

# Lemma Mining over HOL Light

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**Abstract.** Large formal mathematical libraries consist of millions of atomic inference steps that give rise to a corresponding number of proved statements (lemmas). Analogously to the informal mathematical practice, only a tiny fraction of such statements is named and re-used in later proofs by formal mathematicians. In this work, we suggest and implement criteria defining the estimated usefulness of the HOL Light lemmas for proving further theorems. We use these criteria to mine the large inference graph of all lemmas in the core HOL Light library, adding thousands of the best lemmas to the pool of named statements that can be re-used in later proofs. The usefulness of the new lemmas is then evaluated by comparing the performance of automated proving of the core HOL Light theorems with and without such added lemmas.

## 1 Introduction

In the last decade, large formal mathematical corpora such as the Mizar Mathematical Library [5] (MML), Isabelle/HOL [33] and HOL Light [7]/Flyspeck [6] have been translated to formats that allow easy experiments with external automated theorem provers (ATPs) and AI systems [10, 17, 26]. Several AI/ATP methods for reasoning in the context of a large number of related theorems and proofs have been suggested and tried already, including: (i) methods (often external to the core ATP algorithms) that select relevant premises (facts) from the thousands of theorems available in such corpora [8, 15], (ii) methods for internal guidance of ATP systems when reasoning in the large-theory setting [31], (iii) methods that automatically evolve more and more efficient ATP strategies for the clusters of related problems from such corpora [28], and (iv) methods that learn which of such specialized strategies to use for a new problem [14].

In this work, we start to complement the first set of methods – ATP-external premise selection – with *lemma mining* from the large corpora. The main idea of this approach is to enrich the pool of human-defined main (top-level) theorems in the large libraries with the most useful/interesting lemmas extracted from the proofs in these libraries. Such lemmas are then eligible together with (or instead of) the main library theorems as the premises that are given to the ATPs to attack new conjectures formulated over the large libraries.

This high-level idea is straightforward, but there are a number of possible approaches involving a number of issues to be solved, starting with a reasonable definition of a *useful/interesting lemma*, and with making such definitions efficient over corpora that contain millions to billions of candidate lemmas. These

issues are discussed in Sections 4 and 5, after motivating and explaining the overall approach for using lemmas in large theories in Section 2 and giving an overview of the recent related work in Section 3.

As in any AI discipline dealing with large amount of data, research in the large-theory field is driven by rigorous experimental evaluations of the proposed methods over the existing corpora. For the first experiments with lemma mining we use the HOL Light system, together with its core library and the Flyspeck library. The various evaluation scenarios are defined and discussed in Section 6, and the implemented methods are evaluated in Section 7. Section 8 discusses the various future directions and concludes.

## 2 Using Lemmas for Theorem Proving in Large Theories

The main task in the Automated Reasoning in Large Theories (ARLT) domain is to prove new conjectures with the knowledge of a large body of previously proved theorems and their proofs. This setting reasonably corresponds to how large ITP libraries are constructed, and hopefully also emulates how human mathematicians work more faithfully than the classical scenario of a single hard problem consisting of isolated axioms and a conjecture [30]. The pool of previously proved theorems ranges from thousands in large-theory ATP benchmarks such as MPTP2078 [1], to tens of thousands when working with the whole ITP libraries.<sup>3</sup>

The strongest existing ARLT systems combine variously parametrized premise-selection techniques (often based on machine learning from previous proofs) with ATP systems and their strategies that are called with varied numbers of the most promising premises. These techniques can go quite far already: when using 14-fold parallelization and 30s wall-clock time, the HOL(y)Hammer system [10,11] can today prove 47% of the 14185 Flyspeck theorems [12]. This is measured in a scenario<sup>4</sup> in which the Flyspeck theorems are ordered *chronologically* using the loading sequence of the Flyspeck library, and presented in this order to HOL(y)Hammer as conjectures. After each theorem is attempted, its human-designed HOL Light proof is fed to the HOL(y)Hammer’s learning components, together with the (possibly several) ATP proofs found by HOL(y)Hammer itself. This means that for each Flyspeck theorem, all human-written HOL Light proofs of all previous theorems are assumed to be known, together with all their ATP proofs found already by HOL(y)Hammer, but nothing is known about the current conjecture and the following parts of the library (they do not exist yet).

So far, systems like HOL(y)Hammer (similar systems include Sledgehammer/MaSh [13] and MaLAREa [29]) have only used the set of *named library theorems* for proving new conjectures and thus also for the premise-selection learning. This is usually a reasonable set of theorems to start with, because the human mathematicians have years of experience with structuring the formal libraries. On the other hand, there is no guarantee that this set is in any sense

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<sup>3</sup> 14185 theorems are in the HOL/Flyspeck library, about 20000 are in the Isabelle/HOL library, and about 50000 theorems are in the Mizar library.

<sup>4</sup> A similar scenario has been introduced in 2013 also for the CASC LTB competition.

optimal, both for the human mathematicians and for the ATPs. The following three observations indicate that the set of human-named theorems may be suboptimal:

*Proofs of different length:* The human-named theorems may differ considerably in the length of their proofs. The human naming is based on a number of (possibly traditional/esthetical) criteria that may sometimes have little to do with a good structuring of the library.

*Duplicate and weak theorems:* The large collaboratively-build libraries are hard to manually guard against duplications and naming of weak versions of various statements. The experiments with the MoMM system over the Mizar library [27] and with the recording of the Flyspeck library [9] have shown that there are a number of subsumed and duplicated theorems, and that some unnamed strong lemmas are proved over and over again.

*Short alternative proofs:* The experiments with AI-assisted ATP over the Mizar and Flyspeck libraries [2,10] have shown that the combined AI/ATP systems may sometimes find alternative proofs that are much shorter and very different from the human proofs, again turning some “hard” named theorems into easy corollaries.

Suboptimal naming may obviously influence the performance of the current large-theory systems. If many important lemmas are omitted by the human naming, the ATPs will have to find them over and over when proving the conjectures that depend on such lemmas. On the other hand, if many similar variants of one theorem are named, the current premise-selection methods might focus too much on those variants, and fail to select the complementary theorems that are also necessary for proving a particular conjecture.<sup>5</sup>

To various extent, this problem might be remedied by the alternative learning/guidance methods (ii) and (iii) mentioned in the introduction: Learning of internal ATP guidance using for example Veroff’s hint technique [32], and learning of suitable ATP strategies using systems like BliStr [28]. But these methods are so far much more experimental in the large-theory setting than premise selection.<sup>6</sup> That is why we propose the following lemma-mining approach:

1. Considering (efficiently) the detailed graph of all atomic inferences contained in the ITP libraries. Such a graph has millions of nodes for the core HOL Light corpus, and hundreds of millions of nodes for the whole Flyspeck.
2. Defining over such large proof graphs efficient criteria that select a smaller set of the strongest and most orthogonal lemmas from the corpora.
3. Using such lemmas together with (or instead of) the human-named theorems for proving new conjectures over the corpora.

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<sup>5</sup> This behavior obviously depends on the premise-selection algorithm. It is likely to occur when the premise selection is mainly based on symbolic similarity of the premises to the conjecture. It is less likely to occur when complementary semantic selection criteria are additionally used as, e.g., in SRASS [25] and MaLAREa [29].

<sup>6</sup> In particular, several initial experiments done so far with Veroff’s hints over the MPTPChallenge and MPTP2078 benchmarks were so far unsuccessful.

### 3 Overview of Related Work and Ideas

A number of ways how to measure the quality of lemmas and how to use them for further reasoning have been proposed already, particularly in the context of ATP systems and proofs. Below we summarize recent approaches and tools that initially seemed most relevant to our work.

Lemmas are an essential part of various ATP algorithms. State-of-the-art ATPs such as Vampire [21], E [23] and Prover9 [16] implement various variants of the ANL loop [34], resulting in hundreds to billions of lemmas inferred during the prover runs. This gave rise to a number of efficient ATP indexing techniques, redundancy control techniques such as subsumption, and also fast ATP heuristics (based on weight, age, conjecture-similarity, etc.) for choosing the best lemmas for the next inferences. Several ATP methods and tools work with such ATP lemmas. Veroff’s *hint technique* [32] extracts the best lemmas from the proofs produced by successful Prover9 runs and uses them for directing the proof search in Prover9 on related problems. A similar lemma-extracting, generalizing and proof-guiding technique (called *E Knowledge Base – EKB*) was implemented by Schulz in E prover as a part of his PhD thesis [22].

Schulz also implemented the *epclemma* tool that estimates the best lemmas in an arbitrary DAG (directed acyclic graph) of inferences. Unlike the hint-extracting/guiding methods, this tool works not just on the handful of lemmas involved in the final refutational proof, but on the typically very large number of lemmas produced during the (possibly unfinished) ATP runs. The *epclemma*’s criteria for selecting the next best lemma from the inference DAG are: (i) the size of the lemma’s inference subgraph based at the nodes that are either axioms or already chosen (better) lemmas, and (ii) the weight of the lemma. This lemma-selection process may be run recursively, until a stopping criterion (minimal lemma quality, required number of lemmas, etc.) is reached. Our algorithm for HOL Light (Section 5) is quite similar to this.

*AGIntRater* [20] is a tool that computes various characteristics of the lemmas that are part of the final refutational ATP proof and aggregates them into an overall *interestingness* rating. These characteristics include: obviousness, complexity, intensity, surprisingness, adaptivity, focus, weight, and usefulness, see [20] for details. *AGIntRater* so far was not directly usable on our data for various reasons (particularly the size of our graph), but we might re-use and try to efficiently implement some of its ideas later.

Pudlák [19] has conducted experiments over several datasets with automated re-use of lemmas from many existing ATP proofs in order to find smaller proofs and also to attack unsolved problems. This is similar to the hints technique, however more automated and closer to our large-theory setting (hints have so far been successfully applied mainly in small algebraic domains). To interreduce the large number of such lemmas with respect to subsumption he used the E-based *CSSCPA* [24] subsumption tool by Schulz and Sutcliffe. *MoMM* [27] adds a number of large-theory features to *CSSCPA*. It was used for (i) fast interreduction of million of lemmas extracted (generalized) from the proofs in the Mizar library, and (ii) as an early ATP-for-ITP hammer-style tool for completing proofs

in Mizar with the help of the whole Mizar library. All library lemmas can be loaded, indexed and considered for each query, however the price for this breadth of coverage is that the inference process is limited to subsumption extended with Mizar-style dependent types.

AGIntRater and epcllemma use a lemma’s position in the inference graph as one of the lemma’s characteristics that contribute to its importance. There are also purely graph-based algorithms that try to estimate a relative importance of nodes in a graph. In particular, research of large graphs became popular with the appearance of the World Wide Web and social networks. Algorithms such as *PageRank* [18] (eigenvector centrality) have today fast approximative implementations that easily scale to billions of nodes.

## 4 The Proof Data

We initially consider two corpora: the core HOL Light corpus (SVN version 146) and the Flyspeck corpus (SVN version 2886). The core HOL Light corpus consists of 1,984 named theorems, while the Flyspeck corpus contains 14,185 named theorems. There are 97,714,465 lemmas in Flyspeck when exact duplicates are removed, and 420,253,109 lemmas when counting duplicates. When removing duplicates only within the proof of each named theorem, the final number of lemmas is 146,120,269. For core HOL Light the number of non-duplicate lemmas is 1,987,781. When counting duplicates it is 6,963,294, and when removing duplicates only inside the proof of each named theorem it is 2,697,212. To obtain the full inference graph for Flyspeck we run the proof-recording version of HOL Light [9]. This takes 14 hours of CPU time and 42 GB of RAM on an Intel Xeon 2.6 GHz machine. This time and memory consumption are much lower when working only with the core HOL Light, hence many of the experiments were so far done only on the smaller corpus.

There are 140,534,426 inference edges between the unique Flyspeck lemmas, each of them corresponding to one of the LCF-style kernel inferences done by HOL Light [9]. During the proof recording we additionally export the information about the symbol weight (size) of each lemma, and its normalized form that serially numbers bound and free variables and tags them with their types. This information is later used for external postprocessing, together with the information about which theorems were originally named. Below is a commented example of the initial segment of the Flyspeck proof trace, the full trace (1.5G in size) is available online<sup>7</sup>, as well as the numbers of the original named Flyspeck theorems.<sup>8</sup>

```
F13      #1, Definition (size 13): T <=> (\A0. A0) = (\A0. A0)
R9       #2, Reflexivity (size 9): (\A0. A0) = (\A0. A0)
R5       #3, Reflexivity (size 5): T <=> T
R5       #4, Reflexivity (size 5): (<=>) = (<=>)
C17 4 1  #5, Application(4,1):      (<=>) T = (<=>) ((\A0. A0) = (\A0. A0))
```

<sup>7</sup> [http://mizar.cs.ualberta.ca/~mptp/lemma\\_mining/proof.trace.old.gz](http://mizar.cs.ualberta.ca/~mptp/lemma_mining/proof.trace.old.gz)

<sup>8</sup> [http://mizar.cs.ualberta.ca/~mptp/lemma\\_mining/facts.trace.old.gz](http://mizar.cs.ualberta.ca/~mptp/lemma_mining/facts.trace.old.gz)

```
C21 5 3 #6, Application(5,3): (T <=> T) <=> (\A0. A0) = (\A0. A0) <=> T
E13 6 3 #7, EQ_MP(6,3) (size 13): (\A0. A0) = (\A0. A0) <=> T
```

#### 4.1 Initial Post-processing and Optimization of the Proof Data

During the proof recording, only exact duplicates are easy to detect. Due to various implementational issues, it is simpler to always limit the duplication detection to the lemmas derived within a proof of each named theorem, hence this is our default initial dataset. HOL Light does not natively use de Bruijn indices for representing variables, i.e., two alpha-convertible versions of the same theorems will be kept in the proof trace if they differ in variable names. Checking for alpha convertibility during the proof recording is nontrivial, because in the HOL Light’s LCF-style approach alpha conversion itself results in multiple kernel inferences. That is why we keep the original proof trace untouched, and implement its further optimizations as external postprocessing of the trace.

In particular, to merge alpha convertible lemmas in a proof trace  $T$ , we just use the above mentioned normalized-variable representation of the lemmas as an input to an external program that produces a new version of the proof trace  $T'$ . This program goes through the trace  $T$  and replaces references to each lemma by a reference to the earliest lemma in  $T$  with the same normalized-variable representation. The proofs of the later named alpha variants of the lemmas in  $T$  are however still kept in the new trace  $T'$ , because such proofs are important when computing the usage and dependency statistics over the normalized lemmas. So far we have done this postprocessing only for the core HOL Light 2,697,212 lemmas,<sup>9</sup> because printing out of the variable-normalized version of the 146,120,269 partially de-duplicated Flyspeck lemmas would produce more than 100G of data. From the 2,697,212 partially de-duplicated core HOL Light lemmas 1,076,995 are left after this stronger normalization. It is clear that such post-processing operations can be implemented different ways. In this case, some original information about the proof graph is lost, while some information (proofs of duplicate lemmas) is still kept, even though it could be also pruned from the graph, producing a differently normalized version.

The ATP experiments described below use only the two versions of the proof trace described above, but we have also explored some other normalizations. A particularly interesting optimization from the ATP point of view is the removal of subsumed lemmas. An initial measurement with the (slightly modified) MoMM system done on the clasified first-order versions of about 200,000 core HOL Light lemmas has shown that about 33% of the clauses generated from the lemmas are subsumed. But again, ATP operations like subsumption interact with the level of inferences recorded by the HOL Light kernel in nontrivial ways. It is an interesting task to define exactly how the original proof graph should be transformed with respect to such operations, and how to perform such proof graph transformations efficiently over the whole Flyspeck.

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<sup>9</sup> [http://mizar.cs.ualberta.ca/~mptp/lemma\\_mining/human.gz](http://mizar.cs.ualberta.ca/~mptp/lemma_mining/human.gz)

## 5 Selecting Good Lemmas

Several approaches to defining the notion of a useful/interesting lemma are mentioned in Section 3. There are a number of ideas that can be explored and combined together in various ways, but the more complex methods (such as those used by AGIntRater) are not yet directly usable on the large ITP datasets that we have. So far, we have experimented mainly with the following techniques:

1. A direct OCAML implementation of lemma quality metrics based on the HOL Light proof-recording data structures.
2. Schulz’s epclemma and its minor modifications.
3. PageRank, applied in various ways to the proof trace.

### 5.1 Direct Computation of Lemma Quality

The advantage of the direct OCAML implementation is that no export to external tools is necessary and all the information collected about the lemmas by the HOL Light proof recording is directly available. The basic factors that we use so far for defining the quality of a lemma  $i$  are its: (i) set of direct proof dependencies  $d(i)$  given by the proof trace, (ii) number of recursive dependencies  $D(i)$ , (iii) number of recursive uses  $U(i)$ , and (iv) number of HOL symbols (HOL weight)  $S(i)$ . When recursively defining  $U(i)$  and  $D(i)$  we assume that in general some lemmas may already be named ( $k \in Named$ ) and some lemmas are just axioms ( $k \in Axioms$ ). Note that in HOL Light there are many lemmas that have no dependencies, but formally they are still derived using for example the reflexivity inference rule (i.e., we do not count them among the HOL Light axioms). The recursion when defining  $D$  thus stops at axioms, named lemmas, and lemmas with no dependencies. The recursion when defining  $U$  stops at named lemmas and unused lemmas. Formally:

**Definition 1 (Recursive dependencies and uses).**

$$D(i) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i \in Named \vee i \in Axioms, \\ \sum_{j \in d(i)} D(j) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$$U(i) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i \in Named, \\ \sum_{i \in d(j)} U(j) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

In particular, this means that

$$D(i) = 0 \iff d(i) = \emptyset \wedge \neg(i \in Axioms)$$

and also that

$$U(i) = 0 \iff \forall j \neg(i \in d(j))$$

These basic characteristics are combined into the following lemma quality metrics  $Q_1(i)$ ,  $Q_2(i)$ , and  $Q_3(i)$ .  $Q_1^r(i)$  is a generalized version of  $Q_1(i)$ , which we (apart from  $Q_1$ ) test for  $r \in \{0, 0.5, 1.5, 2\}$ :

**Definition 2 (Lemma quality).**

$$Q_1(i) = \frac{U(i) * D(i)}{S(i)} \quad Q_1^r(i) = \frac{U(i)^r * D(i)^{2-r}}{S(i)}$$

$$Q_2(i) = \frac{U(i) * D(i)}{S(i)^2} \quad Q_3(i) = \frac{U(i) * D(i)}{1.1^{S(i)}}$$

The justification behind these definitions are the following heuristics:

1. The higher is  $D(i)$ , the more necessary it is to remember the lemma  $i$ , because it will be harder to infer with an ATP when needed.
2. The higher is  $U(i)$ , the more useful the lemma  $i$  is for proving other desired conjectures.
3. The higher is  $S(i)$ , the more complicated the lemma  $i$  is in comparison to other lemmas. In particular, doubled size may often mean in HOL Light that  $i$  is just a conjunction of two other lemmas.<sup>10</sup>

## 5.2 Lemma Quality via epcllemma

Lemma quality in epcllemma is defined on clause inferences recorded using E’s native PCL protocol. The lemma quality computation also takes into account the lemmas that have been already named, and with minor implementational variations it can be expressed using  $D$  and  $S$  as follows:

$$EQ_1(i) = \frac{D(i)}{S(i)}$$

The difference to  $Q_1(i)$  is that  $U(i)$  is not used, i.e., only the cumulative effort needed to prove the lemma counts, together with its size (this is also very close to  $Q_1^r(i)$  with  $r = 0$ ). The main advantage of using epcllemma is its fast and robust implementation using the E code base. This allowed us to load in reasonable time (about one hour) the whole Flyspeck proof trace into epcllemma, taking 67 GB of RAM. Unfortunately, this experiment showed that epcllemma assumes that  $D$  is always an integer. This is likely not a problem for epcllemma’s typical use, but on the Flyspeck graph this quickly leads to integer overflows and wrong results. To a smaller extent this shows already on the core HOL Light proof graph. A simple way how to prevent the overflows was to modify epcllemma to use instead of  $D$  the longest chain of inferences  $L$ :

$$L(i) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i \in \text{Named} \vee i \in \text{Axioms}, \\ \max_{j \in d(i)} (1 + L(j)) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

<sup>10</sup> The possibility to create conjunctions is quite a significant difference to the clausal setting handled by the existing tools. A longer clause is typically weaker, while longer conjunctions are stronger. A dependence on a longer conjunction should ideally be treated by the evaluating heuristics as a dependence on the multiple conjuncts.

This leads to:

$$EQ_2(i) = \frac{L(i)}{S(i)}$$

Apart from this modification, only minor changes were needed to make ep-lemma work on the HOL Light data. The HOL proof trace was expressed as a PCL proof (renaming the HOL inferences into E inferences), and artificial TPTP clauses of the corresponding size were used instead of the original HOL clauses.

### 5.3 Lemma Quality via PageRank

PageRank (eigenvector centrality of a graph) is a method that assigns weights to the nodes in an arbitrary directed graph (not just DAG) based on the weights of the neighboring nodes (“incoming links”). In more detail, the weights are computed as the dominant eigenvector of the following set of equations:

$$PR_1(i) = \frac{1-f}{N} + f \sum_{i \in d(j)} \frac{PR_1(j)}{|d(j)|}$$

where  $N$  is the total number of nodes and  $f$  is a damping factor, typically set to 0.85. The advantage of using PageRank is that there are fast approximative implementations that can process the whole Flyspeck proof graph in about 10 minutes using about 21 GB RAM, and the weights of all nodes are computed simultaneously in this time.

This is however also a disadvantage in comparison to the previous algorithms: PageRank does not take into account the lemmas that have already been selected (named). The closer a lemma  $i$  is to an important lemma  $j$ , the more important  $i$  will be. Modifications that use the initial PageRank scores for more advanced clustering exist [3] and perhaps could be used to mitigate this problem while still keeping the overall processing reasonably fast. Another disadvantage of PageRank is its ignorance of the lemma size, which results in greater weights for the large conjunctions that are used quite often in HOL Light.  $PR_2$  tries to counter that:

$$PR_2(i) = \frac{PR_1(i)}{S(i)}$$

$PR_1$  and  $PR_2$  are based on the idea that a lemma is important if it is needed to prove many other important lemmas. This can be again turned around: we can define that a lemma is important if it depends on many important lemmas. This is equivalent to computing the reverse PageRank and its size-normalized version:

$$PR_3(i) = \frac{1-f}{N} + f \sum_{i \in u(j)} \frac{PR_3(j)}{|u(j)|} \quad PR_4(i) = \frac{PR_3(i)}{S(i)}$$

where  $u(j)$  are the direct uses of the lemma  $j$ , i.e.,  $i \in u(j) \iff j \in d(i)$ . The two ideas can again be combined (note that the sum of the PageRanks of all

nodes is always 1):

$$PR_5(i) = \frac{PR_1(i) + PR_3(i)}{S(i)}$$

#### 5.4 Selecting Many Lemmas

From the methods described above, only the various variants of PageRank ( $PR_i$ ) produce the final ranking of all lemmas in one run. Both `epcllemma` ( $EQ_i$ ) and our custom methods ( $Q_i$ ) are parametrized by the set of lemmas ( $Named$ ) that have already been named. When the task is to choose a predefined number of the best lemmas, this naturally leads to the following recursive lemma-selection algorithm (used also by `epcllemma`):

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#### Algorithm 1 Best lemmas

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**Input** a lemma-quality metric  $Q$ , set of lemmas  $Lemmas$ , an initial set of named lemmas  $Named_0 \subset Lemmas$ , and a required number of lemmas  $M$

**Output** set  $Named$  of  $M$  best lemmas according to  $Q$

```

1:  $Named \leftarrow Named_0$ 
2:  $m \leftarrow 0$ 
3: while  $m < M$  do
4:   for  $i \in Lemmas$  do
5:     CALCULATE( $Q_{Named}(i)$ )
6:   end for
7:    $j \leftarrow \operatorname{argmax}\{Q_{Named}(i) : i \in Lemmas \setminus Named\}$ 
8:    $Named \leftarrow Named \cup \{j\}$ 
9:    $m \leftarrow m + 1$ 
10: end while
11: RETURN( $Named$ )

```

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There are two possible choices of  $Named_0$ : either the empty set, or the set of all human-named theorems. This choice depends on whether we want reorganize the library from scratch, or whether we just want to select good lemmas that complement the human-named theorems. Below we experiment with both approaches. Note that this algorithm is currently quite expensive: the fast `epcllemma` implementation takes 65 seconds to update the lemma qualities over the whole Flyspeck graph after each change of the  $Named$  set. This means that producing the first 10000 Flyspeck lemmas takes 180 CPU hours. That is why most of the experiments are limited to the core HOL Light graph where this takes about 1 second and 3 hours respectively.

## 6 Evaluation Scenarios and Issues

To assess and develop the lemma-mining methods we define several evaluation scenarios that vary in speed, informativeness and rigor. The simplest and least rigorous is the *expert-evaluation* scenario: We use our knowledge of the formal

corpora to quickly see if the top-ranked lemmas produced by a particular method look plausible. Because of its size, this is the only evaluation done for the whole Flyspeck corpus so far.

The *cheating ATP* scenario uses the full proof graph of a corpus to compute the set of the (typically 10,000) best lemmas (*BestLemmas*) for the whole corpus. Then the set of newly named theorems (*NewThms*) is defined as the union of *BestLemmas* with the set of originally named theorems (*OrigThms*):  $NewThms := BestLemmas \cup OrigThms$ . The derived graph  $G_{NewThms}$  of direct dependencies among the elements of *NewThms* is used for ATP evaluation, which may be done in two ways: with human selection and with AI selection. When using human selection, we try to prove each lemma from its parents in  $G_{NewThms}$ . When using AI selection, we use the chronological order (see Section 2) of *NewThms* to incrementally train and evaluate the  $k$ -NN machine learner [12] on the direct dependencies from  $G_{NewThms}$ . This produces for each new theorem an ATP problem with premises advised by the learner trained on the  $G_{NewThms}$  dependencies of the preceding new theorems. This scenario may do a lot of cheating, because when measuring the ATP success on *OrigThms*, a particular theorem  $i$  might be proved with the use lemmas from *NewThms* that have been stated for the first time only in the original proof of  $i$  (we call such lemmas *directly preceding*). In other words, such lemmas did not exist before the original proof of  $i$  was started, so they could not possibly be suggested by lemma-quality metrics for proving  $i$ . Such directly preceding lemmas could also be very close to  $i$ , and thus equally hard to prove.

The *almost-honest ATP* scenario is like the *cheating ATP* scenario, however directly preceding new lemmas are replaced by their closest *OrigThms* ancestors. This scenario is still not fully honest, because the lemmas are computed according to their lemma quality measured on the full proof graph. In particular, when proving an early theorem  $i$  from *OrigThms*, the newly used parents of  $i$  are lemmas whose quality was clear only after taking into account the theorems that were proved later than  $i$ . These theorems and their proofs however did not exist at the time of proving  $i$ . Still, we consider this scenario sufficiently honest for most of the ATP evaluations done with over the whole core HOL Light dataset.

The *fully-honest ATP* scenario removes this last objection, at the price of using considerably more resources for a single evaluation. For each originally named theorem  $j$  we limit the proof graph used for computing *BestLemmas* to the proofs that preceded  $j$ . Since computing *BestLemmas* for the whole core HOL Light takes at least three hours for the  $Q_i$  and  $EQ_i$  methods, the full evaluation on all 1,984 core HOL Light theorems would take about 2,000 CPU hours. That is why we further scale down this evaluation by doing it only for every tenth theorem in core HOL Light.

The *chained-conjecturing ATP* scenario is similar to the cheating scenario, but with limits imposed on the directly preceding lemmas. In *chain<sub>1</sub>-conjecturing*, any (possibly directly preceding) lemma used to prove a theorem  $i$  must itself have an ATP proof using only *OrigThms*. In other words, it is allowed to

guess good lemmas that still do not exist, but such lemmas must not be hard to prove from *OrigThms*. Analogously for *chain<sub>2</sub>-conjecturing* (resp. *chain<sub>N</sub>*), where lemmas provable from *chain<sub>1</sub>*-lemmas (resp. *chain<sub>N-1</sub>*) are allowed to be guessed. To some extent, this scenario measures the theoretical ATP improvement obtainable with guessing of good intermediate lemmas.

## 7 Experiments

The ATP experiments are done on the same hardware and using the same setup that was used for the earlier evaluations described in [10, 12]: All systems are run with 30s time limit on a 48-core server with AMD Opteron 6174 2.2 GHz CPUs, 320 GB RAM, and 0.5 MB L2 cache per CPU. When using only the original theorems, the success rate of the 14 most complementary AI/ATP methods run with 30s time limit each and restricted to the 1954 core HOL Light theorems is 65.2% (1275 theorems) and the union of all methods solves 65.4% (1278 theorems).

In the very optimistic *cheating* scenario (limited only to the  $Q_i$  metrics), this numbers go up to 76.5% (1496 theorems) resp. 77.9% (1523 theorems). As mentioned in Section 6, many proofs in this scenario may however be too simple because a close directly preceding lemma was used by the lemma-mining/machine-learning/ATP stack. This became easy to see already when using the *almost-honest* scenario, where the 14 best methods (including also  $EQ_i$  and  $PR_i$ ) solve together only 66.3% (1296 theorems) and the union of all methods solves 68.9% (1347 theorems). The resource-intensive *fully-honest* evaluation is limited to a relatively small subset of the core HOL Light theorems, however it confirms the *almost-honest* results. While the original success rate was 61.7% (less than 14 methods are needed to reach it), the success rate with lemma mining went up to 64.8% (again, less than 14 methods are needed). This means that the non-cheating lemma-mining approaches so far improve the overall performance of the AI/ATP methods over core HOL Light by about 5%. The best method in the *fully-honest* evaluation is  $Q_2$  which solves 46.2% of the original problems when using 512 premises, followed by  $EQ_2$  (using the longest inference chain instead of  $D$ ), which solves 44.6 problems also with 512 premises. The best PageRank-based method is  $PR_2$  (PageRank divided by size), solving 41.4% problems with 128 premises.

An interesting middle-way between the cheating and non-cheating scenarios is the *chained-conjecturing* evaluation, which indicates the possible improvement when guessing good lemmas that are “in the middle” of long proofs. Since this is also quite expensive, only the best lemma-mining method ( $Q_2$ ) was evaluated so far.  $Q_2$  itself solves (altogether, using different numbers of premises) 54.5% (1066) of the problems. This goes up to 61.4% (1200 theorems) when using only *chain<sub>1</sub>-conjecturing* and to 63.8% (1247 theorems) when allowing also *chain<sub>2</sub>* and *chain<sub>3</sub>-conjecturing*. These are 12.6% and 17.0% improvements respectively.

Finally, since regular lemma-mining/machine-learning/ATP evaluations over the whole Flyspeck corpus are still outside our resources, we present below sev-

eral best lemmas computed by `epclemma`'s  $EQ_2$  method over the 97,714,465-node-large proof graph of all Flyspeck lemmas:<sup>11</sup>

```
|- a + c + d = c + a + d
|- x * (y + z) = x * y + x * z
|- (a + b) + c = a + b + c
|- &1 > &0
|- a ==> b <=> ~a \/\ b
|- BIT1 m + BIT0 n = BIT1 (m + n)
```

## 8 Future Work and Conclusion

We have proposed, implemented and evaluated several approaches that try to efficiently find the best lemmas and re-organize a large corpus of computer-understandable human mathematical ideas, using the millions of logical dependencies between the corpus' atomic elements. We believe that such conceptual re-organization is a very interesting AI topic that is best studied in the context of large, fully semantic corpora such as HOL Light and Flyspeck. The byproduct of this work are the exporting and post-processing techniques resulting in the publicly available proof graphs that can serve as a basis for further research.

The most conservative improvement in the strength of automated reasoning obtained so far over the core HOL Light thanks to lemma mining is about 5%. There are potential large improvements if the guessing of lemmas is improved. The benefits from lemma-mining should be larger when proving over larger corpora and when proving larger steps, but a number of implementational issues need to be addressed to scale the lemma-mining methods to very large corpora such as Flyspeck.

There are many further directions for this work. The lemma-mining methods can be made faster and more incremental, so that the lemma quality is not completely recomputed after a lemma is named. Fast PageRank-based clustering should be efficiently implemented and possibly combined with the other methods used. ATP-style normalizations such as subsumption need to be correctly merged with the detailed level of inferences used by the HOL Light proof graph. The whole approach could also be implemented on a higher level of inferences, using for example the granularity corresponding to time-limited MESON ATP steps. Guessing of good intermediate lemmas for proving harder theorems is an obvious next step, the value of which has already been established to a certain extent in this work.

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<sup>11</sup> [http://mizar.cs.ualberta.ca/~mptp/lemma\\_mining/proofs.grf1.lm.flfull](http://mizar.cs.ualberta.ca/~mptp/lemma_mining/proofs.grf1.lm.flfull)

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