MORE ON COHOMOLOGY OF SPACES

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1. Introduction

In this chapter continues the discussion started in Cohomology of Spaces, Section [1].
One can also view this chapter as the analogue for algebraic spaces of the chapter
on étale cohomology for schemes, see Étale Cohomology, Section [1].

In fact, we intend this chapter to be mainly a translation of the results already
proved for schemes into the language of algebraic spaces. Some of our results can
be found in [Knu71].

2. Conventions

The standing assumption is that all schemes are contained in a big fppf site $Sch_{fppf}$.
And all rings $A$ considered have the property that $\text{Spec}(A)$ is (isomorphic) to an
object of this big site.

Let $S$ be a scheme and let $X$ be an algebraic space over $S$. In this chapter and the
following we will write $X \times_S X$ for the product of $X$ with itself (in the category of
algebraic spaces over $S$), instead of $X \times X$.

3. Transporting results from schemes

In this section we explain briefly how results for schemes imply results for (represen-
table) algebraic spaces and (representable) morphisms of algebraic spaces. For
quasi-coherent modules more is true (because étale cohomology of a quasi-coherent
module over a scheme agrees with Zariski cohomology) and this has already been
discussed in Cohomology of Spaces, Section [3].
Let $S$ be a scheme. Let $X$ be an algebraic space over $S$. Now suppose that $X$ is representable by the scheme $X_0$ (awkward but temporary notation; we usually just say “$X$ is a scheme”). In this case $X$ and $X_0$ have the same small étale sites:

$$X_{étale} = (X_0)_{étale}$$

This is pointed out in Properties of Spaces, Section 18. Moreover, if $f : X \to Y$ is a morphism of representable algebraic spaces over $S$ and if $f_0 : X_0 \to Y_0$ is a morphism of schemes representing $f$, then the induced morphisms of small étale topoi agree:

$$\text{Sh}(X_{étale}) \xrightarrow{f_{small}} \text{Sh}(Y_{étale})$$

$$\text{Sh}((X_0)_{étale}) \xrightarrow{(f_0)_{small}} \text{Sh}((Y_0)_{étale})$$

See Properties of Spaces, Lemma 18.7 and Topologies, Lemma 4.16.

Thus there is absolutely no difference between étale cohomology of a scheme and the étale cohomology of the corresponding algebraic space. Similarly for higher direct images along morphisms of schemes. In fact, if $f : X \to Y$ is a morphism of algebraic spaces over $S$ which is representable (by schemes), then the higher direct images $R^i f_* F$ of a sheaf $F$ on $X_{étale}$ can be computed étale locally on $Y$ (Cohomology on Sites, Lemma 7.4) hence this often reduces computations and proofs to the case where $Y$ and $X$ are schemes.

We will use the above without further mention in this chapter. For other topologies the same thing is true; we state it explicitly as a lemma for cohomology here.

**Lemma 3.1.** Let $S$ be a scheme. Let $\tau \in \{\text{étale}, \text{fppf}, \text{ph}\}$ (add more here). The inclusion functor

$$(\text{Sch}/S)_\tau \to (\text{Spaces}/S)_\tau$$

is a special cocontinuous functor (Sites, Definition 29.2) and hence identifies topoi.

**Proof.** The conditions of Sites, Lemma 29.1 are immediately verified as our functor is fully faithful and as every algebraic space has an étale covering by schemes. □

### 4. Proper base change

The proper base change theorem for algebraic spaces follows from the proper base change theorem for schemes and Chow’s lemma with a little bit of work.

**Lemma 4.1.** Let $S$ be a scheme. Let $f : Y \to X$ be a surjective proper morphism of algebraic spaces over $S$. Let $F$ be a sheaf on $X_{étale}$. Then $F \to f_* f^{-1} F$ is injective with image the equalizer of the two maps $f_* f^{-1} F \to g_* g^{-1} F$ where $g$ is the structure morphism $g : Y \times_X Y \to X$.

**Proof.** For any surjective morphism $f : Y \to X$ of algebraic spaces over $S$, the map $F \to f_* f^{-1} F$ is injective. Namely, if $\pi$ is a geometric point of $X$, then we choose a geometric point $\pi'$ of $Y$ lying over $\pi$ and we consider

$$F_\pi \to (f_* f^{-1} F)_\pi \to (f^{-1} F)_\pi = F_\pi$$

See Properties of Spaces, Lemma 19.9 for the last equality.

The second statement is local on $X$ in the étale topology, hence we may and do assume $Y$ is an affine scheme.
Choose a surjective proper morphism $Z \to Y$ where $Z$ is a scheme, see Cohomology of Spaces, Lemma 18.1. The result for $Z \to X$ implies the result for $Y \to X$. Since $Z \to X$ is a surjective proper morphism of schemes and hence a ph covering (Topologies, Lemma 8.6) the result for $Z \to X$ follows from Étale Cohomology, Lemma 96.1 (in fact it is in some sense equivalent to this lemma). □

**Lemma 4.2.** Let $(A, I)$ be a henselian pair. Let $X$ be an algebraic space over $A$ such that the structure morphism $f : X \to \text{Spec}(A)$ is proper. Let $i : X_0 \to X$ be the inclusion of $X \times_{\text{Spec}(A)} \text{Spec}(A/I)$. For any sheaf $F$ on $X_{\text{étale}}$ we have $\Gamma(X, F) = \Gamma(Z, i^{-1}F)$.

**Proof.** Choose a surjective proper morphism $Y \to X$ where $Y$ is a scheme, see Cohomology of Spaces, Lemma 18.1. Consider the diagram

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
\Gamma(X_0, F_0) & \longrightarrow & \Gamma(Y_0, G_0) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
\Gamma(X, F) & \longrightarrow & \Gamma(Y, G) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
\Gamma((Y \times_Y X)_0, H_0) & & \Gamma(Y \times_Y X, H)
\end{array}
$$

Here $G$, resp. $H$ is the pullback of $F$ to $Y$, resp. $Y \times_Y X$ and the index 0 indicates base change to $\text{Spec}(A/I)$. By the case of schemes (Étale Cohomology, Lemma 87.2) we see that the middle and right vertical arrows are bijective. By Lemma 4.1 it follows that the left one is too. □

**Lemma 4.3.** Let $A$ be a henselian local ring. Let $X$ be an algebraic space over $A$ such that $f : X \to \text{Spec}(A)$ be a proper morphism. Let $X_0 \subset X$ be the fibre of $f$ over the closed point. For any sheaf $F$ on $X_{\text{étale}}$ we have $\Gamma(X, F) = \Gamma(X_0, F|_{X_0})$.

**Proof.** This is a special case of Lemma 4.2 □

**Lemma 4.4.** Let $S$ be a scheme. Let $f : X \to Y$ and $g : Y' \to Y$ be a morphisms of algebraic spaces over $S$. Assume $f$ is proper. Set $X' = Y' \times_Y X$ with projections $f' : X' \to Y'$ and $g' : X' \to X$. Let $F$ be any sheaf on $X_{\text{étale}}$. Then $g^{-1} f_* F = f'_* (g')^{-1} F$.

**Proof.** The question is étale local on $Y'$. Choose a scheme $V$ and a surjective étale morphism $V \to Y$. Choose a scheme $V'$ and a surjective étale morphism $V' \to V \times_Y Y'$. Then we may replace $Y'$ by $V'$ and $Y$ by $V$. Hence we may assume $Y$ and $Y'$ are schemes. Then we may work Zariski locally on $Y$ and $Y'$ and hence we may assume $Y$ and $Y'$ are affine schemes.

Assume $Y$ and $Y'$ are affine schemes. Choose a surjective proper morphism $h_1 : X_1 \to X$ where $X_1$ is a scheme, see Cohomology of Spaces, Lemma 18.1. Set $X_2 = X_1 \times_X X_1$ and denote $h_2 : X_2 \to X$ the structure morphism. Observe this is a scheme. By the case of schemes (Étale Cohomology, Lemma 87.5) we know the lemma is true for the cartesian diagrams

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
X'_1 & \longrightarrow & X_1 \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
Y' & \longrightarrow & Y
\end{array} \quad \text{and} \quad 
\begin{array}{ccc}
X'_2 & \longrightarrow & X_2 \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \\
Y' & \longrightarrow & Y
\end{array}
$$
and the sheaves $F_i = (X_i \to X)^{-1} F$. By Lemma 4.1 we have an exact sequence $0 \to F \to h_1 F_1 \to h_2 F_2$ and similarly for $(g')^{-1} F$ because $X'_2 = X'_1 \times_{X'} X'_1$. Hence we conclude that the lemma is true (some details omitted).

Let $S$ be a scheme. Let $f : Y \to X$ be a morphism of algebraic spaces over $S$. Let $\pi : \text{Spec}(k) \to S$ be a geometric point. The fibre of $f$ at $\pi$ is the algebraic space $Y_\pi = \text{Spec}(k) \times_{\pi,X} Y$ over $\text{Spec}(k)$. If $F$ is a sheaf on $Y_{\text{étale}}$, then denote $F_\pi = p^{-1} F$ the pullback of $F$ to $(Y_\pi)_{\text{étale}}$. Here $p : Y_\pi \to Y$ is the projection. In the following we will consider the set $\Gamma(Y_\pi, F_\pi)$.

**Lemma 4.5.** Let $S$ be a scheme. Let $f : Y \to X$ be a proper morphism of algebraic spaces over $S$. Let $\pi : X \to S$ be a geometric point. For any sheaf $F$ on $X_{\text{étale}}$ the canonical map

$$(f_* F)_\pi \to \Gamma(Y_\pi, F_\pi)$$

is bijective.

**Proof.** This is a special case of Lemma 4.4. \hfill \Box

**Theorem 4.6.** Let $S$ be a scheme. Let

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
X' & \to & X \\
\downarrow g' & & \downarrow f \\
Y' & \to & Y
\end{array}$$

be a cartesian square of algebraic spaces over $S$. Assume $f$ is proper. Let $F$ be an abelian torsion sheaf on $X_{\text{étale}}$. Then the base change map

$$g^{-1} Rf_* F \to Rf'_*(g')^{-1} F$$

is an isomorphism.

**Proof.** This proof repeats a few of the arguments given in the proof of the proper base change theorem for schemes. See Étale Cohomology, Section 87 for more details.

The statement is étale local on $Y'$ and $Y$, hence we may assume both $Y$ and $Y'$ are affine schemes. Observe that this in particular proves the theorem in case $f$ is representable (we will use this below).

For every $n \geq 1$ let $F[n]$ be the subsheaf of sections of $F$ annihilated by $n$. Then $F = \text{colim} \ F[n]$. By Cohomology of Spaces, Lemma 5.2 the functors $g^{-1} Rf_*$ and $Rf'_*(g')^{-1}$ commute with filtered colimits. Hence it suffices to prove the theorem if $F$ is killed by $n$.

Let $F \to I^\bullet$ be a resolution by injective sheaves of $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$-modules. Observe that $g^{-1} f_* I^\bullet = f'_*(g')^{-1} I^\bullet$ by Lemma 4.4. Applying Leray’s acyclicity lemma (Derived Categories, Lemma 16.7) we conclude it suffices to prove $R^p f'_*(g')^{-1} I^m = 0$ for $p > 0$ and $m \in \mathbb{Z}$.

Choose a surjective proper morphism $h : Z \to X$ where $Z$ is a scheme, see Cohomology of Spaces, Lemma 18.1. Choose an injective map $h^{-1} I^m \to F$ where $J$ is an injective sheaf of $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$-modules on $Z_{\text{étale}}$. Since $h$ is surjective the map $I^m \to h_* J$ is injective (see Lemma 4.4). Since $I^m$ is injective we see that $I^m$ is a direct summand of $h_* J$. Thus it suffices to prove the desired vanishing for $h_* J$. 

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Denote $h'$ the base change by $g$ and denote $g'' : Z' \to Z$ the projection. There is a spectral sequence

$$E_2^{p,q} = R^p f_* R^q h'_*(g'')^{-1} \mathcal{J}$$

converging to $R^{p+q} (f' \circ h')_* (g'')^{-1} \mathcal{J}$. Since $h$ and $f \circ h$ are representable (by schemes) we know the result we want holds for them. Thus in the spectral sequence we see that $E_2^{p,q} = 0$ for $q > 0$ and $R^{p+q} (f' \circ h')_* (g'')^{-1} \mathcal{J} = 0$ for $p + q > 0$. It follows that $E_2^{p,0} = 0$ for $p > 0$. Now

$$E_2^{p,0} = R^p f'_* h'_*(g'')^{-1} \mathcal{J} = R^p f'_* (g')^{-1} h_* \mathcal{J}$$

by Lemma 4.4. This finishes the proof. 

\[\] 

Lemma 4.7. Let $S$ be a scheme. Let

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
X' & \to & X \\
\downarrow g & & \downarrow f \\
Y' & \to & Y \\
\end{array}
$$

be a cartesian square of algebraic spaces over $S$. Assume $f$ is proper. Let $E \in D^+(X_{\text{ét}})$ have torsion cohomology sheaves. Then the base change map $g^{-1} Rf_* E \to Rf'_*(g')^{-1} E$ is an isomorphism.

Proof. This is a simple consequence of the proper base change theorem (Theorem 4.6) using the spectral sequences

$$E_2^{p,q} = R^p f_* H^q (E) \quad \text{and} \quad E_2^{p,q} = R^p f'_* (g')^{-1} H^q (E)$$

converging to $R^p f_* E$ and $R^p f'_* (g')^{-1} E$. The spectral sequences are constructed in Derived Categories, Lemma 21.3 Some details omitted. 

\[\] 

Lemma 4.8. Let $S$ be a scheme. Let $f : X \to Y$ be a proper morphism of algebraic spaces. Let $\overline{Y} \to Y$ be a geometric point.

1. For a torsion abelian sheaf $\mathcal{F}$ on $X_{\text{ét}}$ we have $(R^n f_* \mathcal{F})_{\overline{Y}} = H^n_{\text{ét}}(X_{\overline{Y}}, \mathcal{F}_{\overline{Y}})$.
2. For $E \in D^+(X_{\text{ét}})$ with torsion cohomology sheaves we have $(R^n f_* E)_{\overline{Y}} = H^n_{\text{ét}}(X_{\overline{Y}}, E_{\overline{Y}})$.

Proof. In the statement, $\mathcal{F}_{\overline{Y}}$ denotes the pullback of $\mathcal{F}$ to $X_{\overline{Y}} = \overline{Y} \times_Y X$. Since pulling back by $\overline{Y} \to Y$ produces the stalk of $\mathcal{F}$, the first statement of the lemma is a special case of Theorem 4.6 The second one is a special case of Lemma 4.7. 

\[\] 

Lemma 4.9. Let $k \subset k'$ be an extension of separably closed fields. Let $X$ be a proper algebraic space over $k$. Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a torsion abelian sheaf on $X$. Then the map $H^q_{\text{ét}}(X, \mathcal{F}) \to H^q_{\text{ét}}(X_{k'}, \mathcal{F}|_{X_{k'}})$ is an isomorphism for $q \geq 0$.

Proof. This is a special case of Theorem 4.6. 

\[\] 

5. Comparing big and small topoi

Let $S$ be a scheme and let $X$ be an algebraic space over $S$. In Topologies on Spaces, Lemma 4.8 we have introduced comparison morphisms $\pi_X : (\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{ét}} \to X_{\text{spaces,ét}}$ and $i_X : Sh(X_{\text{ét}}) \to Sh((\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{ét}})$ with $\pi_X \circ i_X = \text{id}$ as morphisms of topoi and $\pi_{X,*} = i_X^{-1}$. More generally, if $f : Y \to X$ is an object of $(\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{ét}}$, then there is a morphism $i_f : Sh(Y_{\text{ét}}) \to Sh((\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{ét}})$ such that $f_{\text{small}} = \pi_X \circ i_f$, see Topologies on Spaces, Lemmas 4.7 and 4.11.
Let\footnote{0DG7} we have extended these to a morphism of ringed sites

\[ \pi_X : ((\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{étale}}, \mathcal{O}) \to (X_{\text{spaces,étale}}, \mathcal{O}_X) \]

and morphisms of ringed topoi

\[ i_X : (\text{Sh}(X_{\text{étale}}), \mathcal{O}_X) \to (\text{Sh}((\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{étale}}), \mathcal{O}) \]

and

\[ i_f : (\text{Sh}(Y_{\text{étale}}), \mathcal{O}_Y) \to (\text{Sh}((\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{étale}}), \mathcal{O}) \]

Note that the restriction \( i_X^{-1} = \pi_X_* \) (see Topologies, Definition \footnote{0DG7}) transforms \( \mathcal{O} \) into \( \mathcal{O}_X \). Similarly, \( i_f^{-1} \) transforms \( \mathcal{O} \) into \( \mathcal{O}_Y \). See Topologies on Spaces, Remark \footnote{0DG7} Hence \( i_X^* \mathcal{F} = i_X^{-1} \mathcal{F} \) and \( i_f^* \mathcal{F} = i_f^{-1} \mathcal{F} \) for any \( \mathcal{O} \)-module \( \mathcal{F} \) on \( (\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{étale}} \). In particular \( i_X^* \) and \( i_f^* \) are exact functors. The functor \( i_X^* \) is often denoted \( \mathcal{F} \mapsto \mathcal{F}|_{X_{\text{étale}}} \) (and this does not conflict with the notation in Topologies on Spaces, Definition \footnote{0DG7}).

\begin{lemma}
Let \( S \) be a scheme. Let \( X \) be an algebraic space over \( S \). Let \( \mathcal{F} \) be a sheaf on \( X_{\text{étale}} \). Then \( \pi_X^{-1} \mathcal{F} \) is given by the rule

\[ (\pi_X^{-1} \mathcal{F})(Y) = \Gamma(Y_{\text{étale}}, f_{\text{small}}^{-1} \mathcal{F}) \]

for \( f : Y \to X \) in \( (\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{étale}} \). Moreover, \( \pi_Y^{-1} \mathcal{F} \) satisfies the sheaf condition with respect to smooth, syntomic, fppf, fpqc, and ph coverings.

\end{lemma}

\begin{proof}
Since pullback is transitive and \( f_{\text{small}} = \pi_X \circ f \) (see above) we see that \( i_f^{-1} \pi_X^{-1} \mathcal{F} = f_{\text{small}}^{-1} \mathcal{F} \). This shows that \( \pi_X^{-1} \mathcal{F} \) has the description given in the lemma.

To prove that \( \pi_X^{-1} \mathcal{F} \) is a sheaf for the ph topology it suffices by Topologies on Spaces, Lemma \footnote{0DG7} to show that for a surjective proper morphism \( V \to U \) of algebraic spaces over \( X \) we have \( (\pi_X^{-1} \mathcal{F})(U) \) is the equalizer of the two maps \( (\pi_Y^{-1} \mathcal{F})(V) \to (\pi_Y^{-1} \mathcal{F})(V \times_U V) \). This we have seen in Lemma \footnote{0DG7}.

The case of smooth, syntomic, fppf coverings follows from the case of ph coverings by Topologies on Spaces, Lemma \footnote{0DG7}.

Let \( \mathcal{U} = \{ U_i \to U \}_{i \in I} \) be an fpqc covering of algebraic spaces over \( X \). Let \( s_i \in (\pi_X^{-1} \mathcal{F})(U_i) \) be sections which agree over \( U_i \times_U U_j \). We have to prove there exists a unique \( s \in (\pi_X^{-1} \mathcal{F})(U) \) restricting to \( s_i \) over \( U_i \).

Case I: \( U \) and \( U_i \) are schemes. This case follows from Étale Cohomology, Lemma \footnote{0DG7}.

Case II: \( U \) is a scheme. Here we choose surjective étale morphisms \( T_i \to U_i \) where \( T_i \) is a scheme. Then \( \mathcal{T} = \{ T \to U \} \) is an fpqc covering by schemes and by case I the result holds for \( \mathcal{T} \). We omit the verification that this implies the result for \( \mathcal{U} \). Case III: general case. Let \( W \to U \) be a surjective étale morphism, where \( W \) is a scheme. Then \( \mathcal{W} = \{ U_i \times_U W \to W \} \) is an fpqc covering (by algebraic spaces) of the scheme \( W \). By case II the result hold for \( \mathcal{W} \). We omit the verification that this implies the result for \( \mathcal{U} \).

\end{proof}

\begin{lemma}
Let \( S \) be a scheme. Let \( Y \to X \) be a morphism of \( (\text{Spaces}/S)_{\text{étale}} \).

\begin{enumerate}
\item If \( \mathcal{I} \) is injective in \( \text{Ab}((\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{étale}}) \), then
  \begin{enumerate}
  \item \( i_f^{-1} \mathcal{I} \) is injective in \( \text{Ab}(Y_{\text{étale}}) \),
  \item \( \mathcal{I}|_{X_{\text{étale}}} \) is injective in \( \text{Ab}(X_{\text{étale}}) \).
  \end{enumerate}
\item If \( \mathcal{I}^\bullet \) is a K-injective complex in \( \text{Ab}((\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{étale}}) \), then
  \begin{enumerate}
  \item \( i_f^{-1} \mathcal{I}^\bullet \) is a K-injective complex in \( \text{Ab}(Y_{\text{étale}}) \),
  \end{enumerate}
\end{enumerate}
\end{lemma}
(b) $\mathcal{F}^*|_{X_{\text{étale}}}$ is a $K$-injective complex in $\text{Ab}(X_{\text{étale}})$.

The corresponding statements for modules do not hold.

**Proof.** Parts (1)(b) and (2)(b) follow formally from the fact that the restriction functor $\pi_X^* = i_{X}^{-1}$ is a right adjoint of the exact functor $\pi_X^{-1}$, see Homology, Lemma 27.1 and Derived Categories, Lemma 30.9.

Parts (1)(a) and (2)(a) can be seen in two ways. First proof: We can use that $i_{f}^{-1}$ is a right adjoint of the exact functor $i_{f}^{*}$. This functor is constructed in Topologies, Lemma 4.12 for sheaves of sets and for abelian sheaves in Modules on Sites, Lemma 16.2. It is shown in Modules on Sites, Lemma 16.3 that it is exact. Second proof. We can use that $i_{f} = i_{Y} \circ f_{\text{big}}$ as is shown in Topologies, Lemma 4.16. Since $f_{\text{big}}$ is a localization, we see that pullback by it preserves injectives and $K$-injectives, see Cohomology on Sites, Lemmas 7.1 and 20.1. Then we apply the already proved parts (1)(b) and (2)(b) to the functor $i_{Y}^{-1}$ to conclude.

To see a counter example for the case of modules we refer to Étale Cohomology, Lemma 93.1. □

Let $S$ be a scheme. Let $f : Y \to X$ be a morphism of algebraic spaces over $S$. The commutative diagram of Topologies on Spaces, Lemma 4.11 (3) leads to a commutative diagram of ringed sites

\[ (Y_{\text{spaces, étale}}, \mathcal{O}_Y) \xleftarrow{i_Y} ((\text{Spaces}/Y)_{\text{étale}}, \mathcal{O}) \xrightarrow{f_{\text{big}}} (X_{\text{spaces, étale}}, \mathcal{O}_X) \xrightarrow{\pi_X} ((\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{étale}}, \mathcal{O}) \]

as one easily sees by writing out the definitions of $f^*_Y$, $f^*_X$, $\pi^*_Y$, and $\pi^*_X$. In particular this means that

0DG9 \begin{equation} (f_{\text{big}}^*\mathcal{F})|_{X_{\text{étale}}} = f_{\text{small}}^* (\mathcal{F}|_{Y_{\text{étale}}}) \end{equation}

for any sheaf $\mathcal{F}$ on $(\text{Spaces}/Y)_{\text{étale}}$ and if $\mathcal{F}$ is a sheaf of $\mathcal{O}$-modules, then (5.2.1) is an isomorphism of $\mathcal{O}_X$-modules on $X_{\text{étale}}$.

0DGA **Lemma 5.3.** Let $S$ be a scheme. Let $f : Y \to X$ be a morphism of algebraic spaces over $S$.

\begin{enumerate}
\item For $K$ in $D((\text{Spaces}/Y)_{\text{étale}})$ we have $(Rf_{\text{big}}^* K)|_{X_{\text{étale}}} = Rf_{\text{small}}^* (K|_{Y_{\text{étale}}})$ in $D(X_{\text{étale}})$. \item For $K$ in $D((\text{Spaces}/Y)_{\text{étale}}, \mathcal{O})$ we have $(Rf_{\text{big}}^* K)|_{X_{\text{étale}}} = Rf_{\text{small}}^* (K|_{Y_{\text{étale}}})$ in $D(\text{Mod}(X_{\text{étale}}, \mathcal{O}_X))$. \end{enumerate}

More generally, let $g : X' \to X$ be an object of $(\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{étale}}$. Consider the fibre product

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

Then

\begin{enumerate}
\item For $K$ in $D((\text{Spaces}/Y)_{\text{étale}})$ we have $i_g^{-1}(Rf_{\text{big}}^* K) = Rf_{\text{small}}^* (i_g^{-1} K)$ in $D(X'_{\text{étale}})$. \end{enumerate}
(4) For $K$ in $D((Spaces/Y)_{étale}, O)$ we have $i_{g}^{*}(Rf_{big,*}K) = Rf_{small,*}(i_{g}^{*}K)$ in $D(Mod(X_{étale}^{f}, O_X))$.

(5) For $K$ in $D((Spaces/Y)_{étale})$ we have $g_{big}^{-1}(Rf_{big,*}K) = Rf_{big,*}'((g_{big})^{-1}K)$ in $D((Spaces/X')_{étale})$.

(6) For $K$ in $D((Spaces/Y)_{étale}, O)$ we have $g_{big}^{*}(Rf_{big,*}K) = Rf_{big,*}'((g_{big})^{*}K)$ in $D(Mod(X_{étale}^{f}, O_{X'}))$.

Proof. Part (1) follows from Lemma 5.2 and 5.2.1 on choosing a K-injective complex of abelian sheaves representing $K$.

Part (3) follows from Lemma 5.2 and Topologies, Lemma 4.18 on choosing a $K$-injective complex of abelian sheaves representing $K$.

Part (5) is Cohomology on Sites, Lemma 21.1.

Part (6) is Cohomology on Sites, Lemma 21.2.

Part (2) can be proved as follows. Above we have seen that $\pi_{X} \circ f_{big} = f_{small} \circ \pi_{Y}$ as morphisms of ringed sites. Hence we obtain $Rf_{X,*} \circ Rf_{big,*} = Rf_{small,*} \circ Rf_{Y,*}$ by Cohomology on Sites, Lemma 19.2. Since the restriction functors $\pi_{X,*}$ and $\pi_{Y,*}$ are exact, we conclude.

Part (4) follows from part (6) and part (2) applied to $f' : Y' \to X'$.

Let $S$ be a scheme. Let $X$ be an algebraic space over $S$. Let $\mathcal{H}$ be an abelian sheaf on $(Spaces/X)_{étale}$. Recall that $H^{n}_{étale}(U, \mathcal{H})$ denotes the cohomology of $\mathcal{H}$ over an object $U$ of $(Spaces/X)_{étale}$.

Lemma 5.4. Let $S$ be a scheme. Let $f : Y \to X$ be a morphism of algebraic spaces over $S$. Then

1. For $K$ in $D(X_{étale})$ we have $H^{n}_{étale}(X, \pi_{X}^{-1}K) = H^{n}_{étale}(X, K)$.
2. For $K$ in $D(X_{étale}, O_X)$ we have $H^{n}_{étale}(X, L\pi_{X}^{*}K) = H^{n}_{étale}(X, K)$.
3. For $K$ in $D(X_{étale})$ we have $H^{n}_{étale}(Y, \pi_{X}^{-1}K) = H^{n}_{étale}(Y_{étale}, f^{*}_{small}K)$.
4. For $K$ in $D(X_{étale}, O_X)$ we have $H^{n}_{étale}(Y, L\pi_{X}^{*}K) = H^{n}_{étale}(Y_{étale}, Lf_{small}^{*}K)$.
5. For $M$ in $D((Spaces/X)_{étale})$ we have $H^{n}_{étale}(Y, M) = H^{n}_{étale}(Y_{étale}, f^{*}_{small}K)$.
6. For $M$ in $D((Spaces/X)_{étale}, O)$ we have $H^{n}_{étale}(Y, M) = H^{n}_{étale}(X, f^{*}_{small}K)$.

Proof. To prove (5) represent $M$ by a $K$-injective complex of abelian sheaves and apply Lemma 5.2 and work out the definitions. Part (3) follows from this as $i_{f}^{*}\pi_{X}^{-1} = f_{small}^{-1}$. Part (1) is a special case of (3).

Part (6) follows from the very general Cohomology on Sites, Lemma 35.5. Then part (4) follows because $Lf_{small}^{*} = i_{f}^{*} \circ L\pi_{X}$. Part (2) is a special case of (4).

Lemma 5.5. Let $S$ be a scheme. Let $X$ be an algebraic space over $S$. For $K \in D(X_{étale})$ the map

$K \to R\pi_{X,*}\pi_{X}^{-1}K$

is an isomorphism where $\pi_{X} : Sh((Spaces/X)_{étale}) \to Sh(X_{étale})$ is as above.

Proof. This is true because both $\pi_{X}^{-1} \circ \pi_{X,*} = i_{X}^{-1}$ are exact functors and the composition $\pi_{X,*} \circ \pi_{X}^{-1}$ is the identity functor.

Lemma 5.6. Let $S$ be a scheme. Let $f : Y \to X$ be a proper morphism of algebraic spaces over $S$. Then we have

1. $\pi_{X}^{-1} \circ f_{small,*} = f_{big,*} \circ \pi_{Y}^{-1}$ as functors $Sh(X_{étale}) \to Sh((Spaces/X)_{étale})$,
(2) \( \pi_X^{-1} Rf_{\text{small},*} K = Rf_{\text{big},*} \pi_Y^{-1} K \) for \( K \) in \( D^+(\text{Y}_{\text{étale}}) \) whose cohomology sheaves are torsion, and

(3) \( \pi_X^{-1} Rf_{\text{small},*} K = Rf_{\text{big},*} \pi_Y^{-1} K \) for all \( K \) in \( D(\text{Y}_{\text{étale}}) \) if \( f \) is finite.

**Proof.** Proof of (1). Let \( \mathcal{F} \) be a sheaf on \( \text{Y}_{\text{étale}} \). Let \( g : X' \to X \) be an object of \( (\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{étale}} \). Consider the fibre product

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

Then we have

\[
(f_{\text{big},*} \pi_Y^{-1} \mathcal{F})(X') = (\pi_Y^{-1} \mathcal{F})(Y') = ((g'_{\text{small}})^{-1} \mathcal{F})(Y') = (f'_{\text{small},*}(g'_{\text{small}})^{-1} \mathcal{F})(X')
\]

the second equality by Lemma \[5.1\]. On the other hand

\[
(\pi_X^{-1} f_{\text{small},*} \mathcal{F})(X') = (g^{-1}_{\text{small}} f_{\text{small},*} \mathcal{F})(X')
\]

again by Lemma \[5.1\]. Hence by proper base change for sheaves of sets (Lemma \[4.4\]) we conclude the two sets are canonically isomorphic. The isomorphism is compatible with restriction mappings and defines an isomorphism \( \pi_X^{-1} f_{\text{small},*} \mathcal{F} = f_{\text{big},*} \pi_Y^{-1} \mathcal{F} \). Thus an isomorphism of functors \( \pi_X^{-1} \circ f_{\text{small},*} = f_{\text{big},*} \circ \pi_Y^{-1} \).

Proof of (2). There is a canonical base change map \( \pi_X^{-1} Rf_{\text{small},*} K \to Rf_{\text{big},*} \pi_Y^{-1} K \) for any \( K \) in \( D(\text{Y}_{\text{étale}}) \), see Cohomology on Sites, Remark \[19.3\]. To prove it is an isomorphism, it suffices to prove the pull back of the base change map by \( i_\eta : \text{Sh}(\text{X}_{\text{étale}}') \to \text{Sh}((\text{Sch}/X)_{\text{étale}}) \) is an isomorphism for any object \( g : X' \to X \) of \( (\text{Sch}/X)_{\text{étale}} \). Let \( T', g', f' \) be as in the previous paragraph. The pullback of the base change map is

\[
g^{-1}_{\text{small}} Rf_{\text{small},*} K = i_g^{-1} \pi^{-1}_X Rf_{\text{small},*} K
\]

\[
\xrightarrow{i_g^{-1} Rf_{\text{big},*} \pi_Y^{-1} K}
\]

\[
= Rf'_{\text{small},*}(i_g^{-1} \pi_Y^{-1} K)
\]

\[
= Rf'_{\text{small},*}((g'_{\text{small}})^{-1} K)
\]

where we have used \( \pi_X \circ i_g = g_{\text{small}}, \pi_Y \circ i_g' = g'_{\text{small}} \), and Lemma \[5.3\]. This map is an isomorphism by the proper base change theorem (Lemma \[4.7\]) provided \( K \) is bounded below and the cohomology sheaves of \( K \) are torsion.

Proof of (3). If \( f \) is finite, then the functors \( f_{\text{small},*} \) and \( f_{\text{big},*} \) are exact. This follows from Cohomology of Spaces, Lemma \[4.1\] for \( f_{\text{small}} \). Since any base change \( f' \) of \( f \) is finite too, we conclude from Lemma \[5.3\] part (3) that \( f_{\text{big},*} \) is exact too (as the higher derived functors are zero). Thus this case follows from part (1). \( \square \)

6. **Comparing fppf and étale topologies**

Let \( S \) be a scheme. Let \( X \) be an algebraic space over \( S \). On the category \( \text{Spaces}/X \) we consider the fppf and étale topologies. The identity functor \( (\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{étale}} \to (\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{fppf}} \) is continuous and defines a morphism of sites

\[ \epsilon_X : (\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{fppf}} \to (\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{étale}} \]
by an application of Sites, Proposition \[14.7\] Please note that \(\epsilon_{X,*}\) is the identity functor on underlying presheaves and that \(\epsilon_X^{-1}\) associates to an étale sheaf the fppf sheafification. Consider the morphism of sites
\[
\pi_X : (\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{etale}} \rightarrow X_{\text{spaces, etale}}
\]
comparing big and small étale sites, see Section \[5\] The composition determines a morphism of sites
\[
a_X = \pi_X \circ \epsilon_X : (\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{fppf}} \rightarrow X_{\text{spaces, etale}}
\]
If \(\mathcal{H}\) is an abelian sheaf on \((\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{fppf}}\), then we will write \(H^n_{\text{fppf}}(U, \mathcal{H})\) for the cohomology of \(\mathcal{H}\) over an object \(U\) of \((\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{fppf}}\).

0DGF Lemma 6.1. Let \(S\) be a scheme. Let \(X\) be an algebraic space over \(S\).

1. For \(\mathcal{F} \in \text{Sh}(X_{\text{etale}})\) we have \(\epsilon_{X,*}a_X^{-1}\mathcal{F} = \pi_X^{-1}\mathcal{F}\) and \(a_X \epsilon_X^{-1}\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}\).
2. For \(\mathcal{F} \in \text{Ab}(X_{\text{etale}})\) we have \(R^i\epsilon_{X,*}(a_X^{-1}\mathcal{F}) = 0\) for \(i > 0\).

Proof. We have \(a_X^{-1}\mathcal{F} = \epsilon_X^{-1}\pi_X^{-1}\mathcal{F}\). By Lemma \[6.1\] the étale sheaf \(\pi_X^{-1}\mathcal{F}\) is a sheaf for the fppf topology and therefore is equal to \(a_X^{-1}\mathcal{F}\) (as pulling back by \(\epsilon_X\) is given by fppf sheafification). Recall moreover that \(\epsilon_{X,*}\) is the identity on underlying presheaves. Now part (1) is immediate from the explicit description of \(\pi_X^{-1}\) in Lemma \[6.1\].

We will prove part (2) by reducing it to the case of schemes – see part (1) of Étale Cohomology, Lemma \[94.6\] This will “clearly work” as every algebraic space is étale locally a scheme. The details are given below but we urge the reader to skip the proof.

For an abelian sheaf \(\mathcal{H}\) on \((\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{fppf}}\) the higher direct image \(R^p\epsilon_{X,*}\mathcal{H}\) is the sheaf associated to the presheaf \(U \mapsto H^p_{\text{fppf}}(U, \mathcal{H})\) on \((\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{etale}}\). See Cohomology on Sites, Lemma \[7.4\] Since every object of \((\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{etale}}\) has a covering by schemes, it suffices to prove that given \(U/X\) a scheme and \(\xi \in H^p_{\text{fppf}}(U, a_X^{-1}\mathcal{F})\) we can find an étale covering \(\{U_i \rightarrow U\}\) such that \(\xi\) restricts to zero on \(U_i\). We have
\[
H^p_{\text{fppf}}(U, a_X^{-1}\mathcal{F}) = H^p(\text{Spaces}/U)_{\text{fppf}}, (a_X^{-1}\mathcal{F})|_{\text{Spaces}/U})
= H^p((\text{Sch}/U)_{\text{fppf}}, (a_X^{-1}\mathcal{F})|_{\text{Sch}/U})
\]
where the second identification is Lemma \[3.1\] and the first is a general fact about restriction (Cohomology on Sites, Lemma \[7.1\]). Looking at the first paragraph and the corresponding result in the case of schemes (Étale Cohomology, Lemma \[94.1\] we conclude that the sheaf \((a_X^{-1}\mathcal{F})|_{\text{Sch}/U}\) matches the pullback by the “schemes version of \(a_U\)”.

Therefore we can find an étale covering \(\{U_i \rightarrow U\}\) such that our class dies in \(H^p((\text{Sch}/U_i)_{\text{fppf}}, (a_X^{-1}\mathcal{F})|_{\text{Sch}/U_i})\) for each \(i\), see Étale Cohomology, Lemma \[94.6\] (the precise statement one should use here is that \(V_n\) holds for all \(n\) which is the statement of part (2) for the case of schemes). Transporting back (using the same formulas as above but now for \(U_i\)) we conclude \(\xi\) restricts to zero over \(U_i\) as desired.

The hard work done in the case of schemes now tells us that étale and fppf cohomology agree for sheaves coming from the small étale site.
Lemma 6.2. Let $S$ be a scheme. Let $X$ be an algebraic space over $S$. For $K \in D^+(X_{\text{etale}})$ the maps
\[ \pi_X^{-1}K \to R\epsilon_X_*a_X^{-1}K \quad \text{and} \quad K \to Ra_X_*a_X^{-1}K \]
are isomorphisms with $a_X : \text{Sh}((\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{fppf}}) \to \text{Sh}(X_{\text{etale}})$ as above.

Proof. We only prove the second statement; the first is easier and proved in exactly the same manner. There is an immediate reduction to the case where $K$ is given by a single abelian sheaf. Namely, represent $K$ by a bounded below complex $\mathcal{F}^*$. By the case of a sheaf we see that $\mathcal{F}^n = a_X_*a_X^{-1}\mathcal{F}^n$ and that the sheaves $R^i a_X_*a_X^{-1}\mathcal{F}^n$ are zero for $q > 0$. By Leray’s acyclicity lemma (Derived Categories, Lemma 16.7) applied to $a_X^{-1}\mathcal{F}^*$ and the functor $a_X_*$ we conclude. From now on assume $K = \mathcal{F}$.

By Lemma 6.1 we have $a_X_*a_X^{-1}\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}$. Thus it suffices to show that $R^i a_X_*a_X^{-1}\mathcal{F} = 0$ for $q > 0$. For this we can use $a_X = \epsilon_X \circ \pi_X$ and the Leray spectral sequence (Cohomology on Sites, Lemma 14.7). By Lemma 6.1 we have $R^i \epsilon_X_*(a_X^{-1}\mathcal{F}) = 0$ for $i > 0$. We have $\epsilon_X_*a_X^{-1}\mathcal{F} = \pi_X^{-1}\mathcal{F}$ and by Lemma 6.5 we have $R^j \pi_X_*(\pi_X^{-1}\mathcal{F}) = 0$ for $j > 0$. This concludes the proof.

Lemma 6.3. Let $S$ be a scheme and let $X$ be an algebraic space over $S$. With $a_X : \text{Sh}((\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{fppf}}) \to \text{Sh}(X_{\text{etale}})$ as above:

1. $H^q(X_{\text{etale}}, F) = H^q_{\text{fppf}}(X, a_X^{-1}F)$ for an abelian sheaf $F$ on $X_{\text{etale}}$,
2. $H^q(X_{\text{etale}}, K) = H^q_{\text{fppf}}(X, a_X^{-1}K)$ for $K \in D^+(X_{\text{etale}})$.

Example: if $A$ is an abelian group, then $H^j_{\text{etale}}(X, A) = H^j_{\text{fppf}}(X, A)$.

Proof. This follows from Lemma 6.2 by Cohomology on Sites, Remark 14.4.

Lemma 6.4. Let $S$ be a scheme. Let $f : X \to Y$ be a morphism of algebraic spaces over $S$. Then there are commutative diagrams of topoi

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{Sh}((\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{fppf}}) & \xrightarrow{f_{\text{big}, \text{fppf}}} & \text{Sh}((\text{Spaces}/Y)_{\text{fppf}}) \\
\Downarrow \epsilon_X & & \Downarrow \epsilon_Y \\
\text{Sh}((\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{etale}}) & \xrightarrow{f_{\text{big}, \text{etale}}} & \text{Sh}((\text{Spaces}/Y)_{\text{etale}})
\end{array}
\]

and

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\text{Sh}((\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{fppf}}) & \xrightarrow{f_{\text{big}, \text{fppf}}} & \text{Sh}((\text{Spaces}/Y)_{\text{fppf}}) \\
\Downarrow a_X & & \Downarrow a_Y \\
\text{Sh}(X_{\text{etale}}) & \xrightarrow{f_{\text{small}}} & \text{Sh}(Y_{\text{etale}})
\end{array}
\]

with $a_X = \pi_X \circ \epsilon_X$ and $a_Y = \pi_Y \circ \epsilon_X$.

Proof. This follows immediately from working out the definitions of the morphisms involved, see Topologies on Spaces, Section 7 and Section 8.

Lemma 6.5. In Lemma 6.4 if $f$ is proper, then we have

1. $a_Y^{-1} f_{\text{small}, *} = f_{\text{big}, \text{fppf}, *} \circ a_X^{-1}$, and
2. $a_Y^{-1}(Rf_{\text{small}, *}K) = Rf_{\text{big}, \text{fppf}, *}(a_X^{-1}K)$ for $K \in D^+(X_{\text{etale}})$ with torsion cohomology sheaves.
Proof. Proof of (1). You can prove this by repeating the proof of Lemma 5.6 part (1): we will instead deduce the result from this. As $\epsilon_{Y,*}$ is the identity functor on underlying presheaves, it reflects isomorphisms. Lemma 6.1 shows that $a_Y^{-1}$ is an isomorphism. This is part (1) of Lemma 5.6.

To see (2) we use that $\pi_Y^{-1} f_{small,*} F \to f_{big,fppf,*} a_X^{-1} F$ is an isomorphism, which follows from the case of schemes (Étale Cohomology, Lemma 9.4.6 part (2)) using the comparison of topoi discussed in Section 3 and in particular given in Lemma 3.1. Some details omitted. □

0DGK Lemma 6.6. In Lemma 6.4 if $f$ is finite, then $a_Y^{-1}(Rf_{small,*} K) = Rf_{big,fppf,*}(a_X^{-1} K)$ for $K$ in $D^+(X_{\text{étale}})$. □

Proof. Let $V \to Y$ be a surjective étale morphism where $V$ is a scheme. It suffices to prove the base change map is an isomorphism after restricting to $V$. Hence we may assume that $Y$ is a scheme. As the morphism is finite, hence representable, we conclude that we may assume both $X$ and $Y$ are schemes. In this case the result follows from the case of schemes (Étale Cohomology, Lemma 9.4.6 part (2)) using the comparison of topoi discussed in Section 3 and in particular given in Lemma 3.1. Some details omitted. □
Lemma 6.7. In Lemma 6.4 assume \( f \) is flat, locally of finite presentation, and surjective. Then the functor

\[
\text{Sh}(Y_{\text{étale}}) \to \left\{ (\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{H}, \alpha) \mid \mathcal{G} \in \text{Sh}(X_{\text{étale}}), \mathcal{H} \in \text{Sh}((\text{Sch}/Y)_{\text{fppf}}), \alpha : a_{X}^{-1}\mathcal{G} \to f_{\text{big, fppf}}^{-1}\mathcal{H} \text{ an isomorphism} \right\}
\]

sending \( \mathcal{F} \) to \((f_{\text{small}}^{-1}\mathcal{F}, a_{Y}^{-1}\mathcal{F}, \text{can})\) is an equivalence.

Proof. The functor \( a_{X}^{-1} \) is fully faithful (as \( a_{X*}a_{X}^{-1} = \text{id} \) by Lemma 6.1). Hence the forgetful functor \((\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{H}, \alpha) \mapsto \mathcal{H} \) identifies the category of triples with a full subcategory of \( \text{Sh}((\text{Sch}/Y)_{\text{fppf}}) \). Moreover, the functor \( a_{Y}^{-1} \) is fully faithful, hence the functor in the lemma is fully faithful as well.

Suppose that we have an étale covering \( \{Y_{i} \to Y\} \). Let \( f_{i} : X_{i} \to Y_{i} \) be the base change of \( f \). Denote \( f_{ij} = f_{i} \times f_{j} : X_{i} \times_{X} X_{j} \to Y_{i} \times_{Y} Y_{j} \). Claim: if the lemma is true for \( f_{i} \) and \( f_{ij} \) for all \( i, j \), then the lemma is true for \( f \). To see this, note that the given étale covering determines an étale covering of the final object in each of the four sites \( Y_{\text{étale}}, X_{\text{étale}}, (\text{Sch}/Y)_{\text{fppf}}, (\text{Sch}/X)_{\text{fppf}} \). Thus the category of sheaves is equivalent to the category of glueing data for this covering (Sites, Lemma 26.5) in each of the four cases. A huge commutative diagram of categories then finishes the proof of the claim. We omit the details. The claim shows that we may work étale locally on \( Y \). In particular, we may assume \( Y \) is a scheme.

Assume \( Y \) is a scheme. Choose a scheme \( X' \) and a surjective étale morphism \( s : X' \to X \). Set \( f' = f \circ s : X' \to Y \) and observe that \( f' \) is surjective, locally of finite presentation, and flat. Claim: if the lemma is true for \( f' \), then it is true for \( f \). Namely, given a triple \((\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{H}, \alpha)\) for \( f \), we can pullback by \( s \) to get a triple \((s_{\text{small}}^{-1}\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{H}, s_{\text{big, fppf}}^{-1}\alpha)\) for \( f' \). A solution for this triple gives a sheaf \( \mathcal{F} \) on \( Y_{\text{étale}} \) with \( a_{Y}^{-1}\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{H} \). By the first paragraph of the proof this means the triple is in the essential image. This reduces us to the case where both \( X \) and \( Y \) are schemes. This case follows from Étale Cohomology, Lemma 94.4 via the discussion in Section 3 and in particular Lemma 3.1.

7. Comparing fppf and étale topologies: modules

We continue the discussion in Section 6 but in this section we briefly discuss what happens for sheaves of modules.

Let \( S \) be a scheme. Let \( X \) be an algebraic space over \( S \). The morphisms of sites \( \epsilon_{X}, \pi_{X}, \) and their composition \( a_{X} \) introduced in Section 6 have natural enhancements to morphisms of ringed sites. The first is written as

\[
\epsilon_{X} : ((\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{fppf}}, \mathcal{O}) \to ((\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{étale}}, \mathcal{O})
\]

Note that we can use the same symbol for the structure sheaf as indeed the sheaves have the same underlying presheaf. The second is

\[
\pi_{X} : ((\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{étale}}, \mathcal{O}) \to (X_{\text{étale}}, \mathcal{O}_{X})
\]

The third is the morphism

\[
a_{X} : ((\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{fppf}}, \mathcal{O}) \to (X_{\text{étale}}, \mathcal{O}_{X})
\]

Let us review what we already know about quasi-coherent modules on these sites.

Lemma 7.1. Let \( S \) be a scheme. Let \( X \) be an algebraic space over \( S \). Let \( \mathcal{F} \) be a quasi-coherent \( \mathcal{O}_{X} \)-module.
Let suppose that \( \{ \text{Part}(1) \} \) is a consequence of descent of quasi-coherent modules. Namely,

\[
\text{Proof.}
\]

We will deduce (2) – (7) from the corresponding statement for schemes. Choose an étale covering which gives us our section \( g : U \rightarrow X \) to the quasi-coherent sheaves \( F \).

\[
\text{Lemma 7.3.}
\]

This is an immediate consequence of parts (6) and (7) of Lemma \( 7.1 \).

\[
\text{Lemma 7.2.}
\]

Let \( S \) be a scheme. Let \( X \) be an algebraic space over \( S \). For \( F \) a quasi-coherent \( \mathcal{O}_X \)-module the maps

\[
\pi_X^* F \rightarrow \pi_X^* (a_X^* F) \quad \text{and} \quad F \rightarrow R^i a_X^* F
\]

are isomorphisms.

\[
\text{Proof.}
\]

This is an immediate consequence of parts (6) and (7) of Lemma \( 7.1 \).

\[
\text{Lemma 7.3.}
\]

Let \( S \) be a scheme. Let \( X \) be an algebraic space over \( S \). Let \( F_1 \rightarrow F_2 \rightarrow F_3 \) be a complex of quasi-coherent \( \mathcal{O}_X \)-modules. Set

\[
\mathcal{H}_{\text{étale}} = \text{Ker}(\pi_X^* F_2 \rightarrow \pi_X^* F_3) / \text{Im}(\pi_X^* F_1 \rightarrow \pi_X^* F_2)
\]
Let as morphisms of sites
\[ \mathcal{H}_{ppf} = \text{Ker}(a_X^* \mathcal{F}_2 \to a_X^* \mathcal{F}_3) / \text{Im}(a_X^* \mathcal{F}_1 \to a_X^* \mathcal{F}_2) \]
on \( (\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{étale}} \) and set
\[ \eta_{ppf} = \epsilon_X \mathcal{H}_{ppf} \]
with these preparations we are ready to prove the lemma.

More is true, namely the collection of modules on \( (\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{ppf}} \) which \( \text{ppf} \) locally look like those in the lemma are called adquate modules. They form a weak Serre subcategory of the category of all \( \mathcal{O} \)-modules and their cohomology is studied in Adequate Modules, Section [5].

**Proof.** For any object \( f : U \to X \) of \( (\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{étale}} \) consider the restriction \( \mathcal{H}_{\text{étale}}|_{U_{\text{étale}}} \) of \( \mathcal{H}_{\text{étale}} \) to \( U_{\text{étale}} \) via the functor \( i_f^* = i_f^{-1} \) discussed in Section [5]. The sheaf \( \mathcal{H}_{\text{étale}}|_{U_{\text{étale}}} \) is equal to the homology of complex \( f^* \mathcal{F} \) in degree 1. This is true because \( f^* \pi_X = f \) as morphisms of ringed sites \( U_{\text{étale}} \to X_{\text{étale}} \). In particular we see that \( \mathcal{H}_{\text{étale}}|_{U_{\text{étale}}} \) is a quasi-coherent \( \mathcal{O}_U \)-module. Next, let \( g : V \to U \) be a flat morphism in \( (\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{étale}} \). Since
\[ i_f^* \circ \pi_X^* = (f \circ g)^* = g^* \circ f^* \]
as morphisms of sites \( V_{\text{étale}} \to X_{\text{étale}} \) and since \( g \) is flat hence \( g^* \) is exact, we obtain
\[ \mathcal{H}_{\text{étale}}|_{V_{\text{étale}}} = g^* (\mathcal{H}_{\text{étale}}|_{U_{\text{étale}}}) \]

With these preparations we are ready to prove the lemma.

Let \( \mathcal{U} = \{ g_i : U_i \to U \}_{i \in I} \) be an \( \text{ppf} \) covering with \( f : U \to X \) as above. The sheaf propery holds for \( \mathcal{H}_{\text{étale}} \) and the covering \( \mathcal{U} \) by (1) of Lemma [7.1] applied to \( \mathcal{H}_{\text{étale}}|_{U_{\text{étale}}} \) and the above. Therefore we see that \( \mathcal{H}_{\text{étale}} \) is already an \( \text{ppf} \) sheaf and this means that \( \mathcal{H}_{\text{ppf}} \) is equal to \( \mathcal{H}_{\text{étale}} \) as a presheaf. In particular \( \mathcal{H}_{\text{étale}} = \epsilon_X^* \mathcal{H}_{\text{ppf}} \).

Finally, to prove the vanishing, we use Cohomology on Sites, Lemma [10.9]. We let \( \mathcal{B} \) be the affine objects of \( (\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{ppf}} \) and we let \( \mathcal{C} \) be the set of finite \( \text{ppf} \) coverings \( \mathcal{U} = \{ U_i \to U \}_{i = 1, \ldots, n} \) with \( U, U_i \) affine. We have
\[ \check{H}^p(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{H}_{\text{étale}}) = \check{H}^p(\mathcal{U}, (\mathcal{H}_{\text{étale}}|_{U_{\text{étale}}})^a) \]
because the values of \( \mathcal{H}_{\text{étale}} \) on the affine schemes \( U_{i_1} \times_U \ldots \times_U U_{i_p} \) flat over \( U \) agree with the values of the pullback of the quasi-coherent module \( H_{\text{étale}}|_{U_{\text{étale}}} \) by the first paragraph. Hence we obtain vanishing by Descent, Lemma [8.9]. This finishes the proof. \( \square \)

**Lemma 7.4.** Let \( S \) be a scheme. Let \( X \) be an algebraic space over \( S \). For \( K \in D_{\text{QCoh}}(\mathcal{O}_X) \) the maps
\[ L\pi_X^* K \to R\epsilon_X^* (La_X^* \mathcal{F}) \text{ and } K \to Ra_X^* (La_X^* K) \]
are isomorphisms. Here \( a_X : \text{Sh}( (\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{ppf}} ) \to \text{Sh}(X_{\text{étale}}) \) is as above.

**Proof.** The question is étale local on \( X \) hence we may assume \( X \) is affine. Say \( X = \text{Spec}(A) \). Then we have \( D_{\text{QCoh}}(\mathcal{O}_X) = D(A) \) by Derived Categories of Spaces, Lemma [4.2] and Derived Categories of Schemes, Lemma [3.5]. Hence we can choose an \( A \)-flat complex of \( A \)-modules \( K^* \) whose corresponding complex \( K^* \) of quasi-coherent \( \mathcal{O}_X \)-modules represents \( K \). We claim that \( K^* \) is a \( K \)-flat complex of \( \mathcal{O}_X \)-modules.
Proof of the claim. By Derived Categories of Schemes, Lemma \[\text{Lemma 3.6}\] we see that $\widetilde{K}^\bullet$ is K-flat on the scheme $(\text{Spec}(A), \mathcal{O}_{\text{Spec}(A)})$. Next, note that $K^\bullet = \epsilon^*\widetilde{K}^\bullet$ where $\epsilon$ is as in Derived Categories of Spaces, Lemma \[\text{Lemma 12}\] whence $K^\bullet$ is K-flat by Cohomology on Sites, Lemma \[\text{Lemma 15.7}\] and the fact that the étale site of a scheme has enough points (Étale Cohomology, Remarks \[\text{Remark 29.11}\]).

By the claim we see that $L\pi_\ast\epsilon^*\tau_\geq -n(L\pi_\ast\epsilon^*K)$ and $L\pi_\ast\epsilon^*\tau_\geq -n(L\pi_\ast\epsilon^*K)$. Since the first part of the proof shows that the pullback $a_\chi^\ast K^\bullet$ of the quasi-coherent module is acyclic for $\epsilon_{X,*}$, resp. $\epsilon_{X,*}$, surely the proof is done by Leray’s acyclicity lemma? Actually..., no because Leray’s acyclicity lemma only applies to bounded below complexes. However, in the next paragraph we will show the result does follow from the bounded below case because our complex is the derived limit of bounded below complexes of quasi-coherent modules.

The cohomology sheaves of $\pi_\ast^\chi K^\bullet$ and $a_\chi^\ast K^\bullet$ have vanishing higher cohomology groups over affine objects of $(\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{étale}}$ by Lemma \[\text{Lemma 7.3}\]. Therefore we have

$$L\pi_\ast^\chi K = R\lim \tau_\geq -n(L\pi_\ast^\chi K)$$

by Cohomology on Sites, Lemma \[\text{Lemma 22.10}\].

Proof of $L\pi_\ast^\chi K = R\epsilon_{X,*}(La_\chi^\ast F)$. By the above we have

$$R\epsilon_{X,*}(La_\chi^\ast K) = R\lim \epsilon_{X,*}(\tau_\geq -n(La_\chi^\ast K))$$

by Cohomology on Sites, Lemma \[\text{Lemma 22.3}\]. Note that $\tau_\geq -n(La_\chi^\ast K)$ is represented by $\tau_\geq -n(a_\chi^\ast K^\bullet)$ which may not be the same as $a_\chi^\ast(\tau_\geq -nK^\bullet)$. But clearly the systems

$$\{\tau_\geq -n(a_\chi^\ast K^\bullet)\}_{n \geq 1} \text{ and } \{a_\chi^\ast(\tau_\geq -nK^\bullet)\}_{n \geq 1}$$

are isomorphic as pro-systems. By Leray’s acyclicity lemma (Derived Categories, Lemma \[\text{Lemma 16.7}\]) and the first part of the lemma we see that

$$R\epsilon_{X,*}(a_\chi^\ast(\tau_\geq -nK^\bullet)) = \pi_\ast^\chi(\tau_\geq -nK^\bullet)$$

Then we can use that the systems

$$\{\tau_\geq -n(\pi_\ast^\chi K^\bullet)\}_{n \geq 1} \text{ and } \{\pi_\ast^\chi(\tau_\geq -nK^\bullet)\}_{n \geq 1}$$

are isomorphic as pro-systems. Finally, we put everything together as follows

$$R\epsilon_{X,*}(La_\chi^\ast K) = R\epsilon_{X,*}(R\lim \tau_\geq -n(La_\chi^\ast K))$$

$$= R\lim \epsilon_{X,*}(\tau_\geq -n(La_\chi^\ast K))$$

$$= R\lim \epsilon_{X,*}(\tau_\geq -n(a_\chi^\ast K^\bullet))$$

$$= R\lim \epsilon_{X,*}(a_\chi^\ast(\tau_\geq -nK^\bullet))$$

$$= R\lim \pi_\ast^\chi(\tau_\geq -nK^\bullet)$$

$$= R\lim \tau_\geq -n(\pi_\ast^\chi K^\bullet)$$

$$= R\lim \tau_\geq -n(L\pi_\ast^\chi K)$$

$$= L\pi_\ast^\chi K$$

Here in equalities four and six we have used that isomorphic pro-systems have the same $R\lim$ (small detail omitted). You can avoid this step by using more about cohomology of the terms of the complex $\tau_\geq -n(a_\chi^\ast K^\bullet)$ proved in Lemma \[\text{Lemma 7.3}\] as this will prove directly that $R\epsilon_{X,*}(\tau_\geq -n(a_\chi^\ast K^\bullet)) = \tau_\geq -n(\pi_\ast^\chi K^\bullet)$.

The equality $K = R\epsilon_{X,*}(La_\chi^\ast F)$ is proved in exactly the same way using in the final step that $K = R\lim \tau_\geq -nK$ by Derived Categories of Spaces, Lemma \[\text{Lemma 5.7}\]. \qed
8. Comparing ph and étale topologies

Let $S$ be a scheme. Let $X$ be an algebraic space over $S$. On the category $Spaces/X$ we consider the ph and étale topologies. The identity functor $(Spaces/X)_{étale} \to (Spaces/X)_{ph}$ is continuous as every étale covering is a ph covering by Topologies on Spaces, Lemma \[8.2.\] Hence it defines a morphism of sites

$$
\epsilon_X : (Spaces/X)_{ph} \to (Spaces/X)_{étale}
$$

by an application of Sites, Proposition \[14.7.\] Please note that $\epsilon_X^{-1}$ is the identity functor on underlying presheaves and that $\epsilon_X$ associates to an étale sheaf the ph sheafification. Consider the morphism of sites

$$
\pi_X : (Spaces/X)_{étale} \to X_{spaces,étale}
$$

comparing big and small étale sites, see Section \[5.\] The composition determines a morphism of sites

$$
a_X = \pi_X \circ \epsilon_X : (Spaces/X)_{ph} \to X_{spaces,étale}
$$

If $\mathcal{H}$ is an abelian sheaf on $(Spaces/X)_{ph}$, then we will write $H^n_{ph}(U, \mathcal{H})$ for the cohomology of $\mathcal{H}$ over an object $U$ of $(Spaces/X)_{ph}$.

**Lemma 8.1.** Let $S$ be a scheme. Let $X$ be an algebraic space over $S$.

1. For $\mathcal{F} \in Sh(X_{étale})$ we have $\epsilon_X^{-1}(a_X \mathcal{F}) = \pi_X^{-1} \mathcal{F}$ and $a_X \mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}$.
2. For $\mathcal{F} \in Ab(X_{étale})$ torsion we have $R^i \epsilon_X^{-1}(\mathcal{F}) = 0$ for $i > 0$.

**Proof.** We have $a_X^{-1} \mathcal{F} = \epsilon_X^{-1} \pi_X^{-1} \mathcal{F}$. By Lemma \[5.1.\] the étale sheaf $\pi_X^{-1} \mathcal{F}$ is a sheaf for the ph topology and therefore is equal to $a_X^{-1} \mathcal{F}$ (as pulling back by $\epsilon_X$ is given by ph sheafification). Recall moreover that $\epsilon_X^{-1}$ is the identity on underlying presheaves. Now part (1) is immediate from the explicit description of $\pi_X^{-1}$ in Lemma \[5.1.\]

We will prove part (2) by reducing it to the case of schemes – see part (1) of Étale Cohomology, Lemma \[96.5.\] This will “clearly work” as every algebraic space is étale locally a scheme. The details are given below but we urge the reader to skip the proof.

For an abelian sheaf $\mathcal{H}$ on $(Spaces/X)_{ph}$ the higher direct image $R^n \epsilon_X^{-1} \mathcal{H}$ is the sheaf associated to the presheaf $U \mapsto H^n_{ph}(U, \mathcal{H})$ on $(Spaces/X)_{étale}$. See Cohomology on Sites, Lemma \[7.4.\] Since every object of $(Spaces/X)_{étale}$ has a covering by schemes, it suffices to prove that given $U/X$ a scheme and $\xi \in H^n_{ph}(U, a_X^{-1} \mathcal{F})$ we can find an étale covering $\{U_i \to U\}$ such that $\xi$ restricts to zero on $U_i$. We have

$$
H^n_{ph}(U, a_X^{-1} \mathcal{F}) = H^n((Spaces/U)_{ph}, (a_X^{-1} \mathcal{F})|_{Spaces/U})
$$

$$
= H^n((Sch/U)_{ph}, (a_X^{-1} \mathcal{F})|_{Sch/U})
$$

where the second identification is Lemma \[3.1.\] and the first is a general fact about restriction (Cohomology on Sites, Lemma \[7.1.\]. Looking at the first paragraph and the corresponding result in the case of schemes (Étale Cohomology, Lemma \[96.1.\]) we conclude that the sheaf $(a_X^{-1} \mathcal{F})|_{Sch/U_i}$ matches the pullback by the “schemes version of $a_U$”. Therefore we can find an étale covering $\{U_i \to U\}$ such that our class dies in $H^n((Sch/U_i)_{ph}, (a_X^{-1} \mathcal{F})|_{Sch/U_i})$ for each $i$, see Étale Cohomology, Lemma \[96.5.\] (the precise statement one should use here is that $\mathcal{V}_n$ holds for all
Let $S$ be a scheme. Let $X$ be an algebraic space over $S$. For $K \in D^+(X_{\text{étale}})$ with torsion cohomology sheaves the maps
\[ \pi_X^{-1}K \rightarrow R\epsilon_X_*a_X^{-1}K \quad \text{and} \quad K \rightarrow Ra_X_*a_X^{-1}K \]
are isomorphisms with $a_X : \text{Sh}((\text{Spaces}/X)_{\text{ph}}) \rightarrow \text{Sh}(X_{\text{étale}})$ as above.

**Proof.** We only prove the second statement; the first is easier and proved in exactly the same manner. There is a reduction to the case where $K$ is given by a single torsion abelian sheaf. Namely, represent $K$ by a bounded below complex $\mathcal{F}^*$ of torsion abelian sheaves. This is possible by Cohomology on Sites, Lemma [19.7]. By the case of a sheaf we see that $\mathcal{F}^n = a_X^*a_X^{-1}\mathcal{F}^n$ and that the sheaves $R^qa_X^*a_X^{-1}\mathcal{F}^n$ are zero for $q > 0$. By Leray’s acyclicity lemma (Derived Categories, Lemma [16.7]) applied to $a_X^{-1}\mathcal{F}^*$ and the functor $a_X^*$ we conclude. From now on assume $K = \mathcal{F}$ where $\mathcal{F}$ is a torsion abelian sheaf.

By Lemma [8.1] we have $a_X^*a_X^{-1}\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}$. Thus it suffices to show that $R^qa_X^*a_X^{-1}\mathcal{F} = 0$ for $q > 0$. For this we can use $a_X = \epsilon_X \circ \pi_X$ and the Leray spectral sequence (Cohomology on Sites, Lemma [14.7]). By Lemma [8.1] we have $R^q\epsilon_X^*(a_X^{-1}\mathcal{F}) = 0$ for $i > 0$. We have $\epsilon_X^*a_X^{-1}\mathcal{F} = \pi_X^*\mathcal{F}$ and by Lemma [5.5] we have $R^j\pi_X^*(\pi_X^{-1}\mathcal{F}) = 0$ for $j > 0$. This concludes the proof. \(\square\)
0DGX Lemma 8.5. In Lemma 8.4 if \( f \) is proper, then we have

1. \( a_Y^{-1} \circ f_{\text{small},*} = f_{\text{big},\text{ph},*} \circ a_X^{-1} \), and
2. \( a_Y^{-1}(Rf_{\text{small},*}K) = Rf_{\text{big},\text{ph},*}(a_X^{-1}K) \) for \( K \) in \( D^+(\text{Spaces/Y})_{\text{ph}} \) with torsion cohomology sheaves.

Proof. Proof of (1). You can prove this by repeating the proof of Lemma 8.1 part (1); we will instead deduce the result from this. As \( \epsilon_Y \) is the identity functor on underlying presheaves, it reflects isomorphisms. Lemma 8.1 shows that \( \epsilon_Y \circ a_Y^{-1} = \pi_Y^{-1} \) and similarly for \( X \). To show that the canonical map \( a_Y^{-1}f_{\text{small},*}F \to f_{\text{big},\text{ph},*}a_X^{-1}F \) is an isomorphism, it suffices to show that

\[
\pi_Y^{-1}f_{\text{small},*}F = \epsilon_Y a_Y^{-1}f_{\text{small},*}F \\
\to \epsilon_Y f_{\text{big},\text{ph},*}a_X^{-1}F \\
= f_{\text{big},\text{etale},*}\epsilon_X a_X^{-1}F \\
= f_{\text{big},\text{etale},*}\pi_X^{-1}F
\]

is an isomorphism. This is part (1) of Lemma 5.6.

To see (2) we use that \( R\epsilon_Y \circ Rf_{\text{big},\text{ph},*}a_X^{-1}K = Rf_{\text{big},\text{etale},*}R\epsilon_X a_X^{-1}K \)

\[
= Rf_{\text{big},\text{etale},*}\pi_X^{-1}K \\
= \pi_Y^{-1}Rf_{\text{small},*}K \\
= R\epsilon_Y a_Y^{-1}Rf_{\text{small},*}K
\]

The first equality by the commutative diagram in Lemma 8.4 and Cohomology on Sites, Lemma 19.2. Then second equality is Lemma 8.2. The third is Lemma 5.6 part (2). The fourth is Lemma 8.2 again. Thus the base change map \( a_Y^{-1}(Rf_{\text{small},*}K) \to Rf_{\text{big},\text{ph},*}(a_X^{-1}K) \) induces an isomorphism

\[
R\epsilon_Y a_Y^{-1}Rf_{\text{small},*}K \to R\epsilon_Y Rf_{\text{big},\text{ph},*}a_X^{-1}K
\]

The proof is finished by the following remark: consider a map \( \alpha : a_Y^{-1}L \to M \) with \( L \) in \( D^+(\text{Spaces/Y})_{\text{ph}} \) having torsion cohomology sheaves and \( M \) in \( D^+(\text{Spaces/Y})_{\text{ph}} \). If \( R\epsilon_Y \circ \alpha \) is an isomorphism, then \( \alpha \) is an isomorphism. Namely, we show by induction on \( i \) that \( H^i(\alpha) \) is an isomorphism. This is true for all sufficiently small \( i \). If it holds for \( i \leq i_0 \), then we see that \( R^j\epsilon_Y \circ H^i(M) = 0 \) for \( j > 0 \) and \( i \leq i_0 \) by Lemma 5.1 because \( H^i(M) = a_Y^{-1}H^i(L) \) in this range. Hence \( \epsilon_Y \circ H^{i_0+1}(M) = H^{i_0+1}(R\epsilon_Y \circ \alpha) \) by a spectral sequence argument. Thus \( \epsilon_Y \circ H^{i_0+1}(M) = \pi_Y^{-1}H^{i_0+1}(L) = \epsilon_Y a_Y^{-1}H^{i_0+1}(L) \).

This implies \( H^{i_0+1}(\alpha) \) is an isomorphism (because \( \epsilon_Y \) reflects isomorphisms as it is the identity on underlying presheaves) as desired. \( \square \)

9. Other chapters

Preliminaries

(1) Introduction
(2) Conventions
(3) Set Theory

(4) Categories
(5) Topology
(6) Sheaves on Spaces
(7) Sites and Sheaves
### References