What is Computer Science?

It’s **NOT** just using computers or the web
It’s **NOT** just writing programs
It’s **NOT** just today’s technology (Java, Python, Swift, ...)

CS encompasses full range of activities related to computers:
• theory & algorithm development,
• software engineering: software requirements, design, maintenance
• devising computing solutions for cutting edge problems
A Fast Changing Field

11 years ago there were no iPhones, no Androids
Today there are about 12 million people writing smart-phone apps

But there are basic principles that don't change, e.g.,

- Don't think about everything at once
- Certain questions can never be fully answered
- Sorting a large list of names can take a hour or centuries, depending on how you do it

...
Our goal:
- Preparing students to be life-long learners,
- Starting from fundamental, enduring principles.
What do most computer scientists do?

• Design & build software, hardware, networks, and robots
  – In every industry
  – In every size business
  – In every size team
Why choose a career in CS?

MONEY Magazine and Salary.com researched hundreds of jobs, considering their *growth, pay, stress-levels and other factors*. These careers ranked highest.

1. Software Engineer
2. College professor
3. Financial adviser
4. Human Resources Mgr
5. Physician assistant
6. Market research analyst
7. Computer IT analyst
8. Real Estate Appraiser
9. Pharmacist
10. Psychologist
## Will there be jobs?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job</th>
<th>growth 2012 - 2022</th>
<th>% growth 2012 - 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Systems Analysts</td>
<td>127,700</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Network Architects</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software Developer</td>
<td>222,600</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*source: US Department of Labor*
What is the CS Department like?

Big

– About 50 full time faculty members
– 1260 declared undergrad majors (4/30/2018)
– 445 u.g. majors graduated (A.Y. 2017/2018)
What is the CS Department like?

And growing

Enrollment in Intro to CS

'11 | '12 | '13 | '14 | '15 | '16 | '17
---|---|---|---|---|---|---
430 | 430 | 860 | 1090 | 1090 | 1380 | 1380
Size is a problem

- Competing with lots of other students for seats in a course and for attention from the faculty
Size is an advantage

• Recently active student groups/clubs
  – USACS: CS students' club
  – WCS: Women in CS
  – Just Euler: Problem solving club
  – RUMAD: Mobile app development club
  – COGS: Creation Of Games Society
Size is

An advantage

- Resources and Activities
  - The CAVE
  - Hack-R-Space
  - HackRU
  - HackHers
  - Code Red
  ...

Computer Science
Warning – CS is not for everyone

Computer Science takes a particular way of thinking
- For some people it is natural
- Many people can learn it, with hard work
- For some people it is very, very hard

Be prepared to bail out
Our Curriculum
Two Undergraduate Degrees

• BA
  – Three required math courses (Calc 1&2, Linear Algebra)
  – Six required CS courses
  – Five elective CS courses
Two Undergraduate Degrees

• BS
  – Three required math courses (Calc 1&2, Linear Algebra)
  – Six required CS courses
  – Seven elective CS courses
  – Two semester science course with labs

About 80% of CS majors do BS degree

Employers don't care about the letters
Electives

More Electives

• Topics Courses (topics vary)
  – Cryptography
  – Data mining
  – Probabilistic Algorithms
• Independent Study
• Selected Courses offered by Mathematics or Electrical and Computer Engineering
• Access to graduate courses for good students (at professor’s discretion) -- a dozen students each term
Elective Tracks: Electives that go well together

- Computer Security
- Software Engineering and Information Management
- Computer and Software Systems
- Graphics and Vision
- Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Science
- Computing Concepts and Themes (Theory of Computing)
CS 395: Internship in CS

CS majors have done internships at Johnson & Johnson, Merck, SEI, AT&T, Citicorp, Google, others
Admission to CS Undergrad Major

• To be admitted to the CS major you must
  – Get C or better in
    • CS 111 Intro to CS
    • CS 112 Data Structures
    • CS 205 Discrete Structures 1
    • Calc 1 and 2
  – With at most 1 retake per course
BS/MS Program

https://www.cs.rutgers.edu/undergraduate/the-honors-bs-ms-degree-program-in-computer-science

Benefits
– no GRE required for grad admission
– it is an honor
  (very few do it, requires CS GPA > 3.75)
(But if you take the GRE and are admitted, you can follow exactly the same plan on your own.)

Apply at the end of your Junior year
- but plan your courses earlier
First-year courses of special interest to CS majors

- Byrne Seminar: Computing a Metaphor (Kulikowski and McGrew)

- FIGS - Exploring Computer Science
Example First Semester Classes for a CS major

- CS 111: Intro to Computer Science
- Math 151: Calculus 1
- General Elective
- Byrne Seminar: Computing a Metaphor
Introductory CS course offerings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you are interested in</th>
<th>Consider taking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Using computers in everyday life</td>
<td>CS 110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using computers in business</td>
<td>CS 170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programming computers as a mathematician or scientist</td>
<td>CS 107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being a CS minor or major</td>
<td>CS 111</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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