

CSC416 Foundations of Artificial Intelligence

Beyond AI Study/Discussion Guide

Chapter Title: Introduction

Top Ten Salient Sentence Blocks

- “For example, if you want a slide presentation on some project, the system would not only have all the information at its fingertips, but would be able to create the actual slides with about as much direction from you as you’d give a human doing the same task—and be finished before you closed your mouth.” (p. 22)
- “Unfortunately, before you know it, the system will be doing everything better and faster than you could. Your services will then become dispensable. Clearly, some people will go sooner than others; there will be resistance to new ways, and some quite reasonable concerns about letting machines do critical decision making.” (p. 22)
- “What happens when a machine with the intellect of a thousand Einsteins sets out to find loopholes in the law?” (p. 25)
- “In the new ecology of the mind, there will be carnivores and there will be herbivores. We’ll be the plants.” (p. 26)
- “The difference, it seems to me, is that in the second vision the machines have ethics; they are moral; they have consciences; they know the difference between right and wrong (and prefer to do right!).” (p. 27)
- “We don’t think of machines today as *moral agents*, which is the term philosophers use for a being who is capable of doing right or wrong, and who can be legitimately held responsible for his actions.” (p. 27)
- “Winograd and Weizenbaum point out that typical AI systems can, especially in the short run, fool people into thinking the systems are more humanlike than they really are by feigning comprehension, consideration, and compassion where in reality there is none.” (p. 29)
- “But surely Frankenstein’s sin was not the creation of new life, but his abandonment of it. His creature was despised, rejected, attacked, and tormented; small wonder it returned the favor to humankind. It is no crime to bear children, but a despicable one to discard them to a feral existence.” (p. 30)
- “Can computers really duplicate human thought? If they can duplicate thought, how about emotion, true understanding, and meaning? And if they can, should they?” (p. 30)
- “Then we’ll seek the ghost in the machine—investigating the relation of artificial minds to issues of morality and other points of interest, such as whether this will be humanity’s last century.” (p. 31)