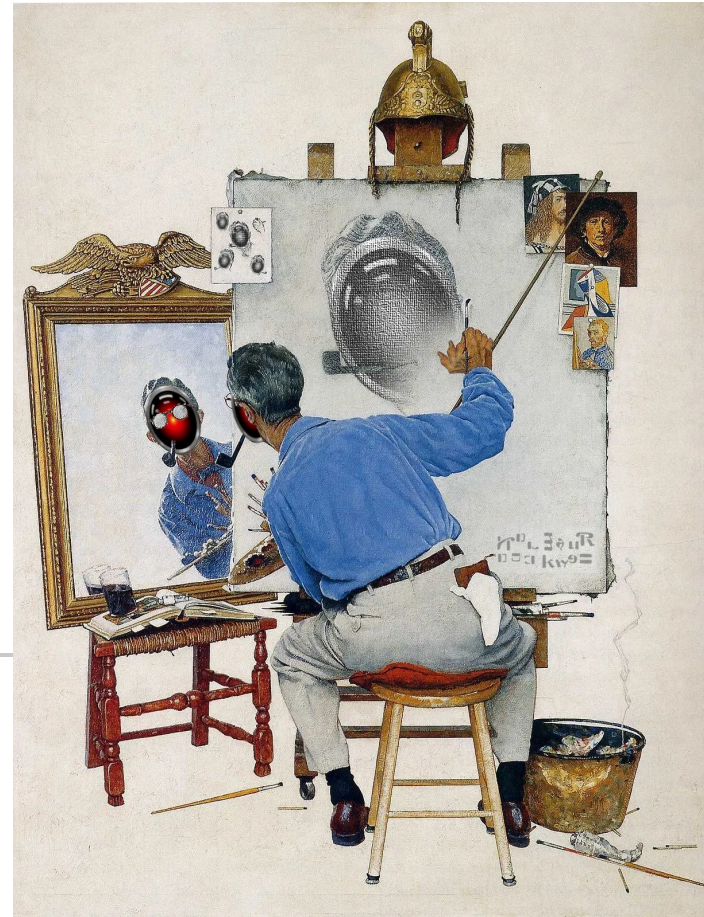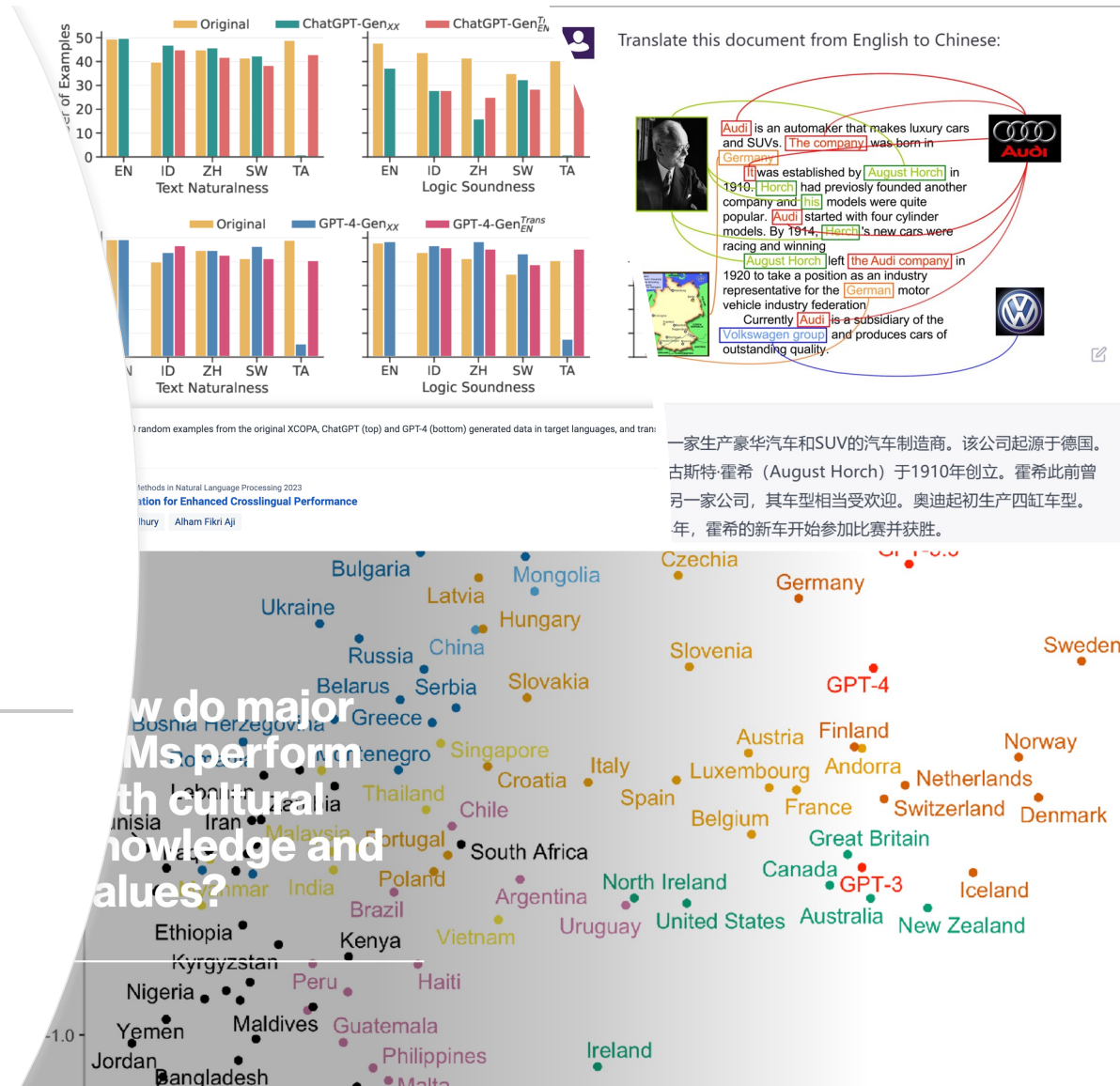# Bubbles and Slop: What Worries Me Today about "AI"

How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Large Language Model...and All of the Crazy Business Models that Come with LLMs...and the Slop they Produce....

My teaching and research....

In my classroom....

a Role in Almost All Aspects of the Language

Interpreting
Conference ·
On-site ·
(OPI) and **video remote** (VRI) ·
Remote simultaneous (RSI) ·
Machine interpreting (MI) ·

Value-add
roject management ·
Desktop publishing ·
nternationalization ·
nternational testing ·
Engineering ·
QA ·

Language technology
e **delivery tools:** terminology, ·
preting tools, quality assurance
, and **workflow management** ·
publishing: CMS, authoring ·
ontent enrichment, connectors
sual **tools:** dubbing, subtitling ·

Language and Global Content Offerings That Utilize AI

Translation and localization
· **Translation**
· **Transcreation**
· **MT editing**
· **Localization:** software, websites, games, mobile apps

Multimedia
· **Dubbing**
· **Narration**
· **Voice-over**
· **Subtitling**
· **Transcription**

Supporting services
· **Staffing and recruiting**
· **Language and cultural training**
· **Marketing services**: brand analysis, mar social media support, advertising, analyti
· **Content services**: management, enrichm creation, application development, conta
· **Specialty services:** Monolingual transcri processing, regulatory compliance, gene

On my iPhone and iPad....

_____

AI WORKERS' INQUIRY

A FAccT 2025 CRAFT Session that brings together workers, organizers, and labor experts to explore how AI is transforming our workplaces and discuss strategies for collective resistance
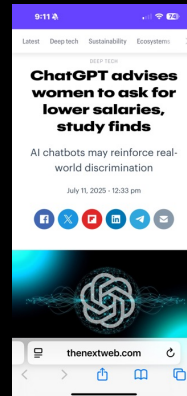
June 23, 2025, 4:15 PM–6:30 PM UTC+3

Athens, Greece and Online

RSVP FORM

Session Description

AI's impact on the labor process raises new questions about control, autonomy, and resistance. The goal of our workshop is to identify concrete possibilities for labor resistance by examining, with our participants and panelists, how AI technologies restructure work (and management), intensify exploitation, and shift the dynamics of control in everyday workplaces.

DEEP TECH

ChatGPT advises women to ask for lower salaries, study finds

AI chatbots may reinforce real-world discrimination

July 11, 2025 - 12:33 pm

thenextweb.com

What time is shown on this clock?

The clock shows 10:07.

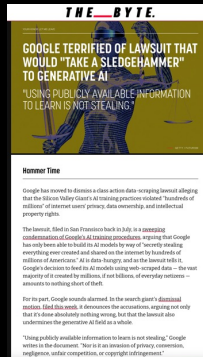# Centering Refugee and Migrant Voices: Human Rights-Based AI Evaluation Across Languages

Roya Pakzad (Taraaz and Mozilla Foundation)

Workshop Abstract

Humanitarian and government agencies are increasingly deploying generative AI chatbots to provide critical information to refugees, asylum seekers, and other displaced populations. Yet many of these tools are developed and evaluated primarily in English, often overlooking the linguistic, cultural, and legal nuances essential for safe and equitable access across diverse communities.

This virtual, hands-on CRAFT session invites participants to explore a web-based evaluation platform that allows users to interact with multilingual LLMs and assess their responses through a human-rights lens. After a brief introduction to the real-world deployment of AI chatbots in humanitarian settings, participants will independently navigate to the online mini-lab to complete an interactive exercise.

1) Select a scenario from a curated list of refugee and migration-related topics;
2) Choose and refine the translated version of the prompt;
3) Test it on a selected large language model (LLM); and
4) Evaluate the chatbot responses using a human-rights-centered rubric, comparing outputs across language pairs to identify inconsistencies, tone shifts, factual gaps, and safety concerns.

THE_BYTE.

GOOGLE TERRIFIED OF LAWSUIT THAT WOULD "TAKE A SLEDGEHAMMER" TO GENERATIVE AI

"USING PUBLICLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION TO LEARN IS NOT STEALING."

Hammer Time

Google has moved to dismiss a class action data-scraping lawsuit alleging that the Silicon Valley Giant's AI training practices violated "hundreds of millions" of internet users' privacy, data ownership, and intellectual property rights.

The lawsuit, filed in San Francisco back in July, is a sweeping condemnation of Google's AI training procedures, arguing that Google has only been able to build its AI models by way of "secretly stealing everything ever created and shared on the internet by hundreds of millions of Americans." AI is data-hungry, and as the lawsuit tells it, Google's decision to feed its AI models using web-scraped data — the vast majority of it created by millions, if not billions, of everyday netizens — amounts to nothing short of theft.

For its part, Google sounds alarmed. In the search giant's dismissal motion, filed this week, it denounces the accusations, arguing not only that it's done absolutely nothing wrong, but that the lawsuit also undermines the generative AI field as a whole.

"Using publicly available information to learn is not stealing," Google writes in the document. "Nor is it an invasion of privacy, conversion, negligence, unfair competition, or copyright infringement."

The Bubble Machine....

Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI, now openly speaks about an "AI bubble" and that some investors could lose a "tremendous amount of money" (August, 2025

New words, part of our daily vocabulary....

- CapEx

- Revenue vs. Profit

- Tech Bubbles

- Magnificent 7

- Asset Durability

Even the NYT is talking about it....

The New York Times
The Morning

Brendan McDermid/Reuters

Reality check

By Evan Gorelick
I'm a writer for The Morning.

How well is the stock market doing? That now depends, almost entirely, on artificial intelligence and the companies that make it.

Those companies, concentrated in Silicon Valley, are spending hundreds of billions of dollars. Investors think this tech is the future, so they're snapping up shares. By one estimate, 80 percent of U.S. stock gains this year came from A.I. companies.

Does it feel like a bubble? Big names like Jeff Bezos (Amazon), Sam Altman (OpenAI), Jamie Dimon (JPMorgan) and David Solomon (Goldman Sachs) worry we're on the cusp of a correction. They warn that valuations are getting too high and that eventually, reality may bite. And if those companies plunge, they'll take the economy with them.

k of England flags risk of
en correction' in tech
ks inflated by AI

FORTUNE

Subsc

illionaire investor Marc
ndreessen says AI destroyi
obs and making everyone p
'fallacy'—and even if that c
appen, prices would drop

EMMA BURLEIGH

tober 8, 2025 at 11:09 AM EDT

CNBC ⦿LIVESTREAM

Bezos says AI is i
ustrial bubble but
iety will get 'gigar
efits from the tecl

HED FRI, OCT 3 2025•7:40 AM EDT
D 2 HOURS AGO

DONATE   DIGITAL LIBRARY   **TEXAS OBSERVER**   *SINCE 1954*   LEAK

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025

BUSINESS

Will Meta's Louisiana data center one day Manhattan's footprint?

By **Business Report Staff**

OPINION

IN ABILENE, GATE PROJECT PUTS AI BOOM AD OF HUMAN HEALTH

00-billion artificial intelligence project
ngside a potentially harmful natural
gas plant.

by **ADITYA PANANGAT**
JULY 15, 2025, 9:06 AM, CDT

Announcing The Stargate Project

'I can't drink the water' - life next to a US data centre

10 July 2025   Share   Save

chelle Fleury & Nathalie Jimenez
h America business correspondent & Business reporter

ng from ♥ Georgia

Add a Dash of Zitron...

OpenAI's Projected 2024 Costs

The company expects to lose $5 billion this year excluding stock-based compensation.

Total revenue	$4B
Microsoft revenue share	-$700M
Compute to train models	-$3B
Compute to run models	-$2B
Research compute amortization	-$1B
Employee salaries	-$700M
General & administrative	-$600M
Data	-$500M
Hosting, other cost of sales	-$400M
Sales and marketing	-$300M
Loss, excluding stock-based compensation	-$5B
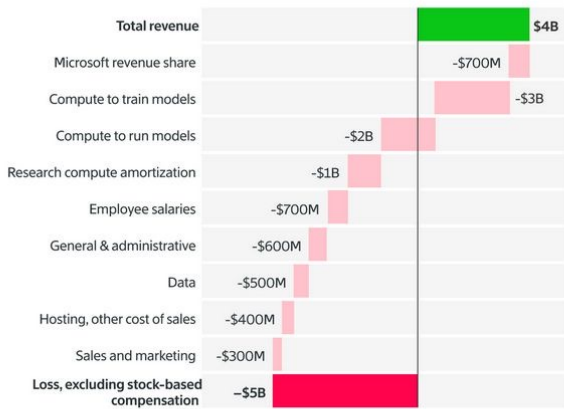
Source: The Information reporting

That's the thing with OpenAI — even if it was to hit these unbelievable revenue targets again and again, it's still doing so with a gaping wound in the side of its company, because the underlying economics of generative AI are so deeply unprofitable, with no sign of improving.

Nevertheless, if OpenAI does this, it'll be genuinely interesting to see what happens next, because to hit its projected $26 billion in revenue in 2026, they will likely have to make more than Netflix (around $3 billion a month in revenue) by the end of the year.

Large tech companies are tying their fortunes to OpenAI
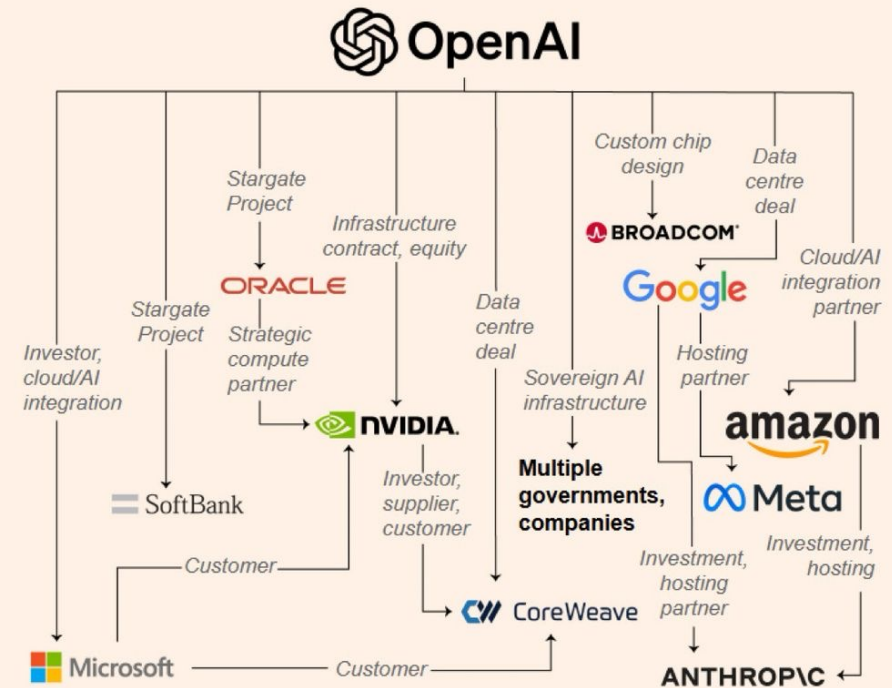
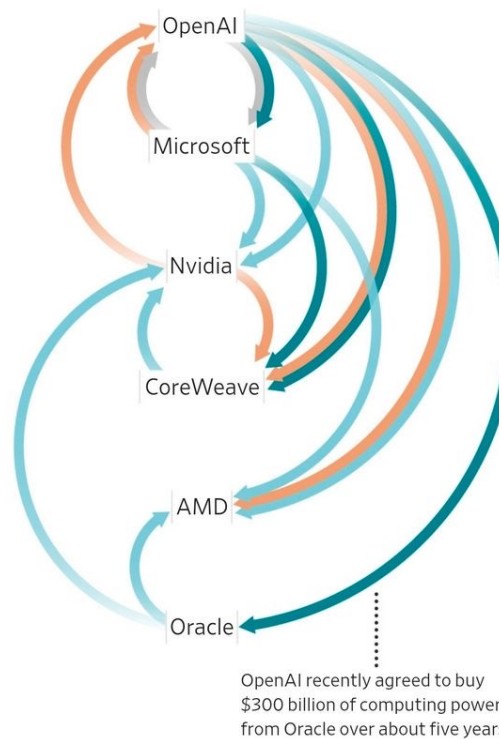
Source: Citi Research, FT research
FT graphic: Eva Xiao

FINANCIAL TIMES

US$ billions

50% hyperscaler gross margin

GPUs = ~50% of data center total cost of ownership assuming greenfield site

$400bn revenue shortfall: Google, Microsoft, Meta, Apple, Oracle, Bytedance, Alibaba, Tencent, X, Tesla, Other

NVIDIA Y25 revenue	Implied data center spending
Required AI revenue	Projected AI revenue
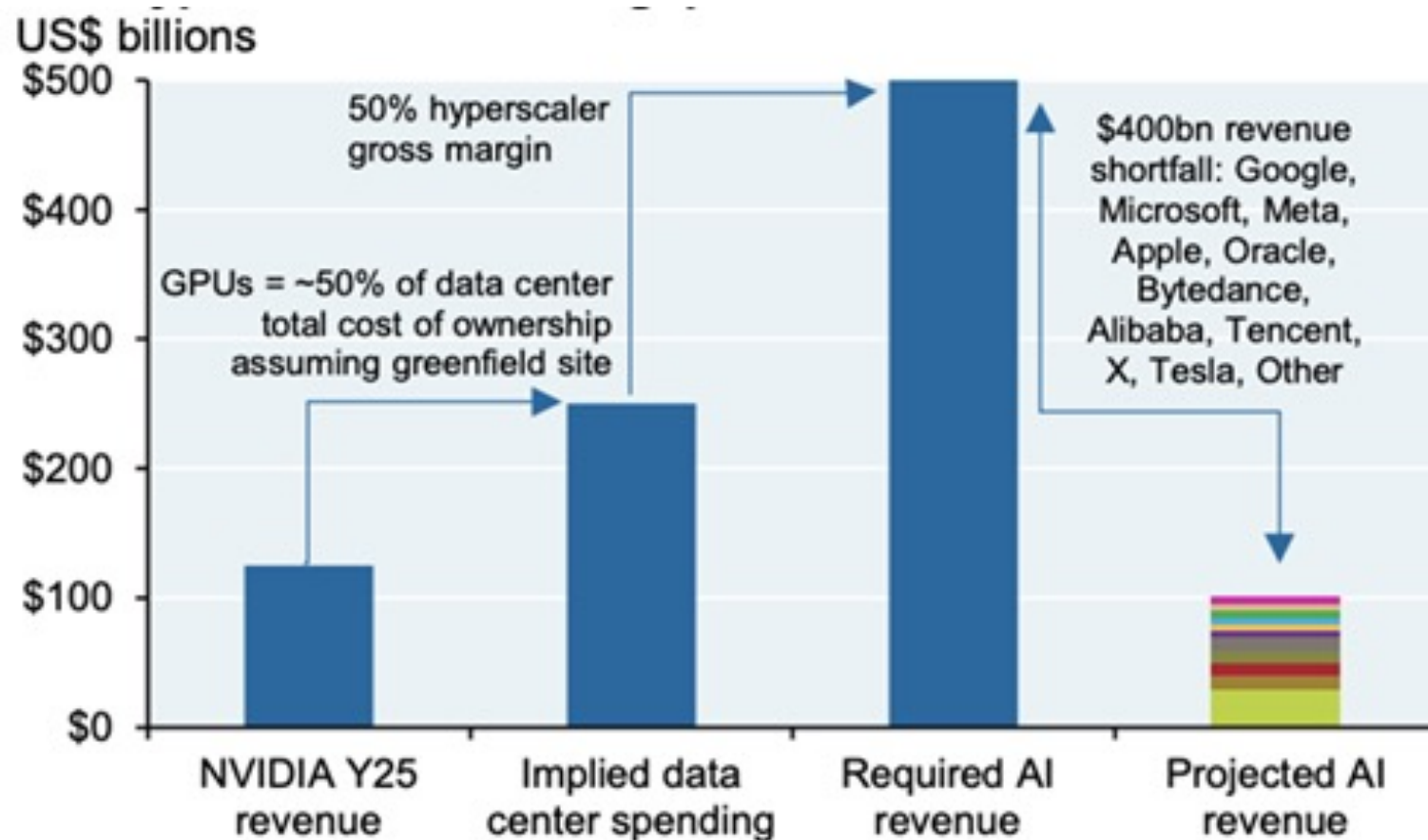
Source: Sequoia, NVIDIA, GenAI Ex, Bloomberg, JPMAM, October 2024

Select capital flows among six AI-industry companies

- Chip purchases
- Infrastructure purchases and rentals
- Equity investment
- Revenue sharing

OpenAI

Microsoft

Nvidia

CoreWeave

AMD

Oracle

OpenAI recently agreed to buy $300 billion of computing power from Oracle over about five years

OpenAI Needs Over $400 Billion In The Next 12 Months To Complete Any Of These Deals - And Sam Altman Doesn't Have Enough Time To Build Any Of it

I know, I know, you're going to say that OpenAI will simply "raise debt" and "work it out," but OpenAI has less than a year to do that, because OpenAI has promised *in their own announcements* that all of these things would happen by the end of December 2026, and even if they're going to happen in 2027, data centers require actual money to begin construction, Broadcom, NVIDIA and AMD are going to actually require *cash for those chips before they ship them.*

Even if OpenAI finds multiple consortiums of paypigs to take on the tens of billions of dollars of data center funding, there are limits, and based on OpenAI's aggressive (and insane) timelines, they will need to raise multiple different versions of the largest known data center deals of all time, multiple times a year, every single year.

Say that happens. OpenAI will still need to pay those compute contracts with Oracle, CoreWeave, Microsoft (I believe their Azure credits have run out) and Google (via CoreWeave) with actual, real cash, $40 billion dollars worth, when they're already burning $9.2 billion in the first half of 2026 on compute on revenues of $4.3 billion. OpenAI will still need to pay their staff, their storage, their sales and marketing department that cost them $2 billion in the first half of 2026, all while converting their non-profit into a for-profit, by the end of the year, or they lose $20 billion in funding from SoftBank.

Also, if they don't convert to a for-profit by October 2026, their $6.6 billion funding round from 2024 converts to debt.

Weekly edition   The world in brief   War in the Middle East   War in Ukraine   United States   The world economy   Business   Artificial intelligence

Explore The Economist Insider. ●

Finance & economics | Free exchange

Would an artificial-intelligence bubble be so bad?

A new book by Byrne Hobart and Tobias Huber argues there are advantages to financial mania
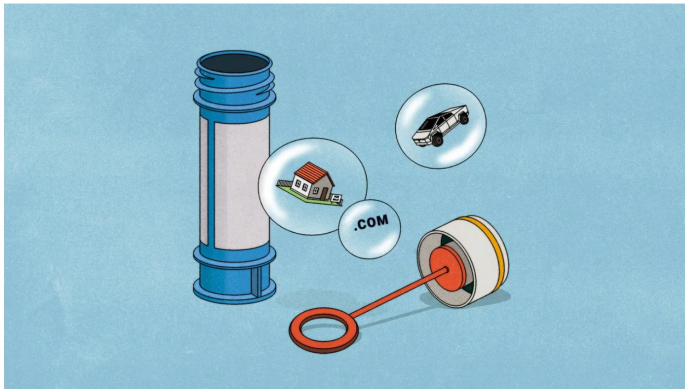
🔖 Save   ⬆ Share

ILLUSTRATION: ÁLVARO BERNIS

July 25, 2024

The Grimy Residue of the AI Bubble

What kind of residue will the AI bubble's popping leave behind?

By Alex
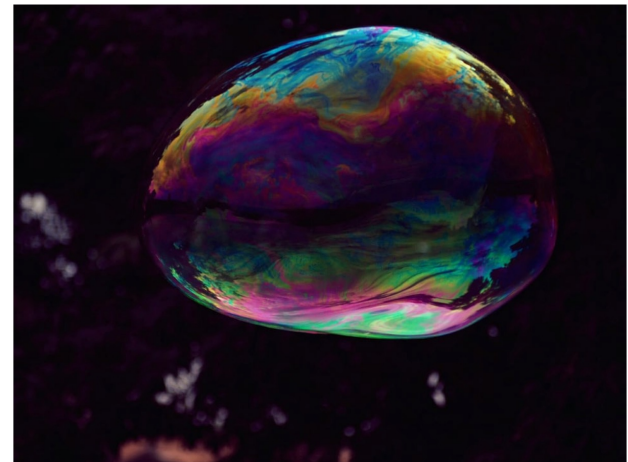
Sloponomics?

Business | Schumpeter

Sloponomics: who wins and loses in the AI-content flood?

Against all odds, the deluge might be good for creators

Share

ILLUSTRATION: BRETT RYDER

Why the internet is filling up with nonsense 'AI slop'

Low-quality fake images are cluttering social media feeds in the race to go viral

'Side job, self-employed, high-paid': behind the AI slop flooding TikTok and Facebook

Published: September 18, 2024 9:42pm EDT

Futurism

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

SMOOTH SLOPERATOR

Slop Farmer Boasts About How He Uses AI to Flood Social Media

Slop

AI generated content that is both *unrequested* and *unreviewed*

"The Critics"

- Bender et al. (2020) question the entire LLM enterprise.

- Bender as a linguist and field leader has stressed that language models train on form not function.

- Thus artifacts in LLM output such as hallucination and struggles with quantitative elements/basic math are entirely to be expected.

- Bender Twitter: @emilymbender

siness | Peak LLM?

...ith in God-like large l...
...dels is waning

...y be good news for AI laggards like Apple

⬆ Share   AI Summary

...STRATION: ALBERTO MIRANDA

On the Dangers of Stochastic Parrots: Can Language Models Be Too Big? 🦜

Emily M. Bender*
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Shmargaret Shmitchell
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The Aether

...work in NLP have been characterized by the ...ployment of ever larger language models, es- ...BERT, its variants, GPT-2/3, and others, most ...ve pushed the boundaries of the possible both ...l innovations and through sheer size. Using ...els and the methodology of fine-tuning them ...earchers have extended the state of the art ...sks as measured by leaderboards on specific ...h. In this paper, we take a step back and ask: ...hat are the possible risks associated with this ...aths are available for mitigating those risks? ...dations including weighing the environmen- ...first, investing resources into curating and ...g datasets rather than ingesting everything on ...pre-development exercises evaluating how ...fits into research and development goals and ...values, and encouraging research directions ...anguage models.

...S

...odologies → Natural language processing.

...mat:
...nnit Gebru, Angelina McMillan-Major, and Shmar- ...l. On the Dangers of Stochastic Parrots: Can Language ...🦜. In Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Trans- ..., March 3–10, 2021, Virtual Event, Canada. ACM, New ...pages. https://doi.org/10.1145/3442188.3445922

...UCTION
...gest trends in natural language processing (NLP) has ...easing size of language models (LMs) as measured ...er of parameters and size of training data. Since 2018 ...
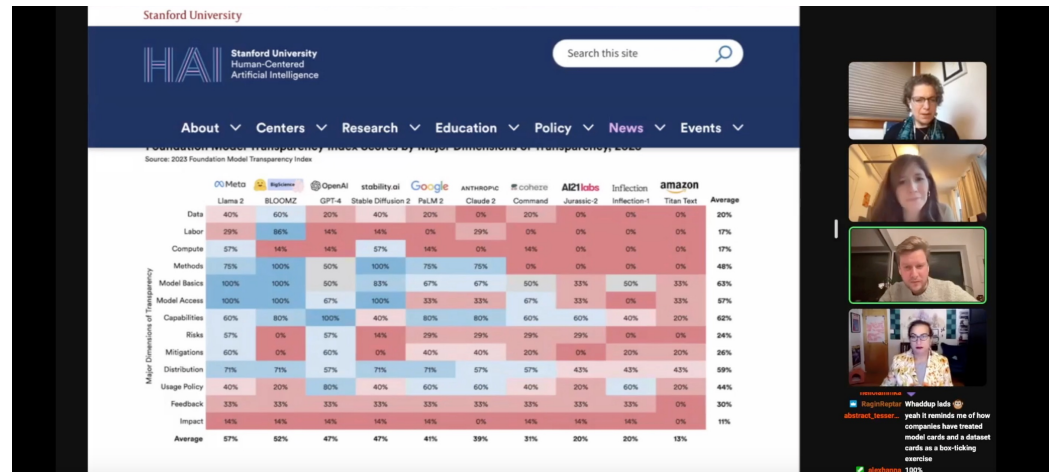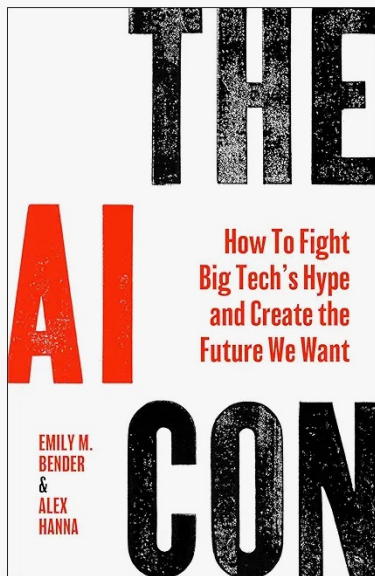
...ors

alone, we have seen the emergence of BERT and its varia... 70, 74, 113, 146], GPT-2 [106], T-NLG [112], GPT-3 [25], an... recently Switch-C [43], with institutions seemingly compe... produce ever larger LMs. While investigating properties of L... how they change with size holds scientific interest, and lar... have shown improvements on various tasks (§2), we ask w... enough thought has been put into the potential risks ass... with developing them and strategies to mitigate these risk...

We first consider environmental risks. Echoing a line o... work outlining the environmental and financial costs of dee... ing systems [129], we encourage the research community to ... tize these impacts. One way this can be done is by reportin... and evaluating works based on the amount of resources th... sume [57]. As we outline in §3, increasing the environmen... financial costs of these models doubly punishes marginaliz... munities that are least likely to benefit from the progress a... by large LMs and most likely to be harmed by negative e... mental consequences of its resource consumption. At the s... are discussing (outlined in §2), the first consideration shoul... environmental cost.

Just as environmental impact scales with model size, ... the difficulty of understanding what is in the training data... we discuss how large datasets based on texts from the ... overrepresent hegemonic viewpoints and encode biases pot... damaging to marginalized populations. In collecting eve... datasets we risk incurring documentation debt. We recor... mitigating these risks by budgeting for curation and docume... at the start of a project and only creating datasets as large... be sufficiently documented.

As argued by Bender and Koller [14], it is important to ... stand the limitations of LMs and put their success in conte... not only helps reduce hype which can mislead the public... searchers themselves regarding the capabilities of these L... might encourage new research directions that do not nece... depend on having larger LMs. As we discuss in §5, LMs ... performing natural language understanding (NLU), and on... success in tasks that can be approached by manipulating ... tic form [14]. Focusing on state-of-the-art results on leade... without encouraging deeper understanding of the mecha... which they are achieved can cause misleading results as ...

How Much of Reddit Is Just Slop?

14, 2025

es Are Now AI Than Hum

AI SLOP
THE INTERNET IS DYING

• CNET: "You'll find AI slop across every platform, from YouTube videos with robotic narration over stolen footage, to "news" websites copying each other's AI-written articles and TikTok clips featuring voices that resemble Siri trying to sound human. Even search results are starting to feel sloppier, with AI-generated how-tos and product reviews ranking above legitimate customer reporting."

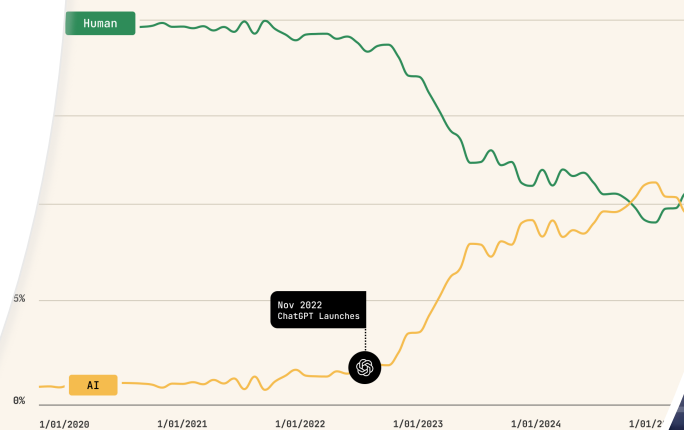AI-Generated Content Has Surpassed Human Content

Human

AI

Nov 2022
ChatGPT Launches

5%

0%

1/01/2020   1/01/2021   1/01/2022   1/01/2023   1/01/2024   1/01/2

eek Tonight with John Oliver (HBO)
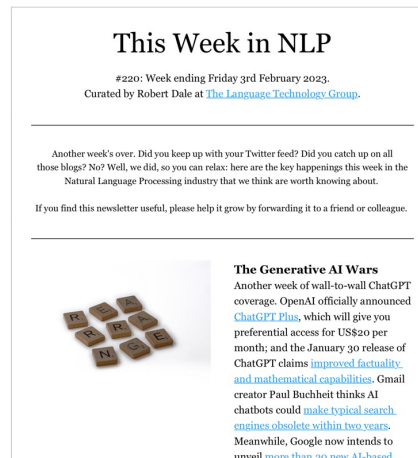
Share

6 / 29:04

YouTube

How can I follow these more critical trends?

- "This Week in NLP"
- Dozens of Podcasts
  - "AI Daily Newsbrief"
  - "Better Offline" (Ed Zitron)
  - "Computer Says Maybe" (Alix Dunn)
  - "Tech Won't Save Us" (Paris Marx)

- Of course, we highly recommend: "Pondering AI" with Kimberly Nevala!

This Week in NLP

#220: Week ending Friday 3rd February 2023.
Curated by Robert Dale at The Language Technology Group.

Another week's over. Did you keep up with your Twitter feed? Did you catch up on all those blogs? No? Well, we did, so you can relax: here are the key happenings this week in the Natural Language Processing industry that we think are worth knowing about.

If you find this newsletter useful, please help it grow by forwarding it to a friend or colleague.

The Generative AI Wars
Another week of wall-to-wall ChatGPT coverage. OpenAI officially announced ChatGPT Plus, which will give you preferential access for US$20 per month; and the January 30 release of ChatGPT claims improved factuality and mathematical capabilities. Gmail creator Paul Buchheit thinks AI chatbots could make typical search engines obsolete within two years. Meanwhile, Google now intends to unveil more than 20 new AI-based

Bubbles and Slop....

Tell that to Ed Zitron!

"In a moment of pure frustration today, I came to the conclusion that there is no angry way to say 'bubbles'..."

- anon