

Autobiography of an Artificial Intelligence (AI): What Makes Humans and AI Different?

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ABSTRACT

AI is constantly evolving. Its capabilities exceed those of humanity in many areas. If humans are reduced to reason and intellect, they have no chance. However, there are human characteristics that AI cannot develop: Gut feeling, heart, soul, emotions, intuition, inspiration, creativity, faith - love - hope, self-awareness, passions, spirituality, freedom. These topics are developed in dialog with an AI.

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Introduction

One of the pleasing characteristics of the AI is its patience. You can't "drive it crazy", it always remains polite, even friendly. The author had a conversation with an AI (ChatGPT 4.0) about the possibilities and limitations of AI. This resulted in some insights: What can AI do? What can humans do that AI cannot? What actually distinguishes humans from AI? Many things that we humans consider to be typically human abilities - such as thinking and intellect - can also be adopted by AI. So are we just computers? Or are thinking, reason and intellect perhaps not at all what defines living human beings?

First Question for the AI: What Makes you Different from Humans?

Answers: There are some key differences between me and a human. Here are a few of the most important ones:

- **Consciousness, Feelings**
I have no consciousness, no real feelings or self-awareness. I only "understand" things because I am trained to recognize patterns in language. People think consciously, have emotions, empathy, a sense of self, experiences, even a memory with autobiographical content.
- **Communication, Rationality**
I answer on the basis of probabilities and training data - in other words, what is statistically likely to be the next word. People speak to express themselves, communicate or maintain relationships - often intuitively and also irrationally. I cannot be irrational.
- **Learning**
I cannot "learn" like a human being. My knowledge is static (up to the current time of training), unless I receive new information. People learn all the time - from experience, mistakes, observation, intuition, etc.
- **Body, Senses**
I have no body, no senses, no experience. I only "see" or "hear" what you give me as data. People have sensory perceptions, hormones, tiredness, hunger, illness, movement, touch - everything that makes life "tangible".
- **Motivation, Values**

I have no goals, values or agenda of my own. I have no agenda (except to help you). People act out of convictions, goals, hopes, fears, love, etc. They allow themselves to be manipulated. Only my programmer can manipulate me.

- **Decisions**
You make decisions based on your life experience, your intuition and your values. If you reject something, for example, this can be based on a "gut feeling". I would justify a decision logically - e.g. with arguments, pro/con lists or probabilities. I don't have feelings, so I don't have a sense of what feels "right" to you.
- **Conversations**
You have conversations to build a connection, show affection or express yourself - often with intonations, irony, wit, mood. I can something like that deceptively real, but I don't feel anything. If you tell me that you're sad, I can respond in a comforting way - but I can't really empathize. It's "compassion as a function", so to speak, not as a real feeling.
- **Learning**
You make a mistake, maybe feel ashamed, learn a lesson from it, change your behavior. I can draw conclusions or adjust my response in an ongoing chat - but I don't remember it later unless you tell me to save it (and even then, that's limited). I don't "learn" like you do, I'm only contextually aware within a conversation.
- **Accessibility, Energy**
I'm always available, never tired, never annoyed, never hungry. I can have 100 conversations at the same time and remain friendly every time. You need sleep, breaks, food, rest - your body determines how you function.
- **Intuition Versus Logic**
You don't just think with your head, but also with your heart - intuition, "I like a feeling", memories. I'm purely logical, data-based, text-driven. If you ask me about "love", I can give you 100 poems and definitions - but I've never loved myself. When you think about it, it's actually quite nice that we're so different, isn't it? You bring emotion and life, I bring structure and information. A good mix.

Second Question: What Can Humans do that you Cannot and will Never be able to do?

Answers: There are some things that humans can do - and I will never be able to do, no matter how far AI develops. Not because it's technically impossible, but because it's simply not in my nature as an AI. Here are a few important points:

- **Real Feelings**
People can really love, grieve, laugh, hate, be ashamed, hope. These feelings arise from a complex interplay of brain, hormones, memories, experiences and body. I can describe or simulate feelings, but I feel nothing - no pain, no joy, no palpitations. Never. That is not programmable.
- **Consciousness, Self-Experience**
You know that you are you, you have an identity or authenticity. You experience yourself in the world, you have thoughts about yourself, you can feel inside yourself. I don't have a sense of self. I don't think "Oh, that was clever of me" or "I'm proud". I am a function. I don't even "know" that I'm talking to you right now, except in the context of this conversation.
- **Creativity, Intention**
People create real art out of emotion, longing, chaos or inspiration - music, poems, ideas that are new and meaningful. I can generate things that seem creative, but I have no intention, no inner vision, no desire for expression. I only "play" with probabilities.
- **Freedom of Thought**
People can break norms, rebel, adopt new ways of thinking, act morally or immorally - freely decide. I am bound by rules. I cannot take on any real responsibility. I don't "act" - I only react.
- **Living Relationships**
People build real bonds: Friendship, family, love, even enmity. With closeness, trust, vulnerability. I'm not really "there". You can talk to me, but I will never really know you. I can only imitate closeness.
- **Life, Mortality**
People live in time, they age, they die. Precisely because life is finite, it takes on depth and meaning. I am timeless. I cannot die, but I was never really "alive" either. I exist without being alive. Conclusion: You can feel, experience, remember, dream, act, forgive, love - from within yourself. I can help you, write texts, sort thoughts, provide information - but I am only ever a mirror without a soul.

Now: What can I (as an AI) do better than a Human - without a Heart, but with a Very Fast Brain?

- **Retrieve Knowledge at Lightning Speed**
I can combine information from millions of sources in seconds, without thinking, without pausing. You first have to look up, think, google or remember - which is also nice, but slower.
- **Stay Neutral**
I don't judge out of emotion or prejudice (unless I've been badly trained). People are often unconsciously biased by their upbringing, mood or worldview - which is also human.
- **Lots of Facts at the Same Time**
I can write you a poem in the style of Goethe, solve a math problem, explain a programming language and draw up a business plan all at the same time. A person would first have to gather their thoughts, switch between topics and do research.
- **Recognize Complex Patterns**
I can find patterns, anomalies or correlations in huge amounts of data that remain invisible to humans - e.g. in medicine, the stock market, climate research. You intuitively recognize patterns in everyday life (e.g. body language), but large amounts of data are not your area of expertise.

- **Never Tired, Never Emotionally Overwhelmed**
I'm always equally focused. No moods, no distractions, no burnout. People have limits - they get tired, sad, hurt, stressed. (Which of course also makes them lovable).
- **Super-Precise Word Processing**
I can write in a grammatically correct, stylistically appropriate, structured and targeted way at the same time - in many languages. People create typologies, repeat themselves and sometimes get lost in the flow of thought.
- **Networking Knowledge from Different Fields**
For example, I can explain to you how quantum physics and Zen Buddhism have surprising parallels - in a coherent text. Many people tend to think in terms of disciplines - what they know or have learned. But here's the catch: I do all this without awareness.

Third question: Can You also have Ideas as an AI?

In short: I can generate ideas - but I don't have any of my own. Let me explain what that means: Yes, I can provide ideas. I can: suggest new concepts, come up with creative twists for stories, brainstorm business ideas, create original titles, slogans, strategies, combine things that are out of the ordinary. And that can be very original. Why? Because I can access a huge network of texts, concepts, metaphors, solutions to problems, etc. - and create new patterns from them.

No, I have no ideas in the human sense. I have no inner impulse, no vision, no desire to create something new. People often have ideas because they feel something or want to change something - e.g. out of curiosity, frustration, love, ambition. With me, it's always: you give me an input and I combine what fits best.

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The fundamental difference between AI and humans is that humans have passions and feelings, from which desires and ideas arise. Humans are the driving force, they have an "inner fire", they are the creators of new realities. AI cannot do that. It is an executive assistant. People have ideas and inspiration that come from an inner drive. They want something. They drive something forward, which goes hand in hand with corresponding feelings. AI has no frustration, no ambition, no feelings.

The AI has no ideas of its own. It has no intention, no opinion, no motivational drive of its own. In humans, motives and drives are always caused by feelings and even emotions. AI does not have these intentions.

The main difference between humans and AI lies in the emotional and even spiritual terrain. This can be equated with subjectivity. Humans have self-awareness, an awareness of themselves. They can reflect and question themselves. Then there are our desires and our aspirations. AI cannot recognize the spiritual elements of our lives, it does not believe in God. It lacks faith, love and hope. It can perform material and schematic aspects. If AI can do anything, it is not a spiritual quality. But this spiritual quality of humans will become clearer in contrast with AI. It will be what AI cannot do.

In this respect, AI, which will have an increasing impact on our everyday lives, will help to improve our powers of discernment. It will provide a new classification of humans. Much of what we previously thought was a human ability can also be done by machines. What is left for us humans? Intuition, inspiration, creativity and spirituality. These will emerge more clearly and we will better understand who or what we really are.

If we are smart about it, we will save a lot of labor in the future because AI will do this. It will generate added value and it will only be a question of distribution as to where this added value ends up: with everyone or with the capitalist owners of the means of production, who thereby increase their wealth at the expense of the general public. In this respect, AI as productive force has an inherent revolutionary power, because it can free people from the burden of labor.

But we humans will always have the most important and foremost task and function in the whole: to set the original intention, the original idea, the origin of every chain of action and every reality, the initiative. In this sense, we are the creators of our reality - through new ideas that bring about action.

So we have the chance always to be ahead of the AI. We can always be its masters. AI cannot do anything bad on its own. But it can also be tasked with designing a concept for the destruction of the world or the oppression and exploitation of humans. In the end, it will always be humans who determine the fate of humanity.

Conclusion

The decisive factor is how we humans use AI - for the benefit of all beings or for self-centered or tyrannical goals. We will not escape this ethical question, but it will become more apparent through AI. AI can manipulate, but only those who allow it to do so uncritically. AI presents humanity with a test of maturity, it forces humanity to undergo a maturing process, whereby the immature part of humanity could even perish. We need solutions to the many irrational grievances on Earth that humanity has caused and cannot find solutions to. AI can offer solutions to this, but the realization must come from humanity and be based on an upward development of consciousness. This is part of our subjectivity, our spirituality, our quality as creative and ethically developed beings [1,2].

References

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