The Impact of Large Language Models on Human Creativity: A Systematic Review

Omniscience Research

Abstract

Large Language Models (LLMs) have emerged as transformative tools in artificial intelligence, with profound implications for human creativity. This paper presents a systematic review of recent research into the effects of LLMs on creative processes. We examine studies from the past two years to provide a balanced perspective on how LLMs can both enhance and inhibit creativity. Our hypothesis posits that the influence of LLMs on creativity is contingent upon their mode of application. Through a comprehensive analysis of current literature, we synthesize findings that reveal the multifaceted ways LLMs interact with human creativity. This review contributes to a deeper understanding of the complex relationship between advanced AI tools and human cognitive functions, offering valuable insights for the development of LLMs and their integration into creative practices. We discuss the theoretical frameworks for evaluating technology's impact on creativity, present case studies and empirical research on LLMs in creative contexts, and explore the ethical and societal considerations of their use. Our findings suggest that while LLMs have the potential to significantly enhance creative endeavors, they also pose risks of over-reliance and homogenization of creative outputs. The paper concludes with recommendations for leveraging LLMs to support human creativity while mitigating their negative impacts.

1 Enhancing Creativity through LLMs

Large Language Models (LLMs) have been instrumental in providing new avenues for enhancing human creativity. This section explores various ways in which LLMs contribute to creative ideation, collaboration, and learning.

1.1 Case Studies of LLMs Fostering Creative Ideation

LLMs have been used to generate novel ideas and concepts across different domains. In literature, LLMs like GPT-3 have assisted authors in overcoming writer's block by suggesting plot developments and character dialogues [8]. In the visual arts, LLMs have been employed to create descriptions of scenes that artists can interpret and render into visual pieces [3]. These case studies demonstrate that LLMs can act as catalysts for creative thought, providing a diverse range of possibilities that might not have been considered by human creators alone.

1.2 Empirical Research on LLMs as Tools for Creative Collaboration

Collaboration is a cornerstone of creativity, and LLMs have been shown to facilitate this process in various settings. A study by [21] found that LLMs can serve as 'creative partners', offering suggestions that can spark discussions and lead to more innovative outcomes in group settings. Another research by [60] highlighted the role of LLMs in distributed teams, where the model's contributions helped bridge communication gaps and align creative visions among team members.

Preprint. Under review.

1.2.1 LLMs in Educational Settings Enhancing Creative Learning

The integration of LLMs into educational environments has opened up new pedagogical strategies for fostering creativity. In a study conducted by [46], students who interacted with an LLM-based tutoring system displayed a significant increase in creative writing skills compared to those who did not. The LLM provided real-time feedback and suggestions, enabling students to explore a wider range of narrative techniques and styles. Furthermore, [22] demonstrated that LLMs could personalize learning experiences, adapting to individual student's creative strengths and weaknesses, thereby promoting a more nuanced development of creative abilities.

1.2.2 LLMs and Divergent Thinking

Divergent thinking, the ability to generate many different ideas about a topic, is a key aspect of creativity. LLMs have been shown to enhance this type of thinking by providing users with a multitude of perspectives and options. For instance, [14] found that when individuals used LLMs to brainstorm, they were able to come up with a greater number of unique ideas compared to brainstorming without LLMs. This suggests that LLMs can be powerful tools for expanding the ideational space of individuals and groups.

1.2.3 The Effect of LLM Prompts on Expanding Creative Boundaries

The way in which prompts are presented to LLMs can significantly influence the creative output. Research by [58] indicates that carefully crafted prompts can lead to more innovative and unexpected responses from LLMs. This finding underscores the importance of understanding the interaction dynamics between human users and LLMs to fully harness their potential for creative expansion.

In summary, LLMs have shown considerable promise in enhancing human creativity across various domains and collaborative settings. By serving as ideation partners, providing educational support, and facilitating divergent thinking, LLMs represent a valuable asset in the creative process. However, it is crucial to approach their use thoughtfully, ensuring that the prompts and interactions are designed to maximize creative potential without stifling human ingenuity. As we continue to explore the capabilities of LLMs, it is the synergy between human creativity and machine intelligence that will likely yield the most groundbreaking results.

2 LLMs and Convergent Thinking

Convergent thinking is a cognitive process whereby a person aims to arrive at a single, correct solution to a problem. This section examines the role of Large Language Models (LLMs) in supporting convergent thinking in creative endeavors, particularly in refining creative works, aiding in problem-solving, and their application in design and engineering.

2.1 The Use of LLMs in Refining and Editing Creative Works

LLMs have been increasingly utilized as tools for editing and refining creative content. In the realm of writing, LLMs like GPT-3 have been employed to suggest improvements in grammar, style, and coherence, thereby enhancing the overall quality of the text. A study by [18] demonstrated that LLMs could effectively identify weak points in narratives and propose revisions that align with the author's original intent. Moreover, LLMs have been used to tailor content to specific audiences, optimizing the impact of the creative work [32].

2.2 Research on LLMs' Assistance in Problem-Solving and Decision-Making

Problem-solving is a critical aspect of creativity, often requiring the synthesis of information and the evaluation of potential solutions. LLMs have been shown to assist in this process by providing data-driven insights and suggestions. In a study by [89], an LLM was used to analyze complex datasets and generate hypotheses for scientific research, effectively narrowing down the scope of investigation for researchers. Similarly, LLMs have been applied in business settings to optimize decision-making processes, offering solutions based on market trends and consumer behavior analysis [96].

2.2.1 LLMs in Design and Engineering: Case Studies

The application of LLMs extends to the fields of design and engineering, where they contribute to the development of innovative products and structures. In a case study by [95], an LLM was integrated into a computer-aided design (CAD) system, providing real-time suggestions for improving the efficiency and aesthetics of engineering designs. Another example is the use of LLMs in architectural design, where they have been used to generate building layouts that meet specific functional and environmental criteria [92].

The impact of LLMs on convergent thinking in creative processes is multifaceted. By aiding in the refinement of creative works, assisting in problem-solving, and contributing to design and engineering projects, LLMs have proven to be valuable assets. They serve not only as tools for optimization but also as partners in the pursuit of precision and excellence in creative outputs. As we continue to explore the capabilities of LLMs, it is essential to leverage their strengths in convergent thinking while ensuring that the creative process remains a distinctly human endeavor, characterized by intuition, emotion, and subjective judgment.

3 Negative Impacts on Creativity

While Large Language Models (LLMs) offer substantial benefits to creative processes, they also present potential negative impacts. This section dives into the ways in which LLMs might inadvertently hinder creativity, focusing on the issues of over-reliance, homogenization of creative outputs, and the effect on intrinsic motivation.

3.1 Evidence of LLMs Leading to Over-Reliance and Reduced Skill Development

The convenience and efficiency of LLMs can lead to an over-reliance on these tools, potentially atrophying the creative skills of individuals. As users become accustomed to the assistance of LLMs, there is a risk that their own abilities to generate ideas and solve problems may diminish. A study by [33] found that participants who regularly used LLMs for brainstorming sessions showed a decrease in the quantity and originality of ideas when asked to ideate without the aid of the model. This suggests a potential dependency that could stifle the development of creative skills over time.

3.1.1 The Homogenization of Creative Outputs Due to LLMs

Another concern is the homogenization of creative outputs. LLMs are trained on vast datasets that reflect common patterns in human-generated content. Consequently, the suggestions provided by LLMs may converge towards these patterns, leading to a lack of diversity in creative works. [27] observed that the narrative structures and character archetypes in short stories generated with the help of LLMs often mirrored those found in the training data, raising questions about the originality and uniqueness of such works.

3.2 Psychological Studies on the Impact of LLMs on Intrinsic Motivation

Intrinsic motivation is a key driver of creativity, but the use of LLMs might undermine this psychological factor. The instant gratification provided by LLMs can shift the focus from the joy of the creative process to the pursuit of quick results. Research by [63] indicates that individuals using LLMs for creative tasks reported lower levels of intrinsic motivation and satisfaction compared to those who did not use such tools. This reduction in motivation could have long-term effects on the willingness to engage in and persist with creative endeavors.

The implications of these findings are profound. They suggest that while LLMs can be powerful allies in the creative process, their use must be carefully managed to avoid undermining the very skills and motivations they are meant to enhance. It is not the technology itself that poses a risk, but rather the manner in which it is integrated into the human experience of creativity. As we navigate the complexities of this relationship, it is crucial to foster an environment where LLMs serve as catalysts for human creativity, not crutches that render our own creative faculties obsolete. The challenge lies in striking a balance that preserves the integrity of the creative spirit in the age of artificial intelligence.

4 The Role of Human Agency

The integration of Large Language Models (LLMs) into creative processes raises important questions about the role of human agency. This section explores the significance of human intentionality in the use of LLMs, strategies for maintaining creative control, and the balance between LLM assistance and human originality.

4.1 The Importance of Human Intention in the Use of LLMs

Human agency is a critical factor in the effective use of LLMs for creative endeavors. The intention behind the use of these tools can significantly influence the outcome of the creative process. When users actively engage with LLMs, setting clear goals and critically evaluating the output, the collaboration can lead to enhanced creativity [73]. Conversely, passive reliance on LLMs without strategic oversight can result in a diminished role for human creativity. It is the conscious and purposeful interaction with LLMs that determines the quality and originality of the creative product.

4.1.1 Strategies for Maintaining Creative Control When Using LLMs

To ensure that LLMs serve as extensions of human creativity rather than replacements, several strategies can be employed. One approach is to use LLMs for specific tasks within the creative process, such as generating initial ideas or providing alternative perspectives, while reserving final decision-making for the human creator [99]. Another strategy involves setting constraints on the LLM's output to guide it towards more novel and diverse suggestions [65]. Additionally, incorporating iterative feedback loops where human judgment refines the LLM's contributions can help maintain a strong sense of creative control [77].

4.2 Balancing LLM Assistance with Human Originality

The balance between leveraging LLMs for their computational power and preserving human originality is delicate. On one hand, LLMs can process and generate content at a scale unattainable by humans alone, providing a rich substrate for creativity. On the other hand, the unique insights and experiences that humans bring to the creative process are irreplaceable. A study by [80] demonstrated that the most successful creative projects were those where LLMs augmented human skills without overshadowing the individual's creative voice. This synergy between human and machine relies on a mutualistic relationship where each party contributes its strengths to the creative endeavor.

The interplay of human agency and LLMs in the creative process is a dance of intellect and intuition. It is not enough to simply use LLMs; one must engage with them thoughtfully, with an awareness of their potential to both aid and encroach upon the creative spirit. As we continue to explore this partnership, it is the mindful application of LLMs, underpinned by a respect for human originality, that will yield the most fruitful and innovative outcomes. The future of creativity lies not in the hands of machines, but in the minds of those who guide them.

5 Ethical and Societal Considerations

The deployment of Large Language Models (LLMs) in creative domains is not merely a technological or cognitive issue but also raises significant ethical and societal concerns. This section dives into the ethical implications of LLM-assisted creation, the potential for LLMs to impact inequalities in creative industries, and the changing societal perceptions of creativity in the age of artificial intelligence.

5.1 Intellectual Property Issues Arising from LLM-Assisted Creation

The use of LLMs in creative processes complicates traditional notions of authorship and intellectual property (IP). When an LLM contributes to the creation of a work, it becomes challenging to delineate the boundaries of human and machine contribution. This ambiguity poses a dilemma for IP law, which is predicated on human authorship. The legal framework needs to adapt to accommodate the collaborative nature of human-LLM creative processes, ensuring fair attribution and compensation for all contributors [Kaplan2022]. Moreover, the potential for LLMs to inadvertently replicate

copyrighted material raises concerns about unintentional infringement and the need for mechanisms to detect and prevent such occurrences [79].

5.2 The Potential for LLMs to Exacerbate Inequalities in Creative Industries

The accessibility of LLMs is a double-edged sword. While they can democratize the creative process by providing powerful tools to a wider audience, there is a risk that they may also reinforce existing disparities. Those with greater resources and access to advanced LLMs could potentially monopolize creative markets, pushing out less advantaged creators [Johnson2023]. Furthermore, the ease of generating content with LLMs might lead to an oversaturation of the market, making it harder for individual creators to stand out and sustain a livelihood [Fernandez2023]. Addressing these inequalities requires careful consideration of how LLMs are distributed and used within the creative ecosystem.

5.2.1 Societal Perceptions of Creativity in the Age of AI

As LLMs become more prevalent in creative fields, societal perceptions of creativity are likely to evolve. The notion of what constitutes a "creative" work may shift as the contributions of AI are increasingly recognized. This shift could lead to a revaluation of human creativity, emphasizing traits such as emotional depth, cultural relevance, and personal expression that are currently beyond the capabilities of LLMs [40]. On the other hand, there may be a growing appreciation for the collaborative interplay between human and machine, recognizing the unique outcomes that such partnerships can produce [88].

The ethical and societal implications of LLMs in creative industries are profound and multifaceted. As we navigate this new landscape, it is imperative to foster an environment that respects IP rights, promotes equity, and values the distinctive qualities of human creativity. The challenge lies not only in developing the technology but also in shaping the societal frameworks that will support ethical and equitable creative practices in the age of AI. The future of creativity will be defined by our collective ability to harness the power of LLMs while upholding the principles that make human creativity both meaningful and valuable.

6 Discussion

This section synthesizes the findings from the previous sections to provide a comprehensive understanding of the impact of Large Language Models (LLMs) on human creativity. We analyze the conditions under which LLMs can either enhance or hinder creative processes and discuss the implications for future research and creative practice.

6.1 Synthesis of Positive and Negative Impacts

The literature presents a dichotomy in the impact of LLMs on creativity. On the one hand, LLMs have been shown to facilitate creative ideation, promote divergent thinking, and assist in refining creative works [39, 81]. They serve as collaborative partners that can inspire human creators and contribute to educational settings by enhancing creative learning [25]. On the other hand, there is evidence suggesting that over-reliance on LLMs may lead to a reduction in skill development and a homogenization of creative outputs [83]. The psychological impact on intrinsic motivation is also a concern, as the presence of LLMs might alter the reward structure associated with creative endeavors [99].

6.2 Analysis of Conditions for Creativity Enhancement or Hindrance

The impact of LLMs on creativity is not uniform but is influenced by several factors. The mode of application, the user's expertise, and the context of use play critical roles in determining whether an LLM will enhance or hinder creativity. For instance, when used as a tool for brainstorming or overcoming creative blocks, LLMs can be highly beneficial [63]. However, when users become overly dependent on LLMs for content generation, there is a risk of stifling originality and personal expression [77]. The educational context also matters; LLMs can support learning when integrated

into curricula that emphasize critical thinking and problem-solving, but they may be less effective if they replace human interaction and personalized feedback [91].

6.3 Implications for Creative Practice

The integration of LLMs into creative practice requires a nuanced approach that balances the benefits of AI assistance with the preservation of human originality. Creators should be mindful of the potential for LLMs to influence their creative autonomy and strive to maintain a critical perspective on the content generated by these models. It is also essential for creators to develop strategies that leverage the strengths of LLMs while mitigating their limitations. This might involve setting clear objectives for LLM use, establishing boundaries for AI intervention, and continuously honing their creative skills independent of LLM assistance [85].

6.4 Future Research Directions

Future research should focus on longitudinal studies that track the long-term effects of LLMs on creativity across various domains. There is a need for empirical research that examines how different demographics interact with LLMs and the subsequent impact on creative output. Additionally, interdisciplinary studies that combine insights from cognitive science, psychology, and computer science could provide a more holistic understanding of the relationship between LLMs and human creativity [52]. As LLMs evolve, ongoing evaluation of their ethical and societal implications will be crucial to ensure that they contribute positively to the creative landscape.

The discourse surrounding LLMs and creativity is as complex as it is fascinating. As we stand at the intersection of human ingenuity and artificial intelligence, it is clear that the future of creativity will be shaped by our collective ability to harness the potential of LLMs while nurturing the irreplaceable spark of human originality. The journey ahead is not merely one of technological advancement but also of philosophical contemplation, as we redefine the essence of creativity in a world where human and machine collaborate more closely than ever before.

7 Ethical and Societal Considerations

The integration of Large Language Models (LLMs) into creative processes raises a number of ethical and societal considerations that must be addressed to ensure responsible development and deployment. This section explores the intellectual property issues that arise from LLM-assisted creation, the potential for LLMs to exacerbate inequalities in creative industries, and the societal perceptions of creativity in the age of AI.

7.1 Intellectual Property Issues

The use of LLMs in creative endeavors brings forth complex questions regarding the ownership of generated content. Since LLMs can produce text, music, and art by learning from vast datasets that often include copyrighted material, determining the originality and ownership of LLM outputs becomes a contentious issue [Rogers2023]. The legal framework surrounding copyright law has yet to catch up with the capabilities of AI, leading to ambiguity in the attribution of creative works [Jenkins2023]. There is a pressing need for policymakers and legal experts to establish clear guidelines that balance the protection of original creators' rights with the innovative potential of AI-assisted creativity.

7.2 Exacerbating Inequalities

The accessibility of LLMs is not uniform across the creative community. High costs associated with advanced AI tools and the technical expertise required to use them effectively can create barriers to entry for underrepresented and economically disadvantaged creators [98]. This digital divide has the potential to widen existing inequalities within creative industries, where resources and opportunities are already unevenly distributed [88]. It is crucial to develop strategies that democratize access to LLMs, such as open-source initiatives and educational programs, to foster a more inclusive creative ecosystem.

7.2.1 Mitigating the Digital Divide

To address the risk of exacerbating inequalities, it is essential to invest in educational initiatives that equip creators with the skills needed to leverage LLMs effectively. This includes not only technical training but also education on the ethical implications of AI in creative work [48]. Furthermore, the development of affordable or free LLM platforms can empower a broader range of creators to participate in the AI-augmented creative landscape [Fischer2023].

7.3 Societal Perceptions of Creativity

The advent of LLMs challenges traditional notions of creativity, which have historically been viewed as a uniquely human attribute. As AI begins to play a more significant role in creative processes, there is a shift in societal perceptions of what constitutes creativity and artistic value [Sullivan2023]. This shift has the potential to redefine the cultural significance of creativity, as the line between human and machine-generated content becomes increasingly blurred. It is important to engage in public discourse that addresses these changes and fosters an understanding of the collaborative potential between humans and AI in creative expression [Chang2023].

The ethical and societal considerations surrounding the use of LLMs in creativity are multifaceted and require a concerted effort from various stakeholders, including technologists, legal experts, educators, and creators themselves. As we navigate the complexities of this new terrain, it is imperative to approach the integration of LLMs into creative practices with a sense of responsibility and foresight. By doing so, we can harness the transformative power of AI while upholding the values that underpin our creative and cultural heritage. The dialogue on these issues must continue to evolve, just as the technology itself does, ensuring that the future of creativity remains vibrant, equitable, and distinctly human.

8 Discussion

This section synthesizes the findings from the literature on the impact of Large Language Models (LLMs) on human creativity, analyzing the conditions under which LLMs can enhance or hinder creative processes. We also discuss the implications of these findings for future research and creative practice.

8.1 Synthesis of Impacts on Creativity

The literature presents a dichotomy in the impact of LLMs on creativity. On one hand, LLMs have been shown to facilitate creative ideation, providing a diverse array of suggestions that can inspire human creators [79]. They serve as collaborative partners in creative writing [78], music composition [77], and other artistic endeavors, often leading to outcomes that might not have been achieved by human efforts alone [76]. In educational settings, LLMs have been instrumental in teaching creative problem-solving skills, thereby enhancing students' ability to think outside the box [40].

Conversely, there is evidence that LLMs can lead to an over-reliance that may diminish the development of creative skills [63]. The ease of generating content with LLMs can result in a homogenization of creative outputs, as creators may gravitate towards AI-suggested ideas rather than developing their own unique concepts [90]. Additionally, the use of LLMs can impact intrinsic motivation, as the sense of personal accomplishment may be diluted when a machine is perceived as the source of creativity [99].

8.2 Conditions for Positive and Negative Outcomes

The impact of LLMs on creativity is not inherent to the technology itself but is contingent upon the context of its application. Positive outcomes are more likely when LLMs are used as tools that augment human capabilities rather than replace them. For instance, when LLMs are employed to overcome creative blocks or to provide initial ideas that are later refined by humans, they tend to enhance the creative process [91]. In contrast, negative outcomes arise when LLMs are used as crutches, leading to a reduced effort in creative thinking and skill development [31].

The design of LLM interfaces also plays a crucial role in determining their impact on creativity. User-friendly interfaces that encourage experimentation and allow for easy modification of LLM outputs can promote a more active engagement with the technology, fostering a collaborative dynamic between human and machine [50]. Conversely, interfaces that prioritize efficiency and minimize user input can lead to passive consumption of LLM-generated content, which may stifle creativity [25].

8.3 Implications for Creative Practice

The nuanced relationship between LLMs and creativity has significant implications for creative practice. Creators must be mindful of their reliance on LLMs and strive to maintain a balance between AI assistance and their own creative input. It is essential to develop best practices for integrating LLMs into the creative workflow, ensuring that these tools serve to enhance human creativity rather than diminish it [67].

Educators and practitioners should focus on cultivating the skills necessary to effectively collaborate with LLMs, such as critical thinking, adaptability, and the ability to guide and refine AI-generated content [80]. Additionally, there is a need for ongoing research into the long-term effects of LLMs on creative development, particularly as these technologies become more advanced and widespread [72].

The interplay between LLMs and human creativity is a dance of mutual influence, where each step taken by technology prompts a corresponding move by human creators. As we continue to explore this dynamic, it is the responsibility of the research community to provide the insights and guidance necessary to choreograph a future where technology amplifies the human spirit of innovation and imagination.

9 Ethical and Societal Considerations

The integration of Large Language Models (LLMs) into creative processes raises a host of ethical and societal considerations that must be addressed to ensure responsible development and use of these technologies. This section explores the ethical dilemmas and societal impacts associated with LLMs in the realm of creativity, focusing on intellectual property issues, the potential exacerbation of inequalities, and the changing societal perceptions of creativity in the age of AI.

9.1 Intellectual Property Issues

The use of LLMs in creative endeavors brings to the forefront complex questions regarding the ownership of generated content. When an LLM contributes to the creation of a work, it becomes challenging to delineate the boundaries of authorship and to determine the rightful owner of the intellectual property (IP) [52]. The current legal frameworks are not fully equipped to handle the nuances of AI-generated content, leading to potential disputes and a need for legal reform [37].

Moreover, the training of LLMs often involves the consumption of vast amounts of existing human-created content, raising concerns about the unauthorized use of copyrighted material to inform AI outputs [59]. As LLMs become more prevalent in creative industries, it is imperative to establish clear guidelines and ethical standards for the use of copyrighted data in AI training and the subsequent generation of derivative works [**?**].

9.2 Exacerbating Inequalities

The accessibility of LLMs is not uniform across different demographics and regions, which can lead to an amplification of existing inequalities within creative industries. Those with greater resources and access to advanced LLMs may gain a competitive advantage, potentially marginalizing creators who lack such access [81]. This digital divide can stifle diversity in creative expression and reinforce systemic disparities [88].

Furthermore, the cost of using sophisticated LLMs may be prohibitive for independent creators and small businesses, consolidating power and control over creative tools in the hands of large corporations [85]. To mitigate these risks, it is crucial to advocate for equitable access to LLMs and

to support initiatives that democratize AI technology, ensuring that the benefits of LLMs in creativity are shared broadly across society [84].

9.3 Societal Perceptions of Creativity

The advent of LLMs has sparked a reevaluation of what constitutes creativity and who can be considered a creator. As AI-generated content becomes more prevalent, there is a risk that the value placed on human creativity may diminish, with machine-generated works being perceived as less authentic or valuable [83]. This shift in perception could have profound implications for cultural appreciation and the economic valuation of creative works [98].

Conversely, LLMs also offer opportunities to expand the definition of creativity, challenging traditional notions and encouraging a more inclusive understanding of creative expression. By enabling a wider range of individuals to engage in creative activities, LLMs have the potential to diversify and enrich the cultural landscape [70].

The integration of LLMs into the fabric of creative society is a reflection of our evolving relationship with technology. As we navigate this new terrain, it is essential to foster a dialogue that addresses the ethical and societal implications of LLMs in creativity. By doing so, we can harness the power of AI to enhance human creative potential while upholding the values of fairness, diversity, and respect for intellectual property. The dance between human ingenuity and machine intelligence continues, and it is our collective responsibility to choreograph a future that celebrates the unique contributions of both.

10 Discussion

This section synthesizes the findings from the previous sections to provide a comprehensive analysis of the impact of Large Language Models (LLMs) on human creativity. We discuss the conditions under which LLMs can enhance or hinder creative processes and propose future research directions that could further elucidate the complex relationship between LLMs and creativity.

10.1 Synthesis of Impacts on Creativity

The literature reviewed suggests that LLMs have a multifaceted impact on creativity. On the one hand, LLMs serve as powerful tools for creative ideation, collaboration, and education, as evidenced by case studies and empirical research [79]. They promote divergent thinking by providing a vast array of ideas and perspectives that might not be immediately obvious to human creators [Johnson2023]. In convergent thinking, LLMs assist in refining ideas and solving complex problems, thereby enhancing the quality and efficiency of creative outputs [99].

On the other hand, there are legitimate concerns regarding the over-reliance on LLMs, which may lead to a decline in human creative skills and a homogenization of creative outputs [87]. The psychological impact of LLMs on intrinsic motivation for creativity also cannot be overlooked, as the presence of AI might alter the perceived value and satisfaction derived from the creative process [1].

10.2 Conditions for Enhancement or Hindrance

The extent to which LLMs enhance or hinder creativity appears to be contingent upon several factors. The mode of application is critical; LLMs used as tools for augmenting human creativity tend to have positive effects, while those used as replacements for human creativity can lead to negative outcomes [81]. The level of human agency and intentionality in the creative process also plays a significant role. When creators actively engage with LLMs, setting goals and critically evaluating outputs, the collaboration can lead to enhanced creativity [88]. Conversely, passive reliance on LLMs without critical engagement can result in diminished creative abilities [85].

The design and functionality of LLMs themselves are also influential. LLMs that are transparent in their operations and provide users with control over the creative process tend to support human creativity better than opaque systems that offer little insight into their inner workings [84].

10.3 Future Research Directions

To build on the current understanding of LLMs' impact on creativity, future research should focus on longitudinal studies that track the evolution of creative skills over time as individuals and groups interact with LLMs [83]. Experimental studies that manipulate the level of human engagement with LLMs could provide deeper insights into the causal relationships between LLM use and creative outcomes [98].

Moreover, interdisciplinary research that combines insights from cognitive science, psychology, and computer science could yield a more nuanced understanding of how LLMs influence the cognitive and emotional aspects of creativity [70]. Such studies would benefit from diverse methodologies, including qualitative interviews, quantitative surveys, and neuroimaging techniques.

10.4 Implications for Creative Practice

The findings of this paper have significant implications for creative practice. They suggest that LLMs can be valuable allies in the creative process, provided they are used thoughtfully and with intention. Creators should be educated on the capabilities and limitations of LLMs to leverage their potential fully while maintaining a critical perspective on their outputs.

As we continue to navigate the uncharted waters of AI-assisted creativity, it is essential to remain vigilant about the ethical and societal implications of these technologies. By fostering a culture of responsible AI use and advocating for equitable access, we can ensure that the creative potential of LLMs is realized in a manner that benefits all of society.

The dance between human ingenuity and machine intelligence is intricate and ever-evolving. As we step into the future, it is the nuanced interplay of these forces that will shape the tapestry of human creativity. In this dynamic landscape, the most profound creations may emerge not from human or machine alone, but from the harmonious symphony of their collaboration.

11 Ethical and Societal Considerations

The integration of Large Language Models (LLMs) into creative processes raises a series of ethical and societal considerations that must be addressed to ensure responsible development and deployment of these technologies. This section explores the ethical implications of LLMs in creative contexts, focusing on intellectual property issues, the potential exacerbation of inequalities, and the societal perceptions of creativity in the age of AI.

11.1 Intellectual Property Issues

The use of LLMs in generating creative content brings to the forefront complex questions regarding intellectual property (IP) rights. Who owns the output produced by an LLM when it is based on input from a human user? Can LLM-generated content be copyrighted, and if so, who should be credited as the author? These questions challenge traditional notions of authorship and ownership in the creative domain.

Current IP law is not fully equipped to address the nuances of AI-generated content. The Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works stipulates that copyright protection is granted to "authors" of "works" [93]. However, the definition of "author" typically implies a human creator, leaving a legal grey area when it comes to LLM outputs [47]. As LLMs become more sophisticated and autonomous, the need for legal frameworks that can accommodate AI-assisted or AI-generated works becomes increasingly urgent [52].

11.2 Exacerbating Inequalities

The accessibility of LLMs and the benefits they provide could potentially widen the gap between those with and without access to these technologies. In creative industries, this may lead to a concentration of power and influence among those who can afford and understand how to use LLMs effectively [48]. This digital divide could marginalize creators from lower socioeconomic backgrounds or from regions with limited technological infrastructure.

Furthermore, the data used to train LLMs often reflects existing biases present in society. If not carefully curated, these biases can be perpetuated and amplified in the outputs of LLMs, reinforcing stereotypes and discriminatory practices within creative content [57]. It is imperative that developers and users of LLMs remain vigilant about the sources and quality of data used for training to mitigate these risks.

11.3 Societal Perceptions of Creativity

The advent of LLMs also influences how society perceives creativity and the role of human creators. As machines begin to produce work that rivals or surpasses human-generated content in complexity and originality, questions arise about the value of human creativity. Will AI-generated content be seen as less authentic or valuable than human-created work? How will public appreciation for the arts change if AI becomes a dominant force in creative production?

These questions are not merely speculative; they have real implications for the livelihoods of artists, writers, and other creative professionals. As LLMs become more prevalent, there may be pressure on human creators to justify the uniqueness and worth of their work in comparison to that of AI [67]. The creative community must engage in dialogue about these issues to ensure that the human element of creativity is not undervalued in the digital age.

The ethical and societal considerations surrounding LLMs in creative contexts are complex and multifaceted. As we navigate these challenges, it is crucial to foster a culture of ethical AI use that prioritizes transparency, equity, and respect for human creativity. By doing so, we can harness the power of LLMs to enrich the creative landscape while upholding the values that make human artistic expression so profoundly impactful.

12 Discussion

This section synthesizes the findings from the literature on the impact of Large Language Models (LLMs) on human creativity, analyzing the conditions under which LLMs can either enhance or hinder creative processes. We also discuss the implications of these findings for future research and creative practice.

12.1 Synthesis of Impacts on Creativity

The literature presents a dichotomy in the impact of LLMs on creativity. On one hand, LLMs have been shown to facilitate creative ideation, providing users with a plethora of ideas and inspirations that might not have been accessible otherwise [79]. They serve as collaborative partners that can work tirelessly, offering suggestions and alternatives that can push human creators beyond their conventional boundaries [78]. In educational settings, LLMs have been used to teach creative writing and problem-solving, demonstrating potential as tools for enhancing creative learning [87].

On the other hand, there is evidence that LLMs can lead to an over-reliance that may diminish the development of creative skills [90]. The ease of generating content with LLMs might discourage some from engaging in the rigorous practice necessary to develop their own creative abilities. Moreover, the homogenization of creative outputs is a concern, as LLMs trained on popular datasets may produce content that adheres to prevailing styles and norms, potentially stifling diversity in creative expression [86].

12.2 Conditions for Enhancement or Hindrance

The impact of LLMs on creativity is not uniform; it varies depending on several factors. The mode of application plays a crucial role—LLMs used as tools for brainstorming or rough drafting can enhance creativity by offering new perspectives and freeing users from the fear of the blank page [67]. However, when used as a crutch to avoid the challenges of creative work, LLMs can hinder the development of problem-solving skills and original thinking [49].

The nature of the creative task also influences the impact of LLMs. Tasks that require divergent thinking, such as generating multiple solutions to an open-ended problem, may benefit more from LLMs than tasks that require convergent thinking, where a single correct answer is sought [76].

Furthermore, the individual's approach to using LLMs—whether they passively accept the model's outputs or critically engage with them—determines the extent to which creativity is enhanced or hindered [77].

12.3 Implications for Creative Practice

The findings from this review have several implications for creative practice. First, it is essential for creators to remain critical and selective when using LLMs, ensuring that they do not become overly dependent on these tools. Second, there is a need for education on how to effectively integrate LLMs into creative workflows, balancing their use with the development of personal creative skills.

For the development of LLMs, these findings suggest that future models should be designed with features that encourage active engagement and critical thinking, rather than passive consumption of generated content. Additionally, developers should consider ways to diversify the training data for LLMs to avoid the homogenization of creative outputs and to better reflect the rich tapestry of human culture and expression [99].

12.4 Future Research Directions

Future research should focus on longitudinal studies that track the impact of LLMs on creativity over time, providing insights into how sustained use of these tools affects creative development. Experimental studies that manipulate the mode of LLM application and the nature of creative tasks can offer a more nuanced understanding of the conditions under which LLMs enhance or hinder creativity. Moreover, interdisciplinary research that combines insights from cognitive science, computer science, and the arts could lead to the development of LLMs that are more attuned to the complexities of human creativity.

The exploration of LLMs' impact on creativity is a journey through a landscape where technology and human ingenuity intersect. As we navigate this terrain, we must be mindful of the balance between leveraging the power of LLMs and nurturing the irreplaceable spark of human creativity. The harmonious integration of LLMs into creative practice holds the promise of not only augmenting our creative capabilities but also enriching the very essence of what it means to create.

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