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Two Textbooks in the Course: Gesture and Language

A course of lectures in introductory abstract algebra in which the professor used two textbooks was studied. One book, usually referred to as "the book" in the lectures, was the official formal textbook of the course; the other, a more visual approach to the subject, was a supplementary text. The language and gestures of the professor were analyzed, using a microethnographic approach inspired by work in embodied communication by anthropologist Jürgen Streeck. Particular attention was paid to how the practising mathematician, expert in their craft, with voice and hands, responds to these textual materials, rewriting them.