



AGI: Racing and cooperating

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Centre for the Study of Existential Risk

Racing and cooperating

“Whoever becomes the leader in this sphere will become the ruler of the world “

“To seize the major strategic opportunity for the development of AI, to build China’s first-mover advantage in the development of AI “

The collage features several news snippets:

- THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**: "Which Country Is Winning the AI Race—the U.S. or China?" with a sub-headline "Edge in the AI Arms Race" and text: "Beijing’s rising capabilities, while not surprising, should raise concerns for the".
- THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**: "The New Arms Race in AI" with text: "China is making big investments in AI to gain a military advantage—while the U.S. is focusing on the edge." by Julian E. Barnes and Josh Chir.
- THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**: "The Global AI Race And Its Consequences" by Jennifer L. Schenker, dated Sep 23, 2018.
- THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**: "AI Competition Race" with sub-headline "The US is losing to China in the AI race".
- THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**: "USA is in danger of squandering the AI race to China, House report warns".
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'Races' in contemporary AI

- National strategies
- Competition for research talent
- Industry and business application
- Emerging markets
- Competition can drive innovation



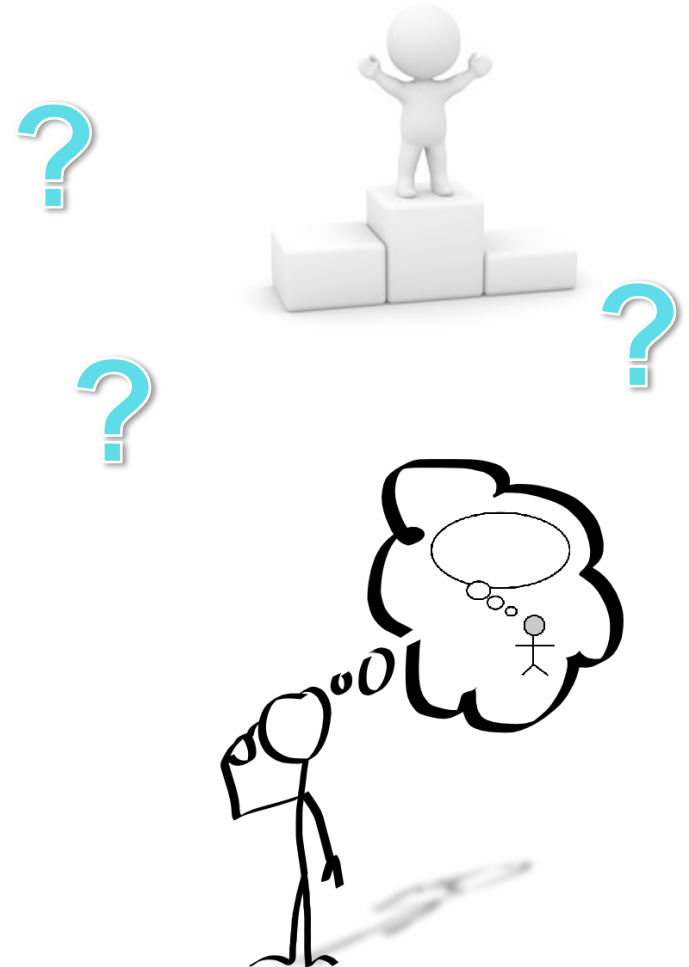
'Races' in contemporary AI

- Concentration of power
- Military applications
- Many different competitions with different (changing) leaders



Emergence of an AGI race

- AGI currently speculative future prospect
- At some point may become imminent-seeming
- A different race dynamic?
 - No room for many winners?
 - Unassailable leadership achievable?
- Beliefs matter



Concerns around a race to AGI

- Safety
- Fair and beneficial deployment
- Expertise-sharing and cooperation
- Tensions and conflict
- What if race is won?



In an ideal world?

- Globally cooperative venture
- Safe and controlled
- Global stakeholders convinced that benefits to be distributed worldwide



What can we do now?

- Rhetoric
- Cooperation
 - Sharing and open-ness models
- Global engagement
- Precedents

Long-Term Safety



We are concerned about late-stage AGI development becoming a competitive race without time for adequate safety precautions. Therefore, if a value-aligned, safety-conscious project comes close to building AGI before we do, we commit to stop competing with and start assisting this project. We will work out specifics in case-by-case agreements, but a typical triggering condition might be “a better-than-even chance of success in the next two years.”



Topics and questions

- Models for a joint AGI development project
- Models for an global AGI benefits agreement
- What would be ‘good enough’ ?
- Alternatives to an ‘arms race’ framing?
- How do we talk about an AGI race?

