

Re: Neural netss (was Re: death of the mind.)

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From: Wolf Kirchmeir (wwolfkir_at_sympatico.ca)

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ray scanlon wrote:

> *Wolf Kirchmeir writes:*

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>> *The phrase may in fact mislead, since it implies a comparison (and the*
>> *comparison has been explicitly invoked by some contributors to this*
>> *thread.) But I don't see any comparison happening – there is AFAIK no*
>> *"comparator module" that takes input from the "perception module" and*
>> *the "face recognition module" and outputs "Yup, that's Johnny." The fact*
>> *is that information about edges, etc is produced in the retinal layer,*
>> *that this information passes to various NNs whose output goes to other*
>> *NNs, etc until the final output is "That's Johnny." At each layer, the*
>> *information is reorganised – that is, the inputs to the next layer have*
>> *a different pattern. Note that the face recognition module is not as*
>> *simple as the name implies – some people who have had damage in that area*
>> *can still tell they are looking at a face, they just can't tell who it*
>> *is. Others can't even tell they are looking at a face. Since the damage*
>> *is to the NN, the "reference state" can only be the organisation of the*
>> *NN, as I said above. Again, now what? The organisation of the NN*
>> *determines how it operates, is all. Calling it a reference state doesn't*
>> *help us understand how it's organised.*

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> *If we are to talk about electronic devices, it might help to think of*
> *the brain as a PAL (programmable array logic) rather than a Von*
> *Neumann computer. Then the signal energy comes in through the sensory*
> *neurons, filters through the interneurons, and comes out as a motor*
> *act. (Majendie's Law) No magic, just circuitry.*

That looks like a Better Idea, all right. Just how complexly

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