

Humans, AI and Reality

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Objectives

- Motivate learning about AI
- Relax grip on current ideas and worldview
- Consider strange ideas and views

Overview

- What is AI and why should we care?
- Transhuman and posthuman
- Simulations and reality

Why Know About AI?

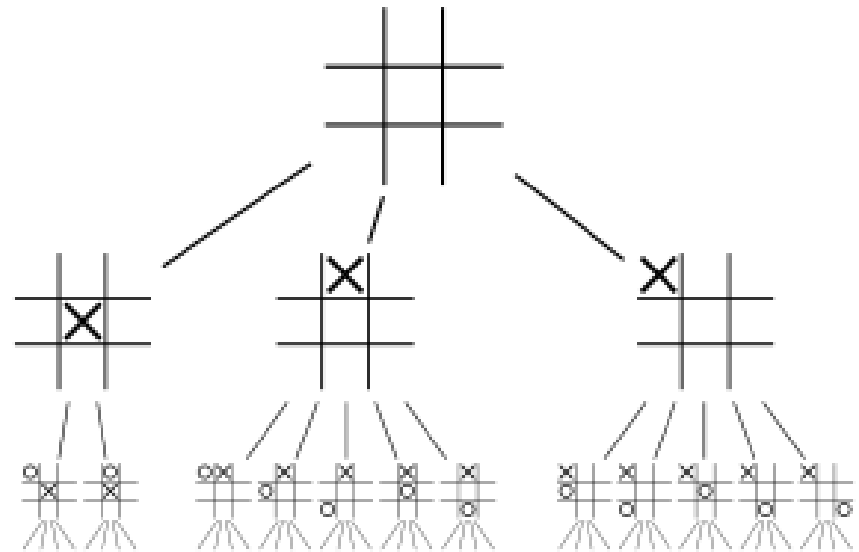
- Pervasive impacts on many facets of human life
- Analogies
 - Programming, cars and auto-mechanics
 - Net-neutrality
 - Copyright
- What policies should we adopt for AI?

What is AI?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=etZPXWZpF7s>
Starting at 0:46

What is AI?

- Computational artifacts that behave intelligently
- Search through a state-space
 - Start state
 - Goal state
 - Transitions
 - Search method and guidance



Search and AI

- Bayesian belief networks
- Neural networks
- Representation engineering
- Application engineering

So What?

- Augmented reality
- Singularity
- Simulations and reality

What Is Real?



What Is Real?

The Desert of the Real

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tgBViHeiSKM>

What Is the Problem?

- Underplay role of the *simulation* for 'brain in a vat' scenarios
- Simulated worlds are *real* worlds
 - Calling for conceptual re-analysis
- Implications of expanded definitions

Ontological Status of Simulations

- Simulations are clearly real in the physical
- Simulated objects are real within simulation
- Reluctance to say simulated and physical objects both real

Is This a Simulation?

- Nick Bostrom suggests that we might be living in a simulation
- Not catastrophic if we grant the ontological status of simulated worlds
- What about implications for our worldview?

Exercise: What If?

- Suppose we live in a simulation
 - What is real or not?
 - What does it mean to be human?

Exercise Results

- Three possibilities:
 - No problem
 - No possible way to reconcile
 - Theory revision

Discussion: AI

- What do we gain?
 - A tool both similar and different
 - Extends/augments our abilities
- What do we lose?
 - Raises issues of autonomy, sovereignty, and humanity

Discussion: Simulations & Reality

- What do we gain?
 - Better precision with words/concepts: *real*
 - Plausible response if we live in a simulation
- What do we lose?
 - ???
- What else?
 - Possible guidance on ethics of simulations