ZMATH 2009e.00119

Watson, Jane; Donne, Julie

TinkerPlots as a research tool to explore student understanding.

Technol. Innov. Stat. Educ. 3, No. 1, 35 p., electronic only (2009).

Summary: This paper explores the use of the dynamic software package, TinkerPlots, as a research tool to assist in assessing students' understanding of aspects of beginning inference. Two interview protocols used previously with middle school students in printed format without computer software were introduced to a new sample of students through data sets entered in TinkerPlots. The later group of students had experienced a series of lessons using TinkerPlots but the activities were based on different data sets. Of interest in this exploratory study is an analysis of the affordances provided by TinkerPlots to researchers in their quest to assist students in explaining their thinking about the data sets. These are considered in relation to those provided by the format of the earlier interviews.

Classification: C33 C83 R23
Keywords: middle school students, research tools, statistical understanding, student interviews, TinkerPlots