

Computational Thinking for Teacher Education

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Computational Thinking for Teacher Education

Joao Orvalho Polytechnic of Coimbra, Portugal 10th International Scratch conference, Bordeaux, 18 – 21st July 2017

For more than 10 years I have been teaching ICT to future elementary teachers using Scratch. Every year it is necessary to deconstruct the idea of "using and making". In our elementary teacher-education program, at Polytechnic of Coimbra, we engage future teachers early in their preparation to formulate ways to integrate computational thinking into their practice. I discuss this issue in the first year, which's the ideal moment and place for students (future teachers) be exposed to the computational thinking concept. So, in this poster I will present some work that I've done with the students in the first year of elementary teachers-education and their results at the end of the semester.

• What Is Computational Thinking? [1]

"... breaking down a difficult problem into more familiar ones that we can solve (problem decomposition), using a set of rules to find solutions (algorithms), and using abstractions to generalize those solutions to similar problems." [2]

Algorithms are central to computational thinking and we introduce it by using examples from students, at first year of elementary teachers-education, daily lives.

Computational Thinking and Teacher Education

Our students are exposed to the computational thinking concept of abstraction by creating models of physics entities.

Our work follows the methodology of "Teacher educators need to first develop pre-service teachers' knowledge and skills on how to think computationally and then how to teach their students to think computationally" [1]

• Weakness of our system

Polytechnic of Coimbra teacher educators program only have one ICT course (2 ECTS), in a 4 year program, to prepare teachers, empowering them to teach and to integrate computational thinking into their practice.

This is a transversal problem in Portugal.

This weakness does not allow us to apply, strategically and in a curricular way, a great enthusiasm that we have, as in other countries, and launch a national computer science curriculum for primary schools, as is the case with U.K., where "Every child should have the opportunity to learn concepts and principles from computing, including computer science and information technology, from the beginning of primary education onward, and by age 14 should be able to choose to study toward a recognized qualification in these areas." [3]

Computational Thinking for Teacher Education

• Example: Algorithm, base on a popular tale

TIC EB 2016-2017 teste em 30/5/2017

loão Orvalho

Nome Nome No de alung 155022

Recriar (adaptar) o seguinte conto infantil em Scratch:

Era uma vez o Eu, o Tu e o Ele

Era uma vez o Eu, o Tu e o Ele que moravam na mesma rua, numa pequena cidade.

Cada um deles vivia numa linda casinha, muito confortável, com vista para o mar. Os três tinham uma boa vida pois nada lhes faltava: tinham boa comida, muitos brinquedos e uma caminha muito fofinha onde todas as noites se aconchegavam e sonhavam lindos sonhos.

Mesmo não tendo nada de mau nas suas vidas, o Eu, o Tu e o Ele sentiam que algo lhes faltava, mas não conseguiam descobrir o quê.

Numa linda manhã de sol, cada um deles saiu da sua casinha para dar um passeio, e coincidiu de se encontrarem, os três, à beira mar. Por um instante, ficaram a olhar uns para os outros espantados, pois nunca se tinham visto antes.

Então os três, curiosos em saber quem era cada um deles, começaram a falar todos ao mesmo tempo, perguntando uns aos outros, quem eram, onde viviam e quais eram as suas brincadeiras favoritas.

Depois de muita conversa, gargalhadas e brincadeiras, o Eu, o Tu e o Ele descobriram finalmente aquilo que lhes faltava... Eles precisavam de amigos! Precisavam de outros com quem pudessem partilhar os seus afetos, as suas conversas e brincadeiras.

A partir daí, o Eu, o Tu e o Ele, passaram a ser Nós, um grupo de amigos muito unidos e feliz!

Autor: T. Santos (?)

Enunciado (componente teórica) - 50%

Escreva (nesta folha) a planificação/ guião / passos do algoritmo do projecto a desenvolver.

Componente prática - 50%

Desenvolva o programa em Scratch. Enviar email para <u>joaorvalho@gmail.com</u>, com o assunto "TIC-EB 30-5-2017 + o seu primeiro e último nome", com o ficheiro do projecto em anexo.

Printiczção do Projeto:

1º Pisso: Aprecentação da História. O palco terre una instração e o título.

20 Priso: No pelco 12-se une rue com esers. O Nerredor, un Duende die: - Etz une ree o Eu, o tu a o Ele que moisvem Joao Orvalho - Polytechnic of Coimbra, Portugal

na ruesurs rues, numes prepiens cidrole junto so man. Ceste un vivis sosiulo numes linde cestiales...

3. Bros. O censiño mostre o interior de mes helitezza. O En die: — Olé, en son o En Tenho tudo clentro deste bele crimite, mas ... mão son feliz! Porqué?

ho. Privo: O emario auntero o interior de outra helitacep. O Tu diz: - Ole', en son o Tu. Tenho tudo dentro deste bele cesante, mes ... neo tou feliz! Porpre?

50 P2510: O constis mostes zinde à tuccier holitores

por dontre. O Che dir .

— Olz', en hou o Cle. Tenho tudo dontre desto
belo cossulto, mos ... Não sou felia! Boprie?

6°. Pesso: O Duande vi sjudé-los Diz ums

peleviz méjecz "Amierde"... E eles vém

perez e ruz. De inicio, ferem estentedos...

mes lopo comercian e conneces en entredembe.

Piczun tro ruengos que resolvem feren um

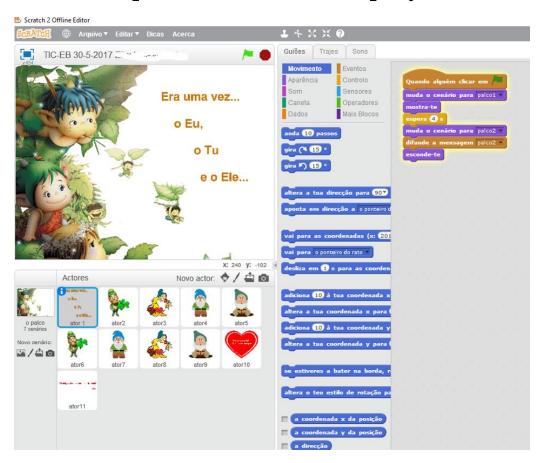
surpo o "Nos" com o lears "Vuen portodos e

todos por use". Juntem se e...

7°. Priso: Afance un enorme coracep menuello com à frèse "live à Amièrde! Noi, pros secupie. Vêz-se à frèse final "lithère, vitobre, reshou-re à historie" e "Fim", claro! :)

Joao Orvalho - Polytechnic of Coimbra, Portugal

• Example: Code - Scratch project





Bibliography

[1] Computational Thinking for Teacher Education, By Aman Yadav, Chris Stephenson, Hai Hong, Communications of the ACM, Vol. 60 No. 4, Pages 55-62, 10.1145/2994591 (https://cacm.acm.org/magazines/2017/4/215031-computational-thinking-for-teacher-education/fulltext);

[2] Wing, J.M. Computational thinking. Commun. ACM 49, 3 (Mar. 2006), 33–35.

[3] The Royal Society. Shut down or restart? The way forward for computing in UK schools. The Royal Society, London, U.K., Jan. 2012; https://royalsociety.org/~/media/education/computing-in-schools/2012-01-12-computing-in-schools.pdf