

*Some thoughts on the current state of AI Large Language Models and AI Technology in general*

Although the current AI Large Language Models generate representations of semantic dimensions, at this point within the accelerating development of AI technology the machines seem to hold no conceptual understanding of language nor the world. Nevertheless, renowned AI specialists are claiming Large Language Models as GPT-4 can perform simple reasoning. Predicting the next word still seems far removed from consistent realistic or hypothetical modeling, critical and strategic thinking or drawing logical and causal inferences for example, which allows us to extract meaning in so many intricate ways instead of being exposed to showers of noise. Nevertheless, the increasing level of coherence in Large Language Models can present a forceful challenge for our ability to even discriminate between true and false, not even considering additional social disruption and change that comes with the technology.

In addition: who codes into the machine what is true and false on subjects that involve value statements and a specific world view? All this could implicate unpredictable manipulative powers. And when considering who encodes goals and motivations into machines, for example into lethal AI weapons, we could start to doubt whom we must fear more - AI machines or ourselves?

Would additional new technology and the chaining of AI modules elevate AI results to a whole new scenario of the much-discussed "singularity"? Could AI involve the end of the lead of human intelligence by its manipulative omnipresence even if artificial general intelligence will be just a fiction? Or will it be the most potent extension of man's technological grip on the world, that can tackle the biggest problems through a vast array of application across many fields in the most promising way as AI advocates like to convey? In any case AI strongly confronts us with its impactful powers in practical applications and the challenge it presents to rethink intelligence.

*DS, 2023*