The Future of the Human Machine: Emotions

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The source

This presentation is based on my book: 
”Ihmiskoneen tulevaisuus” (The Future of 
the Human Machine), in Finnish, WSOY 
2005).
Anti-dualism

• I want to argue that humans are machines and that the post-human world can be understood accordingly.
• This goes against religious dualism: mind and body, soul and matter. In other words: mind is soul and body is matter.
• I don’t know if body is matter, but if a human being is a machine, he/she cannot have a soul.
Two types of machines

• Therefore, the human future is that of machines. We are now discussing technological matters.

• *Natural* machines and *technological* (man made) machines are possible.

• Before technology develops, we cannot say what a human being is. We miss a crucial, defining metaphor, and later a simile (analogue) and identification.
History of ideas

• La Mettrie said that “man is a machine” (17??).
• This was truly scandalous.
• What was his argument like?
• What could the argument for this type of a claim be like?
Cyborgs and androids

- The argument is:
  - the artificial machine works (Turing test)
  - everything can be explained scientifically (how it works)
  - analogous technological machines can be found or created.

- This is to say that a technological human being is possible.

- Let us call it “cyborg” or “android”.
Why analogy?

• The post-human androids must be somehow *analogous* to natural humans, if they are going to have *emotions*.
• These machines cannot just produce the same results as the humans do.
Four difficulties

• Four difficulties exist:
  - Moral (we love our genetic heritage)
  - Motion (difficult to replicate)
  - Meaning (Searle’s “Chinese Room”)
  - Emotions

• Cognitions are easier.
• Let us discuss emotions:
  - think of Moravec’s suggestion
    - where does he put emotions?
  - the minimal def. of emotions:
    - bodily component
    - feeling tone
    - belief (cognitive component)
    - social significance
Problems

• All these present special problems:
  - an emotion needs its body (this can be made)
  - body/brain needs (self) consciousness (these processes present a conceptual riddle)
  - cognitions are essential (we have AI)
  - emotions are shared (androids need a community)
New emotions

• In an android community emotions are typical of *their* community and its life.
• These emotions are not necessary the same we (people in this room) typically experience (Rodney Brooks, 2002).
• Moravec’s suggestion cannot work: one box is not enough!
Max and min cases

• Notice that Max and Min case exists:
  - Min: cyborgs are just tech-modified humans
  - Max: androids are fully tech-created and artificial
• I want to discuss the Max-case.
Conclusion

-We will experience cyborgs and androids in the future.
-But they will be different from us, e.g. emotionally.
-Then the future world will not be fully human, although it is “human”.
-This is also to say that use of the term “post-human” is justified. The human world will be different in the future, but not wholly.