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Will AI Outperform Human Beings?

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Artificial Intelligence (AI) has come to be much debated even in the financial world. The foundation of the financial industry is to make loans, but the credit decision for loans has an aspect like seeking for similar patterns through analyzing the past cases. So AI will show its power in such area. Enormous cases like big data, especially those including not only numbers but also character information, are surely unmanageable by human brains. AI which can handle them is just amazing. Now AI has become outperforming the human ability in many fields, but will it outperform human beings sometime in the future?

Maybe not. The question of “will it outperform human beings?” may be too broad and obscure, so I will narrow the focus of the question. In the creative activities of arts and literatures, will AI be able to outwit the human beings?

Perhaps it can create something populist that may be sold easily. In the area of literature, for example, all we need is let it read as many bestselling novels as possible and let it learn from them the patterns of stories and relationships of characters that the readers will favor. The same can be said with the music. AI will be able to create at least the BGM type music that is soothing to our ears.

About a month ago, a morning news program was on the air. After playing a music for a moment, the announcer asked “do you know who composed this music?” While I am not always thinking of AI, I felt by amateur’s intuition that it might be made by AI. It had the soothing characteristics, likely to be surely loved by all, but I never felt touched at all. Can AI create then a touching music if they learn a real essence of art by learning many pieces with strong characteristics? Probably not.

When we get to the essence of music or paintings or literatures, what is laying in the core of thrilling sensations we get from them? What is the driving force for artists to make art? When we are deeply touched by their works, what are we seeing behind the works?

I think it is the author’s enthusiasm for life. The artist Taro Okamoto is reported to have said that “art is an explosion”. Explosion of what? I think it is the strong will to live. You may doubt if the decadent artists and writers that keep trying suicides have such a positive will, but it

is my guess that even when they have a feeling of being extremely bad about themselves, behind the feeling they have a strong zeal to live a better life, which may eventually erupt into a torrent of songs, novels, paintings, or other artistic works. There will be no calculation there for them to try to collect the past hits to find patterns that will be appealing to the public.

It is understandable that there is no way of an artist to adhere to ideal for making a living by occupation. It can't be helped that he will use his skills to produce works that appeal to the world. But that is not the case of such great painters and authors who can wake up the sensitivity on the part of viewers and readers that have not existed in them before. What drives their creative activities is the crying of their own life, not the general acceptance of the world. With a great deal of luck, his crying will create an appreciation style of a new age, and he will be later applauded as a great painter or a great author.

What is the power that creates an appreciation which has not existed before? It is the adherence to the life, the one that only living creatures have. AI has no such adherence. Living creatures will try to kill the other creatures when they have food in front of them only for one. That is the natural ability without being taught or programmed. AI which has no adherence to life cannot make such a cry. There will be no art that touches the heart of people where there is no crying that arises from the bottom of heart.