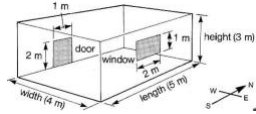


Session 8: Volume Learning Trajectory –  
Developmental progression

**Building  
Blocks**




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Overview of Session 8

- Discussing what you learned about students' thinking from the CCA assessment tasks
- Unpacking the Developmental Progression of the Learning Trajectory for volume by watching students measure
- Classroom Connection Activity

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CCA – Focal tasks from last time

- Volume and Spatial Structuring (3D arrays)
- Piagetian conservation tasks (optional)

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**CCAs – What did you find?**

- In groups of 2-4, discuss your students' responses to the tasks. Think about:
  - What mathematics do they know?
  - How do they think about the math?
  - What differences did you notice?
- Share within your small groups

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**Students' thinking about volume and spatial structuring**

What started our investigations?

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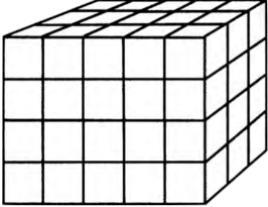
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**Spatial structuring: Student responses (Part 1)**

"How many cubes to build this?"

- Counted faces (not on bottom)
- "79" (because double-counted cubes on edges)



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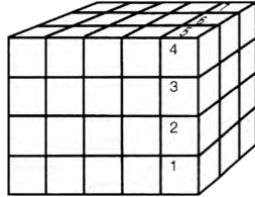
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Spatial structuring: Student responses (Part 2)

"How many cubes to build this?"

- The student built bottom layer, got 15
- Then counted the "height" and multiplied  $7 \times 15$  to determine an answer of 105 cubes




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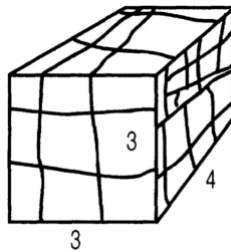
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Spatial structuring: Student responses (Part 3)




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Developmental progression for volume measurement

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Schemes

- Filling
- Packing
- Building
- Comparing

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Developmental progression

- Volume Quantity Recognizer (VQR)
- Volume Filler (VF)
- Volume Quantifier (VQ)
- Volume Unit Relater and Repeater (VURR)
- Initial Composite 3-D Structurer (VICS)
- 3-D Row and Column Structurer (VRCS)
- 3-D Array Structurer (3D AS)

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Volume Quantity Recognizer (VQR)

<b>Filling Scheme</b>	<b>Packing Scheme</b>
Identifies capacity as attribute <i>I can pour lots of sand into this can.</i> General language without comparison <i>This jar is big.</i>	Identifies volume as attribute <i>This box doesn't hold many toys.</i> General language without comparison <i>This box is big.</i>
<b>Building Scheme</b>	<b>Comparing</b>
Builds with blocks: <i>I made a big house.</i> May not recreate a given shape in size or dimensions Counts on only one face of cube building	May compare containers, but makes no reference to dimensions: <i>This glass is big. This one is tiny.</i> Eventually may compare 1 dimension: <i>This one's bigger because it's taller.</i>

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Volume Filler (VF)	
<p><b>Filling Scheme</b></p> <p>Fills container &amp; counts, but may not recognize need for equal size units</p> <p>Smaller container, fewer scoops - no quantification</p> <p>Attends to space <i>filled</i>, not capacity</p>	<p><b>Packing Scheme</b></p> <p>Fills box with cubes, but leaves gaps. Sometimes only one layer</p> <p>Eventually fills, but doesn't quantify or use equal-size units</p> <p>May not recognize "half full"</p>
<p><b>Building Scheme</b></p> <p>May recreate, attending to 1-2 dimensions, but not pattern / plan</p> <p>Counts multiple faces of cube building without pattern</p>	<p><b>Comparing Scheme</b></p> <p>Compares by aligning 1-2 dimensions <i>This one holds more, it's longer and wider.</i></p> <p>Compares counts, but without accurate recognition of unit size or number <i>This is big; that is small. Two scoops for this one; one scoop for that one.</i></p>

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Volume Quantifier (VQ)	
<p><b>Filling Scheme</b></p> <p>Estimates number of scoops, but may not explicitly maintain unit size</p> <p>Partitions space (capacity); can recognize "half full"</p>	<p><b>Packing Scheme</b></p> <p>Limited spatial structuring: <i>counts single units</i></p> <p>Does not recognize need for equal-size units</p> <p>Recognizes "half full," but may not visualize or calculate total</p>
<p><b>Building Scheme</b></p> <p>Partial understanding of cubes as filling space: <i>initially may double-count cubes at corners and ignore internal cubes</i></p> <p>Piaget's "coordination" (integration) of dimensions.</p>	<p><b>Comparing</b></p> <p>Compares, recognizes 3 dimensions</p> <p>Directly compares capacity</p> <p>Attempts to compare count of cubes</p>

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Volume Unit Relater & Repeater (VJRR)	
<p><b>Filling Scheme</b></p> <p>Accurately counts number of scoops</p> <p>Relates size and number of units explicitly</p>	<p><b>Packing Scheme</b></p> <p>Accurate packing and counting</p> <p>Relates size and number of units</p> <p>Able to iterate a unit throughout volume; although may ignore internal cubes</p>
<p><b>Building Scheme</b></p> <p>Begins to understand cubes as filling space</p> <p>Counts cubes, not faces</p>	<p><b>Comparing Scheme</b></p> <p>Begins to relate number and size of units to volume</p>

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**Relating filling and packing**

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**Initial Composite 3-D Structurer (VICS)**

<b>Filling Scheme</b>	<b>Packing Scheme</b>
<p>Relates number of cubes to cubic units as measured by capacity</p> <p><i>Sand filled to the 10 in graduated cylinder would fill a box that holds 10, inch cubes</i></p>	<p>"Sees" rows and columns (but not layers)</p> <p>Fills/iterates unit to fill space (including internal)</p> <p>Partitions space; uses units or subunits; visualizes remaining rows or columns</p>
<b>Building Scheme</b>	<b>Comparing</b>
<p>Understands cubes as filling a space, moves to more sophisticated strategies and additive reasoning</p> <p><i>Counts number of cubes in one row/column of 3-D structure, skip counts to get total</i></p>	<p>Explicitly relates number and size of units to volume</p> <p><i>Recognizes that buildings of different shapes but made from same number of cubes could be packed into the same size box</i></p>

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**3-D Row and Column Structurer (VRCS)**

- Coordinates filling, packing, building schemes of volume
- Additive comparisons (e.g., "this one has 12 more")
- Counts/computes the number of cubes in one layer, and then uses addition or skip counting by layers to determine the total volume
- Operates flexibly on units (cubes), units of units (rows/columns), and units of units of units (layers)

With perceptual support, can decompose 3-D arrays into other, complex 3-D arrays (not only layers, rows, or columns) and calculate the number of these smaller arrays in the larger array

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### 3-D Array Structurer (3D AS)

- Abstract understanding of the rectangular prism volume formula; makes multiplicative comparisons
- With linear measures or other similar indications of the three dimensions, multiplicatively iterates cubes in a row, column, and/or layer to determine volume
- Visualizes and operates on both horizontal and vertical layers
- Decomposes 3-D arrays into other, complex 3-D arrays (not only layers, rows, or columns) and calculates the number of these smaller arrays in the larger array

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### Developmental progression - Later levels

- Volume Quantity Recognizer
- Volume Filler
- Volume Quantifier
- Volume Unit Relater and Repeater
- Initial Composite 3-D Structurer
- 3-D Row and Column Structurer
- 3-D Array Structurer

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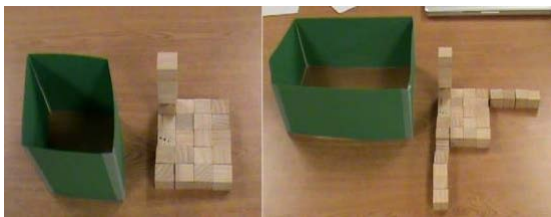
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### Task 1: Outlined containers



How many blocks would be needed to fill this container?

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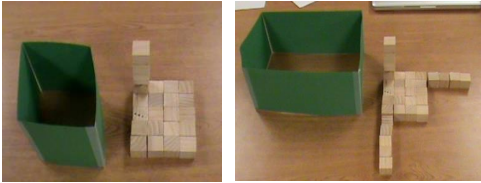
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**Predict**

- How might a Volume Quantifier respond to this task?
- How would a 3-D Row and Column Structurer respond to this task?



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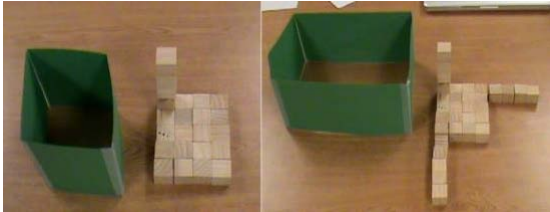
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**Task 1: Outlined containers**  
Our results (Grade 4)



All of the students answered correctly      All but one student answered incorrectly

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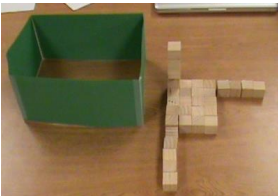
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**Task 1: Modifying the outlined containers task**

- How could you modify this task to make it accessible to these students?



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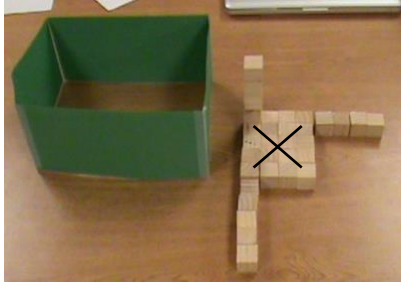
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Task 1: One modification to the outlined containers task




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Task 1: Connecting the outlined containers task to standards

- Units: 3-D cubes, missing layers/rows/columns
- Task representation: 3D

**Connections to CCSSM**

**Grade 5**

Measure volumes by

- Finding the **total** number of same-size units of volume required to fill the space without gaps or overlaps
- Viewing 3D shapes as decomposed into **layers of arrays** of cubes

Relate volume to **multiplication** and **addition** and solve real world and mathematical problems

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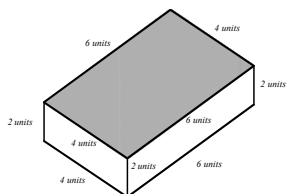
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Task 2: Volume of the solid



How might a 4<sup>th</sup> grader respond?

One added all the number labels. The task representation influenced his strategy and squelched his spatial structuring

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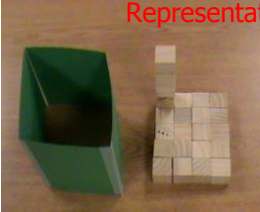
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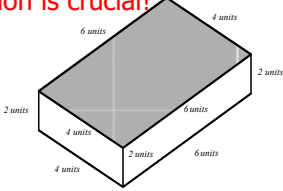
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Outlined containers vs.  
volume of the solid



Representation is crucial!



All of the students answered  
correctly

Half of the students added all  
the number labels

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Task 2: Connecting the volume of  
the solid task with standards

- Units: Numerals as units for linear dimensions
- Task representation: 2D

Connections to CCSSM

**Grade 5**  
Measure volumes by

- Selecting appropriate **units, strategies,** and tools
- **Counting unit cubes,** using cubic cm, cubic in, cubic ft, and improvised units
- Viewing 3D shapes as decomposed into layers of arrays of cubes

Relate volume to **multiplication** and **addition** and solve real world and mathematical problems.

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Task 3: Drawing vs. building

- Draw something that has three times the volume
- Build something that has three times the volume



How would an Initial Composite 3-D Structurer respond to this task?

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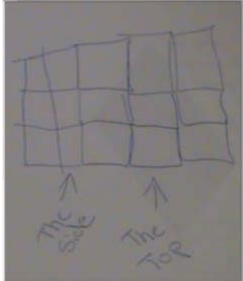
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**Task 3: Drawing vs. building**  
Our results at grade 4 (Part 1)

Draw something that has three times the volume

Is he correct? →

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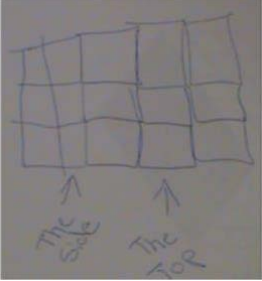

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**Task 3: Drawing vs. building**  
Our results at grade 4 (Part 2)

Producing and connecting multiple representations for volume measurement is important

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**Task 3: Connecting the drawing vs. building task to standards**

- Units: Unit cubes
- Task representation: 3D and 2D

**Connections to CCSSM**

**Grade 5**  
Measure volumes by  
– Viewing 3D shapes as decomposed into layers of arrays of cubes  
Relate volume to multiplication and addition and solve real world and mathematical problems

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**Test ourselves: An opportunity to practice taking anecdotal notes**

As you watch, record key aspects of what you see and hear on the anecdotal notes template for volume

<b>MS-GEOMETRY</b> Use unit cubes to measure the length, width, and height of a rectangular prism and count the unit cubes to find the volume. Record the volume of the prism.	<b>MS-MEASUREMENT</b> Use unit cubes to measure the length, width, and height of a rectangular prism and count the unit cubes to find the volume. Record the volume of the prism.	<b>MS-MEASUREMENT</b> Use unit cubes to measure the length, width, and height of a rectangular prism and count the unit cubes to find the volume. Record the volume of the prism.
<b>MS-GEOMETRY</b> Use unit cubes to measure the length, width, and height of a rectangular prism and count the unit cubes to find the volume. Record the volume of the prism.	<b>MS-MEASUREMENT</b> Use unit cubes to measure the length, width, and height of a rectangular prism and count the unit cubes to find the volume. Record the volume of the prism.	<b>MS-MEASUREMENT</b> Use unit cubes to measure the length, width, and height of a rectangular prism and count the unit cubes to find the volume. Record the volume of the prism.

LT code	Evidence (Notes/Images)

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**Test ourselves 1**




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**Test ourselves 1**

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3-D Row and Column Structurer

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Test ourselves 2  
(1<sup>st</sup> grade)

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Volume Quantifier

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Test ourselves 3  
(Same boy, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade)

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Initial Composite 3-D Structurer

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**Summary**

In this session you:

- Analyzed examples of student engagement in measurement in terms of the learning trajectory for volume measurement
- Used learning trajectory levels to predict performance on example tasks

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