

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

In July 1996, the Eighth International Congress of Mathematics Education was held in Seville, Spain. The Topic Group 18 *Roles of calculators in the classroom* centered its work on graphing calculators and new hand-held computers and their role in Mathematics Education. Its target population was secondary teachers with little experience with calculators.

The purposes of this Topic Group were:

- To inform, develop and support reflection and discussion concerning the roles that calculators have played and can play in the teaching and learning of Secondary Mathematics.
- To show both why and how teachers would want their students to use hand-held computer technology.
- To present the “state of the art” on calculators and hand-held computers and their role in Mathematics Education.

The Topic Group will meet during two sessions of one hour and a half each. Each of the two sessions were divided into three activities:

Plenary presentations

There were two plenary presentations (20 minutes each) in each session. These were given by invited speakers who presented their views on the relationship between graphing calculators and objectives of Mathematics education, content, learning and teaching issues.

Short talks

Specific projects and experiences were presented in short talks of 5 minutes each.

Questions.

The last 20 minutes of each session were used for discussion and questions.

The meeting attracted many people and was quite varied in the issues discussed. This book presents the extended versions of the papers presented during the meetings.

The meetings were coordinated by Pedro Gómez and Bert Waits. Juan Manuel García and Nestor Aguilera helped with the local organization. We want to thank Patrick (Rick) Scott who translated from Spanish two of the papers.

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