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Herbrand Award

CADE 2007

Alan Bundy informatics University of Edinburgh



The DReaMers (Discovery and Reasoning in Mathematics)

- Characterised by combination of AI and theoretical computer science.
- Formed in mid 70s.
- Current 'Platform Grant'
 - Spread over 4 Universities:
 - Edinburgh, Heriot Watt, Imperial, Liverpool.
- Long standing collaborations with:
 - Saarbrücken, Genoa, Trento, Darmstadt, Birmingham, Cambridge, Austin, etc.

What We DReaM About

- Computational analysis, development, interaction and application of mathematical reasoning processes.
- Processes include: meta-level reasoning, proof planning, proof patching, analogy, symmetry, abstraction, reflection, diagrams, learning, formalisation, interfaces, concept/conjecture formation.
- Applications to formal methods, mathematical aids, semantic web, etc.
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Example 1: Proof Planning & Hiproofs



Example 2: Planning and Diagnosis

- Proof plan failure can be exploited productively
 - Analyse the form of failure.
 - Suggest patch to proof plan.
- For instance, Rippling critics suggest:
 - Change of induction rule;
 - Intermediate lemma;
 - Generalisation of theorem;
 - Case split.



Example 3: Repairing Ontologies

- Failure may be in signature rather than theory,
 - i.e requiring change of functions, arities, types, etc,
 - e.g. heat \mapsto energy + temperature.
- ORS repairs signatures to react to planning failures.

- Multi-agent world
- Plan actions executed by cooperating agents.
- Failure due to agents' mismatching ontologies.

Some Continuing & Future DReaMs

- Theory planning: proof planning applied at theory level.
- Proof engineering: managing large proof construction, maintenance and exploration.
- Hiproofs: tool for top-down development of proofs.
- Applications to APIs/protocols, exception freedom and pointer programs.
- Reasoning about representational change.



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And my wife Josie ⁸

What were they laughing at?



