

What are the myths vs. the facts of AI?

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ENGL 1121-25

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November 5, 2023

When someone brings up AI, what is your immediate thought, what do you picture? The future being taken over by robots? Nobody working? Improved technology? Flying cars? We can only imagine the kind of things that will take place in the future, but what are the facts about AI? Is it really going to be like we imagine, robots taking over the future? From the article “Will AI - Artificial Intelligence Take Over The World,” Darren Pesen (2021), the author of the article, writes, “The possibility of an AI takeover, like the one depicted in the movie Terminator 2, is no longer the stuff of science fiction but a real concern that experts in the field are grappling with.” According to this article, Pesen does write that it is becoming a real concern to experts that maybe this really is something to be worried about. So, what do you think, with this piece of information, would you be able to tell if AI will be taking over in the near future? Myths say that AI is a villainous robot, but facts say otherwise. According to Computer Scientists, AI is just a smart robot that was created for the purpose of doing human work at greater speed and accuracy, and it has zero ability to take over the government, how some myths would say. We basically in a way, created a very enhanced non-living human for the purpose of making our lives easier, artificial intelligence. According to some of these facts that I have discovered, you might change your opinion about AI.

Let’s begin with one of the most well-known myth about AI: it’s a villainous robot. AI will one day get a conscious of its own and will take over humans and be in control of the government along with “the nuclear arsenals of the country, causing the extinction of humanity

(Anirudh V K 2022).” According to the article “10 most common myths about AI,” Anirudh V K (2022), Freelance Contributor, writes, “This is not possible in any given situation. … such privileges of national security cannot be given to artificial intelligence, as AI programs will be used only as a tool.” With this being written, the author clearly states that it is nearly impossible for AI to take over the government or the nuclear arsenal because AI is only used as a tool, and it will not be brought to something so close as to national security. Anirudh then writes that “they (AI) will not be able to make such decisions without human intervention,” so the theory of AI “hacking” into the government is impossible. So, if AI can’t possibly take over humans and the government, what made people start believing a robot can do that in the first place? It is one of the myths that is spoken about so much, that people begin to mix it up with facts.

Going now into the past of AI to understand more about how artificial intelligence was created, the birth of AI happened in the 1950s, when Alan Turing created the Turing test. The Turing test, which is also originally known as The Imitation Game, was published and which proposed a test of machine intelligence. The game was a test of a machine’s ability to exhibit intelligent behaviour equivalent to, or indistinguishable from, that of a human (Wikipedia). A few years later, computer scientist Arthur Samuel created a program to play checkers with AI, which learned how to play the game independently. AI was invented as a tool to help humans with speed and accuracy, but also with the ability to self-learn certain things, which then followed to the theory of AI growing more independent from humans because of its self-learning abilities. Learning that AI did have self-learning abilities, we now know that it didn’t give it the ability to become conscious and make its own decisions.

After learning about the past and the birth of artificial intelligence, we can now get into how AI grew. Over the years, AI systems have developed rapidly. Some of the skills that AI developed are handwriting recognition, language understanding, facial recognition, speech recognition, etc. “Roser (2022) writes in his article, “About 10 years ago, no machine could reliably provide language or imagine recognition at a human level. … AI systems have become steadily more capable and are now beating humans in tests in all these domains.” About 5 years ago, there was a test performed on AI systems and humans. The AI system was set to -100 starting performance while human was set to baseline as starting performance, as in set to 0. When the test was performed, AI scored more points in the test than the human, who did the same test. The test showed that AI systems are developing rapidly and are beginning to perform faster and more accurately than humans in the domains.

As many have already heard yet another common myth about AI: it will replace all human jobs, and that isn’t true. AI won’t replace all jobs, it won’t replace jobs that require the work of a real person’s intelligence, not aritifical. In the article “What is AI? Everything to know about artificial intelligence” Maria Diaz (2023), staff writer, writes, “with intelligence sometimes seen as the foundation for human experience, it’s perhaps no surprise that we’d try and recreate it artificially in scientific endeavors.” Computer scientists created AI for the purpose of doing the job that humans do but faster and more accurately. In order to create a robot that can perform such duty, as replace a human’s job, AI was created with human intelligence. Computer scientists based AI’s systems off of some traits that writer Diaz (2023) lists, such as “human intelligence, including self-learning abilities, problem-solving, perception, and creativity skills along with social intelligence.” With these traits, AI systems began working and acting like a

human would, because that is who it was based off and who it was created by. “Our level of intelligence sets us apart from other living beings and is essential to human experience (Diaz 2023).” This is why we based AI off humans rather than some other being. AI was created with the ability to hold a lot more knowledge than humans and work with speed. We basically in a way, created a very enhanced non-living human for the purpose of making our lives easier, artificial intelligence.

This is probably one of the most asked questions about Artificial Intelligence, does AI have a conscious? The human brain and our consciousness are both an incredible thing and a great mystery. According to the article written by Clare College, Will AI ever be conscious, the author writes about how cognitive neuroscience knows a lot about the human mind, as in how we perceive written words, understand meanings of sentences, and how we evaluate ideas, but it can’t explain how it all comes together to constitute our current conscious experience. That’s what makes the human mind a big mystery.

“...If we don’t know what makes us conscious, we don’t know whether AI might have what it takes. Perhaps what makes us conscious is the way our brain integrates information to form a rich model of the world. If that’s the case, an AI might achieve consciousness by integrating information in the same way. Or perhaps we’re conscious because of the details of our neurobiology. If that’s the case, no amount of programming will make an AI conscious (College 2023).”

As written according to research, we actually don’t know what makes us conscious and whether AI could have a conscious or not. Scientists haven’t figured out yet what makes humans

conscious, so if computer scientists manage to crack the code or not, until then, the AI system is just a computer with a bunch of programs.

Artificial Intelligence is a robot that is going to be a big part of the future, and it already is. “AI is a branch of computer science whose goal is to create intelligent machines that can replicate human behavior (Duggal 2023).” Computer scientists have achieved that, and this intelligent machine is slowly growing into what writer Thomas (2023) writes, “humanity across every industry. It is already the main driver of emerging technologies like big data, robotics and IoT – not to mention generative AI, with tools like Chat GPT and AI art generators garnering mainstream attention – and it will continue to act as a technological innovator for the foreseeable future.” Because AI is a tool that was created to help humans, “roughly 44 percent of companies [started] looking to make serious investments in AI and integrate it into their businesses (Thomas 2023).” AI is now slowly starting to replace human jobs and your question might be, how is the future going to look like with AI working jobs that humans once did? In the future, with the skill and knowledge level that AI is growing every year, we can already predict that the world is going to be badly hurt with job displacement. If AI is going to replace all human jobs in the future, what will humans be doing and how will they be earning money?

So, what are the myths about AI? That it’s going to take over the government and humanity? The answer is no, well not necessarily. AI isn’t going to take over the government because it was only created to be used as a tool to assist humans with certain tasks, and not replace security of government. And it isn’t going to take over humanity, but it is going to cause

great job displacement for humans. So the myths of course aren't true, because AI is just a robot created by computer scientists to complete programmed tasks and it can't make its own decisions because it doesn't have a conscious. So there's nothing to worry about, AI won't take over the world, as myths would say. A question for you to keep in mind is, will AI be helping humans by taking on jobs and making things easier for humans, or will it be causing trouble because humans will be left without jobs?

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