

The Role of Computer Science Education for Understanding and Shaping the Digital Society



Prof. Dr. Ralf Romeike Computing Education Research Group Berlin Freie Universität Berlin



ComputingEducation

Computer science explained!



Computer Science Education









Computer Science Education: Text processing



→ An understanding of Computer Science concepts helps to use computer systems effectively and efficiently.



Why CS education? The digital transformation.



- Simulation, big data, artificial intelligence lead to further developments and changes in the disciplines
- Competencies of computer science are increasingly considered relevant, i.e. for all school students, as well as in general teacher education
- Internationally, computational thinking ("thinking like a computer scientist") as a door opener for computer science education



The Computational Thinkers

concepts

Logic



Evaluation Making judgements

Predicting & analysing



Algorithms Making steps & rules



Patterns Spotting & using similarities



Decomposition Breaking down into parts



Abstraction Removing unnecessary detail



Changing things to see what happens

Designing & making

Debugging Finding & fixing errors

Persevering

Collaborating Working together

We're all computational thinkers here!

When you think about it, whether we're parents, pupils or teachers - we're all natural computer scientists, capable of computational thinking.

Our brains, like computers, process, debug and make simple algorithms every day!





Which concepts and approaches of Computational Thinking do teachers consider applicable in primary school?



Study with primary school teachers n = 578 60% response rate
 1
 3
 5

 2
 4
 6

1 = strongly applicable6 = not applicable



Which concepts and approaches of Computational Thinking do teachers consider applicable in primary school?



2 Clusters:

CT welcoming: Teachers with **more experience** in teaching with and about digital technology and who feel **more competent.**

CT skeptics: Teachers with less experience in teaching with and about digital technology and who feel less competent.





Computational Thinking in practice

ETH zürich Sicherheit, Gesundheit und Umwelt SGU Korrekt Händewaschen **Proper hand washing** Hände unter Wasser benetzen Wet hands with water when I want proper hand washing Hände gut einseifen Apply enough soap wet hands with water apply enough soap Hände 20 Sekunden reiben (inklusive Handrücken, Finger und Handgelenke) repeat until < 20 seconds are over Rub hands including back of the hand, fingers and wrists for 20 seconds rub hands rinse well Gründlich abspülen **Rinse well** pat well with towel



Mit Handtuch gut abtupfen (nicht reiben) Pat well with a towel (do not rub)

23.04.2020







2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9.



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CS Education needs to focus on the principles and fundamental ideas of computer science!

Based on Claus Brabrand: Teaching teaching & understanding understanding



Fundamental Ideas

- are relevant to the historical development ۲ of the area in the longer term (time criterion) \rightarrow The answer to rapid change
- can be taught at different intellectual levels (vertical criterion) \rightarrow Spiral principle across different stages
- reference to language and thinking in everyday life and the ۲ world in which we live and are necessary for understanding the subject (criterion of sense)











Innovation: From databases to "data management"

- *Data management* has developed over the last 15-20 years, mainly as an extension of the field of "databases".
- Basis for many innovations of the "digital society"
- What's new?
 - Reassessment of concepts *e.g. consistency*
 - technological innovations e.g. NoSQL, data stream systems
 - new analysis ideas *e.g. data mining*
 - increasing complexity in handling of data
 Big Data





Finding key concepts of data management

Central question: Which CS ideas and concepts are central in DM?

- Development of an approach for the systematic data-based characterization of a subject area
- Oriented towards *Fundamental Ideas of Computer Science* (Schwill) and *Great Principles of Computing* (Denning)



Grillenberger, Andreas and Romeike, Ralf: Key concepts of data management: an empirical approach, In: Montero, Calkin Suero, Joy, Mike (eds.): Proceedings of the 17th Koli Calling Conference on Computing Education Research, 2017.



A Model of Key Concepts of Data Management



Grillenberger, Andreas and Romeike, Ralf: Key concepts of data management: an empirical approach, In: Montero, Calkin Suero, Joy, Mike (eds.): Proceedings of the 17th Koli Calling Conference on Computing Education Research, 2017.



What should be taught - related to AI?

Dear Prof. Dr. Romeike,

I am currently working on the topic of "Artificial Intelligence in Computer Science Education" as part of my work in the Computer Science Teaching Commission (state of XXX). I estimate the importance of this topic for computer science teaching very highly and would also like to integrate teaching units in the curriculum. For this purpose, I would like to formulate content-related competencies - starting from grade 6 up to grade 10. During my research, I came across some of your publications, but could not find any concrete competency formulations. That is why I am addressing you directly. Have you already formulated competencies on the topic of AI for teaching in general education schools that I could use as a guideline, or can you possibly point me in the direction of a contact person? I would be very grateful if you could help me further.

With kind regards Dr. XXX (Headmaster)



What should be taught - related to AI?

The recent advances in the field of Artificial Intelligence are related to machine learning, a subfield of AI.



What are the ideas and principles behind

- "classic" Artificial Intelligence,
- machine learning, e.g. *reinforcement learning*?

Is it possible to teach AI in lower secondary in an appropriate way?

What should be taught?

How can it be explained to students?



Approaches to teaching Al





What should be taught...

... related to quantum computing?

What should everyone and anyone know about

- qubits,
- superposition,
- quantum entanglement?

What are the ideas and principles of quantum computer science?



Michaeli, Tilman, Seegerer, Stefan and Romeike, Ralf: *Quanteninformatik als Thema und Aufgabengebiet informatischer Bildung*, In: Humbert, Ludger (ed.): INFOS 2021 – 19. GI-Fachtagung Informatik und Schule, Gesellschaft für Informatik, Bonn, 2021.







How to teach?

Project-based learning: Collaboration, self-organization, social interaction, ...





How to teach?

Project-based learning: Collaboration, self-organization, social interaction, ...

... based on the waterfall model of software development

... based on agile methods of software development





Development of an agile framework for project-based learning with design-based research





Design-Based Research (DBR)





Research-led implementation and further development with design-based research

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Jens Gallenbacher (Hrsg.): INFOS 2015 - Informatik allgemeinbildend begreifen Lecture Notes in Informatics (LNI), Gesellschaft für Informatik, Bonn 2015 83

Ein Bild vom Wesen der Softwareentwicklung: Erfahrungen aus zwei agilen Projekten

Leonore Dietrich¹, Andreas Gramm², Petra Kastl³ und Ralf Romeike³

	Jens Gallenbacher (Hrsg.): INFOS 2015 – Informatik allgemeinbildend begreifen Lecture Notes in Informatics (LNI), Gesellschaft für Informatik, Bonn 2015 63		
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B. in Fo hat es ir haben in	Eine we thoden auch di	SchülerInner bausteine jev Methoden w	Ulrich Kiesmüller ¹ , Petra Kastl ² und Ralf Romeike ³
bürokrat sowie ei nächster	nachvol Method die Proj	beitsprozess. Unterrichtsso gen. Es were	Abstract: In diesem Beitrag werden zwei jeweils achtmonatige Unterrichtsprojekte zweier 10. Klas-
von Ver Unternel	offenbai verstehe	"geskripteter ben.	sen eines bayerischen Gymnasiums vorgesiellt. Über die gesamte Zeit entwickelten Gruppen von je fünf bis neun Schülerinnen und Schülern mit der Programmiersprache Java ihr eigenes Software- projekt und erarbeiteten sich dabei informatische Konzepte der objektorientierten Programmierung
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Software Agile M	eXtremo Im Folg	1 Eink Die Verwei	werten kontraster zu den Erfamfungen aus den vorjanfeit, in denen nach den wasserlahmoden vorgegangen wurde. Abschließend werden wesentliche Erkenntnisse und Erfahrungen, die in die Weiterentwicklung des agilen Modells fließen, zusammengestellt.
allen Phi ¹ QAware LMU M	siert und sich dab Abb. 1). gen an User St	lich zu [Kc der Softwan sich sehr p [Ko14]. Au	Keywords: Einsatz agiler Methoden der Softwareentwicklung im Informatikunterricht, Projektun- terricht
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	¹ Friedrich	fachliche, r entwickeln	wissenschaftlich-technologische Ausbildungsrichtung an bayerischen Gymnasien im Lehr plan der 10. Jahrgangsstufe [IS03] verankert. Als Abschluss ist dort ein kleines Softwa-

reprojekt vorgesehen, um den Lernenden zu vermitteln, dass man umfangreiche Aufga-

ben nur mit sorgfältig geplanter Teamarbeit, strukturiertem Vorgehen und basierend auf

fachlichem Wissen lösen kann. Hierbei geben der bayerische Lehrplan und die gängigen



Research-led implementation and further development with design-based research



Process:

- a total of three cycles evaluated
- approx. 400 pupils
- different contexts:
 - compulsory courses, elective courses, optional courses
 - 8th grade to high school

Data Collection:

• Guided interviews, exemplary project documentation and results

Strengths of the approach:

- cooperation with teachers at eye level
- fruitful and sustainable design of teacher training
- teachers continued as multipliers



Development of an agile framework for project-based learning with design-based research





From question answerer to coach and observer



My role as a teacher changed from "question answerer" and "fault finder" to 50% coach and 50% observer.

I was able to observe very well the technical learning progress and the positive development of social and organizational skills in the students. There was no longer any talk of waiting too long for support. Although I hardly ever had to help, the learners stated in the feedback that they felt well looked after.

Independent, goal-oriented way of working



I was pleasantly surprised when a colleague asked me what I did with my students.

"When I give your students an assignment," she reported, "your students start working, while mine all come forward and ask questions first." Apparently, the project experience led to a sustained, more independent, goal-oriented way of working.









🔋 Ralf 🔻 🥤

With what?

















Sprite11

Sprite12

Lager





















Work collaboratively...





...post...





Seegerer, Stefan, Michaeli, Tilman and Romeike, Ralf: *Investigating How Novices Use and Collaborate with a Version Control System for Block-Based Languages*, In: LaTiCE2020: The Seventh International Conference on Learning and Teaching in Computing and Engineering, 2020.







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