

Assignment 1

Machine Learning: Living in the Age of AI | A WIRED Film Reaction Paper

Honestly, watching the WIRED documentary, "Living in the Age of AI," made me realize that AI isn't just some sci-fi concept from the movies. It's already here, a part of our lives in ways I hadn't really thought about, from asking Alexa for the weather to much more complex things happening behind the scenes. The film left me feeling both really hopeful and a little bit worried at the same time. It made it clear that AI is going to change pretty much everything, and we're the ones who have to decide if that change is for the better.

What really stuck with me were the real-world examples of how AI is already helping people. The stuff in medicine was mind-blowing. The fact that an AI on a phone can spot skin cancer as well as a top doctor is a huge deal. It means expert medical help could be available to almost anyone. I also thought the story of the high school kid, Bishop J, using AI to help treat pancreatic cancer, was amazing because it shows you don't have to be a giant company to use this tech to do good. But the "Seeing AI" app was probably my favorite part. Seeing it help a blind person get around and even read the emotions on his friend's face made "machine learning" feel less like a technical term and more like something that can actually change a person's life.

When the film looked at the future, it showed two sides of the coin: the incredible possibilities and the serious problems we'll have to face. On the one hand, things like self-driving cars could give elderly people their independence back, which is a fantastic goal. The bigger idea of freeing us all from boring, repetitive jobs so we can be more creative sounds great, too. But the film didn't just focus on the good stuff. It also brought up the very real fear of people losing their jobs to automation. The part that really freaked me out, though, was about deepfakes. The thought that someone could create a realistic video of anyone saying anything is terrifying. It makes you wonder how we'll ever be able to trust what we see online again.

This brings up the biggest question the film asks: how do we get the benefits of AI without letting the bad stuff take over? The documentary makes it clear that we can't just sit back and hope for the best; we have to actively do something. The main thing is that we need to "set the rules right" by talking openly about things like privacy, fake videos, and how our data is being used. We also need to get smarter about this stuff through education, so we can understand the world we're building. The film's point seems to be that we shouldn't be overly optimistic or think the world is ending. We just need to be realistic, see both the good and the bad, and work hard to steer things in the right direction.

To sum it up, this documentary was a real eye-opener. It showed me that AI isn't just coming—it's here. While I'm excited about its potential to help us in areas like medicine and accessibility, I'm also concerned about the risks of job loss and misinformation. The film's final message really hit home for me. In the end, the most important "programming" we have to do isn't with computer code, but with the rules and values we choose to guide this technology, to make sure it helps humanity instead of hurting it.