

Re: Mathematical cartoons (related to simplification)

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.math/2005-06/msg01712.html>

- *From:* "James Hess" <mysidia@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 11 Jun 2005 13:00:28 -0700
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Ignoramus15359 wrote:

- > I wrote a system that could display a process of simplification of a
- > math formula as an animation/cartoon. It is targeted towards children.
- >
- > Example is at
- > <http://www.algebra.com/services/rendering/regression.mpl>
- >
- > The idea is that it will be used for my free tutoring system. Any
- > tutor explaining a math problem or writing a lesson, could easily
- > write a simple expression that would draw a "math cartoon". It is already
- > working, actually.
- >
- > As I said, it already works. Some feedback will be appreciated.
- >
- > This will, eventually, be a part of the simplifier that I am writing,
- > but right now it will be used by humans solving problems manually and
- > wanting their solution to be fun and good looking.

I think it is pretty neat. More interaction would be good though:
since people read pages at different speed, who knows what that
animated GIF is showing when they finally reach it.

Also each display may not last the right amount of time...
it runs so fast that many people, particularly the beginners
such an application would target might not get to see what is
going on before the display changes.

I agree.. It'd be nice to let the user control when it starts
and how fast it goes.

It might also be useful to you to have your system be able to
draw a red arrow to the box and supply a short english sentence in
a bubble describing which principles are going to be applied
in this step to the boxed-in text.. or how multiple elements will be
combined, etc.

–Mysid

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