

Evolution - The End of the Biological Species Run?

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Until the emergence of 1) advanced robotics, 2) a serious form of Artificial Intelligence [AI] and 3) the prospect of Super AI with mental as well as physical capabilities greater than that of humans, the assumption has been that humans will continue to evolve as a biological species and remain the pinnacle form of life on Earth – and potentially go on to populate the solar system and the cosmos. Now it appears that humans may well be on a course to develop and thereby introduce a electro-mechanical [E-M] species with the capacity to replace humans as the most advanced and capable of creatures.

As a biological species, humans have many physical, emotional, psychological and social needs. Life is spent in pursuit of meeting these diverse needs. And as humans have become increasingly capable intellectually, technologically and industrially, they are on the threshold of being able to produce robots with skills equal to and even exceeding their own. Moreover, with Super AI these advanced robots can be endowed with the ability to repair, reproduce, and improve themselves. At that point, a new electro-mechanical [E-M] species will have arrived with capabilities superior to those of humans. An E-M species with a nuclear energy source can be hugely more efficient than humans – in no need for sleep or food or years to mature into adult capability. No disease, no hormonal complications. And an E-M species will not depend upon an extraordinarily narrow ecology like that of Earth. An E-M species will thereby be better able to extend its presence throughout the solar system and beyond.

If humans do not like this scenario, they had better agree internationally and universally that they will not risk losing control of their environment to a super AI takeover in an effort to dominate among human groups. This is the basic challenge for humans as they confront the potential of super AI. Unfortunately to date, corporations and nations have not been able to restrain their focus on technological innovation as the chief means to realize a competitive advantage. So, unless humans can find a way to become more universally cooperative and much less competitive at all social levels, it seems that humans are likely doomed to let loose super AI and see themselves relegated to the biological scrap heap or a minor backwater ecological niche.

Humans are on the verge of reaching the ultimate threshold. They can develop but restrain AI, or they can take AI to Super AI and introduce the E-M species capable of supplanting them. What will it BE? A compromise alternative: with the greatest care, engineer human biology to increase our human capabilities.