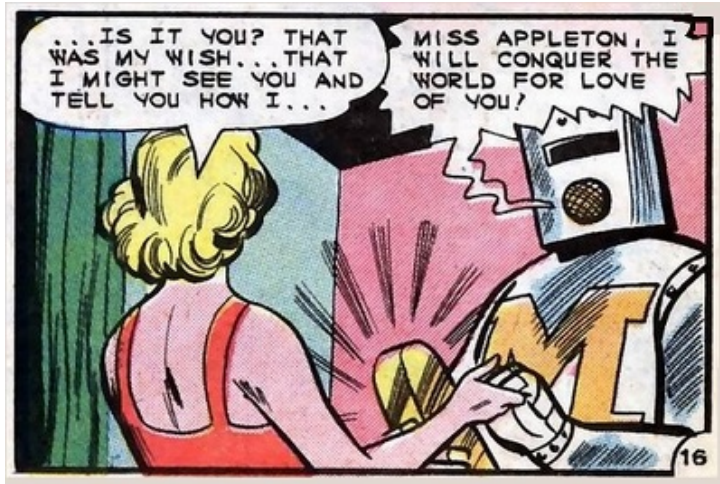


Robots will NEVER have feelings:

By SARAH GRIFFITHS - 14 May 2014



Mathematics reveals that droids can't experience emotions like us

The prospect of robot overlords, friends and lovers has been the topic of science fiction novels for years.

But [...] emotional machines will never exist.

This is because computers can't handle any process that completely integrates information, so they cannot be conscious and capable of feeling, one expert claims.

A mathematical framework for consciousness, developed over the last decade by Giulio Tononi at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, says that the ability to integrate information is a key feature of consciousness.

He believes that integrated information can't be broken down into smaller components in conscious minds, because the brain contextualises information.

It is easy enough for machines to edit a collection of individual images, but memories are composed of a bank of intertwined images and experiences and cannot be altered in the same way.

The researchers have used mathematics to show that computers cannot handle the complex processes needed to mesh pieces of information together seamlessly.

Therefore, if consciousness is based on the integration of lots of pieces of information, computers can't be conscious and capable of experiencing emotions like humans.

Professor Maguire says that consciousness cannot be created in a physical machine in finite time using limited memory.

'It doesn't necessarily mean that there is some magic going on in the brain that involves some forces that can't be explained physically. It is just so complex that it's beyond our abilities to reverse it and decompose it,' he said.

His research may mean that lonely humans will not find love with a robot, they are unlikely to be made their slaves either.

Adapted from : <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2628150/Robots-NEVER-feelings-Mathematics-reveals-droids-experience-emotions-like-us.html>