Free Will: Free Choice under Constraints

1. Free will: free choice under constrains

The problem of Free Will is an important topic in religion, philosophy and neuroscience. We will introduce a new model of free will: free choice under constraints. Under outer and inner constraints, human still have the ability of free choice. Outer constrains include physical rules, environment and so on. Inner constrains include customs, desires, habits, preferences and so on. Given a specific context, human have the ability of deciding Yes/No on a specific preference. The free choices are caused, but not determined, by the outer and inner constraints.

In addition, the free choices will refashion the inner constraints. Preferences are gradually formed by human, thus they may be gradually de-formed by human. Human can keep the positive preferences, while de-form the negative preferences. When we de-form the negative preferences, we have the chance to pursue another new possibility. So are scientists. They can keep the positive aspects of the known theory, while eliminate the negative aspects. When they eliminate the negative aspects of old conceptual schema, they have the chance to pursue another new conceptual schema.

2. Against "The Standard Argument Against Free Will"

The past events are caused and decided, but the future events are not determined. There is a key difference between the past and the future. The Standard Argument against Free Will did not divide the past and the future.

In general, the Standard Argument against Free Will is some kind of Proof by Contradiction. Proof by Contradiction could not tell us existence or non-existence of experience, but tell us that there are incoherent in the known conceptual scheme. Proof by Contradiction could not tell us a new knowledge, because deductive reasoning is close in the sense of deductive closure.

3. Human Intelligence and Machine Intelligence

Based on this model of Free Will, human intelligence could be better understood. Human intelligence is free and open, while machine intelligence is fixed and closed to some extent. For machine intelligence, its core data structure and algorithm are fixed and close. Maybe you will say there are evolutional algorithms, but the core algorithm, which decides how to evolve, is still fixed and closed.

For machine intelligence, it is fixed and closed under the given algorithms and rules. For human intelligence, we have the ability to free from all inner constrains and all preferences. Nothing is impossible.

4. Mind and Brain

Based on this model of Free Will, neuroplasticity could be better understood. Neuroplasticity means that neuronal circuits are plastic. There are interesting parallels between neuronal circuits and preferences. In my opinion, preferences and neuronal circuits are both formed and reformed by human's free choices. Where problems occur,

where problems can be solved. Human's free choices have the ability to free from all negative preferences and negative neuronal circuits.

5. Conceptualization

Based on this model of Free Will, conceptualizations could be better understood. Most of Concepts and rules are all constructively formed and reformed by human's free will. The meaning of concepts and rules are both plastic and changing. Once we use a concept to conceptualize an experience, the meaning of the concept is changing. So are rules. Based on this idea, the paradox of following a rule could be solved.

The full article is written in Chinese. You can see in the following link: http://www.unicornblog.cn/user1/20/28641.html