Sammen om Oppdraget 2018

#### Word formula

#### as a bridge between informal algebraic reasoning and symbolic algebra





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#### Always something new..

#### Pattern problems

1	5	13	?
4	6	8	?





# More visualization, more tangible objects











#### Oppgave 1 (3 poeng)

Nedenfor ser du hvor stor oppslutning Kristelig Folkeparti hadde ved stortingsvalgene i 2013 og 2017.

År	2013	2017
Oppslutning	<b>5,6</b> %	4,2 %

- a) Hvor mange prosentpoeng gikk oppslutningen til Kristelig Folkeparti tilbake med fra 2013 til 2017?
- b) Hvor mange prosent gikk oppslutningen til Kristelig Folkeparti tilbake med fra 2013 til 2017?

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# Not all contexts are meaningsfull Dressed-up mathematics



Novemberkonferansen 2017

#### Word formula

#### as a bridge between informal algebraic reasoning and symbolic algebra





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### Structure of the workshop

Introduction: what is a word formula?

 Justifications from international research for using word formulas as an entry into algebra





#### What is a word formula?



### Daily life — buying a "varmepumpe"



newton



JNIVLASTETETTASSET



# In ICT — coding in Python



## **Your future length**

To calculate for any girl her future length as a grown-up, the school doctor uses the following formula:

Length daughter (in cm) =  $\frac{\text{length father (cm) + length mother (cm)}}{2}$ 

a) Danielle's father is 1,82 m tall, her mother is 1,68 m. How tall will Danielle grow according to the formula?

 b) According to the formula, is it possible that a girl will grow taller than her father?
 Explain your answer. (if you want, use an example)

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# Given the equation $z = \frac{x + y}{2} + 3$

# a) Calculate z given that x = 182 and y = 168.

b) Can you find values for x and z that fit the equation and so that z > x? Explain your answer.
(if you want, use a number example)



**Didactical use in math education** 

### **Your future length**

To calculate for any girl her future length as a grown-up, the school doctor uses the following formula:



c) What would a formula for boys look like?

d) What assumptions are there in such a formula?



# I can guess your birthday!

Day

- 1. Think the number of your day
- 2. Add 5

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- 3. Multiply by 2
- 4. Subtract 10
- 5. Tell me your result



#### Month

- 1. Think the number of your month
- 2. Add 2
- 3. Multiply by 3
- Subtract 6 Tell me your result



Think of your month and day of birth Multiply your month by 20 Add 30 Multiply the result with 5 Add your day Subtract 365, the number of days in a year



## Justifications from international research

### for using word formulas

## as entry into algebra



Carraher, Schliemann (2008)

#### Algebra is taught too early



"If algebra is meaningless at adolescence, then why should it be meaningful several years earlier?" (p.235)

# For many pupils the first algebra experiences should

build on contexts of problems.

give room to pupils' own words, symbols and diagrams

delay the formal notation

# Radford (2014)

Ancient Greeks, Hindi, Chinese solved equations without symbolic notations letters are neither a necessary nor a sufficient condition for 'doing algebra' Algebra has layers of generality in reasoning: naive induction vs. generalization



#### European Union (2013)

Lower achieving pupils benefit from

- Connections to real life
- Inter-disciplinary, holistic approaches
- Getting the opportunity to verbalize and to reason
- Mindset: «yes, we can!» feeling mastery
  Getting an answer to the question «why are we doing this?»

## Low achievement is not a trait, but the result of what we offer

#### Often, teachers

- rush to finish
- teach the same way they were taught
  - do what the textbook offers

# The iceberg metaphor



# iceberg







# building floating capacity for formal algebra







#### Mathematics is a human activity

- Mathematics is a language
- Math has different dialects
- reasoning is important, discussing,
- giving pupils the time to start from their level (ZPD)
- not jumping from zero
- doing mathematics col
- progressive schematiz informal – context-rela



#### Maximum heartbeat in sports

When you are sporting, your heartbeat goes up. It is important to know what the **maximum** heartbeat per minute can be for any person.

Marianne and Michael are trainers in a fitness center. They use formulas to calculate the maximum allowed heart beat for the clients. The formula depends on the age of clients. Marianne uses the following formula

Maximum heartbeat = 220 - age

(heartbeat in beats per minute and age in years).

- a) What would be your maximum heartbeat?
- b) A client is 29 years old. What is his max heartbeat?
- c) Your uncle Johnny says that his maximum heartbeat is 180. What is his age according to Marianne's formula?

Michael uses the following formula

Maximum heartbeat = 209 - 0,75 x age

- d) What would be your maximum heartbeat with Michael's formula?
- e) A client is 29 years old. What is his max heartbeat with Michael's formula?
- f) Would there be an age at which it does not matter whether you use Marianne's or Michael's formula?



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#### Foot length and shoe size

The length of your foot determines which shoe size you have. One can calculate the shoe size with the following formula

shoe size =  $0,15 \times foot \ length + 2,29$ 

(shoe size is rounded up, foot lenth in mm).

- a) Inga has a footlenght of 287 mm. What is her shoe size?
- b) You probably know your shoe size. What would be your foot length according to the formula?
- c) For a tennis shoe, you must take your foot length, and add 1 cm to it. What is the formula to get from a foot length to a tennis shoe size?
  - 1. shoe size tennis shoe =  $1,15 \times normal$  footlength + 2,29
  - 2. shoe size tennis shoe = 0,15 x normal footlength + 3,29
  - 3. shoe size tennis shoe = 0,15 x normal footlength + 3,79





Inga has footlength 287 mm.
The formula gives her as shoe size
0,15 x 287 + 2,29 = 45.34 -> 45

For tennis shoes she must take as footlength 287 mm + 10 mm = 297 mm
 Then her shoe size would be 0,15 x 297 + 2,29 = 46.84 -> 47

- 1. shoe size tennis shoe = 1,15 x normal footlength + 2,29
- 2. shoe size tennis shoe = 0,15 x normal footlength + 3,29
- 3. shoe size tennis shoe = 0,15 x normal footlength + 3,79

Inga has foot length **287** and her tennis shoe size is **47** 

Check the three given options: 1.  $1,15 \times 287 + 2,29 = 332,34$  2.  $0,15 \times 287 + 3,29 = 46.34$  3.  $0,15 \times 287 + 3,79 = 46.84$ 

#### Conclusion

With the present situation, too many pupils are afraid or alienated by maths We need to think about better ways to teach mathematics Many pupils are assisted by «giving) meaning» to mathematical concepts Word formulas are a promising possibility Many people outside mathematics have good reasons to use word formula

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### Tusen takk

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