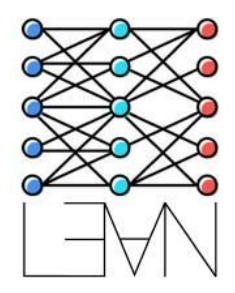
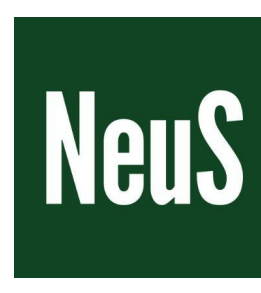


# Lean Copilot: Large Language Models as Copilots for Theorem Proving in Lean



Peiyang Song<sup>1</sup>, Kaiyu Yang<sup>1</sup>, Anima Anandkumar<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Caltech



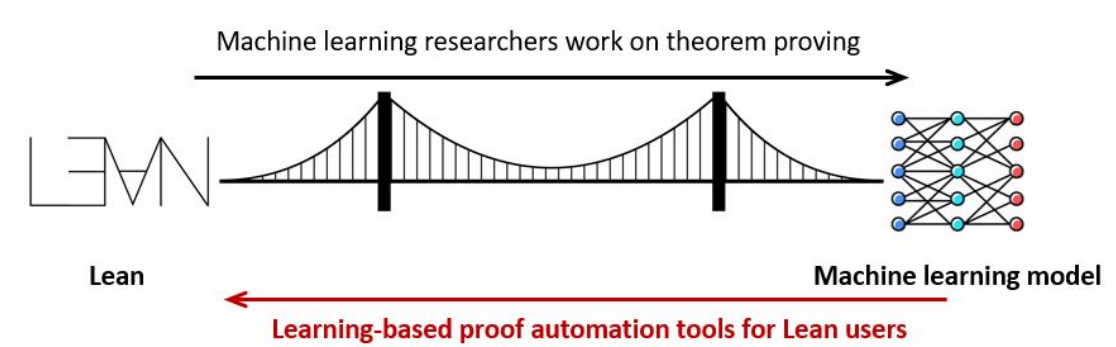
NeuS 2025

## AI for (Formal) Mathematics Reasoning

- Formal reasoning (theorem proving)
  - Proof can be rigorously checked by computers
  - Formalization and theorem proving are labor-intensive
  - Applications in math and formal verification

Lean's Mathlib 95K theorems, 1M lines of code  
Analysis, algebra, combinatorics, etc.

- Theorem proving with machine learning
  - Exciting recent progress on neural theorem proving
  - But not readily accessible for Lean users!
    - Challenging integration into Lean's workflow
    - Unrealistic requirement of compute power & runtime



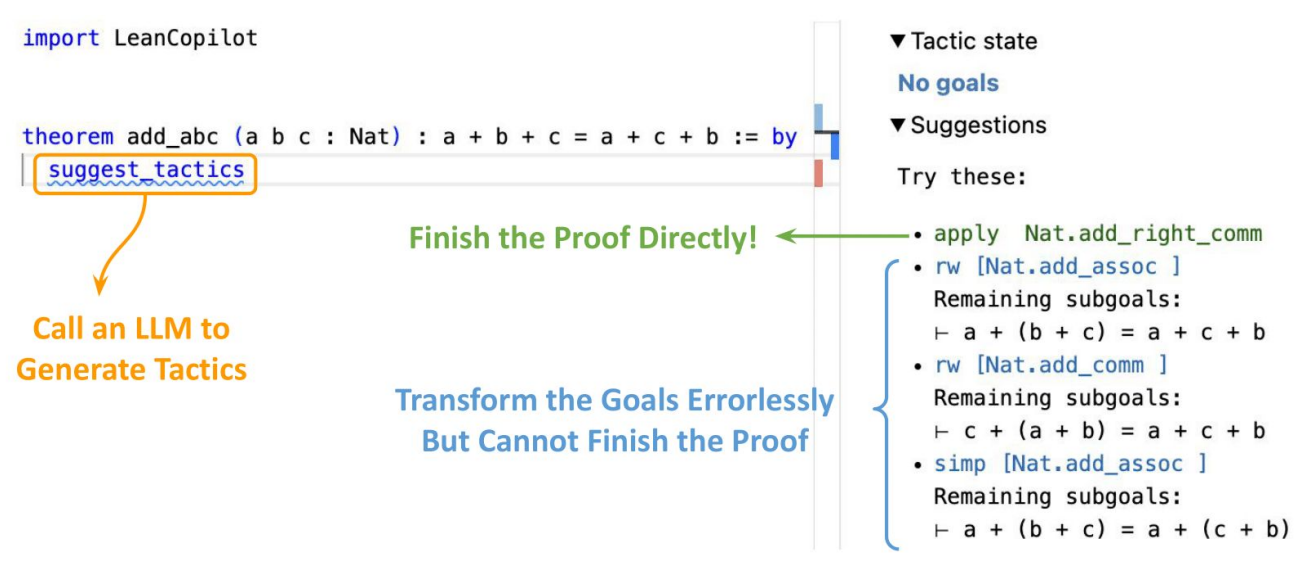
- LLM-aided theorem proving
  - Fully autonomously vs. *as a copilot*

Method	Avg. # human-entered tactics (↓)	% theorems proved autonomously (↑)	Avg. % proof steps automated (↑)
AESOP	3.86	24.4%	40.1%
SUGGEST_TACTICS	3.10	45.2%	58.3%
SEARCH_PROOFS	2.08	63.7%	74.2%

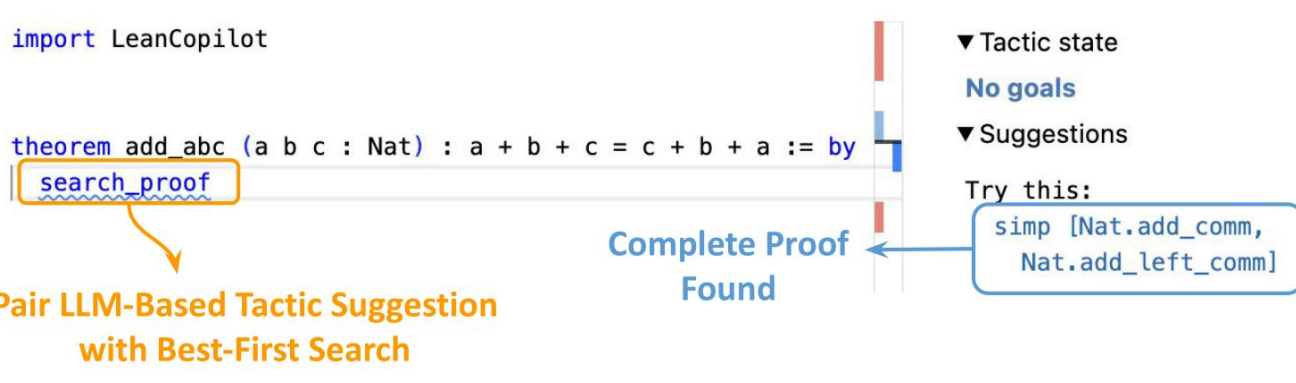
- Work out of the box w/o changes to Lean's workflow
- Installed as a Lean package w/o additional setups
- User experience
  - Simple usage: everything wrapped up as tactics
  - Respond instantaneously on CPU-only laptops

## LLM-based Proof Automation

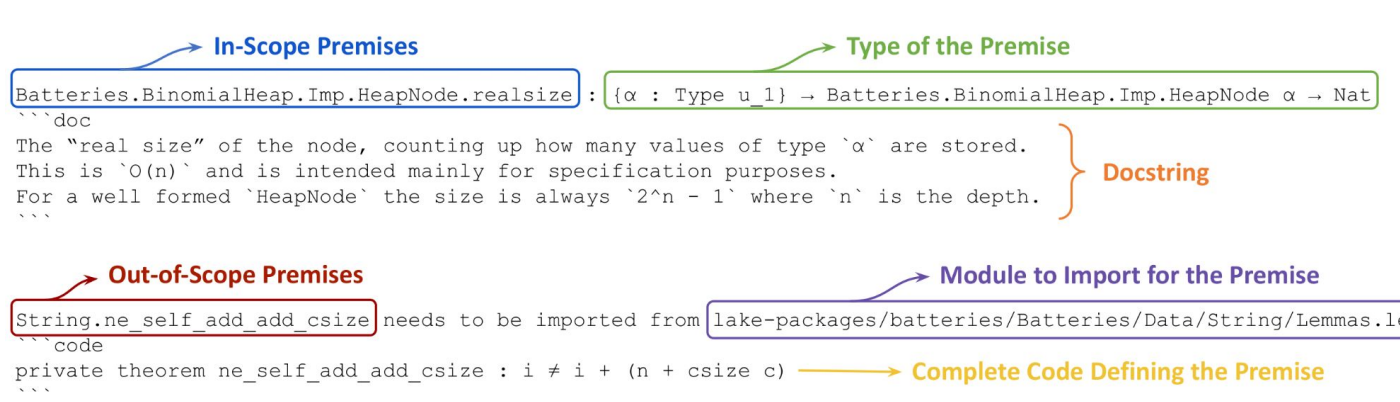
- Tactic suggestion
  - Allow to constrain output tactics with a prefix
  - Perform type check and mark with different colors



- Proof search
  - Combine LLM-generated steps with best-first search
  - Produce multi-step proof certified correct

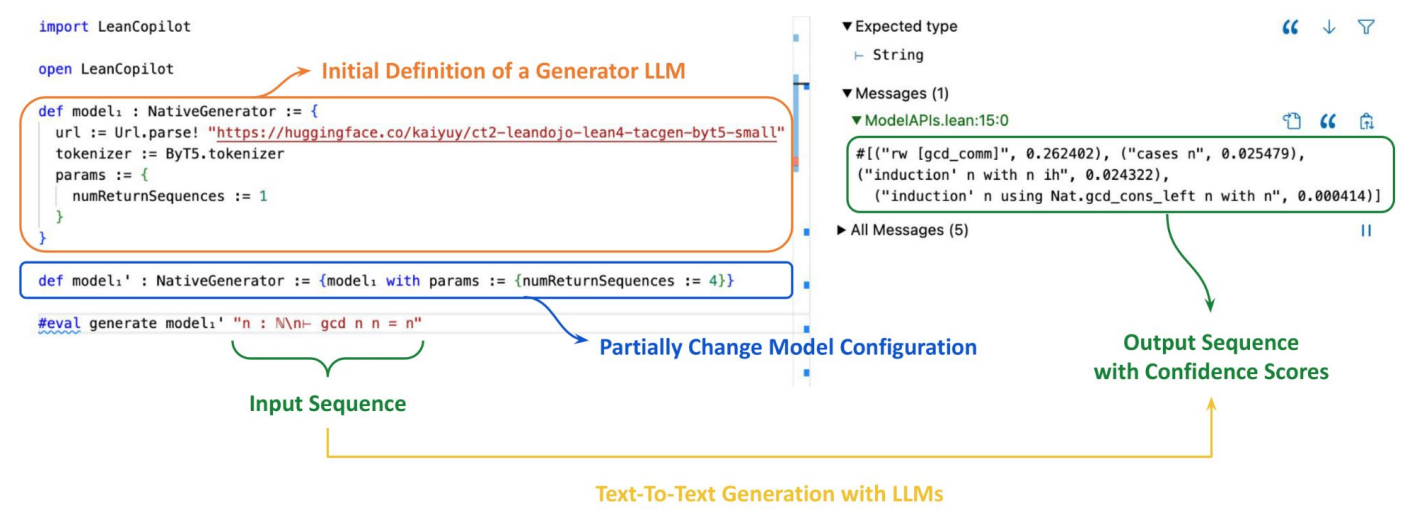


- Premise selection
  - Retrieve useful lemmas from Mathlib
  - Provide type & docstring (if any) information
  - Offer import & code preview for out-of-scope ones

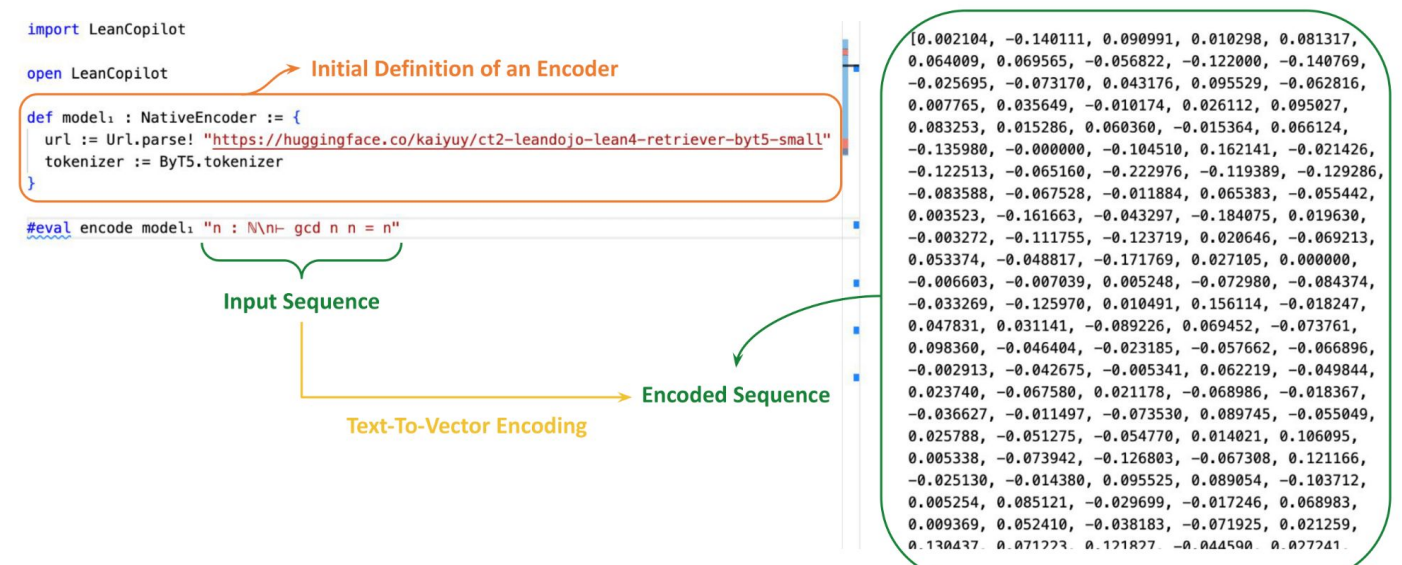


## Neural Network Inference in Lean

- Native neural network inference
  - Use different models / hyperparameters
  - Support multiple platforms, w/o or w GPUs
  - Enable applications not limited to theorem proving
    - Text-to-text generation
    - Underlying tactic suggestion and proof search



- Text-to-vector encoding
  - Underlying premise selection



- Server process for any models
  - Allow users to bring their own models
  - Provide a Python API server to run models externally