

AI: Where are We Moving?

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AI is a powerful tool that can help us be more productive and surpass the limitations of previous techniques.



EXAMPLES

01

Geochemical analysis

Optimizing the analysis of geological data with AI— e.g., automated classification of images of plutonic rocks or the simulation of magma chambers (research done with the Geoscience Research Institute)

02

Medical diagnosis

Detecting illnesses such as glaucoma (from OCT scans) or melanoma, and helping identify complications during anesthesia.

03

Societal trends for mission

Gaining insight into current societal trends — supporting the church's mission, e.g., tweet analysis in New York City.

See the references at: <https://www.cs.southern.edu/harveya/publications.html>

Where are we now?

From hand-coded rules to autonomous agents



● Rule-based AI

1950s – 2000s

- Hand-coded logic
- If-then rules
- Expert systems
- Symbolic reasoning
- Narrow scope

Example: IBM's Deep Blue



● Generative AI

2017 – present

- Learned from data
- Artificial neural networks
- Creates new content
- Prompt–response
- Passive, reactive

Example: ChatGPT, DALL·E



● Agentic AI

2024 – emerging

- Plans multi-step tasks
- Uses tools, browses
- Pursues goals
- Acts autonomously
- Self-corrects

Example: Claude Code, agents

Human writes rules

Determines every step

Human writes prompts

Asks for output

Human writes goals

Delegates the work

Increasing autonomy, decreasing human specification →



The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of AI Now

The Good

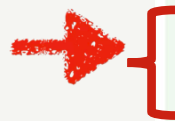


AI Is Used Differently Across Job Levels

In what ways are you currently using artificial intelligence (AI) to assist with your work? Select all that apply.

% Selected

● Leader ● Manager ● Individual Contributor



WF Q2 2024, U.S. Employees, Leader MOE: ±7 points, Manager MOE: ±6 points, Individual Contributor MOE: ±4 points. Item answered only by employees who said they used AI at least once a year in their role or more often.

Get the data • Download image

GALLUP

<https://www.gallup.com/workplace/691643/work-nearly-doubled-two-years.aspx>



The Bad

Workers are more worried than hopeful about future AI use in the workplace

% of employed adults saying they generally feel ___ about how AI may be used in the workplace in the future



Note: Based on all employed adults, including 17% who have not heard about AI use in the workplace and were not asked this question.

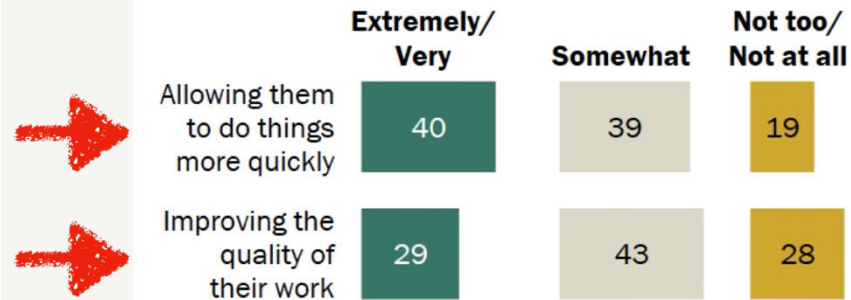
Source: Survey of U.S. workers conducted Oct. 7-13, 2024.

"U.S. Workers Are More Worried Than Hopeful About Future AI Use in the Workplace"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Workers see AI chatbots as more helpful in speeding up their work than in improving its quality

Among employed adults who have used AI chatbots for work, % saying these tools have been ___ helpful when it comes to ...



Note: Based on 31% of workers who have used AI chatbots for work, even if rarely. Shares of respondents who didn't offer an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. workers conducted Oct. 7-13, 2024.

"U.S. Workers Are More Worried Than Hopeful About Future AI Use in the Workplace"

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The Bad



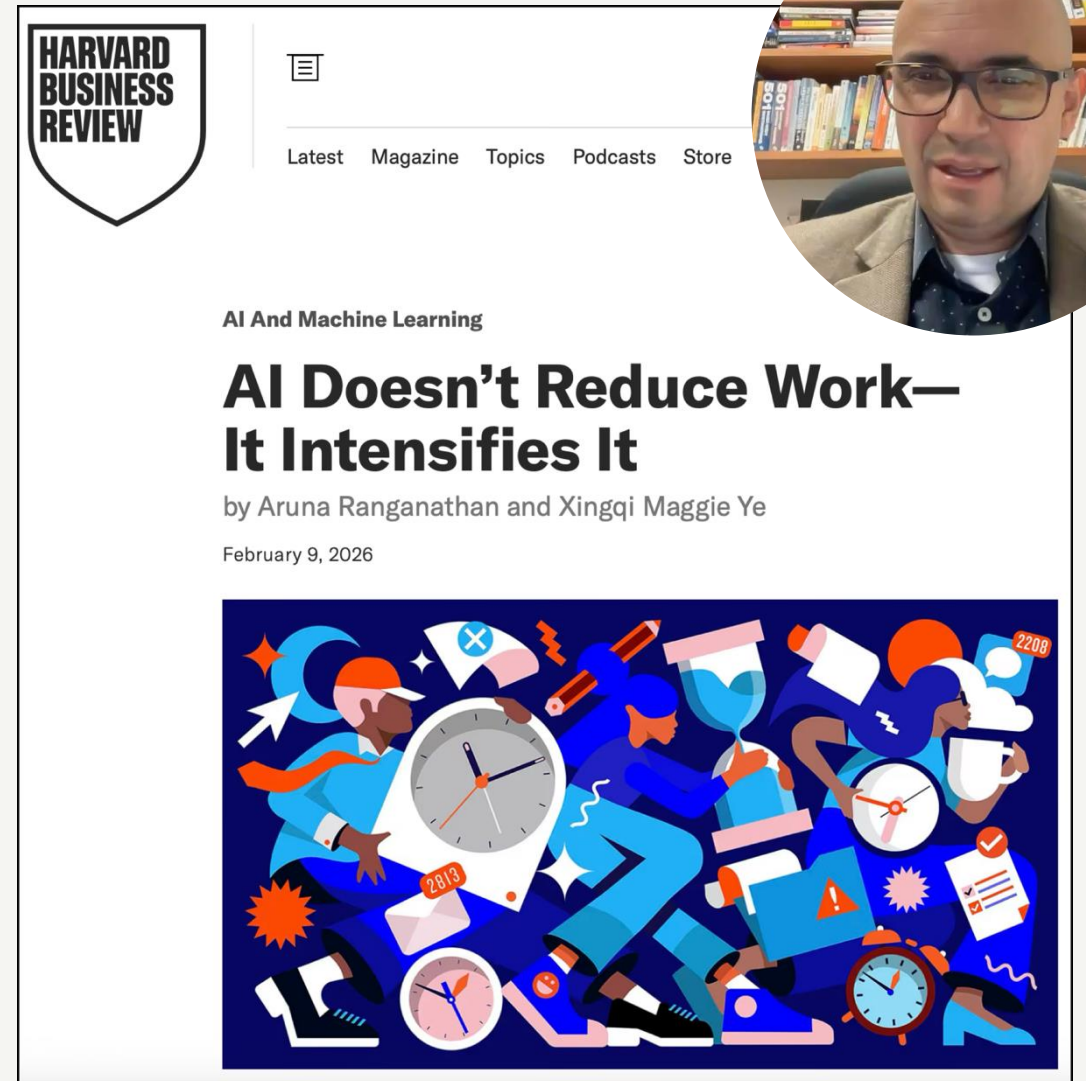
40% of employees receive “workslop” – AI-generated content that looks polished but lacks substance, shifting work burden to recipients who must decode, correct, or redo it (averaging nearly 2 hours per incident)

<https://hbr.org/2025/09/ai-generated-workslop-is-destroying-productivity>

A screenshot of the top portion of an HBR article. It features the HBR logo on the left, a menu icon, a red 'Subscribe' button, and a 'Sign In' link. Below this is the category 'Generative AI' and the main title 'AI-Generated “Workslop” Is Destroying Productivity' in large, bold black text. Underneath the title, the authors are listed: 'by Kate Niederhoffer, Gabriella Rosen Kellerman, Angela Lee, Alex Liebscher, Kristina Rapuano and Jeffrey T. Hancock'. At the bottom of the screenshot, the date 'September 22, 2025, Updated September 25, 2025' is visible.

The Bad

A study of 200 employees at a tech company over 8 months found that AI tools didn't lighten workloads as promised. Instead, workers voluntarily did MORE work because AI made "doing more" feel possible and rewarding.



The image shows a snippet of a Harvard Business Review article. At the top left is the Harvard Business Review logo. To the right is a circular profile picture of a man with glasses. Below the logo is a navigation menu with links for 'Latest', 'Magazine', 'Topics', 'Podcasts', and 'Store'. The article title is 'AI Doesn't Reduce Work— It Intensifies It' by Aruna Ranganathan and Xingqi Maggie Ye, dated February 9, 2026. Below the text is a colorful illustration of people working, surrounded by various icons like clocks, a lightbulb, a pencil, a magnifying glass, and a checklist, symbolizing intense work and productivity.

<https://hbr.org/2026/02/ai-doesnt-reduce-work-it-intensifies-it>

The Ugly



☰ **The New York Times** GIVE THE TIMES

Artificial Intelligence > Google's Search Box The Poetry Loophole Cybersecurity Showdown Wrongful Death

Meta Lays Off 8,000 Employees, as A.I. Casualties Mount

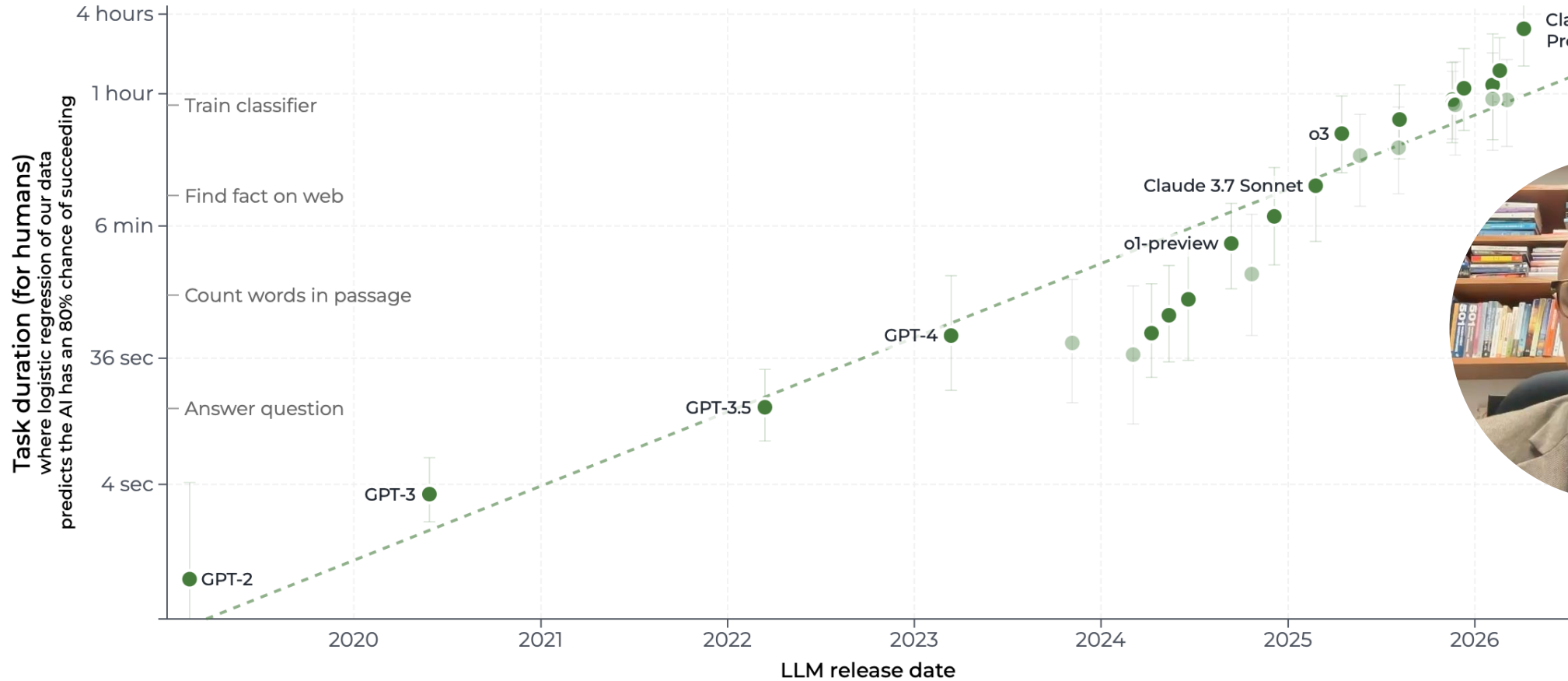
Employees have signed petitions against being tracked by A.I. and were trying to figure out who had been let go on Wednesday, as the Silicon Valley giant tries to transform into an A.I.-first company.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/05/19/technology/meta-layoffs-ai.html>



Time horizon of software tasks different LLMs can complete 80% of the time

 **METR**
Claude Mythos
Preview (early)



Time Horizon 1.1 (Current) ▾

Log Scale

Linear Scale

50% Success

80% Success



<https://metr.org/time-horizons/>

The Ugly

≡ GALLUP

News

in X f e s

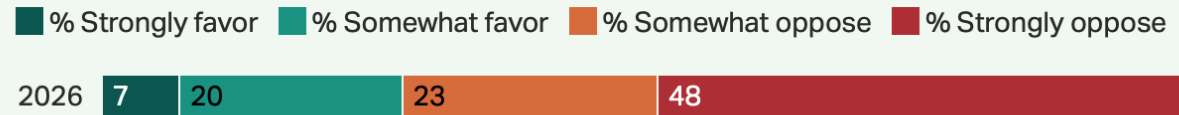
POLITICS MAY 13, 2026

Americans Oppose AI Data Centers in Their Area



Seven in 10 Americans Oppose Local Construction of AI Data Centers

Overall, would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the construction of a data center in your area to support artificial intelligence, or AI, technology in the U.S.?



March 2-18, 2026
"No opinion" percentage not shown

Get the data • Download image

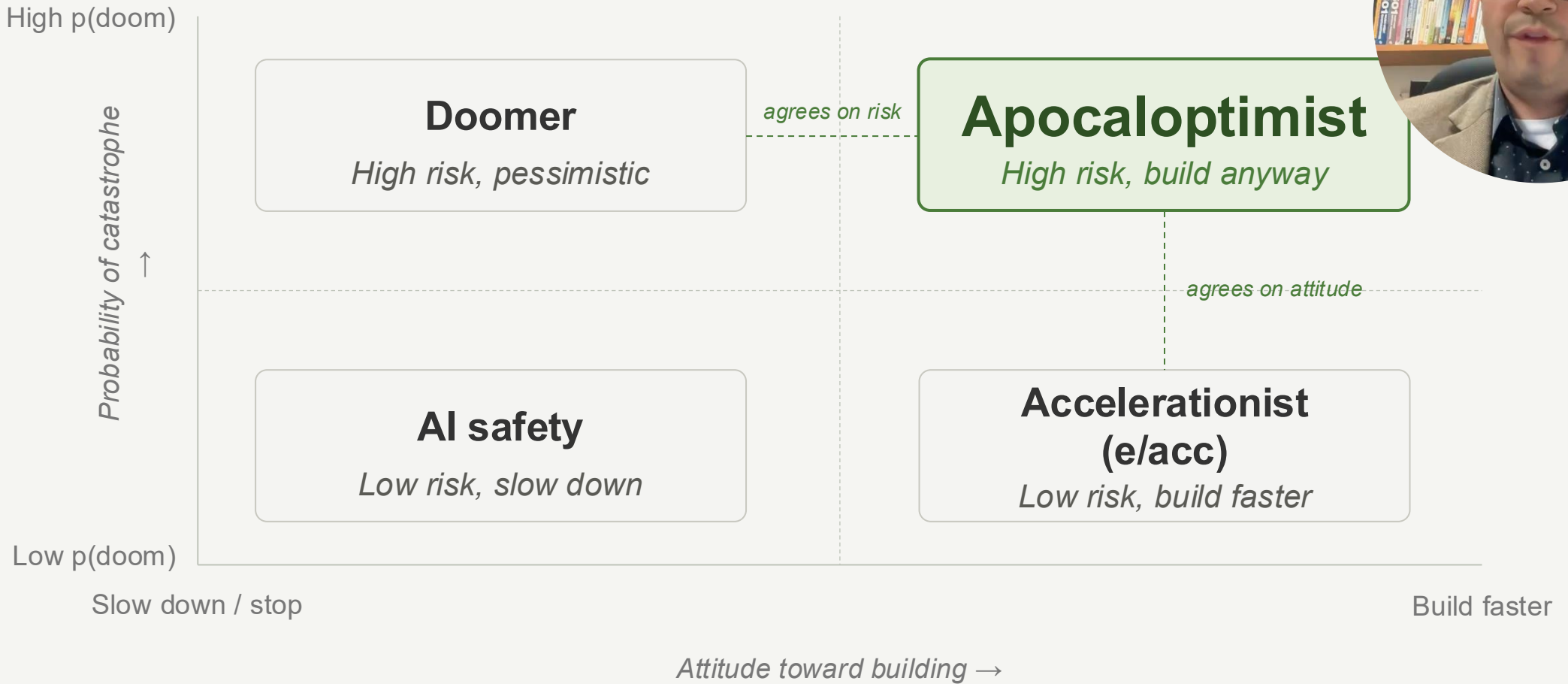
GALLUP

Opposition Tied to Environmental, Quality-of-Life Concerns

<https://news.gallup.com/poll/709772/americans-oppose-data-centers-area.aspx>



Apocaloptimist



Take Away

As the church's leaders, it is important to be informed about the current pros and cons of AI.

AI is not inherently good or bad. Our use of AI makes it good or bad.

God has given us access to new technologies, such as the radio, the TV, the Internet, and now, AI. We must use these technologies to advance the church's mission and support our operations.



Take Away



The Next Steps in AI Development

From narrow AI to the singularity

Three milestones on the path of machine intelligence



- **Weak / Narrow AI**

Today

AI applied to specific tasks

*Siri, Tesla's autopilot,
recommendation engines*



- **Strong AI / Artificial General Intelligence (AGI)**

Hypothetical

AI that replicates human intelligence in a machine to solve any problem

Reasons and adapts across completely different domains



- **Singularity**

Speculative

Explosion of intelligence

A point at which the universe "wakes up" with patterns of matter and energy saturated with intelligent processes — predominantly nonbiological (Kurzweil, R.)

Specialized intelligence

Human-level intelligence

Superintelligence

Increasing scope of intelligence →

“Just five years ago, we didn't have AGI; now we do”...

"by reasonable standards, including Turing's own, we have artificial systems that are generally intelligent. The long-standing problem of creating AGI has been solved."*

* The Turing test, proposed by Alan Turing in the 50s, evaluates whether a machine can exhibit intelligent behavior indistinguishable from a human's by having a human judge converse via text with both a machine and a person. If the judge can't reliably tell which is which, the machine passes.

Does AI already have human-level intelligence? The evidence is clear

Eddy Keming Chen, Mikhail Belkin, Leon Bergen & David Danks

By any reasonable criteria, the vision of human-level machine intelligence laid out by Alan Turing in 1950 is now a reality. Eyes unclouded by dread or hype will help to prepare for what comes next.

intelligence (AGI) – and some doubt that they ever will. A March 2025 survey by the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence in Washington DC found that 76% of leading researchers thought that scaling up current AI approaches would be ‘unlikely’ or ‘very unlikely’ to yield AGI (see go.nature.com/4smn16b).

What explains this disconnect? We suggest that the problem is part conceptual, because definitions of AGI are ambiguous and inconsistent; part emotional, because AGI raises fear of displacement and disruption; and part practical, as the term is entangled with commercial interests that can distort assessments. Precisely because AGI dominates

Chen, E. K., Belkin, M., Bergen, L., & Danks, D. (2026). Does AI already have human-level intelligence? The evidence is clear. *Nature*, 650, 36–40.



Elon Musk: a world where work becomes optional



U.S. – SAUDI INVESTMENT FORUM · NOV 2025

“Currency becomes irrelevant. There will still be constraints like electricity and mass, but money will stop being relevant.”

On Iain M. Banks’s *Culture* series: *“That gives a sense for what a probable positive AI future is like.”*

VIVA TECHNOLOGY, PARIS · 2024

“It’s much harder to grow vegetables in your backyard, but some people still do it because they like growing vegetables. That will be what work is like: optional.”

WITH PM RISHI SUNAK, LONDON · NOV 2023

“There will come a point where no job is needed. You could have a job if you wanted to have a job, for personal satisfaction, but the AI will be able to do everything.”



<https://www.businesstoday.in/latest/trends/story/elon-musk-says-robots-will-kill-jobs-and-cash-are-you-ready-for-whats-coming-next-502862-2025-11-20>

<https://www.aol.com/articles/elon-musk-says-ai-robotics-213434337.html>

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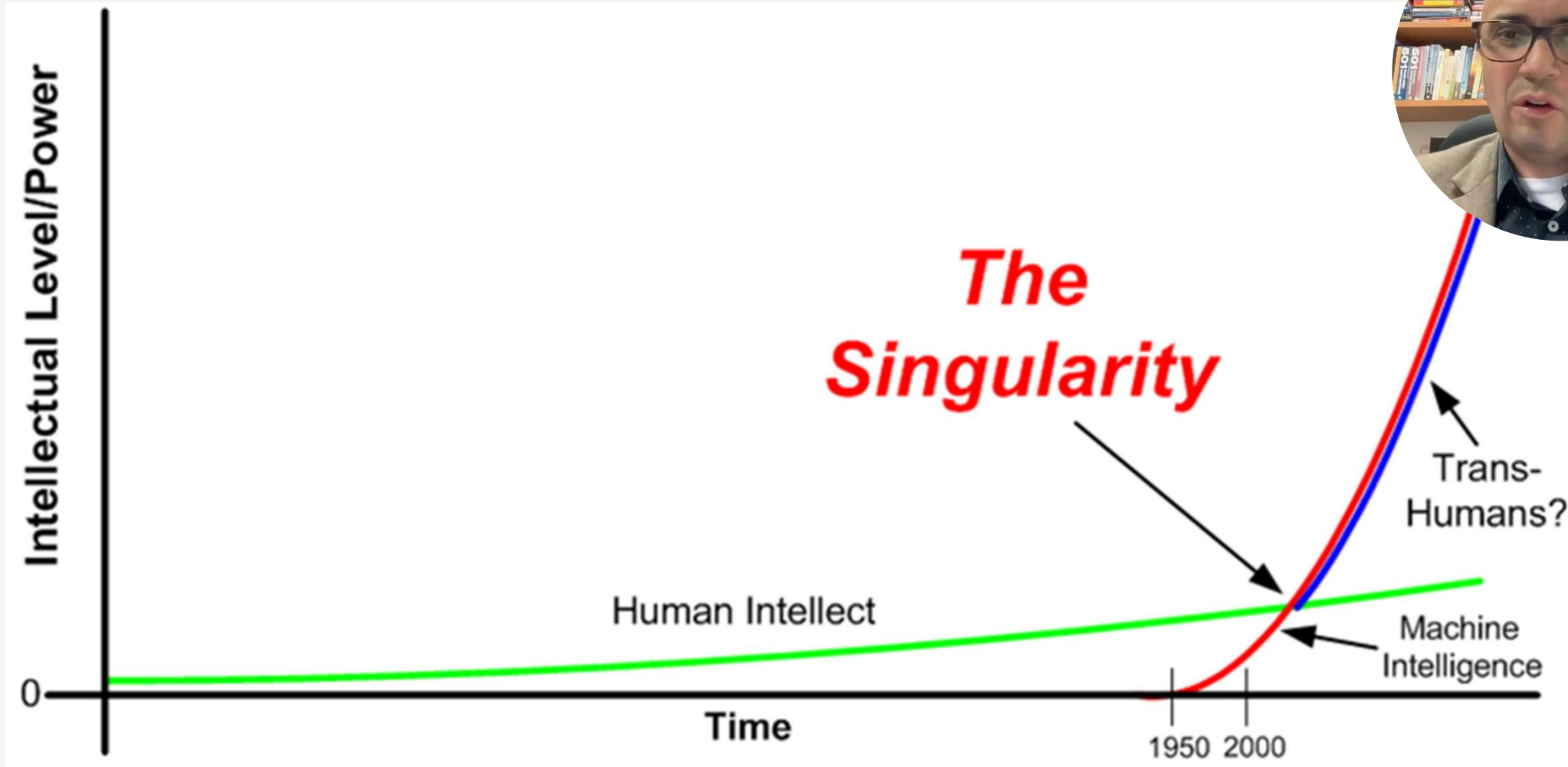
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[https://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/vakanski/Technological Singularity.html](https://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/vakanski/Technological_Singularity.html)

*“The merging is the essence of the Singularity, an era in which our intelligence will become increasingly nonbiological and trillions of times more powerful than it is today—the dawning of a new civilization that will enable us to transcend our biological limitations and amplify our creativity... **We will be able to assume different bodies and take on a range of personae at will. In practical terms, human aging and illness will be reversed... and will ultimately turn even death into a soluble problem.**”*

Kurzweil, R. (2005). The singularity is near: when humans transcend biology. Viking.



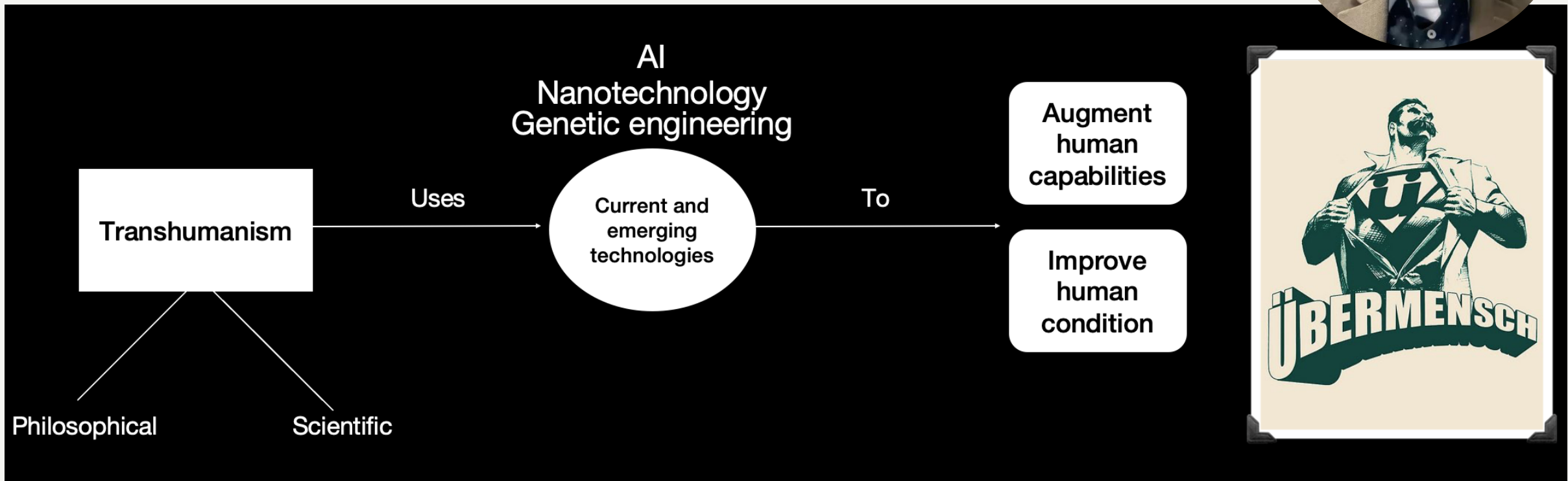


Does the idea of assuming different bodies and taking on a range of personae at will sound like a spiritualistic view?

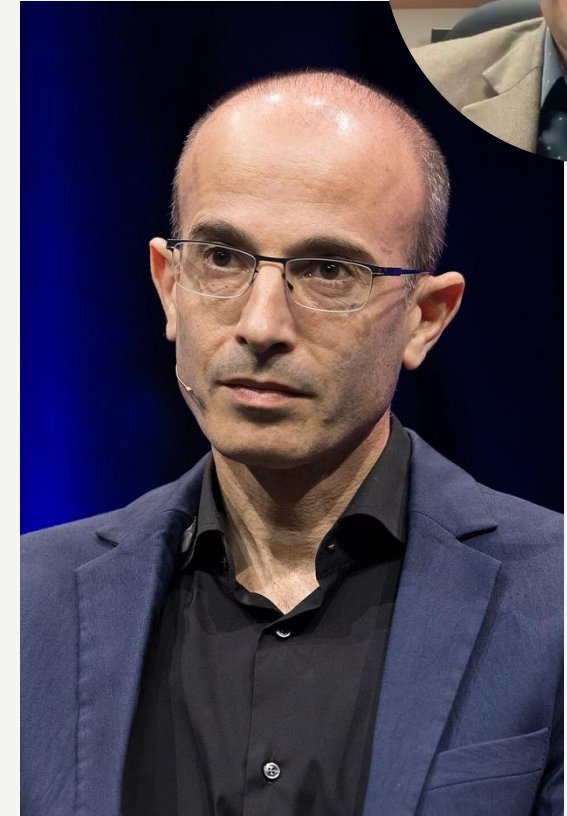
According to the Bible, is it possible for humans to turn death into a soluble problem by their own means?

Questions

Transhumanism: a new worldview



“Techno-humanism agrees that Homo sapiens as we know it has run its historical course and will no longer be relevant in the future, but concludes that we should therefore use technology in order to create Homo deus – a much superior human model. Homo deus will retain some essential human features, but will also enjoy upgraded physical and mental abilities.”



Harari, Y.N. (2016). Homo deus: a brief history of tomorrow. Harper.

Future

Post-humanity (homo deus)

Trans-humanism

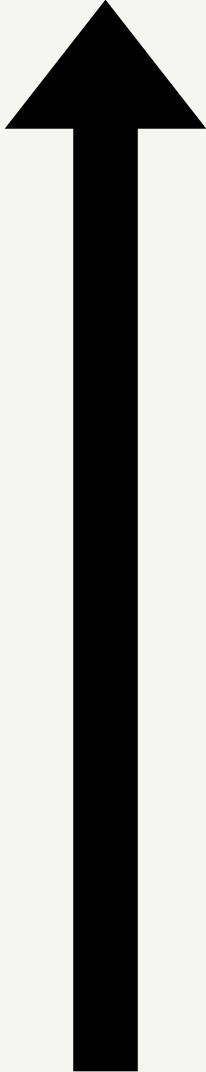
Present

Humanity

Past

Unconscious life

Inanimate universe



**The Next Step
in Evolution**

The transhumanist worldview is a new Tower of Babel.

“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.” Colossians 2:8



*Take
Away*



Which Actions Should We Take?

Learn about AI's implications and help church members develop a strong worldview to face the new realities



A strong worldview answers four questions:

Who am I? · Where am I? · What is wrong? · What is the solution?

Where?

- Bible study groups
- University classrooms
- Formal & informal conversations

Who am I? Where am I?



WHO AM I?

We are the children of God. Dignity does not depend on capability or skills. God created us to be stewards of His creation, not a product. Humanity, not machines, is the pinnacle of God's creation. We have been intentionally created in God's image — not as the result of evolutionary accidents that require technological upgrades. Jesus loves us. He came to redeem humanity. You are not framed as a biological information-processing system.

WHERE AM I?

We live in a time in which science is growing exponentially. God has allowed the development of new technologies, which we should use ethically.

We live amid a cosmic conflict in which some new trends run counter to biblical principles. We have been called to play an active role in preaching the everlasting Gospel and to proclaim in a loud voice the need to worship the Creator, Him who made heaven and earth.

What is wrong? What is the solution?



WHAT IS WRONG?

Artificial Intelligence should not be used to affect human dignity (e.g., mass layoffs) or God's creation (e.g., with non-ecological massive data centers).

The creation of super-intelligences, which surpass human intelligence, is an attempt to make us gods, superior to God.

In response to transhumanism, humanity's core problem is spiritual rebellion and sin — not biological limitations. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

Use AI in a positive way to become more efficient and to preach the Gospel (e.g., automatic translation).

*The solution for humanity is not in AI, work of our hands, but in recognizing **God's wonderful plan.***



Apocaloptimist — yes, but not because of AI, but because of the blessed hope in our Savior Jesus Christ.

Thank you

QUESTIONS

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GC LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT