

Adaptive Educational Hypermedia Systems based on Learning Styles: The Case of Adaptation Rules

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Abstract—This paper investigates the pedagogical basis of Adaptive Educational Hypermedia Systems (AEHS) that incorporate Learning Styles in order to accommodate user's learning style preferences and needs. Therefore, AES adapt the learning content, its presentation and navigation to the user's learning style preferences. We collect thirty three (33) Adaptive and Intelligent Web-based Educational Systems (AIWBES) that incorporate learning styles and discuss twenty of them, namely the AEHS, as the remaining are Intelligent Tutoring Systems. The main achievement of this work is the investigation of AEHS' pedagogical basis in terms of adaptation rules. We conclude that these systems follow similar patterns in their adaptation logic.

Keywords—adaptive educational hypermedia systems, learning styles, pedagogical basis

1 Introduction

The Internet and World Wide Web (WWW) offer new possibilities for innovative instruction, as the development of hypermedia educational systems facilitates learning and utilizes learning as an active process, in which users can explore alternative learning paths. The utilization of web is more beneficial when it follows a student-oriented approach in order to reinforce the learning experience [1]. Many researchers conclude that learning environments should take into consideration the individual differences among users/learners. The fundamental idea of personalization, namely individualized instruction, is that education should not be restricted by time, place or any other obstacle and should be adapted to constantly changing demands of users', namely their capabilities, preferences, knowledge, skills, etc. [2]. Within this context, the user

modelling is vital to process of personalization, as the system assembles the most appropriate personalized course for each individual. Therefore, AEHS cater to needs of each individual user, adapts to learning goals/tasks, level of knowledge, background, experience, traits, context of work, prerequisite knowledge and interests [3]. Several terms for characterizing the AES that incorporate learning styles are used, such as LSAES (Learning Style based Adaptive Educational System) [4], [5], LS -AE (Learning Style-Adaptive Environments) [6], LS-BAEHSS (Learning Styles-Based Adaptive Educational Hypermedia Systems) [7], etc. In our study we adopt a more general characterization, as AEHS that incorporate learning styles. There are only a few studies that provide overview of such systems, which main source of adaptation are learning styles, such as [8], [9], [10], [11], [7], [12], [6], [13], etc. In our study we categorize the undermentioned systems by learning style models and adaptation rules. Regarding adaptation rules, Popescu et al. [4] propose a model, ULSM (Unified Learning Style Model), a characteristic-based modeling approach for characterizing the students from their learning preferences. Also, Vandewaetere et al. [12], present an overview of pathways of adaptation in computer-based adaptive learning environments. Consequently, the aforementioned reasons rendering the investigation of pedagogical basis a daunting task.

The present work investigates AES which incorporate learning styles in order to adapt the learning content, its presentation and navigation to the user's learning style preferences. As the adaptation to the learning style has been considered an important factor towards personalized instruction and adaptation rules are required for adaptation, we consider that is purposeful to examine the adaptation rules of these systems.

2 Methodology

We collect thirty three (33) Adaptive and Intelligent Web-based Educational Systems (AIWBES) that incorporate learning styles and discuss twenty of them, namely the AEHS, as shown by Table 1, as the remaining are Intelligent Tutoring Systems. We attempt to gather all the existing AIWBES and we analyze them in accordance with authors' description, because many of them are not available on-line. Based on methodology of literature review, we search for relevant works in library databases, greek and foreign, through google scholar and emails to various researchers. Based on the provided educational material, we conclude which adaptation rules are followed by these AEHS. The research questions are: What is the pedagogical basis of AEHS? What are the adaptation rules that following these systems in order to adapt the educational material to user's learning style preferences? In particular, the search was performed using keywords, such as adaptive educational systems, intelligent systems, personalization and adaptative systems, learning styles, learning styles and adaptive systems, pedagogical basis at adaptive systems, adaptation rules, adaptation rules and adaptive systems, categorization of adaptive systems, etc. We searched at *journals*, such as Computers & Education, Review of Educational research, Educational Technology & Society, Journal of Business Education, User Modeling and User-Adapted Interaction, International Journal of Artificial Intelligence in Education, Instructional

science, Applied Artificial Intelligence, etc., at *conference proceedings*, such as Learning Technologies Conference, Conference on Hypertext and Hypermedia, Conference on Intelligent Tutoring Systems, WWW Conference, International Conference on E-Learning and Games, IEEE International Conference, Conference on Computers in Education, etc.

3 Brief description of AEHS based on Learning Styles

We gather thirty three (33) Adaptive and Intelligent Web-based Educational Systems (AIWBES) from 1996 to 2014, as we can see at Table 1, and discuss twenty of them. Specifically, we analyze the AEHS and refer some basic features of them, as we can see at Table 2. AIWBESystems in order to be adaptive, they build a model of goals, preferences and knowledge of each individual user and according to it, the system is adapted to the user's needs [3]. According to [14] "*AEH systems build a model of the individual user/learner, and apply it for adaptation to that user. In this sense, they can be considered as a sub-domain of ITS*" (pp.31). The AEHS are the following:

"**CS383, Computer Systems**" is a hypermedia courseware and an adaptive hypermedia interface were developed in order to personalize the presentation of course material to user's learning style, based on the Felder and Silverman Learning Style Model. It introduces briefly university students to various areas of Computer Science [15].

"**Arthur**" is a Web-based instruction system that provides adaptive instruction to implement the many-to-one relationship in order to teach Physics and CCC programming language. There are three instructors, each of which has on his own section, audio, visual, tactile or textual and different instruction style is used each time [16].

"**iWeaver**" is a Web-based Adaptive Learning Environment that provides an introductory course on computer programming in accord with user's learning styles. The system accommodates the learning styles and implements different forms of instruction, based on Dunn and Dunn's Learning Style Model [6].

"**ILASH**" is an Educational Hypermedia System that incorporates the summarising and questioning strategies into hypermedia. The system includes different adaptive techniques embedded in the text and link structure to support the use of strategies. The system contains courseware and aims at GCSE-level students, including an adaptive session about "The behaviour of waves" and a non-adaptive session about "The Solar System" in the field of Physics [17].

"**FELJOO.NET**" is an Adaptive System Hypermedia which adapts content and its presentation to the user's learning style, namely Theorists and Activist. The system aims at university students [18].

"**INSPIRE**" (INtelligent System for Personalized Instruction in a Remote Environment) is an Adaptive Educational Hypermedia System that personalizes the presentation of educational material in accordance with users' learning style, based on the Honey and Mumford's Learning Style Model. Also, suggests a navigation route based on their level of knowledge, aiming to teach Computer Architecture [19].

"**AES-CS**" (Adaptive Educational System based on Cognitive Styles) is an Adaptive Educational System based on user's cognitive style and aims to teach "Multimedia Systems Technology" at university students. The system adopts the Witkin's Cognitive Style Model [20].

"**LSAS**" is a Hypermedia Educational System that incorporates the sequencing of pages and structure, employing two different presentation style of user interface templates in order to caters learner's preferences. The system aims to teach Geography and incorporates the global and sequential learning style according to Felder-Silverman Learning Style Model [17].

"**MOT**" is a tool which allows the incorporation of different learning styles into adaptive educational hypermedia applications, based on Kolb's Learning Style Model [10].

"**TANGOW**" (Task-based Adaptive learNer Guidance On the Web) adapts the course structure and sequencing to the student's profile based on Felder-Silverman learning style model [21].

"**WHURLE**" (Web-based Hierarchical Universal Reactive Learning Environment) is an Adaptive Web-based Educational System (AWBES) that adapts content to visual-verbal preferences [22].

"**MASPLANG**" (MultiAgent System PLATforma de Nueva Generation) is e-learning system that provides personalized contents, navigation tools and navigation strategies dependant on the user's learning style and cognitive state, based on Felder and Silverman Learning Style Model [23].

"**DEUS**" (Digital Environment Utilising Styles) is an Adaptive Educational Hypermedia System that incorporates the sequential and global learning style of Felder and Silverman's Learning Style Model. The system aims at primary school students and its domain is Life Cycles [24].

"**AHA! System: Version 3.0**" (Adaptive Hypermedia Architecture) is a general-purpose adaptive hypermedia system and implement learning styles [25].

"**WELSA**" (Web-based Educational system with Learning Style Adaptation) is an Intelligent and Adaptive Web-based Educational System that aims at adapting the courses to the student's learning style preferences, teaching a course module in the area of Artificial Intelligence [26].

"**PALS2**" is an Adaptive Web-based Educational System that provides learners with personalized learning content based on their learning styles. This system aims at university students and teaches Semantic Network course, based on Jackson's Learning Styles Profiler [27].

"**AEHS-LS**" (Adaptive E-Learning Hypermedia System based on Learning Style) is an Adaptive E-Learning Hypermedia System that adapts content presentation to student learning styles in order to present the appropriate content, format and media type. The system aims to teach Java programming language and adopts the VARK Learning Style Model [28].

"**MATHEMA**" is a Web-based Adaptive Educational Hypermedia System that aims at teaching senior High School students or novices of Higher Education about Physics and especially electromagnetism [11].

"AMDPC" (Adaptation with Multi-Dimensional Personalization Criteria) is an Adaptive Learning System, based on Witkin's Cognitive Style Model and Felder-Silverman's Learning Style Model. The provision of personalized content and presentation layout based on learning styles, while personalized user interfaces and navigation strategies based on cognitive styles. This system regards Computer Networks [29].

"LS-AEHS" (Learning Style based on Adaptive E-learning Hypermedia System) is a system which integrates learning styles into adaptive e-learning hypermedia. This system addresses university students in order to teach Chemistry, by adapting content presentation to students' learning styles [30].

Table 1. Adaptive and Intelligent Web-based Educational Systems (AIWBES)

AIWBES* based on LSM	Date	Educational stage	Domain	Learning Style Model (LSM)
CS383	1996	Higher	Computer Science	FSLSM
Arthur	1999	Higher	Physics & C++	Instruction styles
iWeaver	2002	Higher	Java programming language	Dunn & Dunn's & psychological preferences
ILASH	2003	Secondary	Physics	Summarising, questioning strategies
FEIJOO.NET	2003	Higher	Undefined	Inspired by Honey and Mumford's
INSPIRE	2003	Higher	Computer Architecture	Honey & Mumford's
AES-CS	2003	Higher	Multimedia Systems Technology	Witkin's FI/FD
LSAS	2003	Secondary	Geography	FSLSM
MOT	2004	--	General-purpose	Kolb's
TANGOW	2004	--	Independent	FSLSM
WHURLE	2004	Higher	Independent	FSLSM
MAS-PLANG	2004	Higher	Computer Science	FSLSM
FlexiOLM	2004	Higher	C programming language	FSLSM
CIMEL-ITS	2005	Higher	CS1	FSLSM
First Aid For you	2005	Secondary	First Aid	FSLSM
Heritage alive learning	2006	Higher	Architecture	FSLSM
DEUS	2006	Primary	Life cycles	FSLSM
EDUCE	2006	Secondary	Static Electricity	Gardner's theory of MI
Vectors in Physics & Mathematics	2007	Secondary	Vectors in Physics & Mathematics	Biggs' surface vs. deep student approach
PALS2	2007	Higher	Semantic Network	Jackson's Learning Styles Profiler (LSP)
SAVER	2007	Higher	Artificial Intelligence	FSLSM
AHA! (3.0)	2007	--	General-purpose	Instructional strategies & meta-strategies
TSAL	2008	Secondary	Mathematics	Keefe's Model
WELSA	2008	Higher	Computer Science	ULSM

TANGRAM	2009	--	General-purpose	FSLSM
AEHS-LS	2011	Higher	Java programming language	VARK
Mag	2011	Higher	Learning programming languages	Dunn & Dunn's
PROTUS 2.0	2012	Higher	Java programming language	FSLSM
MATHEMA	2012	Secondary/Higher	Physics	Kolb's
UZWEBMAT	2012	Secondary	Mathematics	VAK
AMDPC	2013	Higher	Computer Networks	Witkin's FI/FD, FSLSM
LS-AEHS	2013	Higher	Chemistry	Honey & Mumford's
OSCAR CITS	2014	Higher	Computer Science	FSLSM

*Adaptive and Intelligent Web-based Educational Systems (AIWBES) [3]

Table 2. Basic features of AEHS

AEHS	Student Modelling Approach	Learning Style Model	To what is adapted	What is adapted	Research
CS383	Index of Learning Styles Questionnaire	FSLSM	Learning style	Content presentation	Empirical
Arthur	Learner's performance in the tests	Instruction styles	Performance	Instructional style [visual-interactive, auditory-text, auditory-lecture, text]	Empirical
iWeaver	Building Excellence Survey	Dunn & Dunn Model & four psychological learner preferences [Impulsive, Reflective & Global, Analytical]	Learning style, experience ratings, navigational choices	Content, content navigation, (recommendation of) media experience (choice/no choice)	Empirical
ILASH	----	Summarising & questioning strategies	Knowledge state/progress	Layout presentation, Navigation support	Empirical
FEIJOO.NET	Test of CHAEA	Inspired by the Honey & Mumford's model [Theorists & Activists]	Learning style	Content, content presentation	Unknown
INSPIRE	Learning Style Questionnaire	Honey & Mumford's Model	Knowledge, learning style, learning goal, last login, favourite pages, time spent	Lesson contents, navigational route	Empirical
AES-CS	Group Embedded Figures Test	Witkin's FI/FD	Cognitive style, level of knowledge	Presentation, navigation, instructional strategies	Empirical
LSAS	Index of Learning Styles Questionnaire	FSLSM [Global & sequential]	Learning styles	Presentation, navigation	Empirical
MOT	Monitoring the learner's	Kolb's Learning Style Model	Learning style	Instructional strategies	Unknown

	behavior	[Diverger&converger]			
TANGOW	Inventory of Learning Styles	FSLSM [Sensing/intuitive & sequential/global]	background, age, language, previous use of hypermedia, learning styles, student actions & teaching strategy	Content, sequence & structure, guidance	Empirical
WHURLE	Inventory of Learning Styles	FSLSM [Visual&verbal]	Learning preferences	Mode of presentation	Empirical
MAS-PLANG	Inventory of Learning Styles	FSLSM	knowledge level, learning style	Content, content presentation	Unknown
DEUS	Inventory of Learning Styles	FSLSM [Global&sequential]	Learning style	structuring of information	Empirical
PALS2	Jackson's Learning Styles Profiler questionnaire	Jackson's Learning Styles Profiler	learning style, background knowledge	Pedagogical strategies, presentation, content	Empirical
AHA! (3.0)	Instructional metastrategies to infer the learner's preferences	defined by the author	Learning styles & preferences	Instructional strategies	Empirical
WELSA	Analysis of the learners' interactions with the system	ULSM	Learning preferences	Navigation, educational resources	Empirical
AEHS-LS	Filling the VARK questionnaire or selecting the learning style based on information	VARK	knowledge level, learning style	presentation of content (content, format & media type)	Empirical
MATHEMA	Kolb's Learning Style Inventory	Kolb's Learning Style Model	learning goal, knowledge level for each main concept/ learning goal, Web experience, learning style, preference for visual and/or verbal feedback & preference for the kind of navigation	Presentation, navigation, sequence of content, group formation, peer help, feedback	Empirical
AMDPC	Group Embedded Figures Test & Index of Learning Style questionnaire	FD/FI cognitive style & FSLSM	Learning style, cognitive style	presentation, content	Empirical
LS-AEHS	Learning Style Questionnaire	Honey & Mumford's Model	Learning style	Presentation, navigation	Empirical

4 Classification of AEHS in learning style families

Among the several definitions that are used to describe the term "learning styles", the most frequently used and generally accepted is Keefe's [31] who defined them as "characteristic cognitive, affective and psychological behaviours that serve as relatively stable indicators of how learners perceive, interact with and respond to the learning environment" [p. 4]. Learning styles sometimes used interchangeably with cognitive styles, which can be defined as a person's approach in perceiving, remembering, processing [32] and organizing information [33], [34]. In current study, we categorize the AEHS in accord with [35] learning styles families, as we can see at Table 3. Coffield et al. [35] sort learning styles models into five families, drawing on the classification of learning styles by Curry [36]. Learning style models that are influenced by genetics and refer to fixed, inherited traits and about the interaction of personality and cognition are placed at the left-hand end of the continuum. Moving along it, learning styles models are based on "the idea of dynamic interplay between self and experience" [35] [pp. 20]. Personal and environmental factors, effects of curriculum design, culture, teaching and assessment tasks on how students opt or reject particular learning strategies are placed at the right-hand end of the continuum [35].

Table 3. Families of learning styles

Constitutionally-based learning styles and preferences	Cognitive structure	Stable personality type	Flexibly stable learning preferences	Learning approaches & strategies
iWeaver, AEHS-LS	AES-CS, AMDPC	PALS2	CS383, iWeaver, FEIJOO.NET, INSPIRE, LSAS, MOT, TANGOW WHURLE, MASPLANG, DEUS, WELSA, MATHEMA, AMDPC, LS-AEHS	Arthur, ILASH, AHA! (version 3.0)

As we can see from the Table 3, the most AEHS utilize models that come from the fourth family that accommodate learning styles as flexibly stable learning preferences. From the authors' point of view, Felder and Silverman's Learning Style Model is considered an appropriate measure for developing hypermedia courseware that should take into account personal factors [37]; has been recognized by many researchers as one of the most appropriate model for the development of adaptive learning environments [29]; the global-sequential dimension can be easily translated to hypertext and hypermedia structures and provide a logical structure of information and/or navigational support [24]; its questionnaire gives the possibility of linking automatically results to learning environment [21]; had already been used successfully by many researchers, shows a good level of validity and reliability and uses multiple representations that could easily be rendered by different media [22]. Papadimitriou et al. [11] opt Kolb's model, as it can match the appropriate didactic strategies with user's learn-

ing style, its concrete-abstract dimension is used for group formation and is suitable for the domain of Physics, namely for supporting didactic approaches for conceptual change. Papanikolaou et al. [19] choose Honey and Mumford's model in order for presentation of the educational material on each of the performance levels and Drissi & Amirat [30] adopt the same model because is appropriate for presentation of pages and links at a hypermedia course. As far as the first family and Dunn and Dunn's Learning Style Model is concerned, its high index of reliability and validity, the breadth of six areas of learning preferences that covers [6] and the different presentation modes that serves, make it preferable [38]. According to [28], the VARK Learning Style Model is considered as the simplest model with the greatest influence.

As far as the second family is concerned, FI/FD cognitive styles are significant factor for hypermedia-based courseware's design and instruction [20]. Regarding the fifth family of learning styles, instructional strategies that suit to preferred learning styles with an option to switch it to a non-preferred version are adopted [17] and as stated in [16], instructional strategies can lessen the limitation of the tutor's ability to adapt to the learner's learning style.

From our point of view, an explanation of why the fourth family of learning styles, namely the flexibly stable learning preferences, is the most commonly-used is because the most AEHS are aimed at university students whose learning preferences are more fixed than younger ones. Also, the domains are complicated and require specific instructional design with appropriate strategies. In addition to this, it is obvious that the Felder and Silverman's model is generally accepted as the most comprehensive, handy and with construable results, thus many researchers implement it as safe option. Consequently, we deduce that the nature of subjects, the age and the technical features of instruments make a model and/or learning style family more or less "famous".

5 Pedagogical basis of AEHS: the case of Adaptation Rules

Various techniques are used in order to represent student models, such as rules, fuzzy logic, Bayesian networks and case-based reasoning [39]. An adaptation model is specified by adaptation rules which are "*the adaptive methods and techniques used for content selection, navigation or presentation*", according to [26] [pp. 21]. The development of adaptation rules is a daunting task and according to Popescu (2009) is "*a delicate and tedious task*", as requires interpretation of the literature in order to specify the instructional guidelines [8].

We report the rule-based systems and we present them according to Learning Style families. We do not refer the adaptation rules for the following systems AHA! 3.0, MOT, TANGOW, WHURLE, because are general-purpose AEH systems and the rules are defined by authors; at DEUS, FEIJOO.NET and PALS2 are not referred sufficient information in order to extract the adaptation rules and Arthur based on the Case-based Reasoning. As far as the format of adaptation rules, we follow the proposed in [5] for systems that adaptation rules have not specific format, while we maintain the format of systems that report them, for example the LS-AEHS system.

As criteria to compare and present the adaptation rules, we employ the Learning Style Models and the corresponding learning preferences (learning style families).

We can deduce that AEC-CS and AMDPC, as described in Tables 8 and 4 that employ the Witkin's Learning Style Model in order to adapt the user interface to users' learning preferences, follow similar adaptation logic. In other words, the systems provide Field Dependent user with more information, more guidance and more complicated user interface, while Field Independent with less and more structured information, no guidance and simpler user interface. Regarding the CS383 and MASPLANG, as we can see at Tables 5 and 6, we observe that they have many similarities in terms of content selection and presentation. Specifically, they provide users with similar lesson structure and multimedia presentation, for instance, textual slides for verbals, pictorial format for visuals, overview for globals, etc. Regarding the LS-AEHS and INSPIRE, as depicted in Tables 12 and 13, they have similarities to content's order and presentation order. For example, the two systems provide Activists with exploratory items, then present examples and theory and finally, practice. Concerning the system WELSA, the learning style model that applies is inspired by Herrmann's Whole Brain Model, Felder-Silverman Learning Style Model and Kolb's Learning Style Model. In terms of learning style preferences, there are similarities to content and presentation among CS383, AMDPC, MASPLANG and WELSA, as illustrated in Tables 5, 4, 6 and 16. Specifically, visual, verbal, active and reflective users are common and systems follow similar instructional guidelines in order to meet their needs. In terms of learning style families, we can claim that iWeaver and AEHS-LS, as depicted in Tables 15 and 11 respectively, AES-CS and AMDPC, Tables 8 and 4 respectively, and finally, CS383, iWeaver, MASPLANG, WELSA and AMDPC, as shown by Tables 5, 15, 6, 16 and 4 share common learning style preferences, such as visual, verbal, active, reflective, sequential/serial, global/holistic, etc. and therefore, adopt similar instructional guidelines. For example, systems provide globals with overviews, verbals with audio files, sequentials with hierarchical structure of content, etc.

Consequently, we can infer that the adaptation rules are categorized primarily, on the basis of Learning Style Models, secondarily, on learning preferences and ultimately, on adaptive hypermedia technologies without significant differences among them. This means that, systems that are based on the same model follow the same patterns, in terms of instructional guidelines and technologies (Adaptive navigation support and Adaptive presentation) that support the adaptation process.

Table 4. Adaptation Rules of AMDPC

Content selection	
IF " Active " \in LS _{FelderSilverman model (L)} THEN present Text: fundamental, Figure: fundamental & Example: fundamental & supplementary	IF " Reflective " \in LS _{FelderSilverman model (L)} THEN present Text: fundamental, Figure: fundamental & Example: fundamental
IF " Sensing " \in LS _{FelderSilverman model (L)} THEN present Text: fundamental, Figure: fundamental & supplementary & Example: fundamental & supplementary	IF " Intuitive " \in LS _{FelderSilverman model (L)} THEN present Text: fundamental & supplementary, Figure: fundamental & Example: fundamental & supplementary

IF " Visual " \in LS FelderSilverman_model (L) THEN present Text: fundamental, Figure: fundamental & supplementary & Example: fundamental & supplementary	IF " Text " \in LS FelderSilverman_model (L) THEN present Text: fundamental & supplementary, Figure: fundamental & Example: fundamental
IF " Sequential " \in LS FelderSilverman_model (L) THEN present Text: fundamental & supplementary, Figure: fundamental, Example: fundamental & Scope: a concept or learning step	IF " Global " \in LS FelderSilverman_model (L) THEN present Text: fundamental with an abstract, Figure: fundamental & supplementary, Example: fundamental & supplementary & Scope: a chapter
Presentation	
IF " Field Dependent " \in LS Witkin_model (L) THEN present simpler interface, less information, only frequently used functions and links to the information, related to the current learning content	IF " Field Independent " \in LS Witkin_model (L) THEN present more complex interface, more information, links to show the full functions of the system and the schema of the entire learning content

Table 5. Adaptation rules of CS383

Content selection	
IF " Active " \in LS Felder & Silverman_model (L) THEN Knowledge nucleus, DOOM Scenario	IF " Reflective " \in LS Felder & Silverman_model (L) THEN Lesson objectives, case studies, lectures, conceptual maps
IF " Sensing " \in LS Felder & Silverman_model (L) THEN Case studies, conceptual maps, DOOM Scenario	IF " Intuitive " \in LS Felder & Silverman_model (L) THEN Lesson objectives detail the main concepts of the course
IF " Visual " \in LS Felder & Silverman_model (L) THEN virtual computer	IF " Verbal " \in LS Felder & Silverman_model (L) THEN Lesson objectives provide a textual overview (words, oral or written), virtual computer
IF " Sequential " \in LS Felder & Silverman_model (L) THEN Conceptual maps	IF " Global " \in LS Felder & Silverman_model (L) THEN Lesson objectives with lesson overview before the details, jumping between different lessons, DOOM Scenario
Presentation	
IF " Active " \in LS Felder & Silverman_model (L) THEN group discussions	IF " Intuitive " \in LS Felder & Silverman_model (L) THEN slideshows, digital movies
IF " Sensing " \in LS Felder & Silverman_model (L) THEN hypertext, factual information, not concepts, slideshows & written papers	IF " Verbal " \in LS Felder & Silverman_model (L) THEN textual slides, course hypertext, sound files, written papers & slideshows
IF " Visual " \in LS Felder & Silverman_model (L) THEN full multimedia version of the slideshow, video segments, digital movies, graphics & written papers	IF " Global " \in LS Felder & Silverman_model (L) THEN digital movies, slideshows & written papers
IF " Sequential " \in LS Felder & Silverman_model (L) THEN sequential structure of the slideshows, hierarchical structure of the hypertext, digital movies	

Table 6. Adaptation rules of MASPLANG

Content selection		
IF " Active " \in LS Felder & Silverman_model (L) THEN Knowledge nucleus	IF " Reflective " \in LS Felder & Silverman_model (L) THEN Lesson objectives, case studies, lectures, conceptual maps	IF " Sensing " \in LS Felder & Silverman_model (L) THEN Case studies, conceptual maps

<p>IF "Intuitive" \in LS Felder & Silverman model (L) THEN Lesson objectives, conceptual maps</p> <p>IF "Sequential" \in LS Felder & Silverman model (L) THEN Conceptual maps</p>	<p>IF "Visual" \in LS Felder & Silverman_model (L) THEN Case studies, conceptual maps, synthesis</p> <p>IF "Global" \in LS Felder & Silverman model (L) THEN Lesson objectives, synthesis</p>	<p>IF "Verbal" \in LS Felder & Silverman model (L) THEN Lesson objectives, lectures, conceptual maps</p>
Navigation		
<p>IF "Active" \in LS Felder & Silverman model (L) THEN arrows (back & forward), printings, general vision maps, filters, chat, forum, e-mail</p> <p>IF "Intuitive" \in LS Felder & Silverman model (L) THEN arrows (back & forward), printings, on-line help, general vision maps, filters, chat, forum, e-mail</p> <p>IF "Sequential" \in LS Felder & Silverman model (L) THEN arrows (back & forward) printings, on-line help, chat, forum, e-mail</p>	<p>IF "Reflective" \in LS Felder & Silverman model (L) THEN arrows (back & forward), printings, on-line help, general vision maps, filters, e-mail</p> <p>IF "Visual" \in LS Felder & Silverman model (L) THEN arrows (back & forward), printings, on-line help, general vision maps, filters, chat, forum, e-mail</p> <p>IF "Global" \in LS Felder & Silverman model (L) THEN general vision maps, filters, chat, forum, e-mail</p>	<p>IF "Sensing" \in LS Felder & Silverman model (L) THEN arrows (back & forward), printings, on-line help, general vision maps, filters, chat, forum, e-mail</p> <p>IF "Verbal" \in LS Felder & Silverman model (L) THEN arrows (back & forward) printings, on-line help, general vision maps, filters, chat, forum, e-mail</p>
Presentation		
<p>IF "Active" \in LS Felder & Silverman model (L) THEN lineal text</p> <p>IF "Intuitive" \in LS Felder & Silverman model (L) THEN text, multimedia, graphics, digital movies, audio</p> <p>IF "Sequential" \in LS Felder & Silverman model (L) THEN text, multimedia, digital movies, audio</p>	<p>IF "Reflective" \in LS Felder & Silverman model (L) THEN text, lineal text</p> <p>IF "Visual" \in LS Felder & Silverman model (L) THEN multimedia, graphics, digital movies</p> <p>IF "Global" \in LS Felder & Silverman model (L) THEN digital movies</p>	<p>IF "Sensing" \in LS Felder & Silverman model (L) THEN multimedia, graphics, digital movies, audio, lineal text</p> <p>IF "Verbal" \in LS Felder & Silverman model (L) THEN text, audio</p>

Table 7. Adaptation rules of TANGOW

Presentation	
<p>IF "Global-Sensing" \in LS FelderSilverman model (L) AND If the student obtains a score of 1 or 3 THEN order of tasks (AND, ANY, OR and XOR) & exposition-exemplification sequence</p> <p>IF "Global-Intuitive" \in LS FelderSilverman model (L) AND If the student obtains a score of 1 or 3 THEN order of tasks (AND, ANY, OR and XOR) & exposition-exemplification sequence</p>	<p>IF "Global-Sensing" \in LS FelderSilverman model (L) AND If the student obtains a score greater than 5 THEN order of tasks (ANY, ANY, OR and XOR) & exemplification-exposition sequence</p> <p>IF "Global-Intuitive" \in LS FelderSilverman model (L) AND If the student obtains a score greater than 5 THEN order of tasks (ANY, ANY, OR and XOR) & exposition-exemplification sequence</p>

IF " Sequential-Sensing " \in LS <small>FelderSilverman model (L)</small> AND If the student obtains a score of 1 or 3 THEN order of tasks (AND, ANY, OR and XOR) & exposition-exemplification sequence	IF " Sequential-Sensing " \in LS <small>FelderSilverman model (L)</small> AND If the student obtains a score greater than 5 THEN order of tasks (AND, AND, OR and XOR) & exemplification-exposition sequence
IF " Sequential-Intuitive " \in LS <small>FelderSilverman model (L)</small> AND If the student obtains a score of 1 or 3 THEN order of tasks (AND, ANY, OR and XOR) & exposition-exemplification sequence	IF " Sequential-Intuitive " \in LS <small>FelderSilverman model (L)</small> AND If the student obtains a score greater than 5 THEN order of tasks (AND, AND, OR and XOR) & exposition-exemplification sequence

Table 8. Adaptation rules of AES-CS

Navigation	
IF " Field Dependent " \in LS <small>Witkin model (L)</small> THEN provide program control (no menu)	IF " Field Independent " \in LS <small>Witkin model (L)</small> THEN provide learner control (menu)
IF " Field Dependent " \in LS <small>Witkin model (L)</small> THEN provide maximum instructions	IF " Field Independent " \in LS <small>Witkin model (L)</small> THEN provide minimal instructions (only the initial instructions)
IF " Field Dependent " \in LS <small>Witkin model (L)</small> THEN provide maximum feedback	IF " Field Independent " \in LS <small>Witkin model (L)</small> THEN provide minimal feedback
IF " Field Dependent " \in LS <small>Witkin model (L)</small> THEN provide structured lessons	IF " Field Independent " \in LS <small>Witkin model (L)</small> THEN learners develop their own structure
Presentation	
IF " Field Dependent " \in LS <small>Witkin model (L)</small> THEN provide global approach	IF " Field Independent " \in LS <small>Witkin model (L)</small> THEN provide analytical approach
IF " Field Dependent " \in LS <small>Witkin model (L)</small> THEN provide advance organizers	IF " Field Independent " \in LS <small>Witkin model (L)</small> THEN provide illustrative post organizers

Table 9. Adaptation rules of ILASH

Navigation
If score after each lesson is correct THEN The " Summarising strategy " is preferred by the student, keep on using S_type pages [a top-down approach where the material is presented with key-points summarised at the end of each page & provides contextual clues to help students with getting the gist of information (by using headings, diving text in small chunks etc)] ELSE The " Summarising strategy " is NOT preferred, a " Questioning strategy " needed ENDIF
If score after each lesson is correct THEN The " Questioning strategy " is preferred by the student, keep on using Q_type pages [have a question asked after each paragraph (which contains an explanation of a concept)] ELSE The " Questioning strategy " is NOT preferred, a " Summarizing strategy " needed ENDIF

Table 10. Adaptation rules of LSAS

Navigation	
IF " Sequential " \in LS <small>FelderSilverman model (L)</small> THEN present " Sequential page layout " (small chunks of information, text-only pages with 'forward' & 'back' buttons)	IF " Global " \in LS <small>FelderSilverman model (L)</small> THEN present " Global page layout " (elements, such as a table of contents, summary, diagrams, overview of information, etc.)

Table 11. Adaptation rules of AEHS-LS

Presentation	
IF "Visual preference" \in LS _{VARK model} (L) THEN include the depiction of information in maps, diagrams, flow charts & all the symbolic arrows	IF "Auditory preference" \in LS _{VARK model} (L) THEN present information that is "heard or spoken"
IF "Read/write preference" \in LS _{VARK model} (L) THEN display information as text	IF "Kinesthetic preference" \in LS _{VARK model} (L) THEN provide opportunities for use of experience & practice

Table 12. Adaptation rules of AEHS-LS

Navigation
<p>IF LS "H & M" (learner) = "activist" Then Appear in the top of page exploratory learning objects followed by links to illustrative learning objects, theoretical learning objects and interactive learning objects</p> <p>IF LS "H & M" (learner) = "reflector" Then Appear in the top of page illustrative learning objects followed by links to theoretical learning objects, interactive learning objects and exploratory learning objects</p> <p>IF LS "H & M" (learner) = "theorist" Then Appear in the top of page theoretical learning objects followed by links to interactive learning objects, exploratory learning objects and learning objects</p> <p>IF LS "H & M" (learner) = "pragmatist" Then Appear in the top of page interactive learning objects followed by links to exploratory learning objects, illustrative learning objects and theoretical learning objects</p>
Presentation
<p>IF LS "H & M" (learner) = "activist" Then apply exploratory mode</p> <p>Else if LS "H & M" (learner) = "reflector" Then apply reflective mode</p> <p>Else if LS "H & M" (learner) = "theorist" Then apply abstract mode</p> <p>Else if LS "H & M" (learner) = "pragmatist" Then apply verification mode</p>

Table 13. Adaptation rules of INSPIRE

Content selection
<p>IF the knowledge level of the learner has been evaluated as {Inadequate} on outcome concepts THEN these outcome concepts & their entire set of prerequisite concepts is recommended to the learner</p> <p>IF the knowledge level of the learner has been evaluated as {Mediocre} or {Advanced} on outcome concepts & {Proficient} on several of their prerequisite concepts THEN these outcome concepts & the rest of their prerequisites are recommended to the learner</p> <p>IF the knowledge level of the learner has been evaluated as {Inadequate} on outcome concepts THEN educational material of the <i>Remember</i> level of performance for these outcome concepts & material for their prerequisite concepts that are included in the lesson contents, is proposed to the learner</p> <p>IF the knowledge level of the learner has been evaluated as {Mediocre} on outcome concepts THEN educational material of the <i>Use</i> level of performance for these outcome concepts & material for their prerequisite concepts that are included in the lesson contents, is proposed to the learner</p> <p>IF the knowledge level of the learner has been evaluated as {Advanced} on outcome concepts THEN educational material of the <i>Find</i> level of performance for these outcome concepts & material for their prerequisite concepts that are included in the lesson contents, is proposed to the learner</p>
Navigation
<p>If learner's knowledge level has been evaluated as {Inadequate} with regards to a specific outcome concept THEN next to its title in the Navigation Area an empty measuring cup appears</p> <p>If learner's knowledge level has been evaluated as {Mediocre} with regards to a specific outcome concept</p>

THEN next to its title in the Navigation Area a half empty measuring cup appears	
If learner's knowledge level has been evaluated as { Advanced } with regards to a specific outcome concept THEN next to its title in the Navigation Area an almost full measuring cup appears	
Presentation	
IF " Activist " \in LS _{H & M model} (L) THEN present activity, example, theory & practice	IF " Reflector " \in LS _{H & M model} (L) THEN present example, theory, practice & activity
IF " Theoretical " \in LS _{H & M model} (L) THEN present theory, example, exercise & activity	IF " Pragmatist " \in LS _{H & M model} (L) THEN present exercise, example, theory & activity

Table 14. Adaptation rules of MATHEMA

Navigation	
IF the learner is not ready to study because the necessary prerequisite main concepts were not met THEN Links to the main concepts are colored red	IF the learner has already studied and has succeeded in the assessment tests THEN Links to the main concepts are colored yellow
IF the learner is ready to study THEN Links to the main concepts with low degree of difficulty are colored light green	IF the learner is ready to study THEN Links to the main concepts with medium degree of difficulty are colored green
IF the learner is ready to study THEN Links to the main concepts with high degree of difficulty are colored dark green	IF the learner is ready to study THEN Links to the main concepts with medium degree of difficulty are colored green
IF the learner has already studied but he/she has successfully assessed in the assessment tests THEN Links to the main concepts are colored orange	
Preseantion	
IF " Diverger " \in LS _{KOLB model} (L) THEN present questions using analogies and/or video simulations, theory and examples, exercise solving & problem solving activity	IF " Assimilator " \in LS _{KOLB model} (L) THEN present theory and examples, exercise solving, problem solving activity & questions using analogies and/or video simulations
IF " Converger " \in LS _{KOLB model} (L) THEN present exercise solving, problem solving activity, questions using analogies and/or video simulations & theory and examples	IF " Accommodator " \in LS _{KOLB model} (L) THEN present problem solving activity, questions using analogies and/or video simulations, theory and examples & exercise solving

Table 15. Adaptation rules of iWeaver

Navigation	
IF " Impulsive " \in LS _{Dunn & Dunn model} (L) THEN Try-it button (allows immediate trial) (Additional tool)	IF " Reflective " \in LS _{Dunn & Dunn model} (L) THEN Context-aware note-taking tool, questions that encourage reflection (Additional tool)
IF " Global " \in LS _{Dunn & Dunn model} (L) THEN Advance organisers (full-tree view) or mind maps (Additional multimedia representation)	IF " Analytical " \in LS _{Dunn & Dunn model} (L) THEN Sequential lists of key points and components [Text (default)]
Presentation	
IF " Auditory " \in LS _{Dunn & Dunn model} (L) THEN PowerPoint-style presentations with synchronous audio, no text (Multimedia representation)	IF " Visual (Pictures) " \in LS _{Dunn & Dunn model} (L) THEN Diagrams, illustrations, graphs, flowcharts, animations+audio (Multimedia representation text or audio)

<p>IF "Visual (Text)" \in LS_{Dunn & Dunn model (L)} THEN reading, context-aware note-taking tool (Text+additional tool)</p>	<p>IF "Tactile Kinesthetic" \in LS_{Dunn & Dunn model (L)} THEN Interactive multimedia elements (interactivelets): puzzles, drag & drop, fill-ins, small games (Multimedia representation+text)</p>
<p>IF "Internal Kinesthetic" \in LS_{Dunn & Dunn model (L)} THEN Extra examples of real-life relevance, links to prior content (Additional text)</p>	

Table 16. Adaptation rules of WELSA

Navigation		
<p>IF $p_{holistic} \in Pref(L)$ THEN <u>Highlight</u> <i>Outline</i> <u>Dim</u> <i>Next_Button, Prev_Button</i> <u>Hide</u> <i>Next_Button, Prev_Button</i> {<i>bottomPage</i>} <u>Highlight</u> <i>LoType</i> {<i>AdditionalInfo</i>}</p>	<p>IF $p_{serial} \in Pref(L)$ THEN <u>Highlight</u> <i>Next_Button</i> <u>Dim</u> <i>Outline, Prev_Button</i> <u>Hide</u> <i>Outline, Prev_Button</i> {<i>bottomPage</i>} <u>Dim</u> <i>LoType</i> {<i>AdditionalInfo</i>}</p>	<p>IF $p_{carefulDetails} \in Pref(L)$ THEN <u>Highlight</u> <i>LoType</i> {<i>Additionifo, Remark, Evidence</i>}</p> <p>IF $p_{notCarefulDetails} \in Pref(L)$ THEN <u>Dim</u> <i>LoType</i> {<i>Additionifo, Remark, Evidence</i>}</p>
Presentation		
<p>IF $p_{visual} \in Pref(L)$ THEN <u>Sort</u> $dc : type$ {<i>Stillmage</i> /<i>MovingImage, Text /Sound</i>} <u>Dim</u> $dc : type$ {<i>Text, Sound</i>}</p>	<p>IF $p_{verbal} \in Pref(L)$ THEN <u>Sort</u> $dc : type$ {<i>Text</i> /<i>Sound, Stillmage /MovingImage</i>} <u>Dim</u> $dc : type$ {<i>Stillmage</i> /<i>MovingImage</i>} <u>Highlight</u> <i>Chat, Forum</i></p>	<p>IF $p_{activeExperimentation} \in Pref(L)$ THEN <u>Sort</u> <i>LoType</i> {<i>Interactivity, Fundamental /Illustration</i>} <u>Highlight</u> <i>LoType</i> {<i>Interactivity</i>}</p>
<p>IF $p_{reflectiveObservation} \in Pref(L)$ THEN <u>Sort</u> <i>LoType</i> {<i>Fundamental /Illustration, Interactivity</i>} <u>Dim</u> <i>LoType</i> {<i>Interactivity</i>}</p>	<p>IF $p_{abstract} \in Pref(L)$ THEN <u>Sort</u> <i>LoType</i> {<i>Fundamental, Illustration</i>} <u>Highlight</u> <i>LoType</i> {<i>Fundamental</i>}</p>	<p>IF $p_{concrete} \in Pref(L)$ THEN <u>Sort</u> <i>LoType</i> {<i>Illustration, Fundamental</i>} <u>Highlight</u> <i>LoType</i> {<i>Illustration</i>}</p>
<p>IF $p_{individual} \in Pref(L)$ THEN <u>Highlight</u> <i>hasCompetency</i> {<i>individual</i>} <u>Dim</u> <i>hasCompetency</i> {<i>team</i>} <u>Dim</u> <i>Chat, Forum</i></p>	<p>IF $p_{team} \in Pref(L)$ THEN <u>Highlight</u> <i>hasCompetency</i> {<i>team</i>} <u>Dim</u> <i>hasCompetency</i> {<i>individual</i>} <u>Highlight</u> <i>Chat, Forum</i></p>	

6 Conclusion and Future Work

In order to accommodate users' learning style preferences and needs, AEHSystems utilize learning styles models as a way of modelling user's preferences, aiming at provision of personalized content or/and navigation advice. We can assume that user modelling has changed, as the employed learning style preferences allow more flexible and personal adaptation to each user. Within this context, the development of metacognitive ability can be achieved and self-regulated learning can be cultivated, as the students can obtain awareness of their learning needs and preferences. The contribution of this work is that there are not similar works, at least from 2003, that investigate the pedagogical basis of AEHS and thus, could trigger similar undertakings. With regard to teaching, the work's contribution can be located on the utilization of Learning Style Models in educational process. Educators can improve the students'

performance with or without learning disabilities through instruction's individualization to students' needs. Future works could study the pedagogical basis at a more broaden scope, including AEHS that do not utilize Learning Style Models.

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