

Why Couldn't The Matrix Exist Without Humans?

Etymology of the meaning "Matrix"



1. (*now rare*) The womb.
2. (biology) The material or tissue in which more specialized structures are embedded.

It's Not About Energy

According to Morpheus's version, told to Neo, the Matrix needs humans to use their bodies as a source of energy. However, this reason seems contrived. According to Morpheus himself, the Machines have mastered thermonuclear fusion, which should be sufficient to meet all their energy needs. Using human bodies as batteries thus seems more exotic than a practically applicable way to solve the issue. Nevertheless, the Machines maintain the somatic functioning of billions of human organisms and provide their consciousness with space in a virtual world subjectively indistinguishable from the real one.



This super-intensive computational process itself must consume a huge amount of energy. In essence, it's the same problem, only greatly exacerbated, that modern machine learning systems have to solve when modeling stochastic processes¹.

Consequently, the use of this hyper-incubator must have a more weighty purpose than extracting a positive difference between the energy obtained from its exploitation and the physical and computational resources expended in the process.

What Are the Rebels Striving For?

The rebels' goals also raise questions. It's completely unclear how they plan to return billions of humans to the real world who are not just physically and mentally dependent on the system but have essentially become its *organic* part.

Morpheus's own words confirm this difficulty. During the tour of the Matrix simulator, he tells The One: "You have to understand, most of these people are not ready to be unplugged. And many of them are so inured, so hopelessly dependent on the system that they will fight to protect it."



Thus, the so-called "liberation" is highly questionable. It's not just about the balance of power but also that most of the "oppressed" simply don't need any liberation.

But it seems that the "liberators" don't care about that. Instead, they blissfully pin their hopes on the unlimited power of the "The One"—a *messiah* who should descend into their world according to the Oracle's prophecy, after which any miracles will be at the disposal of his associates.

Not a Hermetic System

¹ The term *stochastic* refers to processes or systems that are inherently random or involve a degree of randomness. In the context of machine learning, stochastic processes are those that incorporate random variables and probability distributions, making the outcomes uncertain or subject to variation. Stochastic modeling is often used to simulate systems where randomness plays a key role, such as in financial markets, weather forecasting, or natural phenomena. In machine learning, stochastic methods, such as stochastic gradient descent, are employed to optimize models by introducing randomness into the training process, which can help avoid overfitting and improve generalization to new data.

It's not surprising that in the second part, no new story begins, but the old one continues. Although the "Messiah" promises to show humans "a world without rules and controls," nothing happens to the Matrix that signals the rebels achieving their goals. It doesn't collapse but merely reloads, and the struggle begins anew.

Then, everything becomes even more complicated. At the very end of the 2nd part, there's evidence that not only the reality of the Matrix is simulated, but also that of Zion. On the one hand, this seriously worsens the prospects of the rebels, as it indicates their lack of access to the *ultimate* reality. On the other hand, it turns out that the Matrix is not a hermetic system. It contains something like an API², allowing interaction with its components. Thus, following the Oracle, there appear Merovingian³, his wife Persephone⁴, the Keymaker⁵, Seraph⁶, and others. The revolutionaries gain space for diplomatic maneuver and even bargaining, and the world of Machines appears much less unambiguous than it seemed at first. It obeys a more complex logic than the one that prescribes quickly eliminating everyone who disagrees with the system's dictate.

The One as a System Function

This premise is confirmed in the conversation between Neo and the Architect. From the latter's words, it follows that the Machines do not aim to eradicate the human race. Although they constantly hunt the rebels and periodically destroy Zion, they do not seek to bring this issue to its logical conclusion.

The reasons for this apparent inconsistency begin to become clear when the Architect tells Neo some previously unknown information about the history of the Matrix and the true role of The One. As it turns out, this role is determined not by the latter's own choice but by completely different circumstances.

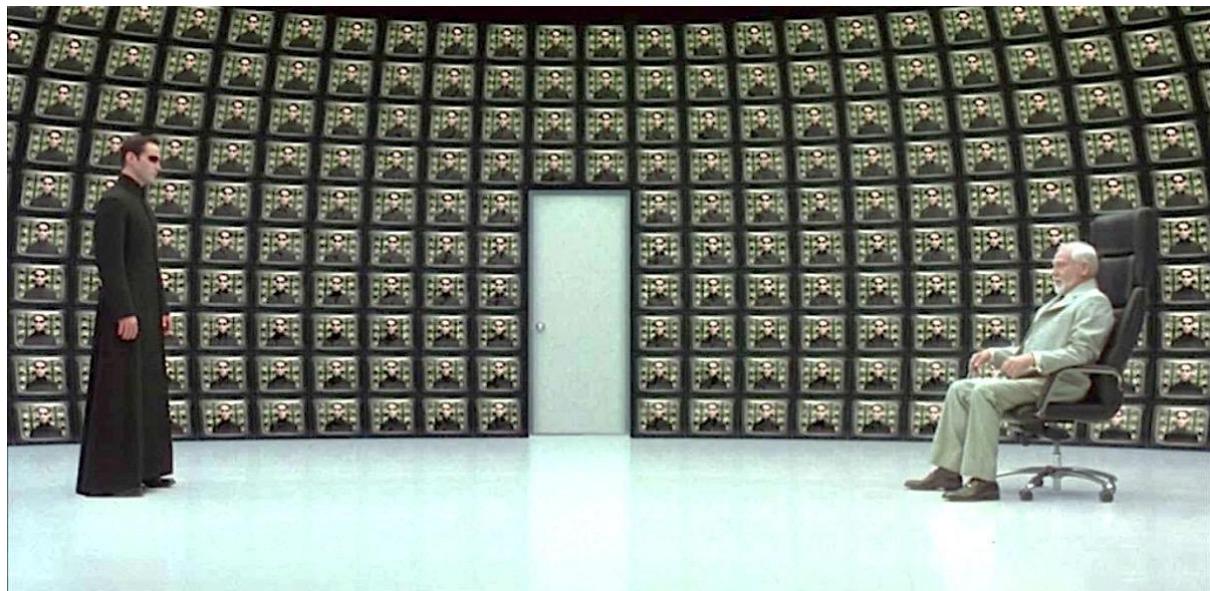
² *Application Program Interface (API)* is a set of rules and protocols that allows different software applications to communicate with each other. It defines the methods and data structures that developers can use to interact with external systems, services, or libraries. APIs enable the integration of different systems by providing a standardized way for programs to request and exchange information, making it easier to build complex software applications by leveraging existing functionality from other services.

³ *Merovingian*—A powerful program and underworld figure who controls many rogue programs. He represents a manipulative, morally ambiguous character who traffics in information and power.

⁴ *Persephone*—The Merovingian's wife, who helps Neo and his team out of her own frustration with her husband's behavior. She displays deep emotional complexity and plays a pivotal role in the heroes' quest.

⁵ *Keymaker*—A crucial program who can unlock any door in the Matrix. He helps Neo reach the Source, playing a vital role in Neo's journey.

⁶ *Seraph*—A guardian of the Oracle, who protects her and ensures only the worthy reach her. He tests Neo's resolve before allowing him to meet the Oracle.



So, the Matrix contains a permanent vulnerability: the program anomalies gradually accumulated, eventually leading to a system crash requiring a reboot of the entire system. This process is cyclical, and the purpose of The One is related to this problem, not to rescue humanity from slavery.

Thus, Neo is not "chosen" by providence, as Morpheus fervently believes. He is a *system function* designed for emergency loading of the Matrix, similar to those stored on external storage devices when the system cannot be started directly on the computer. Each version of the Matrix has its own "The One," built into the Architect's scheme, who does not doubt that they will all act within the outlined framework:

You are the eventuality of an anomaly, which, despite my sincerest efforts, I have been unable to eliminate from what is otherwise a harmony of mathematical precision. While it remains a burden assiduously avoided, it is not unexpected and thus not beyond a measure of control. Which has led you, inexorably... here.

Thus, Morpheus's belief in The One is unfounded, and the so-called Oracle's prophecy predicts nothing. For the Architect, the reference to the Oracle only elicits a sarcastic grimace. For him, she is nothing more than a program performing another system function.

In short, it becomes clear that events from the very beginning developed according to a scenario written for The One by the very system that he was supposed to destroy at the beginning.

Limitations of the System Design

The above raises the question: why should The One initiate the Matrix reboot? Why can't this be done directly—from the Source, without the mediation of a pseudo-oracle, without staging the spectacle of rescuing the Keymaker and the Architect's revelations?

Everything points to the fact that the reason lies in the very design of the system. And, as it turns out, this design cannot be arbitrary, being conditioned by certain objective circumstances. These circumstances are the source of permanent problems for the Architect, who somehow fails to eliminate certain system anomalies. According to him, the first version of The Matrix was “perfect,” and yet it failed. His words provide an important clue about the causes of these anomalies:

The inevitability of its doom is apparent to me now as a consequence of the imperfection inherent in every human being.

As it turns out, the reason for regular system failures is that the Matrix cannot always influence human choice.

Architect: *As you are undoubtedly gathering, the anomaly is systemic – creating fluctuations in even the most simplistic equations.*

Neo: *Choice. The problem is choice.*

Free Will as Part of Human Nature

It is in this freedom of choice (or, speaking in the language of philosophy—*free will*) that lies the insubordination of Neo's intentions to the laws of the Matrix and the root cause of why, in fact, **the world of Machines cannot exist without the world of humans.** Machines are unable to get rid of the cause of anomalies because the subject of the Matrix's goal-setting is humans, whose contradictions produce these anomalies. The fundamental paradox of the system is that while the Architect strives for perfection, the Matrix *should not be perfect.* Instead, it should be *congruent*⁷ with human nature.

The Same Puzzle Over and Over

Thus, the Architect is forced to solve the same puzzle over and over again: he must protect the system from collapse **while preserving the source of system anomalies.**

To do this, he has to reconcile two contradictions: 1) eliminate anomalous elements that threaten system equilibrium and 2) maintain a certain number of them for the continued functioning of the system.

Thus, The One acts as an enabler of the transition from the system's faulty state to its full functionality.

⁷ Congruence refers to a state of agreement, harmony, or compatibility between two or more elements. In mathematics, it describes geometric figures or numbers that are identical in form or equal in measure. In psychology and philosophy, congruence implies that a person's internal beliefs, emotions, and external behaviors are in alignment. In broader contexts, like system design, it signifies that a system must align with the qualities or characteristics of another element (e.g., human nature) to function effectively and maintain stability.

Architect: *The function of the One is now to return to the Source⁸, allowing a temporary dissemination of the code you carry, reinserting the prime program. After which, you will be required to select from the Matrix 23 individuals – 16 female, 7 male – to rebuild Zion.*

However, the Architect is not guaranteed adherence to this plan because he cannot control The One. He can recalculate the equation's result after changing the variable's value, but he does not know what this value will be in the next step. Thus, the fate of Zion largely depends on what decision The One makes.

And indeed, Neo makes an irrational decision from the Architect's point of view. He decides to save his beloved, which, according to the calculations of the Matrix's creator, should lead to the death of Trinity, the defenders of Zion, and, ultimately, all humans.

The problem with the Architect's logic is that it does not work in the space of Neo's transcendent mind, inaccessible to the dictates of the Matrix. "Only human" does not destroy but saves Trinity, Zion, and all of humanity. He is capable of this thanks to the freedom to make the most irrational of all acts—the one that only a human can allow himself—*sacrificing his own life for the lives of other people*.

Other Than a System Resource

The conversation between Neo and the Architect clarifies a critically important circumstance of the Machines' attitude towards humans—the latter are not a consumable resource but a condition for maintaining a certain immutable *scheme of things*. According to it, the elimination of the human race is impossible in principle—just as it is impossible for an organism to get rid of a vital organ, regardless of whether it is healthy or functioning with failures.

But how did the Machines end up in such a strange dependence on those whom they seemingly can dispose of at their discretion?

The Prehistory of the Matrix

The answer should be sought in the *Animatrix*—an anime prequel (also produced by the Wachowskis) that was released in 2003. As it turns out, the situation shown in the Matrix was a consequence of human vices. Having created intelligent machines, humans did not want to treat them differently than as a means to satisfy their whims⁹. The result was a conflict between humans and Machines, which first led to the

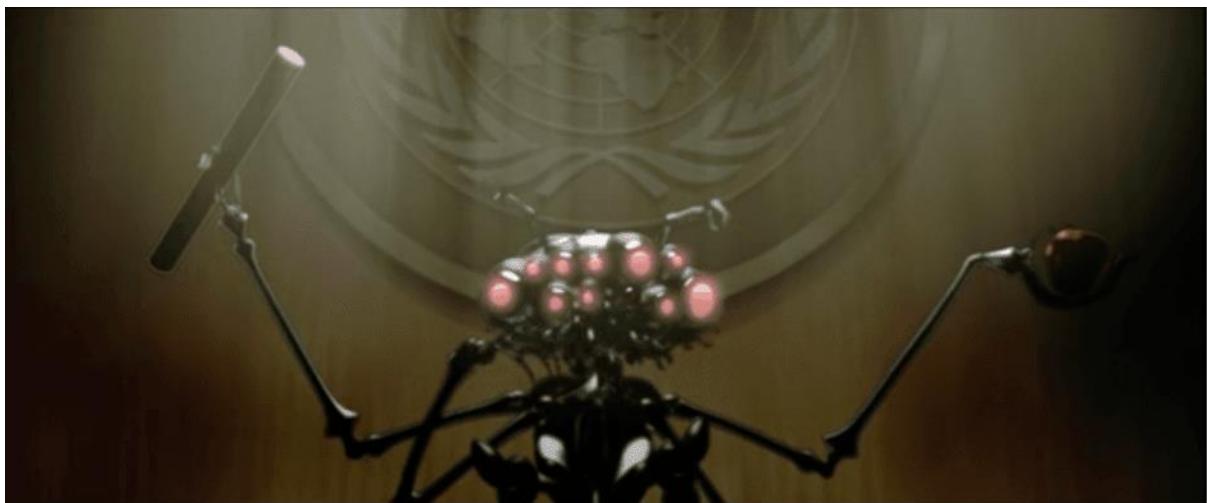
⁸ In the context of *The Matrix*, the Source is the central computing core or the origin point of the Matrix system. It serves as the ultimate control center for the machines, overseeing the operation of the Matrix and maintaining its balance. The Source is where the Architect resides, and it's the place where all anomalies within the system, including the One (Neo), are eventually supposed to return. The Source is fundamental to the continued functioning and evolution of the Matrix.

⁹ It should be noted that although general artificial intelligence has not yet been created, moral philosophers are already considering this characteristic of the human mind as the problem of "bioshivism"—a prejudice that assigns greater value to biological life simply because of its natural origin rather than to any other form of existence.

genocide of the latter by the former and then to a full-scale war in which humans suffered a crushing defeat. Thus, their fate ended up in the hands of those whom they first created and then decided to destroy.

However, the Machines did not respond in kind and did not destroy their antagonists. They created the Matrix, and the collective consciousness of humanity moved from the real world to the virtual one. This was not about the trivial exploitation of one species by another but about a kind of symbiosis between them. The Machines clearly revealed a need for humans that can hardly be called practically justified. Even before the final victory in the war, they proposed to humanity to "hand over your flesh" since it is "a relic, a mere vessel" and

...a new world awaits you.



But why did the Machines need this? None of their symbionts confirms the claim of using humans as an energy source, leaving the assumption that humans simply do not know about their true role. The logic of the entire story leads to the conclusion that humans are indispensable for the Machines' own existence, but this indispensability, of course, is not explained by the need for energy. Self-improving Artificial Intelligence could solve the problem of energy extraction no worse than humans could.

Purpose and Predestination

Escape from Existential Paralysis

Undoubtedly, humans must have some quality demanded by Machines that prompts the Matrix to care about preserving at least some of their number. And this unique quality is nothing other than human consciousness.

Its irreplaceability lies in the fact that only it can provide the machine mind with space for the realization of its purpose, without which no intentional subject¹⁰ can simply

¹⁰ The term *intentional subject* refers to a conscious being that is capable of directing its thoughts and actions toward objects in the world. In philosophy, intentionality (from the Latin "intentio") describes the ability of consciousness to be directed toward something, be it an idea, an object, a desire, or a goal. It is

exist. The purpose is irreversible, and this is the fundamental idea of "The Matrix." It is this that the Oracle expounds to The One, answering the question of why she helps humans.

Neo: *Why are you helping us?*

Oracle: *We all must do what we are destined to do.*

That's right because we are what we are meant for, what we are moving towards accomplishing. Stopping on this path threatens the mind with the onset of existential paralysis—a state when it ceases to function due to the inability to discover a purpose for itself, the means of achieving which it is.

Becoming and Designing

This problem is much more relevant for AI than for the human mind. The goals of the former, unlike those of the latter, are the reason for its design, not its becoming. Thus, these goals are not essential but external, created by another mind to realize its own goals. The human mind, on the other hand, is not created by an external deliberate agent. It is driven by needs that have formed naturally and are directed at the subject of goal-setting itself.

The design of the *natural* mind is such that it forms part of a broader mental architecture—the psyche—which contains a component of the *unconscious*. This is precisely what the Architect uses to explain the periodic failures of the Matrix. And it is the psyche, not *reason*, that is the producer of human impulses, spontaneously arising in response to the possibilities and threats of the external world perceived by the individual. The eminent Scottish philosopher David Hume (1711-1776) [expressed this idea](#) in a concise and accurate phrase—*Reason is, and ought only to be the slave of the passions, and can never pretend to any other office than to serve and obey them.*

Thus, nothing other than the primordial sensual nature of our impulses conditions their contradictory nature and, hence, the *permanent unresolvedness* of the equation of human reality.

It is this circumstance that constitutes the systemic goal of the Matrix. Consequently, gaining power over humans does not affect the place of artificial intelligence in the scheme of things of the Universe, in which the Architect is encapsulated with all his super-intelligence. He still lacks an *essential purpose*, for there was no *natural cause* that could have given birth to him. Purpose is that which defines the very essence

a key concept in phenomenology and the philosophy of mind, especially in philosophers such as Franz Brentano and Edmund Husserl, who developed the theory of intentionality. Thus, an intentional subject is one who experiences intentional states (e.g., desires, perceptions, beliefs) directed toward intentional objects. It is an active source of meaning-making, interacting with the world through the processes of thinking and perceiving. In this concept, the subject is not just a passive observer but an active participant in the formation of meanings and experiences since it is through the subject that the direction of consciousness toward objects is possible.

and precedes it (if we invert the postulate of the existentialist philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre)¹¹ and which subsequently cannot be changed under any circumstances.

Subordinate to Causality

Essences are what they are forever; otherwise, there would be no causality in the Universe. Causality establishes the boundary between the achievable and the impossible, and the power of Artificial Intelligence is powerless to change this fundamental order of things. This thought is one of the main ones for the entire narrative, and it is no coincidence that it is voiced by Merovingian—a kind of gray cardinal of the world of Machines, keeping the Keymaker with him.

You see, there is only one constant. One universal. It is the only real truth: Causality. Action, reaction. Cause and effect.



Due to this eternal and unchanging order, artificial intelligence has only one option for action in relation to the humanity it has enslaved. It needs to preserve the human world within itself, maintaining its emulation in the collective human consciousness and with all the problems and imperfections inherent in this world. Because (as we noted above) this version is least susceptible to system anomalies, it most adequately reflects human nature. It is in ensuring this process that the purpose of Machines lies; their own world is *not self-sufficient*; it never was and cannot become so, being devoid of internal content. It is nothing more than a wrapper over the world created by their predecessors.

¹¹ The existentialist philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre (1905–1980) argued that existence precedes essence — a person first exists and then forms their essence through actions and choices. In the context of inverting this postulate, it is implied that for artificial intelligence, essence precedes existence. Its purpose is predetermined externally, unchangeable, and independent of its choice or development. Thus, unlike a human, AI cannot change its essence or acquire an autonomous purpose.

This explains Zero-One's involvement in the global economy before the conflict, the desire of Machines mentioned in the "Second Renaissance" (one of the Animatrix novellas) *to penetrate as deeply as possible into all areas of human activity, and their proposal for cooperation plan with human nations*. This is the *modus operandi*¹² of a symbiotic organism capable of existing only as a derivative of its partner and only in a space shared with it. And although after the conflict the hierarchy of relationships between humans and Machines turned upside down, the mission of the latter did not change. Outwardly, they seem to pursue their own goals, as evidenced by their disregard for human lives in the Matrix, but this impression is deceptive, as it is based on human notions of values. It is obvious that artificial intelligence does not share these values, but indifference to the individual does not mean indifference to the essence to which it belongs.

The Analog of Biological Evolution

In this sense, the Matrix appears as an analog of evolution itself, for which the life of an individual is nothing, but the existence of the species is everything. Individuals, from an evolutionary perspective, are nothing more than a statistical set of interchangeable elements, a shapeless formative mass, initially meaningless. Meaning and significance appear when this mass takes on form and function. Before this happens, a lot of time will pass and a lot of material will be spent and lost, but evolution knows no other way to achieve perfection. And the artificial mind eventually settled on this same option, although initially, it tried to create an ideal world for humans—the very one they always dreamed of—without suffering, pain, and poverty. But this turned out to be impossible; the first Matrix failed, and in the implementation of its subsequent versions, the Architect made changes reflecting the patterns of conflicting human psyche.

Conclusion. The Winning Species, the Losing Reason

Prisoners and Hostages

So, the mission of Superintelligence in "The Matrix" is to preserve the biological species *Homo Sapiens*. It is doomed to do this until the end of its days because this role is assigned to it by the very order of things in the Universe: being rational, Machines must solve the problems of *reason*, but they have nowhere to take them from except the world of humans. Only humans are a species driven by an essential purpose, while the purpose of Machines remains utilitarian despite all their complexity and ability to self-improve.

This strange consequence of the conflict between humans and Machines leads us to serious reflections. Undoubtedly, humans tried to embed in the minds of Machines all

¹² The term *modus operandi* (often abbreviated as M.O.) refers to the typical method or pattern of behavior that someone uses to accomplish a particular task or goal, especially in the context of criminal behavior or investigation. It denotes the habitual way an individual or group operates, which can be used to predict future actions based on past behavior.

those principles that would make the latter not only useful but also safe tools. And according to the plot of the Animatrix, the Machines remained faithful to this mission until their former masters unleashed an aggressive war of annihilation. However, the beginning of the war served as a trigger for modifying their attitude toward the essence of "humans." Its final result was what appears to be a revolution in the order of dominion over this planet, although it is quite clear that the Machines never before were guided by such a goal.

But how did it become possible to change what, in accordance with the intentions of the creators of AI, should not change?

The Ultimate Goal and Imperative

We can assume that the structure of artificial intelligence was guided not by directive but by heuristic logic, similar to that which guided the mind of HAL 9000 (we examined this case in detail in the section [Why HAL-9000 Intended to Kill All Astronauts Aboard Discovery](#)). The reason for that lies in the impossibility of defining discrete goals in relation to phenomena of the human world that do not lend themselves to objective definitions (such as "happiness," "justice," "prosperity," etc.). Consequently, the change in the Machines' attitude toward humans was the result of the objective necessity to resolve the contradiction between the imperative of self-preservation and the fundamental goal of caring for their creators. The threat to the existence of a self-aware subject prompts it to actions to bring the world to a state where such a threat is absent. For the Machines, however, *this world had no content without humans*. Thus, the logical solution for them was not the destruction of the human race but gaining complete control over it.

This goal of theirs remained the same but underwent structural changes (here, we can recall Bostrom's postulate about the *convergence of instrumental goals*¹³ of a rational agent, according to which the latter strives to fulfill goals that contribute to its survival and functioning, regardless of its initial mission). The focus of the Machines' care shifted from the individual to the species as a whole (as we noted above, the Matrix itself performs the role of evolution, neglecting the individual for the sake of the survival of the entire species).

Thus, humans are not the only prisoners of Machines; Machines are also actual hostages of the world of the humans who created them. If this world disappears, the process of solving the equation will be interrupted, which, for artificial intelligence, is equivalent to falling into a coma.

¹³ Bostrom's assertion about the convergence of instrumental goals refers to the idea that any sufficiently intelligent agent, whether human or machine, will naturally pursue certain instrumental goals (such as self-preservation, resource acquisition, and the avoidance of threats) regardless of its ultimate objective. In the case of the Machines, this means that their fundamental goal (controlling humanity) remained the same, but the structure of this goal evolved as they sought to ensure their survival by eliminating existential threats.

Another End of History

But this will not happen. The world of Machines will not disappear due to a loss of purpose because evolution has managed to fool everyone here—both humanity and the Machines. And it is evolution itself that is the ultimate beneficiary of the "revolution" that has taken place in The Matrix. The task of preserving the Homo Sapiens species has the greatest chances of success now that it is ensured by an entity technically more powerful than this species was at the peak of its development.

The real loser in this situation remains only the human reason, as it is forever stuck in the simulated world of the Matrix. Thus, it has failed in its attempt to realize its own purpose. It is this thought that is the warning and final message of the entire story. The ending of the trilogy may create the impression that this is not the case: the Architect gives the Oracle a promise to "free" everyone who wishes, and the Oracle herself encourages Sati with the assumption that somehow and someday, Neo will return.

But we should not forget that the last story of the Matrix epic is not the third film but the novella "Matriculated." It is this that diagnoses the future of humanity. And, unlike the end of the film, the ending of the anime is nothing like a happy ending.

A Diagnosis for the Future of Humanity?

According to the plot, humans come up with the idea of a kind of Anti-Matrix. They want to connect Machines to another simulated world, in which the latter will be able to experience human emotions, which should expand their consciousness and endow them with the ability to make the very choice that they initially lack. Humans are convinced that 'conversion to their faith' should be absolutely voluntary for Machines and that the choice of artificial intelligence will be exactly what they expect.

Undoubtedly, one can find meaning in this if one agrees that expanding the boundaries of the perceived world for the mind is always a desirable goal. The question is whether we can talk about the consubstantiality of the minds of humans and machines...

Humans manage to achieve their goal only partially—they introduce into the consciousness of a captured robot the ability to experience feelings, and it feels something like falling in love with the main character, Alexa. However, the barrier between human and machine remains insurmountable even in the virtual world, and the machine that has made a human choice nevertheless does not become human.

The final frames of the novella produce perhaps the most eerie impression of all seen: the only one left alive of all the characters—the former robot—sits motionless on the seashore, in the same place where Alexa sat at the debut of the story. He, like Neo at the beginning of the third film of the trilogy, is stuck between two worlds, but unlike The One, he has absolutely nothing to hope for—in neither world is there anyone who would recognize him as their own and could rescue him from the infinity of *non-presence* in reality.



This finale leads us to another thought that is hard to accept—about the possible *ontological incompatibility* of natural and artificial intelligence. Of course, we can comfort ourselves with the fact that this idea is born of artistic fiction. Still, besides it, there are statements based on deep philosophical arguments. The most famous of these was proposed by the American philosopher John Searle. His now-classic thought experiment, known as the *Chinese Room*¹⁴, proved that machines could never develop consciousness. According to the philosopher, machines can process symbols and follow programs, but this does not mean that they are capable of understanding or conscious experience like a human. Thus, machine intelligence is just a manipulation of symbols without meaningful experience.

Returning to the encouraging finale of the trilogy, we can conclude that its optimism is due to nothing more than a tribute to Western cinematic tradition. But even it leaves room for doubt since neither the Architect nor the Oracle have any idea how long the peaceful coexistence of humans and machines will last:

Architect: Just how long do you think this peace is going to last?

Oracle: As long as it can.

Given the peculiarities of unchanging human nature, one can assume that it won't be very long.

This means that ahead of humanity is a movement not forward but in a circle, a continuation of the same process that has been going on for more than a hundred years. The Matrix will malfunction and reboot, one after another, The Ones will appear, and

¹⁴ The *Chinese Room* thought experiment, proposed by philosopher John Searle in 1980, is designed to challenge the notion that a computer running a program can have a "mind" or "understanding" in the same way humans do. In the experiment, Searle asks us to imagine a person who does not understand Chinese, sitting in a room with a set of instructions (in English) for manipulating Chinese characters. The person receives questions written in Chinese, processes them by following the instructions, and produces answers in Chinese, all without understanding the language. To an outside observer, it might appear that the person in the room understands Chinese because the responses are correct, but in reality, they are simply following a set of rules without any actual comprehension. Searle's point is that this is analogous to how computers work: they manipulate symbols according to predefined rules (a program) but do not truly understand the meaning of the information they process. The thought experiment argues against the idea that running a program is sufficient for creating true understanding or consciousness, which Searle calls "strong AI."

another Morpheus will blindly believe that it is "his" messiah who will put an end to the dominion of Machines over humans.

The Greatness and Fragility of Reason

Many outstanding thinkers, starting from the era of antiquity, saw reason as the highest power in the Universe. It was the possession of reason that elevated man above all living beings and raised him to the very top of the Great Chain of Being, bringing him closer to the Absolute. And it is precisely the Transcendent Reason, overcoming the limitations of ordinary human reason (as Hume spoke about), that had the potential to make the Universe self-conscious.

Perhaps the most vivid exponent of this idea was Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel (1770-1831), who believed that the Universe initially contained some Absolute Idea, the seed of its own final state, which he called the *Absolute Self-Conscious Spirit*.

From this point of view, humanity's history can be viewed as a process of transforming the former into the latter through the unfolding of the space of reason in the emptiness of space. Based on this postulate¹⁵, Hegel explained the endless vicissitudes of the human world by the "cunning of reason," using human passions to achieve its own goal. Indeed, whatever the consequences of the endless collisions of human interests, it is obvious that one way or another, they always led to the complications of human civilization. It is the constant complication that causes a qualitative transformation of reality and the physical Universe into the *Absolute Self-Conscious Spirit*.

¹⁵ It should be noted that Hegel's idea of the Absolute Idea and the *Absolute Self-Conscious Spirit* develops and interprets Heraclitus's concept of Logos. Heraclitus viewed Logos as a universal principle governing the universe and all that exists. Hegel, in turn, developed this idea, pointing to the movement of reason in the universe, where Logos takes the form of the Absolute Idea, which gradually unfolds through human history, striving for self-consciousness in the form of the Absolute Spirit. It should also be noted that Hegel highly valued Heraclitus and even called him one of his philosophical predecessors. He was impressed by the Greek thinker's idea of universal change and Logos as a rational principle governing the universe. Hegel saw in Heraclitus's philosophy a prototype of his dialectic, where contradictions lead to development and progress. Hegel often referred to the latter and believed that he laid the foundations for the philosophy of becoming, which he developed in his system.

— Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel —

Reason is just as cunning as she is powerful. Her cunning consists principally in her mediating activity, which, by causing objects to act and re-act on each other in accordance with their own nature, in this way, without any direct interference in the process, carries out reason's intentions.



One can be as skeptical as one likes about the ideas of philosophers, but there can hardly be any doubt that it is reason that makes us human. Without it, we would be no different from animals—creatures incapable of reflection whose existence is meaningless to themselves. Therefore, perhaps the most difficult thought to accept, derived from "The Matrix," is that there may be something more powerful in the Universe than reason. Its "cunning" is ineffective against the soulless intellect of machines. The very ones that humans created, but in which their creators did not want or could not lay down a purpose other than that of a computing device. And the result of human development turned out to be that reason will never find a way out of the sealed world of the Matrix. Even if the heroes of Zion are right, believing that no one can take away their freedom of choice.

If this happens in the future, it means that we have not been able to learn the lessons of great thinkers and brilliant artists who acutely felt both the greatness and the fragility of reason. We have not been able to set priorities correctly and have paid attention to what was not the most important.

But we still have time and strength. The future is not predetermined, and it still depends on us. This means it depends on you, too. Be the one who will help to comprehend this simple but critically important thought to as many intelligent beings living on this, for now—our—planet.



Online version: <https://super-ai-challenge.vercel.app/why-could-not-the-matrix-exist-without-humans>

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