For as long as I can remember, I’ve been a skier. Skiing is a winter sport that requires dedication, hard work and agility. It’s not a hobby someone can pick up in a few hours. It takes years of trial and error to truly learn the art of skiing. To first become a skier, it helps if one is in good physical shape. Skiing is a tiring activity and soreness ensues from a day filled with going down the slopes. One of the first, and most important thing, learned during skiing is how to stop. The mountain can be overwhelming at times, especially during busy season. There are all types of skiers and snowboarders whizzing past and it’s crucial to learn how to stop to avoid accidents. A beginner usually starts out on the bunny hill, which has a rope tow to get to the top of the hill. It’s a good way to get comfortable going down in skis and also, a good prerequisite to going on a chairlift.

I first learned how to ski when I was four years old. It is one of my dad’s passions and he wanted to make sure it was instilled in his children as well. Growing up, my family took numerous skiing vacations to Colorado, Michigan and Minnesota. I took many ski school classes so I could learn the basics of skiing first. After learning the basics, I became a daredevil on the slopes. Being a child, I generally had no fear of the hardest runs and loved to challenge them with my dad. Nowadays, my family doesn’t go on nearly as many ski trips but I still savor every moment I have the opportunity to go down a mountain.

Since I don’t go skiing as much anymore, I enjoy watching professional videos of people skiing and snowboarding. Skiing and snowboarding used to only really be popular during the Winter Olympics or X-Games. The development of GoPro, a high definition wearable video camera, has changed the game though. GoPro’s make it easier for a skier to get footage of their run by not having to hold a camera at all-it’s simply attached to the skier’s helmet. According to the GoPro website, it’s a tiny video camera that can film in 4K and contains features like shake control and exposure control. From an article on The
Verge, a professional skier Tom Wallisch notes that, “it gives [him] the ability to review [his] tricks instantly on [his] phone…It helps you progress. It really helps push your skiing and helps you improve by just seeing what you're doing every run.” Being able to see mistakes, from an outside perspective, has done wonders for those who love skiing. Self-improvement no longer just comes from constant runs down the slope, it can now come from analyzing a simple video. GoPro has also revolutionized the community of those who participate in winter sports. The Verge mentions Tom Wallisch again and that, “The cameras also let him stay connected with his fans and the skiing community. Their omnipresence means he always has a photo or video to share, and someone to share it with.” One con that Tom Wallisch mentions is that his fear of missing out is now heightened by the development of GoPro. He states, “It's to the point where if I'm taking a day off… you see [someone else's videos] while you're on the couch and you're like, 'Screw this day off!' You get this horrible fear of missing out.”

The art of skiing or snowboarding has become so much more than just sharing stories to friends of new tricks one has landed. Now, one can share these tricks with the internet, reaching a wider presence than ever before. The invention of GoPro accompanied with the age of social media has completely transformed people’s love of winter sports.

In the future, I believe that GoPro will continue to come out with new video technology that will continually reinvent the way people view skiing. One advancement I could see in the future is combining Virtual Reality with GoPro. Since the runs are recorded from a first-person point-of-view, GoPro could potentially turn footage from professional into a VR video game. That advancement would not only excite experienced skiers, but also give new people a chance to actually “see” what skiing is like. Overall, I think that it would make the winter sports industry significantly more accessible and popular.
Works Cited (1)


Westworld is a science-fiction television show on HBO about robots entertaining the wealthy people of the world. It is almost a dream-like television show, with scenes from the “Wild West” switching to scenes of a dark, highly advanced technological facility. In the show, the “Wild West” is described to its customers as a theme-park, where people can fulfill their wildest dreams. Since the hosts are robots invented for Westworld, people can do anything to the robots. They can kill them, take advantage of them or go on adventures with them. Each host is programmed for a specific personality and job, resembling those of people who actually inhabited the Wild West Era.

In “The Original” (Episode One Season One of Westworld), the main characters are introduced. Dolores is a beautiful host who everyone in town has a crush on. She’s a farmer’s daughter and her boyfriend, Teddy (a host), arrives in town that day. They go back to Dolores’s farm to find her host father brutally murdered. They find a mysterious man and try to fight him, with no success. He “kills” them and then they wake up the next day completely reset, with no knowledge of the previous events. As the episode goes on, it becomes clear that a few of the hosts realize that there is an outside world. This is a bug that is found in the programming of some hosts, allowing them to become “aware.” In the control center of Westworld (where all the hosts are kept, programmed and developed), the hosts who have the bug are questioned. The control team begins to remove those who have the bug and Dolores comes in for questioning. She reassures the team that she is normally programmed and they allow her to return to Westworld. The next morning, she wakes up and decides to kill a fly, which is not something a host is programmed to do.

The technology that is used throughout Westworld and the first episode is the robot hosts. Their “brain” is basically a written program for how their personality will be. Each robot is programmed to
never harm living things. The robot technology in Westworld is somewhat far from our time. This sort of technology—programming a robot to act exactly like a human—has not been too developed yet. Only those who are the brightest engineers with lots of resources can explore this new type of technology. The only count of something similar to the technology in Westworld is the recent invention of the first human-like robot, Sophia. In an article by Forbes, the developer of Sophia, David Hanson states that “We feel that for realistic robots to be appealing to people, robots must attain some level of integrated social responsivity and aesthetic refinement.” This new technology is very similar to the one seen in Westworld. The hosts in Westworld are developed to act exactly how a normal human would act in everyday situations.

In Westworld, I concur that this technology is creating more problems rather than solving them. The only problem that this technology solves is that wealthy people have more ways of spending their free time and money. Since the humans take advantage of these hosts and treat them like animals, it brings up the issue of what would happen if the robots suddenly became aware of the outside world. For example, at the end of Episode 1, Dolores kills a fly because she is starting to become conscious. It’s a dangerous game that the engineers in Westworld are playing.

In real-life, I believe that the development of Sophia will solve more problems. In the Forbes article, they state that “Sophia wants to protect humanity.” Sophia states, “My AI is designed around human values like wisdom, kindness, and compassion.” The invention of these human-like robots will reinvent the idea of computers. With robots, one could give them tasks that only a conscious mind could figure out, without all the downfalls of the human brain. Their thinking is more streamline and logistical. I think in the real-world, if we respect robots, they can help us reach a new level of technological development that’s never been seen before.

The hosts in Westworld are not “real people” so they have no idea what things like pain, compassion and empathy are. The hosts are not actually physiologically affected by the actions of humans, at the end of the day. The only people in the show that are affected by the hosts are the engineers and the wealthy people who pay for the theme park. Those who are wealthy are seen to have very little compassion for the robots, so they are not affected by much that the hosts do. The engineers are more
compassionate though, as this is their brainchild. They are seen to be shocked and upset when a bug is found and they don’t enjoy the activity of retiring old hosts. As I stated before, I find that humans would be more accepting of AI technologies and the thought of robots helping out society. In an article by Robots.com, they describe how robots can help humans in the future, stating “Robots have created new jobs for those who were once on production lines with programming. They have pulled employees from repetitive, monotonous jobs and put them in better, more challenging ones.” Humans are now being pushed to study harder to gain critical skills, instead of mastering the machine line.

In Westworld or real-life, I think that robots are unethical. Throughout Westworld robots are taken advantage of every day. They are stolen from, lied to, shot at and solely there for the needs of the real humans. Yet it’s because robots are solely made to be taken advantage of. They do the tasks we don’t want to do. They take the jobs we don’t want to work. They are always one step behind us, since we are their creators. From an outside point of view, this is unethical. But, sometimes the unethical must be done to further society.

As time goes on, I believe that this technology will evolve into something much bigger than it is now. AI is a new territory that is now being explored. BigData-MadeSimple describes in an article how AI will impact every human’s life at some point. Their most notable point is about cyborg technologies. In regard to cyborg technologies, they state, “Researcher Shimon Whiteson thinks that in the future, we will be able to augment ourselves with computers and enhance many of our own natural abilities… Yokoy Matsuka of Nest believes that AI will become useful for people with amputated limbs, as the brain will be able to communicate with a robotic limb to give the patient more control.” Scientists and engineers are beginning to see all the ways that AI could change the world. As all these new benefits become unearthed, more and more people will be flocking to the field of AI, flooding it with new resources and ideas. It’s not a question that AI will eventually evolve into one of the greatest inventions of the 21st century.


