

# Reasoning Paths with Reference Objects Elicit Quantitative Spatial Reasoning in Large Vision-Language Models



UNIVERSITY OF  
TORONTO



VECTOR  
INSTITUTE



NVIDIA

Yuan-Hong Liao<sup>1</sup>, Rafid Mahmood<sup>2,3</sup>, Sanja Fidler<sup>1,2</sup>, David Acuna<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Toronto & Vector Institute, <sup>2</sup> NVIDIA, <sup>3</sup> University of Ottawa



Scan Me!



## Key Contributions

**Keywords:** Vision-Language Models, Spatial Reasoning

- Q-Spatial Bench**
  - Quantitative spatial reasoning
  - Features high-precision answers
- SpatialPrompt**
  - Reference objects
  - Improves Gemini-1.5-Pro and GPT-4V by 40 and 30, respectively

## Quantitative Spatial Reasoning?

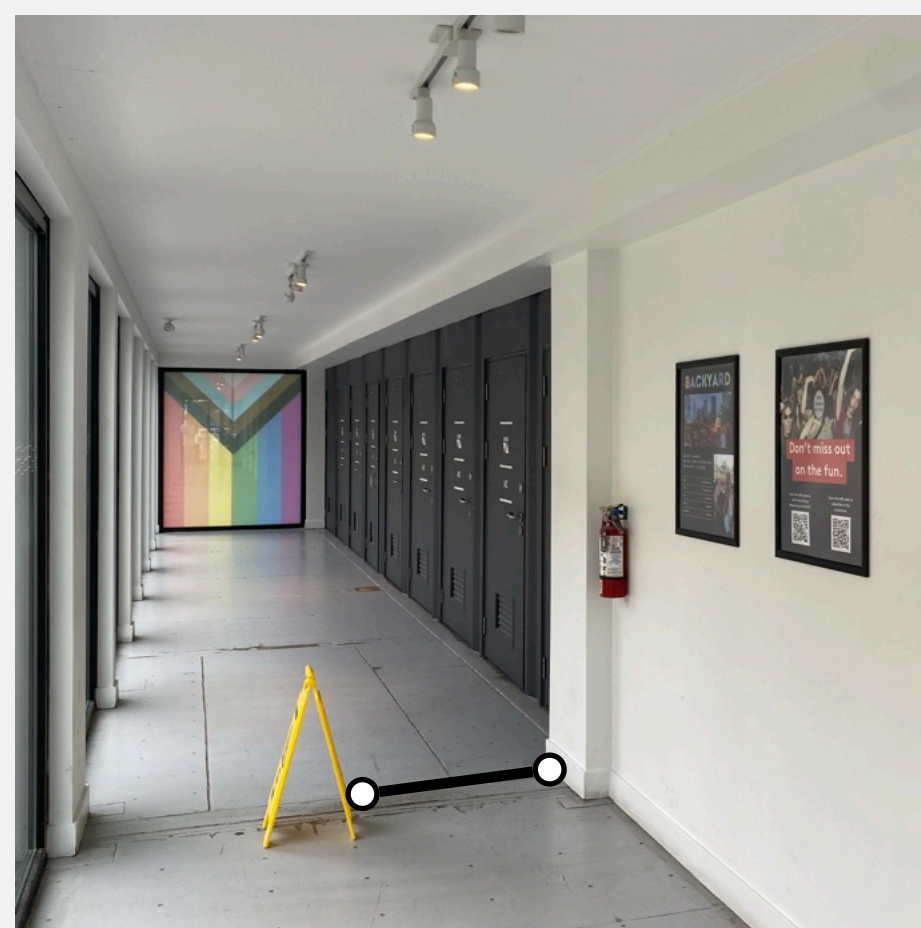
### VQA formulation

Question: What is the gap between the yellow sign and the right wall?

Answer: 94 cms

### Why “Quantitative”?

Modelling spatial relationships are limited

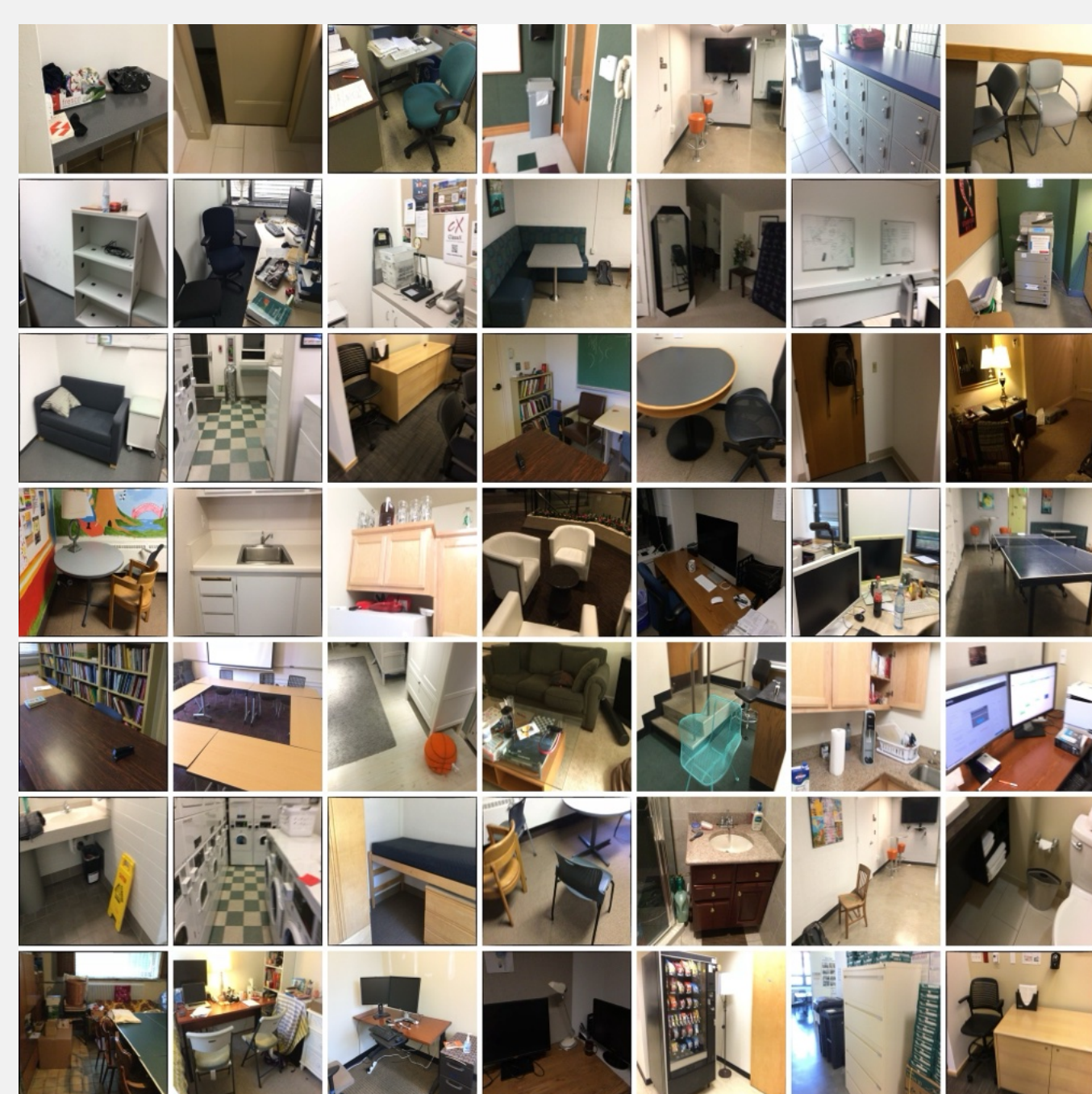


Can I maneuver through the aisle?

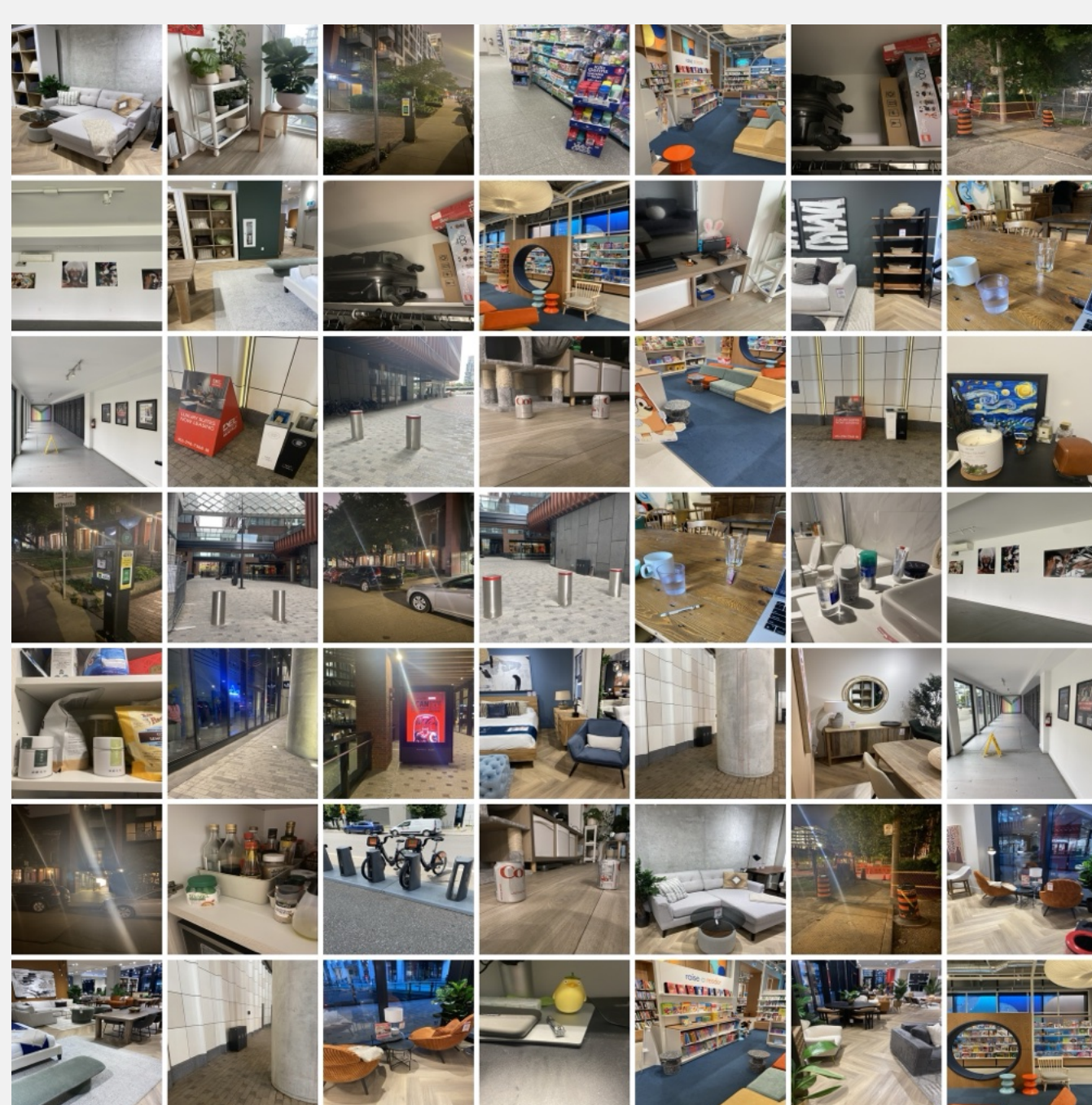
Can I move an office chair to the end of aisle?

## Q-Spatial Bench

### Q-Spatial-ScanNet



### Q-Spatial++



- 170 VQAs
  - 99 images
  - 5 question types
- 101 VQAs
  - 87 images (freshly captured)
  - 2 question types

**Evaluation metric:**  $\max\left(\frac{\text{Ground truth}}{\text{Prediction}}, \frac{\text{Prediction}}{\text{Ground truth}}\right)$

### Benchmark Results

- Easy: Objects width/height
- Difficult: Distances between objects
- GPT-4o >> GPT-4V, Gemini-Pro, Gemini-Flash

	Gemini 1.5 Pro*	Gemini 1.5 Flash	GPT-4V	GPT-4o
Object width	0.87	43.48	44.93	<b>81.16</b>
Object height	0	31.82	30.3	<b>93.94</b>
Horizontal distance	0.33	13.33	10	<b>49.44</b>
Vertical distance	0.69	20.69	33.33	<b>71.26</b>
Direct distance	1.11	8.33	42.59	<b>78.7</b>

## Analyzing GPT-4o Responses

User: Question: What is the height of the stack of towels on the counter?  
GPT-4o: To determine the height of the stack of towels... The counter height can be used as a reference point, which is typically around 36 inches (91.44 cm) in standard settings. The stack of towels appears to be about one-third the height of the counter. So, the height of the stack of towels is:  $\backslash\text{scalar}\{12\} \backslash\text{distance\_unit}\{\text{inches}\}$



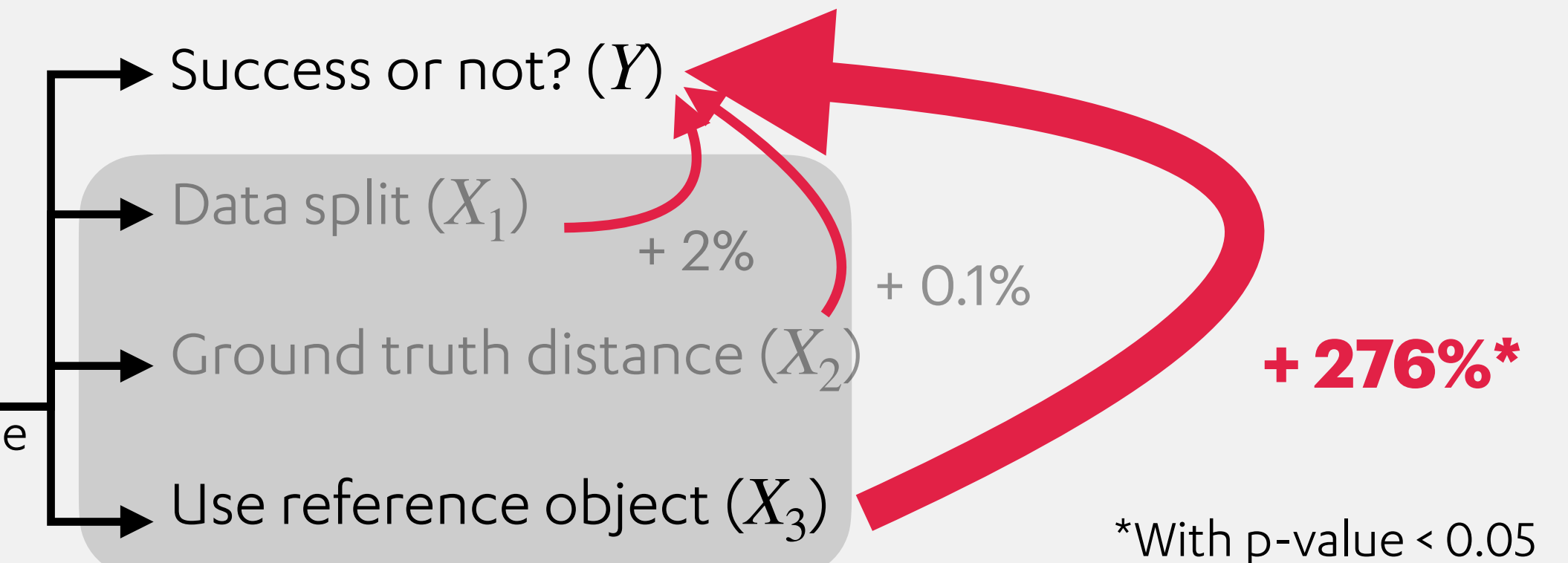
**Hypothesis:** Using reference objects for quantitative spatial reasoning leads to strong performances.

**Tool:** Logistic Regression Model



GPT-4o responses

For each response

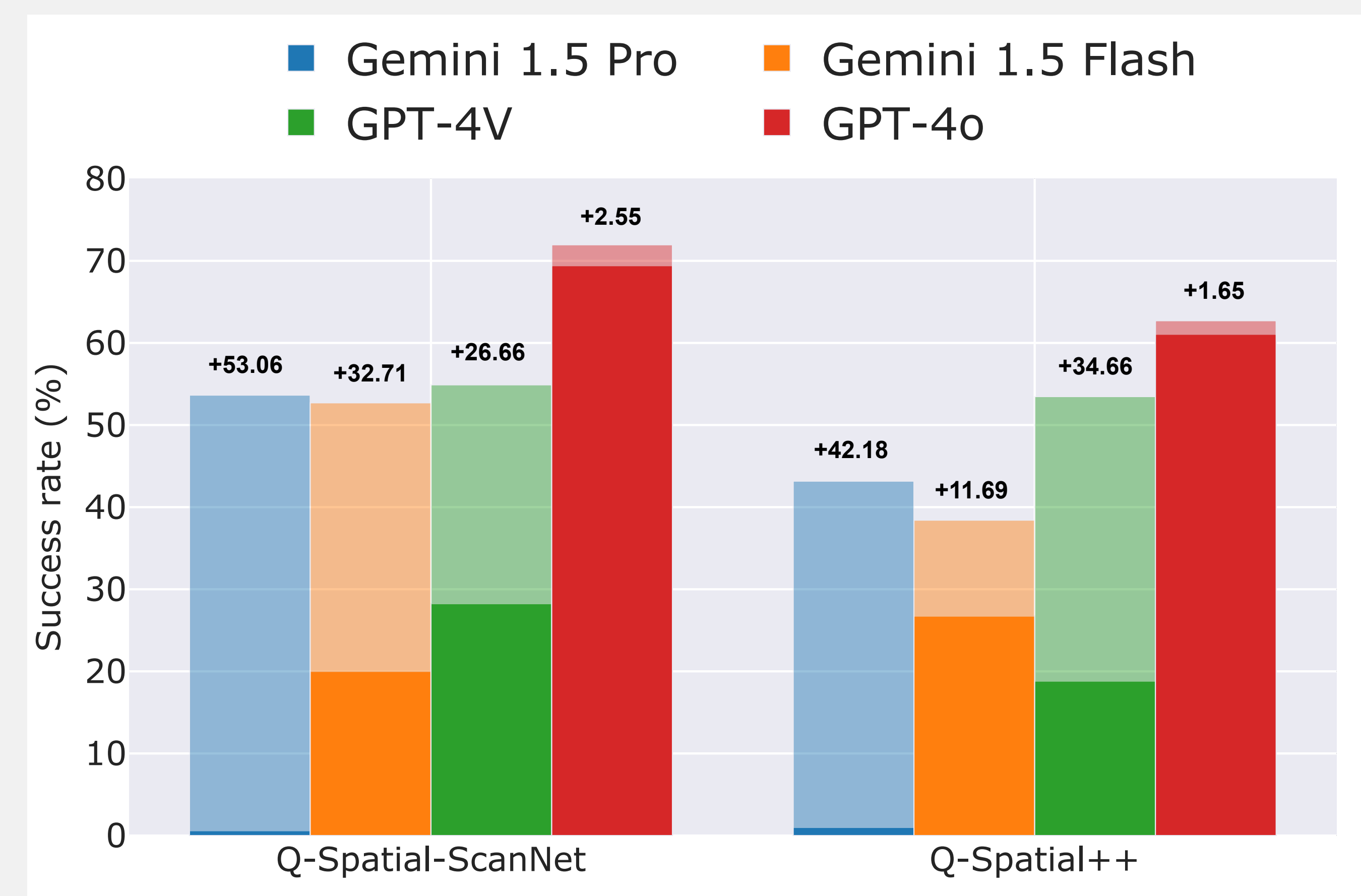


## SpatialPrompt

**Idea:** Prompt to encourage VLMs to use reference objects for quantitative spatial reasoning

### SpatialPrompt-Single

User: Question: [SPATIAL QUESTION]  
Let's think step by step and start by finding good reference objects or object parts in the image.  
Assistant: [OUTPUT]



SpatialPrompt encourages VLMs to use reference objects

