

P01 – Reading Assignment

1. Your view on the future of (and with) AI

1.1 Your view of AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a very broad interdisciplinary field with contributions from many distinct technical and philosophical disciplines. It is also a very active and rapidly developing area of research. Hence, a wide body of different approaches and methods exist. Because this cannot be covered by any one single course, we thus bring you in contact with relevant literature right from the start.

On the course site you find the following reference (among others):

- Dirk Helbing, “What’s Wrong with AI? A Discussion Paper”, SI Magazine, 2020.

AI often has a polarizing effect on experts and laymen alike. For example, in just about the last 10-15 years, public opinion has changed from “this cannot be done” to “AI will kill us all” and “AI will save our industry” (according to personal level of optimism). Read the article above and make up your mind what side of the discussion “AI: helpful or harmful” you would take, and why.

Accomplish the following reading assignment task 1.2. Take brief but distinct notes on

- what is interesting to you;
- seems relevant for the future;
- is not understandable at the moment;

while you read (this can also be done digitally and/or with underlining in the texts).

To summarize your notes, write a short blog post according to task 1.3.

Then, move on to task 2 after installing Anaconda Python to be ready for the next labs (see P02 for instructions).

1.2 Notes on “What’s Wrong with AI? A Discussion Paper”



Fact 1:

Fact 2:

Fact 3:

Question 1:

Question 2:

2. Your view - revisited

2.1 Reflecting on common misconceptions concerning AI

You have already reflected on your views of AI and our future in P01.1, have read relevant literature while so doing, and have put your own opinion about it in a blog post. Now, we ask you to revisit your opinion piece, and provide a concise and convincing reply after considering more literature.

Please start by reading again your own thoughts. Then, read the following article:

- Rodney Brooks, “The Seven Deadly Sins of AI Predictions”, Technology Review, October 6, 2017, available online (2021-09-09):
<https://www.technologyreview.com/2017/10/06/241837/the-seven-deadly-sins-of-ai-predictions/>

Now create a follow-up post to your P01.1 piece (or theses) that summarizes and then gives any updates (be it a change or rather a reinforcement) of your previous opinion. Make it as concise as possible while still being argumentatively convincing. Make sure it has at most 500 words (that is roughly a one-pager).

You may use the following sections to structure your thoughts.

2.2 Guiding questions

You may find it helpful to consider the following questions:

- How trustworthy do you think the information in the article for P01.1 has been? For the “Where’s the Intelligence?”-slides on the recent lecture material? How can this be evaluated? How trustworthy is your own judgment now, in your own sight? Why?
- Did your view change? Why? What convinced you?
- Did your view stay the same? In which way was it influenced anyway by the arguments you read or heard throughout the course?
- How would you summarize the main arguments in the “What’s wrong with AI?” article (P01.1)? How would you summarize the main arguments in the “Seven deadly sins” article (P01.2)?

2.3 Notes on “The Seven Deadly Sins of AI Predictions”
