

In this lecture we define étale sheaves using the étale topology.

# 1 Sheaves

We begin with the general theory of Grothendieck sites. This is a generalisation of the notion of a topological space, which allows us to use more general morphisms in place of open immersions.

**Definition 1.** A (Grothendieck) topology on a category  $\mathcal{C}$  is the data of: for every object  $U \in \mathcal{C}$ , a collection of families of morphisms  $\{U_i \rightarrow U\}_{i \in I}$ . The families in these collections are called coverings of  $U$ . This data is required to satisfy the following axioms:

1.  $\{U \xrightarrow{\text{id}} U\}$  is a covering, for every object  $U$ .
2. If  $\{U_i \rightarrow U\}_{i \in I}$  is a covering of  $U$ , and  $V \rightarrow U$  is a morphism, then each fibre product  $U_i \times_U V$  exists, and  $\{U_i \times_U V \rightarrow V\}_{i \in I}$  is a covering of  $V$ .
3. If  $\{U_i \rightarrow U\}_{i \in I}$  is a covering of  $U$ , and for each  $i \in I$  we have a covering  $\{U_{ij} \rightarrow U_i\}_{j \in J_i}$  of  $U_i$ , then  $\{U_{ij} \rightarrow U\}_{i \in I, j \in J_i}$  is a covering of  $U$ .

A category equipped with a Grothendieck topology is called a site.

**Exercise 1.** Suppose that  $X$  is a topological space in the conventional sense.<sup>1</sup> Define  $Op(X)$  to be the category whose objects are open sets of  $X$ , and morphisms are inclusions. For  $U \in Op(X)$ , define the coverings of  $U$  to be the families  $\{U_i \rightarrow U\}_{i \in I}$  such that  $\cup_{i \in I} U_i = U$ . Show that this defines a Grothendieck topology on  $Op(X)$ . (Note that in this category  $V \times_U W = V \cap W$ .)

**Exercise 2.** Let  $X$  be a topological space, and define  $LH(X)$  to be the category whose objects are local homeomorphisms<sup>2</sup>  $Y \rightarrow X$  and morphisms are commutative triangles  $\begin{array}{ccc} Y' & \rightarrow & Y \\ & \searrow & \swarrow \\ & X & \end{array}$ . Show that this category has fibre products.

For  $Y \in LH(X)$ , define the coverings of  $Y$  to be the families  $\{f_i : Y_i \rightarrow Y\}_{i \in I}$  such that  $\cup_{i \in I} f_i(Y_i) = Y$ . Show that this defines a Grothendieck topology on  $LH(X)$ .

**Exercise 3.** Recall that a morphism  $f : Y \rightarrow X$  of schemes is étale if it is locally of finite presentation, and for every  $y \in Y$ , the ring morphism  $\mathcal{O}_{X, f(x)} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{Y, y}$  is étale. Let  $Et(X)$  denote the category whose objects are étale morphisms  $Y \rightarrow X$ , and morphisms are commutative triangles. Do Exercise 2 with  $Et(X)$  instead of  $LH(X)$ .

**Definition 2.** A presheaf  $F$  on a category  $\mathcal{C}$  is just a functor  $\mathcal{C}^{op} \rightarrow \text{Set}$ . A morphism of presheaves  $F \rightarrow G$  is just natural transformation of functors  $F \rightarrow G$ .

<sup>1</sup>I.e., a set equipped with a collection of subsets of  $X$  declared to be open, preserved by finite intersection, arbitrary union, and containing  $X$  and  $\emptyset$ .

<sup>2</sup>A morphism  $f : Y \rightarrow X$  is a local homeomorphism if for every point  $y \in Y$ , there is an open neighbourhood  $V \ni y$  such that  $f : V \rightarrow f(V)$  is a homeomorphism.

$$e_q(X \xrightarrow[\psi]{\phi} Y) := \{ x \in X \mid \phi(x) = \psi(x) \}$$

If  $X, Y$  Abelian groups  $e_q(X \xrightarrow[\psi]{\phi} Y) = \ker(X \xrightarrow{\phi - \psi} Y) = \{ x \in X \mid \phi(x) - \psi(x) = 0 \}$

**Definition 3.** If  $\mathcal{C}$  is equipped with a Grothendieck topology, then a presheaf  $F$  is called a sheaf if for any object  $U$  and any covering  $\{U_i \rightarrow U\}_{i \in I}$  we have

$$F(U) = \text{eq} \left( \prod_{i \in I} F(U_i) \rightrightarrows \prod_{i, j \in I} F(U_i \times_U U_j) \right). \quad \text{(III)}$$

uniqueness  $\rightarrow$  1)  $s, t \in F(U)$   
 $s|_{U_i} = t|_{U_i} \forall i$   
 $\Rightarrow s = t$   
 existence  $\rightarrow$  2) given  $s_i \in F(U_i)$   
 $s.t. \forall i, j$   
 $s_i|_{U_i \times_U U_j} = s_j|_{U_i \times_U U_j}$   
 then  $\exists s \in F(U)$   
 $s.t. s|_{U_i} = s_i \forall i$

A morphism of sheaves is just a morphism of presheaves. A sheaf on  $Et(X)$  for some scheme  $X$  is called an étale sheaf on  $X$ .

**Remark 4.** If  $A$  is a ring, we will write  $Et(A)$  instead of  $Et(\text{Spec}(A))$  and if  $A \rightarrow B$  is an étale algebra, and  $F$  a presheaf on  $Et(A)$  we will write  $F(B)$  instead of  $F(\text{Spec}(B))$ .

**Example 5.** We have the following important examples of étale sheaves on  $Et(k)$ , cf. Exercise 10.

1.  $\mathcal{O} : L \mapsto (L, +)$ .
2.  $\mathcal{O}^* : L \mapsto (L^*, *)$ .
3.  $\mu_n : L \mapsto \{a \in L^* : a^n = 1\}$ .

**Remark 6.** If a presheaf takes values in the category of abelian groups, then the sheaf condition (III) is equivalent to asking that the sequence

$$0 \rightarrow F(U) \rightarrow \prod_{i \in I} F(U_i) \xrightarrow{p_i - q_i} \prod_{i, j \in I} F(U_i \times_U U_j)$$

be exact, where the last morphism is the difference of the two morphisms induced by the two projections  $U_i \times_U U_j \xrightarrow[p_j]{p_i} U_i, U_j$ .

**Exercise 4.** Let  $X$  be a topological space in the conventional sense. Consider the Grothendieck topology defined on  $Op(X)$  in Exercise 1. Show that a presheaf on  $X$  is the same thing as a presheaf on  $Op(X)$ , and a presheaf on  $X$  is a sheaf if and only if its associated presheaf on  $Op(X)$  is a sheaf. That is, Definition 3 is an honest generalisation of the classical notion of a sheaf.

**Exercise 5.** Let  $\text{Spec}(L) \rightarrow \text{Spec}(L')$  be a morphism in  $Et(k)$  such that  $L/L'$  is Galois with Galois group  $G = \text{Aut}(L/L')$ . Recall that there is a canonical isomorphism

$$L \otimes_{L'} L \cong \prod_G L$$

where two morphisms  $L \rightrightarrows L \otimes_{L'} L; a \mapsto 1 \otimes a, a \otimes 1$  are identified with  $a \mapsto (a, a, \dots, a)$  and  $a \mapsto (a^{g_1}, \dots, a^{g_n})$  where  $g_i$  are the elements of  $G$ . Show that if  $F$  is an étale sheaf on  $\text{Spec}(k)$ , then  $F(\prod_G L) \cong \prod_G F(L)$ , and

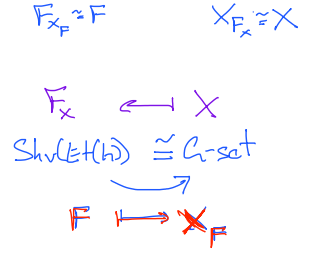
$$F(L') = F(L)^G$$

where  $F(L)^G = \{s \in F(L) : g^*s = s \forall g \in G\}$ . Deduce that if  $F_1 \rightarrow F_2$  is a morphism of étale sheaves such that  $F_1(L) \cong F_2(L)$  for every Galois extension  $L/k$ , then  $F_1 \cong F_2$ .

**Remark 7.** We will be able to show later on that a presheaf  $F$  on  $Et(k)$  is a sheaf if and only if

1.  $F(\coprod_{i \in I} U_i) \cong \prod_{i \in I} F(U_i)$  for any collection  $U_i, i \in I$ , and
2.  $F(L) = F(L')^{Aut(L'/L)}$  for every Galois extension  $L'/L$ .

**Theorem 8** (cf. Milne, Thm. II.1.9). Suppose that  $k$  is a field,  $k^{sep}/k$  is a separable closure, and  $G = Gal(k^{sep}/k)$ . Then there is a canonical equivalence between the category  $G$ -set of discrete<sup>3</sup>  $G$ -sets<sup>4</sup> and the category  $Shv(Et(k))$  of étale sheaves on  $k$ .



**Remark 9.** An easy case of the above theorem is  $k = \mathbb{R}$ . In this case the equivalence  $Shv(Et(k)) \rightarrow G$ -set is given by  $F \mapsto F(\mathbb{C})$ . In general, however,  $k^{sep}/k$  will not be finite, and therefore  $Spec(k^{sep})$  is not in  $Et(k)$ . This “problem” will go away next quarter when we discuss the pro-étale topology.

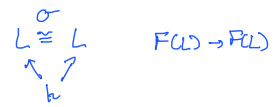
*Proof.* For  $F \in Shv(Et(k))$  we define

$$X_F = \varinjlim_{k^{sep}/L/k} F(L) \tag{1}$$

$F(L) \rightarrow F(L')$

as the colimit over all subfields  $L$  of  $k^{sep}$  which are finite Galois extensions of  $k$ .

$X_F$  is a discrete  $G$ -set. For any Galois  $L/k$  and any  $\sigma \in G$  we have  $\sigma(L) = L$  so  $\sigma$  restricts to a (finite) automorphism of  $L/k$  (and hence an automorphism of  $F(L)$ ) via the canonical map  $G \rightarrow Gal(L/k) \cong G/Aut(k^{sep}/L)$  where  $Aut(k^{sep}/L) = \{g \in G : g(a) = a \forall a \in L\}$ . These actions are compatible with inclusions  $L \subseteq L'$  (and hence, the morphisms  $F(L) \rightarrow F(L')$ ), hence we get an action of  $G$  on  $X_F$ . Moreover, every  $x \in X_F$  is the image of some  $y \in F(L)$ , so  $X_F$  is a discrete  $G$ -set. The assignment  $F \mapsto X_F$  is clearly natural in  $F$ , that is, it defines a functor.



For future reference, we note that since  $F$  is an étale sheaf, for each extension  $L'/L$ , the morphism  $F(L) \rightarrow F(L')$  is injective, and moreover, for any two Galois extensions  $L'/L/k$  of  $k$ , by Exercise 5 we have  $F(L) = F(L')^{Aut(L'/L)}$ . Since the action of  $G$  commutes with the colimit (1), we get

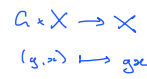
$$X_F^{Aut(k^{sep}/L)} = \varinjlim_{k^{sep}/L'/L/k} F(L')^{Aut(k^{sep}/L)} = \varinjlim_{k^{sep}/L'/L/k} F(L')^{Aut(L'/L)} = \varinjlim_{k^{sep}/L'/L/k} F(L) = F(L).$$

Now suppose we have a discrete  $G$ -set  $X$ . Recall that every étale  $k$ -algebra is of the form  $\prod_{i=1}^n L_i$  for some finite separable field extensions  $L_i$ . We define a presheaf on  $Et(k)$  as

$$F_X(U) = \text{hom}_G \left( \text{hom}_{\text{Spec}(k)}(\text{Spec}(k^{sep}), U), X \right)$$

<sup>3</sup>Here *discrete* means that for every  $x \in X$ , there is a finite Galois extension  $L/k$  with stabiliser  $Stab(L) \subseteq G$  such that  $x \in X^{Stab(L)}$ .

<sup>4</sup>That is, a set  $X$  equipped with an action of  $G$ .



where  $\text{hom}_G$  means  $G$ -equivariant morphisms, and  $G = \text{Gal}(k^{sep}/k) = \text{hom}_k(k^{sep}, k^{sep})$  acts on  $\text{hom}_{\text{Spec}(k)}(\text{Spec}(k^{sep}), U)$  by composition.

$F_X$  is an étale sheaf. Cf. Milne, Lem.I.1.8. By Remark 7, to show  $F_X$  is a sheaf, it suffices to check that

$$F_X(L) = F_X(L')^{Aut(L'/L)}$$

for finite Galois extensions  $L'/L$ . Note that for any Galois extension  $L'/k$  and any subextension  $L'/L/k$  we have

$$\text{hom}_k(L', k^{sep})_{Aut(L'/L)} \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{hom}_k(L, k^{sep}).$$

it follows from this that  $F_X(L) = F_X(L')^{Aut(L'/L)}$ . Note that for any finite Galois subextension  $k^{sep}/L/k$  we have  $\text{hom}_{\text{Spec}(k)}(\text{Spec}(k^{sep}), \text{Spec}(L)) = \text{Gal}(L/k)$ . So

$$F_X(L) = \text{hom}_G(\text{Gal}(L/k), X) = X^{Aut(k^{sep}/L)}. \quad (2)$$

Combining (1) and (2) we get

$$X_{F_X} = \varinjlim_L F_X(L) = \varinjlim_L X^{Aut(k^{sep}/L)} = X.$$

On the other hand, by (2) we get

$$F_{X_F}(L) = X_F^{Aut(k^{sep}/L)} = F(L)$$

for Galois extensions  $L/k$ . Then by Exercise 5 we have  $F_{X_F} = F$ .

So the assignments  $X \mapsto F_X$  and  $F \mapsto X_F$  are inverse equivalences.  $\square$

**Exercise 6** (Omitted from lecture). Suppose that  $F$  is a presheaf on a category  $\mathcal{C}$  equipped with a Grothendieck topology. Suppose that  $\{U_i \rightarrow U\}_{i \in I}$  and  $\{U_{ij} \rightarrow U_i\}_{j \in J_i}$  are coverings. Using the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} F(U) & \longrightarrow & \prod F(U_i) \rightrightarrows \prod F(U_i \times_U U_{i'}) \\ \parallel & & \downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow \\ F(U) & \longrightarrow & \prod F(U_{ij}) \rightrightarrows \prod F(U_{ij} \times_U U_{i'j'}) \end{array}$$

show that if  $F$  satisfies the sheaf condition (III) for  $\{U_{ij} \rightarrow U\}_{i \in I, j \in J_i}$  and each  $F(U_i) \rightarrow \prod_{j \in J_i} F(U_{ij})$  is injective, then  $F$  satisfies the sheaf condition for  $\{U_i \rightarrow U\}_{i \in I}$ .

Deduce that a presheaf  $F$  on  $LH(X)$  from Exercise 2 is a presheaf if and only if  $F|_{Op(Y)}$  is a sheaf on  $Op(Y)$  from Exercise 1 for every  $Y \in LH(X)$ .

**Exercise 7** (Omitted from lecture). Suppose that  $F$  is a presheaf on a category  $\mathcal{C}$  equipped with a Grothendieck topology. Suppose that  $\{V \rightarrow U\}$  and  $\{U \rightarrow$

$X\}$  are coverings consisting of single morphisms. Using the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 F(V \times_X V) & \longleftarrow & \prod F(U \times_X U) \\
 \downarrow & \swarrow & \uparrow \\
 \prod F(V \times_U V) & \longleftarrow & F(U) \\
 & \swarrow & \uparrow \\
 & & F(X)
 \end{array}$$

show that if  $F$  satisfies the sheaf condition (III) for  $\{V \rightarrow U\}$  (cf. middle row) and  $\{U \rightarrow X\}$  (cf. right column), and each  $F(U \times_X U) \rightarrow F(V \times_X V)$  is injective (cf. top row), then  $F$  satisfies the sheaf condition for  $\{V \rightarrow X\}$  (cf. diagonal).

**Exercise 8** (Advanced. Omitted from lecture). Do Exercise 7 for coverings  $\{U_i \rightarrow X\}_{i \in I}$  and  $\{V_{ij} \rightarrow U_i\}_{j \in J_i}$  containing more than one element.

**Exercise 9** (Advanced). Let  $X$  be a scheme. Deduce from Exercises 6 and Exercise 8 that a presheaf  $F$  on  $Et(X)$  is a sheaf if and only if  $F|_{\mathcal{O}_p(Y)}$  is a sheaf for every  $Y \in Et(X)$ , and  $F$  satisfies the sheaf condition (III) for every covering  $\{Y_i \rightarrow Y\}_{i \in I}$  such that  $Y$  and each  $Y_i$  are affine schemes.

**Exercise 10.** Recall that for any faithfully flat ring morphism  $A \rightarrow B$  the sequence  $0 \rightarrow A \rightarrow B \rightarrow B \otimes_A B$  is exact. Deduce from this and Exercise 9 that for any scheme  $X$  and any affine scheme  $T$ , the presheaf  $\text{hom}(-, T)$  is a sheaf on  $Et(X)$ . (Actually, it's also true without the affine hypothesis, and for the category  $Fppf(X)$ ).

**Corollary 10.** *The following representable presheaves are étale sheaves.*

1.  $\text{hom}(-, \mathbb{A}^1); X \mapsto \Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X)$ ,
2.  $\text{hom}(-, \mathbb{G}_m); X \mapsto \Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X^*)$ ,
3.  $\mu_n = \text{hom}(-, \text{Spec}(\frac{\mathbb{Z}[T]}{T^n - 1})); X \mapsto \{a \in \Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X^*) : a^n = 1\}$ ,
4.  $GL_n = \text{hom}(-, \text{Spec}(\frac{\mathbb{Z}[U, T_{ij}: 1 \leq i, j \leq n]}{U \cdot \det T_{ij} - 1})); X \mapsto GL_n(\Gamma(X, \mathcal{O}_X))$ ,

## 2 Sheafification

**Definition 11.** A presheaf  $F$  on a category equipped with a Grothendieck topology is called **separated** if the morphism  $F(U) \rightarrow \prod_{i \in I} F(U_i)$  is injective for every covering  $\{U_i \rightarrow U\}_{i \in I}$ .

**Remark 12.** Every sheaf is separated.

**Exercise 11.** Suppose that  $\mathcal{C}$  is a category equipped with a Grothendieck topology, and let  $F$  be a presheaf. For  $U \in \mathcal{C}$  define  $F^s(U)$  as the quotient group

$$F^s(U) = F(U) / \bigcup \ker \left( F(U) \rightarrow \prod_{i \in I} F(U_i) \right)$$

where the union is over all covering families  $\{U_i \rightarrow U\}_{i \in I}$ . Show that for any morphism  $V \rightarrow U$  in  $\mathcal{C}$ , there is an induced morphism  $F^s(U) \rightarrow F^s(V)$ , that is,  $F^s$  is a presheaf. Show that  $F^s$  is separated. Show that if  $F \rightarrow G$  is any morphism from  $F$  to a separated presheaf  $G$ , there exists a unique factorisation  $F \rightarrow F^s \rightarrow G$ . In particular, this is true for every sheaf  $G$ .

**Proposition 13.** Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a category equipped with a Grothendieck topology. For every presheaf  $F$  on  $\mathcal{C}$ , there exists a universal morphism  $F \rightarrow F^a$  to a sheaf. That is, a morphism towards a sheaf such that for any other morphism  $F \rightarrow G$  towards a sheaf, there is a unique factorisation  $F \rightarrow F^a \rightarrow G$ .

In other words, the (fully faithful) inclusion  $\text{Shv}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \text{PreShv}(\mathcal{C})$  admits a left adjoint  $(-)^a : \text{PreShv}(\mathcal{C}) \rightarrow \text{Shv}(\mathcal{C})$ .

*Proof.* By Exercise 11 it suffices to consider the case that  $F$  is separated. For  $U \in \mathcal{C}$  define

$$\check{H}^0(U, F) = \varinjlim_{\text{covering } \{U_i \rightarrow U\}} \text{eq} \left( \prod_{i \in I} F(U_i) \rightrightarrows \prod_{i, j \in I} F(U_i \times_U U_j) \right).$$

$\{U_i \rightarrow U\}$  (covering)       $s_i = s_j \circ \alpha_i \alpha_j^{-1} \downarrow i, j$

Omitted from lecture: Note that this is functorial in  $F$ , and if  $F$  is a sheaf we have  $\check{H}^0(U, F) = F(U)$  by the sheaf condition. It follows from this (with a little bit of work) that we get a unique factorisation  $F \rightarrow \check{H}^0 F \rightarrow G$  for any sheaf  $G$ . So it suffices to show that  $\check{H}^0 F$  is a sheaf. For simplicity we assume that  $F$  is a sheaf of abelian groups, and all covers have a single element. The general case is the same proof, just more confusing chasing indices around.

So suppose that  $\{V \rightarrow U\}$  is a covering of  $U$ . We want to show that

$$0 \rightarrow \check{H}^0(U, F) \rightarrow \check{H}^0(V, F) \rightarrow \check{H}^0(V \times_U V, F)$$

is exact. Let  $(U', s \in F(U'))$  represent an element of  $\check{H}^0(U, F)$  and suppose that it gets sent to zero in  $V$ . Putting in the definitions, we see that this means that there is a refinement  $V' \rightarrow V \times_U U' \rightarrow V$  of the covering  $V \times_U U' \rightarrow V$  such that  $s|_{V'} = 0$ . But this is also a refinement of  $\{U' \rightarrow U\}$ , so  $(U', s \in F(U'))$  and  $(V', 0 \in F(V'))$  represent the same element of  $\check{H}^0(U, F)$ .

Showing exactness in the middle is fiddly and not very informative, so we omit it. It can be found in [Artin, Grothendieck topologies, 1962, Lemma.2.1.2(ii)]. □

**Definition 14.** The sheaf  $F^a$  in Proposition 13 is called the sheafification or associated sheaf of  $F$ .

**Corollary 15.** Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a category equipped with a Grothendieck topology. Then the category  $\text{Shv}(\mathcal{C}, \text{Ab})$  of sheaves of abelian groups is an abelian category.

*Sketch of proof.* Limits (i.e., products and kernels) can be calculated section-wise. E.g.,  $\ker(F \rightarrow G)(U) = \ker(F(U) \rightarrow G(U))$ . Colimits (i.e., sums and cokernels) are calculated sectionwise, and then sheafified. E.g., the sheaf cokernel of  $F \rightarrow G$  is the sheafification of the presheaf  $U \mapsto \text{coker}(F(U) \rightarrow G(U))$ .  $\square$

### 3 Stalks

**Definition 16.** A geometric point of a scheme  $X$  is a morphism  $\bar{x} \rightarrow X$  such that  $\bar{x} = \text{Spec}(\Omega)$  for some separably closed field  $\Omega$ .

**Definition 17.** Let  $F$  be a presheaf on  $\text{Et}(X)$ . For a geometric point  $\bar{x} \rightarrow X$  we define the stalk at  $\bar{x}$  as

$$F_{\bar{x}} = \varinjlim_{\bar{x} \rightarrow Y \rightarrow X} F(Y)$$

where the colimit is over factorisations of  $\bar{x} \rightarrow X$  via some  $Y \in \text{Et}(X)$ .

**Remark 18.** If  $X$  is a topological space,  $F$  is a sheaf on  $X$ , and  $x \in X$  is a point, then classically, the stalk of  $F$  at  $x$  is defined as the colimit

$$F_x = \varinjlim_{x \in U \subseteq X} F(U)$$

over open subsets of  $X$  containing  $x$ . The above definition is the étale analogue of this classical definition. *e.g.  $G, G^*, \mu_n, \mathcal{A}_n$*

**Remark 19.** If  $F$  is a presheaf defined on all schemes that commutes with filtered colimits, then  $F_{\bar{x}} = F(\mathcal{O}_{X,x}^{sh})$  where  $x = \text{im}(\bar{x}) \in X$  and  $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}^{sh}$  is the strict henselisation of  $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}$  defined by the separably closed extension  $k(\bar{x})/k(x)$ . In particular, if  $F = \mathcal{O} : Y \mapsto \Gamma(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y)$ , then  $F_{\bar{x}} = \mathcal{O}_{X,x}^{sh}$ .

**Remark 20.** If  $k^{sep}/k$  is a separable closure, then  $\bar{x} = \text{Spec}(k^{sep}) \rightarrow \text{Spec}(k)$  is a geometric point, and  $F_{\bar{x}}$  is the  $G$ -set  $X_F$  defined above.

**Proposition 21.** Suppose that  $F$  is a sheaf of abelian groups on  $\text{Et}(X)$  and  $Y \in \text{Et}(X)$ . Then a section  $s \in F(Y)$  is zero if and only if for any geometric point  $\bar{x} \rightarrow Y$  its image in each  $F_{\bar{x}}$  is zero.

*Proof.* Since all sheaves are separated, it suffices to show that for every  $s \in F(Y)$ , there exists a covering  $\{U_i \rightarrow Y\}_{i \in I}$  such that  $s|_{U_i} = 0$  for all  $i \in I$ . For every point  $x \in Y$ , choose a separable closure  $k(x)^s/k(x)$ , and let  $\bar{x} \rightarrow X$  be the corresponding geometric point. Since the image of  $s$  in  $F_{\bar{x}}$  is zero, there is some  $\bar{x} \rightarrow V \rightarrow Y$  such that  $s|_V = 0$ . Since  $V$  is associated to  $x$ , let us write  $V_x = V$ . We do this for every point  $x \in Y$ , and obtain a family  $\{V_x \rightarrow Y\}_{x \in Y}$  of étale morphisms indexed by points of  $Y$ . Since  $x \in \text{im}(V_x \rightarrow Y)$  for each  $x \in Y$ , the family is surjective, and therefore is a covering. By construction  $s|_{V_x} = 0$  for each  $V_x$ , so  $s = 0$ .  $\square$

$\bigvee_{x \in Y} V_x$

$s|_{V_x} = 0$

**Corollary 22.** *A sheaf of abelian groups  $F$  on  $\text{Et}(X)$  is zero if and only if  $F_{\bar{x}} = 0$  for each  $x \in X$ .*

*Proof. (Omitted from lecture).* We want to show that  $s = 0$  for every  $Y \in \text{Et}(X)$ ,  $s \in F(Y)$ . By Proposition 21, it suffices to show that  $F_{\bar{x}} = 0$  for every geometry point  $\bar{x} \rightarrow Y$ . We claim that  $F_{\bar{x} \rightarrow Y} = F_{\bar{x} \rightarrow Y \rightarrow X}$ . Indeed, there is a canonical morphism

$$F_{\bar{x} \rightarrow Y \rightarrow X} = \varinjlim_{\bar{x} \rightarrow U \rightarrow X} F(U) \rightarrow \varinjlim_{\bar{x} \rightarrow V \rightarrow Y} F(V) = F_{\bar{x} \rightarrow Y}$$

defined by sending a representative  $(U, s \in F(U))$  to  $(U \times_Y V, s|_{U \times_Y V})$ . Injectivity is straight-forward. For surjectivity, note that any representative  $(V, s \in F(V))$  of  $F_{\bar{x} \rightarrow Y}$  can be considered as a representative of an element  $s' \in F_{\bar{x} \rightarrow Y \rightarrow X}$ . Then due to the factorisation  $V \rightarrow V \times_X Y \rightarrow Y$ , the image of  $s'$  is precisely the element represented by  $(V, s \in F(V))$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 23.** *A morphism of sheaves of abelian groups  $\phi : F \rightarrow G$  is a monomorphism, (resp. epimorphism, resp. isomorphism) if and only if  $\phi_{\bar{x}} : F_{\bar{x}} \rightarrow G_{\bar{x}}$  is for each geometric point  $\bar{x} \rightarrow X$ .*

*Proof. (Omitted from lecture).* Since the definition of  $(-)\_{\bar{x}}$  is defined by a filtered colimit, it commutes with kernels and cokernels. Applying Corollary 22 to  $\ker \phi$  and  $\text{coker } \phi$  gives the result.  $\square$