

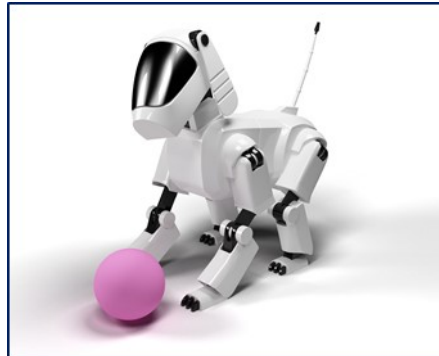
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

A threat to our existence?



Exploring the topic

What technologies are shown in these pictures?
Do you know the stories behind them?



Points of note

The Singularity

According to Wikipedia:

The technological singularity is the hypothesis that accelerating progress in technologies will cause a runaway effect wherein artificial intelligence will exceed human intellectual capacity and control, thus radically changing civilization in an event called "the singularity". Because the capabilities of such an intelligence may be impossible for a human to comprehend, the technological singularity is an occurrence beyond which events may become unpredictable, unfavorable, or even unfathomable.

Scientists are Worried

Several leading scientists have expressed fear at the prospect of Artificial Superintelligence, including Stephen Hawking, who said, "The development of full artificial intelligence could spell the end of the human race."

Beating Us at Our Own Games

In 1996, the IBM computer Deep Blue beat a world chess grandmaster for the first time, marking a milestone in computer intelligence. In 2011, another IBM computer—Watson—competed on the TV show Jeopardy and won, displaying advances in a computer's ability to understand natural language.

What We're Good At

Scientists often note that computers excel at things the human brain finds difficult and vice versa.

For instance, the sum $89234 \times 10987 = ?$ would take a human a little while to figure out but would be trivial to a computer. And a computer wouldn't make a mistake.

However, a simple task such as picking up a teacup or recognizing a cat is difficult for an AI.

Recently, though, AIs have been making a lot of progress in these weak areas.



Discussion

Discuss the following questions:

Do you think the following statements are TRUE or FALSE? Give your reasoning.

- We will always be able to 'pull the plug' if computers become dangerous
- Computers can never have feelings
- Computers can only be good at specific tasks
- Computers cannot be made to 'think' or 'learn'
- Computers will only do what the programmer tells them
- We can program humans never to harm humans
- If computers are intelligent, they will be benevolent
- The human brain is far more advanced than any robot brain
- In a war with machines, humans would win
- Computers have no reason to harm humans

Do you think we have anything to fear from artificial intelligence? Explain your opinion.

