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A Postmodern Perspective on the Continuum Hypothesis

Fifty years ago, Paul Cohen developed the method of forcing in order to prove that the Continuum Hypothesis isn’t a theorem of ZFC. Cohen’s proof marked the beginning of modern set theory and became the foundation for many of the more elaborate consistency results to come. I will survey some of the mathematics which grew out of Cohen’s proof, explain something about what forcing is, and revisit the Continuum Problem from a modern viewpoint.