

Let  $M$  be a structure with universe  $\mathbb{N}$  interpreting some arbitrary language. Let  $U$  be a free ultrafilter on  $\mathbb{N}$ , and  $\prod_U M$  the ultrapower modulo  $U$ .

Let  $A_0, A_1, \dots$  be definable subsets of  $\prod_U M$  such that for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ :

$$\bigcap_{i \leq k} A_i \neq \emptyset. \quad (1)$$

We claim that

$$\bigcap_{i \in \mathbb{N}} A_i \neq \emptyset.$$

*Proof.* For  $i \in \mathbb{N}$  choose a formula  $\varphi_i(x, \bar{y}_i)$  in the language of  $M$  and a tuple  $\bar{\alpha}_i$  of functions from  $\mathbb{N}$  to  $\mathbb{N}$  such that  $A_i$  is defined in  $\prod_U M$  by the formula  $\varphi_i(x, \bar{\alpha}_i/\sim)$ .

Set

$$\varphi'_i(x, \bar{y}'_i) := \bigwedge_{j \leq i} \varphi_j(x, \bar{y}_j).$$

where  $\bar{y}'_i := \bar{y}_0 \cdot \dots \cdot \bar{y}_i$ . Write  $\bar{\alpha}'_i$  for the tuple  $\bar{\alpha}_0 \cdot \dots \cdot \bar{\alpha}_i$ . The set defined by  $\varphi'_i(x, \bar{\alpha}'_i/\sim)$  in  $\prod_U M$  is  $A'_i := \bigcap_{j \leq i} A_j$ , so  $A'_i \neq \emptyset$  by (1), that is,

$$\prod_U M \models \exists x \varphi'_i(x, \bar{\alpha}'_i/\sim). \quad (2)$$

Since  $\bigcap_{i \in \mathbb{N}} A'_i = \bigcap_{i \in \mathbb{N}} A_i$ , it suffices to find  $\gamma : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$\gamma/\sim \in \bigcap_{i \in \mathbb{N}} A'_i.$$

For  $i \in \mathbb{N}$  set

$$\begin{aligned} Y_i &:= \{j \in \mathbb{N} \mid M \models \exists x \varphi'_i(x, \bar{\alpha}'_i(j))\}, \\ X_i &:= \{j \in \mathbb{N} \mid i \leq j\} \cap Y_i. \end{aligned}$$

By (2) and Los' theorem we have  $Y_i \in U$ . Since  $U$  is free,  $\{j \in \mathbb{N} \mid i \leq j\} \in U$ . Hence  $X_i \in U$ . By definition of  $\varphi'_i$  we have  $Y_0 \supseteq Y_1 \supseteq \dots$  and hence

$$X_0 \supseteq X_1 \supseteq X_2 \supseteq \dots$$

and  $\bigcap_{i \in \mathbb{N}} X_i = \emptyset$ . For every  $j \in X_0$  there is a unique  $i_j \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $j$  is in the difference  $X_{i_j} \setminus X_{i_j+1}$ . As  $j \in X_{i_j} \subseteq Y_{i_j}$  we have  $M \models \exists x \varphi'_{i_j}(x, \bar{\alpha}'_{i_j}(j))$ . Choose  $a_j$  such that  $M \models \varphi'_{i_j}(a_j, \bar{\alpha}'_{i_j}(j))$ .

Define the function  $\gamma : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$  setting

$$\gamma(j) := a_j$$

for all  $j \in X_0$ ; on arguments outside  $X_0$  we let  $\gamma$  take some arbitrary value. Then

$$X_{i_j} \subseteq \{k \in \mathbb{N} \mid M \models \varphi'_{i_j}(\gamma(k), \bar{\alpha}'_{i_j}(k))\}.$$

Indeed: if  $k \in X_{i_j}$ , then  $i_k \geq i_j$ ; since  $M \models \varphi'_{i_k}(\gamma(k), \bar{\alpha}'_{i_k}(k))$  by definition of  $\gamma$ , the definition of  $\varphi'_{i_k}$  implies  $M \models \varphi'_{i_j}(\gamma(k), \bar{\alpha}'_{i_j}(k))$ .

Since  $X_{i_j} \in U$ , Los' theorem implies

$$\prod_U M \models \varphi'_{i_j}(\gamma/\sim, \bar{\alpha}'_{i_j}/\sim).$$

We have shown  $\gamma/\sim \in A'_{i_j}$  for all  $j \in X_0$ .

Now let  $i \in \mathbb{N}$  be given. We have to show  $\gamma/\sim \in A'_i$ . We claim that there is  $j \in X_0$  such that  $i_j \geq i$ . Indeed, assuming  $i_j < i$  for all  $j \in X_0$  implies  $j \notin X_{i_j+1} \supseteq X_i$  for all  $j \in X_0$ , and hence  $X_0 \cap X_i = \emptyset$  – a contradiction to  $X_0 \cap X_i \in U$ . So, there exists  $j \in X_0$  such that  $i_j \geq i$ , and hence  $\gamma/\sim \in A'_{i_j} \subseteq A'_i$ .  $\square$