Introduction to Artificial Intelligence

The Lincoln University of Business and Management held a webinar last August 14, entitled Introduction to Artificial Intelligence with guest speaker Nadine Hajj, a data scientist to explain what is artificial intelligence, key concepts of AI: machine learning and deep learning, and how the AI can be utilized in several areas and platforms.

The speaker first gives a quick explanation of the difference between jargons we usually encounter in AI systems: Deep learning, a technology to learn a certain type of algorithm; Machine learning on the other hand is the technique for building block of AI; and Artificial Intelligence is the ability of machines to perform certain task like what human performs. So, the inspiration of AI started back in the 1950s - 1956 to be specific at Dartmouth College, and Alan Turing is considered as the known founding father of modern AI.

The first topic was followed by showing some critical discoveries throughout the years regarding AI, which are the following: On 1997, IBM developed a machine called Deep Blue which is basically a computer chess-playing. On 2011, IBM Watson was developed where it answers questions on a quiz show, and noted that it does not only answer math question, but even the non-math questions. And on 2016, Google Deep Mind beats Lee Sedol who's the strongest Go player. And what leads us to these discoveries are Exponential growth of data, Moore's law which refers his perception that the number of transistors on a microchip doubles (evolving) every two year making computing powerful, and algorithms that allows us to process complex data. Moreover, Quantum Computing which is the new way of processing data can lead us to more than what the current computing is leading us today.

The next topic is the capabilities of AI. Artificial Intelligence has seven abilities: it can reason, plan, solve problems, think abstractly, comprehend complex ideas, learn quickly, and learn from experience. A more advanced AI is called Artificial super Intelligence whom can make its own decision itself without having human interaction. Ms. Hajj, shares some applications for AI that we use on daily basis such as Netflix recommendation, Google saying that AI catches 99.9% of spam message, chatbots, freenome, and pepper the humanoid robot. What I learned in this section is that although lot of people has concerns about the growing of AI today, it is undeniable that AI has been helpful to us in making things easy and solving problems. However, as said in webinar AI can be a threat to humans existence

(e.g: decreasing of factory manpower), thus, it is important that we get it right because instead of harmful result, it may help us cure diseases, solve energy problems, and even transform human's life in positive way.

Moving to machine and deep learning, machine learning and deep learning is a subset of AI. Machine learning has three types: supervised learning, unsupervised learning, and reinforcement learning. Deep learning in my understanding allows us to send data instantly and constantly. It is very helpful to businesses because it allows the business to know its customers' likes and insights (e.g. surveys/face detection) providing meaningful results.

The overall webinar gives a lot of fresh ideas and impart new knowledge to me about the Artificial Intelligence. Aside from the delivery of information in informative way, the speaker provides questions as well before moving on to a next topic which makes the webinar interactive.