Growth of Technology – How Evolution of Mankind is closely related to the Evolution of Technology

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Abstract: Unless technology helps us to work better, faster and with more accuracy, it is useless. Context, intelligence and user experience must come together in focus and practical applications are important. Constant technological revolution makes planning difficult and society that stops planning for the future is likely to become a brittle society. It could experience violent economic swings. Change that is too rapid can be deeply divisive, if only an elite can keep up, the rest of us will grow increasingly mystified about how the world works.

Keywords: Technology, Innovation, Devices.

INTRODUCTION

The new technologies might be self- accelerating but they are not self- determining. What civilization needs is a NOT-SO-FAST button. Self-accelerating technologies follow their own lifecycle. Rapid development in computer technology has spun off robotics and the internet to the great benefit of industry and human communications. Even if one country decided to forego the next technological revolution, another country would gladly take it up.

Technologies with this property of perpetual self-accelerated development termed as autocatalysis creates conditions that are unstable, unpredictable and unreliable. Since these technologies drive the society as a whole, there is a risk that civilisation itself may become unstable, unpredictable and unreliable. The newest technologies- computers, genetic engineering and nanotechnology differ from their preceding technologies in a fundamental way. Telephone, automobile, television and jet air travel accelerated for a while, transforming society along the way, but then settled into a manageable rate of change. Each was rewarded for staying the same than for radically transforming itself- a predictable, reliable condition known as "lock-in".

Technology tends to run in cycles. Microsoft ruled the 90s by building essential software for enterprises. Then apple created a new device driven market place in which the consumer was king. No matter how much technology develops, a world in which robots do everything for us will probably never happen. People get a sense of accomplishment when they are able to do things on their own. It is amazing to think how far technology has progressed. Several pieces of technology that we once saw in futuristic movies have already been invented or are in the process of being invented. Technology wants specialisation, opportunity, efficiency, emergence, complexity, diversity, freedom, beauty, structure, evolvability. Evolution, life, mind and the technology are infinite games. Their game is to keep game going and keep the participants playing as long as possible.

Technological advances invent more energy efficient methods and gravitate to technologies which compress information and knowledge to a given space or weight. Technology increases the speed at which it evolves. Technology predated our humanness. Termites themselves construct vast towers of mud for their homes. Birds weave elaborate, twiggy fabrics for their nests. Technology is older than we think. Back in the 1990s internet traffic was routed through fibre optic cable. Later industry shifted to switching technology which allowed more data to travel through the same cable. In telephony, market shifted from analogy to voice over internet protocol (VOIP) which allowed companies to send phone calls on the same network they used for computer

data. Internet has expanded from a medium for email to one for web pages and then streaming video and users have shifted from desktops to smartphones and tablets for accessing all that information. Latest is the internet of everything which is the explosion of connections across people, process, data and objects and has puts demands on business to create new communication channels for new kinds of devices.

Technologies arrive at an exponential rate because they build cumulatively upon each other, across disciplines. The pace of innovation may be accelerating but our ability to adapt to the latest technologies remains undeterred. Technology is not an obstacle to humanity. Humans evolve behaviourally, physically, morally, biologically. Innovative technologies, created by humans to benefit themselves are among the principle drivers of change in the human condition. Manmade technologies have changed our lives and generally for the better.