

The Automated-Reasoning Revolution: From Theory to Practice and Back

For the past 40 years computer scientists generally believed that NP-complete problems are intractable. In particular, Boolean satisfiability (SAT), as a paradigmatic automated-reasoning problem, has been considered to be intractable. Over the past 20 years, however, there has been a quiet, but dramatic, revolution, and very large SAT instances are now being solved routinely as part of software and hardware design.

In this talk I will review this amazing development and show how automated reasoning is now an industrial reality.

I will then describe how we can leverage SAT solving algorithms to accomplish other automated-reasoning tasks. Counting the number of satisfying truth assignments of a given Boolean formula or sampling such assignments uniformly at random are fundamental computational problems in computer science with applications in software testing, software synthesis, machine learning, personalized learning, and more. While the theory of these problems has been thoroughly investigated since the 1980s, approximation algorithms developed by theoreticians do not scale up to industrial-sized instances. Algorithms used by the industry offer better scalability, but give up certain correctness guarantees to achieve scalability. We describe a novel approach, based on universal hashing and Satisfiability Modulo Theory, that scales to formulas with hundreds of thousands of variables without giving up correctness guarantees.

The talk is accessible to a general CS audience.



Moshe Y. Vardi is the Karen Ostrum George Distinguished Service Professor in Computational Engineering at Rice University. He is the recipient of the ACM SIGACT Goedel Prize and ACM SIGMOD Codd Award, and author / co-author of over 500 papers and two books. He is a member of the US National Academy of Engineering, and National Academy of Science, and European Academy of Science. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the Communications of the ACM.

Date & Time

1st September 2016

6.30 pm to 7.30 pm

Venue

Lecture Theatre 31

Block S16, Level 3, 6 Science Drive 2,
Singapore 117546

FREE ADMISSION

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