

Lecture 1: Problem Set 1 (Due Feb. 14)

Reading: Emotion Machine, Chapter 0 (Preface)
Emotion Machine, Chapter 1

Problem 1

In order to find meaningful answers you must first be able to formulate good questions. List ten questions you would like to answer about Chapter 1.

Problem 2

Minsky explains that our culture does not have a rich enough vocabulary and conceptual lexicon to describe most mental processes. For example, the popular term "consciousness" refers to a vast number of different cognitive processes, which make it difficult to ask meaningful questions about how minds work and build intelligent systems.

- a) List some other vague terms, besides the ones described in Chapter 1.
- b) Describe the advantages and disadvantages of using ambiguous or abstract terminology.
- c) Unpack another emotional suitcase word and describe examples of various "senses" of the term.

Problem 3

In some situations emotions can be useful ways of thinking, while in others these same ways of thinking can be detrimental. For example, if one sees their child walking near a cliff, becoming Anxious is a very relevant response that hones the senses and primes fast motor reactions. However, in the context of taking a test, some people feel Test Anxiety, a related emotion, where these same effects make it difficult for complex ways of thinking to operate without being distracted by these same "fight or flight" reactions.

- a) Pick three emotions and describe their characteristics, as turning on or off resources.
- b) Using these same emotions, describe situations where these emotions and their characteristics would be helpful. Describe situations where these characteristics would be detrimental.

Problem 4

Chapter 1 describes different kinds of Love. Make different models of at least three different kinds of Love from the chapter. What characteristics or mental resources do these models share and what resources are unique to different kinds of Love?