A shift of paradigm

The council of Sages



L'Open-source rend Sage : l'informatique au service des mathématiques

Open-source educates future Sages: Computers as a tool for mathematicians



2 A shift of paradigm

- Computer assisted proofs
- Computer generated examples



The unique feature that sets mathematics apart from other sciences, from philosophy, and indeed from all other forms of intellectual discourse, is the use of rigorous proof.

> Steven G. Krantz 2007

A bit of history

300 BCE Euclid structures the thought process.



Figure: Logical derivation

A bit of history ...

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Figure: Logical derivation

 \rightarrow 19th **c.** Mathematics are being used throughout Europe. Establishing the soundness of this school of thought becomes necessary.

Two attempts



- David Hilbert (1862–1943) is the last mathematician to be proficient in "all" fields of mathematics. Bertrand Russel and Kurt Gödel disproved his approach.
- Nicolas Bourbaki (1935–) rewrites the entirety of mathematics. Their proofs omit no detail and are based on elementary constructions. They are however weakened by the absence of drawings and examples.

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A META defining apparition



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The first example

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- Proved with the use of a computer in 1976 by Kenneth Appel and Wolfgang Haken.
- In 1981, a Ulrich Schmidt noticed a mistake in their proof. It was corrected in the following two weeks.
- Forced mathematicians to face the inevitable questions about a relevant use of computers in research.

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- Leave the computer assisted part as a black box and not say anything about it. Unreasonable, the arguments cannot be convincing.
- Provide the algorithm. Not convincing, the implementation could contain mistakes.
- Provide the entire code.

 \longrightarrow This calls for open-source software that supplies mathematical tools.

Only a handful of topics in mathematics have researchers that do not use computer generated examples as a tool in their research. They can be used for these reasons:

• Geometric approximation

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- Give credit to a conjecture

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General picture

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- If a computer generated counter example or the conclusion to a proof is used, yes !
- For scientific collaboration, yes !
- For strategic reasons, maybe not ??

My research is at the intersection between *Group Theory* and *Combinatorics on Words*. One of the results I found can be stated as follows :

Theorem (Leroy, Gheeraert, S.)

The rank of the return groups of eventually dendric word admits an upper bound fixed by the complexity of the shift.

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The use of open-software was necessary to the discovery of the theorem.

Introduction to SageMath

SageMath (or Sage) is an open-source software aiming to be an alternative Maple, Mathematica or MATLAB released in 2005. It cover a wide variety of mathematical subjects. The development of Sage is collaborative work by volunteers.



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2 "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/
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4 <html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/
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- Ability to read code.
- Every addition to Sage is reviewed.
- Mistake correction.
- Quick to evolve.

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Thank you for your attention