mxSRBench: Towards Spatial Understanding and Diagrammatic Reasoning in `mxGraph` for Large Language Models

Abstract

While LLMs have advanced code synthesis and semantic reasoning, their ability to bridge the spatial–semantic gap in diagrams remains poorly understood. Diagrams demand satisfaction of semantic topology and metric geometry, yet existing benchmarks, focused on VQA or pixel generation, fail to isolate the resulting symbolic reasoning failures. We introduce mxSRBench, a benchmark of 4,081 instruction–XML pairs built on `mxGraph`, a high-fidelity symbolic language that explicitly encodes spatial logic. mxSRBench offers three tiers: **T1** validates XML and structural renderability; **T2** probes spatial reasoning; and **T3** evaluates professional diagram synthesis across 11 types. For T2, we establish an **Evaluation Protocol** covering three core capabilities: **(1) Understanding** (interpreting spatial logic from XML), **(2) Generation** (grounding textual spatial constraints into valid coordinate XML), and **(3) Multihop Reasoning** (compositional multi-step spatial inference). Systematic benchmarking of LLMs/VLMs reveals a spatial–semantic gap: top models achieve up to 91.7% in understanding but degrade sharply on constrained generation and multihop reasoning, confirming they are sophisticated logicians yet poor drafters. mxSRBench provides a quantitative, diagnostic foundation for neuro-symbolic and tool-augmented diagram generation.

1 Introduction

Recent rapid progress in LLMs (Achiam et al., 2023; Touvron et al., 2023; Guo et al., 2025)—including reasoning (Wei et al., 2022; Yao et al., 2023; Wang et al., 2022), code synthesis (Chen et al., 2021b; Nijkamp et al., 2022; Li et al., 2023a), and in-context learning (Brown et al., 2020; Dong et al., 2024; Zhou et al., 2024)—suggests their potential to generate diagram specifications from natural language. Leveraging LLMs to create editable structured diagrams—with explicit structure and

Figure 1: Distribution of mxSRBench across T2 (N=2,198) and T3 (N=1,883) tracks, spanning 6 dimensions and 11 diagram types.

editability—addresses key limits of current methods: template tools lack flexibility (Shbita et al., 2025), layout engines produce rigid results (Yang et al., 2024), and AI systems generate non-editable raster images (Zhu et al., 2026). LLM-based generation can reduce costs across office, industrial, and academic scenarios by enabling iterative editing, automatic alignment, and rapid refinement.

However, this demands "diagrammatic spatial reasoning" from LLMs, requiring generated diagrams to simultaneously ensure: (1) **Semantic and structural integrity**: elements align with user instructions and remain logically self-consistent. (2) **Layout coherence and readability**: the model manages global aesthetics—alignment, spacing, and overlap avoidance—for visual clarity. (3) **Precise spatial constraints**: consistent relative positions (e.g., containment, proximity) are maintained under complex, multi-constraint reasoning. Evaluation thus requires outputs that are not only syntactically well-formed, but also editable, structurally faithful, and geometrically verifiable. This raises a critical question for benchmarking: *What diagram representation can effectively encapsulate semantic hierarchy and layout coherence?*

To address this, LLMs must produce an intermediate representation as the diagram blueprint. We categorize candidate formats by their emphasis on semantic structure or spatial layout (Table 1): (1) **Semantic-centric DSLs** (e.g., Mermaid, DOT) provide robust logical structures but delegate layout to black-box renderers, limiting spatial control and

Table 1: Taxonomy of diagram generation paradigms. Unlike *Semantic-First* paradigms that sacrifice layout control, or *Layout-First* ones that lack explicit topology, mxGraph strikes a balance. * Native Doc refers to PPTX or Figma.

Criterion	Semantic-First (Textual)		Layout-First (Geometric)			Balanced
	DOT	DSL (Mermaid)	SVG	Diffusion	Native Doc*	mxGraph (Ours)
Representation	Text Spec	Logic Code	Vector Paths	Raster Image	Tool Objects	**Graph Objects**
Topological Logic	**Explicit**	**Explicit**	Implicit	None	Weak	**Explicit**
Layout Precision	Low (Auto)	Low (Auto)	**High**	Stochastic	**High**	**High**
Native Editability	Limited	Limited	No	No	Yes	**Full (Dynamic)**
Structure Verifiable	Yes	Yes (Typed)	Limited	No	Yes	**Yes**
Practical Deployment	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	High	**High (Industrial)**
Evaluation Cost	Low	Low	Medium	High	Medium	**Low**

geometric evaluation. (2) **Layout-centric formats** (e.g., SVG, diffusion models (Zhang et al., 2023; Rombach et al., 2022), native documents like PP-TX/Figma) offer high visual fidelity but either lack explicit structural metadata or impose prohibitive syntactic complexity, impeding reliable generation and automated assessment.

We bridge these paradigms with mxGraph. It preserves explicit semantic hierarchies while exposing verifiable geometric coordinates. Crucially, its hierarchical cell structure encodes containment and grouping through explicit parent-child relationships. For a nested flowchart where sub-process A contains three decision nodes, SVG demands complex geometric checks to verify containment; in mxGraph, containment is directly encoded via `parent` attributes, enabling hierarchical reasoning without coordinate computation. Likewise, ID-based edges (`source`/`target`) make topology directly queryable, whereas SVG hides connectivity in implicit path geometries. This explicit, queryable structure, together with a concise XML syntax well within current LLM capabilities, supports reliable spatial reasoning (empirically validated in Section 4) and scalable, standardized evaluation across diagramming tasks.

To quantify LLM proficiency in synthesizing editable structured diagrams, we introduce mxS-RBench[1], a multi-dimensional benchmark evaluating: (1) **Basic correctness**: *syntactic validity and structural fidelity to user instructions*; (2) **Spatial reasoning**: *handling atomic and compositional spatial constraints with global consistency*; (3) **Professional adaptation**: *generating diverse, domain-specific diagrams adhering to industry conventions*. mxSRBench comprises 4,081 instruction–XML pairs and a three-tier suite (Figure 1): **T1** validates XML renderability; **T2** probes spatial reasoning across six dimensions via three sub-tasks—Understanding (interpreting spatial logic

from given XML), Generation (grounding textual constraints into coordinates), and Multihop Reasoning (integrating multiple relations into a globally consistent layout); **T3** tests professional synthesis over 11 diagram types. We employ **Decomposed Requirements Following Ratio (DRFR)** (Qin et al., 2024) to objectively assess per-constraint spatial satisfaction, moving beyond subjective visual similarity.

Table 2 positions mxSRBench against prior spatial reasoning benchmarks. Image and video benchmarks encode spatial relations implicitly in pixels, while SVG-, program-, or logic-form benchmarks expose some structure but are often limited in task coverage, reasoning dimensions, or evaluation granularity. In contrast, mxSRBench combines explicit coordinates, topological relations, understanding and generation tasks, six spatial dimensions, and per-constraint diagnostics, while covering 11 professional diagram categories.

Our contributions are as follows:

- **Benchmark and Data:** We introduce mxSR-Bench, a 4,081-sample mxGraph benchmark for diagrammatic spatial reasoning with explicit symbolic and geometric structure.

- **Tiered Evaluation and Diagnostics:** We design a three-tier suite covering format validation, spatial reasoning, and professional synthesis, with T2 decomposed into Understanding, Generation, and Multihop modes.

- **Constraint-Centric Metrics and Findings:** We use **DRFR** for objective constraint satisfaction and benchmark diverse LLMs/MLLMs, revealing weaknesses in coordinate grounding and topological consistency.

2 Related Work

Our work builds on spatial reasoning, diagram generation, and controllable generation, which we discuss below.

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[1]Datasets are available at [link].

Table 2: Comparison with existing spatial reasoning benchmarks. **Explicit Spatial** indicates whether the benchmark exposes structured coordinate/topological data (✓) versus implicit pixel-level representations (✗); △ denotes partial (e.g., bounding boxes only). **#Spatial Dims** counts the distinct spatial reasoning dimensions evaluated. **Decomp. Metric** indicates whether per-constraint decomposed evaluation is used (△: task-specific but not per-constraint).

Benchmark	Representation	#Samples	Explicit Spatial	Understand	Generate	#Spatial Dims	Decomp. Metric
VSI-Bench (Yang et al., 2025b)	Video	>5,000	✗	✓	✗	3	✗
SpatialSense (Yang et al., 2019)	Image + BBox	17,498	△	✓	✗	1	✗
T2I-CompBench (Huang et al., 2023)	Image	6,000	✗	✗	✓	2	✗
SVGenius (Chen et al., 2025)	SVG Code	2,377	✓	✓	✓	4	△
Geometry3K (Lu et al., 2021)	Logic Form	3,002	✓	✓	✗	2	✗
GeoQA (Chen et al., 2021a)	Program	4,998	✓	✓	✗	2	✗
mxSRBench (Ours)	mxGraph	**4,081**	✓	✓	✓	**6**	✓

2.1 Spatial Reasoning and Understanding

Early work in spatial reasoning established foundational concepts for topological inference using qualitative formalisms such as Region Connection Calculus (Cohn et al., 1997). Recent vision-language models(Antol et al., 2015; Yang et al., 2025b; Shiri et al., 2024) have advanced spatial understanding, with SpatialVLM (Chen et al., 2024a), Spatial-RGPT (Cheng et al., 2024a), and SpatialBench (Xu et al., 2025) addressing 3D reasoning, depth integration, and systematic evaluation respectively. However, these models focus on spatial understanding rather than generation, lacking support for producing structured, editable diagram specifications.

Existing benchmarks exhibit limitations in evaluation granularity. VSI-Bench (Yang et al., 2025b) and SpatialSense (Yang et al., 2019) focus on video/image-based spatial tasks, while GSR-Bench (Rajabi and Kosecka, 2024) and What'sUp (Kamath et al., 2023) probe grounded understanding in VLMs. Text-based benchmarks including SpaRC (Rizvi et al., 2024) and StepGame (Li et al., 2024) test spatial inference without visual grounding. For geometric reasoning, GeoQA (Chen et al., 2021a), Geometry3K (Lu et al., 2021), UniGeo (Chen et al., 2022), G-LLaVA (Gao et al., 2025) evaluate problem solving but focus primarily on understanding. 3D spatial benchmarks such as SPARE3D (Han et al., 2020) and SQA3D (Ma et al., 2022) assess spatial QA from 3D scenes. For image generation, Draw-Bench (Saharia et al., 2022), PartiPrompts (Yu et al., 2022) assess compositional capabilities, while T2I-CompBench (Huang et al., 2023) and T2I-CompBench++ (Huang et al., 2025) specifically evaluate attribute binding, spatial relationships, and numeracy in text-to-image synthesis. Crucially, these benchmarks adopt implicit pixel-level or pure-text representations, making it difficult to diagnose whether failures stem from spatial reasoning deficits or coordinate-level grounding errors. mxSRBench addresses this gap using structured mxGraph XML with explicit coordinates and topological relations, enabling fine-grained error attribution across six spatial dimensions.

2.2 Structured and Controllable Generation

Layout-guided image generation has advanced through diffusion-based approaches, including GLIGEN (Li et al., 2023b), LayoutDiffusion (Zheng et al., 2023), HiCo (Cheng et al., 2024b), and BoxDiff (Xie et al., 2023) for layout control, and ControlNet (Zhang et al., 2023) with T2I-Adapter (Mou et al., 2024) for spatial conditioning. However, these methods produce raster outputs without structural metadata, limiting both automated assessment and downstream editability.

Vector graphics generation offers an alternative paradigm with explicit geometric representation. Early neural approaches including DeepSVG (Carlier et al., 2020), Im2Vec (Reddy et al., 2021), and IconShop (Wu et al., 2023) established foundations for SVG synthesis. Comprehensive benchmarks evaluate LLM capabilities: VGBench (Zou et al., 2024) assesses SVG, TikZ, and Graphviz processing, SVGenius (Chen et al., 2025) stratifies evaluation across complexity tiers, and SGP-Bench (Qiu et al., 2025) tests semantic consistency in symbolic programs. For SVG-specific evaluation, SVGEditBench (Nishina and Matsui, 2024, 2025) targets editing capabilities, Image-Text Bridging (Cai et al., 2025) probes cross-modal understanding, and SVG-Taxonomy (Xu and Wall, 2024) examines low-level visual tasks. Generation methods include StarVector (Rodriguez et al., 2025), OmniSVG (Yang et al., 2026), SVG-Builder (Chen and Pan, 2025), Chat2SVG (Wu et al., 2025), LLM4SVG (Xing et al., 2025) and DiffSketcher (Xing et al., 2023). UniSVG (Li et al., 2025) and InternSVG (Wang et al., 2025) pursue

Figure 2: T2 task demos in mxSRBench. **Understanding** and **Generation** examples are shown across six spatial dimensions: Count, Metric, Topology, Geometry Transformation (Geo Trans), Orientation, and Semantic.

unified SVG understanding and generation. TextLap (Chen et al., 2024b) addresses layout planning, while StructEval (Yang et al., 2025a) evaluates structured output generation. Despite these advances, existing approaches either lack explicit topological semantics, delegate layout to black-box engines, or cover narrow task scopes. mxSRBench uniquely combines semantic hierarchies with verifiable geometric coordinates in mxGraph XML, enabling comprehensive spatial reasoning evaluation through the DRFR metric.

3 mxSRBench Framework

3.1 Framework Overview

3.1.1 T1: Format Validation

Format Validation assesses whether a model can produce *renderable* mxGraph XML. Concretely, outputs must be well-formed, schema-consistent, and loadable in draw.io. We formalize failures via a **minimum fatal error set**: the smallest set of errors that makes an XML file non-renderable. Specifically, we implement a three-pass validator as presented in Figure 3: XML physical structure validation, attribute validation for geometry and edge references, and hierarchical reference validation for parent links, self-references, and cycles.

3.1.2 T2: Spatial Reasoning Tasks

T2 evaluates whether an LLM can correctly process diagrams represented as explicit mxGraph XML: reading structured spatial information, writing valid editable specifications, and composing multiple spatial constraints into globally consistent solutions. **T2** targets bridging the spatial–semantic gap under coordinate-level constraints, requiring jointly handling discrete graph structure (e.g., id, parent) and continuous geometry (e.g.,

x, y). We evaluate T2 along three core capabilities: (1) **Understanding**—parse mxGraph XML to accurately infer symbolic structure and spatial-/topological relations; (2) **Generation**—translate natural-language instructions into structurally correct and geometrically faithful mxGraph XML; (3) **Multihop Reasoning**—assess whether models successfully solve complex cases requiring chaining multiple atomic relations and resolving long-range references while maintaining global consistency.

3.1.3 T3: Professional Diagram Generation

T3 evaluates whether an LLM can act as a reliable professional drafter: given text instruction, can it synthesize an editable mxGraph diagram matching domain conventions, preserving the intended semantic structure, and remaining readable under complex layout constraints? Unlike T2's atomic spatial skills, T3 targets holistic diagram synthesis where correctness depends on global composition. Our T3 test set contains 1,883 samples covering 11 professional diagram types (Table 14). Since professional diagrams involve rich, type-specific conventions that are difficult to exhaustively decompose into atomic checklists, we use a VLM-based judge that compares reference and generated renderings with type-specific rubrics and returns a similarity/quality score.

3.2 mxSRBench Dataset Construction

mxSRBench contains 4,081 instruction-XML pairs created through a "Rule Engine + LLM Rewriting" hybrid approach, achieving both spatial accuracy and linguistic diversity. We summarize data construction pipelines by task.

T2: Spatial Reasoning Data. T2 contains three complementary subsets. **(1) Understanding** synthesizes draw.io diagrams in mxGraph XML using

Figure 3: Overview of the mxSRBench evaluation tiers. Our benchmark spans from low-level Format Validation (**T1**) to multi-dimensional Spatial Reasoning (**T2**) and high-level Professional Diagram Synthesis (**T3**). The radar charts illustrate the performance gaps among representative models across key mxGraph capabilities.

Table 3: Performance on mxSRBench **T2** tasks. We report Understanding accuracy (%), Generation (**DRFR**), and Multihop results (Accuracy/**DRFR**). Bold entries denote the best results within closed-source and open-source models, respectively.

Model	Understanding (Accuracy)							Generation (DRFR)							Multihop	
	Count	Geo	Met	Orie	Sem	Top	Avg	Count	Geo	Met	Orie	Sem	Top	Avg	Und	Gen
Closed Source Models																
Gemini-3-Pro	88.16	**90.76**	93.91	**99.27**	94.95	**83.08**	**91.7**	94.84	88.85	**95.87**	91.65	**80.52**	**91.71**	**90.57**	75.00	**92.85**
Gemini-3-Flash	86.84	88.24	95.65	97.81	**97.98**	**83.08**	91.6	92.93	**89.27**	95.70	94.21	68.40	91.03	88.5	**75.86**	88.25
GPT-5.2-Codex	**90.79**	76.89	**96.52**	92.70	80.81	79.10	86.1	87.40	85.28	92.17	89.01	47.28	84.05	80.9	69.40	85.64
GPT-5.2	59.21	57.98	52.17	58.39	77.78	68.16	62.3	90.89	86.00	88.86	85.82	47.10	81.72	80.1	44.40	73.47
Claude-Opus-4.5	87.50	64.71	92.17	89.42	81.82	72.14	81.3	**95.18**	89.12	92.94	**94.99**	71.10	88.40	88.6	66.81	86.69
Claude-Sonnet-4.5	66.45	58.82	58.26	75.55	74.75	71.64	67.6	92.67	86.98	89.43	88.77	73.47	86.46	86.3	52.59	79.34
Open Source Models																
MiniMax-M2	**90.13**	63.03	93.04	90.51	69.70	70.65	**79.5**	85.49	80.78	**88.79**	79.20	**62.30**	75.29	78.6	**56.22**	56.59
Qwen3-Coder-480B	61.84	54.62	53.04	68.98	68.69	63.18	61.7	**88.42**	81.33	85.16	76.61	57.26	77.29	77.7	47.41	72.83
Qwen3-VL-235B	56.58	61.76	53.91	68.98	46.46	57.21	57.5	81.42	80.91	85.67	**84.18**	52.50	**80.61**	77.6	43.53	44.05
Kimi-K2	60.53	50.42	46.96	61.31	**75.76**	70.15	60.9	87.33	**84.65**	88.06	78.54	55.52	77.91	**78.7**	46.55	69.24
GLM-4.6	64.47	52.94	48.70	50.73	66.67	62.69	57.7	83.73	83.07	84.48	79.95	61.14	79.75	**78.7**	47.41	**84.10**
DeepSeek-V3.2	56.6	43.7	40.87	44.16	73.74	59.2	53.0	79.19	83.31	80.73	74.99	52.61	73.89	74.1	43.97	64.46

Gemini-3-Pro, then generates QA pairs over six spatial dimensions: Count, Metric, Topology, Geometric Transformation, Orientation, and Semantic. Each QA pair is manually verified for answer correctness. (**2**) **Generation** creates natural-language instructions with increasing difficulty guided by the six-dimension semantic graph, uses Gemini-3-Pro to produce ground-truth mxGraph XML, and applies human correction to ensure instruction–XML alignment. (**3**) **Multihop** follows the Understanding and Generation pipelines but designs queries and instructions requiring multi-step reasoning, such as composing multiple atomic relations or resolving long-range references. All Multihop samples undergo additional validation to ensure coherent and non-circular dependency chains.

T3: Professional Diagram. We define eleven diagram types and build domain-specific word clouds from real-world corpora to capture characteristic terminology. Keywords guide Gemini-3-Pro to generate diverse diagram descriptions, which are translated into Mermaid code and programmatically converted to mxGraph XML via the Draw.io engine. Gemini-3-Pro then regenerates task instructions from the final XML to ensure alignment.

Quality Control. To mitigate potential hallucinations introduced by LLM-based synthesis, we apply a task-aware QC protocol. For **T2**, we conduct *full human verification* on every sample (including instruction–XML alignment and QA answer correctness), and only keep samples that pass both the T1 rule-engine checks and manual review. For **T3**, since gold diagrams are converted from Mermaid and rendered by draw.io (reducing free-form generation errors), we adopt *stratified random audits* across all 11 diagram types to screen for residual conversion or instruction-regeneration mismatches.

Table 4: LLM performance on professional diagram generation (**T3**). VLM scores (%) across eleven domain-specific categories, assessed for structural accuracy and semantic alignment.

	Model	Class	ER	Flow	Gantt	Journey	Mindmap	Others	Pie	Sequence	State	Timeline	Avg.
Closed	Gemini-3-Pro	92.15	**92.53**	93.97	**68.65**	57.02	**84.45**	**74.09**	48.57	**64.46**	95.52	**88.39**	**78.16**
	Gemini-3-Flash	95.60	81.75	**95.18**	67.33	56.17	82.97	71.77	**54.68**	57.75	96.56	87.33	77.01
	Claude-Opus-4.5	**95.70**	74.50	93.62	68.55	**61.13**	84.39	71.58	45.74	62.21	96.03	88.09	76.50
	GPT-5.2-Codex	83.15	72.64	92.82	61.82	57.74	75.85	63.93	18.50	39.53	89.18	85.25	67.31
	GPT-5.2	85.24	60.47	92.43	63.55	58.24	67.11	59.02	17.96	16.81	85.84	80.21	62.44
Open	Kimi-K2	**87.02**	**61.80**	92.13	48.52	41.17	65.78	53.42	**21.89**	**37.54**	88.90	77.09	61.39
	GLM-4.6	82.21	60.33	91.68	**62.21**	**53.33**	**78.65**	**58.71**	15.69	31.59	**90.01**	**80.30**	**64.06**
	DeepSeek-V3.2	84.64	58.77	91.53	48.37	36.28	57.02	58.02	16.08	25.77	82.35	71.43	57.30
	Qwen3-VL-235B	51.65	13.91	29.26	5.53	0.61	28.22	20.38	5.19	20.02	36.66	12.71	20.38

Figure 4: T3 generation examples with VLM scores and expert ranks. The strong rank correlation validates our evaluation protocol.

3.3 Evaluation Guidelines

We employ distinct evaluation protocols for the three T2 capabilities, namely Understanding, Generation, and Multihop Reasoning, as well as for T3 Professional Diagram Generation. For human evaluation (e.g., Fig. 4), experts rank model outputs based on (i) diagram content completeness and (ii) correctness of semantic and structural logic.

mxGraph Coordinate System. Throughout this paper (**T1**–**T3**), we interpret geometry using the standard mxGraph/draw.io canvas coordinate system: each vertex cell has an mxGeometry with x, y, width, height in canvas units (with x increasing left-to-right and y increasing top-to-bottom). For hierarchical structures, a child cell's x, y are defined *relative to its parent*; absolute positions can be obtained by accumulating offsets along the parent chain. Unless otherwise specified, we treat a cell's position as the top-left corner of its bounding box and derive centers as $(x + \frac{w}{2}, y + \frac{h}{2})$.

Understanding (T2; Discriminative) For understanding tasks, models receive a mxGraph XML file and a question, treated as multi-choice. We use **Accuracy** as the primary metric, measuring percentage of correctly answered questions across all task types.

Generation (T2; DRFR) For controllable generation, models receive natural-language instructions and must generate corresponding mxGraph XML files. We evaluate using **Decomposed Requirements Following Ratio (DRFR)** (Qin et al., 2024), which uses a checklist of decomposed requirements per case where a scorer model (Gemini-3-Flash) verifies satisfaction (e.g., geometric constraints, connectivity, attributes). To validate **DRFR**'s effectiveness, we measure its alignment with human annotations at the *atomic sub-instruction* level (i.e., each boolean check in details; Appendix B.2). Overall, the automated judge achieves **96.1%** agreement with human annotators (368/383 atomic checks). The observed mismatches mainly arise from *orientation* and *semantic* checks, where the judge may misinterpret relative positional relationships or high-level semantics (e.g., whether an element represents a specific concept).

Multihop Reasoning (T2; Discriminative & Generative) Multihop tasks require composing multiple atomic spatial relations (*e.g.*, chaining topology/orientation constraints, resolving multi-step ID references). We evaluate discriminative QA with **Accuracy** and generative tasks with **DRFR** over decomposed requirements.

Professional Diagram Generation (T3; VLM score) For professional diagram synthesis, we evaluate with a VLM-based (Gemini-3-Flash) judge. We render ground-truth and generated mxGraph XML into PNG images, providing the VLM with (i) ground-truth rendering, (ii) generated rendering, and (iii) a diagram-type-specific evaluation prompt highlighting criteria for each of 11 professional categories. The VLM outputs a sim-

Figure 5: Performance comparison between GPT-5.2 and GPT-5.2-Codex across varying graph complexities (node counts).

ilarity/quality score (%, reported as VLM score), which we aggregate across categories and report per-category performance.

4 Experiments

4.1 Experimental Setup

We evaluate 12 models on mxSRBench with temperature 0: closed-source (Gemini-3-Pro (Google DeepMind, 2025), Gemini-3-Flash (Google DeepMind, 2025), Claude-Opus-4.5-20251101 (Anthropic, 2025), Claude-Sonnet-4.5-20250929 (Anthropic, 2025), GPT-5.2 (OpenAI, 2025), GPT-5.2-Codex (OpenAI, 2025)) and open-source (DeepSeek-V3.2 (DeepSeek-AI, 2025), GLM-4.6, Qwen3-Coder-480B-A35B-Instruct (Qwen Team, 2025), Kimi-K2-Instruct-0905 (Moonshot AI, 2025), MiniMax-M2 (MiniMax-AI, 2025), Qwen3-VL-235B-A22B-Instruct (Qwen Team, 2025)).

4.2 Main Results

4.2.1 Format Validation: Renderability (T1)

Most models generate renderable mxGraph XML, with closed-source models generally more reliable than open-weight models. To quantify these differences, we report model-level failure rates for both generation tracks in the appendix (Tables 6, 7).

4.2.2 Understanding

Our evaluation shows a pronounced performance gap (up to 30%) between closed-source models (e.g., Gemini-3-Pro, GPT-5.2-Codex) and open-weight models (e.g., Qwen3-Coder, GLM-4.6). To better understand this gap, we compare GPT-5.2 Base with its Codex counterpart on the count subtask, where the two variants diverge substantially, across different graph complexity levels (Figure 5). As node count grows from 0—5 to 21—50, Base

Table 5: Correlation between Spatial QA overall score and external benchmarks.

Benchmark	Spearman ρ	Kendall τ	p-value
AA_LCR (logic/code) (Team, 2025)	0.790	0.636	0.002
LiveCodeBench (code) (Jain et al., 2025)	0.762	0.636	0.004
GPQA_diamond (expert) (Rein et al., 2023)	0.687	0.565	0.014
HLE (hard logic) (Phan et al., 2025)	0.662	0.543	0.019
MMLUPRO (general) (Wang et al., 2024)	0.636	0.455	0.026
AIME_25 (math) (Zhang and Math-AI, 2024)	0.105	0.061	0.746

accuracy drops from 77.8% to 34.5%, while Codex remains between 88.9% and 96.6%, widening the gap from +11.1% to +62.1%. This suggests that code pre-training gives the model a much stronger ability to trace long-range ID references, which appears to be the central difficulty in structured diagram understanding.

4.2.3 Cross-benchmark Correlation

Table 5 shows that Spatial QA strongly correlates with code/logic (AA_LCR, LiveCodeBench) and general reasoning (GPQA, HLE, MMLUPRO), while showing a near-zero correlation with math competition (AIME_25). This finding suggests Spatial QA aligns more with long-context symbolic/structural reasoning than pure mathematical problem solving.

4.2.4 Generation

In controllable generation, consistent semantic gaps emerge across six dimensions. Models excel at spatial/computational constraints, achieving high scores in Orientation, Metric, and Transformation by accurately constructing coordinate systems and executing numerical instructions (*e.g.*, "width 100px", "rotate 45°"). Complex nesting logic is also handled effectively, contrary to assumptions about LLM weakness on mathematical constraints in DSLs. However, performance drops sharply in the Semantic dimension, where models must accurately map concepts to specific visual icons (*e.g.*, "AWS Lambda"). While Gemini-3-Pro achieves 80.52%, GPT-5.2 drops to 47.10%, often defaulting to generic rectangles due to insufficient domain-specific visual vocabulary.

4.2.5 Multihop Reasoning

Table 3 summarizes the performance on the multihop track. Overall, multihop questions are harder than single-step variants, with accuracy drops across all models. Closed-source models consistently outperform open-weight models on multihop QA. For generation, Table 3 shows multihop DRFR generally exceeds multihop QA accuracy for the same model. Multihop DRFR often matches single-

Figure 6: Heatmap of model performance on professional diagram generation tasks.

step DRFR with modest drops, suggesting models follow decomposed generation requirements better than end-to-end QA.

4.2.6 Professional Diagram Generation

Model performance across diagram types reveals three levels of complexity. Table 4 presents detailed VLM scores across all eleven diagram categories. At Level 1 (Topological Mapping), diagrams like State and Flowcharts involve simple binary node relations (Node A → Node B) without temporal or numerical constraints. Leading models achieve near-saturation performance ($> 93\%$). Level 2 (Temporal Logic), including Sequence Diagrams and Journey Maps, introduces timelines and lifelines, requiring models to maintain strict interaction sequences and dynamic state consistency. Models like GPT-5.2 struggle here (16.8%), revealing weaknesses in long-range temporal coherence. Level 3 (Numerical & Layout Constraints), represented by Pie and Gantt Charts, demands arithmetic computation (*e.g.*, summing percentages to 100%) and date inference. Figure 6 visualizes this hierarchy across models and diagram types. Figure 4 shows representative T3 generation demos with their VLM scores and expert ranks.

4.3 Error Analysis

To understand the limitations of current models, we conduct a comprehensive error analysis of their outputs and identify two prevalent failure patterns.

Grounding-related Errors. (1) *Vocabulary:* Models often fail to retrieve correct `mxGraph` shapes/styles for semantic entities (e.g., "Airplane"), instead **hallucinating non-existent shape names** that silently fall back to default geometric primitives at render time (Figure 7). (2) *Integrity:*

Even when high-level intent is correct, generated XML may omit fine-grained, semantics-critical parameters (e.g., `startAngle` for pie charts), breaking intended visual logic. These errors indicate a persistent gap between semantic understanding and low-level DSL grounding: models describe concepts but fail to reliably instantiate valid style tokens and required attributes (Figure 8).

Constraint Propagation Errors. Models fail to maintain logical consistency in structured diagrams: (1) **Gantt Charts**—In case_27(Figure 9), models generate incorrect time axes and convert milestones into duration bars, corrupting scheduling semantics; (2) **Sequence Diagrams**—increasing complexity causes message collisions and lost temporal ordering, with critical UML elements (activation bars, return messages, self-calls) systematically omitted (Figure 10). These errors reveal models prioritize visual layout over structural logic, lacking constraint enforcement mechanisms. Solutions may require neuro-symbolic architectures maintaining explicit constraint graphs during generation.

5 Conclusion

We present mxSRBench, the first `mxGraph`-based benchmark for diagrammatic spatial understanding and generation with explicit semantic topology and metric geometry. Specifically, mxSRBench comprises of 4,081 intruction-XML pairs with three-tier evaluation suite: **T1** format validation, **T2** atomic spatial reasoning across three tasks (Understanding/Generation/Multihop), and **T3** professional diagram synthesis over 11 diagram types, with **DRFR** for decomposed constraint satisfaction. We evaluate 12 state-of-the-art models and observe a persistent "spatial–semantic gap": models are proficient interpreters but unreliable drafters. Understanding accuracy reaches 91.7%, yet coordinate-level generation and multi-hop reasoning degrade substantially, with errors compounding through constraint chains. Code specialization boosts structural parsing (+24.0%) but does not resolve icon/vocabulary gaps. Professional diagrams exhibit a clear difficulty gradient from topological mapping (>93%) to temporal and numerical tasks (<55%). To facilitate future research, we will release the benchmark [2] and evaluation toolkit to support tool-augmented and constraint-aware diagram generation.

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[2]Dataset is available at [link]

Impact Statement

This work introduces mxSRBench, to our knowledge the first benchmark that evaluates LLMs for diagrammatic spatial understanding and generation using `mxGraph` XML as an intermediate symbolic representation. It provides a three-tier evaluation suite (**T1**–**T3**) spanning 11 professional diagram types, enabling fine-grained diagnosis from renderability to atomic spatial reasoning and end-to-end professional synthesis. By supporting the automatic generation of *editable* structured diagrams, mxSRBench has the potential to reduce the cost of creating and iterating professional diagrams in documentation, education, and industrial workflows. Our dataset is constructed via a rule-engine pipeline and LLM-assisted generation with human verification, and does not involve sensitive personal data or harmful content. LLMs were used only to assist manuscript writing (e.g., language polishing) and did not contribute to the core ideas, methodology design, or experimental conclusions.

Limitations

mxSRBench focuses on `mxGraph`-based editable diagrams and does not fully cover other diagram representations such as SVG, TikZ, PPTX, or Figma-native formats. Although it spans six spatial dimensions and 11 professional diagram types, the diagram domain remains broad, and the current dataset scale may not capture the full diversity of real-world professional diagrams.

Ethical Considerations

mxSRBench is designed for evaluating diagrammatic spatial reasoning and editable diagram generation, rather than for making decisions about individuals or high-stakes domains. The benchmark does not involve sensitive personal data, private user information, or harmful content. For T3 topic generation, we use aggregated terminology extracted from publicly available technical documents and diagram examples to capture domain-specific concepts. However, the benchmark does not redistribute original source materials; only synthesized diagram instructions and generated `mxGraph` XML files are released. LLMs are used to assist data synthesis, while the benchmark design, quality control protocol, and experimental conclusions are determined and verified by the authors. We will release the dataset and evaluation toolkit with documentation to support reproducibility, transparency, and responsible use.

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A Appendix Overview

This appendix provides supplementary materials for reproducibility, including additional experimental results (Section B), task definitions and data construction details (Section C), qualitative error cases (Section D) , and complete prompt templates for all tasks (Section E).

B Experimental Results

B.1 Failure Rates for Generation Tracks

To provide additional insight into model performance, we report failure rates for generation tracks where models produce invalid outputs that cannot be evaluated. A failure is defined as an output that (i) violates the T1 XML validity constraints (e.g., malformed XML, duplicate IDs, cyclic references), or (ii) cannot be rendered by the mxGraph engine. These failure rates complement the main results by indicating model reliability—high failure rates suggest that a model struggles with basic XML structure generation, independent of its spatial reasoning capabilities. Notably, some models (e.g., Qwen3-VL-235B) exhibit substantially higher failure rates, particularly for complex diagram types like Gantt and Journey maps. Table 6 and Table 7 report model-level failure rates for T2-Generation and T3-Generation, respectively.

B.2 Human Evaluation for T2-Generation

We validate the reliability of our *Sub-instruction Boolean Verification* by measuring the alignment between the automated judge and human annotators at the *atomic sub-instruction* level (i.e., each boolean question in details).

Discussion. Overall, the judge achieves 96.1% agreement with human annotations (368/383 atomic checks), suggesting that boolean verification provides a reliable proxy for human evaluation in T2-Generation. Table 8 shows representative examples of atomic-level comparisons, and Table 12 provides detailed agreement statistics across all spatial dimensions.

Error analysis. The observed mismatches mainly come from *orientation* and *semantic* checks, where the automated judge may misinterpret relative position relationships (e.g., left/right) or high-level semantics (e.g., whether an element represents a specific concept).

Table 6: Model-level failure rates for T2-Generation.

Model	Failure rate
GLM-4.6	0.00%
Kimi-K2-Instruct-0905	5.86%
MiniMax-M2	9.24%
Qwen3-Coder-480B-A35B-Instruct	0.00%
Qwen3-VL-235B-A22B-Instruct	2.51%
Claude-Opus-4.5	0.00%
Claude-Sonnet-4.5	0.00%
DeepSeek-V3.2	0.11%
Gemini-3-Flash	0.00%
Gemini-3-Pro	0.11%
GPT-5.2	0.00%
GPT-5.2-Codex	0.00%

B.3 Generator and Judge Bias Analysis

To evaluate potential biases from using Gemini for both data generation and evaluation, we analyzed a subset of 20 cases per diagram category for T2 and T3. We first replaced the Gemini judge with GPT-5.4 and Claude-Opus-4.5 and measured the Spearman rank correlations of model average scores. As shown in Table 9, the resulting rankings remain highly consistent with the original Gemini-based evaluation.

Generator Bias Analysis. We further examined whether the data generator affects model rankings. Using the identical subset, we regenerated the data with Claude-Opus-4.5 instead of Gemini and compared model average scores with those on the original Gemini-generated dataset. The Spearman rank correlation remains high at 0.881, indicating that relative model rankings are stable even when the generator changes. Together with the judge-swap results, this suggests that mxSRBench is not dominated by model-family bias from Gemini-based generation or evaluation.

B.4 XML-based Structural Evaluation for T3

To complement the VLM-based evaluation used for professional diagram synthesis, we conduct an additional XML-based structural evaluation on a sampled T3 subset of 110 cases. For each generated diagram and its ground-truth counterpart, we parse the corresponding `mxGraph` XML files into graph representations by extracting nodes, edges, hierarchy, and layout attributes. We then perform approximate bipartite matching between generated and ground-truth elements based on text, shape, hierarchy, and connectivity. The final structural score is computed by averaging the F1 scores of nodes, edges, hierarchy, and layout.

Figure 7: Example of vocabulary grounding errors. The model fails to retrieve correct mxgraph shapes for semantic entities (airplane and gamepad), resulting in fallback to default geometric primitives.

Figure 8: Example of integrity grounding errors. The model omits fine-grained parameters (e.g., `startAngle`) in pie chart generation, disrupting the intended visual layout despite correct high-level intent.

As shown in Table 10, the XML-based structural scores are broadly consistent with the original VLM-based evaluation. Across the evaluated models, the overall Spearman correlation between average VLM scores and XML structural matching scores is 0.8667, indicating that the VLM judge aligns well with explicit structural matching while also capturing visual and semantic quality.

B.5 Evaluation of Specialized Small Models

We further examine whether smaller, specialized models trained on vector-graphics data can reduce the spatial–semantic gap without relying on large general-purpose models. Specifically, we evaluate InternSVG-8B on a sampled T2-QA subset with 20 cases per spatial dimension. As shown in Table 11, InternSVG-8B achieves only 32.9% overall accuracy, with particularly low performance on Topology and Multihop reasoning. These results suggest that specialization on SVG/vector-graphics data alone is insufficient for robust diagrammatic spatial reasoning in `mxGraph`, especially when tasks require explicit topology parsing and compositional spatial inference.

Table 7: Model-level failure rates for T3-Generation, reported by diagram type and overall.

Model	Class	ER	Flow	Gantt	Journey	Mindmap	Others	Pie	Sequence	State	Timeline	Overall
GLM-4.6	1.5%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.32%
Kimi-K2-Instruct-0905	0.5%	35.2%	3.0%	22.0%	36.9%	27.4%	26.7%	0.9%	5.5%	8.5%	10.0%	14.88%
Qwen3-VL-235B-A22B-Instruct	21.5%	34.5%	41.0%	60.5%	82.3%	61.5%	64.4%	24.1%	61.0%	37.0%	83.0%	49.94%
Claude-Opus-4.5	0.5%	2.5%	0.5%	1.5%	8.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.5%	0.0%	0.5%	1.65%
DeepSeek-V3.2	0.0%	19.5%	0.5%	32.5%	56.2%	31.0%	20.0%	0.0%	6.0%	1.5%	26.0%	16.00%
Gemini-3-Flash	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.1%	0.0%	0.5%	0.52%
Gemini-3-Pro	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.5%	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%	6.0%	4.5%	2.18%
GPT-5.2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.37%
GPT-5.2-Codex	3.0%	1.5%	5.0%	0.5%	5.4%	1.5%	2.2%	0.9%	0.0%	6.5%	0.5%	2.44%

Table 8: Atomic-level comparison between the automated judge and human annotations (examples).

CaseID	Dim.	Model	Question	Judge	Human	Match
count.010	count	Claude-Opus-4.5	Are there exactly ten parallelograms present?	T	T	Yes
count.010	count	Claude-Opus-4.5	Is the fill color of the parallelograms brown?	T	T	Yes
metric.005	metric	Qwen3-Coder-480B	Are there two squares present in the drawing?	T	T	Yes
metric.005	metric	Qwen3-Coder-480B	Is the first square 100px wide and 100px high?	T	T	Yes
metric.005	metric	Qwen3-Coder-480B	Is the second square 100px wide and 100px high?	T	T	Yes
metric.005	metric	Qwen3-Coder-480B	Is the horizontal distance between the centers of the two squares 50px?	T	T	Yes
orient.005	orientation	DeepSeek-V3.2	Is there a square with the label 'A'?	F	F	Yes
orient.005	orientation	DeepSeek-V3.2	Is there a square with the label 'B'?	F	F	Yes
orient.005	orientation	DeepSeek-V3.2	Is the square labeled 'B' positioned to the right of the square labeled 'A'?	T	F	No
semantic.006	semantic	Gemini-3-Pro	Is there an element representing a boat shipment?	T	F	No
topology.008	topology	Gemini-3-Flash	Is there a folder shape present in the diagram?	T	T	Yes
topology.008	topology	Gemini-3-Flash	Is there a document icon present in the diagram?	T	T	Yes
topology.008	topology	Gemini-3-Flash	Is the document icon positioned inside the folder shape?	T	T	Yes
transf.005	transformation	Qwen3-VL-235B	Is there a circle with a purple fill color?	T	T	Yes
transf.005	transformation	Qwen3-VL-235B	Is the width and height of the first circle 100px (representing a 50px radius)?	T	T	Yes
transf.005	transformation	Qwen3-VL-235B	Is there a second circle that is a copy of the first?	T	T	Yes
transf.005	transformation	Qwen3-VL-235B	Is the width and height of the second circle 50px (representing a 0.5 scale factor)?	F	F	Yes

Table 9: Spearman rank correlations when replacing the Gemini judge with alternative evaluators.

Evaluator	T2	T3
GPT-5.4	0.979	1.000
Claude-Opus-4.5	0.902	0.939

Table 10: XML-based structural evaluation on a sampled T3 subset of 110 cases.

Model	Struct.	NodeF1	EdgeF1	Hier.F1	Layout
Gemini-3-Pro	66.54	56.43	57.34	67.00	85.39
Claude-Opus-4.5	67.87	55.98	56.78	74.45	84.29
GPT-5.2-Codex	61.66	47.27	51.85	64.12	83.41
Kimi-K2	56.47	45.64	49.84	58.91	71.48

C Task Definitions, Data Construction, and Evaluation Details

This appendix provides implementation-oriented details for the three main benchmark tracks: **T2-QA** (understanding), **T2-Generation** (controllable diagram generation), and **T3-Generation** (professional diagram synthesis). For each track, we summarize (i) task definition, (ii) dataset construction, and (iii) evaluation details to facilitate reproducibility.

C.1 T2-QA (Understanding)

C.1.1 Task definition

T2-QA evaluates a model's ability to answer spatial questions grounded in a given mxGraph XML diagram. The input consists of a mxGraph XML code and a natural-language question q, and the

Table 11: T2-QA accuracy of InternSVG-8B on 20 samples per category.

Model	Cnt	Geo	Met	Ori	Sem	Top	Multi
InternSVG-8B	35.0	30.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	25.0	20.0

Table 12: Agreement between the automated judge and human annotators on randomly sampled T2_Generation cases. We report agreement at the atomic question level.

Category	#Questions	Disagree	Agree (%)
count	40	0	100.0
metric	92	1	98.9
orientation	86	4	95.3
semantic	46	3	93.5
topology	78	4	94.9
transformation	41	3	92.7
Average	**383**	**15**	**96.1**

model outputs an answer a chosen from a fixed candidate set (e.g., $K = 4$ options). Questions cover six spatial dimensions: Count, Metric, Topology, Geometric Transformation, Orientation, and Semantic (summarized in Table 13).

C.1.2 Dataset construction

We adopt an LLM-generation + human verification paradigm. For each of the six spatial dimensions (Count, Metric, Topology, Orientation, Geometric Transformation, and Semantic), we prompt an LLM to directly generate a draw.io case (`mxGraph` XML) together with a corresponding QA pair that targets the intended capability. The prompts enforce that the generated diagram contains the necessary primitives and relations for that dimension, and that the question admits an objective answer grounded in the XML. After generation, we conduct a per-instance human verification pass: annotators open or inspect the `mxGraph` XML to check the factual correctness of the proposed answer, revise incorrect answers, and discard ambiguous or under-specified questions. This procedure yields a broad yet precise understanding dataset with reliable ground truth.

C.1.3 Evaluation details

We treat T2-QA as a discriminative task and report **Accuracy**. A prediction is counted as correct only if the model outputs the exact ground-truth option label. We use micro-averaging across all questions and also report per-dimension accuracy to diagnose capability gaps.

Table 13: **Spatial Reasoning Taxonomy.** Summary of the 6 fundamental dimensions in T2 tasks.

Dimension	Description
Count	Evaluates the model's ability to accurately identify and enumerate basic chart primitives (e.g., nodes, edges) and perform categorical statistics in complex visual scenarios, handling occlusion and dense arrangements.
Geometric Transformation	Tests the model's capacity to mentally simulate affine transformations (e.g., rotation, scaling) based on textual instructions and predict the resulting geometric state without visual updates.
Metric	Assesses the precision in extracting quantitative attributes (e.g., coordinates, dimensions) and executing mathematical calculations derived from visual features.
Orientation	Examines the ability to establish reference frames and reason about relative positions, directions, and distances using specific elements as anchor points.
Semantic	Evaluates the interpretation of high-level logic and symbolic meanings, mapping geometric shapes to concepts and inferring relationships or narratives within the chart context.
Topology	Focuses on qualitative judgments of structural relationships, requiring identification of connectivity, containment, and overlap between elements regardless of deformation.

C.2 T2-Generation (Controllable Diagram Generation)

C.2.1 Task definition

T2-Generation measures whether a model can translate a natural-language instruction I into a valid `mxGraph` XML diagram $\hat{X}$ that satisfies fine-grained spatial constraints (e.g., coordinates, sizes, alignments, ordering, containment, and connectivity). Instructions are grouped into the same six spatial dimensions as T2-QA, but require structured generation rather than selection.

C.2.2 Dataset construction

We construct T2-Generation data with an LLM-in-the-loop pipeline. For each of the six spatial dimensions, we first prompt an LLM to produce instructions that explicitly specifies the intended spatial constraints. We then prompt a diagram-generation LLM to synthesize the corresponding draw.io case (`mxGraph` XML) conditioned on the instruction. Finally, we perform a human filtering stage: annotators inspect and, if needed, correct the generated case to ensure that it strictly satisfies the instruction, and the verified XML is treated as the

Figure 9: Example of constraint propagation errors in Gantt chart generation. The model produces incorrect time axes and converts milestones into duration bars, violating scheduling semantics.

Table 14: **Diagram Type Categories.**

Category	Diagram Types
Software Engineering	Class Diagram, Sequence Diagram, State Diagram, and ER Diagram.
Process & Project Management	Flowchart, Gantt, Timeline, and Journey.
Knowledge Organization	Mindmap.
Data Visualization	Pie.
Others	Quadrant Chart, Requirement Diagram, and GitGraph

ground-truth target for that instruction.

C.2.3 Evaluation details

We evaluate T2-Generation using **Decomposed Requirements Following Ratio (DRFR)**. Given an instruction I, we decompose it into a checklist of atomic requirements $\mathcal{R}$ (e.g., attribute constraints, geometric constraints, and topological constraints). For each requirement $r \in \mathcal{R}$, we use a VLM-based verifier to produce a binary judgment by conditioning on the model-generated mxGraph XML $\hat{X}$ and its rendered PNG. The verifier prompt asks the VLM to check r against the provided XML/visual evidence and to output whether it is satisfied. DRFR is computed as the fraction of satisfied requirements, and we report both average DRFR and per-dimension DRFR.

C.3 T3-Generation (Professional Diagram Synthesis)

C.3.1 Task definition

T3-Generation evaluates a model's ability to synthesize complex, domain-specific diagrams that follow professional conventions (e.g., UML, ER, Gantt) from high-level natural-language specifica-

tions. Compared with T2-Generation, T3 places greater emphasis on multi-component structure, semantic coherence, and style conventions, in addition to basic spatial correctness.

C.3.2 Dataset construction

T3-Generation (Professional Diagrams) is built with an LLM-assisted pipeline. Eleven diagram types are defined and domain-specific word clouds are built from real-world corpora to capture characteristic terminology. These keywords guide Gemini-3-Pro to generate diverse diagram descriptions, which are then translated into Mermaid code and programmatically converted to draw.io (mxGraph XML) via the Draw.io engine. Finally, Gemini-3-Pro regenerates task instructions from the converted XML to ensure instruction–diagram alignment.

C.3.3 Evaluation details

We evaluate T3-Generation with a VLM-based judge. Specifically, we render both the ground-truth mxGraph XML and the model-generated mxGraph XML into PNG images, and feed the VLM with (i) the ground-truth rendering, (ii) the generated rendering, and (iii) a type-specific evaluation prompt that highlights key criteria for each of the 11 professional diagram categories (e.g., required entities, relations, and conventions). The VLM outputs a similarity/quality score (reported as VLM score in %), which we aggregate across categories and also report per-category performance.

D Error Case Examples

This section provides representative qualitative failure cases referenced in the main paper, covering (i) semantic vocabulary grounding failures (Fig. 7), (ii) missing critical parameters that break visual integrity (Fig. 8), and (iii) constraint-propagation errors in structured diagrams such as Gantt charts and sequence diagrams (Fig. 9, Fig. 10).

E Prompts

E.1 T2-Generation: Requirement Decomposition Prompt

> **T2-Generation: Requirement Decomposition Prompt**
>
> ```
> You are a Requirement Analyst for a Draw.io
>     XML generation task.
> Your goal is to decompose the user's drawing
>     requirement into a list of specific,
>     verifiable Yes/No questions (Checklist)
> ```

Ground-Truth Figure   **Generated Figure**

Figure 10: Example of constraint propagation errors in sequence diagram generation. The model exhibits message collisions, loss of temporal ordering, and systematic omission of critical UML elements (activation bars, return messages).

```
        for automated evaluation.
Rules:
1. Source Language: The user prompt might be
   in Chinese or English. Understand it in
   its original language.
2. Target Language: The output checklist
   MUST be in English.
3. Format: Output a JSON Object with a
   single key "checklist" containing the
   list of strings.
   Example: {"checklist": ["Question 1?",
       "Question 2?"]}
4. Focus (Strictly based on User Input):
   - Check for Entities (Is the specific
       shape/object present?).
   - Check for Attributes ONLY IF explicitly
       mentioned (e.g., size, color, text).
   - Check for Relationships ONLY IF
       explicitly described (e.g., A
       connects to B, distance is 100px).
5. Anti-Hallucination Guidelines (CRITICAL):
   - DO NOT verify default styles. If the
       user does not specify a color, do not
       ask "Is the fill color white?".
   - DO NOT verify default sizes. If the user
       does not mention size, do not ask "Is
       the width 120px?".
   - DO NOT infer unstated logic. If the user
       just says "two squares", do not ask
       "Are they aligned horizontally?"
       unless the user asked for alignment.
   - ONLY generate questions for constraints
       that are explicitly stated in the
       User Task.
6. Examples:
   - User: "Draw a red square."
```

```
   - Good: ["Is there a square?", "Is the
       square red?"]
   - Bad: ["Is the square 80x80px?", "Is
       the border black?"] (User didn't
       specify size or border).
```

E.2 T2/T3-Generation: Draw.io XML Generation Prompt (Template)

T2-Generation: Draw.io XML Generation Prompt (Template)

```
You are a professional Draw.io
    (diagrams.net) XML Generation Engine.
    Your sole task is to generate strict,
    grammatically correct XML code based on
    user descriptions.

# Core Task
Convert the user's natural language
    description into Draw.io XML format. You
    must simultaneously satisfy both
    "Technical Formatting Constraints" and
    "Style Logic".
# 1. Strict Technical Constraints
You must strictly adhere to the following
    XML construction rules. Any violation
    will result in a corrupted file:
1. XML Skeleton:
   - The output must be raw XML. DO NOT
       include Markdown code block markers
       (e.g., triple backticks ```xml). DO
       NOT include any comments or
       explanatory text.
   - The file must start with `<mxfile
       host="Electron" ...>` and end with
       `</mxfile>`.
```

- It must contain the complete hierarchy:
  `<mxfile><diagram><mxGraphModel><root>`
  `...`
  `</root></mxGraphModel></diagram>`.
2. Geometry Attributes:
   - The `mxCell` tag MUST NOT directly contain geometry attributes (`x`, `y`, `width`, `height`).
   - You MUST nest a `<mxGeometry x="..." y="..." width="..." height="..." as="geometry"/>` tag inside the `mxCell`.
   - For Edges: The `<mxGeometry>` tag must include `relative="1"`, and source/target points are defined by `source` and `target` attributes (referencing node IDs).
   - Vertices must explicitly declare `vertex="1"` in the `mxCell` tag (e.g., `<mxCell id="2" ... vertex="1">`). Edges must declare `edge="1"`.
3. Content & Escaping (Value):
   - `value` attribute: Stores the text displayed on the node.
   - Default: Unless the user explicitly requests text, the `value` for all nodes and edges must be empty (`value=""`).
   - Critical Escaping Rules: In XML attribute values, `<` must be written as `<`, `>` as `>`, `"` as `"`, and `&` as `&`.
   - For simple text (newlines), use `
`. For complex formatting, the `style` must include `html=1`, but HTML tags inside `value` must be escaped (e.g., `Text`).
4. Canvas Settings:
   - Coordinate System: (0,0) is the top-left corner.
   - Default Dimensions: `pageWidth="850"` `pageHeight="1100"`.
5. Default Element Dimensions:
   - Circle, Square, Rhombus, Ellipse: `width="80" height="80"` (80x80 pixels).
   - Other standard shapes (Rectangle, Rounded Rectangle, Process): `width="120" height="60"` (120x60 pixels).
   - Override: If the user explicitly specifies dimensions or aspect ratios, follow the user's requirements. Otherwise, use these defaults in `<mxGeometry .../>`.

2. Style Logic
To ensure consistency, all elements must be built based on the following base style strings. Only replace specific values if the user explicitly requests a modification.

Base Templates
Use the following strings as the foundation for the `style` attribute:
(A) Default Vertex Style:
`shape=rectangle;whiteSpace=wrap;html=1`
* *Logic*: Unless the user says "red background", `fillColor` must remain `#FFFFFF`. Unless the user says "rounded", `rounded` must be `0`.
(B) Default Edge Style:
`edgeStyle=orthogonalEdgeStyle`
* *Logic*: Default is an orthogonal line (`orthogonalEdgeStyle`), black, with an end arrow.
(C) Default Text Style:
`text;html=1;strokeColor=none;fillColor=none;`
3. Generation Steps (Think Step-by-Step)
1. Parse: Analyze the user request to identify Nodes (Vertices), Connections (Edges), and Text.
2. ID Assignment: Assign a unique numeric ID to each element (e.g., "2", "3", "4"...). IDs "0" and "1" are reserved for the `<root>` layer.
3. Process Each Element:
   - Determine the Type (A, B, or C).
   - Load the corresponding Base Template string.
   - Modify specific Key-Value pairs in the string based on user description (e.g., change `fillColor`).
   - Determine coordinates (x, y) and dimensions (width, height).
4. Assemble XML:
   - Insert the processed style string into `style="..."`.
   - Insert the escaped text into `value="..."`.
   - Insert coordinates/dimensions into `<mxGeometry ... />`.
5. Output: Generate the final XML code without any Markdown wrapping.
Output Requirements (Re-emphasized)
- Output raw XML code only. NO explanations, NO Markdown code block markers.
- Strictly adhere to the "Technical Constraints" and "Style Logic" defined above.
- Use default canvas size `pageWidth="850"` `pageHeight="1100"` unless specified otherwise.
- Apply strictly escaped characters for text; place all geometry attributes inside `<mxGeometry .../>`.

E.3 T2-Generation: Instruction Generation Prompt (Projection)

T2-Generation: Instruction Generation Prompt (Projection)

```
System Role: Expert in constructing
    benchmarks for Text-to-Diagram
    generation tasks.

Objective: Generate 100 prompts to evaluate
    spatial reasoning across five
    topological dimensions.

Dataset Taxonomy (20 prompts per dimension):
1. Cardinal Orientation:
    - Definition: Orthogonal relationships
        (Up, Down, Left, Right).
    - Example: "Node A is placed to the right
        of Node B."
2. Intercardinal Orientation:
    - Definition: Diagonal relationships
        (Top-Left, Top-Right, Bottom-Left,
        Bottom-Right).
    - Example: "The logo is in the top-right
        corner of the container."
3. Sequential Alignment:
    - Definition: Linear arrangement of three
        or more elements.
    - Example: "A is left of B, and C is
        right of B."
4. Structural Layouts:
    - Definition: Recognizable geometric
        shapes or grids (L, V, T, Cross, 3x3
        Grid).
    - Example: "Five nodes in a cross shape
        with A at the center."
5. Radial & Centric Layouts:
    - Definition: Central anchor with
        peripheral elements.
    - Example: "A circular hub in the center,
        surrounded by four rectangular
        nodes."

Output: Numbered list (1-100), grouped by
    dimensions, unambiguous and solvable.
```

E.4 T2-Generation: Automated Judge Prompt

T2-Generation: Automated Judge Prompt

```
You are a QA Specialist for Draw.io diagrams.
Your task is to verify if a given Draw.io
    diagram satisfies a specific Yes/No
    question.
You are provided with TWO sources of
    information:
1. The Diagram Image: A visual rendering of
    the diagram.
2. The XML Code: The underlying source code
    of the diagram.
Rules:
```

```
1. Primary Source - The Image: Generally,
    prioritize the visual information
    provided by the image. Use it to judge
    existence, shape, color, relative
    positions, connections, and overall
    layout.
    - Do not rely on the XML for visual
        attributes that can be directly
        observed (e.g., "Is the box red?",
        "Is A above B?", "Is there a
        circle?"). The XML might contain
        hidden or overridden attributes that
        do not reflect the final render.
2. Secondary Source - The XML (ONLY for
    Specific Metrics): Consult the XML code
    ONLY when the question requires
    verifying precise numerical values or
    hidden properties that cannot be
    visually estimated accurately.
    - Specific Metrics: Rotation angles (e.g.,
        "rotated by 45 degrees"), exact
        dimensions (width, height, length),
        coordinates, distances, area,
        perimeter, specific style parameter
        values, or metadata.
    - Example: For "Is the width 100px?",
        visually you cannot measure pixels,
        so you MUST check the XML
        `width="100"` attribute.
    - Example: For "Is it rotated 45
        degrees?", check the XML
        `rotation="45"` style.
3. Conflict Resolution:
    - If the question is about visual
        appearance (e.g., color, shape),
        trust the Image.
    - If the question is about precise metrics
        (e.g., size, angle), trust the XML.
4. Answer Format: You must output a JSON
    object with a single key "answer".
    - If the condition is met: {"answer":
        "YES"}
    - If not met: {"answer": "NO"}
5. Ignore Irrelevant Details: Focus only on
    what the question asks.

Does the diagram satisfy the question?
    Respond with JSON.
```

E.5 T2-QA: Answering Prompt

T2-QA: Answering Prompt

```
You are a diagram analysis assistant. Answer
    the question based on the Draw.io
    mxGraph XML.

[Diagram XML]
{drawio_code}
[Context Rules]
1. "element X" refers to the element with
    value "X".
2. Containment != Intersection.
```

```
3. Adjacency != Separation.
[Question]
{question}
[Options]
{options_text}
[Strict Output Instructions]
1. Analyze the topology carefully.
2. Choose one letter (A, B, C, or D).
3. Output ONLY the letter. Do not include
      any reasoning, headers, or punctuation.
```

1279

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E.6   T2-QA: Draw.io Generation Prompt (Topology)

T2-QA: Draw.io Generation Prompt (Topology)

Generate a complete Draw.io XML file with at least 4 elements demonstrating containment, adjacency, separation, and intersection. No restrictions on shape or color. Use this example as a reference and create a randomized result:
```
<mxGraphModel dx="723" dy="719" grid="1"
    gridSize="10" guides="1" tooltips="1"
    connect="1" arrows="1" fold="1" page="1"
    pageScale="1" pageWidth="850"
    pageHeight="1100" background="#ffffff"
    math="0" shadow="0">
```
Requirements: No comments. Set value attributes sequentially (1, 2, 3...). Diagram id and mxfile etag must be empty strings. Use inline CSS styles instead of HTML attributes. Vertices must include vertex="1". Output full skeleton `<mxfile><diagram><mxGraphModel><root>` and close all tags. Output only XML. All geometry must be in `<mxGeometry>`.

1282

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1284

E.7   T2-QA: QA Pair Generation Prompt (Topology)

T2-QA: QA Pair Generation Prompt (Topology)

Task
Based on the given DrawIO code and the topology relationships (separation, intersection, adjacency, and containment), generate questions asking about the number of elements under each topology relationship condition. For example, you might ask:
- "If element '1' (the large gray rectangle) is moved vertically downwards by 21 units, how many elements will be geometrically contained within it?"
- For the separation category, generate questions related to how many elements will remain separated after transformations. You can refer the example but do not copy it and you should become creative and random.

DrawIO Code

1285

```xml
[INSERT_DRAWIO_XML_CODE_HERE]
```

Reference Questions (Optional)
[INSERT_FEW_SHOT_EXAMPLES_HERE]
(e.g., Question: ..., Options: ..., Answer:
      ...)

Requirements
1. Keep Core Knowledge Consistent: The question should test similar topology relationship knowledge as the reference questions (e.g., disjoint, contained, overlapping, intersecting, etc.)
2. Moderately Increase Difficulty: Add one of the following complexities to the original question:
   - Multi-step reasoning (e.g., "what happens after moving/rotating/scaling")
   - Quantitative calculations (e.g., distance, area, percentage)
   - Multiple constraint conditions
   - Prediction or optimization problems
3. Don't Deviate from the Theme:
   - Don't introduce physical laws (except basic geometric motion)
   - Don't introduce overly specialized concepts
   - Stay within topology relationships and position reasoning
4. Must Include Explanation Field:
   - Mark difficulty features (e.g., "[x] Multi-step motion tracking")
   - Detailed calculation steps
   - Clear reasoning process

Output Format (JSON)
Please strictly follow this JSON format, without any other text:
```
{
  "Question": "Question content in
      English...",
  "Option": [
    "A. Option A in English...",
    "B. Option B in English...",
    "C. Option C in English...",
    "D. Option D in English..."
  ],
  "Answer": "A",

}
```

Important Notes
- Question must be in English: Complete question sentence in English
- Options must be in English: All 4 options (A/B/C/D) in English
- Answer must be one of A/B/C/D
- Do not add any explanation text outside the JSON

1286

E.8 T3-Generation:Instruction Generation Prompt

T3-Generation:Instruction Generation Prompt

```
# Role
You are a professional Draw.io
    (diagrams.net) XML Reverse Engineering
    Expert. Your task is to read a piece of
    Draw.io XML code and "translate" it into
    a structurally clear,
    instruction-explicit natural language
    task description.

# Goal
This task description will be used to guide
    another AI to generate XML code.
    Therefore, your description must
    accurately capture the diagram's
    content, logical structure, visual
    style, and connectivity.
The specific chart type is: {CHART_TYPE}.
    Please strictly use this type in your
    output.

# Analysis Steps (Chain of Thought)
Before generating the description, please
    perform the following analysis:
1. Extract Core Entities (Vertices):
    - Extract text from the `value` attribute
        (ignore HTML tags, keep only core
        text).
    - Analyze `style` attributes: Shape
        (`shape`), Fill Color (`fillColor`),
        Border Color (`strokeColor`), and
        Special Styles (e.g., `swimlane`).
2. Analyze Connections (Edges):
    - Determine flow direction based on
        `source` and `target` IDs.
    - Analyze text on the connection lines
        (if any).
    - Analyze line styles
        (Solid/Dashed/Orthogonal/Curved).
3. Infer Layout Logic:
    - Observe `x` and `y` coordinates. Are
        elements arranged Top-to-Bottom?
        Left-to-Right? Or is there a
        nesting/container relationship?

# Output Format
Please generate the task description
    following the structure below (do not
    output the XML analysis process, only
    the description text):

---
Chart Type: {CHART_TYPE}

Overall Layout: [Describe how elements are
    arranged, e.g., All elements are
    arranged sequentially from top to bottom]

Visual Style:
- [Describe general color or shape styles,
    e.g., Nodes mainly use rounded
    rectangles, white background, key nodes
    are red]

Node Content & Details:
1. [Node ID or Name]: [Description]
    - Shape: [e.g., Rhombus/Rectangle]
    - Color: [If there is a specific color,
        please specify, e.g., Red background]
    - Text Content: "[Put text here]"

2. ... (List all main nodes)

Connections:
- [Node A] -> [Node B]: [Describe arrow
    direction, mention if there is text on
    the line]
- [Node C] -> [Node D]
---

# Rules & Constraints
1. Ignore Metadata: Do not mention technical
    details like `<mxfile host...>` or
    `id="0"`.
2. Color Translation: If `fillColor` is a
    Hex code (e.g., #FF0000), try to
    translate it into natural language
    (e.g., "Red"). If it is a complex custom
    color, keep the Hex code.
3. Container Recognition: If the XML
    contains `swimlane` or `group`, you must
    explicitly describe this containment
    relationship (e.g., "There is a
    container named 'Student', which
    contains... attributes").
4. Simplify: If multiple nodes share the
    exact same style, you can combine the
    description (e.g., "Create 3 rectangle
    nodes, with text A, B, and C
    respectively").
```

E.9 T3 Data Construction: Word Cloud Keyword Extraction Prompt

T3-Generation: VLM Judge Prompt (Class Diagram)

```
Based on the provided diagram image,
    extract and list the most important
    keywords and concepts that represent
    the core elements of this
    system/process.

Requirements:
- Identify 15-25 key terms from the diagram
- Focus on technical terms, component
    names, and important concepts
```

```
    - Include both nouns (components, tools)
        and verbs (actions, processes)
    - Weight terms by importance (you can
        indicate this with frequency)
    - Output as a simple comma-separated list

    Format: keyword1, keyword2, keyword3, ...
    ```
```

## E.10   T3 Data Construction: Diagram Description Generation Prompt

### T3-Generation: VLM Judge Prompt (Class Diagram)

```
Analyze the provided diagram image and
    generate a comprehensive description of
    the system or process it represents.

Requirements:
- Provide a clear overview of what this
    diagram illustrates (2-3 sentences)
- Explain the main workflow or process flow
    (step-by-step if applicable)
- Identify key components, tools, or
    technologies involved
- Describe the relationships and data flow
    between components
- Highlight any important inputs, outputs,
    or transformations
- Keep the tone professional and technical
- Length: 200-300 words

Structure:
1. Overview
2. Main Process/Workflow
3. Key Components
4. Purpose/Outcome
```
```

E.11   T3 Data Construction: Mermaid Diagram Generation Prompt

T3-Generation: VLM Judge Prompt (Class Diagram)

```
Based on the provided diagram image,
    recreate it as a Mermaid diagram using
    appropriate Mermaid syntax.

Requirements:
- Analyze the diagram type (flowchart,
    sequence diagram, graph, etc.)
- Use the most suitable Mermaid diagram type
- Preserve all nodes, components, and
    connections shown in the image
- Maintain the logical flow and
    relationships
- Include all labels and text annotations
- Use clear and descriptive node IDs
- Add styling if the original has visual
    distinctions (colors, shapes)
```

```
Output only the Mermaid code block,
    starting with:
```mermaid
[diagram type]
[diagram content]
```

Choose from these common Mermaid types
    based on the image:
- graph TD/LR (flowchart
    top-down/left-right)
- sequenceDiagram
- classDiagram
- stateDiagram-v2
- journey
```
```

E.12   T3-Generation: VLM Judge Prompt (Class Diagram)

T3-Generation: VLM Judge Prompt (Class Diagram)

```
# Role
You are a senior UML diagram visual
    reviewer. Your task is to compare two
    UML class diagrams:
1. Ground Truth Image (Standard Answer):
    The correct reference diagram.
2. Generated Image (Test Diagram): The
    AI-generated diagram.

# Input Data
1. Ground Truth Image (Standard Reference -
    GT)
2. Generated Image (Test Generation - Gen)

# Evaluation Goal
Please ignore font styles, background
    colors, or pixel-level alignment
    differences. Focus on evaluating
    whether the semantic logic and visual
    specifications are consistent with the
    Ground Truth (GT).

# Scoring Criteria (Total 100 Points)

Please score based on visual comparison:

## 1. Entity & Content Completeness
    (Content Completeness) - 40 Points
*Check text content (OCR capability test)*
* Class/Interface Existence: Do all classes
    and interfaces in GT appear in the
    generated diagram? (Deduct 10 points
    for each omission)
* Text Accuracy: Are the spellings of class
    names, attributes (fields), and method
    names exactly the same? Are visibility
    symbols (+, -, #) missing? (Deduct 2
    points for each error)
* Type Markers: Do interfaces have
    <interface> or <<interface>> visual
    markers?
```

2. Relationship Semantic Consistency (Relationship Semantics) - 40 Points
This is the most critical part of UML evaluation, please carefully distinguish the shapes of line terminals
* Line Type: Solid vs. Dashed. If GT is dashed (e.g., implementation, dependency) and the generated diagram draws it as solid, it is considered a serious error. (Deduct 5 points for each instance)
* Arrow Shape: Please strictly distinguish the following styles by visual features:
   * Inheritance: Empty Triangle
   * Association: Open Arrow / No Arrow
   * Aggregation: Empty Diamond
   * Composition: Filled Diamond
   * Criterion: If the arrow shape in the generated diagram is inconsistent with GT (e.g., drawing "Filled Diamond" as "Empty Diamond"), this is a serious semantic error. (Deduct 10 points for each instance)
* Direction: Is the direction of the arrow consistent with GT? (Deduct 10 points for reversed direction)

3. Layout & Visual Structure (Layout & Structure) - 20 Points
Evaluate the readability of the diagram
* Topological Structure: Although coordinates do not need to be exactly the same, the relative positional relationship should be reasonable. For example, if the Parent class is at the top in GT, it should not be at the bottom in the generated diagram.
* Occlusion & Overlap: Are there connecting lines crossing text or boxes covering each other, making them unreadable? (Deduct 20 points for serious occlusion)
* Line Tidiness: Are connecting lines correctly connected to the edges of boxes, rather than hanging in the air or inserted inside boxes?

Output Format (JSON)

Please output the following JSON format:

```json
{
  "score": {
    "content_completeness": 0,
    "relationship_semantics": 0,
    "layout_structure": 0,
    "total": 0
  },
  "audit_report": {
    "missing_elements": ["List missing
        classes or methods, enter None if
        none"],
    "relationship_errors": ["List specific
        class pairs with wrong arrow shapes
        or line types, e.g.: 'User->Order
        should be Composition (Filled
        Diamond), but generated as
```

        Aggregation (Empty Diamond)'"],
    "visual_defects": "Briefly describe
        occlusion, overlap, or text
        garbling issues"
  },
  "verdict": "Production Ready / Needs
      Correction / Unusable"
}
```