

Record in the Commens Bibliography. Retrieved from http://www.commens.org/bibliography/journal_article/steensen-anna-k-johansen-mikkel-w-2016-role-diagram-materiality, 17.08.2022.

Type: Article in Journal
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Title: The role of diagram materiality in mathematics
Year: 2016
Journal: Cognitive Semiotics
Volume: 9
Issue: 2
Pages: 183-201
Keywords: Diagram, Mathematics
Abstract: Based on semiotic analyses of examples from the history of mathematics, we claim that the influence of the material aspects of diagram tokens is anything but trivial. We offer an interpretation of examples of diagrammatic reasoning processes in mathematics according to which the mathematical ideas, arguments, and concepts in question are shaped by the physical features of the chosen diagram tokens.
ISSN: 16621425
DOI: 10.1515/cogsem-2016-0008
Language: English