

Title: How Do iPads Facilitate Social Interaction in the Classroom?
Preliminary Research Report

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Abstract: Traditionally, research on technology in mathematics education focuses on interactions between the user and the technology, but little is known about how technology can facilitate interaction among students. In this preliminary report we will explore how students use iPads while negotiating mathematical meaning in a community of learners. We are currently studying the use of iPads in an introductory business calculus course. We will report on classroom observations and a series of small-group interviews in which students explore the concepts of local and global extrema. Our preliminary results are that the portability of iPads and the intuitive applications have allowed students to easily incorporate the iPad into their collaborations.

Keywords: business calculus, social constructivism, classroom technology, iPad