

# Computer Science in a Nutshell

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Computer science breaks down into two tacit divisions: the practical and the theoretical.

## **Theoretical**

Theoretical interests tend towards the mathematical issues faces by programmers. The academic wing of the CS field tends towards these questions, and they are not always well-represented in the professional field.

The theoretical aspects of the field are well-represented, however, and somewhat paradoxically, in the professional organizations that represent practitioners in CS. These organizations print a great quantity of academic journals, subsidize conferences, and lead the initiatives for ethics and industry standards.

The ACM and IEEE are the two most important professional organizations in Computer Science.

## **Professional**

The professional seeks to work in project groups, producing (often) software and hardware of broad applicability. The professional in CS tends to have stronger engineering and management interests than their theoretical colleagues.

They generally pay no attention to journals and conferences sponsored by professional organizations, focusing more on initiatives constructed by their employers.