

# IN5480 Individual assignment fall 2019

, “I do not see why [the computer] should not enter any one of the fields normally covered by the human intellect, and eventually compete on equal terms. I do not think you can even draw the line about sonnets, though the comparison is perhaps a little bit unfair because a sonnet written by a machine will be better appreciated by another machine.”-Alan Turing 1949 (Grudin, J 2009).

## Introduction

In this individual assignment I am going to explore three different topics within the vast field of AI:

- Concepts, definition and history of interaction with AI.
- Human Robot Interaction.
- Universal Design and Interaction with AI

These three topics will be in three sections. In the first section I will look at different concepts, definitions and take a deep dive into the history of interaction with AI. In the second section I will look at robots and AI systems where I will discuss the relation between the two. Is there a difference between “a robot” and “an AI”? And for the last section I will look at the topic of universal design in relation to AI.

## **Concepts, definition and history of interaction with AI**

### The history of AI

The history of AI and how it came to be had a lot of different contributors. At the very beginning of this text I added a citation from a paper Alan Turing wrote in the London Times in 1949 where he talks about the possibility of computers entering the fields normally covered by the human intellect and eventually competing on equal terms. One year later Turing’s “Computing Machinery and Intelligence,” were published, just as Claude Shannon’s “Programming a computer for Playing Chess” and Isaac Asimov’s *I, Robot* (Grudin, J 2009). In the late 1940s and the early 1950s the Macy Foundation sponsored a series of conferences where they brought together leading mathematicians, psychologists, and social scientists where they discussed topics such as cybernetics (Grudin, J 2009). As we can see there were a lot of different papers written and conferences held that helped shape the concept of AI. The actual term *artificial intelligence*

didn't appear before in 1956 as a call for participation in a workshop written by John McCarthy. The field has ever since attracted more and more attention, and evolved to the point it is as of today.

## Definitions of AI

In AI Magazine in 1987 Roger C. Shank wrote: "What AI is depends heavily on the goals of the researchers involved, and any definition of AI is dependent upon the methods that are being employed in building AI models. Last, of course, it is a question of results."

Later in the article Shank gives his own definition of AI: "AI is the science of endowing programs with the ability to change themselves for the better as a result of their own experiences" (Roger C. Shank 1987).

If we look at another example closer to our time in an article written by Internet Society they state that traditional AI refers to "an artificial creation of human-like intelligence that can learn, reason, plan, perceive, or process natural language." (Internet Society 2017). They also write that Artificial intelligence is further defined as "narrow AI" or "general AI". In which they say Narrow AI is designed to perform specific tasks within a domain whereas General AI is hypothetical and not domain specific but can learn and perform tasks anywhere.

Both definitions come from communities with very technical backgrounds. To get another perspective I looked into the humanitarian perspective regarding the topic of AI. I read a text written by *Psychology Today* where they defined AI as "the ability of computers to perform human-like feats of cognition including learning, problem-solving, perception, decision-making, and speech and language." (Psychology Today 2019). From reading this I could see that the definition of AI were similar across the different fields computer science and psychology.

Looking at these different definitions I can see some similarities and some differences between them all. Based on my own understanding of the topic my definition of AI is as follows: "Artificial Intelligence refers to a computer being able to simulate understanding based on cognition". To explain my definition, I must separate it into two parts, the first being the "simulating understanding" and the second being "based on cognition".

So, what do I mean by "simulating understanding"? Well if we look at how the computer works, it takes in input in the form of data. It does not have the same understanding(cognition) of its surroundings as us humans. But if it is able to simulate understanding to a certain level as to where we humans perceive the computer as intelligent or "thinking as a human" that is when it has successfully created an artificial intelligence. If it had real understanding, we would not have had the need to create the term Artificial Intelligence because it would just be Intelligence.

To explain the second part "based on cognition" we need to look at the word cognition. Cognition is defined by Lexico (Oxford dictionary 2019) as "*The mental action or process of acquiring knowledge and understanding through thought, experience, and the senses.*". So, what I mean by "based on cognition" is that for a computer to simulate understanding it must be able

to process the information it takes in as input and learn from it. It will not do it the same way as us humans but for it is to be perceived as an “Intelligent being” it also must simulate cognitive thinking to some degree. If it is able to do this it will directly affect the perception of understanding.

## Apple

According to thomasnet.com apple is the biggest artificial intelligence software company in the world. I did some more research into apple and found “Apple machine learning journal” where they have documentation on their projects relating to AI. If we take Siri as an example, from the documentation on their page about Siri (links to the page will be in the section “Further reading” down below) we can see that Siri is presented as a service to help users do different tasks while using Apple’s products such as the Iphone. This goes for other “AI software” they have as well. They do different services to support the user in using their products, this can be for example text recognition or facial recognition.

## Her

For a movie to describe I have chosen the movie “Her” directed by Spike Jonze. The way in which the human interaction with AI is portrayed in this work is through a fictional world where humans have created artificial intelligent virtual assistants. The movie shows a relationship between a lonely writer and his virtual assistant. What is interesting about this movie is how their relationship develops and how real feelings get involved when it gets hard for the main character to differentiate a computer from reality. The movie plays with the concept of the “Turing test” (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy 2016) which I find really interesting.

## **Robots and AI systems**

**"I can't define a robot, but I know one when I see one."**

~ Joseph Engelberger

The word “robot”

The very first appearance of the word “robot” was in 1921 in Karel Capek’s play R.U.R., or Rossum’s Universal Robots. “Robot” comes from the Czech for “forces labor” (Matt Simon 2018).

## Definitions of Robot

There were a few different definitions of “robot” that I looked at and I ended up choosing Hans Peter Moravec’s definition:

“Robot, any automatically operated machine that replaces human effort, though it may not resemble human beings in appearance or perform functions in a humanlike manner.” (2019)

What he means by this is that a robot is a machine that will work independently from humans with the help of automation doing tasks previously done by humans. Even though it replaces human effort it does not mean it needs to resemble human appearance or that it is able to perform functions in similar way to humans.

I also chose the definition Leo Center for Service Robotics uses in their article “DEFINING ROBOTS AND ROBOTICS”:

"A robot is an actuated mechanism programmable in two or more axes with a degree of autonomy, moving within its environment, to perform intended tasks. Autonomy in this context means the ability to perform intended tasks based on current state and sensing, without human intervention."

But later in the article they write:

This is the most frequently used definition of a robot. You may sense that this definition does leave room for interpretation.

-a degree of autonomy - What amount is a degree?

-Intended tasks - intended by whom? The programmer, the end user, the robot?

-moving within its environment - What qualifies as 'environment'? Does a virtual agent moving through its software environment qualify?

-without human intervention - If a human is needed to 'intervene' does that disqualify an object as a robot? (Leo Center for Service Robotics 2019)

What I found interesting about this definition is that they picked it apart and criticized it themselves. This definition is a very general definition that as Leo Center for Service Robotics says, “leaves room for interpretation”. What the definition says is that a robot is some sort of mechanism that can be programmed so that it will work autonomously (being able to do tasks without human intervention).

With my own definition I will try to simplify it: “A robot is a machine that is programmed to be able to perform tasks without the help of humans if the right conditions are met”. What I mean by this definition is that a robot is programmed to operate/perform a task independently, but

under some conditions robots cannot operate without any intervention from humans. An example of this would be to compare a robot in a factory vs a lawn mower robot. In the factory the perfect conditions are met so the robot is able to work autonomously without any human intervention. In the case of the lawn mower robot the robot would need a human to intervene if for example a tree in the garden fell onto the lawn. The robot is blocked by the tree and no longer able to perform its task before a human removes the tree. In a perfect world every robot would be able to do the task they are programmed to do, but as of today that is not the case in many scenarios.

## Robots and AI relations

I will state that robots and AI has similarities but is not the same. They are similar in the way that they want to be able to perform tasks on a “human level” independently from human interaction, but robots do not necessarily need to inhabit signs of artificial intelligence to perform autonomous tasks. The same goes for the AI, it does not have to be autonomous to be conceived as an artificial intelligence. Both parts have limits that can be mitigated to some degree by combining both entities, if we create a robot with artificial intelligence. If we look at my definition of a robot “A robot is a machine that is programmed to be able to perform tasks without the help of humans if the right conditions are met”. This is achievable without any AI being a part of it. The same goes for AI that can function as a software not needing the autonomous machinery that would classify it as a robot.

## The Mavic 2

I wanted to present a commercial robot the Mavic 2. This robot is a drone and it moves in aerial-space by the help of propellers. It has sensors to help it dodge obstacles. The interaction with the Mavic 2 goes through their own app software. You control it with your phone connected to the Mavic’s controller. You can either remote control it or you can set it to trace mode. In this mode the user will decide on an object by drawing a square around an object on the phone within the Mavic’s “vision”. The Mavic will then follow this object as it moves keeping a set distance.

# **Universal design and AI systems**

## Definition of universal design

“Universal Design is the design and composition of an environment so that it can be accessed, understood and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size, ability or disability.” This is a definition by the National Disability Authority on universal design (2019). What it means is that universal design is about the creation of design that includes everyone regardless of factors that would differentiate them from the “norm”. My understanding

of universal design is that it is a set of guidelines for inclusivity. Everything we create should be available to every person and by incorporating universal design we get one step closer to an inclusive society.

Potential of AI with respect to human perception, human movement and human cognition/emotions

With all the work that is being done within the field of AI there is a lot of potential with respect to these different topics and there are a lot of examples. Affectiva has presented Human Perception AI. The possibilities here lie in the AI abilities to detect emotions that can be used in social robots, or you can detect attention that can save people from road accidents. With movement you now have artificial intelligent assistants with voice recognition helping users do tasks by only speech, making them able to do tasks that previously required movement. When it comes to cognition/emotions I want to bring back the example of social robots but you also have therapeutical robots like PARO the seal that help people with dementia.

The potential of AI for including and excluding people.

AI has a big potential when it comes to including users. Tasks that users were not able to do excluding them from using certain software/products have been made easier by the help of AI. For example, by making it possible for a user to do commands by voice instead of using “hands on” interaction. But AI also carries the potential of excluding people. One big example of this is some of the facial recognition software that could not detect the faces of African-Americans or other dark skin people. To mitigate the exclusion in AI we have to create AI with inclusion in mind. The principles of universal design should also be in the center when we create AI-products.

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