

— THE MONITOR'S VIEW —

# AI can have values if not a conscience

The author of 'Frankenstein' started us on a long path to steer new technologies to a higher good.



Reuters

REUTERS

The "pop.up next" concept by Audi, Airbus, and Italdesign, an electric driver-less autonomous vehicle with vertical take-off and landing, is pictured during the Viva Tech start-up and technology summit in Paris May 25.

001 This year marks exactly two centuries since the publication of "Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus," by Mary Shelley. Even before the invention of the electric light bulb, the author produced a remarkable work of speculative fiction that would foreshadow myriad ethical questions to be spawned by technologies yet to come.

● Among the **myriad** threats to China's continued economic expansion, education is one of the most pressing.

中国经济持续发展面临的**无数**挑战中，教育是最为严峻的挑战之一。

● For a **myriad** reasons, both technical and political, financial market regulation is never going to be stringent enough in booms.

由于**种种**原因，不管是方法上还是政治角度去考虑，在经济繁荣时期，对金融市场的监管永远都不会过于严格。

● Mr. Toyota pledged to get his hands dirty by zooming in on **myriad** issues.

丰田章男誓言要亲力亲为，关注各种**繁多**的事务。

🌟 **spawn** 产生；造成；引起

● Intellectual capital, and not just monetary capital, will **spawn** the next great product or idea.

智慧资本，而不仅仅是货币资本，将**产生**下一个伟大的产品或创意。

● Gossip Girl: There's plenty of upside of being the **spawn** of the fabulously wealthy, but the downside?

绯闻少女：拥有显赫富裕的家境有许多正面影响，那么负面的呢？

● Isolation is far more likely to **spawn** more resentment and radicalism.

孤立更可能会**衍生**更多的怨恨和激进主义。

002 **Today the rapid growth of artificial intelligence (AI) raises fundamental questions: "What is intelligence, identity, or consciousness? What makes humans humans?"**

🌟 **raise questions** 产生问题，质疑

● The blaze will **raise questions over** the safety of oil depots around the country.

大火将使人们**质疑**英国各地油库的安全状况。

● The scandal will also **raise questions over** how outsourcing companies are regulated and audited around the world.

该丑闻还**提出**了世界各地应如何监管和审计外包公司的**问题**。

● Failure to achieve that goal will **raise questions over** whether the program continues.

如果不能实现这个目标，那么整个行动还会不会继续，就会**存在疑问**。

003 What is being called artificial general intelligence, machines that would mimic the way humans think, continues to **elude** scientists. Yet humans remain fascinated by the idea of robots that would look, move, and respond like humans, similar to those recently depicted on popular sci-fi TV series such as "Westworld" and "Humans."

🌟 **elude** 避免；避开；错过

● They go rambling over the world as if pursued by some mysterious fate they cannot possibly **elude**.

他们似乎受了什么不可**避免**的神秘命运的驱使，在世界上到处流浪。

● One must live with time and die with it, or else **elude** it for a greater life.

人们必须与时间存亡，亦或者**逃避**世界追寻更高远的生活。

● A unified global campaign against China's currency policy will continue to **elude** Washington.

华盛顿**无意**针对中国汇率政策建立全球统一战线。

● We struggle and bumble our way along, but somehow happiness continues to **elude** us.

我们独自努力摸索着，但是不知道怎么了幸福还是在**躲避**着我们。

🌟 **be fascinated by** 对~入迷

● But family pressure had induced him to follow his father into medicine,

and he began to **be fascinated by** the difficulties of birth.

但是家庭压力让他不得不跟他爸爸一样当个医生，接着他对难产这一问题产生了兴趣。

● The world **is** always **fascinated by** the wealthiest people and is interested in knowing the ways of how they acquired their wealth.

这个世界总是被最有钱的人吸引，对他们获得财富的方式很感兴趣。

004 **Just how people think is still far too complex to be understood, let alone reproduced, says David Eagleman, a Stanford University neuroscientist and science adviser for "Westworld." "We are just in a situation where there are no good theories explaining what consciousness actually is and how you could ever build a machine to get there."**

🌟 **far** 非常；太

● He just stared at me, and I could see his eyes that my words were **far too late**. He already had made his decision.

他只是盯着我看，看他的眼神就知道，一切都**太晚了**。他已经做了决定。

● There are **far too many characters** to go into great detail with each individual, but let me talk about the villain for a minute.

书里有**太多人物**，不可能具细讲述每一个，但让我稍微来说说反派吧。

005 **But that doesn't mean crucial ethical issues involving AI aren't at hand.** Less sophisticated AI is already embedded in everyday life, from the (sometimes) helpful voice assistants like Alexa to Facebook tagging photos for users.

🌟 **less sophisticated** 不稳重/不通世故/不复杂

● A man without wearing a watch will give others an impression of **less sophisticated** and lack of trust.

不戴手表的男人常常给其他人留下一**种不稳重**以及不值得信任的印象。

● Yet most of its foreign customers opt for **less sophisticated** (and less profitable) products.

不过大部分的国外客户都倾向于选择**不那么复杂的**（也就是利润相对较低的）产品。

● She may be a bit **more sophisticated** these days, but she's still peerless, and still fearless.

这些日子她可能变得更为**老练**了，但她仍然是出类拔萃并且无畏的。

🌟 **helpful** 有用的；有帮助的

● Reciting the texts seems to be quite dull, but it is really **helpful** for learning English, especially for the beginners.

背课文看起来的确很枯燥，但是对英语学习很有**帮助**，尤其是初学者。

● Willing to help, but not as **helpful** as you think.

也许他挺愿意帮忙的，可是不是你想象中的那样**能帮上忙**

Besides much-talked-about vehicles that will drive themselves, AI is crunching huge amounts of data to suggest whether a prisoner would likely return to crime if released; algorithms exist that can choose the best applicants for a job or the right classes for a student to take (not to mention defeat a human at chess or win a debate).

All these systems contain the possibility of misuse. One viral video shows an automatic soap dispenser in a public bathroom that only dispenses soap onto white hands. Apparently the design team forgot to calibrate the sensor so that it recognized hands with darker skin tones.

While that foul-up might seem frivolous, or even humorous (though perhaps not to those being denied soap), it illustrates a more serious problem: If an employer looks for new hires, for example, using an algorithm based on the characteristics of its presently all-white or all-male staff, might the algorithm recommend only people with those characteristics?

~~The coming use of autonomous vehicles poses gnarly ethical questions.~~ **The coming use of autonomous vehicles, for example, poses thorny ethical questions. Human drivers sometimes must make split-second decisions. Their reactions may be a complex**

combination of instant reflexes, input from past driving experiences, and what their eyes and ears tell them in that moment.

🌟 **pose** 产生

🍎 This could **pose** a threat to jobs in the coal industry.

这可能会给煤炭产业的就业**造成**威胁。

🍎 His ill health **poses serious problems** for the future.

他身体不好，将来很**成问题**。

🌟 **thorny** 棘手的

🍎 With that **thorny** issue out of the way the rest followed easily.

这个**棘手的**问题一经解决，其余的事就好办了。

🍎 Things have changed. In most of the developed world, immigration is a **thorny** problem; it must be curbed and controlled.

时过境迁，在大多数发达国家，移民已成为一个**棘手的**问题：对它必须加以限制和控制。

🌟 **split-second** 瞬间发生的；刹那间

🍎 Who(Snape) for a **split second** seemed to think he had been reprieved: but then Voldemort's intention became clear.

有那么一瞬间斯内普还以为自己被宽恕了：但是伏地魔的用意马上就清楚了。

🍎 Sometimes you will be just out of somewhere and all of a sudden, a beautiful, profound idea will enter your thoughts in a **split second**.

有时候你脑中会灵光一闪，闪现出一个美妙深刻的想法。

AI "vision" today is not nearly as sophisticated as that of humans. And to anticipate every imaginable driving situation is a difficult programming problem. One possible technique may be to survey human drivers to ask what they would do in myriad driving situations.



Another would be to analyze accidents involving AI after the fact, to understand how it proved deficient and fix the problem.

The hope is that AI-driven vehicles will become far better drivers than humans, saving thousands of human injuries and deaths.

006 ~~But~~ whenever decisions are based on masses of data, "you quickly get into a lot of ethical questions," notes Tan Kiat How, chief executive of the Info-communications Media Development Authority, a Singapore-based agency that is helping the government develop a voluntary code for the ethical use of AI. Along with Singapore, other governments and mega-corporations are beginning to establish their own guidelines. Britain is setting up a data ethics center. India released its AI ethics strategy this spring.

Worldwide, high schools and colleges could seriously commit to teaching students in AI courses about the ethical issues this new technology raises.

🌟 **along with** 与~一道；伴随

● She said smugly, knowing perfectly well that he, **along with** everybody else, did homage not to her but to her money.

她得意得说：心里很清楚，不管是他还是别人，都不是向她表示敬意而是因为她的钱。

● It is often considered to be, **along with** "The Three Musketeers", Dumas" most popular work.

它通常和《三剑客》一起被认为是大仲马最受世人欢迎的作品。

007 On June 7 Google pledged to not "design or deploy AI" that would cause "overall harm," or to develop AI-directed weapons or use AI for surveillance that would violate international norms. It also pledged to not deploy AI whose use would violate international laws or human rights.

🌟 **pledge** 承诺

● Far from living up to its **pledge**, North Korea has pressed ahead with

its nuclear program.

然而朝鲜非但没有遵守**承诺**，还加快了其核计划进程。

● He said the government has been "seriously studying" the matter and **pledged** to "correct quickly if any errors are found".

他说，政府一直在认真研究这个问题，并**保证**将迅速纠正所发现的任何问题。

🌟 **violate** 违背

violate norms/laws/human rights

● I would be very careful not to violate the rules, if I were you.

如果我是你，我会小心翼翼不犯规。

● The Justice Department recently lodged concerns that the settlement might limit competition and violate copyright laws.

最近，司法部分担心该协议可能限制竞争，违反版权法。

008 While the statement is vague, it represents one starting point. So does the idea that decisions made by AI systems should be "explainable, transparent, and fair," as S. Iswaran, Singapore's minister for communications and information, put it recently.

🌟 **vague**

● He made uncertain movements, because everything in his head was **vague** and uncertain.

他茫然地走来走去，因为他脑子里的一切都是**模糊**而不确定的。

● When Mr. Obama was told that his father had died, "I felt no pain, only the vague sense of an opportunity lost."

当奥巴马得知父亲去世时，他说，“我没有感到痛苦，只是对失去机会而觉茫然。”

009 To put it another way: How can we make sure that the thinking of intelligent machines reflects humanity's highest values? Only



then will they be useful servants and not Frankenstein's unleashed monster.

### 🌟 unleashed

● Our scientists had unleashed the atom, ushering in a revolution in weaponry that set out age apart from all that had gone before.

科学家让原子弹爆炸了，从此武器方面开始了一场划时代的革命。

● Europeans should know well enough the dark forces that can be unleashed by depressions.

欧洲人应当充分认识到经济萧条可能产生的负面影响。

● Lehman's bankruptcy filing unleashed a panic in markets around the world, snarling trades and deepening the financial crisis.

雷曼兄弟的破产申请引发了全球市场的恐慌，扰乱了市场交易，使金融危机加重。

### 说明

选自2019年考研英语一阅读三。出题人对原文进行了大幅度的删减，红字是真题部分。

文章大体内容是：要AI或机器人像人类一样思考，还早着呢！但并不是说AI的开发不会涉及到伦理道德的问题。就像《弗兰克斯坦》，就像克隆羊多利，就像基因改造的婴儿...

### 思考题

31. Mary Shelley's novel Frankenstein is mentioned because it

A. fascinates AI scientists all over the world.

B. has remained popular for as long as 200 years.

C. involves some concerns raised by AI today.

D. has sparked serious ethical controversies.

32. In David Eagleman's opinion, our current knowledge of consciousness

A. helps explain artificial intelligence.

B. can be misleading to robot making.

C. inspires popular sci-fi TV series.

D. is too limited for us to reproduce it.

33. The solution to the ethical issues brought by autonomous vehicles

A. can hardly ever be found.

B. is still beyond our capacity.

C. causes little public concern.

D. has aroused much curiosity.

34. The author's attitude toward Google's pledge is one of

A. affirmation.

B. skepticism.

C. contempt.

D. respect.

35. Which of the following would be the best title for the text?

A. AI's Future: In the Hands of Tech Giants

B. Frankenstein, the Novel Predicting the Age of AI

C. The Conscience of AI: Complex But Inevitable

D. AI Shall Be Killers Once Out of Control