

From: Jeffrey Epstein <jeevacation@gmail.com>
To: Ben Goertzel <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: why not have the machine take iq tests
Date: Mon, 11 Feb 2013 17:35:51 +0000

put togethr a proposal

On Mon, Feb 11, 2013 at 12:38 PM, Ben Goertzel <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Yeah... the child IQ tests would be a reasonable research focus.... I can see that making an AGI pass these tests would be attention-grabbing in the media, and also scientifically compelling to a certain subset of the community.

I'd have to find a child psychologist willing to actually share some specific test questions; they are cagey about supplying them online or in books for some reason... I guess they don't want parents to coach their tots on the specific questions ;p But that wouldn't be too hard.

Selmer Bringsjord, at RPI, has done some work making robots pass vision and movement oriented IQ tests

<http://www.rpi.edu/dept/NewsComm/Magazine/dec02/atrensselaer/atrensselaer5.html>

[Selmer is an interesting guy btw.... He is a rather good AI researcher, mathematician and cognitive scientist -- yet also a pretty hard-core Christian, who believes human-level AGI is impossible because computers and robots don't have souls !! The capability of the human mind to maintain fundamental contradictions, yet still reason logically in closely related areas, is pretty impressive...]

But Selmer is taking an approach of especially engineering and tuning a system just to pass each specific test.... To me, that is not very interesting.... It's like taking a really dumb kid and spending hundreds of hours coaching the kid on specific sorts of IQ questions that you know he is going to be asked. The child IQ tests could be a good objective for an AGI research project, but only if pursued in the right spirit...

Well ... let me know if you want to fund me and David Hanson to work on making one of his robots pass the child IQ tests ;-/ We could put together a brief proposal in this direction fairly quickly I would suppose. Robot-wise, this would actually just require a torso with hands/arms and a head with eyes & ears; we wouldn't need to worry about locomotion. AI-wise, it's basically the same stuff I'm trying to get done anyway, just a slightly different focus and a clearer evaluation mechanism...

BTW I am back in the US again right now, due to a family emergency.... I could possibly come up to NY again later in the week if you want to

seriously pursue this possibility.... I'll probably be back in Hong Kong by the weekend.

thx ;)
ben

On Mon, Feb 11, 2013 at 11:00 AM, Jeffrey Epstein <jeevacation@gmail.com> wrote:

> it seems to me to be a more explicit well defined goal , you always ask
> what can i show you or others. I thinkg the abiliity to pass a number of iq
> tests for children, would provide focus if not insight

>
>

> On Mon, Feb 11, 2013 at 10:15 AM, Ben Goertzel <[REDACTED]> wrote:

>>

>> Yeah, I have looked at this test before:

>>

>>

>> http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wechsler_Preschool_and_Primary_Scale_of_Intelligence

>>

>> Note that the test items often involve vision and action, not just
>> abstract puzzle solving...

>>

>> Making an OpenCog system do well on this test would be a great
>> objective for a research project....

>>

>> Or, even if that's not the explicit objective of the research, I would
>> imagine that after some more development is done, it will be able to
>> pass those tests automatically...

>>

>> If an AI system first deals with these preschool/primary IQ problems,
>> and then moves on to the more advanced IQ problems -- THEN it will
>> probably be able to deal with the more advanced IQ problems in a more
>> human-like, AGI-ish way, rather than just solving them using very
>> specialized techniques...

>>

>> -- Ben

>>

>>

>> On Mon, Feb 11, 2013 at 9:08 AM, Jeffrey Epstein <jeevacation@gmail.com>
>> wrote:

>> > even iq tests for children. there are enough differnt types of tests

>> > making

>> > the sytem robust

>> >

>> > On Mon, Feb 11, 2013 at 9:59 AM, Ben Goertzel <[REDACTED]> wrote:

>> >>

>> >> Hi,

>> >>

>> >> That's certainly a natural question to ask...

>> >>

>> >> I think one could engineer a system to do really well on current

>> >> written IQ tests, with a couple years' focused work by a small team...

>>>>
>>>> IQ tests are hard for people, because people do them using the same
>>>> abilities they use to do other, more complex and useful tasks.... But
>>>> just as folks have engineered specialized systems for chess and
>>>> Jeopardy, one could engineer a special system for IQ tests...
>>>>
>>>> For example, with rather modest effort, this group engineered a system
>>>> that does well on specific portions of the standard IQ test
>>>>
>>>> <http://www.kurzweilai.net/computer-programs-that-ace-iq-tests>
>>>>
>>>> I believe a similar approach could be taken to each of the other
>>>> portions of the IQ test.... Putting them together, one would then
>>>> have a high-IQ AI system -- without much capability to do anything
>>>> else...
>>>>
>>>> The tests used to measure intelligence of preschoolers are a bit more
>>>> interesting to me, in the sense that they tend to involve intelligent
>>>> engagement in the world, which is harder to "fake" ...
>>>>
>>>> The bottom line is, though, IQ tests are moderately effective for
>>>> humans because they are designed to exploit particular features of the
>>>> human mind. It's hard for humans to pass IQ questions without being
>>>> pretty generally intelligent, but the same wouldn't necessarily be
>>>> true for AI minds...
>>>>
>>>> -- Ben
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> On Mon, Feb 11, 2013 at 6:53 AM, Jeffrey Epstein
>>>> <jeevacation@gmail.com>
>>>> wrote:
>>>> > <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=229ehewjdUk>
>>>> >
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>>>> --
>>>> Ben Goertzel, PhD

>>> <http://goertzel.org>

>>>

>>> "My humanity is a constant self-overcoming" -- Friedrich Nietzsche

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>>> Ben Goertzel, PhD

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