

Unit 10: CNN Interactive Learning

Unit 10 Artefact

Collaborative Discussion 2: Legal and Ethical views on ANN applications

Discussion and summary

For this collaborative discussion task, we were asked to discuss our thoughts on the risks and benefits of using AI to write content at different levels from administrative work to creative writing. Given my professional background is in healthcare as an NHS Doctor, I also found it useful to consider the use of AI to write during various tasks in healthcare. This has far-reaching legal and ethical implications on ANN applications that I found helpful to work through.

Some benefits of AI writers in general that I gleaned from reading Huston (2021) and others include:

Efficiency in completing certain tasks is often prioritised over accuracy. Examples include administrative work where the aim is to save time for human workers. I like the idea of the AI doing some initial heavy lifting and drafting necessary content for a task (for example a customer email or streamlining clinical documentation) and then a human worker providing a brief quality assurance and sending out or submitting to record (Esteva et al, 2019). I think a combination of human and AI in this way allows for the strengths of each to be combined into powerful workflows where safety concerns are not significant. Using AI can enhance creativity by providing new ideas, or new ways of considering a topic or concept. I think when used collaboratively in this way with a human creative, this can represent powerful team working between human and machine. Furthermore, AI could also help personalise the content to specific audiences, thereby improving engagement and relevance. This could improve the accessibility of content creation or consumption for those who may otherwise struggle or be disadvantaged.

Risks include:

Jobs displacement is a concern because as AI writers get more and more accurate and versatile, they may be able to replace certain roles. However, in my view, we are still a long way off from this for all but the simplest tasks. In most creative or safety critical environments such as healthcare, a human is still required to ensure high quality and accurate output for several reasons, including legal requirements in some settings such as law for example (Obermeyer et al, 2016). Another interesting concept and ethical concern are if the AI creates something, it may raise questions about authorship and originality, including ownership of the content and crediting appropriately (Floridi et al, 2022). Finally, bias and misuse are concerns when using AI in this context because the underlying training data could be biased and this may then be propagated across other content and output in a negative cycle which could have drastic consequences in healthcare (Bender et al, 2021; Amann et al, 2020).

Through discussing my understanding based on the literature I have read on this topic; I have been able to demonstrate my strong ability to apply and critically appraise ML techniques to real-world problems such as AI writers. I can consider and

discuss the potential technical risk and uncertainty and how to try and mitigate for these to minimise the ethical, legal and social negative consequences of these AI applications.

Learning Outcomes

- Apply and critically appraise machine learning techniques to real-world problems, particularly where technical risk and uncertainty is involved.

References:

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