

# Table of Contents

Thomas B. Fowler: Artificial Intelligence

Foundations, Limitations, Benefits and Dangers

|                                                                      |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Preface .....</b>                                                 | <b>XI</b> |
| <b>PART ONE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AS TECHNOLOGY .....</b>          | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>Chapter I Introduction .....</b>                                  | <b>3</b>  |
| Background .....                                                     | 3         |
| What is Artificial Intelligence? .....                               | 4         |
| AI Breakdown .....                                                   | 8         |
| The Idea Behind AI.....                                              | 11        |
| Claims commonly made for AI .....                                    | 13        |
| How to Analyze AI Claims .....                                       | 13        |
| Brief history of thought about the human mind and intelligence ..... | 15        |
| <b>Chapter II How Does AI Work? .....</b>                            | <b>20</b> |
| Conceptual Overview of the Large Language Model .....                | 20        |
| Building Blocks of AI Systems .....                                  | 22        |
| *Construction of neural networks. ....                               | 22        |
| *Mathematical operation of neural network training .....             | 25        |
| Basic architecture of chatbots and Generative AI .....               | 28        |
| How is AI training done, and why is it so expensive? .....           | 36        |
| AI Reasoning .....                                                   | 38        |
| Observations on Generative AI and Neural Networks.....               | 41        |
| Robots and robotic systems.....                                      | 45        |
| Autonomous cars .....                                                | 49        |
| Symbolic Manipulation Programs .....                                 | 52        |
| Large-scale complex system control programs .....                    | 54        |
| <b>Chapter III Catastrophes and Imagined Dangers .....</b>           | <b>56</b> |
| Will AI Destroy Humanity? .....                                      | 56        |
| AI: disruptive technology or ego trip? .....                         | 60        |

|                                                                          |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Has Computer Improvement Yielded Qualitative Changes? .....              | 63         |
| Quick summary.....                                                       | 66         |
| <b>Chapter IV AI Performance: Promise and Reality .....</b>              | <b>67</b>  |
| Benchmarking AI Performance .....                                        | 69         |
| Revenue and investment estimates for AI services .....                   | 77         |
| AI and energy consumption .....                                          | 99         |
| ROI summary .....                                                        | 103        |
| Does it work? (1) Chatbots and Generative AI.....                        | 104        |
| AI gaffes.....                                                           | 106        |
| Can we avoid “hallucinations”?.....                                      | 112        |
| Making AI smarter .....                                                  | 114        |
| Reasoning and training material .....                                    | 115        |
| Chatbots and education .....                                             | 117        |
| The old is new again .....                                               | 121        |
| Does it work? (2) AI agents .....                                        | 122        |
| Can AI do this? .....                                                    | 125        |
| AI: Hard or easy to develop? .....                                       | 129        |
| Summary of requirements for AI engagement in various areas .....         | 131        |
| A cautionary tale .....                                                  | 133        |
| <b>PART TWO THE PARADIGM OF KNOWING IN AI AND IN HUMANS.....</b>         | <b>135</b> |
| <b>Chapter V The Theory of Knowing Employed in AI .....</b>              | <b>137</b> |
| Why This Is Important .....                                              | 137        |
| Hume’s philosophy and the Sensible Intelligence Underpinning of AI ..... | 137        |
| Engineering Background .....                                             | 138        |
| Hume’s theory and its relationship to AI.....                            | 140        |
| The Nominalism Illusion .....                                            | 146        |
| Digital metaphysics .....                                                | 150        |
| Formal causality.....                                                    | 151        |
| Symbolic manipulation programs.....                                      | 152        |

## **Chapter VI Human Knowing and How it differs from AI..... 154**

|                                                      |     |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Our fundamental experience of reality.....           | 154 |
| Sentience and its importance .....                   | 156 |
| Sentient intelligence vs sensible intelligence ..... | 160 |
| Rethinking the notion of truth.....                  | 165 |
| Experience of the world .....                        | 171 |
| Human reality .....                                  | 173 |
| Other problems.....                                  | 175 |
| Physical brains and non-physical realities .....     | 177 |

## **Chapter VII AI's Real Capabilities..... 186**

|                                                                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Symbol manipulation vs interaction with reality .....                             | 186 |
| Difference between knowing what things are,<br>and how things behave .....        | 188 |
| Difference between aiding human knowing<br>and replacing human knowing.....       | 189 |
| Creative thinking and understanding vs.<br>rote or algorithmic manipulation ..... | 190 |
| Effect of utilizing the wrong paradigm for human knowing in AI.....               | 192 |
| Locked into the past vs looking to the future .....                               | 192 |
| Some interesting applications of AI .....                                         | 192 |

## **Chapter VIII Technological, Economic, and Ethical Limitations of AI .... 198**

|                                                                   |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Technological limitations now and in the foreseeable future ..... | 198 |
| Generative AI, Chatbots, and NLP .....                            | 204 |
| Economic limitations and cost/benefit of AI.....                  | 207 |
| Robots and robotic systems.....                                   | 213 |
| Pattern recognition and image processing .....                    | 214 |
| Generative AI, Chatbots, and NLP .....                            | 214 |
| Summary of economic factors .....                                 | 217 |
| Ethical limitations and the good of society as a whole .....      | 218 |
| Utilitarianism as an ethical theory for AI.....                   | 220 |

|                                                                         |            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Ethical principles already proposed .....                               | 222        |
| Ethical issues in robotics .....                                        | 224        |
| Proposing and enforcing limitations on AI .....                         | 225        |
| Intellectual Property Rights .....                                      | 228        |
| AI: another “Dark Web”? .....                                           | 232        |
| Summary of Ethics Issues .....                                          | 233        |
| Will AI be a world changing technology? .....                           | 234        |
| <b>Chapter IX The Real Dangers of AI .....</b>                          | <b>241</b> |
| Giving AI systems responsibilities they cannot handle .....             | 241        |
| Expecting AI to do things that require human perception of reality..... | 243        |
| Ignoring the complexification penalty .....                             | 244        |
| Substituting AI for human relationships .....                           | 244        |
| Transhumanism .....                                                     | 248        |
| The corruption of education .....                                       | 249        |
| The digital classroom .....                                             | 250        |
| AI and criminal activity .....                                          | 252        |
| <b>PART THREE TECHNOLOGY’S INTERACTION WITH SOCIETY .....</b>           | <b>257</b> |
| <b>Chapter X The Stages of Technology Revolutions .....</b>             | <b>259</b> |
| Three important stages .....                                            | 259        |
| Technology deployment pattern .....                                     | 263        |
| The Synergistic Relationship of Technology and Society .....            | 265        |
| Quantifying the benefits of technology .....                            | 268        |
| Where is AI in the technology revolution stages? .....                  | 271        |
| <b>Chapter XI Forecasting the Future of Technology .....</b>            | <b>275</b> |
| Disrupters.....                                                         | 277        |
| Rare events and “Black Swans” .....                                     | 277        |
| Chaotic systems .....                                                   | 280        |
| Nonlinear scaling .....                                                 | 281        |
| Complexification .....                                                  | 283        |

|                                                              |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Conclusion on disrupters.....                                | 283        |
| Technology forecasts good and bad .....                      | 284        |
| Extrapolating the past .....                                 | 284        |
| Disruptive technologies .....                                | 285        |
| New business models .....                                    | 291        |
| Potential of new technologies not recognized .....           | 292        |
| Propensity to think every new idea will work out .....       | 293        |
| Application to AI .....                                      | 294        |
| <b>Chapter XII What Can We Expect From AI? .....</b>         | <b>297</b> |
| Current status of AI .....                                   | 297        |
| AI forecast for the short term (1-5 years) .....             | 297        |
| Robotics and robotic systems .....                           | 297        |
| Neural Networks and pattern recognition .....                | 297        |
| Generative AI and Chatbots, including AI agents .....        | 300        |
| Symbol manipulation programs .....                           | 307        |
| Autonomous cars .....                                        | 307        |
| Large scale control systems.....                             | 310        |
| Expenditure projections for all forms of AI.....             | 310        |
| AI forecast for the long term (> 5 years) .....              | 311        |
| <b>Chapter XIII How Should We Live With AI? .....</b>        | <b>315</b> |
| The importance of human factors .....                        | 316        |
| Technology and the success of modern society .....           | 323        |
| Managing technological change .....                          | 325        |
| What kind of society do we want?.....                        | 327        |
| What should society look like? .....                         | 331        |
| Summary.....                                                 | 337        |
| <b>Conclusions.....</b>                                      | <b>339</b> |
| The four questions.....                                      | 340        |
| First Question: What are the theoretical limits of AI? ..... | 340        |

|                                                                      |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Second Question: What are the practical limits of AI? .....          | 341        |
| Third Question: What are the useful (economic) limits of AI? .....   | 342        |
| Fourth Question: What are the appropriate ethical uses for AI? ..... | 342        |
| The importance of physicality .....                                  | 343        |
| Summary of problems with AI .....                                    | 343        |
| Overall assessment .....                                             | 345        |
| <b>Appendix A Feedback Control Systems .....</b>                     | <b>349</b> |
| <b>Appendix B Gödel's Incompleteness Theorem .....</b>               | <b>351</b> |
| <b>Appendix C Art, AI and Reality .....</b>                          | <b>357</b> |
| Reality and Truth: The Transcendental .....                          | 357        |
| Art as a Window onto Reality .....                                   | 359        |
| Why art is important .....                                           | 372        |
| Art and Architecture in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century .....           | 372        |
| Conclusion .....                                                     | 373        |
| <b>Appendix D Chaotic Systems .....</b>                              | <b>374</b> |
| <b>Appendix E Complexification .....</b>                             | <b>378</b> |
| <b>Appendix F Glossary .....</b>                                     | <b>389</b> |
| <b>Bibliography .....</b>                                            | <b>397</b> |
| <b>Notes .....</b>                                                   | <b>401</b> |
| <b>Index .....</b>                                                   | <b>407</b> |