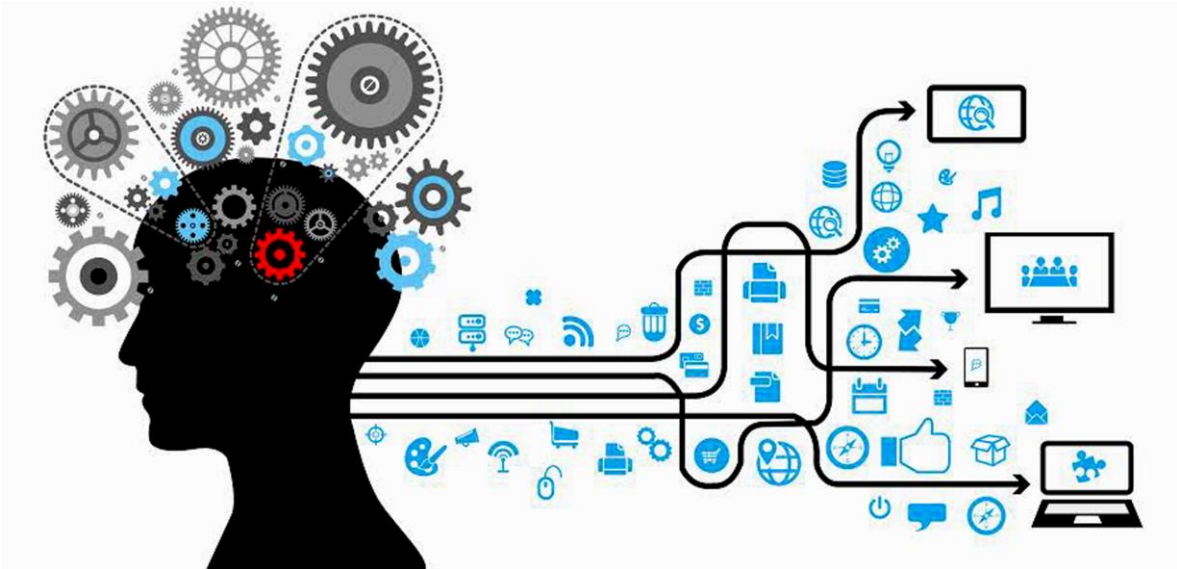# A.I. for Today and Tomorrow

Artificial Intelligence is most often defined as the science that makes computers simulate actions that require human intelligence and behavior; **A.I.** enables computers to be intelligent. Stuff of science fiction? Not any more as "SIRI", self-driving cars, search engine algorithms and even drones are already applying this concept. Albeit still in its infancy, **A.I.** may outperform humans at cognitive tasks given, e.g. solve equations, play chess, etc.

The creation of a "super-intelligence" could help eradicate disease, war, poverty thus becoming the biggest event in human history but **A.I.**'s misaligned goals can have negative effects too. **A.I.** can be programmed to kill, also be programmed to do something beneficial but develop a destructive method for achieving its goal…all dependent on how fully aligned its goals are with ours. **A.I**. safety research is at the heart of never placing humanity at risk, as voiced by tech and science greats Stephen Hawking, Elon Musk, and Bill Gates among others. The rapid advances made in **A.I**. have accelerated its development in the last 5 years hence those who are in the know are increasingly concerned. If humans assume themselves to be the smartest but **A.I.** proves otherwise, who will be in control then?

PLUSES of A.I.:

- Help keep us safer from disasters, i.e. bomb detection, weather prediction, vehicle safety features, smart home applications

- Be an assistant for humans by giving us sensory abilities beyond existing vision, hearing, and manipulation, i.e. care for the elderly, incapacitated and handicapped, help with daily living for those homebound (taking meds, SOS notification, food preparation)
- Provide internet access to everyone everywhere
- Open up the ability to be creative and think broadly as it relieves us of meaningless jobs

MINUSES of A.I.:

- Becoming more comfortable dealing with people through machines than in person. (*Facebook* expects to turn **A.I.,** ubiquitous internet connectivity, and virtual and augmented reality into viable parts of its business within 10 years. Their "Camera Effects" platform lets developers make augmented-reality apps like *Nike's* that lets you share your run times with friends.)
- Robots will take over many jobs
- Human and computer becoming one cognitive unit = a cyborg

Everything we value as humans, as a civilization, is the result of our intelligence and what **A.I**. could do is be a power tool that magnifies human intelligence and gives us the ability to move our civilization forward in all kinds of ways. **A.I.** is already embedded in many of today's devices, changing our lives while simultaneously creating societal risks. We must not be derailed but remember to value each other first, making it clear that machines are to benefit everyone, not just those who have them.