



DOI: 10.54919/physics/55.2024.2psr2

## The task of plotting flat cross-sections of polyhedrons as a means of developing divergent and algorithmic thinking and spatial representation ability

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### Abstract

**Relevance.** In this work, we developed problems on plotting the flat sections of polyhedrons in the case when the prism section is defined by the trace which is located on the plane of the prism base and does not have common points with the base of the prism, and by point, which belongs to the side rib of the prism.

**Purpose.** The purpose of the article is to establish that when solving problems on the construction of plane sections of polyhedra, students complete tasks; apply axioms and geometric properties; form and develop spatial representations; develop divergent and algorithmic thinking, the ability to reason logically, the ability to make correct arguments and conclusions.

**Methodology.** Problems on plotting the flat sections of polyhedrons using the internal design method are developed. To solve these problems, two types of projections are used: parallel and central. A flat section of a pentagonal prism is constructed using a parallel projection method. The central projection is used to construct the flat section of the pyramid.

**Results.** The designed tasks allow us to form and develop divergent and algorithmic thinking and form spatial representations.

**Conclusions.** After researching this topic, we came to the conclusion that the ability to solve problems of this type contributes to the formation and development of divergent and algorithmic thinking, the ability of spatial representation in future mathematics teachers.

**Keywords:** secant plane; flat section of a polyhedron; method of traces; parallel projection; central projection; divergent thinking.

### Introduction

In the era of the development of scientific and technological progress in the everyday lives of people, various problems appear that require immediate solutions.

To effectively solve these problems, it is necessary to develop mental abilities, which are essential factors of human thinking. While exploring the issues of thinking in the second half of the 20th century, the American

### Suggested Citation:

Nurgabyl D, Nurpeissov K. The task of plotting flat cross-sections of polyhedrons as a means of developing divergent and algorithmic thinking and spatial representation ability. *Sci Herald Uzhhorod Univ Ser Phys.* 2024;(55):22–31. DOI: 10.54919/physics/55.2024.2psr2

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psychologist J. P. Guilford [1] substantiated the theory of creativity. According to this theory, human thinking can be aimed at developing a unique solution to a problem using a strictly logically constructed algorithm. This process of thinking is called convergent thinking. On the other hand, according to this same theory, human thinking can be directed at considering a multitude of (multivariate) solutions to a problem. This approach to solving a problem is called divergent thinking.

Based on an analysis of the results of the international study of functional literacy of 15-year-old students of PISA-2018, the results of the international assessment of adult competencies of PIAAC and the national assessment of the quality of secondary and higher education in the Republic of Kazakhstan, the State Program for the Development of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2020-2025 was adopted. The program is focused on solving key identified problems and developing a system of education and science to increase the country's competitiveness and provide approaches for the best practices of OECD countries [2]. Within the framework of this program, a number of priority tasks have been identified, of which we single out the following:

- developing the professional quality of teachers;
- providing training for competitive personnel;
- updating the content of secondary education.

The fulfilment of these tasks involves the active implementation of activity-based teaching methods, which contribute to the effective formation and development of the mental abilities of schoolchildren. The need for the formation and development of students' mental abilities, namely, divergent thinking, algorithmic thinking, and spatial representation ability, follows from the need to solve practical real-world problems. The importance of these abilities in connection with the development of modern management, logistics, information technology, and machine learning are constantly growing.

Consequently, teaching mathematics at a university should be oriented towards making future mathematics teachers ready to organize active activities to develop the divergent, algorithmic, and spatial thinking of schoolchildren [3; 4]. In addition, in the process of studying mathematics and information technology, students often have to face the fact that there they have poorly developed algorithmic thinking and an insufficient ability to find hidden spatial representations, and in the vast majority of cases, students lack the ability to construct simple algorithms and build spatial figures. Practice has shown that these problems, first of all, are the consequences of training being aimed only at the development of convergent thinking and the inefficient use of potential educational materials and educational tasks that form divergent and algorithmic thinking and spatial representation ability. This attitude of future mathematics teachers will ultimately lead to their mental abilities and readiness to effectively organize the thinking activities of schoolchildren remaining at poor levels and at the level of their learners. In this regard, the formation and development of divergent thinking, spatial representation and algorithmic thinking skills among future mathematics teachers is one of the main requirements for the successful preparation of future mathematics teachers [5-7].

Thought and spatial representation processes have been studied by many authors. In particular, a number of studies indicate the importance of divergent thinking in education, science, economics, and sociology. For example, W. I. O'Byrne, N. Radakovic and T. Hunter-Doniger [8] note that divergent thinking and creativity can play key roles in the formation of adaptive thinking and mathematical achievements and the creation of educational models in mathematical education. In their studies, V. K. Chumarina, N. V. Ilina and A. A. Prishchepa [9] use methods for developing divergent thinking as learning methods to increase the levels of self-identification and intercultural interaction among modern students. To create the concept of a multiple state, D. Cooper [10] uses divergent (multiple state) thinking as a tool for managing this state. N. Berlin, L. Tavani and M. Beasancon [11] investigated the relationship between students' performance and creativity based on assessments of creativity indicators and proved that verbal divergent thinking negatively predicts most of the relationships, while integrative thinking is positively correlated with scientific assessments. The issues of the formation and development of algorithmic and spatial thinking are separate self-dependent problems for research. For example, an article by R. M. Horbatiuk and V. V. Kabak [12] identifies the features of the formation of algorithmic thinking among future teachers □ engineers in the field of computer technology, which is an important intellectual component of their professional activity. In the article by T. Tikhonova [13], a method for using the agent created by Zvenigorodski as a tool for the formation of algorithmic thinking was developed. J. J. Foster, E. M. Bsales and E. Awh [14] investigated the effects of a latent spatial representation on the speed of visual information processing.

L. S. Bellmund, P. Gardenfors and E. I. Moser [15] state that the hippocampus is formed on the basis of a spatial representative sample that provides an oriented understanding of terrain in multiple cognitive spaces. The issues of organizing educational processes for the formation and development of thinking and spatial representation ability are closely related to the content of the educational materials of the disciplines. In this direction, studies have been carried out to develop the basic requirements for the content of academic disciplines in higher mathematics [16-18], which are offered to future mathematics teachers. The influence of the elementary beliefs, views and emotions of teachers on the formation of the content of university mathematics courses [19] is studied. A number of works [20-25] indicate that one of the methods for the formation and development of the research abilities of schoolchildren is to solve algebra and geometry problems in school. Undoubtedly, the most important aspect of such training is the scientific presentation of the educational material and the development of logical, algorithmic thinking and spatial representation abilities [26; 27].

However, these and other studies do not distinguish among the classes of problems that ensure the simultaneous formation and development of divergent and algorithmic thinking and spatial representation abilities in future mathematics teachers. The study showed that, in the sense of developing divergent thinking, spatial representation ability and algorithmic thinking, the search

for multiple solutions and the construction of an algorithm to solve specific geometric construction problems are significant. This significance is clearly manifested in the construction of cross sections of polyhedra. Solving these construction tasks increases motivation and develops spatial representation ability, ingenuity, divergent and algorithmic thinking, graphical culture, and polytechnic skills. As is known, solving such problems includes the following stages: analysis, plotting, proof and research. Analysis and study of the formulation of a construction task contributes to the development of divergent and spatial thinking, and the construction and proof of the solution to the problem favour the development of algorithmic thinking [28-30]. Consequently, construction tasks play a key role in the formation of mental abilities and in the development of spatial representation ability in both teachers and pupils. V. A. Dalinger [31], G. D. Glazer [32], A. D. Semushin [33], N. F. Chetverukhin [34], A. R. Chernyaev [35], V. I. Butyrina [36], T. P. Pushkaryeva [37] and others have made significant contributions to teaching schoolchildren to solve geometric tasks on the construction of flat sections of polyhedra.

### **Materials and Methods**

Let us present the problem proposed to future mathematics teachers who are 4th year students in the higher education institutions of the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2018: "On the side ribs of the cube ABCDA<sub>1</sub>B<sub>1</sub>C<sub>1</sub>D<sub>1</sub> are the points P, Q, R such that:

$$BP = 1/3 BB_1, \quad (1)$$

$$C_1Q = 2/3 CC_1, \quad (2)$$

$$DR = 1/3 AD. \quad (3)$$

It A section of the cube with the ROM plane must be constructed". No student was able to correctly construct the desired cross section. In the same year, this task was proposed to young mathematics teachers at secondary schools and schools for gifted children. The result was the same. Analysis of the educational literature and the methods for teaching geometry at universities and schools showed that this result is a consequence of the fact that the training for solving problems on plotting the cross-sections of polyhedrons at the university and school levels was sporadic. In the future, although questions of constructing cross sections of polyhedrons will appear in some problems of geometry courses, university teachers and school teachers will mainly consider these tasks superficially. Practice shows that one of the main reasons for this negative attitude of mathematics teachers toward solving these types of problems is the lack of sufficient knowledge on this issue. Consequently, the formative and development capabilities needed to solve these tasks are practically not used by either university instructors or school teachers.

Thus, there are questions when searching for new approaches to teach various methods to solve problems on constructing flat sections of polyhedrons related to the formation and development of spatial representation ability and divergent and algorithmic thinking. One of the main approaches of this type of training is the design and

solution of specially selected systems of exercises and tasks on constructing flat sections of polyhedrons. To solve this problem, we selected the following research methods:

theoretical: analysis of the psychological and pedagogical literature, laws, and regulatory documents related to the research problem and the study of the teaching methods of university teachers on the formation of professional qualities;

educational: methods for constructing flat sections of polyhedrons;

empirical: a survey of mathematics teachers at pedagogical universities and secondary schools in the Almaty region, written work to determine the knowledge and skills of future mathematics teachers on the construction of flat sections of polyhedral, and analysis of the results;

comparative analysis and mathematical processing of experimental data.

The first stage of the experimental work was carried out on the centre of excellence of the Almaty region to determine the level of the spatial representation ability and attitude to the study of the educational material "Construction of cross-sections of polyhedrons" among mathematics teachers (54 people) through questionnaires. An analysis of the survey results revealed that only less than 10% of the respondents were able to positively answer 50% or more of the posed questions. The results of the survey indicated a negative attitude of mathematics teachers to the lessons in the educational material "Construction of sections of polyhedrons" and a low level of knowledge and skills on the methods for constructing flat sections of polyhedrons. To determine the level of divergent and algorithmic thinking in future mathematics teachers, written works were developed. The written works were performed by students of the "mathematics" specialty (31 students). In control paper No. 1, five tasks were proposed to determine the level of students' divergent thinking. In written work 2, students were presented with five tasks to determine the level of their algorithmic thinking. In control work No. 3, students were presented a simple task on plotting a flat cross-section of a cube. Analysis of the data obtained from the results of control work No. 1 revealed that only 17% of the respondents were showed an average level of divergent thinking, and the rest of the students showed a low level of divergent thinking. Analysis of the results of control work No. 2 revealed that only 25% of students demonstrated an average level of algorithmic thinking, and the remaining students showed low levels of algorithmic thinking. The results of control work No. 3 showed that all students, without exception, failed to correctly plot the flat cross-section of a cube.

In the next stage, the directions for designing problems to construct a flat section of a polyhedron and developing methods for solving these problems as well as approaches to the formation of spatial representation ability and divergent and convergent thinking in students were identified. The aim of this work is to develop a methodology for teaching future mathematics teachers how to build flat sections of polyhedra using the simplest property of stereometry, the traces method, and the internal design method and determining how to help them develop their spatial representation ability and divergent and



meaning of the problem, points M, N, and K do not lie on one straight line. Therefore, the task has a unique solution. After constructing the desired cross-section, students need to ask the following questions:

under what conditions does this task have a solution?

under what conditions does this task have no solution?

for what data does the task in question have several solutions?

The answers to these questions provide an opportunity to research the task under consideration. Thus, we are convinced that the proposed algorithm for constructing a polyhedron section improves students' algorithmic thinking and provides an understanding of the method to solve problems on the construction of a cross-section of a polyhedron. Development and solution of tasks on plotting a flat cross-section of a polyhedron using the traces method. In this subsection, we construct a problem on constructing a section of a given polyhedron using a plane that is defined by a point located on the surface of the given polyhedron and a given trace that is located on the plane at the base of the polyhedron and does not have common points with the base of the polyhedron. Thus, we construct and solve the problem on constructing a flat section of a polyhedron using the trace method.

Problem 4. Construct a flat cross-section of the pentagonal straight prism  $ABCDEA_1B_1C_1D_1E_1$  with the secant plane  $\pi$ . The plane  $\pi$  is given by point K, which belongs to side rib  $CC_1$  and trace  $l$ , which is located on plane  $ABCDE$  and does not have common points with the base of the prism but has a common intersection point with the continuation of each rib of the base of the prism. Analysis. Suppose that polygon  $KMNPR$  is the desired section (Fig. 2). To construct the desired section  $KMNPR$ , it is sufficient to construct its vertices, M,N,P,R, which are the intersection points of the secant plane  $\pi$  with the corresponding edges  $DD_1, EE_1, AA_1, BB_1$ , of prism  $ABCDEA_1B_1C_1D_1E_1$ .

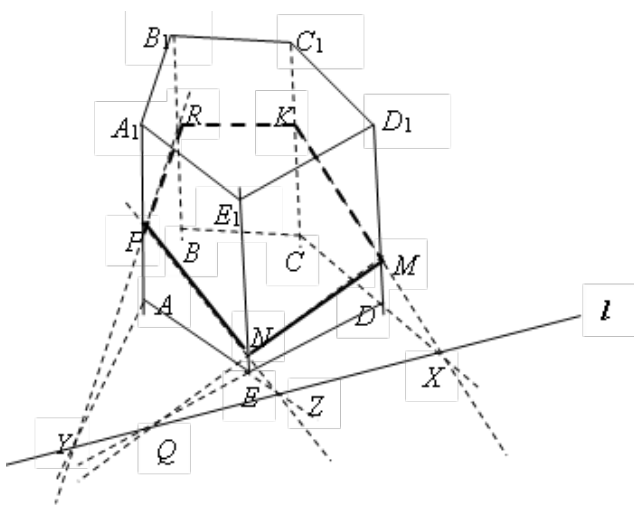


Figure 2. Construct a flat cross-section of the pentagonal straight prism  $ABCDEA_1B_1C_1D_1E_1$

To construct point  $M=\pi\cap DD_1$ , it is sufficient to construct a straight line that is determined by the intersection of the given secant plane  $\pi$  with face  $DCC_1$

$D_1$ . To construct this line, it is sufficient to build another point belonging to the secant plane  $\pi$  in the plane of this face. How can we find an image of such a point? Since the straight line  $l$  lies in the plane of the base of the prism, it can intersect the plane of face  $CDD_1C_1$  only at a point that belongs to the straight line  $CD$ , i.e., at point  $X=CD\cap l$ . Points K and X belong to the same plane. From here, we determine point  $M=KX\cap DD_1$ . To construct other vertices, it is sufficient to construct points Y,Q,Z, which belong to straight line  $l$  and the corresponding faces  $ABB_1A_1$ ,  $DEE_1D_1$ , and  $AEE_1A_1$ . Thus, the problem of constructing a section of a given polyhedron is solvable. Plotting:

1. As already noted, this trace  $l$  and straight line  $CD$  lie on the plane of the base of the prism. Then, we can determine the intersection point of trace  $l$  and straight line  $CD$ . We denote this point as  $X=l\cap CD$ , where  $X\in\pi$ .

2. Since points X and K belong on the same plane face  $DCC_1D_1$ , we can draw a straight line  $XK$  belonging to the secant plane  $\pi$ . The straight line  $XK$  intersects rib  $DD_1$  at some point  $M=\pi\cap DD_1$ .

3. The trace  $l$  and straight line  $ED$  lie on the plane of the base of the prism. Then, we can determine the intersection point of trace  $l$  and straight line  $ED$ . This point is denoted as  $Q=l\cap ED$ , which belongs to the secant plane  $\pi$ .

4. Since points Q and M belong on the same plane of face  $DEE_1D_1$ , we can draw a line  $QM$  belonging to the secant plane  $\pi$ . The straight line  $QM$  intersects edge  $EE_1$  at some point  $N=\pi\cap EE_1$ , where  $N\in\pi$ .

5. Given that trace  $l$  and line  $AE$  lie on the plane of the base of the prism, we can then determine the intersection point of trace  $l$  and straight line  $AE$ . This point is denoted as  $Z=l\cap AE$ , which belongs to the secant plane  $\pi$ .

6. Points Z and N are located on the same plane of face  $AEE_1A_1$  and belong to the secant plane  $\pi$ . Then, we can draw a straight line  $ZN$  belonging to the secant plane  $\pi$ . Line  $ZN$  intersects edge  $AA_1$  at the point  $P=\pi\cap AA_1$ .

7. Trace  $l$  and straight line  $AB$  lie on the plane of the base of the prism. Then, we can determine the intersection point of trace  $l$  and straight line  $AB$ . This point is denoted as  $Y=l\cap AB$ , which belongs to the secant plane  $\pi$ .

8. Points P and Y belong on the same plane of face  $ABB_1A_1$ , and they belong to the secant plane  $\pi$ . Then, we can draw straight line  $PY$  belonging to the secant plane  $\pi$ . Straight line  $PY$  intersects edge  $BB_1$  at point  $R=\pi\cap BB_1$ , which belongs to the secant plane  $\pi$ .

9. By connecting points K and M, M; N, N and P; P and R; and R and K, we obtain the geometric figure  $KMNPR$ .

Proof. Because trace  $l$  and straight lines  $BA, CD, DE, AE$  belong to the plane of the base of the prism, we can uniquely determine the points  $Y=l\cap BA, X=l\cap CD, Q=l\cap DE, Z=l\cap AE$ . Then, successively we obtain the following.

1.  $K\in\pi$ , and  $X\in\pi \Rightarrow KX\in\pi$ . Therefore,  $KX\cap DD_1=M\in\pi$ . From here,  $KM\in\pi$ .

2.  $M\in\pi$ , and  $Q\in\pi \Rightarrow QM\in\pi$ . Hence, we find that  $MQ\cap EE_1=N\in\pi$ . Then,  $MN\in\pi$ .

3.  $N\in\pi$ ,  $Z\in\pi \Rightarrow NZ\in\pi$ , and  $NZ$  belongs to the plane of face  $AEE_1A_1$ . Therefore,  $NZ\cap AA_1=P\in\pi$ . From here,  $PN\in\pi$ .

4.  $P \in \pi$ , and  $Y \in \pi \Rightarrow PY \in \pi$ . In addition, the straight line  $PY$  also belongs to the plane of face  $ABB_1A_1$ . Hence, we find that  $PY \cap BB_1 = R \in \pi$ . Then,  $RP \in \pi$ .

5. Therefore,  $KMNPR$  is the desired cross section.

Research. Trace  $l$  of the desired secant plane  $\pi$  is located on the plane of the base of the given prism; however, it does not have common points with the base of the prism. In addition, point  $K$  belongs to the secant plane and side rib  $CC_1$  of the prism. Therefore, the secant plane  $\pi$  defined by point  $K$  and trace  $l$  intersects the side ribs (or their extensions) at points  $K, M, N, P, R$  of the prism under consideration. Thus, the intersection points of the secant plane with a given prism exist. On the other hand,  $K \notin l$ . Then, point  $K$  and trace  $l$  uniquely determine the secant plane  $\pi$ . Therefore, the problem under consideration has a unique solution. The creation and solution of problems on the construction of sections of polyhedrons using the internal design method. The internal design method is conditionally divided into two types of designs: parallel design and central design methods. 1. Consider a parallel design method for constructing the flat section of a prism.

Problem 5. Construct a flat cross-section of prism  $ABCD A_1 B_1 C_1 D_1$  with plane  $\pi$  defined by the interior points  $M \in AA_1, N \in B_1 C_1$  and by point  $K$  located on the inside section of face  $CDD_1 C_1$ .

Plotting and proof:

1) we define the projection of point  $K$  in the prism  $ABCD A_1 B_1 C_1 D_1$  (Fig. 3);

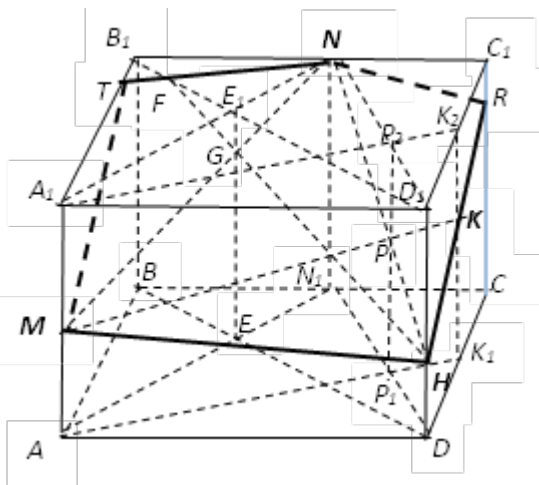


Figure 3. The projection of point  $K$  in the prism  $ABCD A_1 B_1 C_1 D_1$

To do this, draw a segment  $K_1 K_2$  so that  $K_1 K_2 \perp CC_1$  and  $K \in K_1 K_2$ ;

2) we draw segment  $MK$ , where  $MK \in \pi$ , since  $MK \in \pi$ , and  $K \in \pi$ ;

3) we find the projections  $A_1 K_2$  and  $AK_1$  of segment  $MK$  on planes  $ABCD$  and  $A_1 B_1 C_1 D_1$ , respectively;

4) we build segments  $A_1 K_2$  and  $AK_1$ ;

5) points  $P_2$  and  $P_1$  are common for planes  $A_1 K_2 K_1 A$  and  $DD_1 NN_1$ . Therefore, these planes intersect along the straight line  $P_1 P_2$ . Then, there exists a point  $P = MK \cap P_1 P_2$  where  $P \in \pi$ ;

6) by connecting points  $P$  and  $N$ , we find that point  $H$  is the intersection point of  $NP$  and  $DD_1$ . Since  $P \in \pi$  and  $N \in \pi$ , we obtain  $H \in \pi$ ;

7) we draw a segment passing through points  $H \in \pi$  and  $K \in \pi$  to intersect with rib  $C_1 C$ . The intersection point is denoted as  $R$ . Obviously,  $HR \in \pi$ ;

8) connect points  $R \in \pi$  and  $N \in \pi$ . We obtain  $RN \in \pi$ ;

9) we draw planes  $A_1 NN_1 A$  and  $B_1 BDD_1$ . These planes intersect along the straight line  $E_1 E$ ;

10) we find point  $G$  at which the straight lines  $MN \in \pi$  and  $E_1 E$  intersect, where  $G \in \pi$ ;

11) we build a straight line  $HG \in \pi$ ;

12) we find point  $F \in \pi$  at which the straight line  $HG \in \pi$  intersects the straight line  $B_1 D_1$ ;

13) we find point  $T$  at which the straight lines  $NF \in \pi$  and  $A_1 B_1$  intersect, where  $T \in \pi$ ;

14) we connect points  $T \in \pi$  and  $M \in \pi$ ,  $M \in \pi$  and  $H \in \pi$ . We obtain segments  $TM \in \pi$  and  $MH \in \pi$ ;

15) the resulting polygon  $MHRNT$  is the desired flat cross-section.

Proof. Since the points do not lie on one straight line, the problem has a unique solution. The process of constructing a flat section of a polyhedron using the parallel design method proves that the proposed methodology for constructing flat sections of a polyhedron allows one to efficiently form and develop the spatial representation ability and convergent and algorithmic thinking in future mathematics teachers. 2. Now consider the central design method for the construction of flat cross-sections of a pyramid.

Problem 6. Construct a section of quadrangular pyramid  $ABCD S$  with plane  $\pi$  defined by the interior points  $M \in SC, N \in SB$  and point  $K$  located on the inside of the face  $ASD$ . Solution:

1. We define the central projection of the straight line  $KN \in \pi$  on the plane of base  $ABCD$  of the pyramid  $ABCD S$  (Fig. 4).

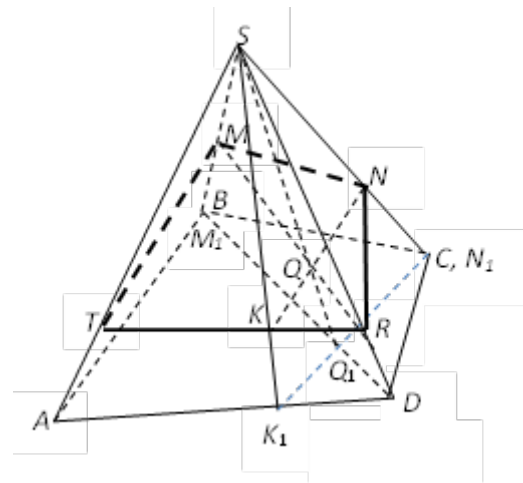


Figure 4. The central projection of the straight line  $KN \in \pi$  on the plane of base  $ABCD$

To this end, we draw a straight  $SK$  on the plane of face  $ADS$ . Then, we obtain the projection  $K_1 = SK \cap AD$  of point  $K$  on rib  $AD$ . The central projection of point  $N$  is point  $N_1 = C$ . By connecting the points  $K_1$  and  $N_1$ , we obtain the projection  $K_1 N_1$  of the straight line  $KN \in \pi$  on the base plane  $ABCD$ .

2. The central projection of point  $M$  is point  $M_1 = B$ . The central projection of any point of rib  $SD$  is point  $D$ . By connecting points  $B$  and  $D$ , we obtain the plane  $BDS$ .

3. The planes  $BDS$  and  $K_1 N_1 S$  intersect along the straight line  $SQ_1$ . Since  $SQ_1$  and  $KN \in \pi$  belong to the same plane  $K_1 N_1 S$ , the line  $SQ_1$  intersects the straight line  $KN \in \pi$  at some point  $Q \in \pi$ .

4. Points  $M \in \pi$  and  $Q \in \pi$  belong to the same plane  $BDS$ , and therefore, the line  $MQ \in \pi$  intersects the rib  $SD$  at some point  $R \in \pi$ .

5. By drawing a straight line through points  $R \in \pi$  and  $K \in \pi$ , we obtain point  $T \in \pi$ .

6. By connecting points  $R \in \pi$  and  $T \in \pi$ ,  $T \in \pi$  and  $M \in \pi$ ,  $M \in \pi$  and  $N \in \pi$ , and  $N \in \pi$  and  $R \in \pi$ , we obtain  $RTMN$ , which is the desired flat cross-section. According to the meaning of the problem, points  $M, N, K$  do not lie on one straight line. Therefore, problem 6 has a unique solution.

Thus, we proposed methods for constructing sections of polyhedrons. This approach for teaching students greatly facilitates the process of students mastering solutions to problems on constructing flat cross-sections of polyhedrons. A phased review of the solutions to these types of problems and recognizing logical connections is accompanied by the construction of the elements of the desired section, which form the basis for compiling the sequence of the algorithm for solving problems. The proposed tasks ensure the formation and development of divergent and algorithmic thinking, spatial representation ability, professional knowledge, and understanding the meaning of construction tasks, allowing them to be easily understood and solved [42; 43]. For the created problems, construction of a flat section was performed by following the main stages of solving problems: analysis, construction, proof, and research. The obtained results predetermine the direction for further research in the theory of designing the content of academic disciplines, and they are of great applied importance in the process of forming the professional qualities of future mathematics teachers.

Note that the complexity of the widespread use of teaching methods for future mathematics teachers for constructing cross-sections of polyhedrons is the cumbersomeness of their construction and the lack of systems for solving these problems in academic geometry courses, which are necessary for the formation of mathematical thinking and developing the skills to solve such problems in students and schoolchildren.

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## Conclusions

The final work of this research was the implementation of the diagnostic measure, the aim of which was to prove the effectiveness of the developed methodology for constructing flat sections of polyhedrons. The ability to solve this type of problem contributes to the formation and development of divergent and algorithmic thinking and of spatial representation ability in future mathematics teachers. With the aim to identify the level of formed divergent and algorithmic thinking, the ability to solve problems on constructing a flat section of a polyhedron in future mathematics teachers was assessed using control work No. 4. Analysis of the results of control work No. 4 revealed that 85% of students could correctly and reasonably construct a flat cross-section of a polyhedron using simple geometric (stereometric) properties, 67% of the students were able to construct a flat cross-section using the traces method, and 53% were able to construct a flat cross-section using the internal design method. When solving the problems of this control work, 71% of respondents showed a high level of divergent thinking, and the remaining 29% showed a medium level of divergent thinking. Sixty seven percent of students showed a high level of algorithmic thinking, and 15% of respondents showed that they had a low level of algorithmic thinking. The obtained results prove the effectiveness of the proposed methodology for constructing flat sections of polyhedrons in the context of the formation and development of high-quality professional knowledge, spatial representation ability, and divergent and algorithmic thinking in future mathematics teachers.

Any opinions expressed and the conclusions and recommendations of the authors do not reflect the views of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

## Acknowledgements

This research has been funded by the Science Committee of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Grant No. AP19676696).

## Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

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## **Задача на побудову плоских перерізів многогранників як засіб розвитку дивергентного та алгоритмічного мислення і здатності до просторового уявлення**

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### **Анотація**

**Актуальність.** У роботі розроблено задачі на побудову плоских перерізів многогранників у випадку, коли переріз призми задається слідом, який лежить у площині основи призми і не має спільних точок з основою призми, та точкою, яка належить бічному ребру призми.

**Мета.** Мета статті - встановити, що під час розв'язування задач на побудову плоских перерізів многогранників учні виконують завдання; застосовують аксіоми та геометричні властивості; формують і розвивають просторові уявлення; розвивають дивергентне та алгоритмічне мислення, вміння логічно міркувати, вміння робити правильні аргументи та висновки.

**Методика.** Розроблено задачі на побудову плоских перерізів многогранників методом внутрішнього конструювання. Для розв'язування цих задач використовуються два види проєкцій: паралельна та центральна. За допомогою методу паралельного проєктування побудовано плоске переріз п'ятикутної призми. Центральне проєкціювання використано для побудови плоского перерізу піраміди.

**Результати.** Розроблені завдання дозволяють формувати та розвивати дивергентне та алгоритмічне мислення, формувати просторові уявлення.

**Висновки.** Дослідивши дану тему, ми дійшли висновку, що вміння розв'язувати задачі такого типу сприяє формуванню та розвитку дивергентного та алгоритмічного мислення, здатності просторового уявлення у майбутніх вчителів математики.

**Ключові слова:** Січна площина; плоский переріз многогранника; метод слідів; паралельне проєктування; центральне проєктування; дивергентне мислення.