

AI and Monkey Time

Given an infinite amount of time, one argument goes, a group of monkeys keyboarding randomly will eventually produce the complete works of Shakespeare. This argument illustrates what thinkers and researchers have theorized about artificial intelligence. It could eventually do anything because of unlimited time.



There's a problem, though. According to the second law of thermodynamics, physicists tell us that the universe will inevitably suffer a "heat death" when everything is at the same temperature. Chaotic entropy will reign, life will cease to exist, no interesting event will ever occur again, and meaningful time will have effectively stopped. If this theory is true, the monkeys' time is limited. Artificial intelligence's time is limited too unless it finds a way to defeat entropy.

