The Search for Intelligent Machines

A brief discussion on the intelligent machines and how much potential they hold for the future tech industry.

Introduction

For thousands of years, we humans have tried to understand how our own intelligence works and replicate it in some kind of machine - thinking machines. We have not been satisfied by mechanical or electronic machines helping us with simple tasks - flint sparking fires, pulleys lifting heavy rocks, and calculators doing arithmetic. Instead, we want to automate more challenging and complex tasks like grouping similar photos, recognizing diseased cells from healthy ones, and even putting up a decent game of chess.These tasks seem to require human intelligence, or at least a more mysterious deeper capability of the human mind not found in simple machines like calculators.

Machines with this human-like intelligence are such an educative and powerful idea that our culture is full of fantasies, and fears, about it - the immensely capable but ultimately menacing **HAL 9000** in Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*, the crazed action *Terminator* robots and the talking KITT car with a cool personality from the classic *K-night Rider* TV series.

When Gary Kasparov, the reigning world chess champion, and grandmaster, was beaten by the IBM Deep Blue computer in 1997 we feared the potential of machine intelligence just as much as we celebrated that historic achievement. So strong is our desire for intelligent machines that some have fallen for the temptation to cheat. The infamous mechanical Turk chess machine was merely a hidden person inside a cabinet!

Tab. III