

# Descriptive Set Theory

The category we are in:

- Polish spaces ( $\equiv$  separable completely metrizable spaces)
- continuous maps between Polish spaces

$Y$  a Polish space  
 $A \subseteq Y$

$A$  is analytic if  $A = f(X)$   
for some continuous  $f: X \rightarrow Y$

$A$  is Borel if  $A = f(X)$   
for some continuous injective  
 $f: X \rightarrow Y$

---

Coanalytic if it is the  
complement of  
an analytic set

# Comparing Borel and analytic (Lebesgue's mistake)

## Structure of sets

analytic are  
close to Borel

## Classification problems

analytic non-Borel  
are far from  
Borel

## Some examples

A Polish space:

$\mathcal{C}([0,1], \mathbb{R}) =$  all continuous functions  
 $[0,1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with  
the unif.-conv. topology

U

A Borel set:

$\text{Homeo}([0,1]) =$  all homeomorphisms  
 $[0,1] \rightarrow [0,1]$

$$d(f, g) = \text{unif}(f, g) + \text{unif}(f^{-1}, g^{-1})$$

An analytic non-Borel set:

$\{ f \in \mathcal{C}([0,1], \mathbb{R}) \mid f'(x) \text{ exists at some } x \in [0,1] \}$

## Basics on Polish spaces

① Each Polish space is a continuous image of  $\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$

② Each Polish space is a cont. injective image of a closed subset of  $\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$ .

## Combinatorics of $\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$ ( $w^w$ )

$\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$   
 $\cup$   
 $F$   
closed

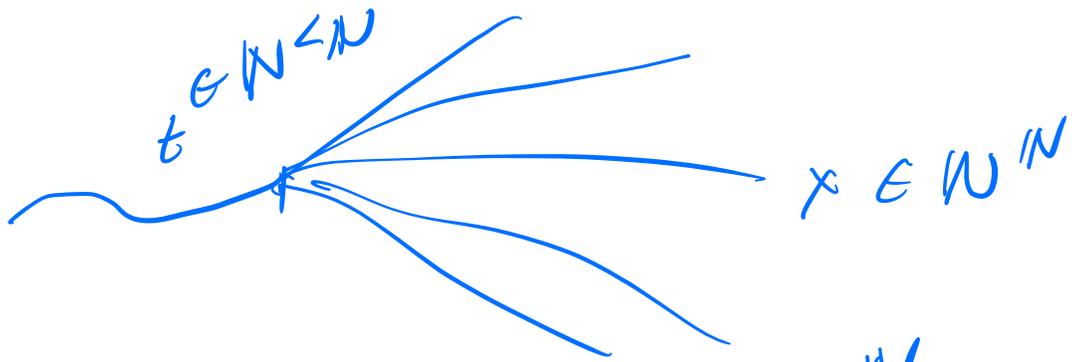
$\mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}}$   
 $\cup$   
 $T_F$   
a tree

Baire  
space

---

$\mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}} =$  finite sequences  
 $f : \underbrace{\{0, \dots, n-1\}}_n \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$

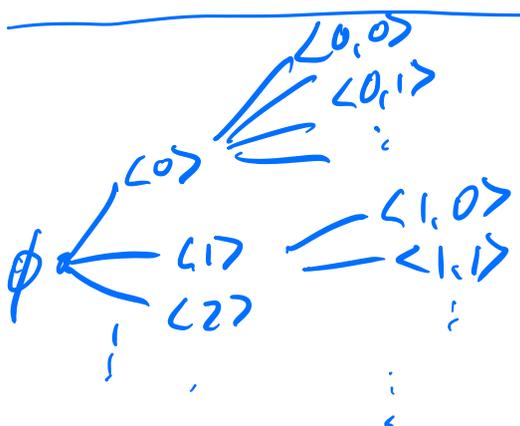
$N_+ = \{x \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \mid \exists n \ t \subseteq x\}$



$N_t$  is clopen on  $\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$

$\{N_t \mid t \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}\}$  is a basis

---



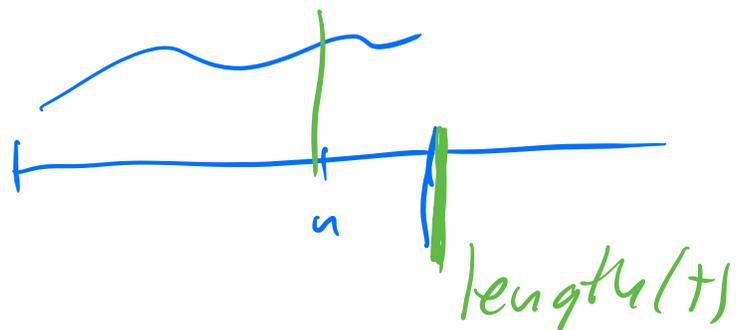
$$\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \ni s, t \rightsquigarrow s \subseteq t$$

$$N_s \supseteq N_t$$

$F \subseteq \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$  closed

$T \subseteq \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}}$  a tree

$t \in T \Rightarrow t \upharpoonright n \in T$  if  
 $n \leq \text{length}(t)$



---

$F \subseteq \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$  closed  
iff

$\exists T \subseteq \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}}$   
a tree

$F = [T]$

$\{x \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \mid$

$\forall n \ x \upharpoonright n \in T\}$

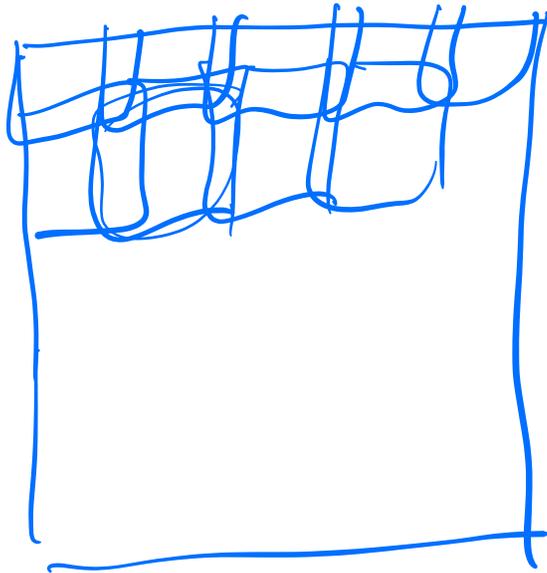
$$F \rightsquigarrow T$$

$$T = \{t \in \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}} \mid N_t \cap F \neq \emptyset\}$$

\

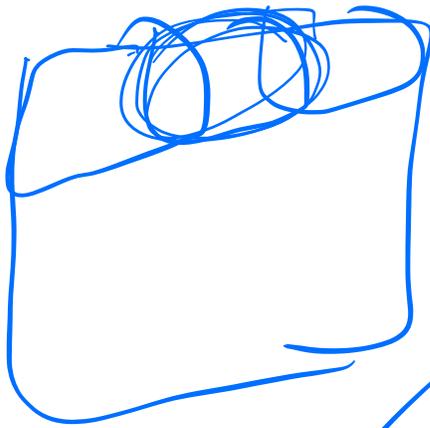
a tree

$$\{T\} = F$$



d a complete  
metric

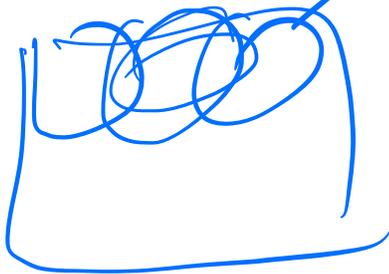
$U_{\langle n \rangle}$   
dim  $\leq 1$



$U_{\langle n \rangle}$

$U_{\langle n, m \rangle}$   
dim  $\leq \frac{1}{2}$

$\overline{U_{\langle n, m \rangle}} \subseteq U_{\langle n \rangle}$   
 $\forall m$



$U_{\langle n, m, l \rangle}$

dim  $\leq \frac{1}{3}$

$\overline{U_{\langle n, m, l \rangle}} \subseteq U_{\langle n, m \rangle}$

$$f: \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow X$$

$f(x) =$  the unique point  
in  $\bigcap_n U_{x,n}$

surj, cont.

---

Thm ① Polish spaces are closed under taking ctble products

② Polish spaces are closed under taking closed subsets and open subsets.

③ Polish spaces are closed under taking countable discrete unions.

④ Let  $\tau_n$  be Polish topologies on a set  $X$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , with all of them containing a fixed Hausdorff topology  $\tau$ . Then the topology generated by  $\{\tau_n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is Polish.

---

$$X \xrightarrow{\text{①}} \prod_n (X, \tau_n)$$

$$x \longrightarrow (x, x, \dots) \quad \text{Polish}$$

Polish  $\xrightarrow{\text{①}}$   $\tau(X)$  closed in  $\prod_n (X, \tau_n)$



## Books:

Kechris "Classical Descriptive Set Theory"

Srivastava "Borel Sets"

Moschovakis "Descriptive Set Theory"

## Basic structure of Borel and analytic and the relationship between the two

- Can Borelness and analyticity of  $A$  be detected within the Polish space of which  $A$  is a subset?
- How does analyticity relate to Borelness?

$\mathcal{B}(X)$  = the  $\sigma$ -algebra generated by open subsets of  $X$

---

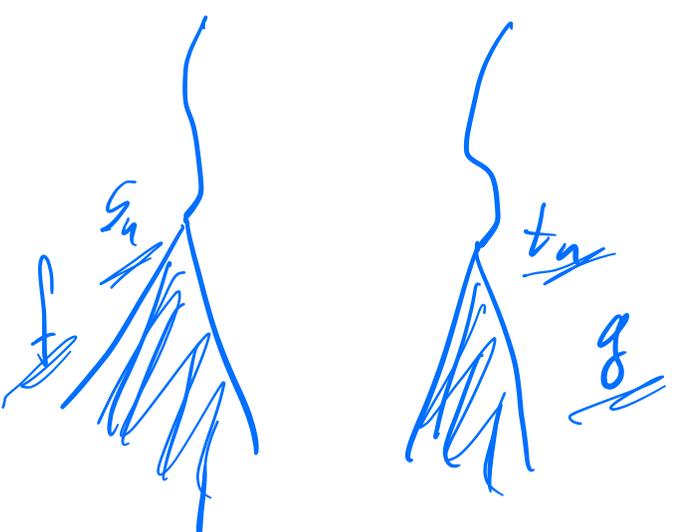
Thm (Luzin)

$A, B \subseteq X$  analytic disjoint  
 There exists  $C \in \mathcal{B}(X)$  s.t.  
 $A \subseteq C, C \cap B = \emptyset$

Proof. Fix  $f: \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow A$  // cont.  
 $g: \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow B$  // suspicious

assume  $A$  &  $B$  not separated

$\forall n \exists s_n, t_n \in \mathbb{N}^{<n}$   $f(N_{s_n})$   
 $|s_n| = |t_n| = n$   $g(N_{t_n})$   
 are not separated



$s_n \not\subseteq s_{n+1}$   
 $t_n \not\subseteq t_{n+1}$

$\exists x \supseteq s_n$  all  $n$   
 $\uparrow$   
 $\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$

$\exists y \supseteq t_n$  all  $n$   
 $\uparrow$   
 $\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$

$$x, y \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$$

$$f(x) \in A$$

$$g(y) \in B$$

$$f(x) \neq g(y)$$

$$\cap$$
  
$$U$$

$$\cap$$
  
$$V$$

open  
disjoint

$$U$$

$$U$$

$$f(N_{s_n})$$

$$g(N_{t_n})$$

contradiction

---

$s, t$  s.t.  $f(N_s), g(N_t)$  not separated

$$f(N_{s \cap i}) \quad g(N_{t \cap j})$$

$$\cap$$
  
$$C_{ij} \in \mathcal{B}(x) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad C_{ij} \cap g(N_{t \cap j}) = \emptyset$$

$$\underline{\bigcap_j C_{ij}}$$

separates  $\underline{f(N_{sri})}$   
from  $\bigcup_i g(N_{+ij})$   
 $= f(N_s)$

$$\bigcup_i \bigcap_i C_{ij}$$

separates  $\bigcup_i \underline{f(N_{sri})}$   
from  $\bigcup_i g(N_{+ij})$

$$\uparrow \\ \mathbb{B}(x)$$

$$g''(N_+)$$

□

Corollary Borel subsets of  $X$

$$\bigcap_{\alpha} B(X)$$

Proof  $A$  Borel

$$\stackrel{||}{=} f(F)$$

$$f: F \rightarrow A$$

$\cup \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$   
 $\parallel$  cont. inj

$$P_{\emptyset} = f(N_{\emptyset})$$

$$\underline{f(N_{t+i}) \subseteq P_{t+i} \subseteq f(N_{t+i})}$$

$$\underline{P_{t+i} \subseteq P_t}$$

$$P_{t+i} \cap P_{t+j} = \emptyset \text{ if } i \neq j$$

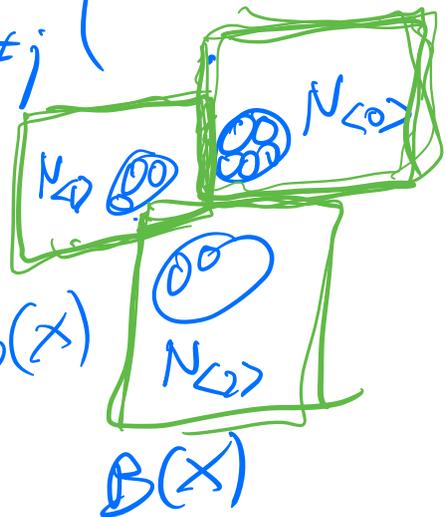
$[T]$

$$N_t^T = N_t \cap [T]$$

$$\parallel N_t \quad t \in T$$

$$P_t \in \mathcal{B}(X)$$

$$f(F) = \bigcap_n \bigcup_{|t|=n} \overline{P_t} \in \mathcal{B}(X)$$



$$x \in \bigcap_n \bigcup_{|t|=n} P_t$$

$$\forall n \exists t_n \quad x \in \underline{P_{t_n}}$$

$$t_n \in t_{n+1} \longrightarrow \alpha \in F$$

$$x = f(\alpha). \quad \square$$

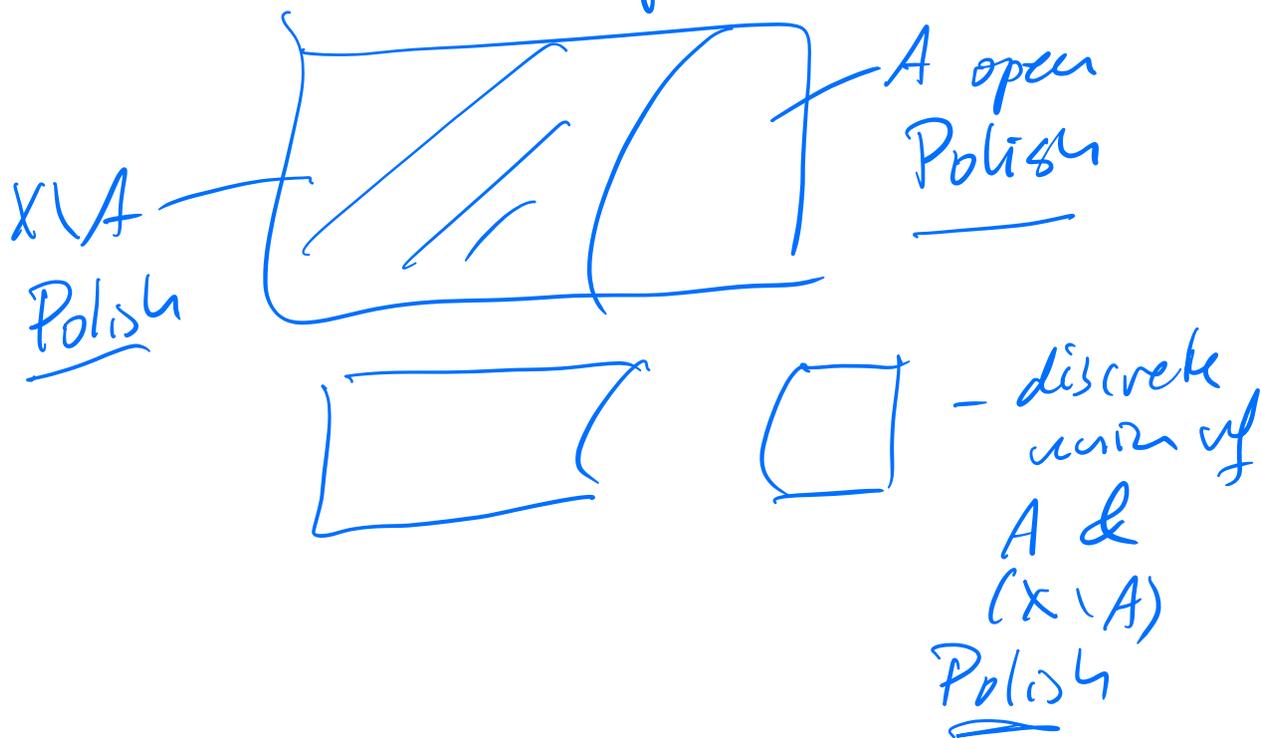
Thm (Kuratowski)

$A \in \mathcal{B}(X)$  in  $\mathcal{B}(X)$ .

Then there exists a Polish top.  
②  $\tau$  on  $X$  extending the original topology s.t.  $A$  is  $\tau$ -clopen.

Proof. Consider the class of subsets of  $X$  with ②.

$A$  contains open sets



$A$  is closed under complements

$A$  closed under finite unions

$A_n - T_n \supseteq \emptyset$  \ the int. top

$A_n$  is  $T_n$ -closed

$T =$  the top generated  
by  $\{T_n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$   
Polish

so each  $A_n$  is closed in  $T$

So  $\bigcup_n A_n$  is open in  $T$

So that  $\bigcup_n A_n$  is closed in  $T$ !

So  $A$  is a  $\sigma$ -alg. containing  
open sets. So  $\mathcal{B}(X) \subseteq A$ .  $\square$

Corollary  $\mathcal{B}(X) \subseteq$  Borel subsets  
of  $X$

Proof.  $A \in \mathcal{B}(X)$   $X, \sigma$ -Polish  
 $\downarrow$   
 $\tau$  Polish on  $X$   
s.t.  $A$  is  
 $\tau$ -closed

Consider  $A$  with  $\tau \upharpoonright A$ .

$\text{id} : \begin{matrix} \text{Polish} \\ (A, \tau \upharpoonright A) \end{matrix} \xrightarrow[\text{cont}]{\text{Hob}} \begin{matrix} (A, \sigma \upharpoonright A) \\ \text{Polish} \\ (X, \sigma) \end{matrix}$

$\square$

# Main Corollaries

Corollary Borel subsets of  $X$

||

the  $\sigma$ -algebra generated by  
open subsets of  $X$

||

the smallest family of subsets  
of  $X$  containing open sets and  
closed under countable unions and  
intersections

Corollary 1. (Luzin) Disjoint analytic sets can be separated by Borel sets

2. (Suslin) A set is Borel iff it and its complement are analytic (i.e. the set is analytic and coanalytic)

←

$A$

$X \setminus A$

$A$

$C \cap (X \setminus A) = \emptyset$

$C$

Borel

---

$A = C$

## Suslin's operation $A$

$$F_s \subseteq X \quad s \in \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}}$$

$$x \in \mathcal{A}_s \{F_s\} \text{ iff } \exists \alpha \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$$

$$x \in \bigcup_n A_n \text{ iff } \exists n \text{ s.t. } x \in A_n \quad x \in \bigcap_n F_n \text{ iff } \dots$$

Thm A set  $A \subseteq X$  is analytic iff

$$A = \mathcal{A}_s F_s \text{ for some } F_s \subseteq X \text{ closed, } s \in \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}}$$

---

$$(\Downarrow) \quad f: \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow A \text{ cont surj}$$

$$F_s = \overline{f(N_s)}, \quad s \in \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_s F_s = A$$

$$(II) H \subseteq X \times \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$$

$$(x, \alpha) \in H \text{ iff } \forall n \left( x \in F_{\alpha, n} \right)$$

closed

$(x, \alpha, n)$



closed

Check:

$$A = \text{proj}_{\alpha} H$$

analytic.

Polish.

□



- Definitions of Borel and analytic
- Representations within the space ( $\sigma$ -algebra, operations)
- Relationship between Borel and analytic
- Closure and regularity properties

Thm 1. (Saks) Analytic sets are measurable  
2. (Nikodym) Analytic sets have the Baire property.

---

|| measurable sets are closed  
|| under operation  $A$

|| Baire property - - -

Thm (Hausdorff, Suslin)

Each analytic uncountable set contains a copy of the Cantor set

$$\{0,1\}^{\mathbb{N}} \subseteq \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow 2^{\mathbb{N}}$$

Proof  $f: \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow A$

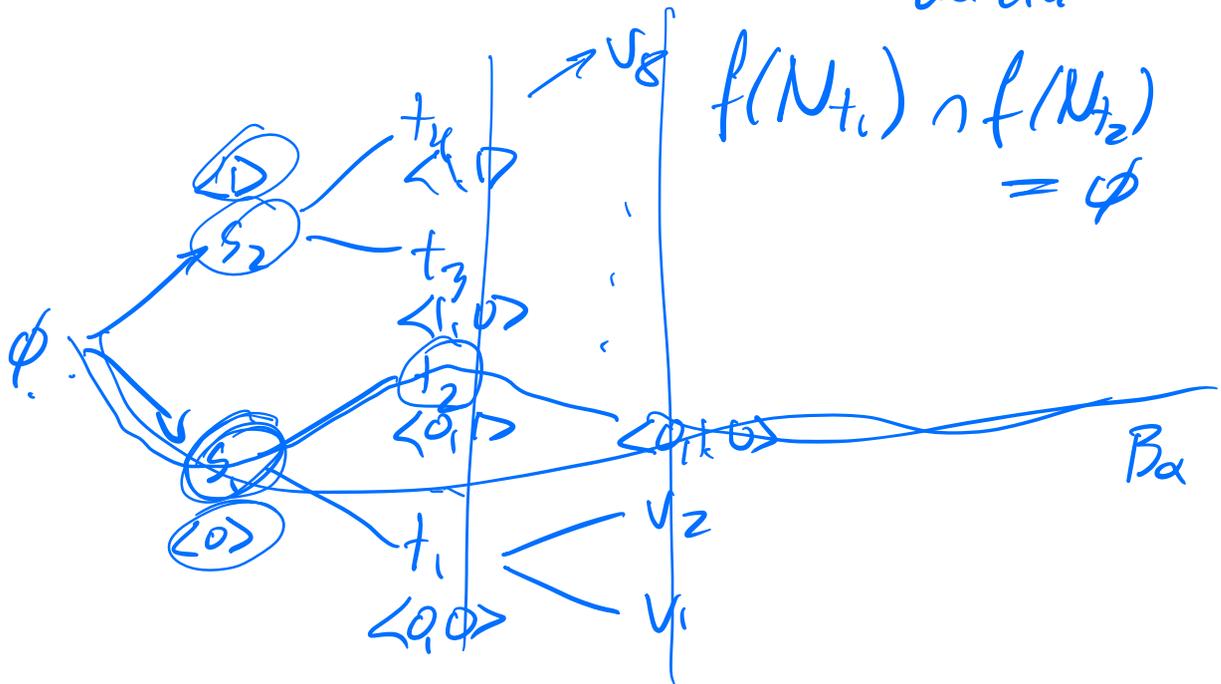
$\forall s \in \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}}$

$\exists t_1, t_2 \neq s$

$f(N_s)$  unctble

$f(N_{t_1}), f(N_{t_2})$   
unctble

$$f(N_{t_1}) \cap f(N_{t_2}) = \emptyset$$



$$\alpha = \langle 0, 1, 0 \rangle$$

$$2^{<\mathbb{N}} \ni s \longrightarrow t_s \in \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}}$$

$$f(N_{t_s}) \cap f(N_{t_{s'}}) = \emptyset$$

$$\text{if } |s| = |s'| \\ s \neq s'$$

$$2^{\mathbb{N}} \ni \alpha \longrightarrow \beta_\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$$

∥

the common extension  
of  $t_{\alpha|u}$ ,  $u=0,1,\dots$

$$\underbrace{t_{\alpha|0} \neq t_{\alpha|1} \in t_{\alpha|2} \in \dots}_{\beta_\alpha}$$

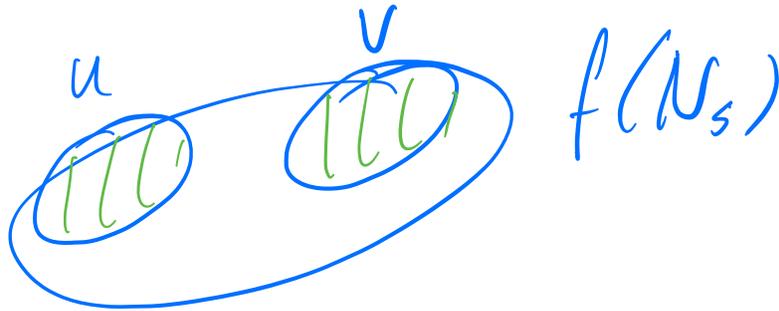
$$2^{\mathbb{N}} \ni \alpha \longrightarrow f(\beta_\alpha) \in A$$

injective  
continuous

$$2^{\mathbb{N}} \hookrightarrow A$$

homeo  
embedding!

$f(N_S)$  unctkle



$u \cap f(N), \quad v \cap f(N_S)$  unctkl

$t_1 \neq s$   
 $u \cap f(N_{t_1})$

$(u \cap v = \emptyset)$   
 $f(N_{t_2}) \quad t_2 \neq s$

---

$$\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \cong 2^{\mathbb{N}} \hookrightarrow A \text{ unctkle}$$

$\uparrow$  homeo  
 $\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$

## Borel functions

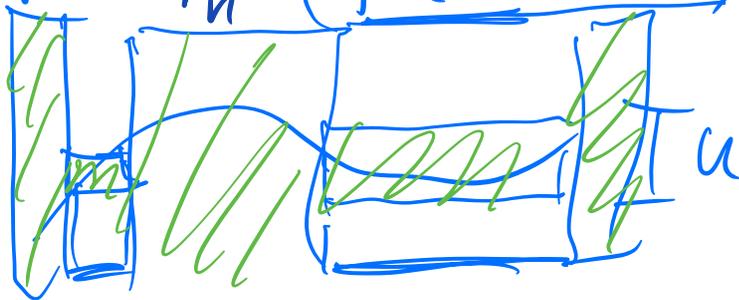
$$f: B \rightarrow C \quad B, C \text{ Borel}$$
$$\begin{array}{ccc} \cap & & \cap \\ X & & Y \end{array}$$

$f$  is Borel if preimages of Borel sets are Borel.

Thm  $f$  is Borel ( $B \rightarrow C$ )  
iff  
 $\text{graph}(f)$  is a Borel set ( $B \times C$ )

Proof. ( $\Leftarrow$ )  $U_n$  a top basis of  $C$   
 $n \in \mathbb{N}$

$$\text{graph}(f) = \bigcap_n (f^{-1}(U_n) \times U_n) \cup (X \setminus f^{-1}(U_n) \times Y)$$



$$\begin{array}{l}
 (1) \quad \left| \begin{array}{l}
 f: B \rightarrow C \\
 \cup \\
 D \text{ Borel} \\
 \hline
 f^{-1}(D) = \{x \mid f(x) \in D\} \\
 E = \text{graph}(f) \cap (X \times D) \text{ - Borel} \\
 x \in f^{-1}(D) \text{ iff } \exists y \ (x, y) \in E
 \end{array} \right.
 \end{array}$$

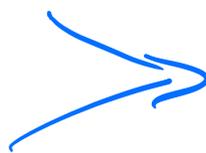
$$\begin{array}{c}
 \searrow \\
 \text{proj}_{\text{on } X} E \\
 \hline
 \text{analytic}
 \end{array}$$

$$f^{-1}(D) \text{ analytic}$$

$$f^{-1}(C \setminus D) \text{ analytic}$$

$$\parallel \text{ Borel}$$

$$B \setminus f^{-1}(D)$$



$$f^{-1}(D)$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Borel.}$$

$$\square$$

Thm (Kuratowski)

$X, Y$  Polish spaces, undble



$\exists f: X \rightarrow Y$  a Borel bijection

---

$\aleph_1^{\aleph_1} \cong \aleph_1 \leftarrow \underbrace{X}_{\text{1st Borel}}$

$\aleph_1^{\aleph_1} \xrightarrow{\text{1st Borel}} \underbrace{X}_{\text{Borel}}$

# Borel hierarchy

$\omega_1$  = the least uncountable ordinal

$\Sigma_1^0$  = open sets

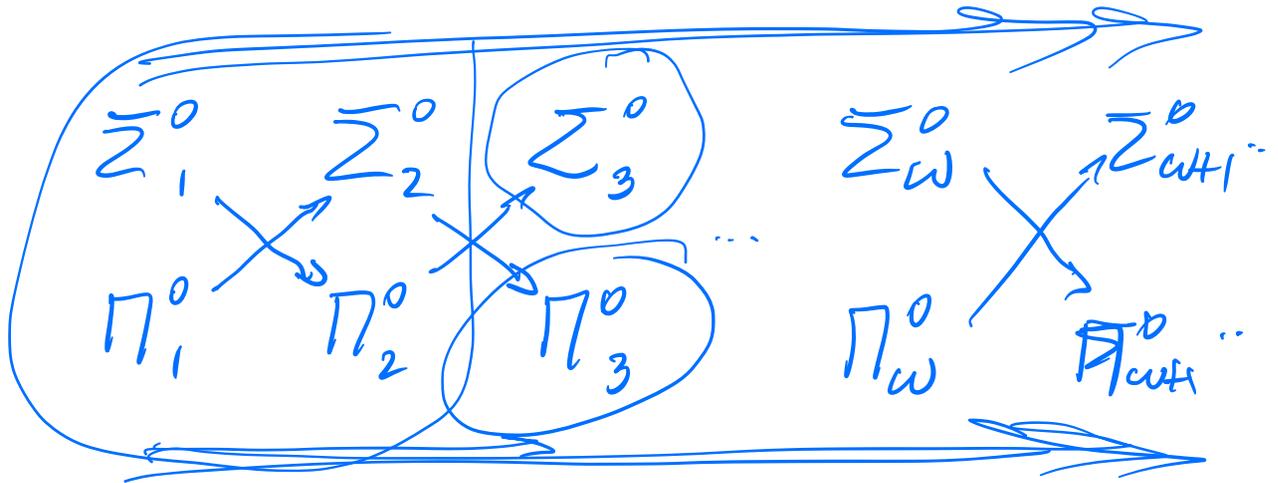
$\Pi_1^0$  = closed sets

$\Sigma_{\alpha+1}^0$  = countable unions of sets  
in  $\Pi_\alpha^0$

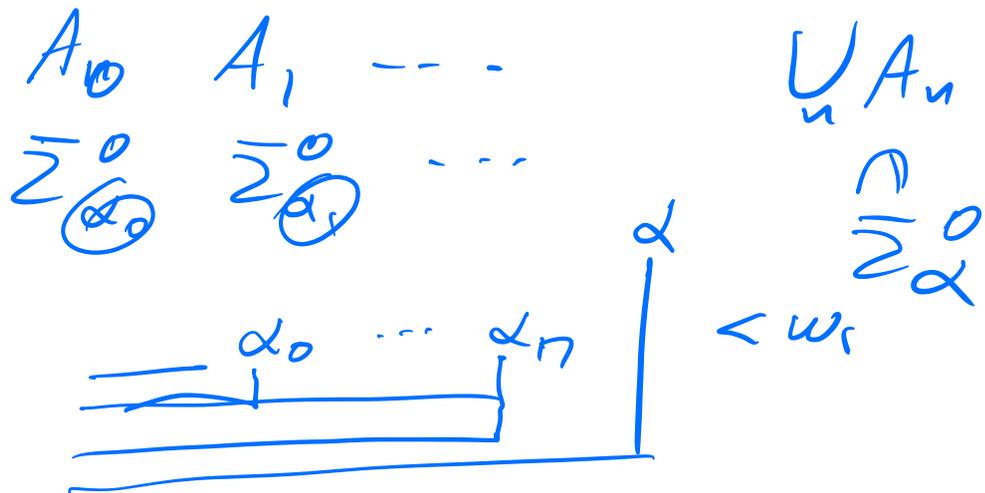
$\Pi_{\alpha+1}^0$  = complements of sets  
in  $\Sigma_{\alpha+1}^0$   
= countable intersections of  
sets in  $\Sigma_\alpha^0$

$\Sigma_\lambda^0$  = countable unions of sets  
in  $\bigcup_{\alpha < \lambda} \Pi_\alpha^0$

$\Pi_\lambda^0$  = complements of sets in  $\Sigma_\lambda^0$   
= countable subsets of sets in  $\bigcup_{\alpha < \lambda} \Sigma_\alpha^0$



$$\text{Borel sets} = \bigcup_{\alpha < \omega_1} \Sigma_\alpha^0 = \bigcup_{\alpha < \omega_1} \Pi_\alpha^0$$



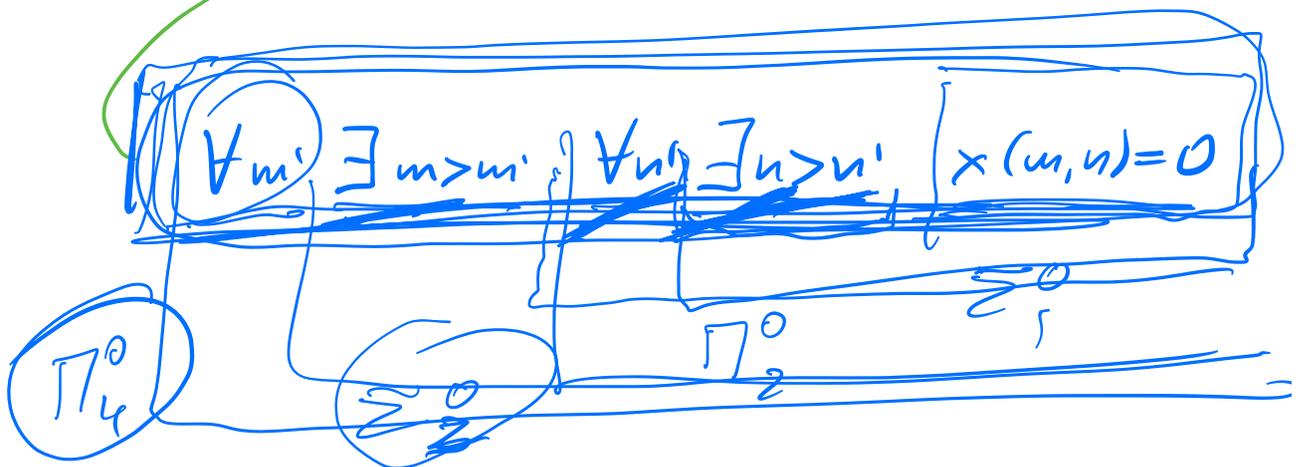
Examples 0.  $Q \in \mathbb{R} \quad \Sigma_2^0, \text{ not } \Pi_2^0$

1.  $C^n([0,1], \mathbb{R}) =$  functions  $n$ -times  
continuously differentiable  
 $n \geq 1$

$\Pi_3^0, \text{ not } \Sigma_3^0 \quad \text{in } C([0,1], \mathbb{R})$

2. Homeo  $([0,1]) \quad \Pi_2^0, \text{ not } \Sigma_2^0$   
in  $C([0,1], \mathbb{R})$

3.  $\{x \in 2^{\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}} \mid \underbrace{\exists m \exists n}^{\infty} x(m,n) = 0\}$   
 $\Pi_4^0, \text{ not } \Sigma_4^0$





analytic sets = continuous images of Polish spaces = results of applications of  $A$  to closed sets

Borel sets = continuous injective images of Polish spaces = results of applications of cble unions, cble intersections, complements to open sets ( $\sigma$ -algebra)



Analytic and Borel are  
distinct

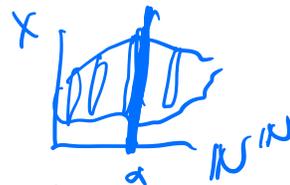
Universal sets

$X$  a Polish space  
 $\{U_n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  a top. basis for  $X$   
including the empty set

$$\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \ni \alpha \longrightarrow \bigcup_n U_{\alpha(n)}$$

$$\{(\underline{\alpha}, \underline{x}) \mid x \in \bigcup_n U_{\alpha(n)}\} \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \times X$$

$\parallel$   
 $U$  open



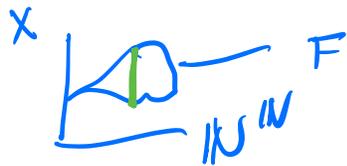
$$U \subseteq X \text{ open iff } \exists \alpha \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \ U = U_{\alpha}$$

$U$  universal for open sets

$$\underline{F} = (\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \times X) \setminus \mathcal{U} \subseteq \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \times X$$

univ. for closed

$$F \subseteq X \text{ is closed iff } \exists \alpha \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \\ \underline{F} = \mathcal{F}_\alpha$$



$$X = Y \times \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \rightsquigarrow F \subseteq \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \times (Y \times \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}})$$

$$A \subseteq \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \times Y \\ \text{analytic} = \text{proj}_{\text{onto } (Y)} (\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \times Y) \cap F \\ = \{ (\alpha, y) \mid \exists \beta (\alpha, y, \beta) \in F \}$$

A univ. for analytic subsets of Y

$$A \subseteq Y \text{ analytic iff } \underline{A} = \mathcal{A}_\alpha \\ \text{some } \alpha \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$$

Thm (Suslin)

Each uncountable Polish space contains an analytic set that is not Borel.

Let's show only that there exists an analytic non-Borel set.

$A \subseteq \underbrace{\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \times \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}}_{\substack{\text{all analytic subsets} \\ \text{of } Y}}$  univ. for

$A$  is not Borel.

$A \cap \text{Borel} \Rightarrow$

$C = \{\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \mid (\alpha, \alpha) \notin A\}$  is Borel

There is  $\alpha_0$  s.t.  $C = A_{\alpha_0}$  so analytic

$\alpha_0 \in C$  iff  $\alpha_0 \in A_{\alpha_0}$  iff  $(\alpha_0, \alpha_0) \in A$   
iff  $\alpha_0 \notin C$  contrad.

## Borel automata

$X =$  a Polish space - fixed

---

$S =$  the set of states (ctb/e)

$s_0 \in S$

$\Phi =$  a set of statements about a variable  $x$ , say " $x \in U$ ",  $U \subseteq X$  open

---

program instructions:

$s$ : all  $A$

$s$ : some  $A$

$s$ : not  $t$

$s$ : if  $\varphi$  then  $t$  else  $u$

$A \subseteq S$

$t \in S$

$t, u \in S, \varphi \in \Phi$

---

A Borel automaton is a function  $\Delta$  on  $S$  with values

$\Delta(s) = (\text{all}, A)$

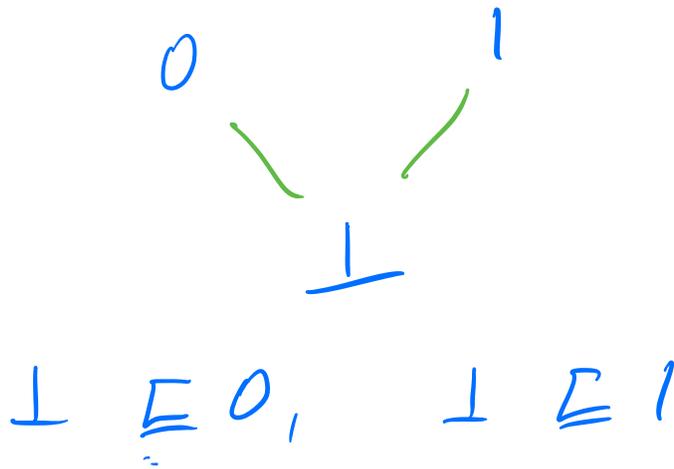
$\Delta(s) = (\text{some}, A)$

$\Delta(s) = (\text{not}, t)$

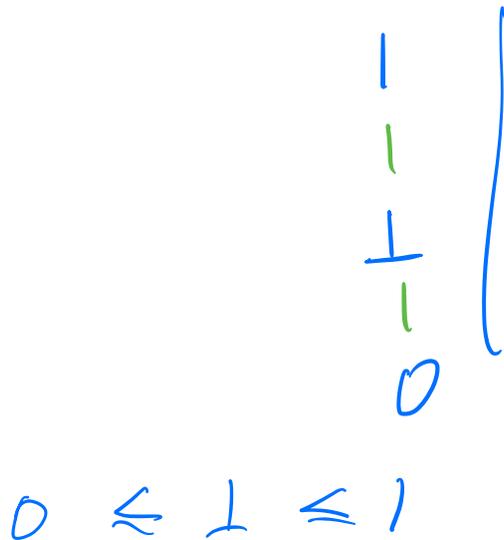
$\Delta(s) = (\varphi, t, u)$

$\{0, 1, \perp\}$   
 reject      accept      undecided

The Scott order on the set above



The Łukasiewicz order



# Running an automaton

Input  $a \in X$   $L \sqsubseteq L_2$

For  $L: S \rightarrow \{0, 1, \perp\}$

$$T_a(L)(s) = \begin{cases} \bigwedge_{t \in A} L(t) & \text{if } \Delta(s) = (\text{all}, A) \\ \bigvee_{t \in A} L(t) & \text{if } \Delta(s) = (\text{some}, A) \\ \neg L(t) & \text{if } \Delta(s) = (\text{not}, t) \\ L(t) & \text{if } \Delta(s) = (e, t, u) \\ & \text{and } \varphi(a) \text{ holds in } X \\ L(u) & \text{if } \Delta(s) = (e, t, u) \\ & \text{and } \varphi(a) \text{ fails in } X \end{cases}$$

with respect to the Kleene order

There exists  $\sqsubseteq$ -least  $L = L_a$

s.t.  $T_a(L) = L$ .  $L_0 \sqsubseteq L$

$a \in X$   
 $a$  accepted by  $\Delta$  if  $L_a(s_0) = 1$   
 $a$  rejected by  $\Delta$  if  $L_a(s_0) = 0$

$\Delta$  halts if it either accepts  $a$  or  
at  $a$  rejects  $a$

$L(\Delta) =$  the set of all  $a \in X$   
accepted by  $\Delta$

Thus (Kochen-Motz)  $A \subseteq X$

1.  $A$  is coanalytic iff  $A = L(\Delta)$   
 $X \setminus A$  analytic for some  $\Delta$

2.  $A$  is Borel iff  $A = L(\Delta)$   
for some  $\Delta$  that  
halts on all inputs.

# Spaces of Trees

$$T \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$$

$$T \in 2^{\mathbb{N}^{\times \mathbb{N}}}$$

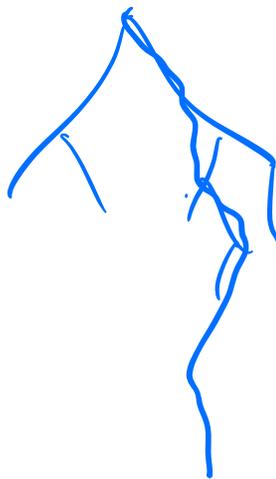
$T \in 2^{\mathbb{N}^{\times \mathbb{N}}} \mid T \text{ is a tree}$   
closed

$\cup 2^{\mathbb{N}^{\times \mathbb{N}}}$

$\{ T \in T \mid T \text{ is illfounded} \}$

analytic  
not Borel

$\exists \alpha \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \forall n$   
 $\alpha \upharpoonright n \in T$



$X$  a set,  $\mathcal{S}$  a  $\sigma$ -algebra on  $X$   
 $A \in \mathcal{S}$

A  $\mathcal{S}$ -cover of  $A$  is  $\hat{A} \in \mathcal{S}$   
s.t.

(1)  $A \subseteq \hat{A}$

(2) if  $A \subseteq B \in \mathcal{S}$ , then  
all subsets of  $\hat{A} \setminus B$  are in  $\mathcal{S}$

$\mathcal{S}$  admits covers if all sets  
have  $\mathcal{S}$ -covers

Thm (Szpilrajn-Marczewski)

If  $\mathcal{S}$  admits covers, then  
 $\mathcal{S}$  is closed under operation  $\mathcal{A}$ .