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Near-term Artificial Intelligence as an Existential Risk Factor

Benjamin Bucknall* & Shiri Dori-Hacohen

*Based on work carried out whilst at the Existential Risk Observatory, Amsterdam



When AI is discussed in conjunction with existential risk, Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) is often assumed. We argue that AI could also potentially increase existential risk in the near-term without necessarily reaching AGI.

This can be through impacts of AI acting as a **risk factor**, *a situation, event, or state of affairs that can increase the probability of an existential catastrophe occurring, or reduce our abilities to respond to one.*



We focus on two example areas of AI impact:

Power Relationships and **Access to Information**,

considering causal pathways through which the effects of AI in these areas could act as risk factors.