Foundations and History of Al

Arun Chauhan@Sitare
Computer Science and Engineering

Artificial Intelligence

Methods for computer systems to perform human tasks

Machine Learning

Mathematical models with specified structure learn to perform tasks from data

Deep Learning

Neural networks with multiple specialized layers for encoding structural information

Expert Systems

Operate autonomously with human specified rules. (e.g. fuzzy logic)

Statistics

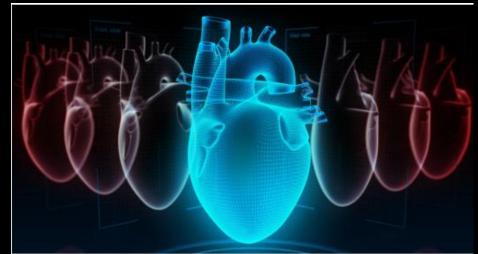
Foundational Techniques and Training Principles



Journey of Al is mesmerizing

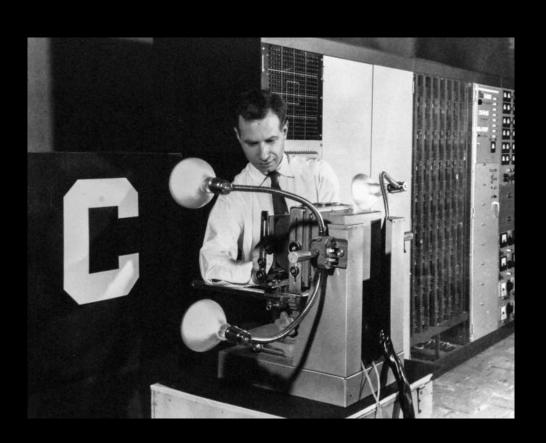






MAARS reads heart-scar "fingerprints" that doctors miss, predicting fatal arrhythmias with nearly 90% accuracy and revolutionizing care for hypertrophic cardiomyopathy patients. Credit: Shutterstock

Perceptron to Image Generation

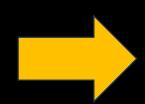






Teleoperator to Al Interviews





https://youtu.be/rgD2gmwCS10

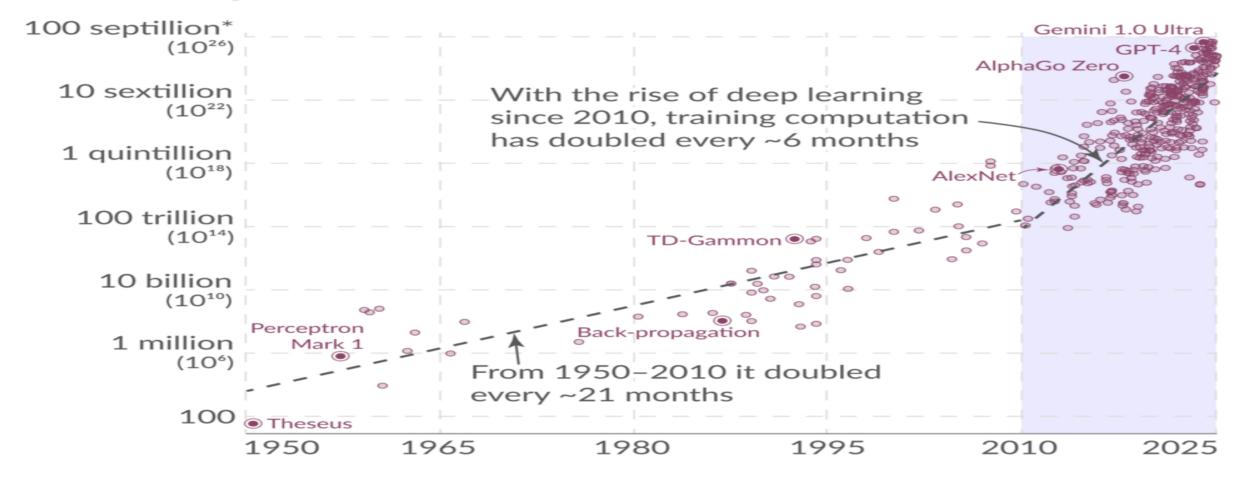




The computation used to train notable AI systems has doubled every ~6 months since 2010



Training computation is measured in total floating-point operations (FLOP). Each FLOP represents a single arithmetic calculation, such as multiplication. Shown on a logarithmic scale.



*For comparison, 1 septillion (1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000) is the estimated number of stars in the universe.

Data source: Epoch (2024)

Pivotal moments of Al History

1900 – Triode Vacuum Tube

Enabled amplification and switching — a precursor to modern computing electronics.

1920 – First Ever Robot

Early mechanical automatons; the word "robot" first appeared in Karel Čapek's play R.U.R. (1921).

1938 – Digital Logic

Claude Shannon formalized the use of Boolean algebra to design digital circuits.

• 1948 – Cybernetics

Norbert Wiener's work on control theory and feedback systems laid groundwork for automation.

• 1950 – Turing Test

Alan Turing proposed a test to judge a machine's intelligence based on human-like conversation.

- 1956 Al Term Born
 - Dartmouth Conference: John McCarthy coins "Artificial Intelligence".
- 1957 First Perceptron
 - Frank Rosenblatt's simple neural network for pattern recognition.
- 1957 First Al Program
 - Logic Theorist by Newell & Simon could prove mathematical theorems.
- 1965 First Ind. Robot
 - Industrial robot "Unimate" used in manufacturing automation.
- 1965 ELIZA ChatBot
 - Joseph Weizenbaum's text-based chatbot that mimicked human conversation.
- 1973 1st Al Winter Begins
 - Funding and interest declined due to unmet expectations.

- 1980 WABOT-2
 - A humanoid robot from Japan that could read sheet music and play piano.
- 1982 Hopfield ANN
 - Recurrent neural network model by John Hopfield for associative memory.
- 1986 Backpropagation
 - Breakthrough training algorithm for multi-layer neural networks.
- 1989 Convolutional NN
 - Yann LeCun used CNNs for handwritten digit recognition (basis of modern CV).
- 2nd Al Winter Starts (1987)
 - Expert systems failed commercially; AI hype cooled.

1993 — 2000

- 1994 RoboCup
 - Robot soccer competition to advance robotics and AI research.
- 1997 Deep Blue
 - IBM chess computer defeated world champion Garry Kasparov.
- 1997 LSTM ANN
 - Long Short-Term Memory networks by Hochreiter & Schmidhuber solved vanishing gradient issues.
- 1999 Sony AIBO
 - Robotic pet dog with vision, voice, and learning capabilities.
- 2000 Kismet Robot
 - Social robot capable of human-like facial expressions.

- 2003–2005 DARPA Challenges
 - Self-driving car competitions accelerated autonomous vehicle research.
- 2006 Deep Belief ANN
 - Geoffrey Hinton introduced deep belief networks, sparking deep learning interest.
- 2008 IBM Blue Brain
 - Simulation of a rat brain's neocortical column step toward brain emulation.
- 2010 Apple Siri
 - Voice assistant integrating natural language processing.
- 2012 AlexNet
 - CNN that won ImageNet competition, triggering deep learning revolution.

- 2013 DeepMind
 - UK company working on deep reinforcement learning; later acquired by Google.
- 2014 Generative AN
 - Ian Goodfellow's GANs generated realistic synthetic images.
- 2015 TensorFlow
 - Google's open-source machine learning framework.
- 2016 AlphaGo
 - DeepMind's AI defeated Go champion Lee Sedol.
- 2017 Transformers
 - "Attention Is All You Need" architecture transformed NLP and later vision.

2017 – WaveNet

DeepMind's audio model generating realistic speech.

2019 – GPT-1

First large transformer-based language model from OpenAI.

2020 – BERT LM

Pre-trained language model from Google for NLP tasks.

2020 – GPT-3

175B parameter language model, powering advanced conversational Al.

2020 – DALL-E

OpenAl's text-to-image generative model.

• 2020 - Tesla Self Drive

Commercial rollout of advanced driver assistance and FSD beta.

• 2021 – Regulation & Ethics

Increasing policy focus on responsible AI deployment.

2022 – ChatGPT

OpenAl's conversational Al became fastest-growing consumer app in history.

2024 – Sora LVM

Large video model by OpenAI for high-quality text-to-video generation.

2024 – EU AI Act

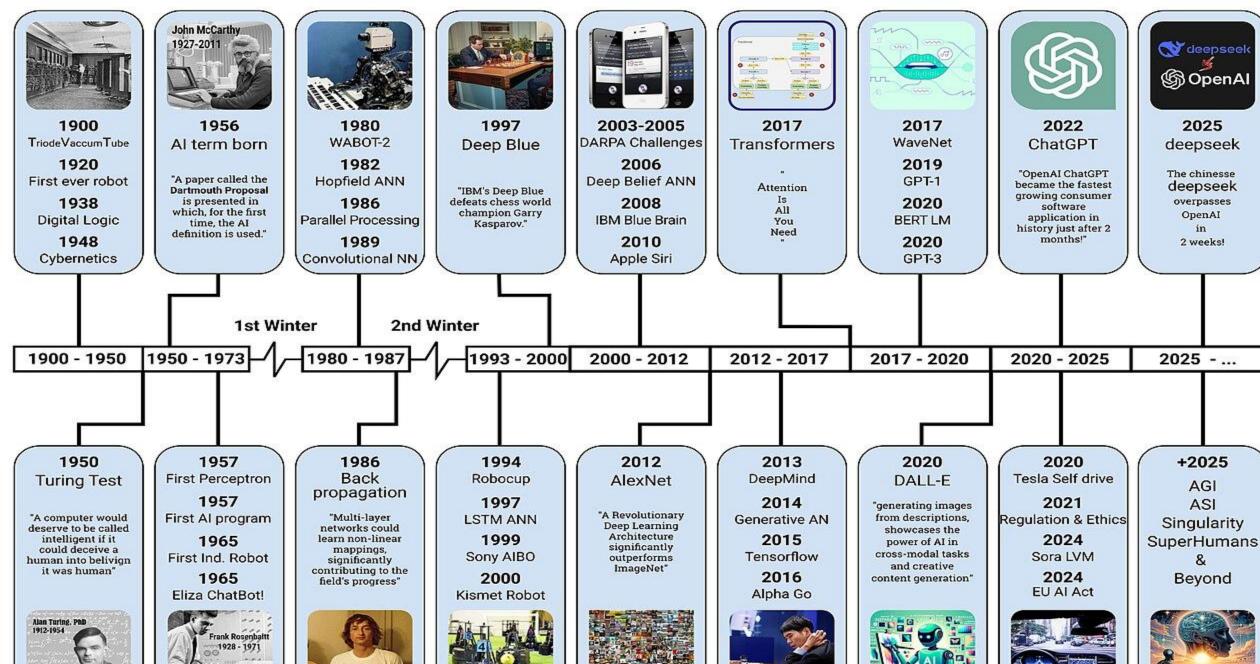
First comprehensive AI regulation in the European Union.

2025 – DeepSeek

Chinese AI model reportedly surpasses OpenAI in performance within 2 weeks.

What could follow beyond 2025?

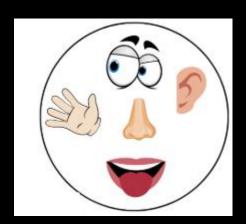
- AGI Artificial General Intelligence: human-level capability across domains.
- ASI Artificial Superintelligence: vastly surpassing human intelligence.
- Singularity Hypothetical point of irreversible AI-driven change.
- Superhumans & Beyond Speculative post-human future enabled by Al.



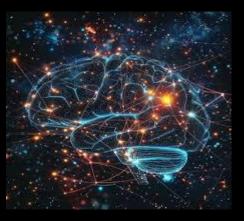
Natural vs Artificial intelligence

Natural Intelligence (NI)

- Biological form of intelligence found in humans and animals.
- Enables learning from experience, adapting to new situations.
- Capable of emotions, creativity, and abstract reasoning.
- Developed over millions of years through evolution.
- Relies on a complex network of neurons in the brain.





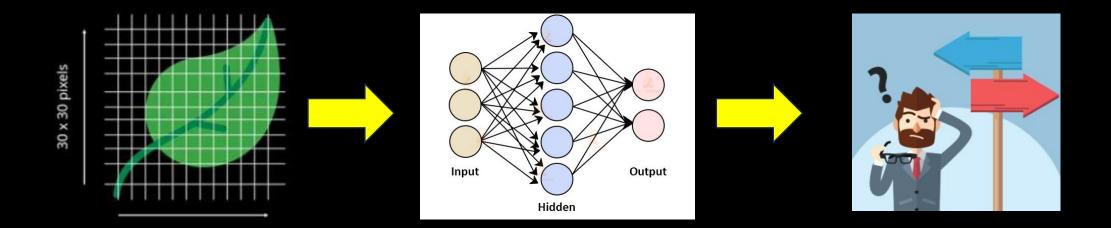






Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- Machine-based systems designed to mimic aspects of human intelligence.
- Learns from data and algorithms instead of biological evolution.
- Specialized in pattern recognition, problem-solving, and automation.
- Lacks consciousness, emotions, and true self-awareness.
- Can outperform humans in speed, scale, and certain specialized tasks.



Weak Al vs Strong Al

Feature	Weak AI (Narrow AI)	Strong AI (General AI)
Scope	Single, specific task	Any intellectual task a human can do
Adaptability	Limited to trained data & rules	Learns and adapts to completely new tasks
Understanding	No real comprehension—just simulation	True understanding & reasoning
Existence Today	Already exists (e.g., Siri, ChatGPT, Tesla)	Does not exist yet
Consciousness	None	Would require consciousness or self-awareness
Examples	Chess AI, image recognition, chatbots	Hypothetical Al like in sci-fi movies

Questions?