

THE COMPUTER IN PETROLEUM EXPLORATION

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ABSTRACT

What is needed in petroleum exploration is a computer system that will provide a link between the individual geologist and the high volume of data he must work with.

Such a computer system must incorporate three elements. First, Petroleum exploration data must be made available to the machine through the creation of data files. Second, application programs must be available to search the file for specified data and then to process and output the results of calculations in the form of maps, cross sections, plots, tabulations, etc. Third, a close man machine interface must exist. This close relationship is provided through a new graphic input device, the light pen. Unless the man who wants the answers can communicate easily and quickly with the machine, the computer tends to become a remote "black box" having limited value to most geologists.

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