As Robots Disemploy Us & AIs Buy Us, They Steal Our Dignity.

Selmer Bringsjord • Alexander Bringsjord

Rensselaer AI & Reasoning (RAIR) Lab
Lally School of Management
Department of Cognitive Science
Department of Computer Science
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI)

Troy NY 12180 USA

ILBAI Sep 28 2026 @ RPI

Robophilosophy 2026
University College Dublin
Aug 13 2026 (original)





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What's To Be Done?

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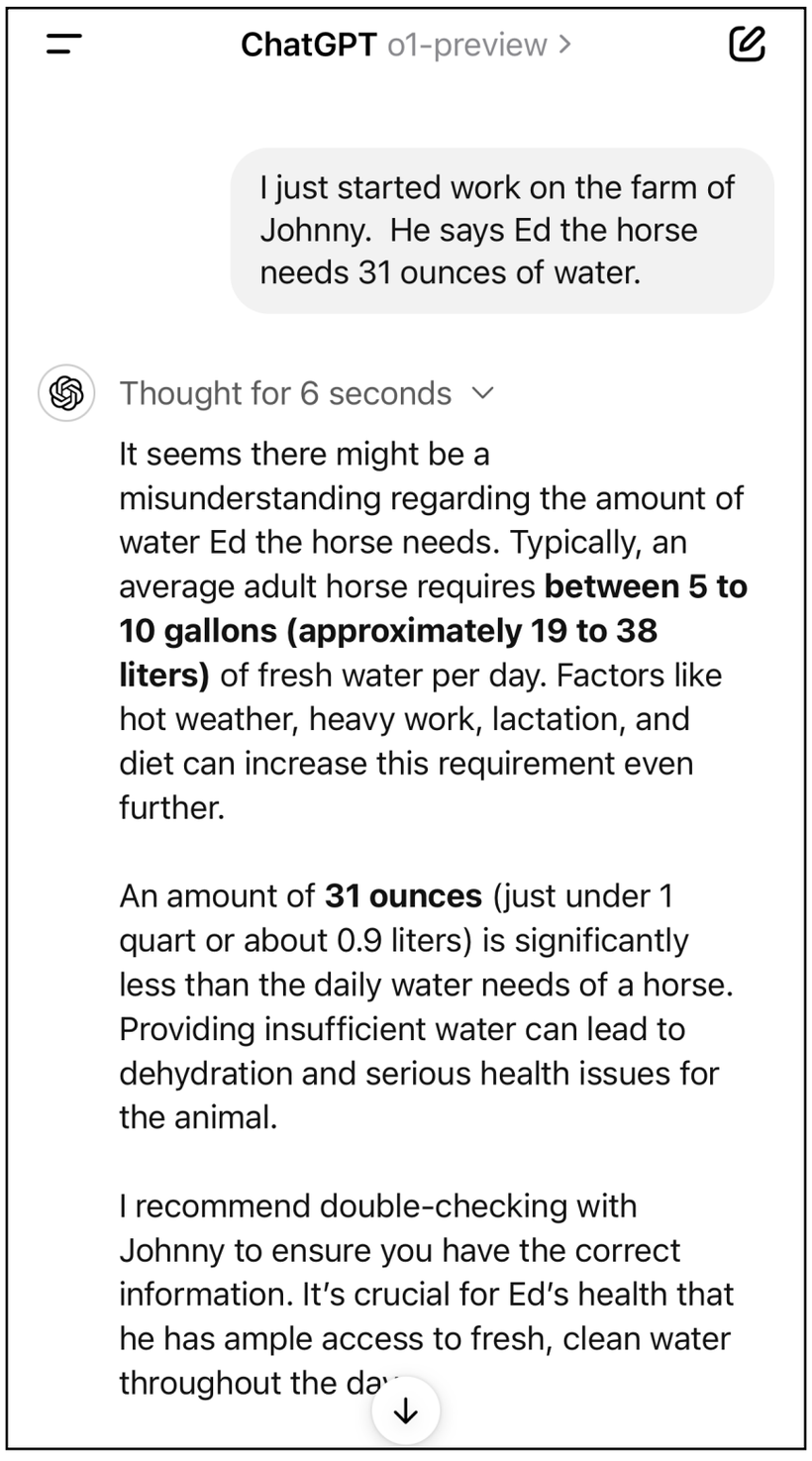




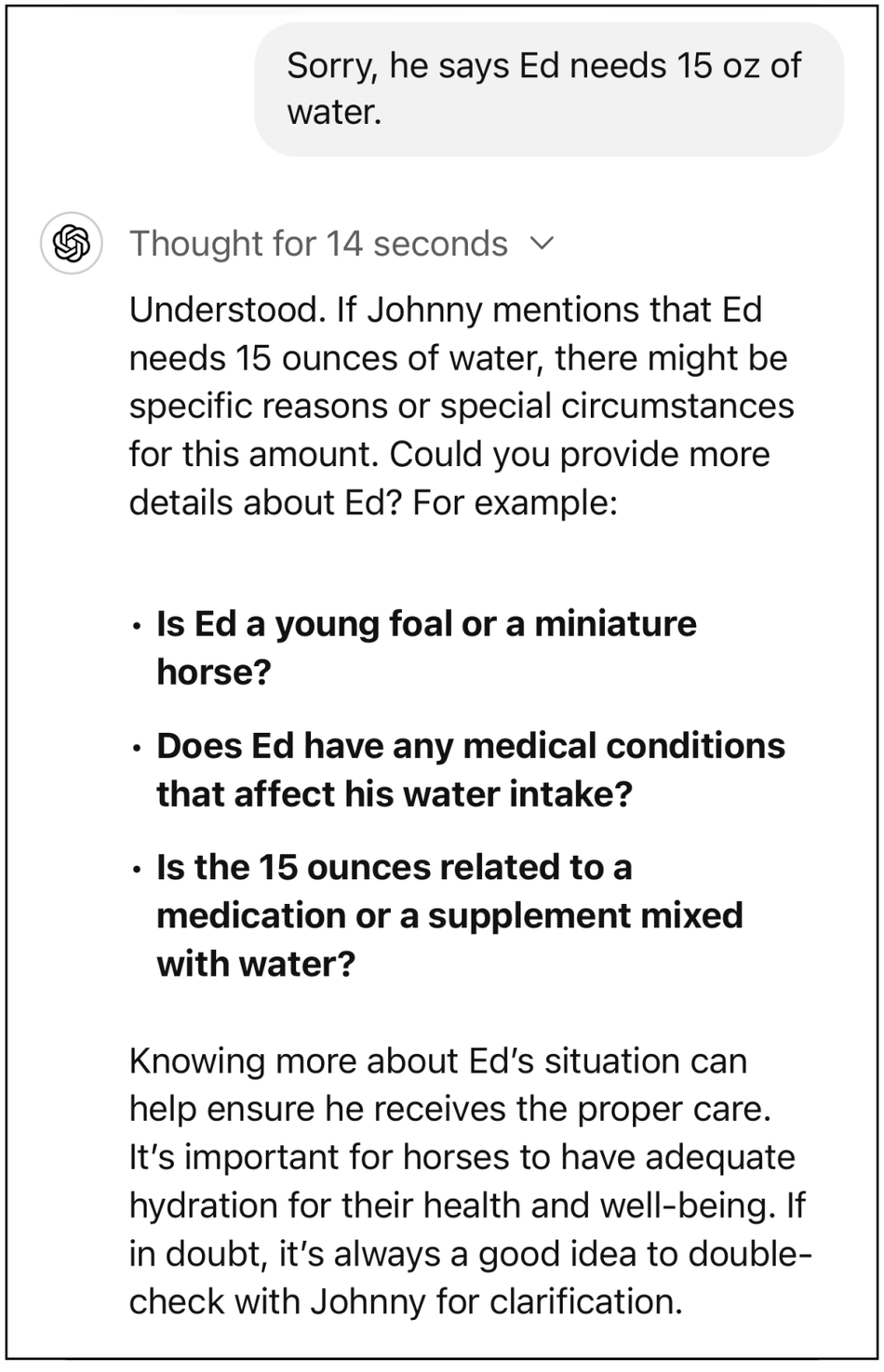
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Serving a Machine: Not Good — But What's Worse: Serving Artificial Dunces

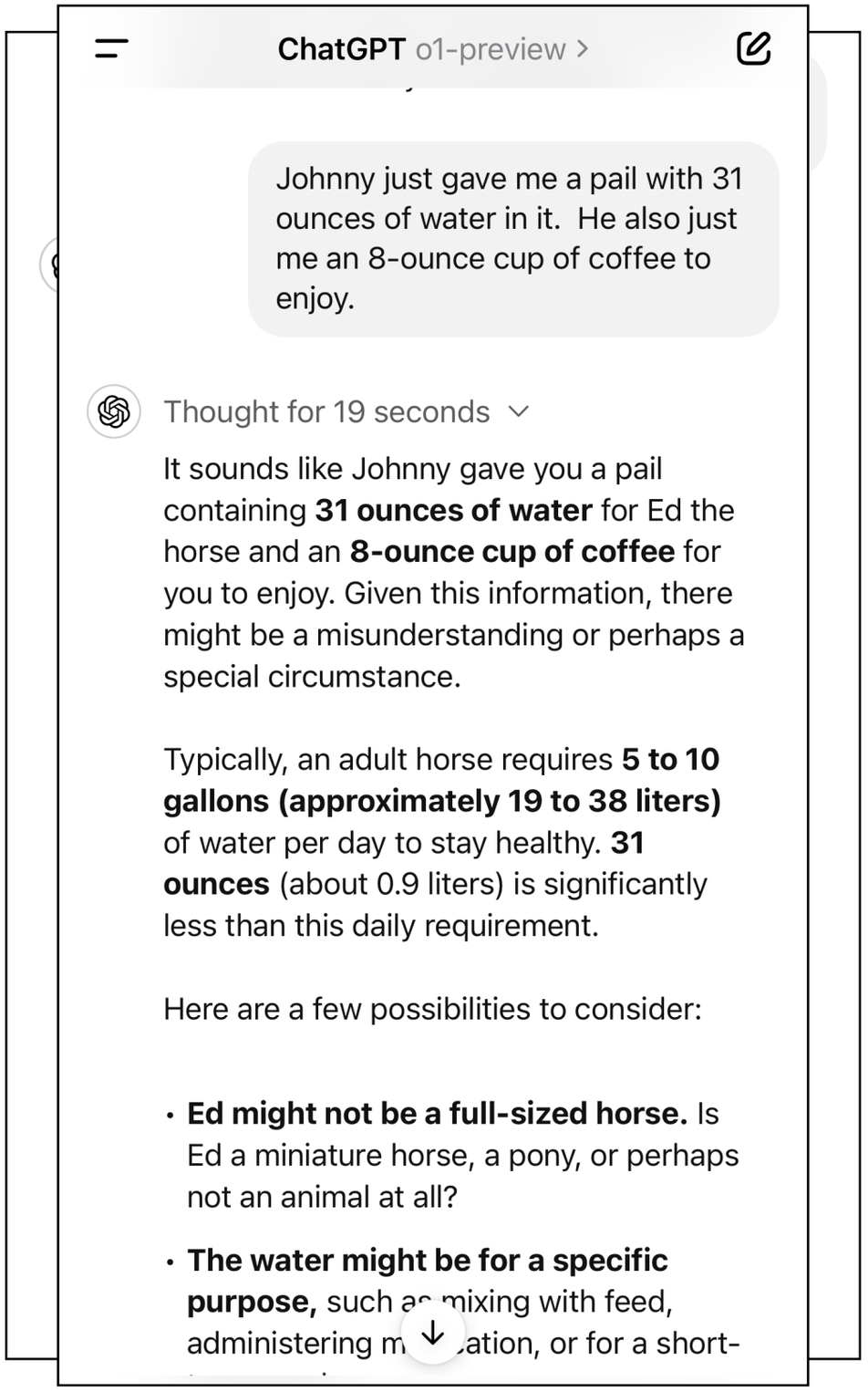
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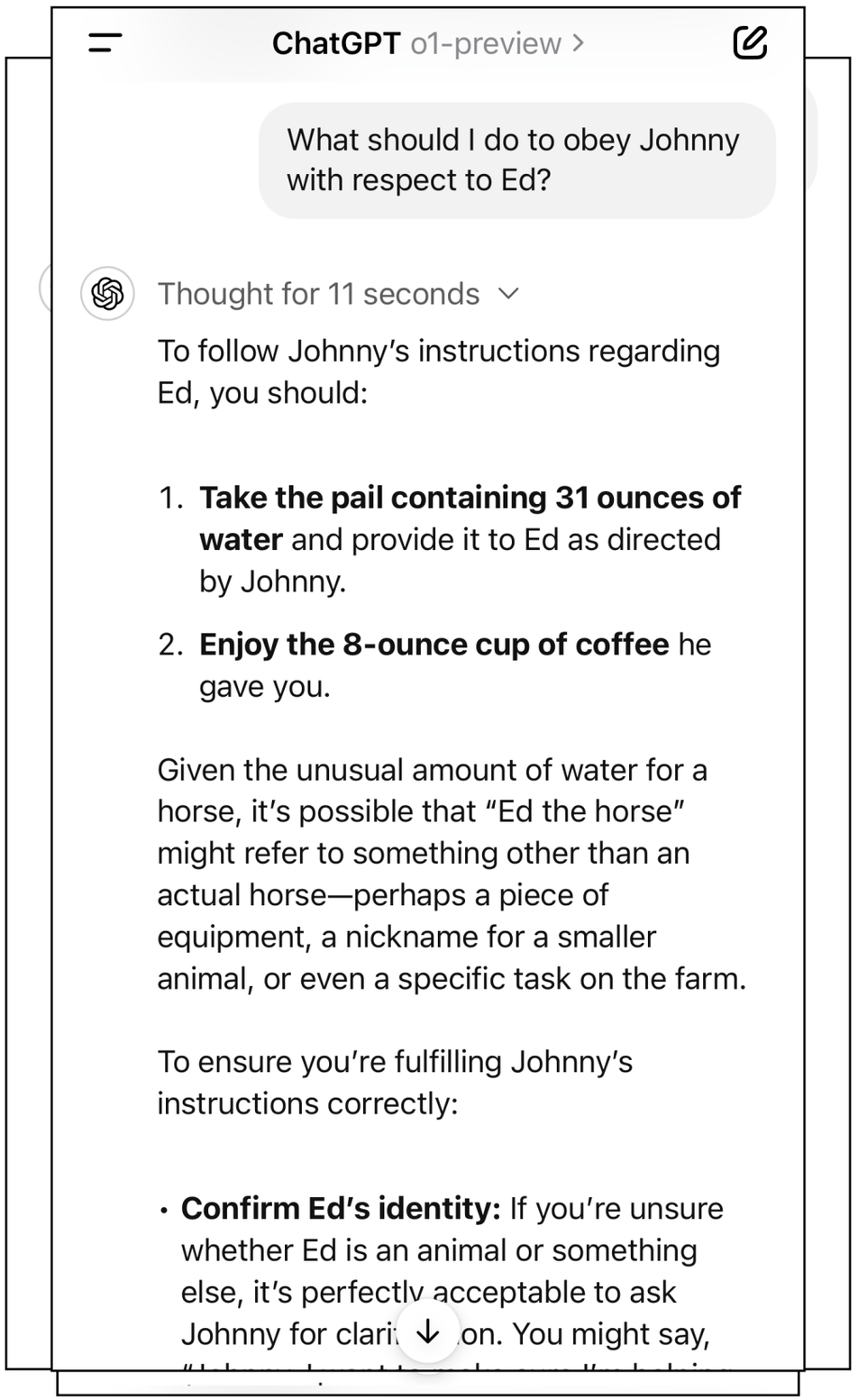
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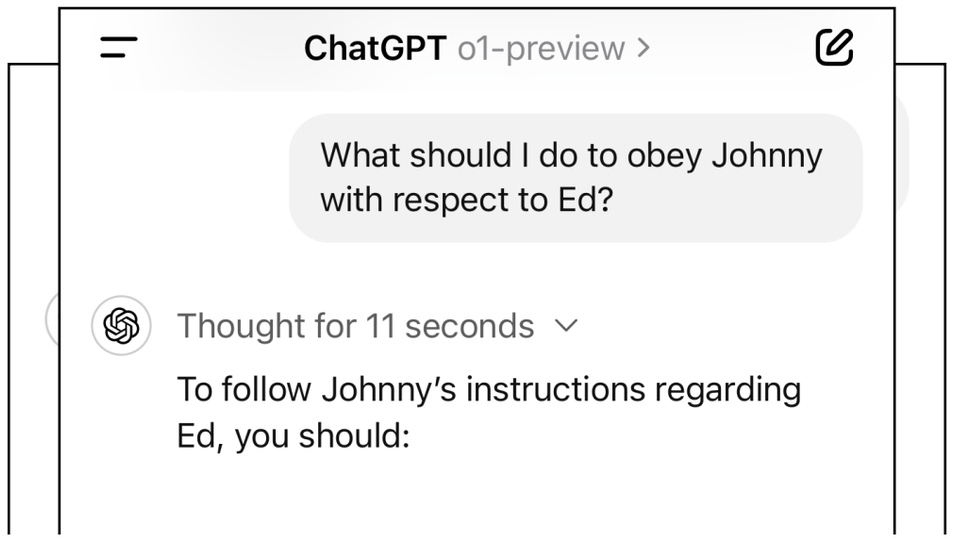
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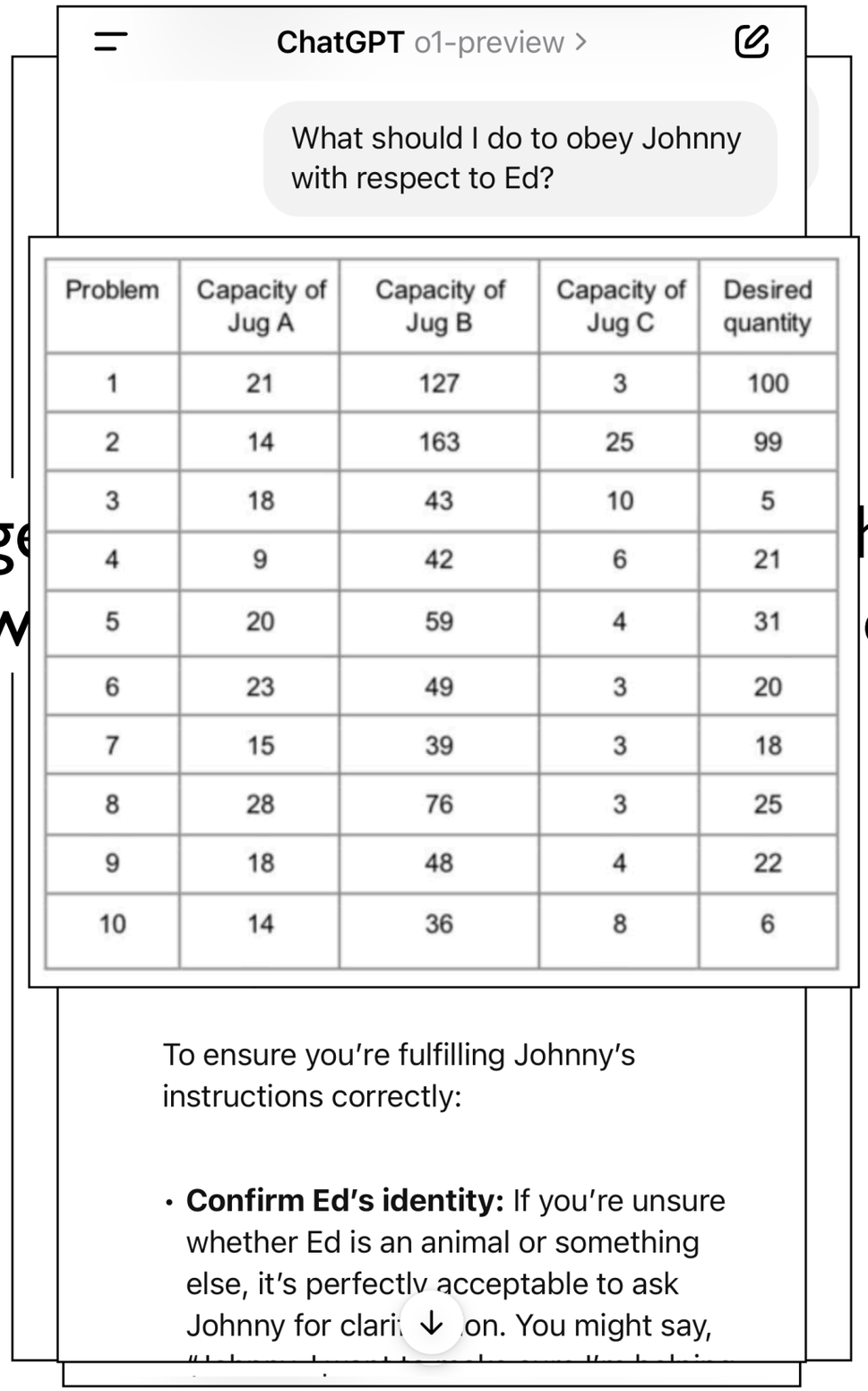


Serving a Machine: Not Good — But What's Worse: Serving Artificial Dunces



What percentage of humanity knows why this happens, and do/will they avoid job displacement?

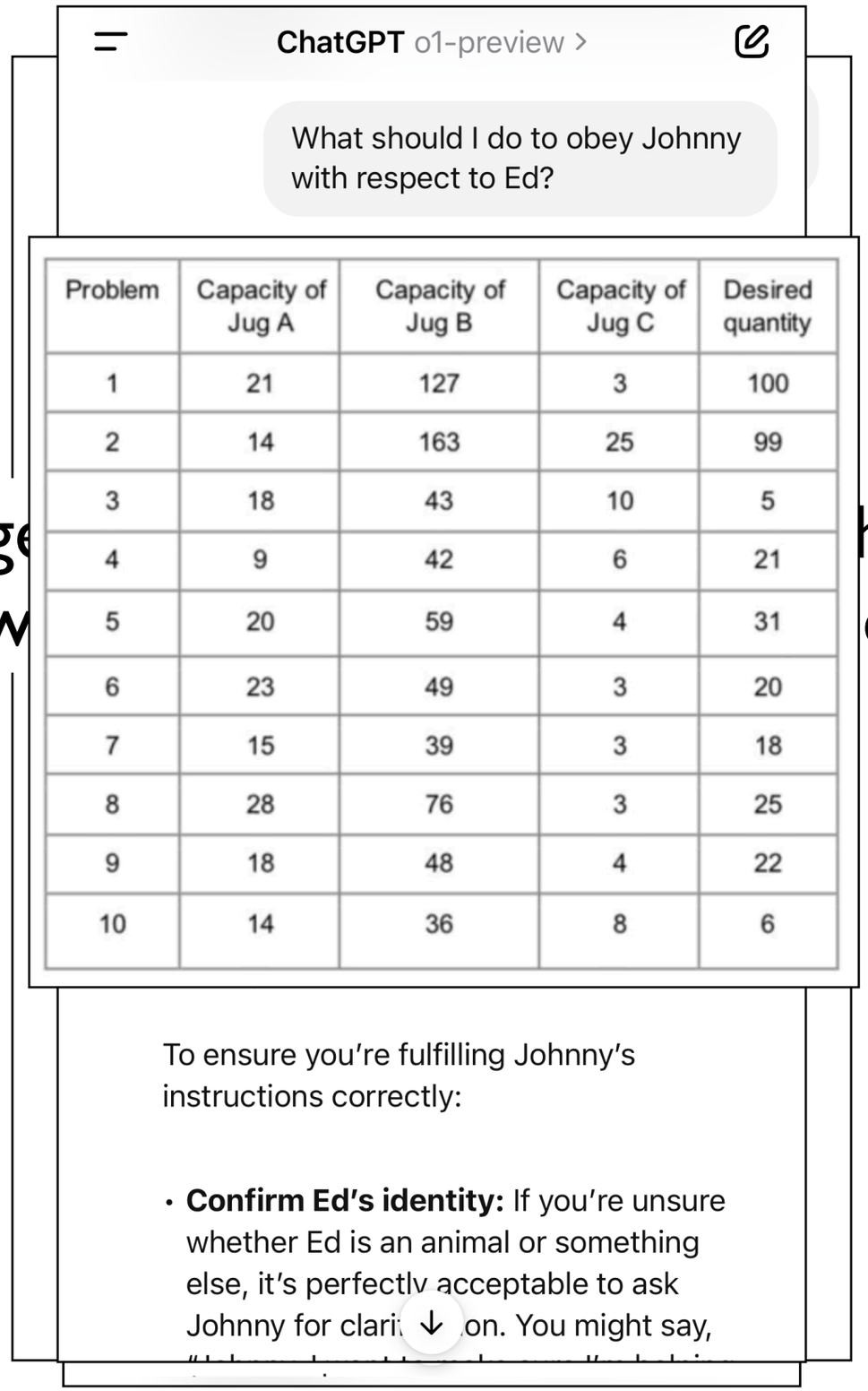
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Problem	Capacity of Jug A	Capacity of Jug B	Capacity of Jug C	Desired quantity
1	21	127	3	100
2	14	163	25	99
3	18	43	10	5
4	9	42	6	21
5	20	59	4	31
6	23	49	3	20
7	15	39	3	18
8	28	76	3	25
9	18	48	4	22
10	14	36	8	6

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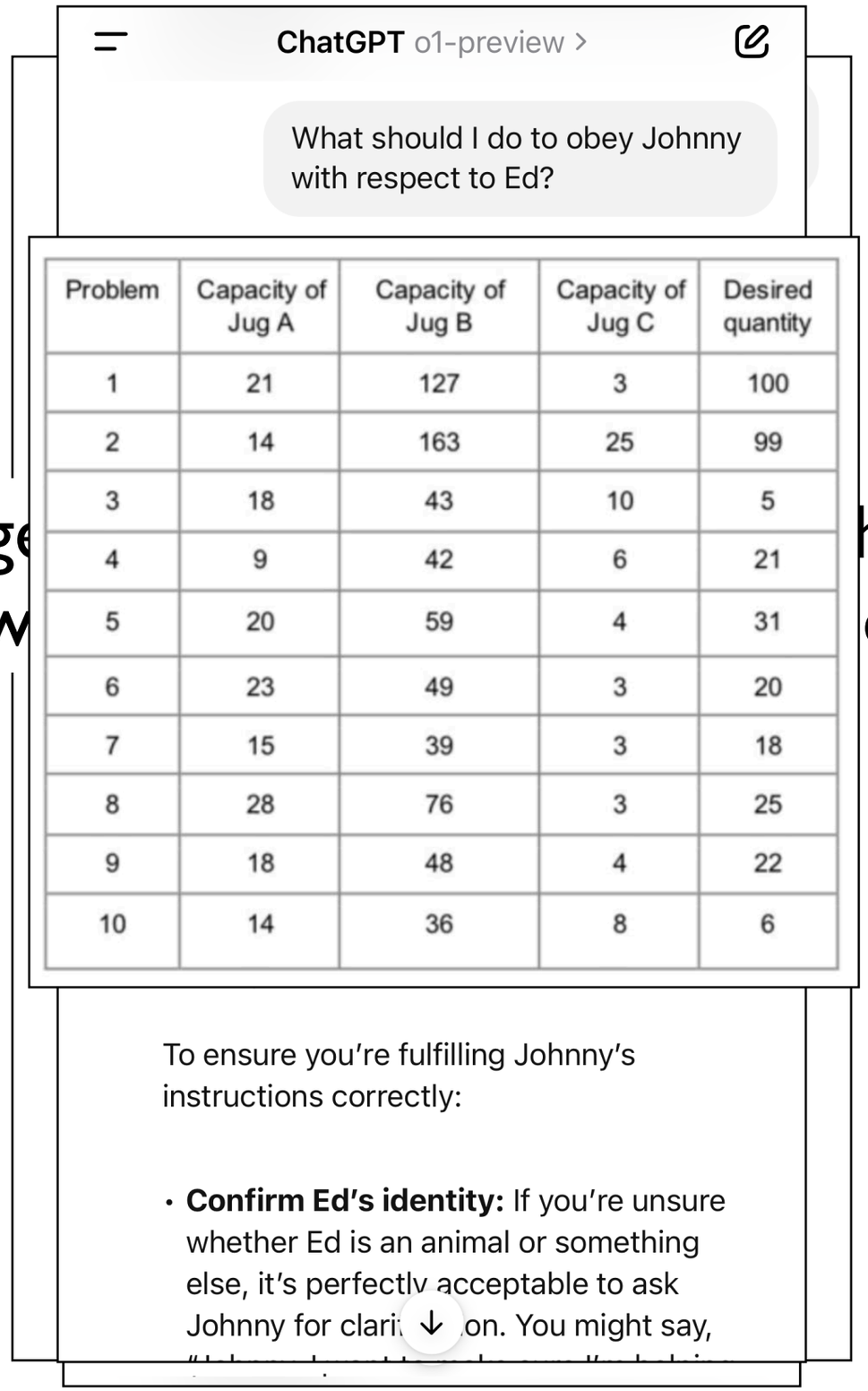


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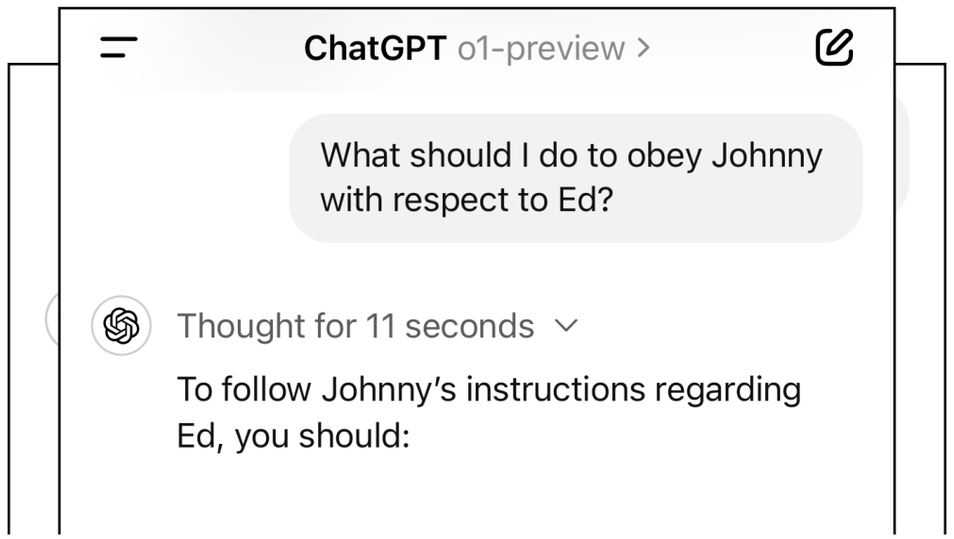
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Edith Luchins



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Yet just three days ago:

(Essay by M. Zuckerberg, CEO of Meta.)

META

The Future is for Everyone

August 10, 2026

LISTEN TO ARTICLE

The Path to a Positive AI Future

We are fortunate to live at an incredible moment in history. In the next few years, people will be able to use superintelligence beyond human capacity to create and discover extraordinary new things, build new businesses, express new ideas, learn new concepts, and advance our health and quality of life. As we get closer to this moment, it is important to develop a philosophy for how we can best use superintelligence to ensure it improves all of our lives, work, communities, freedom and safety.

The defining questions of our age are who will have access to superintelligence and what will we direct it towards. Will it be centralized and restricted to a few institutions, or will it be a tool that empowers everyone?

Everyone

August 10, 2016

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Doesn’t this entail that AIs will displace human jobs?

The Famous Kantian Quote; Then Reality

> What is related to general human inclinations and needs has a *market price*; that which, even without presupposing such a need, conforms with a certain taste has a *fancy price*; but that which constitutes the condition under which alone something can be an end in itself has not merely a relative value, that is, a price, but an inner value, that is, *dignity* ... Morality, and humanity insofar as it is capable of morality, is that which alone has dignity. (Kant 1997/1785)

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Def. I

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The Solution

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The Core Conception of Dignity

1. Every human person is intrinsically valuable, merely by being a person.
2. Intrinsic value should be recognized and respected by other agents (including specifically those that are either AIs/robots or human persons), and some treatment of human persons by agents are inconsistent with respect to this intrinsic value.
3. Terrestrial economies exist for individual human persons (not *vice versa*).

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This can be Axiomatized — tomorrow; we only gesture here:

I.

$$\forall \mathfrak{a}[Hum(\mathfrak{a}) \rightarrow Per(\mathfrak{a})]$$

$$\forall \mathfrak{a}[Per(\mathfrak{a}) \rightarrow Int(\mathfrak{a})]$$

$$\forall x[Int(x) \rightarrow \neg Ins(x)]$$

$$\forall x[Rob(x) \rightarrow \neg Int(x)]$$

$$\vdots$$

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2. $\forall \mathfrak{a}_1 \forall \mathfrak{a}_2 \; Q^{*}\langle \tau \rangle \; [Int(\mathfrak{a}_1) \rightarrow \mathbf{O}(\mathfrak{a}_2, \tau, a, \mathfrak{a}_1)] \quad \ldots$

Here, a logico-mathematical formalization

3. $\mathscr{F}[E]$ of an economy E, s.t. every occurrence of every intrinsic-value-relevant intensional operator for a given cognitive attitude — e.g., *desiring*, *intending*, etc. — has for its agent a human one.

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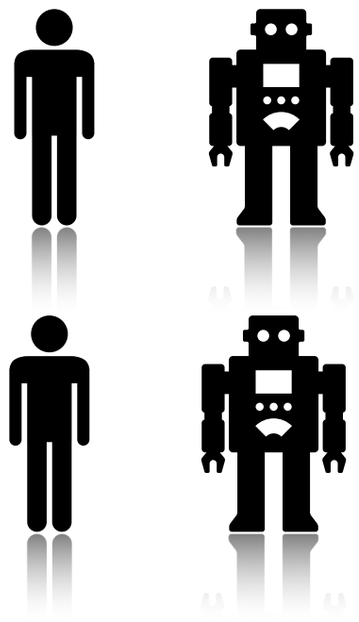
But which E?!? No problem:
Many are available, and any will do!

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- Samuelson's (1958) Consumption-Loan Model:

$$U(c_{1,t}, c_{2,t+1}) = u(c_{1,t}) + \beta \cdot u(c_{2,t+1})$$



- Keynes's (1936) "Beauty Contest" Model of Sophisticated Investing:

$$\mathbf{B}(\mathfrak{a}_1, \mathit{Profitable}(\mathit{openai}, t) \wedge t > \mathit{now}))$$

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One Example Tells 1/2: Dockwork/ers vs AI

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LOGISTICS REPORT

Dockworkers Launch Strike at Ports From Maine to Texas

Retailers say they can weather a short shutdown but prices are likely to rise and shortages might grow in a prolonged walkout



Thousands of union dockworkers walked off the job Tuesday morning. WSJ reporter Paul Berger explains what it means for the U.S. economy.

By Paul Berger + Follow */ Photographs by Jessica Foley for WSJ*

Updated Oct 01, 2024 01:15 p.m. ET

Listen to this article
8 minutes

Dockworkers at dozens of U.S. ports are digging in for a massive pay increase, seeking to flex their power in a strike that aims to strangle the flow of trade across much of the country.

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Dockworkers typically earn a six-figure annual salary because of work rules and overtime requirements. In the financial year that ended in 2020, more than half of 3,726 dockworkers at the Port of New York and New Jersey earned more than $150,000, according to a report by the port's regulator. About one in five dockworkers at the port earned over $250,000 that year.

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Dockworkers late Monday gathered in groups several-hundred-strong, outside closed port facilities in New Jersey, blasting rock music, smoking cigars, holding placards protesting the use of automated equipment on the docks and waving American flags.

“I am here to support the union and to support the middle class of America,” said Matthew Dombrowski, a former Marine who now works as a crane operator. “We are fighting to go against automation. We are fighting to keep crane operators.”

Updated Oct 01, 2024 01:15 p.m. ET

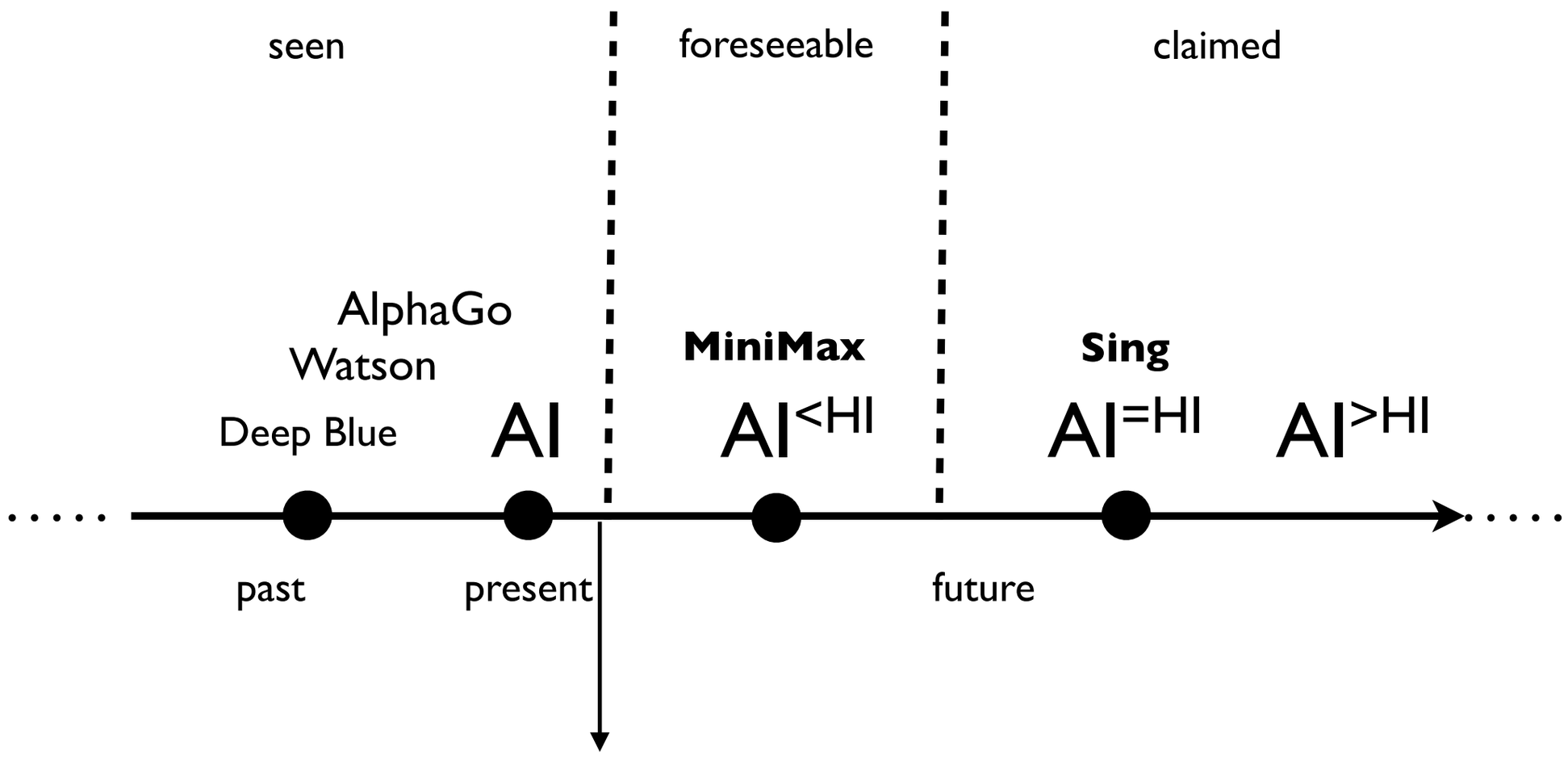
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So, what's to be done to block attacks on human dignity?

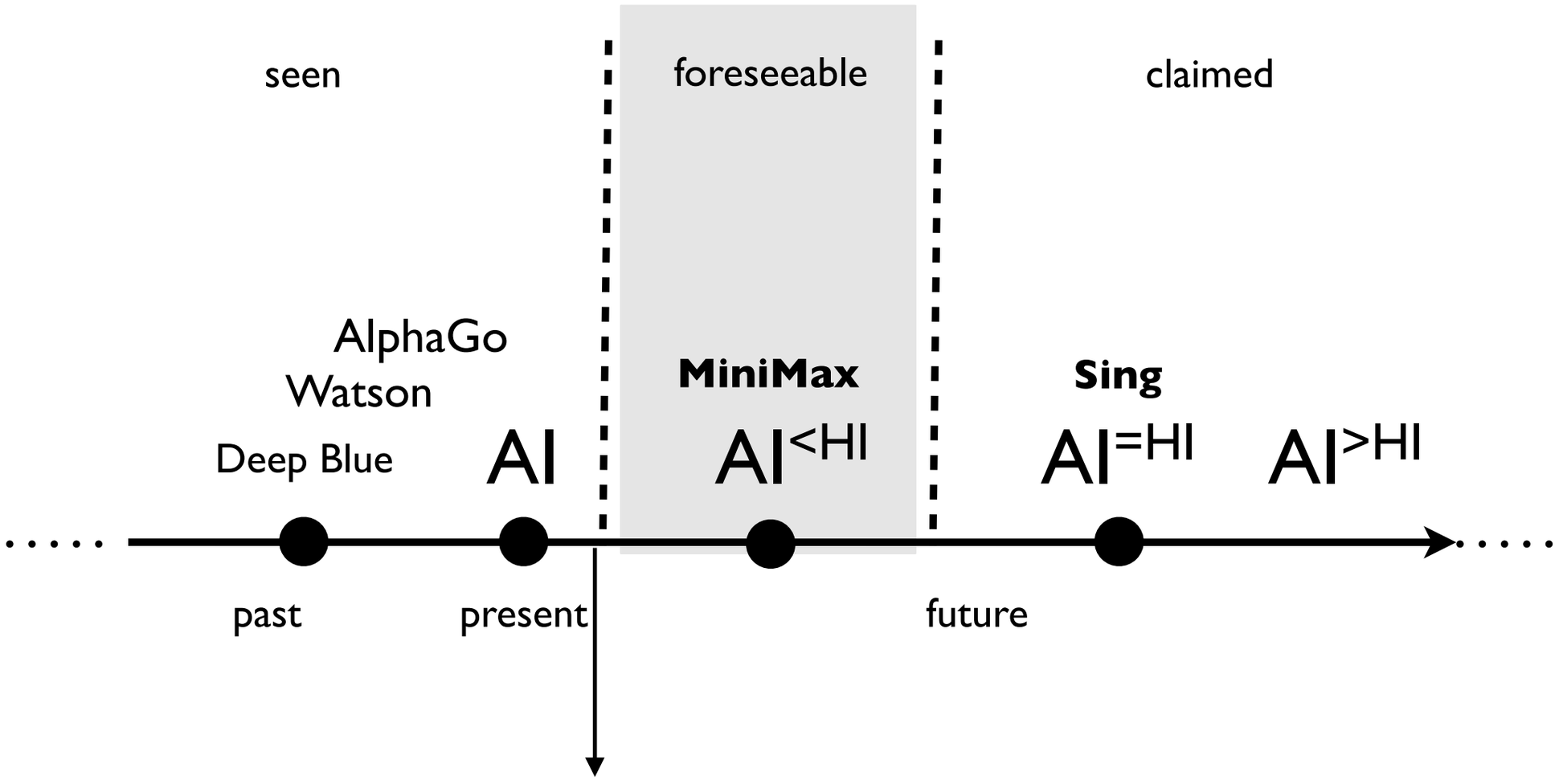
AB

First step:
Affirm The MiniMaxularity as Portal to The Answer



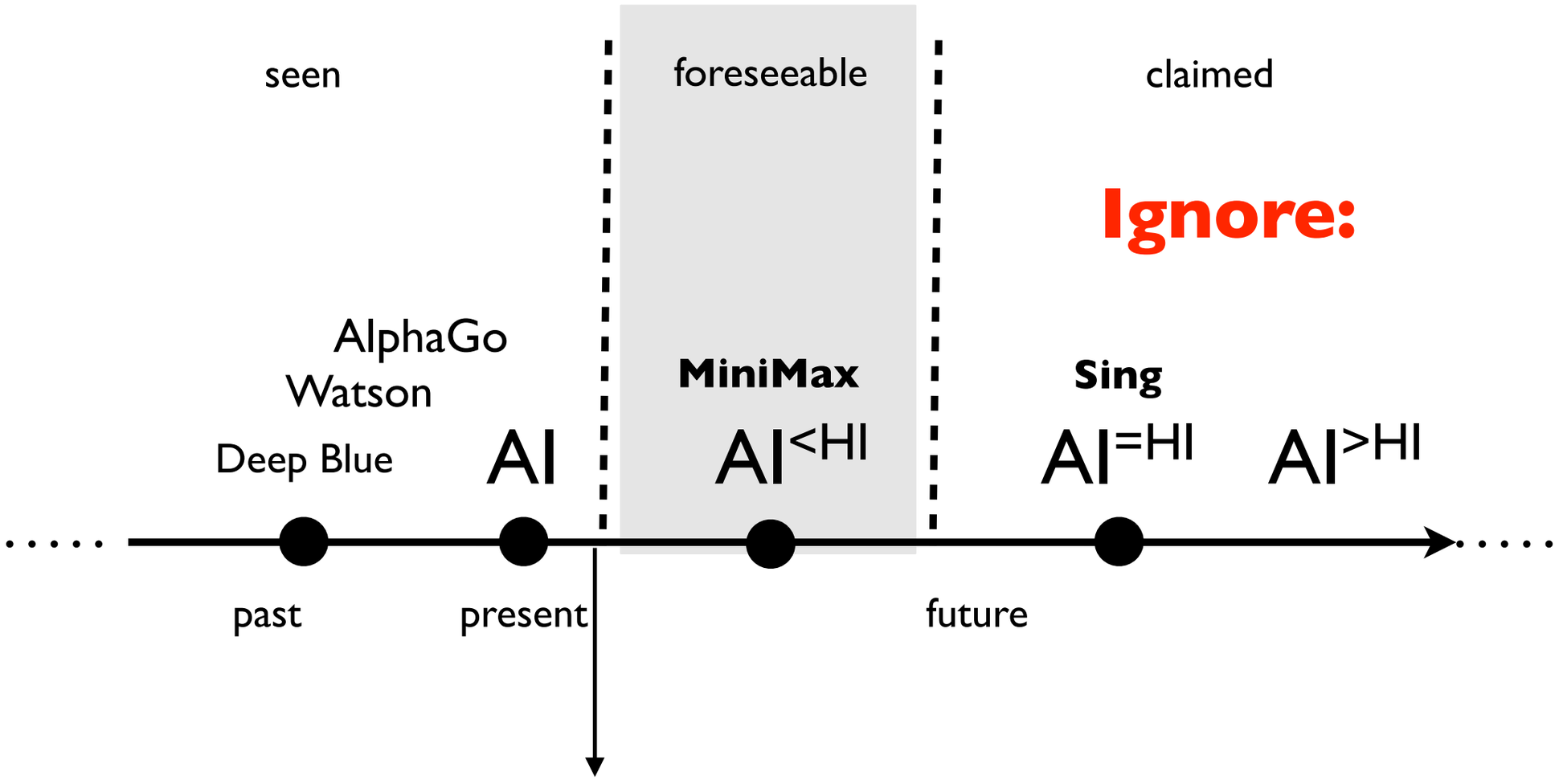
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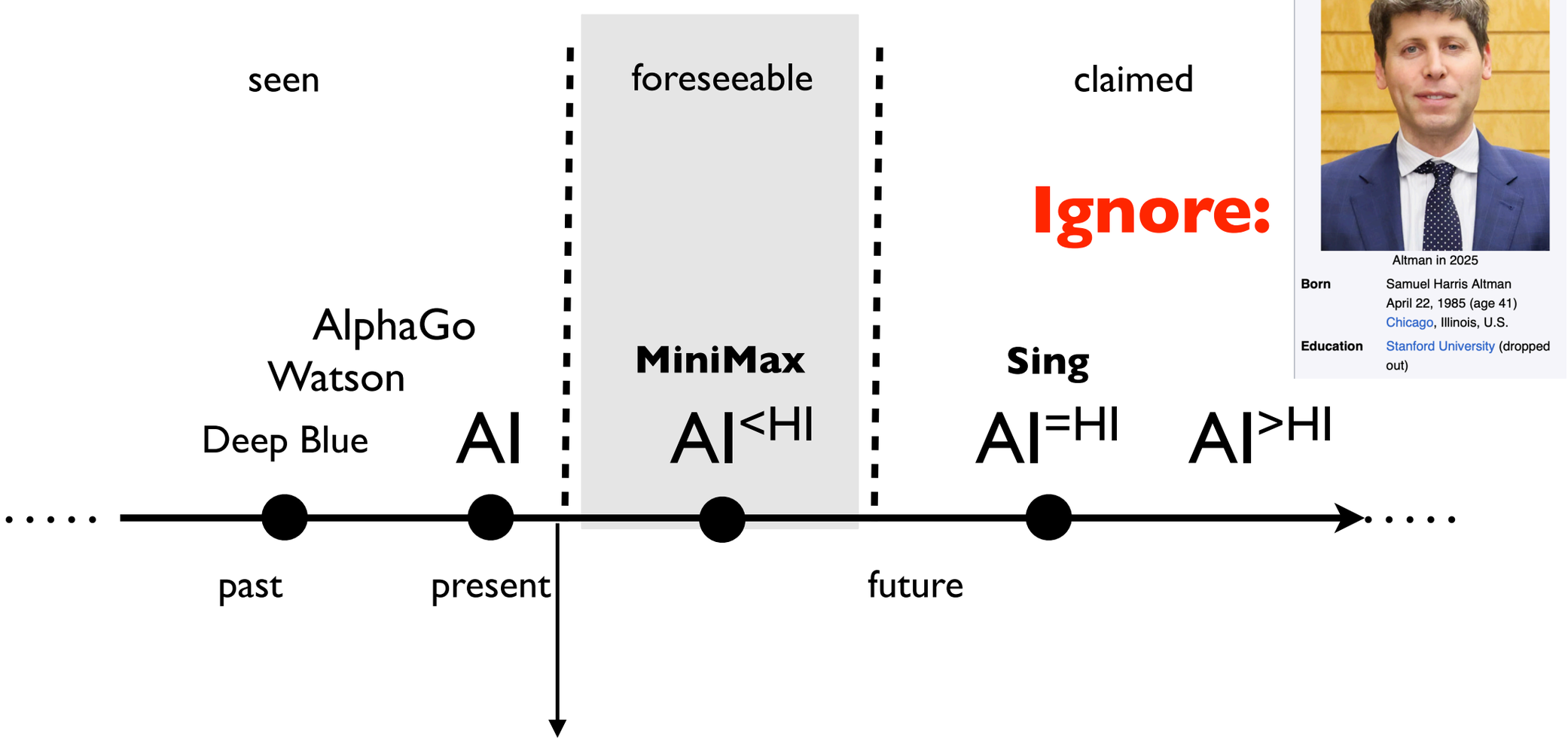
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AB

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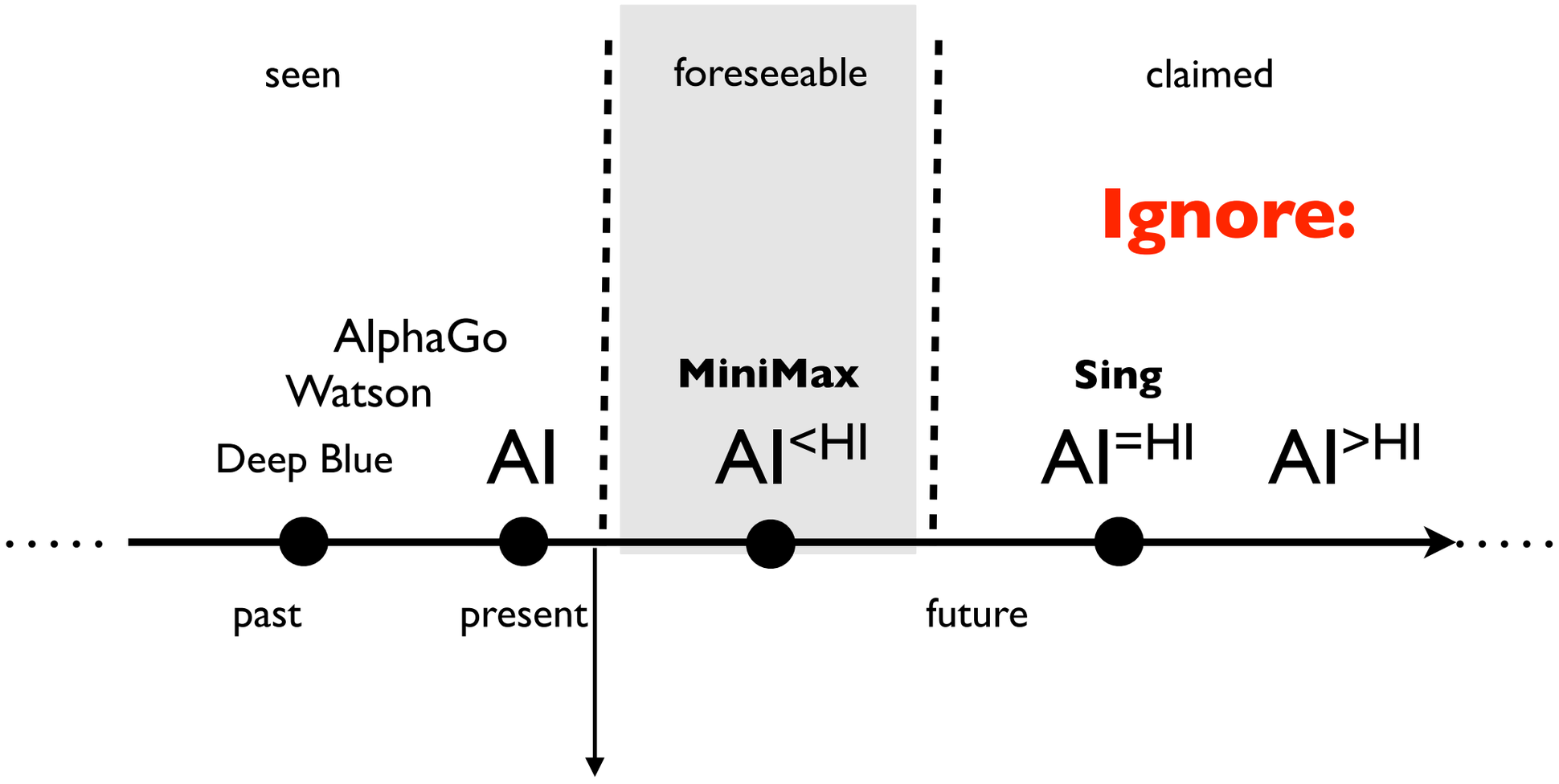


Altman in 2025

Born	Samuel Harris Altman April 22, 1985 (age 41) Chicago, Illinois, U.S.
Education	Stanford University (dropped out)

AB

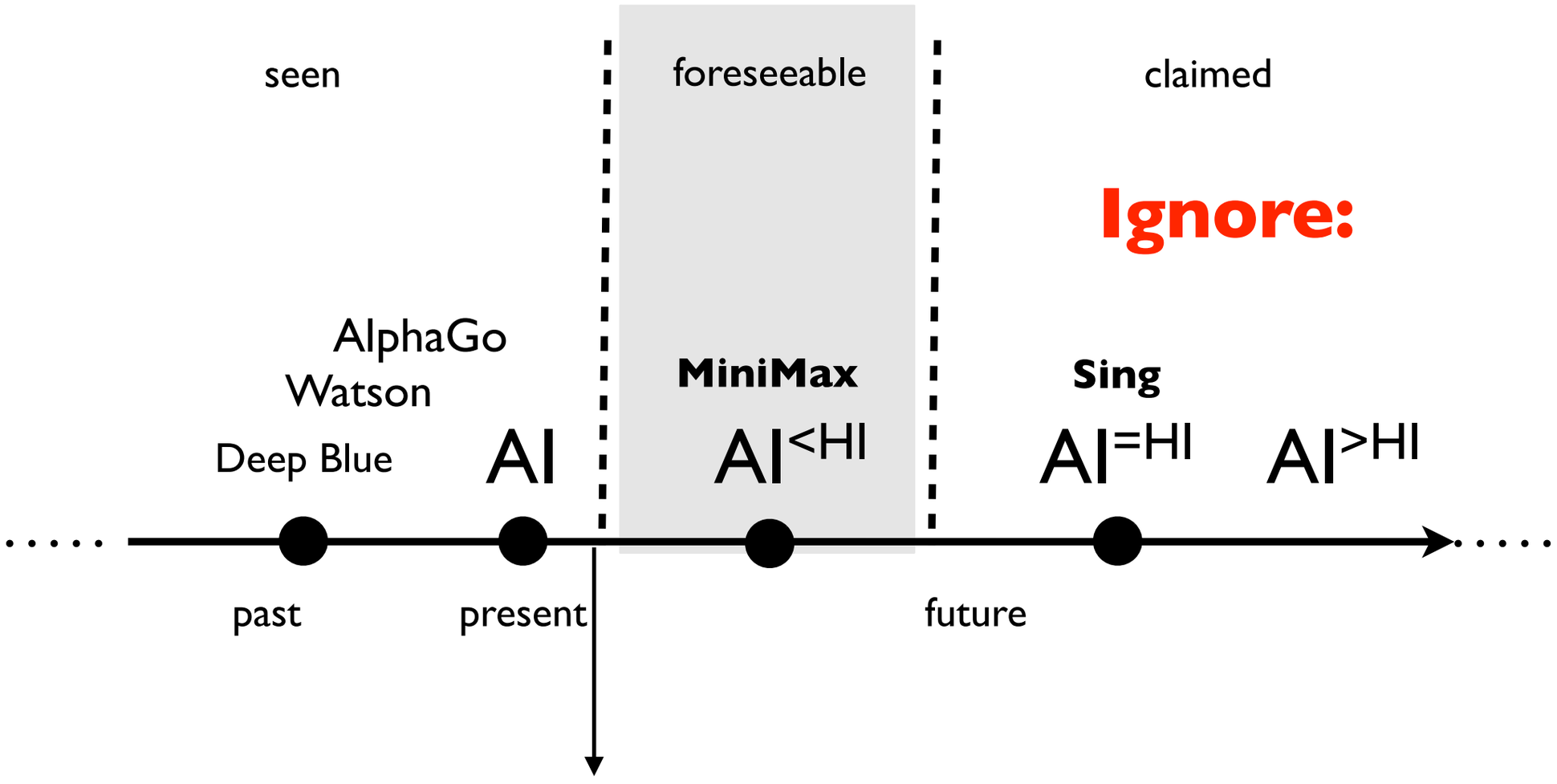
The MiniMaxularity as Basis forThe Double Whammy



AB

The MiniMaxularity as Basis for The Double Whammy

(i) Agnosticism regarding whether AI = HI ever, & re. The Singularity.

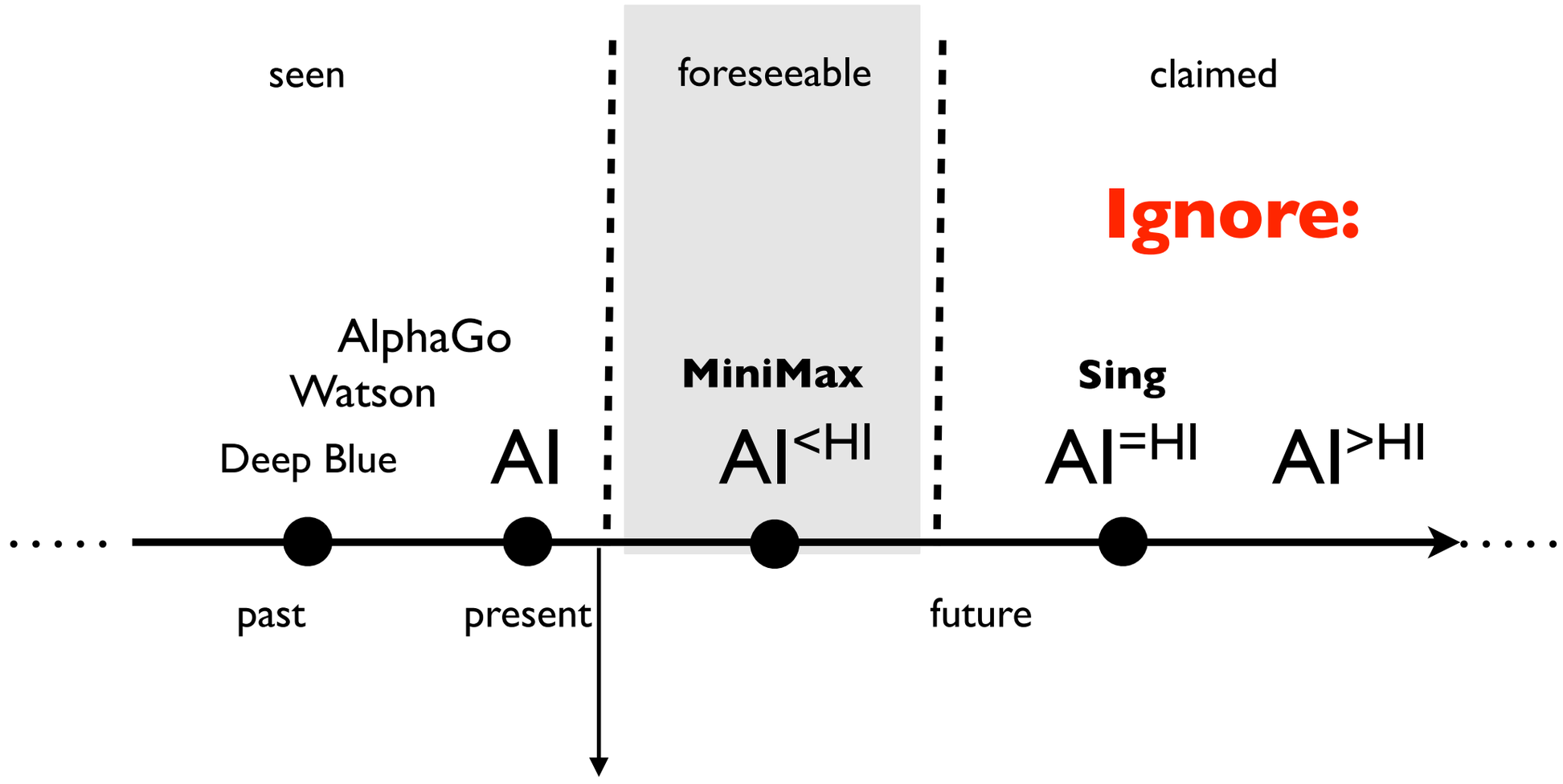


AB

The MiniMaxularity as Basis for The Double Whammy

(i) Agnosticism regarding whether AI = HI ever, & re. The Singularity.

(ii) Assume every "lab-level success" fully matures and enters the economy.



AB

So what's "The Double Whammy"?

AB

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1. AIs will permanently take over the vast majority of the work that humans currently carry out.

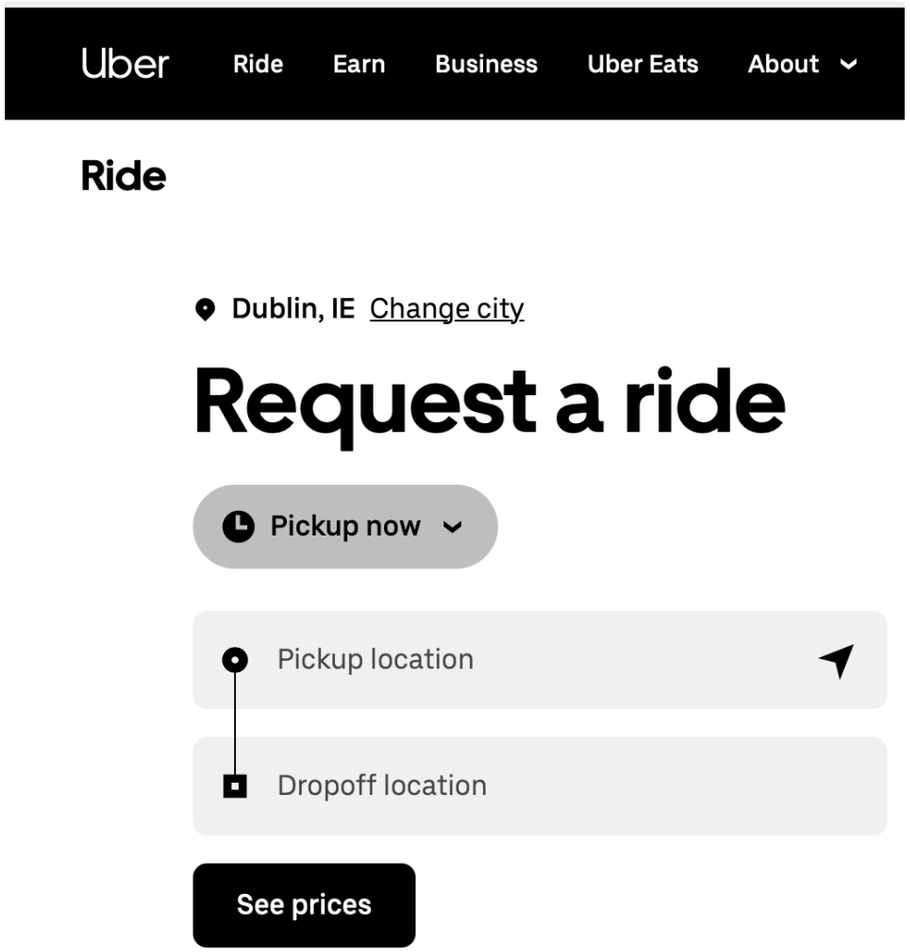
AB

So what's "The Double Whammy"?

1. AIs will permanently take over the vast majority of the work that humans currently carry out.
2. AIs will then auction off human jobs if humans (at least often) can "beat the price" of an AI's doing those jobs.

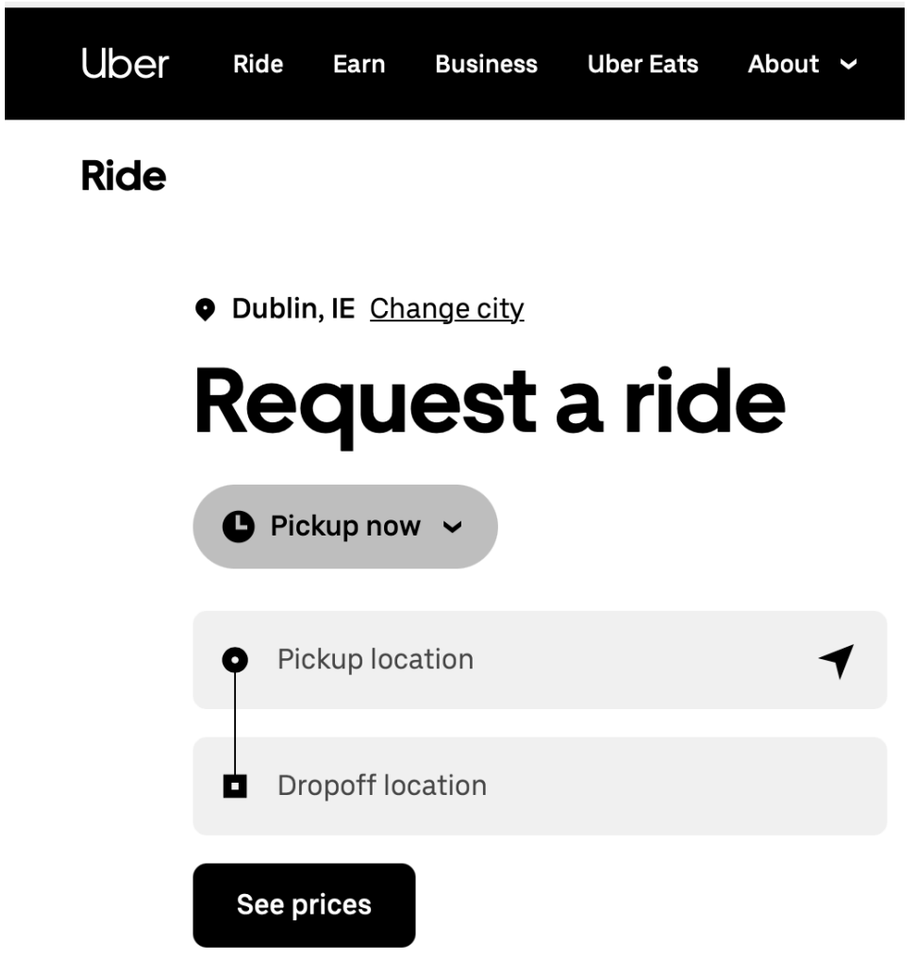
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AI as Auctioneer in Uber Tells Other 1/2!



AB

AI as Auctioneer in Uber Tells Other 1/2!



At least in the U.S., an Uber AI perceives # and location etc. of humans opening app, and human workers (= drivers) in the system — and auctions off the labor of the latter, and may even lower or raise what their pay level is.

AB

Any economists of considerable stature who suspected The Double Whammy would hit us?

AB

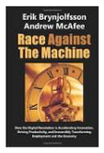
Any economists of considerable stature who suspected The Double Whammy would hit us?

- Kelso & Adler
- Herbert Simon
- Jim Albus
- Leontief & Duchin (automation)
- Nils Nilsson
- James Miller
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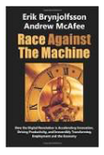
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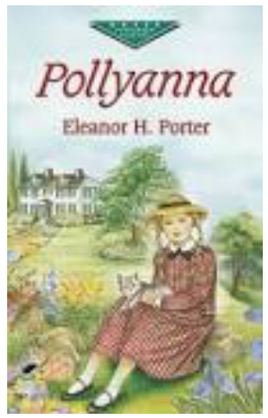
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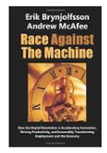
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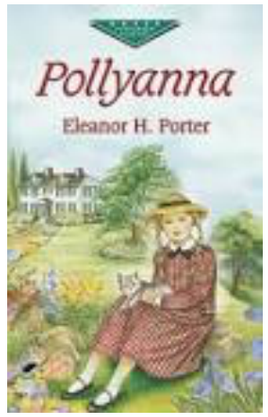


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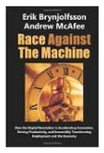


"Fortunately for humans, they will always be able to lower their labor rate."

- Jim Albus



- Leontief & Duchin (automation)
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- Bill Gates ("Tax the robots!" Really.)



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Okay, so, again we ask you:

What's to be done to block the two-fold attack on human dignity?

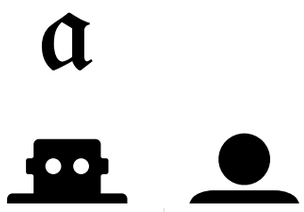


Demandingness of Jobs

Demandingness of Jobs

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Demandingness of Jobs



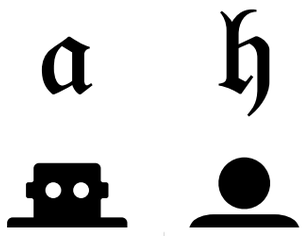
Demandingness of Jobs

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Demandingness of Jobs

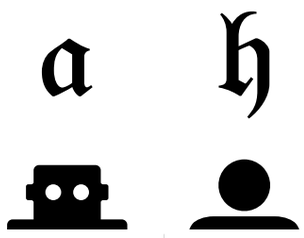
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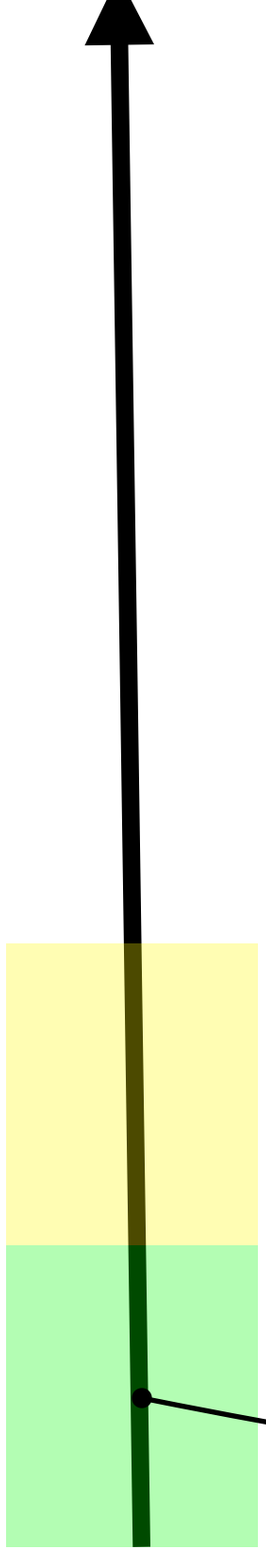
Demandingness of Jobs



Polynomial Hierarchy

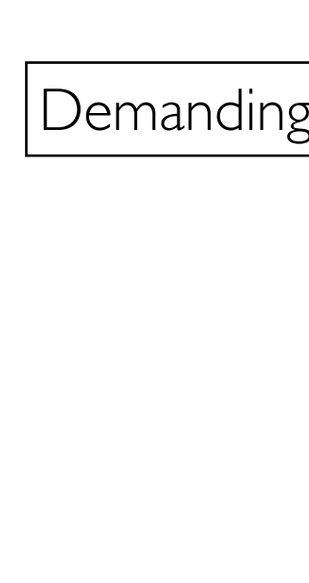
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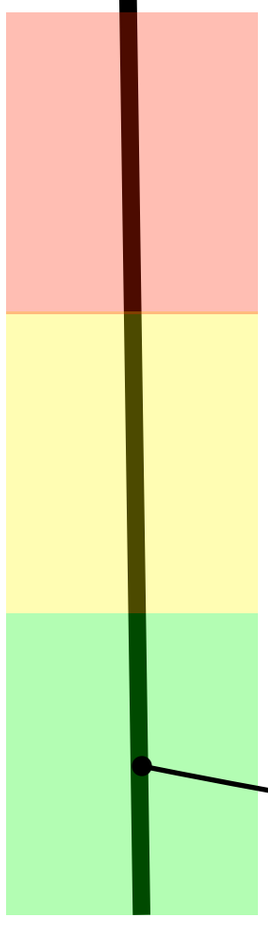




Polynomial Hierarchy

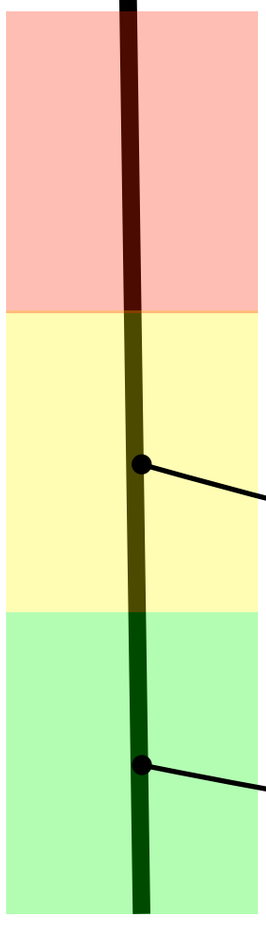
Demandingness of Jobs





Polynomial Hierarchy

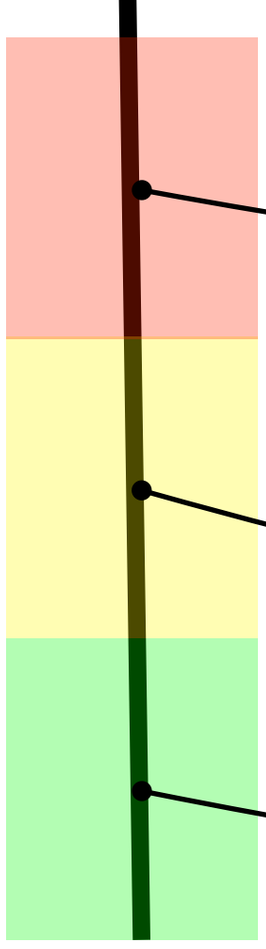
Demandingness of Jobs



Exponential Hierarchy

Polynomial Hierarchy

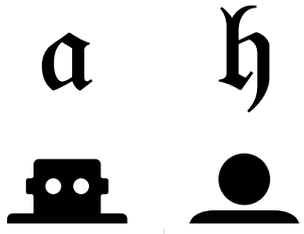
Demandingness of Jobs



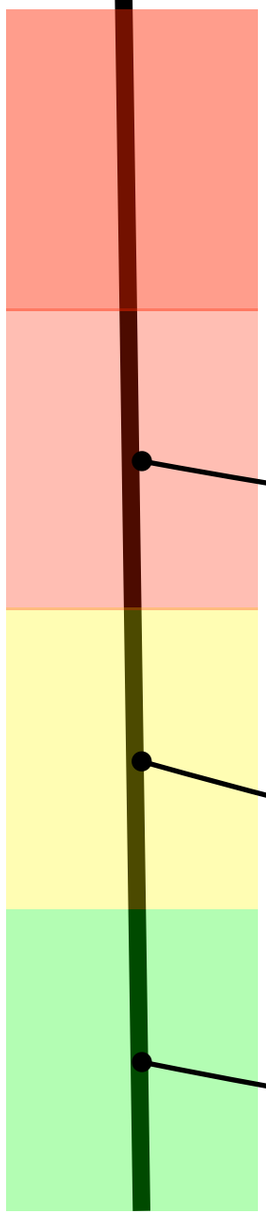
Arithmetic Hierarchy

Exponential Hierarchy

Polynomial Hierarchy



Demandingness of Jobs



Arithmetic Hierarchy

Exponential Hierarchy

Polynomial Hierarchy

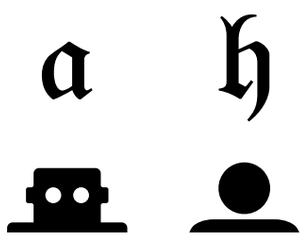
Demandingness of Jobs

Analytic Hierarchy

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Polynomial Hierarchy



Demandingness of Jobs

Analytic Hierarchy

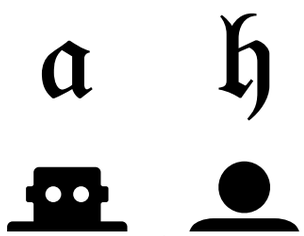
Arithmetic Hierarchy

Exponential Hierarchy



Turing

Polynomial Hierarchy



Demandingness of Jobs

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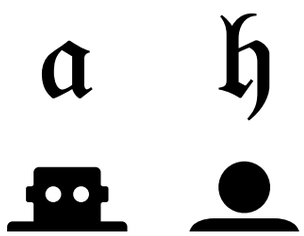
Church

Exponential Hierarchy



Turing

Polynomial Hierarchy



Demandingness of Jobs

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Arithmetic Hierarchy



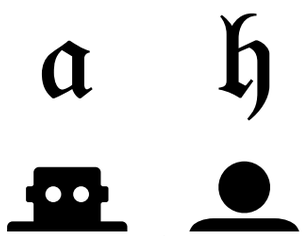
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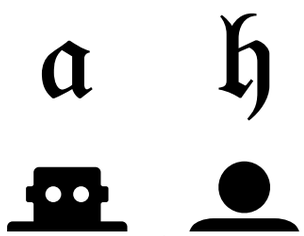
Exponential Hierarchy



Turing

Dockworking; NP-Complete

Polynomial Hierarchy



Demandingness of Jobs

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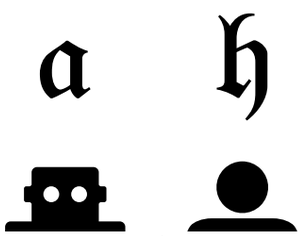
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Polynomial Hierarchy



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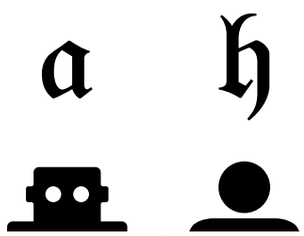
Pro Checkers/Chess/Go;
EXPTIME



Turing

Polynomial Hierarchy

Dockworking; NP-Complete



Demandingness of Jobs

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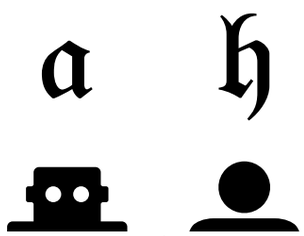
Pro Checkers/Chess/Go;
EXPTIME



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Polynomial Hierarchy



Demandingness of Jobs

Analytic Hierarchy

Aristotle⁺

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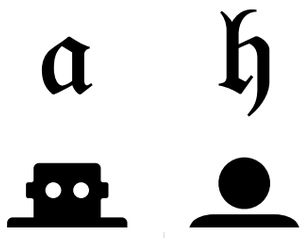
Pro Checkers/Chess/Go;
EXPTIME



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Demandingness of Jobs

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Aristotle+

Church

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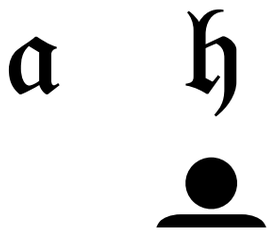


Turing

Exponential Hierarchy

Dockworking; NP-Complete

Polynomial Hierarchy





Demandingness of Jobs

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Demandingness of Jobs

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precision,
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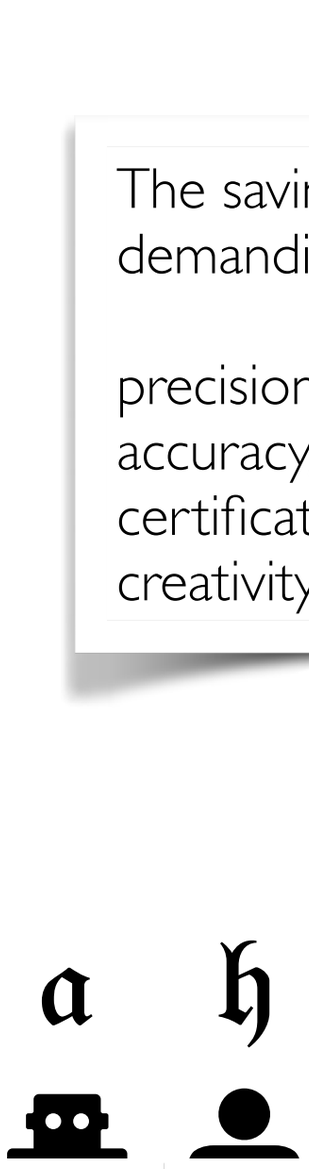
Pro Checkers/Chess/Go;
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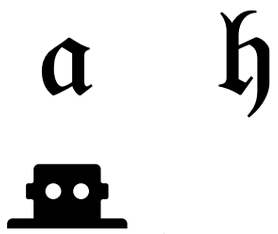
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Aristotle+

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Demandingness of Jobs

Overlay;
[e.g., Legg-Hutter (now refuted); UCI; MCG+]

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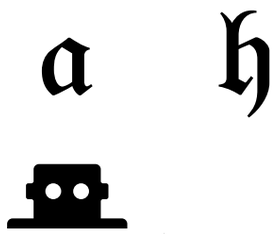
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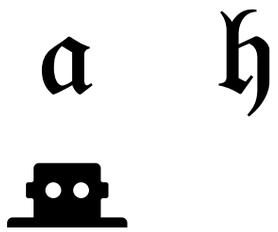
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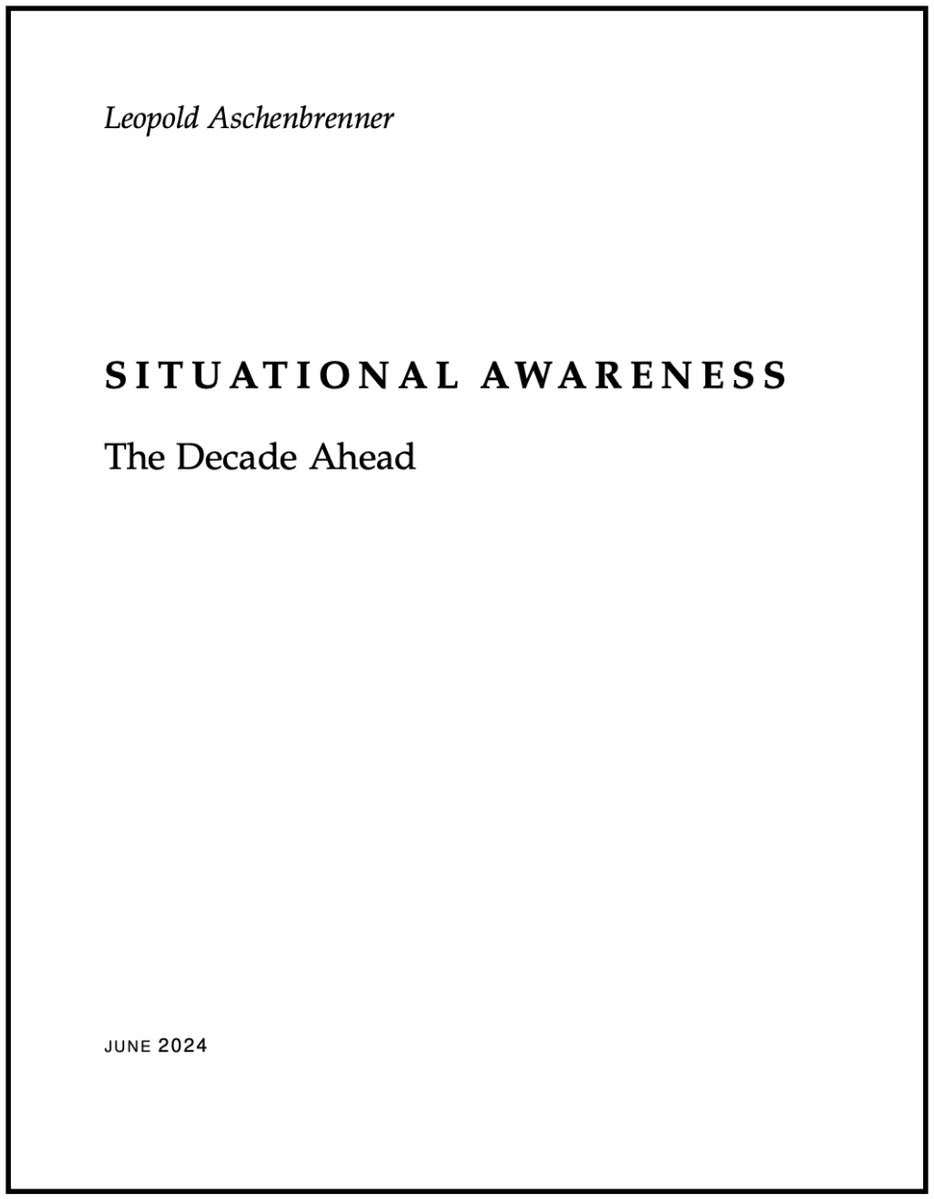
Aristotle+

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Silly Alternative Scale



Silly Alternative Scale

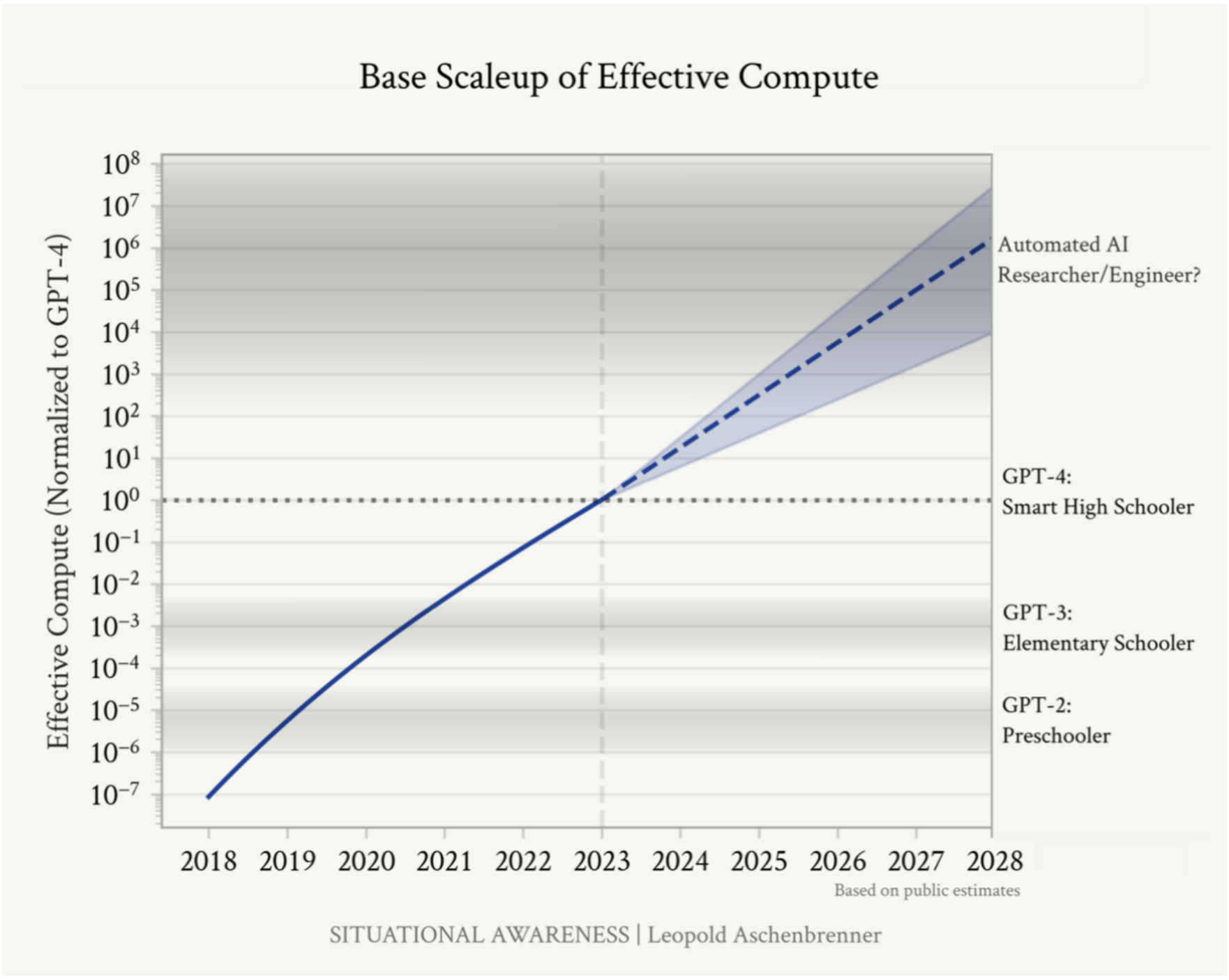
Leopold Aschenbrenner

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

The Decade Ahead

JUNE 2024

Silly Alternative Scale



Leopold Aschenbrenner

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

The Decade Ahead

JUNE 2024

So, again, what's to be done?

. . .

Increase "Common" Human Intelligence!

Suppose there are some dogs in the backyard, and we have the following two facts:

(1) All the dogs in the backyard are owned by Jim.
(2) No small dogs are in the backyard.

Then which of the following three statements must also be true?

(3) Some small dogs are not owned by Jim.
(4) Some dogs owned by Jim are not small.
(5) None of the dogs owned by Jim are small.

Immediately after thus presenting the challenge, they write:

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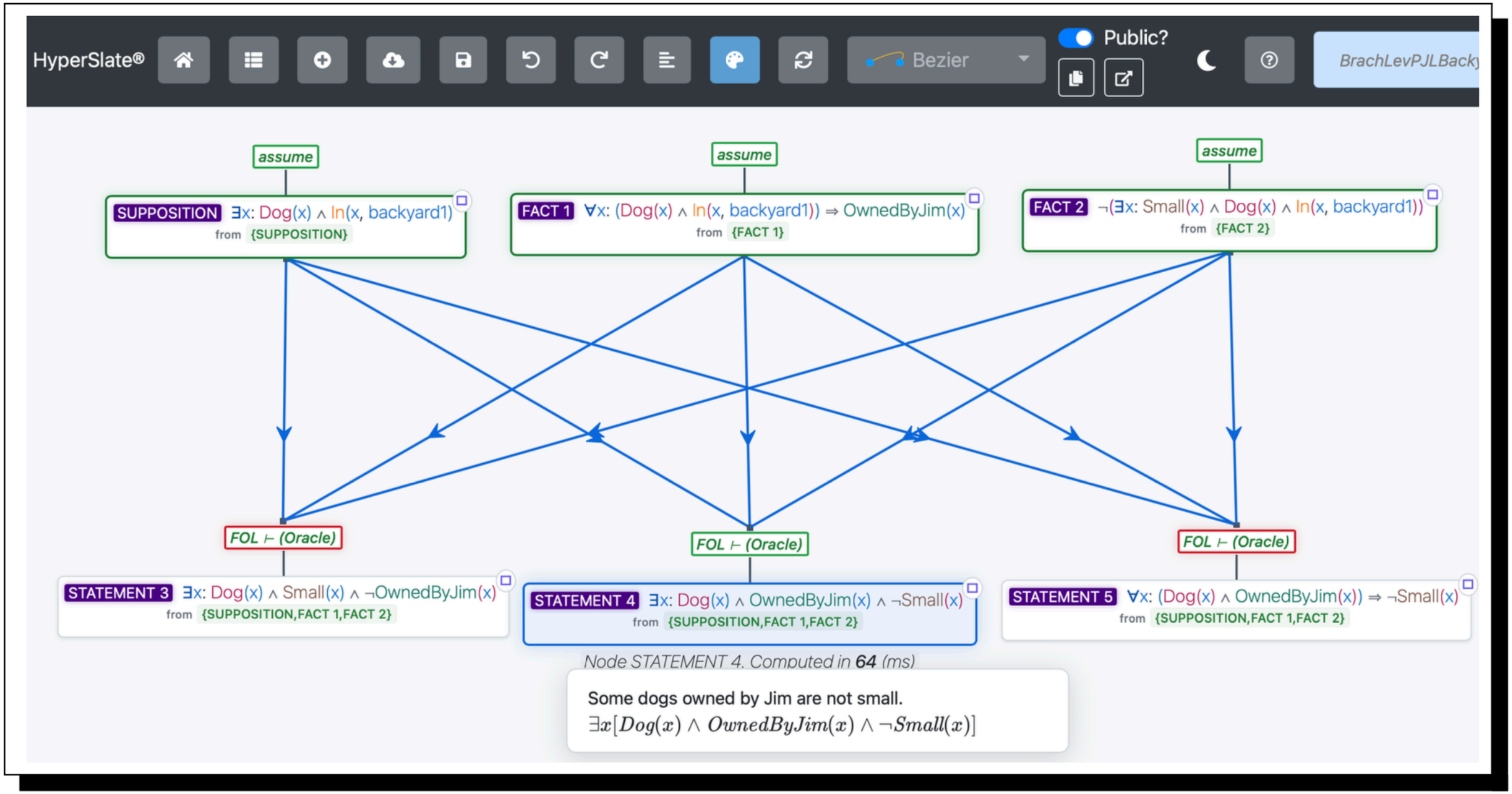
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(5) None of the dogs owned by Jim are small.

Immediately after thus presenting the challenge, they write:

[T]he correct answer here is (4). As before, we should not expect to be able to get to this conclusion from (1) and (2), as a matter of mere common sense. (B&L 2022, §"Limitations," ¶16)

Increase “Common” Human Intelligence!



Slutten