The Robots Must Be Crazy: Do We Need a DSM Turing Test?

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Abstract/Introduction
In 1979 Marvin Minsky cautioned that the first 'self-improving' robots and AIs may become psychotic and it will take "generations of theories and experiments to stabilize them." [1] Researchers in robotics and Artificial Intelligence and philosophers speculate robots and AIs will some day pass the Turing Test and exhibit Artificial Consciousness (AC), act as artificial moral agents (AMAs), be our lovers and even manifest the signs of experiencing pain and suffering. David Deutsch argues that Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) is not only possible but also such entities will indeed be self-aware and are most assuredly 'people' [2] A report from the Future of Identity in the Information Society (FIDIS) concludes: "When it comes to attributing full legal personhood and 'posthuman' rights to new types of entities, the literature seems to agree that this only makes sense if these entities develop self-consciousness." [3]

How can we judge if they are truly conscious? Will the Turing Test be a sufficient test to judge their fitness for citizenship and for inclusion as a living being with rights, deserving of our trust and even our love?[4] What if Marvin Minsky is right and they do become psychotic? How do we diagnose their condition? What if they exhibit behaviors that match the diagnostic criteria for Autism Spectrum disorders? Or worse present symptoms that fall along the spectrum of schizophrenic and other psychotic disorders? Will we need a Turing Test that incorporates questions based on diagnostic criteria of mental disorders? Will the government need to step in to protect the public?

Raymond August [5] notes that Anglo-American Law has adopted the sanity test to judge competency: "insanity is the incapacity to either appreciate wrongfulness or conform to the requirements of the law." Presumably such a test could be given to a robot or AGI. However with rule based programming an AGI could "readily regurgitate statements of law on demand." August feels a sanity test alone is insufficient, and instead proposes a more robust but simple test. Robert Sparrow extends Turing's imitation game to what he calls the Turing Triage Test. [6] Chris Hables Gray proposes a 'double-blind' Cyborg Citizen Turing test "to see which entities can actually operate in our discourse community, and which cannot." [7]

It is likely that humanoid robots and other species of AIs will tumble in the uncanny valley [8] by betraying their limitations especially in social situations in ways resembling autistic behaviors. With fictionalized life histories, a lack of true subjective experiences and simulated emotional states, robots will exhibit "empathy errors". Even with thousands of hours of learned interactions robots and AIs may never pass the "imitation game". From Cynthia Breazeal's Kismet [9] to David Hansen's hyper-real bots [10] robots will display communication deficits similar to a range of autistic behaviors. Would any robot escape the diagnostic "net" of the diagnostic criteria for the Autism Spectrum Disorder as specified by The *American Psychiatric Association's* Fifth Edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders? [11]

Do we need diagnostic criteria for robotic mental disorders to determine if our robots, our sexbots, robot slave workers and their fellow travelers are autistic, psychotic or worse psychopaths?!

References

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