Posters at the 2018 Swedish Biennale Stand

Math Dislike Cured by 1 Cup & 5 Sticks

Migrant Math for STEM Teachers/Engineers

INTRO: Saving the Princess with BundleNumbers

LEFT

Good Math: MANY-Math, Tales about Totals

Bad Math: SET-Math, Tales about LineNumbers

Evil MATH: Fraction-Math, Tales about Operators

Good Math: Icons, Bundling, ReCounting & PerNumbers

Core Math from Childhood

Grand Theory in Math Ed Research & Difference Research

MIDDLE

Math Dislike CURED by 1 Cup & 5 Sticks Improving Schools in Sweden Migrant-Math making migrants STEM-Teachers or Engineers Count before you Add Kids own Math **Activities**

RIGHT

1Year online CATS-Course 1Week STEM-Course Is Math True always or sometimes? Is Mathematics well-defined? **PYRAMIDeDUCATION & Material** Beware of Institutions & Teachers & Research & Forced Classes Good & Bad & Evil Education **Rejected Research Papers**

Research Paper: The Simplicity of Mathematics Designing a STEM-based Core Mathematics Curriculum for Young Male Migrants (STEM: Science + Technology + Engineering + Mathematics)

MATHeCADEMY.net

Saving the Princess with BundleNumbers

Once upon a time, a Princess was stuck in division. She simply could not do 336/7 and locked herself in behind a bush of thorns. The King summoned all the Wise who agreed that the Princess should be motivated by reformulating the task to split 336 among 7. Only a newcomer objected that the task was to recount 336 in 7s. "Here we all count in tens, so please wait at the lawn outside." To solve the disagreement whether 7 should be above or below or to the right or left of 336, the Wise recommended all methods tried out together with an alternative method saying no method at all allowing the Princess to invent her own method. But nothing helped.

"Are there no other methods? Who is out on the lawn?" the King asked. "Just a newcomer with crazy ideas". But in spite of strong protests from the Wise the King let him in.

"You also want to teach me division?", the Princess asked. "No, I bring you a cup with 5 sticks that we will count." "But they are already counted?" "We will count them in bundles of 2s. As we see on our hand, this can be done in three ways: as 1 bundle & 3, as 2 bundles & 1, and as 3 bundles less 1. Using the cup for the bundles, we see that all numbers have inside bundles and outside singles; and that a total can be counted in the standard way or with an outside overload or an underload."

"But isn't 336 a name for a point far out on a number-line?" the Princess asked.

"No. 336 is not a line-number as everyone claims, it is a bundle-number. Asking 3yearolds "How old next time?" they say 4; but object to 4 fingers held together 2 by 2: "That is not 4 that is 2 2s."

Children both see and count the bundles; and come to school with 2dimensional bundle-numbers or block-numbers with the core of mathematics inside them: 3 2s may be added to 1 4s in two ways; ontop, the units must be the same, and changing units is just another word for proportionality; and next-to means adding areas which is just another word for integral calculus.

So 336 is a bundle-number with 33 bundles inside and 6 singles outside. Wanting 28 bundles inside we move 5 bundles outside; so 33B6 and 28B56 is the same number just recounted with an overload. Counted in 7s we have 4 inside and 8 outside.

Consequently, a block of 33 tens & 6, or 336, can be recounted as a block of 48 7s; which makes sense since a shorter width calls for a larger height."



All of a sudden, the thorns changed to roses. The Newcomer got the Princess and half the kingdom where they lived happily ever after.

Good Math: MANY-Math Tales about Totals

MANY-matics: A Natural Science about MANY Meeting MANY we ask:

"How Many in Total?".

To answer, we **Bundle** and Stack in Blocks

 $T = 345 = 3^{*}BB + 4^{*}B + 5^{*}1$, or

 $T = 345 = 3^{*}B^{2} + 4^{*}B + 5^{*}1,$

The SIMPLICITY of MANY-Math *First Iconize & Count & ReCount, then Add OnTop & NextTo* 4 ways to add: + , * , ^ , ∫

Algebra unite/ <u>split</u>	Variable	Constant
Unit-	T = a+n	T = a*n
numbers	<i>T-a = n</i>	<i>T/a = n</i>
Per-	T = ∫a dn	T = a^n
numbers	<i>dT/dn = a</i>	loga(T)=n, n√T=a

Bad Math: SET-Math Tales about LineNumbers

META-matics: concepts as examples of abstractions, not as abstractions of examples

- 00. Digits are symbols, not icons
- 01. Numbers are **1dimensional linear names**, not **2dimensional bundle-blocks**
- 02. Only ten-counting, no icon-counting
- 03. No 'T=', only 42; not 'T = 4.2 tens'
- 04. Add & Subtract before Multiply & Divide
- 05. Only OnTop addition no NextTo addtion
- 06. 6*7 IS 42 not 6 7s or 4.2 tens
- 07.8/4 IS 8 split by 4; not 8 counted in 4s
- 08. No re-counting to create or remove over- or underloads when operating on numbers
- 09. Solving equations by neutralizing; not by recounting in icons or reversed operations
- 10. Functions as set-relations; not as numberlanguage sentences about the Total
- 11. Plane before coordinate geometry; not trigonometry before coordinate geometry
- 12. Differential before Integral Calculus.

Evil MATH: Fraction-Math

Tales about Operators

Mathema-TISM: True inside, but seldom outside



Claim: 1/2+2/3 IS 7/6

But 1 blue of 2 + 2 of 3 is 3 blues of 5, and not 7 blues of 6?

Claim: <u>2+3 IS 5</u> But 2weeks + 3days is 17days?

Never ADD without units

- **00. Fractions are numbers; not operators needing numbers to become numbers**
- 01. Fractions add without units; not with units making it integral calculus
- 02. Fractions before percentages and decimals; not the inverse order
- 03. Fractions are equivalence classes in a set product; not per-numbers from doublecounting in the same unit



Core Math from Childhood

Proportionality in Primary & Middle School

- Recount to change unit: 2 **3s** = (2*3/5)*5 = 1.1 **5s**
- With 2\$/5kg, 20kg = (20/5)*5kg = (20/5)*2\$ = 8\$
- Adding OnTop, 2 3s + 4 5s = ? 5s

Calculus in Primary & Middle School

• Adding NextTo 2 **3s** + 4 **5s** = ? **8s**

2 kg at 3 \$/kg + 4 kg at 5 \$/kg (2+4)kg at (3+5) \$/kg Unit-numbers add on-top. Per-numbers add next-to as areas under the per-number graph.



Formulas in Primary & Middle School

- NumberLanguage Sentences about the Total, T = 4.2 tens = 42
- The general NumberFormula T = 3*B^2+4*B+5 with its examples
- T = a*x^2 + b*x + c; T = m*x, T = m*x + c, T = a*x^n, T = a*n^x

Equations in Primary & Middle School

Recount icons \leftarrow tens: $x^*7 = 42 = (42/7)^*7$, x = 42/7 (*opposite side* & *sign*)

The ReCount Formula is all over Mathematics

ReCount-formula: <u>T = (T/B)*B</u> 'from T, T/B times, B is taken away'

ReCounting	T = (T/B)*B	T = 8 = (8/2)*2 = 4*2 = 4 2s
Proportionality	\$ = (\$/kg)*kg	\$ = price*kg
Coordinate Geometry	$\Delta y = (\Delta y / \Delta x)^* \Delta x$	$\Delta y = m^* \Delta x$
Differential Calculus	$dy = (dy/dx)^*dx$	dy = y' * dx
Trigonometry	a = (a/c)*c = sinA*c;	a = (a/b)*b = tanA*b
Linearity	y = k*x	F = m*a, dist = vel*time, …
Eigenvalues	Ηψ = Ε*ψ	Schroedinger Equation

Grand Theory in Math Ed Res.

BAUMAN & WEBER: Beware of Goal-Means exchanges ARENDT: - and of the Banality of Evil just following orders HEIDEGGER: Respect the Subject & question the Predicate FOUCAULT: - also question Cures and Institutions

Difference Research

Finding Differences making a Difference Almost Everything can be Different

Icons vs. symbols DIGITS: 2D bundlw-blocks vs. 1D line-names **NUMBERS: OPERATIONS: Icons vs. inter-set mappings OnTop/NextTo vs. only OnTop ADDITION: MULTIPLICATION: ReCounting to tens vs. tables DIVISION: ReCounting from tens vs. splitting** Changing units vs. neglect **RE-COUNTING: DOUBLE-COUNTING:** Proportionality vs. neglect Core numbers vs. neglect **PER-NUMBERS: PerNumbers vs. rational numbers FRACTIONS: FRACTIONS: Operators vs. rational numbers FORMULAS: Total statements vs. inter-set relations EQUATIONS: ReCount in icons vs. open statements GEOMETRY: Trigonometry** before coord. geometry vs. plane geometry first **POLYNOMIALS:** Number-formulas vs. functions Integrate bef. differentiate vs. inverse **CALCULUS:**

Math Dislike CURED

By 1 Cup & 5 sticks

My Many Math Tears will not Stay – if I **Bundle** the Stray Away

BundleCOUNT first - then ADD



3 ways to BundleCount: Overload, Normal, Underload

ReCount 47 in tens: T = 47 = 4B7 = 3B17 = 5B-3 tens

NO, **4x7** is not **28**, but 4 **7s**, or **2B**8 = **1B**18 = **3B**-**2** tens

NO, 30/6 is not 30 split by 6, it is 3 tens split (recounted) in 6s

BundleWriting tells Inside Bundles from Outside Singles

lacksquare	65 + 27=	6 B 5 + 2 B 7 = 8 B 12 = 9 B 2 =	92
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- 65 27 = 6B5 2B7 = 4B 2 = 3B8 =38
- 7x 48 = 7x 4B8 = 28B56 = 33B6 =336

336 /7 = 33**B**6 /7 = 28**B**56 /7 = 4**B**8 = **48**

- **65 + 27** = 6]5 + 2]7 = 8]12 = 9]2 = 92 • 65 - 27 = 6]5 - 2]7 = 4]-2 = 3]8 = 38 **7x 48** = 7x 4]8 = 28]56 = 33]6 =
- 336
- 336 **/7** = 33]6 /7 = 28]56 /7 = 4]8 = 48

Improving Schools in Sweden: An OECD Perspective

to Improve Schools

choose Good or Bad or Evil Math Education



Migrant-Math

Migrants returning to rebuild as **STEM** Teachers/Engineers

¹/₂year STEM-Course using the SIMPLICITY of MANY-Math

Count, ReCount & DoubleCount before Adding

- Block-numbers with units, not line-numbers without units
- Dividing & multiplying & subtraction first adding much later
 - Proportionality as ReCounting. The ReCount-formula T = (T/B)*B
 - Multiplication tables as ReCounting
 - Equations as ReCounting
 - Fractions & statistics as PerNumbers from DoubleCounting
- Adding OnTop & NextTo (proportionality & calculus)
- Trigonometry before coordinate geometry
- Functions as Total-formulas, not set-relations
- Calculus as adding PerNumbers and fractions with units
- Integral calculus before differential calculus

PerNumbers in Time, Space, Matter, Force and Energy

Joule/second, Joule/kg, Joule/degree, meter/second, kg/m^3, g/l, Newton/m^2.

Warming and boiling water

Warm whisky on the rocks in cold water. What is the end temperature?

Letting steam work

Increasing the volume 20% and decreasing the temperature 10% changes the pressure An electrical circuit

- With 30m/s a ball is send up a 30degree incline lifted 1.23 m. What happens?

Constructing a road up a steep hill

How many turns will a 10degree road have on a 1x1 km^2 30degree hillside?

Producing alcohol from sugar

How much alcohol comes from 34.5gram sugar?

STEM: Science + Technology + Engineering + Math

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			9 \
			5

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Count before you Add

MatheMatics as ManyMath

a Natural Science about MANY

Cure Math Dislike: Use Kid's own 2D BlockNumbers with Units

Count	
In <i>lcons</i>	T=IIII= - = 4
In Bundles	T = 7 = = = = 2 B 1 3 s or 1 B 4 3 s or 3 B -2 3 s
ReCount	ReBundle to create Overload & Underload
In same Unit	T = 7 = = 2B1 3s = 1B4 3s = 3B-2 3s
In new Unit	T = 2B1 3s = 1B3 4s = 1B2 5s = 3B1 2s = 1BB1B1 2s = 11B1 2s
ReCount	
In Tens	3 7s = ? tens Answer: 3x7 = 21 = 2B1 tens
From Tens	? 7s = 3 tens Answer: (30/7)x7 = 4B2 7s
DoubleCount	
in PerNumbers	With 4\$ per 5kg or 4/5 \$/kg, T = 20kg = (20/5) x 5kg = (20/5) x 4\$ = 16\$
in PerFive, 3/5	3/5 of 200\$ = ?\$. 200\$ = (200/5) x 5\$ = 5 (200/5\$) gives (200/5\$) x 3 = 120\$
in PerHundred, %	70% of 300\$ = ?\$. 300\$ = (300/100) x 100\$ = 100 (300/100\$) gives (300/100\$) x 70 = 210\$
Calculator	
Prediction	T = 2 $4s$ = ? $5s$ = 1B3 $5s$ since 2x4/5 1.some
RecountFormula	$T = (T/B) \times B = T/B Bs$ (2x4 - 1x5 3)
Add	
NextTo	T = 2 3s + 4 5s = 3B2 8s
OnTop	T = 2 3s + 4 5s = 1B1 5s + 4 5s = 5B1 5s Proportionality
Multiply, Divide	
Use	7 x $63 = 7 x 6B3 = 42B21 = 44B1 = 441$ 7 x $63 = 7 x 6]3 = 42]21 = 44]1 = 441$
BundleWriting	245 /7 = 24B5 /7 = 21B35 /7 = 3B5 = 35 5 /7 = 24]5 /7 = 21]35 /7 = 3]5 = 35

T = 7 = 2**B**1 **3s** on an **Abacus**:

Geometry-mode



MrAlTarp YouTube Videos



Allan.Tarp@MATHeCADEMY.net



Kids' own Math

 $= (T/B)^*B$

NumberBlocks, ReShaped (Proportionality) - or added NextTo (Calculus), predicted by the ReCount-formula

	You will be 4 next time?
	Yes, but that is not 4, it is 2 2s
II III How many?	1 2s & 3
	2 2s & 1 or 3 2s less 1
Talking with a 5year old	How many 5s?
	Bundling, I take 5 away 2 times. That leaves 2 singles. So 2 5s & 2
	Can you predict it with a calculator?
3x4/5 2.some	3 4s is 3x4. Taking 5s away means dividing by 5. It gives 2. Then the 2
3x4-2x5 2	5s is taken away with minus. It gives 2 also. So again 2 5s & 2
	How about adding 2 3s and 4 5s ? On-top or next-to? Both, please.
	On-top: T = 2 3s + 4 5s = 1 B 1 5s + 4 B 0 5s = 5 B 1 5s
	Next-to: T = 2 3s + 4 5s = 0 B 6 8s + 2 B 4 8s = 2 B 10 8s = 3 B 2 8s
	How many tens is 3 7s ?
	On an abacus I see, that the width is longer, so the height is shorter.
	I take 3 from the top 2 times to get tens . So 2 tens & 1
	How many 7s is 30?
	30 is 3 tens , On an abacus I see, that the width is shorter, so the
	height is longer. I take 3 to the top 3 times to get tens . So 4 7s & 2
	Can you solve the equation $x^*5 = 20$?
	You mean how many 5s in 2 tens ? You just count 20 in 5s by dividing
	by 5, 20/5 gives 4. So 20 = 4 5s . The answer is 4.
456	This means what? 4 bundle-bundles and 5 bundles and 6 singles
	If 3 Bs is the same as 4 Ds , then what is 15 Bs ?
	Well I just count 15 in 3s and get 5 3s , so I have 4 Ds 5 times, 5 4s Ds

A BlockNumber contains 3 numbers: the COUNTER, the UNIT and the SINGLES

Geometry	& Algebra: Alway	vs togeth	er – never	apart
Singles: Add, b	ut be aware of bundles	5		
Units: don't ad	d, unless you add next	-to		
Counters: don'	t add unless the units a	are the sam	e	
	T = 2.1 3s	2	3	1
	T = 43 =	4	ten	3

In Numbers, ReCounting, Multiplication, Addition etc.



1Year online CATS-Course

CATS: Count & Add in Time & Space

1: Primary, 2: Secondary School

	Self Instructing QUESTIONS
	How to count Many?
C1	How to recount 8 in 3s : T= 8 = ? 3s
COUNT	How to count in standard bundles?
	How to recount 6 kg in \$ with 2\$/4kg : T = 6 kg = ? \$
C2	How can we count possibilities?
COUNT	How can we predict unpredictable numbers?
۸1	How to add blocks concretely?
	T = 27 + 16 = 2 ten 7 + 1 ten 6 = 3 ten 13 = ?
AUU	How to add blocks abstractly?
۸2	What is a prime and a folding number?
	What is a per-number?
ADD	How to add per-numbers?
Τ1	How can counting & adding be reversed ?
	Counting ? 3s and adding 2 gave 14.
	Can all calculations be reversed?
ТЭ	How to predict the terminal number
	 If the change is constant?
	 If the change is variable, but predictable?
S1	How to count plane and spatial properties of blocks
SPACE	and round objects?
S2	How to predict the position of points and lines?
SPACE	How to use the new calculation technology?
	What is quantitative literature? Does it also have the
QL	3 different genres: fact, fiction and fiddle?

1Week STEM-Course The Simplicity of Math:

First Count & ReCount - then Add OnTop & NextTo

Day 01. Good & Bad & Evil Math in General The root of math: MANY or SET

Day 02. Good & Bad & Evil Math in Primary School Iconize & Count & ReCount before you ADD

Day 03. Good & Bad & Evil Math in Middle School DoubleCounting and PerNumbers vs. Fractions

Day 04. Good & Bad & Evil Math in High School Calculus: adding locally constant PerNumbers

<u>Day 05.</u> Good Math in a STEM setting PerNumbers Predicting Matter in Time and Space

> Spring 2018 Offer Week 01: ½ fee Vk€

Is Math True always or sometimes?

Is this True	Always	Never	Sometimes
2 + 3 = 5	2weeks +	3days = 17days; o	X nly with the same unit
2 x 3 = 6	X 2x3 is 2 3s III	III that can always	be recounted as 6 1s
$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{2}{3} = \frac{3}{5}$	1 red of 2 a	apples + 2 of 3 is 3	X of 5, and not 7 of 6
$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{2}{3} = \frac{7}{6}$		Only if ta	X Aken of the same total
A FUNCTION is	 for example 2 with an unspective an example of identity implie 	2+x, but not 2+3; i.e. cified number f a set relation, when es second component	a name for a calculation (before SET, 1750-1900) re first component t identity (after SET, 1900)

Is Mathematics Well Defined?

Ancient Greece

A common LABEL for Quadrivium: Arithmetic, Geometry, Music & Astronomy (Many by itself and in space & time). Trivium: Grammar, Logic, Rhetoric

PreModern

A common LABEL for Arithmetic & Geometry; different from "Rechnung".

Modern

A self-referring SET of Proofs about SET-derived Concepts.

PostModern

Many-math: A Natural SCIENCE Counting & Adding & Predicting Many.

PYRAMIDeDUCATION

8 learners organized in 2 teams with 2 instructors and 3 pairs by turn.

- Each pair works together to solve Count&Add problems.
- The coach assists the instructors when instructing their team and when correcting the **C**ount&**A**dd assignments.
- Each learner pays by coaching a new group of 8 learners.



Material: short & self-instructing

COUNT1.pdf - Adobe Rea	ıder		odf - Adobe Reader		[ME1.pdf	f - Adobe l	Reader		
e Edit View Window	Help	×	View Window Help	×	Edit	View Wi	ndow Help		×
L / 4 50% -	Fill & Sign	Comment	50% 💌 🚅 👻	Fill & Sign Comment		/ 5	50% 💌	₹ Fill & Sign	Comment
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YouTube Videos

- Postmodern Mathematics Debate
- CupCounting removes Math Dislike
- IconCounting & NextTo-Addition
- PreSchool Mathematics
- Fractions
- PreCalculus & Calculus
- Mandarin Mathematics
- World History



Beware of

INSTITUTIONS exchanging goals and means

• The goal of math education is to learn math master Many with quantitative competence

TEACHERS teaching Bad & Evil math

- LINE-numbers instead of BUNDLE-numbers
- Addition before Counting & Multiplication
- Adding Fractions without units
- Differential before Integral Calculus

RESEARCH uncritically

- researching itself instead of math education
- exemplifying instead of questioning itself
- accepting math as self-referring MetaMath
- accepting 50 years of unsuccessful research

FORCED CLASSES

 Constraining young people to stay with their age-group for several years - instead of choosing their own daily ½year blocks in order to uncover and develop their personal talent

EDUCATION

GOOD	
Primary	 An extra parent through a warm Nanny teaching Language&Society and Mathematics&Nature
Secon-	 Support for the individual identity-work through
dary	self-chosen academic or practical ½year blocks with
	1-subject teachers apprising the talent or the
	courage to try out the unknown
BAD	
Primary	 Multiple teachers from grade 1
Secon-	 Fixed classes and schedules forcing teenagers to
dary	follow the age-group for several years; thus making
	the school a PRIS-PITAL (Foucault) combining the
	power techniques of a PRISON (you can leave after
	4 years with a leave after 8 hours) and a HOSPITAL
	(you will be cured for the diagnose 'ignorant')
EVIL	
Primary &	Practicing Goal Displacement (Bauman) so a means
Secon-	becomes a goal.
dary	The goal of math education is to learn math?
	NO. By self-reference math education then
	becomes an undiagnosed cure.
	YES . The goal of math education is to Master Many
	through Quantitative Competence

Rejected Research Papers

Allan Tarp, MATHeCADEMY.net, the 2018 MADIF Conference

The Simplicity of Mathematics Designing a STEM-based Core Math Curriculum for Young Male Migrants

Educational shortages described in the OECD report 'Improving Schools in Sweden' challenge traditional math education offered to young male migrants wanting a more civilized education to return help develop and rebuild their own country. Kestarck offers little help as witnessed by continuing low PISA scores despite 50 years of mathematics education research. Can this be different? Can mathematics and education and research be different allowing migrants to succeed instead of fail? A different research, differenceresearch finding differences making a difference shows it can. STEM-based, mathematics becomes Many-based bottom-up Many-matics instead of Set-based top-down Meta-matics.

Math Competenc(i)es - Catholic or Protestant?

Introduced at the beginning of the century, competencies should solve poor math performance. Adopted in Sweden together with recreased math education research mediated through a will juried centre, the decreasing Swedish PISA result came as a purprise, as did the critical 2015 OECDreport 'Improving Schoo's in Sweden'. But why did math competencies not work. A sociological view looking for a goal displacement gives an answer: Math competencies sees mathematics as a goal and not as one of many means, to be replaced by other means if not leading to the jutside goal. Only the set-based university version is accepted as mathematics to be mediated by teachers through eight competencies, where only two are needed to master the outside goal of mathematics education, Many.

The Simplicity of Mathematics Designing a STEM-based Core Mathematics Curriculum for Young Male Migrants

Allan Tarp The MATHeCADEMY.net

Educational shortages described in the OECD report 'Improving Schools in Sweden' challenge traditional math education offered to young male migrants wanting a more civilized education to return help develop and rebuild their own country. Research offers little help as witnessed by continuing low PISA scores despite 50 years of mathematics education research. Can this be different? Can mathematics and education and research be different allowing migrants to succeed instead of fail? A different research, difference-research finding differences making a difference, shows it can. STEM-based, mathematics becomes Manybased bottom-up Many-matics instead of Set-based top-down Meta-matics.

Decreased PISA Performance Despite Increased Research

Being highly useful to the outside world, mathematics is a core part of institutionalized education. Consequently, research in mathematics education has grown as witnessed by the International Congress on Mathematics Education taking place each 4 year since 1969. Likewise, funding has increased as seen e.g. by the creation of a Swedish centre for Math Education. But, despite increased research and funding, the former model country Sweden has seen its PISA result decrease from 2003 to 2012, causing OECD to write the report 'Improving Schools in Sweden' describing its school system as 'in need of urgent change':

PISA 2012, however, showed a stark decline in the performance of 15-year-old students in all three core subjects (reading, mathematics and science) during the last decade, with more than one out of four students not even achieving the baseline Level 2 in mathematics at which students begin to demonstrate competencies to actively participate in life. (OECD, 2015a, p. 3).

To find an unorthodox solution let us pretend that a university in southern Sweden arranges a curriculum architect competition: 'Theorize the low success of 50 years of mathematics education research, and derive from this theory a STEMbased core mathematics curriculum for young male migrants.'

Since mathematics education is a social institution, social theory may give a clue to the lacking success and how to improve schools in Sweden and elsewhere.

Social Theory Looking at Mathematics Education

Imagination as the core of sociology is described by Mills (1959); and by Negt (2016) using the term to recommend an alternative exemplary education for outsiders, originally for workers, but today also applicable for migrants.

Bauman (1990) agrees by saying that sociological thinking 'renders flexible again the world hitherto oppressive in its apparent fixity; it shows it as a world which could be different from what it is now' (p. 16).

Mathematics education is a rational organization, 'in which the end is clearly spelled out, and the actors concentrate their thoughts and efforts on selecting such means to the end as promise to be most effective and economical (p. 79)'. However

The ideal model of action subjected to rationality as the supreme criterion contains an inherent danger of another deviation from that purpose - the danger of so-called goal displacement. (..) The survival of the organization, however useless it may have become in the light of its original end, becomes the purpose in its own right. (p. 84)

Such a goal displacement occurs if saying 'The goal of mathematics education is to teach and learn mathematics'. Furthermore, by its self-reference such a goal statement is meaningless. So, if mathematics isn't the goal of mathematics education, what is? And, how well defined is mathematics after all?

In ancient Greece, the Pythagoreans used mathematics, meaning knowledge in Greek, as a common label for their four knowledge areas: arithmetic, geometry, music and astronomy (Freudenthal, 1973), seen by the Greeks as knowledge about Many by itself, Many in space, Many in time and Many in time and space. And together forming the 'quadrivium' recommended by Plato as a general curriculum together with 'trivium' consisting of grammar, logic and rhetoric.

With astronomy and music as independent knowledge areas, today mathematics is a common label for the two remaining activities, geometry and algebra, both rooted in the physical fact Many through their original meanings, 'to measure earth' in Greek and 'to reunite' in Arabic. And in Europe, Germanic countries taught counting and reckoning in primary school and arithmetic and geometry in the lower secondary school until about 50 years ago when they all were replaced by the 'New Mathematics'.

Here the invention of the concept SET created a Set-based 'meta-matics' as a collection of 'well-proven' statements about 'well-defined' concepts. However, 'well-defined' meant defining by self-reference, i.e. defining top-down as examples of abstractions instead of bottom-up as abstractions from examples. And by looking at the set of sets not belonging to itself, Russell showed that self-reference leads to the classical liar paradox 'this sentence is false' being false if true and true if false: If $M = \langle A | A \notin A \rangle$ then $M \Leftrightarrow M \notin M$.

The Zermelo–Fraenkel Set-theory avoids self-reference by not distinguishing between sets and elements, thus becoming meaningless by not separating concrete examples from abstract concepts. In this way, SET transformed grounded mathematics into today's self-referring 'meta-matism', a mixture of meta-matics and 'mathe-matism' true inside but seldom outside classrooms where adding numbers without units as 2 + 3 IS 5' meet counter-examples as e.g. 2weeks + 3days is 17 days; in contrast to 2x3=6' stating that 2 3s can be re-counted as 6 1s.

So, mathematics has meant many different things during its more than 5000 years of history. But in the end, isn't mathematics just a name for knowledge about shapes and numbers and operations? We all teach 3*8 = 24, isn't that mathematics?

The problem is two-fold. We silence that 3*8 is 3 8s, or 2.6 9s, or 2.4 tens depending on what bundle-size we choose when counting. Also we silence that, which is 3*8, the total. By silencing the subject of the sentence 'The total is 3 8s' we treat the predicate, 3 8s, as if it was the subject, which is a clear indication of a goal displacement, according to what Bauman (1992, p. ix) calls 'the second Copernican revolution' of Heidegger asking the question: What is 'is'?

Heidegger sees three of our seven basic is-statements as describing the core of Being: 'I am' and 'it is' and 'they are'; or, I exist in a world together with It and with They, with Things and with Others. To have real existence, the 'I' (Dasein) must create an authentic relationship to the 'It'. However, this is made difficult by the 'dictatorship' of the 'They', shutting the 'It' up in a predicate-prison of idle talk, gossip.

This Being-with-one-another dissolves one's own Dasein completely into the kind of Being of 'the Others', in such a way, indeed, that the Others, as distinguishable and explicit, vanish more and more. In this inconspicuousness and unascertainability, the real dictatorship of the "they" is unfolded. (..) Discourse, which belongs to the essential state of Dasein's Being and has a share in constituting Dasein's disclosedness, has the possibility of becoming idle talk. (Heidegger, 1962, pp. 126, 169)

Heidegger has inspired existentialist thinking, described by Sartre (2007, p. 22) as holding that 'existence precedes essence'. In France, Heidegger inspired Derrida, Lyotard, Foucault and Bourdieu in poststructuralist thinking pointing out that society forces words upon you to diagnose you so it can offer cures including one you cannot refuse, education, that forces words upon the things around you, thus forcing you into an unauthentic relationship to yourself and to your world (Lyotard, 1984; Bourdieu, 1970; Foucault, 1995).

As to the political aspects of research, Foucault says:

It seems to me that the real political task in a society such as ours is to criticize the workings of institutions, which appear to be both neutral and independent; to criticize and attack them in such a manner that the political violence which has always exercised itself obscurely through them will be unmasked, so that one can fight against them. (Chomsky & Foucault, 2006, p. 41; also on YouTube) Bauman and Foucault thus both recommend skepticism towards social institutions where mathematics and education and research are examples. In theory, institutions are socially created as rational means to a common goal, but as Bauman points out, a goal displacement easily makes the institution have itself as an inside goal instead, thus marginalizing or forgetting its original outside goal.

To avoid this, difference-research is based upon the Greek sophists, saying 'Know nature form choice to unmask choice masked as nature.'; and Heidegger saying 'In sentences, trust the subject but question the rest.'; and Sartre saying 'Existence precedes essence'; and Foucault, seeing a school as a 'pris-pital' mixing power techniques of a prison and a hospital by keeping children and adolescents locked up daily to be cured without being properly diagnosed. For it is differences that unmask false nature, and unmask prejudice in predicates, and uncover alternative essence, and cure an institution from a goal displacement.

Furthermore, difference-research knows the difference between what can be different and what cannot. From a Heidegger view an is-sentence contains two things: a subject that exists and cannot be different, and a predicate that can and that may be gossip masked as essence, provoking 'the banality of Evil' (Arendt, 2006) if institutionalized. So, to discover its true nature, we need to meet the subject, the total, outside its predicate-prison of traditional mathematics. We need to allow Many to open itself for us, so that, as curriculum architects, sociological imagination may allow us to construct a core mathematics curriculum based upon exemplary situations of Many in a STEM context, seen as having a positive effect on learners with a non-standard background (Han et al, 2014), aiming at providing a background as pre-teachers or pre-engineers for young male migrants wanting to help develop or rebuild their original countries.

So, to restore its authenticity, we now return to the original Greek meaning of mathematics as knowledge about Many by itself and in time and space; and use Grounded Theory (Glaser & Strauss, 1967), lifting Piagetian knowledge acquisition (Piaget, 1969) from a personal to a social level, to allow Many create its own categories and properties.

Meeting Many, Children use Block-numbers to Count and Share

How to deal with Many can be learned from preschool children. Asked 'How old next time?', a 3year old will say 'Four' and show 4 fingers; but will react strongly to 4 fingers held together 2 by 2, 'That is not 4, that is 2 2s. Children also use block-numbers when talking about Lego bricks as '2 3s' or '3 4s'. When asked 'How many 3s when united?' they typically say '5 3s and 3 extra'; and when asked 'How many 4s?' they say '5 4s less 2'; and, placing them next-to each other, they say '2 7s and 3 extra'.

You don't need research to observe how children love digital counting by bundling, replacing a bundle of 2 1s with 1 Lego Brick with 2 knobs to be placed

in a cup for the bundles; and they don't mind exchanging 2 2s with 1 Lego brick with 4 knobs to be placed in a cup for 4s. And they have fun recounting 7 sticks in 2s in various ways, as 1 2s &5, 2 2s &3, 3 2s &1, 1 4s &3, etc. And children don't mind writing a total of 7 using 'cup-writing' as T = 7 = 1]5 = 2]3 = 3]1 = 1]0]3 = 1]1]1. And with 1 plastic S for 1 borrowed, some children even writes T = 7 = 3]1 = 4]S = 5]SSS. Also, children love to count in 3s and 4s. Recounting in 5s is unfortunately not possible since Lego refuses to produce bricks with 5 knobs.

Sharing 9 cakes, 4 children takes one by turn as long as possible; with 4s taken out they say 'I take 1 of each 4', and with 1 left they say 'let's count it as 4'. And they smile when seeing that sharing 4 5s by 3 is predicted by asking a calculator 4*5/3. Thus 4 preschool children typically share by taking away 4s from 9, and by taking away 1 per 4, and by taking 1 of 4 parts. So children master sharing, taking parts and splitting into parts before having learned about division and counting-and splitting-fractions, which they would like to learn before being forced to add.

Children thus show core mastery of Many before coming to school, allowing school to build upon this knowledge instead of rejecting it. So, school could ask research to design a curriculum, that counts totals in two-dimensional block-numbers instead of one-dimensional line-numbers; that counts and re-counts and double-counts totals before they are added, and then both on-top and next-to; that teaches 8/4 as 8 counted in 4s giving 2 4s instead of as 8 split between 4 giving 4 2s; and that root counting-fractions and splitting-fractions in per-numbers and re-counting. Difference-research gladly takes on such a curriculum design.

Meeting Many Creates a Count&Multiply&Add Curriculum

Meeting Many, we ask 'How many in Total?' To answer, we total by counting and adding to create a number-language sentence, T = 2 3s, containing a subject, a verb and a predicate as in a word-language sentence.

Rearranging many 1s in 1 icon with as many strokes as it represents, icons can be used as units when counting: four strokes in the 4-con, five in the 5-icon, etc.



We count in bundles to be stacked as block-numbers to be re-counted and double-counted and processed by on-top and next-to addition, direct or reversed.

To count we take away bundles (thus rooting division as a broom wiping away the bundles) to be stacked (thus rooting multiplication as a lift stacking the bundles into a block) to be moved away to look for unbundled singles (thus rooting subtraction as the trace left when dragging the block away). A calculator predicts the result by a re-count formula T = (T/B)xB saying that 'from T, T/B times, B can be taken away':

7/3 gives 2.some, and 7 - 2x3 gives 1, so T = 7 = 2B1 3s.

Finally, bundle- or cup-writing double-counts the bundles inside the bundlecup and the singles outside, where an overload or underload is removed or created by re-counting in the same unit, $T = 7 = 2B1 \ 3s = 2]1 \ 3s = 1]4 \ 3s = 3]-2 \ 3s$.

Likewise, placing the singles next-to or on-top of the stack counted as 3s, roots decimals and fractions to describe the singles: T = 7 = 2.1 3s = 2 1/3 3s



A total counted in icons can be re-counted in tens, which roots multiplication tables; or a total counted in tens can be re-counted in icons, T = 42 = ?7s, which roots equations to be solved by re-counting, resulting in moving numbers to the opposite side with the opposite sign: u x 7 = 42 = (42/7)x7 gives u = 42/7.

Double-counting in physical units creates per-numbers bridging the units, thus rooting proportionality. Per-numbers become fractions if the units are the same. Since per-numbers and fractions are not numbers but operators needing a number to become a number, they add by their areas, thus rooting integral calculus.

Once counted, totals can be added on-top after being re-counted in the same unit, thus rooting proportionality; or next-to as areas, thus rooting integral calculus. Then both on-top and next-to addition can be reversed, thus rooting equations and differential calculus.

In a rectangle split by a diagonal, mutual re-counting of the sides creates the per-numbers sine, cosine and tangent. Traveling in a coordinate system, distances add directly when parallel, and by their squares when perpendicular. Re-counting the y-change in the x-change creates change formulas, algebraically predicting geometrical intersection points, thus observing the 'geometry & algebra, always together, never apart' principle.

Predictable change roots pre-calculus (if constant) and calculus (if variable). Unpredictable change roots statistics to 'post-dict' numbers by a mean and a deviation to be used by probability to pre-dict a confidence interval for numbers we else cannot pre-dict.

Meeting Many in a STEM Context

Having met Many by itself, now we meet Many in time and space in the present culture based upon STEM, described by OECD as follows:

In developed economies, investment in STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) is increasingly seen as a means to boost innovation and economic growth. The importance of education in STEM disciplines is recognised in both the US and Europe. (OECD, 2015b)

STEM thus combines knowledge about how humans interact with nature to survive and prosper: Mathematics provides formulas predicting nature's physical and chemical behavior, and this knowledge, logos, allows humans to invent procedures, techne, and to engineer artificial hands and muscles and brains, i.e. tools, motors and computers, that combined to robots help transforming nature into human necessities.

A falling ball introduces nature's three main actors, matter and force and motion, similar to the three social actors, humans and will and obedience. As to matter, we observe three balls: the earth, the ball, and molecules in the air. Matter houses two forces, an electro-magnetic force keeping matter together when colliding, and gravity pumping motion in and out of matter when it moves in the same or in the opposite direction of the force. In the end, the ball is lying still on the ground since motion transfers through collisions, now present as increased motion in molecules; so the motion has lost its order and can no longer work.

Science is about nature itself. How three different Big Bangs, transforming motion into matter and anti-matter and vice versa, fill the universe with motion and matter interacting with forces making it combine to stars and planets and galaxies. Some planets have a size and a distance from its star that allows water to exist in its three forms, solid and gas and liquid, bringing nutrition to green and grey cells, forming communities as plants and animals: reptiles and mammals and humans. Animals have a closed interior water cycle carrying nutrition to the cells and waste from the cells and kept circulating by the heart. Plants have an open exterior water cycle carrying nutrition to the sun forcing water to evaporate through leaves.

Technology is knowledge about ways to satisfy human needs. First by gathering and hunting, then by using knowledge about matter to create tools as artificial hands making agriculture possible. Later by using knowledge about motion to create motors as artificial muscles, combining with tools to machines making industry possible. And finally using knowledge about information to create computers as artificial brains combining with machines to artificial humans, robots, taking over routine jobs making high-level welfare societies possible.

Engineering is about constructing technology and power plants allowing electrons to supply machines and robots with their basic need for motion and information; and about how to build houses, roads, transportation means, etc.

Mathematics is our number-language for predicting Many by calculation sentences, formulas, expressing counting and adding processes. First Many is double-counted in bundles and singles to create a total T that might be re-counted in the same or in a new unit or into or from tens; or double-counted in two physical units to create per-numbers and fractions. Once counted, totals can be added ontop if recounted in the same unit, or next-to by their areas, called integration, which is also how per-numbers and fractions add. Reversed addition is called solving equations. When totals vary, the change can be unpredictable or predictable with a change that might be constant or not. Finally, triangulation predicts spatial forms. So, a core STEM curriculum could be about cycling water. Heating pumps in motion transforming water from solid to liquid to gas, i.e. from ice to water to steam; and cooling pumps motion out. Heating an imaginary box of steam makes some molecules leave, so the lighter box is pushed up by gravity until becoming heavy water by cooling, now pulled down by gravity as rain in mountains and through rivers to the sea. On its way down, a dam can transform moving water to moving electrons, electricity. To get to the dam, we build roads on hillsides.

The Electrical circuit, an Example

To work properly, a 2000Watt water kettle needs 2000Joule per second. The socket delivers 220Volts, a per-number double-counting Joules per charge-unit.

Recounting 2000 in 220 gives (2000/220)*220 = 9.1*220, so we need 9.1 charge-units per second, which is called the electrical current counted in Ampere.

To create this current, the kettle has a resistance R according to a circuit law Volt = Resistance*Ampere, i.e., 220 = R*9.1, or Resistance = 24.2Volt/Ampere called Ohm. Since Watt = Joule per second = (Joule per charge-unit) *(charge-unit per second) we also have a second formula Watt = Volt*Ampere.

Thus, with a 60Watt and a 120Watt bulb, the latter needs twice the current, and consequently half the resistance of the former.

Supplied next-to each other from the same source, the combined resistance R must be decreased as shown by reciprocal addition, 1/R = 1/R1 + 1/R2. But supplied after each other, the resistances add directly, R = R1 + R2. Since the current is the same, the Watt-consumption is proportional to the Volt-delivery, again proportional to the resistance. So surprisingly, the 120Watt bulb only receives half of the Joules of the 60Watt bulb.

Difference-research Differing from Critical and Postmodern Thinking

Together with difference-research, also critical thinking and postmodernism show skepticism towards knowledge claims, so how does difference-research differ?

As to critical thinking, Skovsmose & Borba (2000) describes a Brazilian research group that, focusing on issues related to new technologies and mathematics education, has developed software and work with students at different levels and with teachers. The group was approached by a teacher from a nearby school where she had some tough problems to face and hoped that the computers would be able to help her. She was teaching rational numbers to a class of 5th graders, with a mixture of 11year old students and 15year old repeaters having given up rational numbers and turning to violence.

The teacher was enthusiastic about a software, which deals with rational numbers. (...) Both researchers and teacher had the 'intuition' that the computer might have a positive effect in this class and maybe could avoid that the students had to repeat this grade again. (p. 7)

By recommending computers, the researchers showed criticism, not towards fractions as such, but towards how they are taught. Critical thinking thus sees mathematics as an unquestionable goal, only how it is taught can be questioned.

Contrary to this, difference-research sees fractions as a means rooted in double-counting, and recommends fractions introduced as per-numbers via the 'fraction-paradox': 1 red of 2apples and 2red of 3apples total 3red of 5apples and not 7red of 6apples as says the textbook. Fractions thus add by their areas as integral calculus. Adding fractions of the same total can be treated later. Introducing fractions via per-numbers and separating core-mathematics from 'footnote-mathematics' will side the teacher with the learner against the textbook.

As to postmodern thinking, the book 'Mathematics Education within the Postmodern' (Walshaw, 2004) contains 12 chapters divided into three parts: thinking otherwise for mathematics education, postmodernism within classroom practices, and within the structures of mathematics education. The preface says:

It is a groundbreaking volume in which each of the chapters develops for mathematics education the importance of insights from mainly French intellectuals of the post: Foucault, Lacan, Lyotard, Deluze. (p. vii)

Although the book wants to be skeptical towards both mathematics and its education, it is only the educational part that is scrutinized; and most authors describes how what is labeled postmodern thinking can be exemplified in educational contexts, they don't see mathematics itself as a social construction that could be questioned also. A central thinker as Derrida is mentioned only in the two survey chapters, and the core concept of deconstruction is not mentioned at all despite its fundamental importance to a postmodern perspective to mathematics education.

By going behind French thinking to its root in Heidegger existentialism, difference-research is the only skeptical thinking raising the basic sociological question about a possible goal displacement in mathematics itself.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The task of the curriculum architect competition was 'Theorize the low success of 50 years of mathematics education research, and derive from this theory a STEM-based core mathematics curriculum for young male migrants.'

One explanation sees the situation caused by mathematics itself as very hard to teach and learn. This paper, however, sees it caused by a goal displacement seeing mathematics as the goal instead of as an inside means to the outside goal, mastery of Many. The two views lead to different kinds of mathematics: a setbased top-down 'meta-matics' that by its self-reference is indeed hard to teach and learn; and a bottom-up Many-based 'Many-matics' simply saying 'To master Many, count to produce block-numbers and per-numbers that might be constant or variable, to be united by adding or multiplying or powering or integrating. Thus, this simplicity of mathematics as expressed in a Count&Multiply&Add curriculum allows learners to keep their own block-numbers, and to acquire core mathematics as proportionality, calculus, equations and per-numbers in early childhood. Imbedded in STEM-examples, young male migrants learn core STEM subjects at the same time, thus allowing them to become pre-teachers or pre-engineers after two years to return help develop or rebuild their own country. The full curriculum can be found in a 27-page paper.

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