

# On $\lambda'$ -sets

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## Abstract

A set  $X \subseteq 2^\omega$  is a  $\lambda'$ -set iff for every countable set  $Y \subseteq 2^\omega$  there exists a  $G_\delta$  set  $G$  such that  $(X \cup Y) \cap G = Y$ . In this paper we prove two forcing results about  $\lambda'$ -sets. First we show that it is consistent that every  $\lambda'$ -set is a  $\gamma$ -set. Secondly we show that it is independent whether or not every  $(\dagger)$ - $\lambda'$ -set is a  $\lambda'$ -set.

## 1 $\lambda'$ -sets and $\gamma$ -sets

A set  $X \subseteq 2^\omega$  is a  $\lambda'$ -set iff for all countable  $A \subseteq 2^\omega$  there exists a  $G_\delta$  set  $G$  such that

$$(X \cup A) \cap G = A$$

An  $\omega$ -cover of  $X$  is a countable set of open sets such that every finite subset of  $X$  is contained in an element of the cover. A  $\gamma$ -cover of  $X$  is a countable sequence of open subsets of  $X$  such that every element of  $X$  is in all but finitely many elements of the sequence.

Define  $X$  to be a  $\gamma$ -set iff any  $\omega$ -cover of  $X$  contains a  $\gamma$ -cover of  $X$ .

In this section we answer a question of Gary Gruenhage who asked if there is always a  $\lambda'$ -set which is not a  $\gamma$ -set. We answer this in the negative.

It is well known (see Gerlits and Nagy [4]) that  $\text{MA}(\sigma\text{-centered})$  implies that every set of reals of cardinality less than the continuum is a  $\gamma$ -set. The standard model for  $\text{MA}(\sigma\text{-centered})$  (see Kunen and Tall [8]) is obtained as follows:

Suppose that  $M$  is a countable standard model of  $\text{ZFC}+\text{CH}$  and we iterate  $\sigma$ -centered forcings of size  $\omega_1$  in  $M$  with a finite support iteration of length  $\omega_2$ . In the final model  $M_{\omega_2}$ , we have that  $\text{MA}(\sigma\text{-centered})$  is true and the continuum is  $\omega_2$ .

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**Theorem 1.1** *In the standard model for  $MA(\sigma\text{-centered})$  every  $\lambda'$  set has cardinality  $\leq \omega_1$ , and (it follows from  $MA(\sigma\text{-centered})$ ) every set of size  $\omega_1$  is a  $\gamma$ -set. Hence, in this model, every  $\lambda'$ -set is a  $\gamma$ -set.*

**Proof**

We will use the following Lemma in our proof.

**Lemma 1.2** *Suppose that  $\mathbb{P}$  is a  $\sigma$ -centered forcing such that*

$$|\dot{\tau} \in 2^\omega$$

*Then there exists a countable set  $A \subseteq 2^\omega$  in the ground model such that for every  $p \in \mathbb{P}$  and open set  $U \supseteq A$  coded in the ground model there exists  $q \leq p$  such that  $q \Vdash \dot{\tau} \in U$ .*

**Proof**

To prove the Lemma we will use the following Claim.

Claim. Suppose  $\Sigma \subseteq \mathbb{P}$  is a centered subset. Then there exists  $x \in 2^\omega$  such that for every  $p \in \Sigma$  and for every  $n < \omega$  there exists  $q \leq p$  such that

$$q \Vdash \dot{x} \upharpoonright n = \tau \upharpoonright n.$$

pf: Otherwise by the compactness of  $2^\omega$  there exists a finite set

$$\{p_m : m < N\} \subseteq \Sigma \text{ and } \{s_m : m < N\} \subseteq 2^{<\omega}$$

such that  $\{[s_m] : m < N\}$  covers  $2^\omega$  and for each  $m < N$  we have that

$$p_m \Vdash \dot{\tau} \notin [s_m].$$

But this is a contradiction since there exists some  $p \in \mathbb{P}$  below all of the  $p_m$ . This proves the Claim.

Let  $\mathbb{P} = \bigcup_{n < \omega} \Sigma_n$  be a sequence of centered sets. Then for each  $n$  there exists  $x_n \in 2^\omega$  such that for every  $p \in \Sigma_n$  and for every  $m \in \omega$  there exists  $q \leq p$  such that

$$q \Vdash \dot{x}_n \upharpoonright m = \tau \upharpoonright m.$$

Now let  $A = \{x_n : n < \omega\}$ . This proves the Lemma.

**QED**

Suppose  $X \subseteq 2^\omega$  is a  $\lambda'$ -set in  $M_{\omega_2}$ . For each  $\alpha \leq \omega_2$  define

$$\mathbf{X}_\alpha = X \cap M_\alpha$$

By a standard Lowenheim-Skolem argument we can find  $\alpha < \omega_2$  such that

1.  $X_\alpha \in M_\alpha$  and
2. for every countable  $A \subseteq 2^\omega$  which is in  $M_\alpha$  there exists a  $G_\delta$ -set  $G$  coded in  $M_\alpha$  such that

$$(X_{\omega_2} \cup A) \cap G = A$$

We claim that  $X = X_{\omega_2} = X_\alpha$  and hence has cardinality  $\leq \omega_1$ . Suppose that  $\tau$  is any term for an element of  $2^\omega$  in  $M_{\omega_2}$ . Since  $\tau$  is added at some latter stage  $\beta$  with  $\alpha \leq \beta < \omega_2$  and the iteration of  $\sigma$ -centered forcings of length  $< \omega_2$  is  $\sigma$ -centered, it follows that  $\tau$  is added by a  $\sigma$ -centered forcing over  $M_\alpha$ . Let  $A \subseteq 2^\omega$  be the countable set given by the Lemma. By the Lemma it follows that  $\tau$  must be an element of any  $G_\delta$  set coded in  $M_\alpha$  which contains  $A$ . Using item (2) above we see that  $\tau$  must be in  $A$  if it is in  $X_{\omega_2}$ . Therefore  $X_{\omega_2} \setminus X_\alpha = \emptyset$ .

**QED**

Remark. This argument is similar to the proof that there are no  $\lambda'$ -sets of size  $\omega_2$  in Laver's model, see Miller [12].

Remark. A set of reals  $X$  is a  $\lambda$ -set iff every countable subset of  $X$  is a relative  $G_\delta$ . In ZFC we must always have a  $\lambda$ -set which is not a  $\gamma$ -set. To see this let

$$X = \{f_\alpha \in \omega^\omega : \alpha < \mathfrak{b}\}$$

be well-ordered by eventual dominance and unbounded. Then Rothberger [15] (or see Miller [11]) showed that  $X$  is a  $\lambda$ -set. However  $X$  is not a  $\gamma$ -set as is witnessed by the sequences of  $\omega$ -covers

$$\mathcal{U}_m = \{U_n^m : n \in \omega\} \text{ where } U_n^m = \{f \in \omega^\omega : f(m) < n\}.$$

In fact the set  $X$  is a  $\lambda'$ -set with respect to  $\omega^\omega$ .

Remark. A Hausdorff gap is an example of a  $\lambda'$  set of cardinality  $\omega_1$ .  $\gamma$ -sets have strong measure zero and Laver [9] proved that it consistent that every strong measure zero set is countable.

Suppose there exists  $X, Y \subseteq 2^\omega$  such that  $|X| = |Y|$  and  $X$  is a  $\lambda'$ -set and  $Y$  is not a  $\gamma$ -set. Then there exists  $Z$  which is a  $\lambda'$ -set and not a  $\gamma$ -set. To see this let  $X = \{x_\alpha : \alpha < \kappa\}$  and  $Y = \{y_\alpha : \alpha < \kappa\}$ . Put  $Z = \{(x_\alpha, y_\alpha) : \alpha < \kappa\}$ . The first  $\kappa$  for which MA( $\sigma$ -centered) fails is  $\mathfrak{p}$  (Bell

[1]) and  $\mathfrak{p}$  is also the size of the smallest non  $\gamma$ -set. Hence any model where every  $\lambda'$ -set is  $\gamma$ -set and  $\mathfrak{c} \leq \omega_2$  must satisfy MA( $\sigma$ -centered) and  $\mathfrak{c} = \omega_2$ .

Remark. Gruenhage and Szeptycki [6] were interested in obtaining a set of reals  $X \subseteq 2^\omega$  which is  $\gamma$ -set and not a  $\lambda'$ -set because of the following two topological games.

Let  $X$  be a topological space and  $x \in X$  and define the following games:

$G_{\mathcal{O},\mathcal{P}}(X, x)$ : On round  $n$  player  $\mathcal{O}$  chooses an open neighborhood  $U_n$  of  $x$  and player  $\mathcal{P}$  chooses a point  $p_n \in U_n$ . Player  $\mathcal{O}$  wins iff the sequence  $p_n$  converges to  $x$ .

$G_{\mathcal{O},\mathcal{P}}^{fin}(X, x)$ : The same except we allow player  $\mathcal{P}$  to choose a finite set of points  $P_n \subseteq U_n$  on his move and  $\mathcal{O}$  wins iff  $\bigcup_{n < \omega} P_n$  converges to  $x$ .

It is not hard to check that player  $\mathcal{O}$  has a winning strategy in  $G_{\mathcal{O},\mathcal{P}}(X, x)$  iff player  $\mathcal{O}$  has a winning strategy in  $G_{\mathcal{O},\mathcal{P}}^{fin}(X, x)$ . Also if player  $\mathcal{P}$  has a winning strategy in  $G_{\mathcal{O},\mathcal{P}}(X, x)$ , then it is a winning strategy in  $G_{\mathcal{O},\mathcal{P}}^{fin}(X, x)$ .

Given  $X \subseteq 2^\omega$  consider the topology on  $2^{<\omega} \cup \infty$  generated by

1.  $\{\sigma\}$  for each  $\sigma \in 2^{<\omega}$  and
2.  $\{\infty\} \cup (2^{<\omega} \setminus \{x \upharpoonright n : n < \omega\})$  for each  $x \in X$ .

Let  $X_F$  denote this countable topological space.

Gruenhage [5], Nyikos [14], Sharma [16], and Gruenhage and Szeptycki [6] can be combined to show that:

$X$  is not a  $\gamma$ -set iff player  $\mathcal{P}$  has a winning strategy in  $G_{\mathcal{O},\mathcal{P}}^f(X_F, \infty)$ .

If  $X$  is a  $\lambda'$ -set, then  $\mathcal{P}$  has no winning strategy in  $G_{\mathcal{O},\mathcal{P}}(X_F, \infty)$ .

Hence, if there is a set  $X$  which is a  $\lambda'$ -set and not a  $\gamma$ -set, then  $\mathcal{P}$  has a winning strategy in  $G_{\mathcal{O},\mathcal{P}}^f(X_F, \infty)$  but not in  $G_{\mathcal{O},\mathcal{P}}(X_F, \infty)$ .

Daniel Ma [10] has a clearer proof of the connection between  $\gamma$ -sets and such games.

Dow [2] results imply that in Laver's model [9]:

$X$  is a  $\lambda'$ -set iff  $\mathcal{P}$  has no winning strategy in  $G_{\mathcal{O},\mathcal{P}}(X_F, \infty)$ .

But, it also consistent that they are not the same. In Galvin and Miller [3] it is shown that assuming MA( $\sigma$ -centered) there is a  $\gamma$ -set  $X$  which is concentrated on a countable subset of itself. Hence  $\mathcal{P}$  has no winning strategy in  $G_{\mathcal{O},\mathcal{P}}^f(X_F, \infty)$  hence none in  $G_{\mathcal{O},\mathcal{P}}(X_F, \infty)$ , but  $X$  is not a  $\lambda'$ -set.

**Question 1.3** *Is it consistent with ZFC that for every  $X \subseteq 2^\omega$  that  $\mathcal{P}$  has no winning strategy in  $G_{\mathcal{O},\mathcal{P}}(X_F, \infty)$  iff  $\mathcal{P}$  has no winning strategy in  $G_{\mathcal{O},\mathcal{P}}^f(X_F, \infty)$ ?*

After the first version of this paper was written, Gruenhage [7] constructed (in ZFC) using a gap construction an example of a countable space which distinguishes the two games.

## 2 $(\dagger)$ - $\lambda'$ -set

In this section we answer Problem 2.12 from Nowik and Weiss [13] which asks basically whether it is true that every  $(\dagger)$ - $\lambda'$ -set is a  $\lambda'$ -set.

**Definition.** For any  $a \in [\omega]^\omega$  let  $a = \{a_0, a_1, \dots\}$  be its increasing enumeration, then for any  $f \in \omega^\omega$  let

$$G_f = \{a \in [\omega]^\omega \subseteq 2^\omega : \forall n \exists m > n \ a_n < f(n)\}$$

**Definition.** A set  $X \subseteq 2^\omega$  is a  $(\dagger)$ - $\lambda'$ -set iff for every  $f \in \omega^\omega$  we have  $X \cap G_f$  is a  $\lambda'$ -set.

**Theorem 2.1** *Suppose that the continuum hypothesis is true or even just  $\mathfrak{b} = \mathfrak{d}$ . Then there exists a  $(\dagger)$ - $\lambda'$ -set which is not a  $\lambda'$ -set.*

**Theorem 2.2** *In the Cohen real model (Cohen's original model for not CH) every  $(\dagger)$ - $\lambda'$ -set is a  $\lambda'$ -set.*

Proof of Theorem 2.1

Assume CH. Let  $\{f_\alpha \in \omega^\omega : \alpha < \omega_1\}$  be a scale. That is, for  $\alpha < \beta$  we have that  $f_\alpha <^* f_\beta$  and for all  $g \in \omega^\omega$  there exists  $\alpha < \omega_1$  such that  $g <^* f_\alpha$ . We may also assume that the  $f_\alpha$  are strictly increasing. Let  $X \subseteq [\omega]^\omega$  be the set of ranges of the elements of the scale. Then for any  $g \in \omega^\omega$  we have that  $G_g \cap X$  is countable and hence a  $\lambda'$ -set. On the other

hand  $X$  is not a  $\lambda'$ -set because of the countable set  $[\omega]^{<\omega}$ . If  $U \subseteq P(\omega)$  is an open set containing  $[\omega]^{<\omega}$ , then  $K = P(\omega) \setminus U$  is a compact subset of  $[\omega]^\omega$ . If we identify  $[\omega]^\omega$  with the strictly increasing elements of  $\omega^\omega$  (via the homeomorphism  $a \mapsto \{a_0, a_1, \dots\}$ ), then there exists  $f \in \omega^\omega$  such that for all  $g \in K$  we have  $\forall n \ g(n) < f(n)$ . It follows that for all but countably many  $\alpha$  we have that the range( $f_\alpha$ )  $\in U$ .

The proof using  $\mathfrak{b} = \mathfrak{d}$  is similar. Start with a scale indexed by  $\mathfrak{b}$  and note that any set  $Y \subseteq P(\omega)$  of size less than  $\mathfrak{b}$  is a  $\lambda'$ -set (this is due to Rothberger, see the proof of Lemma 2.4).

**QED**

Proof of Theorem 2.2

Assume that  $M$  is a countable transitive standard model of ZFC+CH.

For any  $\alpha \leq \omega_2^M$  let  $\mathbb{P}_\alpha$  be the finite partial functions from  $\alpha$  into 2. We claim that for any  $G$  a  $\mathbb{P}_{\omega_2}$ -generic filter over  $M$  that in the model  $M[G]$  every  $(\dagger)$ - $\lambda'$ -set is a  $\lambda'$ -set.

**Lemma 2.3** *Suppose  $N$  is a countable standard model of ZFC+CH,  $\mathbb{P}$  is a countable poset in  $N$ , and*

$$N \models X \subseteq \omega^\omega \text{ is unbounded in } \leq^*$$

*Then for any  $G$  which is  $\mathbb{P}$ -generic over  $N$  we have that*

$$N[G] \models X \text{ is unbounded in } \leq^*$$

**Proof**

Let  $\{g_\alpha : \alpha < \omega_1^N\}$  be a scale in  $N$ . Working in  $N$  choose  $f_\alpha \in X$  so that

$$\exists^\infty n \ f_\alpha(n) > g_\alpha(n)$$

Note that for every  $g \in \omega^\omega \cap N$  there exists  $\alpha < \omega_1$  such that

$$\forall \beta > \alpha \ \exists^\infty n \ f_\beta(n) > g(n).$$

Suppose by way of contradiction that for some  $g \in N[G] \cap \omega^\omega$  and all  $\alpha < \omega_1$  we have that  $f_\alpha \leq^* g$ . Then for some  $\Sigma \in [\omega_1]^{\omega_1}$  and  $n < \omega$  we have that

$$\forall m > n \ \forall \alpha \in \Sigma \ f_\alpha(m) \leq g(m)$$

Let  $q \in G$  force this fact. Now since  $\mathbb{P}$  is a countable poset, there exists some  $p \in G$  with  $p \leq q$  such that

$$\Gamma = \{\alpha < \omega_1 : p \Vdash \alpha \in \dot{\Sigma}\}$$

is uncountable (and by definability of forcing it is in  $N$ ). But note that  $\{f_\alpha : \alpha \in \Gamma\}$  is unbounded and so for some  $m > n$  the set  $\{f_\alpha(m) : \alpha \in \Gamma\}$  is unbounded in  $\omega$ .

Let  $r \leq p$  decide  $g(m)$ , i.e., for some  $k < \omega$  suppose

$$r \Vdash \dot{g}(m) = k.$$

Choose  $\alpha \in \Gamma$  such that  $f_\alpha(m) > k$ , then  $r$  forces a contradiction and the Lemma is proved.

**QED**

**Lemma 2.4** *Suppose  $N$  is a countable standard model of  $ZFC+CH$ ,  $\mathbb{P}$  is a countable poset in  $N$ , and*

$$N \models Y \subseteq 2^\omega \text{ is not a } \lambda' \text{- set}$$

*Then for  $G$   $\mathbb{P}$ -generic over  $N$  we have that*

$$N[G] \models Y \text{ is not a } \lambda' \text{- set}$$

**Proof**

Let  $D \subseteq 2^\omega$  be countable in  $N$  and witness that  $Y$  is not a  $\lambda'$ -set, i.e., there is no  $G_\delta$  set  $\bigcap_n U_n$  coded in  $N$  with

$$\bigcap_n U_n \cap (Y \cup D) = D$$

Working in  $N$  let  $D = \{x_n : n < \omega\}$  and let  $Z = Y \setminus D$  and for each  $z \in Z$  define  $f_z \in \omega^\omega$  such that  $f_z(n)$  is the least  $m$  such that  $x_n \upharpoonright m \neq z \upharpoonright m$ . Now the family  $X = \{f_z : z \in Z\}$  must be unbounded in  $\leq^*$  in  $N$ . Suppose not, then there exists  $g \in \omega^\omega \cap N$  which eventually dominates each element of  $X$ . It follows that if we let

$$U_n = \bigcup_{m < \omega} [x_m \upharpoonright \max\{n, g(m)\}]$$

then

$$\left(\bigcap_{n < \omega} U_n\right) \cap (Y \cup D) = D$$

which is a contradiction.

It follows from Lemma 2.3 that  $X$  is unbounded in  $N[G]$ . I claim that  $D$  cannot be  $G_\delta$  in  $Y \cup D$  in the model  $N[G]$ . Suppose it is, and let  $\bigcap_{n < \omega} U_n$  be a  $G_\delta$  in  $N[G]$  such that

$$\bigcap_{n < \omega} U_n \cap (Y \cup D) = D$$

For each  $n$  let  $g_n \in \omega^\omega$  be such that for every  $m$  we have that

$$[x_m \upharpoonright g_n(m)] \subseteq U_n.$$

Now for any  $z \in Z$  there exist a  $n$  such that  $z \notin U_n$ . But this means that  $f_z(m) \leq g_n(m)$  for every  $m$  since otherwise

$$x_m \upharpoonright g_n(m) = z \upharpoonright g_n(m)$$

and then  $z \in U_n$ . This proves the Lemma.

**QED**

Now we prove Theorem 2.2. Suppose that  $X \subseteq 2^\omega$  is in  $M[G]$  where  $G$  is  $\mathbb{P}_{\omega_2}$ -generic over  $M$  and

$$M[G] \models X \text{ is not a } \lambda'\text{-set}$$

By Lowenheim-Skolem arguments there exists  $\alpha < \omega_2$  such that

$$X_\alpha =^{def} X \cap M[G_\alpha], \quad X_\alpha \in M[G_\alpha], \text{ and } M[G_\alpha] \models X_\alpha \text{ is not a } \lambda'\text{-set}$$

Since being a  $\lambda'$ -set only depends on codes for  $G_\delta$ -sets and reals are added by countable suborders of  $\mathbb{P}_{[\alpha, \omega_2]}$  it follows from Lemma 2.4 that

$$M[G] \models X_\alpha \text{ is not a } \lambda'\text{-set}$$

But if  $f \in \omega^\omega \in M[G]$  is  $\omega^{<\omega}$ -generic over  $M[G_\alpha]$  then  $X_\alpha \subseteq G_f$ . It follows that

$$M[G] \models X \text{ is not } (\dagger)\text{-}\lambda'\text{-set}$$

as was to be proved.

**QED**



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The appendices are not intended for final publication but for the electronic version only.

## Appendix A

Here is a proof of

**Theorem** (*Nyikos, Gruenhage, Sharma*) *If  $X \subseteq 2^\omega$  is a  $\lambda'$ -set which is dense in  $2^\omega$ , then  $\mathcal{P}$  has no winning strategy in  $G_{\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{P}}(X_F, \infty)$ .*

**Proof**

For contradiction let  $\tau$  be a winning strategy for  $\mathcal{P}$ .

Claim. For any play  $(F_1, \dots, F_n)$  by  $\mathcal{O}$  there exists  $y \in 2^\omega$  so that for all finite  $F \subseteq X$  and  $k < \omega$  there exists  $F_{n+1} \supseteq F$  a finite subset of  $X$  such that

$$y \upharpoonright k \subseteq \tau(F_1, F_2, \dots, F_n, F_{n+1})$$

proof: Let  $U$  be a regular ultrafilter on the  $[X]^{<\omega}$ , ie.,

$$\{F \in [X]^{<\omega} : x \in F\} \in U \text{ for all } x \in X.$$

Define  $y \in 2^\omega$  by

$$y(k) = 1 \text{ iff } \{F \in [X]^{<\omega} : \tau(F_1, F_2, \dots, F_n, F)(k) = 1\} \in U$$

Note that the length of  $\tau(F_1, F_2, \dots, F_n, F)$  is greater than  $k$  for  $U$  almost all  $F$  because  $X$  is dense. Also, for any  $k < \omega$  and finite  $F \subseteq X$  we have that

$$\{F_{n+1} : F \subseteq F_{n+1}, y \upharpoonright k \subseteq \tau(F_1, F_2, \dots, F_n, F_{n+1})\} \in U$$

Hence the Claim is proved.

Let  $\omega^{<\omega} = \{s_i : i < \omega\}$ . Using the Claim construct  $\langle F_s, y_s : s \in \omega^{<\omega} \rangle$  so that

1.  $F_s$  contains all  $y_{s_i}$  which are in  $X$  for  $i < |s|$  and
2.  $y_s \upharpoonright k \subseteq \tau(F_{s \upharpoonright 1}, F_{s \upharpoonright 2}, \dots, F_s, F_{sk})$

Let  $Y = \{y_s : s \in \omega^{<\omega}\}$  and suppose  $U_n$  is a descending sequence of open sets such that

$$\bigcap_{n < \omega} U_n \cap (X \cup Y) = Y$$

Construct  $f \in \omega^\omega$  as follows. Since  $y_{f \upharpoonright n} \in U_n$  there exists  $k < \omega$  such that  $[y_{f \upharpoonright n} \upharpoonright k] \subseteq U_n$ . Let  $f(n) = k$  and thus we have that for each  $n$

$$\tau(F_{f \upharpoonright 1}, F_{f \upharpoonright 1}, \dots, F_{f \upharpoonright (n+1)}) =^{def} s_n \text{ and } [s_n] \subseteq U_n$$

But this is a losing play for  $\mathcal{P}$ . Suppose  $x \in X$  and  $\exists^\infty n \ s_n \subseteq x$ . Then  $x \in \bigcap_{n < \omega} U_n$  and so  $x \in Y$ . But by our construction each element of  $Y$  is in  $F_{f \upharpoonright n}$  for all but finitely many  $n$  and since  $s_n \not\subseteq x$  for  $x \in F_{f \upharpoonright n}$  we have a contradiction.

**QED**

Remark. For a kind of weak converse suppose that there exists a countable

$$A \subseteq 2^\omega \setminus X$$

which is not  $G_\delta$  in  $X \cup A$ , then  $\mathcal{P}$  has a winning strategy. Let

$$A = \{a_n : n < \omega\}$$

be listed with infinitely many repetitions. Let  $\mathcal{P}$  play some  $\sigma_n \subseteq a_n$  such that  $[\sigma_n] \cap F_n = \emptyset$ . To see that it is winning let

$$G = \{z \in 2^\omega : \exists^\infty n \ \sigma_n \subseteq z\}$$

Since  $A \subseteq G$  and is not relatively  $G_\delta$  there exists  $x \in X$  such that  $\sigma_n \subseteq x$  for infinitely many  $n$ . Hence  $\sigma_n$  does not converge to  $\infty$ .

Player  $\mathcal{P}$  also has a winning strategy if  $X$  contains a perfect subset  $Q$ . Just let player  $\mathcal{P}$  play a sequence  $\sigma_n$  such that

$$G = \{x \in Q : \exists^\infty n \ \sigma_n \subseteq x\}$$

is comeager in  $Q$ .

## Appendix B

If  $X = \{f_\alpha \in \omega^\omega : \alpha < \mathfrak{b}\}$  is well-ordered by eventual dominance and unbounded. Then Rothberger showed the set  $X$  is a  $\lambda'$ -set with respect to  $\omega^\omega$ .

This follows from the following lemma.

**Lemma 2.5** (Rothberger) *Suppose  $Z_\beta = \{f_\alpha : \alpha < \beta\} \subseteq \omega^\omega$  is well-ordered by eventual dominance, and  $A \subseteq \omega^\omega$  is countable and for every  $g \in A$  there exists  $\alpha < \beta$  such that  $\exists^\infty n \ g(n) < f_\alpha(n)$ . Then there exists a  $G_\delta$  set  $G$  with*

$$G \cap (Z_\beta \cup A) = A$$

### Proof

This is proved by induction on  $\beta$ . and assume the lemma is true for all  $\delta < \beta$ . If  $\beta$  is a successor ordinal, then the induction is trivial.

Case 1.  $\beta$  is a limit ordinal of uncountable cofinality.

Find  $\delta_0 < \beta$  so that for each  $g \in A \ \exists^\infty n \ g(n) < f_{\delta_0}(n)$ . Then by induction there exists a  $G_\delta$  set  $G$  with

$$G \cap (Z_{\delta_0} \cup A) = A$$

Let  $H = \{g \in \omega^\omega : \exists^\infty n \ g(n) < f_{\delta_0}(n)\}$  Then  $H$  is a  $G_\delta$  set containing  $A$  and missing  $Z_\beta \setminus Z_{\delta_0}$  and so

$$(G \cap H) \cap (Z_\beta \cup A) = A$$

Case 2.  $\beta$  is a limit ordinal of countable cofinality.

Let  $\beta_n$  be an increasing  $\omega$ -sequence with limit  $\beta$  and let

$$A_n = \{g \in A : \exists^\infty m \ g(m) < f_{\beta_n}(m)\}$$

By inductive assumption there exists  $G_\delta$  sets  $G_n$  so that

$$G_n \cap (Z_{\beta_n} \cup A_n) = A_n$$

Define

$$G_n^* = G_n \cup \{g \in \omega^\omega : \exists^\infty m \ f_{\beta_n}(m) \leq g(m)\}$$

Note that  $G_n^*$  is a  $G_\delta$  set which contains  $A$  but still

$$G_n^* \cap (Z_{\beta_n} \cup A_n) = A_n$$

Define  $G = \bigcap_{n < \omega} G_n^*$ . Then  $G$  is a  $G_\delta$ -set with

$$G \cap (Z_\beta \cup A) = A$$

**QED**

## Appendix C

To better see the connection with  $\gamma$ -sets consider the following game:

Game:  $G_{\mathcal{F},\mathcal{C}}^\gamma(X)$ : Two players  $\mathcal{F}$  finite and  $\mathcal{C}$  clopen alternate plays as follows. On round  $n$  player  $\mathcal{F}$  plays a finite set  $F_n \subseteq X$  and player  $\mathcal{C}$  responds with a clopen set  $C_n$  in  $2^\omega$  with  $F_n \subseteq C_n$ . Player  $\mathcal{F}$  wins iff  $\langle C_n : n < \omega \rangle$  is a  $\gamma$ -cover of  $X$ , ie. for all  $x \in X$  for all but finitely many  $n$  we have  $x \in C_n$ .

This game is exactly the same as  $G_{\mathcal{O},\mathcal{P}}^f(X_F, \infty)$ . A neighborhood basis for  $\infty$  in  $X_F$  consists of sets of the form  $2^{<\omega} \setminus \{x \upharpoonright n : x \in F, n < \omega\}$  for  $F \subseteq X$  finite. So we can regard  $\mathcal{O}$  as player  $\mathcal{F}$  playing a finite subset of  $X$ . Instead of  $\mathcal{P}$  playing a finite set  $P_n \subseteq 2^{<\omega}$  just regard him as  $\mathcal{C}$  playing the clopen set

$$C_n = 2^\omega \setminus \bigcup \{[s] : s \in P_n\}.$$

**Theorem 2.6** (Daniel Ma) *For  $X \subseteq 2^\omega$  the following are equivalent:*

1.  $X$  is not a  $\gamma$ -set
2.  $\mathcal{C}$  has a winning strategy in  $G_{\mathcal{F},\mathcal{C}}^\gamma(X)$ .

**Proof**

Suppose  $X$  is not a  $\gamma$ -set and let  $\mathcal{U}$  be an  $\omega$ -cover with no  $\gamma$ -subcover. Without loss of generality we may assume the elements of  $\mathcal{U}$  are clopen. Given any  $F_n$  let  $\mathcal{C}$  choose  $C_n \in \mathcal{U}$  with  $F_n \subseteq C_n$ . Then since  $\langle C_n : n < \omega \rangle$  is not a  $\gamma$ -cover,  $\mathcal{C}$  wins.

For the other direction suppose Player  $\mathcal{C}$  has a winning strategy  $\tau$  in  $G_{\mathcal{F},\mathcal{C}}^\gamma(X)$ . Construct  $\langle F_s, C_s : s \in \omega^{<\omega} \rangle$  so that

1. for each  $s \in \omega^{<\omega}$  the set  $\mathcal{U}_s = \{C_{s \upharpoonright n} : n < \omega\}$  is an  $\omega$ -cover of  $X$  and
2. for each  $s \in \omega^{<\omega}$  and the set  $C_s$  is the response of player  $\mathcal{C}$  using the strategy  $\tau$  against the play  $F_{s \upharpoonright 1}, F_{s \upharpoonright 2}, \dots, F_s$ .

To do this just let

$$\mathcal{U}_s = \{C : \exists F \ C = \tau(F_{s \upharpoonright 1}, F_{s \upharpoonright 2}, \dots, F_s, F)\}$$

This is countable since there are only countably many clopen sets and by the rules of the game it must be an  $\omega$ -cover. For each element of  $\mathcal{U}_s$  choose a witness  $F$ .

Suppose for contradiction that  $X$  is a  $\gamma$ -set. It is well known (Gerlits and Nagy [4]) that for a  $\gamma$  set  $X$  that given a sequence of  $\omega$ -covers, we may choose one element of each to get a  $\gamma$ -cover. This is denoted  $X \in S_1(\omega, \Gamma)$ . Hence we may choose  $C_{sn_s}$  for each  $s \in \omega^{<\omega}$  such that every  $x \in X$  is in all but finitely many  $C_{sn_s}$ . But now just look at the branch

$$m_0, m_1, m_2, \dots \text{ where } m_0 = n_{\langle \rangle}, \dots, m_{k+1} = n_{\langle m_0, m_1, m_2, \dots, m_k \rangle}$$

But

$$F_{\langle m_0 \rangle}, C_{\langle m_0 \rangle}, \dots, F_{\langle m_0, m_1, \dots, m_k \rangle}, C_{\langle m_0, m_1, \dots, m_k \rangle}, \dots$$

is a play using the strategy  $\tau$  with yields a  $\gamma$  cover. This is a contradiction.