Integrating algebraic theorem provers with dynamic geometry systems for solid geometry¹

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Abstract

We describe algebraic methods for automated theorem proving in 3d solid geometry and their integration with a geometry language and system Stereos. Two different methods for transforming geometric statements into algebraic form are introduced, implemented within a theorem prover, and compared on a corpus of problems.

Keywords: algebraic methods, solid geometry

1. Introduction

For over two millennia, geometry has been one of the major topics in education all around the world. Since Euclid's "Elements", geometry has been a central field for introducing students to deduction and rigorous argumentation.

In recent years, computers and technology have been intensively used to change how geometry is taught. *Dynamic geometry systems* such as GeoGebra², Cinderella³, Geometer's Sketchpad⁴, Cabri⁵, Eukleides⁶ are now regularly used in all levels of education. Students use such systems to perform geometric constructions, and obtain diagrams that can be distored by moving free points. Such dynamic diagrams are better than static images, since moving free points can shed additional light to the problem, reveal degenerate cases, help student to determine if something is true only if some special order of points is considered (for example, some property could be true only if a point is between some other two points, and be false if that is not the case, some property could be true only for accute, and not for obtuse angles etc.).

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²https://www.geogebra.org/

³https://www.cinderella.de/tiki-index.php

⁴http://www.dynamicgeometry.com/

⁵http://www.cabri.com/

⁶http://www.eukleides.org/

By doing extensive distortion of diagrams by moving free points, student can be pretty sure if a property is generaly true (i.e., true in all, but a small number of degenerate cases), but still, that cannot be considered to be a proof and is error prone. Therefore, recently dynamic geometry systems have been extended by automated reasoning systems, that can automatically prove statements about constructed objects (Botana et al. (2015)). Such theorem provers are usually algebraic (they perform calculations on symbolic parameters of geometric objects, usually coordinates of points).

Most research in both dynamic geometry systems and automated theorem proving in geometry has been devoted only to two-dimensional Euclidean geometry (plane geometry). However, in our view, application of dynamic geometry software for three-dimension space (solid geometry) is even more important since it is often hard to determine geometric properties of spatial objects only by observing diagrams. Namely, three dimensional space is presented only by its two-dimensional projections and thus measures of distances and angles are not directly preserved. It is much easier to see that two lines in plane geometry are perpendicular, then to see if two intersecting lines in space are perpendicular, even if the viewpoint is moved and the object is rotated and looked from many angles.

Some geometry systems developed support for three-dimensional constructions. The new version of GeoGeobra has offered support for dynamic three dimension graphics⁷. It is possible to create and dynamically change three dimension objects such as points, lines, polygons and spheres, as well as graphics of two-variable functions that are surfaces in 3d. However, up to the best of our knowledge, this system does not yet support proving statements about three-dimension objects. Both Cinderella and Cindy3D⁸ have extensions for drawing three dimension objects using commands and formulas describing them. Although there have been some limited attempts to apply algebraic theorem proving methods to three-dimensional Euclidean space geometry (solid geometry), we are not aware that there are thorough descriptions of these methods, nor publicly available implementations of automated provers for solid geometry.

Having this in mind, this work tries to bridge several gaps that we feel are present in current state-of-the-art in the field of automatic algebraic proving in solid geometry.

- We define and compare two different methods of algebraization of statements of solid geometry, before algebraic theorem provers based on Gröbner bases and Wu's method are applied.
- 2. We build an implementation of automated theorem provers for solid geometry problems based on those two algebraization methods.
- 3. We analyze a corpus of problems from solid geometry and evaluate our system and different algebraization methods on the problems from that corpus.
- 4. We describe integration of algebraic theorem provers into an existing dynamic geometry system Stereos for solid geometry.
- 5. We discuss challenges and possible applications in the field of geometry education.

Our system and materials are given in an online appendix 9.

⁷https://wiki.geogebra.org/en/3D_Graphics_View

⁸http://gagern.github.io/Cindy3D/

⁹http://www.matf.bg.ac.rs/~danijela/solids.html

2. Related work

Automated reasoning in plane geometry. Automated theorem proving has a history more than fifty years long. Most successful automated theorem methods are those for proving in geometry. Automated theorem provers for geometry are based either on the synthetic approach or on the algebraic approach (based on some coordinates).

Major breakthrough in the algebraic approach was made by (Wu (1978)). The geometric construction and the statement are first encoded as a set of polynomial equalities over their coordinates, and then the Wu's method uses algebraic techniques for dealing with these polynomials. In his paper (Ritt (1950)) described similar ideas as Wu, so nowdays this method is usually called Ritt-Wu's method. Many theorems were successfully proved using this method (Chou (1984)). The success of the Wu's method motivated other researcher to develop new methods, and one of the most prominent is the Gröbner basis method based on Buchberger's algorithm (Buchberger (2006)). Similar to Wu's method, the Gröbner basis also reasons representation in form of a set of polynomial equalities. There are many implementations of these algorithms and some are in commercial software (e.g. Matllab, Mathematica or Maple). However, both methods produce only yes or no answers instead of human understandable proofs and cannot deal with width inequality (therefore cannot reason about the order of points).

Several coordinate-free methods that do not use coordinate representation of points are developed in the 1980's. The reason for their development was in the idea that it is possible to develop prover that would produce human readable proofs. Most prominent are the area method (Chou et al. (1993)) and the full angle method (Chou et al. (1996)), and those methods are usually referred to as semi–algebraic, since they involve reasoning over some special geometric quantities (e.g., signed area or Pythagora's differences). These methods are usually not as efficient as algebraic methods and have smaller scope than algebraic methods.

One of the first synthetic provers, that uses method of resolution, was developed by (Gelernter (1959)) whose idea was to develop the proof that is similar to human proof. He successfully proved many problems taken from high–school textbooks. In modern times, synthetic provers are usually based on coherent (synthetic) logic — a special fragment of first order logic convenient for geometric reasoning. For example, the prover ArgoCLP (Stojanović-Đurđević et al. (2015)) uses coherent logic to produce human readable proofs.

Automated reasoning in solid geometry. Chou et al. presented volume method (Chou et al. (1995)). It is a semi-algebraic method that is extension of the area method for solid geometry. Hypotheses can be described constructively and conclusions are polynomial equations of several geometry quantities, such as volumes, ratios of line segments, ratios of areas, and Pythagoras differences. The key idea of the method is to eliminate points from the conclusion of a geometry statement using several basic propositions about volumes.

Shao et al. used solid geometry problems from Mathematical Olympiad problems and exercises to evaluate different geometry provers (Shao et al. (2016)). In the paper are presented three different examples. For each example are given polynomials (derived using pen–and–paper) representing solid geometry conjecture. Using these examples is demonstrated that algebraic methods can be used for proving in solid geometry. For each example they used three different methods, characteristic set method (Wu (1978)), Gröbner basis method (Buchberger (2006)) and vector algebra method (Lord (1985)). These methods are compered and they give conclusion that vector algebra method gives better geometry proof but derived equations can be long and difficult for manipulation and calculation. They tested these methods on 97 problems, but they derived

all polynomials using pen-and-paper. Although Maple is used for Gröbner basis method, they do not present any automatic algebraization of solid geometric statements, e.g. how to transform geometric statements into polynomials.

Loch and Plümer analyzed how algebraic methods could be applied for reducing constraints for 3D buildings (Loch-Dehbi and Plümer (2009)). Focus was on analyzing existing city models and constraints such as parallelity, orthogonality and symmetry. The goal was to determine which constraints are subsumed by others and therefore can be omitted. They presented polynomial equations for parallelism, orthogonality and incidence for point and plane and Wu's characteristic set method was successfully applied. Since polynomials were quite complex the key was to reduce the number of variables and to use multilinear polynomials rather than quadratic. They also made a prototype of the system where user can manipulate with constraints.

3. Background

3.1. Algebraization of geometric statements

Algebraization of a geometric statement involves formulating it in algebraic terms, as a statement over some number field. Geometry problems are usually given in terms of relations between the geometric object involved (points, lines, planes, circles, ...). We shall assume that each theorem under consideration is given in form of an implication, and that both its premises and conclusions are given as one or more geometric relations over the objects involved. This setup is general enough to cover most standard geometric problems. For example, in some problems, the properties of constructed geometric objects should be proved. The construction is usually specified by a series of construction steps, and each construction step is a function (not a relation), that builds new geometric objects out of the existing ones (e.g., constructs a new line trough the two existing points). However, the properties of the new, constructed object can usually be specified in terms of one or more relations, so without losing generality, it can be assumed that we are dealing only with statements that involve relations (we shall explicitly show how to convert some common construction steps into a relational form).

Each object (point, line, circle, etc.) is given by some its parameters (most often some coordinates) and by its relationship with other, previously introduced objects. All such relationships are encoded as (polynomial) equations over the parameters of the involved objects. Since statement under consideration is an implication, two sets of polynomial equations are maintained: the first contains relations between objects given by the premises, and the second one contains the statements given by the conclusions. The proving process then requires to prove that the polynomial equations given by the premises imply all polynomial equations given by the conclusions. There are provers that support only a single equation in the conclusion, but this does not pose a problem, since all equations in the conclusion can be proved separately (one by one). The statement is proved only if all polynomial equations in the conclusion set are derived.

3.2. "Without loss of generality" reasoning

An important step in the algebraization procedure is simplification of polynomial equations based on the "without lost of generality reasoning (wlog)" principle (the use of this principle in a formal setting is described by Harrison Harrison (2009)). A convenient choice of coordinate system can transform the objects so that many coordinates become zero (some points can be translated to the origin, a and a rotation can be made to put some other points on the axis) which can significantly simplify the polynomials and make them provable more easily (in some

cases proofs without such simplifications can take hours, while the simplified variants are proved in milliseconds). This does not affect the generality of statement and justification for its usage comes from the fact that rotations and translations can be used to transform points into its "canonical" position. Translation and rotation are isometries which means that they preserve distance, and then also the other geometric relations such as incidence, orthogonality, size of an angle and so on.

3.3. Algebraic methods

Algebraic methods in geometry are well described in literature (Wu (1978); Buchberger (2006)). In this section we give a brief account on algebraic methods in geometry.

Algebraization introduces variables v_i that denote parameters of geometric objects (usually these are only the coordinates of free and constructed points). Geometric relations between points are described by polynomial equations of the form $p_1(v_1, \ldots, v_n) = p_2(v_1, \ldots, v_n)$, that are trivially transformed to the form $p(v_1, \ldots, v_n) = 0$.

If polynomials representing relations between objects given by the construction and theorem assumptions are denoted by f_i , i = 1, ..., k, and if the polynomials representing relations to be proved are denoted by g_j , j = 1, ..., l, then proving reduces to checking if for each g_j it holds that

$$\forall v_1, \ldots, v_n \in \mathbb{R}. \bigwedge_{i=1}^k f_i(v_1, \ldots, v_n) = 0 \Longrightarrow g_j(v_1, \ldots, v_n) = 0.$$

We shall refer to f_i as premises polynomials and to g_i as conclusion polynomials.

Once the geometric theorem has been algebrized, it is possible to apply algebraic theorem proving methods. As Tarski suggested, proving geometric properties can be done using quantifier elimination procedure for the reals, or the cylindrical algebraic decomposition, that is its improved variant, but these approaches are inefficient and proving nontrivial geometric properties would take too long. But, there is another, much more efficient approach. The main insight, given by Wu Wen-tsün in 1978, is that remarkably many geometrical theorems, when formulated as universal algebraic statements in terms of coordinates, are also true for all complex values of the "coordinates". However, a care should be taken, since, in some cases, the condition holds for $\mathbb R$, but not for $\mathbb C$, and in these cases methods fail due to counterexamples in $\mathbb C$. Statements to be proved are of following form:

$$\forall v_1, \ldots, v_n \in \mathbb{C}. \bigwedge_{i=1}^k f_i(v_1, \ldots, v_n) = 0 \Longrightarrow g_j(v_1, \ldots, v_n) = 0.$$

This is true when g_j belongs to the radical ideal $I = \langle f_1, \dots, f_k \rangle$, i.e. when exists an integer r and polynomials h_1, \dots, h_k such that $g_j^r = \sum_{i=1}^k h_i f_i$.

The two most significant algebraic methods that use a kind of Euclidean division to check the validity of an observed conjecture are Buchberger's method consists in transforming the generating set into a Gröbner basis and the Wu's method.

Wu's method. The first step of simple Wu's method (Wu (1978)) uses the pseudo-division operation to transform the polynomial system to triangular form, i.e. to a system of equations where each successive equation introduces exactly one dependent variable. After that, the final reminder is calculated by pseudo dividing polynomial for the statements to be proved by each

polynomial from triangular system. Summarizing, Wu's method, in its simplest form, allows to compute some polynomials c, h_1, \ldots, h_k and r such that

$$cg_j = \sum_{i=1}^k h_i f_i + r$$

If the final remainder r is equal to zero, then the conjecture is considered to be proved. This simple method of Wu is not complete (in algebraic sense) and sometimes the result of applying method is indecisive, i.e. the theorem can't be proved nor disproved. A more complex and complete version of the method uses ascending chains which are considered in the Ritt-Wu principle (Ritt (1950)).

Gröbner basis method. G is gröbner basis for ideal $I = \langle f_1, \ldots, f_k \rangle$ if and only if multivariate division any polynomial belonging to ideal I with G gives 0. This means that proving given conjecture consists of two steps. The first is determining the Gröbner basis for polynomials describing relation between objects, f_1, \ldots, f_k . The second step is multivariate division of polynomial describing relation to be proved, g_j with G. If the result of division is 0 then statement is proved, otherwise is disproved.

For calculating Gröbner basis is used Buchberger's algorithm (Buchberger (2006)) witch transforms a given set of polynomials into a Gröbner basis with respect to some monomial order using B-reduction.

3.4. Implementations of algebraic methods

There are several available implementations of Wu's and Buchberger's method. In our research we used three systems – GeoProver that uses simple Wu's method (Petrović and Janičić (2012)), Mathematica¹⁰ with implemented Gröbner basis method and Maple¹¹ with implemented Wu's method (Chen and Wang (2002)). Shortly, all systems are going to be presented here.

GeoProver. GeoProver is open source software implemented in Java providing support for algebraic theorem proving using Wu's method. It consists of two main modules: one provides support for algebraic methods and the other is a set of APIs from different geometric applications and formats to the prover.

GeoProver produces detailed reports with steps that are taken in proving process: transformation of input geometric problem to algebraic form, invoking a specified algebraic-based theorem prover, and presenting the result with time and space spent to prove the theorem and with a list of NDG conditions obtained during proving process, transformed to a readable, geometry form.

One of the main purposes of this Java implementation is integration with various dynamic geometry tools (including GeoGebra) that currently don't have support for proving geometry theorems. The architecture of GeoProver enables easy integration with other systems for interactive geometry and can be simply modified to accept various input formats for conjectures.

Gröbner bases in Mathematica. Mathematica is commercial software designed for technical computing. It has support for Gröbner basis and can be used for automated theorem proving. $F = Groebner Basis[\{poly_1\}, \{poly_2\}, \ldots]$ computes a Gröbner basis for the given list of premises polynomials. If PolynomialReduce[poly, F, V][[2]] is zero (V is the set of variables), the geometry statement with the conclusion polynomial Poly is true.

¹⁰https://www.wolfram.com/mathematica/

¹¹https://www.maplesoft.com/products/maple/

Wu's method in Maple – wsolve. The implemented algorithm is based on Wu's method and his theorems about the projection of quasi variety (Wu (1990)). While proving geometry conjecture, weakest non–degenerate conditions can be obtained by computing the projection of a quasi variety. In fact, it is possible to get the sufficient and necessary condition for a geometric theorem to be false by computing the projection of a quasi variety.

The method is easily invoked by key word wsolve(V, P, C) where V is a list of variables, P is a list of premises polynomials and C is a conclusion polynomial.

4. Alegebrization of geometric relations in solid geometry

To apply algebraic methods we need to be able to represent various geometric relations between solid geometry objects using polynomial equations over their coordinates. In this section we are going to give examples how this could be done, for the most common relations (a richer set of relations can be represented using similar techniques, and a detailed description is given in an online appendix)¹².

4.1. Representation of basic objects – points, lines, planes, spheres

One of the first questions in the algebraization process is what objects of 3d geometry are basic and can be used in our statements and what variables are used to express geometric relations. We shall consider two different approaches. In both approaches, each kind of object is represented by some tuple of parameters (we shall see that these could have either symbolic, or numeric values).

In the first approach points are the only basic objects and all other objects are defined using only points (e.g., lines are defined by two different points, and planes are defined as three different, non-colinear points). For example, instead of lines, one must always use pairs of points. For example, the fact that the point A belongs to the line PQ, is expressed by the relation incident A P Q. The only variables used in polynomials are coordinates of the points.

In the second approach, three types of objects (points, lines, and planes) are allowed. For example, statements can explicitly mention lines and *incident A l* expressed that the point A belongs to the line l. All objects are represented using their own parameters (e.g., a line is defined by the coordinates of its one point, and the coordinates of its direction vector, and a plane is defined by the coefficients of the plane equation – the coordinates of its normal vector, and its displacement wrt. the origin). Polynomials can include variables for all those parameters.

Note that we could also allow using lines and planes in the first approach, as a syntactic sugar. Although the user can use them in the relations, the system internally maps all line names to pairs of points and plane names to triple of points and encodes all relations as polynomial equations over only the coordinates of points.

We shall describe how to encode various geometric relations and construction steps using both of these approaches, and shall compare their efficiency.

Points and vectors. Points will have three parameters, representing their coordinates. They will be denoted by superscripts $(_^x, _^y, _^z)$. For example, point A will be parametrized by the triple of

¹²http://www.matf.bg.ac.rs/~danijela/solids.html

 $(A^x, A^y, A^z)^{13}$. Coordinates can be either symbolic (variables or expressions) or numeric (when the exact position of some points is known or can be directly calculated).

For describing relations we shall use vectors. Vector determined by two points $A = (A^x, A^y, A^z)$ and $B = (B^x, B^y, B^z)$ is $\overrightarrow{AB} = (B^x - A^x, B^y - A^y, B^z - A^z)$. The standard notions of scalar product, cross product and scalar triple product can be applied to vectors.

Lines. Representation of lines depends on approach used.

In the first approach a line is represented by two different given points, i.e., a six-tuple of their coordinates. The first of the point of the line l will be denoted by l_A and the second point by l_B .

In the other approach, a line is given by a given point A and a direction vector v. Direction vector of the line l will be denoted by $\overrightarrow{l_v}$ and the point of the line l will be denoted by l_A . Therefore, lines in the second approach will also have six parameters denoted by superscripts. For example, the line l will have the parameters $(l^{v_x}, l^{v_y}, l^{v_z}, l^{A_x}, l^{A_y}, l^{A_z})$, which represent the line given by the equation:

$$x = k_{I} \cdot l^{v_{x}} + l^{A_{x}}, \quad v = k_{I} \cdot l^{A_{y}} + l^{A_{y}}, \quad z = k_{I} \cdot l^{v_{z}} + l^{A_{z}}.$$

In the previous parametric equations, k_l denotes the line ratio, not present in the line specification (which is a six-tuple).

Planes. Planes are also represented differently, depending on the used approach.

In the first approach a plane is given by three different, non-colinear points, and a nine-tuple of their coordinates. The first point of the plane π will be denoted by π_A , the second one by π_B and the third one by π_C .

In the other approach, planes are determined by their normal vector v and an additional parameter d (displacement from the origin). Vector of the plane named π will be denoted with $\overrightarrow{\pi_v}$ and free parameter for the plane will be denoted with π_d . Therefore, planes will have only four parameters. For example, the plane π , will be represented by the tuple $(\pi^{v_x}, \pi^{v_y}, \pi^{v_z}, \pi^d)$ that satisfies

$$\pi^{v_x} \cdot x + \pi^{v_y} \cdot y + \pi^{v_z} \cdot z + \pi^d = 0.$$

Spheres. Some problems involve spheres and we always represent them by four parameters — three coordinates of the center (o^x, o^y, o^z) , and the radius r.

4.2. Representing relations between geometric objects

In this section we describe polynomials that arithmetically characterize relations over constructed objects (for example, two points coincide, two lines are parallel, two planes are orthogonal). Each relation introduces some polynomial constraints over the parameters of the objects that are involved, and can be expressed differently depending on the chosen approach.

Input parameters for given relation are parameters of all objects involved in it. For example, for the relation congruent A B C D inputs are four points, A, B, C, and D, e.g their symbolic or numeric parameters: (a^x, a^y, a^z) , (b^x, b^y, b^z) , (c^x, c^y, c^z) and (d^x, d^y, d^z) . However, when line and planes are involved, then the set of input parameters depends on the used approach. For example,

¹³When it is necessary to distinguish free and constructed points, we shall use upper-case letters for free and lower-case letters for constructed points.

for the relation point_on_line A l, input parameters are the coordinates (a^x, a^y, a^z) of the point A, and the coordinates $(l^{A_x}, l^{A_y}, l^{A_z})$ of a point on the line l and either the coordinates $(l^{B_x}, l^{B_y}, l^{B_z})$ of a second point on the line l if the first approach is used, or its direction vector $(l^{y_x}, l^{y_y}, l^{y_z})$.

Note that the same relations are used both in theorem assumptions (usually implicitly given by the construction steps) and in theorem conclusions.

We start with some relations that involve only points, and therefore are equally encoded using both approaches.

▶ equal_points *A B* — two points *A* and *B* have the same coordinates.

Polynomials: The vector equation $\overrightarrow{AB} = 0$ yields the following three polynomial equations:

$$a^x - b^x = 0$$

$$a^y - b^y = 0$$

$$a^z - b^z = 0$$

Note that these polynomials are used only to prove that two points are equal, i.e., only as the conclusion polynomials. If it is known that two points are equal during construction, then they are given the same coordinates, and no polynomials are introduced.

▶ congruent *A B C D* — Two segments, *AB* and *CD* are congruent.

Polynomials:
$$\overrightarrow{AB} \cdot \overrightarrow{AB} = \overrightarrow{CD} \cdot \overrightarrow{CD}$$
.

This gives the following polynomial equation:

$$(a^x - b^x)^2 + (a^y - b^y)^2 + (a^z - b^z)^2 - (c^x - d^x)^2 - (c^y - d^y)^2 - (c^z - d^z)^2 = 0$$

▶ segments_in_ratio $A \ B \ C \ D \ m \ n$ — the lengths of segments AB and CD are in the given ratio $\frac{m}{n}$ i.e., that $\frac{|AB|}{|CD|} = \frac{m}{n}$.

Polynomials: A single equation obtained from the condition $n^2 \cdot \overrightarrow{AB} \cdot \overrightarrow{AB} = m^2 \cdot \overrightarrow{CD} \cdot \overrightarrow{CD}$.

Explanation: The squares of distances between A and B and between C and D must be in the ratio $\frac{m^2}{n^2}$. Note that this reduces to congruence when m = n.

 \triangleright midpoint $M \land B$ — the point M is the midpoint of the segment determined by points A and B.

Polynomials: The three polynomial equations derived from $\overrightarrow{MA} = \overrightarrow{MB}$:

$$2m^x - a^x - b^x = 0$$

$$2m^y - a^y - b^y = 0$$

$$2m^z - a^z - b^z = 0$$

▶ point_segment_ratio $M \ A \ B \ m \ n$ — checks weather the point M divides segment determined by points A and B in ratio determined by m and n, e.g. $\frac{|MA|}{|MB|} = \frac{m}{n}$.

Polynomials: The three polynomial equations derived from $n \cdot \overrightarrow{MA} = m \cdot \overrightarrow{MB}$.

Explanation: Note that midpoint M A B can be expressed as point_segment_ratio M A B 1 1.

Next we describe some relations that involve both points and lines.

ightharpoonup point_on_line A P Q — point A belongs to the line P Q.

Polynomials: The three polynomials are derived from $\overrightarrow{PO} \times \overrightarrow{PA} = 0$.

Note that although there are three polynomial equations, one can always be derived from the other two. The three polynomials are:

$$poly_1 = (a^y - p^y) \cdot (q^z - p^z) - (a^z - p^z) \cdot (q^y - p^y) = 0$$

$$poly_2 = (a^z - p^z) \cdot (q^x - p^x) - (a^x - p^x) \cdot (q^z - p^z) = 0$$

$$poly_3 = (a^x - p^x) \cdot (q^y - p^y) - (a^y - p^y) \cdot (q^x - p^x) = 0$$

Then it holds that $(q^x - p^x) \cdot poly_1 + (q^y - p^y) \cdot poly_2 + (q^z - p^z) \cdot poly_3 = 0$. If $p^z \neq q^z$, then $poly_1 = 0$ and $poly_2 = 0$ imply that $poly_3 = 0$. However, if $p^z = q^z$, then $poly_1 = 0$, and $poly_2 = 0$ only imply that $a^z = p^z$, and it need not automatically hold that $poly_3 = 0$. Generally, one of the coefficients $q^x - p^x$, $q^y - p^y$ and $q^z - p^z$ must different from zero (as the line director vector must be nonzero) and that determines the two equations which imply the third, but since these three coefficients are symbollic, we always explicitly check all three equations.

Note that if the relation *point_on_line A P Q* occurs in the assumptions of the theorem, then, due to the dependence of the three polynomials, some variants of the Wu's method might have problem in the triangulation phase (for example, GeoProver exibited this behaviour). This causes some serious complications in our implementation when GeoProver is used, and we had to devise methods that determined which one of the three equations can and must be excluded.

▶ point_on_line *A l* — point *A* belongs to the line *l*.

Polynomials: If the first approach is used, then this reduces to *point_on_line A l_A l_B* described above. If the second approach is used, then the three polynomials are derived from $\overrightarrow{l_v} \times \overrightarrow{Al_A} = 0$.

In both approaches one polynomial can be derived from the other two.

Note that the polynomials obtained from *point_on_line A P Q* and *pont_on_line A l* if the first approach is used are exactly the same. The only difference is that in the first case the user keeps track of the two points of the line, and in the second one, the system does this implicitly. This symmetry is present in all further relations, so we when lines are planes are present in the language, we shall demonstrate only the second approach (the first shall always reduce to the variant when only the points are present in the language).

 \triangleright lines_intersection A P Q M N — point A is the intersection of lines PQ and MN.

Polynomials: Six polynomials are derived from the conditions *point_on_line A* l_1 and *point_on_line A* l_2 .

Note again that the first three and the second three polynomials are dependent, so Wu's method might again have problems triangulating the system, and in those cases two out of six polynomials must be excluded. However, it is not always trivial to determine which two of the six polynomials should be excluded. For example, it can happen (due to choice

of the coordinates of the free points) that some variables are omitted in some polynomial equations due to multiplication by zero. So, in order to make triangular system, careful analysis must be taken in order to choose which polynomials could be omitted.

▶ lines_intersection $A l_1 l_2$ — point A is the intersection of lines l_1 and l_2 .

Polynomials: If the second approach is used, six polynomials are derived from the conditions $point_on_line\ A\ l_1$ and $point_on_line\ A\ l_2$.

▶ orthogonal_lines *A B C D* — the line *AB* is orthogonal on the line *CD*.

Polynomials: A necessary condition is $\overrightarrow{AB} \cdot \overrightarrow{CD} = 0$ and it yields one polynomial. However, this conditions is not enough since it is only checked weather the appropriate vectors of the lines are orthogonal but lines itself could be skew. So, one more condition must be added in order to ensure that lines really intersect, and it can be that vectors \overrightarrow{AB} , \overrightarrow{AC} , and \overrightarrow{CD} are coplanar, that is easily expressed using scalar triple product: $\overrightarrow{AC} \times (\overrightarrow{AB} \cdot \overrightarrow{CD}) = 0$, and this yields three more polynomials.

 \triangleright orthogonal_lines l m — the lines l and m are orthogonal.

Polynomials: If the second approach is used, the direction vectors of the lines are given as the input, and the polynomials are derived from $\overrightarrow{l_v} \cdot \overrightarrow{m_v} = 0$ and $\overrightarrow{m_A m_B} \times (\overrightarrow{l_v} \cdot \overrightarrow{m_v}) = 0$.

ightharpoonup parallel_lines $A \ B \ C \ D$ — lines A B and C D are parallel.

Polynomials: The three polynomials are derived from $\overrightarrow{AB} \times \overrightarrow{CD} = 0$.

 \triangleright parallel_lines p q — lines p and q are parallel.

Polynomials: If the second approach is used, the three polynomials derived from $\overrightarrow{p_v} \times \overrightarrow{q_v} = 0$.

▶ equal_angles $A O_1 B C O_2 D$ — angles $\angle AO_1 B$ and $\angle CO_2 D$ are equal.

Polynomials: Polynomials for this condition could be derived using trigonometry condition:

$$\cos \angle AO_1B = \cos \angle CO_2D$$

and cosine of an angle can be determined using following equation:

$$\cos \angle AO_1B = \frac{\overrightarrow{AO_1} \cdot \overrightarrow{BO_1}}{2|AO_1||BO_1|}.$$

Polynomial equation for $\cos \angle CO_2D$ is similar. However, distances ($|AO_1|$ and $|BO_1|$) are calculated square roots and that cannot be processed by algebraic theorem provers (that accept only polynomial equations). Thus, squares of the cosines of an angles must be compared — $\cos^2 \angle AO_1B = \cos^2 \angle CO_2D$. Unfortunately, this makes the condition weakened since squares of cosines of accute and obtuse angle could be same although angles itself are not equal. The final polynomial is derived from

$$(\overrightarrow{AO_1} \cdot \overrightarrow{BO_1})^2 |CO_2|^2 |DO_2|^2 = (\overrightarrow{CO_2} \cdot \overrightarrow{DO_2})^2 |AO_1|^2 |BO_1|^2.$$

The polynomial derived from this equation is quite complex and challenging for algebraic theorem provers and in the following chapter we shall see how it can be dissembled onto more simpler ones.

Next we describe some relations that also involve planes.

 \triangleright point_in_plane A P Q R — the point A belongs to the plane determined by points P, Q, and R.

Polynomials: The polynomial

$$\overrightarrow{PA} \cdot (\overrightarrow{PQ} \times \overrightarrow{PR}) = 0.$$

▶ point_in_plane $A \pi$ — the point A belongs to the plane π .

Polynomials: If the second approach is used, the polynomial $\overrightarrow{\pi_v} \cdot \overrightarrow{A} + \pi^d = 0$.

▶ parallel_planes *A B C P Q R* — the plane determined by points *A*, *B*, and *C*, and the plane determined by points *P*, *Q*, and *R* are parallel.

Polynomials: If the first approach is used, polynomials are derived from:

$$\overrightarrow{PQ} \cdot \overrightarrow{AC} \times \overrightarrow{BA} = 0$$

$$\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow$$

 $\overrightarrow{PR} \cdot \overrightarrow{AC} \times \overrightarrow{AB} = 0$

Denote the plane determined by A, B, and C by α , and the plane determined by P, Q, and R by β . These two equations are derived from the conditions that vectors of all lines parallel to β plane are orthogonal to the normal vector of the plane β . Since β and α should be parallel, vectors of lines in β should be orthogonal to the normal vector of α , e.g. to the $\overrightarrow{AC} \times \overrightarrow{BA}$. However, polynomials gained from these equations are quite complex (and can negatively effect algebraic theorem provers). For example, the first polynomial is:

$$(P^{x} - Q^{x})(A^{y} - B^{y})(A^{z} - C^{z}) + (A^{x} - B^{x})(A^{y} - C^{y})(P^{z} - Q^{z}) +$$

$$(P^{x} - Q^{y})(A^{z} - B^{z})(A^{x} - C^{x}) - (P^{z} - Q^{z})(A^{y} - B^{y})(A^{x} - C^{x}) -$$

$$(A^{z} - B^{z})(A^{y} - C^{y})(P^{x} - Q^{x}) - (P^{x} - Q^{y})(A^{x} - B^{x})(A^{z} - C^{z}) = 0$$

▶ parallel_planes $\alpha \beta$ — planes α and β are parallel.

Polynomials: If the second approach is used, the three polynomials are derived from $\overrightarrow{\alpha_{\nu}} \times \overrightarrow{\beta_{\nu}} = 0$. For the comparison, one of the three polynomials derived using this approach is:

$$\alpha_{v^y}\beta_{v^z}-\alpha_{v^z}\beta_{v^y}=0,$$

and it is significantly simpler than the one in the first approach.

▶ orthogonal_planes A B C P Q R — the plane determined by points A, B, and C, and the plane determined by points P, Q, and R are orthogonal.

Polynomials: The polynomial is derived from $(\overrightarrow{AB} \times \overrightarrow{AC}) \cdot (\overrightarrow{PQ} \times \overrightarrow{PR}) = 0$.

ightharpoonup orthogonal_planes $\alpha \beta$ — checks weather two planes, α and β are orthogonal.

If the second approach is used, the polynomial is $\overrightarrow{\alpha_v} \cdot \overrightarrow{\beta_v} = 0$.

▶ parallel_line_plane A B P Q R — line AB and plane PQR are parallel.

Polynomials: The polynomial is determined from $\overrightarrow{AB} \cdot (\overrightarrow{PQ \times PR}) = 0$.

Note: This statement also holds if line belongs to the plane.

▶ parallel_line_plane $p \alpha$ — line p and plane α are parallel.

Polynomials: If the second approach is used, then polynomial $\overrightarrow{p_{\nu}} \cdot \overrightarrow{\alpha_{\nu}} = 0$.

Note: This statement also holds if line belongs to the plane.

ightharpoonup orthogonal_line_plane $A\ B\ P\ Q\ R$ — the line AB and plane PQR are orthogonal.

Polynomials: Two polynomials are derived from $\overrightarrow{AB} \cdot \overrightarrow{PQ} = 0$ and $\overrightarrow{AB} \cdot \overrightarrow{PR} = 0$.

ightharpoonup orthogonal_line_plane p α — the line p and plane α are orthogonal.

Polynomials: If the second approach is used the three polynomials derived from $\overrightarrow{p_{\nu}} \times \overrightarrow{\alpha_{\nu}} = 0$.

ightharpoonup line_plane_intersection $A\ M\ N\ P\ Q\ R$ — point A is the intersection of the line MN and plane PQR.

Polynomials: Polynomials are derived from point_on_line A M N and point_in_plane A P Q R.

▶ line_plane_intersection $A \ l \ \pi$ — point A is the intersection of line l and plane π .

Polynomials: Polynomials are derived from point_on_line A l and point_in_plane A π .

▶ line_in_plane ABPQR — the line AB is in the plane PQR.

Polynomials: Polynomials are derived from two conditions point_in_plane $A\ P\ Q\ R$ and point_in_plane $B\ P\ Q\ R$.

▶ line_in_plane $l \alpha$ — the l is in the plane α .

Polynomials: If the second approach is used, polynomials are derived from point_in_plane $l_A \pi$ and $l_v \cdot \alpha_v = 0$.

Some theorems can involve spheres.

 \triangleright point_on_sphere A S — point A belongs to the sphere S.

Polynomials: Sphere S is defined with its center O and radius r. Thus, polynomial is derived from $\overrightarrow{AO} \cdot \overrightarrow{AO} = r^2$.

4.3. Algebraization of construction steps

Each construction starts from some given (free) objects and proceeds by introducing new (dependent) objects. We will allow introducing only free points (and all lines, planes, and solids are going to be constructed started from a given set of free points).

Free points are determined by their fresh, symbolic coordinates, and are not restricted by any polynomials. Constructed objects are determined again by introducing their fresh symbolic parameters, but also polynomials that describe connections between those parameters and the symbolic parameters of the objects that were previously constructed. We shall denote the parameters of free points by upper-case letters, and the parameters of dependent points by lower-case letters. For example, the free point A will have symbolic coordinates (A^x, A^y, A^z) , and a constructed line I will have symbolic parameters $(I^{yx}, I^{yy}, I^{yz}, I^{py}, I^{pz})$.

Construction steps correspond to functions of the form $o = f(i_1, \ldots, i_n)$, where o is the constructed (output) object and i_1, \ldots, i_n are the input objects (either free or dependent, described by either numeric or symbolic parameters). In most cases the algebraization introduces new fresh parameters for the object o, and then constructs the polynomials based on the relation $R(i_1, \ldots, i_n, o)$, where R is the relation corresponding to the function f. For example, constructing the midpoint $m = make_midpoint \ A \ B$, reduces to introducing variables m_x and m_y and constructing polynomials from the condition $midpoint \ m \ A \ B$. However, in some construction steps we can introduce less parameters, and we describe those cases. Also, some symbolic variables for free points could be substituted with numeric values and we described this procedure in simplification of polynomials (Section 4.4).

Constructions of points. The name of the constructed point will be given the results the construction step (e.g., $M = \mathtt{make_midpoint}\ A\ B$ constructs the point M using given points $A\ B$). In each such construction step, it is assumed that the numeric or symbolic parameters of given objects are already known, and the symbolic coordinates of the resulting point are introduced (as fresh variables).

 $ightharpoonup A = make_point — a free point.$

Introduced objects and parameters: a point A with the three fresh parameters A_x , A_y , and A_z representing its coordinates.

Polynomials: No polynomials are introduced.

 \triangleright A = make_point_on_line l — construct a semi-free point A that belongs to the line l.

Introduced objects and parameters: introduces a point A with three fresh parameters a^x , a^y and a^z representing its coordinates.

Polynomials: derived from point_on_line $A \ l.$

▶ $A = \text{make_point_in_plane } \pi$ — construct a semi-free point A that belongs to the plane π .

Introduced objects and parameters: introduces a point A with three fresh parameters a^x , a^y and a^z representing its coordinates.

Polynomials: derived from point_in_plane A π .

 $ightharpoonup A = make_lines_intersection \ l_1 \ l_2$ — point A is the intersection of lines l_1 and l_2 .

Introduced objects and parameters: a point A with three fresh parameters a^x , a^y and a^z representing its coordinates.

Polynomials: derived from lines_intersection $A l_1 l_2$.

 $ightharpoonup A = make_line_plane_intersection \ l \ \pi$ — point A is the intersection of line l and plane π .

Introduced objects and parameters: a point A with three fresh parameters a^x , a^y and a^z representing its coordinates.

Polynomials: derived from line_plane_intersection $A\ l\ \pi.$

We also support isometric transformations. For example, in most tasks, translation in the z-axis direction is used.

 \triangleright A = translate_z O d — construct a point by translating point A by some parameter along z-axis.

Introduced objects and parameters: point A with the coordinates (o^x, o^y, a^z) , for a single fresh parameter a^z .

Polynomial: A polynomial derived from $\overrightarrow{AO} = (0, 0, d)$.

Constructions of lines. Although the construction of a free line could be easily introduced, for simplicity, we have chosen to support only free points (and a free line can be constructed as a line trough two free points).

ho $l = make_line_trough_points <math>A$ B — for two given points A and B constructs the line l that contains them.

Introduced objects and parameters: if the first approach is used, no new parameters are introduced and the name l is associated with the pair of points A and B. If the second approach is used, fresh parameters l^{ν_x} , l^{ν_y} , l^{ν_z} that represent the direction vector of the are introduced. There is no need to introduce the parameters for the point l^A , as it can be associated either to the point A or the point B.

Polynomials: If the first approach is used no polynomials are needed. If the second approach is used, the polynomials are derived from point_on_line B l (if A is chosen for l^A).

▶ $l = \text{make_line_orthogonal_on_plane } \pi A - \text{for a given plane } \pi \text{ and a point } A \text{ constructs the line } l \text{ that is orthogonal on the given plane } \pi \text{ and contains the point } A.$

Introduced objects and parameters: if the first approach is used then first point l_A determining the line is point A. The fresh symbolic coordinates of the second point l_B are introduced.

If the second approach is used line l is determined by the parameters $(\pi^{\nu_x}, \pi^{\nu_y}, \pi^{\nu_z}, a^x, a^y, a^z)$ (its direction vector is the normal vector of the plane, and its point is the point A).

Polynomials: If the first approach is used, polynomials are determined by $l_B = l_A + \overline{\pi_A \pi_B} \times \overline{\pi_A \pi_C}$.

If the second approach is used, no polynomials are generated.

The construction of the line trough a given point that is parallel to the given line is performed similarly (the parameters of the point and the parameters of the vector of the given line can be reused, and no new parameters and polynomials need to be introduced).

Constructions of the plane. Again, for simplicity, we have chosen to support only free points (and a free plane can be constructed as a plane trough three free points).

 \Rightarrow π = make_plane_trough_points A B C — for three given points A, B and C constructs the plane π containing all of them.

Introduced objects and parameters: if the first approach is used, no new variables are introduced and the name π is associated with the triple of points A, B, and C. If the second approach is used, then plane π is determined with fresh symbolic parameters (π^{ν_x} , π^{ν_y} , π^{ν_z} , π^d).

Polynomials: If the second approach is used, polynomials are derived from $\overrightarrow{\pi} = \overrightarrow{AB} \times \overrightarrow{AC}$ and point_on_plane A π .

 \Rightarrow π = make_plane_orthogonal_on_plane_containing_line α l — for given plane α and line l constructs plane with line l and orthogonal to the plane α .

Introduced objects and parameters: if the first approach is used, no new variables are introduced and the name π is associated with the triple of points l_A , l_B , and new fresh point π_C . If the second approach is used, then plane π is determined with fresh symbolic parameters (π^{ν_x} , π^{ν_y} , π^{ν_z} , π^d).

Polynomials: If the first approach is used polynomials are derived from $(\overrightarrow{\pi_C l_A} \times \overrightarrow{\pi_C l_B}) \cdot (\overrightarrow{\alpha_A \alpha_B} \times \overrightarrow{\alpha_A \alpha_C}) = 0$. If the second approach is used, polynomials are derived from $\overrightarrow{\pi} = \overrightarrow{\alpha} \times \overrightarrow{l}$ and point_on_plane l_A π .

Very similar methods can be used to construct the plane that contains the given line and is orthogonal or is parallel to the given plane.

Solid construction. Problems in solid geometry usually deal with objects and usually start with a sentence of the form "In a given cube...", "In a given pyramid...", "In a given prism..." and so on. One approach is to construct such solids by applying the construction steps presented above. However, this can lead to a large number of very fine grained steps which can be both cumbersome for specifying and hard for proving (for example, one needs to apply around 20 small construction steps to construct a cube, and during that process many new variables and complex polynomials are introduced). Therefore, it is very natural to introduce solid constructions as elementary construction steps (instead of ten or twenty rules that construct their points, lines and planes). Such construction steps automatically introduce only the points of the solid, whereas lines (edges) and planes (faces) can be introduced by the previous construction rules only when necessary.

As we want to have simpler polynomials, we decide to support only the construction of solids placed in some *canonical* positions — for example, when constructing a cube, one vertex is placed in the origin, and the other three are placed on the axes (*x*-axis, *y*-axis and *z*-axis). However, this approach has a drawback. For example, it is not possible to construct more than one different cube using the elementary cube construction step. The points of other cubes that are not in the canonical position can be constructed using point construction steps or by applying isometric transformations to the canonical cube. On the other hand, in most geometric problems encountered in education there is usually only one free solid, and without loss of generality it can be assumed that it is in the canonical position. When other solids are introduced in the problem text, they are usually dependent, so their points (vertices) have to be constructed. Therefore, supporting only canonical solid constructions was not the obstacle for the problems encountered in most exercises.

▶ $A B C D A_1 B_1 C_1 D_1 = make_cube$ — construct the cube in the canonical position, with the edge length equal to 1.

Introduced objects and parameters: Points A(0,0,0), B(1,0,0), C(1,1,0), D(0,1,0), $A_1(0,0,1)$, $B_1(1,0,1)$, $C_1(1,1,1)$ and D(0,1,1). Since the cube is in the canonical position, no symbolic variables are introduced.

Explanation: No polynomials are generated.

► A B C D = make_tetrahedron — construct the tetrahedron in the canonical position.

Introduced objects and parameters: The vertices of the tetrahedron have the coordinates A(0,0,0), B(1,0,0), $C(c^x,c^y,0)$ and $D(c^x,d^y,d^z)$, with the four fresh parameters c^x , c^y , d^y , and d^z .

Polynomials:
$$poly_1 = 2 \cdot c^x - 1$$

 $poly_2 = 2 \cdot c^{y^2} - 3$
 $poly_3 = 3 \cdot d^y - c^y$
 $poly_4 = 3 \cdot d^{z^2} - 2$

Explanation: $c^x = \frac{1}{2}$, $c^y = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$, $d^y = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{6} = \frac{c^y}{3}$, $d^z = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}}$. Note that all our objects always have either symbolic or integer parameters and polynomials must always have integer coefficients, so irrational values (and even fractions) must be introduced using polynomials.

 \gt = make_sphere A B C D — construct a sphere S trough four given points A, B, C, D.

Introduced objects and parameters: the sphere is determined by its center $O = (O^x, O^y, O^z)$ and its radius r — four fresh parameters O^x , O^y , O^z and r are introduced.

Polynomials: Polynomials are derived from $\overrightarrow{AO} \cdot \overrightarrow{AO} = r^2$, $\overrightarrow{BO} \cdot \overrightarrow{BO} = r^2$, $\overrightarrow{CO} \cdot \overrightarrow{CO} = r^2$, and $\overrightarrow{DO} \cdot \overrightarrow{DO} = r^2$.

▶ $A_1 A_2 A_3 A_4 A_5 A_6 = make_regular_hexagon$ — construct a regular hexagon in the canonical position; it is in xOy plane, one point is in origin, and another point is on x-axis. Introduced objects and parameters: Points $A_1(0,0,0)$, $A_2(1,0,0)$, $A_3(a_3^x,a_3^y,0)$, $A_4(1,a_4^y,0)$, $A_5(0,a_4^y,0)$ and $A_6(a_6^x,a_3^y,0)$, for four fresh parameters a_3^x , a_3^y , a_4^y and a_6^x .

Polynomials:
$$poly_1 = 2 \cdot a_3^x - 3$$

 $poly_2 = 4(a_3^y)^2 - 3$
 $poly_3 = a_4^y - 3$
 $poly_4 = 2a_6^x - 1$

Similary, the system supports the following constructions: make_equilateral_triangle (construct a equilateral triangle in the canonical position), make_square (construct a square in the canonical position), make_pyramid (construct a regular four—side pyramid in the canonical position), etc.

4.4. Simplification of polynomials

If the algebraic methods were applied to the raw equations obtained by our algebraization procedure, the provers often reached time and space limit due to complexity of polynomial sets. The reason for this is large number of variables and polynomials that were created. It should be noted that polynomials in solid geometry are more complex than corresponding polynomials in plane geometry. Thus, there was a need to consider various simplifications.

As already discussed, a key technique for simplification is wlog reasoning and a careful choice of the coordinate system (without applying this, even the simplest statements could not be proved). In 3d space, for three independently given points A, B and C, it is possible to choose their coordinates so that A(0,0,0) is in the origin, $B(0,0,b^z)$ is on the z-axis and $C(0,c^y,c^z)$ lies in plane yOz. With this choice of coordinates, the number of variables is reduced by six and the corresponding zeroes can significantly simplify polynomials. This approach is "hard-coded" in our construction steps for solids, as we explained in 4.3, but we also automatically apply it in all other situations (the choice of points that be put into the canonical can significantly affect the proving performance, however, we currently naively choose the first three constructed points and put them in the canonical position).

Note that putting points into the canonical position can make polynomials redundant, as they become 0, and these can simply be removed from the system. Also, some polynomials can become of the form x^n for some variable x and the degree n. Since they represent the equation $x^n = 0$, it can be deduced that it must hold that x = 0, which can be used for further simplification. Although, it is not necessary to delete these polynomials, the system was simplified a bit more when they were deleted. Besides, GeoProver cannot transform polynomial system containing 0 = 0 into triangular system, and in that case all such polynomials had to be deleted.

Furthermore, polynomials of the form $x_i - x_j$ i.e., $x_i + x_j$ (for j < i) imply that $x_i = x_j$ i.e., $x_i = -x_j$. These are also deleted from the system, each appearance of x_i is replaced with x_j , i.e., with $-x_j$, and x_i is deleted from the set of variables. In our experiments this simplification step was not crucial, and most of the tested statements could be proved without it. However, we expect that it might be beneficial for some more complex statements.

Relation equal_angles produces very complex polynomial. Our preliminary experiments have shown that none of the three algebraic provers (GeoProver, Maple or Mathematica) could successfully prove conjectures that heavily use this relation. GeoProver usually arrived to the memory limit after couple of steps, whereas Mathematica and Maple worked for couple of hours without reaching conclusion (and were violently interrupted). The solution was to dismantle large polynomial into simpler ones:

```
scalar_1 = \overrightarrow{AO} \cdot \overrightarrow{BO}

scalar_2 = \overrightarrow{CK} \cdot \overrightarrow{DK}

dist_{CK} = |CK|

dist_{DK} = |DK|

dist_{AO} = |AO|

dist_{BO} = |BO|

poly = scalar_1 * scalar_1 * dist_{CK} * dist_{DK} - scalar_2 * scalar_2 * dist_{AO} * dist_{BO}
```

Basically, the set of polynomials and variables are increased but substituted polynomials are far less complex. With this change, none of the three algebraic provers had problems and they reached conclusions within a second.

5. Examples and testing

In this section we are going to present results of testing algebraization methods using three different provers — GeoProver, Maple's Wu's method and Mathematica's Gröbner basis method. We applied these methods on 38 different problems from various source (Janicic (1997); Shao et al. (2016); tehnička škola (2001); Wu Z. (2002)).

Example 1 (Regular tetrahedron altitudes). Let ABCS be a tetrahedron and let h_a , h_b , h_c and h_s be perpendicular lines from vertices A, B, C and S onto appropriate opposite sides. Prove that intersections of all altitudes h_a , h_b , h_c , and h_d coincide.

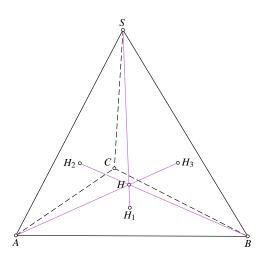


Figure 1: Tetrahedron altitudes intersect in one point

Next we shall describe the geometry statement using a formal representation and parameters and polynomials obtained by the two approaches of algebraization (after the simplification procedure has been applied):

Premises:

```
A B C S = make_tetrahedron both first approch and second approach: A: (0,0,0) \ B: (1,0,0) \ C: (x_1,x_2,0) \ S: (x_1,x_3,x_4) \\ 2 \cdot x_1 - 1 = 0 \\ 4 \cdot x_2^2 - 3 = 0 \\ 3 \cdot x_3 - x_2 = 0
```

 $^{^{14}}$ Note that coordinates for plane α_1 gained zero values after simplification and symbolic coordinates are deleted from the system and substituted with 0.

```
3\cdot x_4^2 - 2 = 0
\alpha_1 = {\tt make\_plane\_trough\_points} \ A \ B \ C
           first approach:
                                                                                        second approach<sup>14</sup>:
           \alpha_1:(A,B,C)
                                                                                        \alpha_1:(0,0,x_5,0)
                                                                                        x_5 - x_2 = 0
\alpha_2 = make\_plane\_trough\_points \ B \ C \ S
           first approach:
                                                                                        second approach:
           \alpha_2:(B,C,S)
                                                                                        \alpha_2:(x_6,x_7,0,x_8)
                                                                                        x_6 - x_2 \cdot x_4 = 0
                                                                                        x_7 + x_1 \cdot x_4 - x_4 = 0
                                                                                        x_8 - x_1 \cdot x_3 + x_3 + x_2 \cdot x_1 - x_2 = 0
\alpha_3 = \mathtt{make\_plane\_trough\_points} \ A \ C \ S
           first approach:
                                                                                        second approach:
          \alpha_3:(A,C,S)
                                                                                        \alpha_3:(x_9,x_{10},x_{11},x_{12})
                                                                                        x_9 + x_6 = 0
                                                                                        x_{10}-x_2\cdot x_4=0
                                                                                        x_{11} + x_1 \cdot x_4 = 0
                                                                                        x_{12} - x_1 \cdot x_3 + x_2 \cdot x_1 = 0
\alpha_4 = \mathtt{make\_plane\_trough\_points} \ A \ B \ S
           first approach:
                                                                                        second approach:
           \alpha_4:(A,B,S)
                                                                                        \alpha_4: (0,0,x_{13},x_{14})
                                                                                        x_{13} + x_4 = 0
                                                                                        x_{14} - x_3 = 0
h_1 = \mathtt{make\_line\_orthogonal\_to\_plane} \ \alpha_1 \ S
                                                                                        second approach:
           first approach:
           h1:((x_5,x_6,x_7),S)
                                                                                        h_1:(0,0,x_5,x_3,x_4,x_5)
          x_5 - x_1 = 0
          x_6 - x_3 = 0
          x_7 - x_4 - x_2 = 0
h_2 = \texttt{make\_line\_orthogonal\_to\_plane} \ \alpha_2 \ A
           first approach:
                                                                                        second approach:
                                                                                        h_2:(x_6,x_7,0,0,0,0)
           h_2:((x_8,x_9,x_{10}),A)
          x_8 - x_2 \cdot x_4 = 0
          x_9 + x_1 \cdot x_4 - x_4 = 0
          x_{10} - x_1 \cdot x_3 + x_3 + x_2 \cdot x_1 - x_2 = 0
h_3 = {\tt make\_line\_orthogonal\_to\_plane} \ \alpha_3 \ B
           first approach:
                                                                                        second approach:
           h_3:((x_{11},x_{12},x_{13}),B)
                                                                                        h_3:(x_9,x_{10},x_{11},1,0,0)
           x_{11} - 1 - x_2 \cdot x_4 = 0
          x_{12} + x_1 \cdot x_4 = 0
          x_{13} - x_1 \cdot x_3 + x_2 \cdot x_1 = 0
h_4 = \mathtt{make\_line\_orthogonal\_to\_plane} \ \alpha_4 \ C
                                                                                        second approach:
           first approach:
           h_4:((x_{14},x_{15},x_{16}),C)
                                                                                        h_4:(0,0,x_{13},x_1,x_2,0)
           x_{14} - x_1 = 0
           x_{15} - x_2 + x_4 = 0
           x_{16} - x_3 = 0
```

second approach:

 $H_1: (x_{15}, x_{16}, x_{17})$ $x_{15} - x_1 = 0$ $x_{16} - x_3 = 0$

 $x_{17}-x_5\cdot x_{18}-x_4=0$

 $H_1 = \text{make_lines_intersection} \ h_1 \ h_2$ first approach:

 $x_6 \cdot x_7 - x_6 \cdot x_{19} - x_3 \cdot x_7 + x_3 \cdot x_{19} -$

 $x_7 \cdot x_5 - x_7 \cdot x_{17} - x_4 \cdot x_5 + x_4 \cdot x_{17} -$

 $x_7 \cdot x_6 + x_7 \cdot x_{18} + x_4 \cdot x_6 - x_4 \cdot x_{18} = 0$

 $H_1:(x_{17},x_{18},x_{19})$

```
x_{15} - x_6 \cdot x_{19} = 0
                                    x_5 \cdot x_7 + x_5 \cdot x_{19} + x_1 \cdot x_7 - x_1 \cdot x_{19} = 0
                                                                                                                                x_{16} - x_7 \cdot x_{19} = 0
                       x_5 \cdot x_6 - x_5 \cdot x_{18} - x_1 \cdot x_6 + x_1 \cdot x_{18} -
                                  x_6 \cdot x_5 + x_6 \cdot x_{17} + x_3 \cdot x_5 - x_3 \cdot x_{17} = 0
                                                                                                                                x_{17} - x_8 \cdot x_{19} = 0
                       x_9 \cdot x_{10} - x_9 \cdot x_{19} - x_{10} \cdot x_9 + x_{10} \cdot x_{18} = 0
                       x_{10} \cdot x_8 - x_{10} \cdot x_{17} - x_8 \cdot x_{10} + x_8 \cdot x_{19} = 0
                       x_8 \cdot x_9 - x_8 \cdot x_{18} - x_9 \cdot x_8 + x_9 \cdot x_{17} = 0
       H_2 = make\_lines\_intersection h_2 h_3
                       first approach:
                                                                                                                                  second approach:
                      H_2:(x_{20},x_{21},x_{22})
                                                                                                                                 H_2:(x_{20},x_{21},x_{22})
                       x_9 \cdot x_{10} - x_9 \cdot x_{22} - x_{10} \cdot x_9 + x_{10} \cdot x_{21} = 0
                                                                                                                              x_{20} - x_6 \cdot x_{23} = 0
                      x_{10} \cdot x_8 - x_{10} \cdot x_{20} - x_8 \cdot x_{10} + x_8 \cdot x_{22} = 0
                                                                                                                                x_{21} - x_7 \cdot x_{23} = 0
                                                                                                                                x_{22} - x_8 \cdot x_{23} = 0
                      x_8 \cdot x_9 - x_8 \cdot x_{21} - x_9 \cdot x_8 + x_9 \cdot x_{20} = 0
                      x_{12} \cdot x_{13} - x_{12} \cdot x_{22} - x_{13} \cdot x_{12} + x_{13} \cdot x_{21} = 0
                                                                                                                                x_{20} - x_{10} \cdot x_{24} - 1 = 0
                      x_{13} \cdot x_{11} - x_{13} \cdot x_{20} - x_{11} \cdot x_{13} + x_{11} \cdot x_{22} + x_{13} - x_{22} = 0
x_{11} \cdot x_{12} - x_{13} \cdot x_{20} - x_{11} \cdot x_{13} + x_{11} \cdot x_{22} + x_{13} - x_{22} = 0
                                                                                                                                x_{21} - x_{11} \cdot x_{24} = 0
                      x_{11} \cdot x_{12} - x_{11} \cdot x_{21} - x_{12} + x_{21} - x_{12} \cdot x_{11} + x_{12} \cdot x_{20} = 0 x_{22} - x_{12} \cdot x_{24} = 0
       H_3 = \text{make\_lines\_intersection } h_2 h_4
                       first approach:
                                                                                                                                  second approach:
                       H_3:(x_{23},x_{24},x_{25})
                                                                                                                                H_3:(x_{25},x_{26},x_{27})
                                                                                                                             x_{25} - x_6 \cdot x_{28} = 0
                      x_9 \cdot x_{10} - x_9 \cdot x_{25} - x_{10} \cdot x_9 + x_{10} \cdot x_{24} = 0
                                                                                                                                x_{26} - x_7 \cdot x_{28} = 0
                       x_{10} \cdot x_8 - x_{10} \cdot x_{23} - x_8 \cdot x_{10} + x_8 \cdot x_{25} = 0
                                                                                                                              x_{27} - x_8 \cdot x_{28} = 0
                      x_8 \cdot x_9 - x_8 \cdot x_{24} - x_9 \cdot x_8 + x_9 \cdot x_{23} = 0
                      x_{15} \cdot x_{16} - x_{15} \cdot x_{25} - x_2 \cdot x_{16} + x_2 \cdot x_{25} -
                                                                                                                             x_{25} - x_1 = 0
                                    x_{16} \cdot x_{15} + x_{16} \cdot x_{24} = 0
                                                                                                                                x_{26} - x_{13} \cdot x_{29} - x_2 = 0
                                                                                                                                x_{27} - x_{14} \cdot x_{29} = 0
                       x_{16} \cdot x_{14} - x_{16} \cdot x_{23} - x_{14} \cdot x_{16} + x_{14} \cdot x_{25} +
                                  x_1 \cdot x_{16} - x_1 \cdot x_{25} = 0
                      x_{14} \cdot x_{15} - x_{14} \cdot x_{24} - x_1 \cdot x_{15} + x_1 \cdot x_{24} - x_{15} \cdot x_{14} +
                                     x_{15} \cdot x_{23} + x_2 \cdot x_{14} - x_2 \cdot x_{23} = 0
Conclusion:
        equal_points H_1 H_2
                       first approach:
                                                                                                                                  second approach:

  \begin{aligned}
    x_{17} - x_{20} &= 0 \\
    x_{18} - x_{21} &= 0
  \end{aligned}

                                                                                                                                 x_{15} - x_{20} = 0
                                                                                                                                  x_{16} - x_{21} = 0
                      x_{19} - x_{22} = 0
                                                                                                                                  x_{17} - x_{22} = 0
        equal_points H_1 H_3
                                                                                                                                  second approach:
                      first approach:
                      x_{17} - x_{23} = 0
                                                                                                                                 x_{15} - x_{25} = 0

  \begin{aligned}
    x_{18} - x_{24} &= 0 \\
    x_{19} - x_{25} &= 0
  \end{aligned}

  \begin{aligned}
    x_{16} - x_{26} &= 0 \\
    x_{17} - x_{27} &= 0
  \end{aligned}
```

Since tetrahedron is already in canonical position, coordinates of the points are A(0,0,0), B(0,0,1), $C(x_1,x_2,0)$ and $S(x_3,x_4,x_5)$ where x_1,x_2,x_3,x_4 and x_5 are dependent variables occur in polynomials describing tetrahedron 4.3).

Simplifications of the polynomials of the form $x_i - x_j$ and $x_i + x_j$ are not performed for this example (and that would additionally simplify polynomial system).

Using first approach for algebraization gives 34 polynomials describing premises, 6 polynomials for the conclusion (for each algebraic method should be invoked) and 33 variables. After simplification procedure, the numbers of polynomials and variables are decreased – 34 polynomial of premises, 6 conclusion polynomials and 25 variables. All three systems successfully proved statement (proved that all 6 polynomials are zero) and average time for GeoProver was 0.1132 seconds.

Second approach of algebraization produces 44 polynomials and after simplification pro-

cedure produces 32 polynomials defining premises, 6 conclusion polynomials and 29 variables (presented above). Obtained polynomials are significantly less complex (as can be noticed above) and usually have only two monomials. All three provers were successful, but average time was smaller, for GeoProver it was 0.0862 seconds.

Some statistics are summarized in Table 1.

	number of polynomials	average number of monomials	number of variables	Geo- Prover time
first approach	22	4.58	25	0.1132 <i>s</i>
second approach	29	1.97	22	0.0862s

Table 1: Comparison of two algebraization approaches for Example 1

Example 2 (Angles and tetrahedron, example from (Shao et al. (2016))). Let ABCD be a tetrahedron, O be the circumcenter of ABCD, and K, L, M be the middle points of edges AB, BC, CA respectively. If |AB| = |CD|, |AC| = |BD|, |AD| = |BC|, then $\angle KOL = \angle LOM = \angle MOK$.

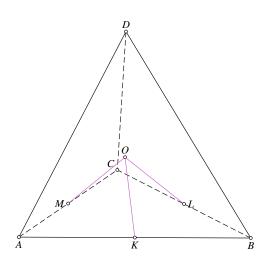


Figure 2: Example 2, $\angle KOL = \angle LOM = \angle MOK$

Formal representation of geometry statement:

```
l_1 = make_line_orthogonal_on_plane A B C D l_2 = make_line_orthogonal_on_plane A C D B O = make_lines_intersection l_1 l_2 K = make_midpoint A B L = make_midpoint B C M = make_midpoint C A equal_angles K O L L O M
```

As in the previous example, tetrahedron is in the canonical position by the construction, so coordinates of the points are A(0,0,0), B(0,0,1), $C(x_1,x_2,0)$ and $S(x_3,x_4,x_5)$ where x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 and x_5 are dependent variables and occur in polynomials describing tetrahedron (4.3).

By using first approach are obtained 24 different variables, 27 polynomials defining premises, 1 polynomials defining conclusion of the geometry conjecture. Obtained polynomials are bit more complex than in a previous example. Maple and Mathematica were successful, but Geo-Prover reached memory limit after 0.481 seconds (e.g. Space limit exceeded in pseudo division. Obtained polynomial with 3339 terms).

By using second approach, number of obtained polynomials are 24 (with 44 variables), but polynomials are less complex. All three provers were successful and GeoProver reached conclusion after 0.835 seconds.

Some statistics for this example are summarized in Table 2.

	number of polynomials	average number of monomials	number of variables	GeoProver time	Maple time
first approach	27	7.2	18	memory limit	0.628 <i>s</i>
second approach	24	3.5	24	0.835 <i>s</i>	0.471 <i>s</i>

Table 2: Comparison of two algebraization approaches for the Example 2

These two simple examples indicate that the first approach generates less variables, but the second approach generates less complex polynomials. Further testing on a larger corpus of problem also indicates that algebraic theorem provers are more efficient if the polynomials are simpler, and so algebraic provers were more successful when second approach is used.

Results of testing algebraic provers. Maple and Mathematica were more successful than Geo-Prover. Mathematica and Maple were tested over 38 problems using first approach. Both systems were successful for 28 problems (physically interrupted after 5 minutes of not reaching conclusion). If the second approach is used, bot provers were successful for 36 problems. For two problems, provers did not reach conclusion within two hours. The complexity of polynomials for both problems was large.

GeoProver was also more successful when second approach is used. However, this system more often failed due to different problems: time limit reached, space limit reached and general

error occured. General error occured when the polynomial system could not be transformed into triangular system and it is, in our view, very complex to avoid this problem by analyzing polynomials and deleting redundant ones.

	GeoProver success	Mathematica success	Maple success
first approach	13	28	28
second approach	22	36	36

Table 3: Comparison of algebraic provers over 38 problems

6. Non-degeneracy conditions

Algebraic theorem provers does not only prove geometry statement, they also produce conditions under which this statement is true. These conditions are called non-degeneracy or NDG conditions. In simple Wu's method, once decomposition $cg_j = \sum_{i=1}^k h_i f_i + r$ is obtained, if $c(v_1, \ldots, v_n) \neq 0$ holds and $\bigwedge_{i=1}^k f_i(v_1, \ldots, v_n) = 0 \Longrightarrow g_j(v_1, \ldots, v_n) = 0$ holds then geometry statement holds, too. This means that geometry conjecture is true only for those objects whose coordinates satisfy condition $c(v_1, \ldots, v_n) \neq 0$.

However NDG conditions obtained from automated provers are given in algebraic terms, but in the context of geometry theorem proving, it is important to have their geometrical interpretation as well. Extensive research has been done to transform algebraic NDG conditions into geometric ones for planar geometry (Chou (1988)). It is noted that it can happen that statement is true even under weaker assumptions and that some conditions are not necessary. In addition, a presence of NDG conditions doesn't necessarily mean that if they are not satisfied the conjecture is invalid.

To the best of our knowledge, there are no research how gained NDG conditions could be transformed into geometric terms for three dimensional geometry. We did not create an automated tool for interpreting NDG conditions in geometric terms yet, but we manually analyzed all the returned NDG conditions for examples from our corpus. A couple of interesting examples is shown below.

Example 3 (Two examples from previous section). For both examples from the previous section a same NDG condition is obtained. It is expressed by $x_7 \neq 0$.

In the first example, vector of the plane α_2 is $(x_6, x_7, 0)$ and this condition ensures that plane α_2 is not equal to the plane yOz.

In the second example, vector of the line l_2 is (x_6, x_7, x_8) , so x_7 coresponds to the second coordinate of the line l_2 .

Example 4 (Example from (tehnička škola (2001))). Let $ABCDA_1B_1C_1D_1$ be a cube and let S be the vertex of regular four side pyramid ABCDS whose height is twice the size of the side of the cube. Prove that regular four side pyramid gained in the intersection of pyramid ABCDS and cube $ABCDA_1B_1C_1D_1$ has base side twice the smaller than the size of the side of the cube.

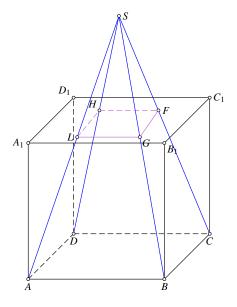


Figure 3: Cube and pyramid intersection

Formal representation of geometry statement is:

Algebraic theorem provers proved this geometry conjecture. An NDG condition obtained from the prover is $x_{21} \cdot x_{15} \cdot x_{13} + x_{20} \cdot x_{14} \cdot x_{13} + x_{19} \cdot x_{13}^2 \neq 0$. This condition can be dismantled into two conditions $x_{13} \neq 0$ and $x_{21} \cdot x_{15} + x_{20} \cdot x_{14} + x_{19} \cdot x_{13} \neq 0$. Now it had to be determined what geometry objects these variables determine and it happens to be line $l(x_{13}, x_{14}, x_{15})$ and plane $\alpha(x_{19}, x_{20}, x_{21}, x_{22})$.

The first NDG condition $x_{13} \neq 0$ ensures that the first coordinate of the vector of the line l is not equal zero.

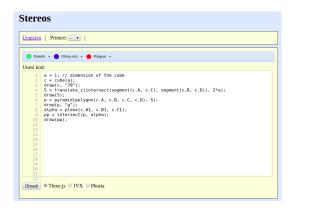
The second NDG condition ensures that line l and plane α are not parallel. If they were to be parallel, they would not intersect and there would be no point L.

7. Integration with Stereos

Stereos ¹⁴ (Marić and Marić (2012)) is a language and a system for describing solid geometry constructions, in its spirit similar to the GCLC system (Janičić (2010)). Geometric objects in Stereos are introduced using functions that correspond to construction steps (function calls can be nested and objects are represented using terms that involve constants, variables and functions) and are displayed using the command draw. For example, the construction described in Example 4 can be specified in stereos using the following code:

```
// dimension of the cube
a = 1;
// the cube
cb = cube(a);
draw(c, "70"); // 70% opacity
// apex of the pyramid
S = translate_z(intersect(segment(c.A, c.C), segment(c.B, c.D)), 2*a);
draw(S);
// pyramid
pyr = pyramid(polygon(c.A, c.B, c.C, c.D), S);
draw(pyr, "g"); // green color
// intersecting square
sq = intersect(pyr, plane(c.A1, c.B1, c.C1)); // result is a polygon
draw(sq, "b"); // blue color
```

From a specification Stereos can produce output in different formats. For example, it can produce description in the format of one of the several supported graphic libraries (Three.js, JVX, Phoria) and display a construction in a web browser, so that it can be manipulated by a mouse (viewpoint can be change, but also, free points can be manipulated). Export can be also be made to LaTeX format (using TikZ or GCLC).



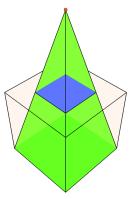


Figure 4: Stereos web interface and a produced output for Example 4

There are several important differences in the language of Stereos and the input language of our prover described in the previous section.

¹⁴http://jason.matf.bg.ac.rs/~filip/stereos/web

- 1. Stereos allows nested terms, while our prover language allows only a flat structure each line of the input can contain only one relation or a function (a construction step).
- 2. Stereos allows only functions (construction steps), and does not allow relations, so geometric statements cannot be specified in the original Stereos language.
- 3. Stereos supports a richer set of construction steps than our prover: it natively supports intersections of solids and the planes, intersections of solids, 3d convex hulls, etc.

We have made first steps towards integration of our prover and Stereos. First, we have extended the Stereos language by adding the command prove that accepts a relation over the previously constructed objects. At this point only basic relation directly supported by our prover can be used (for example, prove(orthogonal_lines(p, q)) reduces to orthogonal_lines $p \neq q$ and prove(A = B) reduces to equal_points $A \neq B$. Stereos specification extended with the prove statement is then converted to the input format of our prover. Nested terms are flattened and a fresh name for each subterm is introduced. Currently, only Stereos constructions that are directly supported by our prover can be translated, while for all other constructions, an out of scope error is reported.

Currently, Stereos is used only as a thin layer over our basic prover so that before proving illustrations can be automatically produced from the specification. In the future we are planning to make this integration much tighter, and to align two different input formats so that our prover can natively support Stereos specifications and support more advanced construction steps that Stereos currently supports.

8. Conclusion and future work

In this paper we focused on developing fully automated theorem provers for 3d, solid geometry.

We studied two different algebraization methods for geometry statements. The first approach introduces only coordinates of the points involved in the construction, whereas the second approach introduces coordinates of the objects involved in the geometry statements such as lines, planes and objects. By comparing these two approaches on the same set of problems, we concluded that algebraic provers are more efficient if their input is obtained using second approach. While testing, we noticed that the significant property is the complexity of the polynomials in the set. The simpler polynomials leads to better efficiency. It is especially important (if possible) to avoid quadratic polynomials — better approach is to substitute complex quadratic polynomial with two or more simpler ones. Though the smaller number of polynomials and the smaller number of variables also help in better productivity, these two properties are not the key ones and their impact is less obvious. Using second approach, obtained polynomials are less complex and that is the reason why the second approach was more convenient for algebraic provers. This suggest that introducing line and plane coefficients as additional variables might lead to simpler constraints and more efficient proving — we assume that this might also be the case in plane geometry and plan to investigate this issue in our further work.

We implemented a prover based on the two described approaches relying on three different third-party algebraic engines (GeoProver, Mathematica and Maple). We also made important steps towards full integration of our prover with the existing dynamic geometry system Stereos. There are descriptions of applying algebraic theorem provers on solid geometry problems Shao et al. (2016), but we are not aware of other implementations of fully automated theorem provers for solid geometry.

During this research, we also compared different algebraic prover engines. GeoProver's Wu's method required to be possible to transform polynomials in the premises into triangular system. However, this property is hard to secure and special care should be taken for intersection of two lines. Thus, we felt more comfortable using the other two provers, Maple's Wu's method and Mathematica's Gröebner basis method.

In our further research we plan to make thorough experiments of the effect of the tool that we have developed in high-school and university education. We feel that the support for automated theorem proving in 3d geometry might have much higher impact than in 2d, since it is much harder to observe exact relations between the geometric objects only by looking at diagrams that are shown projected on the two-dimensional screen. Therefore, we hope that methods and tools described in this paper might find their way to the classrooms and might help students.

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