

# On the étale site of marked schemes

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When considering the étale site of a scheme it is often of interest to consider a variant which forces a given set of points to split in at least one member of a covering. Examples are the étale site of a marked curve used in [Scm], where a finite set of closed points is considered and the Nisnevich site [Nis], where all points are required to split. In this note we develop this approach in greater generality. Furthermore, we close a small gap in the literature by showing that any Nisnevich covering of a quasi-compact scheme has a finite subcovering.

## 1 Definition of the marked site

Let  $X$  be a scheme and let  $T$  be a set of points of  $X$ . We will loosely write  $T \subset X$  and call the pair  $(X, T)$  a *marked scheme*. A morphism  $f : (Y, S) \rightarrow (X, T)$  of marked schemes is a scheme morphism  $f : Y \rightarrow X$  with  $f(S) \subset T$ .

**Definition 1.1.** Let  $(X, T)$  be a marked scheme. The *marked étale site*  $(X, T)_{\text{et}}$  consists of the following data: The category  $\text{Cat}(X, T)_{\text{et}}$  is the category of morphisms  $f : (U, S) \rightarrow (X, T)$  such that

- a)  $(f : U \rightarrow X)$  is étale, and
- b)  $S = p^{-1}(T)$ .

A family  $(p_i : (U_i, S_i) \rightarrow (U, S))_{i \in I}$  of morphisms in  $\text{Cat}(X, T)_{\text{et}}$  is a covering if it is surjective and any point  $s \in S$  *splits*, i.e., there exists an index  $i$  and a point  $u_i \in S_i$  mapping to  $s$  such that the induced field homomorphism  $k(s) \rightarrow k(u_i)$  is an isomorphism.

**Example 1.2.** For  $T = \emptyset$ , we obtain the small étale site of  $X$ , for  $T = X$  the Nisnevich site [Nis].

A morphism of marked schemes induces a morphism of the associated marked étale sites in the obvious way.

We consider the following “geometric points” of  $(X, T)_{\text{et}}$ : we fix a separable closure  $k(x)^s$  of  $k(x)$  for every scheme-theoretic point  $x \in X$  and consider the following morphisms of marked schemes

- 1.) for  $x \notin T$ , the natural morphism  $(\text{Spec } k(x)^s, \emptyset) \rightarrow (X, T)$ .
- 2.) for  $x \in T$ , the natural morphisms  $(\text{Spec } \kappa, \text{Spec } \kappa) \rightarrow (X, T)$  for every subextension  $\kappa/k(x)$  of  $k(x)^s/k(x)$ .

If  $f : P \rightarrow X$  is any of the morphisms described in 1.) and 2.), the assignment  $F \mapsto \Gamma(P, f^*F)$  is a topos-theoretic point of  $(X, T)_{\text{et}}$  and one easily verifies that this family of points is conservative. In particular, exactness of sequences of abelian sheaves can be checked stalkwise.

We denote the cohomology of a sheaf  $F \in \text{Sh}_{\text{et}}(X, T)$  of abelian groups on  $(X, T)_{\text{et}}$  by  $H_{\text{et}}^*(X, T, F)$ .

## 2 Excision

Let  $(X, T)$  be a marked scheme,  $i : Z \hookrightarrow X$  a closed immersion and  $U = X \setminus Z$  the open complement. The right derivatives of the left exact functor “sections with support in  $Z$ ”

$$F \mapsto \ker(F(X, T) \rightarrow F(U, T \cap U))$$

are called the *cohomology groups with support in  $Z$* . Notation:  $H_Z^*(X, T, F)$ .

The proof of the next proposition is standard (cf. [Art, III, (2.11)] for the étale case without marking).

**Proposition 2.1.** *There is a long exact sequence*

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow H_Z^0(X, T, F) \rightarrow H_{\text{et}}^0(X, T, F) \rightarrow H_{\text{et}}^0(U, T \cap U, F) \rightarrow \\ H_Z^1(X, T, F) \rightarrow H_{\text{et}}^1(X, T, F) \rightarrow H_{\text{et}}^1(U, T \cap U, F) \rightarrow \dots \end{aligned}$$

**Proposition 2.2** (Excision). *Let  $\pi : (X', T') \rightarrow (X, T)$  be a morphism of marked schemes,  $Z \hookrightarrow X$ ,  $Z' \hookrightarrow X'$  closed immersions and  $U = X \setminus Z$ ,  $U' = X' \setminus Z'$  the open complements. Assume that*

- $\pi : X' \rightarrow X$  is étale,
- $T' = \pi^{-1}(T)$ ,
- $\pi$  induces an isomorphism  $Z'_{\text{red}} \xrightarrow{\sim} Z_{\text{red}}$ ,
- $\pi(U') \subset U$ .

Then the induced homomorphism

$$H_Z^p(X, T, F) \xrightarrow{\sim} H_{Z'}^p(X', T', \pi^* F)$$

is an isomorphism for every sheaf  $F \in \text{Sh}_{\text{et}}(X, T)$  and all  $p \geq 0$ .

*Proof.* The standard proof for étale topology applies: By the general theory,  $\pi^*$  is exact. Since  $\pi$  belongs to  $\text{Cat}(X, T)_{\text{et}}$ ,  $\pi^*$  has the exact left adjoint “extension by zero”, hence  $\pi^*$  sends injectives to injectives. Therefore it suffices to deal with the case  $p = 0$ . Without changing the statement, we can replace all occurring schemes by their reductions. By assumption,

$$(X', T') \coprod (U, T \cap U) \longrightarrow (X, T)$$

is a covering. For  $\alpha \in H_Z^0(X, T, F)$  mapping to zero in  $H_{Z'}^0(X', T', \pi^* F)$  we therefore obtain  $\alpha = 0$ .

Now let  $\alpha' \in H_{Z'}^0(X', T', \pi^* F)$  be given. We show that  $\alpha'$  and  $0 \in H^0(U, T \cap U, F)$  glue to an element in  $H_Z^0(X, T, F)$ . The only nontrivial compatibility on intersections is  $p_1^*(\alpha') = p_2^*(\alpha')$  for  $p_1, p_2 : (X' \times_X X', T' \times_T T') \rightarrow (X', T')$ . This can be checked on stalks noting that  $Z' \xrightarrow{\sim} Z$  implies that the two projections  $Z' \times_Z Z' \rightarrow Z'$  are the same.  $\square$

## 3 Continuity

**Proposition 3.1.** *Let  $X$  be a quasi-compact scheme and let  $T \subset X$  be a closed subscheme. Then every étale covering of  $(X, T)$  admits a finite subcovering.*

*Proof.* Since  $X$  has a finite affine Zariski-open covering, we may assume that  $X$  is affine, in particular  $X$  is quasi-separated. Then also  $T$  is quasi-compact and quasi-separated. Let

$$\coprod_{i \in I} (U_i, S_i) \rightarrow (X, T)$$

be an étale covering. Let, for  $i \in I$ ,  $K_i \subset T$  be the set of points in  $T$  which split in  $U_i \rightarrow X$ . By [Src, Lemma 13.3],  $K_i$  is ind-constructible, i.e., open in the constructible topology of  $T$ , which is compact by [EGA4, 1.9.15 (iii)]. Since  $T = \bigcup_i K_i$  by assumption, we find a finite subset  $J \subset I$  with  $T = \bigcup_{i \in J} K_i$ . Furthermore, since  $X$  is quasi-compact and étale morphisms are open, we find a finite subset  $J' \subset I$  such that  $\coprod_{i \in J'} U_i \rightarrow X$  is an étale covering. We conclude that  $\coprod_{i \in J \cup J'} (U_i, S_i) \rightarrow (X, T)$  is a finite subcovering of  $\coprod_{i \in I} (U_i, S_i) \rightarrow (X, T)$ .  $\square$

As in [SGA4, VII, 3.2] for the unmarked étale site, we define the *restricted marked étale site*

$$(X, T)_{\text{et}}^{\text{res}}$$

as the restriction of  $(X, T)_{\text{et}}$  to the subcategory of all  $(U, S) \in (X, T)_{\text{et}}$  where  $U \rightarrow X$  is of finite presentation. Assume that  $X$  is quasi-compact and quasi-separated. Then the same is true for any such  $U$  and Proposition 3.1 shows that the restricted site is noetherian. Moreover, the categories of sheaves on  $(X, T)_{\text{et}}$  and  $(X, T)_{\text{et}}^{\text{res}}$  are naturally equivalent. Hence the same argument as in the unmarked étale case [SGA4, VII, Prop. 3.3] shows

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $X$  be a quasi-compact and quasi-separated scheme and let  $T \subset X$  be a closed subscheme. Let  $(F_i)$  be a filtered direct system of abelian sheaves on  $(X, T)_{\text{et}}$ . Then*

$$\text{colim}_i H_{\text{et}}^p(X, T, F_i) \cong H_{\text{et}}^p(X, T, \text{colim}_i F_i)$$

for all  $p \geq 0$ .

Next we consider inverse limits of marked schemes.

**Theorem 3.3.** *Let  $(X, T)$  be a marked scheme with  $T$  closed in  $X$  and let  $X_i \rightarrow X$ ,  $i \in I$ , be an inverse system of  $X$ -schemes. Assume that all  $X_i$  are quasi-separated and quasi-compact and that all transition morphisms are affine. Let  $T_i$  be the preimage of  $T$  in  $X_i$  and put  $X_\infty = \varprojlim X_i$ ,  $T_\infty = \varprojlim T_i$ .*

*Then the restricted site  $(X_\infty, T_\infty)_{\text{et}}^{\text{res}}$  is the limit site of the sites  $(X_i, T_i)_{\text{et}}^{\text{res}}$ .*

**Corollary 3.4.** *With the notation and assumptions of Theorem 3.3, let  $F$  be a sheaf of abelian groups on  $(X, T)_{\text{et}}$ . We denote its inverse image on  $(X_i, T_i)_{\text{et}}$  and  $(X_\infty, T_\infty)_{\text{et}}$  by  $F_i$  and  $F_\infty$ . Then the natural map*

$$\text{colim}_i H_{\text{et}}^p(X_i, T_i, F_i) \longrightarrow H_{\text{et}}^p(X_\infty, T_\infty, F_\infty)$$

*is an isomorphism for all  $p \geq 0$ .*

*Proof of Theorem 3.3.* By [Art, III, Theorem 3.8], the site  $(X_\infty)_{\text{et}}^{\text{res}}$  is naturally equivalent to the limit site of the  $(X_i)_{\text{et}}^{\text{res}}$ . In view of Proposition 3.1, it therefore suffices to show that for every quasi-compact étale surjection  $U_i \rightarrow X_i$  with the property that every point of  $T_\infty$  splits in  $U_\infty = U_i \times_{X_i} X_\infty \rightarrow X_\infty$  there exist  $j \geq i$  such that every point of  $T_j$  splits in  $U_j = U_i \times_{X_i} X_j \rightarrow X_j$ . We follow the proof of [Src, Lemma 13.2] for Nisnevich coverings. By [Src, Lemma 13.3], the subset  $S_j \subset T_j$  of points that split in  $U_j \rightarrow X_j$  is ind-constructible for all  $j \geq i$ . Denoting the projection by  $u_j : T_\infty \rightarrow T_j$ , the assumption on  $U_\infty \rightarrow X_\infty$  implies  $T_\infty = \bigcup_j u_j^{-1}(S_j)$ . Considering the  $T_j \subset X_j$  as reduced, closed subschemes, we may apply [EGA4, Cor. 8.3.4] to obtain  $S_j = T_j$  for some  $j$ .  $\square$

**Remark 3.5.** Let  $A$  be a ring and let  $(A \rightarrow B_i)_{i \in I}$  be an affine Nisnevich covering. We write  $A$  as the union of its finitely generated subrings. Then, by Proposition 3.1 and Theorem 3.3, there exists a finite subset  $J \subset I$ , a subring  $A' \subset A$  which is

finitely generated over  $\mathbb{Z}$  and a finite Nisnevich covering  $(A' \rightarrow B'_j)_{j \in J}$  such that  $B_j \cong A \otimes_{A'} B'_j$  for all  $j \in J$ .

Hence the refined definition of Nisnevich coverings for general rings introduced by Lurie in [DAG, XI, Definition 1.1 and Remark 1.15] coincides with the naive definition.

**Corollary 3.6.** *Let  $(X, T)$  be a marked scheme with  $T$  closed in  $X$  and  $Z = \{z_1, \dots, z_n\}$  a finite set of closed points of  $X$ . Put  $X_{z_i}^h = \text{Spec}(\mathcal{O}_{X, z_i}^h)$ . Then, for every sheaf  $F$  of abelian groups on  $(X, T)_{\text{et}}$  and all  $p \geq 0$*

$$H_{\mathbb{Z}}^p(X, T, F) \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^n H_{\{z_i\}}^p(X_{z_i}^h, T \cap X_{z_i}^h, F).$$

*Proof.* Since  $H_{\mathbb{Z}}^p(X, T, F) \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^n H_{\{z_i\}}^p(X, T, F)$ , we may assume that  $Z = \{z\}$  consists of a single closed point. Excision shows that

$$H_{\{z\}}^p(X, T, F) = H_{\{z\}}^p(U, T \cap U, F)$$

for every affine étale open neighbourhood  $U$  of  $z$ . Since  $X_z^h$  is the limit over all these  $U$ , the long exact sequences of Proposition 2.1 together with Corollary 3.4 show the result.  $\square$

Using Corollary 3.4, it is easy to calculate the stalks of the higher direct images of the site morphism  $(X, T)_{\text{et}} \rightarrow (X, X)_{\text{et}} = X_{\text{Nis}}$ . The Leray spectral sequence together with the fact that the Nisnevich cohomological dimension of noetherian schemes is bounded by the Krull dimension [Nis, Theorem 1.32] yields:

**Corollary 3.7.** *Let  $X$  be a noetherian scheme of finite Krull dimension  $d$ ,  $T \subset X$  closed and assume that there exists a nonnegative integer  $N$  such that*

$$cd(k(x)) \leq N$$

*for all points  $x \in X \setminus T$ . Then for every abelian torsion sheaf  $F$  on  $(X, T)_{\text{et}}$  we have*

$$H_{\text{et}}^p(X, T, F) = 0 \quad \text{for } p > N + d.$$

## 4 Galois covers

**Definition 4.1.** A *Galois cover* of  $X$  with finite Galois group  $G$  in the site  $(X, T)_{\text{et}}$  is a morphism  $(Y, S) \rightarrow (X, T)$  in  $(X, T)_{\text{et}}$  together with a right action of  $G$  on  $Y$  over  $X$  such that the following holds:

1.  $(Y, S) \rightarrow (X, T)$  is a covering for the site  $(X, T)_{\text{et}}$ .
2.  $Y \rightarrow X$  is an étale Galois cover, i.e.,

$$Y \times G \rightarrow Y \times_X Y, \quad (y, g) \mapsto (y, yg)$$

is an isomorphism.

Since  $G$  acts transitively on the set of points in  $Y$  over a given point  $x \in X$ , we see that every  $t \in T$  splits *completely* in  $Y/X$ .

**Proposition 4.2** (Hochschild-Serre spectral sequence). *Let  $(Y, S) \rightarrow (X, T)$  be a Galois cover with finite group  $G$  and  $F \in \text{Sh}_{\text{et}}(X, T)$ . Then there is a natural spectral sequence*

$$E_2^{pq} = H^p(G, H_{\text{et}}^q(Y, S, F)) \implies H_{\text{et}}^{p+q}(X, T, F).$$

*Proof.* The proof is word-by-word the same as for the étale cohomology, see [Mi, Theorem 2.20].  $\square$

**Remark 4.3.** Assume that  $X$  is quasi-compact and quasi-separated and  $T \subset X$  closed. Let

$$(Y_i, S_i) \rightarrow (X, T)$$

be a directed inverse system of Galois covers with finite Galois groups  $G_i$  and  $(Y, S) = \lim(Y_i, S_i)$ . Then  $(Y, S) \rightarrow (X, T)$  is a pro-Galois cover with profinite Galois group  $G = \lim G_i$ . By Theorem 3.3, for  $F \in \text{Sh}_{\text{et}}(X, T)$ , the groups  $H_{\text{et}}^q(Y, S, F) = \text{colim } H_{\text{et}}^q(Y_i, S_i, F)$  are discrete  $G$ -modules and we obtain the profinite Hochschild-Serre sequence

$$E_2^{pq} = H^p(G, H_{\text{et}}^q(Y, S, F)) \implies H_{\text{et}}^{p+q}(X, T, F),$$

where  $H^*(G, -)$  is the continuous cohomology of the profinite group  $G$  with values in a discrete  $G$ -module (see [NSW, I, §2]).

## 5 Fundamental group

We recall some facts from Artin-Mazur [AM]. Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a pointed site and  $\text{HR}(\mathcal{C})$  the category of pointed hypercovers of  $\mathcal{C}$  [AM, §8]. If  $\mathcal{C}$  is locally connected, then the “connected component functor”  $\pi$  defines an object

$$\Pi\mathcal{C} = \{\pi(K_\bullet)\}_{K_\bullet \in \text{HR}(\mathcal{C})}$$

in the pro-category of the homotopy category of pointed simplicial sets. By definition, the fundamental group of  $\mathcal{C}$  is the pro-group  $\pi_1(\Pi(\mathcal{C}))$ .

Let  $X$  be a locally noetherian scheme. Then (cf. [AM, §9]) the site  $X_{\text{et}}$ , and hence also  $(X, T)_{\text{et}}$  is locally connected. Pointing  $(X, T)_{\text{et}}$  by choosing any “geometric” point  $\bar{x}$  described at the end of Section 1, we obtain the étale fundamental group  $\pi_1^{\text{et}}(X, T, \bar{x})$ . It is independent of the choice of  $\bar{x}$  up to isomorphism, which is canonical up to inner automorphisms. By [AM, Cor. 10.7], for any group  $G$ , the set  $\text{Hom}(\pi_1^{\text{et}}(X, T, \bar{x}), G)$  is in bijection with the set of isomorphism classes of pointed (over  $\bar{x}$ )  $G$ -torsors in  $(X, T)_{\text{et}}$ . In particular,  $\pi_1^{\text{et}}(X, \emptyset, \bar{x})$  is the enlarged étale fundamental group of [SGA3, X, §6] and its profinite completion is the usual étale fundamental group of  $X$  defined in [SGA1]. If  $\bar{x}$  is a geometric point of  $X$ , then  $\pi_1^{\text{et}}(X, T, \bar{x})$  is a factor group of  $\pi_1^{\text{et}}(X, \emptyset, \bar{x})$ , which is profinite for normal  $X$  by [AM, Thm. 11.1]. Hence we obtain the following result.

**Proposition 5.1.** *Let  $X$  be a noetherian, normal, connected scheme and  $T \subset X$ . Then (for any choice of base point)  $\pi_1^{\text{et}}(X, T)$  is a profinite group. Its finite quotients are in bijection with the isomorphism classes of finite connected pointed étale Galois covers of  $X$  in which every point  $t \in T$  splits completely.*

**Example 5.2.** For general  $(X, T)$ , the fundamental group need not be profinite. For example, let  $k$  be a field and  $N = \mathbb{P}_k^1/(0 \sim 1)$  the node over  $k$ . Then

$$\pi_1^{\text{et}}(N, T) \cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z} \times \text{Gal}_k, & T = \emptyset \\ \mathbb{Z}, & T = X. \end{cases}$$

We will use the notation  $\hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(X, T)$  for the profinite completion of  $\pi_1^{\text{et}}(X, T)$ , hence we have a completion map  $\pi_1^{\text{et}}(X, T) \rightarrow \hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(X, T)$  which is an isomorphism by Proposition 5.1 if  $X$  is a noetherian, normal and connected scheme.

We end this section with the following observation concerning products.

**Proposition 5.3.** *Let  $k$  be a field,  $X$  and  $Y$  geometrically connected schemes of finite type over  $k$  and  $S \subset X(k)$ ,  $T \subset Y(k)$  nonempty sets of  $k$ -rational points. Let  $a$  and  $b$  be geometric points of  $X \setminus S$  and  $Y \setminus T$  with values in a common separably closed extension field of  $k$ . Assume that at least one of the schemes  $X$  and  $Y$  is proper over  $k$ . Then the natural map*

$$\hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(X \times_k Y, S \times T, (a, b)) \longrightarrow \hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(X, S, a) \times \hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(Y, T, b)$$

is an isomorphism of profinite groups.

*Proof.* We omit the base points from notation. For a connected scheme  $X$ , let  $\tilde{X}$  denote the profinite universal cover. For a subset  $S \subset X$ , the kernel of  $\hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(X) \rightarrow \hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(X, S)$  is the (closed) normal subgroup of  $\hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(X) = \text{Gal}(\tilde{X}|X)$  generated by the decomposition groups of the points in  $S$ , i.e., it is the (closed) subgroup of  $\text{Gal}(\tilde{X}|X)$  generated by all automorphisms which fix a point  $\tilde{s} \in \tilde{X}$  lying over some  $s \in S$ . We denote this group by  $K(X, S)$ .

Now assume we are in the situation of the proposition. By the topological invariance of the étale topology we may assume that  $k$  is perfect. Let  $\bar{k}$  be an algebraic closure of  $k$ . We denote the base changes to  $\bar{k}$  by  $(\bar{X}, \bar{S})$  and  $(\bar{Y}, \bar{T})$ . By [SGA1, X, 1.7], we have a natural isomorphism

$$\hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(\bar{X} \times_{\bar{k}} \bar{Y}) \xrightarrow{\sim} \hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(\bar{X}) \times \hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(\bar{Y}).$$

Moreover, by [SGA1, IX, 6.1], we have a natural exact sequence

$$1 \longrightarrow \hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(\bar{X}) \longrightarrow \hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(X) \longrightarrow \text{Gal}(\bar{k}|k) \longrightarrow 1.$$

This and the similar sequence for  $Y$  shows the isomorphism

$$\hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(X \times_k Y) \xrightarrow{\sim} \hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(X) \times_{\text{Gal}(\bar{k}|k)} \hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(Y), \quad (*)$$

where the term on the right hand side is a fibre product in the category of profinite groups. We consider the corresponding diagram of étale Galois covers.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
& \widetilde{X \times_k Y} & \\
& \downarrow \wr & \\
& \tilde{X} \times_{\bar{k}} \tilde{Y} & \\
\pi_1^{\text{et}}(\bar{Y}) \swarrow & & \searrow \pi_1^{\text{et}}(\bar{X}) \\
\tilde{X} \times_{\bar{k}} \bar{Y} & & \bar{X} \times_{\bar{k}} \tilde{Y} \\
& \searrow & \swarrow \\
& \bar{X} \times_{\bar{k}} \bar{Y} & \\
\pi_1^{\text{et}}(X) \swarrow & \downarrow \text{Gal}(\bar{k}|k) & \searrow \pi_1^{\text{et}}(Y) \\
& X \times_k Y &
\end{array}$$

Let  $(s, t) \in S \times T \subset X \times_k Y$  and let  $(\tilde{s}, \tilde{t}) \in \widetilde{X \times_k Y} = \tilde{X} \times_{\bar{k}} \tilde{Y}$  be a point lying above  $(s, t)$ . An element  $\sigma \in \hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(X \times_k Y) = \text{Gal}(\widetilde{X \times_k Y} | X \times_k Y)$  fixes  $(\tilde{s}, \tilde{t})$  if and only if its image in  $\hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(X) = \text{Gal}(\tilde{X} \times_{\bar{k}} \bar{Y} | X \times_k Y)$  fixes  $\tilde{s} \in \tilde{X}$  and its image in  $\hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(Y) = \text{Gal}(\bar{X} \times_{\bar{k}} \tilde{Y} | X \times_k Y)$  fixes  $\tilde{t} \in \tilde{Y}$ . Hence, the isomorphism  $(*)$  induces an isomorphism of subgroups

$$K(X \times_k Y, S \times T) \xrightarrow{\sim} K(X, S) \times_{\text{Gal}(\bar{k}|k)} K(Y, T). \quad (**)$$

The isomorphisms (\*) and (\*\*) together induce an isomorphism

$$\hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(X \times_k Y, S \times T) \xrightarrow{\sim} C$$

with

$$C = \text{coker}(K(X, S) \times_{\text{Gal}(\bar{k}|k)} K(Y, T) \longrightarrow \hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(X) \times_{\text{Gal}(\bar{k}|k)} \hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(Y)).$$

The natural homomorphism  $C \rightarrow \hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(X, S) \times \hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(Y, T)$  is injective. To conclude the proof of the proposition, it remains to show surjectivity, i.e., we have to show that every element in  $\hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(X, S) \times \hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(Y, T)$  has a preimage in  $\hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(X) \times_{\text{Gal}(\bar{k}|k)} \hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(Y) \subset \hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(X) \times \hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(Y)$ . For this it suffices to show that the composite map  $K(X, S) \rightarrow \hat{\pi}_1^{\text{et}}(X) \rightarrow \text{Gal}(\bar{k}|k)$  is surjective. This is true since  $K(X, S)$  contains the decomposition group of a  $k$ -rational point.  $\square$

## 6 A modification

We consider a modification of the marked étale site which was used in [Scm] for one-dimensional, noetherian regular schemes.

**Definition 6.1.** The *strict marked étale site*  $(X, T)_{\text{et-s}}$  consists of the following data:  $\text{Cat}(X, T)_{\text{et-s}}$  is the category of morphisms  $f : (U, S) \rightarrow (X, T)$  such that

- a)  $(f : U \rightarrow X)$  is étale,
- b)  $S = p^{-1}(T)$ , and
- c) for every  $u \in S$  mapping to  $t \in T$  the induced field homomorphism  $k(s) \rightarrow k(u)$  is an isomorphism.

Coverings are surjective families.

**Proposition 6.2.** (i) *If  $T \subset X$  consists of a finite set of closed points, then the natural morphism of sites  $\varphi : (X, T)_{\text{et}} \rightarrow (X, T)_{\text{et-s}}$  induces isomorphisms*

$$H_{\text{et-s}}^p(X, T, F) \xrightarrow{\sim} H_{\text{et}}^p(X, T, \varphi^* F), \quad H_{\text{et-s}}^p(X, T, \varphi_* G) \xrightarrow{\sim} H_{\text{et}}^p(X, T, G)$$

for any  $F \in \text{Sh}_{\text{et-s}}(X, T)$ ,  $G \in \text{Sh}_{\text{et-s}}(X, T)$  and  $p \geq 0$ .

(ii) *For locally noetherian  $X$  (and any chosen base point), the natural map*

$$\pi_1^{\text{et}}(X, T) \longrightarrow \pi_1^{\text{et-s}}(X, T)$$

*is an isomorphism.*

*Proof.* Let  $(U, S) \in \text{Cat}(X, T)_{\text{et-s}}$  and assume that  $(f_i : (U_i, S_i) \rightarrow (U, S))$  is a covering in  $(X, T)_{\text{et}}$ . Removing for all  $i$  the finitely many points  $s \in S_i$  such that  $k(f(s_i)) \rightarrow k(s_i)$  is not an isomorphism from  $U_i$ , we obtain a strict covering  $(f_i : (U'_i, S'_i) \rightarrow (U, S))$  which is a refinement of the original one. Hence  $\varphi_* \varphi^* F = F$  and  $R^q \varphi_* G = 0$  for  $q \geq 1$ . In view of the Leray spectral sequence, this shows (i). Assertion (ii) follows since both pro-groups represent the same functor: for any group  $G$ , a  $G$ -torsor in  $(X, T)_{\text{et}}$  is the same as a  $G$ -torsor in  $(X, T)_{\text{et-s}}$ .  $\square$

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