Artificial Intelligence Ethical Analysis

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LIS: 4934 Senior Capstone

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February 26, 2024

Introduction : What is AI?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a popular topic of discussion recently with the successful launch of the large language model, ChatGPT. "ChatGPT, the popular chatbot from OpenAI, is estimated to have reached 100 million monthly active users in January, just two months after launch, making it the fastest-growing consumer application in history" ("ChatGPT sets record for fastest-growing user base - analyst note," 2023). AI has transitioned from an insignificant technology to one of the most promising technological advances in history in a quick manner. This shift can be attributed to the ever increasing computational power, data collection, and advances in algorithms used to power AI. AI can power products like ChatGPT which provide an intelligent chat bot service capable of solving most homework problems from math equations to writing essays. Although AI has become well known due to ChatGPT's success, there are many other models that have other capabilities such as the text to image model Dall-e's capability to produce lifelike or stylized images based on a text prompt. Another AI model recently announced by OpenAI is called Sora and is capable of generating videos based on text prompts.

AI and Jobs

AI could affect the world in many ways such as replacing existing jobs and creating new jobs. With Sora's ability to generate videos of things like drone footage of a mountain side, there is no need for the drone cameraman to be hired and flown to the mountain to capture that footage. There could be instead a new job where a person is responsible

for generating the footage which could require them to guide the footage generation through prompting.

AI and Screenwriting

The many capabilities of AI threatens the existence of many modern jobs. One example of this is the 2023 Writers Guild of America Strike in which the group representing 11,500 screenwriters went on strike for 148 days with one of the major issues being the use of AI such as ChatGPT to replace screenwriter jobs ("2023 writers guild of America strike," 2023). From a Utilitarian ethical perspective, I believe it is unethical to replace human workers with AI such as the case with replacing writers with a LLM like ChatGPT. This is unethical because the overall benefit of saving on production costs does not outweigh the loss the people losing their jobs experience.

AI and Education

AI is being used everywhere including in peoples' careers as well as in their education. Students are able to use ChatGPT to solve most of their homework problems with little effort coming from the individual. Students are able to use ChatGPT to create works such as academic essays and pass them off as their own. This is considered outright plagiarism, but the use of AI is permitted in other cases and in other capacities. "Major academic publishers of scholarly journals do not prohibit the use of GenAI; conversely, many encourage their use.. If their use is declared transparently and if the author takes full responsibility for the accuracy and veracity of the work."(Perkins et al., 2023, p. 4) Academic researchers are encouraged to use AI as long as they remain transparent.

Also, students are likely to be using AI in their career, so banning the use within education may be detrimental to the student. "As AI becomes more readily deployed in our day-to-day lives, it becomes almost certain that students will need to use GenAI tools in their careers. By prohibiting their use or decrying their use as plagiarism and misconduct, educators may instead disservice their students by failing to prepare them for the future" (Perkins et al., 2023, p. 4-5). One way the education system could enable students for success in regards to AI is by providing a system for specifying how and where AI was used in the creation of a work. The AI Assessment Scale is a system that addresses this issue by allowing the student to clarify the level (1-5) of AI use. The system spans from level 1 being no AI use to level 5 being entirely generated by AI. From a utilitarian ethical perspective, the use of this system is more ethical than banning the use of AI due to its overall benefit to the education system and the students themselves.

Conclusion

AI will impact the world in many ways and already is doing so such as with replacing jobs and creating new jobs. The creation of generative AI such as ChatGPT has completely changed the education system by the ability to complete assignments for students. With all of the capabilities of AI, ethics ought to be considered such as the case with plagiarism and with lowering production costs by replacing workers. I analyzed these ethical situations using the Utilitarian perspective. I chose this perspective because the intention of the perspective is to benefit the most people as much as possible which I believe is a good intention.

References

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