

# Artificial Intelligence and the Metaphysics of Mind

Ray Kurzweil and others have suggested that computers will very soon exhibit Artificial General Intelligence (AGI). AGI implies that the systems will not be domain-specific (like chess-playing systems) but can adapt to a wide range of contexts. Few would dispute that these systems will solve problems which unaided humans could only solve by using their intelligence, and that the AGI systems will often be faster and more accurate. If one wants to call this ability “intelligence,” then doubtless AGI systems are intelligent. But this impressive progress does nothing to bridge the chasm between computers and the metaphysics of mind. The human mind has a number of *intrinsic* characteristics, such as subjectivity, intentionality, teleology, and rationality, which a computer can only simulate. If one defines “intelligence” in terms of a subject’s capacity to seek out and acquire knowledge of the real world, then I see no reason to think that the most sophisticated AGI system is a substantial advance on a pocket calculator.

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## I. Artificial Intelligence

### A. AI paradigms

1. Weak AI
2. Strong AI

### B. Artificial General Intelligence (AGI)

1. As a major advance in Weak AI
2. As the final breakthrough in Strong AI?

## II. What do we mean by Intelligence?

### A. *Operational* or “Turing-test” intelligence

1. The system solves problems which humans require intelligence to solve

2. Limitations of operational intelligence

#### B. *Intrinsic* intelligence

1. Requires a *subject* with *goals* that can be credited with *understanding* the problem and using its own *reason* and creativity to solve it
2. If Strong AGI is to succeed, it must generate such a subject

### III. The Metaphysics of Mind

#### A. Characteristics of intrinsic intelligence

1. Subjectivity
2. Intentionality
3. Teleology
4. Rationality

#### B. Why AGI will not have intrinsic intelligence

1. The simplicity of mental subjects
2. Intentionality is non-physical
3. Teleology is absent in AGI systems
4. Mirroring reason is not the same as reasoning

#### ***Suggested Readings:***

- Bostrom, Nick. 2014. *Superintelligence: Paths, Danger, Strategies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Kurzweil, Ray. 2006. *The Singularity is Near: When Humans Transcend Biology*. New York: Penguin Books.
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