

# Neuro-symbolic Training for Reasoning over Spatial Language

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## Abstract

Recent research shows that more data and larger models can provide more accurate solutions to natural language problems requiring reasoning. However, models can easily fail to provide solutions in unobserved complex input compositions due to not achieving the level of abstraction required for generalizability. To alleviate this issue, we propose training the language models with neuro-symbolic techniques that can exploit the logical rules of reasoning as constraints and provide additional supervision sources to the model. Training models to adhere to the regulations of reasoning pushes them to make more effective abstractions needed for generalizability and transfer learning. We focus on a challenging problem of spatial reasoning over text. Our results on various benchmarks using multiple language models confirm our hypothesis of effective domain transfer based on neuro-symbolic training.

## 1 Introduction

Large language models dramatically altered the world of natural language processing (NLP) research through their performance on various benchmarks (OpenAI, 2023; Brown et al., 2020). Nevertheless, several limitations have been addressed by many researchers. One of the significant limitations is complex reasoning (Valmeekam et al., 2023a; Hao et al., 2023). Reasoning plays a crucial role in human cognition. Therefore, reasoning abilities are essential for establishing more reliable human-like intelligent systems (Huang and Chang, 2023). The high performance of the LLMs (OpenAI, 2023; Brown et al., 2020; Touvron et al., 2023) promised the research community that they could achieve the level of abstraction required for the reasoning process and achieve a deeper understanding of natural language. Particularly, the recent results on QA tasks indicate

that the LLMs are competitive with human performance, and LLMs also show significant improvements in various reasoning of LLMs, such as mathematical reasoning (Imani et al., 2023), and logical reasoning (Creswell et al., 2022). However, it is still unclear whether LLMs are capable of true reasoning or simply memorizing patterns from training data (Huang and Chang, 2023). Recent research also illustrates that LLMs lack fundamental properties for generalization and performing human-like interactions (Gendron et al., 2023). One type of reasoning where LLMs still lag significantly is spatial reasoning.

Spatial reasoning is essential for many applications, including language grounding (Zhang et al., 2021), computer vision (Zhang and Kordjamshidi, 2022; Liu et al., 2023), robotics (Sisbot et al., 2007; Yadollahi et al., 2023) and more specific fields such as medical domain (Atif et al., 2007; Datta et al., 2020; Gong et al., 2023). Recent works (Liu et al., 2023; Chen et al., 2024) on high-level domains highlight this significant shortcomings in the spatial reasoning abilities of LLMs. Moreover, LLMs alone occasionally falter in abstract reasoning when multiple hops of reasoning in basic domains (Yang et al., 2023; Mirzaee and Kordjamshidi, 2023a). This indicates the challenge of spatial reasoning that needs attention. In this paper, we focus on one basic domain, spatial reasoning over text. Improvements in this area could potentially encourage advancements in more complex domains.

In the context of utilizing explicit logic to address multi-hop spatial reasoning, Yang et al. 2023 incorporates LLMs in a neuro-symbolic framework to pass the formal extractions to the Answer Set Programming for solving the problem. This technique overcomes the lack of spatial reasoning of LLMs and achieves a very high accuracy over a synthetic benchmark. However, utilizing this technique requires human-engineered knowl-

edge that often does not cover all possible scenarios and rules. In particular, formalizing all required commonsense knowledge for utilizing this framework is not possible in realistic domains.

We tackle the issue of spatial reasoning in LLMs and their difficulty in achieving the abstractions required for generalizability in unobserved complex situations with a more generic neuro-symbolic framework. The main idea is to exploit spatial knowledge with available data and knowledge. Exploiting knowledge can alleviate the need for huge amounts of data and provide more robust models in unobserved situations (Faghihi et al., 2023). We proposed to fine-tune the language models with a neuro-symbolic technique that leverages available spatial logical rules of reasoning to strengthen the level of abstraction obtained by the pre-trained language model. Particularly, we train the models to minimize not only the cross-entropy loss but also the violation of logical constraints. Our hypothesis is that obtaining supervision from logical knowledge enriches the models with levels of abstraction that improve generalizability. The advantage of our proposed approach is that it does not require full access to logical knowledge. Any partially available knowledge can be exploited during training without further use at inference time. This is crucial since inference-time symbolic reasoning can be problematic for real-time applications.

We select three benchmarks, SPARTQA-HUMAN (Mirzaee et al., 2021), ResQ (Mirzaee and Kordjamshidi, 2022), and STEPGAME (Shi et al., 2022) to evaluate our proposed method. Our improved results confirm our hypothesis about the impact of neuro-symbolic training on generalizability. The contribution<sup>1</sup> of this paper can be summarized as follows, (1) We propose to exploit the available logical spatial knowledge in tuning language models to deal with their lack of spatial reasoning indicated by previous research. (2) We provide extensive experimental results and analysis on the existing benchmarks. Our results consistently confirm the effectiveness of our proposed approach in both encoder-based and generative language models and their generalizability for transferring knowledge to different domains. (3) We show that the smaller models with our proposed method generalize better on out-of-domain and complex reasoning compared to using prompt-

<sup>1</sup>all the code will be publicly available upon publication

engineered larger models.

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C: There are three blocks called A, B, and C. A is to the left of B and B is to the left of C. In A, there is a small yellow square near and to the left of a large yellow circle. The large circle is near and to the left of a large blue triangle. In B, there is a small yellow square near and below a large blue triangle. There is a medium black triangle near and above the large blue triangle. In C, there is a small black square far to the left and above a small blue circle. The blue circle is near and to the left of a large yellow square."
q1: Is the small black thing to the right of medium black thing?
a1: Yes
q2: What is the position of small black thing relative to medium black thing.
a2: Right
```

Figure 1: An example of story and questions of SQA.  $q_1$  is Yes-No and  $q_2$  is Find relation type of questions.

## 2 Related Works

Investigating the reasoning capability of NLP models has become a trending research topic given the instability in the performance of LLMs (Gendron et al., 2023; Valmeekam et al., 2023b; Feng et al., 2024; Chen et al., 2024). Usually, this ability is measured via question-answering benchmarks (Weston et al., 2015; Zhou et al., 2020; Tan et al., 2023). However, there are fewer studies focusing on spatial reasoning over text. Recent benchmarks, such as SPARTUN (Mirzaee and Kordjamshidi, 2022) and STEPGAME (Shi et al., 2022) datasets, are created to address this issue by providing evaluation resources.

Some studies based on the aforementioned benchmarks report the performance of LLMs and highlight their struggle even when reasoning based on synthetic benchmarks (Yang et al., 2023). This is problematic when multi-hop reasoning is involved in inferring the answer. Multiple research papers have tried to improve the spatial reasoning capability of LLMs. Mirzaee and Kordjamshidi 2022 utilizes fine-tuning on synthetic data and illustrates an improvement in multi-hop reasoning even when applied to realistic domains. Another approach was designing the specialized memory network based on the recurrence neural network to manipulate the deep reasoning questions (Shi et al., 2022). Nevertheless, it was less effective than tuning pre-trained language models (PLMs). Some papers also focus on improving in-context learning approaches. Sharma 2023 proposes a prefix-based prompting that retrieves specific few-shot examples, aiming to transfer knowledge from simple to more complex spatial relations. Meanwhile, Hu et al. presents the idea of modify-

ing the commonly used in-context learning technique, Chain-of-Thought (CoT) (Wei et al., 2023). They replace the textual explanation of spatial relations with symbolic representation. The approach has significantly improved spatial understanding in simple environments but is less applicable to environments with more diverse and complex relations. Another notable methodology is the disentangling of relation extraction and reasoning. Yang et al. 2023 uses GPT to perform extraction and then applies Answer set programming (ASP) to perform the reasoning process. While Mirzaee and Kordjamshidi 2023b utilizes fine-tuned models for both extraction and reasoning procedures.

In this work, we take the spatial-logical knowledge into account of the language models, so-called a neuro-symbolic training approach to solve the reasoning problem. There are many studies that emphasize the usefulness of logical knowledge to solve question-answering tasks (Sun et al., 2022; Amizadeh et al., 2020; Prager et al., 2004). We utilize logical knowledge in the form of logical constraints. Similar approaches have been used in solving multiple NLP problems. For example, Lu et al. 2021 uses a heuristic function inspired by the A\* algorithm to restrict the generator given a set of constraints. While Qin et al. 2022 uses a sampling method looking for the most optimal solution that satisfies the constraints. However, both of these techniques apply the constraints during inference, which is different from what we proposed for using them during the training. There is also the benchmark that investigates the benefits of logical constraints in several NLP problems (Faghihi et al., 2023) under the DomKnowS framework (Faghihi et al., 2021). Though we use techniques previously proposed to integrate the logic, our approach utilizes constraints solely during training, eliminating the need for access to logical constraints during inference where using them might be problematic for real-time applications. As demonstrated in our experiments, leveraging logic can guide models to achieve higher levels of abstraction during training, resulting in better generalization at test time.

## 3 Methodology

### 3.1 Problem Definition

For the spatial QA task, the input consists of textual context  $C$  and a textual question  $Q$  asking about spatial relations of objects within the scene

description. The output is the answer(s) to the question, denoted as  $A$ . There are two types of questions/answers. The first type is Yes/No (YN) questions, and the other is find-relation (FR) questions. We restrict the answer domain of YN to  $A = \{Yes, No\}$ , while the answers for FR depend on the dataset. An example of answer domain for FR is  $A = \{left, right, above, below, \dots\}$ . More details on the variations of FR answer(s) are provided in the experimental section.

### 3.2 Backbone Language Models

We selected two types of language models, which are encoder-based models, BERT family (Devlin et al., 2019), and generative models, Flan-T5 (Chung et al., 2022), to evaluate the effectiveness of our proposed neuro-symbolic fine-tuning approach. Furthermore, we evaluate the performance of Large Language Models, GPT-family, and Llama3 on these tasks to compare them with our proposed approach.

#### 3.2.1 Encoder-based Language Models

We utilize BERT as the backbone architecture, following previously reported results (Mirzaee and Kordjamshidi, 2022). We fine-tune BERT with an additional classification layer to perform QA tasks. For the YN domain, we use a binary classification layer, while for the FR domain, we use multiple binary classification layers to conduct multi-label/multi-class classification. The number of binary classification layers in the FR domain depends on the number of possible answers,  $|A|$ . The input to the BERT model is formed by concatenating the question,  $Q$ , and the context,  $C$ . After feeding this input to BERT, we use the  $[CLS]$  token from the last layer as the input to the classification layer(s) for final answer prediction.

#### 3.2.2 Generative Language Models

We use Flan-T5 (Chung et al., 2022) as the generative baseline model, which is an open-source model for our fine-tuning purposes. To reduce the intensive computational cost, we utilize the LoRA adapter (Hu et al., 2021), which decreases the number of training parameters.

We applied the YN setting to Flan-T5, where processing the output is more straightforward since the first token can simply represent the outputs and be accessible from the generation of the model. We select the highest probability between the Yes and No tokens from the first token of the

Flan-T5 output as the answer to the input question. The input prompt to the Flan-T5 model has the following structure, "Answer based on the context:  $C$   $Q$ ."

For In-context Learning, we select Llama3-8B (AI@Meta, 2024), GPT3.5 (Brown et al., 2020), and GPT-4 (OpenAI, 2023) as the backbone LLMs for prompt engineering. Then, we apply *Zero\_shot*, *Few\_shot* techniques as the baseline of prompt-based learning.

**Zero-shot.** We give the prompt to LLMs for answers based on the scene description and the question without having any examples.

**Few-shots.** We randomly select four questions from the training set. Then, we add the information about the response format for each question with the corresponding label. We provide these examples along with the scene description and target question to GPT for querying the answer.

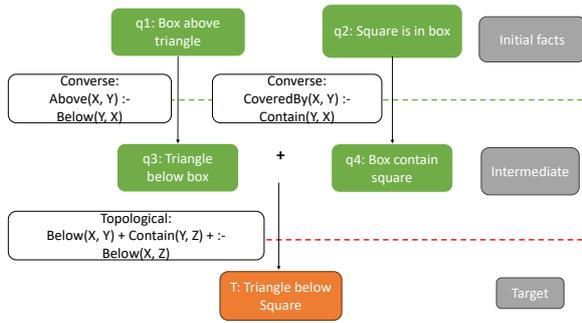


Figure 2: An example of the chain of reasoning questions (Q-chain). Note that the factual sentences will turn to questions like "Is triangle below square?"

### 3.3 Training with Spatial Logic

To address the challenge of multi-hop spatial reasoning, we utilize symbolic knowledge that expresses logical spatial reasoning rules during training. We assume a formal knowledge base (KB) of rules, referred to as *spatial logic*, is given during training time. This *spatial logic* does not need to be exhaustive or cover all reasoning aspects. Any available knowledge can be exploited to enhance the reasoning ability of the underlying Language Model. In this work, we use 79 rules of reasoning collected in (Mirzaee and Kordjamshidi, 2022). These rules are divided into four categories: converse, inverse, transitive, and transitive + topological. The KB covers rules between 15 spatial relations, including directional and topological relations, such as "If *above*( $x,y$ ) then *below* ( $y,x$ )." or "If *inside*( $x,y$ ) and *left*( $x,z$ ) then *left*( $y,z$ )." Our main

hypothesis is that providing supervision from high-level logical knowledge enables the model to capture higher levels of abstraction, improving generalization to other domains. To exploit the spatial logic, we follow two steps, 1) Translate spatial logic: we convert the *spatial logic* into example-based logical constraints, 2) Obtain the soft logic surrogate: we convert the logical constraints to differentiable soft logic, 3) Incorporate Constraints: we add the constraint violations as the part of training loss objective.

**Translate spatial logic.** As questions in the dataset require multiple hops of reasoning following spatial logic, we formulate the constraints to express consistency with this chain of reasoning. An example of a question is shown in Figure 2. The target question asks about the relation between a triangle and a square, "Is the triangle below square?". To answer this question, we introduce the intermediate facts and turn them into a set of questions, denoted as *Q-chain*. An example of intermediate questions in *Q-chain* is shown in the green boxes of Figure 2. Given the chain of reasoning, we observe that two initial facts,  $q_1$  entails  $q_3$ ,  $q_2$  entails  $q_4$  and  $q_4$  using the converse rule. Both  $q_3$  and  $q_4$  entail the target question using the transitivity rule. The corresponding logical constraint between  $q_1$  and  $q_3$  is  $q_1 \Rightarrow q_3$ . More constraints associated with this example can be found in Table 1. All conversions of spatial logic to constraint can be found in Appendix B.

**Obtain the soft logic surrogate** There are three commonly used types of conversions for mapping logical constraints into differentiable soft logic: t-norm product, t-norm ukasiewicz, and t-norm Gödel (Li et al., 2019). We use the t-norm product for our conversion,  $\neg A$  is  $1 - a$ ,  $A \wedge B$  is  $ab$ ,  $A \vee B$  is  $a + b - ab$ , and  $A \Rightarrow B$  is  $\min(1, \frac{b}{a})$  where  $A, B$  are concepts with probabilities  $a, b$ , respectively.

**Incorporate Constraints.** Optimization of an objective that includes both task performance and soft constraints loss has been proposed in several previous research (Li et al., 2019; Asai and Hajishirzi, 2020; Étienne Bamas et al., 2020). Inspired by them, we use the following objective,

$$\nabla_w \mathcal{L}(w; \Lambda) = \nabla_w L(w) + \sum_{k=1}^K \lambda_k \nabla_w h_k(w) \quad (1)$$

where  $L(w)$  is the task-performance loss function, i.e. Cross-Entropy loss,  $K$  is the number of logical constraints,  $h_k$  measures the violation from a

given logical constraint in soft logic differentiable form, and  $\lambda_k$  is a learning parameter indicating the importance of obeying  $k^{th}$  rule.

In fact, in this work, we utilize the implementation in DominKnowS (Faghihi et al., 2021) for integration of the constraints. The DomiKnowS framework provides a declarative language to integrate symbolic knowledge as logical constraints. We provide the original logical forms, and it automatically converts them to the differentiable form and facilitates incorporating them in the loss function. We, specifically, use an implemented optimization that exploits a dual formulation of the original loss proposed in (Étienne Bamas et al., 2020), called the Primal-Dual(PD) program.

**Creating the Q-chain.** We automatically augmented the questions in the training data to include the *Q-chain* for every question. To automatically create the *Q-chain*, we use the initial fact annotations provided in SpARTUN to obtain the intermediate facts for concluding the target answer. We exhaustively search for finding the resolution tree for the target fact.<sup>2</sup>

Rules	Constraints in YN	Constraints in FR
$R_1$	$q_1 \Rightarrow q_3$	$Above(q_1) \Rightarrow Below(q_3)$
$R_2$	$q_2 \Rightarrow q_4$	$CoveredBy(q_2) \Rightarrow Contain(q_4)$
$R_3$	$q_3 \wedge q_4 \Rightarrow t$	$Below(q_3) \wedge Contain(q_4) \Rightarrow Below(t)$

Table 1: Example of logical constraints presented in above example of *Q-chain*, where  $R_i$  refer to presented rule  $i$  used in the example.

### 3.4 In-context Learning with Spatial Logic

We utilize spatial logical reasoning to create few-shot examples in the in-context prompting approaches, including Chain-of-Thoughts (Wei et al., 2023), Chain-of-Symbols (Hu et al., 2023), and others. The intention of these experiments is to analyze and compare the LLMs’ performance against our proposed fine-tuning method.

**Chain-of-Thought (CoT).** To enable LLMs to provide reasoning explanations rather than a single answer, we use CoT. In this setting, we manually augment the answer response with the reasoning explanations based on spatial logical rules. Then, we give these CoT examples alongside prompt and target questions to generate the target answer with an explanation. An example of a reasoning explanation of CoT is given in Table 2.

<sup>2</sup>Our augmented is attached to the submission and will be publicly available upon acceptance.

**Logical Representation (LR).** Generating the chain of reasoning requires applying spatial logical rules such as symmetric and transitivity. In our problem setting, we further modify the *CoT* format to a first-order logical form. The predicate-argument form,  $R(obj_i, obj_j)$  represents relation  $R$  holds between arguments  $obj_i$  and  $obj_j$  that denote object  $i$  and object  $j$  respectively. We follow the same pipeline for CoT by replacing the response format with this logical form. An example of CoT using formal rules format, denoted as LR, is provided in Table 2.

**Chain of Symbol (CoS).** This approach was introduced in (Hu et al., 2023). This method illustrates the advantage of symbolic representation over natural language on both number of tokens and performance effectiveness. We construct the symbolic explanations of our CoT with their proposed format. An example of the CoS counterpart of our CoT expression is shown in Table 2.

**Step-by-Step Reasoning.** Based on the few-shot examples of the SPARTQA-Human dataset, often scene descriptions are complex and long. Therefore, we decided to simplify the context. We take an additional prompting step to split the context using LLMs before asking the question. In this setting, we expect that each line of generated context contains only one simple spatial description. An example of the original context is "There exists a big red square, and medium red square in a block called A. The big one is touching the right edge of the block." The expected generated context from LLM should be in the form of "The big red square in block A. The big red square is touching the right edge of block A..." More examples can be found in Appendix A.2. We call this prompting approach *Step-by-Step Reasoning* in the experiments.

Domain	Text
Chain of Thought(CoT)	large red square is to the left of a small green square
Logical Representation(LR)	Left(large red square, small green square)
Chain of Symbol(CoS)	(large, red, square) < (small, green, square)

Table 2: An example of a spatial relation used in Chain of Thought, Logical Representation, and Chain of Symbol.

## 4 Experimental

The main focus of the experiments is evaluating the ability of LMs in spatial reasoning by looking into both fine-tuning and in-context learning. Moreover, we explore the impact of using spatial logic in both models, especially demonstrating the

437 advantage of our proposed neuro-symbolic model.

#### 438 4.1 Datasets

439 Our experiments are conducted on the following  
440 datasets: SpaRTUN, SPARTQA-Human, ResQ,  
441 and STEPGAME. However, we only evaluate  
442 models on three out of four datasets, which are  
443 SPARTQA-Human, ResQ, and STEPGAME. This  
444 decision is based on the previous results (Mirzaee  
445 and Kordjamshidi, 2022) that demonstrate the  
446 challenge of these datasets compared to testing on  
447 SpaRTUN which is likely to be solved with typical  
448 fine-tuning on SpaRTUN.

449 **SpaRTUN** (Mirzaee and Kordjamshidi, 2022) is a  
450 synthetic SQA dataset. This dataset contains both  
451 YN and FR types of questions that require multi-  
452 hop reasoning to answer. It covers a wide range  
453 of spatial relations.<sup>3</sup> The answer for YN is  $A =$   
454  $\{Yes, No\}$ . While, the answer for the FR is the  
455 subset of  $A = \{left, right, above, below, behind,$   
456  $front, near, far, dc, ec, po, tpp, ntp, tppi, ntpi\}$ .  
457 The dataset provides the chain of reasoning anno-  
458 tations which we use to create the  $Q - chains$  for  
459 our proposed training method.

460 **SPARTQA-Human (Ver.1)** (Mirzaee et al., 2021)  
461 is a small human-annotated SQA dataset. The  
462 dataset contains both YN and FR types of ques-  
463 tions. We only use the YN portion of this dataset  
464 to fine-tune and evaluate our models.

465 **SPARTQA-HUMAN (Ver.2)**, we follow the  
466 methodologies from (Mirzaee et al., 2021) to fur-  
467 ther extend the human annotation dataset with the  
468 new contexts and questions. The purpose of cre-  
469 ation is to enrich the SPARTQA-HUMAN with a  
470 larger test for more diverse patterns and questions.  
471 Annotators included authors and an undergrad stu-  
472 dent paid as a research assistant.

473 **ResQ** (Kordjamshidi et al., 2017; Mirzaee and Ko-  
474 rdjamshidi, 2022) is a small realistic domain SQA  
475 dataset that includes multi-hop reasoning ques-  
476 tions. The depth of reasoning is smaller than other  
477 synthetic datasets, but it often requires common-  
478 sense knowledge to infer the answer. It includes  
479 the information about the depth of reasoning de-  
480 noted as  $k$  that can be 1 or 2. For many questions,  
481 the reasoning is complex and mixed up with com-  
482 mon-sense in which case this is annotated as *un-*  
483 *classified* depth. 12.30% of the test examples fall  
484 in the  $k=1$  split, 23.93% fall in the  $k=2$  split, and

<sup>3</sup>The dataset also includes Don't Know questions but for simplicity we assume a closed world assumption and use No label for those questions.

485 the rest are unclassified. This dataset contains only  
486 YN questions. We use this dataset to evaluate the  
487 performance of our models in realistic domains.

488 **STEPGAME** (Shi et al., 2022) is a synthetic SQA  
489 dataset containing extensive multi-hop reasoning  
490 questions over spatial relations until the depth of  
491 ten with annotation denoted as  $k$  in our tables of  
492 experimental results. This dataset contains only  
493 FR questions. The domain of answer is  $a = \{left,$   
494  $right, above, below, overlap, lower-left, lower-$   
495  $right, upper-left, upper-right\}$ . The advantage  
496 of utilizing this dataset is the possibility of eval-  
497 uating the performance of the models at various  
498 depths of reasoning.

#### 499 4.2 Experimental Models

##### 500 4.2.1 Fine-tuning Models

501 **BERT.** This is the baseline architecture described  
502 in Section 3.2.1. We use bert-based-uncased as the  
503 initial checkpoint. This model only fine-tune with  
504 the target dataset in each experiment.

505 **BERT-T.** This is the baseline model for transfer  
506 learning. We fine-tune the model with SpaRTUN  
507 first. Then, we further fine-tune with the target  
508 dataset of each experiment.

509 **BERT-T + Q-Chain.** We follow the method-  
510 ology explained in section 3.3 to inject logical  
511 knowledge into the BERT-T model via training  
512 with constraints using the DomiKnowS frame-  
513 work (Faghihi et al., 2021).

514 **Flan-T5.** We follow the methodology described in  
515 section 3.2.2. We selected the flan-t5-base in this  
516 experiment as the starting checkpoint.

517 **Flan-T5-T.** We utilize the same setting as the Flan-  
518 T5 model. However, we further fine-tuned the  
519 model with SpaRTUN before finally fine-tuning it  
520 with the target dataset.

521 **Flan-T5-T + Q-Chain.** We inject the logical  
522 knowledge into Flan-T5-T model using proposed  
523 method in section 3.3. The backbone is the same  
524 as the baseline model without any changes.

525 **Experimental Setup.** We use the same hyperpa-  
526 rameters on all experiments. The learning rate was  
527 one of  $\{1e - 5, 8e - 6, 1e - 6\}$ . For SPARTQA-  
528 Human and ResQ, the number of epochs was 100,  
529 whereas for STEPGAME, it was 30. For fine-  
530 tuning with SPARTUN, 12 epochs for BERT and  
531 8 epochs for Flan-T5 were used. The final hyper-  
532 parameters were selected using the development  
533 portion of the target dataset. The loss function in  
534 all experiments was Cross-Entropy Loss, and the

Model	SPARTQA-Human		ResQ				Line
	Ver.1	Ver.2	k=1	k=2	unclassified	All	
BERT	54.54	53.57	70.67	56.85	60.66	60.98	1
RoBERTa	54.54	-	76.00	56.16	58.87	60.33	2
BERT-T	55.94	58.03	<b>76.00</b>	54.79	<b>61.18</b>	61.15	3
RoBERTa-T	49.65	-	64.67	57.87	55.78	56.72	4
BERT-T+Q-Chain (Our)	<b>59.44</b>	<b>58.92</b>	72.00	<b>58.90</b>	59.90	<b>61.31</b>	5
Flan-T5	54.54	60.71	74.67	56.16	61.44	61.80	6
Flan-T5-T	49.65	57.14	81.33	54.79	61.44	62.30	7
Flan-T5-T+Q-Chain (Our)	<b>55.94</b>	<b>61.61</b>	<b>81.33</b>	<b>57.53</b>	<b>63.75</b>	<b>64.43</b>	8
GPT3.5 (zero-shot)	58.04	58.03	74.67	60.95	66.58	66.22	9
GPT3.5 (few-shot)	62.23	58.92	84.00	68.49	68.12	70.16	10
GPT3.5 (CoT)	65.73	<b>71.43</b>	<b>86.67</b>	67.12	68.64	70.49	11
GPT-4 (zero-shot)	<b>77.62</b>	68.75	84.00	73.97	<b>76.86</b>	<b>77.05</b>	12
Llama-3 (zero-shot)	61.54	50.89	80.00	64.38	67.35	68.20	13
Llama-3 (few-shot)	62.94	60.71	82.67	69.86	71.46	72.46	14
Llama-3 (CoT)	67.83	70.54	82.76	<b>76.03</b>	67.10	71.15	15

Table 3: Accuracy of SPARTQA-Human and ResQ with various models. For ResQ,  $k$  is the number of the reasoning steps required for answering the questions. *Unclassified* indicates the cases in which  $k$  was a challenge for human annotators to decide.

optimizer was Adam with *amsgrad* parameters set to *True*. We run all experiments on 8 A6000 GPUs, taking roughly 100 GPU hours.

#### 4.2.2 In-context Learning with LLMs.

As explained in Section 3.2.2 and Section 3.4, we evaluate the performance of all selected LLMs, GPT3.5, GPT-4, and Llama3-8B, using ResQ and SPARTQA-Human to compare with our fine-tuning approach. The selected examples and prompts for each in-context learning method can be found in the Appendix A.2.

**Zero-shot.** We directly ask LLMs to answer the question given the corresponding context.

**Few-shot.** We provide LLMs with four randomly selected examples from the training data.

**CoT.** We augment the *few-shot* setting with reasoning explanations along with the *CoT* examples.

**CoT-Formal.** We provide the few-shot examples with the described logical format in Section 3.4.

**CoS.** We further alter the *few-shot* examples with the CoS symbolic forms explained in Section 3.4.

### 4.3 Results

**Realistic Domain.** ResQ is our realistic domain. As observed in Table 3, using the *Q-chain* demonstrates its effectiveness on both fine-tuning models (BERT and Flan-T5) with more significant improvement on Flan-T5. Specifically, Flan-T5-T+*Q-chain* (line 8) shows a 2% improvement over Flan-T5-T (line 7). For a deeper analysis of this result, we evaluated the performances of the three different splits of ResQ. Based on our observations in Table 3, it reveals that our model con-

sistently improve on  $k = 2$ , but adversely affects BERT’s performance on  $k = 1$  and the *unclassified* categories. We emphasize that the  $k = 2$  split requires more hops of reasoning, while the unclassified portion requires commonsense knowledge. It is expected that our method enhances deeper reasoning steps while it does not address the lack of commonsense knowledge in the model. This hypothesis is confirmed by results with LLMs. We can observe that LLMs, on average, achieve higher performance on this dataset, especially in *unclassified* category (lines 9 to 15). LLMs consistently show around 2% to 13% improvement over Flan-T5+T+Q-Chain. This indicates that most LLMs’ improvement is mainly due to their commonsense knowledge rather than their complex reasoning capability, the main objective of our proposed method. We tried few-shot and CoT prompting, and the results did not significantly vary the results. Therefore, we believe integrating our method into the baselines with a stronger commonsense capability will increase the overall performance. This improvement can be seen when comparing Flan-T5 to BERT, where the larger generative model (Flan-T5 here) shows a larger improvement on the *unclassified* category. Consequently enhancing its performance in other sub-categories as well.

**Synthetic Domain with More Complex Logical Reasoning.** We evaluated SPARTQA-Human and STEPGAME for this analysis. We consistently observe improvement with our proposed *Q-chain* in this domain, which requires multiple hops of reasoning. As observed in Table 3, *Q-chain* consistently shows improvement in both Flan-T and

Model	k=1	k=2	k=3	k=4	k=5	k=6	k=7	k=8	k=9	k=10
BERT	98.51	95.53	91.68	66.71	49.11	41.47	41.47	32.09	28.94	28.16
BERT-T	98.50	95.32	<b>93.26</b>	<b>76.78</b>	<b>66.36</b>	58.76	53.70	46.27	42.71	40.12
BERT-T+Q-Chain (Our)	<b>98.70</b>	<b>96.45</b>	93.03	74.58	64.95	<b>59.04</b>	<b>54.38</b>	<b>49.23</b>	<b>45.36</b>	<b>44.05</b>
GPT3 (few-shot)	55.00	37.00	25.00	30.00	32.00	29.00	21.00	22.00	34.00	31.00
GPT3 (CoT)	61.00	45.00	30.00	35.00	35.00	27.00	22.00	24.00	23.00	25.00
Llama-3 (few-shot)	38.01	27.87	24.15	21.27	19.75	18.03	16.88	15.52	15.17	14.70

Table 4: Accuracy of STEPGAME on several models including results of GPT3 reported in (Yang et al., 2023).

BERT compared to fine-tuning without it. Moreover, the gap between small PLMs and LLMs is much less on this dataset compared to the realistic domain (ResQ). This is expected, as LLMs are better at commonsense rather than complex reasoning, as previously explained. This result is further supported when evaluating the model on STEPGAME. As seen in Table 4, the fine-tuning method consistently demonstrates significant differences in all steps of reasoning compared to LLMs. The struggle of GPT3 on reasoning on this dataset is also investigated in (Yang et al., 2023). We took the reported results from this paper in Table 4. Looking into the details of STEPGAME, we notice that our proposed method consistently gains an improvement of 1% - 4% on high hops of reasoning ( $k = 6$  to  $k = 10$ ), similar to the observation in ResQ. Overall, these results confirm our main hypothesis that our proposed method equips the models with a higher level of logical abstraction to conduct deeper steps of reasoning.

Model	Raw Context	Step by step
GPT3.5 (zero-shot)	58.04	63.64
GPT3.5 (few-shot)	62.23	64.33
GPT3.5 (CoT)	65.73	67.83
GPT3.5 (LR)	64.33	59.44
GPT3.5 (CoS)	60.14	58.74
GPT-4 (zero-shot)	<b>77.62</b>	<b>78.32</b>

Table 5: The accuracy of LLMs on SPARTQA-HUMAN.

**In-context Learning.** For comparison, we also experimented with variations of in-context learning and prompt engineering. According to Table 3, Table 5, we found that CoT is the most effective way to conduct spatial reasoning in both LLMs (GPT and Llama). We also investigated whether using Formal Representations in the context would make a difference in the performance. However, our results in Table 5 (line 4), show that the formal representation slightly worsened the performance, and using natural language in CoT was more effective. We further evaluated a CoS symbolic representation alternative in our experiments. Our re-

sults show that CoT and LR outperform the CoS while using the same in-context examples. This demonstrates the advantage of using natural language text in the prompt compared to the symbolic representation proposed in CoS. To evaluate more sophisticated prompting techniques, we ran the step-by-step reasoning explained in Section 3.4 on LLMs. As shown in Table 5, step-by-step reasoning achieves higher results compared to the majority of natural prompting techniques including zero-shot, few-shot, and CoT. The improvement ranges from 2% to 5%, indicating a simpler and shorter context can lead to a better understanding of the spatial relations in LLMs. Lastly, to compare the opened-source, Llama, and closed-source models, GPT. Our experiments indicate that Llama-3 is competitive with the closed-source GPT3.5, with only a small difference in the Yes/No domain as shown in Table 3. Therefore, we prioritize utilizing open-source models in our future research.

## 5 Conclusion

Given the importance of spatial reasoning in many real-world applications, we focus on improving this reasoning skill in language models. We equip LLMs with neuro-symbolic supervision to leverage logical knowledge during fine-tuning. This practice boosts their capability of capturing the necessary level of abstraction for spatial reasoning and enhances the generalizability for transferring knowledge across domains. We demonstrate that our constraint-based training technique achieves higher accuracy compared to other competitive Spatial Question-answering baselines across various benchmarks. Furthermore, the results indicate that our model performs better in scenarios requiring more reasoning steps. Lastly, we compare our models with state-of-the-art LLMs. Experimental comparisons show that while large LLMs like GPT3.5 perform better in commonsense reasoning, we achieve higher performance in multi-hop spatial question-answering with comparatively smaller language models like BERT.

## 6 Limitations

While we improve the reasoning capability of the models, our approach by no means solves the general reasoning problem. The trustworthiness and reliability of the LLMs are still a research challenge. Our models will need GPU resources to run which might be expensive. Our research is based on open source data and code and the results will be reproducible. We do not see any ethical concerns in our research approach and in the impact of our results. Our data, being limited to the spatial reasoning domain, does not include any specific type of bias that can harm minority people belonging to any specific gender or race.

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## A Appendix

### A.1 Data Statistic

The data statistic of each dataset is shown in Table 6.

Dataset	Train	Test	Dev
SpaRTUN (YN)	20633	3232	3152
SpaRTUN (FR)	18400	2818	2830
Q-Chain (YN)	56987	-	-
Q-Chain (FR)	46750	-	-
SPARTQA-Human(Ver.1)	161	143	51
SPARTQA-Human(Ver.2)	200	112	60
ResQ	1008	610	333
STEPGAME	50000	5000	100000

Table 6: Size of each SQA benchmark used in experiments

### A.2 In-context Learning Examples

The example of each in-context learning prompt and example is indicated below.

#### A.2.1 Few-Shot

**system** : You will be given story and question. Then, you will answer either only Yes or No based on given story. Candidate answer: [Yes, No]

**user** : There exist a big red square, a big red triangle, a medium red square, and a small green circle in a block called A. The triangle and medium

square are touching the bottom edge of the block. The big and medium square are touching the right edge of the block. And the circle is above the big square which is above the medium square. There is another block called B to the left of block A. A medium green square is touching the left edge of block B and is below a medium red square. The medium red square is above and to the left of a small green square. Also a medium red triangle is below and to the left of the small square. Is the medium red triangle below the red square in block B?

**assistant** : Yes

**user** : There are three blocks A, B and C. Block A has a medium white triangle and a small red rectangle. There exists a medium white rectangle to the left of the triangle and to the right of the red rectangle. Above block A there is block B. It has a small white oval touching the bottom edge of the block and a medium white triangle to the right of it. Below block A there is block C. It has a small green triangle touching the top edge of the block. A medium white triangle is below a small green rectangle. Another small green triangle is below and to the right of the white triangle. Are all rectangles above a white triangle?

**assistant** : Yes

**user** : There is a block called A. Inside A, there is a black triangle that is above and to the left of a black circle. There is another block called B which is to the right of A. In B, there are two yellow circles, a blue circle, and a blue square. The blue circle is touching the left edge of B. One of the yellow circles is to the right of the blue circle and to the left of the blue square. The blue square is touching the right edge of B and is above the other yellow circle, which is also touching the right edge of B. Does block B have all of the circles inside it?

**assistant** : No

**user** : There is a block called A. In A, there is a large blue square near and below a medium blue triangle. Far to the left of the medium blue triangle is a small yellow square. Far above the medium blue triangle is a small blue triangle. There is another block called B, which is to the right of A. In B, there is a small yellow circle touching the left edge of B. Far to the right of the circle is a large yellow square. Near and above the large square is a small yellow square. There is another block called C, which is to the right of B. In C, there is a small blue circle near and to the left of a large yellow triangle. The large yellow triangle is near and

981 to the left of a large blue triangle. The large blue  
982 triangle is far above a large blue circle. The large  
983 blue circle is touching the bottom edge of C. Are  
984 the large blue things in C to the left of the large  
985 blue thing in A?  
986 **assistant** : No  
987 **user** : There is a block called A. In A there is  
988 a red triangle Which is above a black circle. The  
989 black circle is touching the bottom of A. A yellow  
990 square is touching the top edge of A and below that  
991 there is a red oval is touching the right edge of A.  
992 There is a second block call B Which is to the left  
993 of A. Inside B there are 3 squares, a brown one,  
994 a green one, and a red one. The green square is  
995 above the red square and touching the left edge of  
996 B. The brown square is touching both the bottom  
997 edge and the right edge of B. The red square is  
998 touching the left edge of the brown square. Is the  
999 oval to the right of the brown thing?

1000 **A.2.2 Chain of Thought**

1001 **system** : You will be given story and question.  
1002 Then, you will answer either Yes or No with ex-  
1003 planation based on given story step by step. Can-  
1004 didate answer: [Yes, No]

1005 **user** : There exist a big red square, a big red tri-  
1006 angle, a medium red square, and a small green cir-  
1007 cle in a block called A. The triangle and medium  
1008 square are touching the bottom edge of the block.  
1009 The big and medium square are touching the right  
1010 edge of the block. And the circle is above the big  
1011 square which is above the medium square. There  
1012 is another block called B to the left of block A. A  
1013 medium green square is touching the left edge of  
1014 block B and is below a medium red square. The  
1015 medium red square is above and to the left of a  
1016 small green square. Also a medium red triangle is  
1017 below and to the left of the small square. Is the  
1018 medium red triangle below the red square in block  
1019 B?  
1020 **assistant** : From information provided:The  
1021 medium red square is above a small green square  
1022 in B.Therefore, the small green square is below the  
1023 medium red square in B. The medium red trian-  
1024 gle is below the small square in B, and the small  
1025 green square is below the medium red square in  
1026 B.Therefore, the medium red triangle is below the  
1027 medium red square in B. Answer: Yes  
1028 **user** : There are three blocks A, B and C. Block  
1029 A has a medium white triangle and a small red rect-  
1030 angle. There exists a medium white rectangle to  
1031 the left of the triangle and to the right of the red  
rectangle. Aove block A there is block B. It has a  
small white oval touching the bottom edge of the  
block and a medium white triangle to the right of  
it. Below block A there is block C. Its has a small  
green triangle touching the top edge of the block.  
A medium white triangle is below a small green  
rectangle. Another small green triangle is below  
and to the right of the white triangle. Are all rect-  
angles above a white triangle?  
**assistant** : From given information: A  
medium white triangle is below a small green rect-  
angle in C.Then, small green rectangle is above  
medium white triangle in C.A small red rectan-  
gle in block A, a medium white triangle in C,  
and block C is below block A.Then, a medium  
white triangle is below a A small red rectangle. A  
medium white triangle is below a A small red rect-  
angle. Therefore, a small red rectangle is above a  
medium white triangle.A medium white rectangle  
is in A,a medium white triangle in C, and block C  
is below block A.Then, a medium white triangle  
is below a A medium white rectangle. A medium  
white triangle is below a A medium white rectan-  
gle. Therefore, a medium white rectangle is above  
a medium white triangle.A medium white rectan-  
gle is above a medium white triangle.Thus, all rect-  
angles from given story are above a white triangle.  
Answer: Yes'  
**user** : There is a block called A. Inside A, there  
is a black triangle that is above and to the left of a  
black circle. There is another block called B which  
is to the right of A. In B, there are two yellow cir-  
cles, a blue circle, and a blue square. The blue cir-  
cle is touching the left edge of B. One of the yellow  
circles is to the right of the blue circle and to the  
left of the blue square. The blue square is touching  
the right edge of B and is above the other yellow  
circle, Which is also touching the right edge of B.  
Does block B have all of the circles inside it?  
**assistant** : From given relation, A black trian-  
gle is above a black circle in A.Then, there is black  
circle in A.Therefore, not all circle are in B. An-  
swer: No  
**user** : There is a block called A. In A, there is  
a large blue square near and below a medium blue  
triangle. Far to the left of the medium blue triangle  
is a small yellow square. Far above the medium  
blue triangle is a small blue triangle. There is an-  
other block called B, which is to the right of A. In  
B, There is a small yellow circle touching the left  
edge of B. Far to the right of the circle is a large  
yellow square. Near and above the large square

1084 is a small yellow square. There is another block  
1085 called C, which is to the right of B. In C, there is a  
1086 small blue circle near and to the left of a large yellow  
1087 triangle. The large yellow triangle is near and  
1088 to the left of a large blue triangle. The large blue  
1089 triangle is far above a large blue circle. The large  
1090 blue circle is touching the bottom edge of C. Are  
1091 the large blue things in C to the left of the large  
1092 blue thing in A?

1093 **assistant** : Based on the provided content.  
1094 Block B is to the right of block A. Block C is to the  
1095 right of block B. Therefore, block C is to the right  
1096 of block A. In block C, the yellow triangle is near  
1097 and to the left of large blue triangle. Therefore,  
1098 there is large blue triangle in C. In block A, there  
1099 is a large blue square near and below a medium  
1100 blue triangle. Therefore, there is large blue square  
1101 in A. Then, large blue triangle in C is to the right of  
1102 large blue square in A. So, large blue triangle in C  
1103 is not to the left of large blue square in A. Answer:  
1104 No

1105 **user** : There is a block called A. In A there is  
1106 a red triangle which is above a black circle. The  
1107 black circle is touching the bottom of A. A yellow  
1108 square is touching the top edge of A and below that  
1109 there is a red oval touching the right edge of A.  
1110 There is a second block called B which is to the left  
1111 of A. Inside B there are 3 squares, a brown one,  
1112 a green one, and a red one. The green square is  
1113 above the red square and touching the left edge of  
1114 B. The brown square is touching both the bottom  
1115 edge and the right edge of B. The red square is  
1116 touching the left edge of the brown square. Is the  
1117 oval to the right of the brown thing?

### 1118 A.2.3 Formal Language

1119 **system** : You will be given story and question.  
1120 Then, you will answer either Yes or No with ex-  
1121 planation based on given story step by step. Can-  
1122 didate answer: [Yes, No]

1123 **user** : There exist a big red square, a big red tri-  
1124 angle, a medium red square, and a small green cir-  
1125 cle in a block called A. The triangle and medium  
1126 square are touching the bottom edge of the block.  
1127 The big and medium square are touching the right  
1128 edge of the block. And the circle is above the big  
1129 square which is above the medium square. There  
1130 is another block called B to the left of block A. A  
1131 medium green square is touching the left edge of  
1132 block B and is below a medium red square. The  
1133 medium red square is above and to the left of a  
1134 small green square. Also a medium red triangle is

below and to the left of the small square. Is the  
medium red triangle below the red square in block  
B?

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1136  
1137  
1138 **assistant** : Below(Medium red triangle in B,  
1139 red square in block B) Answer: Yes

1140 **user** : There are three blocks A, B and C. Block  
1141 A has a medium white triangle and a small red rect-  
1142 angle. There exists a medium white rectangle to  
1143 the left of the triangle and to the right of the red  
1144 rectangle. Above block A there is block B. It has  
1145 a small white oval touching the bottom edge of the  
1146 block and a medium white triangle to the right of  
1147 it. Below block A there is block C. It has a small  
1148 green triangle touching the top edge of the block.  
1149 A medium white triangle is below a small green  
1150 rectangle. Another small green triangle is below  
1151 and to the right of the white triangle. Are all rect-  
1152 angles above a white triangle?

1153 **assistant** : Below(C, A) => Above(A, C) Con-  
1154 tain(A, Small red rectangle) + Above(A, C) + Con-  
1155 tain(C, Medium white triangle) => Above(Small  
1156 red rectangle, Medium White triangle) Above(A,  
1157 C) & Contain(A, Medium white rectangle) & Con-  
1158 tain(C, Medium white triangle) => Above(Medium  
1159 white rectangle, Medium White triangle) Be-  
1160 low(Medium white triangle in C, small green  
1161 rectangle in C) => Above(small green rectangle,  
1162 Medium white triangle) Answer: Yes

1163 **user** : There is a block called A. Inside A, there  
1164 is a black triangle that is above and to the left of a  
1165 black circle. There is another block called B which  
1166 is to the right of A. In B, there are two yellow cir-  
1167 cles, a blue circle, and a blue square. The blue cir-  
1168 cle is touching the left edge of B. One of the yellow  
1169 circles is to the right of the blue circle and to the  
1170 left of the blue square. The blue square is touching  
1171 the right edge of B and is above the other yellow  
1172 circle, which is also touching the right edge of B.  
1173 Does block B have all of the circles inside it?

1174 **assistant** : Contain(A, Black Circle) =>  
1175  $\neg$ Contain(B, Black Circle)  $\neg$ Contain(B, Black Cir-  
1176 cle) => Some x,  $\neg$ Contain(B, x) where x is Circle.  
1177 Answer: No

1178 **user** : There is a block called A. In A, there is  
1179 a large blue square near and below a medium blue  
1180 triangle. Far to the left of the medium blue triangle  
1181 is a small yellow square. Far above the medium  
1182 blue triangle is a small blue triangle. There is an-  
1183 other block called B, which is to the right of A. In  
1184 B, There is a small yellow circle touching the left  
1185 edge of B. Far to the right of the circle is a large  
1186 yellow square. Near and above the large square

1187 is a small yellow square. There is another block  
1188 called C, which is to the right of B. In C, there is a  
1189 small blue circle near and to the left of a large yellow  
1190 triangle. The large yellow triangle is near and  
1191 to the left of a large blue triangle. The large blue  
1192 triangle is far above a large blue circle. The large  
1193 blue circle is touching the bottom edge of C. Are  
1194 the large blue things in C to the left of the large  
1195 blue thing in A?  
1196 **assistant** : Question: Left(large blue thing in  
1197 C, large blue thing in A)Related relation from  
1198 story: Right(B, A), Right(C, B), Contain(C, large  
1199 blue triangle), Contain(A, large blue square)Steps:  
1200 Right(C, B) + Right(B, A) => Right(C, A) Con-  
1201 tain(C, large blue triangle) + Right(C, A) + Con-  
1202 tain(A, large blue square) => Right(large blue tri-  
1203 angle in C, large blue square in A)Right(large  
1204 blue triangle in C, large blue square in A) =>  
1205 !Left(large blue thing in C, large blue thing in A)  
1206 Answer: No  
1207 **user** : There is a block called A. In A there is  
1208 a red triangle Which is above a black circle. The  
1209 black circle is touching the bottom of A. A yellow  
1210 square is touching the top edge of A and below that  
1211 there is a red oval is touching the right edge of A.  
1212 There is a second block call B Which is to the left  
1213 of A. Inside B there are 3 squares, a brown one,  
1214 a green one, and a red one. The green square is  
1215 above the red square and touching the left edge of  
1216 B. The brown square is touching both the bottom  
1217 edge and the right edge of B. The red square is  
1218 touching the left edge of the brown square. Is the  
1219 oval to the right of the brown thing?  
1220 **A.2.4 Chain of Symbol**  
1221 **system** : You will be given story and question.  
1222 Then, you will answer either Yes or No with ex-  
1223 planation based on given story step by step. Can-  
1224 didate answer: [Yes, No]  
1225 **user** : There exist a big red square, a big red tri-  
1226 angle, a medium red square, and a small green cir-  
1227 cle in a block called A. The triangle and medium  
1228 square are touching the bottom edge of the block.  
1229 The big and medium square are touching the right  
1230 edge of the block. And the circle is above the big  
1231 square which is above the medium square. There  
1232 is another block called B to the left of block A. A  
1233 medium green square is touching the left edge of  
1234 block B and is below a medium red square. The  
1235 medium red square is above and to the left of a  
1236 small green square. Also a medium red triangle is  
1237 below and to the left of the small square. Is the  
1238 medium red triangle below the red square in block  
1239 B?  
1240 **assistant** : Let analyze the relations given  
1241 from context to answer question.B: 1. (medium,  
1242 red, triangle) , < (small, red, square)Based on  
1243 the information, B: 1. (medium, red, triangle) ,  
1244 < (small, red, square)2. (medium, red, triangle)  
1245 (small, red, square)Answer: Yes  
1246 **user** : There are three blocks A, B and C. Block  
1247 A has a medium white triangle and a small red rect-  
1248 angle. There exists a medium white rectangle to  
1249 the left of the triangle and to the right of the red  
1250 rectangle. Above block A there is block B. It has  
1251 a small white oval touching the bottom edge of the  
1252 block and a medium white triangle to the right of  
1253 it. Below block A there is block C. Its has a small  
1254 green triangle touching the top edge of the block.  
1255 A medium white triangle is below a small green  
1256 rectangle. Another small green triangle is below  
1257 and to the right of the white triangle. Are all rect-  
1258 angles above a white triangle?  
1259 **assistant** : Let consider the related relations  
1260 to answer the questions,A: 1. (small, red, rectan-  
1261 gle) 2. (medium, white, rectangle) C: 1. (small,  
1262 green, rectangle) = edge 2. (medium, white, tri-  
1263 angle) ) (small, green, rectangle) C A Based on  
1264 the information, let determined the relation of all  
1265 rectangle and white triangles, 1. C A. There-  
1266 fore, A C 2. A C, A: (small, red, rectangle),  
1267 and C: (medium, white, triangle). Therefore, A:  
1268 (small, red, rectangle) C: (medium, white, trian-  
1269 gle) 3. A C, A: (medium, white, rectangle), and C:  
1270 (medium, white, triangle). Therefore, A: (medium,  
1271 white, rectangle) C: (medium, white, triangle).  
1272 4. C: (medium, white, triangle) ) (small, green,  
1273 rectangle). Therefore, (small, green, rectangle)  
1274 (medium, white, triangle).5. A: (small, red, rect-  
1275 angle) C: (medium, white, triangle), A: (medium,  
1276 white, rectangle) C: (medium, white, triangle),  
1277 and C: (small, green, rectangle) (medium, white,  
1278 triangle), therefore,all rectangle above a white tri-  
1279 angle. Answer: Yes  
1280 **user** : There is a block called A. Inside A, there  
1281 is a black triangle that is above and to the left of a  
1282 black circle. There is another block called B which  
1283 is to the right of A. In B, there are two yellow cir-  
1284 cles, a blue circle, and a blue square. The blue cir-  
1285 cle is touching the left edge of B. One of the yellow  
1286 circles is to the right of the blue circle and to the  
1287 left of the blue square. The blue square is touching  
1288 the right edge of B and is above the other yellow  
1289 circle, Which is also touching the right edge of B.

1290	Does block B have all of the circles inside it?		
1291	assistant : Let consider the related relations		
1292	to answer the questions,A: 1. (black, triangle) <		
1293	(black, circle)B: 1. (yellow, circle1) right (blue,		1342
1294	circle)2. (blue, square) (yellow, circle2) 3.(blue,		1343
1295	circle) =left edge of B Based on the information,		1344
1296	let determined the relation of all rectangle and		1345
1297	white triangles, 1. A: 1. (black, triangle) < (black,		1346
1298	circle). Therefore, A: (black, circle)2. A: (black,		
1299	circle). Therefore, B doesn't have all circle. An-		
1300	swer: No		
1301	user : There is a block called A. In A, there is		
1302	a large blue square near and below a medium blue		
1303	triangle. Far to the left of the medium blue triangle		
1304	is a small yellow square. Far above the medium		
1305	blue triangle is a small blue triangle. There is an-		
1306	other block called B, which is to the right of A. In		
1307	B, There is a small yellow circle touching the left		
1308	edge of B. Far to the right of the circle is a large		
1309	yellow square. Near and above the large square		
1310	is a small yellow square. There is another block		
1311	called C, which is to the right of B. In C, there is a		
1312	small blue circle near and to the left of a large yel-		
1313	low triangle. The large yellow triangle is near and		
1314	to the left of a large blue triangle. The large blue		
1315	triangle is far above a large blue circle. The large		
1316	blue circle is touching the bottom edge of C. Are		
1317	the large blue things in C to the left of the large		
1318	blue thing in A?		
1319	assistant : Let consider the related relations to		
1320	answer the questions,B > A,C > BA: 1. (large, blue		
1321	square) (medium, blue square)C: 1. (large, yel-		
1322	low, triangle)Based on the information, let deter-		
1323	mined the relation large blue things in C and the		
1324	large blue thing in A,1. C > B and B > A. There-		
1325	fore, C > A2. A: 1. (large, blue, square) (medium,		
1326	blue square). Therefore, A: (large, blue, square)3.		
1327	C > A, A: (large, blue, square), and C: (large, yel-		
1328	low, triangle).Therefore, C: (large, yellow, trian-		
1329	gle) > A: (large, blue, square)4. C: (large, yel-		
1330	low, triangle) > A: (large, blue, square).Therefore,		
1331	C: (large, yellow, triangle) !< A: (large, blue,		
1332	square)large blue things in C is not to the left of		
1333	the large blue thing in A. Answer: No		
1334	user : There is a block called A. In A there is		
1335	a red triangle Which is above a black circle. The		
1336	black circle is touching the bottom of A. A yellow		
1337	square is touching the top edge of A and below that		
1338	there is a red oval is touching the right edge of A.		
1339	There is a second block call B Which is to the left		
1340	of A. Inside B there are 3 squares, a brown one,		
1341	a green one, and a red one. The green square is		
	above the red square and touching the left edge of		1342
	B. The brown square is touching both the bottom		1343
	edge and the right edge of B. The red square is		1344
	touching the left edge of the brown square. Is the		1345
	oval to the right of the brown thing?		1346
	<b>A.2.5 Clarify Sentence Prompting</b>		1347
	<b>Raw context :</b> There exist a big red square, a		1348
	big red triangle, a medium red square, and a small		1349
	green circle in a block called A. The triangle and		1350
	medium square are touching the bottom edge of		1351
	the block. The big and medium square are touch-		1352
	ing the right edge of the block. And the circle is		1353
	above the big square which is above the medium		1354
	square. There is another block called B to the left		1355
	of block A. A medium green square is touching		1356
	the left edge of block B and is below a medium		1357
	red square. The medium red square is above and		1358
	to the left of a small green square. Also a medium		1359
	red triangle is below and to the left of the small		1360
	square.		1361
	<b>Splitting context :</b> A big red square in block		1362
	A.		1363
	A big red triangle in block A.		1364
	A medium red square in block A.		1365
	A small green circle in block A.		1366
	The triangle is touching the bottom edge of		1367
	block A.		1368
	The medium square is touching the bottom edge		1369
	of block A.		1370
	The big square is touching the right edge of		1371
	block A.		1372
	The medium square is touching the right edge		1373
	of block A.		1374
	The circle is above the big square in A.		1375
	The big square is above the medium square in		1376
	A.		1377
	Block B is to the left of block A.		1378
	A medium green square is touching the left edge		1379
	of block B.		1380
	A medium green square is below a medium red		1381
	square in B.		1382
	The medium red square is above a small green		1383
	square in B.		1384
	The medium red square is left of a small green		1385
	square in B.		1386
	The medium red triangle is below the small		1387
	square in B.		1388
	The medium red triangle is left the small square		1389
	in B.		1390

1391

## **B Spatial Logical Rules**

1392

The conversion from spatial logical rules proposed

1393

in (Mirzaee and Kordjamshidi, 2022) to logical

1394

constraints used in our experiment is shown in Ta-

1395

ble 7.

Rule Type	Rule	Constraints in YN	Constraints in FR
Converse	$above(x, y) \Rightarrow below(y, x)$ $below(x, y) \Rightarrow above(y, x)$ $left(x, y) \Rightarrow right(y, x)$ $right(x, y) \Rightarrow left(y, x)$ $front(x, y) \Rightarrow behind(y, x)$ $behind(x, y) \Rightarrow front(y, x)$ $coveredby(x, y) \Rightarrow cover(y, x)$ $cover(x, y) \Rightarrow coveredby(y, x)$ $inside(x, y) \Rightarrow contain(y, x)$ $contain(x, y) \Rightarrow inside(y, x)$	$q_0 \Rightarrow q_1$	$above(q_0) \Rightarrow below(q_1)$ $below(q_0) \Rightarrow above(q_1)$ $left(q_0) \Rightarrow right(q_1)$ $right(q_0) \Rightarrow left(q_1)$ $front(q_0) \Rightarrow behind(q_1)$ $behind(q_0) \Rightarrow front(q_1)$ $coveredby(q_0) \Rightarrow cover(q_1)$ $cover(q_0) \Rightarrow coveredby(q_1)$ $inside(q_0) \Rightarrow contain(q_1)$ $contain(q_0) \Rightarrow inside(q_1)$
Symmetric	$near(x, y) \Rightarrow near(y, x)$ $far(x, y) \Rightarrow far(y, x)$ $touch(x, y) \Rightarrow touch(y, x)$ $disconnected(x, y) \Rightarrow disconnected(y, x)$ $overlap(x, y) \Rightarrow overlap(y, x)$	$q_0 \Rightarrow q_1$	$near(q_0) \Rightarrow near(q_1)$ $far(q_0) \Rightarrow far(q_1)$ $touch(q_0) \Rightarrow touch(q_1)$ $disconnected(q_0) \Rightarrow disconnected(q_1)$ $overlap(q_0) \Rightarrow overlap(q_1)$
Transitivity	$left(x, y) \wedge left(y, z) \Rightarrow left(x, z)$ $right(x, y) \wedge right(y, z) \Rightarrow right(x, z)$ $above(x, y) \wedge above(y, z) \Rightarrow above(x, z)$ $below(x, y) \wedge below(y, z) \Rightarrow below(x, z)$ $behind(x, y) \wedge behind(y, z) \Rightarrow behind(x, z)$ $front(x, y) \wedge front(y, z) \Rightarrow front(x, z)$ $inside(x, y) \wedge inside(y, z) \Rightarrow inside(x, z)$ $contain(x, y) \wedge contain(y, z) \Rightarrow contain(x, z)$ $inside(x, y) \wedge coveredby(y, z) \Rightarrow inside(x, z)$ $contain(x, y) \wedge cover(y, z) \Rightarrow contain(x, z)$ $inside(x, y) \wedge left(y, z) \Rightarrow left(x, z)$ $inside(x, y) \wedge right(y, z) \Rightarrow right(x, z)$ $inside(x, y) \wedge above(y, z) \Rightarrow above(x, z)$ $inside(x, y) \wedge below(y, z) \Rightarrow below(x, z)$ $inside(x, y) \wedge behind(y, z) \Rightarrow behind(x, z)$ $inside(x, y) \wedge front(y, z) \Rightarrow front(x, z)$ $inside(x, y) \wedge near(y, z) \Rightarrow near(x, z)$ $inside(x, y) \wedge far(y, z) \Rightarrow far(x, z)$ $inside(x, y) \wedge disconnected(y, z) \Rightarrow disconnected(x, z)$ $coveredby(x, y) \wedge left(y, z) \Rightarrow left(x, z)$ $coveredby(x, y) \wedge right(y, z) \Rightarrow right(x, z)$ $coveredby(x, y) \wedge above(y, z) \Rightarrow above(x, z)$ $coveredby(x, y) \wedge below(y, z) \Rightarrow below(x, z)$ $coveredby(x, y) \wedge behind(y, z) \Rightarrow behind(x, z)$ $coveredby(x, y) \wedge front(y, z) \Rightarrow front(x, z)$ $coveredby(x, y) \wedge near(y, z) \Rightarrow near(x, z)$ $coveredby(x, y) \wedge far(y, z) \Rightarrow far(x, z)$ $coveredby(x, y) \wedge disconnected(y, z) \Rightarrow disconnected(x, z)$	$q_0 \wedge q_1 \Rightarrow q_2$	$left(q_0) \wedge left(q_1) \Rightarrow left(q_2)$ $right(q_0) \wedge right(q_1) \Rightarrow right(q_2)$ $above(q_0) \wedge above(q_1) \Rightarrow above(q_2)$ $below(q_0) \wedge below(q_1) \Rightarrow below(q_2)$ $behind(q_0) \wedge behind(q_1) \Rightarrow behind(q_2)$ $front(q_0) \wedge front(q_1) \Rightarrow front(q_2)$ $inside(q_0) \wedge inside(q_1) \Rightarrow inside(q_2)$ $contain(q_0) \wedge contain(q_1) \Rightarrow contain(q_2)$ $inside(q_0) \wedge coveredby(q_1) \Rightarrow inside(q_2)$ $contain(q_0) \wedge cover(q_1) \Rightarrow contain(q_2)$ $inside(q_0) \wedge left(q_1) \Rightarrow left(q_2)$ $inside(q_0) \wedge right(q_1) \Rightarrow right(q_2)$ $inside(q_0) \wedge above(q_1) \Rightarrow above(q_2)$ $inside(q_0) \wedge below(q_1) \Rightarrow below(q_2)$ $inside(q_0) \wedge behind(q_1) \Rightarrow behind(q_2)$ $inside(q_0) \wedge front(q_1) \Rightarrow front(q_2)$ $inside(q_0) \wedge near(q_1) \Rightarrow near(q_2)$ $inside(q_0) \wedge far(q_1) \Rightarrow far(q_2)$ $inside(q_0) \wedge disconnected(q_1) \Rightarrow disconnected(q_2)$ $coveredby(q_0) \wedge left(q_1) \Rightarrow left(q_2)$ $coveredby(q_0) \wedge right(q_1) \Rightarrow right(q_2)$ $coveredby(q_0) \wedge above(q_1) \Rightarrow above(q_2)$ $coveredby(q_0) \wedge below(q_1) \Rightarrow below(q_2)$ $coveredby(q_0) \wedge behind(q_1) \Rightarrow behind(q_2)$ $coveredby(q_0) \wedge front(q_1) \Rightarrow front(q_2)$ $coveredby(q_0) \wedge near(q_1) \Rightarrow near(q_2)$ $coveredby(q_0) \wedge far(q_1) \Rightarrow far(q_2)$ $coveredby(q_0) \wedge disconnected(q_1) \Rightarrow disconnected(q_2)$
Transitivity + Topological	$inside(x, y) \wedge inside(h, z) \wedge left(y, z) \Rightarrow left(x, h)$ $inside(x, y) \wedge inside(h, z) \wedge right(y, z) \Rightarrow right(x, h)$ $inside(x, y) \wedge inside(h, z) \wedge above(y, z) \Rightarrow above(x, h)$ $inside(x, y) \wedge inside(h, z) \wedge below(y, z) \Rightarrow below(x, h)$ $inside(x, y) \wedge inside(h, z) \wedge behind(y, z) \Rightarrow behind(x, h)$ $inside(x, y) \wedge inside(h, z) \wedge front(y, z) \Rightarrow front(x, h)$ $inside(x, y) \wedge inside(h, z) \wedge near(y, z) \Rightarrow near(x, h)$ $inside(x, y) \wedge inside(h, z) \wedge far(y, z) \Rightarrow far(x, h)$ $inside(x, y) \wedge inside(h, z) \wedge disconnected(y, z) \Rightarrow disconnected(x, h)$ $coveredby(x, y) \wedge coveredby(h, z) \wedge left(y, z) \Rightarrow left(x, h)$ $coveredby(x, y) \wedge coveredby(h, z) \wedge right(y, z) \Rightarrow right(x, h)$ $coveredby(x, y) \wedge coveredby(h, z) \wedge above(y, z) \Rightarrow above(x, h)$ $coveredby(x, y) \wedge coveredby(h, z) \wedge below(y, z) \Rightarrow below(x, h)$ $coveredby(x, y) \wedge coveredby(h, z) \wedge behind(y, z) \Rightarrow behind(x, h)$ $coveredby(x, y) \wedge coveredby(h, z) \wedge front(y, z) \Rightarrow front(x, h)$ $coveredby(x, y) \wedge coveredby(h, z) \wedge near(y, z) \Rightarrow near(x, h)$ $coveredby(x, y) \wedge coveredby(h, z) \wedge far(y, z) \Rightarrow far(x, h)$ $coveredby(x, y) \wedge coveredby(h, z) \wedge disconnected(y, z) \Rightarrow disconnected(x, h)$ $left(x, y) \wedge left(h, z) \wedge contain(y, z) \Rightarrow left(x, h)$ $right(x, y) \wedge right(h, z) \wedge contain(y, z) \Rightarrow right(x, h)$ $right(x, y) \wedge right(h, z) \wedge cover(y, z) \Rightarrow right(x, h)$ $above(x, y) \wedge above(h, z) \wedge contain(y, z) \Rightarrow above(x, h)$ $above(x, y) \wedge above(h, z) \wedge cover(y, z) \Rightarrow above(x, h)$ $below(x, y) \wedge below(h, z) \wedge contain(y, z) \Rightarrow below(x, h)$ $below(x, y) \wedge below(h, z) \wedge cover(y, z) \Rightarrow below(x, h)$ $behind(x, y) \wedge behind(h, z) \wedge contain(y, z) \Rightarrow behind(x, h)$ $behind(x, y) \wedge behind(h, z) \wedge cover(y, z) \Rightarrow behind(x, h)$ $front(x, y) \wedge front(h, z) \wedge contain(y, z) \Rightarrow front(x, h)$ $front(x, y) \wedge front(h, z) \wedge cover(y, z) \Rightarrow front(x, h)$ $near(x, y) \wedge near(h, z) \wedge contain(y, z) \Rightarrow near(x, h)$ $near(x, y) \wedge near(h, z) \wedge cover(y, z) \Rightarrow near(x, h)$ $far(x, y) \wedge far(h, z) \wedge contain(y, z) \Rightarrow far(x, h)$ $far(x, y) \wedge far(h, z) \wedge cover(y, z) \Rightarrow far(x, h)$ $disconnected(x, y) \wedge disconnected(h, z) \wedge contain(y, z) \Rightarrow disconnected(x, h)$ $disconnected(x, y) \wedge disconnected(h, z) \wedge cover(y, z) \Rightarrow disconnected(x, h)$	$q_0 \wedge q_1 \wedge q_2 \Rightarrow q_3$	$inside(q_0) \wedge inside(q_1) \wedge left(q_2) \Rightarrow left(q_3)$ $inside(q_0) \wedge inside(q_1) \wedge right(q_2) \Rightarrow right(q_3)$ $inside(q_0) \wedge inside(q_1) \wedge above(q_2) \Rightarrow above(q_3)$ $inside(q_0) \wedge inside(q_1) \wedge below(q_2) \Rightarrow below(q_3)$ $inside(q_0) \wedge inside(q_1) \wedge behind(q_2) \Rightarrow behind(q_3)$ $inside(q_0) \wedge inside(q_1) \wedge front(q_2) \Rightarrow front(q_3)$ $inside(q_0) \wedge inside(q_1) \wedge near(q_2) \Rightarrow near(q_3)$ $inside(q_0) \wedge inside(q_1) \wedge far(q_2) \Rightarrow far(q_3)$ $inside(q_0) \wedge inside(q_1) \wedge disconnected(q_2) \Rightarrow disconnected(q_3)$ $coveredby(q_0) \wedge coveredby(q_1) \wedge left(q_2) \Rightarrow left(q_3)$ $coveredby(q_0) \wedge coveredby(q_1) \wedge right(q_2) \Rightarrow right(q_3)$ $coveredby(q_0) \wedge coveredby(q_1) \wedge above(q_2) \Rightarrow above(q_3)$ $coveredby(q_0) \wedge coveredby(q_1) \wedge below(q_2) \Rightarrow below(q_3)$ $coveredby(q_0) \wedge coveredby(q_1) \wedge behind(q_2) \Rightarrow behind(q_3)$ $coveredby(q_0) \wedge coveredby(q_1) \wedge front(q_2) \Rightarrow front(q_3)$ $coveredby(q_0) \wedge coveredby(q_1) \wedge near(q_2) \Rightarrow near(q_3)$ $coveredby(q_0) \wedge coveredby(q_1) \wedge far(q_2) \Rightarrow far(q_3)$ $coveredby(q_0) \wedge coveredby(q_1) \wedge disconnected(q_2) \Rightarrow disconnected(q_3)$ $left(q_0) \wedge left(q_1) \wedge contain(q_2) \Rightarrow left(q_3)$ $left(q_0) \wedge left(q_1) \wedge cover(q_2) \Rightarrow left(q_3)$ $right(q_0) \wedge right(q_1) \wedge contain(q_2) \Rightarrow right(q_3)$ $right(q_0) \wedge right(q_1) \wedge cover(q_2) \Rightarrow right(q_3)$ $above(q_0) \wedge above(q_1) \wedge contain(q_2) \Rightarrow above(q_3)$ $above(q_0) \wedge above(q_1) \wedge cover(q_2) \Rightarrow above(q_3)$ $below(q_0) \wedge below(q_1) \wedge contain(q_2) \Rightarrow below(q_3)$ $below(q_0) \wedge below(q_1) \wedge cover(q_2) \Rightarrow below(q_3)$ $behind(q_0) \wedge behind(q_1) \wedge contain(q_2) \Rightarrow behind(q_3)$ $behind(q_0) \wedge behind(q_1) \wedge cover(q_2) \Rightarrow behind(q_3)$ $front(q_0) \wedge front(q_1) \wedge contain(q_2) \Rightarrow front(q_3)$ $front(q_0) \wedge front(q_1) \wedge cover(q_2) \Rightarrow front(q_3)$ $near(q_0) \wedge near(q_1) \wedge contain(q_2) \Rightarrow near(q_3)$ $near(q_0) \wedge near(q_1) \wedge cover(q_2) \Rightarrow near(q_3)$ $far(q_0) \wedge far(q_1) \wedge contain(q_2) \Rightarrow far(q_3)$ $far(q_0) \wedge far(q_1) \wedge cover(q_2) \Rightarrow far(q_3)$ $disconnected(q_0) \wedge disconnected(q_1) \wedge contain(q_2) \Rightarrow disconnected(q_3)$ $disconnected(q_0) \wedge disconnected(q_1) \wedge cover(q_2) \Rightarrow disconnected(q_3)$

Table 7: The conversion from spatial logical rules proposed in (Mirzaee and Kordjamshidi, 2022) to logical constraints used in our experiment.