

962-P1-945

**Kevin E. Charlwood\*** (zzcharlw@washburn.edu), Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Washburn University, 1700 SW College Avenue, Topeka, KS 66621. *Cooperative Learning and Technology Use in the Teaching of Modern Algebra*. Preliminary report.

We shall discuss the use of cooperative learning exercises and a computer algebra system such as Maple in a one-semester modern algebra course. This course is designed primarily to enhance the student's proof skills, with a focus on elementary group theory. The format of the course is lecture/discussion with an emphasis on having students work cooperatively in groups of up to four to study concepts ranging from binary operations, to orders of permutations in a symmetry group, among other topics. As some of the computational aspects of modern algebra are new to our students, we make use of Maple as warranted to get students to the stage of making conjectures and then proving their claims more quickly. Sample assignments and worksheets will be provided. (Received September 29, 2000)