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**What is Artificial Intelligence (AI)?**

Artificial Intelligence is the science of developing algorithms and computer or robotic systems that behave robustly or rationally in challenging everyday tasks.

**How is AI transforming society today and how will it influence human behavior in the future?**

Artificial Intelligence is having a substantial impact on our society. We have become everyday users of Artificial Intelligence by using search engines that make predictions about what we are searching for, navigation systems that react to actual traffic conditions, and recommendation systems that propose products we might be interested in. Artificial Intelligence will further transform our future transportation systems with the development of self-driving cars that will ultimately perform better than human drivers. Furthermore, production processes will become increasingly more efficient. For these reasons, Artificial Intelligence will clearly provide us with a better quality of life in the years ahead.

**When and how did you get involved with AI?**

I got involved with Artificial Intelligence in 1995 during my studies at the University of Dortmund. I started with a purely symbolic approach and developed expert systems, for example, for chemical process engineering and efficient reasoning strategies, for instance, for the bottom-up evaluation of logic programs.

**Please describe one or two of the most interesting projects that you are currently working on.**

Right now, we are working on creating brain-controlled robotic devices, i.e. robots that are controlled using brain-machine interfaces to assist disabled people by reliably performing useful tasks, such as navigating wheelchairs or reaching for or grasping objects. In addition, we are working on autonomous vehicles that intelligently interpret sensor data to perform helpful navigation tasks in urban areas without referencing detailed, pre-existing maps.

**In which areas of AI is Germany a world leader?**

In my opinion, Germany is one of the world leaders in mobile robot navigation and perception. Germany is also extremely strong in the area of machine learning. In addition, I regard Germany as one of the leading countries in the fields of action planning and the representation and reasoning of dynamical domains.