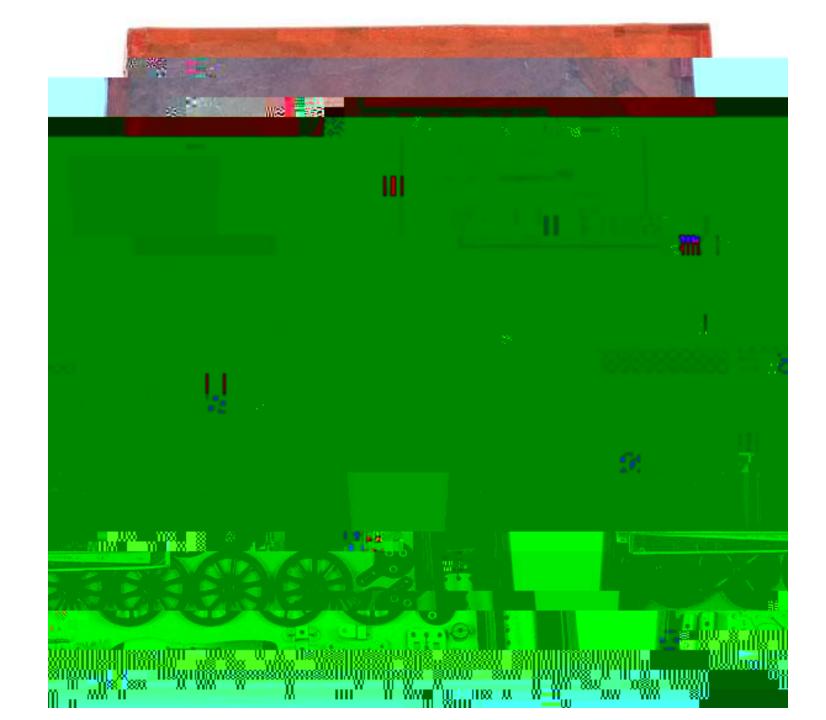- mathematics is a tool for mechanising inference; classification is a tool for mechanising arrangement of subjects;
- both use numbers as tools;
- both generalise their concept of numbers;
- both are parsimonious in exercising the freedom to create new numbers;
- both mathematics and classification are equivalent to artificial languages using their respective symbolic systems;
- both are clear about the limitations on the use of these artificial languages;
- both separate work in the idea plane from that in the notational plane; notation can be used as a computational tool before returning the results to the idea plane;
- the notational plane can reveal gaps in the coverage of the domain and the potential for their development.