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Prof. DeFelice

Group 4’s presentation discussed topics from Michio Kaku’s, The Physics of the Future, Future of the Computer: Mind over Matter. A few questions derived from the reading included personal thoughts about how you think technology is shaping the future and will they have positive or negative effects towards social change. I believe that peoples reality in the past shaped their visions for the future in a positive manner due to the fact we now have a huge advantage in technology. Most things we have come to know and use throughout everyday activities was first developed within trial and error making room for improvements, therefore making technology easier to use. Based on events that have occurred in the past, people are able to move forward and enhance what they are trying to build upon, especially when technology is present. You allow yourself to use the memories of the past to help predict what might happen in the future.

Another question was “Will the future entail changing our existing reality or creating our own”? The future is changing the way we see reality, but we don’t necessarily see it until we look back into the past. As we approach what will soon happen in the near future, people start to envision their own reality. With technology, we see an expansion of ideas and products being consumed by the public. An example used with creating our own reality is through virtual reality. It was first introduced in the 1960s by the military as a way to train pilots and soldiers using simulation. When we hear virtual reality, we assume video games. Today, through the power of technology, people can play simulated games where it puts you in an almost real-life setting. In the future as computer power continues to expand, as the player can soon visit unreal worlds. You will also have the ability to feel objects which is known as “haptic technology” used by Kaku.

When technology plays a huge part in daily life, especially with the advantages we have for the future, some say these changes will promote positive social change while others disagree and say these changes will promote negative social change. I believe these changes will promote both a positive and negative social change. Through a technological stand point, the positivity can help distribute and decentralize knowledge and improve education. It can also increase environmental awareness and be more cost efficient and productive with cars, homes and big businesses. The negative stand point would be seen through overconfidence and misguidedness in technology. People will always gear towards this in order to solve their problems. Technology can help centralize power such as government control and with the concerns of the environment, the use of materials put together during manufacturing can damage the air, water and lead to resource depletion, global warming and extinction. Technology for the future either a fast processing computer, the latest smart phone, or a new auto drive hybrid car, has its effect not only in the environment but mainly impacting our lives.