GROTHENDIECK TOPOS WITH A LEFT ADJOINT TO A LEFT ADJOINT TO A LEFT ADJOINT TO THE GLOBAL SECTIONS FUNCTOR

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ABSTRACT. This paper introduces the notion of complete connectedness of a Grothendieck topos, defined as the existence of a left adjoint to a left adjoint to the global sections functor, and provides many examples. Typical examples include presheaf topoi over a category with an initial object, such as the topos of sets, the Sierpiński topos, the topos of trees, the object classifier, the topos of augmented simplicial sets, and the classifying topos of many algebraic theories, such as groups, rings, and vector spaces.

We first develop a general theory on the length of adjunctions between a Grothendieck topos and the topos of sets. We provide a site characterisation of complete connectedness, which turns out to be dual to that of local topoi. We also prove that every Grothendieck topos is a closed subtopos of a completely connected Grothendieck topos.

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1. Introduction

Some properties of Grothendieck topoi (over the base topos of sets) are defined by the existence of adjoint functors of the global sections functor. For example, a Grothendieck topos \mathcal{E} is said to be **locally connected** if a left adjoint to a left adjoint to the global sections functor exists. For a topological space X, its sheaf topos $\mathbf{Sh}(X)$ is locally connected in this sense if and only if the original topological space X is locally connected. For another example, a Grothendieck topos \mathcal{E} is said to be **local** if the global sections functor has a right adjoint. For a commutative ring A, its sheaf topos $\mathbf{Sh}(\operatorname{Spec} A)$ is local in this sense if and only if the ring A is a local ring. Other examples

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of characterisation of categories with the existence of adjunction include [RW94], which proves that a category \mathcal{C} is equivalent to **Set** if and only if it admits a left adjoint to a left adjoint to a left adjoint to the Yoneda embedding.

In this paper, we first describe all possible lengths of adjoint strings between a Grothendieck topos and the topos of sets. Starting from the unique left exact cocontinuous functor $\gamma_0 : \mathbf{Set} \to \mathcal{E}$, which is usually denoted by γ^* or Δ , we consider the existence of left adjoint sequence $\gamma_n \dashv \gamma_{n-1} \dashv \cdots \dashv \gamma_0$ and the existence of right adjoint sequence $\gamma_0 \dashv \gamma_{-1} \dashv \cdots \dashv \gamma_{-m}$. In Section 2, we will observe that these conditions define five different classes of Grothendieck topoi, including the class of all Grothendieck topoi, the class of locally connected Grothendieck topoi, the class of local Grothendieck topoi, and two others (Theorem 2.7).

In Section 3, we will focus on one of the five classes of Grothendieck topoi, which we call **completely connected topoi**. More concretely, a Grothendieck topos is completely connected if it has a left adjoint to a left adjoint to a left adjoint to the global sections functor $\gamma_2 \dashv \gamma_1 \dashv \gamma_0 \dashv \gamma_{-1} : \mathcal{E} \to \mathbf{Set}$. Our terminology is based on the fact that complete connectedness implies other notions of connectedness, including connectedness, local connectedness, stable connectedness [Joh11], and total connectedness [BF96] (Remark 3.4). Unsurprisingly, completely connected topoi have many special properties. For example, in a completely connected topos, connected objects are closed under small limits (Proposition 3.6). Although complete conectedness is a very strong condition, it is not too restrictive in the sense that every Grothendieck topos is a closed subtopos of a completely connected topos (Corollary 4.18). We will provide many examples in Section 4.

What might be surprising is that completely connected topoi are dually similar to local topoi. For example, it will be easily shown that $\mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C})$ is completely connected if and only if $\mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C}^{op})$ is local (Corollary 4.3). With a more detailed discussion, we provide a site characterisation of completely connected topoi, which is dual to the site characterisation of local topoi (Theorem 3.10). Furthermore, the Freyd cover construction of topoi, which makes a topos to a local topos, has a dually similar construction $\mathcal{E} \mapsto \mathbf{Fam}(\mathcal{E})$, which makes a topos into a completely connected topos (Theorem 4.17 and Remark 4.19). While the terminal object plays a central role in the characterisation theorems of local topoi, we define the notion of **the container object** (Definition 3.2), which plays the corresponding role in our characterisations of completely connected topoi.

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2. Adjoint strings between a Grothendieck topos and the base topos of sets

It is classically known that several important properties of a Grothendieck topos \mathcal{E} are described in terms of the adjunction between \mathcal{E} and the (base) topos **Set**. We start with a related categorical puzzle: How long can maximal adjoint strings between \mathcal{E} and **Set** be? (This will be answered in Remark 2.8.)

Definition 2.1. For a Grothendieck topos \mathcal{E} , we define the functor γ_n recursively as follows:

- γ_0 is the unique cocontinuous functor $\mathbf{Set} \to \mathcal{E}$ that preserves finite limits.
- γ_{i+1} is the left adjoint to the functor γ_i , if it exists.
- γ_{i-1} is the right adjoint to the functor γ_i , if it exists.

We say that a Grothendieck topos \mathcal{E} satisfies \mathbf{adj}_i if γ_i exists. The condition that every γ_i exists is referred to as \mathbf{adj}_{∞}

Notice that the functor γ_{2k} is a functor from **Set** to \mathcal{E} , and γ_{2k+1} is a functor from \mathcal{E} to **Set** whenever it exists.

Remark 2.2 (Meaning of each γ_i). The functor γ_i for i = -0, -1, 1 has the following conventional interpretations:

 γ_0 : The functor γ_0 : **Set** $\to \mathcal{E}$, which is usually called **the constant sheaf functor**, sends a set S to the corpoduct of the S-indexed copies of the terminal sheaf $1_{\mathcal{E}} \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{E})$. This functor is usually denoted by Δ or γ^* .

 γ_{-1} : The functor $\gamma_{-1} : \mathcal{E} \to \mathbf{Set}$, which is usually called **the global sections functor**, sends a sheaf $X \in \mathrm{ob}(\mathcal{E})$ to the set of its global sections $\mathcal{E}(1_{\mathcal{E}}, X)$. This functor is usually denoted by Γ or γ_* .

 γ_1 : The functor $\gamma_1 : \mathcal{E} \to \mathbf{Set}$, which is usually called **the connected component functor**, sends a sheaf X to the set of its connected components, if such functor γ_1 exsits. This functor is usually denoted by Π_0 or γ_1 .

Notice that the conditions \mathbf{adj}_0 and \mathbf{adj}_{-1} always hold for all Grothendieck topoi, since the adjunction $\gamma_0 \dashv \gamma_{-1}$ is the global sections geometric morphism $\mathcal{E} \to \mathbf{Set}$. The condition \mathbf{adj}_1 is equivalent to being locally connected, and \mathbf{adj}_{-2} is equivalent to being local ¹.

The following examples will be needed to prove Theorem 2.7.

Example 2.3 (The topos of idempotents). Consider the topos of idempotents, whose object is a pair (X, e) of a set X and an idempotent endofunction $e: X \to X$, and whose morphism is a function compatible with the associated idempotents. This is equivalent to the presheaf category over the monoid $(\mathbb{F}_2, 1, \times)$. For this topos, the γ_1 functor is naturally isomorphic to the global sections functor γ_{-1} , since each connected component of an object (X, e) has exactly one fixed point. Thus, the topos admits the infinite adjoint string $\cdots \dashv \gamma_{-1} \dashv \gamma_0 \dashv \gamma_{-1} \dashv \cdots$ and satisfies \mathbf{adj}_{∞} .

Example 2.4 (The Sierpiński topos). The topos of functions $\mathbf{Set}^{\rightarrow}$, which is also known as the Sierpiński topos, admits the following adjoint 5-tuple:

where the functor γ_2 sends a set X to the function $\emptyset \to X$, and the functor γ_{-2} sends a set X to the function $X \to *$. Since γ_2 does not preserve the terminal object and γ_{-2} does not preserve the initial object, this adjoint 5-tuple is not extended to an adjoint 6-tuple. This shows that the topos \mathbf{Set}^{\to} satisfies \mathbf{adj}_2 and \mathbf{adj}_{-2} but does not satisfy \mathbf{adj}_{∞} .

Example 2.5 (The sheaf topos over a circle). Let S^1 denote the circle regarded as a topological space. The unique geometric morphism $\mathbf{Sh}(S^1) \to \mathbf{Set}$ is locally connected, defining the adjoint triple $\gamma_1 \dashv \gamma_0 \dashv \gamma_{-1}$.

$$\mathbf{Sh}(S^1) \xrightarrow[]{\gamma_1} \gamma_0 \xrightarrow{\gamma_0} \mathbf{Set}$$

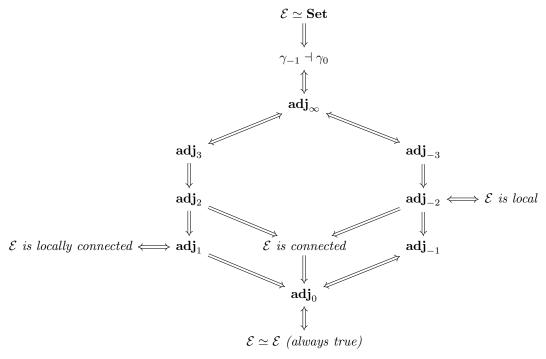
This cannot be extended to an adjoint 4-tuple since γ_{-1} does not preserve coequalizers and γ_1 does not preserve binary products. To see the latter, one can consider the universal covering $p: \mathbb{R} \to S^1$. Although it is connected $\gamma_1(\mathbb{R}) = 1$, its square $\mathbb{R} \times_{S^1} \mathbb{R} \cong \coprod_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{R} \to S^1$ is a countable coproduct of the universal covering. This shows that $\mathbf{Sh}(S^1)$ satisfies \mathbf{adj}_1 , but satisfies neither \mathbf{adj}_2 nor \mathbf{adj}_{-2} .

Example 2.6 (The sheaf topos over the Cantor space). For the Cantor space $2^{\mathbb{N}}$, the unique geometric morphism $\mathbf{Sh}(2^{\mathbb{N}}) \to \mathbf{Set}$ cannot be extended to an adjoint triple. The nonexistence of γ_1 follows since $2^{\mathbb{N}}$ is not locally connected. Thus, the topos $\mathbf{Sh}(2^{\mathbb{N}})$ satisfies neither \mathbf{adj}_1 nor \mathbf{adj}_{-2} .

¹These hold since we consider **Set** as the base topos. This paper does not study the relative case, which may be of interest.

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Theorem 2.7. We have the following implications between the following conditions of a Grothendieck topos \mathcal{E} .



Furthermore, for each implication symbol \implies , the converse implication does not hold.

Proof. We will prove them one by one.

- $\mathcal{E} \simeq \mathbf{Set} \implies \gamma_{-1} \dashv \gamma_0$: This holds trivially, since $\gamma_i \cong \mathrm{id}_{\mathbf{Set}}$ for any $i \in \mathbb{Z}$. Example 2.3 shows that the converse does not hold.
- $\gamma_{-1} \dashv \gamma_0 \iff \operatorname{adj}_{\infty} \iff \operatorname{adj}_{-3} \iff \operatorname{adj}_{-3}$: It is easy to prove $\gamma_{-1} \dashv \gamma_0 \implies \operatorname{adj}_{\infty} \implies \operatorname{adj}_{\infty} \implies \operatorname{adj}_{3}$ and $\operatorname{adj}_{\infty} \implies \operatorname{adj}_{-3}$. Conversely, the condition adj_{3} implies that γ_2 is continuous and cocontinuous and hence $\gamma_2 \cong \gamma_0$. This implies $\gamma_{-1} \cong \gamma_1 \dashv \gamma_0$. Similarly, the condition adj_{-3} implies that $\gamma_0 \cong \gamma_{-2}$ and $\gamma_{-1} \dashv \gamma_{-2} \cong \gamma_0$.
- Middle cases: The implications $\mathbf{adj}_3 \Longrightarrow \mathbf{adj}_2$, $\mathbf{adj}_2 \Longrightarrow \mathbf{adj}_1$, $\mathbf{adj}_1 \Longrightarrow \mathbf{adj}_0$, $\mathbf{adj}_{-3} \Longrightarrow \mathbf{adj}_{-2}$, and $\mathbf{adj}_{-2} \Longrightarrow \mathbf{adj}_{-1}$ are trivial by definition. It is shown that the converse do not hold by Example 2.4, Example 2.5, Example 2.6, Example 2.4, and Example 2.6 respectively.
- $\mathcal{E} \simeq \mathcal{E} \iff \mathbf{adj}_{-1} \iff \mathbf{adj}_0$: This follows since every Grothendieck topos admits the geometric morphism $\gamma_0 \dashv \gamma_{-1} \colon \mathcal{E} \to \mathbf{Set}$.
- $\operatorname{adj}_2 \Longrightarrow \mathcal{E}$ is connected: Assuming adj_2 , the functor γ_1 preserves the terminal object $\gamma_1(1_{\mathcal{E}}) \cong 1_{\mathbf{Set}}$ since γ_1 has the left adjoint γ_2 . This shows that the terminal object $1_{\mathcal{E}}$ is connected and the topos \mathcal{E} is connected. The converse does not hold, as exemplified by Example 2.5.
- $\operatorname{adj}_{-2} \Longrightarrow \mathcal{E}$ is connected: Assuming adj_{-2} the functor $\gamma_{-1} \cong \mathcal{E}(1_{\mathcal{E}}, -)$ preserves the binary coproduct $1_{\mathcal{E}} + 1_{\mathcal{E}}$. This means that the terminal object $1_{\mathcal{E}}$ admits no nontrivial coproduct decomposition, which means that the topos \mathcal{E} is connected. The converse does not hold, as exemplified by Example 2.5.
- \mathcal{E} is connected \implies adj₀: The implication is trivial by definition. The converse does not hold, as exemplified by Example 2.6.

Remark 2.8 (Possible lengths of maximal adjoint strings). With Theorem 2.7, we can conclude that the possible lengths of maximal adjoint strings between **Set** and a Grothendieck topos \mathcal{E} are $2, 3, 4, 5, \infty$. In fact, if there is an n-adjoint string for $n \geq 4$, at least one of the n functors coincides with the functor γ_0 . An example of a maximal 4-adjoint string is given by the topos of simplicial sets **sSet**.

Remark 2.9 (Relationship with quality types). Due to Theorem 2.7, a Grothendieck topos \mathcal{E} satisfies $\operatorname{adj}_{\infty}$ if and only if $\gamma_0 \colon \operatorname{\mathbf{Set}} \to \mathcal{E}$ makes \mathcal{E} a quality type over $\operatorname{\mathbf{Set}}$ in the sense of [Law07, Definition 1].

3. Complete connectedness of a Grothendieck topos

In this section, we will define the notion of completely connected Grothendieck topoi (Definition 3.1) and provide a site characterisation of them (Theorem 3.10).

3.1. **Definition.** We define the notion of complete connectedness by adj_2 . We will see many examples in Section 4. Here, we only mention that the Sierpiński topos (Example 2.4) is the prototypical example of completely connected topoi.

Definition 3.1 (Complete connectedness). We say that a Grothendieck topos \mathcal{E} is **completely connected** if \mathcal{E} satisfies \mathbf{adj}_2 .

We can rephrase the complete connectedness of a Grothendieck topos in terms of the existence of a special object, which we will call a container object.

Definition 3.2 (Container object). For a Grothendieck topos \mathcal{E} , an object $X \in \mathcal{E}$ is called a **container object** if $\mathcal{E}(X, -) : \mathcal{E} \to \mathbf{Set}$ is a left adjoint to the funcor $\gamma_0 : \mathbf{Set} \to \mathcal{E}$. The container object will be denoted by \square , if it exists.

By definition, a container object is unique up to isomorphisms if it exists. The reason for the notation \square will be explained in Example 4.5.

Proposition 3.3 (Immediate paraphrases). For a Grothendieck topos, the following conditions are equivalent.

- (1) \mathcal{E} is completely connected.
- (2) \mathcal{E} has a container object.
- (3) \mathcal{E} is locally connected and γ_1 is representable.
- (4) \mathcal{E} is locally connected and γ_1 is continuous.

Proof. The implication (1) \implies (2) follows since $\gamma_2(1)$ is a continuous object:

$$\mathcal{E}(\gamma_2(1), -) \cong \mathbf{Set}(1, \gamma_1(-)) \cong \gamma_1.$$

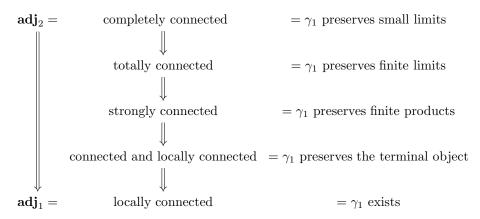
The equivalence (2) \iff (3) immediately follows from the definition of a contianer object. The implication (3) \implies (4) is also obvious since all representable functors are continuous. Lastly, assuming (4), the easiest case of the adjoint functor theorem implies the existence of γ_2 .

Remark 3.4 (Relation to other connectedness). A Grothendieck topos \mathcal{E} (relative to the base topos \mathbf{Set}) is called

- locally connected if the locally constant sheaf functor $\gamma_0 \colon \mathbf{Set} \to \mathcal{E}$ has a left adjoint γ_1 ,
- stably connected [Joh11] if it is locally connected and the functor γ_1 preserves finite products², and
- totally connected [BF96] if it is locally connected and the functor γ_1 preserves finite limits.

²This condition also appears in [Law86] as "Axiom 1."

Proposition 3.3 shows that the complete connectedness implies the all connectedness described above.



3.2. Container object. In this subsection, we observe basic properties of a container object. Informally, a container object looks like "an empty box", which itself is not "nothing" (see Figure 2 and Figure 3).

Proposition 3.5 (Properties of the container object). Let \mathcal{E} be a completely connected topos and let \square be its container object. The following proposition will be repeatedly used in the rest of the paper.

- (1) \square is connected.
- (2) \square is projective.
- (3) \square is not initial.
- (4) For any connected object $X \in ob(\mathcal{E})$, there is a unique morphism $\square \to X$.
- (5) \square is rigid, that is, the identity map id_{\square} is the unique endomorphism of \square .
- (6) For any object $X \in ob(\mathcal{E})$, X is not initial if and only if there exists at least one morphism $\square \to X$.

Proof. First, we prove (1), (2), and (3). To prove the connectedness (respectively, projectivity) of \square , it suffices to prove that $\mathcal{E}(\square, -)$ preserves binary coproducts (respectively, epimorphisms). This follows sice $\mathcal{E}(\square, -) \cong \gamma_1$ admits a right adjoint γ_0 . The connectedness of \square implies that \square is not initial.

Next, we prove (4), (5), and (6). The functor γ_1 sends an object X to the set of connected components of X (Remark 2.2). Since \square represents the functor γ_1 , there is a unique morphism $\square \to X$ for each connected object $X \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{E})$. In particular, the connectedness of \square implies that \square is rigid. The last property (6) follows from the fact that, if an object X does not have connected conponents, then it is initial in the locally connected topos \mathcal{E} . \square

The next proposition shows some unusual properties of completely connected topoi. As we will not use it in the rest of the paper, one can skip it. The full subcategory of a topos \mathcal{E} consisting of connected objects will be denoted by $\mathcal{E}_{\text{conn}}$.

Proposition 3.6 (Properties of completely connected topoi). Every completely connected Grothendieck topos \mathcal{E} satisfies the following conditions.

- (1) The canonical embedding $\mathcal{E}_{conn} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{E}$ has a left adjoint.
- (2) Small limits of connected objects are connected.
- (3) The container object \square is an atom, i.e. \square has exactly two subobjects.
- (4) The subobject classifier Ω has exactly two connected components.

Proof. (1): For each object $X \in ob(\mathcal{E})$, we define a morphism $\eta_X \colon X \to \overline{X}$ by the following pushout diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \gamma_2\gamma_1(X) & \xrightarrow{\epsilon_X} & X \\ & & \downarrow^{\gamma_2(!)} & & \downarrow^{\eta_X} \\ & & & & \overline{X}. \end{array}$$

Notice that $\gamma_2(1_{\mathbf{Set}}) \cong \square$. Since the left adjoint functor γ_1 preserves the pushout diagram, \overline{X} is connected. For any connected object $Y \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{E})$, the universal property of the pushout shows that $\eta_X^* : \mathcal{E}(\overline{X}, Y) \cong \mathcal{E}(X, Y)$ is bijective. Therefore, the map $\eta_X : X \to \overline{X}$ provides a reflector of the embedding $\mathcal{E}_{\text{conn}} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{E}$.

- (2): This follows from (2).
- (3): We have already shown that the container object \square is not initial (Proposition 3.5 (3)). Take an arbitrary non-initial subobject $s \rightarrowtail \square$. Due to Proposition 3.5 (6), there is a morphism $\square \to s$. Then, the diagram



commutes since \square is rigid (Proposition 3.5 (5)). This proves that the monomorphism $s \rightarrowtail \square$ is a split epimorphism, hence an isomorphism.

- (4): This follows from (3) since we have $\mathrm{Sub}(\square) \cong \mathcal{E}(\square, \Omega) = \gamma_1(\Omega)$.
- 3.3. **Site characterisation.** This subsection aims to provide a site characterisation of completely connected topoi. We start by recalling the notion of irreducibility of an object in a site. See [Joh02b, Definition C.2.2.18.(a).] for more details.

Definition 3.7 (Irreducible object). For a site (C, J), an object $c \in C$ is said to be *J*-irreducible if the only *J*-covering sieve on c is the maximal sieve.

Remark 3.8 (Site characterisation of local topoi [Joh02b, Example C.3.6.3 (d) local site]). The site characterisation of local topoi is well known. A site (C, J) is called **local** if C has a J-irreducible terminal object. It is known that a Grothendieck topos E is local if and only if E is (equivalent to) the sehaf topos over a small local site.

Our site characterisation of completely connected topoi is dual to that of local topoi.

Definition 3.9. We say that a site (\mathcal{C}, J) is **completely connected** if \mathcal{C} has a J-irreducible initial object.

Theorem 3.10. A Grothendieck topos \mathcal{E} is completely connected if and only if it is a sheaf topos over a small completely connected site.

Proof. If part: Let (C, J) be a small completely connected site with the J-irreducible initial object I. First we will prove that (C, J) is a *locally connected site*, i.e., a site in which every J-covering sieve S on every object $c \in ob(C)$ is connected as a subcategory of C/c (see [Joh02b, p. C3.3.]).

Take an arbitrary object $c \in \mathcal{C}$ and a J-covering sieve $S \in J(c)$. Since J is closed under pullback of sieves, we have $(I \xrightarrow{!} c)^*S \in J(I) = \{\text{the maximal sieve on } I\}$, which implies $I \xrightarrow{!} c \in S$. Thus, the subcategory $S \subset \mathcal{C}/c$ is connected, since $I \xrightarrow{!} c \in S$ is the initial object of \mathcal{C}/c .

The local connectedness of the site (\mathcal{C}, J) implies that the constant presheaf functor $\Delta \colon \mathbf{Set} \to \mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C})$ lifts along the embedding $\mathbf{Sh}(\mathcal{C}, J) \hookrightarrow \mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C})$

$$\mathbf{Sh}(\mathcal{C},J)$$

$$\uparrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow$$

$$\mathbf{Set} \xrightarrow{\Delta} \mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C}),$$

(because the gluing condition for a constant presheaf becomes trivial by the adjunction $\operatorname{colim}_{\mathcal{C}} \dashv \Delta$). By construction, the lift $\mathbf{Set} \to \mathbf{Sh}(\mathcal{C}, J)$ coincides with the functor γ_0 .

Due to Proposition 3.3, it remains to prove that γ_0 has a representable left adjoint γ_1 . By the above lifting diagram, we obtain the left adjoint

$$\gamma_1 \colon \mathbf{Sh}(\mathcal{C}, J) \longrightarrow \mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C}) \xrightarrow{\mathrm{colim}_{\mathcal{C}}} \mathbf{Set}.$$

Since the functor $\operatorname{colim}_{\mathcal{C}} \colon \mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C}) \to \mathbf{Set}$ is represented by $y(I) \in \operatorname{ob}(\mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C}))$, the sheafification of y(I) represents the functor γ_1 . This shows that $\mathbf{Sh}(\mathcal{C}, J)$ is a completely connected topos.

Only if part: If \mathcal{E} is completely connected, there is a generating set $G \subset \text{ob}(\mathcal{E})$ of \mathcal{E} . Since \mathcal{E} is locally connected and well-powered, we may assume that G consists of connected objects (by replacing them with their summands). Furthermore, we may assume that G contains the container object \Box , since it is connected (Proposition 3.5 (1)). Consider the small full subcategory \mathcal{C}_G of \mathcal{E} consisting of the objects in G and the canonical topology G.

It suffices to prove that (C_G, J_G) is a completely connected site. Since all objects in C_G are connected in \mathcal{E} , the container object \square is initial in C_G (Proposition 3.5 (4)). Take an arbitrary J_G -covering (= jointly epimorphic) sieve S of \square . Since \square is not initial in \mathcal{E} (Proposition 3.5 (3)), the sieve S is nonempty. Take an element $f: c \to \square$ in S. Since c is a connected object in \mathcal{E} , there is a unique morphism $\square \xrightarrow{s} c$ (Proposition 3.5 (4)), so $\square \xrightarrow{s} c \xrightarrow{f} \square$ belongs to S. The rigidity of \square (Proposition 3.5 (5)) implies $\mathrm{id}_{\square} = f \circ s \in S$ and therefore S is the maximal covering. This proves that the small site (C_G, J_G) is a completely connected site that generates the original Grothendieck topos \mathcal{E} .

4. Examples

This section aims to provide many examples of completely connected topoi together with their theoretical consequences.

4.1. Completely connected presheaf topoi.

Proposition 4.1 (Completely connected presheaf topoi). For a small category C, its presheaf topos PSh(C) is completely connected if and only if the Cauchy completion of C has an initial object.

Proof. Let $\overline{\mathcal{C}}$ denote the Cauchy completion of \mathcal{C} . If $\overline{\mathcal{C}}$ has an initial object, $\overline{\mathcal{C}}$ equipped with the trivial topology is a completely connected site that generates the topos $\mathbf{PSh}(\overline{\mathcal{C}})$. Theorem 3.10 implies that $\mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C}) \simeq \mathbf{PSh}(\overline{\mathcal{C}})$ is a completely connected topos.

Conversely, if the topos $\mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C})$ is completely connected, its container object \square is connected and projective (Proposition 3.5 (1) (2)) and therefore represented by an object of $\overline{\mathcal{C}}$. Let $I \in \mathrm{ob}(\overline{\mathcal{C}})$ be the representing object of $\square \in \mathbf{PSh}(\overline{\mathcal{C}}) \simeq \mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C})$. For any other object $X \in \mathrm{ob}(\overline{\mathcal{C}})$, the hom-set $\overline{\mathcal{C}}(I,X) \cong \mathbf{PSh}(\square,X)$ is singleton due to Proposition 3.5 (4). This shows that I is initial in $\overline{\mathcal{C}}$.

Remark 4.2. The if-part of Proposition 4.1 has a more direct proof without mentioning Theorem 3.10. If \mathcal{C} admits an initial object, the unique functor $!: \mathcal{C} \to 1$ admits a left adjoint $i \dashv !$. This adjunction lifts to the adjunction between their presheaf topoi $i^* \dashv !^* = \gamma_0 : \mathbf{Set} \to \mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C})$. Then, the functor $i^* = \gamma_1$ admits a left adjoint given by the left Kan extension along i, which witnesses that $\mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C})$ is completely connected.

We have an immediate corollary.

Corollary 4.3. For a small category C, PSh(C) is completely connected if and only if $PSh(C^{op})$ is local.

Proof. One can similarly prove that a presheaf topos $\mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C})$ is local if and only if the Cauchy completion $\overline{\mathcal{C}}$ has a terminal object.

Example 4.4 (Sets). The simplest example of completely connected topos is the topos of sets **Set**, which is a presheaf topos over the terminal category 1. Notice that the degenerate topos $1 \simeq \mathbf{PSh}(\emptyset)$ is not completely connected, since the empty category, which is Cauchy complete, does not have an initial object.

Example 4.5 (Sierpiński topos). The Sierpiński topos $\mathbf{Set}^{\rightarrow}$ is completely connected since the indexing category \rightarrow has an initial object (see also Example 2.4). This is a prototypical example of completely connected topos.

We can regard an object of the Sierpiński topos as a family of sets $\{X_{\lambda}\}_{{\lambda}\in\Lambda}$. For a given object of \mathbf{Set}^{\to} , which is a function $A\to B$, the corresponding family of sets is given by $\{f^{-1}(b)\}_{b\in B}$. (This correspondence will be described again in Example 4.20.) From this point of view, a randomly chosen object, the container object $\emptyset \to \{*\}$, and the initial object $\emptyset \to \emptyset$ look like Figure 1, Figure 2, and Figure 3, respectively. This is the reason why we chose our notation \square for the container object.

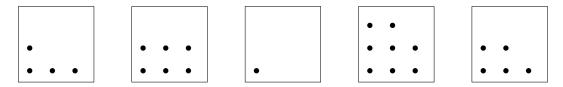


FIGURE 1. An object of the Sierpiński topos



FIGURE 2. The container object of the Sierpiński topos looks like "an empty box."



FIGURE 3. The initial object of the Sierpiński topos looks like "nothing."

Example 4.6 (Augmented simplicial sets). The topos of augmented simplicial sets is another prototypical example of a completely connected topos. Its container object is "the standard (-1)-simplex." An augmented simplicial set is regarded as a family of simplicial sets. From this point of view, the container object is the single family of an empty simplicial set.

Example 4.7 (The object classifier). The classifying topos of the theory of objects [**FinSet**, **Set**] is completely connected. Its container object is the universal object ι : **FinSet** \hookrightarrow **Set**, which is an example of a non-subterminal container object. Similarly, the classifying topos of inhabited objects [**FinSet** $_{\neq\emptyset}$, **Set**] is also completely connected.

Example 4.8 (Idempotents). The topos of idempotents is completely connected (see also Example 2.3). Its container object is the terminal object $\mathrm{id}_1 \colon 1 \to 1$, which is an example of a container object \square that admits a global section $1 \to \square$. In Proposition 4.22, we will prove that a completely connected topos \mathcal{E} satisfies adj_{∞} if and only if the container object admits a global section.

Example 4.9 (Cosimplicial sets). The topos of cosimplicial sets $\mathbf{PSh}(\Delta^{\mathrm{op}})$ is completely connected. This is a typical example of Corollary 4.3 reflecting the fact that the topos of simplicial sets is local. Similarly, the classifying topos of inhabited objects (Example 4.7) can be seen as "the dual" of the local topos of **symmetric simplicial** sets $\mathbf{PSh}(\mathbf{FinSet}_{\neq\emptyset})$, which is also called the (non-tirivial) Boolean algebra classifier (see [Law88]).

Example 4.10 (Classifying topoi of equational theories). Let \mathbb{T} be an equational theory and $\mathcal{C}_{\mathbb{T}}$ be the category of finitely presented \mathbb{T} -algebras. The classifying topos of \mathbb{T} -algebras, which is the functor category $[\mathcal{C}_{\mathbb{T}}, \mathbf{Set}]$, is completely connected if and only if $\mathcal{C}_{\mathbb{T}}$ has a terminal object. Furthermore, the category $\mathcal{C}_{\mathbb{T}}$ has a terminal object if and only if the terminal \mathbb{T} -algebra is finitely presented (since $\mathcal{C}_{\mathbb{T}}$ contains the \mathbb{T} -algebra freely generated by one element). For example, the classifying topoi of groups, rings, abelian groups, monoids, \mathbb{R} -vector spaces, and lattices are completely connected. If the number of symbols is much larger than the number of axioms, such as the theory with infinite constant symbols without axioms, the classifying topos is not completely connected.

Although those classifying topoi always satisfy \mathbf{adj}_{-2} , it satisfies \mathbf{adj}_{∞} if and only if the category of \mathbb{T} -algebras has a zero object. For example, classifing topoi of groups, abelian groups, and monoids satisfy \mathbf{adj}_{∞} , but the classyfing topos of rings does not satisfy \mathbf{adj}_{∞} .

Example 4.11 (Trees). We define the category of (rooted) trees **Trees**. An object of **Trees** is a pair (G, r) of a (directed and possibly infinite) graph G = (V, E) and a vertex $r \in V$ such that, for every vertex $v \in V$, there exists a unique (directed) path from v to r. A morphism $f: (G, r) \to (G', r')$ in **Trees** is a graph homomorphism $f: G \to G'$ that preserves the root f(r) = r'.

The category of trees is a completely connected presheaf topos, because it is equivalent to the presheaf topos over the totally ordered set (ω, \leq) . The equivalence $F \colon \mathbf{Trees} \xrightarrow{\simeq} \mathbf{PSh}(\omega, \leq)$ sends an object $(G = (V, E), r \in V)$ to a presheaf $F(G, r) = (\dots \xrightarrow{f_3} X_2 \xrightarrow{f_2} X_1 \xrightarrow{f_1} X_0) \in \mathrm{ob}(\mathbf{PSh}(\omega, \leq))$ where

$$X_n := \{v \in V \mid \text{the distance from } v \text{ to } r \text{ is exactly } n+1.\} \subset V.$$

For $n \ge 1$ and $x \in X_n$, we define $f_n(x) \in X_{n-1}$ as the unique vertex that has an edge $x \to f_n(x)$.

What's interesting about this topos is that **Trees** is naturally equivalent to the category of families of itsown, which we will explain in Example 4.20. In other words, defining the topos of rooted forests **Forests** as the category of families of objects of **Trees**, then we have an equivalence of categories **Trees** \simeq **Forests**, which is visualized in Figure 4.

Example 4.12 (Monoid action topos). Recall that an element $z \in M$ of a monoid M is called a **right zero element** if, for any element $m \in M$, we have mz = z. By the calculation of Cauchy completion, Proposition 4.1 implies that, for a monoid M, its presheaf topos $\mathbf{PSh}(M)$ is completely connected if and only if M has a right zero element $z \in M$.

Its container object is given by $\square = \{m \in M \mid zm = m\}$ equipped with the restriction action of the representable M-set M. Since the container object \square is the colimit of the idempotent action $z*-:M\to M\in\mathbf{PSh}(M)$, it represents the functor sending a M-set X to its set of z-fixed points:

$$\{x \in X \mid xz = x\} \cong \mathbf{PSh}(M)(\square, X) \cong \gamma_1(X).$$

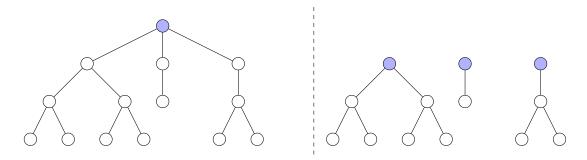


FIGURE 4. The correspondence between rooted trees and rooted forests

We can interpret this bijection by regarding a monoid M as a set of operations. From this point of view, the right zero element $z \in M$ corresponds to the "set-default" operation. Then, the above bijection means that the number of connected components is equal to the number of "default states."

Let us give an example of this interpretation inspired by [Law89]³. Consider the operations involved in reading books:

- ▶: Move to the next page if there is one.
- **<:** Move to the previous page if there is one.
- z: Return to the title page.

These operations (with natural equations) generate a monoid M, (which can be formally defined as the opposite of the semidirect product $\{\triangleright, \blacktriangleleft\}^* \rtimes \langle z \mid z^2 = z \rangle$,) where z is a right zero element. Then, the above bijection means that the number of books is equal to the number of title pages.

4.2. Completely connected localic topoi.

Lemma 4.13. For a localic topos \mathcal{E} , a projective and connected object is subterminal.

Proof. Let X be a projective and connected object. Since \mathcal{E} is localic, there is an epimorphism $p \colon \coprod_{\lambda \in \Lambda} U_{\lambda} \twoheadrightarrow X$, where each U_{λ} is subterminal. Since X is projective, the identity morphism $\mathrm{id}_X \colon X \to X$ lifts along p, which proves that X is a retract of $\coprod_{\lambda \in \Lambda} U_{\lambda}$. The connectedness of X implies that X is a subobject of U_{λ} for a single $\lambda \in \Lambda$. This shows that $X \rightarrowtail U_{\lambda} \rightarrowtail 1$ is subterminal.

Proposition 4.14 (Completely connected localic topoi). For a locale L, its sheaf topos $\mathbf{Sh}(L)$ is completely connected if and only if L has the minimum nonempty open $U_0 \in \mathcal{O}(L)$, i.e.,

$$\forall V \in \mathcal{O}(L), (U_0 \leq V) \iff (V \neq \bot).$$

Proof. If $\mathcal{O}(L)$ has such $U_0 \in \mathcal{O}(L)$, the canonical site consisting of $\mathcal{O}(L) \setminus \{\bot\}$ is a completely connected site with the initial object U_0 . Theorem 3.10 implies that $\mathbf{Sh}(L)$ is completely connected.

Conversely, assume that $\mathbf{Sh}(L)$ is completely connected and let $\square \in \mathrm{ob}(\mathbf{Sh}(L))$ be its container object. Since a container object is projective and connected (Proposition 3.5 (1)(2)), Lemma 4.13 implies that \square is subterminal. Let U_0 be the corresponding element of $\mathcal{O}(L)$. For any element $V \in \mathcal{O}(L)$, $U_0 \leq V$ if and only if V is not initial, due to Proposition 3.5 (6). This proves that U_0 is the minimum nonempty open.

Corollary 4.15 (Completely connected topological space). For a T_0 topological space X, its sheaf topos $\mathbf{Sh}(X)$ is completely connected if and only if it has an open dense point $x \in X$.

³Notice that a graphic monoid has a left zero-element ([Law89, Proposition 11]). Therefore its presheaf topos is a local topos, which is dually similar to our case.

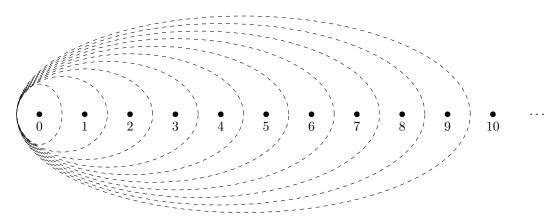


FIGURE 5. The underlying topological space of topos of trees, which has an open dense point.

Proof. A point $x \in X$ is dense if and only if $x \in V \iff V \neq \emptyset$ holds for any open subset $V \subset X$. Therefore, the existence of an open dense point is equivalent to the existence of the minimum open subset of X that is a singleton. Under the assumption that X is T_0 , if a minimum nonempty open subset U_0 of X exists, U_0 is a singleton. Now, Proposition 4.14 completes the proof.

The topos of trees (Example 4.11) is an example of a completely connected localic topos, which is the sheaf topos over the topological space visualised in Figure 5.

4.3. Completely connected topoi of families.

Definition 4.16 (Category of families). For a category \mathcal{E} , its **category of families Fam**(\mathcal{E}) has set-indexed families of objects of \mathcal{E} as objects. A morphism from a family $(I, \{X_i\}_{i \in I})$ to another family $(J, \{Y_j\}_{j \in J})$ is a pair $(\alpha, \{f_i\}_{i \in I})$ of a function $\alpha: I \to J$ and an I-indexed family of morphisms $\{f_i: X_i \to Y_{\alpha(i)}\}_{i \in I}$.

In other words, $\mathbf{Fam}(\mathcal{E})$ is the free small coproduct cocompletion of \mathcal{E} . For example, we have $\mathbf{Fam}(\mathbf{Set}) \simeq \mathbf{Set}^{\rightarrow}$ and $\mathbf{Fam}(\mathbf{Set}_*) \simeq \mathbf{PSh}(\mathbb{F}_2, 1, \times)$.

Theorem 4.17 (Family construction). For any Grothendieck topos \mathcal{E} , its category of families $Fam(\mathcal{E})$ is a completely connected Grothendieck topos.

Proof. Although there are other proofs that may be shorter, here we prefer a concrete proof, which provides a description of a site for $\mathbf{Fam}(\mathcal{E})$. Let (\mathcal{C}, J) be a small site that generates \mathcal{E} . We will construct a completely connected site $(\mathcal{C}^{\triangleleft}, J^{\triangleleft})$ such that $\mathbf{Fam}(\mathcal{E}) \simeq \mathbf{Sh}(\mathcal{C}^{\triangleleft}, J^{\triangleleft})$.

The category $\mathcal{C}^{\triangleleft}$ is defined as the category \mathcal{C} equipped with a new formal initial object \emptyset . The object $\emptyset \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C}^{\triangleleft})$ is a strict initial object in the sense that, for any object $c \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C}) \subseteq \text{ob}(\mathcal{C}^{\triangleleft})$, there are no morphisms from c to \emptyset .

The topology J^{\triangleleft} is defined as follows. The only J^{\triangleleft} -covering sieve of the initial object \emptyset is the maximal sieve, that is, the initial object \emptyset is J^{\triangleleft} -irreducible. For other objects $c \in \text{ob}(\mathcal{C})$, a sieve S' is J^{\triangleleft} -covering if and only if $!: \emptyset \to c \in S'$ and $S := S' \setminus \{!: \emptyset \to c\}$, which is a sieve of c in the original category \mathcal{C} , is J-covering $S \in J(c)$. Thus, there is a bijection $J(c) \stackrel{\cong}{\to} J^{\triangleleft}(c)$ that sends a J-covering sieve S to $S \cup \{!: \emptyset \to c\}$. It is straightforward to prove that $(\mathcal{C}^{\triangleleft}, J^{\triangleleft})$ is a site.

In order to prove $\mathbf{Fam}(\mathcal{E}) \simeq \mathbf{Sh}(\mathcal{C}^{\triangleleft}, J^{\triangleleft})$, we first prove $\mathbf{Fam}(\mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C})) \simeq \mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C}^{\triangleleft})$. This equivalence is given by sending a presheaf $P \in \mathrm{ob}(\mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C}^{\triangleleft}))$ to the $P(\emptyset)$ -indexed family $(P(\emptyset), \{P_i|_{\mathcal{C}^{\mathrm{op}}}\}_{i \in (P(\emptyset))})$, where $P_i \in \mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C}^{\triangleleft})$ is the subpresheaf of P given by

$$P_i(c) := \{ x \in P(c) \mid x * (!: \emptyset \to c) = i \in P(\emptyset) \}.$$

It is also straightforward to verify that this correspondence gives an equivalence of categories. Lastly, one can prove that the J^{\triangleleft} -sheaf condition for a presheaf $P \in \mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C})$ is equivalent to the componentwise J-sheaf condition via the equivalence $\mathbf{Fam}(\mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C})) \simeq \mathbf{PSh}(\mathcal{C}^{\triangleleft})$. This completes the proof of the equivalence $\mathbf{Fam}(\mathcal{E}) \simeq \mathbf{Sh}(\mathcal{C}^{\triangleleft}, J^{\triangleleft})$. \square

Corollary 4.18. Every Grothendieck topos \mathcal{E} is a closed subtopos of a completely connected Grothendieck topos.

Proof. Due to Theorem 4.17, it suffices to prove that \mathcal{E} is a closed subtopos of $\mathbf{Fam}(\mathcal{E})$. Let \square be the container object of the completely connected topos $\mathbf{Fam}(\mathcal{E})$. As a family of objects, \square is a single family of the initial object $\{0_{\mathcal{E}}\}_{*\in\{*\}}$. This is subterminal in $\mathbf{Fam}(\mathcal{E})$.

We prove that the closed subtopos of $\mathbf{Fam}(\mathcal{E})$ corresponding to the subterminal object $\square \mapsto 1$ is equivalent to \mathcal{E} . By the concrete description of closed subtopos (for example, see [Joh02b, Proposition A.4.5.3]) it suffices to prove that $(I, \{X_i\}_{i \in I}) \times \square \cong \square$ if and only if I is a singleton. This follows from $\square = (\{*\}, \{0_{\mathcal{E}}\}_{* \in \{*\}})$ and $(I, \{X_i\}_{i \in I}) \times \square \cong (I, \{X_i \times 0_{\mathcal{E}}\}_{i \in I}) \cong (I, \{0_{\mathcal{E}}\}_{i \in I})$.

Remark 4.19 (Artin gluing). The above two results are understood in terms of Artin gluing. (See [Joh02a, Example A 2.1.12. The gluing construction] for more details of Artin gluing.) In fact, for a Grothendieck topos \mathcal{E} , its category of families $Fam(\mathcal{E})$ is equivalent to the Artin gluing of the finite limit preserving functor $\gamma_0 \colon \mathbf{Set} \to \mathcal{E}$

$$\mathbf{Fam}(\mathcal{E}) \simeq \mathbf{Gl}(\gamma_0 \colon \mathbf{Set} \to \mathcal{E}).$$

This proves that \mathcal{E} is a closed subtopos of $\mathbf{Fam}(\mathcal{E})$, and $\mathbf{Set} \simeq \mathbf{Sh}(1)$ is an open subtopos of $\mathbf{Fam}(\mathcal{E})$. Furthermore, combining the fact that γ_0 preserves the initial object, we can prove that \mathbf{Set} is an open dense subtopos of $\mathbf{Fam}(\mathcal{E})$. From the viewpoint of the duality to local topoi, this is dually similar to the Freyd cover construction, which makes a topos \mathcal{E} to a local topos $\overline{\mathcal{E}}$ by taking Artin gluing $\mathcal{E} := \mathbf{Gl}(\gamma_{-1} : \mathcal{E} \to \mathbf{Set})$.

Example 4.20 (Presheaf case). For a small category \mathcal{C} , we have $\mathbf{Fam}(\mathbf{PSh}(C)) \simeq \mathbf{PSh}(C^{\triangleleft})$. For example, starting from the empty category, which will be denoted by the ordinal number 0, we obtain the completely connected topos of sets $\mathbf{PSh}(0^{\triangleleft}) \simeq \mathbf{Set}$ (Example 4.4). Then, we obtain the Sierpiński topos $\mathbf{PSh}(0^{\triangleleft \triangleleft}) \simeq \mathbf{Set}^{\rightarrow}$ (Example 4.5). As a "limit step", we obtain the topos of trees, which is a fixed point of the family construction $\mathbf{Forests} := \mathbf{Fam}(\mathbf{Trees}) \simeq \mathbf{PSh}(1 + \omega, \leq) \simeq \mathbf{PSh}(\omega, \leq) \simeq \mathbf{Trees}$ (see Example 4.11). The topos of augmented simplicial sets $\mathbf{Fam}(\mathbf{PSh}(\Delta))$ is also an example of family construction (see Example 4.6).

Remark 4.21 (The inverse direction of Theorem 4.17). For a completely connected topos \mathcal{E} , the following conditions are equivalent:

- (1) There is a Grothendieck topos \mathcal{F} such that $\mathcal{E} \simeq \mathbf{Fam}(\mathcal{F})$.
- (2) For any object $X \in \mathcal{E}$, X is connected if and only if $X \times \square \cong \square$.

We have already seen that $(1) \Longrightarrow (2)$ in the proof of Corollary 4.18. Conversely, if the topos \mathcal{E} satisfies (2), the connectedness of the container object \square (Proposition 3.5 (1)) implies that $\square \times \square \cong \square$ and therefore \square is subterminal. Let \mathcal{F} be the closed subtopos corresponding to $\square \rightarrowtail 1$. The assumption (2) implies that the embedding $\mathcal{F} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{E}$ coincides with the embedding of connected objects $\mathcal{E}_{conn} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{E}$. This and the local connectedness of \mathcal{E} imply that $\mathcal{E} \simeq \mathbf{Fam}(\mathcal{F})$.

Of course, not every completely connected topoi is of the form of $\mathbf{Fam}(\mathcal{E})$. For example, the topos of idempotents (Example 4.8) is not of this form. In fact, for a Grothendieck topos \mathcal{E} , \mathcal{E} cannot satisfy \mathbf{adj}_{∞} unless $\square = 1$ (see Proposition 4.22).

4.4. Completely connected topoi with a further left adjoint.

Proposition 4.22. For a Grothendieck topos \mathcal{E} , the following conditions are equivalent

- (1) \mathcal{E} satisfies \mathbf{adj}_{∞}
- (2) The terminal object of \mathcal{E} is a container object.

(3) \mathcal{E} is completely connected and its container object \square has a global section $1 \to \square$.

Proof. If \mathcal{E} satisfies $\operatorname{adj}_{\infty}$, we have $\mathcal{E}(1,-) = \gamma_{-1} \dashv \gamma_0$ (Theorem 2.7). This proves that the terminal object 1 is a container object of \mathcal{E} .

If the terinal object $1 \in ob(\mathcal{E})$ is a container object of \mathcal{E} , then \mathcal{E} is completely connected due to Proposition 3.3. In this case, it is obvious that the container object $\square \cong 1$ admits a global section $1 \to \square$.

Lastly, we assume that \mathcal{E} is completely connected and that its container object \square admits a global section. Then, the global section $1 \to \square$ is an isomorphism since \square is rigid (Proposition 3.5 (5)). This proves $\gamma_{-1} = \mathcal{E}(1, -) \cong \mathcal{E}(\square, -) = \gamma_1 \dashv \gamma_0$. Due to Theorem 2.7, \mathcal{E} satisfies \mathbf{adj}_{∞} .

Example 4.23 (Eventually fixed discrete dynamical systesm). Let $\mathbf{PSh}(\mathbb{N}, 0, +)$ be the topos of discrete dynamical systems, which is the presheaf topos over the additive monoid $(\mathbb{N}, 0, +)$. An object of $\mathbf{PSh}(\mathbb{N}, 0, +)$ is a pair (X, f) of a set X and an endomorphism $f: X \to X$. This topos is not completely connected due to Proposition 4.1. Let $\mathcal{E} \subset \mathbf{PSh}(\mathbb{N}, 0, +)$ be the full subcategory consisting of discrete dynamical systems (X, f) such that

$$\forall x \in X, \ \exists n \in \mathbb{N}, \ f^{n+1}(x) = f^n(x).$$

This is an example of a Grothendieck topos that satisfies \mathbf{adj}_{∞} and is not a presheaf topos.

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