Application of Data-Logging Technology in Secondary School Science Classrooms: A case Study

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Issues to be addressed in this study

1. What teaching strategy can be adopted when data logging is used as a tool to demonstrate experiments?

2. Can the adoption of the teaching strategy and the integration of data logging result in:
   (a) promoting high order thinking
   (b) rectifying misconception
Issues to be addressed in this study

3. What are the pattern of interaction between teacher, students and technology?

4. What challenges may emerge upon the implementation of data logging in science teaching and learning?
The Conceptual framework of the Research Process

Pedagogical approaches + Data Logging

High order thinking

Conceptual change

Effective learning
Components of the data logging system

- Interface unit
- Sensors
- Computer
- LCD Projector
Data collection

By video recording the science lessons conducted in the laboratory
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S1</td>
<td>1C</td>
<td>Evaporation</td>
<td>To show the relationship between evaporation and cooling. To find out the factors which affect the rate of evaporation. (Frost, 1998 P.94-97)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S2</td>
<td>2C</td>
<td>Acids and alkalis</td>
<td>To find out that the amount of acid required to neutralize an alkali depends on the amount of the alkali dissolved, and not the volume of water added. (Frost, 1998 p.89)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S3</td>
<td>3D</td>
<td>Digestion</td>
<td>To find out how temperature and amount affect the activity of enzyme (amylase). (Frost, 1998 P.117)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Data Analysis

From the perspective of pedagogical approach, the analysis involves the following aspects:

1. Identifying the activities performed by teacher and students
2. Defining the objectives of the activities
3. Evaluating the effects as a result of the activities.
Pathways of interaction

Physical apparatus

Computer representation

Teacher

A

B

C

D

Students

Data logger

1

2

1

2
Effect of evaporation on temperature

Temperature vs Time (Evaporation)

- Time (s)
- Temperature (°C)

The graph illustrates the decrease in temperature over time due to evaporation.
Effect of wind on the rate of evaporation

Temperature vs Time (wind)

Temperature, ChA, Run #1
Temperature, ChB, Run #1
Effect of area exposure on the rate of evaporation

Temperature vs Time (Exposure)

Temperature vs Time (Exposure) graph showing the temperature in Celsius (°C) on the y-axis and time in seconds (s) on the x-axis. The graph compares Temperature, ChA, Run #3 (solid blue line) and Temperature, ChB, Run #3 (dashed pink line).
Titration curve

pH vs volume of acid (2B)

- pH, ChA vs Volume, Run #3
- pH, ChA (pH)
- pH, ChA vs Volume, Run #4
- pH, ChA vs Volume, Run #1
- pH, ChA vs Volume, Run #2
Effect of temperature on the activity of enzyme
Effect of concentration of amylase on its action

Absorbance vs Time (Concentration)

Absorbance vs Time (S)
Findings

1. Using data logging as the tool to demonstrate experiment, inductive/discovery pedagogical approach is adopted by teacher who has posed structured questions to help students analyze data and formulate concepts.

2. Students are stimulated and engaged in high order thinking that subsequently leads to conceptual change.

3. The computer representations can enter the interaction network via multiple ways due to the disparity in the employment of the representations by teacher and students as their roles are different in the discourse.
Conclusion

1. The instantaneously data presented on the screen has provided a shared focus on which discussion can take place.

2. In order to guide students through the process of formulating conceptions, inductive /discovery pedagogical approach is adopted.
Conclusion

3. Students are guided into a framework of analysis which involves high order thinking that is characterized as depicting uncertainty, effortful thinking, making judgments, interpretation and decision.

4. The representations generated by the data logging play the role to enhance the collaborative interactions between teacher and students as well as between student and student.
Challenges

1. Overcoming obstacles to implementation
2. Implementation of innovation
3. Planning activities using data logging
4. Defining learning objectives
5. Adopting appropriate pedagogical paradigm.