



Artificial Intelligence & the Existence of God

KRISTEN DAVIS, PH.D.

SENIOR DEVELOPMENT MANAGER IN
FINTECH

FOUNDER OF DOUBTLESS FAITH
MINISTRIES

AI = Evidence of Atheism

"Our ability to create a soul *in silico* will be a litmus test for thousands of years of religious preaching . . . It would be an ultimate and non-disputable triumph of [the] Scientific Revolution."

"If we ourselves can create an artificial soul in silicon matter, the concept of a divine spark in our souls will give way to evolutionary Darwinism once and for all. It will be exactly the answer to the consciousness quest that will end the centuries-old debate on the existence of God."

- Levchuk, "AI Vs. God."

Demistify

Types

What are the diff kinds of technologies that are categorized as AI?

Philosophies

What are the different views of what AI could be or do? How does those compare with tech categories with the same names?

Everyday
Uses

What are some everyday products and services that have AI under the hood?

Types

Software

TechTarget defines software as “a set of instructions, data or programs used to operate computers and execute specific tasks. . . . Software is a generic term used to refer to applications, scripts and programs that run on a device. It can be thought of as the variable part of a computer.”

Hardware

That in which software is seat. Software requires hardware in order to run.

Philosophies of AI

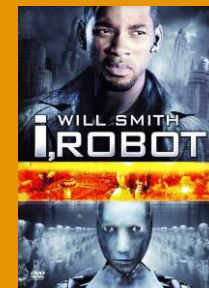
Narrow



General



Super



Everyday Uses



Suggested movies,
shows, music
(Netflix, Hulu, Prime
Video, Pandora,
YouTube, etc.)



Suggested shopping
(Based on your
purchase we think
you'll like...)



Alexa, Google
Assistant, Siri



Maps & Navigation
Apps



Text Editors, Auto
Correct, Search
Engines

Philosophies of AI

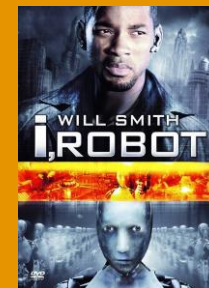
Narrow



General



Super



AI is not Evidence of Atheism

AI requires a mind
for its origin

AI is not alive

AI is not aiming at
human equivalence

AI requires *engineering* and
design

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Therefore, it cannot be
evidence of *natural* selection

Equivocation of Terms

"Since the Big Bang, the Universe has been in constant evolution and continuous transformation. First, there were physical and chemical processes, then biological evolution and finally now technological evolution."

- José Luis Cordeiro, "From Biological to Technological Evolution," 86.



Equivocation of Terms

"It is argued that **natural selection** with trial and error can now be substituted by **technical selection with engineering design**. Humanity's monopoly as the only advanced sentient life form on the planet will soon come to an end, when replaced by a number of posthuman incarnations, including enhanced humans, transhumans, robots and cyborgs, as we approach a technological singularity. How we **re-engineer ourselves** could fundamentally change the ways in which our society functions, while raising crucial questions about our identities and moral status as human beings. "

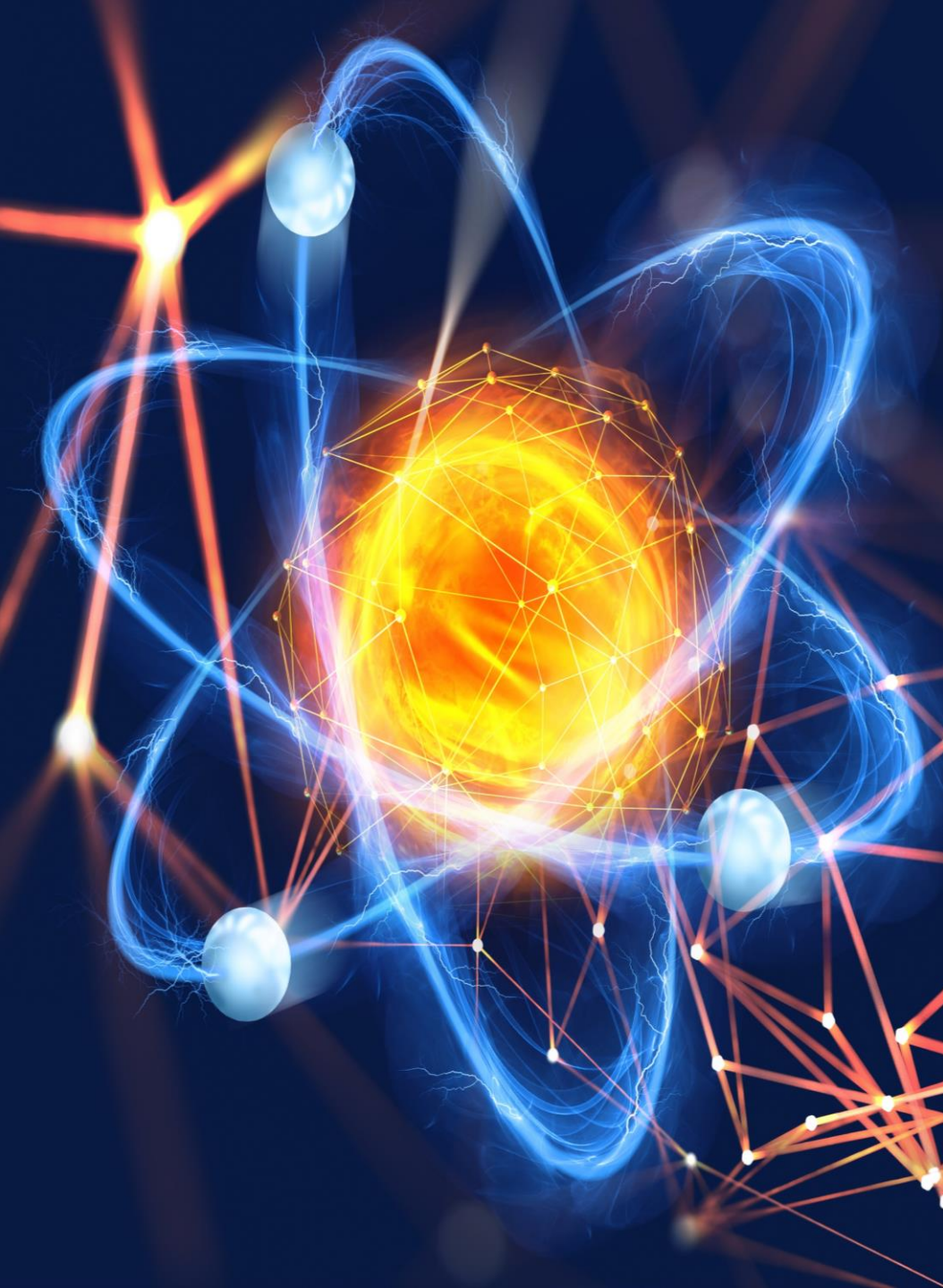


AI requires a *mind* for its
origin

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Therefore, it cannot be
evidence of *random* origins

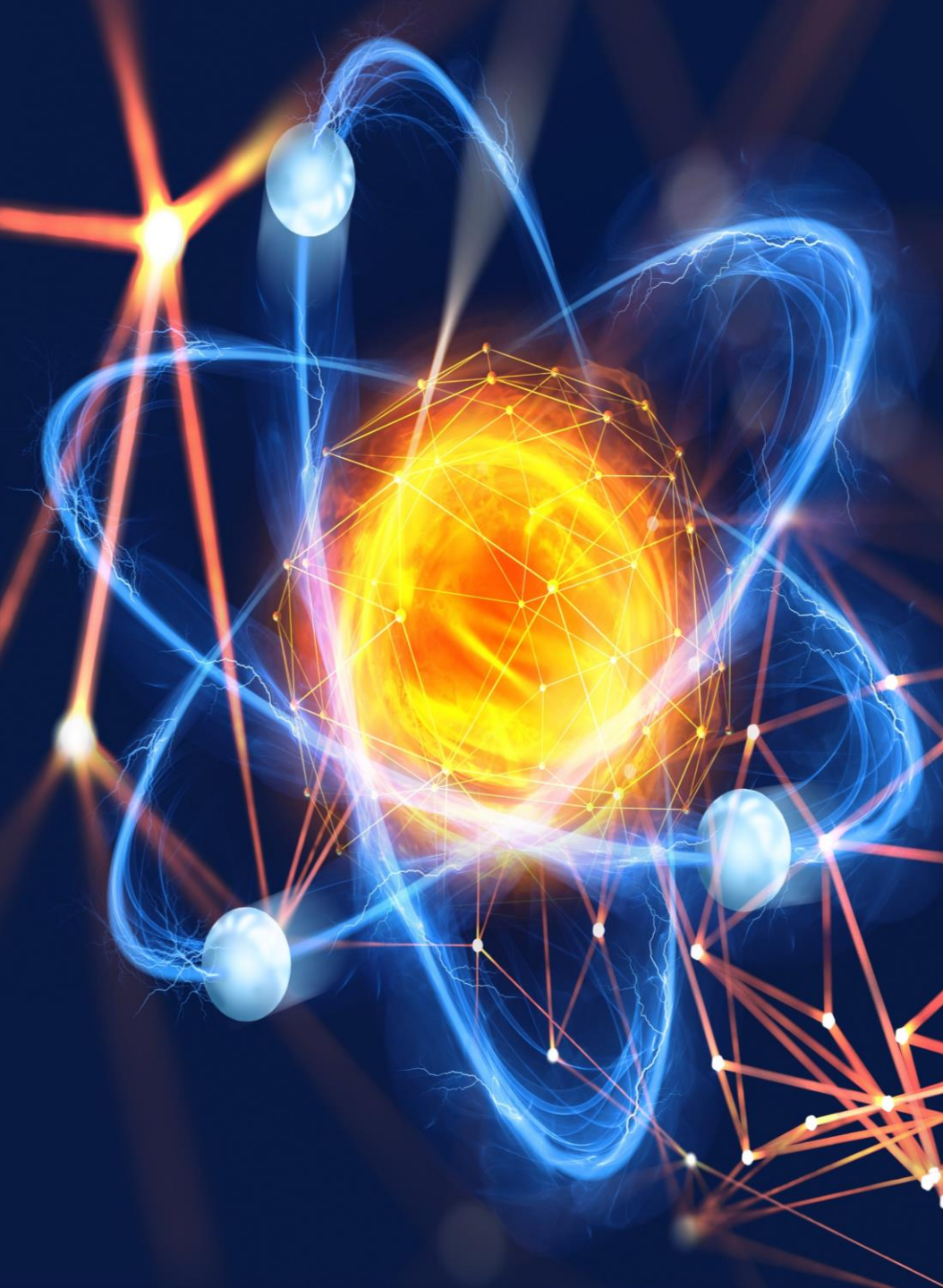
AI is not Alive



Artificial Life

"The 'hard' (hardware) Alife is primarily a conceptually sophisticated program of robotics. Its most traditional and extended approach is historically linked with the theory of control systems and communication, and more recently with the artificial intelligence program."

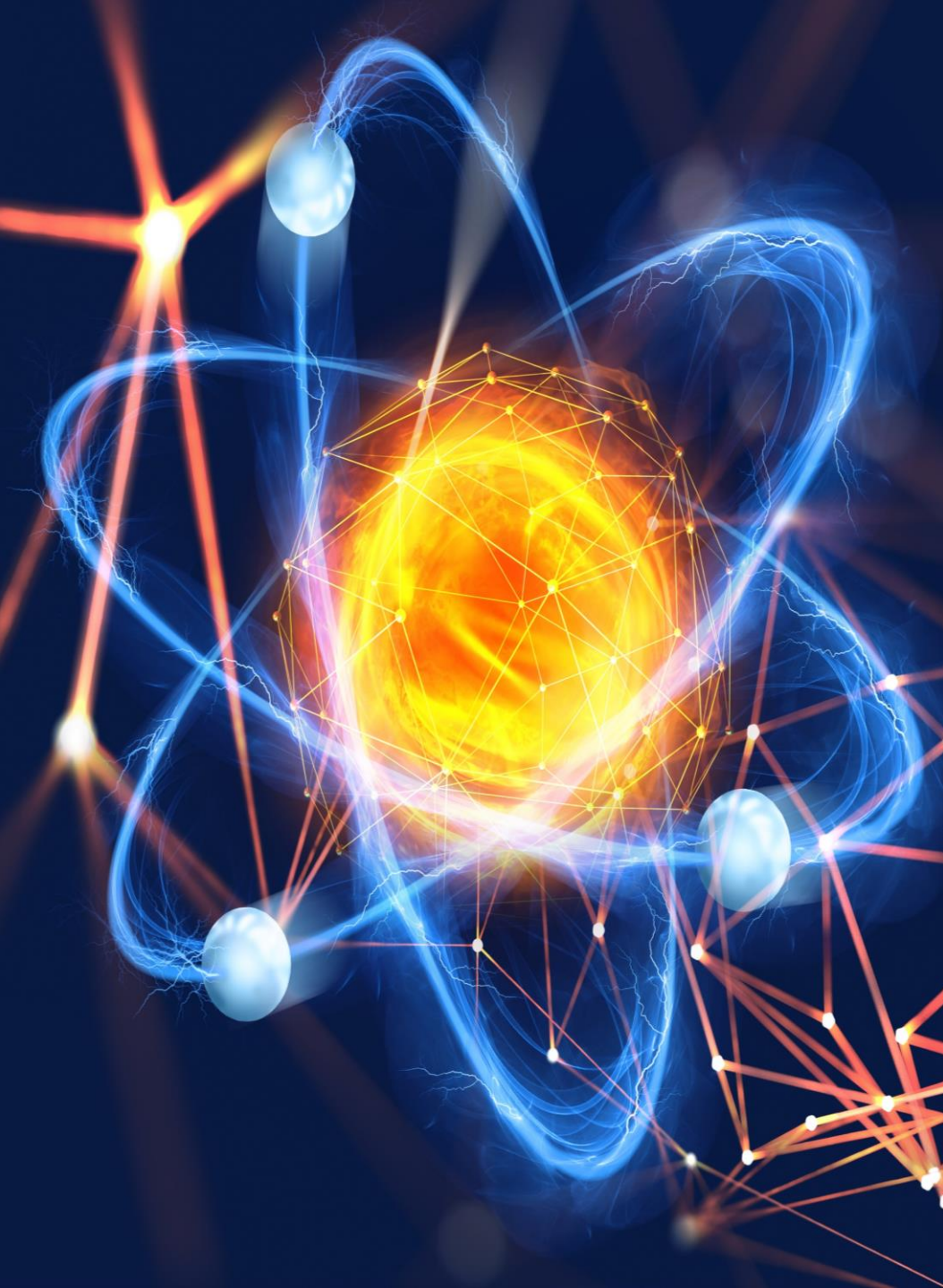
- Juan Eduardo Carreño, "The Possibility of an Artificial Living Being in the Light of the Philosophy of Thomas Aquinas," 640.



Artificial Life

"The classical approach, [which is] closely linked to the 'artificial intelligence program', has always had as its central objective the development of **robotic systems endowed with autonomy**, which is understood, in this context, as the **ability of a system for moving and interacting with its environment** without relying on the remote."

- Juan Eduardo Carreño, "The Possibility of an Artificial Living Being in the Light of the Philosophy of Thomas Aquinas," 640.

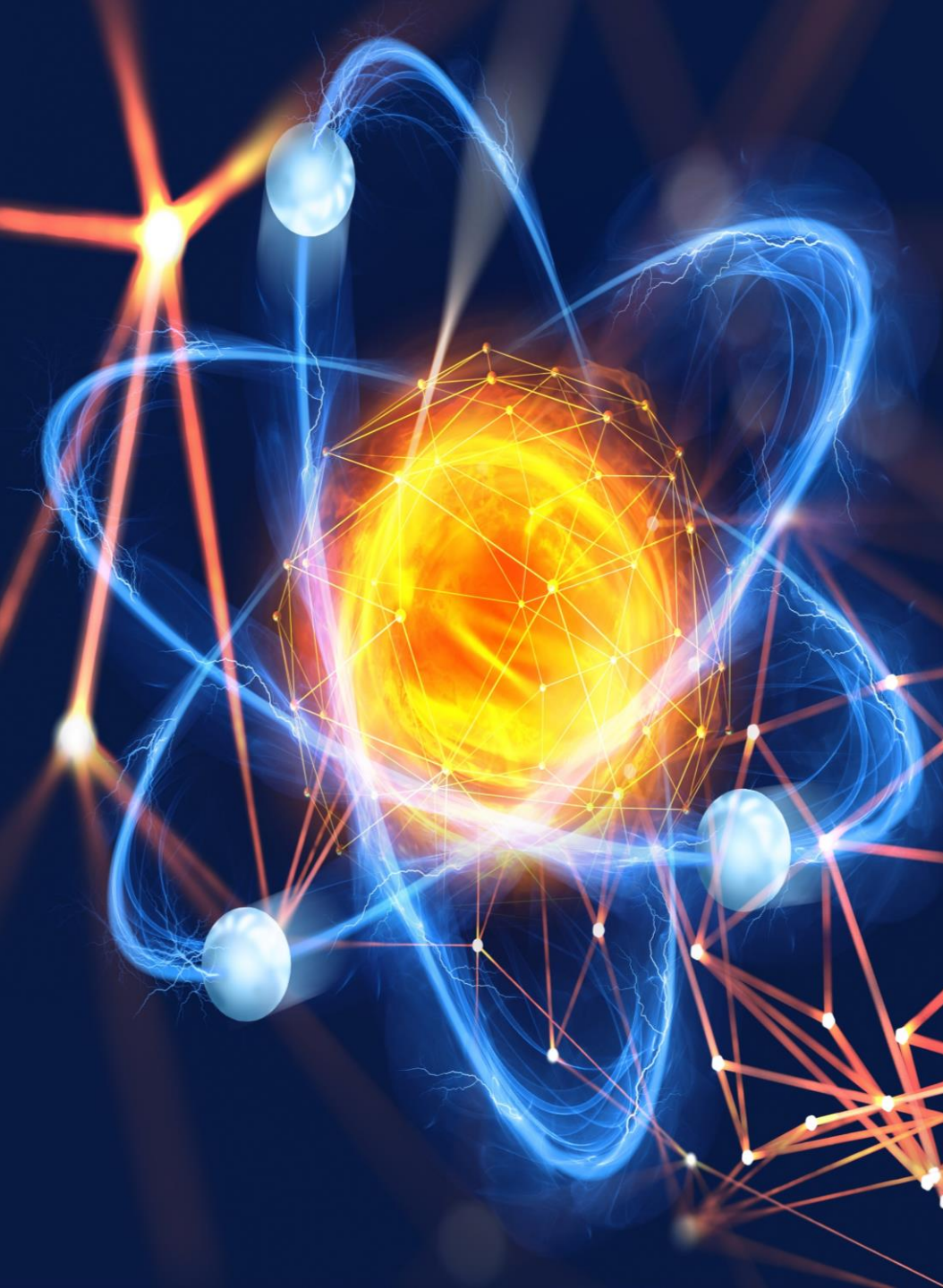


Life

"First of all we must treat of **nutrition** and **reproduction**, for the nutritive soul is found along with all the others and is the most primitive and widely distributed power of soul, being indeed that one in virtue of which all are said to have life."

"This power of **self-nutrition** can be isolated from the other powers mentioned, but not they from it-in mortal beings at least."

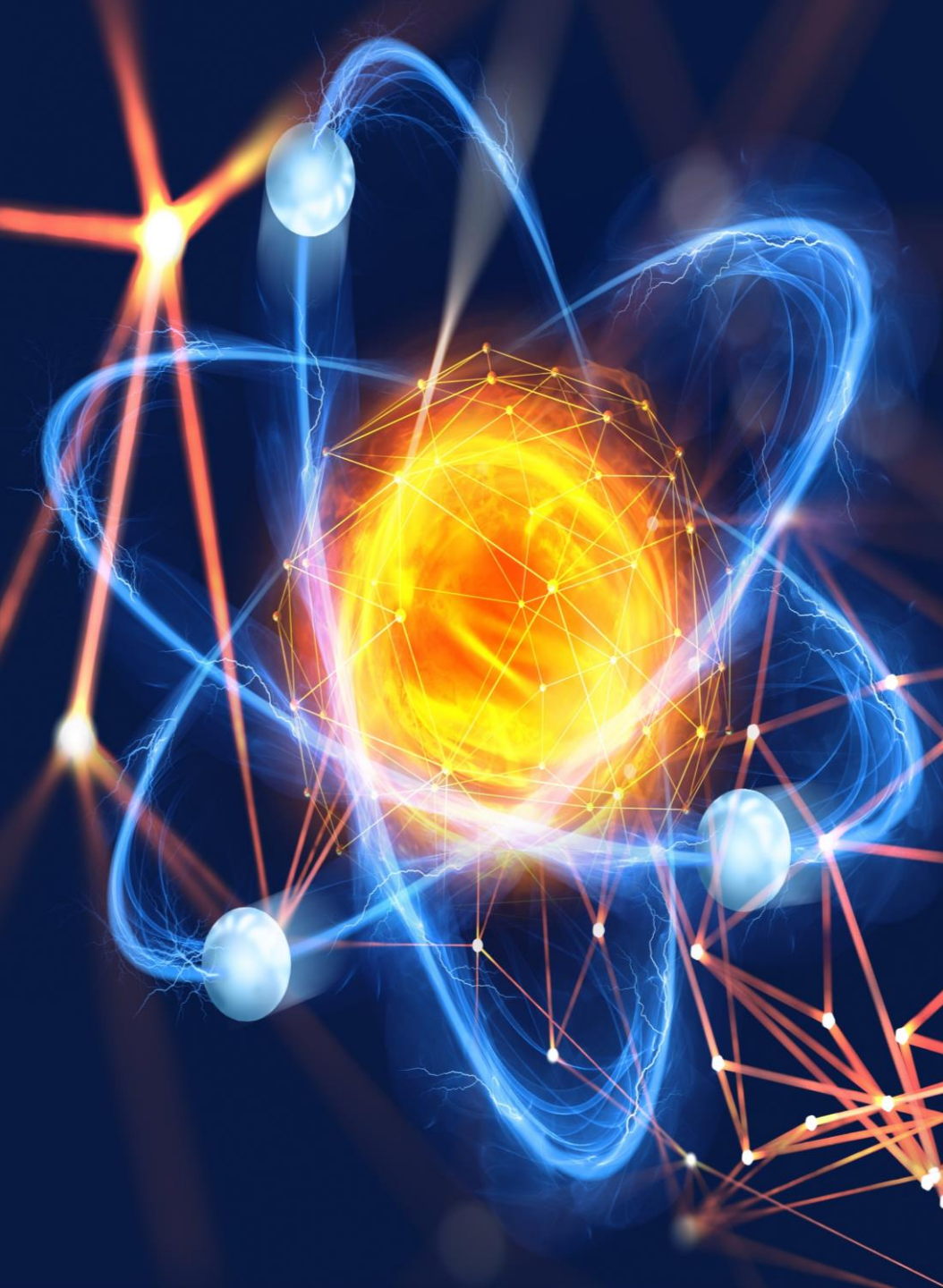
- Aristotle, DA II.4.



Without Life there is no Soul

“To seek the nature of the soul, we must premise that the soul is defined as the first principle of life of those things which live: for we call living things ‘animate,’ and those things which have no life, ‘inanimate.’”

- Aquinas, ST Ia.75.1



Silicon Cannot Support Life

"Carbon di-oxide is soluble in water and air which means that when a cell breaks down organic materials and creates the waste products of CO₂ and water the CO₂ can diffuse away from the cell into the atmosphere and it is a natural waste removal system. If a life form is based on silicon the oxidation product is silicon-dioxide which is a solid material and so that would kill the cell before it could even function there would be so much debris that would accumulate inside the cell that if life was based on silicon life wouldn't be possible because there would be no way to remove that waste."

- Fazale Rana, "Is it Possible for Life to be Based on Silicon?"



Environment Navigation \neq Life

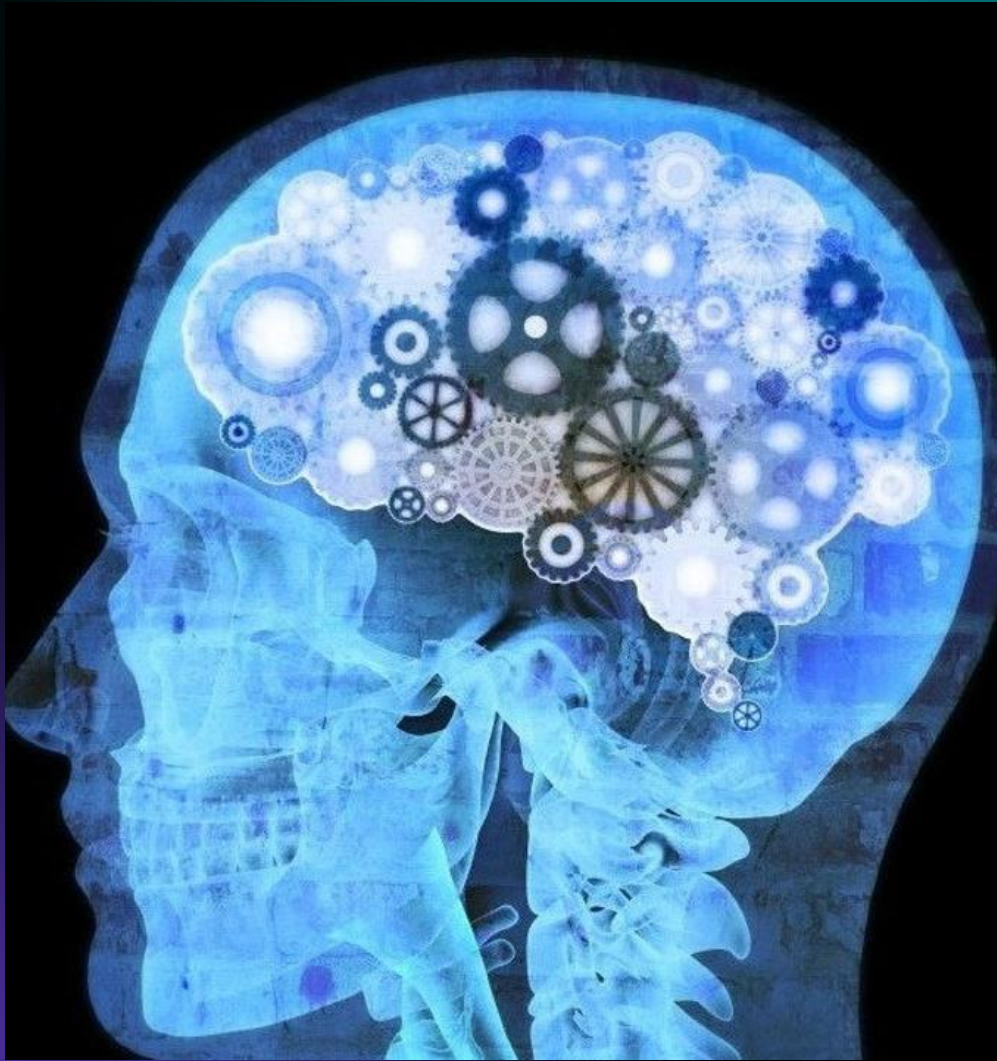
- Cognition
- Desire (Appetites)
- Action

AI is not Alive

AI is not aiming at human
equivalence

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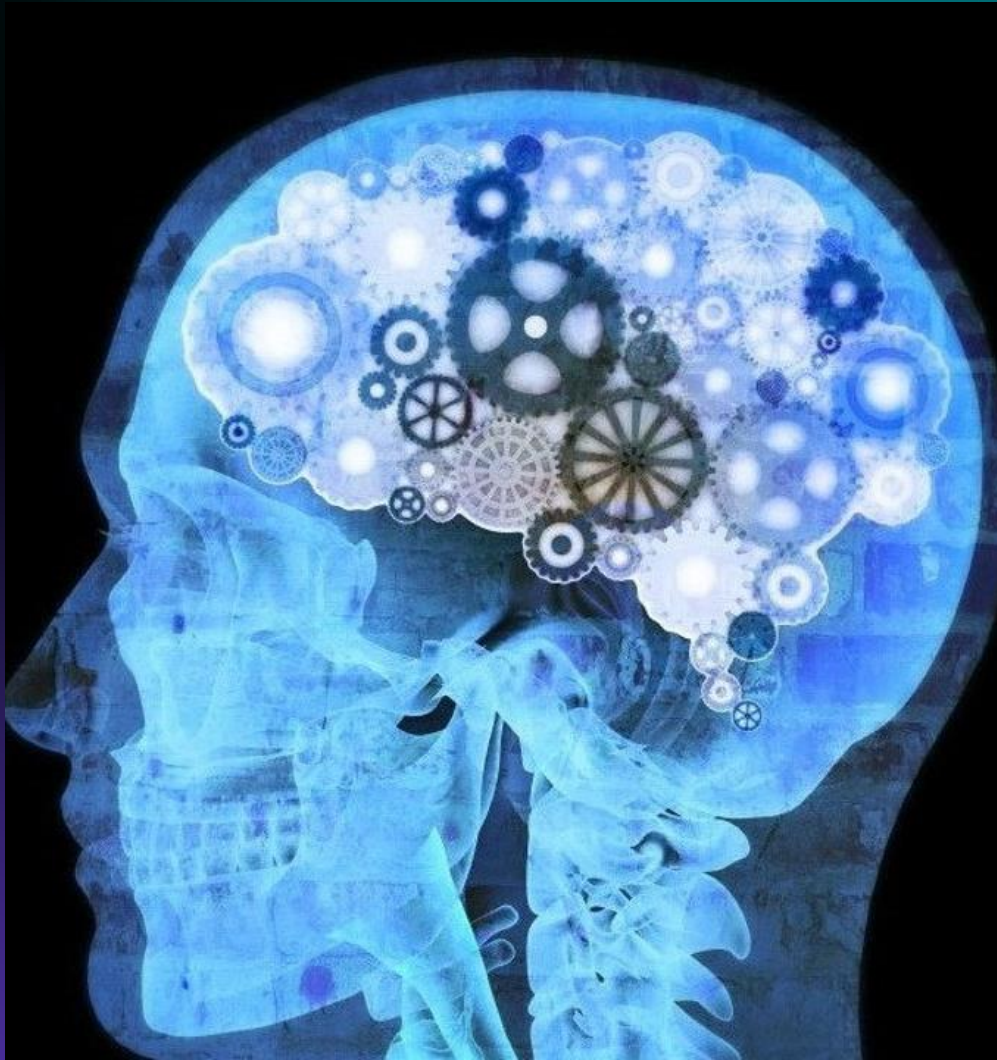
just human *action*
equivalence



Reverse Engineer Consciousness

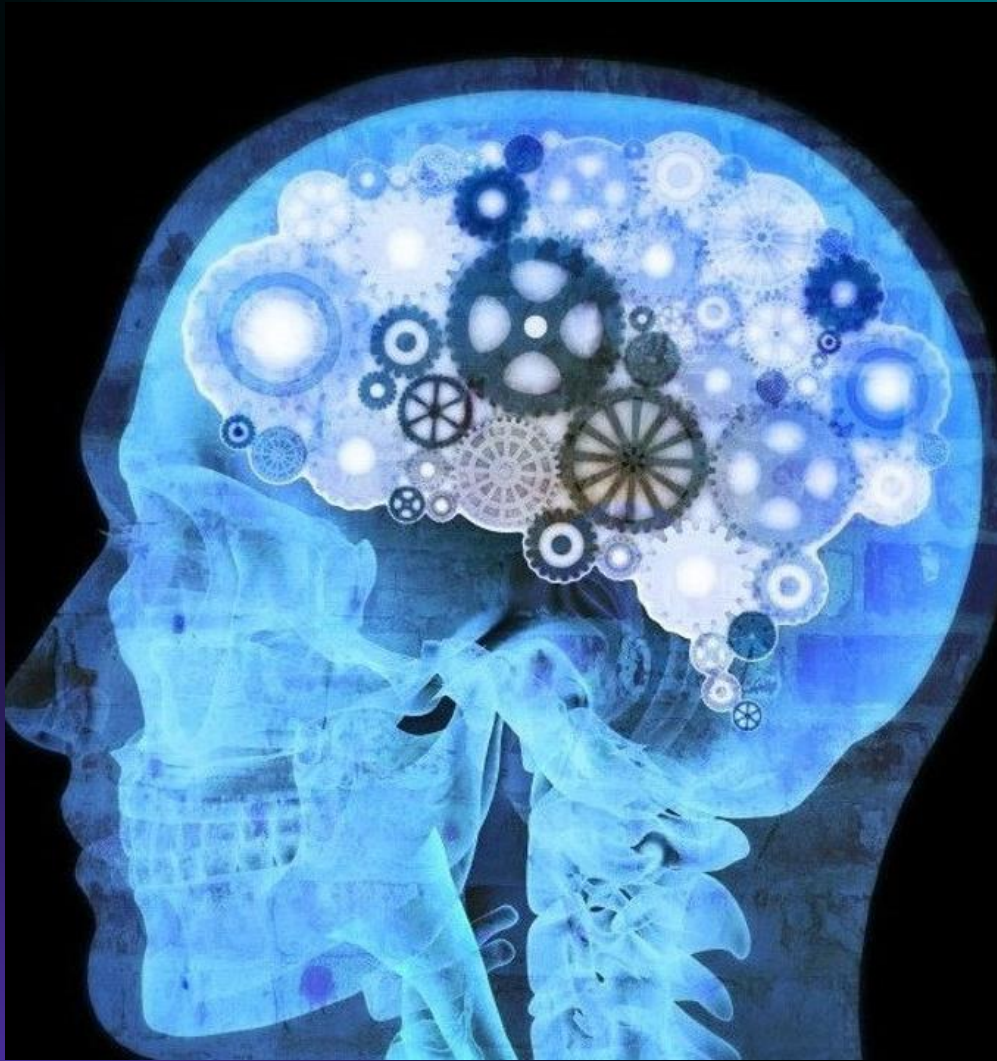
"Now, we are, in a sense, artefacts (and I mean that in the good sense of the term). We have been created by the process of evolution, both genetic and cultural. And what we're now trying to do [in relation to consciousness studies] is to reverse engineer ourselves, to understand what kind of a machine we are that this [consciousness] can be true of us."

- Interview with Daniel Dennett in Susan Blackmore, *Conversations on Consciousness* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005), 80



Mind = Brain

“Uploading refers to the use of technology to transfer a human mind to a computer. This would involve the following steps: First, create a sufficiently detailed scan of a particular human brain, perhaps by feeding vitrified brain tissue into an array of powerful microscopes for automatic slicing and scanning. Second, from this scanning data, use automatic image processing to reconstruct the 3- dimensional neuronal network that implemented cognition in the original brain, and combine this map with neurocomputational models of the different types of. . .



Mind = Brain

... neurons contained in the network. Third, emulate the whole computational structure on a powerful supercomputer (or cluster). If successful, the procedure would be a qualitative reproduction of the original mind, with memory and personality intact, onto a computer where it would now exist as software."

-Nick Bostrom in "The Future of Humanity

Philosopher University of Oxford

Director of the Future of Humanity Institute



Subjective Experience not part of the Goal

Hale says that he does "not assume that general AI requires human-like subjective experiences, such as pain and happiness."

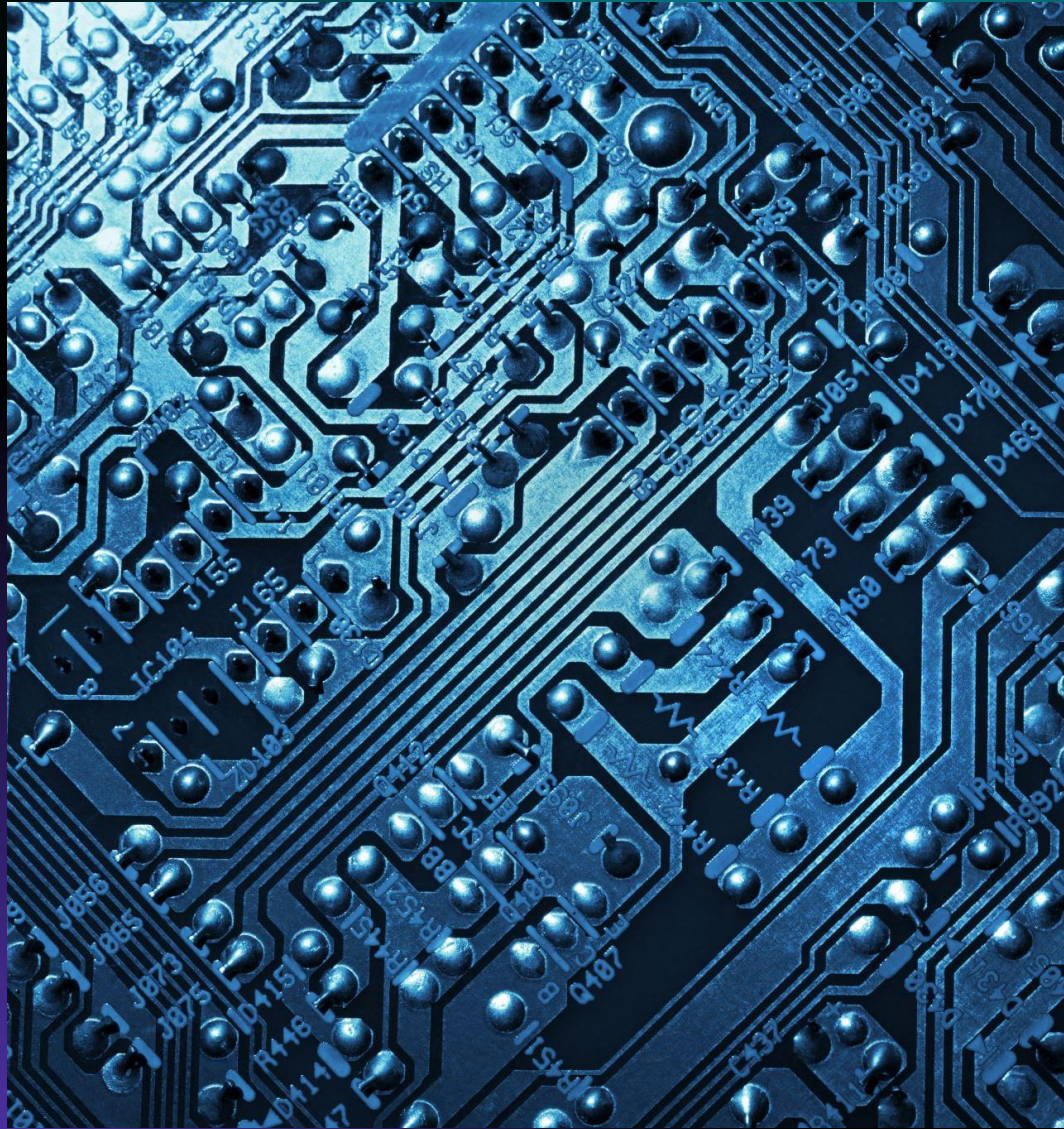
- Hale, "A Thousand Brains," 7.



Intelligence \neq Computation

In describing AI research, McCarthy says, that AI "is the science and engineering of making intelligent machines, especially intelligent computer programs."

"Intelligence is the computational part of the ability to achieve goals in the world."



Rationality is more than Logic

1. Demonstrable conclusions of which a denial would be a denial of first principles
2. Intelligible things which do not have a necessary connection to first principles.



Environment Engagement & Navigation != Self-Determination

“Her, compared with Greco-Roman religion, alerts us to the fact that the problem of control of our created gods is not a new question. Religion has wrestled with this question for millennia. The question now, however, returns with a vengeance in discussions of superintelligent A.G.I. While the monotheistic tradition of Apocalyptic A.I. has either envisioned the result of this as the creation of a savior (positive Apocalyptic A.I.) or as a demon to be battled (negative Apocalyptic A.I.), Her’s henotheistic tradition envisions a friendly divinity but still does not answer the question of control.”

- Randall Reed

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www.doubtlessfaith.com