda I^n/I^{n+1} \]
\[ \square \]

18. Cohomology of a point

Let $\Lambda$ be a Noetherian ring complete with respect to an ideal $I \subset \Lambda$. Let $k$ be a field. In this section we “compute”
\[ H^i(\text{Spec}(k)_{\text{pro-étale}}, \Lambda^\wedge) \]
where $\Lambda^\wedge = \lim_m \Lambda/I^m$ as before. Let $k^{\text{sep}}$ be a separable algebraic closure of $k$. Then
\[ \mathcal{U} = \{ \text{Spec}(k^{\text{sep}}) \to \text{Spec}(k) \} \]
is a pro-étale covering of $\text{Spec}(k)$. We will use the Čech to cohomology spectral sequence with respect to this covering. Set $U_0 = \text{Spec}(k^{\text{sep}})$ and
\[ U_n = \text{Spec}(k^{\text{sep}}) \times_{\text{Spec}(k)} \text{Spec}(k^{\text{sep}}) \times_{\text{Spec}(k)} \cdots \times_{\text{Spec}(k)} \text{Spec}(k^{\text{sep}}) \]
\[ = \text{Spec}(k^{\text{sep}} \otimes_k k^{\text{sep}} \otimes_k \cdots \otimes_k k^{\text{sep}}) \]
\[ = \text{Spec}(k^{\text{sep}} \otimes_k \cdots \otimes_k k^{\text{sep}}) \]
\[ = \text{Spec}(k^{\text{sep}}) \times \cdots \times \text{Spec}(k^{\text{sep}}) \]
\[ (n + 1 \text{ factors}) \]
Note that the underlying topological space $|U_0|$ of $U_0$ is a singleton and for $n \geq 1$ we have
\[ |U_n| = G \times \cdots \times G \quad (n \text{ factors}) \]
as profinite spaces where $G = \text{Gal}(k^{\text{sep}}/k)$. Namely, every point of $U_n$ has residue field $k^{\text{sep}}$ and we identify $(\sigma_1, \ldots, \sigma_n)$ with the point corresponding to the surjection
\[ k^{\text{sep}} \otimes_k k^{\text{sep}} \otimes_k \cdots \otimes_k k^{\text{sep}} \to k^{\text{sep}}, \quad \lambda_0 \otimes \lambda_1 \otimes \cdots \lambda_n \mapsto \lambda_0 \sigma_1(\lambda_1) \cdots \sigma_n(\lambda_n) \]
Then we compute
\[ R\Gamma((U_n)_{\text{pro-étale}}, \Lambda^\wedge) = R\lim_m R\Gamma((U_n)_{\text{pro-étale}}, \Lambda/I^m) \]
\[ = R\lim_m R\Gamma((U_n)_{\text{étale}}, \Lambda/I^m) \]
\[ = \lim_m H^0(U_n, \Lambda/I^m) \]
\[ = \text{Maps}_{\text{cont}}(G \times \cdots \times G, \Lambda) \]
The first equality because $R\Gamma$ commutes with derived limits and as $\Lambda^\wedge$ is the derived limit of the sheaves $\Lambda/I^m$ by Proposition \[17.5\]. The second equality by Lemma \[17.7\]. The third equality by Étale Cohomology, Lemma \[16.2\]. The fourth equality uses Étale Cohomology, Remark \[23.2\] to identify sections of the constant sheaf $\Lambda/I^m$. Then it uses the fact that $\Lambda$ is complete with respect to $I$ and hence equal to $\lim_m \Lambda/I^m$ as a topological space, to see that $\lim_m \text{Maps}_{\text{cont}}(G, \Lambda/I^m) = \text{Maps}_{\text{cont}}(G, \Lambda)$ and similarly for higher powers of $G$. At this point Cohomology on Sites, Lemmas \[11.3\] and \[11.7\] tell us that
\[ \Lambda \to \text{Maps}_{\text{cont}}(G, \Lambda) \to \text{Maps}_{\text{cont}}(G \times G, \Lambda) \to \cdots \]
computes the pro-étale cohomology. In other words, we see that
\[ H^i(\text{Spec}(k)_{\text{pro-étale}}, \Lambda^\wedge) = H^i_{\text{cont}}(G, \Lambda) \]
Let \(X\) be a scheme. For every object \(U \in \text{Ob}(\mathcal{X}_{\text{pro-étale}})\) there exists a covering \(\{V \to U\}\) of \(\mathcal{X}_{\text{pro-étale}}\) with \(V\) weakly contractible. This follows from Lemma 12.10 and the elementary fact that a disjoint union of weakly contractible objects in \(\mathcal{X}_{\text{pro-étale}}\) is weakly contractible (discussion of set theoretic issues omitted). This observation leads to the existence of hypercoverings made up weakly contractible objects.

**Lemma 19.1.** Let \(X\) be a scheme.

1. For every object \(U\) of \(\mathcal{X}_{\text{pro-étale}}\) there exists a hypercovering \(K\) of \(U\) in \(\mathcal{X}_{\text{pro-étale}}\) such that each term \(K_n\) consists of a single weakly contractible object of \(\mathcal{X}_{\text{pro-étale}}\) covering \(U\).
2. For every quasi-compact and quasi-separated object \(U\) of \(\mathcal{X}_{\text{pro-étale}}\) there exists a hypercovering \(K\) of \(U\) in \(\mathcal{X}_{\text{pro-étale}}\) such that each term \(K_n\) consists of a single affine and weakly contractible object of \(\mathcal{X}_{\text{pro-étale}}\) covering \(U\).

**Proof.** Let \(\mathcal{B} \subset \text{Ob}(\mathcal{X}_{\text{pro-étale}})\) be the set of weakly contractible objects of \(\mathcal{X}_{\text{pro-étale}}\). Every object of \(\mathcal{X}_{\text{pro-étale}}\) has a covering by an element of \(\mathcal{B}\) by Lemma 12.10 and the elementary fact that a disjoint union of weakly contractible objects is weakly contractible. We apply Hypercoverings, Lemma 12.6 to get a hypercovering \(K\) of \(U\) such that \(K_n = \{U_{n,i}\}_{i \in I_n}\) with \(I_n\) finite and \(U_{n,i}\) weakly contractible. Then we can replace \(K\) by the hypercovering of \(U\) given by \(\{U_n\}\) in degree \(n\) where \(U_n = \bigsqcup_{i \in I_n} U_{n,i}\). This is allowed by Hypercoverings, Remark 12.9.

Let \(\mathcal{X}_{\text{qcqs,pro-étale}} \subset \mathcal{X}_{\text{pro-étale}}\) be the full subcategory consisting of quasi-compact and quasi-separated objects. A covering of \(\mathcal{X}_{\text{qcqs,pro-étale}}\) will be a finite pro-étale covering. Then \(\mathcal{X}_{\text{qcqs,pro-étale}}\) is a site, has fibre products, and the inclusion functor...
$X_{qcqs,pro-}\text{étale} \to X_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}$ is continuous and commutes with fibre products. In particular, if $K$ is a hypercovering of an object $U$ in $X_{qcqs,pro-}\text{étale}$ then $K$ is a hypercovering of $U$ in $X_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}$, by Hypercoverings, Lemma $12.3$. Let $\mathcal{B} \subset \text{Ob}(X_{qcqs,pro-}\text{étale})$ be the set of affine and weakly contractible objects. By Lemma $12.10$ and the fact that finite unions of affines are affine, for every object $U$ of $X_{qcqs,pro-}\text{étale}$ there exists a covering $\{V \to U\}$ of $X_{qcqs,pro-}\text{étale}$ with $V \in \mathcal{B}$. By Hypercoverings, Lemma $12.6$ we get a hypercovering $K$ of $U$ such that $K_n = \{U_{n,i}\}_{i \in I_n}$ with $I_n$ finite and $U_{n,i}$ affine and weakly contractible. Then we can replace $K$ by the hypercovering of $U$ given by $\{U_n\}$ in degree $n$ where $U_n = \coprod_{i \in I_n} U_{n,i}$. This is allowed by Hypercoverings, Remark $12.9$.\hfill\qed

In the following lemma we use the Čech complex $\mathcal{F}(K)$ associated to a hypercovering $K$ in a site. See Hypercoverings, Section $3$. If $K$ is a hypercovering of $U$ and $K_n = \{U_n \to U\}$, then the Čech complex looks like this:

\[
\mathcal{F}(K) = (\mathcal{F}(U_0) \to \mathcal{F}(U_1) \to \mathcal{F}(U_2) \to \ldots)
\]

Let $X$ be a scheme. Let $E \in D^+(X_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}})$ be represented by a bounded below complex $\mathcal{E}^\bullet$ of abelian sheaves. Let $K$ be a hypercovering of $U \in \text{Ob}(X_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}})$ with $K_n = \{U_n \to U\}$ where $U_n$ is a weakly contractible object of $X_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}$. Then

\[
R\Gamma(U, E) = \text{Tot}(\mathcal{E}^\bullet(K))
\]

in $D(Ab)$.\hfill\proof

If $E = \mathcal{E}[n]$ is the object associated to a single abelian sheaf on $X_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}$, then the spectral sequence of Hypercoverings, Lemma $5.3$ implies that

\[
R\Gamma(X_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}, \mathcal{E}) = \mathcal{E}(K)
\]

because the higher cohomology groups of any sheaf over $U_n$ vanish, see Cohomology on Sites, Lemma $17.1$. If $\mathcal{E}^\bullet$ is bounded below, then we can choose an injective resolution $\mathcal{E}^\bullet \to \mathcal{I}^\bullet$ and consider the map of complexes

\[
\text{Tot}(\mathcal{E}^\bullet(K)) \longrightarrow \text{Tot}(\mathcal{I}^\bullet(K))
\]

For every $n$ the map $\mathcal{E}^\bullet(U_n) \to \mathcal{I}^\bullet(U_n)$ is a quasi-isomorphism because taking sections over $U_n$ is exact. Hence the displayed map is a quasi-isomorphism by one of the spectral sequences of Homology, Lemma $22.6$. Using the result of the first paragraph we see that for every $p$ the complex $\mathcal{I}^p(K)$ is acyclic in degrees $n > 0$ and computes $\mathcal{I}^p(U)$ in degree $0$. Thus the other spectral sequence of Homology, Lemma $22.6$ shows $\text{Tot}(\mathcal{I}^\bullet(K))$ computes $R\Gamma(U, E) = \mathcal{I}^\bullet(U)$.\hfill\qed

Let $X$ be a quasi-compact and quasi-separated scheme. The functor $R\Gamma(X, -) : D^+(X_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}}) \to D(Ab)$ commutes with direct sums and homotopy colimits.

\textbf{Proof.} The statement means the following: Suppose we have a family of objects $E_i$ of $D^+(X_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}})$ such that $\bigoplus E_i$ is an object of $D^+(X_{\text{pro-}\text{étale}})$. Then $R\Gamma(X, \bigoplus E_i) = \bigoplus R\Gamma(X, E_i)$. To see this choose a hypercovering $K$ of $X$ with $K_n = \{U_n \to X\}$ where $U_n$ is an affine and weakly contractible scheme, see Lemma $19.1$. Let $N$ be an integer such that $H^p(E_i) = 0$ for $p < N$. Choose a complex
of abelian sheaves $E^i$ representing $E_i$ with $E^i_p = 0$ for $p < N$. The termwise direct sum $\bigoplus E^i$ represents $\bigoplus E_i$ in $D(X_{pro-\text{\acute e tale}})$, see Injectives, Lemma 13.4. By Lemma 19.2 we have

$$R\Gamma(X, \bigoplus E_i) = \text{Tot}(\bigoplus E^i(K))$$

and

$$R\Gamma(X, E_i) = \text{Tot}(E^i(K))$$

Since each $U_n$ is quasi-compact we see that

$$\text{Tot}(\bigoplus E^i(K)) = \bigoplus \text{Tot}(E^i(K))$$

by Modules on Sites, Lemma 29.2. The statement on homotopy colimits is a formal consequence of the fact that $R\Gamma$ is an exact functor of triangulated categories and the fact (just proved) that it commutes with direct sums. \Box

09A4 Remark 19.4. Let $X$ be a scheme. Because $X_{pro-\text{\acute e tale}}$ has enough weakly contractible objects for all $K$ in $D(X_{pro-\text{\acute e tale}})$ we have $K = R\lim \tau_{\geq -n} K$ by Cohomology on Sites, Proposition 47.2. Since $R\Gamma$ commutes with $R\lim$ by Injectives, Lemma 13.6 we see that

$$R\Gamma(X, K) = R\lim R\Gamma(X, \tau_{\geq -n} K)$$

in $D(Ab)$. This will allows us to extend some results from bounded below complexes to all complexes.

20. Functoriality of the pro-\text{\acute e tale} site

09A5 Let $f : X \to Y$ be a morphism of schemes. The functor $Y_{pro-\text{\acute e tale}} \to X_{pro-\text{\acute e tale}}$, $V \mapsto X \times_Y V$ induces a morphism of sites $f_{pro-\text{\acute e tale}} : X_{pro-\text{\acute e tale}} \to Y_{pro-\text{\acute e tale}}$, see Sites, Proposition 14.7. In fact, we obtain a commutative diagram of morphisms of sites

$$\begin{align*}
X_{pro-\text{\acute e tale}} & \xrightarrow{\epsilon} X_{\text{\acute e tale}} \\
f_{pro-\text{\acute e tale}} & \downarrow \quad \downarrow f_{\text{\acute e tale}} \\
Y_{pro-\text{\acute e tale}} & \xrightarrow{\epsilon} Y_{\text{\acute e tale}}
\end{align*}$$

where $\epsilon$ is as in Section 17. In particular we have $\epsilon^{-1}f^{-1}_{\text{\acute e tale}} = f^{-1}_{pro-\text{\acute e tale}} \epsilon^{-1}$. Here is the corresponding result for pushforward.

09A6 Lemma 20.1. Let $f : X \to Y$ be a morphism of schemes.

1. Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a sheaf of sets on $X_{\text{\acute e tale}}$. Then we have $f_{pro-\text{\acute e tale}}^{*} \epsilon^{-1} \mathcal{F} = \epsilon^{-1}f_{\text{\acute e tale}}^{*} \mathcal{F}$.

2. Let $\mathcal{F}$ be an abelian sheaf on $X_{\text{\acute e tale}}$. Then we have $Rf_{pro-\text{\acute e tale}}^{*} \epsilon^{-1} \mathcal{F} = \epsilon^{-1}Rf_{\text{\acute e tale}}^{*} \mathcal{F}$.

Proof. Proof of (1). Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a sheaf of sets on $X_{\text{\acute e tale}}$. There is a canonical map $\epsilon^{-1}f_{\text{\acute e tale}}^{*} \mathcal{F} \to f_{pro-\text{\acute e tale}}^{*} \epsilon^{-1} \mathcal{F}$, see Sites, Section 45. To show it is an isomorphism we may work (Zariski) locally on $Y$, hence we may assume $Y$ is affine. In this case every object of $Y_{pro-\text{\acute e tale}}$ has a covering by objects $V = \lim V_i$ which are limits of affine schemes $V_i$ étale over $Y$ (by Proposition 9.1, for example). Evaluating the map $\epsilon^{-1}f_{\text{\acute e tale}}^{*} \mathcal{F} \to f_{pro-\text{\acute e tale}}^{*} \epsilon^{-1} \mathcal{F}$ on $V$ we obtain a map

$$\colim \Gamma(X \times_Y V_i, \mathcal{F}) \to \Gamma(X \times_Y V, \epsilon^{*} \mathcal{F})$$

for
see Lemma 17.1 for the left hand side. By Lemma 17.1 we have
\[ \Gamma(X \times_Y V, e^*F) = \Gamma(X \times_Y V, F) \]
Hence the result holds by Étale Cohomology, Lemma 51.5

Proof of (2). Arguing in exactly the same manner as above we see that it suffices to show that
\[ \text{colim} H^i_{\text{étale}}(X \times_Y V, F) \to H^i_{\text{étale}}(X \times_Y V, F) \]
which follows once more from Étale Cohomology, Lemma 51.5 \[ \square \]

21. Finite morphisms and pro-étale sites

It is not clear that a finite morphism of schemes determines an exact pushforward on abelian pro-étale sheaves.

Lemma 21.1. Let \( f : Z \to X \) be a finite morphism of schemes which is locally of finite presentation. Then \( f_{\text{pro-étale,*}} : \text{Ab}(\text{pro-étale}_X) \to \text{Ab}(\text{pro-étale}_Z) \) is exact.

Proof. The prove this we may work (Zariski) locally on \( X \) and assume that \( X \) is affine, say \( X = \text{Spec}(A) \). Then \( Z = \text{Spec}(B) \) for some finite \( A \)-algebra \( B \) of finite presentation. The construction in the proof of Proposition 11.3 produces a faithfully flat, ind-étale ring map \( A \to D \) with \( D \) w-contractible. We may check exactness of a sequence of sheaves by evaluating on \( U = \text{Spec}(D) \) be such an object. Then \( f_{\text{pro-étale,*}} F \) evaluated at \( U \) is equal to \( F \) evaluated at \( V = \text{Spec}(D \otimes_A B) \). Since \( D \otimes_A B \) is w-contractible by Lemma 11.6 evaluation at \( V \) is exact. \[ \square \]

22. Closed immersions and pro-étale sites

It is not clear (and likely false) that a closed immersion of schemes determines an exact pushforward on abelian pro-étale sheaves.

Lemma 22.1. Let \( i : Z \to X \) be a closed immersion morphism of affine schemes. Denote \( X_{\text{app}} \) and \( Z_{\text{app}} \) the sites introduced in Lemma 12.24. The base change functor
\[ u : X_{\text{app}} \to Z_{\text{app}}, \quad U \mapsto u(U) = U \times_X Z \]
is continuous and has a fully faithful left adjoint \( v \). For \( V \) in \( Z_{\text{app}} \) the morphism \( V \to v(V) \) is a closed immersion identifying \( V \) with \( u(v(V)) = v(V) \times_X Z \) and every point of \( v(V) \) specializes to a point of \( V \). The functor \( v \) is cocontinuous and sends coverings to coverings.

Proof. The existence of the adjoint follows immediately from Lemma 7.7 and the definitions. It is clear that \( u \) is continuous from the definition of coverings in \( X_{\text{app}} \).

Write \( X = \text{Spec}(A) \) and \( Z = \text{Spec}(A/I) \). Let \( V = \text{Spec}(\overline{C}) \) be an object of \( Z_{\text{app}} \) and let \( v(V) = \text{Spec}(C) \). We have seen in the statement of Lemma 7.7 that \( V \) equals \( v(V) \times_X Z = \text{Spec}(C/IC) \). Any \( g \in C \) which maps to an invertible element of \( C/IC = \overline{C} \) is invertible in \( C \). Namely, we have the \( A \)-algebra maps \( C \to C_g \to C/IC \) and by adjointness we obtain an \( A \)-algebra map \( C_g \to C \). Thus every point of \( v(V) \) specializes to a point of \( V \).

Suppose that \( \{V_i \to V\} \) is a covering in \( Z_{\text{app}} \). Then \( \{v(V_i) \to v(V)\} \) is a finite family of morphisms of \( Z_{\text{app}} \) such that every point of \( V \subset v(V) \) is in the image of one of the maps \( v(V_i) \to v(V) \). As the morphisms \( v(V_i) \to v(V) \) are flat (since
Let $V$ be an object of $Z_{app}$ and let $\{U_i \to v(V)\}$ be a covering in $X_{app}$. Then we see that $\{u(U_i) \to u(v(V)) = V\}$ is a covering of $Z_{app}$. By adjointness we obtain morphisms $v(u(U_i)) \to U_i$. Thus the family $\{v(u(U_i)) \to v(V)\}$ refines the given covering and we conclude that $v$ is cocontinuous. 

**Lemma 22.2.** Let $Z \to X$ be a closed immersion morphism of affine schemes. The corresponding morphism of topoi $i = i_{pro-\acute{e}tale}$ is equal to the morphism of topoi associated to the fully faithful cocontinuous functor $v : Z_{app} \to X_{app}$ of Lemma 22.1.

It follows that

1. $i^{-1}\mathcal{F}$ is the sheaf associated to the presheaf $V \mapsto \mathcal{F}(v(V))$,
2. for a weakly contractible object $V$ of $Z_{app}$ we have $i^{-1}\mathcal{F}(V) = \mathcal{F}(v(V))$,
3. $i^{-1} : \text{Sh}(X_{pro-\acute{e}tale}) \to \text{Sh}(Z_{pro-\acute{e}tale})$ has a left adjoint $i_\text{Sh}^*$,
4. $i^{-1} : \text{Ab}(X_{pro-\acute{e}tale}) \to \text{Ab}(Z_{pro-\acute{e}tale})$ has a left adjoint $i_*$,
5. $id \to i^{-1}i_\text{Sh}^*$, $id \to i^{-1}i_!$, and $i^{-1}i_* \to id$ are isomorphisms, and
6. $i_*$, $i_\text{Sh}^*$ and $i_!$ are fully faithful.

**Proof.** By Lemma 12.2 we may describe $i_{pro-\acute{e}tale}$ in terms of the morphism of sites $u : X_{app} \to Z_{app}$, $V \mapsto V \times_X Z$. The first statement of the lemma follows from Sites, Lemma 22.2 (but with the roles of $u$ and $v$ reversed).

Proof of (1). By the description of $i$ as the morphism of topoi associated to $v$ this holds by the construction, see Sites, Lemma 21.1.

Proof of (2). Since the functor $v$ sends coverings to coverings by Lemma 22.1 we see that the presheaf $\mathcal{G} : V \mapsto \mathcal{F}(v(V))$ is a separated presheaf (Sites, Definition 10.9). Hence the sheafification of $\mathcal{G}$ is $\mathcal{G}^+$, see Sites, Theorem 10.10. Next, let $V$ be a weakly contractible object of $Z_{app}$. Let $V = \{V_i \to V\}_{i=1,...,n}$ be any covering in $Z_{app}$. Set $V' = \{\coprod V_i \to V\}$. Since $v$ commutes with finite disjoint unions (as a left adjoint or by the construction) and since $\mathcal{F}$ sends finite disjoint unions into products, we see that

$$H^0(V, \mathcal{G}) = H^0(V', \mathcal{G})$$

(notation as in Sites, Section 10 compare with Étale Cohomology, Lemma 22.1). Thus we may assume the covering is given by a single morphism, like so $\{V' \to V\}$. Since $V$ is weakly contractible, this covering can be refined by the trivial covering $\{V \to V\}$. It therefore follows that the value of $\mathcal{G}^+ = i^{-1}\mathcal{F}$ on $V$ is simply $\mathcal{F}(v(V))$ and (2) is proved.

Proof of (3). Every object of $Z_{app}$ has a covering by weakly contractible objects (Lemma 12.27). By the above we see that we would have $i_\text{Sh}^*h_V = h_{v(V)}$ for $V$ weakly contractible if $i_\text{Sh}^*$ existed. The existence of $i_\text{Sh}^*$ then follows from Sites, Lemma 24.3.

Proof of (4). Existence of $i_!$ follows in the same way by setting $i_!Z_V = Z_{w(V)}$ for $V$ weakly contractible in $Z_{app}$, using similar for direct sums, and applying Homology, Lemma 26.6. Details omitted.

Proof of (5). Let $V$ be a contractible object of $Z_{app}$. Then $i^{-1}i_\text{Sh}^*h_V = i^{-1}h_{v(V)} = h_{u(v(V))} = h_V$. (It is a general fact that $i^{-1}h_U = h_{u(U)}$.) Since the sheaves $h_V$ for $V$ contractible generate $\text{Sh}(Z_{app})$ (Sites, Lemma 12.5) we conclude $id \to i^{-1}i_\text{Sh}^*$ is an
isomorphism. Similarly for the map $\id \to i^{-1}i_!$. Then $(i^{-1}i_!\mathcal{H})(V) = i_*\mathcal{H}(v(V)) = \mathcal{H}(u(v(V))) = \mathcal{H}(V)$ and we find that $i^{-1}i_* \to \id$ is an isomorphism.

The fully faithfulness statements of (6) now follow from Categories, Lemma 22.4.

**Lemma 22.3.** Let $i : Z \to X$ be a closed immersion of schemes. Then

1. $i^{-1}_{\text{pro-étale}}$ commutes with limits,
2. $i^{-1}_{\text{pro-étale,!*}}$ is fully faithful, and
3. $i^{-1}_{\text{pro-étale,!*}} \pro_{\text{étale}} \cong \text{id}_{\text{Sh}(\text{Zar,Z-pro-étale})}$.

**Proof.** Assertions (2) and (3) are equivalent by Sites, Lemma 41.1. Parts (1) and (3) are (Zariski) local on $X$, hence we may assume that $X$ is affine. In this case the result follows from Lemma 22.2.

**Lemma 22.4.** Let $i : Z \to X$ be an integral universally injective and surjective morphism of schemes. Then $i^{-1}_{\text{pro-étale,!*}}$ and $i^{-1}_{\text{pro-étale}}$ are quasi-inverse equivalences of categories of pro-étale topoi.

**Proof.** There is an immediate reduction to the case that $X$ is affine. Then $Z$ is affine too. Set $A = \mathcal{O}(X)$ and $B = \mathcal{O}(Z)$. Then the categories of étale algebras over $A$ and $B$ are equivalent, see Étale Cohomology, Theorem 45.2 and Remark 45.3. Thus the categories of ind-étale algebras over $A$ and $B$ are equivalent. In other words the categories $X_{\text{app}}$ and $Z_{\text{app}}$ of Lemma 12.24 are equivalent. We omit the verification that this equivalence sends coverings to coverings and vice versa. Thus the result as Lemma 12.24 tells us the pro-étale topos is the topos of sheaves on $X_{\text{app}}$.

**Lemma 22.5.** Let $i : Z \to X$ be a closed immersion of schemes. Let $U \to X$ be an object of $X_{\text{pro-étale}}$ such that

1. $U$ is affine and weakly contractible, and
2. every point of $U$ specializes to a point of $U \times_X Z$.

Then $i^{-1}_{\text{pro-étale}}\mathcal{F}(U \times_X Z) = \mathcal{F}(U)$ for all abelian sheaves on $X_{\text{pro-étale}}$.

**Proof.** Since pullback commutes with restriction, we may replace $X$ by $U$. Thus we may assume that $X$ is affine and weakly contractible and that every point of $X$ specializes to a point of $Z$. By Lemma 22.2 part (1) it suffices to show that $v(Z) = X$ in this case. Thus we have to show: If $A$ is a w-contractible ring, $I \subset A$ is an ideal contained in the Jacobson radical of $A$ and $A \to B \to A/I$ is a factorization with $A \to B$ ind-étale, then there is a unique section $B \to A$ compatible with maps to $A/I$. Observe that $B/IB = A/I \times R$ as $A/I$-algebras. After replacing $B$ by a localization we may assume $B/IB = A/I$. Note that $\text{Spec}(B) \to \text{Spec}(A)$ is surjective as the image contains $V(I)$ and hence all closed points and is closed under specialization. Since $A$ is w-contractible there is a section $B \to A$. Since $B/IB = A/I$ this section is compatible with the map to $A/I$. We omit the proof of uniqueness (hint: use that $A$ and $B$ have isomorphic local rings at maximal ideals of $A$).

**Lemma 22.6.** Let $i : Z \to X$ be a closed immersion of schemes. If $X \setminus i(Z)$ is a retrocompact open of $X$, then $i^{-1}_{\text{pro-étale,!*}}$ is exact.
23. Extension by zero

Let \( j : U \to X \) be a weakly étale morphism of schemes.

(1) The restriction functor \( j^{-1} : \mathcal{Sh}(\mathcal{X}_{pro-\text{étale}}) \to \mathcal{Sh}(\mathcal{X}_{pro-\text{étale}}) \) has a left adjoint \( j^!_{\mathcal{Sh}} : \mathcal{Sh}(\mathcal{X}_{pro-\text{étale}}) \to \mathcal{Sh}(\mathcal{X}_{pro-\text{étale}}) \).

(2) The restriction functor \( j^{-1} : \mathcal{Ab}(\mathcal{X}_{pro-\text{étale}}) \to \mathcal{Ab}(\mathcal{X}_{pro-\text{étale}}) \) has a left adjoint which is denoted \( j_! : \mathcal{Ab}(\mathcal{X}_{pro-\text{étale}}) \to \mathcal{Ab}(\mathcal{X}_{pro-\text{étale}}) \) and called extension by zero.

(3) Let \( \Lambda \) be a ring. The functor \( j^{-1} : \mathcal{Mod}(\mathcal{X}_{pro-\text{étale}}, \Lambda) \to \mathcal{Mod}(\mathcal{X}_{pro-\text{étale}}, \Lambda) \) has a left adjoint \( j_! : \mathcal{Mod}(\mathcal{X}_{pro-\text{étale}}, \Lambda) \to \mathcal{Mod}(\mathcal{X}_{pro-\text{étale}}, \Lambda) \) and called extension by zero.

As usual we compare this to what happens in the étale case.

**Lemma 23.2.** Let \( j : U \to X \) be an étale morphism of schemes. Let \( \mathcal{G} \) be an abelian sheaf on \( U_{\text{étale}} \). Then \( \epsilon^{-1} j_! \mathcal{G} = j_! \epsilon^{-1} \mathcal{G} \) as sheaves on \( X_{pro-\text{étale}} \).

**Proof.** This is true because both are left adjoints to \( j_{pro-\text{étale},*} \epsilon^{-1} = \epsilon^{-1} j_{\text{étale},*} \), see Lemma 20.1.

**Lemma 23.3.** Let \( i : Z \to X \) be a closed immersion such that \( U \times_X Z = \emptyset \). Let \( V \to X \) be an affine object of \( \mathcal{X}_{pro-\text{étale}} \) such that every point of \( V \) specializes to a point of \( V_Z = Z \times_X V \). Then \( j_! F(V) = 0 \) for all abelian sheaves on \( U_{pro-\text{étale}} \).

**Proof.** Let \( \{ V_i \to V \} \) be a pro-étale covering. The lemma follows if we can refine this covering to a covering where the members have no morphisms into \( U \) over \( X \) (see construction of \( j_i \) in Modules on Sites, Section 19). First refine the covering to get a finite covering with \( V_i \) affine. For each \( i \) let \( V_i = \text{Spec}(A_i) \) and let \( Z_i \subset V_i \) be the inverse image of \( Z \). Set \( W_i = \text{Spec}(A_i^{1/2}) \) with notation as in Lemma 5.1. Then \( \bigsqcup W_i \to V \) is weakly étale and the image contains all points of \( V_Z \). Hence the image contains all points of \( V \) by our assumption on specializations. Thus \( \{ W_i \to V \} \) is a pro-étale covering refining the given one. But each point in \( W_i \) specializes to a point lying over \( Z_i \), hence there are no morphisms \( W_i \to U \) over \( X \).

**Lemma 23.4.** Let \( j : U \to X \) be an open immersion of schemes. Then \( \text{id} \cong j^{-1} j_! \) and \( j^{-1} j_* \cong \text{id} \) and the functors \( j_! \) and \( j_* \) are fully faithful.

**Proof.** See Sites, Lemma 27.4 and Categories, Lemma 24.3.
Let $X$ be a scheme. Let $Z \subset X$ be a closed subscheme and let $U \subset X$ be the complement. Denote $i : Z \to X$ and $j : U \to X$ the inclusion morphisms. Assume that $j$ is a quasi-compact morphism. For every abelian sheaf on $X_{pro-\acute{e}tale}$ there is a canonical short exact sequence

$$0 \to j_! j^{-1}F \to F \to i_* i^{-1}F \to 0$$

on $X_{pro-\acute{e}tale}$ where all the functors are for the pro-\acute{e}tale topology.

**Proof.** We obtain the maps by the adjointness properties of the functors involved. It suffices to show that $X_{pro-\acute{e}tale}$ has enough objects (Sites, Definition 40.2) on which the sequence evaluates to a short exact sequence. Let $V = \text{Spec}(A)$ be an affine object of $X_{pro-\acute{e}tale}$ such that $A$ is w-contractible (there are enough objects of this type). Then $V \times_X Z$ is cut out by an ideal $I \subset A$. The assumption that $j$ is quasi-compact implies there exist $f_1, \ldots, f_r \in I$ such that $V(I) = V(f_1, \ldots, f_r)$. We obtain a faithfully flat, ind-Zariski ring map

$$A \longrightarrow A_{f_1} \times \ldots \times A_{f_r} \times A_{V(I)}$$

with $A_{V(I)}$ as in Lemma 5.1. Since $V_i = \text{Spec}(A_{f_i}) \to X$ factors through $U$ we have

$$j_! j^{-1}F(V_i) = F(V_i) \quad \text{and} \quad i_* i^{-1}F(V_i) = 0$$

On the other hand, for the scheme $V^\sim = \text{Spec}(A_{V(I)})$ we have

$$j_! j^{-1}F(V^\sim) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad F(V^\sim) = i_* i^{-1}F(V^\sim)$$

the first equality by Lemma 23.3 and the second by Lemmas 22.5 and 11.7. Thus the sequence evaluates to an exact sequence on $\text{Spec}(A_{f_1} \times \ldots \times A_{f_r} \times A_{V(I)})$ and the lemma is proved. \qed

Let $j : U \to X$ be a quasi-compact open immersion morphism of schemes. The functor $j_! : \text{Ab}(U_{pro-\acute{e}tale}) \to \text{Ab}(X_{pro-\acute{e}tale})$ commutes with limits.

**Proof.** Since $j_!$ is exact it suffices to show that $j_!$ commutes with products. The question is local on $X$, hence we may assume $X$ affine. Let $\mathcal{G}$ be an abelian sheaf on $U_{pro-\acute{e}tale}$. We have $j^{-1}j_* \mathcal{G} = \mathcal{G}$. Hence applying the exact sequence of Lemma 23.5 we get

$$0 \to j_! \mathcal{G} \to j_* \mathcal{G} \to i_* i^{-1}j_* \mathcal{G} \to 0$$

where $i : Z \to X$ is the inclusion of the reduced induced scheme structure on the complement $Z = X \setminus U$. The functors $j_*$ and $i_*$ commute with products as right adjoints. The functor $i^{-1}$ commutes with products by Lemma 22.3. Hence $j_!$ does because on the pro-\acute{e}tale site products are exact (Cohomology on Sites, Proposition 47.2). \qed

## 24. Constructible sheaves on the pro-\acute{e}tale site

We stick to constructible sheaves of $\Lambda$-modules for a Noetherian ring. In the future we intend to discuss constructible sheaves of sets, groups, etc.

**Definition 24.1.** Let $X$ be a scheme. Let $\Lambda$ be a Noetherian ring. A sheaf of $\Lambda$-modules on $X_{pro-\acute{e}tale}$ is constructible if for every affine open $U \subset X$ there exists a finite decomposition of $U$ into constructible locally closed subschemes $U = \bigsqcup_i U_i$ such that $\mathcal{F}|_{U_i}$ is of finite type and locally constant for all $i$.

Again this does not give anything “new”.
Lemma 24.2. Let $X$ be a scheme. Let $\Lambda$ be a Noetherian ring. The functor $\epsilon^{-1}$ defines an equivalence of categories

$$
\begin{align*}
\{ \text{constructible sheaves of } \Lambda\text{-modules on } X_{\text{étale}} \} & \leftrightarrow \{ \text{constructible sheaves of } \Lambda\text{-modules on } X_{\text{pro-étale}} \}
\end{align*}
$$

between constructible sheaves of $\Lambda$-modules on $X_{\text{étale}}$ and constructible sheaves of $\Lambda$-modules on $X_{\text{pro-étale}}$.

Proof. By Lemma 17.2 the functor $\epsilon^{-1}$ is fully faithful and commutes with pullback (restriction) to the strata. Hence $\epsilon^{-1}$ of a constructible étale sheaf is a constructible pro-étale sheaf. To finish the proof let $\mathcal{F}$ be a constructible sheaf of $\Lambda$-modules on $X_{\text{pro-étale}}$ as in Definition 24.1. There is a canonical map

$$
\epsilon^{-1}\epsilon_\ast \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}
$$

We will show this map is an isomorphism. This will prove that $\mathcal{F}$ is in the essential image of $\epsilon^{-1}$ and finish the proof (details omitted).

To prove this we may assume that $X$ is affine. In this case we have a finite partition $X = \coprod X_i$ by constructible locally closed strata such that $\mathcal{F}|_{X_i}$ is locally constant of finite type. Let $U \subset X$ be one of the open strata in the partition and let $Z \subset X$ be the reduced induced structure on the complement. By Lemma 23.5 we have a short exact sequence

$$
0 \rightarrow j_j^{-1} \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \rightarrow i_i^{-1} \mathcal{F} \rightarrow 0
$$
on $X_{\text{pro-étale}}$. Functoriality gives a commutative diagram

$$
\begin{array}{cccccc}
0 & \longrightarrow & \epsilon^{-1}\epsilon_\ast j_j^{-1} \mathcal{F} & \longrightarrow & \epsilon^{-1}\epsilon_\ast \mathcal{F} & \longrightarrow & \epsilon^{-1}\epsilon_\ast i_i^{-1} \mathcal{F} & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \\
0 & \longrightarrow & j_j^{-1} \mathcal{F} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{F} & \longrightarrow & i_i^{-1} \mathcal{F} & \longrightarrow & 0
\end{array}
$$

By induction on the length of the partition we know that on the one hand $\epsilon^{-1}\epsilon_\ast i_i^{-1} \mathcal{F} \rightarrow i_i^{-1} \mathcal{F}$ and $\epsilon^{-1}\epsilon_\ast j_j^{-1} \mathcal{F} \rightarrow j_j^{-1} \mathcal{F}$ are isomorphisms and on the other that $i_i^{-1} \mathcal{F} = \epsilon^{-1} \mathcal{A}$ and $j_j^{-1} \mathcal{F} = \epsilon^{-1} \mathcal{B}$ for some constructible sheaves of $\Lambda$-modules $\mathcal{A}$ on $Z_{\text{étale}}$ and $\mathcal{B}$ on $U_{\text{étale}}$. Then

$$
\epsilon^{-1}\epsilon_\ast j_j^{-1} \mathcal{F} = \epsilon^{-1}\epsilon_\ast j_j \epsilon^{-1} \mathcal{B} = \epsilon^{-1}\epsilon_\ast j_j \epsilon^{-1} \mathcal{B} = \epsilon^{-1} j_j \mathcal{B} = j_j^{-1} \mathcal{B} = j_j^{-1} \mathcal{F}
$$

the second equality by Lemma 23.2 the third equality by Lemma 17.2 and the fourth equality by Lemma 23.2 again. Similarly, we have

$$
\epsilon^{-1}\epsilon_\ast i_i^{-1} \mathcal{F} = \epsilon^{-1}\epsilon_\ast i_i \epsilon^{-1} \mathcal{A} = \epsilon^{-1}\epsilon_\ast i_i \epsilon^{-1} \mathcal{A} = \epsilon^{-1} i_i \mathcal{A} = i_i^{-1} \mathcal{A} = i_i^{-1} \mathcal{F}
$$

this time using Lemma 20.1. By the five lemma we conclude the vertical map in the middle of the big diagram is an isomorphism. \qed

09B5 Lemma 24.3. Let $X$ be a scheme. Let $\Lambda$ be a Noetherian ring. The category of constructible sheaves of $\Lambda$-modules on $X_{\text{pro-étale}}$ is a weak Serre subcategory of $\text{Mod}(X_{\text{pro-étale}}, \Lambda)$.

Proof. This is a formal consequence of Lemmas 24.2 and 17.7 and the result for the étale site (Étale Cohomology, Lemma 70.6). \qed
Lemma 24.4. Let $X$ be a scheme. Let $\Lambda$ be a Noetherian ring. Let $D_c(\mathcal{X}_{\text{étale}}, \Lambda)$, resp. $D_c(\mathcal{X}_{\text{pro-étale}}, \Lambda)$ be the full subcategory of $D(\mathcal{X}_{\text{étale}}, \Lambda)$, resp. $D(\mathcal{X}_{\text{pro-étale}}, \Lambda)$ consisting of those complexes whose cohomology sheaves are constructible sheaves of $\Lambda$-modules. Then
\[
e^{-1} : D_c^+(\mathcal{X}_{\text{étale}}, \Lambda) \longrightarrow D_c^+(\mathcal{X}_{\text{pro-étale}}, \Lambda)
\]
is an equivalence of categories.

Proof. The categories $D_c(\mathcal{X}_{\text{étale}}, \Lambda)$ and $D_c(\mathcal{X}_{\text{pro-étale}}, \Lambda)$ are strictly full, saturated, triangulated subcategories of $D(\mathcal{X}_{\text{étale}}, \Lambda)$ and $D(\mathcal{X}_{\text{pro-étale}}, \Lambda)$ by Étale Cohomology, Lemma [0.6] and Lemma [24.3] and Derived Categories, Section [13]. The statement of the lemma follows by combining Lemmas [17.7] and [24.2].

Lemma 24.5. Let $X$ be a scheme. Let $\Lambda$ be a Noetherian ring. Let $K, L \in D_c(\mathcal{X}_{\text{pro-étale}}, \Lambda)$. Then $K \otimes^L \Lambda L$ is in $D_c(\mathcal{X}_{\text{pro-étale}}, \Lambda)$.

Proof. Note that $H^i(K \otimes^L \Lambda L)$ is the same as $H^i(\tau_{\geq 1} K \otimes^L \Lambda \tau_{\geq 1} L)$. Thus we may assume $K$ and $L$ are bounded. In this case we can apply Lemma [24.2] to reduce to the case of the étale site, see Étale Cohomology, Lemma [10.6].

Lemma 24.6. Let $X$ be a scheme. Let $\Lambda$ be a Noetherian ring. Let $K$ be an object of $D(\mathcal{X}_{\text{pro-étale}}, \Lambda)$. Set $K_n = K \otimes^L \Lambda/I^n$. If $K_1$ is in $D_c(\mathcal{X}_{\text{pro-étale}}, \Lambda/I)$, then $K_n$ is in $D_c(\mathcal{X}_{\text{pro-étale}}, \Lambda/I^n)$ for all $n$.

Proof. Consider the distinguished triangles
\[
K \otimes^L \Lambda/I^n/I^{n+1} \longrightarrow K_{n+1} \longrightarrow K_n \longrightarrow K \otimes^L \Lambda/I^{n+1}[1]
\]
and the isomorphisms
\[
K \otimes^L \Lambda/I^n/I^{n+1} = K_1 \otimes^L \Lambda/I^n/I^{n+1}
\]
By Lemma [24.5] we see that this tensor product has constructible cohomology sheaves (and vanishing when $K_1$ has vanishing cohomology). Hence by induction on $n$ using Lemma [24.3] we see that each $K_n$ has constructible cohomology sheaves.

25. Constructible adic sheaves

Definition 25.1. Let $\Lambda$ be a Noetherian ring and let $I \subset \Lambda$ be an ideal. Let $X$ be a scheme. Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a sheaf of $\Lambda$-modules on $\mathcal{X}_{\text{pro-étale}}$.

(1) We say $\mathcal{F}$ is a constructible $\Lambda$-sheaf if $\mathcal{F} = \varprojlim \mathcal{F}/I^n \mathcal{F}$ and each $\mathcal{F}/I^n \mathcal{F}$ is a constructible sheaf of $\Lambda/I^n$-modules.

(2) If $\mathcal{F}$ is a constructible $\Lambda$-sheaf, then we say $\mathcal{F}$ is lisse if each $\mathcal{F}/I^n \mathcal{F}$ is locally constant.

(3) We say $\mathcal{F}$ is adic lisse if there exists a $I$-adically complete $\Lambda$-module $M$ with $M/I^\Lambda M$ finite such that $\mathcal{F}$ is locally isomorphic to $M^\wedge = \varprojlim M/I^n M$.

---

5This may be nonstandard notation.
(4) We say $F$ is \textit{adic constructible} if for every affine open $U \subset X$ there exists a decomposition $U = \coprod U_i$ into constructible locally closed subschemes such that $F|_{U_i}$ is adic lisse.

The definition of a constructible $\Lambda$-sheaf is equivalent to the one in [Gro77, Exposé VI, Definition 1.1.1] when $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}_\ell$ and $I = (\ell)$. It is clear that we have the implications

\[
\text{lisse adic} \quad \xrightarrow{\text{ad hoc}} \quad \text{adic constructible} \quad \xrightarrow{\text{ad hoc}} \quad \text{constructible $\Lambda$-sheaf}
\]

The vertical arrows can be inverted in some cases (see Lemmas \ref{lem:adic_to_lisse} and \ref{lem:constructible}). In general neither the category of adic constructible sheaves nor the category of adic constructible sheaves is closed under kernels and cokernels.

Namely, let $X$ be an affine scheme whose underlying topological space $|X|$ is homeomorphic to $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}_\ell$, see Example \ref{ex:adic}. Denote $f : |X| \to \mathbb{Z}_\ell = \Lambda$ a homeomorphism. We can think of $f$ as a section of $\Lambda$ over $X$ and multiplication by $f$ then defines a two term complex

\[
\Lambda^\wedge \xrightarrow{f} \Lambda^\wedge
\]
on $X_{\text{pro-étale}}$. The sheaf $\Lambda^\wedge$ is adic lisse. However, the cokernel of the map above, is not adic constructible, as the isomorphism type of the stalks of this cokernel attains infinitely many values: $\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n\mathbb{Z}$ and $\mathbb{Z}_\ell$. The cokernel is a constructible $\mathbb{Z}_\ell$-sheaf. However, the kernel is not even a constructible $\mathbb{Z}_\ell$-sheaf as it is zero a non-quasi-compact open but not zero.

\textbf{09BU Lemma 25.2.} Let $X$ be a Noetherian scheme. Let $\Lambda$ be a Noetherian ring and let $I \subseteq \Lambda$ be an ideal. Let $F$ be a constructible $\Lambda$-sheaf on $X_{\text{pro-étale}}$. Then there exists a finite partition $X = \coprod X_i$ by locally closed subschemes such that the restriction $F|_{X_i}$ is lisse.

\textbf{Proof.} Let $R = \bigoplus I^n/I^{n+1}$. Observe that $R$ is a Noetherian ring. Since each of the sheaves $F/I^nF$ is a constructible sheaf of $\Lambda/I^n\Lambda$-modules also $I^nF/I^{n+1}F$ is a constructible sheaf of $\Lambda/I$-modules and hence the pullback of a constructible sheaf $G_n$ on $X_{\text{étale}}$ by Lemma \ref{lem:pullback_étale} Set $G = \bigoplus G_n$. This is a sheaf of $R$-modules on $X_{\text{étale}}$ and the map

\[
G_0 \otimes_{\Lambda/I} R \longrightarrow G
\]
is surjective because the maps

\[
F/I^n F \otimes I^n/I^{n+1} \longrightarrow I^n F/I^{n+1} F
\]
are surjective. Hence $G$ is a constructible sheaf of $R$-modules by Étale Cohomology, Proposition \ref{prop:étale_cohomology}. Choose a partition $X = \coprod X_i$ such that $G|_{X_i}$ is a locally constant sheaf of $R$-modules of finite type (Étale Cohomology, Lemma \ref{lem:étale_finite}). We claim this is a partition as in the lemma. Namely, replacing $X$ by $X_i$ we may assume $G$ is locally constant. It follows that each of the sheaves $I^n F/I^{n+1} F$ is locally constant. Using the short exact sequences

\[
0 \to I^n F/I^{n+1} F \to F/I^{n+1} F \to F/I^n F \to 0
\]
induction and Modules on Sites, Lemma \ref{lem:induction} the lemma follows. $\square$

\footnote{This may be nonstandard notation.}
Let $X$ be a weakly contractible affine scheme. Let $\Lambda$ be a Noetherian ring and $I \subset \Lambda$ be an ideal. Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a sheaf of $\Lambda$-modules on $X_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}}$ such that

1. $\mathcal{F} = \operatorname{lim} \mathcal{F}/I^n \mathcal{F}$,
2. $\mathcal{F}/I^n \mathcal{F}$ is a constant sheaf of $\Lambda/I^n$-modules,
3. $\mathcal{F}/I \mathcal{F}$ is of finite type.

Then $\mathcal{F} \cong M^\wedge$ where $M$ is a finite $\Lambda^\wedge$-module.

**Proof.** Pick a $\Lambda/I^n$-module $M_n$ such that $\mathcal{F}/I^n \mathcal{F} \cong M_n$. Since we have the surjections $\mathcal{F}/I^{n+1} \mathcal{F} \to \mathcal{F}/I^n \mathcal{F}$ we conclude that there exist surjections $M_{n+1} \to M_n$ inducing isomorphisms $M_{n+1}/I^n M_{n+1} \to M_n$. Fix a choice of such surjections and set $M = \operatorname{lim} M_n$. Then $M$ is an $I$-adically complete $\Lambda$-module with $M/I^n M = M_n$, see Algebra, Lemma 97.1. Since $M_1$ is a finite type $\Lambda$-module (Modules on Sites, Lemma 41.5) we see that $M$ is a finite $\Lambda^\wedge$-module. Consider the sheaves

$$I_n = \operatorname{Isom}(M_n, \mathcal{F}/I^n \mathcal{F})$$

on $X_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}}$. Modding out by $I^n$ defines a transition map

$$I_{n+1} \to I_n$$

By our choice of $M_n$ the sheaf $I_n$ is a torsor under

$$\operatorname{Isom}(M_n, M_n) = \operatorname{Isom}_\Lambda(M_n, M_n)$$

(Modules on Sites, Lemma 42.1) since $\mathcal{F}/I^n \mathcal{F}$ is (étale) locally isomorphic to $M_n$. It follows from More on Algebra, Lemma 88.3 that the system of sheaves $(I_n)$ is Mittag-Leffler. For each $n$ let $I'_n \subset I_n$ be the image of $I_N \to I_n$ for all $N \gg n$. Then

$$\ldots \to I'_3 \
\to I'_2 \to I'_1 \to *$$

is a sequence of sheaves of sets on $X_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}}$ with surjective transition maps. Since $\ast(X)$ is a singleton (not empty) and since evaluating at $X$ transforms surjective maps of sheaves of sets into surjections of sets, we can pick $s \in \lim I'_n(X)$. The sections define isomorphisms $M^\wedge \to \lim \mathcal{F}/I^n \mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}$ and the proof is done. \qed

Let $X$ be a connected scheme. Let $\Lambda$ be a Noetherian ring and let $I \subset \Lambda$ be an ideal. If $\mathcal{F}$ is a lisse constructible $\Lambda$-sheaf on $X_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}}$, then $\mathcal{F}$ is adic lisse.

**Proof.** By Lemma 17.8 we have $\mathcal{F}/I^n \mathcal{F} = \epsilon^{-1} \mathcal{G}_n$ for some locally constant sheaf $\mathcal{G}_n$ of $\Lambda/I^n$-modules. By Étale Cohomology, Lemma 63.8 there exists a finite $\Lambda/I^n$-module $M_n$ such that $\mathcal{G}_n$ is locally isomorphic to $M_n$. Choose a covering $\{W_t \to X\}_{t \in T}$ with each $W_t$ affine and weakly contractible. Then $\mathcal{F}|_{W_t}$ satisfies the assumptions of Lemma 25.3 and hence $\mathcal{F}|_{W_t} \cong N_t^\wedge$ for some finite $\Lambda^\wedge$-module $N_t$. Note that $N_t/I^n N_t \cong M_n$ for all $t$ and $n$. Hence $N_t \cong N_{t'}$ for all $t, t' \in T$, see More on Algebra, Lemma 88.4. This proves that $\mathcal{F}$ is adic lisse. \qed

Let $X$ be a Noetherian scheme. Let $\Lambda$ be a Noetherian ring and let $I \subset \Lambda$ be an ideal. Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a constructible $\Lambda$-sheaf on $X_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}}$. Then $\mathcal{F}$ is adic constructible.

**Proof.** This is a consequence of Lemmas 25.2 and 25.4, the fact that a Noetherian scheme is locally connected (Topology, Lemma 9.6), and the definitions. \qed
It will be useful to identify the constructible $\Lambda$-sheaves inside the category of derived complete sheaves of $\Lambda$-modules. It turns out that the naive analogue of More on Algebra, Lemma 84.5 is wrong in this setting. However, here is the analogue of More on Algebra, Lemma 82.7.

**Lemma 25.6.** Let $X$ be a scheme. Let $\Lambda$ be a ring and let $I \subset \Lambda$ be a finitely generated ideal. Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a sheaf of $\Lambda$-modules on $X_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}}$. If $\mathcal{F}$ is derived complete and $\mathcal{F}/IF = 0$, then $\mathcal{F} = 0$.

**Proof.** Assume that $\mathcal{F}/IF$ is zero. Let $I = (f_1, \ldots, f_r)$. Let $i < r$ be the largest integer such that $\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{F}/(f_1, \ldots, f_i)\mathcal{F}$ is nonzero. If $i$ does not exist, then $\mathcal{F} = 0$ which is what we want to show. Then $\mathcal{G}$ is derived complete as a cokernel of a map between derived complete modules, see Proposition 16.1. By our choice of $i$ we have that $f_{i+1} : \mathcal{G} \to \mathcal{G}$ is surjective. Hence

$$\lim(\ldots \to \mathcal{G} \xrightarrow{f_{i+1}} \mathcal{G} \xrightarrow{f_{i+1}} \mathcal{G})$$

is nonzero, contradicting the derived completeness of $\mathcal{G}$. \qed

**Lemma 25.7.** Let $X$ be a weakly contractible affine scheme. Let $\Lambda$ be a Noetherian ring and let $I \subset \Lambda$ be an ideal. Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a derived complete sheaf of $\Lambda$-modules on $X_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}}$ with $\mathcal{F}/IF$ a locally constant sheaf of $\Lambda/I$-modules of finite type. Then there exists an integer $t$ and a surjective map

$$(\Lambda^\wedge)^{\oplus t} \to \mathcal{F}$$

**Proof.** Since $X$ is weakly contractible, there exists a finite disjoint open covering $X = \bigsqcup U_i$ such that $\mathcal{F}/IF|_{U_i}$ is isomorphic to the constant sheaf associated to a finite $\Lambda/I$-module $M_i$. Choose finitely many generators $m_{ij}$ of $M_i$. We can find sections $s_{ij} \in \mathcal{F}(X)$ restricting to $m_{ij}$ viewed as a section of $\mathcal{F}/IF$ over $U_i$. Let $t$ be the total number of $s_{ij}$. Then we obtain a map

$$\alpha : \Lambda^{\oplus t} \to \mathcal{F}$$

which is surjective modulo $I$ by construction. By Lemma 15.1 the derived completion of $\Lambda^{\oplus t}$ is the sheaf $(\Lambda^\wedge)^{\oplus t}$. Since $\mathcal{F}$ is derived complete we see that $\alpha$ factors through a map

$$\alpha^\wedge : (\Lambda^\wedge)^{\oplus t} \to \mathcal{F}$$

Then $Q = \text{Coker}(\alpha^\wedge)$ is a derived complete sheaf of $\Lambda$-modules by Proposition 16.1. By construction $Q/IQ = 0$. It follows from Lemma 25.6 that $Q = 0$ which is what we wanted to show. \qed

### 26. A suitable derived category

**Definition 26.1.** Let $\Lambda$ be a Noetherian ring and let $I \subset \Lambda$ be an ideal. Let $X$ be a scheme. An object $K$ of $D(X_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}}, \Lambda)$ is called constructible if

1. $K$ is derived complete with respect to $I$,
2. $K \otimes^L_\Lambda \Lambda/I$ has constructible cohomology sheaves and locally has finite tor dimension.
We denote $D_{\text{cons}}(X, \Lambda)$ the full subcategory of constructible $K$ in $D(X_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}}, \Lambda)$.

Recall that with our conventions a complex of finite tor dimension is bounded (Cohomology on Sites, Definition 44.1). In fact, let’s collect everything proved so far in a lemma.

**Lemma 26.2.** In the situation above suppose $K$ is in $D_{\text{cons}}(X, \Lambda)$ and $X$ is quasi-compact. Set $K_n = K \otimes_{\Lambda} \Lambda/I^n$. There exist $a, b$ such that

1. $K = R\lim K_n$ and $H^i(K) = 0$ for $i \not\in [a, b]$,
2. each $K_n$ has tor amplitude in $[a, b]$,
3. each $K_n$ has constructible cohomology sheaves,
4. each $K_n = \epsilon^{-1}L_\alpha$ for some $L_\alpha \in D_{\text{rflf}}(\mathcal{X}_{\text{\acute{e}tale}}, \Lambda/I^n)$ (Étale Cohomology, Definition 110.7).

**Proof.** By definition of local having finite tor dimension, we can find $a, b$ such that $K_1$ has tor amplitude in $[a, b]$. Part (2) follows from Cohomology on Sites, Lemma 44.9. Then (1) follows as $K$ is derived complete by the description of limits in Cohomology on Sites, Proposition 47.2 and the fact that $H^b(K_n+1) \to H^b(K_n)$ is surjective as $K_n = K_{n+1} \otimes_{\Lambda} \Lambda/I^n$. Part (3) follows from Lemma 26.3. Part (4) follows from Lemma 26.4 and the fact that $L_\alpha$ has finite tor dimension because $K_n$ does (small argument omitted).

**Lemma 26.3.** Let $X$ be a weakly contractible affine scheme. Let $\Lambda$ be a Noetherian ring and let $I \subseteq \Lambda$ be an ideal. Let $K$ be an object of $D_{\text{cons}}(X, \Lambda)$ such that the cohomology sheaves of $K \otimes_{\Lambda} \Lambda/I$ are locally constant. Then there exists a finite disjoint open covering $X = \coprod U_i$ and for each $i$ a finite collection of finite projective $\Lambda^{\wedge}$-modules $M_{a_i}, \ldots, M_{b_i}$ such that $K|_{U_i}$ is represented by a complex

$$(M_{a_i}^{\wedge}) \to \cdots \to (M_{b_i}^{\wedge})$$

in $D(U_i, \text{pro-\acute{e}tale}, \Lambda)$ for some maps of sheaves of $\Lambda$-modules $(M_i^{\wedge}) \to (M_{i+1}^{\wedge})$.

**Proof.** We freely use the results of Lemma 26.2. Choose $a, b$ as in that lemma. We will prove the lemma by induction on $b - a$. Let $F = H^b(K)$. Note that $F$ is a derived complete sheaf of $\Lambda$-modules by Proposition 16.1. Moreover $F/I$ is a locally constant sheaf of $\Lambda/I$-modules of finite type. Apply Lemma 25.7 to get a surjection $\rho : (\Lambda^{\wedge})^{\oplus} \to F$.

If $a = b$, then $K = F[-b]$. In this case we see that

$$F \otimes_{\Lambda} \Lambda/I = F/I$$

As $X$ is weakly contractible and $F/I$ locally constant, we can find a finite disjoint union decomposition $X = \coprod U_i$ by affine opens $U_i$ and $\Lambda/I$-modules $M_i$ such that $F/I$ restricts to $M_i$ on $U_i$. After refining the covering we may assume the map

$$\rho|_{U_i} : \Lambda/I^{\oplus} \to M_i$$

is equal to $\alpha_i$ for some surjective module map $\alpha_i : \Lambda/I^{\oplus} \to M_i$, see Modules on Sites, Lemma 42.3. Note that each $M_i$ is a finite $\Lambda/I$-module. Since $F/I$ has tor amplitude in $[0, 0]$ we conclude that $M_i$ is a flat $\Lambda/I$-module. Hence $M_i$ is finite projective (Algebra, Lemma 77.2). Hence we can find a projector $p_i : \Lambda/I^{\oplus} \to (\Lambda/I)^{\oplus}$ whose image maps isomorphically to $M_i$ under the map $\alpha_i$. We can lift
Let $\mathfrak{p}_i$ to a projector $p_i : (\Lambda^\wedge)^{\oplus t} \to (\Lambda^\wedge)^{\oplus t}$. Then $M_i = \operatorname{Im}(p_i)$ is a finite $I$-adically complete $\Lambda^\wedge$-module with $M_i/IM_i = M_i$. Over $U_i$ consider the maps

$$M_i^\wedge \to (\Lambda^\wedge)^{\oplus t} \to \mathcal{F}|_{U_i}$$

By construction the composition induces an isomorphism modulo $I$. The source and target are derived complete, hence so are the cokernel $Q$ and the kernel $K$. We have $Q/IQ = 0$ by construction hence $Q$ is zero by Lemma 25.6 Then

$$0 \to K/IK \to \overline{M}_i \to \mathcal{F}/IF \to 0$$

is exact by the vanishing of $\operatorname{Tor}_1$ see at the start of this paragraph; also use that $\Lambda^\wedge / I\Lambda^\wedge$ by Modules on Sites, Lemma 41.4 to see that $M_i^\wedge / IM_i^\wedge = \overline{M}_i$. Hence $K/IK = 0$ by construction and we conclude that $K = 0$ as before. This proves the result in case $a = b$.

If $b > a$, then we lift the map $\rho$ to a map

$$\tilde{\rho} : (\Lambda^\wedge)^{\oplus t}[-b] \to K$$

in $D(\mathcal{X}_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}}, \Lambda)$. This is possible as we can think of $K$ as a complex of $\Lambda^\wedge$-modules by discussion in the introduction to Section 15 and because $\mathcal{X}_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}}$ is weakly contractible hence there is no obstruction to lifting the elements $\rho(\epsilon_s) \in H^0(X, \mathcal{F})$ to elements of $H^0(X, K)$. Fitting $\tilde{\rho}$ into a distinguished triangle

$$(\Lambda^\wedge)^{\oplus t}[-b] \to K \to L \to (\Lambda^\wedge)^{\oplus t}[-b + 1]$$

we see that $L$ is an object of $D_{\text{cons}}(X, \Lambda)$ such that $L \otimes_{\Lambda}^L \Lambda/I$ has tor amplitude contained in $[a, b - 1]$ (details omitted). By induction we can describe $L$ locally as stated in the lemma, say $L$ is isomorphic to

$$(M^a)^\wedge \to \ldots \to (M^{b-1})^\wedge$$

The map $L \to (\Lambda^\wedge)^{\oplus t}[-b + 1]$ corresponds to a map $(M^{b-1})^\wedge \to (\Lambda^\wedge)^{\oplus t}$ which allows us to extend the complex by one. The corresponding complex is isomorphic to $K$ in the derived category by the properties of triangulated categories. This finishes the proof. $\square$

Motivated by what happens for constructible $\Lambda$-sheaves we introduce the following notion.

**Definition 26.4.** Let $X$ be a scheme. Let $\Lambda$ be a Noetherian ring and let $I \subset \Lambda$ be an ideal. Let $K \in D(\mathcal{X}_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}}, \Lambda)$.

1. We say $K$ is **adic lisse**\footnote{Proof: by Algebra, Lemma 31.7 we can lift $\mathfrak{p}_i$ to a compatible system of projectors $p_{i,n} : (\Lambda/I^n)^{\oplus t} \to (\Lambda/I^n)^{\oplus t}$ and then we set $p_i = \lim p_{i,n}$, which works because $\Lambda^\wedge = \lim \Lambda/I^n$.} if there exists a finite complex of finite projective $\Lambda^\wedge$-modules $M^\bullet$ such that $K$ is locally isomorphic to

   $$(M^a)^\wedge \to \ldots \to (M^{b-1})^\wedge$$

2. We say $K$ is **adic constructible**\footnote{This may be nonstandard notation.} if for every affine open $U \subset X$ there exists a decomposition $U = \coprod U_i$ into constructible locally closed subschemes such that $K|_{U_i}$ is adic lisse.
The difference between the local structure obtained in Lemma 26.3 and the structure of an adic lisse complex is that the maps $M^i\Lambda \to M^{i+1}\Lambda$ in Lemma 26.3 need not be constant, whereas in the definition above they are required to be constant.

**Lemma 26.5.** Let $X$ be a weakly contractible affine scheme. Let $\Lambda$ be a Noetherian ring and let $I \subset \Lambda$ be an ideal. Let $K$ be an object of $D_{cons}(X, \Lambda)$ such that $K \otimes^L_\Lambda \Lambda/I^n$ is isomorphic in $D(X_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}}, \Lambda/I^n)$ to a complex of constant sheaves of $\Lambda/I^n$-modules. Then

$$H^0(X, K \otimes^L_\Lambda \Lambda/I^n)$$

has the Mittag-Leffler condition.

**Proof.** Say $K \otimes^L_\Lambda \Lambda/I^n$ is isomorphic to $E_n$ for some object $E_n$ of $D(\Lambda/I^n)$. Since $K \otimes^L_\Lambda \Lambda/I$ has finite tor dimension and has finite type cohomology sheaves we see that $E_1$ is perfect (see More on Algebra, Lemma 69.2). The transition maps

$$K \otimes^L_\Lambda \Lambda/I^{n+1} \to K \otimes^L_\Lambda \Lambda/I^n$$

locally come from (possibly many distinct) maps of complexes $E_{n+1} \to E_n$ in $D(\Lambda/I^{n+1})$ see Cohomology on Sites, Lemma 49.3. For each $n$ choose one such map and observe that it induces an isomorphism $E_{n+1} \otimes^L_{\Lambda/I^{n+1}} \Lambda/I^n \to E_n$ in $D(\Lambda/I^n)$. By More on Algebra, Lemma 55.3 we can find a finite complex $M^*$ of finite projective $\Lambda^\wedge$-modules and isomorphisms $M^*/I^n M^* \to E_n$ in $D(\Lambda/I^n)$ compatible with the transition maps.

Now observe that for each finite collection of indices $n > m > k$ the triple of maps

$$H^0(X, K \otimes^L_\Lambda \Lambda/I^n) \to H^0(X, K \otimes^L_\Lambda \Lambda/I^m) \to H^0(X, K \otimes^L_\Lambda \Lambda/I^k)$$

is isomorphic to

$$H^0(X, M^*/I^n M^*) \to H^0(X, M^*/I^m M^*) \to H^0(X, M^*/I^k M^*)$$

Namely, choose any isomorphism

$$M^*/I^n M^* \to K \otimes^L_\Lambda \Lambda/I^n$$

induces similar isomorphisms modulo $I^m$ and $I^k$ and we see that the assertion is true. Thus to prove the lemma it suffices to show that the system $H^0(X, M^*/I^n M^*)$ has Mittag-Leffler. Since taking sections over $X$ is exact, it suffices to prove that the system of $\Lambda$-modules

$$H^0(M^*/I^n M^*)$$

has Mittag-Leffler. Set $A = \Lambda^\wedge$ and consider the spectral sequence

$$\text{Tor}_{\Lambda^\wedge}(H^q(M^*), A/I^n A) \Rightarrow H^{p+q}(M^*/I^n M^*)$$

By More on Algebra, Lemma 27.3 the pro-systems $\{\text{Tor}_{\Lambda^\wedge}(H^q(M^*), A/I^n A)\}$ are zero for $p > 0$. Thus the pro-system $\{H^0(M^*/I^n M^*)\}$ is equal to the pro-system $\{H^0(M^*)/I^n H^0(M^*)\}$ and the lemma is proved.

**Lemma 26.6.** Let $X$ be a connected scheme. Let $\Lambda$ be a Noetherian ring and let $I \subset \Lambda$ be an ideal. If $K$ is in $D_{cons}(X, \Lambda)$ such that $K \otimes^L_\Lambda \Lambda/I$ has locally constant cohomology sheaves, then $K$ is adic lisse (Definition 26.4).
In this section we explain how to prove the proper base change theorem for derived categories.

**Proof.** Write $K_n = K \otimes_{\Lambda} \Lambda/I^n$. We will use the results of Lemma 26.2 without further mention. By Cohomology on Sites, Lemma 49.5 we see that $K_n$ has locally constant cohomology sheaves for all $n$. We have $K_n = \epsilon^{-1} L_n$ some $L_n$ in $D_{ctf}(X_{\text{etale}}, \Lambda/I^n)$ with locally constant cohomology sheaves. By Étale Cohomology, Lemma 110.14 there exist perfect complexes $M_n$ of finite projective $\Lambda$-modules, locally isomorphic to $M_\otimes$. The maps $L_{n+1} \to L_n$ corresponding to $K_{n+1} \to K_n$ induces isomorphisms $L_{n+1} \otimes_{\Lambda/I^n} \Lambda/I^n \to L_n$. Looking locally on $X$ we conclude that there exist maps $M_{n+1} \to M_n$ in $D(\Lambda/I^{n+1})$ inducing isomorphisms $M_{n+1} \otimes_{\Lambda/I^{n+1}} \Lambda/I^n \to M_n$, see Cohomology on Sites, Lemma 49.3. Fix a choice of such maps. By More on Algebra, Lemma 85.1 we can find a finite complex $M^\bullet$ of finite projective $\Lambda^\wedge$-modules and isomorphisms $M^\bullet/I^n M^\bullet \to M_n$ in $D(\Lambda/I^n)$ compatible with the transition maps. To finish the proof we will show that $K$ is locally isomorphic to

$M^\wedge = \lim M^\bullet/I^n M^\bullet = R\text{lim } M^\bullet/I^n M^\bullet$

Let $E^\bullet$ be the dual complex to $M^\bullet$, see More on Algebra, Lemma 69.14 and its proof. Consider the objects

$H_n = R\text{Hom}_{\Lambda/I^n}(M^\bullet/I^n M^\bullet, K_n) = E^\bullet/I^n E^\bullet \otimes_{\Lambda/I^n} K_n$

of $D(X_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}}, \Lambda/I^n)$. Modding out by $I^n$ defines a transition map $H_{n+1} \to H_n$. Set $H = R\text{lim } H_n$. Then $H$ is an object of $D_{\text{cons}}(X, \Lambda)$ (details omitted) with $H \otimes_{\Lambda} \Lambda/I^n = H_n$. Choose a covering $\{W_t \to X\}_{t \in T}$ with each $W_t$ affine and weakly contractible. By our choice of $M^\bullet$ we see that

$H_n|_{W_t} \cong R\text{Hom}_{\Lambda/I^n}(M^\bullet/I^n M^\bullet, M^\bullet/I^n M^\bullet)$

$= \text{Tot}(E^\bullet/I^n E^\bullet \otimes_{\Lambda/I^n} M^\bullet/I^n M^\bullet)$

Thus we may apply Lemma 26.5 to $H = R\text{lim } H_n$. We conclude the system $H^0(W_t, H_n)$ satisfies Mittag-Leffler. Since for all $n \gg 1$ there is an element of $H^0(W_t, H_n)$ which maps to an isomorphism in

$H^0(W_t, H_1) = \text{Hom}(M^\bullet/I^1 M^\bullet, K_1)$

we find an element $(\varphi_{t,n})$ in the inverse limit which produces an isomorphism mod $I$. Then

$R\text{lim } \varphi_{t,n} : M^\wedge|_{W_t} = R\text{lim } M^\bullet/I^n M^\bullet|_{W_t} \to R\text{lim } K_n|_{W_t} = K|_{W_t}$

is an isomorphism. This finishes the proof. \qed

**Proposition 26.7.** Let $X$ be a Noetherian scheme. Let $\Lambda$ be a Noetherian ring and let $I \subseteq \Lambda$ be an ideal. Let $K$ be an object of $D_{\text{cons}}(X, \Lambda)$. Then $K$ is adic constructible (Definition 26.4).

**Proof.** This is a consequence of Lemma 26.6 and the fact that a Noetherian scheme is locally connected (Topology, Lemma 9.6), and the definitions. \qed

**27. Proper base change**

In this section we explain how to prove the proper base change theorem for derived categories on the pro-étale site using the proper base change theorem for étale cohomology following the general theme that we use the pro-étale topology only to deal with “limit issues” and we use results proved for the étale topology to handle everything else.
Theorem 27.1. Let \( f : X \to Y \) be a proper morphism of schemes. Let \( g : Y' \to Y \) be a morphism of schemes giving rise to the base change diagram

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
X' & \xrightarrow{g'} & X \\
\downarrow f' & & \downarrow f \\
Y' & \xrightarrow{g} & Y
\end{array}
\]

Let \( \Lambda \) be a Noetherian ring and let \( I \subset \Lambda \) be an ideal such that \( \Lambda/I \) is torsion. Let \( K \) be an object of \( D(X_{\text{pro-\acute{e}tale}}) \) such that

1. \( K \) is derived complete, and
2. \( K \otimes_{\Lambda}^L \Lambda/I^n \) is bounded below with cohomology sheaves coming from \( X_{\acute{e}tale} \),
3. \( \Lambda/I^n \) is a perfect \( \Lambda \)-module.

Then the base change map

\[
Lg_{\text{comp}}^* Rf_* K \longrightarrow Rf'_* L(g')_{\text{comp}}^* K
\]

is an isomorphism.

Proof. We omit the construction of the base change map (this uses only formal properties of derived pushforward and completed derived pullback, compare with Cohomology on Sites, Remark 20.3). Write \( K_n = K \otimes_{\Lambda}^L \Lambda/I^n \). By Lemma 15.1 we have \( K = R\lim K_n \) because \( K \) is derived complete. By Lemmas 15.2 and 16.1 we can unwind the left hand side

\[
Lg_{\text{comp}}^* Rf_* K = R\lim Lg^* (Rf_* K) \otimes_{\Lambda}^L \Lambda/I^n = R\lim Lg^* Rf_* K_n
\]

the last equality because \( \Lambda/I^n \) is a perfect module and the projection formula (Cohomology on Sites, Lemma 46.1). Using Lemma 15.2 we can unwind the right hand side

\[
Rf'_* L(g')_{\text{comp}}^* K = Rf'_* R\lim L(g')^* K_n = R\lim Rf'_* L(g')^* K_n
\]

the last equality because \( Rf'_* \) commutes with \( R\lim \) (Cohomology on Sites, Lemma 23.3). Thus it suffices to show the maps

\[
Lg^* Rf_* K_n \longrightarrow Rf'_* L(g')^* K_n
\]

are isomorphisms. By Lemma 17.7 and our second condition we can write \( K_n = \epsilon^{-1} L_n \) for some \( L_n \in D^+(X_{\acute{e}tale}, \Lambda/I^n) \). By Lemma 20.1 and the fact that \( \epsilon^{-1} \) commutes with pullbacks we obtain

\[
Lg^* Rf_* K_n = Lg^* Rf_* \epsilon^* L_n = Lg^* \epsilon^{-1} Rf_* L_n = \epsilon^{-1} Lg^* Rf_* L_n
\]

and

\[
Rf'_* L(g')^* K_n = Rf'_* L(g')^* \epsilon^{-1} L_n = Rf'_* \epsilon^{-1} L(g')^* L_n = \epsilon^{-1} Rf'_* L(g')^* L_n
\]

(this also uses that \( L_n \) is bounded below). Finally, by the proper base change theorem for \( \acute{e}tale \) cohomology (Étale Cohomology, Theorem 85.11) we have

\[
Lg^* Rf_* L_n = Rf'_* L(g')^* L_n
\]

(again using that \( L_n \) is bounded below) and the theorem is proved. \( \square \)

\footnote{This assumption can be removed if \( K \) is a constructible complex, see [BS13].}
# 28. Other chapters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preliminaries</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Introduction</td>
<td>(43) Picard Schemes of Curves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Conventions</td>
<td>(44) Adequate Modules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) Set Theory</td>
<td>(45) Dualizing Complexes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) Categories</td>
<td>(46) Duality for Schemes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) Topology</td>
<td>(47) Discriminants and Differents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6) Sheaves on Spaces</td>
<td>(48) Local Cohomology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7) Sites and Sheaves</td>
<td>(49) Algebraic and Formal Geometry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(8) Stacks</td>
<td>(50) Algebraic Curves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(9) Fields</td>
<td>(51) Resolution of Surfaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(10) Commutative Algebra</td>
<td>(52) Semistable Reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(11) Brauer Groups</td>
<td>(53) Fundamental Groups of Schemes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(12) Homological Algebra</td>
<td>(54) Étale Cohomology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(13) Derived Categories</td>
<td>(55) Crystalline Cohomology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(14) Simplicial Methods</td>
<td>(56) Pro-étale Cohomology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(15) More on Algebra</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(16) Smoothing Ring Maps</td>
<td>(57) Algebraic Spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(17) Sheaves of Modules</td>
<td>(58) Properties of Algebraic Spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(18) Modules on Sites</td>
<td>(59) Morphisms of Algebraic Spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(19) Injectives</td>
<td>(60) Decent Algebraic Spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(20) Cohomology of Sheaves</td>
<td>(61) Cohomology of Algebraic Spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(21) Cohomology on Sites</td>
<td>(62) Limits of Algebraic Spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(22) Differential Graded Algebra</td>
<td>(63) Divisors on Algebraic Spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(23) Divided Power Algebra</td>
<td>(64) Algebraic Spaces over Fields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(24) Hypercoverings</td>
<td>(65) Topologies on Algebraic Spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(25) Schemes</td>
<td>(66) Descent and Algebraic Spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(26) Constructions of Schemes</td>
<td>(67) Derived Categories of Spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(27) Properties of Schemes</td>
<td>(68) More on Morphisms of Spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(28) Morphisms of Schemes</td>
<td>(69) Flatness on Algebraic Spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(29) Cohomology of Schemes</td>
<td>(70) Groupoids in Algebraic Spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(30) Divisors</td>
<td>(71) More on Groupoids in Spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(31) Limits of Schemes</td>
<td>(72) Bootstrap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(32) Varieties</td>
<td>(73) Pushouts of Algebraic Spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(33) Topologies on Schemes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(34) Descent</td>
<td>(74) Chow Groups of Spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(35) Derived Categories of Schemes</td>
<td>(75) Quotients of Groupoids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(36) More on Morphisms</td>
<td>(76) More on Cohomology of Spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(37) More on Flatness</td>
<td>(77) Simplicial Spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(38) Groupoid Schemes</td>
<td>(78) Duality for Spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(39) More on Groupoid Schemes</td>
<td>(79) Formal Algebraic Spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(40) Étale Morphisms of Schemes</td>
<td>(80) Restricted Power Series</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topics in Scheme Theory</td>
<td>(81) Resolution of Surfaces Revisited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(41) Chow Homology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(42) Intersection Theory</td>
<td>(82) Formal Deformation Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(83) Deformation Theory</td>
<td>(84) The Cotangent Complex</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Deformation Problems
Algebraic Stacks
Examples of Stacks
Sheaves on Algebraic Stacks
Criteria for Representability
Artin’s Axioms
Quot and Hilbert Spaces
Properties of Algebraic Stacks
Morphisms of Algebraic Stacks
Limits of Algebraic Stacks
Cohomology of Algebraic Stacks
Derived Categories of Stacks
Introducing Algebraic Stacks
More on Morphisms of Stacks
The Geometry of Stacks
Topics in Moduli Theory
Moduli Stacks
Moduli of Curves
The Geometry of Stacks
Examples
Exercises
Guide to Literature
Desirables
Coding Style
Obsolete
GNU Free Documentation License
Auto Generated Index

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