Proceedings of the
8th International Conference on
Educational Data Mining

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Preface

The 8th International Conference on Educational Data Mining (EDM 2015) is held under auspices of the International Educational Data Mining Society at UNED, the National University for Distance Education in Spain. The conference held in Madrid, Spain, July 26-29, 2015, follows the seven previous editions (London 2014, Memphis 2013, Chania 2012, Eindhoven 2011, Pittsburgh 2010, Cordoba 2009 and Montreal 2008).

The EDM conference is a leading international forum for high-quality research that mines large data sets in order to answer educational research questions that shed light on the learning processes. These data sets may come from the traces that students leave when they interact with learning management systems, interactive learning environments, intelligent tutoring systems, educational games or when they participate in a data-rich learning context. The types of data therefore range from raw log files to eye-tracking devices and other sensor data.

This year’s conference features three invited talks by Luis von Ahn and Matt Streeter (Duolingo), George Siemens, Ryan Baker and Dragan Gasevic (Athabasca University, Columbia University and University of Edinburgh respectively) and Pekka Räsänen (Niilo Mäki Institute). To facilitate further discussion of the increasingly important research issues, three interactive panels have been organized; on grand challenges in EDM, ethics and privacy considerations in EDM, and practical applications of EDM at scale. This year, together with the Journal of Educational Data Mining (JEDM), we started the JEDM Track with the intention to accommodate researchers who want to contribute a more substantial contribution than space allows in the conference proceedings, and yet to present their work to a live conference audience. The papers submitted to the track followed the regular JEDM peer review process; 4 paper have been accepted to the track and will be presented at the conference. The abstracts of the invited talks, panels and accepted JEDM Track papers can be found in these proceedings.

The main conference calls for papers invited contributions to the Research Track and Industry Track. We received 121 full and 59 short paper submissions, each of which was reviewed by three experts in the field, resulting in 43 full (41 research and 2 industry), and 50 short (46 research and 4 industry) papers accepted for presentation at the conference (some of the full paper submissions have been accepted as short paper). From a separate call for posters we also accepted 39 poster and 3 demo papers. All accepted submissions appear in these proceedings.

The EDM conference traditionally provides opportunities for young researchers, and particularly for PhD students, to present their research ideas and receive feedback from the peers and more senior researchers. This year, the organized Doctoral Consortium will feature 12 presentations.

Besides the main conference program, the participants are program conference also includes 3 workshops (Graph-based Educational Data Mining, SMLIR: Workshop on Tools and Technologies in Statistics, Machine Learning and Information Retrieval for Educational Data Mining, and International Workshop on Affect, Meta-Affect, Data and Learning) and 2 tutorials (Using Natural Language Processing Tools in Educational Data Mining, and Student Modeling Applications, Recent Developments & Toolkits).

We would like to thank UNED for the sponsorship and hosting of EDM’2015. We would like to thank the commercial sponsors (MARi, Pearson and duoLingo), student support sponsors (NSF and Professor Ram Kumar Memorial Foundation) and academic support (UNED). We also want to acknowledge the amazing work of the program committee members and additional reviewers, who with their enthusiastic contributions gave us invaluable support in putting this conference together. Our special thanks to ConferenceNavigator – a social system for conference attendees that provided services for personal scheduling, social linking and personalized recommendations of papers. Last but not least we would like to thank the local organizing team.

June 2015
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# Table of Contest

## Invited Talks (abstracts)

- **Behind the Scenes of Duolingo**  
  *Luis Von Ahn, Matt Streeter*  
  p. 3

- **Personal Knowledge/Learning Graph**  
  *George Siemens, Ryan Baker, Dragan Gasevic*  
  p. 5

- **Educational Neuroscience as a Tool to Understand Learning and Learning Disabilities in Mathematics**  
  *Pekka Räsänen*  
  p. 7

## Panels (abstracts)

- **The Future of Practical Applications of EDM at Scale** *(Industry track)*  
  *Ryan Baker, John Carney, Piotr Mitros, Bror Saxberg (moderator), John Stamper*  
  p. 11

- **Ethics and Privacy in EDM**  
  *Dragan Gasevic, Taylor Martin (moderator), Zach Pardos, Mykola Pechenizkiy, John Stamper, Osmar Zaiane*  
  p. 13

- **Grand Challenges for EDM and Related Research Areas**  
  *Ryan Baker (moderator), Peter Brusilovsky, Dragan Gasevic, Neil T. Heffernan, Mykola Pechenizkiy, Alyssa Wise*  
  p. 15

## JEDM Track journal papers (abstracts)

- **Metrics for Evaluation of Student Models**  
  *Radek Pelánek*  
  p. 19

- **Multi-Armed Bandits for Intelligent Tutoring Systems**  
  *Benjamin Clement, Didier Roy, Pierre-Yves Oudeyer, Manuel Lopes*  
  p. 21

- **Developing Computational Methods to Measure and Track Learners’ Spatial Reasoning in an Open-Ended Simulation**  
  *Aditi Mallavarapu, Leilah Lyons, Tia Shelley, Brian Slattery, Moira Zellner, Emily Minor*  
  p. 23

- **Move your lamp post: Recent data reflects learner knowledge better than older data**  
  *April Galyardt, Ilya Goldin*  
  p. 25

## Full Papers

- **Combining techniques to refine item to skills Q-matrices with a partition tree**  
  *Michel Desmarais, Peng Xu and Behzad Beheshti*  
  p. 29

- **On the Performance Characteristics of Latent-Factor and Knowledge Tracing Models**  
  *Severin Klingler, Tanja Käser, Barbara Solenthaler and Markus Gross*  
  p. 37

- **Mixture Modeling of Individual Learning Curves**  
  *Matthew Streeter*  
  p. 45

- **Accounting for Slipping and Other False Negatives in Logistic Models of Student Learning**  
  *Christopher Maciellan, Ran Liu and Kenneth Koedinger*  
  p. 53

- **Learning Environments and Inquiry Behaviors in Science Inquiry Learning: How Their Interplay Affects the Development of Conceptual Understanding in Physics**  
  *Engin Bumbacher, Shima Salehi, Miriam Wierzchula and Paulo Blikstein*  
  p. 61
Toward a Real-time (Day) Dreamcatcher: Detecting Mind Wandering Episodes During Online Reading
Caitlin Mills and Sidney D’Mello

A Comparison of Face-based and Interaction-based Affect Detectors in Physics Playground
Shiming Kai, Luc Paquette, Ryan S. Baker, Nigel Bosch, Sidney D’mello, Jaclyn Ocumpaugh, Valerie Shute and Matthew Ventura

Exploring Dynamical Assessments of Affect, Behavior, and Cognition and Math State Test Achievement
Maria Ofelia San Pedro, Erica Snow, Ryan Baker, Danielle McNamara and Neil Heffernan

Sensor-Free or Sensor-Full: A Comparison of Data Modalities in Multi-Channel Affect Detection
Luc Paquette, Jonathan Rowe, Ryan Baker, Bradford Mott, James Lester, Jeanine Defalco, Keith Brawner, Robert Sottile and Vasiliki Georgoulas

Machine Beats Experts: Automatic Discovery of Skill Models for Data-Driven Online Courseware Refinement
Noboru Matsuda, Tadanobu Furukawa, Norman Bier and Christos Faloutsos

Student Models for Prior Knowledge Estimation
Juraj Nižnan, Radek Pelánek and Jiri Rihák

Discovering Prerequisite Structure of Skills through Probabilistic Association Rules Mining
Yang Chen, Wuillemin Pierre-Henri and Jean-Marc Labat

Choosing to Interact: Exploring the Relationship Between Learner Personality, Attitudes, and Tutorial Dialogue Participation
Aysu Ezen-Can and Kristy Elizabeth Boyer

Considering the Influence of Prerequisite Performance on Wheel Spinning
Hao Wan and Joseph Beck

Comparing Novice and Experienced Students in Virtual Performance Assessments
Yang Jiang, Luc Paquette, Ryan Baker and Jody Clarke-Midura

The Impact of Incorporating Student Confidence Items into an Intelligent Tutor: A Randomized Controlled Trial
Charles Lang, Neil Heffernan, Korinn Ostrow and Yutao Wang

Analyzing Early At-Risk Factors in Higher Education e-Learning Courses (Industry track)
Ryan Baker, David Lindrum, Mary Jane Lindrum and David Perkowski

Do Country Stereotypes Exist in Educational Data? A Clustering Approach for Large, Sparse, and Weighted Data
Mirka Saarela and Tommi Kärkkäinen

Student Privacy and Educational Data Mining: Perspectives from Industry (Industry track)
Jennifer Sabourin, Lucy Kosturko, Clare Fitzgerald and Scott Mcquiggan

Beyond Prediction: Towards Automatic Intervention in MOOC Student Stop-out
Jacob Whitehill, Joseph Williams, Glenn Lopez, Cody Coleman and Justin Reich

From Predictive Models to Instructional Policies
Joseph Rollinson and Emma Brunskill

Your Model Is Predictive—but Is It Useful? Theoretical and Empirical Considerations of a New Paradigm for Adaptive Tutoring Evaluation
José González-Brenes and Yun Huang

Automated Session-Quality Assessment for Human Tutoring Based on Expert Ratings of Tutoring Success
Benjamin Nye, Donald Morrison and Borhan Samei

A Framework for Multifaceted Evaluation of Student Models
Yun Huang, José González-Brenes, Rohit Kumar and Peter Brusilovsky
Short Papers

Spectral Bayesian Knowledge Tracing
Mohammad Hassan Falakmasir, Michael Yudelson, Steve Ritter and Kenneth Koedinger

Direct Estimation of the Minimum RSS Value for Training Bayesian Knowledge Tracing Parameters
Francesc Martori Adrian, Jordi Cuadros and Lucinio González-Sabaté

Goodness of Fit of Skills Assessment Approaches: Insights from Patterns of Real vs. Synthetic Data Sets
Behzad Beheshi and Michel Desmarais

A Transfer Learning Approach for Applying Matrix Factorization to Small ITS Datasets
Lydia Voß, Carlotta Schatten, Claudia Mazziotti and Lars Schmidt-Thieme

Towards Understanding How to Leverage Sense-making, Induction/Refinement and Fluency to Improve Robust Learning
Shayan Doroudi, Kenneth Holstein, Vincent Aleven and Emma Brunskill

Learning Behavior Characterization with Multi-Feature, Hierarchical Activity Sequences
Cheng Ye, John S. Kinnebrew, James R. Segedy and Gautam Biswas

Discrimination-Aware Classifiers for Student Performance Prediction
Ling Luo, Irena Koprinska and Wei Liu

Language to Completion: Success in an Educational Data Mining Massive Open Online Class
Scott Crossley, Danielle McNamara, Ryan Baker, Yuan Wang, Luc Paquette, Tiffany Barnes and Yoav Bergner

A Comparative Study of Regression and Classification Algorithms for Modelling Students' Academic Performance
Pedro Strecht, Luis Cruz, Carlos Soares, João Mendes-Moreira and Rui Abreu

Predicting Student Grade based on Free-style Comments using Word2Vec and ANN by Considering Prediction Results Obtained in Consecutive Lessons
Jingyi Luo, Shaynaa E.Sorour, Tsunenori Mine and Goda Kazumasa

Learning the Creative Potential of Students by Mining a Word Association Task
Cristian Olivares-Rodríguez and Mariluz Guenaga

Optimizing Partial Credit Algorithms to Predict Student Performance
Korinn Ostrow, Christopher Donnelly and Neil Heffernan

Identifying Styles and Paths toward Success in MOOCs
Kshitij Sharma, Patrick Jermann and Pierre Dillenbourg

Analyzing Student Inquiry Data Using Process Discovery and Sequence Classification
Bruno Emond and Scott Buffett

Desirable Difficulty and Other Predictors of Effective Item Orderings
Steven Tang, Hannah Gogel, Elizabeth McBride and Zachary Pardos

Variations in Learning Rate: Student Clustering Based on Systematic Residual Error Patterns Across Practice Opportunities
Ran Liu and Kenneth R Koedinger

Evaluating Educational Videos using Bayesian Knowledge Tracing and Big Data
Zachary Machardy and Zachary Pardos

Measuring Problem Solving Skills in Plants vs. Zombies 2
Valerie Shute, Gregory Moore and Lubin Wang

Strategic Game Moves Mediate Implicit Science Learning
Elizabeth Rowe, Ryan Baker and Jodi Ashbell-Clarke
Predicting learning-related emotions from students’ textual classroom feedback via Twitter
Nabeela Altrabsheh, Mihaela Cocea and Sanaz Fallahkhair

Video-Based Affect Detection in Noninteractive Learning Environments
Yuxuan Chen, Nigel Bosch and Sidney D'Mello

Modeling Classroom Discourse: Do Models of Predicting Dialogic Instruction Properties Generalize across Populations?
Borhan Samei, Andrew Olney, Sean Kelly, Martin Nystrand, Sidney D'Mello, Nathan Blanchard and Arthur C. Graesser

Breaking Off Engagement: Readers’ Cognitive Decoupling as a Function of Reader and Text Characteristics
Patricia Goedecke, Daqi Dong, Genghu Shi, Shi Feng, Evan Risko, Andrew Olney, Sidney D'Mello and Arthur C. Graesser

Rogers Jeffrey Leo John, Rebecca J. Passonneau and Thomas S. McTavish

An Analysis of Peer-submitted and Peer-reviewed Answer Rationales in a Web-based Peer Instruction Based Learning Environment
Sameer Bhatnagar, Michel Desmarais, Chris Whittaker, Nathaniel Lasry, Michael Dugdale, Kevin Lenton and Elizabeth Charles

Learning Analytics Platform. Towards an Open Scalable Streaming Solution for Education
Nicholas Lewkow, Neil Zimmerman, Mark Riedesel and Alfred Essa

Improving Student Performance Using Nudge Analytics (Industry track)
Jacqueline Feild

Educational Reports That Scale Across Users and Data (Industry track)
Rob Rolleston, Richard Howe and Mary Ann Sprague

Mining Login Data For Actionable Student Insight (Industry track)
Lalitha Agnihotri, Ani Aghababyan, Shirin Mojarad, Mark Riedesel and Al Essa

Building Models to Predict Hint-or-Attempt Actions of Students
Francisco Enrique Vicente Castro, Seth Adjei, Tyler Colombo and Neil Heffernan

Modeling Students' Memory for Application in Adaptive Educational Systems
Radek Pelánek

Social Facilitation Effects by Pedagogical Conversational Agent: Lexical Network Analysis in an Online Explanation Task
Yugo Hayashi

Personalized Education; Solving a Group Formation and Scheduling Problem for Educational Content
Sanaz Bahargam, Dora Erdos, Azer Bestavros and Evimaria Terzi

An Approach of Collaboration Analytics in MOOCs Using Social Network Analysis and Influence Diagram
Antonio R. Anaya, Jesús G. Boticario, Emilio Letón and Félix Hernández-Del-Olmo

On Convergence of Cognitive and Non-cognitive Behavior in Collaborative Activity
Diego Luna Bazaldua, Saad Khan, Alina von Davier, Jiangang Hao, Lei Liu and Zuowei Wang

The Impact of Small Learning Group Composition on Drop-Out Rate and Learning Performance in a MOOC
Zhilin Zheng, Tim Vogelsang and Niels Pinkwart

Exploring Causal Mechanisms in a Randomized Effectiveness Trial of the Cognitive Tutor Algebra I Program
Adam Sales and John Pane
Stephen Fancsali

Students at Risk: Detection and Remediation  
Irena Koprinska, Joshua Stretton and Kalina Yacef

Intelligent Tutor Recommender System for On-Line Educational Environments  
Cristian Mihaescu, Paul Stefan Popescu and Costel Ionascu

Discovering the Pedagogical Resources that Assist Students to Answer Questions Correctly – A Machine Learning Approach  
Giora Alexandron, Qian Zhou and David Pritchard

Using Topic Segmentation Models for the Automatic Organisation of MOOCs resources  
Ghada Alharbi and Thomas Hain

How High School, College, and Online Students Differentially Engage with an Interactive Digital Textbook  
Jeremy Warner, John Doorenbos, Bradley Miller and Philip Guo

Modeling Exercise Relationships in E-Learning: A Unified Approach  
Haw-Shiuan Chang, Hwai-Jung Hsu and Kuan-Ta Chen

Using Knowledge Components for Collaborative Filtering in Adaptive Tutoring Systems  
Peter Halkier Nicolaisen and Barbara Plank

Exploring the Influence of ICT in online Education Through Data Mining Tools  
Javier Bravo, Sonia Janeth Romero, Maria Luna and Sonia Pamplona

Understanding Revision Planning in Peer-Reviewed Writing  
Alok Baikadi, Christian Schunn and Kevin Ashley

Convergent Validity of a Student Model: Recent-Performance Factors Analysis  
Ilya Goldin and April Galyardt

Posters and Demos

Automatic Grading of Short Answers for MOOC via Semi-supervised Document Clustering  
Shumin Jing

Discovering Students’ Navigation Paths in Moodle  
Alejandro Bogarin, Cristobal Romero and Rebeca Cerezo

Teacher-Student Classroom Interactions: A Computational Approach  
Arnon Hershkovitz, Agathe Merceron and Amran Shamaly

Modeling Student Learning: Binary or Continuous Skill?  
Radek Pelánek

An Analysis of Response Times in Adaptive Practice of Geography Facts  
Jan Papoušek, Radek Pelánek, Jiří Řihák and Vít Stanislav

Achievement versus Experience: Predicting Students’ Choices during Gameplay  
Erica Snow, Maria Ofelia San Pedro, Matthew Jacovina, Danielle McNamara and Ryan Baker

How to Aggregate Multimodal Features for Perceived Task Difficulty Recognition in Intelligent Tutoring Systems  
Ruth Janning, Carlotta Schatten and Lars Schmidt-Thieme

Teacher and Learner Behaviour in an Online EFL Workbook  
Krzysztof Jędrezejewski, Mikołaj Bogucki, Mikołaj Olszewski, Jan Zwoliński and Kacper Łodzikowski

Skill Assessment Using Behavior Data in Virtual World  
Ailiya Borjigin, Chunyan Miao, Zhiqi Shen and Zhiwei Zeng
Pacing through MOOCs: Course Design or Teaching Effect?
Lorenzo Vigentini and Andrew Claypahn

Integrating a Web-based ITS with DM tools for Providing Learning Path Optimization and Visual Analytics
Igor Jugo, Božidar Kovačić and Vanja Slavuj

Different Patterns of Students’ Interaction with Moodle and Their Relationship with Achievement
Rebeca Cerezo, Miguel Sanchez-Santillan, Jose C Nuñez and M. Puerto Paule

Educational Data Mining in an Open-Ended Remote Laboratory on Electric Circuits. Goals and Preliminary Results
Jordi Cuadros, Lucinio Gonzalez, Susana Romero, M. Luz Guenaga, Javier Garcia-Zubia and Pablo Orduña

Discovering Process in Curriculum Data to Provide Recommendation
Ren Wang and Osmar Zaïane

Improving Long-Term Retention Level in an Environment of Personalized Expanding Intervals
Xiaolu Xiong and Joseph Beck

Exploring Problem-Solving Behavior in an Optics Game
Michael Eagle, Rebecca Brown, Elizabeth Rowe, Tiffany Barnes, Jodi Asbell-Claarke and Teon Edwards

Simulating Multi-Subject Momentary Time Sampling
Luc Paquette, Jaclyn Ocumpaugh and Ryan Baker

Analyzing Students’ Interaction Based on Their Response to Determine Their Learning Outcomes
Fazel Keshtkar, Jordan Cowart, Ben Kingen and Andrew Crutcher

Exploring the Impact of Spacing in Mathematics Learning through Data Mining
Richard Tibbles

Data-Driven Analyses of Electronic Text Books
Ahcène Boubekki, Ulf Kröhne, Frank Goldhammer, Waltraud Schreiber and Ulf Brefeld. Toward

How to Visualize Success: Presenting Complex Data in a Writing Strategy Tutor
Matthew Jacovina, Erica Snow, Laura Allen, Rod Roscoe, Jennifer Weston, Jianmin Dai and Danielle McNamara

Adjusting the weights of assessment elements in the evaluation of Final Year Projects
Mikel Villamañe, Mikel Larrañaga, Ainhoa Alvarez and Begoña Ferrero

Predicting Students’ Outcome by Interaction Monitoring
Samara Ruiz, Maite Urretavizcaya and Isabel Fernandez-Castro

Hierarchical Dialogue Act Classification in Online Tutoring Sessions
Borhan Samei, Vasile Rus, Benjamin Nye and Donald M. Morrison

Towards Freshmen Performance Prediction
Hana Bydžovská

Generalising IRT to Discriminate Between Examinees
Ahcène Boubekki, Ulf Brefeld and Thomas Delacroix

Detection of Learners with a Performance Inconsistent with Their Effort
Diego Garcia-Saitz and Marta Zorrilla

A Probabilistic Model for Knowledge Component Naming
Cyril Goutte, Serge Léger and Guillaume Durand

An Improved Data-Driven Hint Selection Algorithm for Probability Tutors
Thomas Price, Collin Lynch, Tiffany Barnes and Min Chi

Good Communities and Bad Communities: Does Membership Affect Performance?
Rebecca Brown, Collin Lynch, Michael Eagle, Jennifer Albert, Tiffany Barnes, Ryan Baker, Yoav Bergner and Danielle McNamara

A Model for Student Action Prediction in 3D Virtual Environments for Procedural Training
Diego Riofrío and Jaime Ramirez

The Impact of Instructional Intervention and Practice on Help-Seeking Strategies within an ITS
Caitlin Tenison and Christopher Maclellan
Predicting Performance on Dichotomous Questions: Comparing Models for Large-Scale Adaptive Testing
Jill-Jênn Vie, Fabrice Popineau, Jean-Bastien Grill, Éric Bruillard and Yolaine Bourda

The Effect of the Distribution of Predictions of User Models
Eric Van Inwegen, Yan Wang, Seth Adjei and Neil Heffernan

Predicting Student Aptitude Using Performance History
Anthony F. Botelho, Seth A. Adjei, Hao Wan and Neil T. Heffernan

Discovering Concept Maps from Textual Sources
Jagadeesh Chandra Bose RP, Om Deshmukh and Ravindra Bhavanam

Integrating Process and Product Data: The Case of an Automated Writing Evaluation System
Chaitanya Ramineni, Tiago Caliço and Chen Li

Application of Sentiment and Topic Analysis to Teacher Evaluation Policy in the U.S.
Antonio Moretti, Kathy McKnight and Ansaf Salleb-Aouissi

Defining Mastery: Knowledge Tracing Versus N-Consecutive Correct Responses
Kim Kelly, Yan Wang, Tamisha Thompson and Neil Heffernan

A Toolbox for Adaptive Sequence Dissimilarity Measures for Intelligent Tutoring Systems (demo)
Benjamin Paaßen, Bassam Mokbel and Barbara Hammer

Carnegie Learning’s Cognitive Tutor (demo)
Steven Ritter and Stephen Fancsali

SAP: Student Attrition Predictor (demo)
Devendra Singh Chaplot, Eunhee Rhim and Jihie Kim

Doctoral Consortium

Dynamic User Modeling within a Game-Based ITS
Érica Snow

Use of Time Information in Models behind Adaptive Practice System for Building Fluency in Mathematics
Jiří Riháčk

Integrating Learning Styles into Adaptive e-Learning System
Huong May Truong

Modeling Speed-Accuracy Tradeoff in Adaptive System for Practicing Estimation
Juraj Nižnan

Reimagining Khan Analytics for Student Coaches
Jim Cunningham

Data Analysis Tools and Methods for Improving the Interaction Design in e-Learning
Paul Stefan Popescu

Assessing the Roles of Student Engagement and Academic Emotions within Middle School Computer-Based Learning in College-Going Pathways
Maria Ofelia San Pedro

Who Do You Think I Am? Modeling Individual Differences for More Adaptive and Effective Instruction
Laura Allen

Developing Self-Regulated Learners Through an Intelligent Tutoring System
Kim Kelly

Data-driven Hint Generation from Peer Debugging Solutions
Zhongxiu Liu

Enhancing Student Motivation and Learning Within Adaptive Tutors
Korinn Ostrow

Estimating the Local Size and Coverage of Interaction Network Regions
Michael Eagle