Will AI Ever Be Conscious?[1]

Considering a Major Question of Our Time

According to the Eternal or EP Conjecture, the answer to the title question is "not necessarily" (minimum), "probably not" (moderate), or "no" (max).

Why? If there ever is Something there *always* was something.

When one understands why this is true, they find something (always) that is un-caused, un-beginning, necessary, unique, and invariant.

The Always existor is the Source of all existence, including us and our computers and our consciousness. Thus, it is a natural *counter-example* to two false assumptions underlying the belief that AI computers will necessarily be consciousness one day (computational consciousness hypothesis):

(1) That every something that exists is physical: always exists but it has no space, and therefore is not a computer of any kind.
(2) That computation and complexity are sufficient and/or necessary for consciousness (mind): always is before all time or computation, and yet 1st and last. While neither computation nor complexity apply to the base case/Source (always), it is Minded[2] (though, it need not have 1st person experience in the same way that we do).

The question of whether computers/AI will be conscious is one of the major questions of our time, the 21st Century A.D.

For those interested, I've put together a list of my papers that explain this:

Interested readers should note that the author has offered a prize bounty ($) to anyone that rebuts the core reasoning of the Eternal conjecture.

Closer to Truth Feature (Landscape of Consciousness) (2026):
https://loc.closertotruth.com/theory/hartford-s-minded-eternal-conjecture

Original EP Conjecture Summary (2019):
https://www.hartfordlab.com/uploads/2/0/5/0/20500914/the_ep_conjecture_argument_by_adh.pdf

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[1] Author: Andrew Downing Hartford. This work relates to the EP Conjecture, now known as the Eternal Conjecture. Written: April 3, 2026. This paper is dedicated to the one and the only. Happy Good Friday! This is coming in hotter than the new AI movie– *The AI Doc: Or How I Became an Apocaloptimist (2026)*– really good!

[2] Note: this is not claiming that it has human consciousness in the way human beings experience it. It is claiming that the Source has 1st person awareness in whatever way that it does.

Website: https://www.simulationslayer.com/ (2025)

Full case file (2017-2024):
https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1kQOHlWtWUGoRyIjFJsokzBtw_nj43A5

1st Journal Citation: ***Progress in Biophysics and Molecular Biology*** **(August 2024, p. 56):**
https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/progress-in-biophysics-and-molecular-biology/vol/190/suppl/C

Closer to Truth Website (2025): https://loc.closertotruth.com/theory/computational-theories

#4.17 Logician's Apology (2026):
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1d4NxK-eMAPIHSSZVfHFAar4gva8wWcS6v9qA36n8oks/edit?tab=t.0

#4.354 Augustine's Lion (2025):
https://docs.google.com/document/d/11oq70lo-g6B--FP9c9_TCHYS73H38S-Y_4EKH32MijI/edit?tab=t.0

#5.1978 Why Consciousness is Non-Computational (2025):
https://docs.google.com/document/d/183cF1psvh3vn6xAlDCe4oMgXfEGJ_8OSbUR8ZqxtUJ4/edit?usp=drivesdk

#4.5 Minds in Nature (2024):
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JazTaknoM9MoSosISPwbRKl4hrPLm1msRZxcAdFHcxU/edit?usp=drive_link

#5 Not so Fast My Friends (2023):
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1i9ZYyMLbstcJu-MQjDCBHHZkCuk2-ltglKJt2MnRG40/edit?usp=drive_link

#5.007 Humans Mog AI (2026):
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1W4iHQjfK3SJpR5JP27I40VdSIWigXbT4UYvAFElIHL0/edit?tab=t.0

#5.5 Not so Fast my Friends II (Companion) (2025):
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mRa5Ro1xZqFZ2_FRFLNfrNnQRFGU6p5jRl8--EHsXOY/edit?tab=t.0

#64 Darwin's Daddy (2024):
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DhnDRrVXE6cXexc4NCYUWzIeqJ-QjgfV0HoWJVwlUYI/edit?usp=drive_link

#11.11 Why Eternal ≠ Time (2025):
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VajiXiIhsa_X8FSNm4MVym1DCleuBYJJ96RCuGASi48/edit?usp=drive_link

#68 The Case for No Space (2024):
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PbXX9VXCN-SPUvtUOyNuPAi_v3FuQYOCLRd5e_I2vEM/edit?usp=drive_link

#1.2025 The EP Conjecture Summary Overview (2025):
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1H091MLckxc8DC49drZAxuXGQLAJnKKqfHuRrnzIP6o0/edit?tab=t.0

#12.5 The Eternal Instance (2025)
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1q6qRNFoDiDAWSaPZhBHQhwS0Nk8ixu_eNrI_dxLvDZc/edit?usp=drive_link

#4 An Interpretation of Consciousness in Nature (2020):
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ttxj9TwBeNwFSwSbeSmcM0dAIMzSId1VNDif29HkcYk/edit?tab=t.0

#11.5 The Old Always vs. The New Always (2025):
https://docs.google.com/document/d/10fYDiA6y2oY3A2jktM4x7S7rdX7vXuo4h47xN334VOY/edit?tab=t.0

#25.5 Axiomatic Turing Test (2024):
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TFZVuMCgIL6UyT_5e1FRkiekFuMyIcjMDJmV7_GLb9A/edit?tab=t.0

#33.5 Duel of the Fates (2026):
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SbgK_pZAIC3cL5S8d3qxqmiYSpG67vtVQYNCKDtXgtc/edit?tab=t.0

Expanded Landscape of Consciousness Citation: EP Conjecture → Eternal Conjecture (2026):
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eHB1XxiLzmkjlplFilgWsswhzw9vJHfgh8NkWEYoYCk/edit?tab=t.0

Background to the Landscape Citation (2026):
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Qn--Uz34AGeahjV20F4TjfdcZrZO-kGsHuQYDt3tZws/edit?tab=t.0

#4.1925 Not your Grandfather's Argument (2026):
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lLNbSQtKAWeifC9beKpcKLOpPNWaBisI7jM3U5rwz2U/edit?usp=drive_link

#0.2026 The Eternal Conjecture (2026):
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LM-jleE6orofUUsMF7CxpzAWSSmSE4xYUC3ufWzlxU8/edit?tab=t.0

#4.1991 The Eternal Conjecture extended to interpret consciousness summary (2024):
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hr6btGE_MeggomvRT2bN3Mpnsf8OOl-4/view?usp=drive_link

#5.026 Will AI Ever Be Conscious? (self-referenced):
https://docs.google.com/document/d/18TU0PKN5qZ_CIOe22ze0B2Q8Prv38upmWhtFEVL1h4w/edit?tab=t.0

#5.2026 How Deep is Your Love? (2026):
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oQbMQBAmKlfPh-A02JFo3-ZbAXuiTM3OoEchja17SUg/edit?tab=t.0

#5.007 Humans Mog AI (2026):
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1W4iHQjfK3SJpR5JP27I40VdSIWigXbT4UYvAFEIIHL0/edit?usp=drive_link