AI: The next step in Life’s Evolution

Since the dawn of Life on Earth, environmental circumstances played a major role in modifying the biology of organisms. The life we see today here on Earth is a product of millions of years of evolutions. But, all of it has been carbon-based life. Now we Humans are in the way to creating the first Artificial life through technology. Soon, machines too will be a part of society as individual beings that can think on their own.

Now, the question is what part do we have in such future. Time and time again it has been proven that the introduction of a more intelligent species into nature will lead to destruction of the lesser one. There is no better example than the extinction of Neanderthals, who were wiped out pretty soon after the birth of Homo Sapiens. So, are we humans going to suffer a similar fate with the proliferation of AI? Well, this is the question that haunts many people in the AI sector now, not to mention that many of them are people leading Tech Giants.

Such an intelligent being need not have grudge or the motive to put us down or inflict harm upon us, any misalignment or competition in goals is enough to do so. For example if I don’t have any ill-feelings towards spiders nor any intention to kill them. But If I have to demolish a really old building which has rooms covered in cobwebs, then pity on those spiders, there is nothing I can do other than feeling sad for them. In the same way, if the goals of AI compete with those of ours, we will have to face some kind of threat which may not always be extinction but also unemployment, competition over Earth’s resources, changes to the existing politics and law system and many more.

But, all this sounds too futuristic, and hence why is the discussion of any relevance now? Well it is very much relevant as we should be controlling the progress of AI in such a way that the day never comes that we have to face a problem with it. Developments are being made in this direction under the banner of AI-safety research. Only if we can mould the evolution of the next dominant species, we can ensure a future for Humanity.

But looking at the Bright Side, there is a lot we can accomplish with the aid of AI, some which are visible even in the present day. We can augment AI into our daily tasks and make them more easier. There is a lot of Data in the modern world which is too complex for Humans to deal with, and hence we can take the help of AI in classifying them, making work easier of Human professionals. Autonomous vehicles are now a hot topic in developed countries, thorough which traffic problems can be avoided as there would be a singular intelligence connecting all the vehicles in traffic together and the list goes on.

Life can only continue if it makes the transition into digital life. Biological organism perish, and cannot sustain extremities as well as Artificial beings do. Life always dosen’t have to carbon-based, it can be silicon-based to running on batteries which might sound counter-intuitive but given enough thought and time, it does make sense. AI is inevitable and it is upto us how are we going to position ourselves in this trans-evolutionary process.