



# Using Educational Technologies to Promote Inquiry & the Nature of Science in Teacher Education

**Dr. Marina Milner-Bolotin**

**Korean Association for Science Education International Conference  
Daegu University at Gyeongsan, Gyeongbuk, Korea**

**February 13-15, 2014**

# Dr. Marina Milner-Bolotin

- Assistant Professor in Science Education, the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada
- Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy
- e-mail: [marina.milner-bolotin@ubc.ca](mailto:marina.milner-bolotin@ubc.ca)
- Web site: <http://blogs.ubc.ca/mmilner/>





# Research Team

Marina Milner-Bolotin, Ph.D. (Assistant Professor)  
Heather Fisher & Alex MacDonald – Graduate M.A.  
Students



With the financial  
support of the UBC  
Teaching and  
Learning  
Enhancement Fund  
(TLEF 2012-2014)



# Broadening the Horizon of Science Education: Synergetic Collaborations across Disciplinary Boundaries

**KASE**

The Korean Association for Science Education

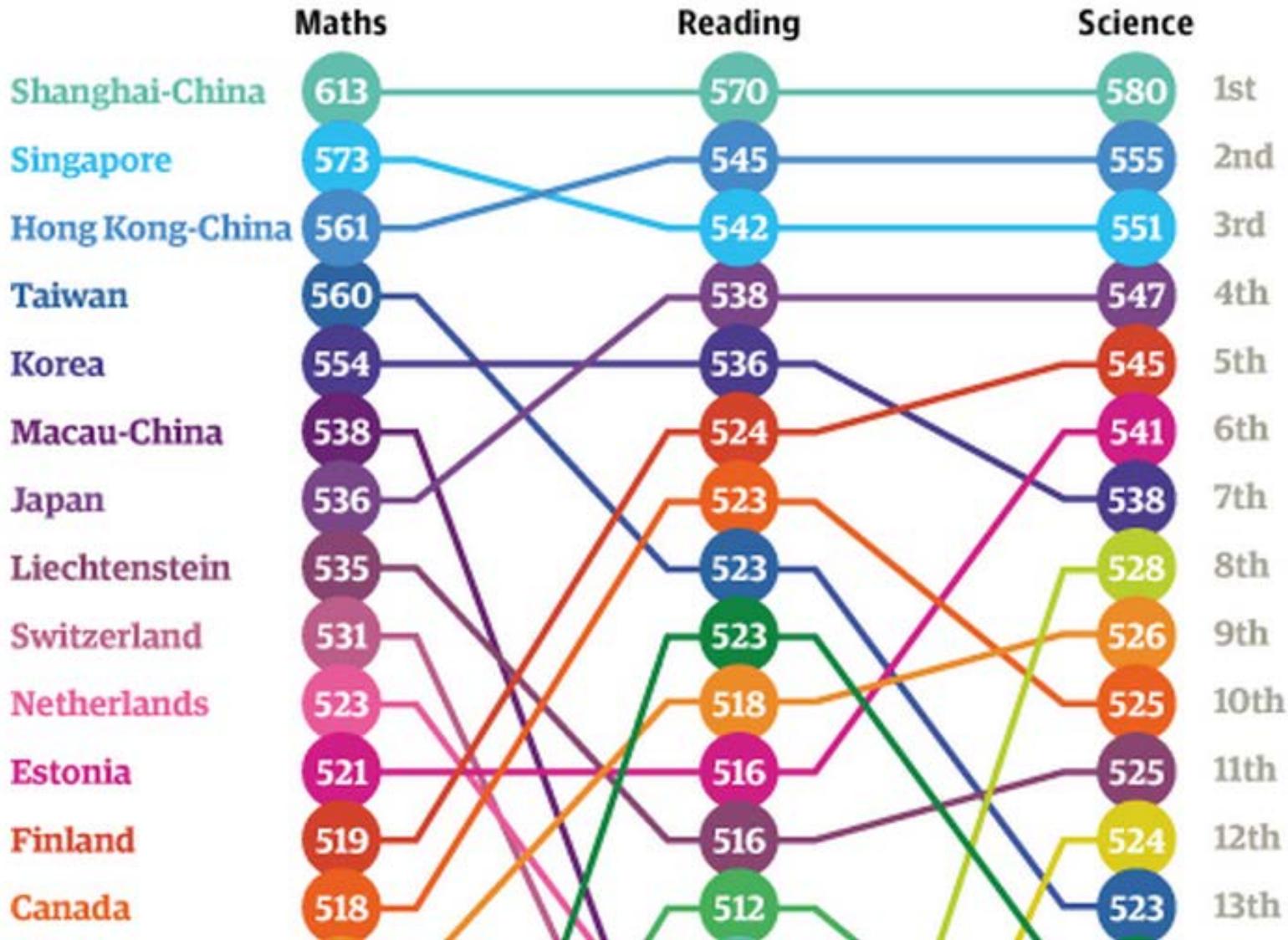
The Korean Association for Science Education



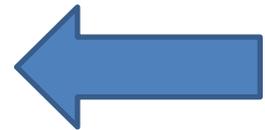
2014' conference

2014 KASE International Conference

# PISA 2012 Results



Maths  
5<sup>th</sup>



13<sup>th</sup>



# Presentation Overview

Research on the effects of technology-enhanced Active Engagement (AE) on science teacher-candidates

## Clickers



PeerWise

EDCP357 (Winter 1, 2013)

[Home](#) | [Main menu](#) > Comments written by you

Comments written by you

Comments written by you about questions you have answered, are shown below.

# Clickers & Active Learning

2004, *The Physics Teacher*, 42(8), 47-48.

## Tips for Using a Peer Response System in a Large Introductory Physics Class

*Marina Milner-Bolotin*, Physics and Astronomy Department, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
Piscataway, NJ 08854-8019; milnerm@physics.rutgers.edu

### Clickers beyond the First Year Science Classroom

Marina Milner-Bolotin

Tetyana Antimirova

Anna Petrov

2010, *Journal of College Science Teaching*,  
40(2), 18-22.

### Abstract:

This case study's primary objective is to describe the implementation of the electronic peer response-system (clickers) in a small (N=25) second-year physics class.



Teaching physics is a challenge for all.

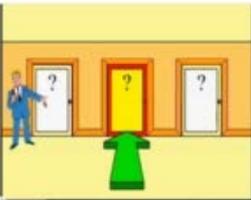


# Peer Instruction Pedagogy

i>grader

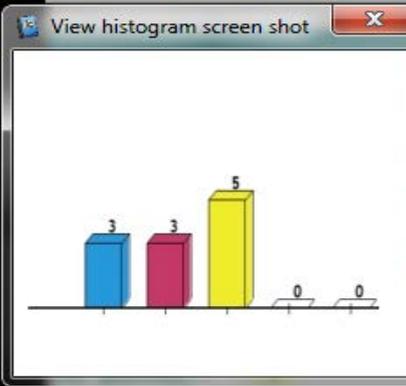
### The Monty Hall Problem: Let Us Make a Deal

- A. Stick with the original choice
- B. Swap doors
- C. It doesn't matter



Done 11

View histogram screen shot



Option	Count
A	3
B	3
C	5
Other	0
Other	0

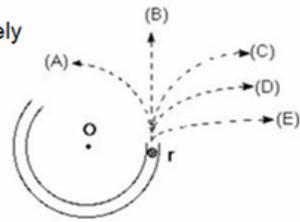
**(b) Is the correct answer**

**in both cases**

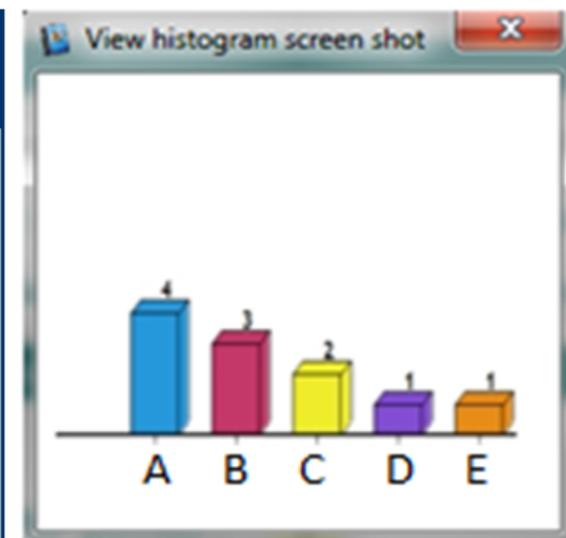
### Question

A ball travels through the circular track until point  $r$ , at which point it leaves the channel to travel across a frictionless floor. Assume a bird's eye view, and that all motion is in the horizontal plane.

Which path will the ball most closely follow after it exits the channel?



The diagram shows a circular track with center  $O$  and a point  $r$  on the inner boundary. Five paths are shown: (A) a dashed arc following the inner boundary; (B) a dashed straight line tangent to the inner boundary at  $r$ ; (C) a dashed curve between the inner and outer boundaries; (D) a dashed straight line radial from  $O$ ; (E) a dashed straight line radial from  $r$ .



# Peer Instruction Pedagogy

LUMAT 1(5), 2013

## Modeling Active Engagement Pedagogy through Classroom Response Systems in a Physics Teacher Education Course

Marina Milner-Bolotin

Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy, Faculty of Education, The University of British Columbia •  
marina.milner-bolotin@ubc.ca

Heather Fisher

Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy, Faculty of Education, The University of British Columbia

Alexandra MacDonald

Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy, Faculty of Education, The University of British Columbia

**Abstract** One of the most commonly explored technologies in Science, Technology, Engineering,  
and Mathematics (STEM) education is Classroom Response Systems (CRS). In this study,  
instructors generate in-class discussion by soliciting student responses to multiple-choice questions.

[LUMAT: Research and Practice in Math, Science & Technology Education, 2013. 1(5): p. 525-544.]

# PeerWise Online System



*EDCP357 (Winter 1, 2013)*

[Home](#) | [Main menu](#) > Comments written by you

## Comments written by you

Comments written by you, about questions you have answered, are shown below.

Select an order:

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Showing new replies only

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## What is PeerWise?

Students use PeerWise to create and to explain their understanding of course related assessment questions, and to answer and discuss questions created by their peers.

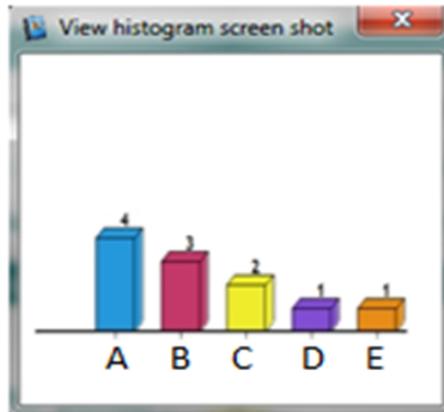
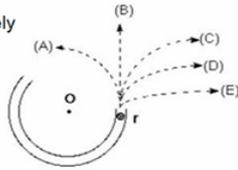
<http://peerwise.cs.auckland.ac.nz/>

# Technology-Enhanced Active Engagement Integration

## Question

A ball travels through the circular track until point  $r$ , at which point it leaves the channel to travel across a frictionless floor. Assume a bird's eye view, and that all motion is in the horizontal plane.

Which path will the ball most closely follow after it exits the channel?



PeerWise

EDCP357 (Winter 1, 2013)

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## Comments written by you

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Select an order:

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Showing new replies only

No comments to view

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## Peer Instruction modeled in every class

**PeerWise used to design, critique,  
respond to Conceptual Questions as a  
community of future teachers**



# Research-Based Objectives

Investigate the effect of Active Engagement (AE) on teacher-candidates' (TCs') epistemologies

Explore a possible mechanism for AE pedagogy

Model AE in the context of the course content

# Teaching & Learning with Technology

Instructor modeling  
AE pedagogy

TCs experience  
developing  
questions

MATH & SCIENCE TEACHING & LEARNING  
THROUGH TECHNOLOGY



PeerWise

*EDCP357 (Winter 1, 2013)*

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<http://scienceres-edcp-educ.sites.olt.ubc.ca/>

# Math & Science Teaching & Learning through Technology



a place of mind

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## Teacher Education

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PHYSICS

CHEMISTRY

BIOLOGY

VECTORS

KINEMATICS

DYNAMICS

MOMENTUM

WORK,ENERGY,POWER

THERMODYNAMICS

CIRCULAR MOTION

GRAVITATION

WAVE MOTION AND OPTICS

PARTICLE AND NUCLEAR PHYSICS

EQUILIBRIUM

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Mission

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Our mission is to design, test, evaluate and disseminate quality, research-based technology-supported educational materials for mathematics and science K-12 classrooms through creating a community of science and mathematics educators, researchers and students.

MATH & SCIENCE TEACHING & LEARNING  
THROUGH TECHNOLOGY



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CREATE

CREATE  
Community to Reimagine Educational Alternatives for Teacher Education

CREATE is a faculty-wide initiative established by [Dr. Rita Irwin](#), Associate Dean of Teacher Education programs, to inspire innovations in teacher education at UBC.

Seminars are held in [Neville Scarfe, Room 310](#) from 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted).

## Presentation about MSTLTT Project

On October 16th Dr. Marina Milner-Bolotin was invited to present a seminar to faculty and students at UBC Teacher Education Program

Read More

# Navigating the Resource



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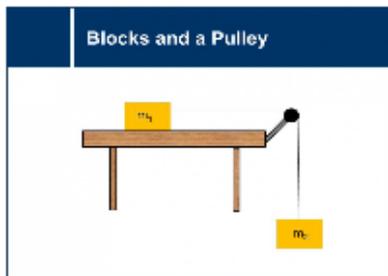
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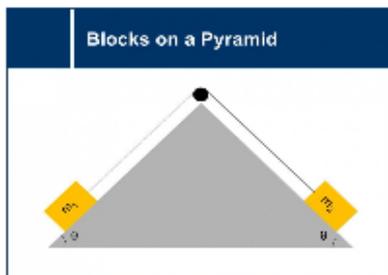
## FORCES



Exploration of free body diagrams, two body acceleration, and Newton's law through the system of two blocks attached through a pulley and one of them resting on a table.

[acceleration](#), [forces](#), [friction](#), [Newton's laws](#), [pulleys](#), [string tension](#)

rating ★★★★★ (No Ratings Yet)



Exploration of free body diagrams, two body acceleration, and newton's laws through the system of two blocks resting on a pyramid and attached by a pulley.

[acceleration](#), [forces](#), [friction](#), [gravitational acceleration](#), [net force](#), [normal force](#), [weight](#)

rating ★★★★★ (No Ratings Yet)

+ Mathematics

- Physics

» Vectors

+ Kinematics

- Dynamics

» Forces

» Springs

» Newton's Laws

+ Momentum

» Work,Energy,Power

» Thermodynamics

» Circular Motion

» Gravitation

» Wave motion and Optics

» Particle and Nuclear Physics

# Navigating the Resource



rating ★★★★★ (No Ratings Yet)

**Cruising Car**

A diagram showing a light blue car moving to the right. An arrow points to the right from the car, labeled "60 km/h".

An introduction to acceleration and newton's laws using a demonstration of a commuting car.  
[acceleration](#), [displacement](#), [distance](#), [forces](#), [net force](#), [velocity](#)

rating ★★★★★ (No Ratings Yet)

**Weight in an Elevator**

A graph showing force (F) on the y-axis and time (t) on the x-axis. The force fluctuates over time. To the right of the graph is a scale with a weight on it, labeled "kg" and "a = ?".

How does a reading on a scale change when on a moving elevator? Scenarios with an elevator moving at different velocities and acceleration will be considered. The concepts learned will then be used to analyze data from a real-life experiment.  
[acceleration](#), [gravitational acceleration](#), [mass](#), [net force](#), [normal force](#), [real-life data](#), [velocity](#), [weight](#)

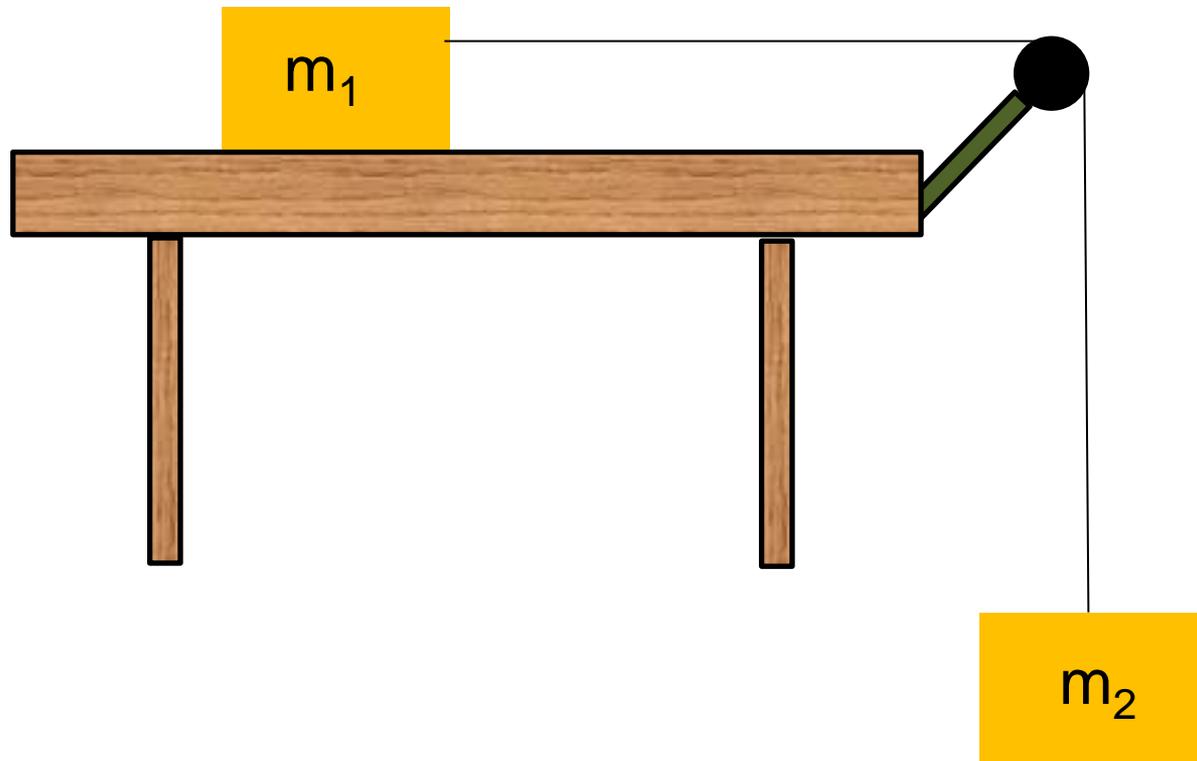
rating ★★★★★ (No Ratings Yet)

**Tension Forces**

The following set of questions apply Newton's Second Law to scenarios with multiple blocks held together by the tension force from strings.

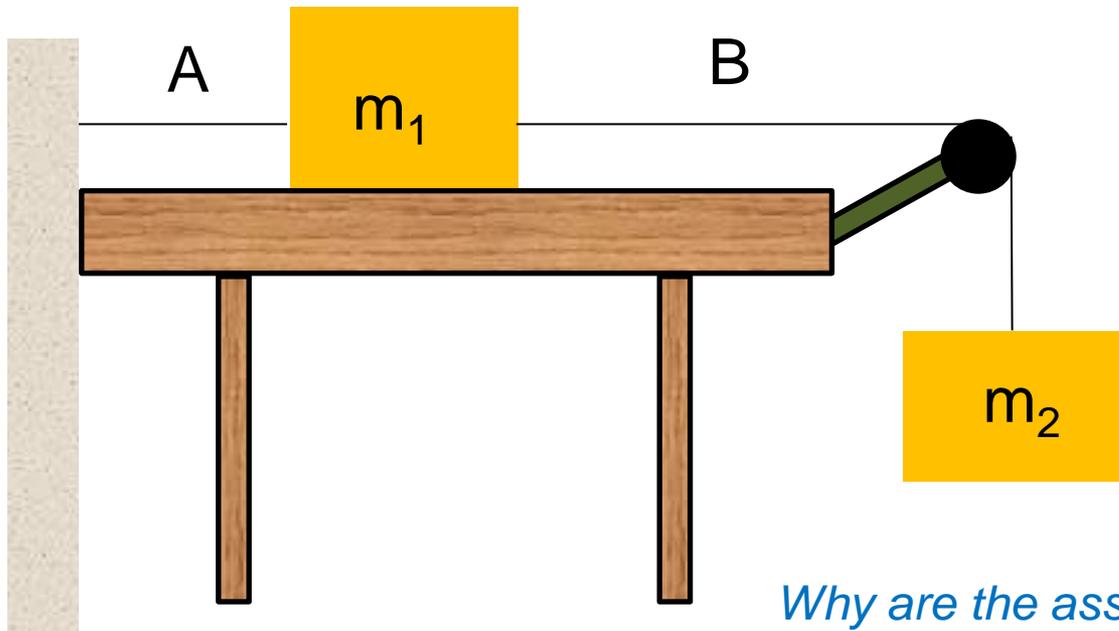
[acceleration](#) [area](#) [centripetal force](#) [common ratio](#)  
[conservation of energy](#) [conservation of momentum](#) [Conversion Factors](#) [counting](#) [current](#)  
[displacement](#) [distance](#) [elastic collisions](#) [forces](#)  
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[gravitational potential energy](#) [inelastic collisions](#) [kinetic energy](#) [molar mass](#) [mole](#) [net force](#) [normal force](#) [numbers](#)  
[patterns](#) [percentages](#) [permutations](#) [power](#) [probability](#)  
[projectile motion](#) [ratios](#) [rectangles](#) [resistance](#)  
[sequences](#) [series](#) [tension](#) [triangles](#) [trigonometry](#) [unit circle](#)  
[vectors](#) [velocity](#) [voltage](#) [weight](#)

# Blocks and a Pulley



# Blocks and a Pulley II

Two blocks are connected via a pulley. The blocks are initially at rest as block  $m_1$  is attached to a wall. If string A breaks, what will the accelerations of the blocks be? (**Assume** friction is very small and strings don't stretch)



- A.  $a_1 = 0; a_2 = 0$
- B.  $a_1 = g; a_2 = g$
- C.  $a_1 = 0; a_2 = g$
- D.  $a_1 = g; a_2 = 0$
- E. None of the above

*Why are the assumptions above important?*

# Solution

**Answer:** E

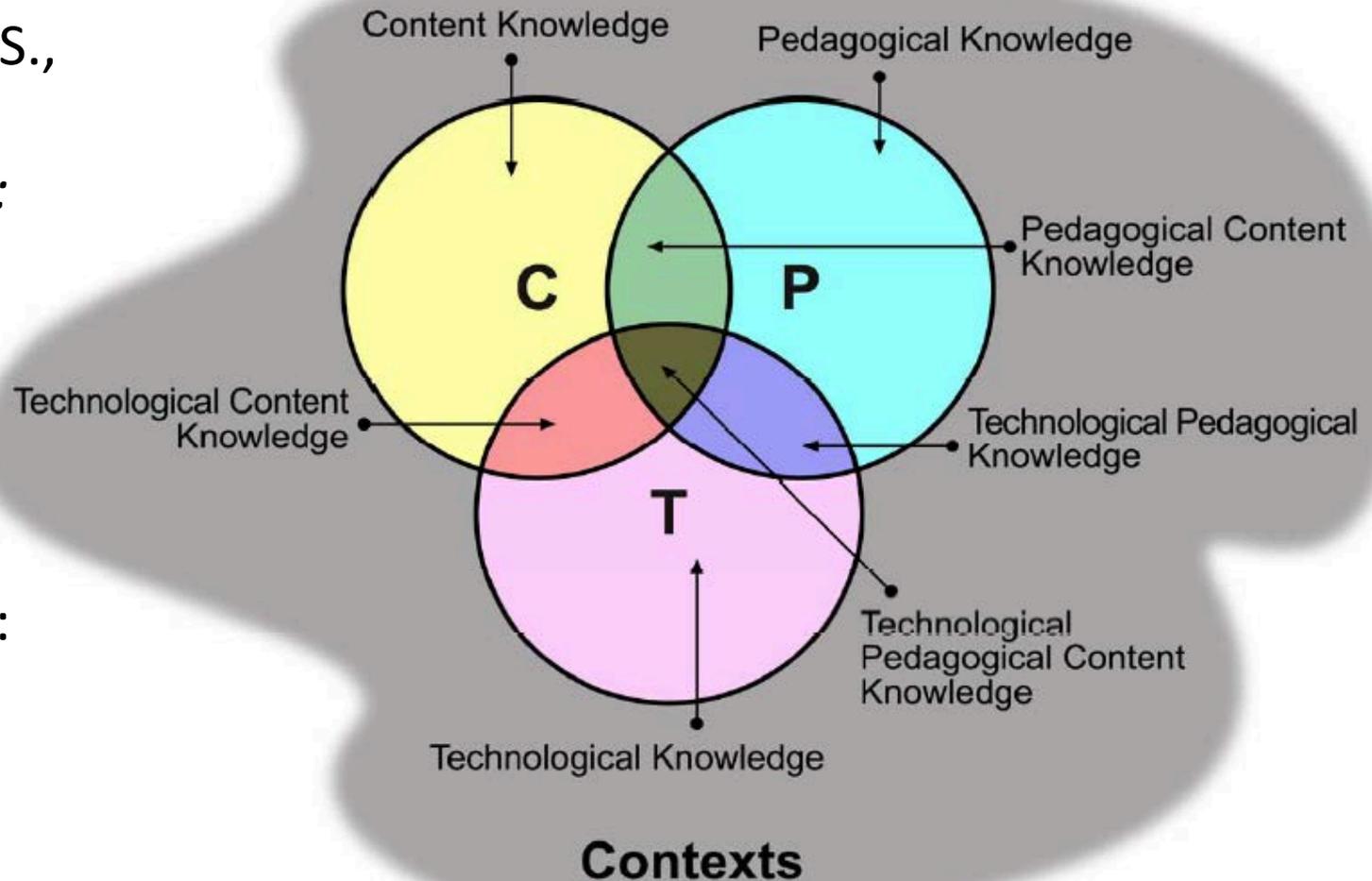
**Justification:** None of the above answers is correct. Consider two blocks as one system: one can see that the system has a mass of  $(m_1+m_2)$ , while the net force pulling the system down is  $m_1g$ . Therefore, applying Newton's second law, one can see that the acceleration of the system must be less than  $g$ :

$$a = \frac{m_2g}{(m_1 + m_2)} = \frac{m_2}{(m_1 + m_2)} g < g$$

Some people think that the acceleration will be  $g$ . They forget that the system consists of two blocks (not just  $m_1$ ) and the only pulling force is  $m_1g$ . Thus the system is NOT in a free fall. Compare this questions to the previous one to see the difference.

# Theoretical Framework

Shulman, L.S.,  
*Those who understand:  
Knowledge growth in  
teaching.*  
Educational  
Researcher,  
1986. **15**(2):  
p. 4-14.



# Research Methods

Timeline

Secondary Physics Methods Course  
(+ 2-week short practicum)

13 students  
13 weeks

Extended Practicum

10 weeks

Enhanced Practicum

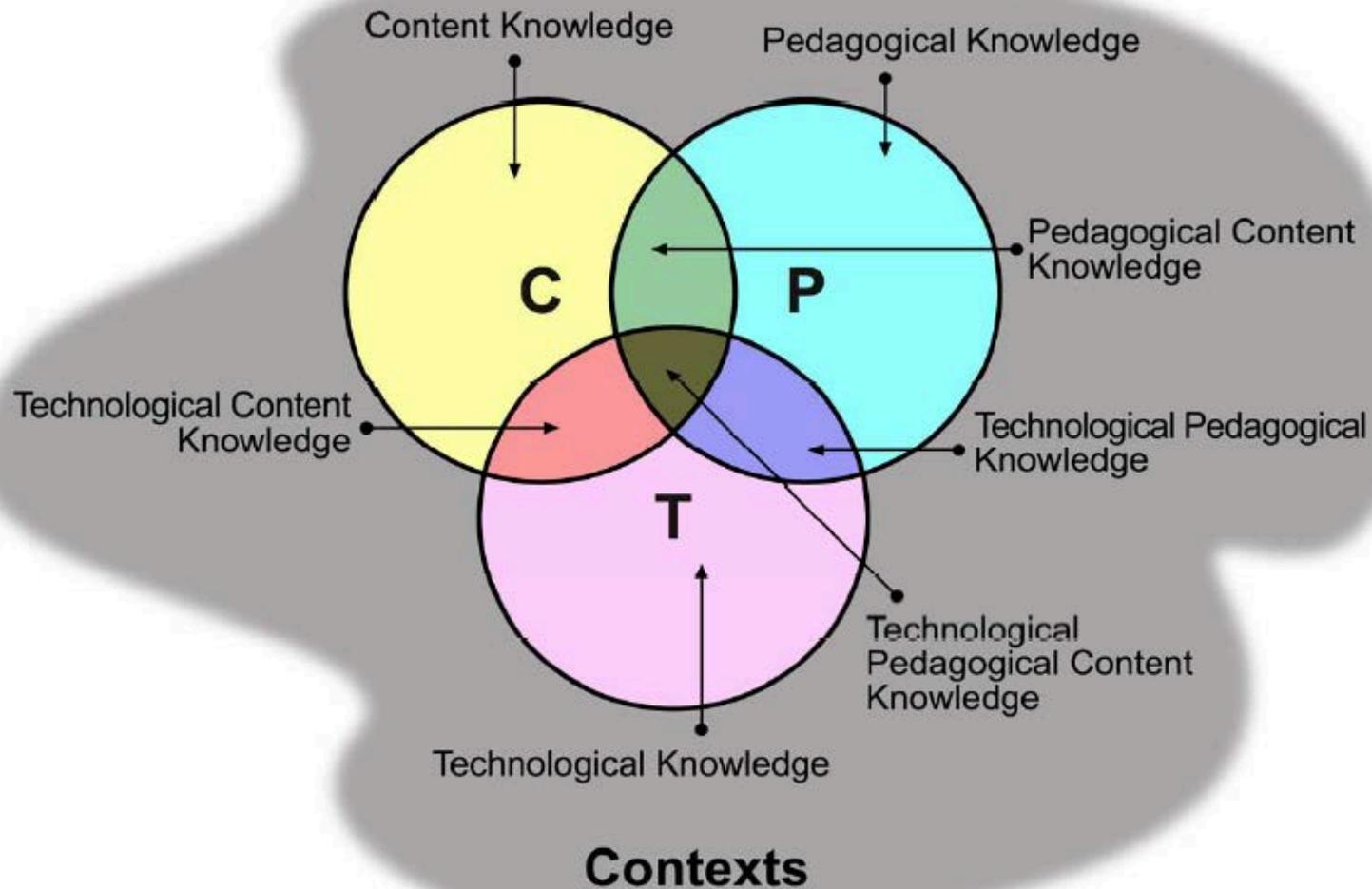
3 weeks

Pre-Practicum Interviews  
(8)

Post-Practicum Interviews  
(7)

Focus Group (1)

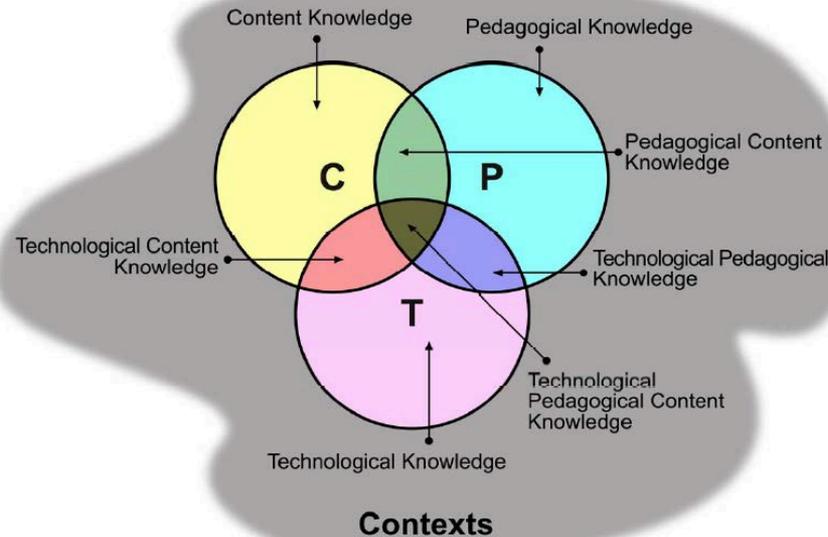
# Results



# Results: Quantitative

	Questions	Answers	Comments
1	50	110	52
2	50	85	40
3	51	115	74
4	50	90	34
5	60	110	79
6	50	112	82
7	57	109	107
8	50	192	14
9	50	91	81
10	50	100	50

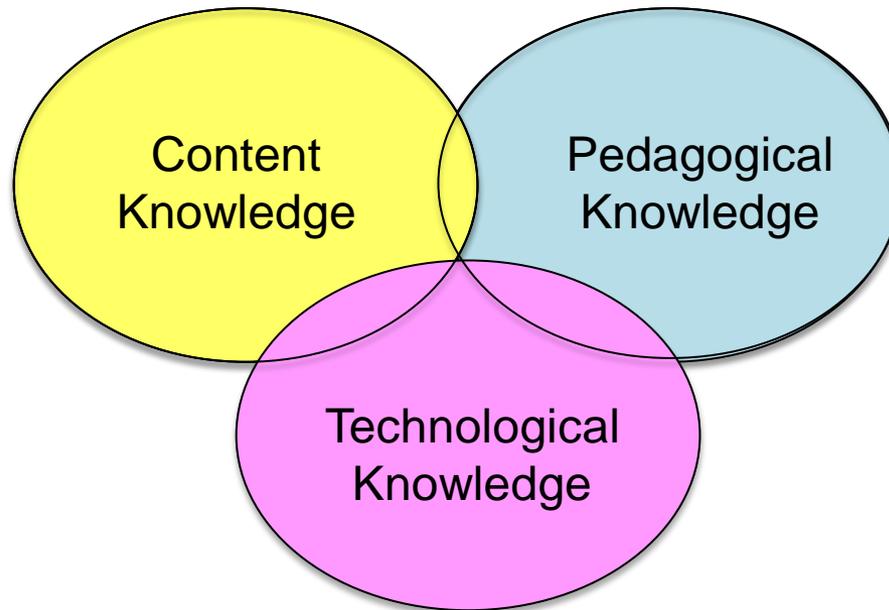
# Results: Qualitative: Direct Impact



*“It really opens the door for umm discussions between people. Um regarding a) you know, what is the right answer, and b) how would you explain that to uh either teacher-candidates or to your potential students.”*

Pre-Interview 2, Participant 9

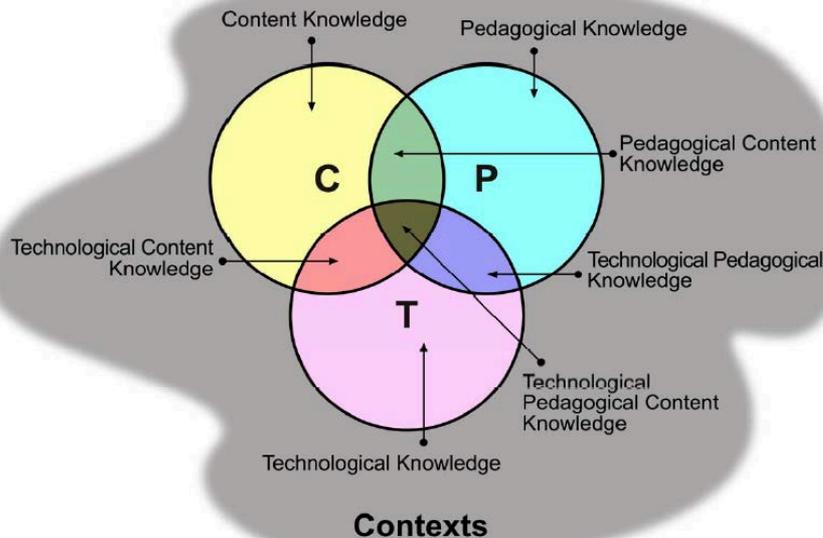
# Direct Impact on our Teacher-Candidates



*“It really opens the door for umm discussions between people. Um regarding a) you know, what is the right answer, and b) how would you explain that to uh either teacher-candidates or to your potential students.”*

Pre-Interview 2, Participant 9

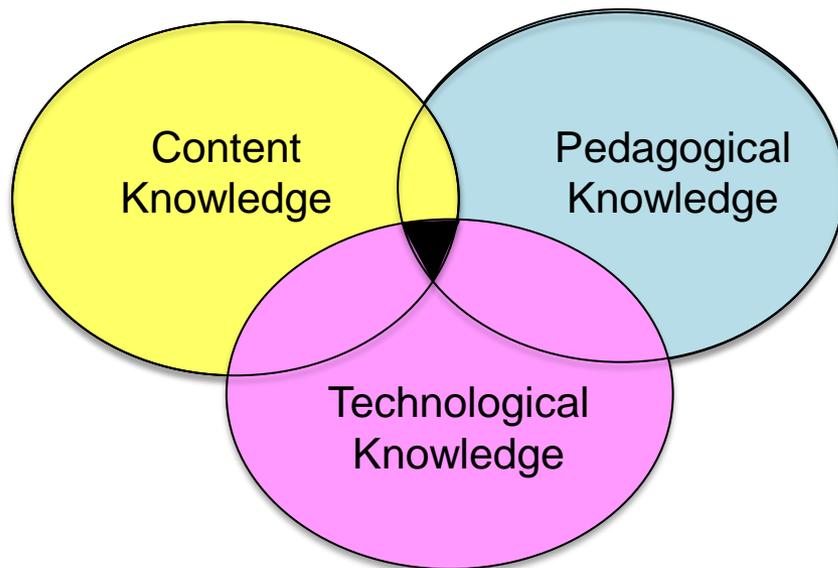
# Direct Impact on our Teacher-Candidates



*“So, if you set it up in a dynamic where... different types of people have [different needs], so if you need to talk to someone, you still get that, if you need silence, you get to think on it on your own, and then people aren’t so stressed... And they actually get to argue and talk back and forth and they’ll remember it more. So for them, I think they’ll master it more.”*

Post-Interview 2, Participant 20

# Direct Impact on our Teacher-Candidates



*“So, if you set it up in a dynamic where... different types of people have [different needs], so if you need to talk to someone, you still get that, if you need silence, you get to think on it on your own, and then people aren’t so stressed... And they actually get to argue and talk back and forth and they’ll remember it more. So for them, I think they’ll master it more.”*

Post-Interview 2, Participant 20

# Broad Impact for Teacher Education

Investigate the effect of Active Engagement (AE) on teacher-candidates' epistemologies

Model AE with the course content

Modeling impacts TCs' epistemologies, regardless of successes/challenges in practicum

*"I'm there as a teacher, (pause) but I'm also there as a student. Conversely, they're there as a student, but they're also there as a teacher. That doesn't mean they're teaching necessarily, teaching me. They're teaching each other... You're always a student-teacher, regardless of whether or not, what your position says. The-the moment you step out, and you meet someone, you now are both a teacher and a learner."*

Post-Interview 1, Participant 15

# Broad Impact for Teacher Education

Explore a possible mechanism for AE pedagogy

Clicker-enhanced pedagogy works as a mechanism for AE pedagogy in a small class

*“Coming into the program, we were all sort of thought that we were expected to be masters, and if the instructor puts up a clicker question, you think ‘Jeez, I don’t actually know the answer’ – immediately you think well, we’re all supposed to be masters, I’m probably the only one who doesn’t know. But uh when the responses come in, you see other people think like you, it’s definitely reassuring.”*

Pre-Interview 2, Participant 9



# Broadening the Horizon of Science Education: Synergetic Collaborations across Disciplinary Boundaries

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# Elbert Hubbard (1854-1915)



*One computer can do the work of fifty ordinary teachers. No computer can do the work of one extraordinary Teacher.”*

~ Adapted from an American writer, publisher, artist and philosopher, E. Hubbard (1854-1915)



# Resources

1. Beatty, I., Gerace, W., Leonard, W., & Defresne, R. (2006). Designing Effective Questions for Classroom Response System Teaching. *American Journal of Physics*, 74(1), 31–39.
2. CWSEI Clicker Resource Guide: An Instructors Guide to the Effective Use of Personal Response Systems (Clickers) in Teaching. (2009, June 1).
3. Lasry, Nathaniel. (2008). Clickers or Flashcards: Is There Really a Difference? *The Physics Teacher*, 46(May), 242-244.
4. Milner-Bolotin, Marina. (2004). Tips for Using a Peer Response System in the Large Introductory Physics Classroom. *The Physics Teacher*, 42(8), 47-48.
5. Mishra, P., & Koehler, M. J. (2007). Technological pedagogical content knowledge (TPCK): Confronting the wicked problems of teaching with technology. In *Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education International Conference* (Vol. 2007, pp. 2214–2226). Retrieved from <http://www.editlib.org/p/24919/>
6. Milner-Bolotin, Marina, Fisher, Heather, & MacDonald, Alexandra. (2013). Modeling active engagement pedagogy through classroom response systems in a physics teacher education course. *LUMAT: Research and Practice in Math, Science and Technology Education*, 1(5), 525-544