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What are the main themes regarding crowd-work that are discussed in this article?

Junqi Chen (junqich)

The main theme discussed in this article is the fact that crowd-work is inevitable for artificial intelligence (AI) nowadays. In another word, AI is not entirely intelligent and self-driven but involves human labor always. Since pure AI can hardly have a satisfactory performance without human involvement, crowd-work is the commonused method for companies and organizations to improve their algorithms and develop their products. The communication and combination between the creativity of humans and the efficiency of AI should be considered seriously for better collaboration.

Shensong Zhao (zhaoss)

The main theme of the article is to call for public attention towards the human labor behind the automation of artificial intelligence (AI). AI has its wide application in people's daily life but it can still have some problems in decision making. In such cases, crowd-workers are needed and contracted for covering the flaws of the algorithm. However, few technology companies will advertise the human labor behind AI and offer a moderate pay for these workers. On one hand, as all kinds of other labor forces, crowd-workers deserve professional training and recognition. On the other hand, consumers have the right to know who are involved in delivering the information they see on the Internet.

 Building on these themes or otherwise, what do you think are important considerations (technical and/or social) to be made when employing crowdworkers for AI or Data Science projects?

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Junqi Chen (junqich)

Technically speaking, we have to be cautious about the bias driven by the AI algorithm, which may largely be affected by the training process where human labor involves. When employing crowd-workers, I think they are responsible for avoiding all kinds of bais through their works, devoted to creating an inspiring and friendly space for the users. With strict censorship and great guidance (from the power of crowd-workers), AI-trained results and products can efficiently keep away from the aggressive content (compared to simply training by itself). For example, some searching engines used to be blamed for their searching results with the stereotype, which may possibly originate from the user behaviors instead of the algorithms. Human workers are involved to filter biased information and queries so that the result appears to be justice and reasonable. In short, crowd-workers are considered as the most important factor to guide the AI in order to ensure the right direction.

Shensong Zhao (zhaoss)

When employing the crowd-workers for AI, technology companies should be aware that the crowd-workers should be made transparent. In other words, the social impact of employing crowd-workers ought to be taken into consideration. For example, the companies need to make sure that the crowd-workers are not racists who are unwelcome by the general public. Besides, the companies have the responsibility of informing the society of the contributions made by these crowd-workers who play an essential role in creating AI for people's daily life. Furthermore, the companies should give the crowd-workers the same treatments as ordinary employees including professional training and compensations. The crowd-workers should enjoy the same rights as other workers in the labor market, which is indeed a matter of social fairness.

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