

Synthesis

The authors describe AI, and ChatGPT in particular. They explain the basic principle of ChatGPT: generating statistical probable outputs. This means answering questions with the most probable answers, using a huge amount of data (for example from the Internet) and its trained algorithms. However, it does not focus on the reasons for the answers, or the general laws underlying them. The authors contrast this with human thinking.

AI was originally meant to be an artificial version of human intelligence, using neural networks which replicate the neural networks in the brain. However, the authors point out crucial differences. The human mind may operate with relatively small amounts of data, with innate intuitive ability, to build or discover structures of thought or meaning. They explain how a child, with not much accumulated data, is able to naturally apprehend general rules of grammar.

They describe other limitations in AI. One is not being able to say what is not or could not be the case. This is different from the descriptive and predictive functions of AI. They also state that AI is not capable of moral thinking. It does not “think” in terms of what ought, or ought not, to be the case. While criticizing AI for not being sufficiently moral, they also criticize the persons training AI programs not to deal with moral issues, in order to prevent trolls and other bad actors from leading AI into an immoral direction. The authors believe this inhibits AI from possibly making interesting insights into ethical issues.

Short essays (réponses courtes)

Rappel – Ce sont des questions qui demandent des réponses subjectives. Les réponses données ici sont bonnes mais de nombreuses variations sont possibles.

1. The authors suggest that true intelligence involves the ability to engage in moral thinking and constraint, something current AI systems lack. In your opinion, is it possible or even desirable for AI to develop moral reasoning capabilities? What might be the potential benefits and risks of such advancements?

Réponse – corrigé

I wouldn't like AI to offer solutions to moral problems. Even if it's right, and we have the right to disagree, many would give up their prerogative to think morally out of mental laziness. Even if AI improves, it will still make mistakes or think in terms we don't consider moral. AI depends on data, and the data in question might indicate what is conventional (probable), not what is moral. Depending on existing data makes AI limited in innovative thinking. Climate change is now part of our “collective data”. This wasn't the case before it became an established scientific issue.

2. Reflecting on the debate over terraforming Mars, do you believe it is more important to preserve the planet's natural state or to prioritize its potential as a habitable environment for humanity? Explain your reasoning and consider the ethical, ecological, and practical implications.

Réponse – corrigé

We should go forward with terraforming in a limited and cautious way. It depends on whether a planet has existing life or not, and how the terraforming affects the environment. This depends on the specifics. Today we imagine things like irrigation, desalination, deforestation, landscaping. In the future, there might be radical techniques such as releasing chemicals in the atmosphere to adjust sunlight on the planet. If we have the technology to apply such methods, we can suppose that future AI will be able to predict good or bad consequences. We might also have at our disposal techniques to undo bad results.

REPONSES QCM CPGE 2025

“The false promise of chatGPT”

ANSWERS

1. A
2. C
3. C
4. A
5. CD
6. B
7. B
8. B
9. C
10. A
11. D
12. AC
13. D
14. B
15. B
16. D

GRAMMAR

17. B
18. B
19. D
20. D
21. A
22. B
23. C
24. B
25. D
26. C