

All Party Parliamentary Engineering Group

'When will Artificial Intelligence fulfil its potential?'

Tuesday 14 June 2016

President

Professor the Lord Broers

Herman Hauser

- Buttons to touch interfaces on technology has been a fundamental change.
- The next fundamental change will be to voice recognition.
- "Machine learning" is the way for computers to beat the time-consuming need for human programming.
- The programming process is no longer binary, but based on probability.
- There is a history of this already, with the classic example of scientists building chess computers with the intention of them being "imaginative".
- From this we are now developing voice recognition in computers that comprehends language better than humans.
- The most important things for the future development of AI are:
 - Increasing the order of importance
 - Improvements in algorithms
 - Amount of data available to train from
- On jobs and employment, white collar workers are just as much at risk as the manual labour that many computers currently replace. If computers become "learning" machines, the "better educated" also work in a realm where computers could replace them as they become smarter.

Professor Andy Hopper

- People always think of the dystopian, sci-fi "human form" of AI, often as a human-like robot in appearance. But of course many future projects and forms of AI will not necessarily look like a human.
- Agreed there has always been a fear that further AI will lead to further job losses as "computers replace humans". But this was not the case in digital times as in analogue/mechanical times, the example being that there are now more microprocessors on the planet than human beings.
- The big issue is now data, and how it is governed legally, socially, and in the sense of business.
- Privacy, the collection and use of data is now crucial in the debate about the advancement of AI.
- We will never have "true AI", so we are not doomed by it. We need it to move forward.

Questions included:

- If there is a threat to white collar employees, what place does AI have in the realm of the law? In court cases, there is a need for moral and ethical considerations. Can AI make such decisions?

- Hasn't technological advance always brought about more jobs and employment? With no opportunity of 'true AI' will this still remain the case?