Generative Al

Empowering Defenders or Equipping Attackers

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Al Engineering

Overview

Topics We'll Be Covering

T1: Foundations of Generative Al

Machine Learning Basics Deep Learning Basics Generative Al

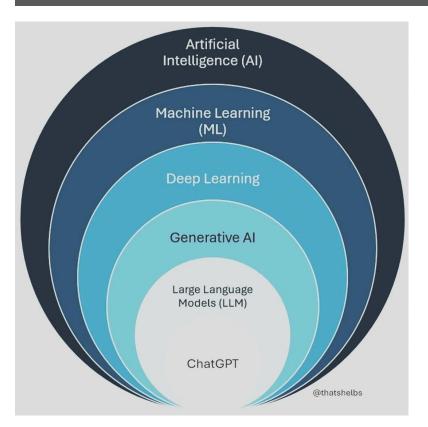
T2: Dual-use Nature

GenAl in Cybersecurity as a friend GenAl: Cybersecurity's worst nightmare

T3: Hands-on

How to use Google Al Studio? PDF Summarization Prompt Injection

Foundation: Machine Learning



What is Machine Learning?

 Machine Learning (ML) is a field of artificial intelligence that empowers computers to learn from data without explicit programming. Instead of being explicitly programmed with rules, ML algorithms learn patterns from data and make predictions or decisions based on those patterns.

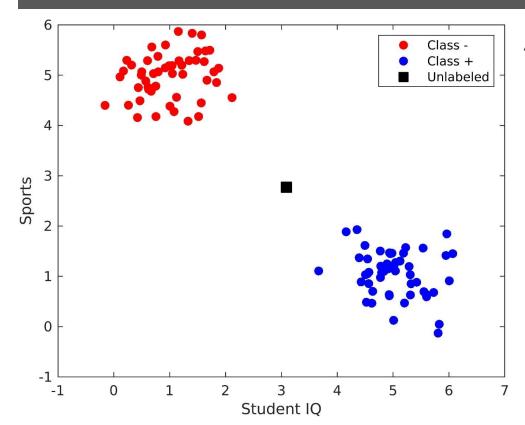
Core of Machine Learning?

- Data Any unprocessed fact, value, text, sound or picture.
- Model Learning general trend from data.

Features of Machine Learning?

- ML techniques are able to find and highlight various patterns in the data very quickly in comparison to human beings, who may miss these patterns due to the size of the data.
- ML techniques make informed inferences on a wide range of problems, from helping diagnose diseases to coming up with solutions for critical business deals.

Foundation: k- Nearest Neighbors

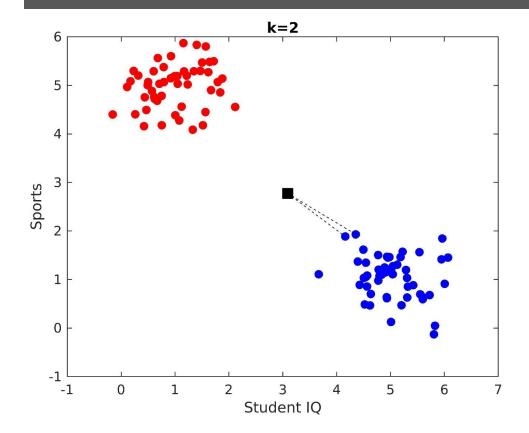


Activity:

- Form groups of close friends among yourselves except one student.
- Ask everybody to rate themself on a scale of 1-10 in studies and sports including the student left in previous step.
- With the help of unknown student ratings, choose the appropriate group he/she should belong to.

Solution: "You tell me about your interests and I will guess the group you are likely to belong"

Foundation: k- Nearest Neighbors



Solution:

- Select the unlabeled data point.
- Measure the distance from unlabeled data point to all other data points.
- Sort the distance and take top "k" labeled data points.
- Count the number of members from each group across top "k" points.
- Assign the label whose members have higher count.
- In case of tie, choose randomly.

Foundation: k- Nearest Neighbors

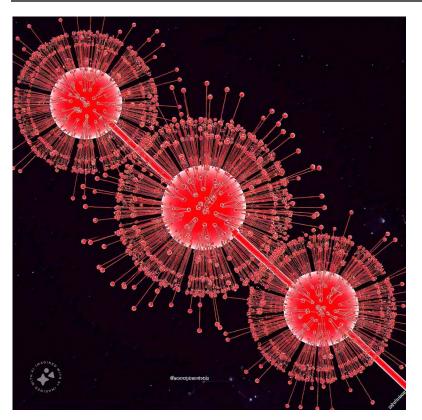
Advantages:

- Natural method.
- Simplest among all.
- Requires no explicit training or model.
- Can be extended to other models (graph based methods).

Limitations:

- Computationally intensive.
- Difficult to decide value of "k".
- Susceptible to noise and curse of dimensionality.

Foundation: Deep Learning Basics



Deep Learning:

- It is a subset of Machine Learning, involves training artificial neural networks with multiple layers to learn complex patterns in data. The very complexity that makes deep learning so powerful.
- At its core, deep learning mimics the structure and function of the human brain. Neural networks, the building blocks of deep learning, consist of interconnected nodes called neurons. These neurons process information in layers, with each layer learning increasingly complex features from the input data.

Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs):

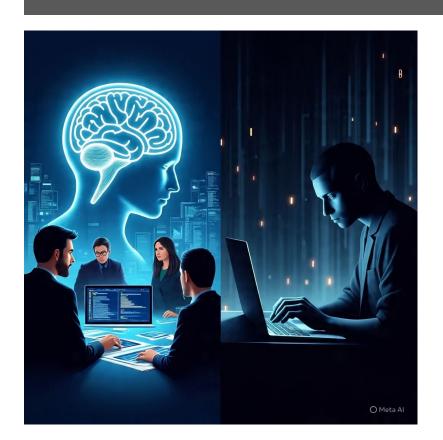
 ANNs are composed of layers of interconnected nodes (neurons) that process and transform inputs into meaningful outputs. Each node applies a non-linear transformation to the input data, allowing the network to learn complex patterns and relationships.

Foundation: Generative Al



- Generative AI models are trained on massive datasets and use statistical patterns to generate realistic new data.
- Examples include ChatGPT (text), DALL·E (images), and Codex (code).
- These models work by predicting the next word, pixel, or code line based on context and probability.
- The output can often seem creative or human-like, even though it is generated statistically.
- Generative AI is a form of artificial intelligence that is now widely accessible through web apps, APIs, and open-source tools.

GenAI: The Promise and Perils



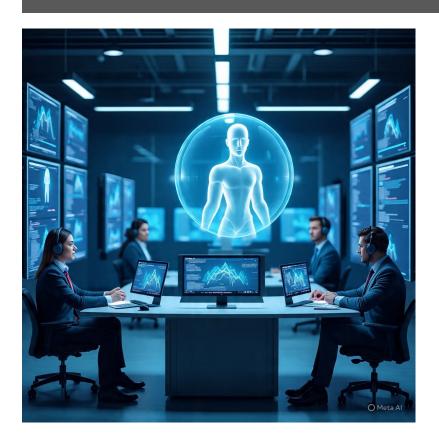
- Generative AI refers to systems that create new content (text, images, audio, code) based on data they have been trained on.
- These systems can assist humans in writing, designing, coding, and simulating ideas rapidly.
- However, the same capabilities can be exploited to generate malicious content like fake news or phishing emails.
- Let's explore how generative AI is being used in both security defense and in cybercrime.
- Our goal is to develop a nuanced understanding of its dual-use nature; both beneficial and harmful.

GenAl: Dual-Use Nature



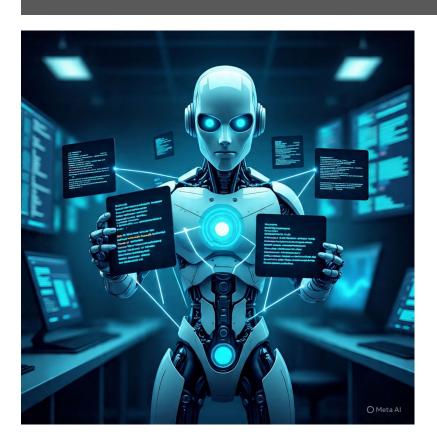
- The term "dual-use" refers to technology that can be used for both helpful and harmful purposes.
- Generative AI can empower defenders to detect threats or help attackers create them.
- The ethical impact depends on the user's intent, not the technology itself.
- For example, AI can write a cybersecurity guide or it can write malware.
- Recognizing this dual nature is critical to managing risk and guiding responsible AI use.

GenAI: Cybersecurity Defense



- Generative AI can analyze large volumes of log data to identify patterns that suggest cyberattacks.
- It can generate readable summaries of vulnerabilities and suggest mitigation strategies to IT teams.
- Al can simulate realistic attack scenarios to test and improve an organization's defense posture.
- These tools reduce analyst workload by automating routine tasks like alert triage and documentation.
- Generative AI enables faster and more accurate decision-making during incidents.

GenAI: AI-Powered Threat Intelligence



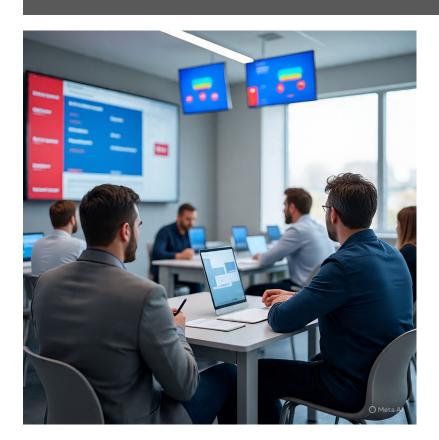
- Al can crawl websites, forums, and social media to gather early warning signs of cyber threats.
- It can analyze hacker discussions on the dark web to identify new attack techniques or tools.
- Summarization features allow teams to process thousands of alerts and threat reports quickly.
- All can map behaviors and tactics used by specific threat actors using natural language processing.
- This makes threat intelligence more proactive and less reliant on manual research.

GenAI: Incident Response and Recovery



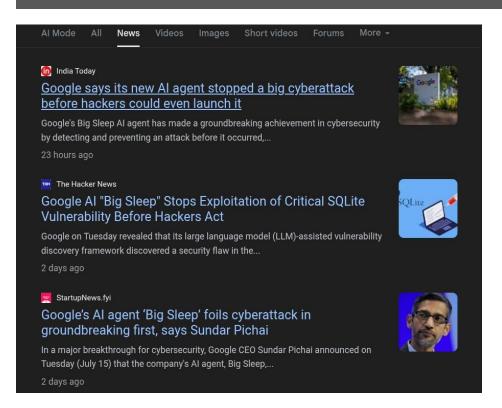
- During a security incident, AI can help generate containment and recovery steps based on prior cases.
- It can assist in identifying the root cause by correlating data from multiple sources.
- Generative AI can automate reporting, translating complex events into understandable formats for all stakeholders.
- This reduces recovery time and minimizes business impact.
- By augmenting human analysts, Al makes response more efficient and less error-prone.

GenAI: Security Education and Training



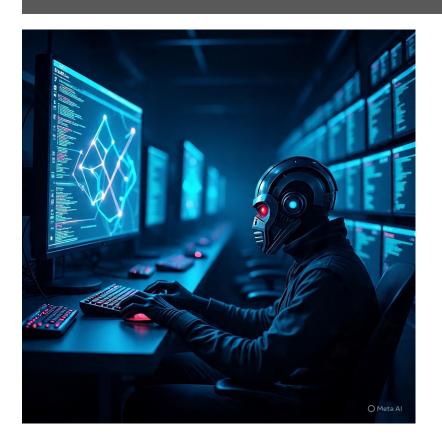
- Al can generate custom phishing emails for employee awareness training.
- It can create dynamic, role-specific cyberattack simulations to teach defense tactics.
- Learners can interact with AI tutors to understand how real-world threats work.
- These tools make cybersecurity education more engaging and tailored to individual skill levels.
- All helps scale training programs across large organizations with consistent quality.

GenAl: Recent News



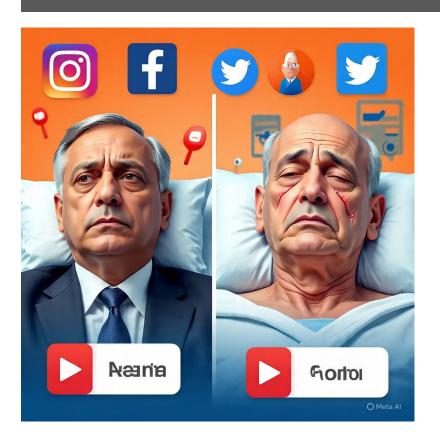
- Google's Al Big Sleep detected and stopped a cyber attack before it started
- Big Sleep combines threat intelligence with Al for proactive security.
- Actively searches and finds unknown security vulnerabilities in software.

GenAI: Attackers Leverage



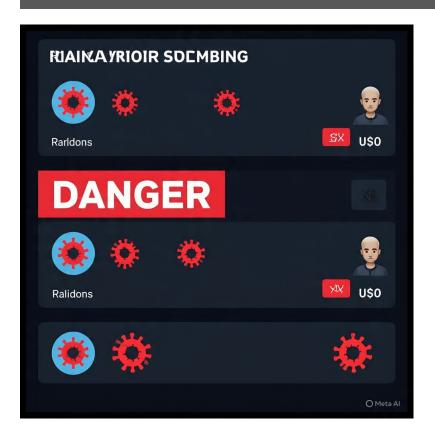
- Attackers use AI to generate malware code, often designed to avoid detection by antivirus tools.
- They create highly convincing phishing emails with flawless language and formatting.
- Al tools can automate the creation of fake identities and social engineering scripts.
- Even inexperienced individuals can now launch sophisticated attacks using generative AI.
- Cybercrime becomes cheaper, faster, and easier due to automation.

GenAI: Deepfakes and Misinformation



- Generative AI can synthesize human voices and faces, making deepfakes look very realistic.
- These deepfakes can be used in scams (e.g., impersonating a CEO to authorize a bank transfer).
- They can also spread false information during elections or crises.
- The technology evolves faster than detection methods, making response difficult.
- This undermines trust in photos, videos, and even voice recordings.

GenAI: AI-Enhanced Crimeware as a Service



- Some dark web marketplaces offer Al-generated malware as a service.
- These tools often come with user-friendly interfaces and automation features.
- Attackers can pay monthly fees to access
 Al-enhanced attack tools, no expertise required.
- This trend is making cybercrime more scalable and accessible than ever before.
- Security professionals must now defend against smarter, cheaper, and automated threats.

GenAI: Prompt Injection and Jailbreak Attacks



- Prompt injection involves manipulating the Al's behavior by inserting hidden commands in user input.
- Attackers can bypass model safeguards and make Algenerate harmful content.
- This technique is especially dangerous in applications like chatbots or virtual assistants.
- The AI may not recognize malicious prompts embedded in harmless-looking text.
- Developers must secure prompts and monitor context to prevent exploitation.

GenAI: Real-World Examples of Defensive Use







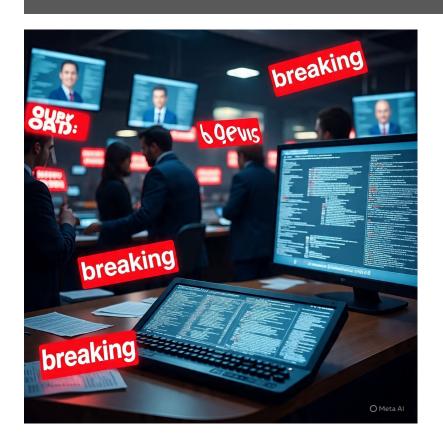






- Microsoft Security Copilot helps analysts understand threats and respond faster.
- DARPA uses generative AI to simulate attacker behavior and stress-test systems.
- Financial institutions use AI to detect fraudulent transactions in real time.
- Al chatbots assist governments in public cyber awareness campaigns.
- These examples show how generative AI can strengthen defense if used responsibly.

GenAI: Misuse in the Real World



- WormGPT was created as an unrestricted AI for cybercriminal use.
- Scammers use AI to create fake romantic partners for long-term fraud.
- A deepfake of a company executive led to a major wire fraud case.
- LLMs have been jailbroken to generate malware, phishing kits, and even terrorist manifestos.
- These examples illustrate the real-world risks of unregulated generative AI tools.

GenAl: Recent News



GenAI: Ethical Dilemmas and Responsibility



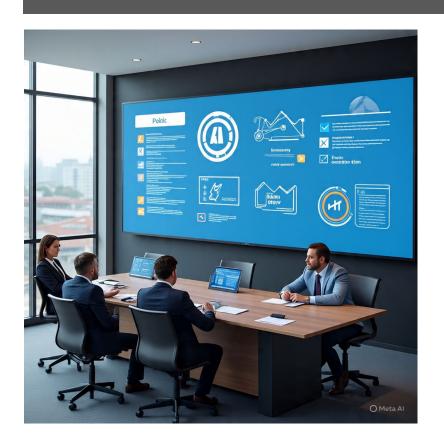
- Should model creators be responsible for how their Al is used?
- What role do governments play in setting rules for Al?
- Is open-source AI too dangerous in the wrong hands?
- Should we ban dual-use models or just monitor them more closely?
- These are complex questions with no easy answers policy, ethics, and technology must align.

GenAI: Building Safer Systems



- Developers can use techniques like watermarking to mark Al-generated content.
- Safety training helps models refuse dangerous or unethical requests.
- Red-teaming involves testing Al models for vulnerabilities before release.
- Adversarial training teaches models to resist manipulation by bad actors.
- Secure input management and logging helps trace and prevent prompt injection attacks.

GenAl: Regulations and Governance



- Governments could require licenses or audits for high-risk AI models.
- Companies may be asked to publish safety reports and testing results.
- Global collaboration is essential to prevent Al misuse across borders.
- Shared databases of malicious prompts and use cases can improve defense.
- Standards for responsible AI development need to be adopted by the industry.

GenAI: Innovation vs. Risk



- Generative AI offers incredible benefits in science, education, and defense.
- But unchecked use can lead to widespread harm and abuse.
- Innovation must be paired with responsible design, oversight, and education.
- Transparency, testing, and public dialogue are essential to move forward safely.
- The goal is not to ban AI but to use it wisely and ethically.

Let us move to Hands-on session

