Abstract

The thesis is based on the secondary analysis of data from the 2021 AIMS study. It is centered on the sentience, moral consideration, and social integration of artificial intelligence. My goal was to use a segmenting procedure (latent class analysis) to calculate classes or groups of respondents, based on their opinions on topics such as the inclusion of sentient AI and robots, animals, and the environment in the moral circle, granting legal rights to sentient AI, and support of the well-being of AI in the form of protection from harm or the perceived danger of AI for society.

The analysis offers some results suggesting that there are 3 groups within the respondents and therefore possibly some groups in the US society. Class 1 is very contradictory, some respondents in this class are very supportive of AI, and some of them are not. Yet, overall, they tend to think that sentient technology can be dangerous. This class is generally the oldest and least frequently informed about AI. Class 2 is generally supportive of the welfare of AI, but these respondents prefer passive support. These respondents do not think that sentient AI can be dangerous for them, but they think that it can be dangerous to future people. This class is generally the youngest. Class 3 are respondents who had the biggest chance to work with AI and frequently consume media about AI. They are generally supportive of the welfare of AI, but they are in some cases not sure, whether some harmful actions towards these entities are wrong. They in some cases also think that sentient AI can be dangerous. I also recommended some communication strategies to inform these various groups of people about the importance of the welfare of AI.