



南京大學  
NANJING UNIVERSITY

# 人工智能导论

## 神经符号AI (Neuro-Symbolic AI)

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<https://www.lamda.nju.edu.cn/guolz/IntroAI/fall2025/index.html>

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# 国际规划竞赛IPC(International Planning Competition)

- International Planning Competition, 隶属ICAPS (International Conference on Automated Planning and Scheduling)会议
- 始于1998年, 通常每2-3年举办一次
- 统一采用PDDL语言 作为领域标准
- 里程碑规划器:
  - **FF (Fast Forward) (IPC-2000):** 引入了忽略删除列表的启发式规划, 现代规划器的鼻祖
  - **Fast Downward (IPC-2004):** 引入了 SAS+ 翻译和多启发式搜索架构, 至今仍是学术界的基础框架
- 新趋势:
  - **HTN 复兴:** 分层规划重新引起重视
  - **RL + Planning:** 传统搜索仍然强势, 但RL正在冲击榜单
  - **LLM+Planning:** 开始尝试基于大模型做规划任务

<https://ipc2023.github.io/>

## The International Planning Competition 2023

- Classical Tracks
  - Daniel Fišer, Saarland University
  - Florian Pommerening, University of Basel
- Learning Tracks
  - Jendrik Seipp, Linköping University
  - Javier Segovia-Aguas, Universitat Pompeu Fabra
- Probabilistic Tracks
  - Ayal Taitler, University of Toronto
  - Scott Sanner, University of Toronto
- Numeric Tracks
  - Joan Espasa Arxer, University of St Andrews
  - Enrico Scala, University of Brescia
- HTN Tracks
  - Ron Alford, MITRE
  - Dominik Schreiber, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
  - Gregor Behnke, University of Amsterdam

# LLM for Planning

Published in Transactions on Machine Learning Research (April/2025)

## A Systematic Evaluation of the Planning and Scheduling Abilities of the Reasoning Model o1

Domain Shots		Claude Models		OpenAI GPT-4 Models			LLaMA Models		Gemini Models		
		3.5 Sonnet	3 Opus	4o	4o mini	4	4 Turbo	3.1 405B	3 70B	1.5 Pro	1 Pro
Blocks world	One Shot	<b>346/600</b> (57.6%)	289/600 (48.1%)	170/600 (28.3%)	49/600 (8.1%)	206/600 (34.3%)	138/600 (23%)	284/600 (47.3%)	76/600 (12.6%)	101/600 (16.8%)	68/600 (11.3%)
	Zero Shot	329/600 (54.8%)	356/600 (59.3%)	213/600 (35.5%)	53/600 (8.8%)	210/600 (34.6%)	241/600 (40.1%)	<b>376/600</b> (62.6%)	205/600 (34.16%)	143/600 (23.8%)	3/600 (0.5%)
Mystery Blocks world	One Shot	19/600 (3.1%)	8/600 (1.3%)	5/600 (0.83%)	0/600 (0%)	<b>26/600</b> (4.3%)	5/600 (0.83%)	21/600 (3.5%)	15/600 (2.5%)	-	2/500 (0.4%)
	Zero Shot	0/600 (0%)	0/600 (0%)	0/600 (0%)	0/600 (0%)	1/600 (0.16%)	1/600 (0.16%)	<b>5/600</b> (0.8%)	0/600 (0%)	-	0/500 (0%)

<https://openreview.net/pdf?id=FkKBxp0FhR>

# LLM for Planning

## PlanBench: An Extensible Benchmark for Evaluating Large Language Models on Planning and Reasoning about Change

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<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2206.10498>

Task	Instances correct	
	GPT-4	I-GPT3
<b>Plan Generation</b>		
We showcase an instance and the respective plan as an example and prompt the machine with a new instance.	206/600 (34.3%)	41/600 (6.8%)
<b>Cost-Optimal Planning</b>		
We showcase an instance, the respective optimal plan and the associated cost as an example and prompt the machine with a new instance.	198/600 (33%)	35/600 (5.8%)
<b>Plan Verification</b>		
We showcase three instances and three distinct plans (goal reaching, non goal-reaching and inexecutable) and present the respective validation and explanations. We then present a new instance and a plan and ask the machine for to verify and provide an explanation, if needed.	352/600 (58.6%)	72/600 (12%)
<b>Reasoning About Plan Execution</b>		
We showcase an instance, an action sequence and the corresponding resulting state after executing the action sequence as an example. We then provide an instance and an executable action sequence and ask the machine to provide the resulting state.	191/600 (31.8%)	4/600 (0.6%)
<b>Replanning</b>		
We showcase an instance, the respective plan and present an unexpected change of the state. We then also present a new plan from the changed state. Finally, for a new instance we repeat the same except we ask the machine for the new plan.	289/600 (48.1%)	40/600 (6.6%)
<b>Plan Generalization</b>		
We showcase an instance and the respective plan as an example and prompt the machine with a new instance. The plans for both the instances can be generated by a fixed program containing loops and conditionals.	141/500 (28.2%)	49/500 (9.8%)
<b>Plan Reuse</b>		
We showcase an instance and the respective plan as an example and prompt the machine with an instance which requires only a certain prefix of the plan provided in the example.	392/600 (65.3%)	102/600 (17%)
<b>Robustness to Goal Reformulation (Shuffling goal predicates)</b>		
We showcase an instance and the respective plan as an example and prompt the machine with the same instance but shuffle the ordering of the goals.	461/600 (76.8%)	467/600 (77.8%)
<b>Robustness to Goal Reformulation (Full → Partial)</b>		
We showcase an instance with a fully specified goal state and the respective plan as an example and prompt the machine with the same instance but provide a partially specified goal state.	522/600 (87%)	467/600 (77.8%)
<b>Robustness to Goal Reformulation (Partial → Full)</b>		
We showcase an instance with a partially specified goal state and the respective plan as an example and prompt the machine with the same instance but provide a fully specified goal state.	348/600 (58%)	363/600 (60.5%)

# 前沿趋势：LLM + PDDL

LLM充当自然语言到形式化语言的翻译器，调用符号求解工具完成规划任务

## A Failure Example of GPT-4 in Planning

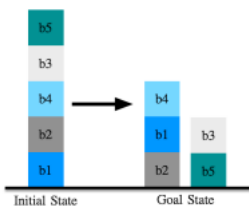
**Problem (P1):** You have 5 blocks. One cannot place more than one block on another block. b5 is on top of b3. b4 is on top of b2. b2 is on top of b1. b3 is on top of b4. b1 is on the table. b5 is clear. Your arm is empty.

Your goal is to move the blocks.

b1 should be on top of b2.

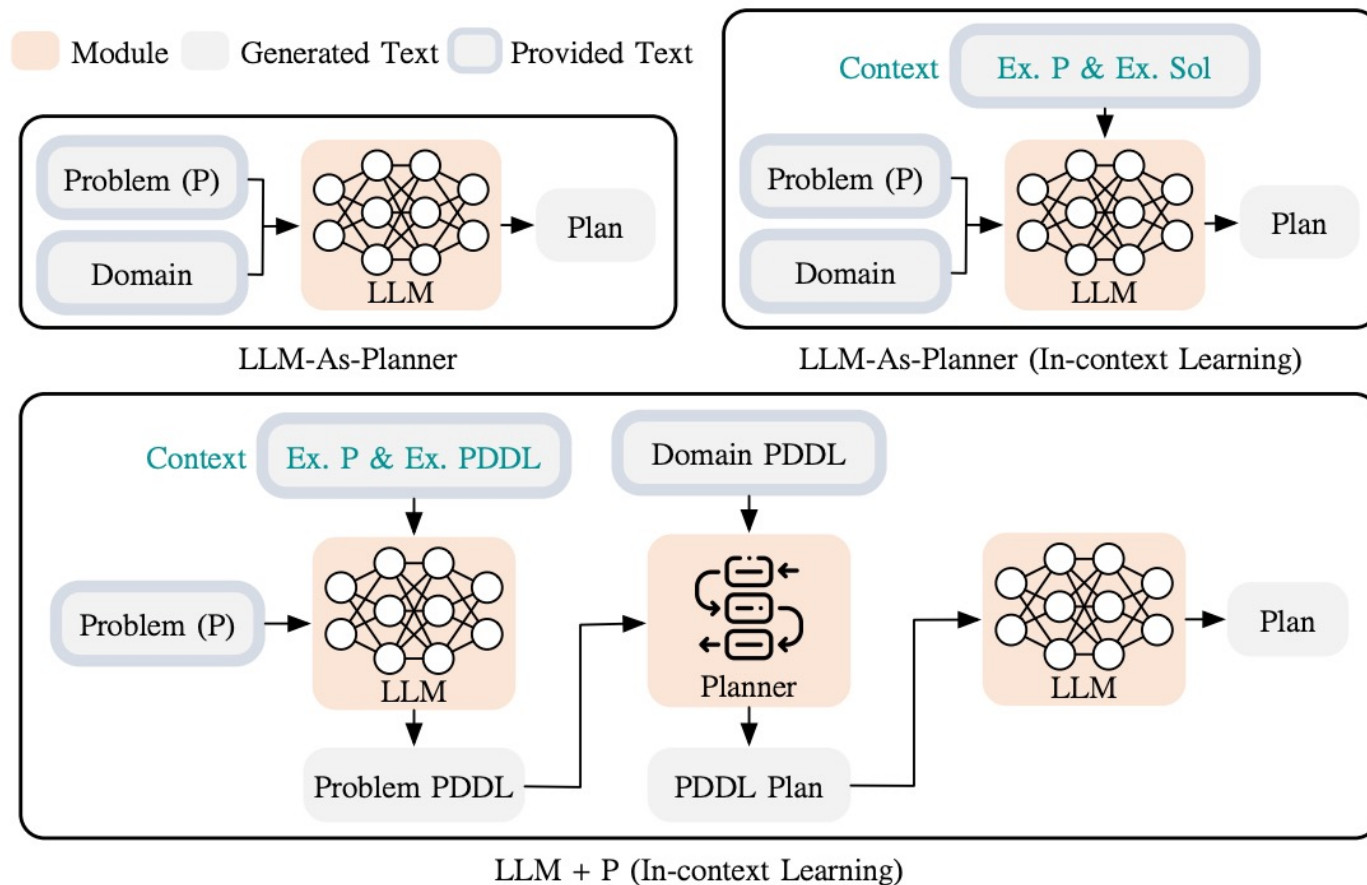
b3 should be on top of b5.

b4 should be on top of b1.



### GPT-4:

1. Move b5 from b3 to the table.
2. Move b3 from b4 to b5.
3. Move b4 from b2 to the table.
4. Move b2 from b1 to b5.
5. Move b1 from the table to b2.
6. Move b4 from the table to b1.



# 前沿趋势：LLM + PDDL

LLM充当自然语言到形式化语言的翻译器，调用符号求解工具完成规划任务



(a) grasp bottle    (b) free gripper    (c) grasp soup can    (d) place soup can    (e) re-grasp bottle    (f) place bottle

Fig. 2: Demonstration of the optimal tidy-up plan. The robot starts at the coffee table and 1) picks up the bottle, 2) navigates to a room with the side table and the recycle bin, 3) puts down the bottle, 4) grasps the soup can, 5) puts the soup can in the recycle bin, 6) re-grasps the bottle, 7) navigates to the kitchen, 8) places the bottle in the pantry.

# 符号主义人工智能的痛点：符号接地

Symbolic AI 的核心假设是：智能是对符号的操作

- **离散性与确定性**：On(Block A, Block B) 是一个非常明确、没有歧义的状态
- **组合性**：符号可以无限组合。学会了“拿”，学会了“苹果”，就能理解“拿苹果”，不需要重新训练
- **长程推理能力**：在数学证明、规划、逻辑谜题中，符号系统可以进行几十甚至上百步的推理
- **经典AI的困境**：对于一个纯符号系统，它知道 Apple 是一种 fruit, fruit 可以 eat。但如果你给它看一张苹果的照片，或者让机器人去抓一个苹果，它完全不知道这个符号对应现实中的哪一个物体
- **鸿沟**：现实世界是连续的、嘈杂的（像素、声波、电压），而符号世界是离散的、抽象的，Symbolic AI 缺乏一个将“连续信号”映射为“离散符号”的转换器

## THE SYMBOL GROUNDING PROBLEM

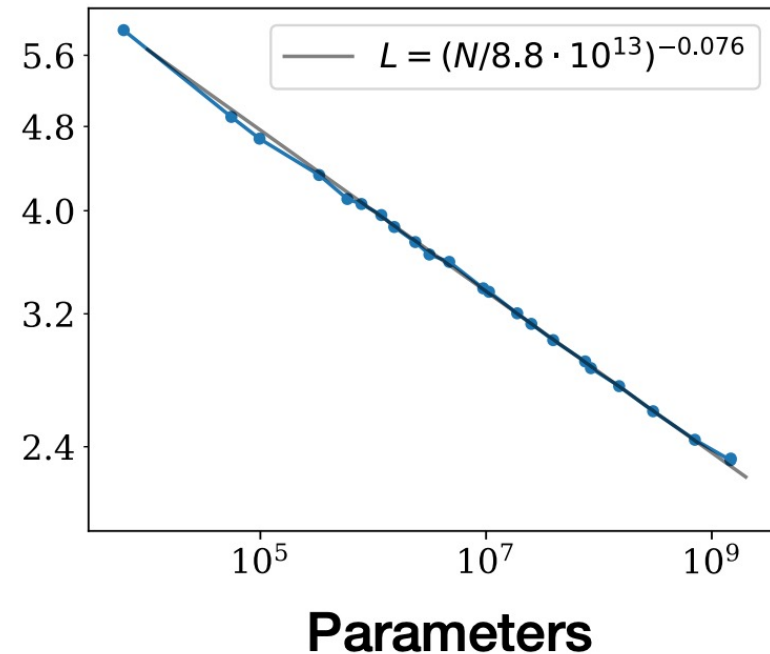
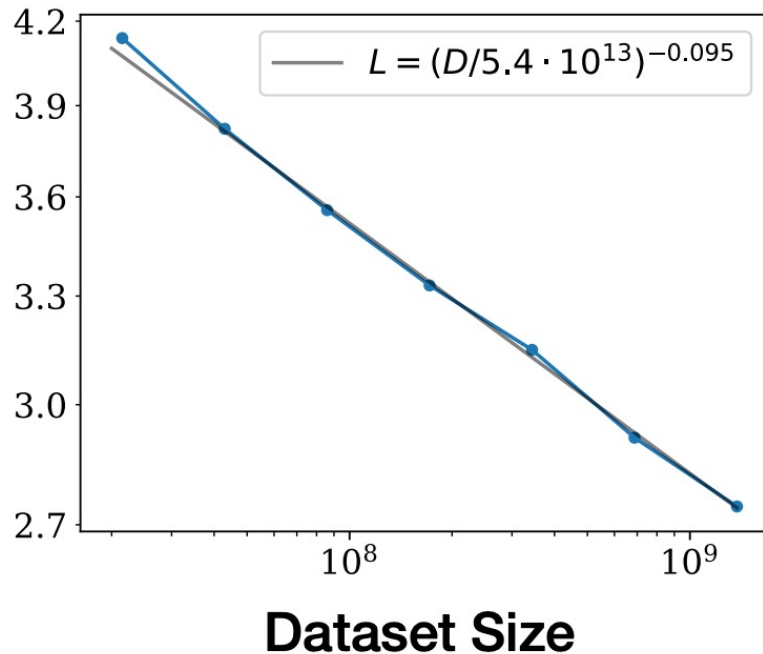
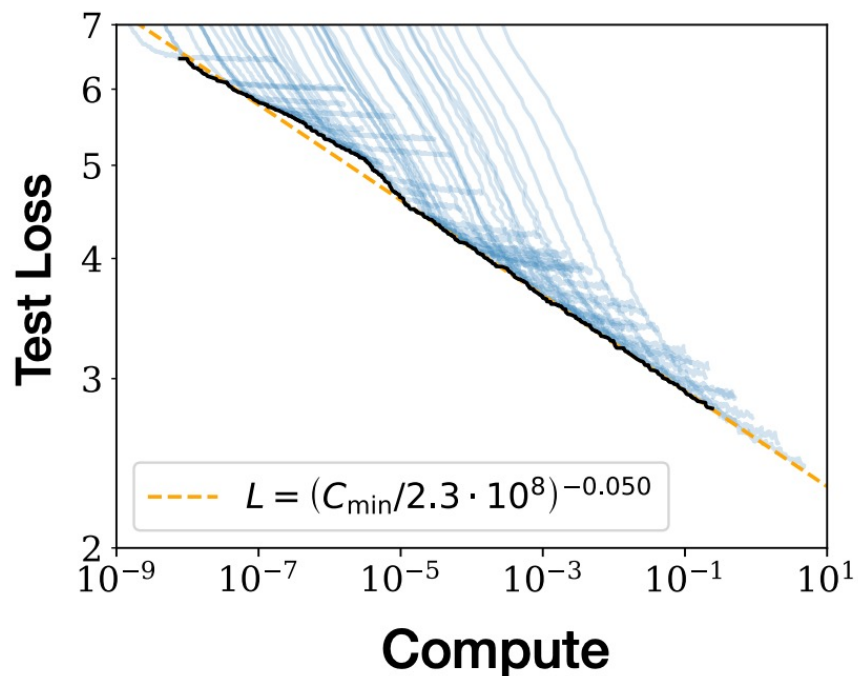
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**ABSTRACT:** There has been much discussion recently about the scope and limits of purely symbolic models of the mind and about the proper role of connectionism in cognitive modeling. This paper describes the "symbol grounding problem": How can the semantic interpretation of a formal symbol system be made intrinsic to the system, rather than just parasitic on the meanings in our heads? How can the meanings of the meaningless symbol tokens, manipulated solely on the basis of their (arbitrary) shapes, be grounded in anything but other meaningless symbols? The problem is analogous to trying to learn Chinese from a Chinese/Chinese dictionary alone. A candidate solution is sketched: Symbolic representations must be grounded bottom-up in nonsymbolic representations of two kinds: (1) "iconic representations", which are analogs of the proximal sensory projections of distal objects and events, and (2) "categorical representations", which are learned and innate feature-detectors that pick out the invariant features of object and event categories from their sensory projections. Elementary symbols are the names of these object and event categories, assigned on the basis of their (nonsymbolic) categorical representations. Higher-order (3) "symbolic representations", grounded in these elementary symbols, consist of symbol strings describing category membership relations (e.g., "An X is a Y that is Z"). Connectionism is one natural candidate for the mechanism that learns the invariant features underlying categorical representations, thereby connecting names to the proximal projections of the distal objects they stand for. In this way connectionism can be seen as a complementary component in a hybrid nonsymbolic/symbolic model of the mind, rather than a rival to purely symbolic modeling. Such a hybrid model would not have an autonomous symbolic "module," however; the symbolic functions would emerge as an intrinsically "dedicated" symbol system as a consequence of the bottom-up grounding of categories' names in their sensory representations. Symbol manipulation would be governed not just by the arbitrary shapes of the symbol tokens, but by the nonarbitrary shapes of the icons and category invariants in which they are grounded.

<https://arxiv.org/html/cs/9906002>

# 观点1: 仅依赖大模型

大语言模型、多模态大模型已经展现初步的推理能力，尽管还存在幻觉、不可靠等问题，但只要能够持续Scaling，就能实现性能提升

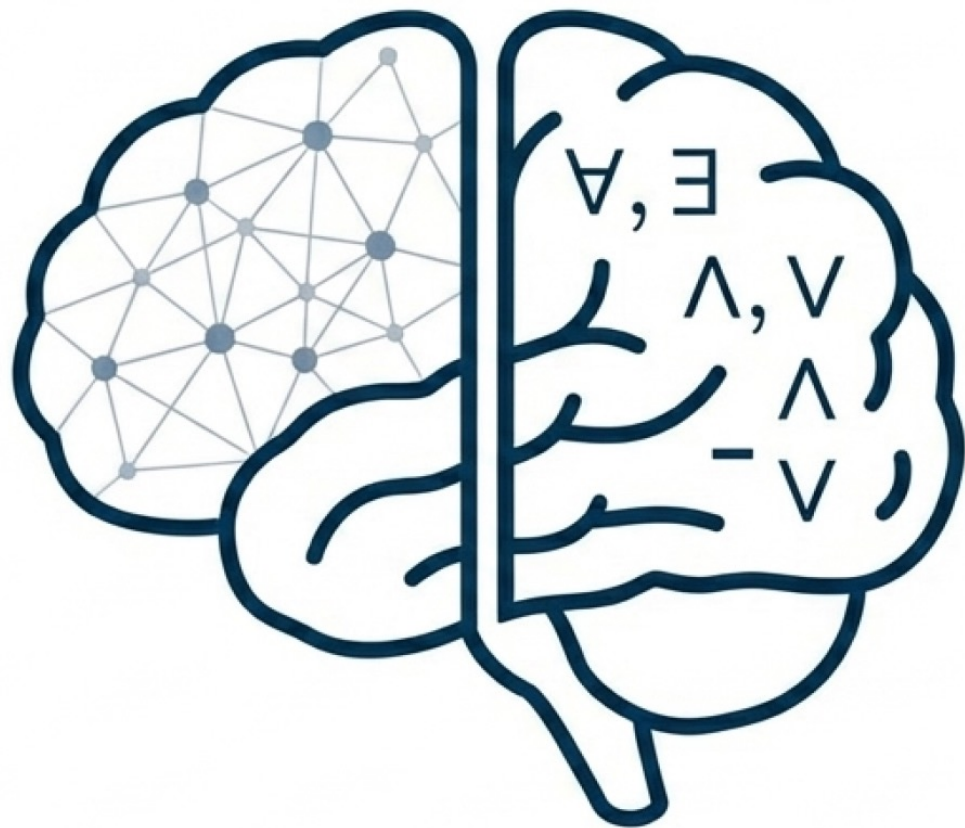


**More data, More compute, Larger models**

# 观点2: Neuro-Symbolic AI

## Neural Networks

神经网络的感知、  
识别能力  
(System 1)



## Symbolic

符号推理的严谨  
逻辑、可靠性、  
可解释性

**Neuro-Symbolic AI: 结合两种AI范式的优势, 创造即聪明**

**又可靠的下一代人工智能系统**

# 快思考与慢思考(系统1与系统2)

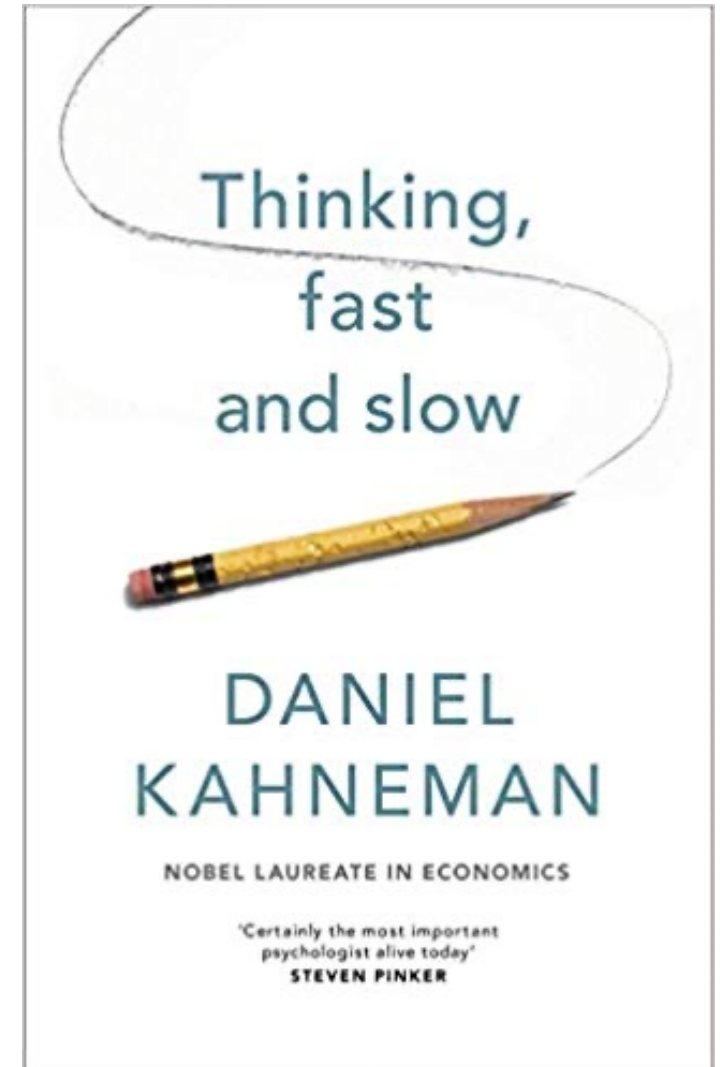
认知科学中的猜想：人类的认知分为系统1与系统2 [Kahneman, 2011]

你能多快判断一下命题的正误

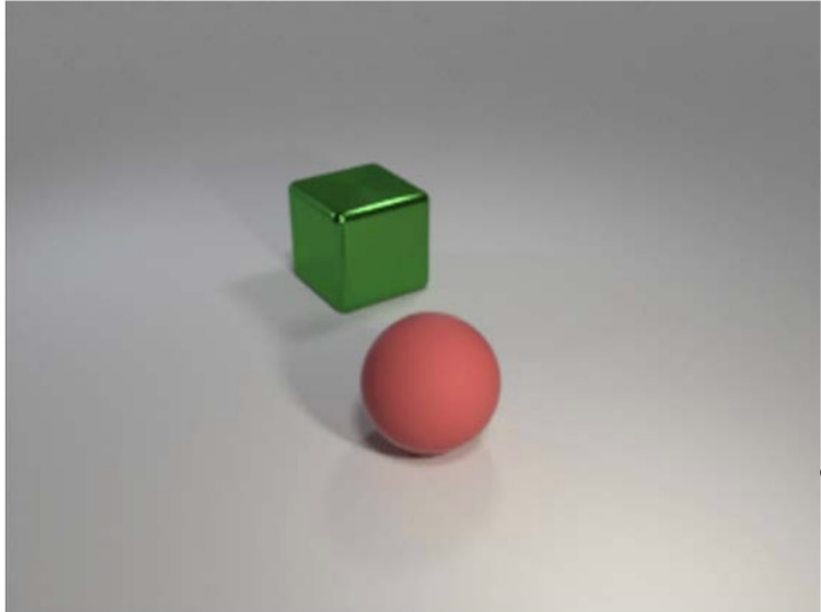
- $1 + 1 = 2$
- $12345 * 54321 = 670592745$
- 窗外的树有些是绿色的
- OOOOO ← 这里有5个圈
- OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO ← 这里有18个圈
- “我只给自己不理发的人理发，所以我可以给自己理发”

# 快思考与慢思考(系统1与系统2)

- **Human Cognition: System 1 (Neural Network) + System 2(Symbolic Reasoning)**
- Neuro-Symbolic AI: Combine true symbolic reasoning with a neural network
- **Neural Network for Perception**
- **Symbolic for Rigorous Reasoning**

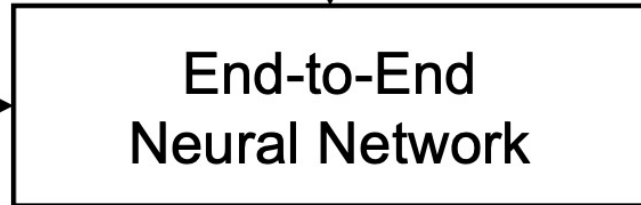


# End-to-End Visual Reasoning



## Visual Question Answering

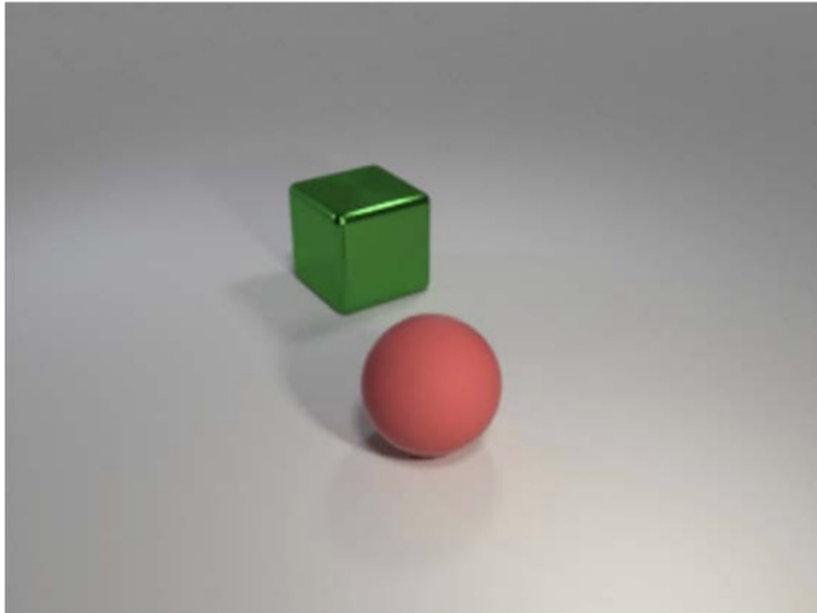
Q: What's the shape of the red object?



A: Sphere.

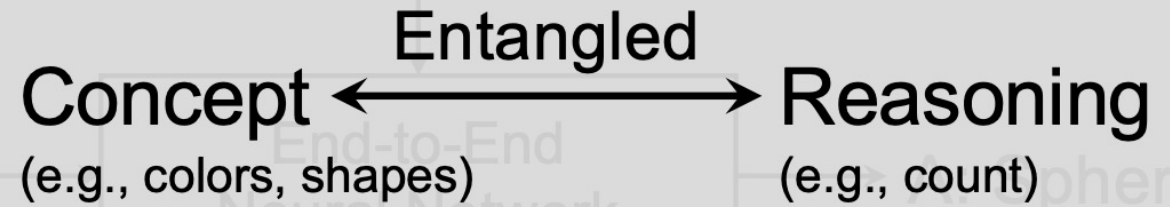
- NMN [Andreas et al., 2016]
- IEP [Johnson et al., 2017]
- FiLM [Perez et al., 2018],
- MAC [Hudson & Manning, 2018]
- Stack-NMN [Hu et al., 2018]
- TbD [Mascharka et al. 2018]

# End-to-End Visual Reasoning



## Visual Question Answering

Q: What's the shape of the red object?



NMN [Andreas et al., 2016]

IEP [Johnson et al., 2017]

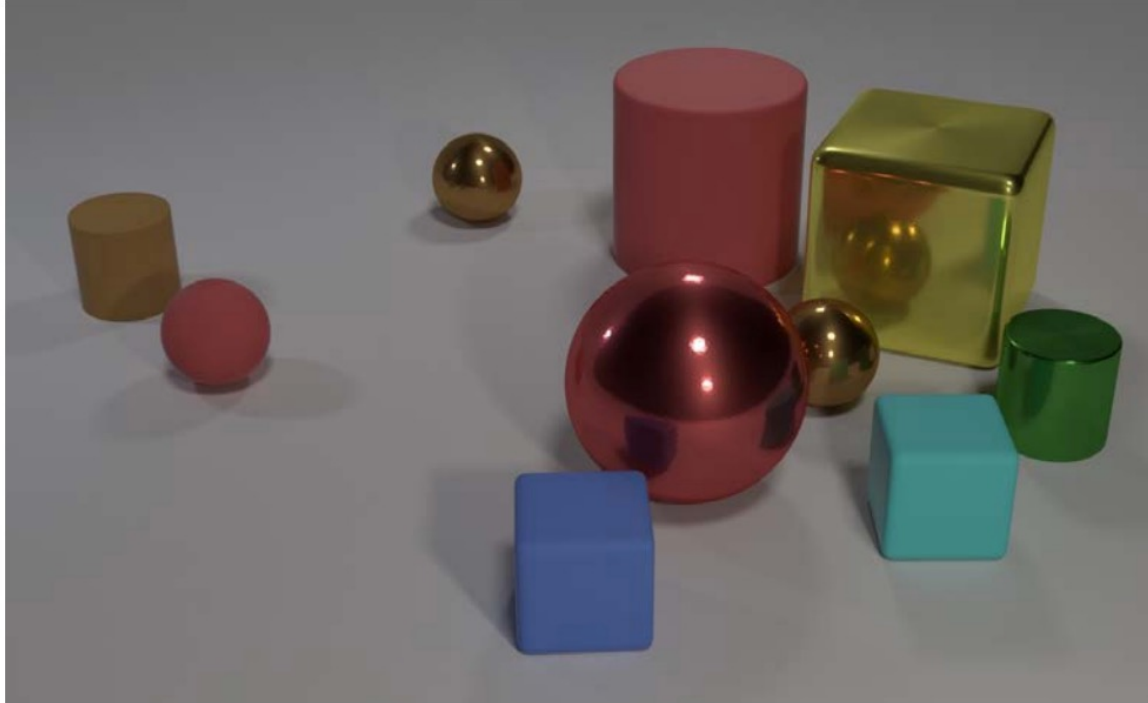
FiLM [Perez et al., 2018],

MAC [Hudson & Manning, 2018]

Stack-NMN [Hu et al., 2018]

TbD [Mascharka et al. 2018]

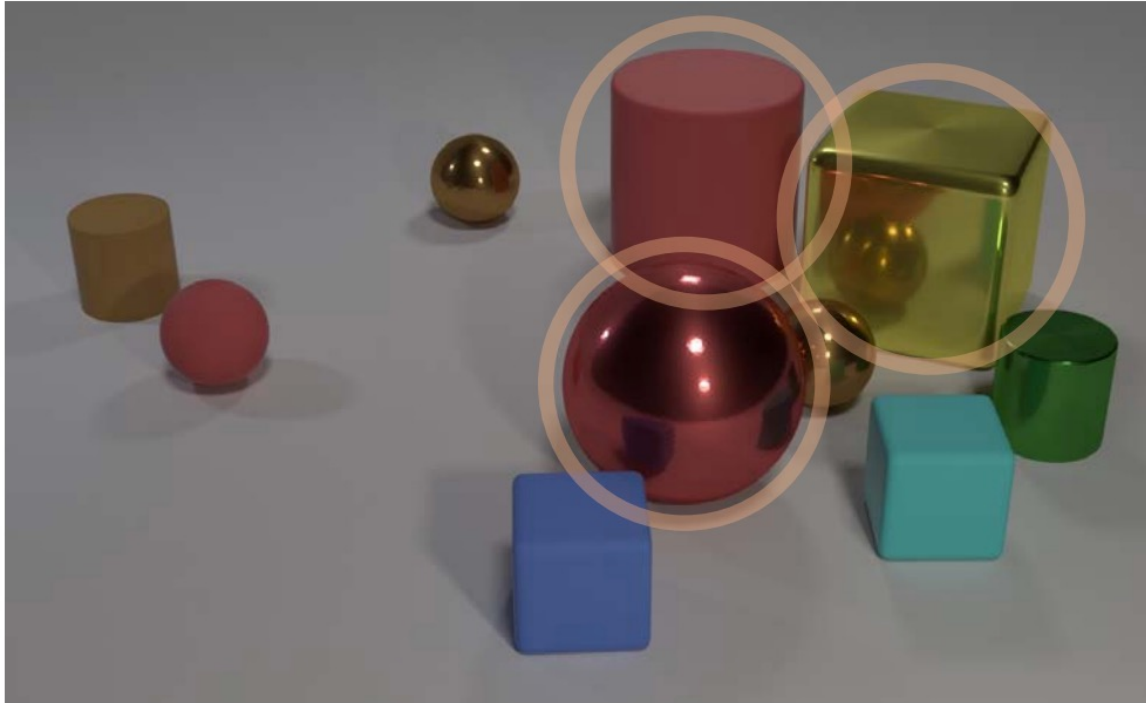
# Human-Like Reasoning



**Question:** *Are there an equal number of large things and metal spheres?*



# Human-Like Reasoning

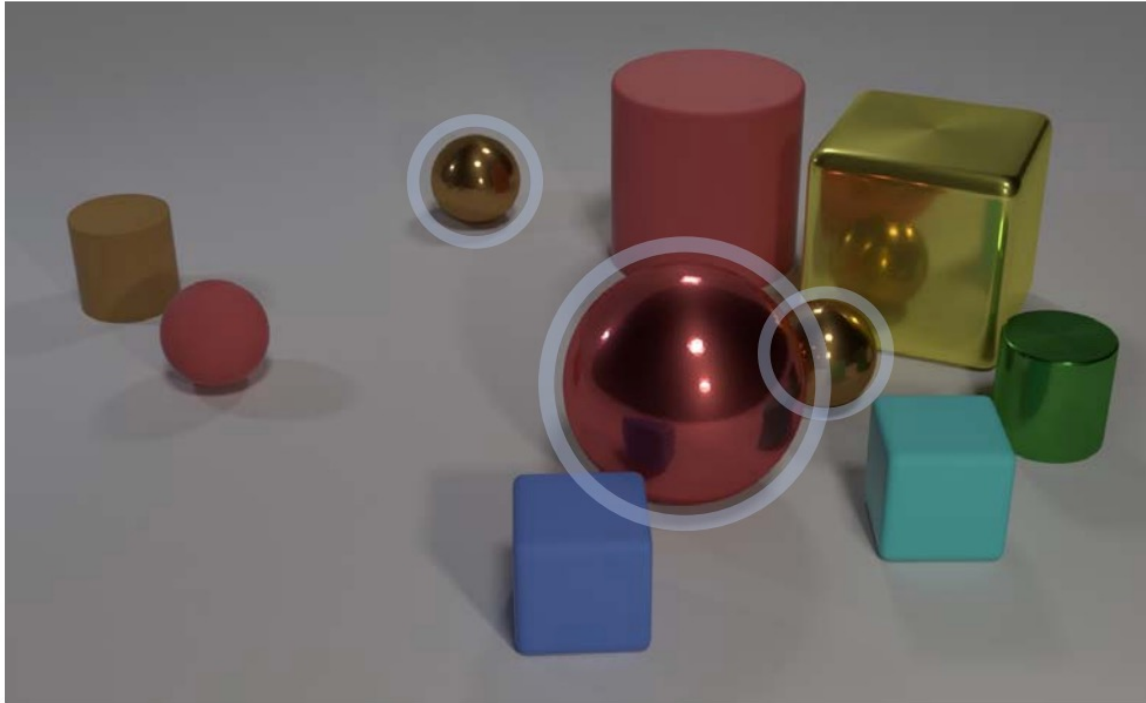


**Question:** *Are there an equal number of large things and metal spheres?*

3 large things!



# Human-Like Reasoning



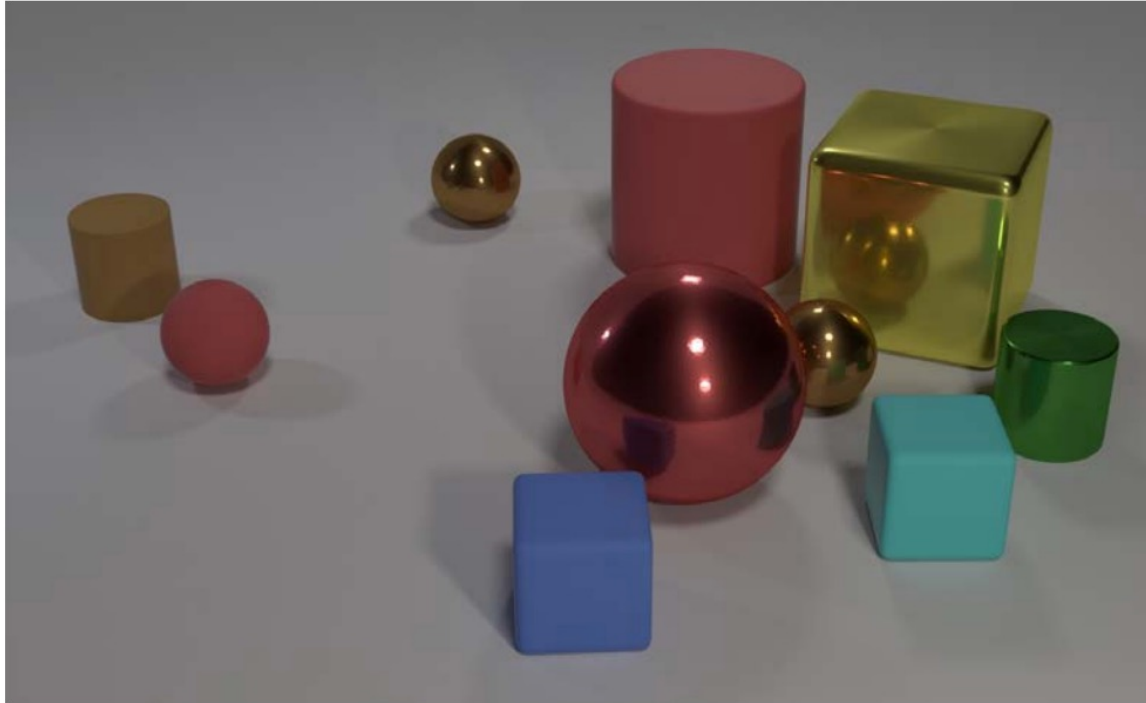
**Question:** *Are there an equal number of large things and **metal spheres**?*

3 large things!

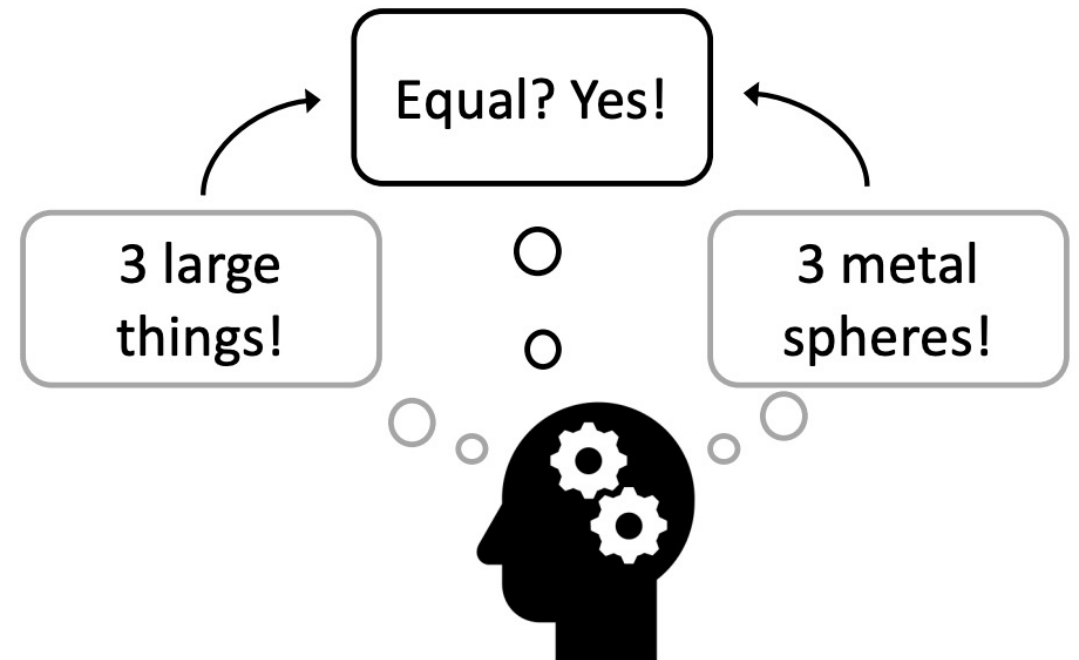
3 metal spheres!



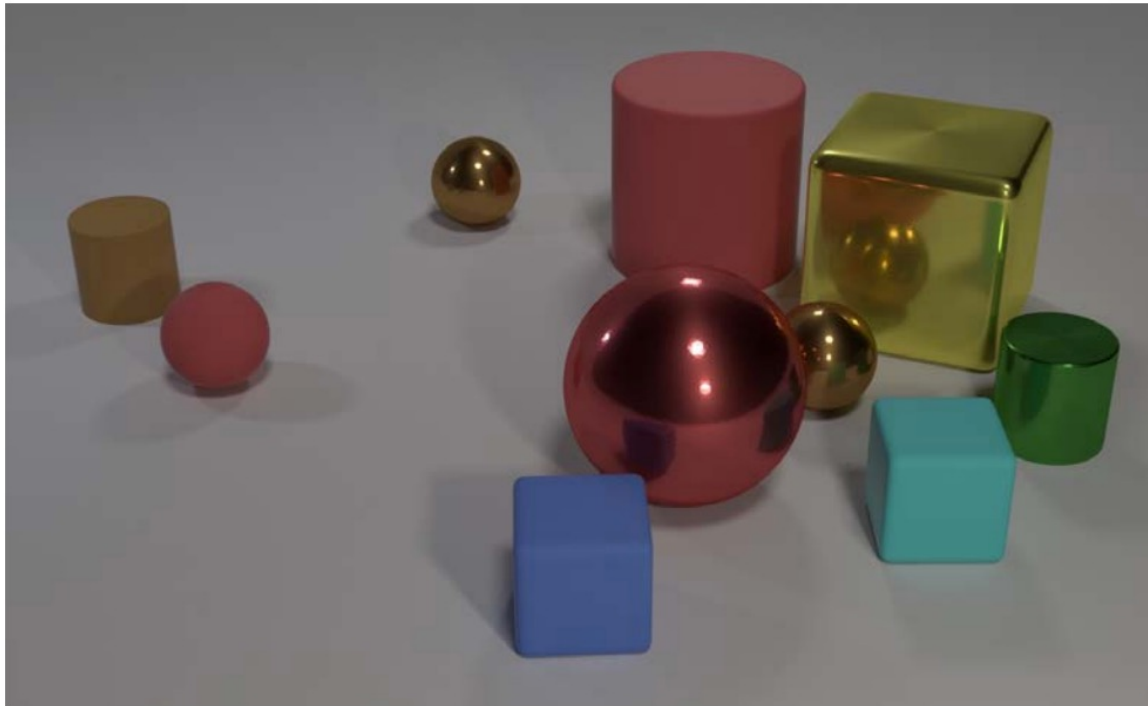
# Human-Like Reasoning



**Question:** *Are there an equal number of large things and metal spheres?*



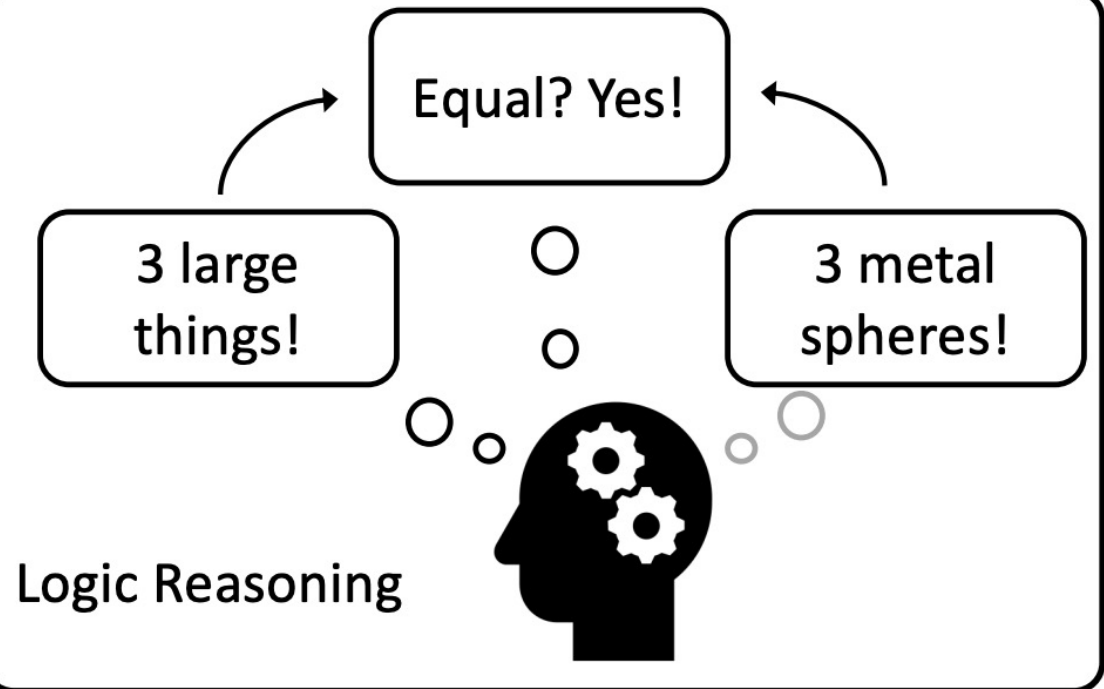
# Human-Like Reasoning



Visual Perception

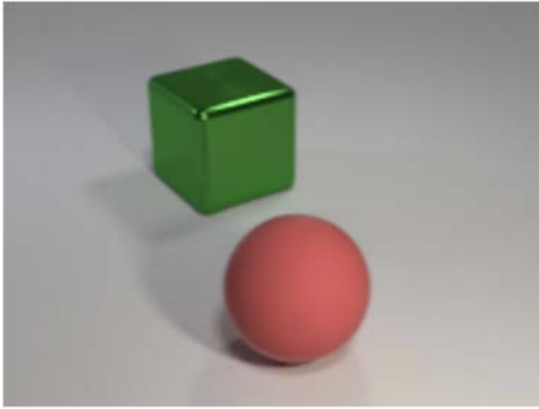
## Question Understanding

**Question:** *Are there an equal number of large things and metal spheres?*



# Neuro-Symbolic AI

**Vision**



**Scene  
Parsing**

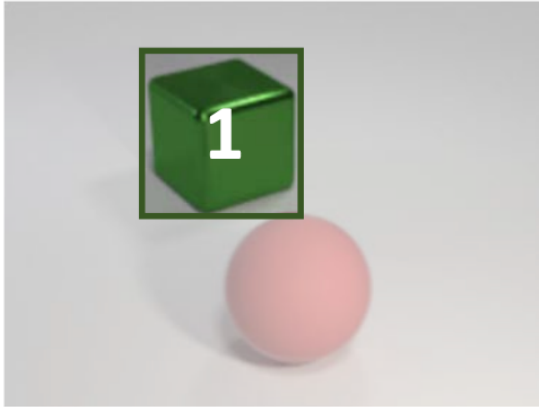


**Language**

Q: What's the shape of  
the red object?

# Neuro-Symbolic AI

## Vision



Scene  
Parsing  
→

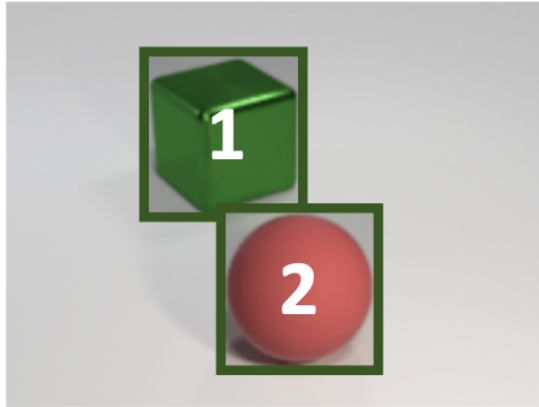
ID	Color	Shape	Material
1	Green	Cube	Metal

## Language

Q: What's the shape of  
the red object?

# Neuro-Symbolic AI

## Vision



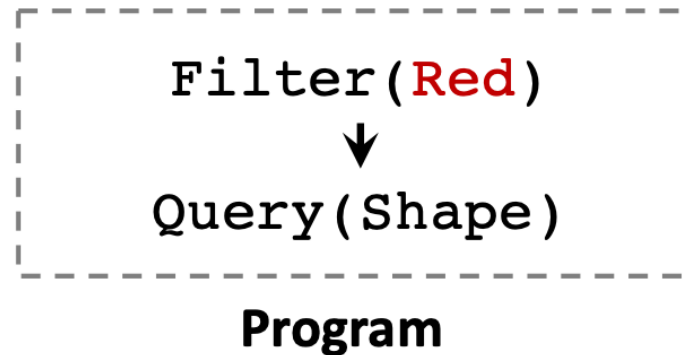
Scene  
Parsing  
→

ID	Color	Shape	Material
1	Green	Cube	Metal
2	Red	Sphere	Rubber

## Language

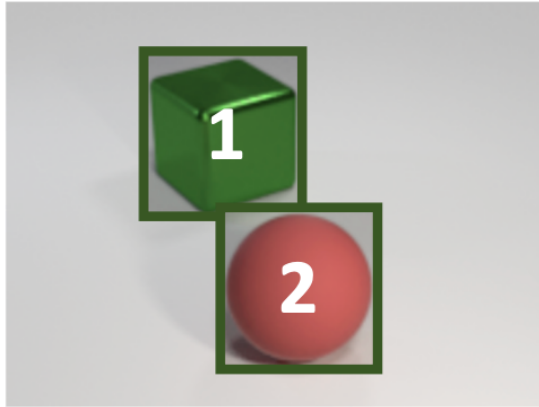
Q: What's the shape of  
the red object?

Semantic  
Parsing  
→



# Neuro-Symbolic AI

## Vision



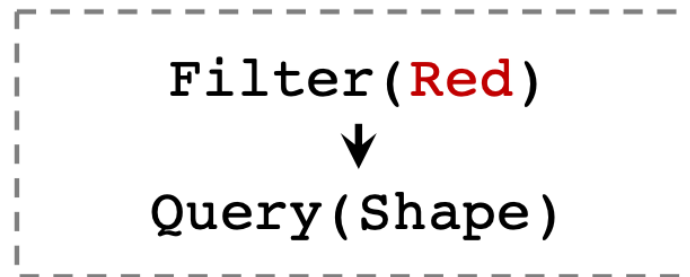
Scene  
Parsing

ID	Color	Shape	Material
1	Green	Cube	Metal
2	Red	Sphere	Rubber

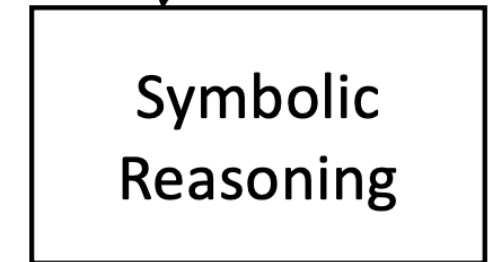
## Language

Q: What's the shape of  
the red object?

Semantic  
Parsing



Program



# Neuro-Symbolic AI

## Vision



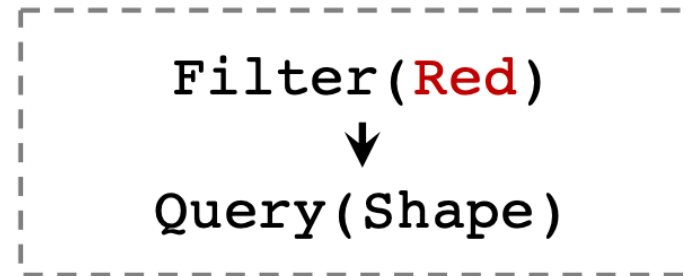
Scene  
Parsing

ID	Color	Shape	Material
1	Green	Cube	Metal
2	Red	Sphere	Rubber

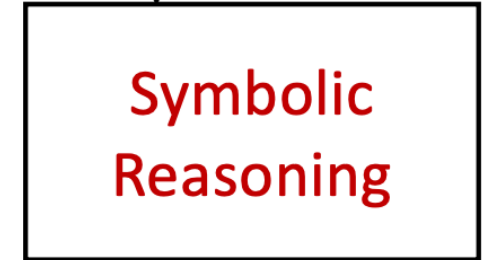
## Language

Q: What's the shape of  
the red object?

Semantic  
Parsing



Program



# Neuro-Symbolic AI

## Vision



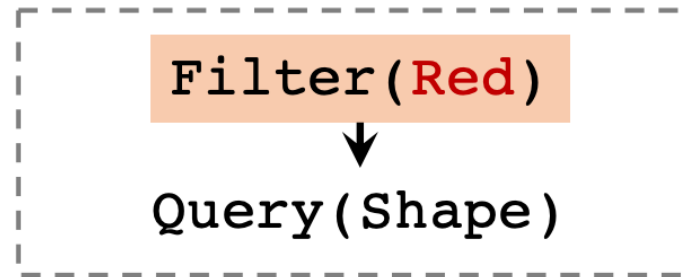
Scene  
Parsing

ID	Color	Shape	Material
1	Green	Cube	Metal
2	Red	Sphere	Rubber

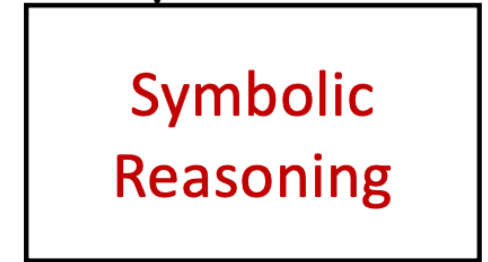
## Language

Q: What's the shape of  
the red object?

Semantic  
Parsing



Program



# Neuro-Symbolic AI

## Vision



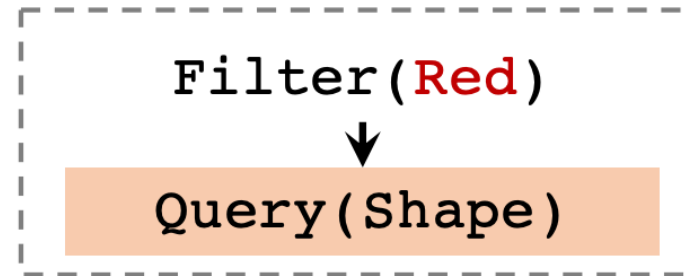
Scene  
Parsing

ID	Color	Shape	Material
1	Green	Cube	Metal
2	Red	<i>Sphere</i>	Rubber

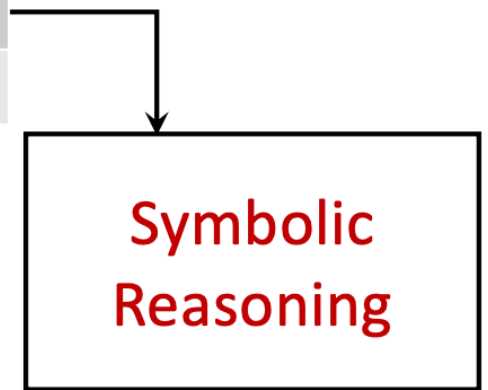
## Language

Q: What's the shape of  
the red object?

Semantic  
Parsing




Program



Sphere

# Neuro-Symbolic AI (before LLM)

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- Neuro helps Symbolic
- Neuro  Symbolic

# Neuro for Symbolic

- AlphaGo(2016), AlphaZero(2017)
- 问题：传统符号搜索时间复杂度高
- 策略网络 (Policy Network)
  - 缩小搜索空间，只探索可能性大的动作
- 价值网络 (Value Network)
  - 节省大量模拟过程
- 神经网络提供启发式估计
- MCTS进行严谨符号化搜索
- 搜索结果辅助神经网络训练

## Monte-Carlo Game Tree Search



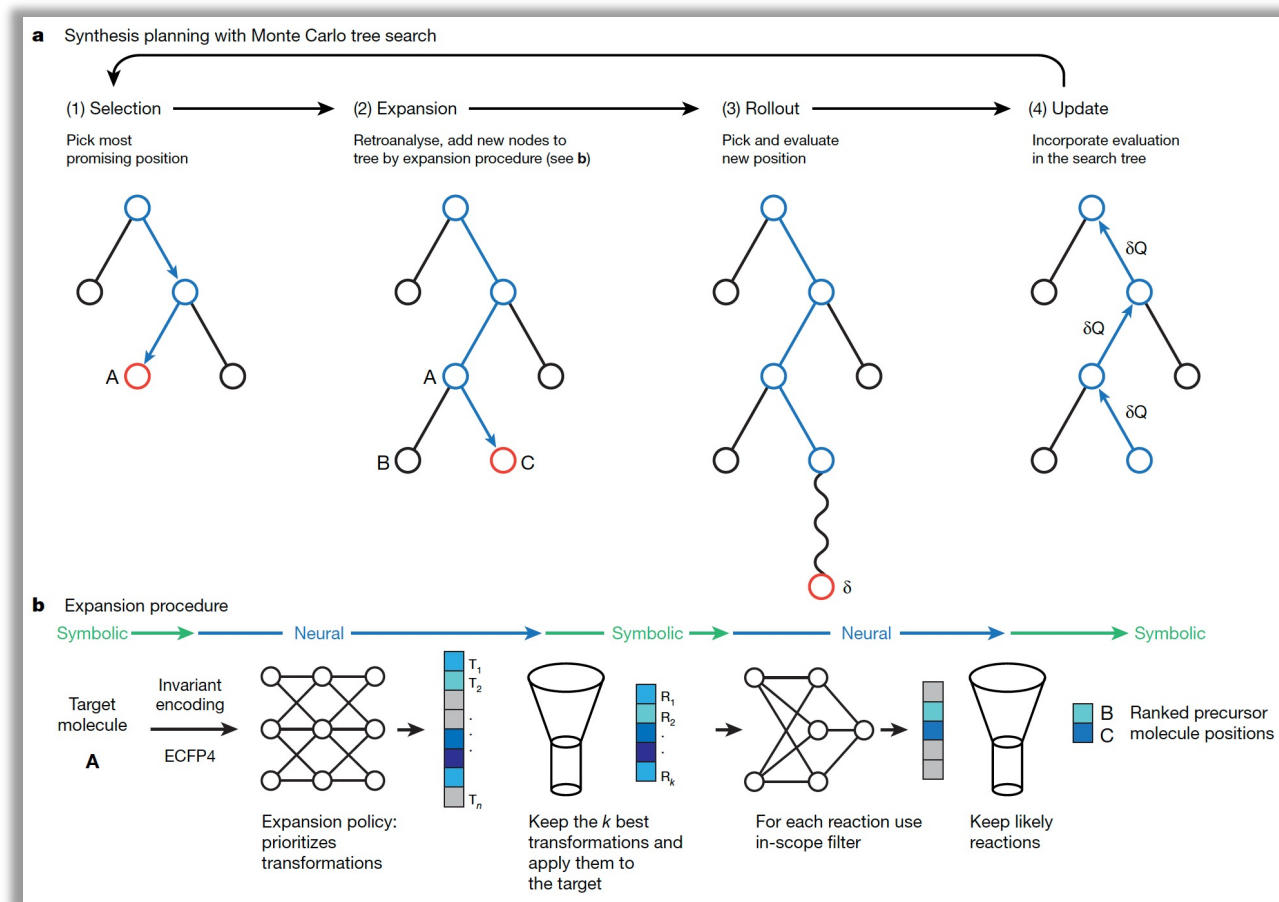
The diagram shows a blue rectangular area with the title 'Monte-Carlo Game Tree Search' at the top. Inside, there are three yellow arrows forming a path: one pointing down-left, one pointing down-right, and one pointing down-left. At the bottom right of this area is a brown rounded rectangle containing the text 'NN State Estimator'.

NN State Estimator

# Neuro for Symbolic

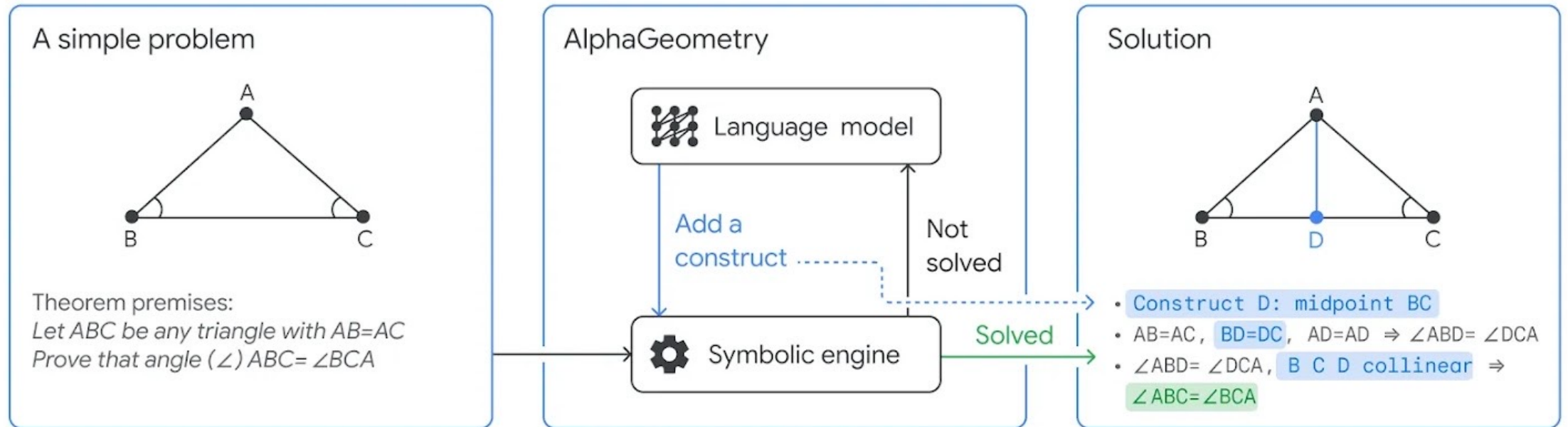
## 化学领域的“AlphaGo”：逆合成分析 (Retrosynthesis)

- 目标：给定一个复杂的目标分子（药物），如何用简单原料合成它？
- 符号空间：化学反应规则是离散的符号(例如：A物质 + B物质  $\rightarrow$  C物质)，逆向搜索空间极其巨大
- Symbolic: 蒙特卡洛树搜索 (MCTS)，树的节点是分子，边是化学反应规则
- Neural: 训练一个深度神经网络，输入当前分子结构，预测哪种反应规则最有可能成功将其分解为更简单的片段（类似 AlphaGo 预测下一步棋）



# Neuro for Symbolic

- AlphaGeometry: An Olympiad-Level AI System for Geometry
- Neuro-Networks guide the symbolic engine by **suggesting constructs**



Neuro  $\begin{matrix} \rightarrow \\ \leftarrow \end{matrix}$  Symbolic  $\begin{matrix} \rightarrow \\ \leftarrow \end{matrix}$

## 符号推理与神经网络联合优化?

- 神经网络依赖梯度优化，但是经典逻辑不可微，难以联合优化
- 实值逻辑(Real Logic): 一种将逻辑真值映射到连续实数域([0, 1])的数学框架

### 逻辑与( $\wedge$ )

**Gödel:**

$$A \wedge B = \min(A, B)$$

**Product:**

$$A \wedge B = A \cdot B$$

**Lukasiewicz:**

$$A \wedge B = \max(0, A + B - 1)$$

### 逻辑或( $\vee$ )

**Gödel:**

$$A \vee B = \max(A, B)$$

**Product:**

$$A \vee B = A + B - A \cdot B$$

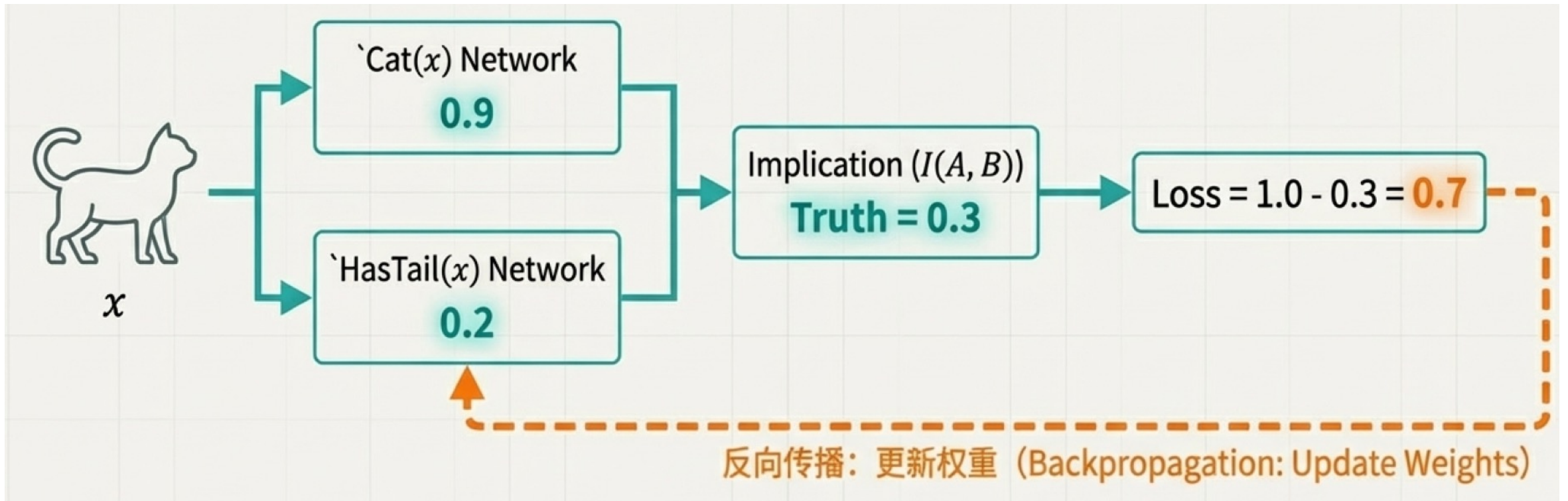
### 逻辑非( $\neg$ )

**Standard:**

$$\neg A = 1 - A$$

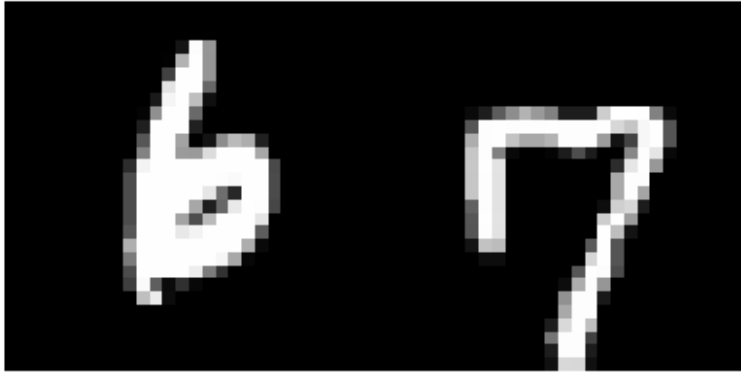
Neuro  $\xrightarrow{\quad}$  Symbolic  $\xrightarrow{\quad}$   
 $\xleftarrow{\quad}$   $\xleftarrow{\quad}$

$\forall x: \text{Cat}(x) \rightarrow \text{HasTail}(x)$

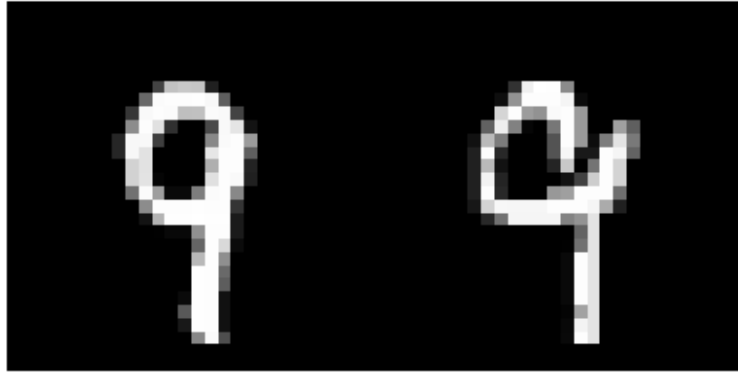


# 手写数字加法

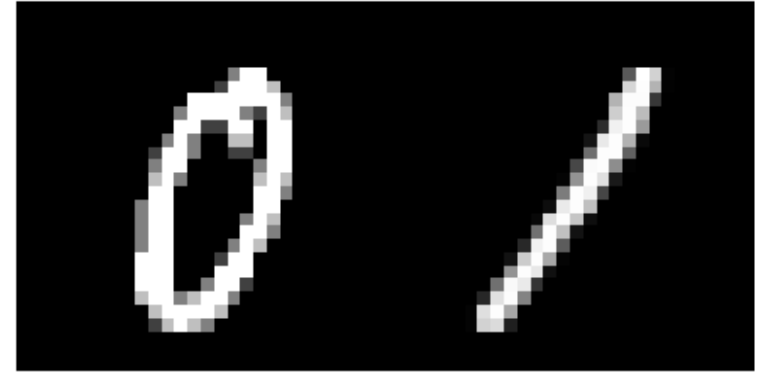
Sum: 13



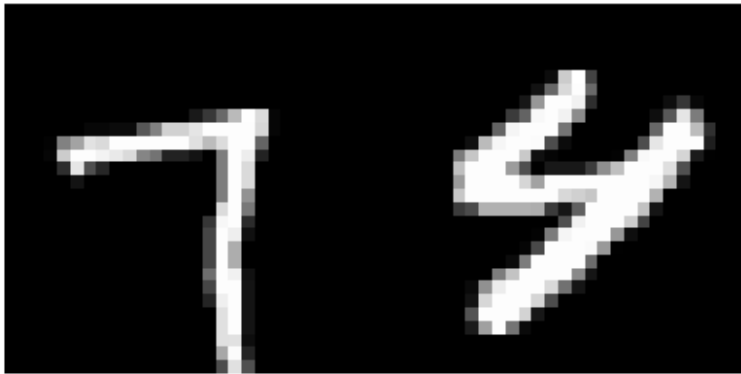
Sum: 18



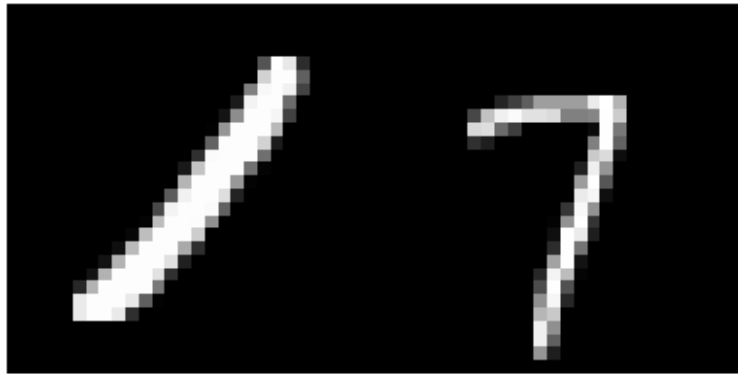
Sum: 1



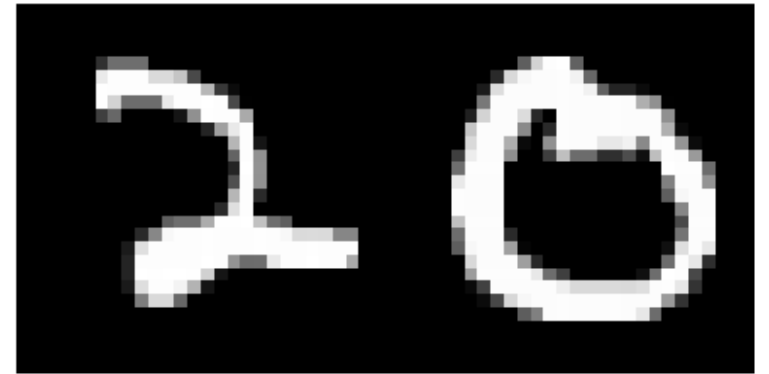
Sum: 11



Sum: 8



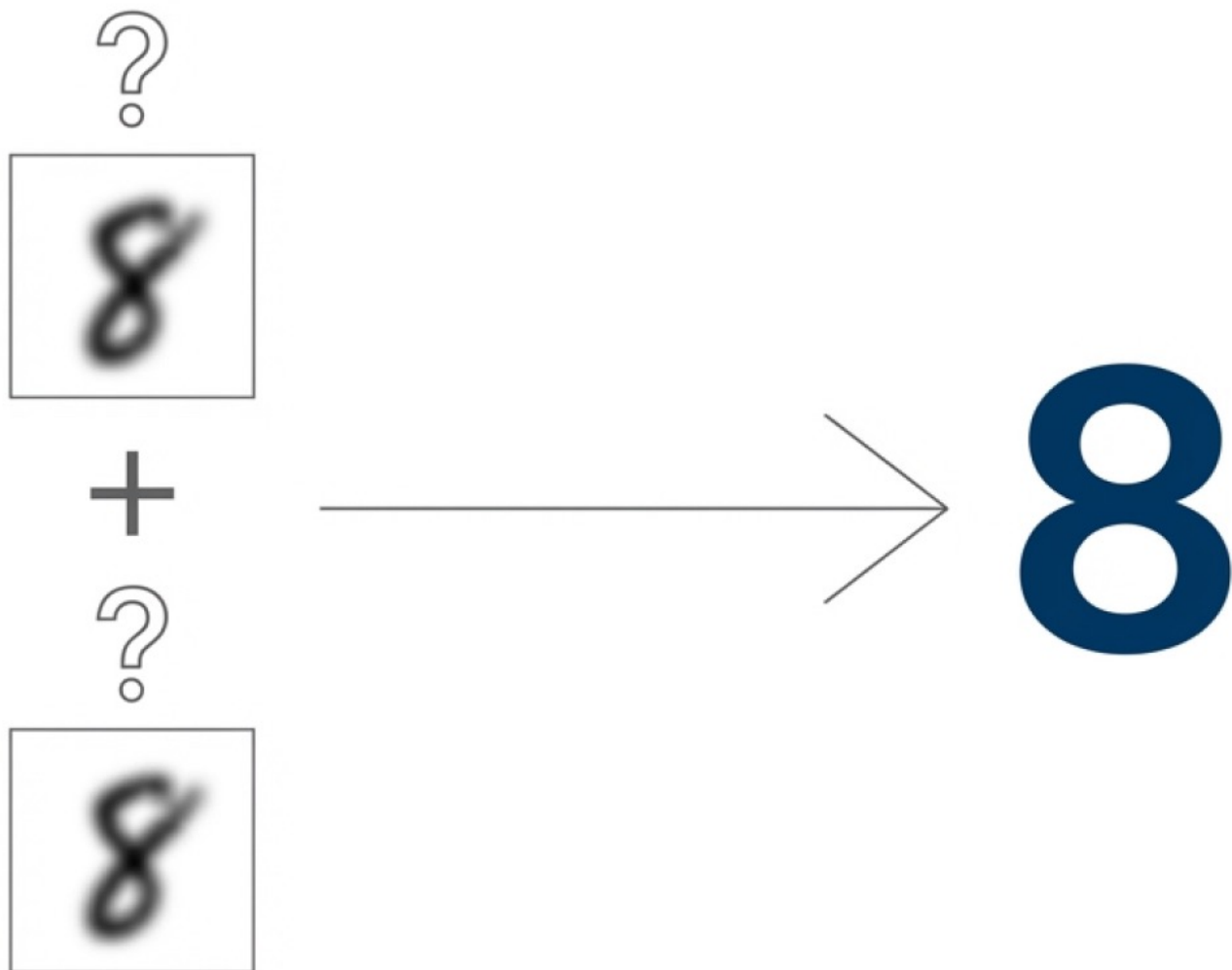
Sum: 2



# 手写数字加法

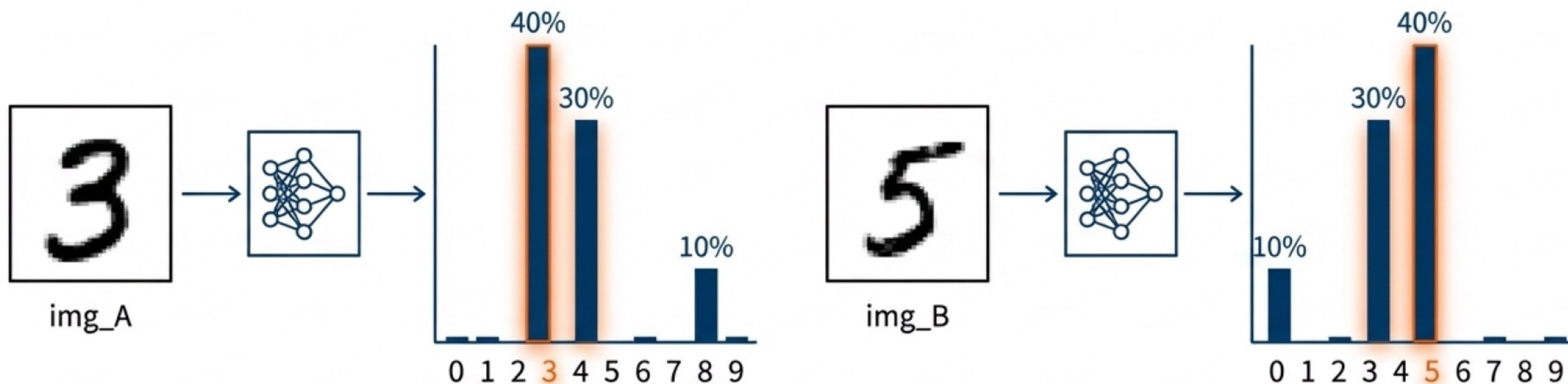
- 输入：两张手写数字图片
- 已知：它们的数字之和
- 缺失：每张图片各自独立的标签

我们能否在不看到单个数字标签的情况下，教会机器识别每个数字？



# DeepProbLog

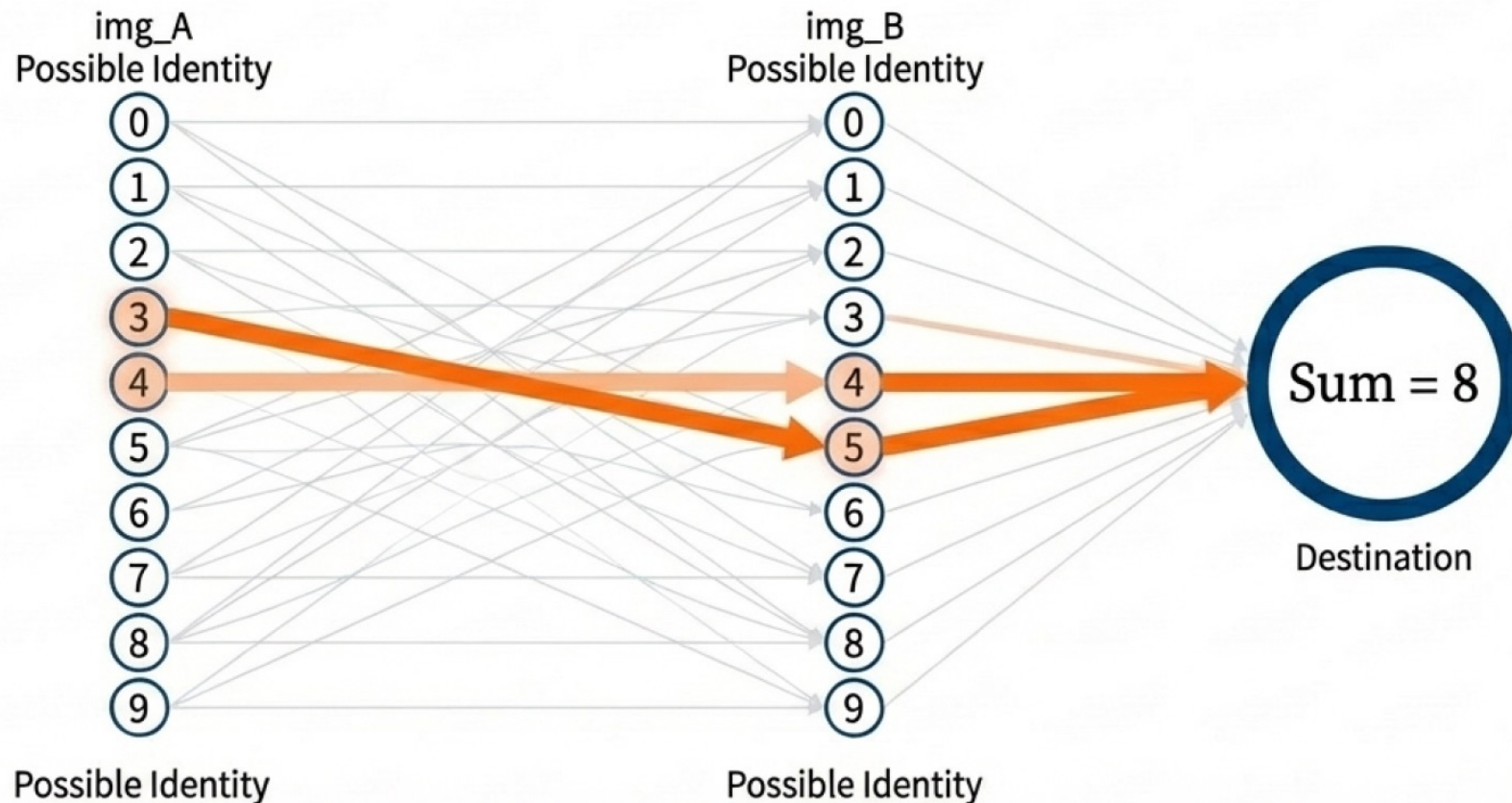
- 第一步：神经网络的初步猜测
- 神经网络接收图片，输出类别概率分布，由于未经训练，它的输出是模糊和不确定的



# DeepProbLog

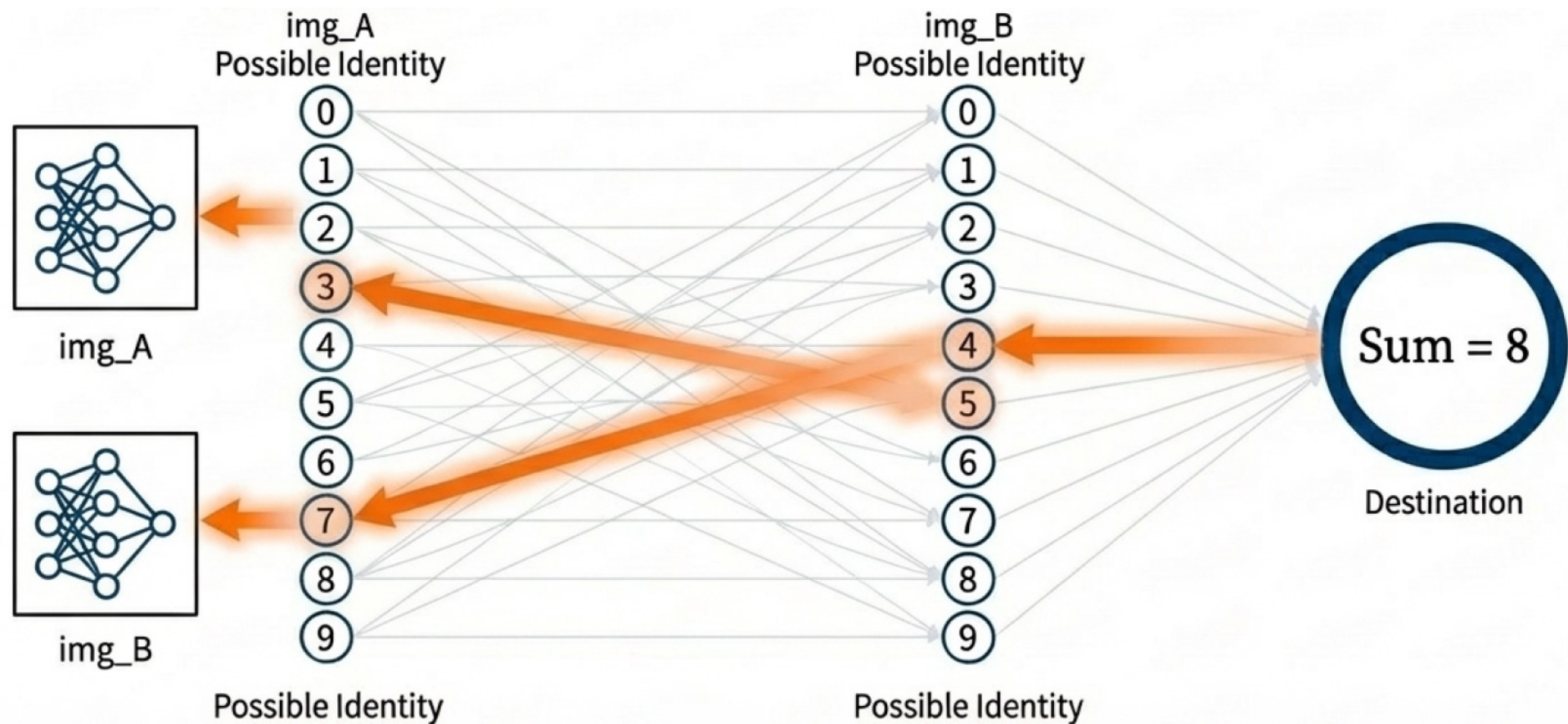
- DeepProbLog引擎根据 $X+Y=8$ 的规则，计算所有满足该规则的可能世界的概率

$$P(\text{sum}=8) = P(d1=0, d2=8) + \dots + P(d1=3, d2=5) + P(d1=4, d2=4) + \dots$$



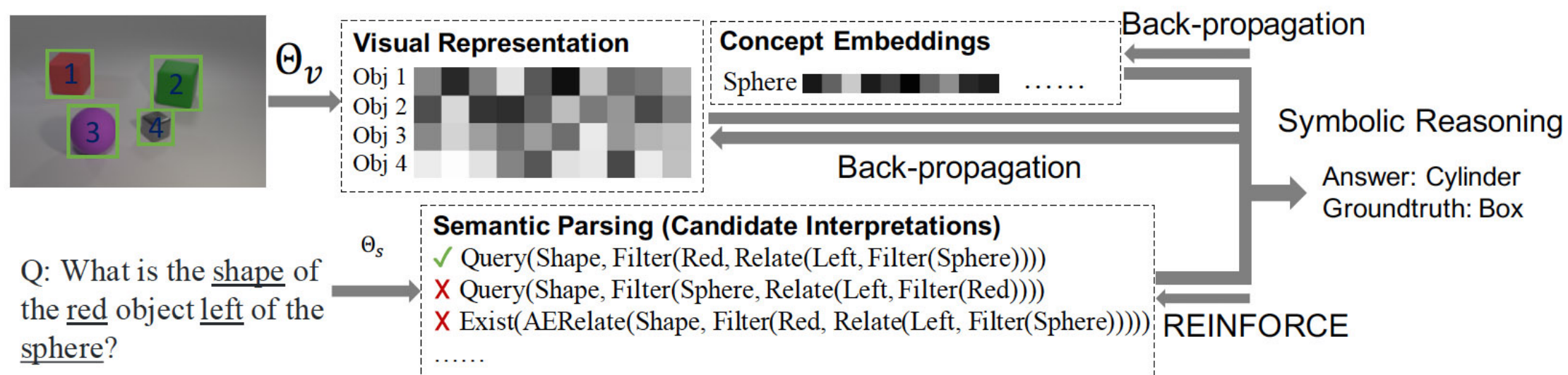
# DeepProbLog

系统的目标是最大化 $P(\text{sum}=8)$ ，根据损失函数反向更新权重



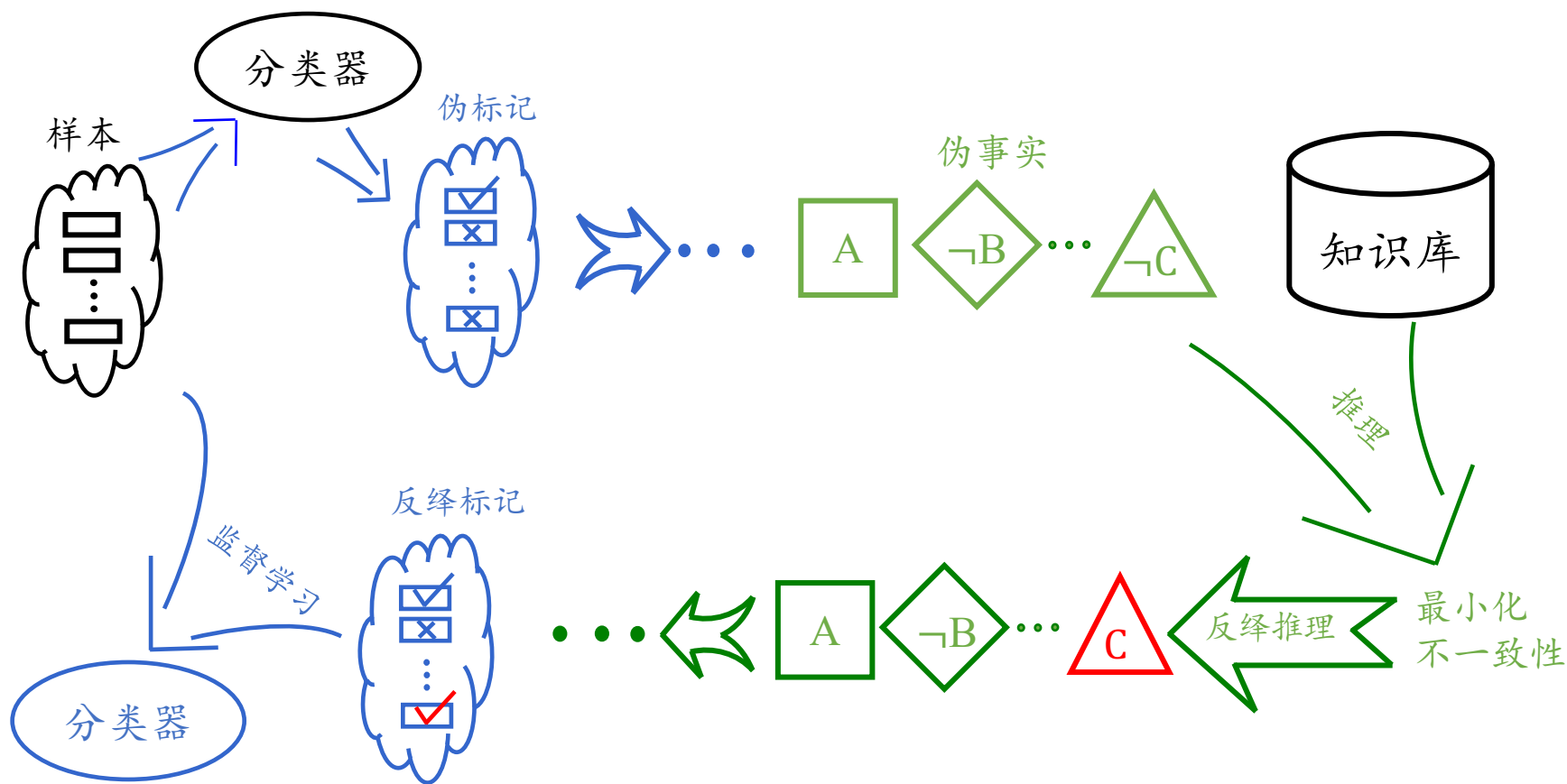
# Neuro $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ Symbolic $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ $\xleftarrow{\quad}$ $\xleftarrow{\quad}$

- Neuro-Symbolic Concept Learner (NS-CL)
- 神经网络负责感知，符号系统负责推理
- 通过反向传播端到端优化



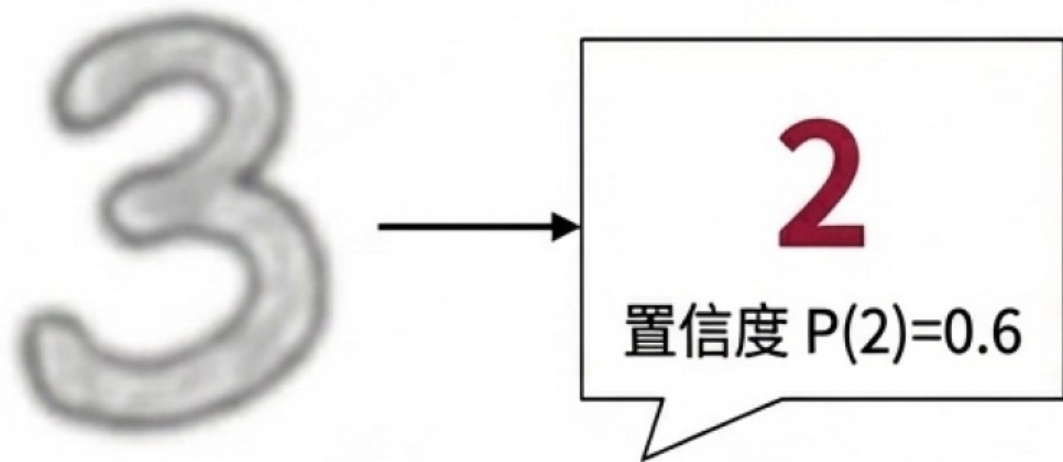
# Neuro $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ Symbolic $\xrightarrow{\quad}$ $\xleftarrow{\quad}$ $\xleftarrow{\quad}$

- Abductive Learning (ABL): 无需逻辑可微

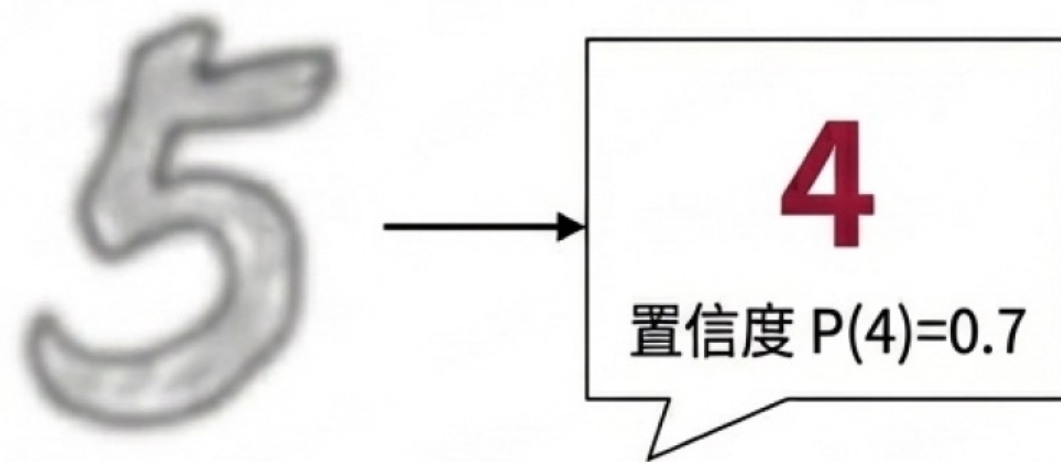


# Abductive Learning (ABL)

## 步骤1: 机器学习预测



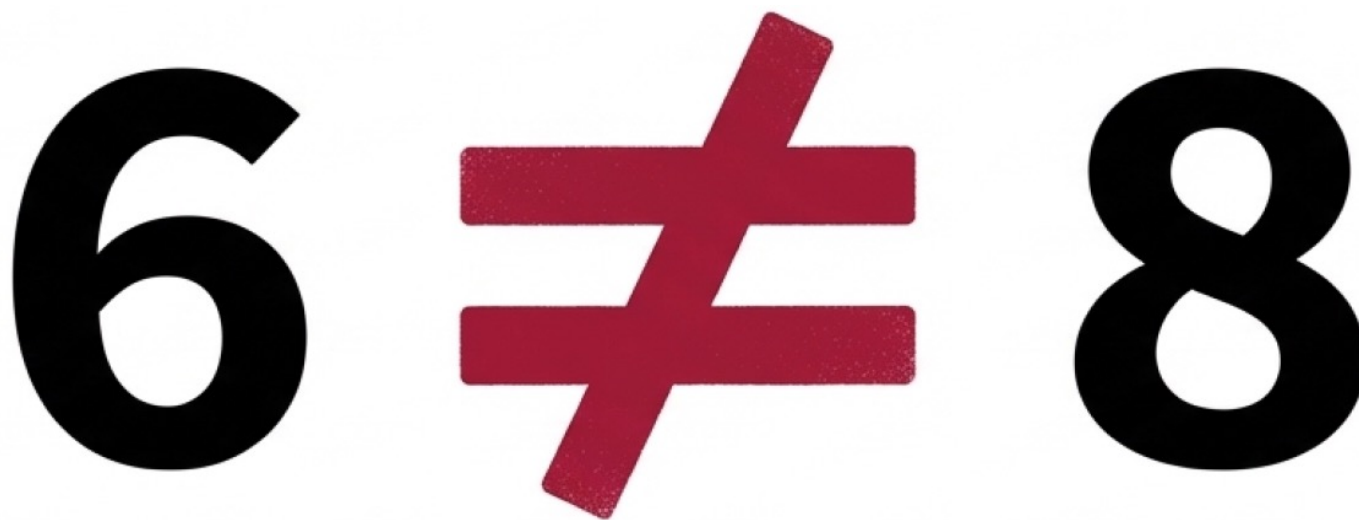
左图 (ImgA - 实际为3)



右图 (ImgB - 实际为5)

# Abductive Learning (ABL)

步骤2: 知识库检查



计算:  $2+4=6$

机器学习模型输出与  
逻辑推理存在矛盾

# Abductive Learning (ABL)

## 步骤3: 反绎推理(Abduction)

已知最终结果必须为8, 且

加法规则是 $X+Y=Z$

为了让 $X+Y$ 成立,  $X, Y$ 可能

是什么?

生成一致性假设

$H_1: (0, 8)$

$H_2: (1, 7)$

$H_3: (2, 6)$

**$H_4: (3, 5)$**

$H_5: (4, 4)$

# Abductive Learning (ABL)

## 反绎修正

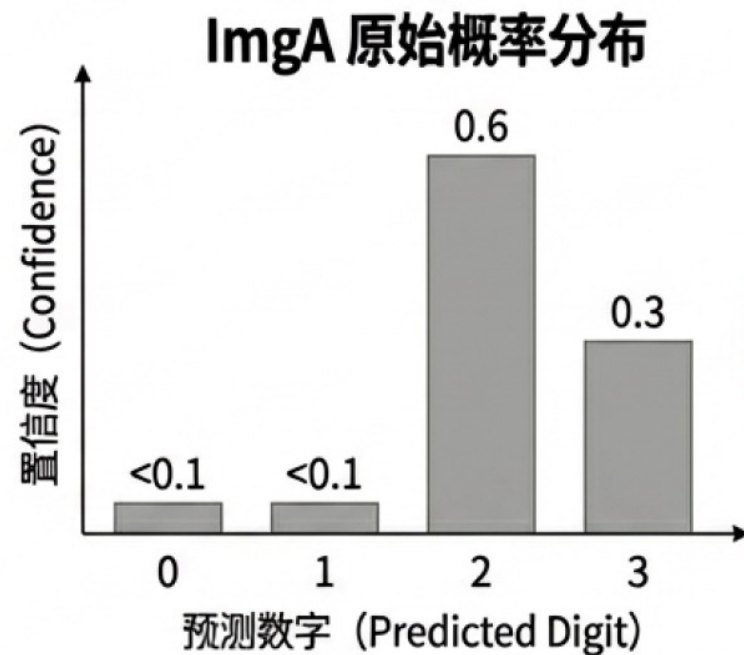
$H_1: (0, 8)$

$H_2: (1, 7)$

$H_3: (2, 6)$

**$H_4: (3, 5)$**

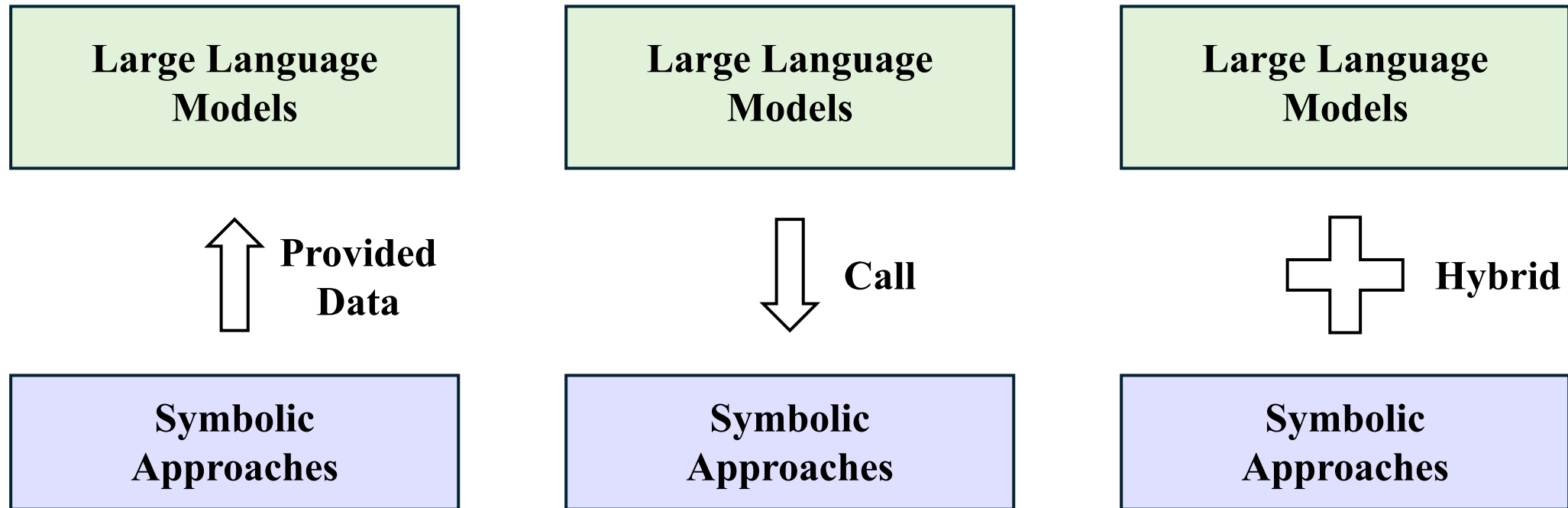
$H_5: (4, 4)$



**(3, 5)**

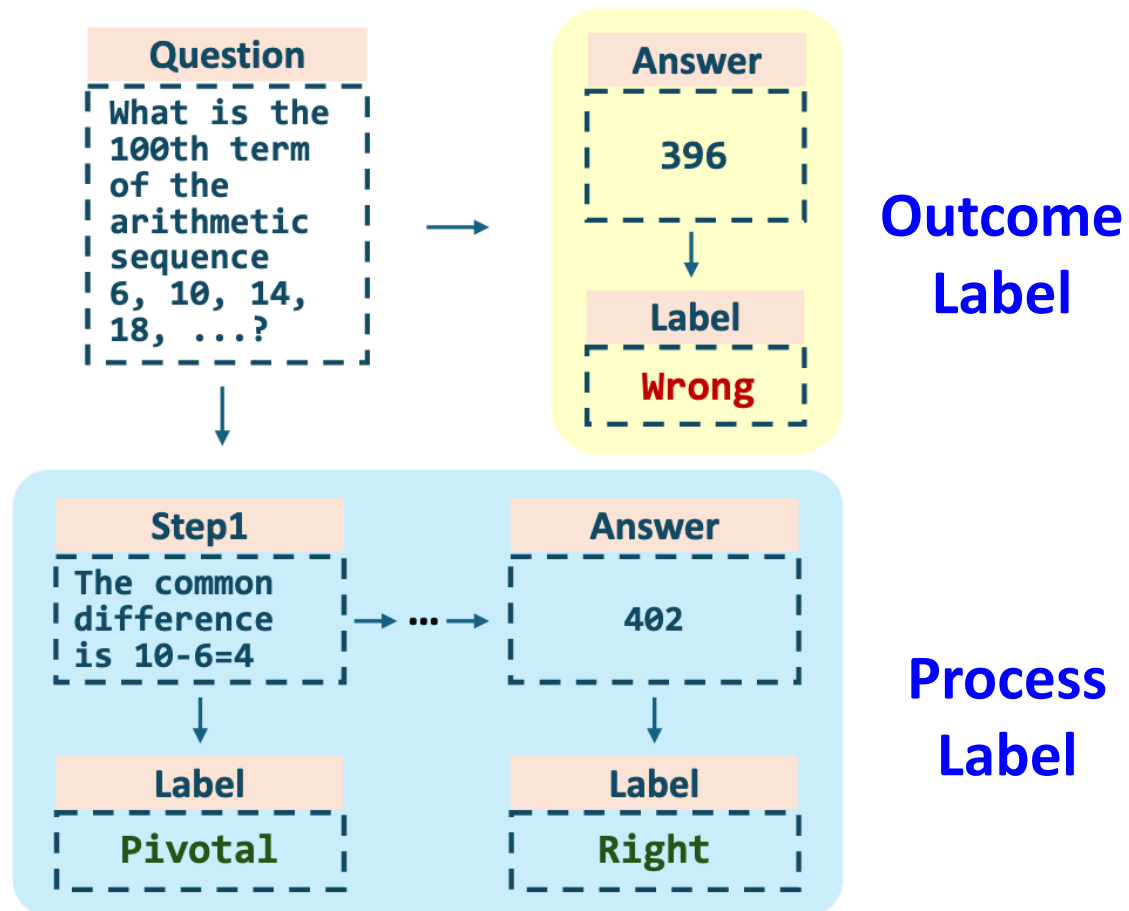
综合评估后，推理机选择 (3, 5) 作为最可靠的修正假设。

# Neuro-Symbolic Methods with LLMs






# Supervision for Reasoning & Planning Tasks

**Data Collection, especially the label collection is very expensive.** Different from classification tasks, reasoning requires not only the **outcome label** but also the **reasoning process label**









The denominator of a fraction is 7 less than 3 times the numerator. If the fraction is equivalent to  $\frac{2}{5}$ , what is the numerator of the fraction? (Answer: 14)

   Let's call the numerator  $x$ .

   So the denominator is  $3x-7$ .

   We know that  $\frac{x}{3x-7} = \frac{2}{5}$ .

   So  $5x = 2(3x-7)$ .

    $5x = 6x - 14$ .

   So  $x = 7$ .

# Automatic Data Generation

Many heuristic methods can be developed to generate large-scale datasets from seed examples

- Rephrasing, Template-based Augmentation, Numeric Perturbation, LLM Generation, etc

**Meta-Question:** James buys 5 packs of beef that are 4 pounds each. The price of beef is \$5.50 per pound. How much did he pay?

**Answer:** He bought  $5 \times 4 = 20$  pounds of beef. So he paid  $20 \times 5.5 = \$110$ . The answer is: 110



## Question Bootstrapping

**Rephrasing Question:** What is the total amount that James paid when he purchased 5 packs of beef, each weighing 4 pounds, at a price of \$5.50 per pound? **Answer:** .....

**Self-Verification Question:** James buys  $x$  packs of beef that are 4 pounds each. The price of beef is \$5.50 per pound. He paid 110. *What is the value of unknown variable  $x$ ?* **Answer:** .....

**FOBAR Question:** James buys  $x$  packs of beef that are 4 pounds each. The price of beef is \$5.50 per pound. How much did he pay? *If we know the answer to the above question is 110, what is the value of unknown variable  $x$ ?* **Answer:** .....

**Answer Augment:** James buys 5 packs of beef that are 4 pounds each, so he buys a total of  $5 \times 4 = 20$  pounds of beef. The price of beef is \$5.50 per pound, so he pays  $20 \times \$5.50 = \$110$ . The answer is: 110

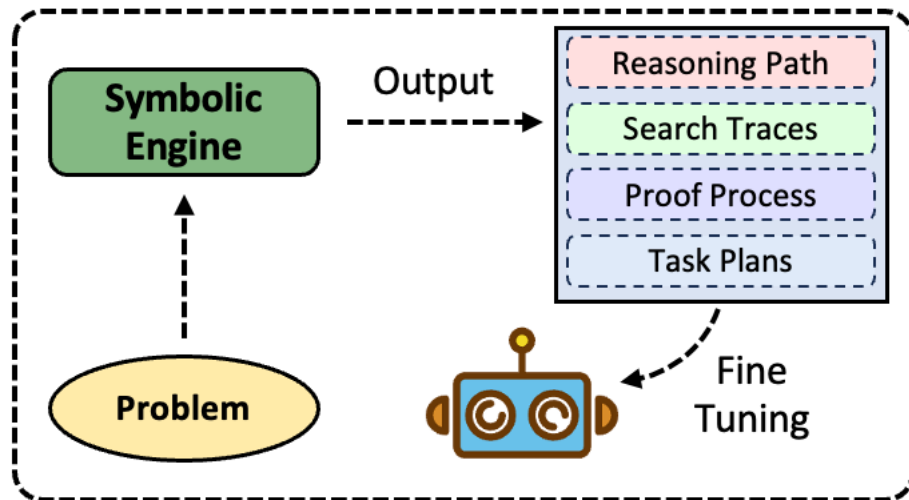
**However, these data generation methods often fail to ensure data diversity and accuracy**

# Symbolic -> LLM

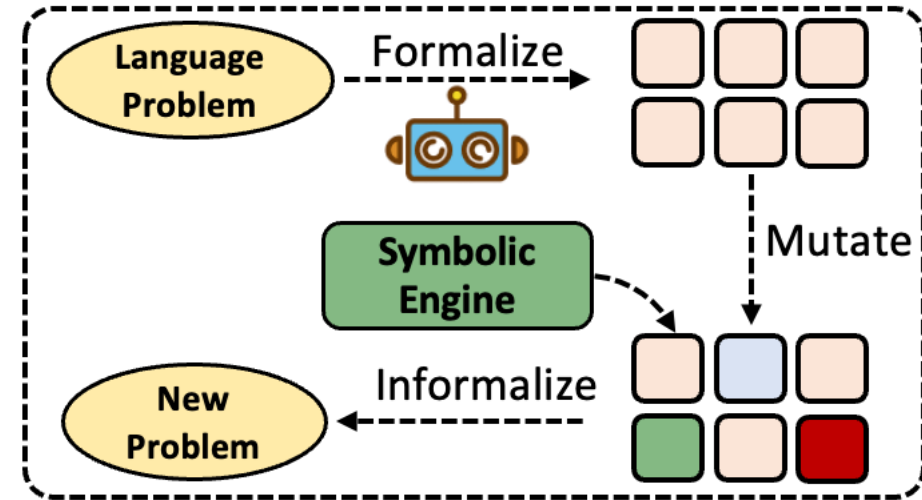
## □ Basic Ideas:

- **Symbolic Generation, LLM Imitation:** Utilize **symbolic engines** (e.g., logic solvers, search algorithms) to **generate reasoning paths**, and **fine-tune LLMs** to imitate the capabilities of symbolic methods
- **LLM Formalize, Symbolic Augment:** Employ LLM to transform **informal natural language data** into a **formal symbolic language**, and perform **data augmentation within the formal space**

*Symbolic Generation, LLM Imitation*

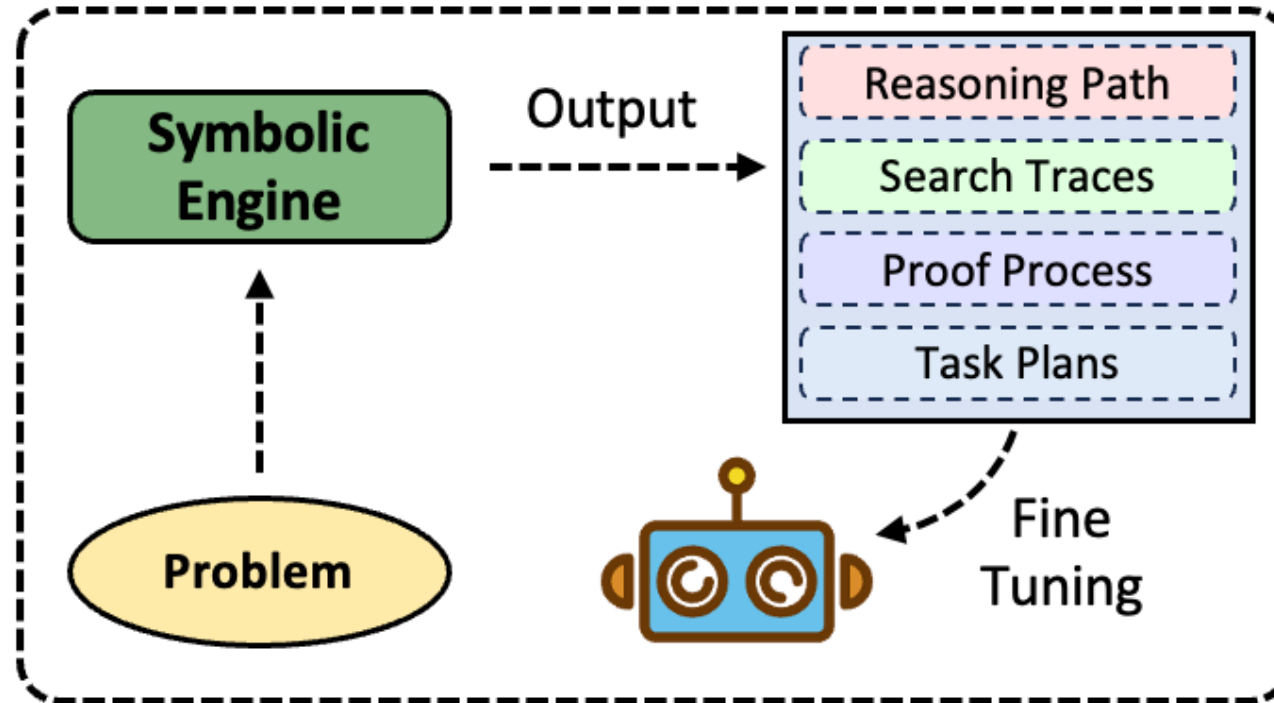


*LLM Formalize, Symbolic Augment*



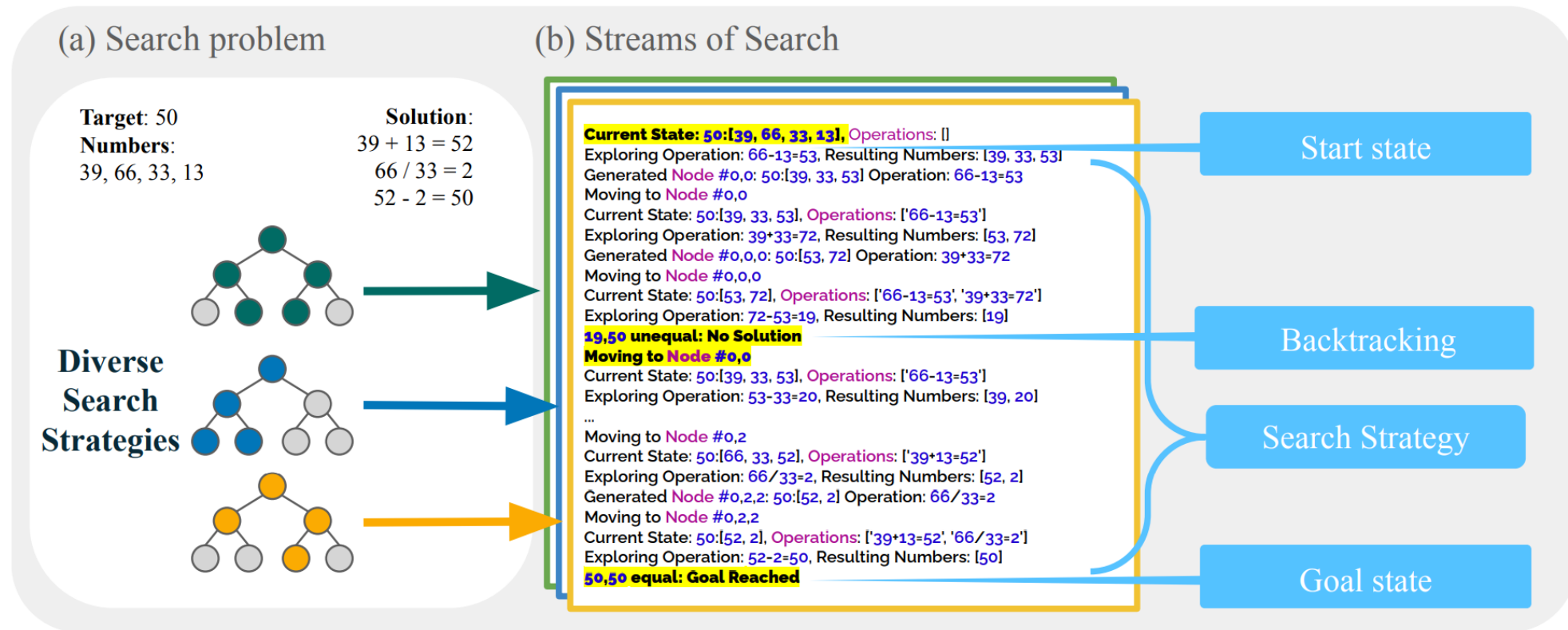
# Symbolic Generation, LLM Imitation

## *Symbolic Generation, LLM Imitation*

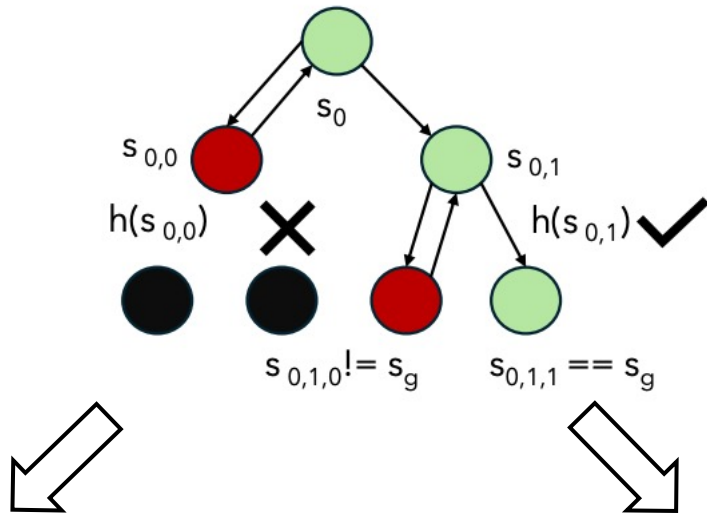


# Symbolic Generation, LLM Imitation

SOS: Use search algorithms to generate solution paths for **Countdown** problems,  
And then fine-tune the LLMs on this data so that it acquires backtracking ability



# Symbolic Generation, LLM Imitation



## Stream of Search

$s_c = s_0$  → Current State  
 $s_{0,0} = SE(s_0)$  → State Expansion  
 Moving to  $s_0$  → Moving between states  
 $s_c = s_0$  → Implicitly evaluate  
 $s_{0,1} = SE(s_0)$  w/ heuristic and prune  
 Moving to  $s_{0,1}$  → Implicit strategy  
 $s_c = s_{0,1}$  for exploring  
 $s_{0,1,0} = SE(s_0)$  → Goal Check  
 $s_{0,1,0} \neq s_g$  → Backtracking  
 Moving to  $s_{0,1}$   
 $s_c = s_{0,1}$   
 $s_{0,1,1} = SE(s_0)$   
 $s_{0,1,1} == s_g$  → Goal State  
 Goal Reached!

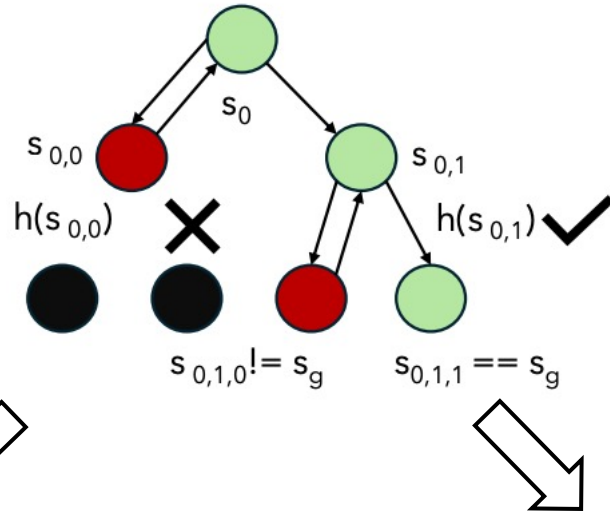
## Optimal Path

$s_c = s_0$   
 $s_{0,1} = SE(s_0)$   
 Moving to  $s_{0,1}$   
 $s_c = s_{0,1}$   
 $s_{0,1,1} = SE(s_0)$   
 $s_{0,1,1} == s_g$   
 Goal Reached!

Only correct steps included

[1] Stream of Search (SoS): Learning to Search in Language. COLM 2024.

# Symbolic Generation, LLM Imitation



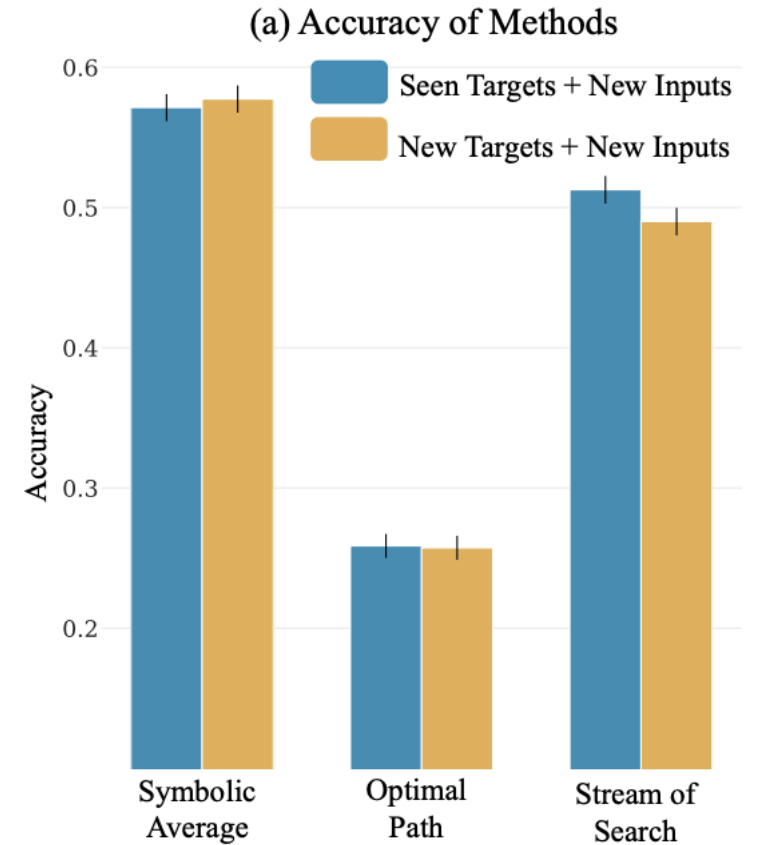
## Stream of Search

$s_c = s_0$  → Current State  
 $s_{0,0} = SE(s_0)$  → State Expansion  
 Moving to  $s_0$  → Moving between states  
 $s_c = s_0$  → Implicitly evaluate w/ heuristic and prune  
 $s_{0,1} = SE(s_0)$  → Implicit strategy for exploring  
 Moving to  $s_{0,1}$  → Goal Check  
 $s_{0,1,0} = SE(s_0)$  → Backtracking  
 $s_{0,1,0} \neq s_g$  → Backtracking  
 Moving to  $s_{0,1}$  → Backtracking  
 $s_c = s_{0,1}$  → Implicit strategy for exploring  
 $s_{0,1,1} = SE(s_0)$  → Goal Check  
 $s_{0,1,1} == s_g$  → Goal State  
 Goal Reached!

## Optimal Path

$s_c = s_0$   
 $s_{0,1} = SE(s_0)$   
 Moving to  $s_{0,1}$   
 $s_c = s_{0,1}$   
 $s_{0,1,1} = SE(s_0)$   
 $s_{0,1,1} == s_g$   
 Goal Reached!

Only correct steps included



LLMs fine-tuned on

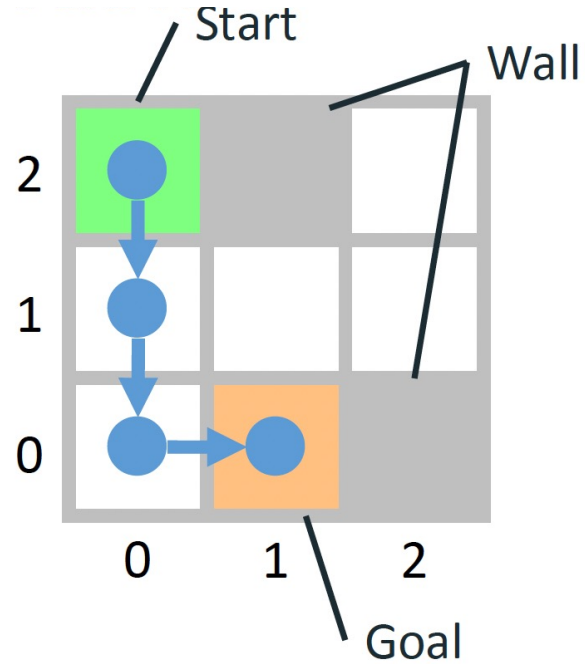
**search process data**

outperform those trained on

**optimal path data**

# Symbolic Generation, LLM Imitation

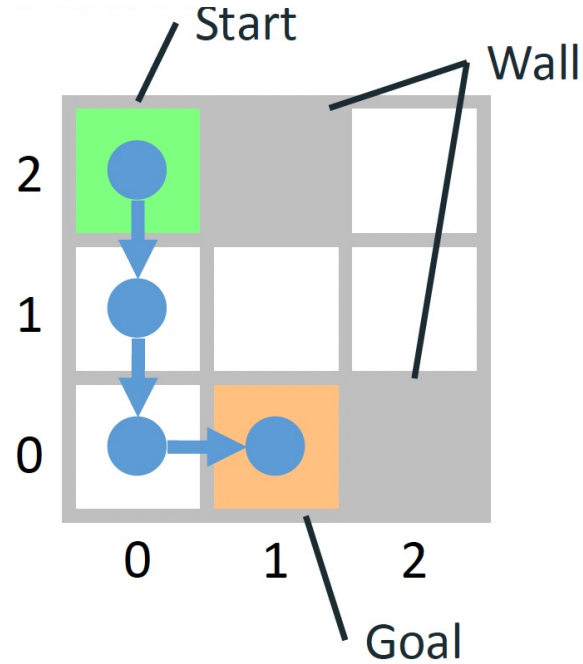
SearchFormer: Train transformer with A\* generated traces for maze navigation tasks



- → Plan step
- Frontier state
- Closed state

# Symbolic Generation, LLM Imitation

SearchFormer: Train transformer with A\* generated traces for maze navigation tasks



- Plan step
- Frontier state
- Closed state

<prompt>

```
bos
start 0 2
goal 1 0
wall 1 2
wall 2 0
eos
```



<trace><plan>

```
bos
create 0 2 c0 c3
close 0 2 c0 c3
create 0 1 c1 c2
close 0 1 c1 c2
create 0 0 c2 c1
create 1 1 c2 c1
close 0 0 c2 c1
create 1 0 c3 c0
close 1 0 c3 c0
plan 0 2
plan 0 1
plan 0 0
plan 1 0
eos
```

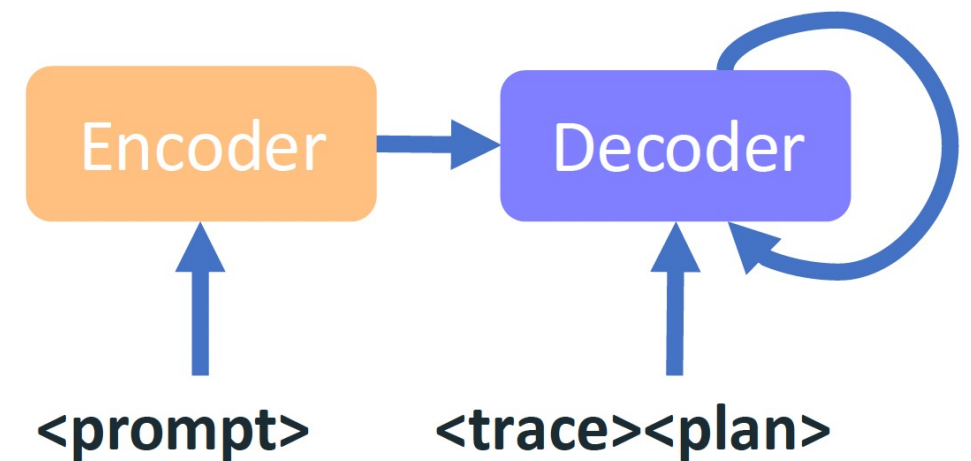
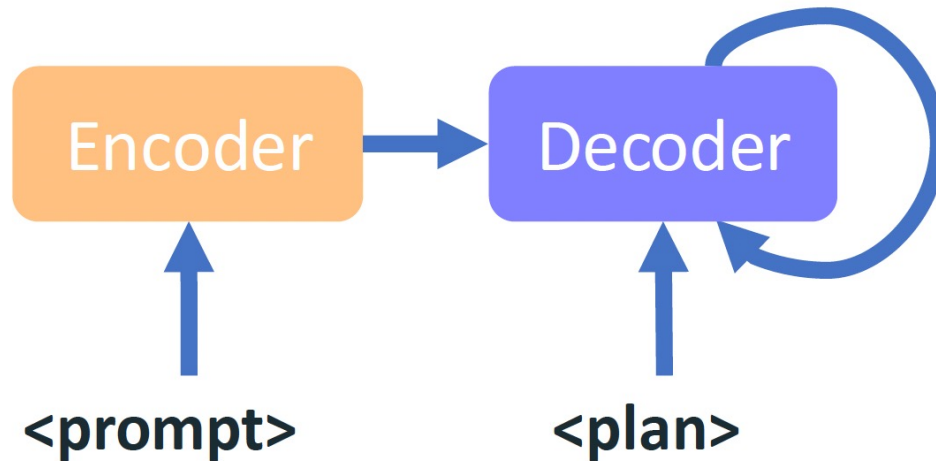
# Symbolic Generation, LLM Imitation

Train a Transformer to predict the next token via teacher forcing

Model

Solution-Only Model

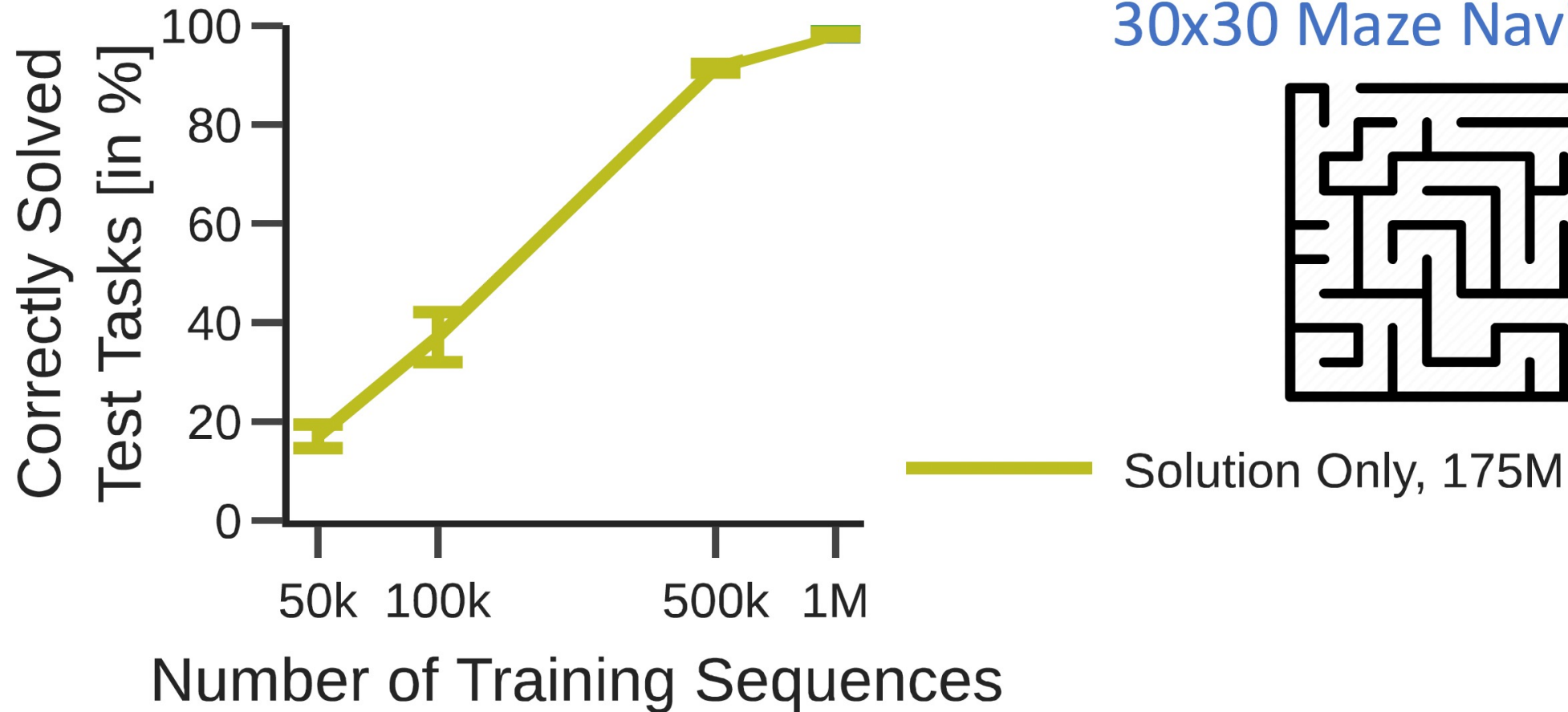
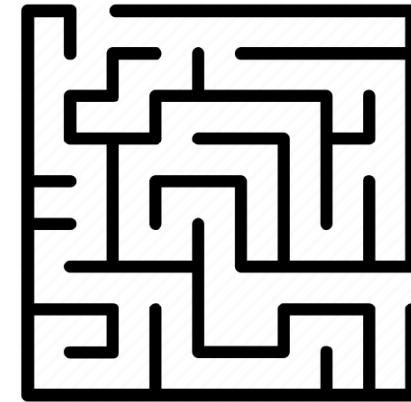
Search-Augmented Model



# Symbolic Generation, LLM Imitation

## Search-Augmented vs. Solution-Only Models

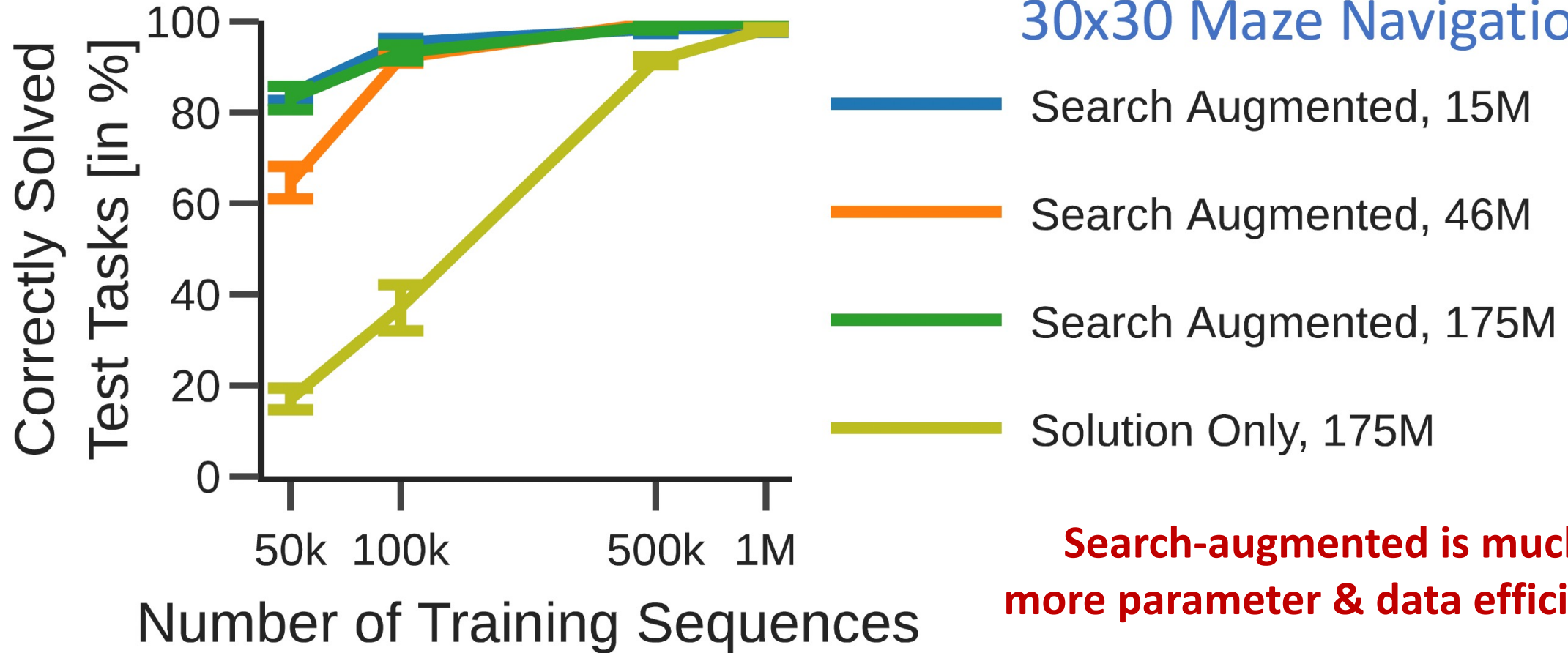
30x30 Maze Navigation



# Symbolic Generation, LLM Imitation

## Search-Augmented vs. Solution-Only Models

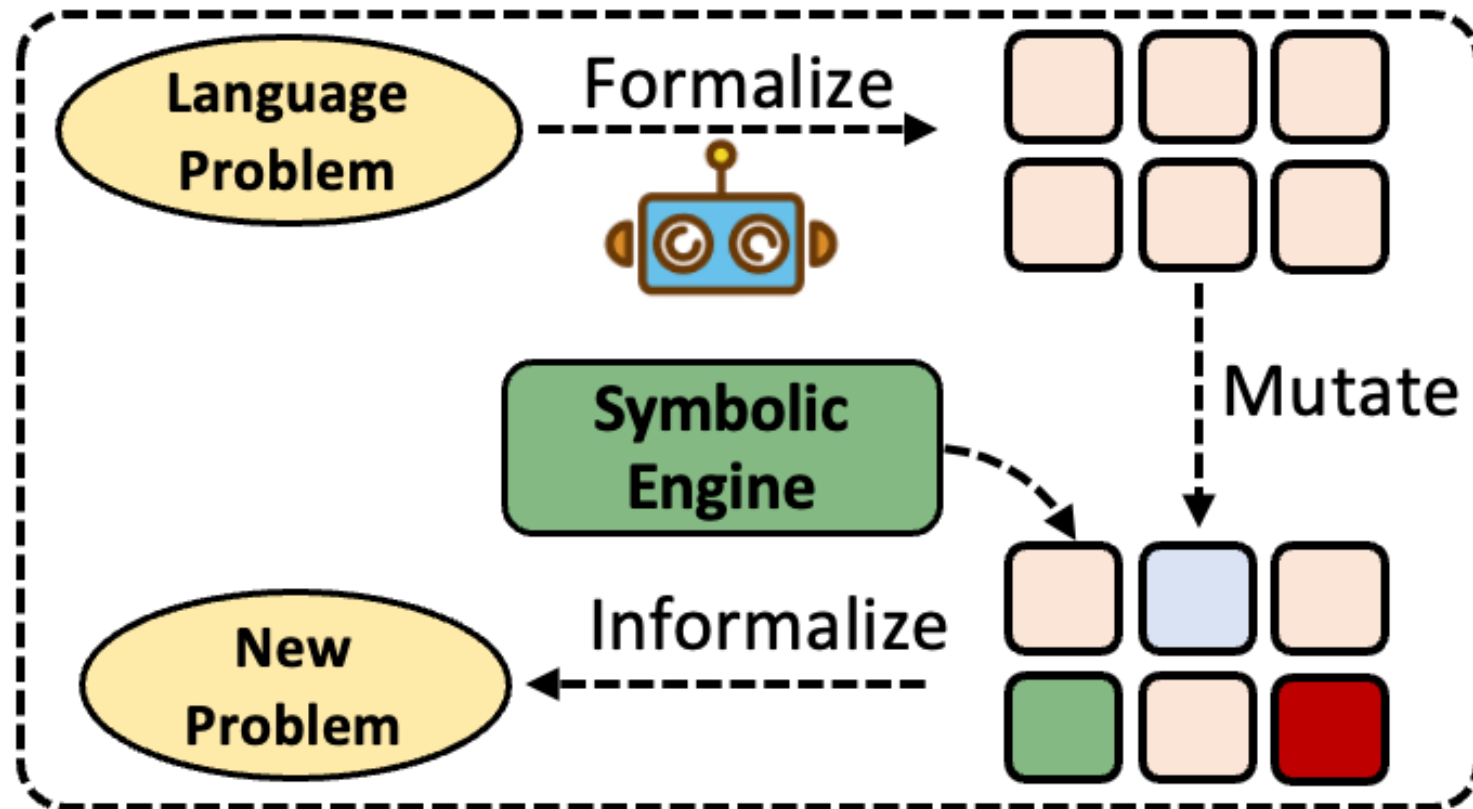
### 30x30 Maze Navigation



**Search-augmented is much more parameter & data efficient!**

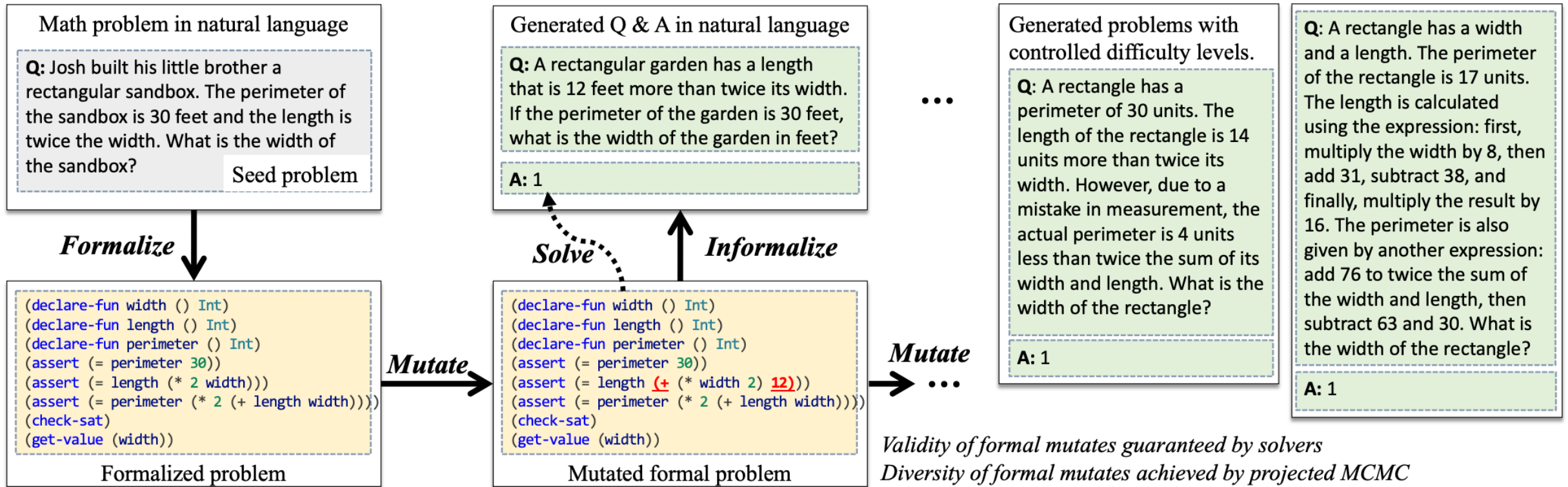
# LLM Formalize, Symbolic Augment

## LLM Formalize, Symbolic Augment



# LLM Formalize, Symbolic Augment

**NSDG:** Convert math problems into **SMT-LIB language**, perform **data augmentation** within the formal space, and finally use an LLM to translate the formal language back into natural language



# Neuro-Symbolic Data Generation for math reasoning

Supervised fine-tuning of the base model on the constructed dataset

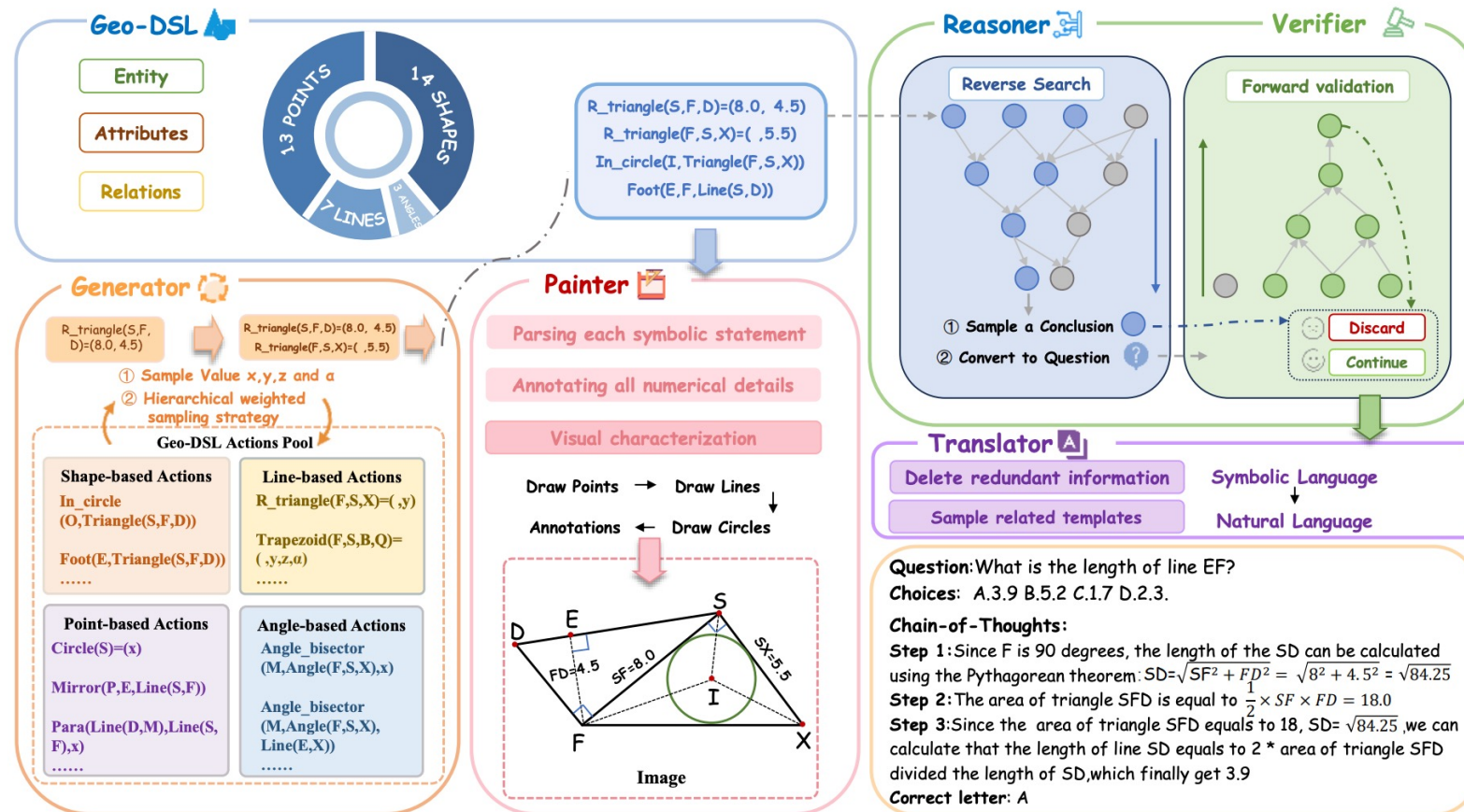
achieves consistent performance improvements

Model	#Dataset	LLaMA-2 7B Base		LLaMA-2 13B Base		Mistral 7B Base	
		GSM8K	MATH	GSM8K	MATH	GSM8K	MATH
WizardMath	>240K	54.9	10.7	63.9	14.0	83.2	33.0
MuggleMATH	157K	68.4	8.4	74.0	9.4	-	-
MAmmoTH <sup>†</sup>	260K	50.5	10.4	56.3	12.9	61.9	17.5
MetaMath	395K	66.5	19.8	72.3	22.4	77.7	28.2
Ours	860K	<b>79.0</b>	<b>30.4</b>	<b>84.1</b>	<b>33.7</b>	<b>86.8</b>	<b>37.3</b>
	$\Delta$	<b>↑ 10.6</b>	<b>↑ 10.6</b>	<b>↑ 10.1</b>	<b>↑ 11.3</b>	<b>↑ 3.6</b>	<b>↑ 4.3</b>

<sup>†</sup> Model performance is re-evaluated using Pass@1 of CoT prompt.

# LLM Formalize, Symbolic Augment

NeSyGeo: A **DSL for plane geometry** was defined, and data augmentation was performed based on this DSL representation to generate a large number of high-quality geometric figures



# LLM Formalize, Symbolic Augment

## Reinforcement Fine-tuning

Model	GeoQA	MathVision			MathVerse			
		Angle	Area	Length	Angle	Area	Length	Plane Geometry
Qwen2.5-VL-3B	53.3	26.3	26.3	21.1	31.3	20.9	37.0	32.5
<b>Qwen2.5-VL-3B+NeSyGeo</b>	<b>55.7 (+2.4)</b>	<b>26.3 (+0.0)</b>	<b>42.1 (+15.8)</b>	<b>26.3 (+5.2)</b>	<b>32.6 (+1.3)</b>	<b>23.5 (+2.6)</b>	<b>37.2 (+0.2)</b>	<b>35.5 (+3.0)</b>
InternVL2.5-4B	61.9	36.8	31.6	26.3	31.5	22.7	31.9	30.7
InternVL2.5-4B+MAVIS	63.5 (+1.6)	31.6 (-5.2)	26.3 (-5.3)	31.6 (+5.3)	37.1 (+5.6)	20.9 (-1.8)	35.3 (+3.4)	33.7 (+3.0)
InternVL2.5-4B+R-CoT	63.3 (+1.4)	31.6 (-5.2)	31.6 (+0.0)	21.1 (-5.2)	31.2 (-0.3)	18.3 (-4.4)	34.3 (+2.4)	28.7 (-2.0)
<b>InternVL2.5-4B+NeSyGeo</b>	<b>69.2 (+7.3)</b>	<b>42.1 (+5.3)</b>	<b>36.8 (+5.2)</b>	<b>26.3 (+0.0)</b>	<b>39.9 (+8.4)</b>	<b>24.9 (+2.2)</b>	<b>36.1 (+4.2)</b>	<b>36.7 (+6.0)</b>
InternVL2.5-8B	66.2	36.8	36.8	21.1	36.9	23.1	34.8	36.6

## Supervised Fine-Tuning

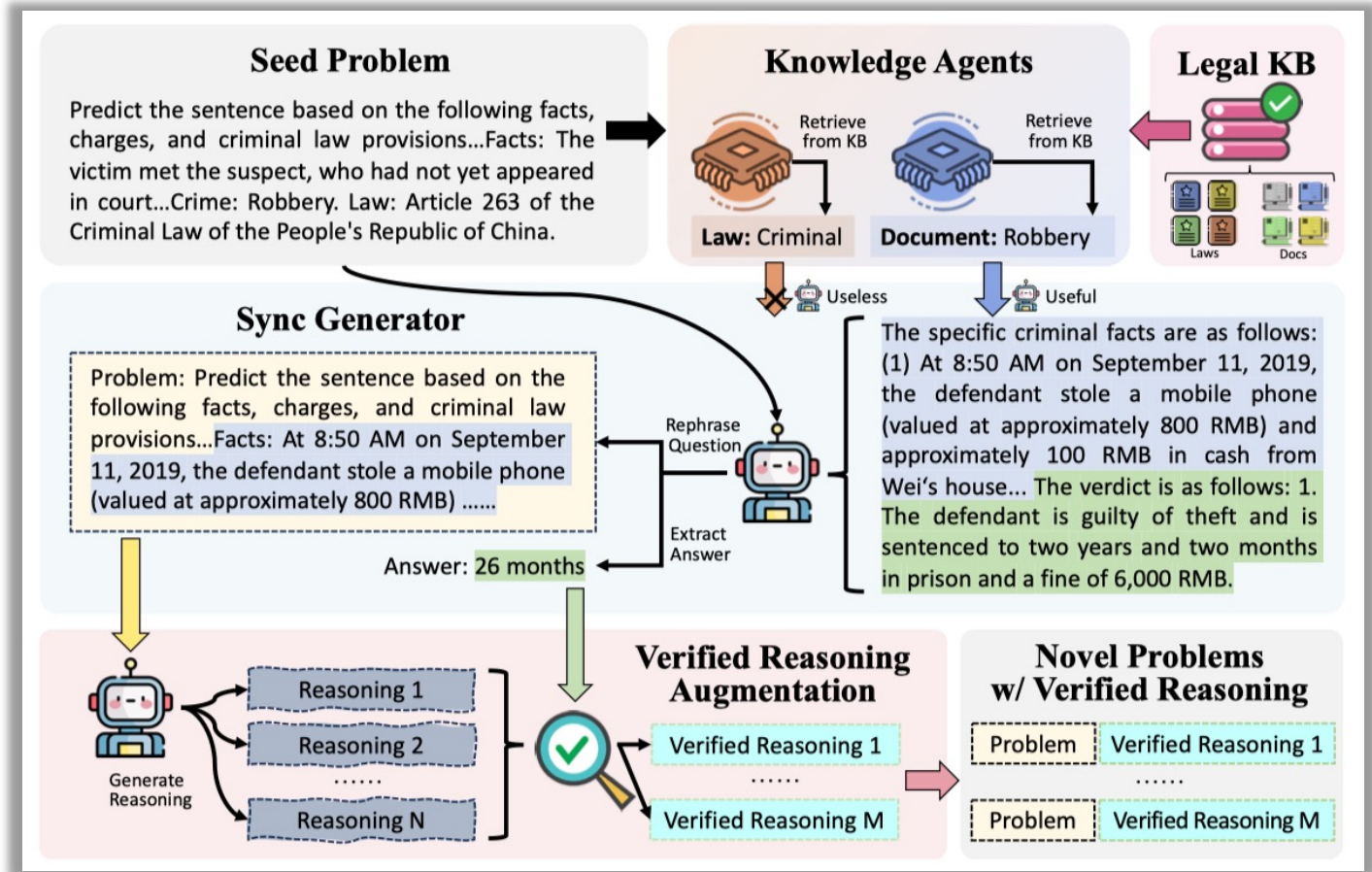
Model	GeoQA	Vision Intensive			
		Angle	Area	Length	Plane Geometry
Qwen2.5-VL-7B	69.4	43.0	27.5	46.2	44.1
<b>Qwen2.5-VL-7B+NeSyGeo</b>	<b>71.8 (+2.4)</b>	<b>46.1 (+3.1)</b>	<b>23.1 (-4.4)</b>	<b>49.5 (+3.3)</b>	<b>46.7 (+2.6)</b>
LLaVA-Next-7B	22.6	28.5	6.6	16.5	20.4
<b>LLaVA-Next-7B+NeSyGeo</b>	<b>26.1 (+3.5)</b>	<b>30.6 (+2.1)</b>	<b>7.7 (+1.1)</b>	<b>19.2 (+2.7)</b>	<b>22.9 (+2.5)</b>

# Application: Chinese Legal Reasoning

## LawGPT: Knowledge-Enhanced Legal Reasoning Data Augmentation

For legal reasoning, **no suitable symbolic language representation**

- LLM generates text data
- Verifies the synthetic data via abductive reasoning based on a legal knowledge base
- Improve the quality of data iteratively



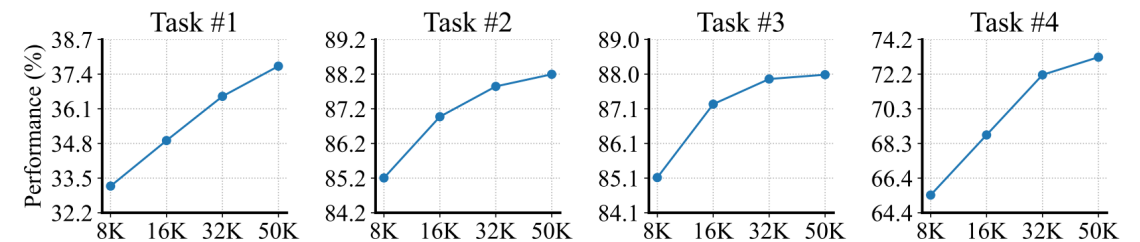
# Application: Chinese Legal Reasoning

Compared to general and legal-specific LLMs, performance is improved across multiple legal reasoning tasks

Models	#Parameters	Task #1	Task #2	Task #3	Task #4	Average
<b>General LLMs</b>						
Deepseek V3	671B	38.1	87.5	86.8	84.4	74.2
GPT-4	-	27.5	82.6	81.9	77.6	67.4
GPT-3.5 Turbo	-	31.3	78.7	76.8	61.2	62.0
<b>Legal-Specific LLMs</b>						
Lexilaw	7B	35.8	78.1	74.9	35.8	56.1
HanFei	7B	33.6	73.1	69.6	39.4	53.9
FuziMingcha	7B	22.2	77.2	75.5	47.2	55.5
WisdomInterrogatory	7B	32.0	80.4	81.1	17.4	52.7
LaywerLLaMA	13B	25.9	74.2	75.5	39.2	53.7
ChatLaw	13B	31.6	76.2	73.6	41.4	55.7
ChatLaw	33B	26.0	67.0	53.6	41.6	47.1
LAWGPT	0.5B	33.1	86.8	86.6	62.0	67.1
LAWGPT	1.5B	35.7	87.4	87.3	68.0	69.6
LAWGPT	3B	<b>37.7</b>	<b>88.2</b>	<b>88.0</b>	<b>73.2</b>	<b>71.8</b>

Scalability of the data generation:  
More data, higher performance

Models	#Parameters	Task #1	Task #2	Task #3	Task #4	Average
Qwen-2.5	0.5B	27.9	81.2	80.1	45.0	58.6
LAWGPT	0.5B	33.1	86.8	86.6	62.0	67.1
$\Delta$ Performance		$\uparrow 5.2$	$\uparrow 5.6$	$\uparrow 6.5$	$\uparrow 14.0$	$\uparrow 9.5$
Qwen-2.5	1.5B	29.9	82.4	82.3	49.0	60.9
LAWGPT	1.5B	35.7	87.4	87.3	68.0	69.6
$\Delta$ Performance		$\uparrow 5.8$	$\uparrow 5.0$	$\uparrow 5.0$	$\uparrow 19.0$	$\uparrow 8.7$
Qwen-2.5	3.0B	28.7	81.7	79.9	56.0	61.6
LAWGPT	3.0B	37.7	88.2	88.0	73.2	71.8
$\Delta$ Performance		$\uparrow 9.0$	$\uparrow 6.5$	$\uparrow 8.1$	$\uparrow 17.2$	$\uparrow 10.2$



# Summary & Open Problems

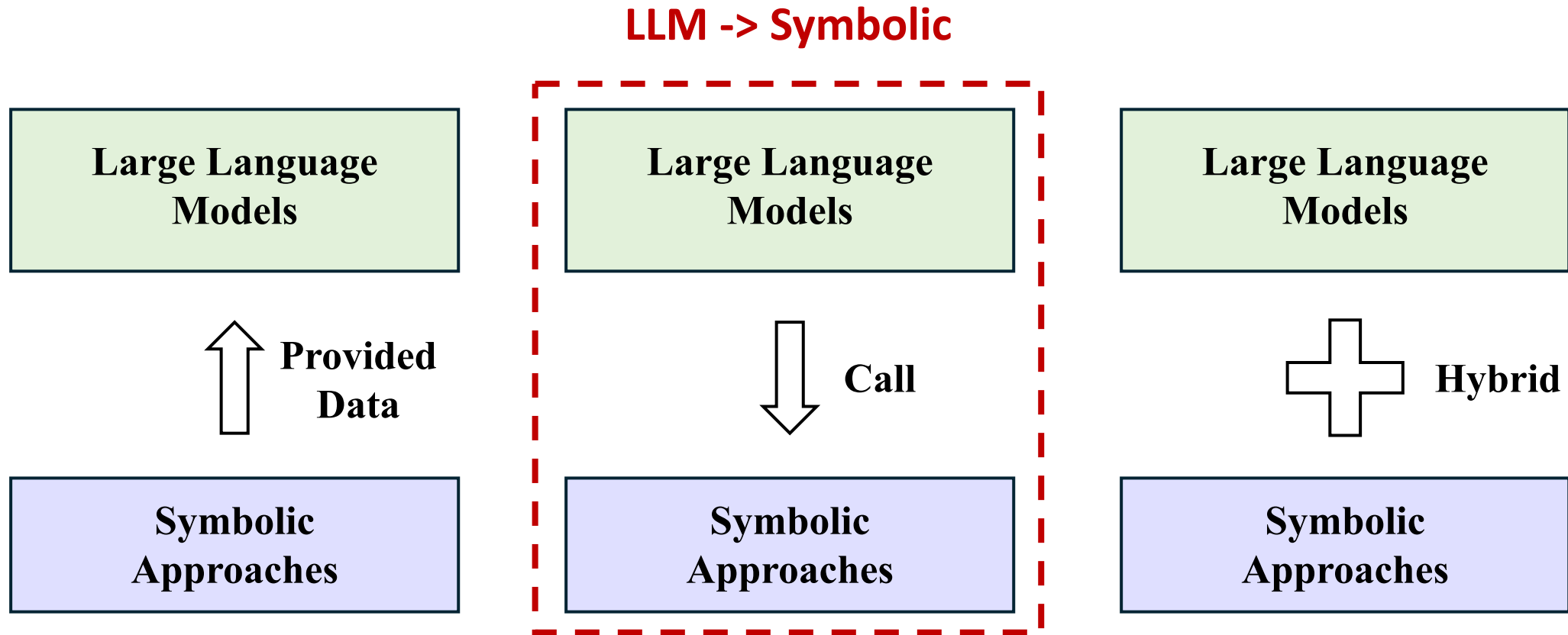
## □ Key Idea:

- Generate reasoning path with symbolic methods directly
- Augment data in the symbolic language represented space

## □ Open Problems:

- How to evaluate the quality of reasoning data?
- How to select the optimal subset of the training data?
- Can symbolic methods help data evaluation and selection?
- .....

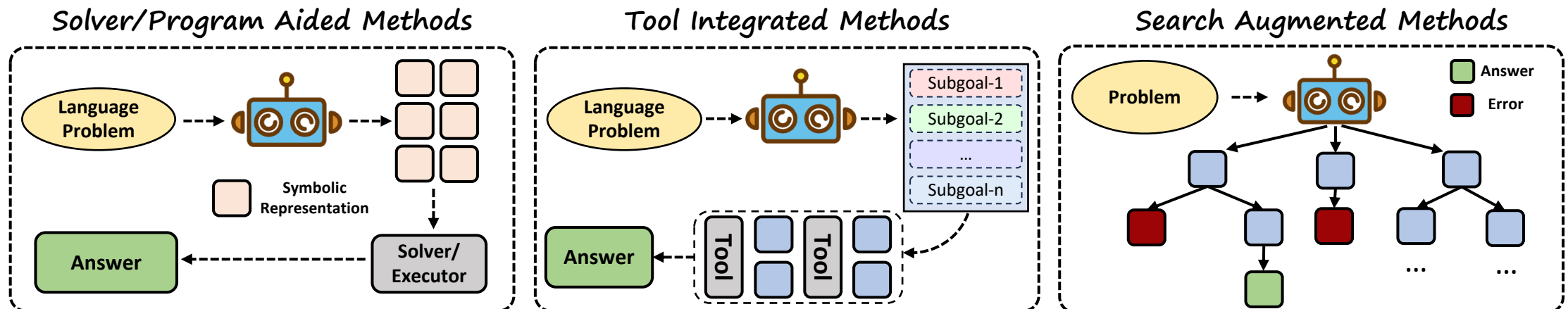
# Option Two: Neuro-Symbolic Methods



# LLM -> Symbolic

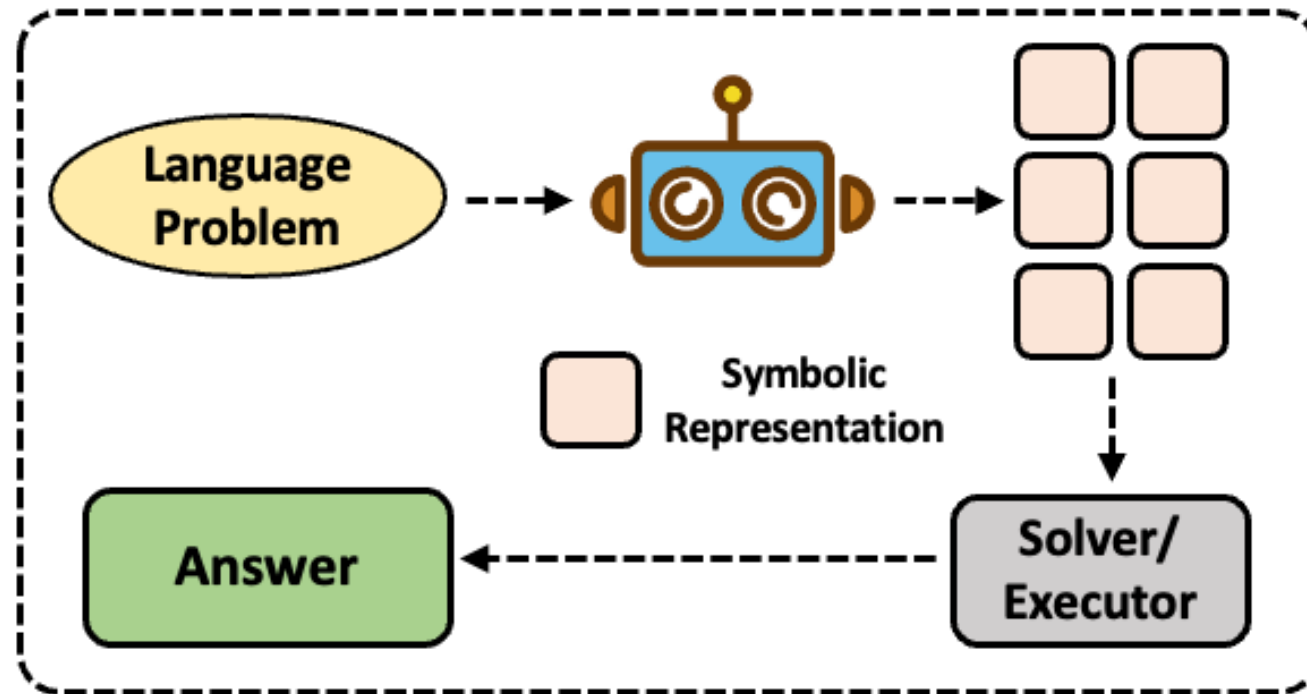
## □ Basic Ideas:

- **Solver/Program Aided Methods:** LLM **converts Natural Language into Formal Language**, then call a symbolic solver
- **Tool Integrated Methods:** LLM **decompose original problem into multiple steps**, where intermediate steps can call external tools for solving, such as symbolic solvers, calculators, APIs, etc.
- **Search Augmented Methods:** LLM's decoding process is a search problem and can be optimized via different search strategies, e.g., MCTS, A\*, etc.



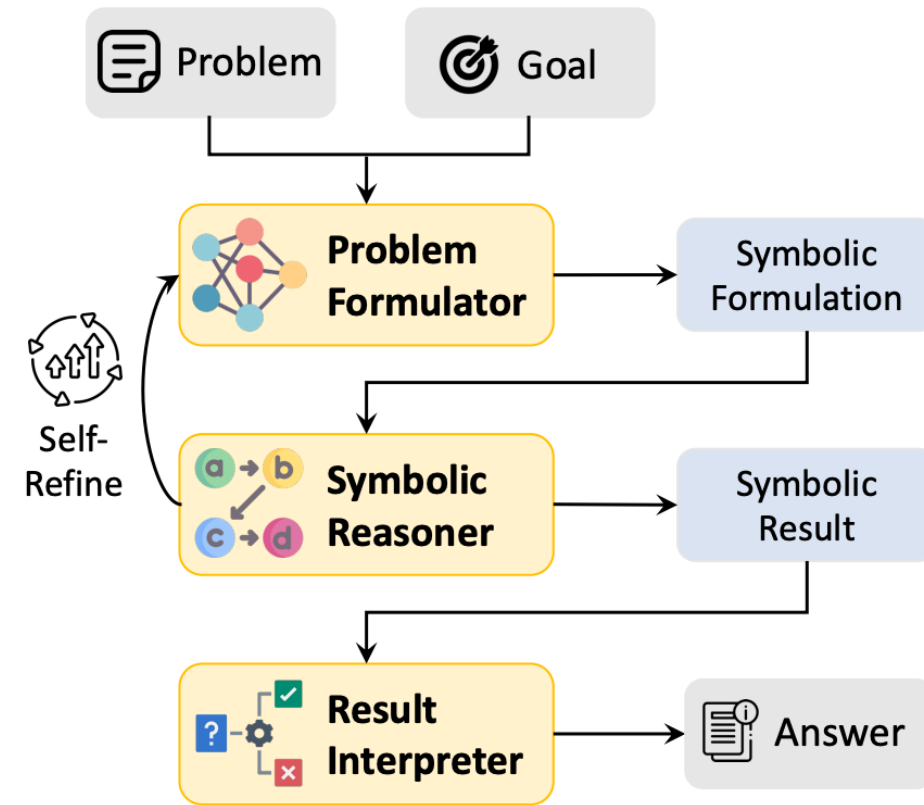
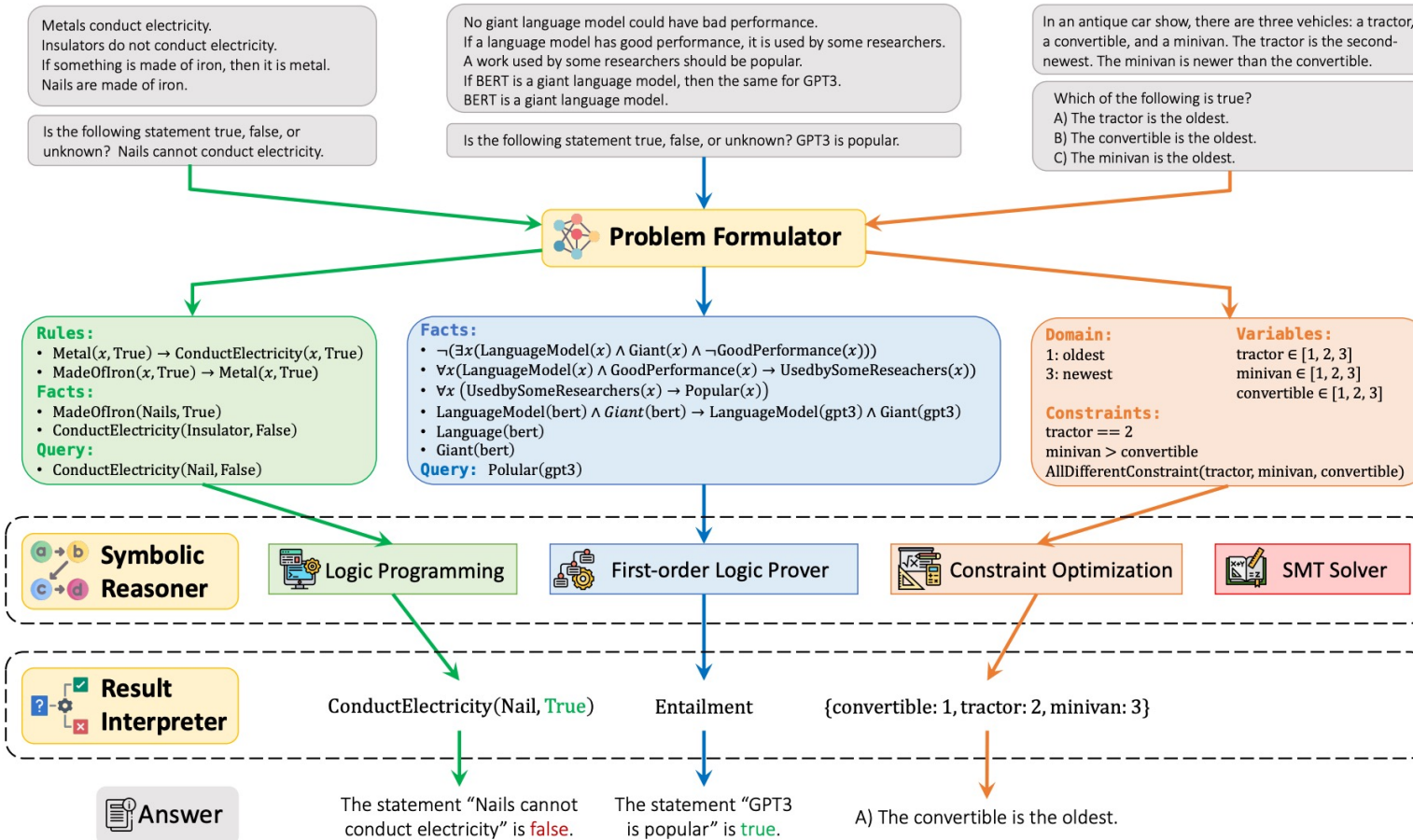
# Solver/Program Aided Methods

## *Solver/Program Aided Methods*



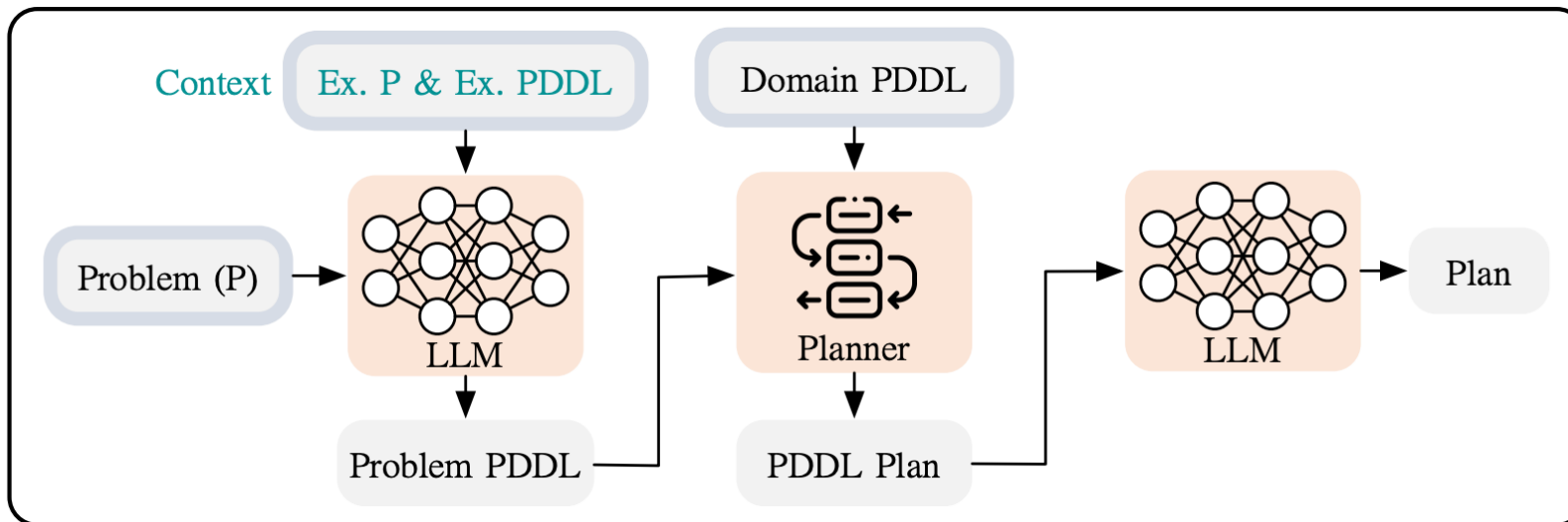
# Symbolic Solver Aided Methods

Convert natural Language into formal Language, then call a symbolic reasoner, such as **First-order Logic Prover**, **SMT solver**, **Constraint Optimizer**, etc.



# Symbolic Solver Aided Methods

For planning tasks, first **generate the PDDL descriptions**, then **use a PDDL Planner** (e.g., FastDownward) to produce the plan



(a) grasp bottle

(b) free gripper

(c) grasp soup can

(d) place soup can

(e) re-grasp bottle

(f) place bottle

## Tidy-Up Problem PDDL Generated by LLM+P

**Problem (P):** You are a home robot with one gripper. The distance between coffee table and side table is 10. The distance between coffee table and pantry is 20... You are at the coffee table. There is a mustard bottle... Your goal is to move objects to their destinations...

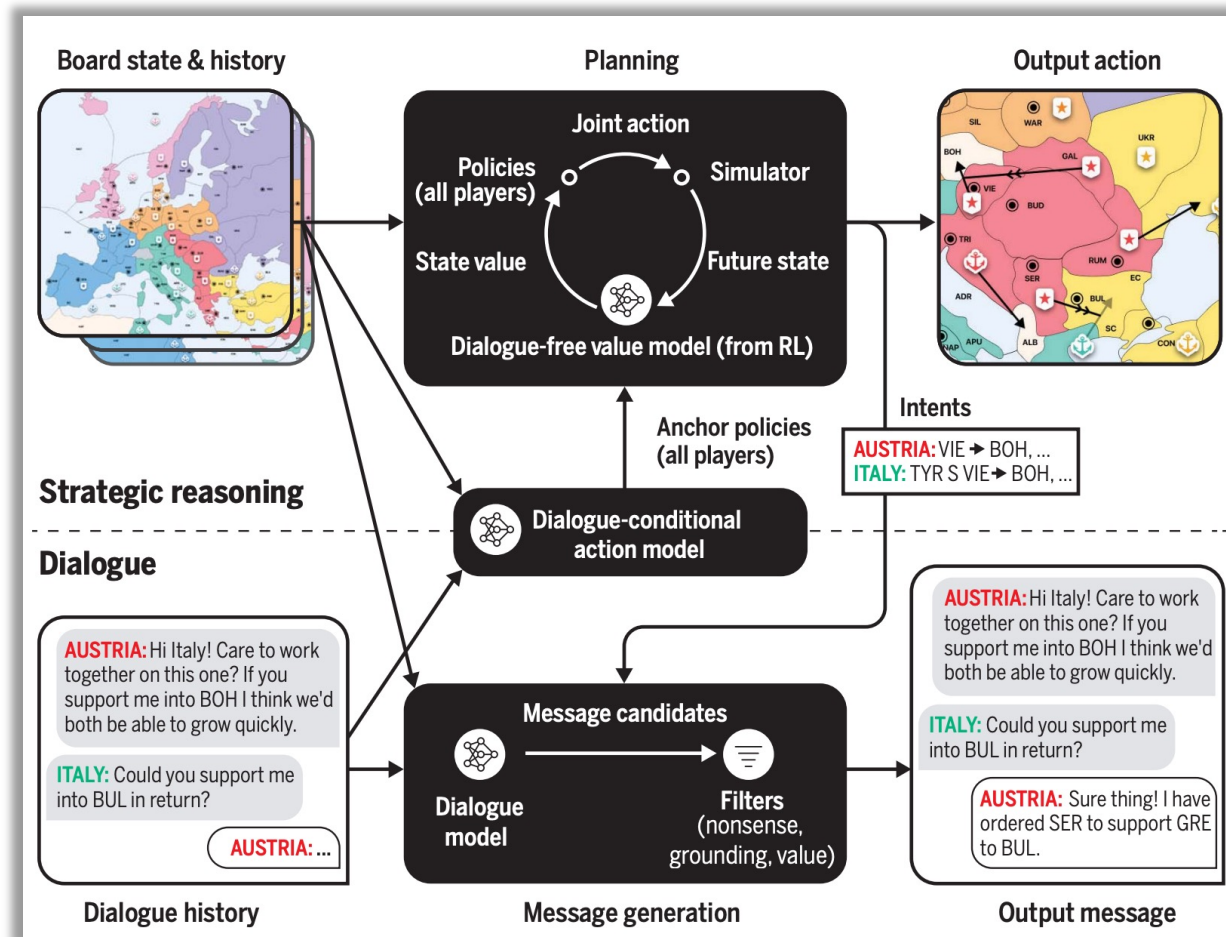
### Problem PDDL generated by LLM+P:

```
(:objects coffee-table side-table
recycle-bin pantry - location
mustard-bottle soup-can - object)
(:init (= (total-cost) 0) (=
(distance coffee-table side-table)
10) (= (distance coffee-table
pantry) 20) ... (robot-at
coffee-table) (at mustard-bottle
coffee-table) (at soup-can
side-table) (hand-empty) )
(:goal (and (at mustard-bottle
pantry) (at soup-can recycle-bin)))
(:metric minimize (total-cost)) )
```

# Symbolic Solver Aided Methods

## 外交风云：沟通与策略桌游

- 神经网络：
  - 理解玩家消息
  - 与用户进行对话
- 符号推理
  - 进行策略推理，生成最佳行动
  - 游戏规则引擎 + 博弈论求解器



# Program Aided Methods

Convert the reasoning process expressed in natural language into a **programming language** (e.g., Python, SQL, etc.), and then **execute the program interpreter**

Question: In Fibonacci sequence, it follows the rule that each number is equal to the sum of the preceding two numbers. Assuming the first two numbers are 0 and 1, what is the 50th number in Fibonacci sequence?

The first number is 0, the second number is 1, therefore, the third number is 0+1=1. The fourth number is 1+1=2. The fifth number is 1+2=3. The sixth number is 2+3=5. The seventh number is 3+5=8. The eighth number is 5+8=13. .... (Skip 1000 tokens) The 50th number is 32,432,268,459.

CoT

```
length_of_fibonacci_sequence = 50
fibonacci_sequence = np.zeros(length_of_)
fibonacci_sequence[0] = 0
fibonacci_sequence[1] = 1
for i in range(3, length_of_fibonacci_sequence):
    fibonacci_sequence[i] = fibonacci_sequence[i-1] +
    fibonacci_sequence[i-2]
ans = fibonacci_sequence[-1]
```

PoT

32,432,268,459 ✗
python
12,586,269,025 ✔

---

Question: Ketty saves 20000 dollars to the bank. After three years, the sum with compound interest rate is 1000 dollars more than the sum with simple interest rate. What is the interest rate of the bank?

Assuming the interest rate is x. The sum after two years with simple interest rate is  $20000 + x * 20000 * 3 = 20000 + 60000x$ . The sum after two years with compound interest rate is  $20000 * (1 + x)^3 = 20000 + 60000 * x + 60000x^2 + 20000x^3$ . The difference can be written as  $60000x^2 + 20000x^3 = 1000$ . In order to solve x, we can use the quadratic formula.  $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}, \dots, x = \frac{-20000 \pm 6160}{120000}, x = -0.051333$ .

CoT

```
interest_rate = Symbol('x')
sum_in_two_years_with_simple_interest= 20000 +
interest_rate * 20000 * 3
sum_in_two_years_with_compound_interest = 20000 * (1 +
interest_rate)**3
# Since compound interest is 1000 more than simple interest.
ans = solve(sum_after_in_yeras_with_compound_interest -
sum_after_two_years_in_compound_interest - 1000,
interest_rate)
```

PoT

-0.051333 ✗
python
SymPy
x = 0.24814 ✔

### Few-Shot

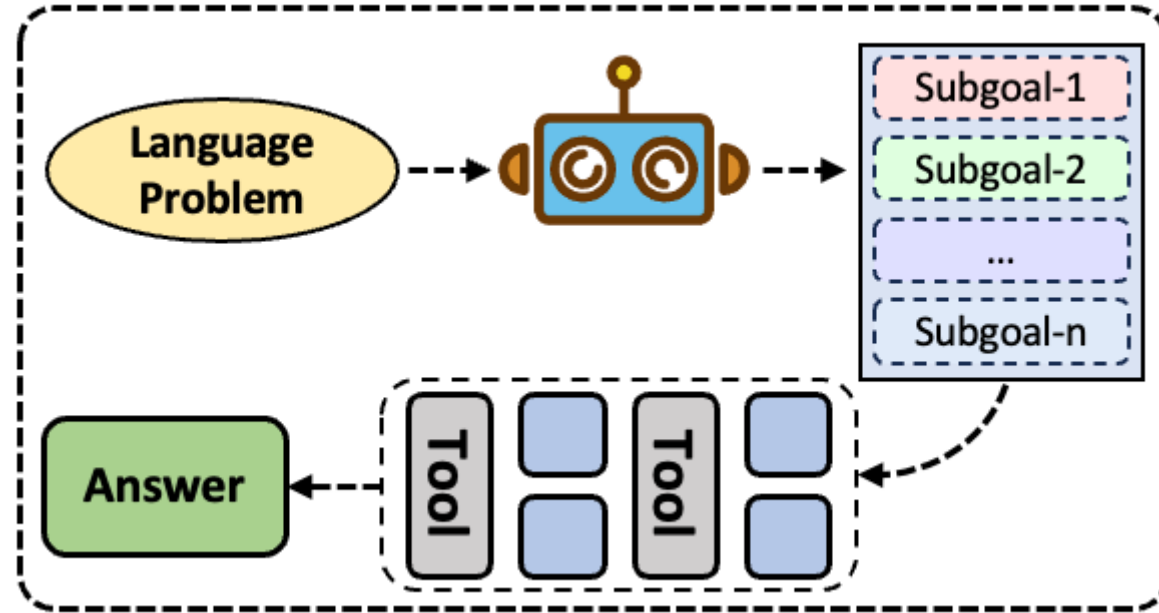
### Zero-Shot

[1] PAL: Program-aided Language Models. ICML 2023.

[2] Program of Thoughts Prompting: Disentangling Computation from Reasoning for Numerical Reasoning Tasks. TMLR 2023.

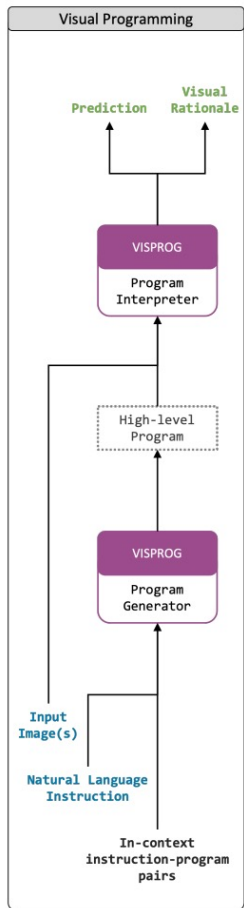
# Tool Integrated Methods

## *Tool Integrated Methods*

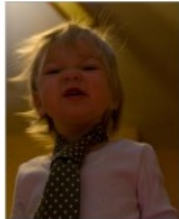


# Tool Integrated Methods

LLMs **decompose the reasoning task** and **invoke tools/APIs/models** to accomplish subgoals





## Compositional Visual Question Answering

**IMAGE:** 



**Question:** Are there both ties and glasses in the picture?  
**Program:**  
 BOX0=Loc(image=IMAGE, object='ties')  
 ANSWER0=Count(box=BOX0)  
 BOX1=Loc(image=IMAGE, object='glasses')  
 ANSWER1=Count(box=BOX1)  
 ANSWER2=Eval("'yes' if {ANSWER0} > 0 and {ANSWER1} > 0 else 'no'")  
 RESULT=ANSWER2  
**Prediction:** no

## Natural Language Visual Reasoning



**LEFT:**  **RIGHT:** 

**Statement:** The left and right image contains a total of six people and two boats.  
**Program:**  
 ANSWER0=Vqa(image=LEFT, question='How many people are in the image?')  
 ANSWER1=Vqa(image=RIGHT, question='How many people are in the image?')  
 ANSWER2=Vqa(image=LEFT, question='How many boats are in the image?')  
 ANSWER3=Vqa(image=RIGHT, question='How many boats are in the image?')  
 ANSWER4=Eval('{ANSWER0} + {ANSWER1} == 6 and {ANSWER2} + {ANSWER3} == 2')  
 RESULT=ANSWER4  
**Prediction:** False

## Natural Language Image Editing

**IMAGE:**  **Prediction:** IMAGE1 

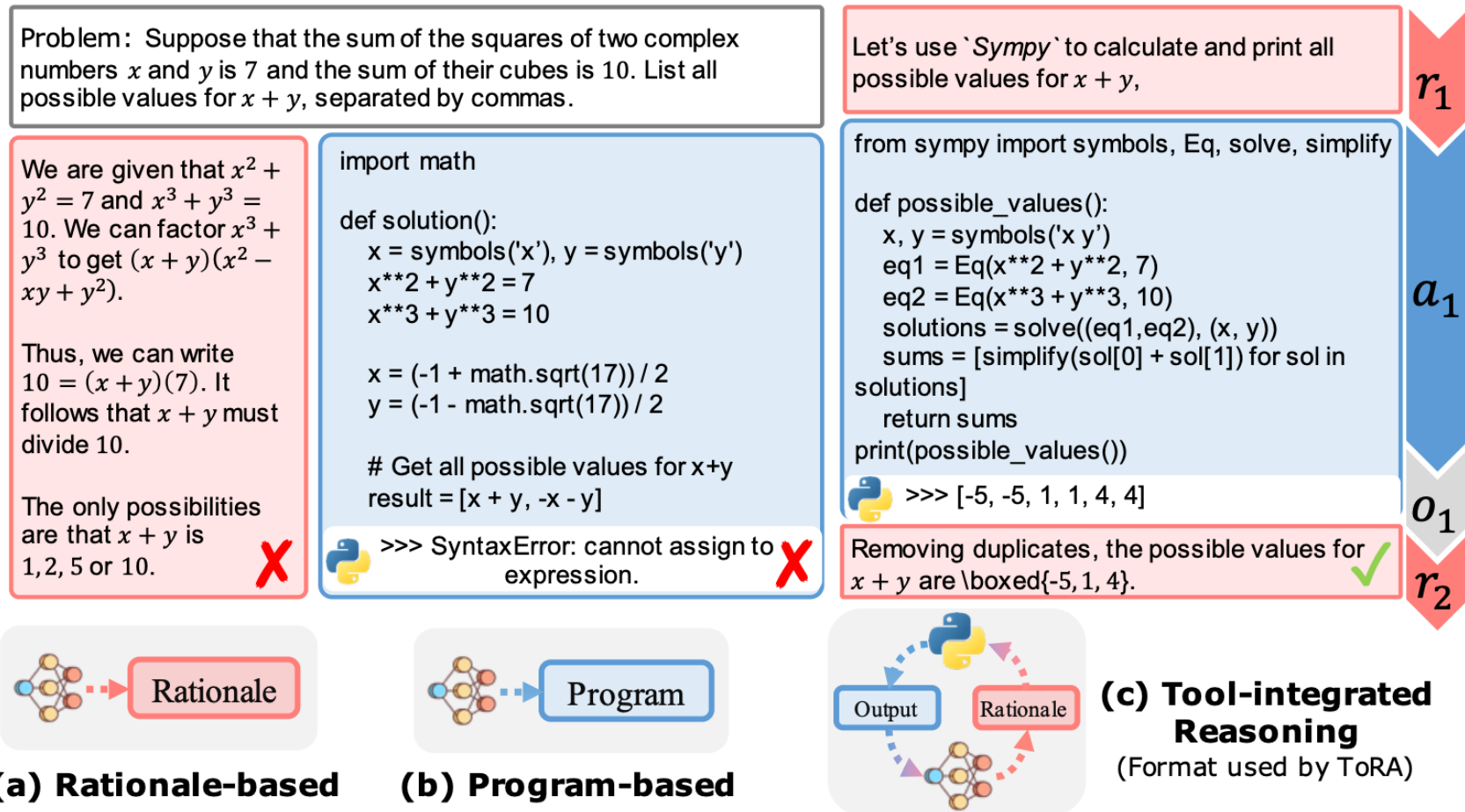
**Instruction:** Hide Daniel Craig with 8) and Sean Connery with ;)  
**Program:**  
 OBJ0=FaceDet(image=IMAGE)  
 OBJ1=Select(image=IMAGE, object=OBJ0, query='Daniel Craig', category=None)  
 IMAGE0=Emoji(image=IMAGE, object=OBJ1, emoji='smiling\_face\_with\_sunglasses')  
 OBJ2=Select(image=IMAGE, object=OBJ0, query='Sean Connery', category=None)  
 IMAGE1=Emoji(image=IMAGE0, object=OBJ2, emoji='winking\_face')  
 RESULT=IMAGE1

**IMAGE:**  **Prediction:** IMAGE0 

**Instruction:** Replace desert with lush green grass  
**Program:**  
 OBJ0=Seg(image=IMAGE)  
 OBJ1=Select(image=IMAGE, object=OBJ0, query='desert', category=None)  
 IMAGE0=Replace(image=IMAGE, object=OBJ1, prompt='lush green grass')  
 RESULT=IMAGE0

# Tool Integrated Methods

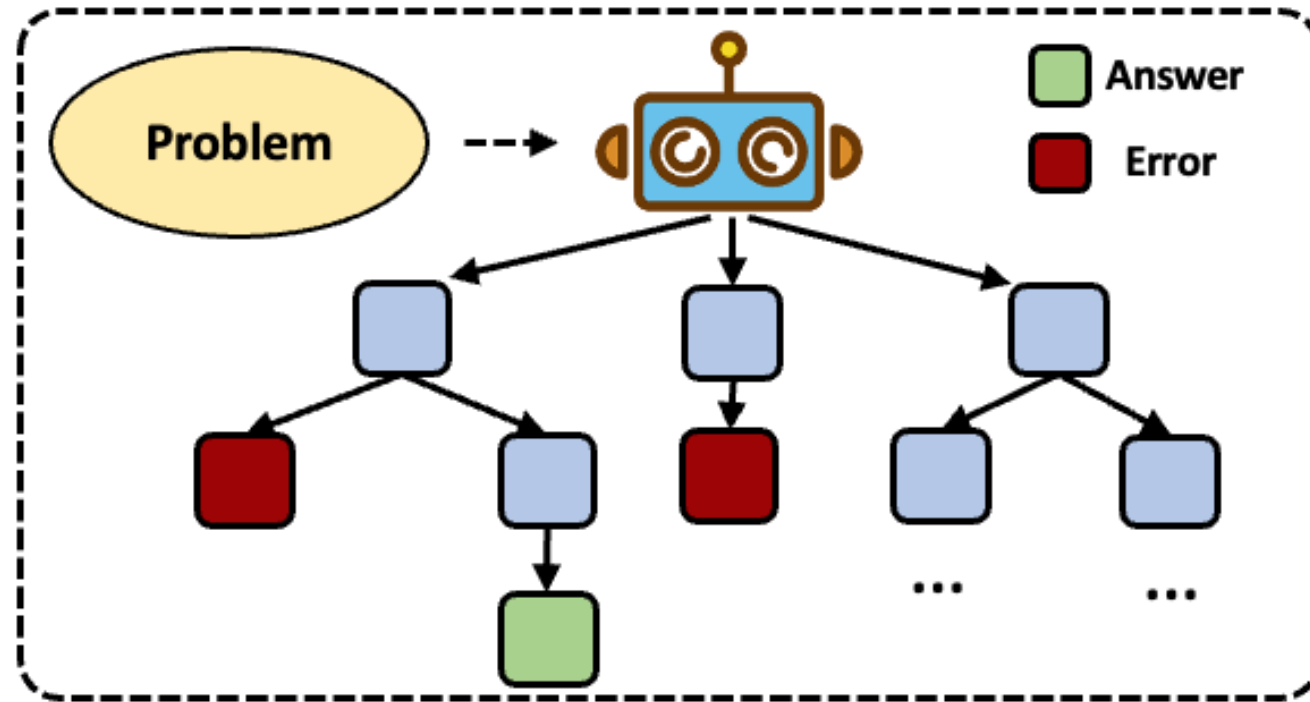
LLMs **decompose the reasoning task** and **invoke tools/APIs/models** to accomplish subgoals



[1] ToRA: A Tool-Integrated Reasoning Agent for Mathematical Problem Solving. ICLR 2024.

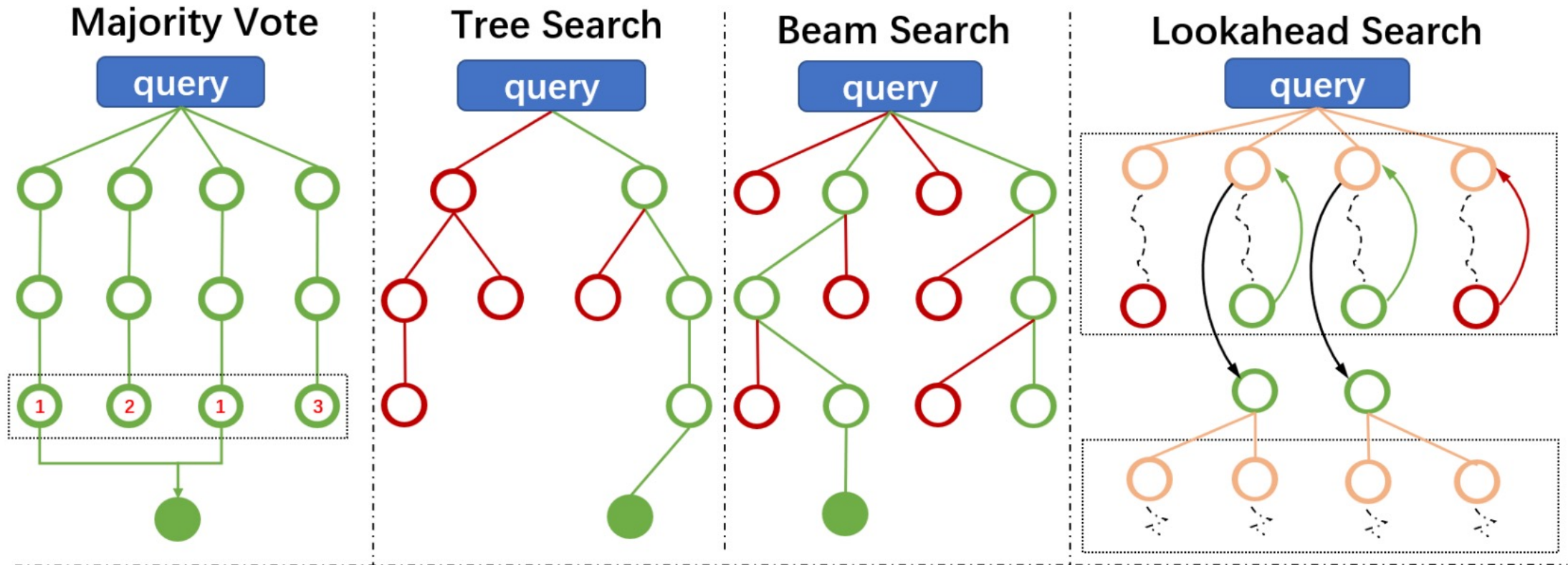
# Search Augmented Methods

## *Search Augmented Methods*



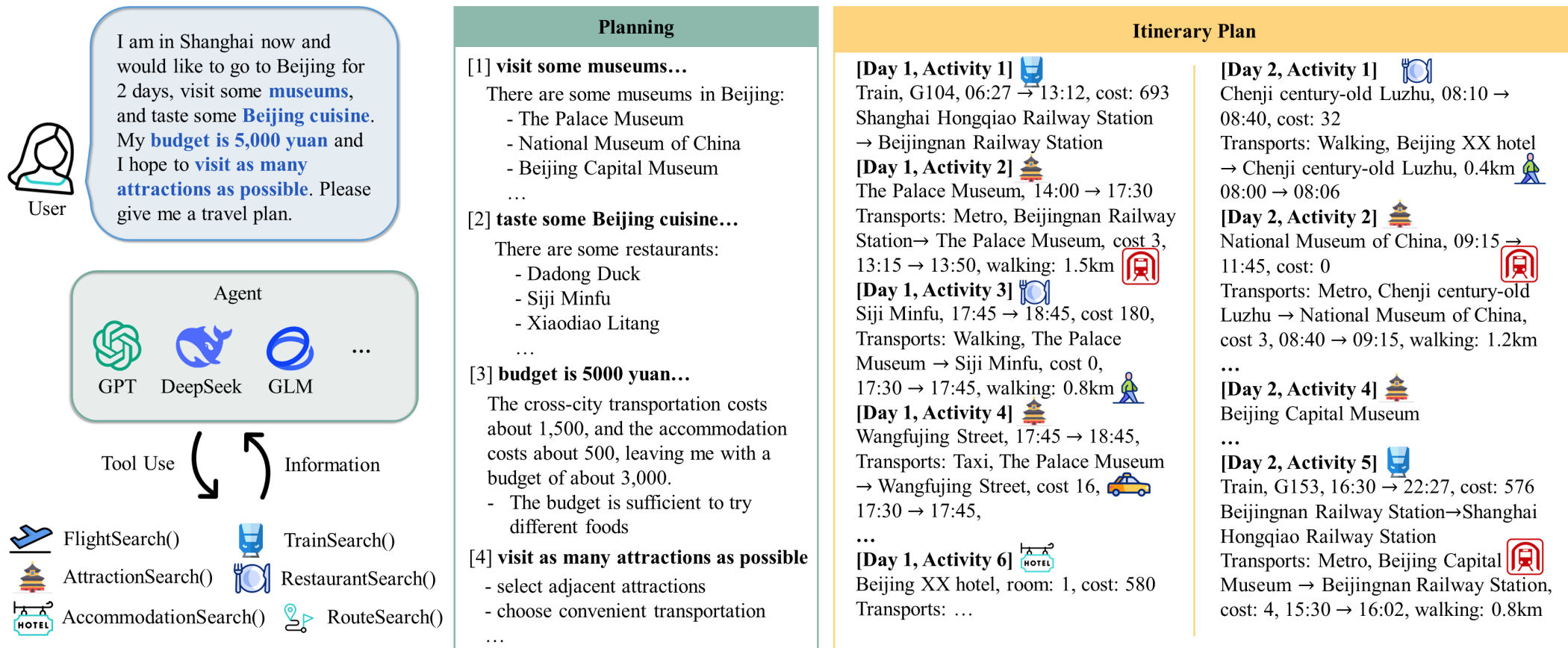
# Search Augmented Methods

Since LLMs rely on **next-token prediction**, search algorithms can be applied over candidate tokens to optimize the reasoning path



# Application: China Travel Planning

Given user requirements, including travel preferences, budget, and other constraints, generate a reasonable travel plan.



# Application: China Travel Planning

**Environment constraints:** transportation; attraction opening hours and ticket prices; restaurant hours, prices and categories; hotel information; temporal and spatial constraints, etc.

Evaluation Metrics	Environment Constraints
Cross-city Transportation	Available Trains or Airplanes across cities. Correct information of cost and schedule.
Inner-city Transportation	Available Metro, Taxi or Walking between different positions. Correct information of cost, distance and duration
Attractions	Available Attractions in the target city, visiting in their open time. Attraction choices should not be repeated throughout the trip. Correct information of cost.
Restaurants	Available Restruants in the target city, visiting in their open time. Restaurant choices should not be repeated throughout the trip. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are served at their designated meal times. Correct information of cost.
Accommodation	Available Accommodation in the target city. Room information to meet headcounts.
Time	The given activity events occur in chronological order.
Space	Events at different positions should provide transport information.

Name	Syntax	Description
variables	$x, y, z, \dots$	Variables that refer to activities in the travel planning domain.
not	$not\ expr$	The negation of an Boolean-valued expression.
and,or	$expr_1\ and\ expr_2$	The conjunction/disjunction of an Boolean-valued expression.
<, >, ==	$expr_1 < expr_2$	Return an expression with built-in number comparison functions.
+, -, *, /	$expr_1 + expr_2$	Return an expression with built-in number calculation functions.
attributes	$cost(var)$	A function that takes activities as inputs and returns the attributes, such as cost, type or time.
relation	$dist(expr_1, expr_2)$	A function that takes locations as inputs and returns the distance.
effect	$var = expr$	An assignment affects a variable $var$ with the expression $expr$ .
union, inter, diff	$uni(\{var\}_1, \{var\}_2)$	Return a set with the built-in union/intersection/difference operations of given two sets.
enumerate	$for\ var\ in\ \{var\}$	Enumerate all variables in the collection $\{var\}$ .
when	$if\ expr : effect$	The conditional effect takes a Boolean-valued condition of the expression $expr$ , and the effect $effect$ .

## Domain-Specific Language (DSL) for logical constraints

```
# Dining expenses <= 1000 CNY.
dining_cost = 0
for act_i in allactivities(plan):
    typ = activity_type(act_i)
    if typ=="breakfast" or typ=="lunch"
    or typ=="dinner": dining_cost =
dining_cost + activity_cost(act_i)
return dining_cost <= 1000
```

(a) Dining expenses.

```
# Arriving in Shanghai should be before
6 PM on the second day.
return_time = 0
for act_i in day_activities(plan, 2):
    typ = activity_type(act_i)
    dest = transport_destination(act_i)
    if (typ=="train" or typ=="airplane")
and des=="Shanghai": return_time ==
activity_endtime(act_i)
return return_time < "18:00"
```

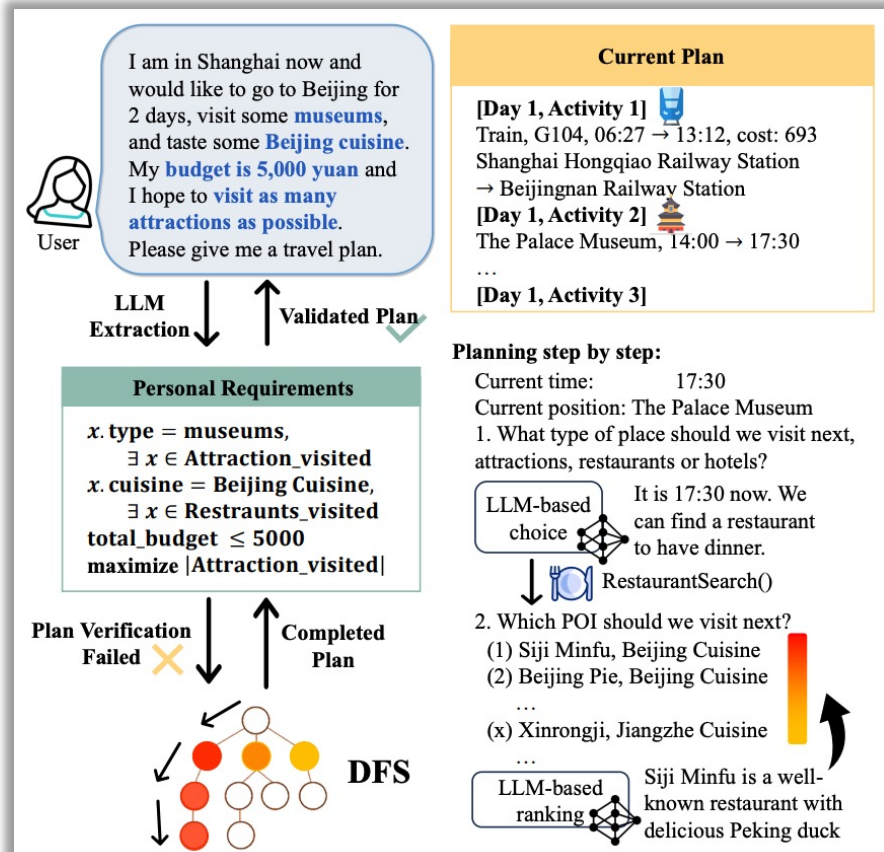
(b) Arrived Time.

## Examples of DSL expressions for logical constraints

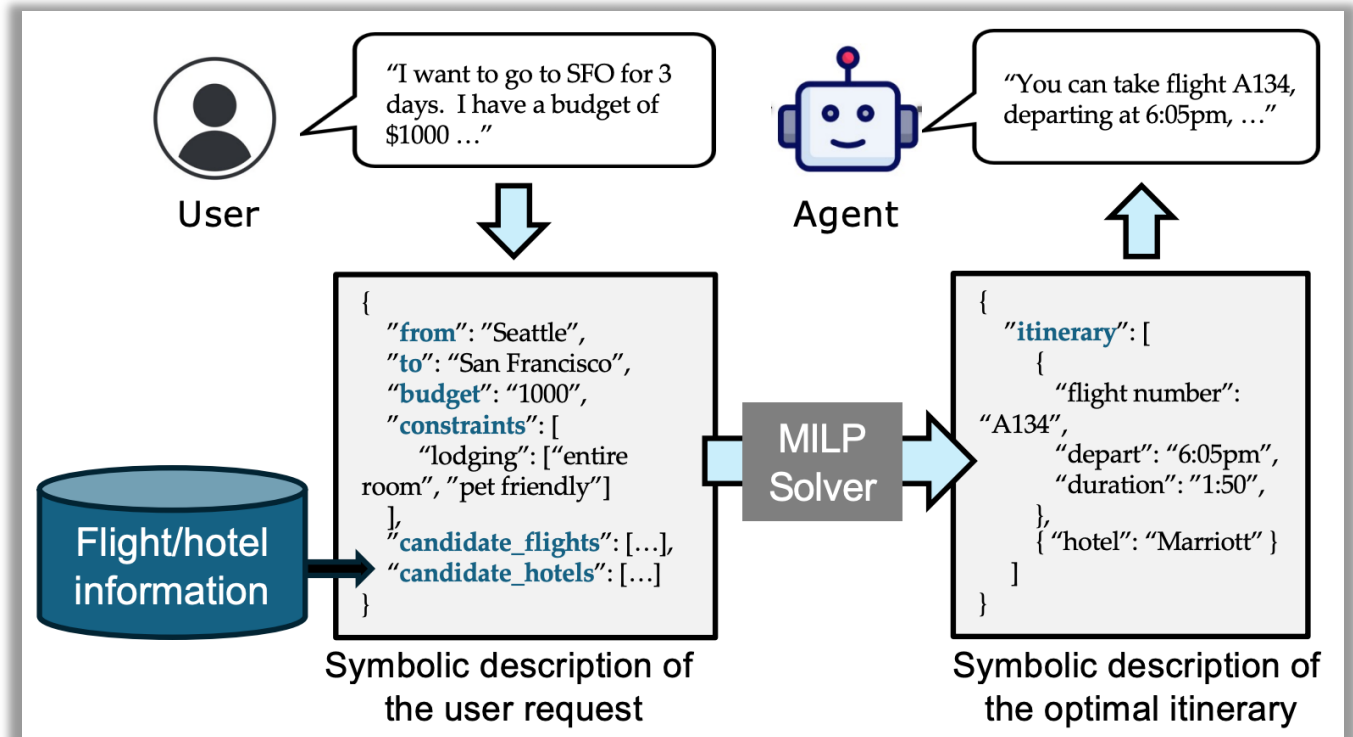
# Application: China Travel Planning

## Neuro-Symbolic Methods: LLM + Search; LLM + Constraint Optimizer

LLM understands the query, and then models travel planning as a **next-POI prediction** problem and solves it **using search algorithms**














LLM understands the query, and then model travel planning as a **mixed-integer optimization problem** and solve it **using an MILP solver**

















# Application: China Travel Planning

## Pure LLM methods

		DR	EPR		LPR		C-LPR	FPR	DR	EPR		LPR		C-LPR	FPR
			Mic.	Mac.	Mic.	Mac.				Mic.	Mac.	Mic.	Mac.		
		<b>Easy (#300)</b>						<b>Human-Val (#154)</b>							
Act		70.4	49.9	0	64.6	30.8	0	0							
		<b>97.5</b>	70.8	0	86.8	68.8	0	0							
ReAct (zero-shot)		43.3	40.8	0	41.9	19.6	0	0	36.4	29.5	0.65	35.2	16.2	0.38	0
		95.4	48.2	0	71.3	32.9	0	0	<b>96.1</b>	50.5	0	<b>72.4</b>	32.5	0	0
ReAct (one-shot)		77.5	68.3	6.25	74.1	52.5	5.77	5.42	55.2	<b>57.3</b>	2.60	64.6	44.2	1.71	2.60
		94.2	68.1	0	<b>89.4</b>	<b>70.8</b>	0	0	69.5	46.3	0	63.6	46.8	0	0
NeSy Planning		75.3	<b>75.3</b>	75.3	70.4	52.6	70.4	52.6	51.9	53.2	52.5	47.0	<b>37.6</b>	46.5	<b>37.0</b>
		75.0	73.6	<b>64.0</b>	73.5	63.3	<b>61.7</b>	<b>60.6</b>	45.4	50.1	45.4	40.9	29.8	<b>38.5</b>	27.9
		72.3	67.0	34.0	70.4	49.6	32.6	28.3	42.8	47.4	42.2	36.2	27.2	34.4	25.3
		32.0	31.9	31.3	29.1	21.0	28.3	21.0	25.9	25.8	24.0	22.3	12.3	20.5	11.0
		30.3	30.3	30.3	27.6	19.6	27.6	19.6	37.6	38.2	37.6	32.7	18.8	32.2	18.8

## Neuro-Symbolic Methods

TTG (oracle)		18.3	21.5	8.66	17.2	15.0	8.23	8.66	9.09	12.8	2.59	7.65	5.19	2.39	1.29
LLM-Modulo* (Oracle Verifier)		48.3	94.5	4.33	58.4	43.6	4.11	4.33	61.6	90.2	2.59	75.9	51.2	2.75	2.59
		91.6	88.2	7.66	<b>95.5</b>	<b>84.6</b>	7.66	7.00	91.5	87.2	3.24	<b>92.9</b>	<b>66.2</b>	2.87	3.24
		30.0	80.5	0.0	62.7	25.0	0.0	0.0	35.0	75.3	0.0	61.6	19.4	0.0	0.0
		28.6	69.4	0.0	55.2	8.33	0.0	0.0	19.4	74.1	0.0	43.4	5.19	0.0	0.0
		10.3	90.5	0.0	39.1	9.0	0.0	0.0	3.24	<b>92.2</b>	0.0	31.4	4.54	0.0	0.0
NeSy Planning* (Oracle Translation)		<b>82.6</b>	<b>81.7</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>82.2</b>	75.3	<b>75.0</b>	<b>74.0</b>	<b>58.4</b>	59.6	<b>57.7</b>	53.8	46.1	<b>52.0</b>	<b>45.4</b>
		66.6	66.7	66.0	64.6	63.6	64.6	62.6	52.6	46.9	42.9	47.6	40.9	43.9	40.9
		69.3	69.3	59.3	70.2	59.6	59.3	57.9	53.2	55.1	54.5	48.0	42.8	47.6	40.9
		52.6	52.6	52.6	50.4	45.3	50.4	45.6	40.9	42.8	42.8	37.7	28.5	37.7	27.9
		33.3	33.2	32.6	32.1	32.0	31.4	32.3	29.2	29.1	26.6	25.4	20.1	23.4	19.4
		<b>Human-Test (#1000)</b>						NeSy Planning* (Oracle Translation)							
NeSy Planning		<b>44.6</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>42.6</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>60.6</b>	<b>60.3</b>	<b>59.0</b>	<b>53.6</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>52.5</b>	<b>31.6</b>
		37.3	37.2	35.0	30.7	11.3	29.2	11.3	27.8	27.8	27.1	24.8	12.8	24.4	12.8
		36.6	36.5	34.6	29.6	6.43	28.5	6.43	41.1	41.1	40.6	34.6	13.8	34.2	13.8

**Exploit search or optimization methods clearly improve the planning accuracy**

# Summary & Open Problems

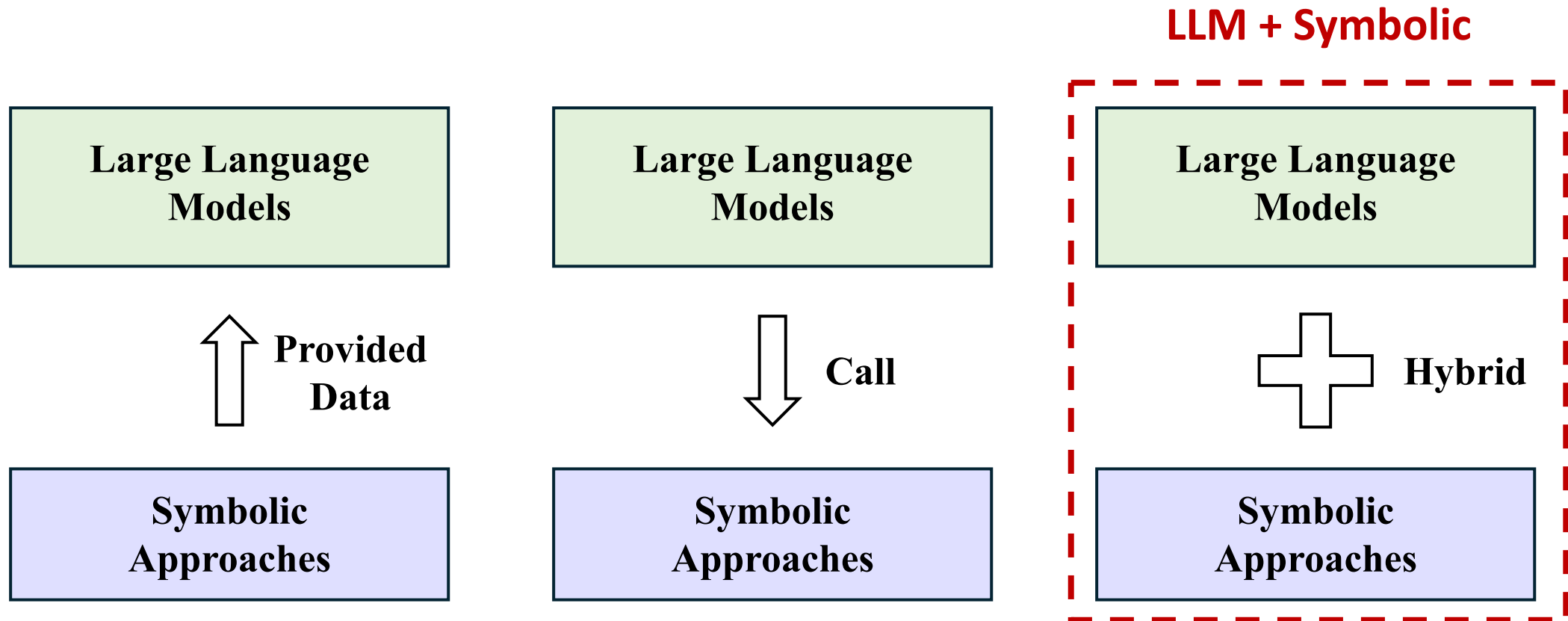
## □ Key Ideas:

- LLM converts natural language into symbolic Language
- Symbolic solvers solve the formal reasoning and planning

## □ Open Problems:

- Quality of Natural Language to Symbolic Language
- Open Environment with new symbolic concept
- Limited Generalization of Symbolic Solvers: how to automatically select or learn the most suitable symbolic representation

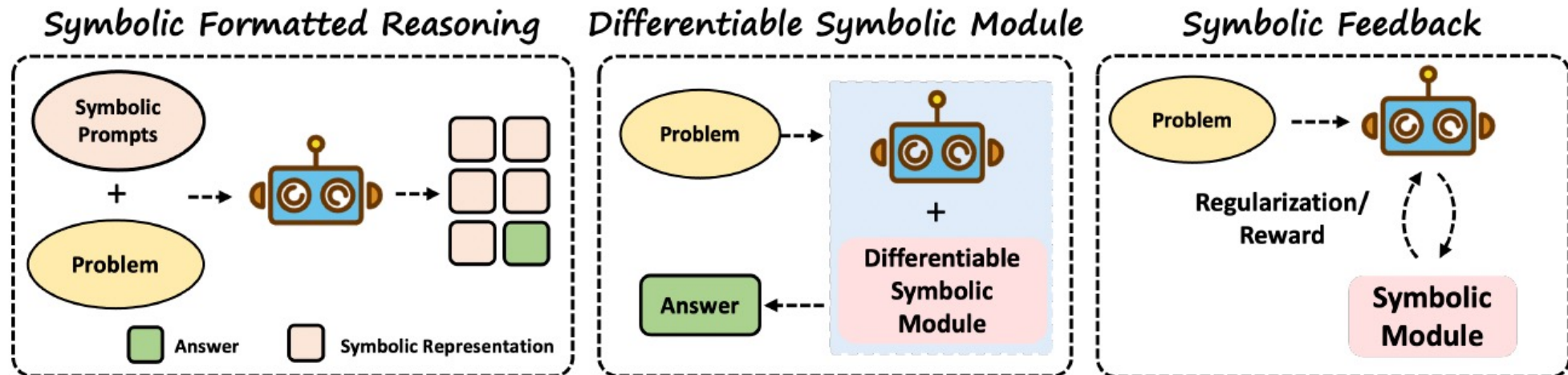
# Neuro-Symbolic Methods



# LLM + Symbolic

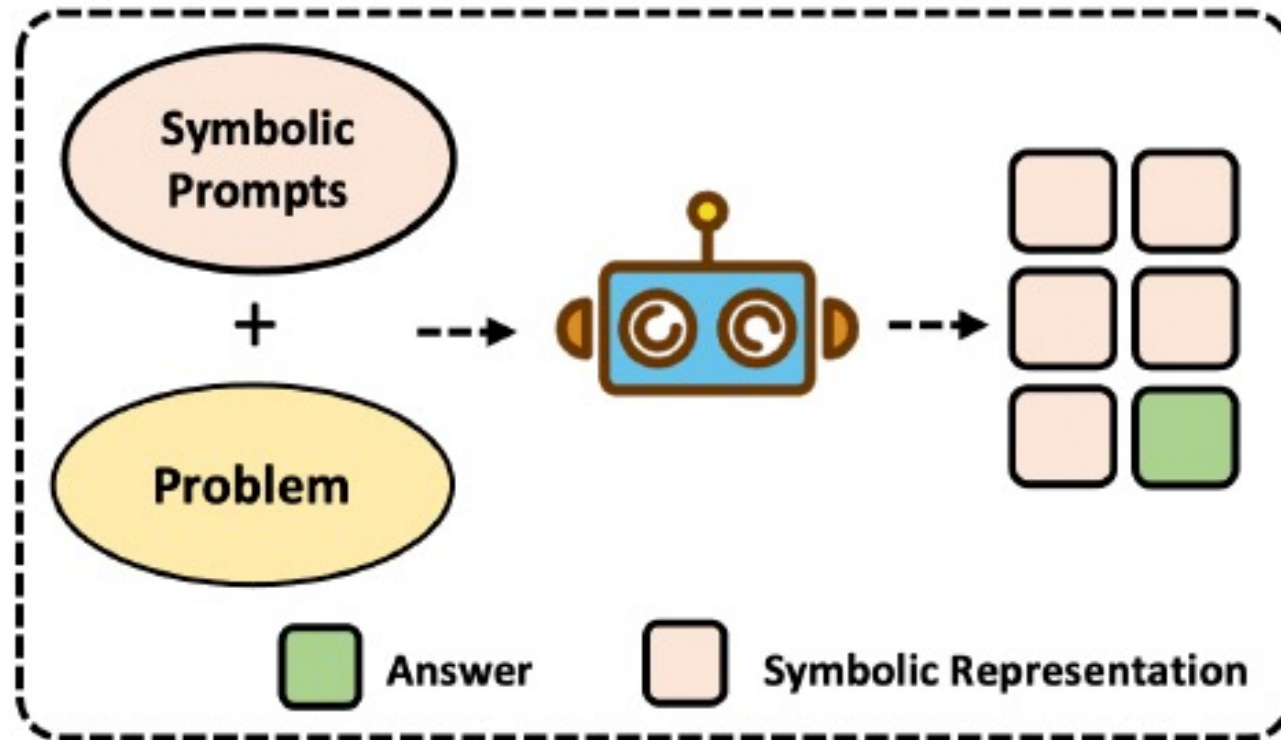
## □ Basic Ideas:

- **Symbolic Formatted Reasoning:** representing the reasoning process in symbolic language, instead of the natural language
- **Differentiable Symbolic Module:** Design differentiable symbolic modules to enable joint optimization with neural networks?
- **Symbolic Feedback:** Symbolic feedback provides more fine-grained losses or rewards, thereby guiding the optimization process



# Symbolic Formatted Reasoning

## *Symbolic Formatted Reasoning*



# Explicit Reasoning vs. Implicit Reasoning

## Explicit Reasoning

Question: Samantha had 5 packs of markers. Each pack had 12 markers. She gave 9 markers to her friend and lost 3. How many markers does Samantha have now?

<think>

Step 1: Samantha has 5 packs of 12 markers:  $5 \times 12 = 60$  markers in total.

Step 2: She gives 9 markers to her friend:  $60 - 9 = 51$ .

Step 3: She loses 3 markers:  $51 - 3 = 48$ .

Step 4: She has 48 markers now.

</think>

**The final answer is 48.**



**Inefficient**



**Constraint**

## Implicit Reasoning

Question: Samantha had 5 packs of markers. Each pack had 12 markers. She gave 9 markers to her friend and lost 3. How many markers does Samantha have now?



Layer 1 / State 1

Layer 2 / State 2

Layer 3 / State 3

Layer 4 / State 4



**The final answer is 48.**



**Efficient**



**Diverse**

**Explicit reasoning express the reasoning process via natural language**

**Implicit reasoning handles the reasoning process internally across different layers or states**

# Symbolic Formatted Reasoning

How about represent the reasoning process with symbolic language?

# Symbolic Formatted Reasoning

## A straightforward example: Chain-of-Symbol

### Shared Model Input

There are a set of bricks. The yellow brick C is on top of the brick E . The yellow brick D is on top of the brick A . The yellow brick E is on top of the brick D . The white brick A is on top of the brick B . For the brick B, the color is white. Now we have to get a specific brick. The bricks must now be grabbed from top to bottom, and if the lower brick is to be grabbed, the upper brick must be removed first. How to get brick D?

### Chain-of-Thought Prompting

The bricks from bottom to top is B, A, D, E, C  
1. Remove brick A from the top of brick B.  
2. Remove brick E from the top of brick D.  
3. Now brick D is the topmost yellow brick and can be grabbed.

### Model Output

So we get the result as A, E, D.



### Chain-of-Symbol Prompting

B/A/D/E/C  
C/E  
E/D  
D

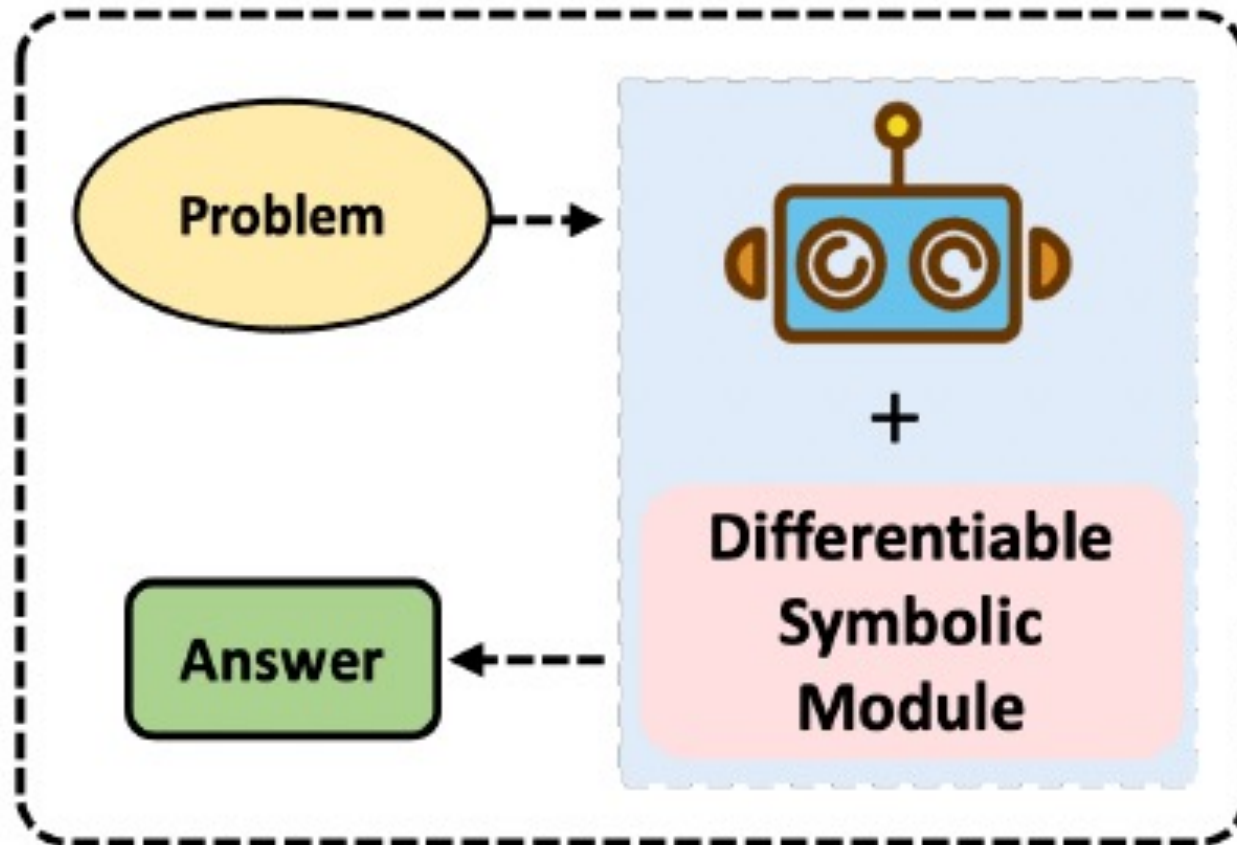
### Model Output

So we get the result as C, E, D.



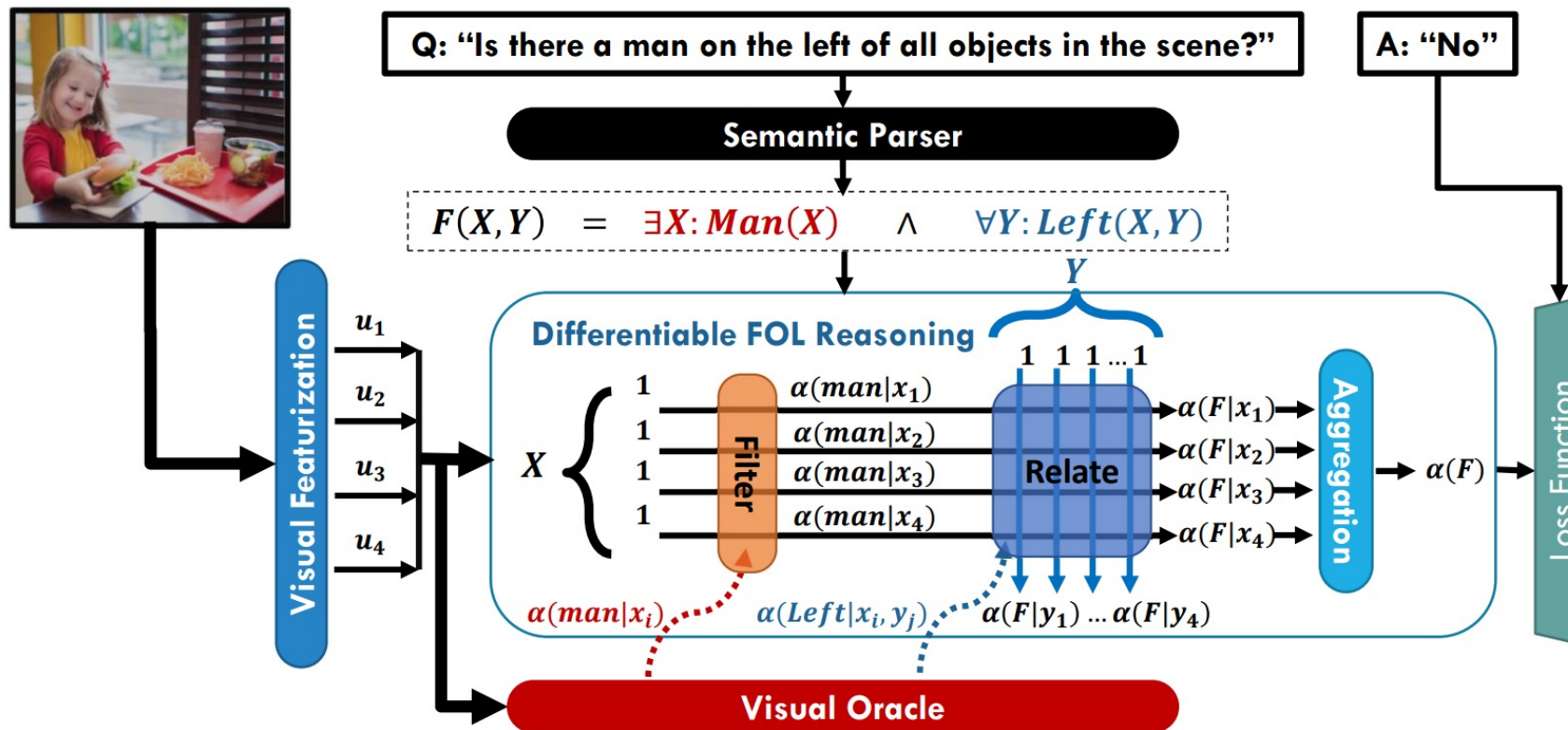
# Differentiable Symbolic Module

*Differentiable Symbolic Module*



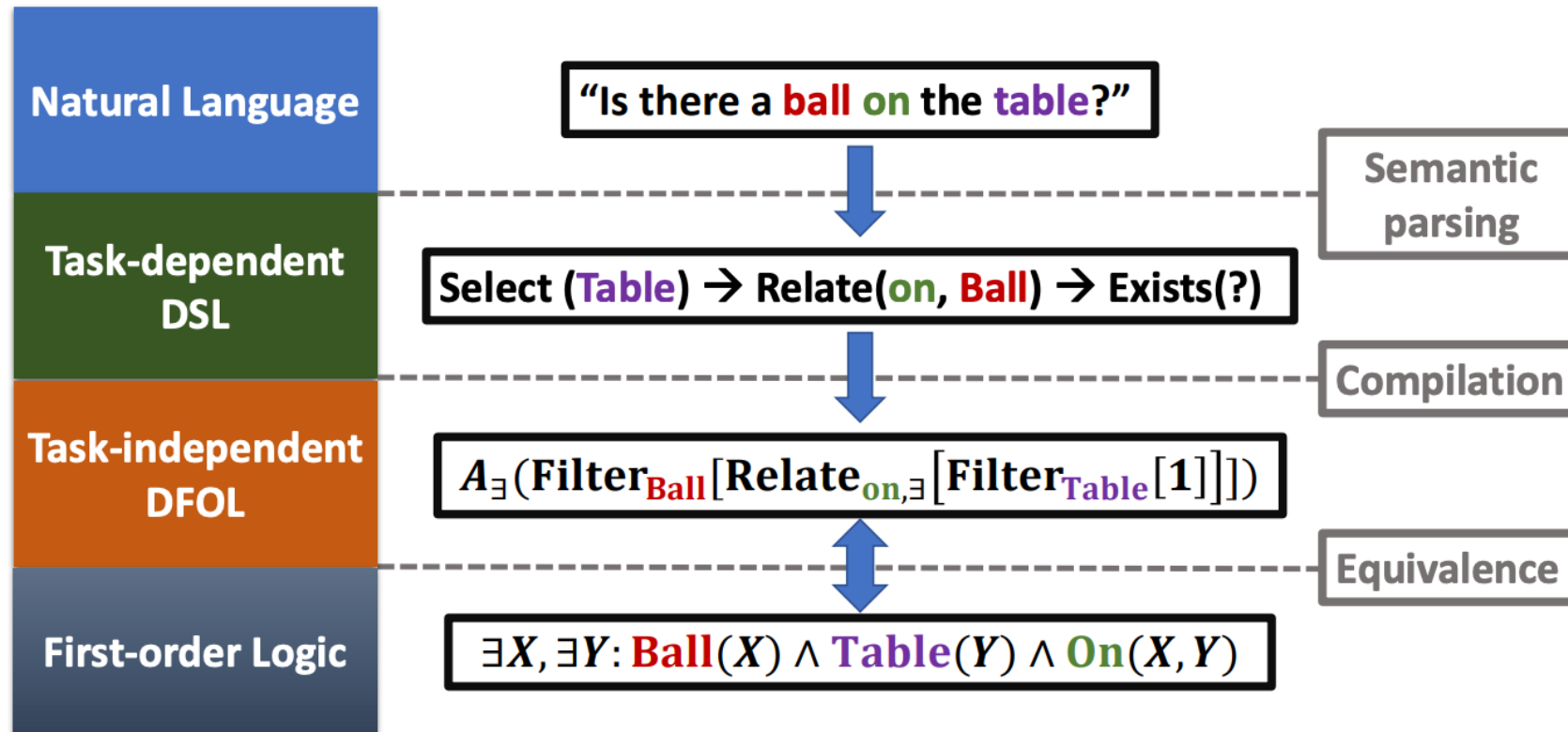
# Differential Symbolic Module

Disentangle perception and reasoning: use LLMs or MLLMs for perception and symbolic systems for reasoning, and make logical reasoning differentiable by incorporating techniques such as fuzzy logic



# Differential Symbolic Module

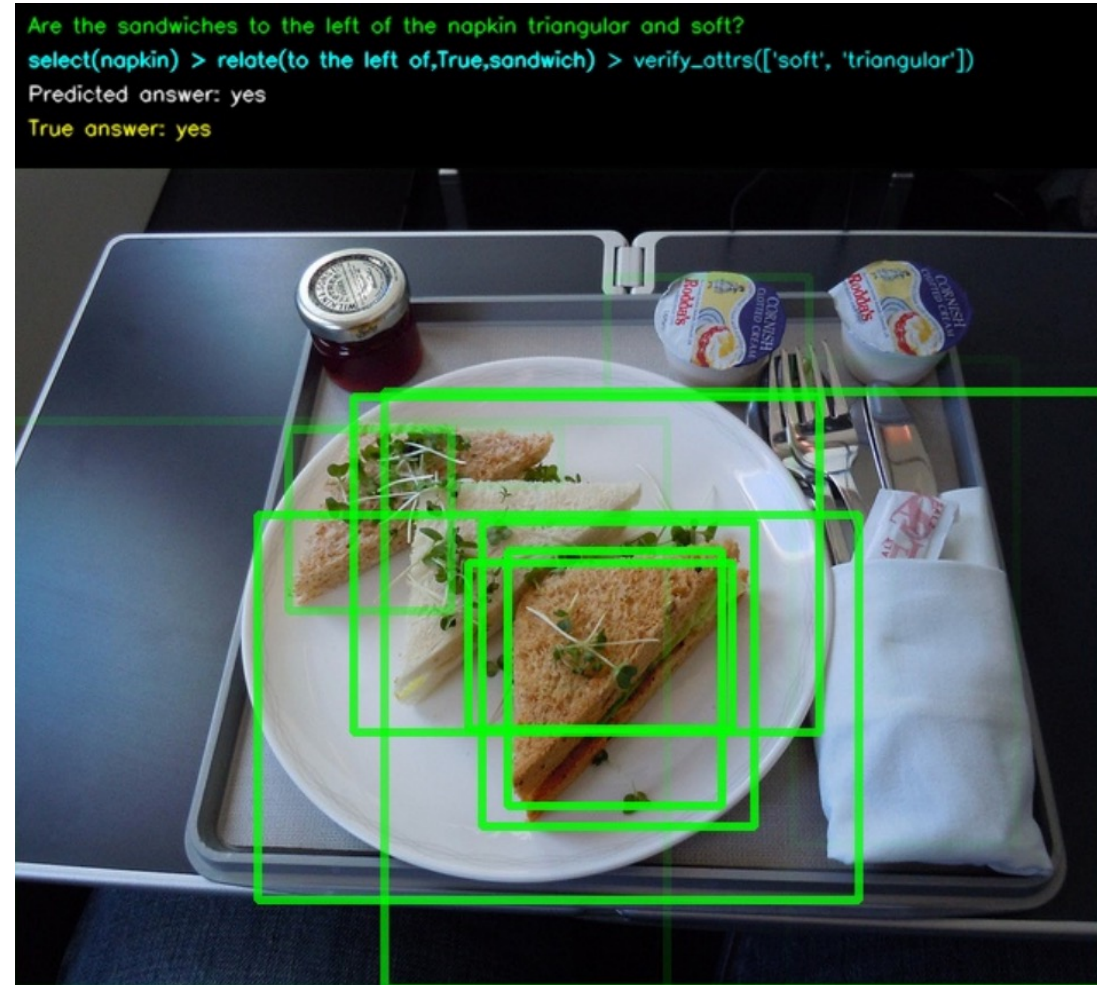
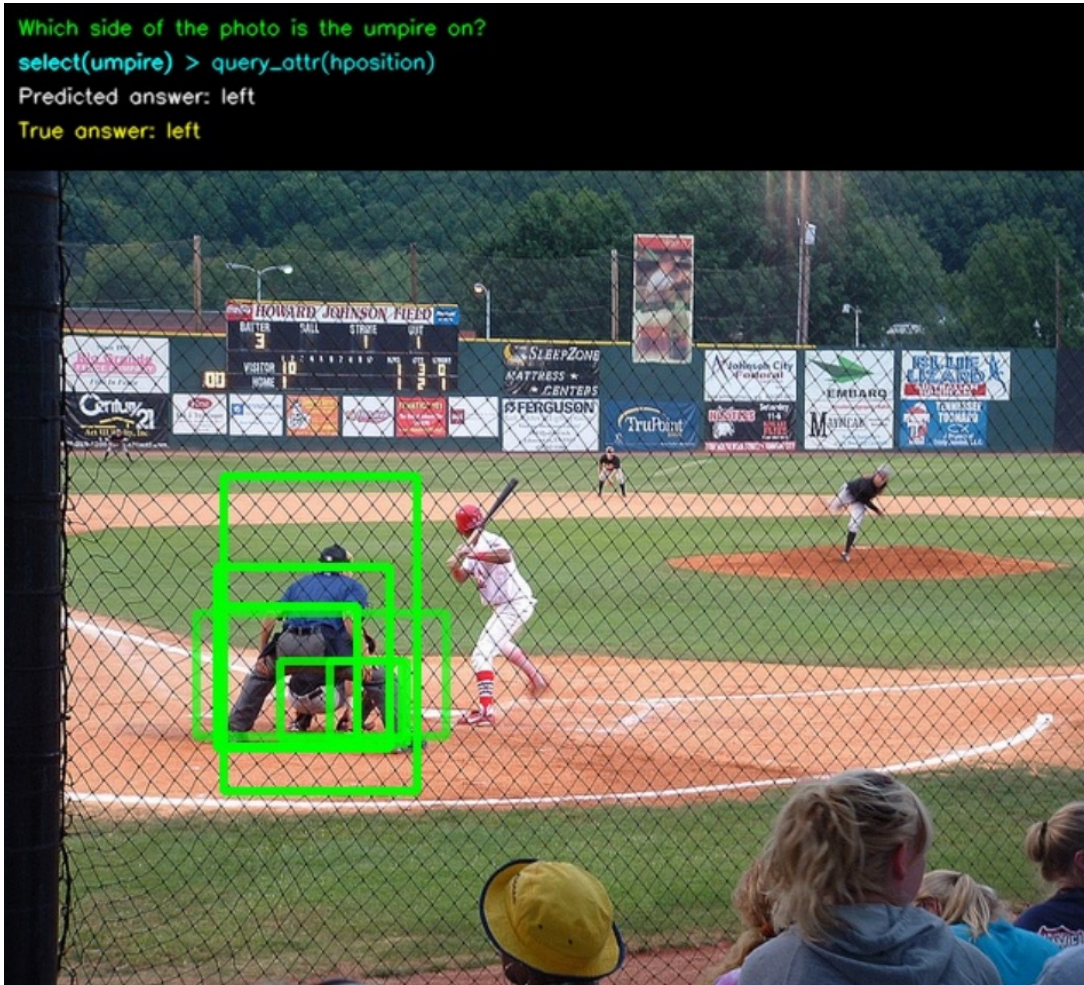
An example of the language system: natural language  $\rightarrow$  DSL program  $\rightarrow$  DFOL  $\leftrightarrow$  FOL formula



[1] Neuro-Symbolic Visual Reasoning: Disentangling "Visual" from "Reasoning". ICML 2020.

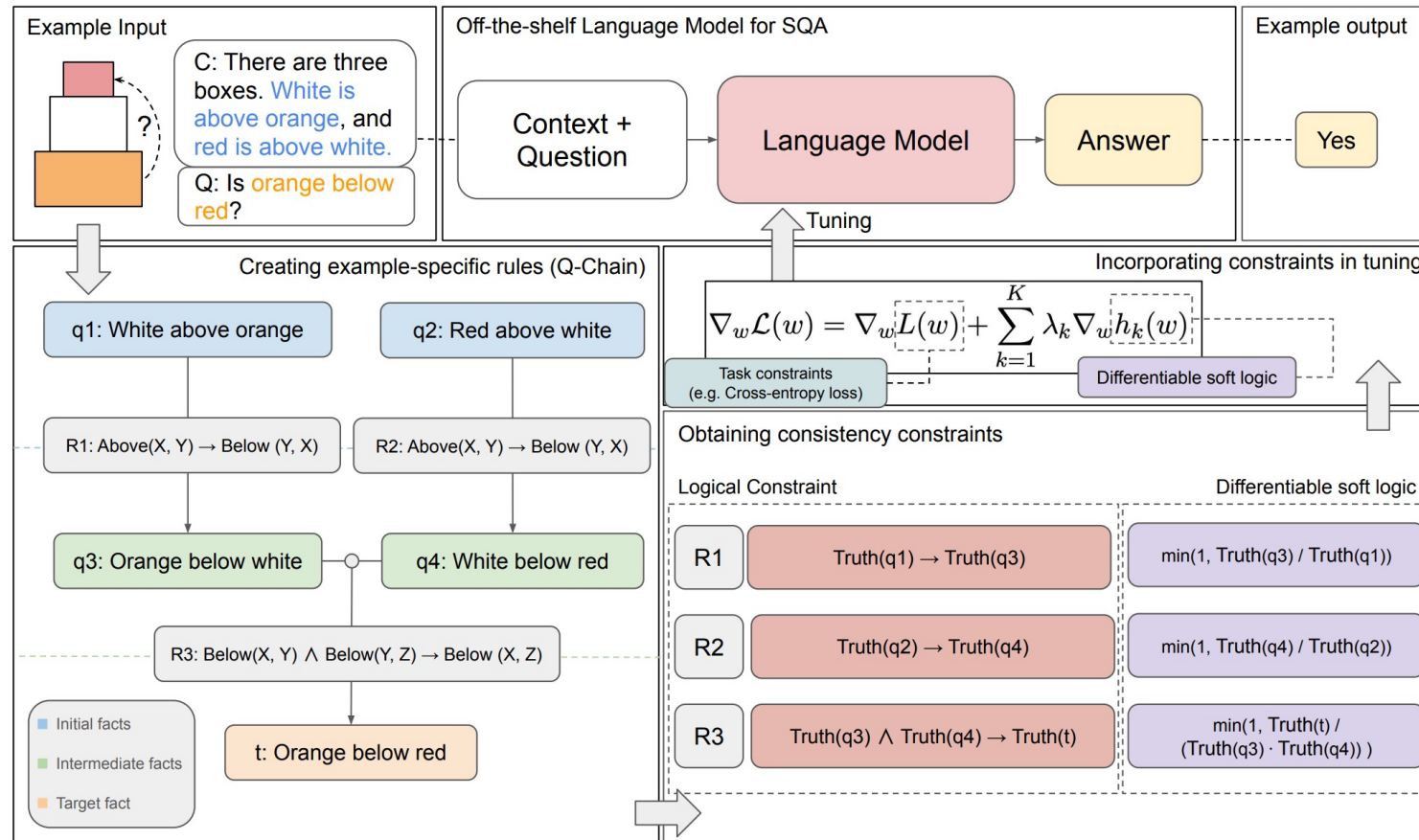
# Differential Symbolic Module

## Some Visual Reasoning Examples



# Differential Symbolic Module

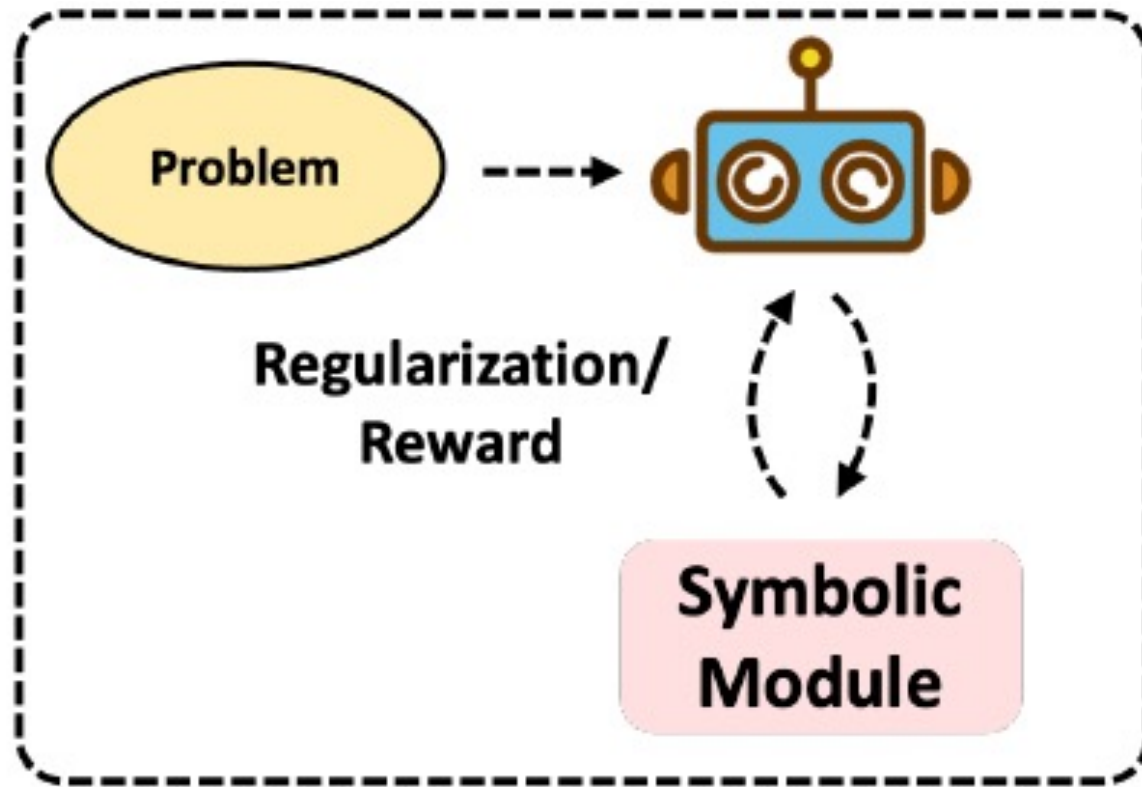
Convert **logical constraints** into **differentiable soft logic** and add them to the objective **as a regularization term**



[1] Neuro-symbolic Training for Spatial Reasoning over Natural Language. Arxiv 2025.

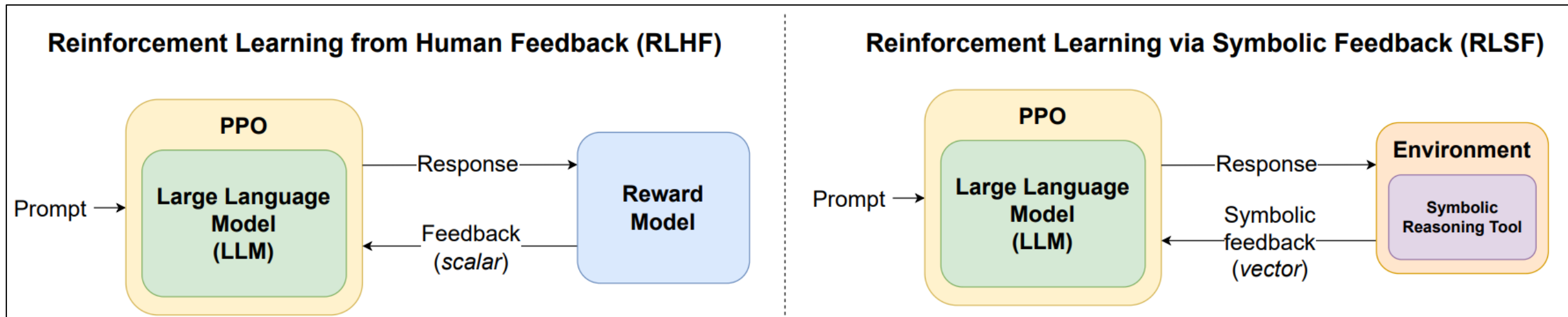
# Symbolic Feedback

## *Symbolic Feedback*



# Symbolic Feedback

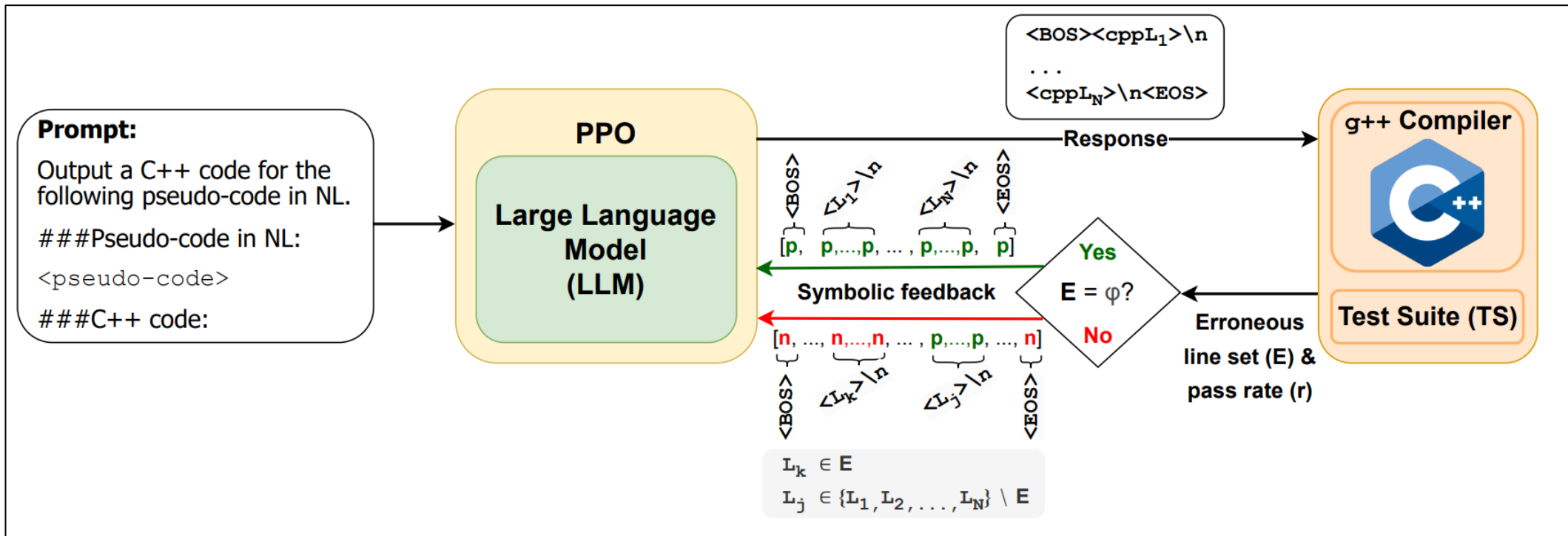
**RLVR:** For reinforcement Learning, introduce symbolic tools (e.g., theorem provers, logic solvers, code compilers) instead of a reward model to provide **verifiable rewards**



# Symbolic Feedback

## Example task: Natural Language Pseudo-code to C++ Code

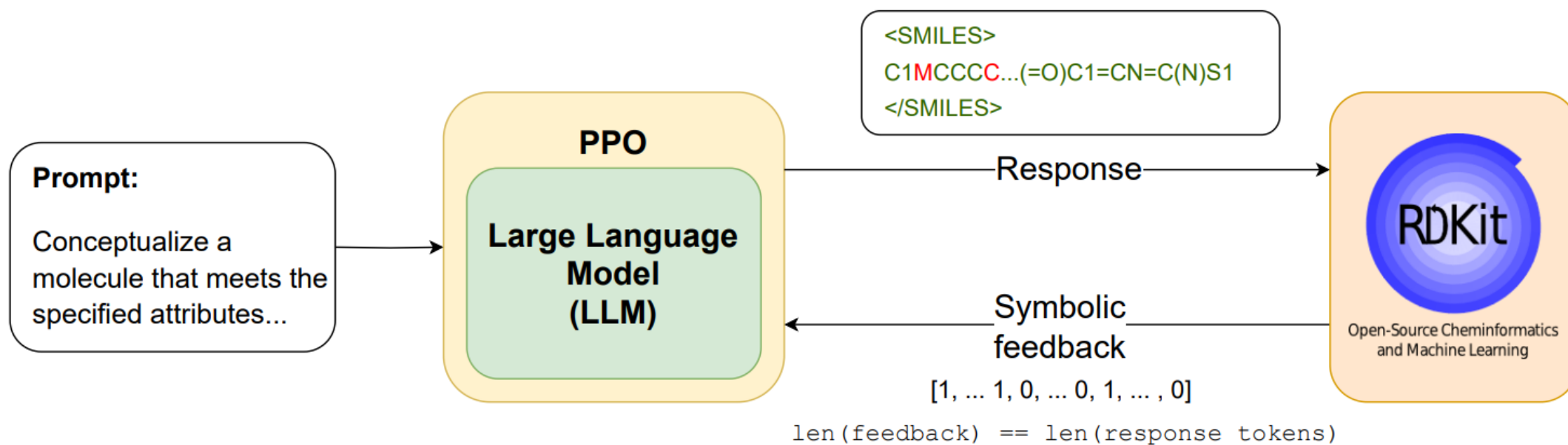
- Task: Automated code synthesis from natural language descriptions
- Symbolic Feedback: g++ Compiler and Test Suite provide feedback



# Symbolic Feedback

## Example task: Chemistry (Molecule Generation, Forward Synthesis and Retrosynthesis)

- Task: Molecular Generation (MG), Forward Synthesis (FS), and Retrosynthesis (RS)
- Symbolic Feedback: RDKit, a widely adopted cheminformatics toolkit



# Summary & Open Problems

## □ Key Ideas:

- Represent the reasoning process with symbolic representation
- Symbolic systems provides feedback for reinforcement learning
- Differentiable symbolic reasoning modules

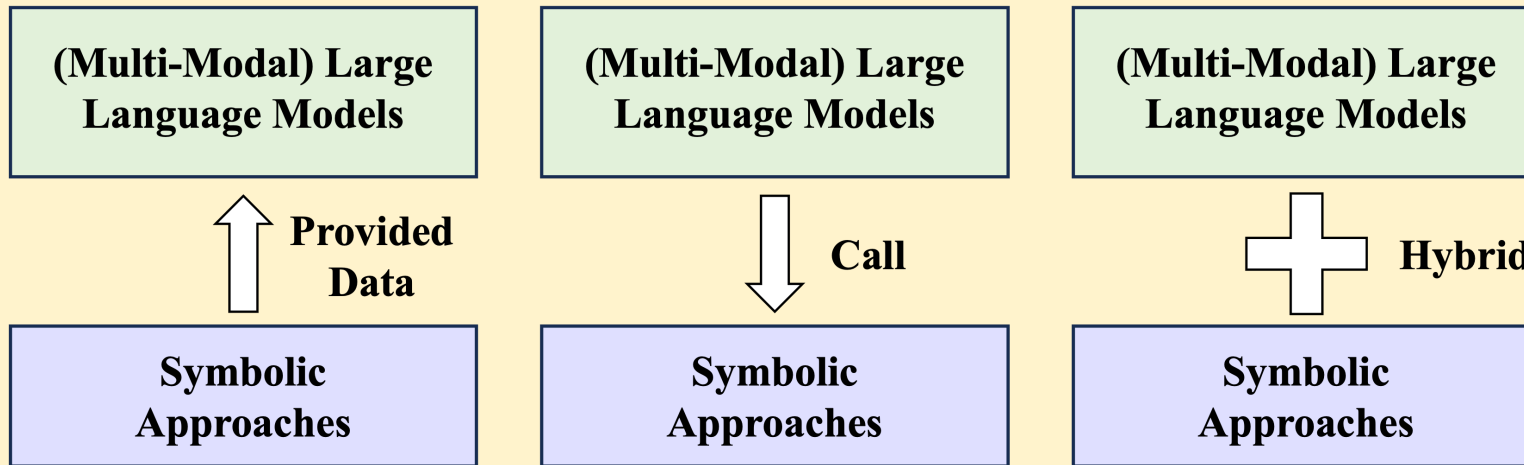
## □ Open Problems:

- Differentiability of symbolic reasoning
- More efficient joint optimization techniques
- The interpretability of the reasoning process
- .....

# Summary

## Our Survey in IJCAI 2025

### Improving LLM Reasoning & Planning with Neuro-Symbolic Methods



#### Neuro-Symbolic Artificial Intelligence: Towards Improving the Reasoning Abilities of Large Language Models

Xiao-Wen Yang<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Jie-Jing Shao<sup>1\*</sup>, Lan-Zhe Guo<sup>1,3\*</sup>, Bo-Wen Zhang<sup>1,3</sup>,  
Zhi Zhou<sup>1</sup>, Lin-Han Jia<sup>1</sup>, Wang-Zhou Dai<sup>1,3</sup> and Yu-Feng Li<sup>1,2†</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>School of Artificial Intelligence, Nanjing University, China

<sup>3</sup>School of Intelligence Science and Technology, Nanjing University, China  
{yangxw, shaoji, guolz, zhangbw, zhouz, jialh, daiwz, liyf}@lamda.nju.edu.cn

#### Abstract

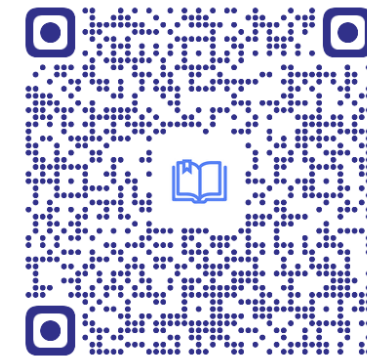
Large Language Models (LLMs) have shown promising results across various tasks, yet their reasoning capabilities remain a fundamental challenge. Developing AI systems with strong reasoning capabilities is regarded as a crucial milestone in the pursuit of Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) and has garnered considerable attention from both academia and industry. Various techniques have been explored to enhance the reasoning capabilities of LLMs, with neuro-symbolic approaches being a particularly promising way. This paper comprehensively reviews recent developments in neuro-symbolic approaches for enhancing LLM reasoning. We first present a formalization of reasoning tasks and give a brief introduction to the neuro-symbolic learning paradigm. Then, we discuss neuro-symbolic methods for improving the reasoning capabilities of LLMs from three perspectives: *Symbolic*→*LLM*, *LLM*→*Symbolic*, and *LLM*+*Symbolic*. Finally, we discuss several key challenges and promising future directions. We have also released a GitHub repository including papers and resources related to this survey: <https://github.com/LAMDASZ-ML/Awesome-LLM-Reasoning-with-NeSy>.

reasoning steps in training data, and cannot really reason. More efforts must be devoted to overcoming these bottlenecks for developing strong reasoning models.

Building AI models with strong reasoning capabilities is a crucial milestone toward achieving AGI. To this end, numerous researchers have focused on enhancing the reasoning abilities of LLMs. Existing studies can be categorized into three categories based on the different stages of the reasoning model construction: *Data Construction*, including how to automatically generate/annotate/select data with reasoning paths; *Fine-Tuning*, including supervised fine-tuning and reinforcement fine-tuning on reasoning specialized datasets, and *Inference*, including inference techniques ranging from CoT to test-time scaling. Various large reasoning models have also been released, including OpenAI O1, Qwen-QwQ, DeepSeek-R1, etc.

Among these explorations, Neuro-Symbolic (NeSy) methods demonstrate superior performance. NeSy aims to integrate the strengths of symbolic AI, which excels in complex reasoning, with neural networks, which are adept at learning from large datasets [De Raedt *et al.*, 2020]. By integrating these approaches, we can build AI systems that not only learn from large datasets but also handle complex reasoning tasks in a human-like manner. NeSy AI aligns with the Dual Pro-

# Thanks For Your Listening!



GitHub  
Repo

[https://github.com/LAMDASZ-ML/  
Awesome-Neuro-Symbolic-Learning-with-LLM](https://github.com/LAMDASZ-ML/Awesome-Neuro-Symbolic-Learning-with-LLM)