

Computer Influence on Age Called Revolutionary

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Historians of the future may record that the Computational Revolution, which we are now undergoing, had as great an impact on human society as the Industrial Revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries, says Clay L. Perry, mathematician at the University of California's School of Science and Engineering.

Perry heads the new computation facility on the campus. Early March will see the installation there of a Control Data Corporation Model 1604 solid state computer, purchased with funds provided by the Atomic Energy Commission. The new computer will be one of the most powerful and flexible available on any campus.

The new computers are extending the power of men's minds in the same measure that machines have extended the power of men's muscles, Perry says. Problems that were formerly not attacked because they would take too much time to solve are now within easy reach, even with computers available today. Perry forecasts the development of much more sophisticated computing machines within the next few years.

A wide range of problems will be attacked by the computer at La Jolla. Among them are studies of ocean waves, tides, investigations of sediment distributions and behavior of interstellar gases. A large share of the computer's task will be to aid research conducted by the Department of Physics on nuclear problems.