Life 3.0: Being Human in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

Book Report by Zander Hartsuff

Bibliography

Tegmark, Max. *Life 3.0: Being Human in the Age of Artificial Intelligence*. Penguin Books, 2018.

Summary

This book is about exploring the future of our life with AI. As technology surrounding AI continues to progress, Tegmark explores the possible outcomes of what may happen in our lifetime, and thousands of years following our groundbreaking discoveries in AI.

Quotes

“many AI researchers think that Life 3.0 may arrive in the coming century, perhaps even during our lifetime, spawned by progress in AI. What will happen and what will it mean for us? That’s the topic of this book.” (30)

“let’s instead define life very broadly, simply as a process that can retain its complexity and replicate.” (38)

“The robot misconception is related to the myth that machines can’t control humans. Intelligence enables control: humans control tigers not because we’re stronger, but because we’re smarter. This means that if we cede our position as smartest on our planet, it’s possible that we might also cede control.” (44)

Responses

This book was interesting to read mostly because the author knows so much more about AI than I do. It was fascinating to hear about his theories about superhuman AI. Although it was enjoyable to read, I spent most of my time reading realizing that 80% of what he was saying was all theoretical and abstract. In fact, a lot of it wasn’t based on observable science and seemed more like the authors’ wild dreams of the future than what could potentially happen to us. After reading this book I feel more confident saying we cannot achieve superhuman intelligence than I was before I read it.