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Title: Learning analytics and its potential application to Maynooth

Abstract:

Learning analytics is a new field which applies statistical methods to data obtained about student behaviour. Drawing on 10 years' experience of teaching large first year classes in mathematics and statistics, I will discuss how we have used data about student engagement to predict and subsequently improve student performance. Numerous complex issues arise during the process including: the ethics of obtaining such data; the practicalities of manipulating the data; assessing the effectiveness of any intervention; and getting these interventions to be used by the university. I will report on the advantages and the pitfalls, and discuss how such initiatives might be used by Maynooth.