Analyzing Test Errors
based upon Paul Nolting's "Winning at Math"

It is important to analyze and correct your mistake when you get back your test. Generally, there are six type of errors made on a test:

1) **Direction Errors** include reading, skipping, or not understanding the directions to a problem.

2) **Careless Errors** are typical errors a person can catch and correct IMMEDIATELY upon reviewing the test.

3) **Concept Errors** are errors when a property or concept is not fully understood. Students have a tendency to think these are careless errors, but if the mistake cannot be identified and corrected immediately, then it is a concept error. Another good test is that if a person cannot write the concept in his/her own words, then the person does not understand the concept.

4) **Application Errors** are errors when a person knows the concept, but cannot apply it to an application such as solving a word problem or deriving a formula.

5) **Test-taking Errors** are errors in how a person took a test. These including, but are not limited to:
   a) Spending too much time on one problem or on one part of the test.
   b) Not finishing a problem.
   c) Changing an answer from a correct answer to an incorrect answer.
   d) Arriving late to a test or leaving early during a test.
   e) Rushing through the easiest part of test and making careless errors.
   f) Leaving an answer blank.
   g) Not understanding how to use your calculator and/or bring the wrong type of calculator for the test.
   h) Miscopying a problem to a piece of scratch paper or miscopying the solution from a piece of scratch paper.

6) **Study Errors** are errors in how a person studied for the test. If a person missed a problem because he/she studied the wrong material or did not practice that particular type of problem enough.