

AI & Ethics

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AI & Ethics:

I think that we should start by defining the concepts: What is AI? Is the ability of a digital computer or computer-controlled robot to perform tasks commonly associated with intelligent beings. What is Ethics? Ethics is a system of moral principles; they affect how people make decisions and lead their lives. Ethics is concerned with what is good for individuals and society and is also described as moral philosophy. The term is derived from the Greek word *ethos* which can mean custom, habit, character or disposition. Therefore the two concepts are by type different, the first is more physical and the second is more philosophical. I strongly believe that nothing in life is new, it is just a great circle that may change overtime but most new concepts apply to previous ones already assimilated by the human race and society. We had the same discussions from the birth of books, to the radio, the telephone, the car, the internet and nowadays the greatest challenge is AI. Since we are talking about a process that is not driven by itself since its birth, AI is created and implemented by humans and as a tool of it is and must a concern and a responsibility of the ones who create it, the governments who must define boundaries and firms who must follow ethical guidelines that are part of the common behavior. The mis concept of many people is that if an AI system has unethical behavior it is not because it is bad, because since we are not able to create self conscient systems, they simply apply the rules that their creators gave them. We can't blame a car for crashing into an accident because the fault may be of the driver, the manufacturer or other 3rd party actors in the accident. Meanwhile if a tiger in a zoo attacks his trainer and all the security standards were fulfilled the tiger is responsible of it because it has an animal conscience inside her. We are not at the point of the film "Me, Robot" where a conscient AI takes decisions based on her knowledge and we are very far from it since we still can't still well comprehend our own human mind. If we take the example of Apple Card where the AI system was biased on gender, we can see that the problem relied on the roots, when the algorithm was fed with data that had a bias based on previous transactions. AI will not disrupt our lives, but it will change them, it will change the human perception on it, as every technological improvement before it, it will be an empowering tool to rise the human civilization into a more advanced stage and will help us improve our lives and solve or better understand major of our problems nowadays. When I talk about ethics, I always quote the greatest empire that ever lived on Earth: the roman empire, it lasted 2000 years because of the "Mos Maiorum" which can be translated as an ethical code that every roman had to follow for the sake of the empire. The empire collapsed for many reasons but one key one was surely because throughout the loss of this ethical code the romans where lost in the power they had. AI may well be an extraordinary tool for the future but the key on making it compliant to ethics, to do so the society as a whole may have a key role on defining the ethical behaviors on the most intelligent system on earth, the human race.