

How to worry wisely about artificial intelligence



Do you remember what a leader is? An editorial

Commencer par question sur le titre:

What does the almost oxymoronic of the formulation “worry wisely” suggest? That we should remain cold-blooded and rational instead of panicking. That the issue is more complex, that there is no clear-cut right-and-wrong answer,

Note what almost sounds like an oxymoron in the question “to worry wisely”

Worry is strong and suggests a tiny amount of irrationality in your fear (concern would have sounded more rational)

Je vous rappelle (pour les textes de colle notamment, papier ou audio) que les textes commencent souvent par évoquer un aspect anecdotique ou contextuel. C’est le cas ici. **THE OPEN LETTER from « luminaries » (sommités)**

Luminaries : sommités

§1-4 INTRODUCTION

§1 Commonly-held views (visions répandues, communément admises) and questions

§2-3 What are LLMs (Large Language Models)?

→ what are the potential benefits of AI? “scaled up” capacities from “writing computer code” to “logic puzzles” to “plot summaries in emoji”

to outsmart, to outwit sb: être plus malin que
to outrun sb: dépasser (cf. courir plus vite que)

} Verbes malins car transitifs, sans préposition 😊

a proponent un défenseur (≠ an opponent)

scaled up: amplifié

- BUT, more importantly, scientific breakthroughs in the domains of
 - Climate change
 - Fusion power (électricité grâce à la fusion nucléaire)
 - Developing new drugs

→ what are the fears?

- The risk of AIs “outrunning their creators’ understanding?”
- Sci-fi scenario of the machine outsmarting its inventor
- Risk of disastrous consequences

→ Are

benefits outweighing the risks?

§4 Key questions. 1) what has changed 2) How scared should we be? 3) What should govts do?

WHAT HAS CHANGED?

§ 5-7 History of AI

Originally, AI simply learned from a given (labelled) set of data

AIs can now learn from online data (vast amounts of data)

§6 The rise of ChatGPT

Since last November, the general public has become aware of its capabilities (cf. the domain of education).

It has led to ChatGPT’s fame.

§ 7 the limits of LLMs

Not perfect:

- “patina of truth” (*vener*): a semblance of truth

A fabrication: quelque chose que l’on invente de toutes pièces (cf. a lie)

Outright (adjectif): complet. (adverbe : carrément)

- factual errors

rival firms: entreprises concurrentes

⚠️ VOCAB : concurrent NOM : rival, competitor
concurrent ADJ : rival

concurrence (économique) : competition (rivalry est possible mais moins courant)

HOW SCARED SHOULD WE BE?

§ 8 The sheer acceleration of the process has given rise to fear /raised concern (plus faible)

The sheer acceleration: l'accélération à elle seule, la simple acceleration
(sheer est donc un excellent adjectif)

Has it spun out of control? Has it escaped control ?

Hence: D'où Note : mot de liaison très pratique (notamment en question Mines et synthèse car suivi d'une phrase elliptique, sans verbe)

Accuracy : exactitude (accurate : exact Adj)

AI may threaten the future of humanity itself: could bring human species to the brink of extinction

§9 The fear of machines stealing jobs is not new BUT it could this be different this time

So far, man has always been able to switch to the jobs the machines couldn't do (OUR COMMENT: reminds us of creative destruction)

Dislocation = disruption

Demand for sth/sb

To be ruled out: être exclu (abstrait : pour une idée, hypothèse, etc)

S'utilise souvent à la forme négative : We shouldn't rule out this solution

§10-11 Figures about experts' fears and how realistic these fears are

The text draws on a survey of some AI experts: to assess their concerns, maybe even their fears. Indeed the word "nightmare" is used

To pose a risk: notez la collocation

To cause harm: faire du mal

The issue is hotly debated: ... est ardemment débattu / le sujet suscite de vifs débats (Note : utile en colles)

To be dismissed (au sens abstrait) = to be ruled out: être exclu

Guesswork (Uncountable): de simples conjectures/hypothèses

The worst fear ? Cause harm on a massive scale: Making viruses and poisons

Elon Musk : may have a vested interest in a pause: Indeed, he may want his own AI startup to have time to catch up with the existing ones (cf. Open AI)

The problem is that a pause is unenforceable, ie. Difficult to enforce (difficile à faire appliquer)

Rappel : To enforce the law : faire appliquer la loi

END OF OCTOBER 2ND CLASS

WHAT SHOULD GOVERNMENTS DO?

§12-15 Regulation is needed: the various approaches

§16-17: So, what to do?

§18: CONCLUSION: A balancing act

