



## Typical mistakes in Mental Cutting Test and their consequences in gender differences

BRIGITTA NÉMETH, CSILLA SÖRÖS and MIKLÓS HOFFMANN

*Abstract.* Spatial ability of first year university students is measured and evaluated in this paper. We used standard Mental Cutting Test (MCT), where a body is given by perspective view and correct cross section has to be chosen. While gender differences in MCT are reported by several papers including our earlier results, much less known are the reasons of these differences. Here we show that typical mistakes (answers to problems which are close to be correct) can be one of the possible reasons, since female students made typical mistakes in some cases more frequently than males.

*Key words and phrases:* spatial ability, Mental Cutting Test, gender differences, typical mistakes.

*ZDM Subject Classification:* G80, G10, D70, C30, 51N05.

BRIGITTA NÉMETH and CSILLA SÖRÖS  
DEPARTMENT OF DESCRIPTIVE GEOMETRY AND COMPUTER SCIENCE  
SZENT ISTVÁN UNIVERSITY  
BUDAPEST  
HUNGARY

*E-mail:* Nemeth.Brigitta@ymmfk.szie.hu

*E-mail:* keleties@gmail.com

MIKLÓS HOFFMANN  
INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE  
KÁROLY ESZTERHÁZY COLLEGE  
LEÁNYKA STR 4.  
H-3300, EGER  
HUNGARY

*E-mail:* hofi@ektf.hu

*(Received July, 2007)*