Gaining Insights into the Effects of Culturally Responsive Curriculum on Historically Underrepresented Students' Desire for Computer Science
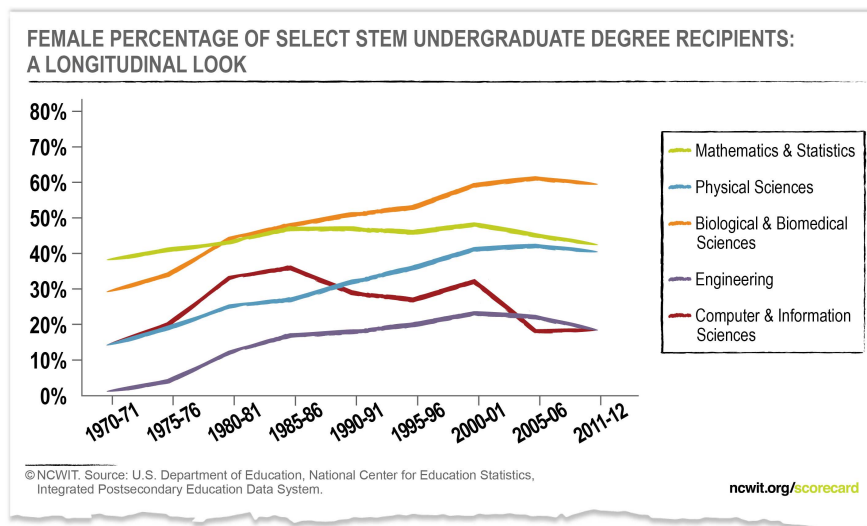
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INITIAL DRAFT

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Figure 1: Female Percentage of Select STEM Undergraduate Degree Recipients

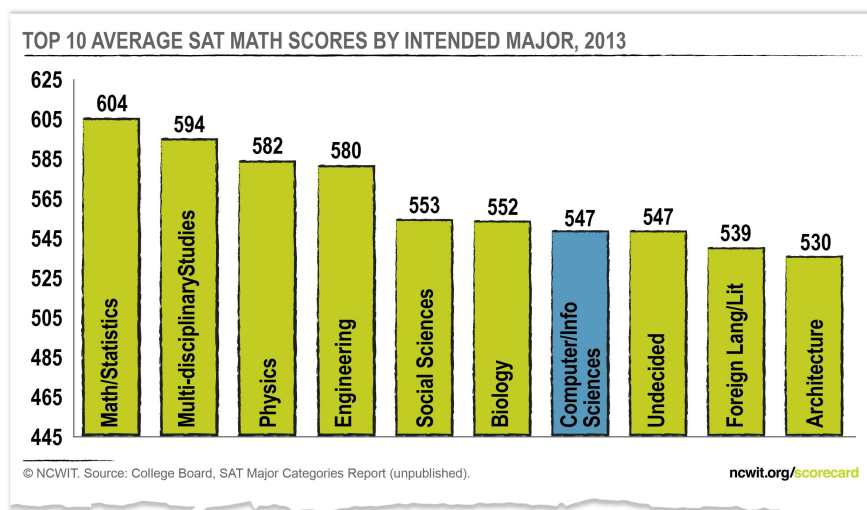Figure 2: Top 10 Average SATMathematics Scores by Intended Major

Introduction

One of most pressing questions for my generation to answer is that of equalizing participation in our economic life, and particularly in the new technical economy. In the field of computer science (CS), there is a near absence of women and underrepresented ethnic minorities (African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Pacific Islanders and persons with disabilities)[1,2,3,4]. This statement should be alarming to anyone, because it means that nearly 70%—women, ethnic minorities and persons with disabilities—of the American workforce is not fully engaged in the technology sector.

From figure 1, we can see that in the 1980s, more than 30% of all graduating universities CS majors were women. By 2010, that number was less than 20%. There are two folk theories relating to women and CS. The first says women are not good at maths, while the second says that maths is a strong indicator of CS aptitude. These two folk theories are tied together to explain the low participation rates of women in CS. Nevertheless, from 2, we see that intended CS majors don't have the strongest maths SAT scores[5]. From data, we see that this lack of *alleged* maths aptitude alone can't explain the low participation rates of women in CS.

This issue of underrepresentation in computer science is not only pertinent to computer science education, but is also of direct importance to the health of the national economy. According to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, for every 150,000 computing jobs available, as a nation, we produce roughly 55,000 computing graduates to fill those jobs[6]. Furthermore, the Bureau has projections which show that 51% of the 9.2 million STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) jobs between the years 2010 to 2020 will be in computing. Since 70% of the population is underrepresented in computing, this makes the issue of equalizing participation in computer science education a national issue.

Figure 3 shows the ethnic breakdown of the population along gender lines. From Figure 4, we can see that as of 2010, less than 20% of computer science degrees are obtained by women; to achieve parity this should be 50%. Similarly, less than 20% of computer science degrees are obtained by underrepresented minorities; to achieve parity this should be 28%. Underrepresented minority men are almost at parity in the attainment of undergraduate CS degrees as of 2010.
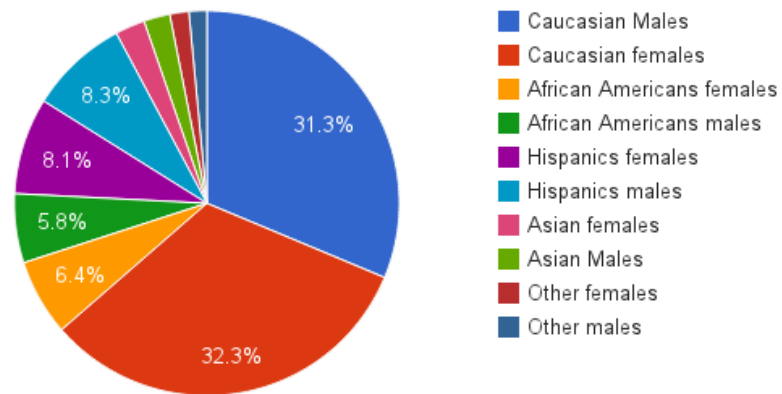
As a means to address the low numbers of computer science instruction at the high school level as well as the under-production of computer science degrees at the collegiate level, a new AP CS Principles course has been developed to broaden participation in computing. Instead of focusing mostly on programming and algorithms, this new curriculum

> "introduces students to the central ideas of computing and computer science, to instill ideas and practices of computational thinking, and to have students engage in activities that show how computing and computer science change the world."[7]

UC Berkeley has been chosen as one of the pilot sites for this course[8]. The course with the title "Beauty and Joy of Computing (BJC)," is implemented in UC Berkeley's "exploratory" series as CS10—a CS course designed for non-majors.

CS10 was specifically designed for non-majors to broaden participation. Since its inception, the

Resident population of the United States, 2010

- Caucasian Males — 31.3%
- Caucasian females — 32.3%
- African Americans females — 6.4%
- African Americans males — 5.8%
- Hispanics females — 8.1%
- Hispanics males — 8.3%
- Asian females
- Asian Males
- Other females
- Other males

Figure 3: United States Census by Gender and Race, 2010

Computer Science Undergraduated Degree Attainment 1991 - 2010
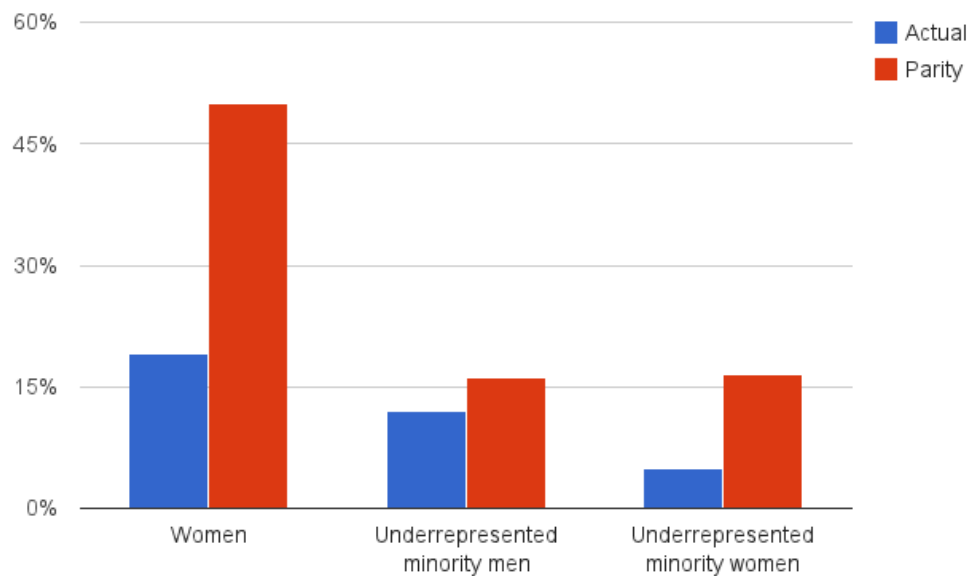
Figure 4: Undergraduate CS Degree Earned, 1991-2010

course has been phenomenally successful in attracting female students, with the spring 2013 offering breaking the 50% female barrier[1]. One of the goals of this work is to see if CS10 is able to serve as a successful gateway into the major, and more important, if a significant portion of the female students feel a strong sense of CS belonging.

Cognitive Perspective

This work draws from the cognitive perspective on learning, emphasizing the understanding of concepts, of reasoning, and how they influences problem solving[9], with particular emphasis on constructionism[10]. A lot of the ideas for this research are motivated by the ideas that Seymour Papert touted in his seminal book *Mindstorms: Children, Computers, and Powerful Ideas*.

The most influential aspect of Papert's work is the idea that knowledge is built upon already existing ideas and schema that students have. The way we learn, Papert states is either by building upon our pre-existing theories, or creating new concepts, and then integrating them into our broader theories. Papert's idea that education should have cultural resonance is an idea that is fundamental to the creation of *all* good curricula. In his book, *Mindstorms*, Papert lays out how his love for gears was a great entry point and an intuitive cultural tool that he could use to understand formal systems.

> "In the Foreword of this book I described how gears helped mathematical ideas to enter my life. Several qualities contributed to their effectiveness. First they were a part of my natural "landscape," embedded in the culture around me. ... Second, gears were part of the world of adults around me and through them I could relate to these people. Third, I could use my body to think about the gears. ... And finally, because, in a very real sense, the relationship between gears contains a great deal of mathematical information, I could use gears to think about formal systems."[10] pp. 11

These ideas that Papert lays down in this excerpt should be understood as the foundational articles upon which every culturally relevant pedagogical work should be built. Appropriating the turtle in the LOGO programming environment gave children a way to think about the principles of computation and the practice of programming.

Design of an Inclusive CS0 Course

At UC Berkeley, there are two separate ways a students can get a CS degree. They can either get a *Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)* through the College of Letters and Sciences (L&S), or get a *Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.)* through the College of Engineering. The major difference between the two tracks is that students who get the B.A. get to take breadth requirements that gives them exposure to more of a liberal arts education.

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[1] It is important to note, this is the first computer science course, since UC Berkeley has been tracking student course data, that has ever achieved that feat.

Once a student has decided that they might be interested in trying out CS, there are three major pathways the student can take. They can either take CS10, or CS 61A, or CS61AS—the self-paced version of CS 61A.

Having taking one of these classes, if a student then decides they are interested in either majoring/minoring in computing, whatever the track that student is in, they have to take the computer science "61 series." This series comprises of three classes:

- CS61A - Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs.
  TIntroduction to programming and computer science. This course exposes students to techniques of abstraction at several levels: (a) within a programming language, using higher-order functions, manifest types, data-directed programming, and message-passing; (b) between programming languages, using functional and rule-based languages as examples. It also relates these techniques to the practical problems of implementation of languages and algorithms on a von Neumann machine. There are several significant programming projects.[2].

- CS61B - Data Structures.
  Fundamental dynamic data structures, including linear lists, queues, trees, and other linked structures; arrays strings, and hash tables. Storage management. Elementary principles of software engineering. Abstract data types. Algorithms for sorting and searching. Introduction to the Java programming language.

- CS61C - Machine Structures.
  The internal organization and operation of digital computers. Machine architecture, support for high-level languages (logic, arithmetic, instruction sequencing) and operating systems (I/O, interrupts, memory management, process switching). Elements of computer logic design. Tradeoffs involved in fundamental architectural design decisions.

Before the BJC curriculum was invented, the introductory course that was designed to serve non-majors was titled: "Computer Science 3: Introduction to Symbolic Programming (CS3)". The course was created to help students get ready to succeed in CS61A, the first CS class designed for majors. As a result, it used the same programming language that was used in CS61A, Scheme—a funtional style, text-based language.

In her study of attrition in undergraduate CS at Berkeley, Lewis found that female students were disproportionately weeded out of the track, often starting at CS3[11]. For those students who had no prior programming background—majority female—CS3 served as a gateway to get them ready to succeed in the 61 series. The Lewis 2010 study used the CS3 online curriculum database to analyze the attrition patterns for 14 semesters, from the fall of 2002 to the spring of 2009. According to Lewis:

> "When controlling for level in school, major and the semester and year the course was taken, the odds of a female student dropping the course is 32.0% higher than for a male student."[11]

Over her 14 year span of the data, she found the drop-out rates for female students was 27% while

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[2]Taken from the UC Berkeley course catalog

that of male students was 20%. Further, she noted that certain semesters like Fall 2006, female students dropped out of the class by 46% while only 18% of their male counterparts dropped the class. Furthermore, she found when controlling for the level in school, the major, and the semester/year the course was taken; the odds of a female student dropping the course was 32.0% higher than for a male student.

In the past, most introductory to CS curriculum took a narrow view and placed priority on teaching the skill of programming. There was not a lot of emphasis placed on motivation, or the impact of technology on society. CS3 curriculum adhered to that paradigm, it was devoid of computing in the context of society. A student taking the CS3 curriculum would not have the opportunity to connect their CS knowledge to the human beings that created the knowledge, to the conditions that enabled the creation of the knowledge, and to the implications of the knowledge. It was a sterile approach that chugged computation down the throats of the students.

The BJC approach fundamentally deviates from that by placing computational knowledge as a tool that should be in service of society. In addition to learning about conditionals, recursion, higher-order functions and so on, students are also introduced to contemporary issues at the intersection of CS and society. CS10 has been offered at UC Berkeley for Since 2010. In the 2010 pilot alone, 43 of the 77 college students chose to continue to the next more demanding first course intended for CS majors, CS61A.

Research Methods

Formative, mixed-method research was conducted to test out the effectiveness of *Beauty and Joy of Computing* (BJC) curriculum as implemented in UC Berkeley's CS10, in attracting historically underrepresented students. To gain a comprehensive analysis into the socio-curricular effectiveness of the BJC curriculum as the first class in a student's CS trajectory, it was benchmarked against CS61A—the first class for majors, and increasingly, for non-majors as well.

Survey instruments were developed to measure participants' self-reported efficacy along several dimensions. To determine the role of identity and self efficacy; as well as the role of mentors in attracting underrepresented students, previously constructed instruments from [12] in their attitudinal study of CS in the Level Playing Field's Summer Math and Science Honors Academy (SMASH) were used. Additional instruments were developed by the researchers to measure cultural competency. The survey uses a 5-point Likert scale (where 1 = Not Really, 3 = Neutral and 5 = Absolutely).

Along with the surveys, interviews were conducted to get a deeper sense of the effectiveness of the BJC curriculum in attracting historically underrepresented students. These audio-recorded interviews were conducted at the university with participants that either attended CS10, CS61A, or both. Furthermore, participants were carefully chosen to reflect a broad spectrum of computing experiences from novice first time beginners to more advanced CS students.

To gain a comprehensive analysis into the socio-curricular effectiveness of the BJC curriculum as

the first class in a student's CS trajectory, it was benchmarked against CS61A—the first class for majors, and increasingly, for non-majors as well. The quantitative approach gave the opportunity to have a landscape view on the effectiveness of the curriculum in attracting the target audience, while the qualitative approach gave the opportunity to dig deeper into the specific lived experiences of the participants within the context of the classes under study. The research was constructed to answer the following research question: What impact does CS10 have in attracting female students into the major?

Survey instruments were developed to measure participants' interest along several dimensions as is shown in table 1. This was done by extending previously validated instruments. To measure students CS attitudes, previously constructed instruments from Titterton and Haynie were used[13]. To determine the role of identity and self efficacy; as well as the role of mentors in attracting underrepresented students, previously constructed instruments from [12] in their attitudinal study of CS in the Level Playing Field's Summer Math and Science Honors Academy (SMASH) were used. Additional instruments were developed by the researcher to measure cultural competency. The survey uses a 5-point Likert scale (where 1 = Not Really, 3 = Neutral and 5 = Absolutely).

Dimensions Developed to Measure Participant's CS Interest

Code	Dimension
atcs	Attitudes about CS competency.
atcsgender	Attitudes about the role of gender in computer science
atct	Understanding of computational thinking
blg	Sense of belonging in the CS classroom.
clet	Attitudes about social implications and ethics.
cltrcmp	Understanding around cultural competency.
mtr	Access to CS Mentors.
prcs	Pre-Collegiate computer science awareness.

Table 1: Survey Instrument Dimensions to Measure CS Interest

Qualitative Research: Interviews

Along with the surveys, interviews were conducted to get a deeper sense of the effectiveness of the BJC curriculum in attracting historically underrepresented students. These audio-recorded interviews were conducted at the university with participants that either attended CS10, CS61A, or both. Furthermore, participants were carefully chosen to reflect a broad spectrum of computing experiences from novice first time beginners to more advanced CS students.

Individual, semi-structured qualitative interviews ranging in 30-45 minute were conducted with participants. During these interviews, participants were asked about their use of computers, about their academic interest(s), their perception(s) of CS, their reason(s) for taking the class, and their

experience around it. These interviews were taped and later transcribed. Analysis was guided by a grounded theory approach. Interview text was read first to identify emergent themes.

Location and Context

There are three ways a student can take to become introduced to CS at UC Berkeley. The student may choose to take CS10, or chose to take CS61A, or instead choose to take CS61AS—The self-paced version of Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs. For the purposes of understanding the experience of undergraduates students around introductory CS, the research context focused primarily on CS10 and CS61A.

Class Context

The two classes under evaluation to determine their effectiveness in broadening participation in computing are held every semester at the UC, Berkeley. CS10 has a class size of approximately 200+ students each semester, while CS61A has an approximate class size of 1000+ students. Participation in both classes are continously growing at the university. As of the writing of this study, CS10 has a near 50-50 gender breakdown between male and female students, while CS61A's gender breakdown is approximately 34% female and 66% male.

Participants

The participants that were part of this evaluation came from CS10 and CS61A. These were mostly undergraduates whose demographic skew strongly towards White and Asian students. Surveys were conducted with 882 participants, while interviews were done with 24 participants. Participants where recruited for the interviews based on their willingness to participate in the study from their responses to the surveys. Tables 2, and **??** show the breakdown of the participants in the study.

Survey Participant Break Down

Class	Female	Male
CS10 Fall 2014	144	116
CS10 Spring 2015	73	54
CS61A	171	324
Total	388	494

Table 2: Survey Participants

In total, 170 male students, and 217 female students consented to participate in the research from CS10, while 324 male students, and 171 female students consented to participate in the research from CS61A.

In order to test for statistically significance, a non-parametric alternative to the standard t test, the Mann-Whitney U test was used[14]. This decision was made because the study generated ordinal data through the use of a Likert scale, and no statements can be made with regards to the distribution of the data. Further, the Mann-Whitney test has been validated as acceptable when dealing with datasets for which there are unequal sample sizes. The significance threshold was set at 0.05.

The data was divided into sets as follows: Students who had previous pre-collegiate exposure to CS were separated from those that did not. This brought the sample size down from 882, to 480 for students without prior exposure to CS. The sample as distributed along gender and class as is shown in table 3.

Participants Breakdown For Analysis

Class	Female	Male	Female	Male
	With		**Without**	
	Prior CS		Prior CS	
CS10	45	48	85	101
CS61A	86	223	172	122
Total	131	271	257	223

Table 3: Participants Broken Down by Prior Exposure to CS

The data was normalized to a range from 1 to 100. This decision was made to allow ease of interpretation in terms of percentages.

Results

Table 4 shows the results of statistical test for significance—Using Mann Whitney Test—between the experience of students in CS10 and CS61A. Only survey instruments for whom p values were less than 0.05 where included in the table. These p-values indicate that there is a difference is the experience of CS10 students when compared to CS61A students.

As a result of the normalization of the data, the numbers denoting the responses of the students do not quite add up to 100. For the most part, they add up to 100 plus or minus 2, because of precision loss.

Table 4: Survey Finding with Statistical Significance

Groups		Survey Instrument	P Value	Significance by Stars
CS10	CS61A	atcs_1	0.00000	****
CS10	CS61A	atcs_2	0.00011	****
CS10	CS61A	atcs_3	0.00424	**
CS10	CS61A	atcs_4	0.00000	****
CS10	CS61A	atcs_5	0.00035	***
CS10	CS61A	atcs_6	0.00001	****
CS10	CS61A	atcs_7	0.00000	****
CS10	CS61A	atcs_8	0.01949	**
CS10	CS61A	atcs_9	0.00004	****
CS10	CS61A	atct_5	0.00000	****
CS10	CS61A	atct_8	0.00000	****
CS10	CS61A	atcsgender_2	0.00913	**
CS10	CS61A	blg_3	0.00001	****
CS10	CS61A	blg_4	0.00000	****
CS10	CS61A	clet_2	0.00000	****

Table 5: Survey Finding with Statistical Significance [Data Disaggregated]

Survey Finding with Statistical Significance [Data Disaggregated] (*continued*)

Groups		Survey Instrument	Sample Group	P Value	Significance by Stars	P Value	Significance by Stars
					Prior CS	**NO Prior CS**	
CS10	CS61A	atcs_1	Class	0.02506	*		
CS10	CS61A	atcs_2	Class	0.00448	**		
			Male	0.00883	**		
CS10	CS61A	atcs_3	Class	0.01555	**		
			Class			0.00895	**
			Female			0.00030	***
			Male	0.02903	*		
CS10	CS61A	atcs_4	Class	0.04441	*		
			Class			0.00341	**
			Male			0.00573	**
CS10	CS61A	atcs_6	Class	0.00638	**		
			Male	0.00852	**		
CS10	CS61A	atcs_7	Class	0.00064	***		
			Male	0.02253	*		
CS10	CS61A	atcs_9	Class	0.01197	**		
CS10	CS61A	atcsgender_1	Female			0.00214	**
CS10	CS61A	atcsgender_2	Class	0.01138	**		
CS10	CS61A	atct_2	Female	0.02310	*		
CS10	CS61A	atct_3	Class			0.00911	**
			Female			0.00258	**
CS10	CS61A	atct_5	Class	0.00000	****		
			Class			0.00627	**
			Female	0.00024	***		
			Male	0.00001	****		
CS10	CS61A	atct_6	Class	0.02987	*		

Survey Finding with Statistical Significance [Data Disaggregated] (*continued*)

Groups		Survey Instrument	Sample Group	P Value	Significance by Stars	P Value	Significance by Stars
				Prior CS		**NO Prior CS**	
CS10	CS61A	atct_7	Class			0.03963	*
			Female			0.04346	*
CS10	CS61A	atct_8	Class	0.00002	****		
			Class			0.02489	*
			Male	0.00268	**		
CS10	CS61A	blg_1	Class			0.00023	***
			Female			0.00104	***
			Male			0.00755	**
CS10	CS61A	blg_2	Class			0.00736	**
			Female			0.01275	**
CS10	CS61A	blg_3	Class	0.00393	**		
			Class			0.00001	****
			Female	0.00024	***		
			Female			0.00028	***
			Male			0.00050	***
CS10	CS61A	blg_4	Class	0.00716	**		
			Class			0.00000	****
			Female	0.00121	***		
			Female			0.00013	****
			Male			0.00002	****
CS10	CS61A	clet_2	Class	0.00246	**		
			Class			0.00000	****
			Female	0.00490	**		
			Female			0.00202	**
			Male			0.00013	****
CS10	CS61A	cltrcmp_2	Female	0.00804	**		

Findings

On Belonging

To investigate students' perception of CS fitness, as well as their sense of efficacy in the CS classroom, four instruments were designed and coded as follows:

blg_1: In this class, I feel I belong.
blg_2: In this class, I feel awkward and out of place.
blg_3: In this class, I feel like my ideas count.
blg_4: In this class, I feel like I matter.

Based on the data gathered from the survey, students generally had a stronger, statistically significant experience of belonging in CS10 as compared to CS61A, as can be seen in figure 5. Nevertheless, it is important to notice that only around 50% of female learners had a positive sense of belonging ($p = 0.00104$) as can be seen from figure 5b.

When focusing on ideas, only about 50% of female learners felt their ideas were important in the class ($p = 0.00028$), as can be seen in figure 6f.

When asked about their sense of feeling important in the class, we observe a statistically significant ($p = 0.0000$) difference between the experience of learners in CS10 versus their counterparts in CS61A, figure 5f.

Narrowing our analysis to the experience of learners <u>without</u> prior exposure to CS, we see that for CS61A, similar proportions of learners of both gender feel like they don't matter, i.e., 35% plus/minus 5. In contrast, only 10% of boys ($p = 0.00002$) felt unimportant versus 17% of girls ($p = 0.00013$) in CS10. Important to note is that when we look at female learners <u>with</u> prior CS exposure, the proportion drops to 8% ($p = 0.00121$).

Effect of CS10 on CS61A Experience: Belonging

First, let's take a gendered look at learners self-reported belonging. From figure 8a, we observe that 51% of female learners have positive sense of belonging versus 61% of male learners.

To see what effect participation in CS10 has on students' sense of belonging in CS61A, a data subset was created of CS61A students who had previously taken CS10. This new subset had a sample size N=40, with 18 female subjects and 22 male subjects.

Looking to see if the experience of CS10 increased female students sense of belonging when they got to CS61A, with respect with their male counterparts, we observe a statistically significant ($p = 0.02006$) difference. Reducing the dimension of the likert scale responses by combining the two dimensions on either side of "neutral." From figure 9b we observe that *now* only 27% of female students feel a sense of belonging.

Comparing female students with <u>zero</u> CS experience against those that took CS10 previously, we observe no statistically significant effect. You can see the results in figure 9c.
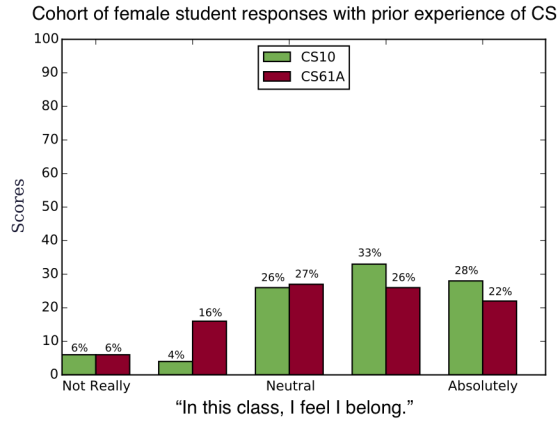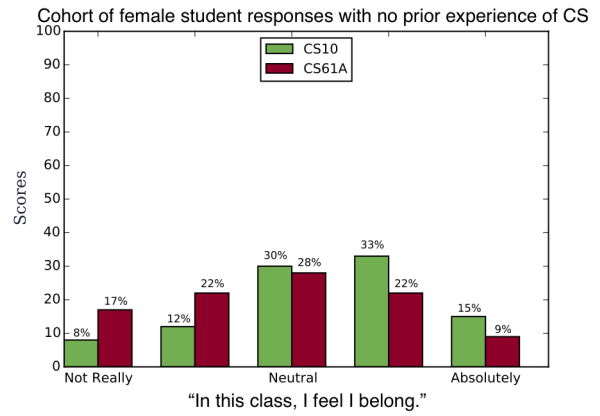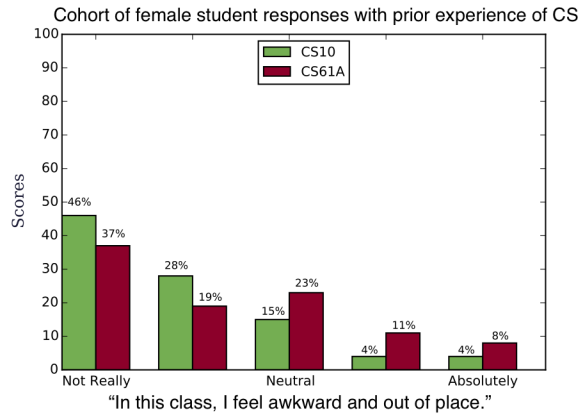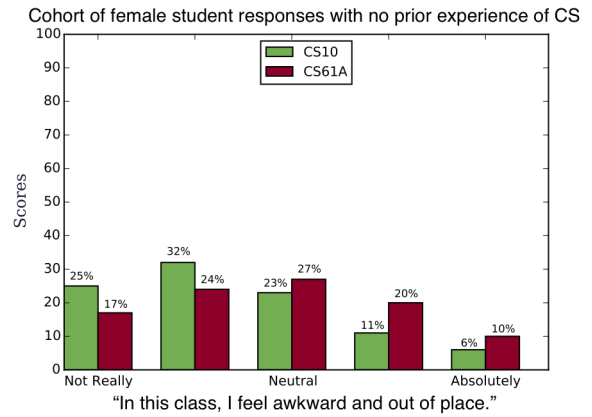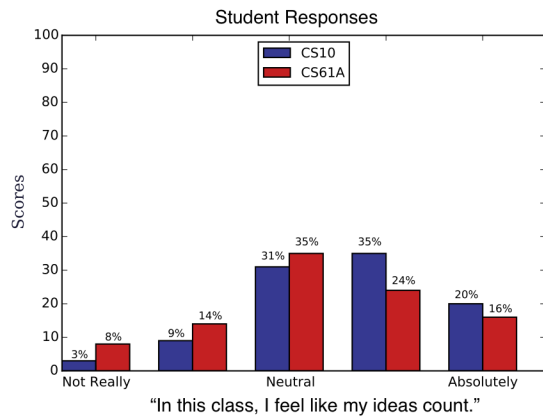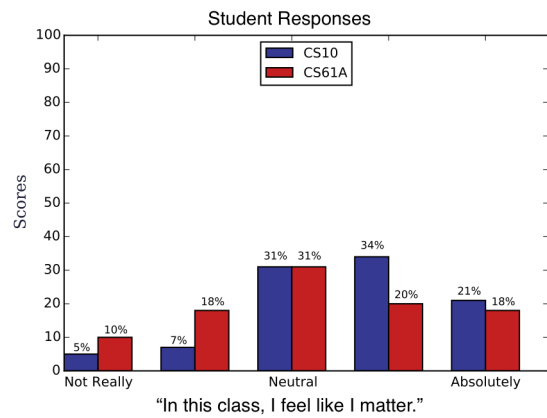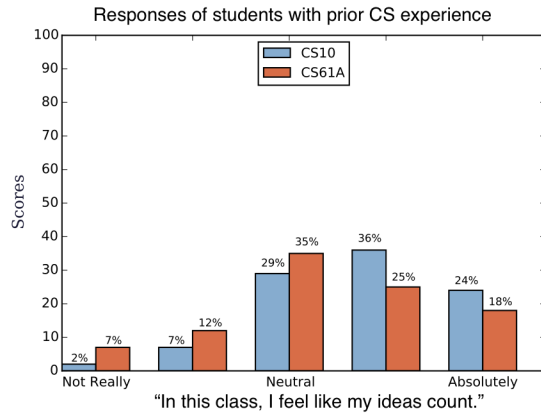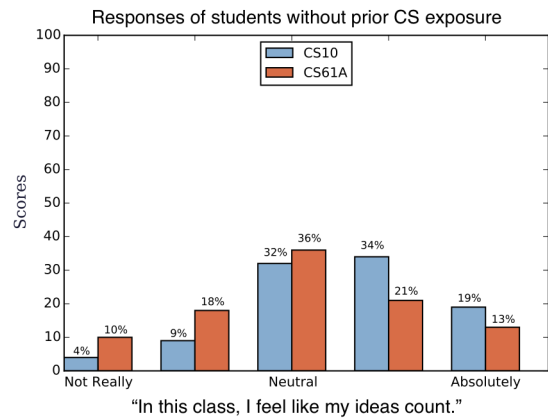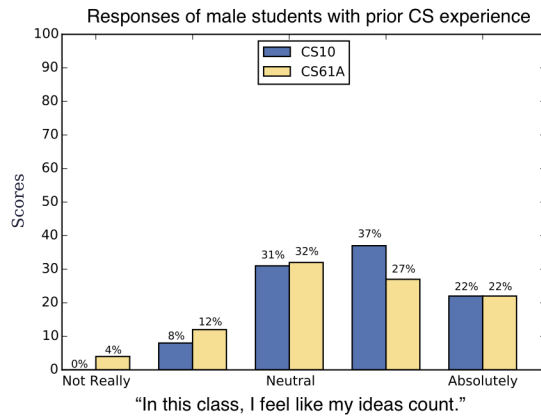
Figure 5: Students' Responses with Regards to CS Belonging.

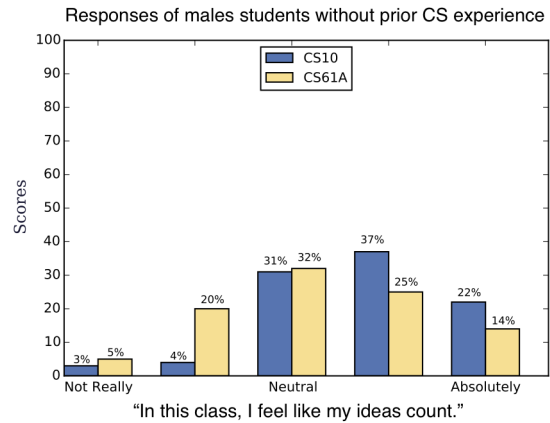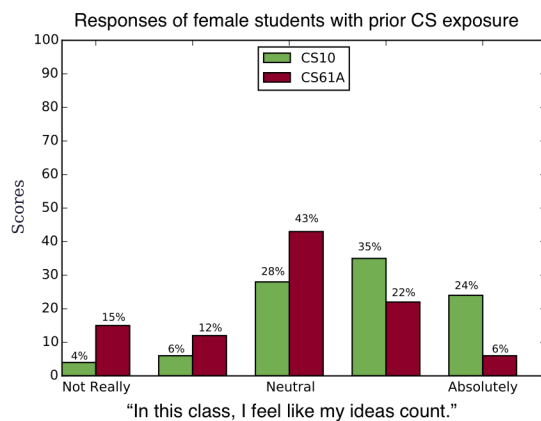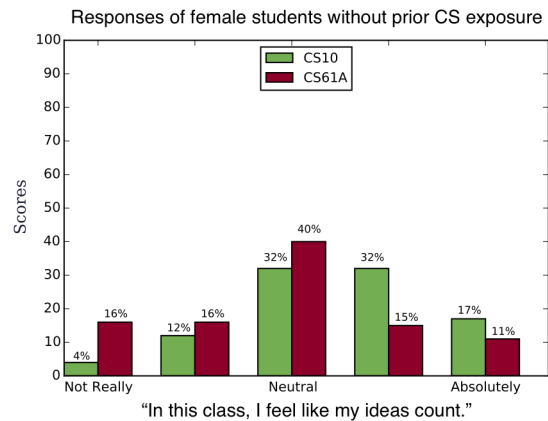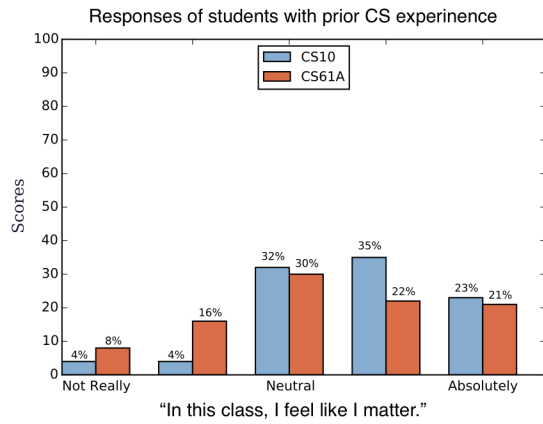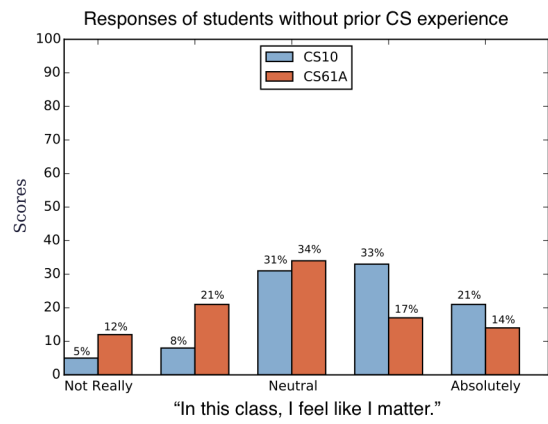Figure 6: Students' Responses for survey question: "In this class, I feel like my ideas count."
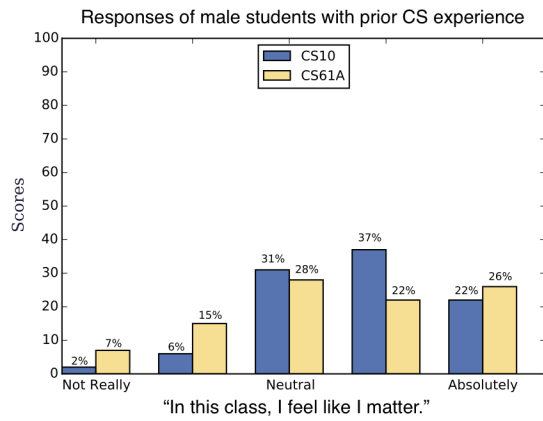
Figure 7: Students' Responses for survey question: "In this class, I feel like I matter."
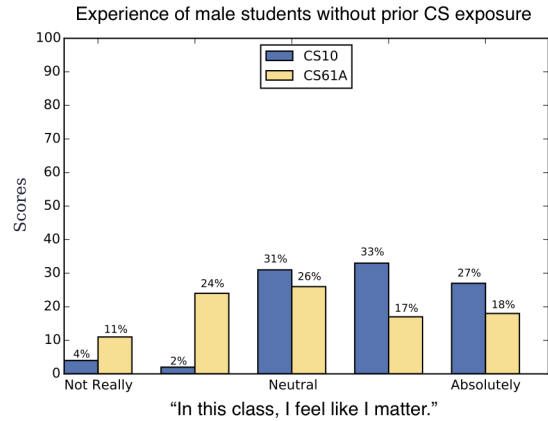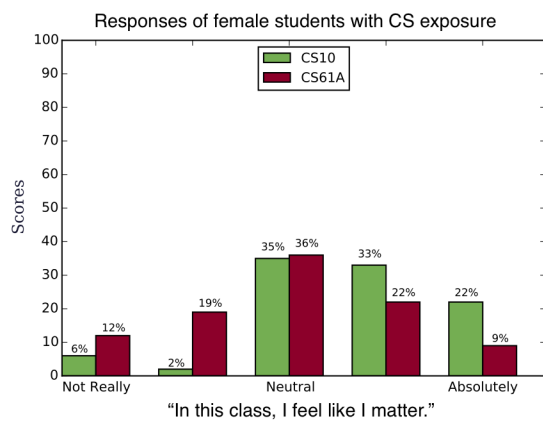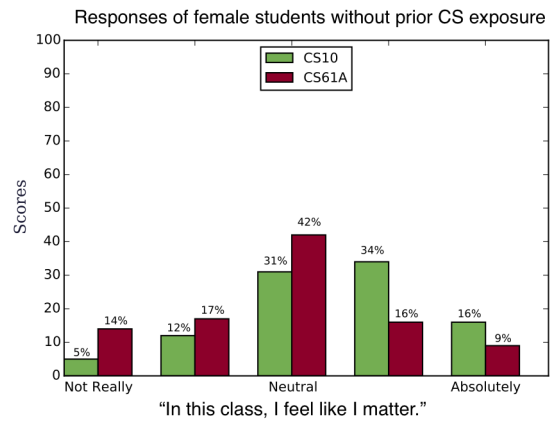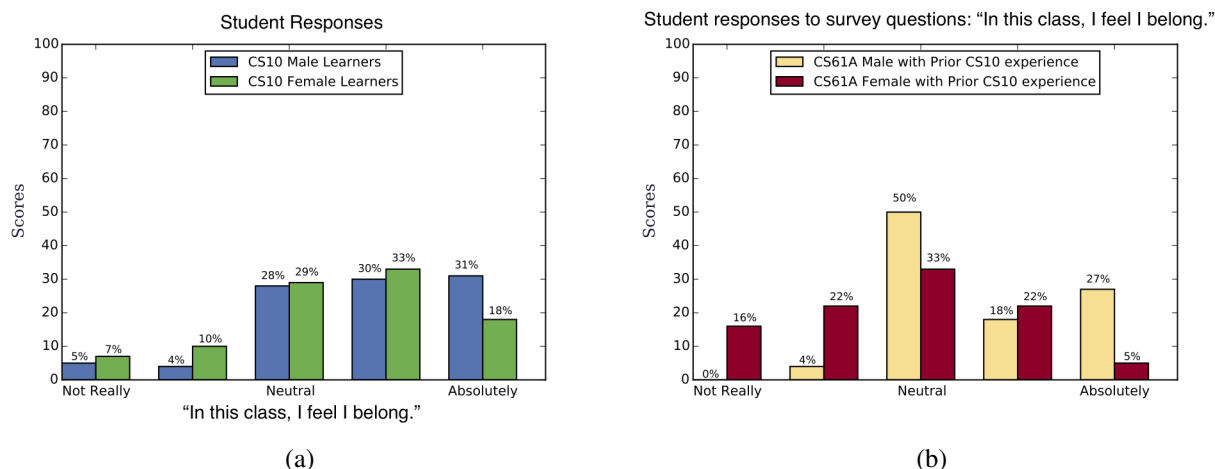
Figure 8: Effects of CS10 on CS61A Students' Self-Reported Sense of Belonging.

What impact does CS10 have in attracting female students into the major?

From the findings in the quantitative analysis, we know that CS10 has a statistically positive effect on female students belief about CS achievement, and in particular, for female students for whom CS10 is their first CS class. If we continue with our working hypothesis that belonging is a strong signifier for a students intention and ability to persist in the major, we can use the instruments constituting that dimension to analyze CS10's ability to attract female students into the major.

To do this, we shift the unit of analysis to the experience of students who had previously attended CS10 and moved on to 61A. When participants were asked the question, "In this class I feel I belong?," The percentage of positive responses went down for female students. The number dropped from 51% to 27%. You can see this in figures 9a, 9b.

When comparing the experience of belonging between girls who had never taken any CS, with those of girls who had taken CS10 and then moved on to CS61A, this research found no statistical significance on their experiences. From figure 9c, you can see that the scores are almost the same for both cohort at around 27% of girls feeling a strong sense of belonging.

In answering the research question, i.e., the ability of belonging in CS10 to predict or say something about an intention to move forward in the introductory CS pipeline, a correlation analysis was conducted on the survey instruments that had to do with computational thinking efficacy, computer science efficacy, and belonging. The instruments of particular interest are the following:
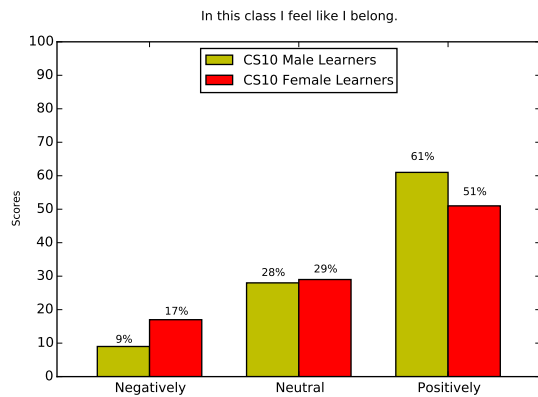
blg_1: In this class, I feel I belong.
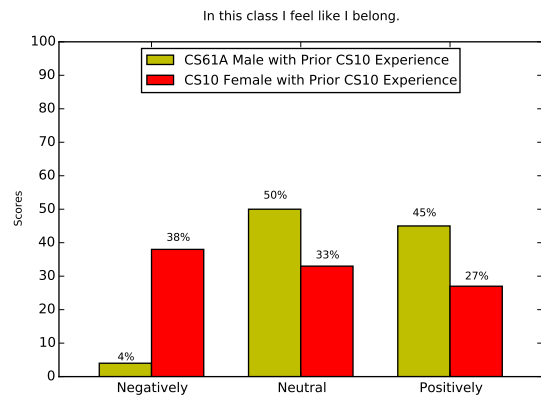**blg_3:** In this class, I feel like my ideas count.
blg_4: In this class, I feel like I matter.
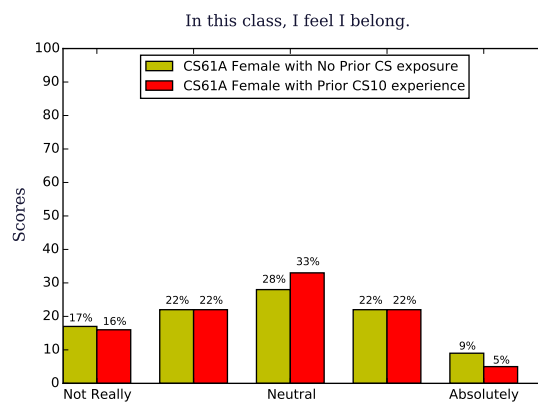**atcs_3:** I can achieve good grades (C or better) in computing courses.
atcs_8: I am confident about my abilities with regards to computer science.

(a) CS10 Learners: blg_1

(b) CS61A Learners with **Prior** CS10: blg_1

(c) **blg_1**

Figure 9: Effects of CS10 on CS61A Students' Self-Reported Sense of Belonging.

atct_5: I know how to write computer programs.

atct_8: I know how to write a computer program to solve a problem.

For the cohort under analysis, i.e., the CS10 female students who went on to CS61A, this study found that for these female students, their self-reported programming ability predicts their sense of belonging, because the correlation heat-map from figure 10a showed that **blg_1** and **atct_5** are strongly correlated for girls with (r=0.60514), and **blg_3** and **atct_5** are strongly correlated (r=0.63538) [3].
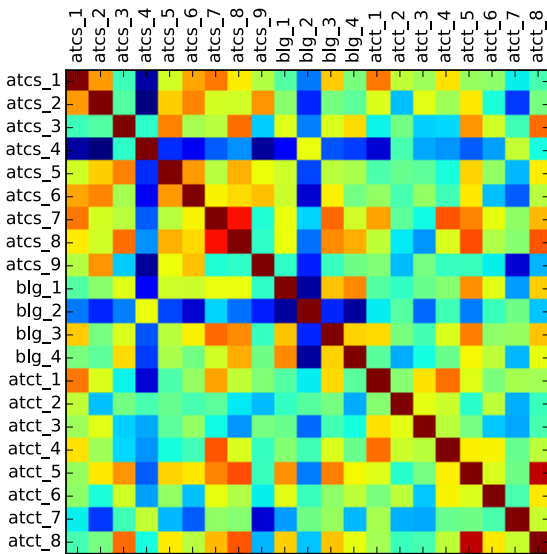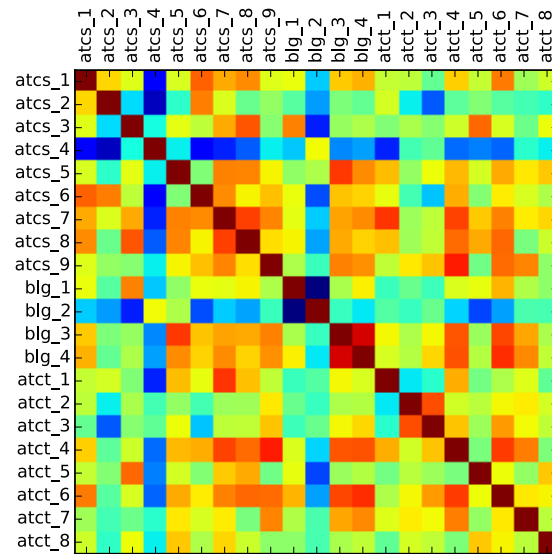
(a) Female   (b) Male

Figure 10: Correlation Matrix of CS61A Students who had Previously Taken CS10

For male students in the same cohort, this study found something entirely different. From the analysis and from the correlation heat map plotted in figure 10b, we observe that "**atct_4**: I am persistent at solving puzzles or logic problems," and "**atct_6**: I am good at building things," are strongly correlated with blg_3 and blg_4[4], with ($r \geq 0.7$) for most of the correlations.

It is important to notice that usually for female CS10 students, based on the raw data spanning three semesters worth of experience, that **blg_1** and **atct_5** are *not* correlated, (r=0.31426), figure 11a. Since the relationship between these two variables seem to increase as girls move forward in

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[3]In interpreting correlations, for X and Y values between 0.5 and 0.9, the two variables are strongly related. That is, knowing X allows you to predict Y with considerably greater accuracy than if you didn't know Y. http://sites.stat.psu.edu/ jls/stat100/lectures/lec16.pdf

[4] blg_3 & atct_4, (r=0.70504)
blg_3 & atcs_5, (r=0.75434)
blg_3 & atct_6, (r=0.73270)
blg_4 & atct_4, (r=0.71436)
blg_4 & atct_6, (r=0.77616)

the pipeline, as can be seen from figures 10 and 11b, we are led to conclude that this relationship is truly a strong predictor of CS belonging. Furthermore, in CS10, the data analysis revealed that female students sense of belonging in that class is highly correlated with their self-reported CS efficacy, as can be seen from the scores in table 6.

Correlation with Belonging for CS10 Females

| Instruments		Score
blg_1	atcs_3	0.56885
blg_1	atcs_8	0.50070
blg_1	blg_4	0.64547
atct_5	atct_8	0.75888

Table 6: Correlation Table

When one continues the analysis of the data to focus on the experience of CS10 males and females, as well as CS61A males and females, more insight is revealed on the self-reported attitudes of the students in the introductory to CS pipeline.

From figure 12a, we can see that the males in CS10 are the only subset in the study that do not have their sense of belonging correlated with their CS efficacy or their computational thinking (CT) efficacy, where as all the other subsets do as can be seen from figures 11a, 11b and 12b. However, once the gentlemen move on from CS10 to CS61A, from the data analysis, we find that their sense of belonging starts getting correlated with CS and CT efficacy, as can be seen from figure 10b.
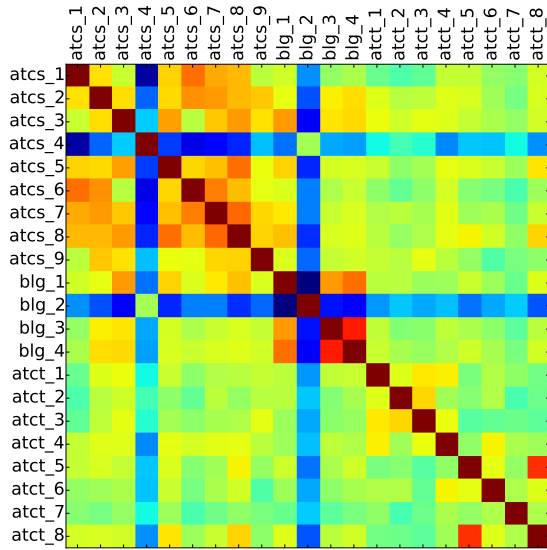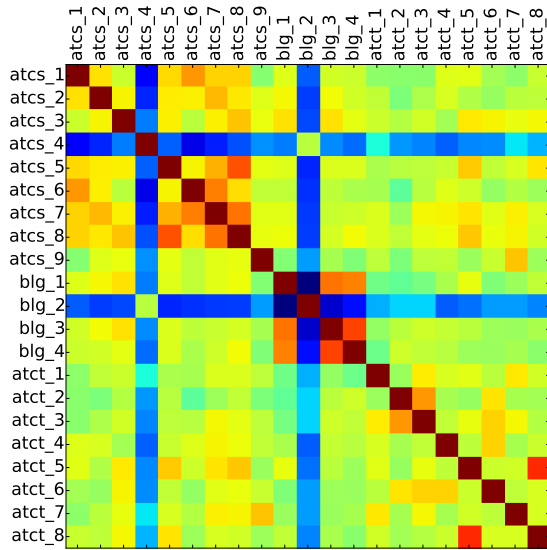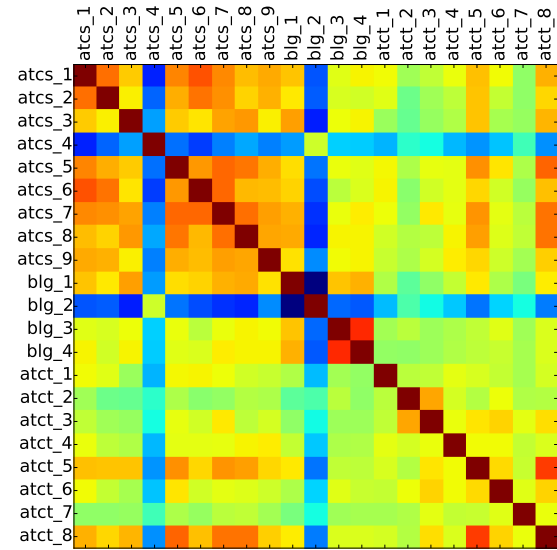
(a) CS10
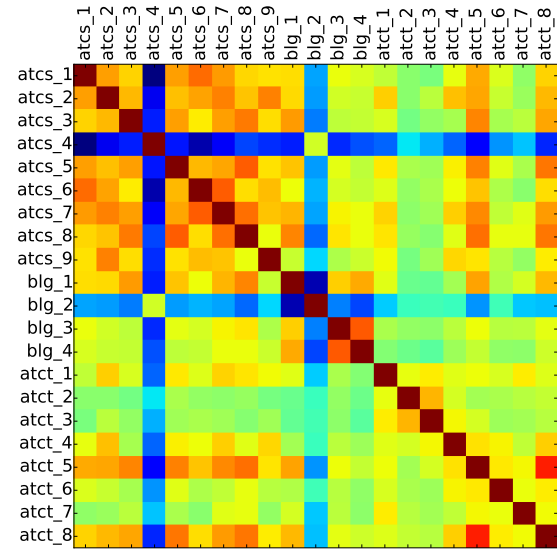
(b) CS61A

Figure 11: Correlation Matrix Female

(a) CS10

(b) CS61A

Figure 12: Correlation Matrix Male

Conclusion

This paper has laid out some of the challenge of equalizing participation in computer science. A mixed-methods formative research was conducted that sought to to answer the question, "What are the socio-curricular factors that lead historically underrepresented students to choose CS?" Findings from the formative mixed-method research which demonstrated the efficacy of socio-cultural, responsive, curriculum in broadening participation in computer science was put forth.

From the findings in the quantitative analysis, we know that CS10 has a statistically positive effect on female students belief about CS achievement, and in particular, for female students for whom CS10 is their first CS class. Furthermore, for the CS10 female students who went on to CS61A, this study found that for these students, their self-reported programming ability predicts their sense of belonging.

While CS10 is successfully serving as a gateway into the major for underrepresented students, from the analysis, as great a class as CS10 is, there are still some significant environmental challenges that the overwhelmingly male environment of CS61A poses to female students sense of belonging when they advance on to 61A.

The hope is that as like-minded-people continue to work in this area of equalizing participation in computer science, maybe she can finally be the radical, innovative field she has always said she was—by bringing about a different way of life for the 21st century.

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