The Role of AI in Future Societies

Lately we have seen major advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML) and Mobile Robotics (MR). Together with the enormous amount of data that is being collected, sophisticated algorithms now allow both routine and non-routine based tasks to be automated.[[1]](#footnote-1) This means that major parts of the low and middle wages jobs are at risk for being computerized. This includes unemployment in sectors like services, sales, production, transportation, office and administrative support etc. This corresponds to approximately 47 percent of the total US employment occupations are at risk at be automated over the next decades or so.[[2]](#footnote-2)

The development in the areas of AI, ML and MR is happening at an absurd pace and may affect a greater amount of people in a much shorter time than earlier industrializations has. Some believe that the society will adapt, just as it has done before and that many new jobs will be created as we go. But if this will not be the case, this means that a large part of the population may become unemployed. Which in turn means that they will not have a stable income, and therefore cannot engage in the trading market as before. This will in the long term affect the world economy. In [[3]](#footnote-3) Martin Ford brings up a few ideas how to tackle this concern and one is that to give every adult an annual basic income, which would help keeping the economic activity. Ford also mentions more than once that this technical progress will lead to a “winner takes it all scenario” where the winners are the leading companies like Google, Tesla, Facebook etc. And with this the economic classes differences will get even more extreme. To make this change happen at some customized pace, I believe that it is up to the world leaders to set up clear regulations in preventing robots etc. in too large extent.

Overall when it comes to the risk of AI I believe that sooner than later we will have developed an AI that can do everything better than humans. This is something one should be very concerned with since AI is making great progress in the military for instance. For example, the Autonomous Weapon System is “a weapon system that once activated, can select and engage without further intervention by a human operator”.[[4]](#footnote-4) This together with face and audio recognition etc. will turn the battlefield into something never seen before. Unfortunately, I think that AI in this area might be the most difficult growth to prevent. Even though great parts of the world may try to agree on certain constraints, there will always be people with other objectives.

Turning to the bright side of AI I believe a lot will have happened in the next ten years or so. As Elon Musk says in[[5]](#footnote-5), almost all cars produced at that time will most likely be autonomous, and autonomous cars has a lot of advantages compared to human drivers. The number of collisions will probably fall drastically as well as the driving will be more environmental friendly. I do also believe that the health sector will benefit a lot from a range of classification systems and advanced robots for surgery. Hopefully this will help us find solutions to major health problems like cancer and heart diseases etc. *(Words: 549)*

1. Frey and A. Osborne. “The Future of Employment: How Susceptible are Jobs to Computerisation”, 2013, pp. 27. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Frey and A. Osborne, pp. 38. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Martin Ford. “The Rise of the Robots”, 2015. pp. 270 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. “The Ethics of Autonomous Weapons Systems”, 2014. <https://www.law.upenn.edu/institutes/cerl/conferences/ethicsofweapons/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Elon Musk, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2555&v=2C-A797y8dA> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)