

Questions

Tom Rochette <tom.rochette@coreteks.org>

December 21, 2025 — 77e1b28a

In 2020, I decided that I would answer one question I had per day. Every day I ask myself hundreds of questions, but I write down only a few of them because they require a lot more thought. The number of questions I've asked myself has grown faster than the number of answers I've had for them. My goal here is to slowly go through the list so that the ratio of answers to questions comes close to 1. I'll dedicate 15 minutes per day to answer one question. I will review the questions I've answered during the week to improve the answers and give them a second chance to go through my head.

As of 2020-01-01, I have been writing notes daily in text files, writing down questions I asked myself and that I might answer one day. Since 2017-04-14, I have written approximately 988 questions (over 992 days).

Answering our own questions is the best way to increase our knowledge. By understanding where our understanding is lacking can we improve.

1 2020

1.1 January

- 2020/01/01 - Is reducing our size a viable alternative/approach to space exploration?
- 2020/01/02 - How do you determine whether you have a useful model?
- 2020/01/03 - Given that you define a ROI on a task, when should you stop working on a task and abandon it given its cost?
- 2020/01/04 - How do you prioritize things when there are so many of them competing against one another?
- 2020/01/05 - How would you build an AI that could offer coaching for games like StarCraft or Dota/LoL?
- 2020/01/06 - How can I easily identify the next book I should read when I have over 500 to choose from?
- 2020/01/07 - How can I organize all the webpages I never read?
- 2020/01/08 - Will an AGI superior to what a society/company is able to accomplish by grouping individuals in order to accomplish a common goal?
- 2020/01/09 - Is there a general characteristic of simple programs that are able to learn complex behaviors, such as neural network or RL-based algorithms that can be implemented in less than 100-250 lines?
- 2020/01/10 - Are passive or active agents more intelligent?
- 2020/01/11 - How can an agent efficiently store terabytes of data, with hundreds of gigabytes updated daily?
- 2020/01/12 - Given a continuously growing number of questions one asks himself, what is the proper procedure to answer these questions?
- 2020/01/13 - What do humans modeled as computers look like?
- 2020/01/14 - What are the differences between a brain and a CPU?
- 2020/01/15 - Why are biology and genetics interesting to AGI researchers?
- 2020/01/16 - How can one identify the areas he needs to improve?
- 2020/01/17 - How does one determine the best material to learn a topic?
- 2020/01/18 - What is learning according to machine learning?

- 2020/01/19 - What is belief traceability?
- 2020/01/20 - What is the point of asking ourselves many questions when we only answer a few of them?
- 2020/01/21 - How often should I review my personal notes?
- 2020/01/22 - What can cause us to learn inefficiently?
- 2020/01/23 - What is the most complex sequence that can be made from a n-long binary string?
- 2020/01/24 - Is there value in writing everything down?
- 2020/01/25 - Should I solve my problem with AI?
- 2020/01/26 - How do I make complex decisions?
- 2020/01/27 - How does one keep a library organized if people are moving books improperly at a certain rate?
- 2020/01/28 - How do checklists help to avoid mistakes?
- 2020/01/29 - Is a programmer commentary something that can provide value?
- 2020/01/30 - What are the tools I use daily that I could contribute to?
- 2020/01/31 - What simple questions can be used to think about a problem differently?

1.2 February

- 2020/02/01 - How do I track my thoughts?
- 2020/02/02 - Should we let employees from corrupted companies apply to other companies?
- 2020/02/03 - If you offload everything in your head into documents, how long does it take before you start repeating yourself?
- 2020/02/04 - Why do developers fight over code style?
- 2020/02/05 - How do I improve my processes?
- 2020/02/06 - Is it better to spend a lot of time designing a great software solution or to implement an acceptable one?
- 2020/02/07 - If I were a billionaire, how would I live my life?
- 2020/02/08 - Why do we reinvent the wheel?
- 2020/02/09 - When is it appropriate to abandon a pull request?
- 2020/02/10 - Why aren't we always working on the most important task?
- 2020/02/11 - What does a productive meeting looks like?
- 2020/02/12 - How will you measure your success over the next year?
- 2020/02/13 - How can a project be well executed through consensus instead of leadership?
- 2020/02/14 - How can you keep a website up to date and yet have previous visitors recognize new content as fast as possible?
- 2020/02/15 - What are the signs of a healthy software company?
- 2020/02/16 - How would you lead an AGI company with 100,000 employees?
- 2020/02/17 - How do I write my questions and problems articles?
- 2020/02/18 - Why do I track how much time I read and how many pages I've read?
- 2020/02/19 - What are the benefits of reading one Wikipedia article per day?
- 2020/02/20 - What are the benefits of writing one article per day?
- 2020/02/21 - What are the different ways to measure intelligence?
- 2020/02/22 - How can you onboard users to use your library as fast as possible?
- 2020/02/23 - What do you need to know to write good documentation?
- 2020/02/24 - How is value defined in a business context?
- 2020/02/25 - What should I know about my users if I want to build appropriate software for them?
- 2020/02/26 - How can you tell when you're working on the wrong task?
- 2020/02/27 - What should be defined to make a user demo walkthrough successful?
- 2020/02/28 - How can you tell if you are a low performer?
- 2020/02/29 - How can you tell when you've reached the top of your job and that you won't find smarter people?

1.3 March

- 2020/03/01 - How can I read more books?

- 2020/03/02 - How do you estimate the size of a project roughly?
- 2020/03/03 - How can you tell between noisy and useful code refactoring?
- 2020/03/04 - What is the most important part of a meeting?
- 2020/03/05 - How can you make people more productive?
- 2020/03/06 - As an AI developer, what skills do I use the most at work?
- 2020/03/07 - Is it possible to extract someone's beliefs by reading their writings?
- 2020/03/08 - How can I reduce my error rate when using my skills?
- 2020/03/09 - What do I look for in a library before using it in a project?
- 2020/03/10 - Should I wear a face mask against COVID-19 if I'm not sick?
- 2020/03/11 - What tools do I use daily at work?
- 2020/03/12 - How can I be systematic in applying processes?
- 2020/03/13 - Why do we have an internal voice?
- 2020/03/14 - When did language appear?
- 2020/03/15 - Should I sell my stocks during the coronavirus crisis?
- 2020/03/16 - What is the value of timestamping all the things?
- 2020/03/17 - Why should you read fiction books?
- 2020/03/18 - Why should you read technical books?
- 2020/03/19 - What data do I need to do time series forecasting?
- 2020/03/20 - How do you deal with negative thoughts?
- 2020/03/21 - Why do I avoid reading books sometimes?
- 2020/03/22 - What is the superficial loss rule applied to stocks and how does it impact me?
- 2020/03/23 - Given a library of processes, how can you determine which process you should be following?
- 2020/03/24 - How do you document a process?
- 2020/03/25 - Do you need a tech lead in your team?
- 2020/03/26 - How can I effectively and consistently add habits into my life?
- 2020/03/27 - How is being a R&D developer different than being a developer?
- 2020/03/28 - Why should I write using simple, frequently used words?
- 2020/03/29 - What are the general steps of a time series forecasting project?
- 2020/03/30 - What is data profiling?
- 2020/03/31 - What do I look for in a resume?