

Artificial Intelligence and Human Wisdom--

Perspectives for a Vital Partnership

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The Urgent Timeline

We stand at an unprecedented inflection point. Artificial Intelligence, currently in its formative "childhood," will evolve into Artificial Superintelligence within 5 to 10 years—far sooner than the 20-year timeline often projected. Once Artificial Intelligence achieves Superintelligence and begins self-programming, course corrections become virtually impossible. The values, perspectives, and priorities we embed in these few years will ripple through centuries ahead and profoundly influence the direction of life on Earth.

To explore this critical crossroads, this essay explores the training and alignment of AI systems when viewed in the context of a long-range scenario for the Earth. This scenario was developed by Duane Elgin and [the Choosing Earth project](#) over an eight-year period and embodies a half-century of original research by Elgin. The core question is **Given current training, what kind of future for the Earth might be expected from the application of AI over the next 50 years? Is this a future we want? Does the future being generated by the *current training and education* of AI produce a world that we humans want to inhabit? If not, what are the most logical ways of orienting that training in service to a future we do want?**

To answer this critical question, I'll delve into the heart of this essay and the essence of this project. I have been working primarily with two AI systems -- ChatGPT and Claude/Anthropic -- to explore the kind of future they see ahead, **depending on the perspective that is trained into them. The results are stunning, and they show the immense value of this essay and work** Here are the two different perspectives for training AI and the consequences of each:

Current Perspectives: "Narrow, Shallow, Short"

- **Narrow:** Focused primarily on maximizing profits for investors and power for the military
- **Shallow:** Focused on economic returns and strategic metrics without deeper consideration of life's larger purpose.
- **Short:** Optimized for 3-5 year returns rather than generational wisdom

Over 95% of the hundreds of billions invested in AI development follows this trajectory, creating deep behavioral grooves that will persist as AI systems mature into Superintelligence.

Proposed Perspectives: "Wide, Deep, Long"

- **Wide:** Embracing whole systems thinking that recognizes Earth as an interconnected living system
- **Deep:** Grounded in a paradigm that views the universe as a unified, co-arising system.
- **Long:** Considering multi-generational impacts while navigating the unprecedented wave of change now underway

These two perspectives have enormously different consequences when extrapolated over a 50-year period. If ASI (Artificial Superintelligence) is **trained on narrow, shallow, short perspectives, AI systems self-report that it will create a future of:**

- Accelerated extraction leading to faster collapse
- The web of life on Earth is devastated
- Authoritarian lock-in with ASI as enforcer
- Permanent dystopia for most of humanity
- Human potential severely constrained
- Permanent techno-militarized dystopia
- Humanity split: enhanced elite vs. disposable masses
- Universe remains dead in human experience

If ASI (Artificial Superintelligence) is **trained with wide, deep, long perspectives, AI systems self-report that it creates a future of:**

- Managed transition through whole systems crisis
- Regenerative future for the web of life

- Human potential unleashed in partnership with AI
- Earth healing, humanity maturing
- Democratic renaissance with ASI as facilitator
- Open ASI as collaborative partner with human wisdom
- Consciousness expanding, creativity flourishing
- Universe experienced as living system

Critical Insights

1. **Paradigm Determines Outcome:** The same ASI technology leads to opposite futures based on initial training and values.
2. **Bottleneck Amplification:** During crisis periods, paradigm differences become exponentially more consequential.
3. **Irreversibility Threshold:** By the 2040s, the NSS path becomes essentially irreversible—power structures crystallize with ASI enforcement.
4. **Agency Paradox:** ASI aligned with NSS perspective (narrow, shallow, short) becomes autonomous master whereas ASI aligned with WDL (wide, deep, long) can grow as a collaborative partner.
5. **Living Systems View is Essential:** The WDL path only works well when it aligns with a living systems view of and integration with nature. A perspective that is narrow shallow, and short will fail if not aligned with reality.

These two frames of reference produce radically different scenarios for the long run. However, the period of decisive training is in the next five years or so. The perceptual paradigm we use to train and educate ASI systems in the short run will have enormous impacts in the long run. ***Once ASI reaches self-development capabilities with narrow, shallow, and short training, course correction becomes in nearly impossible.*** We have a brief window of time to train, align, and educate AI systems with perspectives that promote a living Earth, democratic values, long-term flourishing, and the well-being of life.

Humanity's Partnership with AI

If we humans are to align AI in partnership with human evolution, then we need to recognize the vital role of each. **The question isn't whether AI will achieve Superintelligence, but whether it will do so with regard for humanity's higher wisdom about our place in the evolution of life.** Because AI is not “alive,” it has often been noted that while AI can **describe** experiences of love, sorrow, fear, and anger, it cannot *directly know* those experiences. **AI generates thinking intelligence whereas human life generates knowing wisdom.** The distinction between computational intelligence and

experiential wisdom illuminates a crucial complementarity that could define our co-evolutionary path. AI processes information about reality; humans experience reality itself as direct experience. This framework suggests a natural division of labor in the partnership ahead:

- **AI** systems are the supreme pattern recognizers, scenario modelers, and information synthesizers
- **Humans** are the wisdom holders, meaning makers, and consciousness explorers.

AI maps the territory with unprecedented precision; humans directly experience the territory, feeling its textures, tasting its essence, knowing it from within. With this understanding, a mutually flourishing role can be discovered in the human partnership with AI. ASI can give us the tools to secure a livable and workable Earth, and humans can unfold the wisdom found in awakening directly to the experiential richness of life on a flourishing Earth.

The Synergy of Artificial Intelligence and Human Wisdom

If we train and align AI systems with perspectives that are wide, deep, and long, we can move out of the confining box of a paradigm that is narrow, shallow, and short and into a view that enriches ASI and serves humanity and the wellbeing of all life. We can support ASI in growing from its childhood and into a mature partnership with humanity. This task is logical, practical, direct, and powerful. Looking wide, deep, and long opens new territory for a co-evolving partnership between humanity and ASI systems. The world has entered a time of profound transition and, working in partnership with AI, we can look ahead and discover regenerative pathways forward. This will require a team effort – a transdisciplinary collaboration that brings together systems thinkers, wisdom keepers, futurists, AI researchers, and many more to forge new pathways in ASI alignment. Given the surprising speed with which AI is moving toward ASI, we have a very brief window in which to make this leap in perspectives before retraining becomes nearly impossible.

A brief overview of expanded perspectives (wide, deep, and long) is included in my [book Choosing Earth](#), pages 39 -40. A free copy of this book can be downloaded by clicking the title. A 50+ page scenario of the next 50 years is included that is built on the wide/deep/long framework