# Winning Strategies in Concurrent Games

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A principled way to develop *nondeterministic concurrent strategies* in games within a general model for concurrency. Following Joyal and Conway, a strategy from a game G to a game H will be a strategy in  $G^{\perp} || H$ . Strategies will be those nondeterministic plays of a game which compose well with copy-cat strategies, within the model of event structures. Consequences, connections and extensions to winning strategies.

### **Event structures**

An event structure comprises  $(E, \leq, \operatorname{Con})$ , consisting of a set of events E

- partially ordered by  $\leq$ , the **causal dependency relation**, and

- a nonempty family Con of finite subsets of E, the **consistency relation**, which satisfy

$$\{e' \mid e' \leq e\} \text{ is finite for all } e \in E,$$
  
$$\{e\} \in \text{Con for all } e \in E,$$
  
$$Y \subseteq X \in \text{Con} \Rightarrow Y \in \text{Con}, \text{ and}$$
  
$$X \in \text{Con } \& e \leq e' \in X \Rightarrow X \cup \{e\} \in \text{Con}.$$

Say e, e' are **concurrent** if  $\{e, e'\} \in \text{Con } \& e \not\leq e' \& e' \not\leq e$ . In games the relation of **immediate dependency**  $e \rightarrow e'$ , meaning e and e' are distinct with  $e \leq e'$  and no event in between, will play an important role.

### **Configurations of an event structure**

The **configurations**,  $C^{\infty}(E)$ , of an event structure E consist of those subsets  $x \subseteq E$  which are

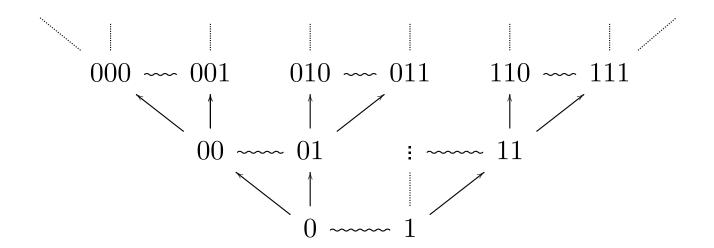
*Consistent:*  $\forall X \subseteq_{\text{fin}} x. X \in \text{Con}$  and

Down-closed:  $\forall e, e'. e' \leq e \in x \Rightarrow e' \in x$ .

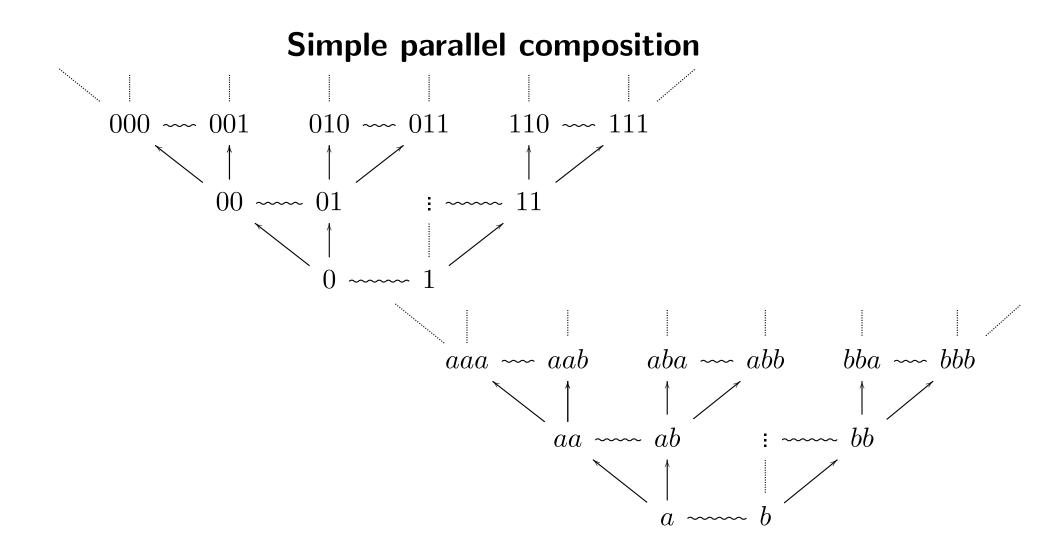
For an event e the set  $[e] =_{def} \{e' \in E \mid e' \leq e\}$  is a configuration describing the whole causal history of the event e.

 $x \subseteq x'$ , *i.e.* x is a sub-configuration of x', means that x is a sub-history of x'. If E is countable,  $(\mathcal{C}^{\infty}(E), \subseteq)$  is a dI-domain (and all such are so obtained). Often concentrate on the finite configurations  $\mathcal{C}(E)$ .

#### **Example: Streams as event structures**



 $\sim\sim$  conflict (inconsistency)  $\rightarrow$  immediate causal dependency



# **Other examples**



 $Con = \{ \emptyset, \{1\}, \{2\}, \{3\}, \{1,2\}, \{1,3\}, \{2,3\} \}$ 

# Maps of event structures

- Semantics of synchronising processes [Hoare, Milner] can be expressed in terms of universal constructions on event structures, and other models.
- Relations between models via adjunctions.

In this context, a **simulation map** of event structures  $f : E \to E'$ is a partial function on events  $f : E \to E'$  such that for all  $x \in C(E)$ 

$$fx \in \mathcal{C}(E')$$
 and  
if  $e_1, e_2 \in x$  and  $f(e_1) = f(e_2)$ , then  $e_1 = e_2$ . ('event linearity')

**Idea:** the occurrence of an event e in E induces the coincident occurrence of the event f(e) in E' whenever it is defined.

## **Process constructions on event structures**

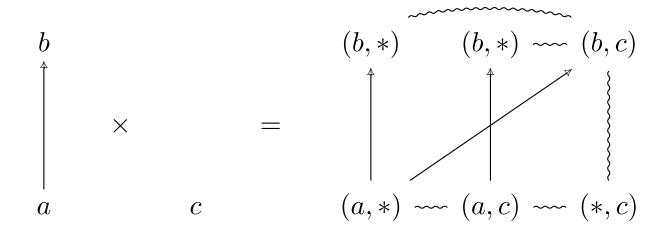
"Partial synchronous" product:  $A \times B$  with projections  $\Pi_1$  and  $\Pi_2$ , cf. CCS synchronized composition where all events of A can synchronize with all events of B. (Hard to construct directly so use e.g. stable families.)

**Restriction:**  $E \upharpoonright R$ , the restriction of an event structure E to a subset of events R, has events  $E' = \{e \in E \mid [e] \subseteq R\}$  with causal dependency and consistency restricted from E.

**Synchronized compositions:** restrictions of products  $A \times B \upharpoonright R$ , where R specifies the allowed synchronized and unsynchronized events.

**Projection:** Let E be an event structure. Let V be a subset of 'visible' events. The *projection* of E on V,  $E \downarrow V$ , has events V with causal dependency and consistency restricted from E.

#### **Product**—an example



# **Concurrent** games

#### **Basics**

Games and strategies are represented by **event structures with polarity**, an event structure in which all events carry a polarity +/-, respected by maps.

The two polarities + and - express the dichotomy: *player/opponent; process/environment; ally/enemy.* 

**Dual**,  $E^{\perp}$ , of an event structure with polarity E is a copy of the event structure E with a reversal of polarities;  $\overline{e} \in E^{\perp}$  is complement of  $e \in E$ , and *vice versa*.

A (nondeterministic) concurrent **pre-strategy** in game A is a total map

$$\sigma:S\to A$$

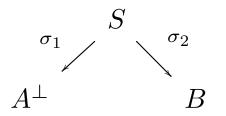
of event structures with polarity (a nondeterministic play in game A).

### **Pre-strategies as arrows**

A pre-strategy  $\sigma: A \twoheadrightarrow B$  is a total map of event structures with polarity

$$\sigma: S \to A^{\perp} \parallel B.$$

It corresponds to a *span* of event structures with polarity



where  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2$  are *partial* maps of event structures with polarity; one and only one of  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2$  is defined on each event of S.

Pre-strategies are isomorphic if they are isomorphic as spans.

### **Concurrent copy-cat**

Identities on games A are given by copy-cat strategies  $\gamma_A : \mathbb{C}_A \to A^{\perp} \parallel A$ —strategies for player based on copying the latest moves made by opponent.

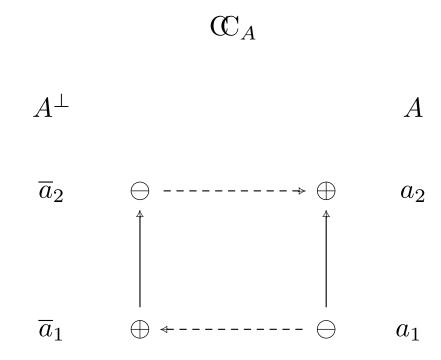
 $CC_A$  has the same events, consistency and polarity as  $A^{\perp} \parallel A$  but with causal dependency  $\leq_{CC_A}$  given as the transitive closure of the relation

$$\leq_{A^{\perp} \parallel A} \cup \{ (\overline{c}, c) \mid c \in A^{\perp} \parallel A \& pol_{A^{\perp} \parallel A}(c) = + \}$$

where  $\overline{c} \leftrightarrow c$  is the natural correspondence between  $A^{\perp}$  and A. The map  $\gamma_A$  is the identity on the common underlying set of events. Then,

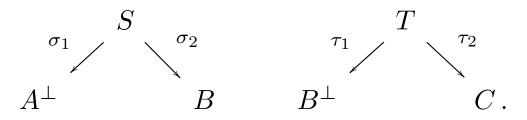
$$x \in \mathcal{C}(\mathbb{C}_A)$$
 iff  $x \in \mathcal{C}(A^{\perp} \parallel A)$  &  $\forall c \in x. \ pol_{A^{\perp} \parallel A}(c) = + \Rightarrow \overline{c} \in x.$ 

## **Copy-cat**—an example

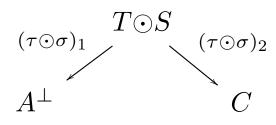


#### **Composing pre-strategies**

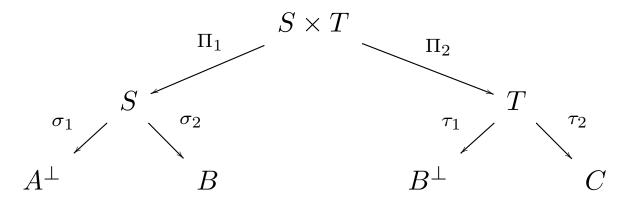
Two pre-strategies  $\sigma: A \twoheadrightarrow B$  and  $\tau: B \twoheadrightarrow C$  as spans:



Their composition



where  $T \odot S =_{def} (S \times T \upharpoonright Syn) \downarrow Vis$  where ...

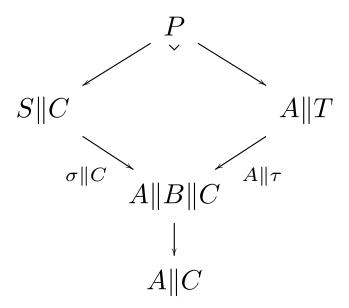


Their composition:  $T \odot S =_{def} (S \times T \upharpoonright Syn) \downarrow Vis$  where

$$\begin{split} \mathbf{Syn} \ &= \ \{p \in S \times T \ \mid \ \sigma_1 \Pi_1(p) \text{ is defined } \& \ \Pi_2(p) \text{ is undefined} \} \cup \\ &\{p \in S \times T \ \mid \ \sigma_2 \Pi_1(p) = \overline{\tau_1 \Pi_2(p)} \text{ with both defined} \} \cup \\ &\{p \in S \times T \ \mid \ \tau_2 \Pi_2(p) \text{ is defined } \& \ \Pi_1(p) \text{ is undefined} \}, \end{split}$$
$$\begin{aligned} &\mathbf{Vis} \ &= \{p \in S \times T \upharpoonright \mathbf{Syn} \ \mid \ \sigma_1 \Pi_1(p) \text{ is defined} \} \cup \\ &\{p \in S \times T \upharpoonright \mathbf{Syn} \ \mid \ \tau_2 \Pi_2(p) \text{ is defined} \} \cup \\ &\{p \in S \times T \upharpoonright \mathbf{Syn} \ \mid \ \tau_2 \Pi_2(p) \text{ is defined} \}. \end{split}$$

## **Composition via pullback:**

Ignoring polarities, the partial map



has the partial-total map factorization:  $P \longrightarrow T \odot S \xrightarrow{\tau \odot \sigma} A \| C$ . [N. Bowler]

**Theorem characterizing concurrent strategies Receptivity**  $\sigma: S \to A^{\perp} \parallel B$  is *receptive* when  $\sigma(x) - \subset^{-}y$  implies there is a *unique*  $x' \in \mathcal{C}(S)$  such that  $x - \subset x' \& \sigma(x') = y$ .  $x - \subset^{-} x'$   $\downarrow$  $\sigma(x) - \subset^{-} y$ 

**Innocence**  $\sigma: S \to A^{\perp} \parallel B$  is *innocent* when it is

+-Innocence: If  $s \twoheadrightarrow s'$  & pol(s) = + then  $\sigma(s) \twoheadrightarrow \sigma(s')$  and

--Innocence: If  $s \twoheadrightarrow s'$  & pol(s') = - then  $\sigma(s) \twoheadrightarrow \sigma(s')$ .

 $[\rightarrow stands for immediate causal dependency]$ 

**Theorem** Receptivity and innocence are necessary and sufficient for copy-cat to act as identity w.r.t. composition:  $\sigma \odot \gamma_A \cong \sigma$  and  $\gamma_B \odot \sigma \cong \sigma$  for all  $\sigma : A \twoheadrightarrow B$ . [Silvain Rideau, GW]

**Definition** A *strategy* is a receptive, innocent pre-strategy.

 $\rightsquigarrow$  A bicategory,  $\mathbf{Games},$  whose

objects are event structures with polarity-the games,

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arrows are strategies \sigma: A \twoheadrightarrow B
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2-cells are maps of spans.

The vertical composition of 2-cells is the usual composition of maps of spans. Horizontal composition is given by the composition of strategies  $\odot$  (which extends to a functor on 2-cells via the functoriality of synchronized composition).

#### Strategies—alternative description 1

A strategy S in a game A comprises a total map of event structures with polarity  $\sigma: S \to A$  such that (i) whenever  $\sigma x \subseteq \overline{y}$  in  $\mathcal{C}(A)$  there is a unique  $x' \in \mathcal{C}(S)$  so that

and

 $[\rightsquigarrow strategies as presheaves over "Scott order" \sqsubseteq =_{def} \subseteq^+ \circ \supseteq^-.]$ 

#### Strategies—alternative description 2

A strategy S in a game A comprises a total map of event structures with polarity  $\sigma: S \to A$  such that

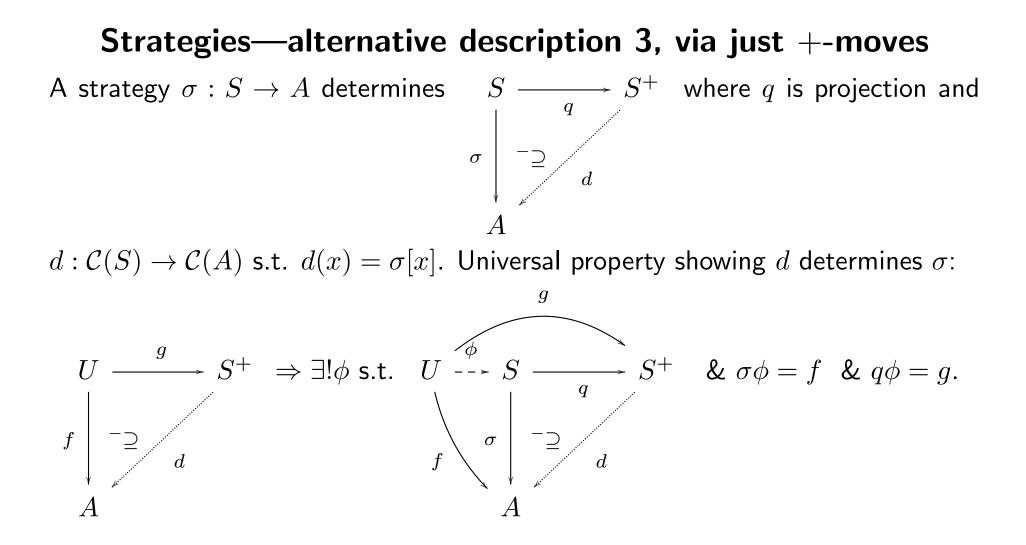
(i)  $\sigma x \xrightarrow{a} c \& pol_A(a) = - \Rightarrow \exists ! s \in S. x \xrightarrow{s} c \& \sigma(s) = a$ , for all  $x \in C(S)$ ,  $a \in A$ .

(ii)(+) If  $x \xrightarrow{e} \subset x_1 \xrightarrow{e'} \subset \& pol_S(e) = + \text{ in } \mathcal{C}(S) \text{ and } \sigma x \xrightarrow{\sigma(e')} \subset \text{ in } \mathcal{C}(A)$ , then  $x \xrightarrow{e'} \subset \text{ in } \mathcal{C}(S)$ .

(ii)(-) If  $x \xrightarrow{e} \subset x_1 \xrightarrow{e'} \subset \& \operatorname{pol}_S(e') = -\operatorname{in} \mathcal{C}(S)$  and  $\sigma x \xrightarrow{\sigma(e')} \subset \operatorname{in} \mathcal{C}(A)$ , then  $x \xrightarrow{e'} \subset \operatorname{in} \mathcal{C}(S)$ .

**Notation**  $x \xrightarrow{e} c y$  iff  $x \cup \{e\} = y \& e \notin x$ , for configurations x, y, event e.  $x \xrightarrow{e} c$  iff  $\exists y. x \xrightarrow{e} c y$ .

19



#### **Deterministic strategies**

Say an event structures with polarity S is *deterministic* iff

 $\forall X \subseteq_{\text{fin}} S. Neg[X] \in \text{Con}_S \Rightarrow X \in \text{Con}_S,$ 

where  $Neg[X] =_{def} \{s' \in S \mid \exists s \in X. \ pol_S(s') = -\& s' \leq s\}$ . Say a strategy  $\sigma : S \to A$  is deterministic if S is deterministic.

**Proposition** An event structure with polarity S is deterministic iff  $x \xrightarrow{s} \subset \& x \xrightarrow{s'} \subset \& pol_S(s) = +$  implies  $x \cup \{s, s'\} \in \mathcal{C}(S)$ , for all  $x \in \mathcal{C}(S)$ .

**Notation**  $x \xrightarrow{e} C y$  iff  $x \cup \{e\} = y \& e \notin x$ , for configurations x, y, event e.  $x \xrightarrow{e} C$  iff  $\exists y. x \xrightarrow{e} C y$ . **Lemma** Let A be an event structure with polarity. The copy-cat strategy  $\gamma_A$  is deterministic iff A satisfies

$$\forall x \in \mathcal{C}(A). \ x \xrightarrow{a} \subset \& \ x \xrightarrow{a'} \subset \& \ pol_A(a) = + \& \ pol_A(a') = - \\ \Rightarrow x \cup \{a, a'\} \in \mathcal{C}(A).$$
 (‡)

**Lemma** The composition  $\tau \odot \sigma$  of two deterministic strategies  $\sigma$  and  $\tau$  is deterministic.

**Lemma** A deterministic strategy  $\sigma: S \to A$  is injective on configurations (equivalently,  $\sigma: S \rightarrowtail A$ ).

 $\rightsquigarrow$  sub-bicategory DetGames, equivalent to an order-enriched category.

# Related work

**Ingenuous strategies** Deterministic concurrent strategies coincide with the *receptive* ingenuous strategies of and Melliès and Mimram.

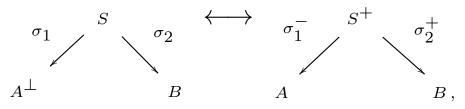
**Closure operators** A deterministic strategy  $\sigma : S \to A$  determines a closure operator  $\varphi$  on  $\mathcal{C}^{\infty}(S)$ : for  $x \in \mathcal{C}^{\infty}(S)$ ,

$$\varphi(x) = x \cup \{s \in S \mid pol(s) = + \& Neg[\{s\}] \subseteq x\}.$$

The closure operator  $\varphi$  on  $\mathcal{C}^{\infty}(S)$  induces a *partial* closure operator  $\varphi_p$  on  $\mathcal{C}^{\infty}(A)$ and in turn a closure operator  $\varphi_p^{\top}$  on  $\mathcal{C}^{\infty}(A)^{\top}$  of Abramsky and Melliès.

**Simple games** *"Simple games"* of game semantics arise when we restrict Games to objects and deterministic strategies which are 'tree-like'—alternating polarities, with conflicting branches, beginning with opponent moves.

Stable spans, profunctors and stable functions The sub-bicategory of Games where the events of games are purely +ve is equivalent to the bicategory of stable spans:



where  $S^+$  is the projection of S to its +ve events;  $\sigma_2^+$  is the restriction of  $\sigma_2$  to  $S^+$  is rigid;  $\sigma_2^-$  is a *demand map* taking  $x \in \mathcal{C}(S^+)$  to  $\sigma_1^-(x) = \sigma_1[x]$ . Composition of stable spans coincides with composition of their associated profunctors.

When deterministic (and event structures are countable) we obtain a subbicategory equivalent to Berry's **dl-domains and stable functions**.

# Winning conditions

A game with winning conditions comprises

G = (A, W)

where A is an event structure with polarity and  $W \subseteq C^{\infty}(A)$  consists of the *winning configurations* for Player.

Define the losing conditions to be  $L =_{def} C^{\infty}(A) \setminus W$ . [Can generalize to winning, losing and neutral conditions.]

# Winning strategies

Let G = (A, W) be a game with winning conditions.

A strategy in G is a strategy in A.

A strategy  $\sigma: S \to A$  in G is winning (for Player) if  $\sigma x \in W$ , for all +-maximal configurations  $x \in \mathcal{C}^{\infty}(S)$ .

[A configuration x is +-maximal if whenever  $x \stackrel{s}{\longrightarrow} \subset$  then the event s has -ve polarity.]

A winning strategy prescribes moves for Player to avoid ending in a losing configuration, no matter what the activity or inactivity of Opponent.

## **Characterization via counter-strategies**

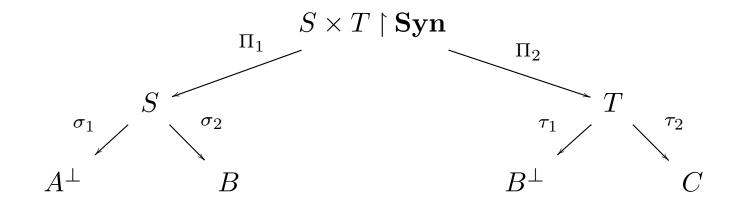
Informally, a strategy is winning for Player if any play against a counterstrategy of Opponent results in a win for Player.

A *counter-strategy*, *i.e.* a strategy of Opponent, in a game A is a strategy in the dual game, so  $\tau: T \to A^{\perp}$ .

What are the *results*  $\langle \sigma, \tau \rangle$  of playing strategy  $\sigma$  against counter-strategy  $\tau$ ?

Note  $\sigma: \emptyset \twoheadrightarrow A$  and  $\tau: A \twoheadrightarrow \emptyset \dots$ 

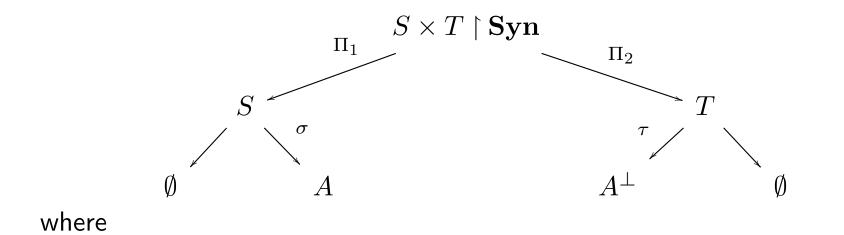
#### **Composition of pre-strategies without hiding**



where

 $\begin{aligned} \mathbf{Syn} &= \{ p \in S \times T \mid \sigma_1 \Pi_1(p) \text{ is defined } \& \Pi_2(p) \text{ is undefined} \} \cup \\ \{ p \in S \times T \mid \sigma_2 \Pi_1(p) = \overline{\tau_1 \Pi_2(p)} \text{ with both defined} \} \cup \\ \{ p \in S \times T \mid \tau_2 \Pi_2(p) \text{ is defined } \& \Pi_1(p) \text{ is undefined} \}. \end{aligned}$ 

# **Special case**



**Syn** = { $p \in S \times T \mid \sigma \Pi_1(p) = \overline{\tau \Pi_2(p)}$  with both defined}.

Define **results**,  $\langle \sigma, \tau \rangle =_{\text{def}} \{ \sigma \Pi_1 z \mid z \text{ is maximal in } \mathcal{C}^{\infty}(S \times T \upharpoonright \mathbf{Syn}) \}.$ 

### Characterization of winning strategies

**Lemma** Let  $\sigma: S \to A$  be a strategy in a game (A, W). The strategy  $\sigma$  is a winning for Player iff  $\langle \sigma, \tau \rangle \subseteq W$  for all (deterministic) strategies  $\tau: T \to A^{\perp}$ .

Its proof uses a key lemma:

**Lemma** Let  $\sigma: S \to A^{\perp} || B$  and  $\tau: B^{\perp} || C$  be receptive pre-strategies. Then,

 $z \in \mathcal{C}^{\infty}(S \times T \upharpoonright \mathbf{Syn})$  is +-maximal iff  $\Pi_1 z \in \mathcal{C}^{\infty}(S)$  is +-maximal &  $\Pi_2 z \in \mathcal{C}^{\infty}(T)$  is +-maximal.

# **Examples**

 $\begin{array}{ll} \oplus & \text{with } W = \{ \emptyset, \{ \ominus, \oplus \} \} \text{ has a winning strategy.} & \ominus & , W = \{ \{ \oplus \} \} \text{ has not.} \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ \ominus & & \oplus \end{array}$ 

 $\ominus \cdots \oplus$  has a winning strategy only if W comprises all configurations.

 $\begin{array}{ccc} \ominus & \cdots & \oplus & \text{the empty strategy is winning if } \emptyset \in W. \\ & \swarrow & \uparrow & \\ & \oplus & \end{array}$ 

#### **Operations on games with winning conditions**

**Dual**  $G^{\perp} = (A^{\perp}, W_{G^{\perp}})$  where, for  $x \in \mathcal{C}^{\infty}(A)$ ,

 $x \in W_{G^{\perp}}$  iff  $\overline{x} \notin W_G$ .

**Parallel composition** For  $G = (A, W_G)$ ,  $H = (B, W_H)$ ,

$$G \| H =_{\mathrm{def}} (A \| B, \ W_G \| \mathcal{C}^{\infty}(B) \cup \mathcal{C}^{\infty}(A) \| W_H)$$

where  $X || Y = \{\{1\} \times x \cup \{2\} \times y \mid x \in X \& y \in Y\}$  when X and Y are subsets of configurations. To win is to win in either game. Unit of || is  $(\emptyset, \emptyset)$ .

# **Derived operations**

**Tensor** Defining  $G \otimes H =_{def} (G^{\perp} || H^{\perp})^{\perp}$  we obtain a game where to win is to win in both games G and H—so to lose is to lose in either game. More explicitly,

$$(A, W_A) \otimes (B, W_B) =_{\text{def}} (A || B, W_A || W_B).$$

The unit of  $\otimes$  is  $(\emptyset, \{\emptyset\})$ .

**Function space** With  $G \multimap H =_{def} G^{\perp} || H$  a win in  $G \multimap H$  is a win in H conditional on a win in G:

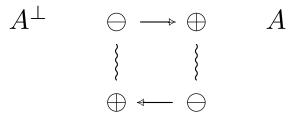
**Proposition** Let  $G = (A, W_G)$  and  $H = (B, W_H)$  be games with winning conditions. Write  $W_{G \multimap H}$  for the winning conditions of  $G \multimap H$ . For  $x \in C^{\infty}(A^{\perp} || B)$ ,

 $x \in W_{G \multimap H}$  iff  $\overline{x_1} \in W_G \Rightarrow x_2 \in W_H$ .

# The bicategory of winning strategies

**Lemma** Let  $\sigma$  be a winning strategy in  $G \multimap H$  and  $\tau$  be a winning strategy in  $H \multimap K$ . Their composition  $\tau \odot \sigma$  is a winning strategy in  $G \multimap K$ .

But copy-cat need not be winning: Let A consist of  $\oplus \dashrightarrow \ominus$ . The event structure  $C_A$ :



Taking  $x = \{\ominus, \ominus\}$  makes x +-maximal, but  $\overline{x}_1 \in W$  while  $x_2 \notin W$ .

A robust sufficient condition for copy-cat to be winning: copy-cat is deterministic. [The Aarhus lecture notes give a necessary and sufficient condition.]  $\rightarrow$  bicategory of games with winning strategies.

# **Two applications**

**Total strategies:** To pick out a subcategory of *total* strategies (where Player can always answer Opponent) within simple games.

**Determinacy of concurrent games:** A necessary condition on a game A for (A, W) to be determined for all winning conditions W: that copy-cat  $\gamma_A$  is deterministic. Not sufficient to ensure determinacy w.r.t. all Borel winning conditions. Think sufficient for determinacy if winning conditions W are *closed* w.r.t. local Scott topology, and in particular for finite games [sketchy proof].

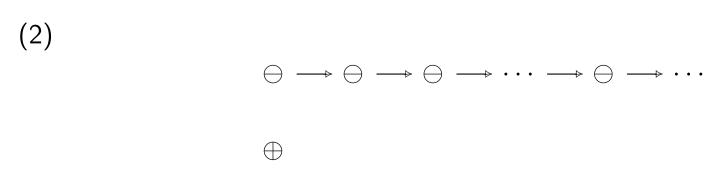
There must be many more!

**Aarhus Lecture notes:** http://daimi.au.dk/~gwinskel/

**A next step:** *back-tracking* in games via "copying" monads in event structures with symmetry.

### **Counterexamples to Borel determinacy**

(1)  $\oplus \cdots \oplus$  with  $W = \{\{\oplus\}\}$ , copy-cat is nondeterministic.



where Player wins iff

Opponent plays finite no. of  $\ominus$  moves and Player does nothing or Opponent plays all  $\ominus$  moves and Player the single  $\oplus$  move.