

## CS Majors Vs. Population Statistics

The personality assessment of 406 Computer Science majors on the Keirsey Temperament Sorter, a Myer-Briggs compatible scale, is compared with population statistics for the Myer-Briggs personality test[1]. Since the compatible scale is not identically the same test as the population statistics, these results are presented for illustrative and discussion purposes only.

The CS majors were enrolled in Comp 485 Human Computer Interaction at CSUN. These students are seniors or graduate students. The comparison suggests some differences between CS majors and the population as listed in Table 1 and shown in Figure 1 (next page).

	CS Majors			Percentage Norms	
	cs-left	cs-right	cs-split	pop.-left	pop.-right
<b>extravert - introvert</b>	0.37	0.45	0.17	0.75	0.25
<b>sensing - intuiting</b>	0.49	0.38	0.14	0.75	0.25
<b>thinking - feeling</b>	0.57	0.35	0.08	0.50	0.50
<b>judging - perceiving</b>	0.77	0.15	0.08	0.50	0.50

Table 1

In Table 1 and Figure 1 the legends "left", "right", and "split" refer to the scale. For example, 37% CS majors are extraverted, 45% are introverted, 17% are split evenly between extraversion and introversion, 75% of the population are extraverted, and 25% of the population are introverted. The same interpretation should be applied to the sensing-intuiting, thinking-feeling, and judging-perceiving scales. The sums may not equal 100% due to rounding.

The results for the Spring 2004 CS 485 class are shown in Table 2.

	left	right	split
extravert-introvert	0.35	0.42	0.23
sensing-intuiting	0.58	0.27	0.15
thinking-feeling	0.58	0.27	0.15
judging-perceiving	0.77	0.15	0.08

Table 2

Interpretation.

As you can see Computer Science majors are different than the population statistics on all four scales; largest difference is on "judging-perceiving". This supports the software design principle of, "know your user - because they are probably not like you!".

[1] Keirsey, D. and Bates, M., "Please Understand Me: Character and Temperament Types", Prometheus Nemesis Book Co. 1984.

**CS Majors (N=406) versus Population  
(1990 - 2004)**

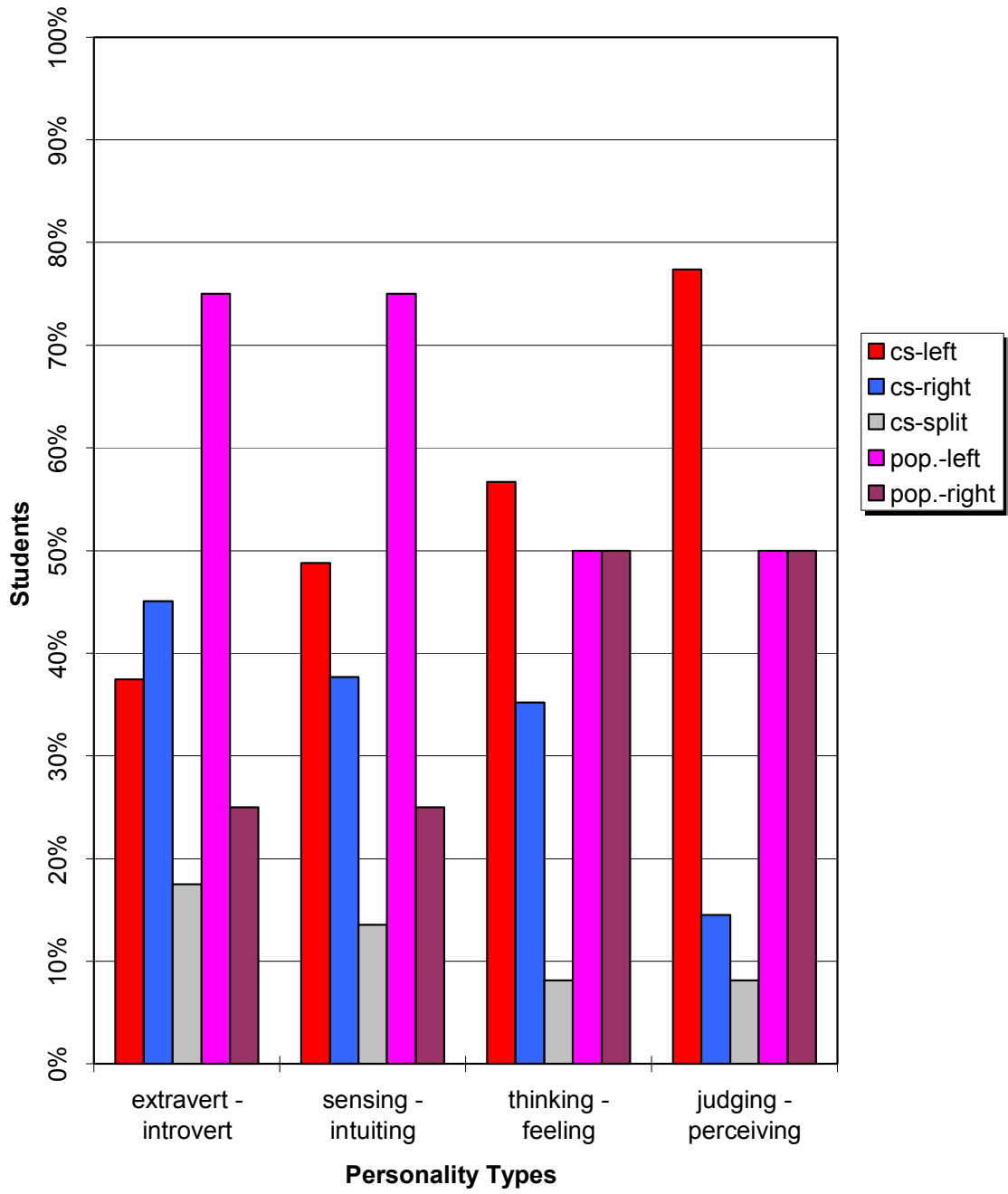


Figure 1