

COMPUTERS HAVE ~~NEITHER~~ MORAL FEELINGS NOR MORAL PRINCIPLES OF THEIR OWN

According to traditional mechanism (e.g. La Mettrie) man is a machine very much like a clock. Neomechanism identifies man ~~and~~ with computer. ~~In both~~ Both versions of mechanism are wrong, not only because man is a biological system, not a machine, but also because man has moral feelings and often acts according to moral principles, whereas machines neither feel nor proceed according to moral rules (other than those that their programmer may have fed them). In particular, computers are designed to simulate certain of cognitive processes (e.g. classification and calculation), not to feel ^{pity or} remorse or to reform men, let alone to improve moral codes. One and the same computer may be programmed either to direct a mass murder operation or to direct a massive relief operation; it has no conscience.

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