000 001 002 003 004 RETHINKING AND IMPROVING AUTOFORMALIZATION: TOWARDS A FAITHFUL METRIC AND A DEPENDENCY RETRIEVAL-BASED APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

As a central component in formal verification, statement autoformalization has been widely studied including the recent efforts from machine learning community, but still remains a widely-recognized difficult and open problem. In this paper, we delve into two critical yet under-explored gaps: 1) absence of faithful and universal automated evaluation for autoformalization results; 2) agnosia of contextural information, inducing severe hallucination of formal definitions and theorems. To address the first issue, we propose BEq (*Bidirectional Extended Definitional Equivalence*), an automated neuro-symbolic method to determine the equivalence between two formal statements, which is formal-grounded and wellaligned with human intuition. For the second, we propose RAutoformalizer (*Retrieval-augmented Autoformalizer*), augmenting statement autoformalization by *Dependency Retrieval*, retrieving potentially dependent objects from formal libraries. We parse the dependencies of libraries and propose to *structurally informalise* formal objects by the topological order of dependencies. To evaluate OOD generalization and research-level capabilities, we build a novel benchmark, *Con-NF*, consisting of 961 informal-formal statement pairs from frontier mathematical researches. Extensive experiments validate the effectiveness of our proposed approaches. In particular, BEq is evaluated on 200 diverse formal statement pairs with expert-annotated equivalence label, exhibiting significantly improved accuracy (82.50% \rightarrow 90.50%) and precision (70.59% \rightarrow 100.0%). For dependency retrieval, a baseline with excellent performance is established. The proposed RAutoformalizer substantially outperforms SOTA baselines in both in-distribution ProofNet benchmark ([1](#page-0-0)2.83% \mapsto 18.18%, BEq@8¹) and OOD Con-NF scenario $(4.58\% \rightarrow 16.86\%, BEq@8)$. Code, data, and models will be available.

> Philosophy is written in this grand book, the universe. It is written in the language of mathematics.

038 1 INTRODUCTION Galileo Galilei, *The Assayer*

040 041 042 043 044 Theorem provers, such as Lean [\(Moura & Ullrich, 2021\)](#page-12-0), Coq (Bertot & Castéran, 2013) and Isabelle [\(Nipkow et al., 2002\)](#page-12-1), can check the validity and correctness of mathematical statements and proofs by strict algorithms, whose own soundness and completeness are proven in theory. However, instead of directly working on natural language mathematics, these tools define their own formal languages, which hinders the democratization of formal mathematics.

045 046 047 048 049 050 051 Statement autoformalization^{[2](#page-0-1)} aims at translating mathematical statements from natural language to formal verifiable statement. Due to its rigorously logical nature, this task is widely-recognized to be challenging, requiring profound understanding of both informal semantics and formal syntax [\(Li](#page-11-0) [et al., 2024a\)](#page-11-0). Beyond a fundamental component in formal mathematics and software verification, strong autoformalization methods have far broader impacts and could result in the creation of a general purpose reasoning module [\(Szegedy, 2020\)](#page-13-0). Outside-the-box applications of autoformalization include synthesizing training dataset for formal theorem provers [\(Wu et al., 2022;](#page-13-1) [Xin et al.,](#page-13-2)

⁰⁵² 053 ${}^{1}BEq@k$ indicates the portion of samples where predictions are equivalent to ground-truths under BEq at least once in k attempts, defined in Equation [7.](#page-8-0)

²Readers unfamiliar with formal theorem proving are advised to read [Yang et al.](#page-14-0) [\(2024\)](#page-14-0).

054 055 056 [2024\)](#page-13-2), especially AlphaProof [\(Castelvecchi, 2024\)](#page-10-1), enhancing informal math reasoning by rejection sampling [\(Zhou et al., 2024\)](#page-14-1), and automating code verification [\(Lin et al., 2024\)](#page-11-1).

057 058 059 060 061 062 Current mainstream methods work in the following process. A large language model (LLM) is either prompted [\(Wu et al., 2022\)](#page-13-1) or fine-tuned [\(Azerbayev et al., 2023;](#page-10-2) [Jiang et al., 2023a\)](#page-11-2) to directly generate a formal statement given its informal counterpart. The predicted statements are then evaluated by laborious human annotation [\(Azerbayev et al., 2023\)](#page-10-2) or unreliable proxy automated metrics including machine translation metrics such as BLEU [\(Wu et al., 2022\)](#page-13-1) and perplexity [\(Wang et al.,](#page-13-3) [2018\)](#page-13-3), symbolic type check pass rate [\(Lu et al., 2024\)](#page-11-3) or LLM grader [\(Ying et al., 2024a\)](#page-14-2).

063 064 065 066 067 068 069 070 071 072 073 074 075 Rethinking this paradigm, we find out two key limitations. Firstly, an effective, human-aligned and universal automated evaluation metric is absent. Machine translation metrics are fragile to equivalent transformations in human perspective, for example β*-reduction* (function application). Type check is too weak to filter out syntactically correct but semantically absurd autoformalization. It is a necessary but not sufficient condition for the ideal equivalence. LLM graders are non-determinant and highly dependent on prompts, and are easily misled by imperceptible but fundamental differences or huge but nonessential transformations. [Murphy et al.](#page-12-2) [\(2024\)](#page-12-2) are pioneers to utilize SMT solver for faithful automated evaluation, but is restricted to Euclidean geometry only. Secondly, the current paradigm directly generates formal statements, ignoring the context of previously formalized statements and definitions. This might result in severe hallucination of identifiers and syntax, especially in out-of-distribution (OOD) cases. A similar issue is reported in [Wu et al.](#page-13-1) [\(2022\)](#page-13-1), where definition misalignment between informal mathematics and formal libraries is the major cause of failure cases. Our experiments on both in-domain and OOD scenarios, shown in Table [3,](#page-9-0) show the severity of this problem and exhibit a promising path to address it.

- **076 077 078 079 080 081 082 083 084 085 086 087 088 089** For the first issue, we propose *BEq (Bidirectional Extended Definitional Equivalence)*, a neuralsymbolic equivalence relation between formal statements. This metric aligns well with collective human opinions. In formal systems built upon dependent type theory [\(Univalent Foundations Pro](#page-13-4)[gram, 2013\)](#page-13-4), such as Lean 4 [\(Moura & Ullrich, 2021\)](#page-12-0), definitional equality is a symbolic equivalence relation under a variety of intuitive transformations, such as bound variable renaming, function application, and definition unfolding. However, it heavily relies on the definitions of objects and conversion rules, hence it is too strict and inflexible from human perspective. For example, $n + 0$ and n are definitional equal for a natural number n, but n and $0 + n$ are not. Worse still, definitional equality struggle with handling metavariable differences. We extend definitional equivalence by 1) equipping it with a restricted set of symbolic transformation primitives and a neural transformation function aiming to convert one formal statement to be definitionally equivalent to the other, and 2) loosing the equivalence criteria to bidirectionally "convertible" under the transformation function. To evaluate its performance, we build a benchmark consisting of 200 formal statement pairs with expert-annotated equivalence labels. BEq significantly outperforms previous SOTA methods, improving the precision from 70.59% to 100% and the accuracy from 82.50% to 90.50% .
- **090 091 092 093 094 095 096 097 098 099 100** For the second, we propose a new task, *Dependency Retrieval*, and a new method, *RAutoformalizer (Retrieval-augmented Autoformalizer)*. Dependency retrieval seeks to select potentially dependent formal objects given an informal statement. RAutoformalizer uses the retrievals to enhance autoformalization. To enable this new paradigm, we propose to parse the dependencies in formal libraries and construct training data by *topological informalization*, informalizing formal objects by topological order. An immense dataset of 243,797 formal objects (including 139,933 theorems) is synthesized upon Mathlib 4. We also build the *Con-NF* benchmark^{[3](#page-1-0)} to evaluate out-of-distribution (ODD) generalization and research-level capabilities of current methods. A baseline is built for dependency retrieval, with 35.52% Recall@5 on ProofNet and 24.32% Recall@5 on Con-NF. RAutoformalizer exhibits substantial improvement over previous methods, improving BEq@8 from 12.83% to 18.18% on ProofNet and from 4.58% to 16.86% on Con-NF.

101 102 103 To sum up, in this paper, we identify two key limitations in statement autoformalization: the absence of faithful and universal automated evaluation, and the agnosia of contextural information. The contributions of our work are listed as follows:

104 105 106 1) We introduce a new neural-symbolic equivalence metric, BEq (*Bidirectional Extended Definitional Equivalence*), which extends *Definition Equality* in dependent type theory to be more aligned with human intuition.

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³Based on Lean 4 Con(NF) library (A formal consistency proof of Quine's set theory *New Foundations*)

108 109 110 111 112 2) We propose a new *dependency retrieval* task and introduce a novel paradigm, RAutoformalizer (Retrieval-Augmented Autoformalizer). We further propose *topological informalization* to synthesize high-quality training data for these initiatives. To evaluate research-level autoformalization and out-of-distribution (OOD) performance, we create a new benchmark, *Con-NF*, which consists of 961 informal-formal statement pairs from New Foundations [\(Holmes & Wilshaw, 2024\)](#page-11-4).

113 114 115 116 3) We validate BEq by expert evaluation on 200 formal statement pairs and set a baseline for dependency retrieval. Extensive experiments of RAutoformalizer show its superior performance on statement autoformalization. Ablation studies further validate the effectiveness of our technical modifications, and also exhibit the great potential of the retrieval-augment paradigm.

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2 RELATED WORKS

120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 Autoformalization. It aims to automatically translate natural language (informal) mathematics into formal verified code. Current autoformalization methods can be roughly divided into three levels. Statement autoformalization focuses on autoformalizing statements [\(Wang et al., 2020;](#page-13-5) [Wu et al.,](#page-13-1) [2022;](#page-13-1) [Azerbayev et al., 2023;](#page-10-2) [Jiang et al., 2023a;](#page-11-2) [Gulati et al., 2024;](#page-11-5) [Poiroux et al., 2024\)](#page-13-6); proof autoformalization focuses on translating informal proofs (and sometimes including corresponding statements) into formal code [\(Cunningham et al., 2023;](#page-10-3) [Jiang et al., 2023b;](#page-11-6) [Zhao et al., 2023;](#page-14-3) [Mur](#page-12-2)[phy et al., 2024;](#page-12-2) [Lu et al., 2024\)](#page-11-3); theory autoformalization, translating a whole theory including definitions, axioms, theorems, and proofs, remains under-explored. [Patel et al.](#page-13-7) [\(2024\)](#page-13-7) proposes a three-stage plan to break the difficulty into easier subtasks.

129 130 131 132 133 134 135 Methods of Autoformalization. Autoformalization is notoriously challenging for prevalent datadriven approaches [\(Li et al., 2024b\)](#page-11-7). Existing informal-formal parallel corpora are fairly scarce, which impedes machine learning training. To alleviate this, researchers synthesize informal-formal pairs by rule-based informalization [\(Wang et al., 2018;](#page-13-3) [Cunningham et al., 2023\)](#page-10-3), LLM-based backtranslation [\(Azerbayev et al., 2023;](#page-10-2) [Jiang et al., 2023a\)](#page-11-2), training with multilingual corpus [\(Jiang](#page-11-2) [et al., 2023a\)](#page-11-2), or utilizing in-context learning (ICL) capabilities [\(Wu et al., 2022\)](#page-13-1). [Ying et al.](#page-14-2) [\(2024a\)](#page-14-2) proposes an expert iteration pipeline by iteratively synthesizing and filtering training data.

136 137 138 139 140 A major difference from machine translation is the existence of verifiers. Another line of work focuses on utilizing verifier feedbacks. [Poiroux et al.](#page-13-6) [\(2024\)](#page-13-6) uses rejection sampling to enhance autoformalization by typecheck results; [Lu et al.](#page-11-3) [\(2024\)](#page-11-3) introduces a neural step-level verifier and perform expert iteration; [Jiang et al.](#page-11-6) [\(2023b\)](#page-11-6); [Murphy et al.](#page-12-2) [\(2024\)](#page-12-2) combines LLM and formal verifier for proof autoformalization, and [Zhao et al.](#page-14-3) [\(2023\)](#page-14-3) enhances it with subgoal-based demonstration.

141 142 143 Evaluation of Autoformalization. There are many benchmarks for statement autoformalization, covering undergraduate-level math problems [\(Azerbayev et al., 2023\)](#page-10-2), more complex areas from Mathlib 4 [\(Gulati et al., 2024\)](#page-11-5), and Euclidean geometry [\(Murphy et al., 2024\)](#page-12-2).

144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 Due to the high flexibility of natural language and the rigor of formal language, faithfully evaluating autoformalization is widely-recognized to be challenging and under-explored [\(Szegedy, 2020;](#page-13-0) [Azer](#page-10-2)[bayev et al., 2023;](#page-10-2) [Jiang et al., 2023a;](#page-11-2) [Murphy et al., 2024\)](#page-12-2). [Wu et al.](#page-13-1) [\(2022\)](#page-13-1); [Jiang et al.](#page-11-2) [\(2023a\)](#page-11-2); [Ying et al.](#page-14-2) [\(2024a\)](#page-14-2) evaluate autoformalization results by human experts. [Wang et al.](#page-13-3) [\(2018\)](#page-13-3) reports identical matching accuracy. Proxy metrics, including perplexity [\(Wang et al., 2018\)](#page-13-3), BLEU^{[4](#page-2-0)} [\(Wang](#page-13-3) [et al., 2018;](#page-13-3) [Poiroux et al., 2024;](#page-13-6) [Azerbayev et al., 2023;](#page-10-2) [Wu et al., 2022\)](#page-13-1) and compiler typecheck pass rate [\(Lu et al., 2024;](#page-11-3) [Azerbayev et al., 2023;](#page-10-2) [Jiang et al., 2023a\)](#page-11-2) are utilized to automate evaluation. [Ying et al.](#page-14-2) [\(2024a\)](#page-14-2); [Gulati et al.](#page-11-5) [\(2024\)](#page-11-5) prompts LLMs to determine the equivalence between predicted formal statement and ground-truth. [Murphy et al.](#page-12-2) [\(2024\)](#page-12-2) propose to use SMT solver to evaluate the equivalence between formal statements in Euclidean geometry.

153 154 155 156 For proof autoformalization, current evaluation focuses on theorem proving, only verifying formal proofs' correctness while potentially overlooking semantic inconsistencies between informal and formal proofs. The evaluation of theory autoformalization is also insufficiently researched.

157 158 159 160 Retrieval-augmented Generation. Retrieval-augmented generation has been extensively studied in natural language processing. In terms of code generation, code documentations [\(Zhou et al., 2023\)](#page-14-4), APIs [\(Zan et al., 2022\)](#page-14-5), repository files [\(Zhang et al., 2023\)](#page-14-6) and dynamic knowledge soup [\(Su et al.,](#page-13-8) [2024\)](#page-13-8) are retrieved to augment generation. In formal verification, [Azerbayev et al.](#page-10-2) [\(2023\)](#page-10-2) proposes

⁴BLEU [\(Papineni et al., 2002\)](#page-12-3) is a metric for evaluating machine translation based on n-gram matching.

Figure 1: Illustration of *BEq* (*Bidirectional Extended Definitional Equivalence*) and *Unidirectional Definitional Implication.* $s_P \sim_B s_Q$ if and only if both $s_P \leftarrow_U s_Q$ and $s_Q \leftarrow_U s_P$ hold. To determine the first, we assume s_Q holds. Then the transformation function (implemented with a LLM) T is called to generate transformation (proof of s_P using s_Q) conditioned on s_Q and transformation primitive (tactic) set R. If the transformation holds, we conclude that $s_P \leftarrow_U s_O$. Otherwise, we believe $s_P \not\leftarrow_U s_O$. Vice versa for the second direction.

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> to augment statement autoformalization by retrieving relevant prompt. ReProver [\(Yang et al., 2024\)](#page-14-0) enhances theorem proving with premise selection.

3 BIDIRECTIONAL EXTENDED DEFINITIONAL EQUIVALENCE

185 A fundamental problem for all generative tasks is to faithfully and effectively evaluate the results. In statement autoformalization, let S denote the set of all formal statements, given a predicted formal statement $s_{\text{pred}} \in \mathbb{S}$ and the corresponding ground-truth $s_{\text{gt}} \in \mathbb{S}$, we need an equivalence relation \sim : S × S to determine whether the autoformalization is correct. The relation ($\cdot \sim \cdot$) should satisfy:

- $(\cdot \sim \cdot)$ is an equivalence relation, which is a binary relation with reflexivity, symmetry and transitivity.
- $(\cdot \sim \cdot)$ is well aligned with human intuition.
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• $(\cdot \sim \cdot)$ is universally applicable in all domains.

192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 Definitional Equality. In Lean 4 [\(Moura & Ullrich, 2021\)](#page-12-0), two expressions are *definitionally equal* if they are equivalent w.r.t. a series of conversion rules, such as α*-conversion* (renaming bound variable), η*-expansion* (modifying unused arguments in functions), *proof irrelevance* (proofs of the same Prop), β*-reduction* (function application), ζ*-reduction* (eliminating let-in definitions), δ*-reduction* (unfolding variable and constant definitions), ι*-reduction* (application of recursive functions defined on inductive types to an explicit constructor) [\(Bailey et al., 2024\)](#page-10-4). This equality is a binary relation with reflexivity, symmetry and transitivity, and applicable in all math areas formalized in Lean 4. And it has many intriguing characteristics that fits more closely with human instinct. For example, fun (b:Nat) => b is equivalent to fun (u:Nat) => u because definitional equality allows α -conversion, in which bound variable b is renamed to u.

202 203 204 205 206 207 208 However, several critical weaknesses hinder definitional equality from becoming a good and intuitive metric for autoformalization. Firstly, some expressions that are naturally "equivalent" from a human perspective are not definitionally equal. For example, for a natural number $n:Nat, n + 0$ and n are definitionally equal, but $0 + n$ and n are not definitionally equal. Definitional equality heavily relies on the definitions of objects and conversion rules, while many intuitive equivalences, are neglected. Worse still, typecheck often get stuck in typeclass instance problems due to metavariables, which hinders evaluating definitional equality between statements.

209 210 3.1 EXTENDING DEFINITIONAL EQUALITY

211 212 213 Formulation. Suppose there are two formal statements, s_P and s_Q . Without loss of generality, s_P and s_Q are assumed syntactically valid, since it is nonsense to talk about equivalence between invalid formal statements. Definitional equality is denoted as \sim_D .

214 215 The main reason behind the aforementioned limitations of definitional equality is its strictness on reductions and conversions. We hence loose the limitation and extend definitional equality to align with human intuition. Let R be the set of all transformation primitives, $\mathcal{U}(s,\mathcal{R})$: $\mathbb{S}\times 2^{\mathbb{R}} \mapsto 2^{\mathbb{S}}$ to be **216 217 218** the set of all valid formal statements that can be constructed by applying transformations in $\mathcal{R} \subset \mathbb{R}$ on s, and $T : (\mathbb{S} \times (\mathbb{S} \times 2^{\mathbb{R}})) \mapsto \mathbb{S}$ to be a *restricted transformation function* such that

$$
T(\boldsymbol{s}_P|\boldsymbol{s}_Q,\mathcal{R}) = \begin{cases} \boldsymbol{s}_P', & \boldsymbol{s}_P' \in \mathcal{U}(\boldsymbol{s}_P,\mathcal{R}) \land \boldsymbol{s}_Q \sim_D \boldsymbol{s}_P' \\ \bot, & \forall \boldsymbol{s}_P' \in \mathcal{U}(\boldsymbol{s}_P,\mathcal{R}), \boldsymbol{s}_Q \not\sim_D \boldsymbol{s}_P' \end{cases} \tag{1}
$$

221 222 223 Intuitively, given transformation primitives $\mathcal{R} \subset \mathbb{R}$, T transforms s_P definitionally equal to s_Q if possible and returns the transformed statement. Otherwise, it returns a dummy statement ⊥, which is not definitionally equal to any other valid statement (e.g., an invalid statement).

225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 In Lean 4, a formal statement can be converted to a proof goal by entering tactic mode. A proof goal $(\{s_{P,i}\}_{i=1}^n, s_Q)$ consists of some assumptions $\{s_{P,i}\}_{i=1}^n$ and a conclusion s_Q , where all $s_{P,i}$ and s_Q are statements, and n can be 0. Then tactics, which are metaprograms, reduce a goal to another, which is often easier to solve by assumptions. For example, transforming $(\{S\}, R \to S)$ to $({R, S}, S)$ by tactic intro and trivially prove it by exact. A formal statement s_P can be transformed to a proof goal by simply setting assumptions to be empty set and conclusion to be s_P , resulting in the proof goal (\emptyset, s_P) . And a proof goal $(\{s_{P,i}\}_{i=1}^n, s_Q)$ can be transformed back to a formal statement $s_{P,1} \wedge s_{P,2} \wedge \cdots \wedge s_{P,n} \rightarrow s_Q$. These transformations occur in syntax level, leaving semantics unchanged. Therefore, we can determine semantic equivalence in the space of proof goals and concretize $\mathbb R$ to be the set of all tactics in Lean. The restricted transformation function T can be approximated by sampling tactic sequences from a large language model and symbolically executing on Lean kernel for multiple times, until a valid s'_{P} is found, or the time limit exceeds. With a slight abuse of notation, we denote both the formal statement s_P and its corresponding proof goal as s_P .

Then, *Unidirectional Definitional Implication* (\leftarrow _U \cdot) is defined as

$$
s_P \leftarrow_U s_Q \iff s_P \sim_D T(s_Q|s_P, \mathcal{R}) \tag{2}
$$

240 241 242 Intuitively, this implication from s_Q to s_P indicates whether the proof goal of the statement s_P can be definitionally equal to a restrictively transformed s_Q by T. Correspondingly, **BEq** (*Bidirectional*) *Extended Definitional Equivalence*) ($\cdot \sim_B \cdot$) is defined as

$$
s_P \sim_\text{B} s_Q \iff s_P \leftarrow_\text{U} s_Q \land s_Q \leftarrow_\text{U} s_P \tag{3}
$$

which is

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• a superset of definitional equality: Let $\mathcal{R} = \emptyset$, then, T becomes identity mapping $\Delta(\cdot)$ and $s_P \sim_{\text{\tiny B}} s_Q \iff s_P \sim_{\text{\tiny D}} \Delta(s_Q) \land s_Q \sim_{\text{\tiny D}} \Delta(s_P)$ \Leftrightarrow s_P \sim_{D} s_Q

• an equivalence relation, which is a binary relation with

- 1. Reflexivity: $s_P \sim_B s_P$ holds because $s_P \sim_D s_P$.
- 2. Symmetry: $s_P \sim_B s_Q \iff s_Q \sim_B s_P$ holds by unfolding the definition of BEq.
- 3. Transitivity: If $s_P \sim_B s_Q$ and $s_Q \sim_B s_R$ holds, we have $s_P \sim_D T(s_Q|s_P, R)$ and $s_Q \sim_{\text{D}} T(s_R | s_Q, \mathcal{R})$. Suppose $T(s_Q | s_P, \mathcal{R})$ applies tactic sequence $[t_{QP}^{(i)}]_{i=1}^m$ to transform proof goal s_Q to be definitionally equal to s_P , and $T(s_R|s_Q, \mathcal{R})$ applies $[t_{RQ}^{(j)}]_{j=1}^n$. Therefore, by applying Concat $([t_{RQ}^{(j)}]_{j=1}^n, [t_{QP}^{(i)}]_{i=1}^m)$ on s_R , we can transform proof goal s_R to be definitionally equal to s_P . Therefore, $s_P \sim_D T(s_R|s_P, \mathcal{R})$.

260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 Implementation. An overview of BEq is depicted in Figure [1.](#page-3-0) To implement the transformation function T, we perform 5-shot prompting IntermLM-Math-Plus-20B [\(Ying et al., 2024b\)](#page-14-7) served on vLLM [\(Kwon et al., 2023\)](#page-11-8). If not mentioned otherwise, model prediction is sampled by beam search where temperature $T = 0.0$, attempt number $n = 8$ and beam size $b = 8$. The choice of transformation primitives is sophisticated and is critical for the alignment with human. We set $\mathcal{R} = \{ \text{apply}, \text{cases'}$, constructor, exact, exact?, ext, have, intro,intros, rw, use} to extend vanilla definitional equality (for higher recall) while preventing $U(\cdot, \mathcal{R})$ and the equivalence class being too large (for higher precision). More experiments on the choices of attempt numbers, transformation primitives and sampling strategies can be found in Appendix [A.1.](#page-14-8)

269 Given two formal statements s_P and s_Q , we first check $s_P \leftarrow_U s_Q$. s_Q is assumed to be true by closing its proof with sorry. Then, symbolic heuristic exact? is called to generate a proof for **270 271 272 273 274** Table 1: Comparison of automated evaluation metrics for statement autoformalization. R, S, T denote reflexivity, symmetry, and transitivity, respectively. Universal indicates whether a metric is applicable in all domains; 0/0 denotes division by zero; I and D denote InternLM2-Math-Plus-20B and Deepseek-V2.5, respectively; ∼ represents the metric is unsuitable for the method. *We report the best results among all thresholds; †Reflexivity and symmetry depends on the implementation.

 s_P . If it fails, n candidates are sampled from the LLM^{[5](#page-5-0)}, given tactic restriction R and s_Q . If there exists at least one successful proof that uses s_Q , $s_P \leftarrow_U s_Q$ holds. Otherwise, $s_P \leftarrow_U s_Q$ does not hold. Then $s_Q \leftarrow_U s_P$ is similarly checked. If and only if both directions hold, $s_P \sim_B s_Q$ holds.

3.2 EVALUATION OF BEQ

295 296 297 298 299 300 Human Equivalence Benchmark. To fairly and reliably evaluate BEq and baseline metrics, we uniformly sampled 200 formal statements from the typechecked predictions generated by RAutoformalizer and OpenAI o1-preview (100 predictions from each). Then the statements are paired with the ground-truths in ProofNet [\(Azerbayev et al., 2023\)](#page-10-2)^{[6](#page-5-1)}. Experts in math and formal verification are invited to discuss and label the equivalence in their opinion for the 200 statement pairs. The discipline distribution of these samples is visualized in Appendix [A.4.](#page-19-0)

301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 Experiment Setting. In our evaluation, identical matching is optimized to neglect spaces in formal statements. BLEU computation is identical to [Azerbayev et al.](#page-10-2) [\(2023\)](#page-10-2). To determine pairwise equivalence, we binarize BLEU by a threshold. The best results over all possible thresholds are reported. The precision, recall, and accuracy curves of different thresholds can be found in Ap-pendix [A.5.](#page-22-0) For LLM grader, we use the prompts⁵ in [Ying et al.](#page-14-2) [\(2024a\)](#page-14-2) but a stronger setting: InternLM2-Math-Plus-20B [\(Ying et al., 2024b\)](#page-14-7) and Deepseek-V2.5 [\(DeepSeek-AI, 2024\)](#page-10-5) with 16 shot majority voting and temperature $T = 0.7$. E3 [\(Murphy et al., 2024\)](#page-12-2) is not evaluated on this benchmark, since it is only available on Euclidean Geometry. BEq also samples 16 tactic sequences candidates for each sample.

310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 Experiment Results.^{[7](#page-5-2)} As summarized in Table [1,](#page-5-3) BEq reaches 100.0% precision and 90.50% accuracy, showing landslide advantages over baselines. However, BEq falls short on recall (−12.85% compared with "Majority Voting (D)") because of 1) rigor of formal verification systems; and 2) failure of approximated transformation function (the LLM), as analyzed in Appendix [A.4.](#page-19-0) For baselines, [Azerbayev et al.](#page-10-2) [\(2023\)](#page-10-2) concludes that BLEU has low correlation with ground-truth accuracy, with which our experiment result agrees. The distribution of BLEU scores of equivalent and inequivalent pairs is visualized in Appendix [A.5.](#page-22-0) LLM Majority Voting sets a strong baseline, reaching 82.50% accuracy, but at the expense of precision. As a subset of BEq, definitional equality performs well in precision, but has too many false negatives.

319 With BEq, we can better evaluate statement autoformalization. In the following journey, we will address the second issue, agnosia of context.

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 5 Detailed prompt template can be found in Appendix [A.7.](#page-23-0)

⁶All relevant open-source libraries are summarized in Appendix [A.9.](#page-28-0)

 7 More comprehensive results can be found in Appendix [A.2.1.](#page-15-0)

Figure 2: Pipeline of *RAutoformalizer*. Train: ①Dependencies in a library (e.g., Mathlib 4) are parsed. Formal objects are informalized by topological order, each given its own and dependencies' information. The resulting parallel data is used to train the retriever (encoder) and autoformalizer. Inference: ②Each informal statement is encoded into a dense embedding, whose cosine similarities are computed with pre-computed library embeddings. \textcircled{s} Objects corresponding to top- k similarities are retrieved. ④Conditioned on the informal statement and retrieved dependencies, autoformalizer predicts formal statements.

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4 RETRIEVAL-AUGMENTED AUTOFORMALIZATION

349 350 351 352 353 354 355 The current autoformalization paradigm suffers from the agnosia of context. Autoformalizers, without a priori knowledge of previously formalized definitions and theorems, frequently hallucinate formal objects which are nonexistent in the library. This drawback is also observed as *definition misalignment* by [Wu et al.](#page-13-1) [\(2022\)](#page-13-1); [Azerbayev et al.](#page-10-2) [\(2023\)](#page-10-2); [Jiang et al.](#page-11-2) [\(2023a\)](#page-11-2). Although these hallucinated identifiers and function applications are semantically correct from the human perspective, formal verification fails because of the soundness of symbolic verifiers. Our preliminary experiments support this observation, with hallucination worsening in OOD scenarios like frontier research.

4.1 RAUTOFORMALIZER

357 358 359 We propose RAutoformalizer (*Retrieval-Augmented Autoformalizer*), which addresses the issue by incorporating *dependency retrieval*, selecting relevant formal objects for a given informal statement.

360 361 362 363 Dependency Retrieval. Suppose we are autoformalizing an informal statement l_P with a groundtruth formal statement s_P . Dependency retrieval aims to retrieve a subset of formal objects D from a formal library \mathbb{D} (e.g., Mathlib 4), maximizing the number of dependent formal objects of s_P while minimizing the inclusion of irrelevant ones, i.e.,

$$
\arg\max_{D\in2^{\mathbb{D}}} |D \cap \mathbf{s}_P| - |D^{\mathbb{C}} \cap \mathbf{s}_P| \tag{4}
$$

366 367 368 369 370 Our retriever, $\psi_{\theta} : \mathbb{S} \mapsto \mathbb{S}^h$, which embeds a string onto the surface of a h-dimensional unit sphere, uses Dense Retrieval [\(Karpukhin et al., 2020\)](#page-11-9) for its popularity, simplicity, and efficiency. Before inference, the embeddings of the whole library are precomputed as $\{\psi_{\theta}(s_d) | s_d \in \mathbb{D}\}\.$ Then, when an informal statement l_P is provided, we only need a single forward pass to embed it as $\psi_\theta(l_P)$ and retrieve formal objects with top- k maximal cosine similarities, see Figure [2](#page-6-0) (Upper Right).

$$
D = \arg \max_{D \in 2^{\mathbb{D}}, |D| \le k} \sum_{\mathbf{s}_d \in D} \langle \psi_{\theta}(l_P), \psi_{\theta}(s_d) \rangle \tag{5}
$$

375 376 377 Dataset. We build the dependency graphs for Mathlib 4, illustrated in Figure [2](#page-6-0) (Bottom Left), by parsing the declarations of all formal objects and linking identifiers with accessible formal objects in the corresponding context. In total, 243,797 formal objects (including 139,933 theorems) are collected along with their full names, positions, types, declarations, code, comments, and dependencies.

378 379 380 381 382 383 384 We propose to topologically informalize Mathlib 4 to synthesize a training dataset. Concretely, all formal objects are topologically sorted and split into 24 topological generations based on their dependency graph. Informalization is performed from the bottom (e.g., basic definitions) to the top (more sophisticated concepts), as Figure [2](#page-6-0) (Bottom Middle) shows. We use 10-shot prompted InternLM2-Math-Plus-20B [\(Ying et al., 2024b\)](#page-14-7) as the informalizer. For a formal object, the infor-malizer is provided with the object's declaration, code^{[8](#page-7-0)}, comment, and its dependencies' informalizations. The high quality of informalizations is shown in subsequent experiments.

385 386 RAutoformalizer. Building upon dependency retriever ψ_{θ} , a LLM p_{ϕ} can predict formal statements given informal statements and retrieval results, as in Figure [2](#page-6-0) (Bottom Right):

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 $\hat{\mathbf{s}}_P \sim \mathbf{p}_{\theta}(\cdot | \mathbf{l}_P, D)$ (6)

389 390 391 392 The retriever ψ_{θ} is fine-tuned from BGE-M3 [\(Chen et al., 2023\)](#page-10-6) using informalized theorems and dependencies in Mathlib 4 and hyperparameters in Appendix [A.8.](#page-28-1) We retrieve the top-100 candidates using pretrained BGE-M3, remove true dependencies, and take the remainings as hard negatives [\(Xiao et al., 2023\)](#page-13-9). By default, formal declarations of objects are used to generate embeddings.

393 394 For each theorem object, top-5 retrievals of ψ_{θ} are collected to fine-tune the autoformalizer p_{ϕ} from InternLM2-Math-Base-7B [\(Ying et al., 2024b\)](#page-14-7) using the training recipe in Appendix [A.8.](#page-28-1)

395 396 397 398 During inference, given an informal statement l_P and a formal library \mathbb{D} , the retriever ψ_θ selects top-5 candidates from the library, then the autoformalizer p_{ϕ} generates formal statements based on the informal statement and retrievals.

399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 Con-NF: OOD Benchmark. Existing benchmarks [\(Azerbayev et al., 2023;](#page-10-2) [Zheng et al., 2022;](#page-14-9) [Tsoukalas et al., 2024;](#page-13-10) [Liu et al., 2023;](#page-11-10) [Murphy et al., 2024\)](#page-12-2) rely on Mathlib 4 and concentrate on high-school or undergraduate level mathematics. To evaluate the out-of-distribution generalization capabilities and research-level mathematics, we build a novel benchmark, *Con-NF*, based on Lean 4 Con(NF) [\(Holmes & Wilshaw, 2024\)](#page-11-4) library. Con(NF) is a recently published digitization of Randall Holmes' proof [\(Holmes, 2015\)](#page-11-11) that Quine's *New Foundations* [\(Quine, 1951\)](#page-13-11) is consistent. We parse dependencies in this library, topologically informalize all 85,762 formal objects, deduplicate theorems from Mathlib 4, and eliminate unused formal objects of the remaining theorems. The cleaned benchmark consists of 961 theorems based on a different theoretical basis to merely Mathlib 4, along with a total of 1,348 formal objects and their informalizations.

409 4.2 EVALUATION OF RETRIEVAL AND AUTOFORMALIZATION

410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 Dependency Retrieval. We choose pretrained BGE-M3 and BM25 [\(Robertson et al., 2009\)](#page-13-12) as baselines. BGE-M3 is a state-of-the-art embedding model which can perform accurate semantic retrieval for more than 100 languages. BM25 is a classical information retrieval method based on frequency and document length, and is the main baseline in ReProver [\(Yang et al., 2024\)](#page-14-0). For BGE-M3 baseline, we evaluate the pretrained model; For BM25, a BPE tokenizer with 30,000 vocabulary is trained on the topologically informalized Mathlib 4 dataset. For each ablative setting in experiments, we separately fine-tuned one retriever with the same recipe in Appendix [A.8.](#page-28-1) Evaluation is conducted on the ProofNet [\(Azerbayev et al., 2023\)](#page-10-2) and the Con-NF benchmark.

418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 Results in Table [2](#page-8-1) suggest the superiority of our method. Models fine-tuned on dependency retrieval dataset shows landslide victory over baselines, exhibiting more than $10\times$ improvement of recall on ProofNet and $2\times$ on Con-NF. The huge performance gap between baselines focused on semantic similarity and our model indicates that dependency retrieval is a novel retrieval task, which relies more on logical dependency. For more intuitive analysis, a case study can be found in Appendix [A.6.](#page-22-1) Ablative results on topological informalization also demonstrates the consistent advantage over vanilla informalization, especially in OOD generalization (Con-NF), where relative improvements can reach 50% on Recall@5 and Precision@5. Comparisons between formattings of formal objects indicate that incorporating informalizations in dependency embedding might introduce noise and degrade retrieval performance in in-distribution settings but improves OOD performance. We leave the exploration of this intriguing phenomenon for future work.

428 429 430 Statement Autoformalization. We evaluate a wide range of baselines, including in-context learning [\(Wu et al., 2022\)](#page-13-1) using GPT-4o [\(OpenAI et al., 2024\)](#page-12-4) and Deepseek-V2.5 [\(DeepSeek-AI, 2024\)](#page-10-5),

⁴³¹ ⁸For theorems, we only use their declarations since their code (except proofs) is identical with their declarations in semantics.

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432 433 434 435 436 437 438 Table 2: Comparisons between our dependency retriever and baselines, and ablations of topological informalization. Cyan numbers in brackets show ablative improvements over vanilla informalization (U); Bold numbers emphasize the highest values in each benchmark; Fmt indicates the method to format a formal object into a string to embed, where F denotes using only formal declarations and F+IF means using both formal declarations and informalizations; DR represents dense retrieval; Dataset indicates the training dataset, where P means directly using pretrained model, U represents unstructurally informalized dataset, and T represents topologically informalized dataset; $\mathbf{R}\textcircled{e}k$ and $\mathbf{P}\textcircled{e}k$ denote the recall and precision of top-k retrievals, respectively.

452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 and fine-tuning on MMA [\(Jiang et al., 2023a\)](#page-11-2), PDA [\(Lu et al., 2024\)](#page-11-3), and Lean-Workbook [\(Ying](#page-14-2) [et al., 2024a\)](#page-14-2). Since LLM API calling does not support beam search with $T = 0.0$, Deepseek is evaluated using temperature decoding $T = 0.7$, and GPT-40 using version $qpt-40-2024-08-06$ and default hyperparameters. For both, we set repeat count $t = 8$ (retry if fail to extract formal statement from model outputs) and use 3-shot demonstrations. Notably, ProofNet participates in the data synthesis process of Lean-Workbook. But we still include it as a strong baseline. For fairness, all fine-tuning methods use InternLM2-Math-Base-7B (Ying et al., $2024b)^9$ $2024b)^9$ as base model and training recipe in Appendix [A.8.](#page-28-1) We also report the performance of RAutoformalizer without retrieval module $(RA - R)$ and given ground-truth dependencies $(RA + R)$. Both are fine-tuned respectively on correspondingly constructed dataset. For ProofNet, additional objects defined beyond Mathlib 4 are retrieved in priority. For reproducibility, all fine-tuning methods are evaluated using beam search with temperature $T = 0.0$, generation number $n = 8$, and beam size $b = 8$.

463 464 465 We use BEq (introduced in Section [3.1\)](#page-3-1) to evaluate the equivalence between model predictions and ground-truth formal statements. We define $BEq@k$ as the portion of samples where predicted statements are BEq to ground-truths at least once in k attempts:

$$
\text{BEq@}k = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \max_{j \in \{1, \dots, k\}} \mathbb{I}_{\hat{\mathbf{s}}_{i,k} \sim_{B} \mathbf{s}_i}
$$
(7)

469 470 471 where N is the number of samples; k is the number of attempts; I is the indicator function, and $\hat{s}_{i,k}$ is the j-th generation attempt for the i-th sample. Similarly, Typecheck@k is defined as the portion of samples where model predictions pass Lean typecheck at least once in k attempts.

Typecheck@
$$
k = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \max_{j \in \{1, ..., k\}} \mathbb{I}_{\text{LearnTypecheck}(\hat{\boldsymbol{s}}_{i,k})}
$$
 (8)

475 We report $BEq@1$, $BEq@8$, Typecheck $@1$ and Typecheck $@8$ for a more thorough evaluation.

476 477 478 479 480 Table [3](#page-9-0) shows the great superiority of RAutoformalizer over baselines. On in-distribution ProofNet benchmark, the non-retrieval ablative model already surpasses all baseline methods, including Lean-Workbook [\(Ying et al., 2024a\)](#page-14-2) (by 6.69% in BEq@8), showing the high quality of our topological informalizations. RAutoformalizer further improves 1.60%. The ideal model reaches 23.26% BEq@1 and 31.28% BEq@8, exhibiting the potential of dependency retrieval.

481 482 483 484 485 On OOD Con-NF benchmark, without retrieval, all methods, including large-scale-pretrained GPT-4o and Deepseek-V2.5, results in extremely low performance. Among these methods, the nonretrieval ablative model still shows highest BEq@1 and BEq@8 among them. With retrievalaugment, RAutoformalizer has $3\times$ improvement on BEq@1 and BEq@8, and the oracle model

⁹ Another group of experiments fine-tuned on Deepseek-Math-Base-7B can be found in Appendix [A.3.](#page-18-0)

486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 Table 3: Comparisons between RAutoformalizer and baselines, and ablations of retrieval-augment. Cyan numbers in brackets show ablative improvements over bare autoformalizer ("RA -R"); Bold numbers emphasize the highest values excluding oracle ("RA +R") results; $\mathbf{BEq}@k$ indicates the portion of samples where predictions are equivalent to ground-truths under BEq at least once in k attempts, defined in Eq. [7;](#page-8-0) Typecheck $@k$ indicates the portion of samples where predictions pass typecheck at least once in k attempts, defined in Eq. [9;](#page-16-0) ICL (D) and ICL(4o) represents in-context learning using Deepseek-V2.5 and GPT-4o, respectively; MMA, MMA (Lean), PDA, and LW represents fine-tuning on MMA, MMA's Lean subset, PDA, and Lean-workbook, respectively; **RA** is the main method; **RA** -**R** is the ablation removing dependency retrieval; **RA** +**R** is the ablation using oracle dependencies.

Method Tungsbook@14 ProofNet ProofNet ProofNet ProofNet Proof

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exhibits over $10\times$ potential for improvement. This significant gap demonstrates the necessity of dependency retrieval and draws community attention to OOD settings^{[10](#page-9-1)}.

Typecheck@1↑ BEq@1↑ Typecheck@8↑ BEq@8↑ Typecheck@1↑ BEq@1↑ Typecheck@8↑ BEq@8↑ T ICL (D) 40.37% 9.89% 51.07% 10.96% 9.37% 2.81% 16.23% 4.27% 4.27% **ICL (4o)** 43.58% 7.22% 66.31% 12.83% 9.78% 1.46% 20.71% 4.16% 4.16% MMA 12.57% 1.87% 22.99% 2.94% 3.64% 1.98% 8.74% 4.37% MMA (L) 10.96% 2.14% 23.53% 2.67% 3.33% 1.77% 8.01% 4.58% **PDA 14.71% 0.27% 24.33% 2.14% 4.37% 1.04% 10.61% 3.64% 3.64%** LW 44.92% 8.56% 49.20% 9.89% 28.10% 0.94% 37.67% 1.04% 3.10% 1.04% 1.04% RA -R 52.14% 11.50% 71.39% 16.58% 8.12% 3.02% 11.97% 4.58% RA 57.22% (5.08%) 12.30% (0.80%) 77.27% (5.88%) 18.18% (1.60%) 20.50% (12.38%) 11.45% (8.43%) 28.62% (16.66% (12.28%) 16.86% (12.28%) $R\overline{A+R}$ 72.99% (20.86%) 23.26% (11.76%) 80.48% (9.09%) 31.28% (14.71%) 60.46% (52.34%) 44.85% (41.83%) 72.11% (60.15%) 55.36% (50.78%)

5 CONCLUSION

506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 We have presented a thorough rethink on existing statement autoformalization paradigms, identifying and addressing two critical problems: absence of universal human-aligned evaluation metric and agnosia of contextural information. For the first, we propose BEq (*Bidirectional Extended Definitional Equivalence*), a faithful, effective and universal neural-symbolic approach to determine the equivalence between formal statements. For the second, we propose a new task, *Dependency Retrieval*, finding dependent formal objects from math libraries, and a new paradigm, RAutoformalizer (*Retriever-augmented Autoformalizer*), enhancing statement autoformalization with dependency retrieval. We also propose to parse dependencies and topologically informalize formal objects to synthesize high-quality data. For more comprehensive evaluation, we extend ProofNet benchmark for dependency retrieval and construct a novel research-level OOD benchmark, Con-NF.

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6 LIMITATION AND BROADER IMPACTS

518 519 520 521 522 Limitations of BEq. BEq is an equivalence metric between formal statements. For the evaluation of autoformalization, the quality of ground-truth statements limits the upper-bound of BEq. This limitation is unavoidable throughout the machine learning community, where even for ImageNet [\(Deng](#page-11-12) [et al., 2009\)](#page-11-12), at least 4% of labels are incorrect [\(Van Horn et al., 2015\)](#page-13-13).

523 524 525 526 527 Moreover, human opinions on equivalence are diverse. Therefore, carefully designing the limitation of transformation primitives $\mathcal R$ (available tactics) and the transformation function T (the LLM) is crucial, for which extensive experiments are conducted in Appendix [A.1.](#page-14-8) For more detailed case study of BEq, please refer to Appendix [A.4.](#page-19-0) We sincerely invite community efforts to delve into refining BEq and set a domain standard to facilitate subsequent research.

528 529 530 531 532 533 Limitations of RAutoformalizer For retrieval-augment generation, high-ranking retrievals mainly impact its performance [\(Cuconasu et al., 2024\)](#page-10-7). Although RAutoformalizer surpasses all baselines by a significant margin, the experiment of oracle retrieval (RA +R) exhibits large room to improve the retriever. This project focuses on setting a basic working baseline for dependency retrieval and leave sophisticated upgrades such as multi-vector embeddings [\(Khattab & Zaharia, 2020\)](#page-11-13), reranking [\(Zhuang et al., 2022\)](#page-14-10) and query augmentation [\(Gao et al., 2024\)](#page-11-14) for future work.

534 535 536 537 538 Broader Impacts. We hope the idea of bidirectionally "convertible" under restricted transformations can inspire more areas, such as neural-symbolic, formal verification, and general reasoning. For example, faithful automated evaluation in other symbolic generative tasks. Furthermore, researchers can also extend RAutoformalizer to broader neural-symbolic tasks such as the autoformalization of specifications, proof, and even theories.

 10 More detailed ablative study can be found in Appendix [A.2](#page-15-1)

540 541 7 REPRODUCIBILITY STATEMENT

542 543 544 545 546 Our research aims to contribute to the field of statement autoformalization by proposing a faithful equivalence metric, a research-level benchmark, and a new paradigm for mitigating agnosia of context and enhancing OOD generalization. We fully understand the importance of reproducibility in scientific research and therefore, details of datasets, models, and experiments are summarized as follows:

- Implementation details of BEq in Section [3.1;](#page-4-0)
- Experiment settings and baselines for BEq in Section [3.2;](#page-5-4)
- Training dataset for dependency retriever and RAutoformalizer in Section [4.1,](#page-6-1) and string formatting details in Appendix [A.8;](#page-28-1)
- Construction and composition of the Con-NF benchmark in Section [4.1;](#page-7-1)
- For dependency retriever, implementation details and experiment setting in Section [4.2,](#page-7-2) and detailed training recipe in Appendix [A.8;](#page-28-1)
- For RAutoformalizer, implementation details, experiment setting and evaluation metric in Section [4.2,](#page-8-1) and detailed training recipe in Appendix [A.8;](#page-28-1)
- All dependent open-source libraries, along with their repository urls and versions in Appendix [A.9.](#page-28-0)

Moreover, we will upload our evaluation results as supplementary materials. While code, data, and model checkpoints will be released after acceptance. They may also be made available during the rebuttal phase for review purposes only.

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798 799 800 801 Extensive experiments are conducted to evaluate the influence of different engineering choices, as shown in Table [4.](#page-15-2) Experiment dimensions include the restrictions of transformation primitives, choices between BEq and only *Unidirectional Definitional Implication*, number of attempts to generate transformations, and sampling strategy.

802 803 804 805 806 807 808 As for the restrictions, Basic denotes only {exact, exact?, have} are allowed, Normal additionally includes {apply, cases', constructor, ext, intro, intros, rw, use}, Advanced additionally allows more powerful tactics $\{assumption, by cases, by contenta,$ change, choose, convert, exfalso, left, nth_rw, obtain, rcases, refine, rfl, right, rintro, specialize, triv}, and All denotes all tactics are allowed. Experiment results show that Basic setting is enough for most cases and Normal setting shows superior performance, while **Advanced** and **All** may lead to false positives.

809 Comparison between "Bidirectional" and "Unidirectional" shows landslide advantage of "Bidirectional". Experiments of K show that symbolic heuristic exact? is able to handle most cases, but **810 811 812 813 814 815** Table 4: Comparative experiments of the proposed equivalence metric on the human-annotated equivalence benchmark. Green-backgrounded numbers are those reported in Table [1;](#page-5-3) Red-backgrounded numbers highlight false positives, which we're trying our best to avoid. Restriction represents the allowed transformation primitives.; Bidirectional indicates to determine equivalence by BEq; Unidirectional indicates to determine equivalence by *Unidirectional Definitional Implication*; K denotes the number of attempts to generate transformations; **T=0.0** means beam-search with temperature $T = 0$; **T=0.7** means temperature sampling with $T = 0.7$; FP denotes the number of false positives.

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the incorporation of large language models can solve more cases. It also reveals that our current implementation, few-shot prompting LLM, is not capable of handling more difficult cases. Failure case analysis is done in Appendix [A.4.](#page-19-0) The sampling strategy does not have much influence, so we use beam-search with temperature $T = 0$ in the main experiments.

A.2 MORE RESULTS ON RAUTOFORMALIZER

A.2.1 COMPREHENSIVE HUMAN EVALUATION OF BEQ

863 Table 3 compares the autoformalization performance of RA with other baselines on ProofNet and OOD Con-NF using two automated metrics: Typecheck and BEq. Because the robustness of BEq

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864 865 866 Table 5: Human evaluation results. **RA** is the main method; **RA -R** is the ablation removing dependency retrieval; $RA + R$ is the ablation using oracle dependencies; TP , TN , FP , FN are the number of true-positives, true-negatives, false-positives and false-negatives of BEq, respectively.

Table 6: Human-rectified results centering in RAutoformalizer ablative experiments. **RA** is the main method; RA -R is the ablation removing dependency retrieval; RA +R is the ablation using oracle dependencies; BEq@1 indicates the portion of samples where predictions are equivalent to ground-truths under BEq in one attempt, defined in Eq. [7;](#page-8-0) Typecheck@1 indicates the portion of samples where predictions pass typecheck in one attempt, defined in Eq. [9;](#page-16-0) **Human@1** indicates the estimated portion of samples where model predictions pass Human evaluation.

itself is limited as discussed above, the significance of the table results is compromised unless human evaluations are provided.

890 891 892 893 894 To more reliably evaluate BEq and RAutoformalizer, for each experiment on each benchmark, about 100 model predictions that pass the typecheck are sampled for human evaluation. To reduce the variance, we perform stratified sampling in 3 groups: 1) both directions of UDI (Unidirectional Definitional Implication) fail; 2) one single directional UDI succeeds; 3) both directions of UDI succeed (BEq). The results are shown in Table [5.](#page-16-1)

895 896 897 Results on ProofNet benchmark are consistent with Table [1.](#page-5-3) Moreover, BEq demonstrates nearly perfect accuracy on Con-NF. Therefore, BEq is robust as an automated evaluation metric for autoformalization tasks.

A.2.2 HUMAN-RECTIFIED RESULTS

According to the human evaluation results in Appendix [A.2.1,](#page-15-0) we can estimate the gold accuracy of our methods as

$$
Human@1 = Typecheck@1 \times HumanAcc|_{Typecheck}
$$
 (9)

905 906 907 908 where Typecheck $@1$ is the portion of samples where predictions pass typecheck in one attempt; Human $Acc|_{Typecheck}$ is the human evaluated model accuracy among sampled typechecked predictions in Appendix [A.2.1.](#page-15-0) Results are shown in Table [6,](#page-16-2) which demonstrates clear ablative improvement among RA - R , RA and RA + R on the estimated goal accuracies.

909 910 A.2.3 TYPECHECK ERROR DISTRIBUTION

911 912 913 914 915 To quantitatively delve into the underlying mechanics of the ablative improvement brought by RAutoformalizer, for each experiment, we count all Lean errors in samples that fail to typecheck and classify them into two sources: "Hallucination" (error caused by hallucination of identifiers) and "Others" (all other errors). The results are in Table [7,](#page-18-1) which show retrieval-augment can reduce both types of errors, especially Hallucination errors.

- **916** The detailed error taxonomy is as follows:
	- function expected: Others

972 973 974 975 Table 7: Distribution of typecheck errors in RAutoformalizer ablative experiments. **RA** is the main method; RA -R is the ablation removing dependency retrieval; RA +R is the ablation using oracle dependencies; Hallucination denotes the number of errors caused by hallucination, and Others denotes the number of other errors. Cyan numbers highlights the percentage of errors reduced relative to RA -R.

1023 1024 1025 We also evaluate all fine-tuning-based methods using Deepseek-Math-Base-7B [\(Shao et al., 2024\)](#page-13-14) as the base model and the training recipe shown in Appendix [A.8.](#page-28-1) The results are in Table [8,](#page-19-1) which demonstrate consistent (and even clearer) advantage of our methods over all baselines, and the ablative improvement of Dependency Retrieval.

1026 1027 1028 1029 1030 1031 1032 Table 8: Experiment results of fine-tuning-based autoformalization methods reproduced on Deepseek-Math-Base-7B. Cyan numbers in brackets show ablative improvements over bare autoformalizer ("RA -R"); Bold numbers emphasize the highest values excluding oracle ("RA +R") results; $BEq@k$ indicates the portion of samples where predictions are equivalent to ground truths under BEq at least once in k attempts, defined in Eq. [7;](#page-8-0) Typecheck@k indicates the portion of samples where predictions pass typecheck at least once in k attempts, defined in Eq. [9;](#page-16-0) MMA, MMA (Lean), PDA, and LW represent fine-tuning on MMA, MMA's Lean subset, PDA, and Lean-workbook, respectively; RA is the main method; RA -R is the ablation removing dependency retrieval; $RA + R$ is the ablation using oracle dependencies.

Figure 4: Failure case of BEq: small semantic gap for natural language mathematics might be huge for formal verifier

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1069 A.4 HUMAN EVALUATION FOR BEQ

1070 1071 1072 1073 1074 1075 1076 1077 1078 1079 Human Equivalence Benchmark. We use an early version of RAutoformalizer with oracle dependency (RA +R) and OpenAI o1-preview to predict formal statements for all samples in ProofNet [\(Azerbayev et al., 2023\)](#page-10-2) benchmark. RAutoformalizer uses greedy decoding, while o1 preview uses temperature decoding with default hyperparameters from OpenAI. Generated statements are then filtered by typecheck and deduplicated by string matching. Then we uniformly sample 100 statement pairs from each model's generation, invite human experts from diverse backgrounds to label them as "equivalent" or "inequivalent", resulting in our *Human Equivalence Benchmark*. In total, 4 experts, one from formal verification and three from computer science participate in the labeling. They first separately evaluate the equivalence between formal statements, and discuss in round-table to reach an agreement for each sample. The distribution of disciplines in this benchmark is visualized in Figure [3](#page-19-2)

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            Informal Statement Let R be a ring in which x^3 = x for every x \in R. Prove that R is commutative.
            Formalization P
            theorem sP {R : Type*} [Ring R]
              (h : \forall x : R, x^ 3 = x):
                CommRing R :=
            sorry
            Formalization Q
            theorem sQ {R : Type u_1} [Ring R]
              (h : \forall (x : R), x \cap 3 = x) (x : R) (y : R) :
                x * y = y * x :=sorry
            Failed Proof
            have h_comm := exercise_4_2_5 h
            have h_{xy} := h_{com}, mul_comm x y
            h_xy
            ---
            type mismatch
              h_xy
            has type
              @HMul.hMul R R R (@instHMul R NonUnitalNonAssocSemiring.toMul) x y = y * x : Prop
            but is expected to have type
              @HMul.hMul R R R (@instHMul R NonUnitalNonAssocRing.toMul) x y = y * x: Prop
```
Figure 5: Failure case of BEq: imperceptible differences in type are intolerable in Lean.

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Informal Statement Prove that no group of order pq, where p and q are prime, is simple.
Formalization P
theorem sP \{G : Type* \} [Group G] [Fintype G] \{p q : \mathbb{N}\}(hp : Prime p) (hq : Prime q) (hG : card G = p * q) :
  IsSimpleGroup G \implies False :=
sorry
Formalization Q
theorem sQ
    (p q : N)
     (hp : Nat.Prime p)
     (hq : Nat.Prime q)
     (G : Type _) [Group G] [Fintype G]
     (hG : Fintype.card G = p * q)
    : ¬ IsSimpleGroup G :=
sorry
Equivalence Proofs
s_P \sim_B T(s_Q|s_P, \mathcal{R})have hpp : Prime p := by exact Nat.prime_iff.mp hp
have hqq : Prime q := by exact Nat.prime_iff.mp hq
exact sP hpp hqq hG
s_Q \sim_B T(s_P | s_Q, \mathcal{R})have hpp : Nat.Prime p := by exact Nat.prime_iff.mpr hp
have hqq : Nat.Prime q := by exact Nat.prime_iff.mpr hq
exact sQ p q hpp hqq G hG
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Figure 6: Failure case of BEq: transformation function fails to generate the transformation.

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              Informal Statement Assume that f: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R} satisfies |f(t) - f(x)| \leq |t - x|^2 for all t, x. Prove that
              f is constant.
              Formalization P
              theorem sP {f : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R}}
                 (hf : ∀ x y, |f x - f y| \le |x - y| ^ 2) :
                 \exists c, f = \lambda x => c :=
              sorry
              Formalization Q
              theorem sO (f : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R} )
                 (h : ∀ (t x : ℝ ), |f t - f x| \le |t - x| ^ 2)
                 (x : \mathbb{R}) (y : \mathbb{R}) : f x = f y :=sorry
              Equivalence Proofs
              s_P \sim_B T(s_Q|s_P, \mathcal{R})have hc := sQ f hfuse f 0ext x
              exact hc x 0
              s_Q \sim_B T(s_P | s_Q, \mathcal{R})have hc := sP h
              cases' hc with c hc
              have hx : f x = c := by exact congrFun hc xhave hy : f y = c := by exact congrFun he yrw [hx, hy]
```
Figure 7: Failure case of BEq: transformation function fails to generate the transformation.

```
Informal Statement Show that sin(\pi/12) is an algebraic number.
Formalization P
theorem sP : IsAlgebraic Q (sin (pi/12)) :=
  sorry
Formalization Q
theorem sQ : IsAlgebraic \mathbb Q (Real.sin (Real.pi/12)) :=
  sorry
```
Figure 8: Success case of BEq: These two formalizations are not equivalent. Note that pi in Formalization P is an implicit argument of an arbitrary real number, instead of π .

1175 1176 Failure Case Analysis. Our BEq reaches 100% precision, thus there are no false positives. For false negatives, we analyze them in detail and find roughly 2 error patterns:

- Semantic gaps between informal mathematics and formal verification. 9 out of 19 false negatives stem from it. Some subtle differences in informal mathematics may result in large differences between formalizations. As illustrated in Figure [4,](#page-19-3) formalization P and Q are identical in semantics, but they are formalized under different bases, one by subtype and the other by set. Another example is Figure [5,](#page-20-0) where model-generated proof fails due to a subtle but fatal difference in the underlying types.
- **1184 1185 1186 1187** • Transformation function failure. 10 out of 19 false negatives stem from it. Proving unidirectional definitional implication is a novel task, hence the prohibitive lack of supervised data makes it impossible to fine-tune a capable model. Our implementation utilizes a 5-shot prompted 20B model, which is relatively weak and fails to generate proper transformation for more complex scenarios, as illustrated in Figure [6](#page-20-1) and Figure [7.](#page-21-0)

Figure 9: Success case of BEq: These two formalizations are not equivalent. Note that f Polynomial \mathbb{Z} :=X^6+30*X^5-15*X^3+6*X-120 in Formalization P means f is of type Polynomial $\mathbb Z$ with default parameter $X^6 + 30 \times X^5 - 15 \times X^3 + 6 \times X - 120$, instead of $f = X^6 + 30 \times X^5 - 15 \times X^3 + 6 \times X - 120$.

1218 1219 Figure 10: Distribution of BLEU in the benchmark and precision, recall, accuracy of different BLEU thresholds.

1221 1222 1223 Success Case Analysis. Due to its symbolic nature, BEq can easily find fundamental differences between formalizations that are misleading for human expert. We demonstrate two examples in Figure [8](#page-21-1) and Figure [9.](#page-22-2)

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A.5 VISUALIZATION OF BLEU DISTRIBUTION

1227 1228 1229 The distribution of BLEU scores between formal statement pairs from the Human Equivalence Benchmark are visualized in Figure [10,](#page-22-3) along with the precision, recall, and accuracy curves w.r.t. different thresholds.

1231 A.6 CASE STUDY OF BM25 RETRIEVAL

1233 Formally, BM25 [\(Robertson et al., 2009\)](#page-13-12) can be defined as follows:

$$
BM25(\mathbf{d}, \mathbf{q}) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \text{IDF}(q_i, \mathbf{D}) \frac{(k_1 + 1) f(q_i, \mathbf{d})}{f(q_i, \mathbf{d}) + k_1 (1 - b + b \cdot \frac{\text{Len}(\mathbf{d})}{\text{Mean}(\{\text{Len}(\mathbf{d}')|\mathbf{d}' \in \mathbf{D}\})})}
$$

$$
\text{IDF}(q_i, \mathbf{D}) = \log(\frac{N - |\{q_i \in \mathbf{d} | \mathbf{d} \in \mathbf{D}\} + 0.5}{|\{q_i \in \mathbf{d} | \mathbf{d} \in \mathbf{D}\}| + 0.5} + 1)
$$

$$
\begin{array}{c} 1237 \\ 1238 \\ 1239 \end{array}
$$

1240 1241 where $q = \{q_i\}_{i=1}^n$ is a query with n tokens q_1, \ldots, q_n ; $D = \{d_i\}_{i=1}^N$ is a document collection with N documents d_i, \ldots, d_N, k_1 and b are hyperparameters; $\text{IDF}(q_i, D)$ is the inverse document frequency of token q_i in document D .


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       theorem thm_P {p q r : Nat} {G : Type*} [Group G]
          [Fintype G] (hpqr : p < q \land q < r)
          (hpqr1 : p.Prime \and q.Prime \and r.Prime)(hG : card G = p * q * r) :
         Nonempty (Sylow p G) \or Nonempty (Sylow q G) \or Nonempty (Sylow r G) :=
       sorry
       theorem thm_Q {p : Nat } {q : Nat } {r : Nat } {G : Type u_1} [Group G] [Fintype G] (hp
            : Nat.Prime p) (hq : Nat.Prime q) (hr : Nat.Prime r) (hpq : p < q) (hqr : q < r)
            (hG : Fintype.card G = p \times q \times r) :Nonempty (Sylow p G) \or Nonempty (Sylow q G)
            \or Nonempty (Sylow r G) := by
        . . .
       Output:
        '''
        exact thm_P (And.intro hpq hqr) (And.intro hp (And.intro hq hr)) hG
        '''
        ---
       Input:
        '''
       import Mathlib
       open Fintype Complex Polynomial LinearMap FiniteDimensional Module Module.End
       open scoped BigOperators
       theorem thm_P {F V : Type*} [AddCommGroup V] [Field F]
         [Module F V] (S T : End F V) :
         (S * T). Eigenvalues = (T * S). Eigenvalues :=
       sorry
       theorem thm_Q {K : Type v} {V : Type w} [Field K] [AddCommGroup V] [Module K V] (S :
            Module.End K V) (T : Module.End K V) :Module.End.Eigenvalues (S * T) =Module.End.Eigenvalues (T * S) := by``
       Output:
        '''
       exact @thm_P K V - - - S T
        '''
        ---Input:
        '''
       import Mathlib
       open Function Fintype Subgroup Ideal Polynomial Submodule Zsqrtd
       open scoped BigOperators
       noncomputable section
       theorem thm_P
            {p : Nat} h p : Nat. Prime p} (h : \exists r : Nat, p = 2^ r + 1) :\exists (k : Nat), p = 2 (2 k) + 1 :=sorry
       theorem thm Q {p : Nat } (hp : Nat.Prime p) (h : \exists (r : Nat ), p = 2 r + 1)
            :\exists (k : Nat ), p = 2 \hat{ } k + 1 := by'
       Output:
        '
       exact @thm_P p hp h
        '''
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        Input:
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        import Mathlib
        open Fintype Set Real Ideal Polynomial
       open scoped BigOperators
       noncomputable section
       theorem thm_P {G : Type*} [Group G]
          [Fintype G] (hG2 : Even (card G)) :
          \exists (a : G), a \neq 1 \and a = a-1 :=sorry
        theorem thm_Q {G : Type*} [Group G] [Fintype G] (h : Fintype.card G % 2 = 0) :
            \exists a : G, a \neq 1 \and a = a^{-1} := by. . .
        Output:
        '''
       have hG : Even (card G) := by exact?
        exact thm_P hG
        '''
        ---
       According to the task description and examples, given the following two Lean 4
            theorems, please prove 'thm_Q' with 'thm_P'.
        Input:
        '''
        {THMS_TO_EVALUATE}
        '''
       Output:
        To apply this template, {ALLOWED TACTICS} should be replaced to the list of allowed tactics and
        {THMS TO EVALUATE} be replaced to the two statements to evaluate.
        A.7.2 PROMPT TEMPLATE OF LLM GRADER
        Backtranslation Template
        Given a Lean 4 theorem, please **briefly** and **consisely** explain it in natural
            language in one line.
       Here are some examples:
       Code:
        '''
       theorem putnam_1964_b3
        (f : Real \imp Real)
        (hf : Continuous f \and \forall \alpha > 0, Tendsto (fun n : Nat \mapsto f (n \star\alpha)) atTop (\nhds 0))
        : (Tendsto f atTop (\nhds 0)) := sorry
        \mathbf{v}Summarization: Suppose f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R} is continuous and for every \alpha > 0, \lim_{n \to \infty} f(n\alpha) = 0.
            Prove that \lim_{x\to\infty} f(x) = 0.
        ---
        Code:
        '''
       theorem putnam_1968_b2
        [Group G]
        (hG : Finite G)
        (A : Set G)
```

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        (hA : A.ncard > (Nat.card G : \Rat)/2)
        : \forall g : G, \exists x \in A, \exists y \in A, g = x * y := by sorry
        '''
        Summarization: Let G be a finite group (with a multiplicative operation), and A be a
            subset of G that contains more than half of G's elements. Prove that every
            element of G can be expressed as the product of two elements of A.
        ---
        Code:
        '''
        theorem putnam_2022_a3
        (p : Nat)(hp : Nat.Prime p \land p > 5)
        (f : Nat := {a : Nat \imp (ZMod p) | \forall n : Nat, a n \neq 0 \and a n * a (n + 2) =
            1 + a (n + 1).ncard)
        : f \equiv 0 [MOD 5] \or f \equiv 2 [MOD 5] := sorry
        '''
        Summarization: Let p be a prime number greater than 5. Let f(p) denote the number of
            infinite sequences a_1, a_2, a_3, \ldots such that a_n \in \{1, 2, \ldots, p-1\} and
            a_na_{n+2} \equiv 1 + a_{n+1} \pmod{p} for all n \ge 1. Prove that f(p) is congruent to 0 or 2
             (mod 5).
       Please **briefly** and **consisely** explain the following theorem in one line:
        Code:
        '''
        {THM_CODE}
        '''
        Summarization:
        To apply this template, {THM CODE} should be replaced to the formal statement to informalize.
        Equivalence Determination Template
       Please check following two math problems is same or different? Please consider each
            statement in two problems, they are different if any statement is different.
            Please point out any differences you found. Please reply **same** or **different**
            in the final sentence with bold format.
       Problem 1: {THM_1}
       Problem 2: {THM_2}
        To apply this template, \{THM_1\} and \{THM_1\} should be replaced to the informalizations of the
        two formal statements to evaluate. Notably, when Majority Voting is adopted, it is recommended to
        randomize the order of the two statements in multiple attempts.
        A.7.3 PROMPT TEMPLATE OF ICL AUTOFORMALIZATION
       Please translate mathematical propositions into Lean 4 theorems. 'Mathlib' is the only
            allowed import.
        DO NOT add any imports into the translation, and DO NOT try to prove the theorem, ONLY
            translate it.
       Here are some examples:
       Math Proposition:
        '''
        Suppose f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R} is continuous and for every \alpha > 0, \lim_{n \to \infty} f(n\alpha) = 0. Prove that
            \lim_{x\to\infty}f(x)=0.'''
        Lean Theorem:
        '''
        theorem exercise
            (f : Real \implies Real)
            (hf : Continuous f \and \forall \alpha > 0, Tendsto (fun n : Nat \mapsto f (n \star\alpha)) atTop (\nhds 0))
```

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            : (Tendsto f atTop (nhds 0)) :=
        sorry
        '''
       Math Proposition:
        '''
       Let G be a finite group (with a multiplicative operation), and A be a subset of Gthat contains more than half of G's elements. Prove that every element of G can
            be expressed as the product of two elements of A.
        \mathbf{r}Lean Theorem:
        '''
        theorem exercise
            [Group G]
            (hG : Finite G)
            (A : Set G)
            (hA : A.ncard > (Nat-card G : Rat)/2): \forall q : G, \exists x \in A, \exists y \in A, q = x * y :=
        sorry
        '''
       Math Proposition:
        '''
        Let p be a prime number greater than 5. Let f(p) denote the number of infinite
            sequences a_1, a_2, a_3, \ldots such that a_n \in \{1, 2, \ldots, p-1\} and a_n a_{n+2} \equiv 1 + a_{n+1} \pmod{p}for all n \ge 1. Prove that f(p) is congruent to 0 or 2 (mod 5).
        \mathbf{r}Lean Theorem:
        ''
        theorem exercise
            (p : Nat)
            (hp : Nat.Prime p \quad p > 5)
            (f : Nat := {a : Nat \implies (ZMod p) | \forall n : Nat, a n \neq 0 \and a n \star a
                 (n + 2) = 1 + a (n + 1).ncard)
            : f \equiv 0 [MOD 5] \or f \equiv 2 [MOD 5] :=
        sorry
        '''
       Please translate the following proposition:
       Math Proposition:
       '''
        {INFORMAL_STMT}
        '''
       Lean Theorem:
        To apply this template, {INFORMAL STMT} should be replaced to the informal statement to auto-
        formalize.
        Equivalence Determination Template
        Please check following two math problems is same or different? Please consider each
            statement in two problems, they are different if any statement is different.
            Please point out any differences you found. Please reply **same** or **different**
            in the final sentence with bold format.
       Problem 1: {THM_1}
       Problem 2: {THM_2}
        To apply this template, \{THM_1\} and \{THM_1\} should be replaced to the informalizations of the
        two formal statements to evaluate. Notably, when Majority Voting is adopted, it is recommended to
        randomize the order of the two statements in multiple attempts.
```


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1576 1577 1578 1579 1580 1581 Table 10: Experiment results of augmenting in-context learning methods by dependency retrieval. Bold numbers emphasize the highest values excluding oracle results; $BEq@k$ indicates the portion of samples where predictions are equivalent to ground truths under BEq at least once in k attempts, defined in Eq. [7;](#page-8-0) $\text{T@}k$ indicates the portion of samples where predictions pass typecheck at least once in k attempts, defined in Eq. [9;](#page-16-0) ICL represents in-context learning using 3-shot demonstrations; ICL+RA represents in-context learning us-ing 3-shot demonstrations, augmented by dependency retriever trained in Sec. [4.2;](#page-7-2) ICL+RA represents incontext learning using 3-shot demonstrations, augmented with ground-truth dependencies; D-2.5 denotes using Deepseek-V2.5.

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1590 A.10 EXPERIMENT OF AUGMENTING ICL METHODS BY DEPENDENCY RETRIEVAL

1592 1593 The performance of augmenting ICL (in-context learning) methods with Dependency-retrievalaugmentation is shown in Table [10.](#page-29-1)

1594 1595 For GPT-4o, the results meet our expectations: RA consistently improves all metrics on all benchmarks (except $\text{BEq} @ 1$ on ProofNet), and $\text{RA}(+R)$ shows the potential of dependency retrieval.

1596 1597 1598 1599 1600 However, for Deepseek-V2.5, RA doesn't work well. We hypothesize this might be because the instruction-following and long-context capabilities of Deepseek-V2.5 are limited, thus the noise in retrieved dependencies degrades autoformalization. But RA ($+R$) shows significantly better performance than expected.

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