Formalization in Lean

Clea Bergsman, Katherine Buesing, Sahan Wijetunga, Mentor: George McNinch

VERSEIM REU

06/12/2025

Lean Basics

- ① An expression in lean is essentially a mathematical expression converted into computer code, ex: numbers, functions, sets
- 2 Every expression in lean has a type. Examples of types:
 - natural numbers N
 - functions $\mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$
 - sets with elements in \mathbb{R}

```
    3 #check N
    4 #check R → R
    5 #check Set R
```

Lean Syntax

Lean Basics ○●○○

```
7 #check (2: N)
8 #check (fun (x: R) => x^2)
9 #check {x: R | x ≥ 0}

10
11
12

Expected type

✓ Messages (1)

✓ presentation.lean:7:0

2 : N
```

```
▶ Expected type
#check (fun (x: \mathbb{R}) => x^2)
#check \{x: \mathbb{R} \mid x \geq 0\}
                                                            ▼ Messages (1)
                                                             ▼ presentation.lean:8:0
                                                              fun x \mapsto x ^2 : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}
```

Lean Syntax

```
▼ Messages (1)
#check (fun (x: \mathbb{R}) => x^2)
#check (x: \mathbb{R} | x \ge 0)
                                                                           ▼ presentation.lean:9:0
                                                                            \{x \mid x \ge 0\} : Set \mathbb{R}
```

Propositions

- A proposition is a mathematical statement converted to computer code
- Prop is a type
- 3 Each proposition is an expression of type Prop
- 4 Examples of propositions:
 - 2+2=4
 - a < b
 - $\forall x, \exists y \text{ such that } 2x = y$

Proofs

Expressions of type P where P is of type Prop are proofs of P.

- **1** Expressions of type 1 < 2 prove that 1 < 2.
- 2 Expressions of type x + y = y + x prove that x + y = y + x.

```
example: x+y=y+x :=
 add_comm x y
```

Lean proof example: $x * x = x^2$

```
example (x : \mathbb{Z}) : x*x = x^2 := by
  rw [ pow_two ]
```

1 goal

```
x : Z
⊢ x * x = x ^ 2
```

pow_two definition: $\vdash \forall \{M : Type u_2\} [inst : Monoid M] (a : M), a ^ 2 = a * a$

Basic Examples

Lean proof example: z * x * y * w = z * y * x * w

```
example (x \ y \ z \ w : \mathbb{N}) : z * x * y * w = z * y * x * w := by
    rw [mul_assoc z x y] Step 1
    rw [mul_assoc z y x] Step 2
    rw [mul comm x y] Step 3
                   Step 1
                    xyzw: N
                    \vdash z * (x * y) * w = z * y * x * w
                   Step 2
                    xyzw:N
                   \vdash z * (x * y) * w = z * (y * x) * w
                   Step 3
                   xyzw: N
                    \vdash z * (v * x) * w = z * (v * x) * w
example (x \ y \ z \ w : \mathbb{N}) : z * x * y * w = z * y * x * w := by
    ring
```

"Human" Proof of odd function times an odd function equals an even function

- 1 Let f(x) and g(x) be odd functions, so that f(x) = -f(-x) and g(x) = -g(-x). Let h(x) = f(x) * g(x).
- 2 We want to show that h(x) is even, or in other words, h(x) = h(-x).
- **3** We have h(x) = f(x) * g(x).
- 4 Using the definition of an odd function, h(x) = -f(-x) * -g(-x) = f(-x) * g(-x).
- **6** We know h(-x) = f(-x) * g(-x), so h(x) = h(-x).
- **6** Thus, h(x) is an even function.

Our definition of even and odd functions

```
def FnEven (f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}) : Prop :=

\forall x, f x = f (-x)

def FnOdd (f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}) : Prop :=

\forall x, f x = -f (-x)
```

Lean proof of odd function times an odd function equals an even function

```
example (of: FnOdd f) (oq: FnOdd q): FnEven fun x \mapsto f x * q x := by
   intro x
   calc
      (fun x \mapsto f x * q x) x = f x * q x := rfl
      _{-} = -f (-x) * -g (-x) := by rw [of, og]
      = f(-x) * q(-x) := by ring
  Original Goal
                                                    After intro x
                                                     fq: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}
   fg: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}
                                                     of : FnOdd f
   of : FnOdd f
                                                     og: FnOdd g
   og: FnOdd g
                                                     \mathbf{x}: \mathbb{R}
   \vdash FnEven fun x \mapsto f x \ast g x
                                                     \vdash (fun x \mapsto f x * g x) x = (fun x \mapsto f x * g x) (-x)
  After of
                                                    After og
   fa: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}
                                                     fg: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}
   of: FnOdd f
                                                     of : FnOdd f
   oa : FnOdd a
                                                     og: FnOdd g
   x : \mathbb{R}
   \vdash [-f(-x)] * a x = -f(-x) * -a(-x)
                                                     \vdash -f (-x) * -q (-x) = -f (-x) * -q (-x)
```

Odd/Even Functions Proof

Alternative lean proof of odd function times an odd function equals an even function

```
example \{f g\} (of : FnOdd f) (og : FnOdd g) : FnEven fun x \mapsto f x * g x := by
1
      intro xo
2
      dsimp
3
     rw[of, og]
      exact neg_mul_neg(f(-x_0))(g(-x_0))
4
                                                                 1 goal
    1 goal
                                                                 fg: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}
    f g : R → R
                                                                 of : FnOdd f
    of : FnOdd f
                                                                 og: FnOdd g
     og : FnOdd g
                                                                  Xo : R
     \vdash FnEven fun x \mapsto f x * g x
                                                                  f x_0 * g x_0 = f (-x_0) * g (-x_0)
     1 goal
                                                                 1 goal
      fg: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}
                                                                  fg: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}
      of : FnOdd f
                                                                  of : FnOdd f
      og : FnOdd g
                                                                  og : FnOdd g
      ×0 : R
                                                                  Xo : R
      \vdash (fun x \mapsto f x * g x) x_0 =
                                                                  \vdash -f (-x_0) * -g (-x_0) = f (-x_0) * g (-x_0)
      (fun x \mapsto f x * g x) (-x<sub>0</sub>)
```

- Forms over finite fields
- Quaternion algebra
- Graph theory
- 4 The Grassmannian

What's the point?

- The transformation from "human mathematics" to "formalized mathematics" removes inferences from proofs, continuously checking that proofs are correct
- mathlib facilitates collaboration between mathematicians and allows proofs to be viewed by hundreds of scholars and students
- Proofs can be continuously modified and maintained by other mathematicians rather than becoming incompatible with other developments in Lean
- 4 New methods to formalize a proof may have important pedagogical benefits

References

- Browning, T., & Lutz, P. (2022). Formalizing Galois Theory. Experimental Mathematics, 31(2), 413-424.
- 2 Avigad, J. Buzzard, K. Lewis R. Y. Massot, P. (2020). *Mathematics in Lean*.

Thank you!

Special thanks to Dr. George McNinch and the REU