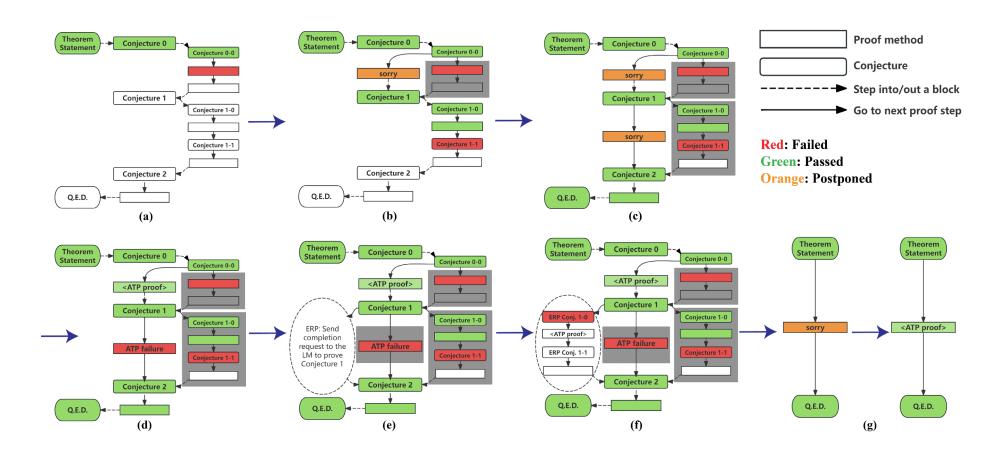
ProofAug: Efficient Neural Theorem Proving via Fine-grained Proof Structure Analysis

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Formal theorem proving

Al achieves silver-medal standard solving International Mathematical Olympiad problems

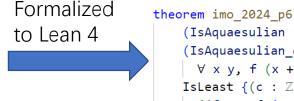
AlphaProof and AlphaGeometry teams

Let $\mathbb Q$ be the set of rational numbers. A function $f:\mathbb Q o\mathbb Q$ is called \emph{aquaesulian} if the following property holds: for every $x,y\in\mathbb Q$,

$$f(x+f(y))=f(x)+y \qquad ext{or} \qquad f(f(x)+y)=x+f(y).$$

Show that there exists an integer c such that for any aquaesulian function f there are at most c different rational numbers of the form f(r)+f(-r) for some rational number r, and find the smallest possible value of c.

Solution: c=2



The best practice is still unclear

Proof search with

prover and compiler

```
theorem imo 2024 p6
    (IsAquaesulian : (Q \rightarrow Q) \rightarrow Prop)
    (IsAquaesulian def : ∀ f, IsAquaesulian f ↔
    \forall x y, f(x + f y) = f x + y \lor f(f x + y) = x + f y:
   IsLeast \{(c : Z) \mid \forall f, IsAquaesulian f \rightarrow \{(f r + f (-r)) \mid (r : Q)\}.Finite \land
     \{(f r + f (-r)) \mid (r : Q)\}. ncard \le c\} 2 := by
  exists@?

    useλu b=>if j:u 0=0then by contra λc=>? else ?

    · suffices:(\{J \mid \exists k, u \ k+u \ (-k)=J\}) \subseteq \{0\}
      simp_all[this.antisymm]
      rintro - (a, rfl)
      contrapose! c
      simp all
      suffices: \{U \mid \exists examples6, (u) < Q > +u ( -< _>) = U \} \subseteq \{0, (u (a : Rat) + (u< |@@f((
      • use ( Set.toFinite ( _) ).subset ^@@this , (Set.ncard_le_ncard$ (((this )) ) ).
      trans (Set.ncard pair$ Ne.symm (↑ ( (c)) ) ).le
      rintro-(hz, rfl)
      induction b @hz a
       have:=b (-a)$ hz+u a
        have:=b hz hz
        simp all[add comm]
        have:=b (-hz) (hz+u \uparrow (hz))
        simp_all[ add_assoc, C]
        induction this
         · simp_all
          have:=b hz (hz+(u a+u (-a)))
          have:=b (hz+(u a+u (-a)))$ hz+(u a+u (-a))
          use .inr$ by contra$ by hint
        have:=b hz$ hz+(u hz+u (-hz))
        cases b (hz+(u hz+u (-hz))) hz+(u hz+u (-hz))with|_=>hint
       have:=b (-hz) (u hz+a)
      have:=b$ -a
      specialize this (u hz+a)
      simp_all[ <add_assoc]
```



 $\forall x y, f(x + f y) = f x + y \lor f(f x + y) = x + f y$:

IsLeast $\{(c : \mathbb{Z}) \mid \forall f, \text{ IsAquaesulian } f \rightarrow \{(f r + f (-r)) \mid (r : \mathbb{Q})\}.\text{Finite } \Lambda$

(IsAquaesulian : $(\bigcirc \rightarrow \bigcirc) \rightarrow Prop$)

(IsAquaesulian def : ∀ f, IsAquaesulian f ↔

 $\{(f r + f (-r)) \mid (r : 0)\}. ncard \le c\} 2 := by$



Verified in Lean compiler

Procedural (tactic-style) vs. Declarative

Natural Language	Two non-zero real numbers, a and b , satisfy $ab = a - b$. Which of the following is a possible value of $\frac{a}{b} + \frac{b}{a} - ab$? (A) -2 (B) $\frac{-1}{2}$ (C) $\frac{1}{3}$ (D) $\frac{1}{2}$ (E) 2		
Metamath	\$\{ amc12-2000-p11.0 \\$e - (ph -> A e. RR) \\$. amc12-2000-p11.1 \\$e - (ph -> B e. RR) \\$. amc12-2000-p11.2 \\$e - (ph -> A =/= 0) \\$. amc12-2000-p11.3 \\$e - (ph -> B =/= 0) \\$. amc12-2000-p11.4 \\$e - (ph -> (A x. B)) = (A - B)) \\$. amc12-2000-p11 \\$p - (ph -> ((A / B)) + (B / A)) - (A x. B)) = 2) \$\$\\$= (cdiv co caddc cmul cmin c2 cexp eqcomd \\$. \$}		
Lean	theorem amc12_2000_p11 (a b : \mathbb{R}) (h ₀ : a \neq 0 \land b \neq 0) (h ₁ : a \times b = a - b) : a / b + b / a - a \times b = 2 := begin field_simp [h ₀ .1, h ₀ .2],		
	simp only $[h_1, mul_comm, mul_sub]$, ring, end		
Isabelle	<pre>theorem amc12_2000_p11: fixes a b::real assumes "a \<noteq> 0" "b \<noteq> 0" and "a * b = a - b" shows "a / b + b / a - a * b = 2" using assms by (smt (verit, ccfv_threshold) diff_divide_distrib</noteq></noteq></pre>		
	div_self divide_divide_times_eq eq_divide_imp nonzero_mult_div_cancel_left) end		

Procedural proofs (Adapted from Polu et al. 2020)

```
fixes p :: nat
 assumes "prime p"
  shows "p = 2 \vee [p = 1] (mod 4) \vee [p = 3] (mod 4)"
proof (cases "p = 2")
 with prime gt 1 nat[of p] assms have "p > 2" by auto
 have "¬4 dvd p"
   using assms product dvd irreducibleD[of p 2 2]
   by (auto simp: prime elem iff irreducible simp flip: prime elem nat iff)
 hence "p mod 4 \neq 0"
   by (auto simp: mod eq 0 iff dvd)
 moreover have "p mod 4 \neq 2"
   assume "p mod 4 = 2"
   hence "p mod 4 mod 2 = 0"
     by (simp add: cong def)
    thus False using <prime p>  2> prime odd nat[of p]
     by (auto simp: mod mod cancel)
 moreover have "p mod 4 \in \{0,1,2,3\}"
 ultimately show ?thesis by (auto simp: cong def)
```

VS. A typical Isabelle/Isar proof adapted from AoFP

```
theorem aime_1983_p2 (x p : \mathbb{R}) (f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R})
    (h_0 : 0 
    (h_2 : f x = abs (x-p) + abs (x-15) + abs (x-p-15)) :
   15 \le f x := by
  have h3: abs (x - p) = x - p := by
    rw [abs of nonneg]
    linarith
  have h4 : abs (x - 15) = 15 - x := by
    rw [abs of nonpos]
    linarith
    all goals linarith
  have h5 : abs (x - p - 15) = p + 15 - x := by
    rw [abs of nonpos]
    linarith
    all goals linarith
  rw [h<sub>2</sub>, h<sub>3</sub>, h<sub>4</sub>, h<sub>5</sub>]
  linarith
```

A Lean 4 proof by Kimina-Prover-Preview-Distill-7B

Proof-step generation methods

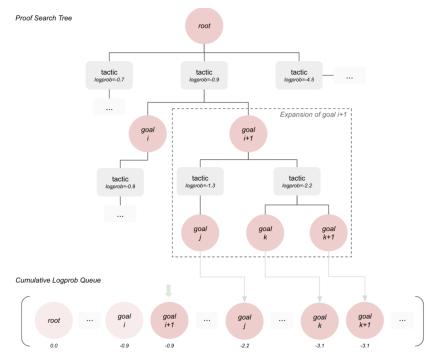
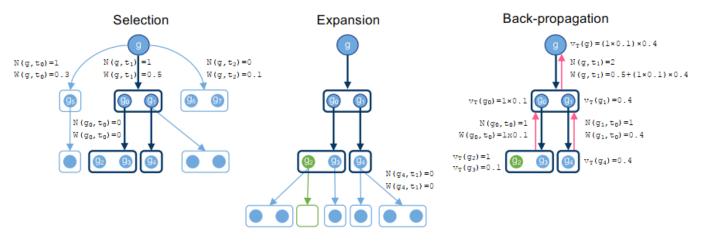


Figure 1: Proof search consists in maintaining a proof tree where multiple tactics are explored for each goal, starting from the root goal. Goals are expanded by cumulative (tactic) logprob priority.

GPT-f (Polu et al. 2020)



theorem amc12_2000_p11

end

field_simp $[h_0.1, h_0.2]$,

simp only [h₁, mul_comm, mul_sub],

Figure 5: **HyperTree Proof Search**. We aim at finding a proof of the root theorem g with HTPS. Proving either $\{g_5\}$, $\{g_0, g_1\}$, or $\{g_6, g_7\}$ would lead to a proof of g by tactic t_0, t_1 , or t_2 . The figure represents the three steps of HTPS that are repeated until a proof is found. Guided by the search policy, we select a hypertree whose leaves are unexpanded nodes. The selected nodes are then expanded, adding new tactics and nodes to the hypergraph. Finally, during back-propagation we evaluate the node values of the hypertree, starting from the leaves back to the root, and update the visit counts and total action values.

HTPS (Lample et al. 2022)

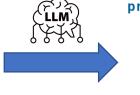
Recent work: InternLM2.5-StepProver, Hunyuan-Prover, BFS-Prover,

Pitfall: Heavy communication between the prover and the verification environment. InternLM2.5-StepProver search budget: 256 (#passes) x 32 (#expansion width) x 600 (#max expansions per pass)

Whole-proof generation

Isabelle/Isar: declarative style proof

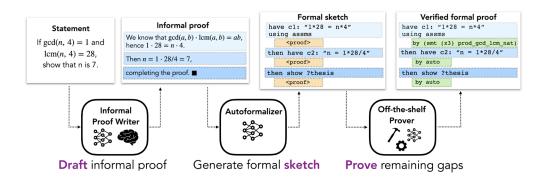
```
theorem mathd_algebra_405:
    fixes x :: nat
    assumes h0 : "0 < x"
        and h1 : "x ^ 2 + 4 * x + 4 < 20"
    shows "x = 1 \lefta x = 2"</pre>
```







- Humans/LLMs are better at writing conjectures than proof methods
 - _____: conjecture, _____: proof method
- Draft, Sketch, and Prove (Jiang et al. 2023)
 - LLMs compose intermediate conjectures
 - Using few-shot examples of proof sketches
 - Off-the-shelf ATPs fill the gaps



Pitfalls of DSP prompting style

• (Hard Conjectures): the conjectures could be too hard for ATPs to solve.

```
theorem numbertheory_sqmod3in01d:
    fixes a :: int
    shows "a^2 mod 3 = 0 ∨ a^2 mod 3 = 1"

proof -

(* Let $a$ be an integer, then $a \pmod 3 \in {0, 1, 2}$. *)
    have c0: "a mod 3 ∈ {0,1,2}" by fastforce

(* Using that $a^2 \pmod 3 = (a \pmod 3)^2 \pmod 3$ *)
    have "a^2 mod 3 = (a mod 3)^2 mod 3" by (simp add: power_mod)

(* we have $a^2 \pmod 3 \in {0, 1}$. *)

then show ?thesis using c0 sledgehammer

ged

Sledgehammering...

No proof found

Easy to human ≠ Easy to ATPs
```

• (Complicated Draft): the autoformalization process is not robust, and there is a mismatch between informal and formal proof.

```
theorem
  "gcd 180 168 = (12::nat)"
proof -
(* If a number divides into both $180$ and $168$ *)
  have "gcd 180 168 dvd 180" by eval
  moreover have "gcd 180 168 dvd 168" by eval
(* it must also divide into their difference. *)
  finally have "gcd 180 168 dvd 12" sorry
ged
```

```
theorem
"gcd 180 168 = (12::nat)"
by eval
```



A seemingly honest translation can be a disaster!

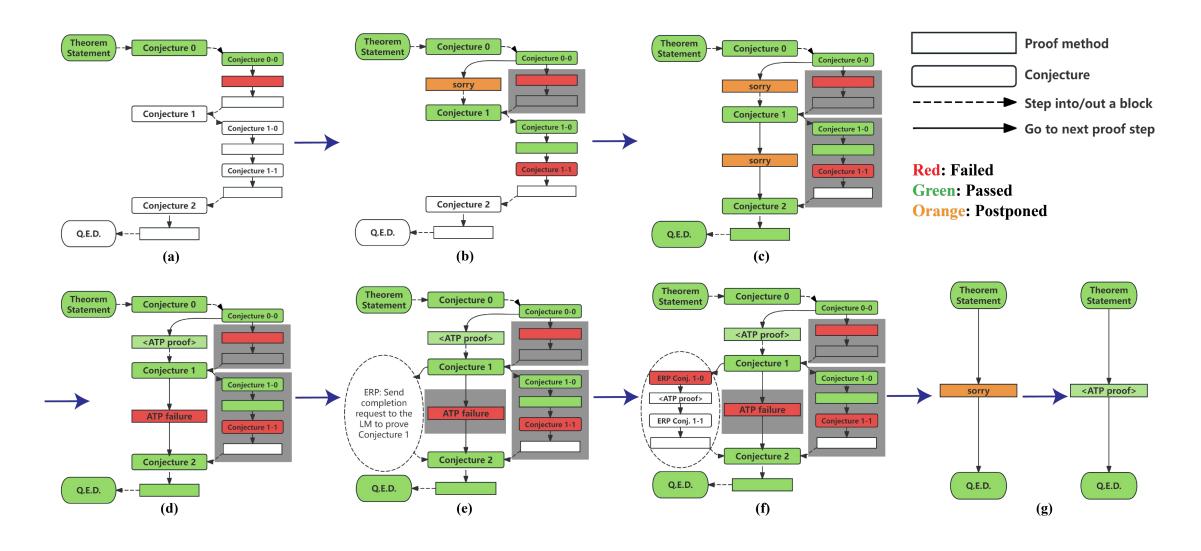
Our solution to Solve Pitfalls of DSP

- Pitfalls of DSP prompting style
 - (Hard Conjectures): the conjectures could be too hard for ATPs to solve.
 - (Complicated Draft): the autoformalization process is not robust, and there is a mismatch between informal and formal proof.

Our Solution

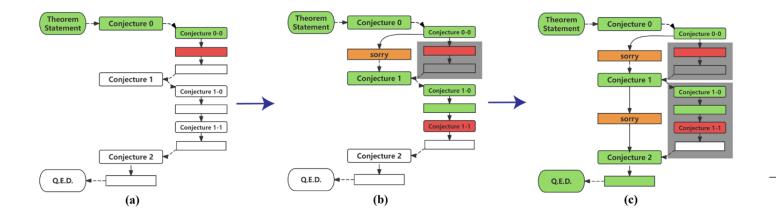
- 1. Let the model generate the whole proof rather than a proof sketch
 - DSP prompting suppresses the low-level details in the proof sketch
- 2. We find **compatible semi-proofs** from the 'proof proposal' generated by the model
 - Semi-proofs: valid proofs that can contain 'sorry's, which indicate skip of the local proof
 - Compatible: every 'sorry' corresponds to some tactics in the original proof proposal
- 3. Use ATPs to fill in the gaps in the semi-proofs
 - ATP = sledgehammer / heuristic methods as in DSP

Illustration of Our Solution



Solution Part 1: Find the MCSP

```
theorem algebra_sqineq_at2malt1_init_proof:
                                                                                                       theorem algebra sgineg at2malt1 MCSP:
                                                                                                         fixes a::real
 fixes a::real
                                                                                                         shows "a * (2 - a) \<le> 1"
  shows "a * (2 - a) \<le> 1"
proof -
 have "(a - 1) \< ^sup>2 \<ge> 0" for a::real
                                                                                                         have "(a - 1) \< ^sup>2 \<ge> 0" for a::real
 proof -
                                                                                                         proof -
   have "0 \<le> (a - 1) * (a - 1)"
                                                                                                           have "0 \<le> (a - 1) * (a - 1)"
     using zero le square by auto
                                                                                                             using zero le square by auto
   then show "(a - 1) \< ^sup>2 \<ge> 0"
                                                                                                           then show "(a - 1) \<^sup>2 \<ge> 0"
     by (simp add: power2 eq square)
                                                                                                             by (simp add: power2_eq_square)
 then have "a \star (2 - a) \leq1" for a::real
                                                                                                         then have "a \star (2 - a) \leq1" for a::real
 proof -
                                                                                                         proof -
   have "a * (2 - a) = 2 * a - a < \sup 2" by (simp add: power2 eq square)
                                                                                                           have "a * (2 - a) = 2 * a - a < \sup 2" sorry
   also have "... = (a - 1) < \sup 2 + 1 - a < \sup 2" by (simp add: algebra simps)
                                                                                                           also have "... = (a - 1) < \sup 2 + 1 - a < \sup 2" sorry
   also have "... \<le> 1"
                                                                                                           also have "... \<le> 1"
     using \langle open>0 \leq (a-1) \leq sup>2 \leq by linarith
                                                                                                             using \<open>0 \<le> (a - 1) \<^sup>2\<close> sorry
   finally show ?thesis .
                                                                                                           finally show ?thesis .
 then show ?thesis .
                                                                                                         then show ?thesis .
```



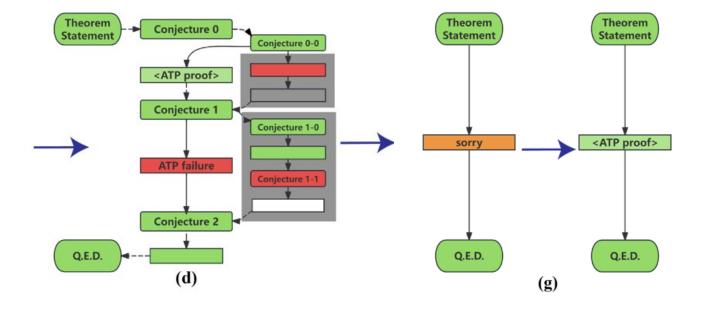
Algorithm 1 Find the Maximal Compatible Semi-Proof

```
Input: initial proof y_f^0, ITP (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{S}, T, F)
\mathbf{a} \leftarrow \operatorname{Parse}(y_f^0)
\mathbf{s} \leftarrow [\text{Null}] \times \text{len}(\mathbf{a})

    States before each step

i, s_{this} \leftarrow 1, s_0
while i < len(\mathbf{a}) do
   \mathbf{s}[i] \leftarrow s_{this}
   s_{next} \leftarrow T(s_{this}, \mathbf{a}[i])
   if s_{next}.error then
       if s_{this}.mode = proof(prove) then
           \mathbf{a}[i] \leftarrow \text{sorry}
                          ⊳ Error in other modes, skip the block
        else
           block \leftarrow InnermostBlock(i, \mathbf{a})
           if block is Null then
               return Null \triangleright a[i] not in any block, terminate
           end if
           \mathbf{a}[block.start..block.end - 1] \leftarrow \mathbf{Null}
           \mathbf{a}[block.end] \leftarrow \text{sorry}
          i, s_{this} \leftarrow block.end, \mathbf{s}[block.start]
       end if
    else
       i, s_{this} \leftarrow i+1, s_{next}
   end if
end while
if s_{this}. finish then
   return Concat(a)
end if
```

Solution Part 2: Proof Augmentation

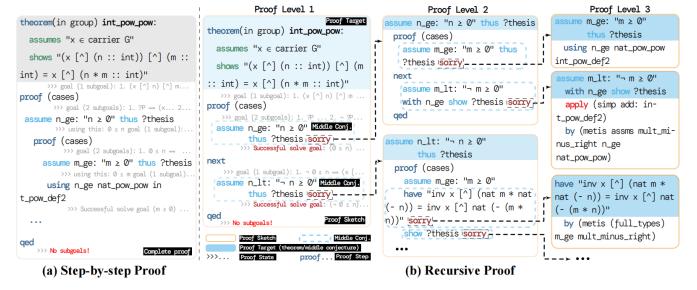


Algorithm 2 Proof Augmentation (ProofAug)

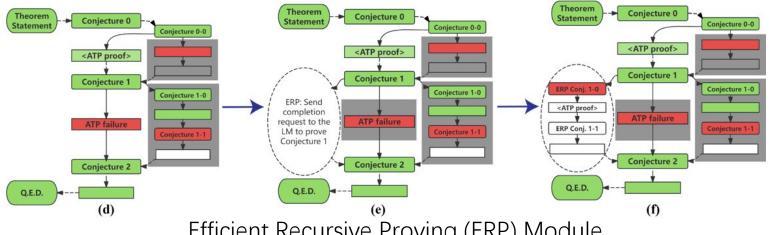
```
Input: theorem statement x_f, informal statement & prob-
  lem x_i || y_i, prompter p(\cdot, \cdot), LM \pi(\cdot | \cdot), ITP (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{S}, T)
  Sample y_f^0 \sim \pi(\cdot|p(x_i||y_i, x_f))
  \mathbf{a} \leftarrow \operatorname{Parse}(\operatorname{FindMCSP}(y_f^0))
                                                       ⊳ Apply Algorithm 1
  \mathbf{s} \leftarrow [\text{Null}] \times \text{len}(\mathbf{a})
  i, s_{this} \leftarrow 1, s_0
   while i \leq \text{len}(\mathbf{a}) do
      s_{next} \leftarrow T(s_{this}, \mathbf{a}[i])
      if \mathbf{a}[i] \neq \text{sorry then}
          error \leftarrow False
      else
          error \leftarrow T(s_{this}, \langle ATP \rangle).error
                                                                     end if
   if error then
                                                ▶ Resort to the last level
       block \leftarrow InnermostBlock(i, \mathbf{a})
       if block is Null then return Null
       \mathbf{a}[block.start..block.end - 1] \leftarrow \mathbf{Null}
       \mathbf{a}[block.end] \leftarrow \text{sorry}
       i, s_{this} \leftarrow block.end, \mathbf{s}[block.start]
   else
       i, s_{this} \leftarrow i+1, s_{next}
   end if
end while
return Concat(a)

    ➤ The final proof
```

Solution Part 3: Efficient Recursive Proving (Optional)



POETRY (Wang et al. 2024)



Efficient Recursive Proving (ERP) Module

```
Algorithm 2 Proof Augmentation (ProofAug)
  Input: theorem statement x_f, informal statement & prob-
  lem x_i || y_i, prompter p(\cdot, \cdot), LM \pi(\cdot | \cdot), ITP (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{S}, T)
  Sample y_f^0 \sim \pi(\cdot|p(x_i||y_i,x_f))
  \mathbf{a} \leftarrow \text{Parse}(\text{FindMCSP}(y_t^0))
                                                  ▶ Apply Algorithm 1
  s \leftarrow [Null] \times len(a)
  i, s_{this} \leftarrow 1, s_0
  while i < len(a) do
     s_{next} \leftarrow T(s_{this}, \mathbf{a}[i])
     if \mathbf{a}[i] \neq \text{sorry then}
         error \leftarrow False
      else
         error \leftarrow T(s_{this}, \langle ATP \rangle).error
                                                                end if
     if error and useERP then
                                                           y_f^p \leftarrow \mathbf{a}[1..i-1] \| s_{this}.state
         y_f^c \sim \pi(\cdot|p(x_i||y_i, x_f||y_f^p))
         if T(s_{this}, y_f^c) = s_{next} then
             \mathbf{a}[i], error \leftarrow y_f^c, False
            y_f^a \leftarrow \text{FailedTactics2ATP}(y_f^c)
            if T(s_{this}, y_f^a) = s_{next} then
                \mathbf{a}[i], error \leftarrow y_f^a, False
             end if
         end if
      end if
      if error then

    Resort to the last level

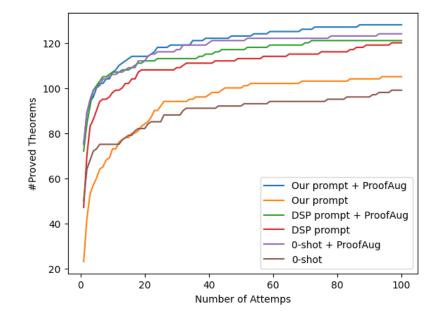
         block \leftarrow InnermostBlock(i, \mathbf{a})
         if block is Null then return Null
         \mathbf{a}[block.start..block.end - 1] \leftarrow \text{Null}
         \mathbf{a}[block.end] \leftarrow \text{sorry}
         i, s_{this} \leftarrow block.end, \mathbf{s}[block.start]
      else
         i, s_{this} \leftarrow i+1, s_{next}
      end if
  end while
  return Concat(a)

    The final proof
```

Results

Table 2: Comparison of methods using Isabelle as the proof assistant on MiniF2F-test. For BFS methods, the sample budget $N \times S \times T$ corresponds to N attempts of S expansion with T iterations. As to tree-search methods, it becomes $N \times T$, with the same meanings for the symbols. A † indicates this result is obtained by using a mixed strategy.

Method	Model	Sample Budget	miniF2F-test	
Methods using Isabelle				
DSP (Jiang et al., 2023)	CodeX	100	39.3%	
Subgoal-XL(Zhao et al., 2024)	Fine-tuned Llama-8B	64	39.3%	
		16384^{\dagger}	56.1%	
LEGO-Prover(Wang et al., 2023)	mixed GPTs	100	50.0%	
Lyra(Zheng et al., 2024)	GPT-4	100	47.1%	
		200	51.2%	
POETRY(Wang et al., 2024)	Fine-tuned ProofGPT (1.3B)	$1 \times 32 \times 128$	42.2%	
Our Experiments (using Isabelle)				
DSP baseline	deepseek-math-7b-base	1	28.7%	
	•	10	40.6%	
		100	49.2%	
ProofAug	deepseek-math-7b-base	1	36.5%(+7.8%)	
		10	44.7%(+4.1%)	
		100	52.5%(+3.3%)	
ProofAug(0-shot)	deepseek-math-7b-base	500	54.5%	
ProofAug(0-shot) + ERP	deepseek-math-7b-base	500	56.1%	
Cumulative	deepseek-math-7b-base	1400^{\dagger}	61.9%	
Cumulative + Dataset Curation	deepseek-math-7b-base	2100^\dagger	66.0%	
Methods using Lean				
HTPS(Lample et al., 2022)	Evariste (600M)	64×5000	41.0%	
RMaxTS(Xin et al., 2024b)	DeepSeek-Prover-V1.5-RL (7B)	$32 \times 6400^{\dagger}$	63.5%	
BFS + CG(Wu et al., 2024)	InternLM2.5-StepProver (7B)	$256\times32\times600$	65.9%	



Curation of miniF2F(Isabelle)

Typos

```
theory mathd numbertheory 764
                                                                      theory mathd numbertheory 764
      @@ -8,7 +9,7 @@ theory mathd_numbertheory_764
      begin
                                                                 9
                                                                       begin
                                                                10
      definition inv mod::"nat \<Rightarrow> nat \
                                                                       definition inv mod::"nat \<Rightarrow> nat \
                                                                11
                                                                       <Rightarrow> nat" where
      <Rightarrow> nat" where
11 - "inv_mod d p = (SOME x. [x*p = 1] (mod p))"
                                                               12 + "inv_mod d p = (SOME x. [d*x = 1] (mod p))"
12
                                                                13
13
      theorem mathd_numbertheory_764:
                                                                14
                                                                       theorem mathd_numbertheory_764:
14
                                                                15
        fixes p :: nat
                                                                        fixes p :: nat
```

• Minus for Nat.

```
✓ 🕆 5 ■■■■ isabelle/test/mathd_algebra_392.thy 📮
                                                                                              , ...
      @@ -7,8 +7,9 @@ theory mathd_algebra_392
      begin
                                                           begin
      theorem mathd_algebra_392:
                                                           theorem mathd_algebra_392:
        fixes n :: nat
                                                             fixes n :: int
11 - assumes "even n'
                                                             assumes "n > 0"
                                                               and "even n"
                                                               and "(n - 2)^2 + n^2 + (n + 2)^2
          and "(n - 2)^2 + n^2 + (n + 2)^2
      = (12296::int)"
                                                           = (12296::int)"
        shows "((n - 2) * n * (n + 2)) / 8
                                                             shows "((n - 2) * n * (n + 2)) / 8
      = (32736::int)"
                                                           = (32736::int)"
         sorry
                                                    15
                                                              sorry
```

• ~15 corrected compared with the DSP version, 4 in the PR to upstream

Lean 4 Implementation

- Lean 4 proofs are naturally less declarative compared to Isabelle
 - Nevertheless, Kimina-Prover-Preview takes a rather declarative way
 - We build a pre-parser inferring the block structures by indents

```
theorem aime_1983_p2 (x p : N) (f : N + N)

(ho : 0 < p \lambda p < 15) (h_1 : p \le x \lambda x \le \le 15)

(ho : f x = abs (x-p) + abs (x-15) + abs (x-p-15)) :

15 \le f x := by

have h3 : abs (x - p) = x - p := by

rw [abs_of_nonneg]

linarith

have h4 : abs (x - 15) = 15 - x := by

rw [abs_of_nonpos]

linarith

all_goals linarith

have h5 : abs (x - p - 15) = p + 15 - x := by

rw [abs_of_nonpos]

linarith

all_goals linarith

rw [abs_of_nonpos]

linarith

all_goals linarith

rw [h2, h3, h4, h5]

linarith
```

- No default hammer tools come with Lean 4
 - We choose Aesop, Omega, and a combination of some useful tactics for illustration
- Result
 - Pass@1 acc for Kimina-Prover-Preview-Distill-1.5B: 44.3% -> 50.4%
 - We are doing more extensive results

Takeaways

- Let the LLM generate the full proof, instead of a sketch first
 - This aligns with the pre-training data
 - ProofAug helps correct the mistakes in details!

- If ATPs cannot help find a proof from semi-proofs found by ProofAug ...
 - Use the recursive proving module

Thank you!