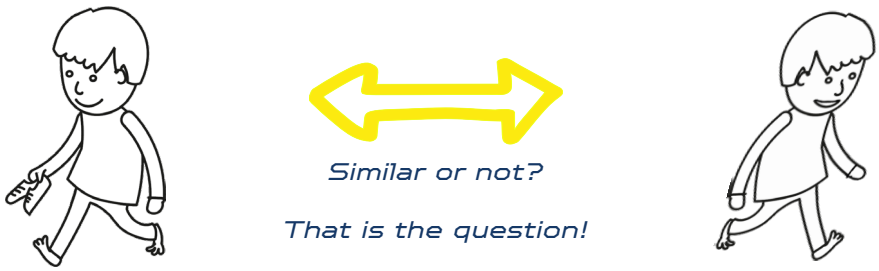
DO YOU KEEP TRACK OF THINGS IN THE FESTIVAL CHAOS?

The busy scene is quite crowded, isn't it? Lots of people, details and confusion.

You can imagine that each element in the busy scene represents a data point. A data point can be any piece of information. Some of this information can be related to each other, they resemble each other in some way. Some similarities are easy to see while others require a closer look. And with some, it is only through intensive analysis that one can determine they might be related. Connecting such information together is exactly what you have done in this busy scene. While tracking the stories, you looked for data points that are similar and related to each other. Depending on the level, this could be either easy or quite challenging. Perhaps you did not even discover some connections at all. One thing is for sure: Keeping track of so many different pieces of information is quite difficult. Luckily, there are computers! They can handle data much better than we can since they can capture, compare, and store it incredibly fast. Of course, this makes finding similarities much easier! To be similar or not to be similar – that is the question!



But what does this have to do with AI systems?

Imagine the busy scene is not a snapshot but everything is moving. People are walking around, and there is a lot of commotion. So, all the information is constantly changing. New data comes in, some are only available in real-time and then disappear, and others change - and all this at a rapid pace. The term "Big Data" describes this enormous flow of data.

And now AI systems come into play: To analyze this incredibly large amount of data, AI algorithms are very useful. They can not only make simple connections visible in the data but also uncover complex patterns hidden within. For example, the algorithms try to form groups of similar data points in a set of data, thus identifying types of people and their preferences, among other things. Through the volume of data, connections become visible that would never have been discovered with just a few data points. A human would definitely have failed amidst this data chaos!

Furthermore, large amounts of data are very useful for AI systems to learn from. If a system is to be built to make decisions, it needs a lot of data representing examples of the different groups to be distinguished. These are shown to the system, and it learns from them by analyzing all the data at high speed to determine what the most important features are for a particular group. You will learn more about how this analysis and decision-making process works at the "Good monkey, bad monkey!" station.

As you can see, with Big Data and its analysis, a lot of useful new information can be gained. For example, data can help solve crimes more quickly if we know where each person was at any given time. With smartphones constantly sending data and surveillance cameras in public places, this is no problem at all. However, it also has the disadvantage that we all – including you – can be under constant surveillance at any time. And that is not really a pleasant thought, is it?

That is why it is important to continually discuss in society which data should be recorded and who should have access to it. And when you use your smartphone or surf the internet, you should check who is currently collecting data from you and consciously decide if you want that. Even if you might think you have nothing to hide: Your data reveals much more about you in large quantities than you expect.

SOURCES

Photo Surveillance Cam

https://pixabay.com/de/photos/video-kamera-sicherheit-%C3%BCberwachung-4013043/, Photo by Talpa, Pixabay

Drawings Comic Figures

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"WHERE IS WALDOW?" PICTURE

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