# Basepoint Free Theorem on Positive Characteristic

This section refers to [Kee99], [Art70] and [Fan+05]. Throughout this section, all schemes are of finite type over a base scheme S with S noetherian. we assume that the base field  $\mathbf{k}$  is algebraically closed and of positive characteristic p.

#### 1 Preliminaries

**Theorem 1** (Serre vanishing in relative setting, ref. [Laz04, Theorem 1.7.6]). Let  $f: X \to S$  be a proper morphism of schemes,  $\mathcal{L}$  a line bundle and  $\mathcal{F}$  a coherent sheaf on X. Suppose that  $\mathcal{L}$  is relatively ample. Then there exists  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such that for all  $n \geq n_0$ , the higher direct image sheaves  $R^i f_* \mathcal{F} \otimes \mathcal{L}^{\otimes n}$  are zero for all i > 0.

**Definition 2.** Let X be a proper variety and  $\mathcal{L}$  a nef line bundle on X. A closed subvariety  $Z \subseteq X$  is called the *exceptional* for  $\mathcal{L}$  if  $\mathcal{L}^{\dim Z} \cdot Z = 0$ . The *exceptional locus* of  $\mathcal{L}$ , denoted by  $\operatorname{Exc} \mathcal{L}$ , is defined as the closure of the union of all exceptional subvarieties of  $\mathcal{L}$ .

If  $\mathcal{L}$  is semiample, then  $\operatorname{Exc} \mathcal{L} = \operatorname{Exc} \varphi$  for the fibration  $\varphi : X \to Y$  induced by  $\mathcal{L}$ .

**Definition 3.** Let X be a proper scheme and  $\mathcal{L}$  a nef line bundle on X. We say that  $\mathcal{L}$  is endowed with a map (EWM) if there is a proper morphism  $\varphi: X \to Y$  to a proper algebraic space such that  $\dim Z > \dim f(Z)$  if and only if Z is an exceptional subvariety of  $\mathcal{L}$ . If such a morphism is a fibration, then it is unique, called the *fibration associated to*  $\mathcal{L}$ .

**Proposition 4.** Let X be a proper variety and  $\mathcal{L}$  a nef line bundle on X endowed with a map. Let  $\varphi: X \to Y$  be the associated fibration. Then the  $\mathcal{L}$  is semiample iff there is line bundle  $\mathcal{L}_Y$  and  $m \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$  such that  $\mathcal{L}^{\otimes m} = \varphi^* \mathcal{L}_Y$ .

Proof. Yang: To be completed.

**Definition 5.** A morphism  $f: X \to Y$  of schemes is called a *universal homeomorphism* if for every Y-scheme Y', the base change  $X \times_Y Y' \to Y'$  is a homeomorphism between the underlying topological spaces.

**Example 6.** Let X be a scheme of finite type over **k**. Then the natural morphism  $X_{\text{red}} \to X$  is a universal homeomorphism.

Let X be a scheme over S of characteristic p. Then the absolute and relative Frobenius morphisms are universal homeomorphisms. Yang: To be completed.

The morphism  $\operatorname{Spec} \mathbb{C} \to \operatorname{Spec} \mathbb{R}$  is not a universal homeomorphism.

**Lemma 7.** Let X be a projective scheme over  $\mathbf{k} = \overline{\mathbb{F}_p}$ . Then  $\mathrm{Pic}^0(X)$  is a torsion group.

Date: July 27, 2025, Author: Tianle Yang, My Homepage

*Proof.* Yang: To be completed.

### 2 Algebraic space

**Definition 8.** Let  $\mathbf{C}$  be a category. A *Grothendieck topology* on  $\mathbf{C}$  is a collection of sets of arrows  $\{U_i \to U\}_{i \in I}$ , called *covering*, for each object U in  $\mathbf{C}$  such that:

- (a) if  $V \to U$  is an isomorphism, then  $\{V \to U\}$  is a covering;
- (b) if  $\{U_i \to U\}_{i \in I}$  is a covering and  $V \to U$  is a arrow, then the fiber product  $U_i \times_U V \to V$  exists and  $\{U_i \times_U V \to V\}$  is a covering of V;
- (c) if  $\{U_i \to U\}_{i \in I}$  and  $\{U_{ij} \to U_i\}_{j \in J_i}$  are coverings, then the collection of composition  $\{U_{ij} \to U_i\}_{i \in I, j \in J_i}$  is a covering.

A site is a pair  $(\mathbf{C}, \mathcal{J})$  where  $\mathbf{C}$  is a category and  $\mathcal{J}$  is a Grothendieck topology on  $\mathbf{C}$ .

Note that sheaf is indeed defined on a site.

**Definition 9.** Let  $(\mathbf{C}, \mathcal{J})$  be a site. A *sheaf* on  $(\mathbf{C}, \mathcal{J})$  is a functor  $\mathcal{F} : \mathbf{C}^{op} \to \mathbf{Set}$  satisfying the following condition: for every object U in  $\mathbf{C}$  and every covering  $\{U_i \to U\}_{i \in I}$  of U, if we have a collection of elements  $s_i \in \mathcal{F}(U_i)$  such that for every i, j, the pullback  $s_i|_{U_i \times_U U_j}$  and  $s_j|_{U_i \times_U U_j}$  are equal, then there exists a unique element  $s \in \mathcal{F}(U)$  such that for every i, the pullback  $s|_{U_i} = s_i$ .

**Definition 10.** Let X be a scheme. The *big étale site* of X, denoted by  $(\mathbf{Sch}/X)_{\text{\'et}}$ , is the category of schemes over X with the Grothendieck topology generated by étale morphisms, that is, a collection of morphisms  $\{U_i \to U\}_{i \in I}$  is a covering if and only if each  $U_i$  is étale over U and the union of their images is the whole U.

Let X be a scheme over S. By Yoneda's Lemma, it is equivalent to give a functor  $h_X : \mathbf{Sch}_S^{op} \to \mathbf{Set}$  such that for any S-scheme T,  $h_X(T) = \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathbf{Sch}_S}(T, X)$ . Yang: Easy to check that  $h_X$  is a sheaf on the big étale site  $(\mathbf{Sch}/S)_{\mathrm{\acute{e}t}}$ .

**Definition 11.** Let U be a scheme over a base scheme S. An étale equivalence relation on U is a morphism  $R \to U \times_S U$  between schemes over S such that:

- (a) the projections in two factors  $R \to U$  are étale and surjective;
- (b) for every S-scheme T,  $h_R(T) \to h_U(T) \times h_U(T)$  gives an equivalence relation on  $h_U(T)$  settheoretically.

**Definition 12.** An algebraic space X over a base scheme S is an S-scheme U together with an étale equivalence relation  $R \to U \times_S U$ .

Let X = (U, R) be an algebraic space over S. We explain X as a sheaf on the big étale site  $(\mathbf{Sch}/S)_{\text{\'et}}$ . For any scheme T over S,  $h_R(T)$  is an equivalence relation on  $h_U(T)$ . The rule sending T to the set of equivalence classes of  $h_R(T)$  gives a presheaf on the site  $(\mathbf{Sch}/S)_{\text{\'et}}$ . The sheafification of this presheaf is the sheaf associated to the algebraic space X. Explicitly, we have

$$X(T) := \left\{ f = (f_i) \middle| \begin{array}{l} \{T_i \to T\} \text{ a covering, } f_i \in h_U(T_i) \text{ such} \\ \text{that } (f_i|_{T_i \times_T T_j}, f_j|_{T_i \times_T T_j}) \in h_R(T_i \times_T T_j) \end{array} \right\} \middle/ \sim,$$

where

$$\alpha \sim \beta$$
 if  $\exists \{S_i \to T\}$  such that  $(\alpha|_{S_i}, \beta|_{S_i}) \in h_R(S_i)$ .

**Definition 13.** An algebraic space over a base scheme S is a sheaf F on the big étale site  $(\mathbf{Sch}/S)_{\text{\'et}}$  such that

- (a) the diagonal morphism  $F \to F \times_S F$  is representable;
- (b) there exists a scheme U over S and a map  $h_U \to F$  which is surjective and étale.

The morphism between algebraic spaces  $F_1, F_2$  is defined as a natural transformation of functors  $F_1, F_2$ .

**Remark 14.** By Yoneda's Lemma, given a morphism  $h_U \to F$  between sheaves is the same as giving an element of F(U). We may abuse the notation.

**Definition 15.** Let  $\mathcal{P}$  be a property of morphisms of schemes satisfying the following conditions:

- (a) is preserved under any base change;
- (b) is étale local on the base. Yang: In [Stacks], this requires that "fppf local".

Let  $\alpha: F \to G$  be a representable morphism of sheaves on the big étale site  $(\mathbf{Sch}/S)_{\text{\'et}}$ . We say that  $\alpha$  has property  $\mathcal{P}$  if for every  $h_T \to G$ , the base change  $h_T \times_G F \to F$  has property  $\mathcal{P}$ .

Remark 16. The fiber product  $F_1 \times_F F_2$  is just defined as  $F_1 \times_F F_2(T) := F_1(T) \times_{F(T)} F_2(T)$  for any object  $T \in \text{Obj}(\mathbf{Sch}_S)$ . We say that a morphism  $f: F_1 \to F_2$  of sheaves is representable if for every  $T \in \text{Obj}(\mathbf{Sch}/S)$  and every  $\xi \in F_2(T)$ , the sheaf  $F_1 \times_{F_2} h_T$  is representable as a functor. Here  $h_T \to F_2$  is given by

$$h_T(U) \to F_2(U), \quad f \in \text{Hom}(U,T) \mapsto F_2(f)(\xi) \in F_2(U).$$

In our case, given an arbitrary  $h_U \to F \times F$  is equivalent to giving morphisms  $h_{U_i} \to F$  for i = 1, 2. And the fiber product  $F \times_{F \times F} (h_{U_1} \times h_{U_2})$  is just the fiber product  $h_{U_1} \times_F h_{U_2}$ . Hence the first condition in Definition 13 is equivalent to that  $h_{U_1} \times_F h_{U_2}$  is representable for any  $U_1, U_2$  over F. This implies that  $h_U \to F$  is representable, whence the second condition in Definition 13 makes

**Definition 17.** Let X be an algebraic space over a base scheme S. Two two morphisms form field  $\operatorname{Spec} k_i \to X$  is called equivalent if there is a common extension  $K \supset k_1, k_2$  such that we have  $\operatorname{Spec} K \to \operatorname{Spec} k_i \to X$  are the same for i = 1, 2. The underlying point set of X, denote by |X|, is

defined as the set of equivalence classes of morphisms  $\operatorname{Spec} k \to X$  for all field k over the base field k.

This definition coincides with the underlying set of a scheme. Let  $\alpha: X \to Y$  be a morphism of algebraic spaces. It induces a map  $|\alpha|: |X| \to |Y|$  by  $x \mapsto \alpha \circ x$  (vertical composition).

**Proposition 18** (ref. [Stacks, Lemma 66.4.6]). There is a unique topology on |X| such that

- (a) if X is a scheme, then the topology coincides with the usual topology.
- (b) every morphism of algebraic spaces  $f: X \to Y$  induces a continuous map  $|f|: |X| \to |Y|$ .
- (c) if U is a scheme and  $U \to X$  is étale, then the induced map  $|U| \to |X|$  is open.

This topology is called the *Zariski topology* on |X|.

**Definition 19.** Let X be an algebraic space over a base scheme S. All étale morphisms  $U \to X$  with U scheme form a small site  $X_{\text{\'et}}$ . All étale morphisms  $U \to X$  with U algebraic space form a small site  $X_{\text{sp,\'et}}$ . The *structure sheaf*  $\mathcal{O}_X$  of X is given by  $U \mapsto \Gamma(U, \mathcal{O}_U)$  for every étale morphism  $U \to X$  from a scheme. It extends to a sheaf on the site  $X_{\text{sp,\'et}}$  uniquely.

**Example 20.** Let  $U = \mathbb{A}^1_{\mathbb{C}}$  and  $R \subset U \times U$  given by  $y = x + n, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then R is a disjoint union of lines in  $U \times U$ . Write  $R = \coprod_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} R_n$  with  $R_n = \{(x, x + n) : x \in \mathbb{C}\}$ . Then the projection is given by

$$\pi_1|_{R_n}: R_n \to U, \quad (x, x+n) \mapsto x,$$
  
 $\pi_2|_{R_n}: R_n \to U, \quad (x, x+n) \mapsto x+n.$ 

Easily see that the projection  $\pi_i: R \to U$  is étale and surjective for i = 1, 2. Let  $r_{ij}: R \times U \to U \times U \times U$  be the morphism which maps ((x,y),u) to  $(a_1,a_2,a_3)$  where  $a_i = x$ ,  $a_j = y$  and  $a_k = u$  for  $k \neq i,j$ . Since  $\Delta_U \to U \times U$  factors through R,  $(\pi_1,\pi_2) = (\pi_2,\pi_1)$  and  $r_{12} \times_{(U \times U \times U)} r_{23}$  factors through  $r_{13}$ , we have that  $h_R(T)$  is an equivalence relation on  $h_U(T)$  for all T over S. Then X := (U,R) is an algebraic space.

We do not check the representability here but give an example. Let  $U \to X$  be the natural morphism given by  $\mathrm{id}_U \in X(U)$ . For any scheme T over  $\mathbb{C}$ , we have

$$(U \times_X U)(T) = \{(f,g) \in h_{U \times U}(T) : \exists \{T_i \to T\} \text{ s.t. } (f_i,g_i) \in h_R(T_i)\} = h_R(T).$$

Hence the fiber product  $h_U \times_X h_U$  is represented by R.

We show that  $X \not\cong \mathbb{C}^{\times}$  by computing the the global sections. Consider the covering  $U \to X$ , a section  $s \in \mathcal{O}_X(X)$  is given by a section  $s \in \Gamma(U, \mathcal{O}_U) = \mathbb{C}[t]$  such that  $\pi_1^* s = \pi_2^* s$  in  $\Gamma(R, \mathcal{O}_R)$ . This means that s(x+n) = s(x) for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Hence s is a constant function. In particular,  $\mathcal{O}_X(X) = \mathbb{C} \neq \mathbb{C}[t, t^{-1}]$ .

The underlying set |X| is union of the quotient set  $\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z}$  and a generic point. Yang: The Zariski topology on |X| is the quiotient topology induced by  $|U| \to |X|$ .

**Definition 21.** Let X be an algebraic space over a base scheme S. A coherent sheaf on X is a sheaf  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $X_{\text{\'et}}$  such that for every covering  $\{U_i \to X\}$  with  $U_i$  schemes, the sheaf  $\mathcal{F}|_{U_i}$  is coherent for every i. It extends to a sheaf on the site  $X_{\text{sp,\'et}}$  uniquely.

An *ideal sheaf* on X is a coherent sheaf  $\mathcal{I} \subset \mathcal{O}_X$ . It defines a closed subspace  $V(\mathcal{I}) \subset X$  by Yang: to be completed. And every closed subspace  $Y \subset X$  is defined by an ideal sheaf  $\mathcal{I}_Y$  such that  $V(\mathcal{I}_Y) = Y$ .

**Definition 22.** Let X be an algebraic space over a base scheme S and Y a closed subset of |X|. The formal completion of X along Y, denoted by  $\mathfrak{X}$ , is the functor defined as

$$(\mathbf{Sch}/S)_{\mathrm{\acute{e}t}} \to \mathbf{Set}, \quad U \mapsto \{f: U \to X: f(|U|) \subset |Y|\}.$$

Yang: to be completed.

**Definition 23.** Let X be an algebraic space and Y a closed subset of X. A modification of X along Y is a proper morphism  $f: X' \to X$  and a closed subset  $Y' \subset X'$  such that  $X' \setminus Y' \to X \setminus Y$  is an isomorphism and  $f^{-1}(Y) = Y'$ .

**Theorem 24** (ref. [Art70, Theorem 3.1]). Let Y' be a closed subset of an algebraic space X' of finite type over  $\mathbf{k}$ . Let  $\mathfrak{X}'$  be the formal completion of X' along Y'. Suppose that there is a formal modification  $\mathfrak{f}: \mathfrak{X}' \to \mathfrak{X}$ . Then there is a unique modification

$$f: X' \to X, \quad Y \subset X$$

such that the formal completion of X along Y is isomorphic to  $\mathfrak{X}$  and the induced morphism  $\mathfrak{X}' \to \mathfrak{X}$  is isomorphic to  $\mathfrak{f}$ .

**Theorem 25** (ref. [Art70, Theorem 6.2]). Let  $\mathfrak{X}'$  be a formal algebraic space and  $Y' = V(\mathcal{I}')$  with  $\mathcal{I}'$  the defining ideal sheaf of  $\mathfrak{X}'$ . Let  $f: Y' \to Y$  be a proper morphism. Suppose that

(a) for every coherent sheaf  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $\mathfrak{X}'$ , we have

$$R^1 f_* \mathcal{I}'^n \mathcal{F} / \mathcal{I}'^{n+1} \mathcal{F} = 0, \quad \forall n \gg 0;$$

(b) for every n, the homomorphism

$$f_*(\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{X}'}/\mathcal{I}'^n) \otimes_{f_*\mathcal{O}_{Y'}} \mathcal{O}_Y \to \mathcal{O}_Y$$

is surjective.

Then there exists a modification  $\mathfrak{f}:\mathfrak{X}'\to\mathfrak{X}$  and a defining ideal sheaf  $\mathcal{I}$  of  $\mathfrak{X}$  such that  $V(\mathcal{I})=Y$  and  $\mathfrak{f}$  induces f on Y.

**Theorem 26** (ref. [Art70, Theorem 6.1]). Let Y' be a closed algebraic subspace of an algebraic space X' and  $f_0: Y' \to Y$  a finite morphism. Then there exists a modification  $f: X' \to X$  whose restriction to Y' is  $f_0$ . It is the amalgamated sum  $X = X' \coprod_{Y'} Y$  in the category of algebraic spaces **AlgSp**.

**Example 27.** Let  $X = \mathbb{A}^2 = \operatorname{Spec} \mathbf{k}[x, y]$  and Y = V(y) be the x-axis. Let  $f_0 : Y' = \mathbb{A}^1 \to Y, x \mapsto x^2$ . Then there exists a modification  $f : X' \to X$  such that the restriction  $f|_{Y'} : Y' \to Y$  is  $f_0$ . Yang: To be completed.

**Lemma 28.** Let  $f: X \to Y$  be a finite morphism of algebraic space and is a universal homeomorphism. Then there exists  $q = p^n$  such that the relative Frobinius morphism  $\operatorname{Frob}_{X/\mathbf{k}}^n$  factors as

$$\operatorname{Frob}_{X/\mathbf{k}}^n: X \xrightarrow{f} Y \to X^{(q)}.$$

Proof. Yang: To be completed.

Corollary 29. Let  $Z \to X$  be a finite universal homeomorphism of algebraic spaces and  $Z \to Y$  any morphism of algebraic spaces. Suppose that X, Y, Z are all of finite type over  $\mathbf{k}$ . Then the amalgamated sum  $X \coprod_Z Y$  exists in the category of algebraic spaces. Moreover,  $Y \to X \coprod_Z Y$  is a finite universal homeomorphism.

Proof. Yang: To be completed.

## 3 A sufficient and necessary condition for basepoint free

**Proposition 30.** Let  $g: X' \to X$  be a proper, finite universal homeomorphism between algebraic spaces. Then a line bundle  $\mathcal{L}$  on X is endowed with a map if and only if  $g^*\mathcal{L}$  is endowed with a map.

Proof. Yang: To be completed.

**Proposition 31.** Let X be a projective scheme and  $\mathcal{L}$  a nef line bundle on X. Assume that  $X = X_1 \cup X_2$  for closed subsets  $X_1$  and  $X_2$ . Suppose that  $\mathcal{L}|_{X_i}$  is endowed with a map  $g_i : X_i \to Z_i$  for i = 1, 2. Assume that for all but finitely many points  $x \in X$ , the geometric fiber of  $g_1|_{X_1 \cap X_2}$  are connected. Then  $\mathcal{L}$  is endowed with a map  $g : X \to Z$ .

Proof. Yang: To be completed.

**Proposition 32.** Let X be a proper variety and D a nef and big divisor on X. Then we can write D = A + E where A is an ample divisor and E is an effective divisor. Then D is endowed with a map iff  $D|_{E_{red}}$  is endowed with a map.

Proof. By Proposition 30, we may assume that  $D|_E$  is endowed with a map  $f: E \to Z$ . Let  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{O}_X(-E)$  be the ideal sheaf of E. note that -E = D - A and D is f-numerically trivial. Hence  $\mathcal{L}|_E$  is f-ample. By Serre's vanishing, for every coherent sheaf  $\mathcal{F}$  on X, there exists  $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$  such

that for all  $n \geq n_0$ , we have

$$R^i f_* \mathcal{F}|_E \otimes \mathcal{L}^{\otimes n} = R^i f_* (\mathcal{L}^n \mathcal{F} / \mathcal{L}^{n+1} \mathcal{F}) = 0$$

for all i > 0.

Yang: To be completed.

**Theorem 33.** Let X be a proper variety and  $\mathcal{L}$  a nef line bundle on X. Then  $\mathcal{L}$  is basepoint free if and only if  $\mathcal{L}|_{\text{Exc }\mathcal{L}}$  is basepoint free.

Proof. Yang: To be completed.

### 4 Basepoint free theorem on positive characteristic

**Theorem 34.** Let X be a normal projective  $\mathbb{Q}$ -factorial threefold and  $B \in (0,1)$  a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -divisor. Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be a nef and big line bundle on X such that  $\mathcal{L} - K_{(X,B)}$  is nef and big. Then  $\mathcal{L}$  is endowed with a map. Moreover, if  $\mathbf{k} = \overline{\mathbb{F}_p}$ ,  $\mathcal{L}$  is basepoint free.

Proof. Yang: To be completed.

### References

- [Art70] Michael Artin. "Algebraization of formal moduli: II. Existence of modifications". In: *Annals of Mathematics* 91.1 (1970), pp. 88–135 (cit. on pp. 1, 5, 6).
- [Fan+05] Barbara Fantechi et al. Fundamental algebraic geometry. Vol. 123. Mathematical Surveys and Monographs. Grothendieck's FGA explained. American Mathematical Society, Providence, RI, 2005, pp. x+339. ISBN: 0-8218-3541-6. DOI: 10.1090/surv/123. URL: https://doi.org/10.1090/surv/123 (cit. on p. 1).
- [Kee99] Seán Keel. "Basepoint freeness for nef and big line bundles in positive characteristic". In: Annals of Mathematics (1999), pp. 253–286 (cit. on p. 1).
- [Laz04] Robert Lazarsfeld. Positivity in algebraic geometry. I. Vol. 48. Ergebnisse der Mathematik und ihrer Grenzgebiete. 3. Folge. A Series of Modern Surveys in Mathematics [Results in Mathematics and Related Areas. 3rd Series. A Series of Modern Surveys in Mathematics]. Classical setting: line bundles and linear series. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 2004, pp. xviii+387. ISBN: 3-540-22533-1. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-642-18808-4. URL: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-642-18808-4 (cit. on p. 1).
- [Stacks] The Stacks Project Authors. Stacks Project. URL: https://stacks.math.columbia.edu/(cit. on pp. 3, 4).