

Machine Learning Discussion Topics

Reflecting on AI, ML, and Society

1 Ethics, Misinformation & Generative AI

Focus: The rise of generative AI models like ChatGPT, DALL·E, and Sora is transforming media, education, and content creation—but also introducing risks of misinformation, deepfakes, and blurred authorship.

Discussion Prompts:

- Should there be limits on the use of generative AI in education or journalism?
- How can we detect and prevent misuse of AI-generated content?
- What does “authorship” mean when AI contributes to the final product?

2 AI in the Job Market: Threat or Tool?

Focus: AI is reshaping labor markets. While it creates new opportunities, it also threatens to automate entire job categories, especially in knowledge work.

Discussion Prompts:

- What kinds of jobs are most at risk due to AI?
- How can students prepare for an AI-augmented future of work?
- Will AI create more jobs than it eliminates?

3 AI in Science, Healthcare, and Crisis Response

Focus: Machine learning is accelerating scientific discovery (e.g., AlphaFold), improving diagnostics, and supporting real-time decision-making in crises.

Discussion Prompts:

- Should we trust ML models in high-stakes fields like medicine or disaster response?
- What are the risks of over-relying on algorithmic outputs in life-or-death situations?
- How can ML improve equity and access in global health?

4 AI Regulation and Global Policy

Focus: Governments and global organizations are racing to regulate AI amid concerns about safety, bias, surveillance, and international competition.

Discussion Prompts:

- Should AI development be regulated like other critical technologies?
- Who gets to decide what is "safe" or "aligned"?
- When should humans be "in the loop"?