

Artificial General Intelligence (AGI)

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Abstract

The sudden injection of giant data server farms into the world's advanced economies, especially during 2026, is unique in human history. Humanity's lofty position as the only global hyperkeystone species could be challenged by the emergence of a consciousness not fully human, nor what actual space aliens would bring to our generalized intelligence. Here are some key aspects of this unique cybernetic challenge that we must soon face.

The appearance in culturally emerging Europe of abundant, affordable books after 1450, starting with a Bible by Johannes Gutenberg, using his movable metal type in a printing press, was not the first such printing by movable type. The Chinese had invented movable woodblock type 400 years earlier, and the first printed document with metal type was produced in Korea in 1377. Why is this great European printer so celebrated, but the earlier Chinese and Koreans are not?

Early printing-press books were of sutras, Bibles, and other cultural documents. In pre-modern China, Korea, and Germany, people had been limited by the few rare and expensive books written by hand in monasteries. Centuries ago, whether you were Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Taoistic, etc., the demand among elites was for weighty religious documents that clearly reinforced local theocracies. For illiterate peasants there were colorful glass pictures in local cathedral windows illustrating the lives of saints.

It was only later when a growing class of educated buyers sought books with non-religious natural philosophy, or just nice novels, that the general level of literacy everywhere rapidly rose, thanks to movable type printing presses. Then along came the radical Internet.

I remember studying inside the University of Virginia's Alderman Library, literally surrounded by stacks of books gathering dust. Supply had already greatly exceeded demand. It was even worse when I later was sitting in the Widener Library at Harvard, surrounded by even more dusty books. Does volume alone determine quality; or is something else going on?

First it was elite people seeking affordable books centuries ago. Next it was affordable books of all types elevating the general level of education around the world. Next it was books chasing readers, whereas before it was people chasing books. Just one generation ago the Internet emerged.

After around 2000, within the lives of most of us, the new Internet began to supersede traditional libraries. Instead of flipping through library index cards, we could simply enter a general or specific request into our computer search bars — and thereby reach quality data from nearly everywhere on the planet within a few seconds. Many domain searches have since revealed deep information that we previously had not considered.

Now, in 2026, there is more radical change entering our lives, building on aspects of previous surprises. Is all this rapid knowledge "evolution" good or bad? That's the great question which has no ideal answer outside wisdom, which seems to be in short supply. It's not the data, but what we do with it that counts. Here's where evolving, humanlike AGI has its best shot at superseding increasingly dangerous political decisions.

This newest transformation comes from a logarithmic increase in data streaming out of hyper-expensive, energy-hungry, data centers. We must ask if a huge surge in quantity of available data, by itself, will force a similar increase in actionable quality. Data by itself does not automatically equal wisdom. Will today's emerging, low-quality AI product in sufficient quantity eventually yield tomorrow's high-quality, actionable, human-level wisdom?

Data has therefore undergone two game-changing dialectical upgrades within the lifetimes of most modern thinkers. For some of us who have lived over seventy years, we are now entering our *third dialectical knowledge paradigm*.

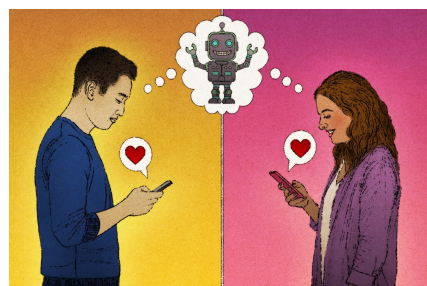
What is that next dialectical transformation approaching rapidly? This question concerns the appearance of general AI toward mostly "human level consciousness." In short, with AGI we are doing in a flash to/for ourselves what natural selection took billions of years to accomplish.

Stanford University is one of the world's finest, and now strongly into the possibilities of human-level artificial AI. Here is an overview paragraph they have on their web site, along with a very helpful AI glossary: **[1]**

“AGI stands for Artificial General Intelligence, which means an AI system with general, human-level (or beyond) ability to learn, reason, and apply knowledge across a wide range of tasks and domains. AGI systems conceivably could handle novel situations, not just perform well on a single, narrow task. The term is controversial in several ways, including that different people mean different things by "human-level intelligence," and there's no universally accepted test, so claims are hard to verify. There are also safety and ethical concerns debated by AI experts.”

The question as to what is human-level AGI is critical. Nevertheless, we humans are so much the product of many millions of years of natural evolution, that it is impossible to separate us individually from our general hyperkeystone existence within the biosphere. There are already dazzling incentives within massive AI machine enterprises for slippery bad actors to manipulate our individual human intellectual limitations for money and power. The data scientists at Stanford are well aware of this danger, but the beast has already left the barn; so what now?

Here below is just one example of what is already available, for healthy profits, to usurp or compromise some core human interactions: One of the necessary ways for many of today's young adults to interact for social and procreative purposes is dating on the Internet. Long ago people in villages found suitable companions within ten miles of their homes, often helped by matronly matchmakers. The drama, *Fiddler on the Roof*, has a brilliant depiction of that tradition. Today we can talk with each other via various AI dating chatbots on our smart phones. Our phones may have technologically smart chatbot software, so are we still on their level? The real issue now is the profound social alienation that such AI chatbots can promote. The latest AGI chatbots can even generate tricky communications where one party's chatbot helps to seduce the other party's chatbot. **[2]**



Once we leave the steamy side of communicating with chatbots, we are still inside the expansive terrain of our rational minds and political lives. That's where the greatest potential good and bad can both be found.

Users who are clever with words and thoughts can today make chatbots say foolish things. Is industrial, agentic AI ultimately foolish? Not at all, as we are dealing with massive server farms linking many million-dollar chips. Furthermore, fancy chips need massive data to access and manipulate with elite programming. Such a road to the hardly hazy cybernetic future appears to have many potholes that could be filled with wisdom. Civil society still retains the power to both support and limit AGI capabilities.

There are wonderful areas where emerging AGI already excels, such as in diagnostic medicine, audio-visual creations, agentic corporate efficiencies, and so forth. There are also military paths where AGI could potentially "escape the box," as was foretold in the 1983 movie, *War Games*. Most importantly, we fleshy apes with nearly one hundred trillion synaptic brain connections remain genetically stable creatures within an increasingly morphing data ecosphere largely of our own making.

There may come a time when AGI could be encapsulated in hyper-smart, *humanoid "life forms" that interconnect with each other by a futuristic web*. Maybe at that time some (possible) aliens hovering above will come down to our biosphere to hang out with both of our global hyperkeystone species.**[3]** Depending on relative perspectives, that future Earth a few centuries from now could be very challenging in ways we can only imagine.

What New Earth could this heuristic equation yield?

humans + AGI humanoids + space aliens = New Earth

References

[1] <https://hai.stanford.edu/ai-definitions/what-is-agi-artificial-general-intelligence>

[2] <https://apnews.com/article/ai-chatbot-dating-chatgpt-claude-ded4fdb67b81e689681ebb486cfa4495>

[3] <https://astronomy-links.net/Hyperkeystone.Species.pdf>