

Introduction:  
What is mind?  
And why do we talk about the computer when we  
talk about it in Cognitive Science?

Cem Bozşahin, Cognitive Science Department, METU  
Informatics Institute

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
- Autonomy and the computer question: Is computer science practice of the extended-human, or extended-practice of the human?
- I make no apologies as a CS guy for being an extended-practice person.

- Ethics and the computer:

- Positions: The computer's role in personal lives and society

- a raises ethical issues

- b does not raise ethical issues

- 1 for the public

- 2 for the public, computers, and promoters of technology

- 3 for the public, computers, people at the helm of the computer whether it is 'let' to work independently or not, and promoters of technology.

I try to promote 3a.