

AI in healthcare - Reading Club Notes

Session 5/24/21

What we read:

“On the Dangers of Stochastic Parrots.”

https://faculty.washington.edu/ebender/papers/Stochastic_Parrots.pdf

Who Participated:

Jayanthi Suryanarayana, Ahmet Dokumaci, Gupta Ateesh, Bolaram Padmavathi, Alfredo De Los Reyes, Andrew J Plesniak

What was the paper about?

Research in NLP has seen a astronomical progress in the last couple of years resulting models of trillion parameters and enormous volumes of data. The paper discusses the environmental impacts, how the current approach might contribute to furthering inequity and questions the current directions of focusing the valuable researchers on the model vs curation and documentation of data. It also proposes some methods to mitigate the risks called out.

How is it relevant in health care?

COVID is fueling technology and AI adoption in healthcare and a number of NLP solutions are poised /already in place in healthcare systems. The questioning of research direction change is a must watch for all NLP technologists in the healthcare space.

What themes were discussed:

- Data centric vs Model centric
- Current practices of Common Crawler and the effects of documentation debt.
- Environmental / climate impacts of models
- How current models are not truly in the space of Natural Language Understanding

Key Takeaways:

This paper caught huge industry attention and the directional change from model centric focus to data centric focus in ML is something to be understand by developers, product managers in the solutions developed.