

The Reasoning and Optimization Theme

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The University of Manchester

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- 1 Why Automated Reasoning?
- 2 Why Optimization?
- 3 General practical remarks

Reasoning



Reasoning is the main ingredient of any intellectual activity.

The main challenge: how to automate the reasoning process.

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Automated Reasoning

- What is Reasoning? Solving problems by syntactic manipulations.

Software: Does your program access unallocated memory?

Math: Does this equation $(xy)^{-1} = y^{-1}x^{-1}$ hold in all groups?

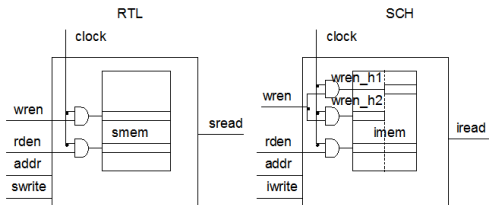
Knowledge management:

Can we represent and analyse all available knowledge about human body?

Automated reasoning: can we solve all these problems automatically?

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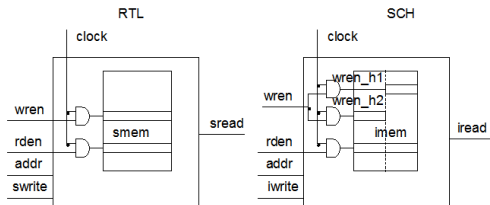
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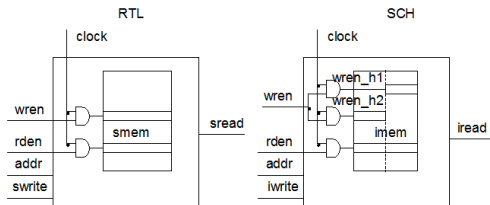
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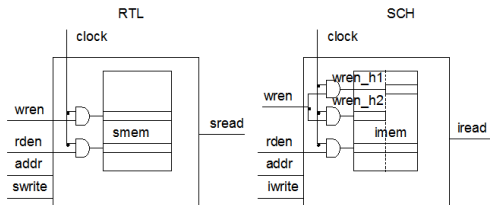
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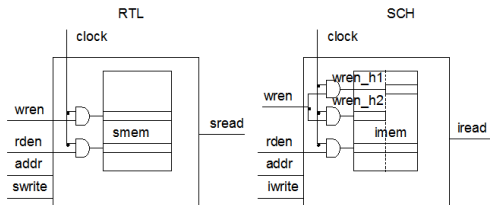
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Applications of automated reasoning

Applications:

- software and hardware verification: Intel, Microsoft
- information management: biomedical ontologies, semantic Web, databases
- combinatorial reasoning: constraint satisfaction, planning, scheduling
- Internet security
- Theorem proving in mathematics



John McCarthy

“It is reasonable to hope that the relationship between computation and mathematical logic will be as fruitful in the next century as that between analysis and physics in the past.”

McCarthy, 1963.

Manchester: world leading in logic and reasoning

■ Theory:

- first-order reasoning
- resolution, superposition, instantiation, tableaux, linear arithmetic
- ontology reasoning

■ Applications:

- software/hardware verification
- semantic Web, bio-health
- multi-agent systems

■ Reasoning systems developed in our School:

- **iProver** – an instantiation-based reasoner for first-order logic won major of awards at CASC championships.
- **Vampire** – a superposition-based reasoner for first-order logic, won major awards at CASC championships.
- **MSPASS** – a resolution/superposition based reasoner SPASS extended with reasoning with modal logics.
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This course is focused on **efficient automated reasoning**.

This course is **self-contained** but assumes that students are comfortable with **mathematical notions**.

Syllabus:

- **Propositional logic**: syntax, semantics, CNF transformation
DPLL algorithm: unit propagation, backjumping, lemma learning
- **First-order logic**: syntax, semantics, Skolemization, resolution, Bachmair-Ganzinger model construction, redundancy elimination
 - How to prove all mathematical theorems using only two rules?
 - How to make reasoning efficient: redundancy elimination ?
 - What is inside a theorem prover ?
- **Applications**: verification of transition systems, LTL, bounded model checking

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Assessment

Exam: 50%

Closed book, 2 hours, choose 3 out of 4 questions

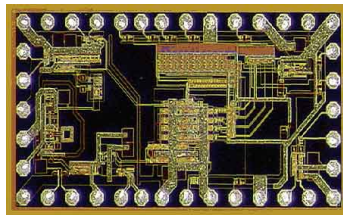
Coursework and lab: 50%

Assessed and unassessed exercises: pen and paper

Labwork involving

- SAT solvers
- first-order reasoning systems

Why Optimization?

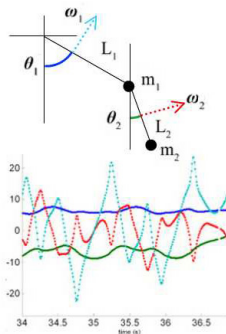


...we recognize efficiency, strength, compactness in these designs. How can we mechanize the design process?

Why Optimization?

- It means finding *the best*; a fundamental aim in all human endeavour
- Optimization saves and makes money; underpins engineering; helps organize, manage and plan; supports machine learning; solves problems
- Computers can do it *fast*
- It is deeply linked with Reasoning by the structure of problems
- It is philosophically linked with mathematics, intelligence, computation, e.g., through the theory of NP-completeness

Optimization in Machine Learning



$$L_1^2(m_1+m_2)\omega_1^2 + m_2L_2^2\omega_2^2 + m_2L_1L_2\omega_1\omega_2\cos(\theta_1 - \theta_2) - 19.6L_1(m_1+m_2)\cos\theta_1 - 19.6m_2L_2\cos\theta_2$$

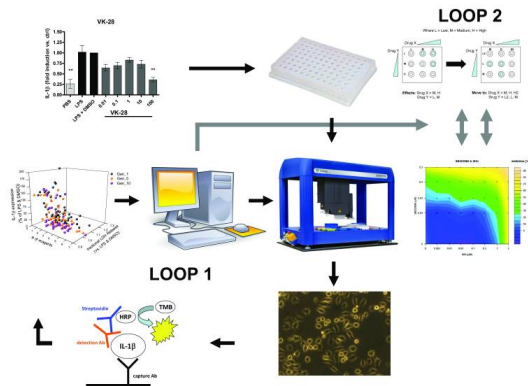
**Hamiltonian of a double pendulum
discovered by computer**

Computer Derives Physical Laws by Itself

In 2009, Cornell researchers, Schmidt and Lipson, used an *optimization method* based on advanced *symbolic regression* to “discover” physical laws automatically from motion data. (*Science*, 2009)



Optimization in Machine Learning



Researchers at **Manchester** in 2011, developed optimization techniques to discover combination therapies to treat brain inflammation, a major factor in Alzheimer's and other diseases. (*Nature Chemical Biology*, 2011)

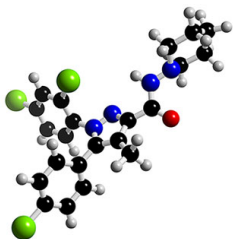
Optimization in Planning



The Hubble Space Telescope is a scarce resource.

Advanced optimization algorithms are used to schedule time on the telescope, sharing the resource between different groups and taking account of *constraints*

Optimization Saves Money



IcoSystem (a US optimization and complexity science company) set out to improve drug development processes at Eli Lilly.

'Compared to a standard 40 months and roughly £25 million, ...[we] reached the same amount of technical success in a year and a day with a total expenditure on the order of £2.7 million.' –Neil Bodick, COO, Eli Lilly Chorus

Optimization in Problem Solving

What is the minimum number of moves (from here) to obtain a solved cube?

What about from ANY configuration?



The course aims to give you a *practical* grounding

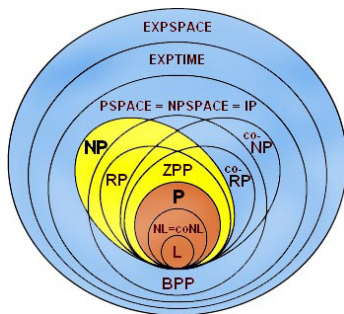
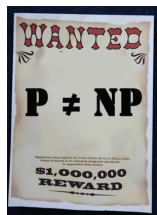
You will learn

How to approach a wide variety of problems, and how to develop *your own code* to solve them

You will understand some of the most general and flexible optimization algorithms, and how and why they work

What You Will Learn 2

Some important and interesting mathematical theory behind the practice



This links optimization fundamentally to computation and the notion of *complexity*

How You Will Learn It

- Answering thought-provoking questions (often not assessed)
- Doing LAB work, where YOU MUST CODE for yourself
- Running experiments in LABs where you test and compare methods

Note:

I don't mind what programming language you use. Common choices are C, Java, C++. Python is OK, but it can be slow. MATLAB is not so suitable.

Some code is given to you in C, so it is best if you can at least read C.

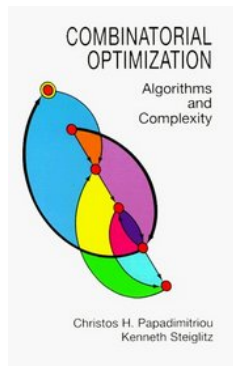
Structure of the Course

- Week 1: Introduction to Optimization
Problems: from MAX-SAT to TSP to Optimal Betting
Basic exact methods: Enumeration and Greedy
- Week 2: Branch-and-Bound
Complexity/NP-Completeness
- Week 3: Dynamic Programming
Stochastic DP Problems
- Week 4: Evolutionary Algorithms and Local Search
- Week 5: Multiobjective Optimization

Assessments:

1st Lab (two weeks)	Packing a Knapsack with Applications in Finance	10%
2nd Lab (one week)	Hospital Resource Management, Stochastic Games	10%
3rd Lab (one week)	Assigning Students to Projects (Project 'Dating')	10%
4th Lab (one week)	Multiobjective Maximum Satisfiability (MAXSAT-ONE)	10%
Examination	Multiple Choice plus 2 Questions from 4 (2 hours)	60%

The Course Text



Costs about £14. Copies available in School and University Library.

Theme outline

Semester 2

Period	Course units
P3	COMP60332 – Automated Reasoning and Verification Konstantin Korovin, Renate Schmidt
P4	COMP60342 – Optimization for learning, planning and problem-solving Joshua Knowles

Teaching day: Friday

Lectures: 2.15

Some advice on choosing themes

The R&O theme can be combined with any other theme

Has no prerequisites, no pre/co-requisite to any theme

It goes well with these themes

- Advanced Web Technologies
- Data Engineering
- Learning from Data
- Managing Data
- Parallel Computing in the Multi-Core Era
- Security
- Software Engineering 1-2

Core theme in: Semantic Technologies, Data and Knowledge Management and Artificial Intelligence pathways

Finally...

■ Contacting us

If you are unsure about your theme selection do contact us, either in our offices or send us an email

Joshua Knowles	Room G13, j.knowles@manchester.ac.uk
Konstantin Korovin	Room 2.40, korovin@cs.man.ac.uk
Renate Schmidt	Room 2.42, schmidt@cs.man.ac.uk

■ Up-to-date details

See timetable and course unit descriptions on the web

See also separate webpages for individual course units and

Blackboard: contain additional material such as slides, links to tools, etc.