

CS 3162 – Dr. DeGroot's Class

Homework 3: The Lonely & Emotional AI

Due: Sunday, September 11, 2022, by midnight

Background:

1. Watch the full-length version of the Twilight Zone episode called, *The Lonely* available for a fee on Paramount+ [The Lonely: Full Video](https://bit.ly/2mf1efF) (bit.ly/2mf1efF) or in three sections on our eLearning site.
2. Prepare a short essay that discusses some or (preferably) all of the following issues/points. You can argue pro or con, but please support your arguments with referential material, not just opinion. So, yes, that means "include references!"
3. You can find several related documents on eLearning in folders other than the Homework folder. And there are tons of related documents on the Web. Check out the article on eLearning titled **Human Rights and Artificial Intelligence: An Urgently Needed Agenda** in the folder *AI, Robots, and Ethics*. Or the article on teaching morality to machines in that same folder.
4. Study hard for this particular homework. I consider this to be quite important and significant.
5. Write at least 1,000 words on this subject, using the following discussion and questions as starting points. Cite your references for your essay.

Discussion:

There is a famous episode of the Twilight Zone TV series called *The Lonely*. It is considered by many to be one of the all-time, top 10 episodes of The Twilight Zone of which there were 156. Even more, it is probably one of the most quoted and referred to movies in modern AI texts that deal with AI and robots. The main impact of the story relates to intelligent robots, AI, the Turing Test, artificial emotions, artificial consciousness, **ethics & AI**, human-machine relationships, robot love, the uncanny valley, and more.

There are numerous questions we can explore in this short film, but one of the most obvious concerns the Turing Test, ethics, and the robot, Alicia. As you watch, ask yourself whether Alicia passes the Turing Test. Many people will automatically say she does. If so, how does she, and perhaps more importantly, when and how did she? If she didn't pass it, how did Corry come to consider her (it??): as a human, as he strongly proclaims to the supply ship's captain Allenby? Corry even proclaims that Alicia is his wife; "She's a woman!" he exclaims! How does this happen, given that he initially detests her, believes she mocks him, that she's a lie, and is furious that earthlings (Allenby, in particular) even sent a robot to him. And note that he was earlier given that old jalopy – another machine -- beside his cabin for company/amusement; the role of the jalopy is to remind us that Alicia is also (just?) a machine, albeit of a significantly different sort - but still a machine, as Allenby reminds Corry at the end of the film.

If interested, search the web for some phrase such as this: "why the Turing Test is bogus." You will find lots of materials that attack this test as being useless given today's particular technological advancements. Do you agree? Although this video of an interview with famed AI scientist Marvin Minsky is quite slow, you might enjoy watching it (it's in your folder on eLearning: *Marvin Minsky on AI: The Turing Test is a Joke!* (You might want to fast-forward to around 17:40. **BTW**, Prof. Minsky was Ray Kurzweil's Ph.D. adviser at MIT.)

<https://bit.ly/1m0OgvD> - Marvin Minsky on AI: The Turing Test is a Joke!

Or you could check out this article: *The Trouble With The Turing Test*, published in the New Atlantis.

<https://bit.ly/2Unfna6> - *The Trouble With The Turing Test*

But note that these are just two of many articles critical of the Turing Test. You can find many more. And I have uploaded several to eLearning for you. Note that what most people call the Turing Test is inaccurate. It is NOT what Turing originally defined for the test, so be careful how you answer this question.

And please be aware that I do not want this homework to be extensively on the Turing Test. You don't need to explain the Turing Test to me. And I would much rather have you focus on the ethical issues involved with sentient, emotional, companion AI robots.

As we enter deeper into the age of robots – industrial, educational, infrastructural, retail, safety, and companions – will we force them to prove their intelligence to us, or is intelligence an aspect of being that we will simply attribute to them (until they prove otherwise)? And how exactly will we define “intelligence” if the Turing Test is really no help? Perhaps even more difficult, is consciousness something that our fellow humans have to prove to *us*, or is it too something we simply attribute to them? Are animals conscious and self-aware? How would you know?

So, when and how will we merely attribute these qualities to robots, or will we make them prove them to us? (What did Corry do with Alicia?) Check out *The Lonely* to get some ideas; then prepare a short but thoughtful essay on these questions and ideas.

Here are some *examples* of questions I'd like you to address (don't focus primarily on the Turing Test) (spoilers follow, so watch the video first):

1. What are some of the many ironic statements that Corry makes at the beginning of the film that turn out differently than what he believes? And what is the point of the film stressing these claims given what happens in the film.
2. Was it *ethical* for Allenby to shoot Aleisha at the end of the film? Did he have good, rational reasons for doing so?
3. Was Corry's reaction to Allenby's shooting of Aleisha credible given the rest of the film and his statements about loving Aleisha, that she's a woman, etc.? Is his reaction explainable?
4. Was it murder for Allenby to shoot Aleisha? Should it be illegal to kill/terminate intelligent, emotive, companion robots or other AIs such as Aleisha? (See the article on eLearning titled *Human Rights and Artificial Intelligence: An Urgently Needed Agenda*.)
5. Is Aleisha really just a machine or is she a sentient “being?” How can you make that determination? Consider carbon-based machines vs. silicon-based machines.
6. What if you work on a project that produces what is deemed by you (and possibly others) to be an intelligent, conscious, emotional being, and then you are called upon to terminate the project for business reasons and to destroy the “beings” your group has created?
7. Would artificially conscious robots have the moral/ethical right to claim and/or demand personhood and thus protection by the law? Would we have the moral/ethical right to deny their claims if we don't like them? (See my uploaded articles on this subject.)

8. What sentient, emotional AI issues can you think of that might impact your professional responsibilities in your career as a Computer Scientist?
9. What sort of ethical systems should our AI robots possess? Should they be the same as our human-centric systems of ethics? Please explain.
10. Do you believe the Turing Test is still a valid test of machine intelligence? Explain.
11. And what about Elon Musk's statement that AIs will be able to persuade us that they love us?
12. Have you watched the movie, *Blade Runner: The Final Cut*? If so, what is the purpose of the Voight-Kampf Test compared to the Turing Test?