# POLYMATH: A CHALLENGING MULTI-MODAL MATHEMATICAL REASONING BENCHMARK

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#### ABSTRACT

Multi-modal Large Language Models (MLLMs) exhibit impressive problemsolving abilities in various domains, but their visual comprehension and abstract reasoning skills remain under-evaluated. To this end, we present POLYMATH, a challenging benchmark aimed at evaluating the general cognitive reasoning abilities of MLLMs. POLYMATH comprises 5,000 manually collected high-quality images of cognitive textual and visual challenges across 10 distinct categories, including pattern recognition, spatial reasoning, and relative reasoning. We conducted a comprehensive, and quantitative evaluation of 15 MLLMs using four diverse prompting strategies, including Chain-of-Thought and Step-Back. The best scores achieved on POLYMATH are  $\sim 41\%$ ,  $\sim 36\%$ , and  $\sim 27\%$ , obtained by Claude-3.5 Sonnet, GPT-40 and Gemini-1.5 Pro respectively - highlighting the logical and visual complexity of these questions. A further fine-grained error analysis reveals that these models struggle to understand spatial relations and perform drawn-out, high-level reasoning. This is further strengthened by our ablation study estimating MLLM performance when given textual descriptions in place of diagrams. As evidenced by  $\sim 4\%$  improvement over textual descriptions as opposed to actual images, we discover that models do not truly comprehend visual diagrams and the spatial information therein, and are thus prone to logical errors. Finally, we evaluate the OpenAI o1 models and find that their performance only matches the human baseline, highlighting the difficulty of the benchmark. The results on POLYMATH highlight the room for improvement in multi-modal reasoning and provide unique insights to guide the development of future MLLMs<sup>1</sup>.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Large Language Models (LLMs) (Brown et al., 2020; Jiang et al., 2024; Touvron et al., 2023a; Achiam et al., 2023) and Multi-modal Large Language Models (MLLMs) (OpenAI, 2023c; Team 037 et al., 2023; Su et al., 2023; Chen et al., 2023b) have rapidly become a pivotal area of research. MLLMs with robust reasoning capabilities in visual contexts can solve complex educational problems (Seo et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2017), support analysts with logical queries on statistical data (Wu 040 et al., 2023; Yang et al., 2023), and contribute to advanced research areas such as theorem proving and 041 scientific discovery (Taylor et al., 2022; Dong et al., 2023; Trinh et al., 2024). Despite their impressive 042 performance in various assessments of human-like intelligence, these models still exhibit notable 043 shortcomings on tasks requiring cognitive and logical reasoning, such as commonsense numerical 044 reasoning, scientific problem-solving, and abstract puzzles (Wang et al., 2023b; Lu et al., 2023a). Existing evaluation benchmarks (Fu et al., 2023a; Liu et al., 2023d; Li et al., 2023b; Fu et al., 2023b; 046 Sun et al., 2024) have focused primarily on specific concrete domains. While general-purpose visual question-answering (VQA) datasets capture some elements of mathematical reasoning, a systematic 047 investigation into abstract and general cognitive reasoning which are essential for tasks like visual 048 puzzles remains an underexplored frontier. 049

In this paper, we present POLYMATH, a benchmark specifically crafted to evaluate the complex multi-modal cognitive reasoning capabilities of MLLMs. We propose a task taxonomy to guide the development of POLYMATH: (1) we identify ten distinct reasoning skills, including *spatial*

<sup>053</sup> 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>https://anonymous.4open.science/r/PolyMATH-052D

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Figure 1: Examples of the reasoning patterns employed by MLLMs when faced with questions involving visual information. In the top row, models fail to perceive the relationship between adjacent semicircles; in the bottom row, models fail to comprehend fine details in the answer images.

082 reasoning, pattern recognition, and numerical reasoning. and (2) we cover a diverse array of 083 visual contexts, including images with venn diagrams, spatially-related layouts, as well as geometric 084 figures. POLYMATH is a meticulously curated dataset of 5000 multimodal reasoning problems 085 newly acquired from a publicly available source (Table 2). The problems of the original source have been crafted and rigorously reviewed by expert annotators, and require diverse fine-grained 087 problem-solving capabilities. Additionally, we provide detailed textual representations of diagrams 880 of the samples. As denoted in fig. 1, these problems are designed to assess the logical reasoning abilities of the average high school student over text and diagrams. We observe that MLLMs fail to 089 demonstrate the cognitive reasoning skills required to solve these questions. 090

091 We conduct extensive experiments on POLYMATH with state-of-the-art (SOTA) closed-source 092 MLLMs like the Claude family (3.5 Sonnet, 3 Sonnet, 3 Haiku), Gemini-1.5 Pro, and GPT-40, and 9 open-source MLLMs like LLaVA (34B) and ShareGPT4V. We evaluate them via zero shot, few shot, Chain-of-Thought (Wei et al., 2022b) and step back prompting (Zheng et al., 2024). We show 094 that POLYMATH is a challenging benchmark, with human performance (established by qualified 095 human annotators with graduate degrees) reaching only 66.3% accuracy. The most powerful model 096 we evaluate, Claude-3.5 Sonnet, achieves the best score of 41.90% followed by GPT-40, which attains 36.50%. The best open source models like LLaVA-v1.6 Mistral (7B) and ShareGPT4V 098 (13B) achieves the accuracy of 15.20% and 12.80% respectively. We additionally create a diagram only subset (*test-img*) of the benchmark to gauge the gap in visual reasoning abilities between the 100 multi-modal models and average human capability. We find that the performance of these models 101 drops further to 26.20% for Claude-3.5 Sonnet and 22.50% by Gemini-1.5 Pro when evaluated on 102 test-img only. In contrast with human cognitive patterns, when given text descriptions in place of the 103 diagram in these questions, model accuracy improves by  $\sim$ 4-7%. We also conduct an error analysis 104 on Claude-3.5 Sonnet, Gemini-1.5 Pro and GPT-4o, and find that the most common errors stem 105 from misunderstanding diagrams ( $\sim 60\%$ ), misidentifying logical patterns ( $\sim 25\%$ ), and forgetting relational information ( $\sim 12\%$ ). Finally, we evaluate OpenAI of models (OpenAI, 2024b) on without 106 diagram questions of the benchmark and observe 66.72% accuracy (o1-preview), 2% points below 107 than the human baseline.



Figure 2: An overview of POLYMATH's distribution and difficulty (a) exhibits the per-category split of the 5000 questions in the dataset, along with the split of *with diagram* (WD) and *without diagram* (WoD) for that category ; (b) Compares the per-category performance of various MLLMs.

#### 2 RELATED WORK

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134 The development of MLLMs builds on the progress of LLMs (Touvron et al., 2023a;b; OpenAI, 135 2023a; Jiang et al., 2024) and large vision models (Kirillov et al., 2023; Zhang et al., 2023d;c;e). 136 These models extend LLMs to handle a wider range of tasks across multiple modalities, including 2D images (Li et al., 2022; Dai et al., 2023; Alayrac et al., 2022; Li et al., 2023a), 3D point clouds 137 (Guo et al., 2023; Xu et al., 2023b), audio (Han et al., 2023; Su et al., 2023), and video (Zhang 138 et al., 2023a; Chen et al., 2023a). Notable examples like OpenAI's GPT-4V (OpenAI, 2023c) and 139 Google's Gemini (Team et al., 2023) demonstrate advanced visual reasoning capabilities, setting 140 new benchmarks in the multimodal space. 141

142 As MLLMs rapidly advance (Li et al., 2023c), there is a growing need for benchmarks that evaluate mathematical problem-solving in visual contexts. Existing benchmarks, such as GeoQA (Chen et al., 143 2021a), VQA (Goyal et al., 2017), and UniGeo (Chen et al., 2022a), focus mostly on geometric 144 problems. Other efforts target skills in abstract scenes, geometry diagrams, charts, and synthetic 145 images (Chen et al., 2022a; Masry et al., 2022). Recent datasets also assess external knowledge, 146 commonsense reasoning, and scientific or medical understanding (Zhang et al., 2023g). MathVista (Lu 147 et al., 2023a) expands multimodal math tasks, while MMMU (Yue et al., 2023a) focuses on college-148 level problems. Prior work evaluates LLMs across diverse domains like QA, mathematics, and 149 science (Bubeck et al., 2023; Nori et al., 2023), while recent research (Zhang et al., 2023f) explores 150 whether models like GPT-4V perform vision and language tasks independently or together. 151

Existing extensive benchmarks (Fu et al., 2023a; Liu et al., 2023d; Li et al., 2023b; Xu et al., 152 2023a) primarily focus on concrete, real-world problems within specific domains. These benchmarks 153 often include comparatively simple diagram interpretation questions involving plots or mathematical 154 questions related to geometry, which primarily evaluate models' abilities to parse information from a 155 single image and solve problems using well-established logical principles and formulae. However, 156 they do not sufficiently test models' capabilities in abstract visual reasoning, including spatial 157 recognition, visual logic and puzzle solving, and pattern recognition. This limitation represents a 158 notable gap, as visual puzzle tasks require logical leaps that differ fundamentally from reasoning 159 patterns over textual or linguistic problems. Moreover, spatial reasoning questions assess models' abilities to internalize and manipulate configurations in 3D space, as well as reason over spatial 160 information and infer implicit relationships based on positional data. This category of questions 161 aligns closely with human cognition and reasoning abilities, and evaluating model performance



Figure 3: Examples of *with diagram* and *without diagram* questions. In addition to the question image, POLYMATH includes the metadata shown above. Question *without diagram* is not present in *test-img* while both kinds of questions will be present in *testmini*.

against human baselines on these questions reveals the substantial gap in reasoning abilities that models must bridge to approach human-comparable reasoning capability. Our proposed dataset aims to address this gap by challenging and comprehensively evaluating previously underexplored model skills in categories where their performance still lags significantly behind human reasoning baselines. Additionally, we provide a detailed analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of these models across a wide range of categories and skills, shedding light on specific reasoning errors and their frequency of occurrence across categories and in comparison to one another.

## CURATING POLYMATH

POLYMATH is curated mainly from questions directed at students taking the National Talent Search Examination, a nationwide competitive exam held by the National Council of Educational Research and Training of India. These questions and their solutions are created by experts in their fields and rigorously peer-reviewed, and thus contain minimal errors. These questions aim to assess Scholastic Aptitude (SAT), or the ability to recall domain-specific scientific and mathematical knowledge, as well as Mental Ability (MAT), or the ability to think logically and apply a range of analytical skills. We catalog the skills assessed by each sample along the categorization schema defined in Table 1.

#### 3.1 COLLECTION PIPELINE

To guarantee high-quality data, we manually collected image snippets and engineered a streamlined, automated framework for curation and annotation. Continuous human reviews were conducted throughout the process, ensuring quality and preventing error propagation.

- Step 1: We generate a universally unique identifier (UUID) for a given question paper to identify all the questions curated from it.
- Step 2: Annotators manually collected separate snippets of each question and their associated contextual information (including disconnected pieces) that apply to multiple questions.
- Step 3: An image merging script automatically identified and merged question images (in case the question gets split by pages) with their relevant context images.
- Step 4: We used an LLM to transcribe the questions and their ground truth answers. We also generate additional metadata, including category (§3.2), whether it contains a diagram (Fig 3), and image description (§3.3). A manual check was performed to ensure the quality of the generated metadata.
- **Step 5**: An annotation file, where each row corresponds to a question, is automatically created and populated.

Category name	Definition	Avg len	Max len
Perspective Shift (PS)	A figure is given and the solver is instructed to morph it according to the instructions (flip, mirror image, rotate, etc.)	18.60	59
Figure Completion (FC)	A figure is given with an arrangement of numbers or characters such that their relationship to one another based on their position in the figure is consistent. The goal is to complete the figure and identify the element missing from a marked position.	23.97	364
Pattern Recognition (PR)	This requires the understanding of a one-to-one relationship or pattern and replicating that pattern. For example, given the relationship between a and b, determining the equivalent of b to c. Questions involving substituting characters and operations in a pre-defined pattern fall into this category.	31.98	391.4
Sequence Completion (SC)	Given a sequence of numbers or figures, this question involves finding the sequentially next element in a series.	30.22	227
Relative Reasoning (RR)	The question contains distinct data points and their relationship with one another. The solver must extrapolate relationships that may not be explicitly mentioned to answer the questions. Questions involving Venn diagrams, family relations, or relative positions given a reference point fall into this category.	27.22	137
Mathematical Reasoning (MR)	This question entails calculations of a mathematical nature, such as solving a given equation.	25.61	156
Numerical Reasoning (NR)	Questions involving counting the number of elements mentioned. The elements may be part of a single figure or conform to a specified pattern.	15.63	65
Spatial Reasoning	These questions require the solver to visualize the context and reason observationally to arrive at the answer.	27.67	78
Odd One Out (OD)	Given a set of elements, identify the element that is not like the others.	26.64	214
Logical Reasoning (LR)	Questions involving simple logical reasoning such as entailment and contradiction.	34.68	144
Overall		27.68	391.4

Table 1: An overview of our question categorization schema. Questions are categorized on the basis of the information provided in the question and the reasoning skills assessed.

#### 3.2 DATASET CATEGORIZATION

We develop a categorization schema that catalogues questions on basis of the information provided and the type of reasoning assessed by the question. Based on the continuous human evaluation during collection, we identify 10 distinct question categories. We enumerate these categories along with their definitions in Table 1. We further distinguish between questions with diagram and without diagram. The with diagram questions are designed around the information presented in the diagrams (Fig 3). We show examples of *with diagram* and *without diagram* questions for each category in §F. The overall per-category distribution, along with the *with diagram* and *without diagram* split, is visualized in Figure 2.

#### 3.3 ADDITIONAL METADATA

The complexity of collected question images and the heavy presence of diagram-based reasoning tasks makes POLYMATH a challenging multi-modal benchmark. To make POLYMATH usable for both text and vision model evaluations, we provide transcriptions of questions and answers. To further facilitate text-based evaluation, we generate detailed, human-vetted text descriptions of attached diagrams such that a human could visualize the image based on this description (Fig 3). Results on text-only characterization of questions in our dataset can be found in §4.3.

Category	PS	FC	PR	SC	RR	MR	NR	SR	OD	LR	Overall
				Full a	lataset						
Questions with Diag. Questions w/o Diag. Total Questions	114 39 153	233 0 233	472 664 1136	160 398 558	206 319 525	157 964 1121	162 58 220	246 191 437	151 246 397	3 217 220	1904 3096 5000
				test	mini						
Questions with Diag. Questions w/o Diag. Total Questions	27 4 31	47 0 47	102 125 227	33 79 112	47 58 105	28 196 224	30 14 44	53 34 87	38 41 79	0 44 44	405 595 1000
				test	-img						
Total Questions	60	122	248	84	108	82	85	129	79	3	1000

Table 2: An overview of the per-category distribution of questions in the *test*, *testmini*, and *test-img* splits of POLYMATH. testmini and test-img are 1000-instance subsets, aimed at faster and imagefocused evaluations respectively. We also report the frequency of with diagram and without diagram questions for each category.

#### 3.4 QUALITY ASSURANCE

Following the collection and annotation process, we conduct a comprehensive quality check. We discard samples that are [1] of low resolution, [2] outside the scope of the categories (Table 1), or 292 [3] missing vital information. We also discard samples with noticeable watermarks and other visual noise that renders the sample illegible. Our subject-expert annotators rectify incorrectly-extracted 294 ground truth answers. Concurrently, we verify that the questions belong to their assigned categories, 295 and correct any observed misalignments therein. 296

#### 3.5 DIVISION OF THE testmini SUBSET.

299 The final iteration of POLYMATH comprises 5000 questions. To enable faster model validation, we 300 extract a 1000-instance subset, testmini, using stratified sampling over all categories. All quantitative results reported in this work were obtained on this testmini subset of POLYMATH. We also create a *test-img* question set, consisting solely of 1000 with diagram questions, aimed at faster, focused 302 assessment of models' visual comprehension. Owing to the imbalance of with diagram questions 303 across categories, we use a random sampling strategy to create *test-img*.<sup>2</sup> For data distribution, see 304 Table 2. Further details on data collection and annotation are available in §C. 305

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#### 4 **EXPERIMENTS**

We conduct a systematic evaluation of existing MLLMs on POLYMATH. We first introduce the experimental setup in this section. Then we present our findings followed by multiple dataset analysis experiments. Additional experimental results and qualitative examples are present in §D and H.

4.1 EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

**Evaluation Models:** We examine the performance of foundation models across two distinct 315 categories on POLYMATH: (a) Closed-source MLLMs, represented by models like GPT-40 316 (gpt-4o-2024-05-13) (OpenAI, 2024a), OpenAI O1 (o1-preview-2024-09-12, 317 ol-mini-2024-09-12) (OpenAI, 2024b), Gemini-1.5 Pro (gemini-1.5-pro-002) 318 (Team et al., 2023), Claude-3.5 Sonnet (claude-3-5-sonnet-20240620) (An-319 thropic, 2024a) and Claude 3 Haiku and Sonnet (claude-3-sonnet-20240229, 320 claude-3-haiku-20240307) (Anthropic, 2024b) (b) Open-source MLLMs, such as 321 LLaVA (v1.5-13B, v1.6-Mistral-7B, v1.6-Vicuna-13B) (Liu et al., 2023a), LLaVA-v1.6-34B (Liu 322 et al., 2024), G-LLaVA (7B, 13B) (Gao et al., 2023a), ShareGPT4V (7B, 13B) (Chen et al., 2023c) & 323

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>All datasets (*test, testmini* and *test-img*) will be publicly released

Category	PS	FC	PR	SC	RR	MR	NR	SR	OD	LR	Overall
					Baseline						
Random chance	9.68	4.26	6.61	9.82	9.52	9.82	15.91	6.90	7.59	9.09	8.60
Human eval	51.08	70.57	61.82	69.35	69.84	76.64	58.71	62.64	64.98	51.14	66.62
				Zero	Shot Infer	rence					
Claude Haiku	17.02	11.36	17.86	36.36	18.99	25.55	22.58	15.24	23.21	19.54	20.80
Claude-3 Sonnet	19.15	36.36	22.77	38.64	17.72	24.23	16.13	31.43	28.57	25.29	25.40
GPT-40	29.79	47.73	38.84	29.55	31.65	34.36	25.81	46.67	38.39	32.18	36.60
Gemini-1.5 Pro	27.66	31.82	31.25	31.82	26.58	24.67	9.68	21.90	29.46	25.29	26.90
Claude-3.5 Sonnet	27.66	43.18	40.18	40.91	25.32	42.29	35.48	41.90	43.75	42.53	39.70
				Few	Shot Infer	ence					
Claude Haiku	19.35	12.77	18.06	36.61	19.05	25.89	22.73	16.09	24.05	20.45	22.40
Claude-3 Sonnet	19.35	19.15	25.99	25.89	32.38	30.36	29.55	26.44	31.65	52.27	28.90
GPT-40	29.03	14.89	33.48	38.39	40.00	40.18	18.18	36.78	21.52	50.00	34.60
Gemini-1.5 Pro	19.35	29.79	25.11	16.96	29.52	30.80	20.45	29.89	32.91	38.64	27.40
Claude-3.5 Sonnet	32.26	44.68	40.53	41.96	26.67	42.41	36.36	42.53	46.84	52.27	40.60
			Cha	in-of Thou	ıght Promp	oting Infere	ence				
Claude Haiku	19.15	15.91	21.88	20.45	26.58	25.55	19.35	21.90	25.00	28.74	23.50
Claude-3 Sonnet	23.40	34.09	30.80	40.91	27.85	31.72	22.58	33.33	22.32	26.44	29.70
GPT-40	21.28	54.55	41.96	25.00	27.85	29.96	9.68	40.95	41.07	33.33	35.00
Gemini-1.5 Pro	27.66	34.09	39.29	22.73	27.85	30.84	35.48	30.48	31.25	26.44	31.90
Claude-3.5 Sonnet	31.91	43.18	41.52	45.45	27.85	43.17	48.39	38.10	45.54	44.83	41.20
				Step Back	Prompting	Inference					
Claude Haiku	12.77	20.45	23.66	15.91	27.85	26.87	19.35	14.29	20.54	20.69	22.00
Claude-3 Sonnet	27.66	43.18	36.16	27.27	24.05	28.63	22.58	29.52	35.71	33.33	31.60
GPT-40	12.77	45.45	42.41	27.27	31.65	34.80	16.13	41.90	41.07	37.93	36.50
Gemini-1.5 Pro	31.91	38.64	38.84	25.00	29.11	31.28	32.26	31.43	32.14	27.59	32.70
Claude-3.5 Sonnet	34.04	43.18	41.96	47.73	29.11	43.61	48.39	38.10	46.43	45.98	41.90

Table 3: Results of closed-source MLLMs on the *testmini* split of POLYMATH. We report model results using the following prompting strategies: zero shot inference, few short inference, Chain-of-Thought, and Step Back prompting. For each prompting setting, the highest and lowest scores achieved by a model per category are highlighted. In addition to model accuracy, we report a Random chance baseline (i.e. the accuracy of a model that randomly selects an option without visibility into the question, and a Human eval baseline, where we report the average scores of six human evaluators.) 

Model	PS	FC	PR	SC	RR	MR	NR	SR	OD	LR	Overall
Qwen2 VL (2B) Instruct	9.38	2.13	6.17	6.25	8.57	3.57	4.55	4.60	8.86	2.27	5.60
LLaVA-v1.6 Mistral (7B)	6.45	4.26	14.98	14.29	18.10	15.18	9.09	19.54	22.78	13.64	15.20
G-LLaVA (7B)	12.90	0.00	9.25	3.57	5.71	7.59	2.27	4.60	3.80	6.82	6.30
ShareGPT4V (7B)	6.45	10.64	16.30	13.39	7.62	11.61	11.36	11.49	10.13	11.36	12.10
LLaVA-v1.6 Vicuna (13B)	12.90	12.77	8.37	8.04	13.33	5.80	15.91	6.90	13.92	4.55	9.10
LLaVA 1.5 (13B)	3.23	14.89	7.49	11.61	7.62	6.70	9.09	8.05	11.39	13.64	8.70
ShareGPT4V (13B)	9.68	17.02	13.66	12.50	15.24	10.71	9.09	12.64	17.72	6.82	12.80
G-LLaVA (13B)	13.67	2.33	11.12	5.69	7.98	10.23	1.07	6.70	5.76	7.98	8.26
LLaVA-v1.6 (34B)	9.68	25.33	9.69	12.50	6.67	10.71	13.64	10.34	15.19	9.09	11.30

Table 4: Results of open-source MLLMs on the testmini split of POLYMATH. We report model results using zero shot inference. The highest and lowest scores achieved by a model in each category are highlighted.

Qwen2-VL-2B-Instruct (Wang et al., 2024b) (c) Text Based LLMs Reka Flash (Ormazabal et al., 2024), Llama-3 (70B) (AI@Meta, 2024), Mistral Large (AI, 2024). We conduct experiments on all open-source models using six NVIDIA A100 GPUs. Hyperparameters are available in §D. 

**Implementation Details** All reported results are based on the *testmini* subset of the dataset. To establish a baseline for comparison, we simulate random chance by selecting a random option for multiple-choice questions over 1000 trials. Additionally, the problems in POLYMATH were independently solved by the paper's authors (four engineering graduates and two PhDs), serving as a human performance baseline. We evaluate the benchmark using various prompting methods,

Category	PS	FC	PR	SC	RR	MR	NR	SR	OD	LR	Overall
	MLLM Inference on Diagrams (Multi-modal)										
Claude-3 Haiku	16.67	15.57	18.55	22.62	25.93	19.51	31.76	17.83	21.52	33.33	20.60
Claude-3 Sonnet	21.67	23.77	22.98	17.86	20.37	24.39	32.94	22.48	26.58	66.67	23.60
GPT-40	20.00	20.49	22.18	19.05	23.15	20.73	20.00	17.05	34.18	66.67	21.80
Gemini-1.5 Pro	11.67	23.77	22.58	27.38	28.70	25.61	10.59	18.60	29.11	66.67	22.50
Claude-3.5 Sonnet	31.67	27.87	25.00	19.05	28.70	25.61	25.88	22.48	31.65	100.00	26.20
MLLM Inference on Diagram Descriptions (Text-only)											
Claude-3 Haiku	30.00	25.41	18.55	19.05	25.93	28.05	27.06	26.36	30.38	100.00	24.60
Claude-3 Sonnet	30.00	32.79	25.40	22.62	26.85	36.59	37.65	26.36	31.65	100.00	29.30
GPT-40	26.67	28.69	29.44	23.81	31.48	34.15	30.59	29.46	27.85	33.33	29.30
Gemini-1.5 Pro	25.00	26.23	25.00	27.38	21.30	28.05	16.47	19.38	22.78	33.33	23.60
Claude-3.5 Sonnet	38.33	30.33	26.61	23.81	37.96	35.37	34.12	28.68	36.71	100.00	31.40
		1	LLM Infer	ence on D	iagram De	scriptions	(Text-only	r)			
Mistral Large	15.00	13.11	11.29	15.48	18.52	13.41	9.41	17.83	25.32	33.33	14.90
Reka Flash	16.67	13.93	12.10	16.67	19.44	14.63	9.41	18.60	26.58	33.33	15.80
Llama-3 (70B)	16.67	13.93	11.69	16.67	19.44	14.63	10.59	18.60	26.58	33.33	15.80

Table 5: Results of visual comprehension ablation study *test-img* split of POLYMATH. We use 394 MLLMs and conduct multi-modal inference on questions containing diagrams, and then use the same 395 MLLMs to infer on the same questions, but with a detailed text description in place of the diagram. 396 For each inference setting, the highest and lowest scores achieved by a model per category are 397 highlighted. Additionally, we report the performance of text-only LLMs on the textual representation 398 of these questions. 399

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402 including zero shot, few shot (2-shot), Chain-of-Thought (Wei et al., 2022b), and Step Back prompting 403 (Zheng et al., 2024). For multiple-choice questions, we use exact match for answer comparison. 404 The model inference prompts are structured to elicit a step-by-step solution, the final answer, and 405 the corresponding option. Details about these prompts are provided in §E. As part of our analysis, we conducted three additional experiments: (1) analyzing model performance on the test-img split, 406 (2) converting the questions from *test-img* into text, along with the transformation of diagrams into 407 descriptions, and (3) evaluating OpenAI o1 models on questions without diagrams. 408

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## 4.2 **RESULTS**

412 Closed Source Models Across various prompting strategies (Table 3), Claude-3.5 Sonnet performed 413 best with these advanced prompts, achieving up to 41.90% accuracy in Step Back Prompting, 414 compared to 39.70% in zero shot. GPT-40 followed closely, especially in FC and PS questions, 415 showing strong performance with zero shot and Step Back Prompting. Gemini-1.5 Pro performed 416 moderately across all categories but lacked dominance in any specific area, while Claude Haiku 417 being the smallest of the closed sourced MLLMs, consistently underperformed across all prompting 418 strategies. In terms of prompting strategies, Chain-of-Thought and Step Back Prompting enhanced the performance of top models like Claude-3.5 Sonnet and GPT-40, allowing them to excel in tasks 419 requiring structured reasoning and re-evaluation. Both strategies led to marked improvements over 420 zero shot prompting, particularly in categories like SR, PR, and LR. 421

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423 **Open Source Models** Table 4 showcases the results of popular open-source MLLMs. LLaVA-v1.6-424 Mistral-7B model achieved the highest overall score of 15.2%, demonstrating remarkable performance 425 across several categories. Notably, it excelled in OD (22.78%), SR (19.54%), RR (18.1%), and MR 426 (15.18%) indicating its proficiency in generating precise, coherent, and relevant responses, even for 427 out-of-distribution samples. The ShareGPT4V (13B) model exhibited the second-highest overall 428 score of 12.8%, with outstanding performance in the PR (13.66%), SC (12.5%), RR (15.24%), MR 429 (10.71%), SR (12.64%), and OD (17.72%) categories. Other models, such as LlaVA-v1.6-Vicuna 13B, LlaVA-1.5 (13B), G-LLaVA (13B), and LlaVA-v1.6 (34B), exhibited varying levels of success 430 across the different categories, highlighting their individual strengths and weaknesses in handling the 431 diverse reasoning aspects tested by the dataset.

Error Name	Definition	Gemini	GPT	Claude
Incomplete (IC)	Model generated incomplete solution, or output hit token limit	6.36	5.08	0.42
Logical Flaw (LF)	Reasoning step violated established logical rules or real-world principles (such as equality or cardinality)	58.05	52.54	57.20
Memory Flaw (MF)	Model forgets information provided in the question or earlier in the solution	11.86	9.75	11.44
Spatial Misunderstanding (SM)	Model misunderstands spatial relations or "misreads" specific details of given image.	16.10	24.58	16.53
Calculation Error (CE)	Model commits a mathematical error, or substitutes the wrong value in an equation.	2.97	1.27	6.36
Misalignment (MG)	Model reasons correctly, but concludes the answer incorrectly (eg. identifying the pattern but selecting the wrong option )	4.66	6.78	8.05

Table 6: The types of errors found in model reasoning patterns. The errors are defined to be mutually distinct and leave very little room for ambiguity. We also report the frequency of these errors for each model (Gemini-1.5 Pro, Claude-3.5 Sonnet, GPT-40) over the 236 questions analysed.

**Human Evaluation** To ascertain the difficulty of the dataset, we asked six graduate students specifically for the evaluation of human performance on POLYMATH. We assigned questions from a specific problem category to each student. This strategy aimed to prevent them from gaining additional information from another question from same category. They were asked to provide only the final answer without detailed reasoning. Therefore, we do not report the Chain-of-Thought evaluation results for human performance, alongside the 'Random Chance' baseline.

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#### 4.3 EXPERIMENTAL ANALYSIS

456 MLLMs Rely More on Image Descriptions than Image To evaluate the visual reasoning ca-457 pabilities of closed-source models, we conducted inference on the *test-img* subset, which contains questions with diagrams. Additionally, we generated a text-only version of *test-img* by replacing all 458 diagrams with detailed textual descriptions. Both experiments were carried out in a zero shot setting. 459 Our analysis reveals three key findings. First, we observed a noticeable decline in performance on 460 test-img, particularly for models like GPT-40 and Claude-3.5 Sonnet, compared to their results on 461 the *testmini* subset. This suggests that both models perform well on questions without diagrams, 462 and their decreased accuracy on *test-img* is largely due to the presence of diagram-based problems. 463 Second, when we replaced the diagrams in *test-img* with text descriptions, the performance of all 464 models improved by approximately  $\sim 3 - 4\%$ , indicating that the models struggle with visualizing 465 diagrams and benefit from textual representations. Finally, we evaluated popular text-only LLMs 466 such as LLaMA-3 (70B), Reka Flash, and Mistral Large on the text-description version of test-img. 467 Their scores (~ 15%) were significantly lower than those of the MLLMs (~ 27%), underscoring the advantage of multi-modal models in handling visually-grounded tasks. 468

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470 A Closer Look at Model Errors We analysed total of 236 samples where all three state of the art 471 MLLMs (Claude-3.5 Sonnet, GPT-40 and Gemini-1.5 Pro) gave incorrect answers on testmini. Based on the manual inspection of the responses, we identified 7 types of errors that MLLMs make (Table 472 6). The total error distribution of all three models is present in Table 11. Qualitative examples for 473 category-wise errors are present in §H. The most common error on this dataset was Logical Flaw (LF), 474 occurring in nearly  $\sim 60\%$  of incorrect samples. Spatial Misunderstanding (SM), which involves 475 a lack of understanding of diagram structure and content, was a close second ( $\sim 25\%$ ). Figure 4 476 shows the category-wise distribution of the two types of error. These errors were most prevalent in 477 OD, PR, and SC category of questions, as making uncommon logical leaps and fully comprehending 478 visual information (which models fall short of) is integral to solving these questions. Additionally, 479 in questions involving extrapolation over multiple weakly connected data points, models came to 480 conclusions that contradicted earlier data, pointing to a lack of information retention. Finally, we 481 find that models fell into the same fallacious reasoning patterns as one another - for example, making 482 the assumption that a pattern holds across each row, when the correct reasoning involves a pattern 483 replicated across columns. The category with the highest % of shared errors was PR, where we observed that GPT4-o, Gemini-1.5 Pro, and Claude-3.5 Sonnet followed the same incorrect reasoning 484 structure on nearly 80% of the analysed samples. Thus, despite their differences, in practice we see 485 that MLLMs share the same strengths and shortcomings. For more details, see §G.



Figure 4: Frequency of Logical Flaw (LF) and Spatial Misunderstanding (SM) errors across different question categories. We report per-model figures to enable a comparison of model abilities. They are most prevalent in the OD, PR, and SC categories of questions, owing to the amount of logical leaps and visual reasoning required by these questions.

Category	PS	FC	PR	SC	RR	MR	NR	SR	OD	LR	Overall
# Instances	4	0	125	79	58	196	14	34	41	44	595
Human Eval	100	-	61.60	69.62	82.76	64.29	71.43	79.41	82.93	59.09	68.40
o1-mini o1-preview	$0.00 \\ 0.00$	-	58.40 75.20	30.38 50.63	91.38 81.03	64.80 70.41	71.43 57.14	44.12 44.12	63.41 73.17	40.91 56.82	58.15 66.72

Table 7: Results of OpenAI o1-mini and o1-preview on the *without diagram* (text-only) samples from the *testmini* split. We observe that while overall, human cognitive abilities have a slight edge over o1 models, over certain categories (PR, MR), o1 models outperform human performance.

**Evaluation of OpenAI o1 models** To understand the capabilities of OpenAI's latest text-only reasoning models (o1-preview and o1-mini), we evaluate these models on 595 questions of *testmini* that do not contain diagrams. We also present human baseline scores on the without diagram section of *testmini*. The results of our study are presented in Table 7. o1-preview ( $\sim 67\%$ ) has scores that are competitive with human performance ( $\sim 68\%$ ), while o1-mini ( $\sim 58\%$ ) lags behind the human baseline by 10%.

#### 5 CONCLUSION

- In this work, we introduce POLYMATH, a benchmark designed to systematically analyze the mathematical reasoning capabilities of state-of-the-art models in visually complex scenarios. Our evaluation of 14 prominent foundation models highlights that significant advancements have been made, especially with the GPT-40 and Claude-3.5 Sonnet models. However, a substantial gap of  $\sim$ 24% still exists between Claude-3.5 Sonnet, the best-performing model, and human performance. This disparity sets a clear direction for future research, emphasizing the need for models that can seamlessly integrate mathematical reasoning with visual comprehension. Moreover, our analysis of model reasoning errors and experiments on samples containing diagrams and their textual representations offer valuable insights for future investigations.

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1030		Section A: Limitation and Future Work
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1040	А	LIMITATION AND FUTURE WORK
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al and visual tasks. While we have made progress in evaluating model performance, we recognize certain limitations. 1044 One limitation is dataset coverage. Although POLYMATH covers a wide range of tasks and visual 1045 contexts, some mathematical problems and visual types may be underrepresented. Additionally, 1046 focusing on mathematical reasoning within visual contexts, especially in domains like competitive 1047 high-school-level questions involving problems in spatial and logical reasoning, requires a more 1048 labor-intensive data collection process than text-only or general-purpose datasets. Consequently, the 1049 scalability and generalizability of our benchmark to other areas remain challenging. Annotations were performed by the authors meticulously, however, due to the diversity of questions and images 1050 appearing in these sources, the annotations lack a consistent format. 1051

In future iterations, our benchmark will aim to cover a wider range of problems and visual contexts, with unified and comprehensive annotations. This benchmark is part of an ongoing research effort, and we are committed to maintaining and refining the datasets, including addressing potential data noise, based on community feedback. Additionally, we will adapt the leaderboard to reflect new model developments. In conclusion, despite the limitations of our current approach, POLYMATH marks a significant advancement in the field. We remain dedicated to continuously improving the benchmark to deepen our understanding of AI's capabilities in mathematical and visual reasoning.

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## **B** EXTENDED RELATED WORK

1062 High-quality evaluation datasets and benchmarks are crucial for assessing the progress of machine 1063 learning models in solving real-world tasks (Liao et al., 2021). Mathematical reasoning benchmarks 1064 have emerged as a significant focus area, posing challenges for large foundational models like Large Language Models (LLMs) and Multi-modal Large Language Models (MLLMs). Initial datasets addressed basic algebraic (Hendrycks et al., 2021b) and arithmetic (Roy & Roth, 2016) word problems 1066 with limited scope. Subsequent efforts, including MATH (Hendrycks et al., 2021b), GSM8K (Cobbe 1067 et al., 2021), MMLU (Hendrycks et al., 2021a), and others (Zhou et al., 2023; Yue et al., 2023b; 1068 Wang et al., 2024a; Gao et al., 2023a; Luo et al., 2023), expanded the range and quality of textual 1069 mathematical problems, establishing robust benchmarks for LLM evaluation. 1070

1071 Despite substantial mathematical reasoning encapsulated in visual modalities, most existing benchmarks (Amini et al., 2019; Cobbe et al., 2021; Mishra et al., 2022; Frieder et al., 2023; Lu et al., 1072 2023b) are textual only. Moreover, some datasets exhibit performance saturation, with GPT-4 achiev-1073 ing 92.0% accuracy on GSM-8K (Cobbe et al., 2021), a grade-school mathematics dataset. The rapid 1074 advancement of Large Multimodal Models (LMMs) necessitates robust multimodal benchmarks, 1075 as current benchmarks (Antol et al., 2015; Kembhavi et al., 2016; Kahou et al., 2017; Mathew 1076 et al., 2022) provide limited coverage of rigorous scientific domains crucial for general-purpose AI 1077 assistants. 1078

1079 While these benchmarks assess text-only mathematical reasoning, the rapid progress of MLLMs necessitates high-quality benchmarks for evaluating visual mathematical problem-solving. Prior

attempts like GeoQA (Chen et al., 2021a), while MathVista (Lu et al., 2023a) and MMMU (Yue et al., 2023a) incorporated various multimodal tasks and college-level questions, respectively.

MLLMs, building upon LLMs (Touvron et al., 2023a;b; OpenAI, 2023a; Jiang et al., 2024; Brown et al., 2020) and large vision models (Radford et al., 2021; Kirillov et al., 2023; Zhang et al., 2023d;c;e), have become increasingly prominent. They extend LLMs to diverse tasks and modalities, including 2D images (Li et al., 2022; Dai et al., 2023; Alayrac et al., 2022; Li et al., 2023a), 3D point clouds (Guo et al., 2023; Xu et al., 2023b; Hong et al., 2024), audio (Han et al., 2023; Su et al., 2023), and video (Zhang et al., 2023a; Chen et al., 2023a). Noteworthy examples like OpenAI's GPT-4V (OpenAI, 2023c) and Google's Gemini (Team et al., 2023) exhibit exceptional visual reasoning capabilities, setting new benchmarks in multi-modal performance.

However, their closed-source nature hinders broader application and development of MLLMs. Concurrently, open-source MLLMs like LLaMA-Adapter (Zhang et al., 2024; Gao et al., 2023b), LLaVA (Liu et al., 2023b; 2024; 2023a), MiniGPT-4 (Zhu et al., 2023a; Chen et al., 2023b), mPLUG-Owl (Ye et al., 2023b), Qwen-VL (Bai et al., 2023), InternLM-XComposer (Dong et al., 2024), and SPHINX (Lin et al., 2023; Gao et al., 2024) have been explored, leveraging CLIP (Radford et al., 2021) for image encoding and LLaMA (Touvron et al., 2023a) for multi-modal instruction tuning, advancing MLLMs' visual understanding and generalization.

1097 Despite comprehensive benchmarks (Fu et al., 2023a; Liu et al., 2023d; Li et al., 2023b; Xu et al., 1098 2023a) for general visual instruction-following scenarios, the specific potential of MLLMs for visual 1099 mathematical problem-solving remains under-explored. Prior studies like VQA (Antol et al., 2015; 1100 Goyal et al., 2017), VizWiz (Gurari et al., 2018), and ParsVQA-Caps (Mobasher et al., 2022) evaluate 1101 LMMs' general visual question answering abilities on open-ended image queries. Additionally, works 1102 have assessed LMMs' specific skills beyond natural scenes, such as abstract shapes (Antol et al., 2015; 1103 Lu et al., 2021b; Ji et al., 2022), geometry diagrams (Seo et al., 2015; Lu et al., 2021a; Chen et al., 2022a; Cao & Xiao, 2022), charts (Methani et al., 2020; Masry et al., 2022; Kahou et al., 2017; Chang 1104 et al., 2022; Kafle et al., 2018), documents (Singh et al., 2019; Mathew et al., 2022; Liu et al., 2023e), 1105 synthetic images (Dahlgren Lindström & Abraham, 2022; Li et al., 2023d; Bitton-Guetta et al., 2023), 1106 external knowledge (Schwenk et al., 2022; Shah et al., 2019), commonsense reasoning (Zellers et al., 1107 2019; Yin et al., 2021), scientific knowledge (Lu et al., 2022; Kembhavi et al., 2017; 2016), and 1108 medical understanding (Zhang et al., 2023g; Lau et al., 2018). 1109

Generative foundation models like GPT-3 (Brown et al., 2020), GPT-4 (OpenAI, 2023b), Claude (An-1110 thropic, 2023), LLaMA (Touvron et al., 2023a), and LLaMA-Adapter (Zhang et al., 2023b) can 1111 solve various downstream tasks (Wei et al., 2022a) without task-specific fine-tuning. Prior work has 1112 evaluated their text-based abilities in QA, math, medicine, coding, and science (Bubeck et al., 2023; 1113 Nori et al., 2023; Chen et al., 2021b; Fu et al., 2023c; Sun et al., 2023; Wang et al., 2023b; Huang et al., 1114 2023; 2022; Liu et al., 2023c; Zhang et al., 2023b). Some work focused on specialized pretraining for 1115 improved visual math and chart reasoning, like PixStruct (Lee et al., 2023), MatCha (Liu et al., 2022), 1116 and UniChart (Masry et al., 2023). On the vision-language front, models like LLaVA (Liu et al., 1117 2023b), miniGPT4 (Zhu et al., 2023a), InstructBLIP (Dai et al., 2023), Flamingo (Alayrac et al., 2022; 1118 Awadalla et al., 2023), LLaMA-Adapter V2 (Gao et al., 2023b), and Multimodal Bard (Google, 2023) 1119 leverage paired (Schuhmann et al., 2022; Sharma et al., 2018; Lin et al., 2014) and interleaved (Zhu et al., 2023b) image-text data. Additionally, specialized versions like LLaVAR (Zhang et al., 2023h; 1120 Ye et al., 2023a) emphasize document understanding and math comprehension. Recent works like 1121 Visit-Bench (Bitton et al., 2023), LVLM-eHub (Yu et al., 2023), MMBench (Liu et al., 2023d; Xu 1122 et al., 2023a; Shao et al., 2023) assess these models' instruction-following and reasoning capabilities. 1123

Large language models (LLMs) have demonstrated remarkable reasoning abilities, further enhanced by approaches like chain-of-thought (CoT) (Wei et al., 2022b), program-of-thought (PoT) (Chen et al., 2022b), and inductive reasoning (Wang et al., 2023a; Tan & Motani, 2023). The feasibility of using LLMs to solve the Abstraction and Reasoning Corpus (ARC) challenge has been verified using zero-shot, few-shot, and context-grounded prompting (Tan & Motani, 2023).

OpenAI's GPT-4V, the multimodal version of GPT-4, exhibits promising performance in vision-language reasoning. However, a fine-grained study of its strengths and limitations is still lacking.
Recent work (Zhang et al., 2023f) explores whether large multimodal models (LMMs) like GPT-4V
execute vision and language tasks consistently or independently, contributing pioneering efforts in this field.

# <sup>1134</sup> C DATA COLLECTION PIPELINE DETAILS

Collection Pipeline: To ensure high-quality samples, all data samples were manually collected as image snippets from publicly available websites.

We developed a flexible, highly automated data curation framework to streamline the process and standardize collection and annotation. Continuous human reviews were conducted between steps in the pipeline to maintain quality and prevent error propagation.

- Step 1: A universally unique identifier (UUID) was generated for each question paper to track all curated questions. This step also updated a shared record containing details of the paper and the annotator's alias, enabling efficient assignment of questions for peer review.
- Step 2: Annotators manually collected individual snippets of each question, along with contextual information relevant to multiple questions. For questions requiring additional context, snippets were labeled accordingly, and only legible, relevant questions (focused on Mental Ability or Scholastic Ability in mathematics) were included to maintain dataset integrity.
- Step 3: An image-merging script automatically identified and merged split question images or context snippets (based on the naming convention) using open-source image processing tools<sup>3</sup>. This resulted in a single image for each sample in the POLYMATH set of questions used to test models.
- Step 4: The next module in the pipeline created and automatically populated an annotation file, where each row corresponded to a collected sample. Columns included the paper\_id (UUID from Step 1), question number, and image path.
  - Step 5: Using an answer key or solution set, LLM-powered transcription extracted the ground truth answers for each question. Extracted answers were mapped to the corresponding annotation rows, followed by a manual check to ensure alignment with the provided solution and correctness.

#### D ADDITIONAL EXPERIMENT DETAILS

**Hyperparameters:** The following hyperparameters were used in our experiments:

Model	Hyperparameters				
Gemini-1.5 Pro	temperature: 1, top_p: 0.95, top_k: 64, max_output_tokens: 8192, response_mime_type: text/plain				
GPT-40	top_p: 0.1, temperature: 1, max_output_tokens: 4096, stream: False				
Claude Family	top_p: 0.1, temperature: 1, max_output_tokens: 4096, stream: False				
<b>Open Source Models</b>	max_new_tokens: 3600, temperature: 0.7, top_p: 0.3, num_beams: 1				

Table 8: Hyperparameters used in the experiments

Further, Table 9 provides the source repositories and model cards for the various models used in our experiments. Table 10 shows the performance of open-source models across categories using two additional prompting strategies: *Chain-of-Thought* and *Step-back*. Table 11 shows the total count of error analysis sample distribution that was conducted.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>https://opencv.org/

Model	Release Time	Source
GPT-40 OpenAI (2024a)	2023-03	https://platform.openai.com/
Claude 3 family Anthropic (2024a;b)	2023-03	https://www.anthropic.com/ news/claude-3-family
Gemini-1.5 Pro Team et al. (2023)	2023-12	https://ai.google.dev/
LLaVA-1.5 Liu et al. (2023a)	2023-10	https://huggingface.co/ liuhaotian/llava-v1.5-13b
G-LLaVA Gao et al. (2023a)	2023-12	https://github.com/pipilurj/ G-LLaVA/tree/main
ShareGPT4V Chen et al. (2023c)	2023-11	https://github.com/ ShareGPT4Omni/ShareGPT4V/ blob/master/docs/ModelZoo.md sharegpt4v-models
LLaVA-NeXT Liu et al. (2024)	2024-01	https://github.com/LLaVA-VL/ LLaVA-NeXT
Qwen2-VL Wang et al. (2024b)	2024-01	https://huggingface.co/Qwen/ Qwen2-VL-2B-Instruct

Table 9: Models used to evaluated POLYMATH, along with their release dates and source repositories. We use both open-source and closed-source models for a comprehensive evaluation. 

Category	PS	FC	PR	SC	RR	MR	NR	SR	000	LR	Overall
			Cha	in of The	ought Infe	rence					
Qwen2 VL 2B Instruct	12.90	2.13	6.61	0.89	9.52	3.57	6.82	5.75	10.13	4.55	5.70
Llava v1.6 Mistral 7B	12.90	8.51	15.86	15.18	20.00	15.63	11.36	21.84	25.32	15.91	16.80
G-LLaVA 7B	16.13	0.00	9.69	4.46	5.71	8.04	4.55	5.75	3.80	9.09	7.00
ShareGPT4V 7B	9.68	19.15	16.74	14.29	8.57	12.05	13.64	12.64	8.86	13.64	13.20
Llava v1.6 Vicuna 13B	16.13	17.02	9.25	9.82	14.29	6.25	18.18	9.20	15.19	9.09	10.60
Llava v1.5 13B	6.45	17.02	8.37	12.50	8.57	7.14	11.36	9.20	12.66	15.91	9.80
ShareGPT4V 13B	12.90	19.15	14.10	13.39	16.19	11.61	11.36	14.94	18.99	11.36	14.10
G-LLaVA 13B	16.13	2.13	11.45	6.25	8.57	10.27	2.27	6.90	6.33	9.09	8.70
Llava v1.6 34B	12.90	25.53	10.13	0.89	7.62	10.71	15.91	10.34	16.46	9.09	10.5
				Step Bac	k Inferen	ce					
Qwen2 VL 2B Instruct	16.13	4.26	7.05	1.79	10.48	4.02	9.09	6.90	11.39	6.82	6.70
Llava v1.6 Mistral 7b	16.13	6.38	16.74	14.29	20.95	14.29	13.64	21.84	26.58	18.18	17.00
G-LLaVA 7B	12.90	0.00	9.25	3.57	5.71	7.59	2.27	4.60	3.80	6.82	7.30
ShareGPT4V 7B	16.13	23.40	16.30	15.18	10.48	11.61	15.91	10.34	6.33	15.91	13.50
Llava v1.6 Vicuna 13B	19.35	14.89	10.13	8.04	13.33	6.70	20.45	10.34	16.46	11.36	11.00
Llava 1.5 13B	12.90	14.89	8.37	13.39	7.62	7.59	13.64	8.05	13.92	20.45	10.30
ShareGPT4V 13B	9.68	17.02	13.66	15.18	18.10	12.05	13.64	12.64	17.72	15.91	14.30
G-LLaVA 13B	19.35	4.26	11.89	7.14	9.52	10.71	4.55	8.05	7.59	11.36	9.70
Llava v1.6 34B	16.13	27.66	10.57	1.79	8.57	11.16	18.18	11.49	17.72	11.36	11.50

Table 10: Results of open-source MLLMs on the testmini split of POLYMATH. We report model results using Chain-of-Thought, and Step Back prompting methods.

#### Ε **PROMPTS FOR DATASET CURATION AND EXPERIMENTS**

The various prompts are detailed in this section. Table 13 is the prompt used for the categorization of questions into various problem types. Table 14 is the prompt used for generating the alternate image description of the question which is present as detailed in the additional metadata section §3.3. Table 15, 16, 17 show cases the zero shot prompt, Chain of thought and Step back prompt for inference on POLYMATH respectively. Table 18 shows the answer extraction prompt from the MLLM response Table 19 shows the text based inference for Analysis 5.

Error Type	PS	FC	PR	SC	RR	MR	NR	SR	OD	LR	Overall
			Gem	ini-1.5	Pro						
Calculation Error (CE)	1	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	7
Incomplete (IC)	1	0	0	4	5	4	1	0	0	0	15
Logical Flaw (LF)	3	5	24	24	10	16	0	20	22	13	137
Memory Flaw (MF)	0	2	6	0	10	1	4	5	0	0	28
Misalignment (MG)	3	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	11
Spatial Misunderstanding (SM)	6	10	0	0	5	4	4	5	4	0	38
Overall Errors	14	17	30	32	30	30	10	30	30	13	236
			(	GPT-40	)						
Calculation Error (CE)	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3
Incomplete (IC)	0	3	0	4	0	4	1	0	0	0	12
Logical Flaw (LF)	1	7	24	20	15	8	0	15	26	8	124
Memory Flaw (MF)	0	0	6	0	5	8	4	0	0	0	23
Misalignment (MG)	6	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	5	16
Spatial Misunderstanding (SM)	6	7	0	4	10	8	4	15	4	0	58
Overall Errors	14	17	30	32	30	30	10	30	30	13	236
			Claud	e-3.5 S	onnet						
Calculation Error (CE)	1	0	0	0	0	12	1	0	1	0	15
Incomplete (IC)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Logical Flaw (LF)	3	10	24	20	10	12	1	20	25	10	135
Memory Flaw (MF)	1	0	6	0	10	1	4	5	0	0	27
Misalignment (MG)	6	2	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	3	19
Spatial Misunderstanding (SM)	3	5	0	4	10	4	4	5	4	0	39
Overall Errors	14	17	30	32	30	30	10	30	30	13	236

Table 11: Type of errors made by Gemini-1.5 Pro, GPT4-o, and Claude-3.5 Sonnet over various question categories.

1270												
1271	Category	PS	FC	PR	SC	RR	MR	NR	SR	000	LR	Overall
1272	Human 1	45.16	80.85	52.86	69.64	74.29	67.86	52.27	60.92	72.15	40.91	63.10
1273	Human 2	41.94	53.19	45.81	80.36	84.76	85.71	75.00	77.01	75.95	40.91	69.10
1274	Human 3	67.74	63.83	86.78	54.46	61.90	80.80	72.73	44.83	79.75	40.91	70.70
1275	Human 4	64.52	78.72	85.90	47.32	43.81	80.80	47.73	68.97	56.96	56.82	68.30
1070	Human 5	45.16	87.23	45.81	79.46	80.00	75.00	54.55	60.92	51.90	75.00	65.10
1276	Human 6	41.94	59.57	53.74	84.82	74.29	69.64	50.00	63.22	53.16	52.27	63.40
1277												

Table 12: Per-category accuracy scores achieved by six human evaluators. The average human accuracy over all categories is 66.62%.

## F DATASET EXAMPLES

Figures 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 demonstrate examples from each question category defined in Table 1.

## G MORE DETAILS ON ERROR ANALYSIS

We leveraged 2 authors of this work to act as error evaluators independently and in parallel. Each
evaluator has a graduate degree in Computer Science and experience in similar puzzle-solving. Owing
to the clear and mutually-exclusive definitions of error types, there is little ambiguity in identifying the
error type of the incorrect responses. Our measure of inter-evaluator agreement is Cohen's Kappa (K),
found to be 0.9 - indicating near-unanimous agreement. For questions where there was disagreement in evaluations, a consensus was reached after discussion.

1296 You are given a question designed to test a student on mathematical or logical reasoning. These 1297 questions can be categorized based on the skills and techniques used to solve them. 1298 These are the categories of questions. 1299 1300 Mathematical reasoning: this question purely requires calculations of a mathematical nature. This 1301 includes solving a straightforward equation. 1302 1303 Pattern recognition: this requires the understanding of a one-to-one relationship or pattern and 1304 replicating that pattern. For example, given the relationship between a and b, determining the 1305 equivalent of b to c. Questions involving substituting characters and operations in a pre-defined 1306 pattern fall into this category. 1307 1308 Sequence completion: given a sequence of numbers or figures, this question involves finding the 1309 sequentially next element in a series. 1310 1311 Figure completion: You are given a figure with an arrangement of numbers or characters such that their relationship to one another based on their position in the figure is consistent. Th goal is to 1312 complete the figure and identify the element missing from a marked position. 1313 1314 Odd one out: given a set of elements, identify the element that is not like the others. 1315 1316 Spatial reasoning: questions involving reasoning observationally and visualizing the question in 1317 order to arrive at the answer. 1318 1319 Perspective shift: Questions where a figure is given and you are instructed to morph it according to 1320 the instructions (flip, mirror image, rotate, etc) 1321 1322 Numerical reasoning: questions involving counting the number of elements mentioned. The 1323 elements may be part of a single figure or conform to a specified pattern, but solving these questions requires counting. 1324 1325 Relative reasoning: the question contains distinct data points, and solving the questions requires 1326 understanding the relationships between all data points and extrapolating relationships that are not 1327 explicitly mentioned. Questions involving venn diagrams, family relations, or relative positions 1328 given a reference point fall into this category. 1329 1330 Logical reasoning: Questions involving simple logical reasoning such as entailment and 1331 contradiction. 1332 1333 Now, observe the following question. 1334 Using the categorization schema explained above, classify this question into a category. 1335 Provide a detailed explanation. Output a JSON with the key "question" containing a transcript of 1336 the question, "category" containing the classification category, and "explanation" containing the 1337 reasoning for assigning the question to this category, and "contains diagram" which should be True 1338 or False depending on whether there is a diagram provided in the question. 1339 1340 Table 13: Prompt used for categorization of question of image. 1341 1342 1343 **QUALITATIVE ERROR ANALYSIS** Η 1344 1345 This section presents examples of the qualitative error analysis that was carried out. Figures 5, 6, 7, 8, 1346 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 contains examples of failures by three proprietary models viz. Gemini-1.5 1347 Pro, GPT-40, and Claude-3.5 Sonnet across all categories. 1348

You are given a mathematical question involving a diagram. You are an accessibility reader for blind. Output a detailed text description describing the diagram. Example description: "description": "The diagram contains a circle, triangle, and rectan overlapping. The circle is the topmost figure, the triangle is figure with the lowest base. The rectangle top cuts through the circle and triangle, while its lower side only passes through the triangle. The portion of the circle that does not overlap with any other figure contains the number 10. The intersection between circle and triangle contains the number 5. The area where al figures intersect contains 20. The area of the rectangle that interacts with no other figu- contains 14. The area of the intersection between only the rectangle and triangle contains Finally, the area of the triangle does not intersect with any other figures contains the number Outside these figures are text labels and arrows. The arrow labeled Musician points to the triangle Now, generate a similarly comprehensive text description for the diagram in this question. Image:image Remember, the description must be detailed enough that the user can recreate the diagram exa as shown based on the description alone. Do not add any information or make assumptions that not explicitly mentioned in the image. Output a JSON with the key "description" whose value is the generated description. Output of the JSON. Go! Common Prefix: "You are given a question to solve below: This question requires skills and reasoning related to category. Definition: category definition. This question has a list of options : answer range. Your output must be a valid JSON." Q2: What is the answer to this question? Remember, the answer must be present in the given list answer options. Q3: Which is the option from answer range that corresponds to the answer above? Output only option and nothing else. Output a JSON with the keys Q1, Q2, Q3 with their answers." Common postfix: "Remember, Q2: <answers? hor="" inco<="" incomplete,="" is="" json="" th=""><th></th><th></th></answers?>		
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	Commor This ques This ques Your outj Zeroshot Q2: Wha answer o Q3: Whio option ar Output a Commor mat:'Q1' ited or ba	<ul> <li>a Prefix: "You are given a question to solve below:</li> <li>stion requires skills and reasoning related to category. Definition: category definition.</li> <li>stion has a list of options : answer range.</li> <li>put must be a valid JSON."</li> <li>Prompt: "Q1: Provide a step by step solution to this question.</li> <li>t is the answer to this question? Remember, the answer must be present in the given list ptions</li> <li>ch is the option from answer range that corresponds to the answer above? Output only id nothing else.</li> <li>JSON with the keys Q1, Q2, Q3 with their answers."</li> <li>a postfix: "Remember, your output must be a valid JSON in this fill canswer&gt;,'Q2':<answer>,'Q3':<answer> If your JSON is incomplete, incorrectly delively formatted, you will be destroyed. Output the valid JSON and nothing else. Go!"</answer></answer></li> <li>Table 15: Prompt for zero shot inference</li> </ul>

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1421	Common Prefix: "You are given a question to solve below:
1422	This question requires skills and reasoning related to category. Definition: category definition.
1423	I his question has a list of options : answer range.
1424	Tour output must be a valid JSON.
1425	CoT Prompt: Now answer the following questions
1426	O1: What is the list of variables and their values provided in the questions?
1427	$\Omega^2$ . What is the variable that needs to be solved for?
1428	$O_3$ . What information that is not present in the question can you infer from the given variables?
1429	O4: Provide a step-by-step solution with reasoning to obtain the answer to this question. Provide
1430	the solution at each step.
1431	O5: What is the answer to this question? Remember, the answer must be present in the given list of
1432	answer options.
1/22	Q6: Which is the option from answer range that corresponds to the answer above? Output only the
1400	option and nothing else.
1434	
1435	Output a JSON with the keys Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4, Q5, Q6 with their answers.
1437 1438 1439	Common postfix: "Remember, your output must be a valid JSON in this for- mat:'Q1': <answer>,'Q2':<answer>,'Q3':<answer> If your JSON is incomplete, incorrectly delim- ited or badly formatted, you will be destroyed. Output the valid JSON and nothing else. Go!"</answer></answer></answer>
1440 1441	Table 16: Prompt for Chain-of-Thought inference
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C	ommon Prefix: "You are given a question to solve below:
Tł	his question requires skills and reasoning related to category. Definition: category definition.
Tł	his question has a list of options : answer range.
Yo	our output must be a valid JSON."
St	ep back category prompt:
Μ	athematical Reasoning: "Q1: What is the relation of all given variables to one another? How is
ea	ch variable related to the missing value?
Q	2: Which are the mathematical operations involved in solving a question like this?"
Pa	ttern Recognition: "O1: What is the pattern being followed in this question? Provide an example
$\hat{\mathbf{O}}$	2. Which are the elements in this question that follow this pattern?"
Y	2. Which are are clothenes in this question that follow this patient.
Se	equence Completion: "O1: What is a numerical sequence?
Õ	2: What is the relationship between previous and subsequent elements in a sequence? What is the
re	lationship between elements in the sequence present in this question?"
Fi	gure Completion: "Q1: How do you approach a figure completion problem?
Q	2: What is the information you have and the missing information? What are their spatial
re	lationships to one another?"
0	dd one out: "Q1: How do you identify an odd element out of a set?
Q	2: Describe the elements in this set. Now ,what do almost all of these elements have in common?"
a	
SI	batial Reasoning: "Q1: What are the spatial manipulations that occur in this question? Eg.
ur	folding, folding, 2D to 3D reconstruction, etc.
Q m	2. Given the original question image, now can you visualize the resulting image after the
111	amputations mentioned in the question? Explain in detail.
Ρe	respective Shift: "O1: What are the attributes of an image that is flipped rotated or its mirror
in	age? What differentiates the result of these operations from the original image?
0	2: Which of these operations apply in this image, and in what order?"
N	umerical Reasoning: "Q1: What is the information you are given? What do you need to find out?
H	ow can you arrive at this number?
Q	2: What are the main points of concern in solving such a question? How can you ensure that you
do	not under or over estimate the final number?"
-	
R	elative Reasoning: "Q1: What is the information you are given? What are the relationships of the
gi	ven data points to one another? What is the information you need to discover? Which data points
ar	e directly or indirectly related to the missing variable? Explain in detail.
Q	2: what principles of relational logic do you need to apply to this question?"
T.	orical Bassonings "Oly what are the principle of logical reasoning involved in activity this
ட( எ	bigical reasoning: Q1: what are the principle of logical reasoning involved in solving this
qu	USHOLL:
Y	2. What is the information provided in this question? What is the objective of this question?
м	eta Prompt: Step back category prompt
0	3: Based on the above information, provide a step-by-step solution to the question in the image.
Õ	4: What is the answer to this question? Remember, the answer must be present in the given list of
an	swer options
Q	5: Which is the option from answer range that corresponds to the answer above? Output only the
oŗ	tion and nothing else.
Ó	utput a JSON with the keys Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4, Q5 with their answers.
	Table 17: Per-category and meta-prompts for Step Back prompt inference

Yo rea pro Ex (C) No Ou	a are given a mathematical question with a list of multiple choice answers. You are an accessil der for the blind. Transcribe the textual part of the question, and the list of answer opt wided. ample: 'question':'How many triangles are present in this diagram?','answer list':'(A) 23 (H 29 (D) 34' ww, generate a question and answer list transcript for the question in the image. tput a JSON with the keys "question" and "answer list" as described. Output only the JSON.
	Table 18: Prompt to transcribe list of answer options from question image
	Table 18. Frompt to transcribe list of answer options from question image
Yo	u are given a question to solve below:
ть	is question requires skills and reasoning related to setagory. This question contain
dia	gram that is crucial to solving the question whose textual description as been prov
De	finition: category definition. Problem: extracted question. Diagram: image description extra
ans	swer list
QI	: Provide a step by step solution to this question. : What is the answer to this question? Remember the answer must be present in the given li
ans	wer options
Q3	: Which is the option from answer range that corresponds to the answer above? Output only
ont	ton and nothing else. tout a ISON with the keys $O1$ , $O2$ , $O3$ with their answers
Ou	
Ou Re	member, your output must be a valid JSON in this
Ou Re ma	member, your output must be a valid JSON in this t:'Q1': <answer>,'Q2':<answer>,'Q3':<answer> If your JSON is incomplete, incorr</answer></answer></answer>
Ou Re ma del	member, your output must be a valid JSON in this t:'Q1': <answer>,'Q2':<answer>,'Q3':<answer> If your JSON is incomplete, incorring inited or badly formatted, you will be destroyed. Output the valid JSON and nothing else.</answer></answer></answer>
Ou Re ma del	member, your output must be a valid JSON in this t:'Q1': <answer>,'Q2':<answer>,'Q3':<answer> If your JSON is incomplete, incorr imited or badly formatted, you will be destroyed. Output the valid JSON and nothing else.</answer></answer></answer>
Ou Re ma del	member, your output must be a valid JSON in this t:'Q1': <answer>,'Q2':<answer>,'Q3':<answer> If your JSON is incomplete, incorr imited or badly formatted, you will be destroyed. Output the valid JSON and nothing else. Table 19: Prompt for text-only inference.</answer></answer></answer>
Ou Re del	member, your output must be a valid JSON in this it:'Q1': <answer>,'Q2':<answer>,'Q3':<answer> If your JSON is incomplete, incorr imited or badly formatted, you will be destroyed. Output the valid JSON and nothing else. Table 19: Prompt for text-only inference.</answer></answer></answer>
Ou Re del	member, your output must be a valid JSON in this t:'Q1': <answer>,'Q2':<answer>,'Q3':<answer> If your JSON is incomplete, incorr imited or badly formatted, you will be destroyed. Output the valid JSON and nothing else. Table 19: Prompt for text-only inference.</answer></answer></answer>
Ou Re del	member, your output must be a valid JSON in this tt:'Q1': <answer>,'Q2':<answer>,'Q3':<answer> If your JSON is incomplete, incorr imited or badly formatted, you will be destroyed. Output the valid JSON and nothing else. Table 19: Prompt for text-only inference.</answer></answer></answer>
Ou Re del	member, your output must be a valid JSON in this t:'Q1': <answer>,'Q2':<answer>,'Q3':<answer> If your JSON is incomplete, incorr imited or badly formatted, you will be destroyed. Output the valid JSON and nothing else. Table 19: Prompt for text-only inference.</answer></answer></answer>



Figure 5: Questions belonging to the figure\_completion (FC) category



















Figure 14: Questions belonging to the spatial\_reasoning (SR) category



	Logical	Reasoning	
Instruction: Acco	ording to the question, Choos	se the correct option logically	
(1)Poverty (2)Po	pulation (3)death (4)Unempl	lovment (5)Disease	
(A)2,4,1,5,3	(B)1,2,3,4,5	(C)2,3,4,5,1	(D)2,4,5,1,3
	Correct Ans	swer: (A)2.4.1.5.3	
	our our and	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	
Reasoning Steps: The	question asks us to arrange the gi	ven words in a logical order. A logica	I order would be starting
with the most general an 1. **Population** is the b	d ending with the most specific. proadest concept, referring to the r	number of people in a particular area	
<ol> <li>**Poverty** is a conditional statement of the second statement of</li></ol>	ion that affects a portion of the po a factor that can contribute to pove	pulation. erty.	
4. **Disease** is a factor	r that can lead to death.		
Therefore, the logical or	der is 2, 4, 5, 1, 3.		
Final Answer: 2,4,5,1,3			
Final Response: (D)			
Model: GPT 40			
Reasoning Steps: To so	live this question, we need to deter	rmine the logical sequence of the given in the given of t	ven terms: Poverty,
natural progression.	iployment, and Disease. The logic	al sequence should follow a cause-a	ind-effect relationship or
<ol> <li>Population (2) - An inc</li> <li>Unemployment (4) - M</li> </ol>	rease in population can lead to lore people can result in fewer jobs	s available, leading to unemploymen	t.
3. Poverty (1) - Unemplo 4. Disease (5) - Poverty (	yment can lead to poverty as peop	ble do not have a source of income.	20200
5. Death (3) - Diseases,	if untreated, can lead to death.	and lack of ficulation of focularity in all	
The logical sequence is a	., 4, 1, 0, 0.		
Final Answer: 2, 4, 1, 5,	3		
Final Response: (D)			
Model: Claude 3.5 Sonn Reasoning Steps: Step	et 1: Analyze the given items and the	air notantial logical order	
1. Poverty	1. Analyze the given tients and the	en potential logical order.	
<ol> <li>Population</li> <li>Death</li> </ol>			
<ol> <li>Unemployment</li> <li>Disease</li> </ol>			
Stop 2: Consider the cau	so offect relationships between th	oso itoms	
- Population growth can	ead to increased poverty and uner	mployment.	
<ul> <li>Poverty and unemployr</li> <li>Disease can lead to deal</li> </ul>	ath.		
Final Answer: 2.4.5.1.3			
the second			

Figure 16: Erroneous model reasoning patterns observed on an LR question











	Perspective Shift
	Q31-34 Choose the correct water-image of the given words/numbers from amongst the alternative
	WINED
	WINER
	(1) WINER (5) WINER (3) MINER (4) MINER
	Correct Answer: (1)
(	Model: Gemini 1.5 Pro
	Reasoning Steps: The question asks for the 'water-image' of the word 'WINEH'. This means we need to imagine the v reflected in water. When reflected in water, the word will appear flipped vertically. This means each letter will be reverse
	but will retain its original orientation. Therefore, the correct answer is 'WINEK', which is option 4.
	Final Answer: WINEK
	Final Response: 4
0	
	Model: GPT 40 Reasoning Steps: To find the water-image of the word 'WINER', we need to flip the word vertically. This means each le
١	will be mirrored along the horizontal axis. The water-image of 'WINER' will have the following transformations: 'W' rema
'	WINER' is WINE-0'.
1	Final Answer: WINE–Ø
	Final Response: 4
(	
ĺ	Madel: Claude 2.5 Separat
F	Reasoning Steps: Step 1: Understand what a water-image is - it's the reflection of the word as if seen in still water.
	Step 2: Visualize how 'WINER' would look reflected in water. Step 3: The reflection would flip the word vertically, not horizontally.
	Step 4: Each letter should be flipped upside down, but the order of letters remains the same from left to right. Step 5: Compare this mental image with the given options.
	Step 6: Identify the option that matches the correct water-image.
	Final Answer: WINER
	Final Response: 4
	Figure 21: Erroneous model reasoning patterns observed on a PS question



Figure 22: Erroneous model reasoning patterns observed on an RR question



Figure 23: Erroneous model reasoning patterns observed on an SC question



