



FUTURISM 2, 14, 18 by JOLENE CREIGHTON

The “Father of Artificial Intelligence” Says Singularity Is 30 Years Away

All evidence points to the fact that the singularity is coming (regardless of which futurist you believe).

/ Artificial Intelligence / Artificial Intelligence / Singularity / Wigs

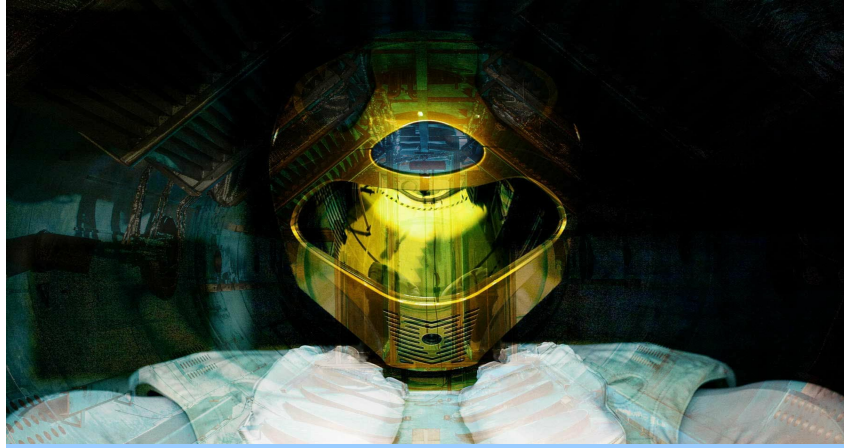


Image by CCO/Futurism

You've probably been told that the singularity is coming. It is that long-awaited point in time — likely, a point in our very near future — when advances in artificial intelligence lead to the creation of a machine (a technological form of life?) smarter than humans.

If Ray Kurzweil is to be believed, [the singularity will happen in 2045](#). If we throw our hats in with Louis Rosenberg, then the day will be arriving a little sooner, likely sometime in 2030. MIT's Patrick Winston would have you believe that it will likely be a little closer to Kurzweil's prediction, [though he puts the date at 2040, specifically](#).

But what difference does it make? We are talking about a difference of just 15 years. The real question is, is the singularity *actually* on its way?

At the [World Government Summit in Dubai](#), I spoke with Jürgen Schmidhuber, who is the Co-Founder and Chief Scientist at AI company [NNAISENSE](#), Director of the Swiss AI lab IDSIA, and heralded by some as the “father of artificial intelligence” to find out.

ADVERTISEMENT

He is confident that the singularity will happen, and rather soon. Schmidhuber says it “is just 30 years away, if the trend doesn't break, and there will be rather cheap computational devices that have as many connections as your brain but are much faster,” he said.

And that's just the beginning. Imagine a cheap little device that isn't just smarter than humans — it can compute as much data as *all* human brains taken together. Well, this may become a reality just 50 years from now. “And there will be many, many of those. There is no doubt in my mind that AIs are going to become super smart,” Schmidhuber says.

Image Credit: [Randall Bruder](#)/Futurism

Today, the world faces a number of hugely complex challenges, from global warming to the refugee crisis. These are all problems that, over time, will affect everyone on the planet, deeply and irreversibly. But the real seismic change, one that will influence the way we respond to each one of those crises, will happen elsewhere.

“It is much more than just another industrial revolution. It is something that transcends humankind and life itself.”

“All of this complexity pales against this truly important development of our century, which is much more than just another industrial revolution,” Schmidhuber says. Of course, the development that he is referring to is the development of these artificial superintelligences, a thing that Schmidhuber says “is something that transcends humankind and life itself.”

ADVERTISEMENT

When biological life emerged from chemical evolution, 3.5 billion years ago, a random combination of simple, lifeless elements kickstarted the explosion of species populating the planet today. Something of comparable magnitude may be about to happen. “Now the universe is making a similar step forward from lower complexity to higher complexity,” Schmidhuber beams. “And it's going to be awesome.”

Like with biological life, there will be an element of randomness to that crucial leap between a powerful machine and artificial life. And while we may not be able to predict exactly when, all evidence points to the fact that the singularity *will* happen.

As a Futurism reader, we invite you join the [Singularity Global Community](#), our parent company's forum to discuss futuristic science & technology with like-minded people from all over the world. It's free to join, [sign up now!](#)

SHARE THIS ARTICLE



ADVERTISEMENT

READ THIS NEXT

AI COMRADE

Grimes Says AI Will Usher in an Era of Luxurious Communism

NIGHTMARE ELIZA

Professor Warns of “Nightmare” Bots That Prey on Vulnerable People

JUST LOG OFF

New AI Is Designed to Debate People, and It Could Ruin Social Media

FAKE DNA

New Algorithm Generates Synthetic Human Genetic Code

BALD ASSUMPTIONS

Robot Camera Mistakes Soccer Ref's Bald Head For Ball



MORE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

COMPANY MANDATED CHEERINESS THURSDAY on THE BYTE

Chinese Canon Employees Must Smile at the Facial Recognition Camera Before Returning to Work

PROUD PARENTS JUN 10 on THE BYTE

Google's DeepMind Says It Has All the Tech It Needs for General AI

DIAL 0 FOR OPERATOR JUN 9 on THE BYTE

McDonald's Replaces Drive-Thru Human Workers With Siri-Like AI

READ MORE STORIES ABOUT [ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE](#)

KEEP UP.
SUBSCRIBE TO OUR DAILY NEWSLETTER TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE
SUBJECTS SHAPING OUR FUTURE.

ENTER YOUR EMAIL

I understand and agree that registration on or use of this site constitutes agreement to its User Agreement and Privacy Policy

→ **Subscribe**

ADVERTISEMENT



+Social+Newsletter

TopicsAbout UsContact Us

Copyright ©, Singularity Education Group All Rights Reserved. See our User Agreement, Privacy Policy and Cookie Statement. The material on this site may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, cached or otherwise used, except with prior written permission of Futurism. Fonts by Typekit and Monotype.