

Databases of problems, algorithmic contests and Openmath

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30 July 2021

¹Partially Supported by EPSRC Grant EP/T015713/1

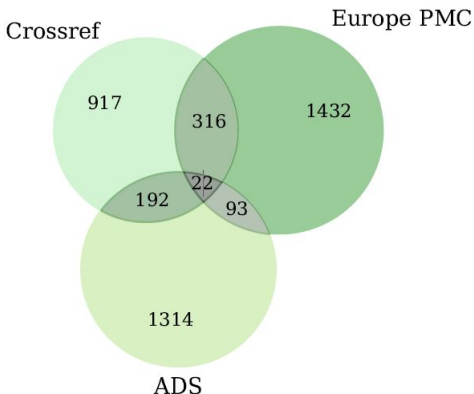
Plan of Talk

See also [Dav21]

- ① Important Collections in Pure Mathematics
- ② Important Test Suites in SAT/SMT
- ③ The Lack of Test Suites elsewhere in algebra
- ④ Way Forward?

Data Citation

- Is a mess in practice [vdSNI⁺19]: only 1.16% of dataset DOIs in Zenodo are cited (and 98.5% of these are self-citation).
- Is poorly harvested: [vdSNI⁺19, Figure 5].



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- Is poorly harvested: [vdSNI⁺19, Figure 5].
- Is still a subject of some uncertainty: [MN12, KS14]
- Changes are still being proposed [DPS⁺20]
- *de facto* people cite a paper if they can find one.

Important Databases in Pure Mathematics: Examples

OEIS Online Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences [Slo03];

Long time at `http:`

`//www.research.att.com/~njas/sequences`; now
at `https://oeis.org/`.

- * Recommended citation: “N. J. A. Sloane, editor, The On-Line Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences, published electronically at `https://oeis.org`, [date]”.



But you have to search the website to find it!

Group Theory (as an example)

- The Classification of Finite Simple Groups
- The Transitive Groups acting on n points: [BM83] ($n \leq 11$); [Roy87] ($n = 12$); [But93] ($n = 14, 15$); [Hul96] ($n = 16$); [Hul05] ($17 \leq n \leq 31$); [CH08] ($n = 32$).
- These are in GAP (and MAGMA), except that $n = 32$ isn't in the default build.
- + These are a really great resource (if that's what you want)
 - How do you cite them? “[The21, GAP transgrp library]”?
 - Not clear how to re-use them elsewhere

Also Other libraries such as primitive groups



Group Theory is “easy”: for a given n there are a finite number and we “just” have to list them.

SAT Solving

SAT solving, normally seen as solving a Boolean expression written in CNF. Given a 3-literals/clause CNF satisfiability problem,

$$\underbrace{(l_{1,1} \vee l_{1,2} \vee l_{1,3})}_{\text{Clause 1}} \wedge (l_{2,1} \vee l_{2,2} \vee l_{2,3}) \wedge \cdots \wedge (l_{N,1} \vee l_{N,2} \vee l_{N,3}),$$

where $l_{i,j} \in \{x_1, \bar{x}_1, x_2, \bar{x}_2, \dots\}$, is it satisfiable? In other words, is there an assignment of $\{T, F\}$ to the x_i such that all the clauses are *simultaneously* true.

3-SAT: the quintessential NP-complete problem [Coo66]. 2-SAT is polynomial, and k -SAT for $k > 3$ is polynomial-transformable into 3-SAT. In practice we deal with SAT — i.e. no limitations on the length of the clauses.

Let n be the number of i such that x_i (and/or \bar{x}_i) actually occur. Typically n is of a similar size to N .

SAT Solving

Despite being NP-complete, nearly all examples are easy (e.g. [KS00]),

either easily solved (SAT) or easily proved insoluble (UNSAT) and for random problems there seems to be a distinct phase transition between the two: [GW94, AP04, AP06].

This means that constructing difficult examples is itself difficult, and a research area in itself: [Spe15, BC18].

SAT solving has many applications, so we want effective solvers for “real” problems, not just “random” ones.

Fundamental question: what does this mean?

SAT Contests: <http://www.satcompetition.org>

Been run since 2002. In the early years, distinct tracks for Industrial/Handmade/Random problems: this has been abandoned. The methodology is that the organisers accept submissions (from contestants and others), then produce a list of problems (in a standard format) and set a time (and memory) limit, and see how many of the problems the submitted systems can solve on the contest hardware.

SAT is easy to certify (just produce a list of values), UNSAT is much harder, but since 2013 the contest has required proofs of UNSAT for the UNSAT track, and since 2020 in all tracks, in DRAT: a specified format (some have been $> 100\text{GB}$).

The general feeling is that these contests have really pushed the development of SAT solvers, roughly speaking $\times 2/\text{year}$. For comparison, Linear Programming has done $\times 1.8$ over a greater timeline, and precisely measured [Bix15].

SMT: life beyond SAT

Consider a theory T , with variables y_j , and various Boolean-valued statements in T of the form $F_i(y_1, \dots, y_n)$, and a CNF with $F_i(y_1, \dots, y_n)$ rather than just x_i .

Then the SAT/UNSAT question is similar (\exists values of $y_i \dots$), and the community runs SMT Competitions

(<https://smt-comp.github.io/2020/>), but a separate track for each theory, as the problems will be different.

The SMTLIB format [BFT17] provides a standard input format.

UNSAT is in general unsolved (but see [KAED21] for one approach).

There is substantial progress in SMT-solving over the years, possibly similar to SAT.

Computer Algebra: where are we

Obviously, Group Theory (etc.) are part of computer algebra: what about the rest?

In general the problems have a bad worst-case complexity, and we want effective solvers for “real” problems, not just “random” ones. The question is “what does this mean?”.

Format No common standard. We do have OpenMath [BCC⁺17], but it's not as widely supported as we would like.

Contests None. Could SIGSAM organise them?

Problem Sets No independent ones. Each author chooses his own.

Archive Not really.

Polynomial g.c.d.

- NP-hard (for sparse polynomials, even univariate) [Pla84].
- Can be challenging for multivariates
- No standard database: trawl previous papers (and often need to ask the authors)



Verification is a challenge: one can check that the result is a *common divisor*, but verifying *greatest* is still NP-hard [Pla84].

Polynomial Factorisation

- Polynomial-time for dense encodings [LLL82], presumably NP-hard for sparse.
- No standard database: trawl previous papers (and often need to ask the authors)



Verification is a challenge: one can check that the result is a *factorisation*, but checking completeness (i.e. that these factors are irreducible) seems to be as hard as the original problem.

- ? With probability 1, a random polynomial is irreducible, so what are the *interesting* problems?

Gröbner Bases

- Doubly exponential (w.r.t. n) worst-case complexity [MR13], even if a prime ideal [Chi09].
- + There is a collection [BM96]
 - Very old (1996) and completely static.
- - Some examples only in PDF.
- ? No concept of UNSAT, but it's not clear what a certificate might mean.

Real Algebraic Geometry (CAD)

- Doubly exponential (w.r.t. n) worst-case complexity [BD07]
- + There is a collection [Wil14]
- Somewhat old (2014) and completely static.
- ✓ The DEWCAD project [BDE⁺21] might update this, but still issues of long-term conservation.
- ? Format: text, Maple and QEPCAD
- ? No concept of UNSAT (but see [KAED21]), but it's not clear what a certificate might mean.

Integration

- Complexity is essentially unknown (but certainly involves g.c.d., factorisation etc.)
- A new question here is the “niceness” of the output.
- “Paper” mathematics produced large databases, e.g. [GR07].
 - PDF, and the devil to scan.
- Current best database is described in [JR10].
- Algorithm-based software (e.g. [Dav81]) has an internal proof of UNSAT, but I know of no software that can exhibit it.

OpenMath

is the obvious system-neutral language. Questions:

Format XML/binary/Popcorn?

JHD I suggest we made them available in all formats and let natural selection decide.

Output format Good question. Allow all?

N.B. These should all be $O(1)$ equivalent if optimally implemented, but this process may well flush out some non-optimal implementations.

Startup costs Good point: CA systems tend to be expensive compared with SAT, at least. Might be worth checking how SMT contests work.

Checking the answer

- ① Good question, and probably depends on the problem.
- ② Answers are often “unique up to” (order, units, etc.)
- ③ It may well be necessary (at least in the short term), for the problem author to provide the answer (or a fingerprint: e.g. “ f has four non-trivial factors”)
- ④ Particularly challenging for integration

Certificates

Not an area that computer algebra has really considered.

g.c.d. This is the *greatest* common divisor

factor These factors *actually are* irreducible

Gröbner This is correct

\int Especially for “unintegrable”.



Can we encode these in OpenMath? Do we need more/better “proof” CDs etc.

Conclusions

- 1 The field of computer algebra really ought to invest in the sort of contests that have stimulated the SAT and SMT worlds.
 - 2 This requires much larger databases of “relevant” problems than we currently have, and they need to be properly curated.
 - 3 Should push OpenMath technology.
- + Technology, e.g. wikis, or GitHub, has greatly advanced since [BM96].
- 4 This would allow much better benchmarking technology [BDG17].

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