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Calculus behind the dikes

Abstract :

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Compared to neighbouring countries, in the Netherlands, a nationwide introduction of calculus in secondary education took place rather late. This happened in 1958 after a discussion of about fifty(!) years between advocates of the teaching of calculus in school and their opponents. From 1968 on there has been an acceleration in curriculum changes. First the curriculum was influenced by the New Math movement. This resulted in a rather formal calculus course that became compulsory for almost all students in pre-university secondary education. Many of them experienced serious problems with the acquisition of this topic. Then, in reaction to that, under influence of the philosophy of Realistic Mathematics Education, different calculus courses were developed that tried to build on a meaningful introduction incorporated with applications, for different target groups of students. References Kindt, Martin (2015). Een variabele constante. Historische en didactische aspecten van de Analyse op school. Amsterdam: Epsilon.