

Humanity gets along with AI

Just over a year ago, when AlphaGo defeated world's number one Go player Ke Jie with 3 to 0, it seemed that humans are forced into an extremely passive position if science and technology make robots more superior in certain areas. While the possibility of humans being replaced by robots in the future is a hot topic of considerable concern, how can we stay human in such a technologically advanced era also has become the focus of public attention.

From my perspective, it is humanity that makes the human race can never be replaced by AI. We have to admit that AI has done better than us in some aspects, especially those contain a lot of competitive work. Those intelligent machines, like the customer service robots can response to customers properly according to what they say. However, if we receive that kind of preset mechanical answers for several times, we will eventually get bored owing to its immutability. What we need is a human to have resonance for us and consider in our view, so that we can feel the warmth of humanistic care.

What is humanity

Then, what is the definition of "humanity" is worth discussing. If we look it up in dictionaries, there are several synonyms of it, like "empathy", "benevolence", "sympathy", "tenderness", etc. Judging from all of these words, "humanity" is used to describe the quality that we human beings have to treat others with kindness.

However, as far as I am concerned, it is really difficult to specify how kind you are can be regarded as being humane. The point is whether you are showing your kindness from your heart. The heart is also just what intelligent robots lack when they do something. The heart is not only referred to the vital organ in our physical body, but also where our emotions come from. Under some circumstances, our mental state is too complicated to explain why we feel that. By contrast, there is no feeling for a robot who only follows the rules of programming, therefore there is always a rational reason for its behavior.

AI serves us well

There is no denying that AI has been applied to a great number of domains to make us live a better life. For instance, facial recognition technology is capable of identifying a person from a digital image or other resources, ensuring the security of our bank account, etc. Some specialists in facial recognition even predict there will be no need for us to bring ID card or passport in the future, for AI technology can identify every one of us.

AI serves us badly

The convenience brought by AI makes it apparent that AI is anything but harm. Nonetheless, does AI really help us, every one of us? Take smart phones for example. They have been already indispensable for young individuals serving us like a personal assistant. They are so versatile that if we forget to take our cell phones with us one day, we would feel we were abandoned by the world. However, the senior may have difficulty using them, especially that the touch screen is not so friendly for them due to the fact that

their fingers are not as agile as those of the young. It is a real possibility that they touch somewhere mistakenly and cause some unnecessary problems. To make matters worse, they can not successfully resolve them only relying on themselves in most situations.

Apart from elderly people, there are plenty of disadvantaged groups who can not benefit from AI, like the destitute. On the one hand, we are surprised by the rapid development of modern technology and looking forward to a brighter future. On the other hand, we ignore those who are not able to keep pace with the era and even see them as the burden of our society.

Humanity was advocated very early

During the Warring State period of ancient China, there was a patriotic politician and poet named Qu Yuan. He served a king in that period as Left Minister and were dedicated to bringing civilians a happy life. Nevertheless, the colleagues of him only desired the power and wealth, indifferent to how hard the life was to people living in the bottom of the society. To express his deep depression and great concern about his state, he wrote Li Sao, which is the most well-known one of the Chu Ci poems. *“Long did I sigh and wipe away my tears, to see my people bowed by griefs and fears.”* It is one of the most renowned sentences in Li Sao which reflects how sympathetic Qu Yuan was to ordinary people.

Thus, I start to doubt whether we human beings evolve or degenerate. Even thousands of years ago the ancient people had the awareness that we could not only think for ourselves, but should be more considerate towards others, especially those at a disadvantage. So why do we always focus on breakthroughs of AI but in the meantime are so indifferent to the workers whose positions are taken by AI robots and become unemployed? There is no doubt that those workers need to learn new skills to make themselves competitive in the society, nonetheless, there is not always opportunity offered for them to acquire knowledge to strengthen their ability. In this situation, AI just likes the whip of Qin Shi Huang (First Emperor of Qin), who forced hundreds of thousands of men to build the Great Wall regardless of their lives. All the hardship of vulnerable groups is neglected.

As time goes by, all those ancient people have gone, either the patriotic ones, or the hypocritic ones, however, what left is the compassion in Li Sao. Until now Chinese still celebrate Dragon Boat Festival in memory of Qu Yuan. However, what is worth thinking about is when we celebrate the traditional festivals like Dragon Boat Festival if we still remember what we are celebrating. Maybe we are just intended to find an excuse to get a few days off and have fun.

The role of governments in the age of AI

Albeit different countries have different national condition, there is something in common that it is the government's responsibility to narrow the gap between different social classes. Most laws and policies are formulated to prohibit us doing from something instead of encouraging us. As far as I am concerned, in the age of AI, there should be some rules to limit the application of AI as well as how to make the best use of AI morally. For instance, the AI

technology used in communication companies cannot invade individuals' privacy despite the fact it is aimed to collect users' data and make some improvement. On the other hand, it will be effective if governments could give additional welfare to the companies developing AI that promotes human equality, thus orienting the development of AI.

The role of institutions in the age of AI

Maybe what a role a government performs can never be influenced by what I think. On contrast, institutions are less restricted when they fulfil their functions in the society. Although different genres of institutions perform in different ways, their management should all be closely connected with humanity.

The institutions that best embody humanity are public service institutions like libraries. Just as Peter Drucker said "*The non-profit institutions are human-change agents. Their "product" is a cured patient, a child that learns, a young man or woman grown into a self-respecting adult; a changed human life altogether.*" (Peter F. Drucker, *Managing the Non-Profit Organization: Principles and Practices*). Unlike profit-driven companies which manage human resources to gain revenue, public service institutions and nonprofit organizations is aimed to utilize funds to benefit human beings.

As the library of my university is the most frequent free institution that serves me, I would like to make some comments on its service and management. As long as you are the student in our university, you can take advantage of all the resources in the library with no charge. That is the most basic service the library is responsible to provide for us. Furthermore, senior citizens are welcomed as well. Even there was a photography session for them last semester, and their works were presented in the hall of the library so that whoever came there could appreciate them.

From the example mentioned above, it seems that we will stay humane or even more humane without AI. I consider this is due to the excessive pursuit of breakthroughs in AI. Either the R&D institutions of AI, or the institutions making use of AI are chasing each other in a competition where they all want to win the first prize of possessing the most advanced technology. It is the leaders of all the institutions who is responsible to change their mind and reorient the institutions' mission.

The leaders can show humanity in two aspects, externally and internally.

"Externally" is targeted at the individuals they serve. They do need to apply prevalent AI technology to provide high-quality service, but it is not necessary to be so prevalent. Just as what Mr. Cook stated in the commencement of MIT in 2017: "*I am not worried about artificial intelligence giving computers the ability to think like humans. I am more concerned about people thinking like computers without values or compassion, without concern for consequences.*" For the leaders, the guideline should be promoting the equality among every individual instead of being dominant.

“Internally” means the management within the institutions. To be more specific, it refers to how the leaders treat their subordinates. With the extensive application of AI, the most alarming concern for employees is that they face the risk of being displaced by AI. Therefore, how the leaders handle this issue determines how the employees’ life continues. It will be certainly easy for the leaders to dismiss them. By contrast, it seems extremely money-consuming and time-consuming to give them an opportunity to realize their potential by training them.

It is admitted that sometimes humanity requires us not to stint on expense and is apparently contradictory to economic development. Probably resulting from this point, humanity has been advocated for thousands of years but has not been achieved perfectly yet. Mencius, a great Confucian scholar, summarized a core thought of Confucius as, *“loving one’s parents, loving the people, loving everything in the world.”* The thought is still inspirational after it was proposed for thousands of years. In this era, no one wants to be unemployed or have no incomes. Hence, why can not we think for those who are not capable enough but want to enhance their ability? The reputation, profit etc. are not earned only by the leaders but by everyone involved in the institution, thus it is reasonable and responsible for leaders to give them an opportunity to keep abreast of the modern age.

How AI should be used

AI and humanity are not contradictory. It is how we make use of AI that counts to achieve the balance between the two. To make the very most of ourselves as human beings, AI cannot be equal to us, we have to dominate it as it is a tool for us to create a better life for human race.

When taking advantages of AI, the most essential factor is that the aim of making use of it is for human common interest instead of benefitting only a few people, especially those who have occupied a dominant position in a certain field. There have been some applications related to the common welfare of mankind. For instance, the medical image recognition technology makes it possible for those who suffer from cancers to discover it earlier so that the possibility of rehabilitation is higher. AI is not created to take the place of humans, but to perform as an assistant.

Some researchers claim that there must be some specialized law to restrict the application of AI. This kind of law is definitely necessary as AI is a double-edged sword which can be a helper but also can become a destroyer when improperly used. Furthermore, some more fundamental incentives and restrictions on AI developers should be given. These incentives and restrictions are meant to orient the research direction so as to make AI more humane. From my point of view, AI designed to accelerate the eradication of poverty or anything to do with social equality deserves to be attached more importance than technology solving problems that are not so urgent. Then, the AI designers researching different domains deserve different payback depending on their contribution to human common interest.

The intelligence of AlphaGo was indeed amazing, nevertheless, what

impressed me most was the tears of Ke Jie after he lost the game. That was what AI cannot modify, even if intelligent robots can shed tears, there is no emotion in them.