

A view of Turings influence of the world of computing

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In Turing's paper (1, 2) two key words, 'machine' and 'think', are defined at the beginning of the paper in order to address adequately the following question: 'Can machines think?'. He approaches the question with an alternative method, he does not intend to answer the question directly as that would be too ambiguous to whether or no the answer would be biased, rather he intends to answer the question indirectly by answering other questions which are superficially not related. Allow me to expand upon this thought to make more sense, Turing proposes a game, 'the imitation game' in which there are three people. One of the people will be the interrogator. He will be the person in charge to ask questions which assess both other people trying to uncover their identity. Of course, any practical demonstrations wouldn't be required as Turing argues, it would be too obvious to determine identities that way as a machine would excel at certain tasks compared to humans. I believe it is also important to explore, even if briefly, who was Turing influenced by in order to understand him better. There are a few people that kept coming up during my research but one of them in particular did stand out. Max Newman being one of them as he was also a mathematician in Manchester at the time. He was in fact also part of the Government Code and Cypher School which Alan Turing had only joined a couple of years earlier after he finished his PhD. Again just as much as Turing did influence the world of today by having a major focus on the quality of teaching undergraduates: he is known for how well he enhanced the department of mathematics in order to do their best.

The main key contribution to today's way of computing, made by Turing on the paper that we are exploring on the essay is most certainly the test he proposed. It is not only the test itself but the way to assess AI mainly.

There have already been cases of certain AI that have claimed to actually passed the Turing test which shows just how relevant his work still is nowadays. This shows that there are people that have been dedicated time and effort in order to produce an AI powerful enough to pass the test, which again is another demonstration on how much Turing shaped the way that AI development is focused on. There is a very controversial AI that is web based that puts you in contact through a conversation via text. [QUOTE2], received lots of criticism from professors arguing that it actually hasn't passed the test and that we are

yet far away from passing it. Who knows, we are now in 2018 and the article mentioned above is dated on 2014 so there might be some top secret AI that already passes the test.

In conclusion, as we explored through the paper it is safe to say that Turing's view on computation have shaped the way that we see the computing world today. He is in fact known as the father of computer science due to his work on the Turing machine and the Turing test later on.

References