From:	Noam Chomsky < ██████████ >
Sent:	Tuesday, June 9, 2015 2:18 AM
To:	jeffrey E.
Subject:	RE: Re:

It's absolutely true that for study of choice of action, the computer model is not helpful at all. That's something I've been arguing for many decades, in opposition to most physicists these days, who claim that choice of action reduces to determinacy and randomness (i.e., programmable). I think it may have come up in the Krauss discussion. I also discussed it again in my Dewey lectures in the J. of Philosophy in December 2013.

I don't frankly see how the Schrodinger analogy helps in this case.

To clarify, the people I mentioned weren't students working on computers. Rather, professional mathematicians and physicists. The two who have been attending seminars for many years, and have published in areas very closely related to my work, are a mathematician and quantum physicist at Northeastern.

Noam

From: jeffrey E. [mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2015 9:57 PM
To: Noam Chomsky
Subject: Re:

brain as a computer? as silly as artificial intelligence., The simple example I teach re quantum is when i try to decide should i order fish or meat. for the moment before I order (as you an I agree ms before i even am concious of ordering.) both choices like schroedingers cat exist as a superpostioned wave function that collapses and a choice is made. . yes i am taking liberties. . the students you referred to you suggest are working on computers, not very odd that they might see you I language conforming to their pre perceptions

On Mon, Jun 8, 2015 at 9:41 PM, Noam Chomsky < ██████████ > <mailto: ██████████ > > wrote:

I have a VERY thick skin, and love to hear criticism. One of the best ways to learn. And I've often given up closely held beliefs on the basis of persuasive argumentation. But in this case, I just don't see the arguments.

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It's true that the mathematics lacks rigor, but that's for the same reason that publications in professional math journals lack rigor. The steps that are not spelled out are straightforward enough so that they can be easily filled in. I don't know of any problems about set theory, apart from the classic ones. Some version of set theory is presupposed in every branch of math, including category theory. As for the brain as a computer, I'm not sure what you see as the problem. The papers I sent you do assume that I-language is a computational system, with the properties mentioned, easily formalized. I don't know of any coherent alternative. Actually, very good professional mathematicians and physicists, one working primarily on quantum computers, have attended my regular seminars for years, but I've never heard a suggestion as to how mathematical ideas used in quantum theory would be relevant to systems of the kind we're considering. The "displacement conjecture" is, in fact, an immediate consequence of what would be the best possible theory if it's true: SMT, in particular, the assumption that the basic combinatorial operation is the simplest one possible. Merge is simply set-formation, presupposed in all of mathematics. I agree that it's naïve, if by that you mean very simple, arguably optimally so. But hasn't that been the pretty explicit goal of science, at least since Galileo, quantum theory included? I'd like to hear the objections, and hope to learn from them.

Noam

From: jeffrey E. [mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com <mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, June 08, 2015 3:07 PM
To: Noam Chomsky
Subject:

I will take your word that you share my thick skin for criticism and share a strange pleasure in learning, even if it means having to accept that some formerly closely held beliefs might need strong correction. I have no particular knowledge re politics or history, so I will never offer an opinion. however re mathematics and or money , I feel on strong ground. That being said, thought puzzles in the paper are brilliant and insightful. the mathematical descriptions lack rigor , and the metaphors suffer from the common science limitation of trying to describe things using the engineering metaphors or the tools of the moment.ex. The human or its brain as a computer ., set theory . It was popular in the early 20th as you know to describe the body as an electric machine.. the mathematics used today in quantum show more promise , as it attempts to describe things that appear counter intuitive. or difficult to comprehend , (your displacement conjecture) your simple X and Y , Merge , is quite naive and unfortunately incorrect.

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2. from the paper you sent. ; a much more elegant way of conveying what i had failed to do re sentences and money

European structuralism commonly adopted the Saussurean conception of language (MONEY) (in the relevant sense) as a social entity; as Saussure put it, a storehouse of word images (values) in the brains of a collectivity of individuals founded on a "sort of contract."

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The information contained in this communication is

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please note