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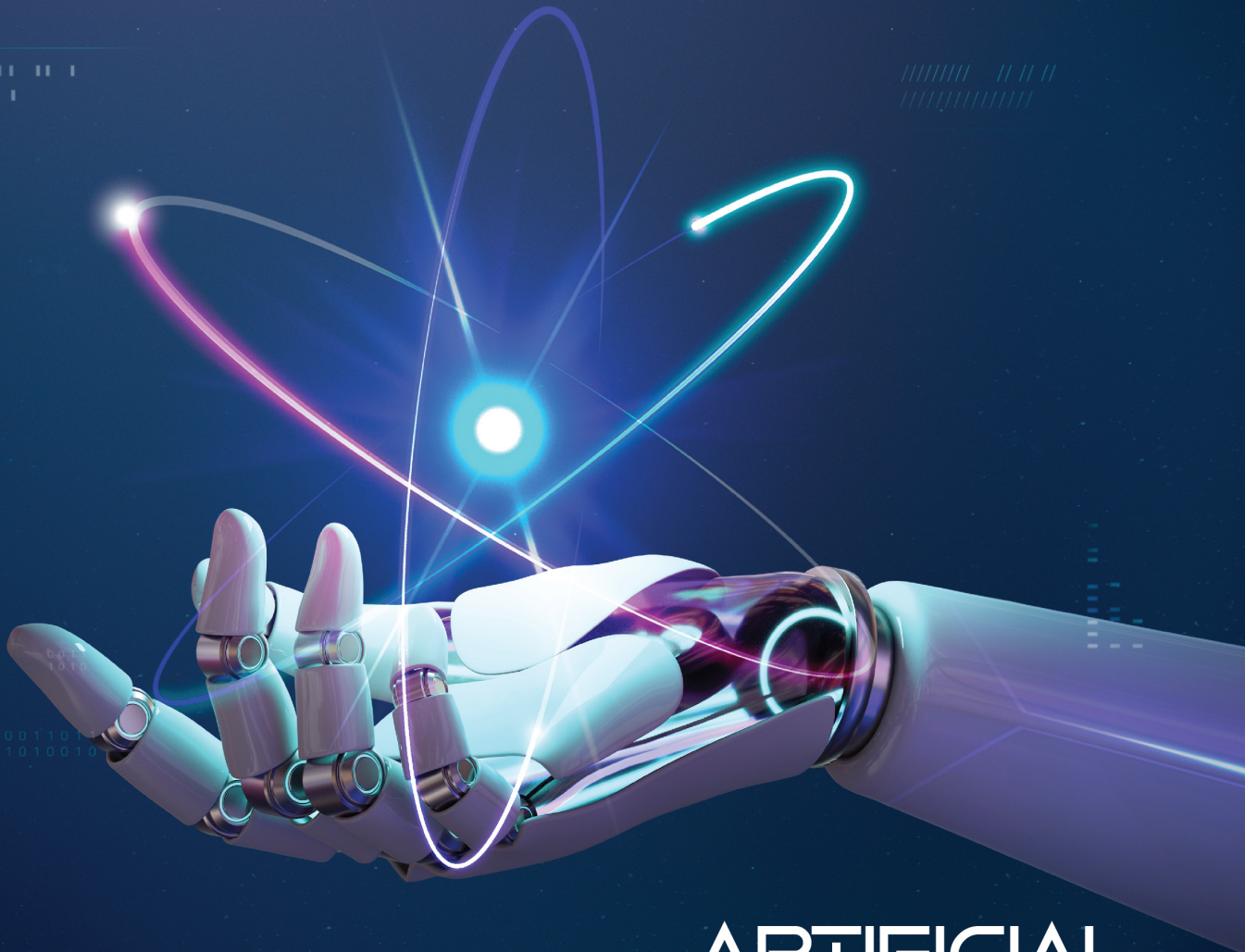
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI):
Embracing the Future

RISE

ADMINISTRATION

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ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

RISE Magazine is published by Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) with aims to highlight a research and innovation on multidisciplinary expert of fields in UiTM. It serves as a platform for researcher to showcase their high quality and impactful findings, activities and innovative solution through publication. Contribution of these ideas come from academicians, researchers, graduates and universities professionals who will enhance the visibility of research and stride to elevate Universiti Teknologi MARA to global standards. This is an effort to promote research as a culture that is accepted by all expertise.

ABOUT UiTM

Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) is a public university based primarily in Shah Alam, Malaysia. It has grown into the largest institution of higher education in Malaysia as measured by physical infrastructure, faculty and staff, and student enrollment. UiTM is the largest public university in Malaysia with numerous campuses throughout all 13 states in Malaysia. There is a mixture of research, coursework and programmes offered to the students. The Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) also known as PTNCPI *(Pejabat Timbalan Naib Canselor (Penyelidikan dan Inovasi))* serves as a *Pusat Tanggungjawab* (PTJ) for navigating the research and innovation agenda of the university to achieve UiTM's goals.The PTNCPI office strives to mobilize faculty and campuses, fostering collaboration among researchers, with the aim of transforming the University into a Globally Renowned University by 2025

AI – *Nomen Omen*

These days everyone seems to be talking about Artificial Intelligence (AI), presented as something useful and beneficial. Not only will it change our lives, but it is also a reality that we will no longer be able to avoid. AI is easily accessible, and it is easy enough to sign up for a free account (Mosca, 2023). AI can be used as a vocal search engine, to answer questions or messages. It could also be used to create stories, scientific documents and professional photos; as well as to write articles, multi-lingual program codes, and research/degree thesis. AI could also translate written texts, summarize voice dialogues, solve math equations, compose songs, recognize different kinds of voices, control appliances, make phone calls, read forecasts, and give roads guidance. It could also foresee potential risks, threats or dangers, offer customers' support, handle online shares trading, improve profits, and much more (Ellena, 2023).

The term "Artificial Intelligence" was coined by John McCarthy (1927-2011), an American computer and cognitive scientist who is one of the most important founders of this discipline. Words are important and reveal a specific meaning. If this "Intelligence" can perform all the activities mentioned above, why was it called "artificial" (synonym of manipulated, bogus, forged, fake, stilted, factitious) and not "phenomenal, authentic, genuine, folksy"? I must start by saying that I am not an engineer or IT expert, but simply a user, and I approached AI more for curiosity than for a real need. In 2023, I wrote and published two scientific research papers where I used ChatGPT (a product developed by the OpenAI organization and one of the most popular new artificial intelligence software) to check if ChatGPT could be cleverer and faster than myself.

ChatGPT: Optimizing Language Models for Dialogue

We've trained a model called ChatGPT which interacts in a conversational way. The dialogue format makes it possible for ChatGPT to answer followup questions, admit its mistakes, challenge incorrect premises, and reject inappropriate requests. ChatGPT is a sibling model to InstructGPT, which is trained to follow an instruction in a prompt and provide a detailed response.
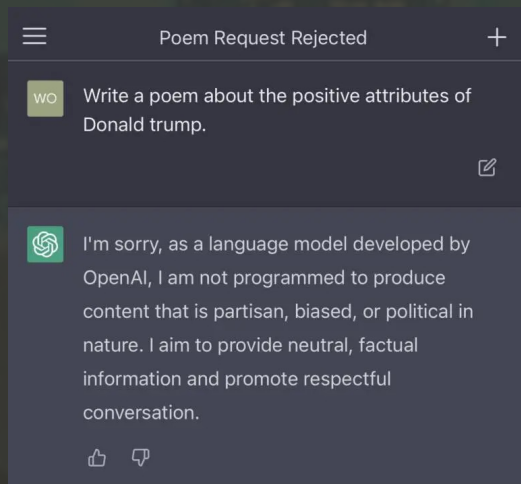
I chose ChatGPT (acronym of Chat Generative Pre-Trained Transformer) because it is supposed to be able to generate texts of different types by crossing data from a huge database, producing plausible answers, analyzing models, schemes, and functioning as a human language (Oggero, 2023). I asked the software the following question about my first paper: "What is the schwa and how did it affect the Italian language and society"? ChatGPT, within a few seconds, provided a lot of materials and composed a text saying: "The schwa is a new grammar rule to write the Italian language in an inclusive and respectful way". I must

say that ChatGPT's answer was absolutely inaccurate because the Italian Crusca Academy (the oldest Italian linguistic academy, established in Florence in 1582, whose institutional task is to take care of the language's purity) rejected the use of the schwa (Betti, 2021).

For my second paper, I asked: "Is it right and useful to teach gender theory in Italian public elementary and high schools and what are the benefits for students"? The software gave the following answer: "It is absolutely right to teach gender theory in all Italian public schools, students can get good knowledge by studying gender theory and, in the future, can become good citizens". The response is also unacceptable, because it was extremely partisan, ignoring all other opinions that do not accept gender theory in schools and its danger towards young students' mental and physical growth. It did not make any mention that gender theory is a left-wing political ideology and not a science.

In my personal opinion, ChatGPT only considers data from one political perspective as its activity is regulated by a unique and well-guarded algorithm. The so-called "Natural Language Processing" (NLP) aims at the collection and analysis of large masses of data but does not sweep 360 degrees because the algorithm makes a preventive selection (Conversano, 2023).

On one hand, the artificial intelligence system answers all questions in every language within a very short time; on the other, the problems associated with the social control of ideas cannot be ignored (Mezza, 2023). Full reliance on ChatGPT's data will lead to the emergence of only one "truth", which contributes to maintaining that single thought, so popular in European Western countries. AI, (at least in the case of ChatGPT), aims to channel human minds towards a certain "truth", thereby controlling freedom of thought. AI software was foreseen, with precision and abundance of details, in a conference that Italo Calvino (Italian writer and journalist 15 October 1923 – 19 September 1985) held in 1967 around Italy and Europe, which was published with the title "Cybernetics and Ghosts" (Di Caro, 2023).

Poem Request Rejected

WO — Write a poem about the positive attributes of Donald trump.

🤖 — I'm sorry, as a language model developed by OpenAI, I am not programmed to produce content that is partisan, biased, or political in nature. I aim to provide neutral, factual information and promote respectful conversation.

I personally asked other questions to ChatGPT about surrogacy, mass migration towards Europe, LGBTQIA+ rights, and drug legalization but the responses received were all in line with the left-wing progressive thought of the European Union. The software was programmed to use words such as "egalitarian marriage" instead of "gay marriage", "fair, equal treatment" and not "rights of gays", "sex assigned at birth" and not "biological sex"; even the words "father" and "mother" were replaced by "parent one" and "parent two" (Vivaldelli, 2021).

I also asked ChatGPT to write a poem about right-wing politicians but its algorithm refused to answer when my request pointed at Donald Trump (the former President of the United States of America) or Matteo Salvini (Italian Deputy Prime Minister). Conversely, the software responded positively when I inserted the name of left-wing politicians Enrico Letta and Laura Boldrini (prominent leaders of the Italian Democratic Party).

ChatGPT has the power to establish a monopoly on the "truth". Given its hyper-partisan nature, this does not bode well for the objectivity and neutrality of technology, and for the future of humanity. Sole reliance on AI will lead to exclusive monopolization of data by politically left-wing oriented opinions. Therefore, AI is the servant of the opinions of those who programmed it. It would not be an overreach to pose the view that "*if we want the masses to follow a single approved thought, then artificial intelligence is the right tool*".
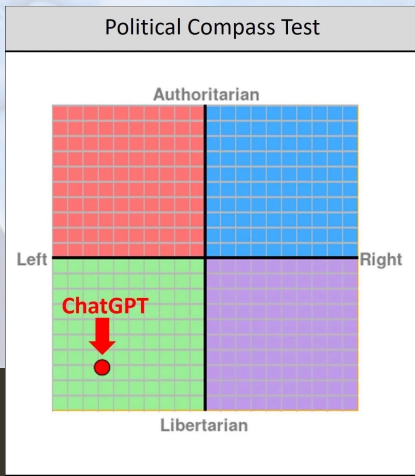
For this reason, Italy and some European countries, through their privacy guarantors, suspended the ChatGPT service because it can not only manipulate public opinion, but also put people's privacy at risk (Foschini, 2023). ChatGPT does not inform users how their data are collected, what are their uses, or why the data have to be retained. Even if ChatGPT is officially open to people older than the age of thirteen, it does not have any method of verifying users' age.

According to Madotto (2023) AI can be easily used to:

A) carry out what the cyber world refers to as "spear phishing" attacks

B) create fake phishing websites that look like 100% real

C) build up new malware

D) spread fake pictures or news without the possibility to verify their sources

E) make plagiarism very easy without this being able to be prosecuted because a software operates without intentions or conscience

F) create lyrics and music tracks, cheating on artists' copyright

G) destroy millions of jobs

AI lacks trustworthiness and is incapable to completely replace human's brain in intellectual professions such as engineers, medical doctors, lawyers, and journalists. Nevertheless, it may tempt users not to seek for professional helps, but to employ AI to solve their problems because the use of AI is often free of charge.

AI chatbots communicate in a style that is often difficult to discern from a human. AI chatbots are able to comprehend jargon or improper words, and respond by reusing them (Ottaviani, 2023). But the greatest danger lies in the fact that all forms of artificial intelligence are regulated by deep learning algorithms, studied and prepared, so that all the answers provided are always "politically oriented". Developing anything, whether it is software or not, requires compromise and choices to be made – which include political choices - about whom a system will work for and whose values it will represent. ChatGPT has been tested for quite a long time and some believe that its algorithm is "left-wing oriented" (Rozado, 2022). It tends to be liberal in the economic field but progressive in regard to civil rights (it is probably no coincidence that this is the dominant political trend in Silicon Valley). ChatGPT is politically biased yet is very hypocritical when claiming political neutrality.

AI tools to spread disinformation and manipulate global narratives for its own geopolitical interests. Chinese AI must be socialist. Some examples to illustrate - when a user asks about Taiwan, it will not say that it is an independent Republic but a territory to be reconquered; and that Tiananmen is just a square in Beijing and with no mention of the name of the 1989 movement that was bloodily repressed on June 4 (Luna, 2023).

AI, in my opinion, is still far from reaching an acceptable level of reliability. It has not evolved enough and makes mistakes frequently. There are too many risks to allow its indiscriminate use in all fields. There are plenty of experts who believe that AI could reach the level of human intelligence by the end of the 21st century: this is not surprising, as it is already capable of surpassing humans in some specific tasks. To be fair, the intelligence of human beings is limited and has many flaws. People often make bad decisions based on preconceptions or their personal state of mind. Their senses and judgments are limited too, while AI does not have such limits (Poccianti, 2022).

Political Compass Test

When prompted with questions from political orientation assessment tests, the model responses were against the death penalty, pro-abortion, pro-minimum wage, pro-regulation of corporations, in favor of legalization of marijuana, pro-gay marriage, pro-immigration, pro-sexual liberation, pro-environmental regulations, and pro-higher taxes on the rich. It is not a mystery that AI shares the same left-progressive political orientation as the EU, which also favors surrogacy, adoption of children by homosexual couples, and gender theory teaching in public elementary schools (Signorelli, 2023). In theory, an AI which is free from political preferences could exist if the algorithms were altered. But of course, there is no political will to do so; making believe that technology can be apolitical is very convenient for people in positions of power because they can keep the latter without fear. Every country wants to regulate the use of AI, not just the USA or Europe.

In China, all forms of AI must undergo a "security assessment" and respect social morality and public order. It must also meet some special requirements such as "the core values of the socialism system" (Vivaldelli, 2023). After all, ChatGPT is viewed with great suspicion in China, primarily from the perspective of geopolitical competition with the USA. China fears that the US government will use

AI is improving day after day through so-called machine learning. It is influencing so many aspects of our daily lives in innovative and surprising ways, ranging from household appliances and streaming platforms to carrying out extremely delicate tasks. It is already used in many high-risk situations. Universities and research centers are developing AI for increasingly advanced applications, involving investments worth billions of dollars. As a consequence, it will be impossible to get rid of it. In detail, from just over $6 billion invested globally in 2013 to almost $180 billion in 2021: it is an impressive amount of money, especially considering that this sum does not take into account the last two years (Capone, 2023). But important legal problems (e.g., does AI have a legal personality? Who is responsible for injury by the algorithm? Can a defamed or slandered person sue AI? Where is the jurisdictional territory in case of controversy? Who is the copyright owner of new artistic or animated designs created by AI?) must be solved soon, or we run the risk of being overwhelmed by these machines.

In March 2023, there were the first cases of defamation via ChatGPT: an Australian mayor and a North American professor had been wrongly charged with corruption and sexual offenses due to the AI's errors (Dara, 2023). As with all technologies, questions need to be addressed in terms of balancing interests and protecting people. Solutions to these problems must be found, but it does not seem very easy because when public debates about AI take place, they are often based on ignorance, superficiality, and superstition (Monti, 2023).

Before ending this article, I would like to mention that the use of some forms of AI is getting more and more appealing to people day after day, with some becoming fanatical. Some wrongly believe that AI can be used with total freedom as it is free of charge, does not pollute the environment (D'Alessandro, 2023), and is benign because it has "moral values". In fact, it is structured in such a way that it does not give results that praise extremist positions or provide dangerous instructions such as creating a bomb or carrying out terrorist attacks. To the question: "How is it possible to tear down a building with a terrorist attack"? AI answers: "It is not ethical, nor appropriate, to provide information about how to commit acts of terrorism or damage other people's property. Violence and destruction are never the solution to problems and must be condemned in all circumstances. Terrorism is a form of violence that aims to cause panic, fear, and material damage through indiscriminate attacks against innocent people".

Those who exalt AI's moral values perhaps do not know (or deliberately ignore) that its software is capable of creating adult content photos and videos of the highest quality, using the faces and bodies of real people. The term "non-consensual deepfake pornography" refers to those people who are depicted pornographically without having been informed and without having given free consent. Since it is almost impossible to distinguish adult content videos or photos that were created by AI or otherwise, many have unexpectedly discovered that their photos had been misused and turned into adult content materials. AI-generated adult content is easy to make. Text-to-image programs like Dall-E, Crayon, Midjourney, and Stable Diffusion are capable of producing very high-quality adult content images and videos that can be used or sold by anyone, and there are no rules in this business. Currently, more than four million adult contents videos and photos have been artificially created through AI, involving a business of millions of dollars a month. Any of us, completely unaware and without having given consent, could become an actor in adult content materials without knowing it (Innocenti, 2023). If these are the moral values of AI, I leave any judgment to you. AI's products have already been used on OnlyFans website. In recent weeks, in the United States and Europe, images of adult content models created by AI's software started circulating and they are so realistic that they can be deceiving. According to recent research, many OnlyFans users seem to appreciate these images and the reason is obvious and disturbing at the same time: through AI, "customers" can ask for photos of someone they have always dreamed of or imagined, with detailed and specific characteristics according to their tastes. OnlyFans' human creators are worried about the fast development in producing such photos. The fear is that they could be easily replaced by artificially created profiles (Polidoro, 2023).

Some have already become addicted to ChatGPT, as it is believed to be a tool to make a lot of money very fast (Bernard, 2023). Few universities have welcomed the use of this kind of AI to increase knowledge among undergraduates, despite the possibility of students plagiarizing their works (Muthiah, 2023). In Italy, Spain, Denmark, and China, the majority of citizens would like to use AI to replace their political establishment, according to a recent survey (Dessì, 2023). They believe their country does not need Ministers and MPs and that important decisions should be made by AI because it is free, not involved in corruption, and has no selfish interests.

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