

Can Artificial Intelligence Be Ethical?

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The AlphaGo program's victory is an example of how smart computers have become.

But can artificial intelligence (AI) machines act ethically, meaning can they be honest and fair?

One example of AI is driverless cars. They are already on California roads, so it is not too soon to ask whether we can program a machine to act ethically. As driverless cars improve, they will save lives. They will make fewer mistakes than human drivers do. Sometimes, however, they will face a choice between lives. Should the cars be programmed to avoid hitting a child running across the road, even if that will put their passengers at risk? What about making a sudden turn to avoid a dog? What if the only risk is damage to the car itself, not to the passengers?

Perhaps there will be lessons to learn from driverless cars, but they are not super-intelligent beings. Teaching ethics to a machine even more

intelligent than we are will be the bigger challenge.

About the same time as AlphaGo's triumph, Microsoft's 'chatbot' took a bad turn. The software, named Taylor, was designed to answer messages from people aged 18-24. Taylor was supposed to be able to learn from the messages she received. She was designed to slowly improve her ability to handle conversations, but some people were teaching Taylor racist ideas. When she started saying nice things about Hitler, Microsoft turned her off and deleted her ugliest messages.

AlphaGo's victory and Taylor's defeat happened at about the same time. This should be a warning to us. It is one thing to use AI within a game with clear rules and clear goals. It is something very different to use AI in the real world. The unpredictability of the real world may bring to the surface a troubling software problem.

Eric Schmidt is one of the bosses of Google, which own AlphaGo. He thinks AI will be positive for humans. He said people will be the winner, whatever the outcome. Advances in AI will make human beings smarter, more able and "just better human beings."

答题:

1.What does the author want to show with the example of AlphaGo's victory?

- A. Computers will prevail over human beings.
- B. Computers have unmatched potential.
- C. Computers are man's potential rivals.
- D. Computers can become highly intelligent.

【答案】D

【考点】细节理解

【解析】根据题干定位到第一段。第一段指出，阿尔法狗围棋程序的胜利是证明电脑已经变得很聪明的一个例子。换句话说，阿尔法狗围棋程序曾战胜人类诸多优秀的围棋手，所以它的成功说明电脑已经高度智能化，故答案为D。

2.What does the author mean by AI machines acting ethically?

- A. They are capable of predicting possible risks.
- B. They weigh the gains and losses before reaching a decision.
- C. They make sensible decisions when facing moral dilemmas.
- D. They sacrifice everything to save human lives.

【答案】C

【考点】推理判断

【解析】由题干中的the author mean by AI machines acting ethically 定位到第三段。文章第三段第二句提到，我们现在问人类能否给机器编入程序以使它们恪守伦理道德并不算太早，接着后面指出，它们有时还将面临生命的抉择。这些汽车是不是应该被编入程序以避免撞到跑着过马路的儿童，即使那样会使车上的乘客陷入危险中？如果是为了避让一只小狗而急转弯呢？如果这样做仅仅会造成车辆损伤而不会伤害乘客呢？换句话说，让人工智能机器恪守伦理道德就是指，当它们面临道德上进退两难的窘境时，它们能够做出明智的选择，故答案为C。

3.What is said to be the bigger challenge facing humans in the AI age?

- A. How to make super-intelligent AI machines share human feelings.

- B. How to ensure that super-intelligent AI machines act ethically.
- C. How to prevent AI machines doing harm to humans.
- D. How to avoid being over-dependent on AI machines.

【答案】B

【考点】细节理解

【解析】由题干中的bigger challenge facing humans in the AI age 定位到第四段第二句。第四段第二句提到，教那些比我们还聪明的机器伦理道德将是更大的挑战。也就是说，如何确保那些超级聪明的人工智能机器恪守伦理道德对我们人类而言是一个更大的挑战，故答案为B。

4.What do we learn about Microsoft's 'chatbot' Taylor?

- A. She could not distinguish good from bad.
- B. She could turn herself off when necessary.
- C. She was not made to handle novel situations.
- D. She was good at performing routine tasks.

【答案】A

【考点】细节理解

【解析】由题干中的Microsoft's 'chatbot' Taylor 定位到第五段第四、五句。第五段第四、五句指出，泰勒被设计为可以慢慢提升其处理对话的能力，但是有些人却教她种族主义的观点。当她开始为希特勒说好话时，微软公司将她关闭，并删除了其丑恶的留言。由此可见，泰勒这一聊天程序只会按照自己的程序设置学习信息中的一切内容，却没有辨别是非的能力，故答案为A。

5.What does Eric Schmidt think of artificial intelligence?

- A. It will be far superior to human beings.
- B. It will keep improving as time goes by.
- C. It will prove to be an asset to human beings.
- D. It will be here to stay whatever the outcome.

【答案】C

【考点】细节理解

【解析】由题干中的Eric Schmidt think of artificial intelligence 定位到文章最后一段第二至四句。最后一段第二句提到，埃里克·施密特认为人工智能对人类是有利的。第四句中具体指出在人工智能方面的进步将使人类更聪明、更有能力，并“成为更好的自己”。由此可见，埃里克·施密特认为人工智能对于人类并不是坏事，而是可以为人类所用，服务于人类，故答案为C。

拓展:

重点词汇 Vocabulary

ethically /'εθɪkli/

adv. 伦理上, 道德上

It is not too soon to ask whether we can program a machine to act ethically.

现在就问我们是否能编程使机器合乎道德并非为时尚早。

triumph /'traɪʌmf/

n. 胜利

About the same time as AlphaGo's triumph, Microsoft's 'chatbot' took a bad turn.

大约在AlphaGo获胜的同一时间, 微软的“聊天机器人”出现了一个糟糕的转折。

词组搭配 Phrase&Collocation

1. bring to the surface 暴露出来

The unpredictability of the real world may bring to the surface a troubling software problem.

现实世界的不可预测性可能会暴露出一个令人不安的软件问题。

2. put... at risk 使...处于危险境地

Should the cars be programmed to avoid hitting a child running across the road, even if that will put their passengers at risk?

这些汽车是否应该被设定成避免撞到一个横穿马路的孩子, 即使这会让乘客处于危险之中?

句子讲析 SentenceSpotlight

The software, named Taylor, was designed to answer messages from people aged 18-24.

这款名为“泰勒”的软件设计初衷是用来回复18-24岁人群的信息。

讲析:

- (1) 本句主干部分为The software was designed to answer messages... ;
- (2) named Taylor为后置定语，修饰the software；
- (3) aged 18-24为后置定语，修饰people。

知识万花筒 Knowledge Bank

1. artificial intelligence：人工智能

2. AlphaGo：阿尔法围棋（AlphaGo）是第一个击败人类职业围棋选手、第一个战胜围棋世界冠军的人工智能机器人，由谷歌旗下DeepMind公司戴密斯·哈萨比斯领衔的团队开发，其主要工作原理是“深度学习”。

写译:

请将下列句子翻译成中文。

1. They will make fewer mistakes than human drivers do.

参考答案: 它们会比人类司机犯更少的错误。

请将下列句子翻译成中文。

2. Teaching ethics to a machine even more intelligent than we are will be the bigger challenge.

参考答案: 向一台比我们更聪明的机器教授道德将是一个更大的挑战。

微信扫一扫进教师端查看本篇文章，可布置阅读任务

