

Computer-aided Mathematics: Successes, Advances, and Trust

Marijn Heule

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA, marijn@cmu.edu

Progress in satisfiability (SAT) solving has made it possible to determine the correctness of complex systems and answer long-standing open questions in mathematics. The SAT-solving approach is completely automatic and can produce clever though potentially gigantic proofs. We can have confidence in the correctness of the answers because highly trustworthy systems can validate the underlying proofs regardless of their size.

We demonstrate the effectiveness of the SAT approach by presenting some recent successes, including the solution of the Boolean Pythagorean Triples problem, computing the fifth Schur number, and resolving the remaining case of Keller's conjecture. Moreover, we constructed and validated proofs for each of these results. The second part of the talk focuses on notorious math challenges for which automated reasoning may well be suitable. In particular, we discuss advances in applying SAT-solving techniques to the Hadwiger-Nelson problem (chromatic number of the plane), optimal schemes for matrix multiplication, and the Collatz conjecture.