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*SFU Experiments with LON-CAPA Homework Submission Systems*

Online homework submission systems have many advantages, for example: instant feedback to students, less (or no) work devoted to marking. But do they help students to learn?

At SFU, we have looked at a number of systems. We have come to the conclusion that neither the systems offered by textbook publishers nor those produced by Maplesoft give the students a meaningful enough experience, and there are significant costs attached to each. As an alternative we have begun using LON-CAPA, a freeware system which allows for full control of the content. One of its best features is the discussion board and how easy it is for the students to engage in discussions while working on the problems. We monitor the discussions, posting hints or corrections if needed, and make sure that the students do not just use them to share their solutions.

We introduced LON-CAPA homework first for MATH 157 (Business Calculus), then in our main calculus stream (MATH 151 and 152), and in MATH 190 (Math for Elementary Teachers), MATH 100 (Precalculus), and FAN X99 (Foundations of Academic Numeracy). We also used LON-CAPA to create a calculus-readiness test.