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# Topological representation of sheaf cohomology of sites

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## Abstract

For a site  $\mathcal{S}$  (with enough points), we construct a topological space  $X_{(\mathcal{S})}$  and a full embedding  $\varphi^*$  of the category of sheaves on  $\mathcal{S}$  into those on  $X_{(\mathcal{S})}$  (i.e., a morphism of toposes  $\varphi: \text{Sh}(X_{(\mathcal{S})}) \rightarrow \text{Sh}(\mathcal{S})$ ). The embedding will be shown to induce a full embedding of derived categories, hence isomorphisms  $H^*(\mathcal{S}, A) = H^*(X_{(\mathcal{S})}, \varphi^*A)$  for any abelian sheaf  $A$  on  $\mathcal{S}$ . As a particular case, this will give for any scheme  $Y$  a topological space  $X_{(Y)}$  and a functorial isomorphism between the étale cohomology  $H^*(Y_{\text{ét}}, A)$  and the ordinary sheaf cohomology  $H^*(X_{(Y)}, \varphi^*A)$ , for any sheaf  $A$  for the étale topology on  $Y$ .

## 1 Introduction and statement of the theorem

Many cohomology groups arising in geometry and topology are (or can be) defined as the cohomology groups of some topos; that is, as the sheaf cohomology groups of some site. This applies directly to étale and other cohomologies of schemes [1, 10], but also to many others such as Galois cohomology [12] and cyclic cohomology [2].

The purpose of this paper is to give a general construction which shows that all these cohomology groups are isomorphic to the ordinary sheaf cohomology groups of a topological space associated to the site or the topos. When the site is a group  $G$  (with associated topos of  $G$ -sets), our construction gives a model for the classifying space  $BG$ . In general, our result can be interpreted as the construction of a “classifying space” for any site (satisfying the following technical condition).

Our construction applies to topoi *with enough points*. We recall that a point  $p$  of a topos  $\mathcal{T}$  is a topos morphism  $p: \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$ , from the topos  $\mathcal{S}$  of sets into  $\mathcal{T}$ . Such a morphism can equivalently be described as a functor  $p^*: \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$  which preserves colimits and finite limits, or as a morphism of sites  $\mathbb{F}: \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ , where  $\mathbb{C}$  is any site of definition for  $\mathcal{T}$ . The topos  $\mathcal{T}$  is said to have enough points if for any sequence  $A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C$  of abelian groups in  $\mathcal{T}$  (i.e., sheaves of abelian groups on  $\mathbb{C}$ ), the sequence is exact whenever for each point  $p$  of  $\mathcal{T}$  the associated sequence  $p^*A \rightarrow p^*B \rightarrow p^*C$  is an exact sequence of abelian groups. We hasten to point out that virtually all topoi arising in geometric practice have enough points. This applies, for example, to the presheaf topos  $\hat{\mathbb{C}}$  on an arbitrary small category  $\mathbb{C}$ , and

to the étale topos associated to a scheme. In fact, any “coherent” topos has enough points (Deligne, Appendix to Exposé VI in [1]).

For any topological space  $X$ , the category  $\mathrm{Sh}(X)$  of sheaves on  $X$  is a topos (with enough points), whose cohomology groups are the ordinary sheaf cohomology groups of  $X$  [3, 6]. We will prove the following result:

**Theorem.** *Let  $\mathcal{T}$  be a topos with enough points. There exists a topological space  $X_{\mathcal{T}}$  and a topos morphism*

$$\varphi: \mathrm{Sh}(X_{\mathcal{T}}) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$$

such that

- (i)  $\varphi^*$  is a full and faithful embedding of  $\mathcal{T}$  into  $\mathrm{Sh}(X_{\mathcal{T}})$ ;
- (ii) for any abelian group  $A$  in  $\mathcal{T}$ , the morphism  $\varphi$  induces isomorphisms

$$H^*(\mathcal{T}, A) \xrightarrow{\cong} H^*(X_{\mathcal{T}}, \varphi^*(A)), \quad n \geq 0.$$

Here  $H^*(X_{\mathcal{T}}, \varphi^*(A))$  denotes the sheaf cohomology of the space  $X_{\mathcal{T}}$  with the sheaf  $\varphi^*(A)$  as coefficients. We will give an explicit construction of this space  $X_{\mathcal{T}}$  from  $\mathcal{T}$ , which depends not only on  $\mathcal{T}$ , but also on the choice of a site for  $\mathcal{T}$ . For this reason, the construction  $\mathcal{T} \mapsto X_{\mathcal{T}}$  is only functorial in  $\mathcal{T}$  in a weak sense (see Remark 2.4 below).

Note that, since the topos  $\mathrm{Sh}(X_{\mathcal{T}})$  always has enough points, the (mild) assumption that  $\mathcal{T}$  has enough points is a necessary one, being implied by part (i) of the theorem. For part (ii) of the theorem, we will actually prove that the derived functors  $R^q\varphi_*$  of the direct image functor  $\varphi_*: \mathrm{Sh}(X_{\mathcal{T}}) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$  have the property that

$$R^q\varphi_*(\varphi^*A) = \begin{cases} A, & q = 0, \\ 0, & q > 0, \end{cases}$$

for any abelian group  $A$  in  $\mathcal{T}$ . This property states that  $\varphi: \mathrm{Sh}(X_{\mathcal{T}}) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$  is an *acyclic morphism*. It implies in particular that  $\varphi^*$  induces a full and faithful embedding of derived categories

$$D^+(\mathcal{T}) \hookrightarrow D^+(X_{\mathcal{T}}).$$

The same argument applies to ringed topoi: if  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{T}}$  is any ring in  $\mathcal{T}$  and  $D^+(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{T}})$  is the associated derived category of complexes of  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{T}}$ -modules [1], then  $\varphi^*$  induces a full and faithful embedding

$$D^+(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{T}}) \hookrightarrow D^+(X_{\mathcal{T}}, \varphi^*(\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{T}})).$$

The theorem, as well as the construction of the space  $X_{\mathcal{T}}$ , have been inspired by [8], where it is proved that any topos (not necessarily with enough points) is cohomologically equivalent to the topos of sheaves on a “locale”. (A locale is an abstract notion of “topological space without points”.) However, our theorem is not a consequence of this result of [8]. Furthermore, our proof is different. The proof in [8] made essential use of the “internal logic” of a topos and its behaviour under change-of-base. These methods cannot be applied to the topological space  $X_{\mathcal{T}}$  constructed here.

## 2 Construction of the space $X_{\mathcal{T}}$ and of the map $\varphi$

In this section,  $\mathcal{T}$  denotes a fixed topos with enough points. Recall [1, 9] that the latter means that the functors  $p^*: \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ , for all points  $p: \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$ , are jointly conservative. Although the collection of all such points  $p$  is in general a proper class rather than a set, there will always be a set  $\mathcal{P}$  of points  $p$  for which the functors  $p^*$ , for  $p \in \mathcal{P}$ , are already jointly conservative. We will fix such a set  $\mathcal{P}$ , and henceforth refer to points in this set as *small* points of  $\mathcal{T}$ . For a point  $p$  of  $\mathcal{T}$  and an object (sheaf)  $E$  in  $\mathcal{T}$ , we will also use the common notation  $E_p$  for the set  $p^*(E)$ , and refer to  $E_p$  as “the stalk of  $E$  at  $p$ ”.

Next, we fix a sheaf  $G$  in  $\mathcal{T}$  so that the collection of all subsheaves  $C \subset G^n$ ,  $n \geq 0$ , generates  $\mathcal{T}$ . For example,  $G$  can be the disjoint sum (coproduct) of all the objects in some site of definition for  $\mathcal{T}$ . But often, there is a smaller and much more natural choice for  $G$ : the topos  $\mathcal{T}$  will generally contain some “universal” structure  $U$  of a certain kind. For example, in the case of the étale topos,  $U$  is the universal strictly local ring [5]. More generally, if  $\mathcal{T}$  is a classifying topos,  $U$  is the universal model for the theory classified by  $\mathcal{T}$  (see [9], Chapter VIII). This object  $U$  will have the property required for  $G$ , namely that the subsheaves of finite products  $U \times \cdots \times U$  generate  $\mathcal{T}$ .

Finally, we fix an infinite set  $I$ , which is big enough so that it surjects onto all the stalks  $G_p$ , for all small points  $p$  of  $\mathcal{T}$ ; in other words,

$$\text{card}(G_p) \leq \text{card}(I).$$

The construction of the space  $X_{\mathcal{T}}$  will depend on these choices, of the set  $\mathcal{P}$  of points, of the sheaf  $G$ , and of the set  $I$ . (We come back to this dependence in Remark 2.4 below.)

The points of the space  $X = X_{\mathcal{T}}$  are now defined to be equivalence classes of pairs

$$(p, \alpha)$$

where  $p$  is a small point of  $\mathcal{T}$  and  $\alpha$  is a function from a subset of  $I$  to  $G_p$ ,

$$I \supset \text{dom}(\alpha) \xrightarrow{\alpha} G_p,$$

with the property that  $\alpha^{-1}(g)$  is infinite, for each  $g \in G_p$ . Two such pairs  $(p, \alpha)$  and  $(q, \beta)$  are *equivalent* (i.e., define the same point  $x \in X$ ), if there exists a natural isomorphism of functors  $\theta: p^* \rightarrow q^*$  so that  $\beta = \theta_G \circ \alpha$ . We will often write  $x = (p, \alpha)$  for a point  $x \in X$ , and not distinguish explicitly between such pairs  $(p, \alpha)$  and their equivalence classes.

The topology on this set  $X$  of points is defined as follows: For any  $n \geq 0$  and any subsheaf  $C \subset G^n$ , and any  $i_1, \dots, i_n \in I$ , the set

$$U_{i_1, \dots, i_n, C} = \{(p, \alpha) \mid i_1, \dots, i_n \in \text{dom}(\alpha) \text{ and } (\alpha(i_1), \dots, \alpha(i_n)) \in C_p\} \quad (1)$$

is to be a basic open set. Note that this set is well-defined on equivalence classes, i.e.,  $(p, \alpha) \in U_{i_1, \dots, i_n, C}$  iff  $(q, \beta) \in U_{i_1, \dots, i_n, C}$ . In the sequel, we will usually write  $i$  for

$i_1, \dots, i_n$  and  $\alpha(i)$  for  $(\alpha(i_1), \dots, \alpha(i_n))$ , so that

$$U_{i,C} = \{(p, \alpha) \mid i \in \text{dom}(\alpha) \text{ and } \alpha(i) \in C_p\}. \quad (2)$$

We remark that, by changing  $C$ , we can always assume that the sequence  $i = (i_1, \dots, i_n)$  does not contain repetitions. For example,  $U_{i,i,C}$  for  $C \subset G^2$  is equal to  $U_{i,C'}$  for  $C'$  the pullback of  $C$  along the diagonal  $\Delta: G \rightarrow G^2$ . In the sequel we will often tacitly assume that a sequence  $i$  does not contain repetitions.

**Lemma 2.1** *The sets  $U_{i,C}$  form a basis for a topology on  $X$ .*

*Proof.* This is clear from the formula

$$U_{i,C} \cap U_{j,D} = U_{i,j,C \times D},$$

for any  $C \subset G^n$ ,  $D \subset G^m$ ,  $i = (i_1, \dots, i_n)$ ,  $j = (j_1, \dots, j_m)$ , and  $i, j$  the concatenation of these two sequences.  $\square$

It can be shown that the space  $X$  thus defined is always a sober topological space ([1], IV.4.2.1), although it is not a Hausdorff space.

Next, we describe the morphism  $\varphi: \text{Sh}(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$  occurring in the statement of the theorem. Recall that such a morphism of topoi is given by an inverse image functor  $\varphi^*: \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \text{Sh}(X)$  and a direct image functor  $\varphi_*: \text{Sh}(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$ , right adjoint to  $\varphi^*$ . The functor  $\varphi^*$  preserves colimits and finite limits, and these properties imply that  $\varphi^*$  has a right adjoint, unique up to isomorphism. So, to define  $\varphi$ , it suffices to define such a functor  $\varphi^*: \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \text{Sh}(X)$ . For any sheaf  $E$  in  $\mathcal{T}$ , consider the set

$$\varphi^*(E) = \{(p, \alpha, e) \mid (p, \alpha) \in X, e \in E_p\},$$

with obvious projection  $\pi: \varphi^*(E) \rightarrow X$ . (Again, being more precise we should speak about equivalence classes of such triples, where  $(p, \alpha, e)$  is equivalent to  $(q, \beta, g)$  if there exists a natural isomorphism of functors  $\theta: p^* \rightarrow q^*$  so that  $\beta = \theta_G \circ \alpha$  and  $\theta_E(e) = g$ .) The set  $\varphi^*(E)$  carries a natural topology, with basic open sets

$$V_{i,C,f} = \{(p, \alpha, e) \mid (p, \alpha) \in U_{i,C} \text{ and } e = f(\alpha(i))\},$$

for any  $i = (i_1, \dots, i_n)$  and  $C \subset G^n$  as above, and any morphism  $f: C \rightarrow E$  in  $\mathcal{T}$ .

**Lemma 2.2** *These sets  $V_{i,C,f}$  form the basis for a topology on  $\varphi^*(E)$ , which makes the projection  $\pi: \varphi^*(E) \rightarrow X$  into a local homeomorphism.*

*Proof.* Consider two such basic open sets  $V_{i,C,f}$  and  $V_{j,D,g}$ . Let  $h: C \times_E D \rightarrow E$  be the map from the pullback,  $h = f \circ \pi_1 = g \circ \pi_2$ . Then

$$V_{i,C,f} \cap V_{j,D,g} = V_{i,j,C \times_E D, h}.$$

Thus the sets  $V_{i,C,f}$  form a basis for a well-defined topology on  $\varphi^*(E)$ . Furthermore, the sections

$$\sigma: U_{i,C} \rightarrow V_{i,C,f}, \quad \sigma(p, \alpha) = f_p(\alpha(i))$$

are well-defined on equivalence classes and show that the projection  $\pi: \varphi^*(E) \rightarrow X$  restricts to a homeomorphism  $V_{i,C,f} \rightarrow U_{i,C}$ .  $\square$

Thus  $\pi: \varphi^*(E) \rightarrow X$  is a sheaf on  $X$ . Note that for the stalk of this sheaf at a point  $(p, \alpha)$  of  $X$  we have

$$\varphi^*(E)_{(p,\alpha)} = E_p. \quad (3)$$

**Proposition 2.3** *The construction  $E \mapsto \varphi^*(E)$  defines the inverse image functor of a topos morphism  $\varphi: \text{Sh}(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$ .*

*Proof.* We observe first that the construction is functorial in  $E$ . If  $h: E \rightarrow F$  is a morphism in  $\mathcal{T}$ , the induced map

$$\varphi^*(h): \varphi^*(E) \rightarrow \varphi^*(F), \quad (p, \alpha, e) \mapsto (p, \alpha, h_p(e))$$

is continuous for the topologies just defined. To see this, take any point  $(p, \alpha, e)$  of  $\varphi^*(E)$ , and let  $V_{i,C,f}$  be a basic open neighbourhood of  $(p, \alpha, h_p(e))$  in  $\varphi^*(F)$ , where  $f: C \rightarrow F$ . Since the subsheaves of  $G^n$  generate  $\mathcal{T}$ , it follows that there is a  $B \subset G^m$  and a map  $u: B \rightarrow C \times_F E$  so that, for  $c = \alpha(i)$ , there exists a point  $b \in B_p$  with  $u_p(b) = (c, e) \in (C \times_F E)_p$ . Choose  $j = (j_1, \dots, j_m)$  with  $j_k \in I$ , so that  $b = \alpha(j) = (\alpha(j_1), \dots, \alpha(j_m))$ . Let  $v = \pi_1 \circ u: B \rightarrow C$ , and let  $D = \text{graph}(v) \subset B \times C \subset G^m \times G^n$ . Then

$$W = V_{j,i,D,\pi_2 \circ u}$$

is a basic open set in  $\varphi^*(E)$ , such that  $(p, \alpha, e) \in W$  and  $\varphi^*(h)$  maps  $W$  into  $V_{i,C,f}$ .

This shows that  $\varphi^*$  is a functor. It remains to verify that  $\varphi^*$  preserves colimits and finite limits. But it suffices to show that this holds at the level of the stalks, where it is obvious from the identity (3).  $\square$

**Remark 2.4** (We recommend the reader to skip this remark, as we will make no future use of it in the present paper.) The construction of  $X = X_{\mathcal{T}}$  depends on  $\mathcal{P}$ ,  $G$  and  $I$ , in a functorial way. Clearly, for a larger set  $\mathcal{P}' \supset \mathcal{P}$  of small points, there is a map  $X(\mathcal{P}) \rightarrow X(\mathcal{P}')$  over  $\mathcal{T}$ . Similarly, it will be clear from §3 that a surjection  $s: J \twoheadrightarrow I$  induces a map  $s^*: X(I) \rightarrow X(J)$ , while if  $G' \supset G$  is a larger choice of an object so that the subsheaves of its finite powers generate, there is a restriction map  $X(G') \rightarrow X(G)$ . It is a consequence of our theorem that all these comparison maps induce isomorphisms in cohomology for abelian coefficients which come from  $\mathcal{T}$ , so that the dependence of  $X$  on  $\mathcal{P}$ ,  $G$  and  $I$  is inessential in this sense.

If  $f: \mathcal{T}_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{T}_2$  is a topos morphism, we can fix first the parameters  $\mathcal{P}_1$  and  $I_1$  for  $\mathcal{T}_1$  and  $G_2$  for  $\mathcal{T}_2$ , and then choose  $\mathcal{P}_2$  large enough to include all composites  $f \circ p$  for  $p \in \mathcal{P}_1$ , and  $G_1 \supset f^*(G_2)$ , and finally  $I_2$  so large that there exists a surjection  $I_2 \twoheadrightarrow I_1$ . Then the constructed spaces  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  fit into a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Sh}(X_1) & \xrightarrow{\bar{f}} & \text{Sh}(X_2) \\ \varphi_1 \downarrow & & \downarrow \varphi_2 \\ \mathcal{T}_1 & \xrightarrow{f} & \mathcal{T}_2. \end{array}$$

### 3 Enumeration spaces

The fibres of the morphism  $\varphi: \text{Sh}(X_{\mathcal{T}}) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$  will turn out to be (approximated by) certain acyclic topological spaces, which we will discuss separately in this section.

Let  $I$  be a fixed infinite index set. For any set  $S$ , with cardinality  $\text{card}(S) \leq \text{card}(I)$ , the enumeration space

$$\text{En}(S) \quad (\text{or } \text{En}_I(S))$$

has as points all functions  $\alpha: D \rightarrow S$  defined on some subset  $D = \text{dom}(\alpha) \subset I$ , and with the property that  $\alpha^{-1}(s) \subset D$  is infinite for each  $s \in S$ . The basic open sets of  $\text{En}(S)$  are the sets of the form

$$V_{i_1, \dots, i_n, s_1, \dots, s_n} = \{\alpha \mid \alpha(i_k) = s_k, \text{ for } k = 1, \dots, n\},$$

for any  $i_1, \dots, i_n \in I$  and  $s_1, \dots, s_n \in S$ . It will be convenient to use a shorter notation, and write  $u$  for the finite partial function from  $I$  to  $S$  defined by  $u(i_k) = s_k$  ( $k = 1, \dots, n$ ), and write

$$V_u = \{\alpha \in \text{En}(S) \mid u \subset \alpha\}$$

for the same basic open set. Note that for  $n = 0$  (i.e.,  $u = \emptyset$ ) the entire space  $\text{En}(S)$  occurs among these basic open sets.

**Notation 3.1** These finite partial functions  $u$  induce various continuous operations on  $\text{En}(S)$ , which will be used in the sequel. For  $\alpha \in \text{En}(S)$ , denote by  $\alpha - u$  the restriction of  $\alpha$  to  $\text{dom}(\alpha) - \text{dom}(u)$ . Furthermore, denote by  $\alpha \cup u$  the union of these partial functions, defined only in case  $\text{dom}(\alpha) \cap \text{dom}(u) = \emptyset$ . Finally, we will use the notation  $(u/\alpha)$  for  $(\alpha - u) \cup u$ , which is the function obtained by “writing  $u$  over  $\alpha$ ”.

**Remark 3.2** In relation to Remark 2.4, we note that if  $S' \subset S$  is a subset, the restriction of  $\alpha: D \rightarrow S$  to  $\{i \in D \mid \alpha(i) \in S'\}$  defines a continuous map  $\text{res}: \text{En}(S) \rightarrow \text{En}(S')$ . Furthermore, any surjection  $t: J \rightarrow I$  defines by composition an obvious continuous map  $t^*: \text{En}_I(S) \rightarrow \text{En}_J(S)$ .

**Lemma 3.3** *Each enumeration space  $\text{En}(S)$  is connected and locally connected; in fact, each basic open set  $V_u$  is connected.*

*Proof.* Fix an open set  $V_u$ , and let  $V_u = O_1 \cup O_2$  be a cover by two non-empty open sets. Choose points  $\alpha_1 \in O_1$  and  $\alpha_2 \in O_2$ , and basic open sets  $V_{u_1}$  and  $V_{u_2}$  with  $\alpha_1 \in V_{u_1} \subset O_1$  and  $\alpha_2 \in V_{u_2} \subset O_2$ . These are given by finite partial functions  $u_1, u_2$  with  $u \subset u_1 \subset \alpha_1$  and  $u \subset u_2 \subset \alpha_2$ . Let  $\beta = u_2/\alpha_1 \in O_2$  and  $\gamma = (\alpha_1 - u_2) \cup u$ . Thus  $\gamma \subset \beta$  and  $\gamma \subset \alpha_1$ , hence  $\beta$  and  $\alpha_1$  belong to every open neighbourhood of  $\gamma$  in  $\text{En}(S)$ . Now  $\gamma \in V_u$ , so  $\gamma \in O_1$  or  $\gamma \in O_2$ . But if  $\gamma \in O_1$ , then  $\beta \in O_1 \cap O_2$ , and if  $\gamma \in O_2$  then  $\alpha_1 \in O_1 \cap O_2$ . Thus  $O_1 \cap O_2 \neq \emptyset$ , showing that  $V_u$  is connected.  $\square$

Next we consider Čech homology of  $\text{En}(S)$ . The following proposition forms the crucial part of the proof of our theorem.

**Proposition 3.4** *For any cover  $\mathcal{U}$  of  $\text{En}(S)$  by basic open sets, we have*

$$H_n(\mathcal{U}, \mathbb{Z}) = 0 \quad (n > 0).$$

*Proof.* Let  $\mathcal{U} = \{V_{u_\sigma} \mid \sigma \in \Sigma\}$  be such an open cover, indexed by a set  $\Sigma$ . To avoid too many indices, we will in this proof write  $\sigma$  for  $u_\sigma$ , and  $V_\sigma$  for  $V_{u_\sigma}$ . Let  $C_\bullet(\mathcal{U})$  be the usual Čech complex, i.e.,  $C_n(\mathcal{U})$  is the free abelian group on the set  $N_n(\mathcal{U}) = \{(\sigma_0, \dots, \sigma_n) \mid V_{\sigma_0} \cap \dots \cap V_{\sigma_n} \neq \emptyset\}$ . Note that  $(\sigma_0, \dots, \sigma_n) \in N_n(\mathcal{U})$  iff the finite partial functions  $\sigma_0, \dots, \sigma_n$  are compatible, in the sense that their union  $\sigma_0 \cup \dots \cup \sigma_n$  (short for  $u_{\sigma_0} \cup \dots \cup u_{\sigma_n}$ ) is well-defined. We will show that this complex is chain contractible, by exhibiting an explicit chain homotopy  $h$ :

$$0 \leftarrow \mathbb{Z} \underset{h_{-1}}{\overset{\partial}{\rightleftarrows}} C_0(\mathcal{U}) \underset{h_0}{\overset{\partial}{\rightleftarrows}} C_1(\mathcal{U}) \underset{h_1}{\overset{\partial}{\rightleftarrows}} C_2(\mathcal{U}) \underset{h_2}{\overset{\partial}{\rightleftarrows}} \dots$$

$$\partial \circ h_{-1} = \text{id}, \quad \partial h_n + h_{n-1} \partial = \text{id}. \quad (4)$$

To define  $h$ , we fix a point  $\alpha \in \text{En}(S)$  and an index  $\tau \in \Sigma$  with  $\alpha \in V_{u_\tau}$ . Furthermore, for each sequence  $\boldsymbol{\sigma} = (\sigma_0, \dots, \sigma_n) \in N_n(\mathcal{U})$ , we choose an index  $f(\boldsymbol{\sigma})$  so that

$$\alpha - (\sigma_0 \cup \dots \cup \sigma_n \cup \tau) \in V_{f(\boldsymbol{\sigma})}. \quad (5)$$

The  $h_n$  are now defined by induction, by

$$h_{-1}(1) = \tau$$

$$h_n(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) = (-1)^{n+1} [\boldsymbol{\sigma} f(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) - h_{n-1}(\partial \boldsymbol{\sigma}) f(\boldsymbol{\sigma})]. \quad (6)$$

Here  $\boldsymbol{\sigma}$  is the tuple  $(\sigma_0, \dots, \sigma_n)$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\sigma} f(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) = (\sigma_0, \dots, \sigma_n, f(\boldsymbol{\sigma}))$ , and  $h_{n-1}(\partial \boldsymbol{\sigma}) f(\boldsymbol{\sigma})$  is the sum  $\sum (-1)^i h_{n-1}(\sigma_0 \dots \hat{\sigma}_i \dots \sigma_n) f(\boldsymbol{\sigma})$  obtained by adding  $f(\boldsymbol{\sigma})$  to the end of every term in  $h_{n-1}(\partial \boldsymbol{\sigma})$ . For example,

$$h_0(\sigma_0) = -(\sigma_0 f(\sigma_0) - \tau f(\sigma_0))$$

$$h_1(\sigma_0 \sigma_1) = \sigma_0 \sigma_1 f(\sigma_0 \sigma_1) + \sigma_1 f(\sigma_1) f(\sigma_0 \sigma_1) - \tau f(\sigma_1) f(\sigma_0 \sigma_1) \\ - \sigma_0 f(\sigma_0) f(\sigma_0 \sigma_1) + \tau f(\sigma_0) f(\sigma_0 \sigma_1),$$

etc. Let us observe first that  $h_n(\boldsymbol{\sigma})$  is a well-defined element of  $C_{n+1}(\mathcal{U})$ ; i.e., that for any sequence  $\boldsymbol{\mu} = (\mu_0, \dots, \mu_{n+1})$  occurring in  $h_n(\boldsymbol{\sigma})$ , the corresponding basic open  $V_{\boldsymbol{\mu}} = V_{\mu_0} \cap \dots \cap V_{\mu_{n+1}}$  is non-empty. We will show by induction on  $n$  that for any generator  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$  occurring in  $h_n(\boldsymbol{\sigma})$ , there exists a point  $\beta = \beta_{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}(\boldsymbol{\mu})$  in  $\text{En}(S)$  such that

$$\beta \supset \alpha - (\sigma_0 \cup \dots \cup \sigma_n \cup \tau) \quad \text{and} \quad \beta \in V_{\boldsymbol{\mu}} = V_{\mu_0} \cap \dots \cap V_{\mu_{n+1}} \quad (7)$$

For  $n = 0$ , the two generators occurring in  $h_0(\sigma_0)$  are  $\sigma_0 f(\sigma_0)$  and  $\tau f(\sigma_0)$  and, by (5), we can choose

$$\beta(\sigma_0 f(\sigma_0)) = \alpha - (\sigma_0 \cup \tau) \cup \sigma_0 \in V_{\sigma_0 f(\sigma_0)},$$

$$\beta(\tau f(\sigma_0)) = \alpha - (\sigma_0 \cup \tau) \cup \tau \in V_{\tau f(\sigma_0)}.$$



Suppose, then, that we have found a point  $\beta$  as in (7) for each  $(\sigma_0, \dots, \sigma_n)$  and each generator  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$  in  $h_n(\boldsymbol{\sigma})$ . Now consider a sequence  $\boldsymbol{\sigma} = (\sigma_0, \dots, \sigma_{n+1}) \in N_{n+1}(\mathcal{U})$ , with

$$h_n(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) = (-1)^{n+1}[\boldsymbol{\sigma}f(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) - h_{n-1}(\partial\boldsymbol{\sigma})f(\boldsymbol{\sigma})] \quad (8)$$

as in (6). For the generator  $\boldsymbol{\sigma}f(\boldsymbol{\sigma})$ , we can take  $\beta = (\alpha - (\sigma_0 \cup \dots \cup \sigma_{n+1} \cup \tau)) \cup (\sigma_0 \cup \dots \cup \sigma_{n+1}) = (\sigma_0 \cup \dots \cup \sigma_{n+1})/(\alpha - \tau)$ , since by (5), this  $\beta$  will satisfy  $\beta \in V_{\boldsymbol{\sigma}f(\boldsymbol{\sigma})}$ . Next consider  $h_{n-1}(\partial\boldsymbol{\sigma})f(\boldsymbol{\sigma})$ . For a generator  $\boldsymbol{\mu} = (\mu_0, \dots, \mu_{n+1})$  in  $h(\sigma_0 \dots \hat{\sigma}_i \dots \sigma_n)$ , we have by induction found a  $\beta_0$  so that

$$\beta_0 \supset \alpha - (\sigma_0 \cup \dots \hat{\sigma}_i \dots \cup \sigma_n \cup \tau) \quad \text{and} \quad \beta_0 \in V_{\boldsymbol{\mu}}.$$

Also,  $f(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) \subset \alpha - (\sigma_0 \cup \dots \cup \sigma_n \cup \tau) \subset \alpha - (\sigma_0 \cup \dots \hat{\sigma}_i \dots \cup \sigma_n \cup \tau)$ , so  $\beta_0 \in V_{\boldsymbol{\mu}f(\boldsymbol{\sigma})}$ . Thus  $\beta_0$  is also a witness for the fact that the part  $\boldsymbol{\mu}f(\boldsymbol{\sigma})$  occurring in  $h_{n-1}(\partial\boldsymbol{\sigma})f(\boldsymbol{\sigma})$  corresponds to a non-empty intersection of basic open sets.

It remains to prove the identities (4) for a chain homotopy. Clearly,  $\partial h_{-1} = \text{id}$ , while for  $\sigma_0 \in C_0(\mathcal{U})$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \partial h_0(\sigma_0) + h_{-1}(\partial\sigma_0) &= -\partial(\sigma_0 f(\sigma_0)) + \partial(\tau f(\sigma_0)) + \tau \\ &= -(f(\sigma_0) + \sigma_0) + (f(\sigma_0) - \tau) + \tau \\ &= \sigma_0. \end{aligned}$$

We proceed by induction, and suppose the identity  $\partial h_n + h_{n-1}\partial = \text{id}$  has been proved. Consider, then, any generator  $\sigma_0 \dots \sigma_{n+1} \in C_{n+1}(\mathcal{U})$ . The induction hypothesis implies that

$$\partial h_n(\partial\boldsymbol{\sigma}) = \partial\boldsymbol{\sigma} - h_{n-1}(\partial^2\boldsymbol{\sigma}) = \partial\boldsymbol{\sigma},$$

whence

$$\partial h_n(\partial\boldsymbol{\sigma})f(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) = (\partial\boldsymbol{\sigma})f(\boldsymbol{\sigma}). \quad (9)$$

Thus, using the general identity

$$\partial(\mu_0 \dots \mu_n \rho) = \partial(\mu_0 \dots \mu_n)\rho + (-1)^{n+1}\mu_0 \dots \mu_n \quad (10)$$

we find

$$\begin{aligned} \partial h_{n+1}(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) &= \partial(-1)^n[\boldsymbol{\sigma}f(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) - h_n(\partial\boldsymbol{\sigma})f(\boldsymbol{\sigma})] \quad (\text{by definition}) \\ &= (-1)^n[(\partial\boldsymbol{\sigma})f(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) + (-1)^n\boldsymbol{\sigma} - \partial(h_n(\partial\boldsymbol{\sigma})f(\boldsymbol{\sigma}))] \quad (\text{by (10)}) \\ &= \boldsymbol{\sigma} + (-1)^n[(\partial\boldsymbol{\sigma})f(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) - (\partial h_n(\partial\boldsymbol{\sigma}))f(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) - (-1)^{n+2}h_n(\partial\boldsymbol{\sigma})] \quad (\text{by (10)}) \\ &= \boldsymbol{\sigma} - h_n(\partial\boldsymbol{\sigma}) + (-1)^n[(\partial\boldsymbol{\sigma})f(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) - \partial h_n(\partial\boldsymbol{\sigma})f(\boldsymbol{\sigma})] \\ &= \boldsymbol{\sigma} - h_n(\partial\boldsymbol{\sigma}). \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof of the proposition.  $\square$

**Proposition 3.5** *Let  $V$  be a basic open set in  $\text{En}(S)$ , and let  $\mathcal{U}$  be a cover of  $V$  by basic open sets. Then*

$$H_n(\mathcal{U}, \mathbb{Z}) = 0 \quad (n > 0).$$

*Proof.* This is proved in exactly the same way as the previous proposition. If  $V = V_u$ , then one modifies the proof by restricting all constructions to finite sequences  $v$  or points  $\alpha$  with  $u \subset v, \alpha$ .  $\square$

## 4 Construction of $\varphi!$ and a projection formula

The enumeration spaces  $\text{En}(S)$  are related to the space  $X = X_{\mathcal{T}}$ , constructed for a topos above, in the following way. For each small point  $p: \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$ , with stalk  $G_p$  of the special sheaf  $G$ , there is a continuous map

$$i_p: \text{En}(G_p) \rightarrow X, \quad i_p(\alpha) = (p, \alpha).$$

Denote by  $\pi: \text{En}(G_p) \rightarrow \text{pt}$  the unique map into the one-point space. These two maps induce topos morphisms  $\mathcal{S} \xleftarrow{\pi} \text{Sh}(\text{En}(G_p)) \xrightarrow{i_p} \text{Sh}(X)$ , which relate to the map  $\varphi: \text{Sh}(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$  in the following way.

**Lemma 4.1** *The square*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Sh}(\text{En}(G_p)) & \xrightarrow{i_p} & \text{Sh}(X) \\ \pi \downarrow & & \downarrow \varphi \\ \mathcal{S} & \xrightarrow{p} & \mathcal{T} \end{array} \quad (11)$$

*commutes up to natural isomorphism.*

*Proof.* Let  $E$  be an object in  $\mathcal{T}$ , with sheaf  $\varphi^*(E)$  on  $X$  as constructed in §2. Using the notation of the proof of Lemma 2.2, consider a canonical section

$$\sigma: U_{i,C} \rightarrow V_{i,C,f} \subset \varphi^*(E), \quad \sigma(p, \alpha) = f_p(\alpha(i)),$$

of the sheaf  $\varphi^*(E)$ . The connected components of  $i_p^{-1}(U_{i,C})$  are the basic open sets  $V_g = \{\alpha \mid \alpha(i_1) = g_1, \dots, \alpha(i_n) = g_n\}$ , for all  $g = (g_1, \dots, g_n) \in C_p \subset G_p^n$ . The section  $\sigma$  is constant on  $V_g$ , with value  $f_p(g_1, \dots, g_n)$ . This shows that  $i_p^* \varphi^*(E)$  is a constant sheaf, with stalk  $E_p$  since  $i_p^* \varphi^*(E)_{(p,\alpha)} = \varphi^*(E)_{(p,\alpha)} = E_p$ .  $\square$

We note that the square (11) need not be a pullback of topoi, although it is very close to being one:  $\text{En}(G_p)$  is the space of points of the topos theoretic pullback.

**Corollary 4.2** *Let  $\sigma: U_{i,C} \rightarrow \varphi^*(E)$  be any section of the sheaf  $\varphi^*(E)$ , defined on the basic open set  $U_{i,C}$ . Then for any two points  $(p, \alpha)$  and  $(p, \beta)$  in  $U_{i,C}$ ,*

$$\alpha(i) = \beta(i) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \sigma(p, \alpha) = \sigma(p, \beta). \quad (12)$$

*Proof.* The section  $\sigma$  restricts along  $i_p: \text{En}(G_p) \rightarrow X$  to a section on  $i_p^{-1}(U_{i,C})$  of the constant sheaf with stalk  $E_p$ . This section is constant on the connected components  $V_g = \{\alpha \mid \alpha(i) = g\}$  of  $i_p^{-1}(U_{i,C})$  already occurring in the proof of Lemma 4.1. Formula (12) follows.  $\square$

Recall that a topos morphism  $\varphi: \mathcal{T}' \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$  consists of two particular functors  $\varphi^*$  and  $\varphi_*$ , with  $\varphi^*$  left exact and left adjoint to  $\varphi_*$ . The particular morphism  $\varphi: \text{Sh}(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$  constructed above, has the following additional property.

**Proposition 4.3** *There exists a functor  $\varphi_! : \text{Sh}(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$  which is left adjoint to  $\varphi^* : \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \text{Sh}(X)$ , i.e.,*

$$\text{Hom}_{\mathcal{T}}(\varphi_!(F), E) \cong \text{Hom}_{\text{Sh}(X)}(F, \varphi^*(E)) \quad (13)$$

for any sheaf  $F$  on  $X$  and any object  $E$  of the topos  $\mathcal{T}$ .

*Proof.* For the proof of this proposition, we will construct for each sheaf  $F$  on  $X$  an object  $\varphi_!(F)$  of the topos  $\mathcal{T}$ . Note that each basic open set  $U_{i,C} \subset X$  can be viewed as a sheaf on  $X$  (where the sheaf projection is the inclusion  $U_{i,C} \hookrightarrow X$ ). Furthermore, an arbitrary sheaf  $F$  is the colimit of such sheaves  $U_{i,C}$  (the colimit being taken over the poset of sections of  $F$  defined on basic open sets). Thus, since the desired left adjoint  $\varphi_!$  must necessarily commute with colimits, it suffices to construct  $\varphi_!(U_{i,C})$  for each basic open set  $U_{i,C}$  and prove the natural bijective correspondence of (13) in this special case:

$$\text{Hom}(\varphi_!(U_{i,C}), E) \cong \Gamma(U_{i,C}, \varphi^*(E)) \quad (14)$$

We define

$$\varphi_!(U_{i,C}) =_{\text{def}} C. \quad (15)$$

To prove (14) for this definition, we shall use the following two lemmas.

**Lemma 4.4** *Let  $U_{i,C}$  and  $U_{j,B}$  be two basic open sets in  $X$ , and suppose  $U_{j,B} \neq \emptyset$ . Then  $U_{j,B} \subset U_{i,C}$  iff the sequence  $i = (i_1, \dots, i_n)$  is a subsequence of  $j = (j_1, \dots, j_m)$ , and the corresponding projection  $G^m \rightarrow G^n$  maps  $B$  into  $C$ .*

*Proof.* The implication  $(\Leftarrow)$  is clear. For  $(\Rightarrow)$ , choose a point  $(p, \alpha) \in U_{j,B}$ . If  $i_k$  is any index in  $i$  which does not occur among  $(j_1, \dots, j_m)$ , let  $\alpha'$  be the restriction of  $\alpha$  to  $\text{dom}(\alpha) - \{i_k\}$ . Then  $(p, \alpha') \in U_{j,B}$  but  $(p, \alpha') \notin U_{i,C}$ . This shows that if  $U_{j,B} \subset U_{i,C}$  then  $i$  must be a subsequence of  $j$ . Now consider the projection  $\pi : G^m \rightarrow G^n$  coming from the fact that  $i$  is a subsequence of  $j$ . (Here we use that we can assume that both  $i$  and  $j$  do not contain repetitions, as explained just below (2).) To prove  $\pi(B) \subset C$ , it suffices to prove that, for each small point  $p$ ,

$$\pi_p(B_p) \subset C_p,$$

(because the stalks at the small points are jointly conservative, by assumption).

Take  $(g_1, \dots, g_m) \in B_p$ , and let  $\alpha \in \text{En}(G_p)$  be any enumeration with  $\alpha(j_k) = g_k$  ( $k = 1, \dots, m$ ). Then  $(p, \alpha) \in U_{j,B} \subset U_{i,C}$ , so  $\pi_p(g_1, \dots, g_m) = (\alpha(i_1), \dots, \alpha(i_n)) = \alpha(i) \in C_p$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 4.5** *Let  $U_{i,C}$  be a basic open set. Let  $\{U_{j_\xi, B_\xi}\}$  be a family of non-empty basic open subsets of  $U_{i,C}$ , with associated projections  $\pi_\xi : B_\xi \rightarrow C$  as in Lemma 4.4. Then  $U_{i,C}$  is covered by  $\{U_{j_\xi, B_\xi}\}$  in the space  $X$  iff  $\{\pi_\xi : B_\xi \rightarrow C\}$  is an epimorphic family in  $\mathcal{T}$ .*

*Proof.* To simplify notation, we just treat the case where  $i = i_1$  and  $C \subset G$ , while  $j = (i_1, j_\xi)$  is a sequence of length 2 and  $B_\xi \subset G^2$ . By Lemma 4.3, the projection  $\pi_2: G^2 \rightarrow G$  maps each  $B_\xi$  into  $C$ , giving a map  $\pi_\xi: B_\xi \rightarrow C$ .

Suppose now that  $U_{i,C} = \bigcup U_{j_\xi, B_\xi}$ . To show that  $\{\pi_\xi: B_\xi \rightarrow C\}$  is an epimorphic family, it suffices to prove, for each small point  $p$ ,

$$C_p = \bigcup_{\xi} \pi_\xi(B_\xi)_p.$$

Take any  $c \in C_p$ , and choose an enumeration  $\alpha \in \text{En}(G_p)$  with  $\alpha(i) = c$ . Then  $(p, \alpha) \in U_{i,C}$ , hence for some  $\xi$  also  $(p, \alpha) \in U_{j_\xi, B_\xi}$ . Thus  $j_\xi \in \text{dom}(\alpha)$  and  $b = (\alpha(i), \alpha(j_\xi)) \in (B_\xi)_p$ , whence  $c = \pi_\xi(b) \in \pi_\xi(B_\xi)_p$ , as desired.

The converse is similar.  $\square$

We now continue the proof of Proposition 4.3, and show the isomorphism (13) for  $\varphi_!(U_{i,C}) = C$ . In one direction, any map  $f: C \rightarrow E$  in  $\mathcal{T}$  defines a canonical section

$$\sigma_f: U_{i,C} \rightarrow \varphi^*(E), \quad \sigma_f(p, \alpha) = f_p(\alpha(i)), \quad (16)$$

(as in the proof of Lemma 2.2).

In the other direction, suppose  $\sigma: U_{i,C} \rightarrow \varphi^*(E)$  is an arbitrary section of  $\varphi^*(E)$ . Locally,  $\sigma$  must be a canonical section as described in §2. Thus, there is a cover

$$U_{i,C} = \bigcup_{\xi} U_{j_\xi, B_\xi} \quad (17)$$

and for each  $\xi$  a map

$$f_\xi: B_\xi \rightarrow E$$

so that

$$\sigma(p, \alpha) = (f_\xi)_p(\alpha(j_\xi)), \quad \text{for } (p, \alpha) \in U_{j_\xi, B_\xi}. \quad (18)$$

By Lemma 4.5, the identity (17) implies that the  $B_\xi$  form a cover of  $C$  in the topos  $\mathcal{T}$ . Let us simplify the notation as in the proof of Lemma 4.5, and write  $i = i_1$ ,  $j = (i_1, j_\xi)$ ,  $C \subset G$ ,  $B_\xi \subset G^2$ , and  $\pi_\xi: B_\xi \rightarrow C$  for the restriction of the first projection  $G^2 \rightarrow G$ . We claim that the maps  $f_\xi: B_\xi \rightarrow E$  form a compatible family for this cover  $\{B_\xi \rightarrow C\}$ , hence define a unique map  $f: C \rightarrow E$  with  $f \circ \pi_\xi = f_\xi$ . For this, it needs to be shown, for any two indices  $\xi$  and  $\zeta$ , that the square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} B_\xi \times_C B_\zeta & \xrightarrow{\pi_2} & B_\zeta \\ \pi_1 \downarrow & & \downarrow f_\zeta \\ B_\xi & \xrightarrow{f_\xi} & E \end{array} \quad (19)$$

commutes in  $\mathcal{T}$ . It suffices to check that the corresponding diagram of stalks commutes for every small point  $p$ . Choose such a point  $p$ , and consider an element

$b \in (B_\xi \times_C B_\zeta)_p$ . Write  $\pi_1(b) = (c, b_\xi) \in (B_\xi)_p$  and  $\pi_2(b) = (c, b_\zeta) \in (B_\zeta)_p$ . Choose now two enumerations  $\alpha, \beta \in \text{En}(G_p)$ , such that

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha(i) &= c, & \alpha(j_\xi) &= b_\xi, \\ \beta(i) &= c, & \beta(j_\zeta) &= b_\zeta.\end{aligned}$$

Then  $(p, \alpha) \in U_{j_\xi, B_\xi}$  and  $(p, \beta) \in U_{j_\zeta, B_\zeta}$ , so

$$\begin{aligned}(f_\xi \circ \pi_1)_p(b) &= (f_\xi)_p(c, b_\xi) \\ &= (f_\xi)_p(\alpha(i), \alpha(j_\xi)) \\ &= \sigma(p, \alpha) \quad (\text{by (18)}),\end{aligned}$$

and similarly  $(f_\zeta \circ \pi_2)_p(b) = \sigma(p, \beta)$ . But  $(p, \alpha), (p, \beta) \in U_{i, C}$ , while  $\alpha(i) = \beta(i)$ , so  $\sigma(p, \alpha) = \sigma(p, \beta)$  by Lemma 4.2. This proves that  $(f_\xi \circ \pi_1)_p(b) = (f_\zeta \circ \pi_2)_p(b)$  for any  $b \in (B_\xi \times_C B_\zeta)_p$ , and hence that (19) commutes. Thus the  $f_\xi$  together uniquely determine a map  $f = f_\sigma: C \rightarrow E$ .

It is now straightforward to check that these constructions, of  $\sigma_f$  from  $f$  and of  $f_\sigma$  from  $\sigma$ , are mutually inverse, and prove the required bijection (14).

This completes the proof of Proposition 4.2.  $\square$

Let us reconsider the square (11) at the beginning of this section. Since  $\text{En}(G_p)$  is a locally connected space (Lemma 3.3) the inverse image functor  $\pi^*: \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \text{Sh}(\text{En}(G_p))$ , which sends a set to the constant sheaf, has a left adjoint  $\pi_!: \text{Sh}(\text{En}(G_p)) \rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ . For a sheaf  $F$  on  $\text{En}(G_p)$ ,  $\pi_!(F)$  is simply the set of connected components of  $F$ , where  $F$  is viewed as an étale space over  $\text{En}(G_p)$ .

**Corollary 4.6** *For the square (11), the projection formula*

$$\pi_!(i_p)^* = p^* \varphi_!$$

*holds.*

*Proof.* First, a more precise formulation of this corollary should state that the canonical natural transformation

$$\pi_!(i_p)^*(F) \rightarrow p^* \varphi_!(F), \quad (20)$$

obtained from the isomorphism  $i_p^* \varphi^* \cong \pi^* p^*$  and the adjunctions, is an isomorphism. Since the functors in (20) all preserve colimits, it suffices to check that (20) is an isomorphism in case  $F$  is (the sheaf corresponding to) a basic open set  $U_{i, C}$ . But  $\pi_! i_p^*(U_{i, C})$  is the set of connected components of  $i_p^{-1}(U_{i, C})$ , and these are exactly the basic open sets  $V_g = \{\alpha \mid \alpha(i_1) = g_1, \dots, \alpha(i_n) = g_n\}$ , for  $g = (g_1, \dots, g_n) \in C_p \subset G_p^n$ , hence are in bijective correspondence with elements of  $C_p = p^*(C) = p^* \varphi_!(U_{i, C})$  by (15).  $\square$

## 5 Proof of the theorem

We will now prove the theorem, stated in the introduction and repeated here:

**Theorem 5.1** *For any sheaf of abelian groups  $A$  in  $\mathcal{T}$ , the morphism  $\varphi: \mathrm{Sh}(X_{\mathcal{T}}) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$  induces an isomorphism  $\varphi^*: \mathrm{H}^n(\mathcal{T}, A) \rightarrow \mathrm{H}^n(X_{\mathcal{T}}, \varphi^* A)$ , for any  $n \geq 0$ .*

For  $n = 0$ , this follows from

**Lemma 5.2** *The inverse image functor  $\varphi^*: \mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathrm{Sh}(X_{\mathcal{T}})$  is full and faithful.*

*Proof.* The statement of the lemma is equivalent to the assertion that the counit of the adjunction  $\varphi_! \varphi^*(E) \rightarrow E$  is an isomorphism, for every sheaf  $E$  on  $\mathcal{T}$ . It suffices to check this for the stalks at each small point  $p$ . But there we have

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_! \varphi^*(E)_p &= p^* \varphi_! \varphi^*(E) \\ &= \pi_!(i_p)^* \varphi^*(E) \quad (\text{by Corollary 4.6}) \\ &= \pi_! \pi^*(E_p) \quad (\text{by Lemma 4.1}) \\ &= E_p, \end{aligned}$$

the latter since  $\mathrm{En}(G_p)$  is connected (Lemma 3.3).  $\square$

Latter, we will have to compare the Čech complex of an open cover in  $X$  to its inverse image along the map  $i_p: \mathrm{En}(G_p) \rightarrow X$ , where  $p$  is any small point of the topos  $\mathcal{T}$ . We will use the following simple observation:

**Lemma 5.3** *Let  $U_1, \dots, U_n \subset U \subset X$  be basic open sets, and let  $V \subset i_p^{-1}(U)$  be a connected component. Then the connected components of  $i_p^{-1}(U_1 \cap \dots \cap U_n)$  contained in  $V$  are the non-empty intersections  $V_1 \cap \dots \cap V_n$ , where  $V_i \subset V$  is a component of  $i_p^{-1}(U_i)$ .*

*Proof.* We already observed (e.g. in the proofs of 4.1 and 4.5) that for any basic open set  $U \subset X$ , the connected components of  $i_p^{-1}(U)$  are basic open sets  $V$  in  $\mathrm{En}(G_p)$ . These basic open sets in  $\mathrm{En}(G_p)$  are all connected (Lemma 3.3) and closed under intersection. The lemma follows immediately from this.  $\square$

**Lemma 5.4** *Let  $I$  be any injective abelian sheaf in  $\mathcal{T}$ . Let  $U \subset X$  be a basic open set, and let  $\mathcal{U}$  be a cover of  $U$  by basic open sets. Then  $\mathrm{H}^n(\mathcal{U}, \varphi^*(I) \upharpoonright U) = 0$  for  $n > 0$ .*

*Proof.* Write  $\mathcal{U} = \{U_\sigma \mid \sigma \in \Sigma\}$ , and  $N_n(\mathcal{U}) = \sum_{\sigma_0 \dots \sigma_n} U_{\sigma_0 \dots \sigma_n}$  where the sum is over all  $(n+1)$ -tuples of indices, and  $U_{\sigma_0 \dots \sigma_n} = U_{\sigma_0} \cap \dots \cap U_{\sigma_n}$ . Viewing each  $U_{\sigma_0 \dots \sigma_n}$  as an object of  $\mathrm{Sh}(X)$ , we see that  $N_\bullet(\mathcal{U})$  is a simplicial object in  $\mathrm{Sh}(X)$ . The Čech complex  $C^n(\mathcal{U}, \varphi^*(I) \upharpoonright U)$  computing  $\mathrm{H}^*(\mathcal{U}, \varphi^*(I) \upharpoonright U)$  can now be described as

$$\begin{aligned} C^n(\mathcal{U}, \varphi^*(I) \upharpoonright U) &= \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Sh}(X)}(N_n(\mathcal{U}), \varphi^*(I)) \\ &= \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{T}}(\varphi_! N_n(\mathcal{U}), I), \end{aligned}$$

the latter by the adjunction of 4.3. To prove the lemma, it thus suffices to show that the associated chain complex  $\mathbb{Z}[\varphi_! N_\bullet(\mathcal{U})]$  of abelian groups in  $\mathcal{T}$  is exact at  $n > 0$ . It is enough to check this for the stalk at each small point  $p$ . But

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{Z}[\varphi_! N_n(\mathcal{U})]_p &= \mathbb{Z}[\varphi_!(N_n(\mathcal{U}))_p] \\ &= \mathbb{Z}[\pi_!(i_p)^* N_n(\mathcal{U})], \quad (\text{by Corollary 4.6}), \end{aligned}$$

which is the chain complex of the simplicial set  $\pi_! i_p^*(N_\bullet(\mathcal{U}))$ . Now

$$\pi_! i_p^*(N_n(\mathcal{U})) = \{(\sigma_0 \dots \sigma_n, W) \mid W \text{ a connected component of } i_p^{-1}(U_{\sigma_0 \dots \sigma_n})\}.$$

For each connected component  $V \subset i_p^{-1}(U)$ , let  $\mathcal{U}_V$  be the cover of  $V$  by connected components  $W \subset i_p^*(U_\sigma)$ , for all  $\sigma \in \Sigma$ . By Lemma 5.3,  $\pi_! i_p^*(N_\bullet(\mathcal{U}))$  is the disjoint sum of the Čech nerves of these covers  $\mathcal{U}_V$ , and these nerves are acyclic by Proposition 3.5. Thus  $\pi_! i_p^*(N_\bullet(\mathcal{U}))$  is acyclic also, and the lemma is proved.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 5.1.* By general homological algebra, it suffices to show that for any injective abelian group  $I$  in  $\mathcal{T}$  the sheaf cohomology groups  $H^n(X, \varphi^*(I))$  vanish for  $n > 0$ . By Lemma 5.4, the sheaf  $\varphi^*(I) \upharpoonright U$  is ‘Čech–acyclic’ for each basic open set  $U \subset X$ . The result follows by applying Cartan’s criterion [1], Proposition V.4.3, [3], Théorème 5.9.2.  $\square$

As stated in §1, the argument actually proves the somewhat stronger assertion that the higher right derived functors of  $\varphi_*: \text{Sh}(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$  vanish. Before stating this as Corollary 5.6 below, we observe the following corollary.

**Corollary 5.5** *Let  $E$  be any sheaf (of sets) in  $\mathcal{T}$ . Then in the pullback of topoi*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Sh}(\varphi^* E) & \xrightarrow{\pi} & \text{Sh}(X) \\ \varphi_E \downarrow & & \downarrow \varphi \\ \mathcal{T}/E & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{T} \end{array}$$

*the map  $\varphi_E$  induces isomorphisms*

$$H^n(\mathcal{T}/E, A) \xrightarrow{\cong} H^n(\varphi^*(E), \varphi_E^*(A)),$$

*for any abelian sheaf  $A$  in  $\mathcal{T}/E$ .*

Here  $\mathcal{T}/E$  denotes the ‘‘induced topos’’ ([1], Exposé IV.5) of  $\mathcal{T}$ –objects over  $E$ , and  $\mathcal{T}/E \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$  is the canonical morphism (*loc. cit.* (5.2.1)).

*Proof.* We claim that the map  $\varphi_E$  is again of the form  $\varphi: \text{Sh}(X_{\mathcal{T}}) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$  so that Corollary 5.5 is actually a special case of Theorem 5.1. More precisely,  $\varphi_E: \text{Sh}(\varphi^* E) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}/E$  is precisely the map  $\text{Sh}(X_{(\mathcal{T}/E)}) \rightarrow \mathcal{T}/E$ , for a suitable choice of the various parameters. Indeed, suppose  $X_{\mathcal{T}}$  is defined using the set of small points  $\mathcal{P}$ , the object  $G$  so that subsheaves of  $G^n$  generate  $\mathcal{T}$ , and the index set  $I$ .

Then  $H = (G \times E \rightarrow E)$  is an object of  $\mathcal{T}/E$  so that subsheaves of  $H^n$  generate  $\mathcal{T}/E$ . Moreover, the points of  $\mathcal{T}/E$  are in bijective correspondence with pairs  $(p, e)$ , where  $p$  is a point of  $\mathcal{T}$  and  $e \in E_p$ . For such a pair  $(p, e)$ , the stalk of an object  $(f: F \rightarrow E)$  at  $(p, e)$  is given by

$$(f: F \rightarrow E)_{(p,e)} = f_p^{-1}(e) \subset E_p.$$

In particular,  $H_{(p,e)} = G_p$  for each  $e$ . Now for the set of small points of  $\mathcal{T}/E$  we can take all these pairs  $(p, e)$  where  $p \in \mathcal{P}$ , and we can then take the same index set  $I$ .

The space  $X_{(\mathcal{T}/E)}$  defined from these choices then is the space of triples  $(p, e, \alpha)$ , where  $p$  is a small point of  $\mathcal{T}$ ,  $e \in E_p$ , and  $\alpha \in \text{En}(H_{(p,e)}) = \text{En}(G_p)$ . But this is exactly the space  $\varphi^*(E)$  defined in §2. Further details are straightforward.  $\square$

**Corollary 5.6** *For any abelian sheaf  $A$  in  $\mathcal{T}$ , and any  $n > 0$ ,*

$$(R^n \varphi_*)(\varphi^* A) = 0.$$

*Proof.* As before, it suffices to prove this for  $A$  injective. For an arbitrary sheaf  $B$  on  $X$ ,  $R^n \varphi_*(B)$  is the associated sheaf of the presheaf

$$E \mapsto H^n(\varphi^*(E), \pi^*(B))$$

(where  $\pi: \varphi^*(E) \rightarrow X$  is the sheaf projection); see [1], Proposition V.5.1 and [7], Lemma 8.18. For  $B = \varphi^*(I)$  where  $I$  is injective, the result thus follows from Corollary 5.5.  $\square$

## 6 Étale cohomology

By way of example, we will give an explicit description of the space  $X_{\mathcal{T}}$  in the case where  $\mathcal{T}$  is the étale topos over a scheme. The main reference for this section is Grothendieck's Exposé VIII in [1]. For basic properties of strictly henselian local rings and strict henselization, see [11].

Fix a ground field  $k$ , and a scheme  $Y$  (over  $k$ ). Let  $Y_{\text{ét}}$  be the étale site over  $Y$ , and let  $\widetilde{Y}_{\text{ét}}$  be the associated étale topos. For a point  $y \in Y$ ,  $k(y)$  denotes the residue field of the local ring  $\mathcal{O}_{Y,y}$ , and  $\overline{k(y)}$  its separable closure. The Galois group  $\text{Gal}(\overline{k(y)}/k(y))$  is denoted by  $\pi_y$ .

The functor  $A$  on  $Y_{\text{ét}}$  which associates to each object  $f: Z \rightarrow Y$  of the étale site the ring  $\Gamma(Z, f^*(\mathcal{O}_Y))$  is a sheaf, and defines a local ring  $A$  in the topos  $\widetilde{Y}_{\text{ét}}$ . The functor  $A^{\text{hs}}$  on  $Y_{\text{ét}}$  which associates to  $f: Z \rightarrow Y$  the ring  $\Gamma(Z, \mathcal{O}_Z)$  is again a sheaf, and a strictly henselian local ring in  $\widetilde{Y}_{\text{ét}}$  [5]. The extension  $A \rightarrow A^{\text{hs}}$  is a universal strict henselization of  $\mathcal{O}_Y$  in the topos  $\widetilde{Y}_{\text{ét}}$ . The sheaf  $A^{\text{hs}}$  will play the role of the object  $G$ .

The étale topos has enough points. We recall from [1], Exposé VIII, that each point  $y \in Y$  defines first a geometric point  $\overline{y}: \text{Spec}(\overline{k(y)}) \rightarrow Y$  of the scheme  $Y$ , and then a point of the topos  $\widetilde{Y}_{\text{ét}}$ , whose inverse image functor is the composition

$$\Gamma \circ \overline{y}^*: \widetilde{Y}_{\text{ét}} \rightarrow \widetilde{\text{Spec}(\overline{k(y)})}_{\text{ét}} \rightarrow \mathcal{S},$$



and denoted  $F \mapsto F_{\overline{y}}$ . By *loc. cit.*, Corollaire VIII.3.6, the set of all these points is jointly conservative. So we can take this set of points  $y \in Y$  for the set  $\mathcal{P}$ .

Consider again the extension  $A \rightarrow A^{\text{hs}}$  in the topos  $\widetilde{Y}_{\text{ét}}$ . As explained in [1], Exposé VIII.4, for any  $y \in Y$  the stalk map  $A_{\overline{y}} \rightarrow A_{\overline{y}}^{\text{hs}}$  is a (the) strict henselization of  $\mathcal{O}_{Y,y} = A_{\overline{y}}$ , relative to the separable closure  $k(y) \hookrightarrow \overline{k(y)}$ . Thus we will write  $\mathcal{O}_{Y,y}^{\text{hs}}$  for  $A_{\overline{y}}^{\text{hs}}$ , and we will identify  $\mathcal{O}_{Y,y}$  with a subset of  $\mathcal{O}_{Y,y}^{\text{hs}}$ .

By the universal property of the strict henselization [4], §18, [11], Section VIII.2, the group  $\pi_y$  acts on  $\mathcal{O}_{Y,y}^{\text{hs}}$ , say from the left. The local ring  $\mathcal{O}_{Y,y} \subset \mathcal{O}_{Y,y}^{\text{hs}}$  is fixed under this action.

Let  $I$  be a set whose cardinality is at least as big as that of all these strict henselizations  $\mathcal{O}_{Y,y}^{\text{hs}}$ .

We can now describe the space  $X = X_{\mathcal{T}}$  of Theorem 5.1 in this special case where  $\mathcal{T} = \widetilde{Y}_{\text{ét}}$ . Let  $y \in Y$ , and consider all functions (“enumerations”)  $\alpha: \text{dom}(\alpha) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{Y,y}^{\text{hs}}$  defined on a subset  $\text{dom}(\alpha) \subset I$ ; and with the property that  $\alpha^{-1}(b)$  is infinite for each  $b \in \mathcal{O}_{Y,y}^{\text{hs}}$ . Call two such enumerations  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  equivalent,  $\alpha \sim \beta$ , if  $\text{dom}(\alpha) = \text{dom}(\beta)$ , and if there is a  $g \in \pi_y$  so that  $g \cdot \alpha(i) = \beta(i)$  for each  $i \in \text{dom}(\alpha)$ . The points of the space  $X$  are defined to be equivalence classes of pairs  $(y, \alpha)$ , with  $(y, \alpha)$  equivalent to  $(z, \beta)$  iff  $y = z$  and  $\alpha \sim \beta$ .

In this particular case, the topology of the space  $X$ , defined in general in §2, can be described more explicitly by using standard étale extensions. Fix for this an affine open  $U = \text{Spec}(R)$  of  $Y$  and (for some  $n$ ) polynomials  $p_1, \dots, p_n$  in  $R[T_1, \dots, T_n]$  such that the determinant  $\det(J)$  of the Jacobian  $J = (\partial p_j / \partial T_k)_{j,k}$  is invertible in  $R[T_1, \dots, T_n]/(p_1, \dots, p_n)$ . Moreover, we fix a finite sequence of indices  $i = (i_1, \dots, i_n)$ . Together these data define the open set

$$V = \{(y, \alpha) \mid y \in U, i_1, \dots, i_n \in \text{dom}(\alpha), \\ \text{and } p_k(\alpha(i_1), \dots, \alpha(i_n)) = 0 \text{ for } k = 1, \dots, n \}.$$

Note that this makes sense, since each  $p_k$  has coefficients in  $R$ , and  $R$  maps to the localization  $R_y = \mathcal{O}_{Y,y}$  and then to  $\mathcal{O}_{Y,y}^{\text{hs}}$ . Thus  $p_k$  can be evaluated at the tuple  $(\alpha(i_1), \dots, \alpha(i_n))$ . These open sets of the form  $V$  generate the topology on  $X$ .

The construction of §2 gives for each étale sheaf  $E \in \widetilde{Y}_{\text{ét}}$  a sheaf  $\varphi^*(E)$  on this topological space  $X$ , with stalks

$$\varphi^*(E)_{(y,\alpha)} = E_{\overline{y}}.$$

Our theorem asserts that there is a natural isomorphism

$$H^n(Y_{\text{ét}}, A) \cong H^n(X, \varphi^* A),$$

for any abelian sheaf  $A$  on  $Y_{\text{ét}}$  and any  $n \geq 0$ .

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