Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

Machine learning and AI will play a critical role in our data-driven future. This explains the surge of interest in many machine learning and AI related courses, conferences, and publications. The question here is, in our data-driven future, what is the role of data management?

Michael Stonebreaker and El Kindi Rezig tried answered this question in their opinion piece "Machine Learning and Big Data: What is Important?" Drawing from their experience working with big data in real-life medical and business applications, they highlighted the importance of data preparation, including data integration, data enrichment, and data augmentation (for training). They argued that an ML data management system that is capable of tracking and optimizing the interactive steps of data preparation and machine learning is long overdue.

Lei Chen et al put together an interesting issue consisting of 5 papers on the topic of "Future of Work." They envisioned a future where AI and machines automate most of the work, but humans are in the loop to provide intellectual self-actualization. The papers looked into today's crowdsourcing platforms and investigate problems such as using active learning to make data labeling more efficient and effective. In addition, the issue highlighted ethical challenges in the future of work by using examples of today's self-employment platforms such as Uber and Amazon Mechanical Turk.

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