

# The AI Family Feud

We surveyed 89 top AI  
researchers. . .

(Courtesy of Michael Littman,

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# **1. Name a reason that humankind studies AI.**

(top 6 answers)

**31** Understand ourselves

**18** Build better machines

**14** Understand intelligence

**10** Extend ourselves

**9** Interest ("because it's there")

**4** Narcissism

# **1. Name a reason that humankind studies AI.**

Personal favorites:

To play god.

People who don't study AI cannot compete.

The desire for transcendence.

Discover & explore the universe (send robots instead of humans).

For the greater aggrandizement of the human spirit.

## **2. Name something that defines AI as distinct from other fields.**

(top 13)

**15** Synthetic science

**13** Ill-specified problems

**11** Create intelligence

**10** Hubris

**8** Search/heuristics

**7** Emulate animals/humans

**5** Self-destructive (once you solve it, it's not AI)

4 Computation

3 Complexity from data

3 Human-inspired problems

2 Young field

2 Interdisciplinary

2 Nothing

Personal favorites:

## **2. Name something that defines AI as distinct from other fields.**

Mix of philosophy and technology (that is, we scare people.)

AI is characterized by its use of knowledge.  
[Simple algorithms.]

Creating the ability to replace man :(

The fact that it THINKS that it is distinct.

Wildly unsuccessful at fundamental goal

### 3. To the nearest 5 years, how long will it take humankind to create human-level AI?

(top 12)

20 100

16 50

9 never

9 75

9 150

3 30

3 200

**3** 1000

**2** 500

**2** 300

**2** 25

**2** 20

### **3. To the nearest 5 years, how long will it take humankind to create human-level AI?**

Personal Favorites:

Most likely, never, and it isn't clear we should be trying!

100 to just play human-like soccer, another

100 to tear up the T-shirt with joy

5 years after I'm dead

From now, it will take just over 63 years 2 months and 4 days.

-25 years.

(100 was the median answer)

# 4. Name something that an AI system will do that will signal the arrival of human-level AI.

(top 11)

**21** Converse

**11** Exceed humans

**10** Social activities

**10** Physical activities

**6** Create art

**8** Display emotions

**5** Compose essay

**5** Learn

**3** Humor

**2** Shadow a child

**2** Protect itself

## **4. Name something that an AI system will do that will signal the arrival of human-level AI.**

Personal favorites:

Write a symphony that makes humans weep for joy.

spill mustard on its shirt while eating a hot dog at a Mets game

declines the Nobel Prize for literature on political grounds

Control the first robot that wins "Survivor".

leave earth to find its own planet

## **5. Name the smartest AI from science fiction.**

(top 12)

**13** Data

**11** HAL

**10** Don't know [Surprising!]

**10** R. Daneel Olivaw et al. by Asimov

**7** Marvin et al. from Hitchhiker's Guide

**4** Jane from Ender's Game series

**4** The Matrix

3 The "Replicants" in Blade Runner

3 R2D2 et al. from Star Wars

2 Trurl/Klapaucius from "Cyberiad"

2 Wintermute et al. from "Neuromancer"

2 Teddy from A.I.

## 5. Name the smartest AI from science fiction.

Personal favorites:

Twiki. (I only know the movies and TV shows.)

Conky (from Pee Wee's Playhouse)

I forget the name, but the robot who made Dr. Susan Calvin fall in love with it (by Isaac Asimov, in "I, Robot" I believe). She was a great robot psychologist, so that was an amazing feat.

The "Replicants" in Blade Runner blow HAL \*completely\* out of the water, since they are embodied AI!

K.I.T.T. ... Unlike HAL and Data, never foolish enough to aspire to humanity.

William Shatner's hair

## **6. Name the most impressive accomplishment in AI in the last ten years.**

(top 12)

**24** Deep Blue beating Kasparov

**15** Speech recognition

**10** TD-Gammon

**9** Advances in inference and learning

**6** Crossword solving

**5** Museum tour guide, robotics

**3** Survival of the field

**3** Becoming mainstream

**3** Deep Space-1 Remote Agent

**2** Medical applications

**2** NavLab's trip

**2** Aaron

## **6. Name the most impressive accomplishment in AI in the last ten years.**

Personal favorites:

Auto-flush toilets (I'm not easily impressed)

Helping thousands of women be earlier and better diagnosed of cervical cancer through automated pattern recognition techniques.

Logistics scheduling for Desert Storm was perhaps the most impressive return on investment.

But I'd also vote for Chinook for getting there before Deep Blue.

The talking paperclip. (just kidding)