

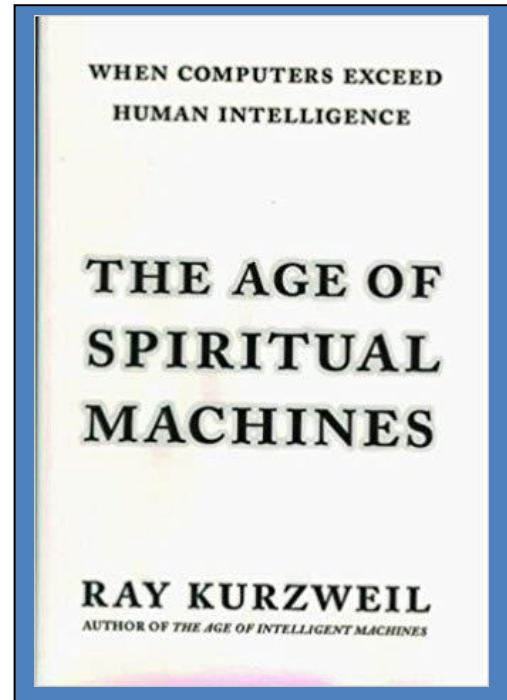
From the Planners' Bookshelf...

The Age of Spiritual Machines, When Computers Exceed Human Intelligence

Ray Kurzweil, Penguin Putnam, Inc., NY, 388 pages, 1999.

Ray Kurzweil is one of our best thinkers about artificial intelligence. ***The Age of Spiritual Machines***, while 20 years old, presents Kurzweil's prescience for today's conditions and offers a great overview of the beginnings, the rationale' and the evolution of artificial intelligence; and the next steps in its progress. Planners thinking long range about quality of life issues acknowledge the presence of artificial intelligence in the first decades of the 21st century. Sensors, algorithms and the conversion of people to data is here today; and more is on the way.

Kurzweil provides technical and philosophical ideas about what is happening and what will continue to happen at an increasingly rapid pace. A good read; an introduction for the uninitiated, a good step-back look for those in the trenches.



from: Reason and Meaning

Philosophical Reflections on Life, Death, and the Meaning of Life

[The Age of Spiritual Machines: When Computers Exceed Human Intelligence](#)

“The Inexorable Emergence”

“Sometime in the next 100 years machines will surpass human intelligence. Computers today already surpass humans in activities like playing chess, diagnosing some medical conditions, buying and selling stocks, and guiding missiles. Still human intelligence is far more flexible than machine intelligence. Computers can't describe objects on a table, write a term paper, tie shoes, distinguish a dog and a cat, appreciate humor, etc. One reason for this is that computers are simpler than the human brain, about a million times simpler. But this difference will go away. Computers are doubling in speed every twelve months, and they will achieve the memory capacity and computing speed of the human brain around 2020.”

Read more at: <https://reasonandmeaning.com/kurzweils-the-age-of-spiritual-machines/>