

Abstract

Much has been written about the nature of mathematical thinking and its bearing on invention or discovery. It is often concluded by philosophers that creative, original thinking cannot be analyzed. One approach is to focus on the individual style of mathematicians. The concept of style allows an historical study of mathematics to emphasise the diversity that defines local contexts of practice. According to the French philosopher Gilles-Gaston Granger there is, however, a general feature in symbolic structures that could support a general epistemological account of style. This talk will consider the implications of Granger's philosophy of style for a general account of creative scientific thinking