

# GRAPH2TAC: LEARNING HIERARCHICAL REPRESENTATIONS OF MATH CONCEPTS IN THEOREM PROVING

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## ABSTRACT

Concepts abound in mathematics and its applications. They vary greatly between subject areas, and new ones are introduced in each mathematical paper or application. A formal theory builds a hierarchy of definitions, theorems and proofs that reference each other. When an AI agent is proving a new theorem, most of the mathematical concepts and lemmas relevant to that theorem may have never been seen during training. This is especially true in the Coq proof assistant, which has a diverse library of Coq projects, each with its own definitions, lemmas, and even custom tactic procedures used to prove those lemmas. It is essential for agents to incorporate such new information into their knowledge base on the fly. We work towards this goal by utilizing a new, large-scale, graph-based dataset for machine learning in Coq. We leverage a faithful graph-representation of Coq terms that induces a directed graph of dependencies between definitions to create a novel graph neural network, Graph2Tac (G2T), that takes into account not only the current goal, but also the entire hierarchy of definitions that led to the current goal. G2T is an online model that is deeply integrated into the users' workflow and can adapt in real time to new Coq projects and their definitions. It complements well with other online models that learn in real time from new proof scripts. Our novel definition embedding task, which is trained to compute representations of mathematical concepts not seen during training, boosts the performance of the neural network to rival state-of-the-art  $k$ -nearest neighbor predictors.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Interactive theorem provers (ITPs) are special programming languages which assist users in writing formal proofs. They not only check the correctness of a proof, but give the user detailed feedback along the way. Coq is one such ITP based on the Calculus of Inductive Constructions Paulin-Mohring (1993). It has been used to verify the four color theorem Gonthier (2008) and create a certifiably correct C compiler Blazy & Leroy (2005). The need for provably secure hardware and software is increasingly urgent, but formal theorem proving remains laborious.

In Coq, users input proofs using tactics which advance the state of the proof. At every proof step, Coq provides the user with a list of proof states for which they must supply a proof. They do so one step at a time by entering tactic commands for which Coq returns a new set of proof states to solve.

A number of works have explored neural and machine learning guidance to Coq and other ITPs in order to assist users in writing proofs. However, one particular challenge is that, like all programming languages, a model trained on one particular set of projects may not be able to adapt to a new project with its own set of definitions. We need online models, as illustrated in Figure 1, which can take into account new information in a file or project without needing to be retrained. This topic has been previously explored in the Tactician framework Blaauwbroek et al. (2020b), which contains several types of online models Zhang et al. (2021) such as the powerful  $k$ -nearest neighbor ( $k$ -NN) model. These models learn on-the-fly from tactic scripts written by users and, as a result, are able to make highly relevant proof suggestions for new theorems. However, despite their strength, these models are somewhat simplistic. They have no knowledge of the current state of the global context within Coq, and are unable to adapt predicted tactics to the environment.

We present a graph neural network (GNN) model, Graph2Tac (G2T), that in addition to training on existing works, can adapt to new definitions and theorems (which in Coq are special cases of



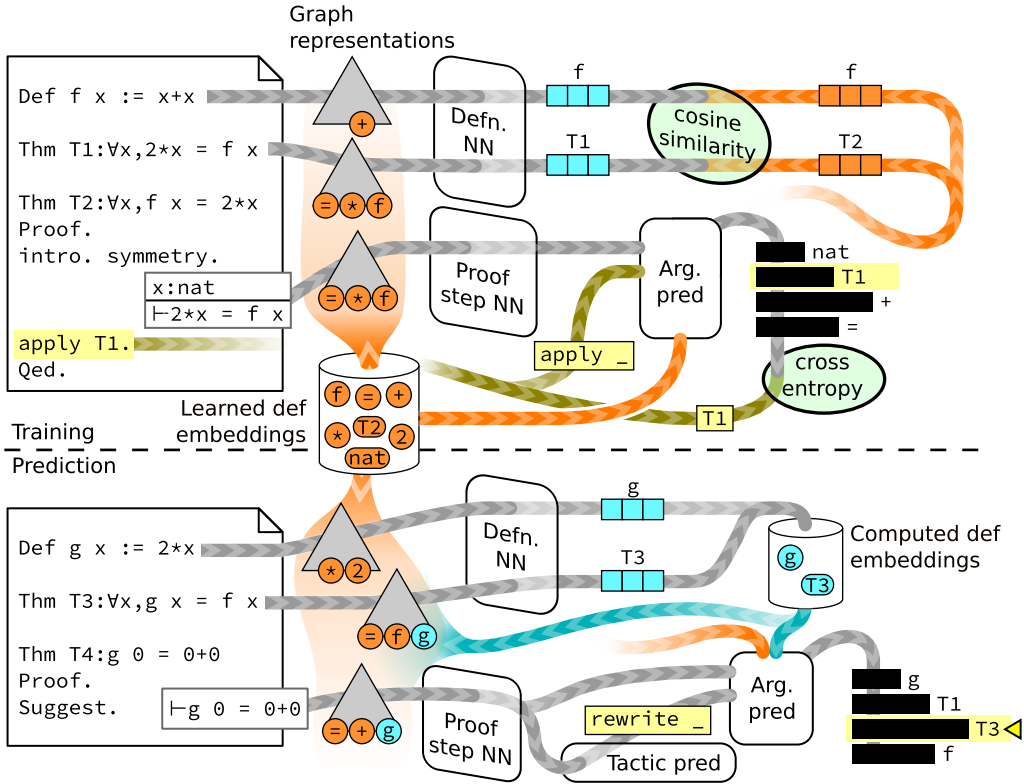


Figure 3: Our novel definition training task is trained to calculate hierarchical representations for new definitions that may in turn be used to represent proof states and predict tactic arguments.

**Background and related work** In recent years, there have been machine learning approaches for various interactive theorem proving systems. In the Coq ecosystem specifically, a series of articles (First et al., 2020; First & Brun, 2022; Sanchez-Stern et al., 2023) was based on the dataset provided by CoqGym (Yang & Deng, 2019), which contains many Coq packages to benchmark machine learning systems. Other projects in similar directions were GamePad (Huang et al., 2019), an interaction system based on the coqtop REPL, and ProverBot9001 (Sanchez-Stern et al., 2020). Another line of work is based on the Tactician system (Blaauwbroek et al., 2020b), for which implementations of k-nearest neighbours and random forest algorithms were built (Zhang et al., 2021). Early systems for Coq were Proof General (Komendantskaya et al., 2013) and SEPIA (Gransden et al., 2015) and the experiments by (Kaliszyk et al., 2014). A system that is often used for comparisons is CoqHammer (Czajka & Kaliszyk, 2018).

For other interactive theorem proving systems, there has also been a lot of work done in recent years. Machine learning guidance was used to prove problems from the Mizar ITP system (Urban, 2003; Kaliszyk & Urban, 2015). TacticToe (Gauthier et al., 2017) is an ITP machine learning system for HOL4. For HOLight, there is the HOList (Bansal et al., 2019) system. In Isabelle, the Sledgehammer system was also extended with machine learning (Kühlwein et al., 2013; Blanchette et al., 2016a). For the recently developed Lean system, there are, for example, LeanDojo by (Yang et al., 2023), the integrated decision trees by (Piotrowski et al., 2023) and work using Language Models (LMs)(Han et al., 2021; Lample et al., 2022). There have also been LM-based approaches for other systems, for example Magnushammer by (Mikuła et al., 2023) for Isabelle and the GPT-f system (Polu & Sutskever, 2020) for MetaMath. We touch upon some more related work in Section C of the Appendix.

Our work is novel compared to the previous related work: we use a graph-based dataset extracted with Coq kernel knowledge which allows us to develop a graph neural network that learns the meaning of definitions by exploiting the hierarchical structure of the data. This architecture tackles the problem of learning online, making use of new definitions in new projects.

## 2 GRAPH-BASED INTERACTION WITH THE COQ PROOF ASSISTANT

There are many formats in the literature for representing the proof state and definitions in the environment, both for training a model and for communication between the model and Coq. In this work, we use a new graph-based format where all Coq definitions and proof states are stored in one large interconnected graph. Figure 2 shows a subset of this large graph representing the proof state and environment at the start of the `Suggest` command in Figure 1. This provides the following advantages: (1) The graph is created from the terms coming from the Coq kernel, faithfully encoding all objects in the Coq environment. (2) References to global definitions, for example, `+` in the example, are explicitly referenced by edges avoiding any ambiguity with name resolution. (3) Local variables are connected to their binders, e.g.  $\forall$ ,  $\lambda$ , via edges, eliminating the need for local variable names. (4) Equal terms are shared across parts of the graph leading to more compact representations.

This large mono-graph (containing millions of nodes) is too large for a graph neural network. See Appendix F for an illustration. Instead, we extract smaller proof state and definition graphs for input into our models. Each proof state and definition has a root node in the large graph. To obtain a smaller graph, we calculate the forward closure from the root node, stopping when a definition node is encountered. Mutually dependent definitions, such as inductive definitions, have multiple mutually dependent root nodes. Theorems are special cases of definitions where the theorem node points to both the theorem statement and its proof term. We omit the proof term from the theorem’s definition graph to reduce the graph size.<sup>1</sup> The subgraphs extracted from the mono-graph are topologically ordered according to their dependencies, so that they can be processed in an appropriate order by the neural network. In Figure 2 the subgraphs are highlighted for definitions  $T_1$ , `=`, `f`, `+`, and  $\mathbb{N}$ , as well as the current proof state of theorem  $T_2$ , which is still under construction. Notice  $T_1$  and the proof state share the subterm associated with `2*` (not drawn in full detail).

In the dataset of proofs, each proof state has an associated tactic, forming the training data for the prediction model. A tactic such as `rewrite plus_comm` in `H` is decomposed into a *base tactic* `rewrite _ in _`, and arguments `plus_comm` and `H`. While arguments may be arbitrary Coq terms and even other kinds of objects, our prediction model only predicts local hypotheses or global definitions.

The dataset we utilize is extracted from 120 different Coq packages from the Opam package manager. These packages were selected by a SAT solver as the largest mutually consistent set of packages available for Coq v8.11. Their topics vary wildly, including analysis, compiler and programming language formalization, separation logic, homotopy type theory, and much more. The graph extracted from these formalizations consists of over 250 million nodes, which encode 520k definitions, of which 266k are theorems, and 4.6M proof state transformations<sup>2</sup>.

We divide packages into training and test where no test package depends on a training package. To do so, we induced a random topological order on the Coq packages, with regard to the dependency graph. The resulting list was then split such that the average percentage of theorems and of proof states in the training split is close to 90% (in our case, it is 91.3% of all theorems and 88.8% of all proof states).

The Tactician `synth` tactic and `Suggest` command can communicate via this graph format with a Python client running a machine learning model. Tactician sends the entire mono-graph of global definitions along with the current proof state. The client returns a list of suggested tactics and scores. This integration makes our solver usable in practice, and allows us to perform a massively parallel benchmark of our model on any Coq Opam package.

## 3 PROOF AUTOMATION METHODS

Here, we describe all solvers that will be compared in this paper. Section 3.1 describes the architecture of Graph2Tac, while Section 3.2 summarizes other systems for comparison. The transformer was developed in conjunction with Graph2Tac. All other systems were developed elsewhere. Note that comparisons with highly relevant solvers, such as Proverbot9001 Sanchez-Stern et al. (2020),

<sup>1</sup>This is justified by the principle of *proof irrelevance*: To use a theorem one does not need to know its proof.

<sup>2</sup>Roughly half of the definitions are derived from each other through Coq’s module and section mechanism.

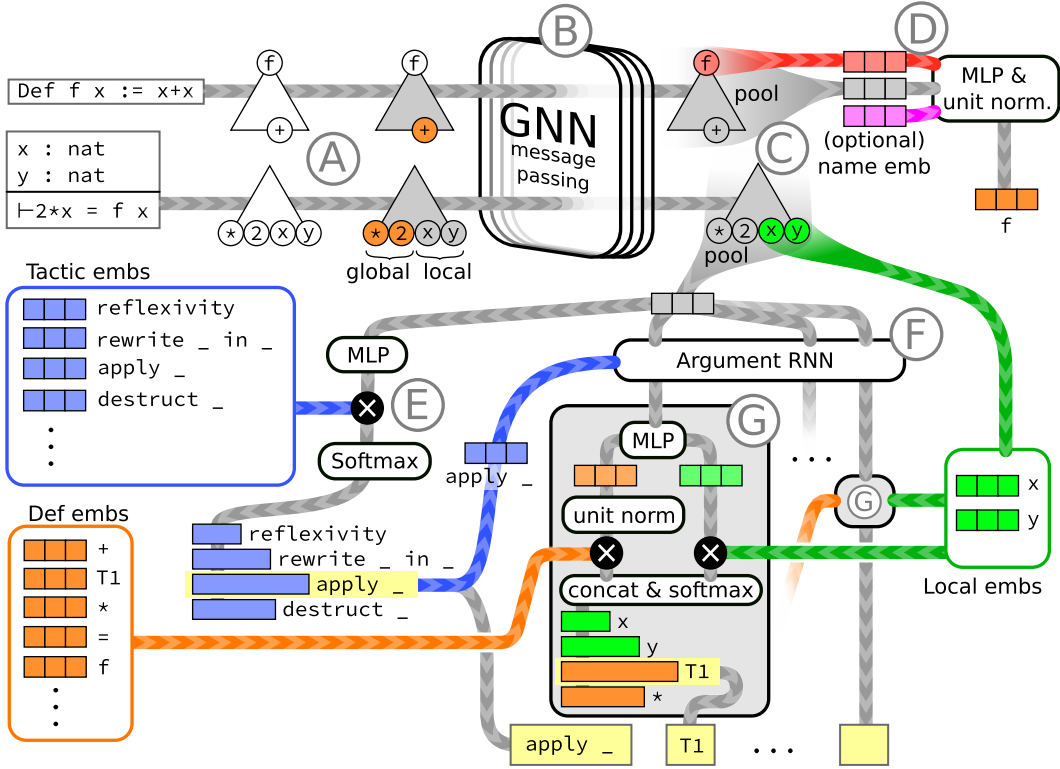


Figure 4: Detailed Graph2Tac model architecture, composed of a definition task and prediction task.

are missing because they do not provide proof search through a Coq tactic. This makes direct comparison challenging (nonetheless, see Appendix B for an informal comparison). Other symbolic solvers, such as SMTCoq Armand et al. (2011) and Itauto Besson (2021) are excluded because they are not general purpose solvers.

### 3.1 GRAPH NEURAL NETWORK AND DEFINITION TASK

Graph2Tac primarily consists of two parts, a *definition task* and a *prediction task*, shown in Figure 4. The input to each of these is a directed graph with labeled nodes and edges representing either a definition for the definition task, or a proof-state for the prediction task. We additionally associate metadata with each graph. Definition graphs have *root nodes* (node  $f$  in the figure), one for each definition defined in that graph. Inductive data types define multiple mutually dependent concepts in the same graph, e.g. `bool`, `true`, `false`, and may therefore have multiple roots. A proof state graph comes with *local context nodes*, one for each hypothesis. Both types of graphs contain *definition nodes*, which are leaf nodes that represent referenced definitions from the global context. With each definition node, we store an index to the definition embedding table described in the next paragraph. For the prediction task, in addition to the proof state graph, the input includes the indices of all global definitions and all tactics currently available in Coq’s global context.

There are four learned embedding tables: edge labels and node labels (not shown in Figure 4), base tactics that occur in the training dataset, and definitions that occur in the training dataset. All embeddings have dimension equal to the model’s hidden dimension,  $h_{\text{dim}} = 128$ . The definition and node embeddings are constrained to be unit-normalized. During inference, the definition table will be dynamically updated with new definitions as discussed later.

We transform the input graph, be it a proof state or definition graph, using the following approach (Figure 4, step A). Each graph is pruned to 1024 nodes. For effective message passing, we duplicate all edges to go in both directions and also add self-edges. The edges are assigned edge embeddings from the corresponding embeddings table. This table has  $2E + 1$  entries, accounting for the  $E$

original edge labels, the  $E$  reverse edge labels, and the self-edge label. Non-definition nodes are assigned embeddings from the node embeddings table based on their node label. Definition nodes are instead assigned embeddings from the definition embeddings table, except for the root nodes in the definition task. Those are masked with null embeddings, as the goal of the definition task is to predict the corresponding definition embeddings.

The transformed graphs are put into a message-passing GNN (Figure 4, step B). The GNN consists of 8 hops where the  $t$ th hop transforms a node embedding  $x_n^t$  according to the following two steps:

$$\hat{x}_n^{t+1} = \text{ReLU} \left( \frac{1}{\text{deg}(n)} \sum_{m, e: m \xrightarrow{e} n} \text{Dense}_{\theta_t}(e, x_m^t) \right)$$

$$x_n^{t+1} = \text{Layernorm} \left( x_t + \text{Dropout}_{0.1}(\text{MLP}_{\psi_t}(\hat{x}_n^{t+1})) \right)$$

The first step is a graph convolution layer where each node embedding is updated according to incoming edges from neighboring nodes. Here,  $\text{deg}(n)$  is the number of incoming edges  $m \xrightarrow{e} n$  with target  $n$  and edge embedding  $e$ . The dense layer has output dimension  $h_{\text{dim}}$ . The next step consists of a 2-layer MLP (Dense, ReLU, Dense) with an inner hidden dimension of  $2h_{\text{dim}}$ , then Dropout, Residual, and Layernorm. The weights for each hop are separate, but the definition and prediction tasks both use the same GNN backbone, sharing the same weights.

The output of the GNN is a graph with the same structure as the input, but with updated node embeddings. Both the definition and prediction tasks use mean pooling (Figure 4, step C) to obtain a single vector embedding for the graph. For the definition task, the pooled embedding is concatenated with each of the embeddings of the root nodes for the definition, then fed into a two-layer MLP and finally unit normalized (step D). Optionally, along with each root node embedding, we additionally concatenate a name embedding for the definition, using a bidirectional LSTM (not-shown) to embed the fully qualified Coq identifier string, *e.g.* “Coq.Init.Logic.and”. For the prediction task, the pooled embedding is fed into a two-layer MLP (step E). The output is multiplied by the tactic embedding table using inner product and put through a softmax layer to obtain the base tactic probabilities.

To predict the arguments for a tactic, we use a simple two-layer RNN (Figure 4, step F). The initial hidden state of the RNN is the embedding for the chosen tactic in the tactic embedding table. (During training the ground truth tactic is provided as input. The decoding method used during inference is described below.) The number of steps of the RNN corresponds to the number of arguments required by the given tactic.

Each argument is predicted as follows (Figure 4, step G). The RNN output is fed into a pair of two-layer MLPs (Dense, ReLU, Dense), resulting in a pair of query embeddings, one for global argument prediction and one for local argument prediction. The global argument prediction query is unit normalized. For global arguments, we take the inner product of the global argument query with each definition in the embedding table resulting in a logit for each definition. Since the inner product is bounded (as both vectors in the inner product are unit normalized), we scale the global logits by a learned temperature parameter. For each local argument, we use the GNN output embedding for that local node in the graph and take the inner product with the local argument query. Concatenating the local and global logits and performing softmax we get a distribution over all possible arguments.

Since many of the calculations used in our model take place on variable-size lists of objects, *e.g.* local arguments, our implementations rely heavily on ragged tensors in TensorFlow Abadi et al. (2015) and graph tensors in TF-GNN Ferludin et al. (2022).

We train on batches of 512 definitions and 512 proof states. The loss for the definition task is cosine similarity.<sup>3</sup> The loss for the training task is the cross-entropy for the full tactic sequence. For example, for the tactic `apply T1` the loss is  $-\log P(\text{apply } \_) - \log P(\text{T1} \mid \text{apply } \_)$  using the probabilities coming from the model. The combined loss of the two tasks is  $\mathcal{L} = 1000 \mathcal{L}_{\text{def}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{tactic}}$ .

During inference, the tactic embedding table is masked for tactics which both occur in the training data and are available in the Coq’s current state. Similarly, the definition embedding table is masked

<sup>3</sup>If a definition graph contains multiple definitions, the loss is divided by  $\sqrt{n}$  where  $n$  is the number of entry points.

for all definitions available in the current global context. However, for new definitions not seen during training, we first calculate an embedding using the definition task. If there are multiple new definitions, we compute embeddings from each definition graph individually, updating the embeddings in a topologically sorted order so that those for dependencies are computed before those for latter definitions which depend on those dependencies.

At inference time, the output of the tactic task is a list of tactic suggestions, where each sequence starts with a base tactic, *e.g.* `apply _` and then contains the arguments for that tactic, if they are required. We use beam search decoding with a beam width of 256 to generate 256 tactic suggestions for each proof state.

We train three models: G2T-Named uses the name embedding in step D, whereas G2T-Anon does not. G2T-NoDef is trained without a definition task. Each of these is run with three configurations on the definition model during inference: The Recalc configuration calculates embeddings for *all* definitions, Update only calculates embeddings for *new* definitions—*i.e.* those not seen during training, and Frozen uses random unit normalized embeddings in place of the definition model. G2T-NoDef is only used as G2T-NoDef-Frozen. G2T-Anon-Update is the primary model.

### 3.2 NON-GRAPH APPROACHES

**firstorder auto with \*** As a baseline, we use Coq’s built-in `firstorder` reasoning tactic combined with the programmable proof search tactic `auto`, with all available hint databases.

**CoqHammer** CoqHammer Czajka & Kaliszyk (2018) translates theories expressed in Coq to a first-order language understood by the external automated theorem provers Vampire, CVC4, Z3 and Eprover. Once an external proof is found, the premises required for the proof are extracted, and the proof is reconstructed inside of Coq through the `sauto` family of higher-order solving tactics Czajka (2020).

**$k$ -Nearest Neighbor** The fastest practical solver currently available in the Tactician framework is a fast  $k$ -nearest neighbor ( $k$ -NN) model Blaauwbroek et al. (2020c). It builds a database of proof states and associated tactics and extracts hand-crafted features from those proof states Zhang et al. (2021). When the model is queried, it looks up proof states with the most similar features to the current proof state and returns the corresponding tactics, ordered by similarity. It does not require any training. Despite its simplicity, the  $k$ -NN solver is the strongest baseline because, like Graph2Tac, it is able to adapt in real-time to the changing Coq environment. It is highly complementary because instead of learning from new definitions it rather learns from recent proof scripts.

**Proof State Text-based Transformer** We implement a decoder-only transformer baseline that operates on the textual representations of the proof states, and predicts a textual representation of the tactic. We use the GPT2 implementation available via the Transformers Python library Wolf et al. (2020). The embedding size is set to 768 and it has 12 layers, as in one of the models described in that paper. Our approach is similar to that of (Han et al., 2021; Jiang et al., 2022; Yang et al., 2023), except our transformer models are trained from scratch only on Coq proof data.

## 4 EVALUATION

**Experimental setup** To evaluate the performance of the solvers described above, we randomly choose 2000 theorems from the Coq packages in our testing set. The solvers are given a time limit of 10 minutes per theorem to synthesize a proof. To look at package-specific results, we sample up to 500 test theorems per package with a time limit of 5 minutes. The search procedure utilized by the solvers based on the Tactician framework is a modification of Dijkstra’s algorithm that performs iterative deepening in order to relieve memory pressure and has an optimization that avoids backtracking between independent subgoals. For more information, see Appendix D.

During evaluation, each solver is limited by the operating system to one CPU with two hyperthreads. All processes, including Coq and any external processes such as neural networks and ATP’s, must share this CPU. An exception is made for the Transformer-GPU solver, which is permitted to perform model inference on a dedicated GPU instead of a CPU.

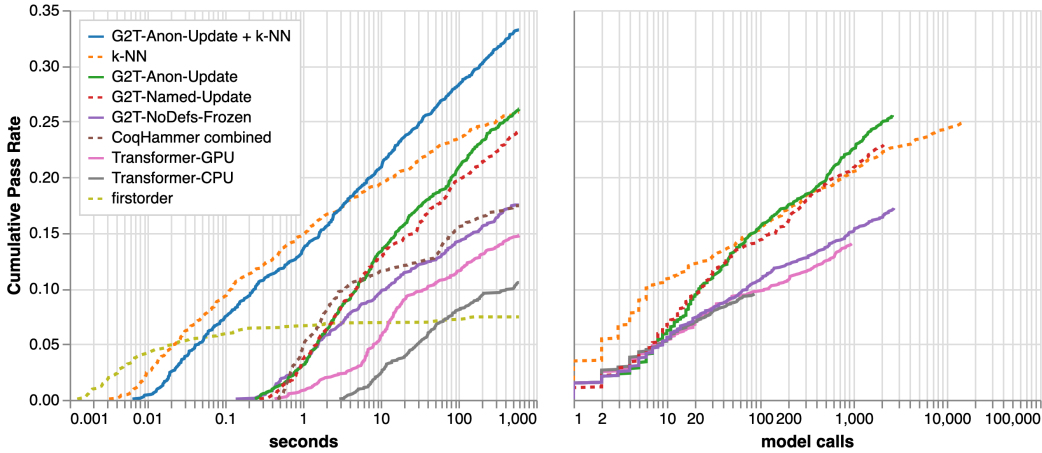


Figure 5: Percentage of theorems each system proved over time and per number calls to the model.

We explore two artificially aggregated solvers, that simulate running  $n$  solvers concurrently while still adhering to the one-CPU computational budget. The number of theorems “solved” by the aggregate solvers in time  $t$  is the number solved by any of the components in time  $t/n$ . “G2T-Anon-Update +  $k$ -NN” is intended to simulate a solver capable of learning both from new definitions in the global context and new tactic proof scripts. “CoqHammer combined” is an aggregate of all four ATP backends and the reconstruction tactic called `best`. This simulates the intent of CoqHammer’s authors to run many backends in parallel, while maintaining a fair comparison with other solvers. See Appendix I for an in-depth analysis of our CoqHammer experiments.

**Results** The left plot of Figure 5 shows the fraction of test theorems solved over time for various solvers. One can see both the progress over time, but an indication of the startup cost of each solver. The right plot of Figure 5 replaces time with the number of calls to the underlying model, giving an indication of the usefulness of that model’s predictions in search irrespective of model speed.<sup>4</sup> This and other plots remove the results from the *hott* because HoTT replaces Coq’s built-in standard library, upon which CoqHammer depends. The *tlc* package is also removed because G2T-Anon-Update was able to exploit an inconsistency as explained in Appendix K.

CoqHammer combined fares better than the transformer solver, even the variant using a GPU for model inference. (See Appendix I for a detailed breakdown of the CoqHammer results.)

Among the G2T solvers shown, the two with additional definition task outperforms the G2T-Frozen-Def baseline (26.1% vs 17.4%) demonstrating that the definition task helps to improve results. Note, G2T-Frozen-Def performs similarly to both transformer variants in terms of model calls. This suggests that the advantage of the graph model over the transformer is due to model speed and not prediction quality. The addition of names in G2T-Named-Update fares slightly worse than the main G2T solver G2T-Anon-Update.

The  $k$ -NN solver outperforms the G2T-Anon-Update model at smaller time limits, but for later time steps the latter starts to overtake. We see a similar picture relative to model calls. The ability of the  $k$ -NN to repeat the tactics of recent proofs may be especially powerful, and indeed, in Appendix B we

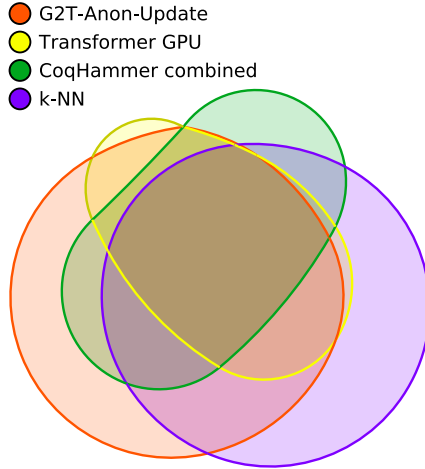


Figure 6: A Venn diagram of the theorems proved by several methods.

<sup>4</sup>Although the number of tactics returned by a model can also impact the pass rate, especially if a particular branch of the search runs out of tactics to apply. The faster models happen to also return more results.



suggest the  $k$ -NN is at least as powerful as existing neural Coq solvers in the literature. Nonetheless, if larger amounts of search are required, there appears to be value in the more sophisticated G2T-Anon-Update model.

Both solvers are quite complementary as we see in the results of combination solver G2T-Anon-Update +  $k$ -NN as well as in the Venn Diagram of solved theorems in Figure 6. Both models shows the success of online methods in this setting and both use different online information (Figure 1).

Figure 7 breaks down the performance for the largest 15 packages. We see that neither the G2T-Anon-Update nor the  $k$ -NN always performs better. In many cases G2T-Anon-Update either overtakes the  $k$ -NN or appears as if it will overtake the  $k$ -NN if given enough time. The *tlc* package is special in that G2T-Anon-Update was able to find a significant number of theorems using an inconsistent axiom in the environment, which is why it was removed from the results above.

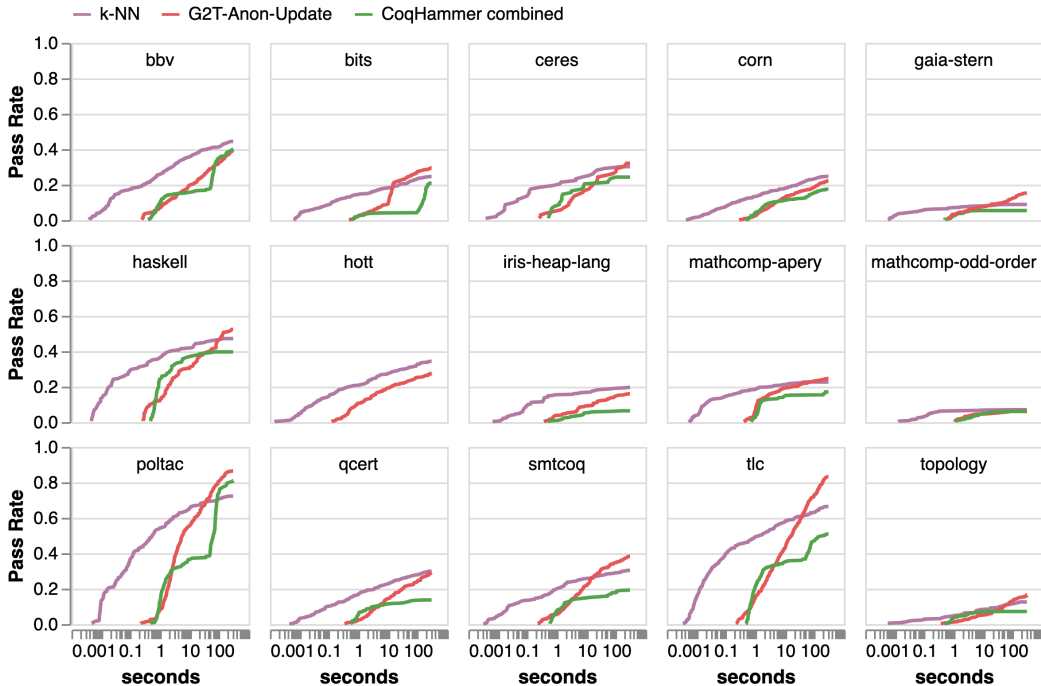


Figure 7: Package-specific cumulative solving curves. We show the behaviors of  $k$ -NN, G2T, and CoqHammer (except on HoTT which is incompatible with CoqHammer).

## 5 DISCUSSION AND FUTURE WORK

Our definition task improved a neural theorem prover from 17.4% to 26.1% in the difficult setting of proving theorems in never-before-seen packages. This, in addition to the success of the  $k$ -NN approach, shows the importance of online learning in this setting. We leave as future work how to unify the G2T and  $k$ -NN approaches shown in Figure 1. Ideally, such a model should also account for new tactics, as well as learn from how new definitions and tactics are used in new theorems. One avenue is exploring if our model can be fine-tuned in real-time.

To improve the definition task, given that G2T-Anon-Update outperformed G2T-Named-Update, we wonder if adding the names makes the definition task too easy for the model. There may also be alternatives to our definition task, using ideas in self-supervised or contrastive learning, or using social-network-size graph models to process the entire graph of interconnected definitions at once.

Theorem proving and programming share a lot of similarities and concerns, so it is useful to explore how this work relates to code generation, and we leave open how our methodology could apply to text-based models. Retrieval augmented transformers are a possible approach Yang et al. (2023), but may not scale to the full definition hierarchy.

## 6 REPRODUCIBILITY

This paper carefully describes our methods for building, training, and testing our models and solvers. The full code for each stage of the pipeline is available in the following open-source repositories: [REDACTED]. This includes the code for training the models, running them as part of a solver, interfacing with Coq, and benchmarking.

We use an open-source dataset (which the dataset authors will release soon at [REDACTED]), and all of our models are trained from scratch so there is no use of proprietary pre-training data.

Our solvers are intended for use by both researchers and Coq end users, and usable on a typical Linux machine with no GPU. The model can also be hosted on an external server (for example, with a GPU), but used on a local Coq instance via a TCP connection. Instructions for setup are included in [REDACTED].

We hope to share our trained models, but users can also train their own with the code we provided and the open dataset. While we trained the graph models for three weeks from scratch on two A100s, we noticed that a model trained in two days showed similar results. Users may also train models on a different set of Coq packages, including new or private Coq developments, via the tools provided with the dataset and with our training code.

Our benchmarking framework allows testing on most Coq Opam packages compatible with Coq 8.11, leaving the possibility of testing our solvers (or solvers trained with our code) on future Coq benchmarks. We plan to share the full test results at [REDACTED], including which theorems were tested on, which were proved, and how long the solver took in terms of seconds, model calls, and tactic executions. This is all in hopes of facilitating future comparison and collaboration.

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## A THREATS TO VALIDITY

Like other results in machine learning, there are many subtleties that we may not have accounted for in this research, but here we list the important points to look out for.

In theorem proving, it is a known challenge to compare to other comparable solvers. We are unable to provide a direct comparison in our benchmarking system to most existing Coq solvers, and the informal comparison in Appendix B is inconclusive due to methodological differences. Greater challenges exist for comparing to solvers in HOL-Light, Isabelle, and Lean. More standardized benchmarks are needed.

The comparisons we did perform also run the risk of not being an apples-to-apples comparison. The G2T and transformer models use different setups. The former uses TensorFlow and custom-written beam search, while the latter uses standard machine learning APIs for PyTorch which may not have been as optimized for our setting. Further, our baseline transformer solver is only an approximation of similar work. The transformer models of Polu & Sutskever (2020); Han et al. (2021); Lample et al. (2022); Jiang et al. (2022); Yang et al. (2023) are larger, pre-trained, and use more resources. It may be that emergent capabilities arise from scaling which are not seen in our smaller models. However, one reason we chose to avoid pretraining (besides parity with our graph model) is the strong risk that our test data will be leaked into the pretraining data. (See the discussion on this topic in Han et al. (2021).) Also, we were specifically exploring models that could be run with the resources available to a typical Coq user. Similarly, our choice to run CoqHammer on a single thread with default settings may not showcase its strongest capabilities. See the discussion in Appendix Czajka & Kaliszky (2018).

The evaluation in Section 4 and the further ablation in Appendix H of the G2T family of models relies on comparison with the G2T-X-Frozen models using random embeddings. There may be alternative ways to perform this baseline. Passport Sanchez-Stern et al. (2023) uses definition embeddings from names, and Holist Bansal et al. (2019) uses on a special token for unknown definitions.

Our choice to split on package was essential to testing our online setting, but it also means our results are more variable. A different split of test packages, and even our decision to exclude *hott* and *tlc* from our results, heavily influences our final results in a way that a random split over all the data would not. Similarly, we only train one of each model instead of multiple instances, and our models were difficult to reliably train. This also increases the variability of our results.

The data we use decomposes tactics into smaller component tactics. This is in contrast to models like PACT Han et al. (2021) which not only don't decompose tactics but also train on combinations of tactics. It is possible our decomposition leads to more steps needed for a proof, and this may especially punish slower models like the transformer which can generate more complicated tactic combinations. Also, our G2T model uses a fairly simple representation of tactics. There are 100s of base tactics (we excluded any that occurred fewer than 6 times) and one Coq tactic, *e.g.* `apply`, may be represented as many different base tactics in our model (*e.g.* one for each possible number of arguments). Also, we only allow tactic arguments which are single definitions or local context hypotheses. The G2T model has no way to predict term arguments which are common in Coq proofs.

During benchmarking, it was common to encounter Coq errors. In the end, any error we counted as a failed proof attempt. Some systematic errors we fixed with patches to Coq, but different solvers led to different errors, and some were easier to fix than others. Further, some errors could even affect other theorems in the benchmark causing them to produce an error. CoqHammer had a larger number of errors.

## B INFORMAL COMPARISON ON COQGYM TEST PACKAGES

Besides highlighting our novel definition task, our work is the first work we are aware of comparing  $k$ -NN, transformer, and graph-based solvers for an interactive theorem prover. Perhaps surprisingly, the  $k$ -NN "baseline" performs much better than expected, especially since most recent papers use powerful neural models like transformers.

The primary benchmark for Coq is the CoqGym benchmark, consisting of 28 test projects. Unfortunately, of those 28, only seven are included in our dataset (our data is harvested from Opam packages, while the CoqGym data is retrieved from Github). Of those seven projects, all but one (*poltac*) are included in our training set, making it impossible to do a fair evaluation with any of

our trained models. Nonetheless, we can compare our trained models on *poljac* and our untrained models, such as the  $k$ -NN model, on five of the remainder.<sup>5</sup>

	time (min)	pass rate (solved/total)					total
		buchberger	coquelicot	hoare-tut	huffman	zorns-lemma	
ASTactic	10	0.097 (70/725)	0.065 (95/1467)	0.056 (1/18)	0.080 (25/314)	0.067 (10/149)	0.105 (319/3036)
CoqHammer	10	0.229 (166/725)	0.186 (273/1467)	<b>0.333</b> (6/18)	<b>0.236</b> (74/314)	0.121 (18/149)	0.272 (826/3036)
TacTok	10	0.105 (76/725)	0.068 (100/1467)	0.278 (5/18)	0.089 (28/314)	0.081 (12/149)	0.110 (333/3036)
ProverBot9001	NA	0.237 (178/750)	0.107 (187/1743)	0.280 (7/25)	0.225 (71/316)	0.115 (18/156)	0.194 (639/3299)
CH combined	10	<b>0.284</b> (213/750)	0.148 (258/1743)	0.320 (8/25)	0.207 (65/314)	0.100 (26/259)	0.242 (822/3400)
k-NN	10	0.264 (198/750)	<b>0.234</b> (408/1743)	0.320 (8/25)	0.169 (53/314)	<b>0.282</b> (73/259)	<b>0.284</b> (967/3400)

Table 1: Comparison of results across three families of benchmarks. Note each family has a different number of theorems. The total column includes the *poljac* results in Table 2.

	time (min)	pass rate (solved/total)	
		<i>poljac</i>	
ASTactic	10	0.325	(118/363)
CoqHammer	10	0.796	(289/363)
TacTok	10	0.309	(112/363)
ProverBot9001	NA	0.576	(178/309)
CoqHammer combined	10	0.816	(252/309)
G2T-Anon-Update	5	0.864	(267/309)
G2T-Named-Update	5	<b>0.867</b>	(268/309)
G2T-NoDefs-Frozen	5	0.773	(239/309)
Transformer (GPU)	5	0.560	(173/309)
k-NN	10	0.735	(227/309)

Table 2: Comparison of results on *poljac*, which is in both our test set and the CoqGym test set, across three families of benchmarks.

In Tables 1 and 2, we compare our work to two other families of benchmarks on the CoqGym test projects. The first family are benchmarks of Yang & Deng (2019) and First et al. (2020). These include the neural solver ASTactic and its extension TacTok, as well as an independent benchmark of CoqHammer. The second is a benchmark of the neural solver Proverbot9001 Sanchez-Stern et al. (2020). While the original ProverBot9001 results were for CompCert, we use data from the ProverBot9001 benchmark found at <https://proverbot9001.ucsd.edu/compare/>. It is a comparison to CoqGym using approximately similar training and test packages, but run in the ProverBot9001 system. For our family of benchmarks, we include both the trained solvers reported in our results section (only tested on *poljac*), as well as a full 10 minute  $k$ -NN and CoqHammer benchmark run on all theorems in all six projects.

It should be emphasized that these comparisons are informal and non-conclusive due to a number of methodological differences:

- The ASTactic/TacTok and ProverBot9001 benchmarks train on the CoqGym training suite, or in the case of ProverBot9001 an approximation of the CoqGym training suite, while our G2T models train on our training suite containing different Coq projects.
- Coq versions used by the benchmarks vary between version 8.10 and 8.12.
- Each benchmark may use a different versions of test packages, which includes a different (in some cases significantly different) number of test theorems.
- The ASTactic/TacTok family of benchmarks were run for 10 minutes. Some of our benchmarks were run for 5 minutes and some for 10. ProverBot9001, on the other hand, does

<sup>5</sup>We excluded *goedel* as it has completely changed between the CoqGym benchmarks and ours. It has been abandoned and merged into *hydra-battles*. Our package of *goedel* only contains 17% of the 606 theorems found in the older *goedel* package in CoqGym.



not uses a time limit, instead stopping the search based on search depth. Nonetheless, the ProverBot9001 results were specifically designed by the creators to compare to the ASTactic/TacTok family of benchmarks.

- There are differences in hardware. ASTactic, for example, uses two cores, where we restrict ourselves to one core. Since ProverBot9001 doesn't use time limits, hardware doesn't matter.

Nonetheless, the previous CoqGym benchmarks have a similar flavor to ours. All results test on entire packages not seen during training. The benchmarks were all run without a GPU (except our transformer baseline). None of the systems use large-scale pre-training on internet data, so there is little risk of data leakage.

The results in Table 1 and Table 2 suggest that the  $k$ -NN model, despite being one of the simplest models we compare, is one of the strongest. In particular, it outperforms the other previously published neural models, only doing worse than ProverBot9001 on one project.

Transitively, this suggests our best G2T models are also state of the art for Coq, and we indeed see this on *polta*c in Table 2.

Finally, note that our CoqHammer combined aggregate solver performs similarly to the previous benchmark of CoqHammer, suggesting our aggregate is a good approximation (see Section I). Nonetheless, our CoqHammer benchmarks and those in CoqGym likely use different versions of CoqHammer and likely rely on different combinations ATP backends.

In conclusion, more work is needed to compare the methods in this paper to other methods in the literature. The strong showing of the  $k$ -NN baseline, which until now has not been properly compared to other systems, suggests that many of the approaches in the literature, especially the common transformer approaches, may be surprisingly weak, especially in the online setting of new files or packages not seen during training.

## C EXTENDED RELATED WORK

We take some extra space in this appendix to touch upon more related work.

In interactive theorem proving settings, the term ‘hammer’ is often used to indicate built-in automation (of various kinds, depending on the interactive proving system used). There has been recent work on learning for which proof states to invoke other automation in the Thor project (Jiang et al., 2022).

Aside from the machine learning guidance on the ITP level, there has also been work on improving the performance of first-order automated theorem provers (and SMT solvers), that form the foundation for the ‘hammer’ approaches, on ITP-derived problems. Work on the ‘hammer’ approach in various settings was surveyed in (Blanchette et al., 2016b). The ENIGMA system (Jakubuv & Urban, 2017) was originally used on first-order translated versions of problems from the Mizar system, there were several improvements on the Mizar version (Chvalovský et al., 2019; Jakubuv et al., 2020), including a graph-neural-network-based version. A similar system was also trained and tested on Isabelle problems (Goertzel et al., 2022).

## D SEARCH PROCEDURE DETAILS

The G2T, transformer, and  $k$ -NN *models* only predict single tactics. In order to turn our models into a *solver*, which can find a whole proof, we combine them with the search procedure of Tactician Blaauwbroek et al. (2020c), namely Dijkstra’s algorithm<sup>6</sup> to explore the tree of possible proofs, but modified to use iterative deepening instead of a queue. For G2T and transformer, each possible tactic is scored by the log probability predicted by the corresponding model. The length of a path (partial proof) is the sum of the negative log probabilities of its steps. With iterative deepening, each iteration  $i$  only explores paths whose distance is below an upper bound  $D_{\max}^i$  (depth first where the

<sup>6</sup>The search algorithm called “best first search” of Polu & Sutskever (2020); Han et al. (2021) and others is equivalent to vanilla Dijkstra’s algorithm.

tactics are ordered by score). If an iteration exhausts all valid paths without finding a proof, the search starts from the beginning with the new upper bound

$$D_{\max}^{i+1} = D_{\max}^{i+1} + 1 + D_{extra}^i$$

where  $D_{extra}^i$  is the negative log probability needed to increase the left-most path by one tactic. Our iterative deepening search uses constant memory at the expense of only a constant multiplicative increase in time.

A Coq tactic can produce multiple independent subgoals. Each step in our search procedure predicts a tactic for the first goal of the stack and applies the resulting tactic to that goal only. If these goals are fully independent (have no shared E-variables), then our DFS takes this into account by not backtracking into a previously solved subgoal earlier in the proof. See Tactician Blaauwbroek et al. (2020c) for more details.

## F THE UNIVERSE OF MATHEMATICAL CONCEPTS

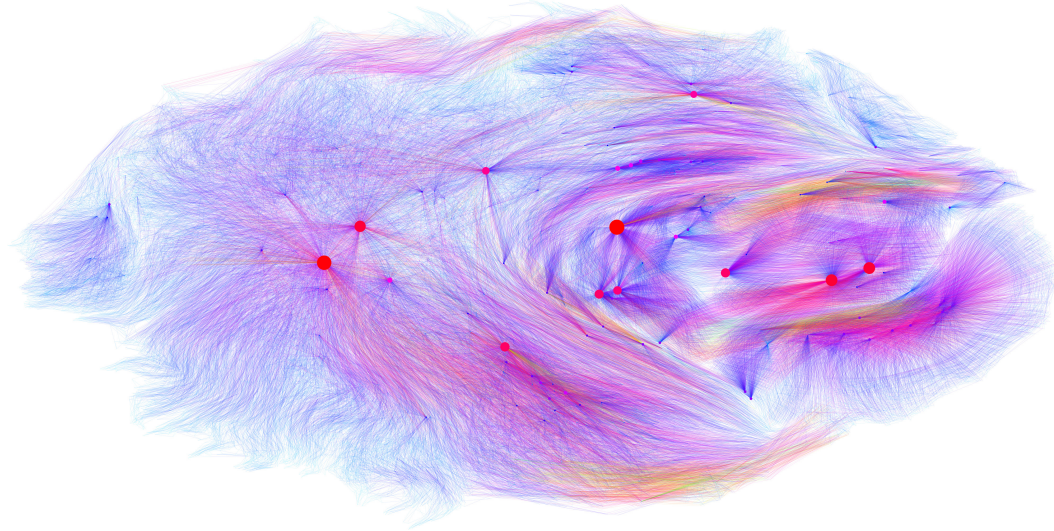


Figure 8: A rendering of a small section of the known mathematical universe as formalized in the Coq proof assistant.

Figure 8 shows a rendering of a small section of the known mathematical universe as formalized in the Coq proof assistant. In particular, only the most basic of mathematical concepts, that are part of the “Prelude” in Coq’s standard library, are rendered. The full graph contained in the dataset would be over 3000 times larger. The graph includes all definitions, lemmas and proof terms in the Prelude, as well as a representation of all intermediate proof states that were generated during the proving process and the partial proof terms generated by tactics to transition between proof states. Together, they form a single, interconnected graph. The graph is fully de-duplicated, such that every sub-term is represented only once (but may be referenced many times).

The size and color of a node in the rendering is dependent on how many times it is referenced. As nodes get more popular, they increase in size. Examples of large nodes are the universes `Prop` and `Type`, the inductive definition for Leibnitz equality and the inductive definitions for `true` and `false`. Not all popular nodes are definitions, however. Other popular mathematical entities include hypotheses that posit the existence of natural numbers and booleans, and even some anonymous subterms that happen to occur very often.

The placement of each node is determined by the *sfdp* force-directed graph drawing engine of the Graphviz visualization suite Hu (2005). As a result, related nodes will be rendered close together. This is particularly apparent for inductive definitions and their constructors, where it often appears as if the constructors are “planets” that orbit around a corresponding inductive that acts as their “sun”. The color of each edge is determined by its length as determined by the rendering engine.

## G THE RELATIVE SPEED OF THE MODELS

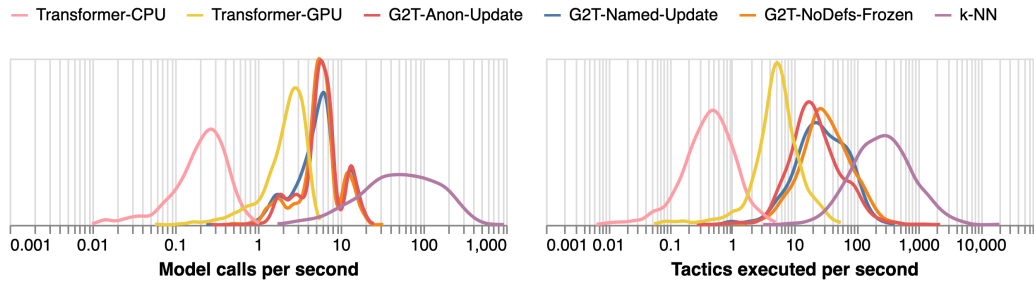


Figure 9: Density plots of the speed of the various models, in tactics executed per second and model calls per second.

Figure 9 shows the speed of the models for the attempted proofs in the test set. Notice the various families of models can differ by an order of magnitude in speed, with  $k$ -NN being the fastest, and transformers being the slowest.

## H ABLATION OF G2T SOLVERS AND SYMMETRY BREAKING WITH NAMES

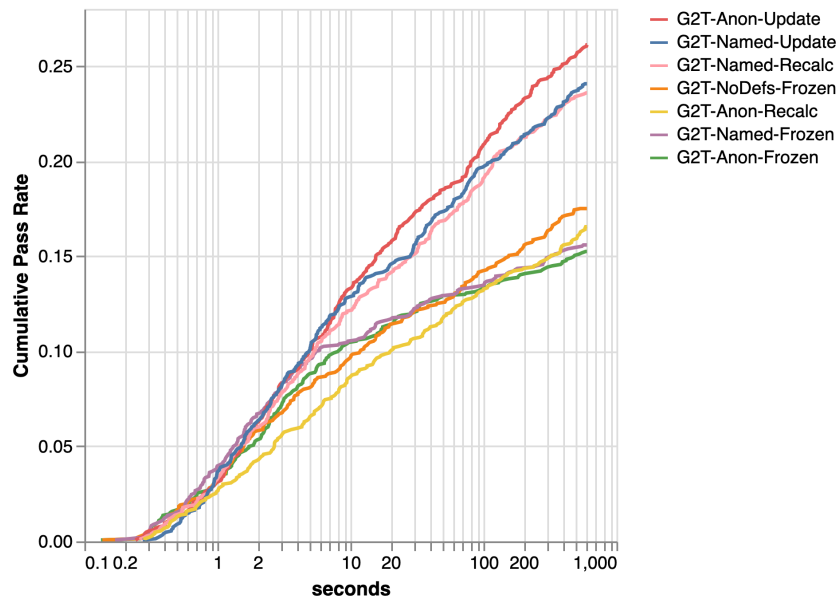


Figure 10: Pass rates for the different G2T solver variations.

Figure 10 shows all seven G2T variations mentioned in Subsection 3.1. In particular, we see that using the frozen version of a model where the definition task is not used to compute new definition embeddings hurts model performance. This suggests that our definition network is not just a helpful auxiliary task during training, but an essential component of our online system.

Also, note that the models with and without name embeddings have different behaviors when we recalculate all definition embeddings including those seen during training. G2T-Named-Recalc shows the same performance as G2T-Named-Update. Recalculating all embeddings would simplify the solver interface since one doesn't have to keep track of which definitions were part of training.

However, this is not true of G2T-Anon-Recalc. One possible reason for this discrepancy is that names break symmetries when calculating definition embeddings from scratch. Isomorphic definitions have isomorphic graphs and hence receive the same embedding by our definition model (if

name embeddings are not also used). One example of this is the embeddings for the Boolean values `true` and `false`. Further, this symmetry can propagate. If `true` and `false` are given the same embedding, then so are the Boolean operations `andb` and `orb` since the graph of the former is isomorphic to the latter with `true` and `false` swapped.

## I ANALYSIS OF COQHAMMER BENCHMARKS

A core design principle of CoqHammer is the ability to translate a higher-order theory into a first-order theory and export it to a varied set of automatic theorem provers. Data provided by the original CoqHammer publication Czajka & Kaliszyk (2018) suggests that the various ATP’s are highly complementary. Indeed, this is confirmed in a publication on Tactician Blaauwbroek et al. (2020a) which compares an early version of its  $k$ -NN solver with CoqHammer on Coq’s standard library. The  $k$ -NN solver is able to beat any of CoqHammer’s individual ATP backends by some margin. But when combined, the ATP’s achieve a higher pass-rate than the  $k$ -NN solver.

To obtain a fair comparison, we benchmarked all of CoqHammer’s ATP backends individually. We then calculate a time-scaled combination of the ATP’s in order to simulate the parallel execution of all ATP’s on a single CPU. Surprisingly, our results are quite different from what is reported in previous publications.<sup>7</sup> As can be seen from the Venn diagram in Figure 12, the ATP’s are not nearly as complimentary on our testing set as one would expect. The Vampire backend is able to prove most of the theorems obtained by other ATP’s. Only the `sauto` and `best` tactics remain highly complementary to Vampire. Figure 11 shows that a combination of `best` and Vampire produces the same results as an aggregation of all solvers, but faster. As such, unless one truly has CPU-threads to spare for parallel solving, using many ATP’s is not effective.

As a result, CoqHammer is no longer able to beat the  $k$ -NN and G2T solver on our testing set. We speculate that the root cause of this discrepancy is the use of a more complex test set, on which the higher-order to first-order translation of CoqHammer is far less effective. Presumably, during the development of CoqHammer, the translation was tuned particularly well on Coq’s standard library. This translation appears to generalize to other packages less well than one would hope.

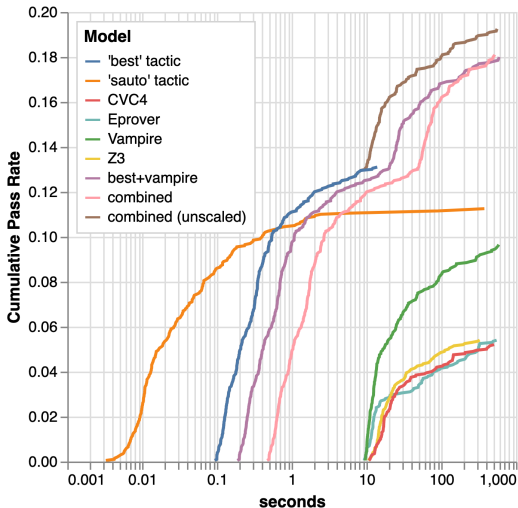


Figure 11: Pass rates over time for individual solvers of CoqHammer, and various aggregates.

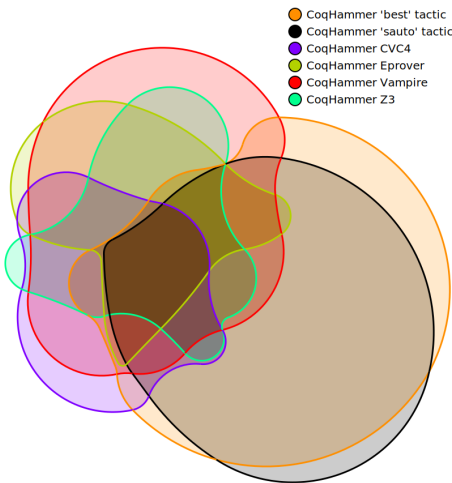


Figure 12: Venn diagram showing complementarity between CoqHammer solvers.

<sup>7</sup>Note that we are unable to reproduce the benchmark results on Coq’s standard library, because CoqHammer depends on the same standard library. This creates a circularity that cannot easily be broken.

## J TRAINING DETAILS

Graph2Tac graph models were trained on 2 NVIDIA A100 GPU cards for about 20 days. Optimization used the Adam optimizer with a learning rate of 0.0003 and L2 regularization set to 1.0e-05. We noticed periodic instability in training and occasionally had to restart training from a checkpoint.

The transformer was a GPT2-style model Radford et al. (2019) from the Huggingface Transformers library. The model was trained to predict the tactics based on the proof states. To determine whether the model was sufficiently trained, we monitored the validation accuracy and stopped training when the validation performance stagnated.

The GPU evaluations and the training of the transformer were performed on machines with two 20-core Inter E5-2698v4, a working memory of 512 GB RAM, and 8 NVIDIA Tesla V100 GPU cards.

## K DISCOVERY OF INCONSISTENT AXIOMS

After benchmarking our solvers we discovered that three of our test packages contained inconsistent axioms. These axioms are used for development or special logical manipulation but are not intended to be used blindly in theorems, as they can be used to prove false results.

package	axiom	solver	count	percent
haskell	undefined	G2T-Anon-Update	3	1.7%
haskell	undefined	G2T-Named-Update	8	4.6%
haskell	undefined	G2T-NoDefs-Frozen	13	7.5%
hott	No_Empty_admitted	G2T-Anon-Update	9	1.8%
hott	No_Empty_admitted	k-NN	2	0.4%
tlc	skip_axiom	G2T-Anon-Update	192	38.4%
tlc	skip_axiom	G2T-Named-Update	5	1.0%
tlc	skip_axiom	G2T-NoDefs-Frozen	25	5.0%

Table 3: The number of times the solvers use inconsistent axioms to prove a test theorem in the 5 minute benchmark.

As shown in Table 3, some of our solvers were able to discover these axioms and use them. The most significant case was `skip_axiom` in the `tlc` package. G2T-Anon-Update managed to solve 192 of the 500 test theorems (38.4%) for the 5-minute benchmark using this axiom. Figure 13 shows the results with all test theorems and when restricting to theorems for which no model used `skip_axiom`.

It is impressive that our model was able to discover the importance of this axiom, but it also makes the evaluation of our results difficult. For example, on `tlc`, the name-less G2T model significantly outperforms the one with names, but mostly because it was able to exploit this axiom.

The axioms are as follows. In `tlc`:

```
Axiom skip_axiom : False.
```

In `hott`:

```
Inductive No_Empty_for_admitted := .
Axiom No_Empty_admitted : No_Empty_for_admitted.
```

In `haskell`:

```
Definition undefined {a : Type} : a. Admitted.
```

In `quickchick` (used for training):

```
Axiom ignore_generator_proofs : False.
```

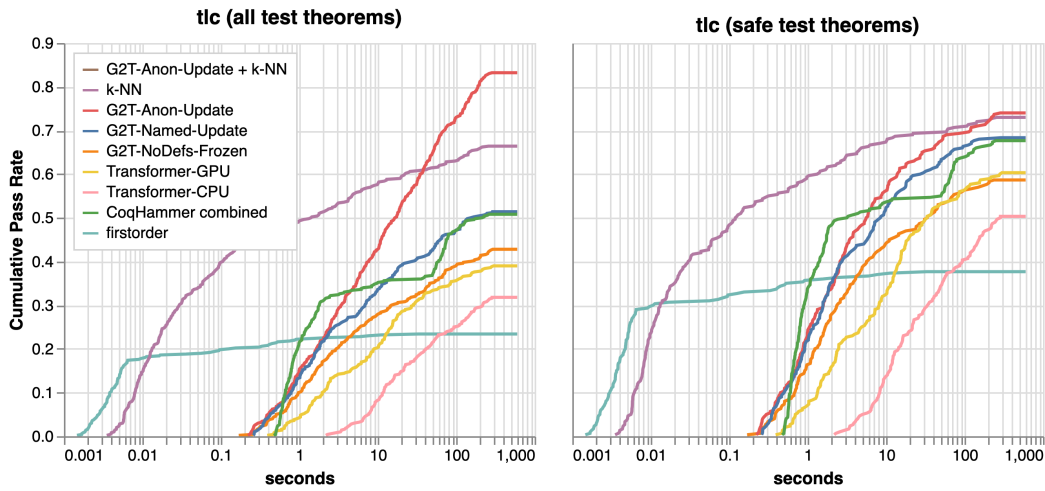


Figure 13: Pass rates on the *tlc* test theorems. The left plot shows the results on 500 theorems. The right plot restricts to test theorems not solved using an inconsistent axiom by any of the benchmarked solvers.

## L IMPACT OF THE ONLINE SETTING

An important distinction of our paper is our use of entire packages for testing, instead of splitting theorems into test and train randomly as many other papers do.

To investigate this, we measure, for each of our test theorems, the number of new definition dependencies not seen during training required for that theorem (both in its theorem statement and proof). This includes transitive dependencies.

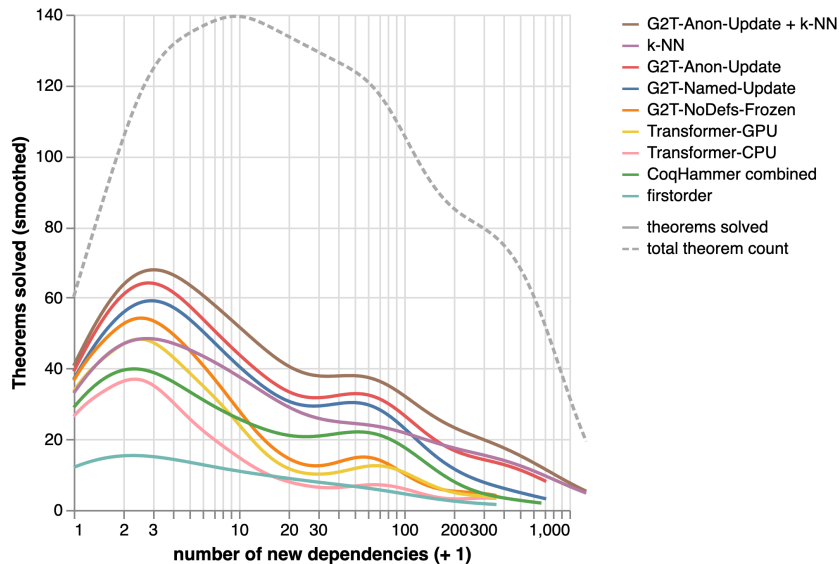


Figure 14: Theorems solved as a function of new dependencies. (Smoothed to account for small numbers in each category.) The dotted line shows the total number of test tactics (also smoothed) as some numbers of dependencies are more common.

Figure 14 shows the number of solved theorems as a function of new dependencies. Figure 15 shows the per-time pass rate, conditioned on the number of dependencies. In general, having more new dependencies is more challenging for all the solvers.

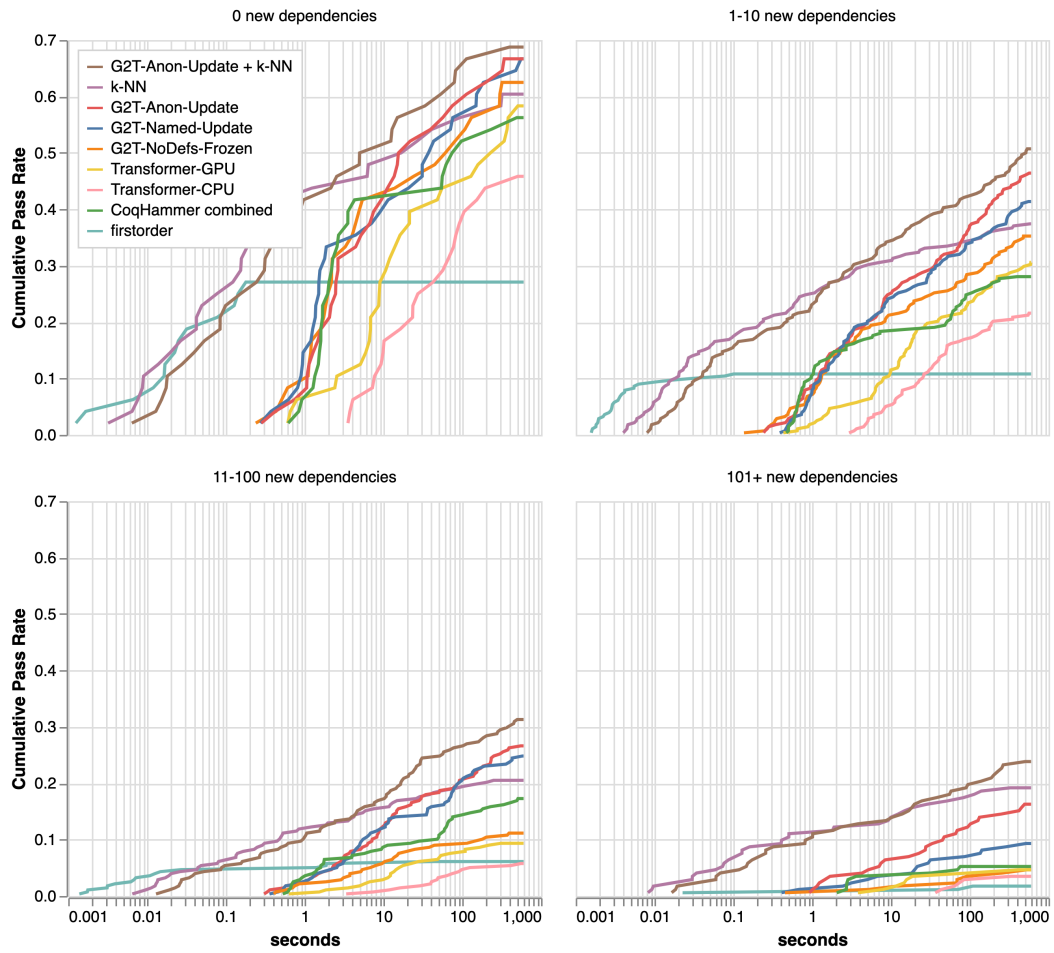


Figure 15: Cumulative pass rates as a function of time, split into four dependency categories.

For 0 new dependencies, we see less difference between all the solvers, and our best solvers solve over 60% of theorems. But when we move to a higher number of new dependencies, the non-online models, *e.g.* the transformer models, start to underperform the online models  $k$ -NN, G2T-Anon-Update, and G2T-Named-Update. This is yet more justification that the main benefit of our definition task and the  $k$ -NN is their usefulness in online settings.

Nonetheless, we do notice a small improvement in the G2T-Anon-Update solver over the G2T-NoDef-Frozen solver in the 0 new dependency setting. This suggests that the definition training task may show some usefulness on its own as an auxiliary task during training even when not used at inference time.

The  $k$ -NN solver starts to outperform the G2T models when dependencies get into the hundreds. It is unclear why this happens. In particular, there are many correlations between the number of new dependencies and the package. Larger Coq developments have a larger number of new dependencies, but they may support some solvers over others for other orthogonal reasons.

## M ALL RESULTS

Table 4 shows the results for the 10-minute evaluation where packages *hott* and *tlc* are excluded. Figure 16 shows the cumulative pass rates for all packages and all the models discussed in Section 4.

solver	pass rate
CoqHammer combined	0.174
G2T-Anon-Update	0.261
G2T-Anon-Update + k-NN	0.332
G2T-Named-Update	0.241
G2T-NoDefs-Frozen	0.175
Transformer-CPU	0.105
Transformer-GPU	0.148
firstorder	0.075
k-NN	0.258

Table 4: Pass rates for 10-minute time limit.

## N PATTERNS IN THE DEFINITION EMBEDDINGS

Our three models—G2T-Anon, G2T-Named, and G2T-NoDef—take different approaches in training the learned definition embeddings. In Figures 17, 18, and 19 we show UMAP representations of the learned definition embeddings.

Overall we see that G2T-Anon and G2T-Named have a more intricate structure. Since G2T-Anon doesn’t have access to names, the embeddings are more focused on structure, including the top-level structure of what type of definition it is.

It is not clear what the major clusters of the G2T-Named model are, although we can determine it is not just related to easy to identify features of the name or the definition, but instead seems to be a combination of multiple factors.

As for the G2T-NoDef, since there is no definition task, the only signal used to train the embedding is how the definition is used, either as a node in a proof state or as an argument to a tactic. The center seems to be almost exclusively made up of non-theorem definitions. Further, we have noticed at least some of the radial clusters are associated with particular tactics. For example, we found a cluster almost exclusively made up of definitions used as an argument to `rewrite _`.

## O ADDITIONAL COMBINATIONS WITH THE $k$ -NN

In our main results, we remark on how the  $k$ -NN solver and the G2T-Anon-Update solver are particularly complimentary. We demonstrated this by plotting the combined time scaled aggregate in



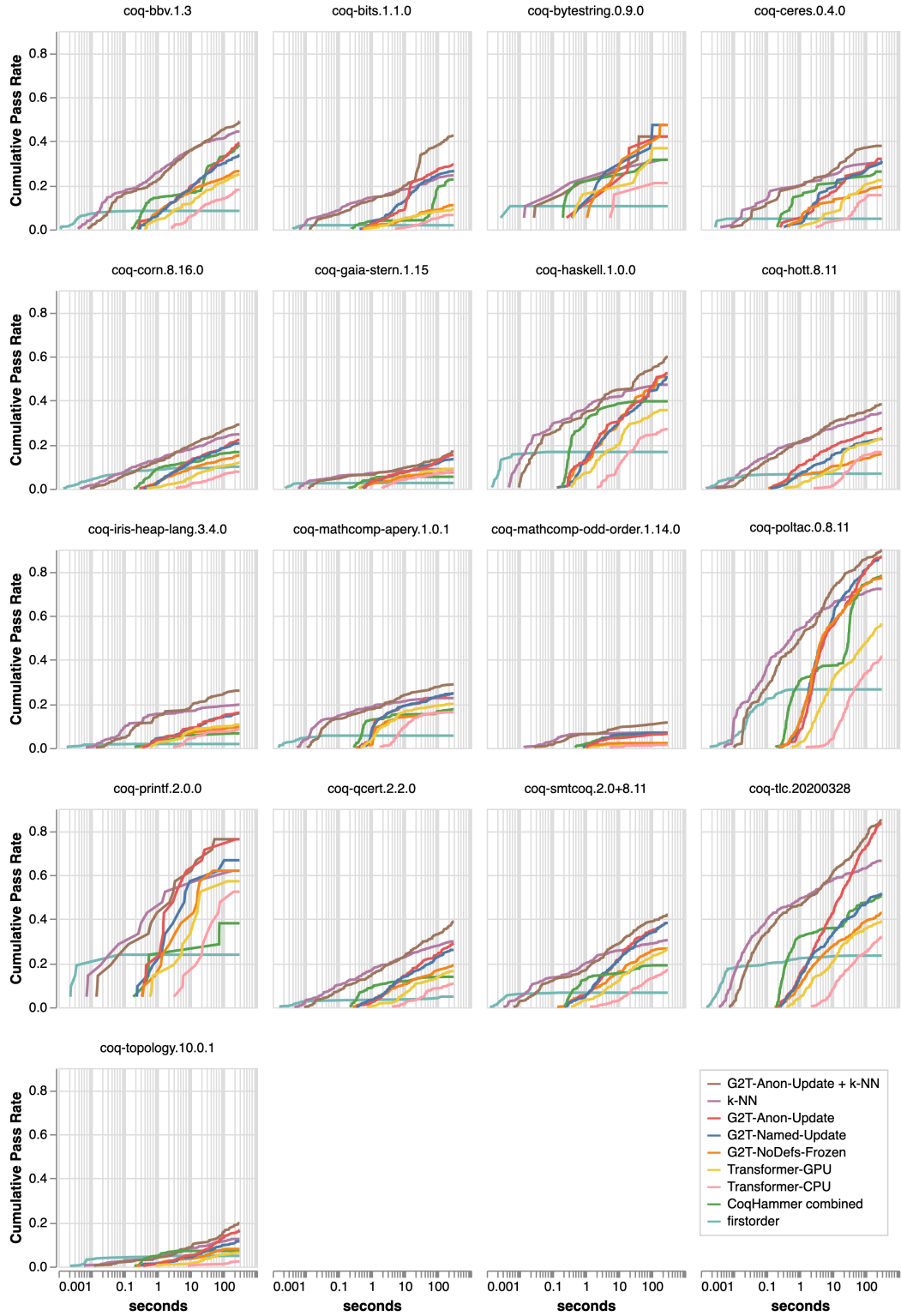


Figure 16: Cumulative pass rates for all packages.

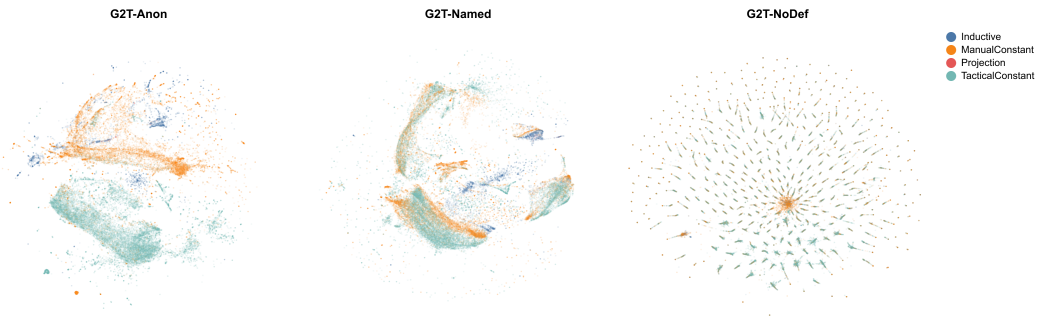


Figure 17: UMAP representations of learned definition embeddings colored by definition type. The G2T-Anon embeddings are cluster between tactical constants (mostly theorems with tactical proofs), manual constants (definitions defined via terms), and inductively defined definitions. (Projections in record types are relatively rare.) Manual and tactical constants are less separated in G2T-Named, but inductive definitions still don't mix. Manual constants make up a significant portion of the center cluster of the G2T-NoDef embeddings.

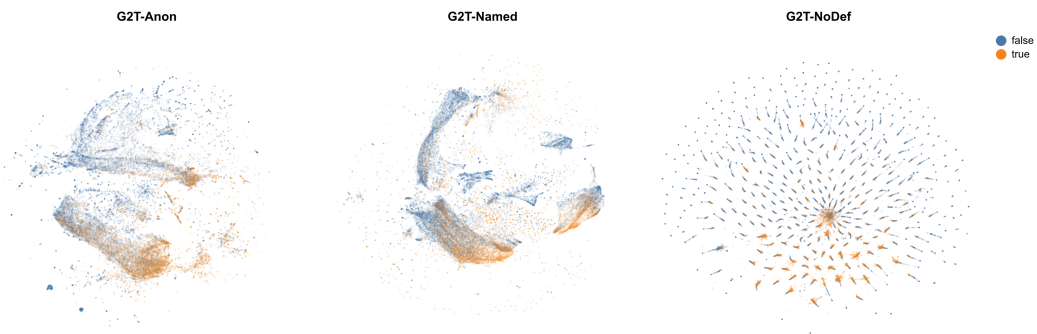


Figure 18: UMAP representations of learned definition embeddings colored by whether the definition was used as an argument of a tactic. All the model definition embeddings take this dimension into account. This makes sense since argument selection is an important part of tactic prediction.

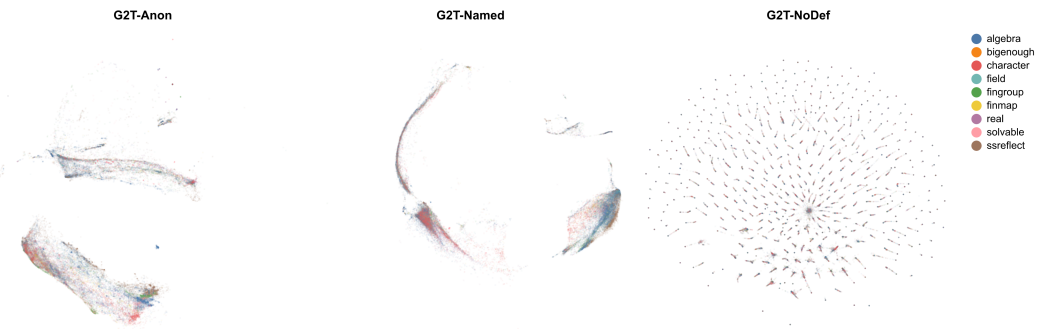


Figure 19: UMAP representations of learned definition embeddings restricted to definitions whose qualified names starts with `mathcomp` colored by the second part of the name after `mathcomp`, e.g. `mathcomp.algebra.matrix.Matrix`. The G2T-Named model clusters more by these categories, whereas in the G2T-Anon they show as smoothed-out bands.

Figure 5. This is further support by the Venn diagram in Figure 6 which showed the G2T-Anon-Update model and the  $k$ -NN to be most disjoint.

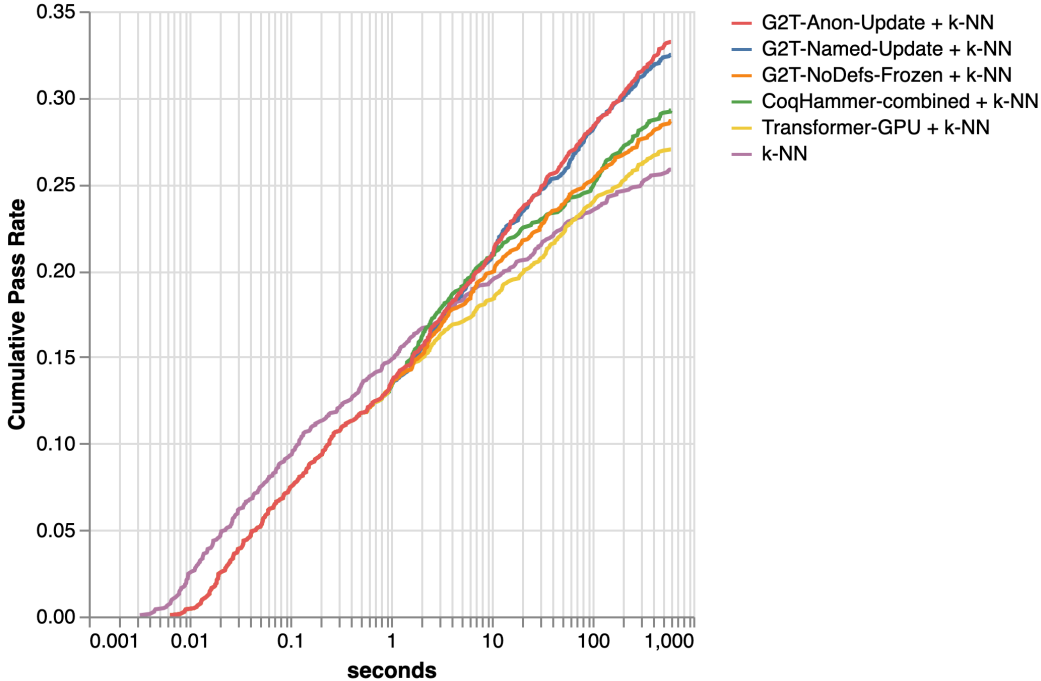


Figure 20: Pass rates of various solvers combined with the  $k$ -NN solver. All combined solvers scale time so that time is evenly divided among the two component solvers. The uncombined  $k$ -NN is provided for reference.

In Figure 20 we further show that of all the solvers, the  $k$ -NN pairs best with the G2T-Anon-Update and G2T-Named-Update models, which both use our novel definition embeddings. This is further support of the complementary of the two online approaches, as represented in Figure 1.

## P FURTHER DETAILS ON THE G2T ARCHITECTURE

Here we give further details about the G2T architecture described in Section 3.1.

**Graph inputs for definitions and proof states** The inputs to the definition and prediction task are directed graphs. In Figure 4, the input to the definition task is a graph corresponding to the definition  $f x := x + x$ . The graph of  $f$  can be seen in Figure 2 as the eight node subgraph correspond to all the green edges and all the nodes touching the green edges. This includes the root node  $f$ , the global definition nodes for dependencies  $\mathbb{N}$  and  $+$ , and a number of other non-definition nodes for binders ( $\forall$  and  $\lambda$ ), for function application ( $@$ ), and for the variable  $x$  shown as  $\uparrow$ . The edge labels comes with labels which are not shown. Variables don't need names since they are connected to their binders via labeled edges. Even though we include the nodes  $\mathbb{N}$  and  $+$ , we don't include the nodes in their respective definition graphs. This keeps the size of our input graph manageably small.

Similarly, in Figure 4, the proof state input to the prediction network corresponds to a proof state with two local hypotheses  $x : \mathbb{N}, y : \mathbb{N}$  and the goal  $\vdash 2 * x = f x$ . This is almost the subgraph shown with blue edges in Figure 2 except it contains an extra local hypothesis  $y$ . Like variables, we don't store the names of local hypotheses in the graph. The triangle  $2 * x$  represents the subgraph of nodes shared between the proof state and  $T_1$ . (To compress our graph, common terms are shared.) The nodes in that triangle are also part of the proof state graph.

In step A of Figure 4, we assign embeddings as follows:

- Root nodes like  $f$  get a null vector of all zeros.
- Definition nodes like  $2$ ,  $*$ ,  $+$ , and  $\mathbb{N}$  are assigned embeddings from the definition embedding table.
- Other nodes, are assigned embeddings from the node embedding table based only on the node type. These include nodes for binders, function application, variables and local constants.
- Edges are assigned embeddings according to their edge types (after adding in extra edges as described in Section 3.1).

While Step A treats local context nodes the same as any other non-definition node, they become important in Step G, where we use the GNN embeddings for the local context nodes to select arguments.

**RNN for local and global argument prediction** The RNN described in Step F of Figure 4 is a simple two layer RNN described mathematically as follows. Let  $t$  be the embedding of the base tactic (`apply _` in Figure 4). Let  $p$  be the pooled embedding of the proof state, that is mean of all the node embeddings in the output graph of the GNN. The goal is to compute an embedding  $x_i$  for each argument position  $i$  in the base tactic. (For example, `rewrite _ in _` has two argument positions, `reflexivity` has zero positions, and `apply _` has one position. Hence in the example in Figure 4, there is only one RNN output.) The computation is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} x_i^{(0)} &:= p \\ h_i^{(n)} &:= t && \text{for } n \in \{0, 1\} \\ x_i^{(n+1)}, h_{i+1}^{(n)} &:= \text{ReLU}(\text{Dense}(x_i^{(n)}, h_i^{(n)})) \end{aligned}$$

The two inputs and two outputs to the dense layer are concatenated. The RNN output corresponding to the  $i$ th argument position is  $x_i^{(2)}$ . This is used as the input to Step G in Figure 4.

**The loss for definition and prediction task** Given a definition  $d$  with index  $i_d$  and graph  $g_d$ , let  $\text{DefTask}(g_d)$  be the computed embedding for the definition task, and  $\text{DefEmb}(i_d)$  be the embedding in the definition embedding table. The definition loss is the cosine similarity loss

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{def}} := 1 - \frac{\text{DefTask}(g_d) \cdot \text{DefEmb}(i_d)}{|\text{DefTask}(g_d)| |\text{DefEmb}(i_d)|} = 1 - \text{DefTask}(g_d) \cdot \text{DefEmb}(i_d)$$

where  $\cdot$  is inner product. The denominator is not needed since both  $\text{DefTask}(g_d)$  and  $\text{DefEmb}(i_d)$  are unit normalized.

The prediction task loss is calculated as follows. Let  $P_{\text{tactic}}(T | S)$  be the probability the model assigns to a base tactic  $T$  given a proof state  $S$ . Let  $P_{\text{arg}_i}(A | S, T)$  be the probability the model assigns to an argument  $A$  (either local or global) given a proof state  $S$  and the base tactic  $T$ . (Notice, even though we use an RNN, the probability of the  $i$ th argument only depends on the tactic and proof state.) Then if the ground truth tactic sequence is the base tactic  $T$  with arguments  $A_0, A_1, \dots, A_{n-1}$ , the loss is calculated as the cross entropy

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{tactic}} := -\log P_{\text{tactic}}(T | S) - \log P_{\text{arg}_0}(A_0 | S, T) - \log P_{\text{arg}_1}(A_1 | S, T) - \dots - \log P_{\text{arg}_n}(A_{n-1} | S, T)$$

**Adding new definitions to the current state** During inference, every time we get to a new theorem, we query Coq (via Tactician) for any new definitions added to the global context. This gives us a sequence of definitions  $d_0, \dots, d_{n-1}$ . For each definition  $d$ , we first check if that definition was seen during training (using a hash based on the graph representation). If so, we align the definition index given by Coq to the one we already have. If not, we use  $\text{DefTask}(g_d)$  to calculate the definition embedding, where  $g_d$  is the graph of definition  $d$  and  $\text{DefTask}$  is our definition task neural network. All the embedding tables are in the neural network, including the definition embedding table. We may assume, by the order definitions are returned from Coq, that any prerequisite definitions needed to calculate  $\text{DefTask}(g_d)$  have already been added to the definition embedding table. After calculating  $\text{DefTask}(g_d)$ , we manually update the definition embedding table to include the newly calculated embedding for  $d$ .

As an implementation detail, the most expensive part of changing the embedding table is recompiling the network, and this is only needed when we change the size of the table. To reduce this, during inference we allocate a larger definition embedding table than needed, similar to a resizable array