Some reflections on the history of computer science in Argentina.

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For historians and sociologists of science, computer science has some specially attractive characteristics. On the one hand, we all know its impact on scientific and technologic development, and on the social changes that this development stimulated (let us only mention Internet or the human genome sequencing). On the other hand, computer science is the only scientific discipline some of whose creators have disciples who are yet alive. It is as if in physics or in chemistry some important Newton's or Lavoisier's disciples were still alive, and perhaps active. The history of computer science is then intertwined with journalism and autobiography. In Argentina, to these characteristics we must add another: the evolution of computer science was strongly influenced — more than the evolution of any other exact or natural science — by national politics: being the newest of sciences, it was the most harmed by the political developments between 1966 and 1983 and no outline of its development can avoid mentioning the terrible damage that the military dictatorships caused to its incipient development. These points, therefore, will be taken into consideration in this short sketch of the history of the computer science in Argentina.