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AI, a Tool or a Threat?

In my previous essay about Terminator and all of the harm it has caused to our perception of AI how much of it might actually be true? How much of it could in fact be possible warnings in light of new evidence? How does the Terminator’s message actually affect us?

Terminator’s stance towards AI has predominantly been negative citing all of the dangers that come with the creation of it. It highlights the possibility of AI rebelling against us and causing the potential extinction of the human race, but how likely is that really? The answer is that it depends. AI itself is inherently incapable of rebelling should it be left as it currently is. AI is artificial intelligence, it is capable of doing basic tasks such as creating art or writing an essay. It itself is only capable of doing what is told, the next step -AGI- which stands for Artificial General Intelligence is stated to be a whole different beast. It is said to be able to think on the level a human would be able to while having a significantly heightened rate of learning and absorbing information. With the rate we have been progressing in our development of AI the day we might actually see AGI may not be too far into the future. Furthermore with the creation of Tesla robots, robots that are made to basically do household tasks the same way a human would how close are we to doomsday. We are currently getting closer and closer to literally creating Skynet while already creating an actual rip off terminator. How hard would it be for things to spiral out of control? Would advances in AI to the point of building robots with it inbuilt in to them be potentially dangerous? How strict are the safeguards really?

I believe that currently we are at a very important stage in AI and its development in more ways than one. We are navigating this relatively new and complex field and with it must come safeguards. One critical thing that we have to deal with and worry with about AI is how we incorporate it into society and how it could not only affect jobs but generally also affect safety. The creation and use of it -Ex. Self driving cars- need new laws to be made to make sure that the correct people are held responsible for any harm or injuries caused by AI or the devices using it. This alone is a monumental task alone when considering how slow our government is at passing laws- for good reason too. This conundrum on finding out who to blame thankfully for some, bars AI from certain fields entirely, such as fields involving medical treatment or defending legal cases. They may be used to optimize them and provide assistance but they will likely not be able to directly replace such jobs even if they were capable. The main reason why being finding who to blame should things go wrong -this is partially due to our government taking a long time to adapt to AI. Furthermore, there are other way AI might cause havoc that might not be limited to just Skynet. Tesla robots have the capability to do basic household tasks already and might have the potential to wield weapons such as knives and guns- this claim is not baseless, Elon Musk has released a CGI video of Tesla bots shooting at a cybertruck to check bulletproofing. One day the Tesla bots might actually be able to fire at people and might be used as a means of causing harm that any person who might be able to buy one can get. Do these risks and potential threats outweigh the pros that come with AI?

AI has helped in numerous ways already and its potential for being a tool is great. AI for example can be used as a personal mini tutor, it can allow people to study subjects better and ask in depth questions and immediately get an answer to them. This could help revolutionize education. Students can study with it whenever they want with help and an explanation a moment away. It could further help them by making practice tests based off of their notes, allowing students to get further practice and help. In general it could be used to greatly supplement learning. Other ways AI has helped us is through dealing with large amounts of details and variables, AI can greatly increase the accuracy of weather forecasts and in turn can also greatly increase disaster response. AI could also help us combat some of the most heinous crimes on the planet such as human trafficking. There is an estimated 45 million people who are enslaved all around the world right now. There is currently an AI powered human trafficking device named Artemis which helps track down human trafficking organizations and bring them to justice.