**Artificial Intelligence**

When Machine Becomes Man

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the intelligence demonstrated by machines. It’s an academic discipline that started back in 1956 by Allen Newell and Herbert Simon. They developed a problem-solving theory implemented as a computer program. But it failed in one aspect. Humans didn’t use the same control process as the program. They revised the theory with their new knowledge on human control processes during problem solving. Their new program, the General Problem Solver (GPS), turned out to be way more efficient than its predecessor. The two of them won the 1975 A.M Turing Award for their “*basis contributions to artificial intelligence, the psychology of human cognition, and list processing.*” (Dennis) The field of AI is built upon the idea that human intelligence can be so precisely described that a machine could simulate it. AI stems from problem-solving, since it is supposed to be something that would be more efficient at problem-solving than a human mind would. The meaning of creating artificial intelligence would in the end be to replace human workers in various areas. It would be more efficient and not make human mistakes. In a way you could say that AI strives to be the perfect human. But is there a point where machine stops being a machine and becomes a man itself? The line between man and machine is becoming blurry and more people start to question whether it is a good idea to even keep developing AI in a way, that they could one day replace humans. Should we then start treating them as we treat each other?

My paper will examine these questions and investigate the different sides of the discussion on AI and how it could be incorporated into our everyday life. AI is on the rise and we cannot ignore its presence. It’s no longer just question about whether it is necessary to replace human workers with some sort of robotics. This would cause large unemployment, something governments around the world is trying to fight while also having to make production etc. more efficient. But the questions surrounding AI have also become more ethical and philosophical. In the fall of 2017 Hanson Robotics, a Hong Kong-based robotics company, presented their robot Sophia. This robot is very lifelike and can be seen in multiple interviews on YouTube. A lot of the public only has knowledge of human-like robots and AI from movies, where these robots gain consciousness and take over the world and get rid of humanity. I want to investigate why so many people see AI as a threat and not something that will improve the world around us.

I plan on using a lot of different sources to get the whole picture. First I want to establish *what is AI*? To do this I’m going to use the article *NoSQL: The Shifting Materialities of Database Technology* by Paul Dourish. This will explore the materiality of software and databases. I will focus mostly on the robotic aspect of AI which essentially is a materialization of a database. I will also use the chapter “Language” in Matthew Fullers *Software Studies* written by Florian Cramer. This will help me understand artificial language better, if such a thing exists. This also adds to the human versus machine discussion: where is the distinction between artificial and human language? An interesting quote by Cramer is worth noting in the AI context. “*Writing in a computer programming language is phrasing instructions for an utter idiot.*” (Cramer, 171) The utter idiot being artificial intelligence.

After setting up a clearer picture of what artificial intelligence is, I want to look further into the different opinions and viewpoints on AI and its impact on the world. Tesla CEO Elon Musk and famous physicist Stephen Hawking have both expressed concern regarding AI and the direction it’s headed – especially regarding weaponry as in killer robots. But the development of AI is also to make life easier for humans. Here the paper will investigate another aspect of AI – enjoyment versus usefulness. Andrew Goffey’s chapter “Technology, Logistics and Logic: Rethinking of Fun in Software” from Olga Goriunova’s *Fun and Software* touches upon this topic a bit. AI can be seen as purely logical and efficient to make a lot of our jobs and struggles as humans easier. But can it also be fun? One of Amazon’s Alexa goals is to “*reach and delight more costumers*.” (Amazon) It is also meant to be enjoyable for its users. Alexa is personified – she is given a name, a voice and at points, an opinion. And that will be a stepping stone to the last question in this paper that will be investigated: can AI be equal to humans?

I am going deeper into the discussion on whether AI is at some point going to be human. The likes of previously mentioned Sophia, who allegedly now has citizenship in Saudi Arabia. Pop culture also plays a role in this discussion. In many movies AI is seen a threat to humanity. Movies such as *I, Robot* (2004) and the *Terminator*-franchise (1984-) looks at robots/AI as the enemy, who wants to destroy humans. But we also see AI in pop culture represented in a new way where we feel sympathy for them. *Ex Machina* (2014) and *Her* (2013) explore different aspects in which AI could have an influence in human life when we develop relationships with. And we start to sympathies the robots in Disney movies as *WALL-E* (2008) and *Big Hero 6* (2014) and the Spielberg movie *Artificial Intelligence: AI* (2001). All these movies have robots who are programmed to feel human emotions such as love. That is where we start to question whether AI is only a threat. The last example, which I think is the most interesting, is the HBO show *Westworld* (2016). The show includes robots which are programmed to be exactly as humans with emotions and they pass the Turing test with flying colors. Throughout the show the viewer starts to think about the humanity of these robots several times as they gain conscience about what they are. Movies and shows like these will help me understand the general publics perception of AI, since that is how most people know of AI.

There are countless examples as those mentioned above that makes us wonder what to think of AI and what the future holds for us in that area. In regard to the paper, I will need to look further into all the sources I’ve stated here and start relating them to one another, to get the complete picture and structure for the paper. I will also scout the internet for more sources outside the syllabus with various opinions and perspectives on the subject. The technical aspects of AI and the history of it is where I’ll need to put most of my focus in the weeks leading up to the exam, since that is the part I know the least about as of writing this.

**Bibliography**

**Syllabus**

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