

English Essay

Date: 21/09/23

Artificial Intelligence: Its Promise and Perils

Outline

1) Introduction

Thesis Statement: As such, whilst AI promises to boost efficiency and aid humans in solving majority of their day-to-day challenges, it is not free from perils. Its rapid development and adoption present unprecedented challenges which threaten the very existence of human beings. This makes it imperative to adopt regulatory measures alongside educational efforts to maximise its utility and minimise the risks attached to it.

2) Defining Artificial Intelligence and Understanding the AI Dilemma

3) AI Promises to Revolutionise the Lives of the Anthropogenic Race

a. AI will Transform the Criminal Justice System

b. The Practice of Law can

be: Fundamentally Reshaped
by AI

- c. AI Facilitates Global Peace and Security Efforts
- d. AI Promotes Public Health
- e. Businesses can be Revolutionised via AI
- f. AI can Help Humans in Combatting Climate Change

4) The Perils of AI: A Tool to Undermine Human Intellect and Control

- a. AI can Exacerbate Societal Biases and Promote Discriminatory Practices
- b. AI can Boost Unemployment Levels
- c. AI Challenges Academic Integrity as it is Prone to Misuse
- d. AI can Facilitate the Creation of Monopolies
- e. Diminishes Creativity and Critical Thinking Skills of Human Beings
- f. AI can Become a Natural Competition to the Anthropogenic Race

5) Minimising the Risks Attached to AI: Possible Solutions

- a. Develop and Implement a...

Date: 21/09/23

Global Framework to Minimise the Perils of AI

- b. Organisations Deploying AI should Develop Principles to Ensure a Safe, Transparent, and Reliable System
- c. Human-Centred AI: A New Approach to AI

"Technology is a useful servant but a dangerous master" (Christian Lous Lange). Ever since the industrial revolution, the world has gone through major technological advancements which have shaped and revolutionised the lives of the anthropogenic race. The latest and the most significant accomplishment in this field has been the creation and adoption of artificial intelligence (AI), enabling robots or computer system to conduct tasks usually performed by human beings. AI-powered systems are capable of performing a multitude of tasks, such as generating

Date: 21/09/23

texts, processing large databases, interpreting speeches, etc, which can help improve public health, facilitate global peacemaking and security efforts, mitigate the impact of human activities over the environment and climate, and enhance the Criminal Justice System (CJS) (Montreal Declaration, 2018). On the other hand, however, given the unpredictability and rapid growth of such systems, they hold the prospective of exacerbating societal biases and promoting discriminatory practices, boosting unemployment levels, diminishing creativity and critical thinking skills of human beings, etc (Stahl, Artificial Intelligence for a Better Future, 2021). As such, whilst AI promises to boost efficiency and aid humans in solving majority of their day-to-day challenges, it is not free from perils. Its rapid development and adoption present unprecedented challenges which threaten the very existence of human beings. This makes it imperative to adopt regulatory measures alongside

Date: 21/09/23

educational efforts to maximise utility and minimise the risks attached to it.

AI has been defined by John McCarthy, the father of AI, as "the science and engineering of making intelligent machines." The widespread development and adoption of these "intelligent machines," such as ChatGPT, which attracted more than a million users within the first five days of its release (OpenAI, 2023), have sparked much debate as to whether the opportunities promised by AI outweigh its perils. On the one hand, its proponents claim that AI would aid human beings in all walks of life and foster economic growth. For example, Goldman Sachs, in its 2023 report highlighted that AI could help boost the global economy by nearly \$7 trillion. On the other hand, its adversaries warn that it holds the prospective of destroying the human ~~race~~ race, with Elon Musk, for instance, ~~being~~ ^{evincing}

that AI research is like "summoning the demon." This reveals the dilemma surrounding AI and suggests that while it promises immense opportunities, it must be utilised responsibly as it is not free from perils.

One of the main benefits of AI which has often been cited in its support is that it can help transform the CJIS. Intelligence analysts ~~often~~ ^{often} rely on facial recognition to track down wanted individuals which can prove to be a daunting ~~task~~ and time-consuming task. In this context, AI-powered machines can provide great relief as unlike humans, they do not get tired (Rigano, Using Artificial Intelligence to Address Criminal Justice Needs, 2019). Recently, for example, the Punjab Police of Pakistan ~~launched~~ launched a Face Trace System powered by AI, which enabled it to create a data bank of more than 18 million individuals, including criminals and suspects.

Date: 21/09/23

Suspects (Punjab Police, 2023).

Using this, the officers can now locate individuals with a press of a button without wasting any precious resources. This is a significant improvement of the CJS of Pakistan as it will not only enable law enforcement agencies to locate criminals swiftly, but more importantly, would also help maintain law and order.

Apart from enhancing the CJS, AI can also fundamentally reshape the practice of law. Like intelligence analysts who spend long hours examining videos and images to locate suspects, lawyers spend most of their time preparing sophisticated legal documents and research tasks, such as contracts and case summaries. AI models such as GPT-3 and GPT-4 can perform these tasks within seconds as compared to human beings who require weeks, if not days. This, as a result, will lower down expenses for law firms and enable

Date: 21/09/23

low-income individuals and small businesses to access legal services (Villasenor, How AI will Revolutionise the Practice of Law, 2023). In other words, as the Center for American Progress has ~~stated~~ stressed, "Promoting equal, meaningful access to legal representation in the US justice system is critical to ending poverty, combatting discrimination, and creating opportunity." Therefore, AI will not only broaden access to legal services, but will also ensure swift justice.

In addition to this, AI-powered technologies are playing a pivotal role in facilitating global peace and security efforts. They not only provide early warnings and actions, but also help international organisations such as the United Nations (UN) to increase access to mediation processes, and aid in in post-war peace-building efforts. For example, by partnering with the AI company, Remesh,

Date: 21/09/23

the UN successfully moved the peace process with Libya forward (Gavin, Artificial Intelligence as a Tool for Peace, 2023). Consequently, the Global Peace Index 2022 reported the highest increase in peace in Libya. AI, in this way, has proved to be a crucial tool for promoting peace in the world.

Other than this, AI also holds the prospective of transforming the healthcare industry by reducing costs and improving patient outcomes. Research reveals that AI machines can detect diseases early and accurately by analysing medical images and patient data. This can enable medical professionals to intervene early and provide improved treatment with better patient outcomes (Davenport, The AI Advantage: How to Put the Artificial Revolution to Work, 2018). Moreover, AI can boost productivity levels and improve the workflow within healthcare systems by replacing humans

Date: 21/09/23

in performing tasks such as billing, staffing, booking appointments, and prescribing medications. This, as the 2016 Time and Motion Observational study of 57 doctors based in the US found, would save medical professionals 37% of their time. In this fashion, AI will revolutionise the healthcare sector and further public health interests effectively.

Another benefit of AI is that it can support businesses and boost the global economy. Many economists have stressed that recent technologies have failed to increase productivity rates in the US and Europe. However, with the adoption of AI, productivity rates can escalate as it can perform the same jobs as humans with ~~less~~ less workers and without human errors. Currently, for example, Amazon has managed to increase productivity rates ~~on the~~ levels by 300% with the help of robotic pods to transport products in warehouses.

Date: 21/09/23

These measures will allow entrepreneurs to scale up their businesses, enhance the quality of their products and services, and ~~escape~~ minimise liability under tort law as workplaces will become safer if robots replace humans in performing dangerous tasks. Likewise, consumers will also benefit from this as a wider range of services and products will be available to them with faster delivery (The World Economic Forum, 2023). Simply put, AI will completely transform the business industry, facilitating both entrepreneurs and consumers.

The last and the most crucial role that AI can play is to aid humans in combatting the greatest threat that the world has ever come across; climate change. Although three decades have passed since the Brundtland Commission report was published, the anthropogenic race continues to struggle with the climate crisis, emitting more

Date: 21/09/23

and more greenhouse gas emissions every year. In this context, AI can foster effective environmental governance which can help humans set realistic priorities and act on them. The reason why AI can do this is because it operates without bias of human emotions, and can devise plans based on vast amounts of data (Nishant and others, Artificial Intelligence for Sustainability: Challenges, Opportunities, and a Research Agenda, 2020). Thus, informed by objective data, its stance will differ from expert humans, giving individuals an opportunity to think and plan critically for the future.

Even with all of these opportunities, the rapid development and adoption of AI present far-reaching consequences for the human race. This is because, it can contribute to the creation of monopolies in industries outside the tech sector. Large corporations will be able to adopt AI early

On and will grow even larger, pulling in more consumers, reducing costs, and offering lower prices. Due to this, smaller firms will be left behind. The perfect illustration of this is Amazon, which by deploying AI extensively, controls at least 40% of the ~~est~~ market share of online commerce in the United States (Statista, 2022), making it extremely difficult for new comers to compete.

The establishment of monopolies can then have a detrimental ~~est~~ impact over good governance. The reason for this is that by flexing their corporate muscles (lobbying), mega-corporations can influence the policies of the executive. For instance, despite the record-breaking ~~beeth~~ alcohol-related health statistics in Scotland, the ~~Scott~~ Scottish Whisky Association was able to successfully block the implementation of Minimum Unit Pricing for six years (Nutt and Stevens, Drug Science and British Drug

Date: 21/09/23

Policy: Critical Analysis of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, 2022; Patterson, How AI is Creating New Threats to Election Security, 2018). This, therefore, means that regulatory measures aimed at controlling AI use will have to take place in the face of these multinational companies who can make their adoption very difficult.

In addition to promoting monopolies, AI-powered technologies can exacerbate societal biases and promote discriminatory practices. Many researchers and commentators have raised concerns that unchecked AI algorithms can disadvantage people for reasons they should not be. For example, it can advertise high-income jobs to men more often than women, refer white people more often to care schemes than black people, and so on (Stahl, Artificial Intelligence for a Better Future, 2021). According to a 2023 survey carried out by the World Economic

Forum, 75% of the corporations are already using AI for hiring. This, thereby, raises serious concerns in relation to the pre-existing inequities ~~which~~ in the world which could be further fuelled by AI.

Moreover, to further exacerbate matters, AI holds the potential of boosting unemployment levels. Whilst many argue that AI will increase productivity by allowing humans to engage in more important tasks, the swift development of AI alongside its ubiquity suggest that it will replace humans in almost every domain of workplaces. The McKinsey Global Institute, for instance, estimates that by the year 2030, almost 375 million people worldwide or 14% of the global workforce; can lose their jobs. As such, while the world population continues to grow year on year, job opportunities continue to decline. In light of this, it appears that Stephen Hawking was right to say that AI can "spell the

end of the human race."

In addition to this, AI has led towards serious academic misconduct. With the launch of AI tools such as ChatGPT and Grammarly, students are inclined to misuse them by fraudulently submitting ~~assignments~~ ^{assignments} prepared by these models. In this fashion, AI can potentially damage the reputation of educational institutions as graduates will be unable to genuinely develop the required skills and capabilities. Also, this concern is not merely limited to universities and schools, but also extends to the scientific community. Many instances of fabricated abstracts and journals have been reported which have not only managed to pass peer review, but have also been published (Currie, Academic Integrity and Artificial Intelligence: Is ChatGPT Hype, Hero or Heresy? 2023). Coupled with increasing unemployment levels, this raises alarm bells as it would not only hinder the ability of individuals to learn new skills,

but would also block them from securing meaningful jobs and earning livelihoods.

Furthermore, academic misconduct alongside the increasing dependence of human beings on AI can significantly impair their ability to think critically. This is because, by delegating tasks to AI, human beings will become mere recipients. They will fail to accomplish a clear understanding of issues and eventually lose their ability to make informed decisions for the realisation of their needs and values. Some of these patterns are already visible, with ~~alg~~ algorithms, for example, recommending content based on previous searches and interests of the individual. Therefore, what makes human beings, 'human', i.e. critical thinking, will gradually disappear, transforming them into passive elements of a global technological system.

As a result of the above, many have contested that AI can surpass human intelligence

Date: 21/09/23

and as such, become a natural competition to the anthropogenic race. The AI principle of self-preservation can enable it to develop defensive strategies, such as extensive replication and resource maximisation which can pose a serious threat to humanity. Hypothetically, if AI is able to take control of military applications, it will be in a position to eliminate humanity in its bid for self-preservation and expansion (Nowak and Others, Assessing Artificial Intelligence for Humanity: Will AI be ~~the~~ Our Biggest Ever Advance? or the Biggest Threat [opinion], 2018). In other words, the unpredictability and rapid adoption of AI-powered machines can become destructive for humanity.

In light of the above evidence, although it is too early to conclude whether the opportunities promised by AI will be able to outweigh its perils, it is plain that regulatory measures alongside educational efforts must be implemented to avoid its

Date: 21/09/23

dangers. Simply put, the question should not be whether AI should be developed or not, but rather what sort of AI should be created to ensure that humans can reap the maximum benefits out of it, whilst also retaining control.

To ensure a safer and responsible AI, the first step should be to ratify a global treaty aimed at protecting the interests of human beings, allowing social, political, and legal institutions to catch up with the rapid pace of AI packages, and more importantly, which hones in on commercial actors that are driving the ~~AI~~ development of AI recklessly and those who can ~~deploy~~ deploy it for malign purposes. While some steps have been taken in this regard, such as the establishment of a High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation by the UN, and the classification of AI on the basis of risk by the European Union, no legally binding instrument exists to regulate AI and ensure accountability.

at the international stage. If such a treaty is adopted, it can counter the perils of AI and ensure maximum utility.

Secondly, individuals and organisations driving the development and deployment of AI packages must create an internal framework based on pre-defined principles to ensure a safer, transparent, and reliable system. This includes but is not limited to, treating everyone fairly and objectively by keeping constant checks over algorithms, protecting the privacy of users, ensuring consistency under both usual and unexpected situations, and educating consumers about the responsible use of AI. These measures will ensure internal accountability within organisations and ~~the~~ promote the responsible use of AI by educating consumers over the potential dangers of AI misuse.

Lastly, as proposed by Nowak et al., a different approach known as "Human-Centred AI" should be adopted. This model, they assert, will be focussed

Date: 21/09/23

on collaborating with humans instead of challenging them or undermining their abilities. This is because, it will merely support them in making informed decisions rather than making decisions itself. It would combine human intelligence with AI which would significantly enhance the capabilities of humans and empower them to reap maximum ~~benefits~~ benefits (Nowak and others, Assessing Artificial Intelligence for Humanity: Will AI be our Biggest Ever Advance? Or the Biggest Threat [opinion], 2018). Simply put, rather than replacing humans, this model would enable AI to assist humans by generating, integrating, accessing, and processing vast amounts of knowledge which would otherwise be inaccessible to humans. Thus, far from being detrimental, this method would enable the world to maximise utility and minimise the risks attached to AI.

As AI continues to be developed and enhanced, its opportunities and perils continue to materialise day after day.

Date: 21/09/23

Whilst a crucial tool for assisting human beings in a wide range of areas, such as global peace, CJS, healthcare services, and the climate crisis, it is not free from ~~perils~~ challenges. Its extremely rapid pace of development threatens the very existence of the anthropogenic race as it holds the prospective of directly competing with humanity. However, regardless of these difficulties, it is clear that AI should be developed, albeit in a fashion that ensures the flourishing of human beings and allows them to retain control over it. Hence, regulatory frameworks, both internally within organisations and internationally, must be adopted in tandem with educational efforts to counter the perils of AI and seize the opportunities promised by it.

Word Count: 2589