While watching Ex Machina, the ideas of intelligence/AI are very closely related to the idea’s in Alan Turing's paper, only progressed 200 years. In the movie, we are introduced to a programmer name Caleb Smith who works at a huge Internet company and ends up winning a week at his CEO’s private estate. When he arrives, Caleb learns that he has been chosen to be the human component in a Turing test to determine the capabilities and consciousness of Ava, which is a high functioning AI robot. Throughout the movie we find out that Ava is much more self-aware and deceptive than either man imagined. Since the movie takes place so far in the future, we must ask a question Turing himself dared not explore which is, can a machine be conscious?

This movie portrays intelligence as awareness and perception. The CEO is asking Caleb to test his robot because he wants to see how adaptive Eva can be. To understand the circumstances and be adjustable to the stimuli is among the most important aspects of what this movie suggests as intelligence and AI, basically what Turing himself asks, which is “can machines think?”. There is also a large focus placed on interactions, and although Turing suggested his “game” be done over a typewriter to eliminate any discrepancies, the interactions between Caleb and Eva are done in person, ultimately leading to a new aspect of AI that Turing only discusses briefly, which is interpretation of character and the suggestion of a learning machine. Since Eva is so perceptive and is allowed to see and watch Caleb’s behavior during questioning, she is able to quickly learn how to manipulate him. This idea of AI being so advanced could become a huge barrier of success when using the Turing test in the future. This constraint would end up requiring another computer, specifically made to conduct the test with unbiased judgements, but lets hope it never gets as out of hand as the movie portrays.

My thoughts are rather divided on this approach to intelligence and AI. For me, it seems that the sole purpose of Nathan Bateman (CEO) is to be deceptive and trick a person into believing a robot can become human, which he ultimately succeeds in doing but at the cost of everything. This is because it is a movie and there needs to be some sort of friction and drama, but it still raises a very good point. If robots become so advanced they are able to completely mimic human emotion, at what point do we need to respect and empathize with our pet projects, at what point do we stop abusing AI? And I feel that this point may never come, because it is very common to not realize these things until it is too late, just as the movie suggests. We can also hope that given the circumstances in Ex-Machina, the robots built will have as much, if not more, empathy as humans. For if this is not the case, we are ultimately doomed by our own creations.