



# $MM^{++} \Rightarrow (*)$ , part 1

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Hausdorff lecture, Università di Torino, Aug 29, 2022

## Cantor's Continuum Problem



- ▶ Georg Cantor (1873): While there are as many algebraic real numbers as there are natural numbers, there are in total more real numbers than natural numbers.

### Definition

Cantor's Continuum Hypothesis, CH: If  $A \subset \mathbb{R}$  is uncountable, then  $A$  has as many elements as there are real numbers, or:  $2^{\aleph_0} = \aleph_1$ .

Cantor (1878): [...] so fragt es sich, in *wie viel* [...] Klassen die linearen Mannigfaltigkeiten zerfallen, wenn Mannigfaltigkeiten von gleicher Mächtigkeit in eine und dieselbe Klasse, Mannigfaltigkeiten von verschiedener Mächtigkeit in verschiedene Klassen gebracht werden. Durch ein Induktionsverfahren, auf dessen Darstellung wir hier nicht näher eingehen, wird der Satz nahe gebracht, daß die Anzahl der [...] sich ergebenden Klassen [...] eine endliche und zwar, daß sie gleich *Zwei* ist.

► David Hilbert's First Problem (1900): Show that CH is true!

In his talk at the IMC in Paris, Hilbert says: Die Untersuchungen von Cantor über solche Punktmengen machen einen Satz sehr wahrscheinlich, dessen Beweis jedoch trotz eifrigster Bemühungen bisher noch Niemanden gelungen ist; dieser Satz lautet: Jedes System von unendlich vielen reellen Zahlen d. h. jede unendliche Zahlen- (oder Punkt)menge ist entweder der Menge der ganzen natürlichen Zahlen 1, 2, 3, ... oder der Menge sämtlicher reellen Zahlen und mithin dem Continuum, d. h. etwa den Punkten einer Strecke äquivalent [...]

## New Axioms



- ▶ Kurt Gödel (1938): CH cannot be refuted in ZFC.

In 1947, Gödel wrote: [...] one may on good reason suspect that the role of the continuum problem in set theory will be this, that it will finally lead to the discovery of new axioms which will make it possible to disprove Cantor's conjecture.

- ▶ Paul Cohen (1963): CH cannot be proven in ZFC.

In 1966, Cohen wrote: A point of view which the author feels may eventually come to be accepted is that CH is obviously false. [...]  $\aleph_1$  is the set of countable ordinals and this is merely a special and the simplest way of generating a higher cardinal. The set C [the continuum] is, in contrast, generated by a totally new and more powerful principle, namely the Power Set Axiom. It is unreasonable to expect that any description of a larger cardinal which attempts to build up that cardinal from ideas deriving from the Replacement Axiom can ever reach C.

## New axioms, cont'd



Over the years, various sets of natural axioms emerged which decide questions which were left open by ZFC.

- ▶ Large cardinal axioms
- ▶ Determinacy hypotheses
- ▶ Constructibility (from Gödel's  $L$  via core models to Woodin's "ultimate- $L$ ")

## Forcing Axioms



M. Magidor: If a mathematical object can be imagined in a reasonable way, then it exists!

Forcing axioms, or more generally: Maximality principles, try to formalize this approach.

A delicate point: do you want to maximize the  $\Pi_2^{H_{\omega_2}}$  or the  $\Sigma_2^{H_{\omega_2}}$  theory? Can't have both. CH is a  $\Sigma_2^{H_{\omega_2}}$  statement. The situation with respect to  $\Pi_2^{H_{\omega_2}}$  maximality is better understood than the one with respect to  $\Sigma_2^{H_{\omega_2}}$  maximality.

### Definition

Foreman-Magidor-Shelah (1988): Formulated Martin's Maximum, MM, a strengthening of Martin's Axiom, MA: If the forcing  $\mathbb{P}$  preserves stationary subsets of  $\omega_1$  and if  $\mathcal{D}$  is a family of  $\aleph_1$  many sets which are all dense in  $\mathbb{P}$ , then there is a  $\mathcal{D}$ -generic filter.

MM gives many natural answers to questions which are undecidable on the basis of ZFC, e.g.:

- ▶ There is a non-free Whitehead group (Shelah 1974).
- ▶ Kaplansky's Conjecture holds true (Solovay-Woodin 1976).
- ▶ Every automorphism of the Calkin algebra of a separable Hilbert space is inner (Farah 2011).
- ▶ Friedman's Problem (Foreman-Magidor-Shelah 1988).

## Forcing Axioms, cont'd



The classical way to force MM is start with a model of ZFC plus a supercompact cardinal,  $\delta$ , and perform a semi-proper iteration of length  $\delta$ . A reflection principle will hold in the generic extension which verifies full MM. In fact, a strengthening of MM may be arranged to hold in the extension:

### Definition

Foreman-Magidor-Shelah (1988): Martin's Maximum<sup>++</sup>,  $MM^{++}$ : If the forcing  $\mathbb{P}$  preserves stationary subsets of  $\omega_1$ , if  $\mathcal{D}$  is a family of  $\aleph_1$  many sets which are all dense in  $\mathbb{P}$ , and if  $\{\tau_i : i < \omega_1\}$  is a collection of names for stationary subsets of  $\omega_1$ , then there is a  $\mathcal{D}$ -generic filter such that  $\tau_i^g = \{\xi : \exists p \in g \ p \Vdash \xi \in \tau_i\}$  is stationary for each  $i < \omega_1$ .

## The $\mathbb{P}_{\max}$ -axiom (\*)



### Definition

Woodin (1990's): Formulates (\*), a maximality principle for sets of size  $\aleph_1$ : The Axiom of Determinacy holds in  $L(\mathbb{R})$ , and there is a filter  $g \subset \mathbb{P}_{\max}$  which is generic over  $L(\mathbb{R})$  such that  $H_{\omega_2} \subset L(\mathbb{R})[g]$ .

(\*) is complete (in  $\Omega$ -logic) with respect to questions about  $H_{\omega_2}$ :

- ▶  $\delta_2^1 = \omega_2$ .
- ▶  $\psi_{AC}$  and  $\phi_{AC}$ , variants of Friedman's Problem.
- ▶ Admissible club guessing and the club bounding principle.

## The $\mathbb{P}_{\max}$ -axiom $(*)$ , cont'd



- ▶ W.H. Woodin showed that  $(*)$  is  $\Pi_2^{H_{\omega_2}}$  maximal: in the presence of large cardinals, if a given  $\Pi_2^{H_{\omega_2}}$  statement is  $\Omega$  consistent, then that statement is  $\Omega$  provable from ZFC plus  $(*)$ .

The classical way to force  $(*)$  is start with a model of ZF plus  $V = L(\mathbb{R})$  plus AD (the Axiom of Determinacy) and force with  $\mathbb{P}_{\max}$ .

## Competitors or twins?



What about the size of the continuum?

### Theorem

*Foreman-Magidor-Shelah (1988) and Woodin (1990's): Both MM and  $(*)$  imply that  $2^{\aleph_0} = \aleph_2$ .*

MM and  $(*)$  were known to have many consequences in common, but they were also known to not follow from each other.

Open questions since the mid 1990's: What is the relation between MM and  $(*)$ ? Does Martin's Maximum<sup>++</sup>, a further strengthening of MM, imply  $(*)$ ? Can  $(*)$  be forced over a model of ZFC with a large cardinal? Is  $(*)$ , like MM, consistent with all large cardinals?

## A theorem joint with David Asperó



### Theorem

*D. Asperó and R. Schindler (2019): Martin's Maximum<sup>++</sup> implies the  $\mathbb{P}_{\max}$  axiom (\*).*

This result appeared in the May 2021 issue (Volume 193, no. 3, pp. 793-835) of the Annals of Mathematics.

## Proof of the theorem with Asperó

### Proof.

Fix  $A \subset \omega_1$ . Let  $D \subset \mathbb{P}_{\max}$  be dense,  $D \in L(\mathbb{R})$ . By  $\text{MM}^{++}$ , it suffices to show that there is a forcing  $\mathbb{P}$  such that

- ▶  $\mathbb{P}$  preserves stationary subsets of  $\omega_1$ , and
- ▶  $\mathbb{P}$  forces that there is a  $\mathbb{P}_{\max}$  condition  $p \in D^{V^{\mathbb{P}}}$  together with a generic iterate  $p^*$  of  $p$  such that  $a^{p^*} = A$  and  $I^{p^*} = \text{NS}_{\omega_1}^{V^{\mathbb{P}}} \cap p^*$ .

Such a  $\mathbb{P}$  may be constructed as an “ $\mathcal{L}$ -forcing” (partially building upon methods developed by Ronald Jensen). The conditions in  $\mathbb{P}$  give finitely much information about the objects to be added plus information about “virtual side conditions.” □

The entirely new feature is that the side conditions of  $\mathbb{P}$  aren't in the ground model.

## $\Pi_2^{H_{\omega_2}}$ maximality



(\*) is *equivalent* to a schema of  $\Omega$  consistent  $\Pi_2^{H_{\omega_2}}$  statements in the language of set theory augmented by predicates for  $\text{NS}_{\omega_1}$  as well as sets of reals in  $L(\mathbb{R})$ .

Moreover, by our proof, (\*) is in fact - in the presence of large cardinals - also *equivalent* to a bounded form of  $\text{MM}^{++}$ .

Our proof shows that every *honestly consistent* statement which is  $\Sigma_1$  in predicates from  $H_{\omega_2} \cup \{\text{NS}_{\omega_1}\} \cup (\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}) \cap L(\mathbb{R}))$  may be forced by a stationary set preserving forcing.

This might open up a scenario for actually proving Woodin's  $\Omega$  conjecture.

## Extensions of $(*)$



### Definition

Woodin:  $(*)^{++}$ : There is a model  $L(\mathbb{R}, \Gamma)$  of AD and a filter  $g \subset \mathbb{P}_{\max}$  which is generic over  $L(\mathbb{R}, \Gamma)$  such that  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}) \subset L(\mathbb{R}, \Gamma)[g]$ .

Woodin: All the known models of MM violate  $(*)^{++}$ .

Open question: Is  $(*)^{++}$  compatible with MM?

## Duality



Our result connects the two approaches:

- ▶ produce an interesting ZFC model by forcing over a ZFC model with large cardinals, and
- ▶ produce an interesting ZFC model by forcing over a ZF model of determinacy

with one another.

By work of Larson, Sargsyan, Woodin, and others, bounded fragments/implications of  $MM^{++}$  may be forced over determinacy models.

By work of A. Lietz and myself,  $(*)$  may be forced over a model of ZFC plus an inaccessible limit of  $\kappa^{++}$  supercompacts.

Open questions: Can  $MM^{++}$  be forced over a determinacy model? Can  $(*)$  be forced over a ZFC model with an inaccessible limit of Woodin cardinals? Can “ $NS_{\omega_1}$  is  $\omega_1$  dense” be forced over a ZFC model?

## The Continuum Problem



It is an empirical fact that the most sophisticated extensions of ZFC which decide the value of the continuum prove  $2^{\aleph_0} \in \{\aleph_1, \aleph_2\}$ .

### Challenges for future research:

- ▶ Explore “ $V = \text{ultimate-}L$ .”
- ▶ Embed  $\text{MM}^{++}$  into a “complete” theory of  $V$ .
- ▶ Develop well-justifiable theories which prove that  $2^{\aleph_0} > \aleph_2$  and which possibly even produce effective counterexamples to  $2^{\aleph_0} \leq \aleph_2$  or which give pairwise different values to as many entries in Cichoń’s diagram as possible.

144 years after Cantor formulated it, the Continuum Problem remains one of *the* driving forces of set theoretical research.

$MM^{++} \Rightarrow (*)$  (part 2)

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Lecture  
29 August 2022

## A slightly closer look at the theorem

Recall:

Theorem (Asperó-Schindler)

$MM^{++}$  implies  $(*)$ .

$(*)$  is the following conjunction:

- AD holds in  $L(\mathbb{R})$ .
- There is a  $\mathbb{P}_{\max}$ -generic filter  $G$  over  $L(\mathbb{R})$  such that  $L(\mathcal{P}(\omega_1)) = L(\mathbb{R})[G]$ .

$\mathbb{P}_{\max} \in L(\mathbb{R})$  is the forcing notion I will define next.

Given  $\eta \leq \omega_1$ , a sequence  $\langle \langle (M_\alpha, I_\alpha), \mathbf{G}_\alpha, j_{\alpha,\beta} \rangle : \alpha < \beta \leq \eta \rangle$  is a *generic iteration (of  $(M_0, I_0)$ )* iff

- $M_0$  is a countable transitive model of ZFC\* (enough of ZFC).
- $M_0 \models$  “ $I_0$  is a normal ideal on  $\omega_1$ ”.
- $j_{\alpha,\beta}$ , for  $\alpha < \beta \leq \eta$ , is a commuting system of elementary embeddings

$$j_{\alpha,\beta} : (M_\alpha; \in, I_\alpha) \longrightarrow (M_\beta; \in, I_\beta)$$

- For each  $\alpha < \eta$ ,  $\mathbf{G}_\alpha$  is a  $\mathcal{P}(\omega_1)^{M_\alpha} / I_\alpha$ -generic filter over  $M_\alpha$ ,

$$j_{\alpha,\alpha+1} : M_\alpha \longrightarrow \text{Ult}(M_\alpha, \mathbf{G}_\alpha)$$

is the corresponding elementary embedding, and

$$(M_{\alpha+1}, I_{\alpha+1}) = (\text{Ult}(M_\alpha, \mathbf{G}_\alpha), j_{\alpha,\alpha+1}(I_\alpha)).$$

- If  $\beta \leq \eta$  is a limit ordinal,  $(M_\beta, I_\beta)$  and  $j_{\alpha,\beta}$  (for  $\alpha < \beta$ ) is the direct limit of  $\langle \langle (M_\alpha, I_\alpha), \mathbf{G}_\alpha, j_{\alpha,\alpha'} \rangle : \alpha < \alpha' < \beta \rangle$ .

A pair  $(M, I)$  is *iterable* if the models in every generic iteration of  $(M, I)$  are well-founded.

$\mathbb{P}_{\max}$  is the following forcing:

Conditions in  $\mathbb{P}_{\max}$  are triples  $(M, I, a)$ , where

- (1)  $(M, I)$  is an iterable pair.
- (2)  $M \models \text{MA}_{\omega_1}$
- (3)  $a \in \mathcal{P}(\omega_1)^M$  and  $M \models \omega_1 = \omega_1^{L[a]}$ .

Extension relation:  $(M^1, I^1, a^1) \leq_{\mathbb{P}_{\max}} (M^0, I^0, a^0)$  iff

$(M^0, I^0, a^0) \in M_1$  and, in  $M^1$ , there is a generic iteration

$\mathcal{I} = (\langle (M_\alpha, I_\alpha), \mathbf{G}_\alpha, j_{\alpha, \beta} \rangle : \alpha < \beta \leq \eta)$  of  $(M^0, I^0)$  for  $\eta = \omega_1^{M^1}$  such that

- (a)  $j_{0, \eta}(a^0) = a^1$
- (b)  $\mathcal{I}$  is *correct* in  $(M^1, I^1)$ , in the sense that  $j_{0, \eta}(I^0) \subseteq I^1$  and every  $I_\eta$ -positive subset of  $\omega_1^{M_\eta}$  ( $= \omega_1^{M^1}$ ) in  $M_\eta$  is  $I^1$ -positive.

The following is a very rough proof sketch of our theorem:

$\text{MM}^{++}$  implies  $\text{AD}^{L(\mathbb{R})}$  (in fact  $\text{PFA}$  suffices).

Hence, we just need to show, under  $\text{MM}^{++}$ , that  $L(\mathcal{P}(\omega_1)) = L(\mathbb{R})[G]$  for a  $\mathbb{P}_{\max}$ -generic filter  $G$  over  $L(\mathbb{R})$ .

A standard fact:

### Fact

*(Woodin) If  $\text{NS}_{\omega_1}$  is saturated,  $\text{MA}_{\omega_1}$  holds,  $\mathcal{P}(\omega_1)^\#$  exists, and  $A \subseteq \omega_1$  is such that  $\omega_1^{L[A]} = \omega_1$ , then  $\Gamma_A$  is a filter on  $\mathbb{P}_{\max}$  and  $L(\mathcal{P}(\omega_1)) = L(\mathbb{R})[\Gamma_A]$ , where*

- $\Gamma_A$  is the set of  $(M, I, a) \in \mathbb{P}_{\max}$  such that there is a correct iteration of  $(M, I)$  (relative to  $(H_{\omega_2}, \text{NS}_{\omega_1})$ ) sending  $a$  to  $A$ .

Hence, fixing  $A$  as in the Fact, we only need to show that  $\Gamma_A$  meets every dense  $D \subseteq \mathbb{P}_{\max}$  such that  $D \in L(\mathbb{R})$ .

Given such a  $D$ , the set  $X \in L(\mathbb{R})$  of reals coding a member of  $D$  is universally Baire. We even have that for every cardinal  $\kappa$  there is a tree  $T_\kappa$  on  $\omega \times 2^\kappa$  such that

$$p[T_\kappa] = X$$

and

$\Vdash_{\text{Coll}(\omega, \kappa)}$  “  $p[T_\kappa]$  codes a dense subset of  $\mathbb{P}_{\max}$  ”

Hence, it is enough to show that there is a stationary set preserving poset  $\mathcal{P}$  adding a branch  $[x, b]$  through  $T_{\omega_2}$  such that  $x$  codes a  $\mathbb{P}_{\max}$ -condition  $(M, I, a)$  for which there is a correct iteration sending  $a$  to  $A$ .

The forcing  $\mathcal{P}$  we constructed for this can be described as a recursively defined  $\mathcal{L}$ -forcing with side conditions.

$\mathcal{P}$  is  $\mathcal{P}_{\omega_3}$ , for a certain sequence  $\langle \mathcal{P}_\lambda : \lambda \leq \omega_3 \rangle$  of forcing notions.

Given  $\lambda$ ,  $\mathcal{P}_\lambda$  consists of finite amounts of information about a certain configuration,  $\mathcal{C}$ , which we don't know (yet) is realized in a stat. preserving forcing extension of  $V$ , but which we can argue is realized in some outer model, thanks to the fact that

$\Vdash_{\text{Coll}(\omega, \kappa)} \text{“ } p[T_\kappa] \text{ codes a dense subset of } \mathbb{P}_{\max} \text{”}$

The above configuration  $\mathcal{C}$  can be partially described as a branch  $[x, b]$  through  $T_{\omega_2}$  such that  $x$  codes a  $(N, I, b) \in \mathbb{P}_{\max}$  for which there is a correct iteration

$$\mathcal{J} = \langle (N_\alpha, I_\alpha, \mathbf{a}_\alpha) : \alpha \leq \omega_1 \rangle$$

with  $\mathbf{a}_{\omega_1} = A$  and such that in  $N$  there is a  $I$ -correct iteration

$$\mathcal{I} = \langle (M_\xi, I_\xi, \mathbf{a}_\xi) : \xi \leq \omega_1^N \rangle$$

such that the last model  $(M^*, I^*)$  of  $j_{0, \omega_1}^{\mathcal{J}}(\mathcal{I})$  is such that  $(M^*, I^*) = (H_{\omega_2}^V, NS_{\omega_1}^V)$ .

Moreover, in  $\mathcal{C}$  there are also countable models (the side conditions)  $X_{\bar{\lambda}}$ , for some  $\bar{\lambda} < \lambda$ , such that  $\mathcal{C} \cap \mathcal{C}_{\bar{\lambda}}$  is ‘generic’ for  $\mathcal{P}_{\bar{\lambda}}$  over  $X_{\bar{\lambda}}$ . The inclusion of these side conditions is crucially used in the proof that  $\mathcal{P}$  preserves stationary sets and that the generic

$$\langle (N_\alpha^G, I_\alpha^G, \mathbf{a}_\alpha^G) : \alpha \leq \omega_1 \rangle$$

added by  $\mathcal{P}$  is correct in  $V[G]$ .  $\square$

In the above proof, the forcing  $\mathcal{P}$  makes  $H_{\omega_2}^V$  the final model  $M^*$  of a generic iteration  $j : (M, NS_{\omega_1}) \longrightarrow (M^*, NS_{\omega_1}^V)$  of a countable  $M$ . It follows that  $\mathcal{P}$  forces  $\text{cf}(\omega_2^V) = \omega$  (in fact  $j''\omega_2^M$  is cofinal in  $\omega_2^V$ ).

This can be somewhat generalized:

## Namba forcing-like outer models

Given a cardinal  $\lambda \geq \omega_2$ , let  $\text{BMM}^{++}(\text{cf}(\omega))_{<\lambda}$  denote the following natural bounded form of  $\text{MM}^{++}$ :

Let  $\kappa < \lambda$ , let  $X \in H_{\kappa^+}$ , let  $\varphi(x)$  be a  $\Sigma_0$  formula  $\varphi(x, y)$  in the language for  $(H_{\kappa^+}, \in, \text{NS}_{\omega_1})$ , and suppose there is some stationary preserving poset  $\mathbb{P}$

- (1) forcing  $\text{cf}(\mu) = \omega$  for every regular cardinal  $\mu$  such that  $\aleph_1 < \mu \leq \kappa$  and
- (2) forcing  $(V^{\mathbb{P}}, \in, \text{NS}_{\omega_1}^{V^{\mathbb{P}}}) \models (\exists y)\varphi(X, y)$ .

Then there are, in  $V$ , stationarily many  $N \in [H_{\kappa^+}]^{\aleph_1}$  such that  $X \in N$  and such that there is  $Y \subseteq N$  with

$$(H_{\omega_2}, \in, \text{NS}_{\omega_1}) \models \varphi(\pi_N(X), \pi_N \upharpoonright Y),$$

where  $\pi_N$  is the transitive collapse of  $N$ .

(so  $\text{BMM}^{++}(\text{cf}(\omega))_{<\aleph_2}$  is just  $\text{BMM}^{++}$ ).

A variation of the proof of the  $MM^{++} \Rightarrow (*)$  theorem gives that the following enhanced form of  $BMM^{++}(\text{cf}(\omega))_{<\aleph_{\omega_1}}$  follows from  $MM^{++}$ .

## Theorem

(Asperó-Schindler) Suppose  $MM^{++}$  holds. Then the following holds for every uncountable  $\kappa < \aleph_{\omega_1}$ .

Let  $X \in H_{\kappa^+}$ , let  $\varphi(x)$  be a  $\Sigma_0$  formula in the language for  $(H_{\kappa^+}, \in, NS_{\omega_1})$ , and suppose there is, in some collapse extension, an  $\sharp$ -closed transitive model  $W$  (where  $\sharp = \{\langle r, r^\sharp \rangle : r \in \mathbb{R}\}$ ) such that  $H_{\kappa^+}^V \in W$ , such that  $W \models$  “there is a Woodin cardinal above  $(\kappa^+)^V$ ”, and such that

- (1) every stationary subset of  $\omega_1$  in  $V$  is stationary in  $W$ ,
- (2) every  $V$ -regular cardinal  $\mu$  such that  $\aleph_1^V < \mu \leq \kappa$  has countable cofinality in  $W$ , and
- (3)  $(W, \in, NS_{\omega_1}^W) \models (\exists y)\varphi(X, y)$ .

Then there are, in  $V$ , stationarily many  $N \in [H_{\kappa^+}]^{\aleph_1}$  such that  $X \in N$  and such that there is  $Y \subseteq N$  with  $(H_{\omega_2}, \in, NS_{\omega_1}) \models \varphi(\pi_N(X), \pi_N(Y))$ , where  $\pi_N$  is the transitive collapse of  $N$ .

Given a restricted formula  $\varphi(x, y)$  in the language for  $(V; \in, NS_{\omega_1})$  and a set  $X$ , the sentence  $(\exists y)\varphi(X, y)$  is *honestly consistent* in case for every universally Baire set  $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  there is an  $A$ -closed transitive model  $W$  of  $ZFC^*$  in some outer model such that

- (1)  $H_{\omega_2}^V \in W$ ,  $NS_{\omega_1}^W \cap V = NS_{\omega_1}^V$ , and  $X \in W$ , and
- (2)  $(W; \in, NS_{\omega_1}^W) \models (\exists y)\varphi(X, y)$ .

### Definition

$MM^{+,*}$  is the following statement: Let  $\varphi(x, y)$  be a restricted formula in the language for  $(V; \in, NS_{\omega_1})$  and  $X$  be a set such that  $(\exists y)\varphi(X, y)$  is honestly consistent. Then there is a cardinal  $\kappa$  such that  $X \in H_{\kappa^+}$  and the set of  $N \in [H_{\kappa^+}]^{\aleph_1}$  such that  $X \in N$  and such that there is some  $Y \subseteq N$  with  $(H_{\omega_2}, \in, NS_{\omega_1}) \models \varphi(\pi_N(X), \pi_N \upharpoonright Y)$ , where  $\pi_N$  is the transitive collapse of  $N$ , is stationary.

The above theorem shows that a natural fragment of  $MM^{++,*}$  follows from  $MM^{++}$ .

The following is open:

**Question:** Is  $MM^{++,*}$  consistent? Is it equivalent to  $MM^{++}$ ?

## The $(*)$ (or $MM^{++}$ ) picture vs. the CH picture

The following dichotomy was observed by Woodin.

### Theorem

(Woodin) Suppose  $L(\mathbb{R}) \models AD$  and there is a  $\mathbb{P}_{\max}$ -generic filter over  $L(\mathbb{R})$ . Then exactly one of the following holds.

- (1)  $(*)$
- (2)  $CH$

A strong form of  $(*)$ :

### Definition

(Woodin)  $(*)^{++}$  is the following statement: There exists  $\Gamma \subseteq \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R})$  and a filter  $G \subseteq \mathbb{P}_{\max}$  such that

- $L(\Gamma, \mathbb{R}) \models \text{AD}^+$  and
- $G$  is  $L(\Gamma, \mathbb{R})$ -generic and  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{R}) \in L(\Gamma, \mathbb{R})[G]$ .

Woodin has proved that  $(*)^{++}$  fails in all currently known models of  $\text{MM}^{++}$ .

**Question:** Is  $(*)^{++}$  compatible with  $\text{MM}^{++}$ ? Can  $(*)^{++}$  be forced over a ZFC model?

Also:

## Theorem

*(Woodin) Assume the  $\Omega$  Conjecture holds and there is a proper class of Woodin cardinals. Then there is no  $\Omega$ -consistent axiom  $A$  such that*

- (1)  $A$  implies  $MM^{++}(\aleph_1)$  and*
- (2)  $A$  provides, modulo forcing, a complete theory for  $\Sigma_1^2$  sentences.*

Compare this with the well-known result, due to Woodin, that if there is a proper class of measurable Woodin cardinals, then  $CH$  provides, modulo forcing, a complete theory for  $\Sigma_1^2$  sentences.

The following is an important open question in this context.

**Question:** (Steel) Is there any reasonable large cardinal hypothesis relative to which  $\diamond$  is maximal for  $\Sigma_2^2$  sentences consistent with CH (with  $\diamond$ ) modulo forcing? I.e., is it true that if  $\diamond$  holds and  $\sigma$  is a  $\Sigma_2^2$  sentence such that  $\sigma + \text{CH}$  ( $\sigma + \diamond$ ) is forcible, then  $\sigma$  is true?

If the answer were yes, then  $\diamond$  would be complete, modulo forcing, for the  $\Sigma_2^2$  theory; i.e., any two forcing extensions satisfying  $\diamond$  would agree on  $\Sigma_2^2$  sentences.

**Question:** Is it possible, in the presence of large cardinals, to force  $\Sigma_2^2$ -maximality without adding reals?

If the answer is yes, then there are no canonical inner models, as they are currently understood, for the background large cardinal hypothesis.