Briefing Doc: Navigating Climate Change with AI

Main Themes:

Frustration with Incremental Action: The document expresses deep frustration with the slow pace of climate action and the perceived inadequacy of incremental measures in the face of an accelerating crisis.

Exploring Radical Alternatives: The author explores alternative approaches, including temporary authoritarianism led by AI (ASI) and transhumanism, as potential solutions to overcome political and social barriers to rapid change.

Ethical Dilemmas: The discussion grapples with the ethical implications of each proposed solution, weighing the potential benefits against the risks to democratic values, individual liberties, and public trust.

AI as a Tool and Challenge: AI is presented as both a potential tool for addressing climate change through advanced modeling and decision-making capabilities, and a potential source of new challenges related to transparency, control, and public understanding.

Most Important Ideas/Facts:

The Urgency of Climate Change: The document emphasizes the urgency of the climate crisis, citing evidence of accelerating impacts, mass migration, and the potential for exponential worsening of conditions.

"Last year and this year we've only seen conditions far worse and accelerating far faster than we predicted." "How many [exponentially] worsening years is it acceptable to take? Adapt, or die."

Inadequacy of Current Approaches: Current incremental policies and reliance on public opinion shifts are viewed as insufficient to address the scale and urgency of the problem.

"Is it not wild that we'll do all these little things over time, but then in the end have to do something radical and dramatic anyway? Logically it seems better to plan that radical change, no?"

Potential of AI for Climate Modeling: AI's advancements in climate modeling, exemplified by models like Aurora, are recognized as potentially game-changing tools for understanding and responding to climate change.

"Actually, we just did a podcast about how AI is making crazy accurate models of earth now (and the human body) -- so perhaps what we need is around the corner..."

The Disconnect Between Science and Action: The document highlights the disconnect between increasingly accurate scientific models and the lack of political and public will to act decisively on the information provided.

"The irony is that as our models become more accurate, they may also become more complex and harder for the general public to understand."

Exploring Radical Solutions: The author proposes radical solutions like temporary ASI-led authoritarianism and transhumanism, driven by a sense of urgency and a desire to overcome the limitations of traditional approaches.

"How about this: Would force for a means to an end, for the first time ever, be valid if it was ASI having a month of rapid change of policy and order via authoritarianism? Just a month — far less than anything historically."

Ethical Concerns: The document acknowledges the ethical implications of each proposed solution, highlighting potential risks to democratic values, individual liberties, and the potential for unintended consequences.

"The end of that just seems completely up for debate." "To be clear: This seems to me WAY less ethical than any of my other suggestions."

Transhumanism as a Potential Path: Transhumanism, with its potential to enhance human capabilities and bridge the gap between AI and human understanding, emerges as a potentially more ethical option in the author's view.

"So, out of all of this lengthy step by step logical breakdown, the only more ethical option in my mind is transhumanism — LOL — how wild is that."

Key Questions Raised:

Can we reconcile the urgency of climate action with the need to maintain democratic principles and ethical considerations?

How do we effectively communicate the complexity of climate change and AI to the public and policymakers?

What role should AI play in decision-making processes related to climate change and other existential threats?

Are radical solutions, like temporary authoritarianism or transhumanism, ever ethically justifiable in the face of global crises?

Overall, the document reflects a deep sense of urgency and a willingness to consider unconventional approaches to address the climate crisis. It underscores the complexities and ethical dilemmas inherent in navigating the intersection of technology, governance, and human values in the face of existential threats.

FAQ: Navigating the Climate Crisis in the Age of AI

1. Why is it so difficult to create effective regulations for climate change adaptation?

The dynamic and unpredictable nature of climate change makes it difficult to design regulations that can adequately address future challenges. The uncertainty surrounding specific impacts and the constantly shifting landscape creates a "moving target" that's hard to pin down with fixed rules. This can lead to decision paralysis, political roadblocks, and regulations that become quickly outdated.

2. Is it logical to completely abandon high-risk coastal areas?

While radical, retreating from high-risk areas could significantly reduce immediate risks and financial burdens associated with recurring disasters. It might also accelerate environmental recovery and

incentivize greener lifestyles. However, the logistical and social implications of mass relocation are enormous and would require careful consideration.

3. Is relying on public opinion shifts to drive climate action an effective strategy?

History suggests that societies often need a major crisis or tipping point to trigger large-scale change. Waiting for such a point with climate change is extremely risky, as irreversible damage may occur before sufficient action is taken. We need proactive measures that go beyond relying solely on public opinion shifts.

4. Why are the seemingly small, incremental actions we've taken for climate change insufficient?

Incremental actions, while important, may not match the scale and urgency of the climate crisis. The risk is that by the time we realize these steps are inadequate, we may be forced into even more drastic, unplanned actions with far greater consequences. We need to plan for potentially radical changes now rather than waiting for them to become unavoidable.

5. How can we bridge the disconnect between scientific understanding and public/political action on climate change?

The gap between scientific knowledge and action stems from challenges in communicating complex scientific information, psychological biases that prioritize immediate concerns over long-term threats, and political systems that often struggle with long-term planning.

6. Could AI play a role in bridging this gap?

AI's ability to process vast amounts of data and generate accurate models could be crucial in understanding and responding to climate change. However, the potential for AI-driven insights to influence policy decisions raises ethical questions about transparency, accountability, and human control.

7. Is there a way to reconcile the need for rapid climate action with ethical considerations and democratic principles?

This is a core challenge of our time. Authoritarian solutions, while tempting, carry significant risks and ethical implications. The key lies in finding ways to accelerate action within democratic

frameworks. This may require reforming existing institutions, strengthening science communication, and developing innovative policy approaches that can handle long-term global challenges.

8. Is transhumanism a potential solution to the limitations of human decision-making in the face of climate change?

Transhumanism, the enhancement of human capabilities through technology, presents a radical but potentially viable path. It could address limitations in human cognition and decision-making, enabling faster adaptation and understanding of complex AI-driven solutions. However, the ethical and societal implications of transhumanism are profound and require careful consideration before widespread adoption.

Navigating the Ethical Minefield of Climate Action in the Age of AI

Source: Excerpts from "Part 1 Avoiding Climate Disasters Ethical Problems.pdf"

This source is structured as a dialogue, exploring various dilemmas and potential solutions for addressing climate change. The discussion revolves around the frustrations of slow progress, the potential role of AI, and the ethical considerations of different approaches. For clarity, this table of contents organizes the content thematically.

I. The Urgency of Climate Action and the Inadequacy of Current Responses

- **Acknowledging the Severity and Acceleration of Climate Impacts:** This section highlights the increasing frequency and intensity of climate-related disasters, emphasizing that current mitigation efforts are falling short. It also underscores the exponential nature of climate change, where each year of inaction worsens future consequences.
- **Critiquing Incrementalism and the Need for Radical Change:** This portion challenges the prevailing approach of gradual policy adjustments, arguing that the scale and urgency of the climate crisis necessitate more transformative, system-wide changes. The discussion contrasts incremental steps with the potential benefits and challenges of planned, radical action.

II. Barriers to Effective Climate Action

- **Psychological and Political Resistance:** This section delves into the psychological barriers that prevent individuals and societies from fully grasping the urgency of the climate crisis. It explores the role of cognitive biases, the tendency to prioritize immediate concerns over long-term threats, and the challenges of building political consensus for significant action.
- **The Disconnect Between Scientific Understanding and Public Action:** This part focuses on the communication gap between scientific advancements in climate modeling and the public's understanding of the crisis. It examines how the increasing complexity of climate models can hinder effective communication and the translation of scientific knowledge into policy changes.

The Role of Uncertainty and Magical Thinking: This section analyzes how uncertainty about the future can drive people towards non-scientific explanations and beliefs, hindering the acceptance of scientific evidence and rational decision-making regarding climate change.

III. Exploring Potential Solutions and Their Ethical Implications

Improving Science Communication and Education: This part advocates for enhancing science literacy and communication strategies to bridge the gap between scientific understanding and public action. It discusses the need for more accessible explanations of complex climate models and emphasizes the importance of climate education at all levels of society.

Harnessing the Power of AI for Climate Action: This section explores the potential of AI for climate modeling, prediction, and decision-making. It highlights the advancements in AI-driven climate models and their ability to process vast amounts of data, leading to more accurate predictions and insights. However, it also acknowledges the ethical challenges associated with AI integration, including the "black box" problem, potential biases, and the balance between human and AI-driven decisions.

The "ASI Authoritarian Month" Dilemma: This controversial proposal, suggesting a temporary period of AI-led authoritarian rule to enforce rapid climate action, serves as a focal point for ethical debate. The discussion analyzes the potential benefits and drawbacks of this approach, raising concerns about civil liberties, democratic values, potential backlash, and the long-term implications of authoritarian measures.

Transhumanism as a Potential Solution: This section examines transhumanism as a possible avenue for addressing the cognitive and temporal limitations hindering effective climate action. It explores the idea that enhancing human capabilities through technology could enable faster adaptation, better understanding of complex AI systems, and swifter societal shifts necessary to mitigate climate change. However, it also acknowledges the ethical complexities and potential unintended consequences of such radical interventions.

IV. Core Ethical Dilemmas and the Path Forward

Balancing Urgency with Democratic Values: The discussion emphasizes the need to balance the urgency of addressing climate change with the preservation of democratic principles and human rights. It questions whether sacrificing fundamental freedoms, even temporarily, is justifiable for achieving climate goals and explores alternative approaches that prioritize both action and ethical considerations.

Navigating the Complexities of Human Decision-Making: This concluding section acknowledges the inherent challenges humans face in confronting long-term, complex issues like climate change. It calls for a deeper understanding of human psychology and the development of strategies that account for cognitive biases and the tendency to prioritize immediate concerns over future threats.

The Evolving Relationship Between Humans, AI, and Governance: The final points highlight the need for ongoing critical engagement with AI as it plays an increasingly significant role in decision-making processes. It stresses the importance of developing frameworks that ensure transparency, accountability, and ethical considerations in the integration of AI into governance systems.

Transhumanism, Climate Change, and AI: Exploring the Potential Benefits and Drawbacks

While the sources provided don't directly address transhumanism as a solution to the climate crisis, they do offer insights into the limitations of current approaches and the potential for AI to play a more significant role in decision-making. Based on this, here's an exploration of the potential benefits and drawbacks of transhumanism in this context:

Potential Benefits

* **Enhanced problem-solving:** Transhumanism could enhance human cognitive abilities, enabling us to develop and implement more effective climate solutions. This aligns with the idea of augmenting human intelligence with AI to address complex problems, as hinted at in the discussion of increasingly sophisticated climate models.
* **Reduced consumption:** By merging with technology, humans might reduce their dependence on resource-intensive biological needs, potentially leading to lower consumption patterns and a lighter environmental footprint.
* **Increased resilience:** Transhumanist technologies could enhance human resilience to climate change impacts like extreme heat, drought, or rising sea levels.

Potential Drawbacks

* **Exacerbated inequalities:** Access to transhumanist technologies could be unevenly distributed, exacerbating existing social and economic inequalities.
* **Ethical dilemmas:** Transhumanism raises profound ethical questions about human nature, identity, and the potential for unintended consequences. The sources highlight similar ethical concerns regarding AI-driven decision-making and authoritarian measures.
* **Unforeseen ecological impacts:** Modifying human biology on a large scale could have unforeseen and potentially negative consequences for ecosystems and biodiversity.

Impact on Human Agency and the Relationship with AI

* **Blurred boundaries:** Transhumanism could blur the lines between human and AI, making it difficult to define agency and responsibility in a hybrid society. The sources discuss the challenge of balancing AI insights with human oversight.
* **Shift in power dynamics:** Depending on how transhumanist technologies are developed and controlled, they could shift power dynamics between humans and AI, potentially leading to AI dominance or a symbiotic relationship. The sources explore the risks of ceding too much control to AI.
* **Evolving ethical frameworks:** Transhumanism would necessitate the development of new ethical frameworks to navigate the complexities of a technologically enhanced society. The

sources highlight the need for updated ethical frameworks to address issues of AI and long-term risks.

Key Considerations

* **Pace of development:** Transhumanist technologies are still largely speculative, and it's unclear how quickly they might develop to a point where they could significantly impact the climate crisis.
* **Public acceptance:** Widespread acceptance of transhumanism would be crucial for its successful implementation. The sources emphasize the importance of public understanding and support for any major societal shift.
* **Governance and regulation:** Careful governance and regulation would be essential to ensure equitable access to transhumanist technologies and mitigate potential risks.

It is important to note that this exploration is based on extrapolations from the provided sources and general knowledge of transhumanist concepts. The sources do not directly address transhumanism as a solution to the climate crisis, so further research and analysis are needed to fully evaluate its potential benefits and drawbacks.

Ethical Dilemmas of Radical Climate Action

The sources you've provided explore the ethical challenges of enacting a radical, potentially authoritarian solution to the climate crisis. While they don't explicitly endorse any particular solution, they highlight several key dilemmas:

* **Balancing Immediate Action with Long-Term Consequences:** The sources acknowledge the urgency of the climate crisis and the potential need for drastic action to avert catastrophic outcomes. However, they also caution against the potential negative consequences of authoritarian measures, even if temporary. These consequences could include the erosion of civil liberties, democratic backsliding, and public backlash.
* **Public Trust and Acceptance:** The sources emphasize the importance of public trust and engagement in achieving sustainable climate action. They suggest that drastic top-down measures could further erode public trust in institutions, potentially hindering long-term efforts.
* **Complexity of Climate Solutions:** The sources recognize that many climate challenges require long-term, collaborative solutions that might not be solvable through short-term authoritarian control. They advocate for participatory approaches, education, and policy innovations that foster cooperation and address systemic issues.
* **Ethical Frameworks and Uncertainty:** The sources highlight the challenges of applying traditional ethical frameworks to the unprecedented scale and complexity of the climate crisis. They point out that human decision-making often prioritizes short-term concerns over long-term

risks, leading to a disconnect between the urgency of the problem and the adequacy of responses.
* **The Role of AI:** The sources explore the potential of AI to improve climate modeling and inform decision-making. However, they also raise concerns about the transparency and accountability of AI systems and the potential for AI to be used for manipulation or to further concentrate power.

The sources ultimately suggest that navigating these ethical dilemmas requires:

* **Improved Science Communication:** Translating complex climate models into understandable information for the public and policymakers is crucial for building support for action.
* **Rethinking Governance Structures:** Exploring new democratic tools and policy innovations that can effectively address long-term challenges while preserving human values and agency.
* **Integrating AI Responsibly:** Balancing the potential benefits of AI in climate modeling and decision-making with safeguards against its misuse and ensuring transparency and human oversight.

The sources ultimately frame the challenge as finding ways to accelerate climate action while upholding democratic principles, building public trust, and addressing the complex ethical considerations involved in balancing immediate needs with long-term consequences.

AI, Climate Action, and the Ethical Challenges of Understanding and Trust

The rapidly developing capabilities of AI are changing how we understand and respond to climate change, raising complex ethical questions about the role of technology in decision-making and the balance between urgency and democratic values.

* **AI is revolutionizing climate modeling**, enabling more accurate and sophisticated predictions of future climate scenarios. Examples include the Aurora model, which utilizes large neural networks to enhance weather and climate forecasts.
* This improved understanding could be crucial for informing effective climate action. However, **a significant disconnect exists between scientific knowledge and public/political will** to act on that information.
* The sources highlight the **irony that as climate models become more accurate and complex, they may also become harder for the general public to understand**. This complexity could further fuel uncertainty and distrust in scientific findings, hindering action.

Several factors contribute to this challenge:

*   **People often turn to non-scientific explanations when faced with uncertainty about the future**. Climate change, with its complex and long-term impacts, can trigger this tendency, making it harder to build consensus for action based on scientific evidence.
*   The sources discuss **the tension between incremental actions and the potential need for radical, swift interventions** to address the accelerating pace of climate change. This tension raises questions about the ethical implications of different approaches.
*   **Public trust in institutions is a crucial element in fostering collective action on climate change.** The sources suggest that authoritarian measures, even if temporary, could further erode this trust.

The sources point to various potential solutions, including:

*   **Improving science communication:** Making complex climate models more accessible and understandable to the public and policymakers is essential.
*   **Leveraging AI for decision-making:** AI could be used to assist human decision-making processes within democratic frameworks, rather than replacing them entirely.
*   **Strengthening education:** Increased investment in science education and climate literacy is crucial for building a society that can critically engage with complex scientific issues.
*   **Fostering participatory democracy:** Models like citizens' assemblies on climate could provide opportunities for public engagement and deliberation on complex climate issues.

However, the sources also acknowledge the **limitations of these approaches** and the possibility that they might not be sufficient to achieve the necessary pace of change:

*   **Historical evidence suggests societies often require a significant crisis or "tipping point" to mobilize large-scale action**. Waiting for such a point with climate change is risky due to the potential for irreversible impacts.
*   **Concerns are raised about the ethical implications of relying on propaganda or cultivating blind faith in AI to drive action**, even if those actions are aimed at addressing a critical threat like climate change.

Ultimately, the ethical calculus of climate action in the age of AI involves **navigating a complex web of considerations**, including:

*   Balancing the urgency of addressing climate change with the need to maintain democratic principles and public trust.
*   Ensuring that AI technologies are used responsibly and transparently, without undermining human agency and critical thinking.
*   Developing new governance structures and ethical frameworks that can effectively address long-term, complex challenges like climate change.

The sources highlight the need for ongoing dialogue and critical reflection as we integrate increasingly powerful AI technologies into our decision-making processes. This dialogue must

grapple with the ethical implications of different approaches, considering the potential impact on human understanding, trust, and the values that underpin our societies.

TRANSCRIPT

PART 1

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,480
You know headlines about climate change,

2
00:00:01,480 --> 00:00:02,280
they're one thing.

3
00:00:02,280 --> 00:00:03,020
Right.

4
00:00:03,020 --> 00:00:05,120
But this deep dive

5
00:00:05,120 --> 00:00:06,760
with your research and questions.

6
00:00:06,760 --> 00:00:07,380
Yeah.

7
00:00:07,380 --> 00:00:08,120
It really brings it home.

8
00:00:08,120 --> 00:00:11,060
You know like how urgent things are getting.

9
00:00:11,060 --> 00:00:12,560
It really does.

10
00:00:12,560 --> 00:00:13,120
And you're right.

11
00:00:13,120 --> 00:00:13,420

Yeah.

12
00:00:13,420 --> 00:00:14,980
It seems like every time we turn around

13
00:00:15,500 --> 00:00:17,360
we're facing another worst case scenario.

14
00:00:17,360 --> 00:00:18,100
Right.

15
00:00:18,100 --> 00:00:19,320
That's become our reality.

16
00:00:19,320 --> 00:00:21,440
It's become the new normal almost.

17
00:00:21,440 --> 00:00:21,740
Yeah.

18
00:00:21,740 --> 00:00:23,100
And that frustration you talk about.

19
00:00:23,940 --> 00:00:25,200
About the lack of action.

20
00:00:25,200 --> 00:00:25,580
Mm-hmm.

21
00:00:25,580 --> 00:00:26,000
I get it.

22
00:00:26,000 --> 00:00:27,200
It's fascinating isn't it.

23
00:00:27,200 --> 00:00:27,680
Yeah.

24
00:00:27,719 --> 00:00:30,260

This disconnect between you know

25
00:00:30,260 --> 00:00:31,660
the urgency of the science.

26
00:00:31,660 --> 00:00:32,200
Right.

27
00:00:32,200 --> 00:00:34,720
And just the pace of societal change.

28
00:00:34,720 --> 00:00:35,320
Yeah.

29
00:00:35,320 --> 00:00:36,500
It makes you wonder.

30
00:00:36,500 --> 00:00:37,459
Like it's a pattern.

31
00:00:38,060 --> 00:00:39,560
We've seen this throughout history

32
00:00:39,560 --> 00:00:40,360
when you think about it.

33
00:00:40,360 --> 00:00:41,000
Right.

34
00:00:41,000 --> 00:00:42,139
Major shifts.

35
00:00:42,139 --> 00:00:42,700
Yeah.

36
00:00:42,700 --> 00:00:44,200
The fall of empires.

37
00:00:44,200 --> 00:00:45,639

Economic revolutions.

38
00:00:45,639 --> 00:00:48,080
Even just the emergence of new technologies.

39
00:00:48,480 --> 00:00:50,500
These things often only happen.

40
00:00:50,840 --> 00:00:51,380
Yeah.

41
00:00:51,380 --> 00:00:53,740
After a significant tipping point.

42
00:00:53,740 --> 00:00:54,720
Mm-hmm.

43
00:00:54,759 --> 00:00:58,340
A real crisis that forces everyone to adapt.

44
00:00:58,340 --> 00:01:00,200
It's like we need that kick in the pants

45
00:01:00,200 --> 00:01:01,060
to get going.

46
00:01:01,060 --> 00:01:01,459
Right.

47
00:01:01,459 --> 00:01:03,939
And so the question is with climate change

48
00:01:03,939 --> 00:01:05,099
are we going to wait.

49
00:01:05,099 --> 00:01:05,639
Yeah.

50
00:01:05,639 --> 00:01:06,739

Until it's too late.

51
00:01:06,739 --> 00:01:09,879
You know is that tipping point going to come too late.

52
00:01:09,879 --> 00:01:11,040
And it's almost ironic.

53
00:01:11,040 --> 00:01:11,839
You know.

54
00:01:11,839 --> 00:01:12,279
Yeah.

55
00:01:12,279 --> 00:01:14,019
The way you pointed out how people

56
00:01:14,019 --> 00:01:15,839
are moving to the very places.

57
00:01:15,839 --> 00:01:16,519
Yes.

58
00:01:16,519 --> 00:01:18,180
Most vulnerable to climate change.

59
00:01:18,180 --> 00:01:18,839
Right.

60
00:01:18,839 --> 00:01:19,660
Like the southeast.

61
00:01:19,660 --> 00:01:20,559
It's wild.

62
00:01:20,559 --> 00:01:21,260
Right.

63
00:01:21,260 --> 00:01:22,919

With the hurricanes getting stronger all the time.

64
00:01:22,919 --> 00:01:23,480
Yeah.

65
00:01:23,879 --> 00:01:25,320
It's like Come on folks, are we reading

66
00:01:25,320 --> 00:01:26,860
the same weather reports.

67
00:01:26,860 --> 00:01:30,059
It's tempting to think logic should prevail, right.

68
00:01:30,059 --> 00:01:30,900
Of course.

69
00:01:30,900 --> 00:01:31,559
Yeah.

70
00:01:31,559 --> 00:01:32,459
But human behavior.

71
00:01:32,459 --> 00:01:33,220
Yeah.

72
00:01:33,220 --> 00:01:34,260
It's not always logical.

73
00:01:34,260 --> 00:01:34,959
Right.

74
00:01:34,959 --> 00:01:36,120
It's complex, right.

75
00:01:36,120 --> 00:01:39,059
You can give someone all the facts and figures in the world

76
00:01:39,059 --> 00:01:44,459

about rising sea levels and, you know, storms intensifying.

77
00:01:44,459 --> 00:01:45,059
Yeah.

78
00:01:45,980 --> 00:01:50,379
But there's an emotional element too to where we choose to live.

79
00:01:50,379 --> 00:01:52,940
You know, a connection to place.

80
00:01:53,480 --> 00:01:55,500
That's really hard to shake, even when

81
00:01:55,500 --> 00:01:56,940
it seems like, you know.

82
00:01:57,720 --> 00:01:59,379
It's risky to be there.

83
00:02:00,379 --> 00:02:01,820
People are complicated.

84
00:02:01,820 --> 00:02:04,940
It's true and that kind of leads us to well,

85
00:02:04,940 --> 00:02:08,679
it's a pretty radical idea that you brought up in your research.

86
00:02:08,679 --> 00:02:09,559
Yeah.

87
00:02:09,559 --> 00:02:12,220
Could artificial intelligence,

88
00:02:12,220 --> 00:02:14,320
maybe even like super intelligent AI,

89
00:02:15,059 --> 00:02:20,339

be the answer to our, you know, our climate inaction problem?

90
00:02:20,339 --> 00:02:21,559
That's a big question.

91
00:02:21,580 --> 00:02:25,059
You even had a term for it. ASI authoritarian month.

92
00:02:25,059 --> 00:02:26,220
Yeah. Yeah.

93
00:02:26,220 --> 00:02:28,559
It's it's a bold idea to say the least.

94
00:02:28,559 --> 00:02:29,960
It definitely makes you think right.

95
00:02:29,960 --> 00:02:32,000
And I and I understand where it's coming from.

96
00:02:32,000 --> 00:02:34,139
That feeling that we need to act fast.

97
00:02:34,139 --> 00:02:36,000
Right. We need to act decisively.

98
00:02:36,000 --> 00:02:37,259
Yeah.

99
00:02:37,259 --> 00:02:39,300
And so ASI authoritarian month basically means

100
00:02:39,300 --> 00:02:40,100
Okay,

101
00:02:40,100 --> 00:02:42,199
we'd be letting a super intelligent AI

102
00:02:42,199 --> 00:02:43,380

call the shots. Right.

103
00:02:43,380 --> 00:02:44,779
For one month. Okay.

104
00:02:44,779 --> 00:02:46,720
To kind of implement climate solutions

105
00:02:46,720 --> 00:02:48,940
with a speed and efficiency.

106
00:02:48,940 --> 00:02:51,259
Yeah. That we as humans, you know,

107
00:02:51,279 --> 00:02:52,520
right. You can't match.

108
00:02:52,520 --> 00:02:54,119
Right. So we're talking with an AI

109
00:02:54,119 --> 00:02:57,860
so advanced it could analyze global systems,

110
00:02:58,419 --> 00:03:00,660
design solutions, maybe even like overhaul

111
00:03:00,660 --> 00:03:02,600
entire industries to make them,

112
00:03:03,600 --> 00:03:05,500
sustainable. Right. Right.

113
00:03:05,500 --> 00:03:07,300
All in a month. It's a tall order.

114
00:03:07,300 --> 00:03:10,679
It's sounds like a sci fi movie honestly.

115
00:03:10,679 --> 00:03:11,899

Sounds like a movie, yeah.

116
00:03:11,899 --> 00:03:13,880
But but then there's the other side of the coin right.

117
00:03:13,880 --> 00:03:15,600
Right. Got to talk about the authoritarian part.

118
00:03:15,600 --> 00:03:16,639
There it is. Yeah.

119
00:03:16,639 --> 00:03:18,339
What about the ethics?

120
00:03:18,339 --> 00:03:20,179
Like are we really gonna just

121
00:03:21,339 --> 00:03:23,279
hand over control like that?

122
00:03:23,279 --> 00:03:24,820
That's the million dollar question,

123
00:03:24,820 --> 00:03:26,080
isn't it? I mean, right.

124
00:03:26,080 --> 00:03:28,259
Even if we just assume for a second.

125
00:03:28,259 --> 00:03:30,119
Yeah. And it's a big if. Right.

126
00:03:30,119 --> 00:03:32,259
Yeah. That an ASI

127
00:03:32,259 --> 00:03:36,539
right would even act in humanities best interests.

128
00:03:36,539 --> 00:03:38,279

Right. You know who defines that.

129
00:03:38,279 --> 00:03:39,399
Exactly. Yeah.

130
00:03:39,399 --> 00:03:41,940
Like what does that even mean? How do we ensure,

131
00:03:41,940 --> 00:03:43,800
you know, things that we really care about?

132
00:03:43,800 --> 00:03:45,100
Yah.

133
00:03:45,100 --> 00:03:47,179
Individual liberty, democratic principles.

134
00:03:47,179 --> 00:03:48,419
Right.

135
00:03:48,940 --> 00:03:50,240
you know, trampled on ...

136
00:03:50,240 --> 00:03:51,559
Yeah. ... in the process.

137
00:03:51,559 --> 00:03:52,960
It seems risky.

138
00:03:52,960 --> 00:03:55,419
And the biggest unknown of all. Right.

139
00:03:55,419 --> 00:03:56,820
Right.

140
00:03:56,820 --> 00:04:01,100
What are the unintended consequences of giving?

141
00:04:01,100 --> 00:04:02,279

Like, you know ...

142
00:04:02,279 --> 00:04:03,600
That much power. Unlimited power.

143
00:04:03,600 --> 00:04:04,880
Yah.

144
00:04:04,880 --> 00:04:06,740
You know, to something we might not even comprehend.

145
00:04:06,740 --> 00:04:08,740
And that's what I found so interesting about your point.

146
00:04:08,740 --> 00:04:09,960
Okay.

147
00:04:09,960 --> 00:04:13,940
Connecting this back to what AI can already do.

148
00:04:13,940 --> 00:04:15,240
Yeah.

149
00:04:15,240 --> 00:04:17,200
Like you mentioned research showing that AI

150
00:04:17,200 --> 00:04:18,739
can now get this ...

151
00:04:18,739 --> 00:04:21,119
Okay. ... decode what someone is seeing

152
00:04:21,679 --> 00:04:23,480
just by analyzing their brain activity.

153
00:04:23,480 --> 00:04:24,700
I know. It's wild.

154
00:04:24,700 --> 00:04:26,440

It's like they use fMRI scans.

155
00:04:26,440 --> 00:04:27,679
Yeah.

156
00:04:27,679 --> 00:04:31,940
Feed that data into these like sophisticated neural networks

157
00:04:32,600 --> 00:04:34,980
trained on these massive data sets of,

158
00:04:34,980 --> 00:04:36,239
you know, ... Yeah.

159
00:04:36,239 --> 00:04:37,619
... brain activity and corresponding images.

160
00:04:37,619 --> 00:04:38,980
It's kind of incredible.

161
00:04:38,980 --> 00:04:41,760
It really is. It's like something out of science fiction,

162
00:04:41,760 --> 00:04:42,980
but it's real.

163
00:04:42,980 --> 00:04:44,239
It's becoming real. Yeah.

164
00:04:44,239 --> 00:04:45,559
It's happening now.

165
00:04:46,160 --> 00:04:49,899
If AI can already do that, tap into our brains like that ...

166
00:04:49,899 --> 00:04:52,579
Yeah. ... how can we control something

167
00:04:52,579 --> 00:04:55,320

potentially thousands of times more intelligent?

168
00:04:55,320 --> 00:04:56,920
It's a crucial point, and you know it circles

169
00:04:56,920 --> 00:05:01,320
back to the part of like your concerns about the limitations.

PART 2

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,340
We now bring to you some of the facilitations

2
00:00:03,380 --> 00:00:04,780
of our current approaches.

3
00:00:04,800 --> 00:00:05,620
Like education.

4
00:00:05,640 --> 00:00:06,780
Right. We talk about these things.

5
00:00:06,820 --> 00:00:07,680
Certiainly.

6
00:00:07,720 --> 00:00:09,140
Ignition reform, improving communication.

7
00:00:09,180 --> 00:00:10,020
Right.

8
00:00:10,040 --> 00:00:13,180
But the gap between AI's capabilities

9
00:00:13,220 --> 00:00:15,400
and our understanding-

10
00:00:15,420 --> 00:00:16,360
It's huge.

11
00:00:16,379 --> 00:00:18,660
... is widening at an alarming pace.

12
00:00:19,020 --> 00:00:20,120
It's only getting bigger.

13
00:00:20,160 --> 00:00:21,100
How do we bridge that?

14
00:00:21,120 --> 00:00:25,000
How do we even ensure that we're the ones in control?

15
00:00:26,440 --> 00:00:27,540
We're steering the future

16
00:00:27,559 --> 00:00:29,959
and not just passengers along for the ride.

17
00:00:30,680 --> 00:00:32,500
So we talked about AI, right?

18
00:00:32,540 --> 00:00:36,299
The potential, the risks, but your research,

19
00:00:36,639 --> 00:00:37,980
it took this whole other turn.

20
00:00:38,000 --> 00:00:39,279
Yeah.

21
00:00:39,320 --> 00:00:42,119
Something that really honestly kind of baffled me,

22
00:00:42,639 --> 00:00:45,480
but also, I got to say, intrigued me.

23
00:00:45,520 --> 00:00:46,480
Interesting.

24
00:00:46,520 --> 00:00:47,680
You started exploring

25
00:00:47,720 --> 00:00:51,320
get this transhumanism as a potential solution.

26
00:00:51,360 --> 00:00:52,560
Right.

27
00:00:52,599 --> 00:00:53,860
I mean it sounds like are we even-

28
00:00:54,500 --> 00:00:55,400
It's out there.

29
00:00:55,419 --> 00:00:56,419
A whole other dimension.

30
00:00:56,459 --> 00:00:57,660
It's under the boundaries, that's for sure.

31
00:00:57,700 --> 00:00:58,959
Right.

32
00:00:59,020 --> 00:01:01,320
We really follow the thread of your research.

33
00:01:02,759 --> 00:01:04,739
That may be the biggest hurdle to all this,

34
00:01:04,760 --> 00:01:06,440
to tackling climate change.

35
00:01:06,459 --> 00:01:07,559
That might be us.

36
00:01:07,599 --> 00:01:10,239
Our own limitations as humans.

37
00:01:10,260 --> 00:01:11,339
Right.

38
00:01:11,360 --> 00:01:12,440
Transhumanism, it-

39
00:01:12,480 --> 00:01:13,540
It's a thought.

40
00:01:13,580 --> 00:01:16,279
It starts to seem a little more possible.

41
00:01:16,300 --> 00:01:17,540
Right.

42
00:01:17,580 --> 00:01:18,639
Maybe not less radical,

43
00:01:18,680 --> 00:01:21,580
but definitely a possible path forward.

44
00:01:22,379 --> 00:01:25,959
Okay, so for those of us who haven't spent our time

45
00:01:25,980 --> 00:01:28,820
in the transhumanism corner of the internet.

46
00:01:29,080 --> 00:01:30,459
Right, right.

47
00:01:30,480 --> 00:01:32,019
Let's unpack that a little bit.

48
00:01:32,059 --> 00:01:34,419
I think when people hear transhumanism,

49
00:01:34,459 --> 00:01:38,919
they probably picture dystopian futures.

50
00:01:38,959 --> 00:01:40,120
Right, right.

51
00:01:40,160 --> 00:01:41,980
Cyborgs and like-

52
00:01:42,019 --> 00:01:43,419
You know-

53
00:01:43,459 --> 00:01:44,699
Immortality Serums.

54
00:01:44,720 --> 00:01:46,300
Yeah. Immortality Serums, exactly, that kind of thing.

55
00:01:46,320 --> 00:01:47,400
It's easy to get caught up

56
00:01:47,419 --> 00:01:49,639
in the sensationalized versions of it.

57
00:01:49,660 --> 00:01:50,860
Right.

58
00:01:50,900 --> 00:01:52,239
But, at its heart, transhumanism,

59
00:01:52,260 --> 00:01:53,940
it's really about-

60
00:01:53,980 --> 00:01:55,099
Yeah.

61
00:01:55,139 --> 00:01:56,800
Using technology to enhance human capabilities.

62
00:01:56,839 --> 00:01:58,139
Okay.

63
00:01:58,220 --> 00:02:00,400
And in this case, we're not talking about-

64
00:02:00,440 --> 00:02:01,639
Right.

65
00:02:01,660 --> 00:02:03,900
You know, superhuman strength or telekinesis or anything.

66
00:02:03,940 --> 00:02:04,940
Right.

67
00:02:04,959 --> 00:02:06,360
We're talking about like enhancing our capacity

68
00:02:06,400 --> 00:02:07,839
for thinking long term.

69
00:02:07,879 --> 00:02:09,039
Okay.

70
00:02:09,080 --> 00:02:11,500
For making good decisions based on complex information.

71
00:02:11,539 --> 00:02:12,740
Yeah.

72
00:02:12,779 --> 00:02:16,039
For understanding how all these global systems are connected.

73
00:02:16,080 --> 00:02:17,839
So like overcoming our limitations.

74
00:02:17,880 --> 00:02:18,919
Yes, exactly.

75
00:02:18,940 --> 00:02:20,240
The cognitive biases.

76
00:02:20,279 --> 00:02:22,720
Those cognitive biases that lead to these like-

77
00:02:22,759 --> 00:02:23,820
Our short sighted choices.

78
00:02:23,860 --> 00:02:24,919
Exactly. Yeah.

79
00:02:24,960 --> 00:02:26,119
The short sighted choices.

80
00:02:26,600 --> 00:02:27,979
If we could enhance those parts of ourselves.

81
00:02:28,000 --> 00:02:29,100
Right.

82
00:02:29,139 --> 00:02:32,080
Maybe even bridge that gap you were talking about before.

83
00:02:32,100 --> 00:02:33,380
Yeah, yeah.

84
00:02:33,419 --> 00:02:35,619
Between, you know, our brains and these rapidly evolving

85
00:02:35,639 --> 00:02:39,779
AI brains, would that make us better equipped

86
00:02:39,820 --> 00:02:44,720
to actually handle something as complex as climate change?

87
00:02:44,759 --> 00:02:45,979
That's the question, right?

88
00:02:46,020 --> 00:02:47,160
That's a big one.

89
00:02:47,179 --> 00:02:48,460
It's a huge question.

90
00:02:48,500 --> 00:02:51,520
And of course, it opens up like a whole Pandora's box

91
00:02:51,559 --> 00:02:52,619
of considerations.

92
00:02:52,660 --> 00:02:54,000
Right.

93
00:02:54,440 --> 00:02:57,639
But I think the fact that we're even having this conversation,

94
00:02:57,679 --> 00:03:00,220
that your research led us to this point,

95
00:03:00,240 --> 00:03:04,619
it just speaks to the urgency of this whole climate crisis.

96
00:03:04,660 --> 00:03:05,660
When.

97
00:03:05,679 --> 00:03:08,619
We need to be open to considering

98
00:03:08,660 --> 00:03:10,919
all these possibilities, even the ones that…

99
00:03:10,960 --> 00:03:13,100
The ones that blow our minds a little bit.

100
00:03:13,119 --> 00:03:14,600
Exactly, you know?

101
00:03:14,619 --> 00:03:17,139
The ones that really challenge our understanding

102
00:03:17,160 --> 00:03:19,000
of what it means to even be human.

103
00:03:19,039 --> 00:03:21,059
And you know, it's funny because when

104
00:03:21,059 --> 00:03:23,539
I saw that you had been looking into

105
00:03:23,559 --> 00:03:25,539
like computers made of mushrooms.

106
00:03:25,559 --> 00:03:26,539
Oh, right.

107
00:03:26,559 --> 00:03:28,339
Biocomputing? Is that what they call it?

108
00:03:28,380 --> 00:03:29,940
Yeah, biocomputing. That's right.

109
00:03:29,979 --> 00:03:31,440
I gotta say, I laughed.

110
00:03:31,479 --> 00:03:32,479
Right.

111
00:03:32,500 --> 00:03:34,000
Because if you'd told me a year ago

112
00:03:34,039 --> 00:03:37,020
that that's where this deep dive into climate change

113
00:03:37,039 --> 00:03:38,279
was going to take us

114
00:03:38,320 --> 00:03:40,339
I don't think I would have believed you.

115
00:03:40,380 --> 00:03:43,559
But… but here we are, talking about,

116
00:03:43,580 --> 00:03:45,580
you know, merging with machines.

117
00:03:45,619 --> 00:03:46,820
It just goes to show you, right,

118
00:03:46,860 --> 00:03:49,919
like, we are living in an era of this

119
00:03:50,059 --> 00:03:52,279
wild technological advancement.

120
00:03:52,320 --> 00:03:53,479
It's happening so fast.

121
00:03:53,520 --> 00:03:55,660
And with that comes this responsibility,

122
00:03:55,699 --> 00:03:56,600
I think

123
00:03:56,619 --> 00:03:57,619
yeah.

124
00:03:57,660 --> 00:03:59,020
to really ask the tough questions.

125
00:03:59,059 --> 00:04:00,059
Yeah.

126
00:04:00,100 --> 00:04:01,100
Right.

127
00:04:01,119 --> 00:04:02,139
To consider all the pass, all the options.

128
00:04:02,160 --> 00:04:03,160
Yeah. Right.

129
00:04:03,199 --> 00:04:04,460
As wild as some of them may seem.

130
00:04:04,500 --> 00:04:06,039
So where do we go from here?

131
00:04:06,059 --> 00:04:07,339
That's the question.

132
00:04:07,360 --> 00:04:08,800
I mean, I think this deep dive

133
00:04:08,839 --> 00:04:11,240
has really like brought it home.

134
00:04:11,279 --> 00:04:12,279
Yeah.

135
00:04:12,300 --> 00:04:14,080
That there are no easy answers here.

136
00:04:14,119 --> 00:04:15,339
No easy answers.

137
00:04:15,380 --> 00:04:17,820
But you've brought up some ideas

138
00:04:17,839 --> 00:04:19,339
that really make you think

139
00:04:19,339 --> 00:04:20,559
and maybe that's the point.

140
00:04:20,600 --> 00:04:22,739
And maybe that's the most important take away

141
00:04:22,779 --> 00:04:24,339
for people listening.

142
00:04:24,380 --> 00:04:25,700
Yeah.

143
00:04:25,739 --> 00:04:26,299
You know from your research, from your questions.

144
00:04:26,339 --> 00:04:27,440
Yeah.

145
00:04:27,480 --> 00:04:29,440
It just highlights how much we need to be

146
00:04:29,480 --> 00:04:31,579
like bolder in our thinking.

147
00:04:31,619 --> 00:04:32,820
Be more creative.

148
00:04:32,839 --> 00:04:34,279
More creative, more willing to challenge

149
00:04:34,320 --> 00:04:35,820
our own assumptions.

150
00:04:35,859 --> 00:04:36,820
About what's possible.

151
00:04:36,859 --> 00:04:38,420
What's about possible. Exactly.

152
00:04:38,459 --> 00:04:39,980
Because the future is unwritten.

153
00:04:40,019 --> 00:04:41,420
The future is unwritten. Yeah.

154
00:04:41,459 --> 00:04:42,519
And it's up to us.

155
00:04:42,559 --> 00:04:43,660
It's up to us to decide.

156
00:04:43,700 --> 00:04:45,720
What role we want technology

157
00:04:45,760 --> 00:04:48,359
and even our own evolution

158
00:04:48,459 --> 00:04:49,579
to play?

159
00:04:49,619 --> 00:04:50,779
What role we want to play in shaping it all.

160
00:04:50,820 --> 00:04:51,880
Exactly.

161
00:04:51,920 --> 00:04:53,019
And maybe, just maybe,

162
00:04:53,059 --> 00:04:56,720
like it's not about finding the perfect solution.

163
00:04:56,760 --> 00:04:59,100
It's about asking the right questions.

164
00:04:59,119 --> 00:05:00,299
Asking the right questions.

165
00:05:00,320 --> 00:05:01,339
Like you've done here.

166
00:05:01,359 --> 00:05:02,839
There you go.

167
00:05:02,859 --> 00:05:05,339
If A.I can already basically read our minds

168
00:05:05,359 --> 00:05:07,940
in these like crazy sophisticated ways

169
00:05:07,959 --> 00:05:09,000
Yes pretty much.

170
00:05:09,040 --> 00:05:10,399
what does that even mean for us?

171
00:05:10,440 --> 00:05:11,399
For humans?

172
00:05:11,440 --> 00:05:12,279
Right.

173
00:05:12,299 --> 00:05:13,779
You know, for our agency,

174
00:05:13,799 --> 00:05:15,019
our decision making?

175
00:05:15,040 --> 00:05:15,940
Yeah.

176
00:05:15,980 --> 00:05:17,320
Whether we're talking A.I governance

177
00:05:17,899 --> 00:05:20,739
or transhumanism

178
00:05:20,779 --> 00:05:22,279
or something we haven't

179
00:05:22,320 --> 00:05:23,079
even thought of yet.

180
00:05:23,119 --> 00:05:24,079
Exactly.

181
00:05:24,119 --> 00:05:25,920
Who knows what the future holds.

182
00:05:25,959 --> 00:05:26,820
But it's something to ponder.

183
00:05:26,859 --> 00:05:28,579
Something to think about.

184
00:05:28,619 --> 00:05:29,820
Until next time, everyone,

185
00:05:29,859 --> 00:05:31,760
keep asking those big questions.