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Subgroups of profinite surface groups

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We study the subgroup structure of the étale fundamental group $\pi_1^{\text{ét}}$ of a projective curve over an algebraically closed field of characteristic 0. We obtain an analog of the diamond theorem for $\pi_1^{\text{ét}}$. As a consequence we show that most normal subgroups of infinite index are semi-free. In particular every proper open subgroup of a normal subgroup of infinite index is semi-free.

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