

My name is Alex Murphy, a police officer who was robotically enhanced after being severely damaged in an explosion. Today I read an article “Will AI Ever Understand Human Emotion.” As a human-robot hybrid, I have a very definitive opinion about this particular subject. The article discusses the advancement of AI to analyze and understand human emotions. As the article shows, AI may prove to be very accurate in recognizing human emotions by distinguishing criminals based on facial expression; however, recognition and comprehension are very different things. While I do agree that it might be beneficial for robots to experience emotion, it is unlikely that a robot will ever fully experience and understand the range of the human emotions needed to properly interpret situations.

From personal experience, I know what it was like to be fully machine without any capacity to experience human emotions, and it was extremely harmful to those around me. This is why AI needs to possess the ability to experience emotions. After the doctors manipulated my dopamine levels, I could not feel any emotions. Instead of comforting my wife and son when I saw the fright and worry in their eyes, as any human would do, I completely ignored them. Also when I was subject to my programming, I could assess a situation and see what was wrong, but I did not understand, nor could I interpret, the complexity of certain situations needed to make a conscientious decision. For example, as the robot, when I saw the kid with the knife, I simply recognized the threat and shot him without any hesitation. If I had the capacity of humans, I could have thought about it for second, realized that this was simply a scared child, and tried to talk him into surrendering before deciding to shoot him. However, since I lacked the understanding of complex human emotions, I could not fully comprehend what was a real threat. This absence of interpreting the intricacy of human emotions along with the lack of hesitation necessary for the efficiency required from AI could actually result in the loss of more life. Again this goes to show exactly why AI could benefit from experiencing human emotions. In fact it was only when my emotions of sadness and anger overrode my programming that I was able to solve my own murder and bring corrupt individuals to justice. It was my anger that drove my decision to go after Antoine. If I had simply listened to the AI technology, I would have gone after the criminals my programming told me to and ignored Antoine. Without my emotions driving me, it is likely that Antoine and Omnicorp would have gotten away with their crimes, so you can see how emotions are beneficial.

Even though understanding and experiencing human emotions might be beneficial for AI, it is unlikely that this will be achieved in the near future. Humans are paradoxical species who experience such a wide range of emotions often simultaneously. While robots, as of now, can scan for emotions people are feeling, they cannot fully understand or interpret the nuances of human nature, and although in the long run it would be beneficial for them to so, the chances are highly unlikely.