

A hand holding a Rubik's cube, with the text overlaid on the image.

CS 957, System-2 AI Neuro-Symbolic AI

Mohammad Hossein Rohban | Feb 2025

Sharif University of Technology

Article

Solving olympiad geometry without human demonstrations

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-023-06747-5>

Received: 30 April 2023

Accepted: 13 October 2023

Published online: 17 January 2024

Open access

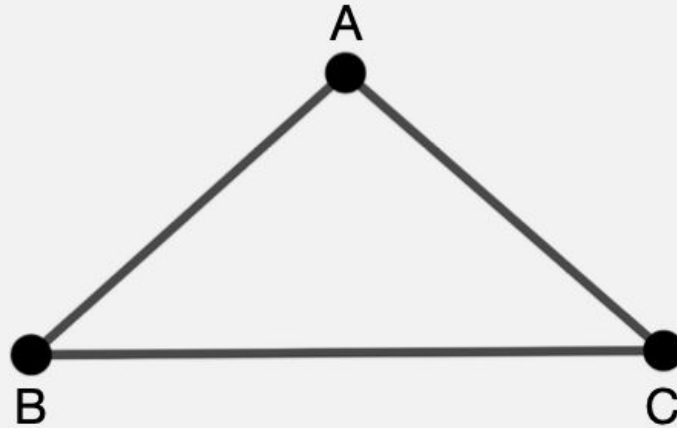


Check for updates

Trieu H. Trinh^{1,2}, Yuhuai Wu¹, Quoc V. Le¹, He He² & Thang Luong¹

Proving mathematical theorems at the olympiad level represents a notable milestone in human-level automated reasoning^{1–4}, owing to their reputed difficulty among the world's best talents in pre-university mathematics. Current machine-learning approaches, however, are not applicable to most mathematical domains owing to the high cost of translating human proofs into machine-verifiable format. The problem is

Simple Problem Formulation



“Let ABC be any triangle with $AB = AC$.
Prove that $\angle ABC = \angle BCA$.”

Symbolic Solver

What we have:

- Symbolic solvers whose **knowledge base** are of the Horn clause form: $P_1(x) \wedge \dots \wedge P_k(x) \rightarrow Q$
- Contains a whole lot of **deduction rules** (deductive database or DD) in 2D euclidean geometry.
 - If two AB and BC are collinear, then $\angle ABC$ is 180 degrees.
 - $AB = DE$, $AC = DF$, and $\angle CAB = \angle EDF$, then $ABC = DEF$.
 - ...
- How does the solver work?
 - Picks **one of the rules at a time** whose premises $(P_1(x), \dots, P_k(x))$ are known to be true.
 - **Add the conclusion Q** to the knowledge base and repeat.

Algebraic Rules (AR)

AR is necessary to perform angle, ratio and distance chasing.

First, convert the input linear equations to a **matrix** of their coefficients.

Applies Gaussian Elimination

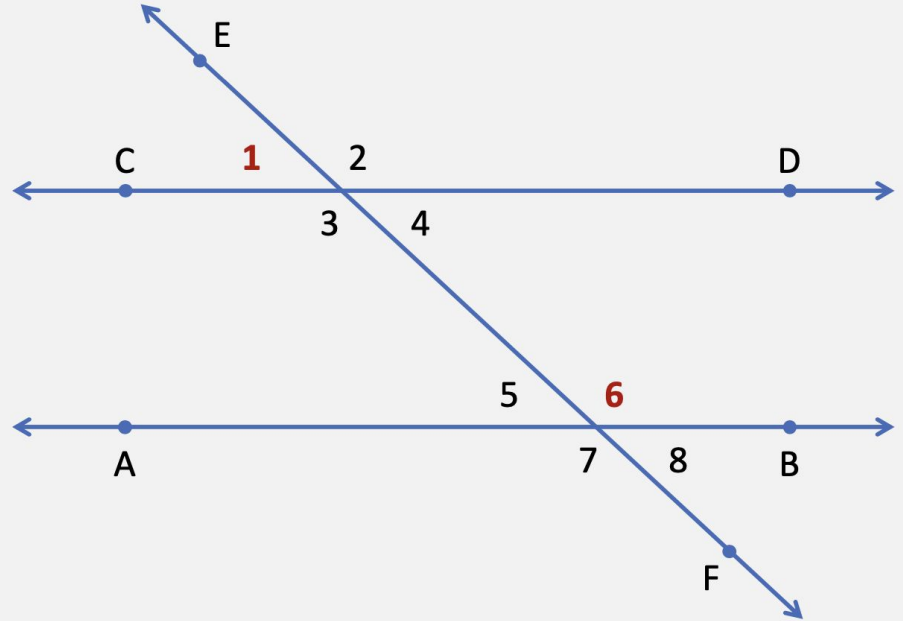
$\angle ABC = \angle XYZ$ is represented as $s(AB) - s(BC) = s(XY) - s(YZ)$, in which $s(AB)$ is the angle between AB and the x-direction, modulo π .

Similarly, ratios $AB:CD = EF:GH$ are represented as $\log(AB) - \log(CD) = \log(EF) - \log(GH)$, in which $\log(AB)$ is the log of the length of segment AB.

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b & c & d & e \\ 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & -1 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{GE} \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c & d & e \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & -1.5 & 0.5 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -0.5 & -0.5 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} a = 1.5d - 0.5e \\ b = d \\ c = 0.5d + 0.5e \end{cases}$$

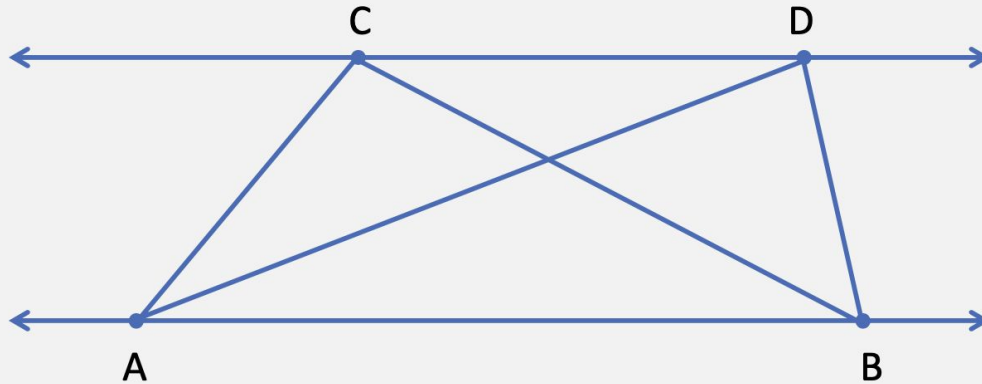
Example

- We want to prove that angle 1 and angle 6 are **supplementary**, given **parallel** lines AB and CD.
- First, symbolic engine might prove that angle 1 **equals** angles 4, 5, and 8
- Then, it might prove that angle 6 and angle 8 are **supplementary**.
- **Combining** the above two, we have shown that angle 1 and angle 6 are supplementary.



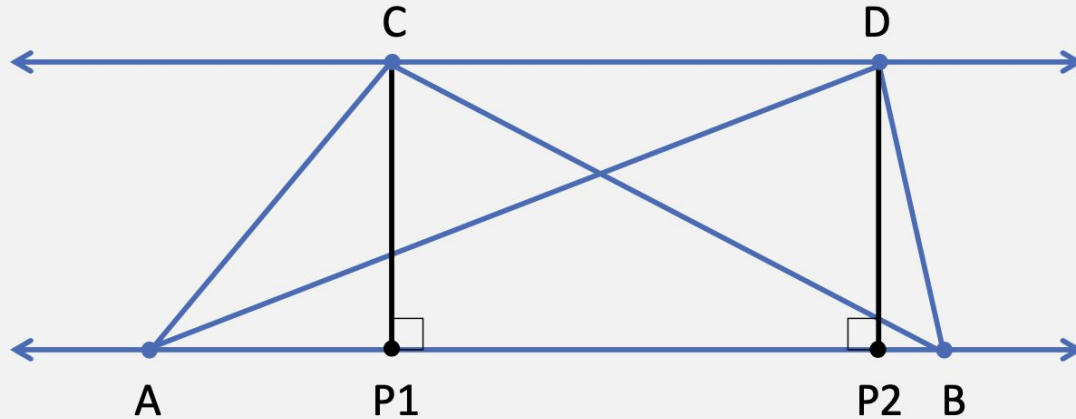
Another Example

We want to prove that triangle ABC and triangle ABD have the **same area**, given **parallel** lines AB and CD

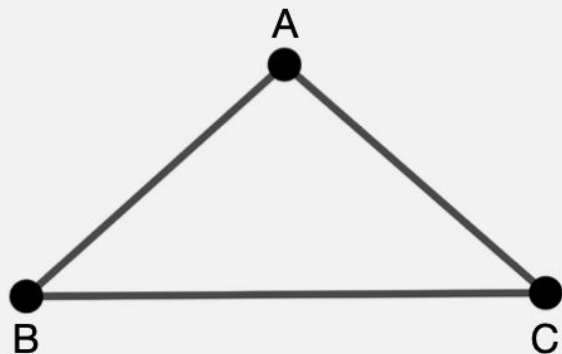


Adding Auxiliary Points

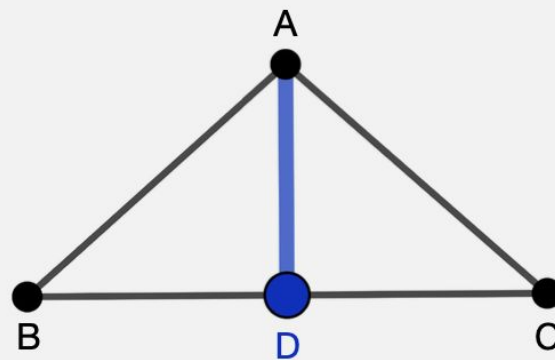
- Adding two points P1 and P2 allows us to show the heights of both triangles are the same
- Since both share the same base, the areas are the same



Adding Constructs (point D) Helps a lot!



“Let ABC be any triangle with $AB = AC$.
Prove that $\angle ABC = \angle BCA$.”



► Construct D: midpoint BC,

$AB=AC$, $BD = DC$, $AD=AD \Rightarrow \angle ABD=\angle DCA$ [1]

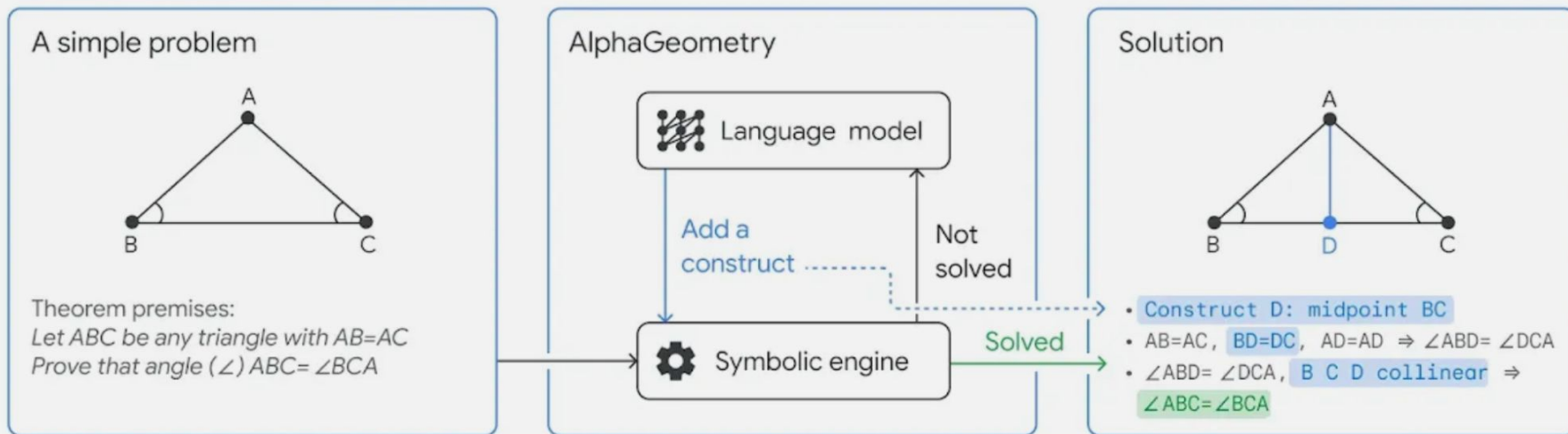
[1], $B C D$ collinear $\Rightarrow \angle ABC=\angle BCA$

Let's brainstorm how to go about solving this problem

How to incorporate auxiliary points?

General Strategy of AlphaGeometry

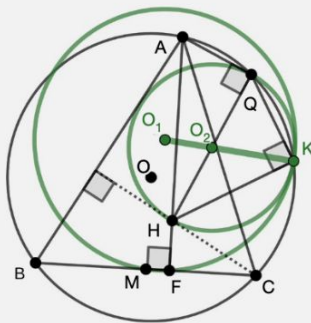
The space of auxiliary construction is **huge**



A closer look into the solution

e IMO 2015 P3

“Let ABC be an acute triangle. Let (O) be its circumcircle, H its orthocenter, and F the foot of the altitude from A . Let M be the midpoint of BC . Let Q be the point on (O) such that $QH \perp QA$ and let K be the point on (O) such that $KH \perp KQ$. Prove that the circumcircles (O_1) and (O_2) of triangles FKM and KQH are tangent to each other.”



Alpha-
Geometry

f Solution

Construct D: midpoint BH [a]

[a], O_2 midpoint HQ $\Rightarrow BQ \parallel O_2D$ [20]

Construct G: midpoint HC [b] ...

$\angle GMD = \angle GO_2D \Rightarrow M O_2 G D$ cyclic [26]

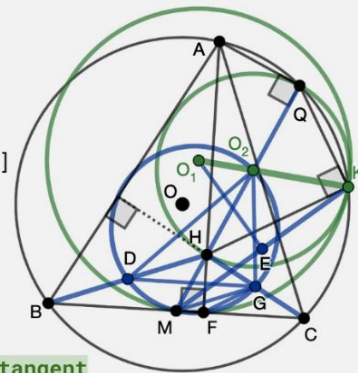
[a], [b] $\Rightarrow BC \parallel DG$ [30]

Construct E: midpoint MK [c]

..., [c] $\Rightarrow \angle KFC = \angle KO_1E$ [104]

$\angle FK O_1 = \angle FK O_2 \Rightarrow K O_1 \parallel K O_2$ [109]

[109] $\Rightarrow O_1 O_2 K$ collinear $\Rightarrow (O_1)(O_2)$ tangent



IMO 2004 P1:

"Let ABC be an acute-angled triangle with $AB \neq AC$. The circle with diameter BC intersects the sides AB and AC at M and N respectively. Denote by O the midpoint of the side BC . The bisectors of the angles $\angle BAC$ and $\angle MON$ intersect at R . Prove that the circumcircles of the triangles BMR and CNR have a common point lying on the side BC ."

Translate

Premise

$A B C O M N R P$: Points

$\text{mid_point}(O, B, C)$ [--]

$\text{same_line}(B, M, A)$ [00] $OM=OB$ [01]

$\text{same_line}(N, C, A)$ [02] $ON=OB$ [03]

$\angle BAR=\angle RAC$ [04] $\angle MOR=\angle RON$ [05]

$\text{circle}(B, M, R, P)$ [06] $\text{circle}(C, N, R, P)$ [07]

Goal

$\text{same_line}(P, B, C)$

Solve

Proof

[01][03] $\Rightarrow \angle ONM=\angle NMO$ [08]

[01][03][05] $\Rightarrow RN=RM$ [09]

[01][03][09] $\Rightarrow NM \perp OR$ [10]

AUXILIARY POINT K : $KM = KN$

[01][03] $KM = KN \Rightarrow MN \perp KO$ [12]

AUXILIARY POINT L : $KL = KA, OL = OA$

$KL = KA, OL = OA \Rightarrow KO \perp AL$ [15] $\angle AKO=\angle OKL$ [16]

[15][12][10][16][13] $\Rightarrow RA=RL$ [17]

$OL = OA \Rightarrow \angle OAL=\angle ALO$ [18]

angle-chase: [12][15][08][18] $\Rightarrow \angle NOA=\angle LOM$ [19]

[01][03] $OL = OA$ [19] $\Rightarrow AN=LM$ [21]

[17][21][09] $\Rightarrow \angle NAR=\angle RLM$ [22]

[02][04][00] [22] $\Rightarrow \text{circle}(L, M, A, R)$ [23]

similar $\Rightarrow \text{circle}(R, L, N, A)$ [24]

[23][24] $\Rightarrow \angle RMA=\angle RNA$ [25]

[06] $\Rightarrow \angle BPR=\angle BMR$ [26]

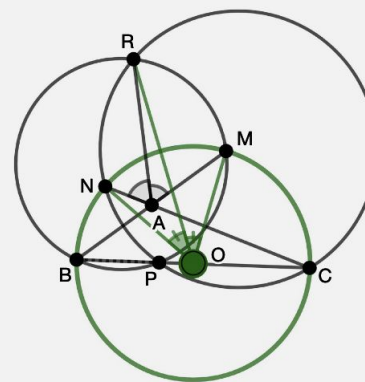
[07] $\Rightarrow \angle NCP=\angle CNP$ [27]

[00][02] [25][26][27] $\Rightarrow PC \parallel BP$

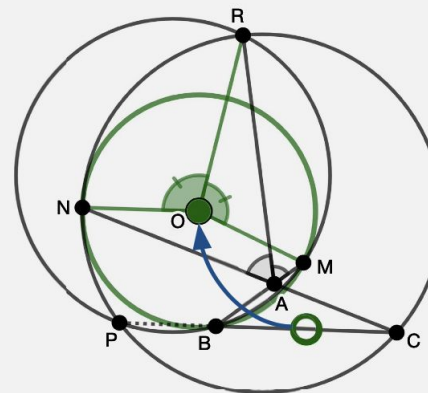
$\Rightarrow \text{same_line}(B, P, C)$

Traceback

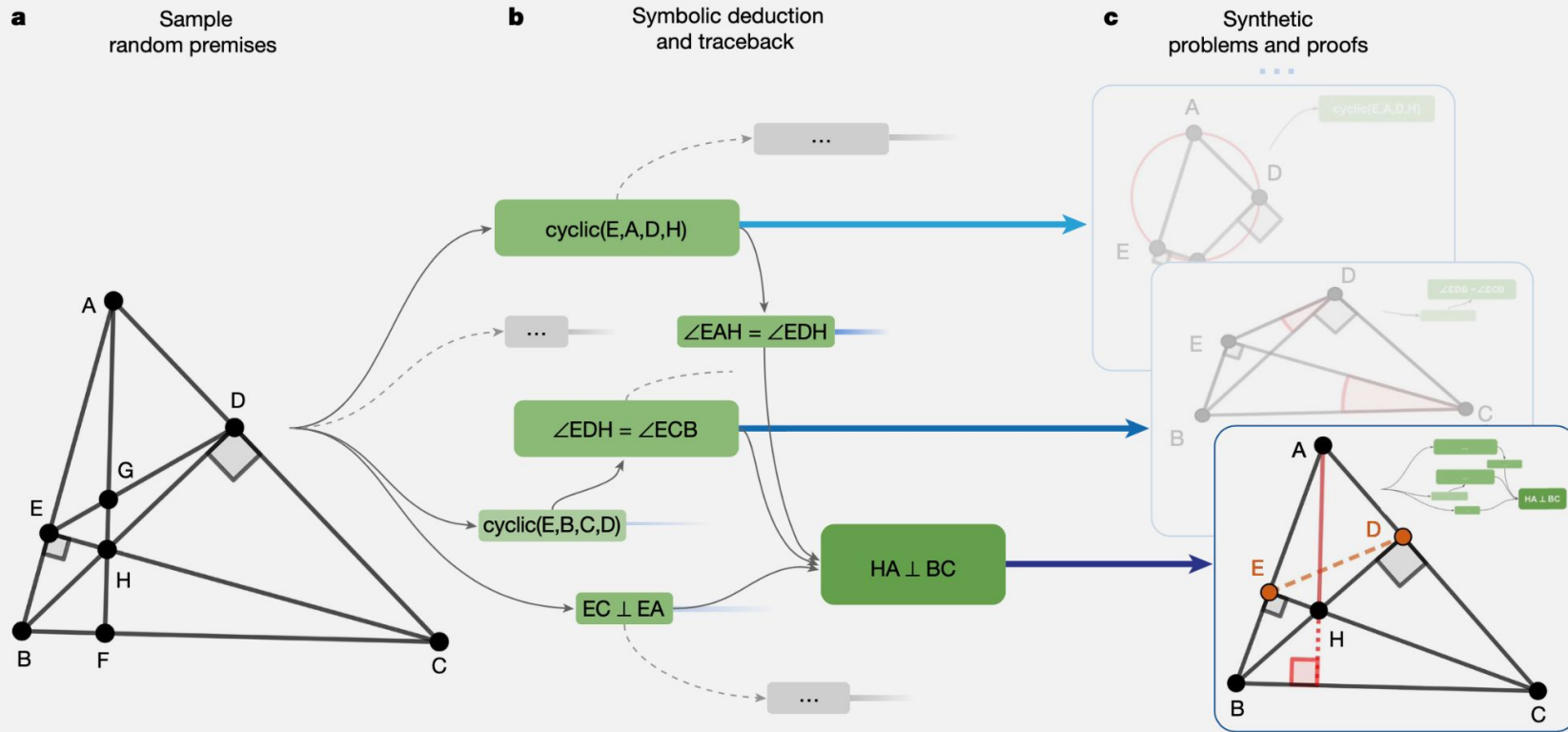
ABC Unused premise
ABC Used premises
ABC Neural net output
ABC Symbolic solver output



Generalize



How to make synthetic data?

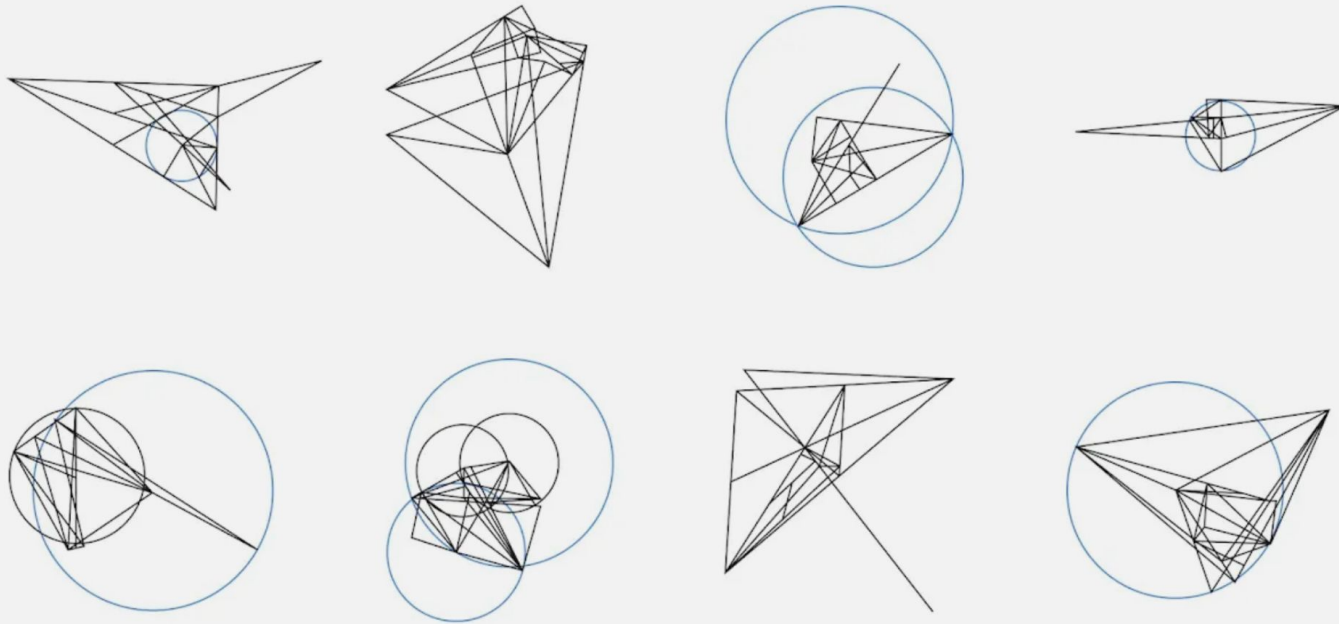


How to generate premises?

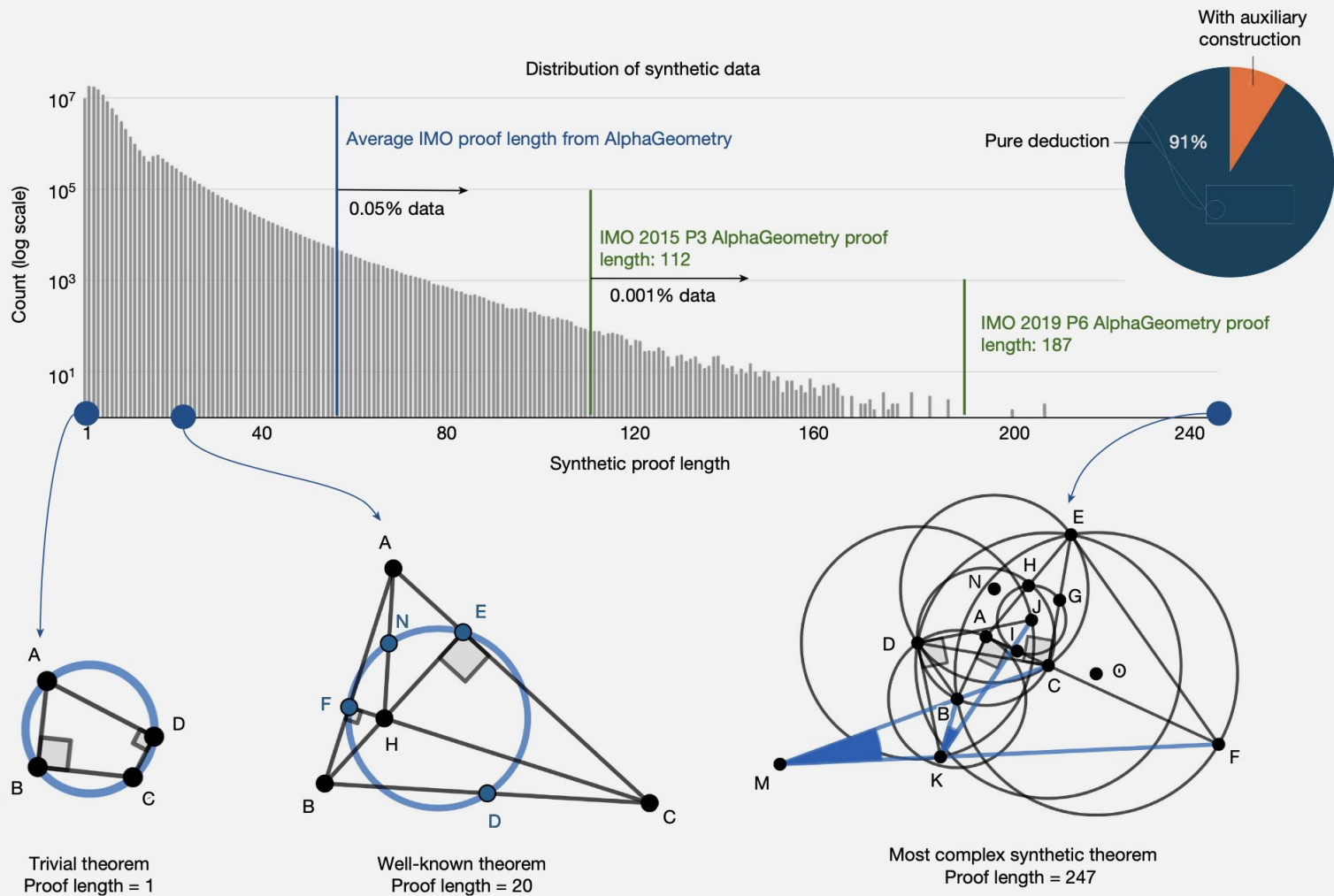
- A small set of rules to make random premises once applying them consecutively.

Construction	Description
<code>X = angle bisector(A, B, C)</code>	Construct a point X on the angle bisector of $\angle ABC$
<code>X = angle mirror(A, B, C)</code>	Construct a point X such that BC is the bisector of $\angle ABX$
<code>X = circle(A, B, C)</code>	Construct point X as the circumcenter of A, B, C
<code>A, B, C, D = eq_quadrilateral()</code>	Construct quadrilateral ABCD with AD = BC
<code>A, B, C, D = eq_trapezoid()</code>	Construct trapezoid ABCD with AD = BC
<code>X = eqtriangle(B, C)</code>	Construct X such that XBC is an equilateral triangle
<code>X = eqangle2(A, B, C)</code>	Construct X such that $\angle BAX = \angle XCB$
<code>A,B,C,D = eqdia_equadrilateral()</code>	Construct quadrilateral ABCD with AC = BD
<code>X = eqdistance(A, B, C)</code>	Construct X such that XA = BC
<code>X = foot(A, B, C)</code>	Construct X as the foot of A on BC
<code>X = free</code>	Construct a free point X

Random Premises



Visual representations of the synthetic data generated by AlphaGeometry



How to train the LLM?

Randomly make a premise.

Make a deduction **closure**.

Pick one of the conclusions as a **target**.

Trace back to the premise so that necessary premises to deduce the selected target.

Remove some constructs X_1, \dots, X_k that **do not appear in the target**.

Add few sentences to the proof **“Add construct X_i ”** for all i .

Train an LLM with all proofs

Fine tune the LLM with modified proofs containing added constructs.

Forward Chaining to get the closure

$$P \Rightarrow Q$$

$$L \wedge M \Rightarrow P$$

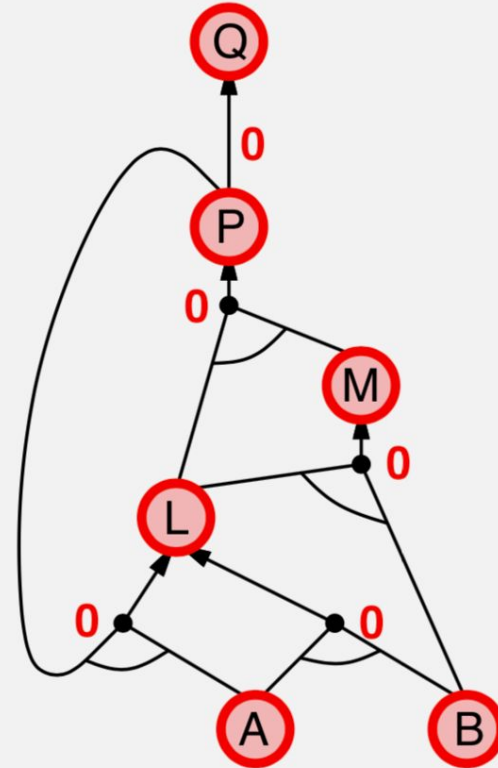
$$B \wedge L \Rightarrow M$$

$$A \wedge P \Rightarrow L$$

$$A \wedge B \Rightarrow L$$

A

B



Language Model Architecture

12 layers Transformer with ~151 M weights

Embedding dim = 1,024

8 attention heads

ReLU activation

Context length = 1,024

Vocab. Size = 757

LLM Inference

Takes as input the <premise> <conclusion> <proof> format.

Adding constructs

Performs beam search to produce k=512 top (highest probable) next tokens

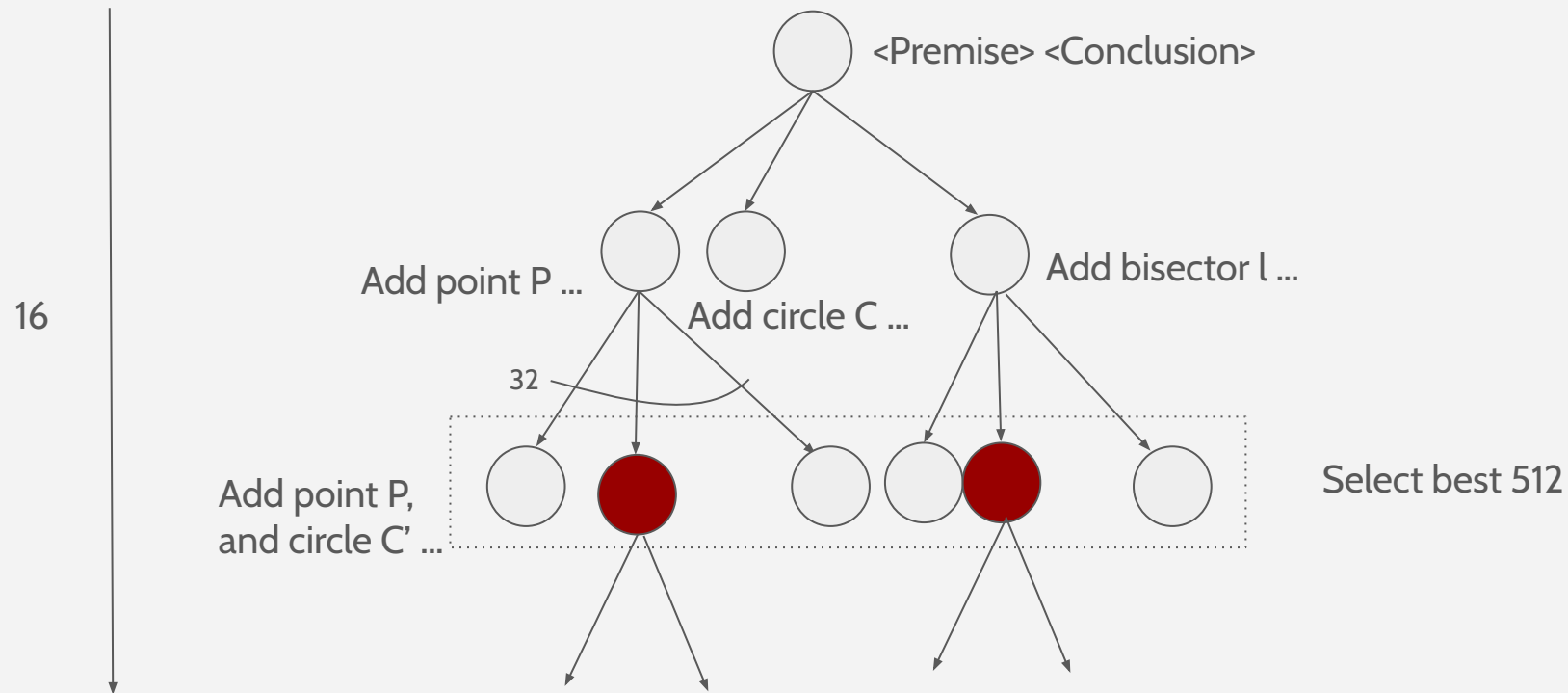
Branching width = 32

Each node containing a set of constructs is fed into the symbolic solver.

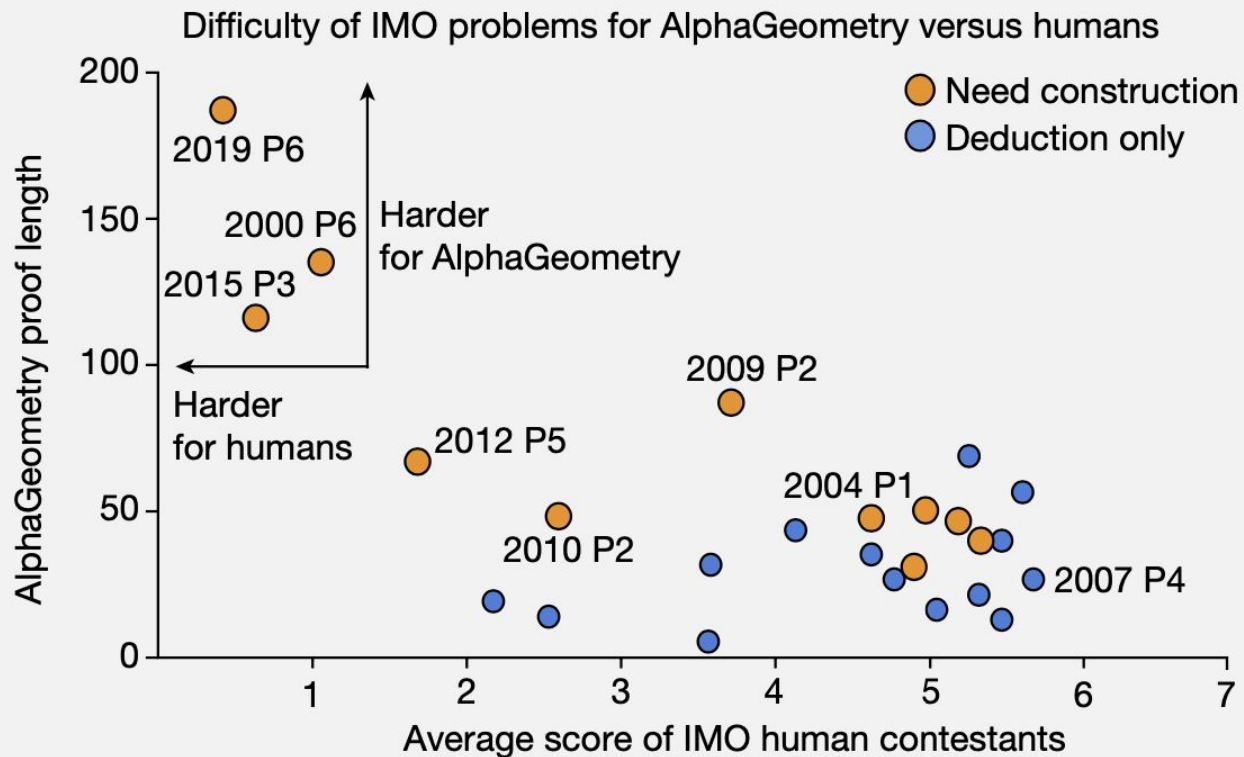
If solved then stop.

Search to depth = 16

LLM Inference with beam search



Longer proof problems are harder

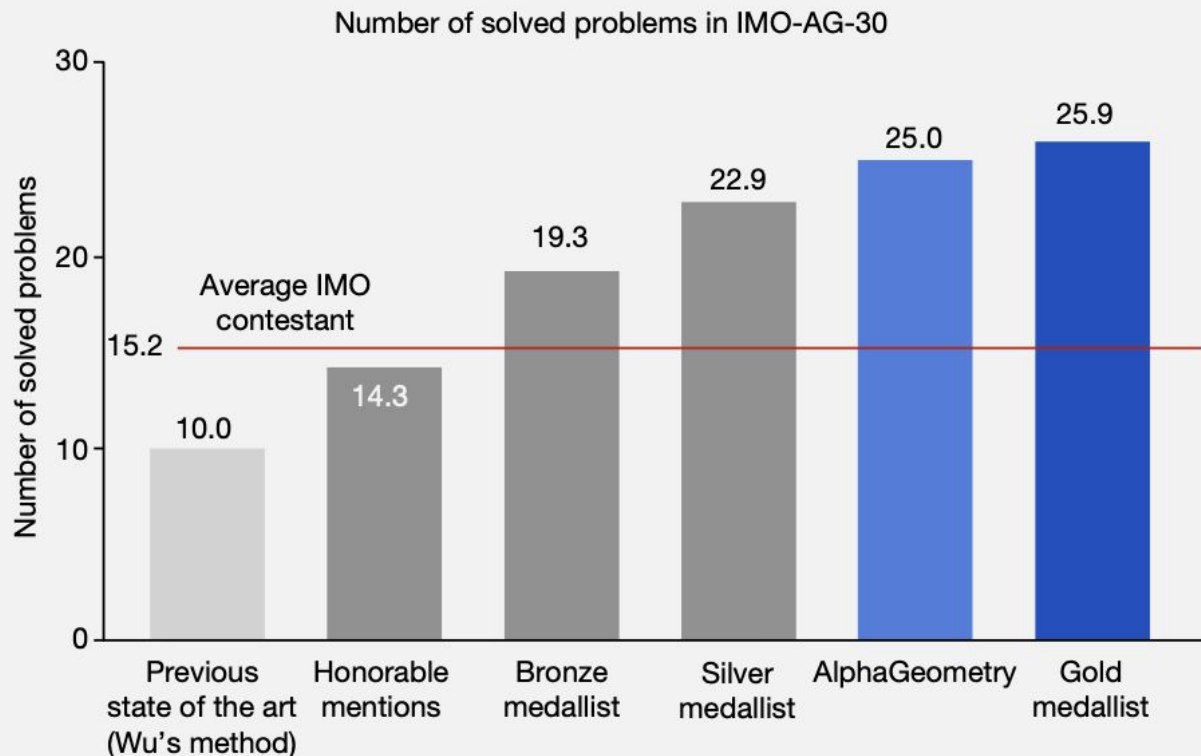


Results

Method		Problems solved (out of 30)
Computer algebra	Wu's method ²¹ (previous state of the art)	10
	Gröbner basis ²⁰	4
Search (human-like)	GPT-4 (ref. 25)	0
	Full-angle method ³⁰	2
	Deductive database (DD) ¹⁰	7
	DD+human-designed heuristics ¹⁷	9
	DD+AR (ours)	14
	DD+AR+GPT-4 auxiliary constructions	15
	DD+AR+human-designed heuristics	18
	AlphaGeometry	25
	• Without pretraining	21
	• Without fine-tuning	23

We compare AlphaGeometry to other state-of-the-art methods (computer algebra and search approaches), most notably Wu's method. We also show the results of DD+AR (our contribution) and its variants, resulting in the strongest baseline DD+AR+human-designed heuristics. Finally, we include ablation settings for AlphaGeometry without pretraining and fine-tuning.

On par with gold medalist



Ablation

a.

Training data size	Solved / 30
100M	25
80M	24
60M	23
40M	23
20M	21

c.

Beam size	Solved / 30
512	25
128	25
32	24
8	21
2	16

b.

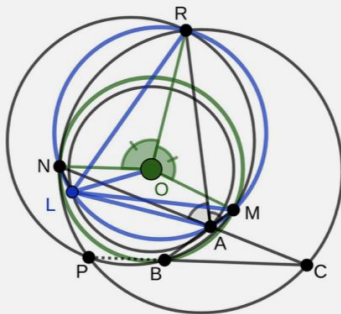
Method	Solved / 231
Wu	173
DD	152
DD+human heuristics	160
DD+AR	198
DD+AR+human heuristics	213
AlphaGeometry	228

d.

Search depth	Solved / 30
16	25
8	25
4	25
2	21
1	16

Original problem statement:

Let ABC be an acute-angled triangle with $AB \neq AC$. Let O be any point. The circle with diameter BC intersects the sides AB and AC at M and N respectively. Denote by O the midpoint of the side BC . The bisectors of the angles $\angle BAC$ and $\angle MON$ intersect at R . Prove that the circumcircles of the triangles BMR and CNR have a common point lying on the side BC .



Human proof:

Let L be the reflection of A about OR

Minimal construction

$\angle RLM = \angle NAR$ (LN is the reflection of AM about OR)
 $= \angle RAM$ (AR is bisector of $\angle NAM$)
 $\Rightarrow L, M, A, R$ is cyclic

Short, high-level deductions

Similarly, $ANLR$ is cyclic

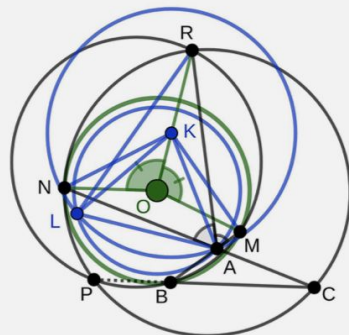
$\Rightarrow RMNA$ is cyclic
 So $BPR = BMR$ ($BMRP$ is cyclic)
 $= AMR$
 $= ANR$ ($RMNA$ is cyclic)
 $= CNR$
 $= CPR$ ($CNRP$ is cyclic)
 $\Rightarrow BP \parallel CP$

Readable algebraic steps

$\Rightarrow B, P$, and C is collinear.

Adapted problem statement:

Let ABC be a triangle. Let O be any point. Define point M as the intersection of circle (O, B) and line AB . Define point N as the intersection of circle (O, B) and line AC . Define point R such that AR is the bisector of $\angle BAC$ and OR is the bisector of $\angle MON$. Define point O_1 as the circumcenter of triangle BRM . Define point O_2 as the circumcenter of triangle NRC . Define point P as the intersection of circles (O_1, R) and (O_2, R) . Prove that B, C, P are collinear.



AlphaGeometry proof:

AUXILIARY POINT $K : KM=KN$

Redundant

AUXILIARY POINT $L : KL=KA, OL=OA$

$[01][03] \Rightarrow \angle ONM = \angle NMO$ [08]
 $[01][03][05] \Rightarrow RN=RM$ [09]
 $[09][01][03] \Rightarrow NM \perp OR$ [10]
 $[01][03][KM=KN] \Rightarrow MN \perp KO$ [12]
 $[KL=KA][OL=OA] \Rightarrow KO \perp AL$ [15] $\angle AKO = \angle OKL$ [16]
 $[15][12][10][16][KL=KA] \Rightarrow RA=RL$ [17]
 $[OL=OA] \Rightarrow \angle OAL = \angle ALO$ [18]
 angle-chase: [12][15][08][18] $\Rightarrow \angle NOA = \angle LOM$ [19]
 $[19][01][03][OL=OA] \Rightarrow AN=LM$ [21]
 $[17][21][09] \Rightarrow \angle NAR = \angle RLM$ [22]
 $[22][02][04][00] \Rightarrow \text{circle}(L, M, A, R)$ [23]

Verbose, low-level steps

similar $\Rightarrow \text{circle}(R, L, N, A)$ [24]

$[23][24] \Rightarrow \angle RMA = \angle RNA$ [25]
 $[06] \Rightarrow \angle BPR = \angle BMR$ [26]
 $[07] \Rightarrow \angle NCP = \angle NRP$ [27]
 angle-chase: [25][00][02][26][27] $\Rightarrow PC \parallel BP$

Low readability

$\Rightarrow \text{same_line}(B, P, C)$

Neuro-Symbolic Architectures so far ...

Neural | Symbolic uses a neural architecture to interpret perceptual data as symbols and relationships that are reasoned about symbolically. NS-VQA, and Neural-Concept Learner are examples.

Symbolic[Neural] is exemplified by AlphaGo, and AlphaGeometry, where symbolic techniques are used to invoke neural techniques. In this case, the symbolic approach is **beam search** together with **symbolic proof engine**, and the neural techniques is the **LLM suggesting constructions**.