

Re: JSH: Learning consensus

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- *From:* "Jesse F. Hughes" <jesse@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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jstevh@xxxxxxx writes:

Computer science people can listen with amazement as mathematicians and other math people go on and on about how computers can't comprehend mathematics, knowing what I know, computers can do it—but math people don't want to be checked objectively.

James, this is just a plain lie and you know it.

A mathematical proof expressed in formal logic is easy to verify by computer.

Proofs written in natural language, like the kind published in books and papers, cannot be verified by a computer at this date.

Mathematicians don't write purely formal proofs because they are tedious and very, very difficult to read. Proofs are supposed to instruct and purely formal proofs are very bad at this.

Translating natural language proofs to formal proofs is slow and tedious and must be done by hand at present.

If you can find any computer scientist who claims that he has a program that can translate the proofs in a mathematics text into formal proofs, then verification will be simple. But this task is not for mathematicians. It is computer scientists (and linguists) who know about translating natural language to formal language.

Jesse F. Hughes

"Dead men can't talk. Especially when they've been cremated."

--- From the 1944 radio program "Adventures By Morse"

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