

# AI Ethics

# Big Players in Deep Learning

## Chinese AI startup DeepSeek



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**DeepSeek** (Chinese: 深度求索; pinyin: *Shēndù Qiúsuǒ*) is a Chinese artificial intelligence company that develops open-source large language models (LLM). Based in Hangzhou, Zhejiang, it is owned and solely funded by Chinese hedge fund High-Flyer, whose co-founder, Liang Wenfeng, established the company in 2023 and serves as its CEO.

[Wikipedia \(2025-01-28\)](#)

DeepSeek's AI assistant became the No. 1 downloaded free app on Apple's iPhone store Monday, propelled by curiosity about the ChatGPT competitor. Part of what's worrying some U.S. tech industry observers is the idea that the Chinese startup has caught up with the American companies at the forefront of generative AI at a fraction of the cost.

[AP News \(2025-01-28\)](#)

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# Outline

- How ethics relate to this class
- Computing societies codes of ethics
- How things can go wrong
- Accountability and enforcement
- Strategies (what should you do?)

# Projects

- All projects need an ethics discussion
- Some project milestones require an *ethical sweep*
- Some projects will not have a *natural* ethical component
- In these cases, your project group can write about anything you'd like



# Ethics and AI

How is ethics important to AI?

(one possible answer) It helps us answer the questions:

- What should we not build?
- What should we build?
- What do we need to considering during a build?

# ACM Code of Ethics

- What did you find surprising?
- Are these discussed at your internships?
- Why is it useful?
- How can it be less useful?
- <https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics>

# Ethics Practices

We're still trying to figure this stuff out.

[Browse Standards](#) | [Get Program](#) | [IEEE Xplore](#) (from 2020 and 2021)

- IEEE Standard for an Age Appropriate Digital Services Framework Based on the 5Rights Principles for Children
- IEEE Standard Model Process for Addressing Ethical Concerns during System Design
- IEEE Standard for Transparency of Autonomous Systems
- IEEE Standard for Data Privacy Process
- IEEE Standard for Transparent Employer Data Governance
- IEEE Ontological Standard for Ethically Driven Robotics and Automation Systems
- IEEE Recommended Practice for Assessing the Impact of Autonomous and Intelligent Systems on Human Well-Being



# IEEE Ethically Aligned Design

## General Principles as Imperatives

1. Human Rights: A/IS shall be created and operated to respect, promote, and protect internationally recognized human rights.
2. Well-being: A/IS creators shall adopt increased human well-being as a primary success criterion for development.
3. Data Agency: A/IS creators shall empower individuals with the ability to access and securely share their data, to maintain people's capacity to have control over their identity.
4. Effectiveness: A/IS creators and operators shall provide evidence of the effectiveness and fitness for purpose of A/IS.
5. Transparency: The basis of a particular A/IS decision should always be discoverable.
6. Accountability: A/IS shall be created and operated to provide an unambiguous rationale for all decisions made.
7. Awareness of Misuse: A/IS creators shall guard against all potential misuses and risks of A/IS in operation.
8. Competence: A/IS creators shall specify and operators shall adhere to the knowledge and skill required for safe and effective operation.

# Hugging Face (Private, For-Profit)

## Ethics & Society at Hugging Face

- Rigorous: asking “does it work?”
- Consentful: support the self-determination of those affected
- Socially Conscious: support a stronger society
- Sustainable: ecologically sustainable
- Inclusive: broaden who build and benefits
- Inquisitive: rethink relationship with technology

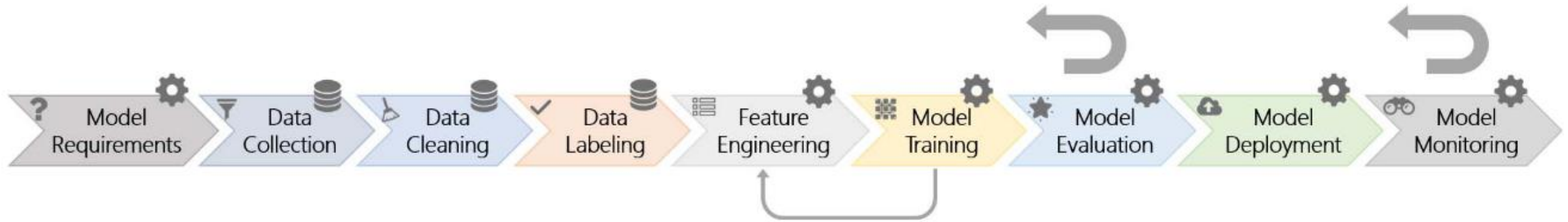
# Awful AI

<https://github.com/daviddao/awful-ai>

- Look at the list and pick an article (about 10 minutes)
- Summarize in one to three sentences (you'll only have time to skim read)
- Discuss with your neighbors (about 10 minutes)



# Research at Microsoft



## Software Engineering for Machine Learning: A Case Study

Saleema Amershi  
*Microsoft Research*  
Redmond, WA USA  
samershi@microsoft.com

Andrew Begel  
*Microsoft Research*  
Redmond, WA USA  
andrew.begel@microsoft.com

Christian Bird  
*Microsoft Research*  
Redmond, WA USA  
cbird@microsoft.com

Robert DeLine  
*Microsoft Research*  
Redmond, WA USA  
rdeline@microsoft.com

Harald Gall  
*University of Zurich*  
Zurich, Switzerland  
gall@ifi.uzh.ch

Ece Kamar  
*Microsoft Research*  
Redmond, WA USA  
eckamar@microsoft.com

Nachiappan Nagappan  
*Microsoft Research*  
Redmond, WA USA  
nachin@microsoft.com

Besmira Nushi  
*Microsoft Research*  
Redmond, WA USA  
besmira.nushi@microsoft.com

Thomas Zimmermann  
*Microsoft Research*  
Redmond, WA USA  
tzimmer@microsoft.com

# Enforcement

Who oversees ethical enforcement?

- No precise answer, but there is no special ethics force out there.
- Everyone and nobody.
- Part of regular meetings.

# On Accountability

- IBM developed systems to help Nazis track members of the Jewish community
- Volkswagen cheated on emissions testing
- A California database of *suspected gang members* included 42 infants
- Who is responsible?



- How would you feel as the developer?
- How would you feel if someone was injured?
- What can you do as the developer?
- Who is ultimately responsible?



# When?

When should you consider ethical considerations?

From the very beginning.

- easier to avoid pitfalls
  - easier to analyze results
  - prevent wasting of time
  - the system will be ethical
- 
- Ethics is hard.

# A Few Key Issues

Just a few selected topics

1. AI feedback loops
2. Bias
3. Disinformation

# AI Feedback Loops

When a **model** has an impact on its own training data.

- For example, the YouTube recommendation system
  - How do you think performance (success) measured?
  - The algorithm pushes data that keeps people watching
  - What kind of videos keep people watching?
- (Probably) not directly intended, but the **model** interacts with the real world
- Our economy **values profit over people**
- The real problem: metrics are just a proxy for what we really care about
- What is the solution?

# All Data is Biased

Bias comes in many forms

## Historical

- Cultural context is important
- Data is not used thoughtfully (train a model to predict crime)
- Not thinking about algorithmic colonialism (look at the origins of ImageNet)

## Measurement

- Not measuring what you think you're measuring
- "Having a colonoscopy is a predictor of having a stroke"

## Aggregation

- Inappropriately combining several factors

## Representation

- Inadvertently amplifying imbalances
- What is the easiest way to get a passing percentage when asked to predict the gender of a software developer?

# Disinformation



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oxXpB9pSETo>



# Large Language Models (LLMs, e.g., ChatGPT)

- What are your thoughts?
- Is a calculator a fair comparison?
- Can we know without decades of context?
- Ban?
- Change assignments?
- Do you agree with an embrace-and-disclose approach for students?

“ChatGPT is highly skilled at ‘pastiche’ and is essentially a glorified and very fast algorithm for cut/paste from many, MANY, online resources to create a stylistically believable ‘autocomplete’.”

— Gary Marcus, an AI specialist, scientist and NYU professor emeritus

# Strategies: OK, so what should you do?

- Ask questions (more in the assignments)
  - Should we even be doing this?
  - What bias is in the data? (All data contains bias.)
  - Can the code and data be audited?
  - What are errors rates for different sub-groups?
  - What is the accuracy of a simple rule-based alternative?
  - What processes are in place to handle appeals/mistakes?
  - How diverse is the team?

# Strategies: OK, so what should you do?

- Ask questions (more in the assignments)
- Implement ethics processes ([Markkula Center for Applied Ethics](#)):
  - Regular ethical risk sweeping
  - Expanding the ethical circle
  - Think about the terrible people
  - Closing the loop (feedback and iteration)

# Strategies: OK, so what should you do?

- Ask questions (more in the assignments)
- Implement ethics processes ([Markkula Center for Applied Ethics](#)):
- Push our governments to enact healthy policies and regulations