

# STUDIA GEOGRAPHICA 74

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## I. COMPUTERS IN GEOGRAPHY

(The basis of this paper is the study: Š.Poláčik (1978 B))

Computer's are nowadays utilized almost in every part, of economic and social life. The process of computer introduction did not bypass neither geography where it reaches mass dimension mainly in the past few years. Testimony to this submits the paper by J.R. Tarrant (1970 A) from which it is evident that computers did "break the rough" into almost all parts of geography.

Even though, there do exist various special problems in particular geographic specialties which are solved by computers it is possible to limit their extent for geography (but also for other geo-sciences) to three application planes. According to T.Hagerstrand (1967 A), are computers utilized in geography for following goals:

1. map constructions;
2. analytic purposes;
3. modelling.

The author considers map construction the simplest, way of computer utilization. It seems to him that it is more important to utilize them for various geographic analyses. Doing this, there are mainly used the variation statistics methods which aid in better understanding and description of solved problems. However, T. Hagerstrand (1967 A) considers, as the most favorable, their use for modelling purposes. He states at page 2: "I believe, that the most extensive possibilities lie in computer exploitation for modelling. Endeavour within this region can help to solve the old and fundamental geographic synthesis problem".

Also P. Haggett (1969) devotes his time to the problem of computer utilization in geography. However, he does delineate 4 application planes already: 1. multivariate method calculations (together with grouping, classification techniques); 2. spatial trend set-up construction; 4. simulation.