Robo-ethics and hope

Can Bill Gates give us the reasons for hope?

José M. Galvan

Biennale di Venezia 2000 (Massimiliano Fuksas):

LESS AESTHETICS, MORE ETHICS

Rome, Roboethics ICRA ‘07:

LESS ROBOTICS, MORE ETHICS?

Bill Gates, *A Robot in Every Home*, «Scientific American» December 16, 2006

“Although a few of the robots of tomorrow may resemble the anthropomorphic devices seen in *Star Wars*, most will look nothing like the humanoid C-3PO. In fact, as mobile peripheral devices become more and more common, it may be increasingly difficult to say exactly what a robot is. Because the new machines will be so specialized and ubiquitous--and look so little like the two-legged automatons of science fiction--we probably will not even call them robots. But as these devices become affordable to consumers, they could have just as profound an impact on the way we work, communicate, learn and entertain ourselves as the PC has had over the past 30 years”

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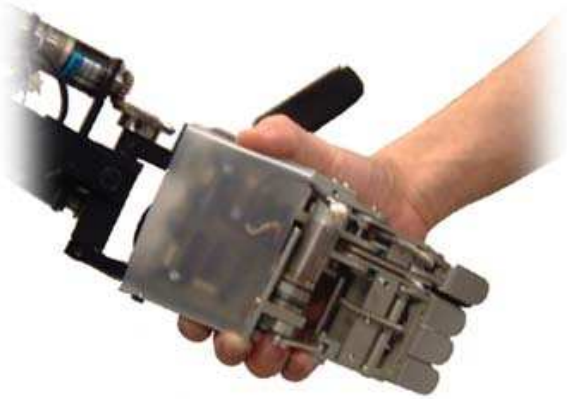

"homo tecnicus"

I teoremi della tecnoetica

THEOREM 3

(Antoine de Saint-Exupery)

The more a machine is developed,

the more it disappears

Bill Gates, *A Robot in Every Home*, «Scientific American» December 16, 2006

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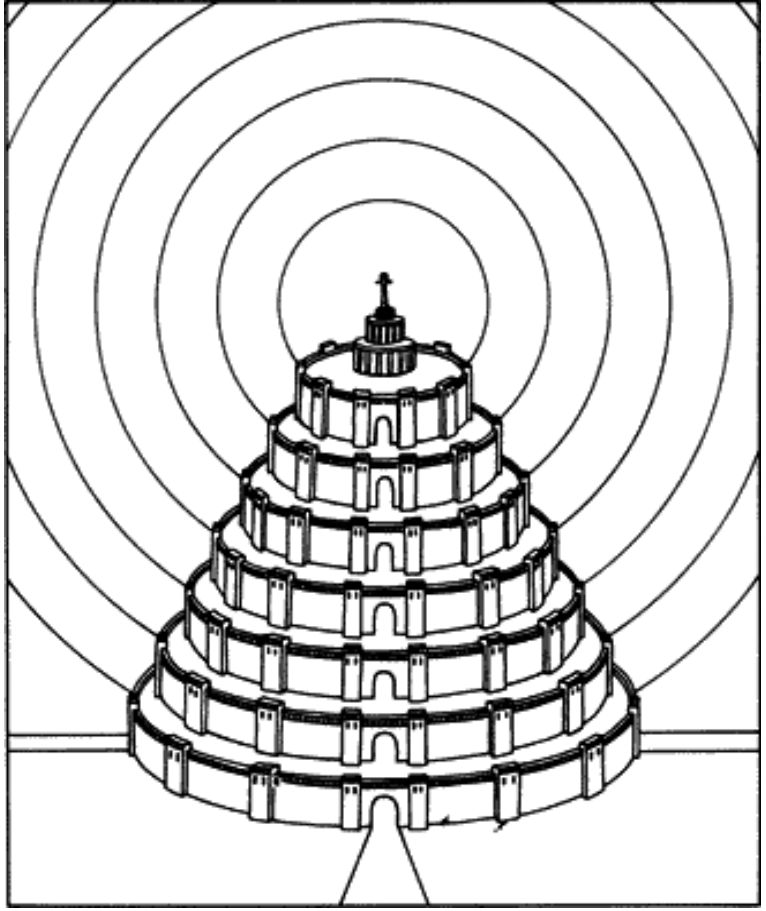
Asimov metaphorical antagonists:

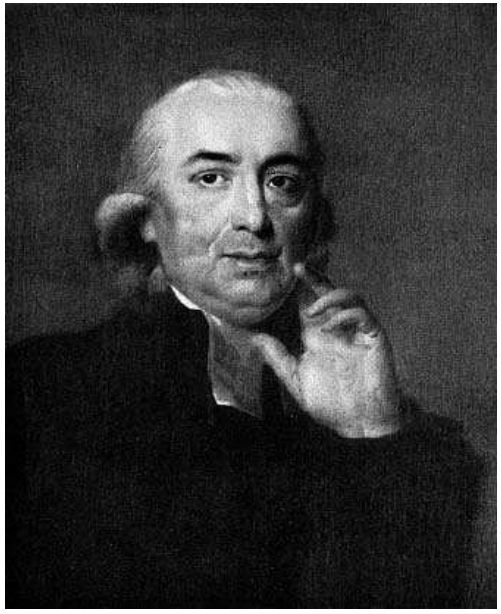
- "*positronic brain*", huge but limited
- "*human brain*", little but unlimited

Ethical condition of mankind

There are no extrinsic “laws” to limit the human behavior, but this doesn’t mean that humans can do what they want...

THOMAS, CAMPANELLA





In **real life** the technical utopias come true very quickly from the material point of view

(but they use to be very disappointing from the anthropological point of view)

WERNHER VON BRAUN 1912-1977 Psalms 19:1. That scripture is: “The heavens are telling the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.”

(Epitaffio nella tomba di Von Braun)

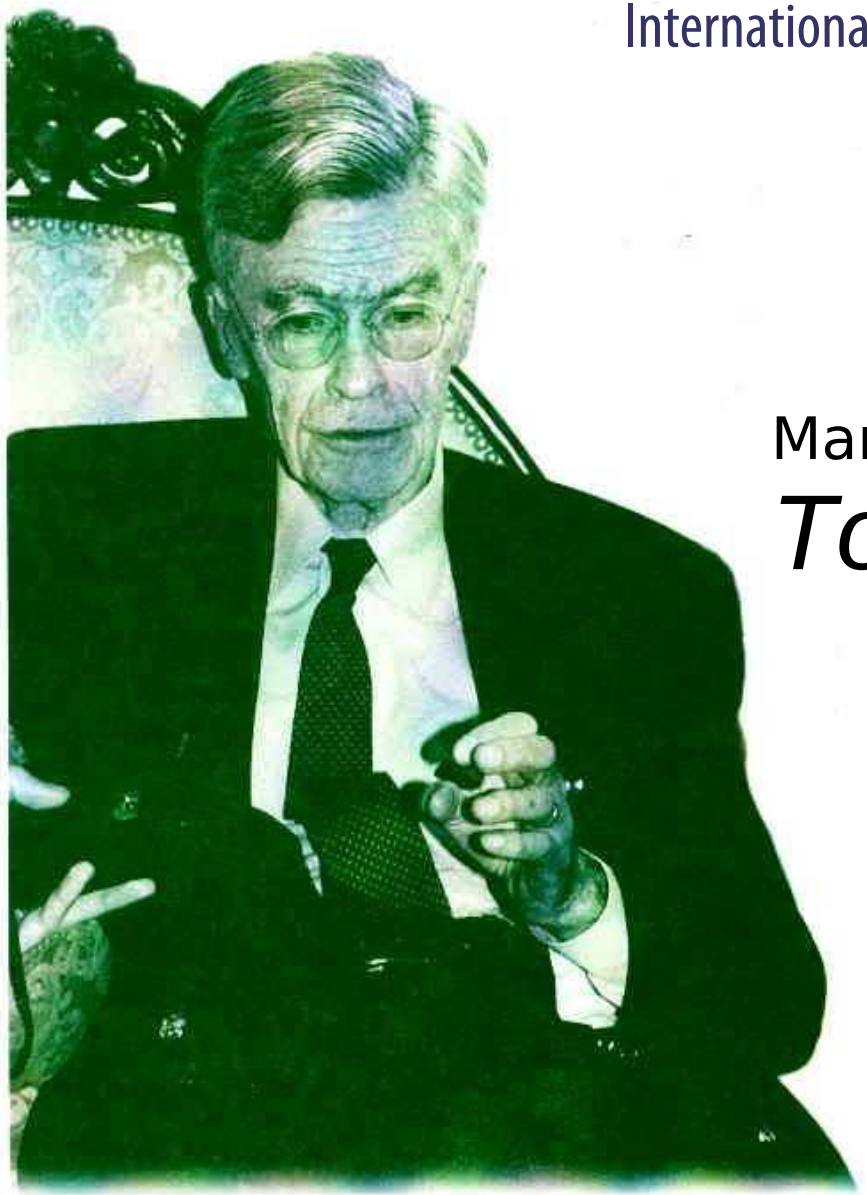
After the final destruction of Nazi tyranny, they hope to see established a peace which will afford to all nations the means of dwelling in safety within their own boundaries, and which will afford assurance that all the men in all the lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want

the robotic revolution, as any other technological utopia, will have the temptation of tending toward the ***mechanization of the consciences***

This tendency is a common problem for all technological utopias, otherwise they become surpassed in a short time.

מכון טכנולוגי לישראל Technion Israel Institute of Technology הטכניון

International Symposium on Ethics in an Age of Pervasive Technology
(Haifa 1974)



Mario Bunge (McGill University)

Toward a Technoethics

“Technologists should contribute to the overhauling of ethics, attempting to construct a technoethics as a science of right and efficient conduct”

(M. Bunge, *Towards Technoethics*, 1974)

Ethical tasks for roboticians:

1. To lay the foundations of an anthropologically centered robotic technology able to a real universal sharing of the benefits that robotics can bring to humanity.

2. To prevent these foundations from falling into the hands of just a few people.