

# (Auto)Complete this Proof: Decentralized Proof Generation via Smart Contracts

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# Recent Update in Formalized Mathematics

PROOFS

(Quanta Magazine, 28 July 2021)

Source: <https://www.quantamagazine.org/lean-computer-program-confirms-peter-scholze-proof-20210728/>

So Commelin asked Scholze if he'd be willing to **make a public statement** vouching for the importance of the work. Scholze agreed, and **on Dec. 5, 2020, he wrote a post on Buzzard's blog.**

## Liquid tensor experiment

Posted on [December 5, 2020](#) by [xenaproject](#)

This is a guest post, written by Peter Scholze, explaining a liquid real vector space mathematical formalisation challenge. For a pdf version of the challenge, see [here](#). For comments about formalisation, see section 6. Now over to Peter.

### 1. The challenge

I want to propose a challenge: Formalize the proof of the following theorem.

**Theorem 1.1 (Clausen-S.)** *Let  $0 < p' < p \leq 1$  be real numbers, let  $S$  be a profinite set, and let  $V$  be a  $p$ -Banach space. Let  $\mathcal{M}_{p'}(S)$  be the space of  $p'$ -measures on  $S$ . Then*

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

for  $i \geq 1$ .

Source: <https://xenaproject.wordpress.com/2020/12/05/liquid-tensor-experiment/>

## s Jump to Big–

A question is by **Peter Scholze** of the University of Bonn, one of the most widely respected mathematicians in the world. It is just part of a larger project called “**condensed mathematics**” that he

“  
It’s one big **collaboration** with a lot of people doing what they’re good at to make a singular monolith.”

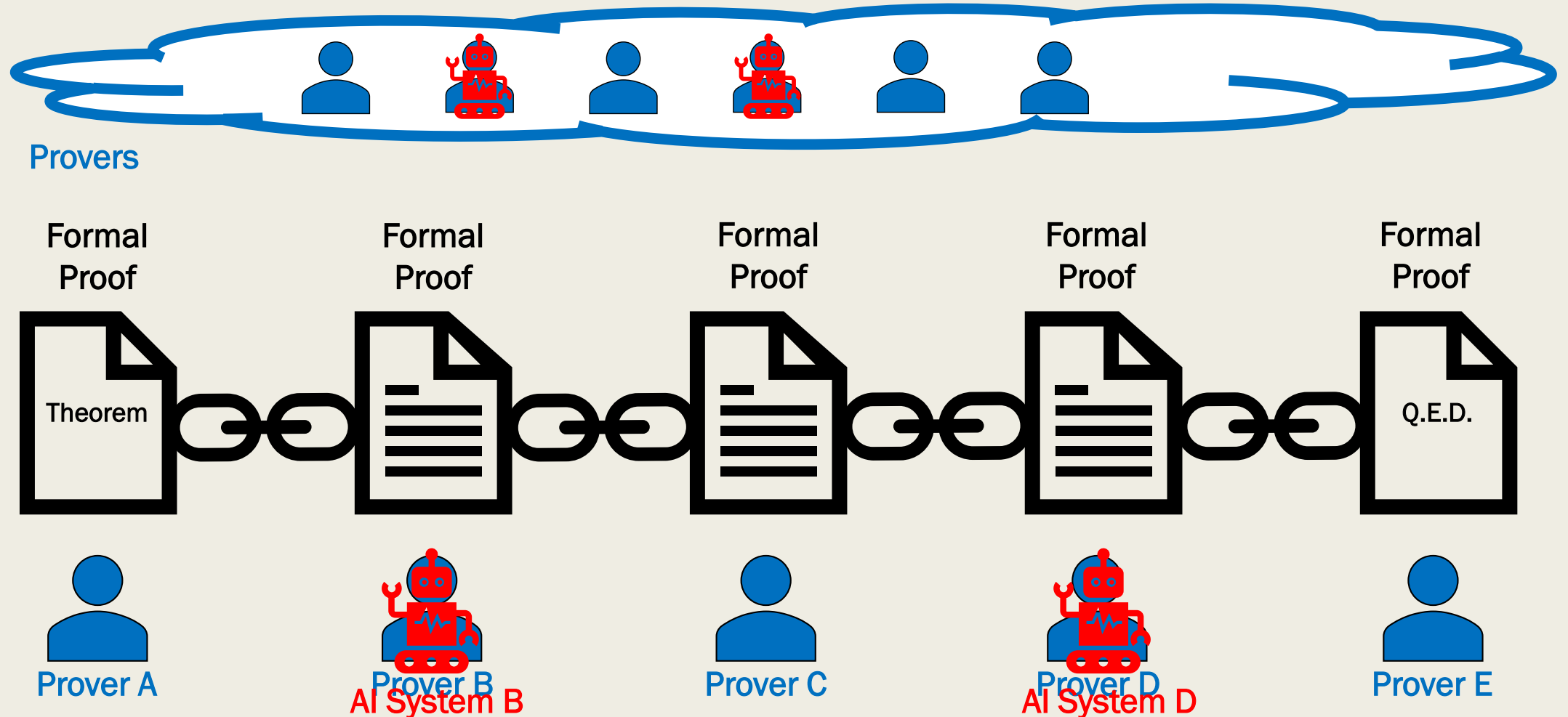
Bhavik Mehta, University of Cambridge

mathematicians can apply those techniques from real functional analysis to condensed sets, knowing that they’ll definitely work in this new setting.

# What did we learn?

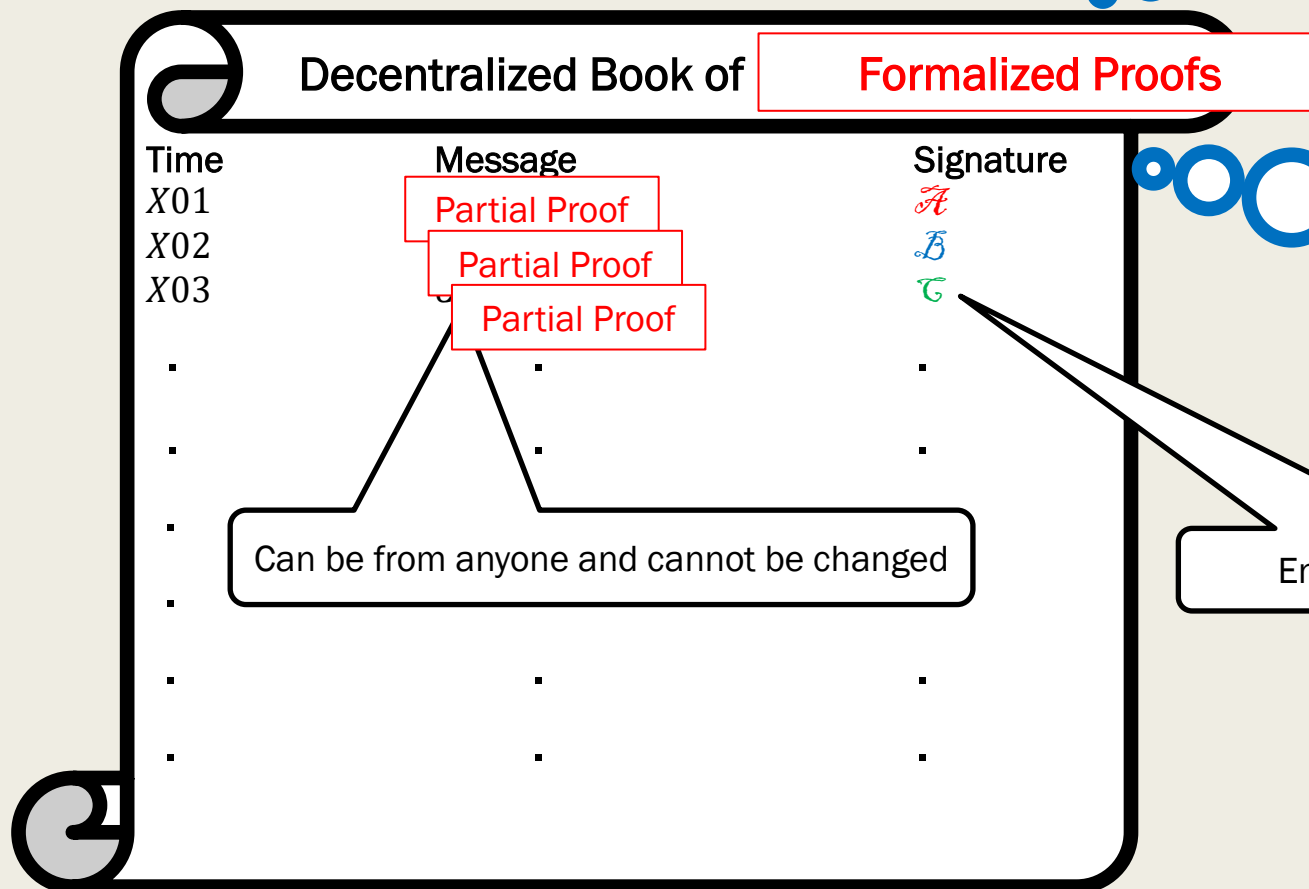
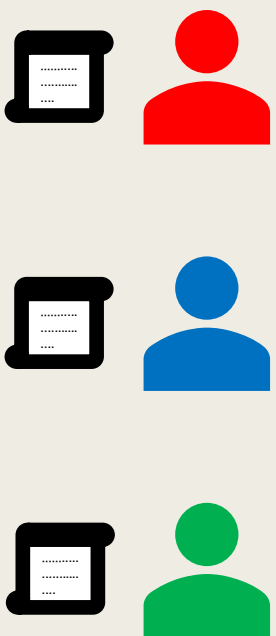
- Importance of having a top-down approach where someone can state his problem statement and it is then broken down into smaller parts for contributors to prove
  - *What is a good way for someone to post his/her problem statement formally and allow contributors to work on it while having the end goal in mind?*
- Importance of dissemination of partial results and problems
  - *What is a good platform where contributors can post partial results, state the problems encountered during the proofs and get updates (almost) immediately?*
- Importance of collaboration between mathematicians/computer scientists
  - *How can we assign verified authorship to each of the partial results?*
  - *How can we incentivize and allocate rewards (if any) fairly to contributors?*

# Proposed Solution: Blockchain Your Own (Partial) Proof



# What is Blockchain?

## Users



### Applications:

1. Finance
2. Healthcare
3. Food

### Advantages:

1. Decentralized
2. Time-stamped verification
3. Programmable credit assignment via smart contracts

Encrypted and verifiable



# Related Works



Image source: <https://www.amazon.co.jp/-/en/Cj/dp/B07N2K26Y2>

# System Architecture

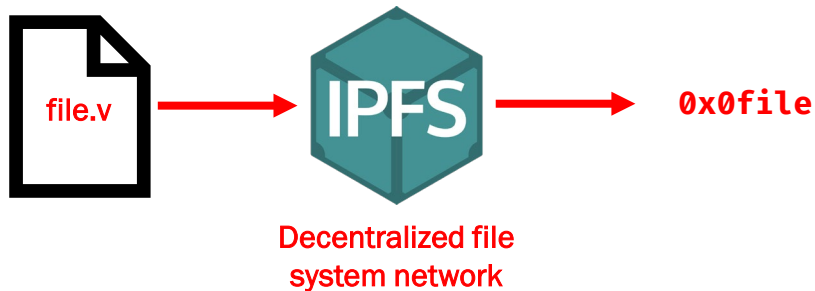
Incentive Layer  
(What is rewarded?)

- Deploy incentive mechanisms via smart contracts
- Reward 1 sole prover via voting for main contributor VS split reward via some allocation rule
- Different approaches to score contributions, e.g.:
  - Token-Curated Registries (TCRs): incentivize participants to vote and rank importance of contributions

Client Layer  
(What is meaningful?)

- Access and download records and contributions
- Interface to present the string diagram/directed acyclic graph built by imports declared
- Plug-in to the chosen proof assistant editor may be built
- Perform validity checks that cannot be handled by the data layer

Data Layer  
(What is recorded?)



A **record** (on blockchain) contains:

1. Prover's address
2. IPFS hash address of contribution
3. "imports" references
4. Contribution type (conjecture, partial proof, ...)

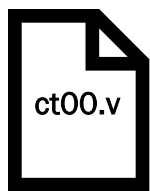


# An Illustrative Example: Sort Program in Coq

```
✓ct00.v
1 Require Export Arith Sorted Permutation List.
2 (* Suppose all the packages above are embedded in some blocks *)
3 Export List.ListNotations.
4 Open Scope list_scope.
5
6 Definition sorted := Sorted le.
7 Definition permutation := @Permutation nat.
8
9 Conjecture sort_prog :
10 forall (l : list nat), {l' : list nat | sorted l' /\ permutation l' l}.
```

ct00: Open problem asked by some “client”

Data Layer  
(What is recorded?)



0xEf6c15b611  
3ca6D24422B6  
C8bc18e702e9  
08A572  
(Hash address  
of ct00.v in IPFS)

1. Prover's address:  
0x3CD087B6F3f639847C94E36d75F52bd587FD78d1
2. Contribution's address:  
0xEf6c15b6113ca6D24422B6C8bc18e702e908A572
3. “imports” references:  
hash addresses of Arith, Sorted, Permutation, List
4. Contribution type: Conjecture

# An Illustrative Example: Sort Program in Coq

```
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```

ct00: Open problem asked by some “client”

Client Layer  
(What is meaningful?)

## String diagram representation



### Legend:

- Edge: Type
- Node (solid): Completed proof term
- Node (dotted): Incomplete proof term

# An Illustrative Example: Sort Program in Coq

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10 forall (l : list nat), {l' : list nat | sorted l' /\ permutation l' l}.
```

ct00: Open problem asked by some “client”

Incentive Layer  
(What is rewarded?)

## Smart contract

```
if verify(sort_prog) = True:
    if n({Provers}) = 1:
        transfer(client, Prover, 10 tokens);
    else:
        allocation_rule(Provers, 10 tokens);
```

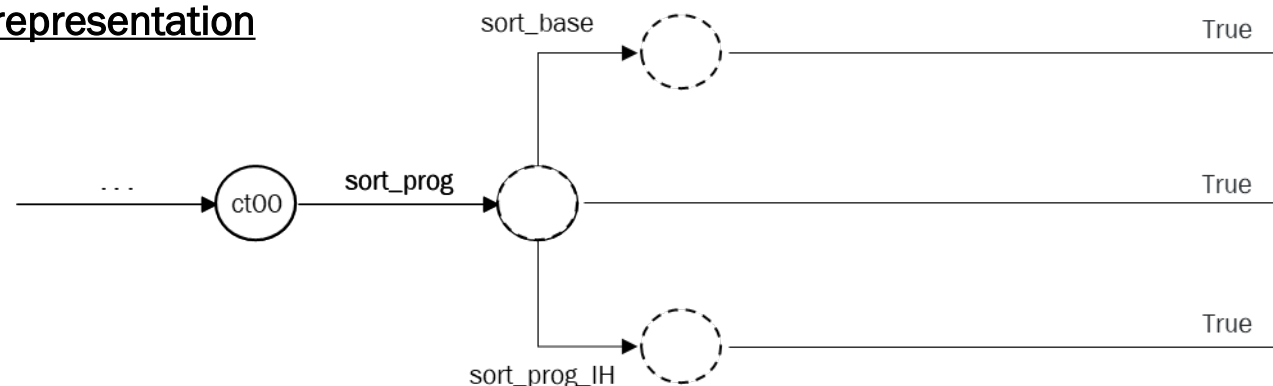
# Contribution from Human

```
✓ct01.v
1 Require Export ct00.
2
3 Conjecture sort_prog_base : {l' : list nat | sorted l' /\ permutation l' []}.
4
5 Conjecture sort_prog_IH : forall (a : nat) (l x : list nat),
6   sorted x -> permutation x l
7   -> {l' : list nat | sorted l' /\ permutation l' (a :: l)}.
8
9 Lemma sort_prog :
10  forall (l : list nat), {l' : list nat | sorted l' /\ permutation l' l}.
11 Proof.
12 induction l.
13 - apply sort_prog_base.
14 - destruct IHl; destruct a0; eapply sort_prog_IH; eassumption.
15 Qed.
```

Partial proof  
(proof with gaps)

ct01: First partial proof by some prover A

## String diagram representation



### Legend:

- Edge: Type
- Node (solid): Completed proof term
- Node (dotted): Incomplete proof term

Client Layer  
(What is meaningful?)

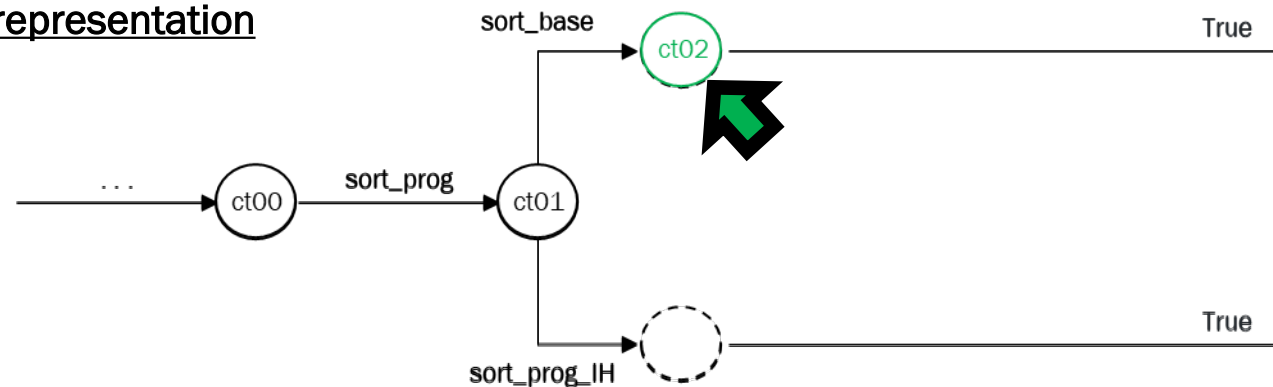
# Contribution from AI System

```
✓ct02.v
1 Require Import ct01.
2
3 From Hammer Require Import Hammer.
4
5 Lemma sort_prog :
6   forall (l : list nat), {l' : list nat | sorted l' /\ permutation l' l}.
7 Proof. (* try hammer. *) Abort.
8
9 Lemma sort_prog_base : {l' : list nat | sorted l' /\ permutation l' []}.
10 Proof. try hammer. Defined.
11
12 Lemma sort_prog_IH : forall (a : nat) (l x : list nat),
13   sorted x -> permutation x l
14   -> {l' : list nat | sorted l' /\ permutation l' (a :: l)}.
15 Proof. (* try hammer. *) Abort.
```

ct02: Contribution by AI CoqHammer

## String diagram representation

Client Layer  
(What is meaningful?)



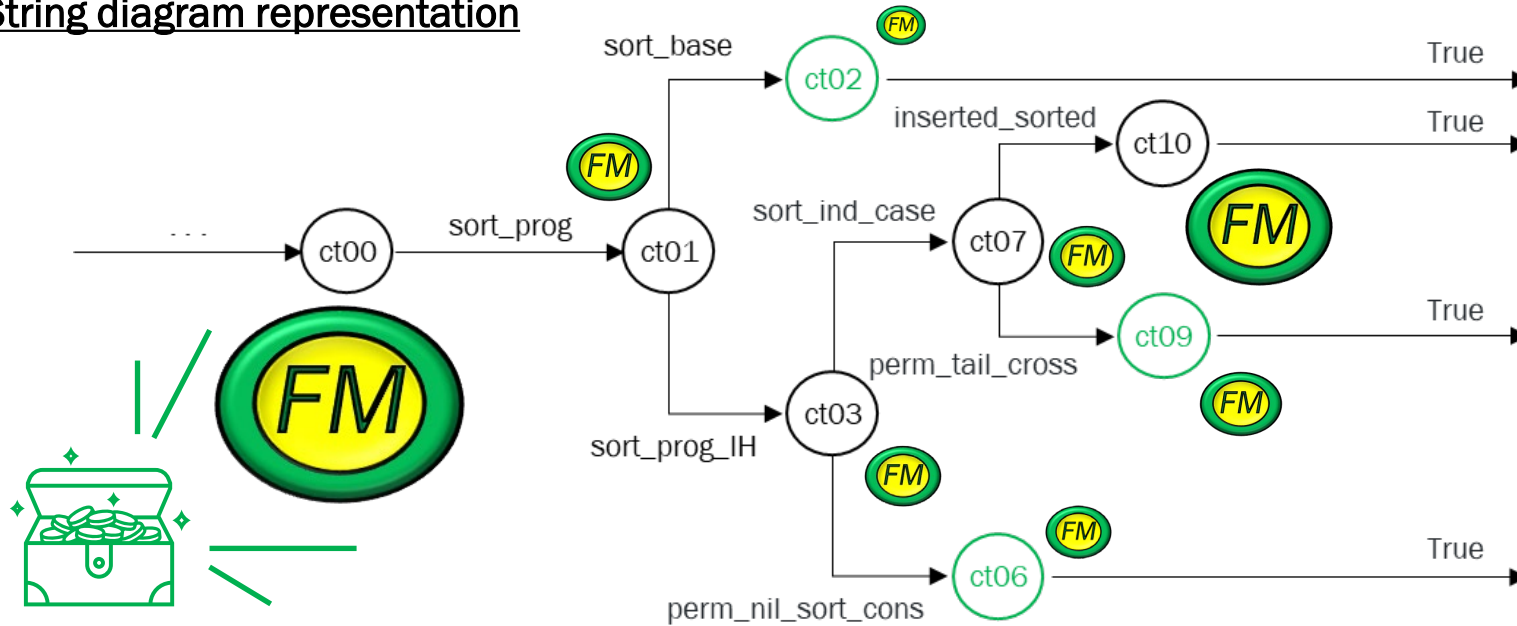
### Legend:

- Edge: Type
- Node (solid): Completed proof term
- Node (dotted): Incomplete proof term
- Node (green): AI System

# Insertion Sort from Human-AI Collaboration

Client Layer  
(What is meaningful?)

## String diagram representation



### Legend:

- Edge: Type
- Node (solid): Completed proof term
- Node (dotted): Incomplete proof term
- Node (green): AI System



Incentive Layer  
(What is rewarded?)

## Smart contract


```
if verify(sort_prog) = True:  
    if n({Provers}) = 1:  
        transfer(client, Prover, 10 tokens);  
    else:  
        allocation_rule(Provers, 10 tokens);
```



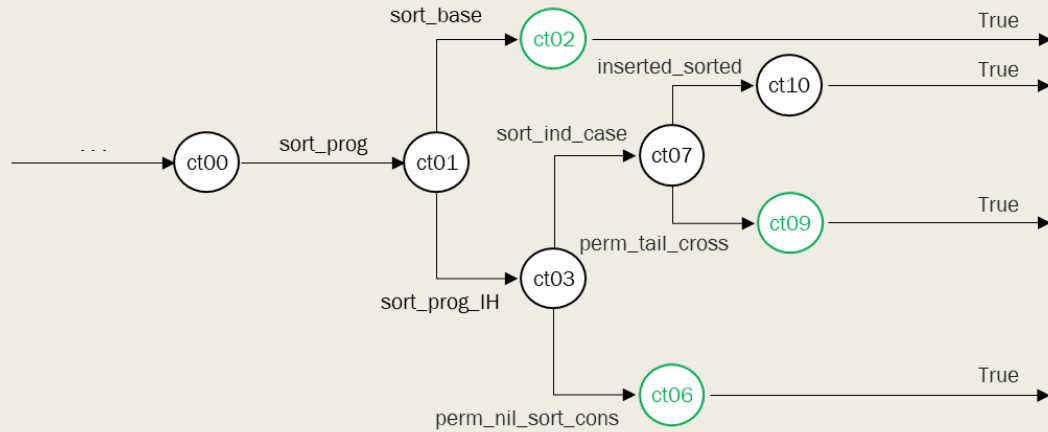
# Same Theorem but Different Proof

```
div_conq_split =  
fun P : list A -> Type => div_conq P split split_wf1 split_wf2  
  : forall P : list A -> Type,  
    P nil ->  
    (forall a : A, P (a :: nil)) ->  
    (forall ls : list A, P (fst (split ls)) -> P (snd (split ls)) -> P ls) ->  
    forall ls : list A, P ls
```

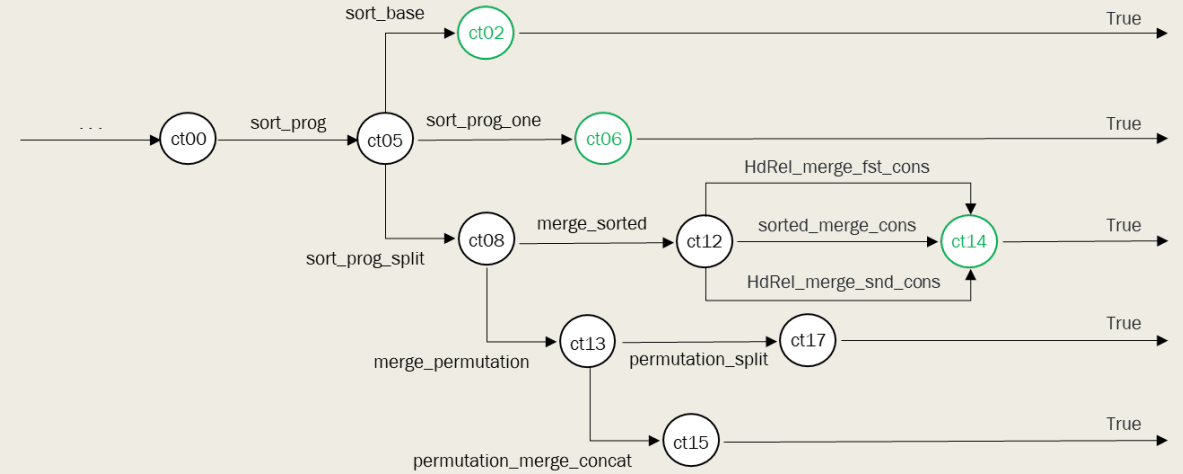
✓ct05.v

```
1 Require Export ct00 ct02 ct04.  
2  
3 Conjecture sort_prog_one : forall a : nat,.  
4   {l' : list nat | sorted l' /\ permutation l' [a]}.  
5  
6 Conjecture sort_prog_split : forall (ls l' l'0: list nat),  
7   sorted l'0 -> permutation l'0 (fst (split nat ls))  
8   -> sorted l' -> permutation l' (snd (split nat ls))  
9   -> {l'1 : list nat | sorted l'1 /\ permutation l'1 ls}.  
10  
11 Lemma sort_prog : forall (l : list nat),.  
12   {l' : list nat | sorted l' /\ permutation l' l}.  
13 Proof.  
14 div_conq_split.   
15 - apply sort_prog_base.  
16 - apply sort_prog_one.  
17 - intros; destruct H; destruct a; destruct H0; destruct a;.  
18   eapply sort_prog_split. exact H. eassumption. exact H0. eassumption.  
19 Qed.
```

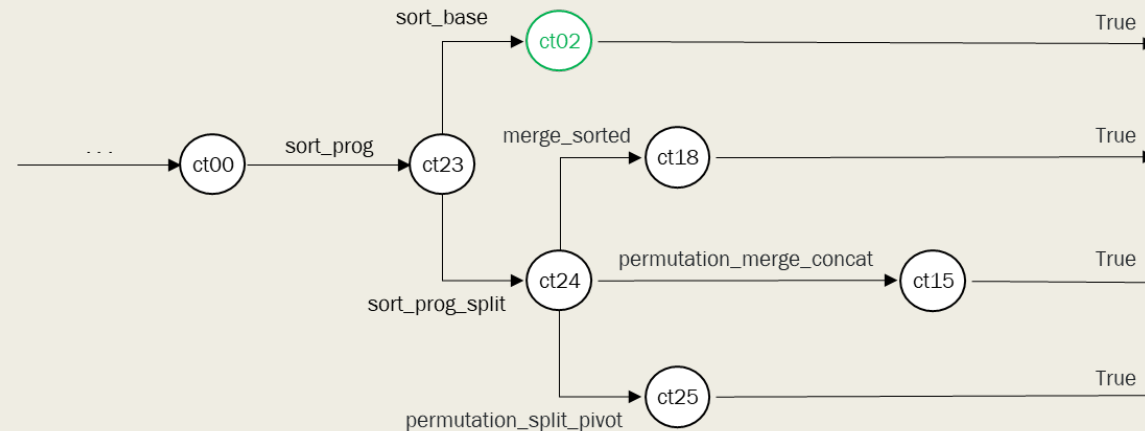
# Decentralized Way of Building Different Proofs Collaboratively



Insertion Sort



Merge Sort



Quick Sort



# Conclusion

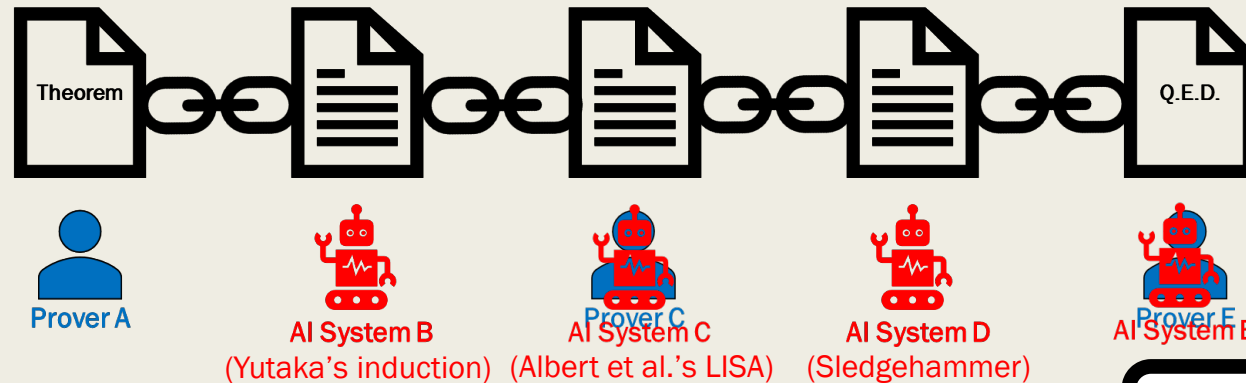
Challenge: To have humans and AI systems to collaborate in formalizing mathematics

Proofs with gaps

(Lawrence C Paulson, AITP 2020)

*There's already a trend towards incremental proof construction (as opposed to full proofs)*

Solution: Use blockchain as the platform to unite collaborators (humans/AI systems) together



Future Directions:

- Ways to allocate rewards (if any) fairly to contributors (within same proof)
- Ways to incentivise creations of new mathematical objects (definitions/tactics/propositions)

Unified proof/program synthesis

# Thank you!



## Questions and Feedback