# **Explaining Mathematical Proofs to Computers**

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### What is Lean?







A theorem prover

Un assistant de preuve

```
16
17
     The Hahn-Banach theorem about extending linear functionals to a field
      k = R or k = C: -/
18
      theorem Hahn Banach [complete space V] (p : subspace k V)
19
20
      (f : p \rightarrow L[k] k) : \exists g : V \rightarrow L[k] k, (\forall x : p, g x = f x) \land ||g|| =
      ||f|| :=
21
      begin
22
        letI : module R V := restrict scalars.module R k V,
23
        letI : is scalar tower ℝ k V := restrict scalars.is scalar tower
        _ _,
24
        letI : semi normed space \mathbb{R} V := semi normed space.restrict scalars
        k,
25
        -- Let `fr: p →L[R] R` be the real part of `f`.
26
        let fr := re clm.comp (f.restrict scalars R).
        have fr apply: \forall x, fr x = re (f x), by { assume x, refl },
27
        -- Use the real version to get a norm-preserving extension of `fr`,
28
        which
        -- we'll call `g : V →L[R] R`.
29
        rcases real.exists_extension_norm_eq (p.restrict_scalars \mathbb{R}) fr with
30
        (g, (hextends, hnormeg)),
        -- **Now `g` can be extended to the `V →L[k] k` we need.**
31
32
        refine (g.extend to k. ).
        -- It is an extension of `f`.
33
34
        have h : \forall x : p, g.extend to <math>k x = f x,
35
        { assume x,
```

```
▼ talk.lean:21:5
▼ Tactic state
                             wid
 1 goal
                    filter: no filte
 k : Type
 inst 1 : is R or C k
 V : Type u 1
 inst 2 : normed group V
 inst 3 : normed space k V
 inst 4 : complete space V
 p : subspace k V
 f : îp →L[k] k
 ∃ (g : V →L[k] k),
  (\forall (x : 1p), \exists f x = \exists f x)
   \|g\| = \|f\|
► All Messages (3)
```



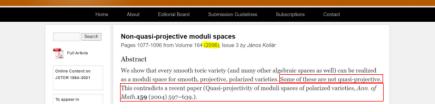
### ANNALS OF MATHEMATICS





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### Let's do some Lean





These two systems (Principia Mathematica and Zermelo–Fraenkel) are so comprehensive that in them all methods of proof used today in mathematics are formalized, that is, reduced to a few axioms and rules of inference. One might therefore conjecture that these axioms and rules of inference are sufficient to decide any mathematical question that can at all be formally expressed in these systems. "

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(K. Gödel, On formally undecidable propositions of Principia Mathematica and related systems, 1931.)

Posted<sup>1</sup>, on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

I [Peter Scholze] want to propose a challenge: Formalise the proof of the following theorem.

#### Theorem (Clausen-S.)

Let  $0 < p' < p \le 1$  be real numbers, let S be a profinite set, and let V be a p-Banach space. Let  $\mathcal{M}_{p'}(S)$  be the space of p'-measures on S. Then

$$\operatorname{Ext}^{i}_{\operatorname{Cond}(\operatorname{Ab})}(\mathcal{M}_{p'}(S), V) = 0$$

for i > 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>On the Xena Project blog, see https://xenaproject.wordpress.com/ 2020/12/05/liquid-tensor-experiment/

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for  $i \geq 1$ .

Why do I want a formalization?

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- ...
- [...] In the end, we were able to get an argument pinned down on paper, but I think nobody else has dared to look at the details of this, and so I still have some small lingering doubts.
- [...] I think the theorem is of utmost foundational importance, so being 99.9% sure is not enough.
- I have occasionally been able to be very persuasive even with wrong arguments.
- I think this may be my most important theorem to date [...]. Better be sure it's correct...

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Fun fact: In the selection exams for the international math olympiad, twice I got full points for a wrong solution. Later, I once had a full proof of the weight-monodromy conjecture that passed the judgment of some top mathematicians, but then it turned out to contain a fatal mistake.

Posted<sup>2</sup> on June 5, 2021

Exactly half a year ago I wrote the Liquid Tensor Experiment blog post, challenging the formalization of a difficult foundational theorem from my Analytic Geometry lecture notes on joint work with Dustin Clausen. While this challenge has not been completed yet, I am excited to announce that the Experiment has verified the entire part of the argument that I was unsure about. I find it absolutely insane that interactive proof assistants are now at the level that within a very reasonable time span they can formally verify difficult original research. Congratulations to everyone involved in the formalization!!

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