

**Bright IDEA -**

**and**

**Math Left Behind?**

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# Why Are We Here?

- Head count (3rd graders)
  - Before BI: Virtually no G&T nomination
  - After BI: Control - 72 (10%); BI - 88 (24%)
  - Statistical Significance: “Computer goes banana”
- Math problem-based questionnaire
  - Miguel and Tara counted their marble collections. Miguel has 23 bags of ten marbles and 13 left over. Tara has 17 bags of ten marbles and 8 left over. If they put their marbles together how many marbles will there be?
- Only 17% correct, with 7% sound reason (BI vs. control - no difference)

# What Should We Accomplish?

- Overarching Goal
  - Foster teachers' motivation/capacity to nurture K-2 students' mathematical talents
- Objectives
  - Promote relevant mathematical understandings
  - Nurture an image of powerful pedagogy
  - Equip you with work plan to accomplish the goal
- Process
  - Note taking; Questions (you, us); Struggles

# Self-Examination

- Take your time (individually, quietly)
- Answer each and every question on the student Math Problem-Based Questionnaire
- Norm: Solution = Answer + Justification
- Done?
- In a different color pen/pencil, add next to each question what will **YOU** consider a 'good enough' justification from a student

# Math Can Be *M&M* Sweet

- Demo pedagogical approach (different than used to)
- Form groups of 5 with folks from different schools
- Read hand-out (*M&M Activity Part 1*)
- Norms:
  - Solution = answer + justification
  - “I don’t know” or “I am not sure” are 100% acceptable
  - There are **NO** stupid questions (suggest: avoid “what’s the time?”)
  - Instructors’ questions do **not** indicate correctness of solutions
  - Sharing evolving (‘unfinished’) ideas/questions **makes perfect** ...
- **Questions?**
- Let’s play

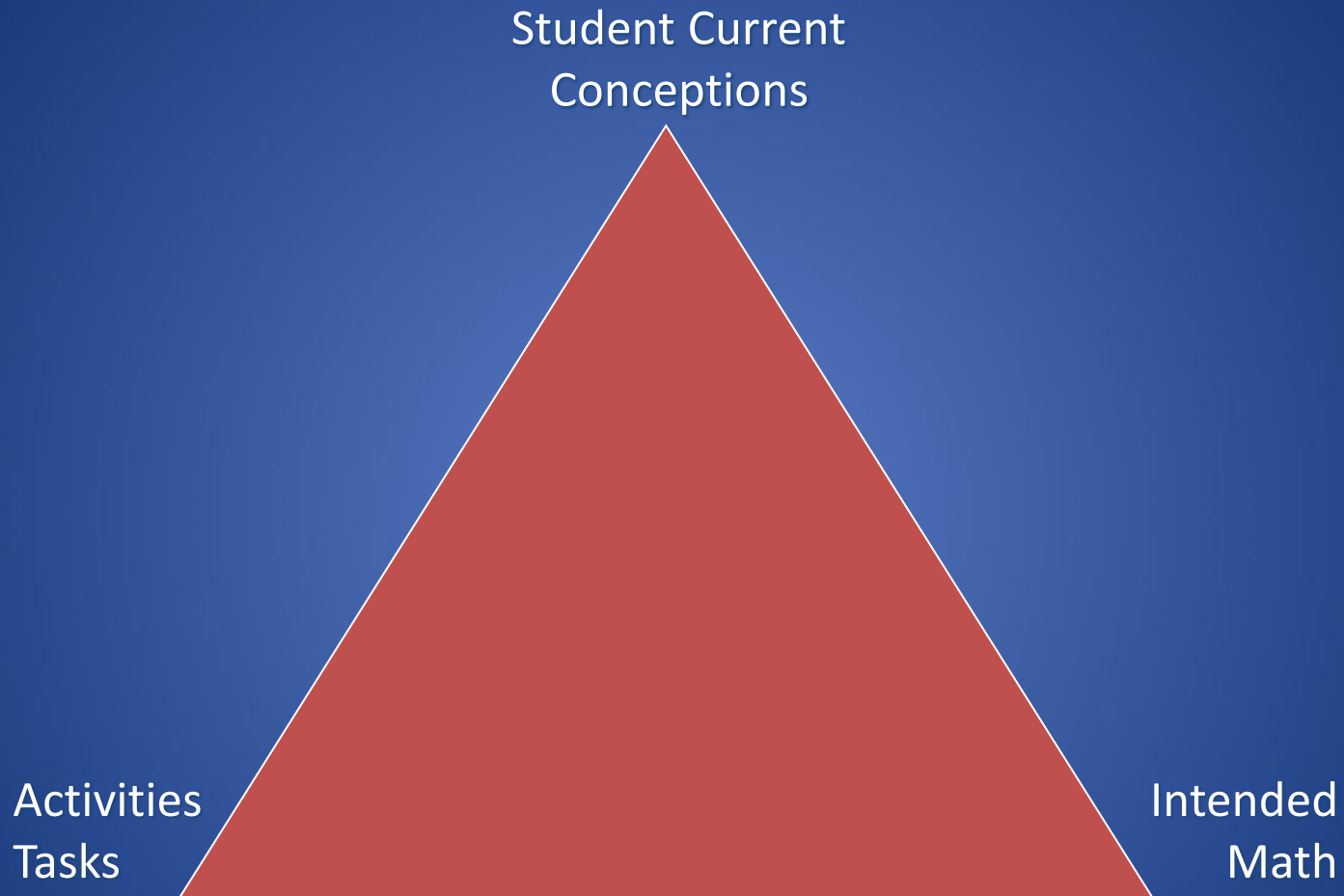
# Math Can Be *M&M* Diverse/Exciting

- Read in group
  - M&M Activity (Part 2)
- Volunteer
  - Explain what happens next
  - Others - pitch in
- Let's learn different solutions

# Sweeten Our Base-Ten Place-Value

- Munch on:
  - Some M&Ms
  - Is our group's method a base-ten, place value (PV- $B_{10}$ ) system? Why or why not? (See hand-out Part 3)
  - Each member should be able to present group's conclusions
- Group presentations
  - Ron/Matt “picks” presenter
  - Rest: critique/question
- Our statement: Which method is PV- $B_{10}$ ?

# Teaching Triad





# Delving Into PV-B<sub>10</sub>: “Base”

- “Truncated” version of multiplication:
  - $5 \cdot 5 \cdot 5 \cdot 5 \cdot 5 \cdot 5 = ?$      $13 \cdot 13 \cdot 13 \cdot 13 \cdot 13 \cdot 13 = ?$
  - $5^6$                               $13^6$
  - What do we call the small number (e.g., <sup>6</sup>) on the top-right?
  - What do we call the larger number (e.g., 5 or 13)?
- **In General:**  $b^n = (b \cdot b \cdot b \cdot b \cdot b \cdot b \dots n \text{ times})$ , where ‘b’ is called “base” and ‘n’ is called “exponent”
- **Questions?**

# Delving Into PV-B10: “Place Value”

- Position (place) determines **value of unit** (magnitude) counted
  - Direction matters: Right digit is for units of 1, defined as base<sup>0</sup> (i.e., b<sup>0</sup> = 1 by definition)
    - moving left increases unit exponentially
- $$< \dots \underline{b^5} \underline{b^4} \underline{b^3} \underline{b^2} \underline{b^1} \underline{b^0}$$
- Invariant Ratio: The base is also the constant ratio between any **two consecutive units** (e.g., 10)
  - **Questions?**

# Delving Into PV-B<sub>10</sub>: “Base Ten”

- Exponential base is 10: Every position symbolizes a unique unit (magnitude, consecutive powers of 10)
- **Units:** Conceived of as results of **recursively** grouping-by-10
- **Digits:** Exactly **ten, mutually exclusive digits** (0; 1 through 9) to symbolize the ‘count’ of each **different-magnitude** unit
- **Unit ‘Cap’:** Exponential base / digit limit imply upper ‘cap’ of actual units per position (up to 9; exchange if ten or more)
- **Questions?**

# System: Place Value AND Base Ten

- **'Truncated' form** symbolizes addition of each different-magnitude unit multiplied by its 'count'
  - Example: 3,904 means
$$3 \cdot 10^3 + 9 \cdot 10^2 + 0 \cdot 10^1 + 4 \cdot 10^0 \quad \text{OR}$$
$$3 \cdot 1,000 + 9 \cdot 100 + 0 \cdot 10 + 4 \cdot 1$$
- **Commas** (every 3 digits; from the right) serve to help immediacy of position identification
  - 671955403
  - 671,955,403
- **Challenge Problem:** What happens when “adding” a 0 to the right of a 4-digit number? Why?

# Roles of Zero (0)

- **Symbol** for 'no units in this position' (the famous notion of 'place holder')
- **Additive invariant:**  $x + 0 = x$  for every  $(x)$ 
  - Example: the 'Tens' digit of  $584 + 203$  **MUST** be 8 (why???)
- **Origin for measuring** (e.g., number line, temperatures, etc.)
- **Diet** (as in zero M&Ms)
- **0-my-gosh** (as in "let's take a break")

# Learning PV-B<sub>4</sub>

## Rigorous Math for Elementary Teachers

- Threefold Purpose:
  - Promote rigorous understanding of PV, B<sub>10</sub> system
  - Develop understanding of **any** PV system (e.g B<sub>5</sub>)
  - Experience/appreciate children's difficulties (via a similar learning sequence)

# 1) Identify $B_4$ Digits

- Individuals
  - List all digits used for PV- $B_4$
- Pairs
  - Compare lists; explain why list is complete
- Entire Cohort
  - Share/finalize list & reasons

## 2) Rote Counting in $B_4$

- Entire Group
  - Sit in a circle
  - Ron begins counting (1) and the process continues to the right, each person saying one number word
  - When someone makes a mistake, s/he begins from 1
  - Our goal: To reach  $1000_4$  ( $64_{10}$ ) without a mistake
- Two Groups - Competition
  - Correctly complete the count to  $1000_4$  before the other group



### 3) Writing Numbers in $B_4$

- Entire Cohort
  - Ron/Matt show how we write numbers in  $B_4$  (while adding Unifix cubes one at a time on overhead)
  - Ron/Matt presents the  $1000_4$  chart; teachers suggest patterns they notice

# $1000_4$ Chart

$1_4$	$2_4$	$3_4$	$10_4$
$11_4$	$12_4$	$13_4$	$20_4$
$21_4$	$22_4$	$23_4$	$30_4$
$31_4$	$32_4$	$33_4$	$100_4$
$101_4$	$102_4$	$103_4$	$110_4$
$111_4$	$112_4$	$113_4$	$120_4$
$121_4$	$122_4$	$123_4$	$130_4$
$131_4$	$132_4$	$133_4$	$200_4$
$201_4$	$202_4$	$203_4$	$210_4$
$211_4$	$212_4$	$213_4$	$220_4$
$221_4$	$222_4$	$223_4$	$230_4$
$231_4$	$232_4$	$233_4$	$300_4$
$301_4$	$302_4$	$303_4$	$310_4$
$311_4$	$312_4$	$313_4$	$320_4$
$321_4$	$322_4$	$323_4$	$330_4$
$331_4$	$332_4$	$333_4$	$1000_4$

# $1000_4$ Chart

$1_4$	$2_4$	$3_4$	$10_4$
$11_4$	$12_4$	$13_4$	$20_4$
$21_4$	$22_4$	$23_4$	$30_4$
$31_4$	$32_4$	$33_4$	$100_4$
$101_4$	$102_4$	$103_4$	$110_4$
$111_4$	$112_4$	$113_4$	$120_4$
$121_4$	$122_4$	$123_4$	$130_4$
$131_4$	$132_4$	$133_4$	$200_4$
$201_4$	$202_4$	$203_4$	$210_4$
$211_4$	$212_4$	$213_4$	$220_4$
$221_4$	$222_4$	$223_4$	$230_4$
$231_4$	$232_4$	$233_4$	$300_4$
$301_4$	$302_4$	$303_4$	$310_4$
$311_4$	$312_4$	$313_4$	$320_4$
$321_4$	$322_4$	$323_4$	$330_4$
$331_4$	$332_4$	$333_4$	$1000_4$

# 4) Three-Way 1-to-1 Correspondence

(Number words, objects, numerals)

- Triplets
  - One person piles up several M&M candies
  - The next person counts them in  $B_4$
  - The third person follows the counting with the  $1000_4$  chart and corrects/prompts as needed
  - If objects were counted correctly, switch roles and repeat the process
  - Apply to other groups of objects (fingers, tapping motions, rope jumps, chairs, teachers, etc.)

## 5) Writing Numbers in $B_4$

- Pairs

Pose/Solve problems that require to:

- a. write number<sub>4</sub> for a given group of objects
- b. put out a group of objects that corresponds to a given number<sub>4</sub>

- Pairs, then Cohort

– Fill and justify the missing cells



- Quiz: Five tasks of writing number<sub>4</sub> of objects

# 6) "Quiz": Writing Numbers<sub>4</sub>



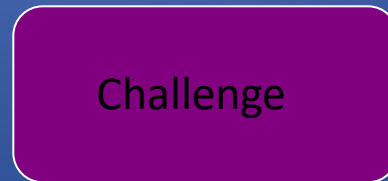
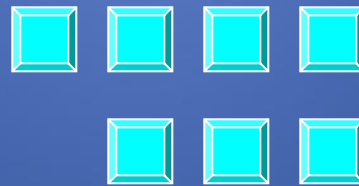
## 6) Guided Reflection (a)

- Individuals
  - Jot down at least 4 difficulties you faced during the learning of PV-B<sub>4</sub> number system that children are likely to face when learning PV-B<sub>10</sub> number system
- Mid-Size Groups (6-8 teachers)
  - Each person shares one difficulty from her/his list

# 7) Adding Without Writing ( $B_4$ )

- Individuals - Entire Cohort

- Ron will present two groups of objects, one after another
- Each should find (mental math) how many objects are in both groups
- After each addition, we will share several (different) solutions

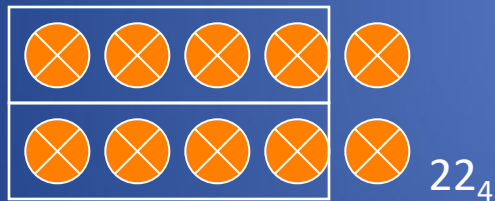
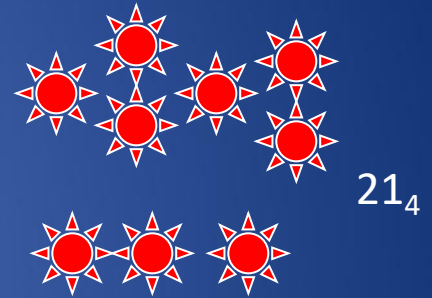
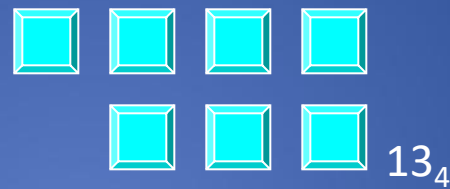


$31_4$   



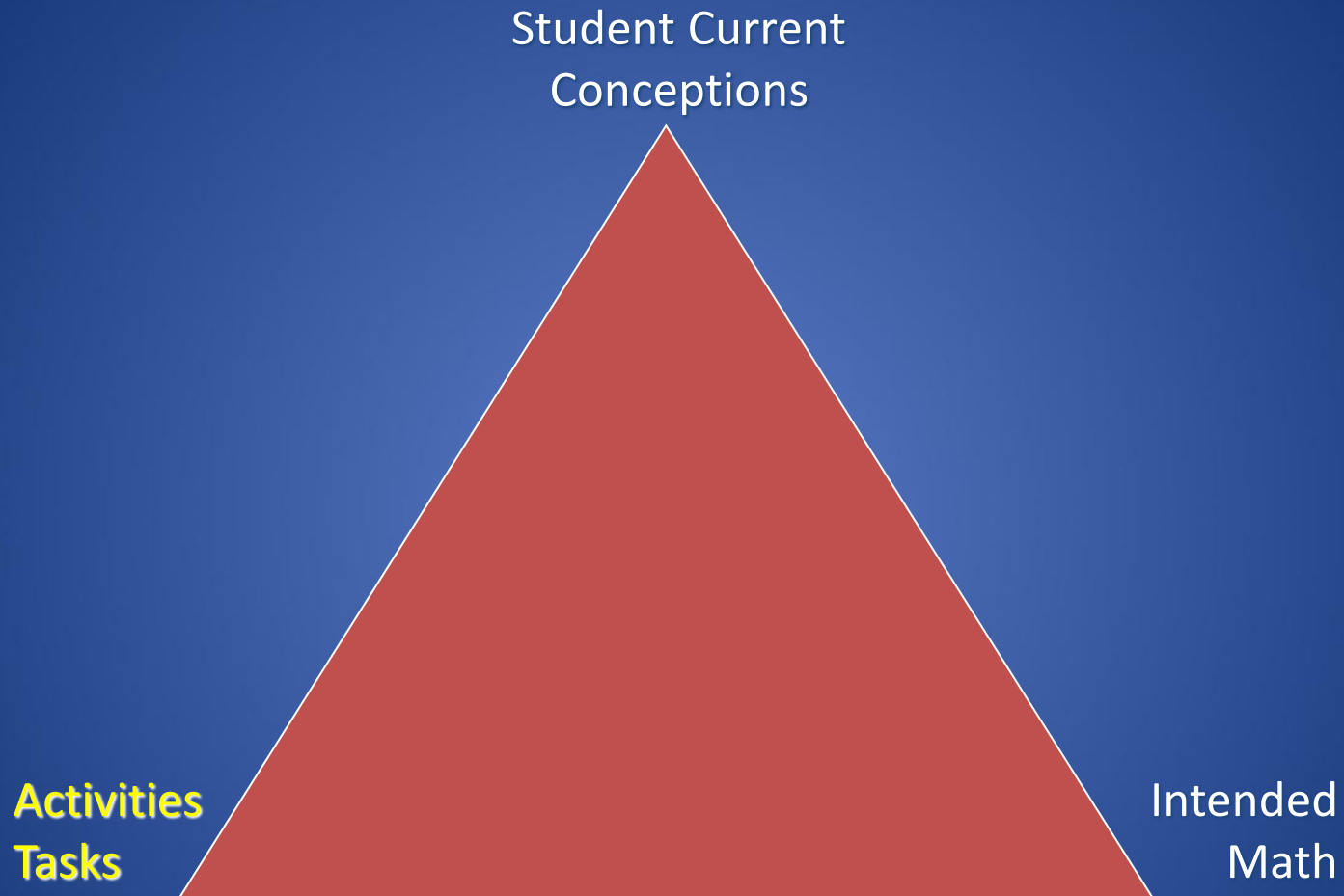
# 7) Adding Without Writing

- Solutions



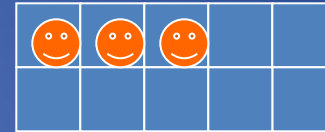
- Homework: PV-B<sub>4</sub> worksheet

# Teaching Triad



# Pedagogy: Task Selection

- Choose a task to **begin** teaching PV-B<sub>10</sub>
  - 1) Ten frame
  - 2) Base ten blocks
  - 3) M&M
  - 4) Popsicle Sticks
  - 5) Unifix Cubes



- **Individuals**

- Decide, with explicit reasons, which of the five should be used to **INITIATE** students' learning of PV-B<sub>10</sub> number system

- **Six Mixed-Choice Groups**

- Each teacher presents her choice/reasons to the group
- Group--school curriculum committee--tries to reach consensus

- **Entire Cohort**

- Groups share their decisions; All attempt to reach a consensus

# Our Inference into Your Choice of Activity to Initiate PV-B<sub>10</sub>

- Entire Cohort
  - Choice seemed to be guided by:
    - Intuitive focus on the intended math (**outcome**)
    - Fix on manipulative/activity that resembles it
  - **Danger: Learning Paradox**
  - Compared to Ron/Matt's choice (e.g., M&M):
    - Focus on activity/need **available** to the learner **at start** (via current conceptions) **AND** likelihood of activity to undergo the intended transformation

# Mathematics of Children

- Observe and take notes of children's conception of number in each tape, then discuss each segment
  - Christina, 99/10/07
  - Lori, 96/04/19
  - Christina, 99/10/14
  - Ron, 99/06/15
  - Nick and Margaret, 97/03/07
- Seven Groups: Children on developmental path
  - Articulate child's conception of number (number sense)
  - Explain why it is more/less advanced than adjacent ones

# Developmental Milestones: From Rote Counting to PV-B<sub>10</sub>

- Key distinction: Pre-Number vs. Number
  - Items counted; operations (mental activity) used
- **Pre-Number**
  - Rote Counting; 1-1 Corr; Subitizing; Perceptual (concrete) Counters; Manyness; Figurative Counters (substitute objects); **Counting-All**;
- **Number**
  - **COUNTING ON !!!** (composite unit); Double Counting; ‘Through-Ten’ (Purposeful Decomposition); Missing Addend
- **Number System** (e.g., PV-B<sub>10</sub>)
  - Grouping to Organize Large Quantities; Grouping by ‘Tens’; Rote Counting by Ten; Counting/Adding Tens & Ones;

# Counting-On: The “Culprit”

- 30-Year math-ed puzzlement:
  - Why do children regress from count-on to count-all?
- NMRSD Findings: Left behind = no number (CO)
- Observe Hannah (Cup, Pile, and Number Line tasks)
- **Your turn:** How do you **explain** the ‘regress’?

# Statistical Analysis

	Cup n=37	Pile n=37	Line n=37	Items avail. pile & line n=74
count-on	30 (81%)	17 (46%)	5 (14%)	22 (30%)
count-all	7 (19%)	20 (54%)	32 (86%)	52 (70%)

- RED: Pile & Line vs. cup (Item Availability):  $p < .0001$
- Blue: Pile vs. Line:  $p < .005$



“If you want to get ahead, get a theory”  
(Karmiloff-Smith & Inhelder, 1974-5)

“There is nothing as practical as a good theory”  
(Lewin, cited in Shaffer, 1993, p. 42)

## Constructivist Framework

- **Assimilation**: Available conceptions afford/constrain actions
- **Conception**: invariant activity-effect relationship (AER compound)
- **Stages**:
  - **Participatory**: Provisional AER, can be called upon only if prompted
  - **Anticipatory**: Spontaneously accessible AER (recognized in situation, transfer supporting)

# Number

- Four primary lines of research about addition/subtraction: Carpenter et al., Fuson et al., Baroody, Steffe et al.
- **Counting-on**: Two invariant AERs
  - Start counting singletons from  $n$  (*SCSF- $n$* )
  - Keep track via double counting (*KTDC*)
- *SCSF- $n$*  & *KTDC* combined into Counting-On Numerically (**CON**): Attributing abstract concept of number

# Participatory stage of *SCSF-n invariant AER*

- **Andy**
  - **cup** (8+8): 1, 2, 3, 4, oops; [8; 9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16] (clearly explains advantage of starting at 8)
  - **pile** (8+5): [8; 9-10-11-12-13] (regenerated partic. *SCSF-n*)
  - **line** (7+6): count-all; (8+7) – begins count-all, **Matt** interrupts – ‘is there another way’?; **Andy** – brings forth *SCSF-n*, **can’t** *KTDC*
- **Explanation**
  - Cup & Pile: items separated – prompt where to start
  - Pile vs. Line: items available – not separated on line
  - Typical case of regress due to **participatory *SCSF-n***
- **Hannah**: Typical case of regress due to **participatory *KTDC***

# Tasks for Teaching Counting-On

- Matt: Insert examples here

? ? ? ? ?