The novice problem in computer science

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Abstract

High dropout rate in first year programming courses is a problem in many universities but the reasons for dropout can be different for different students. Students in first year programming courses may have different backgrounds that can influence what teaching methods are most relevant and the level and rate of the teaching. This paper describes students’ attitude towards teaching and learning material in a first year programming course at Reykjavik University in Iceland. In the survey described in this paper, novice students considered the task to divide activity into functions and classes and to find errors in one's own programs to be the most difficult tasks. The most useful tasks were to work on assignments, recordings of teachers lecture and teacher's lectures.

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