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Introduction

Over the past year we have realised what it feels like to be in the centre of a technological revolution with the rise of Artificial Intelligence (A.I). This technological venture become embedded in our everyday lives in a manner so subtle that it managed to become an intrinsic part of our daily lives in a matter of months. But how well do we understand A.I? Most definitely, we all have at least heard of Chat-GPT but have we ever wondered what is this form of technology and what could its potential be? Artificial Intelligence is defined as the ability, the theory, and the development of digital computers capable to perform tasks and behave in ways usually observed in sentient and intelligent beings, usually humans. It is mainly a sector of technology that allows machines to mimic behaviours usually associated with human beings, via special programming or the well-known method of trial and error. A.I has found applications in multiple sectors ranging from medicine and engineering to gaming, art and even in journalism and the space industry.

Presentation

Of its countless applications the one which has intrigued me the most is its potential application in journalism. The reporting of events has always been a place where humans could state facts while also giving a personal point of view of them, reporting on how our world is changing and progressing or going the opposite way than it should. As such, how can A.I be integrated in such a vital part of human life?

The answer is rather simple. First and foremost, journalists have been using A.I in the gathering, filtering and evaluation of information and news originating from all over the world. Predominant news outlets such as the BBC have been using A.I for a long time, in order to classify information, so that they can provide more accurate reports. Their A.I model, named "Juicer" can run through over 850 news outlets, in search of specific information. This application also allows for faster updating of news, as journalists who are reporting in escalating stories can find quickly articles related specifically to the topic they are reporting to, coming from various exterior sources, rending the news-reporting much more efficient. Furthermore, Artificial Intelligence can help in the elimination of misconceptions, due to misreporting of events. In Reuters A.I is being used in order to create visualisations of events. The A.I model is capable of creating visualisations of events happening, in real time, in a database accessible to anyone involved in the news-reporting process, from big publishers to small independent journalists. The visualisations can aid to rend the news reporting more comprehensible and accurate, as the A.I can update them constantly. Lastly, it can attract the interest of the audience as a visualisation of the events may make news clearer and simpler to follow.

However, as with all good, this application has its downsides. With Artificial Intelligence models capable of synthesising reports, as the A.I used by The Washington Post, can be proven as a threat to journalists. Countless people could find themselves in danger of loosing their jobs, as A.I developers create A.I models which are more efficient than humans. Consequently, humans could end up bring replaced by them. A such development could also lead to the loss of the very purpose of journalism, which is not simply to report the facts, but also provide a more human and a more personal aspect to them. A robotised article, completely devoid of personal remarks or comments could lead to the demise of journalism as we know it today.

Reflection

To my mind, A.I is a tool of the future. It can help in the simplification of our everyday lives. Its applications in medicine could signify the salvation of countless lives, its use in engineering could mean more useful structures, more accurate machines, while its application in science and maths could broaden our horizons to realms that we hadn't even imagined. However just like a knife can be used to cut bread it can also be used to take a life, no matter how useful of a tool Artificial

Intelligence may be, it can also be used in dangerous ways. People loosing their jobs, because they have become redundant due to the rapid rise of A.I is just an example of the hazard it could become to humans.

The field of Artificial Intelligence may very well be considered an uncharted territory, but we cannot approach and venture into it with fear. We need to accept it, familiarise ourselves with it, realise that it has come to stay while not letting our guard down.

To conclude, while Artificial Intelligence is the tool of our times and the way to our future, we need to use it cautiously, in order not to cause unsolvable issues to people.

Sources

Britannica Encyclopaedia

Automated Journalism – AI Applications at New York Times, Reuters, and Other Media Giants | Emerj Artificial Intelligence Research