000 001 002 003 GEOBENCH: A NEW BENCHMARK ON SYMBOLIC RE-GRESSION WITH GEOMETRIC EXPRESSIONS

Anonymous authors

Paper under double-blind review

ABSTRACT

Symbolic regression (SR) is a highly effective approach for discovering mathematical expressions directly from data. With the proliferation of various SR methods, SRBench [\(La Cava et al., 2021\)](#page-11-0) has made an important contribution by offering a standardized evaluation framework that includes 130 SR datasets and assesses 14 SR methods. Nevertheless, the methods incorporated in SRBench are somewhat outdated, and the benchmark dataset does not encompass results from more recent approaches, such as SNIP [\(Meidani et al., 2024\)](#page-11-1). Furthermore, the evaluation metrics employed in SRBench fail to fully capture the breadth of symbolic regression capabilities, and the benchmark data itself exhibits scientific inconsistencies. Although [Matsubara et al.](#page-11-2) [\(2022\)](#page-11-2) address some of these issues, their approach remains incomplete. In response, we propose a novel benchmark consisting of 71 expressions derived from geometric contexts, which are categorized into three difficulty levels: easy, medium, and hard. We conduct an evaluation of 20 SR methods on these expressions, focusing exclusively on the symbolic regression capabilities of each model. These capabilities are measured in terms of recovery rates across the different difficulty levels and in aggregate. Our study provides a comprehensive methodology for reproducing the experiments and includes results for newly developed SR methods using this updated benchmark. The findings reveal significant variability in the symbolic regression performance across the evaluated models.

032

1 INSTRUCTION

033 034 035 036 037 038 039 040 041 In many aspects of life, various phenomena can be described by mathematical equations, such as Newton's Second Law and the law of gravity. Symbolic regression (SR) is a powerful tool for uncovering these underlying relationships. Specifically, SR seeks to discover a mathematical expression that links input and output data. Unlike traditional machine learning techniques, such as neural networks, SR offers greater interpretability and superior generalization, avoiding the complexity often associated with opaque models. Due to these advantages, symbolic regression has been applied across diverse fields, including physics [\(Sun et al., 2021;](#page-12-0) [Udrescu & Tegmark, 2020;](#page-12-1) [Schmidt &](#page-12-2) [Lipson, 2009\)](#page-12-2), network control [\(Sharan et al., 2022\)](#page-12-3), finance [\(La Malfa et al., 2021\)](#page-11-3), and material science [\(Wang et al., 2019\)](#page-12-4).

042 043 044 045 However, symbolic regression (SR) poses significant challenges due to its expansive search space. The inclusion of constants further complicates the task, as they increase the complexity of potential solutions. In fact, SR has been formally proven to be an NP-complete problem [\(Virgolin & Pissis,](#page-12-5) [2022;](#page-12-5) [Song et al., 2024\)](#page-12-6).

046 047 048 049 Historically, SR originated with polynomial fitting, where early approaches focused on extracting equations through linear regression. To improve accuracy, researchers incorporated more complex input features, such as Fourier bases. However, this method compromised the interpretability of the results and increased the risk of overfitting.

050 051 052 053 Subsequently, expression trees became a popular approach for tackling SR tasks. An expression tree consists of *internal nodes* representing mathematical operators (e.g., $+$, $-$, \times , \div , log, exp, sin, cos) and *leaf nodes* that represent constants (e.g., 1, 2) or variables (e.g., x). By recursively evaluating sub-trees, the expression tree generates a corresponding mathematical expression. The construction of an expression tree typically follows a recursive method, where operators are added in pre-order

054 055 056 traversal until no further additions are possible. This transforms SR into a sequence generation problem, akin to tasks in natural language processing (NLP).

057 058 059 060 061 062 063 064 065 Symbolic regression involving constants presents a particularly challenging task. Traditional methods often treat constants within equations as parameters in a linear regression framework, allowing them to be estimated by solving the associated function. In subsequent stages, models typically sample random values to substitute for constants in the generated expressions. If an expression yields a high loss value, the corresponding random constant is discarded, while constants producing lower losses are retained. In more recent approaches, constants are preserved by introducing a constant token. This allows the model to solve for the constant value during the error calculation phase. At this stage, the constants are treated as input variables, and the error is treated as the target value. Optimization algorithms, such as BFGS [\(Roger Fletcher & Sons, 2013\)](#page-12-7), are commonly employed to fine-tune the constants and minimize error.

066 067 068 069 070 071 072 073 074 With the development of SR methods came the emergence of benchmarks. Nyugen [\(Uy et al.,](#page-12-8) [2011\)](#page-12-8) introduced one of the early symbolic regression benchmarks, comprising 12 short expressions designed to evaluate SR techniques across a range of simple to moderately complex equations. Similarly, Jin [\(Jin et al., 2019\)](#page-10-0), Neat, and Keijzer [\(Keijzer, 2003\)](#page-11-4) created their own datasets to test the symbolic regression abilities of their models. However, the data in these benchmarks have limitations, as they often involve non-prime functions, such as the expression $\sum_{i=1}^{x_1} \frac{1}{i}$, rather than more fundamental mathematical expressions. Consequently, these datasets are sometimes more suited to assessing curve-fitting abilities rather than the capacity to discover underlying symbolic functions.

075 076 077 078 079 080 081 082 083 As well, some benchmarks have been developed to assess specific aspects of symbolic regression capabilities. For example, $Nyugen^c$ primarily evaluates SR models' ability to handle constants, as all its equations include constant parameters. The R rationals and R* benchmarks [\(McDermott et al., 2012\)](#page-11-5) are designed to test models' abilities to solve complex fractional equations, while the Livermore benchmark [\(Mundhenk et al., 2021b\)](#page-11-6) focuses on equations containing cos,sin, log, exp, and power functions. However, these benchmarks often lack real-world applicability, as expressions like $\log(x_1 + 1) + \log(x_1^2 + x_1) + \log(x_1)$ are primarily suited for testing, not use in real world . As well, these benchmarks has no uniform metric since some models tests for $R²$ and the other uses it for symbolic recovery rate.

084 085 086 087 088 089 090 091 092 093 094 095 096 097 The introduction of the AIFeynman dataset [\(Udrescu & Tegmark, 2020\)](#page-12-1) marked a significant step forward in SR benchmarking. This dataset comprises 120 equations derived from the Feynman Lectures on Physics [\(Feynman et al., 2015\)](#page-10-1) and serves as a robust benchmark for SR tasks. Recently, the SRBench team [\(La Cava et al., 2021\)](#page-11-0) has combined 118 equations from this dataset with the Strogatz dataset [\(Strogatz, 2018\)](#page-12-9), which includes 14 equations modeling nonlinear and chaotic dynamical processes, providing a more comprehensive evaluation of SR methods. Additionally, SR-Bench includes different noise levels ranging from 0.0, 0.1, 0.01, 0.001, to assess the models' ability to handle noisy data. This benchmark evaluates 14 SR methods as baselines, resolving issues seen in earlier datasets, such as a focus on equations primarily suited for testing and not for real-world scientific experiments. It also provides a framework to reproduce results and test new models. However, SRBench has some limitations, as more than half of the evaluated methods are based on genetic programming (GP) approaches, and many are from before 2022. Furthermore, the benchmark includes some scientifically unrealistic assumptions, such as treating the gravitational constant as a variable, and has been criticized for its oversimplified sampling process and inappropriate formulas [\(Matsubara et al., 2022\)](#page-11-2).

098 099 100 101 Subsequently, [Matsubara et al.](#page-11-2) [\(2022\)](#page-11-2) attempted to address some of the existing issues; however, their evaluation was restricted to only six methods. This limited selection of baselines may result in an insufficient comparison, particularly when assessing the performance of new models introduced into the field.

102 103 104 105 106 107 To address these issues, we propose our geometric dataset. It consists of 2D and 3D geometric problems, such as calculating the area of a triangle given the lengths of its three sides. These problems are meaningful in real-world applications and complement existing physical symbolic regression datasets. We categorize these datasets into three difficulty levels: easy, medium, and hard. We evaluate our 71 datasets using 20 SR baselines from 8 different approaches. The metrics of our benchmark are twofold: (1) the symbolic recovery rate across each difficulty level and overall,

108 109 110 and (2) the number of expressions that can be discovered when models are allowed to run for an extended period.

111 112

113 114

2 DIFFERENT APPROACH OF SYMBOLIC REGRESSION

115 116 117 118 119 120 121 Linear Methods: The SINDy method [\(Kaiser et al., 2018\)](#page-10-2) applies the L1 Loss to reduce the number of active basis functions in a linear regression framework, thereby distilling a simple equation as a linear combination of candidate terms from a predefined library. Although SINDy is known for its interpretability and speed, its performance heavily depends on the selection of the predefined library. If the true solution is not a combination of terms in the library, SINDy is unable to identify it. Recently, the KAN model [\(Liu et al., 2024\)](#page-11-7) has emerged using spline methods as an alternative to improve upon these limitations.

122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 Genetic Programming: The genetic programming method [\(Schmidt & Lipson, 2009;](#page-12-2) [Augusto &](#page-10-3) [Barbosa, 2000;](#page-10-3) [Gustafson et al., 2005\)](#page-10-4) represents expressions as trees, which serve as the populations in the algorithm. Mutation and crossover operations modify the trees by changing sub-trees or exchanging parts of the tree. The advantage of genetic algorithms in symbolic learning is their ability to iteratively modify the expression tree via genetic recombination, enabling the model to explore a wide range of expressions. However, a significant disadvantage is the tendency of genetic algorithms to overfit; once the algorithm veers toward an incorrect solution, it is often difficult to recover a correct path to the truth.

130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 Deep Learning Methods: There are two main approaches to using deep learning in symbolic regression. One approach leverages neural networks to identify relationships between variables and merge them to reduce the search space [\(Udrescu & Tegmark, 2020;](#page-12-1) [Udrescu et al., 2020\)](#page-12-10). While this method simplifies the search, it requires large amounts of data and does not always succeed in fitting the correct equations. The other approach replaces traditional network components (e.g., linear layers or activation functions) with symbolic functions and applies L1 loss to reduce active modules, thus simplifying the output [\(Martius & Lampert, 2016;](#page-11-8) [Sahoo et al., 2018\)](#page-12-11). This approach achieves lower MSE, but optimizing the sparse network to precisely recover the correct equation is extremely challenging.

139 140 141 142 143 144 Deep Reinforcement Learning Methods: The deep reinforcement learning approach [\(Petersen](#page-12-12) [et al., 2019\)](#page-12-12) frames symbolic regression as a sequential decision-making problem, where models take actions at each step (e.g., adding or modifying terms) based on the current state, which is evaluated using a recurrent neural network (or LSTM). After each generation, the models learn from the best-generated expressions, guided by a reward function. This method effectively narrows the search space but can suffer from overfitting and lack of exploration.

145 146 147 148 Traditional Machine Learning Methods: This approach [\(Sun et al., 2022;](#page-12-13) [Xu et al., 2024\)](#page-12-14) is similar to deep reinforcement learning but uses Monte Carlo Tree Search (MCTS) instead of neural networks to guide the search process. By avoiding the need for neural network training, this method is faster for smaller problems but struggles with more complex equations.

149 150 151 152 153 154 155 Transformer-Based Pretrain Methods: Inspired by the GPT models [\(Radford et al., 2018\)](#page-12-15), transformer-based symbolic regression models [\(Kamienny et al., 2022\)](#page-11-9) pretrain on large sets of artificial expressions and use this pretraining to generate expressions from input data. Subsequently, genetic programming or reinforcement learning [\(Holt et al., 2022;](#page-10-5) [Landajuela et al., 2022\)](#page-11-10) is employed to refine the output of the transformer models. While transformers provide excellent initial solutions, they may struggle with out-of-distribution data, leading to overfitting or poor performance on unseen tasks.

156 157 158 159 160 161 Bayesian Methods: Bayesian symbolic regression [\(Jin et al., 2019;](#page-10-0) [Guimera et al., 2020\)](#page-10-6) leverages ` prior knowledge (e.g., preferences for basis functions, operators, or original features) and produces symbolic expressions as a linear combination of concise terms, controlled by a prior distribution. The symbolic regression problem is solved by sampling expression trees from the posterior distribution using a Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) algorithm. Although this method conserves memory, it can be computationally expensive and may struggle to produce accurate results due to the limitations of MCMC sampling.

Figure 1: the 2D geometric objects in our dataset including triangles, circles, trapezoids, elliptic, squares, rectangles, lines and point.

Brute-Force Search Methods: Given that symbolic regression seeks simple expressions to describe phenomena, the true expression trees often have limited depth (e.g., maximum 6 layers). This observation motivates brute-force methods, which enumerate possible expressions layer by layer [\(Ruan](#page-12-16) [et al., 2024\)](#page-12-16), as the $n + 1$ -th layer can be constructed by combining elements from the *n*-th layer. GPU-based implementations can accelerate this search process, making brute-force methods effective for finding simple expressions with few variables, although they struggle with larger and more complex problems because of GPU's memory.

3 GEOMETRIC DATASET

3.1 DATASETS

 Diving into the details of our geometry dataset, it's divided into two main sections: 2-D and 3-D geometry. The first section is a thorough compilation of 2-D geometrical shapes such as triangles, rectangles, squares, and circles, complete with their corresponding equations. In the second section, the dataset expands into the realm of 3-D geometry, presenting a wide array of shapes including vectors, spheres, various solids, and pyramids, each paired with their relevant equations.

 2-D part: The dataset begins with various types of triangles. We assess the ability to determine the perimeter and area of triangles given different sets of known values: three sides (SSS), two sides with the included angle (SAS), and two angles with the included side (AAS) or the opposite sides (ASA). These four methods constitute the foundational techniques for establishing triangle congruence and equality.

 For right-angled triangles, the dataset facilitates the calculation of the perimeter and area using the lengths of the right sides and the hypotenuse, or by employing the length of one right side and the angle opposite to it.

 Incorporated into this dataset are three pivotal laws of trigonometry: the Cosine Theorem (Law of Cosines), the Pythagorean Theorem, and the Sine Theorem (Law of Sines). Utilization of these theorems allows for the resolution of the perimeter and area for a variety of straightforward geometrical constructs.

 Moreover, the dataset tackles more challenging computations such as determining the circumcircle and incircle radix of a triangle based solely on its three side lengths.

Figure 2: the 3D geometric objects in our dataset including three-dimensional vectors, cylinder, cones, frustums, sphere, cuboids, cubes, pyramids and tetrahedrons.

- Expanding beyond simple measurements, we also delve into coordinate geometry. The dataset includes the calculation of the horizontal coordinates for four significant points within a triangle: the centroid (center of mass), the incenter (intersection of angle bisectors), the circumcenter (intersection of perpendicular bisectors), and the orthocenter (intersection of altitudes). These calculations are vital for a deeper understanding of a triangle's geometric properties and their applications.
- Venturing beyond triangular shapes, our collection encompasses trapezoids, specifically focusing on isosceles trapezoids. By utilizing the dimensions of the upper and lower bases, height, sides, or the angles adjacent to the base, one can deduce both the perimeter and area of these quadrilaterals.
- The dataset also embraces the circular and elliptical geometries. It allows for the calculation of a circle's perimeter (or circumference) using its radius, as well as the perimeter and area of a sector by its central angle and radius. For ellipses, the major and minor axes serve as the basis for determining the area and locating the focal points.
- Additionally, the dataset includes rectangles and squares. Given the lengths of their edges, we can easily determine their perimeter and area.
- Lastly, the dataset serves as a resource for analytical geometry concerning lines and points. It enables the determination of the horizontal and vertical coordinates where two lines intersect, based on their slopes and intercepts. It further aids in calculating the slope and intercept of a line passing through two points, given their horizontal and vertical coordinates. Additionally, it provides the tools to find the directed distance from a point to a line, integrating the line's slope and intercept with the point's coordinates.
-

 3-D part: For three-dimensional vectors, the dataset includes methods for calculating their magnitude, the cosine of the angle between two vectors, their dot product, and the horizontal coordinate of their cross product. In conjunction with point coordinates, it facilitates the calculation of the directed distance from a point to a plane, essential for spatial analysis.

- In terms of solids, the dataset aids in finding the surface area and volume of cylinders using their base radius and height. The same parameters are used for cones, with additional calculations for their surface area and volume. For frustums, the dataset provides a method to determine the surface area and volume from the radii of the upper and lower bases and the height.
- Spherical geometry is also covered, with the dataset enabling the calculation of a sphere's surface area from its radius. In the study of cuboids, the dataset allows for the determination of the sum of edge lengths, surface area, and volume from the lengths of the three edges. Similarly, for cubes, the side length can be used to find the sum of edge lengths, surface area, and volume.

270 271 272 273 The dataset also includes calculations for pyramids, using the base area and height to find the volume. For regular tetrahedrons, the base edge and height, or the base edge and side, provide the necessary measurements to calculate surface area and volume. In addition, the hardest ones show that the volume of an arbitrary tetrahedron can be calculated using two equations.

274 275 The complete set of symbolic equations can be found in Table [2,](#page-14-0) Appendix Section [A.](#page-13-0)

 $x_c =$

 $\begin{array}{c} \hline \end{array}$

2 \mid

276 277 278 279 280 To delve deeper into this dataset, we observe that many equations are derived using Helen's law or other complex expressions. However, a significant portion can be simplified to the determinant of a square matrix, exemplified by the equation for the horizontal coordinate of the circumcenter below. This simplification is noteworthy as determinants are not commonly employed in symbolic regression methods.

> $x_1^2 + y_1^2$ y_1 1 $x_2^2 + y_2^2$ y_2 1 $x_3^{\bar{2}} + y_3^{\bar{2}}$ y_3 1

> > x_1 y_1 1 x_2 y_2 1 x_3 y_3 1

 $\begin{array}{c} \hline \end{array}$ $\overline{}$

281

282 283

284

285

286 287

288 289

Furthermore, the result from the determinant calculation may lead to misconceptions regarding the polynomial order within the models. A third-order determinant consists of three positive and three negative polynomials. The interplay between these positive and negative elements often misleads the model's search direction. Therefore, searching ability against bad equations are useful in this benchmark.

We categorized all datasets into three difficulty levels:

- Easy: This category contains the simplest equations, such as the perimeter of a triangle given the lengths of its three edges ($P = a + b + c$) and the volume of a pyramid given the base area and height ($V = \frac{1}{3}Sh$). In summary, this level comprises combinations of basic polynomial equations, making them relatively easy to solve. Each equation in this category can typically be solved within one hour.
- Medium: This category includes equations involving non-linear terms. Examples include the Pythagorean theorem $(c = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2})$ and finding the vertical coordinate of the intersection of two lines given their slopes and intercepts $(y = \frac{k_2b_1 - k_1b_2}{k_2 - k_1})$. While these equations introduce non-linear components, they remain closely related to basic polynomial structures. Solving each equation in this category typically requires approximately five hours.
- **Hard:** This category features the most complex equations, such as the volume of an arbitrary tetrahedron and Heron's formula for the area of a triangle based on the lengths of its three sides $(S = \sqrt{\frac{(a+b+c)(a+b-c)(a+c-b)(b+c-a)}{16}}$ $2a^2b^2 + 2a^2c^2 + 2b^2c^2 - a^4 - b^4 - c^4/4$. These equations are characterized by longer and deeper mathematical structures, making them significantly more challenging to solve. Each equation in this category typically requires up to one day to solve. And, there are hard equations in our dataset is the cosine value of angle between two vectors $\cos \theta =$ $\frac{x_1x_2+y_1y_2+z_1z_2}{\sqrt{(x_1^2+y_1^2+z_1^2)\times(x_2^2+y_2^2+z_2^2)}}$, which is composed by 6 varibles.

317 And our dataset contains two different sizes: 500 for normal model and 100000 for machine learning models that need to fit the curve.

3.2 METRICS

318 319 320

321 322 323 We use the symbolic recovery rate as the primary metric for evaluating performance, calculated as follows:

recovery rate =
$$
\frac{\text{count of successful discoveries}}{\text{count of total roll-outs}}
$$
 (1)

379 380 381 382 383 Table 1: Correspondence between symbolic regression methods and approaches. BF stands for Brute Force Searching, DL denotes Deep Learning methods, DRL stands for Deep Reinforcement Learning methods, GP refers to Genetic Programming, Pretrain refers to methods using transformer modules for pretraining, Dimension refers to special methods targeting dimensional constraints and MCTS refers to machine learning models using the Monte Carlo Tree Search algorithm.

accelerated parallel evaluation of symbolic expressions and implements efficient subtree reuse and caching. The model features a unique approach of selecting expressions based on minimum loss, followed by recursive symbolic backward derivation. Its core parallel symbolic regression module can integrate with various token generation methods.

- EQL [\(Coulom, 2006;](#page-10-7) [Kim et al., 2020\)](#page-11-12): This model uses multiplication units and nonlinear activation functions (e.g., sine and cosine) in its neural network. Each layer contains linear mappings and nonlinear transformations, and the network is trained using a Lasso-like objective function, combining L2 loss and L1 regularization.
- **AIFeynman** [\(Udrescu & Tegmark, 2020;](#page-12-1) [Udrescu et al., 2020\)](#page-12-10): This model employs a neural network to fit the data, then uses the network to identify relationships between variables, such as symmetry. After this, AiFeynman runs a brute-force search based on the extracted knowledge.
- **NGGP** [\(Mundhenk et al., 2021a\)](#page-11-13): An upgraded version of DSR [\(Petersen et al., 2019\)](#page-12-12), NGGP uses an RNN-based model through deep reinforcement learning to learn the distribution of expressions. It then fine-tunes these expressions using GP methods, focusing only on those that have been improved through fine-tuning.
	- uDSR [\(Landajuela et al., 2022\)](#page-11-10): An upgraded version of NGGP [\(Mundhenk et al., 2021a\)](#page-11-13), this model incorporates the AiFeynman module to reduce the number of variables. It also introduces a linear token for generating polynomials and utilizes large-scale pretraining.
- PhySO [\(Tenachi et al., 2023\)](#page-12-17): This model applies dimensional constraints to the NGGP [\(Mundhenk et al., 2021a\)](#page-11-13) module. If a generated token violates dimensional constraints (e.g., summing variables with different dimensions), the generation probability is set to zero.
- pysr [\(Cranmer, 2023\)](#page-10-8): Considered one of the best GP models, pysr optimizes hyperparameters algorithmically and supports dimensional constraints. When an expression violates dimensional constraints, its fitness is significantly penalized.
- **431** • gplearn [\(Stephens, 2016\)](#page-12-18): This model retains the familiar scikit-learn fit/predict API, allowing it to work seamlessly with existing scikit-learn pipelines and grid search modules.

additional results can be found in Appendix Section [C](#page-18-0) Figure [4.](#page-18-1)

505 Figure 3: Results on the geometric dataset: the left panel illustrates the average recovery rate across all 71 equations, while the right panel displays the number of equations successfully discovered by the models. BMS, AIF and NGNS refer to the Bayesian Machine Scientist, AIFeynman and NeSymReS, respectively.

506

510 511 512 513 In the left panel, it is observed that the top five models in terms of recovery rate are RSRM [\(Xu](#page-12-14) [et al., 2024\)](#page-12-14), PSRN [\(Ruan et al., 2024\)](#page-12-16), NGGP [\(Mundhenk et al., 2021a\)](#page-11-13), PySR [\(Cranmer, 2023\)](#page-10-8), and Bayesian Machine Scientist (Guimerà et al., 2020). Notably, methods based on deep learning and transformer-based pretraining tend to perform below these models.

514 515 516 517 518 A comparison within the same methodological class reveals consistent improvements in performance over time. However, in the case of transformer-based pretraining methods, newer models such as SNIP [\(Meidani et al., 2024\)](#page-11-1) demonstrate weaker performance compared to earlier models like End2End Transformers [\(Kamienny et al., 2022\)](#page-11-9). This discrepancy could be attributed to a focus on optimizing the R^2 score, potentially at the expense of true symbolic regression capabilities.

519 520 521 522 523 524 525 In the genetic programming domain, PySR [\(Cranmer, 2023\)](#page-10-8) significantly outperforms other models such as DEAP [\(Fortin et al., 2012\)](#page-10-12) and gplearn [\(Stephens, 2016\)](#page-12-18). While hyperparameter tuning may contribute to this performance difference, dimensional analysis also plays a crucial role. Specifically, PySR applies penalties to expressions that violate dimensional consistency, which improves the model's robustness. In contrast, PhySO [\(Tenachi et al., 2023\)](#page-12-17) performs less effectively, ranking lower than both NGGP [\(Mundhenk et al., 2021a\)](#page-11-13) and uDSR [\(Landajuela et al., 2022\)](#page-11-10). PhySO's strict adherence to dimensional consistency dramatically reduces its search space, potentially leading to overfitting early in the training process.

526 527 528 529 The right panel of Figure [3](#page-9-0) mirrors the trends observed in the left panel. While some models exhibit low recovery rates, they still manage to discover a significant number of equations, as exemplified by gplearn [\(Stephens, 2016\)](#page-12-18).

530 531

532

5 CONCLUSION

533 534 535 536 537 In conclusion, we introduce a novel symbolic regression dataset, comprising a refined version of the SRBench dataset. We evaluate the performance of 20 different models across 8 methodological categories. Our analysis indicates that Monte Carlo Tree Search (MCTS) methods are particularly well-suited to this task, due to their broad search capabilities. Parallel search algorithms and deep reinforcement learning methods also demonstrate strong performance.

538 539 Furthermore, we highlight that an exclusive focus on optimizing the $R²$ score can result in diminished symbolic recovery rates. As future work, we aim to identify additional symbolic equations for benchmarking and investigate optimal approaches for selecting equations under noisy conditions.

540 541 ETHICS STATEMENT

542 543 544 545 Our studies does not involve human subjects, practices to data set releases, potentially harmful insights, methodologies and applications, pontential conflicts of interest and sponsorship, discrimination/bias/fairness concerns, privacy and security issues, legal compliance, and research integrity issues.

REPRODUCIBILITY STATEMENT

Codes and models of Geometric Benchmark will be available at github upon the paper's publication. Details about experiments mentioned is at appendix section [A,](#page-13-0) [B.](#page-17-1)

REFERENCES

565

579

- Douglas Adriano Augusto and Helio JC Barbosa. Symbolic regression via genetic programming. In *Proceedings. Vol. 1. Sixth Brazilian Symposium on Neural Networks*, pp. 173–178. IEEE, 2000.
- **557 558 559** Luca Biggio, Tommaso Bendinelli, Alexander Neitz, Aurelien Lucchi, and Giambattista Parascandolo. Neural symbolic regression that scales. In *International Conference on Machine Learning*, pp. 936–945. Pmlr, 2021.
- **560 561 562** Rémi Coulom. Efficient selectivity and backup operators in monte-carlo tree search. In *International Conference on Computers and Games*, 2006.
- **563 564** Miles Cranmer. Interpretable machine learning for science with pysr and symbolicregression. jl. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2305.01582*, 2023.
- **566 567 568** Stephane d'Ascoli, Pierre-Alexandre Kamienny, Guillaume Lample, and Francois Charton. Deep ´ symbolic regression for recurrence prediction. In *International Conference on Machine Learning*, pp. 4520–4536. PMLR, 2022.
- **569 570 571** Richard P Feynman, Robert B Leighton, and Matthew Sands. *The Feynman lectures on physics, Vol. I: The new millennium edition: mainly mechanics, radiation, and heat*, volume 1. Basic books, 2015.
- **572 573 574 575** Félix-Antoine Fortin, Francois-Michel De Rainville, Marc-André Gardner Gardner, Marc Parizeau, and Christian Gagné. Deap: Evolutionary algorithms made easy. The Journal of Machine Learn*ing Research*, 13(1):2171–2175, 2012.
- **576 577 578** Roger Guimera, Ignasi Reichardt, Antoni Aguilar-Mogas, Francesco A Massucci, Manuel Miranda, ` Jordi Pallarès, and Marta Sales-Pardo. A bayesian machine scientist to aid in the solution of challenging scientific problems. *Science advances*, 6(5):eaav6971, 2020.
- **580 581 582** Steven Gustafson, Edmund K Burke, and Natalio Krasnogor. On improving genetic programming for symbolic regression. In *2005 IEEE Congress on Evolutionary Computation*, volume 1, pp. 912–919. IEEE, 2005.
- **583 584** Samuel Holt, Zhaozhi Qian, and Mihaela van der Schaar. Deep generative symbolic regression. In *International Conference on Learning Representations*, 2022.
	- Ying Jin, Weilin Fu, Jian Kang, Jiadong Guo, and Jian Guo. Bayesian symbolic regression. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1910.08892*, 2019.
- **588 589 590 591** Kadierdan Kaheman, J Nathan Kutz, and Steven L Brunton. Sindy-pi: a robust algorithm for parallel implicit sparse identification of nonlinear dynamics. *Proceedings of the Royal Society A*, 476 (2242):20200279, 2020.
- **592 593** Eurika Kaiser, J Nathan Kutz, and Steven L Brunton. Sparse identification of nonlinear dynamics for model predictive control in the low-data limit. *Proceedings of the Royal Society A*, 474(2219): 20180335, 2018.

Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems, 34:24912–24923, 2021b.

A DATASET DETAILS

 This section provides a detailed description of the geometric dataset. The complete dataset is presented in Tables [2,](#page-14-0) [3,](#page-15-0) and [4.](#page-16-0) The dataset comprises 8 parts: Dataset name, Equation, Category, Input data label, Input dimension, Output data label, Output dimension and Limitations. And our dataset contains two different sizes: 500 for normal model and 100000 for machine learning models that need to fit the curve.

- Dataset Name: This part specifies the name or identifier of the dataset, providing a clear reference for the specific set of geometric data being described according to the type of geometric shapes or phenomena it covers.
	- Category: This section categorizes the dataset's difficulties. Easy polynomial expressions are classified to easy and complex polynomial with few non-linear tokens are classified to medium and other hard equations are classified to hard.
	- Equation: This section lists the mathematical equations associated with the geometric shapes or phenomena covered in the dataset. These equations are used to compute various properties, such as volume, area, or perimeter, based on the input data.
	- Input Data Label: This part describes the labels or names of the input variables. These labels indicate what each input represents, such as the length of an edge, the height, or the angles between edges in geometric shapes.
	- Input Dimension: This section provides the dimensionality of the input data. It specifies the number of input variables or parameters required for the equations. For instance, a triangle might require two side lengths with m dim and an angle between them with rad dim.
		- Output Data Label: This part describes the labels or names of the output variables. These labels indicate the properties being calculated, such as area, volume, or perimeter.
		- Output Dimension: This section provides the dimensionality of the output data. It specifies the results generated by the equations. For instance, calculating the area of a rectangle results in output dimensions of m^2 .
	- Limitations: This part outlines any constraints or limitations associated with the dataset or the equations. These might include restrictions on the values of input parameters or specific conditions under which the equations are valid like the sum of two edges can not be larger than the other one in triangles.

 The generation process follows this logic: values are randomly generated, with angles sampled uniformly from the interval $[0, \pi]$, and other values sampled uniformly from the range $[1, 5]$. The generated values are then evaluated against predefined constraints (Limitation from dataset). If any of these constraints are violated, new values are generated, and this process continues until the dataset size reaches either 500 or 100,000, depending on the specified target.

Table 2: 1 part/3 part of geometric dataset.

cuboid-3 easy easy $x_1x_2x_3$

Table 3: 2 part/3 part of geometric dataset.

810 811 812

862

Table 4: 3 part/3 part of geometric dataset.

914

864 865 866

915

916

B MODEL DETAILS

In this section, we give hyper-parameters of all 20 models at Table [5.](#page-17-0) The other parameters not m ans section, we give hyper-parameters of an 20 models at Table 5. The other parameters not mentioned in table is set as default value. In most models, the token set is $+$, $-$, \times , \div and cos, sin, $\sqrt{ }$. and X, const.

Table 5: Hyper-parameter setting of all 20 models.

972 973 C EXTRA RESULT

974 975 976 977 978 979 980 In this section, we present additional results from the geometric dataset. As shown in Figure [4,](#page-18-1) the performance of many models across the three difficulty levels—easy, medium, and hard—appears consistent. The strong symbolic regression capabilities demonstrated by models such as RSRM and PSRN can be attributed to their proficiency in handling medium and hard-level expressions. RSRM utilizes MSDB, a mechanism for storing previously encountered failure cases, while PSRN systematically explores a vast array of potential equations. This figure illustrates that both strategies are effective in improving symbolic regression performance.

981 982 Additionally, Bayesian models, such as the Bayesian Machine Scientist, achieve a 100% success rate in the easy category, highlighting their stability and reliability in simpler tasks.

1026 1027 D FULL RECOVERY SCORE OF EACH MODEL

1028 1029 1030

In this section, we provide the recovery rate within each method and each model in Table [6.](#page-19-0)

1031 1032 1033 Table 6: The recovery rate within each method and each model. BMS, AIF and NGNS refer to the Bayesian Machine Scientist, AIFeynman and NeSymReS, respectively.

