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Abstract

**Can artificial intelligences be moral? A sentimentalist virtue ethics approach**

It is not technically difficult to programme a robot to show superficial scrupulous morality: indeed, an intelligent machine could be able to suggest certain behaviour on the basis of our previous choices and the preferences we exhibit in other cases. Moreover, starting again from what it has learnt from our life and behaviour, an intelligent machine could, for example, indicate the closest vegetarian restaurant or the supermarket where we can find fair trade market products. In this case, though, the robot's scrupulous morality would only be superficial, as it could also humour and encourage far from moral behaviour: this will depend on the objectives we have and what we want the robot to help us realise, while it seems more difficult to programme a robot with deep scrupulous morality. And we should also consider that the robot may find itself in difficulty in the face of situations which the programmer did not foresee and which arise for the first time. However, an intelligent machine could be 'sensitive' to public disapproval and able to correct its behaviour on the basis of the reactions it arouses. Or be able to 'imagine' new situations before they actually come up and face them with scrupulous morality on the basis of information gathered and processed and deep learning.