

LLMs and [in]formal mathematics

Daniel Fried, with slides from Sean Welleck

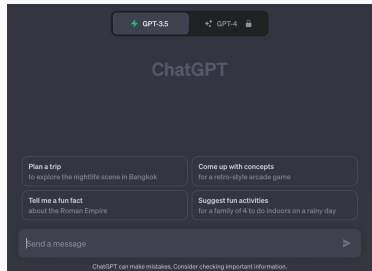
Nov 25, 2025

Carnegie Mellon University

Foundation models and large language models (LLMs)

Platform for sequence generation

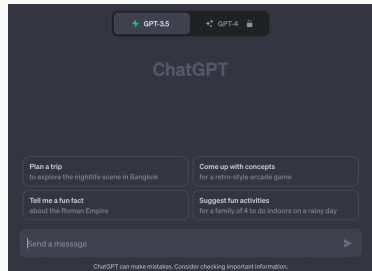
- Summarize documents
- Generate code from a screenshot
- ...



Foundation models and large language models (LLMs)

Core idea:

- Collect diverse data
- Train generative model
- Adapt to tasks (e.g., prompting)



Foundation models in expert domains

LLMs in expert domains

- Finance
- Medicine
- [Mathematics](#)

¹See, e.g. Harvard New Technologies in Mathematics: 1/2021 (Christian Szegedy), 3/2022 (Stan Polu), 10/2022 (Guy Gur-Ari), 10/2023 (Alex Gu), 12/2023 (Katherine Collins), ...;

Foundation models in expert domains

LLMs in expert domains

- Finance
- Medicine
- **Mathematics**
 - Solve problems
 - Open-ended dialogue
 - Help generate verified proofs
 - ...

¹See, e.g. Harvard New Technologies in Mathematics: 1/2021 (Christian Szegedy), 3/2022 (Stan Polu), 10/2022 (Guy Gur-Ari), 10/2023 (Alex Gu), 12/2023 (Katherine Collins), ...;

“Informal” mathematics

Math as raw data (text, images, ...)

- Flexible
- Useful (e.g., in education)
- No correctness guarantees

Input:

Let r be a root of $x^2 + 5x + 7 = 0$. Compute $(r - 1)(r + 2)(r + 6)(r + 3)$.

LLEMMA 34B solution:

We have

$$\begin{aligned}(r - 1)(r + 2)(r + 6)(r + 3) &= (r^2 + r - 2)(r^2 + 9r + 18) \\&= r^4 + 10r^3 + 25r^2 + 19r - 36 \\&= r^4 + 5r^3 + 7r^2 + 5r + 7 + 5r^3 + 20r^2 + 14r - 36 \\&= r^4 + 5r^3 + 25r^2 + 19r - 29 \\&= (r^2 + 5r + 7)(r^2 + 4r - 5) \\&= (0)(r^2 + 4r - 5) \\&= \boxed{0}.\end{aligned}$$

Final Answer: The final answer is 0.

Figure 1: Language model solution.

Math as source code

- Write a specification (e.g., $1+1=2$)
- Write a proof
- **Automatically checked**
 - Code compiles $\equiv$ correct proof

$$1 + 1 = 2$$

proof ✓

```
lemma one_plus_one_equals_two:
  "shows "1 + 1 = 2"
proof -
  have "1 + 1 = Suc (0 + 1)" by simp
  also have "... = Suc 1" by simp
  also have "... = 2" by simp
  finally show ?thesis by simp
qed
```

Figure 2: Math as source code.

Math as **source code**

- Write a specification (e.g., $1+1=2$)
- Write a proof
- **Automatically checked**
 - Code compiles $\equiv$ correct proof

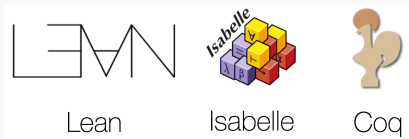


Figure 3: Theorem proving languages

If $R \subseteq S$ and $S \subseteq T$ then $R \subseteq T$



How is formal math used in practice?

Growing use in mathematics:

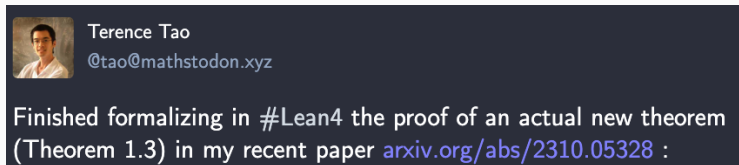


Figure 4: Terence Tao's Lean formalization project (October 2023)

How is formal math used in practice?

Growing use in mathematics:

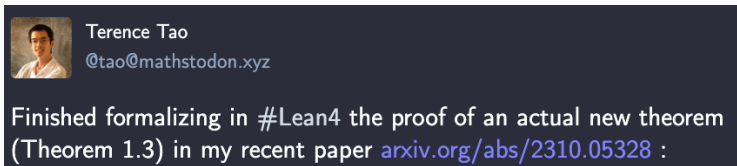


Figure 4: Terence Tao's Lean formalization project (October 2023)

- **Lean Mathlib** project: 1+ million lines of code, 300+ contributors
- **Courses** at CMU, Imperial College London, Fordham, JHU, ...
- **New journal (2024):** *Annals of Formalized Mathematics*

How is formal math used in practice?

Why?¹

- Collaboration
- Instant feedback
- Correctness guarantees
- ...

¹See e.g., *Mathematics and the formal turn*, AFM Aims and Scope

Why is AI $\cap$ formal math important?

LLMs for formal math

- Automate proofs
- Translate informal to formal
- Suggest strategies
- ...

Why is AI $\cap$ formal math important?

Formal math for LLMs

- **Verifiable**
 - Prevent incorrect math and code generation
 - Feedback signal for learning

Why is AI $\cap$ formal math important?

Formal math for LLMs

- **Verifiable**
 - Prevent incorrect math and code generation
 - Feedback signal for learning
- Tests **reasoning**
 - From easy: $1+1 = 2$
 - To hard: Fermat's Last Theorem
(<https://github.com/ImperialCollegeLondon/FLT>)

Why is AI $\cap$ formal math important?

Formal math for LLMs

- **Verifiable**
 - Prevent incorrect math and code generation
 - Feedback signal for learning
- Tests **reasoning**
 - From easy: $1+1 = 2$
 - To hard: Fermat's Last Theorem
(<https://github.com/ImperialCollegeLondon/FLT>)
- Complementary **tools**
 - Computer algebra, SAT/SMT solvers, ...
 - Rule-based automation, ...

And still far from being “solved” (April 2024)...

Generative Language Modeling for Automated Theorem Proving

Stanislas Polu
OpenAI
spolu@openai.com

Ilya Sutskever
OpenAI
ilyasu@openai.com

Figure 5: *gpt-f* (2020)

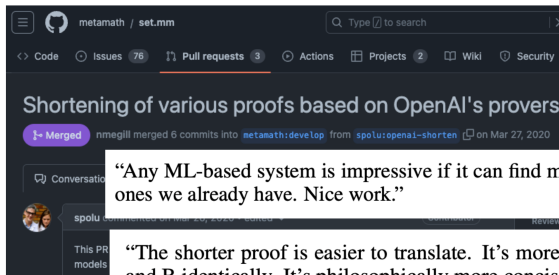


Figure 6: *gpt-f* (2020)



Terence Tao

@tao@mathstodon.xyz

Finished formalizing in #Lean4 the proof of an actual new theorem (Theorem 1.3) in my recent paper arxiv.org/abs/2310.05328 :

The ability of Github copilot to correctly anticipate multiple lines of code for various routine verifications, and inferring the direction I want to go in from clues such as the names I am giving the theorems, continues to be uncanny.

Figure 7: Terence Tao's Lean formalization project (October 2023)

1. Intro: Foundation models $\cap$ mathematics

- Informal and formal mathematics
- Why is formal mathematics important?

2. Part I: Step-level theorem proving

- Data, training, proof search, evaluation, tool

3. Part II: Formalization

- Via translation and guidance

4. Part III: Whole-proof generation

- Goedel Prover, Seed Prover

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Two approaches to LLM theorem proving

Step-level approaches

- Predict next tactic/step
- Use tree search (e.g., best-first)
- Iterative: state $\rightarrow$ step $\rightarrow$ new state
- Examples: Tutorial, ReProver, LLEMMA

Whole-proof generation

- Generate complete proof end-to-end
- Can use verifier feedback for correction
- Compatible with chain-of-thought reasoning
- Examples: Goedel Prover, Seed Prover

PART I:

Step-level theorem proving

Build a [L]LM proving tool²

Topic	Notebook
0. Intro	notebook
1. Data	notebook
2. Learning	notebook
3. Proof Search	notebook
4. Evaluation	notebook
5. Context	notebook
6. LLMLean tool	notebook

Interactive notebooks and code: github.com/cmu-l3/ntptutorial-II

²Update of *Tutorial on neural theorem proving*, IJCAI 2023, github.com/wellecks/ntptutorial

Build a [L]LM proving tool³

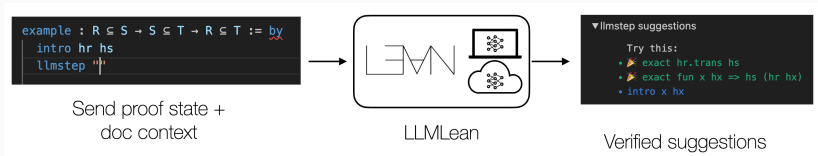
Artifacts:

Name	Huggingface
Data: mathlib extractions	l3lab/ntp-mathlib
Data: instructions (state-tactic)	l3lab/ntp-mathlib-instruct-st
Data: instructions (+context)	l3lab/ntp-mathlib-instruct-ctx
Model: state-tactic	l3lab/ntp-mathlib-st-deepseek-coder-1.3b
Model: +context	l3lab/ntp-mathlib-context-deepseek-coder-1.3b

Datasets and models on Huggingface: <https://huggingface.co/l3lab>

³Update of *Tutorial on neural theorem proving*, IJCAI 2023, github.com/wellecks/ntptutorial

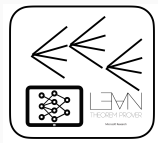
Build a [L]LM proving tool⁴



⁴Update of *Tutorial on neural theorem proving*, IJCAI 2023, github.com/wellecks/ntptutorial

Next-step (tactic) prediction

- Language model suggests next-proof-steps
- Generate a full proof via tree search



¹E.g., [Polu & Sutskever 2020], [Han et al 2021], [Jiang et al 2022], [Yang et al 2023]

- Model: $p_{\theta}(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x}; \mathcal{D})$
 - $\mathbf{y}$: output sequence
 - $\mathbf{x}$: input sequence
 - θ : parameters (e.g., transformer)
 - $\mathcal{D}$: dataset

Language models

- Model: $p_{\theta}(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x}; \mathcal{D})$
 - $\mathbf{y}$: output sequence
 - $\mathbf{x}$: input sequence
 - θ : parameters (e.g., transformer)
 - $\mathcal{D}$: dataset
- Learning:
 - $\arg \max_{\theta} \sum_{\mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{D}} \log p_{\theta}(\mathbf{y})$

- Model: $p_{\theta}(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x}; \mathcal{D})$
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- Model: $p_{\theta}(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{x}; \mathcal{D})$
 - $\mathbf{y}$: output sequence
 - $\mathbf{x}$: input sequence
 - θ : parameters (e.g., transformer)
 - $\mathcal{D}$: dataset
- Learning:
 - $\arg \max_{\theta} \sum_{\mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{D}} \log p_{\theta}(\mathbf{y})$
- Inference:
 - $\mathbf{y} = f(p_{\theta}(\cdot|\mathbf{x}))$
 - f : e.g., sampling

Problem setup

Proof: sequence of (state, step)

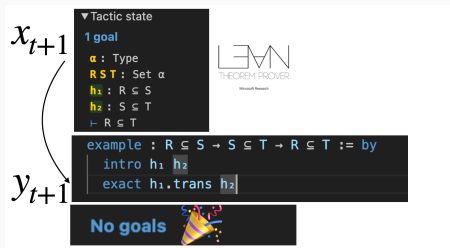
- $(x_0, y_0), \dots, (x_T, y_T)$
- x_t : proof state from Lean
- y_t : proof step (“tactic”)



Problem setup

Proof: sequence of (state, step)

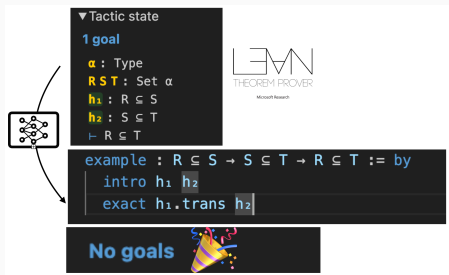
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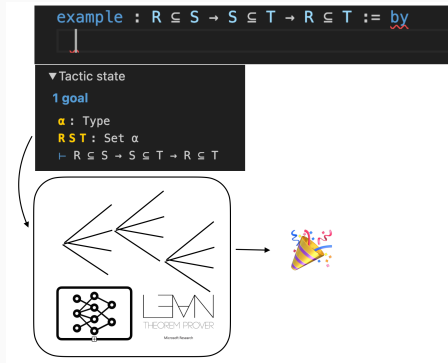


Idea: train language model $p_{\theta}(y_t|x_t)$ on a dataset of (state, step) pairs

Problem setup

Proof: sequence of (state, step)

- $(x_0, y_0), \dots, (x_T, y_T)$
- x_t : proof state from Lean
- y_t : proof step (“tactic”)



...then use the model + tree search to prove full theorems

1. Data



- Extract (state, tactic) pairs from Lean projects. Tools:
 - **ntp-training-data** (this tutorial)⁵
 - Lean Dojo [2]

⁵Based on github.com/semorrison/lean-training-data

1. Data (ntp-training-data)

- Format each (state, tactic) pair as (prompt, completion) example:

```
⌞ You are proving a theorem in Lean 4.  
You are given the following information:  
- The current proof state, inside [STATE]...[/STATE]  
  
Your task is to generate the next tactic in the proof.  
Put the next tactic inside [TAC]...[/TAC]  
-/
```

Prompt:

```
[STATE]  
m n : ℕ  
h : Nat.Coprime m n  
⊢ Nat.gcd m n = 1  
[/STATE]  
[TAC]
```

Completion:

```
rw [Nat.Coprime] at h  
[/TAC]
```

Mathlib gives a dataset of $\approx 300,000$ examples

1. Data (ntp-training-data)

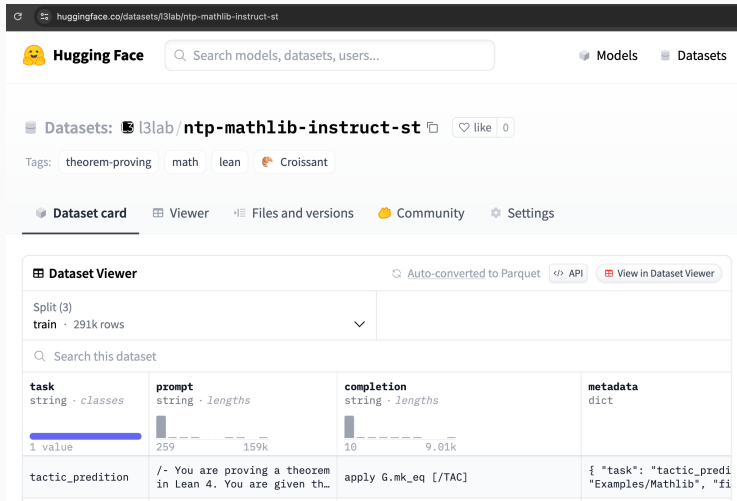


Figure 8: Data on Huggingface

[NOTEBOOK DEMO]

2. Learning

- Standard supervised learning on $\mathcal{D}$:

$$\arg \max_{\theta} \sum_{(x_t, y_t) \in \mathcal{D}} \log p_{\theta}(y_t | x_t)$$

Learning (ntp-tune)

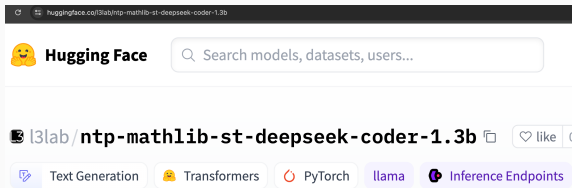
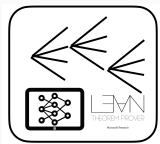


Figure 9: Trained tutorial model on Huggingface

[NOTEBOOK DEMO]

3. Proof search

- Use generator $p_{\theta}(y_t|x_t)$ to generate a full proof $y_1, \dots, y_T$
- Standard approach: *Best-first search*



3. Proof search | Best-first search

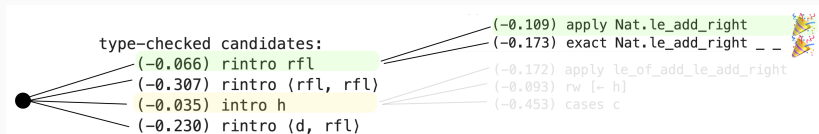


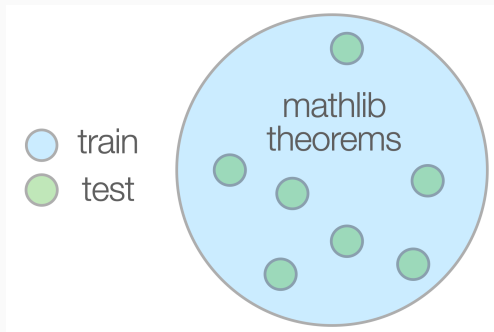
Figure 10: Best-first search⁶

⁶Example scoring function $\frac{1}{2} \sum_t \log p_{\theta}(y_t|x_t)$

[NOTEBOOK DEMO]

4. Evaluation

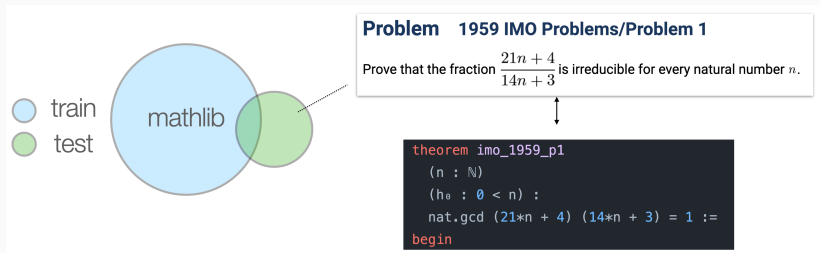
- Proof search on held-out theorems from the training distribution



4. Evaluation | benchmarks

Benchmarks evaluate problems drawn from a different distribution:

- **miniF2F** [3]: competition problems (AMC, AIME, IMO)



4. Evaluation

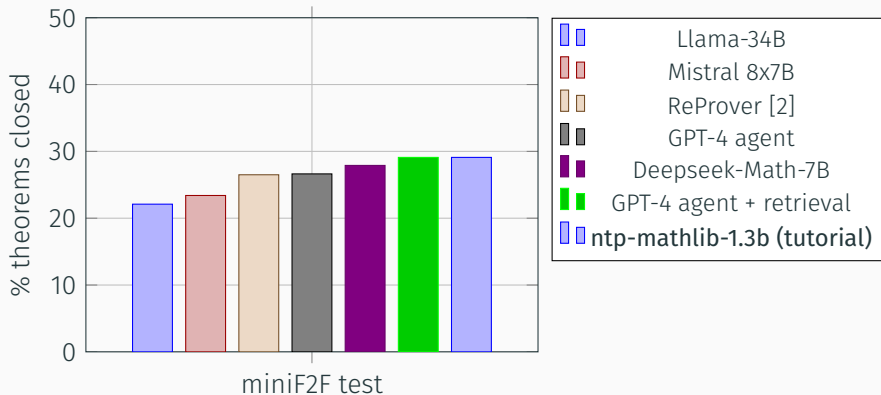


Figure 11: Proof search performance on miniF2F theorems. The model we trained in the tutorial notebooks gets 29.1% (71/244) on miniF2F test.

4. Evaluation

```
-- from mathlib:
theorem prod_mono
  {s₁ s₂ : Subsemiring R} (hs : s₁ ≤ s₂)
  {t₁ t₂ : Subsemiring S} (ht : t₁ ≤ t₂) :
  s₁.prod t₁ ≤ s₂.prod t₂ := by
  intro x hx
  simp_rw [Subsemiring.mem_prod]
  cases' x with xfst xsnd
  exact ⟨hs hx.1, ht hx.2⟩

-- from miniF2F:
theorem mathd_algebra_159 (b : ℝ) (f : ℝ → ℝ)
  (h₀ : ∀ x, f x = 3*x^4 - 7*x^3 + 2*x^2 - b*x + 1)
  (h₁ : f 1 = 1) : b = -2 := by
  apply eq_neg_of_add_eq_zero_left
  rw [h₀] at h₁
  norm_num at h₁
  linarith
```

Figure 12: Generated proofs

4. Evaluation

[NOTEBOOK DEMO]

5. Extensions: context

Real theorem proving uses *context* (e.g., new definitions, lemmas) [1]:

```
variable {Ω : Type*}[Fintype Ω]

structure my_object (Ω : Type*)[Fintype Ω] :=
  (f : Ω → ℝ)
  (cool_property : ∀ x : Ω, 0 ≤ f x)

theorem my_object_sum_nonneg (o1 o2: my_object Ω) : o1.f + o2.f ≥ 0 := by
  apply add_nonneg
  · apply o1.cool_property
  · apply o2.cool_property
```

Figure 13: The theorem uses a newly defined *my_object* and *cool_property* [1].

A model trained on (state, tactic) examples does not access context outside of its training set.

5. Extensions: context

Train a context-dependent model:

$$p_{\theta}(y_t|x_t, c_t), \tag{1}$$

e.g., where c is the preceding file contents.

5. Extensions: context

```
└─ You are proving a theorem in Lean 4.
You are given the following information:
- The file contents up to the current tactic, inside [CTX]...[/CTX]
- The current proof state, inside [STATE]...[/STATE]

Your task is to generate the next tactic in the proof.
Put the next tactic inside [TAC]...[/TAC]
-/
[CTX]
import Mathlib.Data.Nat.Prime

theorem test_thm (m n : Nat) (h : m.Coprime n) : m.gcd n = 1 := by

[/CTX]
[STATE]
m n : ℕ
h : Nat.Coprime m n
⊢ Nat.gcd m n = 1
[/STATE]
[TAC]
```

Prompt:

Completion:

```
rw [Nat.Coprime] at h
[/TAC]
```

[NOTEBOOK DEMO]

6. Integrating LLMs and Lean

LLMLEAN: tools that integrate LLMs into the Lean proof assistant

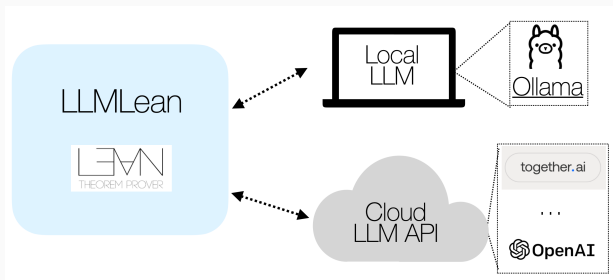


Figure 14: github.com/cmu-l3/llmlean

6. Integrating LLMs and Lean

Example: Verified *llmstep*⁷ suggestions on a MacBook Pro:

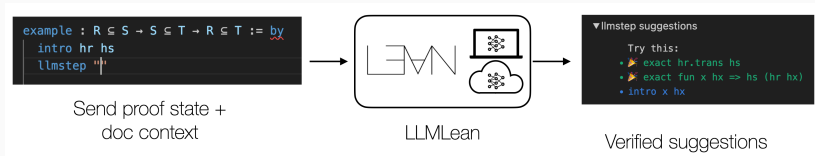


Figure 15: github.com/cmu-l3/llmlean

[DEMO]

⁷LLMstep: LLM proofstep suggestions in Lean [Welleck & Saha 2023]

- Train next-tactic generators, $p_{\theta}(y_t|x_t, c_t)$
- Prove theorems with a best-first tree search
- Data, Learning, Search, Evaluation, LLMLEAN tool

Check out the notebooks, code, data, and models!

- Notebooks and code: github.com/cmu-l3/ntptutorial-II
 - Data: NTP-TRAINING-DATA
 - Proof search: NTP-INTERACT
 - Fine-tuning: NTP-TUNE
- Datasets and models:
 - <https://huggingface.co/l3lab>

Extensions (formal-to-formal tactic generation)

Active research area with many extensions and related works:

Reinforcement learning

- Expert Iteration [Polu et al 2022]
- Thor with Expert Iteration [Wu et al 2022]

Search algorithms

- Hypertree Proof Search [Lample et al 2022]
- DT-Solver [Wang et al 2023]

Retrieval

- Reprover [Yang et al 2023]

Integrating symbolic provers

- Thor [Jiang et al 2022]

LLM agents

- COPRA [Thakur et al 2024]

Benchmarks

- MINIF2F [Zheng et al 2021]
- PROOFNET [Azerbayev et al 2023]

Data extraction/interaction

- PISA [Jiang et al 2021] (Isabelle)
- PACT [Han et al 2021] (Lean 3)
- LEAN-TRAINING-DATA [Morrison 2023]
- NTP-TRAINING-DATA (this tutorial)
- Lean Dojo [Yang et al 2023]

Tools

- LLMLEAN/LLMSTEP [Welleck & Saha 2023]
- Lean Copilot [Song et al 2023]

Non-exhaustive list; also more extensions in the next section!

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 - Why is formal mathematics important?
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3. **Part II: Formalization**
 - Via translation and guidance
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PART II: Formalization

Leveraging *informal* mathematical data

- *Previous*: train a model purely on formal data

Leveraging *informal* mathematical data

- *Previous*: train a model purely on formal data
- *Next*: use *informal* mathematical data
 - Latex proofs
 - Math textbooks, papers, websites, ...
 - Conversations, ...

Why leverage informal data?

1. Data scarcity

- Lean: 300 million tokens
- Arxiv: 29 billion tokens
- General web data: > 5 trillion tokens

Leveraging *informal* mathematical data

Why leverage informal data?

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2. Guiding search

- Informal proofs can help cut down the space of possible proofs

Leveraging *informal* mathematical data

Why leverage informal data?

1. Data scarcity

- Lean: 300 million tokens
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→ *transfer knowledge by adapting a generalist model to mathematical data*

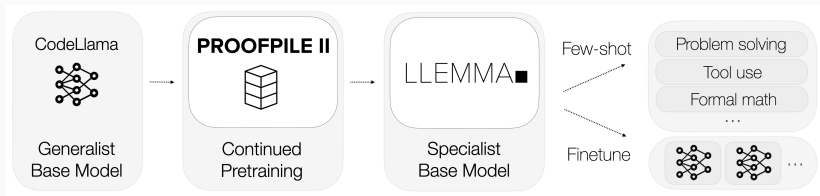
2. Guiding search

- Informal proofs can help cut down the space of possible proofs

Foundation model for mathematics : LLEMMA⁸

Recipe for adapting a language model to mathematical data:

- Collect high-quality, diverse math-related corpus, PROOFPILE II
- Continue pretraining a base model (e.g., Code Llama) on PROOFPILE II



⁸*Llemma: an open language model for mathematics*

Zhangir Azerbayev, Hailey Schoelkopf, Keiran Paster, Marco Dos Santos, Stephen Marcus McAleer, Albert Q. Jiang, Jia Deng, Stella Biderman, Sean Welleck

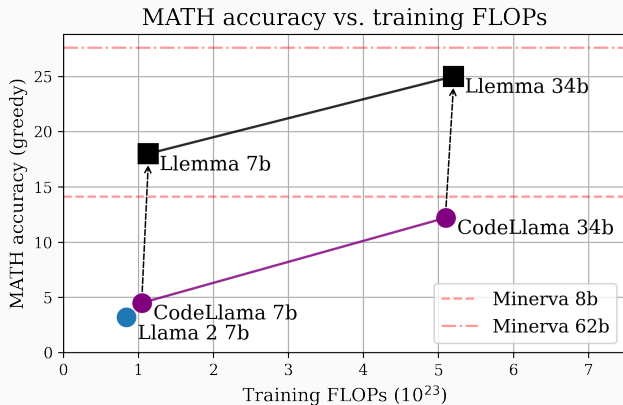


Figure 16: LLEMMA improves with a modest amount of math-specific compute

Proofpile II : code + web data + Arxiv papers

- ALGEBRAICSTACK – 11B tokens from 17 programming languages
 - 1.5B tokens of formal math
 - Extracted Lean and Isabelle goal states

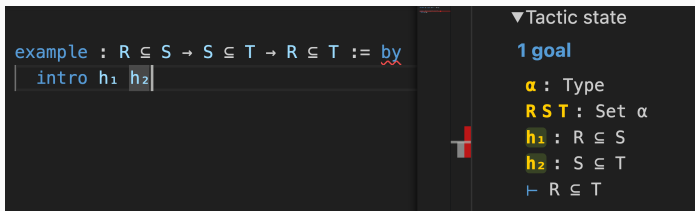


Figure 17: Lean code (left) and goal state (right)

- 14.7 billion tokens of math-related web data

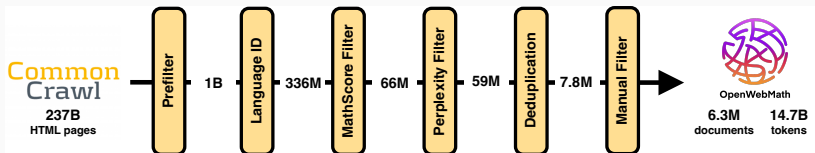


Figure 18: OpenWebMath pipeline.

⁹*OpenWebMath: An Open Dataset of High-Quality Mathematical Web Text.*

Keiran Paster, Marco Dos Santos, Zhangir Azerbayev, Jimmy Ba

Traditional proof search: $p_{\theta}(\text{next-tactic}|\text{state})$ + best-first search.

- We implement a *few-shot* version by providing LLEMMA with 3 (*state*, *next-tactic*) examples in its prompt

LLEMMA formal theorem proving

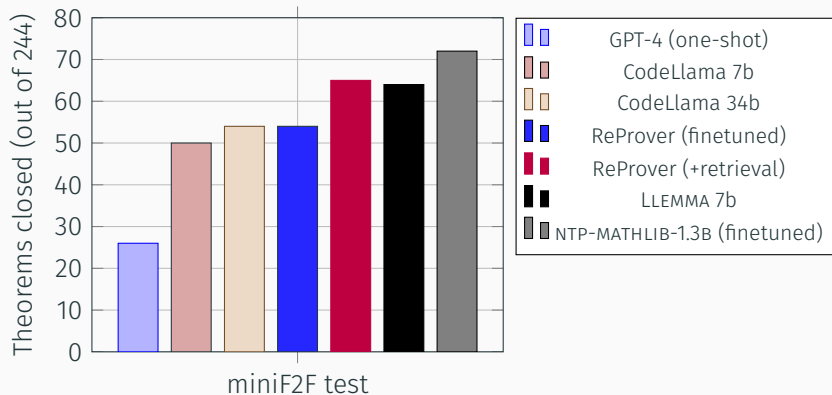
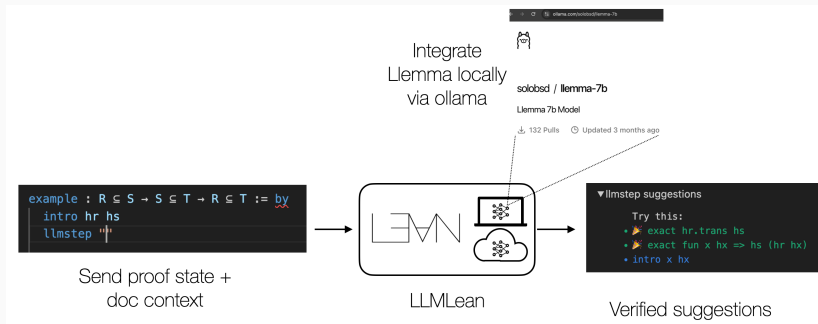


Figure 19: Few-shot proving in Lean with LLEMMA

LEMMA on your laptop with LLMLEAN¹⁰



DEMO

¹⁰<https://github.com/cmu-l3/llmlean>, based on *LLMstep: LLM proofstep suggestions in Lean*.
Sean Welleck & Rahul Saha, Neurips Math+AI 2023

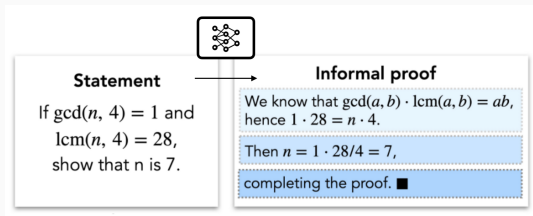
- Leverage informal data by pretraining + adaptation to diverse mathematical data
 - LLEMMA: 7B and 34B CodeLLama further trained on PROOFPILE II
- Open platform for research:
 - Code/Models/Data: <https://github.com/EleutherAI/math-lm>

Why leverage informal data?

1. Data scarcity
2. Guiding search
 - Informal proofs can help cut down the space of possible proofs

Given informal theorem x_I ,
formal theorem x_F

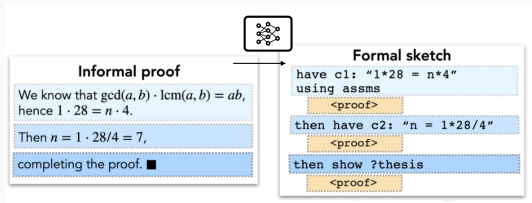
1. Draft $y_I \sim p(\cdot|x_I)$



¹¹*Draft, Sketch, Prove: Guiding Formal Theorem Provers with Informal Proofs*
Jiang, Welleck, Zhou, Lacroix, Liu, Li, Jamnik, Lample, Wu. ICLR 2023

Given informal theorem x_I ,
formal theorem x_F

1. Draft $y_I \sim p(\cdot | x_I)$
2. Sketch $z_F \sim p(\cdot | x_F, x_I, y_I)$



¹¹*Draft, Sketch, Prove: Guiding Formal Theorem Provers with Informal Proofs*
Jiang, Welleck, Zhou, Lacroix, Liu, Li, Jamnik, Lample, Wu. ICLR 2023

Given informal theorem x_I ,
formal theorem x_F

1. Draft $y_I \sim p(\cdot|x_I)$
2. Sketch $z_F \sim p(\cdot|x_F, x_I, y_I)$
3. **Prove** $y_F = f(x_F, z_F)$

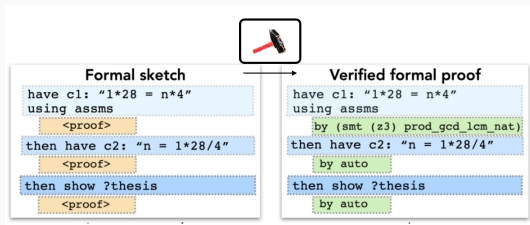


Figure 20: “Classical” prover *Sledgehammer*

¹¹*Draft, Sketch, Prove: Guiding Formal Theorem Provers with Informal Proofs*
Jiang, Welleck, Zhou, Lacroix, Liu, Li, Jamnik, Lample, Wu. ICLR 2023

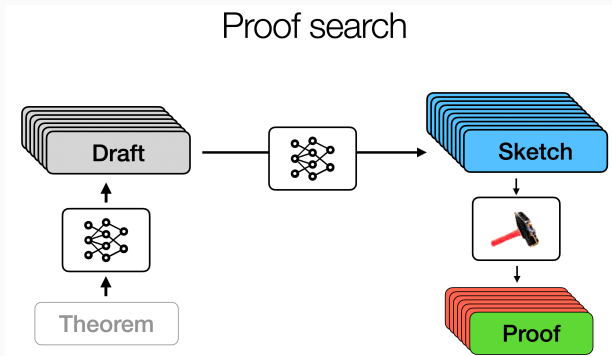


Figure 21: Proof search

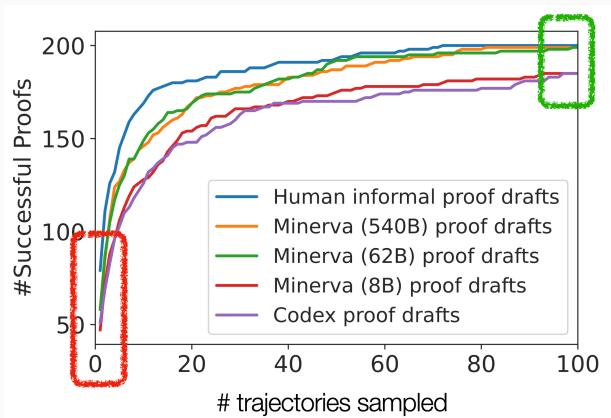


Figure 22: Proof search scaling

Draft-sketch-prove



Statement: Prove that the fraction $\frac{21n+4}{14n+3}$ is irreducible for every natural number n .

Informal Proof (Minerva 62B):

We must show that $\gcd(21n + 4, 14n + 3) = 1$.

The Euclidean algorithm gives

$$21n + 4 = 1 \cdot (14n + 3) + 7n + 1$$

$$14n + 3 = 2 \cdot (7n + 1) + 1.$$

Since $\gcd(7n + 1, 1) = 1$, we have $\gcd(21n + 4, 14n + 3) = 1$.

Formal Proof:

```
theorem imo_1959_p1:
  fixes n :: nat
  shows "gcd (21*n + 4) (14*n + 3) = 1"
proof -
  (* The Euclidean algorithm gives
  21n+4=1\cdot(14n+3)+7n+1
  14n+3=2\cdot(7n+1)+1. *)
  have c0: "21*n + 4 = 1*(14*n + 3) + 7*n + 1"
  by auto [ATP]
  have c1: "14*n + 3 = 2*(7*n + 1) + 1" using c0
  by auto [ATP]

  (* Since \gcd(7n+1,1)=1, we have \gcd(21n+4,14n+3)=1. *)
  then have "gcd (7*n + 1) 1 = 1"
  using c1
  by auto [ATP]
  then have "gcd (21*n + 4) (14*n + 3) = 1"
  using c1
  by (smt (z3) BitM_plus_one ab_semigroup_add_class.add_ac(1)
    add.assoc c0 gcd.commute gcd_add2 gcd_add_mult mult_numeral_1
    numeral_One numeral_eq_Suc numerals(1) semiring_norm(3)) [ATP]
  then show ?thesis
  using c1
  by blast [ATP]
qed
```

Figure 23: International Math Olympiad problem

Extensions and related (leveraging informal data)

Active research area with many extensions and related works:

Math foundation models

- MINERVA [Lewkowycz et al 2022]
(*inaccessible*)
- LLEMMA [Azerbayev et al 2023]
- INTERNLM-MATH [Ying et al 2024]
- DEEPSEEK-MATH [Shao et al 2024]

Informal-to-formal translation and guidance

- Statements [Wu et al 2022]
- Verifying informal (DTV) [Zhou et al 2024]
- LLM Agent (COPRA) [Thakur et al 2024]
- LegoProver [Wang et al 2024]

Tools/case studies

- Codex autoformalization [Agrawal 2022]

Informal+formal benchmarks

- MINIF2F+INFORMAL [Jiang et al 2023]
- PROOFNET [Azerbayev et al 2023]
- MUSTARD [Huang et al 2024]

Data

- NATURALPROOFS-GEN [Welleck et al 2022]
- MMA [Jiang et al 2024]
- OpenWebMath [Paster et al 2023]
- Proofpile-II [Azerbayev et al 2023]

Other tutorials

- Neural theorem proving, IJCAI 2023
github.com/wellecks/ntptutorial
- ML for Theorem Proving, Neurips 2023
machine-learning-for-theorem-proving.github.io

Non-exhaustive list!

PART III: Whole-proof generation

Approach: Generate complete proofs, rather than feeding intermediate steps to the interpreter

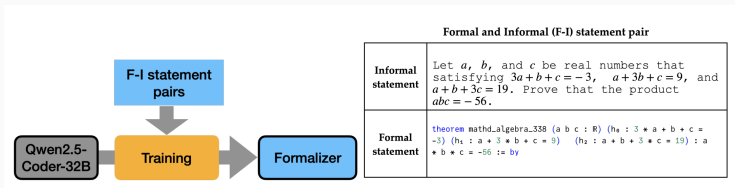
Approach: Generate complete proofs, rather than feeding intermediate steps to the interpreter

Advantages:

- Better fit for large-scale training with synthesized data / RL
- Can still apply interpreter feedback at the level of proofs
- Compatible with search

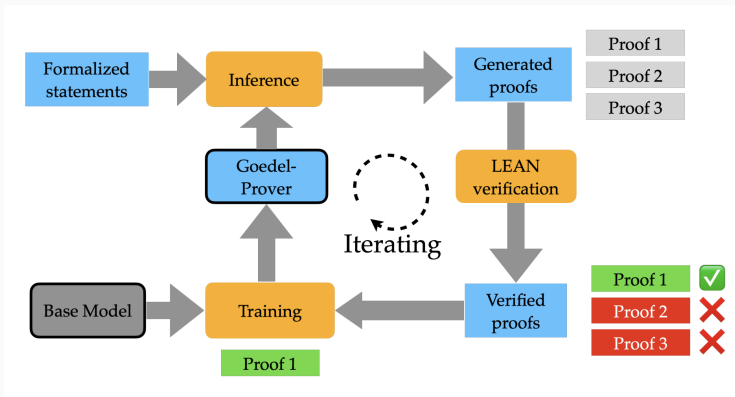
Goedel Prover: Training a formalizer

- Train a “formalizer” model to generate formal statements from informal. Use Lean workbook and Claude sonnet for training data
- Informal statements are abundant online. Numina dataset: hundreds of thousands of math competition etc problems.
- Use the trained model to formalize **1.64 million** statements
- Will use this to train a proof generation model.

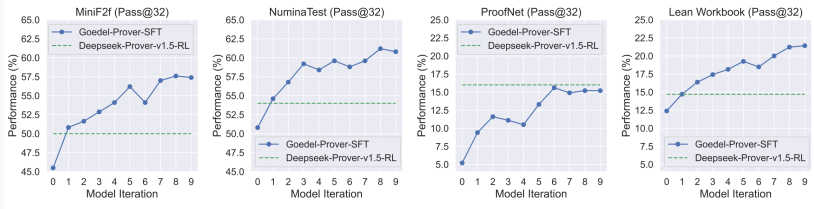


Goedel Prover: Training a prover

1. Prover generates whole proofs for statements.
2. Lean compiler verifies correctness.
3. Correct proofs are added back to training data; model is fine-tuned.
4. Repeat.



Goedel Prover: Results



Seed Prover: Lemma-style proving

- Instead of generating a single theorem block, first generate useful intermediate lemma blocks.
- Modularity:
 - Enables clear identification of lemmas that are successfully proved versus those needing refinement.
 - Lemmas can be compiled independently, stored, and combined across problems.

Whole proof

```
theorem eg : 1 + 2 = 3 := by
  have h0 : 1 + 1 = 2 := by
    ring

  have h1 : 1 + (1 + 1) = 3 := by
    ring

  linarith [h0, h1]

#print axioms eg
```

Lemma-style

```
lemma round1_h0 : 1 + 1 = 2 := by
  ring

lemma round1_h1 : 1 + (1 + 1) = 3 := by
  ring

theorem eg : 1 + 2 = 3 := by
  linarith [round1_h0, round1_h1]

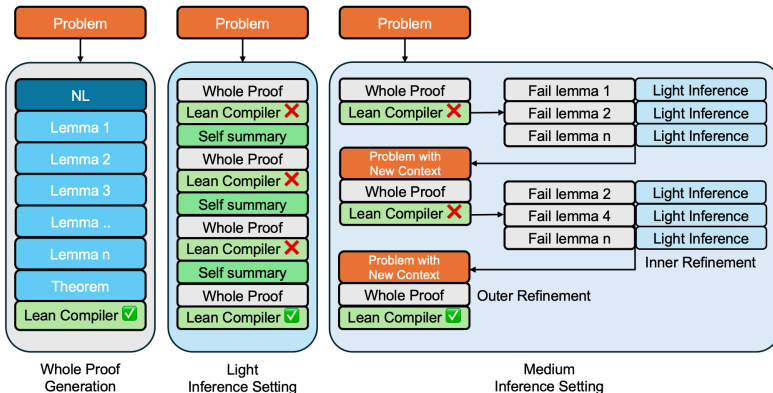
#print axioms eg
```

Seed Prover: Training

- Trains with RL (VAPO); uses binary rewards from the Lean compiler.
- No details about training data :(
- Chains of thought include conjectures in natural language
- Explicitly rewarded for using the **lemma** keyword before stating the main theorem.
- Prompt *“randomly incorporates natural language hints, natural language proofs, similar lemmas, proved lemmas, failed lemmas, failed attempts, summaries of previous attempts, and Lean compiler feedback into the prompt”*

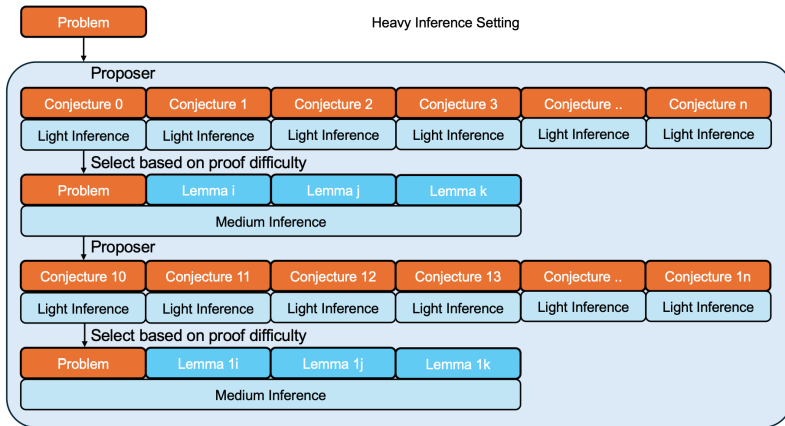
Seed Prover: Inference

- **Light:** Iterative refinement using compiler feedback (8-16 refinements x 8-16 generations). 1-2 hours.
- **Medium:** Recursive refinement for challenging intermediate lemmas.



Seed Prover: Inference

- **Heavy:** Also generates conjectures (5K) and uses a lemma pool. 'Days of thinking'.



- Proved 5 out of 6 IMO 2025 problems and 78.1% of past IMO problems.
- Sample proof:
https://github.com/ByteDance-Seed/Seed-Prover/blob/main/SeedProver/imo2025/p1_proof.pdf
- Achieved 99.6% success on MiniF2F-test, effectively saturating the standard benchmark.

1. Intro: Foundation models $\cap$ mathematics
 - Informal and formal mathematics
 - Why is formal mathematics important?
2. Part I: Step-level theorem proving
 - Data, training, proof search, evaluation, tool
3. Part II: Formalization
 - Via translation and guidance
4. Part III: Whole-proof generation
 - Goedel Prover, Seed Prover

Thank you!

Collaborators on works in this tutorial (alphabetical by last name):

- Zhangir Azerbayev (Princeton)
- Stella Biderman (Eleuther)
- Jia Deng (Princeton)
- Marco Dos Santos (Cambridge)
- Jiewen Hu (CMU)
- Mateja Jamnik (Cambridge)
- Albert Jiang (Cambridge, Mistral)
- Timothee Lacroix (Mistral)
- Guillaume Lample (Mistral)
- Wenda Li (Edinburgh)
- Jiacheng Liu (Washington)
- Stephen McAleer (CMU)
- Keiran Paster (Toronto)
- Rahul Saha (Independent)
- Hailey Schoelkopf (Eleuther)
- Yuhuai (Tony) Wu (X.ai)
- Jin Zhou (Cornell)

<https://github.com/cmu-l3/ntptutorial-II>

<https://huggingface.co/l3lab>

Sean Welleck (CMU)

Learning, Language, and Logic (L3) Lab



S. Welleck and R. Saha.

Llmstep: Llm proofstep suggestions in lean.

ArXiv, abs/2310.18457, 2023.



K. Yang, A. Swope, A. Gu, R. Chalamala, P. Song, S. Yu, S. Godil, R. Prenger, and A. Anandkumar.

LeanDojo: Theorem proving with retrieval-augmented language models.

In Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2023.



K. Zheng, J. M. Han, and S. Polu.

minif2f: a cross-system benchmark for formal olympiad-level mathematics.

In International Conference on Learning Representations, 2022.