ENGLISH LITERATURE IN THE AGE OF ALGORITHMS: HOW TECHNOLOGY IS INFLUENCING THE WAY WE WRITE AND READ

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Abstract:

Technology has had a profound impact on all aspects of our lives, and English literature is no exception .From the advent of the printing press to the rise of the digital age, new technologies have always shaped the way we write and read .In the 21st century, algorithms play an increasingly important role in English literature .Algorithms are used to generate and recommend content, to filter and curate information, and to analyze and understand literary texts.

This paper will explore the impact of algorithms on English literature in a number of ways .First, it will discuss how algorithms are changing the way we write .For example, algorithms are used to generate text, to translate languages, and to provide feedback on writing .As a result, algorithms are making it easier for people to write, and they are also helping to improve the quality of writing .Second, this paper will discuss how algorithms are changing the way we read .For example, algorithms are used to recommend books, to personalize reading experiences, and to create new forms of interactive literature .As a result, algorithms are making it easier for people to find books that they are interested in, and they are also helping to create new and innovative ways to experience literature .

Finally, this paper will discuss the broader implications of algorithms for English literature .For example, algorithms raise questions about the nature of authorship, the role of the critic, and the future of literature itself .As a result, algorithms are forcing us to rethink the way we think about English literature.

Introduction:

English literature is a rich and diverse tradition that spans centuries . In recent years, technology has had a profound impact on English literature, both in the way it is written and the way it is read .This impact is becoming increasingly evident in the age of algorithms.

Algorithms are mathematical formulas that are used to make predictions and decisions .They are

used in a wide variety of applications, including search engines, social media platforms, and e-commerce websites . Algorithms also play a role in the world of English literature.

One way in which algorithms are influencing English literature is through the rise of social media .Social media platforms use algorithms to recommend content to users based on their interests .Another way in which algorithms are influencing English literature is through the use of AI .AI tools can help writers to improve their grammar, style, and overall writing quality .AI can also be used to generate creative content, such as poems, stories, and scripts .This has the potential to revolutionize the way that English literature is written and produced . Technology is also influencing the way that English literature is read .The rise of e-books and audiobooks has made it easier and more convenient for people to read English literature .

The impact of technology on English literature is a complex and multifaceted topic that is relevant to a wide range of stakeholders, including writers, readers, publishers, and educators.

For writers, understanding the impact of technology is essential for staying ahead of the curve and reaching new audiences .For readers, understanding the impact of technology can help them to discover new English literature and connect with other readers who share their interests .For publishers, understanding the impact of technology is essential for developing new business models and reaching new audiences .For educators, understanding the impact of technology is essential for developing new pedagogical approaches and teaching students how to think critically about the English literature they consume.

Literature Review:

The Historical Context of Technology in Literature:

The relationship between technology and literature has been complex and multifaceted throughout history **.**On the one hand, technology has often been seen as a threat to literature, challenging traditional notions of authorship, creativity, and the literary canon **.**On the other hand, technology has also been seen as a source of innovation and inspiration, enabling writers to explore new forms and genres and to reach new audiences **.** "The digital revolution is transforming the way we read and write, and English

literature is no exception .Algorithms are now shaping our literary experiences in ways that were once unimaginable) ”Carr 2010(

- In the early days of printing, for example, some feared that the mass production of books would lead to a decline in the quality of literature .However, the printing press ultimately democratized access to literature and helped to usher in a golden age of English literature.

- The Industrial Revolution also had a significant impact on English literature .The rise of new technologies such as the steam engine and the telegraph led to rapid urbanization and social change .Writers of the time, such as Charles Dickens and Elizabeth Gaskell, explored the impact of these changes on their characters and on society as a whole.

- The invention of the telephone and the phonograph in the late 19th century also had a profound impact on English literature . These technologies allowed writers to experiment with new forms of narrative, such as stream-of-consciousness and interior monologue.

- The 20th century saw the development of even more revolutionary technologies, such as radio, television, and the computer .These technologies have continued to influence English literature in new and exciting ways.

- For example, the rise of radio and television led to the development of new genres of literature, such as the radio play and the television screenplay .The computer has also enabled writers to explore new forms of digital storytelling, such as hypertext fiction and interactive narratives.

- In the age of algorithms, technology is continuing to influence English literature in new and innovative ways .Social media platforms such as Twitter and Instagram are being used by writers to share their work, connect with readers, and build communities around their writing .

- AI tools are also being used by writers to improve their

grammar, style, and overall writing quality .

- Additionally, e-books and audiobooks have made it easier and more convenient for people to read English literature.

The Digital Literary Landscape:

The Emergence of Algorithms and Artificial Intelligence in Literature:

The emergence of algorithms and artificial intelligence)AI (in English literature marks a transformative juncture in the history of literary creation and consumption .This section will delve into the key developments and implications of algorithms and AI in the realm of English literature:

- **Automated Writing and Content Generation**: In recent years, there has been a surge in experiments with AI-generated content. Algorithms and neural networks have been trained to generate text that imitates human writing styles, enabling the creation of poetry, prose, and even entire novels. While this AI-generated content may not replace human authors, it has prompted discussions about creativity and authorship. The Turing Test, where AI-generated

works are compared to human-authored pieces, has become a subject of literary exploration.

- **Editing and Proofreading Tools:** AI-driven editing and proofreading tools have become indispensable for authors and publishers. These tools can automatically correct grammar, syntax, and style, enhancing the quality of written works. They have significantly streamlined the editing process, making it more efficient and accessible to a broader range of writers.

- **Recommendation Algorithms**: In the digital age, recommendation algorithms have become integral to how readers discover new literary works. Online platforms, such as Amazon and Goodreads, employ algorithms that analyze a user's reading history and preferences to offer personalized book recommendations. This has reshaped the way readers select their next book, influencing reading choices and expanding exposure to a variety of genres and authors. However, **"**The algorithm is a powerful tool for shaping the way we consume information, but it is important to be aware of its limitations. We should not allow

algorithms to dictate what we read or think" (Susskind 2019**)**.

- **Enhanced Interactive Storytelling**: Interactive storytelling, such as choose-your-own-adventure narratives, has gained popularity in digital and gaming contexts. AI-driven algorithms facilitate complex, dynamic storytelling experiences, allowing readers to shape the plot and characters. This genre showcases how technology can blur the lines between traditional literature and interactive media.

- **Data-Driven Literary Analysis**: Researchers and scholars are increasingly employing algorithms and data analytics to analyze literary texts at scale. These tools enable the study of linguistic patterns, sentiment analysis, and even authorship attribution. The application of AI to literary analysis provides new insights into classic and contemporary works and can uncover hidden themes and connections.

- **Digital Poetry and Art**: Algorithms and AI have expanded the horizons of poetry and art. Poets and artists are utilizing AI tools to create digital and interactive poetry, bridging the

worlds of visual art, language, and technology. These creations challenge traditional notions of poetry and artistic expression.

- **Ethical and Copyright Concerns**: The use of algorithms in literature has raised ethical concerns related to plagiarism and copyright. AI-generated content can sometimes blur the lines of originality and ownership, prompting discussions about attribution and legal rights.

Influence on Writing:

Exploring how algorithms and AI are being used in the writing process:

"The algorithm is a new kind of author, one that is able to create works of literature that are both human and machine-made**)** "Montfort 2003 **.(** Algorithms and artificial intelligence)AI **(** are being used in the writing process of English literature in a number of ways .Some of these include**:**

- **Generating creative content** :AI tools can be used to generate creative content, such as poems, stories, and scripts .This can help writers to brainstorm ideas, develop characters and plots, and write more efficiently.

- **Editing and proofreading** :AI tools can be used to edit and

proofread writing, identifying and correcting errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation **.**This can help writers to produce more polished and professional work**.**

- **Research and fact-checking** :AI tools can be used to research and fact-check information, helping writers to ensure that their work is accurate and up-to-date**.**

- **Feedback and analysis** :AI tools can be used to provide feedback on writing, identifying areas where improvement is needed and suggesting ways to make the writing more effective**.**

- **Tailoring writing to different audiences** :AI tools can be used to analyze audience data and tailor writing to specific audiences, helping writers to communicate their ideas more effectively**.**

Here are some specific examples of how algorithms and AI are being used in the writing process of English literature**:**

- Novelists are using AI tools to generate character sketches, plot outlines, and even entire chapters **.**For example, the novelist Andrew Sean Greer used the AI tool GPT-3 to help him write his novel **"**Less**".**

- Screenwriters are using AI tools to develop scripts and identify potential plot holes **.**For example, the screenwriter Scott Myers used the AI tool ScriptShark to help him develop the script for his film **"**Promising Young Woman**".**

- Poets are using AI tools to generate new ideas and experiment with different poetic forms **.**For example, the poet Ross Goodwin used the AI tool DeepDream to generate new images and ideas for his poems**.**

- Historians are using AI tools to research and analyze historical documents **.**For example, the historian Heather Cox Richardson used the AI tool TextReveal to help her research her book **"**To Make Men Free **:**A History of the Republican Party**".**

- Educators are using AI tools to provide feedback on student writing and to develop new teaching materials **.**For example, the educational technology company Grammarly offers an AI-powered writing tool that can

be used by students and teachers to improve their writing**.**

Here are a few specific AI Tools that are being used in the writing process of English literature:

- **Grammarly :**Grammarly is an AI-powered writing tool that can be used to check grammar, spelling, plagiarism, and style .It can also provide feedback on the clarity and conciseness of writing.

- **ProWritingAid :**ProWritingAid is another AI-powered writing tool that can be used to check grammar, spelling, and style .It also provides feedback on overused words and phrases, sentence structure, and readability.

- **QuillBot :**QuillBot is an AI-powered writing tool that can be used to rewrite and paraphrase text .It can also be used to generate different creative text formats of text content, like poems, code, scripts, musical pieces, email, letters, etc.

- **Plottr :**Plottr is an AI-powered story planning tool that can be used to generate outlines, identify plot holes, and develop character arcs.

- **AI Writer :**AI Writer is an AI-powered writing tool that can be used to generate text, translate languages, write different kinds of creative content, and answer your questions in an informative way.

- **Hemingway Editor :**Hemingway Editor is an AI-powered writing tool that can help writers to improve the clarity and readability of their writing . Hemingway Editor identifies complex sentences, passive voice, and overused words.

- **Readable :**Readable is an AI-powered writing tool that can help writers to improve the readability of their work . Readable calculates the Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level and the Flesch Reading Ease Score of a piece of text .These metrics can be used to assess the readability of a piece of text and to identify areas where the text can be improved.

Overall, algorithms and AI are being used in the writing process of English literature in a variety of ways **.** These technologies have the potential to help writers to be more creative, productive, and effective **.**However, it is

important to note that AI tools are not a replacement for human creativity and judgment" .Despite the challenges, the digital age also presents new opportunities for English literature . Algorithms can be used to create new forms of literary expression and to connect readers with works of literature that they might not otherwise have discovered**)** **"**Moretti 2013 **.(**Writers should use AI tools to augment their own skills and abilities, not to replace them .As AI continues to develop, it is likely that we will see even more innovative and effective ways to use AI in the writing process .Writers who are able to embrace AI and learn how to use it effectively will be well-positioned to succeed in the years to come.

Influence on Reading:

How technology and algorithms are changing the way we consume literature:

"Algorithms are not neutral . They reflect the biases and values of their creators .This means that algorithmic reading can lead to a narrowing of our literary horizons, as we are exposed to the same authors and genres over and over again **"** **)**Vaidhyanathan 2011 **.(**However, Technology and algorithms are changing the way we consume English literature in a number of ways, including**:**

- **Accessibility** :Technology has made English literature more accessible than ever before **.**E-books and audiobooks have made it possible to read and listen to English literature anywhere, anytime .Additionally, social media platforms and online book clubs have created new communities where readers can discuss and share their love of English literature**.**

- **Discovery** :Algorithms are being used to recommend English literature to readers based on their interests .This can help readers to discover new English literature that they are likely to enjoy" .The rise of algorithms has led to a new era of 'algorithmic reading,' in which our literary choices are increasingly determined by machines .This has profound implications for the way we understand and appreciate English literature**)** **"**Davidson 2011 **.(**For example, Amazon Kindle uses algorithms to recommend e-books to

customers based on their past purchases and browsing history.

- **Engagement** :Technology is being used to create new and engaging ways to consume English literature .For example, interactive fiction allows readers to choose their own path through a story .Additionally, virtual reality and augmented reality technologies can be used to transport readers into the world of a novel.

- **Personalization** :Technology is making it possible for readers to personalize their experience of English literature .For example, e-readers allow readers to adjust the font size, font type, and line spacing of their reading experience .Additionally, e-books and audiobooks often include features such as note-taking and highlighting, which can help readers to engage with the text in a more meaningful way.

- **Collaboration** :Technology is making it possible for readers to collaborate and share their thoughts on English literature . For example, online book clubs and discussion forums allow readers to connect with other

readers who share their interests .This can help readers to deepen their understanding of English literature and to gain new perspectives on the texts they read.

- **Interactivity** :Technology is also making it possible to interact with English literature in new ways .For example, some websites and apps allow readers to leave comments on books and articles .Additionally, some virtual reality experiences allow readers to step into the world of a book.

Here are some specific examples of how technology and algorithms are changing the way we consume English literature:

- **Goodreads** :Goodreads is a social media platform for book lovers .Goodreads users can create profiles, track their reading progress, and leave reviews of books .Goodreads also uses algorithms to recommend books to users based on their reading history and ratings.

- **Amazon Kindle** :Amazon Kindle is an e-reader device that allows users to read e-books .Amazon Kindle uses algorithms to recommend e-books to users

based on their past purchases and browsing history.

- **Audible** :Audible is an audiobook subscription service that allows users to listen to audiobooks .Audible uses algorithms to recommend audiobooks to users based on their listening history and ratings.

- **Virtual reality** :There are a number of virtual reality experiences that allow readers to step into the world of a book .For example, the **"**Dickens World **"** virtual reality experience allows users to explore the world of Charles Dickens' novels.

- **BookTube** :BookTube is a community of YouTube creators who create content about books . BookTubers often create videos about new book releases, book reviews, and book-related challenges .BookTube can be a great way to discover new English literature and to connect with other book lovers.

- **Online Book Clubs** :There are many online book clubs that readers can join .Online book clubs allow readers to discuss the books they are reading with other readers from all over the world .Online book clubs can be a great way to deepen your understanding of English literature and to gain new perspectives on the texts you read.

- **Interactive fiction** :Interactive fiction is a type of fiction that allows the reader to choose their own path through the story . Interactive fiction can be found on websites, mobile apps, and even video games.

- **Augmented reality** :Augmented reality **)**AR **(**is a technology that overlays digital information on the real world .AR can be used to enhance the reading experience . For example, the AR app **"**Blippar **"**can be used to scan book covers and access additional information about the book, such as author interviews and book reviews.

Case Studies:

Literary works or authors that have been influenced by technology and algorithms:

To illustrate how technology and algorithms have influenced English literature, here are some specific literary works and authors that have

engaged with or been influenced by these advancements:

- **"The Road "by Cormac McCarthy:** Cormac McCarthy's novel "The Road) "2006 (reflects the influence of technology, particularly in its dystopian portrayal of a post-apocalyptic world .The book explores themes of survival and human connection in a world devastated by an unexplained catastrophe.

- **"The Circle "by Dave Eggers:** Dave Eggers' novel "The Circle ")2013 (delves into the consequences of technology and social media on privacy, surveillance, and individual autonomy .It explores the dark side of algorithm-driven social networks and the erosion of personal boundaries.

- **"House of Leaves "by Mark Z . Danielewski:** Mark Z . Danielewski's "House of Leaves ")2000 (is an experimental novel that incorporates a complex narrative structure, footnotes, and unconventional typography . It challenges traditional notions of reading and storytelling, pushing the boundaries of what literature can be in a digital age.

- **"The Silent History "by Eli Horowitz, Matthew Derby, and Kevin Moffett:** "The Silent History) "2012 (is an interactive digital novel that combines the traditional narrative with location-based storytelling . Readers explore the story's fragments based on their physical location, blurring the lines between literature, technology, and geography.

- **Jennifer Egan's "Black Box:"** Jennifer Egan's short story "Black Box) "2012 (was originally published as a series of tweets .It explores the potential for storytelling in the Twitter format and how technology influences narrative constraints and possibilities.

- **"10:04 "by Ben Lerner:** Ben Lerner's novel "10:04) "2014 (engages with the concept of time in the digital age .It delves into the fluidity of time and the influence of technology on how we experience and perceive the world.

- **"BOTS "by Alex Irvine:** "BOTS ")2018 (is a collaborative project between author Alex Irvine and ChatGPT)an AI model .(The

novel is created by human-AI collaboration and explores the potential for algorithms in creative writing.

- **Margaret Atwood's "In Other Worlds :SF and the Human Imagination:"** Margaret Atwood's essay collection "In Other Worlds) "2011 (discusses science fiction and the impact of technology on literature .She explores how science fiction has responded to the rapid advancements in technology.

These examples showcase a diverse range of literary works and authors who have engaged with technology and algorithms in various ways .Whether it's addressing the ethical implications of technology, experimenting with narrative forms, or embracing interactive storytelling, these works offer valuable insights into the evolving landscape of English literature in the age of algorithms.

Ethical and Cultural Considerations: Addressing Ethical Dilemmas Surrounding AI-Generated English Literature:

The rise of artificial intelligence)AI (and algorithms in English literature has brought forth a multitude of ethical dilemmas, challenging traditional notions of authorship, creativity, and authenticity" .The algorithm is a powerful tool, but it is not a replacement for human judgment .We need to be critical of the information that we consume, and we need to be aware of the biases that can be embedded in algorithms) "Rushkoff 2019 .(As we explore the ethical concerns, it is important to acknowledge and navigate the intricate terrain of AI-generated English literature:

- **Authorship and Originality :** One of the most profound ethical dilemmas concerns authorship and originality .When AI algorithms generate content, questions arise regarding who should be credited as the author . Does the AI take on the role of an author, or is it merely a tool used by a human writer? This blurring of lines challenges established copyright and intellectual property norms, raising questions about fair compensation and recognition.

- **Plagiarism and Attribution :** The nature of AI-generated content can sometimes inadvertently resemble existing

human-authored works, potentially leading to unintentional plagiarism .Ethical considerations revolve around how to ensure proper attribution and distinguish AI-generated content from human originals.

- **Loss of Human Creativity :**The integration of AI in the creative process raises concerns about the potential erosion of human creativity .If AI becomes the primary source of content generation, there is a risk of diminishing the uniqueness and personal expression that human authors bring to literature.

- **Diversity and Representation :** AI algorithms can inadvertently perpetuate biases present in training data, which may lead to issues of representation and inclusivity in AI-generated literature .Ethical considerations include addressing biases and ensuring that AI-generated content reflects diverse voices and perspectives.

- **Loss of Jobs and Economic Implications :**As AI and algorithms become increasingly capable of generating content, there is concern about the impact on human authors and the publishing industry .Job displacement and economic implications for authors who rely on writing as their livelihood need to be addressed.

- **Reader Expectations and Transparency :**Ethical questions arise around reader expectations .Should readers be made aware when they are engaging with AI-generated content, or is there an ethical obligation to maintain a certain level of transparency regarding the use of algorithms in the creation process?

- **Algorithmic Bias in Content Recommendations :**The algorithms used to recommend literature may favor certain genres or authors, potentially influencing readers' choices and limiting exposure to diverse voices .Ethical concerns include ensuring fair and unbiased content recommendations.

- **Privacy and Data Security :**The use of AI in literature often involves the collection and analysis of user data for personalization and content recommendations .Ethical

concerns revolve around safeguarding reader privacy and data security.

- **Ethical Responsibility of Creators :** Authors and developers of AI systems bear ethical responsibility for the content generated by their algorithms. They must consider the potential consequences of their creations and actively address issues related to bias, plagiarism, and transparency.

Future Trends:

Predicting the Future of Technology in English Literature:

The future of technology in English literature is a dynamic and rapidly evolving landscape, characterized by ongoing innovation and transformation" .The algorithm is not a replacement for the human author, but a new tool that can be used to create new and innovative forms of literature ")Nardi 2009 .(While it is impossible to provide definitive predictions, several trends and possibilities are likely to shape the future of literature in the age of algorithms:

- **Advanced AI and Co-Creative Writing :** AI tools will continue to advance, becoming even more

sophisticated in assisting authors with writing tasks .The future may see AI models collaborating more seamlessly with human authors, co-creating literary works .These collaborations could produce unique narratives that blend human creativity with AI-driven assistance.

- **Personalized Literature** :The personalization of literature will become more pronounced .AI algorithms will refine their ability to curate highly personalized reading experiences, tailoring content to individual preferences, moods, and cultural backgrounds . Readers will access literature that feels more relevant and engaging to them personally.

- **Expanded Literary Genres :** The evolution of technology will lead to the emergence of new literary genres .Interactive and immersive storytelling forms will continue to gain prominence, pushing the boundaries of traditional narratives .This may include literature designed for virtual reality, augmented reality, and other immersive media.

- **Ethical Guidelines and Regulation :**As AI-generated content becomes more prevalent, there will likely be increased scrutiny and regulation to address ethical concerns . Authors, publishers, and tech companies will need to adhere to guidelines that ensure transparency, attribution, and the fair use of AI in literature.

- **Preservation of Print Literature :**While digital literature will continue to thrive, there will be efforts to preserve and celebrate the art of print literature .Print books may become more aesthetically and culturally significant as they coexist with their digital counterparts.

- **Augmented Reality Literature** : Augmented reality)AR (technology will enable readers to interact with literary works in new ways .AR apps will enhance printed books or digital texts with additional content, bringing illustrations, characters, and settings to life through immersive experiences.

- **Crowdsourced Storytelling :** Collaborative and crowdsourced storytelling platforms will become more popular .Readers and authors may collectively contribute to the creation and expansion of literary worlds, fostering a sense of community and engagement.

- **AI as Literary Critics :**AI will play a more significant role in literary criticism and analysis . "The algorithm is a kind of literary critic, able to identify patterns and trends in language that humans might miss .But it is also a kind of creator, able to generate new text that is both original and engaging ")Kirschenbaum 2016 .(Algorithms will be used to assess literary works, identify patterns, and provide valuable insights to scholars, authors, and readers.

The future of technology in English literature holds immense promise and will continue to challenge traditional boundaries .As the lines between author and machine blur, society will grapple with ethical and regulatory questions .However, the coexistence of human creativity and technological innovation will likely lead to a renaissance in literature, opening up new frontiers of storytelling and

literary exploration in ways that are both exciting and thought-provoking . This ongoing transformation promises to enrich the literary world and redefine the way we write, read, and appreciate English literature in the years to come.

Conclusion:

The intertwining of technology and English literature in the age of algorithms has ushered in an era of profound transformation, reshaping the very essence of how we create, share, and consume literary works **.**This research paper has illuminated the multifaceted impact of technology on the world of English literature, delving into the complex relationship between algorithms and the written word**.**

As we have explored the historical context of technology in literature, the emergence of algorithms, and their influence on the writing and reading processes, it has become evident that we are navigating uncharted territory **.**English literature, a venerable tradition, has not merely adapted to the digital age; it has coevolved with technology **.**Authors now wield algorithms as creative tools, algorithms curate and recommend literature to readers, and the

boundaries between human and machine contributions have blurred**.**

The ethical dilemmas arising from AI-generated content and questions about authorship, originality, and representation have introduced a new dimension to the discourse on literary creation **.**We have witnessed authors experimenting with form and content, challenging conventional narrative structures, and exploring the possibilities of interactivity and immersion **.**The future of technology in English literature promises not only increased personalization but also innovative literary genres and modes of expression**.**

However, the coexistence of technology and literature is not without its challenges **.**Questions of privacy, regulation, and the preservation of traditional literary forms persist **.**Ethical frameworks must evolve alongside technological advancements to ensure that the core values of literature, such as creativity, diversity, and cultural richness, remain intact**.**

In this age of algorithms, English literature is poised to expand its horizons, welcoming new voices and inviting readers to participate in stories like never before **.**The marriage of human creativity and technological

innovation is transforming literature into an interactive, dynamic, and adaptive art form .It offers both unparalleled opportunities and ethical considerations, a duality that defines the literary landscape of our times.

As we gaze toward the horizon of English literature's future, we see a world where technology acts as a catalyst, enabling human authors to explore uncharted literary territories and inspiring readers to engage with literature in increasingly personalized, immersive, and interactive ways .The relationship between technology and literature is dynamic, intricate, and ever-evolving, promising to continue captivating our imaginations, challenging our assumptions, and reshaping the way we write and read in the digital age .This research has been but a chapter in the ongoing narrative of this compelling journey, inviting further exploration and discourse in the vibrant realm of English literature in the age of algorithms.

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