

Women in Computer Science

Pioneering Women

Women have been involved with computers since the very beginning:

- Ada, Countess of Lovelace
- ENIAC programmers
- Grace Hopper
- Jean Sammet
- Fran Allen

Etc.



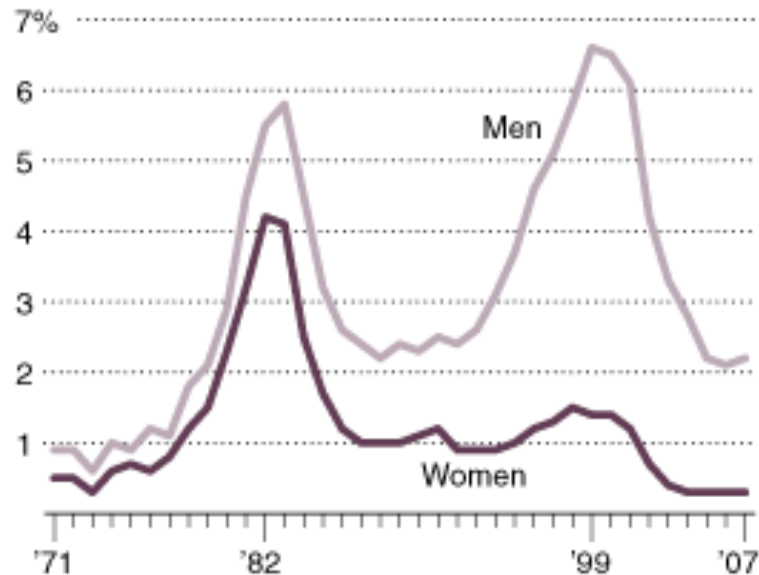
Women in CS at Purdue

- Fall 1967 – 5 women
- Fall 1968 – about 40% women
- Generally had less computing experience as undergraduates
- No overt discrimination, but ...
 - Women were not encouraged to go past MS
 - Conversation w/ Peter Denning
 - Dorothy Denning was first woman PhD (1975)

Fewer Women in CS (1)

Widening Gap

The percentage of female college freshmen who list computer science as a probable major is 0.3 percent, down from 4.2 percent in 1982.



Source: U.C.L.A. Higher Education Research Institute

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Fewer Women in CS (2)

- 1985: 37% of CS bachelors degrees (14,431)
- 2010: 18% of CS bachelors degrees (7,306)
- Total # of CS bachelors degrees was flat (39,000+)

Explanations

- Gender stereotypes (video games)
- More opportunities in other fields
- Other??