**Should you trust Artificial Intelligence**

Nowadays, artificial Intelligence (AI), is being suggested as a savior and solution for all of our current problems. It is allegedly being used in everything from banks, cars, chips, networks, computers, and the method of how it works is usually just simplified with more buzzwords such as machine learning, deep learning, big data and so on. This does however not offer any significantly better explanation of the algorithm that is controlling the cars, or your money, or your amazon delivery. Since AI is becoming so prevalent in our society, then shouldn’t the people that are being so affected by it, have some idea about how it works?

In defense of the developers, the “buzzwords” are actual categories of AI, and describe different methods within the broad umbrella that is AI. The problem with these categories is however exactly that, they sound like buzzwords, and are too easily thrown upon some sentence in order to avoid detailed description of what’s happening. Why explain something in detail, when you can just call it AI, or one of its subcategories, and everyone will just accept it as is.

AI, today, is primarily applied statistics in some way or another. There is no such thing as a general AI that can solve everything, and current AI’s are highly specialized algorithms for certain problems. The most prevalent method is something called supervised learning and is 100% dependent on more or less having seen what it experiences before. A gun detector must know what a gun is, but if the algorithm has not seen a toy gun, then what will it do? What if it sees a drawing of a gun? This is where the phrase big data comes in, and the idea is that if the algorithm is just fed with enough data, then it should, probably, not fail. But there is the problem, probably.

There is no guarantee that such an algorithm would always work. And it can only solve problems that has a known, calculatable result. It cannot be used to solve a problem where the goal is not properly defined. It cannot guarantee that if the goal is defined, that it will always come to the correct solution. If you remove all the buzzwords, then what remains is basically, put in the example of a car “is the probability of me driving off the road greater than 10%, if I turn the wheel so much? If yes, then don’t turn the wheel so much”.

This does however come down to a more general problem. Why is it that people are more afraid to fly than to drive a car, even though a plane is much safer? The reason is how it is covered, and how much one feel in control. Using buzzwords that people think they have some idea of what is, makes the threshold of trusting such devices much easier than it would have it was described as what it is. A statistical method together with an absolute risk that is unknown to the user.