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Chat, Anyone?

Hi all,
Let's talk about the elephant in the room. ChatGPT and other Large Language Models (LLM) along with their AI cousins focused on images, graphics, math, coding, and audio are dominating our world of generating reports and manuscripts. They can be immensely fun: I asked ChatGPT to write me song lyrics about fuzzy logic in various genres. I wasn't crazy about the folk song, but I really liked ChatGPT's blues lyrics and its bluegrass rendition. And who hasn't chuckled over clever images synthesized by DALL-E? However, these are serious applications with huge potential. Can we get too much of a good thing? We are experiencing, if not the peak, at least the wave of hype, both positive and negative. Many people, including many IEEE members, have signed a letter calling for a six-month "AI Pause", worried about the potential for moral and ethical misuse of AI. I didn't sign the letter for several reasons, but it is important to have these conversations to focus on what and how to regulate, as well as our own personal interaction with AI programs.

From an IEEE perspective, what are the guidelines and rules to govern our use of AI programs in the creation and reviewing of manuscripts in IEEE publications including, of course, conference proceedings? I chair an AdHoc Committee of the IEEE Publication Services and Products Board (yea, that's a mouthful) on AI in the publication domain: opportunities and threats. One of our charters is to articulate the principles and guidelines for the use of AI in publications. So we've been collecting a lot of information and discussing the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of AI in publications. There is already a considerable effort to add AI and AI-like (maybe call this "little ai") capabilities into publications. The IEEE Author Portal is one good example of little ai at the moment, though plans are in the works for moving closer to Big AI. Dawn Melley, Senior Director of IEEE Publishing Operations summarizes "The IEEE Author Portal is an article submission system that works seamlessly with ScholarOne Manuscripts to allow authors to submit more quickly and efficiently. It uses metadata extraction to take what is provided in the author's files and automatically populate many of the submission fields, which saves the authors a lot of time and effort during the submission process." One feature involves machine learning algorithms that are used to extract key submission information from manuscript files so that authors do not have to rekey or copy/paste the information (definitely something not fun about manuscript submission). Enhancements and additions to these features, think grammar checking, etc., are clearly to me part of the Good. Approaches to aid in the review process are being researched and developed. Suggesting relevant referees is a great low hanging fruit. This helps the beleaguered AEs and conference program chairs, and aids authors by minimizing referees who don't have the background to successfully interpret a paper. I reported in a previous President's

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Message about a CIS initiative to research ways that AI can assist in the review process. Many potential good uses are being studied.

It will take a while for IEEE to iterate on an official policy for Big AI. I'm going to give my opinion. First of all, don't include ChatGPT or other programs as a co-author; that makes no sense. The main guideline right now is to put some details of how you used AI in your manuscript in an acknowledgment section. For example, if you use a LLM to act like a human copyeditor, just acknowledge it along with something about the extent of its use. It's still your responsibility as the author to be sure the copyediting doesn't change the meaning of your text. Or, if you ask for help identifying previous work in an area, be upfront about it, and carefully check those references – we've all now heard stories of false information being generated by LLMs. Don't use AI programs to "create" new ideas to pass along as yours. My bottom line is that if you are uncomfortable about divulging how you used an AI program, you probably shouldn't use it. For me, this boils down to a question of personal ethics. If you are asked to referee a paper, you should not ask a LLM to do your review. That amounts to a breach in confidentiality since most LLMs will integrate that input into their training corpus. I'd sure hate to see my new good idea given to the next person who asks ChatGPT. Wouldn't you?

The genie is out of the bottle. AI capabilities will continue to provide useful tools for authors, referees, editors, and publishers. Let's use them to make our jobs easier but avoid ethical pitfalls. As always, feel free to contact me at kellerj@missouri.edu with your thoughts,

suggestions, questions, and innovative ideas, particularly with thoughts on the use of AI in publishing. Please stay safe and healthy. I hope to see many of you at the CIS meetings over the rest of the year.



PS: I asked the public version of ChatGPT on May 9, 2023 to rewrite the opening paragraph above. Here is what it gave me. While it is smoother and contains most of my thoughts, I don't think it "sounds" like me. What do you think?

"Let's address the elephant in the room: Large Language Models (LLMs) like ChatGPT and other AI technologies specializing in graphics, mathematics, coding, and audio are dominating the production of reports and manuscripts. While they can be a lot of fun, such as when I asked ChatGPT to create song lyrics about fuzzy logic in different genres (although I wasn't fond of the folk song, I enjoyed the blues lyrics and bluegrass rendition it generated), we must acknowledge their significant potential for serious applications. However, there is a growing concern about whether we can have too much of a good thing, particularly given the wave of both positive and negative hype surrounding AI. Many IEEE members and other individuals have signed a letter calling for a six-month "AI Pause," worried about the potential ethical and moral misuse of AI. While I did not sign the letter for various reasons, it is crucial to have conversations about regulating AI and our own interactions with AI programs."

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