

Week 10

With the recent developments of LLMs (Large Language Models) as well as witnessing an increase in accessibility of them, it is easy to conjure up a worry that these AI's by themselves, or combined with physical robots, will pose a threat to the future of jobs. I want to discuss why this may very well be a threat, but one that we will not need to worry about as much due to historical events, what businesses need to grow in the economy, and what differentiates humans from AI.

Articles such as [As AI Advances, Will Human Workers Disappear](#) constantly fail to dive deeper into what the overtaking of jobs truly means for humanity. This connects to when Zerelli said "The fact that the typical bank clerk's job description today might only faintly resemble what it was in, say, 1980, doesn't mean there are no more bank clerks. More generally, automation has a way of redrawing boundaries around traditional job categories" (Zerelli 151). Throughout history, we have seen countless moments where even though technology proved to be the reason why jobs were lost, new jobs were just as well created in their place. For example, the rise of computers and automation in the 20th century did not lead to widespread unemployment but instead led to the creation of entirely new industries and jobs that were previously unimaginable. This concern of developing AI will likely follow a similar path, creating new opportunities and jobs in areas that we cannot yet foresee. A common objection to this is the idea that the new jobs that are created may not necessarily be accessible to the workers who have been displaced. More specifically, they may require skills and qualifications that the displaced workers just do not have which leads to a mismatch between the skills required for the job and the skills possessed by the worker. While this has some merit, it is important to consider that governments, businesses, and educational institutions can take steps to ensure that workers have access to the training and education necessary to acquire the skills needed for new jobs. After all, businesses need to grow and by investing in new skills and qualifications of their employees, their goals of increasing productivity, improving the quality of products, and gaining a competitive edge in the market will all be met.

As a final note, it is important to consider AI technology is highly specialized and designed to perform specific tasks. While AI may be able to automate some tasks that were previously done by humans, it cannot replicate the complex and creative thinking that is required for many jobs. What about jobs where creative thinking is not required as much where AI is the main threat? As a software developer myself and especially in a startup environment, we need to come up with new and creative ways to solve complex problems, design user interfaces that are easy to use, etc, which all boil down to the fact that companies look to develop unique and innovative products that stand out in a crowded market. In fact, the automation of certain tasks done by software developers will lead to greater innovation in the field since we would have more time to think creatively and come up with novel solutions that push the limits of what is currently possible. To put it simply, "Robots may have a smaller margin of technical error, but they lack your humanity, your quirks, and the rare and distinctive qualities that make you who you are" (<https://hbr.org/2021/03/why-robots-wont-steal-your-job>).