

Transkript Interview

Patrick Hütmannsberger

PATRICK:

My name is Patrick Hütmannsberger. I'm from Linz, Austria, and at the moment I'm the CTO of an AI-focused startup that I founded at the end of 2022.

You know, Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon, Microsoft, they've been these monopolies that have established themselves over the past 20, 30 years. And I suppose by using their new AI tools, we're sort of solidifying their role in defining how these tools should be used. So there are ways to escape this paradigm because open source AI models are available, but then there's a technical hurdle, which isn't immediately obvious, I suppose, for artists to overcome.

I use it primarily for coding. So building things quickly to ship them. It's been very helpful for that. But also in formulating emails, making them more diplomatic, right? And project proposals.

In my role in my company, there's a lot of need for structured, formatted texts. And I will use chatGPT constantly as a tool.

Gerald:

So you could have more spare time now because you work more efficiently. You can finish it more quickly. So you could do it in half time and the rest you have free time.

PATRICK:

Right, but that's never it, right? That's never what happens.

Gerald:

It's a dilemma, isn't it?

PATRICK:

Because of the external pressures of capitalism, I would say. So productivity of individual workers has been rising steadily since the past 100 years. It has basically never meant that we get more leisure time. That's at least 100 years old.

Gerald:

Does AI question our ideas about artistic creation and creativity?

PATRICK:

I would say that it's a crutch. It's a detriment to creativity. When we're outsourcing the task of creation, we're losing the ability to some degree every time we do it, to do these things ourselves. So I think there's a real risk in outsourcing creative work to tools like chatGPT, because there is no process of creation. I guess the prompting is the only part that contains intentionality, that contains agency, and contains meaning, which is essential to art, I would say, to have some purpose and meaning behind it.

Gerald:

Aren't there already AI tools where you can create the best prompt for your result? So this is also a kind of simulation.

PATRICK:

Sure, but I would put it this way. I think for any artist, the art occurs in the process.

It's not about the result. It's never about the result. That's a byproduct of the process.

And by taking away the process, you've got nothing. And for all this, I mean, for the past 10 years, Elon Musk, I guess most prominently, has been saying, well, full self-driving cars is just around the

corner. It's two years away. It's one year away. It's always somehow out of reach. We're never really getting there. And what a lot of people, I suppose, don't realize is, that there are poorly paid human workers in the loop, also with self-driving, presumably self-driving cars, or purportedly self-driving cars. So in a situation where self-driving gets lost, there's someone in Pakistan being paid a terrible wage who is going to jump in, and they're going to be steering your car, right? So there's an illusion of self-driving or automation that isn't really there. There's a parallel there to how language models, the biggest ones, are trained, how the training data is constructed there as well. You have very poorly paid workers in Kenya going through terrible, terrible content to filter out the negative stuff, the toxic things that you don't want in your model.

Gerald:

How will AI change our society in the future?

PATRICK:

It's always hard to say when you're right in the bubble, right in the middle of it, what is just the hype and what is really going to stick around. Personally, I do think there are fundamental changes underway right now. I do think there's new techniques of automation that are being discovered and will be discovered. There's the kinds of issues that you're dealing with with language models. These hallucinations are a fundamental problem inherent to the technology itself, but I tend to believe that we'll find workarounds for a lot of these issues as well.

The foundation or the idea, the math for these language models, for example, does go back to the 50s. The big thing that changed was just the computing powers that we have. So it's now possible on consumer hardware to actually pull off the math that is 70 years old.