

Developing a Concept-Oriented Search Engine for Isabelle Based on Natural Language: Technical Challenges



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The ALEXANDRIA Project

- Expand the libraries and AFP with new mathematical results
- Build tools for managing large bodies of formal Mathematical Knowledge
 - Intelligent Search
 - Computer-aided Knowledge Discovery
- Create automated and semi-automated environments and tools to aid *working mathematicians*
 - Intelligent Search
 - Proof completion recommender systems
- Borrow ideas and techniques from Information Retrieval, Machine Learning and Natural Language Processing

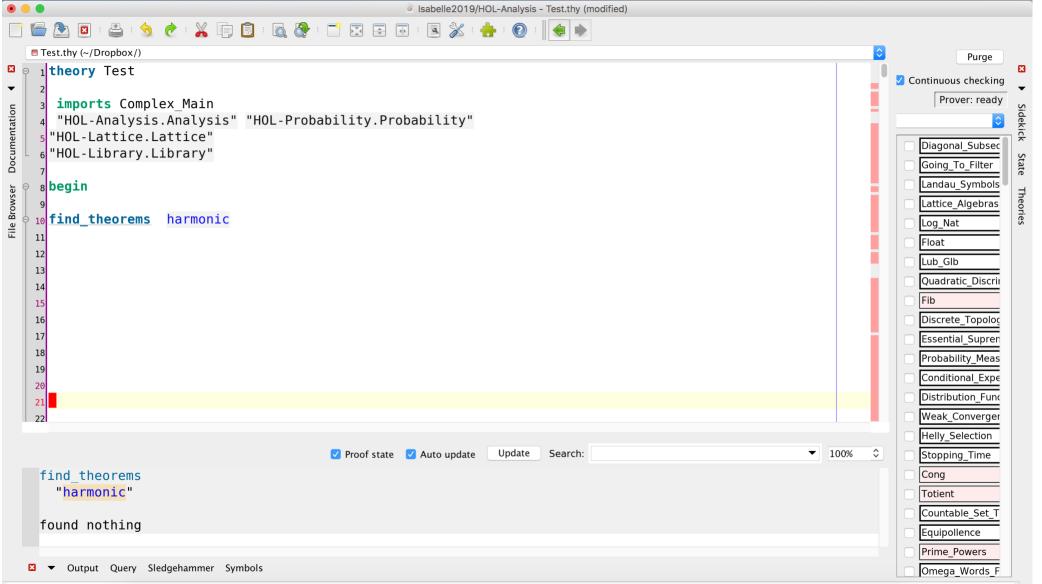


Searching for Isabelle Facts – The Status Quo

- *find_theorems*: Limitations :
 - 1. Inexperienced users might have an idea of what is needed to complete proof BUT not enough experience with library organisation and naming conventions to construct effective *find_theorems* queries
 - 2. Modern search users expect an experience akin to a google search box:
 - Input a "bag-of-words" natural language description of need
 - Quickly get back a list of results, ordered by relevance

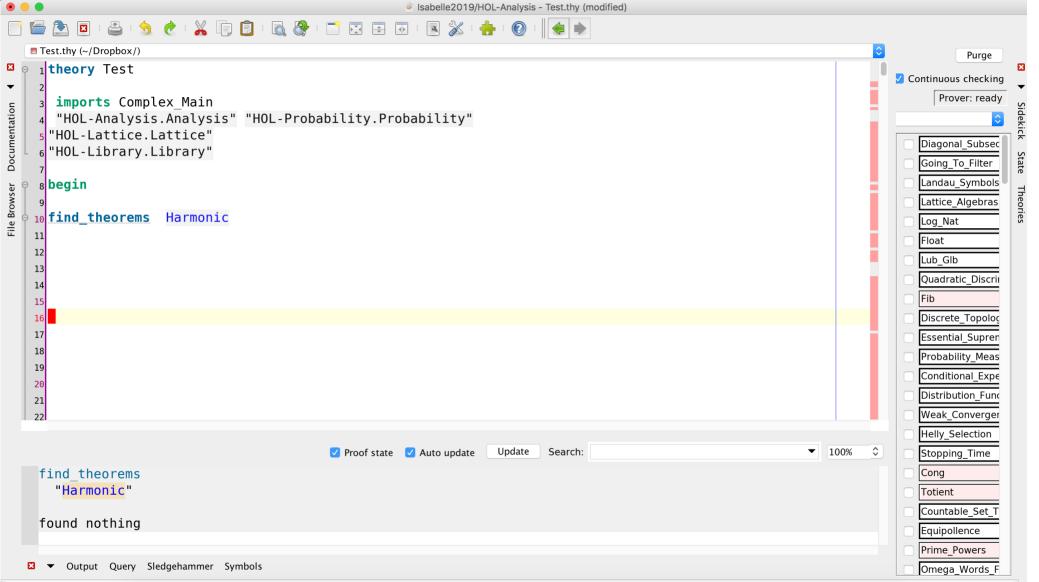
3. Mathematical knowledge can be organised in different ways. It is thus useful to have search results from the entire Isabelle libraries and AFP.

NOT just the libraries currently loaded in the active session ("online" search). "Offline" search required.



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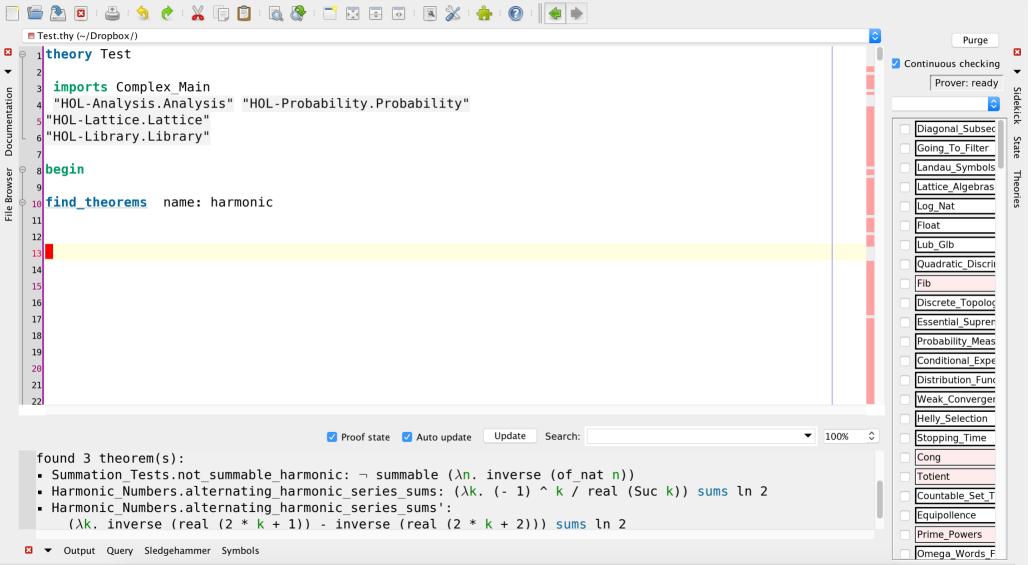
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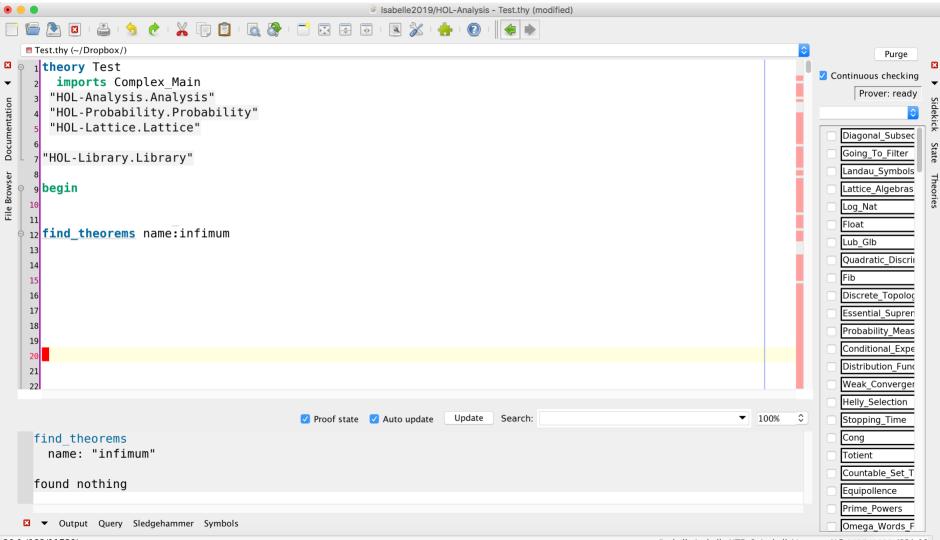


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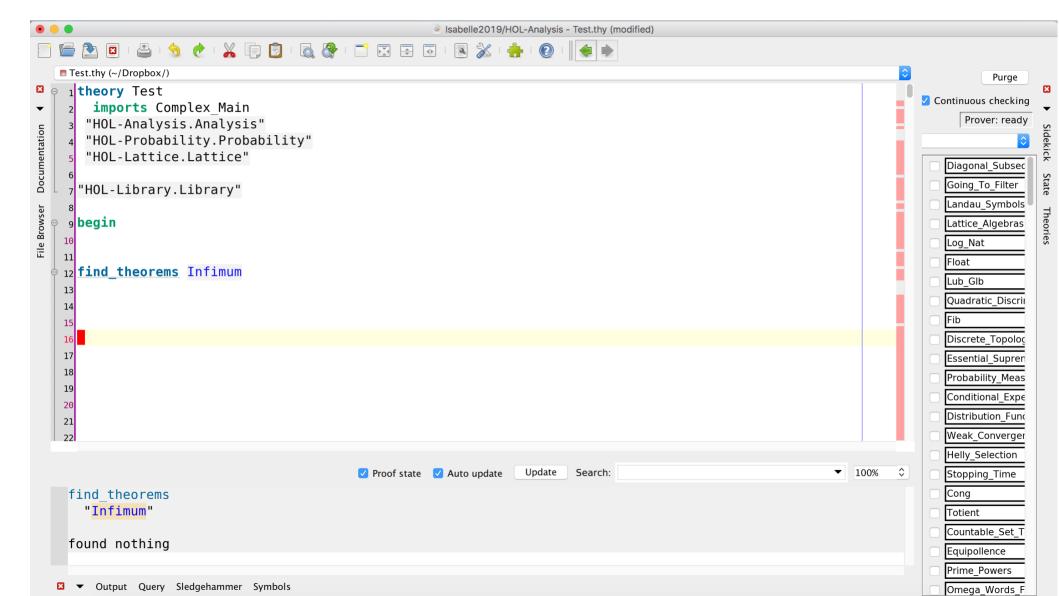
Isabelle2019/HOL-Analysis - Test.thy (modified)

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Sidekick State Theories



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Omega Words F

found 16 theorem(s):

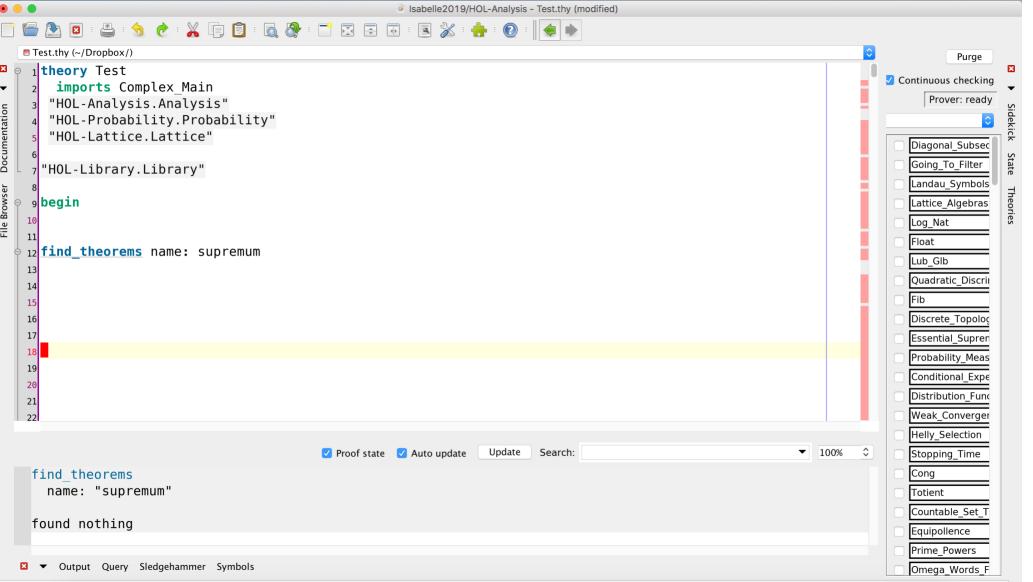
- Essential Supremum.esssup AE: AE x in ?M. ?f x < esssup ?M ?f

Output Query Sledgehammer Symbols



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Input/output complete

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Overview of Challenges

Challenge 1: Offline Indexing of Isabelle facts

- How do we extract from Isabelle scripts for effective indexing?
- We need a pre-computed and cached global index for fast search.

Challenge 2: Automatic modelling of formal mathematical knowledge using keywords and phrases

- Make the libraries accessible to all Isabelle users
- How do we make formally expressed mathematics searchable using natural language?

Challenge 3: Evaluating the effectiveness of Isabelle fact retrieval

- How do we make large-scale reliable measurements of retrieval performance for Isabelle libraries?

The SErAPIS Search Engine

- SErAPIS: Search Engine by the Alexandria Project for ISabelle
- **Goal**: Develop and evaluate a *concept-oriented* search engine that:
 - 1. enables efficient offline search query entire Isabelle collection in seconds
 - 2. allow Isabelle users to search libraries using a simple search box
 - 3. support "conceptual search" rather than exact pattern matching
 - users express queries as natural language bag-of-words
 - queries can include phrases that refer to "mathematical concepts"
 - queries are flexible approximations to information needs, rather than rigid pattern matching rules
 - 4. Results are ordered by relevance

What do we mean by Concept-Oriented?

1. "understand" the mathematical concepts/ideas behind a search. Associate closely related notions.

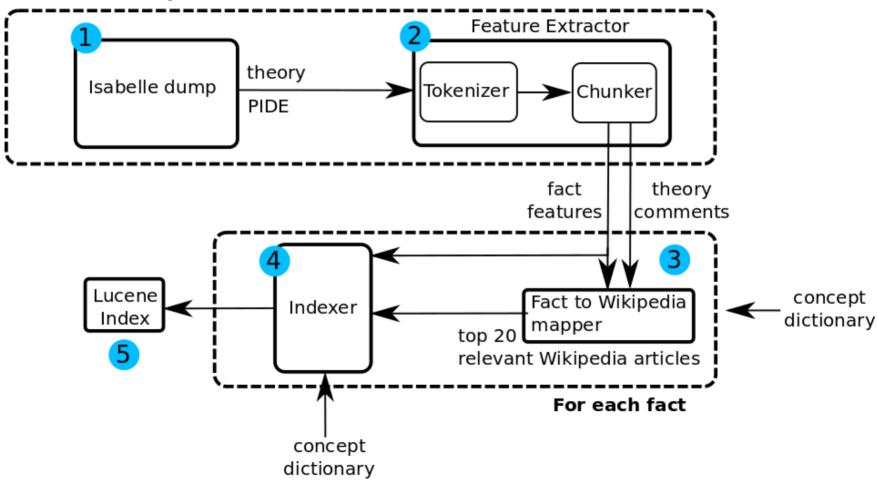
- no need to specify information need explicitly in terms of patterns
- 2. A concrete unit of "mathematical concept":
 - Words or phrases that refer to mathematical constructs, objects and ideas
 - Most are noun phrases pre-modified by adjectives

Let P be a parabolic subgroup of GL(n) with Levi decomposition P = MN, where N is the unipotent radical. Let π be an irreducible representation of $M(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ inflated to $P(\mathbb{Z})$.

3. Dictionary of 1.23 million concept phrases extracted from subset of ArXiv

The SErAPIS Pipeline

For each theory



Challenge 1: Offline Indexing of Isabelle Facts

- Isabelle users interact with theorem prover using Isabelle's rich syntax
 - includes: outer syntax commands, structured Isar proofs, inner syntax terms
- Offline indexing: we need to extract information from:
 - Isabelle syntax
 - Internal state of the theorem prover
- Complicated for two reasons:
 - 1. Non-trivial to write an external parser of Isabelle's syntax (syntax is ambiguous and valid parse trees selected after type-checking)
 - 2. Useful information about Isabelle facts (e.g., types) in an Isabelle session must be retrieved from internal state of theorem prover.

Not easily achieved using external tools!

Feature Extraction

- Communication between prover and jEdit is message exchange
 - Prover IDE (PIDE) messages update state of editor (e.g., syntax highlighting)
 - PIDE messages generated after parsing and typing
- Information extraction through interpretation of PIDE messages
 - Use *isabelle-dump* tool in simulated sessions of Isabelle theories
 - BUT our methods can be applied on live Isabelle sessions
 - Output is an XML stream of commands (at all levels)
- Tokenise and chunk PIDE command blocks belonging to facts
 - Build a feature extractor on top of PIDE tokeniser/chunker output

PIDE Example

HOL-Number_Theory/Gauss.thy

```
lemma finite_B: "finite B"
    by (auto simp add: B_def finite_A)
```

<accepted> <running> <finished> <keyword1 kind="command"> <entity ref="40626" def offset="19441" def file="~~/src/Pure/Pure.thy" def id="2" kind="command" def line="524" name="lemma" def end offset="19446"> <text> lemma </text> </entity> </keyword1> <entity def="13291686" kind="fact" name="Gauss.GAUSS.finite B"> <entity def="13291698" kind="fact" name="local.finite B"> <text> finite B </text> </entity> </entity> <delimiter> <no completion> <text> </text>

Tokeniser Example

HOL-Number_Theory/Gauss.thy

```
lemma finite_B: "finite B"
    by (auto simp add: B_def finite_A)
```

<command 1> 'lemma' <text>'lemma' <fact :: fact meta=local.finite B> 'finite B' <delimiter> ':' <proposition delimited=true antiquotes=false meta=null> <text>"" <text>"" <command 1> 'by' <text>'by' <method meta=null> <delimiter> '(' <operator operator> 'auto' <command 4 method modifier> 'simp' <command 4 method modifier> 'add' <delimiter> ':' <fact :: fact meta=local.B def> 'B def' <fact :: fact meta=local.finite A> 'finite A' <delimiter> ')' <command 1> 'lemma' <text>'lemma' <fact ::fact meta=local.finite_C> 'finite_C' <delimiter> ':' <proposition delimited=true antiguotes=false meta=null> <text>"" <text>"" <command 1> 'by'

Chunker Example

_____ Chunk 19 _____ <command 1> 'lemma' <text>'lemma' <fact :: fact meta=local.finite B> 'finite B' <delimiter> ':' <proposition delimited=true antiquotes=false meta=null> <text>"" <function type::{typing::{ meta='Int.int' meta='Set.set' meta='fun' meta='HOL.bool' }}>> finite <function type::{typing::{ meta='Int.int' meta='Set.set' }}>> B <text>"" <command 1> 'bv' <text>'bv' <method meta=null> <delimiter> '(' <operator operator> 'auto' <command 4 method modifier> 'simp'

<command 4 method_modifier> 'add' <delimiter> ':'

<fact ::fact meta=local.B_def> 'B_def' <fact ::fact meta=local.finite_A> 'finite_A' <delimiter> ')'

HOL-Number_Theory/Gauss.thy

lemma finite_B: "finite B"
 by (auto simp add: B_def finite_A)

Extracted Features

	General Features					
	Feature	Kind	Description			
1	name	String	The name of the fact			
2	kind	String	The kind of the fact: theorem, lemma, definition or axiom.			
3	theory_key	String	Identifier for the source theory in Library_Theory format.			
4	theory_name	String	The name of the source theory, produced from its filename.			
5	comments	Text	Comments above the fact in the theory file.			
6	incomments	Text	Comments appearing inside the fact's body.			
			Fact body Features			
	Feature	Kind	Description			
7	commandvec	Vector	Inner syntax of Isar commands and their frequency.			
8	opvec	Vector	Operators that appear in the body of the fact and their frequency.			
9	constvec	Vector	Constants that appear in the body of the fact			
			and their frequency.			
10	refvec	Edges	Other facts referenced in the body of the fact			
			and the frequency of their evocation.			
11	typevec	Vector	Isabelle types used in the body of the fact and their frequency.			
			Proof Block Features			
12	Feature	Kind	Description			
13	proofblocks	Integer	The number of "proof" blocks in the fact's body.			

Integer The number of "by" blocks in the fact's body.

and the frequency of their evokation.

Edges Other facts referenced in the proof block

and the frequecy by which they are used.

Vector Methods used with the "by" command and their frequency.

Vector Isabelle types used in the proof of the fact and their frequency.

Vector Operators used in the proof block and their frequency.

Vector Constants used in the proof block and their frequency.

15 proof_commandvec Vector Commands used in the proof block of the fact

14 byblocks

16 proof_methodvec

17 proof_opvec

19 proof_refvec

20 proof_typevec

18 proof_constvec

have " $P \lor Q$ " (proof) then show "R"proof assume "P" show "R" (proof) next assume "Q" show "R" (proof) ged

Challenge 2: Automatic modelling of formal mathematical knowledge

- Mathematical knowledge almost exclusively in Isabelle's formal language
- How do we model formal mathematical knowledge?

– Maybe map keywords and special phrases to Isabelle facts?

- Mathematical knowledge almost exclusively in Isabelle's formal language
 - How to map natural language to Isabelle facts is not straight-forward
- A viable solution must not only perform well but be applicable at scale
 - Thousands of facts in the Isabelle libraries and AFP

Fact Representations From Wikipedia

- **Our approach**: Assign word and concept term vectors to facts from Wikipedia Mathematics articles
- Mapping Isabelle facts to keywords and concepts from Wikipedia:
 - Allows us to model mathematical knowledge such that:
 - 1. We can use established techniques in AI, Information Retrieval and Natural Language Processing for knowledge representation

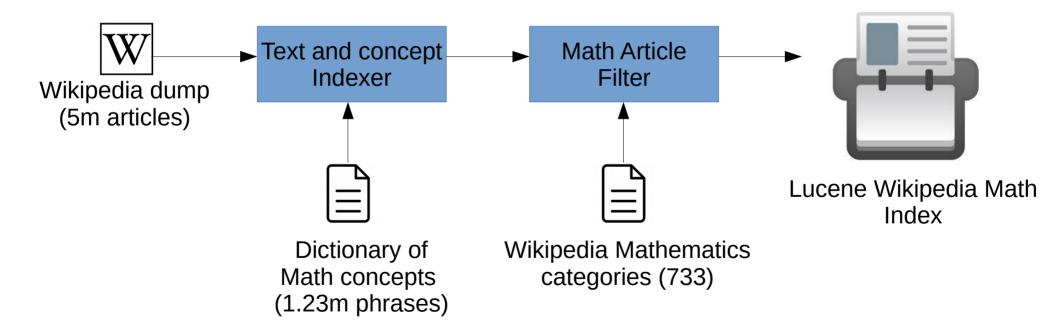
e.g., Vector Space Model, Jaccard coefficient, cosine similarity, LSI

2. We can model mathematical knowledge for large-scale retrieval.

– Thousands of facts in the Isabelle libraries and AFP

Mapping Facts to Wikipedia Articles - I

Step 1. Index (keywords and concepts) Wikipedia maths articles



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deductive system	19
formula	18
logic	13
theory	13
proof	10
theorem	9
compactness theorem	8
language	8
completeness	7
model	7

tf model of concepts

Term Vector Form vector for the field: contents			
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Term	Freq.	Positions	Offsets
models	2		
more	2		
name	2		
natural	2		
negation	2		
non-equival	2		
notion	2		
obtained	2		
ОК			

tf model of words

Mapping Facts to Wikipedia Articles - II

Question: How do we map Isabelle facts to Wikipedia articles?

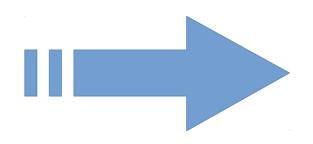
Step 2. Perform one Wikipedia index search per fact using query built from:

- Keywords and concepts from a fact's name
- Keywords and concepts from comments around a fact
- Keywords and concepts from the source theory (background model)

Mapping Facts to Wikipedia Articles - III

FACT

- Keywords and concepts from a fact's name
- Keywords and concepts from comments near to or in the body of a fact
- Keywords and concepts from source theory



ARTICLE

1. Title words

2. Article body words

3. Title concepts

4. Article concepts

Mapping Facts to Wikipedia Articles - IV

Cauchy_Schwarz_ineq (HOL-Analysis/Inner_Product.thy)

Rank	Title
1	Cauchy–Schwarz inequality
2	Augustin-Louis Cauchy
3	Cauchy–Riemann equations
4	Cauchy sequence
5	Schwarz list
6	Cauchy momentum equation
7	Cauchy–Kowalevski theorem
8	Cauchy surface
9	Cauchy product
10	Albert Schwarz
11	Schwarz lemma
12	Binet–Cauchy identity
13	Cauchy theorem (group theory)
14	Cauchy–Rassias stability
15	Schwarz reflection principle
16	Schwarz–Ahlfors–Pick theorem
17	Abstract additive Schwarz method
18	Schwarz minimal surface
19	Schwarz triangle function
20	Cauchy theorem

meet_dual (HOL-Algebra/Lattice.thy)

Rank	Title
1	Join and meet
2	Langlands dual group
3	Petrie dual
4	Lattice (order)
5	De Groot dual
6	Reductive dual pair
7	Complete lattice
8	Heyting algebra
9	Free lattice
10	F-algebra
11	Boolean algebra (structure)
12	Capelli identity
13	Skew lattice
14	Closure operator
15	0,1-simple lattice
16	Comparison of topologies
17	Fixed-point combinator
18	Distributive lattice
19	Semimodular lattice
20	Birkhoff representation theorem

Generating Representations for Facts

Step 3. Generate description for fact from the 20 most relevant articles:

 Build a distributional profile for each fact and the source theory from the 20 top-ranking Wikipedia articles

Term Vector for Fact

- Method 1: Sum up top 20 article term vectors
- Method 2: Select 100 important words from top 20 articles using TF-IDF metric
- Method 3: Find the set that maximises the overlap of words between the top-20 articles using the Jaccard coefficient

Concept Vector for Fact

Sum up top 20 article concept vectors

Select 100 important concept phrases from top 20 articles using TF-IDF metric

Find the set that maximises the overlap of concepts between the top-20 articles using the Jaccard coefficient

Preliminary Evaluation - I

- Conducted over the Isabelle library only, did not include the AFP.
- Carefully constructed 25 queries to simulate a user describing a fact.
 - 1. Came up with an information need and an example fact that satisfies it.
 - 2. Wrote down keywords that describe it that do not exactly match its name to test concept associations e.g. "summability", "zero", "criterion" instead of "summable", "null", "test".
 - 3. Selected concept phrases from our dictionary that are topically related to the example fact [ID Query Keywords] Query Concepts # Relevant Facts]

ID	Query Keywords	Query Concepts	# Relevant Facts
1	disk, norm, function, differen-	"derivative function", "disk",	35
	tiable, derivative, bound	"bound", "differentiability	
		property"	
2	borel, measure, basis, box	"borel measure", "basis"	20
3	summability, criterion, test,	"test", "comparison",	22
	norm, less, comparison	"summability condition",	
		"summability", "norm"	
4	multiply, less, positive	"multiply element", "positive	6
		number", "multiply"	
5	summation, test, geometric,	"summation", "summabil-	22
	series	ity condition", "geometric	
		series", "summable series"	

Preliminary Evaluation - II

- Retrieval Models
 - Three methods presented earlier
 - Baseline (model 4): keywords only (no concept phrases)
- Lucene query generation done consistently across methods
- Relevance judgements
 - Produced manually by Angeliki for all methods. Judged for relevance only the **first 20 results** for each method.

Must contain main notion to be judged as relevant. If contains only secondary notion judged as irrelevant -judged by case.

- Recorded using the SErAPIS desktop user interface
- Pooled relevance judgements from all methods for evaluation

X Serapis Toolchain version 0.1



Query: harmonic numbers

....

Mathematical concepts in the index (81700):

Mathematical concepts in the query:

harmonic measure harmonic motion harmonic mumber	-	harmonic number
Narmoric mesure harmoric mution harmoric order harmoric oscillator harmoric oscillator harmoric oscillator harmoric oscillator harmoric harmori harmoric har		
Add		Remove

Generated queries:

model query

Model 2.
 Model 3.
 Model 4.
 Model 4.<

n1 fact	ID1 kind1 m1 theor	r	rele m2 fact	ID2 kind2 m2 theory	rele m3 fact	ID3 kind3 m3 theory	rele m4 fact	ID4 kind4 m4 theory	re
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Loaded 81700 mathematical concepts

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	SEARCH Engine by the Alexandria Project for ISabelle							
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inference method inference problem inference procedure inferential problem inferential problem inferior limit infimal convolution Infimum								
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		Add				Remove		
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Loaded 81700 mathematical concepts

	Toolchain	



Query: supremum

Mathematical concepts in the index (81700):

Mathematical concepts in the query:

-	supremum
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Generated queries:

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Loaded 81700 mathematical concepts

Preliminary Evaluation - III

Results

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4
MAP	.775	.659	.731	.688
Model 1	-	>	>	>
Model 2	<	-	\approx	\approx
Model 3	<	\approx	-	\approx
Model 4	<	\approx	\approx	-

- Performance measured in terms of Mean Average Precision (MAP)
- X > Y : difference statistically significant at α = 0.05
- Significance tested using the paired Permutation (non-parametric) test

Challenge 3: Evaluating Effectiveness of Isabelle Fact Retrieval

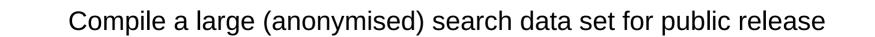
- 1. No baseline to compare our methods against
 - Results from *find_theorems* are unranked

AND

- depend on the libraries loaded by the user
- 2. There is no large-scale test collection of Isabelle facts
 - Need realistic queries from working mathematicians
 - Thousands of facts to judge relevance against

Large-scale Evaluation

- Plan: build a data set for large-scale Isabelle search research and evaluation
- We want to make SErAPIS available online for the Isabelle community:
 - Isabelle users can benefit from concept-oriented Isabelle search
 - We collect real-life queries and relevance decisions anonymously



SErAPIS Online Isabelle Search Engine



SERAPIS ("Search Engine by the ALEXANDRIA Project for ISabelle") is a research search engine for the Isabelle 2020 and Archive of Formal Proofs 2020 libraries.

The main objectives of SErAPIS are:

- to provide search functionality for Isabelle users that does not rely on syntactically complex pattern matching. Instead, SErAPIS is "concept-oriented": the search engine tries to understand the mathematical ideas and topic behind a user's enquiry.
- to provide search that doesn't rely on the loaded libraries or theories at each session. SErAPIS searches all libraries and AFP using a pre-computed index.
- to enable research in Isabelle search. We aim to build a data set that will allow researchers to develop and evaluate retrieval models for mathematical facts in Isabelle.

In order to meet the above objectives, we store some cookies and collect anonymised information. Please see our privacy statement here.

For instructions on how to use SErAPIS and to help us meet our objectives, please see the instructions page.

SErAPIS is developed by the ALEXANDRIA Project at the University of Cambridge and is supported by the European Research Council (ERC)

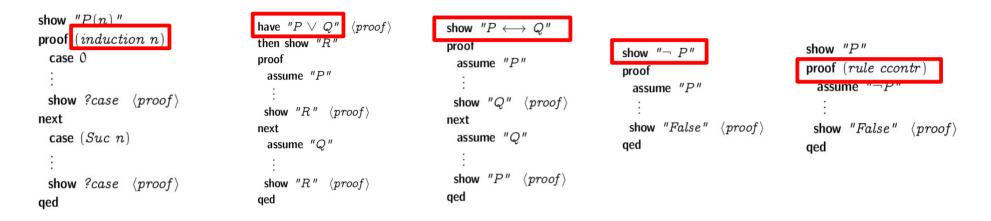


SERAPIS: Search Engine by the ALEXANDRIA Project for ISabelle, University of Cambridge, 2020.

Demo

Ongoing and Future Work

1. Identify and make searchable proof idioms.



2. Support formula search for matching propositions (statement and proofs).

3. Deep indexing of libraries for recommending next steps in interactive proofs.

- Integrate SErAPIS to Isabelle and offer relevant suggestions in real-time.

Thank you for your time.

For more details see:

- Stathopoulos, Koutsoukou-Argyraki and Paulson: SErAPIS: A Concept-Oriented Search Engine for the Isabelle Libraries Based on Natural Language, to appear in the Informal proceedings of the Isabelle 2020 Workshop affiliated to ICJAR 2020, (in Virtual Space), June 30, 2020. https://files.sketis.net/Isabelle_Workshop_2020/Isabelle_2020_paper_4.pdf
- Stathopoulos, Koutsoukou-Argyraki and Paulson: *Developing a Concept-Oriented Search Engine for Isabelle Based on Natural Language : Technical Challenges*, to appear in the informal proceedings of the 5th Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Theorem Proving (AITP 2020), Aussois, France, Mar. 22-27, POSTPONED TO Sept. 13-18, 2020.

http://aitp-conference.org/2020/abstract/paper_9.pdf

Questions?