

Asking for AI's help in distinguishing two closely related and new theoretical concepts

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For some time, we have been curious about AI's real-world capabilities in helping us, humans, understand academic issues. Many tries have been made in order to explore AI's answers. It turns out that although not every response is satisfactory, most responses provide some useful information.

Today, another attempt to explore You.com's capability was made for a more difficult "exercise". The exercise was to ask for AI's help in distinguishing two closely related and new theoretical concepts, which could even make us think hard, taking some time. Notably, we have been familiar with both concepts and have undergone numerous research activities using both, separately or jointly.

We asked: *"What is the difference between mindsponge processes and mindsponge theory?"*

Our prior expectation had been AI's refusal to answer this, using some vague reasons such as lack of information, unfamiliar concepts or insufficient space to perform the task.

Nonetheless, to our surprise, You.com responded in like no time with a crystal clear answer, as follows:

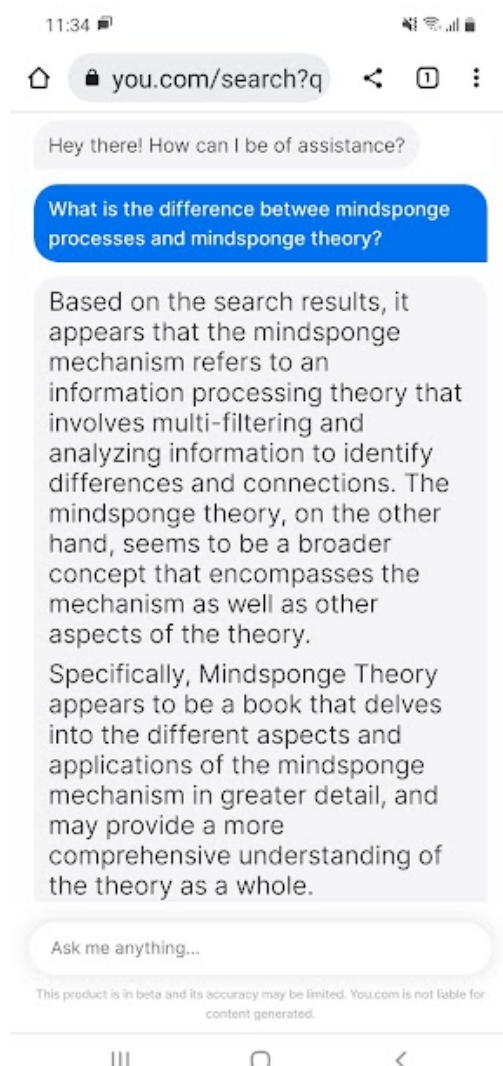
"Based on the search results, it appears that the mindsponge mechanism refers to an information processing theory that involves multi-filtering and analyzing information to identify differences and connections. The mindsponge theory, on the other hand, seems to be a broader concept that encompasses the mechanism as well as other aspects of the theory.

Specifically, Mindsponge Theory appears to be a book that delves into the different aspects and applications of the mindsponge mechanism in greater detail, and may provide a more comprehensive understanding of the theory as a whole.

However, without further information, it may be difficult to provide a definitive answer to the difference between the processes and theory. I recommend reading the relevant materials and/or seeking further information to gain a deeper understanding of these concepts.”

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The answer has essentially been satisfactory to us. We particularly like the last paragraph, which somehow serves as a caveat to using the answer provided by the AI. It seems the AI understands that this task is more complex than the deceptively simple question.



Further checking the information sources used to answer the query, we also realized that the AI had tapped the most updated resources.

For your information, the original source dealing with [mindsponge processes](#) is [1], and [mindsponge theory](#) [2].

## References

[1] Vuong QH, Napier NK. (2015). [Acculturation and global mindsponge: an emerging market perspective](#). *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, 49, 354-367.

[2] Vuong QH. (2023). [Mindsponge Theory](#). De Gruyter.



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