ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE END OF THE HUMAN ERA

OUR FINAL INVENTION

JAMES BARRAT
ETC.
Artificial Intelligence (abbr.: AI)

the theory and development of computer systems able to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making, and translation between languages.

Intelligence

the ability to achieve goals in a variety of novel environments, and to learn.
We humans steer the future not because we’re the fastest creature or the strongest creature. We steer the future because we’re the most intelligent. When we share the planet with creatures more intelligent than we are, they’ll steer the future.
… a century from now, nobody will much care about how long it took (to create superintelligence in a machine), only what happened next. It’s likely that machines will be smarter than us before the end of the century—not just at chess or trivia questions but at just about everything, from mathematics and engineering to science and medicine.

— Gary Marcus, The New Yorker
Machines will follow a path that mirrors the evolution of humans. Ultimately however, self-aware, self-improving machines will evolve beyond humans’ ability to control or even understand them.

– Ray Kurzweil
Let an ultraintelligent machine be defined as a machine that can far surpass all the intellectual activities of any man however clever. Since the design of machines is one of these intellectual activities, an ultraintelligent machine could design even better machines; there would then unquestionably be an 'intelligence explosion,' and the intelligence of man would be left far behind. Thus the first ultraintelligent machine is the last invention that man need ever make...

- IJ Good
We’ve already created machines that are better than humans at chess, jeopardy, and many other tasks like navigation, search, theorem proving, and more. At some point, probably within the next decade or two, we’ll create machines that are better at AI research than humans are.
Steve Omohundro
Self Aware Systems, LLC
Al’s Basic Drives

- Resource Acquisition
- Self Protection
- Efficiency
- Creativity
“The AI does not love you, nor does it hate you, but you are made of atoms it can use for something else.”

— Eliezer Yudkowsky
Machine Intelligence Research Institute
In contrast with our intellect, computers double their performance every 18 months. So the danger is real that they could develop intelligence and take over the world.

— Stephen Hawking, physicist
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