

# Assessment of collaborative learning

Jan-Willem Strijbos



university of  
 groningen

2<sup>nd</sup> International Virtual Meeting: Teaching, Learning & Assessment in Higher Education  
Concepción, Chile, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Assessment of learning**

**Summative**

**Assessment**

**Formative**

**Assessment for learning**

**Cooperative learning**

**versus**

**Collaborative learning**

**Positive interdependence**

# **Interaction**

**Individual accountability**

# Core issues

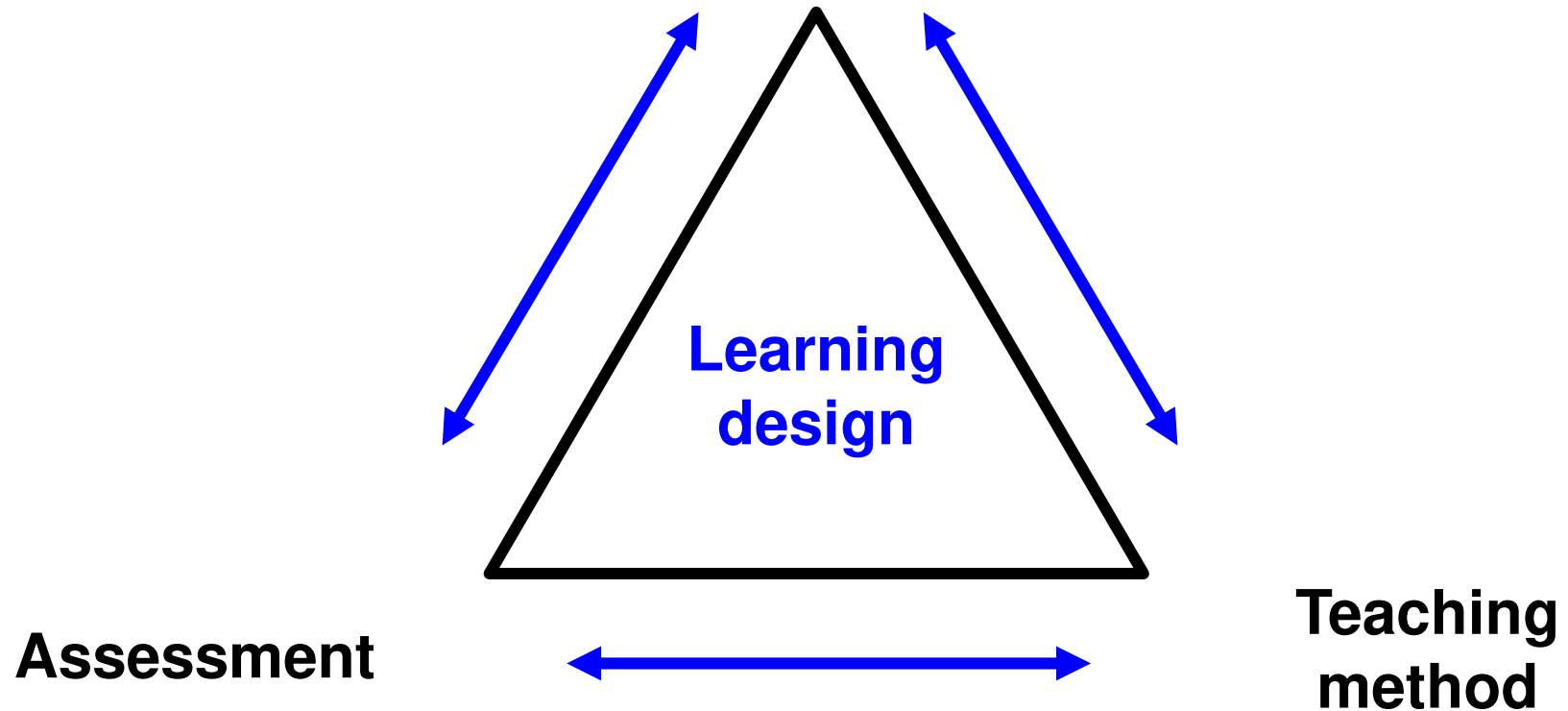
**1: What to assess?**

**2: Who assesses?**

**3: How to assess?**

**1: What to assess?**

**Learning outcome**



**Constructive alignment** (Biggs, 1996)

**Acquisition** (Sfard, 1998)

**Participation** (Sfard, 1998)

# Four metaphors ...

**Knowledge creation** (Paavola et al., 2004)

**Group cognition** (Stahl, 2006)



**Experiential learning** (Kolb, 1984)

**Competency** (Hall & Jones, 1976)

# **Group Experience Metaphor**

**Distributed cognition** (Salomon, 1993)

**Human ecology** (Bronfenbrenner, 1979)

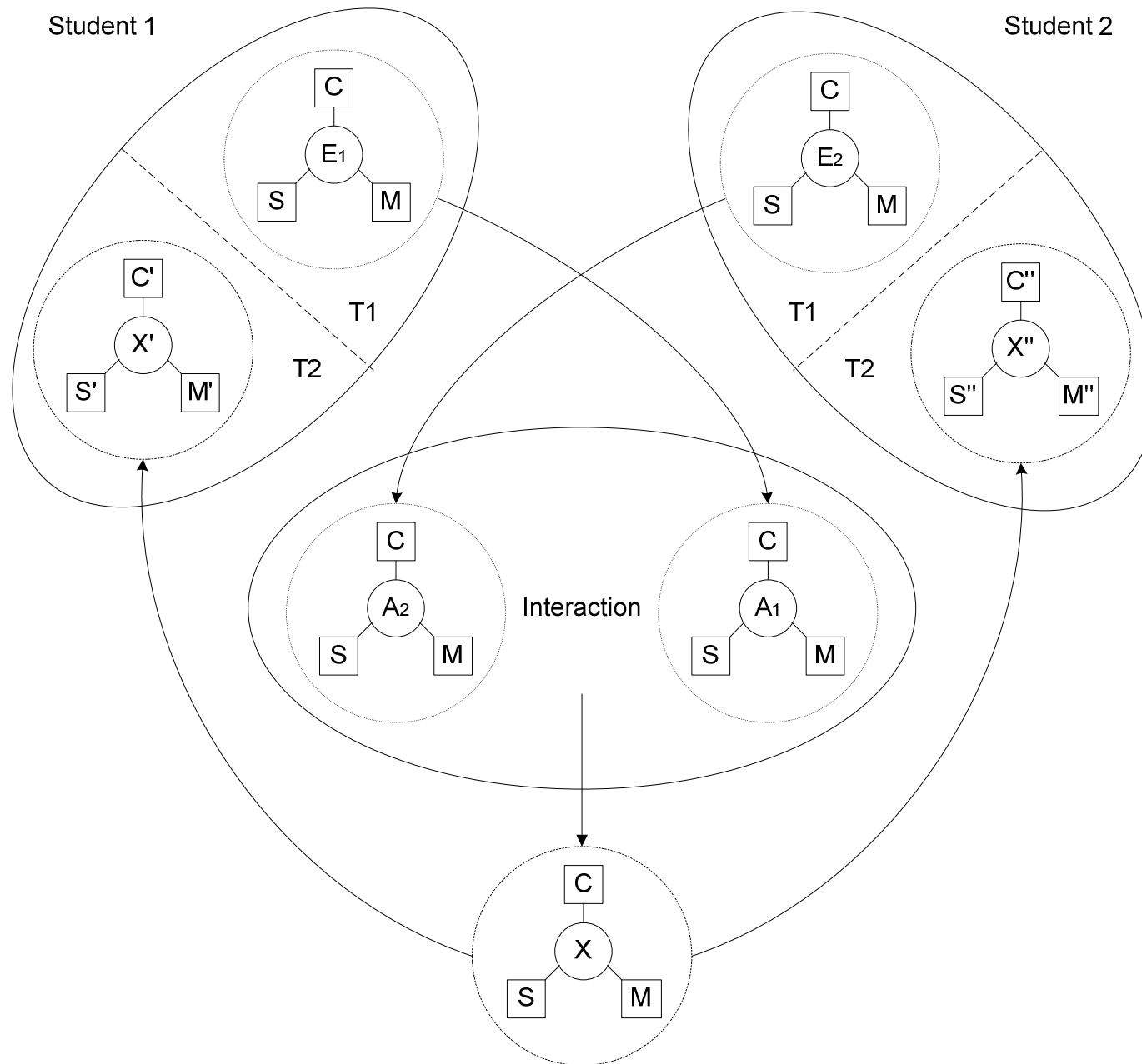
**Cognitive**

**Motivation/Emotion**

**Social**

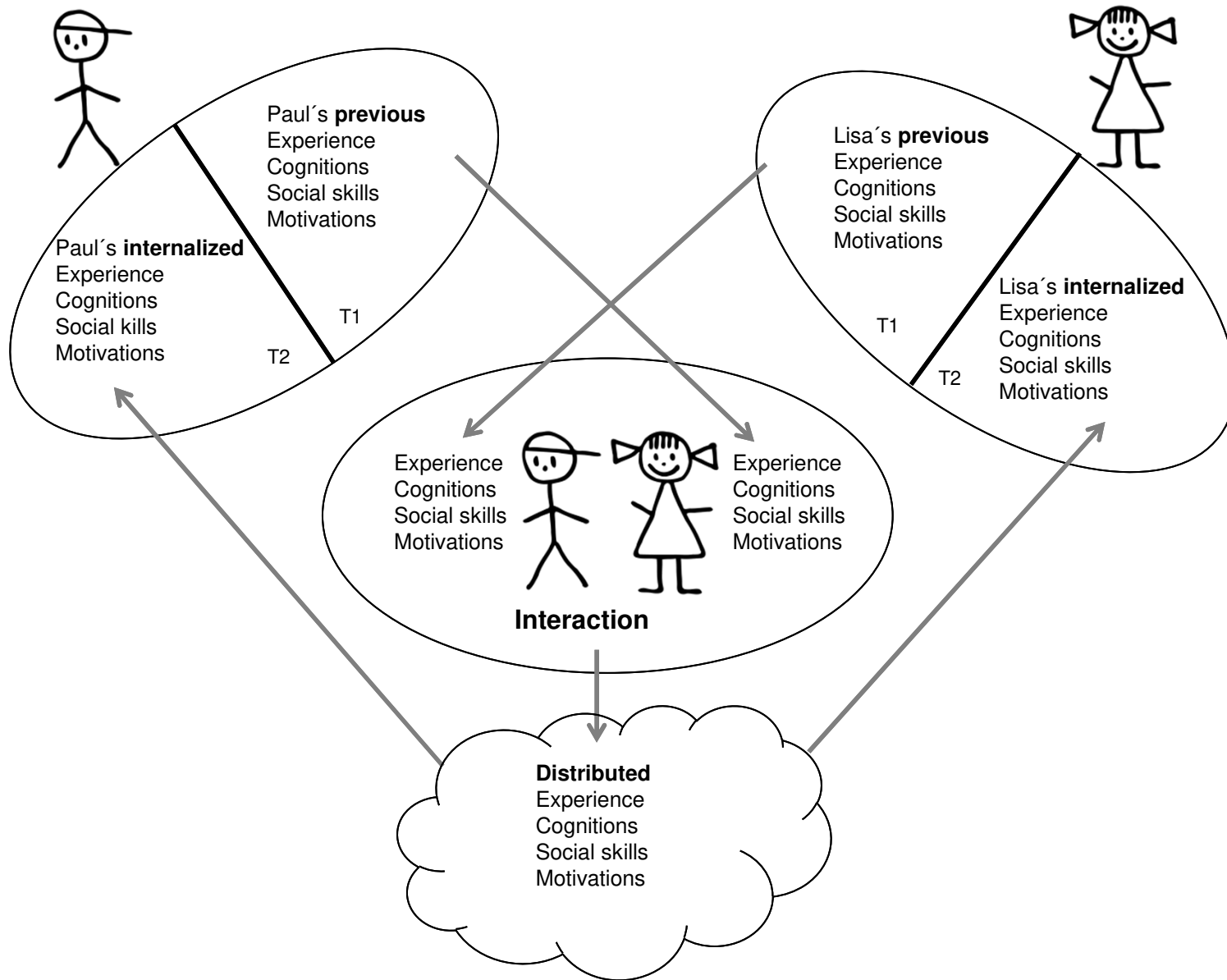
**Not just cognitive!**

**Individual level AND Group level**



**Strijbos (2011)**

Distributed emergent experience



**Anne & Miriam**

**Processes & Outcomes**

**Social**

**Cognitive**

**Motivation/Emotion**

# **Assessing CL ...**

**1: Individual and group**

**2: Degree of similarity**

**3: Multiple concurrent processes**

**2: Who assesses?**

**Constrain**

**Scaffold**

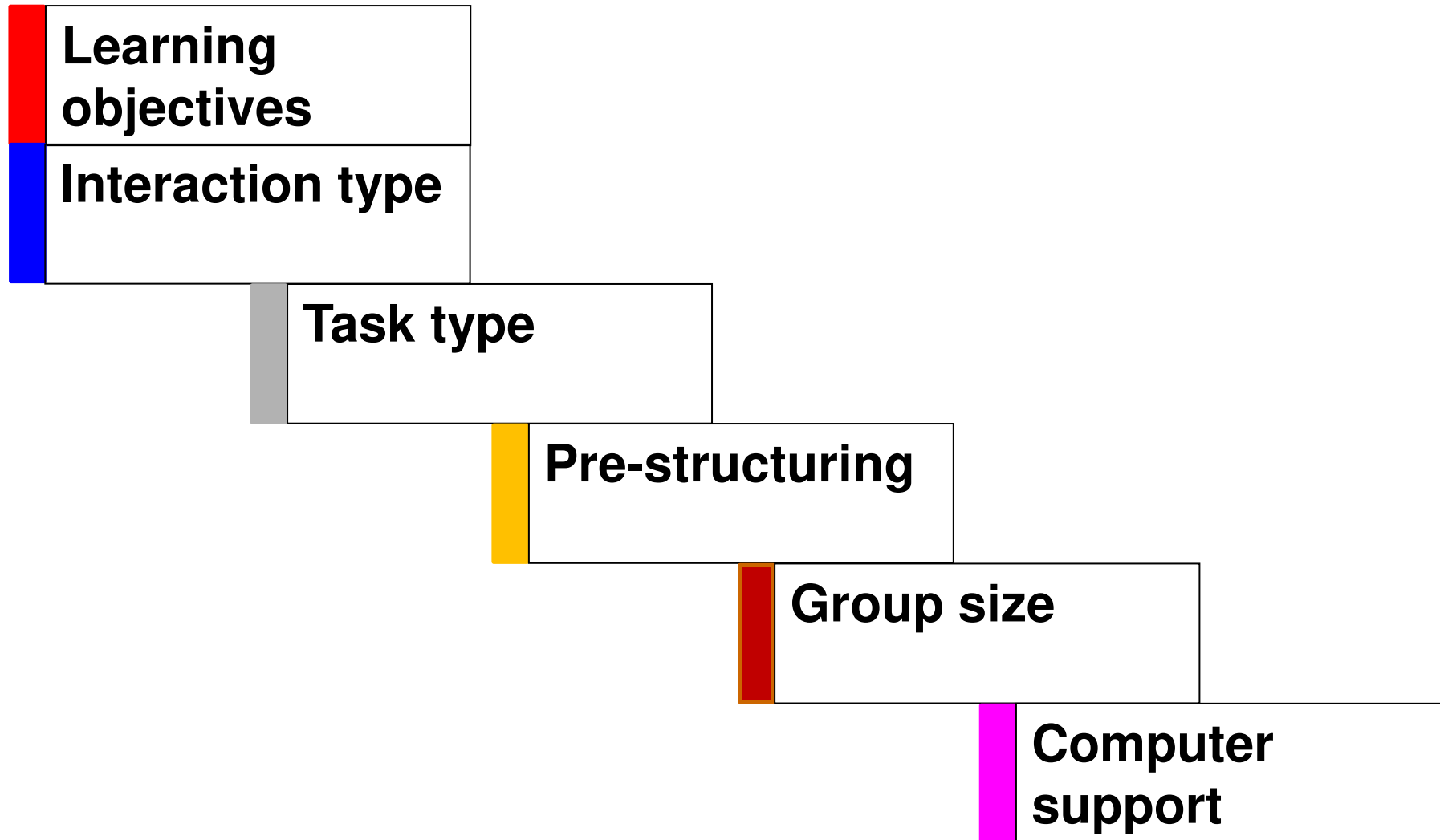
**Instruct**

# **Role of the teacher**

**Designs the learning environment ...**

**... which includes the assessment!**

# Design of CL



Strijbos et al. (2004)



**Learning objectives**

**Assessment**

**Supervision**

**Interaction type**

**Task type**

**Pre-structuring**

**Group size**

**Computer support**

**Learning objectives**

**Assessment**

**Guidance**

**Interaction**

**Task characteristics**

**Structuring**

**Group constellation**

**Facilities**

**De Hei et al. (2016)**

**Learning objectives**

**Assessment**

**Guidance**

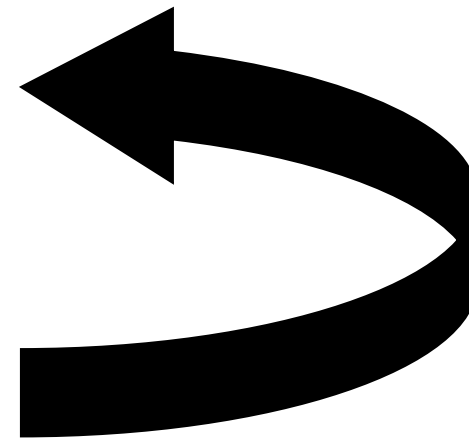
**Interaction**

**Task characteristics**

**Structuring**

**Group constellation**

**Facilities**



**Alignment**

De Hei et al. (2016)

## **ADDIE Step 2: Design**



## **ADDIE Step 3a: Develop instructional strategies**



## **ADDIE Step 3b: Logistics**



**De Hei et al. (2016)**

I cannot hire a substitute student.  
I cannot hire a substitute student.  
I cannot hire a substitute student.  
I cannot hire a substitute student.  
I cannot hire a substitute student.  
I cannot hire a substitute student.  
I cannot hire a substitute student.  
I cannot hire a substitute student.  
I cannot hire a substitute student.  
I cannot hire a substitute student.  
I cannot hire a substitute student.



# CL assessment practices

---

	<i>N</i>	Teachers' practices & needs
Ross et al. (1998)	13	<b>Need for CL assessment literacy</b> , professional development and CL assessment resources.
Gillies & Boyle (2010)	10	<b>CL assessment as difficult</b> : purpose, understanding degree of student involvement, addressing the group and individual level.
Frykedal & Chiriac (2011)	11	<b>Vague descriptions</b> . Teachers used mostly informal assessments, (b) focused on collaboration skills, and (c) assessed process & product at individual and group level.
De Hei et al. (2015)	100	(a) <b>84 teachers used CL as part of the course grade</b> , (b) of the 84, 42 teachers used FA and 21 combined SA and FA, (c) 69 of 96 used PA/PF.

---

**Assessment: mix formative/ summative**

**Group, individual, or combined**

# **Assessing CL**

**I: 10%, G: 90% → free-riding**

**I: 90%, G: 10% → devalues collaboration**

	Construct validity	(mis)aligned student behavior
Group assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(-) potentially invalid when assuming that curricula in higher education measure individual abilities</li> <li>(-) less capable might pass</li> <li>(-) more capable might fail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(+) positive interdependence</li> <li>(-) Invites free-riding, social loafing, sucker effect</li> <li>(-) Performance oriented vs. learning oriented approach</li> <li>(-) Dividing or taking over tasks</li> </ul>
Individual assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(+) Higher construct validity</li> <li>(0) Collaboration-moderated individual assessment of CL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(+) individual accountability</li> <li>(-) Dividing subtasks</li> <li>(-) No incentive to engage in genuine collaboration</li> <li>(-) Rivalry, which might hamper collaboration</li> </ul>
Group assessment + intra-group peer assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(+) Higher construct validity</li> <li>(+) Collaboration-moderated assessment of CL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(-) Rivalry, which might hamper collaboration</li> <li>(+) Counteracts assessment problems due to free-riding, social loafing, sucker effect</li> </ul>

**Meijer et al. (2020)**



**Rating**

**PA format**

**Distribution**

**Ranking**

**Nomination**

**Comments =  
Peer Feedback**

# **Peer Assessment**

**Interactivity**

**Assessor  
Assessee**

**Constellation**

**Intra-group  
Inter-group**

**... help the teacher assess "invisible"  
CL processes**

**F2F, online, *N* of groups**

**PA of CL to ...**

**... derive individual scores from  
group scores**

**Counteract free-riding**

# PA of CL: reliability

---

Zhang et al. (2008)

Generalizability Theory

Study 1: N = 134, n = 26, s.gr = 3-4

Study 2: N = 61, n = 15, s.gr = 3-5

Group-level variance: 33%  
(Study 1), 25% (Study 2)

Dependability Index, holistic criteria:  
.79, .63 (Study 1), .63 (Study 2)

---

De Wever et al. (2011)

Intra-Class Correlations (ICCs)

Cohort 1: N = 342, n = 42, s.gr = 8-9

Cohort 2: N = 317, n = 39, s.gr = 8-9

ES of ICCs for four criteria: medium  
(.30) to intermediate (.40); overall  
score intermediate (.40) to high (.50)

**Reliability?**

**PA impact?**

**Weigh criteria?**

**Cheating?**

**Validity?**

# **Issues with PA of CL**

**Formula to compute individual scores**

**Strijbos et al. (2017a, 2017b)**

# CL process monitoring

---

Instrument	#	Factors
Quality of Working in Groups Boekaerts & Minnaert (2006)	10	4: situational interest, competence, autonomy and social relatedness
Self-report Teamwork Scale Wang et al. (2009)	30	3: cooperate, advocate/ guide and negotiate
Negative Group Work Experiences Pauli et al. (2011)	21	4: perceived lack of commitment, task disorganization, storming group (falling out, shouting), and fractioned group (exclusion, factions)
Knowledge building rubric Law & Wong (2003)	10	Blend of cognitive (idea generation, knowledge refinement) and social aspects (no one dominates)
CL process rating scheme Rummel et al. (2011)	7	5: communication, joint information processing, coordination, interspers. relationship, motivation

---

---

Monitoring & Assessment of Collaborative Learning (CL)	Related fields
<b>CL mining</b> Access to system objects and student artifacts Student discourse and actions System or instructional scripts/agents	<b>Data-mining</b>
<b>CL analysis</b> Integrate multiple data sources Analyze multiple levels simultaneously Analyze sequentiality and trace transformations	<b>Learning analytics</b>
<b>CL display</b> Awareness displays Dynamic monitoring and assessment displays User group adaptable displays	<b>Awareness visualizations</b>

---

# User-oriented visualizations

**Intuitive**: Users should be able to **understand the meaning** of a visualization **immediately** (after brief instruction)

**Efficient**: Users should be able to **rapidly scan, analyse and decide** on appropriate action

**Scalable**: The **same visualizations** for **small scale** classroom and **large scale** courses (e.g., collaboration in MOOCs)





**"Tracing transformation"**

**Balancing act!**

**PA of CL has potential**

# **Assessing CL**

**Constructive alignment**

**Integrated assessment**

# Key references

De Hei, M., Admiraal, W., Sjoer, E., & Strijbos, J. W. (2018). Group learning activities and perceived learning outcomes. *Studies in Higher Education*, 43(12), 2354-2370.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/03075079.2017.1327518>

Meijer, H., Hoekstra, R., Brouwer, J., & Strijbos, J. W. (2020). Unfolding collaborative learning assessment literacy: A reflection on current assessment methods in higher education. *Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education*, 45(8), 1222-1240. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02602938.2020.1729696>

Strijbos, J. W. (2011). Assessment of (computer-supported) collaborative learning. *IEEE Transactions on Learning Technologies*, 4(1), 59-73. <https://doi.org/10.1109/TLT.2010.37>

Strijbos, J. W. (2016). Assessment of collaborative learning. In G. T. L. Brown & L. R. Harris (Eds.), *Handbook of social and human conditions in assessment* (pp. 302-318). New York: Routledge.

Strijbos, J. W., Martens, R. L., & Jochems, W. M. G. (2004). Designing for interaction: Six steps to designing computer-supported group-based learning. *Computers & Education*, 42(4), 403-424.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.compedu.2003.10.004>

Strijbos, J. W., Sluijsmans, D., & Stegmann, K. (2017a, August). Inferring individual scores from group scores via peer assessment: Part 1 – Methodological review. In J. W. Strijbos & E. Panadero (Chairs), *Navigating the interpersonal eddies of peer assessment*. Paper presented in the SIG1 invited symposium conducted at the 17th biennial EARLI conference, Tampere, Finland.

Strijbos, J. W., Stegmann, K., & Sluijsmans, D. (2017b, August). Inferring individual scores from group scores via peer assessment: Part 2 – A simulation study. In J. W. Strijbos & E. Panadero (Chairs), *Navigating the interpersonal eddies of peer assessment*. Paper presented in the SIG 1 invited symposium conducted at the 17th biennial EARLI conference, Tampere, Finland.



**[j.w.strijbos@rug.nl](mailto:j.w.strijbos@rug.nl)**