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Introducing
Physical Computing and
Project Based Learning

Theory and practice

Arm School Program



The ASP approach to PBL/PC

Programming using Project-based learning (PBL) Hardware MakeCode Applying computational Basic Covering the curriculum techniques confidently electronics **ASP** resources **Engaging Learners with IPO** Creativity Design contexts Making Solving real problems 6Cs Collaboration

Pedagogical Content Knowledge (PCK)

Pedagogy Computing subject knowledge Practice Research **Computational Thinking** How Why Physical Computing Hardware confidence **Curriculum Standards** 'Making' **Engineering elements**

What

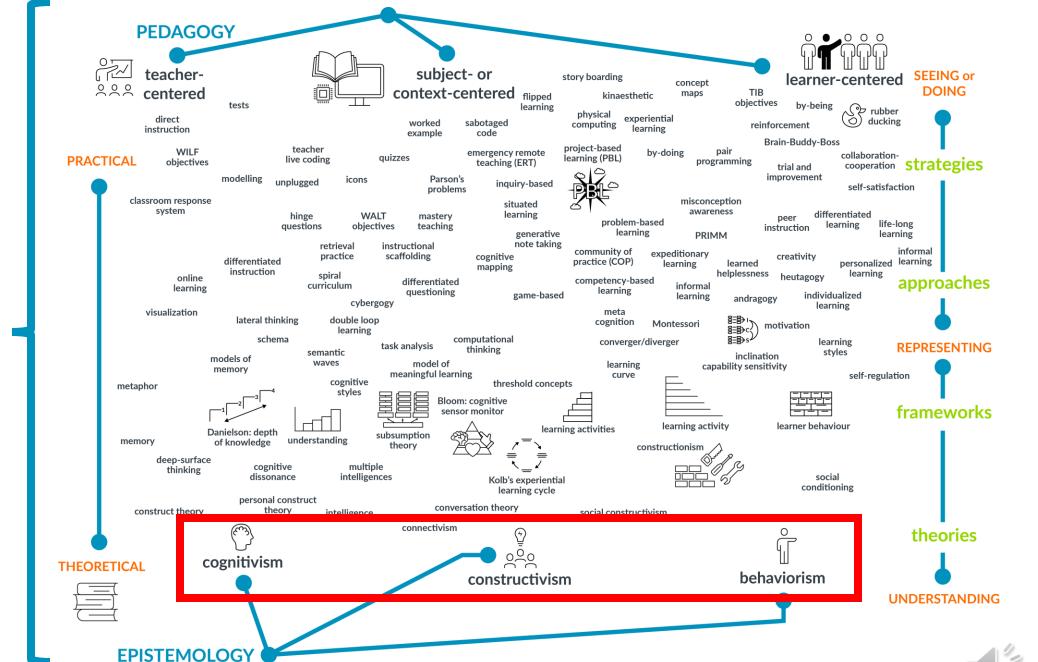


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Theory and pedagogy











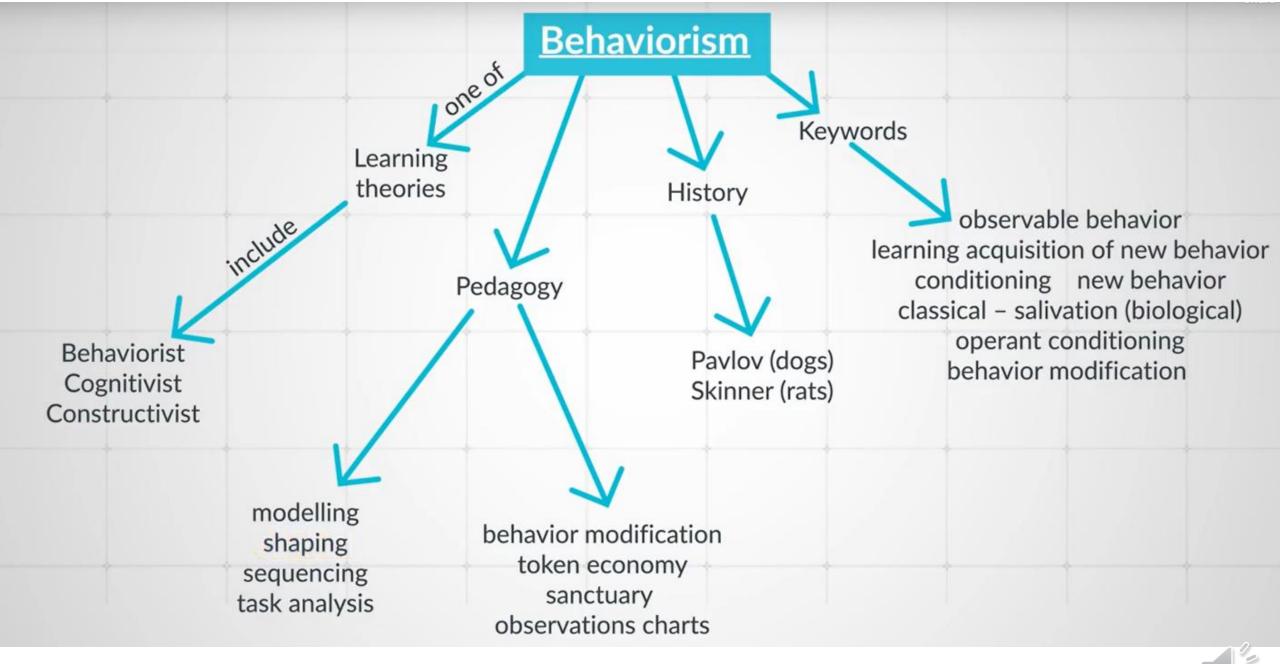


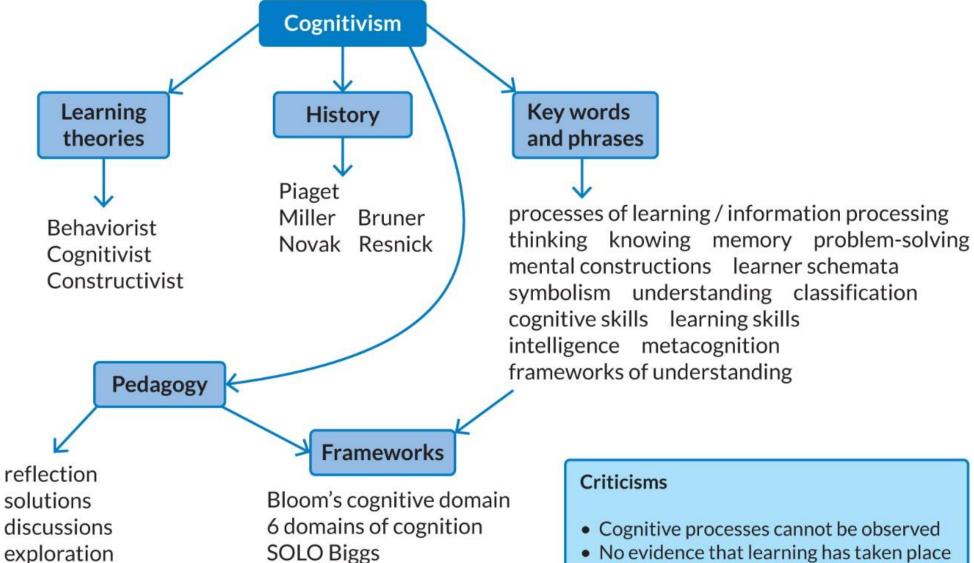
How

What

Changes







solutions discussions exploration justification explanation big picture

worked examples

6 facets of learning Salmon e-tivities Wiggins and McTighe Marzano and Kendall

- Reductionist limited number cognitive processes requires cognitive engagement
- Teacher-centered pre-organization of the subject matter



Evaluation

Make and defend judgments based on internal evidence or external criteria.

appraise
argue assess attach
choose compare conclude
contrast defend describe discriminate
estimate evaluate explain judge justify interpret
relate predict rate select summarize support value

Higher Order Thinking Skills



Compile component ideas into a new whole or propose alternative solutions.

arrange assemble categorize collect combine comply compose construct create design develop devise explain formulate generate plan prepare rearrange reconstruct relate reorganize revise rewrite set up summarize synthesize tell write

Analysis

Break down objects or ideas into simpler parts and find evidence to support generalizations.

analyze appraise breakdown calculate categorize compare contrast criticize diagram differentiate discriminate distinguish examine experiment identify illustrate infer model outline point out question relate select separate subdivide test

Application

Apply knowledge to actual situations.

apply change choose compute demonstrate discover dramatize employ illustrate interpret manipulate modify operate practice predict prepare produce relate schedule show sketch solve use write

Comprehension

Demonstrate an understanding of the facts.

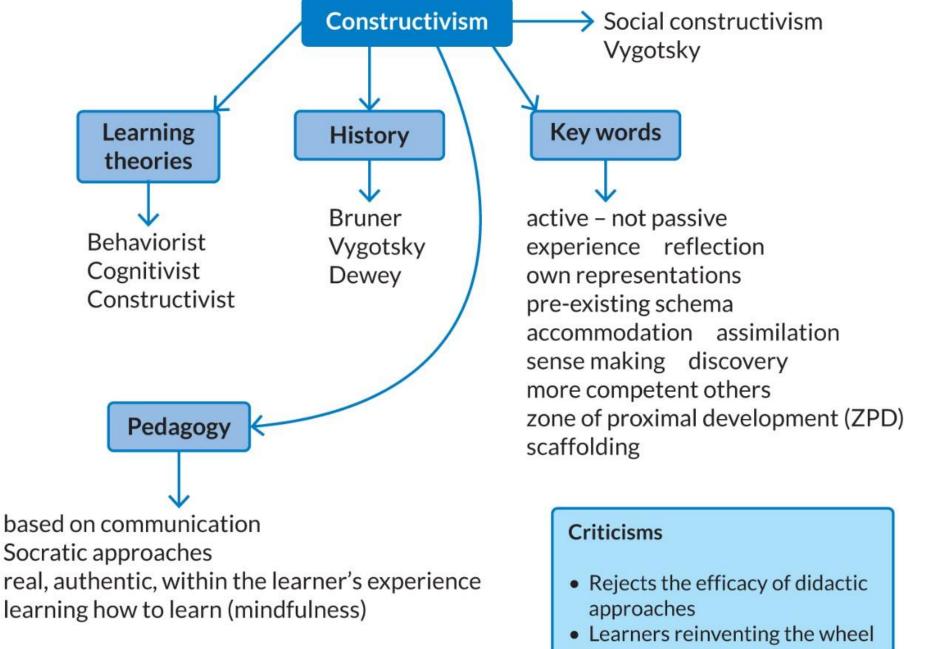
classify convert defend describe discuss distinguish estimate explain express extend generalized give example(s) identify indicate infer locate paraphrase predict recognize rewrite review select summarize translate

Knowledge

Remember previously learned information.

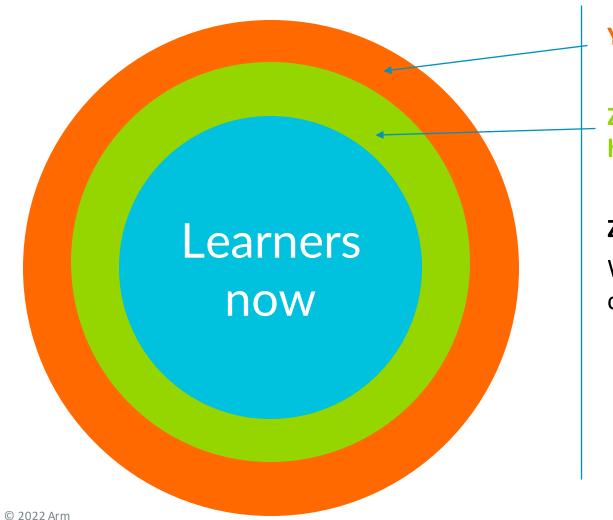
arrange define describe duplicate identify label list match memorize name order outline recognize relate recall repeat reproduce select state







Zones of proximal development (ZPD)



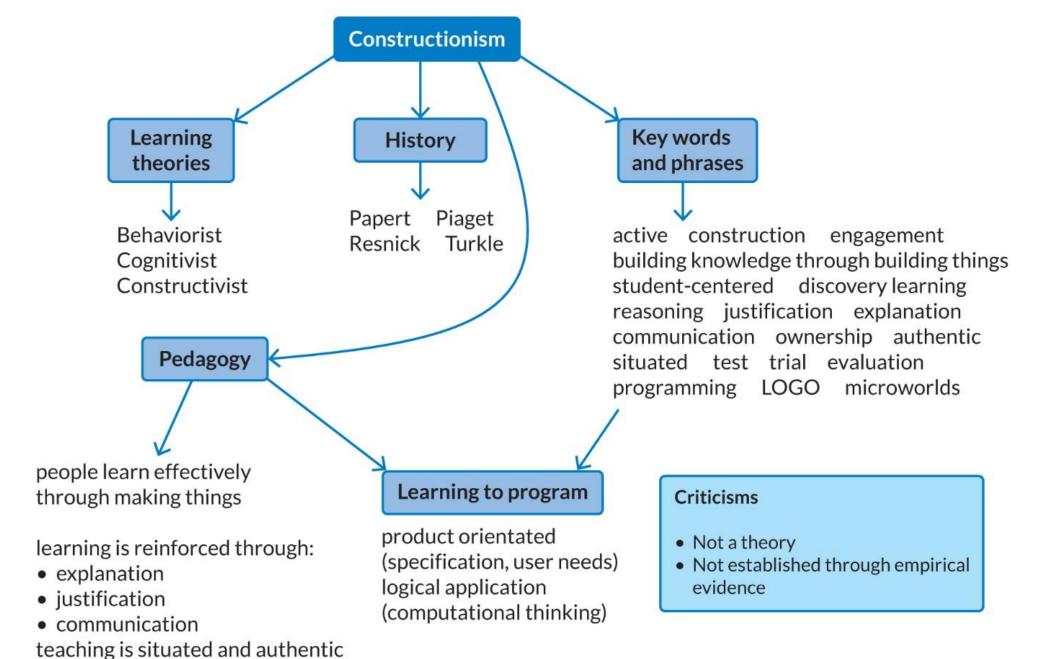
Your goal (what I can't do)

Zone of proximal development (what I can do with help)

ZPD:

What a learner can do without help and what they can't do







PBL is not just Constructionism!

Key concepts:

- A reaction to didactic teaching approaches
- Learning as contextualised action (practical in nature)
- "Learning by doing" (historically referred to as kinaesthetic)

Limitations:

- Assumption that only exploration yields learning
- Not all learners will discover the intended learning
- Assumes a deep desire for learning and unlimited engagement



Why making matters – thinking in systems

'Engineers use a unique mode of thinking based on seeing everything as a system. They see structures that aren't apparent to the layperson, they know how to design under constraints, and they understand trade-offs. Adopting an engineering mindset can help you in any field.'

Engineering mindset:

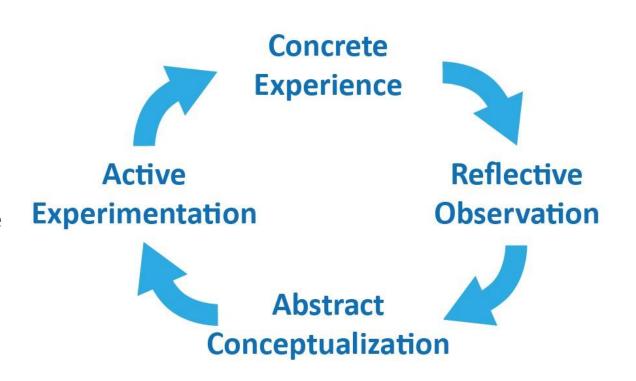
- The ability to see a structure where there's nothing apparent
- Designing under constraints
- Understanding trade-offs





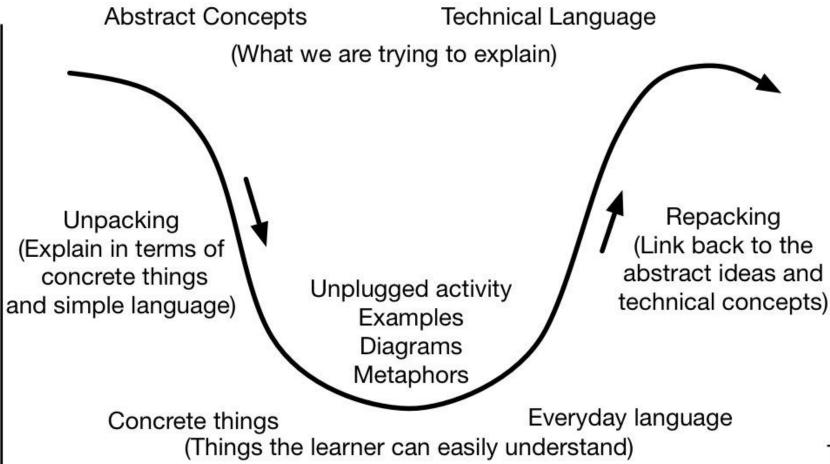
Kolb's learning theory (1984)

- + **Concrete Experience** a new experience or situation is encountered, or a reinterpretation of existing experience.
- Reflective Observation of the New Experience of particular importance are any inconsistencies between experience and understanding.
- Abstract Conceptualization reflection gives rise to a new idea, or a modification of an existing abstract concept (the person has learned from their experience).
- + Active Experimentation the learner applies their idea(s) to the world around them to see what happens.



Semantic waves

Hard to understand (High density, Low gravity)



Easy to understand (Low density, High gravity)

Time passing through the learning experience

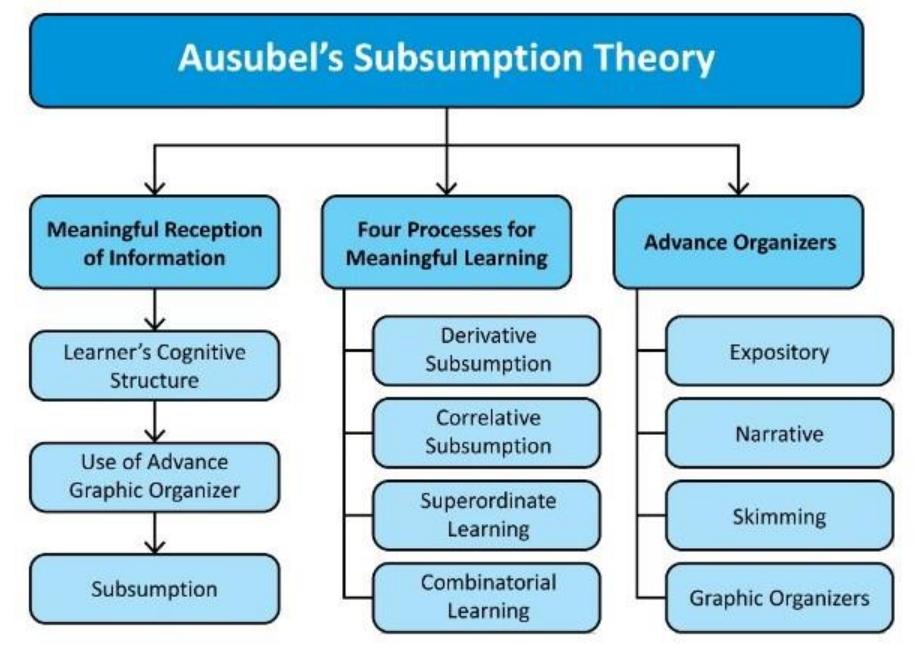


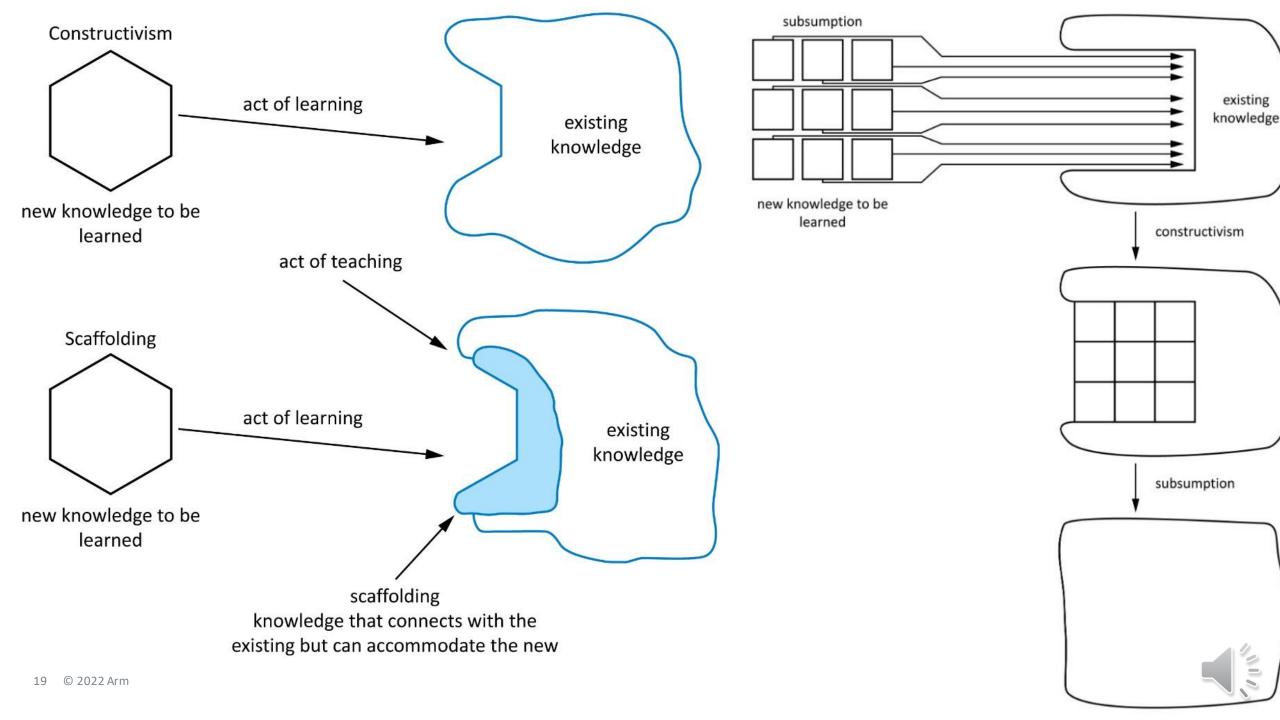
PRIMM for programming

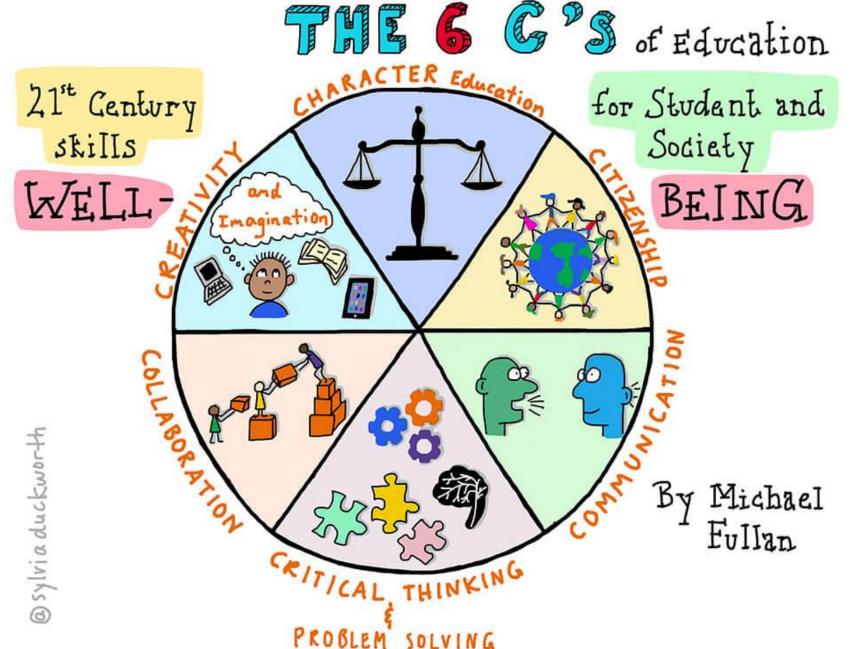
- Predict
- Run
- Investigate
- Modify
- Make

- → What will the code do? CT tasks
- Scaffolded tasks on code/blocks
- + 'Partly mine' meeting a criteria
- + Applying it in anger



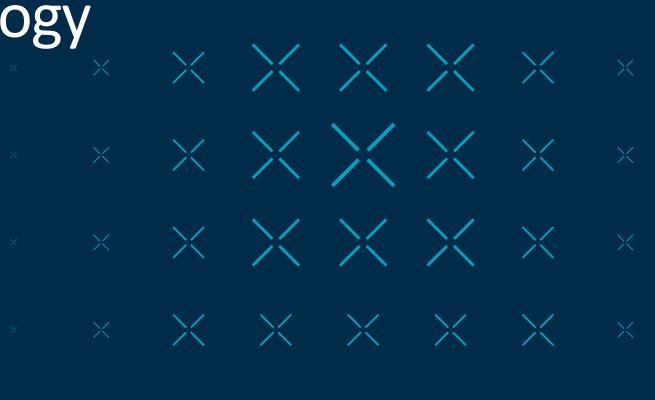






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Practice and pedagogy



The ASP Schema

Engaging context

CT problem

Making elements

PBL

Flipped resources

Getting started

Success criteria

Pro-tips

Stretch tasks

Final thoughts

Lesson plan

Slide deck

Worksheets

Cheat sheets

Teacher Solutions

Formal lessons

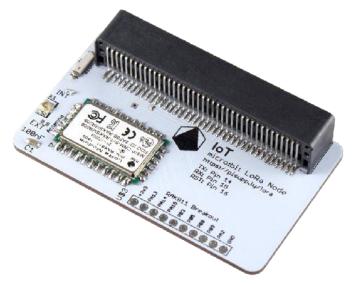
Collapsed days

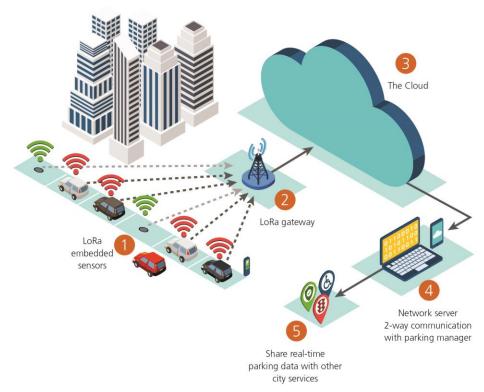
Flipped

Extra curricula

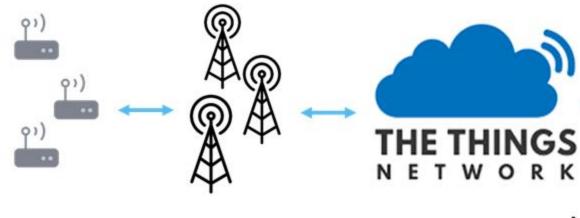


LoRaMAN®





Thinger.io
Platform



Integration Plugin



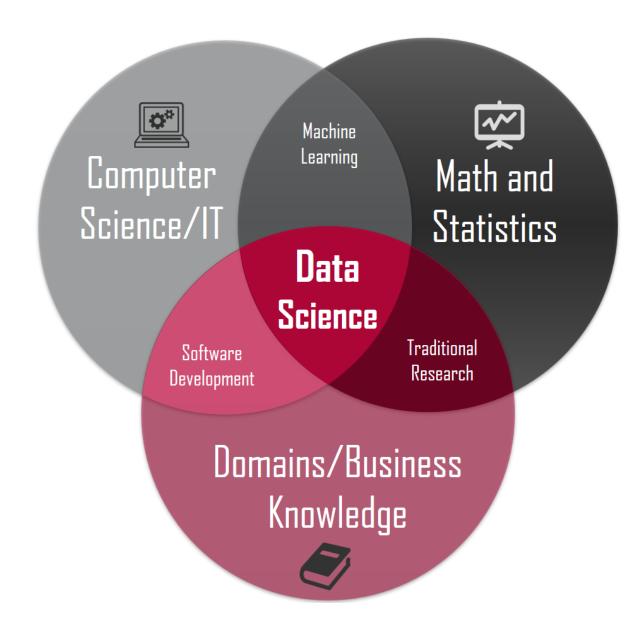
Data buckets



Endpoints



Gateways



Data Science

- The next tech wave
- A new subject?
- Where would it live in the curriculum?



The Input Process Output (IPO) Model

- All computer systems take data into a system using 'Inputs', carry out processes
 on the inputs and then display the result of that processing using 'Outputs'
- Using the Input, Process, Output worksheet try to identify what the outputs will be





Decomposition

Decomposition involves breaking down the overall task into a series of smaller problems

Problem set

Decomposition

Problem solving

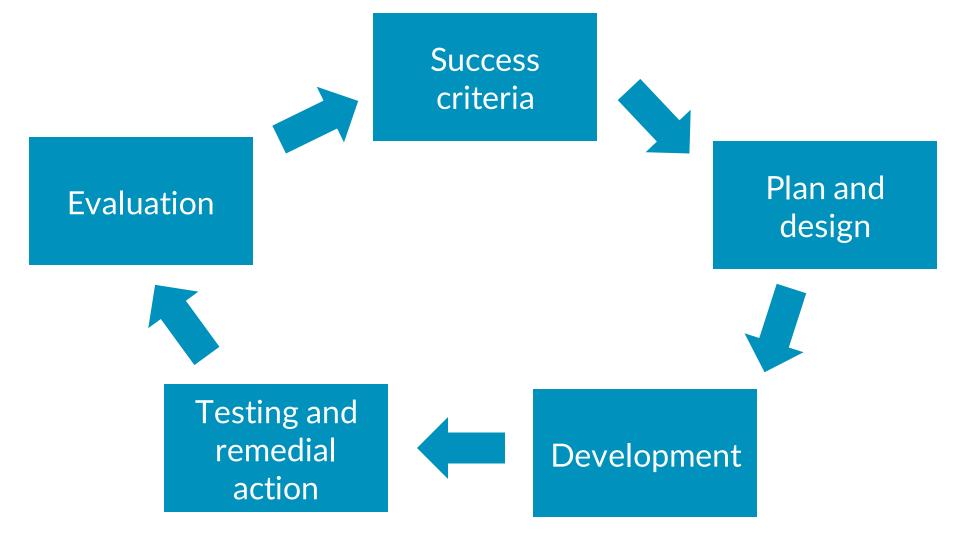
Design

Iterative Development

Solution

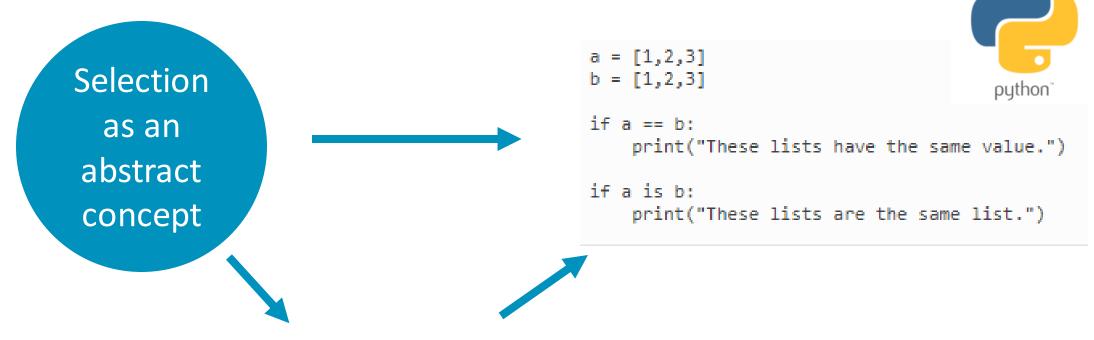


Iterative development cycle

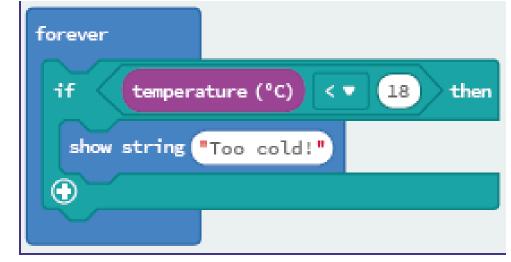




Hardware as an intermediary relational step



PBL



- Real world context
- Instantly familiar
- Recognisable application of abstract concept
- Less cognitive demand



THE GLOBAL GOALSFor Sustainable Development





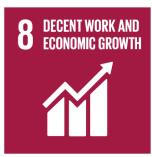
































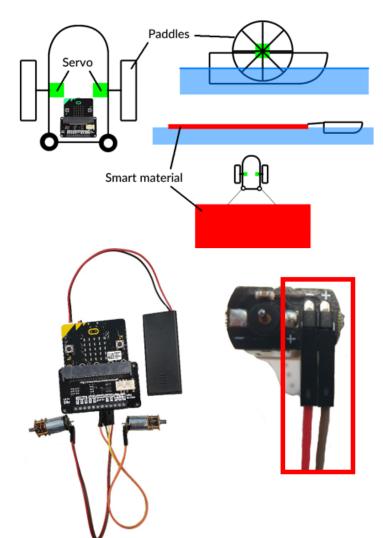




Oil spill cleaner-upper

Building the product

For this project we need to build a simple boat. You can use anything that is waterproof.



Kit required:

- A micro:bit
- Header wires
- Battery pack
- Boat building materials
- A foam sponge
- A mini screwdriver
- A servo driver board

There are many types of servo controller boards for micro:bit, in this example an 'automation bit' was used.

Here you can see how the servo motors are wired to the servo controller and micro:bit.

The + cable from **both** the servos need to go into the 3v opening on the servo control board.

The – cable needs to go into output 1 and 2 respectively.

Pay attention to which side you put them on. In this image:

Output 1 = Right Output 2 = Left

You may have a third cable for the servo which is the ground (GND), attach this to the GND terminal on the board if you have this.



Success criteria:

- Build a floating oil spill cleaner upper boat drone that starts with a button press
- The product should be able to autonomously navigate over an area
- The product should be made to clean up an oil spill by dragging a 'smart material'



Setting the scene

A group of marine scientists have asked you to develop an algorithm that could be used on a boat drone to drag around a sheet of this smart material to clean up an oil spill.









Success criteria:

- Build a floating oil spill cleaner-upper boat drone that starts with a button press
- The product should be able to autonomously navigate over an area
- The product should be made to clean up an oil spill by dragging a 'smart material'





Input process output

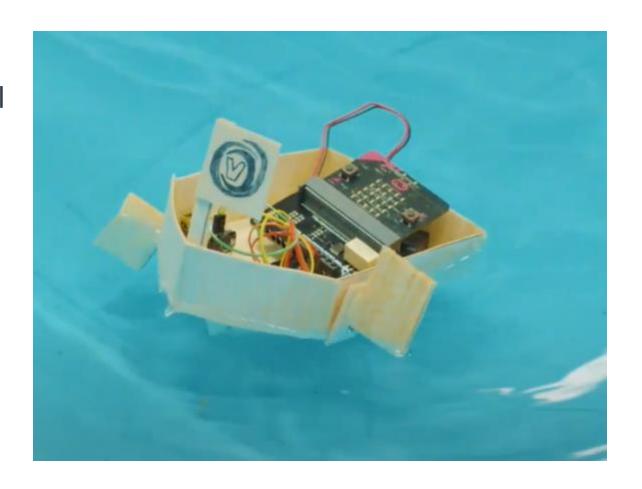
Input	Process	Output
	rithm to control the movement of the boat e in a path to clean up oil:	Servo motor control





Making – rapid prototyping

- + Key part of Physical Computing
- Ensures the projects are tangible, visceral and most importantly, engaging
- + Typical making tools:
 - Cardboard
 - Scissors
 - Glue guns
 - Tape
 - Velcro tape
 - Colouring pens/pencils



Group task:

- Get into pairs/groups
- Use the Oil Spill Cleaner Upper worksheet to help you design and create your product
- The product must meet the success criteria
- Use the IPO worksheet to design further features
- Make a model tree to test your product







Goal 14 - Life under water – oil spill cleaner upper

Getting started

Oil spills do untold damage to eco-systems.

A new material can absorb up to 90 times its own weight in spilled oil and then be squeezed out like a sponge and reused, raising hopes for easier clean-up of oil spill sites.

https://www.newscientist.com/article/2123391-sponge-can-soak-up-and-release-spilled-oil-hundreds-of-times/

Success criteria

- . Build a floating oil spill cleaner upper boat drone that starts with a button press
- . The product should be able to autonomously navigate over an area
- . The product should be made to clean up an oil spill by dragging a 'smart material'

Breaking down the problem

The input and output for this problem are simple as the drone boat should start with a button press and should follow a pre-programmed path. Creating the algorithm for the movement is the tricky part and will require some thought.

Input process output (IPO)

Input	Process	Output
Button press	Algorithm to control the movement of the boat drone in a path to clean up oil:	Servo motor control

Pro-tip

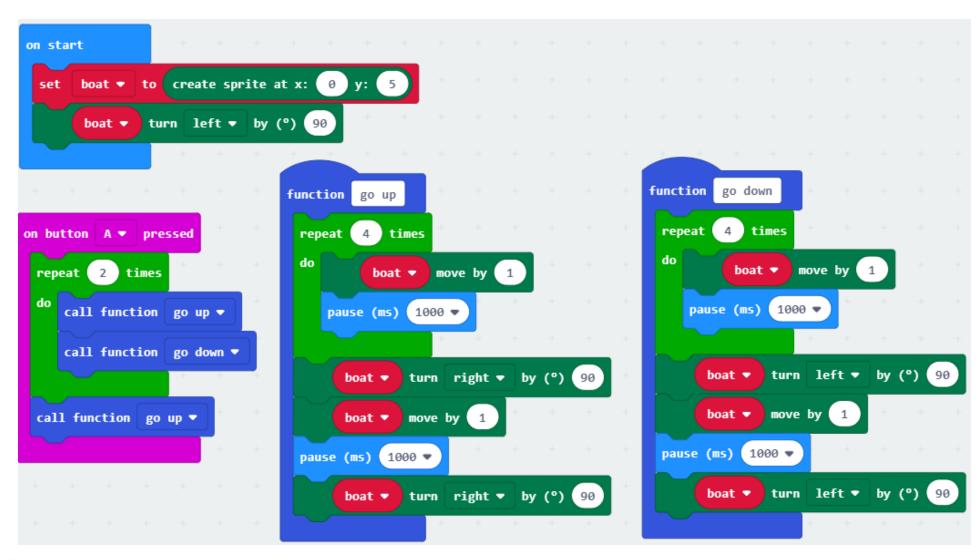
Don't worry about distances at this point. Oil spills can be small or large, and the product just needs to be able autonomously clean an area. Think about how the size of the area can be changed.

We won't have access to any smart material but we can simulate it using a normal sponge





Creating a model



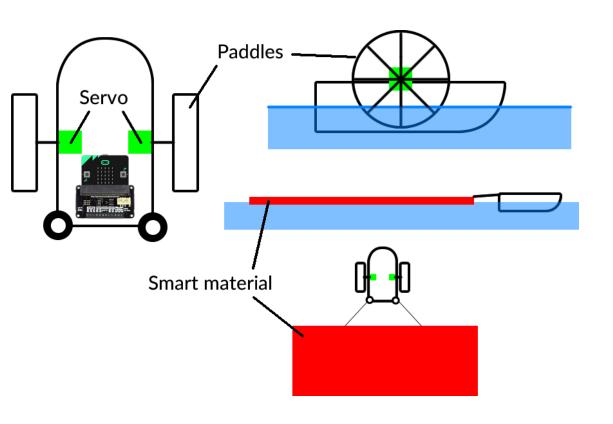
These blocks create an on-screen mockup using a sprite.

We can use this to test our algorithm on the micro:bit or in MakeCode.





The paddle wheel:









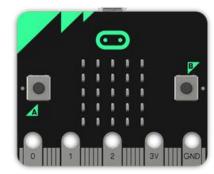
Hardware needed:

- micro:bit(s)
- battery peripheral and batteries
- materials to make the floating body and paddles
- servo control board
- servo motors
- a sponge to simulate the smart material

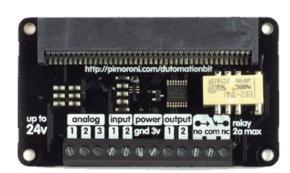






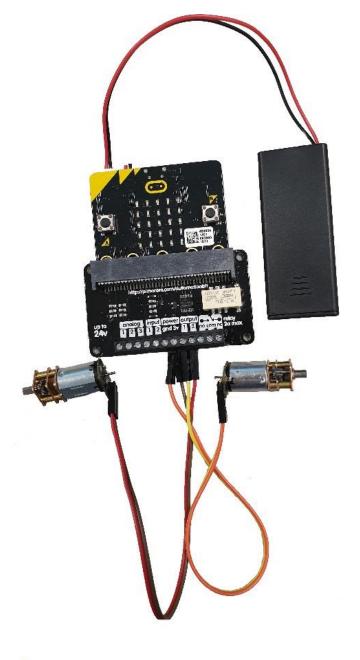


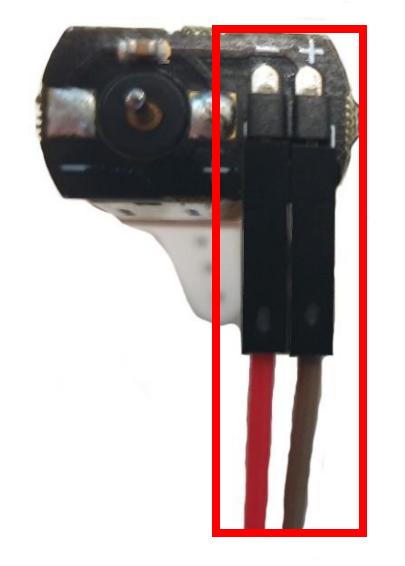






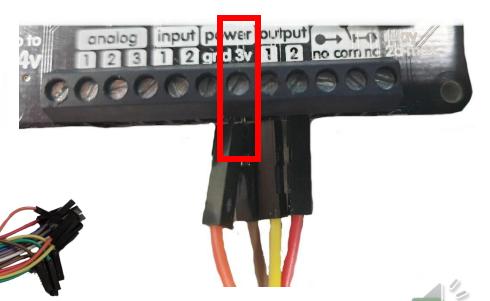






Note:

- The motors need power from the batteries
- The + wires from both servos go into the 3v terminal
- Output one is right
- Output two is left
- Ground (GND) wires got to the GND terminal



Research driven

- EEF meta analysis of EdTech shows "consistent benefits"
- The technology in isolation is irrelevant, technology enthuses learners, what matter is that the pedagogy, activity and technology are aligned
- Enhances teaching rather than replacing it

- Collaborative use of technology (in pairs or small groups) is usually more effective than individual use, though some pupils, especially younger children, may need guidance in how to collaborate effectively and responsibly.
- Technology can be as powerful as a short but focused intervention to improve learning, particularly when there is regular and frequent use (about three times a week) over the course of about a term (5 - 10 weeks). Sustained use over a longer period is usually less effective at improving this kind of boost to attainment.
- Remedial and tutorial use of technology can be particularly practical for lower attaining pupils, those with special educational needs or those from disadvantaged backgrounds in providing intensive support to enable them to catch up with their peers.
- In researched interventions, technology is best used as a supplement to normal teaching rather than as a replacement for it. This suggests some caution in the way in which technology is adopted or embedded in schools.
- Tested gains in attainment tend to be greater in mathematics and science (compared with literacy for example) though this is also a more general finding in meta-analysis and may be at least partly an artefact of the measurement process. In literacy the impact tends to be greater in writing interventions compared with reading or spelling.
- At least a full day's training or on-going professional inquiry-based approaches to support
 the introduction of new technology appear the most successful. The implication is that
 such support should go beyond the teaching of skills in technology and focus on the
 successful pedagogical use of technology to support teaching and learning aims.

The Impact of Digital Technology on Learning: A Summary for the Education Endowment Foundation



Implications

Pedagogical:

- Authentic contexts required
- + Achievable success criteria
- Appropriate scaffolding of resources and differentiation
- + Resource heavy approach
- Group work commonly employed but no necessary
- Assessment (formative/summative)

Practical:

- + Hardware accessibility
- + Hardware availability
- + Cost
- → Time constraints on projects (multi lesson)



Teaching with Physical Computing MOOC on edX

A new series of Professional Development (PD) courses from the Arm School Program

Training for teachers on Physical Computing and how to apply it through Project-Based Learning in the classroom.

Course 1 Introduction to Project-Based Learning

Teaching with Physical Computing

Search for "Project-Based Learning" on edX.org

Course 2 Practical application and classroom strategies for PBL

Course 3 Assessment of Project-Based Learning

Course 4 Soft skills, teamwork and the wider curriculum



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Thank You

Danke

Gracias

Grazie

谢谢

ありがとう

Asante

Merci

감사합니다

धन्यवाद

Kiitos

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ধন্যবাদ

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