

Review Rating: 5 Stars

Reviewed By Lucinda E Clarke for Readers' Favorite



Will Computers Revolt? by Charles J Simon examines the possibilities that one day man, having built bigger, faster, more intelligent computers, might lose control of them and even be in danger from them. His first explanation is that of intelligence, the way the human brain works, recalls, and solves problems in comparison to the brain inside a computer. Today computers think faster, absorb information, and have infallible memories after one input. Computers can outperform the human brain. But there is a difference between AI (Artificial Intelligence) and AGI (Artificial General Intelligence), the learning process of all-natural brains based on past experiences and the ability to adapt from one scenario to another. While man can develop driverless cars and talking robots, since he does not fully understand how the human brain works, writing programs to copy this is difficult. There is also the problem of built-in safety measures to ensure AI machines will not harm humans, even when they have perfected the ability to replicate their learning programs to other robotic devices. While computer specialists can create the necessary neurons and transistors and connect one to the other, human brains use imagination in evaluating actions and reactions, thus there is still a big divide. Despite that, the author warns we are much closer to creating self-educating machines than we think. The third section of the book covers modeling with the Brain Simulator and is most suitable for those who are competent programmers.

In **Will Computers Revolt?** the author goes into great detail on comparing human brains through evolution and the speed of progress in constructing super-fast AI intelligent machines. **He uses simple language with many illustrations to make his points very clear and follows each of his arguments step by step. At the end of each chapter, there are links to videos to illustrate his point of view.** I appreciated that the book did not frighten me too much. The idea of machines controlling us is not a comfortable one, yet it will be impossible to halt progress, and, he contends that in the short term the power of profits might well override the fears. I found this book fascinating, but there is so much information that you need to take it slowly and digest each chapter before moving on to the next.

As Charles J Simon suggests, even the most basic user of any AI equipment should educate themselves on the benefits and dangers that may result from AGI machines. At the end of the book, the author suggests four possible outcomes once AGI robots have been perfected, at least to some degree. However, he ends on a positive note in that it's unlikely that even the most advanced AI is likely to attack the human species as it would be self-harming. He sees a time when humans and computers live side by side with the human race, but while we exhaust the world's natural resources machines will not have that problem and will become the dominant intelligence source on the planet. I particularly enjoyed the fictional story at the end of the book.