Mise en perspective

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Al4Maths Workshop of the SMF - SMAI - SFdS

Institut Henri Poincaré

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Social networks









Virtual assistants



Emails and apps





Platforms



From computer scientists awareness...

- Convolutional Neural Networks (LeNet-5, 1998,..., ResNet, 2015)
- Generative adversarial networks (2014)
- Transformer (2017)
- AlphaZero (2018)

... to global awareness

- ChatGPT (followed by Llama, Mistral, etc.)
- Diffusion model (Dall-E, Midjourney, Stable Diffusion)
- 2024 Nobel Prizes in Physics and in Chemistry

An idea that started taking roots:

How can AI help mathematicians?

Basic usage:

asking a math question to an LLM / asking to prove a small lemma

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Basic usage:

- asking a math question to an LLM / asking to prove a small lemma
 - terrible answers (2022-2023)
 - but models are evolving quickly

Deepseek R3; OpenAl o3,o4, GPT-5; Mistral Magistral, Gemini-2.5 Pro

Lemma 3. The following holds: $\partial_n f_M(\gamma^*, 0) \neq 0$.

Proof. From the classical formula of the differential of the determinant,

$$\partial_{\eta} f_M(\gamma^*, 0) = \text{Tr}(\text{com}(A - Id)^T \partial_{\eta} \hat{m}(\gamma^*, 0)) = \left(\frac{1}{\lambda_1} + \frac{1}{\lambda_2}\right) \text{Tr}(\text{com}(A - Id)^T A). \tag{2.54}$$

Since

$$\operatorname{Tr}(\operatorname{com}(A - Id)^{T}A) = \operatorname{Tr}(\operatorname{com}(A - Id)^{T}(A - Id)) + \operatorname{Tr}(\operatorname{com}(A - Id)^{T})$$

$$= \operatorname{Tr}((A - Id)\operatorname{com}(A - Id)^{T}) + \operatorname{Tr}(\operatorname{com}(A - Id)^{T})$$

$$= 4\det(A - Id) + \operatorname{Tr}(\operatorname{com}(A - Id)^{T}),$$
(2.55)

we have, since det(A - Id) = 0

$$\partial_{\eta} f_M(\gamma^*, 0) = \left(\frac{1}{\lambda_1} + \frac{1}{\lambda_2}\right) \operatorname{Tr}(\operatorname{com}(A - Id)^T).$$
 (2.56)

From this, only two cases can occur. Either rank(A - I) = 3 in which case, since

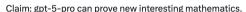
$$(A - Id)$$
com $(A - Id)^T = \det(A - Id)Id = 0,$ (2.57)

then each column of $com(A - Id)^T$ belongs to Ker(A - I) which has dimension 1 so $rank(com(A - Id)^T)$ is at most equal to 1. And, since rank(A - I) = 3, there is at least one principal minor that is









Proof: I took a convex optimization paper with a clean open problem in it and asked gpt-5-pro to work on it. It proved a better bound than what is in the paper, and I checked the proof it's correct.

Details below.







Sebastien Bubeck @ @SebastienBubeck · Aug 20
By the way this is the proof it came up with:

Write $g_k:=\nabla f(x_k)$ and $\Delta_k:=g_{k+1}-g_k$. We compare two consecutive decreases D_k and D_{k+1} . 1. Lower bound for D_k with a Bregman term. For connex L-mooth f_1 , the Bregman divergence obeys $\frac{1}{2L}\|\nabla f(x)-\nabla f(y)\|^2 \leq f(x)-f(y)-(\nabla f(y),x-y)$ (see the inequality used repeatedly in §3, Eq. (3)) Theorem 2.5 of Nesterov as cited there). Applying it with $x=x_k,y=x_{k+1}$ and noting $x_k-x_{k+1}=\eta g_k$ gives $D_k\geq \eta\left(g_{k+1},g_k\right)+\frac{1}{2L}\|\Delta_k\|^2.\quad \text{(A)}$ \mathbb{C} 2. Upper bound for D_{k+1} by convexity, $f(x)-f(y)\leq (\nabla f(x),x-y)$, so with $x=x_{k+1},y=x_{k+2}$ and $x_{k+1}-x_{k+2}=\eta g_{k+1}$. $D_{k+1}\leq \eta\left\|g_{k+1}\right\|^2.\quad \text{(B)}$ \mathbb{C} 3. Subtract and use concertivity once. From (A)-(III)

 $D_k - D_{k+1} \ge \eta \langle g_{k+1}, g_k - g_{k+1} \rangle + \frac{1}{2L} \|\Delta_k\|^2 = -\eta \langle g_{k+1}, \Delta_k \rangle + \frac{1}{2L} \|\Delta_k\|^2$

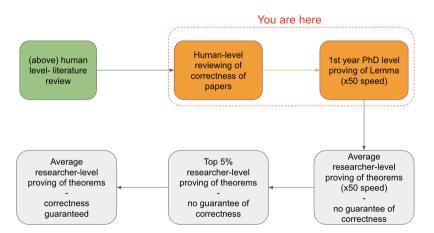
 $D_k - D_{k+1} \ge -\eta \langle g_k, \Delta_k \rangle + \left(\frac{1}{2\ell} - \eta\right) \|\Delta_k\|^2$.

 $(\Delta_k, x_{k+1} - x_k) \ge \frac{1}{r} ||\Delta_k||^2$

Since $\langle g_{k+1}, \Delta_k \rangle = \langle g_k, \Delta_k \rangle + ||\Delta_k||^2$,

Now apply the standard coopercivity inequality (Fg. (3) in §3)

and use $x_{k+1} - x_k = -\eta g_k$ to get $-\eta \langle g_k, \Delta_k \rangle \geq \frac{1}{r} \|\Delta_k\|^2$. Therefore,



ArxivMathBench (Peyronnet, Glöckle, A.H., 2025): a live benchmark of Lemma extracted from latest arxiv papers

- Directly a research problem
- Mitigate data-contamination by updating regularly from the latest arxiv paper

Model	Proof Accept. (%)	Human confidence score (%)
GPT-5	12.3	86
Gem-2.5	7	88
Deepseek-R	11.9	81

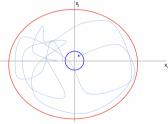
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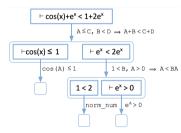
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Al for mathematics \neq generic LLM

Outline of the talk

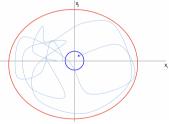


1. Al as a tool for math discovery

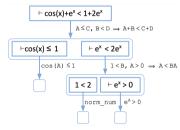


2. Will Al prove theorems on its own?

Outline of the talk

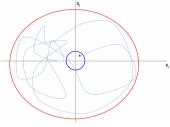


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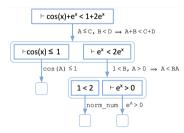


2. When will AI prove theorems on its own?

Outline of the talk



1. Al as a tool for math discovery



2. When will AI prove theorems on its own?

- Atanasoff-Berry Computer (designed 1937, created in 1942).
- First electronic computer
- Solving systems of linear equations



Conjecture (Euler, 1769)

If there exist integers a_1 , a_2 ,..., a_k , b, and n such that

$$a_1^n + a_2^n + ... + a_k^n = b^n$$
,

then k > n.



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A problem open for almost 200 years

Lander and Parkin (1966)

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$$27^5 + 84^5 + 110^5 + 133^5 = 144^5$$

COUNTEREXAMPLE TO EULER'S CONJECTURE ON SUMS OF LIKE POWERS

BY L. J. LANDER AND T. R. PARKIN

Communicated by J. D. Swift, June 27, 1966

A direct search on the CDC 6600 yielded

$$27^5 + 84^5 + 110^5 + 133^5 = 144^5$$

as the smallest instance in which four fifth powers sum to a fifth power. This is a counterexample to a conjecture by Euler [1] that at least n nth powers are required to sum to an nth power, n>2.

REFERENCE

1. L. E. Dickson, *History of the theory of numbers*, Vol. 2, Chelsea, New York, 1952, p. 648.



Conclusion: computers have been used to prove theorems for a long time.

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Can AI be useful to solve more complicated problems?

Problems where the difficulty is not just a high number of case-checking?

■ Paradigm: Intuition, an important concept in mathematics

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Yes

One example from one field of mathematics: stability of dynamical systems

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 where $x(t)\in\mathbb{R}^n,\,f\in C^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and $f(0)=0.$

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Question (System Stability)

Is it true that for every $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that if the initial condition satisfies $\|x(0)\| \le \delta$ then the solution x(t) exists for all $t \in [0, +\infty)$ and

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■ Are all solutions arbitrarily bounded if the initial condition is sufficiently small?

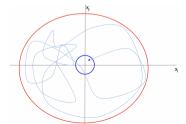
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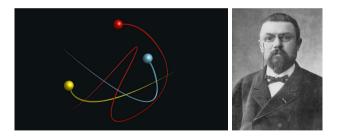
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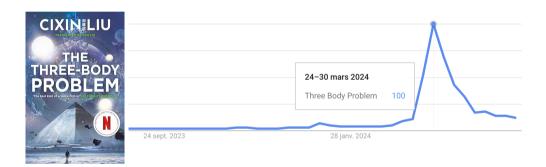


Stability of Dynamical Systems

A problem that has interested mathematicians for over a hundred years.



Stability of Dynamical Systems



Stability of Dynamical Systems

A significant advancement: Lyapunov functions

Theorem

If there exists a function $V \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^n;\mathbb{R})$ such that for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$

$$V(x) > V(0)$$
, and $\nabla V(x) \cdot f(x) \le 0$,

and

$$\lim_{\|x\|\to+\infty}V(x)=+\infty,$$

then the system is stable.



A. Lyapunov (1857-1918)

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The system is stable, a Lyapunov function is

$$V(x) = x_1^6 + 2(x_2^6 + x_3^4)$$

Motivating example: boundary stabilization of the Saint-Venant equations

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t H + \partial_x (HV) = 0, \\ \partial_t V + \partial_x (\frac{V^2}{2} + gH) - \frac{S_b(x)}{2} + S(V, H, x) = 0 \\ V(t, 0) = \frac{G_1}{2} (A(t, 0)), \quad V(t, L) = \frac{G_2}{2} (A(t, L)) \end{cases}$$

Theorem (A.H., Shang, 2019)

There exists explicit simple conditions on G_1 and G_2 such that system is exponentially stable for the H^2 norm for any L > 0, S_b and S.

Remarkable:

- **Explicit** control which does not need the knowledge of S and S_b
- Holds for any length of the domain → something experts in the field thought impossible.

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Behind: a Lyapunov function, hard to find



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Train an AI to have an intuition of Lyapunov functions

Global Lyapunov functions: a long-standing open problem in mathematics, with symbolic transformers (NeurIPS, Alfarano, Charton, A.H., 2024)

Neural network architecture: Transformer (\sim 1000 smaller than GPT-3)

Procedure:

- 1. Generate a set of systems and associated Lyapunov functions.
- 2. Encode the examples
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■ Find a mathematical way to get:

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Then sample at random.

In spirit: finding a Lyapunov function is a hard problem, checking that a function is a Lyapunov function is easier. NP-ish flavor in some sense.

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Limitations: even with a perfect generator, it biases the distribution (and it matters).



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- 3. Train the language model (supervised learning)
 - Symbolic training (use a cross-entropy loss)
 - Standard techniques: priming approach, repeated examples, etc.

Results

It works! The Al learns a mathematical intuition of Lyapunov functions.

¹Existing method for some polynomial systems.

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Can we understand what is going on / how the model learns? → Talk of François Charton at 4:15pm



²Existing classical method for some polynomial systems

NewScientist



Enter search keywords



Meta says its Al could help mathematicians Tada Images/Shutterstock

An AI system developed by Meta can find solutions to maths problems that have eluded mathematicians for over a century, researchers at the firm claim.

The problems involve mathematical tools called Lyapunov functions, named after mathematician Aleksandr Lyapunov, which analyse whether a system will remain stable over time, meaning its behaviour can be predicted. One famous example of such a system is the motion of three celestial bodies as a result of their mutual gravitational interactions – describing the behaviour of this "three–body problem" is extremely challenging.

Read more Incredible maths proof...



Summary of the approach

Paradigm: Training a Transformer to have a mathematical intuition on a problem

Key points:

- $lue{}$ Generating data in a backward fashion (solution ightarrow problem)
- Test out-of-distribution on "real" instances of the problem.

Used in many frameworks: explicit solutions to ODE; local controllability; eigenvalues of random matrices; GCD; equilibrium of bio-networks, to predict quantities in elliptic curves, for cryptography, etc.

Try it yourself:

https://github.com/ahayat16/Lyapunov/

and customize on your favorite math problem



Many other examples

- in topology feedforward and MPNNs to guess links between different mathematical quantities, in particular hyperbolic and algebraic invariant of knots (a conjecture that was later proved) [Davies et al., 2021]
- in group theory path-finding for large graphs with ResMLP and RL [Chervov et al. 2025]
- in partial differential equations PINNs to find an exact self-similar solution to 3D Euler [Wang, Lai, Gómez-Serrano, Buckmaster, 2023] (see also Victorita Dolean-Maini's talk at 3:30pm)

Spanish mathematician Javier Gómez Serrano and Google DeepMind team up to solve the Navier-Stokes million-dollar problem

A team of researchers and engineers has been secretly working for three years on one of humanity's most devilish enigmas, the solution of which is considered imminent thanks to artificial intelligence

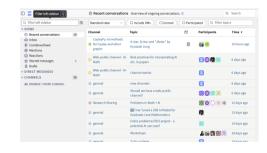
- to find good mathematical constructions PatternBoost [Charton, Ellenberg, Williamson, Wagner], AlphaEvolve [Georgiev, Gómez-Serrano, Tao, Wagner, 2025] (released two weeks ago -see Adam Wagner's talk at 2pm)
- ... and in many others fields



Advertising

A Zulip forum on AI for Mathematics

- by mathematicians
- for mathematicians (...and AI scientists)



https://ai-math.zulipchat.com/join/gjeretjgqhgchcjwsh2fn7g7/

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You are most welcome to join if interested: amaury.hayat@enpc.fr



Advertising

Automath: a Paris-based seminar for the automation of mathematics (bi-monthly)

Automath!

19 octobre 2025 🗸 Recherche 🗸 Séminaires

Automath I est un projet collectif pour faire communauté en région parisienne autour de l'informatisation des mathématiques :

- usage de l'apprentissage automatique (notamment par réseaux de neurones) pour faire des mathématiques : ChatGPT, Gemini, ...
- usage de la formalisation des mathématiques et des assistants de preuve : Lean, Coq/Rocq, ...
- usage de la combinaison des deux!

Site: https://automath.dma.ens.fr/

Opening seminar in January!



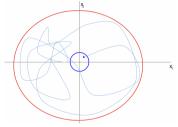
Al as a tool for math discovery

- All are already useful in the practice of mathematics and can help solve difficult problems.
- Al are trained to have better intuition than humans on a specific problem.
- This augmented intuition allows us to bypass the difficulty of the problem.

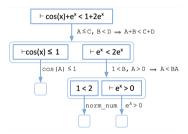
Future of Mathematical Al

Can an AI prove a mathematical result on its own?

Outline of the talk



1. Al as a tool for math discovery



2. When will AI prove theorems?

Can a trained AI find a proof for a mathematical statement?

- A much harder problem
- Shocking question: calls into question our very vision of mathematics
- A science-fiction future that is probably (much) closer than we imagine

Will Mathematics Exist in 2099? (GAFA, W.T. Gowers, 2000, Rough structure and classification)

Mathematician. Is the following true? Let $\delta > 0$. Then for N sufficiently large, every set $A \subset \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$ of size at least δN contains a subset of the form $\{a, a+d, a+2d\}$?

Computer. Yes. If A is non-empty, choose $a \in A$ and set d = 0.

- M. All right all right, but what if d is not allowed to be zero?
- C. Have you tried induction on N, with some $\delta = \delta(N)$ tending to zero?
- M. That idea is no help at all. Give me some examples please.
- C. The obvious greedy algorithm gives the set

$$\left\{1,2,4,5,10,11,13,14,28,29,31,32,37,38,40,41,\dots\right\}.$$

- $C.\ [Pauses\ for\ 0.001\ seconds]$ Actually it isn't. Behrend found a much better bound in 1946. $[Downloads\ paper]$
- M. Oh dear, I'm out of ideas then. Could you give me a suggestion by any chance?
- C. We have a set A. We want to prove that a subset of a certain form exists. The best way of proving existence is often to count.
- M. [Intrigued] Yes, but what would that mean for a problem like this?
- C. Here we wish to count the number of solutions (x, y, z) of the single



Will Mathematics Exist in 2099? (GAFA, W.T. Gowers, 2000, Rough structure and classification)

84 W.T. GOWERS GAFA2000

techniques may be helpful. Rather than giving several examples of the use of standard methods to solve problems, let me return to the question of automating mathematics and present an imagined dialogue between a mathematician and a computer in two or three decades' time. The idea

First approach: training a Transformer (GPT-f, Polu, Sutskever, 2020)

Question

Let a > 0 and b > 0, such that ab = b - a, show that

$$\frac{a}{b} + \frac{b}{a} - ab = 2$$



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Ilya Sutskever: The OpenAI Genius Who Told Sam Altman He Was Fired

Company's chief scientist led a board coup against one of the most prominent figures in Silicon Valley



Ilya Sutskever Co-Founder and Chief Scientist of OpenAl Adresse e-mail validée de openal.com - Page d'accuell Machine Learning Rural Networks Artificial Intelligence Deep Learning



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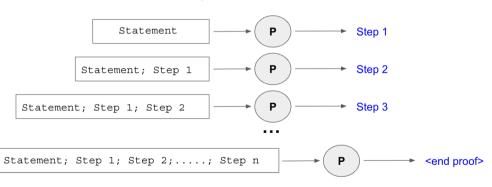
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Input: Math statement



Proof: Step 1; Step 2; ...; Step n.

```
theorem Exercice_1
(a b : R)
(ho: a > 0)
(h1: b > 0)
(h2: a*b = b-a) :
a/b+b/a-2*(a*b) = 2 :=
begin
Sorry,
end
```



Procedure: train it with examples: (exercises, proofs)

■ The hope is that by showing it enough examples, the AI will be capable of learning to reason, just by learning to predict the next step each time.

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Enough = sufficiently diverse and sufficiently numerous

→ Limitation: lack of data



We have very few data available (especially formal).

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→ See Patrick Massot's talk at 11am

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formal language

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Lean: \sim 300,000 theorems. A large dataset for humans, a small dataset for AI.

 \rightarrow Limit of the approach

How to tackle this limit?

Many subsequent improvements and variations

- Training a retriever on the library to suggest relevant theorems: LeanDojo (Yang et al., 2023)
- Fine-tuning better base LLM: LeanLlama (Glöckle et al., 2023)

Tackle the lack of data

- Using additional data gathered on the internet: Llemma (Azerbayev et al., 2023), InternLM-2 (Wu et al. 2024)
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Autoformalization: a natural idea to get more formal data \rightarrow train a model to translate from "natural language proof" to formal and verifiable data.

Exercice 1

Let a > 0 and b > 0, such that ab = b - a, show that

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informal language

Autoformalization: both a means and an end:

- a means: more data to train Al models
- an end: checking the correctness of new mathematical theories

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formal language

Autoformalization: both a means and an end

Example of contradictory papers:

- Schumacher, G., Tsuji, H. (2004). Quasi-projectivity of moduli spaces of polarized varieties. Annals of mathematics, 597-639.
- Kollár, J. (2006). Non-quasi-projective moduli spaces. Annals of mathematics, 1077-1096.

A quickly improving field:

- (2024) Very good statement autoformalization for olympiad style exercise (e.g. Herald, Numina, AlphaProof)
- (2025) 4% of statements in arxiv papers autoformalized automatically in most field of mathematics
- (2025) two first arxiv paper completely autoformalized by Morph Labs / Math inc (proofs included) with little human intervention
- (2025) Start of MALINCA an ERC Synergy Grant project

Still challenges for statement and proof autoformalization in most fields of mathematics

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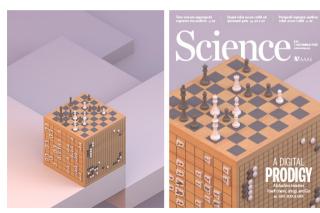
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How to go further?

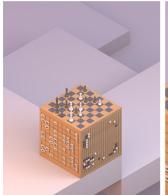
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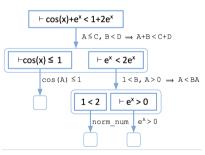


Deepmind (2017)

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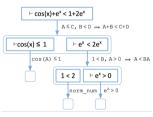
You won!

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Main difficulties:

- two-player game vs. solo against a goal.
- In chess, when you play a move you always have a single game. In mathematics: one statement → multiple statements
- Difficult in mathematics to know automatically in the middle of a proof what the probability of succeeding is.
- The number of possibilities is much, much larger in mathematics



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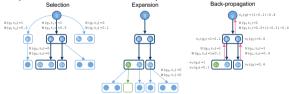
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Much more difficult than chess

In practice

expansion.

- Two transformers: P_{θ} which predicts a tactic, c_{θ} which predicts the difficulty of proving a statement (goal, hypothesis, etc.).
- An intelligent proof search that sees the proof as a tree and combines P_{θ} , c_{θ} and a tree



■ Continuously training of P_{θ} and c_{θ} on successful proofs

Results

Exercises at the undergraduate level...

...60% of middle school / high school exercises up to Olympiad level...

...and a few exercises from the International Mathematical Olympiads

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Exercises at the undergraduate level...

...60% of middle school / high school exercises up to Olympiad level... More recent approach reached 90 – 99% of success (Deepseek, **Kimina**, Seed, 2025)

Talk of Yann Fleureau at 11:30am

...and a few exercises from the International Mathematical Olympiads

Exercise

Show that for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, 7 does not divide $2^n + 1$.

More recent approaches reached up to a gold medal level at the International Mathematical Olympiads (AlphaProof, 2024, Kimina, Aristotle, Seed, 2025)



ABEL: Hypertree proof search 2.0 (Glöckle, Limperg, Synnaeve, A.H. 2024)

ABEL:Sample Efficient Online Reinforcement Learning for Neural Theorem Proving

A better AlphaZero style proof-search in the era of pre-trained models:

- on-par with state of the art on high-school exercise (in Oct. 2024)
- state-of-the-art on PutnamBench for 3,5 months
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Two types of reinforcement learning approaches:

- Proof search, step by step (HTPS, ABEL, etc.)
- Whole-proof generation: a new paradigm since 2024 (Deepseek-prover, Kimina-prover, etc.)

Principle: train a model with a specific type of reinforcement learning with **verifiable answers** \rightarrow the underlying RL (GRPO) makes it a "cheaper" method



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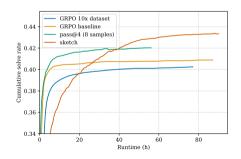
Main limit of reinforcement learning: collapse of diversity

End-to-end sketching and proving (Glöckle, Gu, Synnaeve, A.H., 2025)

Instead of generating whole-proofs, train together:

- A sketcher is trained to provide skeleton of proofs with many lemmas
- A prover is trained to prove the lemmas

Rationale: decomposition and hierarchical recursion is a natural way to decrease the complexity when several attempts are possible.



A very (very) fast-moving field

2019 2022 2024
$$(r_1-r_2)r_3=r_1r_3-r_2r_3 \qquad \forall \ n\in\mathbb{N},\ \neg7\mid 2^n+1 \qquad \text{Silver medal Inter. Math. Olymp.}$$
 HOList, LPLG
$$\text{GPT-f, Thor/DSP, HTPS} \qquad \text{Llemma, LeanDojo, InternML, DeepSeek,} \\ \text{ABEL, AlphaProof, etc. 2025 wouldn't fit on the slide}$$

Today:

- Several models obtain a gold medal at the Inter. Math. Olymp.
- Al models included in Lean tactics (e.g. Lean hammer)
- Models starts to have close to human performances on some problems

Conclusion

- Al methods are already useful in the practice of mathematics
- Al and LLM for proving theorems is only beginning, and there are many ideas... and much to do.
- LLMs will not be the final AI tool which will be used to mathematics.
- The practice of mathematics will probably change... and that's okay.
- Al will not replace mathematicians but will instead enhance them.

A great thank to my co-authors

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A great thank to my co-authors



Alberto Alfarano



François Charton



Fabian Glöckle



Guillaume Lample



Antoine Peyronnet



Gabriel Synnaeve

Conclusion

Thank you for your attention