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AI for Common Good



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24 Jan 2018 | 17:00 GMT

Michigan's MiDAS Unemployment System: Algorithm Alchemy Created Lead, Not Gold

A case study into how to automate false accusations of fraud for more than 34,000 unemployed people

By Robert N. Charette

Illustration: Stockphoto/IEEE Spectrum



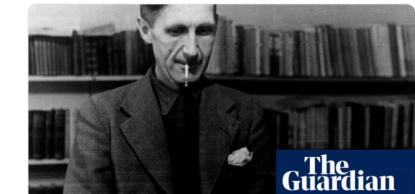
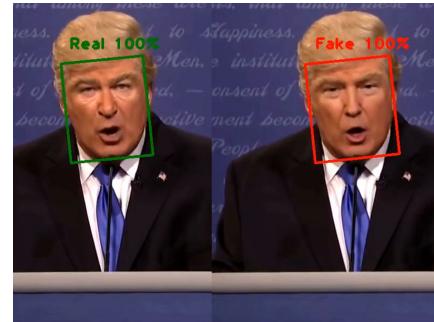
The Promise?

From Brueghel to Warhol: AI enters the attribution fray

Can artificial intelligence crack long-standing puzzles in art history? David Adam finds out.

nature.com

Deepfakes – this week's political scare



New AI fake text generator may be too dangerous to release, say cre...
The Elon Musk-backed nonprofit company OpenAI declines to release research publicly for fear of misuse
theguardian.com

MIT Technology Review Follow

It took two researchers 13 hours and \$7.80 to train an AI model to fake UN speeches.



You can train an AI to fake UN speeches in just 13 hours
Deep-learning techniques have made it easier and easier for anyone to forge convincing misinformation.
technologyreview.com

3:24 PM - 7 Jun 2019

Cheapfakes we've seen
before



What is AI?

“Actions that are indistinguishable from a human’s.” Alan Turing

“Systems that display intelligent behaviour by analysing their environment and taking actions – with some degree of autonomy – to achieve specific goals”
European Commission, *AI for Europe* (2018)

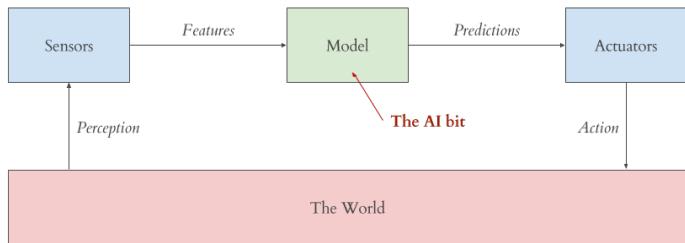
The (Third) Coming of AI

- **1940-1950: Early days**
 - 1943: McCulloch & Pitts: Boolean circuit model of brain
 - 1950: Turing's "Computing Machinery and Intelligence"
- **1950—70: Excitement: Look, Ma, no hands!**
 - 1950s: Early AI programs, including Samuel's checkers program, Newell & Simon's Logic Theorist, Gelernter's Geometry Engine
 - 1956: Dartmouth meeting: "Artificial Intelligence" adopted
 - 1965: Robinson's complete algorithm for logical reasoning
- **1970—90: Knowledge-based approaches**
 - 1969—79: Early development of knowledge-based systems
 - 1980—88: Expert systems industry booms
 - 1988—93: Expert systems industry busts: "AI Winter"
- **1990—: Statistical approaches**
 - Resurgence of probability, focus on uncertainty
 - General increase in technical depth
 - Agents and learning systems... "AI Spring"?
- **2000—: Where are we now?**



AI Today

- Public discourse about “AI” largely refers to what is known as “Machine Learning” (ML).
- ML is a field mixing statistics, computer science, and many other disciplines to “design algorithms that process data, make predictions and help make decisions” (Michael J. Jordan).
- “Data Science” often used to refer to the link between ML and database and computing systems, and “reflecting the larger social and environmental scope of the resulting systems” (Michael J. Jordan).
- AI is not magic - a set of tools and technologies.



Subfields of AI



Perception: vision, speech understanding, etc.



Machine Learning



Robotics



Natural Language Processing



Reasoning and decision making (search, planning, decision theory, optimisation)



Essex County Council



**ESSEX
POLICE**

Protecting and serving Essex



University of Essex

Essex Centre for Data Analytics (ECDA)



The Vision:

To make Essex national leaders using the power of data science and AI to tackle public policy challenges



The aims:

To make Essex a place that is an exemplar for the integration of data across public bodies.

To have the skill, capability and technology to undertake predictive analytics based on ethical, high standards.

To have a sustainable data infrastructure.

To have the best data science / analytical capabilities in the UK to benefit our people and communities.



A risk profile for school readiness

- Can we predict whether children will be school ready on starting school?
- What factors are most likely to cause this early indicator of “best start in life”?
- 511 households at risk in the pilot area;
- Including 280 previously unknown to public services;
- 74% prediction accuracy rate.

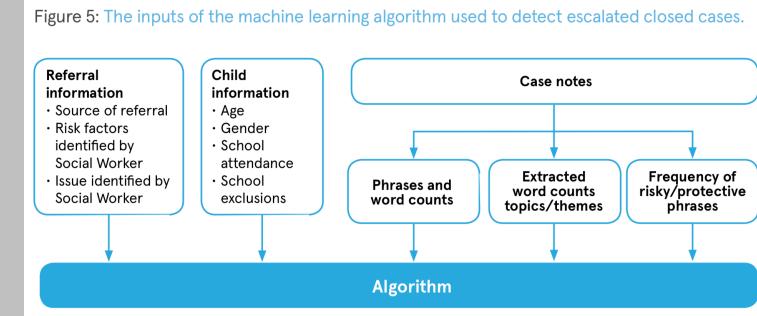


- Meet Bevan,
- He's two and a half, and a little shy!
- He has an amazing mum and grandad; Hayley and Ed, who set-up "Chicklets"
- This is the first community group in Vange, Basildon (Essex), to benefit from the school readiness work.

Improving
outcomes for
local people

Natural Language Processing in Public Policy

- Children's social care
- Given the text of the initial referral and assessment, and structured data relating to the case, could we predict whether the case would be re-referred and escalated if it were closed?
- ML and NLP



Predictive Modelling in Public Policy

- Hackney & Thurrock councils and Xantura
 - vulnerable families in need of additional support.
- Brent Council and IBM
 - children at risk of criminal exploitation.

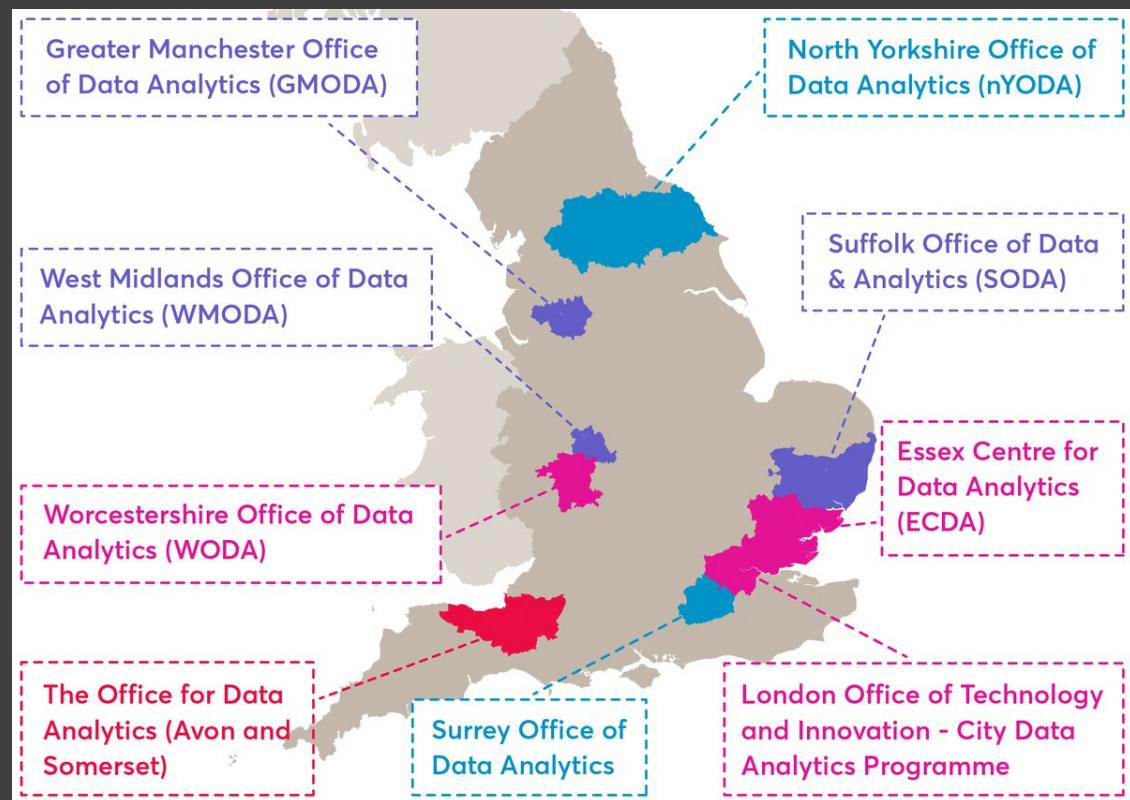
The screenshot shows a news article from The Guardian. The headline reads: "Brent and Epsom councils work with IBM on system to try to identify problems before they arise". The article discusses how councils are using predictive software developed by IBM to analyze data on thousands of children to predict gang exploitation. It mentions that the technology is also being used in Hackney and Thurrock. The author is Niamh McIntyre and David Pegg, dated 16 Sep 2010 19:29 BST. The article has 1,470 views and was published over 2 months ago. A sidebar on the right features an advertisement for "Today in Focus" and a "most viewed" section.

The screenshot shows another news article from The Guardian. The headline reads: "Councils use 377,000 people's data in efforts to predict child abuse". This article discusses how councils are using algorithms to identify families at risk of child abuse. It mentions that at least five councils have implemented such systems. The author is Niamh McIntyre and David Pegg, dated 16 Sep 2010 16:00 BST. The article has 1,376 views and was published over 2 months ago. A sidebar on the right features an advertisement for "Trusted brand with a wide variety of quality jobs".

ECDA Essex Standard:
Openness, transparency, and
ethics underpin ECDA work



Nesta: State of Offices of Data Analytics in the UK



It's not always easy...

UK Government Industrial Strategy: Artificial Intelligence Sector Deal



The world's most innovative economy ambition



Partnership between government, industry, and academia

Attract and retain AI talent;
Improve digital infrastructure;
Conducive business climate;
Prosperity of society through AI benefits.



£1bn + £1.7bn from the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund



Catalyst is funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England.



University of Essex working in partnership with:



Essex County Council

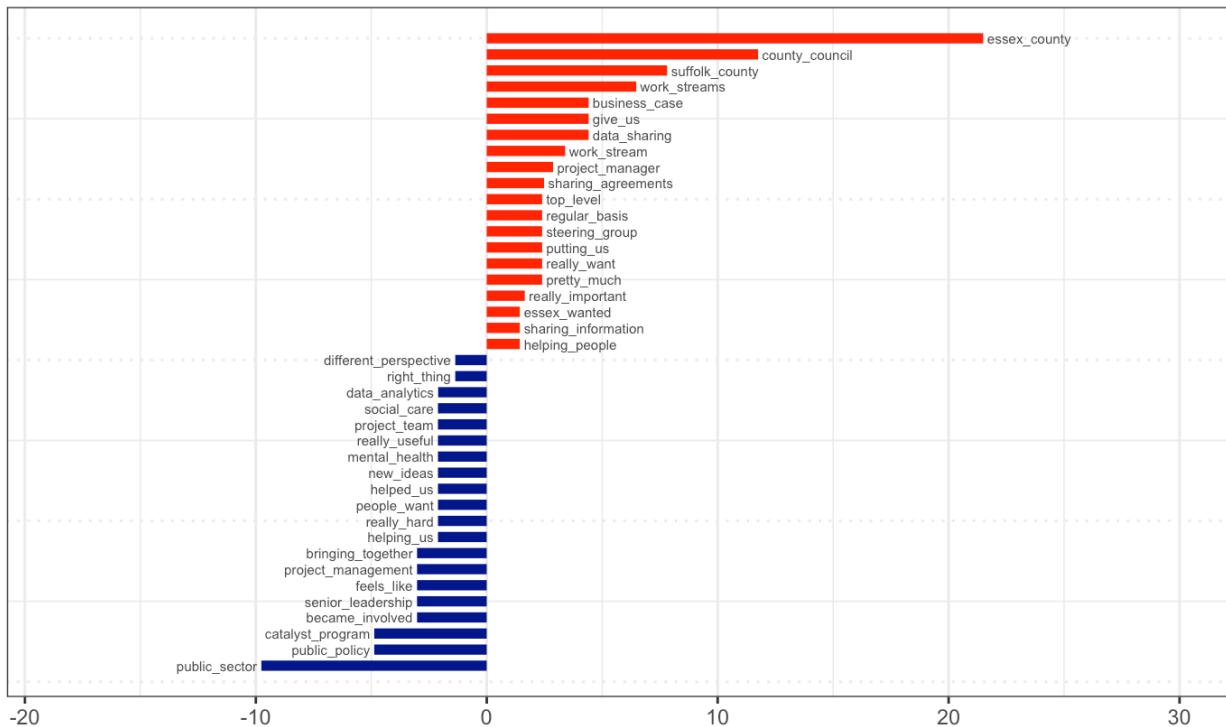


"Our ongoing partnership with the University of Essex puts us at the forefront of local authorities seeking innovative solutions to the challenges we face."

Councillor David Finch

LEADER OF ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL AND CHAIR OF ESSEX PARTNERS

AI Collaboration for Common Good



Perspectives on Collaboration

- 24 interviews: SCC, ECC, and UoE stakeholders
- Core issues:
 - Capacity and capability
 - Collaborative mission vs organisational uniqueness
 - Mechanics of data sharing
 - Organisational priorities vs AI project priorities
- Routinising AI project success:
 - Problem-centric redefinition
 - Granularity and specificity
 - Showing value

10 QUESTIONS TO ANSWER BEFORE USING AI IN PUBLIC SECTOR ALGORITHMIC DECISION MAKING

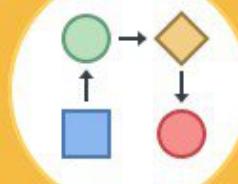
OBJECTIVE

Why is the algorithm needed and what outcomes is it intended to enable?



USE

In what processes and circumstances is the algorithm appropriate to be used?



IMPACTS

What impacts - good and bad - could the use of the algorithm have on people?



ASSUMPTIONS

What assumptions is the algorithm based on and what are their limitations and potential biases?



DATA

What datasets is / was the algorithm trained on and what are their limitations and potential biases?



INPUTS

What new data does the algorithm use when making decisions?



MITIGATION

What actions have been taken to mitigate the negative impacts that could result from the algorithm's limitations and potential biases?



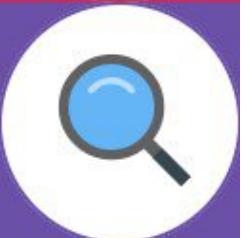
ETHICS

What assessment has been made of the ethics of using this algorithm?



OVERSIGHT

What human judgement is needed before acting on the algorithm's output and who is responsible for ensuring its proper use?



EVALUATION

How, and by what criteria, will the effectiveness of the algorithm be assessed, and by whom?



@EddieACopeland #IdeaOnAPage

@nesta_uk

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