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Dialogues on AI

Ethics of AI for India

Friday, April 27th, 2018 | 10 am - 2:15 pm
Omidyar Network, Bangalore

Event Introduction

Dialogues on AI aims to create a platform for sophisticated and respectful discussion between leaders in the technology industry, academia, and civil society on issues concerning artificial intelligence (AI). We hope to foster a solutions-focused debate that benefits the field of AI in India in a realistic way.

The roundtable in Bangalore on 27 April 2018 will focus on three selected issues: (i) the meaning and scope of AI; (ii) the ethics of AI; and (iii) the scope for applying AI in India. As the national conversation on AI grows, we believe that foundational clarity is necessary to understand this rapidly evolving technology and aid its implementation in India.

Session 1: What does AI mean? Definitions

Presently, India sees various uses of the term AI. While several definitions of the term exist, for the purpose of creating meaningful and productive discussion of significant issues, a clear definition must be decided upon. This definition will ideally deal only with matters of AI that deal with "learning", and decision-based outputs, and not tools that provide mere mechanical advantages, or outputs. Therefore, the discussion will predominantly revolve around the merits/demerits of basing this definition around concepts like machine learning, deep learning, and neural networks, and will not focus heavily on automation or robotics based definitions.

Questions for Discussion

1. What are the uses of AI in the industry today?

2. What is the difference between AI and Automation? How can AI be defined vis a vis concepts like Strong AI, Artificial General Intelligence (AGI), and Superintelligence?

3. At what point do we start worrying about AGI? Are these worries tied to existing products/services? Is this worry important?

Session 2: Towards a Framework of Ethics for AI

We expect this session to involve the most depth in terms of discussion. AI in India is in a fairly nascent stage, and the numerous ethical factors continue to increase in number as AI development becomes more advanced. Some of the key ethical factors we have identified include openness, inclusivity, transparency, privacy, and morality. However, this is by no means an exhaustive list, and we hope for this sessions to shed light and various nuances when dealing with ethics of AI. We also expect that the diverse group of participants, representing different AI-based industries, academia, law, and civil society, will provide important perspectives to each ethical issue. This session would also explore the nature, method, and content of future laws and regulations that may be required for AI.

Questions for Discussion

1. What are some ethical issues with existing AI deployed in products today? What are some important ethical issues to consider in the context of how decision-making AI (algorithms) will transform a wide variety of public and private services?

2. How can AI be made fair, transparent and accountable? What are some of the social and ethical implications of use of AI?

3. In cases where AI is used in safety-critical areas such as healthcare and transportation, how should we make sure that it is safe, trustworthy, and ethically aligned?

4. What are the ethical issues that arise associated with practices like the use of black box algorithms? What are the costs of algorithmic transparency/labelling policy, and how can balance be achieved in the context of preserving competitive practices in the market?

5. How should we distinguish between ethical standards for private and public uses of AI?

Session 3: AI for India

The final session will focus on the impact of AI on the present and future Indian scenario. This would include India-centric issues concerning the uses of AI in governance, manufacturing, service distribution, banking and finance, and healthcare, to name a few. The merit based discussion of the previous sessions will provide direction to the final session, where targeted discussion can take place on these unique issues.

Questions for Discussion

1. What are some of India's most important problems that AI could potentially solve?

2. What are some ethical and other issues specific to India to do with the utilisation of AI?

3. How does the present Indian landscape factor into these issues?

4. How should future law and regulation be drafted to effectively deal with these issues?

Recommended Reading

1. AI - The Revolution Hasn't Happened Yet: https://goo.gl/FCoLQC
2. How Robots, IoT And Artificial Intelligence Are Transforming The Police: https://goo.gl/kQJR51
3. Ethically Aligned Design (EAD) - Version 2, by The IEEE Global Initiative on Ethics of Autonomous and Intelligent Systems: https://standards.ieee.org/develop/indconn/ec/autonomous_systems.html
4. Ethical Guidelines for AI in Education: http://iaied.org/pub/1023/
5. Rethinking National Privacy Principles: https://goo.gl/nGWx38
6. Enabling better healthcare with artificial intelligence: https://goo.gl/UGYdV8