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# TOPOSES ARE COHOMOLOGICALLY EQUIVALENT TO SPACES

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This purpose of this paper is to prove that for every Grothendieck topos  $\mathcal{E}$  there exist a space  $X$  and a covering  $\varphi: X \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$  which induces an isomorphism in cohomology

$$H^n(\mathcal{E}, A) \xrightarrow{\sim} H^n(X, \varphi^*A) \quad (n \geq 0)$$

for any abelian group  $A$  in  $\mathcal{E}$ . Moreover for  $n = 1$  this is also true for nonabelian  $A$ . This implies, by a result of Artin and Mazur, that  $\varphi$  induces an isomorphism of étale homotopy groups.

**1. Construction of the cover.** Let  $\mathcal{E}$  be a Grothendieck topos, and let  $G$  be an object of  $\mathcal{E}$ .  $\text{En}(G)$  is the space (in this paper ‘space’ means space in the sense of [JT], chapter IV, unless explicitly said otherwise) of infinite-to-one partial enumerations of  $G$ ; in other words,  $\text{En}(G)$  is characterized by the property that for any map  $f: \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$  of toposes, the points of the induced space  $f^*(\text{En}(G))$  in  $\mathcal{F}$  correspond to diagrams  $\mathbf{N} \leftarrow\leftarrow U \rightarrow\rightarrow f^*G$  in  $\mathcal{F}$  with the property that for any  $n \in \mathbf{N}$ ,  $U - \{0, \dots, n\} \rightarrow f^*G$  is still epi. We write  $\mathcal{E}[\text{En}(G)]$  for the category of sheaves in  $\mathcal{E}$  on the space  $\text{En}(G)$ , and  $\varphi: \mathcal{E}[\text{En}(G)] \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$  for the corresponding geometric morphism. The properties of the space  $\text{En}(G)$  and the map  $\varphi$  were extensively discussed in [JM]. For the present purpose, we recall the following basic facts. First of all, for a suitable object  $G$  of  $\mathcal{E}$ ,  $\mathcal{E}[\text{En}(G)]$  is equivalent to the topos  $\text{Sh}(X_{\mathcal{E}})$  of sheaves on a space  $X_{\mathcal{E}}$  in  $\text{Sets}$ , so that  $\varphi$  corresponds to a cover

$$(1) \quad \varphi: \text{Sh}(X_{\mathcal{E}}) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}.$$

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This geometric morphism is connected and locally connected; in particular,  $\varphi^*: \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \text{Sh}(X_{\mathcal{E}})$  has a left adjoint  $\varphi_!$  such that for any  $E \in \mathcal{E}$  and  $S \in \text{Sh}(X_{\mathcal{E}})$ ,

$$(2) \quad \varphi_!(\varphi^*(E) \times S) \cong E \times \varphi_!(S).$$

For any  $G$  in  $\mathcal{E}$ , there exists a surjective geometric morphism  $p: \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$  where  $\mathcal{B}$  is the category of sheaves on a complete Boolean algebra (Barr's theorem, [B]), such that  $p^*G$  is countable (cf. [JT]).  $\mathcal{B}$  is a model of set theory, and the induced space  $\text{En}(p^*G) \cong p^{\#}(\text{En}(G))$  in  $\mathcal{B}$  has enough points, i.e. is an ordinary topological space, which can be described as follows: the points of  $\text{En}(p^*(G))$  are functions  $\alpha: U \rightarrow p^*G$  with  $U \subset \mathbf{N}$  and  $\alpha^{-1}(g)$  infinite for all  $g \in p^*(G)$ ; the basic open sets are the sets of the form  $V_u = \{\alpha \mid \forall i \in \text{domain}(u): i \in U \text{ and } \alpha(i) = u(i)\}$ , where  $u$  ranges over all functions  $u: K \rightarrow p^*G$  defined on a finite set  $K \subset \mathbf{N}$ . It is not difficult to prove that each basic open set  $V_u$  (in particular, the space itself,  $V_{\phi}$ ) is contractible ([JM]).

**2. Relative Čech cohomology.** In this section, let  $Y$  be a space in a topos  $\mathcal{E}$ . One can define the relative Čech cohomology groups of  $Y$  with coefficients in an abelian group object in  $\mathcal{E}[Y]$ , i.e. a sheaf (or in fact, just a presheaf) of abelian groups on  $Y$  in  $\mathcal{E}$ ,

$$\check{H}_{\mathcal{E}}^n(Y, A).$$

These cohomology groups are group objects in  $\mathcal{E}$ . Their construction is completely parallel to the usual construction of the Čech cohomology groups of a topological space; indeed, the latter construction immediately translates to the context of a space in a topos  $\mathcal{E}$ , by viewing  $\mathcal{E}$  as a universe for (constructive) set theory (cf. [BJ]).

More explicitly, let  $S \in \mathcal{E}$  and let  $\mathcal{U}: S \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(Y)$  be an open cover of  $Y$  indexed by  $S$ . Let  $A$  be a (pre)sheaf of abelian groups on  $Y$  in  $\mathcal{E}$ ; so  $A$  is given by a map  $A \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(Y)$  in  $\mathcal{E}$  equipped with the structure of a (pre)sheaf. Let

$$\mathcal{U}_p: S_p = S \times \cdots \times S \xrightarrow{\mathcal{U}^{p+1}} \mathcal{O}(Y)^{p+1} \xrightarrow{\wedge} \mathcal{O}(Y)$$

- p+1 -

be the map in  $\mathcal{E}$  obtained from  $\mathcal{U}$  by intersection in  $Y$ , and let

$$(3) \quad C^p(\mathcal{U}, A) = \prod_{S_p} (A \times_{\mathcal{O}(Y)} S_p \rightarrow S_p)$$

where  $\Pi_{S_p}: \mathcal{C}/S_p \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  is the right adjoint of the functor  $S_p^*: \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}/S_p$  (cf. [J], p. 36). The  $C^p(\mathcal{U}, A)$ ,  $p \geq 0$ , give a cochain complex  $C^0(\mathcal{U}, A) \rightarrow C^1(\mathcal{U}, A) \rightarrow \dots$  in the usual way, with the differential defined via alternating sums. The cohomology groups of this complex are denoted by  $H_{\mathcal{C}}^n(\mathcal{U}, A)$ . One may now take the colimit of these groups over the *internal* diagram in  $\mathcal{C}$  of all open covers of  $\mathcal{O}(Y)$  (so this involves internal covers of  $Y$  in  $\mathcal{C}/E$  for arbitrary  $E$ !), and obtain the relative Čech cohomology groups

$$(4) \quad \check{H}_{\mathcal{C}}^n(Y, A) = \lim_{\rightarrow \mathcal{U}} H_{\mathcal{C}}^n(\mathcal{U}, A) \quad (p \geq 0).$$

Straightforward modifications of the standard argument show that these cohomology groups have the usual properties. For instance, if we write  $\varphi: \mathcal{C}[Y] \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  for the canonical geometric morphism and  $e_E: \mathcal{C}/E \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  for the geometric morphism given by  $e_E^* = E^* = (X \mapsto X \times E \xrightarrow{\pi_2} E)$ , then for any open cover  $\mathcal{U}$  of  $e_E^*(Y)$  in  $\mathcal{C}/E$ ,

$$(5) \quad H_{\mathcal{C}/E}^0(\mathcal{U}, e_E^*(A)) \cong e_E^* \varphi_* A,$$

where  $E$  is any object of  $\mathcal{C}$ ; hence

$$(6) \quad H_{\mathcal{C}}^0(Y, A) \cong \varphi_* A.$$

And for an injective object  $I$  of the category  $\underline{\text{Ab}} \mathcal{C}[Y]$  of abelian sheaves on  $Y$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ ,

$$(7) \quad H_{\mathcal{C}/E}^n(\mathcal{U}, e_E^* I) = 0 \quad (n > 0)$$

for any  $E$  in  $\mathcal{C}$  and any open cover  $\mathcal{U}$  of  $e_E^*(Y)$  in  $\mathcal{C}/E$ , so

$$(8) \quad \check{H}_{\mathcal{C}}^n(Y, I) = 0 \quad (n > 0)$$

**3. A relative Cartan-Leray spectral sequence.** As before, let  $Y$  be a space in a topos  $\mathcal{C}$ , and let  $\varphi: \mathcal{C}[Y] \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  be the corresponding

geometric morphism.  $\mathcal{E}[Y]$  is a subtopos of the topos  $\mathcal{E}^{0(Y)^{op}}$  of presheaves on  $\mathcal{O}(Y)$  in  $\mathcal{E}$ , and we write  $i: \mathcal{E}[Y] \hookrightarrow \mathcal{E}^{0(Y)^{op}}$  for the inclusion. The following is a relative version of SGA4, exp V, p. 24.

LEMMA 1. *For any abelian group  $A$  in  $\mathcal{E}[Y]$ , there exists a spectral sequence*

$$E_2^{p,q} = \check{H}_{\mathcal{E}}^p(Y, R^q i_*(A)) \Rightarrow R^{p+q} \varphi_*(A).$$

*Proof.* Let  $0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow I$  be an injective resolution of  $A$  in  $\underline{\mathbf{Ab}} \mathcal{E}[Y]$ . For an open cover  $\mathcal{U}$  of  $Y$  in  $\mathcal{E}$ , one has a double complex of abelian groups  $C^{p,q}(\mathcal{U}) = C^p(\mathcal{U}, I^q)$  (cf. (3)). By (5) and (7) above, the cohomology of the total complex is  $H^n H^0(C^{**}(\mathcal{U})) = R^n \varphi_*(A)$ , so we obtain a spectral sequence

$$(9) \quad E_2^{p,q}(\mathcal{U}) = H^p H^q(C^{**}(\mathcal{U})) = H_{\mathcal{E}}^p(\mathcal{U}, R^q i_* A) \Rightarrow R^{p+q} \varphi_*(A)$$

in the standard way ([G]). The same applies to open covers of  $e_E^\#(Y)$  in  $\mathcal{E}/E$  for any object  $E$  of  $\mathcal{E}$ , so by taking the internal colimit in  $\mathcal{E}$  over all open covers of  $Y$ , we obtain a spectral sequence as stated in the lemma.

Now let  $\mathbf{B} \subset \mathcal{O}(Y)$  be a basis for  $Y$  in  $\mathcal{E}$  which is closed under binary meets. Call  $\mathbf{B}$   $A$ -acyclic if for every morphism  $B: E \rightarrow \mathbf{B}$  in  $\mathcal{E}$ ,

$$(10) \quad \check{H}_{\mathcal{E}/E}^p(B, A|B) = 0. \quad (q > 0)$$

In (10),  $B$  stands for the open subspace of  $e_E^\#(Y)$  determined by the given morphism  $B: E \rightarrow \mathbf{B} \subset \mathcal{O}(Y)$ , and  $A|B \in \underline{\mathbf{Ab}}((\mathcal{E}/E)[B])$  is the sheaf induced by  $A$ .

$$(11) \quad \begin{array}{ccccc} (\mathcal{E}/E)[B] & \hookrightarrow & (\mathcal{E}/E)[e_E^\# Y] & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{E}[Y] \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \varphi \\ & & (\mathcal{E}/E) & \xrightarrow{e_E} & \mathcal{E} \end{array}$$

LEMMA 2. *If  $\mathbf{B}$  is an  $A$ -acyclic basis for  $Y$  as above, then  $\check{H}_{\mathcal{E}}^p(Y, A) \cong R^p \varphi_* A$ , for all  $p \geq 0$ .*

*Proof.* We show by induction on  $n$  that  $E_2^{p,q} = 0$  for all  $p$  and all  $q$  with  $0 < q < n$ , in the spectral sequence of Lemma 1. Suppose this holds for  $n$ . Then (cf. [CE], p. 328)  $\check{H}_{\mathcal{E}}^i(Y, A) = R^i\varphi_*A$  for  $i < n$ , and there is an exact sequence  $0 \rightarrow \check{H}_{\mathcal{E}}^n(Y, A) \rightarrow R^n\varphi_*A \rightarrow E_2^{0,n} \rightarrow \check{H}_{\mathcal{E}}^{n+1}(Y, A) \rightarrow R^{n+1}\varphi_*A$ . But  $E_2^{0,n} = \check{H}_{\mathcal{E}}^0(Y, R^n i_*A) \twoheadrightarrow \varphi_* i^* R^n i_*(A) = \varphi_* R^n i^* i_*(A) = \varphi_*(0) = 0$  ( $n > 0$ ), so  $\check{H}_{\mathcal{E}}^n(Y, A) \cong R^n\varphi_*A$ . Applying this argument not to  $Y$ , but to any open subspace  $B$  (for any morphism  $B: E \rightarrow \mathbf{B}$ , cf the diagram (11)), our assumption on  $\mathbf{B}$  gives that  $R^n i_*(A) |_{\mathbf{B}} = 0$ , where  $(-)|_{\mathbf{B}}$  denotes the restriction functor  $\mathcal{E}^{0(X)^{op}} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}^{\mathbf{B}^{op}}$ . Thus if in the spectral sequence (9) above,  $\mathcal{U}$  is a cover consisting of basic opens from  $\mathbf{B}$ , then  $E_2^{p,n}(\mathcal{U}) = H_E^p(\mathcal{U}, 0) = 0$  for all  $p$ . Since such covers consisting of basic opens are cofinal in the internal system of all covers, it follows by passing to the colimit that  $E_2^{p,n} = 0$  (all  $p$ ) in the spectral sequence of Lemma 1. So the inductive statement in the beginning of the proof holds for  $n + 1$ , and Lemma 2 is proved.

*Remark.* Let  $Y$  be a space in  $\mathcal{E}$ , as above. Recall (see [JT]) that an open  $U \subset Y$  is called surjective if it holds in  $\mathcal{E}$  that every cover of  $U$  is inhabited. If  $A$  is a sheaf on  $Y$  and  $\{U_\alpha: \alpha \in \mathcal{A}\}$  is a family of opens, then  $\Pi\{A(U_\alpha) | \alpha \in \mathcal{A}\} \cong \Pi\{A(U_\alpha) | \alpha \in \mathcal{A}, U_\alpha \text{ surjective}\}$  (where  $\Pi$  is the internal product  $\mathcal{E}/\mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ , as in Section 2). This is analogous to the fact that for  $\mathcal{E} = \mathbf{Sets}$ ,  $A(U) = \{*\}$  if the empty set covers  $U$ . Therefore in Lemma 2 it is enough to assume that  $\mathbf{B}$  is closed under surjective binary meets (i.e.  $B \wedge B' \in \mathbf{B}$  whenever  $B$  and  $B' \in \mathbf{B}$  and  $B \wedge B'$  is surjective), since by this isomorphism, surjective intersections are the only ones that need to be considered in the complexes  $C^{p,q}(\mathcal{U})$ .

**4. The main theorem.** Let  $\mathcal{E}$  be a Grothendieck topos, and let  $X_{\mathcal{E}}$  be the space constructed in Section 1. In the following theorem,  $H^q(X_{\mathcal{E}}, -)$  denotes the sheaf cohomology of  $X_{\mathcal{E}}$ .

**THEOREM.** *The geometric morphism  $\varphi: \mathbf{Sh}(X_{\mathcal{E}}) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$  has the property that for any abelian group  $A$  in  $\mathcal{E}$ ,  $R^q\varphi_*(\varphi^*A) = 0$  for  $q > 0$  (for  $q = 0$ ,  $R^q\varphi_*(\varphi^*A) \cong A$ ); consequently,  $\varphi$  induces an isomorphism*

$$H^q(\mathcal{E}, A) \xrightarrow{\sim} H^q(X_{\mathcal{E}}, \varphi^*A)$$

for each  $q \geq 0$ .

*Proof.* The second statement follows from the first by the Leray spectral sequence (SGA4, exp V, p. 35). The first statement is a special case (by construction of  $X_{\mathcal{E}}$ ) of the general fact that for any object  $G$  in  $\mathcal{E}$ , the corresponding geometric morphism  $\varphi: \mathcal{E}[\text{En}(G)] \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$  induces isomorphisms  $H^q(\mathcal{E}, A) \xrightarrow{\sim} H^q(\mathcal{E}[E(G)], \varphi^*A)$ , for any abelian group  $A$  in  $\mathcal{E}$  and any  $q \geq 0$ . Let  $\mathbf{B}$  be the basis consisting of opens of the form  $V_u$  ( $u$  a finite partial function from  $\mathbf{N}$  to  $G$ , cf. [JM]).  $\text{En}(G) = V_\phi \in \mathbf{B}$ , and  $V_u \wedge V_w$  is surjective iff  $u$  and  $w$  are compatible finite functions, and in that case  $V_u \wedge V_w = V_{u \cup w}$ , so  $\mathbf{B}$  is closed under surjective finite meets (cf. the remark in Section 3).

We will show that for any injective object  $I$  of  $\underline{\text{Ab}}(\mathcal{E})$  and any  $q > 0$

$$(12) \quad R^q \varphi_*(\varphi^* I) = 0.$$

This is enough, because  $\varphi$  is connected, i.e.  $\varphi_* \varphi^* \cong \text{id}$ , and (12) says that  $\varphi^*$  maps injectives to  $\varphi_*$ -acyclic objects, so there is a spectral sequence ( $[G]$ ) for the composition  $\varphi^* \circ \varphi_*$ ,  $E_2^{p,q} = (R^p \varphi_*)(R^q \varphi^*)A \Rightarrow R^{p+q}(\varphi_* \varphi^*)A$ ;  $\varphi^*$  is exact and  $\varphi_* \varphi^* \cong \text{id}$ , so  $E_2^{p,q} = 0$  for  $q > 0$  and  $E_2^{p,0} = R^p(\text{id})(A) = 0$  for  $p > 0$ . Thus  $R^p \varphi_*(\varphi^* A) = 0$  for  $p > 0$ .

To prove (12), let  $I$  be an injective in  $\underline{\text{Ab}} \mathcal{E}$ , and let  $\mathcal{U}$  be an open cover of  $\text{En}(G)$  by basic opens, say  $\mathcal{U}: S \rightarrow \mathbf{B} \subset \mathcal{O}(Y)$  as in Section 2. Let us consider the nerve  $N(\mathcal{U})$  of  $\mathcal{U}$ . This is the simplicial complex in  $\mathcal{E}$  defined as follows:  $S = (S_p, p \geq 0)$  is a simplicial complex in  $\mathcal{E}$ , with as face  $d_i: S_p \rightarrow S_{p-1}$  the projection  $S^{p+1} \rightarrow S^p$  which deletes the  $i$ -th coordinate. The morphism  $\mathcal{U}_p: S_p \rightarrow \mathbf{B} \subset \mathcal{O}(Y)$  can be viewed as an  $S_p$ -indexed sum of subobjects of the terminal object 1 of  $\mathcal{E}[Y]$ , and we write  $\sum_{S_p} \mathcal{U}_p$  for their internal sum. Then

$$N_p(\mathcal{U}) = \varphi_!(\sum_{S_p} \mathcal{U}_p),$$

and the faces and degeneracies of  $S$  give  $N(\mathcal{U})$  the structure of a simplicial complex over  $\mathcal{E}$ . Moreover,

$$(13) \quad C^p(\mathcal{U}, \varphi^* I) \cong I^{N_p(\mathcal{U})}.$$

(cf. (2)), where the differentials on the left correspond to the differentials obtained on the right by alternating sums from the cofaces of the co-

simplicial object  $I^{N(\mathcal{U})}$ . We claim that  $C^p(\mathcal{U}, \varphi^*I)$  is an acyclic complex. Since  $I$  is injective, it suffices to prove that  $\text{Free}(N\mathcal{U})$  is an acyclic chain complex in  $\underline{\text{Ab}}(\mathcal{E})$ , where  $\text{Free}(-)$  denotes the free abelian group functor. To this end, let  $p: \mathcal{B} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$  be a Boolean extension as at the end of Section 1, and consider the pullback square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{B}[\text{En}(p^*G)] & \xrightarrow{p} & \mathcal{E}[\text{En}(G)] \\ \psi \downarrow & & \downarrow \varphi \\ \mathcal{B} & \xrightarrow{p} & \mathcal{E}. \end{array}$$

Since  $\varphi$  is locally connected so is  $\psi$ , and the Beck-Chevalley condition holds, i.e.

$$p^*\varphi_! \cong \psi_! p^*.$$

Consequently, if we write  $\mathcal{U}'$  for the cover of  $\text{En}(p^*G)$  induced by  $\mathcal{U}$  via pullback along  $p$ , we have  $p^*(\text{Free}(N\mathcal{U})) \cong \text{Free}(N\mathcal{U}')$ . But  $\mathcal{B}$  is a model for set theory (with the axiom of choice), so we are now in a position to apply results from classical topology: the cover  $\mathcal{U}'$  of  $\text{En}(p^*G)$  is a cover by basic opens, and  $\text{En}(p^*G)$  as well as each of its basic open subspaces are contractible, so the nerve  $N(\mathcal{U}')$  of this cover is a contractible simplicial set, and  $\text{Free}(N\mathcal{U}')$  is an acyclic chain complex. Since  $p^*(\text{Free}(N\mathcal{U})) = \text{Free}(N\mathcal{U}')$  and  $p^*$  is faithful, it follows that  $\text{Free}(N\mathcal{U})$  is acyclic, as was to be shown.

Now apply this argument not just to  $\text{En}(G)$ , but to any basic open  $B \subset e_E^\#(\text{En}(G))$  and any  $E \in \mathcal{E}$  (cf (11), where  $Y = \text{En}(G)$  now). Then we conclude that  $\mathbf{B}$  is an  $I$ -acyclic basis. (12) now follows by Lemma 2, since the whole space  $\text{En}(G)$  is a member of  $\mathbf{B}$ . This completes the proof of the theorem.

**5. Torsors.** Let  $G$  be a group in a topos  $\mathcal{E}$ . A  $G$ -torsor in  $\mathcal{E}$  (or principal  $G$ -bundle over  $\mathcal{E}$ ) is an object  $T$  of  $\mathcal{E}$  equipped with an action  $\mu: G \times T \rightarrow T$  of  $G$  such that  $T \rightarrow 1$  is epi and  $(\mu, \pi_2): G \times T \rightarrow T \times T$  is an isomorphism. Recall ([Gi]) that  $H^1(\mathcal{E}, G)$  is the pointed set of isomorphism classes of  $G$ -torsors (this is a group if  $G$  is abelian). For a space  $X$  and a sheaf of groups  $G$  on  $X$ ,  $H^1(X, G)$  stands for  $H^1(\text{Sh}(X), G)$ .



**THEOREM.** *Let  $\mathcal{E}$  be a topos, and let  $\varphi: \text{Sh}(X_{\mathcal{E}}) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$  be the cover of Section 1. For any group  $G$  in  $\mathcal{E}$ ,  $\varphi$  induces an isomorphism*

$$H^1(\mathcal{E}, G) \xrightarrow{\sim} H^1(X_{\mathcal{E}}, \varphi^*G)$$

*Proof.* The functor  $\varphi^*: \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \text{Sh}(X_{\mathcal{E}})$  is fully faithful, so it restricts to a fully faithful functor from the category of  $G$ -torsors in  $\mathcal{E}$  to that of  $\varphi^*G$ -torsors in  $\text{Sh}(X_{\mathcal{E}})$ . It thus suffices to show that this restriction of  $\varphi^*$  is essentially surjective. By [JM], there is a class  $P \subset (X_{\mathcal{E}})^I$  of paths, such that  $\mathcal{E}$  is equivalent to the full subcategory of  $\text{Sh}(X_{\mathcal{E}})$  consisting of those sheaves on  $X_{\mathcal{E}}$  which are constant along the paths in  $P$ . Let  $T$  be a  $\varphi^*G$ -torsor in  $\text{Sh}(X_{\mathcal{E}})$ . Then  $T$  is locally isomorphic to  $\varphi^*(G)$ , and  $\varphi^*(G)$  is constant along all the paths in  $P$ . So  $T$  is locally constant along the paths in  $P$ , and hence constant along those paths (since the interval  $I$  is simply connected).

**6. Etale homotopy.** Let  $\mathcal{E}$  be a locally connected topos, and let  $p$  be a point of  $\mathcal{E}$ . Artin and Mazur ([AM]) define the etale homotopy groups  $\pi_n(\mathcal{E}, p)$  ( $n \geq 0$ ), and prove a Whitehead theorem for toposes: a geometric morphism  $(\mathcal{F}, q) \rightarrow (\mathcal{E}, p)$  of pointed locally connected toposes induces isomorphisms of etale homotopy groups iff it induces isomorphisms of cohomology groups with coefficients in a locally constant abelian group  $A$  in  $\mathcal{E}$ , as well as an isomorphism of the fundamental progroups  $\pi_1(\mathcal{F}, q) \rightarrow \pi_1(\mathcal{E}, p)$ . Our previous results give:

**COROLLARY.** *For any locally connected pointed topos  $(\mathcal{E}, p)$  there exists a pointed space  $(X_{\mathcal{E}}, q)$  and a cover  $\varphi: (\text{Sh}(X_{\mathcal{E}}), q) \rightarrow (\mathcal{E}, p)$  which induces isomorphisms in etale homotopy,*

$$\pi_n(X_{\mathcal{E}}, q) \xrightarrow{\sim} \pi_n(\mathcal{E}, p) \quad (n \geq 0)$$

*Proof.* First of all, we need to modify the construction of the space  $X_{\mathcal{E}}$  slightly, in order to lift the point  $p$ : if we replace the set  $\mathbf{N}$  of natural numbers by an arbitrary infinite set  $S$  in the construction of Section 1 (and the space of infinite-to-one enumerations  $\mathbf{N} \lll U \rrr G$  by that of infinite-to-one partial maps  $\Delta(S) \lll U \rrr G$ , where  $\Delta S$  denotes the constant object of  $\mathcal{E}$  corresponding to the set  $S$ ), we obtain a cover (again called)  $\varphi: X_{\mathcal{E}} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$  with exactly the same properties as before. A straightforward classifying-topos argument shows that if we

choose the cardinality of  $S$  sufficiently large (at least that of  $p^*G$ ) then the given point  $p$  can be lifted to a point  $q$  of this (modified) space  $X_{\mathcal{E}}$ .  $X_{\mathcal{E}}$  is locally connected since  $\mathcal{E}$  is, and  $\varphi$  is a locally connected map. Now the result of Section 5 shows that  $\varphi$  induces an isomorphism in  $\pi_1$  (since  $H^1(\mathcal{E}, G) \cong \text{Hom}(\pi_1(\mathcal{E}, p), G)$ , cf [AM], Section 10). The corollary follows by the Whitehead theorem just quoted and the theorem of Section 4.

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