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The Parallel Revolution of Artificial Intelligence and the Cognitive Design of the Human Species: The Emergence of Societal Prioritization of Electricity, Water, and Employment

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Abstract **Original Research Article**

The pursuit of rapid information and solution-based problem-solving has led technologists to acquire extensive knowledge and behavioral data to advance the functionality of artificial intelligence (AI). This cognitive shift towards accelerated access to information and problem-solving has, unintentionally, generated competition between humans and AI for natural and societal resources. The resources are the energy and water required by data centers, as well as societal factors related to employment opportunities, particularly in sectors undergoing automation.

Keywords: artificial intelligence (AI), Cloud Walkers, cloud farms, cognitive, creativity, digital, Earth Walkers, electricity, employment, hardware, human cognition, information, knowledge, library science, rare minerals, software, speed, water, technologists.

Introduction

Currently, technologists—hereafter referred to as "Cloud Walkers," denoting individuals who develop and control digital hardware and software to accelerate information access—are transforming library science through the application of artificial intelligence (AI) [1]. These Cloud Walkers draw upon the extensive body of human knowledge established by early philosophers such as Aristotle, and the following intellectuals such as Leonardo Da Vinci, Galileo Galilei, Isaac Newton, Leonhard Euler**,** René Descartes, Ada Lovelace, James Clerk Maxwell, Marie Curie, Albert Einstein, John von Neumann, and Richard Feynman, all of whom have contributed to this intellectual reservoir of human discoveries, ideas, methods and inventions. The individuals listed represent only a fraction of the broader intellectual tradition. Cloud Walkers have systematically mined the comprehensive record of human achievement and will continue to do so.

The pursuit of speed for information and solutions is the backbone of human cognitive growth. For example, the dispute between Newton and Leibniz over the invention and publication of calculus shows the value of quick information sharing. Does this sound familiar? Everyone wants to be the first to answer a question, solve a problem, publish a stance, make a discovery, or invent something useful.

Cloud Walkers [2] is a metaphor for top technology companies like Alphabet, Apple, AWS, Meta, Oracle, and Microsoft. These companies deliver applications, cloud storage, and AI services. Their operations need significant electricity, water for cooling, rare minerals for making hardware, and advanced chips, such as those from Nvidia. They also rely on strategic collaborations with groups like OpenAI to keep systems running well. As Cloud Walkers' digital technologies consume more resources, opportunities for unexpected discoveries and human creativity may decline. Growing demand for electricity, water, and labor in the digital sector could create conflicts with the larger population, called Earth Walkers [3], especially among those who favor individualism over AI's collective focus. This shift in how resources are allocated between AI and human needs is expected to accelerate over the next 25 years.

Humanity's Creativity

Potential Dissolution and Conflict

The potential and massive decline in human creativity, combined with the increasing demand for electricity, water, and employment generated by artificial intelligence, presents a substantial challenge to the quality of life. Technologists need to acknowledge this perceived threat and develop a comprehensive response. Establishing partnerships with universities across disciplines, such as the arts, law, literature, mathematics, and sciences, will facilitate the development of strategies to guide the responsible growth of AI while safeguarding creativity and innovation.

Sustainability

In contrast, Earth Walkers represent the vast majority of humanity. They currently provide financial capital that sustains the Cloud Walkers' visions. Earth Walkers validate those visions and serve as the primary economic drivers of these initiatives. As the foundation of technological progress, their essential role must be recognized by the Cloud Walkers, principally by ensuring fair and transparent allocation of energy, water, and employment resources.

Speed

The historical process of discovery reflects the evolution of human cognition, and the benefits artificial intelligence systems gain from these advancements enable them to efficiently retrieve information. The slide rule, invented in the 17th century, facilitated mathematical calculations. In the 1970s, handheld calculators accelerated computational tasks. Subsequently, digital computers enabled even faster computations, and contemporary quantum computers now address complex problems with unprecedented speed [4]. The historical rivalry between Newton and Leibniz illustrates the importance of rapid publication, as both scholars published their findings promptly, each claiming to have invented calculus first.

Innovators

Historically, human discovery is fundamentally based on observation and intentional outcomes. Key figures in the information revolution, including Steve Jobs, Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg, and Elon Musk, facilitated the shift from the industrial to the digital and now to the quantum era. Their achievements were the result of purposeful effort rather than random chance, underscoring the enduring significance of human observation and goal-directed accomplishment, even as artificial intelligence continues to advance. The unique strengths of humanity should benefit society as a whole, rather than a privileged minority. Had artificial intelligence prevailed during the formative periods of Jobs, Gates, or Musk, their groundbreaking innovations might have been stifled. The primary concern is that AI could limit widespread participation in intellectual progress, potentially leading to an environment devoid of significant discoveries.

If fewer individuals pursue higher education, intellectual discovery across various disciplines will decline. This issue is immediate, as the convenience and promotional narratives surrounding AI are increasingly positioning university attendance as less essential. However, the aforementioned innovators emerged from large and diverse communities, illustrating that individual intellect flourishes in environments that encourage curiosity. The central question is whether reliance on AI risks fostering

cognitive passivity and dependence on algorithmic processes. This dilemma—whether AI will undermine human creativity and discovery—requires a critical evaluation of humanity's role in a world shaped by artificial intelligence. The primary challenge is to ensure that AI does not overshadow or diminish distinct human capabilities in this evolving era.

Priority Struggle for Electrical Power, Water, and Employment

The First Question: Natural Resources

The first question is: How should resources such as electrical power (EP), water (H_2O), and employment (ET) be allocated between humans and AI? These resources are important to technological advancement, and technologists play a significant role in shaping allocation decisions.

If oxygen (O_2) were considered the primary resource rather than EP, prioritizing human needs would be universally accepted.

The Struggle for the Fittest

The ongoing competition between the Cloud Walkers' (CW) artificial intelligence (AI) and the Earth Walkers (EW) focuses on determining which group receives priority to essential resources, including power (EP), water (H_2O), and employment (ET).

Allocation of Resources

In this context, CW denotes scenarios in which artificial intelligence (AI) accumulates a significant share of electrical power (EP), water (H_2O), and employment (ET). Conversely, EW describes situations where human consumption is less than the sum of EP, H_2O, and ET. The following three heuristic percentage graphs examine electrical power, water, and employment. These graphs present projected outcomes over the next 25 years, emphasizing how technological mechanisms such as automation and data processing systems are expected to influence, and potentially reduce, human consumption and participation in essential resources, including energy, water, and employment opportunities.

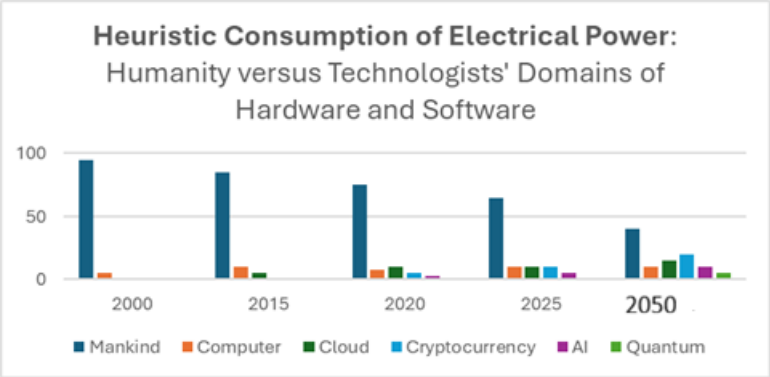

Figure 1. The heuristic chart demonstrates the shifting priorities associated with the decline in electrical power among the general population, referred to as Earth Walkers, and the corresponding increase among technologists, known as Cloud Walkers, who support their respective hardware and software domains.

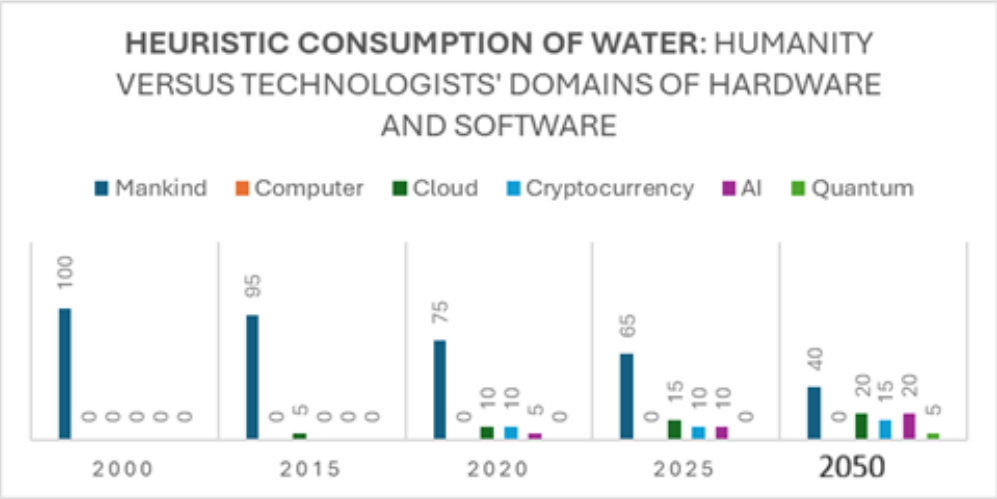

Figure 2. The water allocation chart indicates a shift in societal priorities. Access to water among Earth Walkers is decreasing, whereas the adoption of Cloud Walkers' technologies, which emphasize digital hardware and software, is increasing.

Starting in 2025, employment patterns in the private and commercial sectors are expected to undergo a gradual transformation. Forecasts indicate that by 2050, the majority of jobs will be performed by AI, except for trades professions, thereby reversing the current human-to-AI workforce distribution.

Changing Priorities

The artificial intelligence systems employed by the Cloud Walkers demand increased energy (EP) and water (H2O) consumption, potentially diminishing overall quality of life and prioritizing technological needs over human requirements. While energy remains essential, water is indispensable because it sustains both human cognitive functions and the Cloud Walkers' digital infrastructure, which includes artificial intelligence, cloud storage, and cryptocurrency operations. Establishing a balance between technological advancement and environmental sustainability is essential for responsible resource allocation. This balance will determine whether human well-being and creativity remain central, ultimately shaping the direction of technological development.

The Second Question: Allocation of Employment Tasks Between Earth Walkers and Technologists' Machines

The second question: The question of whether public or private institutions should lead the allocation of employment between humans and artificial intelligence remains critical. Over the next five to ten years, both sectors must establish clear criteria for assigning roles to humans and AI systems. The development of a comprehensive, stepwise protocol is essential to ensure equitable employment and wealth distribution, as well as to address the social and psychological consequences of unemployment. Policymakers must implement bold measures that promote fair wealth distribution and uphold societal stability, taking decisive action to mitigate the risk of social unrest. It is therefore recommended that a joint task force, comprising representatives from both sectors, be established immediately to develop and oversee these protocols.

Paradigm Shifts

Displacement of Employment

Artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping societal perceptions of work. The Cloud Walkers advocate adopting AI tools to replace human labor, citing enhanced performance, increased efficiency, reduced error rates, and accelerated progress. These advancements affect employment, the arts, and decision-making processes. The accompanying

graph presents projected employment trends over the next 25 years resulting from this technological transformation.

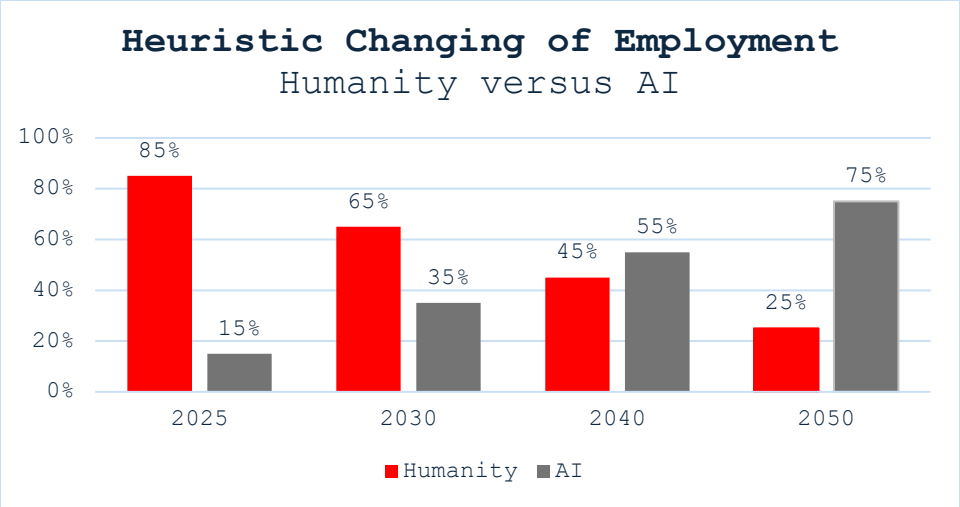

Figure 3. The substantial displacement of employment opportunities in Western societies over the next 25 years is likely to result in a fragmented democratic system as currently understood.

The Last Question: Who leads Private or World Governments?

Democratic governments, rather than private entities, should determine the societal role of artificial intelligence. Governments hold the responsibility to define and oversee AI to maintain a balance between human needs and technological progress. Through proactive leadership, governments can formulate policies that address global population dynamics and employment challenges. Global governance should take precedence over private sector priorities. Policymakers must ensure that economic systems adapt to AI in ways that promote the long-term welfare of humanity.

Is the Pursuit of a College Education Dead?

A recent statement by a Microsoft executive [6] downplays the significance of college education while highlighting the roles of artificial intelligence (AI) and quantum computing. This viewpoint risks undervaluing traditional higher education, which fosters creativity, discovery, and innovation. If AI-driven methods fully supplant student-professor interaction, there is a substantial risk of diminishing individual thought, since AI does not generate ideas in the same way as humans. Society should focus on expanding university enrollment and protecting the majority—Earth Walkers—from marginalization by the minority—the Cloud Walkers—instead of limiting educational opportunities. Fostering collaboration between these groups is essential to ensure that education remains dynamic and meaningful. AI should be used to enhance, not replace, college education, which is fundamental to intellectual progress.

To safeguard our collective future, we must prioritize higher education to ensure that AI remains a tool serving humanity rather than becoming its master.

Crossroads

We are positioned at a pivotal juncture. The central question is whether we should cede our autonomy to

technology developers and their innovations, or safeguard the human community's legacy of creativity, discovery, and invention. Artificial intelligence is built upon the collective knowledge contributed by individuals from diverse backgrounds. It remains our responsibility to ensure that AI enhances human capabilities rather than supplanting the distinct qualities that define humanity. This distinction is crucial in shaping the future of humanity.

Mental Mapping Realignment

Faster

Artificial intelligence is most effective when human expertise and interdisciplinary methodologies complement the capabilities of digital machines. This partnership enables AI systems to deliver accurate results by leveraging human knowledge, similar to an enhanced library system. However, machines alone cannot guarantee accuracy; human involvement is essential. Accurately assessing solutions—whether at 10%, 50%, 75%, or 100%—knowledge from fields like the arts, depends on specialized, cross-disciplinary literature, mathematics, and science. Therefore, integrating diverse human skills is crucial for a robust and effective AI ecosystem.

Demand and Supply

Chipmaker, The New Version of the Tulips War

AI Chips

The demand for AI chips is increasing exponentially, as these components provide the core memory and processing power required for artificial intelligence. Although both AI chips and the human brain rely on electrical activity, they differ significantly in how they respond to resource scarcity. The endurance of AI systems depends on the availability of external resources, whereas the human brain's endurance has developed through genetic adaptation.

Electricity and Water

This section highlights the Skywalkers, the efforts of technologists to accommodate AI hardware and software, and the resulting impact on electricity demand and supply.

That rallying cry is echoing across Silicon Valley. Executives at Meta say they expect to spend $600 billion on AI infrastructure, including massive data centers, through 2028. ("AI Capex Boom: Payoff Uncertain for Infrastructure, Data Center Wars ...") OpenAI and Oracle have announced plans to put $500 billion into a data center project dubbed Stargate. In comparison, Amazon plans to spend more than $30 billion on capital expenditures, or capex, in each of the next two quarters.[8]

If you're wondering why OpenAI is partnering up with every chipmaker under the sun, BI's Emma Cosgrove and Robert Scammell have you covered. ("OpenAI's latest AI infrastructure deal raises the question: When is ...")

Still, as BI's Ellen Thomas smartly points out, there is a key piece of the AI puzzle that's missing. OpenAI's massive collection of computing power is useless unless it has electricity to power it.[9]

Previous analyses by advocates of technological advancement emphasize the increasing demand for electricity, water, and employment as key drivers of infrastructure development.

Further comments regarding the AI's need for electricity:

The numbers are nothing in need of staggering. Take Sam Altman, Open AI's CEO. He reportedly desires 250 gigawatts of latest electrical energy—equal to about half of Europe's all-time peak load—to run gigantic new information facilities within the U.S. and elsewhere worldwide by 2033.[10]

What OpenAI is trying to do is absolutely historic," says Varun Sivaram, Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations." ("Companies like OpenAI are sucking up power at a historic rate. One ...") The problem is, "there is no way today that our grids, with our power plants, can supply that energy to those projects, and it can't possibly happen on the timescale that AI is trying to accomplish." [11]

Employment

Elon Musk and others' Skywalkers' promotion of a utopian world of free time (no work) and a moneyless economy (zero currency) can be summed up in the following statement.

"If the economic value of labor declines so that labor is just not very useful anymore, we will have to rethink how our society is structured," Anton Korinek, professor, and faculty director of the Economics of Transformative AI Initiative at the University of Virginia, told Fortune. [12]

Conclusion

The Cloud Walkers, the technologists, prioritize science and technology, particularly artificial intelligence, asserting that these advancements will diminish the necessity for traditional labor. Their strategy involves rationing food for individuals not engaged in work and mandates strict adherence to their guiding principles, with the stated objective of serving humanity. In contrast, the Earth Walkers reject these restrictions, emphasizing freedom as fundamental to fostering creativity, innovation, and leadership. They regard these attributes as vital for future cultural and scientific progress.

Francesca Rochberg, in her analysis [13], emphasizes the underlying contributions of C. P. Snow.

In the Rede lecture of 1959, C.P. Snow speaks in terms of two cultures, one of science, the other of literary intellectuals. Snow's discussion presupposes that science represents a culture of its own, independent of and superior to the arts and humanities, and unified within itself. At our present distance from this claim, Snow's point of view can be seen as a product of the philosophical orientation to science as an embodiment of universal truths about nature as well as cold war pressures on the West to improve educational standards in science.

A comparison of Snow's "The Two Cultures and the Scientific Revolution" with the dichotomy between Cloud Walkers—contemporary technologists who prioritize scientific reasoning—and Earth Walkers, who advocate for the humanities, ethics, and broader human experience, reveals a philosophical divergence. The revolution led by the Skywalkers is more philosophically constrained than C. P. Snow originally envisioned, prompting questions about the capacity of non-scientists to challenge the Skywalkers' objectives effectively. This narrowing of perspective poses risks to both intellectual inquiry and personal integrity.

Earth Walkers represent individuals who reject the vision for humanity proposed by the Cloud Walkers. The Cloud Walkers seek to establish a society governed by scientific dogma, regulated labor, and daily rationing, whereas Earth Walkers actively resist these imposed structures and limitations.

Their autonomy from such regulation positions them as potential leaders in humanity's next transformative era.

Alan Watts states beautifully, humanity's cognitive mapping …

Life is full of paradoxes, you feel WEAK before you're STRONG, LOST before you're WISE, AFRAID before you're BRAVE. ("Alan Watts once said life is full of paradoxes, you feel WEAK before ...") Maybe, feeling stuck isn't failure, it's just the middle of your becoming.[14]

Or as the AI's protagonist or disciple, Elon Musk states:

"The question will really be one of meaning: If the computer and robots can do everything better than you, does your life have meaning?"" ("The Surprising Truth Behind Musk's "Optional Work" Revolution") he said. "I do think there's perhaps still a role for humans in this—in that we may give AI meaning." [15]

Ayn Rand, in The Fountainhead: "Men have been taught that it is a virtue to agree with others. But the creator is the man who disagrees … Men have been taught that it is virtue to stand together. But the creator is the man who stands alone." [16]

When a minority persuades the majority, the resulting shift can transmute the tyranny of the minority into the tyranny of the majority. A decline in individualism adversely affects both human welfare and innovation. This shift prompts critical questions regarding the distribution of resources such as electricity, water, and employment over the next 25 years among the general population, minority groups, and technocratic artificial intelligence systems.

If universities regard science as the sole form of culture, the status of the humanities becomes uncertain. Eliminating the humanities from curricula removes a fundamental dimension of human thought and diminishes the distinctive cognitive frameworks associated with individuality and societal advancement.

The integration of both scientific and humanistic cultures helps prevent society from being dominated by political extremes at either end of the spectrum or by a synthesis that could lead to totalitarianism.

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