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Sense as a “translation”
of mental contents

What is sense?

- Sense is an internal (non-sensory) experience of coherence (or rightness), a feeling of affective resonance linked to assessing something, an experience of fitting something, a strong experience of unity between the object and the subject. Sense is linked to understanding but not strictly amounting to meaning in so far that meaning is linked to semantics

Artificial sense?

- Sense is seen, hypothetically, as an “emerging” aspect of the phenomenal mind, embedded in the brain and probably the upshot of biological evolution; as such, in principle, it can be studied and reproduced inside artifacts which include pre-established constraints

Two underlying premises

- (a) The human mind is able to have sensory and non-sensory content
- (b) Sense is one of the distinctive features of human consciousness.

Proposed definition

- Sense is the assembly of the mutual inter-translatability of a group of mental contents (sensory and non sensory ones – or phenomenal , representational and non representational ones). Sense emerges locally from given content configurations when the same interrelate to a series of remnants with associated bodily feelings

Eliminativism Argument

- Contra eliminativism argument:
it is not possible to dispose of sense
as an operative concept,
even if we remove it from our vocabulary

Chinese Room argument

We can have no meaning
but we can have
an overall sense of what's happening

Social sense

- Sense (specific sense connected to a group of mental contents) as private with regards to its origin and inter-subjective with regard to its dissemination
- It is possible that we are no longer able to understand the sense of actions or expressions of primitive man since his universe of mental contents was very different from ours

Artificial “common sense”

- The Cyc project:
natural language understanding, checking and integrating information in spreadsheets and data bases, and finding relevant information in image libraries and on the World Wide Web

What is fringe?

- The fringe is the equivalent to condensed information: it implies (by way of “imminence” phenomenology or potential access) the presence of a large quantity of information which does not encumber the focal working space

Fringe: basic feature of sense?

- The feeling of context has three component parts: a faded memory of previous thoughts, a “feeling of relation” between the current thought and other potentially relevant ones, and a “feeling of tendency” of the train of thought (cf. William James)

What is transparency?

- Transparency results from a structural/functional property of the neural information-processing going on in our brains, which makes earlier processing stages attentionally unavailable

Highly speculative conclusion

- By linking a fuzzy logic to an enhanced Cyc system with systematically probabilistic inferences (and the required corollaries linked to embodiment), in addition to differently weighted micro-theories following a system historical biography, might start endowing machines with an “impression” of sense