The Spatial Contiguity Principle

Theory

The spatial contiguity principle suggests that related information sources should be **spatially integrated** in order to reduce attention-splitting and facilitate learning.

Practice

An example of a solved mathematical problem taking into consideration and ignoring the spatial contiguity principle is presented in image on the right. Example A shows separated text and graph (two information sources), whereas example B shows same two information sources, but this time spatially integrated. For another example see work of Florax and Ploetzner.

Research status

Experiments have confirmed importance of this principle, yet similar results were sometimes obtained using not necessarily spatial contiguity, but **segmenting text** and **labeling the image** as key contributors to it.

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