The power of the machine

Imagine if... machines could predict the future

Quantum computing

Artificial intelligence

By 2071, machines are able to predict the actions of individuals and social groups with high levels of confidence, as well as identifying how and where to intervene to shape that future.

Fundamental questions arise over the frameworks which govern the operation of artificial intelligences as they arrive at the point where they can effectively manipulate humanity through observation of our behavior and control over aspects of our information space and virtual world, through politics and through religion.

Will AIs develop independent thought and free will… and will our reactions be determined by the interventions of AIs themselves? Does humanity retain free will and creativity in this brave new world? The third of our groups of "Imagine if" scenarios focuses on examples on omniscience and omnipotence in this new world enabled by technology.

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