

"Human Society and AI – How is our Co-Existence possible based on irrefutable Truth and general Good?"

Mag. Dr. Walter Karban KoPhil Vienna Feb. 27th 2026

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The Myth of the Machine

Between Mathematical Determinism and Economic Hype

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Going back in History

AI Research Timeline

- Research on AI since the 1940s
- **Alan Turing (1950):** "The Imitation Game"
- **Marvin Minsky (1952):** SNARC - **S**tochastic **N**eural **A**nalog **R**einforcement **C**alculator
- **John McCarthy:** Coined the term "Artificial Intelligence" (1955/1956)
Dartmouth Conference (1956): Funding proposal to the Rockefeller Foundation (1955)
- **John Searle (1980):** "Chinese Room" thought experiment
- **Hans Moravec (1988):** Moravec's Paradox

I.—COMPUTING MACHINERY AND INTELLIGENCE

BY A. M. TURING

The Chinese Room

by John Searle

excerpted from: *Minds, Brains, and Programs* (1980)

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going back in History

Going back in History

Mathematical Foundations & Mechanical Calculation

- **Pierre-Simon Laplace 1814**

Laplace's demon - causal determinism

- **Thomas Bayes**

Calculation of conditional probabilities.

These mathematical foundations are the bedrock of modern Bayesian inference and machine learning algorithms. Published posthumously **1763**

- **Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz**

He was arguing in **1685** that brilliant minds should not waste time on trivial calculations that machines can perform more accurately to highlight the value of his invention of a mechanical calculator

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The Spectrum of AI

From Reactive to Self-Aware

- Reactive AI
- Limited Memory AI
- Weak AI — current systems belong to this domain
-
- Artificial General Intelligence
- AI with Self-Awareness

The myth begins when we mix these categories.

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Actual Models

LLMs and Diffusion

- **LLMs** are essentially a "next-token predictor."
A LLM does not know how to drive a car or physically interact with the world; it is mapped to the domain of **language and symbols**.
- **Diffusion Models** operate in the domain of **visual data**.
They are specialized in "denoising" random pixels into a coherent image.

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Large Language Models

The Function of a GPT (LLM)

- **Step 1: Tokenization**

it breaks the given text (prompt) into small chunks called tokens (parts of words, punctuation, or numbers)

- **Step 2: The Transformer**

It looks at every token in the prompt simultaneously to find the context

- **Step 3: Statistical Prediction**

based on its massive training data (high-dimensional vector space of tokens), the model calculates the **mathematical probability** of the next token.

Many researchers consider LLMs to be **the first spark of AGI.**

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Large Language Models

The Function of a GPT (LLM)

- the Tokenization

Tokenized text:

Text Token IDs

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Tokenized text:

Text Token IDs

48426, 18866, 326, 20837, 1127, 3253, 382, 1039, 4642, 12,
26900, 1082, 4149, 4122, 402, 3288, 1874, 40725, 47310,
326, 5985, 9700, 30

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Economy of Attention

The Economic Hype

- **AI as Marketing Term**

the term 'AI' often is used as a 'magic dust' to sprinkle over products to boost stock valuations

- **The Economy of Attention**

In a world of infinite information, the scarcest resource is human focus

- **Investing in a Narrative**

Investors are betting that the cost of not being part of the narrative is too high

- **The Rise of Tech Oligarchs**

with overwhelming economic and political power

the Signs of Correction

- **the Persistence of Hallucinations**

A study of 300 scientific papers submitted to the ICLR 2026 conference (a top AI conference) found that **50 submissions** contained verified hallucinations, often in the form of fake citations

- **Fact-Checking Debts**

Evaluation on different LLM Models shows 1.8 up to 24.2 percent hallucinations - so fact-checking is becoming a time consuming factor

- **Data Poisoning**

it takes only 250 poisoned documents to create a persistent „backdoor“ in a model

- **Model Collapse**

the internet becomes flooded with AI-generated text (52% of the created webpages in 2025)- so models are trained on the „output“ of AIs = Recursive Degradation

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The Illusion of Logic

AI Lacks Logical Consistency

- **AI is not necessarily logically consistent**

modern AI (like GPT) is **probabilistic**

- **The "Stochastic Parrot" Effect**

AI is "parroting" the *patterns* of human logic it found in its training data

- **Lack of a "World Model"**

Humans have a mental "world model."

- **Sensitivity to "Noise"**

i.e. combining a math problem with irrelevant prompt sentences plummeted the performance of an AI Model by up to 65%

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The Illusion of Mind

Experience vs Data Patterns

- **The "Qualia" of Being**

Human experience is defined by Subjectivity

it is qualitative, holistic and continuous, driven by biological survival
we can understand things we have never seen before

- **Data Patterns**

no intentionality

it is quantitative, does not need to know what the pattern means

- **What about Information then?**

Information can be seen as the process of turning the "complexity" of experience into a "something" of data -

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The Illusion of Mind

John Searle: Chinese Room

The Thought Experiment

Searle's Core Point

The person in the room is exactly like an AI.

- ... **manipulating symbols** based on their shape and syntax.
- ...have **zero understanding** of what the symbols mean (semantics).
- ...are "simulating" a mind, but there is no "experience" of the language.

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The Role of the Observer

The Bridge from Syntax to Semantics

We humans possess a biological drive called **Anthropomorphism**—**we** are designed to see intent, emotion, and life in things that mimic us.

The Observer is the **Meaning-Maker**

The Observer is the **Value Giver**

Consciousness is socially constructed

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The Role of the Observer

The Observer's Paradox

- **Observation as Distinction**

distinction is the act of splitting the observed world/object/thing into two parts—an "inside" and an "outside"—whereby we can only point to one side by simultaneously excluding the other.

- **The Bound Observer**

observing the world from **within** a specific system, our distinctions are strictly dictated by that system's internal structure

- **The Blind Spot**

they cannot see, that they don't see

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The Second Order Observer

Observing the Observer

- **Shift in Focus**

observation of the observation

- **Accountability of the Observer**

You cannot describe a system without describing the properties of the person (or system) making the description.

- **Illuminating the Blind Spot**

the Second-Order Observer is aware of and possibly able to see the first observer's limitations

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The Second Order Observer

The Second Order Observer Observing AI

- **The AI Distinction**

AI does not "understand" truth; it operates on the distinction between Probability and Improbability

- **AI as a "Communication" System**

AI lacks consciousness but excels at **communication**. It is a recursive reflection of human language patterns

- **Structural Coupling with the User and the Model Developer**

AI doesn't exist in a vacuum; it is structurally coupled with the human observer via the „Prompt.“

- **The Algorithmic Blind Spot**

AI's blind spot is the limit of its training set.

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A Possible Solution

Using AI as Second Order Observer

- **on Topics where You are the Expert**
an amplification effect. Using AI in a field you don't know is dangerous
- **Check the Output carefully**
"Trust, but verify" is too simple; it's more like "Suspect, and Validate."
- **Use Technologies where You can Use Your own Data (RAG)**
Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) allows you to ground the AI's "creativity" in a specific "source of truth."
- **Use Different Models**
running the same prompt through different models reveals "model-specific bias."

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Beyond the Myth

The myth of the machine emerges when we project determinism, consciousness, or moral agency onto probabilistic systems.

Artificial Intelligence

can definitely be used as a tool for solving problems
in areas where the final decisions are made by
human experts with second-order observer capabilities.

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Thank You!

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