

Real forcing

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The first application of forcing was the consistency proof of $\neg\text{CH}$. The forcing notion that we now call “Cohen forcing” adds a large number (at least \aleph_2) of new reals without collapsing cardinals.

Since then, an almost uncountable number of forcing notions adding reals has been invented (Solovay=random, Sacks=perfect, Miller=superperfect, etc), plus a few methods (product, composition, iteration, amalgamation) of combining these forcing notions.

When designing a forcing notion to solve a specific problem, one usually has to take care of the following two aspects:

1. The forcing notion has to add a new object g (often a real number) satisfying some property X
(as: g is faster, higher, stronger than all reals of the ground model).
2. The forcing notion should not add objects/reals r with some property Y
(such as: r codes a well-order of ω of type ω_1^V , r destroys/trivialises this or that structure from the ground model).

In my tutorial I will give many examples for forcing notions adding reals, and explain why they add reals with some property X , and also (what is often more difficult) why they do not add reals with property Y . An important ingredient in such proofs are “preservation theorems”, i.e., theorems of the form:

Whenever forcing notions P_1, P_2, \dots are of a particularly nice form, then also the product/iteration/etc of these forcings has nice properties.