

Martin Luther King and the “Ghost in the Machine”

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Twins of different color

In 1955, John McCarthy, Marvin Minsky, Nathaniel Rochester and Claude Shannon submitted “A proposal for the Dartmouth summer research project on Arti-

Trenchard More, who developed array theory (fundamental to the programming language APL).

In 1955, Rosa Parks famously refused to give up her seat for White riders on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. The bus driver called the police; they arrested Parks for breaking Montgomery's segregation laws which required her to give up her seat. The Montgomery Improvement Association was formed, and Dr. Martin Luther King was elected its president. The boycott lasted through almost a year, despite great financial hardship and violence against King and others, until the United States Supreme Court declared Montgomery's racial segregation laws unconstitutional. King achieved prominence as a result of the Montgomery bus boycott, and the struggle for civil rights for African-Americans became a national issue.

Both the modern U.S. civil rights movement and AI research were born in the mid-fifties. It will surprise no one that these the civil rights movement and AI research had no influence on each other. All of the attendees of the Dartmouth summer conference were White, were male, were from a small number of northern institutions—Princeton, MIT, CIT (later CMU), and IBM. The civil rights movement started in the U.S. South by African-Americans (with, of course, persecution by Southern Whites) who sought basic human rights: the right to vote, to use public transportation and other public accommodations freely, to work. Still, by taking no notice of the civil rights movement happening around them, the orig-

“God’s book of Proofs,” maybe, like Kepler, we hope to think God’s thoughts after him. Consider researchers as essentially experimental trials; each idea is likely to

about rational action. It's also not surprising that the men of AI did not begin researching the importance of emotion on human thinking—the focus on “rationality” makes this a stretch. The intuition here is that the “color” of researchers and

love, and *evil*. And, of course, there are many more. A really good AI model of *forgiveness*, for example, is, I suspect, no harder to create than a good AI model of *temporal reasoning*

