# Machine Learning in Finance

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# What is Machine Learning?

"Learning is any process by which a system improves performance from experience." - Herbert Simon

Definition by Tom Mitchell (1998):

Machine Learning is the study of algorithms that

- improve their performance P
- at some task T
- with experience E.

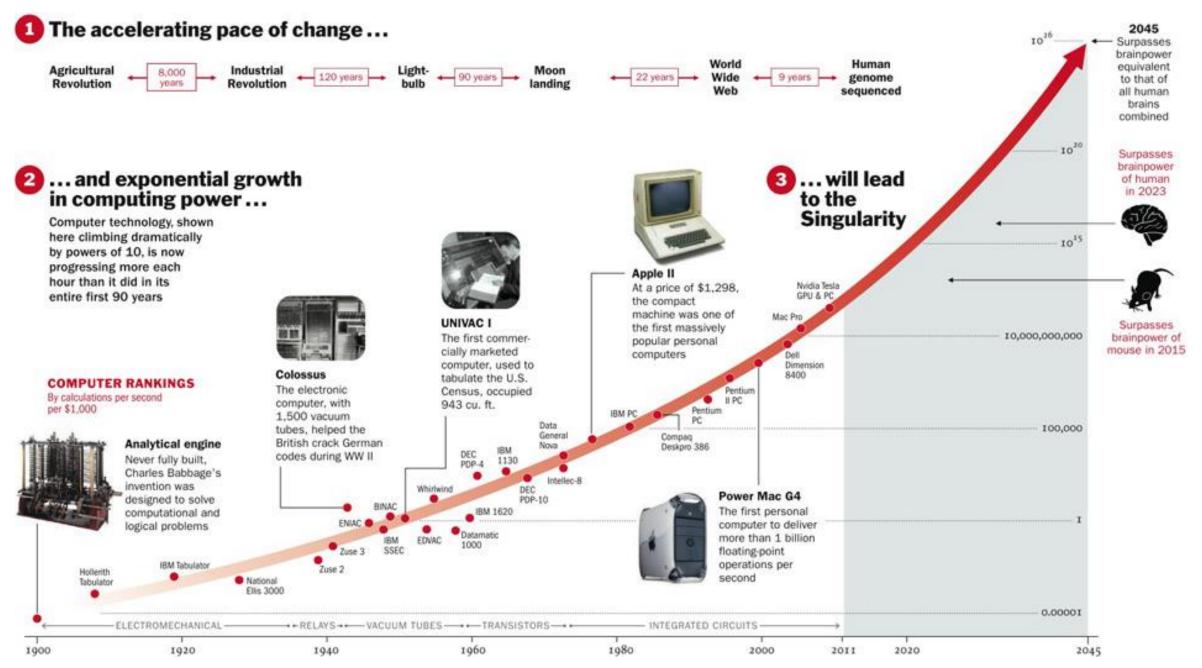
A well-defined learning task is given by <P, T, E>.

# What is Machine Learning?

Computers can assist us to perform complicated tasks in two different ways:

• Knowledge-based: a computer program whose logic encodes a large number of properties of the world, usually developed by a team of experts over many years. (e.g., trading algorithm, regex)

• Learning-based: machine learning models extract information directly from historical data and extrapolate to make predictions



Source: Time Magazine

# Machine Learning VS. AI

• The term "machine learning" is usually connected with "artificial intelligence (AI)"

• AI does not always imply machine learning, rule based system, tree search, or....even OLS can be called AI.

• Learning based system (machine learning model) extract information directly the data, good at solving pattern recognition problems.

## Machine Learning VS. Traditional Programming

#### **Traditional Programming**



#### **Machine Learning**



Credit: Pedro Domingos

# History of Machine Learning

- 1957 Perceptron algorithm (implemented as a circuit!)
- 1959 Arthur Samuel wrote a learning-based checkers program that could defeat him.
- 1969 Minsky and Papert's book Perceptrons (limitations of linear models)
- 1980s Some foundational ideas are proposed
  - Connectionist psychologists explored neural models of cognition
  - 1984 Leslie Valiant formalized the problem of learning as PAC learning
  - 1988 Backpropagation (re-)discovered by Georey Hinton and colleagues
  - 1988 Judea Pearl's book *Probabilistic Reasoning in Intelligent Systems* introduced Bayesian networks

Credit: Roger Grosse, Chris Maddison, Juhan Bae, Silviu Pitis

# History of Machine Learning

- 1990s the "AI Winter", a time of pessimism and low funding, but looking back, the 90s were also sort of a golden age for ML research:
  - Markov chain Monte Carlo
  - variational inference
  - kernels and support vector machines
  - boosting
  - convolutional networks
  - reinforcement learning
- 2000s applied AI fields (vision, NLP, etc.) adopted ML

Credit: Roger Grosse, Chris Maddison, Juhan Bae, Silviu Pitis

# History of Machine Learning

- 2010s deep learning
  - 2010-2012: neural nets smashed previous records in speech-to-text and object recognition, ML increasingly adopted by the tech industry
  - 2016: AlphaGo defeated the human Go champion
  - 2018-now: generating photorealistic images and videos
  - 2020: GPT3 language model
- Now increasing attention to ethical and societal implications

Credit: Roger Grosse, Chris Maddison, Juhan Bae, Silviu Pitis

# Why deep learning did not work back then?

Geoffrey Hinton summarized the findings up to today in these four points:

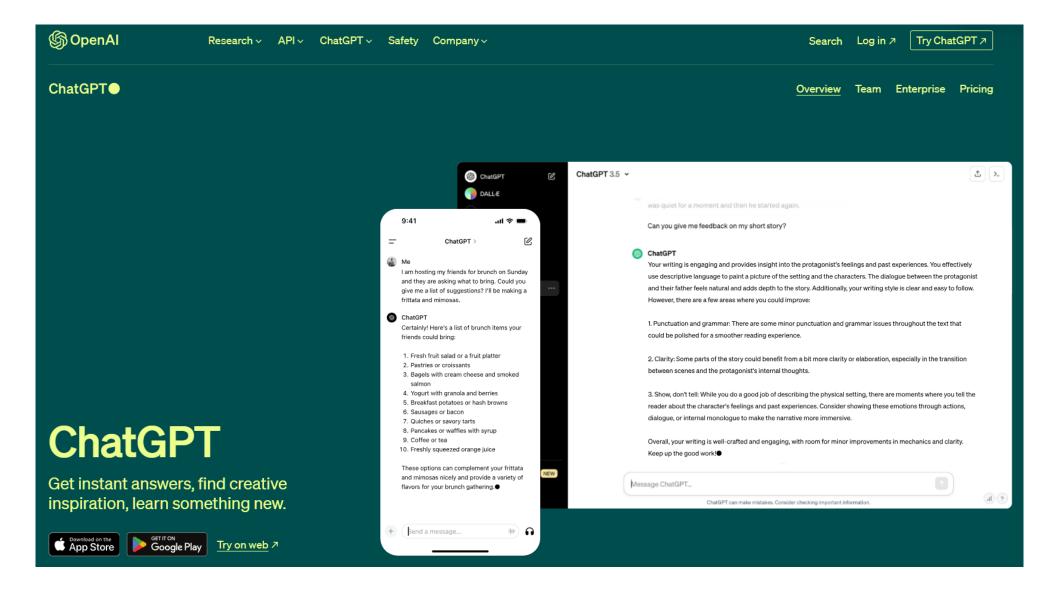
- Our labeled datasets were thousands of times too small.
- Our computers were millions of times too slow.
- We initialized the weights in a stupid way.
- We used the wrong type of non-linearity.

# Current Major Players

- OpenAI
- Google
- Tesla
- Baidu
- Moonshot AI
- Universities

• NVIDA (essential)

# OpenAI



# Google

#### Attention Is All You Need

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#### Abstract

The dominant sequence transduction models are based on complex recurrent or convolutional neural networks that include an encoder and a decoder. The best performing models also connect the encoder and decoder through an attention mechanism. We propose a new simple network architecture, the Transformer, based solely on attention mechanisms, dispensing with recurrence and convolutions entirely. Experiments on two machine translation tasks show these models to be superior in quality while being more parallelizable and requiring significantly less time to train. Our model achieves 28.4 BLEU on the WMT 2014 English-to-German translation task, improving over the existing best results, including ensembles, by over 2 BLEU. On the WMT 2014 English-to-French translation task, our model establishes a new single-model state-of-the-art BLEU score of 41.8 after training for 3.5 days on eight GPUs, a small fraction of the training costs of the best models from the literature. We show that the Transformer generalizes well to other tasks by applying it successfully to English constituency parsing both with large and limited training data.

#### BERT: Pre-training of Deep Bidirectional Transformers for Language Understanding

Jacob Devlin Ming-Wei Chang Kenton Lee Kristina Toutanova Google AI Language

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#### Abstract

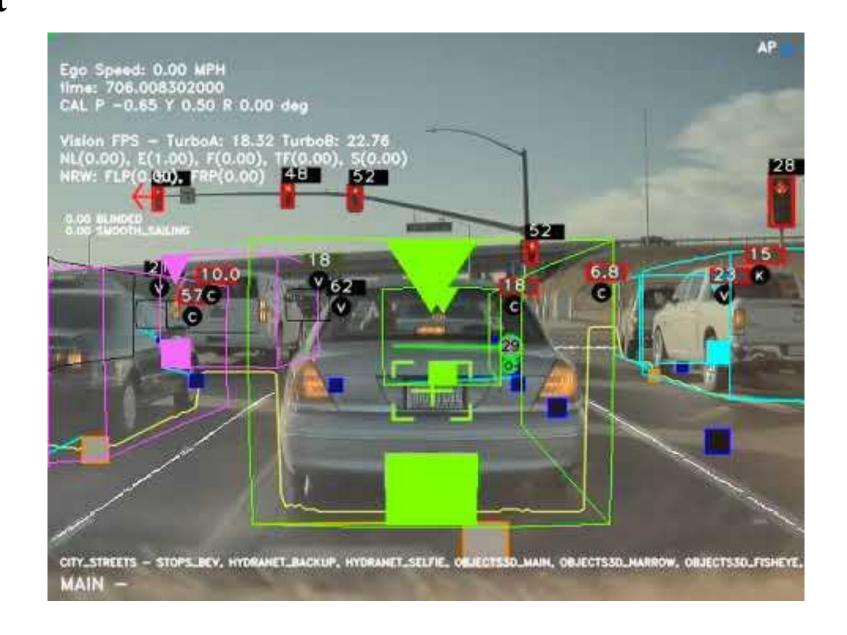
We introduce a new language representation model called BERT, which stands for Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers. Unlike recent language representation models (Peters et al., 2018a; Radford et al., 2018), BERT is designed to pretrain deep bidirectional representations from unlabeled text by jointly conditioning on both left and right context in all layers. As a result, the pre-trained BERT model can be finetuned with just one additional output layer to create state-of-the-art models for a wide range of tasks, such as question answering and language inference, without substantial task-specific architecture modifications.

BERT is conceptually simple and empirically powerful. It obtains new state-of-the-art results on eleven natural language processing tasks, including pushing the GLUE score to 80.5% (7.7% point absolute improvement), MultiNLI accuracy to 86.7% (4.6% absolute improvement), SQuAD v1.1 question answering Test F1 to 93.2 (1.5 point absolute improvement) and SQuAD v2.0 Test F1 to 83.1 (5.1 point absolute improvement).

There are two existing strategies for applying pre-trained language representations to downstream tasks: feature-based and fine-tuning. The feature-based approach, such as ELMo (Peters et al., 2018a), uses task-specific architectures that include the pre-trained representations as additional features. The fine-tuning approach, such as the Generative Pre-trained Transformer (OpenAI GPT) (Radford et al., 2018), introduces minimal task-specific parameters, and is trained on the downstream tasks by simply fine-tuning all pre-trained parameters. The two approaches share the same objective function during pre-training, where they use unidirectional language models to learn general language representations.

We argue that current techniques restrict the power of the pre-trained representations, especially for the fine-tuning approaches. The major limitation is that standard language models are unidirectional, and this limits the choice of architectures that can be used during pre-training. For example, in OpenAI GPT, the authors use a left-to-right architecture, where every token can only attend to previous tokens in the self-attention layers

## Tesla



# Baidu



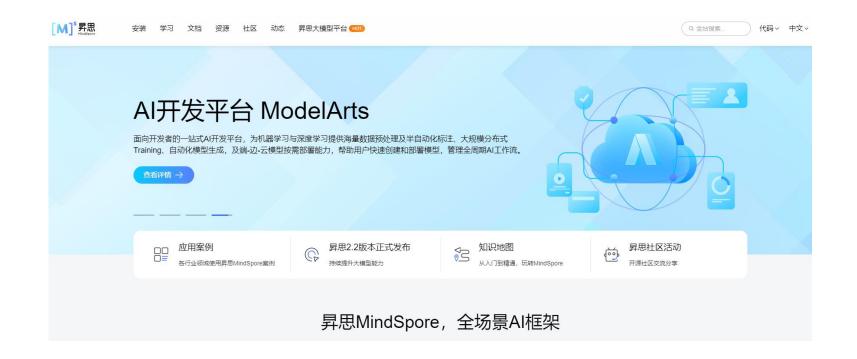
### Moonshot AI



### **NVIDIA**

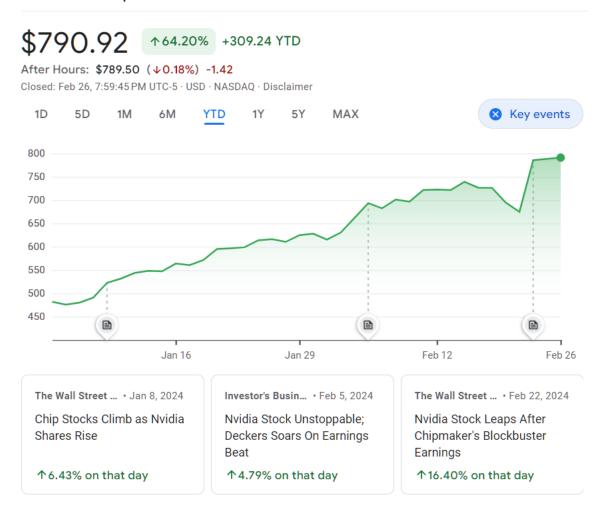






#### **NVIDIA**

#### **NVIDIA** Corp



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#### Sam Altman Seeks Trillions of Dollars to Reshape Business of Chips and AI

OpenAI chief pursues investors including the U.A.E. for a project possibly requiring up to \$7 trillion

By Keach Hagey Follow and Asa Fitch Follow Feb. 8, 2024 9:00 pm ET

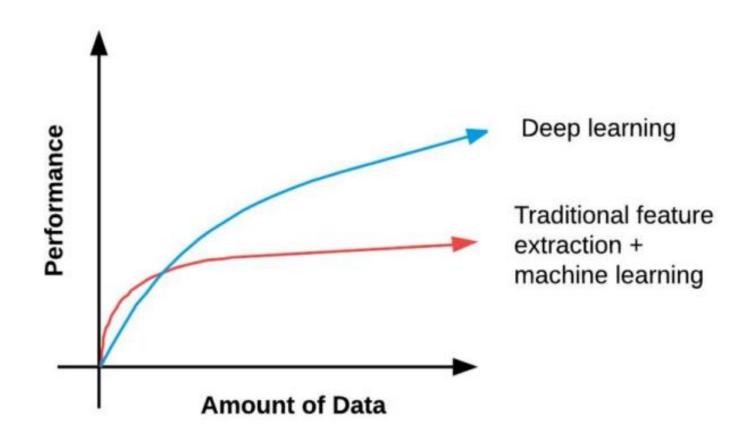


OpenAI CEO Sam Altman wants to boost the world's chip-building capacity and expand the ability to power AI. PHOTO: GIAN EHRENZELLER/EPA/SHUTTERSTOCK

# Types of Machine Learning

- Statistic Machine Learning Models
  - LASSO
  - SVM
  - Random Forest
  - ...
- Deep Learning Models
  - MLP
  - CNN
  - RNN, LSTM (outdated)
  - Transformer
  - . . .

### ML VS. DL



Credit: Adrian Rosebrock. 2017. Deep Learning for Computer Vision With Python. (2017)

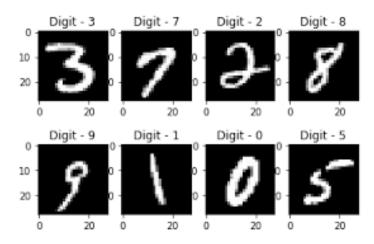
# Types of Machine Learning

- Supervised Learning
  - training data + desired outputs (labels)
- Semi-supervised Learning
  - A subset of supervised learning, training data + a few labels
- Unsupervised Learning
  - training data (without desired outputs)
- Self-supervised Learning
  - A subset of unsupervised learning, recover patterns from the data
- Reinforcement Learning
  - Rewards from sequence of actions

## **Tasks**

• Computer vision: object detection, OCR, semantic segmentation...



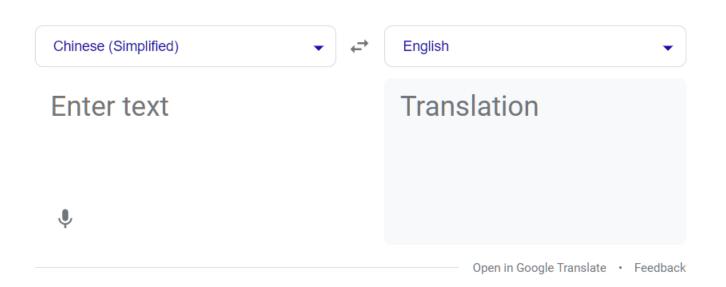




## **Tasks**

• NLP: Machine translation, sentiment analysis, topic modeling, spam

filtering.





### Back to Our Course

We follow this paper to explore the applications of various machine learning models within the finance research field:

Kelly, B., & Xiu, D. (2023). Financial machine learning. *Foundations* and *Trends® in Finance*, 13(3-4), 205-363.

Download link: <a href="https://bfi.uchicago.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/BFI\_WP\_2023-100.pdf">https://bfi.uchicago.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/BFI\_WP\_2023-100.pdf</a>

### Reference Books

Nielsen, Michael. Neural Networks and Deep Learning, 2019.

周志华.《机器学习》,清华大学出版社,2016.

Zhou, Zhi-Hua. Machine learning. Springer Nature, 2021.

Géron, Aurélien. *Hands-on machine learning with Scikit-Learn, Keras, and TensorFlow.* "O'Reilly Media, Inc.", 2022.

Stevens, Eli, Luca Antiga, and Thomas Viehmann. *Deep learning with PyTorch*. Manning Publications, 2020.

Goodfellow, Ian, Yoshua Bengio, and Aaron Courville. *Deep learning*. MIT press, 2016.

# Course Requirement

• A functional laptop that can run python

Attend the class

• A group project, 2-3 people pre group, and presentation

• Final report