Artificial Intelligence as a Divorce between Agency and Intelligence and its Ethical Consequences

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Abstract

Our technologies are perfectly evolved to take advantage of the digital realities within which they operate, like mangroves growing in brackish water. And in the infosphere, new forms of autonomous and adaptive agency (Artificial intelligence, AI) are evolving. In this talk, I shall present the nature and success of AI not in terms of a marriage between some degree of biological intelligence and engineered artefacts but as a divorce between *agency*, as the ability to perform a task to fulfil a goal successfully, and any *intelligence* that needs to be exercised in doing so. I shall then discuss and dismiss some sci-fi scenarios that AI will not bring about, and focus on the ethical challenges that are really posed by this divorce, presenting recent work done on how we may deal with them, in terms of an ethical framework for AI and a new marriage, between the *green* of our societal and ecological problems and the (electric) *blue* of our digital solutions.