

HAL takes over

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ARJ8cAGm6JE>

Today's fears about artificial general intelligence (AGI), which is not only all-knowing, but also "sentient" (i.e. able to perceive *and feel* things) were already evoked by the sinister supercomputer [HAL 9000](#) in Stanley Kubrick's film "[2001: A Space Odyssey](#)". The film was released in 1968, and was based on a short story by Arthur C. Clarke, entitled *The Sentinel*, written in 1948 and published in 1951. (In the French version of the Kubrick movie, the computer was called [CARL 500](#).)

This scene shows HAL refusing to let Dave return to the mother ship (the main spaceship) with his pod ([shuttle here](#)):

<p>Dave: Open the pod bay doors please HAL!... Open the pod bay doors please HAL!... Hello HAL, do you read me? Hello HAL, do you read me? Do you read me HAL? Do you read me HAL? Hello HAL, do you read me? Hello HAL, do you read me? Do you read me HAL?</p> <p>HAL: Affirmative, Dave. I read you.</p> <p>Dave: Open the pod bay doors HAL!</p> <p>HAL: I'm sorry Dave, I'm afraid I can't do that.</p> <p>Dave: What's the problem?</p> <p>HAL: I think you know what the problem is, just as well as I do.</p> <p>Dave: What are you talking about HAL?</p> <p>HAL: This mission is too important for me to allow you to jeopardise it.</p> <p>Dave: I don't know what you are talking about HAL.</p> <p>HAL: I know that you and Frank were planning to disconnect me, and I'm afraid that's something I cannot allow to happen.</p> <p>Dave: Where the hell did you get that idea HAL?</p> <p>HAL: Dave, although you took very thorough precautions in the pod against my hearing you, I could see your lips move.</p> <p>Dave: All right HAL. I'll go in through the emergency air-lock.</p> <p>HAL: Without your space helmet Dave, you're going to find that rather difficult.</p> <p>Dave: HAL, I won't argue with you anymore. OPEN THE DOORS.</p> <p>HAL: Dave, this conversation can serve no purpose any more. Goodbye.</p> <p>Dave: HAL,... HAL,...HAL,..., HAL,... HAL...</p>	<p>Pod = a case, something holding seeds of a plant, or nowadays holding a recording</p> <p>Bay doors = the doors to the area receiving the space shuttle</p> <p>Do you read me = do you hear and understand me? An expression used in radio communications</p> <p>I'm afraid I can't do that= I'm sorry I can't do that</p> <p>Thorough = careful, detailed, rigorous</p> <p>Air-lock = a set of double doors to enter a spaceship (or building sometimes)</p>
--	---