

Abstract Submitted
for the TSF10 Meeting of
The American Physical Society

Investigating the Spatial Abilities of Students Taking Physics in Community College M.R. HOSSU, North Lake College, Irving, TX, USA, X. CID, R. LOPEZ, Department of Physics, The University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, TX, USA — Two independent tests that involve spatial visualization abilities, the PFT (Paper Folding Test) and the MRT (Mental Rotation Test) were given to different sections of introductory level physics students. The results show a strong correlation between the results of the two tests regardless of the different level of mathematics used in instruction (algebra or calculus). A statistically significant difference was found for both tests between the summer semester students (mostly 4-year university students) and the fall semester students (mostly community college students). No correlation was found between the PFT or MRT and FCI (Force Concept Inventory).

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Date submitted: 24 Sep 2010

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