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Technological Forecasting: An Information Science Perspective on the Future of AI

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Technological Forecasting: An Information Science Perspective on the Future of AI

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Wayne Gretzky said: “Don’t skate to where the puck is, skate to where it will be.” Recent developments in Artificial Intelligence (AI) have led thousands of scientists and industry leaders to call for a pause in development. Other experts say this is fear mongering. Technological forecasting is the effort to create robust predictions about emerging transformative technologies like AI. The key to forecasting is to never stop asking: What happens next?

AI development trendlines are revealed by combining several factors: development agendas of AI labs, surveys of AI experts, and the growth of funding, data, and processing power. We are not close to the final development in AI. Some researchers claim AI will be the next climate change or global pandemic. Forecasting implores us to take this possibility seriously. Strategic planning and future-forward policy development needs to take into account where AI will be, not just where it currently is.