

Homework 7 Part 1

Q3. How can you prove that qualia is something that can or cannot be experienced by machines?

I believe that machines are unable to experience qualia. Humans have been pondering consciousness for centuries and have been searching for ways to measure it or quantify it. Qualia has been deemed immeasurable, as it is impossible to describe qualia with our current language or numerical models. Simply put, machines are created by people. Humans are unable to quantify the experience of qualia and are therefore unable to create machines that experience them. In the example of conversational AI, machines are programmed to contain dictionaries of vocabulary and grammar rules of human languages. If a person says something too complex for the AI to understand, it becomes confused. Such a machine is programmed to recognize certain input and respond in a certain way. They are unable to feel or believe what they are saying, nor do they actually understand what they are saying, as humans do. For such AI chatbots, an interesting way to prove they do not experience qualia, is to simply ask them. A test can be designed that consists of a set of questions that involve emotion and personal experience. These questions can be simply worded so that the machines can still process them but will deal with experiences of qualia that the machines do not have and cannot understand.