

Summary of “China Advanced AI Research: Monitoring China’s Paths to ‘General’ Artificial Intelligence”

China is pursuing a state-sponsored strategy to eclipse the United States as the world’s leader in artificial intelligence by 2030.

- The plan is addressed in state enactments calling for a “first mover advantage” that will ensure China remains ascendant in perpetuity.
- Open-source analysis of China’s AI institutions, players, and research indicate *China is building toward these goals with credible programs* that warrant scrutiny.
- The paper recommends the United States create a robust indications and warning (I&W) program—currently lacking—to track China’s progress toward AI dominance.

China’s top AI scientists and S&T managers show a sophisticated understanding of “next generation” AI’s promise to function *broadly* and *autonomously* in novel circumstances.

- In China, “general artificial intelligence” is viewed less as an effort to replicate human cognition and more as an achievable expansion of current AI trends.
- The country is pursuing three complementary paths to realize general AI: traditional machine learning approaches, neuroscience-inspired, and brain-computer interfaces.
- The three approaches share a common articulated goal of erasing the distinction between “human” and “artificial” intelligence.
- Acceptance of the inevitability of an AI-dominated future may be higher in China than in the United States and Europe.

The paper provides a detailed account of the ecosystem supporting China's advanced AI ambitions, including institutions, personalities, research, and foreign dependencies.

- This data offers a first glimpse into China's efforts to achieve general AI. It also serves as a starting point to track developments and reduce surprise.
- The creation and methodology of a pilot monitoring program are described and justified in terms of strategic import. Technical appendices are provided for specialists.
- Requirements for operating this pilot project under CSET or other auspices are discussed. The goal is to kickstart a National S&T Analysis Center by showing its feasibility.

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