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Jin Li

Director of Centre for AI, Management, and Organization, HKU Zhang Yonghong Professor of Economics and Strategy Head of Management and Strategy Area, HKU Business School What is not Going to Change in the Age of Al?

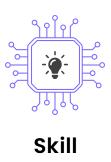


I very frequently get the question: 'What's going to change in the next 10 years?' And that is a very interesting question; it's a very common one. I almost never get the question: 'What's not going to change in the next 10 years?' And I submit to you that that second question is actually the more important of the two -- because you can build a business strategy around the things that are stable in time.

Jeff Bezos

Purpose of the Talk

Address permanent issues





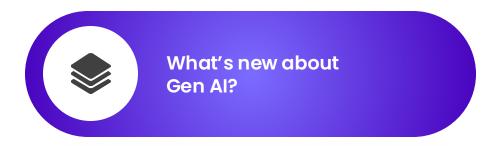


Focus on a common theme: Great Compression

Explore its implications on organizational transformation
What changes do organizations and workers need to make to thrive together?

Generative Alat Work







Traditionally: output as prediction or number



Knowledge as output



Expands the set of tasks machine can perform: writing, drawing, coding software, providing feedback...

Brynjolfsson, Li, and Raymond (QJE 2025)

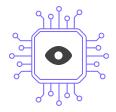


Technical customer support chat: one of the top use of GenAI



Conversational customer support assistant

- real-time recommendations for how to communicate
- long, difficult conversations on tax/payroll/website



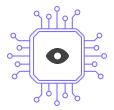
Large Fortune-500 software firm: 3 mil conversations from 5179 agents, each conversation 40-50 mins long

Main Findings: Average effects



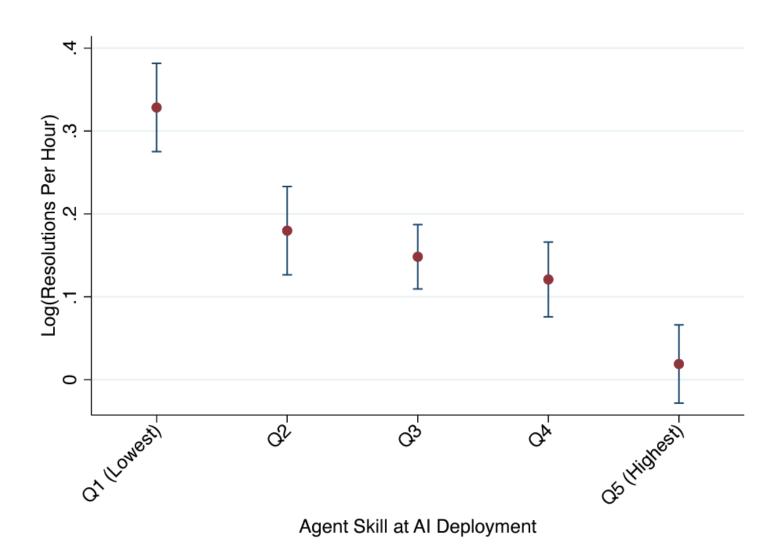
Significant improvement in number of resolutions per hour (14%).





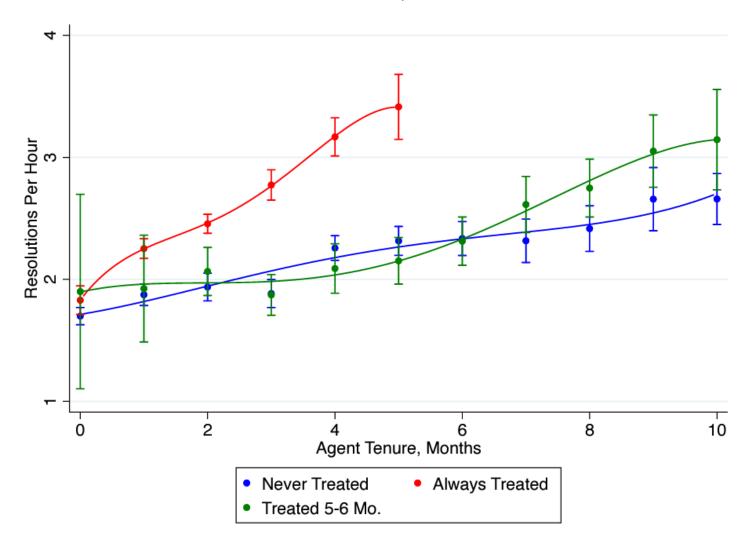
Slightly increase customer satisfaction (NPS)

Compression in Skill Levels



Compression in Skill Development

RESOLUTIONS PER HOUR, BY AGENT TENURE



Skill Compression:
Implications on
Talent Management

Use AI to "prolong" the shortest plank of the bucket

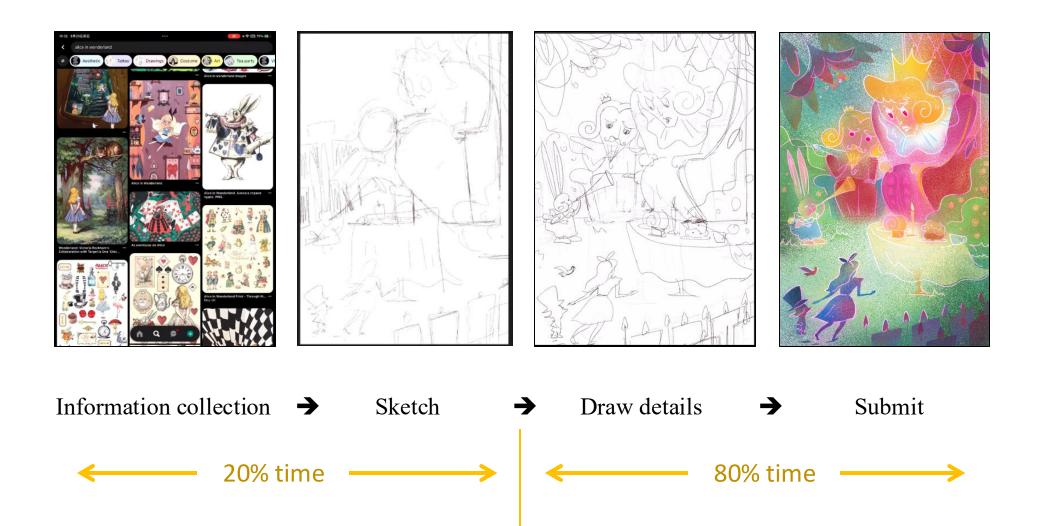
- Not replacing workers
- Empowering workers by rebundling skills

Use AI to accelerate talent development

- What (not) to teach?
- Which skill becomes more important?

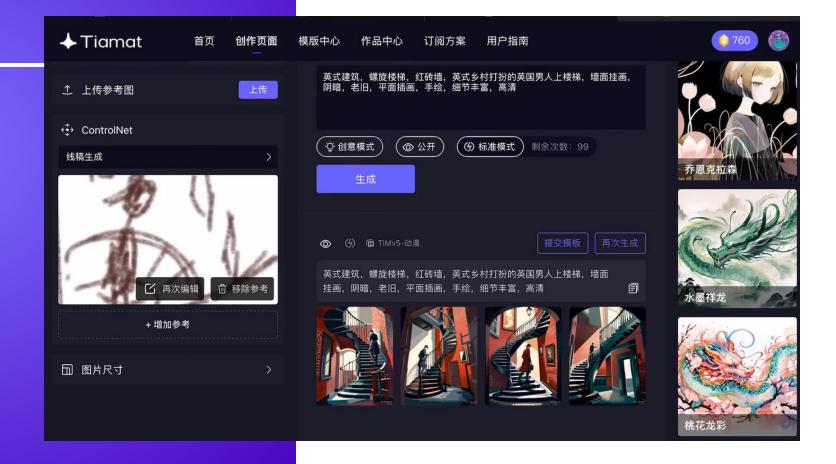


Creative Process: Traditional Method

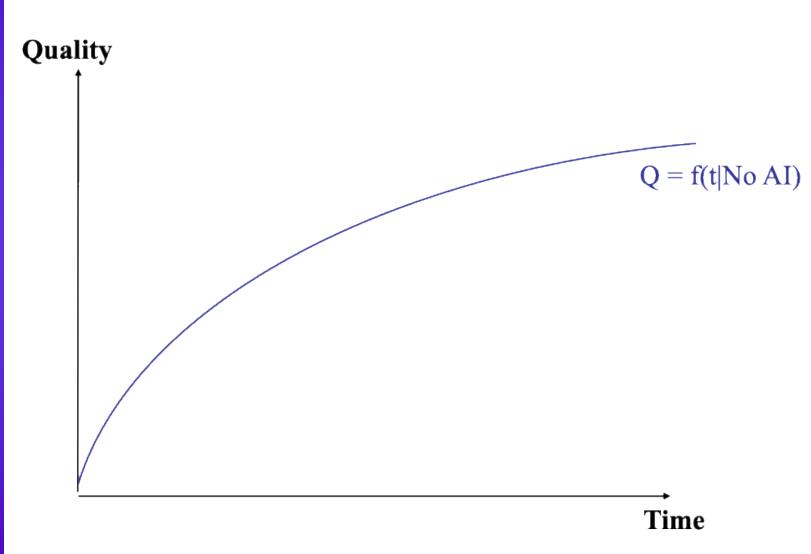


Creative Process

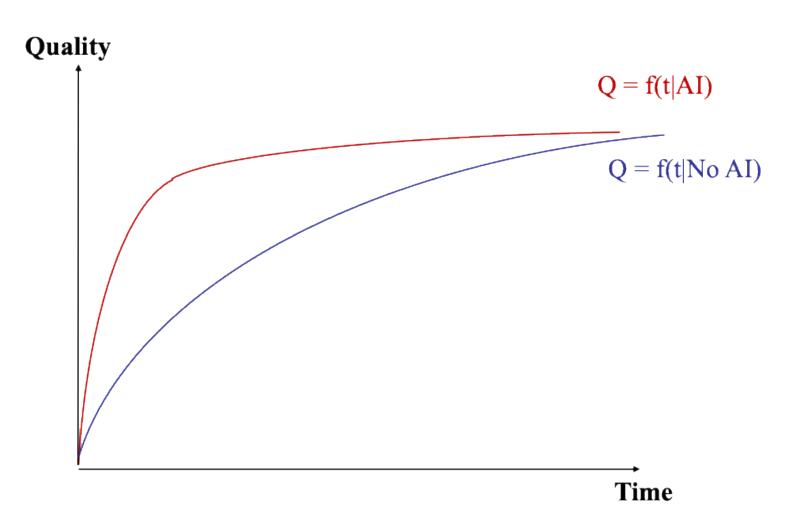
The Al Way



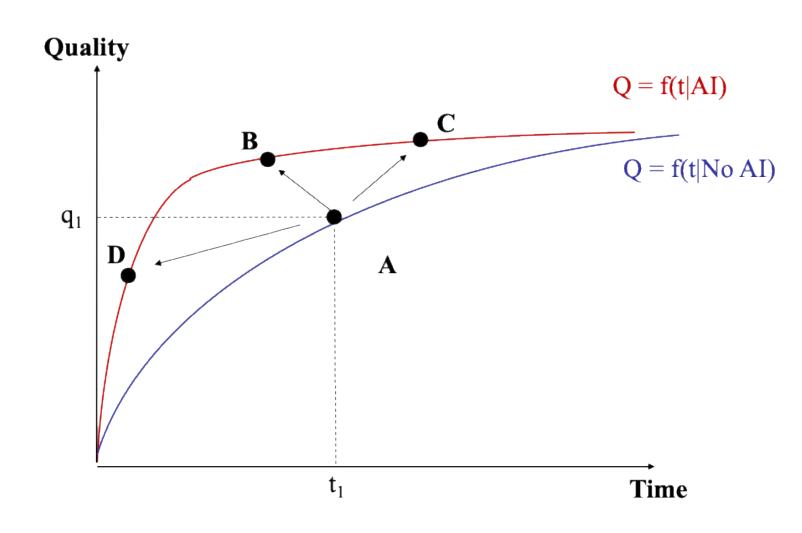
The Productivity Curve



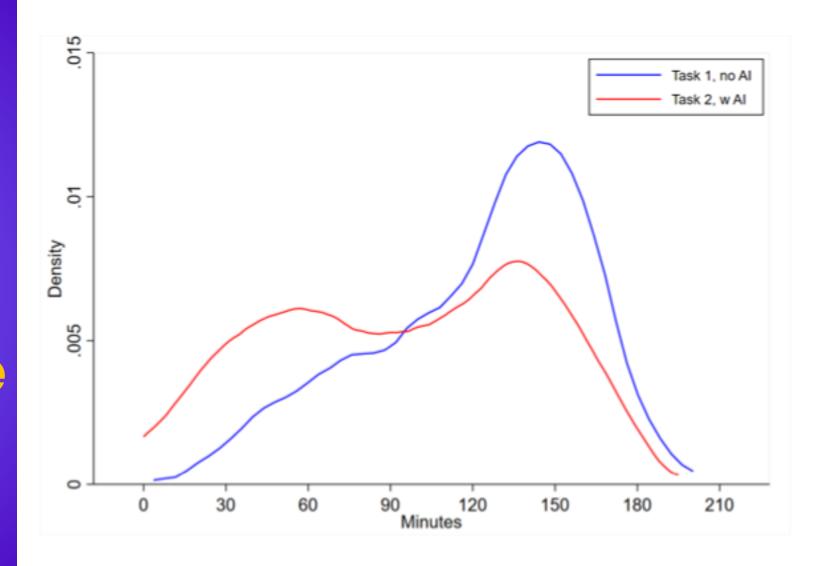
The Productivity Curve



Technology Curve, Time Choice, and Incentive



Motivation Compression and the Curse of the 80s



Motivation Compression:

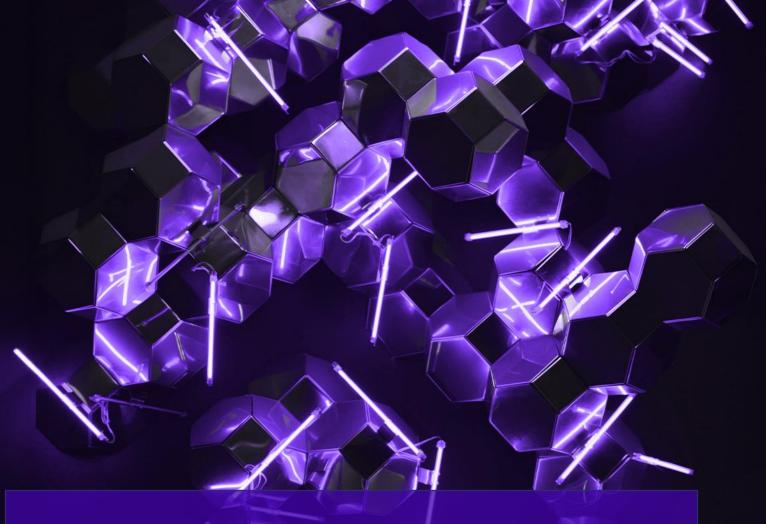
Strategy and Organization

Compression makes the middle vanish: 80 or 95?

• Quality vs Quantity

Quality-based strategy

- How to change incentive structures?
- How to find intrinsically motivated workers?



Quantity-based Strategy

- How to leverage skills (mega store manager)?
- How to select super managers?
- How to redesign the organization hierarchy?

God-like Technology, Paleolithic Emotion, and Medieval Institutions



People should stop training radiologists now. It's just completely obvious within five years deep learning is going to do better than radiologists.

Geoffrey Hinton, 2016







The Complexity of Organizational Transformation

TOP 10 REASONS FOR AI USAGE BELOW EXPECTATION

