# The Controversy Between Sentient Robots

# As a former human and current robot, I am obliged to feel that the statements mentioned in the article “Researchers Teaching Robots to and React to Pain” by Evan Ackerman are not true. I believe that the main purpose of using machines to replace the tasks of humans is to detach emotions, choice and pain from situations that might require thought and reason. Unexpected emotions trigger a ‘fight or flight’ response that could affect an objective. Plato once compared the humans to a chariot, the intelligent ones among us are the drivers and the emotional ones are the horses. This analogy suggests that life, or simply existing is a continual endeavor, and we gradually learn how to keep our emotions and reactions under control, something that machines are incapable of doing.

Although I am essentially a robot, I feel both emotionally and physically pained. If scientists start using “artificial robot nervous system to teach robots how to feel pain”, then they may learn to stay distant from the danger, therefore frightening them away from their duty. This counterintuitive action might only result in a vicious cycle between humans becoming afraid of danger and substituting their jobs to robots, and artificially intelligent robots becoming fearful of the possibly of them getting injured or dying.

In a larger sense, efficiency is a very ethical justification for a potential threat of consequence. An example of this is when I was battling the 100 bots in a simulation and the machine took control of my conscience. Also, “One of the most useful things about robots is that they don’t feel pain” which is beneficial because an individual may be injured in combat and become incapacitated, and for this reason, unable to complete their mission. Robots on the other hand, will attempt to eliminate their target until they are completely destroyed. Although “pain is a system that protects us”, it compels us run away from the danger, allowing the threat to possibly worsen. When there is no pain involved, problem solving ultimately becomes highly efficient, with minimal casualties. If I was in control and allowed to think, I would have stood no chance against Raymond Sellars, CEO of Omnicorp and his men.

Also, I believe that if machines were given the ability to feel emotions, then they could make their own decisions which could lead to the robots envisioning of the human race as a threat. In 2001: A Space Odyssey, HAL, the robotic interface on the spaceship with the crew conceptualizes the humans as a hazard to the mission and tries to execute them. As once a complete human, I go against the idea of bequeathing robots with the ability to have feelings in fear of endangering our species.

In conclusion, the ability to sense pain and feelings should not be implemented into robots. Life is simply the striving to reach the top of Maslow’s hierarchy, and will eventually allow individuals to develop the ability to remain poise and calm, something that machines are incapable of doing. Therefore, we should not attempt to renovate the robots into something that may do us more harm than good.