

Introduction: What is mind?

And why do we talk about the computer when we
talk about it in Cognitive Science?

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It is probably best to start out with two ideas about what mind is, and who has it:

- 1 Mind is what the brain does. Humans have mind.
 - 2 Mind is rising above data by an organism. Any species which can do/understand more than what it is exposed to in an autonomous way would have a mind.
- In 1, Cognitive Science studies cognitive processes, such as sensation, attention, perception, language, organized action, vision, tracking, collaboration, decision making, complex problem solving.
 - In 2, Cognitive Science studies what kind of knowledge can be autonomously constructed, and how.
 - In 1 & 2, the mind seems to be able to coordinate these seemingly distinct activities, in trying to cope with the changing world.

Three aspects of philosophy of cognitive science:

- The research program:
 - To understand the mind, we need to understand the brain (roughly, cognitive neuroscience)
 - To understand the brain we need to understand the mind (roughly, cognitive science)
- The positions' point of departure: the idea of computer. It is
 - necessary for this understanding
 - unnecessary
 - sufficient
 - insufficient
 - irrelevant
 - dangerous
- Ethics: The computer's role in personal lives and society raises/does not raise ethical issues
 - for the public
 - for the public, computers, and promoters of technology