Humans and Machines

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Elon Musk says artificial intelligence is humanity's greatest threat
36 minutes ago
Is Your Job About To Disappear?: QuickTake

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

How College Students Can Get Ready for Our Automated Future

WEF warns of ‘vast numbers of jobs’ being disrupted by automation and robots
Predictions About Automation

- Frey & Osborne (2013): 47% of jobs at risk of being automated over next 20 years
- Grace et al. (2017): 50% chance of AI outperforming humans in all tasks in 45 years and of automating all human jobs in 120 years
- Acemoglu & Restrepo (2017): For every one robot added, 5.6 workers lose jobs. Predicted by 2025, 0.94-1.76 % lower employment-to-population ratio
- Deming (2012): Jobs that involve social skills less at risk
- Autor (2010); Cortes et al. (2016): Routine jobs most at risk
- Psychological implications ????
Two Fundamental Issues

• Understanding reasons why humans distrust machines

• How to optimize human-machine partnerships to maximize trust
A dilemma

Two Key Findings:
- About ¼ of people are willing to push
- People do not trust those willing to push

(Everett, Crockett, & Pizarro, 2016)
Distrust in Technology: Causes

- **Too cost-benefit oriented** *(Everett, Pizarro, Crockett, 2016)*
  - Distrust in agents that do not follow moral rules

- **Algorithmic process is too opaque** *(Yeomans, Shah, & Mullainathan, Kleinberg, 2017)*
  - People prefer a human recommender to an algorithmic recommender (for jokes), even though the algorithm does a better job selecting funny jokes

- **Belief that algorithms are less capable of learning** *(Dietvorst, Simmons, & Massey, 2015)*
  - People bet on human versus algorithmic forecasters (for predictions of personnel success, airline statistics) even when they see algorithms outperform humans

- **Stereotype of robots as incapable of handling social/emotional tasks** *(Waytz & Norton, 2014)*
  - People express discomfort with robots taking on human work perceived as requiring emotional/social skill
Trust in Technology: Remedies

• Giving people simple explanations for how machine learning works increases trust in algorithm to perform (Yeomans et al., 2017)
  – Explaining collaborative filtering to people increases trust in algorithm in joke task

• People overcome algorithm aversion when allowed to modify them (Dietvorst, Simmons, & Massey, 2016)
  – Giving people opportunities to slightly modify forecaster algorithms increases trust in them

• People trust algorithms for more objective decisions and when expertise is lacking (Logg, 2017)
  – National security experts are least likely to trust forecasting algorithms for political events (cyberattacks, Brexit). Suggests potential need to reduce overconfidence

• People trust robots for social/emotional tasks when robot is designed to appear emotional (Waytz & Norton, 2014; Waytz, Heafner & Epley, 2014)
  – Giving an autonomous car a name/gender/voice attenuates blame for and increases trust in the context of an accident
  – Designing a robot with “emotional” facial features increase trust in that robot for a social task (e.g., therapy, social work)
Optimizing human-machine partnerships

(1) Let robots do things that humans cannot, let humans implement “moral” rules

(2) Let robots handle the dull, rote, mechanical (i.e., robotic) work

(3) Let robots attempt to reduce the emotional burdens that humans face in their jobs
Let Computers Compute / Let Humans Implement Moral Rules

Caliskan, Bryson, Narayanan, 2017

Amazon Doesn’t Consider the Race of Its Customers. Should It?

Once Bloomberg identified this, Amazon corrected it

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Translates to “he is a doctor.”

Adjusted to “a doctor” (Fixed by Google)
Let Robots Do the Robotic Work

• A MIT team developed a platform to detect 85% of cyberattacks and reduce false positives by 5%
  – Platform sifts through data, reports a sample of its findings to human analysts.
  – Analysts scan these results for false positives, provide that input to the platform.
  – Platform uses human feedback when performing its next search for cyberattacks. Platform improves

• An otherwise unsupervised machine would produce closer to a 20-25% false positive rate

(Veeramachaneni, Arnaldo, Korrapati, Bassias, & Li, 2016)
Let Machines Handle Emotional Labor

• Example: Privacy Authentication in Customer Service
  – Emotionally burdensome (customers are frustrated)

• Canadian financial services firm uses a biometrics to identify customers by voice, eliminating authentication questions and improving customer service routing by 50%

• European Bank uses biometrics to identify high-profile clients as their conversation progresses. System has reduced call handling time by 15s, with 93% of clients rating the system 9/10

• Australian organization receives 9m calls per year, 75% require authentication. Voice biometrics eliminates authentication questions, cuts avg call by 40s.

(Alter & Shukla, 2016)
Optimizing human-machine partnerships builds trust in technology.
Final thoughts: Implications Beyond Trust

– How does Automation affect attitudes toward humans. We show automation concerns → anti-immigrant attitudes (Gamez-Djokic & Waytz, 2018)

– Understanding when technology use hampers or helps empathy (Waytz & Gray, 2018)

-- Optimizing division of labor by identifying tasks that robots would perform better than humans (Waytz, 2018)

Why Robots Could Be Awesome Whistleblowers
Workers don’t want to be replaced by algorithms or machines. But when it comes to the risky act of exposing corporate wrongdoing, perhaps they could be our friends.
THANK YOU
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