Mathematics Education in the Computational Age:

Challenges and Opportunities



Kathryn Holmes Western Sydney University Kennedy, J. P., Lyons, T., & Quinn, F. (2014). The continuing decline of science and mathematics enrolments in Australian high schools. *Teaching Science*, *60*(2), 34-46.



Centre for Education Statistics & Evaluation

Why aren't students studying higher level maths? How ATAR scaling may affect maths uptake

Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation



Figure 1:

MAY 2017

Annual Enrolments in HSC General Mathematics and HSC Mathematics – 2001-2015

Source: Board of Studies Teaching and Educational Standards NSW (2016a).



The chicken or the egg?

Procedural knowledge Conceptual knowledge

Rittle-Johnson, B. (2017). Developing Mathematics Knowledge. Child Development Perspectives, 11(3), 184-190.





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Conrad Wolfram:

Teaching kids real math with computers

TEDGlobal 2010 · 17:19 · Filmed Jul 2010

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What's wrong with today's maths education?



Which mathematical procedures are useful for promoting the development of deep conceptual understanding?

NSW Mathematics syllabus: Stage 4: Number & Algebra

- Use an appropriate non-calculator method to divide two- and three-digit numbers by a two digit number
- Apply a practical understanding of the distributive law to aid mental computation eg. To multiply a number by 13, first multiply by 10 and then add 3 times the number



Google Trends: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)





NOVEMBER 2014





ACARA STEM CONNECTIONS PROJECT REPORT

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

"Schools were generally satisfied with the coverage of the **Science** content descriptions."

"Many schools found that **Technologies** was a key driver of the project as a whole."

"School reports indicate that **Mathematics** was the most difficult learning area to plan for in the project. Some teachers commented that they found it hard to integrate Mathematics effectively into those projects that were focused on Science or Technologies."

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Thank you!

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