

Addition Strategies: Rearranging to Make Bases (RMB)

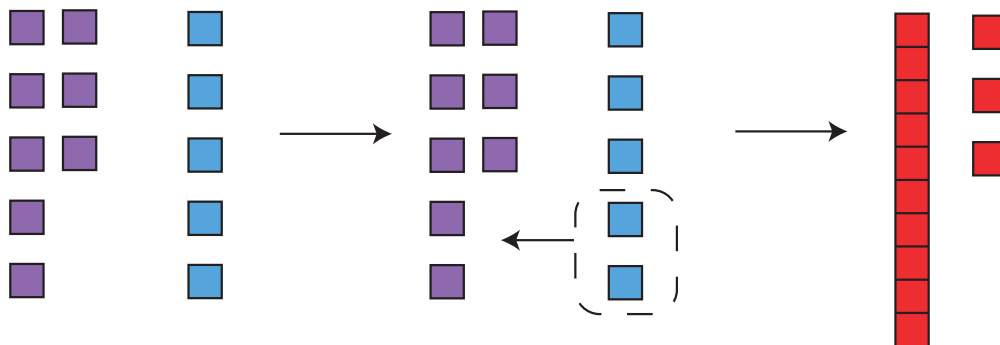
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Transcript

Video from Carpenter et al. (1999). Strategy descriptions and examples adapted from Hackenberg (2025).

- **Teacher:** Lucy is eight fish. She buys five more fish. How many fish will Lucy have then?
- **Sarah:** 13.
- **Teacher:** How'd you get 13?
- **Sarah:** Well, because eight plus two is ten, but then two plus three is five. And she wants to buy five more fish. So you take care of two, and you need to add three more. And so I add three more, and you get 13.



Notation Representing Sarah's Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}8 + 5 &= \square \\8 + 2 &= 10 \\2 + 3 &= 5 \\8 + 5 &= 10 + 3 \\8 + 5 &= 13\end{aligned}$$

Description of Strategy:

Objective: Rearranging to Make Bases (RMB) means shifting the extra ones from one addend over to the other so that one of the numbers becomes a complete multiple of the base (a whole “group” of that base). This rearrangement simplifies the addition process because there are established

patterns for adding an exact multiple of the base. In other words, when you add a full group of base units to a number, the ones digit stays the same while only the digit representing the base (like the tens place) increases.

Rearranging to Make Bases (RMB)

Description of Strategy

- **Objective:** Make one of the addends a whole number of bases by moving ones from the other addend.
- **Example:** $8 + 5$
 - Move 2 ones from 5 to 8 to make 10.
 - Remaining ones in the second addend: $5 - 2 = 3$.
 - Add the adjusted numbers: $10 + 3 = 13$.

Automaton Type

Pushdown Automaton (PDA): Needed to handle digits and to remember the number of ones moved via the stack.

Formal Description of the Automaton

We define the PDA as the 7-tuple

$$M = (Q, \Sigma, \Gamma, \delta, q_{0/accept}, Z_0, F)$$

where

- $Q = \{q_{0/accept}, q_1, q_2, q_3, q_4, q_5\}$ is the finite set of states.
- $\Sigma = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, +\}$ is the input alphabet (suitable for representing addends).
- $\Gamma = \{Z_0\} \cup \{x \mid x \in \mathbb{N}\}$ is the stack alphabet, where:
 - Z_0 is the initial (bottom) stack symbol.
 - A symbol x represents the number of ones moved.
- $q_{0/accept}$ is the start state, which is also the accept state.
- Z_0 is the initial stack symbol.
- $F = \{q_{0/accept}\}$ is the set of accepting states.

The transition function

$$\delta : Q \times (\Sigma \cup \{\varepsilon\}) \times \Gamma \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(Q \times \Gamma^*)$$

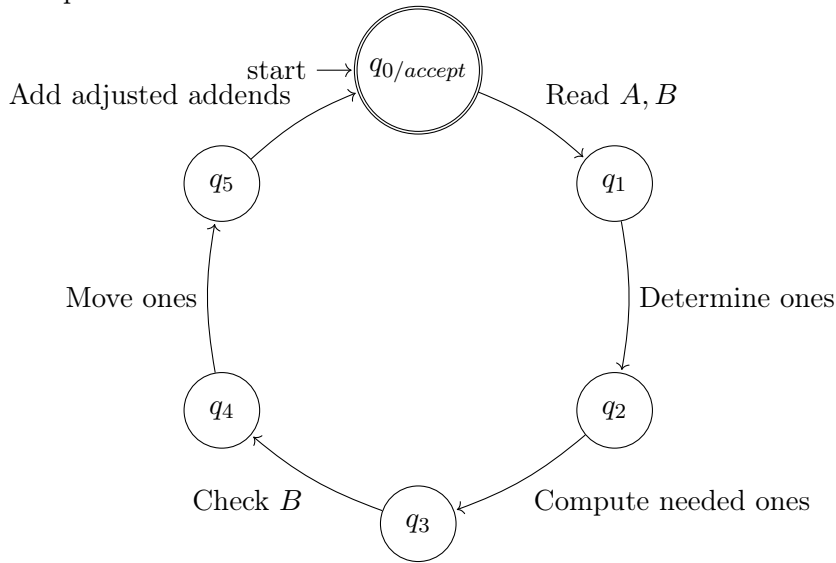
is defined by the following key transitions:

1. $\delta(q_{0/accept}, "A, B", Z_0) = \{(q_1, Z_0)\}$ (Read inputs A and B).
2. $\delta(q_1, \varepsilon, Z_0) = \{(q_2, Z_0)\}$ (Determine the ones digits of A and B).

3. $\delta(q_2, \varepsilon, Z_0) = \{(q_3, Z_0)\}$ (Compute the number of ones needed to make A a full base).
4. $\delta(q_3, \varepsilon, Z_0) = \{(q_4, k Z_0)\}$ (If B has at least k ones, push k onto the stack).
5. $\delta(q_4, \varepsilon, k) = \{(q_5, k)\}$ (Move k ones from B to A and adjust the addends).
6. $\delta(q_5, \varepsilon, k) = \{(q_0/accept, Z_0)\}$ (Add the adjusted numbers, output the result, and pop k from the stack).

Automaton Diagram for RMB

The following TikZ picture arranges the 6 states on a circle, with $q_0/accept$ serving as both the start and accept state.



HTML Implementation

```

1 <!DOCTYPE html>
2 <html>
3 <head>
4   <title>Rearranging to Make Bases (RMB) Addition</title>
5   <style>
6     body { font-family: sans-serif; }
7     #diagramRMBSVG { border: 1px solid #d3d3d3; } /* Style SVG like canvas */
8     #outputContainer { margin-top: 20px; }
9     .diagram-label { font-size: 14px; display: block; margin-bottom: 5px; } /*
      Improved label styling */
10  </style>
11 </head>
12 <body>
13
14   <h1>Addition Strategies: Rearranging to Make Bases (RMB)</h1>
15
16   <div>
17     <label for="addend1">Addend 1:</label>
18     <input type="number" id="addend1" value="18">
19   </div>

```

```

20 <div>
21   <label for="addend2">Addend 2:</label>
22   <input type="number" id="addend2" value="15">
23 </div>
24
25 <button onclick="runRMBAutomaton()">Calculate and Visualize</button>
26
27 <div id="outputContainer">
28   <h2>Explanation:</h2>
29   <div id="rmbOutput">
30     <!-- Text output will be displayed here -->
31   </div>
32 </div>
33
34 <h2>Diagram:</h2>
35 <svg id="diagramRMBSVG" width="600" height="700"></svg> <!-- Increased height -->
36
37 <!-- New button for viewing PDF documentation -->
38 <button onclick="openPdfViewer()">Want to learn more about this strategy? Click here
39   .</button>
40
41 <script>
42 document.addEventListener('DOMContentLoaded', function() {
43   const rmbOutputElement = document.getElementById('rmbOutput');
44   const rmbAddend1Input = document.getElementById('addend1');
45   const rmbAddend2Input = document.getElementById('addend2');
46   const diagramRMBSVG = document.getElementById('diagramRMBSVG');
47
48   if (!rmbOutputElement || !diagramRMBSVG) {
49     console.warn("Element_rmbOutput_or_diagramRMBSVG_not_found");
50     return;
51   }
52
53   window.runRMBAutomaton = function() {
54     try {
55       const addend1 = parseInt(rmbAddend1Input.value);
56       const addend2 = parseInt(rmbAddend2Input.value);
57
58       if (isNaN(addend1) || isNaN(addend2)) {
59         rmbOutputElement.textContent = "Please_enter_valid_numbers_for_both_addends";
60         return;
61       }
62
63       let output = '';
64       output += '<h2>Rearranging to Make Bases (RMB)</h2><br><br>';
65       output += '<p><strong>Problem:</strong> ${addend1} + ${addend2}</p><br><br>';
66
67       const toMakeBase = (10 - (addend1 % 10)) % 10;
68
69       // Strategy variables
70       let newAddend1, newAddend2, result, transferAmount;
71       let fromFirst = false; // Whether we're transferring from addend1 to addend2

```

```

72 // Case 1: When addend1 is already a multiple of 10
73 if (toMakeBase === 0) {
74     // Instead of direct calculation, decompose addend2 into tens and ones
75     const a2_tens = Math.floor(addend2 / 10);
76     const a2_ones = addend2 % 10;
77
78     output += `${addend1} is already a multiple of 10.<br>`;
79     output += `Step 1: Break down ${addend2} into tens and ones<br>`;
80     output += ` ${addend2} = ${a2_tens * 10} + ${a2_ones}<br><br>`;
81     output += `Step 2: Add the parts to ${addend1}<br>`;
82     output += ` ${addend1} + ${a2_tens * 10} = ${addend1 + a2_tens * 10}<br>`;
83     output += ` ${addend1 + a2_tens * 10} + ${a2_ones} = ${addend1 + addend2}<br><br>`;
84     output += `Result: ${addend1} + ${addend2} = ${addend1 + addend2}`;
85
86     newAddend1 = addend1;
87     newAddend2 = addend2;
88     transferAmount = 0;
89     result = addend1 + addend2;
90
91     rmbOutputElement.innerHTML = output;
92     drawRMBDiagram('diagramRMBSVG', addend1, addend2, transferAmount,
93         newAddend1, newAddend2, result, fromFirst);
94     return;
95 }
96
97 // Case 2: When addend2 is too small to provide needed units
98 if (addend2 < toMakeBase) {
99     // Instead of direct calculation, transfer from addend1 to complete addend2
100     // to a base
101     fromFirst = true;
102     const a1_ones = addend1 % 10;
103     const toCompleteAddend2 = 10 - addend2;
104
105     // We'll move units from addend1 to addend2
106     transferAmount = Math.min(a1_ones, toCompleteAddend2);
107     newAddend1 = addend1 - transferAmount;
108     newAddend2 = addend2 + transferAmount;
109     result = newAddend1 + newAddend2; // Will equal addend1 + addend2
110
111     output += `${addend2} is too small to provide the ${toMakeBase} units
112     needed for ${addend1}.<br>`;
113     output += `Step 1: Move ${transferAmount} from ${addend1} to ${addend2}<br>
114     >`;
115     output += ` ${addend1} - ${transferAmount} = ${newAddend1}<br>`;
116     output += ` ${addend2} + ${transferAmount} = ${newAddend2}<br><br>`;
117
118     // If we made a complete base in addend2
119     if (newAddend2 % 10 === 0) {
120         output += `Step 2: Now ${newAddend2} is a complete base (multiple of
121         10)<br>`;
122     } else {
123         output += `Step 2: Even after moving, we can't make a complete base,
124         but we rearranged for easier mental addition<br>`;
125     }
126 }

```

```

119     }
120
121     output += 'Step 3: Add the rearranged numbers<br>';
122     output += '${newAddend1} + ${newAddend2} = ${result}<br><br>';
123     output += 'Result: ${addend1} + ${addend2} = ${result}';
124
125     rmbOutputElement.innerHTML = output;
126     drawRMBDiagram('diagramRMBSVG', addend1, addend2, transferAmount,
127         newAddend1, newAddend2, result, fromFirst);
128     return;
129 }
130
131 // Original case: Standard RMB strategy
132 transferAmount = toMakeBase;
133 newAddend1 = addend1 + transferAmount;
134 newAddend2 = addend2 - transferAmount;
135 result = newAddend1 + newAddend2;
136
137 output += 'Step 1: Move ${transferAmount} from ${addend2} to ${addend1}<br>';
138 output += '${addend1} + ${transferAmount} = ${newAddend1} (now a multiple of
139     10)<br>';
140 output += '${addend2} - ${transferAmount} = ${newAddend2}<br><br>';
141 output += 'Step 2: Add the rearranged numbers<br>';
142 output += '${newAddend1} + ${newAddend2} = ${result}<br><br>';
143 output += 'Result: ${addend1} + ${addend2} = ${result}';
144
145 rmbOutputElement.innerHTML = output;
146
147 // Draw RMB Diagram
148 drawRMBDiagram('diagramRMBSVG', addend1, addend2, transferAmount, newAddend1,
149     newAddend2, result, fromFirst);
150 } catch (error) {
151     rmbOutputElement.textContent = 'Error: ${error.message}';
152 }
153
154 function drawRMBDiagram(svgId, addend1, addend2, transferAmount, newAddend1,
155     newAddend2, result, fromFirst = false) {
156     const svg = document.getElementById(svgId);
157     if (!svg) return;
158     svg.innerHTML = ''; // Clear SVG
159
160     const svgWidth = parseFloat(svg.getAttribute('width'));
161     const svgHeight = parseFloat(svg.getAttribute('height'));
162     const blockUnitSize = 15; // Size of individual unit block
163     const tenBlockWidth = blockUnitSize; // Width of 10-block rectangle
164     const tenBlockHeight = blockUnitSize * 10; // Height of 10-block rectangle
165     const blockSpacing = 5;
166     const sectionSpacingY = 120; // Vertical spacing between sections
167     const startX = 50;
168     let currentY = 50;
169     const colorAddend1 = 'purple';
170     const colorAddend2 = 'blue';

```

```

169  const colorBase = 'red';
170  const colorTransfer = 'orange';
171
172  // --- Original Addends (Horizontal Layout) ---
173  createText(svg, startX, currentY, 'Original Addends: ' + addend1 + ' + ' + addend2);
174  // Label
175  currentY += 30; // Space after label
176
177  // Draw Addend 1 (purple) on left
178  let addend1X = startX;
179  const a1_tens = Math.floor(addend1 / 10);
180  const a1_ones = addend1 % 10;
181  for (let i = 0; i < a1_tens; i++) {
182    drawTenBlock(svg, addend1X, currentY, tenBlockWidth, tenBlockHeight,
183      colorAddend1);
184    addend1X += tenBlockWidth + blockSpacing;
185  }
186  let a1_onesX = addend1X;
187  let movedFromFirstBlockPositions = [];
188  for (let i = 0; i < a1_ones; i++) {
189    const isTransferBlock = fromFirst && i >= a1_ones - transferAmount;
190    const blockColor = isTransferBlock ? colorTransfer : colorAddend1;
191    const blockY = currentY + i * (blockUnitSize + blockSpacing);
192    drawBlock(svg, a1_onesX, blockY, blockUnitSize, blockUnitSize, blockColor);
193
194    if (isTransferBlock) {
195      movedFromFirstBlockPositions.push({
196        x: a1_onesX + blockUnitSize / 2,
197        y: blockY + blockUnitSize / 2
198      });
199    }
200  }
201  const addend1Width = (a1_tens > 0 ? (a1_tens * (tenBlockWidth + blockSpacing)) : 0)
202    + (a1_ones > 0 ? blockUnitSize : 0);
203
204  // Draw Addend 2 (blue) to the right of Addend 1
205  let addend2X = startX + addend1Width + 50; // 50px horizontal spacing between
206  addend groups
207  const a2_tens = Math.floor(addend2 / 10);
208  const a2_ones = addend2 % 10;
209  for (let i = 0; i < a2_tens; i++) {
210    drawTenBlock(svg, addend2X, currentY, tenBlockWidth, tenBlockHeight,
211      colorAddend2);
212    addend2X += tenBlockWidth + blockSpacing;
213  }
214  const addend2OnesX = addend2X;
215  let movedFromSecondBlockPositions = [];
216  for (let i = 0; i < a2_ones; i++) {
217    const isTransferBlock = !fromFirst && i < transferAmount;
218    const blockColor = isTransferBlock ? colorTransfer : colorAddend2;
219    const blockY = currentY + i * (blockUnitSize + blockSpacing);
220    drawBlock(svg, addend2OnesX, blockY, blockUnitSize, blockUnitSize, blockColor
221      );

```

```

217     if (isTransferBlock) {
218         movedFromSecondBlockPositions.push({
219             x: addend2OnesX + blockUnitSize/2,
220             y: blockY + blockUnitSize/2
221         });
222     }
223 }
224 currentY += tenBlockHeight + sectionSpacingY; // Move down for the rearranged
        addends section
225
226 // --- Rearranged Addends ---
227 createText(svg, startX, currentY, 'Rearranged to Make Base: ' + newAddend1 + newAddend2); // Label
228 currentY += 30; // Space after label
229
230 // Draw Rearranged Addend 1 Blocks
231 let currentX_newAddend1 = startX;
232 const newAddend1_tens = Math.floor(newAddend1/10);
233 const newAddend1_ones = newAddend1%10;
234
235 // First draw tens
236 let tensPositions = [];
237 for (let i = 0; i < newAddend1_tens; i++) {
238     const useColorBase = !fromFirst && newAddend1_tens > a1_tens && i ===
        newAddend1_tens - 1;
239     const blockColor = useColorBase ? colorBase : colorAddend1;
240     drawTenBlock(svg, currentX_newAddend1, currentY, tenBlockWidth,
        tenBlockHeight, blockColor);
241
242     if (useColorBase) {
243         tensPositions.push({
244             x: currentX_newAddend1 + tenBlockWidth/2,
245             y: currentY + tenBlockHeight/2
246         });
247     }
248
249     currentX_newAddend1 += tenBlockWidth + blockSpacing;
250 }
251
252 // Then draw ones
253 for (let i = 0; i < newAddend1_ones; i++) {
254     drawBlock(svg, currentX_newAddend1, currentY + i * (blockUnitSize +
        blockSpacing),
255         blockUnitSize, blockUnitSize, colorAddend1);
256 }
257
258 // Draw Rearranged Addend 2 Blocks
259 const newAddend2_tens = Math.floor(newAddend2/10);
260 const newAddend2_ones = newAddend2%10;
261 let currentX_newAddend2 = currentX_newAddend1 + 40 + (newAddend1_ones > 0 ?
        blockUnitSize : 0); // Spacing after newAddend1
262
263 // Draw tens
264 for (let i = 0; i < newAddend2_tens; i++) {

```



```

265  const useColorBase = fromFirst && newAddend2_tens > a2_tens && i ==
    newAddend2_tens - 1;
266  const blockColor = useColorBase ? colorBase : colorAddend2;
267  drawTenBlock(svg, currentX_newAddend2, currentY, tenBlockWidth,
    tenBlockHeight, blockColor);
268
269  if (useColorBase) {
270      tensPositions.push({
271          x: currentX_newAddend2 + tenBlockWidth / 2,
272          y: currentY + tenBlockHeight / 2
273      });
274  }
275
276  currentX_newAddend2 += tenBlockWidth + blockSpacing;
277  }
278
279  // Draw ones
280  let onesPositions = [];
281  for (let i = 0; i < newAddend2_ones; i++) {
282      const isTransferredBlock = fromFirst && i >= a2_ones;
283      const blockColor = isTransferredBlock ? colorTransfer : colorAddend2;
284      const blockY = currentY + i * (blockUnitSize + blockSpacing);
285      drawBlock(svg, currentX_newAddend2, blockY, blockUnitSize, blockUnitSize,
        blockColor);
286
287      if (isTransferredBlock) {
288          onesPositions.push({
289              x: currentX_newAddend2 + blockUnitSize / 2,
290              y: blockY + blockUnitSize / 2
291          });
292      }
293  }
294
295  // --- Draw Arrows Based on Strategy ---
296  if (transferAmount > 0) {
297      if (fromFirst) {
298          // Case 2: Draw arrows from addend1 to addend2
299          for (let i = 0; i < Math.min(movedFromFirstBlockPositions.length,
            onesPositions.length); i++) {
300              const start = movedFromFirstBlockPositions[i];
301              const end = onesPositions[i];
302              const controlX = (start.x + end.x) / 2;
303              const controlY = Math.min(start.y, end.y) - 40; // Control point
                above both
304              createCurvedArrow(svg, start.x, start.y, end.x, end.y, controlX,
                controlY);
305          }
306
307          // If we formed a full ten, draw arrow to tens block
308          if (newAddend2 % 10 === 0 && tensPositions.length > 0) {
309              const start = movedFromFirstBlockPositions[0];
310              const end = tensPositions[0];
311              createText(svg, end.x + 15, end.y - 20, 'Formed a base (10)');
312          }

```

```

313     }else{
314         //Standard case: Draw arrows from addend2 to addend1
315         for(let i=0; i<Math.min(movedFromSecondBlockPositions.length,
            tensPositions.length); i++){
316             const start=movedFromSecondBlockPositions[i];
317             const end=tensPositions[i];
318             const controlX=(start.x+end.x)/2;
319             const controlY=Math.min(start.y,end.y)-40; //Control point
            above both
320             createCurvedArrow(svg, start.x, start.y, end.x, end.y, controlX,
            controlY);
321         }
322         createText(svg, tensPositions[0]? .x+15 || startX+100, tensPositions
            [0]? .y-20 || currentY-20,
323             `${transferAmount} moved to form base(10)`);
324     }
325     }else if (addend1%10===0){
326         //Case 1: Already a multiple of 10, show the decomposition
327         const a2_tens=Math.floor(addend2/10);
328         if(a2_tens>0){
329             createText(svg, startX+80, currentY-40, `Break down ${addend2} = ${
            a2_tens*10} + ${addend2%10}`);
330         }
331     }
332
333     //---Helper SVG drawing functions---
334     function drawBlock(svg, x, y, width, height, fill){
335         const rect=document.createElementNS("http://www.w3.org/2000/svg", 'rect');
336         rect.setAttribute('x', x);
337         rect.setAttribute('y', y);
338         rect.setAttribute('width', width);
339         rect.setAttribute('height', height);
340         rect.setAttribute('fill', fill);
341         rect.setAttribute('stroke', 'black');
342         rect.setAttribute('stroke-width', '1');
343         svg.appendChild(rect);
344     }
345
346     function drawTenBlock(svg, x, y, width, height, fill){
347         const group=document.createElementNS("http://www.w3.org/2000/svg", 'g'); //
            Group for 10-block
348         const backgroundRect=document.createElementNS("http://www.w3.org/2000/svg",
            'rect');
349         backgroundRect.setAttribute('x', x);
350         backgroundRect.setAttribute('y', y);
351         backgroundRect.setAttribute('width', width);
352         backgroundRect.setAttribute('height', height);
353         backgroundRect.setAttribute('fill', fill);
354         backgroundRect.setAttribute('stroke', 'black');
355         backgroundRect.setAttribute('stroke-width', '1');
356         group.appendChild(backgroundRect);
357
358         //Draw 10 unit blocks inside vertical column
359         for(let i=0; i<10; i++){

```

```

360  const unitBlock=document.createElementNS("http://www.w3.org/2000/svg",
    'rect');
361  unitBlock.setAttribute('x',x); //Same x for vertical column
362  unitBlock.setAttribute('y',y+i*blockUnitSize); //Stacked vertically
363  unitBlock.setAttribute('width',blockUnitSize);
364  unitBlock.setAttribute('height',blockUnitSize);
365  unitBlock.setAttribute('fill',fill); //Same fill as outer rect
366  unitBlock.setAttribute('stroke','lightgrey'); //Lighter border for
    units
367  unitBlock.setAttribute('stroke-width',0.5);
368  group.appendChild(unitBlock);
369  }
370  svg.appendChild(group);
371  }
372
373  function drawGroupRect(svg,x,y,width,height){
374  const rect=document.createElementNS("http://www.w3.org/2000/svg",'rect');
375  rect.setAttribute('x',x);
376  rect.setAttribute('y',y);
377  rect.setAttribute('width',width);
378  rect.setAttribute('height',height);
379  rect.setAttribute('fill','none'); //No fill for group rect
380  rect.setAttribute('stroke','black');
381  rect.setAttribute('stroke-dasharray','5 5'); //Dashed border for grouping
382  rect.setAttribute('stroke-width',1);
383  svg.appendChild(rect);
384  }
385
386  function createText(svg,x,y,textContent){
387  const text=document.createElementNS("http://www.w3.org/2000/svg",'text');
388  text.setAttribute('x',x);
389  text.setAttribute('y',y);
390  text.setAttribute('class','diagram-label');
391  text.setAttribute('text-anchor','start');
392  text.setAttribute('font-size','14px');
393  text.textContent=textContent;
394  svg.appendChild(text);
395  }
396
397  function createCurvedArrow(svg,x1,y1,x2,y2,cx,cy){
398  const path=document.createElementNS("http://www.w3.org/2000/svg",'path');
399  path.setAttribute('d','M${x1}${y1}Q${cx}${cy}${x2}${y2}');
400  path.setAttribute('fill','none');
401  path.setAttribute('stroke','black');
402  path.setAttribute('stroke-width',2);
403  svg.appendChild(path);
404
405  //Arrowhead
406  const arrowHead=document.createElementNS("http://www.w3.org/2000/svg",'
    path');
407  const arrowSize=5;
408  arrowHead.setAttribute('d','M${x2}${y2}L${x2-arrowSize}${y2-
    arrowSize}L${x2+arrowSize}${y2-arrowSize}Z');
409  arrowHead.setAttribute('fill','black');

```

```

410     svg.appendChild(arrowHead);
411     }
412 }
413
414 //New function for opening PDF documentation
415 function openPdfViewer(){
416     //Opens the PDF documentation for the strategy.
417     window.open('./SAR_ADD_RMB.pdf', '_blank');
418 }
419
420 });
421 </script>
422
423 </body>
424 </html>

```

References

- Carpenter, T. P., Fennema, E., Franke, M. L., Levi, L., & Empson, S. B. (1999). *Children's mathematics: Cognitively guided instruction* [Includes supplementary material: Children's mathematics: Cognitively guided instruction – videotape logs]. Heinemann; The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Inc.
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