Artificial Intelligence

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Introduction

The concept of artificial intelligence or AI has its roots in times as ancient as Egypt. It was not until the development of computer that the concept did not come to the fore. In 1941, artificial intelligence was used as technology in machines that were used for calculations and computations. Rather unexpectedly, the growth of artificial intelligence has not been as rapid as was initially thought. The term was put forward in the year 1956 at a conference in Dartmouth. It was after this conference that advances in the field were made largely due to the dedication of the researchers. The arrival of the first electronic computer proved to be a major breakthrough in the field of artificial intelligence, as it helped establish a link between humans and machines for the very first time.

Discussion

Norbert Wiener was one of the first scientists to observe artificial intelligence and feedback theory. The most significant aspect of his research was he able to theorize intelligent behavior as a consequence of feedback mechanisms. These mechanisms in question were believed to be simulated by machines. This laid the foundation for the development of this genre of computing studies. The Logic Theorist was the first artificial intelligence program which was developed by Newell and Simon in 1955. The program was designed to solve problems by using a selection of possible solutions and providing with the most likely option (Berlatsky, 2011).

Seven years from the Dartmouth conference, artificial intelligence began to gain momentum. Ideas from researchers and experts began to pour in and studies began to surface seeking to gain detailed insight into the subject. As a consequence, the General Problem Solver

(GPS) was tested in 1957. This program was developed by Newell and Simon, too. The advancements in to the subject proved fruitful as this program was able to solve a greater number of common sense problems. Humans had finally begun to utilize the potential of their own creation. Two years on from the launch of the GPS, IBM set up its research team that was tasked with the responsibility of furthering the advances made.

John McCarthy, in 1958, made a major breakthrough in the field of artificial intelligence. McCarthy revealed LISP language which is still being used in programs around the world. The program became the language of choice for developers in artificial intelligence. Governments were also quick to recognize the importance of artificial intelligence. Research centers were set up at MIT with government-aided funding. In 1963, the research center at MIT received $2.2 million from the government to be applied to the research on Machine-Aided Cognition. This was a move by the government that attempted to make sure that United States remained ahead of its counterpart Soviet Union in the field of computations and technological developments. The competition between the two super powers seemed to fuel the process of development of artificial intelligence. As a result of direct competition, several programs came to the fore. Of those programs, SHRDLU was the most significant. This program was capable of solving problems that were spatial and logical in nature (Russell & Norvig, 2009).

Conclusion

The advent of artificial intelligence has given birth to the belief that machines can be capable of making decisions in a similar manner to humans. The use of advancements has been widespread; with various militaries relying on the technology to gain an edge over the other.

Though the technology in this regard has come a long way but much still remains to be desired

of artificial intelligence.

References

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