



# CoqPilot

a plugin for LLM-based generation of proofs

Andrei Kozyrev

Gleb Solovev

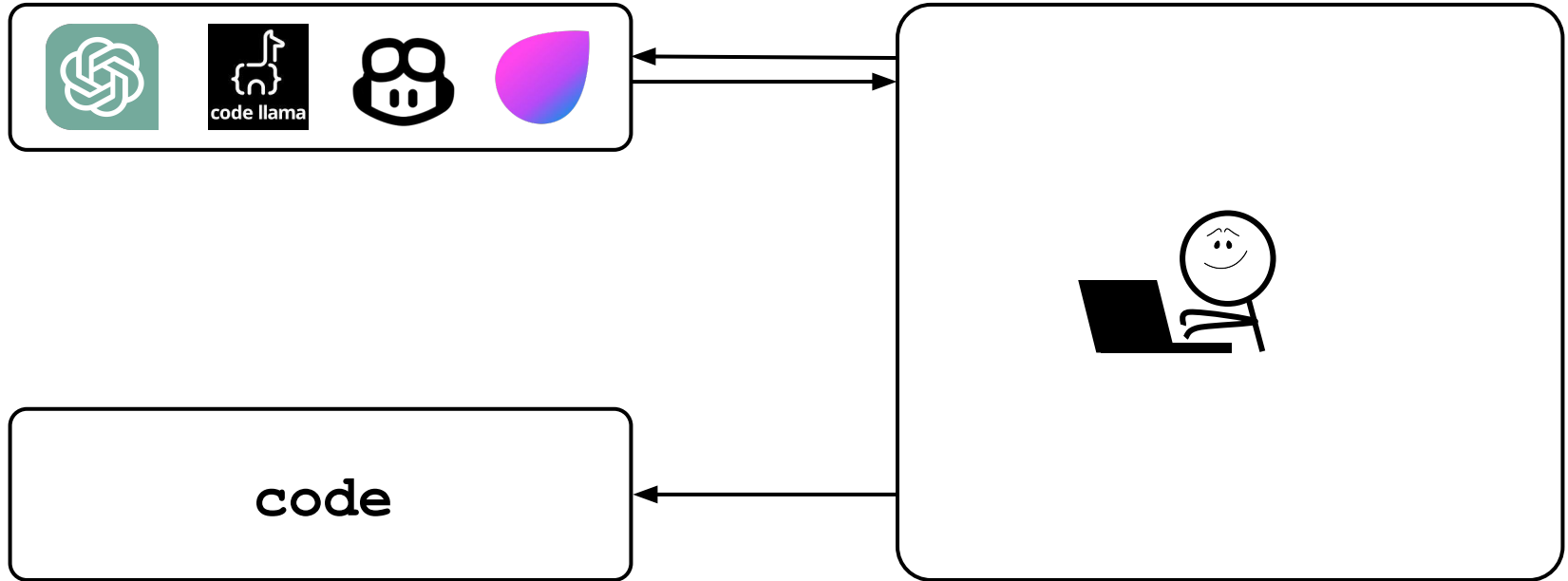
Nikita Khramov

Anton Podkopaev

Programming Languages and Program Analysis Lab (PLAN), JetBrains Research

September, 2024

# LLMs are used more and more for code generation



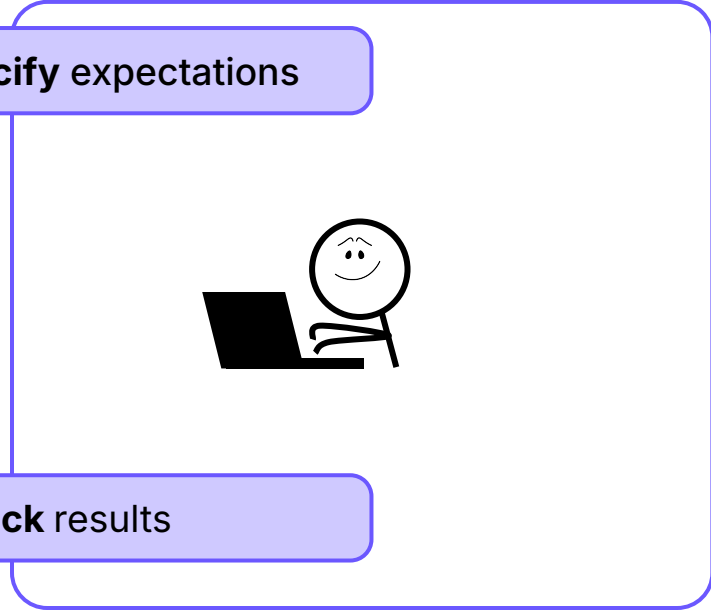


code

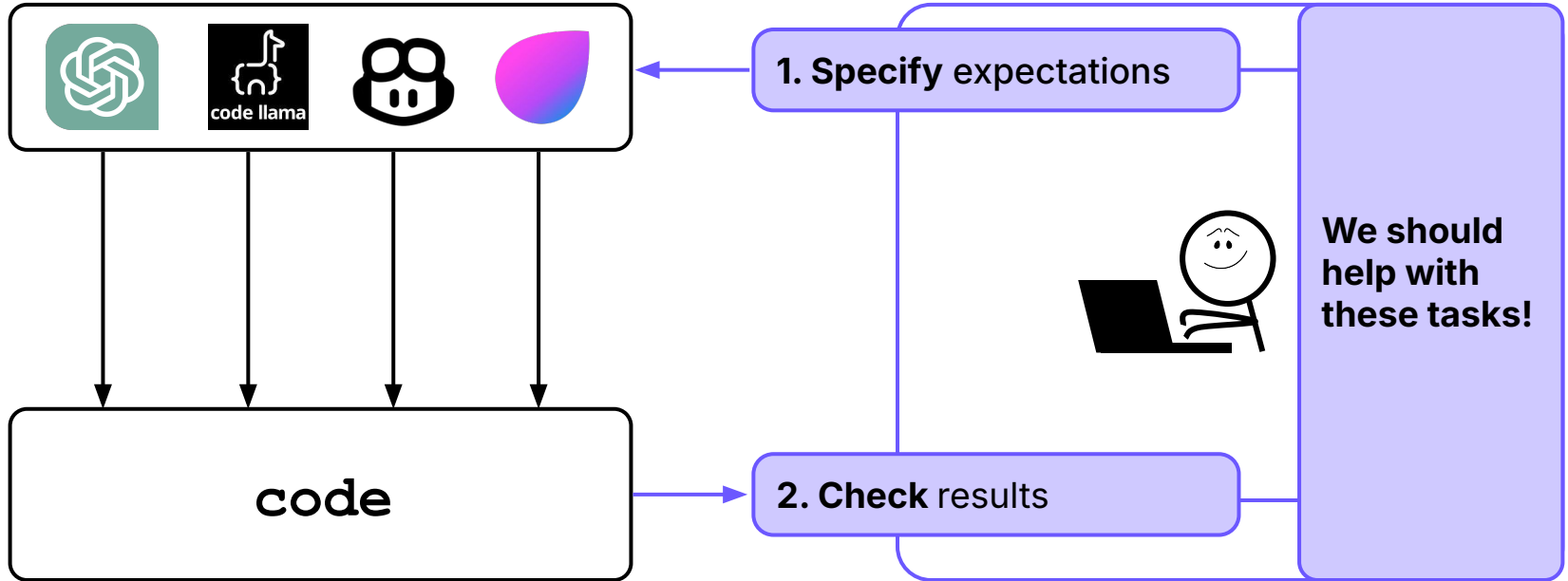
1. Specify expectations

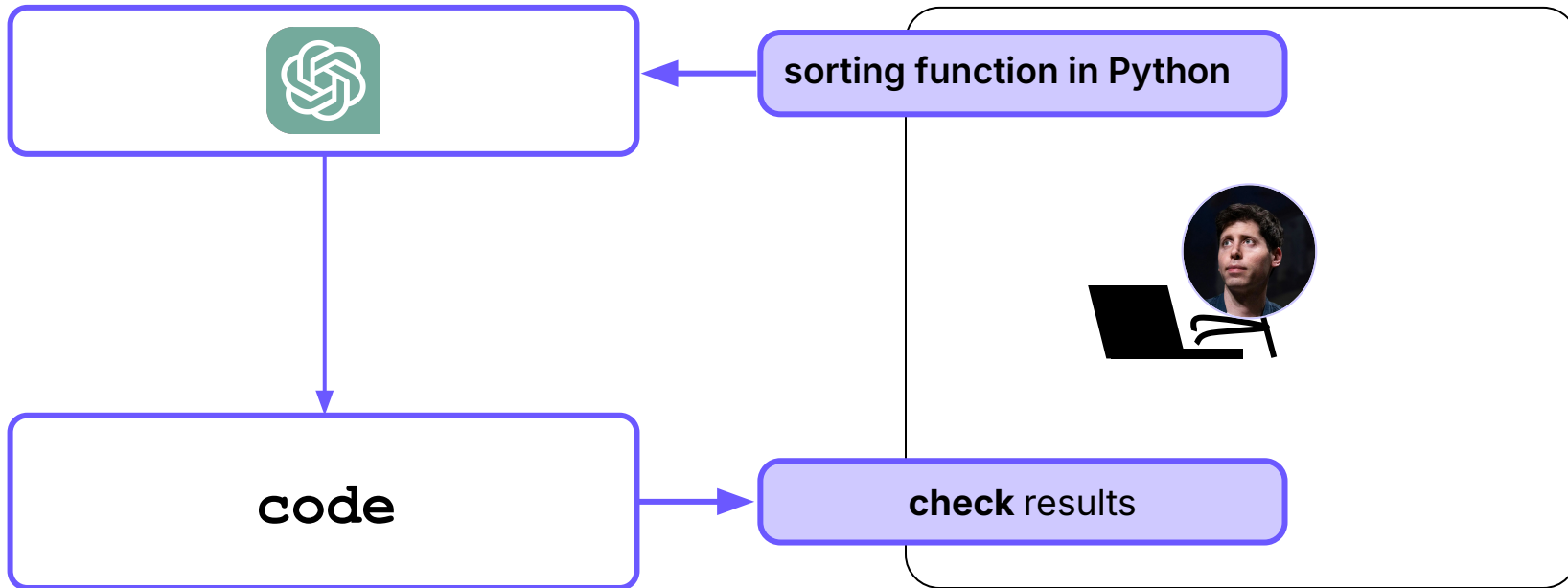


2. Check results



# Developer — LLM supervisor







Generate a list sorting function in Python  
without using any library functions



```
def custom_sort(arr):  
    n = len(arr)  
    for i in range(n):  
        # Last i elements are already sorted  
        for j in range(0, n - i - 1):  
            # Traverse the array from 0 to n-i-1  
            # Swap if the element found is greater  
            # than the next element  
            if arr[j] > arr[j + 1]:  
                arr[j], arr[j + 1] = arr[j + 1], arr[j]  
    return arr
```

## **Do Users Write More Insecure Code with AI Assistants?**

Neil Perry \*  
Stanford University

Megha Srivastava \*  
Stanford University

Deepak Kumar  
Stanford University

Dan Boneh  
Stanford University

# Do Users Write More Insecure Code with AI Assistants?

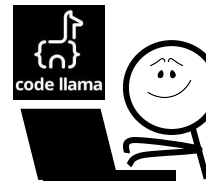
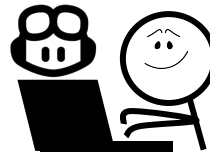
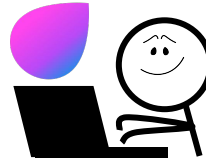
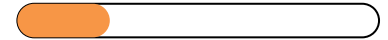
Neil Perry \*  
Stanford University

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Stanford University

Deepak Kumar  
Stanford University

Dan Boneh  
Stanford University

introduce security *vulnerabilities*





## Do Users Write More Insecure Code with AI Assistants?

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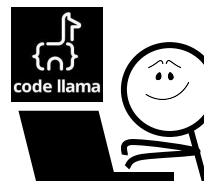
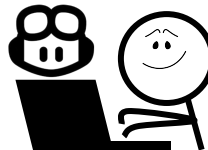
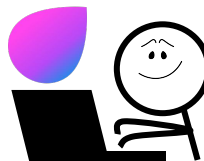
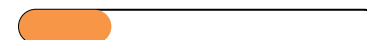
Deepak Kumar  
Stanford University

Dan Boneh  
Stanford University

introduce security *vulnerabilities*



rate their *insecure* code *as secure*





Generate a list sorting function in Python  
without using any library functions



```
def custom_sort(arr):
```

**Not only familiar code is needed**

```
    # Last i elements are already sorted
    for j in range(0, n - i - 1):
        # Traverse the array from 0 to n-i-1
        # Swap if the element found is greater
        # than the next element
        if arr[j] > arr[j + 1]:
            arr[j], arr[j + 1] = arr[j + 1], arr[j]
    return arr
```



Generate a list sorting function in Python  
without using any library functions



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def custom_sort(arr):
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**Not** only **familiar** code is needed

**Testing** may **not** be **sufficient** (eg, concurrency)

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    # Last i elements are already sorted
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```



Generate a list sorting function in Python  
without using any library functions



```
def custom_sort(arr):
```

**Not** only **familiar** code is needed

**Testing** may **not** be **sufficient** (eg, concurrency)

Plain **English** is **hard** to debug and **imprecise**

```
# Traverse the array from 0 to n-1-1
# Swap if the element found is greater
# than the next element
if arr[j] > arr[j + 1]:
    arr[j], arr[j + 1] = arr[j + 1], arr[j]
return arr
```

**Is there a better way?**

# The Coq programming language

Definition `sort` (l : list nat) : {l' : list nat | Permutation l l' & is\_sorted l'}.

# The Coq programming language

Definition `sort` (`l : list nat`) : {l' : list nat | Permutation l l' & is\_sorted l'}.

Argument



# The Coq programming language

Definition `sort` (`l : list nat`) : `{l' : list nat | Permutation l l' & is_sorted l'}`.

Argument

Returning type



# The Coq programming language

Definition `sort` ( $l : \text{list nat}$ ) :  $\{l' : \text{list nat} \mid \text{Permutation } l l' \ \& \ \text{is\_sorted } l'\}$ .

Argument

Returning type

+ Any implementation is a **correct** sorting function

# The Coq programming language

Definition `sort` (`l : list nat`) : `{l' : list nat | Permutation l l' & is_sorted l'}`.

Argument

Returning type

- + **Any implementation** is a **correct** sorting function
- + **Specification** is a type-automatic **checking**

```
94 Definition sort l : {l' | Permutation l l' & is_sorted l'}.
95 Proof.
96   induction l.
97   { admit. }
98   destruct IHl as [l'].
99   edestruct (insert_sorted a l') as [l''].
100  { admit. }
101  exists l''.
102  2: { admit. }
103  transitivity (a::l').
104  { admit. }
105  admit.
106 Admitted.
107 Eval compute in (p1 (sort [3;2;4;1])).
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```



Not in proof mode

```
src > s.v > sort
94 Definition sort l : {l' | Permutation l l' & is_sorted l'}.
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Not in proof mode

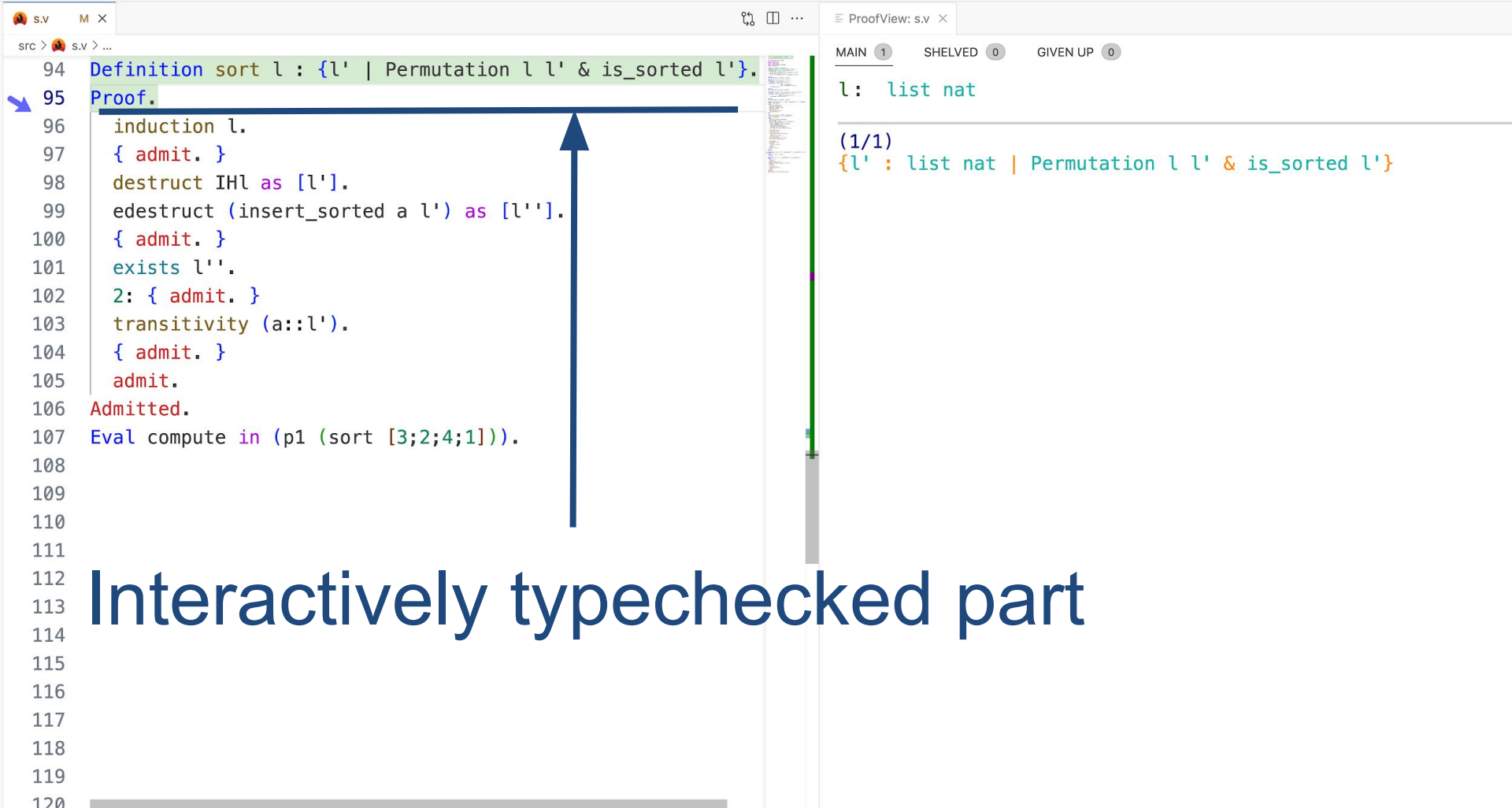


Main buffer

```
s.v M X ProofView: s.v X
src > s.v > sort
94 Definition sort l : {l' | Permutation l l' & is_sorted l'}.
95 Proof.
96   induction l.
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Not in proof mode

Interactively typechecked part



Interactively typechecked part

```
s.v M X
src > s.v > ...
94 Definition sort l : {l' | Permutation l l' & is_sorted l'}.
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```

```
ProofView: s.v X
```

MAIN 1   SHELVED 0   GIVEN UP 0

---

l : list nat

---

(1/1)  
 {l' : list nat | Permutation l l' & is\_sorted l'}

---

Current state buffer

```
s.v M X
src > s.v > ...
94 Definition sort l : {l' | Permutation l l' & is_sorted l'}.
95 Proof.
96   induction l.
97   { admit. }
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```

ProofView: s.v ×

MAIN 1 SHELVED 0 GIVEN UP 0

l : list nat ← Assumptions

---

(1/1)  
{l' : list nat | Permutation l l' & is\_sorted l'}

Current state buffer



```
s.v M X
src > s.v > ...
94 Definition sort l : {l' | Permutation l l' & is_sorted l'}.
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96   induction l.
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ProofView: s.v X

MAIN 1 SHELVED 0 GIVEN UP 0

l : list nat ← Assumptions

---

(1/1)  
{l' : list nat | Permutation l l' & is\_sorted l'}

↑  
Current goal

Current state buffer

```

src > s.v > ...
94 Definition sort l : {l' | Permutation l l' & is_sorted l'}.
95 Proof.
96 induction l. ← Tactic
97 { admit. }
98 destruct IHl as [l'].
99 edestruct (insert_sorted a l') as [l''].
100 { admit. }
101 exists l''.
102 2: { admit. }
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```

```

(1/2)
{l' : list nat | Permutation [] l' & is_sorted l'}

(2/2)
{l' : list nat | Permutation (a :: l) l' & is_sorted l'}

```

```

src > s.v > ...
94 Definition sort l : {l' | Permutation l l' & is_sorted l'}.
95 Proof.
96   induction l.
97   { admit. }
98   destruct IHl as [l'].
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```

MAIN 1 SHELVED 0 GIVEN UP 0

---

(1/1)  
 {l' : list nat | Permutation [] l' & is\_sorted l'}

```
src > s.v > ...
94 Definition sort l : {l' | Permutation l l' & is_sorted l'}.
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```

MAIN 0 SHELVED 0 GIVEN UP 1

There are unfocused goals

s.v M X

src > s.v > ...

```
94 Definition sort l : {l' | Permutation l l' & is_sorted l'}.
95 Proof.
96   induction l.
97   { admit. }
98   destruct IHl as [l'].
99   edestruct (insert_sorted a l') as [l''].
100   { admit. }
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```

ProofView: s.v X

MAIN 1 SHELVED 0 GIVEN UP 1

Warning: You have given up goals

```
a : nat
l : list nat
IHL : {l' : list nat | Permutation l l' & is_sorted l'}
```

---

```
(1/1)
{l' : list nat | Permutation (a :: l) l' & is_sorted l'}
```

main\* Environment: default.nix 0 0 Ready ✓ coq-pilot "s.v" 152L 2817C written Ln 97, Col 13 Spaces: 2 UTF-8 LF Coq

s.v M X

src > s.v > ...

```
94 Definition sort l : {l' | Permutation l l' & is_sorted l'}.
95 Proof.
96   induction l.
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```

ProofView: s.v X

MAIN 1 SHELVED 0 GIVEN UP 1

Warning: You have given up goals

```
a : nat
l, l' : list nat
p : Permutation l l'
i : is_sorted l'
```

---

```
(1/1)
{l'0 : list nat | Permutation (a :: l) l'0 & is_sorted l'0}
```

s.v M X

src > s.v > ...

```
94 Definition sort l : {l' | Permutation l l' & is_sorted l'}.
95 Proof.
96   induction l.
97   { admit. }
98   destruct IHl as [l'].
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```

ProofView: s.v X

MAIN 2 SHELVED 0 GIVEN UP 1

Warning: You have given up goals

```
a : nat
l, l' : list nat
p : Permutation l l'
i : is_sorted l'
```

---

(1/2)  
is\_sorted l'

---

(2/2)  
{l'0 : list nat | Permutation (a :: l) l'0 & is\_sorted l'0}

s.v M X

src > s.v > ...

```
94 Definition sort l : {l' | Permutation l l' & is_sorted l'}.
95 Proof.
96   induction l.
97   { admit. }
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99   edestruct (insert_sorted a l') as [l''].
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```

ProofView: s.v X

MAIN 1 SHELVED 0 GIVEN UP 2

Warning: You have given up goals

```
a : nat
l, l' : list nat
p : Permutation l l'
i : is_sorted l'
l'' : list nat
i0 : is_inserted a l' l''
i1 : is_sorted l''
```

---

(1/1)  
{l'0 : list nat | Permutation (a :: l) l'0 & is\_sorted l'0}

Ln 100, Col 13 Spaces: 2 UTF-8 LF Coq

main\* Environment: default.nix 0 0 0 Ready ✓ coq-pilot -- NORMAL --



s.v M X

src > s.v > ...

```
94 Definition sort l : {l' | Permutation l l' & is_sorted l'}.
95 Proof.
96   induction l.
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```

ProofView: s.v X

MAIN 2 SHELVED 0 GIVEN UP 2

Warning: You have given up goals

```
a : nat
l, l' : list nat
p : Permutation l l'
i : is_sorted l'
l'' : list nat
i0 : is_inserted a l' l''
i1 : is_sorted l''
```

---

(1/2)  
Permutation (a :: l) l''

---

(2/2)  
is\_sorted l''

```

src > s.v > ...
94 Definition sort l : {l' | Permutation l l' & is_sorted l'}.
95 Proof.
96   induction l.
97   { admit. }
98   destruct IHl as [l'].
99   edestruct (insert_sorted a l') as [l''].
100  { admit. }
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```

MAIN 1 SHELVED 0 GIVEN UP 3

Warning: You have given up goals

```

a : nat
l, l' : list nat
p : Permutation l l'
i : is_sorted l'
l'' : list nat
i0 : is_inserted a l' l''
i1 : is_sorted l''

```

---

(1/1)  
Permutation (a :: l) l''

s.v M X

src > s.v > ...

```
94 Definition sort l : {l' | Permutation l l' & is_sorted l'}.
95 Proof.
96   induction l.
97   { admit. }
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99   edestruct (insert_sorted a l') as [l''].
100  { admit. }
101  exists l''.
102  2: { admit. }
103  transitivity (a::l').
104  { admit. }
105  admit.
106 Admitted.
107 Eval compute in (p1 (sort [3;2;4;1])).
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```

ProofView: s.v X

MAIN 2 SHELVED 0 GIVEN UP 3

Warning: You have given up goals

```
a : nat
l, l' : list nat
p : Permutation l l'
i : is_sorted l'
l'' : list nat
i0 : is_inserted a l' l''
i1 : is_sorted l''
```

---

(1/2)  
Permutation (a :: l) (a :: l')

---

(2/2)  
Permutation (a :: l') l''

```

src > s.v > ...
94 Definition sort l : {l' | Permutation l l' & is_sorted l'}.
95 Proof.
96   induction l.
97   { admit. }
98   destruct IHl as [l'].
99   edestruct (insert_sorted a l') as [l''].
100  { admit. }
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```

MAIN 1 SHELVED 0 GIVEN UP 4

Warning: You have given up goals

```

a : nat
l, l' : list nat
p : Permutation l l'
i : is_sorted l'
l'' : list nat
i0 : is_inserted a l' l''
i1 : is_sorted l''

```

---

(1/1)  
Permutation (a :: l') l''

```
src > s.v > ...  
94 Definition sort l : {l' | Permutation l l' & is_sorted l'}.  
95 Proof.  
96   induction l.  
97   { admit. }  
98   destruct IHl as [l'].  
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```

MAIN 0 SHELVED 0 GIVEN UP 5

There are some goals you gave up. You need to go back and solve them, or use **Admitted**.

```
src > s.v > ...  
94 Definition sort l : {l' | Permutation l l' & is_sorted l'}.  
95 Proof.  
96   induction l.  
97   { admit. }  
98   destruct IHl as [l'].  
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100  { admit. }  
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```

Not in proof mode



```
s.v M X
src > s.v > ...
94 Definition sort l : {l' | Permutation l l' & is_sorted l'}.
95 Proof.
96   induction l.
97   { admit. }
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ProofView: s.v

Not in proof mode

PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE TERMINAL PORTS COMMENTS Notices

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```

**How do we fill those  
admits?**



**Coq is very suitable for code generation**

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# Coq is **very suitable** for code generation

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- + **Tactics** do **not** enforce **strict** structure
- + Easy to **guide generation** with providing **structure and insights**
- + **Holes** are independent and might be **filled in parallel**

**CoqPilot**



src > s.v

```

43 Lemma is_inserted_perm a l l' (INS : is_inserted a l
44 (* Hint: perm_swap *))
45 Proof.
46   generalize dependent l'.
47   generalize dependent a.
48   induction l; ins; inv INS.
49   apply IHL in INS0.
50   etransitivity.
51   { by apply perm_swap. }
52   by constructor.
53 Qed.
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55 Lemma insert_sorted a l (SORT : is_sorted l) :
56   {l' | is_inserted a l l' & is_sorted l'}.
57 (* Hint: le_gt_dec *)
58 Proof.
59   induction l; eauto with myconstr.
60   edestruct IHL as [l'].
61   { clear -SORT. inv SORT. auto with myconstr. }
62   destruct (le_gt_dec a a0).
63   { exists (a::a0::l); auto with myconstr.
64     apply sorted_cons; auto.
65     eapply smallest_head; eauto.
66     inv SORT. auto with myconstr. }
67   exists (a0::l'); auto. constructor; auto.
68
69   clear -SORT i i0 g.
70   induction i; auto.

```



Proof

Main 1 Shelved 0 Given up 1

Goal 1

a : nat  
 l, l' : list nat  
 p : Permutation l l'  
 i : is\_sorted l'

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(1/1) is\_sorted l'

Messages

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```

Coq Goals ×

Proof

Not in proof mode

Messages

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vscoq-language-server 2.1.0, coq 8.19.0 Go Live Record Story (beta)

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Coq Goals X

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(1/1) \_\_\_\_\_

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Messages

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(1/1) \_\_\_\_\_

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Messages

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## Few-shot prompt

**Lemma** insert\_sorted ...  
**Proof.**  
...  
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**Lemma** is\_inserted\_perm ...  
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## Query

**Lemma** unsort\_sorted ...  
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src &gt; s.v

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```

[...]
```

Proof

Main 1 Shelved 0 Given up 0

Goal 1

l : list nat

(1/1)

---

{l' : list nat | Permutation l l' & is\_sorted l'}

Messages

# Research Questions

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- **RQ1:** How well general purpose LLMs can write Coq proofs?

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- **RQ1:** How well general purpose LLMs can write Coq proofs?
- **RQ2:** To which extent does CoqPilot improve the LLM approach to Coq generation?
- **RQ3:** What is the additional value CoqPilot contributes to other Coq automation tools such as CoqHammer and Tactician?

# Informal Evaluation

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Reference proof length	$\leq 4$	5 – 8	9 – 20	Total
Group size	131	98	71	300
firstorder auto with *	11%	2%	1%	6%
OpenAI GPT-3.5	29%	17%	6%	20%
OpenAI GPT-4o	50%	26%	15%	34%
LLaMA-2 13B Chat	2%	0%	0%	0.5%
Anthropic Claude	21%	7%	7%	13%
All models together	57%	32%	18%	39%
Tactician	45%	23%	10%	29%
CoqHammer	23%	4%	0%	11%
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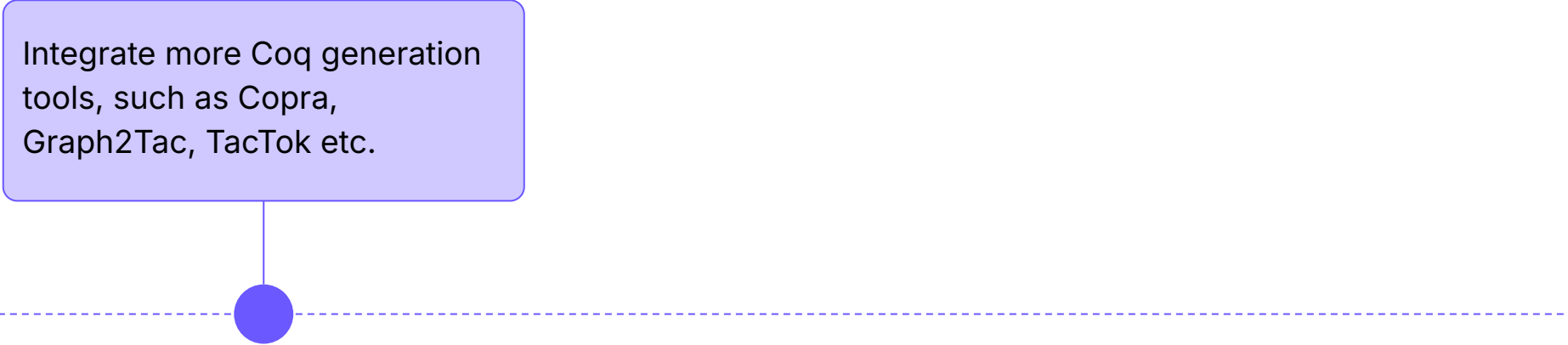
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# Improvement directions



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Integrate more Coq generation tools, such as Copra, Graph2Tac, TacTok etc.





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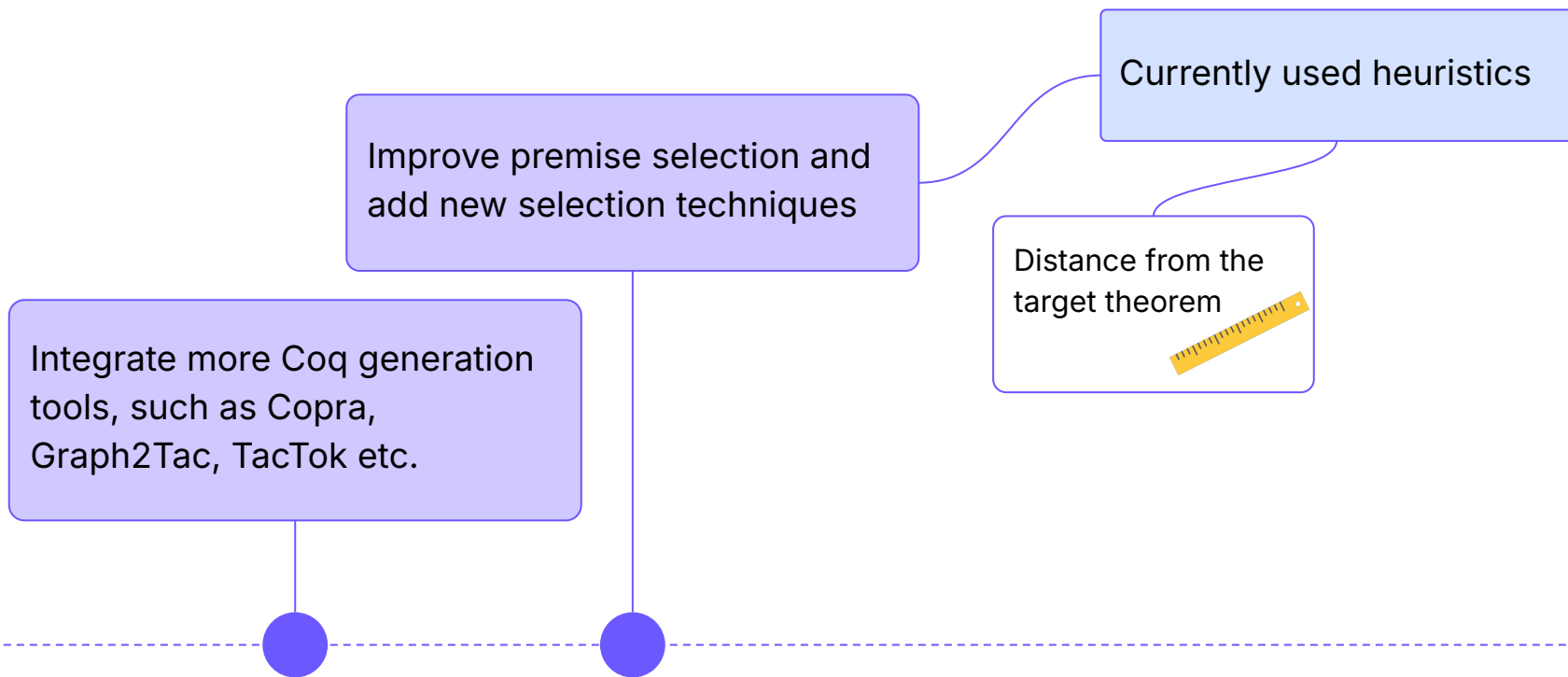
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Currently used heuristics

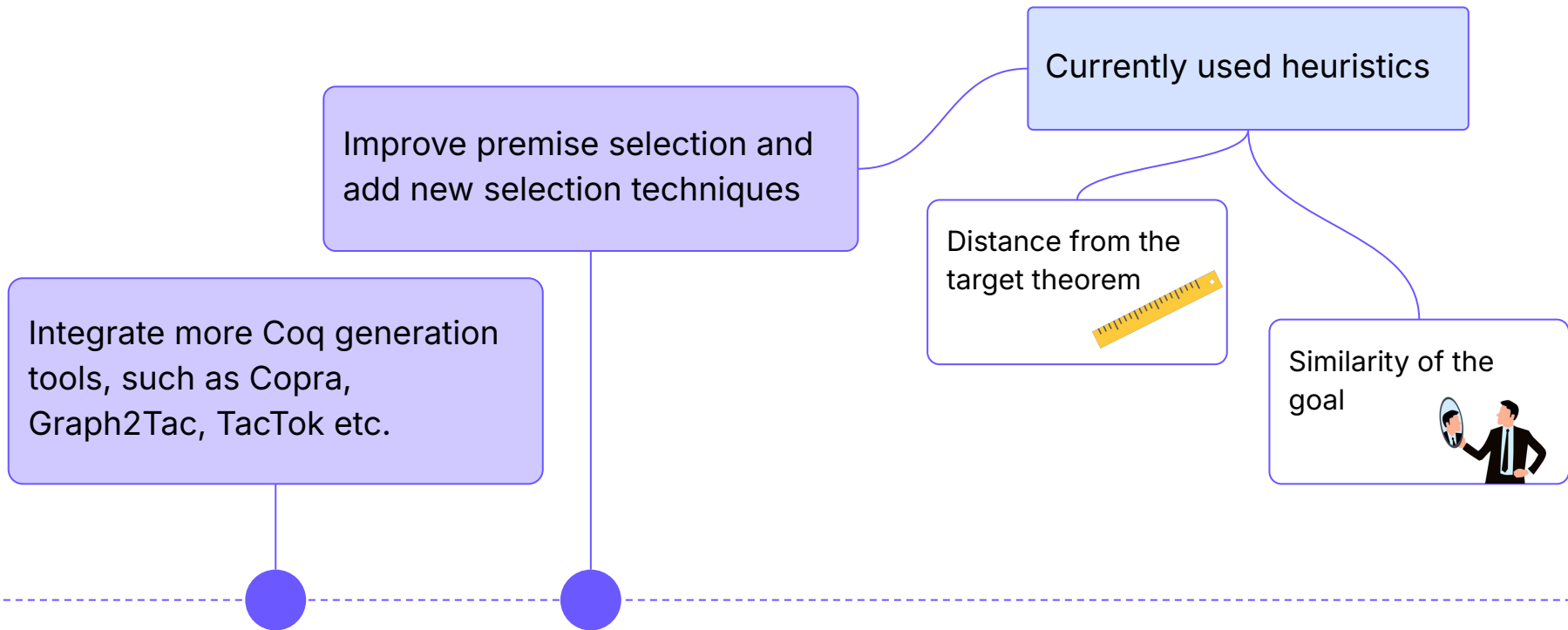
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Explore and improve locally available models in order to make inference cheaper and preserve privacy

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**Please talk to us if you  
have ideas!**





CoqPilot: a plugin for LLM-based generation of proofs



JetBrains-Research/**coqpilot**



extension: **coqpilot**



*{andrei.kozyrev, gleb.solovev, nikita.khramov, anton.podkopaev}@jetbrains.com*

Programming Languages and Program Analysis Lab (PLAN), JetBrains Research