

WHY SHOULD I CARE?

Have you ever used AI to write your essay or help with your homework?

While AI can make things easier, **relying too much on it can make us passive thinkers**. We might stop using our brains to figure things out and let AI do the thinking for us. We risk losing our ability to think critically and make independent decisions.



THE RISK OF “SET IT AND FORGET IT”

The danger lies in how AI will continue to evolve and its embedded role in our society. If we just set systems up and ignore them, they **may evolve in ways that are not aligned with ethical or societal values**.

MOVING FORWARD

Recognize that AI can subtly influence our choices and behaviors. It may nudge or manipulate us in ways that impact our autonomy [1].

Ensure AI tools support, rather than replace, human decision-making.

AI systems should be developed and carefully maintained alongside humans to incorporate ethical guidelines to ensure its alignment improving decision-making, societal values and human autonomy.

SOURCES

[1] S. Sankaran, "AI systems and respect for human autonomy," *Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence*, vol. 4, Oct. 25, 2021. [Online]. Available: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/frai.2021.705164/full> [Accessed: Jul. 29, 2024].

[2] V. Lai, C. Chen, Q. V. Liao, A. Smith-Renner, and C. Tan, "Towards a Science of Human-AI Decision Making: A Survey of Empirical Studies," Dec. 2021. [Online]. Available: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2112.11471>. [Accessed: Jul. 29, 2024].

HAS AI DONE YOUR HOMEWORK?

Are you relying too much on technology?



Preserving Human Autonomy and AI's Influence

ENG 2003
July 30th 2024
By Timothée de Raucourt

WHAT EXACTLY IS AI?

AI, Artificial Intelligence is all around us.



It can be found in forms such as:

- Recognizing speech
- Solving problems
- Search algorithms
- Decision-making
- Autonomous vehicles
- Chatbots
- Facial recognition

Think of it like having a **super-smart assistant** that can learn and improve over time. Just like how apps on your phone learn your preferences to suggest better content.

WHY DOES IT MATTER TO ME?

Whether you are aware of it or not, AI subconsciously **influences our decisions, behavior and ability to rationalize**, affecting our inherent human autonomy [1].

INFLUENCE OF AI ON DECISION-MAKING

AI should be a tool to support and **improve our thinking**, not replacing it completely. When used correctly, it can be a powerful ally in enhancing our decision-making processes.

AI can help with:

- Reflection and Insight
- Augmenting Decision-Making
- Improving Accuracy and Reducing Error
- Human-AI Collaboration

It can provide personalized feedback and reveal perspectives that are not immediately apparent.

AI can hinder with:

- Over-Reliance
- Bias
- Lack of Transparency
- Ethical Implications

Such as being designed or used in ways that **subtly manipulate**.

The goal is to use AI in a way that **improves personal decision-making** abilities and deepening intelligence **without reducing our capacity** to make independent choices.

EXAMPLES OF REAL-WORLD HUMAN-AI DECISION MAKING

Education

AI predicts student outcomes, such as exam grades and graduation likelihood. Tools use historical data to forecast if students will complete their programs on time or drop out [2].

Healthcare

AI tools assist pathologists by comparing medical images, such as cancer scans, with a vast database of similar cases [2].

Finance

AI predicts creditworthiness and loan default risks using historical data and also predicts sales trends, helping businesses plan and optimize inventory. [2].

The study [2] explores human-AI collaboration demonstrating human judgement is essential. Full automation would raise ethical concerns and could begin the “set and forget” evolution of AI.



WHY SHOULD WE BE CONCERNED?

Have you ever used AI tools for assistance with writing or research?

While AI can facilitate tasks, over-reliance may remodel our critical thinking skills into more passive thinking. This poses the risk of becoming recipients of information, consciously or unconsciously. This can potentially compromise our ability to think critically and self-determine [1].



THE RISK OF “SET IT AND FORGET IT”

AI systems, if not monitored, might evolve in ways that don't align with our ethical or societal values. They might develop biases or perform in ways that aren't fully transparent, which can lead to unintended consequences [2].

ENSURING ETHICAL AI DEVELOPMENT

Recognize that AI can subtly influence our decisions and behaviors, potentially impacting our autonomy and self-determination

It is crucial to ensure that AI tools support, rather than suppress, human decision-making.

AI systems should be developed and carefully maintained alongside humans to incorporate ethical guidelines to ensure its alignment improving decision-making, societal values and human autonomy.

SOURCES

[1] S. Sankaran, "AI systems and respect for human autonomy," *Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence*, vol. 4, Oct. 25, 2021. [Online]. Available: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/frai.2021.705164/full> [Accessed: Jul. 29, 2024].

[2] V. Lai, C. Chen, Q. V. Liao, A. Smith-Renner, and C. Tan, "Towards a Science of Human-AI Decision Making: A Survey of Empirical Studies," Dec. 2021. [Online]. Available: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2112.11471>. [Accessed: Jul. 29, 2024].

HAS AI TAKEN OVER YOUR LIFE?

Are we over-reliant on AI in decision-making processes?



Preserving Human Autonomy and AI's Influence

ENG 2003
July 30th 2024
By Timothée de Raucourt

UNDERSTANDING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Artificial Intelligence (AI) encompasses a wide range of technologies designed to simulate human cognition and decision-making capable of performing complex tasks. Key applications include:

- Predictive Analytics
- Recommendation Systems
- Virtual Assistants
- Autonomous vehicles
- Image and Speech Recognition

THE SIGNIFICANCE

AI has the capacity to influence our decisions and behaviors subtly. It can affect our ability to make autonomous choices, raising important questions about our self-determination and the authenticity of our decisions [1]. Respecting autonomy is important because it is what separates animals from humans, and is valuable as a component of human dignity and well-being.

INFLUENCE OF AI ON DECISION-MAKING

AI should be a tool to support and improve our thinking, not replacing it completely. When used correctly, it can be a powerful ally in enhancing our decision-making processes.

Potential Benefits:

- Reflection and Insight
- Augmenting Decision-Making
- Improving Accuracy and Reducing Error
- Human-AI Collaboration

Potential Drawbacks:

- Over-Reliance
- Algorithmic Bias
- Lack of Transparency
- Ethical Implications



The aim is to leverage AI in a manner that augments human decision-making and intellectual development while preserving and enhancing our capacity for independent thought and personal development.

EXAMPLES OF REAL- WORLD HUMAN-AI DECISION MAKING

Education

AI predicts student outcomes, such as exam grades and graduation likelihood. Tools use historical data to forecast if students will complete their programs on time or drop out [2].

Healthcare

AI tools assist pathologists by comparing medical images, such as cancer scans, with a vast database of similar cases [2].

Finance

AI predicts creditworthiness and loan default risks using historical data and also predicts sales trends, helping businesses plan and optimize inventory. [2].

These studies illustrates the necessity of human oversight. Complete automation raises ethical concerns and highlights the importance of human judgment in decision-making tasks [2].

