Report from Dagstuhl Seminar 21371

Integrated Deduction

Edited by

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Abstract -

Logical reasoning plays a key role in fields as diverse as verification and synthesis, programming language foundations, knowledge engineering, and computer mathematics. Logical reasoning is increasingly important in intelligent systems, such as decision support systems, agent programming environments, and data processing systems, where deduction may provide explanation, course of action, and the capability of learning from missing information. Problem formalization in these domains typically involves multiple mathematical theories, knowledge bases, and ontologies, all of which may be very large. Problem solving requires both efficient automation and sophisticated human-machine interaction. The thrust of this seminar was that the key to unleash the power of computerized logical reasoning is *integration*, at different abstraction levels.

This seminar offered a forum to discuss the issues related to integration of deduction in a diverse range of applications. In terms of reasoning procedures, the presence of both theories and quantifiers in problems from many contexts calls for methodologies to integrate state-of-the-art SMT solvers and automated theorem provers. This leads to investigate techniques such as model-based reasoning and semantic guidance, that were presented and discussed at the seminar. Similarly, the integration of inference rules for higher-order reasoning in inference systems that were born for first-order reasoning, such as superposition, was prominent among the topics debated at the seminar. At the architectural level, the sheer difficulty of the problems calls for the integration of provers and solvers into interactive reasoning environments. These range from higher-order proof assistants with background reasoners as hammers, to interactive program verifiers, both widely covered at the seminar in talks and discussions.

The seminar showed how the application of deduction to intelligent systems necessitates the integration of deduction with other paradigms, such as *probabilistic reasoning* and *statistical inferences*. In fact, it emerged from the seminar that even systems that are not natively deductive, such as agent programming environments and industrial tools for ontology-based processing, benefit significantly from the integration of deduction. A clear and shared uptake from the seminar was that *scalability* and *usability* are crucial challenges at all levels of integration. The seminar fully succeeded in promoting the exchange of new ideas and suggestions for future research.

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1 Executive Summary

Maria Paola Bonacina Philipp Rümmer Renate A. Schmidt

This report contains the program and outcomes of the Dagstuhl Seminar 21371 on *Integrated Deduction* that was held at Schloss Dagstuhl, Leibniz Center for Informatics, during September 12–17, 2021. It was the fourteenth in a series of Dagstuhl Deduction seminars held biennially since 1993.

The motivation for this seminar was the following. Automated deduction has developed a wide and diverse range of methods and tools for logico-deductive reasoning. They include SAT solvers, SMT solvers, automated theorem provers, aka ATP systems, proof assistants, aka interactive theorem provers (ITP), as well as libraries of formalized mathematics and formalized knowledge. These methods and tools have found successful application in computing fields as diverse as the analysis, verification, and synthesis of systems, programming language design, knowledge engineering, and computer mathematics. However, no method, tool, paradigm, or even reasoning style can solve all problems, or respond to all demands coming from even a single field of application. Therefore, the next grand challenge for automated deduction is integration.

Integration occurs and is needed at different abstraction levels. Within deduction itself, integration of deductive engines allows us to build more powerful, more flexible, more expressive reasoners, that can solve more problems with fewer resources, meaning not only memory and computing time, but also human time and human expertise, the latter two often being the most precious of resources. Next, deductive reasoners get integrated into other tools, such as automated test generators, verifying compilers, or program synthesizers, just to name a few. Yet another level of integration occurs when logico-deductive reasoning is integrated with other forms of automated reasoning, such as probabilistic reasoning and statistical inference. This leads to the integration of deduction within intelligent systems, such as decision support systems, agent programming environments, and data processing systems. Here deduction may provide explanation, course of action, and the capability of learning from missing information; it may also aid modelling and facilitate agent communication.

The seminar on $Integrated\ Deduction$ successfully covered as many as possible of these integration issues, including:

- Integration of deductive engines into more general automated deductive systems;
- Integration of automated deductive systems into interactive proof assistants;
- Integration of deduction into formal methods tools;
- Integration of deduction for knowledge processing; and
- Integration of deduction into intelligent systems such as agent-based systems.

Furthemore, the seminar investigated a number of key technological and human-related issues, that are largely orthogonal to most integration contexts, affecting both feasibility and deployment of integrated deduction. Examples of such issues are:

- The development of interfaces for integration:
- The generation of continuous feedback during the run of deductive tools, including also information from intermediate or unsuccessful states;

SAT solvers are solvers for satisfiability queries in propositional logic, known as the SAT problem.

² SMT stands for satisfiability modulo theories.

- The reproducibility of results in the presence of tool updates or imposed resource limits (e.g., available computation time or memory) that may introduce non-determinism; and
- Advanced tradeoff's between performance and expressivity as well as between specialization and genericity.

Practical challenges around integrated deductive systems, including collaboration with non-expert users or access to data sets, were also discussed.

The seminar brought together a diverse audience, including both researchers working in deduction and researchers working in neighbouring areas that make use of deduction. Many participants have experience in building, using, and applying systems with integrated deduction.

Following the tradition of the Dagstuhl Seminars on Deduction, most of the program consisted of contributed talks by participants on their research. In this manner, the bottom-up style of the Dagstuhl experience was preserved, allowing for spontaneous contributions as they emerged during the seminar.

However, this seminar was also innovative with respect to tradition, in that it featured five invited tutorials on key topics in integrated deduction. These tutorials were valuable in highlighting the state-of-the-art in the integration of deduction systems and in fomenting discussions on challenges and open problems.

The program also featured a hike in the woods and a social dinner in a nearby village, that helped establishing or strengthtening collaborations.

The following section contains the abstracts for most of the talks and tutorials listed in alphabetical order.

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Maria Paola Bonacina, Philipp Rümmer, and Renate A. Schmidt

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3 Overview of Talks

3.1 Higher-order superposition in action (Tutorial)

Alexander Bentkamp (VU University Amsterdam, NL), Jasmin Christian Blanchette (VU University Amsterdam, NL), and Sophie Tourret (INRIA Nancy - Grand Est - Villers-lès-Nancy, FR & MPI für Informatik - Saarbrücken, DE)

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© Alexander Bentkamp, Jasmin Christian Blanchette, and Sophie Tourret

Joint work of Alexander Bentkamp, Jasmin Blanchette, Simon Cruanes, Sophie Tourret, Petar Vukmirovic, Uwe Waldmann

Main reference Alexander Bentkamp, Jasmin Blanchette, Sophie Tourret, Petar Vukmirovic: Superposition for Full Higher-order Logic. CADE 2021: 396-412

URL https://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-79876-5_23
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Following Blanchette's talk about higher-order superposition, this tutorial delved into higher-order logic topics (syntax, semantics, unification problem), the Zipperposition prover, and the lambda-superposition calculus. To clarify the fine points of the calculus, we ran Zipperposition on actual problems and studied the generated proof diagrams.

3.2 Integrating Optimization Solvers into Proof Assistants

Alexander Bentkamp (VU University Amsterdam, NL)

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Joint work of Avigad, Jeremy

URL https://www.cs.vu.nl/ abp290/pubs/verified_optimization_wip_paper.pdf
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Optimization is used extensively in engineering, industry, and finance, and various methods are used to transform problems to the point where they are amenable to solution by numerical methods. I present progress towards developing a framework, based on the Lean interactive proof assistant, for designing and applying such reductions in reliable and flexible ways.

3.3 Integrating higher-order reasoning into superposition

Jasmin Christian Blanchette (VU University Amsterdam, NL)

I described our journey, in the past five years, from first-order to higher-order superposition, focusing on the key design decisions, including our focus on a graceful generalization and on refutational completeness. I presented the three main milestones along the way and hinted at some ongoing work to optimize the calculus further.

3.4 Semantically-guided goal-sensitive reasoning: theorem proving and decision procedures (Tutorial)

Maria Paola Bonacina (Università degli Studi di Verona, IT)

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Joint work of Maria Paola Bonacina, David A. Plaisted, and Sarah Winkler

Main reference Maria Paola Bonacina and Sarah Winkler. SGGS decision procedures. In Nicolas Peltier and Viorica Sofronie-Stokkermans (Eds.) Proceedings of the 10th International Joint Conference on Automated Reasoning (IJCAR), Paris, France, EU, July 2020. Springer, Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence 12166, 356–374, 2020.

URL https://dx.doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-51074-9_20

SGGS (Semantically-Guided Goal-Sensitive reasoning) is an attractive theorem-proving method for decision procedures, because it generalizes the Conflict-Driven Clause Learning (CDCL) procedure for propositional satisfiability, and it is model-complete in the limit, so that SGGS decision procedures are model-constructing. After summarizing the foundations of SGGS as a theorem-proving method, this tutorial presents recent and ongoing work on SGGS decision procedures for fragments of first-order logic. This includes both negative and positive results about known decidable fragments: for example, SGGS decides the stratified fragment, and hence Effectively PRopositional logic (EPR). SGGS also allows us to discover several new decidable fragments based on well-founded orderings. For most of these new fragments the small model property holds, as the cardinality of SGGS-generated models can be upper bounded, and membership can be tested by applying termination tools for rewriting. A report on experiments with the prototype theorem prover Koala, which is the first implementation of SGGS, closes the presentation.

(SGGS is joint work with David Plaisted; SGGS decision procedures are joint work with Sarah Winkler, who is the author of Koala).

3.5 Proofs in SMT (Tutorial)

Pascal Fontaine (University of Liège, BE)

Joint work of Barbosa, Haniel; Blanchette, Jasmin; Fleury, Mathias; Schurr, Hans-Jörg

Main reference Hans-Jörg Schurr, Mathias Fleury, Haniel Barbosa, and Pascal Fontaine, "Alethe: Towards a generic SMT proof format (extended abstract)," CoRR, abs/2107.02354, 2021.

URL https://dx.doi.org/10.4204/EPTCS.336.6

Proofs have an increasing importance for automated reasoning, and in particular for integration of deduction engines. In this talk, we present our efforts to produce detailed, checkable proofs in the context of SMT solving. This includes producing proofs for the underlying SAT solver, the various theories, quantifier instantiation and formula processing. We conclude by a short introduction to the Alethe concrete format, an attempt at a versatile, easy to use proof format, in the philosophy of the SMT-LIB format.

This talk mentions the work of many, including Haniel Barbosa, Jasmin Blanchette, Mathias Fleury, and Hans-Jörg Schurr.

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3.6 AProVE as a Platform for Integrated Deduction

Carsten Fuhs (Birkbeck, University of London, GB)

Joint work of Aschermann, Cornelius; Baudon, Thaïs; Brockschmidt, Marc; Emmes, Fabian; Frohn, Florian; Fuhs, Carsten; Giesl, Jürgen; Gonnord, Laure; Hensel, Jera; Otto, Carsten; Plücker, Martin; Schneider-Kamp, Peter; Ströder, Thomas; Swiderski, Stephanie; Thiemann, R

Main reference Jürgen Giesl, Cornelius Aschermann, Marc Brockschmidt, Fabian Emmes, Florian Frohn, Carsten Fuhs, Jera Hensel, Carsten Otto, Martin Plücker, Peter Schneider-Kamp, Thomas Ströder, Stephanie Swiderski, René Thiemann Analyzing Program Termination and Complexity Automatically with AProVE Journal of Automated Reasoning 58(1):3-31, 2017.

URL https://doi.org/10.1007/s10817-016-9388-y

This talk addresses the following points:

- How does AProVE use other deduction tools? (SAT/SMT solvers, tools for termination and complexity analysis for specific formats, compilers, proof checkers, ...)
- How do other deduction tools use AProVE? (Proof checkers, Knuth-Bendix completion tools, higher-order termination analysis tools, ...)
- Work in Progress: Using Complexity Bounds for Automated Scheduling (joint work with Thais Baudon and Laure Gonnord)

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3.7 From MCSAT to CDSAT and beyond

Stéphane Graham-Lengrand (SRI - Menlo Park, US)

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Joint work of Maria Paola Bonacina, Natarajan Shankar, Dejan Jovanovic, Bruno Dutertre
Main reference Maria Paola Bonacina, Stéphane Graham-Lengrand, Natarajan Shankar. Conflict-Driven
Satisfiability for Theory Combination: Transition System and Completeness. J. Autom. Reason.

64(3): 579-609 (2020) URL https://doi.org/10.1007/s10817-018-09510-y

We present the model-constructing satisfiability approach (MCSAT) to SMT-solving, and illustrate it with the theory of linear arithmetic. We then describe an abstract framework for integrating multiple reasoning modules, called CDSAT for Conflict-Driven Satisfiability, which in particular generalizes MCSAT, CDCL(T), and the equality sharing scheme for disjoint theory combination. CDSAT comes with soundness, completeness, and termination results based on the individual reasoners satisfying appropriate conditions. We discuss proof production for the UNSAT answers of CDSAT. We also present a new algorithm that leverages conflict-driven reasoning to solve quantified satisfiability problems for complete theories; this was implemented in the form of the YicesQS solver, which entered the SMT competition in the BV and NRA logics.

3.8 Efficient local reductions to basic modal logic

Ullrich Hustadt

Joint work of Fabio Papacchini, Cláudia Nalon, Clare Dixon

Main reference Fabio Papacchini, Cláudia Nalon, Ullrich Hustadt, Clare Dixon: Efficient Local Reductions to Basic Modal Logic. CADE 2021: 76-92, 2021.

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We present the model-constructing satisfiability approach (MCSAT) to SMT-solving, and illustrate it with the theory of linear arithmetic. We then describe an abstract framework for integrating multiple reasoning modules, called CDSAT for Conflict-Driven Satisfiability, which in particular generalizes MCSAT, CDCL(T), and the equality sharing scheme for disjoint theory combination. CDSAT comes with soundness, completeness, and termination results based on the individual reasoners satisfying appropriate conditions. We discuss proof production for the UNSAT answers of CDSAT. We also present a new algorithm that leverages conflict-driven reasoning to solve quantified satisfiability problems for complete theories; this was implemented in the form of the YicesQS solver, which entered the SMT competition in the BV and NRA logics.

3.9 Conjecture Synthesis, Lemma Discovery and Reasoning

Moa Johansson (Chalmers University of Technology - Göteborg, SE)

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Joint work of Solrun Halla Einarsdottir, Nicholas Smallbone

Main reference Moa Johansson and Nicholas Smallbone. Conjectures, Tests and Proofs: An Overview of Theory Exploration. Invited paper, Proceedings of 9th Workshop on Verification and Program Transformation, 2021.

Formulating interesting novel conjectures about a new problem domain is a key component of mathematical reasoning. How could this be done by a machine? It is neither a purely deductive problem, nor is it easily solved by data driven machine learning methods. Theory exploration is a technique which tries to address this problem, by combining heuristic search over possible terms, with automated testing to evaluate terms and form equational conjectures. A key for tractability is to start with smaller and more general terms, and exclude any terms

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which can be reduced by already discovered ones. We demonstrate the QuickSpec system for conjecture generation, and its combination with several theorem provers through the TIP-interface.

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3.10 Using Deduction within Methods for Non-Standard Reasoning in Description Logics

Patrick Koopmann (TU Dresden, DE)

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Joint work of Del-Pinto, Warren; Schmidt, Renate; Tourret, Sophie; Haifani, Fajar; Baader, Franz; Kriegel, Francesco; Nuradiansvah, Adrian

Main reference Patrick Koopmann, Warren Del-Pinto, Sophie Tourret, Renate A. Schmidt: Signature-Based Abduction for Expressive Description Logics. KR 2020: 592-602

URL 10.24963/kr.2020/59

Central reasoning tasks for description logic ontologies such as consistency testing, subsumption checking and classification require deductive reasoning, in the sense that logical consequences from an ontology have to decided or computed. In addition to these standardreasoning tasks, non-deductive reasoning is useful for many applications of ontologies such as in diagnosis, privacy, as well as for debugging and managing large complex ontologies. Examples for those non-standard reasoning tasks include abduction, repair, module extraction and forgetting, but also proof generation in the absence of a reasoning calculus. While not directly deduction problems, methods for solving these tasks often use deduction internally. We look at a class of such methods where deduction is used to saturate a set of sentences. That means, in order to solve a non-standard reasoning task, we first translate part of the problem into an appropriate logic, compute all entailments within some class of logical sentences, and then use the saturated set of sentences to compute the solution to our problem. Often, the challenge is to define such a class of sentences that is both bounded by the input and sufficient for constructing the solution, since otherwise our method would either not terminate or produce an incomplete solution. We illustrate this by presenting three examples of such methods, two for solving variants of abduction in description logics [1, 2], and one for ABox repair and anonymization [3], including both published results and current research, which integrate different deduction systems such as the theorem prover SPASS, the datalog engine VLog, as well as a newly developed calculus dedicated to the problem at hand.

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3.11 Verified Proof Checkers

Magnus Myreen (Chalmers University of Technology - Göteborg, SE)

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Joint work of Jared Davis, Yong Kiam Tan, and many others

Main reference Yong Kiam Tan, Marijn J. H. Heule, and Magnus O. Myreen. cake_lpr: Verified Propagation

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URL https://cakeml.org/

In this talk, I described my work on program verification and particularly my focus on proving functional correctness down to the machine code that runs the programs, including for proof checkers. I have worked on and have supervised work on several checkers, but only talked about (1) my old work on proving end-to-end correctness of Jared Davis's Milawa prover, and (2) recent work on a LPR/LRAT checker for UNSAT proofs. My talk included a description of the CakeML project, which was the context of (2). I used demos to show what the tools look like when running.

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3.12 On reasoning about multisets (Tutorial)

Ruzica Piskac

When reasoning about container data structures that can hold duplicate elements, multisets are the obvious choice for representing the data structure abstractly. However, the decidability and complexity of constraints on multisets has been much less studied and understood than

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for constraints on sets. In this presentation, we outline an efficient decision procedure for reasoning about multisets with cardinality constraints. We describe how to translate, in linear time, multisets constraints to constraints in an extension of quantifier-free linear integer arithmetic, which we call LIA*. LIA* extends linear integer arithmetic with unbounded sums over values satisfying a given linear arithmetic formula. We show how to reduce a LIA* formula to an equisatisfiable linear integer arithmetic formula. However, this approach requires an explicit computation of semilinear sets and in practice it scales poorly even on simple benchmarks. We then describe a recent more efficient approach for checking satisfiability of LIA*. The approach is based on the use of under- and over-approximations of LIA* formulas. This way we avoid the space overhead and explicitly computing semilinear sets. Finally, we report on our prototype tool which can efficiently reason about sets and multisets formulas with cardinality constraints.

3.13 Constrained Horn Clauses in Verification: 11 Years later

Philipp Rümmer (Uppsala University, SE)

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Constrained Horn Clauses (CHC) have over the last decade emerged as a uniform framework for reasoning about different aspects of software safety. CHCs form a fragment of first-order logic, modulo various background theories, in which models can be constructed effectively with the help of model checking algorithms. In the talk I have given an overview of CHCs, including their use in program verification and the recently established competition CHC-COMP [2, 1]. I have then presented some of our work on the development of CHC solvers that can handle relevant theories such as integers, bit-vectors, and ADTs [3], and outlined challenges remaining in the area.

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3.14 Development and integration of deduction for the medical ontology SNOMED CT

Renate Schmidt (University of Manchester, GB)

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In my presentation I talked about our experiences and ongoing work in a Partnership with SNOMED Intl to develop be bespoke content extraction software for the medical ontology SNOMED CT. SNOMED CT is a large knowledge base of standardised, precise definitions of clinical terms and medical codes for use in health care systems in many countries. It has long been an aim to have the capability to compute smaller self-contained extracts of the ontology that are restricted to a narrow focus, for example, kidney diseases, dentistry or nursing practice. Such subontologies would make it easier to reuse and share content, to assist with new ontology creation, quality assurance, ontology update and debugging. In addition, reasoning tasks such as querying and classification take less time to execute over a smaller extract than over the original ontology. Our subontology builder takes as input a set of focus concepts, which could be a reference set that the user is interested in, and generate a subontology that can be used in place of SNOMED CT in a specific application. The idea is that the subontology equivalently captures the semantics of these focus concepts and their relationship to other concepts in a certain abstracted form. Because the subtype relationships between concepts are so important for SNOMED enabled search in patient data, a further requirement is that, the concept hierarchy over the focus and supporting concepts in SNOMED CT must be included in the subontology. Subontologies computed for a collection of standard lists of clinical concepts and reference sets for specialities can be viewed in the new subontology browser here:

https://iaa.snomed.tools

and compared with SNOMED CT here:

https://browser.ihtsdotools.org/

The research was undertaken in EPSRC IAA Project 290 funded by the UK EPSRC, the University of Manchester and IHTSDO.

3.15 Tackling Commonsense Reasoning Problems with a First-Order Logic Reasoner

Claudia Schon (Universität Koblenz-Landau, DE)

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 Joint work of Schon, Claudia; Furbach, Ulrich; Krämer, Teresa

Main reference Ulrich Furbach, Teresa Krämer, Claudia Schon: Names Are Not Just Sound and Smoke: Word Embeddings for Axiom Selection. CADE 2019: 250-268

This talk reports on our experiences using a first-order logic reasoner to solve commonsense reasoning benchmark problems like the Choice of Plausible Alternatives (COPA) Challenge. Most approaches in this area rely on pre-trained language models and do not use reasoning. In contrast, we combine a deductive theorem prover with large background knowledge bases

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and machine learning. Since these background knowledge bases represent a very large amount of knowledge from a wide variety of domains, they cannot be used by the reasoner as a whole. Selection methods are used to select suitable background knowledge for a specific task. In the area of commonsense reasoning, these selection methods can benefit from the integration of statistical techniques such as word embeddings. We show that incorporating word embeddings into the selection process enables the selection of background knowledge that is thematically appropriate to a commonsense reasoning task. This approach is implemented and we present experimental results.

3.16 Deduction as a Service

Stephan Schulz (Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg - Stuttgart, DE)

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    Joint work of Mohammed Hassona, Stephan Schulz
    Main reference Mohamed Hassona, Stephan Schulz: "Deduction as a Service". PAAR@IJCAR 2016: 32-40
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Traditionally, problems for automated theorem provers were small, tightly specified, and often with long, complicated proofs. In contrast, many more recent problems are automatically generated from large artefacts, or posed over large common-sense or mathematical knowledge bases, but often with rather simple and short proofs.

In these cases, the total time for a proof attempt is often dominated by the overhead of parsing and premise selection. Offering deduction over a large, persistent knowledge base as a service can amortise this overhead, reducing the time of single proof attempts to a level acceptable even for interactive use.

I describe the architecture of such a system, some of the practical challenges, and the state of the art so far.

3.17 Integrating Machine Learning into Saturation-based ATPs (Tutorial)

Martin Suda (Czech Technical University - Prague, CZ)

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    Main reference Martin Suda: Improving ENIGMA-style Clause Selection while Learning From History. CADE 2021: 543-561.
    URL https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-79876-5_31
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Applying the techniques of machine learning (ML) promises to dramatically improve the performance of modern automatic theorem provers (ATPs) and thus to positively impact their applications. The most successful avenue in this direction explored so far is machine-learned clause selection guidance, where we learn to recognize and prefer for selection clauses that look like those that contributed to a proof in past successful runs. In this talk I present Deepire, an extension of the ATP Vampire where clause selection is guided by a recursive neural network (RvNN) for classifying clauses based solely on their derivation history.

3.18 On what is wrong with higher-order SMT and what we are doing to fix it

Sophie Tourret (INRIA Nancy - Grand Est - Villers-lès-Nancy, FR & MPI für Informatik - Saarbrücken, DE)

Recent work has extended ground SMT solvers to higher-order logic (HOL), but SMT solving has yet to show its full power in HOL. It remains to lift quantifier instantiation algorithms to perform higher-order unification. As a consequence, widely used instantiation techniques, such as trigger- and particularly conflict-based instantiation, can only be applied in a limited manner. Congruence closure with free variables (CCFV) is a decision procedure for the E-ground (dis-)unification problem, which is at the heart of these instantiation techniques. Here, as a first step towards fully supporting trigger- and conflict-based instantiation in HOL, we define the E-ground (dis-)unification problem in λ -free higher-order logic (λ fHOL), an extension of first-order logic where function symbols may be partially applied and functional variables may occur, and extend CCFV to solve it. To improve scalability in the context of handling higher-order variables, we rely on a SAT encoding of the CCFV search. We present a solution reconstruction procedure so that the propositional models lead to solutions for the respective E-ground (dis-)unification problem. This is instrumental to fully port trigger- and conflict-based instantiation to be fully applied in λ fHOL.

3.19 Linear-Time Verification of Data-Aware Dynamic Systems with Arithmetic

Sarah Winkler (University of Verona, IT)

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Counter systems have been investigated in formal methods, database theory, and AI. Though model checking of such systems is undecidable since two-counter machines can be simulated, different decidable classes have been discovered by restricting the constraint language and/or the control flow. This talk presents a new, abstract criterion for the decidability of linear-time verification of such systems, called finite summary, which guarantees the existence of a faithful finite-state abstraction. We demonstrate that several decidability conditions studied in formal methods and database theory can be seen as concrete, checkable instances of this property. To this end, we exploit results from SMT, and automated reasoning in general. Finally, we show how the finite summary property leads to modularity results: a system enjoys finite summary if it can be partitioned appropriately into smaller systems that possess the property. Our results allow us to analyze systems that cannot be handled by earlier approaches.