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Monthly series on Computer-Aided Assessment in Maths

<http://ltsn.mathstore.ac.uk/articles/maths-cao-series>

Computer-Aided Assessment (CAA) is likely to become an important form of testing in the next decade, and we have initiated a series of monthly articles on CAA in mathematics. Please read the articles as they appear and send your comments to the discussion list maths-cao@jiscmail.ac.uk. Below are summaries of some recent contributions. You are invited to suggest articles for this series by contacting the series editor Cliff Beevers, email c.e.beevers@hw.ac.uk

May 2003: TAL - A National Database of Questions – Classification is the Key
Contributed by Jon Sims Williams and Mike Barry of Bristol University

This paper discusses a CAA system called TAL. TAL is unusual in that it allows users to generate large numbers of equivalent tests from a specification. The tests are generated from a database of questions and all questions must be classified. Some of the difficulties involved in classifying questions are discussed.

June 2003: Incorporating assessment into an Interactive Learning Environment for mathematics
Contributed by Manolis Mavrikis and Antony Maciocia of The University of Edinburgh

In this article, after briefly describing a web-based Interactive Learning Environment (WALLIS) and the reasons for incorporating assessment into it, the approach to implementing formative CAA is described. This has recently been pilot-tested with a first year honours group of students.

July 2003: Mathematics Assessment at a Distance
Contributed by Sally Jordan, Philip Butcher and Shelagh Ross of The Open University

This article considers the development of a Web-based assessment system by which remote students take a credit-bearing test online at the end of the Open University 'Maths for Science' course. During the test the students receive immediate, targeted feedback on their answers, and are awarded a mark that reflects the amount of help they have been given.