Teaching/Learning Physics: Integrating Research into Practice
TEACHING/LEARNING PHYSICS: INTEGRATING RESEARCH INTO PRACTICE

EDITORS
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Teaching/Learning Physics: Integrating Research into Practice

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Table of contents

Preface .................................................................................................................................................. 1
Rosa Maria Sperandeo-Mineo and Claudio Fazio

1. General Talk Papers
CONSIDERING PHYSICS KNOWLEDGE AS A CULTURE. AN APPROACH TO PHYSICS ............... 5
Igal Galili
CURRICULUM MATCHING INTERESTS AND NEEDS OF CONTEMPORARY LEARNERS
Igal Galili
HOW CAN THE LEARNING OF PHYSICS SUPPORT THE CONSTRUCTION OF STUDENTS’ .......... 19
PERSONAL IDENTITIES?
Olivia Levrini
RESEARCH-BASED INTERACTIVE SIMULATIONS TO SUPPORT QUANTUM MECHANICS .......... 29
Antje Kohnle
LEARNING AND TEACHING
Igal Galili
SUPPORTING TEACHERS USE AND ASSESSMENT OF INQUIRY BASED SCIENCE EDUCATION ....... 41
Eilish Mcloughlin, Odilla Finlayson
POTENTIALLY MEANINGFUL TEACHING UNITS (PMTUS) IN PHYSICS EDUCATION ............... 47
Marco Antonio Moreira
THINKING THE CONTENT FOR PHYSICS EDUCATION RESEARCH AND PRACTICE ............... 61
Laurence Viennot

2. Physics Teaching/Learning at Primary Level and Teacher Education
TEACHING ABOUT ENERGY USING COOPERATIVE LEARNING: AN IMPLEMENTATION ............. 83
Arantza Rico
AND ITS EVALUATION IN A TEACHER TRAINING DEGREE
Enrica Giordano, Sabrina Rossi
EARLY CHILDHOOD SCIENCE EDUCATION IN AN INFORMAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT .......... 91
Sara R. Barbieri, Marco Giliberti
USING VIDEOS AND VIDEO EDITING SOFTWARE WITH PRE-SERVICE TEACHERS .................. 99
FOR OUR MODERN PRIMARY SCIENCE CLASSROOMS
Maeve Liston
METHODS BASED ON NON-FORMAL-LEARNING AND EMOTION-BASED LEARNING ................. 109
FOR TEACHING PHYSICS IN PRIMARY AND LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOLS
Ormella Pantano, Sofia Talas, Valeria Zanini
Abdeljalil Métiou, Louis Trudel
THE ROLE OF SCIENTIFIC MUSEUMS IN PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY EDUCATION COURSES ..... 129
FOR PRE-SERVICE PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS
Laurence Viennot
THE EDUCATION OF PRE-SERVICE PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS FOR TEACHING PHYSICS ...... 137
AS PART OF THE SCIENCE CURRICULUM IN SLOVENIA
Eugenio Bertozzi, Claudio Fazio, Michele Antonio Floriano, Olivia Levrini, Roberta Maniaci, Barbara Pecori,
Margherita Venturi, Jan Apotheker

3. Physics Teaching and Learning at Secondary Level
PROBABILITY AND AMOUNT OF DATA ......................................................................................... 149
Corrado E. Agnes
FROM NAÏVE TO SCIENTIFIC UNDERSTANDING OF MOTION AND ITS CAUSES ..................... 157
Alessandro Ascarì, Federico Corni, Gabriele Ceroni, Hans U. Fuchs
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FACE THE MAGNETIC VECTOR POTENTIAL: SOME RELAPSES ........ 165
IN THEIR LEARNING AND TIPS FOR TEACHERS DEALING WITH ELECTROMAGNETISM
Sara R. Barbieri, Marco Giliberti
RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN SCIENCE EDUCATION: THE IRRESISTIBLE ...... 175
Eugenio Bertozzi, Claudio Fazio, Michele Antonio Floriano, Olivia Levrini, Roberta Maniaci, Barbara Pecori,
Margherita Venturi, Jan Apotheker
WORKSHOP: TIPS AND TRICKS TO MAKE TRADITIONAL LABORATORY MORE MINDS-ON.................. 183
AND INQUIRY
Ed van den Berg
PLAYING WITH (SUPER)HYDROPHOBICITY: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY EXPERIMENTAL............... 193
SEQUENCE ON PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF WATER
Assunta Bonanno, Giacomo Bozzo, Federica Napoli, Peppino Sapia
EXPLAINING PHENOMENA SCIENTIFICALLY AND IDENTIFYING SCIENTIFIC ISSUES IN .......... 201
PHYSICS EDUCATION: SOME INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS OF THE HIGH-PERFORMING
ECONOMIES IN PISA 2006
Kwok-cheung Cheung
A DYNAMICAL MODEL FOR THE ROLLING CYLINDER .......................................................... 209
Michele D'Anna
AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH TO THE BOLTZMANN DISTRIBUTION THROUGH THE .......... 217
CHEMICAL POTENTIAL
Michele D'Anna, Georg Job
IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROPOSAL TO TEACH QUANTUM MECHANICS CONCEPTS ............... 225
FROM FEYNMAN'S MULTIPLE PATHS APPLIED TO THE LIGHT
Maria De Los Angeles Fanaro, Maria Rita Otero, Mariana Elgue
SECONDARY STUDENTS' VIEWS ABOUT SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY ............................................. 233
Silvia Galano, Alessandro Zappia, Luigi Smaldone, Italo Testa
DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHING MATERIALS: A COURSE FOR GEOMETRICAL OPTICS .......... 241
FOR LOWER SECONDARY STUDENTS
Claudia Haagen, Martin Hopf
SIMPLE EXPERIMENTS SUPPORTING CONCEPTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF BODY COLOUR ....... 249
Claudia Haagen
A SUPERFICIAL TEXTBOOK PRESENTATION OF THE GENEVA LAKE EXPERIMENT FOR ........ 257
MEASURING SOUND SPEED IN WATER: STUDENTS' CONSIDERATIONS OF COHERENCE
BETWEEN TEXTUAL AND VISUAL INFORMATION
Zalkida Hadzibegovic, Josip Slisko
ON THE VERDICT OF THE GERMAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY AGAINST THE KARLSRUHE ............ 267
PHYSICS COURSE – A CHRONICLE OF EVENTS
Friedrich Herrmann, Michael Pohlig
THERMOLAB - SIMULATING THERMAL PROCESSES BY SIMULATING GIBBS ENSEMBLES ........ 275
Oliver Frisius, Friedrich Herrmann, Michael Pohlig,
HOW SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS CONCEPTUALIZE INFRARED RADIATION - MATTER ...... 281
INTERACTION? FINDINGS FROM A RESEARCH STUDY AND IMPLICATIONS FOR AN
INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN
Maria Isabel Hernández, Raquel Ríos, Roser Pintó
IS IT DIFFICULT TO MOTIVATE OUR STUDENTS TO STUDY PHYSICS? .................................. 289
Renata Holubova
STUDENTS’ MISCONCEPTIONS REGARDING EVERYDAY THERMAL PHENOMENA ................. 297
Petr Kácovský
A PLATFORM TO SUPPORT CO₂ EMISSIONS MAPPING ON THE AEGEAN SEA ISLANDS .......... 305
Barbara Kasselouri, Harry Kambezidis, Alexis Kasselouri, Dimitrios Zeygolis
PHYSICS TEACHERS’ INVENTIONS FAIR – CONFERENCE AND SOURCE OF TEACHING IDEAS ...... 319
Zdeňka Koupilová, Leos Dvoriák
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS’ MISCONCEPTIONS IN ELECTRICITY AND MAGNETISM .......... 323
AND SOME EXPERIMENTS THAT CAN HELP TO REDUCE THEM
Vera Koudelkova, Leos Dvoriak
KINEMATICS CONCEPTS AT DIFFERENT REPRESENTATION LEVELS – A MUTUAL ................. 329
INFORMATION APPROACH
Clemens Wagner, Andreas Lichtenberger, Andreas Vaterlaus
GUIDING STUDENTS TO COMBINE PARTIAL LAWS OF ENERGY CONSERVATION ............... 339
Paul S. W. M. Logman, Wolter H. Kaper and Ton L. Ellermeijer
A NEW PHYSICS CURRICULUM FOR A VOCATIONAL SCHOOL ............................................ 347
Vera Montalbano, Roberto Benedetti, Emilio Mariotti
TEACHING THE BASIC CONCEPTS OF THE SPECIAL RELATIVITY IN THE SECONDARY .......... 355
SCHOOL IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE THEORY OF CONCEPTUAL FIELDS OF VERGNAUD
4. Physics Teaching and Learning at University Level

THE BRACED STRING, DISPERSION AND POLARIZATION ........................................ 421
Sergej Faletić

HOW CLOSE CAN WE GET WAVES TO WAVEFUNCTIONS, INCLUDING POTENTIAL? .... 429
Sergej Faletić

HOW CAN FUTURE EUROPEAN PHYSICS STUDIES LEAD TO INNOVATIVE COMPETENCES .......... 437
Hendrik Ferdinande

INVESTIGATING PHYSICS TEACHING AND LEARNING AT UNIVERSITY .................................. 443
Jenaro Guisasola, Mieke De Cock, Stephen Kanim, Lana Ivanjek, Kristina Zuza, Laurens Bollen, Paul Van Kampen

VIDEO ANALYSIS BASED TASKS IN PHYSICS .............................................................. 453
Peter Hockicko, Katarina Pažická

IMPROVING STUDENTS’ UNDERSTANDING BY USING ONGOING EDUCATION RESEARCH .......... 461
Alexander P. Mazzolini, Scott A. Daniel

TEACHING ELECTROSTATICS THROUGH PROJECT-BASED LEARNING ................................. 469
Carlos Collazos, Cesar Mora, Ricardo Otero, Jaime Isaza

MULTIPLE BOUNCES OF DIFFERENT MATERIAL BALLS IN FREE FALL ............................. 477
Armando C. Perez Guerrero Noyola, Fernando Yañez Barona

AN INQUIRY-BASED APPROACH TO THE FRANCK-HERTZ EXPERIMENT ............................. 485
Dominique Persano Adorno, Nicola Pizzolato

PHYSICAL MODELLING: A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO TEACH NON-PHYSICS MAJORS .............. 493
Estela M. Puente Leos, Marcos Ley Koo

THE NATURE OF STUDENTS’ REASONING PROCESSES IN TASKS INVOLVING THE CONCEPT ...... 499

5. ICT and Multi-Media in Physics Education

OPERATING SYSTEM INDEPENDENT PHYSICS SIMULATIONS ............................................. 533
Osvaldo Aquines, Hector Gonzalez, Pablo Perez
INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARD (IWB) AND CLASSROOM RESPONSE SYSTEM (CRS): .......................... 539
HOW CAN TEACHERS USE THESE RESOURCES?
Assunta Bonanno, Giacomo Bozzo, Federica Napoli, Peppino Sapia
THE USES OF INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARD IN A SCIENCE LABORATORY ................................. 551
Giacomo Bozzo, Carme Grimalt-Alvaro, Victor López
PREPARING PRE-SERVICE TEACHERS TO INTEGRATE TECHNOLOGY INTO INQUIRY-BASED .......... 559
SCIENCE EDUCATION: THREE CASE STUDIES IN THE NETHERLANDS
Trinh-Ba Tran, Ed van den Berg, Ton Ellermeijer, Jos Beishuizen
LEARNING ASSESSMENT ABOUT THE MOON’S SYNCHRONOUS ROTATION MEDIATED ............... 575
COMPUTATIONAL RESOURCE
Adriano L. Fagundes, Tatiana da Silva, Marta Feijó Barroso
USING TECHNOLOGY TO PROVIDE AN INTERACTIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE ...................... 583
Kyle Forinash, Raymond Wisman
USE YOUR HEAD - IN FOOTBALL AND IN PHYSICS EDUCATION ........................................... 591
Angela Fösel, Leopold Mathelitsch, Sigrid Thaller, Jens Wagner
FORMATION OF KEY COMPETENCIES THROUGH INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION ........ 601
TECHNOLOGY
Tomasz Grezcylo, Ewa Dębowska
COMPARING METHODS OF MEASUREMENT OF FRICTION WITH SIMPLE EQUIPMENT ................. 609
AND WITH DATA-LOGGERS
Kamila Hrabovská, Libor Koníček, Libuše Švecová, Karla Barčová
IMPLEMENTATION OF AN IN-SERVICE COURSE ON INTEGRATION OF ICT INTO INQUIRY .......... 617
BASED SCIENCE EDUCATION: A CASE STUDY IN SLOVAKIA
Zuzana Ježková, Trinh-Ba Tran, Marián Kireš and Ton Ellermeijer
iMOBILE PHYSICS: A RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FOR TEACHING AND ............. 629
LEARNING WITH SMARTPHONES AND TABLET PCS AS MOBILE EXPERIMENTAL TOOLS
Pascal Klein, Jochen Kuhn, Andreas Müller
WHAT IS LIGHT? FROM OPTICS TO QUANTUM PHYSICS THROUGH THE SUM OVER ................ 639
PATHS APPROACH
Massimiliano Malgieri, Pasquale Onorato, Anna De Ambrosis
REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON MULTIMEDIA MATERIALS FOR TEACHING ................. 647
AND LEARNING QUANTUM PHYSICS
Bruce Mason, Ewa Dębowska, Tanwa Arpornthip, Raimund Girwidz, Tomasz Grezcylo, Antje Kohnle, Trevor Melder, Marisa Michelin, Lorenzo Santi, Jorge Silva
CHAOTIC BEHAVIOUR OF ZEEMAN MACHINES AT INTRODUCTORY COURSE OF MECHANICS ..... 657
Péter Nagy, Péter Tasnádi
ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT CONSTRUCTED MODELS ON TOPICS RELEVANT TO HEAT ............... 667
AND TEMPERATURE SYSTEMS
Christiania Th. Nicolaou, Bert Bredeweg, Constantinou P., Constantinou, Jochem Liem
ROLLING MOTION: EXPERIMENTS AND SIMULATIONS FOCUSING ON SLIDING FRICTION .......... 675
FORCES
Pasquale Onorato, Massimiliano Malgieri, Anna De Ambrosis
TEACHING OPTICS WITH A VIRTUAL MACH-ZEHNDER INTERFEROMETER: AN ANALYSIS .......... 683
OF A COLLABORATIVE LEARNING ACTIVITY
Alexandro Pereira de Pereira, Fernanda Ostermann
USING LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TO INTEGRATE PHYSICS COURSES WITH ................ 691
ONLINE ACTIVITIES: A CASE STUDY
Edilira Prenjasi, Shpresa Ahmetaga
DESIGN, TRAINING EXERCISES AND FEEDBACK IN AN ONLINE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT .......... 697
ABOUT ELECTRONS IN ELECTRIC AND MAGNETIC FIELDS
Stefan Richtberg, Raimund Girwidz
REMOTE AND VIRTUAL LABORATORIES AS PART OF ONLINE COURSES ................................. 705
Konstantin Rogozin, František Lustig, Sergey Kuznetsov, Denis Yanshev, Pavel Brom, Maxim Kiryasov, Alexey Ovcharov
ON-LINE COURSEWORK FOR STUDENTS OF OPTICS ............................................................... 711
Konstantin Rogozin, Sergey Kuznetsov, Irina Rogozina, Denis Yanshev, Vesselina Dimitrova, Nadezhda Isaeva, Ekaterina Sorokina
DESIGNING AN EDUCATIONAL METHODOLOGY TO TEACHING THERMAL EQUILIBRIUM .......... 719
USING ICT
Rubén Sánchez Sánchez
Alessandro Zappia, Silvia Galano, Luigi Smaldone, Italo Testa

TEACHER AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN IBSE AND ASSESSMENT .............................................. 907
Marián Kireš, Zuzana Jekšková, Eilish McLaughlin, Odilla Finlayson, Margareta Ekborg, Christina Ottander

7. Physics Teaching and Learning in Informal Settings
DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS’ INTEREST IN PARTICLE PHYSICS AS EFFECT OF ......................... 915
Participating in a Masterclass
Kerstin Gedigk, Gesche Pospiech

“GOOD VIBRATIONS” - A WORKSHOP ON OSCILLATIONS AND NORMAL MODES .............................. 923
Sara R. Barbieri, Marina Carpineti, Marco Giliberti, Enrico Rigon, Marco Stellato, Marina Tamborini

CHAOS THEORY AND ITS MANIFESTATIONS: AN INFORMAL EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY ..................... 931
To Explain Chaos to Students
Valeria Greco, Salvatore Spagnolo

MULTIMEDIA SOFTWARE “ARCHIMEDES AND HIS WORK”: A DEEPENING PATH IN ................................ 937
The ArKimeDejon Museum of Siracusa
Silvia Merlino, Marco Bianucci, Carlo Mantovani, Roberto Fieschi

PHYSICS COMPETITIONS FOR LEARNERS OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN SLOVENIA ................................. 949
Barbara Rovek, Robert Repnik

A SINGING WINE GLASS AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR TEACHING ACOUSTICS ........................................ 955
José A. Zárate Colin, Marisol Rodríguez Arcos, Karina Ramos Musalem, Estela M. Puente Leos, Marcos Ley Koo

INFORMAL TEACHING OF PHYSICS AT A HUNGARIAN SCIENCE CENTER ............................................. 965
Péter Mészáros

8. History and Philosophy of Science in Physics Education
RECASTING PARTICLE PHYSICS BY ENTANGLING PHYSICS, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY ..................... 973
Eugenio Bertozzi, Olivia Levri

THE DISCOVERY OF X-RAYS DIFFRACTION: FROM CRYSTALS TO DNA. A CASE-STUDY TO .............. 979
Promote Understanding of the Nature of Science and of Its Interdisciplinary Character
Francesco Guerra, Matteo Leone, Nadia Robotti

A TEACHING PROPOSAL ON ELECTROSTATICS BASED ON THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE .................. 987
Through the Reading of Historical Texts and Argumentative Discussions
Marina Castells, Aikaterini Konstantinidou, Josep Maria Cerveró

NATURE OF SCIENCE IN SCIENCE EDUCATION: FROM ‘TENETS’ TO ‘THEMES’ ...................................... 999
Andre F. Pinto Martins, Jim Ryder

9. Pedagogical Methods and Strategies
THE ROLE OF TEACHING SCAFFOLDING IN INQUIRY-BASED LEARNING OF BLACK-BOXED ........... 1011
Electric Circuits
Wheijen Chang

INTEGRATED STEM IN SECONDARY EDUCATION: A CASE STUDY ....................................................... 1021
Jolien De Meester, Heidi Knipprath, Jan Thielemans, Mieke De Cock, Greet Langie, Wim Dehaene

A QUANTITATIVE METHOD TO ANALYSE AN OPEN ANSWER QUESTIONNAIRE: ......................... 1029
A CASE STUDY ABOUT THE BOLTZMANN FACTOR
Onofrio R. Battaglia, Benedetto Di Paola

AN AMERICAN INSTRUCTOR IN AN UPPER-LEVEL ITALIAN PHYSICS CLASS ........................................ 1041
Gerald Feldman

TEACHER CHANGE IN IMPLEMENTING A RESEARCH DEVELOPED REPRESENTATION ......................... 1049
Construction Pedagogy
Peter Hubber, Gail Chittleborough

LABORATORY ACTIVITIES AND THE PERCEPTION OF STUDENTS ....................................................... 1059
Daniela Marocchi, Marina Serio

MATHEMATICAL MODEL OF THE DIDACTIC STRUCTURE OF PHYSICS KNOWLEDGE .................... 1071
EMBODIED IN PHYSICS TEXTBOOKS
Eizo Ohno

INFLUENCE OF PEER METHOD AND IBSE IN SCIENCE COMPETENCE IN CHILEAN ......................... 1079
Secondary Students
Nataly Rodríguez, Iván Sánchez, Ivo Fustos

SOLVING OF QUANTITATIVE PHYSICS TASKS – SELECTED SUB-SKILLS AND HOW TO .................... 1087
TEACH THEM
Marie Snetinova, Zdeňka Koupilová,
USING ROLE-PLAYING GAME IN A VIRTUAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR A NEW ..................... 1095
APPROACH TO PHYSICS CLASSROOM LESSONS
Annalisa Terracina, Massimo Mecella
MOTIONS OF A METAL BALL IN THREE IMAGINARY TUNNELS THROUGH THE EARTH:................... 1105
A PILOT STUDY IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA ON COHERENCE OF STUDENTS’
GRAVITATION AND INERTIA CONCEPTIONS
Jasmina Baluković, Josip Sliško

List of Referees .................................................................................................................................. 1115

Author Index .......................................................................................................................................... 1117
Preface

The GIREP-MPTL International conference on Teaching/Learning Physics: Integrating Research into Practice [GIREP-MPTL 2014] was held from 7 to 12 July 2014, at the University of Palermo, Italy.

The conference has been organised by the Groupe International de Recherche sur l’Enseignement de la Physique [GIREP] and the Multimedia in Physics Teaching and Learning [MPTL] group and it has been sponsored by the International Commission on Physics Education [ICPE] – Commission 14 of the International Union for Pure and Applied Physics [IUPAP], the European Physical Society – Physics Education Division [EPS-PED], the Latin American Physics Education Network [LAPEN] and the Società Italiana di Fisica [SIF].

The theme of the conference, **Teaching/Learning Physics: Integrating Research into Practice**, underlines aspects of great relevance in contemporary science education. In fact, during the last few years, evidence based Physics Education Research provided results concerning the ways and strategies to improve student conceptual understanding, interest in Physics, epistemological awareness and insights for the construction of a scientific citizenship. However, Physics teaching practice seems resistant to adopting adapting these findings to their own situation and new research based curricula find difficulty in affirming and spread, both at school and university levels. The conference offered an opportunity for in-depth discussions of this apparently wide-spread tension in order to find ways to do better.

The purpose of the GIREP-MPTL 2014 was to bring together people working in physics education research and in physics education at schools from all over the world to allow them to share research results and exchange their experience.

About 300 teachers, educators, and researchers, from all continents and 45 countries have attended the Conference contributing with 177 oral presentations, 15 workshops, 11 symposia, and around 60 poster presentations, together with 11 keynote addresses (general talks).

After the conference, 147 papers have been submitted for the GIREP-MPTL 2014 International Conference proceedings. Each paper has been reviewed by at least two reviewers, from countries that are different to those of the authors and on the basis of criteria described on the Conference web site. Papers were subsequently revised by authors according to reviewers’ comments and the accepted papers are reported in this book, divided in 8 Sections on the basis of the keywords suggested by authors. The other book section (actually, the first one) contains the papers that six of the keynote talkers sent for publication in this Proceedings Book.

We would like to thank all the authors that contributed with their papers to the realization of this book and all the referees that with their criticism helped authors to improve the quality of the papers.

Palermo, 30th June 2015

Rosa Maria Sperandeo Mineo and Claudio Fazio