In his classic 1950 article, "Computing Machinery and Intelligence," Alan Turing makes the following claim: "The original question, "Can machines think?" I believe to be too meaningless to deserve discussion … The popular view that scientists proceed inexorably from well-established fact to well-established fact, never being influenced by any unproved conjecture, is quite mistaken. Provided it is made clear which are proved facts and which are conjectures, no harm can result. Conjectures are of great importance since they suggest useful lines of research."

Using the pieces of Searle and Dennett, we will explore the philosophical significance of The Turing Test. Another important question for us would be: what sort of inquiry-social scientific, natural scientific, philosophical-- is needed to understand these issues?

Suggested readings

On Saturday, 4th Nov 2006, at 2 pm
Venue: CCS Seminar Hall, IISc
Tea/Coffee and snacks will be served at 3:30 pm
All are cordially invited
For more information, please visit: http://ces.iisc.ernet.in/hpg/ragh/ccs/course01/Welcome.html