# Algebraic Reasoning: Discussion

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## **Basic Issues**

### What?

- Content: Mathematics as an academic discipline
- Content: Mathematics as an applied skill
- What is the human mind prepared to learn of the above?

#### How

- Depends critically on the what; Content X What is learned easily and what is not
- Built in transfer (positive + negative); transfer related to prior learning

### When?

- In terms of necessary background knowledge
- In terms of cognitive & development influences on learning

## Is the Human Mind Prepared to Learn Algebra?

- Primary abilities are universal and coalesce around the areas of folk psychology, folk biology, and folk physics.
  - On the basis of recent neuroimaging research, the foundation for an evolved number-counting-arithmetic system may be folk physics.
  - These abilities emerge through interaction between inherent biases and child-initiated activities, such as play and social discourse
- Secondary abilities are built from folk systems through mechanisms that are not fully understood but likely involve attentional control and explicit (sometimes implicit) representation of the to-be-learned information in working memory.

## Schools and Organization of Instruction

- Scientific, technological, and intellectual advances were initially built upon folk domains, but corrected and extended folk knowledge
- These advances result in a gap between folk knowledge and the theories and knowledge base of the associated disciplines
- Schools emerge in societies in which this gap between folk knowledge and the competencies needed for successful living in the society needs to be closed
- One function of schools is to organize children's activities to allow them to acquire the competencies that close this gap

# Schools and Organization of Instruction: Predictions

- Children are innately curious about and motivated to actively engage in activities that will develop folk knowledge (e.g., socializing & folk psychology)
  - These can conflict with the need to engage in activities that will lead to the mastery of academic competencies.
- The inherent cognitive systems and child-initiated activities that foster the development of primary abilities may not be sufficient for the acquisition of secondary abilities, such as reading and writing
  - the need for instruction will be a direct function of the "remoteness" of the secondary ability to the supporting primary systems

# Primary Number-Counting-Arithmetic System

- Numerosity Ability to accurately determine the quantity of a small set of items without counting. Appears to be limited to sets of four or fewer items
- Ordinality Understanding of more than and less than, and later an understanding of ordinal relationships. Early on, appears to be limited to sets of four or fewer items
- Counting Preverbal counting system for enumeration of three to four items. Basic principles can be mapped onto counting words
- Arithmetic Early sensitivity to increases (addition) and decreases (subtraction) in the quantity of small sets

What are the primary competencies that foster and hinder algebraic learning: How do humans naturally think about patterns? Will this help or hinder learning? Ken – language vs. symbols



**Conceptual Competence** 

Example: Extension of Formal Counting: Mapping of Inherent Counting/Number Knowledge onto Inherent Magnitude Estimation System: Integration of numerical and spatial representations (David, Joan)



Conceptual Competence

# How and When: Arithmetic & Algebra

Prediction: The more "remote" the secondary competencies from the primary foundation, the more:

- The material must be organized by teachers, book developers, etc.
- The period of instruction will be longer, and more preliminary preparation will be needed (e.g., learning of foundational secondary competencies); interference from prior secondary learning (Martha)
- For many children, the material will be subjectively difficult and inherently uninteresting
- Motivation to learn the material comes from adults' understanding of what is needed for successful social living and preparation for technical fields, and NOT the inherent interests of children

# How and When: Arithmetic & Algebra in China

Practice Workbooks, 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Is too much practice bad (negative transfer)?
- Or, can practice be constructed in better ways?

Extensive Practice for Speed/Accuracy: Well organized

Pre-algebra is Integrated into Already Practiced Arithmetic

#### **Extensive Practice for Speed/Accuracy**

1st Grade = Ξ ① 1+1= ① 2 - 1 = ① 1+1= 2 2 + 1 = 2 3 - 1 = 2 5 - 4 = ③ 1 + 2 = 3 4 - 1 = 3 2 + 1 = Grade 1. 1st Senest ④ 3 + 1 = ④ 5 - 1 = ④ 5 - 3 = (5) 1 + 3 = **⑤** 3 − 2 = (5) 3 + 1 = (6) 2 + 2 = 6 4 - 2 = 6 4 - 3 = ⑦ 5 - 2 = 7 1+4 = ⑦ 4 - 1 = ⑧ 4 + 1 = 8 4 - 3 = (8) 3 + 2 = (9) 3 + 2 = 9 5 - 3 = 9 5 - 2 = ① 2 + 3 = 1 5 - 4 = 10 5 - 3 = 1995-96 School Yr Beizing Public Schools (1) 2 + 1 =1 4 - 2 = (1) 4 - 2 =12 2 + 2 = 12 5 - 3 = (2) 2 + 2 = (13) 2 + 3 = (3) 4 - 3 = (3) 1 + 4 = (1) 1 + 4 = (1) 5 - 2 = (4) 5 - 4 = (b) 1 + 2 = (b) 2 - 1 = (5) 5 - 1 = (16) 1 + 3 = 16 5 - 4 = 16 3 - 2 = 1 + 1 = 1 4 - 1 = 1 + 2 = 08 3 - 2 = (18) 3 + 2 = (18) 2 + 3 = (19) 1 + 2 =(19) 4 - 3 = 19 2 - 1 = (20) 2 + 3 = 20 5 - 3 = @ 1 + 3 = 分 秒 分 秒 分 秒 对 题 对 题 对 题 0 1

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#### Introduction of X, in context of well learned addition

第 65 片	1 105 00 11	
	第 66 片	第 67 片
35 - 32	51 - 23	200 00
48-36	72-56	390-30
24-11	93 - 87	290-50
\$3-62	14 - 9	480-240
97 - 77	45 - 26	590-380
85-80	26 - 9	610-50
67 - 53	47 10	820-40
55-35	\$7 - 18 69 - 90	940 - 5
47-42	08 - 39	500-120
34-11	85-87	800-250
17 - 15	96-72	800-30
28 - 13	74-38	830-150
46-24	65-28	650 - 470
85-13	53-16	850-460
64 - 41	42 - 27	108 - 38
03-60	31-12	740-660
70 10	22 - 18	180-74
97 00	14-6	956 - 906
67-62	56-18	1000-254
30-83	67 - 28	1000-376
15-21	70-23	1000-901
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850-170		360	- 90	54 + X = 83
570-80		154	-70 .	X = (
1400-70	0	1600	0-700	98 + X = 198
2800 - 90	0	580-	- 580	X =
350 - 45		570-	- 1	X + 18 = 36
861-801		408 -	- 20	X =
254 - 204		478 -	- 50	95 + X = 290
450-70		500-	- 480	X = 1
390-90		850-	- 90	X + 38 = 60
829-519		500-	450	X =
325 - 120		400-210		84 + X = 96
325 - 105		850-	820	X =
859 - 250	. 1	560-	70	109 + X = 187
940 - 850		125 -	80	X =
750-490		3600-	- 800	X +864 = 932
564 - 204		90万-	-24万	X = 1
547 - 540		35万-	8万	853 + X = 1000
547-507		750万	- 90万	X =
800-630		127万	- 60万	X + 271 = 300
1000-852		132万-82万		X =
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### **Expand to Subtraction**

第 71 片	第 72 片	第 73 片		1 76.000		
X + 23 = 71         X = $X = 72$ X =         X + 18 = 36         X =         0 + X = 89         X =         0 + X = 89         X =         2 + 560 = 800         X =         2 + 87 = 200         X =         2 + 87 = 200         X =         8 + X = 60         X =         2 + 50 = 240         X =         4 + X = 31         X =         + 854 = 854         X =         分 秒         对 题	820 - X = 90 X = X - 54 = 854 X = 1050 - X = 1000 X = X - 84 = 91 X = 460 - X = 320 X = 720 - X = 540 X = X - 360 = 480 X = X - 650 = 650 X = X - 15 = 80 X = 240 - X = 240 X = $\frac{3}{2}$ 秒 $\frac{3}{2}$ 秒	ステレッシュ ステレ ステレ ステレ ステレ ステレ ステレ ステレ ステレ		第 74 片 X - 34 = 34 X = X + 28 = 28 X = 38 + X = 38 X = 38 - X = 38 X = 400 + X = 560 X = X - 400 = 560 X = X - 400 = 560 X = X + 400 = 560 X = X = 360 - X = 860 X = X - 840 = 840 X = X = X - 840 = 840 X = X = X = 360 X = X = X = 360 X = X = X = 360 X = X = X = 360 X = X = 360 X = X = 0 X = X = X = X = X = X = 0	第 75 片 X - 56 = 24 X = 48 - X = 32 X = 96 - X = 56 X = X + 23 = 77 X = X - 72 = 28 X = 72 - X = 28 X = 48 + X = 72 X = X - 48 = 72 X = X - 36 = 32 X = 214 - X = 12 X = $\frac{3}{2}$ 秒 $\overline{D}$	第 76 片 487 + 97 54 842 - 109 56 367 - 199 847 - 201 56 498 + 85 56 1100 - 489 56 207 + 654 56 354 - 105 51 - 66 354 - 105 51 - 66 354 - 362 - 38 - 36 1762 - 158 - 142 58 576 + 198 50 56 576 + 105 50 58 - 142 576 - 198 56 - 142 576 - 105 50 58 - 142 576 - 105 50 58 - 142 463 + 99 86 - 55 463 + 109 56 463 - 109 55 154 - 87 - 13 153 - 54 - 26 57 59 50 57 50 50 57 50 57 50 50 57 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50
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### **Expand to Multiplication**

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第 61 片	第 62 片	第 63 片	第 64 片	第 65 片	第 56 片
$X \div 5 = 15$ 46 × X = 23 X ÷ 8 = 24	括号里最大能填几 72×()<350 83×()<400	着機式直接写得数 39×7 54×6	2+4+2+4 2+4-2+4 $2+4 \times 2+4$	$72 \div 3 \div 6$ $8 \times 9 \div 3$ $240 \div 240 \div 4$	$25 + 25 \div 5 - 5$ $120 - 20 \div 4 - 4$ $400 - 200 \div 2 + 150$
$X \times 18 = 144$ $110 \div X = 22$ $16 \times X = 96$	$\begin{array}{c c} 94 \times ( & ) < 540 \\ 69 \times ( & ) < 420 \\ 58 \times ( & ) < 300 \end{array}$	87 × 8 58 × 5 43 × 9	2+4+2+4 $4+2\times 4+2$ $4\times 2\times 4\times 2$	$320 - 20 \times 6$ $125 + 125 \times 5$ $400 - 200 \div 4$	60-40+5+10 $80-10\times5+30$ $66-6\times6+6$
$X \div 6 = 30$ $360 \div X = 3$ $X \times 4 = 52$	$\begin{array}{cccc} 47 \times ( & ) < 280 \\ 36 \times ( & ) < 270 \\ 25 \times ( & ) < 190 \end{array}$	89 × 9 48 × 7 18 × 8	$4 \times 2 + 4 \times 2$ $4 \times 2 + 4 \times 2$ $4 \times 2 - 4 \times 2$ $4 + 2 - 4 + 2$	$25 \times 5 - 5$ $36 \div 6 \div 6$ $63 \div 7 \div 8$	$4 \times 8 - 3 \times 4$ $4 \times 8 + 8 \times 4$ $4 \times 8 + 8 \times 4$
$8 \times X = 120$ $15 \times X = 75$ $125 \div X = 25$	$\begin{array}{c} 14 \times ( ) < 80 \\ 65 \times ( ) < 420 \\ 28 \times ( ) < 250 \end{array}$	$36 \times 9$ $27 \times 6$ $68 \times 5$	$4 \times 2 + 4 \div 2$ $4 + 2 + 4 \div 2$ $4 + 2 + 4 \div 2$ $4 \times 2 - 4 \div 2$	$9 \times 8 \times 5$ 57 + 36 + 4 67 - 28 - 12	$70 + 30 - 30 \times 2$ $40 \div 4 - 4 \times 2$ $30 - 8 + 2 \times 3$
$X \times 9 = 81$ $30 \times X = 150$ $100 \div X = 4$	$\begin{array}{c} 39 \times ( ) < 230 \\ 44 \times ( ) < 300 \\ 57 \times ( ) < 510 \end{array}$	$57 \times 4$ $35 \times 7$ $93 \times 8$	$4 + 2 + 4 \times 2$ $4 \times 2 \times 4 + 2$ $4 \times 2 \times 4 + 2$	$120 \times 5 - 20$ $630 \div 7 - 30$ $270 \div 90 \div 90$	$54 \div 6 - 6 + 3$ 80 + 70 + 30 - 70 48 + 6 + 3 × 6
$32 \times X = 96$ 25 + X = 25 $X \times 3 = 150$	68×()<400 73×()<510 88×()<700	77 × 7 89 × 90 47 × 40	$4 + 2 \times 4 + 2$ $4 + 2 \times 4 \times 2$ $2 + 4 \times 2 - 4$	$300 \times 3 + 60$ $150 + 50 \times 4$ $250 + 150 \div 5$	$450 \div 9 - 30 + 20$ $5 \times 8 - 5 \times 4$ $36 \div 6 - 2 + 3$
$X \times 6 = 24$ $X \div 5 = 25$	36 × ( ) <320 85 × ( ) <500	58 × 70 39 × 80	2+4+4+2 4+2+2+4 $4+2\times 4=2$	$\begin{array}{c} 330 + 130 \times 3 \\ 430 - 30 \times 3 \\ 200 - 200 \div 2 \end{array}$	$100 - 20 \times 4 + 8.0$ $30 + 30 \div 6 = 6$
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#### **Introduction of Decimals**

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第 30 片	第 31 片	第 32 片	第 33 片	第 34 片	第 35 片
0.5+0.5=	0 .1 +0 .2 =	0.4+0.6=	5.6+0.7=	0.6+1.4=	0.2+7.7=
0.2+0.4 =	0.2+0.3=	5 +0.5 =	4.3+0.043⇒	0.4+3.7=	0.5+0.05=
0.9+0.3=	0.3+0.4 =	0.18+0.2=	0.54+0.5 =	0.08+2.5=	0.5+0.9=
0.9+0.6=	0.4+0.5=	8.3+0.07 =	26.04+0.6=	0.04+0.09=	0.45+0.22=
0.8+0.4=	0.5+0.6=	3.4 + 5.4 =	10.2+9.08=	0.08+0.25=	4.4+4.8=
0.5+0.7 =	0.6+0.7=	6.1 + 3.9 =	0.9+1.8=	0.3+0.7=	0.06+0.01=
0.5+0.3=	0.7+0.8=	0.15+0.9=	3 +0.7 =	4.2+2.5=	0.6+0.22 =
0.3+0.6 =	9 .0 + 8 . 9	9.9+0.1=	1.8+8.2=	0.01+0.39 =	0_08+0_04=
0.8+0.3=	0.9 + 1 =	2.21 + 0.8 =	10.4+1.4=	0.02+0.2=	0.4+8 =
0.04+0.6=	.1 +0 .11 =	3 +4.7 =	4.07 + 9.3 =	0.5+0.03=	0.09+0.6=
0.06+0.07 =	1.1 + 2 =	8.31 + 16.9 =	0.09 + 1 = '	3.9 + 3.6 =	0.5+3.5=
0.02+0.08=	1.2+3 =	0 4 +0 26 =	4.8 + 3.1 =	0.7 + 9 =	0.3+9.5=
0.09 + 0.5 =	1.3+4 =	0.7+0.8=	0.56+40 =	0.91+0.81 =	0.8+0.7=
0.06+0.08 =	1.4 + 5 =	0,12+9,5=	5.32 + 1.68 =	8.1+0.1=	2,3+4,6=
0.07+0.05=	1.5 + 6 =	0.42+0.6=	0.23+4.07 =	0.02+0.61 =	0.03+0.29=
0.01+0.5=	1.6 + 7 =	0.9+0.71 =	6.4 + 6 =	5.4+3.3=	0_04+0_08=
= 0.01 +0.09 =	1.7 + 8 =	3.42 + 0 =	0.8 + 2 =	0.9 + 6.1 =	0.3 + 5 =
0.09+0.2=	1.8+9 =	0.09+0.02=	3.94 + 4.6 =	0.9 + 2 =	0.38+0.13=
0.06 + 0.05 =	1.9+10=	5,55+4,35=	0.03+0.7=	0.05+0.7=	0,51+0,16=
0.03+0.6=	2.1+11=	0.06+0.4=	3.49+0.5=	0.47+0.15=	0.6+0.17=
分秒	分秒	分秒	分秒	分秒	分秒
对题	对 题	对题	X)	对题	对

#### Expand X to Decimals

第	第43片		
<ol> <li>9.02平方千米=(</li> <li>110公顷=(</li> <li>15000平方米=(</li> <li>0.45公顷=(</li> <li>7.06公顷=(</li> <li>1.83平方千米=(</li> </ol>	)公顷 )平方千米 )公顷 )平方米 )公顷( )平方 )公顷( )平方	)平方米 千米	(1) $X + 8 = 13$ (2) $5 + X = 11$ (3) $1.5 + X = 1,6$ (4) $0.9 + X = 1.2$ (5) $X + 3.9 = 4$ (6) $0.7 - X = 0.3$ (7) $5.1 - X = 0$
<ul> <li>⑦ 32000平方米 = (</li> <li>⑧ 9.6公顷 = ( = (</li> <li>⑨ 162000平方米 = (</li> <li>□ 162000平方米 = (</li> <li>□ 0.1平方千米 = (</li> <li>□ 17000000平方米 = </li> <li>□ 17000000平方米 = </li> <li>□ 4 公顷800平方米 = </li> <li>□ 12500000平方米 = </li> </ul>	)公顷( )公顷( )平方米 )公顷( )平方粉 )公顷( )平方 ( )公顷( )平方 ( )公顷( )平方 ( )公顷( )平方 ( )公顷( )平方 ( )公顷( )平方 ( )公顷( )平方 ( )公顷( )平方 ( )公顷( )平方米 ( )公顷( ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) (	<ul> <li>)平方米</li> <li>)平方米</li> <li>)平方米</li> <li>)子方米</li> <li>)子方米</li> <li>)子方米</li> <li>)子方米</li> <li>()子子方米</li> <li>()子子子方米</li> <li>()子子方米</li> <li>()子子方</li></ul>	(a) $3.2 - X = 0.5$ (b) $4.5 - X = 4.5$ (c) $X - 32 = 5$ (c) $X - 7.8 = 2.7$ (c) $X - 7.8 = 2.7$ (c) $X - 7.8 = 8$ (c) $9.5 + X = 13.6$ (c) $X - 10.5 = 5$ (c) $9.7 - X = 1.8$ (c) $6.5 - X = 0.9$ (c) $10 - X = 3.9$ (c) $7.8 + X = 9.2$

5th Grade Ins semester

第44片	第45片
D 3X = 6	① 12÷X = 3
2) 4X = 36	② 18 ÷ X = 2
3) 9X = 81	(3) $48 \div X = 6$
4) 2X = 0.6	④ X ÷ 8 = 25
52.5X = 10	⑤ X ÷ 25 = 4
⑥ 1.25X = 10	⑥ X ÷ 8 = 125
$\overline{7}$ 15X = 90	⑦ 80÷X = 16
⑧ 1.5X = 6	⑧ X ÷ 12 = 60
9 1.6X = 80	(9) 90 + X = 5
0.5X = 60	$ (0 X \div 2.5 = 4 ) $
(1) 5X = 2.5	(1) $7.2 \div X = 6$
(2) 0.5X = 2.5	(2) X + 1.3 = 7
(3) 1.5X = 0	(B) 9.6 ÷ X = 1.2
(4) 8.9X = 8.9	(i) X ÷ 9.7 = 1
(b) 7X = 8.4	(B) 3.9 ÷ X = 39
00 17X = 5.1	(6) X ÷ 10 = 100
(7) 13 X = 52	1 9.1 * X = 0.7
(8) 7 X = 91	(3) X ÷ 6 = 0.5
(19) 11X = 121	(9) $5.7 \div X = 3$
2 15X = 225	20 X + 2 = 2.3

25

### X in More Complex Expression

第44片	第45片	第46片		第47片		第48片	
$\begin{array}{l} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} 1\\ \hline \\ \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} 5 \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} 5 \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} 5 \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \end{array} \\$	$\begin{array}{c} \textcircled{1}0.63 \times \frac{3}{7} = \\ \textcircled{0}0.4 \times \frac{1}{12} = \\ \textcircled{0}0.4 \times \frac{1}{12} = \\ \textcircled{0}0.3 \times \frac{1}{5} = \\ \textcircled{0}0.3 \times \frac{1}{5} = \\ \textcircled{0}0.3 \times \frac{1}{5} = \\ \textcircled{0}0.3 \times \frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{9} = \\ \hline\textcircled{0}0.3 \times \frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{9} = \\ \textcircled{0}0.35 \times \frac{1}{7} = \\ \hline\textcircled{0}0.375 \times \frac{1}{6} = \\ \hline\textcircled{0}0.2 \times \frac{3}{8} = \\ \textcircled{0}0.2 \times \frac{3}{8} = \\ \textcircled{0}0.2 \times \frac{3}{5} = \\ \hline\textcircled{0}0.2 \times \frac{3}{5} = \\ \hline\hline$	$\begin{array}{c} \textcircled{1}X \times \frac{7}{12} = 0.28\\ \textcircled{0} \frac{11}{12}X = 0.22\\ \textcircled{0} \frac{3}{25}X = 0.75\\ \textcircled{0}X \div 0.3 = \frac{5}{11}\\ \textcircled{0}X \div 0.3 = \frac{5}{11}\\ \textcircled{0}X \div \frac{2}{9} = 0.7\\ \textcircled{0} \frac{3}{4}X = 0.375\\ \fbox{0} \frac{11}{50}X = 0.55\\ \fbox{0} \frac{0.45}{12}X = 0.55\\ \textcircled{0} 0.45X = 0.9\\ \textcircled{0}X \div 0.2 = \frac{5}{12}\\ \fbox{0}X \times \frac{3}{16} = 0.75\\ \fbox{0}X \div 0.5 = 1\\ \fbox{0}X \times \frac{7}{8} = 0.84\\ \fbox{0} 0.6 \div X \frac{3}{4}\\ \fbox{0}X \div \frac{2}{5} = \frac{2}{5} \end{array}$	$(1)\frac{1}{25} = (2)$ $(2)0.623$ $(3) 2 \%$ $(4)200\%$ $(5)0.013$ $(6) 2 \frac{5}{8}$ $(7)\frac{7}{50} = (2)$ $(8)0.153$ $(9)0.173$ $(10)25\%$ $(11)157\%$ $(12)0.063$ $(13)0.983$ $(13)\frac{23}{50} = (2)$	日本 (二) (二) (二) (二) (二) (二) (二) (二) (二) (二)	$) \% (1) \frac{1}{2} \times 0.6 =$ $\% (2) 1.8 \times \frac{5}{6} =$ $(3) \frac{3}{4} \times 0.16 =$ $(4) \frac{1}{3} \times 0.9 =$ $(5) 7.2 \times \frac{5}{8} =$ $\% (6) 0.4 \times \frac{9}{10} =$ $\% (7) 4.8 \times \frac{7}{12} =$ $(8) \frac{7}{18} \times 3.6 =$ $(9) \frac{9}{15} \times 4.5 =$ $(1) \frac{1}{2} \times 2.5 =$ $(1) \frac{1}{4} \times 0.6 =$ $(2) \frac{1}{6} \times 0.7 =$ $(3) 0.25 \times \frac{1}{2} =$ $(3) \frac{9}{3} \times 0.25 =$		
6	6	$160.75X = \frac{3}{4}$	$(5)\frac{47}{50} = 0$	) = (	)% $\frac{150.5 \times \frac{5}{8}}{8} =$	a 12 1	

## Conclusion

#### WHAT

Algebra is a form of human knowledge that has gone beyond folk knowledge;

- Content domains reflect recent human intellectual history
- And, very recent need for all children to learn some algebra
- Questions: Core content: Algebra as discipline or applied skill?

#### HOW

- Martha's talk examines interference from prior secondary learning and how this information interferes with symbolic understanding of algebra
  - Remote from primary knowledge; Layering and integrating various types of secondary symbols
  - Children's natural use of symbols is more about social communication; language and simple visual representations (David). This is their implicit assumption about these – use in other ways may need to be explicit

## Conclusion

- Joan & Ken's talks examine attempts to fuse learning preferences evolved for primary learning for algebraic learning
  - How do primary representations help & hinder this learning? Ken's word prob
  - Built in potential for negative transfer?
- vs. Chinese method of more direct integration with arithmetic learning

 Are either of these sufficient? Are the different approaches differently helpful for procedural vs. conceptual learning?

Broader How:

- Do attempts to make learning democratic, authentic etc. help or hinder algebra learning?
- Assume children are not motivated to learn algebra
- Greater potential to influence prior secondary instruction and reduce interference and provide sufficient background knowledge
- Know less about help or hindrance from primary knowledge; What systems are used and how do the demands of algebra differ from evolved function?

## Conclusion

#### WHEN

- For secondary domains: Children's "natural" cognitive development or "readiness" may not be relevant in the same way it might be for primary learning (e.g., language)
  - Cannot make assumptions about too early
- Chinese workbooks suggest American children can be introduced to pre-algebra and in a more systematic way earlier than is currently the case