# **Computer Science?** Science, Engineering and Liberal Arts

Nasser Alshammari

12th May 2014

▲□▶ ▲圖▶ ▲臣▶ ★臣▶ ―臣 …の�?



**David Evans** Professor of Computer Science University of Virginia

## Science

**Science** is understanding **nature** through observation

## Science

- Science is understanding nature through observation
- Newton's law of universal gravitation

## Science

- Science is understanding nature through observation
- Newton's law of universal gravitation
- Science deals with real physical things



 Computer Science deals with abstract things (numbers, graphs, functions, and lists)



- Computer Science deals with abstract things (numbers, graphs, functions, and lists)
- The focus is on abstract things rather than physical things



- Computer Science deals with abstract things (numbers, graphs, functions, and lists)
- The focus is on abstract things rather than physical things
- Computer Science is like mathematics to traditional science

- Computer Science deals with abstract things (numbers, graphs, functions, and lists)
- The focus is on abstract things rather than physical things
- Computer Science is like mathematics to traditional science
- The studying of computing abstract things is not a natural science



Whereas science is **analytic** in that it strives to understand nature, or what is, engineering is **synthetic** in that it strives to create. Our own favorite description of what engineers do is "design under constraint".

~ William Wulf and George Fisher

 Computer Science does not deal with natural constraints

- Computer Science does not deal with natural constraints
- The focus is on the abstract bits not how they are stored

- Computer Science does not deal with natural constraints
- The focus is on the abstract bits not how they are stored
- Computer Science do deal with constraints (the capacity of the human mind)

- Computer Science does not deal with natural constraints
- The focus is on the abstract bits not how they are stored
- Computer Science do deal with constraints (the capacity of the human mind)
- ► To deal with complexity, abstractions are used

Middle ages

- Middle ages
- Illiberal Arts are arts pursued for economic purposes (medicine and carpentry)

- Middle ages
- Illiberal Arts are arts pursued for economic purposes (medicine and carpentry)
- Liberal Arts are for people who did not need to make a living (purely intellectual activities)

Language

- Language
  - Grammar: "the art of inventing symbols and combining them to express thought"

- Language
  - Grammar: "the art of inventing symbols and combining them to express thought"
  - Rhetoric: "the art of communicating thought from one mind to another, the adaptation of language to circumstance"

- Language
  - Grammar: "the art of inventing symbols and combining them to express thought"
  - Rhetoric: "the art of communicating thought from one mind to another, the adaptation of language to circumstance"
  - Logic "the art of thinking"

- Language
  - Grammar: "the art of inventing symbols and combining them to express thought"
  - Rhetoric: "the art of communicating thought from one mind to another, the adaptation of language to circumstance"
  - Logic "the art of thinking"

- Language
  - Grammar: "the art of inventing symbols and combining them to express thought"
  - Rhetoric: "the art of communicating thought from one mind to another, the adaptation of language to circumstance"
  - Logic "the art of thinking"

#### Numbers

Arithmetic: "theory of number"

- Language
  - Grammar: "the art of inventing symbols and combining them to express thought"
  - Rhetoric: "the art of communicating thought from one mind to another, the adaptation of language to circumstance"
  - Logic "the art of thinking"

- Arithmetic: "theory of number"
- Geometry: "theory of space"

- Language
  - Grammar: "the art of inventing symbols and combining them to express thought"
  - Rhetoric: "the art of communicating thought from one mind to another, the adaptation of language to circumstance"
  - Logic "the art of thinking"

- Arithmetic: "theory of number"
- Geometry: "theory of space"
- Music: "application of the theory of number"

- Language
  - Grammar: "the art of inventing symbols and combining them to express thought"
  - Rhetoric: "the art of communicating thought from one mind to another, the adaptation of language to circumstance"
  - Logic "the art of thinking"

- Arithmetic: "theory of number"
- Geometry: "theory of space"
- Music: "application of the theory of number"
- Astronomy: "application of the theory of space"



 Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic and Arithmetic: Programming Languages and protocols



- Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic and Arithmetic: Programming Languages and protocols
- Geometry: Computer graphics

- Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic and Arithmetic: Programming Languages and protocols
- Geometry: Computer graphics
- Music: harmonic structures have strong connections to recursive definitions

- Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic and Arithmetic: Programming Languages and protocols
- Geometry: Computer graphics
- Music: harmonic structures have strong connections to recursive definitions
- Astronomy: Not so much :)

# Conclusion

► What is Computer Science?

## Conclusion

- What is Computer Science?
- Will that change the research philosophy?

# Thank you!

