

Most significant present-day AI developments? [closed]

Asked 15 years, 10 months ago Modified 15 years, 10 months ago

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6



It's difficult to tell what is being asked here. This question is ambiguous, vague, incomplete, overly broad, or rhetorical and cannot be reasonably answered in its current form. For help clarifying this question so that it can be reopened, [visit the help center](#).

Closed 12 years ago.

What do you consider the most significant progress / breakthroughs in real world applications of present-day AI research? (including, but not limited to: machine learning, statistical data processing, and [other disciplines spun off from AI](#)).

Please spare / do not want: ramblings about AI winters / disappointment;

Do want: links, and pointers to *concrete* real-world applications.

artificial-intelligence

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edited Feb 7, 2009 at 9:22

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asked Feb 7, 2009 at 7:42



Silver Dragon

5,550 ● 7 ● 44 ● 73

5 Answers

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4



I think the most significant breakthrough is that real world consumer applications actually utilize AI routinely today. It has become common, and is not just mere curiosity of academic research and special applications any more, like it was ten years ago. Some examples:



- Speech and text recognition (e.g. iPhone).
- Face recognition in digital cameras.
- Search engines.
- Email spam filtering.
- Automatic gearboxes of cars.
- Games.
- etc.

It's all around us! :-)

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edited Feb 7, 2009 at 9:39

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answered Feb 7, 2009 at 8:47



Joonas Pulakka

36.6k ● 29 ● 108 ● 171

-
- 1 You left out its use in Medicine which I think is a pretty big one so I'd add: - Diagnosis assistance - Pharma research
– [HasaniH](#) Jun 5, 2009 at 13:59
-



3



I would add autonomous robots like those in the DARPA challenges to the list. Driving through a desert or rural area, recognizing the terrain, avoiding obstacles, finding paths and so on are definitely tough AI problems.

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answered Feb 7, 2009 at 9:56

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Niki



2



Actually, AI research is having a renaissance and has been for the past 5-8 years or so.

Back when neural networks were all the rage in the 70s and 80s, they were showing such promise in solving simple tasks that people's hopes were sky-high for the whole field of AI. Then, when it turned out to be very difficult to move on from the very simple tasks to real-world

problems like language acquisition, a lot of people became disillusioned. *Until recently, that is.*

I am not the best person to ask -- being no AI expert -- but I believe some of the most promising areas are:

1. Semantic [search](#) and data mining (including text classification)
2. [Statistical machine translation](#)
3. 'Real intelligence' HTMs (read [Jeff Hawkins' On Intelligence](#))
4. Relevance / Recommendation engines (essentially a hybrid of data mining and network analysis)
5. Visual object recognition

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answered Feb 7, 2009 at 10:24

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[Jens Roland](#)

27.8k ● 15 ● 84 ● 105



2

as per @mad-j game bots A.I. has come a long way: [link to bots get smart](#)



[alt text](#)

<http://www.spectrum.ieee.org/images/dec08/images/bot01.jpg>



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edited Feb 8, 2009 at 12:15

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VonC

1.3m ● 558 ● 4.7k ● 5.6k

answered Feb 7, 2009 at 9:10



Ric Tokyo

6,575 ● 3 ● 32 ● 48



1



I think real/strong AI has lost it way, for decades the speaking/understanding computer was going to be available 'in the next 5 years'. Then we ended up with [Dragon](#) (no connection) which doesn't understand anything, it's a clever microphone, and it's a while since I've heard anything about AI - it's just not mainstream anymore, because it is too damn hard. One thing I think has been proven beyond doubt real AI, as in thinking machine, Turing Test passing AI - is still a (very) long way away. Don't get me wrong, there's tons of good research going on, but we'll have to wait 200-500 years for a result.

My gut feel is they'll be some interesting stuff coming out of massively parallel systems, especially ones built with really simple nodes. And if I had to point at a single AI breakthrough I'd be looking at spin offs from the nano-tech field, getting really small and seeing what cells in the brain are up to - science fiction it is, but we'll crack it one day.

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edited Feb 7, 2009 at 9:23

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answered Feb 7, 2009 at 9:03



MrTelly

14.9k ● 1 ● 51 ● 82

Although I agree with you, the poster *explicitly* requested no "ramblings about AI winters / disappointment". – [Cerin](#) Apr 4, 2010 at 14:46 ✎

ahh - I think my answer was the cause of messer Dragon's edit to exclude the AI winter - a next phrase don't you think? – [MrTelly](#) Apr 8, 2010 at 12:08
