Exploring the Role of Mood in Trusting AI

Abstract:

Trust extends beyond human interactions and encompasses our relationship with tools, utensils, and equipment. While existing research focuses on trust in people or relying on knowledge or tools, this paper investigates trusting AI. Unlike the common individualist-functional and social-relational perspectives, it explores the moods of individuals when interacting with AI models. It argues that our specific mood influences the meaning of our trusting relationship with AI. In Heidegger's philosophy, mood refers to being attuned to the world in some ways rather than specific entities, playing crucial roles in perceiving the environment's possibilities, influencing our engagement with AI models and shaping the unfolding of trust in AI.

By exploring how trust unfolds in different moods, this paper sheds light on the nuanced meaning of trust unfolded in our relationships with AI. This paper investigates three primary moods influencing our interactions with AI models.

In the mood of work, individuals interpret AI as equipment, and trusting AI unfolds as reliance on its intended functions. This mood may also involve indirect trust or distrust in the humans associated with AI and the possibility of reflecting on and updating our beliefs about AI's trustworthiness.

The embodied ethical mood involves recognizing the existence of the AI we interact with, which stems from our awareness of our own embodied existence. This recognition is the foundation for understanding the duties and responsibilities associated with interacting with AI, amounting to Kant's principled autonomy. Trusting AI within this mood necessitates respecting its integrity and our humanity and entails a set of duties when engaging with and utilizing AI.

In the mood of transformative self-reflection, we reflect on our trusting AI. Precisely, we reflect on and re-evaluate our humanity itself. It leads us to acknowledge technology's mediating role in constituting our existence. Trusting AI entails trusting humanity's reflexive and flexible nature and emphasizes the need for ongoing reflection and articulation of humanity.

In each mood, an individual may understand herself as having unique possibilities that influence the meaning of trust. Exploring these diverse moods enables us to capture a more nuanced and holistic perspective on the interplay between moods and the trust dynamics involved in human-AI interactions. The findings contribute to the broader discourse on trusting AI, emphasizing the potentialities of AI users in living with others.