

CIC NEXTBOOK

Co-created Interactive Courseware

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Case study report - KU Leuven: Preparation for and feedback after mid-term test Applied Mechanics Part 1, 2022-2023

Tinne De Laet | KU Leuven December 2022



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The course material of this case study report is available here:

https://nextbook.io/book/tm1-ttt2022-modeloplossing

https://nextbook.io/book/tm1-ttt-2021modeloplossing

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1. Context

This case study reports on an intervention with the interactive courseware platform Nextbook targeted at activating students around the mid-term evaluation (called "tussentijdse toets") of a first-year bachelor course at KU Leuven..

The case study was executed at KU Leuven in Flanders, Belgium. KU Leuven is a highly ranked research-intensive university both regarding research and education. The course of this case study was a first-year bachelor course in engineering mechanics (Applied Mechanics, part 1), a mandatory course for students in the bachelor of Engineering Science and the bachelor of Engineering Science: Architecture. Applied Mechanics, part 1 is a course with around 700 engineering and engineering architecture students, with a low success rate (around 40%). It is considered to be a hard course by students because it is expected that they can apply basic mechanical principles of statics, dynamics, and kinematics to real-life applications.

2. Challenge

In order for students to be successful in their university studies, academic integration of first-year students is key. First-year students have to get familiar with the expectations of university education, especially regarding exams. To this end, the faculty of Engineering Science of KU Leuven organizes mid-term tests for their first-year students. These mid-term tests take place in the middle of the first semester and provide students with a realistic exam-setting both regarding the content of the exam and the exam circumstances. To motivate students to prepare well for the mid-term tests, the final grade of students who pass the mid-term test will consist of 25% of the score of the mid-term test, provided that it improves the final score. As a result, a student's final score can only improve based on the mid-term test.

Only half of the students of the bachelor of Engineering Science can participate in the mid-term test of the course. The program draws a lot two two weeks before the actual test to decide which students participate in which two mid-term tests of the four mid-term tests offered. For the bachelor of Engineering Science: architecture, all students can participate in the mid-term test.

Within the course of Applied Mechanics, part 1, students are provided with dedicated preparation material for the mid-term test, and elaborate feedback after the mid-term test. This material is obviously of interest to all students, not only students that participate in the mid-term test.

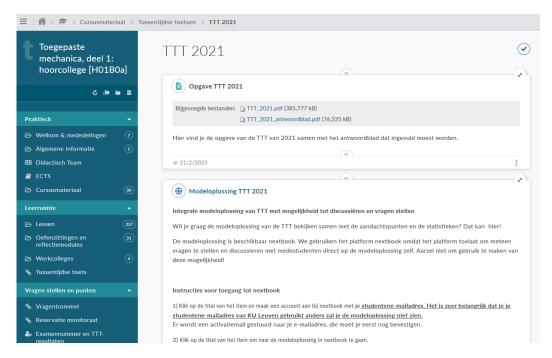
Compared to the <u>case study of the previous year in the same course</u>, where Nextbook was only used for the feedback on the mid-term test, this case also included the preparation for the mid-term test on Nextbook.

3. Co-creation solution

Both the preparation for the mid-term test and the feedback after the mid-term test was offered on the Nextbook platform to **757 students**.

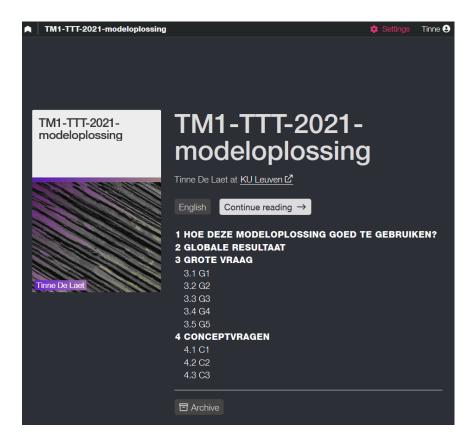
Preparation for the mid-term test

In the virtual learning environment of the course students were offered preparatory material for the mid-term test, built around the mid-term test of the previous year.



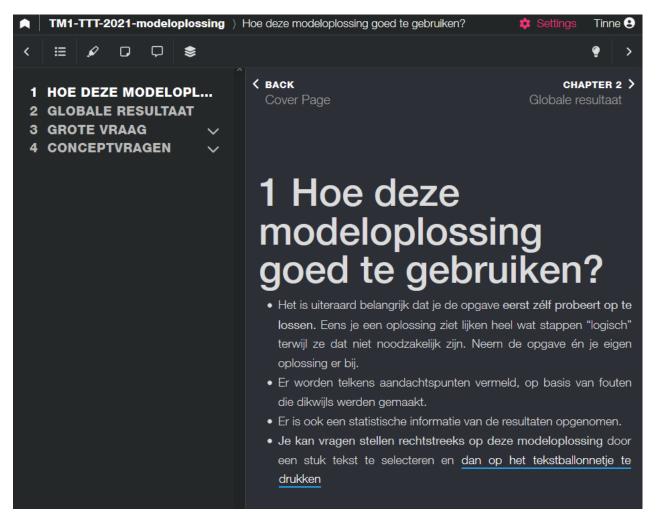
View of the virtual learning environment with the preparatory material built around the mid-term test of the previous year (TTT 2021). The item "Modeloplossing TTT 2021" refers to the material in Nextbook, where the model solution was made available.

The Nextbook platform was used to offer the model solution to the mid-term test of the previous year, together with statistical information from last year's student cohort.



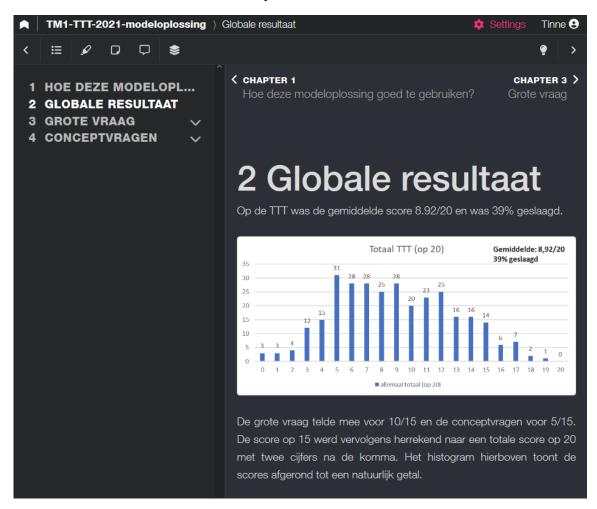
Model solution of the mid-term test of 2021 as preparatory material.

First, students are instructed on how this model-solution can be used most beneficially, including how they can use the Nextbook functionality for asking questions or discussing the model solution.



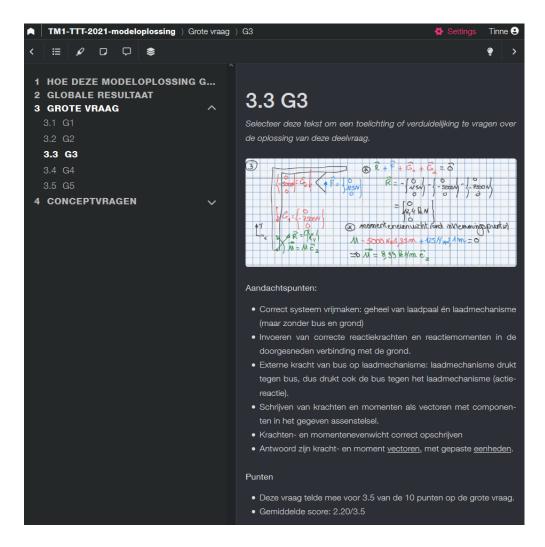
Instructions on how to use this model solution, including instructions on how to ask questions using Nextbook's functionality

To provide students with information on how students typically score on the mid-term test, statistical information on the scores of last year's student cohort is offered.



The preparatory material includes statistical information on the scores of last year's student cohort.

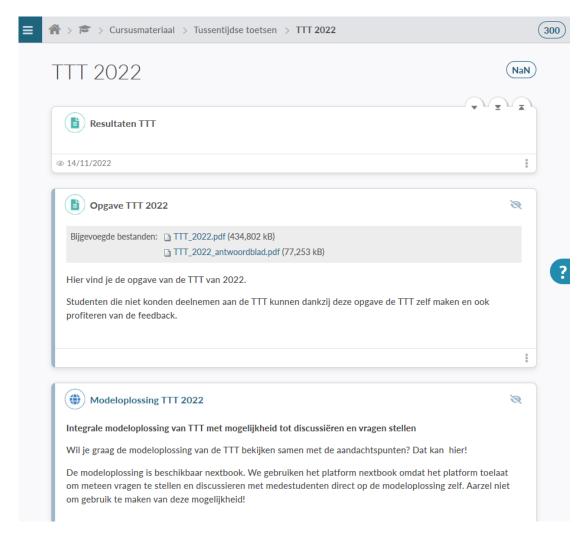
For each of the questions of last year's mid-term test, a hand-written model solution is offered together with points of attention ("aandachtspunten"), and information on last year students' scores on the particular question. The points of attention hope to point to important elements and help students prevent typical mistakes.



For each question on last year's mid-term test, a hand-written model solution is offered together with points of attention ("aandachtspunten"), and information on last year students' scores on the particular question.

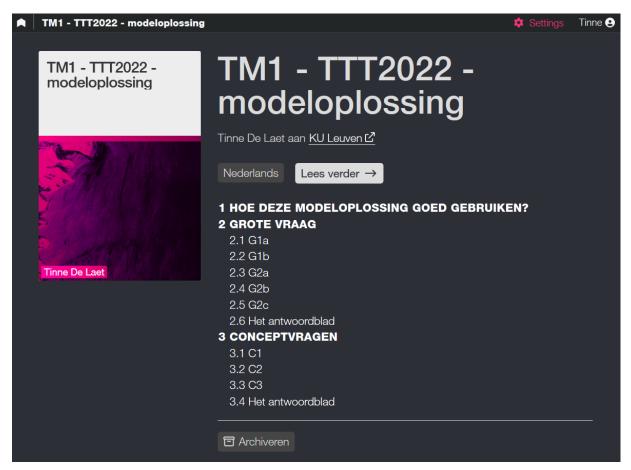
Feedback after the mid-term test

In the virtual learning environment of the course students were offered feedback after the mid-term test. This feedback was directly relevant for the students that took the mid-term test, but also for students that could not take the mid-term test but were enrolled in the course.



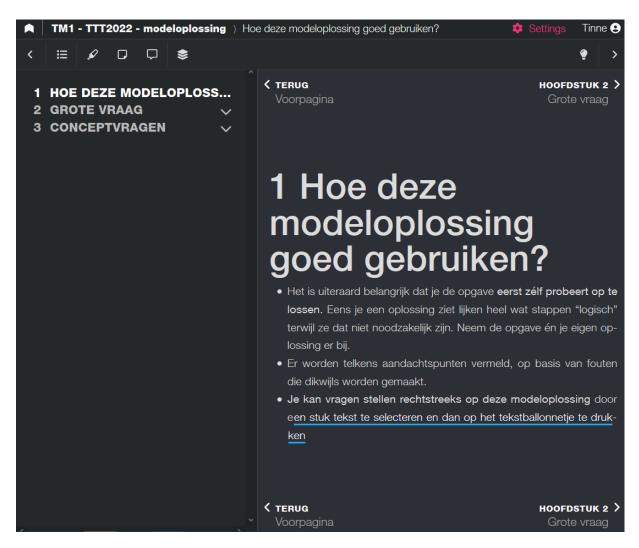
View of the virtual learning environment with a link to the model solution of the mid-term test ("Modeloplossing TTT 2022")

In the Nextbook platform the student could immediately get an overview of the structure of the model solution



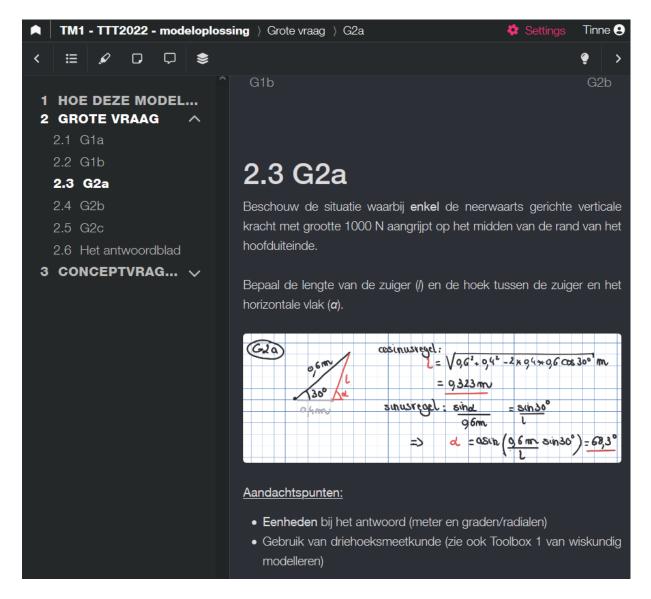
Overview of the Nextbook material containing the model solution for the mid-term test of 2022.

Next, students were instructed on how this model-solution can be used most beneficially, including how they can use the Nextbook functionality for asking questions or discussing the model solution.



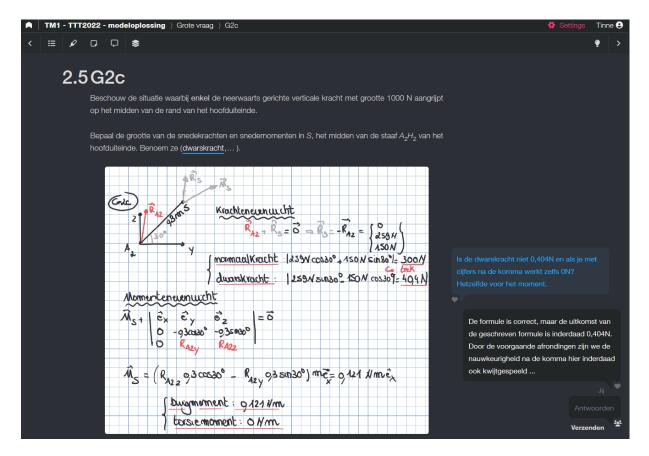
Instructions on how to use the model solution, including instructions on how to ask questions using Nextbook's functionality.

For each of the questions of the mid-term test, a hand-written model solution is offered together with points of attention ("aandachtspunten"). The points of attention hope to point to important elements and help students prevent typical mistakes.



For each question of the mid-term test, a hand-written model solution is offered together with points of attention ("aandachtspunten").

Students could ask questions directly on the model solution as illustrated in the figure below.



A student asking a question by interacting in Nextbook.

Situation within co-creation framework of Bovill

We situate the co-creation solution within the framework of Bovill, 2019.

Question	Possible responses							
Who initiates the co-creation?	Staff-led	Student-lead	Staff and students					Other (elaborate)
What is the focus of the co-creation? (see Bovill & Woolmer, 2018; Healey et al., 2014)	Entire curriculum (co-creation of the curriculum)	Learning & teaching (co-creation in the curriculum)	Educational research & evaluation	Disciplinary research	Wider student experience			Other (elaborate)
What is the context for the co-creation? (see Bovill & Woolmer, 2018; MercerMapst one et al., 2017)	Curricular	Extra-curricul ar	University-wi de					Other (elaborate)
How many students are involved? (see Mercer-Mapst one et al., 2017	1-5 (specify specific number)	6-10 (specify specific number)	11-20 (specify specific number)	21-30 (specify specific number)	31-100 (specify specific number)	101-500(250)	>500 (757)	Other (elaborate)

Have you selected students from a larger group or are you involving a whole class? (See Bovill, 2019; Bryson et al., 2015)	Selected	Whole class/group						Other (elaborate)
Which students are involved? (See Bovill, 2014)	Retrospective	Current	Aspiring/Futu re					Other (elaborate)
What year of study are the students in?	First -year of Bachelor	Bachelor later than 1st year	Master	Master after Master	PhD	Postgraduate	Lifelong-learn ing	Other (elaborate)
What is the scale of the co-creation?	1 class/interact ion moment	several classes / interaction moments	1 project	several projects	Entire course	Faculty/schoo l-wide	Institution-wi de	Other (elaborate)
How long does the co-creation last?	Days	Months	Years					
What is the role of the student? (See	Representativ e	Consultant	Co-researcher	Pedagogical co-designer	Participant			Other (elaborate)

Bovill et al., 2016)							
What is the nature of student involvement? (See Bovill, 2017; Könings et al., 2017)	Informed	Consulted	Co-researcher	Pedagogical co-designer	Contributor		Other (elaborate)
What is the nature of reward or recompense given to students?	Payment in money	Payment in vouchers	Course credit	Refreshments	No payment or reward		Other (elaborate)
What is the goal of the co-creation?	To improve the course	To enhance student engagement	Aiming for a socially just higher education	To get the benefits of co-creation in the course	Incorporating the student perspective	To enhance student's skills	Other (elaborate)

4. Discussion

In the academic year 2022-2023 all 757 students in the course were enrolled in the two Nextbook handbooks supporting the mid-term test.

For the preparation: from the virtual learning environment unfortunately no students actively engaged with the preparatory material on Nextbook itself. Also for the feedback on the mid-term test merely three questions were asked through the Nextbook platform. Students prefer to use the tools used for other material in the course to ask their questions: the discussion forum on the virtual learning environment, or ask their teaching assistants in class. So despite that with respect to the case study of last year, not only the feedback after the mid-term test but also the preparation for the mid-term test was integrated on Nextbook, it did not increase the active interaction of students on the platform.

Therefore, we learned that if we want to promote interaction and co-creation through a platform such as Nextbook, that this platform should be preferably used by all material in the course and from the beginning of the course itself. Furthermore, the interaction and co-creation should be more actively stimulated especially with first-year students and large classes.

Acknowledgments

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