

Pages 25 and 26 from the Book

Understanding Exponential Change: What's Next? No One Knows!

Children entering school today will graduate from high school in 2038; if they matriculate to college, most will graduate in 2042. Can anyone tell us today what our world is going to look like in 2042?

The honest answer is that nobody knows what comes next. We have long explained that educators are being tasked with the impossible. They are asked to educate K-12 students for a world that no one understands, for jobs that do not yet exist. With the onset of AI and ChatGPT, that comment has never been truer.

Indeed, Yuval Noah Harari, the global thought leader and author of *Sapiens* and *Homo Deus*, **explains that for the first time in human history, adults are no longer a good guide to the future. Not because they are not dedicated to the well-being of their children, but rather because no one has ever experienced a pace of change like the pace of change we are experiencing today.**

In the first minute of this video, Harari explains that he has written his most recent book, *Unstoppable*, for kids, so that they may understand the world around them, particularly at this crucial time in human history, where

“...for the first time, adults are not really good guides for the future of these kids. We, for the first time, have no idea what the world will look like when the children of today are themselves grown up. Nobody knows what the economy or the job market or what society will look like in 10 or 20 years.”

You can access this video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BxBqNd-2_1A

How AI Will Shape Humanity's Future - Yuval Noah Harari

In this interview with Stephen Colbert, Harari explains from minute 1:30 once again that no one understands what the world will look like in ten to twenty years, and, therefore, nobody today has any idea what to teach young people that will still be relevant in twenty years.

You can access the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2w37ty9gGU8>

What is clear to us today is that more than any other time in human history, we are experiencing a rate of change that has never occurred. The only way to understand today's rate of change is to understand exponentials and exponential rates of change. The reason is simple, as we explain in the next chapter: technological change is exponential. There is no way anyone can understand our 21st-century world without understanding exponential change.

We hope that the information above has helped the reader in their quest to understand exponentials. To continue to aid in your understanding, we have included in the appendix below some videos that help to understand the exponential rate of change.