GenAI is Fundamentally Different

- **Not a search engine**: Returns patterns that "go together" rather than exact information
- **Replicates past patterns**: Can perpetuate historical inequities from training data
- **Our brains aren't equipped**: Human cognition struggles to properly evaluate AI outputs
- **Unique capabilities and risks**: Creates new opportunities and dangers

The Nature of AI: "Smart, Drunk, Biased, Supremely Confident Interns"

- **Smart**: Can process vast amounts of information and generate coherent responses
- **Drunk**: Makes unpredictable errors and "hallucinates" false information
- **Biased**: Reflects and amplifies societal biases present in training data
- **Supremely Confident**: Presents all information with equal certainty, regardless of accuracy

Evidence of Bias in AI Systems

- **Image Generation**: Different racial/cultural representations based on music preferences
- **Grading Disparities**: Students receive different scores based on stated interests (classical vs. rap music)
- **Inconsistent Evaluation**: Same math problems graded differently across AI models (scores ranging from 20-100%)

How AI Actually Works

- **Pattern Completion**: Functions like "fill in the blank" at massive scale
- **Black Box Decision-Making**: Unlike transparent algorithms, AI decisions cannot be fully explained

Current Uses and Emerging Dangers

Top Uses:

1. Therapy/companionship (31% of users)
2. Organizing daily life
3. Finding purpose and enhancing learning
4. Code generation and idea development

Critical Risks:

- Continuing inequitable patterns
- Inappropriate content generation for vulnerable populations (children, those with mental health conditions)
- Reinforcement of delusions or harmful behaviors
- Creation of inappropriate relationships with AI companions

Key Takeaway

GenAI technology offers new capabilities but operates fundamentally differently from human reasoning or traditional software. Its tendency to replicate historical patterns while presenting information with unwarranted confidence creates unique risks for equity and vulnerable populations that require thoughtful regulatory approaches.

Sources

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