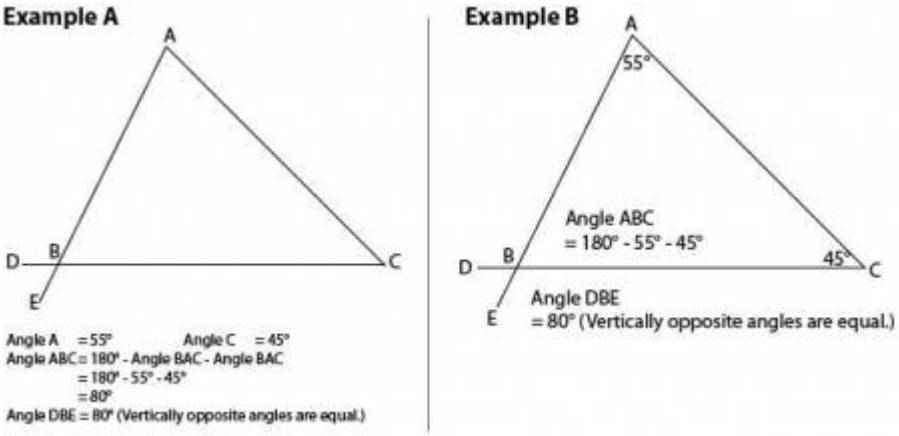
The Spatial Contiguity Principle

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[1].



Research status

Experiments have confirmed importance of this principle[2]

1)
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2)
Chandler, P. and Sweller, J. Cognitive load theory and the format of instruction. Cognition and Instruction, 8(4), 293-332. 1991.