



6th International Realistic Mathematics Education Conference
Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, September 20 – 22, 2018

New developments in
Realistic Mathematics Education:
the *Beyond Flatland* project

Marja van den Heuvel-Panhuizen
&
Michiel Veldhuis

University of Applied Sciences

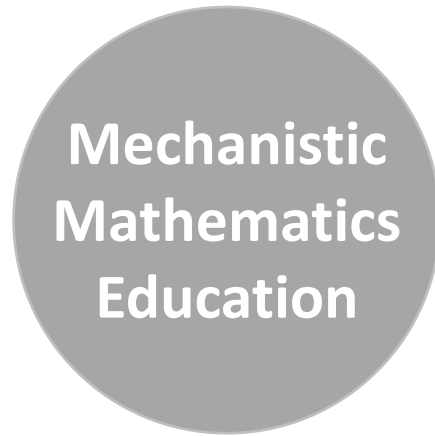


Freudenthal Group
Freudenthal Institute

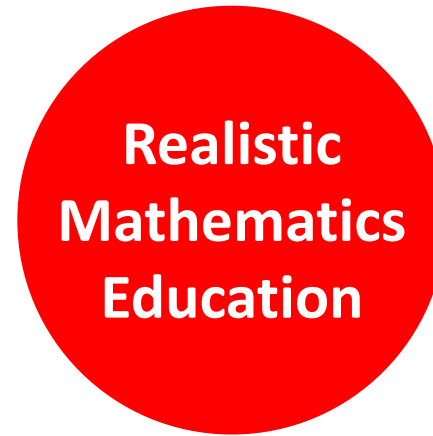


Nord University

Reform in the Netherlands started
in ~1968



Focus on
procedural skills



Focus on
conceptual understanding

2018



TAAK 53. 109

1. 20/1480\	30/2190\	40/2160\
50/3400\	60/4860\	20/1640\
90/4680\	70/2170\	80/6560\
70/3710\	80/5120\	60/1620\

2. 430	321	212	203	142
<u>19</u> ×	<u>28</u> ×	<u>37</u> ×	<u>46</u> ×	<u>55</u> ×

3. 1458	567	2048	2348	738
2057	3296	372	1356	2367
143	25	59	1854	4
<u>17</u>	<u>4647</u>	<u>5788</u>	<u>2973</u>	<u>815</u>

4. Aftrekken:

7100	8000	6042	3810	7002
<u>3675</u>	<u>4783</u>	<u>5291</u>	<u>2170</u>	<u>6999</u>

5. Bob, Wim and Koos have f 6 together.
 Bob has f 0.95 Koos has f 3.15 Wim has f ...

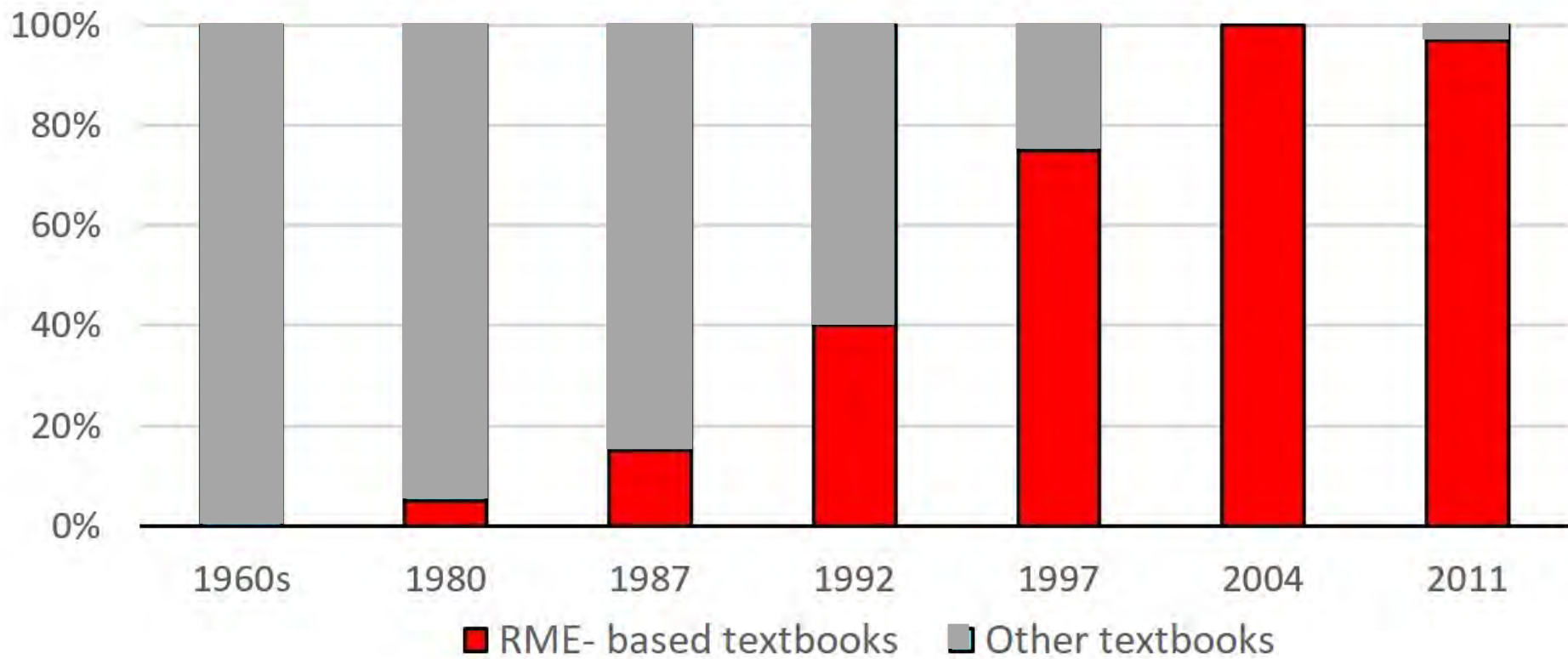
6. 1 jaar = .. mnd.	26 mnd. = .. jaar + .. mnd.
3 jaar = .. mnd.	39 mnd. = .. jaar + .. mnd.
6 jaar = .. mnd.	63 mnd. = .. jaar + .. mnd.
= .. mnd.	72 mnd. = .. jaar + .. mnd.

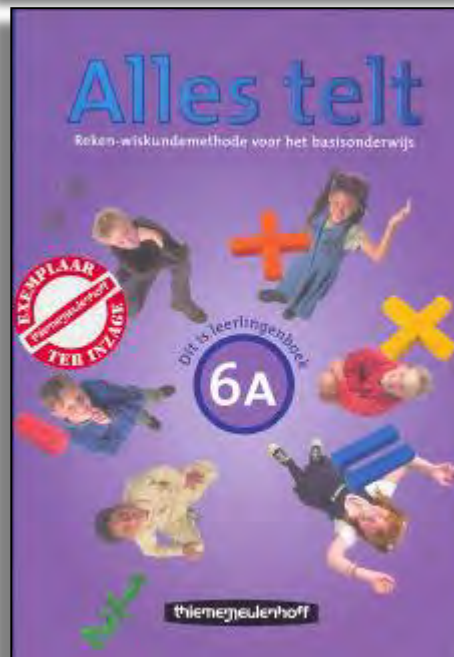
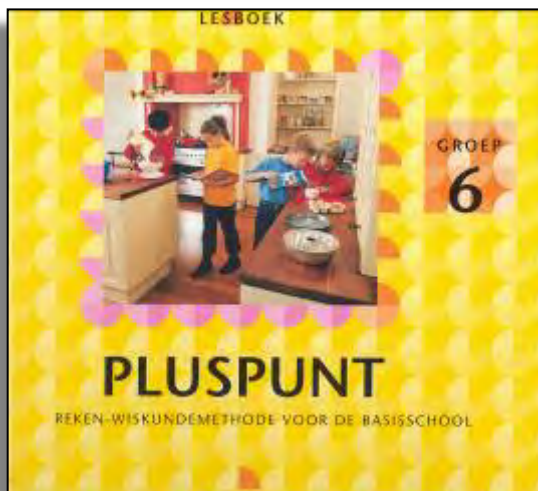
1969

Sport center



2015





Straightforward task

$25 : 5 =$

$55 : 5 =$

$105 : 5 =$

$130 : 5 =$

$145 : 5 =$

In class there are 28 children.

Each child will get a holder with six pencils.

How many pencils need the teachers for this?



Gray area tasks



Pay the exact amount.
Try it in at least five ways.

Puzzle-like task

$20 - \nabla = \dots$

$20 + \nabla = \dots$

$20 \times \nabla = \dots$

Together 160



*Mediterranean Journal for
Research in Mathematics Education*
Vol. 8, 2, 31-68, 2009

Non-Routine Problem Solving Tasks in Primary School Mathematics Textbooks – A Needle in a Haystack

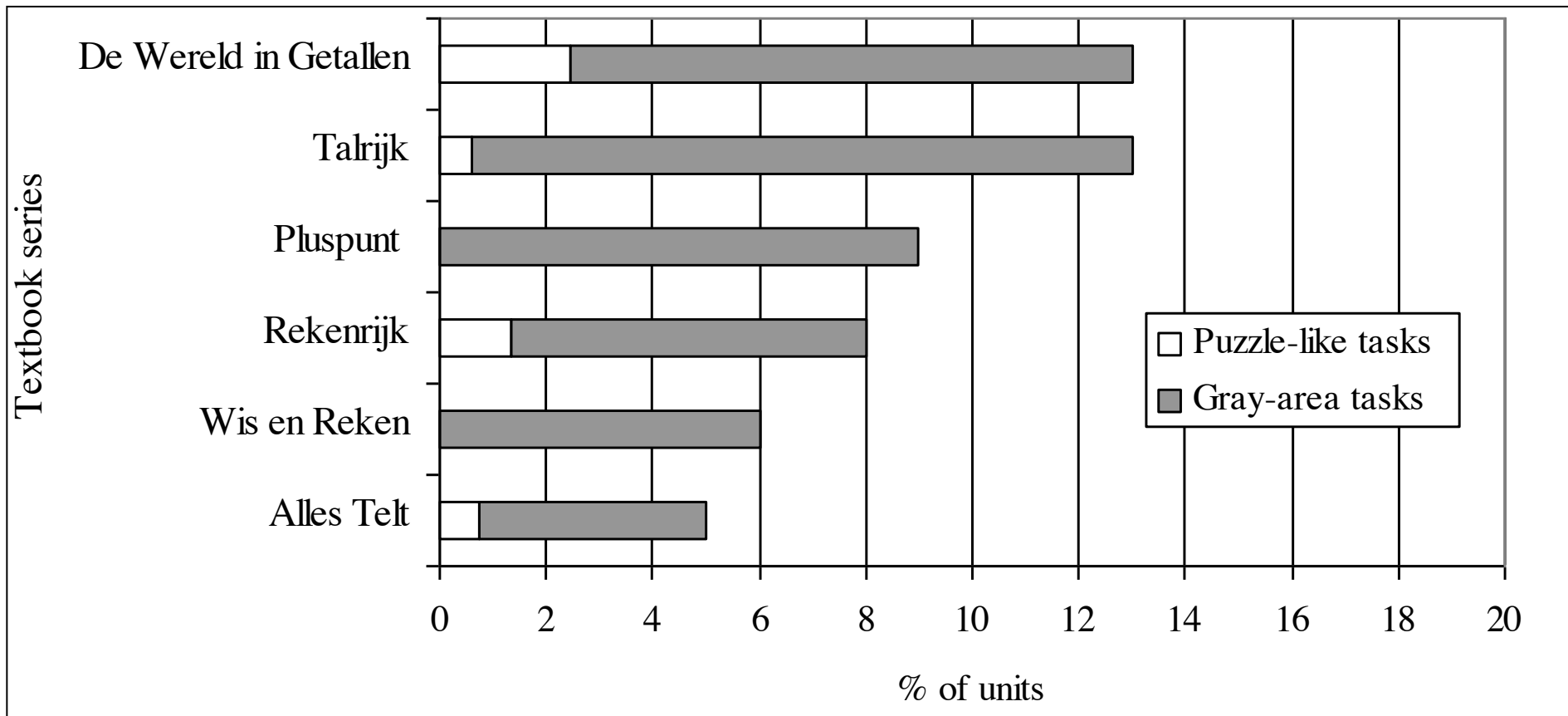
Angeliki Kolovou *, **Marja van den Heuvel - Panhuizen **** and **Arthur Bakker***

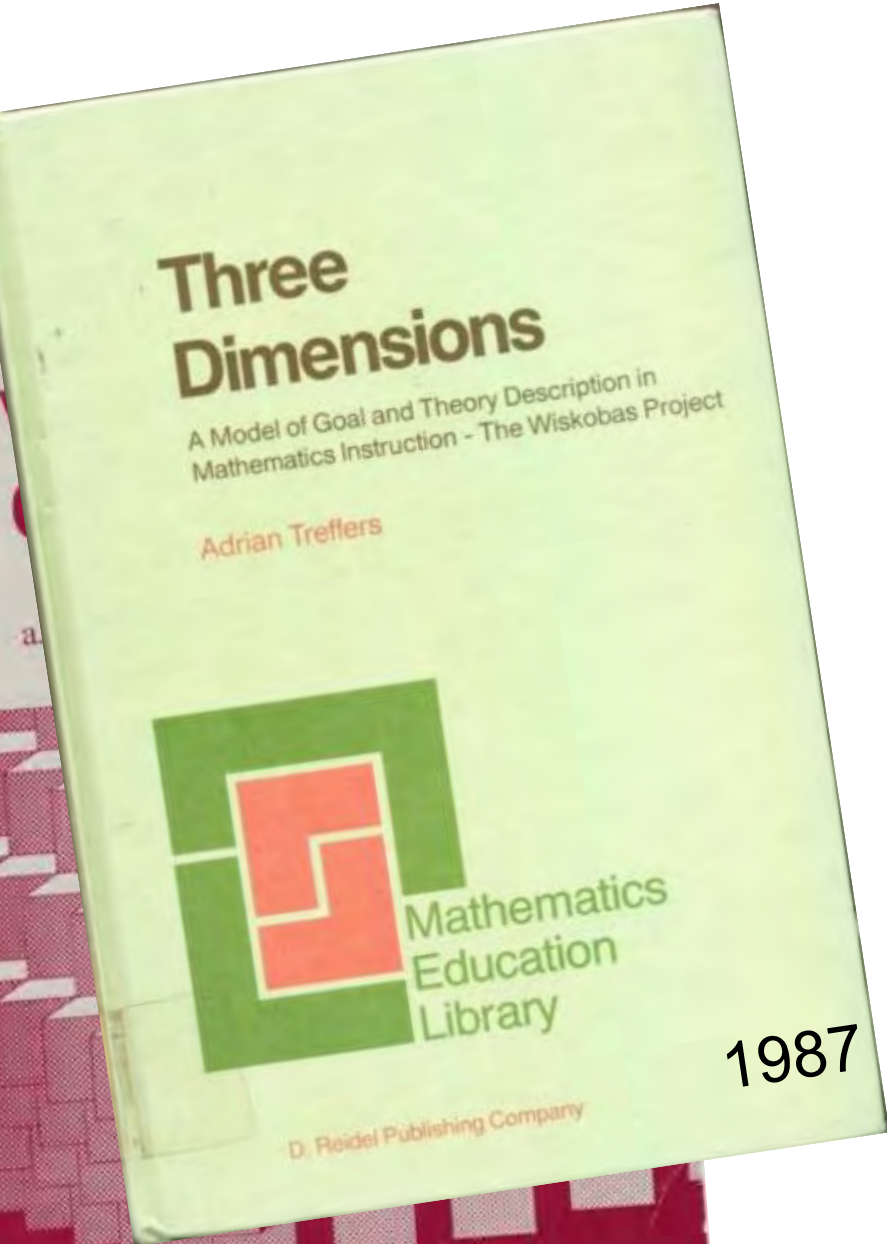
* Freudenthal Institute for Science and Mathematics education, Utrecht University, the Netherlands

** Freudenthal Institute for Science and Mathematics education, Utrecht University, the Netherlands and IQB, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany

ABSTRACT: *In this paper, we report on a study in which we investigated the nature of numerical problem solving tasks as presented in primary school mathematics textbooks in the Netherlands. Although several factors influence what mathematics teachers teach children, there is much evidence that the curriculum and the textbooks are important determinants of what children are taught and what they learn. Contradicting results on the performances of Dutch fourth graders on a test on mathematics textbooks are discussed. Reasons for this textbook analysis study.*

Results textbook analysis





The new **goals** of Wiskobas were

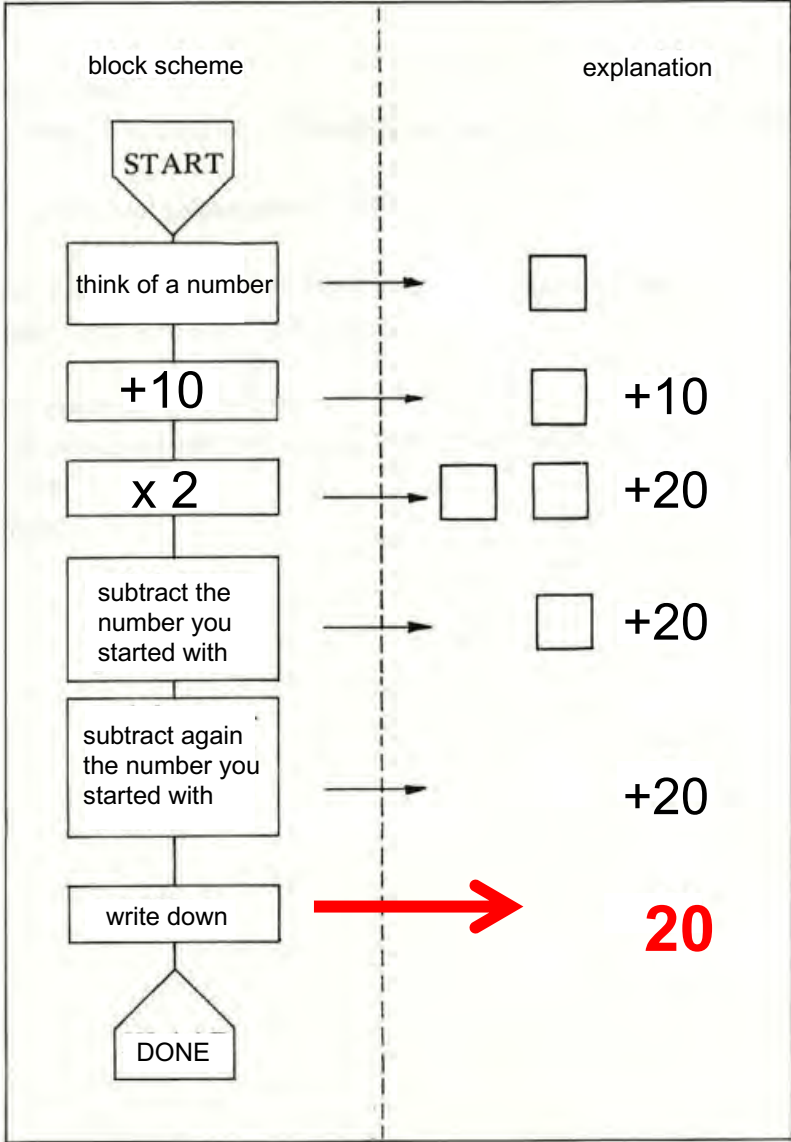
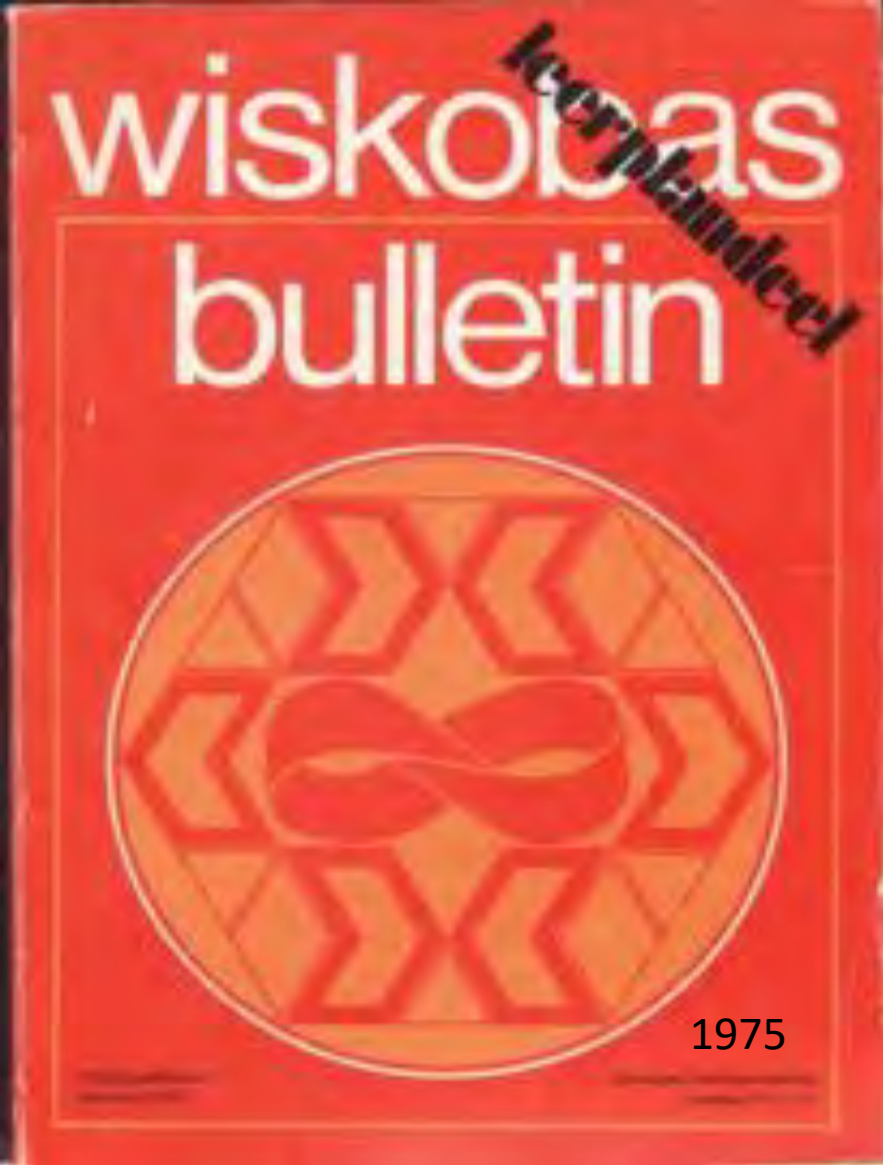
- generalising
- proving
- mathematising
- schematising
- symbolising
- using models

and they covered the **subject areas**

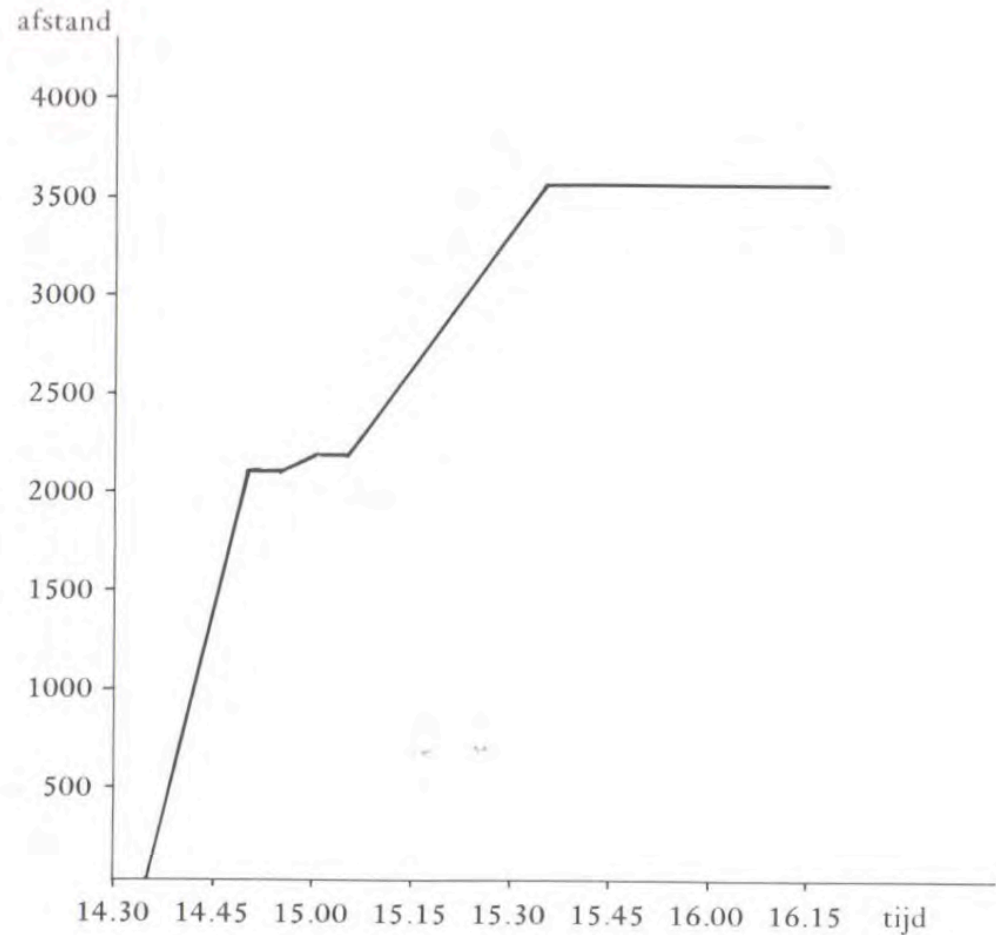
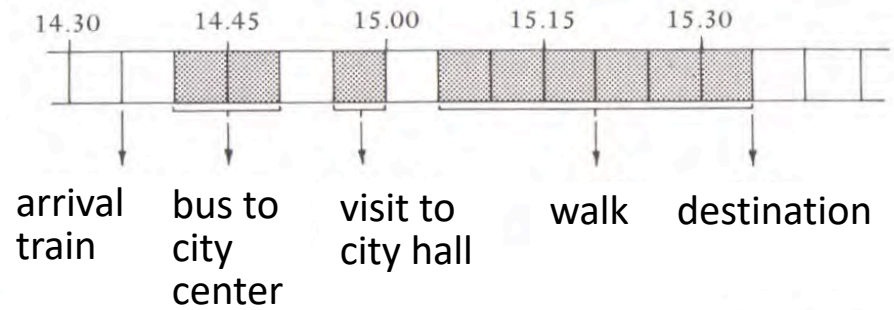
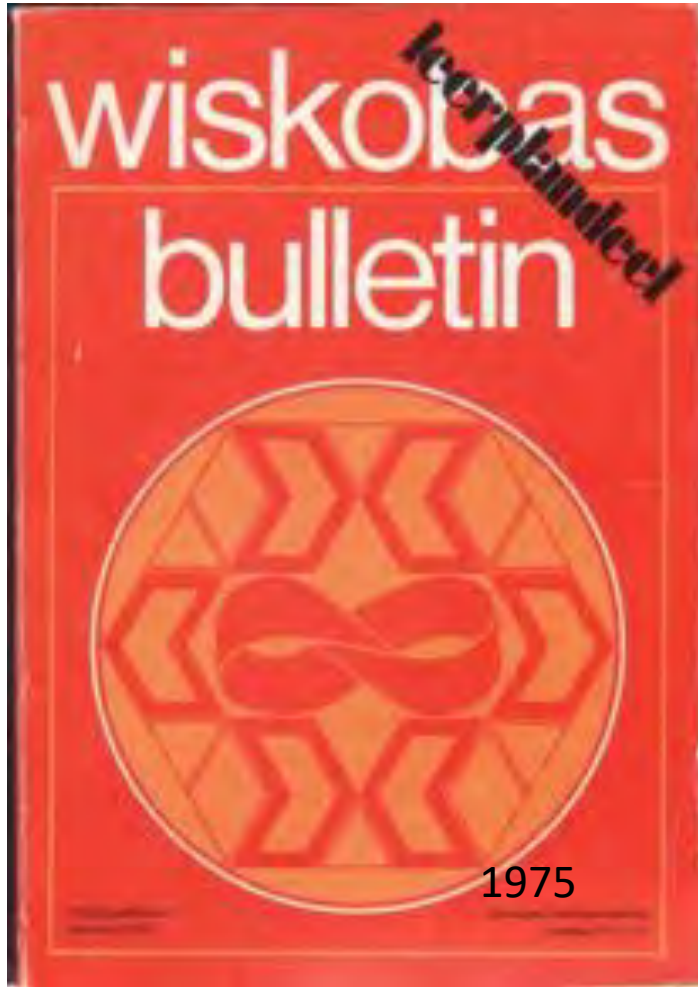
- arithmetic
- measurement
- geometry
- probability and statistics
- relations and functions
- language and logic

1978

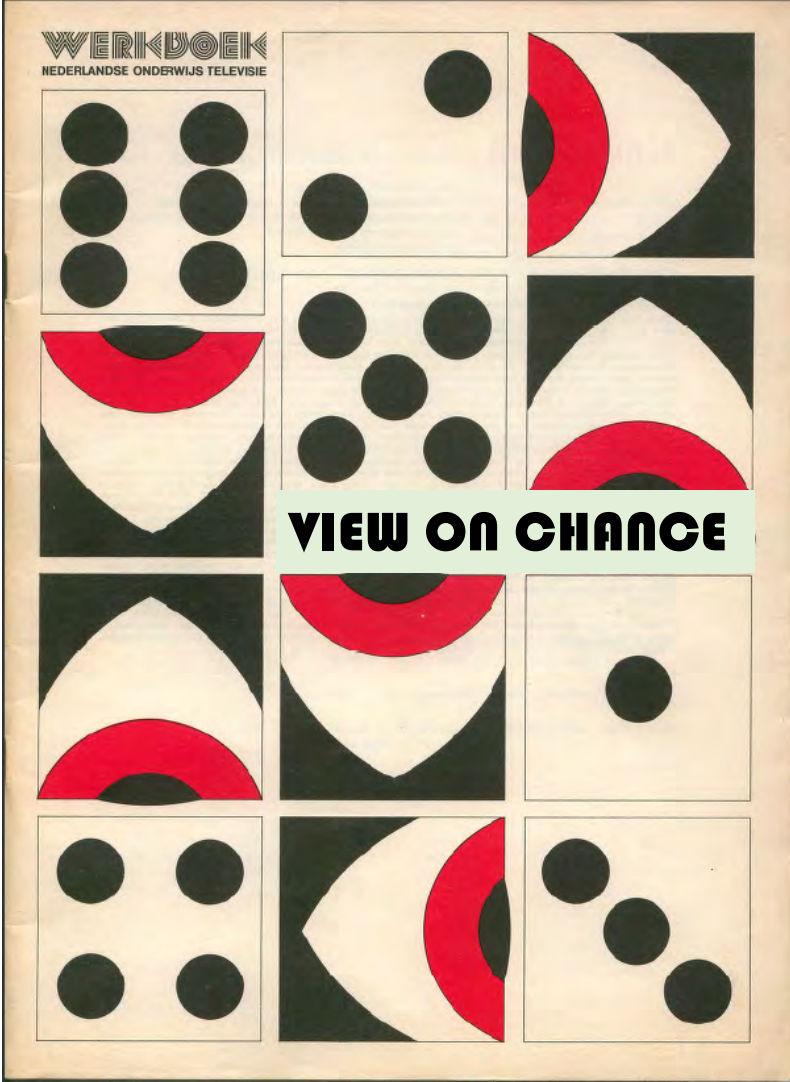
Block schemes to solve equations



Time-distance graphs with a story

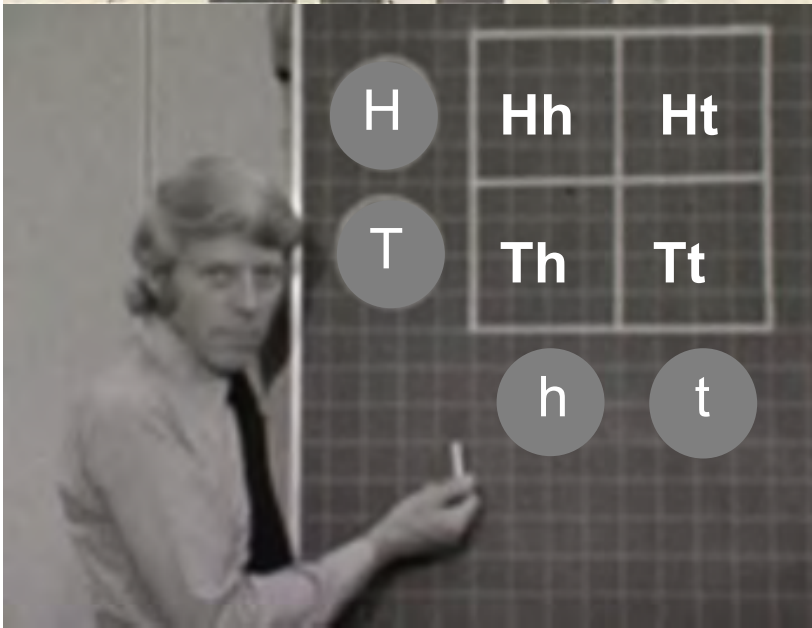


Reasoning about probability



Kijk op kans

Janssen & Goffree, 1972/1973



Beyond **FLATLAND** in primary school mathematics education

dynamic data
modeling

probability

early algebra



Netherlands Initiative
for Education Research



4-year project: 2015-2019

Senior staff

UU **IPN**

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PhD students

Carolien Duijzer
Mara Otten



Realistic Mathematics Education

- activity principle
- reality principle
- level principle
 - * various levels of understanding
 - * progressive schematization
 - * models as bridges
- intertwinement principle
- interactivity principle
- guidance principle

Theoretically enhanced by

- **Embodiment theory**
- **Representational re-description theory**
- **Variation theory**



- Our **sensori-motor system** has an important role in developing **conceptual understanding**
- The same neural substrate used in imagining is used in understanding
(Gallese & Lakoff, 2005)

- **Embodiment theory**

- Representational
re-description theory

- Variation theory



- Our **sensori-motor system** has an important role in developing **conceptual understanding**
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- (Gallese & Lakoff, 2005)

“human **ideas** . . . are organized in vast (mostly unconscious) conceptual systems **grounded in physical, lived reality**”
(Núñez, Edwards, & Matos, 1999, p. 50)

- **Embodiment theory**

- **Representational re-description theory**

- **Variation theory**



The RR theory describes the **development of representations**, which can bring students to higher levels of thinking.

The initial implicit, **embodied knowledge**, is in a **next step re-described in verbal or other types of symbolic representations** and, as such, becomes available for explicit verbal-symbolic reasoning and explicit hypothesis-led experimentation.

(Karmiloff-Smith, 1992)

- Embodiment theory

- **Representational re-description theory**

- Variation theory



A **necessary condition for learning** is the possibility to **experience variation** and distinguish between what changes and what remains invariant.

(Marton & Booth, 1997; Marton & Pang, 2013)

Being able to **discover structure** and to identify patterns is considered the **essence of mathematics**

(Watson & Mason, 2006)

Therefore, variation theory is considered a **powerful design principle** for mathematics education

(e.g. Sun, 2011; Li, Peng & Song, 2011)

- Embodiment theory

- Representational re-description theory

- **Variation theory**

*Beyond
FLATLAND
in primary school
mathematics education*

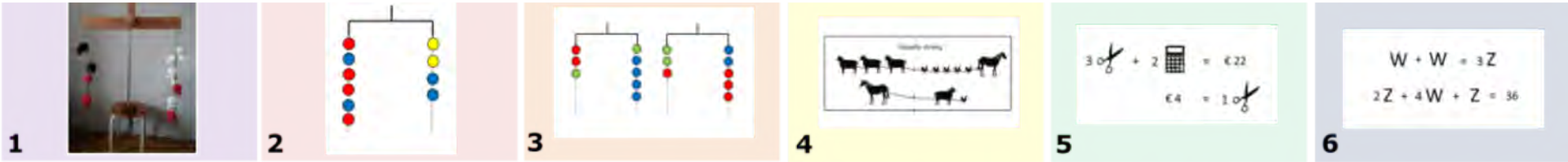
dynamic data
modeling

probability

early algebra

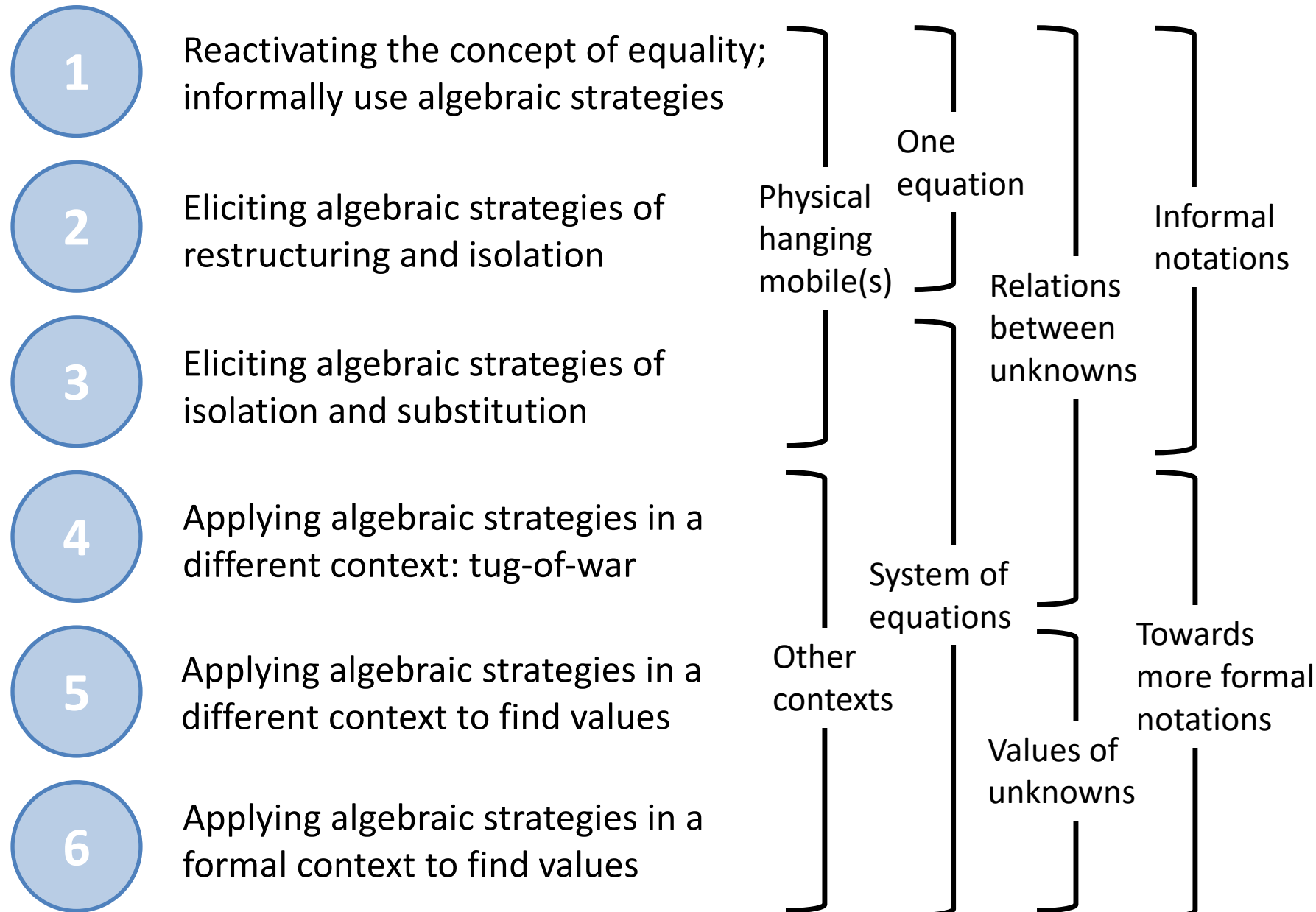
How to teach EARLY ALGEBRA

Key components of the Flatland teaching sequence for EARLY ALGEBRA



- Focus on: *Algebraic reasoning with linear equations*
- More specifically: *Reasoning with, and about, unknowns using algebraic strategies*
- Context: *Working with a hanging mobile*
- Embodiment: *Experience of balance - equality*

Structure of the Flatland teaching sequence for EARLY ALGEBRA



1

Reactivating the concept of equality;
informally use algebraic strategies

2

Eliciting algebraic strategies of
restructuring and isolation

3

Eliciting algebraic strategies of
isolation and substitution

4

Applying algebraic strategies in a
different context: tug-of-war

5

Applying algebraic strategies in a
different context to find values

6

Applying algebraic strategies in a
formal context to find values

Physical
hanging
mobile(s)

One
equation

Relations
between
unknowns

Informal
notations

System of
equations

Other
contexts

Values of
unknowns

Towards
more formal
notations

1

What can you do to keep the hanging mobile straight?



What can you do to keep the hanging mobile straight?

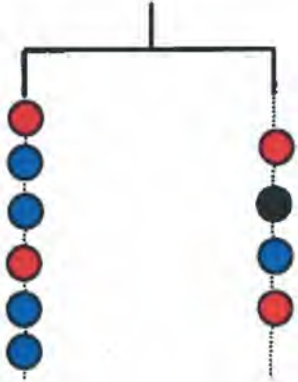
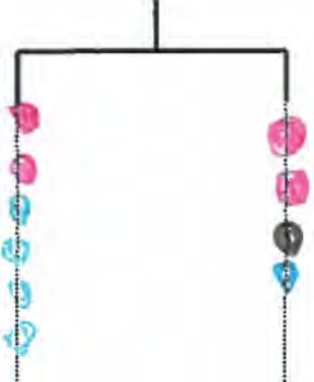
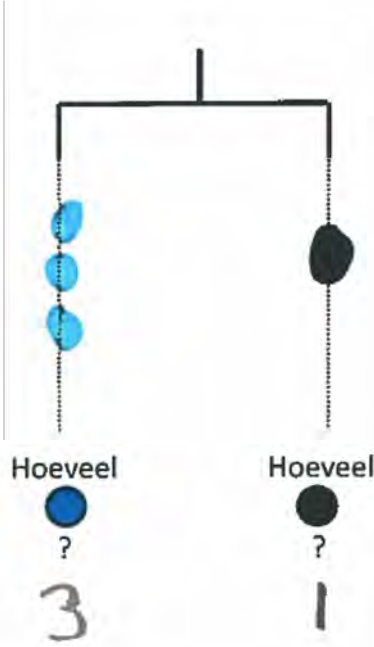



What can you do to keep the hanging mobile straight?

Use the algebraic strategies of

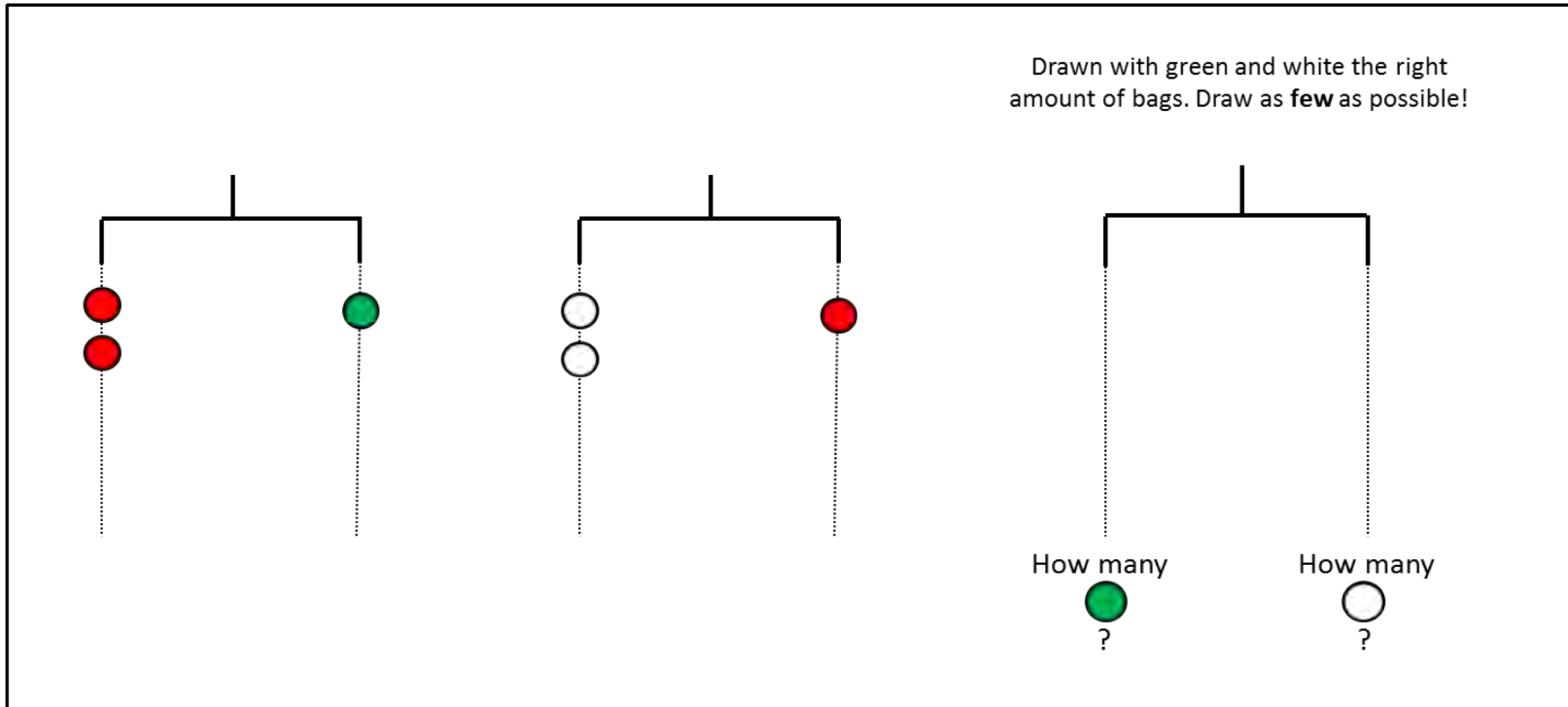
- **Restructuring** by
 - Changing sides
 - Changing order of bags on the same side
- **Isolation** by
 - Taking away similar bags on both sides
 - Taking away different bags on both sides
- **Substitution** by
 - Replacing bags by bags of another color

Can you make the hanging mobile clearer and discover the secret rule?

	Make clearer	Draw as few bags as possible	What is the secret rule?
			<p>De geheime regel is:</p> <p>even veel weg halen tot je niet meer kan en dat is het</p> 

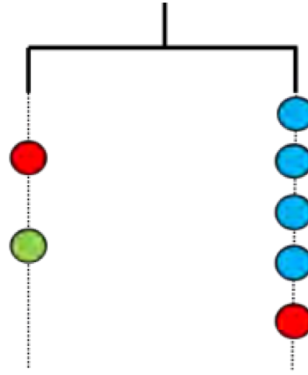
Remove the same number until that isn't possible anymore and that's it!

Combine the information from the two given hanging mobiles to find the other relationship



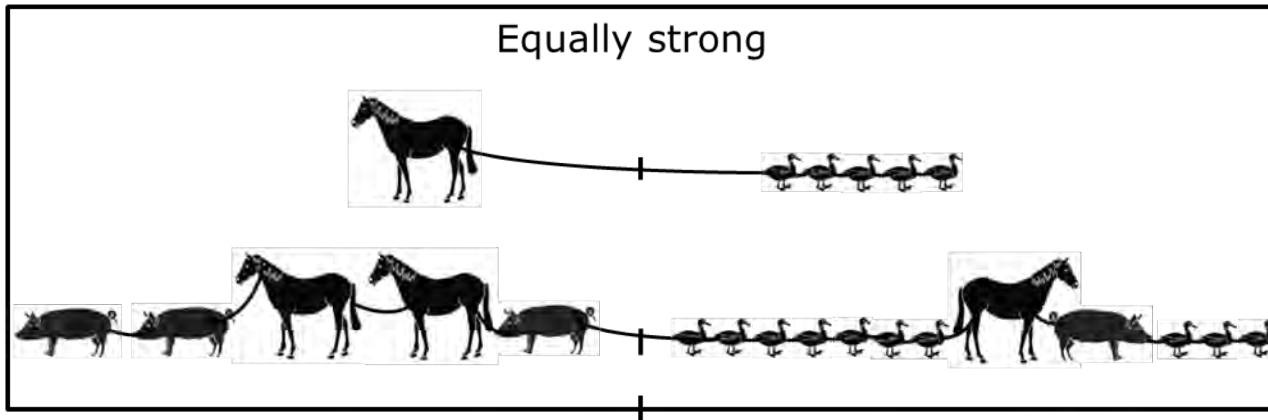
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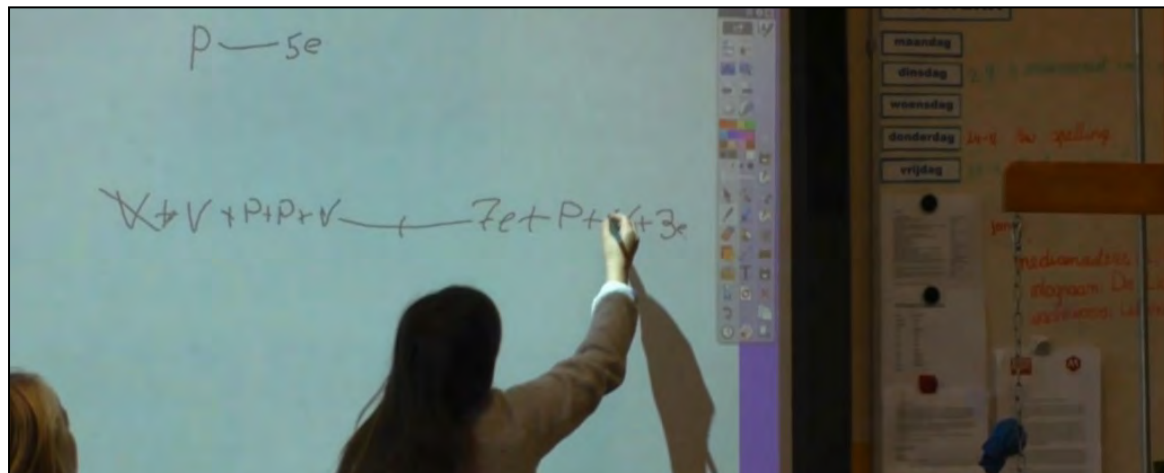
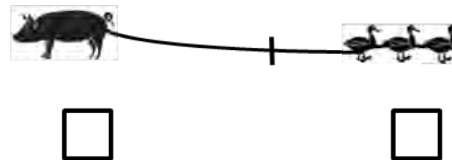


Which hanging mobile fits the tug of war situation?

- Equally strong
- Equally strong
- Equally strong

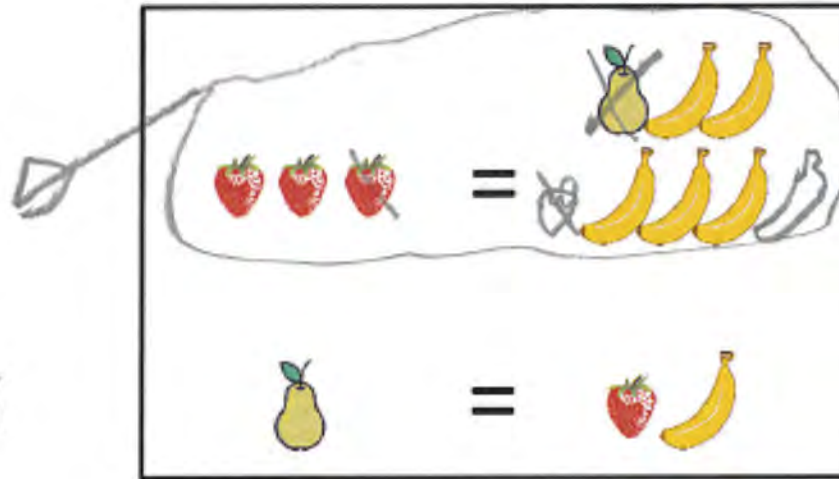


Who will win?

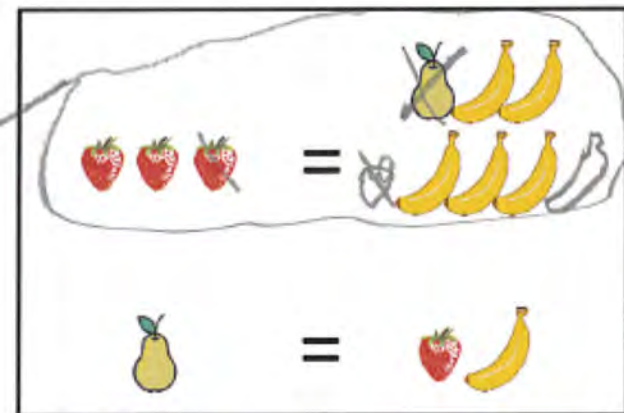


afb 1

a = aardbei
b = banaan



p = peer



$$\text{strawberry} = \text{banana} + \text{banana} + \text{banana}$$

1. Klopt dit? JA / NEE
Hoe weet je dit?

lijj afb 1 doe je
de peer voor
1 a en 1 b
je streept links
en recht 1 aardbei
door dan heb je
nog 2 a en 3 b
dus dat gedeelt
door 2 =
1 a 2 1/2 b
geen
1 a en 3 b

$$\text{banana} + \text{banana} + \text{banana} + \text{banana} = \text{pear}$$

2. Klopt dit? JA / NEE
Hoe weet je dit?

$$1 b + 1 a = 1 p$$

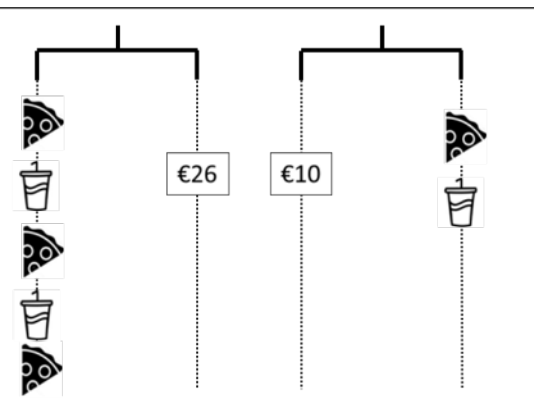
$$1 a = 2 \frac{1}{2} b$$

$$p = 1 a + 1 b$$

$$a = 2 \frac{1}{2} b$$

$$2 \frac{1}{2} + 1 b = 3 \frac{1}{2}$$

en geen u



Fill in the price

= € = €

$$3 \text{ scissors} + 2 \text{ calculators} = \text{€ } 22$$

$$\text{€ } 4 = 1 \text{ scissors}$$

First write this is-equal-to task differently, then find out what needs to be filled in

= € = €

$$2P + 4S = 17$$

$$1P + 1S = 5$$

First write this is-equal-to task differently, then find out what needs to be filled in

$P = \dots$ $S = \dots$

Applying algebraic strategies to find values - formal

6

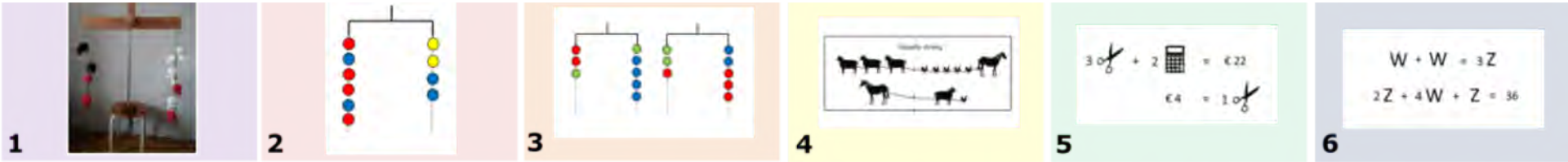
The image shows a handwritten algebraic solution for the equation $M + 3L = 25$. The solution is annotated with red circles and arrows, and labeled with algebraic strategies in red text:

- Substitution:** The initial equation $M + 3L = 25$ is circled in red.
- Isolation:** The equation $2M = 4L$ is circled in red, with a red arrow pointing from the circled M in the first equation to the circled M in this equation.
- Restructuring:** The equation $M + L + L = 25$ is circled in red, with a red arrow pointing from the circled M in the second equation to the circled M in this equation.
- Substitution:** The final result $M = 10$ is circled in red, with a red arrow pointing from the circled M in the third equation to the circled M in this equation.

The handwritten work includes the following steps:

- $M + 3L = 25$
- $2M = 4L$
- $M + L + L = 25$
- $25 : 5 = 5$
- $3 \times 5 = 15 \quad 15 + 10 = 25$
- $M = 10$

Key components of the Flatland teaching sequence for EARLY ALGEBRA



- Focus on: *Algebraic reasoning with linear equations*
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Beyond
FLATLAND
in primary school
mathematics education

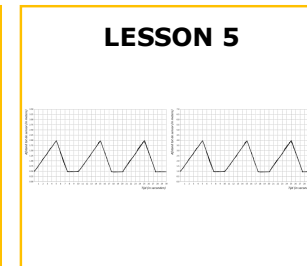
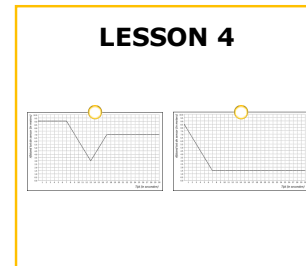
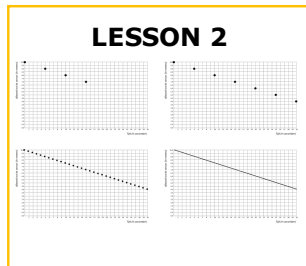
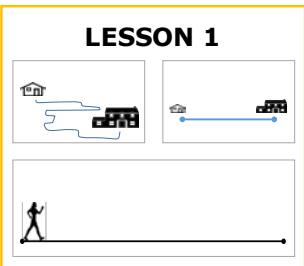
dynamic data
modeling

probability

early algebra

How to teach DYNAMIC DATA MODELING

Key components of the Flatland teaching sequence for DYNAMIC DATA MODELING



Focus on: *Reasoning about graphical representations of change*

Specifically: *Reasoning about, and interpreting, time-distance-graphs*

Context: *Moving in front of a motion sensor*

Embodiment: *Experience of moving through space – graph (covariation)*

Structure of the Flatland teaching sequence for DYNAMIC DATA MODELING

1

Explore motion: reflecting and representing

2

From discrete to continuous representations of change

3

Continuous graphs of 'distance to' (1)

4

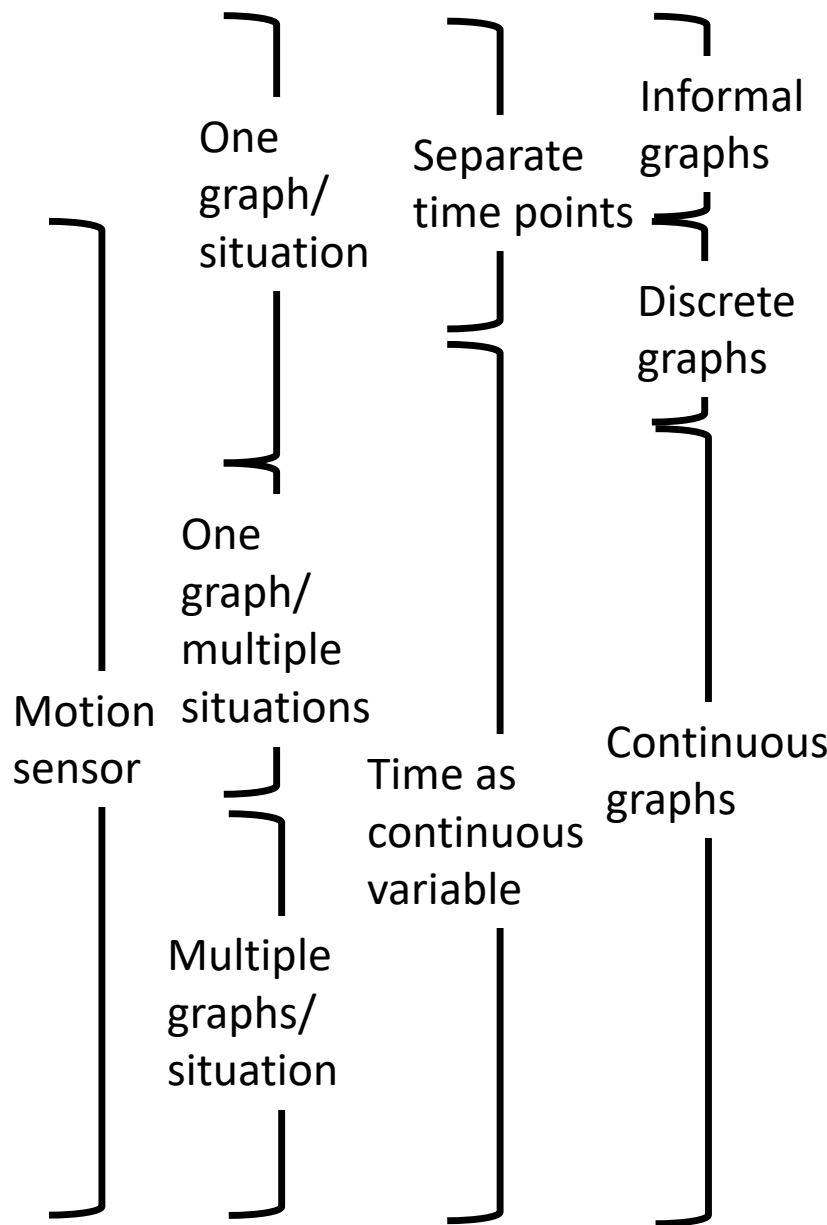
Continuous graphs of 'distance to' (2)

5

Scaling on the graphs' axes

6

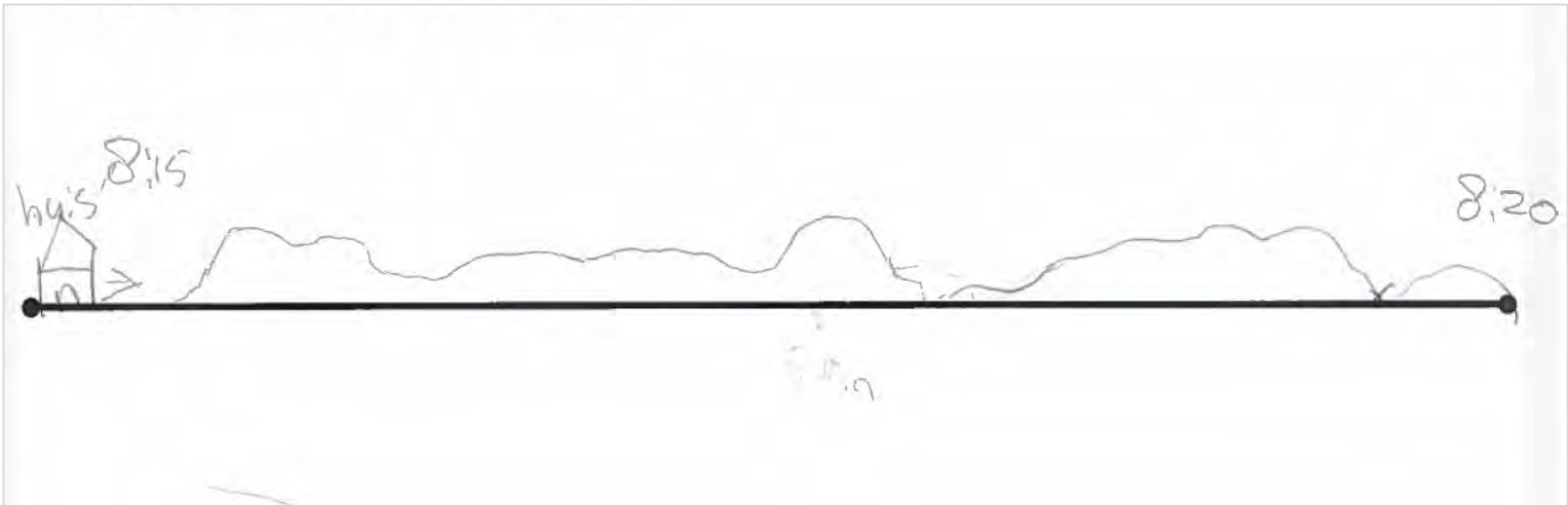
Multiple movements and their graphical representation



Represent your trip from home to school



Represent your trip from home to school



Who arrives first?

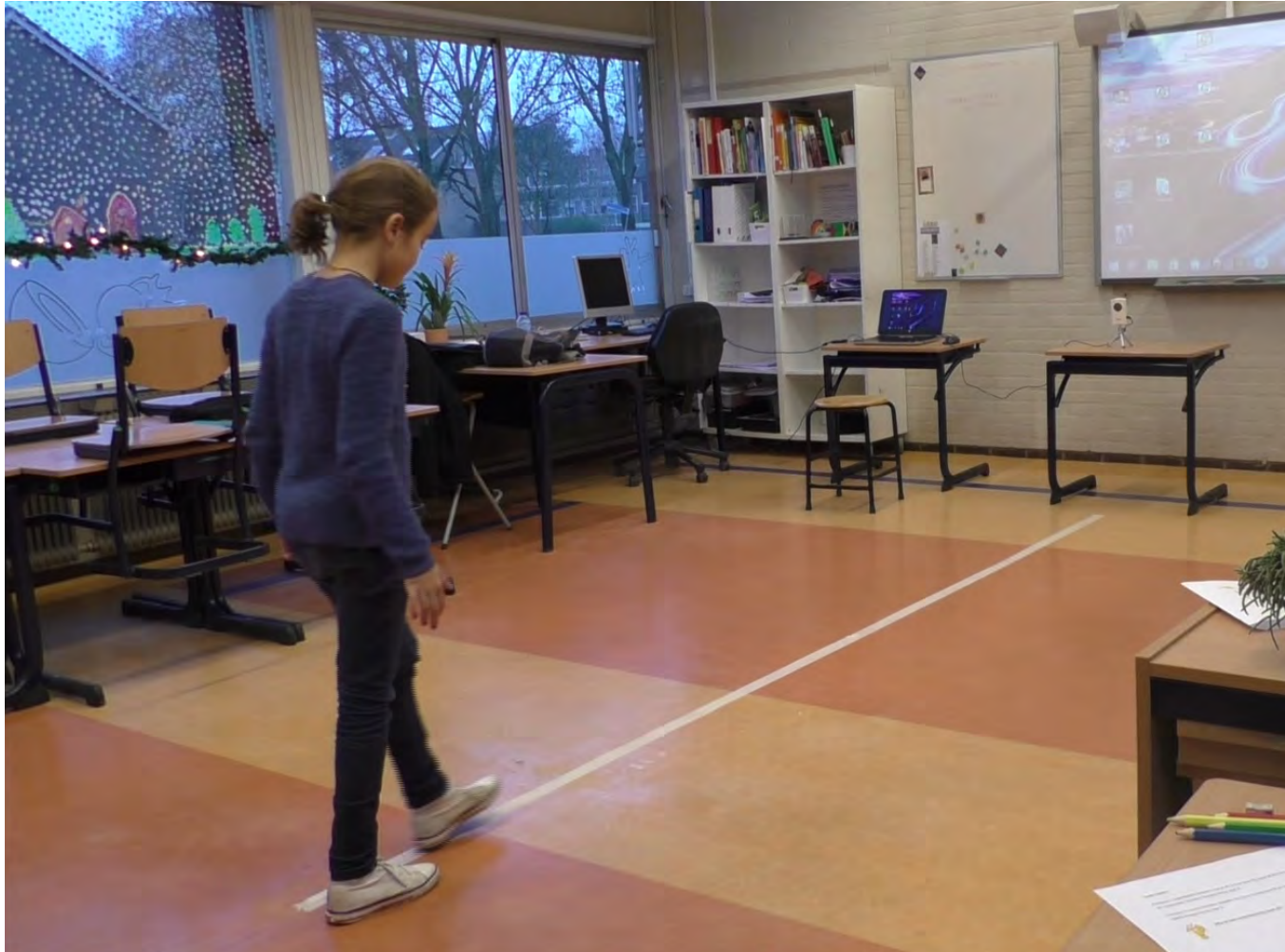


1. A person walks normally towards the middle and then slowly towards the end.



2. A person walks fast towards the middle, stands still for two seconds, and walks then normally towards the end.

Who arrives first?



Intruder problem

HET INBREKERSPROBLEEM

Naam: _____

In een geheim laboratorium ergens op de wereld worden nieuwe plantsoorten ontwikkeld. Zaadjes van deze planten zijn extreem zeldzaam en heel erg waardevol.



Maar...er is iets vreselijks gebeurd! Midden in de nacht heeft een inbreker zaadjes van een van deze plantsoorten meegenomen! Vanwege de unieke kenmerken van elke plant is het belangrijk dat wordt uitgezocht van welke plant de inbreker zaadjes heeft gestolen. Kun jij de politie helpen dit probleem op te lossen?

Planten:

Lab 1

Naam: "Echinops Multiflora Deformis"
[Langstelige Kogeldistel]



Zie je de vier bijzondere planten die in het laboratorium gekweekt worden?



Lab 2

Naam: "Mirabilis Youlia Apertus"
[Open Zevendood]



Lab 3

Naam: "Aconitum Vulparia Magna"
[Grote Gele Monnikskap]



Lab 4

Naam: "Elodea Serpyllum"
[Wilde Waterpest]

1

GRAFIEKEN [DEEL 1]

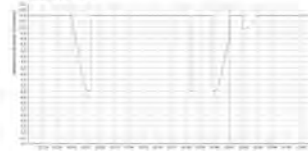


Gedurende de nacht zijn een aantal grafieken gemaakt. De inbreker was van tijdstip 01:30 uur en 01:43 uur in het gebouw.

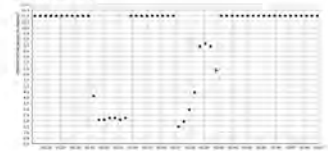
Je vindt hier zeven grafieken. Er is een grafiek voor bewegingssensor 1 en een grafiek voor bewegingssensor 2. Vijf grafieken geven de temperatuur in de verschillende ruimten weer.

Overzicht grafieken:

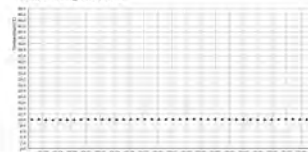
Bewegingssensor 1:



Bewegingssensor 2:



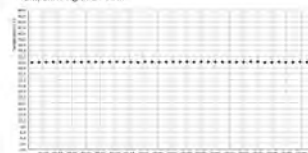
Temperatuurgrafiek lab 1:



Temperatuurgrafiek lab 2:



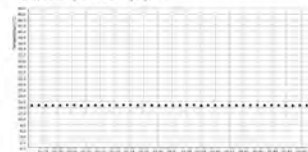
Temperatuurgrafiek lab 3:



Temperatuurgrafiek lab 4:



Temperatuurgrafiek hal en gangen:



3

Intruder problem

GRAFIEKEN [DEEL 1]

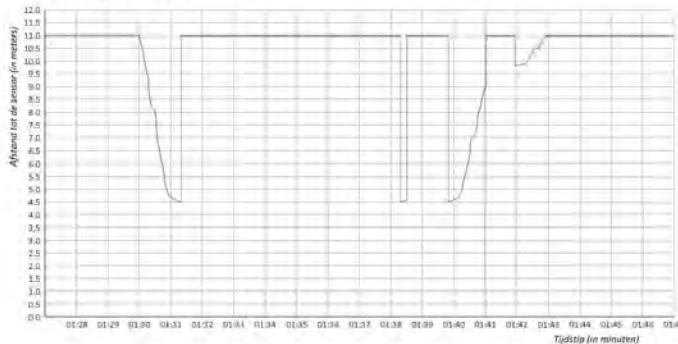
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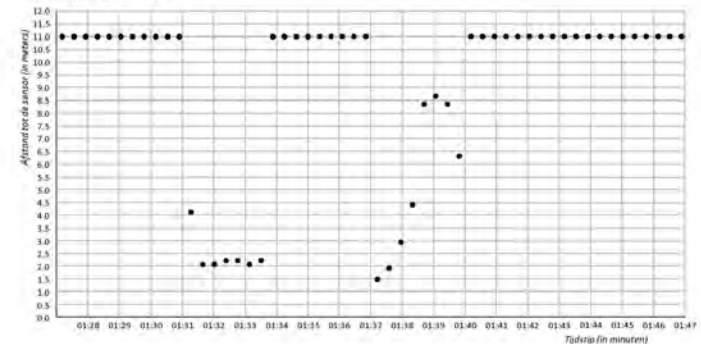


Overzicht grafieken:

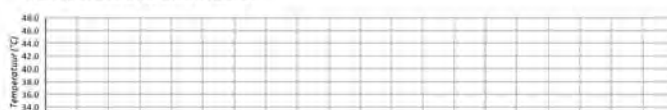
Bewegingssensor 1:



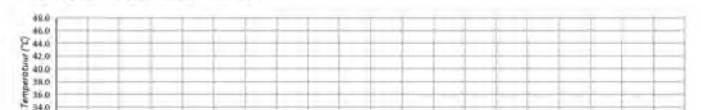
Bewegingssensor 2:



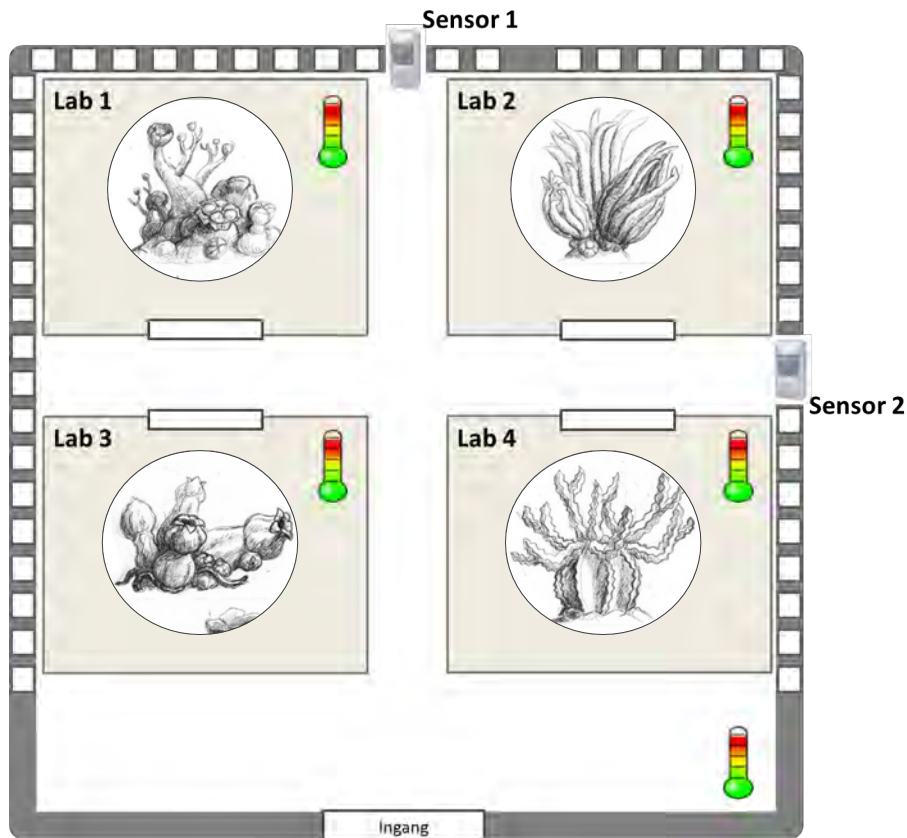
Temperatuurgrafiek lab 1:



Temperatuurgrafiek lab 2:



Intruder problem



Floor plan

Question:

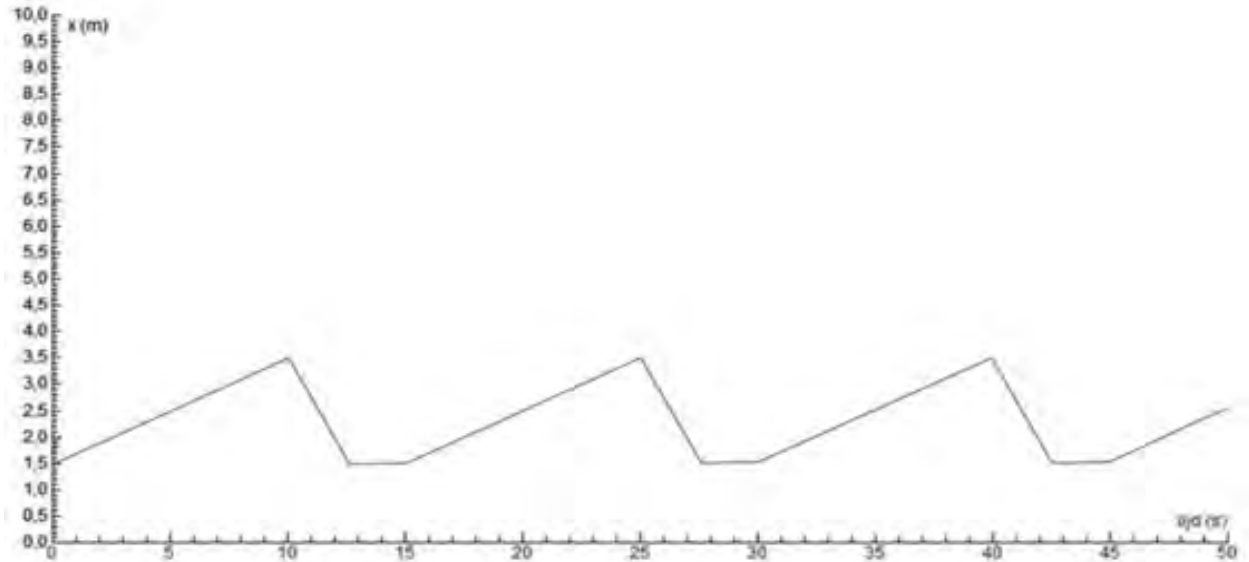
From which room(s) did the burglar steal some seeds?

Available information:

- Floor plan
- Time the burglar is in the building
- 2 motion graphs
- 5 Temperature graphs

3 Walking continuous graphs of distance to

Motion sensor



Walking continuous graphs of distance to

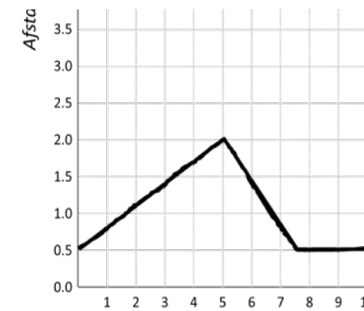
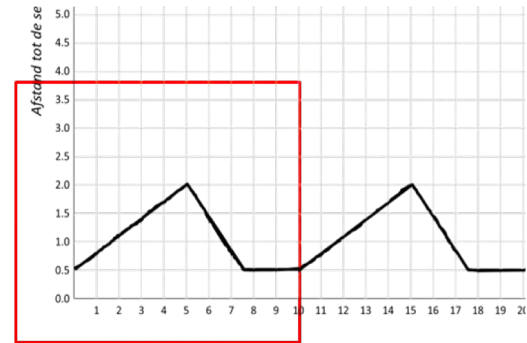
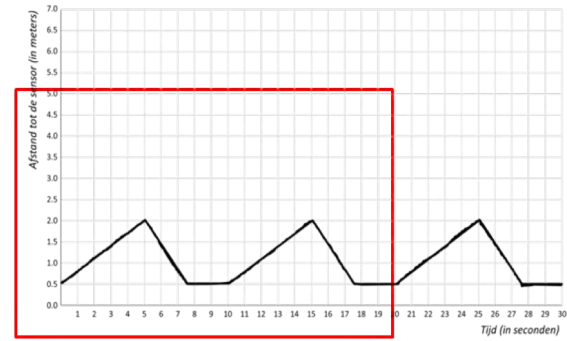


Walking continuous graphs with changing speeds



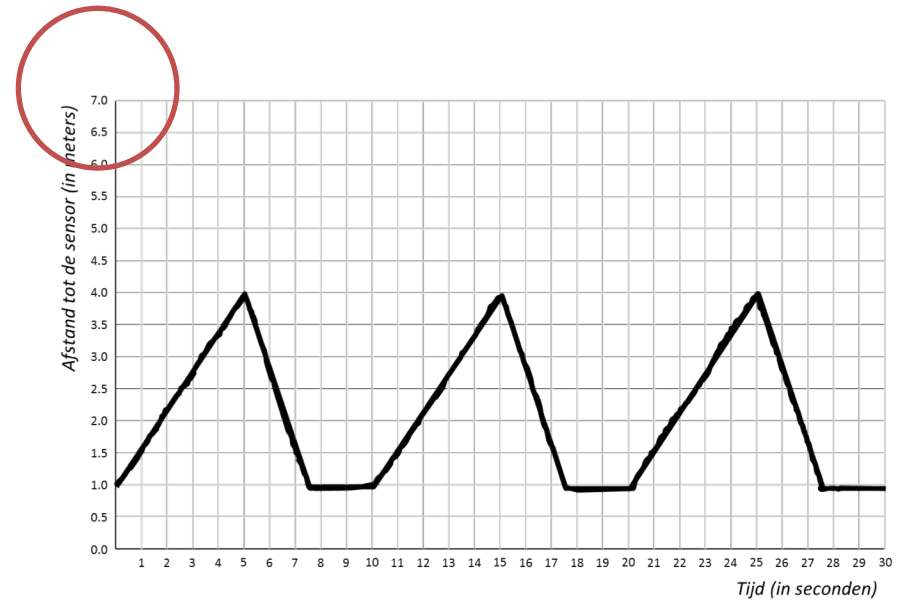
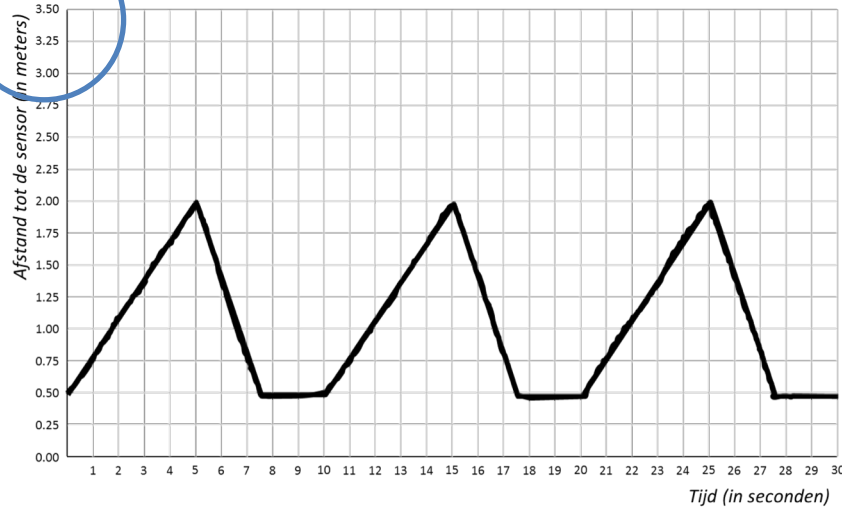
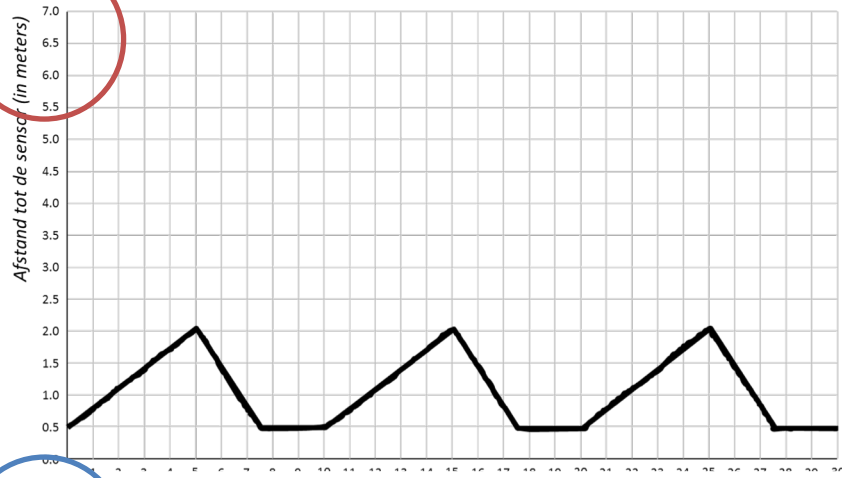
Scaling on the graph's axes

5

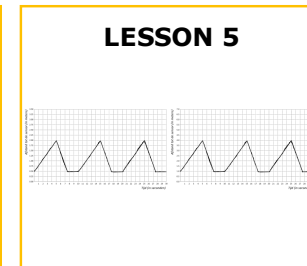
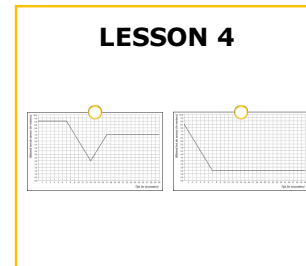
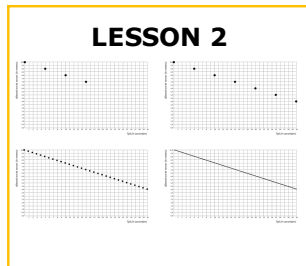
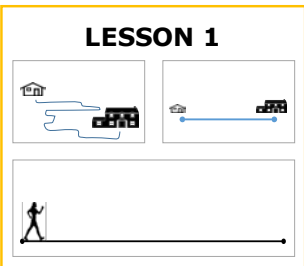


Scaling on the graph's axes

5



Key components of the Flatland teaching sequence for DYNAMIC DATA MODELING



Focus on: *Reasoning about graphical representations of change*

Specifically: *Reasoning about, and interpreting, time-distance-graphs*

Context: *Moving in front of a motion sensor*

Embodiment: *Experience of moving through space – graph (covariation)*

Beyond *FLATLAND* in primary school mathematics education

dynamic data
modeling

probability

early algebra

How to teach EARLY PROBABILITY?

Common approach

- Doing experiments
- Seeing what comes out
- Explaining the results
- Exploring the sample size

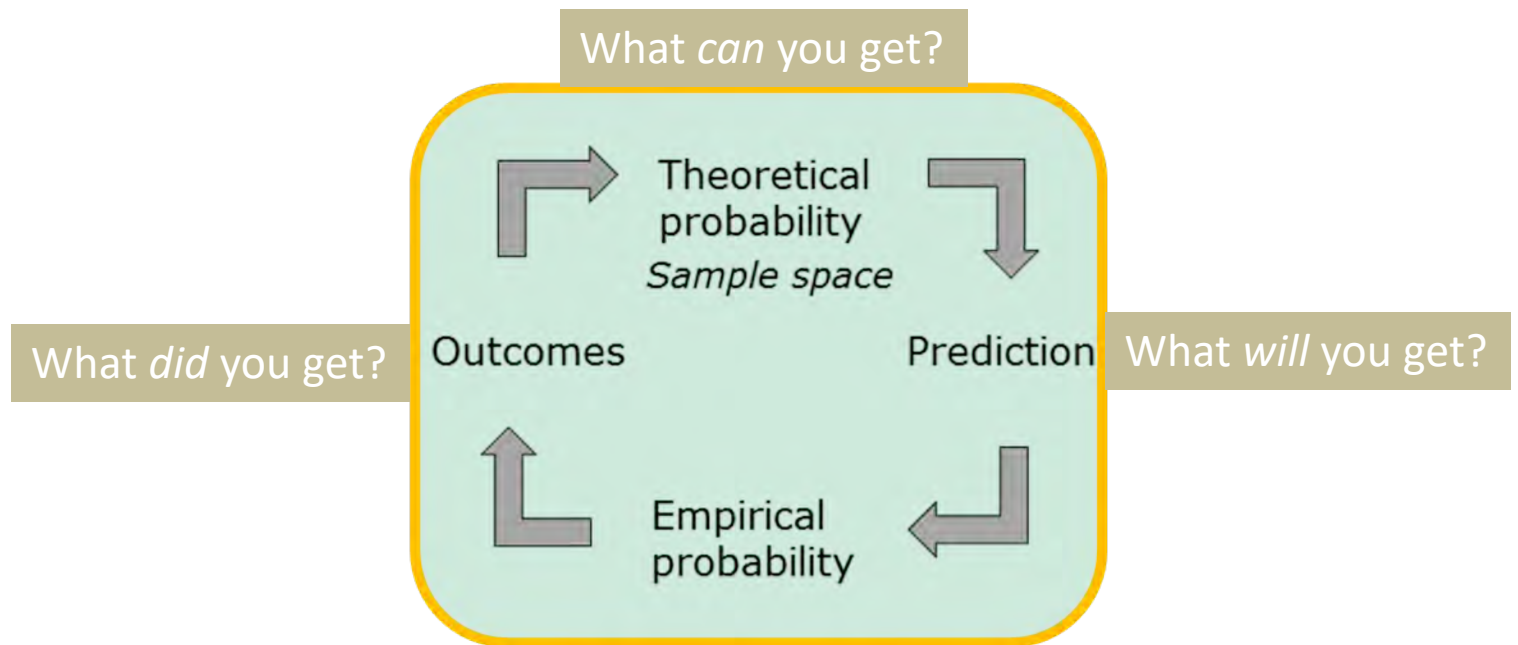


Our approach

- Exploring the **sample space**
- Predicting what comes out
- Doing one experiment
- Doing many experiments

Four key components of the Flatland teaching sequence for EARLY PROBABILITY

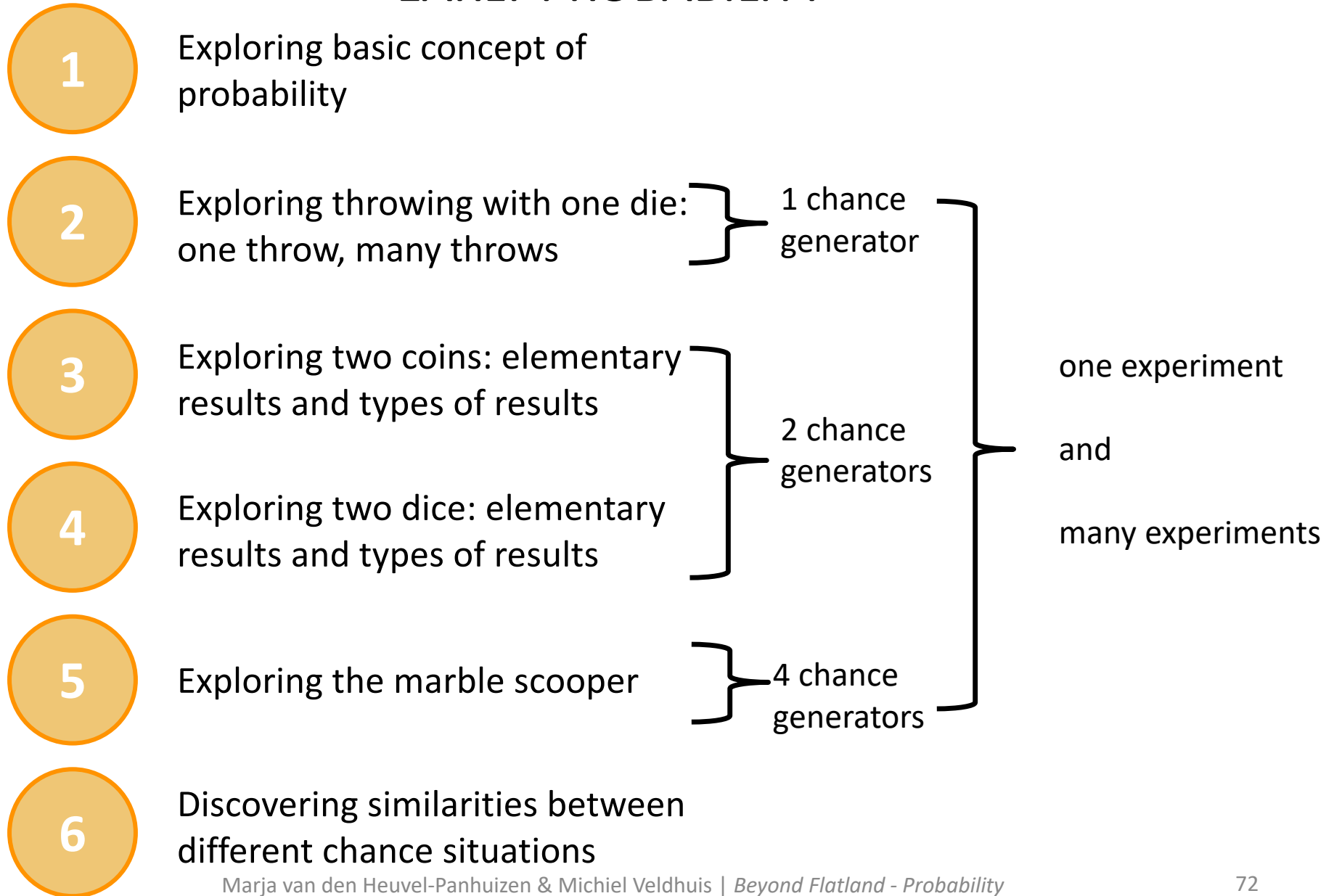
1. Using sample space as a starting point for probabilistic reasoning
2. Three guiding questions
 - What can you get?
 - What will you get?
 - What did you get?



Four key components of the Flatland teaching sequence for EARLY PROBABILITY

1. Using sample space as a starting point for probabilistic reasoning
2. Three guiding questions
 - What can you get?
 - What will you get?
 - What did you get?
3. Supporting perspective switches between
 - Unpredictability \leftrightarrow Predictability
 - Theoretical probability \leftrightarrow Empirical probability
 - Elementary results \leftrightarrow Types of results
4. Experiments with physical chance generators and computer simulations

Structure of the Flatland teaching sequence for EARLY PROBABILITY



➤ Sorting events

This will certainly happen	This will maybe happen	This will certainly not happen

The train from Utrecht to Amsterdam has tomorrow a delay of an hour

If you always water a plant it will stay alive

If you never water a plant it will die

Taking a blue marble from a bag containing nine blue and one red marble

free in the supermarket

If you enter a lottery you win a prize

➤ What can you throw? What will you throw?



Regular die

- 1 What numbers can you throw?
{1,2,3,4,5,6}
- 2 What number will you throw?

- *Theoretical probability (sample space)*
→ *Notion of chance*



Adapted die

- 3 What numbers can you throw?
{1,2,3,4,5,5}
- 4 What number will you throw?

- *Theoretical probability (sample space)*
→ *Notion of chance*



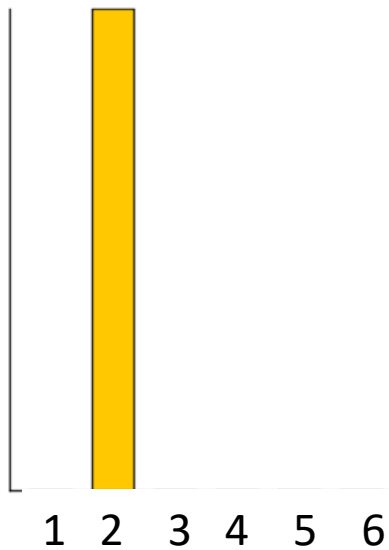
- 5 Think of a die with which it would be easier for you to predict what you will throw?

- ***Manipulating the theoretical probability***

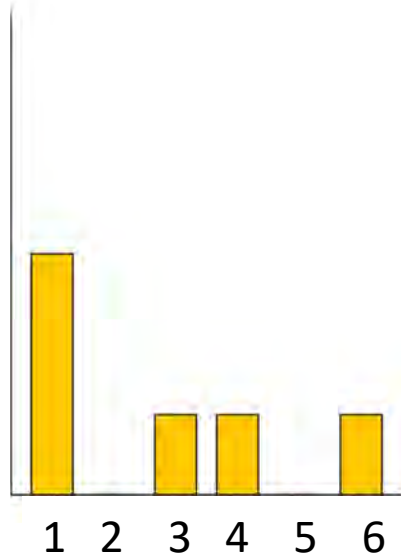


➤ Predicting, throwing, and looking what you get

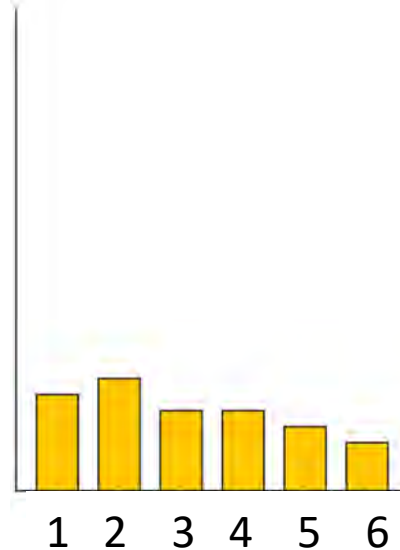
Regular die 1 x



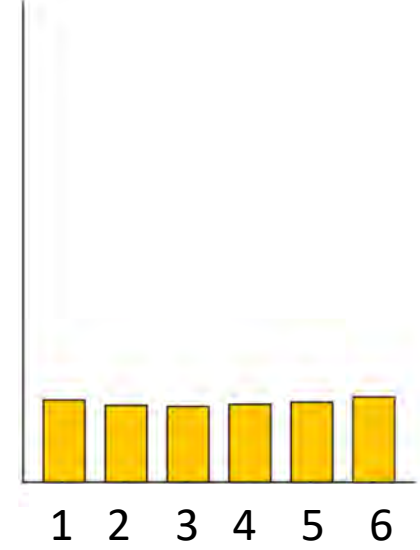
6 x



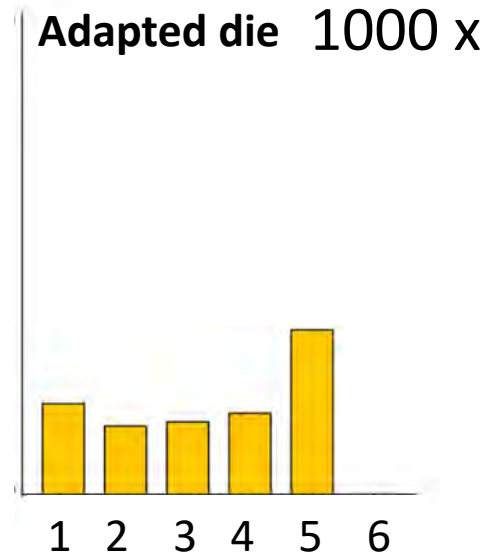
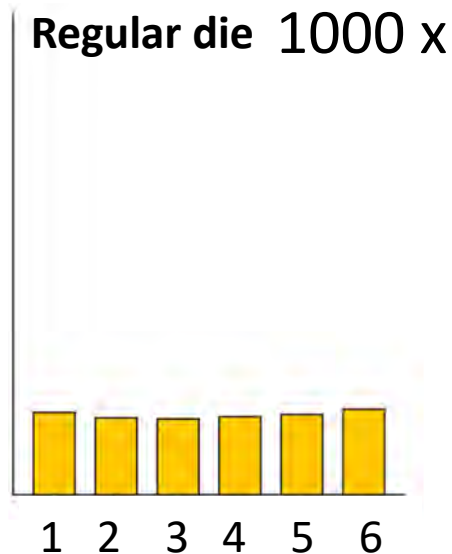
30 x



1000 x



➤ Predicting, throwing, and looking what you get



What **result** will you get?

→ Connecting theoretical probability to empirical probability

➤ Look and predict

What kind of **die** is used?

→ Connecting empirical probability to theoretical probability

➤ Tossing two coins once

What can you get?



1 st coin	2 nd coin	3 types of results
H	H	→ 2xH
T	T	→ 2xT
H	T	→ H+T
T	H	

➤ Tossing two coins many times

The coins are tossed 100 times. What do you think, who will win?



Tim chooses 2xH



Lisa chooses H+T



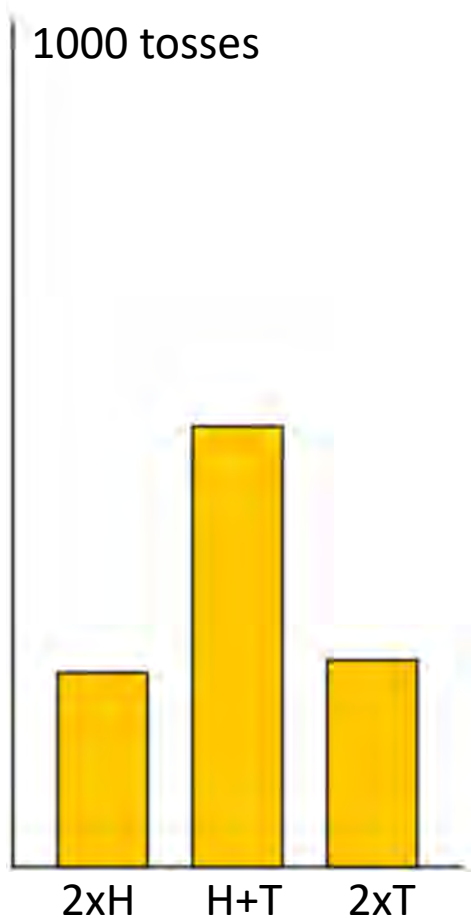
Richard chooses 2xT

➤ Tossing two coins many times, trying it out

Tossing and stacking pieces of wood



Simulating on the computer



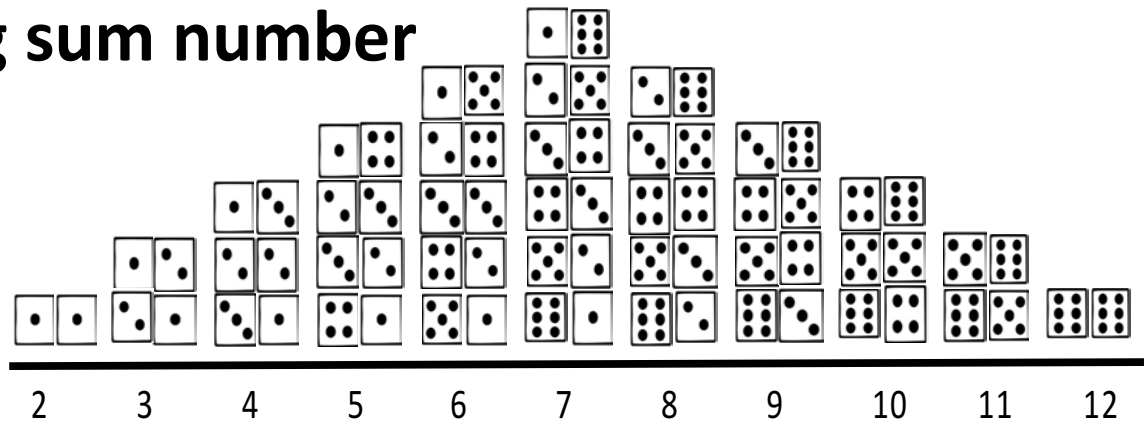
➤ Throwing two dice once

What results can you get?
 How many combinations are possible?
 What sums can you get?



➤ Throwing two dice many times and predicting the winning sum number

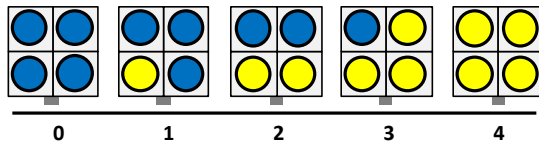
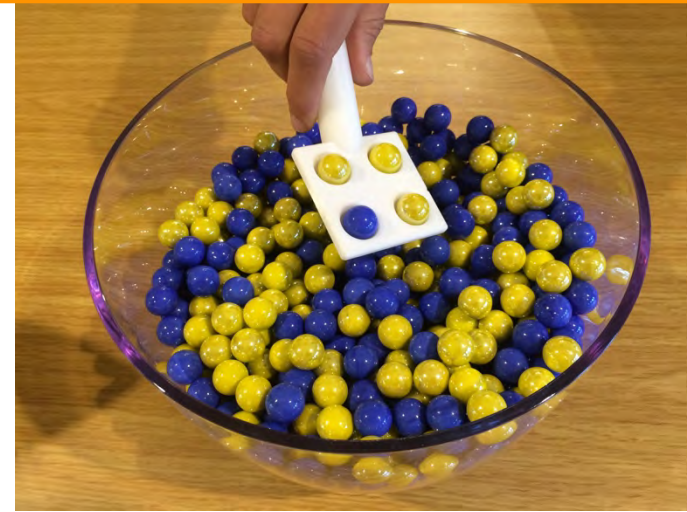
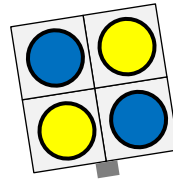
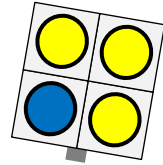
Combination tower



➤ Scooping once

What can you scope?
→ All elementary results

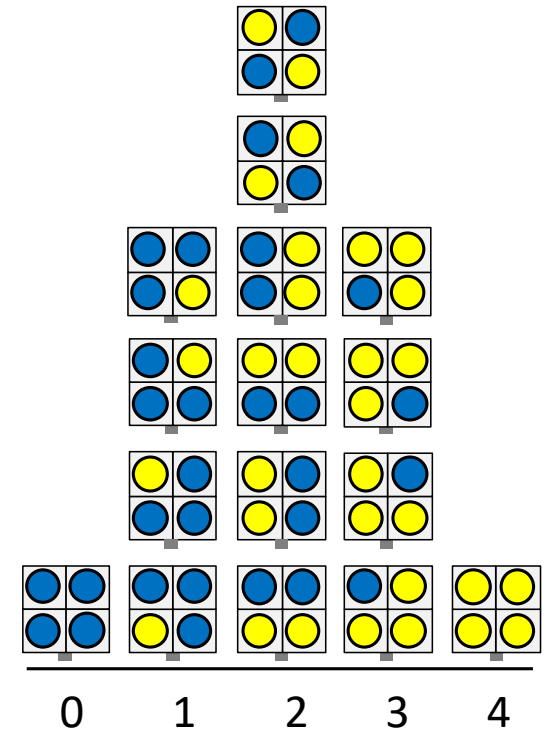
What numbers of yellow marbles can you scope?
→ All results of a particular type

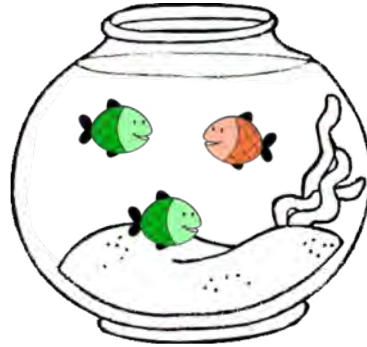


➤ Scooping many times

Gambling with the marble scooper.
What number of yellow marbles will be the winning number?

Combination tower





➤ Which of these situations match the above?



Throwing a 5 or a 6 with a die.

YES/NO

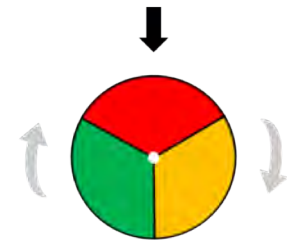
Why?



Throwing two heads with two coins.

YES/NO

Why?



Getting red when turning the spinner.

YES/NO

Why?