

Reading Assignment 11: Descartes' *Rules for the Direction of the Mind*

Required Readings: Descartes [1985]. Rules 16-22.

Questions:

- According to Descartes, what are two virtues of using letters like a, b, c and $A, B,$ and C to designate known and unknown quantities in proofs?
- How does Descartes represent the (multiplicative) product ab of two line segments a and b ?
- Provide your own example of how to apply rule 21.

References

Rene Descartes. Rules for direction of the mind. In John Cottingham, Robert Stoothoff, and Dugald Murdoch, editors, *The philosophical writings of Descartes*, volume 2. Cambridge University Press Cambridge, 1985.