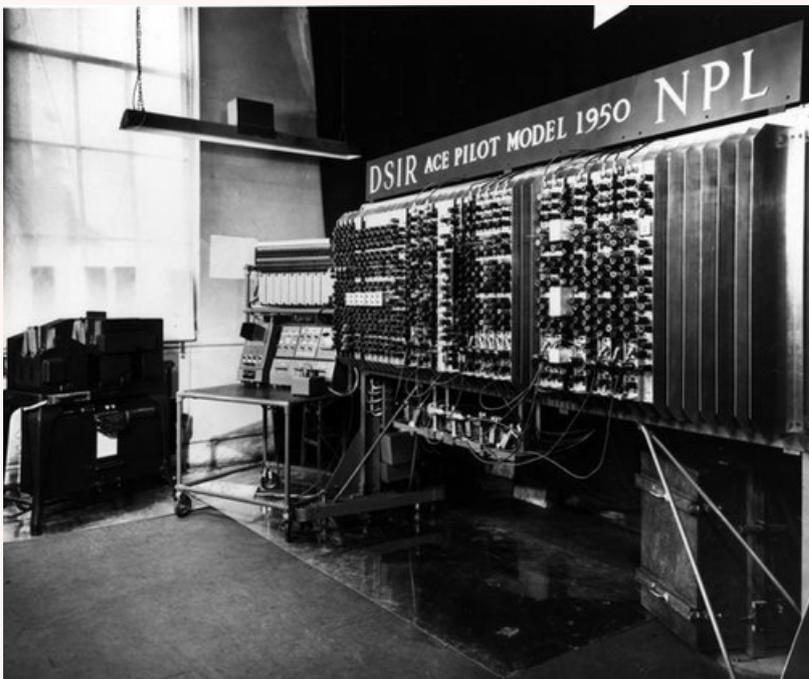# Evolution of AI: *ADVANCEMENT OR ANNIHILATION*

Since its creation in 1956, modern AI has captivated the imaginations of people all around the world. A thinking machine was revolutionary, and uncharted territory. Alan Turing, a gifted scientist, originally asked the critical question, "Can machines think?" in the 1950s. It was incredible and ridiculous to think a heartless machine could possibly learn and feel like a human. Later, AI was reimagined and reshaped by movies like The Terminator.

People were scared. The idea of a dangerous and blood-thirsty AI began to spread. Scientists and philosophers pondered whether AI could ever truly become self-aware, and in doing so, want to remove humans from the picture. People worried whether AI would be our doom, and as AI improves and grows, these questions still remain unanswered.

Alan Turing's Pilot Automatic Computing Engine (ACE) was one of the first examples of the modern digital computer.

Fun Fact:

In the 1950s computers were much less common. Often taking up entire rooms, only very wealthy colleges and labs could afford them. They were so large that they often filled entire rooms.

Current Events

[AI has grown exponentially in recent years. Specifically, generative AI has boomed both in capability and availability. Generative AI is often like a chatroom. You can message a bot with a command or prompt, and this bot will respond based on knowledge and example scoured from the internet. Anybody with access to a computer and Wi-Fi has access to this incredibly powerful AI. This text-generative AI will respond to almost any prompt you can think of (except for instructions on illegal activities). It can tutor you, give you recipes, and even write short novels and essays, all for free. If you are willing to pay, you get access to a more lucrative and innovative bot.

ChatGPT 4.0 is a popular AI system that you can subscribe too. While only costing as much as Netflix, you gain access to a next level generating system. ChatGPT 4.0 is able to recognize images and videos, describe detailed images, respond to visual problems, and even generate realistic images and videos, indistinguishable from photographs. This tool is incredibly useful, but how should it be wielded? Our society is only in the beginning stages of artificial intelligence, meaning uncharted waters. It is our responsibility to make ethical choices regarding our usage of AI, especially since there are not laws and regulations to guide us yet.
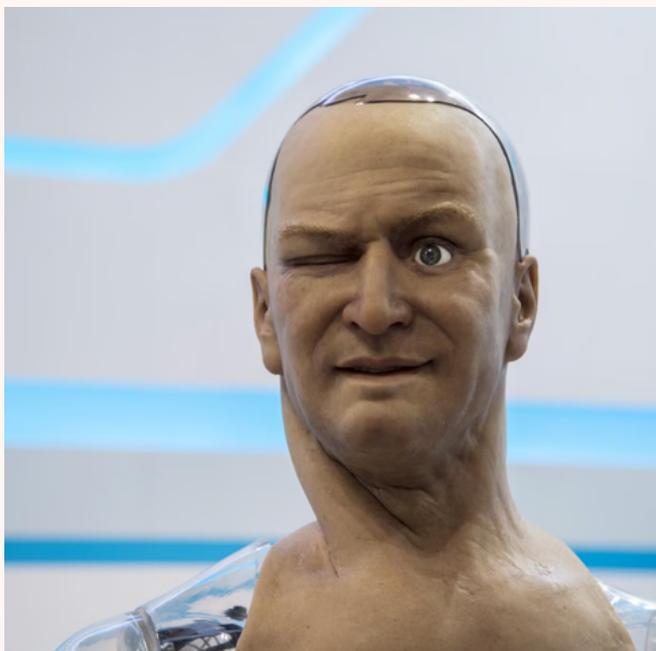
Guess!

One of these people is real, the other is AI generated. Which is which?
Flip the page for the answer

The man on the right is the real person. The left is computer generated.

Ethical Usage

With the new widespread availability of Intelligent AI, several morale and ethical questions are raised. One question raised by mid-income-range workers, as well as their employers, is what are the obligations of pay and employment. It is starting to become a reality that many of our jobs could be replaced by workers. One of the most effected groups are people with office or computing jobs. Pretty soon many of these people could easily be replaced by AI, so what are the implications of firing thousands of people and replacing them with robots? What if every job is replaceable, then would jobs become unnecessary? What would happen to society if there was no need for working or even money?

One of Facebooks AI robots. It was shut down in 2017 because it started talking with another AI bot in a brand new language.

Fun Fact:

In 2023 a group of artists from California sued multiple AI image generators, including *Midjourney* and *DeviantArt*. They accused the companies of allowing their programs to copy examples of online art. Even the very niche and specific styles of individual artists were perfectly copied. The AI programs even copied the likeness and signatures of the artists. As of now the case remains unresolved.

Another important morale, as well as legal, question, is what happens to AI generated media? Is something you did not create something you still get to own? AI draws from past examples, so is any "new" creation made by AI truly "new" and its own? There is also still the question of what level of consciousness is possible to abiotically produce. Is it truly possible for AI to be self-aware, and even feel emotions? These questions are not possible to answer correctly, because they are based, at least currently, on opinion, but eventually they will need to be answered in order to ensure ethical usage of this incredible tool. These questions are hard and have have been pondered for years, so it is important that we develop a societal consensus on what is a good usage of this groundbreaking new tool.

Future

AI has developed incredibly fast in recent decades. Based on the current rate, AI will be an entirely new thing in only a few years. This leads current scholars into the issue of the future. It is a realistic situation now that many if not all of our jobs could become automated by machines running on AI. Our development also sparks the question of artificial consciousness. In the future it may be possible for AI to be aware, and even feel like a human. In this scenario, would AI try to overthrow humans, or coincide? AI could also remain how it is now, as a helpful but ordinary online tool. All situations are possible, but not necessarily probable. What is likely to happen, though, is an economic change. Our lawmakers and work force will likely need major reconstruction, in order to utilize the capabilities AI will have. AI will probably be able to creatively write just a human can in the not-too-distant future. Overall, the future of AI is uncertain and heavily reliant on our actions now. Of course, the development of AI can't be perfectly mapped out and planned, but undoubtedly it will be exciting!

Legal/Societal Standards

A local high school in the area had an issue where students were using AI generators to create explicate images of other students. The students responsible were not charged with anything, although a student related to the incident quoted, "AI doesn't make it any less real." Events like these highlight the need for legislation making it clear what crosses the line.

As of now, there is nothing that prevents these things from happening. Laws are necessary to stop crimes such as these from being committed, while being protected under AI. Hopefully in the future, ethical usage of AI will be discussed and brought to spotlight nationally.

The issue of AI in schools has become much more prevalent in recent years. There are many questions about whether AI is a means to teach, or a method of cheating. A conclusive standard must be agreed upon for public schools, because the decision will have a massive effect on how kids learn. The use of AI in schools is not just a risk for cheating, but also, now there are worries over legality.

Fun Fact:

According to Goldman Sachs, 2/3 of their jobs are exposed to AI. That is roughly 27,000 people working in unison with artificial intelligence

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