

## Comparison game on Borel ideals

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*Abstract.* We propose and study a “classification” of Borel ideals based on a natural infinite game involving a pair of ideals. The game induces a pre-order  $\sqsubseteq$  and the corresponding equivalence relation. The pre-order is well founded and “almost linear”. We concentrate on  $F_\sigma$  and  $F_{\sigma\delta}$  ideals. In particular, we show that all  $F_\sigma$ -ideals are  $\sqsubseteq$ -equivalent and form the least equivalence class. There is also a least class of non- $F_\sigma$  Borel ideals, and there are at least two distinct classes of  $F_{\sigma\delta}$  non- $F_\sigma$  ideals.

*Keywords:* ideals on countable sets, comparison game, Tukey order, games on integers

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### Introduction

We propose and study a natural Wadge-like two-player game, called the comparison game, associated to a pair of ideals. The game introduces a pre-order  $\sqsubseteq$  and the corresponding equivalence relation. On Borel ideals, this pre-order is well-founded and almost-linear (all antichains have size at most 2).

We show that all  $F_\sigma$ -ideals are  $\sqsubseteq$ -equivalent, and form the least equivalence class. In order to do this, we prove a combinatorial characterization of  $F_\sigma$ -ideals, identifying  $F_\sigma$ -ideals as exactly those Borel ideals which have the  $P^+$  (tree)-property considered by Laflamme and Leary [4]. There is also a “second least” equivalence class, the equivalence class of the ideal  $\mathfrak{l}_0$  defined below. We show that there are at least two distinct classes of  $F_{\sigma\delta}$  non- $F_\sigma$  ideals, and exactly two distinct classes of analytic  $P$ -ideals.

We also study a problem of I. Farah concerning inner structure of  $F_{\sigma\delta}$ -ideals, closely related to the comparison game.

By an *ideal on*  $\omega$  we mean an ideal  $\mathfrak{l}$  on a countable set  $X$  (typically  $X = \omega$  the first infinite ordinal) which contains all finite subsets of  $X$  and does not contain  $X$ . By considering  $\mathfrak{l}$  as a subspace of  $\mathcal{P}(X)$ , endowed with the product topology of the Cantor space  $2^X$  through the bijection  $A \mapsto \chi_A$ , we can calculate the Borel complexity of  $\mathfrak{l}$ .

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### 1. Comparison Game Order

**Definition 1.1.** Let  $I$  and  $J$  be ideals on  $\omega$ . The *Comparison Game* for  $I$  and  $J$  denoted by  $G(I, J)$  is defined as follows: In step  $n$ , Player I chooses an element  $I_n$  of  $I$  and Player II chooses an element  $J_n$  of  $J$ . Player II wins if  $\bigcup_n I_n \in I$  if and only if  $\bigcup_n J_n \in J$ ; otherwise, Player I wins.

Comparison game induces an order between ideals on  $\omega$ .

**Definition 1.2.** Let  $I$  and  $J$  be ideals on  $\omega$ . We say  $I \sqsubseteq J$  if Player II has a winning strategy in the comparison game  $G(I, J)$ . We say that  $I \simeq J$  if  $I \sqsubseteq J$  and  $J \sqsubseteq I$ .

Let us note that the relation  $\sqsubseteq$  is reflexive and transitive, but not antisymmetric; and the relation  $\simeq$  is an equivalence relation.

First, we will prove that the comparison game among Borel ideals is determined. To that end we define the following game

**Definition 1.3.** The game  $G'(I, J)$  is defined for ideals  $I$  and  $J$  on  $\omega$  as follows: In step  $n$  Player I chooses a natural number  $k_n$  and Player II chooses a natural number  $l_n$ . Player II wins if  $\{k_n : n < \omega\} \in I$  if and only if  $\{l_n : n < \omega\} \in J$ .

Let us note that by defining a set  $\tilde{\mathcal{X}} = \{x \in \omega^\omega : \text{rng}(x) \in \mathcal{X}\}$  for a subset  $\mathcal{X}$  of  $\mathcal{P}(\omega)$ , we have that game  $G'(I, J)$  is equivalent to the *Wadge game*  $W(\tilde{I}, \tilde{J})$  (see [3]).

**Theorem 1.4.** *Player I has a winning strategy in  $G(I, J)$  if and only if Player I has a winning strategy in  $G'(I, J)$ , and the same for Player II.*

PROOF: First, let us assume that Player I has a winning strategy  $\sigma$  on the game  $G(I, J)$ , and take a bijective function  $f$  from  $\omega$  onto  $\omega \times \omega$  such that if  $f(n) = \langle k, l \rangle$  then  $\max\{k, l\} \leq n$ . A winning strategy for Player I in  $G'(I, J)$  can be described by playing in parallel the game  $G(I, J)$ . In step 0, Player I plays the first element  $k_0$  of  $I_0$ , where  $I_0 = \sigma(\emptyset)$ . If in the first  $n$ -many steps the players played a sequence  $\langle k_0, l_0, \dots, k_n, l_n \rangle$  in the game  $G'(I, J)$ , and attached to this sequence, we consider the corresponding sequence  $\langle I_0, \{l_0\}, I_1, \{l_1\}, \dots, I_n, \{l_n\} \rangle$  in the game  $G(I, J)$  according to  $\sigma$ , then, by taking  $k_{n+1}$  as the  $k$ -th element of  $I_l$ , where  $f(n+1) = \langle k, l \rangle$ , (if it exists, and  $k_{n+1} = 0$  if not), we have defined the winning strategy for Player I. This is true since  $\bigcup_{n < \omega} I_n \subseteq \{k_n : n < \omega\} = \{0\} \cup \bigcup_n I_n$  and the sequence  $\langle I_0, \{l_0\}, I_1, \{l_1\}, \dots \rangle$  follows a winning strategy for Player I in  $G(I, J)$ , that is  $\{k_n : n < \omega\} \in I$  if and only if  $\{l_n : n < \omega\} \notin J$ .

On the other hand, let us assume that Player I has a winning strategy  $\tau$  in  $G'(I, J)$ . In step 0, Player I plays  $\{k_0\}$ , where  $k_0 = \tau(\emptyset)$ , and in step  $n+1$  Player I plays  $\{k_{n+1}\}$  where  $k_{n+1}$  is the answer given by Player I in  $G'(I, J)$  following  $\tau$  when Player II has played the  $l$ -th element  $l_{n+1}$  of  $J_k$  where  $f(n+1) = \langle k, l \rangle$ , if  $J_k$  has at least  $l$  elements, and 0 if not. Then,  $\bigcup_n \{k_n\} \in I$  if and only if  $\{k_n : n < \omega\} \in I$  if and only if  $\bigcup_n J_n = \{0\} \cup \{l_n : n < \omega\} \notin J$ .

Analogously it can be proved that Player II has a winning strategy in  $G(I, J)$  if and only if Player II has a winning strategy in  $G'(I, J)$ . □

By the previous theorem we can conclude that  $I \sqsubseteq J$  if and only if  $\tilde{I} \leq_W \tilde{J}$ . As the Wadge order is well founded (Theorem 21.15 in [3]), so is the comparison game order, which is also “almost linear”.

**Lemma 1.5.** *If  $I, J$  and  $K$  are Borel ideals,  $I \not\sqsubseteq J$  and  $J \not\sqsubseteq K$  then  $K \sqsubseteq I$ .*

PROOF: The hypothesis means that Player I has a winning strategy in games  $G(I, J)$  and  $G(J, K)$ . Then Player II is going to follow those strategies. First, in both games  $G(I, J)$  and  $G(J, K)$ , Player I follows her own strategies, producing  $I_0$  and  $J_0$ . Given the first choice  $K_0$  of Player I in  $G(K, I)$ , let us consider  $K_0$  as the answer of Player II in  $G(J, K)$ , and then let  $J_1$  be the answer of Player I in the same game, given by her winning strategy. Let us consider  $J_1$  as the answer of Player II in  $G(I, J)$  and let  $I_1$  be the answer of Player I given by her winning strategy and then  $I_1$  will be the answer of Player II in  $G(K, I)$ . Let us suppose that in step  $n$ , Player I chooses a set  $K_n$ . That set can be considered as the answer of Player II in  $G(J, K)$  for the sequence  $\langle J_0, K_0, J_1, \dots, J_n \rangle$ , and then the winning strategy for Player I in this game makes her choose a set  $J_{n+1}$ . Such set  $J_{n+1}$  can be considered as the answer of Player II in  $G(I, J)$  for the sequence  $\langle I_0, J_1, I_1, \dots, I_n \rangle$  and then the winning strategy for Player I makes her choose a set  $I_{n+1}$ . Such set will be what Player II plays in  $G(K, I)$  in step  $n$ . Hence, since the sequences  $\langle J_0, K_0, J_1, K_1, \dots \rangle$  and  $\langle I_0, J_1, I_1, J_2, \dots \rangle$  follow the winning strategies for Player I in  $G(J, K)$  and  $G(I, J)$  respectively, we have that  $\bigcup_n J_n \in J$  if and only if  $\bigcup_n K_n \notin K$ , and  $\bigcup_{n \geq 1} J_n \in J$  if and only if  $\bigcup_n I_n \notin I$  and then we are done.  $\square$

An immediate consequence of the previous lemma is that if we have two incomparable ideals then every other ideal has the same order relation with both ideals of the incomparable pair.

**Corollary 1.6.** *Let  $I$  and  $J$  be two  $\sqsubseteq$ -incomparable ideals. Then, for any ideal  $K$  on  $\omega$  which is not  $\sqsubseteq$ -equivalent to  $I$  nor  $J$ , ( $K \sqsubseteq I$  iff  $K \sqsubseteq J$ ) or ( $I \sqsubseteq K$  iff  $J \sqsubseteq K$ ).*  $\square$

The next lemma shows that the order  $\sqsubseteq$  “almost” respects Borel complexities.

**Proposition 1.7.** *If  $I$  and  $J$  are Borel ideals,  $I \sqsubseteq J$  and  $I$  is  $\Sigma_\alpha$  then  $J$  is  $\Sigma_{\alpha+1}$ .*  $\square$

PROOF: It suffices to show that if  $I$  is a  $\Sigma_\alpha^0$  (respectively  $\Pi_\alpha^0$ ) ideal then  $\tilde{I}$  is a  $\Sigma_{\alpha+1}^0$  (resp.  $\Pi_{\alpha+1}^0$ ) set. Define a function  $\text{rng}_n : \omega^\omega \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\omega)$  by  $\text{rng}_n(x) = \{x(k) : k < n\}$  for all  $x \in \omega^\omega$ . Note that  $\text{rng}_n$  is a continuous function and  $\text{rng}(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{rng}_n(x)$  for all  $x \in \omega^\omega$ . Hence, preimages of clopen sets under  $\text{rng}$  are  $\Delta_2^0$  sets, and inductively we can get the result.  $\square$

Another consequence is that comparison game order is at least as long as the Borel hierarchy.

**Corollary 1.8.**

- *The game  $G(I, J)$  is determined for every pair  $I, J$  of Borel ideals.*
- *The order  $\sqsubseteq$  is well-founded.*

- The equivalence classes of  $\simeq$  are unions of “intervals” of Wadge degrees of ideals.
- There are uncountably many  $\simeq$ -classes.

**Question 1.9.** *Is the order  $\sqsubseteq$  linear (a well order)? Are there two Borel ideals which are  $\sqsubseteq$ -equivalent, but one is  $\Sigma_\alpha$  while the other is not?*

**2.  $F_\sigma$ -ideals in the comparison game order**

The ideal **Fin** is below all ideals in the  $\sqsubseteq$ -order. We will show that the equivalence class of **Fin** consists exactly of  $F_\sigma$ -ideals. In the process we give a combinatorial characterization of  $F_\sigma$ -ideals as exactly those Borel ideals which satisfy the  $P^+$ (tree)-property.

**Proposition 2.1.** *Let  $J$  be an ideal on  $\omega$ . Then **Fin**  $\sqsubseteq$   $J$ .*

PROOF: A winning strategy for Player II in  $G(\mathbf{Fin}, J)$  is the following. Player II answers the initial interval  $J_n = [0, \max(\bigcup_{i \leq n} I_i)]$ , given that  $I_i$ , ( $i \leq n$ ) are the finite sets played by Player I until step  $n$ . Then,  $\bigcup_n I_n \in \mathbf{Fin}$  implies  $\bigcup_n J_n$  is a finite set and then an element of  $J$ . On the other hand, if  $\bigcup_n I_n \notin \mathbf{Fin}$  then  $\bigcup_n J_n = \omega \in J^+$ . □

**Remark 2.2.** If  $I$  is an ideal on  $\omega$  then  $I \sqsubseteq \mathbf{Fin}$  if and only if Player II has a winning strategy in the game  $G''(I)$  defined as follows: In step  $n$ , Player I chooses an element  $I_n$  of  $I$  and Player II chooses a natural number  $k_n$ . Player II wins if  $\bigcup_n I_n \in I$  if and only if the sequence  $\{k_n : n < \omega\}$  is bounded.

To see this, note that if Player II has a winning strategy in  $G(I, \mathbf{Fin})$  then in step  $n$ , Player II of  $G''(I)$  plays  $k_n = \max J_n$ , where  $J_n$  is the finite set played by Player II following a fixed winning strategy for her in  $G(I, \mathbf{Fin})$ , keeping the same play by Player I. On the other hand, the winning strategy for Player II in  $G(I, \mathbf{Fin})$  consists in to play  $\{k_n\}$  in step  $n$ , where  $k_n$  is the answer given in step  $n$  for a fixed winning strategy for Player II in  $G''(I)$ .

Dealing with  $F_\sigma$  ideals, the following theorem is useful. A lower semicontinuous submeasure for  $\omega$  (lscsm) is a function  $\varphi : \mathcal{P}(\omega) \rightarrow [0, \infty]$  such that (1)  $\varphi(\emptyset) = 0$ , (2)  $\varphi(A) \leq \varphi(B)$  if  $A \subseteq B$ , (3)  $\varphi(A \cup B) \leq \varphi(A) + \varphi(B)$  and (4)  $\varphi(A) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \varphi(A \cap [0, n])$ . If  $\varphi$  is a lscsm then  $\text{Fin}(\varphi) = \{A \subseteq \omega : \varphi(A) < \infty\}$  is an  $F_\sigma$ -ideal, and moreover:

**Theorem 2.3** (Mazur [5]). *For each  $F_\sigma$ -ideal  $I$  there is a lscsm  $\varphi$  such that  $I = \text{Fin}(\varphi)$ .*

Using Mazur’s theorem we can prove that all  $F_\sigma$ -ideals are equivalent.

**Lemma 2.4.** *If  $I$  is an  $F_\sigma$ -ideal then  $I \sqsubseteq \mathbf{Fin}$ .*

PROOF: Let  $\varphi$  be a lscsm such that  $I = \text{Fin}(\varphi)$ . Let us play the game  $G''(I)$ . In step  $n$  Player II plays  $k_n$ , the minimal  $k \in \omega$  such that  $\varphi(\bigcup_{j \leq n} I_j) < k$ . Then  $\varphi(\bigcup_n I_n) < \infty$  if and only if  $\{k_n : n < \omega\}$  is bounded. □

The definition of a  $P^+$ (tree)-ideal is taken from [4].

**Definition 2.5** (Laffamme and Leary [4]). Let  $\mathcal{X}$  be a set of infinite subsets of  $\omega$ . A tree  $T \subseteq ([\omega]^{<\omega})^{<\omega}$  is an  $\mathcal{X}$ -tree of finite sets if for each  $s \in T$  there is an  $X_s \in \mathcal{X}$  such that  $s \hat{\ } a \in T$  for each  $a \in [X_s]^{<\omega}$ .

An ideal  $\mathfrak{I}$  on  $\omega$  is a  $P^+$ (tree)-ideal if every  $\mathfrak{I}^+$ -tree of finite sets has a branch whose union is in  $\mathfrak{I}^+$ .

Laffamme and Leary proved that an ideal  $\mathfrak{I}$  is not  $P^+$ (tree) if and only if Player I has a winning strategy in the following game  $H(\mathfrak{I})$ : In step  $n$ , Player I chooses an  $\mathfrak{I}$ -positive set  $X_n$  and Player II chooses a finite set  $F_n \subseteq X_n$ . Player II wins if  $\bigcup_{n < \omega} F_n \in \mathfrak{I}^+$ .

In fact, this game characterizes  $F_\sigma$ -ideals, as the following theorem shows:

**Theorem 2.6.** *Let  $\mathfrak{I}$  be a Borel ideal. Then  $\mathfrak{I}$  is a  $P^+$ (tree)-ideal if and only if  $\mathfrak{I}$  is an  $F_\sigma$ -ideal.*

PROOF: The theorem follows immediately from the following claim and Borel determinacy.

**Claim 2.7.** *Let  $\mathfrak{I}$  be a Borel ideal. Then, Player II has a winning strategy in  $H(\mathfrak{I})$  if and only if  $\mathfrak{I}$  is an  $F_\sigma$ -ideal.*

PROOF: If  $\mathfrak{I}$  is an  $F_\sigma$  ideal then there is a lscsm  $\varphi$  such that  $\mathfrak{I} = \text{Fin}(\varphi)$ . In step  $n$ , II plays a finite subset  $F_n$  of  $X_n$  with  $\varphi(F_n) \geq n$ . That is possible since  $\varphi(X_n) = \infty$ .

On the other hand, we will prove that Player I has a winning strategy in  $H(\mathfrak{I})$  if  $\mathfrak{I}$  is not an  $F_\sigma$  ideal. Recall the following result (Theorem 21.22 in [3]).

**Theorem 2.8** (Kechris-Louveau-Woodin). *Let  $X$  be a Polish space, let  $A \subseteq X$  be analytic, and let  $B \subseteq X$  be arbitrary with  $A \cap B = \emptyset$ . Then either there is an  $F_\sigma$  set  $K \subseteq X$  separating  $A$  from  $B$  or there is a perfect set  $C \subseteq A \cup B$  such that  $C \cap B$  is countable dense in  $C$ .  $\square$*

By 2.8, there is a perfect set  $C \subseteq \mathcal{P}(\omega)$  such that  $C \cap \mathfrak{I}^+$  is countable dense in  $C$ . In the Banach-Mazur game played inside  $C$  (denoted by  $G_0$ )<sup>1</sup> in  $C \cap \mathfrak{I}^+$ , Player I has a winning strategy, since  $\mathfrak{I}$  is comeager in  $C$ . Now, we will prove that if Player I has a winning strategy in  $G_0(C \cap \mathfrak{I}^+)$  then Player I has a winning strategy in  $H(\mathfrak{I})$ . Let  $\sigma$  be a winning strategy for Player I in  $G_0(C \cap \mathfrak{I}^+)$ . In step 0, let  $\tau(\emptyset) = X_0 \in V_0 = \sigma(\emptyset)$  be an  $\mathfrak{I}$ -positive set. Such set exists since  $V_0$  is an open non-empty subset of  $C$  and  $\mathfrak{I}^+ \cap C$  is dense in  $C$ . Let us assume that we have defined our strategy  $\tau$  until step  $n$  together with a sequence of  $\sigma$ -legal positions. We will define it for step  $n+1$ . Given an answer  $F \subseteq X_n$  of Player II for a  $\tau$ -legal sequence  $\langle X_0, F_0, \dots, X_{n-1}, F_{n-1}, X_n \rangle$ ,  $\sigma$  considers  $F$  as the clopen set  $U$  of all

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<sup>1</sup>Banach-Mazur game  $G_0(C \cap \mathfrak{I}^+)$  is defined as follows: In step 0, Player I chooses a nonempty open set  $V_0$  and Player II chooses a nonempty open subset  $U_0$  of  $V_0$ . In step  $n+1$ , Player I chooses a nonempty open set  $V_{n+1} \subseteq U_n$  and Player II chooses a nonempty open set  $U_{n+1} \subseteq V_{n+1}$ . Player II wins if  $\bigcap_{n < \omega} \overline{U_n} = \bigcap_{n < \omega} \overline{V_n} \subseteq \mathfrak{I}^+$ .

subsets  $A$  of  $\omega$  such that  $A \cap (\max(F) + 1) = F$ , and if  $\langle V_0, U_0, \dots, V_{n-1}, U_{n-1}, V_n \rangle$  is the  $\sigma$ -legal position associated to  $\langle X_0, F_0, \dots, X_{n-1}, F_{n-1}, X_n \rangle$ , then  $U = U_n$ ,  $V_{n+1} = \sigma(\langle V_0, U_0, \dots, V_{n-1}, U_{n-1}, V_n, U_n \rangle)$  and let (by density of  $\mathbb{l}^+$  in  $C$ )

$$\tau(\langle X_0, F_0, \dots, X_{n-1}, F_{n-1}, X_n, F \rangle) = X_{n+1} \in V_n$$

be an  $\mathbb{l}$ -positive set. Finally, note that  $\tau$  is a winning strategy for  $I$ , since for every  $\tau$ -legal run of  $H(\mathbb{l}) \langle X_0, F_0, X_1, F_1, \dots \rangle$ ,  $\bigcup_{n < \omega} F_n \subseteq \bigcap_{n < \omega} U_n \in \mathbb{l}$ .  $\square$

Returning to the comparison game with the ideal **Fin** as Player II we have the following result.

**Lemma 2.9.** *If  $\mathbb{l}$  is not a  $P^+$  (tree)-ideal then Player I has a winning strategy in  $G''(\mathbb{l})$ .*

PROOF: Let  $T$  be an  $\mathbb{l}^+$ -tree of finite sets with all branches in  $\mathbb{l}$ . In her first few steps, Player I plays in the increasing order the elements of  $\bigcup \text{succ}_T(\emptyset)$  until Player II increases her answer. If in step  $n$ , Player II chooses a number bigger than all of her previous plays then Player I collects the (finite) set  $F_0$  of answers given by her until the current step and then she begins taking elements of  $\text{succ}_T(F_0)$  in the increasing order until the Player II increases her choice. Hence, if eventually Player II does not increase her picks then Player I will choose every element of  $\text{succ}_T(t)$  for some  $t \in T$  and then he will collect an  $\mathbb{l}$ -positive set. In the other case Player II will collect a set which follows a branch of  $T$  and then its union will be in  $\mathbb{l}$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.10.** *For any Borel ideal  $\mathbb{l}$ ,  $\mathbb{l} \simeq \mathbf{Fin}$  if and only if  $\mathbb{l}$  is  $F_\sigma$ .*

PROOF: It follows from two facts: If  $\mathbb{l}$  is a Borel ideal then  $G''(\mathbb{l})$  is determined, and by Theorem 2.6,  $\mathbb{J}$  is a  $P^+$  (tree)-ideal if and only if  $\mathbb{J}$  is an  $F_\sigma$ -ideal, for all Borel ideal  $\mathbb{J}$ .  $\square$

### 3. $F_{\sigma\delta}$ -ideals in the Comparison Game Order

We now define an ideal  $\mathbb{l}_0$  which is the minimal ideal  $\mathbb{l}$  such that there is an  $\mathbb{l}^+$ -tree of finite sets which does not have an  $\mathbb{l}$ -positive branch, i.e. which is not a  $P^+$  (tree)-ideal. Let us denote  $A_f = \{f \upharpoonright n : n < \omega\}$  for a given  $f \in 2^\omega$ .

**Definition 3.1.** The ideal  $\mathbb{l}_0$  is the ideal on  $2^{<\omega}$  generated by the family of sets  $A_f$  where  $f \in 2^\omega$  is not eventually zero.

**Theorem 3.2.** *If  $\mathbb{l}$  is a Borel ideal which is not  $F_\sigma$  then  $\mathbb{l}_0 \sqsubseteq \mathbb{l}$ .*

PROOF: By the Kechris-Louveau-Woodin theorem 2.8 there is a Cantor set  $C \subseteq \mathcal{P}(\omega)$  such that  $D = C \setminus \mathbb{l}$  is countable dense in  $C$ . Let  $T \subseteq 2^{<\omega}$  be a perfect tree such that  $[T] = C$ . Since  $D$  is a countable dense subset of  $2^\omega$ , there is a homeomorphism  $\varphi : 2^\omega \rightarrow C$  such that if  $F = \{f \in 2^\omega : (\forall^\infty n) f(n) = 0\}$  then  $\varphi''F = D$ . Such  $\varphi$  induces an embedding<sup>2</sup>  $\Phi : 2^{<\omega} \rightarrow [\omega]^{<\omega}$  which is monotone

<sup>2</sup>The embedding  $\Phi$  is defined so that for each  $s \in 2^{<\omega}$ , the finite set  $\Phi(s)$  determines the clopen subset  $\varphi''\langle s \rangle$  of  $C$ .

(i.e.  $s \subseteq t$  implies  $\Phi(s) \subseteq \Phi(t)$ ) and such that  $\bigcup_n \Phi(f \upharpoonright n) \in \mathfrak{l}$  if and only if  $f$  is not eventually zero.

Now we describe a winning strategy for Player II in  $G(\mathfrak{l}_0, \mathfrak{l})$ . In step  $n$ , if Player I plays  $I_n \in \mathfrak{l}_0$  then Player II plays  $J_n = [0, k_n] \cup \bigcup \{\Phi(s) : (\exists k \leq n)(\exists t \in I_k)(s \subseteq t)\}$ , where  $k_n$  is the maximal cardinality of an antichain in  $\bigcup_{k \leq n} I_k$ .

We argue why this is a winning strategy for Player II. If  $I = \bigcup_n I_n \in \mathfrak{l}_0$  then there are  $m < \omega$  and  $f_0, \dots, f_m \in 2^\omega \setminus F$  such that  $I \subseteq \bigcup_{j \leq m} A_{f_j}$ . Then  $m$  is an upper bound for  $k_n$  and  $\bigcup \{\Phi(s) : (\exists k < \omega)(\exists t \in I_k)(s \subseteq t)\} \subseteq \bigcup_{j \leq m} \bigcup_n \Phi(f_j \upharpoonright n) \in \mathfrak{l}$ , and then  $\bigcup_n J_n \in \mathfrak{l}$ . On the other hand, if  $I \notin \mathfrak{l}_0$  then either  $\langle k_n : n < \omega \rangle$  is unbounded, and then  $J = \bigcup_n J_n \notin \mathfrak{l}$ , or there is an eventually zero function  $f$  such that  $f \upharpoonright n \in I$  for infinitely many  $n < \omega$ , and in that case,

$$\bigcup_n \{\Phi(s) : (\exists t \in I_n) s \subseteq t\} \supseteq \bigcup_n \{\Phi(f \upharpoonright n) : n < \omega\} \notin \mathfrak{l}. \quad \square$$

The ideal  $\mathfrak{l}_0$  is  $F_{\sigma\delta}$ . Consider another  $F_{\sigma\delta}$ -ideal.

$$\emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin} = \{A \subseteq \omega \times \omega : (\forall n)(\exists m)(\forall k)((n, k) \in A \rightarrow k \leq m)\}.$$

**Theorem 3.3.**

$$\emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin} \not\sqsubseteq \mathfrak{l}_0.$$

PROOF: For every  $1 \leq n < \omega$  we define a game  $G_n$  as follows. In step  $k$ , Player I picks a finite subset  $I_k$  of  $\omega \times \omega$  and Player II picks an antichain  $J_k$  of cardinality  $n$  in  $\mathfrak{l}_0$ , and such that for all  $i < k$  and all  $t$  in  $J_i$  there is a unique  $s \in J_k$  such that  $s \supseteq t$ . Player II wins if  $\bigcup_n I_n \in \emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin}$  if and only if  $\bigcup_n J_n \in \mathfrak{l}_0$ . Inductively, we will prove that Player I has a winning strategy in game  $G_n$ , for all  $n$ , having done that, we will show how this fact implies that Player I has a winning strategy in  $G(\emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin}, \mathfrak{l}_0)$ .

**Claim 3.4.** *Player I has a winning strategy in the game  $G_n$ , for all  $n$ .*

PROOF OF CLAIM: First we prove that Player I has a winning strategy in the game  $G_1$ . In step 0, Player I plays  $\{(0, 0)\}$ . In step  $k$ , define  $N(k) = \min\{\sum h(l) : h \text{ is a maximal sequence in } J_k \wedge l \in \text{dom}(h)\}$ , and Player I just plays a doubleton with the form  $\{(0, N(k)), (n_k, m_k)\}$ , where  $n_0 = m_0 = 0$ ; (1) if  $J_k \supseteq J_{k-1}$  and there is  $m \in J_k \setminus J_{k-1}$  such that  $J_k(m) = 1$  then  $n_k = n_{k-1}$  and  $m_k = m_{k-1} + 1$ ; and (2)  $n_k = n_{k-1} + 1$  and  $m_k = m_{k-1}$  otherwise.

We show why is this a winning strategy for Player I. If in some step  $k$ , Player II plays an infinite set  $J_k$  then she will be playing along the branch  $\bigcup J_k$  and then Player I know that she has won because she just will fill the column  $\{0\} \times \omega$  if  $\bigcup J_k$  is not eventually zero, or the row  $\{k\} \times \omega$  otherwise. Without loss of generality, let us assume that Player II plays finite increasing sets. Then if there is  $K$  such that  $J_k = J_K$  for all  $k \geq K$  then  $\bigcup_n J_n \in \mathfrak{l}_0$  but Player I will fill the column  $\{m_K\} \times (\omega \setminus n_K)$  for  $K$  minimal; and if Player II increases the length of  $J_k$  for infinitely many steps  $k$  then, if there is  $K$  such that the increasing of  $J_k$  is just

with 0's then column  $\{0\} \times N(k)$  will not increase and choices of Player I will follow a horizontal line; but if Player II increases the length of  $J_k$  and she adds a new 1 in infinitely many steps then Player I will make the column  $\{0\} \times N(k)$  increase to  $\{0\} \times \omega$  and then  $\bigcup_n I_n \notin \emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin}$ .

Inductively assume that Player I has a winning strategy in  $G_n$  and let us prove that she has a winning strategy in  $G_{n+1}$ . Fix a partition  $\{X_i^j : j \leq n \wedge i < \omega\}$  of  $\omega \setminus \{0\}$ . In step 0, Player I plays  $\emptyset$  and then, assume that Player II has played an antichain  $J_k$  of cardinality  $n + 1$  (we can assume this by identifying  $J_k$  with its maximal elements. Let us enumerate this antichain as  $\{a_r^0 : r \leq n\}$  and for each  $r \leq n$ , we enumerate  $J_k = \{a_r^k : r \leq n\}$  in such way that  $a_r^k \supseteq a_r^0$  for all  $r \leq n$ . Then, Player I will play simultaneously the game  $G_n$  in  $X_i^r \times \omega$  for some  $i$  (depending of  $k$  and  $r$ ), where answers of Player I are given by the winning strategy for her when Player II plays  $J_k \setminus a_r^k$ ; and following this rule: If  $a_r^k \supsetneq a_r^{k-1}$  and Player I is playing in the copy  $X_i^r \times \omega$  then she abandons this copy and begins playing  $G_n$  in  $X_{i+1}^r \times \omega$ ; and if not, she still playing in the same  $X_i^r \times \omega$ , i.e.,  $i(k, r) = i(k - 1, r)$ . In both cases Player I adds the column  $\{0\} \times N(k)$  (recall  $N(k)$  was defined two paragraphs above). Now we prove that this is a winning strategy for Player I.

If all the sequences  $a_r^k$  are eventually increasing then we have two cases:

(1) For each  $k \leq n$  the sequence  $\bigcup_r a_r^k$  is not eventually-zero. Then, Player I will increase the column  $\{0\} \times N(k)$  to  $\{0\} \times \omega$ , making  $\bigcup_n J_n \notin \emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin}$ .

(2) There is  $k \leq n$  such that  $\bigcup_r a_r^k$  is an eventually-zero branch. Then, the column  $\{0\} \times N(k)$  will not increase and in all the pieces of the partition will be played the game  $G_n$  and since all increase, all pieces are eventually abandoned and then,  $\bigcup_n J_n \in \emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin}$ .

If for some  $k$ , the sequence  $a_r^k$  does not increase then Player I will be playing the game  $G_n$  and since she has a winning strategy in this game, we are done, because the column  $\{0\} \times N(k)$  will not increase.  $\square$

Let  $\{X_r : r < \omega\}$  be a partition of  $\omega \setminus \{0\}$  in infinite sets. The main idea is based on the following trick: Player I is going to play the game  $G_n$  but in  $X_n \times \omega$  instead of  $\omega \times \omega$ . In step 0, Player I plays  $\emptyset$  and in step  $k > 0$ , let  $M(k)$  be the maximal cardinality of an antichain in  $\bigcup_{i < k} J_i$ . If  $M(k) = M(k - 1)$  then Player I has to play the game  $G_{M(k)}$  in  $X_{M(k-1)} \times \omega$  instead of  $\omega \times \omega$ , and if  $M(k) > M(k - 1)$ , then Player I has to abandon what he has played and begin a new game of  $G_{M(k)}$  inside the copy  $X_{M(k)} \times \omega$ , and in both cases, Player I has to add  $\{\min X_{M(k)}\} \times N(k)$  to the sets defined above.

If Player II makes  $M(k)$  increase in infinitely many steps, then  $\bigcup_n J_n \notin \mathfrak{l}_0$ , but Player I will abandon all pieces where he played, and then  $\bigcup_n I_n \in \emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin}$ .

If there is  $K$  such that  $M(k) = M(K)$  for all  $k > K$  then the winning strategy for Player I in  $G_{M(K)}$  makes Player I win in  $G(\emptyset \times \omega, \mathfrak{l}_0)$ .  $\square$

Now we give a criterion for ideals to be  $\sqsubseteq$ -below  $\emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin}$ .



**Proposition 3.5.** *Let  $\mathfrak{l}$  be an ideal on  $\omega$ . Then  $\mathfrak{l} \sqsubseteq \emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin}$  if and only if Player II has a winning strategy in the following game  $G'''(\mathfrak{l})$ : In step  $n$ , Player I chooses an element  $I_n$  of  $\mathfrak{l}$  and then Player II chooses an increasing function  $f_n \in \omega^\omega$ . Player II wins if  $\bigcup_n I_n \in \mathfrak{l}$  if and only if the sequence  $\{f_n : n < \omega\}$  is bounded.*

PROOF: Let us assume that Player II has a winning strategy  $\sigma$  in  $G(\mathfrak{l}, \emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin})$ . For every element  $J \in \emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin}$ , let  $f_J : \omega \rightarrow \omega$  given by  $f_J(n) = \min\{k > f_J(n-1) : (\forall m > k) (n, m) \notin J\}$ . Then we describe a winning strategy for Player II in  $G'''(\mathfrak{l})$  as follows: Given  $I_0 \in \mathfrak{l}$ , let  $f_0$  be the function  $f_{\sigma(I_0)}$ . Assume that the legal position  $\langle I_0, f_0, \dots, I_n, f_n \rangle$  follows the strategy which we are defining. Then in parallel we have a legal position  $\langle I_0, J_0, \dots, I_n, J_n \rangle$  of  $G(\mathfrak{l}, \emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin})$  following  $\sigma$ . Then, given  $I_{n+1}$ , define  $J_{n+1} = \sigma(\langle I_0, J_0, \dots, I_n, J_n, I_{n+1} \rangle)$  and the function  $f_{n+1} = f_{J_{n+1}}$ . It is easy to check that this is a winning strategy for Player II in  $G'''(\mathfrak{l})$ . On the other hand, for any function  $f \in \omega^\omega$  define  $J_f = \{(n, m) \in \omega \times \omega : m \leq f(n)\}$ . Analogous to first part, Player II in  $G(\mathfrak{l}, \emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin})$  has plays  $J_f$  where  $f$  is the answer given by Player II in  $G'''(\mathfrak{l})$ .  $\square$

Ilijas Farah asked in [2] if for every  $F_{\sigma\delta}$ -ideal  $\mathfrak{l}$  there is a family of compact hereditary sets  $\{C_n : n < \omega\}$  such that

$$\mathfrak{l} = \{A \subseteq \omega : (\forall n < \omega)(\exists m < \omega)(A \setminus [0, m] \in C_n)\}.$$

We will say  $\mathfrak{l}$  is a *Farah ideal* if  $\mathfrak{l}$  fulfils that property. Note that every Farah ideal  $\mathfrak{l}$  is an  $F_{\sigma\delta}$  ideal. The following is a simple observation.

**Proposition 3.6.** *Let  $\mathfrak{l}$  be an ideal on  $\omega$ . Then,  $\mathfrak{l}$  is Farah if and only if there is a sequence  $\{F_n : n < \omega\}$  of hereditary  $F_\sigma$ -sets closed under finite changes such that  $\mathfrak{l} = \bigcap_n F_n$ .*

PROOF: Let  $\{C_n : n < \omega\}$  be a family of compact hereditary sets such that  $\mathfrak{l} = \{A \subseteq \omega : (\forall n)(\exists k)(A \setminus k \in C_n)\}$ . For any  $n$ , define  $F_n$  as the closure of  $C_n$  under finite changes. It is clear that  $F_n$  is hereditary,  $F_\sigma$ , closed under finite changes, and contains  $\mathfrak{l}$ . If  $A \in F_n$  then there is a finite set  $F$  such that  $A \Delta F \in C_n$  and by taking an adequate  $k > \max(F)$  we have that  $A \setminus k \in C_n$ .

Now, let  $\{F_n : n < \omega\}$  be an increasing sequence of hereditary  $F_\sigma$ -sets closed under finite changes such that  $\mathfrak{l} = \bigcap_n F_n$ . Let us write  $F_n = \bigcup_k E_k^n$  where  $\{E_k^n : k < \omega\}$  is an increasing sequence of closed sets. We can assume that each  $E_k^n$  is a hereditary set, and we can define

$$\tilde{E}_k^n = \{A \setminus (k+1) \cup \{k\} : A \in E_k^n\}$$

and  $C_n = \{\emptyset\} \cup \bigcup_k \tilde{E}_k^n$ . Note that each  $C_n$  is a closed hereditary set, and if  $A \setminus k \in C_n$  we can assume  $k \in A$  and then  $A \in \tilde{E}_k^n \subseteq F_n$ , for all  $n$ . Finally, if  $A$  is an infinite set in  $\mathfrak{l}$  (the finite case is trivial) then for each  $n$  take  $k$  such that  $A \setminus k \in E_k^n$  and  $k \in A$  (this is possible since the  $E_k^n$  is an increasing family). Hence  $A \setminus k \in C_n$ .  $\square$

We denote by **nwd** the ideal of all nowhere dense subsets of the set of rational numbers  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

**Example 3.7.** *The ideal **nwd** is Farah.*

PROOF: Let  $\{U_n : n < \omega\}$  be a base of the topology of  $\mathbb{Q}$ , and define  $F_n = \{A \subseteq \mathbb{Q} : (\exists m)(U_m \subseteq U_n \wedge A \cap U_m = \emptyset)\}$ . Note that  $\mathbf{nwd} = \bigcap_n F_n$  and each  $F_n$  is  $F_\sigma$  hereditary and closed under finite changes.  $\square$

We refine Proposition 3.6 as follows.

**Theorem 3.8.** *Let  $\mathfrak{l}$  be an ideal on  $\omega$ . Then,  $\mathfrak{l}$  is Farah if and only if there is a sequence  $\{F_n : n < \omega\}$  of  $F_\sigma$  sets closed under finite changes such that  $\mathfrak{l} = \bigcap_n F_n$ .*

PROOF: Without loss of generality, we can assume that every  $F_n$  is meager, because if  $F_n$  is non-meager then there is a non-empty clopen set contained in  $F_n$  and by closedness under finite changes,  $F_n = 2^\omega$ .

Sufficiency is a consequence of Proposition 3.6, and by the same result, it will be enough to prove that if  $F$  is a meager  $F_\sigma$ -set closed under finite changes and containing  $I$ , then there is a hereditary  $F_\sigma$ -set  $E$  such that  $\mathfrak{l} \subseteq E \subseteq F$ , since the closure of  $E$  under finite changes would be the hereditary closed under finite changes wanted. Let us consider the game  $H$  defined so that in step  $k$ , Player I chooses a set  $B_k \notin F$  and Player II picks a finite subset  $a_k$  of  $B_k$ . Player I wins if  $\bigcup_k a_k \in \mathfrak{l}$ . Note that  $H$  is determined since  $\mathfrak{l}$  is Borel.

**Claim 3.9.** *Player II has a winning strategy in  $H$ .*

PROOF OF CLAIM: Let  $\{E_n : n < \omega\}$  be an increasing sequence of closed sets such that  $F = \bigcup_n E_n$  and for each  $n$ , let  $T_n$  be a pruned tree such that  $E_n = [T_n]$ . Since each  $E_n$  is a nowhere dense set, in step  $k$ , if Player I plays  $B_k$  then there is  $m_k < \omega$  such that  $m_{k-1} < m_k$  ( $m_{-1} = 0$ ) and  $\chi_{B_k} \upharpoonright m_k \notin T_k$ . Then, Player II plays  $a_k = B_k \cap m_k$ . It is clear that  $\bigcup_k a_k \notin F$  and then  $\bigcup_k a_k \notin \mathfrak{l}$ .  $\square$

It is very easy to see that

**Claim 3.10.** *Player II has a winning strategy in  $H$  if there is a tree  $T \subseteq ([\omega]^{<\omega})^{<\omega}$  such that (a) for all  $A \notin F$  and all  $t \in T$  there is  $a \in \text{succ}_T(t)$  such that  $a \subseteq A$  and (b)  $\bigcup_n f(n) \in \mathfrak{l}^+$  for all  $f \in [T]$ .*  $\square$

Hence, by defining  $C_t = \{A \subseteq \omega : (\forall a \in \text{succ}_T(t))(a \not\subseteq A)\}$ , for all  $t \in T$ , we have immediately that  $C_t$  is closed and hereditary and  $\mathfrak{l} \subseteq \bigcup_{t \in T} C_t$ . Finally, (a) is equivalent to  $\bigcup_{t \in T} C_t \subseteq F$ . Hence,  $\bigcup_t C_t$  is the hereditary  $F_\sigma$ -set required.  $\square$

By Theorem 3.6 it is clear that any Farah ideal satisfies the following.

**Definition 3.11.** An ideal  $\mathfrak{l}$  is *weakly Farah* if there is a sequence  $\langle F_n : n < \omega \rangle$  of hereditary  $F_\sigma$ -sets such that  $\mathfrak{l} = \bigcap_n F_n$ .

Without loss of generality, the sequence in the previous definition is decreasing, and it is clear that any weakly Farah ideal is  $F_{\sigma\delta}$ .

**Theorem 3.12.** *If  $\mathfrak{l}$  is a weakly Farah ideal then  $\mathfrak{l} \subseteq \emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin}$ .*

PROOF: Let  $\{F_n : n < \omega\}$  be a family of hereditary  $F_\sigma$ -sets such that  $\mathbb{1} = \bigcap_n F_n$ . Without loss of generality, we can assume that for any  $n$ ,  $F_n = \bigcup_k E_k^n$  where  $(E_k^n)_k$  is an increasing sequence of closed hereditary sets. Then, for any  $A \subseteq \omega$

$$A \in \mathbb{1} \quad \text{iff} \quad (\exists f_A \in \omega^\omega)(\forall k, n < \omega)(A \notin E_k^n \leftrightarrow k < f_A(n)).$$

Hence, playing the game  $G'''(\mathbb{1})$ , for any step  $n$ , Player II plays  $f_{\bigcup_{j < n} I_j}$ . So, if  $I = \bigcup_{n < \omega} I_n \in \mathbb{1}$  then  $f_I$  bounds all the  $f_{I_n}$  functions; and if  $I \notin \mathbb{1}$  then there is  $j$  such that  $I \notin E_k^j$  for all  $k < \omega$  and then,  $\langle f_{I_n}(j) : n < \omega \rangle$  increases to infinity, because in other case, there were  $k$  such that  $I_n \in E_k^j$  for all  $n$  and  $I \notin E_k^j$ , contradicting the closedness of  $E_k^j$ .  $\square$

A positive answer to Farah’s question would imply that every  $F_{\sigma\delta}$ -ideal is  $\sqsubseteq$ -below  $\emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin}$ .

Recall the following characterization of analytic P-ideals.

**Theorem 3.13** (Solecki [7]). *If  $\mathbb{1}$  is an analytic P-ideal then there is a lscsm  $\varphi$  such that  $\mathbb{1} = \text{Exh}(\varphi) = \{A \subseteq \omega : \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \varphi(A \setminus [n, \infty)) = 0\}$ .*

Note that by Solecki’s theorem, every analytic P-ideal is a Farah ideal, and then, if  $\mathbb{1}$  is an analytic P-ideal then  $\mathbb{1} \sqsubseteq \emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin}$ . Concerning analytic P-ideals, every one of them is either equivalent with  $\mathbf{Fin}$  (i.e., is  $F_\sigma$ ) or equivalent with  $\emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin}$ , i.e., the class of P-ideals “skips” the intermediate class of  $\mathfrak{l}_0$ .

**Theorem 3.14.** *Let  $\mathbb{1}$  be an analytic P-ideal. Then either  $\mathbb{1} \simeq \mathbf{Fin}$  or  $\mathbb{1} \simeq \emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin}$ .*

PROOF: Let  $\varphi$  be a lscsm such that  $\mathbb{1} = \text{Exh}(\varphi)$ . Consider two cases:

**Case 1.** There is  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that for any set  $X$ ,  $\varphi(X) < \varepsilon$  implies  $X \in \mathbb{1}$ . Note than in such case  $\mathbb{1}$  is an  $F_\sigma$  ideal, because  $C = \{A \subseteq \omega : \varphi(X) \leq \varepsilon\}$  is a closed set and  $\mathbb{1} = \bigcup_n \{A \subseteq \omega : A \setminus n \in C\}$ .

**Case 2.** For all  $\varepsilon > 0$  there is an  $\mathfrak{l}$ -positive set  $X$  such that  $\varphi(X) < \varepsilon$ . We will use the following result, which is a known consequence of Jalali-Naini–Talagrand theorem (see [1]).

**Lemma 3.15** (Disjoint Refinement Lemma for Definable Ideals, see [6]). *If  $\mathbb{1}$  is a hereditarily meager ideal and  $\{X_m : m < \omega\}$  is a family of  $\mathfrak{l}$ -positive sets then there is a pairwise disjoint family  $\{Y_m : m < \omega\}$  of  $\mathfrak{l}$ -positive sets such that  $Y_m \subseteq X_m$  for all  $m < \omega$ .*  $\square$

Take a family  $Y_m$  of  $\mathfrak{l}$ -positive sets such that  $\varphi(Y_m) \leq 2^{-m}$  and by the Disjoint Refinement Lemma for hereditary meagre ideals, there is a disjoint family of positive sets  $\{X_m : m < \omega\}$  such that  $\varphi(X_m) \leq 2^{-m}$ . Let  $\{x_k^m : k < \omega\}$  be an enumeration of  $X_m$ . Let us describe a winning strategy for Player II in  $G(\emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin}, \mathbb{1})$ . In step  $n$ , if Player I plays  $I_n$ , we consider the function  $f_n$  given by  $f_n(i) = \max\{0\} \cup \{j : (\exists l \leq n)((i, j) \in I_l)\}$  and then Player II plays  $J_n = \{x_j^i : j \leq f_n(i)\}$ . Hence, if  $I = \bigcup_n I_n \in \mathbb{1}$  then the family  $\langle f_n : n < \omega \rangle$  is bounded by a function  $f$ , and then  $J = \bigcup_n J_n$  intersects each  $X_n$  in a finite set  $F_n$  which

has submeasure smaller than  $2^{-n}$  and so,  $J$  is a  $\varphi$ -exhaustive set. On the other hand, if  $I \notin \emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin}$  then there is  $m$  such that  $f_n(m)$  increases to infinity, and so,  $J \cap X_m = X_m \in I^+$ .  $\square$

Recall the *asymptotical density zero ideal*  $\mathcal{Z}$  is defined by

$$\mathcal{Z} = \left\{ A \subseteq \omega : \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|A \cap [0, n]|}{n} = 0 \right\}$$

and (by its definition) is an analytic P-ideal.

**Remark 3.16.** The following ideals on  $\omega$  are comparison game equivalent:

- (1)  $\mathcal{Z}$ ,
- (2) **nwd**, and
- (3)  $\emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin}$ .

PROOF: (1)  $\simeq$  (3) use  $\mathcal{Z}$  is an analytic P-ideal which is not  $F_\sigma$ .

(2)  $\sqsubseteq$  (3) use **nwd** is a Farah ideal.

(3)  $\sqsubseteq$  (2) Let  $\{V_n : n < \omega\}$  be a sequence of pairwise disjoint open subsets of  $\mathbb{Q}$  and for each  $n$ , let  $\{q_k^n : k < \omega\}$  be an enumeration of  $V_n$ . Let us play the  $G(\emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin}, \mathbf{nwd})$  game. In step  $n$ , if Player I has played  $I_n \in \emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin}$ , take a function  $f \in \omega^\omega$  such that for all  $k, m$ ,  $(k, m) \in I_n$  implies  $m \leq f(k)$ , and then Player II must play  $J_n = \{q_s^k : s < f(k) \wedge k < \omega\}$ .  $J_n$  is a nowhere dense subset of  $\mathbb{Q}$  since it intersects each  $V_n$  in a finite set, and if  $I = \bigcup_n I_n \in \emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin}$  then  $J = \bigcup_n J_n$  intersects each  $V_n$  in a finite set, and then,  $J \in \mathbf{nwd}$ ; and if for some  $k$ ,  $I \cap (\{k\} \times \omega)$  is infinite, then  $J$  will contain  $V_k$ , and then  $J \in \mathbf{nwd}^+$ .  $\square$

#### 4. Final remarks

Recall that  $\mathbf{Fin} \times \mathbf{Fin}$  is the ideal on  $\omega \times \omega$  generated by the columns  $\{n\} \times \omega$  and the sets  $\{(n, m) : m < f(n)\}$ , for  $f \in \omega^\omega$ . We finally will show that the ideal  $\mathbf{Fin} \times \mathbf{Fin}$  belongs to a higher class than  $\emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin}$ . It is easy to see that  $\emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin} \sqsubseteq \mathbf{Fin} \times \mathbf{Fin}$ .

**Proposition 4.1.**  $\emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin} \sqsubseteq \mathbf{Fin} \times \mathbf{Fin}$ .

PROOF: Let  $\{X_n : n < \omega\}$  be an infinite partition of  $\omega$  in infinite pieces. Given  $I$  in  $\emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin}$ , we define an element  $J_I$  of  $\emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin}$  by

$$J_I = \{(k, l) : (\exists n < \omega)(k \in X_n \wedge (n, l) \in I)\}.$$

The winning strategy for Player II consists in playing  $J_{I_n}$  as an answer to a set  $I_n$  played by Player I in step  $n$ . If  $I = \bigcup_n I_n \in \emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin}$  then  $J = \bigcup_n J_{I_n} \in \mathbf{Fin} \times \mathbf{Fin}$ , and if for some  $k < \omega$ ,  $I \cap (\{k\} \times \omega)$  is infinite then  $J \cap (\{l\} \times \omega)$  will be infinite for all  $l \in X_k$ , and so  $J \notin \mathbf{Fin} \times \mathbf{Fin}$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 4.2.**  $\mathbf{Fin} \times \mathbf{Fin} \not\sqsubseteq \emptyset \times \mathbf{Fin}$ .

PROOF: We will describe a winning strategy for Player I in  $G'''(\mathbf{Fin} \times \mathbf{Fin})$ . Without loss of generality, we can assume that Player II plays in such a way that  $f_k(n) \geq f_{k-1}(n)$  for all  $n$ . First, take an infinite partition  $\{X_n : n < \omega\}$  of  $\omega$  in infinite pieces, and let  $\{x_r^n : r < \omega\}$  be an enumeration of  $X_n$ . Player I will play just selectors of the family  $\{X_n \times \omega : n < \omega\}$ . In step 0, Player I plays  $\{(x_r^0, 0) : r < \omega\}$ . In step  $k$ , if  $f_k = f_{k-1}$  ( $f_{-1} \equiv 0$ ) and  $J_{k-1} = \{(x_r^n, m_r^n) : r < \omega\}$  then  $J_{k+1} = \{(x_r^n, m_r^n + 1) : r < \omega\}$ , and otherwise, if  $l = \min\{n : f_k(n) > f_{k-1}(n)\}$  then  $J_{k+1} = \{(x_r^n, m_r^n + 1) : r \leq l\} \cup \{(x_{r+1}^n, m_r^n) : r > l\}$ .

If there is  $N$  such that  $\{f_k(N) : k < \omega\}$  increases infinitely often then  $\bigcup_n J_n \in \mathbf{I}$  since all but finitely many pieces  $X_r$  are “turning to the right” infinitely often and if  $\{f_k : k < \omega\}$  is bounded by a function  $f$  then for each  $r$ , there are  $k$  and  $N$  such that Player I will be “filling” the column  $\{x_r^k\} \times (\omega \setminus N)$ , making  $\bigcup_n J_n \notin \mathbf{Fin} \times \mathbf{Fin}$ . □

Recall that a function  $f$  from  $\mathbf{I}$  to  $\mathbf{J}$  is a *Tukey function* if for each  $A \in \mathbf{J}$  there is  $B \in \mathbf{I}$  such that  $I \subseteq B$  if  $f(I) \subseteq A$ . Tukey order is defined by  $\mathbf{I} \leq_T \mathbf{J}$  if there is a Tukey function from  $\mathbf{I}$  to  $\mathbf{J}$ ; and let us denote by  $\mathbf{I} \leq_{MT} \mathbf{J}$  when there is a monotone (with respect to inclusion) Tukey function from  $\mathbf{I}$  to  $\mathbf{J}$ . The order  $\sqsubseteq$  refines the monotone Tukey order.

**Lemma 4.3.** *If  $\mathbf{I} \leq_{MT} \mathbf{J}$  then  $\mathbf{I} \sqsubseteq \mathbf{J}$ .*

PROOF: Let  $f : \mathbf{I} \rightarrow \mathbf{J}$  be a monotone Tukey function. Then Player II only has to answer  $f(I_n)$  for any  $I_n$  given by Player I. If  $\bigcup_n I_n \in \mathbf{I}$  then by monotonicity,  $\bigcup_n f(I_n) \subseteq f(\bigcup_n I_n) \in \mathbf{J}$ . If  $\bigcup_n I_n \notin \mathbf{I}$  then by Tukeyness  $\bigcup_n f(I_n) \notin \mathbf{J}$ . □

Note that the Tukey and monotone Tukey orders are quite different: There is a Tukey-maximal ideal among all ideals, which is  $F_\sigma$ . On the other hand, by Lemma 4.3 and Proposition 1.7, if  $\mathbf{I} \leq_{MT} \mathbf{J}$  and  $\mathbf{I}$  is  $F_\sigma$  then  $\mathbf{J}$  is  $F_{\sigma\delta\sigma}$ .

### 5. Questions

- (1) Are there exactly two classes of  $F_{\sigma\delta}$  non- $F_\sigma$ -ideals?
- (2) How many classes of  $F_{\sigma\delta\sigma}$ -ideals are there?
- (3) Is every  $F_{\sigma\delta}$ -ideal weakly Farah? Is every weakly Farah a Farah ideal?

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