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Knowledge & Wisdom: An Investigation Into Artificial Intelligence

Prompt:

Studies are showing that AI, while able to process vast amounts of information and support a wide variety of tasks that can enrich society when properly guided, has limits when it comes to processes and solutions that require reflection and deep understanding. In other words, AI currently represents a tremendous amount of knowledge, but perhaps is out of its league when it comes to wisdom. Explore the interplay between knowledge and wisdom. Can AI ever truly possess wisdom? How does the emergence of AI as a master of knowledge change the role of organic intelligence in guiding society toward the common good?

When investigating the ever-evolving relationship between knowledge and wisdom within the expansion of artificial intelligence, it is common to find an association between the two. As AI begins to access every corner of humanity's knowledge, from engineering to art, it is becoming increasingly apparent that this form of intelligence can reach far beyond human capacities. However, it must be noted that wisdom and knowledge are two vastly different entities, and that AI does not yet fully possess the human quality that is wisdom, as it is not an organic entity.

To enter into this discussion of AI's capacity for knowledge, it must be first established that wisdom is "the ability to use your knowledge and experience to make good decisions and judgments" (Cambridge Dictionary). If one must possess experience and the ability to make

judgements, then it can be reasonably assumed that one must also be conscious in their decision making. However, when assessing the limitations of artificial intelligence, it is important to note that AI is not yet capable of human consciousness. As pointed out by Cambridge's Dr. Tom McClelland, "AI will process information in ever more complex ways but will never process that information consciously. After all, it's one thing to process the colour of a traffic light but quite another to experience its redness" (McClelland). Without that ability to consciously process information, AI cannot truly possess the human capacity for wisdom. While AI can systematically process information better than any human, it cannot yet make morals-based judgement calls in the same way that a human can, ultimately revealing that AI can possess knowledge, but not wisdom.

While some may argue that wisdom is primarily results based and independent of having a conscious base, this view overlooks the principle of using experience, reasoning, and morals to make decisions. If an algorithm is solely focused on producing a desirable outcome, there is the possibility of overlooking ethical connotations, causing unintended side-effects, and casting aside difficult to comprehend human values while in pursuit of an end result.

As AI continues to expand, the role that organic intelligence plays in guiding humanity to the common good will undoubtedly shift. While organic intelligence currently presides over the majority of human decision-making and its implementation, it is presumable that artificial intelligence will be integrated into making those processes smoother and more streamlined moving forward. While humans will still oversee the decision making aspect, AI could aid in promoting the common good by increasing both accessibility and understanding of information (rgordon). With AI being able to source from all of the available information and also translate it into an understandable form, it will allow a large number of people to better understand the

intricacies of their world, promoting the advancement of the common good. Additionally, AI is most useful in a supporting role to humans, for there could be a plethora of undiscovered risks if AI is allowed to become the sole decision maker for the human race.

In conclusion, it can be said that AI does not yet possess the capacity to obtain human wisdom, as it does not yet have the consciousness required to make decisions based on moral ideology and prior experience. Furthermore, it is apparent that AI will possess a role in fulfilling the common good in the future, but it will most likely be in a supportive and foundational role under the supervision of human oversight.

Works Cited

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