000 001 002 GEOILP: A SYNTHETIC DATASET TO GUIDE LARGE-SCALE RULE INDUCTION

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ABSTRACT

Inductive logic programming (ILP) is a machine learning approach aiming to learn explanatory rules from data. While existing ILP systems can successfully solve small-scale tasks, large-scale applications with various language biases are rarely explored. Besides, it is crucial for a large majority of current ILP systems to require expert-defined language bias, which hampers the development of ILP towards broader utilizations. In this paper, we introduce GeoILP, a large-scale synthetic dataset of diverse ILP tasks involving numerous aspects of language bias. The ILP tasks are built from geometry problems, at the level from textbook exercise to regional International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO), with the help of a deduction engine. These problems are elaborately selected to cover all challenging language biases, such as recursion, predicate invention, and high arity. Experimental results show that no existing method can solve GeoILP tasks. In addition, along with classic symbolic-form data, we provide image-form data to boost the development of the joint learning of neural perception and symbolic rule induction.

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1 INTRODUCTION

028 029 030 031 032 033 034 Inductive logic programming (ILP), at the intersection of machine learning (ML) and symbolic artificial intelligence, learns hypotheses from background knowledge and examples [\(Muggleton &](#page-12-0) [De Raedt, 1994;](#page-12-0) [Muggleton et al., 2012;](#page-12-1) [Cropper et al., 2020a;](#page-10-0) Cropper & Dumančić, [2022;](#page-10-1) [Zhang](#page-13-0) [et al., 2023\)](#page-13-0). ILP adopts logical formulae to represent knowledge, examples, and hypotheses uniformly. The most fascinating merit of ILP, differing from other ML approaches, is the ability to learn highly interpretable hypotheses, which reveals a potential way toward human-comprehensible, controllable, and trust-worthy artificial intelligence.

035 036 037 038 039 040 041 042 043 044 Classic symbolic ILP are based on discrete search, suffering from the combinatorially growing search space and thus restricting to small-scale scenes. To alleviate this obstacle, symbolic methods require user-defined language bias to limit searching, which is markedly crucial for efficiency [\(Crop](#page-10-1)per $\&$ Dumančić, [2022\)](#page-10-1). Such hand-crafted work is more or less the same as the feature engineering [\(Khalid et al., 2014\)](#page-11-0) in other ML tasks at the early stage, requiring certain expert knowledge and considerably many troublesome trial and error. In the modern ML community, feature engineering is often superseded by automatic feature extractors, such as various neural networks, which achieve amazing success in large-scale applications (e.g., GPT-4 [\(Achiam et al., 2023\)](#page-10-2)). Accordingly, thoroughly turning hand-crafted determination of language bias into automatic language bias discovery is a promising direction toward broader applications of ILP.

045 046 047 048 049 050 Modern neural-symbolic ILP relaxes the hypotheses space into a continuous space and leverage gradient-based optimization techniques to induce solutions, from which interpretable rules can be extracted. Despite not requiring an elaborated language bias, existing neural-symbolic methods are limited to a relatively small hypotheses space, presuming low-arity predicates, function-free clauses, and few rule's body atoms [\(Glanois et al., 2022\)](#page-11-1). Scaling up to large-scale scenarios is also the major challenge for this line of work.

051 052 053 However, large-scale ILP datasets are lacking in evaluating more powerful methods and guiding enhancement. Existing datasets are either small or relatively large but lack reference hypotheses. Our goal is to construct a large-scale ILP dataset, providing reference hypotheses to guide the resolution of present limitations in ILP, which would lead ILP to an expert-free learning paradigm (like **054 055 056** modern neural learning) and exceedingly broader utilization. Furthermore, we aim to evaluate ILP systems without much expert priors (like other ML tasks), i.e., training & testing without excessive user-defined bias.

057 058 059 060 061 062 Therefore, we construct GeoILP, a large-scale dataset synthesized from *plane geometry* rules that help generate reference hypotheses involving various language biases. We first adopt a symbolic deduction engine to obtain target examples from the rules and determine the background knowledge and hypotheses by traceback from the examples. We also consider the noisy and multi-task settings, which are closer to real-world applications and actively studied in other ML tasks.

063 064 065 066 067 In summary, GeoILP contains 836 single-tasks and 207 multi-tasks. The predicate arity is up to 8, the number of variables in a rule is up to 12, and the number of body atoms is up to 9. Overall, 85% single-tasks and 50% multi-tasks leverage hypothesis with the number of rules ranging from (at least) 10 to 100 (refer to section [5.3](#page-6-0) for details). Besides, the language biases also involve argument symmetry, constraints, different types of recursion, and predicate invention.

068 069 We conduct experiments on existing applicable methods, which show that GeoILP is completely unreachable.

070 071 072 073 074 In addition, GeoILP provides image-form background knowledge, which requires jointly training a perception network, transforming the raw sensory input (image) into symbolic knowledge, and an ILP system inducing the hypothesis. The breakthrough for such joint learning, which remains less explored, would be a breakthrough for the whole artificial intelligence community [\(Cropper &](#page-10-1) Dumančić, [2022\)](#page-10-1).

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2 RELATED WORK

2.1 ILP METHODS

080 081 082 083 084 085 086 087 Symbolic methods search in the hypotheses space defined by language biases. Among these, notable methods include FOIL [\(Quinlan, 1990\)](#page-12-2), Progol [\(Muggleton, 1995;](#page-12-3) [Muggleton & Bryant,](#page-12-4) [2000\)](#page-12-4), TILED [\(Blockeel & De Raedt, 1997\)](#page-10-3), ALEPH [\(SRINIVASAN, 2001\)](#page-12-5), Metagol [\(Muggleton](#page-12-6) [et al., 2015\)](#page-12-6), ILASP [\(Law et al., 2018;](#page-11-2) [2020\)](#page-11-3). These methods suffer from combinatorially growing hypotheses, noisy data, and inefficient predicate invention. Popper [\(Cropper & Morel, 2021a\)](#page-10-4) is a modern symbolic ILP system, which is, to the best of our knowledge, the only symbolic system capable of simultaneously learning recursive rules, inventing predicates [\(Cropper & Morel, 2021b\)](#page-10-5), handling noise [\(Hocquette et al., 2024\)](#page-11-4), and scaling better, though still very expensive to do these.

088 089 090 091 092 093 094 095 Neural-symbolic methods or differentiable methods, make continuous relaxation of the discrete hypotheses space and induce solutions by minimizing loss function via gradient-based optimizer. While the early-stage methods require user-defined language templates task-by-task to restrict hy-potheses (Rocktäschel & Riedel, 2017; [Campero et al., 2018\)](#page-10-6), the following works tend to automatically deal with more general language biases [\(Evans & Grefenstette, 2018;](#page-11-5) [Si et al., 2019;](#page-12-8) [Glanois](#page-11-1) [et al., 2022\)](#page-11-1). As learning interpretable solutions is the outstanding property of ILP, the methods that cannot produce human-readable rules are out of the scope of this paper (e.g., [Dong et al.](#page-11-6) [\(2019\)](#page-11-6)).

096 097 2.2 ILP DATASETS

098 099 100 101 102 103 Real-world datasets Real-world datasets collect background knowledge and examples from realworld observation. The application scenarios cover knowledge base completion [\(Bordes et al., 2013;](#page-10-7) [Toutanova & Chen, 2015;](#page-12-9) [Yang et al., 2017;](#page-13-1) [Hudson & Manning, 2019\)](#page-11-7), drug design [\(Inoue et al.,](#page-11-8) [2013;](#page-11-8) [Tamaddoni-Nezhad et al., 2006\)](#page-12-10), ecology [\(Bohan et al., 2017\)](#page-10-8), etc. The main demerit of real-world datasets is lacking reference hypotheses. Consequently, an ILP system failing on these datasets would have little idea about where to improve.

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105 106 107 Synthetic datasets Synthetic datasets covering mathematical formal systems [\(Evans & Grefen](#page-11-5)[stette, 2018\)](#page-11-5), grammar learning [\(Muggleton et al., 2014;](#page-12-11) [Law et al., 2019\)](#page-11-9), games [\(Cropper et al.,](#page-10-9) [2020b\)](#page-10-9), program analysis [\(Sivaraman et al., 2019;](#page-12-12) [Bartha & Cheney, 2020\)](#page-10-10), etc. They can provide reference hypotheses to guide resolving the limitations of ILP systems. However, current synthetic

108 109 110 datasets are small-scale, whose hypotheses typically contain less than 10 rules, and have already been solved by existing ILP. Our work extends this line of work to much larger scenarios.

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3 BACKGROUND

We first introduce necessary logic notions and then define inductive logic programming (ILP). Further terminology is illustrated in the next section as well.

- **116 117** 3.1 LOGIC PRELIMINARIES
- **118 119** We assume basic knowledge about first-order logic.

120 121 122 123 124 125 Horn clause Every formula in first-order language can be transformed into its semantically equivalent *conjunctive normal form*, a conjunction of clauses. A *clause* is a disjunction of literals. A *literal* is an atom (*positive literal*) or its negation (*negative literal*). An atom is called *ground* if it contains no variable. *Horn clause* is a widely used subset of clauses that allow at most one positive literal. Horn clause involve *facts*, which are atoms, and *rules* that can be semantically equivalently represented as (assumed function-free here)

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H(\boldsymbol{X}) \leftarrow B_1(\boldsymbol{X}) \wedge B_2(\boldsymbol{X}) \wedge \cdots \wedge B_k(\boldsymbol{X})
$$

128 129 130 where X denotes a vector of variables, the atom $H(X)$ is the *head* atom of the rule, and the atoms $B_1(X), B_2(X), \ldots, B_k(X)$ are the *body* atoms of the rule. A *program* is a set of Horn clauses. We define *rule size* as the number of atoms in a rule and *program size* as the sum of rule size.

131 132 133 Note that the variables in a clause are implicitly quantified by universal quantifiers that are supposed to be placed at the beginning. The variables appearing only in the body but not the head are called *existentially quantified*. [1](#page-2-0)

134 135 136 137 Forward chaining *Forward chaining* can be used to deduce all the true ground facts from given rules and background facts. Formally, given a set of ground atoms A and a Horn rule set R , the immediate consequence through one-step forward chaining is defined as the set

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con_{\mathcal{R}}(\mathcal{A}) = \mathcal{A} \cup \left\{ \alpha \mid \alpha \leftarrow \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k \in \text{ground}(\mathcal{R}), \bigwedge_{i=1}^k \alpha_i \in \mathcal{A} \right\}
$$

141 142 where ground(\mathcal{R}) consists of all the *ground rules* instantiated from \mathcal{R} . Then, we recursively define the consequence through t steps $C_{\mathcal{R},t}(\mathcal{A})$

 $C_{\mathcal{R},0}(\mathcal{A}) = \mathcal{A}, \quad C_{\mathcal{R},t+1}(\mathcal{A}) = \text{con}_{\mathcal{R}}(C_{\mathcal{R},t}(\mathcal{A}))$

145 146 We say the *fix point* is reached at step T if T is the smallest natural number satisfying $C_{\mathcal{R},T}(\mathcal{A}) =$ $C_{\mathcal{R},T+1}(\mathcal{A})$, and $C_{\mathcal{R},T}(\mathcal{A})$ is the set of all the consequences of the forward chaining.

148 3.2 INDUCTIVE LOGIC PROGRAMMING

149 150 151 152 153 154 155 We adopt the most popular ILP setting *learning from entailment* (LFE) (Cropper & Dumančić, [2022\)](#page-10-1). The training data is a tuple $(\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{E}^+, \mathcal{E}^-)$ of *background knowledge B*, *positive examples* of the concept \mathcal{E}^+ , and *negative examples* of the concept \mathcal{E}^- . \mathcal{E}^+ , \mathcal{E}^- are sets of ground atoms relevant to the target predicate we want to learn. β is a set of clauses that act as background knowledge (BK), typically a set of ground atoms irrelevant to the target predicate (rules can also be in BK). The goal of ILP is to induce a *hypothesis* H, consisting also of clauses, satisfying the following conditions

 $∀e ∈ E⁻, H ∪ B [⊭] e$ (consistency)

158 159 160 The *completeness* condition states that the hypothesis and BK entail all positive examples. The *consistency* condition states that the hypothesis and BK do not entail any negative examples.

¹Take an example to explain the name, $\forall X \forall Y \forall Z \mathbb{H}(X, Y) \leftarrow B_1(X, Z) \wedge B_2(Z, Y)$ is equivalent to $\forall X \forall Y \mathcal{H}(X, Y) \leftarrow \exists Z (\mathcal{B}_1(X, Z) \land \mathcal{B}_2(Z, Y)).$ Z is existentially quantified in this rule.

163 164 165 166 167 168 For example, given $B = {Father(John, Mary), Father(Tom, John)}$ \mathcal{E}^+ = {Grandfather(Tom, Mary)} \mathcal{E}^- = {Grandfather(Mary, Tom), Grandfather(John, Mary)} , an ILP task learner may learn the following hypothesis H (upper italic letters denote variables)

 $Grandfather(X, Y) \leftarrow Father(X, Z) \wedge Father(Z, Y)$

With the learned hypothesis, an automated theorem prover can derive all the facts regarding the *target predicate* Grandfather from the background facts regarding the relation Father.

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4 LIMITATIONS OF CURRENT ILP

176 177 178 179 In this section, we identify the critical limitations of current ILP that impede the development of broader applications. Our proposed dataset is intended to cover all these challenges and is thus a good testbed for elaborating more sophisticated rule induction systems.

180 181 4.1 HAND-CRAFTED LANGUAGE BIAS

182 183 Language bias is used to limit the hypothesis space in symbolic ILP. As calculated by [Cropper &](#page-10-4) [Morel](#page-10-4) [\(2021a\)](#page-10-4), the number of possible hypotheses grows combinatorially fast.

184 185 186 187 188 189 190 Without carefully human-determined language bias, such as the predicates allowed to appear in the rule's head, the predicates allowed to appear in the rule's body, enabling recursion or not, enabling predicate invention or not, the maximum number of clauses allowed in a hypothesis, the maximum number of unique variables in a clause, the maximum number of body atoms in a clause, the number of allowed existentially quantified variables, the maximum times a predicate can appear in a rule, symbolic ILP tends to be extremely slow, even useless (Cropper & Dumančić, [2022\)](#page-10-1). Determining a good language bias is onerous and requires a vast amount of trial and error.

191 192 Below, we introduce the most dominant language biases, which notably increase hypothesis space and should thus be completely automatically determined by ILP systems.

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194 195 196 197 198 199 Predicate arity Real-world relations may involve several entities. For instance, the dyadic relation GoodAt(student, math) asserts that a student is good at math (subject), while the triadic relation Course(teacher, math, student) asserts that a teacher teaches math to a student. However, current neuro-symbolic methods typically support arity lower than two [\(Evans & Grefenstette, 2018;](#page-11-5) [Campero et al., 2018;](#page-10-6) [Glanois et al., 2022\)](#page-11-1). Several symbolic methods can support arbitrary arity but exceedingly increase search complexity [\(Cropper & Morel, 2021a\)](#page-10-4).

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201 202 203 204 205 Argument symmetry Argument symmetry may exist for predicates. For example, if John is Mary's cousin, then Mary must also be John's cousin. As this example, argument symmetry can be represented as a Horn rule, yet complex symmetry may yield too many rules. For instance, the triadic atom asserting whether 3 people queue in a straight line evaluates to the same truth value if permuting all 3 arguments (any 3 people), which yields $\binom{3!}{2} = 15$ Horn rules. To the best of our knowledge, there is no specialized way to learn compact representations for argument symmetry.

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207 208 209 210 211 Predicate constraint Atoms' truth value may be forced to be opposite under some constraints. Asymmetry constraint can be considered as Horn *goal* (clause with only negative literals) \leftarrow $Pred(X, Y) \wedge Pred(Y, X)$. The representation of other constraints (e.g., irreflexivity, antitransitivity, anti-triangularity, functionality, exclusivity) can be found in [Cropper & Hocquette](#page-10-11) [\(2023\)](#page-10-11). Current neuro-symbolic methods do not cover this aspect.

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213 214 215 Recursion There are two types of recursion in Horn programs: recursion and mutual recursion [\(Bancilhon & Ramakrishnan, 1986\)](#page-10-12). *Recursion* refers to the phenomenon that the same predicate appears simultaneously in a rule's head and body. For instance, $\text{Even}(X) \leftarrow \text{Even}(Y) \wedge \text{Succ}_2(Y, X)$ is recursive, where Even asserts whether a natural number is even and $\text{Succ}_2(Y, X)$ asserts whether **216 217 218 219** $X = Y + 2$. Even is the *recursive predicate* in this case. Besides, this recursive rule is also called *linear* because the recursive predicate only appears once in the body. *Mutual recursion* refers to the phenomenon that two predicates mutually derive from each other. We say a predicate Pred₁ *derives* another predicate $Pred_2$ if there exists such a set of rules (variables omitted)

recursive predicates can be mutually deduced via forward chaining. For instance,

 $Pred_2 \leftarrow \cdots \wedge Q_1$ $Q_1 \leftarrow \cdots \wedge Q_2$ $Q_2 \leftarrow \cdots \wedge Q_3$ \cdots $Q_n \leftarrow \cdots \wedge Pred_1$ where Qs denote other predicates and ... denote any other body atoms. Therefore, two mutually

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 $\text{Even}(X) \leftarrow \text{Odd}(Y) \wedge \text{Succ}(Y, X) \qquad \text{Odd}(X) \leftarrow \text{Even}(Y) \wedge \text{Succ}(Y, X)$

226 227 228 229 230 , where $Succ(X, Y)$ asserts whether $Y = X + 1$, show that Even and Odd (asserting whether a natural number is odd) are mutually recursive. A rule is also called *recursive* if the head predicate is mutually recursive with one of its body predicates, and the rule is called *linear* if only one mutually recursive predicate appears in the body. Enabling recursion is expensive for symbolic ILP, while the state-of-the-art neuro-symbolic ILP does not support mutual recursion [\(Glanois et al., 2022\)](#page-11-1).

232 233 234 235 236 Predicate invention Predicate invention is a crucial part of automatically discovering new concepts, which may lead to breakthroughs in AI development [\(Russell, 2019,](#page-12-13) chap. 3). Specifically, predicate invention enables predicates that are unused in BK & target examples appearing in the hypothesis. For example, learning Even from the BK ${Zero(0), Succ(0, 1), Succ(1, 2), Succ(2, 3), ...}$ may require inventing dyadic relation $Succ₂$ and the following rules

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 $Even(X) \leftarrow Even(Y) \wedge Succ_2(Y, X)$ Even(0) $\leftarrow Zero(0)$ $Succ_2(Y, X) \leftarrow Succ(Z, X) \wedge Succ(Y, Z)$

While inventing such auxiliary predicates substantially reduces hypotheses (Cropper & Dumančić, [2022\)](#page-10-1) and improves learning performance [\(Cropper, 2019\)](#page-10-13), predicate invention is expensive, inaccurate, restricted to low-arity invention [\(Cropper & Morel, 2021b\)](#page-10-5).

4.2 INSUFFICIENT NOISE HANDLING

246 247 248 249 250 Mislabeled & ambiguous data Noise is ubiquitous in realistic data. While symbolic methods struggle to learn from noisy data [\(Hocquette et al., 2024\)](#page-11-4), neuro-symbolic methods can deal with mislabeled examples [\(Glanois et al., 2022\)](#page-11-1) and ambiguous BK [\(Evans & Grefenstette, 2018\)](#page-11-5). Han-dling mislabeled BK is still an open problem (Cropper & Dumančić, [2022\)](#page-10-1). Further study on largescale noisy tasks lacks synthesized datasets to control the noise rate in experiments.

252 253 254 255 256 257 Open-world assumption While the *closed-world assumption* (CWA) asserts any ground atom, whose predicate appears in the BK, to be false if it is not given in BK, the *open-world assumption* (OWA) allows those ground atoms that are not known to be true to have the possibility of being true [\(Reiter, 1981\)](#page-12-14). Almost all existing ILP systems assume CWA. However, OWA is a more realistic setup since a complete BK is inaccessible in real-world applications. A set of incomplete background ground atoms is considered noisy if an ILP system assumes CWA.

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4.3 MULTI-TASK LEARNING

260 261 262 263 264 Existing ILP focuses on once learning one target predicate. However, simultaneously learning several target predicates can share common rules and capture mutual recursions among target predicates. [Glanois et al.](#page-11-1) [\(2022\)](#page-11-1) proposes an iterative multi-task learning scheme for their neuro-symbolic model and successfully learns certain hypotheses at a small program size. Large-scale multi-task learning is a promising direction for building broader applications, which remains unexplored.

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266 4.4 UNABLE TO LEARN FROM RAW INPUT

268 269 One major gap between ILP and modern ML systems is the ability to induce knowledge from raw sensory input. Most ILP systems only receive symbolic data as input, while raw data is usually images, speech, natural language, etc. There are initial works that use neural networks to perceive **270 271 272 273 274** and transform raw input into symbolic form and use symbolic deduction to do reasoning [\(Manhaeve](#page-12-15) [et al., 2018;](#page-12-15) [Dai et al., 2019;](#page-11-10) [Dai & Muggleton, 2021\)](#page-10-14). Efficiently jointly training perception network and ILP system in large-scale tasks would be a promising direction for robust and reliable artificial intelligence. See [Evans](#page-11-11) [\(2020\)](#page-11-11); [Evans et al.](#page-11-12) [\(2021;](#page-11-12) [2022\)](#page-11-13) for more possibilities to induce rules from raw sensory input.

5 GEOILP

In this section, we formally introduce GeoILP, our proposed dataset for elaborating large-scale sophisticated rule induction systems, in four parts. First, a general guide for synthesizing ILP tasks from predefined rules. Second, the steps for identifying the examples (*deduction* step) and the BK (*traceback* step) of GeoILP. Third, the features of GeoILP critically differ from other ILP testbeds. Fourth, the approach to transform symbolic input into raw sensory input.

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5.1 A GENERAL GUIDE FOR ILP TASK SYNTHESIS

286 287 288 289 290 Inductive reasoning can be seen as a "reverse" procedure of deductive reasoning in the sense that the former learns rules from premises and conclusions while the latter infers conclusions from premises and valid rules. In ILP, premises correspond to the BK, and the conclusions correspond to the target examples. Therefore, to construct ILP data, we can derive target examples from selected premises and predefined rules using a deduction engine.

Concretely, the data-synthesizing procedure works as follows:

- 1. Randomly or intentionally choose several ground atoms as premises.
- 2. Define a consistent set of rules. [2](#page-5-0)
	- 3. Deduce all the conclusions from the premises and rules using any deduction engine.
	- 4. Select a part or all of the conclusions (also ground atoms) as **positive examples**.^{[3](#page-5-1)}
	- 5. Trace back from the conclusions to identify a minimum set of premises contributing to deducing the conclusions as ILP BK.
- 6. Optionally, obtain negative examples by removing the conclusions from all syntactically possible ground atoms (all combinations of target predicate and constants).
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5.2 SYNTHESIZING GEOILP

305 306 We choose *plane geometry* as the application domain as its formal system covers all the difficulties indicated in section [4](#page-3-0) (see section [5.3\)](#page-6-0).

307 308 309 310 311 312 Formalizing plane geometry and building a corresponding symbolic deduction engine are challenging works outside this paper's scope. We adopt an expert-designed deduction engine based on deductive database theory [\(Gallaire et al., 1984\)](#page-11-14), similar to the ones used in automated geometry theorem proving (e.g., GEX [\(Chou et al., 2000\)](#page-10-15), JGEX [\(Ye et al., 2010a;](#page-13-2)[b;](#page-13-3) [2011\)](#page-13-4), AlphaGeometry [\(Trinh et al., 2024\)](#page-13-5)). [4](#page-5-2) The only constants are the points in the plane. The engine leverages a set of Horn rules for deduction. Table [1](#page-6-1) shows the characteristics of predicates.

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314 315 316 317 318 Deduction To initialize *deduction* step with premises, we use 231 plane geometry problems given in JGEX [\(Ye et al., 2010a;](#page-13-2)[b;](#page-13-3) [2011\)](#page-13-4), ranging from textbook exercises, regional olympiads, and famous theorems. An example of premises is depicted in Figure [1.](#page-7-0) The final dataset, built from such selected premises, can effectively help construct automated geometry theorem provers without needing expert-defined rules, as the rules learned by ILP can be useful. Then, the deduction engine

²A set of rules is *consistent* if the rules do not contradict each other.

³²⁰ 321 322 ³Merely selecting a part of the conclusions as positive examples may yield fewer rules with more body atoms. $P_1 \leftarrow P_2 \land Q$ and $P_2 \leftarrow R_1 \land R_2$ may be reduced to $P_1 \leftarrow R_1 \land R_2 \land Q$ if the premises involve Q, R_1, R_2 and only select P_1 as conclusions.

⁴Note that GEX, JGEX, and AlphaGeometry are deductive reasoning algorithms and are not applicable to ILP, which is inductive reasoning.

Table 1: Predicates used in GeoILP (Target=can be used as target predicate; Head=can be used in the head; Body=can be used in the body). Details see Appendix [A.1.](#page-14-0)

343 344 uses forward chaining to reach the fix point. In the single-task setting, we separate conclusions with different predicates.

345 346 347 Note that the deduction engine regards argument-permutation equivalent atoms as the same, which substantially reduces deduction costs since argument symmetry is omnipresent. Therefore, rules for argument permutation and several trivial rules are not explicitly listed. See Appendix [A.4](#page-15-0) for details.

349 350 351 352 353 354 355 Traceback Since the conclusions deduced from one set of premises may involve all 8 predicates, synthesizing a single ILP task should filter out those premises irrelevant to the target predicate. To achieve this, the deduction engine constructs a deduction graph when doing forward chaining, which illustrates the immediate dependence of the ground atoms in the graph. Every body atom in a matched (ground) rule has a directed edge pointing to the head atom (see Figure [1\)](#page-7-0). Starting from the conclusions involving only the target predicate, we trace back along the directed edges in the reverse direction until reaching the premises. The trace-backed premises are regarded as the BK. The directed edges alongside (red arrows in Figure [1\)](#page-7-0) constitute a reference hypothesis.

356 357 358 359 360 After deduction and traceback, we repeat the BK and target examples ten times, retaining predicates unchanged but mapping every point (constants) to new, unique points. In other words, the initial group of points is duplicated into ten groups. Then, the data are divided into training set and evaluation set according to 8:2 point groups.

5.3 DATASET FEATURES

In total, 65 expert-defined rules and much more trivial rules encoded in the deductive database are used for synthesizing GeoILP (see Appendix [A.4\)](#page-15-0). Several rules are listed here to demonstrate how GeoILP covers the limitations mentioned in section [4.](#page-3-0)

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- $\langle 1 \rangle$ Midp $(M, C, D) \leftarrow \text{Midp}(M, A, B) \wedge \text{Para}(A, C, B, D) \wedge \text{Para}(A, D, B, C)$
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- $\langle 2 \rangle$ Para $(A, B, E, F) \leftarrow \text{Para}(A, B, C, D) \wedge \text{Para}(C, D, E, F)$ $\langle 3 \rangle$ Cong $(A, M, B, M) \leftarrow \text{Perp}(A, B, B, C) \wedge \text{Midp}(M, A, C)$
- $\langle 4 \rangle$ Cong $(O, A, O, B) \leftarrow \text{Midp}(M, A, B) \wedge \text{Perp}(O, M, A, B)$
- $\langle 5 \rangle$ Perp $(A, B, P, Q) \leftarrow \text{Cong}(A, P, B, P) \wedge \text{Cong}(A, Q, B, Q)$

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373 374 375 376 377 We briefly introduce the meaning of the predicates appearing in the above rules and Figure [1](#page-7-0) to facilitate understanding them. See Appendix [A.1](#page-14-0) for exhaustive descriptions. Midp (M, A, B) asserts M is the midpoint of segment AB. Para (A, B, C, D) asserts lines AB & CD are parallel. Perp (A, B, C, D) asserts lines AB & CD are perpendicular. Cong (A, B, C, D) asserts segments AB & CD are of same length. Coll (A, B, C) asserts A, B, C are collinear. Ncoll (A, B, C) asserts A, B, C are not collinear. Cyclic (A, B, C, D) asserts A, B, C, D are con-

Figure 1: Synthesizing one of GeoILP (single) tasks from one set of premises with Cyclic as target predicate. Black arrows denote deduction (forward chaining), and red arrows denote traceback.

cyclic. Eqangle(A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H) asserts full-angles $[AB, CD]$ & $[EF, GH]$ are equal. Fullangle is defined by two lines and, intuitively, two full-angles $[AB, CD]$ & $[EF, GH]$ are equal if, supposing Rot denotes a rotation, $Rot(AB)$ || EF and $Rot(EF)$ || GH . Refer to [Ye et al.](#page-13-3) [\(2010b\)](#page-13-3) for the formal definition.

Predicate Characteristics of predicates are provided in Table [1.](#page-6-1) The predicates are of arity from 3 to 8, all involving argument symmetry (see Appendix [A.2\)](#page-14-1) and different constraints (see Appendix [A.3\)](#page-15-1). Note that, among constraints, Midp and Circle are functional; thus, our dataset can be easily adapted to study the setting with functions. In addition, nearly all the predicates can be used in the head and body of a rule.

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408 409 410 411 Rules The number of rules in a task ranges from 10 to 91, which do not consider rules for argument symmetry and trivial rules. See Appendix [A.4](#page-15-0) for details about trivial rules. The maximum number of body atoms is 5. the maximum number of variables in a rule is 12. Existentially quantified variables usually exist. For instance, A, B of Rule $\langle 1 \rangle$, C, D of Rule $\langle 2 \rangle$, C of Rule $\langle 3 \rangle$, M of Rule $\langle 4 \rangle$.

413 414 415 416 417 Recursion All types of recursion are omnipresent in the whole rule set, and almost any two predicates are mutually recursive. In the example rule subset above, $Rule(1)$ is recursive and linear; Rule⟨2⟩ is recursive but not linear; Rule⟨3⟩ & Rule⟨5⟩ (or Rule⟨4⟩ & Rule⟨5⟩) justify that they are recursive because Cong and Perp are mutually recursive; while Rule $\langle 3 \rangle$ (also Rule $\langle 4 \rangle$) is linear, $Rule(5)$ is not linear.

418 419 420 421 Predicate invention Almost all GeoILP tasks require predicate invention. For example, a task learning Para with Cong, Coll, Ncoll, Eqangle, Perp may need to invent Midp as auxiliary predicate (Appendix [B.1\)](#page-18-0). In addition, extra meaningful relations that are not used in GeoILP may also be invented to reduce hypothesis space, e.g., congruent triangle, similar triangle (Appendix [B.1\)](#page-18-0).

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423 424 425 426 427 428 Noisy data First, our synthetic data makes the open-world assumption. For instance, in Figure [1,](#page-7-0) Perp appears twice in the BK (premises), while two new atoms of Perp not given in the BK also appear in the deduced conclusions, which means that atoms not given in the BK can also be true. In GeoILP, it is common for all true atoms not to be given in BK. Second, the negative examples are noisy since our rule set is incomplete for the entire *plane geometry* (i.e., several true atoms may not be deduced based on the incomplete rule set).

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430 431 Multi-task In the multi-task setting, we trace back premises from all conclusions; thus, all predicates in the deduction graph are considered target predicates for an ILP multi-task. In most cases, the trace-backed premises are the same as the initial premises.

Table 2: Detailed comparison between GeoILP and the existing dataset. (# denotes *number of*)

5.3.1 COMPARISON WITH OTHER ILP DATASETS

We compare GeoILP with the dataset proposed in ∂ILP [\(Evans & Grefenstette, 2018\)](#page-11-5), which is the only synthetic dataset used by recent neuro-symbolic methods (e.g., HRI [20]). Table [2](#page-8-0) reveals GeoILP's extremely strong complexity from various aspects.^{[5](#page-8-1)}

5.4 CONSTRUCTING RAW INPUT

464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 An essential difference distinguishing it from other datasets is that GeoILP additionally provides raw inputs corresponding to each task. Like in Figure [1,](#page-7-0) the BK (premises) is transformed into an image like in the plane geometry textbook. We adopt the constructive diagram builder language developed in AlphaGeometry [\(Trinh et al., 2024\)](#page-13-5) to construct the image point by point from a given set of premises, which works well with the symbolic deduction engine. The goal is to provide data for learning rules from raw sub-symbolic inputs (images) and symbolic target examples. The images only contain basic geometry objects, reducing the burden of perception and making them a good testbed for this immature research topic. We also attach a corresponding image of conclusions (BK + positive examples) to each task, like the rightmost diagram in Figure [1.](#page-7-0) Handling GeoILP in geometric form at least requires the ability to identify geometric objects, to identify the relations among objects, and to induce interpretable rules. Developing such a complex system requires great effort, which is out of the scope of a dataset constructing work and is left to future work. ^{[6](#page-8-2)}

More details about datasets and example data are provided in [A](#page-14-2)ppendix $A \& B$, respectively.

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6 EXPERIMENTS

6.1 SETUP

Considering the great difficulty of GeoILP, we divide it into four progressive levels, which provides chances for gradually strengthening ILP systems. Table [3](#page-9-0) illustrates the specification of each level.

 $⁵$ Multi-tasks do not involve predicate invention since they regard all available predicates as target predicates.</sup> ⁶For readers interested in the induction ability of large language models, we provide a guide on how to

translate GeoILP into natural-language form in Appendix [C.](#page-19-0)

487 488 Table 3: GeoILP's specification of four progressive levels for single-tasks & specification of multitasks.

The four levels are set according to four dimensionalities: predicate arity, number of body atoms, involving mutual recursion or not, and number of rules. The former three are critical bottlenecks of many neuro-symbolic ILP methods, e.g., [Glanois et al.](#page-11-1) [\(2022\)](#page-11-1). The last one is a critical aspect affecting search complexity for both symbolic and neuro-symbolic ILP methods.

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6.2 RESULTS

505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 Symbolic Among symbolic methods, Popper [\(Cropper & Morel, 2021a\)](#page-10-4) is the most powerful one that simultaneously supports learning recursion, involving hypothesis constraints, inventing predicates [\(Cropper & Morel, 2021b\)](#page-10-5), and handling noise [\(Hocquette et al., 2024\)](#page-11-4), and scales better as well. We conduct experiments using Popper^{[7](#page-9-1)}, enabling predicate invention, recursion and noise handling. Noise handling is turned on because GeoILP follows OWA, while Popper follows CWA. The maximum number of variables in a rule is set to 12, which is the maximum value in every four levels. When conducting experiments on different levels, we set the maximum number of body atoms and the maximum number of rules to the maximum values of the learning level. This setup aligns with our purpose of not injecting many priors into training. After 1-day searching, Popper does not return any hypothesis, even at the *basic* level. We regard GeoILP as unsolvable by Popper since the searching time is already about two orders of magnitude longer than in previous works (about hundreds of seconds or less, e.g., [Cropper & Morel](#page-10-4) [\(2021a\)](#page-10-4); [Glanois et al.](#page-11-1) [\(2022\)](#page-11-1))

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518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 Neuro-symbolic Several neuro-symbolic methods [\(Evans & Grefenstette, 2018;](#page-11-5) [Glanois et al.,](#page-11-1) [2022\)](#page-11-1) do not support higher-arity predicates, rules with more than two body atoms, or using target predicate in the rule's body, which are their primary bottlenecks of being inapplicable to GeoILP. Several others (Rocktäschel & Riedel, 2017; [Campero et al., 2018\)](#page-10-6) require expert-defined rule templates task-by-task, which is inappropriate for large-scale applications like GeoILP. Difflog [\(Si et al.,](#page-12-8) [2019\)](#page-12-8) is a neural-symbolic method that supports arbitrary hypothesis space. However, our experiments show that, even at the *basic* level, Difflog ^{[8](#page-9-2)} throws an out-of-memory error on a server with 500GB of memory, an order of magnitude larger than in the original paper (64GB). We leave further investigation on improving memory usage for future work.

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7 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

We propose GeoILP, a large-scale synthetic dataset for inductive logic programming involving all challenging language biases in reference hypotheses. GeoILP is, in terms of the hypothesis size, at least one magnitude larger than existing datasets that can provide guiding hypotheses. Although GeoILP may be biased towards plane geometry, it is still a good testbed for large-scale ILP. Besides, we also provide image-form background knowledge, aiming to boost the development of joint learning of neural perception and symbolic rule induction.

 7 Version 4.3.0: <https://github.com/logic-and-learning-lab/Popper/tree/v4.3.0>

⁸We leverage the implementation and recommend parameter setting in [https://github.com/](https://github.com/petablox/difflog/tree/3c2d5218d9a0a1e200ebbf2d6a1e5d077fb18826) [petablox/difflog/tree/3c2d5218d9a0a1e200ebbf2d6a1e5d077fb18826](https://github.com/petablox/difflog/tree/3c2d5218d9a0a1e200ebbf2d6a1e5d077fb18826).

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⁹[https://github.com/google-deepmind/alphageometry/blob/main/jgex_ag_](https://github.com/google-deepmind/alphageometry/blob/main/jgex_ag_231.txt) [231.txt](https://github.com/google-deepmind/alphageometry/blob/main/jgex_ag_231.txt)

• Cyclic(E9,A9,F9,G9) ← Eqangle(F9,A9,F9,E9,G9,A9,G9,E9) ∧ Ncoll(F9,G9,A9)

 For readers interested in the induction ability of large language models (LLMs), we provide guidance for translating GeoILP into natural-language form.

 The prompt fed to LLMs should consist of three parts: task description, task data, and a command requiring LLMs to induce a hypothesis. The difficult part is the task data, containing background knowledge and positive & negative examples, which are ground atoms. The translation from symbolic atoms to natural-language forms varies in different domains. For *plane geometry*, AlphaGeom etry [\(Trinh et al., 2024\)](#page-13-5) provides several templates. For example, Coll(A, B, C) is translated into *A,B,C are collinear*. All the predicates used in GeoILP can be found in AlphaGeometry, and thus all GeoILP's atoms can be translated into natural-language forms. In addition, to enforce LLMs generating Horn rules (in natural-language forms), the command could ask LLMs to generate rules in the form of "If ... and ..., then ...", where each "..." corresponds to a ground atom. "..." can be repeated multiple times and must be concatenated by "and".