

A

Complete List of User Comments

This appendix contains the complete list of the comments¹ made by the English speaking students during the summative evaluation. In the evaluation, the subjects were asked to state their agreement to a variety of statements about the course generator using yes/no questions and Likert scales. After each set of statements, the students had the opportunity to briefly explain their answers in their own words.

The first comments are the students' explanations of their answers the following questions:

- Are the chapters in the order you would expect?
- Are the pages in the order you would expect?

The comments are as follows:

These are in order of the topic I wanted. So that's ok. expected chapters in the order Average Slopes, rates of change, and further difference quotients. The pages not also ordered in the same way difference quotient is first but i think it should come later. pages are in a logical order.

The order of the chapters seems fine. I cannot suggest a more suitable order.

I would expect chapters regarding the same subject (ie. derivatives, or slope) to be one after the other. I would also put chapters containing concepts (ie. slope) useful to others (derivatives) to be presented before.

The chapters follow on from each other and each chapter follows a logical order of pages - introduction, explanation, exercises

yes, with the connections and look back at correct place, exercises at end of chapter. chapters lead on well from each other.

They get progressively more difficult and the later ones require the knowledge of the first ones

in correct order, ie intro, explanation, exercises

The order is fine. First introduction - > Theory - > Exercises.

The chapters are in a good order- starting from basics, moving on into concepts based on the previous ones. The pages are similarly well - ordered.

¹ I did not correct spelling and grammar mistakes.

*equation of a tangent was after equation of normal
the pages go through the order of having introduction then the concept then
the exercises. which seems to be a logical order*

*All looks like I would expect really, it is fairly standard to have a looking
back exercise at the end etc.*

*Because the chapters are in the order that they were in step 4 of making
the book and the pages link on from each other*

*I would expect the order to be 'Definition of the Average Slope', 'Defini-
tion of the Average Rate of Changes' and then 'Definition of the Difference
Quotient'. To me this is a more natural progression of knowledge. However,
inside the chapters, the pages seem to be in a logical order.*

*The topics are in logical order and the pages build from concepts towards
exercises.*

*Each chapter is layed out starting with an Intro, Prerequisites and then
into the information for the topic and then exercises which is a sensible
order.*

*The chapters and pages were in a good order, but too similar to the
pre-recorded books.*

*I expected the slope chapter to come before the rate chapter. The pages
are arranged in introduction, definition, then exercises which is how I would
work through them.*

Each page/chapter seems to be in a logical order....

*Opposite order to that listed when creating book. Prerequisites, Informa-
tion, Exercises is logical order.*

*The chapters seem to be in a logical order with the definitions first then
moving onto exercises. The pages started with the simple content before
moving onto what appears to be the more advanced parts.*

*each chapter and page follows on logically from what you've learned be-
fore in the previous chapter/page*

Chapters and pages are ordered from the easiest to most difficult.

the order seems logical

*Well i didn't really think about chapter order but the page orders seem
logical. Definition should come first etc..*

a- follow order selection when creating the book b- sequenced

The next comments are the students' explanations of their answers the following questions:

- Should exercises be added to the same page as the definition or to the designated exercise page?
- Should users be permitted to remove items from personal books?
- Should users be permitted to add items from personal books?
- Should users be permitted to remove items from pre-recorded books?
- Should users be permitted to add items from pre-recorded books?

*One is responsible utterly for a personal book, but should always have a
kind of backup in the form of pre-recorded book.*

*users should be free do do as they wish, if removing or adding items
makes a more personalized environment that sustains learning then it should
be allowed*

personal books should be allowed to be customised and these should be used to add more knowledge to not the pre-recorded books.

Custom-made books should be modifiable, after all, that is the key reason for making them in the first place. Pre-recorded books shouldn't be modifiable as they were made as they were for a good reason.

I think it's up to the user how they structure the pages they want but removal of set books is pointless as they have the basics for the course.

if a user makes a personal book he wants it for certain purposes. It is natural for him to decide the contents of the book in order to suit the purposes in the way he finds most useful. He should be able to do this by adding or removing items from the book. The user should be able to expand the contents of a book if he chooses to, ie. by adding exercises. He should also be able to take these exercises he has added off, by removing them.

I think the more freedom a user is given, the more likely they will find the best way to learn the material for them.

personal books, being tailored for the individual should have the control over them. for the pre-recorded books i think there's a reason for all the pages being in it so shouldn't be able to remove at will.

b) They are customized for them c) They are customized for them d) No they are designed the way they are for a reason e) No they are designed the way they are for a reason

this tidys up the book and makes it more relevant

personal books should be completely editable whereas pre-recorded books should be left as they are but users should be able to add things to them and from them.

As I understand, LAM is designed for students; as students are adults, they should be able to easily decide about contents of their books, to suit their particular needs.

whenever you need to change a personal book you wouldn't want to create a new one, however editing pre-recorded books may result in an incomplete knowledge of topics

you should be able to do anything with your own personal book. and assuming the pre-recorded books don't work like a wiki for everyone signing in. then it's reasonable to change whatever you want

Users should be able to modify their books to their needs but the pre-recorded books should be there just for reference

Allowing the removal of things from books could lead to content being missed. adding content will help the user to learn in their own style.

Personal books should be just that, personal. The computer should suggest what goes in a book but ultimately if the user doesn't want something in the book they should be able to remove it. On the other hand, a pre-recorded book should be 'locked' just in case a user deleted a piece of content (these books contain the content of the course so should also be standard).

The more customisation the better as users can tailor the books/pages to their own needs.

It's a very useful feature.

I think the personal books should have the ability to be edited, but not the pre-recorded books, this keeps things tidy in the personal book (i.e. has only

the things that you want in it) , but also means that you can refer to the prerecorded books if there is something missing.

Adding and removing pages from both types of book will allow the user to further personalise their learning experience and make it more useful to them.

a user can customize a personal book to his or her needs & it would be easier for them to add or remove things that were relevant or irrelevant accordingly..... pre-recorded books should be Read Only because accidental deleting could occur

Personal books by definition should contain whatever the user wants Customised books are what the personal feature is for, and it could be dangerous to make pages inaccessible, or even to put an item in an inappropriate book.

Users should be able to customise how they learn

all things should be able to be altered, so that the user can get the most out of the information, like having their own notes

Users should have influence on their personal book.

editing custom books is acceptable, however editing premade ones isnt, the user would end up deleting the book eventually. however it would be helpful to hide certain items

4d would be yes if these changes were reversable. altho im not sure they should be allowed to mess around with the pre recorded books at all

b - If comfortable that they kno the info already c - Yes, update the book and keep themselves aware of things they kno/don't d - No, they were not made for them e - Yes, helps update them

The following statements were made with respect to the exercise sequencer. The students also commented the content. I included the statements since they show how the subjects judge the appropriateness of the selected exercises.

- How matched to your level of knowledge are the exercises?
- How suitable are the types of exercises to your position as a beginner in this area?

According to results of early completed exercises I would be in a position to finish successfully those too.

to me the level of the maths is not challenging. a beginner would find it some what difficult to follow through

the exercises are good as they grow in difficulty

These problems seemed quite hard considering how weakly I have met the prerequisites.

The examples weren't particularly challenging and suite a 1st year easily.

all the excercise required the knowledge of derivatives and in particulare of the Product Rule, which is probably something I don't know if I create a book to "Discover Product Rule"

It is quite frustrating to be presented with this format of exercise [open exercises] as a beginner.

open ended are a bit iffyy but besides that questions seemed suited

All the exercises i have attempted before have not shown a direct way to calculate dy/dx of a function making this task impossible for someone who has never done it before

For me personally they could be harder but for beginners they are very good.

1b) the difficulty seems perfect- some of the exercises were easy and would just remind me about the principles, some required some effort and one would actually require me to search for more knowledge. 1c) too many open questions I think.

Some of the questions were a bit easy but others made me think a bit harder. Some people who are just beginning might find a few of the questions challenging

I think the exercises are fairly testing but within the reach of someone starting this topic. However, there were a few questions that needed knowledge of other differentiation methods which someone who was just learning the product rule would not know.

The sort of language used in the notes seem convoluted and not very clear, so it wouldn't be very good for a beginner. But the questions seem to be more or less on the right lines, although i'd never use the words "difference quotient" The loading time for the exercise sequencer and pretty much everything is unreasonably long. taking 2 about mins to load one question. I'd never use it if it took that long.

Exercises seemed to be at around the correct level for someone new to the topic

The exercises were at a really good level for my knowledge, there was a good spread of exercises for the subject.

The questions were mainly open questions that could not give feedback on how you were doing.

the questions seemed a bit challenging for a beginner but they were not TOO hard either.....

Perhaps excessive use of variables rather than numbers would be hard on a beginner as a first example?

questions seem to scale to how you cope with previous questions. It starts slightly difficult for beginners in this area.

the exercises are fairly simple and straight forward, not requiring advanced knowledge

Some exercises may be too difficult for beginners.

The questions are well suited if the user has the right prerequisite knowledge

The level seems ok...

b- questions match level of maths I know c- quite suitable

The next comments address the following questions:

- How tailored to you as a learner is the content in your personal book, Discover Quotient Rule?
- Which would you rather use to learn about the Product Rule?

In Personal Book topics are more friendly segregated.

personal book offers a better means of understanding the product rule as it gives information bit by bit ie in sequence

i think the personal books as it's tailored to your knowledge and level on comprehension

The personal book is much leaner but I would still prefer the complete pre-recorded book just so that I don't miss anything that may be important.

The prerecorded books were set out ideally and in an acceptable order, I'd use that.

in the personal book the rule is presented in a way which is more friendly to learning. rule, application of rule, examples and then animated proof, proof, in a separate page. In the prerecorded everything is in a less inuitive order and all on the same page.

The personal book explained concepts such as polynomials which I didnt know about.

pre-recorded book has more links to help with wider grasp but personal book is more explicitly designed for the user.

I think i would use either

It is more advanced than anything i have used active math for. The pre-recorded book is good as it proves the quotient rule

they are specifically designed and more appropriate

I prefer personal book because it is only about the product rule and no other topics would interrupt me. The pre-recorded book is quite big and is therefore not as clear as the personal book.

I dont think the differences between the books are particularly significant-maybe because I didnt use LAM long enough yet. However, my personal book is better structured and therefore easier to use.

i got the message - Sorry, there are no more exercises available! We have to abort this exercise session. Close the window to get back to the course. when loading the Exercise Sequencer

Personal books seem a lot better as they give content that is specific and that is good as most people learning maths i presume will be using this to touch up on little things they have not understood.

In the personal book they do an example of the product rule, it might be useful to have more than one though

Whilst the personal book seems to be good for my level of knowledge, I like to have all of the information at one time so form my point of view I would prefer to be able to access all of the information in the pre-recorded book.

The personal book is a bit more direct and less in-depth.

Its hard to tell what has been tailored to me as all the mastery squares are grey even though i'm on SLM. It seems not too bad. I'd prefer the Pre recorded book to learn about the Product rule mainly as it seems the only one acutally mentioning the product rule. The personal book doesn't seem to mention the product rule

The page introduces it well and then uses several examples to show the rule which is ideal.

The book did not seem well tailored to the standards of a beginner in the topic but the pre-recorded book provided a wide base for the subject.

pre-recorded books would tend to maybe go into too much detail while personal books would register the concepts that you have already grasped etc.....

Quotient Rule is not in my personal book Either is fine for (f)

A mixture of both is best.

both books are useful, i would start with the personal book and move on to the pre-recorded one

In personal book I can chose the content on my own.

pretty well tailored, but i would be scared i missed something important

I would rather have the information pre-recorded as making a personal book is quite alot of effort.

e-more detail given f-easily understandable due to detail given

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