**Agenda:** A breezy introduction to computer science, artificial intelligence, and the course before we get down to work.

**Announcements:**

- Make sure to familiarize yourself with the policies and schedule (including all exam dates — the final is December 8th, 9am) outlined in the “Formal Course Description and Policies” handout.

- Students with experience at the COMS 100 level need permission of the instructor to enroll. To obtain permission, see Prof. Lee at her office, 4152 Upson, during one of the following slots: (a) Friday 8/26/05 11:50-12:30; (b) Monday 8/29/05 3-4; (c) Tuesday 8/30/05 11:30-12:30. In the case of conflicts with all these times, send email to Prof. Lee listing some possible appointment times.

Two quotations about computer science:

A. The computer revolution is a revolution in the way we think and in the way we express what we think.

B. Computer science is the study of the phenomena surrounding computers.

The surrounding context:

C. *(from the same source as A.)* Underlying our approach to this subject is our conviction that “computer science” is not a science and that its significance has little to do with computers.

D. *(from the same source as B.)* The founders of this society understood this very well when they called themselves the Association for Computing Machinery. The machine – not just the hardware, but the programmed living machine – is the organism we study.

And a useful thought to keep in mind:

E. The “skin-of-an-onion” analogy is also helpful. In considering the functions of the mind or the brain we find certain operations which we can explain in purely mechanical terms. This we say does not correspond to the real mind: it is a sort of skin which we must strip off if we are to find the real mind. But then in what remains we find a further skin to be stripped off, and so on. Proceeding in this way do we ever come to the “real” mind, or do we eventually come to the skin which has nothing in it? — Alan M. Turing, “Computing machinery and intelligence”. *Mind* (59), pp. 433–460, 1950.


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References and further reading


See the following for more on showcase AI applications:


- e-rater: http://www.ets.org/erater/