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An Asynchronous Peer Instruction Platform

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Few pedagogical approaches have been as well documented in physics education research as Peer Instruction as developed by Eric Mazur at Harvard University 25 years ago. Peer instruction is an interactive process that takes place in real-time between students in a classroom. However, could Peer Instruction be used asychronously? The utility of asynchronous Peer Instruction is evident for blended and e-learning approaches (MOOCs in particular). Furthermore, as instructors shift more of their classroom content to preparatory activities given to students before class (as with Just in Time Teaching and flipped classroom) asynchronous Peer Instruction platforms also provide an effective way to prepare students for class. We describe the development in three Montreal-based Cegeps of a Peer Instruction platform called DALITE. We also describe its migration onto the Open edX platform with use cases from an MITx physics MOOC and a HarvardX course called Justice.

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