

## Education 4.0 and Computer Science: a systematic review

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# Education 4.0 and Computer Science: a systematic review

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**Abstract**— Computer science (CS) is a broad subject which is relevant in contemporary education, including Education 4.0. In this systematic literature review (SLR) we explore how CS educators implemented innovative learning designs in their teaching practices. We focus on cataloguing learning design approaches to teaching and learning of CS that are aligned with Education 4.0. The SLR included CS papers published between 2016 and 2020 from four research databases. We focused on three research questions related to I) identification of innovative pedagogic approaches used to support the teaching of CS, II) which of them are aligned with Education 4.0 and III) what skills and competencies do CS educators require in order to align their teaching with Education 4.0. 231 studies were identified of which 66 were included in the final phase. The findings indicate that none of the identified studies explicitly mentioned Education 4.0. Nonetheless, CS educators on average included 4.41 out of nine EDU 4.0 characteristics in their designs, with substantial variation ( $SD = 2.30$ ). Follow-up factor analysis and k-means cluster analysis indicated that CS educators tended to design fairly consistent designs. We found a three-cluster solution: 1) EDU 4.0 light, 2) Project-based/hands-on learning, and 3) Full EDU 4.0. EDU 4.0 light. Studies who used more innovative and Full EDU 4.0 designs were more inclined to refer to skills and competencies needed to teach CS. These findings suggest three broad flavors when designing innovative CS practice. Future research should explore which solutions provide more effective Education 4.0 learning experiences.

**Index Terms**— Computer science, Learning design, Education 4.0, Teaching competencies

## I. INTRODUCTION

The way teachers design blended and online courses has a fundamental impact on how learners engage with learning activities. Under the umbrella term of learning design, a range of studies in this journal has argued that how teachers design their learning activities drives learning [1-3]. For example, in a systematic literature review (SLR) of 43 learning design studies [1] substantial growth in research and application on learning design in higher education has been noted.

Indeed in a recent special issue on learning design and learning analytics substantial progress has been made on how learning design decisions by educators impact learners in the last ten years [4]. For example, [5] examined the learning engagement of 111,256 students in 151 courses at The Open University in the United Kingdom and found that learning design choices made by educators strongly predicted

engagement, satisfaction and performance of students.

Nonetheless, there remains a strong need to “explore how educators plan, implement, and evaluate learning designs” [4].

In particular, there is a paucity of research within the broad discipline of Computer Science (CS) on how educators design for innovative practice [6-8]. Due to the strategic importance of CS and supporting the current and next generation of students to develop appropriate computing and data skills [6, 7, 9, 10], we specifically want to explore how CS educators are producing and implementing innovative learning designs.

This study aims to catalogue learning design approaches to teaching and learning within CS that are aligned with Education 4.0. Definitions of Education 4.0 vary but usually focus on innovation, novelty, use of technology, and connections with employment and industry [10-12]. In this article we define Education 4.0 as “an approach to learning and teaching that emphasizes the development of skills and competences necessary in a modern workplace using up-to-date technology. The skills and competences developed may relate directly to the technology, or they may be the softer skills (such as team-working and creativity) that are needed to work effectively in such an environment. The approach involves the use of technology and/or pedagogy that is innovative in the context, and therefore requires flexible and creative approaches to its implementation” [13].

Given the contemporary conceptualization of Education 4.0 and the rapid pace of development within CS, we will review CS literature published in the last five years. Furthermore, as there is continuous change in technology and CS, we are specifically interested in whether (or not) innovative CS approaches refer to the skills CS educators need to be able to teach in an Education 4.0 manner.

## II. COMPUTER SCIENCE AND EDUCATION 4.0

CS is a broad subject area that covers many disciplines and overlaps with many others. We use the definition provided by the UK Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement on Computing: “Computer science provides the necessary knowledge to understand and build computational systems” [14]. The statement goes on to list the main characteristics of CS and notes that, “[g]enerally, these are expressed in the ability to specify, design and write computer programs.” The breadth of the field means it is able to draw on teaching methods from diverse disciplines and is also used as a way of preparing students for a wide range of professions.

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### A. Previous systematic literature reviews on innovative approaches in CS

A range of SLRs on CS and innovative approaches to teaching and learning have been published in the last five years [e.g., 6, 7, 8, 15]. For example, [6] conducted a meta-analysis of 155 papers from 1980-2014, with the aim of giving “insight into the current research on the education and career development of graduates in the field of ICT”. A broad range of search terms was used, and the findings in terms of curriculum design and delivery indicate a need to adjust curricula to the needs of industry. As argued by [6] “the literature indicates a need for innovative approaches in curriculum design and delivery, such as designing competency-based programs that are not restrained by the traditional semester seat-time model, providing flexible curriculum and minimising the time spent in the classroom, or offering courses on not only how to manage innovation, but also on how to innovate”. In terms of teaching, methods that could help to encourage graduate employability include learning by doing, learning from mistakes, team-work and collaborative learning. Furthermore, a job-oriented experiment course system; problem- or project-based learning; and work-integrated learning to develop a wide range of desired skills, competences and knowledge are encouraged, which link well with some of the Education 4.0 concepts.

In a review of 157 learning designs implemented at The Open University, [15] found that the majority of educators primarily used two types of learning activities, namely assimilative activities (e.g., reading, watching videos, listening to audio) and assessment activities. Often educators combined assimilative, productive (e.g., coding) and assessment activities or, alternatively, assimilative, finding and handling information and communication tasks (e.g., working together with peers).

Using a SLR of 34 papers how software engineering education was aligned with industrial needs in the period 1995-2018, [7] identified eight research questions, of which two are highly relevant to our project (What curriculum models have been used to design the studies?; What educational recommendations are provided in each study?). [7] indicated that the “qualitative coding provided four themes for the educational recommendations provided in the papers: (1) Need for more emphasis on soft skills (20 papers), (2) Need for active Infrastructure as Code (IAC) (3 papers), and (3) Less emphasis on certain topics (2 papers).” In order to encourage development of soft skills, educators need to use real-life projects, implement industry-academia collaboration in the design of education, and anticipate future trends, while also preparing students to deal with those trends [7].

Based upon 195 empirical papers [8] provided an overview of the practices that have been used to integrate software testing into programming education. The study showed that testing practices in programming assignments involved students to different extents: analysing test results from submission tools, working with instructor-provided tests, using support mechanisms to design tests (e.g. plugins where students insert inputs and expected outputs) and, finally, students writing their own tests. However, few studies

addressed how students learned testing concepts in programming courses [8].

While these SLRs provide important and deep insights into how CS, computer programming, and softer skills have been used in a range of CS contexts, none of these studies specifically focus on, mention, or include concepts of Education 4.0. Furthermore, none of these reviews specifically looked at the way the respective learning designs were used.

### B. Education 4.0

This SLR catalogues approaches to teaching and learning within CS that are aligned with Education 4.0. This is a relatively new term – Harkins originally proposed it in 2008 to describe innovation-producing education [16] as opposed to knowledge-producing education. Definitions of Education 4.0 vary but usually focus on innovation, novelty, use of technology, and connections with employment and industry [10-12]. The number 4.0 makes a connection with the view that there have been four industrial revolutions with the current Industry 4.0 increasingly automated, making use of modern smart technologies and the Internet of Things (IoT).

As the meaning of what Education 4.0 means is still being negotiated, this SLR uses two conceptualizations of Education 4.0. Fisk [17] and later on Hussin [11] identified nine characteristics associated with EDU 4.0:

**1 Learning any time / anywhere:** Students will be able to learn where and when they choose.

**2 Personalized learning:** Study tools will adapt to the capabilities of the student.

**3 Choice how to learn:** Students will be able to modify their learning process.

**4 Project-based learning:** Students will learn to apply their skills in a variety of situations.

**5 Hands-on learning:** Students will have authentic experiences and gain real-world skills.

**6 Data interpretation:** Students will learn to interpret and reason with data.

**7 Assessed differently:** Knowledge and skills will be assessed in new ways.

**8 Student ownership of curriculum:** Students will have critical input into their courses.

**9 More independent:** students will become more independent.

The elements identified are all potentially innovative. However, they focus on students rather than on the broader picture of how innovations are developed and embedded in terms of learning design. As indicated in the introduction, in this study we propose an alternative definition of Education 4.0 that draws on ideas and descriptions in a range of literature [10, 12, 18-22]. We define Education 4.0 as an approach to learning and teaching that emphasizes the development of skills and competences necessary in a modern workplace using up-to-date technology. The skills and competences developed may relate directly to the technology, or they may be the softer skills (such as team-working and creativity) that are needed to work effectively in such an environment. The approach involves the use of technology and/or pedagogy that is innovative in the context, and therefore requires flexible and creative approaches to its implementation. Note that in the

remainder of this study, when we use EDU4 we refer to the Hussin [11] conceptualization, while Education 4.0 refers to our own definition.

As evidenced by a range of studies, being able to design and implement innovative pedagogical approaches requires substantial new and/or updated skills and competences from educators to make use of Education 4.0 approaches. A recurring theme seems to be a shift from CS teachers as being a knowledge transmitter to a teacher as a facilitator or moderator or consultant of learning [23]. Teachers could achieve that by being flexible (adapt to change) [24], supportive, help students to develop ownership of learning [25], foster an environment where students take risks and share what they do not know about, and where failure is acceptable. This role was often discussed within a flipped classroom implementation [25] that could give control to students to study the teaching material at their own pace and contact the teacher to solve problems and discuss their learning. In such conditions, the teacher is monitoring a student's progress and facilitates understanding through discussions [26]. An increasing number of CS teachers have started to implement project-based learning and hands-on experiences in their classroom [27]. However, the specific skills and competences needed to design, implement and evaluate effective Education 4.0 CS courses has received limited attention.

In particular with the COVID-19 pandemic and the rapid shift to online education, it is essential to update our insights as to how CS teachers are adopting innovative pedagogies and Education 4.0 approaches. Obviously, what is innovative or not is dependent on the context. We acknowledge that a pedagogy or technology that is really innovative in institution 1 might be common practice in institution 2, and vice versa. In order to investigate which innovations are being introduced in the field of CS a SLR was carried out, focusing on three research questions:

**RQ1:** Which innovative pedagogic approaches are used to support the teaching of Computer Science (CS)?

**RQ2:** Which of these approaches align with Education 4.0?

**RQ3:** What skills and competences do CS educators require in order to align their CS teaching with Education 4.0?

### III. METHOD

In this SRL we follow recommendations from [1, 28]. Four research databases were searched: Science Direct, Wiley InterScience, Web of Science, and Scopus. These were chosen because of their ranking as academic research databases, and good coverage of studies relevant for the review. Papers had to be published in English during the five-year period 2016–2020, thereby increasing the chance that a particular study used a contemporary and innovative pedagogical approach in CS. Keywords had to include Computer Science; undergraduate and/or postgraduate; as well as education, teaching and/or pedagogy. The following search string was used: “computer science” AND education AND teaching AND pedagogy AND (“undergraduate” OR “postgraduate”). These search terms identified 231 unique publications across the four databases. Publications identified using the search

criteria were excluded if any of the following exclusion criteria applied: 1) The focus was on primary and/or secondary education; 2) The focus was on a subject other than Computer Science; 3) The focus was on learners (e.g., their gender or expectations) rather than teaching.

#### A. Coding process

Applying the inclusion and exclusion criteria, 231 studies were identified. In Phase 0, Author RF manually screened the abstracts to check whether the respective studies should be included or excluded based upon the above criteria. Subsequently, 75 studies were excluded.

In Phase 1, following a one-hour online training and discussion of the online coding scheme, 156 studies were read in depth by 18 members of TEACH4EDU project and categorized based upon three inclusion criteria (i.e., 1) is it an ‘innovative’ application in a CS course; 2) Does it use technology or pedagogy in an innovative way; 3) Is the innovation evaluated, if so how?).

By including experts in CS and educational technology from six EU countries we aimed to develop an inclusive multi-disciplinary team of coders to analyze the literature and the innovative nature of the pedagogy used in a CS context. On average the members coded 8.26 studies (range: 3-11), whereby 68 studies were included for subsequent analysis. All studies were annotated and uploaded in Google Drive for a second round of coding.

In Phase 2, 17 members of the TEACH4EDU project participated in a follow-up one-hour online training and discussion of the online coding scheme of 20 variables. Coders were randomly allocated a new set of studies to code in comparison to their initial coding in Phase 1, thereby ensuring that at least two coders checked and independently coded each “innovative” pedagogy in CS. For RQ2, we adopted the nine key EDU 4.0 characteristics [11] and our Education 4.0 definition. For the analysis we used both the individual EDU 4.0 scores as well as the aggregate score. For RQ3, coders indicated whether (or not) any specific skills required by teachers to support the teaching of CS to students were mentioned. If yes, coders could use a follow-up open text box to add any description and conceptualization of teacher skills. Following this, we recoded and aggregated the skills.

On average 4.25 studies (range: 2-10) were coded per coder based upon the coding scheme developed from the above research questions. A random sample of 15 studies was double coded and indicated reliable coding (average Cohen Kappa EDU 4.0 = 0.84). Afterwards, the first coders from Phase 1 checked the codes from the second coders in Phase 2, discussed any differences, and agreed on the final coding (average Cohen Kappa EDU 4.0 = .93). If a study did not indicate any EDU 4.0 characteristic, we removed it from further analysis, and therefore we ended up with a total of 66 studies.

#### B. Data analyses

The vast majority of studies included referred to undergraduate CS students (79%), followed by a mix of undergraduate and post-graduate students. Five studies did not explicitly mention the specific student population, and one included teachers only. 36% of studies were from the USA,

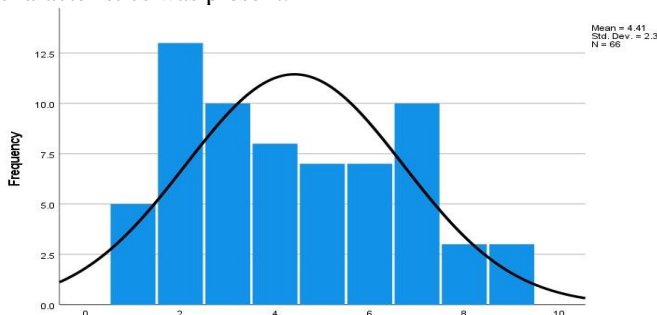
1 followed by Spain (9%), Brazil (8%), and Germany (6%).  
 2 Using the GLOBE geo-cultural regions classification [29],  
 3 47% of studies were conducted by Anglo-Saxon countries,  
 4 followed by Latin American countries and Latin European  
 5 (each 12%), Eastern European (8%), Scandinavian and  
 6 German countries (each 6%), Confucian Asian (5%) and  
 7 Middle Eastern countries (3%). No studies were identified  
 8 from African or Southern Asian countries. Using ANOVA  
 9 analyses, no significant differences were found on our key  
 10 variables and GLOBE, indicating no substantial differences in  
 11 practices in CS based upon national/geo-cultural regions.

12 In terms of reporting the findings of RQ1-2, we first  
 13 explored the overall data, then carried out an exploratory  
 14 factor analysis (principal component analysis) with direct  
 15 oblimin rotation to identify a common structure in the EDU  
 16 characteristics. Multiple factor structures were explored, but a  
 17 two-factor structure had the best fit. Finally, a k-means cluster  
 18 analysis was conducted in order to explore any common  
 19 patterns in terms of learning designs employed by CS  
 20 educators. For RQ3 all articles were screened whether (or not)  
 21 reference was made towards teachers' competences and skills  
 22 to implement a respective innovation. If a study explicitly  
 23 mentioned this, this was coded and included in an open text  
 24 box. These open text boxes were afterwards analyzed by  
 25 authors CH and JS to find common patterns.

26 IV. RESULTS

27 In terms of RQ1 and RQ2, of the 66 studies selected  
 28 perhaps surprisingly none of the studies explicitly mentioned  
 29 "Education 4.0". In part, this could be a result of the relatively  
 30 recent conceptualization of Education 4.0, and in part this  
 31 could be due to the lack of adoption of the term Education 4.0  
 32 in the discipline of CS. Based upon the coding scheme, 66  
 33 studies included at least one EDU 4.0 characteristic [11].  
 34 Furthermore, in total 54 articles (80%) were considered to fit  
 35 our own Education 4.0 definition.

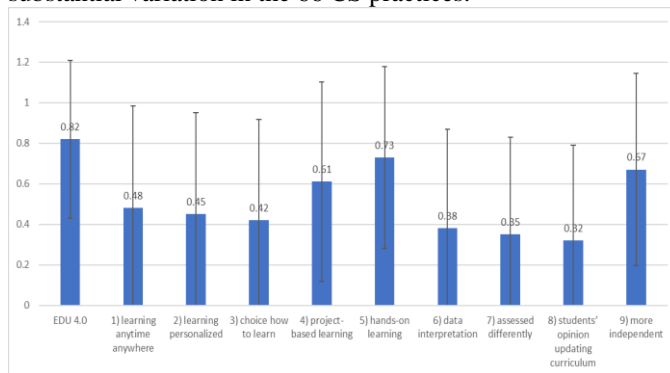
36 As indicated in Figure 1, on average the 66 studies included  
 37 4.41 of the nine EDU 4.0 characteristics, with a substantial  
 38 variation (SD = 2.30). There seemed to be two peaks in Figure  
 39 1, whereby 35% of studies only had 2-3 EDU 4.0  
 40 characteristics, while another peak at 7 EDU 4.0  
 41 characteristics was present.



42 Figure 1 Histogram of Education 4.0

43 The most common EDU 4.0 characteristic was 5) hands-on  
 44 learning (73%), followed by 9) more independent (67%), 4)  
 45 project-based learning (61%). Around half of the studies  
 46 included the characteristic that 1) learning any time /  
 47 anywhere, while around a third of studies included 7) assessed  
 48 differently and 8) student ownership of curriculum (32%).  
 49 Furthermore, as illustrated by the error bars, there was  
 50 substantial variation in the 66 CS practices.

51



52 Figure 2 EDU 4.0 characteristics (with error bars)

53 We found a moderately strong correlation ( $\rho = .429, p < .01$ )  
 54 between the aggregate Hussin [11] and our Education 4.0  
 55 definition, with the strongest correlation on the EDU 4.0  
 56 characteristic 5 ( $\rho = .417, p < .01$ ). The individual EDU 4.0  
 57 characteristics were not all directly and significantly  
 58 correlated. Therefore, a factor analysis was conducted on the  
 59 data collected, which indicated the existence of two factors  
 60 with item loads of .45 and more. The first component had an  
 61 eigenvalue of 2.62 (corresponding to 29% of the explained  
 62 variance), the second component had an eigenvalue of 1.45  
 63 (corresponding to 16% of the explained variance). As  
 64 indicated in

65 Table 1, EDU 4.0 characteristic 2, 1, 6, 9, and 3 loaded on  
 66 the first factor, which we will label as "individual choice and  
 67 development". EDU 4.0 characteristic 4, 5 and 7 loaded on  
 68 the second factor, which we will label as "intention project-  
 69 based/hands-on learning". EDU 4.0 characteristic 8 did not  
 70 load on any factor. Respective Cronbach Alphas for these two  
 71 factors were .68 and .62, indicating reasonable reliability. In  
 72 other words, teachers often combined EDU 4.0 characteristics  
 73 together when designing and implementing CS courses based  
 74 upon these two factors.

75 TABLE 1  
 76 PATTERN STRUCTURE OF FACTOR ANALYSIS EDU 4.0 CHARACTERISTICS

|   | 1    | 2    |
|---|------|------|
| 2) learning will be personalized to individual students   | .769 |      |
| 1) learning can take place anytime anywhere   | .644 |      |
| 6) students will be exposed to data interpretation in which they are required to apply their theoretical knowledge to numbers and use their reasoning skills to make inferences based on logic and trends from given sets of data | .618 |      |
| 9) students will become more independent in their own learning  | .617 |      |
| 3) students have a choice in determining how they want to learn   | .589 |      |
| 8) students' opinion will be considered in designing and updating the curriculum  |      |      |
| 4) students will be exposed to more project-based learning  |      | .883 |
| 5) students will be exposed to more hands-on learning through field experience (e.g., internships, mentoring projects, collaborative projects)  |      | .836 |
| 7) students will be assessed differently and the conventional platforms to assess students may become irrelevant or insufficient  | .455 |      |

77 Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

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Rotation Method: Oblimin with Kaiser Normalization.

Finally, a follow-up analysis using k-means cluster techniques indicated a three-cluster solution across the 66 studies. As illustrated in Figure 3, there seemed to be three clusters of studies, which we label as 1) *EDU 4.0 light* (n = 18), 2) *project-based/hands-on learning* (n = 22), and 3) *full EDU 4.0* (n = 26). With the notable exception of EDU 4.0 characteristic 8, using ANOVAs all EDU 4.0 characteristics were significantly different between the three clusters with large effect sizes. In other words, there appeared to be three distinct innovative pedagogical practices present in published work on CS in the last five years.

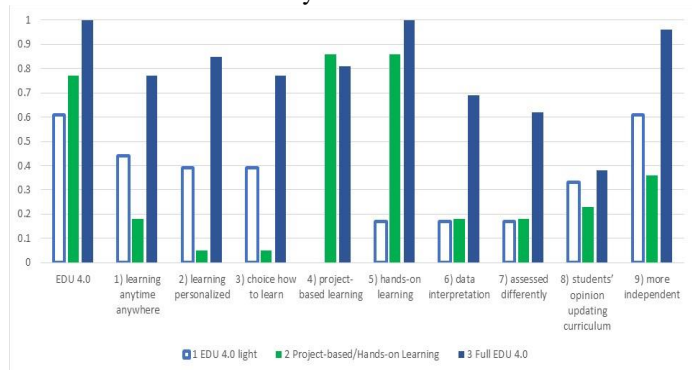


Figure 3 Cluster analysis of EDU 4.0 (3 cluster solution)

As indicated in Figure 4, EDU 4.0 light studies (blue circles) mostly had relatively low total EDU 4.0 scores, and often did not include project-based activities. Therefore, most of these studies in Figure 4 were positioned on the bottom left. In contrast, while some project-based/hands-on learning studies (green circles) also had relatively low EDU 4.0 scores, in particular for personalized learning and choice how to learn, they had a strong focus on project-based and hands-on learning. Therefore, many of these studies are positioned in the middle to top-left quadrant of Figure 4. Finally, studies which were classified as full EDU 4.0 studies (blue triangles) were mostly positioned in the middle and right of Figure 4, indicating these studies used more and even all EDU 4.0 characteristics in their designs. Note that the numbers in Figure 4 refer to the studies discussed below.

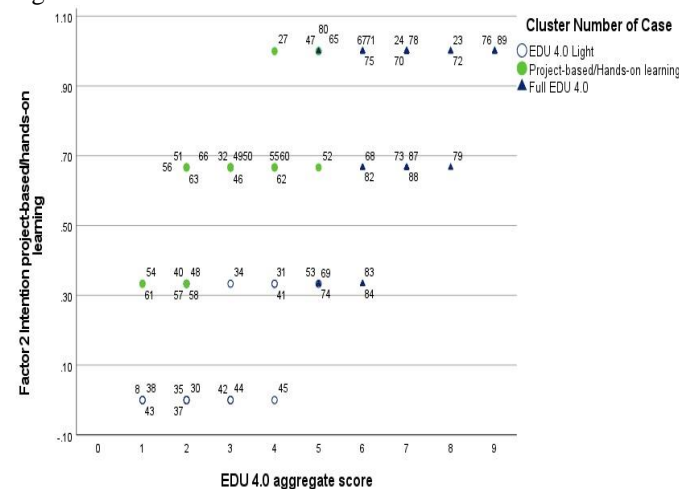


Figure 4 Scatterplot of cluster analysis results of 66 studies

### A. EDU 4.0 light

As indicated in Table 2, in EDU 4.0 light studies teachers mostly focused on more 9) more independent (61%), learning any time / anywhere (44%), personalized learning (39%), and choice how to learn (39%), but with limited hands-on learning (17%) and no project-based learning (0%). For example, [30] introduced the concept of a modern C++ course for students of electrical engineering and CS based on an inverted classroom and with attractive IoT hardware. The main goal of the new course was to reduce lecture time in favor of practical learning of students through programming.

TABLE 2  
EDU 4.0 LIGHT STUDIES

| Authors   | E 1 | E 2 | E 3 | E 4 | E 5 | E 6 | E 7 | E 8 | E 9 | Country            |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------------|
| Apiola, Lokkila and Laakso [31]   | Y   |     | Y   |     | Y   |     |     |     | Y   | Finland            |
| Burrows and Borowczak [32]  | Y   | Y   |     | Y   |     |     |     | Y   | Y   | USA                |
| Degener, Haak, Gold-Veerkamp and Abke [33]                                  | Y   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | Y   | Germany            |
| Dickson, Dragon and Lee [34]  |     | Y   | Y   |     | Y   |     |     |     |     | USA                |
| Dondio and Shaheen [35]   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | Y   | Y   | Ireland            |
| Fisher, Rader and Camp [36]   | Y   | Y   |     |     |     |     |     | Y   |     | USA                |
| Frevert, Rorrer, Davis, Latulipe, Maher, Cukic, Mays and Rogelberg [37]     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | Y   | Y   | USA                |
| Giacaman and De Ruvo [38]   |     |     | Y   |     |     |     |     |     |     | New Zealand        |
| Hosseini, Hartt and Mostafapour [39]  |     |     |     |     |     |     | Y   |     | Y   | USA, Wales, Canada |
| Parejo, Troya, Segura, del-Río-Ortega, Gámez-Díaz and Márquez-Chamorro [40] | Y   |     |     |     |     |     | Y   |     |     | Spain              |
| Park and Kim [41]   | Y   | Y   |     |     |     |     | Y   |     | Y   | Korea              |
| Pilkington [42]   | Y   |     |     |     |     | Y   |     |     | Y   | South Africa       |
| Scatolon, Garcia and Barbosa [8]  |     | Y   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | Brazil             |
| Schäfer [30]  | Y   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | Y   | Germany            |
| Shi, Min and Zhang [43]   |     |     | Y   |     |     |     |     |     |     | China              |
| Silva, Steinmacher and Conte [44]   |     |     | Y   |     |     |     |     | Y   | Y   | Brazil             |
| Tyler and Abdrakhmanova [45]  |     | Y   | Y   |     |     | Y   |     | Y   |     | Kazakhstan         |

Note that E1-E9 refer to EDU 4.0 characteristics.

Another course [33] integrated LEGO MindStorms EV3 robots within lessons teaching the programming language ANSI-C. The intention was to make practical programming lessons more tangible and closer to the future field of work for CS and engineering students. Although the EV3 contributed to learning success and fun during the lessons, students were not able to program the EV3 outside laboratory opening hours and practical lessons. To solve this problem, a simulation was provided to make the programming task time- and location-independent. Another case [40] presented a flipped course on software architecture and integration that formed part of a Software Engineering degree. In addition, the gamified platform Kahoot was used for interactive tests at the beginning of the laboratory sessions. Based on responses to these quick quizzes, the lab instructor decided which concepts to clarify. Students had, on average, 24 more minutes per session to solve in-class exercises when using the flipped-classroom

approach. More than 70% of students considered the quantity, duration and didactic content of the videos (very) appropriate; and 90% of students preferred this approach for laboratory sessions. While each of these studies indicated substantial innovative pedagogical enhancements, most of these studies focussed only on some of the EDU 4.0 characteristics.

*B. Project-based/hands-on learning*

The second cluster, which we labelled as project-based/hands-on learning, had a strong focus on project-based learning (86%) and hands-on learning (86%), with relatively limited focus on choice how to learn (5%), personalized learning (5%), and learning any time / anywhere (18%), as illustrated in Table 3. For example, [46] assessed the benefits of the use of technology and active learning practices (i.e., Project-Based Learning and Peer Instruction) in the classroom with 25 students to contribute to a more effective and efficient learning environment. Another example [27] described the use of an innovative platform to improve the knowledge of 51 CS students about software testing by providing a set of learning objects and tutorials categorized by difficulty level. This evolved into a collaborative learning environment that included social networking features such as the ability to award virtual points for student social interaction about testing [27].

TABLE 3  
PROJECT-BASED/HANDS-ON LEARNING STUDIES

| Authors   | E 1 | E 2 | E 3 | E 4 | E 5 | E 6 | E 7 | E 8 | E 9 | Country |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| Aghaee and Keller [47]  | Y   |     |     | Y   | Y   |     | Y   |     | Y   | Sweden  |
| Alasbali and Benatallah [48]                                    |     |     |     | Y   |     |     |     |     | Y   | Global  |
| Alegre, Moreno, Dawson, Tanjong and Kirshner [49]               |     |     | Y   | Y   | Y   |     |     |     |     | USA     |
| Alomari, Ramasamy, Kiper and Potvin [27]                        | Y   |     |     | Y   | Y   |     | Y   |     |     | USA     |
| Berikan and Özdemir [50]  |     |     |     | Y   | Y   | Y   |     |     |     | Turkey  |
| Bielefeldt, Polmear, Swan, Knight and Canney [51]               |     |     |     | Y   | Y   |     |     |     |     | USA     |
| Borowczak and Burrows [52]                                      |     |     |     | Y   | Y   | Y   |     | Y   | Y   | USA     |
| Burrows and Borowczak [53]                                      |     |     |     |     | Y   |     | Y   | Y   |     | USA     |
| Bushmeleva and Baklashova [54]                                  |     |     |     | Y   | Y   |     |     |     | Y   | Russia  |
| Caceffo, Gama and Azevedo [46]                                  |     |     |     | Y   | Y   |     |     |     | Y   | Brazil  |
| Carrascal, del Barrio and Botella [55]                          |     |     |     | Y   | Y   | Y   |     | Y   |     | Spain   |
| Casañ, Alier and Llorens [56]                                   |     |     |     | Y   | Y   |     |     |     |     | Spain   |
| Chamberlin, Hussey, Klimkowski, Moody and Morrell [57]          | Y   |     |     | Y   |     |     |     |     |     | USA     |
| Cobos and Roger [58]  |     |     |     | Y   |     |     | Y   |     |     | Spain   |
| Fagerholm, Hellas, Luukkainen, Kyllönen, Yaman and Mäenpää [59] |     |     |     | Y   | Y   |     |     | Y   |     | Finland |
| Juárez, Aldeco-Pérez and Velázquez [60]                         |     | Y   |     | Y   | Y   |     |     |     | Y   | Mexico  |
| Lewis and Lacher [61]   |     |     |     | Y   |     |     |     |     |     | USA     |
| Liang and Chapa-Martell [62]                                    | Y   |     |     | Y   | Y   |     |     | Y   |     | Japan   |
| Llorens, Berbegal-Mirabent and Llinas-Audet [63]                |     |     |     | Y   | Y   |     |     |     |     | Spain   |
| Mäkiö, Yablochnikov, Colombo, Mäkiö and Harrison [64]           |     |     |     | Y   | Y   |     |     | Y   |     | UK      |

|   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Santos, Dischler, Adzhiev, Anderson, Ferko, Fryazinov, Ilëik, Ilëiková, Slavik, Sundstedt, Svobodova, Wimmer and Zara [65]. | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |  |  |  |  | Austria, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, UK |
| Seyam and McCrickard [66]   | Y | Y |   |   |   |  |  |  |  | USA  |

[56] provided a critical review of 29 years of teaching courses on social, environmental, and ethical issues to students of Informatics Engineering in Spain. Strategies included case study sessions and active methodologies. Collaborative approaches included the jigsaw method, think-pair-share, group investigation, and role-playing debates in online forums. Over time, the use of wikis to support collaboration has given way to use of Google Drive. [59] implemented a course where students were considered as prospective entrepreneurs, as well as potential employees in modern, start-up-like intrapreneurship environments within established companies. This paper reported on experiences gained during seven years of teaching start-up knowledge and skills, whereby a Software Factory, an educational environment for experiential, project-based learning, was developed. However, due to the nature of project-based learning in nearly all of these studies there was relatively low flexibility in terms of anytime/anywhere, personalisation, and choice of study.

*C. Full EDU 4.0*

The third and final cluster, which we labelled as the full EDU 4.0 version, was strongly focused on hands-on learning (100%), more independent (96%), personalized learning (85%), learning any time / anywhere (77%) and choice how to learn (77%). The lowest EDU 4.0 characteristic was student ownership of curriculum (38%), as illustrated in Table 4, although this was substantially higher than the other two clusters.

TABLE 4  
FULL EDU 4.0 STUDIES

| Authors   | E 1 | E 2 | E 3 | E 4 | E 5 | E 6 | E 7 | E 8 | E 9 | Country      |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| Alsaiif, Li, Soh and Alraddady [67]                 | Y   |     | Y   | Y   | Y   |     | Y   |     | Y   | Saudi Arabia |
| Behnke, Kos and Bennett [68]                        | Y   |     | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   |     |     | Y   | USA          |
| Borge, Ong and Goggins [23]                         | Y   | Y   |     | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   | USA          |
| Broisin, Venant and Vidal [69]                      | Y   | Y   | Y   |     | Y   |     |     |     | Y   | France       |
| Buffardi and Valdivia [70]                          |     |     | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   | USA          |
| Charlton and Avramides [71]                         |     | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   |     | Y   |     | Y   | UK           |
| Corritore and Love [25]                             | Y   |     | Y   | Y   | Y   |     | Y   | Y   | Y   | USA          |
| Gestwicki and McNely [24]                           |     | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   |     | Y   | Y   | Y   | USA          |
| Gonçalves, von Wangenheim, Hauck and Zanella [72].  | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   |     | Y   | Brazil       |
| Goumopoulos, Nicopolitidis, Gavalas and Kameas [73] | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   |     |     | Y   | Greece       |
| Knobelsdorf, Frede, Böhne and Kreitz [74]           | Y   | Y   |     | Y   | Y   | Y   |     |     | Y   | Germany      |
| Munkvold [75]                                       |     | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   |     | Y   |     | Y   | Norway       |
| Paschoal, Oliveira, Nakagawa and Souza [76]         | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   | Brazil       |
| Pawelczak [77]                                      | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   | Germany      |
| Peng [78]   | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   | Y   |     |     | USA          |

|    |                   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |            |
|----|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------|
| 1  | Peteranetz,       | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | USA        |
| 2  | Flanigan, Shell   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |            |
| 3  | and Soh [79]      |   | Y |   | Y | Y |   | Y |   | Y | Mexico     |
| 4  | Pivkina [80]      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |            |
| 5  | Ruiz, Serral      | Y | Y |   | Y | Y | Y | Y |   | Y | Cuba       |
| 6  | Asensio and       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |            |
| 7  | Snoeck [81]       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |            |
| 8  | Salem, Damaj,     | Y | Y |   | Y | Y | Y |   |   | Y | Lebanon    |
| 9  | Hamandi and       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |            |
| 10 | Zantout [82]      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |            |
| 11 | Seyam,            | Y | Y | Y |   | Y | Y |   |   | Y | USA, Korea |
| 12 | McCrickard, Niu,  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |            |
| 13 | Esakia and Kim    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |            |
| 14 | [83]              |   | Y | Y |   | Y | Y |   | Y | Y | USA        |
| 15 | Silva, Polo and   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |            |
| 16 | Crosby [84]       | Y | Y |   | Y | Y | Y | Y |   | Y | USA        |
| 17 | Tanaka, Ferreira  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |            |
| 18 | da Silva and      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |            |
| 19 | Casanova [85]     |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |            |
| 20 | Tlili, Essalmi,   | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |   |   | Y | Tunisia    |
| 21 | Jemni and         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |            |
| 22 | Kinshuk [86]      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |            |
| 23 | Trousas, Krouska  | Y | Y | Y |   | Y |   | Y | Y | Y | Greece     |
| 24 | and Sgouropoulou  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |            |
| 25 | [87]              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |            |
| 26 | Winiacki and      | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |   |   | Y | USA        |
| 27 | Salzman [88]      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |            |
| 28 | Wood, Clements,   | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | USA        |
| 29 | Peterson, Janzen, |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |            |
| 30 | Smith, Haungs,    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |            |
| 31 | Workman,          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |            |
| 32 | Bellardo and      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |            |
| 33 | DeBruhl [89]      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |            |

For example, [80] described the experience of using an undergraduate student as a peer learning assistant (PLA), supporting 80 students in in three different undergraduate computer science courses with 20 students. PLAs held office hours, helped with the labs and tutorials and facilitated student group work in class. They were therefore practising tutoring their peer students. The impact of the experience was measured by comparing student interactions between PLAs and regular university teaching assistants, showing a preference of students to interact with their PLAs. While that research offers a case for practical learning it does not offer any choice of learning anytime or anywhere, limiting the experience to the interaction with the PLAs.

A similar case was found in [83] who evaluated whether pair programming (an agile software development practice, used in both industry and education, which enforces a role-based approach to learning new programming concepts) would help 53 students during five sessions in a mobile development course to better understand mobile programming. For the evaluation of the experience, observations and questionnaires were used to show a rich experience where programming for mobile devices goes beyond merely writing code. This study shows a practical hands-on learning case for the students in a real-life software development environment, but students did not have the option to choose the way to learn or personalize their learning experience. Another case [46] assessed the benefits of the use of active learning practices teaching algorithms, data structures and programming logic in a CS introductory course with the feedback of two instructors and 24 undergraduate students via interviews and surveys to contribute to a more effective and efficient learning environment. The study indicated that both students and instructors enjoyed the use of new technologies and active learning in the course, but they would like to prioritize two-way communication between students and instructor, and collaboration among students during class.

Active learning strategies based on students' practical work combined with continuous feedback (such as the Inspection-

based strategy based on doing and reflection) are preferred by students in their education. According to [84] using these active learning strategies was not appropriate at the beginning of a course, as their use could confuse students. Students need to have prior knowledge about the content to use active learning strategies.

[73] addressed distance-education challenges through advanced educational material, intelligent tutoring systems, and virtual laboratories. Students engaged in small-scale projects and implemented both software and hardware prototypes. In a flipped classroom approach [77] found that students seemed more motivated when they could work with the course material at times of their choosing, and that they were better prepared in the flipped classroom and discussions could be established on a higher level. However, the effort involved in setting up the flipped classroom was very high and course materials had to be updated frequently as programming languages evolved. Another example illustrated an intelligent mobile game-based learning application in a HE course to assess and advance learners' knowledge of the programming language C# [87]. The application employed a knowledge-assessment module to test the knowledge of learners, a recommendation module to propose personalized collaboration, a dynamic fuzzy logic-based advice generator for tailored assistance to learners' profile and misconceptions, and a cognitive learner modeler that supported the other modules. [87] concluded that incorporating personalisation and collaboration in mobile game-based learning can help students increase their knowledge level.

## V. SKILLS FOR TEACHERS IN COMPUTER SCIENCE TO DELIVER EDU 4.0

In terms of RQ3, nearly half the studies ( $n = 30$ ) reviewed made an explicit reference to skills and competences CS educators should have or develop to align their CS teaching to Education 4.0. As indicated in Figure 5, studies that referred to skills and competences of teachers on average had higher scores on nearly all EDU 4.0 characteristics, with the notable exception of 6) data interpretation. A follow-up ANOVA analysis indicated significant differences between studies that did and did not mention skills of teachers on 3) choice how to learn ( $F = 4.758$ ,  $p < .05$ ); 5) hands-on learning ( $F = 5.689$ ,  $p < .05$ ); 8) including students' opinion in updating curriculum ( $F = 5.922$ ,  $p < .05$ ); and 9) more independent learning ( $F = 7.422$ ,  $p < .01$ ).

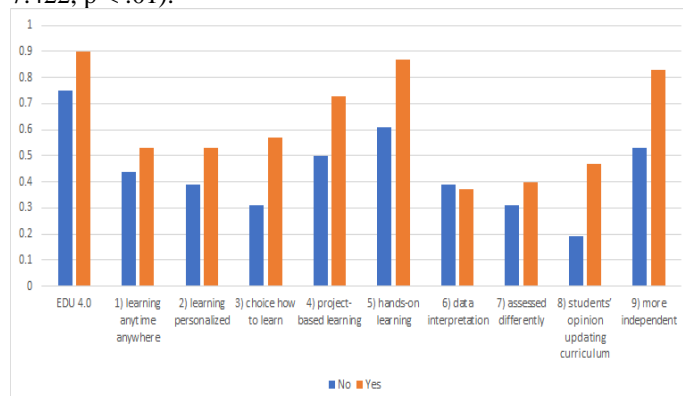


Figure 5 References to skills and competences of teachers and Education 4.0



1 Furthermore, the aggregate EDU4 score was substantially  
2 higher in studies that mentioned skills and competences of  
3 teachers ( $M = 5.30$ ,  $SD = 2.20$ ,  $F = 9.304$ ,  $p < .01$ ) relative to  
4 those who did not mention those skills ( $M = 3.67$ ,  $SD = 2.14$ ).  
5 Although no significant differences across the three clusters  
6 were found between studies that did or did not mention skills  
7 and competences of teachers, 53% of studies who did were  
8 part of the full EDU 4.0 cluster, while only 28% of studies  
9 who did not were part of that cluster. In other words, those  
10 studies that explicitly referred to skills and competences for  
11 teachers seemed to be more explicit and innovative in terms of  
12 pedagogies and EDU 4.0 elements. An alternative explanation  
13 could be that the authors who employed more innovative  
14 pedagogical approaches and full EDU 4.0 modes provided  
15 more narratives about how teachers could effectively support  
16 these innovative approaches.

17 The studies that made an explicit reference to skills and  
18 competences of HE educators discussed the issue of educators'  
19 skills in relation to the implementation and assessment of an  
20 innovative learning intervention, which was the main focus of  
21 the article. A reference to or discussion of skills and  
22 competences was often presented as an implication of the  
23 proposed study rather than being examined as the starting  
24 point of a given article. This could be explained by the fact  
25 that innovative teaching approaches or interventions are more  
26 likely to require teachers to develop new skills and  
27 competences, and thus such a discussion was seen as very  
28 relevant. This observation could explain some of the insights  
29 of the quantitative analysis, in particular the observed higher  
30 scores on the EDU 4.0 characteristics in studies where skills  
31 and competences of teachers are discussed.

32 In terms of the educators' skills discussed in these studies,  
33 some of them could be seen as generic, such as the creation of  
34 student-centered environments. Others were more concrete,  
35 such as the use of specific mobile games in teaching. A  
36 recurring theme we identified was the teacher as facilitator,  
37 moderator or learning consultant [23, 24, 60] as opposed to a  
38 teacher controlling or being the center of the learning process  
39 [25]. Teachers could achieve that by being flexible (adapting  
40 to change) [24], supportive, helping students to develop  
41 ownership of learning [25], fostering an environment where  
42 students take risks and share what they do not know about,  
43 and where failure is acceptable [23].

44 This facilitative role was often discussed within a flipped  
45 classroom implementation [25] that could give control to  
46 students to study the teaching material at their own pace and  
47 contact the teacher to solve problems and discuss their  
48 learning. In such conditions, the teacher was monitoring  
49 student progress and facilitating understanding through  
50 discussions [76]. A teacher as facilitator was also seen as the  
51 person strengthening communication, ethics, leadership,  
52 security, and software skills [60]. These conditions point to  
53 teachers as the agents in charge of developing student-  
54 centered learning environments [87].

55 Teachers' skills and competences were also discussed in  
56 relation to the development of more specific expertise,  
57 including the use of social network analysis techniques to  
58 understand social relationships when students are part of an  
59 online network or community [23]. Furthermore, several  
60 articles referred to the use of a peer learning assistance

approach, that is, having peers to hold office hours, help with  
labs and facilitate student group work, as they were shown to  
better support learning than teaching assistants [80], and the  
use of specific educational games [70, 87] and remote  
laboratories [69] that could support CS education. In terms of  
game-based approaches to CS, teachers should have skills to  
provide tailored and personalized feedback [87] and assign  
students to game roles within a course management system  
[70].

## VI. DISCUSSION

This systematic literature review (SRL) used a three-phase  
coding process to review 66 studies selected from an initial  
data search of 231 studies in order to identify common  
pedagogical approaches, aligned with Education 4.0, used to  
support teaching computer science (CS) courses. In terms of  
RQ1 and RQ2 none of the 66 studies included explicitly  
mentioned "Education 4.0". This could be a result of the  
recent conceptualisation of Education 4.0, or due to a lack of  
adoption of the term Education 4.0 in the specific discipline of  
CS.

A k-means cluster analysis indicated a three-cluster  
solution. EDU 4.0 light studies mostly had relatively low total  
EDU 4.0 scores, and often did not include project-based  
activities. EDU 4.0 light studies mostly focussed on more  
independent, learning any time / anywhere, personalized  
learning, and choice how to learn. As illustrated by the  
descriptions of these studies, substantial technological and  
pedagogical innovations were introduced in CS courses,  
although mostly focused on just one or two EDU 4.0  
characteristics. This could be linked to teachers being willing  
to make some innovations based upon a particular problem  
perceived in a course, but "updating" parts of the pedagogy  
rather than fully redesigning a CS course [1, 6, 90].

The second cluster, which we labelled project-  
based/hands-on learning, had a strong focus on project-based  
learning and hands-on learning. These studies mainly used  
collaborative and project-based learning approaches with  
some interesting innovations, such as where CS students were  
considered as prospective entrepreneurs [59]. In all 21 studies  
there was a strong focus on hands-on and project-based  
learning, allowing CS graduates to develop strong  
programming and soft skills, often working in teams.  
However, due to the nature of project-based learning there was  
relatively low flexibility in terms of anytime/anywhere,  
personalisation, and choice of study.

The third and final cluster, Full EDU 4.0, was strongly  
focussed on hands-on learning, more independent,  
personalized learning, learning any time / anywhere, and  
choice how to learn. The lowest EDU 4.0 characteristic was  
student ownership of curriculum, although this was  
substantially higher than the other two clusters. Several  
innovative and integrated perspectives were used including  
flipped classrooms [77], game-based learning [87] and online  
lab work [69], indicating how CS teachers might help students  
to develop strong project, programming, and team skills.

In terms of RQ3, about half of the studies made an explicit reference to skills and competences CS educators should have or develop to align their CS teaching to Education 4.0. Perhaps interestingly, those studies that did refer to skills and competences of teachers on average had significantly higher scores on nearly all EDU 4.0 characteristics. This might indicate that CS authors who employed more innovative pedagogical approaches, in particular when implementing flipped classrooms or interactive games or lab-exercises, felt the need to provide more detailed narratives about their peer teachers needed to be aware of the need for additional skills and competences to implement these innovative approaches. Learning practices associated with Education 4.0 require considerable time for preparation compared to the traditional lecture-based class [46] and this may be overwhelming for teachers. Therefore, support should be provided through, for example, teaching assistants, fellow teachers, or the reuse of existing activities to help teachers gradually develop the proposed skills and competences.

Based on the research studies reviewed in this study, we can conclude that Education 4.0 is a new concept in teaching Computer Science courses and has not yet been utilised by teachers. This study indicated that although this field is at its early beginnings, some basic trends can be noted and conceptualised. In a way, it was surprising to identify three clear clusters in terms of design of CS courses. While in some learning design research there is evidence of common design practices [1, 90, 91] when comparing different disciplines, these preliminary findings seem to suggest three broad flavours of design in CS.

Future research should be carried out to identify and propose corresponding learning designs that would include Education 4.0 characteristics and thus transform CS courses. It is important for CS to follow trends in industry, while also providing future anticipation of possible changes. Furthermore, there is an urgent need to critically assess whether the concept of Education 4.0 is useful (or not) for CS. While some of the concepts of active learning, empowering students, and hands-on learning are increasingly common and well-supported by robust evidence, more research is needed to explore whether all elements of Education 4.0 are necessarily beneficial for learning or not.

#### A. Limitations and future research

There is an inherent systemic bias in terms of published outputs, as it is more likely that successful innovations and experiments are published than unsuccessful innovations, as well as “business as usual” approaches. Furthermore, with the rapid changes in CS and the shift in practice due to COVID-19, the reported findings might evolve over time. Another limitation is the search string that was used, whereby different key terms of search strings might have resulted in different outcomes. Nonetheless, using a robust 3 phase coding strategy we believe that we are the first to systematically review the pedagogical learning design decisions that CS educators make when designing innovative practice. By using the Education 4.0 characteristics our findings suggest three common flavors

that CS educators use to design their practice. Future research should establish which of these common design practices work well for which groups of CS students, and for which specific knowledge, skills and competences. This will help to strengthen our evidence base and understanding of how to effectively design innovative CS courses that help to empower Education 4.0 in Industry 4.0.

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