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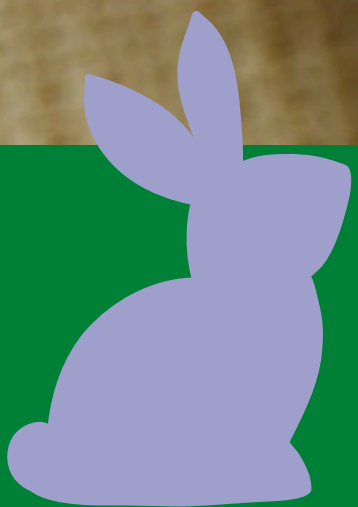


EASTER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Author: Zhiyu Wen

News And Events

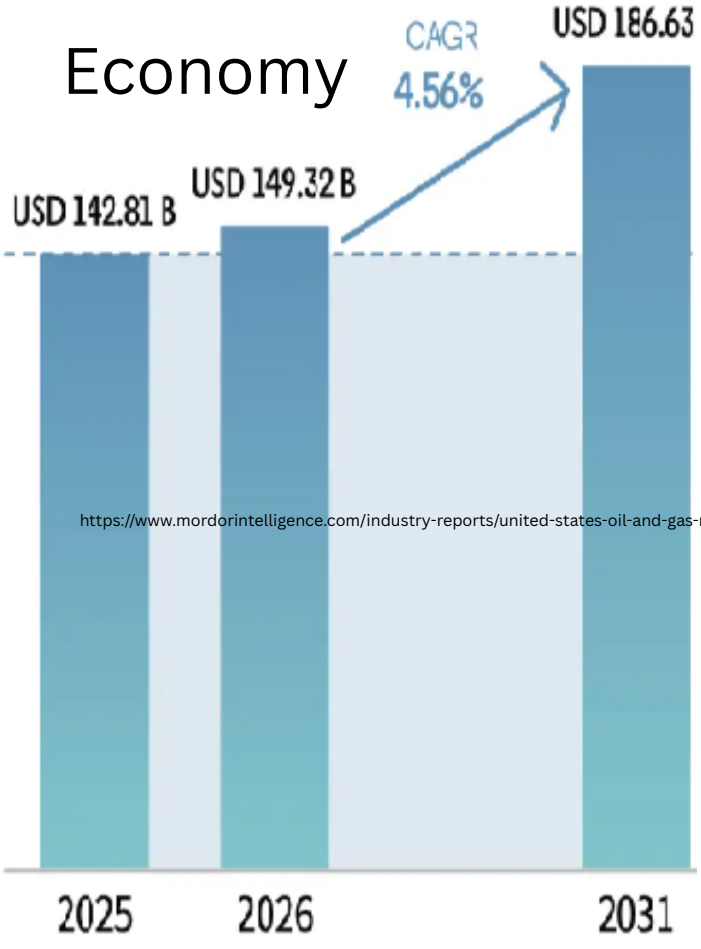
GLOBAL

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hormuz_map.png

The Middle East conflict has escalated significantly, causing global concerns. Recent military actions have threatened the Strait of Hormuz, a vital route for 20% of the world's oil. Consequently, crude oil prices surged past $110 per barrel, fueling fears of inflation. This instability also disrupts international shipping and raises costs for many industries. While technology and green energy are growing, this crisis reminds us how much the global economy still relies on regional stability and energy security. Understanding these complex geopolitical ties is essential for grasping today's economic challenges.

Economy

High inflation in the US has become a major concern for many families. As prices for gas and groceries rise, people have less money to spend on other needs. To control this, the Federal Reserve has kept interest rates high, making it more expensive to borrow money for cars or homes. While these measures aim to stabilize the economy, they also slow down overall growth. Balancing stable prices with a healthy job market remains a tough challenge for policymakers today.



https://www.mordorintelligence.com/industry-reports/united-states-oil-and-gas-market

Author: Zhiyu Wen

COMUNITY

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bart_coliseum_station.jpg

The BART (Bay City Rapid Transit) system is a crucial backbone of Bay Area transportation, connecting San Francisco with the East Bay and San Jose. Recently, the network secured significant funding for the Silicon Valley extension, including a massive tunnel project in San Jose. This expansion aims to reduce highway congestion and support the region's growing tech hubs. While BART faces challenges like aging infrastructure and safety concerns, ongoing modernizations and increased police patrols are working to improve the rider experience for thousands of daily commuters.

CULTURE

The 98th Academy Awards sparked a heated global debate regarding the role of AI in cinema. While some celebrate AI as a powerful tool for visual effects and accessibility, many filmmakers express deep concerns about its impact on human creativity and job security. Critics argue that AI-generated scripts and actors lack the emotional depth and lived experience of human artists. This controversy highlights the urgent need for clear industry regulations and ethical guidelines to protect the future of storytelling in the digital age.

Author: Zhiyu Wen

New Delhi AI Declaration

The New Delhi AI Declaration represents a landmark moment in how the world chooses to handle the rapid rise of artificial intelligence. Signed by dozens of nations during the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI) Summit in India, this document serves as a roadmap for a future where technology serves humanity, rather than endangering it. For students and young people, understanding this declaration is crucial because it will shape the digital world we inherit.

At its core, the declaration focuses on the balance between innovation and safety. While AI tools like ChatGPT or Gemini offer incredible help with homework and coding, they also carry risks like deepfakes and misinformation. The New Delhi Declaration emphasizes that AI must be "trustworthy." This means developers should be transparent about how their models work and ensure that the AI does not reinforce harmful biases or violate personal privacy. It is not just about making AI smarter, but about making it more responsible.

Another major theme of the declaration is inclusivity. Currently, most powerful AI technologies are controlled by a few wealthy countries and massive corporations. The signers of the declaration argue that AI resources, such as high-performance computing power and quality datasets, should be shared more fairly. This "democratization" of AI ensures that developing nations can use these tools to improve local healthcare, modernize agriculture, and boost education, rather than being left behind in a new digital divide. As a global community, we must ensure that the benefits of AI are accessible to everyone, regardless of where they live.

Furthermore, the declaration addresses the environmental impact of technology. Training massive AI models requires an enormous amount of electricity and water for cooling data centers. The New Delhi consensus calls for "Green AI," encouraging researchers to create more energy-efficient algorithms. This aligns with global goals to combat climate change, reminding us that digital progress should not come at the cost of our planet. Sustainable development is no longer optional; it must be built into the foundation of every new AI project.

The declaration also highlights the importance of global governance. Because AI does not stop at national borders, the world needs a unified set of rules. This prevents a "race to the bottom" where countries ignore safety just to get ahead technologically. By fostering international cooperation, the New Delhi AI Declaration creates a framework for sharing best practices and ethical standards. It encourages governments to work together to protect citizens while still allowing room for scientific discovery.

In conclusion, the New Delhi AI Declaration is a call for global cooperation. It reminds us that while AI is a powerful engine for economic growth, its true value lies in its ability to solve human problems safely and ethically. As the next generation of users and creators, we must advocate for these principles to ensure that AI remains a force for good in our society. The future of AI should be defined by how it empowers people, protects our environment, and bridges the gap between different parts of the world.

Author: Ashlie Tsai

Why People Believe Misinformation

Understanding the psychology behind false information

In the digital age, information spreads extremely quickly. News and opinions can reach millions of people through social media within minutes. While this allows people to stay informed, it also makes it easier for misinformation, which is false or misleading information, to spread widely. Understanding why people believe misinformation requires looking at human psychology, social behavior, and how online platforms work.

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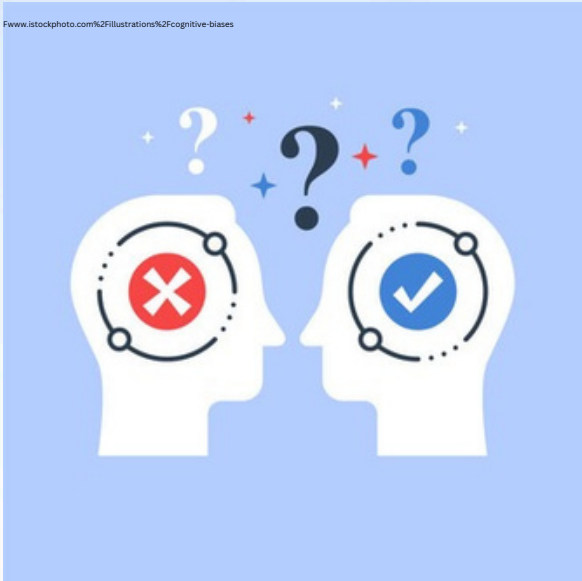

One important reason is confirmation bias. This is the tendency for people to accept information that supports their existing beliefs and reject information that challenges them. When people encounter ideas that match what they already think, they are less likely to question whether the information is accurate.

Emotion also plays a major role. Content that creates strong emotions, such as fear, anger, or excitement, spreads more quickly than neutral information. Sensational headlines or dramatic claims often encourage people to react immediately rather than carefully check the facts.

Social media platforms can also contribute to the spread of misinformation. Algorithms often show users content that is similar to what they already interact with. This can create echo chambers, where people mainly see information that supports their current views. When the same claims appear repeatedly in these spaces, they can begin to seem more believable.

https://www.dreamstime.com/illustration/echo-person.html

Another factor is the overwhelming amount of information people encounter online. Because it is difficult to verify every claim, individuals often rely on quick mental shortcuts to decide whether something is trustworthy. For example, people may believe information simply because it has been shared many times or because it appears to come from a familiar source.

Author: Ashlie Tsai

Social identity can further reinforce belief in misinformation. Information sometimes becomes tied to group identity, such as political affiliation, cultural beliefs, or social communities. When accepting or rejecting a piece of information feels like supporting or betraying one's group, individuals may prioritize group loyalty over factual accuracy. In these situations, misinformation becomes more than just incorrect information; it becomes part of a social narrative.

Addressing misinformation requires more than simply presenting correct facts. Research shows that people are more likely to change their views when information is presented in a respectful and understandable way rather than through confrontation. Education in media literacy, critical thinking, and source evaluation can help individuals better navigate the complex information landscape.

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Ultimately, misinformation spreads not only because false information exists but because it interacts with natural human tendencies. By understanding these psychological and social mechanisms, societies can develop strategies to promote more reliable information and encourage thoughtful engagement with the media people consume every day.

Author: Ashlie Tsai

The Mathematics of Everyday Life

Many people think of mathematics as a subject confined to classrooms, textbooks, or scientific research. However, mathematics is deeply woven into everyday life, influencing decisions, patterns, and systems that people encounter constantly—often without realizing it. From the music we listen to, to the architecture around us, mathematics quietly shapes the world.

One of the most visible examples of everyday mathematics is found in **patterns and symmetry**. Humans naturally appreciate balance and proportion, which is why symmetrical designs are common in art, architecture, and nature. Buildings often use geometric principles to ensure stability and aesthetic appeal. Even city planning relies on mathematical models to organize roads, optimize traffic flow, and manage resources efficiently.

https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/math-everyday-life-rocket-city-learning-center

Music also relies heavily on mathematics. Rhythm, harmony, and musical structure are all built on numerical relationships. Musical notes correspond to frequencies of sound waves, and intervals between notes follow mathematical ratios. The reason certain combinations of notes sound pleasing is connected to the way these frequencies interact with one another.

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Sports provide another example of mathematics in action. Statistics are used to evaluate player performance, predict outcomes, and develop strategies. Coaches and analysts examine probabilities, averages, and trends to determine the most effective approaches during competition. Data analysis has become such an important part of sports that entire teams of statisticians now work alongside athletes and coaches.

Author: Ashlie Tsai

Personal finance is perhaps one of the most practical areas where mathematics affects everyday life. Concepts such as percentages, interest rates, and budgeting help individuals manage money and make financial decisions. When people save money in a bank account, take out a loan, or invest in the stock market, mathematical principles determine how their money grows or changes over time.

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Technology also depends heavily on mathematics. Computer algorithms, encryption methods, and data compression techniques all rely on mathematical foundations. When people send messages, stream videos, or use navigation apps, complex mathematical calculations occur behind the scenes to make these technologies function efficiently.

https://www.freepik.com/vectors/tech-clipart

Mathematics can even explain social patterns. Researchers use statistical models to study trends in population growth, public health, and economics. These models help governments and organizations make decisions about policies, resource distribution, and long-term planning.

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Author: Yibin Ma

Pessimism vs Optimism

In regards to whether optimism is in conversation with pessimism, conflicting opinions lead to safe planning, while facing fear brings desperation. In addition, a mixed feeling toward an issue consumes energy in reality while accomplishing nothing. Therefore, because conflicting ideas from optimism and pessimism consume energy while bringing positive outcomes, and in certain situations only pessimism exists, the extent to which Gorman's claim is limited.

Conflicting opinions brings safe planning in an event, while facing danger creates despair. When planning a worship event with some friends, the partner church's staff never reply to our message. While one of my friends thinks that the church is giving up on us and we need to find another church, I continue to insist on waiting for a response from the church's staff. After discussion, we determined that we should contact another church for the event just in case. Then, we successfully finished the event at the new church while the other one still didn't reply. Pessimism allows expectation of failure in the original plan, which helps the decision of finding an alternative while creating stress from potential failure. In contrast, optimism creates an active and morale environment among discussion, which hinders the stress coming from pessimism dominating. Thus, because pessimism and optimism counteracts each other while supporting a safe outcome, the extent to which Gorman's claim is limited, as the ideas from each sides are opposite. In addition, while climbing a high mountain in Yosemite, I was tired. During a steep part of the mountain, I look down at my feet and see nothing but clouds beneath. Then, my whole body almost fell and I stopped moving, closing my eyes and thinking that I cannot go back home safely. From the fear of injury and death, my brain shifts attention to focusing on negative emotions and letting it dominate my mind. Because the brain tends to form opinions based on present emotional condition, my brain formed pessimism suppressed optimism. Thus, as humans experience intense emotion in activities and their brain are likely to maintain only optimism or pessimism as the same type of emotion dominates the brain, the extent to which Gorman's claim is limited.

Mixing feelings in an issue consumes energy while making limited progress. For instance, while preparing for the judging section of an engineering fair, I was stuck in pronunciation and clearly expressing the idea about my project. Specifically, when I am practicing responding to the question about the applications of my project, my tongues are stuck when saying technical jargons. I was stressed that this can reduce my score in judging. However, I also maintain hope that my project is unique and innovative, having billion-level global impacts. Through debating in my mind, I consumes brain power necessary for preparing for the competition because my brain repeatedly shifts side and debate on what achievements I can receive in the fair rather than focusing on actual preparation. Debate between opinions without bringing helpful outcome to the issue is the opposite of having a conversation, as a conversation bring effective outcome that benefits the brain. Although optimistic and pessimistic ideas are present, while on the opposite side, they can trigger useless debate in humans' and form no conversation in mind, which limits Gorman's claim. In addition, after receiving judges that digs into the method of my project in an engineering fair, I was stressed that he did not understand my project's method. However, I think optimistically also that the judge may be interested in my project. The mix of pessimistic and optimistic consumes energy in my brain that it takes the attention of my mind to focus on the outcome of the engineering project. However, after judging, the final result is in the judges' control but not my control. Thinking about the

outcome occupies the thinking ability without making an impact, and reduce the amount of energy of my brain. Hence, because optimism and pessimism can be mixed and consume energy, the extent to which Gorman's claim is limited.

Conflicting ideas enhance planning success, while facing fear creates desperation. Additionally, controversy in feeling in an issue increase mental load with limited accomplishments. Thus, because ideas from optimism and pessimism increase mental load whilebringing different outcomes, and pessimism exists in certain conditions, the extent to whichGorman's claim is limited. While different opinions interact with each other, focusing on realitybrings effective outcomes.

Sourceof Prompt: College Board AP English Language 2025 FRQ Set 2 Prompt 3
https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-english-language-and-composition/exam/past-exam-questions

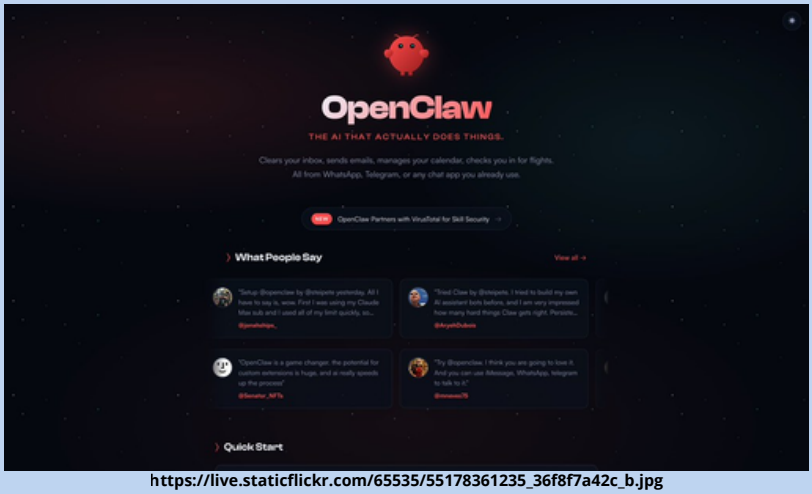
Author: Zhiyu Wen

OpenClaw is Just a Chatbot with an expensive arm

When OpenClaw first hit the internet in late 2025, it felt like science fiction had finally arrived on our desktops. The AI that didn't just type out answers, but actually took control of your computer to do your chores. It could organize your files, browse the web, and run commands, all from a simple chat interface.

Why did it go so viral?

Within days, it became widely famous, driven by viral videos of people claiming it was the next step toward Artificial General Intelligence (AGI). But as the initial excitement fades, the reality of OpenClaw is becoming clear. It isn't an all-powerful, thinking machine that people claim it is



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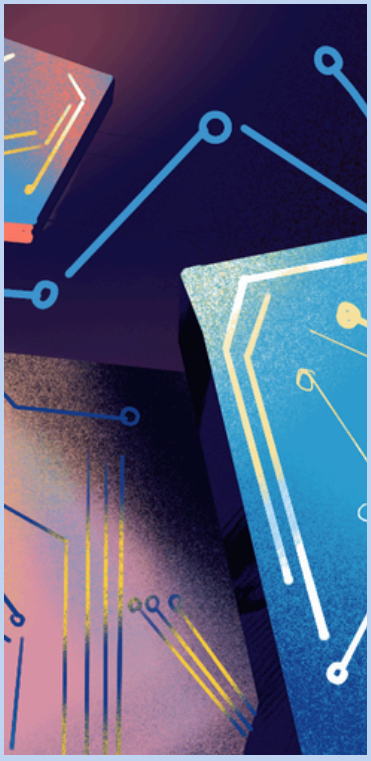
To understand the hype, you have to look at who OpenClaw appealed to. For years, people who didn't know how to program had to watch as technology advanced. Regular AI chatbots were cool, but they were trapped in browser windows.



OpenClaw changed that. It gave non-coders a tool and ability that felt incredibly close and personal. Suddenly, anyone could type a simple prompt and watch the AI actually do it. Because ordinary people had never touched technology that could interact with their local files, it felt like magic, and it felt special.

OpenClaw doesn't have a brain of its own. It is just a piece of code that borrows the brain from existing models like ChatGPT or Claude and gives that brain a digital arm to type and to do actions.

Author: Zhiyu Wen

The Cost of Token Burning

To complete a task, OpenCLaw operates in a continuous loop: it looks at your screen, thinks, acts, and looks again. Everytime it thinks it uses API tokens. Because it isn't very efficient at navigating a computer, it often takes dozens of steps to do something simple.

The real secret of OpenClaw isn't just the AI, it's the freedom it gives the user. For the first time, you don't have to go to a specific website to use AI.
Because it connects to WhatsApp, Telegram, and Discord, you can text your computer from anywhere. Sending a message and having it actually replay is something that traditional chatbots can't match.
Unlike most AIs that forget you the moment you switch chats, OpenClaw has a long-term memory. It stores your preferences, past requests, and habits in local files. Over time, it starts to feel less like a tool and more like a partner that actually knows how you work
The community has built over 30,000 Skills that let OpenClaw control anything.

Glimpse of the Future

OpenClaw's record-breaking rise and GitHub stars prove that we are moving away from chatting and toward automation. It represents a shift where the AI isn't just search engine with a personality but a proactive agent that lives on your hardware, with privacy, and actually gets things done while you sleep. Even with its current flaws, it has set the blueprint for how we will interact with computers in the very near future.

https://infinum.com/uploads/2025/10/card-ai-automation.webp

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