



TASKS AND META-TASKS TO PROMOTE PRODUCTIVE MATHEMATICAL DISCOURSE IN COLLABORATIVE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENTS

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Mathematical tasks shape significantly what learners learn and structure their classroom discourse (Hiebert & Wearne, 1993). Such discussions when productive involve essential mathematical actions and ideas such as representations, procedures, relations, patterns, invariants, conjectures, counterexamples, and justifications and proofs about objects and relations among them. Nowadays, these mathematical objects and relations can be conveniently and powerfully represented in digital environments such as computers, tablets, and smartphones. Most of these environments contain functionality for collaboration. However, in such collaborative, digital environments, the design of tasks that promote productive mathematical discussions still requires continued theorization and empirical examination (Margolinas, 2013). To theorize and investigate features of tasks that promote mathematical discussions, we are guided by this question: What features of tasks support productive discourse in collaborative, digital environments? Knowing these features will inform the design of rich tasks that promote mathematical discussions so that engaged and attentive learners build mathematical ideas and convincing forms of argumentation and justification in digital and virtual environments.

In virtual collaborative environments, the resources available to teachers to orchestrate collaboration and discourse among learners are different from those in traditional presential classroom environments. The salient difference is that in presential classroom environments the teacher is physically present, whereas in a virtual learning environment the teacher is artificially present; that is, the teacher exists largely as an artifact of digital tools. Consequently, the design of the tasks that are to be objects of learners' activities in virtual environments need to be constructed in ways that support particular learning goals such as productive mathematical discourse.

We share Sierpinski's (2004) consideration that "the design, analysis, and empirical testing of mathematical tasks, whether for purposes of research or teaching, is one of the most important responsibilities of mathematics education" (p. 10). In this paper, we focus on the design of tasks that embody particular intentionalities of an educational designer who aims to promote and support productive discourse in collaborative, digital environments. Our work employs a specific virtual environment that supports synchronous collaborative discourse and provides tools for mathematics discussions and for creating graphical and semiotic objects for doing mathematics. The environment, Virtual Math Teams (VMT), has been the focus of years of development by a team led by Gerry Stahl, Drexel University, and Stephen Weimar, The Math Forum Drexel University, and the target of much research (see, for example, Stahl, 2008; Stahl, 2009). Recently, research has been conducted on an updated VMT with a multiuser version of a dynamic geometry environment, GeoGebra (Grisi-Dicker, Powell, Silverman, & Fetter, 2012; Powell, Grisi-Dicker, & Alqahtani, 2013; Stahl, 2013, 2015). Our tasks are designed for this new environment—VMTwG. Though the environment and its functionalities are not the specific focus of this paper, we will later describe some of its important features to provide context for understanding our design of tasks. Our focus here is to describe how we address challenges involved in designing tasks to orchestrate productive mathematical discourse in an online synchronous and collaborative environment. We first describe the theoretical foundation that guides our design of tasks to promote potentially productive mathematical discourse among small groups of learners working in VMTwG. Afterward, we describe our task-design methodology and follow with an example of a task along with the mathematical insights a small team of teachers developed discursively as they engaged with the task. We conclude with implications and suggestions areas for further research.

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Questão 1. (1,0 ponto) Quais dos itens a seguir **não está** entre as ideias e ações matemática elencadas pelos autores como sendo envolvidas no discurso produtivo de sala de aula?

- (A) padrões
- (B) relações entre objetos
- (C) procedimentos
- (D) contagem de exemplos
- (E) justificativas sobre objetos

Questão 2. (1,0 ponto) No segundo parágrafo do texto, os autores afirmam que uma diferença proeminente entre ambientes colaborativos virtuais e ambientes presenciais de sala de aula é que:

- (A) Em ambientes colaborativos virtuais, o professor dispõe de mais recursos para orquestrar a colaboração e o discurso entre os alunos.
- (B) Em ambientes presenciais de sala de aula, a presença física do professor não salienta diferenças.
- (C) Em ambientes virtuais, o professor existe como um artefato de ferramentas digitais.
- (D) Em ambientes virtuais, o professor usa largamente um artefato de ferramentas digitais.
- (E) Em ambientes presenciais, o professor usa largamente um artefato de ferramentas digitais.

Questão 3. (1,0 ponto) No terceiro parágrafo do texto, os autores:

- (A) Concordam com a ideia de Sierpinska, de que o desenho, análise e testagem empírica de tarefas não devem ser usados para propósitos de ensino e de pesquisa.
- (B) Discordam da ideia de Sierpinska, de que a consideração do desenho, análise e testagem empírica de tarefas para propósitos de ensino e de pesquisa é importante.
- (C) Concordam com a ideia de Sierpinska, de que o desenho, análise e testagem empírica de tarefas é mais importante para as responsabilidades da educação matemática do que para o ensino e a pesquisa.
- (D) Discordam da ideia de Sierpinska, de que o desenho, análise e testagem empírica de tarefas é uma das mais importantes responsabilidades da educação matemática.
- (E) Concordam com a ideia de Sierpinska, de que o desenho, análise e testagem empírica de tarefas está entre as mais importantes responsabilidades da educação matemática.

Questão 4. (1,0 ponto) No terceiro parágrafo do texto, os autores explicam que:

- (A) O ambiente VTM é uma versão atualizada recentemente do ambiente no qual suas tarefas foram desenhadas – o VMTwG.
- (B) Eles descreverão algumas características importantes do ambiente VMTwG, embora este não seja o foco do artigo.
- (C) O foco do artigo está nas funcionalidades do ambiente, e não no papel do contexto para o desenho das tarefas.
- (D) Eles percorrerão um exemplo de uma tarefa, e depois descreverão a metodologia de desenho de tarefas.
- (E) O foco na descrição de como desenhar tarefas para orquestrar discurso matemático produtivo envolveu desafios para os autores.

Questão 5. (3,0 pontos) Faça uma tradução do primeiro parágrafo do texto.

Questão 6. (3,0 pontos) Faça um resumo com as principais ideias do texto.

Gabarito das questões objetivas:

Questão 1. D

Questão 2. C

Questão 3. E

Questão 4. B