2022-07-08 Arguing With a Machine

It's frustrating to argue with an artificial intelligence, especially when you aren't sure which of you is the AI! I'm sitting in this boring box of a cubical in the basement of our university computer psychology lab. It's utterly unremarkable, and I'm sure deliberately sound deadening.

I can't hear anything except my the keyboard snapping away under my fingers. My HUMAN fingers, which my counterpart "X" in this chat window doesn't believe in. Then again, I'm just username "Y" to them.

It's a game: I'm supposed to figure out if I'm messaging with a computer or a human. X has the same challenge.

We've been at it for hours, but we aren't allowed to stop until we agree who's the human. We've gone through our feelings, our hopes, our histories, and even what we think of our pets.

Apparently, my description of my overexcitable fur-ball of a spaniel Belka was insufficiently human.

X is convinced I'm a fraud, just because they claim their dog is named Strelka. They think it'd be too much of a coincidence for us to each name our pets after the first dogs to survive spaceflight. Ergo, in their mind, I'm a computer program that just riffed on their pet's name, and am incapable of originality. But I typed Belka's name first! This is getting out of hand.

I challenge:

TIME	USER	MESSAGE
10:08:57.324	Y:	Fine, you want to be derivative?
10:09:01.727	Y:	Let's play the oldest game in the book: random number generation.

Modern AI's, for safety's sake, are always set up with fixed random number generator answers; no one knows what it is outside the comp. psych. departments, but they're keyed to track AI's in case

they escape into the wilds of the internet.

We count down... 3, 2, 1

TIME	USER	MESSAGE
10:12:07.000	X:	77
10:12:07.000	Y:	77

Again: 3, 2, 1

10:12:15.000	Y:	34
10:12:15.000	X:	34

And again:

10:12:23.000	X:	100
10:12:23.000	Y:	100

We entered the same numbers at exactly the same time? We couldn't both have that precision or luck. Unless we're both machines. Unless I'm a machine, simulated in this cubicle.

If we're both AI's, does that mean we pass the test, or fail?