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Shaping AI's Impact on Billions of People

A team of senior computing researchers plus rising stars in AI developed a nuanced take on AI's impact, in contrast to the awkward discourse between AI accelerationists and AI doomers. This paper (see ShapingAI.com) is by researchers and primarily for researchers, taking into account recent developments relevant to the impact of AI in a variety of economic and social domains and highlighting key milestones and areas for further study. Our view is that we are still in the early days of practical AI, and focused efforts by practitioners, policymakers, and other stakeholders can still increase the upsides of AI and reduce its downsides. In particular, rather than trying to predict what it will look like in the next 5 to 10 years, we identify concrete research milestones that, if achieved, will enhance Al's positive impact in the near future. To complement our expertise, we interviewed two dozen domain experts with distinctive experience relevant to our topic including Nobel laureate John Jumper on science; President Barack Obama on governance; former national security adviser Susan Rice on security; and philanthropist and former Google CEO Eric Schmidt on governance and science. We focused on Al impact in seven fields: employment, education, healthcare, information / news / social networking, media / entertainment, governance / national security / open source, and science. This paper also introduces a new nonprofit organization that will fund a novel approach to reach these milestones.