Reflective Activity 1 – Ethics in Computing in the age of Generative AI

Introduction

Deckard and Corrêa et al discuss the ethics in Artificial Intelligence on a global scale and how it should be used throughout this reflective piece I will discuss my stance on AI. Regulation needs to be a top priority of all governments, but this is difficult as it has been two years since the likes of ChatGPT entered the mainstream and how it has changed within these two years has been exponential as "Artificial intelligence is developing too fast for regulators to keep up" (Stacey & Milmo, 2023). This is troubling as AI is already becoming commonplace but how do we regulate it so that ethical concerns are taken into account as in the last year misinformation has become a major issue with AI image generations with Grok fabricated hyper realistic images that spread false information and defamation which shows the lack of ethics and legal protections in place (Baker, 2024). Overall, my stance is that AI needs to be able to innovate but the guardrails must be set so such tools are not misused by bad actors and work towards a common good.

Legal Impact

As mentioned in my initial view the legal side of AI is where the biggest changes are needed with improved regulation that sets rules out for large language models and image generation that are practical in real-world situations for the deployment of AI technologies (Deckard, 2023). There also needs to be more global collaboration as recently discussed at the UN that "countries to come together to create an international regulatory system" (Stacey & Milmo, 2023) as this would allow the world to align on AI policy no matter where these AI technologies are based.

"The lack of attention given to questions related to labour rights" (Corrêa et al., 2023) is a rising problem as corporations can use the rise in AI to make jobs redundant that did not need to be replaced which is why labour rights need to be in the forefront of AI discussions so that jobs are not replaced as the long-term risks of AI have not been fully discussed. This is a key discussion in AI ethics as jobs that require their own ethical considerations how far will AI go and will it bypass ethics in jobs that require it.

Social Impact

A huge social impact of AI is the speed of which will be able to take jobs away as it is already set to "displace 2.4 million jobs in the US" (Qian et al., 2024) alone creating what Qian et al note as being a "useless class" as many are made redundant in their line of work with there needing to be "New economic models, social systems, and education re-engineering are necessary in the AI era" (Qian et al., 2024) However, as established in the legal impact AI is advancing at such a rate where regulation is unable to keep up how will research into the societal impact of AI before jobs are impacted and this "useless class" grows.

The other perspective is however that the social aspect will actually be positive as AI will allow the "workforce to evolve" (Marr, 2023). This is a positive outlook as Marr suggests that despite 7 million jobs in the UK being replaced by AI between 2017 and 2037 there are jobs that can be created to replace these (Marr, 2023). However, Marr does not breakdown the types of jobs that could be created as the types of jobs won't be easy to replace as Marr neglected to mention in the article, he cited that there will be winners and losers in the jobs that will be replaced (BBC, 2018).

Conclusion

To conclude, AI is going at a pace that will be able to assist humanity for a lifetime but in its current infancy, especially when it comes to generative AI, it is not being regulated at a fast enough pace where humanity is not being protected. This is why AI ethical guidelines that are agreed upon worldwide is necessary to protect humanity as there is currently a lack of discussion on the long-term risks of AI and its safety.

Reference List

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