PROCEEDINGS OF THE
AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY
Volume 134, Number 6, Pages 1823–1824
S 0002-9939(05)08322-X
Article electronically published on December 2, 2005

A CHARACTERISATION OF $0^\#$ IN TERMS OF FORCING

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(Communicated by Carl G. Jockusch, Jr.)

ABSTRACT. We show that "saturation" of the universe with respect to forcing over L with partial orders on ω_1 is equivalent to the existence of $0^\#$.

If P is a constructible forcing notion, then we say that $G \subseteq P$ is *P-generic* iff G is P-generic over L. The statement that all countable constructible forcings have generics is rather weak, and holds for example in $L[R]$, where R is a Cohen real over L. But it is not possible that all constructible forcings have generics: consider the forcing that collapses ω_1 to ω with finite conditions.

Definition. V is *L-saturated for ω_1-forcings* iff whenever P is a constructible forcing of L-cardinality ω_1 such that for any $p \in P$ there is a P-generic containing p in some ω_1-preserving extension of V, then there is a P-generic in V.

Theorem 1. *The following are equivalent:*
(a) *V is L-saturated for ω_1-forcings.*
(b) *$0^\#$ exists.*

Proof. (a) $\to$ (b) The existence of $0^\#$ is equivalent to the statement that every stationary constructible subset of ω_1 contains a CUB subset (see [2]). Now use the following:

Fact (Baumgartner; see [1]). If X is a stationary constructible subset of ω_1, then there is a forcing $P \in L$ of L-cardinality ω_1 which preserves cardinals over V and adds a CUB subset to X. (P adds a CUB subset of X using "finite conditions".)

(b) $\to$ (a) Assume that $0^\#$ exists, and suppose that P is a constructible forcing of L-cardinality ω_1 such that every condition in P belongs to a generic in an ω_1-preserving extension of V. We will show that there is a P-generic in V. Assume that the universe of P is exactly ω_1. Let P be of the form $t(\vec{i}, \omega_1, \vec{\infty})$, where $\vec{i} < \omega_1 < \vec{\infty}$ is a finite increasing sequence of indiscernibles and t is an L-term. We claim that if $\vec{i} < k_0 < k_1$ are countable indiscernibles and G_{k_0} is P_{k_0}-generic over L, then there is G_{k_1} containing G_{k_0} which is P_{k_1}-generic over L, where $P_k = t(\vec{i}, k, \vec{\infty})$. If not, then player I wins the open game $\mathcal{G}(k_0, k_1, G_{k_0})$, where I chooses constructible dense subsets of P_{k_1} and II responds with increasingly strong conditions meeting

Received by the editors January 4, 2005.
2000 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* Primary 03E40, 03E45, 03E55.
Key words and phrases. Forcing, Silver indiscernibles, constructibility.
This research was supported by Research Project Number P16334-NO5 of the Austrian Foundation for the Support of Scientific Research (FWF). The author thanks David Asperò for posing the question answered here.

these dense sets which are compatible with all conditions in G_{k_0}. The latter is a property of the model $L[G_{k_0}]$. Let $p \in P_{k_0}$ be a condition forcing that I wins $\mathcal{G}(k_0, k_1, G_{k_0})$. Then p forces that I wins $\mathcal{G}(k_2, k_3, G_{k_2})$, where $k_2 < k_3$ are any indiscernibles $\geq k_0$ and G_{k_2} denotes the P_{k_2}-generic. But now let G be a P-generic containing p in an ω_1-preserving extension of V. As G preserves ω_1 over V, there are indiscernibles $k_2 < k_3$ with $k_0 \leq k_2$ such that $G \cap k_2$ is P_{k_2}-generic and $G \cap P_{k_3}$ is P_{k_3}-generic, so clearly player II has a winning strategy in the game $\mathcal{G}(k_2, k_3, G \cap P_{k_2})$, in contradiction to the choice of p.

Now it is easy to build a P-generic: List the countable indiscernibles greater than $\vec{i}$ as $j_0 < j_1 < j_2 < \cdots$ and inductively choose P_{j_α}-generic G_α such that $\alpha < \beta$ implies $G_\alpha \subseteq G_\beta$. At the first step, G_{j_0} is an arbitrary P_{j_0}-generic. By the previous paragraph there is no difficulty at the successor steps, where one extends G_{j_α} to $G_{j_{\alpha+1}}$. At limit stages λ, the P_{j_λ}-genericity of the union G_{j_λ} of the G_{j_α}, $\alpha < \lambda$, follows by indiscernibility. The desired P-generic is the union of the G_{j_α}, $\alpha < \omega_1$. $\square$

Remark. The proof of (a) implies (b) shows that the theorem still holds if "ω_1-preserving extension" is taken to be "ω_1-preserving set-generic extension" in the definition of L-saturation for ω_1-forcings.

Question. Suppose that $0^\#$ exists. Then does part (a) of the theorem hold (in the obvious sense) for constructible ω_1^{+L}-forcings, i.e. constructible P of L-cardinality ω_1^+ of L?

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