

Variation of opinions regarding AI development

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We [tested](#) 110 statements with 1156 respondents representative of USA general adult population between 1 and 4 May 2023. In this survey:

- Each respondent was asked to choose between 2 statements + "neither of these" to the question "Which of the following statements do you agree with more strongly?" using the [Claims Test methodology](#).
- They were asked some additional questions for profiling.

[K-means clustering analysis](#), an exploratory analysis technique, was conducted to create personas (opinion clusters) based on respondents' agreement scores with the statements tested as well as usage of ChatGPT and concern about [AI x-risk](#). We found that the most optimal number of clusters was 5, which means that we determined 5 varying viewpoints on AI among our sample of respondents. About 40% of the variation can be explained by these 5 viewpoints:

- [Familiar Techno-Optimists](#) (18%)
- [Thankful Users](#) (27%)
- [Unfamiliar and Neutral](#) (18%)
- [Concerned for Ethics and Safety](#) (18%)
- [Unfamiliar and Scared](#) (19%)

Importantly, we did not thoroughly measure strength or persistence of these convictions. Therefore these should not be viewed as permanent viewpoints but rather a snapshot of opinions at a point in time with a limited descriptive power.

Demographic characteristics

	% Cluster size	Female	Male	Age 18-29	Age 30-44	Age 45+	Household income > \$80K	White	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Other ethnicity
Familiar techno-optimists	18%	40%	60%	21%	42%	38%	47%	59%	15%	14%	12%
Thankful users	27%	43%	57%	18%	38%	44%	53%	72%	10%	8%	11%
Unfamiliar and neutral	18%	71%	29%	9%	39%	52%	43%	72%	13%	9%	7%
Concerned for ethics and safety	18%	38%	62%	21%	41%	38%	51%	71%	10%	6%	13%
Unfamiliar and scared	19%	62%	38%	20%	28%	51%	38%	80%	7%	6%	7%
Average of all responses		50%	50%	18%	38%	45%	47%	71%	11%	8%	10%

Percentages in each cell show the prevalence of demographic characteristics within each cluster: For example, 40% of Familiar techno-optimists are female.

	% Cluster size	Have kid(s)	Higher education	Democrats	Republicans	Neither party	Christian	Used ChatGPT	Allow smarter AI: Yes	Allow smarter AI: No	Allow smarter AI: Not sure	Concern about x-risks
Familiar techno-optimists	18%	48%	67%	53%	35%	13%	55%	40%	59%	7%	34%	24%
Thankful users	27%	43%	67%	49%	38%	13%	59%	29%	45%	11%	43%	38%
Unfamiliar and neutral	18%	43%	64%	30%	40%	30%	64%	11%	7%	16%	78%	33%
Concerned for ethics and safety	18%	37%	65%	51%	33%	16%	64%	28%	28%	22%	50%	71%
Unfamiliar and scared	19%	31%	63%	33%	46%	22%	66%	14%	2%	43%	55%	77%
Average of all responses		40%	65%	43%	38%	18%	61%	25%	29%	19%	51%	48%

Percentages in each cell show the prevalence of demographic characteristics within each cluster: For example, 48% of Familiar techno-optimists have kid(s).

Flipped view:

	All responses	Female	Male	Age 18-29	Age 30-44	Age 45+	Household income > \$80K	White	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Other ethnicity	Have kid(s)	Higher education	Democrats	Republicans	Neither party	Christian	Used ChatGPT
Familiar techno-optimists	18%	14%	22%	21%	20%	15%	18%	15%	25%	31%	21%	21%	18%	22%	16%	12%	16%	30%
Thankful users	27%	23%	31%	28%	27%	27%	31%	28%	25%	30%	29%	28%	28%	31%	27%	20%	26%	32%
Unfamiliar and neutral	18%	26%	11%	10%	19%	21%	17%	18%	22%	19%	12%	19%	18%	13%	19%	38%	19%	8%
Concerned for ethics and safety	18%	13%	22%	20%	19%	15%	19%	18%	16%	13%	23%	16%	17%	21%	15%	15%	18%	20%
Unfamiliar and scared	19%	23%	14%	21%	14%	22%	15%	21%	13%	12%	14%	14%	18%	14%	23%	22%	20%	11%
% of all responses	100%	50%	50%	18%	38%	45%	47%	71%	11%	8%	10%	40%	65%	43%	38%	18%	61%	25%

Percentages in each cell show the prevalence of each opinion cluster within different demographics: For example, 14% of females are familiar techno-optimists.

Familiar Techno-Optimists (18%)

These respondents tend to agree that AI is overall beneficial for humankind, particularly in advancing current technology and scientific knowledge. They believe that AI is the inevitable next step in our technological progress.

Compared to average, respondents in this group are more likely to be African American or Hispanic, and are Democrats. Many have used ChatGPT at least once and would like to see AI labs build and train AI models that are smarter than ChatGPT. They are not very concerned about existential risk from AI.

Top 5 statements rated by Familiar Techno-optimists:

- I believe that AI will be beneficial to humanity.
- The greatest benefit of AI is that it will be able to create new technologies and science.
- All people should benefit from advances in artificial intelligence.
- We should be thankful to the smart engineers working on AI right now.
- AI is the inevitable next step in technological progress of humanity.

Differentially higher agreement vs. other respondents:

- I want to become one with artificial intelligence.
- AI is a force for good.
- The AI research race is a sign of healthy competition.

Thankful Users (27%)

Respondents in this group are generally agree with statements suggesting that humans will benefit from development in AI.

Respondents are more likely to be men, 30 years and above, White, Democrat and have higher income (annual household income more than \$80,000). They are more likely to have used ChatGPT at least once, would like to see smarter AI models, and are less concerned about existential risk from AI.

Top 5 statements rated by Thankful Users:

- AI poses both risks and opportunities.
- Companies need to demonstrate that their AI systems are safe before deploying them.
- All people should benefit from advances in artificial intelligence.
- AI is developing at a fast pace.
- The greatest benefit of AI is that it will be able to create new technologies and science.

Differentially higher agreement vs. other respondents:

- We should be thankful to the smart engineers working on AI right now.
- The AI research race is a sign of healthy competition.
- I believe that AI will be beneficial to humanity.
- AI is a force for good.
- OpenAI is a force for good.

Unfamiliar and Neutral (18%)

Generally, respondents in this group seem to have low familiarity with AI. They perceive AI to be both beneficial and harmful, attributing the likelihood of its harm from misuse.

Respondents are more likely to be women and are neither Democrats nor Republicans. They are less likely to be of younger age (18-29 years). Compared to average, they are less familiar with ChatGPT, are more likely to be unsure if smarter AI models should be allowed and are less concerned about existential risk from AI.

Top 5 statements rated by Unfamiliar and Neutral:

- AI poses both risks and opportunities.
- I have mixed views about AI.
- There are many concerning ethical issues in relation to AI that society needs to address.
- The greatest danger of AI comes from misuse.
- Companies need to demonstrate that their AI systems are safe before deploying them.

Differentially higher agreement vs. other respondents:

- AI will be able to control the weather.
- I am afraid of AI.
- AI is overhyped at the moment.
- I want to live forever in a simulated life in a computer.
- I have no idea what AI is.

Concerned for Ethics and Safety (18%)

Respondents in this group are skeptical towards AI companies and tend to agree that AI companies should prioritise the wellbeing of humankind by ensuring that AI systems are safe and ethical.

Respondents are more likely to be men, have no children, and have not received higher education (university degree and above). They are somewhat familiar with ChatGPT but are also concerned about existential risk from AI.

Top 5 statements rated by Concerned for Ethics and Safety:

- AI poses both risks and opportunities.
- Companies need to demonstrate that their AI systems are safe before deploying them.
- I have mixed views about AI.
- There are many concerning ethical issues in relation to AI that society needs to address.
- AI companies are concerned about their profits, not welfare of all humanity.

Differentially higher agreement vs. other respondents:

- AI research should be paused until we find out how to do it safely.
- AI will be able to control big tech companies.
- I support a global treaty that manages AI research around the world.
- There will be a rapid take-off of artificial intelligence that will lead to a technological singularity.

Unfamiliar and Scared (19%)

Although these respondents tend to agree that AI can pose both risks and opportunities, they tend to be more afraid of AI, particularly with regards to AI replacing human jobs.

Respondents in this group are more likely to be women, of older age (45 years and above), White, Republican, have lower income (annual household income less than \$80,000), and have no kids. They tend to be less familiar with ChatGPT and would not want to see AI models that are smarter than ChatGPT. Concern about existential risk from AI is high among this group.

Top 5 statements rated by Unfamiliar and Scared:

- There is something creepy about the new AI technologies.
- AI poses both risks and opportunities.
- I have mixed views about AI.
- AI will destroy more jobs than it creates.
- There will be significant job losses due to AI in the next 10 years.

Differentially higher agreement vs. other respondents:

- AI research should be paused until we find out how to do it safely.
- AI is a threat to humanity.
- We need to slow down the development of AI.