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Uncovering rationales behind mathematical techniques, algorithms, and proofs.

Mathematical practices and presentations tend to respond to an aesthetic of concision. However, as Keith Devlin, author of "Devlin's Angle" in the American Mathematical Monthly has made clear that the way mathematics tends to be done is by making problems simpler. That essential means tends to be omitted from mathematics texts, keeping students memorizing rather than gaining understanding. This paper will demonstrate basic mathematical practices and proofs that because of their commitment to "austere beauty" keeps many students at a distance from learning and being successful in mathematics. Instead of making mathematics more available, students often experience stress and in such an emotional state lack the resilience and persistence essential for dealing productively with mathematics. (Received September 24, 2018)