



Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2016

Session Summary (No. 70)

Boao Forum for Asia Institute

March 24, 2016

TV Debate 6

Robots and Artificial Intelligence: From “It” to “Her”

Time: 20:15-21:30 March 24th. 2016

Venue: ICC, Level 1, Dong Yu Grand Ballroom D

Moderator: CHEN Weihong, Anchor, CCTV

Panelists:

Ben GOERTZEL, Chief Scientist, Arcidylia Holdings; Chairman, AI

YUAN Hui, Founder & CEO, Xiaoi.com

WANG Xiaochuan, CEO, Sougou. com

Hsiao-Wuen HON, Corporate Vice President of Microsoft

Quan REN, Co-founder, Star VC

LIU Qingfeng, Chairman, iFLYTEK Information Technology

Synopsis:

Will AI be smarter than human by 2045?

Four of six panelists believed that AI will defeat human intelligence, even before 2045, given its stunning speed of calculation, simulation and the progressive self-learning capability.



Besides the recent winning of Google AlphaGo over Lee Souk, panelist also gave example of Robots already doing a better job than human teachers in giving marks to English and Chinese writing. These examples are proof that AI can be super intelligent and more capable and more powerful than human beings.

Mr. Ben Goertzel, Chief Scientist of Arcidya Holdings, is a great supporter of AI super intelligence. He believes that there is no single job which is can not be replaced by AI and the ultimate AI application is to let AI programs AI.

Differing from this view, Mr. Hon Hsiao-Wuen, Corporate Vice President of Microsoft, and Wang Xiaochuan, CEO of Sougou, have more faith in human intelligence. They believe the techniques which conquered Go can certainly be applied in particular areas such as education, science, medicine or any other domain where data is available and outcomes can be evaluated and understood. However, the real world is a set up, full of ill-defined questions that are far more complex than the complicated math puzzles or board games. No matter how powerful the calculation AI can conduct, it is programmed by human being, who will set up the objectives and rules for computer to move forward. AI is not born with creativity and self-consciousness, which is the fatal feature of human being.



Will machines ultimately have consciousness?

Again, four out of six panelists were positive about AI's potential to develop. Creativity and emotion seem very difficult for AI to compile, but scientists have seen signs of an initial adoption, such as caring or compassion. Human being was born as baby with very little consciousness, and we gradually enhance it through interactions with others. With the nerve network technology combined with Monte Carlo tree search approaches, AI will gradually develop its consciousness.

The apposed side argued that even AI for being “emotional”, it is still a type of programming improvement, which doesn't mean it understand the meaning. This can not be defined as self-consciousness. AI will be able to answer millions of questions, but still can not intentionally raise questions. AI may be able to create a painting or compose music, but still can not create a new format art.

Will human be ruled by AI one day?

All panelists agree that human should not position AI as competitor. Some panelists think AI will be part of human life under the precondition that everything we do should under our control. Others think it may end up like AI will help maintain the order of human world and protect human from disasters. Thus, it will take thoughtful and ethical humans to create AI understanding that can elevate the rest of humanity. The choice is ours to make between planting the seeds of the robot apocalypse or the robot renaissance.