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Using Scroll Bars and Macros in Excel to Excite and Engage Students.

There are many reasons to use spreadsheets as a tool in mathematics classes. In addition to the more obvious reasons connected with the workplace, students appreciate being able to see the numerical data and graphical representation on one screen. Spreadsheets also allow students to answer "What if?" questions more easily by changing one attribute of an equation or model to see what would happen. As the files become more inter-active, students become more engaged in their own learning.

This paper will discuss two features of Microsoft Excel; the scroll bar and macros. Both of these features allow the instructor to create a highly interactive spreadsheet that can be changed easily to investigate concepts using graphs or numerical data. These features allow the user to create files for students to work on independently or files that can be used by the instructor during a presentation/demonstration. (Received July 12, 2005)