Do MLLMs Really Understand Space? A Mathematical Spatial Reasoning Evaluation

Abstract

Multimodal large language models (MLLMs) have achieved strong performance on perception-oriented tasks, yet their ability to perform mathematical spatial reasoning, defined as the capacity to parse and manipulate two- and three-dimensional relations, remains unclear. While humans easily master textbook-style spatial problems, current MLLMs exhibit substantially higher error rates, exposing a fundamental weakness in spatial comprehension. To investigate this gap, we present *MathSpatial*, the first large-scale and systematic dataset resource dedicated to mathematical spatial reasoning in MLLMs. *MathSpatial* provides two complementary subsets: *MathSpatial-Bench* (2,000 problems) for evaluating spatial reasoning isolated from perceptual noise, and *MathSpatial-Corpus* (8,000 problems) equipped with structured reasoning traces for training. Benchmarking 20+ MLLMs reveals a severe deficit: non-reasoning models largely languish below 60% accuracy, and even the strongest reasoning models fall ~16 percentage points behind human performance (96.3%). Crucially, we demonstrate that fine-tuning on *MathSpatial-Corpus* yields consistent performance gains across model families. *MathSpatial* provides a vital resource for diagnosing and advancing spatial reasoning in MLLMs. The dataset and related resources are available at https://anonymous.4open.science/r/MathSpatial.

1 Introduction

Multimodal large language models (MLLMs) have advanced rapidly on perception-oriented tasks (Sarto et al., 2025; Kuang et al., 2025; Ye et al., 2025). However, whether MLLMs can truly perform spatial reasoning, the ability to parse and manipulate 2D and 3D relationships, remains an open question. This ability is central to higher-level cognition and underpins applications such as robotic manipulation (Yuan et al., 2025), autonomous driving (Tian et al., 2025), and embodied intelligence (Feng et al., 2025), yet we find current models frequently fail on problems that humans solve with ease, as shown in Figure 1(a).

Existing research (Zha et al., 2025; Tang et al., 2025) on spatial reasoning has made notable progress, yet current resources suffer from three key limitations (Figure 1b). First, many benchmarks embed tasks in visually complex scenes (Ma et al., 2025; Wang et al., 2024; Jia et al., 2025), where rendered details introduce perceptual confounds that lead to errors prior to reasoning, obscuring the clear analysis of spatial reasoning abilities. Second, the field has not provided large-scale, high-quality training corpora for spatial reasoning, as shown in Table 1, creating a data bottleneck that limits systematic model improvement. Third, most methods treat spatial reasoning as an end-to-end black-box mapping (Chen et al., 2024a; Ray et al., 2024), without interpretable intermediate supervision, making it difficult to diagnose failure modes or provide targeted improvements.

Building on these insights, we introduce *MathSpatial*, a large-scale dataset and benchmark ecosystem for mathematical spatial reasoning in MLLMs. Grounded in simple yet diagnostic mathematical spatial problems, *MathSpatial* advances the field along three dimensions: *rigorous evaluation* through a carefully curated benchmark, *large-scale training data* with verified solutions, and *structured annotations* that support interpretable reasoning, providing a systematic foundation for both future research and advanced model development.

To mitigate *perceptual confounds*, *MathSpatial-Bench* provides 2,000 evaluation problems using clean geometric diagrams with minimal background and texture, isolating reasoning from visual noise. It spans three categories—Holistic Recognition, Generative Inference, and Abstract Deduction—across 11 subtypes, enabling fine-

Figure 1: Left: On *MathSpatial-Bench*, humans achieve over 95% accuracy while most non-reasoning MLLMs remain below 60%; even GPT-5 falls short of human-level performance. Right: Three core challenges of spatial reasoning and the design of *MathSpatial* to address them.

grained diagnostic analysis. On this benchmark, humans achieve 95%+ accuracy while most non-reasoning MLLMs remain below 60%, and even the strongest reasoning model reaches only ∼80%. To address *data scarcity*, *MathSpatial-Corpus* offers 8,000 training problems sourced from textbooks and exam banks spanning primary to high school levels, covering tasks from three-view recognition to geometric property calculation, each with human-verified solutions. To enable *interpretable reasoning*, each problem is further annotated with structured reasoning traces composed of three atomic operations (CORRELATE, CONSTRAIN, and INFER) providing explicit intermediate supervision beyond black-box training. All data undergoes multi-stage quality control including geometric consistency checking, cross-split deduplication, and solution verification.

In summary, our contributions are threefold:

- We collect and release *MathSpatial*, a large-scale dataset of over 10,000 high-quality spatial reasoning problems with multi-stage quality control. It consists of *MathSpatial-Bench* (2K problems across 3 categories and 11 subtypes) for diagnostic evaluation and *MathSpatial-Corpus* (8K problems with human-verified solutions) for training, representing the largest dedicated resource for mathematical spatial reasoning in MLLMs.
- We provide structured reasoning annotations for all instances within the *MathSpatial-Corpus*, grounded in three atomic operations (CORRELATE, CONSTRAIN, and INFER). This yields interpretable intermediate supervision to

catalyze future research in spatial reasoning.
- We benchmark 20+ leading MLLMs on *MathSpatial-Bench*. Conventional models struggle to surpass 60% accuracy, and even the most advanced reasoning models lag behind human performance (96.3%). Furthermore, our in-depth error analysis identifies geometric rule violations and logical reasoning gaps as the predominant failure modes hindering further progress.

2 Related Work

2.1 MLLM Spatial Reasoning

Multimodal large language models (MLLMs) integrate textual and visual modalities and have demonstrated remarkable potential across vision–language tasks (Li et al., 2023; Chen et al., 2024b; Bai et al., 2025; Phan et al., 2025). Recent studies indicate that MLLMs exhibit emerging spatial reasoning abilities, such as object-relation understanding, mental rotation, and geometric transformation (Yang et al., 2025a; Li et al., 2025; Wang et al., 2025b), typically enhanced through supervised fine-tuning on curated datasets. For instance, SpatialVLM (Chen et al., 2024a) and SAT (Ray et al., 2024) leverage geometric labels and spatial rules, while MM-Spatial (Daxberger et al., 2025) and Spatial-MLLM (Wu et al., 2025) employ multi-view 3D scenes and large-scale corpora to strengthen cross-view reasoning. However, these approaches rely on free-form CoT supervision and lack large-scale, systematically curated training data for mathematical spatial reasoning, a gap that

Table 1: Comparison with existing spatial/geometry reasoning benchmarks. *Bilingual*: multi-language support; *Spatial Focus*: emphasis on spatial reasoning over perception-heavy tasks; *Train Set*: availability of training data.

Dataset	#Tasks	#Samples	Bilingual	Spatial Focus	Train Set
EmbSpatial-Bench (Du et al., 2024)	6	3,640	✗	✗	✓
Space3D-Bench (Szymańska et al., 2024)	6	211	✗	✗	✗
SpatialRGPT-Bench (Cheng et al., 2024)	12	1,406	✗	✗	✓
BLINK-Spatial (Fu et al., 2024)	14	286	✗	✗	✗
SpatialVLM (Chen et al., 2024a)	2	546	✗	✗	✓
GeoEval (Zhang et al., 2024)	3	5,050	✗	✗	✗
3DSRBench (Ma et al., 2025)	4	6,942	✗	✗	✗
SOLIDGEO (Wang et al., 2025a)	8	3,113	✓	✓	✗
SpatialBot-Bench (Cai et al., 2025)	5	200	✗	✗	✓
VSI-Bench (Yang et al., 2025a)	8	288	✗	✗	✗
OmniSpatial (Jia et al., 2025)	50	1,387	✗	✗	✗
MathSpatial (Ours)	**11**	**10,000**	✓	✓	✓

Figure 2: *MathSpatial* source data construction pipeline: Data Collection and Curation → Standardization → Geometric Consistency Checking → Solution Verification.

MathSpatial-Corpus directly addresses.

2.2 Spatial Reasoning Benchmarks

Several benchmarks have been proposed to evaluate spatial reasoning in MLLMs (Ma et al., 2025; Wang et al., 2024). SpatialEval (Wang et al., 2024) examines spatial relations through modality-controlled tasks; GeoEval (Zhang et al., 2024) aggregates geometry problems in text and diagram formats; 3DSRBench (Ma et al., 2025) tests robustness across viewpoints; and OmniSpatial (Jia et al., 2025) covers dynamic reasoning and perspective-taking. However, most existing benchmarks are evaluation-only and involve high-perception scenarios such as natural scenes and 3D environments (Yang et al., 2025b; Stogiannidis et al., 2025), making it difficult to assess pure reasoning ability in isolation. *MathSpatial* addresses this by providing clean geometric diagrams that eliminate perceptual confounds, paired with a large-scale training corpus, the first unified resource designed not merely to expose the reasoning deficits of MLLMs, but to systematically overcome them.

3 MathSpatial

3.1 Overview

In this section, we present *MathSpatial*, a large-scale dataset for evaluating and advancing mathematical spatial reasoning. It comprises 10K problems: 2K form *MathSpatial-Bench* for diagnostic evaluation and 8K form *MathSpatial-Corpus* for systematic training. Beyond standard problem-solution pairs, every item in the corpus is annotated with structured reasoning traces (*MathSpatial-SRT*) organized around three atomic operations (CORRELATE, CONSTRAIN, INFER), providing intermediate supervision that goes beyond conventional answer-only or free-form CoT annotations.

3.2 MathSpatial Data Collection

To construct *MathSpatial*, we design a semi-automated pipeline (Figure 2) that ensures both large scale and high quality.[1]

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[1]All problems are derived from public educational materials. Copyright-sensitive items are excluded.

Figure 3: Examples of three *MathSpatial* categories.

Figure 4: *MathSpatial-Bench* distribution.

- **Collection.** We collect spatial reasoning problems from diverse educational sources across grades, regions, and textbook editions, focusing on objective answers. From 35,428 raw candidates, an initial curation step filters structurally incomplete and non-spatial items, retaining 21,673 problems.
- **Standardization.** All problems are converted into a unified schema (image, question, choices, answer, solution). Cross-split de-duplication (MD5 hashing + GPT-4.1 visual similarity + semantic filtering) and manual verification remove duplicates and low-quality items, yielding ∼11K unique samples. Chinese problems are translated into English with spot-checked quality.
- **Geometric Consistency Checking.** Rule-based verification with human-in-the-loop review checks cross-view correspondence, dashed/solid line conventions, and orthographic projection rules. Approximately 0.4K inconsistent items are removed; remaining cases without annotator consensus are discarded from the dataset.
- **Solution Verification.** Problems with official solutions are retained directly. For the ∼0.8K items lacking solutions, graduate students trained in geometry derive solutions with rigorous dual-reviewer cross-validation to ensure correctness.
- **Final Output.** After all stages, 10,000 verified problems remain, partitioned into MathSpatial-Bench (2K) for evaluation and MathSpatial-Corpus (8K) for training. As shown in Table 1, MathSpatial uniquely combines a dedicated spatial-reasoning focus with comprehensive large-scale training supervision.

3.3 MathSpatial-Bench

Building on the partition introduced above, we focus on *MathSpatial-Bench*, the 2K-problem benchmark specifically designed to evaluate spatial reasoning in multimodal large language models. Rather than emphasizing scale, the benchmark prioritizes clarity and diagnostic value: problems are selected to minimize perceptual distractions and to isolate reasoning skills such as cross-view correspondence, geometric consistency, and deductive inference under strict conditions.

MathSpatial-Bench covers three major categories, further divided into eleven subcategories that reflect representative tasks in human education. The three categories are Holistic Recognition, Generative Inference, and Abstract Deduction. Figure 4 illustrates representative examples from each category, showing how tasks require different forms of reasoning such as multi-view correspondence, geometric consistency, and property deduction.

In total, the benchmark consists of 518 problems in Holistic Recognition, 636 in Generative Inference, and 846 in Abstract Deduction. The detailed distribution across all subcategories is shown in Figure 4, where for instance Geometric Property Calculation (GPC) accounts for 24.1% and Missing-View Completion (MVC) for 17.9%. The balance enables fine-grained error analysis and a comprehensive assessment of model capabilities.

3.4 MathSpatial-Corpus

MathSpatial-Corpus provides 8,000 problems for training, each comprising a problem image, textual description, final answer, and detailed solution. A portion of the problems originally in Chinese is translated into English, enabling bilingual support. Together with *MathSpatial-Bench*, it completes the evaluation-training loop of *MathSpatial* and represents one of the largest dedicated resources for spatial reasoning.

Structured Reasoning Annotations. Beyond standard problem-solution pairs, every item is annotated with structured reasoning traces organized around three atomic operations: CORRELATE (establishing cross-view correspondences between geometric entities), CONSTRAIN (applying geometric and projection rules to enforce consistency),

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👤① Question:
The three orthographic projections of a cuboid are shown in the figure. If its top view is a square, determine the surface area of the cuboid.

top view   left view

A:66 B:48 C:48√2+36 D:57

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⊚ GPT-4o
First analyze the three views of the rectangular prism:
1. The top view is a square. 2. The front view shows a rectangle with height 4 and width 3√2. 3. The left view is a square with side length. Then sum up the areas of all six faces:
1. Top and bottom faces: 2 * (3 * 3) = 18; 2. Front and back faces: 2 * (3√2 * 4) = 24√23; Left and right faces: 2 * (4 * 4) = 32
Total surface area = 18 + 24√2 + 32 = 48√2 + 50. The closest answer to this is option C
<prediction>C</prediction>",

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🐦 Qwen2.5-VL-7B
First analyze the three views. The top view is a square. The front view shows a square with width 3√2 and height 4. The left view shows a rectangle.
Then get the prism's dimensions. Based on the front view, the width is 3√2 and the height is 4. The square top view gives the third dimension. Length = 3√2; Width = 3√2; Height = 4. Surface area = 2(3√2 × 3√2) + 2(3√2 × 4) + 2(3√2 ×4)= 36 + 48√2.
<prediction>C</prediction>",

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🟡 MathSpatial-SRT
\"**Correlate**\": From the front view, the diagonal of the square in the top view is 3√2, so its side length is 3. The front view shows the height of the prism as 4.
\"**Constrain**\": Each vertical face has a width of 3 (from the top view) and a height of 4 (from the front view).
\"**Infer**\": The four vertical faces have a total area of 4*3*4=48, and the top and bottom together add 2*3*3=18, giving a total surface area of 66 square units. <prediction>A</prediction>

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Figure 5: Qualitative comparison of model outputs on a sample problem. GPT-4o and Qwen2.5-VL-7B produce free-form reasoning with inconsistencies or errors, *MathSpatial-SRT* yields a structured reasoning trace based on atomic operations (CORRELATE, CONSTRAIN, INFER), leading to a correct solution.

and INFER (deducing latent attributes or final answers). Concretely, given a problem (x, y), we use GPT-4o (OpenAI, 2024) to generate operation-level traces $r = (r_1, \ldots, r_T)$ under a constrained schema specifying operation type, arguments, and assertion. To ensure annotation quality, each trace is validated through a dual-role review scheme: a Reviewer agent audits every step for operation-type errors, contradictions, or missing steps, and a Checker agent rewrites the trace to correct identified issues while preserving the schema. This process detects and fixes ∼10% of generated traces.

Generation and training. Given a problem (x, y), we use GPT-4o to generate operation-level traces $r = (r_1, \ldots, r_T)$ under a constrained schema (operation type + arguments + assertion). We linearize (r, y) into a single sequence and apply supervised fine-tuning. This strategy enables models to learn not only to predict correct answers but also to produce interpretable, verifiable reasoning traces that reflect the atomic operation structure. To reduce structural or logical noise, each SRT is validated through a dual-role scheme. In this process, a Reviewer agent audits every CORR/CONS/INFER step for operation-type errors, contradictions, or missing steps, and a Checker agent rewrites the trace to correct all identified issues while preserving the SRT schema.

Corpus Statistics. The corpus spans 11 subtypes with a K-12 skew: GPC dominates (65%), while rare tasks (e.g., CR) are <1%. It contains ∼20K images (2.6/problem) in mixed formats (46% choice, 54% fill-in). Crucially, all bilingual problems feature structured reasoning traces (avg. 5.3 steps) for robust supervision. **Qualitative example.** To illustrate the difference between free-form reasoning and structured traces, Figure 5 compares model outputs on the same problem. GPT-4o (OpenAI, 2024)

produces a partially correct but logically inconsistent explanation, while Qwen2.5-VL-7B (Bai et al., 2025) yields fragmented reasoning with calculation mistakes. In contrast, *MathSpatial-SRT* generates a clear sequence of CORRELATE, CONSTRAIN, and INFER steps, leading to the correct answer with transparent intermediate evidence. This highlights how structured supervision not only improves accuracy but also yields interpretable reasoning traces.

4 Experiments

4.1 Experimental Setup

We evaluate a broad range of MLLMs on *MathSpatial-Bench* to assess the benchmark's diagnostic capability across model families. Closed-source systems include GPT-5.4/5/4.1/4o (OpenAI, 2026, 2025, 2024), Gemini-3.1-pro/3-flash/2.5-pro/2.5-flash (Gemini Team, 2026, 2025b,a), and Claude Opus 4.6/Sonnet 4.6/Sonnet 4/3.7/3.5 (Anthropic, 2026, 2025b,a, 2024). Open-source baselines include Qwen2.5-VL-7B/72B (Bai et al., 2025), InternVL3-8B (Zhu et al., 2025), Llama-4-Maverick-17B (Singh, 2025), Kimi-VL-A3B (Team et al., 2025), GLM-4.5V (Hong et al., 2025), DeepSeek-VL2-7B (Wu et al., 2024), Pixtral-12B (Agrawal et al., 2024), Idefics3-8B (Laurençon et al., 2024), and Llama3-8B (Dubey et al., 2024). To demonstrate the training value of *MathSpatial-Corpus*, we fine-tune three open-source models (Qwen2.5-VL-7B, InternVL3-8B, Llama3-8B) on the corpus using a batch size of 128, learning rate 1×10^{-5}, and 5 epochs. To establish a rigorous human upper bound, we recruited 80 students under closed-book conditions, with each problem answered by 20 independent annotators and results reported as micro-averaged accuracy. To ensure robustness, all model

Table 2: Evaluation on *MathSpatial-Bench*. Accuracy (%) per subtype and average token usage. `Red` and `blue` indicate the best and second-best LMMs per column. `Gray` indicates models fine-tuned on *MathSpatial-Corpus*. † indicates reasoning (thinking) models.

Model	Holistic Recognition				Generative Inference			Abstract Deduction				Overall	Avg. Token
	C3M	3VM	IVI	CR	MVC	VT	PRA	GPC	FPBI	SCP	PPCD		
Closed-Source Models													
GPT-5.4 (OpenAI, 2026)	51.0	62.6	61.7	55.4	58.3	41.8	69.7	40.5	50.4	59.2	65.4	53.9	333.2
GPT-5 (OpenAI, 2025)	28.6	53.7	66.2	48.2	61.6	44.8	71.7	52.3	60.0	68.1	57.7	58.5	676.3
GPT-4.1 (OpenAI, 2025)	2.0	45.5	43.1	26.8	24.1	0.0	55.2	0.0	29.6	18.3	46.2	22.6	676.3
GPT-4o (OpenAI, 2024)	2.0	36.6	34.1	33.9	23.5	1.5	45.5	0.0	26.4	16.4	26.9	19.6	677.4
Gemini-3.1-pro (Gemini Team, 2026)†	71.4	74.0	78.6	66.1	80.4	72.4	88.3	70.7	68.8	73.8	80.8	75.4	7516.9
Gemini-3-flash (Gemini Team, 2025b)†	73.5	81.3	83.4	71.4	84.0	79.1	85.5	75.9	76.8	76.1	88.5	79.8	10720.7
Gemini-2.5-pro (Gemini Team, 2025a)	31.4	42.5	43.5	26.7	58.5	44.9	28.1	45.6	41.7	49.6	33.3	44.9	913.8
Gemini-2.5-flash (Gemini Team, 2025a)	34.3	42.5	46.7	26.7	58.5	47.8	43.8	50.0	25.0	57.4	33.3	48.5	1115.2
Claude Opus 4.6 (Anthropic, 2026)	44.9	57.7	59.0	50.0	44.5	38.8	69.7	36.7	50.4	49.3	57.7	48.2	964.2
Claude Sonnet 4.6 (Anthropic, 2026)	42.9	55.3	59.7	39.3	46.2	31.3	74.5	37.1	52.8	44.6	69.2	47.9	941.7
Claude Sonnet 4 (Anthropic, 2025b)	6.1	33.3	46.2	21.4	30.8	1.5	60.7	0.2	32.0	41.3	53.8	26.7	1005.5
Claude Sonnet 3.7 (Anthropic, 2025a)	2.0	36.6	39.3	21.4	21.6	1.5	57.9	0.0	23.2	26.3	34.6	21.5	885.8
Claude Sonnet 3.5 (Anthropic, 2024)	2.0	32.5	42.8	23.2	26.9	0.7	57.2	0.0	24.8	21.1	46.2	22.3	858.6
Open-Source Models													
Llama-4-Maverick-17B-128E (Singh, 2025)	24.5	32.5	41.0	25.0	29.1	4.5	47.6	4.6	15.2	29.6	30.8	23.8	845.2
Kimi-VL-A3B-Thinking (Team et al., 2025)	2.0	33.3	31.7	50.0	23.8	0.0	47.6	0.6	23.2	5.6	11.5	18.2	785.2
Qwen2.5-VL-72B-Instruct (Bai et al., 2025)	2.0	33.3	35.9	23.2	26.9	0.0	47.6	0.0	20.8	17.8	19.2	19.7	497.6
GLM-4.5V (Hong et al., 2025)	4.1	32.5	43.4	30.4	23.0	1.5	57.9	0.0	22.4	14.1	30.8	21.0	1391.1
Qwen2.5-VL-7B (Bai et al., 2025)	0.0	32.5	34.8	17.9	24.4	0.0	41.4	0.0	20.0	13.6	15.4	17.8	465.3
InternVL3-8B (Zhu et al., 2025)	0.0	29.3	35.9	23.2	21.3	0.7	40.0	0.0	19.2	14.6	15.4	17.4	473.5
DeepSeek-VL2-7B (Wu et al., 2024)	0.0	14.6	11.7	7.1	5.9	4.5	2.1	2.1	11.2	4.2	7.7	6.6	397.4
Pixtral-12B (Agrawal et al., 2024)	4.1	22.8	34.1	26.8	20.4	1.5	34.5	0.0	8.0	12.2	3.8	15.3	692.3
Idefics3-8B (Laurençon et al., 2024)	0.0	22.8	25.9	14.3	18.2	1.5	22.1	0.0	8.0	6.1	0.0	11.7	294.5
Llama3-8B (Dubey et al., 2024)	10.2	15.4	20.7	17.9	15.1	20.9	23.4	9.3	13.6	12.2	7.7	15.0	785.4
MathSpatial-Qwen2.5-VL-7B	4.1	40.7	46.2	30.4	27.7	0.7	46.2	0.0	21.6	17.4	26.9	22.1	351.9
MathSpatial-InternVL3-8B	2.0	50.4	36.2	33.9	22.7	11.9	56.6	3.9	23.2	15.5	15.4	22.6	318.3
MathSpatial-Llama3-8B	16.3	30.1	24.5	41.1	20.4	30.6	27.6	10.2	20.8	16.4	7.7	20.3	397.3
Human Performance													
Human	100.0	89.4	97.6	98.2	96.1	97.0	95.2	96.5	94.4	97.7	96.2	96.3	–

342 results are averaged over two independent runs.

4.2 Benchmark Results

344 Table 2 presents the evaluation of 20+ MLLMs on *MathSpatial-Bench*. The results reveal a persistent human–model gap: humans exceed 95% accuracy across all categories, while most MLLMs remain below 60%, and even the strongest model falls ∼16 points short of human performance.

350 **Reasoning models narrow but do not close the gap.** Gemini-3-flash (Gemini Team, 2025b) achieves the highest accuracy (79.8%) and dominates nearly all subtypes, benefiting from its extended thinking capability (10,720 avg. tokens). Gemini-3.1-pro (Gemini Team, 2026) follows closely at 75.4%. However, even these strongest reasoning models still fall 16–21 points below human performance (96.3%), indicating that mathematical spatial reasoning remains fundamentally challenging despite rapid model advances.

361 **Standard models remain substantially weaker.** Among standard (non-reasoning) closed-source models, GPT-5 (58.5%), GPT-5.4 (53.9%), and Claude Opus 4.6 (48.2%) lead, while the GPT-4 series (19.6%–22.6%) and older Claude family (21.5%–26.7%) lag significantly, scoring near zero on numerically demanding tasks such as GPC (0.0%–0.2%) and VT (0.0%–1.5%).

369 **Open-source models lag substantially.** Most open-source models cluster in the 15%–24% range. Even scaling up provides limited benefit: Qwen2.5-VL-72B (19.7%) only marginally improves over its 7B variant (17.8%). Multiple models score 0.0% on GPC, indicating a complete inability to perform geometric property calculations.

376 **Difficulty varies sharply across reasoning categories.** Holistic Recognition is the most accessible: top models reach 60%–83% on subtypes like IVI and 3VM. Generative Inference presents a mixed picture, with MVC well above chance for strong

Figure 6: Fine-grained error analysis on *MathSpatial-Bench*. (a) Error frequency distribution for baselines across 6 subcategories. (b) Overall error rate breakdown by failure mode.

models but VT near zero for non-reasoning models. Abstract Deduction is the hardest category overall; while PRA is relatively tractable (Gemini-3-flash (Gemini Team, 2025b): 85.5%), GPC remains a near-universal failure point (≤4% for all open-source models), highlighting that multi-step geometric computation is a fundamental bottleneck.

Training on MathSpatial-Corpus demonstrates clear dataset value. Fine-tuning on *MathSpatial-Corpus* consistently lifts performance across all three backbone models. MathSpatial-InternVL3-8B reaches 22.6% (vs. 17.4% base), achieving the second-highest 3VM score (50.4%) across all models. MathSpatial-Qwen2.5-VL-7B improves to 22.1% with gains on IVI (+11.4%), PPCD (+11.5%), and 3VM (+8.2%). MathSpatial-Llama3-8B shows the largest VT improvement (20.9% → 30.6%). Notably, all fine-tuned models also reduce token consumption by 20%–30% (e.g., Qwen2.5-VL-7B: 465.3 → 351.9), demonstrating that the dataset's structured annotations promote both accuracy and reasoning efficiency.

4.3 Generalization to External Benchmarks

To assess whether the improvements from *MathSpatial-Corpus* reflect genuine spatial reasoning acquisition rather than overfitting to the training distribution, we evaluate on three external out-of-distribution (OOD) benchmarks: SOLID-GEO (Wang et al., 2025a), GeoEval (Zhang et al., 2024), and the real-world subset of 3DSR-Bench (Ma et al., 2025).

As shown in Table 3, despite *MathSpatial-Bench* being designed to minimize perceptual dependencies, the reasoning skills acquired from our corpus transfer effectively to perception-heavy and visually complex domains. *MathSpatial-Qwen2.5-VL-7B* achieves consistent accuracy gains (+1.3% to +3.4%) while simultaneously reducing token us-

Table 3: Performance comparison on external OOD benchmarks.

Benchmark	Qwen2.5-VL-7B		MathSpatial (Ours)		Improvement	
	Acc↑	Token↓	Acc↑	Token↓	Acc↑	Token↓
SOLIDGEO	15.5	490.2	18.9	385.6	+3.4	-21.3%
GeoEval	17.6	395.4	19.4	367.5	+1.8	-7.1%
3DSRBench (Real)	48.4	752.9	49.7	643.2	+1.3	-14.6%

age by 7.1%–21.3%. These results confirm that the structured reasoning traces promote concise and generalizable reasoning patterns rather than dataset-specific memorization.

Furthermore, Figure 7 provides a qualitative illustration of why each atomic operation matters: removing any single operation (CORRELATE, CONSTRAIN, or INFER) from the structured trace leads to degraded or incorrect solutions, demonstrating that all three are essential for spatial reasoning.

4.4 Error Analysis

To better understand the limitations of current MLLMs on mathematical spatial reasoning, we conduct a fine-grained error analysis on *MathSpatial-Bench*. Errors are grouped into six categories: **(1)** Projection Error, where models misinterpret top, side, or front views; **(2)** Feature Error, such as omitting components or inventing edges; **(3)** Scale Error, failing to preserve relative sizes; **(4)** Geometry Violation, where outputs break orthographic or visibility rules; **(5)** Reasoning Gaps, incomplete or inconsistent chains of thought; and **(6)** Deduction Failure, where models cannot synthesize multiple cues into a final conclusion.

Figure 6(a) reveals distinct weakness profiles across model families: the GPT-5/4 series is dominated by reasoning gaps, Claude models frequently violate geometric rules, Gemini-2.5-flash suffers more from projection and scale errors, while open-source models like Qwen2.5-VL-7B exhibit pri-

Figure 7: *MathSpatial-SRT* example: complete solution with all operations versus failures when removing Correlate, Constrain, or Infer.

Figure 8: Ablation studies on MathSpatial across different training strategies (baseline, Base-CoT, SRT CoT) and model scales (3B, 7B).

marily reasoning gaps but fewer feature errors. Notably, *MathSpatial-Qwen2.5-VL-7B* (fine-tuned on our corpus) reduces reasoning gaps compared to its base model, suggesting that the structured annotations in *MathSpatial-Corpus* help mitigate this dominant failure mode. As summarized in Figure 6(b), the majority of errors come from **reasoning gaps (34.4%)** and **geometry violations (33.0%)**, followed by projection (12.6%) and feature errors (10.5%). Scale (7.2%) and deduction failures (2.3%) are less frequent but still harmful.

These findings highlight two core challenges: *(i)* enforcing low-level geometric consistency across views, and *(ii)* sustaining coherent multi-step reasoning chains. Both remain largely unsolved by most MLLMs, and the fine-grained error taxonomy provided by *MathSpatial-Bench* offers a diagnostic foundation for targeted improvements.

4.5 Ablation Studies

Ablation on Training Strategy. As shown in Figure 8(a), we compare three variants: vanilla baseline (Qwen2.5-VL-7B), free-form CoT baseline (Base-CoT)[2], and our structured reasoning traces (SRT CoT). SRT CoT improves accuracy from 17.8% to 22.1%, gaining +4.3% over baseline and +2.6% over Base-CoT. The largest improvement occurs in Holistic Recognition (+10.0%), with Generative Inference (+3.2%) and Abstract De-

duction (+1.5%) also benefiting. Subtask analysis shows 3VM, IVI, and CR improve most, indicating that the CORRELATE/CONSTRAIN operations effectively reduce cross-view confusion and enforce geometric consistency. As further illustrated by Figure 7, removing any single atomic operation causes distinct degradation, confirming that each operation is indispensable.

Ablation on Model Scale. Figure 8(b) examines performance across model sizes. *MathSpatial-3B* outperforms its baseline (16.9% → 21.0%, +4.1%), mirroring the 7B trend: Holistic Recognition shows the largest improvement (+9.9%), with Generative Inference (+3.0%) and Abstract Deduction (+1.5%) also improving. Notable subtask gains appear in 3VM, IVI, CR, PRA, and PPCD, confirming the robustness of structured supervision across scales.

5 Conclusion

We presented *MathSpatial*, a large-scale, publicly available dataset for mathematical spatial reasoning in MLLMs. *MathSpatial* comprises *MathSpatial-Bench* (2K problems) for diagnostic evaluation across 3 categories and 11 subtypes, and *MathSpatial-Corpus* (8K problems) with verified solutions and structured reasoning annotations based on three atomic operations. Comprehensive benchmarking of leading MLLMs reveals a substantial human–model gap, with humans exceeding 95% accuracy while most models remain below 60%. Fine-grained error analysis identifies geometric rule violations (33.0%) and reasoning gaps (34.4%) as the dominant failure modes, offering actionable insights for future model development. Fine-tuning on *MathSpatial-Corpus* consistently improves both accuracy and efficiency across multiple model families, demonstrating the dataset's practical value for advancing spatial reasoning capabilities. We hope *MathSpatial* will accelerate progress in multimodal mathematical spatial reasoning and related downstream applications.

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[2]Same generation and training pipeline as MathSpatial-SRT, but uses free-form reasoning traces.

Limitations

While our focus on educational geometry problems ensures strict control over perceptual complexity and enables the precise, high-quality annotations necessary for accurately isolating pure reasoning capabilities from basic visual perception, this targeted scope naturally differs from the unconstrained noise of real-world environments. Furthermore, although our framework systematically covers the static 2D and 3D geometric problems that constitute the foundational bedrock of spatial cognition, it leaves dynamic, temporal-spatial scenarios for future exploration. Despite these deliberate scoping choices, *MathSpatial* establishes a robust and comprehensive framework for advancing spatial reasoning research in multimodal large language models and future embodied AI.

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A Appendix

A.1 Annotation Guidance

To complement the main pipeline description (Figure 2), we provide detailed guidance on how annotation was conducted in practice. This section elaborates on the interfaces, annotator workflow, and validation mechanisms to ensure that the resulting dataset is both reliable and reproducible.

A.1.1 Data Collection and Curation

Source Diversity and Bias Mitigation. Problems were systematically sourced from multiple online repositories, including Baidu Wenku, Zujuan, and provincial exam archives. This strategy ensures broad coverage across difficulty levels and problem styles, effectively mitigating stylistic and regional bias. To avoid subjective labeling bias, we strictly include only problems with objective numeric or multiple-choice answers.

Initial Filtering. A total of *35,428* raw candidates were collected. Annotators systematically removed structurally incomplete pages, non-spatial questions (e.g., arithmetic, logic puzzles), and corrupted scans or duplicated PDF segments. After this rigorous filtering, *21,673* spatially valid items remained, corresponding to a *61.1%* retention rate.

Metadata Recording. Each retained problem was tagged with rich metadata, including its origin, difficulty level (easy/medium/hard), and specific geometric topic (e.g., orthographic projection, 3D geometry, view-matching).

A.1.2 Preprocessing and Standardization

Unified Schema. Every item was standardized into a five-field JSON structure: $\{$images, questions, choices, answer, solution$\}$.

Duplicate Detection. We applied a rigorous multi-stage filtering pipeline combining hashing and semantic analysis. For image-level detection, we employed MD5 hashing for exact duplicates and GPT-4.1 vision similarity scoring for diagrams differing in resolution or scaling. For text-level detection, we utilized Sentence-BERT encodings. Let T_i and T_j be the textual content of two problems, and $\text{sim}(T_i, T_j)$ be their cosine similarity. The filtering action A is defined as:

$$A(T_i, T_j) = \begin{cases} \text{Discard} & \text{if } \text{sim}(T_i, T_j) \geq 0.90 \\ \text{Manual Review} & \text{if } 0.85 \leq \text{sim}(T_i, T_j) < 0.90 \\ \text{Retain} & \text{if } \text{sim}(T_i, T_j) < 0.85 \end{cases} \tag{1}$$

Following this automated screening, annotators reviewed approximately *1K* cross-set candidate pairs, removing semantically equivalent statements or paraphrased variants. After preprocessing, approximately *11K* unique and high-quality items remained.

Language Standardization. Original Chinese problems were translated into English using a commercial API. To ensure terminology consistency, annotators performed spot-checks on approximately *20%* of the translated items.

A.1.3 Geometric Consistency Checking

Rule-Based Verification. Automated scripts enforced three core geometric constraints: dimensional correspondence across views (Front-Top-Side length/width/height alignment), correct usage of dashed/solid lines for hidden/visible edges, and orthographic projection compliance.

Human-in-the-Loop Review. Approximately *1K* items were flagged by the validator as potentially inconsistent. Annotators inspected all flagged cases; roughly *60%* were correctable and repaired, while the remaining ~*0.4K* showed irreconcilable inconsistencies and were discarded after senior review.

Codified QA Rubric & Consensus. All surviving items were evaluated according to a standardized geometric QA rubric governing view correspondence logic and admissible projection conventions. Items where annotators could not reach consensus were strictly discarded.

A.1.4 Solution Verification

Cases With Official Solutions. For problems with authoritative solutions, we retained them directly after formatting verification to maintain accuracy.

Cases Without Solutions. For the subset of items lacking official solutions, we implemented a strict generation protocol. Six graduate annotators with backgrounds in geometry or engineering drawing independently solved assigned subsets. Each solution was subsequently cross-checked by two additional annotators, and only problems with unanimous agreement were accepted. The protocol required full justification of intermediate reasoning steps and the use of explicit spatial correspondences.

A.1.5 Final Dataset Output

Corpus Scale and Partitioning. The final dataset consists of over *10K* fully curated problems. We release two subsets: *MathSpatial-Bench* (*2K* items) for systematic evaluation and *MathSpatial-Corpus* (*8K* items) for supervised training.

Unique Properties. MathSpatial stands out as the only dataset to combine a focused scope on spatial reasoning (minimizing perception-heavy clutter) with authoritative solution annotations at scale.

A.2 Dataset

To provide a detailed understanding of **MathSpatial-Bench**, we first present its overall composition and subcategory definitions, followed by representative examples from each subcategory. Together, these provide both a systematic and an intuitive view of the benchmark.

A.2.1 Subcategory Descriptions

We organized the 2000 problems into 11 fine-grained subcategories, grouped under three reasoning levels: *Holistic Recognition*, *Generative Inference*, and *Abstract Deduction*. Table 4 summarizes each subcategory with its name, brief description, problem count, and proportion, providing a structured overview of the dataset's coverage and distribution.

A.2.2 Case Studies

To further illustrate the dataset, we provide one representative problem from each subcategory. As shown in Figure 9, the examples are arranged in three columns, corresponding to the three reasoning levels (*Holistic Recognition*, *Generative Inference*, *Abstract Deduction*), allowing readers to visually grasp the diversity of problem types and the nature of the reasoning challenges in each category.

A.3 More Details about Results

A.3.1 Comparison Results Analysis

In this section, we provide a detailed performance analysis of state-of-the-art models on MathSpatial-Bench, covering a diverse range of both closed-source and open-source systems. **(1)** Among closed-source models, the reasoning models Gemini-3-flash (Gemini Team, 2025b) (79.8%) and Gemini-3.1-pro (Gemini Team, 2026) (75.4%) achieve the highest overall performance, followed by GPT-5 (58.5%) and GPT-5.4 (53.9%). Claude Opus 4.6 and Sonnet 4.6 reach 48.2% and 47.9% respectively, substantially outperforming the older Claude and GPT-4 series (19–27%). Despite being the strongest model, Gemini-3-flash still falls ~16 points below human accuracy (96.3%). **(2)** Open-source models perform worse overall, with Qwen2.5-VL-7B, InternVL3-8B, and Llama3-8B scoring between 15–18%. Scaling to Qwen2.5-VL-72B yields modest improvements (19.7%). **(3)** Our fine-tuned MathSpatial-Qwen2.5-VL-7B achieves 22.1%, outperforming all other open-source baselines and approaching weaker closed-source systems, while being more efficient in token usage. These results highlight both the difficulty of MathSpatial-Bench and the value of structured supervision in closing the gap between open-source and proprietary MLLMs.

A.3.2 Human Evaluation Protocol

We established the human baseline through a systematic evaluation protocol rather than ad-hoc sampling to ensure the statistical significance and reproducibility of the 96.3% score. The exact specifications of our study are as follows.

Participants and Demographics. We recruited $N_p = 80$ middle and high school students from standard academic tracks who had completed the corresponding mathematics curriculum but received no task-specific training. This setup ensures that the human baseline reflects typical student-

Holistic Recognition

- **Question**：A table has several plates placed on it. From three different angles, the views appear as shown in the diagram. Determine the total number of plates on the table.

A 10   B 11   C 12   D 13

Answer: C
Subcategory: C3M

Holistic Recognition

- **Question**：As shown in the figure, the main view of a solid composed of several small cubes is?

Answer: C
Subcategory: 3VM

Holistic Recognition

- **Question**：As shown in the figure, which of the following horizontally placed solids does not have a rectangular left view ?

Answer: B
Subcategory: IVI

Holistic Recognition

- **Question**：As shown in the figure are the front view and top view of a geometric solid. Then this geometric solid is ?

A. Triangular Prism
B. Cube
C. Triangular Pyramid
D. Rectangular Prism

Answer: A
Subcategory: CR

Generative Inference

- **Question**：A geometric figure is composed of several identical small cubes. The shapes seen from the front and the top are as shown in the diagram. What is the maximum number of such small cubes needed to construct this geometric figure?

A. 8   B. 9
C. 10   D. 11

front view   top view

Answer: D
Subcategory: MVC

Generative Inference

- **Question**：The solid shown in the figure is constructed from 5 identical small cubes. The shape seen from the left side is ?

Answer: D
Subcategory: VT

Generative Inference

- **Question**：As shown in the figure, the rim of the cup is parallel to the projection plane, and the direction of the projection line is indicated by the arrow. Its orthographic projection is ?

Answer: D
Subcategory: PRA

Abstract Deduction

- **Question**：The three views of a solid are shown in the figure, where the front view is an equilateral triangle. What is the surface area of the circumscribed sphere of the solid ?

A. $(8/3)\pi$ B. $(16/3)\pi$ C. $(48/3)\pi$ D. $(64/3)\pi$

Answer: D
Subcategory: GPC

Abstract Deduction

- **Question**：The top view of a geometric figure constructed from five identical small cubes is shown in the diagram. The number of possible ways to arrange this geometric figure is ?

A. 1   B. 2
C. 3   D. 4

Answer: D
Subcategory: FPBI

Abstract Deduction

- **Question**：As shown in the figure, triangle △ABC is translated along the direction of BC to the position of △DEF. If EC = 2BE = 2, then the length of CF is ?

A. 1   B. 2   C. 3   D. 4

Answer: D
Subcategory: SCP

Abstract Deduction

- **Question**：As shown in the figure, a rectangle with a length of 2 and width of 1 moves horizontally from the left side of line L to the right side in the "posture" shown (the dashed line in the figure is the horizontal line). The distance of the translation is ?

A. 1   B. 2
C. 3   D. $2\sqrt{2}$

Answer: C
Subcategory: PPCD

Figure 9: Example problems from each of the 11 subcategories in **MathSpatial-Bench**, covering the three reasoning levels: *Holistic Recognition*, *Generative Inference*, and *Abstract Deduction*.

Table 4: Organization of the *MathSpatial Benchmark* (2,000 problems). Each subcategory lists the number of problems (#) and proportion (%). The benchmark spans three levels: Holistic Recognition, Generative Inference, and Abstract Deduction.

Level	Subcategory	Brief Description	#	(%)
Holistic Recognition	C3M	Complex 3-view → 3D matching; select the unique 3D model consistent with three views (hard distractors: symmetry, hidden/occluded features).	49	2.5
	3VM	3D model → 3-view matching; given a 3D model, choose the valid set of orthographic projections.	123	6.2
	IVI	Incorrect view identification; detect the wrong (or only correct) view given a 3D object or a pair of correct views.	290	14.5
	CR	Component recognition; identify the correct Boolean composition of complex structures.	56	2.8
Generative Inference	MVC	Missing-view completion; infer a missing orthographic view from given ones under standard projection rules.	357	17.9
	VT	Viewpoint transformation; predict the target-perspective view (tests mental rotation and depth consistency).	134	6.7
	PRA	Projection-rule application; enforce dashed/solid line conventions and visibility across views.	145	7.3
Abstract Deduction	GPC	Geometric property calculation; compute volume, area, angle, centroid, etc., from multi-view or 3D cues.	482	24.1
	FPBI	Function & physical behavior inference; predict stability, support, rolling tendency, or interlock.	125	6.3
	SCP	Structural change prediction; reason about effects of edits (add/remove parts, cutouts, holes) on views or properties.	213	10.7
	PPCD	Path planning & collision detection; infer feasible paths and collision outcomes in constrained layouts.	26	1.3

level spatial reasoning ability, rather than expert-level annotation or test familiarity.

Scale and Redundancy. To ensure statistical stability, we enforced a high redundancy coverage factor ($\mathcal{C}$). Given the total number of problems in the benchmark $N_{\text{total}} = 2,000$, and each participant solving a subset $N_{\text{sub}} = 500$, the coverage is calculated as:

$$\mathcal{C} = \frac{N_p \times N_{\text{sub}}}{N_{\text{total}}} = \frac{80 \times 500}{2,000} = 20\times \quad (2)$$

This $20\times$ redundancy minimizes sampling bias and provides stable, reproducible accuracy estimates.

Testing Conditions. All participants solved problems individually under strict closed-book conditions. The use of calculators, search engines, or geometry software was strictly prohibited; only pen and paper were permitted for auxiliary sketches. This ensures that the results reflect unaided human reasoning.

Accuracy Metric. The reported score is the micro-averaged accuracy over the total response set $\mathcal{R}$ ($|\mathcal{R}| = 40,000$). Let $\hat{y}_i$ be the participant's answer for the i-th response and y_i^* be the ground truth. The human accuracy $\text{Acc}_{\text{human}}$ is defined as:

$$\text{Acc}_{\text{human}} = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{R}|} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{R}} \mathbb{I}(\hat{y}_i = y_i^*) = 96.3\% \quad (3)$$

where $\mathbb{I}(\cdot)$ denotes the indicator function, equal to 1 if the condition holds and 0 otherwise.

A.4 More Details about MathSpatial-SRT

A.4.1 PROOFS FOR MATHSPATIAL-SRT

Proposition 1 (Normal-form coverage). For every task in MathSpatial-Bench (the 11 subcategories), there exists a finite sequence of operations over {CORR, CONS, INFER} that solves the task; moreover, any valid solution can be transformed into an equivalent sequence in the *correlate → constrain → infer* normal form.

Proof.

(i) **Decomposition.** Each subcategory reduces to three stages: - identify correspondences across views (CORR); - enforce projection/geometric rules (CONS); - produce numeric or categorical outputs (INFER). For example, tasks in Holistic Recognition (C3M, 3VM, IVI, CR) require establishing cross-view feature identity and validating composition rules, while Generative Inference tasks (MVC, VT, PRA) require applying projection conventions, and Abstract Deduction tasks (GPC, FPBI, SCP, PPCD) demand property calculation or feasibility inference.

(ii) **Closure.** CORR only augments the correspondence set, while CONS only augments the rule

set. Both are monotonic updates, and intermediate queries can be treated as INFER operations that read from the accumulated state without invalidating earlier facts. Thus, any arbitrary solution sequence can be reordered into blocks of correlations, then constraints, followed by inference.

(iii) **Task coverage.** Each of the 11 subcategories can be mapped into this three-stage form, ensuring full expressivity.

Proposition 2 (Minimality). The primitive set {CORR, CONS, INFER} is minimal: removing any one element strictly reduces expressivity.

Proof.

- Without CORR, cross-view identity tasks (e.g., C3M, 3VM, MVC) cannot be solved.

- Without CONS, tasks that require validating geometric or projection rules (e.g., PRA, CR, SCP) cannot be handled.

- Without INFER, tasks requiring numeric calculation or discrete decision outputs (e.g., GPC, FPBI, PPCD) cannot be completed.

Therefore, no primitive is redundant.

We clarify that these proofs apply within the formalized problem space of *MathSpatial*. The claim of minimality is further justified by *semantic orthogonality*: each operation targets a distinct, non-overlapping role—CORR for perceptual alignment, CONS for law application, and INFER for logical deduction. Merging any two would compromise the granularity required for precise error diagnosis (as evidenced in Error Analysis). Furthermore, the practical sufficiency of this set is empirically validated by our OOD generalization results (Section 4.3), which demonstrate that models trained on these primitives successfully transfer to complex, perception-heavy benchmarks (e.g., 3DSRBench-Real).

A.4.2 SRT Validation Workflow

To ensure the reliability of GPT-4o–generated SRTs, we employ a dual-agent role-playing validation framework. All traces are grounded by the authoritative official solution, which prevents free-form hallucination and ensures consistency. The Reviewer identifies structural or logical defects, and the Checker rewrites the trace to correct these issues. Failed traces are manually inspected or discarded.

Dual-Role Validation Workflow. To ensure the reliability of the generated traces, we employ a rigorous validation pipeline anchored by **ground-truth verification**. Crucially, GPT-4o is never tasked with generating solutions from scratch; instead, it reformats verified official solutions into our SRT schema (CORR/CONS/INFER), a constraint that significantly minimizes hallucination. The process operates under a dual-role scheme:

- The **Reviewer (Diagnostic Pass)** first examines every step to produce a structured diagnostic report, checking for logical consistency, operation-type correctness, and identifying any redundancies or hallucinations relative to the official solution.
- The **Checker (Repair Pass)** then synthesizes this report to rewrite the trace. Its primary function is to resolve identified conflicts—fixing operation types, pruning redundant steps, and enforcing the strict CORR → CONS → INFER flow—while ensuring the final derivation matches the ground truth.

Any samples that retain structural conflicts or unstated assumptions after this automated repair are forwarded to human experts for manual rewriting.

Correction Statistics. An analysis of the GPT-4o–generated traces reveals a high initial quality, with approximately **90%** of traces passing the Reviewer's check immediately. The **Auto-Correction** mechanism successfully repairs around **7%** of the data, primarily addressing minor structural issues such as mislabeled operations or formatting errors. The remaining **3%**, which exhibit deeper logical inconsistencies, are routed to trained human annotators for manual correction. Following this multi-stage filtration, a final quality audit on a random sample estimates the residual dataset error rate to be <**1%** (based on a Clopper–Pearson interval with 95% confidence), confirming the robustness of our data curation.

Prompt Demonstration. To ensure reproducibility and transparency, we provide the full instructions used to guide our validation agents. Tables 5–6 detail the specific prompt templates for both the Reviewer and Checker roles, including the strict definitions of atomic operations and the error taxonomy used to standardize the diagnostic reports.

Table 5: Prompt for SRT Reviewer

SRT Reviewer Prompt

You are a Reviewer for a structured reasoning trace (SRT). Your task is to audit each step for correctness and consistency.
Rules:

- Step-by-step verification: check if each step is logically valid.

- Operation-type correctness: CORRELATE / CONSTRAIN / INFER must be used appropriately.

- Consistency: detect contradictions with the authoritative solution.

- No hallucinations: no invented points, edges, or faces.

- Conciseness: flag redundant or unnecessary steps.

Inputs: Problem Statement, Diagram Description, Ground-Truth Answer, Official Solution, Candidate SRT.
Output: A JSON report:

- `is_valid`: bool

- `issues`: list of {`step_index, issue_type, explanation, suggested_fix`}

Table 6: Prompt for SRT Checker Prompt.

SRT Checker Prompt

Instruction. You are a Checker and Rewriter. Your task is to repair the SRT based on the diagnostic report while preserving the MathSpatial-SRT schema.
Task.

- Fix all issues identified by the Reviewer.

- Ensure strict adherence to CORRELATE / CONSTRAIN / INFER semantics.

- Maintain consistency with the authoritative solution.

- Produce a final answer matching the ground truth.

Inputs. Problem statement, diagram, official solution, original SRT, Reviewer diagnostic report.
Output.

- `Corrected_SRT`: the repaired reasoning trace,

- `Final_answer`: must match the ground truth,

- `Self_check`: confirmation of consistency.