

Elementary Set Theory

Xianghui Shi

School of Mathematical Sciences
Beijing Normal University



Fall 2025

Additional Topic

GAMES ON REALS¹

¹Cf. *The Higher Infinite*, by A. Kanamori, §27

Infinite Games

For $A \subseteq {}^\omega\omega$, $G(A)$ denotes the following two-person game:

I	x_0	x_2	\dots
II	x_1	x_3	\dots

where each $x_i \in \omega$.

- ▶ Each choice is a **move** of the game.
- ▶ The result $x = \langle x_i : i < \omega \rangle \in {}^\omega\omega$ is a **play** of the game.
- ▶ A is called the **payoff** for the game $G(A)$.
- ▶ Rule: I wins if $x \in A$, otherwise II wins.

For $s \in {}^{<\omega}\omega$, let $G_s(A)$ be $G(A)$ restricted to O_s , i.e.

- ▶ I wins if $s \frown x \in O_s \cap A$, and II wins if $s \frown x \in O_s - A$.

- A **strategy** for I is a function

$$\sigma : \bigcup_n {}^{2n}\omega \rightarrow \omega$$

that tells him what to play next given the previous moves.

Given II's moves $y = \langle y_n = x_{2n+1} : n < \omega \rangle \in {}^\omega\omega$, σ produces a play $\sigma * y \in {}^\omega\omega$.

I	$u_0 = \sigma(0)$	$u_1 = \sigma(u_0 \frown y_0)$	$\sigma(u_0 \frown y_0 \frown u_1 \frown y_1)$
II		y_0	$y_1 \quad \dots$

- σ is a **winning strategy** (w.s.) for I iff

$$\{\sigma * y \mid y \in {}^\omega\omega\} \subseteq A,$$

i.e. no matter what moves II makes, plays according to σ always yield members of A .

Analogously,

- ▶ a strategy for II is a function $\tau : \bigcup_n {}^{2n+1}\omega \rightarrow \omega$.
- ▶ τ is a winning strategy for II iff

$$\{z * \tau \mid z \in {}^\omega\omega\} \cap A = \emptyset,$$

where $z * \tau$ is the result of applying τ to a move sequence z played by I.

Analogously,

- ▶ a strategy for II is a function $\tau : \bigcup_n {}^{2n+1}\omega \rightarrow \omega$.
- ▶ τ is a winning strategy for II iff

$$\{z * \tau \mid z \in {}^\omega\omega\} \cap A = \emptyset,$$

where $z * \tau$ is the result of applying τ to a move sequence z played by I.

$G(A)$ is **determined** iff a player has a winning strategy.

Note that the players cannot both have winning strategies.

A is **determined** iff $G(A)$ is determined.

Determined Sets

Theorem 1

1. *If $|A| < \mathfrak{c} = |\omega^\omega|$, then I cannot have a winning strategy. Similarly, II cannot have a w.s., if $|\omega^\omega - A| < \mathfrak{c}$.*
2. *(Gale-Stewart). If $A \subseteq {}^\omega\omega$ is either open or closed then $G(A)$ is determined.*
3. *(Gale-Stewart). AC implies that there is a set of reals which is not determined.*

Proof

1. Each w.s. induces an **injective** function from ${}^\omega\omega$ to ${}^\omega\omega$.
2. Let $A_s = A \cap O_s$. Consider $s \in {}^{2n}\omega$. Note that
 - ▶ If I has no w.s. in $G_s(A)$ then

$$\forall i \exists j \text{ (I has no w.s. in } G_{s \smallfrown \langle ij \rangle}(A)).$$

In this case, let $\tau(s \smallfrown \langle i \rangle)$ = least j as above.

- ▶ If I has no w.s. in $G_s(A)$ then $|O_s \cap A^c| > 1$.

So every play produced by τ is a limit point of A^c .

Suppose A is open and I has no w.s, then every play produced by τ are in A^c , thus II has a w.s.

Proof

1. Each w.s. induces an **injective** function from ${}^\omega\omega$ to ${}^\omega\omega$.
2. Let $A_s = A \cap O_s$. Consider $s \in {}^{2n}\omega$. Note that
 - ▶ If I has no w.s. in $G_s(A)$ then

$$\forall i \exists j (I \text{ has no w.s. in } G_{s \smallfrown \langle ij \rangle}(A)).$$

In this case, let $\tau(s \smallfrown \langle i \rangle) = \text{least } j \text{ as above.}$

- ▶ If I has no w.s. in $G_s(A)$ then $|O_s \cap A^c| > 1$.

So every play produced by τ is a limit point of A^c .

Suppose A is open and I has no w.s, then every play produced by τ are in A^c , thus II has a w.s.

3. By AC, there are \mathfrak{c} many strategies. And for each strategy σ (or τ), the corresponding set R_σ (or R_τ) of plays

$$\{\sigma * x \mid x \in {}^\omega\omega\} \text{ (for I)} \quad \text{or} \quad \{x * \tau \mid x \in {}^\omega\omega\} \text{ (for II)}$$

has size \mathfrak{c} . Choose a play (without repetition) from each R_σ (or R_τ). This gives two disjoint sets, one from R_σ 's, the other from R_τ 's. They are non-determined.

Regularity Properties

Donald A. Martin (1975) showed that

Every Borel set is determined.

Mycielski and Steinhaus (1962) proposed the following axiom, now known as the **Axiom of Determinacy** (AD):

Every set of reals is determined.

Theorem 2

Assume AD. Then every set of reals is Lebesgue measurable, has the property of Baire, and has the perfect set property.

Mazur Game

- ▶ Let $G(A, X)$ denote the game on ${}^\omega X$.
Then $G(A) = G(A, \omega)$.
- ▶ $G(A, X)$ for an X with $|X| = \omega$ and $A \subset {}^\omega X$ is
“equivalent to” a $G(A^*)$ for some $A^* \subset {}^\omega \omega$.

The game for the property of Baire is the Mazur game $G_{\mathcal{M}}(A)$ formulated as follows:

I	s_0	s_2	\dots
II	s_1	s_3	\dots

where $s_i \in {}^{<\omega}\omega - \{\emptyset\}$. Let $x = s_0 \hat{\ } s_1 \hat{\ } s_2 \hat{\ } s_3 \hat{\ } \dots$, then I wins if $x \in A$, and II wins otherwise.

Proposition 3 (Mazur, Banach)

For $A \subseteq {}^\omega\omega$,

1. A is meager iff I has a w.s. in $G_{\mathcal{M}}(A)$.
2. $O_s - A$ is meager for some $s \in {}^{<\omega}\omega$ iff I has a w.s. in $G_{\mathcal{M}}(A)$.

Corollary 4

For $A \subseteq {}^\omega\omega$, let $C_A = \bigcup \{O_s \mid O_s - A \text{ is meager}\}$. If $G_{\mathcal{M}}(A - C_A)$ is determined then A has the property of Baire.

Proof of Proposition 3

1. " \Rightarrow ". Suppose $\{C_i \mid i < \omega\}$ are (decreasing) dense open sets such that $A \cap (\bigcap_i C_i) = \emptyset$. Suppose $p = s_0 \hat{\ } \cdots \hat{\ } s_{n-1}$ is an n -round play. For each $s \in {}^{<\omega}\omega$, let $\tau(p \hat{\ } s)$ be a $t \in {}^{<\omega}\omega$ such that $O_{p \hat{\ } s \hat{\ } t} \subseteq C_n$.

Proof of Proposition 3

1. “ \Rightarrow ”. Suppose $\{C_i \mid i < \omega\}$ are (decreasing) dense open sets such that $A \cap (\bigcap_i C_i) = \emptyset$. Suppose $p = s_0 \hat{\ } \cdots \hat{\ } s_{n-1}$ is an n -round play. For each $s \in {}^{<\omega}\omega$, let $\tau(p \hat{\ } s)$ be a $t \in {}^{<\omega}\omega$ such that $O_{p \hat{\ } s \hat{\ } t} \subseteq C_n$.

“ \Leftarrow ”. Let τ be a w.s. for II. For each play p , let

$$D_p = \{x \in {}^\omega\omega \mid p \not\sqsubset x\} \cup (\bigcup \{O_{p \hat{\ } s \hat{\ } t} \mid t = \tau(p \hat{\ } s), s \in {}^{<\omega}\omega\}).$$

Then $A \cap \bigcap_p D_p = \emptyset$. Since τ is winning for II, D_p is open dense.

Proof of Proposition 3

1. “ \Rightarrow ”. Suppose $\{C_i \mid i < \omega\}$ are (decreasing) dense open sets such that $A \cap (\bigcap_i C_i) = \emptyset$. Suppose $p = s_0 \hat{\ } \cdots \hat{\ } s_{n-1}$ is an n -round play. For each $s \in {}^{<\omega}\omega$, let $\tau(p \hat{\ } s)$ be a $t \in {}^{<\omega}\omega$ such that $O_{p \hat{\ } s \hat{\ } t} \subseteq C_n$.
“ \Leftarrow ”. Let τ be a w.s. for II. For each play p , let $D_p = \{x \in {}^\omega\omega \mid p \not\sqsubset x\} \cup (\bigcup \{O_{p \hat{\ } s \hat{\ } t} \mid t = \tau(p \hat{\ } s), s \in {}^{<\omega}\omega\})$. Then $A \cap \bigcap_p D_p = \emptyset$. Since τ is winning for II, D_p is open dense.
2. “ \Rightarrow ”. Let $\sigma(\emptyset)$ be that s .

Proof of Proposition 3

1. " \Rightarrow ". Suppose $\{C_i \mid i < \omega\}$ are (decreasing) dense open sets such that $A \cap (\bigcap_i C_i) = \emptyset$. Suppose $p = s_0 \hat{\ } \cdots \hat{\ } s_{n-1}$ is an n -round play. For each $s \in {}^{<\omega}\omega$, let $\tau(p \hat{\ } s)$ be a $t \in {}^{<\omega}\omega$ such that $O_{p \hat{\ } s \hat{\ } t} \subseteq C_n$.

" \Leftarrow ". Let τ be a w.s. for II. For each play p , let

$$D_p = \{x \in {}^\omega\omega \mid p \not\sqsubset x\} \cup (\bigcup \{O_{p \hat{\ } s \hat{\ } t} \mid t = \tau(p \hat{\ } s), s \in {}^{<\omega}\omega\}).$$

Then $A \cap \bigcap_p D_p = \emptyset$. Since τ is winning for II, D_p is open dense.

2. " \Rightarrow ". Let $\sigma(\emptyset)$ be that s .

" \Leftarrow ". Given σ , winning for I. $\sigma(\emptyset)$ is a such s .

Proof of Corollary 4

1. Note that $C_A - A$ is meager. If II wins, then $A - C_A$ is meager, and then $A \Delta C_A = (C_A - A) \cup (A - C_A)$ is meager, therefore A has the property of Baire.

Proof of Corollary 4

1. Note that $C_A - A$ is meager. If II wins, then $A - C_A$ is meager, and then $A \Delta C_A = (C_A - A) \cup (A - C_A)$ is meager, therefore A has the property of Baire.
2. If I wins. For some $s \in {}^{<\omega}\omega$, $O_s - (A - C_A)$ is meager.

$$O_s - (A - C_A) \supseteq O_s - A.$$

Thus $O_s - A$ is meager, and hence $O_s \subseteq C_A$. Then $O_s \cap (A - C_A) = (O_s \cap A) - (O_s \cap C_A) = \emptyset$, therefore $O_s - (A - C_A) = O_s$. This contradicts to the fact that O_s is not meager.

Proof of Corollary 4

1. Note that $C_A - A$ is meager. If II wins, then $A - C_A$ is meager, and then $A \Delta C_A = (C_A - A) \cup (A - C_A)$ is meager, therefore A has the property of Baire.
2. If I wins. For some $s \in {}^{<\omega}\omega$, $O_s - (A - C_A)$ is meager.

$$O_s - (A - C_A) \supseteq O_s - A.$$

Thus $O_s - A$ is meager, and hence $O_s \subseteq C_A$. Then $O_s \cap (A - C_A) = (O_s \cap A) - (O_s \cap C_A) = \emptyset$, therefore $O_s - (A - C_A) = O_s$. This contradicts to the fact that O_s is not meager.

So I can not win!

An embedding

We shall present the other two games as games over ${}^\omega 2$. The following embedding $\pi : {}^\omega \omega \rightarrow {}^\omega 2$ can transfer the results back to the Baire space ${}^\omega \omega$.

$$\pi(x) = s_{x(0)} \hat{\ } s_{x(1)} \hat{\ } s_{x(2)} \hat{\ } \cdots$$

where $s_{x(k)} = \underbrace{1 \cdots 1}_{x(k)} 0$ for even k , and $\underbrace{0 \cdots 0}_{x(k)} 1$ for odd k .

An embedding

We shall present the other two games as games over ${}^\omega 2$. The following embedding $\pi : {}^\omega \omega \rightarrow {}^\omega 2$ can transfer the results back to the Baire space ${}^\omega \omega$.

$$\pi(x) = s_{x(0)} \hat{\ } s_{x(1)} \hat{\ } s_{x(2)} \hat{\ } \cdots$$

where $s_{x(k)} = \underbrace{1 \cdots 1}_{x(k)} 0$ for even k , and $\underbrace{0 \cdots 0}_{x(k)} 1$ for odd k .

It's easy to check that ${}^\omega 2 - \text{ran}(\pi)$ is countable, and for $\varphi \in \{\text{BP}, \text{PSP}, \text{LM}\}$, for every set $X \subseteq {}^\omega 2$,

$$\varphi(X) \text{ is true in } {}^\omega 2 \text{ iff } \varphi(\pi^{-1}(X)) \text{ is true in } {}^\omega \omega.$$

Davis game

Davis game $G_C(A)$ is formulated as follows:

I	s_0	s_2	\dots
II	k_1	k_3	\dots

where $s_i \in {}^{<\omega}2 - \{\emptyset\}$, $k_i \in \{0, 1\}$. Let

$$x = s_0 \hat{\ } \langle k_1 \rangle \hat{\ } s_2 \hat{\ } \langle k_3 \rangle \hat{\ } \dots .$$

I wins if $x \in A$, otherwise II wins.

Davis game

Davis game $G_C(A)$ is formulated as follows:

I	s_0	s_2	\dots
II	k_1	k_3	\dots

where $s_i \in {}^{<\omega}2 - \{\emptyset\}$, $k_i \in \{0, 1\}$. Let

$$x = s_0 \frown \langle k_1 \rangle \frown s_2 \frown \langle k_3 \rangle \frown \dots.$$

I wins if $x \in A$, otherwise II wins.

Proposition 5 (Davis)

For any $A \subseteq {}^\omega 2$,

1. A is countable iff II has a w.s. in $G_C(A)$.
2. A contains a perfect subset iff I has a w.s. in $G_C(A)$.

Proof of Proposition 5

1. “ \Rightarrow ” is easy. Argue for “ \Leftarrow ”. Let τ be a w.s. for II. Let $R_\tau = \{y * \tau \mid y \in {}^\omega 2\}$, i.e. all the plays produced by τ . Then $A \cap R_\tau = \emptyset$. Thus for each $x \in A$, there is a play $p_x = \langle s_0, k_0, \dots, s_n, k_n \rangle$ such that

$$p_x^* = s_0 \hat{\ } \langle k_0 \rangle \hat{\ } \dots \hat{\ } s_n \hat{\ } \langle k_n \rangle \sqsubset x,$$

and no matter what I plays with along x , he is defeated by τ , i.e. for every $i \geq |p^*|$, $x(i) = 1 - \tau(x \restriction i)$.

Proof of Proposition 5

1. “ \Rightarrow ” is easy. Argue for “ \Leftarrow ”. Let τ be a w.s. for II. Let $R_\tau = \{y * \tau \mid y \in {}^\omega 2\}$, i.e. all the plays produced by τ . Then $A \cap R_\tau = \emptyset$. Thus for each $x \in A$, there is a play $p_x = \langle s_0, k_0, \dots, s_n, k_n \rangle$ such that

$$p_x^* = s_0 \hat{\ } \langle k_0 \rangle \hat{\ } \dots \hat{\ } s_n \hat{\ } \langle k_n \rangle \sqsubset x,$$

and no matter what I plays with along x , he is defeated by τ , i.e. for every $i \geq |p^*|$, $x(i) = 1 - \tau(x \upharpoonright i)$.

2. Let $T \subseteq {}^{<\omega} 2$ be a perfect tree such that $[T] \subseteq A$. Suppose p is an n -round play, let $\sigma(p)$ to be the next splitting node extending p^* . Then σ is a w.s. for I.

Harrington Game

For $A \subset {}^\omega 2$ and $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}^+$, $G_N(A, \varepsilon)$ is

I	i_0	i_1	\dots
II	\bar{s}_0	\bar{s}_1	\dots

where $i_k \in \{0, 1\}$, $\bar{s}_k \in [{}^{<\omega} 2 - \{\emptyset\}]^{<\omega}$ with the additional requirement

$$\mu(N_{\bar{s}_k}) < \varepsilon / 2^{2(n+1)}, \quad N_{\bar{s}_k} = \bigcup_j O_{\bar{s}_k(j)}.$$

Let $x = \langle i_0 i_1 \dots \rangle$. I wins iff $x \in A - \bigcup_k N_{\bar{s}_k}$, otherwise II wins.

(Here $\mu(O_s) = 1/2^{\text{dom}(s)}$ for each $s \in {}^{<\omega} 2$.)

Proposition 6

In $G_N(A, \varepsilon)$, $A \subset {}^\omega 2$ and $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}^+$,

1. If I has a w.s. then there is a Lebesgue measurable $B \subseteq A$ such that $\mu(B) > 0$.
2. If II has a w.s. then there is an open set $O \supseteq A$ s.t. $\mu(O) < \varepsilon$.

Proposition 6

In $G_N(A, \varepsilon)$, $A \subset {}^\omega 2$ and $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}^+$,

1. If I has a w.s. then there is a Lebesgue measurable $B \subseteq A$ such that $\mu(B) > 0$.
2. If II has a w.s. then there is an open set $O \supseteq A$ s.t. $\mu(O) < \varepsilon$.

Corollary 7

For $A \subseteq {}^\omega \omega$, let $Q_A \supseteq A$ be Lebesgue measurable and with $\mu(Q_A)$ minimal. Then if $G_N(Q_A - A, \varepsilon)$ is determined for every $\varepsilon > 0$, then A is Lebesgue measurable.

Proof of Corollary 7

By choice of Q_A , Π must have a winning strategy in $G_{\mathcal{N}}(Q_A - A, 1/n)$ for each $n < \omega$. Hence

$$Q_A - A \subseteq \bigcap_n C_n,$$

where $\mu(C_n) < 1/n$, for each n . Therefore $\mu(Q_A - A) = 0$ and A is Lebesgue measurable with $\mu(A) = \mu(Q_A)$.