

# Re: Turing Machines and Physical Computation

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.math/2004-12/3356.html>

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Eray Ozkural exa wrote:

> Neil W Rickert <rickert+nn@cs.niu.edu> wrote in message news:<coe8th\$tdu\$1@usenet.cso.niu.edu>...  
>  
>>>The putative difficulty in writing effective software is a more common  
>>>and mundane version of the same thing, IMHO.  
>>  
>>That's actually a quite different problem.  
>>  
>>Computation is the manipulation of representations.  
>  
>  
> I am not sure if that's a good description.  
>  
> This formal symbol manipulation idea got some otherwise ambitious  
> philosophers like Brian Cantwell Smith and gang quite confused.  
>  
> Computers can work on representations, that's true. But it is not  
> necessary that what is being manipulated is "representation".  
>

Can you give us an example of where a computer is *\*not\** manipulating a representation ?

patty