

**CONNECTIVITIES FOR A PRETOPOLOGY  
AND ITS INVERSE**

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**Abstract:** In this paper, we present inverse of a given pretopology and we exhibit some equivalences related to connectivity and strong connectivity.

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**1. Introduction**

We already presented how pretopology generalizes both graph theory and topology ([1]). We also established links between on one hand pretopology and matroids and, on the other hand between pretopology and hypergraphs ([6]).

Here, we present results about strong connectivity ([4]) and connectivity ([7]) related to a given pretopology and its inverse.

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## 2. Different Types of Pretopological Spaces ([1], [3], [4])

**Definition 1.** Let  $X$  be a non-empty set.  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  denotes the family of subsets of  $X$ . We call pseudoclosure on  $X$  any mapping  $a$  from  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  onto  $\mathcal{P}(X)$  such as:

$$a(\emptyset) = \emptyset, \forall A \subset X, A \subset a(A)$$

$(X, a)$  is then called pretopological space.

We can define four different types of pretopological spaces.

1.  $(X, a)$  is a  $\mathcal{V}$  type pretopological space if and only if  $\forall A \subset X, \forall B \subset X, A \subset B \Rightarrow a(A) \subset a(B)$
2.  $(X, a)$  is a  $\mathcal{V}_D$  type pretopological space if and only if  $\forall A \subset X, \forall B \subset X, a(A \cup B) = a(A) \cup a(B)$ .
3.  $(X, a)$  is a  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type pretopological space if and only if  $\forall A \subset X, a(A) = \bigcup_{x \in A} a(\{x\})$
4.  $(X, a)$  a  $\mathcal{V}_D$  type pretopological space, is a topological space if and only if  $\forall A \subset X, a(a(A)) = a(A)$

**Property 2.** If  $(X, a)$  is a  $\mathcal{V}_s$  space then  $(X, a)$  is a  $\mathcal{V}_D$  space. If  $(X, a)$  is a  $\mathcal{V}_D$  space then  $(X, a)$  is a  $\mathcal{V}$  space.

**Example 3.** Let  $X$  be a non-empty set and  $\mathcal{R}$  be a binary relationship defined on  $X$ . The pretopology of ascending-descending is defined by its pseudoclosure, denoted  $a_{ad}$  according to:

$$\forall A \subset X, a_{ad}(A) = \{x \in X / \mathcal{R}^{-1}(x) \cap A \neq \emptyset \wedge \mathcal{R}(x) \cap A \neq \emptyset\} \cup A$$

This leads us to a  $\mathcal{V}$  type pretopological space, which is not a  $\mathcal{V}_D$  one nor a  $\mathcal{V}_s$  one.

## 3. Different Pretopological Spaces Defined from a Space $(X, a)$ and Closures [3][5]

**Definition 4.** Let  $(X, a)$  be a  $\mathcal{V}$  type pretopological space. Let  $A \subset X$ .  $A$  is a closed subset of  $X$  if and only if  $A = a(A)$ .

We denote for any subset  $A$  of  $X$ :

$$a^0(A) = A \text{ and } \forall n, n \geq 1, a^n(A) = a(a^{n-1}(A)).$$

We define the closure of  $A$  as the subset of  $X$ , denoted  $F_a(A)$ , which is the smallest closed subset which contains  $A$ . Then,  $F'$ , the inverse of the closure generated by  $a$ , is defined as:

$$\forall A \subset X, F'(A) = \{x \in X / F_a(\{x\}) \cap A \neq \emptyset\}$$

We note  $a'' = F'_a F_a$  the composition of  $F'_a$  and  $F_a$ , and  $F''_a$  denotes the closure according to  $a''$ .

**Remark 5.**  $F_a(A)$  is the intersect of all closed subsets which contain  $A$ . In the case where  $(X, a)$  is a "general" pretopological space (i.e. is not a  $\mathcal{V}$  space nor a  $\mathcal{V}_D$  space, nor a  $\mathcal{V}_s$  space, and nor a topological space), the closure may not exist.

**Proposition 6.** Let  $(X, a)$  be a  $\mathcal{V}$  space. Let  $A \subset X$ . If one of the two following conditions is fulfilled:

$X$  is a finite space

$a$  defines a  $\mathcal{V}_s$  space

then

$$F_a(A) = \bigcup_{n \geq 0} a^n(A)$$

**Remark 7.** If  $a$  defines a  $\mathcal{V}$  type space, then  $a^n, F_a, a'', F''_a$  also define  $\mathcal{V}$  type spaces and  $F'_a$  defines a  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type space. If  $a$  defines a  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type space then  $a^n, F_a, a'', F''_a, F'_a$  also define  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type spaces.

**Definition 8.** Let  $(X, a)$  a  $\mathcal{V}$  pretopological space. Let  $A \subset X$ . The mapping  $a'$ , called inverse of pseudoclosure  $a$ , is defined as follows:

$$\forall A \subset X, a'(A) = \{x \in X / F_a(\{x\}) \cap A \neq \emptyset\}$$

$a'$  is a pseudoclosure defined on  $\mathcal{P}(X)$

We denote  $F_{a'}$  the closure according to  $a'$  et  $F'_{a'}$  the inverse of the closure according to  $a'$  (i.e. of  $F_{a'}$ ). We also denote  $F''_{a'}$  the closure according to  $(a')'' = F'_{a'} F_{a'}$ .

#### 4. Global Results Related to $(X, a)$ et $(X, a')$ [3]

**Remark 9.**  $\forall x \in X, \forall y \in y, y \in a(\{x\}) \Leftrightarrow x \in a(\{y\})$ .

*Proof.*  $y \in a'(\{x\}) \Leftrightarrow a(\{y\}) \cap \{x\} \neq \emptyset \Leftrightarrow x \in a(\{y\})$  according to definition.  $\square$

**Remark 10.** Let  $(X, a)$  a pretopological space. If  $(X, a)$  is a  $\mathcal{V}$  type space, then  $(X, a')$  is  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type space.

*Proof.*  $\forall A \subset X, a'(A) = \{x \in X/a(\{x\}) \cap A \neq \emptyset\}$   
 $\forall A \subset X, a'(A) = \cup_{y \in A} \{x \in X/y \in a(\{x\})\} = \cup_{y \in A} a'(\{y\})$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 11.** Let  $(X, a)$  a pretopological space. Let  $x \in X, y \in X$  and  $n$  an integer.

1. If  $(X, a)$  is of  $\mathcal{V}$  type,  $x \in (a')^n(\{y\}) \Rightarrow y \in a^n(\{x\})$ .
2. If  $(X, a)$  is of  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type,  $x \in (a')^n(\{y\}) \Leftrightarrow y \in a^n(\{x\})$ .

*Proof.* 1. If  $(X, a)$  is of  $\mathcal{V}$  type then  $(X, a')$  is of  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type. Then  $x \in (a')^n(\{y\}) \Leftrightarrow \exists x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n$  such as:  
 $x_0 = y, x_n = x$  with  $\forall j = 0, \dots, n-1, x_{j+1} \in a'(\{x_j\})$  (previous remark), which implies  $y \in a^n(\{x\})$ .

2.  $(X, a)$  is  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type, we get an equivalence instead of an implication.  $\square$

**Proposition 12.** Let  $(X, a)$  pretopological space.

1. If  $(X, a)$  is of  $\mathcal{V}$  type,

$$\forall A \subset X, (a')'(A) = \bigcup_{y \in A} a(\{y\}) \subset a(A)$$

2. If  $(X, a)$  is  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type,  $(a')' = a$ .

*Proof.* 1.

$$\begin{aligned} (a')'(A) &= \{x \in X/a'(\{x\}) \cap A \neq \emptyset\}, \\ (a')'(A) &= \bigcup_{y \in A} \{x \in X/y \in a'(\{x\})\} \\ &= (a')'(A) \bigcup_{y \in A} \{x \in X/x \in a(\{y\})\} \end{aligned}$$

$$=(a')'(A) \bigcup_{y \in A} a(\{y\}) \subset a(A) \text{ (} a \text{ defines a } \mathcal{V} \text{ type space).}$$

2. If  $(X, a)$  is of  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type then  $\bigcup_{y \in A} a(\{y\}) = a(A)$  which leads to the result.  $\square$

**Proposition 13.** *Let  $(X, a)$  a pretopological space. Let  $n$  an integer.*

1. *If  $(X, a)$  is of  $\mathcal{V}$  type,  $\forall A \subset X$ ,  $(a')^n(A) = \bigcup_{y \in A} (a')^n(\{y\}) \subset (a^n)'(A)$ .*
2. *If  $(X, a)$  is of  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type,  $(a')^n = (a^n)'$ .*

*Proof.* 1. If  $(X, a)$  is of  $\mathcal{V}$  type then  $(X, a')$  is of  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type then  $(a')^n(A) = \bigcup_{y \in A} (a')^n(\{y\})$ . By using recurrence, let us show that  $(a')^n(A) \subset (a^n)'(A)$ . This is true for  $n = 1$ . Let us suppose it is true for  $n$ .

We get  $(a')^{n+1}(A) = a'((a')^n(A)) \subset a'(a^n)'(A)$  (because the property is true for  $n$ )

$$(a')^{n+1}(A) \subset a'(\{x \in X/a^n(\{x\}) \cap A \neq \emptyset\})$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} a'(\{x \in X/a^n(\{x\}) \cap A \neq \emptyset\}) &\subset \{y \in X/a(\{y\}) \cap \{x \in X/a^n(\{x\}) \cap A \neq \emptyset\} \neq \emptyset\} \\ &\subset \{y \in X/a^{n+1}(\{y\}) \cap A \neq \emptyset\} \subset (a^{n+1})'(A). \end{aligned}$$

2. By using recurrence, let us show that  $(a')^n(A) = (a^n)'(A)$ . This is true for  $n = 1$ . Let us suppose it is true for  $n$ .

We get  $(a')^{n+1}(A) = a'((a')^n(A)) = a'(a^n)'(A)$  (because the property is true for  $n$ )

$$(a')^{n+1}(A) = a'(\{x \in X/a^n(\{x\}) \cap A \neq \emptyset\}).$$

So,

$$(a')^{n+1}(A) = \{y \in X/a(\{y\}) \cap \{x \in X/a^n(\{x\}) \cap A \neq \emptyset\} \neq \emptyset\}$$

and

$$(a')^{n+1}(A) = \{y \in X/a^{n+1}(\{y\}) \cap A \neq \emptyset\} = (a^{n+1})'(A). \quad \square$$

**Proposition 14.** *Let  $(X, a)$  a pretopological space.*

1. *If  $(X, a)$  is of  $\mathcal{V}$  type,  $\forall A \subset X$ , we get:*

- $F_{a'}(A) \subset F'_a(A)$
- $F'_{a'}(A) \subset F_a(A)$
- $F''_{a'}(A) \subset F''_a(A)$ .

2. If  $(X, a)$  is of  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type,  $\forall A \subset X$ , we get:

- $F_{a'}(A) = F'_a(A)$
- $F'_{a'}(A) = F_a(A)$
- $F''_{a'}(A) = F''_a(A)$ .

*Proof.* (i) If  $(X, a)$  is of  $\mathcal{V}$  type then  $(X, a')$  is of  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type then  $F_{a'}(A) = \bigcup_{n \geq 0} (a')^n(A) \subset \bigcup_{n \geq 0} (a^n)'(A)$ . Moreover

$$\bigcup_{n \geq 0} (a^n)'(A) \subset \bigcup_{n \geq 0} \{x \in X/a^n(\{x\}) \cap A \neq \emptyset\}$$

(see Proposition 13.1) and by definition

$$F_{a'}(A) \subset \{x \in X/F_a(\{x\}) \cap A \neq \emptyset\} \subset F'_a(A).$$

$$F'_{a'}(A) = \{x \in X/F_{a'}(\{x\}) \cap A \neq \emptyset\} \text{ (by definition)}$$

$$F'_{a'}(A) = \bigcup_{y \in A} \{x \in X/y \in F'_a(\{x\})\} \text{ (Proposition 14.1)}$$

We have

$$\bigcup_{y \in A} \{x \in X/y \in F'_a(\{x\})\} \subset \bigcup_{y \in A} \{x \in X/x \in F_a(\{y\})\}$$

(see [5]) and

$$\bigcup_{y \in A} \{x \in X/x \in F_a(\{y\})\} \subset \bigcup_{y \in A} F_a(\{y\}) \subset F_a(A)$$

(( $X, a$ ) is of  $\mathcal{V}$  type).

We have  $F''_{a'} = F_{(a')''}$  (by definition). But  $(a')''(A) = F'_a F_{a'}(A)$  (by definition).

$(a')''(A) \subset F'_{a'} F'_a(A)$  (Proposition 14.1) and then:

$$F''_{a'}(A) = F_{(a')''}(A) \subset F_{F'_a F'_a}(A).$$

And  $F_{F'_a F'_a}(A) = F_{F'_a F_a}(A)$  (see [2]) =  $F''_a(A)$  (by definition).

(ii) If  $(X, a)$  is of  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type, then inclusions in part (i) become equalities, which implies the result.  $\square$

**Definition 15.** Let  $(X, a)$  is of  $\mathcal{V}$  type. Let  $A \subset X$ . We define the induced pretopology on  $A$  by a by:  $\forall C \subset A, a_A(C) = a(C) \cap A$ ,  $(A, a_A)$ , or more simply,  $a_A$  is said pretopological subspace of  $(X, a)$  .

**Proposition 16.** Let  $(X, a)$  a pretopological space of  $\mathcal{V}$  type. Let  $A \subset X$  with  $A \neq \emptyset$ .

Let  $C \subset A, (a_A)'(C) = (a')_A(C)$  .

*Proof.*  $(a_A)'(C) = \{x \in A/a_A(\{x\}) \cap C \neq \emptyset\}$   
 $(a_A)'(C) = \{x \in A/a(\{x\}) \cap C \cap A \neq \emptyset\}$   
 $(a_A)'(C) = a'(C \cap A) \cap A = a'(C) \cap A = (a')_A(C)$  ( car  $C \subset A$ ). □

### 5. Strong Connectivity in $(X, a)$ and $(X, a')$ [3]

**Definition 17.** Let  $(X, a)$  is of  $\mathcal{V}$  type. Let  $A$  and  $B$  two non empty subsets of  $X$ . There exists a path in  $(X, a)$  from  $B$  to  $A$  if and only if  $B \subset F(A)$

**Proposition 18.** Let  $(X, a)$  a pretopological space. Let  $x \in X, y \in X$ .  
*i-* If  $(X, a)$  is of  $\mathcal{V}$  type , if there exists a path from  $\{x\}$  to  $\{y\}$  in  $(X, a')$  then there exists a path from  $\{y\}$  to  $\{x\}$  in  $(X, a)$ .

*ii-* If  $(X, a)$  is of  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type, existence of a path from  $\{x\}$  to  $\{y\}$  in  $(X, a')$  is equivalent to existence of a path from  $\{y\}$  to  $\{x\}$  in  $(X, a)$ .

*Proof.* (i) If  $(X, a)$  is of  $\mathcal{V}$  type, then  $(X, a')$  is of  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type and there exists a path from  $\{x\}$  to  $\{y\}$  in  $(X, a')$  which is equivalent to existence of a sequence  $x_0, \dots, x_n$  of elements of  $X$  such as  $x_0 = y, x_n = x$  with  $\forall j = 0, \dots, n - 1, x_{j+1} \in a'(\{x_j\})$  (see [6]). In other words, there exists a sequence  $x_0, \dots, x_n$  of elements of  $X$  such as  $x_0 = y, x_n = x$  with  $\forall j = 0, \dots, n - 1, x_{j+1} \in a(\{x_j\})$  (previous remark), which implies there exists a path from  $\{y\}$  to  $\{x\}$  in  $(X, a)$  (see [6] ).

(ii) If  $(X, a)$  is of  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type, we get equivalence (see [6] ). □

**Remark 19.** The converse of the (i) is not true generally speaking.

**Example 20.** Let  $(X, a)$  a pretopological space with  $X = \{a, b, c, d\}$  and  $a$  the pseudoclosure of ascending-descending as defined on the following graph (figure 1):  $a \in F_a(\{c\})$ , then there exists a path from  $\{a\}$  to  $\{c\}$  in  $(X, a)$  but  $c \notin F_{a'}(\{a\})$ .

Indeed,  $a'(\{a\}) = \{x \in X/a(\{x\}) \cap \{a\} \neq \emptyset\}$   
 $a'(\{a\}) = \{x \in X/a \in a(\{x\})\} = \{a, b\}$  and

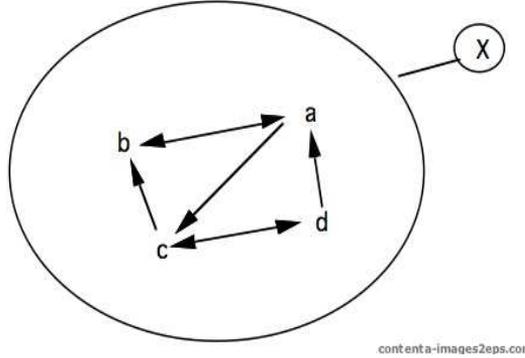


Figure 1: Graph

$$a'(\{a, b\}) = \{x \in X/a(\{x\}) \cap \{a, b\} \neq \emptyset\} = \{a, b\}.$$

So  $F_{a'}(\{a\}) = \{a, b\}$  and  $c \notin F_{a'}(\{a\})$ .

**Proposition 21.** Let  $(X, a)$  is of  $\mathcal{V}$  type.

$(X, a)$  strongly connected  $\Leftrightarrow \forall A \subset X, A \neq \emptyset, \forall B \subset X, B \neq \emptyset$ , there exists a path from  $B$  to  $A$  in  $(X, a)$ .

**Definition 22.** Let  $(X, a)$  is of  $\mathcal{V}$  type. Let  $A \subset X$ .

$A$  is a pretopological subspace strongly connected of  $X$  if and only if  $(A, a_A)$  is strongly connected as a pretopological space.

**Proposition 23.** Let  $(X, a)$  a pretopological space.

Let  $A \subset X, A \neq \emptyset$ .

(i) If  $(X, a)$  is of  $\mathcal{V}$  type then  $A$  subspace strongly connected of  $(X, a')$  implies  $A$  subspace strongly connected of  $(X, a)$ .

(ii) If  $(X, a)$  is of  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type then  $A$  subspace strongly connected of  $(X, a')$  is equivalent to  $A$  subspace strongly connected of  $(X, a)$ .

*Proof.* (i)  $A$  subspace strongly connected of  $(X, a')$

$\Leftrightarrow$

$\forall x \in A, \forall y \in A$ , there exists a path from  $\{y\}$  to  $\{x\}$  in  $(A, (a')_A)$  (see [6])

$\Leftrightarrow$

$\forall x \in A, \forall y \in A$ , there exists a path from  $\{y\}$  to  $\{x\}$  in  $(A, (a_A)')$  (Proposition 16), therefore  $\forall x \in A, \forall y \in A$ , there exists a path from  $\{x\}$  to  $\{y\}$  in  $(A, a_A)$ .

So  $A$  is a subspace strongly connected of  $(X, a)$  (see [6]).

(ii) We get equivalences if  $(X, a)$  is of  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type (Proposition 18.ii).  $\square$

**Definition 24.** Let  $(X, a)$  is of  $\mathcal{V}$  type. Let  $A \subset X, A \neq \emptyset$ .  $(A, a_A)$  is a greatest subspace strongly connected of  $(X, a)$  if and only if  $(A, a_A)$  is a subspace strongly connected of  $(X, a)$  and  $\forall B, A \subset B \subset X$  and  $A \neq B, (B, a_B)$  is not a subspace strongly connected of  $(X, a)$ .

**Proposition 25.** Let  $(X, a)$  is of  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type. Let  $A \subset X, A \neq \emptyset$ .

$(A, a_A)$  is a greatest subspace strongly connected of  $(X, a) \Leftrightarrow (A, a_A)$  is the greatest subspace strongly connected of  $(X, a')$ .

*Proof.* obvious from proposition 18.ii □

**Conclusion.** Decomposing a pretopological space  $(X, a)$  of  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type into greatest strongly connected subspaces is equivalent to decomposing the pretopological space  $(X, a')$  into greatest strongly connected subspaces.

## 6. Connectivity in $(X, a)$ and $(X, a')$ [3]

**Definition 26.** Let  $(X, a)$  of  $\mathcal{V}$  type. Let  $A$  and  $B$  two non empty subsets of  $X$ . There exists a chain in  $(X, a)$  from  $B$  to  $A$  if and only if  $B \subset F''(A)$ .

**Proposition 27.** Let  $(X, a)$  a pretopological space . Let  $x \in X, y \in X$ .

(i) If  $(X, a)$  of  $\mathcal{V}$  type, there exists a chain from  $\{y\}$  to  $\{x\}$  in  $(X, a')$ , which implies there exists one chain from  $\{y\}$  to  $\{x\}$  in  $(X, a)$ .

(ii) If  $(X, a)$  of  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type, there exists a chain from  $\{y\}$  to  $\{x\}$  in  $(X, a')$  is equivalent to there exists one chain from  $\{y\}$  to  $\{x\}$  in  $(X, a)$ .

*Proof.* (i) If  $(X, a)$  is of  $\mathcal{V}$  type then  $(X, a')$  is of  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type, so there exists a chain from  $\{y\}$  to  $\{x\}$  in  $(X, a')$

$\Leftrightarrow$

there exists a sequence  $x_0, \dots, x_n$  of elements of  $X$  such as:

$x_0 = x, x_n = y$  with  $\forall j = 0, \dots, n - 1, x_{j+1} \in a'(\{x_j\})$  or  $x_j \in a'(\{x_{j+1}\})$  (see [6])

$\Leftrightarrow$

there exists a sequence  $x_0, \dots, x_n$  of elements of  $X$  such as:

$x_0 = x, x_n = y$  with  $\forall j = 0, \dots, n - 1, x_{j+1} \in a(\{x_j\})$  or  $x_j \in a(\{x_{j+1}\})$

(previous remark) which implies there exists a chain from  $\{y\}$  to  $\{x\}$  in  $(X, a)$  (see [6]).

(ii) If  $(X, a)$  is of  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type, we get an equivalence (see [6]). □

**Remark 28.** The converse of (i) is not true generally speaking.

**Example 29.** Let  $(X, a)$  a pretopological space with  $X = \{a, b, c, d\}$  and  $a$  the pseudoclosure of ascending-descending as defined on the graph (figure 1).

$c \in F_a(\{a\})$  then  $c \in F''_a(\{a\})$  so there exists one chain from  $\{c\}$  to  $\{a\}$  in  $(X, a)$  but  $c \notin F''_{a'}(\{a\})$ . Indeed,  $F_{a'}(\{a\}) = \{a, b\}$  and  $F'_{a'}F_{a'}(\{a\}) = F'_{a'}(\{a, b\}) = \{x \in X/F_{a'}(\{x\}) \cap \{a, b\} \neq \emptyset\}$  with  $F_{a'}(\{c\}) = F_{a'}(\{d\}) = \{c, d\}$ . then  $F'_{a'}F_{a'}(\{a\}) = \{a, b\} = F''_{a'}(\{a\})$  and  $c \notin F'_{a'}(\{a\})$ .

**Definition 30.** Let  $(X, a)$  a pretopological space of  $\mathcal{V}$  type.  $(X, a)$  is connected if and only if  $\forall C \subset X, C \neq \emptyset, F(C) = X$  or  $F(X - F(C)) \cap F(C) \neq \emptyset$ .

**Proposition 31.** Let  $(X, a)$  be a  $\mathcal{V}$  type pretopological space. If  $x \in X$  and  $y \in X$ , there exists a chain in  $(X, a)$  from  $\{y\}$  to  $\{x\}$  then  $(X, a)$  is connected.

(see [6])

**Definition 32.** Let  $(X, a)$  a pretopological space of  $\mathcal{V}$  type. Let  $A \subset X$ .  $A$  is a connected subspace of  $(X, a)$  if and only if  $(A, a_A)$  is connected as a pretopological space.

**Proposition 33.** Let  $(X, a)$  a pretopological space. Let  $A \subset X, A \neq \emptyset$ .

(i) If  $(X, a)$  of  $\mathcal{V}$  type, then if  $A$  is a connected subspace of  $(X, a')$  then  $A$  is a connected subspace of  $(X, a)$ .

(ii) If  $(X, a)$  of  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type, then  $A$  connected subspace of  $(X, a')$  is equivalent to  $A$  connected subspace of  $(X, a)$ .

*Proof.* (i)  $A$  connected subspace of  $(X, a')$

$\Leftrightarrow$

$\forall x \in A, \forall y \in A$ , there exists a chain from  $\{y\}$  to  $\{x\}$  in  $(A, (a')_A)$  (see [6])  $\Leftrightarrow \forall x \in A, \forall y \in A$ , there exists one chain from  $\{y\}$  to  $\{x\}$  in  $(A, (a_A)')$  (Proposition 16) so  $\forall x \in A, \forall y \in A$ , there exists one chain from  $\{y\}$  to  $\{x\}$  in  $(A, a_A)$  (Proposition 27.i) hence  $A$  is a connected subspace of  $(X, a)$  (Proposition 31).

(ii) We get equivalences if  $(X, a)$  is of  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type (Proposition 27.ii et [6]).  $\square$

**Definition 34.** Let  $(X, a)$  a pretopological space of  $\mathcal{V}$  type. Let  $A \subset X, A \neq \emptyset$ .  $(A, a_A)$  is a greatest connected subspace of  $(X, a)$  if and only if  $(A, a_A)$  is a connected subspace of  $(X, a)$  and  $\forall B, A \subset B \subset X$  and  $A \neq B, (B, a_B)$  is not a connected subspace of  $(X, a)$ .

**Proposition 35.** Let  $(X, a)$  a pretopological space of  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type. Let  $A \subset X, A \neq \emptyset$ .

$A$  is a greatest connected subspace of  $(X, a)$  if and only if  $A$  is a greatest connected subset of  $(X, a')$ .

*Proof.* Obvious from Proposition 33.ii. □

**Conclusion.** Decomposing a pretopological space  $(X, a)$  of  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type into greatest connected subspaces is equivalent to decomposing the pretopological space  $(X, a')$  into greatest connected subspaces.

## 7. Application

**Definition 36.** Let  $X$  a non empty set and  $\mathcal{R}$  a binary relationship defined on  $X$ . Pretopology of ascending is characterized by:

$$\forall A \subset X, a_a(A) = \{x \in X / \mathcal{R}^{-1}(x) \cap A \neq \emptyset\} \cup A \quad (1)$$

with  $\mathcal{R}^{-1}(x) = \{y \in X / y\mathcal{R}x\}$ .

Pretopology of descending is characterized by:

$$\forall A \subset X, a_d(A) = \{x \in X / \mathcal{R}(x) \cap A \neq \emptyset\} \cup A \quad (2)$$

with

$$\mathcal{R}(x) = \{y \in X / x\mathcal{R}y\}.$$

$a_a$  and  $a_d$  lead to  $\mathcal{V}_s$  type spaces (see [8]).

**Remark 37.**  $a'_a = a_d$

*Proof.*  $a'_a(A) = \{x \in X / a_a(\{x\}) \cap A \neq \emptyset\}$  with

$$\begin{aligned} a_a(\{x\}) &= \{y \in X / \mathcal{R}^{-1}(y) \cap \{x\} \neq \emptyset\} \cup \{x\} = \{y \in X / x \in \mathcal{R}^{-1}(y)\} \cup \{x\} \\ &= \{y \in X / y \in \mathcal{R}(x)\} \cup \{x\} = \mathcal{R}(x) \cup \{x\}, \end{aligned}$$

so

$$a'_a(A) = \{x \in X / \mathcal{R}(x) \cap A \neq \emptyset\} \cup A = a_d(A).$$

□

**Conclusion.** Decomposing a pretopological space  $(X, a_a)$  into greatest (strongly) connected subspaces is equivalent to decomposing the pretopological space  $(X, a_d)$  into greatest (strongly) connected subspaces.

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