

'Pure Mathematics' (pub. 11.09.14-10:44). Quote in M. Bergman & S. Paavola (Eds.), *The Commens Dictionary: Peirce's Terms in His Own Words. New Edition*. Retrieved from <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-quantity-special-reference-collectional-and-mathematical-infinity-8>.

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**Term:** Pure Mathematics

**Quote:** ...the distinguishing characteristic of mathematics is that it is the scientific study of hypotheses which it first frames and then traces to their consequences. Mathematics is either *applied* or *pure*. Applied mathematics treats of hypotheses in the forms in which they are first suggested by experience, involving more or less of features which have no bearing upon the forms of deduction of consequences from them. Pure mathematics is the result of an afterthought by which these irrelevant features are eliminated.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1895 [c.]). *On Quantity, with special reference to Collectional and Mathematical Infinity*. MS [R] 15.

**References:** NEM 4:267-268

**Date of** 1895 [c.]

**Quote:**

**URL:** <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-quantity-special-reference-collectional-and-mathematical-infinity-8>