

# **Debunking the fabricated - AI**

Artificial Intelligence. If you're not living under a rock you must have heard of this term. And if you do know, you must be fascinated by it. After all, the words say it all. In layman's term - intelligence that has been created.

A simple google search will come up with hundreds of articles, books, media, movies devoted to it. And images. *Abundant* images.

Neurons firing, robots thinking, code pouring down a screen and if you're lucky you might as well find "The Terminator" buried somewhere in there.

But is this how we define AI? An omnipotent robot? Or is it just something Hollywood fancies us to buy?

Perhaps, it is easier to connect to an audience via these clichés. But do we need them today? In the age of Alexa, Cortana, face detection in mobile phones and Google Maps, do we really require false depiction of AI?

This is how Wikipedia defines AI.

*" Artificial intelligence (AI) is intelligence demonstrated by machines, in contrast to the natural intelligence displayed by humans and other animals. Colloquially, the term 'artificial intelligence' is applied when a machine mimics 'cognitive' functions that humans associate with other human minds, such as 'learning' and 'problem solving'. "*

Now that we have a formal definition of what it is, let's counter some myths that plague this field.

## **1 . AI = Robots .**

No. AI is any machine that has the property of exhibiting intelligence, performing tasks that are an essence of human intelligence.

Sure, a robot does employ concepts of AI, but the keyword is "use".

A machine that can recognise images is AI, perhaps limited in its scope but nevertheless - AI.

## **2. AI = Machine Learning**

Machine Learning(ML) is a subset of AI. Machine Learning is only a means of achieving AI. A faster, smarter, efficient way.

If we had to create a program that recognises trees from a photo, we could possibly write it in code.

How long would it be? Well, long enough to cause a headache.

So, instead of writing complex rules and specifications to achieve a goal, we make use of ML.

Machine learning is "training" an algorithm so that it learns the objective. Training involves feeding it a huge amount of data so that it adjusts, improves and eventually learn.

### **3. AI will take away jobs.**

Let's begin with this. *Innovation has never lessened opportunities.*

It's not all doom. Machines will never replace jobs that require people in all its entirety, but rather make the entire process less stressful, less time - consuming and people - more productive.

Phones replaced letters to a great extent, abated the job of a postman, but created thousands more in manufacturing, advertising, designing and more.

Let's take an example of "Mya", An AI-powered chatbot that helps filter relevant candidates for recruitment, consequently saving hours of search and engagement at the primary level.

At the end of the day, the recruiters will only have to tend to eligible candidates for hiring.

Or the IBM Watson's cognitive ability used in healthcare. It hasn't replaced doctors, nor will it ever. The diagnosis is still provided by physicians. What it does do well is scrutinise and categorise medical data within a minuscule margin of error that fairly aids the process of prognosis. Furthermore, do we really need skilled individuals wasting their time going through a volume of information when a machine could do that?

AI is being created to work with humans, not instead of them.

### **4. AI can work with any variety of data**

Certainly, but when your face recognition system says you look like a car, it doesn't take long to dawn upon you that something went amiss. Any AI system needs high-quality information that pertains to the problem at hand; data with some noise (unstructured, meaningless data) is fine but that noise can't be a heavy - metal song; *pun intended*. AI is a program and a program needs good data.

## **5. AI will rule over the world.**

If we go by any conventional science-fiction movie on the matter of AI, yes. In real life, No. Ever since "AI" transcended from academic knowledge to general circulation, it has been fashioned, manipulated, had its purpose changed.

Likening the power of an AI-powered machine to that of a human in power is imaginative but essentially, bizarre.

Today's AI is a snail against what it actually can be. A smart machine will operate for us. It won't destroy but rather enrich our lives.

Semantics cannot be created from syntactic logic.

Machines will always require human input and intervention.

And the said machines will be smart enough to assess the significance of its creator - us.

Maybe there is a threat, but that kind of revolution hasn't happened yet.

Besides, if we are capable of recognising an intimidation that is unreachable today we are more than proficient of treating it.

The hype created by pop culture shouldn't be a hindrance in research, inventiveness and innovation.

AI is already a part of our lives. It's time we ask questions that help us comprehend it - *what it is, what it is not, what it can be and what impact it will have on our lives.*

- Swati Gautam

MSc Computer science - I yr

