News Item

The way we train AI is fundamentally flawed | MIT Technology Review

By Will Douglas Heaven

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> It's no secret that machine-learning models tuned and tweaked to near-perfect performance in the lab often fail in real settings. This is typically put down to a mismatch between the data the AI was trained and tested on and the data it encounters in the world, a problem known as data shift. For example, an AI trained to spot signs of disease in high-quality medical images will struggle with blurry or cropped images captured by a cheap camera in a busy clinic.
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> Now a group of 40 researchers across seven different teams at Google have identified another major cause for the common failure of machine-learning models. Called "underspecification," it could be an even bigger problem than data shift. "We are asking more of machine-learning models than we are able to guarantee with our current approach," says Alex D'Amour, who led the study.
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