

Earth as Hyperconnected and Cybernetic Planet

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ABSTRACT

It is now undisputed that AI (artificial intelligence) holds great opportunities and great risks. In many respects, AI is superior to humans. It is pointless to fight back. The decisive factor will be whether it will be misused for surveillance, control and manipulation, or whether it will be integrated into a free and peaceful world. Mankind is once again faced with a decision: Freedom or immature, apparent security? Policy makers should be monitored in this regard, and this point should play an important role in elections.

Keywords

Artificial Intelligence, Cybernetics.

Introduction

At the University of San Diego it was investigated (Prof. John Ayers and others) whether AI is able to give better answers to patients' questions than physicians [1]. The result was clear: Yes. Since the most important means of communication have become emails and social networks, many physicians suffer from mental overload. The question arises whether the AI platform ChatGPT can be helpful in this regard. In the study, 195 randomly selected questions from the AskDocs internet forum were answered by doctors on the one hand and AI on the other. Then a group of medical experts anonymously evaluated the answers according to the criteria of quality and empathy. In 76% of the cases, the ChatBot answers were considered better, a significant difference. This did not only apply to medical quality, but also to empathy, which was rated as more empathetic by the AI 9.8 times more often.

Is this the end of the hitherto customary medical science? One might suspect so. Certainly, it is a clear signpost that doctors should let AI help them in the future, and that they should take time to enter into personal contact with patients instead of indulging in

time pressure, actionism and the usual stress. One would certainly find something similar when it comes to advising traders as stock and investment consultants: here, too, AI is clearly superior.

The Current State

The fusion of the latest technology with the methods of classical conditioning shows that the dystopia of a cybernetic society has long since become reality. Today, computers autonomously control cars, stock markets or entire factories. Why not whole societies as well? The idea of a cybernetic society is not new. All that is needed is sufficient computer power, monitoring that is as complete as possible, and a set of tools to control people's behavior. With his idea of ubiquitous computing, Mark Weiser describes the ubiquity of computers. Computers are initially integrated everywhere, in clothing, tools, everyday objects, living beings. Computer and environment virtually merge with each other and in the end everything becomes part of a gigantic, world-spanning computer [2].

In the Internet of Things, the refrigerator is controlled by a computer, connected to the Internet and thus networked with all other "smart" objects. The refrigerator itself is a cybernetic control loop: sensors monitor the actual state and the computer controls the "refrigerator" system so that the specified target state is always achieved. Feedback is provided. If the specified assortment of food

is incomplete, the computer automatically triggers an order. And if the computer detects expired food, the residents are informed. And possibly the health insurance company will also be informed about how healthy the refrigerator owner is eating.

All this information about the refrigerator is also stored in the cloud at the same time, creating digital images of the refrigerator and everything else from the Internet of Things. Our own digital images, our digital twins [3], which we create through our daily data traces, are also part of this. A digital image is created, a simulation of the world, which becomes more and more accurate with increasing digitization and networking. Such digital images, such models of the world already exist in the databases of Google and Co. Models can generally be used not only for description, but also for prediction and simulation. Shoshana Zuboff describes in her book "The Age of Surveillance Capitalism" that Google and Co. have long since gone beyond predicting people's behavior: Who buys what and to whom which ads should be displayed. It has long been a matter of controlling the system: at what points do you have to exert influence and how in order to motivate a person, a group or the whole society to behave in a certain way? Stimulus, reaction: In classical conditioning, Pavlov's dog is trained to react to a ringtone by salivating.

A simple conditioning in a society with a social point system could look like this, as in China: Mr. Li goes through a red light, is captured by a camera and identified via facial recognition (actual condition). At the same moment, he is penalized with a social point deduction and informed about it via text message (feedback), with the goal that Mr. Li waits for green at the next traffic light (target state). If necessary, Mr. Li's family is also punished with a social point deduction for his behavior in order to increase the social pressure.

The cybernetic approach was formulated by Norbert Wiener in 1945. The idea of cybernetically controlling entire societies, the entire world, emerged early in the development of the new science, including the legendary Macy conferences [4]. And when a paper of the German government states "Behavioral data can replace democracy as the societal feedback system" [5], the idea of cybernetic control is also behind it, as well as the overriding idea that democracies are not suited to respond effectively and efficiently to crises and that our society needs to be better controlled [6].

The ever more seamless monitoring of all human activities is by no means just about optimizing advertising: "This is the core of total surveillance. It is about the cybernetic control and management of society" [7].

Control at the Micro Level

At the micro level, i.e. at the level of the individual, the application

of this methodology can be observed, for example, in social media. The currency there is attention. If a post is often "liked" or "shared" or receives a lot of stars or hearts, this corresponds to a direct reward for the author. For this to happen, however, the post must have the right content in line with the zeitgeist, for example the right opinion on Corona, Russia, climate change or gender justice. If the post has the wrong content and is received less enthusiastically than expected by the "friends" and "followers," this corresponds to an indirect punishment from the author's point of view, since the feedback is less positive.

This mechanism of reward and punishment is reinforced by the platform operators in that certain posts with desired content are widely distributed and displayed to as many people as possible, while other posts are not. In technical jargon, this is known as "shadow banning," in which, in extreme cases, a user's posts are only visible to that user [8].

In addition to the soft consequences described, there are also hard consequences in social networks. For example, anyone who contradicted the WHO's official assessment during the pandemic had to expect their access account to be blocked or deleted. In terms of learning theory, this is equivalent to direct punishment; in legal terms, it is equivalent to censorship and a violation of Article 5 of the German Basic Law (since World War II Germany has no Constitutional Law).

The consequence for debates in social networks is obvious. Areas of consensus emerge, and in order to still stand out within these areas, one must represent the narrative opinion as radically as possible or punish dissenters. This can be observed regularly in debates on Facebook and Twitter (and "X" respectively).

Control at the macro level

This form of operant conditioning does not work like this on the macro level. Punishing or rewarding a large group has little effect on the behavior of individuals because they can influence little with their behavior. There, for example, softpower techniques are used for control. Rainer Mausfeld describes soft power as "the entire spectrum of techniques to manipulate public opinion" [9]. Because the influence is not obvious, these techniques provoke much less resistance and are less expensive than other, more restrictive instruments of governance, such as censorship, bans on events, curfews or overt police violence.

Noam Chomsky described it this way in "The Common Good." "The smart way to keep people passive and obedient is to strictly limit the spectrum of acceptable opinion, but allow very lively debate within that spectrum" [10].

The Overton window, named after Joseph Paul Overton [11],

describes the framework of ideas that are considered popular, reasonable or just acceptable in public discourse. Ideas outside this window are outside the tolerated consensus and bring only a few "likes".

Especially in the Corona era, one could observe how the Overton window was shifted within a very short time. People who went to a restaurant wearing an FFP2 mask and presenting a health certificate would have called this completely unacceptable six months earlier. There were also heated discussions about the mask requirement, while discussion of the basic dangerousness of the coronavirus was at some point already outside the Overton window, outside the permissible debate space. Those who spread "medical misinformation" were blocked from discourse. Thus, there was a direct feedback loop in the system with the goal of steering public discourse in a desired direction.

Contact Guilt and Self-Regulation

The Overton window also has a self-regulating effect. Anyone who takes positions outside the window is attacked by the system itself: the "followers" in social networks, the media, colleagues, the employer, friends, neighbors or one's own family. For example, if a Russian conductor is fired for remaining silent on the Ukraine war, this is an automatic feedback loop, since - approving? - Silence in that case is outside the Overton window. And when the district court of Cologne sentences an activist for statements such as "Russia is not an aggressor," the limits of the Overton window are once again made clear to everyone. It is enough not to distance oneself from positions outside the debate space, or not to distance oneself sufficiently, or even to have contact with people who hold positions that are not tolerated. Contact makes guilty.

It is important to define a clear boundary between "right" and "wrong," which often becomes apparent as black-and-white thinking. Anyone who questions or criticizes only partial aspects of the topic of climate change quickly becomes a "denier". Only if it is clear to all interested parties when someone has made a wrong statement, can everyone also immediately "join in the punishment". If there are too many gray areas, this will only lead to confusion among the volunteers who want to make sure that the rules are followed.

So the better the control of the debate space, the less direct, hard interventions are needed to regulate the system. But even a portfolio of tough measures must be available and practiced in case of doubt.

The Presumption of Guilt

In 2004, Peter Thiel founded the company, Palantir, named after the crystal ball from "The Lord of the Rings," which among other things deals with "precrime," or predicting future crimes. In-Q-

Tel, a CIA funding vehicle, was one of the startup funders [12]. Palantir named its precrime software product "Gotham" [13], after the dystopian city of crime and corruption in the Batman comics [14].

The software evaluates all available data, including from social networks, and uses this to calculate probabilities of people behaving criminally. Those who have dubious contacts or who behave strangely - or express themselves outside the Overton window - are more likely to become criminals. As early as 2014, for example, the Chicago Police Department was working with precrime software. One criterion for landing on the "heat list" of suspects was a person's friendships and contacts [15]. Contact makes guilty. The Gotham analysis software is now used in several German states [16]. The exact evaluation algorithm is "of course" a trade secret.

In order to be able to police on the basis of software presumption, a paradigm shift was required: from the presumption of innocence to the presumption of guilt. A necessary legal underpinning for this was created in 2017 and 2018 with the new state police laws, which the federal states introduced, each in a slightly different form. As a result, the police now have far-reaching rights of intervention already in the case of a so-called "imminent danger." If the police classify a person as a "danger", perhaps based on the analysis by the Gotham software, residence bans such as "Don't leave your apartment!", residence bans such as "Don't go to Berlin on weekends!", contact bans such as "Don't meet with ...!" or even preventive detention are possible. Heribert Prantl, formerly a member of the editorial board of the Süddeutsche Zeitung, spoke in 2017, in connection with the new Bavarian police law, about the introduction of indefinite detention for dangerous persons [17].

The appropriate, legitimizing legal theory for this is provided by the "Enemy Criminal Law" formulated by Günther Jakobs, the former director of the Philosophy of Law Seminar at the University of Bonn, according to which certain groups of people are defined as enemies of the state. By definition, these are outside the legal system, have no civil rights and may be fought with all means [18]. Unsurprisingly, there is also an international context here. As early as 2014, then British Prime Minister David Cameron coined the term non-violent extremist in a speech to the UN General Assembly [19]. Such a non-violent extremist has not yet committed or planned a crime, but could potentially do so based on their ideology. Cameron, for example, at the time declared individuals who questioned the official findings of the investigation into September 11, 2001, to be non-violent-extremists [20]. And also in the USA, a memorandum on the DEEP (national Disruption and Early Engagement Program) initiative was published by the Trump administration and Attorney General William Barr in 2019, which provides for the FBI and other authorities to take action already

in the case of potential criminals, i.e. "imminent danger" [21].

Today's non-violent extremists have a new focus. Today, the German Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution observes a not clearly definable group under the catchword "delegitimization of the state relevant to the protection of the constitution", who, for example, shake "confidence in the state system" or engage in so-called "conspiracy theories" [22]. According to the 2021 report on the protection of the constitution, delegitimization often does not occur directly, but indirectly through criticism of state institutions or comparisons of the current situation in the Federal Republic of Germany with the former GDR or other undemocratic regimes [23].

The Letter of Indulgence

Theoretically, anyone can be a criminal, albeit with varying probabilities. So it is no longer enough to behave correctly, morally or in accordance with the law, but one must increasingly prove credibly and proactively that one is doing so and will continue to do so in the future. Proof includes, for example, not dealing with the wrong issues and not being in contact with the wrong people, or publicly distancing oneself from people, issues or political positions. For example, a university distances itself very effectively from a professor who has fallen into disrepute and is therefore "controversial" by simply firing her [24].

In this new society, everyone is potentially guilty, and the task of each individual to permanently prove his or her own innocence becomes a central motive for action. Sold positively, it sounds like this: people should leave their passive role vis-à-vis the security authorities, actively collect relevant personal data, for example in an app, and voluntarily make it available to the security authorities [25].

In the USA, so-called Trusted Traveller Programs (TTP) have been offered since the 1990s [26,27]. Frequent flyers can undergo a one-time, intensive security check, including a personal interview. After this proactive proof of one's own harmlessness, one is then allowed to pass through the security checkpoint at the airport more quickly. The Known Traveller Digital ID (KTDI) of the World Economic Forum (WEF) [28] has a similar focus. The idea is wonderfully presented on film in the episode "The Transparent Me" of the series Black Mirror.

Other projects such as the European Union's digital European identity (e-ID) [29] or ID2020, among others GAVI, Rockefeller Foundation and Microsoft [30] can also be used in principle to create non-threat profiles about themselves in order to enjoy privileges. This principle was already implemented in the Corona period. The proof of being healthy and harmless brought certain "privileges".

Cybernetics and AI

The idea of controlling entire societies as a cybernetic system was quite well-intentioned in the early days of cybernetics and in the Macy conferences. Especially against the background of the two world wars, some were looking for new ways to better control society and prevent further wars. But if one assumes that geopolitical and economic interests of the power elites were essential causes of the world wars, one has to ask where the improvement lies if the same power elites control society cybernetically.

With the ubiquity of networked computers on the Internet of Things, it is now possible to centrally monitor and control every thing. People, too, are becoming things that can be largely monitored and, with the right incentives, motivated to behave in a desired way. On the one hand, a wide range of soft power techniques is available for this purpose. On the other hand, the limits of direct, state intervention are also being changed. Under the new police laws, mere suspicion is already considered grounds for far-reaching police measures. The pressure on every individual to behave in a compliant manner is therefore becoming enormous. Even today, many "masterminds" mean well. Apparently outstanding problems could possibly be solved faster if decision-making processes in democracies were not so slow [31]. Just when "science" is in "agreement", a cybernetic system could be redirected much faster and brought on the right way. After all, there is nothing to discuss, but only a mathematical optimization problem.

The decisive development drivers, however, are geopolitical and economic interests. The USA sees its hegemony, its role as the only remaining superpower, threatened by China. And U.S. tech companies fear losing their leading positions to Chinese competitors. A supremacy in artificial intelligence is now a matter of national security, is seen as essential, for continued geopolitical and economic dominance. This is another reason why more and more data must be collected to train artificial intelligences. And for the same reason, there is an effort to have artificial intelligences control as many areas as possible [32].

In their book "The Age of AI," published at the end of 2021, Henry Kissinger and Eric Schmidt (ex-CEO of Google) also advocate leaving political decisions to artificial intelligences wherever possible. A cybernetic society controlled by an artificial intelligence [33]. But would such a system, in which sheer endless amounts of data are generated and countless control interventions are required, still be controllable at all? Perhaps it would lead to chaos if, for example, the central AI were hacked, the power simply failed or an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) paralyzed the earth's electronics.

What does AI mean?

It contains the word intelligence. Is this the correct term? No, surely it would be better to speak of an "artificial intellect". Because the

abilities of an intuition and an inspiration, which are inherent in the human intelligence, cannot be mastered or applied by computers from the principle. Computers do not have a soul, which can give intuition and inspiration to humans via communication with the pineal gland. This is and remains the characteristic of earthly man, since he is a divine being and can hold discourse with God. Unfortunately, it is possible to inactivate the pineal gland. This can happen through an interaction of light metals in the organism (e.g. aluminum and titanium), of fluorides, of artificial hydrocarbons such as glyphosate, and of technical electrosmog such as 5G. This is an area that has received too little attention. (34,35,36) Cui bono?

Conclusion

AI is already currently superior to the intellect of humans and will continue to do so. One can ask the AI about its own future and about the future of the present industry and that of human professions and jobs. In doing so, one receives questionable statements. It would be pointless to compete with AI in those areas where it is superior to humans. It must be integrated. Earth as a hyper-networked and cybernetic planet is upon us. It is a test for mankind whether it sacrifices its freedom in favor of perfect surveillance and manipulation, or not. A return to a self-chosen immaturity like in the middle ages (before the Renaissance and the Reformation took place) would be fatal.

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