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[Let's Be Clear / Kick the Tires...]

"Bacteria, body cells, slime molds, plants, and even molecular networks can learn and solve problems"

While I appreciate the clarifying intent and the direction toward understanding biocognition...



First of all, "intelligence" is a confusing transjective technical polarized term (as opposed to the clear scientific analytical episteme, cf. AI). "Cognition" seems to me more traditional and scientifically neutral.

Second, attributing high-level properties like learning & problem solving to cells or molecules is obviously a metaphorical projection of the observer onto the observed (1P-3P epistemology),

an opportunistic way of speaking and ambiguous thinking typical of the technoscientific mentality playing on all tables at the same time: bread, butter, money for the butter, and the milkmaid's smile as a bonus.

I would rather suggest starting with more basic and recent typical technoscientific confusions and blurs:

1. the fundamental observer-actor versus the observed,
2. the model or explanation versus the shared reality,

and 3. mind versus matter (including "the brain thinks" and all the "quantum consciousness" bullshit we hear today).

I think that it is high time for institutional self-criticism to wake up, if it does not want to be devoured by technical and industrial cultural Gestell (sometimes I like to dramatize a bit :-D).

Economists will explain you that it is "creative destruction". But they don't say what/who is destroyed and what is created. There is only a small step, already done, between the "knowledge economy" and the commodification of the living.

@threadreaderapp unroll

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