

I'm Alex Murphy and this is my side on AI intelligence and understanding human emotions. I think that AI should be able to understand at least a limited amount of emotion. Even if you don't still feel emotion, the flesh is what is keeping you still human. It comes down to whether "efficiency" is an ethical justification for potential consequences.

First of all, research has shown that humans bond with other humans by establishing a connection. The survival of a species depends on that bonding, and much of this bonding is enabled by emotion. We also signal our intent with emotion. Our feelings and emotions are triggered by stimulations, either external or internal, and manifest themselves in terms of physical signs such as pulse rate, perspiration, facial expressions, gesture, and tone of voice. Unlike our language, much of these emotions are expressed randomly and automatically, without any conscious control. We learn to recognize emotions in other human beings from birth. Babies are soothed by the gentle hummings of a lullaby even before they are born. They respond to the smiling face of a parent at birth and are capable of expressing their own emotions from day one.

Industry robots build our cars and our smartphones. Rehabilitation robots help people walk again. Machine teaching assistants can answer student questions. Software programs can write documents. They can even grade your essays. Software systems can write stories for newspapers. Machines can even go to the point of tricking humans into believing the result to be that of a professional human. Machines can compose music. Robots can obviously be built to be stronger, faster, and smarter than humans in specific areas. Even though emotion can be complex, it is a hard concept for actual robots and AI to comprehend.

Every robot is run on a hardware platform driven by software algorithms. An algorithm is designed by humans to tell the machine how to respond to certain stimulations. For example, much like an architect building a house, an AI engineer looks at the whole picture of what the task the machine is supposed to do and achieve, and builds software to make it achieve that task. One of the most important blocks is machine learning the algorithms that enable machines to learn and simulate human-like responses, such as a chess move, or to answer a question.

Lastly, “efficiency” only measures numbers and does not take into account emotions and human moral values. Just because a robot is more efficient doesn’t mean that it takes into account the morals and values of humans. Sometimes the emotion that is related with being human can be hard to deal with, but with having that power it can make a difference when it comes to cases with criminals. If I did not feel emotion I could kill without feeling any consequences.

In conclusion, just because I am part machine now and can’t control my feelings and emotions sometimes doesn’t mean i’m not human. Emotions and feelings are apart of the human persona but that isn’t all what it means to be human. To be human also means you are the flesh and still have a brain that can think. To be human is more than just thoughts and ideas. To be human you also have to look the part.

