24.119 Minds and Machines

Problem Set 1. Assigned in class #2. Due in class #3.

NB: no quotations, no paraphrases; answer in your own words.

1. In a few sentences, what is "strong AI"?

2. Set out the Chinese room argument (i.e. the argument on p. 671) in the form of premises and conclusion. Bonus point: set out the argument so that it's valid (see the handout on arguments).

3. Does the conclusion of the argument imply that the latest power mac G4 cannot think? (yes or no)

4. In a couple of short paragraphs, summarize the "other minds" reply and Searle's response. (This is not in "Can Computers Think?"; it's in "Minds, Brains, and Programs" -- search for 'The other minds reply (Yale)'). Is Searle's response correct? Briefly justify your answer.

5. In a couple of short paragraphs, summarize the "robot" reply and Searle's response. (P. 672; see also "Minds, Brains, and Programs" -- search for 'The Robot Reply (Yale)'). Is Searle's response correct? Briefly justify your answer.

6. "The key distinction here is between duplication and simulation" (p. 673). In a short paragraph, explain this "key distinction". What point does Searle use this distinction to make?