

Swarming Stupidity

03-30-18

The general understanding of Artificial Intelligence is that of a machine taking over a specialized thinking process normally performed by humans and generating a result in a shorter time and with higher accuracy. But there are other forms of AI that utilize a partnership with thinking humans, and often in the area of forecasting and prediction reach a higher degree of accuracy than the typical AI model. One of such alternatives is called Swarming Intelligence.

Swarming Intelligence starts with the gathering together of a group of humans (the 'swarm') who are monitored as they are asked questions and respond with appropriate replies. AI algorithms are then used to evaluate the answers by noting everything about the person's response. How long it takes to complete an answer. The degree of hesitation, if any, during the course of the response, and many more behavioral artifacts. San Francisco based Unanimous AI is one such swarming firm. It achieved a 94% success rate in picking the Oscar winners in the top 16 categories -- missing only one.

To be sure, picking the winner of awards contains a lot of basic like or dislike. Serious contests like the Nobel require expert evaluation of the contestants' achievements. This may work very well as long as the human swarm is disinterested in anything but the merits of the subject being considered. But imagine if the swarm were the assembled governors of the Federal Reserve, and AI algorithms were written to evaluate the accuracy of their economic forecasts.

The Federal Reserve, other state banks and international financial organizations are presumed to know the basic workings of world capitalism. And the system itself is said to function in a rational manner thus making it possible for rational humans to determine trends and make adjustments as required so that the system provides what humans need to live and thrive.

The problem is that capitalism has gradually lost what little rationality it ever had and it has now been slapped around so much by its overseers that its gone completely ga-ga. And the efforts of those in charge to disguise concern while trying to detect a directionality in the system have led them to adopt a form of babbling that audibly mimics the madness of the system. They repeatedly state that the sickness is transitory, a term that means 'some time soon', for years on end, and when something bad happens, like a big downturn, it's strictly an isolated event -- Facebook, Apple, Intel, a Trumpian stupidity, and never anything indicating a structural problem.

There are two ways to deal with the fundamental problems of the capitalist system -- the first, and preferred, is to get rid of it altogether, but if you are one that has invested in it, dispense with all extraneous noise masquerading as intelligent evaluation and come to understand that you've made a lot of money from a system that is choking on its own residue -- that equity values supposedly based on future corporate earnings have risen 82% since 2012 while corporate profits have only

increased a total of 8% since then. It makes sense to cash in -- you don't deserve any of it anyway -- and staying invested means becoming invested in the creeping madness.

Some concern has been expressed about reports that a sector of the Chinese 'Communist' Party, the United Front Work Department, is being elevated to a state institution mainly for the purpose of projecting and protecting Chinese interests abroad. But it would take a very hypocritical (or very ignorant) American to express disapproval of this particular change in China foreign involvement. The American state has long ago done much the same thing but in a manner that reverses the process. In the National Endowment for Democracy the government established an institution designed for the same purpose as China's United Front Work Department. The NED includes, created for the purpose, units of the Democratic Party and the Republican Party, and the same from the AFL-CIO and the Chamber of Commerce. It's also at least as totalitarian in that the government itself is a duopoly of the Democratic and Republican parties, and the AFL-CIO is the official representative of organized labor as is the Chamber of Commerce for business. But one should have no fear that America is sliding toward communism. The NED is 'merely' an incipient trend toward a fascist corporate state. Imagine Mussolini in place of Mao.

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