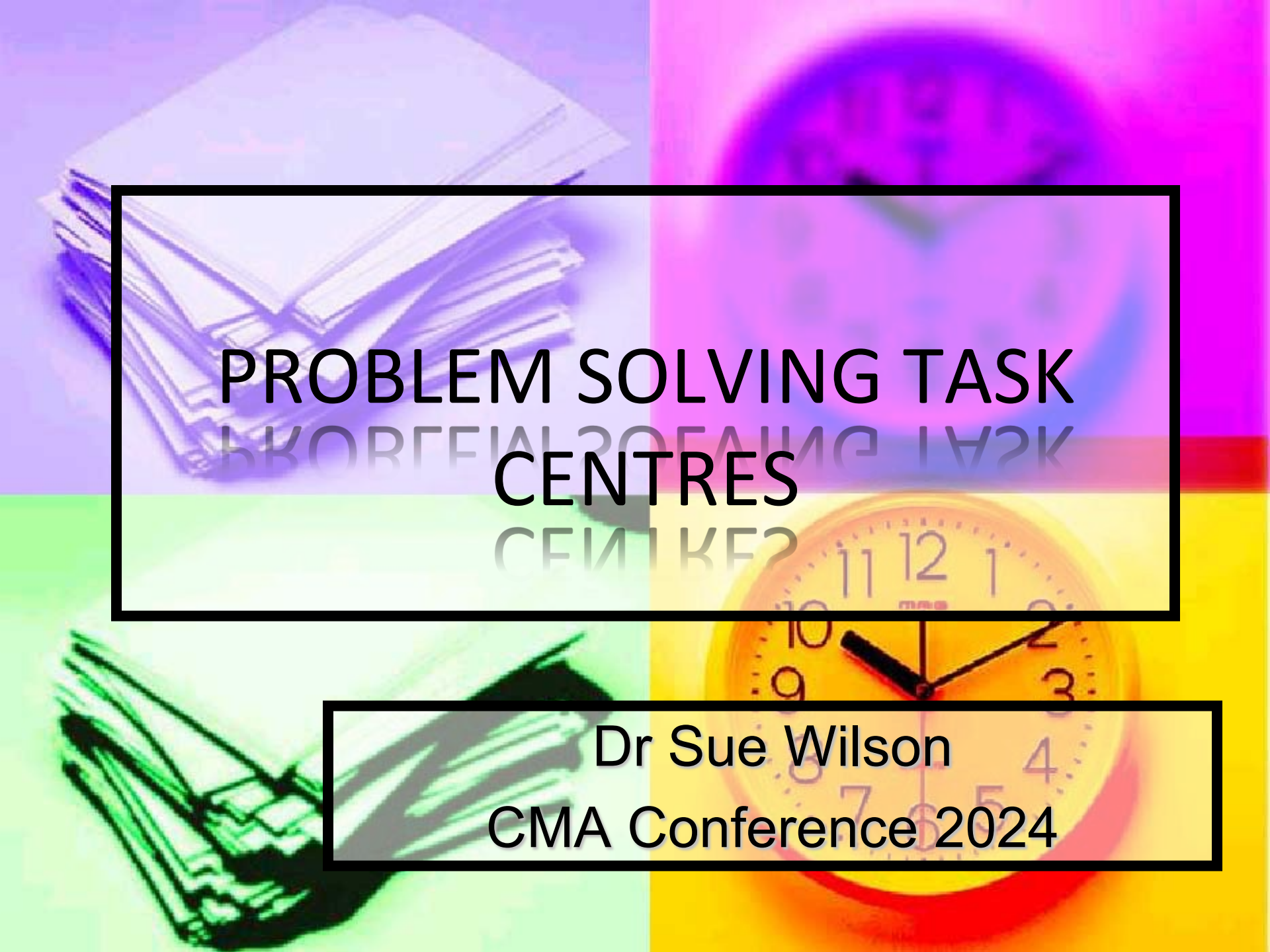
The background is a collage of three images: a stack of papers on the left, a clock in the top right, and a pen in the bottom left. The text is centered in a white box with a black border.

PROBLEM SOLVING TASK CENTRES

The background is a collage of three images: a stack of papers on the left, a clock in the top right, and a pen in the bottom left. The text is centered in a white box with a black border.

Dr Sue Wilson
CMA Conference 2024

Common misconceptions about problem solving

- There is only one right answer
- There is only one correct method
- There is always an answer
- Memorising methods saves having to understand
- It is too hard
- It is (and always will be) irrelevant to me
- Problems should be solved quickly
- Problems should be solved alone



Maths Tasks

- A Maths Task is a package containing a problem on a card and some simple concrete materials which can be used to solve at least the first part of the problem.



A Maths Task Centre

- is a collection of maths tasks.
- Maths task centres provide a structured and manageable way for teachers to introduce problem solving.



History of Task Centres

- The first Task Centre was started by Neville de Mestre and Bea Duncan at Campbell Primary School in March 1977. Enthusiastic teachers integrated tasks into their classroom and the Mathematics Task Centre Project collected 100 of these tasks to become the first published kit. The project distributed a growing range of tasks and support resources. Eventually almost half a million tasks were distributed world-wide.



Etask package

- After 2017 ready-made tasks were no longer produced, but a package was developed to support teachers to make their own tasks. From the eTask package, tasks, playing boards, print materials, manuals, PD notes, and slides can be downloaded.





Etasks

- ETasks are distributed through the Mathematics Task Centre, managed by Black Douglas Professional Education Services

<http://mathematicscentre.com/taskcentre/>

The website also provides information about the tasks, further resources, teacher stories of their classrooms and a table showing how the Tasks link to Maths 300.

News – contact Doug to subscribe



Selecting tasks

- a task can be used for students to work individually, in pairs, or for an investigation with the whole class
- a task can be extended by the use of a further investigation sheet into a deeper investigation
- Maths300

Designing your own tasks

- selecting the tasks
- it is important to consider the choice of concrete materials to include.
- keep concrete materials simple; the focus should be on the problem



Contact

- Sue Wilson
- sue8wilson52@gmail.com

