

chain” has no national origin; it has network “citizenship”. The history of the term began in 2008, when an anonymous person or a group of persons hiding under the pseudonym Satoshi Nakamoto published an article that became the manifesto of this innovative technology. The article described its essential characteristics and the possibility of creating a decentralized system of monetary settlements.

Where can blockchain technology be applied? Blockchain projects are used in the banking sector, financial services, payment services, the public sector (public services, real estate registries, notaries, electronic voting, etc.), transport and logistics, healthcare, intellectual property management, energy, etc. Conclusion: based on the nature and properties of blockchain technology, it can be argued that this technology is a mechanism that provides the highest degree of security, data identification, which makes the blockchain in demand and promising in almost all areas.

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#### **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE FUTURE OF HUMANS**

The subject of this work is artificial intelligence (AI) and vast majority of humanity is not familiar with the concept. AI aims to allow a computer to function like a human brain. However, this does not mean that AI seeks to emulate every aspect of the human brain. AI does not need to pretend to be biological, although the media often wrongly describe it as a human-like machine, which is capable of surpassing humanity in all aspects. As a result, there is not only the misunderstanding of the concept but also a forthcoming fear of AI. Do we need to live in a world where our intelligence may be perceived as lacking? Are these precautions valid?

The purpose of our work is to collect and analyze the veracious information provided, and make legitimate conclusions on how and in which ways the AI will develop and contribute to society.

There’s virtually no major industry that modern AI – specifically, “narrow AI”, which performs objective functions using data-trained models and often falls into deep learning or machine learning – hasn’t already affected. Some sectors are at the start of their AI journey, while others have stuck with

it. Regardless, AI's impact on our present-day lives is hard to ignore.

**AI in transportation.** Transportation is an industry that is prone to constant change with the assistance of AI. Self-driving cars and AI travel planners are just a couple of facets of how we get from point A to point B that will be influenced by AI. Even though autonomous vehicles are far from perfect, they will one day carry us from place to place. **AI in manufacturing.** Manufacturing has been benefiting from AI for years. With AI-enabled robotic arms and other manufacturing robots, dating back to the 1960s and 1970s, the industry has adapted well to the powers of AI. These industrial robots typically work alongside humans to perform a limited range of tasks.

**AI in healthcare.** It may seem unlikely, but AI healthcare is already changing the way humans interact with medical providers. Thanks to its huge data analysis capabilities, AI helps to identify diseases more quickly and accurately, and even to monitor patients through virtual nursing assistants.

**AI in education.** AI in education will change the way humans of all ages learn. AI's use of machine learning, natural languages processing and facial recognition helps to digitize textbooks, to detect plagiarism and to analyze the emotions of students.

**AI in media.** The media and entertainment industry are also utilizing the power of AI. It is used to make online advertising more precise and productive with a target audience for higher conversion rates. AI can identify the user's age and gender before showing such content or using the automated content moderation service to moderate the objectionable content.

**AI in customer service.** AI in customer service can provide the industry with data-driven tools that bring meaningful insights to both the customer and the provider. AI tools powering the customer service industry come in the form of chat-bots and virtual assistants.

The possibilities of artificial general intelligence. "Human-level AI", also known as artificial general intelligence (AGI), has long been fodder for fantasy. What are the chances of it being realized anytime soon?

As for now, AI is not as powerful as we may perceive it. For instance, AI is not currently equipped to fully understand language. This shows a distinct difference between humans and AI at the moment. Humans can translate machine language and understand it, but AI can't do the same for human language.

Currently, computers can handle a little more than 10,000 words or a few million neurons. Human brains have billions of neurons that are connected in a very intriguing and complex way. Going from a few million neurons to billions of neurons with current hardware and software technologies is hardly possible.

Nevertheless, some people see AGI as humanity's biggest existential threat. Whenever it is, we need to emphasize the importance of preparation.

That means working to invent and augment security measures capable of keeping the technology in check.

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#### **ARE ELECTRIC VEHICLES GREEN?**

Nowadays, there is a strong growth in the number and sales of electric vehicles. The largest automotive companies in the world have entered the green race to switch from internal combustion engines to electric vehicles. The purpose of this work is to analyze statistical data, to study the impact of electric vehicles on the environment, to draw a conclusion about the benefits and harms of electric vehicles for the environment.

The best-selling electric car was the Tesla Model 3, with 145,864 units sold in 2018. That is why this model was chosen as an object by a group of German scientists from the IFO Institute for Economic Research (Munich, Germany). Comparing the production and operation processes of the Tesla 3 and the diesel Mercedes-Benz C220, the authors of the study concluded that electric vehicles in the current situation do not help to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

However, now fossil fuel power plants account for 67% of the total energy mix, that is, two-thirds. To improve the environmental situation in the world, this ratio needs to be changed, including with the help of the “green square” concept presented by Rosatom in 2017. It implies the need for the accelerated development of hydropower, wind and solar energy, and nuclear energy. These four technologies use technologies where thermal emissions and carbon dioxide generation are zero. Summing up, we can conclude: in our time, electric vehicles are not very environmentally friendly cars with internal combustion engines. For a greater environmental impact of electric vehicles, it is worth improving the energy infrastructure in a “green” way, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the production of batteries, power plants and cars that will run on renewable fuels, and gradually moving away from fossil fuels.