Caroline Culjak

**home**

One object not commonly considered a “computer” would be a standard household thermometer. Although it does not use electricity, like the sundial, it does accept information, process it, and output information deduced by our input. The typical thermometer might be glass, containing mercury inside, and probably has an insulator at one end to prevent any unintended input.

In use, when the thermometer is placed inside a room (or, in the case of sickness, somebody’s mouth), the data that it receives would be the temperature of the air or material directly around it. Then, due to the gas laws, rising temperature yields rising volume: the mercury inside will expand as the temperature increases, causing what looks like the thin red line to inch up the thermometer. The process results in a line whose length (or output) is directly related to the surrounding temperature (or input).