
Information technology — Artificial intelligence (AI) — Bias in AI systems and AI aided decision making

*Technologie de l'information — Intelligence artificielle (IA) —
Tendance dans les systèmes de l'IA et dans la prise de décision assistée
par l'IA*





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Foreword

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Introduction

Bias in artificial intelligence (AI) systems can manifest in different ways. AI systems that learn patterns from data can potentially reflect existing societal bias against groups. While some bias is necessary to address the AI system objectives (i.e. desired bias), there can be bias that is not intended in the objectives and thus represent unwanted bias in the AI system.

Bias in AI systems can be introduced as a result of structural deficiencies in system design, arise from human cognitive bias held by stakeholders or be inherent in the datasets used to train models. That means that AI systems can perpetuate or augment existing bias or create new bias.

Developing AI systems with outcomes free of unwanted bias is a challenging goal. AI system function behaviour is complex and can be difficult to understand, but the treatment of unwanted bias is possible. Many activities in the development and deployment of AI systems present opportunities for identification and treatment of unwanted bias to enable stakeholders to benefit from AI systems according to their objectives.

Bias in AI systems is an active area of research. This document articulates current best practices to detect and treat bias in AI systems or in AI-aided decision-making, regardless of source. The document covers topics such as:

- an overview of bias ([5.2](#)) and fairness ([5.3](#));
- potential sources of unwanted bias and terms to specify the nature of potential bias ([Clause 6](#));
- assessing bias and fairness ([Clause 7](#)) through metrics;
- addressing unwanted bias through treatment strategies ([Clause 8](#)).