HOW DO YOU WANT TO LIVE WITH AI SYSTEMS?

You no longer need to be a clairvoyant: AI systems have already changed and will continue to change our everyday lives. AI-supported learning apps are used as well as image processing and image recognition programs with AI functions or route planners that use AI algorithms. In addition, language models such as ChatGPT support us in writing texts. At the same time, we find many fake news or fake profiles on social media platforms that are difficult to recognize as such.

In many areas, we cannot yet estimate how far developments and changes brought about by AI systems will go. Nevertheless, the question arises as to how far we want to push AI developments or whether or at what point we should/must restrict them. In addition to legal regulations, this also depends heavily on the actual technical development that is possible. It is possible that some of our current ideas are not realizable. Others are slowly creeping into our everyday lives, so that we barely notice them anymore, whereas they will play an important role in the future. Ultimately, there will be areas of life in which AI systems hardly make a difference, while in others AI systems will be indispensable.

You looked at various scenarios in the box:

SCHOOL AND WORK LIFE

Tasks adapted to your needs, learning with interesting topics and AI systems that support teachers with routine tasks so that they have more time for you and your questions? That would be the idea of a school of the future that fulfils many scientific considerations.

On the other hand, this could also mean that AI systems assess performance. What standard will be used for this assessment? Is the focus on individual improvement or on comparison with a perfect group? Or is the person who is better at using AI systems? To what extent do prejudices such as 'Maths is not for girls' influence the assessments?

AI systems can also help with routine tasks in the world of work. But do we really want to work with an AI-controlled robot system instead of a bakery shop assistant? What will happen to these people once their jobs have been taken over by machines? And does the AI system really only monitor production or also the performance of the employees on the assembly line? What consequences can this have for employees?

HEALTH AND MEDICINE

Fast diagnosis and treatment are the key to successful recovery for many diseases. AI systems that constantly analyze our available health data and sound the alarm in the event of discrepancies can help to detect diseases at an early stage. They also ease the burden on medical professionals in monitoring standard values.

In summary, the outbreak of diseases could even be recognized more quickly than has previously been the case, as a larger amount of data can be analyzed quickly.

can be analyzed quickly. But what happens if this health data ends up in the hands of insurance companies, employers or other groups of people? Is it more likely that insurance rates will rise or that companies will reject applicants because they have a certain illness?

AI systems support hearing or visually impaired people by converting audio signals (speech, films) into text or text into audio signals. This certainly is a big step towards independence for these people and a contribution to inclusion. But what if the AI system describes a situation incorrectly or reads out something incorrectly, putting people's lives at risk? Or if someone deliberately manipulates descriptions to harm people?

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

Our climate is changing as global warming increases. Extreme weather situations such as storms, floods and earthquakes are increasing. Here, too,

AI systems can provide support by monitoring the data collected and issuing warnings in the event of significant changes in order to rescue people out of dangerous situations. But how often will people flee to safety if the AI system issues faulty warnings? And

what happens in the event of an actual disaster? And how much does the running of AI systems themselves contribute to worsening climate change because the large AI data centers emit extremely high levels of CO2?

AI systems are also used to monitor power grids or smart homes or self-driving cars.

This allows the available electricity from renewable energies to be optimally distributed or your heating system is optimized and warms up according to your habits. What a service! But in the wrong hands, this can lead to massive power outages or to self-driving cars no longer being controllable. We'd better not have to imagine the consequences. And do you really want an AI system to decide at what temperature you can freeze or sweat?

FREEDOM AND SECURITY

An AI system that monitors public places gives us a sense of security: it can search the recorded video footage for criminals.

If a target is found, drones could follow this person until the police arrive. But do you really always want to be monitored in public? What consequences will your school prank still have 20 years later? And what if the AI system recognizes someone incorrectly and sends a drone for surveillance? Or equips it directly with weapons to apprehend a criminal? And will the police immediately arrest you just because you look like someone who has committed a crime?

Authoritarian systems and dictatorships go even further: surveillance mechanisms make it easier to monitor their own population so that any resistance can be quickly recognized and suppressed.

POLITICS AND LAW

They assess voter behavior, make voting recommendations and influence opinion-forming. Extremist groups and undemocratic organizations in particular also use AI systems in election campaigns to spread false reports about their political opponents and unsettle people. How do such representations influence the population's voting behavior if it is no longer clear at first glance whether it is a true fact or a fake? Can we still form a free opinion in this way or do we just vote for what an AI system thinks is right?

You can find more information on AI systems in the fight against crime in **box 23**.

EVERYDAY LIFE

AI systems are already being used on all social media platforms. They recommend new content, suggest new friends and show you adverts that are tailored to your previous behavior on the platform and on the internet. This is how they try to influence your next purchase decision. The aim is to customize your feed to your interests so that you spend as much time as possible on the social media platform and don't put your smartphone down. The disadvantage is that the algorithms determine what content and products you see and indirectly determine who and what you identify with. Is your personality 'remote-controlled' and shaped by an AI algorithm?

Conclusion: No matter what area of our lives we are talking about: When using AI systems, we should always critically weigh up the consequences of doing so. It doesn't help to be afraid of the systems, but you must not be naive about the (future) use of AI systems either. Get involved, check ideas for the use of AI critically for their consequences and help decide where the use of AI makes sense. We all need to be courageous in order to change society and break new ground, but we must not jeopardize our safety and freedom in the process.