

## ***Guessing, Mind-changing, and the Second Ambiguous Class***

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**Abstract** In his dissertation, Wadge defined a notion of guessability on subsets of the Baire space and gave two characterizations of guessable sets. A set is guessable iff it is in the second ambiguous class ( $\Delta_2^0$ ), iff it is eventually annihilated by a certain remainder. We simplify this remainder and give a new proof of the latter equivalence. We then introduce a notion of guessing with an ordinal limit on how often one can change one's mind. We show that for every ordinal  $\alpha$ , a guessable set is annihilated by  $\alpha$  applications of the simplified remainder if and only if it is guessable with fewer than  $\alpha$  mind changes. We use guessability with fewer than  $\alpha$  mind changes to give a semi-characterization of the Hausdorff difference hierarchy, and indicate how Wadge's notion of guessability can be generalized to higher-order guessability, providing characterizations of  $\Delta_\alpha^0$  for all successor ordinals  $\alpha > 1$ .

### **1 Introduction**

Let  $\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$  be the set of sequences  $s : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  and let  $\mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}}$  be the set  $\cup_n \mathbb{N}^n$  of finite sequences. If  $s \in \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}}$ , we will write  $[s]$  for  $\{f \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} : f \text{ extends } s\}$ . We equip  $\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$  with a second-countable topology by declaring  $[s]$  to be a basic open set whenever  $s \in \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}}$ .

Throughout the paper,  $S$  will denote a subset of  $\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$ . We say that  $S \in \Delta_2^0$  if  $S$  is simultaneously a countable intersection of open sets and a countable union of closed sets in the above topology. In classic terminology,  $S \in \Delta_2^0$  just in case  $S$  is both  $G_\delta$  and  $F_\sigma$ .

The following notion was discovered by Wadge [9] (pp. 141–142) and independently by this author [1].<sup>1</sup>

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**Definition 1.1** We say  $S$  is *guessable* if there is a function  $G : \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  such that for every  $f \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$ ,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} G(f \upharpoonright n) = \chi_S(f) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } f \in S, \\ 0, & \text{if } f \notin S. \end{cases}$$

If so, we say  $G$  *guesses*  $S$ , or that  $G$  is an  $S$ -*guesser*.

The intuition behind the above notion is captured eloquently by Wadge (p. 142, notation changed):

Guessing sets allow us to form an opinion as to whether an element  $f$  of  $\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$  is in  $S$  or  $S^c$ , given only a finite initial segment  $f \upharpoonright n$  of  $f$ .

Game theoretically, one envisions an asymmetric game where  $II$  (the guesser) has perfect information,  $I$  (the sequence chooser) has zero information, and  $II$ 's winning set consists of all sequences  $(a_0, b_0, a_1, b_1, \dots)$  such that  $b_i \rightarrow 1$  if  $(a_0, a_1, \dots) \in S$  and  $b_i \rightarrow 0$  otherwise.

The following result was proved in [9] (pp.144–145) by infinite game-theoretical methods. The present author found a second proof [1] using mathematical logical methods.

**Theorem 1.2** (*Wadge*)  $S$  is guessable if and only if  $S \in \mathbf{\Delta}_2^0$ .

Wadge defined (pp. 113–114) the following remainder operation.

**Definition 1.3** For  $A, B \subseteq \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$ , define  $\text{Rm}_0(A, B) = \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$ . For  $\mu > 0$  an ordinal, define

$$\text{Rm}_\mu(A, B) = \bigcap_{\nu < \mu} \left( \overline{\text{Rm}_\nu(A, B) \cap A} \cap \overline{\text{Rm}_\nu(A, B) \cap B} \right).$$

(Here  $\bar{\phantom{x}}$  denotes topological closure.) Write  $\text{Rm}_\mu(S)$  for  $\text{Rm}_\mu(S, S^c)$ .

By countability considerations, there is some (in fact countable) ordinal  $\mu$ , depending on  $S$ , such that  $\text{Rm}_\mu(S) = \text{Rm}_{\mu'}(S)$  for all  $\mu' \geq \mu$ ; Wadge writes  $\text{Rm}_\Omega(S)$  for  $\text{Rm}_\mu(S)$  for such a  $\mu$ . He then proves the following theorem:

**Theorem 1.4** (*Wadge, attributed to Hausdorff*)  $S \in \mathbf{\Delta}_2^0$  if and only if  $\text{Rm}_\Omega(S) = \emptyset$ .

In Section 2, we introduce a simpler remainder  $(S, \alpha) \mapsto S_\alpha$  and use it to give a new proof of Theorem 1.4.

In Section 3, we introduce the notion of  $S$  being guessable while changing one's mind fewer than  $\alpha$  many times ( $\alpha \in \text{Ord}$ ) and show that this is equivalent to  $S_\alpha = \emptyset$ .

In Section 4, we show that for  $\alpha > 0$ ,  $S$  is guessable while changing one's mind fewer than  $\alpha + 1$  many times if and only if at least one of  $S$  or  $S^c$  is in the  $\alpha$ th level of the difference hierarchy.

In Section 5, we generalize guessability, introducing the notion of  $\mu$ th-order guessability ( $1 \leq \mu < \omega_1$ ). We show that  $S$  is  $\mu$ th-order guessable if and only if  $S \in \mathbf{\Delta}_{\mu+1}^0$ .

## 2 Guessable Sets and Remainders

In this section we give a new proof of Theorem 1.4. We find it easier to work with the following remainder<sup>2</sup> which is closely related to the remainder defined by Wadge. For  $X \subseteq \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}}$ , we will write  $[X]$  to denote the set of infinite sequences all of whose finite initial segments lie in  $X$ .

**Definition 2.1** Let  $S \subseteq \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$ . We define  $S_\alpha \subseteq \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}}$  ( $\alpha \in \text{Ord}$ ) by transfinite recursion as follows. We define  $S_0 = \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}}$ , and  $S_\lambda = \bigcap_{\beta < \lambda} S_\beta$  for every limit ordinal  $\lambda$ . Finally, for every ordinal  $\beta$ , we define

$$S_{\beta+1} = \{x \in S_\beta : \exists x', x'' \in [S_\beta] \text{ such that } x \subseteq x', x \subseteq x'', x' \in S, x'' \notin S\}.$$

We write  $\alpha(S)$  for the minimal ordinal  $\alpha$  such that  $S_\alpha = S_{\alpha+1}$ , and we write  $S_\infty$  for  $S_{\alpha(S)}$ .

Clearly  $S_\alpha \subseteq S_\beta$  whenever  $\beta < \alpha$ . This remainder notion is related to Wadge's as follows.

**Lemma 2.2** For each ordinal  $\alpha$ ,  $\text{Rm}_\alpha(S) = [S_\alpha]$ .

**Proof** Since  $S_\alpha \subseteq S_\beta$  whenever  $\beta < \alpha$ , for all  $\alpha$ , we have  $S_\alpha = \bigcap_{\beta < \alpha} S_{\beta+1}$  (with the convention that  $\bigcap \emptyset = \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}}$ ). We will show by induction on  $\alpha$  that  $\text{Rm}_\alpha(S) = [S_\alpha] = [\bigcap_{\beta < \alpha} S_{\beta+1}]$ .

Suppose  $f \in [\bigcap_{\beta < \alpha} S_{\beta+1}]$ . Let  $\beta < \alpha$ . Let  $\mathcal{U}$  be an open set around  $f$ , we can assume  $\mathcal{U}$  is basic open, so  $\mathcal{U} = [f_0]$ ,  $f_0$  a finite initial segment of  $f$ . Since  $f \in [\bigcap_{\beta < \alpha} S_{\beta+1}]$ ,  $f_0 \in S_{\beta+1}$ . Thus there are  $x', x'' \in [S_\beta]$  extending  $f_0$  (hence in  $\mathcal{U}$ ),  $x' \in S$ ,  $x'' \notin S$ . In other words,  $x' \in [\bigcap_{\gamma < \beta} S_{\gamma+1}] \cap S$  and  $x'' \in [\bigcap_{\gamma < \beta} S_{\gamma+1}] \cap S^c$ . By induction,  $x' \in \text{Rm}_\beta(S) \cap S$  and  $x'' \in \text{Rm}_\beta(S) \cap S^c$ . By arbitrariness of  $\mathcal{U}$ ,  $f \in \overline{\text{Rm}_\beta(S) \cap S} \cap \overline{\text{Rm}_\beta(S) \cap S^c}$ . By arbitrariness of  $\beta$ ,  $f \in \text{Rm}_\alpha(S)$ .

The reverse inclusion is similar.  $\square$

Note that Lemma 2.2 does not say that  $\text{Rm}_\alpha(S) = \emptyset$  if and only if  $S_\alpha = \emptyset$ . It is (at least a priori) possible that  $S_\alpha \neq \emptyset$  while  $[S_\alpha] = \emptyset$ . Lemma 2.2 does however imply that  $\text{Rm}_\Omega(S) = \emptyset$  if and only if  $S_\infty = \emptyset$ , since it is easy to see that if  $[S_\alpha] = \emptyset$  then  $S_{\alpha+1} = \emptyset$ . Thus in order to prove Theorem 1.4 it suffices to show that  $S$  is guessable if and only if  $S_\infty = \emptyset$ . The  $\Rightarrow$  direction requires no additional machinery.

**Proposition 2.3** If  $S$  is guessable then  $S_\infty = \emptyset$ .

**Proof** Let  $G : \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  be an  $S$ -guesser. Assume (for contradiction)  $S_\infty \neq \emptyset$  and let  $\sigma_0 \in S_\infty$ . We will build a sequence on whose initial segments  $G$  diverges, contrary to Definition 1.1. Inductively suppose we have finite sequences  $\sigma_0 \subsetneq \sigma_1 \subsetneq \dots \subsetneq \sigma_k$  in  $S_\infty$  such that  $\forall 0 < i \leq k$ ,  $G(\sigma_i) \equiv i \pmod{2}$ . Since  $\sigma_k \in S_\infty = S_{\alpha(S)} = S_{\alpha(S)+1}$ , there are  $\sigma', \sigma'' \in [S_\infty]$ , extending  $\sigma_k$ , with  $\sigma' \in S$ ,  $\sigma'' \notin S$ . Choose  $\sigma \in \{\sigma', \sigma''\}$  with  $\sigma \in S$  iff  $k$  is even. Then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} G(\sigma \upharpoonright n) \equiv k+1 \pmod{2}$ . Let  $\sigma_{k+1} \subset \sigma$  properly extend  $\sigma_k$  such that  $G(\sigma_{k+1}) \equiv k+1 \pmod{2}$ . Note  $\sigma_{k+1} \in S_\infty$  since  $\sigma \in [S_\infty]$ .

By induction, there are  $\sigma_0 \subsetneq \sigma_1 \subsetneq \dots$  such that for  $i > 0$ ,  $G(\sigma_i) \equiv i \pmod{2}$ . This contradicts Definition 1.1 since  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} G((\cup_i \sigma_i) \upharpoonright n)$  ought to converge.  $\square$

The  $\Leftarrow$  direction requires a little machinery.

**Definition 2.4** If  $\sigma \in \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}}$ ,  $\sigma \notin S_\infty$ , let  $\beta(\sigma)$  be the least ordinal such that  $\sigma \notin S_{\beta(\sigma)}$ .

Note that whenever  $\sigma \notin S_\infty$ ,  $\beta(\sigma)$  is a successor ordinal.

**Lemma 2.5** Suppose  $\sigma \subseteq \tau$  are finite sequences. If  $\tau \in S_\infty$  then  $\sigma \in S_\infty$ . And if  $\sigma \notin S_\infty$ , then  $\beta(\tau) \leq \beta(\sigma)$ .

**Proof** It is enough to show that  $\forall \beta \in \text{Ord}$ , if  $\tau \in S_\beta$  then  $\sigma \in S_\beta$ . This is by induction on  $\beta$ , the limit and zero cases being trivial. Assume  $\beta$  is successor. If  $\tau \in S_\beta$ , this means  $\tau \in S_{\beta-1}$  and there are  $\tau', \tau'' \in [S_{\beta-1}]$  extending  $\tau$  with  $\tau' \in S$ ,  $\tau'' \notin S$ . Since  $\tau'$  and  $\tau''$  extend  $\tau$ , and  $\tau$  extends  $\sigma$ ,  $\tau'$  and  $\tau''$  extend  $\sigma$ ; and since  $\sigma \in S_{\beta-1}$  (by induction), this shows  $\sigma \in S_\beta$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.6** *Suppose  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ ,  $f \notin [S_\infty]$ . There is some  $i$  such that for all  $j \geq i$ ,  $f \upharpoonright j \notin S_\infty$  and  $\beta(f \upharpoonright j) = \beta(f \upharpoonright i)$ . Furthermore,  $f \in [S_{\beta(f \upharpoonright i)-1}]$ .*

**Proof** The first part follows from Lemma 2.5 and the well-foundedness of Ord. For the second part we must show  $f \upharpoonright k \in S_{\beta(f \upharpoonright i)-1}$  for every  $k$ . If  $k \leq i$ , then  $f \upharpoonright k \in S_{\beta(f \upharpoonright i)-1}$  by Lemma 2.5. If  $k \geq i$ , then  $\beta(f \upharpoonright k) = \beta(f \upharpoonright i)$  and so  $f \upharpoonright k \in S_{\beta(f \upharpoonright i)-1}$  since it is in  $S_{\beta(f \upharpoonright k)-1}$  by definition of  $\beta$ .  $\square$

**Definition 2.7** If  $S_\infty = \emptyset$  then we define  $G_S : \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  as follows. Let  $\sigma \in \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}}$ . Since  $S_\infty = \emptyset$ ,  $\sigma \notin S_\infty$ , so  $\sigma \in S_{\beta(\sigma)-1} \setminus S_{\beta(\sigma)}$ . Since  $\sigma \notin S_{\beta(\sigma)}$ , this means for every two extensions  $x', x''$  of  $\sigma$  in  $[S_{\beta(\sigma)-1}]$ , either  $x', x'' \in S$  or  $x', x'' \in S^c$ . So either all extensions of  $\sigma$  in  $[S_{\beta(\sigma)-1}]$  are in  $S$ , or all such extensions are in  $S^c$ .

- (i) If there are no extensions of  $\sigma$  in  $[S_{\beta(\sigma)-1}]$ , and  $\text{length}(\sigma) > 0$ , then let  $G_S(\sigma) = G_S(\sigma^-)$  where  $\sigma^-$  is obtained from  $\sigma$  by removing the last term.
- (ii) If there are no extensions of  $\sigma$  in  $[S_{\beta(\sigma)-1}]$ , and  $\text{length}(\sigma) = 0$ , let  $G_S(\sigma) = 0$ .
- (iii) If there are extensions of  $\sigma$  in  $[S_{\beta(\sigma)-1}]$  and they are all in  $S$ , define  $G_S(\sigma) = 1$ .
- (iv) If there are extensions of  $\sigma$  in  $[S_{\beta(\sigma)-1}]$  and they are all in  $S^c$ , define  $G_S(\sigma) = 0$ .

**Proposition 2.8** *If  $S_\infty = \emptyset$  then  $G_S$  guesses  $S$ .*

**Proof** Assume  $S_\infty = \emptyset$ . Let  $f \in S$ . I will show  $G_S(f \upharpoonright n) \rightarrow 1$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Since  $f \notin [S_\infty]$ , let  $i$  be as in Lemma 2.6. I claim  $G_S(f \upharpoonright j) = 1$  whenever  $j \geq i$ . Fix  $j \geq i$ . We have  $\beta(f \upharpoonright j) = \beta(f \upharpoonright i)$  by choice of  $i$ , and  $f \in [S_{\beta(f \upharpoonright i)-1}] = [S_{\beta(f \upharpoonright j)-1}]$ . Since  $f \upharpoonright j$  has one extension (namely  $f$  itself) in both  $[S_{\beta(f \upharpoonright j)-1}]$  and  $S$ ,  $G_S(f \upharpoonright j) = 1$ .

Identical reasoning shows that if  $f \notin S$  then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} G_S(f \upharpoonright n) = 0$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.9**  $S \in \Delta_2^0$  if and only if  $S_\infty = \emptyset$ . That is, Theorem 1.4 is true.

**Proof** By combining Propositions 2.3 and 2.8 and Theorem 1.2.  $\square$

### 3 Guessing without changing one's Mind too often

In this section our goal is to tease out additional information about  $\Delta_2^0$  from the operation defined in Definition 2.1.

**Definition 3.1** For each function  $G$  with domain  $\mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}}$ , if  $G(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) \neq G(f \upharpoonright n)$  ( $f \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ), we say  $G$  changes its mind on  $f \upharpoonright (n+1)$ . Now let  $\alpha \in \text{Ord}$ . We say  $S$  is guessable with  $< \alpha$  mind changes if there is an  $S$ -guesser  $G$  along with a function  $H : \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \alpha$  such that the following hold, where  $f \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

- (i)  $H(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) \leq H(f \upharpoonright n)$ .
- (ii) If  $G$  changes its mind on  $f \upharpoonright (n+1)$ , then  $H(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) < H(f \upharpoonright n)$ .

This notion bears some resemblance to the notion of a set  $Z \subseteq \mathbb{N}$  being  $f$ -c.e. in [4], or  $g$ -c.a. in [7].

**Theorem 3.2** For  $\alpha \in \text{Ord}$ ,  $S$  is guessable with  $< \alpha$  mind changes if and only if  $S_\alpha = \emptyset$ .

**Proof**

( $\Rightarrow$ ) Assume  $S$  is guessable with  $< \alpha$  mind changes. Let  $G, H$  be as in Definition 3.1. We claim that for all  $\beta \in \text{Ord}$ , if  $\sigma \in S_\beta$  then  $H(\sigma) \geq \beta$ . This will prove ( $\Rightarrow$ ) because it implies that if  $S_\alpha \neq \emptyset$  then there is some  $\sigma$  with  $H(\sigma) \geq \alpha$ , absurd since  $\text{codomain}(H) = \alpha$ .

We attack the claim by induction on  $\beta$ . The zero and limit cases are trivial. Assume  $\beta = \gamma + 1$ . Suppose  $\sigma \in S_{\gamma+1}$ . There are  $x', x'' \in [S_\gamma]$  extending  $\sigma$ ,  $x' \in S$ ,  $x'' \notin S$ . Pick  $x \in \{x', x''\}$  so that  $\chi_S(x) \neq G(\sigma)$  and pick  $\sigma^+ \in \mathbb{N}^{< \mathbb{N}}$  with  $\sigma \subseteq \sigma^+ \subseteq x$  such that  $G(\sigma^+) = \chi_S(x)$  (some such  $\sigma^+$  exists since  $G$  guesses  $S$ ). Since  $x \in [S_\gamma]$ ,  $\sigma^+ \in S_\gamma$ . By induction,  $H(\sigma^+) \geq \gamma$ . The fact  $G(\sigma^+) \neq G(\sigma)$  implies  $H(\sigma^+) < H(\sigma)$ , forcing  $H(\sigma) \geq \gamma + 1$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Assume  $S_\alpha = \emptyset$ . For all  $\sigma \in \mathbb{N}^{< \mathbb{N}}$ , define  $H(\sigma) = \beta(\sigma) - 1$  (by definition of  $\beta(\sigma)$ , since  $S_\alpha = \emptyset$ , clearly  $H(\sigma) \in \alpha$ ). I claim  $G_S, H$  witness that  $S$  is guessable with  $< \alpha$  mind changes.

By Proposition 2.8,  $G_S$  guesses  $S$ . Let  $f \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . By Lemma 2.5,  $H(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) \leq H(f \upharpoonright n)$ . Now suppose  $G_S$  changes its mind on  $f \upharpoonright (n+1)$ , we must show  $H(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) < H(f \upharpoonright n)$ . Assume, for sake of contradiction, that  $H(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) = H(f \upharpoonright n)$ . Assume  $G_S(f \upharpoonright n) = 0$ , the other case is similar. By definition of  $G_S$ , (\*) for every infinite extension  $f'$  of  $f \upharpoonright n$ , if  $f' \in [S_{\beta(f \upharpoonright n)-1}]$  then  $f' \in S^c$ . Since  $G_S$  changes its mind on  $f \upharpoonright (n+1)$ ,  $G_S(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) = 1$ . Thus (\*\*) for every infinite extension  $f''$  of  $f \upharpoonright (n+1)$ , if  $f'' \in [S_{\beta(f \upharpoonright (n+1))-1}]$  then  $f'' \in S$ . And  $f \upharpoonright (n+1)$  does actually have some such infinite extension  $f''$ , because if it had none, that would make  $G_S(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) = G_S(f \upharpoonright n)$  by case 1 of the definition of  $G_S$  (Definition 2.7). Being an extension of  $f \upharpoonright (n+1)$ ,  $f''$  also extends  $f \upharpoonright n$ ; and by the assumption that  $H(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) = H(f \upharpoonright n)$ ,  $f'' \in [S_{\beta(f \upharpoonright n)-1}]$ . By (\*),  $f'' \in S^c$ , and by (\*\*),  $f'' \in S$ . Absurd.  $\square$

It is not hard to show  $S$  is a Boolean combination of open sets if and only if  $S$  is guessable with  $< \omega$  mind changes, so Theorem 3.2 and Lemma 2.2 give a new proof of a special case of the main theorem (p. 1348) of [3] (see also [2]).

#### 4 Mind Changing and the Difference Hierarchy

We recall the following definition from [5] (p. 175, stated in greater generality—we specialize it to the Baire space). In this definition,  $\Sigma_1^0(\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}})$  is the set of open subsets of  $\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$ , and the *parity* of an ordinal  $\eta$  is the equivalence class modulo 2 of  $n$ , where  $\eta = \lambda + n$ ,  $\lambda$  a limit ordinal (or  $\lambda = 0$ ),  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

**Definition 4.1** Let  $(A_\eta)_{\eta < \theta}$  be an increasing sequence of subsets of  $\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$  with  $\theta \geq 1$ . Define the set  $D_\theta((A_\eta)_{\eta < \theta}) \subseteq \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$  by

$$x \in D_\theta((A_\eta)_{\eta < \theta}) \Leftrightarrow x \in \bigcup_{\eta < \theta} A_\eta \text{ \& the least } \eta < \theta \text{ with } x \in A_\eta \text{ has parity opposite to that of } \theta.$$

Let

$$D_\theta(\Sigma_1^0(\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}})) = \{D_\theta((A_\eta)_{\eta < \theta}) : A_\eta \in \Sigma_1^0(\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}), \eta < \theta\}.$$

This hierarchy offers a constructive characterization of  $\Delta_2^0$ : it turns out that

$$\Delta_2^0 = \cup_{1 \leq \theta < \omega_1} D_\theta(\Sigma_1^0)(\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}})$$

(see Theorem 22.27 of [5], p. 176, attributed to Hausdorff and Kuratowski).

For brevity, we will write  $D_\alpha$  for  $D_\alpha(\Sigma_1^0)(\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}})$ .

**Theorem 4.2** (Semi-characterization of the difference hierarchy) *Let  $\alpha > 0$ . The following are equivalent.*

- (i)  $S$  is guessable with  $< \alpha + 1$  mind changes.
- (ii)  $S \in D_\alpha$  or  $S^c \in D_\alpha$ .

We will prove Theorem 4.2 by a sequence of smaller results.

**Definition 4.3** For  $\alpha, \beta \in \text{Ord}$ , write  $\alpha \equiv \beta$  to indicate that  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  have the same parity (that is,  $2 \mid n - m$ , where  $\alpha = \lambda + n$  and  $\beta = \kappa + m$ ,  $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\lambda$  a limit ordinal or 0,  $\kappa$  a limit ordinal or 0).

**Proposition 4.4** *Let  $\alpha > 0$ . If  $S \in D_\alpha$ , say  $S = D_\alpha((A_\eta)_{\eta < \alpha})$  ( $A_\eta \subseteq \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$  open), then  $S$  is guessable with  $< \alpha + 1$  mind changes.*

**Proof** Define  $G : \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  and  $H : \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \alpha + 1$  as follows. Suppose  $\sigma \in \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}}$ . If there is no  $\eta < \alpha$  such that  $[\sigma] \subseteq A_\eta$ , let  $G(\sigma) = 0$  and let  $H(\sigma) = \alpha$ . If there is an  $\eta < \alpha$  (we may take  $\eta$  minimal) such that  $[\sigma] \subseteq A_\eta$ , then let

$$G(\sigma) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } \eta \equiv \alpha; \\ 1, & \text{if } \eta \not\equiv \alpha. \end{cases} \quad H(\sigma) = \eta.$$

Let  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ .

**Claim 1**  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} G(f \upharpoonright n) = \chi_S(f)$ .

If  $f \notin \cup_{\eta < \alpha} A_\eta$ , then  $f \notin D_\alpha((A_\eta)_{\eta < \alpha}) = S$ , and  $G(f \upharpoonright n)$  will always be 0, so  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} G(f \upharpoonright n) = 0 = \chi_S(f)$ . Assume  $f \in \cup_{\eta < \alpha} A_\eta$ , and let  $\eta < \alpha$  be minimum such that  $f \in A_\eta$ . Since  $A_\eta$  is open, there is some  $n_0$  so large that  $\forall n \geq n_0$ ,  $[f \upharpoonright n] \subseteq A_\eta$ . For all  $n \geq n_0$ , by minimality of  $\eta$ ,  $[f \upharpoonright n] \not\subseteq A_{\eta'}$  for any  $\eta' < \eta$ , so  $G(f \upharpoonright n) = 0$  if and only if  $\eta \equiv \alpha$ . The following are equivalent.

$$\begin{aligned} f \in S & \text{ iff } f \in D_\alpha((A_\eta)_{\eta < \alpha}) \\ & \text{ iff } \eta \not\equiv \alpha \\ & \text{ iff } G(f \upharpoonright n) \neq 0 \\ & \text{ iff } G(f \upharpoonright n) = 1. \end{aligned}$$

This shows  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} G(f \upharpoonright n) = \chi_S(f)$ .

**Claim 2**  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, H(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) \leq H(f \upharpoonright n)$ .

If  $H(f \upharpoonright n) = \alpha$ , there is nothing to prove. If  $H(f \upharpoonright n) < \alpha$ , then  $H(f \upharpoonright n) = \eta$  where  $\eta$  is minimal such that  $[f \upharpoonright n] \subseteq A_\eta$ . Since  $[f \upharpoonright (n+1)] \subseteq [f \upharpoonright n]$ , we have  $[f \upharpoonright (n+1)] \subseteq A_\eta$ , implying  $H(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) \leq \eta$ .

**Claim 3**  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ , if  $G(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) \neq G(f \upharpoonright n)$ , then  $H(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) < H(f \upharpoonright n)$ .

Assume (for sake of contradiction)  $H(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) \geq H(f \upharpoonright n)$ . By Claim 2,  $H(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) = H(f \upharpoonright n)$ . By definition of  $H$  this implies that  $\forall \eta < \alpha$ ,  $[f \upharpoonright (n+1)] \subseteq A_\eta$  if and only if  $[f \upharpoonright n] \subseteq A_\eta$ . This implies  $G(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) = G(f \upharpoonright n)$ , contradiction.

By Claims 1–3,  $G$  and  $H$  witness that  $S$  is guessable with  $< \alpha + 1$  mind changes.  $\square$

**Corollary 4.5** *Let  $\alpha > 0$ . If  $S \in D_\alpha$  or  $S^c \in D_\alpha$  then  $S$  is guessable with  $< \alpha + 1$  mind changes.*

**Proof** If  $S \in D_\alpha$  this is immediate by Proposition 4.4. If  $S^c \in D_\alpha$  then Proposition 4.4 says  $S^c$  is guessable with  $< \alpha + 1$  mind changes, and this clearly implies that  $S$  is too.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.6** *Suppose  $S$  is guessable with  $< \alpha$  mind changes. Let  $G : \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ ,  $H : \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \alpha$  be a pair of functions witnessing as much (Definition 3.1). There is an  $H' : \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \alpha$  such that  $G, H'$  also witness that  $S$  is guessable with  $< \alpha$  mind changes, with  $H'(\emptyset) = H(\emptyset)$ , and with the additional property that for every  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  and every  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,*

$$H(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) \equiv H(f \upharpoonright n) \text{ if and only if } G(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) = G(f \upharpoonright n).$$

**Proof** Define  $H'(\sigma)$  by induction on the length of  $\sigma$  as follows. Let  $H'(\emptyset) = H(\emptyset)$ . If  $\sigma \neq \emptyset$ , write  $\sigma = \sigma_0 \frown n$  for some  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  ( $\frown$  denotes concatenation). If  $G(\sigma) = G(\sigma_0)$ , let  $H'(\sigma) = H'(\sigma_0)$ . Otherwise, let  $H'(\sigma)$  be either  $H(\sigma)$  or  $H(\sigma) + 1$ , whichever has parity opposite to  $H'(\sigma_0)$ .

By construction  $H'$  has the desired parity properties. A simple inductive argument shows that  $(*) \forall \sigma \in \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}}, H(\sigma) \leq H'(\sigma) < \alpha$ . I claim that for all  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $H'(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) \leq H'(f \upharpoonright n)$ , and if  $G(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) \neq G(f \upharpoonright n)$  then  $H'(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) < H'(f \upharpoonright n)$ .

If  $G(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) = G(f \upharpoonright n)$ , then by definition  $H'(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) = H'(f \upharpoonright n)$  and the claim is trivial. Now assume  $G(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) \neq G(f \upharpoonright n)$ . If  $H'(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) = H(f \upharpoonright (n+1))$  then  $H'(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) < H(f \upharpoonright n) \leq H'(f \upharpoonright n)$  and we are done. Assume

$$H'(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) \neq H(f \upharpoonright (n+1)),$$

which forces that  $(**) H'(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) = H(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) + 1$ . To see that

$$H'(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) < H'(f \upharpoonright n),$$

assume not  $(***)$ . By Definition 3.1,  $H(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) < H(f \upharpoonright n)$ , so

$$\begin{aligned} H(f \upharpoonright n) &\geq H(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) + 1 && \text{(Basic arithmetic)} \\ &= H'(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) && \text{(By (**))} \\ &\geq H'(f \upharpoonright n) && \text{(By (***))} \\ &\geq H(f \upharpoonright n). && \text{(By (*))} \end{aligned}$$

Equality holds throughout, and  $H'(f \upharpoonright (n+1)) = H'(f \upharpoonright n)$ . Contradiction: we chose  $H'(f \upharpoonright (n+1))$  with parity opposite to  $H'(f \upharpoonright n)$ .  $\square$

**Definition 4.7** For all  $G, H$  as in Definition 3.1,  $f \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$ , write  $G(f)$  for  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} G(f \upharpoonright n)$  (so  $G(f) = \chi_S(f)$ ) and write  $H(f)$  for  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} H(f \upharpoonright n)$ . Write  $G \equiv H$  to indicate that  $\forall f \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}, G(f) \equiv H(f)$ ; write  $G \not\equiv H$  to indicate that  $\exists f \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}, G(f) \not\equiv H(f)$  (we pronounce  $G \not\equiv H$  as “ $G$  is anticongruent to  $H$ ”).

**Lemma 4.8** *Suppose  $G : \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  and  $H : \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \alpha$  witness that  $S$  is guessable with  $< \alpha$  mind changes. There is an  $H' : \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \alpha$  such that  $G, H'$  witness that  $S$  is guessable with  $< \alpha$  mind changes, and such that the following hold.*

$$\text{If } G(\emptyset) \equiv \alpha \text{ then } H' \not\equiv G. \qquad \text{If } G(\emptyset) \not\equiv \alpha \text{ then } H' \equiv G.$$



**Proof** I claim that without loss of generality, we may assume the following (\*):

$$\text{If } G(\emptyset) \equiv \alpha \text{ then } H(\emptyset) \not\equiv G(\emptyset). \quad \text{If } G(\emptyset) \not\equiv \alpha \text{ then } H(\emptyset) \equiv G(\emptyset).$$

To see this, suppose not: either  $G(\emptyset) \equiv \alpha$  and  $H(\emptyset) \equiv G(\emptyset)$ , or else  $G(\emptyset) \not\equiv \alpha$  and  $H(\emptyset) \not\equiv G(\emptyset)$ . In either case,  $H(\emptyset) \equiv \alpha$ . If  $H(\emptyset) \equiv \alpha$  then  $H(\emptyset) + 1 \neq \alpha$ , and so, since  $H(\emptyset) < \alpha$ ,  $H(\emptyset) + 1 < \alpha$ , meaning we may add 1 to  $H(\emptyset)$  to enforce the assumption.

Having assumed (\*), we may use Lemma 4.6 to construct  $H' : \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \alpha$  such that  $G, H'$  witness that  $S$  is guessable with  $< \alpha$  mind changes,  $H'(\emptyset) = H(\emptyset)$ , and  $H'$  changes parity precisely when  $G$  changes parity. The latter facts, combined with (\*), prove the lemma.  $\square$

**Proposition 4.9** *Suppose  $G : \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  and  $H : \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \alpha + 1$  witness that  $S$  is guessable with  $< \alpha + 1$  mind changes. If  $G(\emptyset) = 0$  then  $S \in D_\alpha$ .*

**Proof** By Lemma 4.8 we may safely assume the following:

$$\text{If } G(\emptyset) \equiv \alpha + 1 \text{ then } H \not\equiv G. \quad \text{If } G(\emptyset) \not\equiv \alpha + 1 \text{ then } H \equiv G.$$

In other words,

$$(*) \text{ If } G(\emptyset) \equiv \alpha \text{ then } H \equiv G. \quad (**) \text{ If } G(\emptyset) \not\equiv \alpha \text{ then } H \not\equiv G.$$

For each  $\eta < \alpha$ , let

$$A_\eta = \{f \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} : H(f) \leq \eta\}. \quad (H(f) \text{ as in Definition 4.7})$$

I claim  $S = D_\alpha((A_\eta)_{\eta < \alpha})$ , which will prove the proposition since each  $A_\eta$  is clearly open.

Suppose  $f \in S$ , I will show  $f \in D_\alpha((A_\eta)_{\eta < \alpha})$ . Since  $f \in S$ ,  $H(f) \neq \alpha$ , because if  $H(f) = \alpha$ , this would imply that  $G$  never changes its mind on  $f$ , forcing  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} G(f \upharpoonright n) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} G(\emptyset) = 0$ , contradicting the fact that  $G$  guesses  $S$ .

Since  $H(f) \neq \alpha$ ,  $H(f) < \alpha$ . It follows that for  $\eta = H(f)$  we have  $f \in A_\eta$  and  $\eta$  is minimal with this property.

Case 1:  $G(\emptyset) \equiv \alpha$ . By (\*),  $H \equiv G$ . Since  $f \in S$ ,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} G(f \upharpoonright n) = 1$ , so  $\eta = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} H(f \upharpoonright n) \equiv 1$ . Since  $\alpha \equiv G(\emptyset) = 0$ , this shows  $\eta \neq \alpha$ , putting  $f \in D_\alpha((A_\eta)_{\eta < \alpha})$ .

Case 2:  $G(\emptyset) \not\equiv \alpha$ . By (\*\*),  $H \not\equiv G$ . Since  $f \in S$ ,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} G(f \upharpoonright n) = 1$ , so  $\eta = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} H(f \upharpoonright n) \equiv 0$ . Since  $\alpha \not\equiv G(\emptyset) = 0$ , this shows  $\eta \neq \alpha$ , so  $f \in D_\alpha((A_\eta)_{\eta < \alpha})$ .

Conversely, suppose  $f \in D_\alpha((A_\eta)_{\eta < \alpha})$ , I will show  $f \in S$ . Let  $\eta$  be minimal such that  $f \in A_\eta$  (by definition of  $A_\eta$ ,  $\eta = H(f)$ ). By definition of  $D_\alpha((A_\eta)_{\eta < \alpha})$ ,  $\eta \neq \alpha$ .

Case 1:  $G(\emptyset) \equiv \alpha$ . By (\*),  $H \equiv G$ . Since  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} H(f \upharpoonright n) = H(f) = \eta \neq \alpha \equiv G(\emptyset) = 0$ , we see  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} H(f \upharpoonright n) = 1$ . Since  $H \equiv G$ ,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} G(f \upharpoonright n) = 1$ , forcing  $f \in S$  since  $G$  guesses  $S$ .

Case 2:  $G(\emptyset) \not\equiv \alpha$ . By (\*\*),  $H \not\equiv G$ . Since

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} H(f \upharpoonright n) = H(f) = \eta \neq \alpha \not\equiv G(\emptyset) = 0,$$

we see  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} H(f \upharpoonright n) = 0$ . Since  $H \not\equiv G$ ,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} G(f \upharpoonright n) = 1$ , again showing  $f \in S$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 4.10** *If  $S$  is guessable with  $< \alpha + 1$  mind changes, then  $S \in D_\alpha$  or  $S^c \in D_\alpha$ .*



**Proof** Let  $G, H$  witness that  $S$  is guessable with  $< \alpha + 1$  mind changes. If  $G(\emptyset) = 0$  then  $S \in D_\alpha$  by Proposition 4.9. If not, then  $(1 - G), H$  witness that  $S^c$  is guessable with  $< \alpha + 1$  mind changes, and  $(1 - G)(\emptyset) = 0$ , so  $S^c \in D_\alpha$  by Proposition 4.9.  $\square$

Combining Corollaries 4.5 and 4.10 proves Theorem 4.2.

## 5 Higher-order Guessability

In this section we introduce a notion that generalizes guessability to provide a characterization for  $\Delta_{\mu+1}^0$  ( $1 \leq \mu < \omega_1$ ). We will show that  $S \in \Delta_{\mu+1}^0$  if and only if  $S$  is  $\mu$ th-order guessable. Throughout this section,  $\mu$  denotes an ordinal in  $[1, \omega_1)$ .

**Definition 5.1** Let  $\mathcal{S} = (S_0, S_1, \dots)$  be a countably infinite tuple of subsets  $S_i \subseteq \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$ .

- (i) For every  $f \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$ , write  $\mathcal{S}(f)$  for the sequence  $(\chi_{S_0}(f), \chi_{S_1}(f), \dots) \in \{0, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$ .
- (ii) We say that  $S$  is *guessable based on*  $\mathcal{S}$  if there is a function

$$G : \{0, 1\}^{<\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$$

(called an  $S$ -*guesser based on*  $\mathcal{S}$ ) such that  $\forall f \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$ ,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} G(\mathcal{S}(f) \upharpoonright n) = \chi_S(f).$$

Game theoretically, we envision a game where  $I$  (the sequence chooser) has zero information and  $II$  (the guesser) has possibly *better-than-perfect* information:  $II$  is allowed to ask (once per turn) whether  $I$ 's sequence lies in various  $S_i$ . For each  $S_i$ , player  $I$ 's act (by answering the question) of committing to play a sequence in  $S_i$  or in  $S_i^c$  is similar to the act (described in [6], p. 366) of choosing a  $I$ -imposed subgame.

**Example 5.2** If  $\mathcal{S}$  enumerates the sets of the form  $\{f \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} : f(i) = j\}$ ,  $i, j \in \mathbb{N}$  then it is not hard to show that  $S$  is guessable (in the sense of Definition 1.1) if and only if  $S$  is guessable based on  $\mathcal{S}$ .

**Definition 5.3** We say  $S$  is  $\mu$ th-order guessable if there is some  $\mathcal{S} = (S_0, S_1, \dots)$  as in Definition 5.1 such that the following hold.

- (i)  $S$  is guessable based on  $\mathcal{S}$ .
- (ii)  $\forall i, S_i \in \Delta_{\mu_i+1}^0$  for some  $\mu_i < \mu$ .

**Theorem 5.4**  $S$  is  $\mu$ th-order guessable if and only if  $S \in \Delta_{\mu+1}^0$ .

In order to prove Theorem 5.4 we will assume the following result, which is a specialization and rephrasing of Exercise 22.17 of [5] (pp. 172–173, attributed to Kuratowski).

**Lemma 5.5** *The following are equivalent.*

- (i)  $S \in \Delta_{\mu+1}^0$ .
- (ii) There is a sequence  $(A_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ , each  $A_i \in \Delta_{\mu_i+1}^0$  for some  $\mu_i < \mu$ , such that

$$S = \bigcup_n \bigcap_{m \geq n} A_m = \bigcap_n \bigcup_{m \geq n} A_m.$$

**Proof of Theorem 5.4**

( $\Rightarrow$ ) Let  $\mathcal{S} = (S_0, S_1, \dots)$  and  $G$  witness that  $S$  is  $\mu$ th-order guessable (so each  $S_i \in \Delta_{\mu_i+1}^0$  for some  $\mu_i < \mu$ ). For all  $a \in \{0, 1\}$  and  $X \subseteq \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$ , define

$$X^a = \begin{cases} X, & \text{if } a = 1; \\ \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}} \setminus X, & \text{if } a = 0. \end{cases}$$

For notational convenience, we will write “ $G(\vec{a}) = 1$ ” as an abbreviation for “ $0 \leq a_0, \dots, a_{m-1} \leq 1$  and  $G(a_0, \dots, a_{m-1}) = 1$ ,” provided  $m$  is clear from context. Observe that for all  $f \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$  and  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $G(\mathcal{S}(f) \upharpoonright m) = 1$  if and only if

$$f \in \bigcup_{G(\vec{a})=1} \bigcap_{j=0}^{m-1} S_j^{a_j}.$$

Now, given  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ ,  $f \in S$  if and only if  $G(\mathcal{S}(f) \upharpoonright n) \rightarrow 1$ , which is true if and only if  $\exists n \forall m \geq n, G(\mathcal{S}(f) \upharpoonright m) = 1$ . Thus

$$f \in S \text{ iff } \exists n \forall m \geq n, G(\mathcal{S}(f) \upharpoonright m) = 1$$

$$\text{iff } \exists n \forall m \geq n, f \in \bigcup_{G(\vec{a})=1} \bigcap_{j=0}^{m-1} S_j^{a_j}$$

$$\text{iff } f \in \bigcup_n \bigcap_{m \geq n} \bigcup_{G(\vec{a})=1} \bigcap_{j=0}^{m-1} S_j^{a_j}.$$

So

$$S = \bigcup_n \bigcap_{m \geq n} \bigcup_{G(\vec{a})=1} \bigcap_{j=0}^{m-1} S_j^{a_j}.$$

At the same time, since  $G(\mathcal{S}(f) \upharpoonright m) \rightarrow 0$  whenever  $f \notin S$ , we see  $f \in S$  if and only if  $\forall n \exists m \geq n$  such that  $G(\mathcal{S}(f) \upharpoonright m) = 1$ . Thus by similar reasoning to the above,

$$S = \bigcap_n \bigcup_{m \geq n} \bigcup_{G(\vec{a})=1} \bigcap_{j=0}^{m-1} S_j^{a_j}.$$

For each  $m$ ,  $\bigcup_{G(\vec{a})=1} \bigcap_{j=0}^{m-1} S_j^{a_j}$  is a finite union of finite intersections of sets in  $\Delta_{\mu'+1}^0$  for various  $\mu' < \mu$ , thus  $\bigcup_{G(\vec{a})=1} \bigcap_{j=0}^{m-1} S_j^{a_j}$  itself is in  $\Delta_{\mu_m+1}^0$  for some  $\mu_m < \mu$ . Letting  $A_m = \bigcup_{G(\vec{a})=1} \bigcap_{j=0}^{m-1} S_j^{a_j}$ , Lemma 5.5 says  $S \in \Delta_{\mu+1}^0$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Assume  $S \in \Delta_{\mu+1}^0$ . By Lemma 5.5, there are  $(A_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ , each  $A_i \in \Delta_{\mu_i+1}^0$  for some  $\mu_i < \mu$ , such that

$$S = \bigcup_n \bigcap_{m \geq n} A_m = \bigcap_n \bigcup_{m \geq n} A_m. \quad (*)$$

I claim that  $S$  is guessable based on  $\mathcal{S} = (A_0, A_1, \dots)$ . Define  $G : \{0, 1\}^{<\mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$  by  $G(a_0, \dots, a_m) = a_m$ , I will show that  $G$  is an  $S$ -guesser based on  $\mathcal{S}$ .

Suppose  $f \in S$ . By (\*),  $\exists n$  s.t.  $\forall m \geq n, f \in A_m$  and thus  $\chi_{A_m}(f) = 1$ . For all  $m \geq n$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} G(\mathcal{S}(f) \upharpoonright (m+1)) &= G(\chi_{A_0}(f), \dots, \chi_{A_m}(f)) \\ &= \chi_{A_m}(f) \\ &= 1, \end{aligned}$$

so  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} G(\mathcal{S}(f) \upharpoonright n) = 1$ . A similar argument shows that if  $f \notin S$  then  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} G(\mathcal{S}(f) \upharpoonright n) = 0$ .  $\square$

Combining Theorems 1.2 and 5.4, we see that  $S$  is guessable if and only if  $S$  is 1st-order guessable. It is also not difficult to give a direct proof of this equivalence, and having done so, Theorem 5.4 provides yet another proof of Theorem 1.2.

### Notes

1. A third independent usage of the term *guessable*, with similar but not the same meaning, appears in [8] (p. 1280), where a subset  $Y \subseteq \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$  is called guessable if there is a function  $g \in \mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$  such that for each  $f \in Y$ ,  $g(n) = f(n)$  for infinitely many  $n$ .
2. In general, there seems to be a correspondence between remainders on  $\mathbb{N}^{\mathbb{N}}$  and remainders on  $\mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}}$  that take trees to trees; in the future we might publish more general work based on this observation.

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