

# > How to code yourself into a mess

(& hopefully out again)

@ Generative AI for Business Researchers

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> Nov 2024

**Dr. Gordon McDonald**

Informatics Team Lead,  
Sydney Informatics Hub



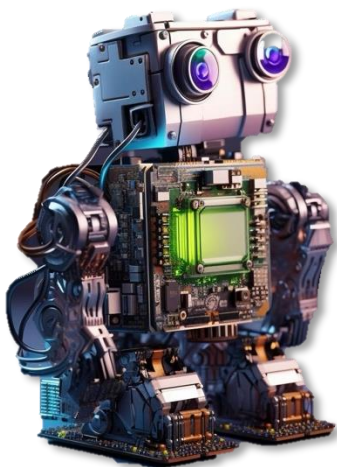
THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SYDNEY**

Sydney  
Informatics Hub

[informatics.sydney.edu.au/](http://informatics.sydney.edu.au/)

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## You're trusting this guy



- He's doing his best
- But mistakes happen.
- Maybe you should pay him more

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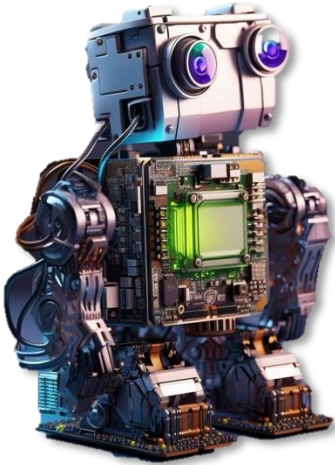
## I want some instant data science

Use an easy interface like ChatGPT, Anthropic...!  
(USyd-approved=Copilot)

1. you'll have to pay ~US\$20/mo
2. your data and code is going god-knows-where...
  - make sure it's only public data and not private info!
3. ask, be very specific
4. It has limited access to the internet, limited compute, limited file size upload.

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`sudo make me a sandwich`



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# I want some instant data science that has more compute

Use jupyter-ai !



1. jupyter-lab
2. add an API key to OpenAI, Anthropic, DeepSeek or Qwen
3. use jupyter-ai
4. edit your python notebook prolifically





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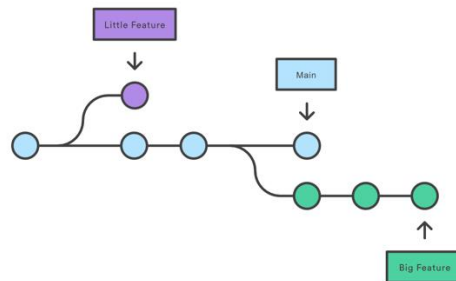
Ok, my code is getting complicated – multiple files, repository...

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Ok, my code is getting complicated – multiple files, repository...

Use [aider.chat/](https://aider.chat/) !





1. use git  
2. new branch for every feature
3. use aider 
4. (opt) in VSCode 

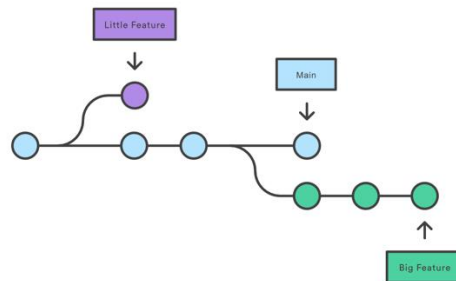


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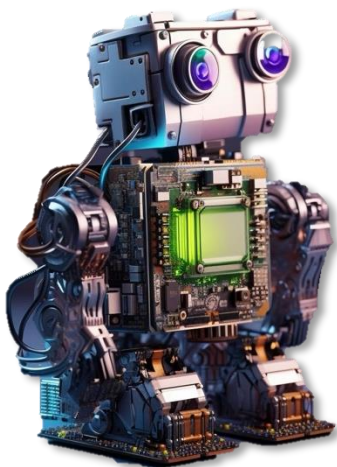


(it will commit every change,  
use `/undo` if it didn't work)



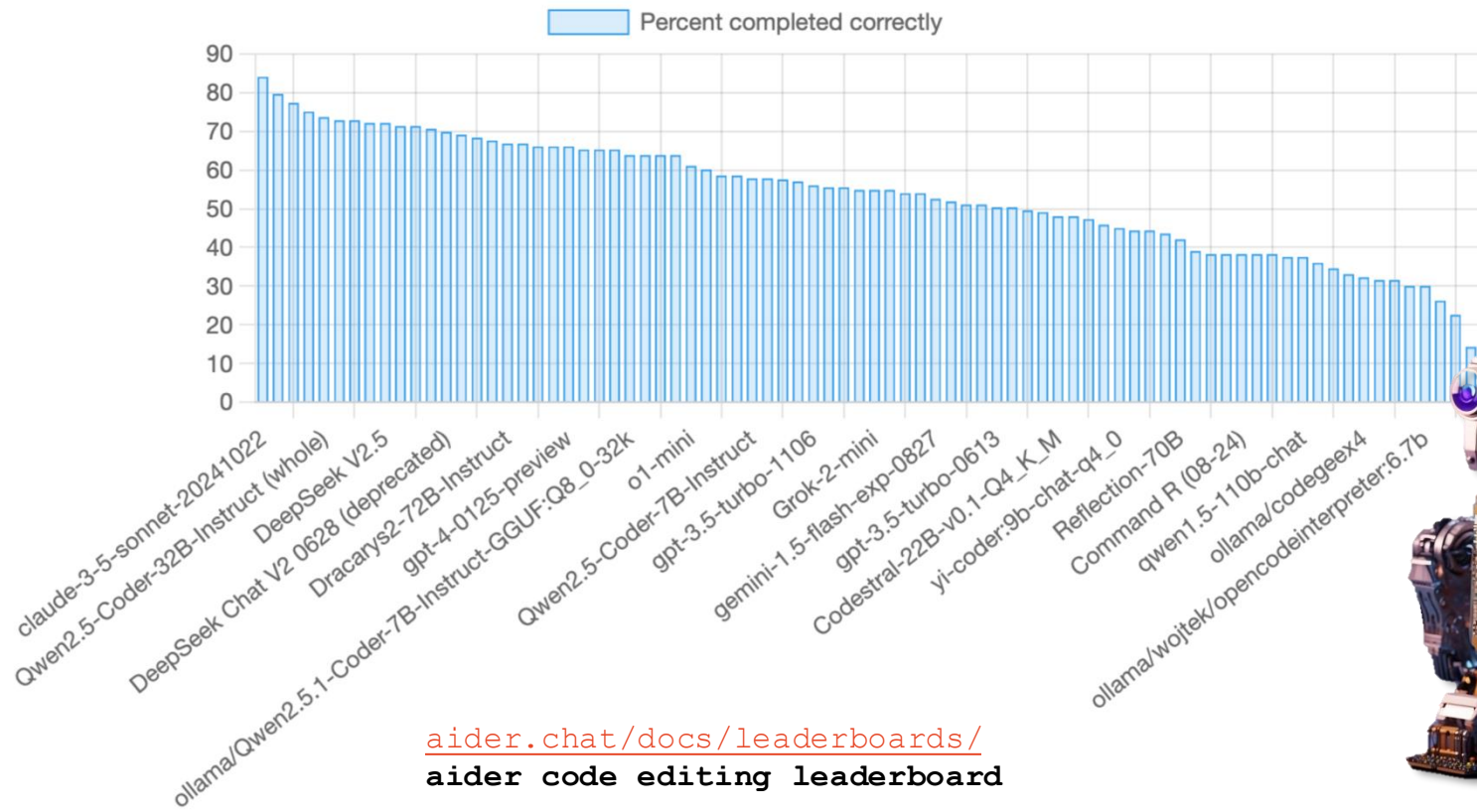
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## Let's look in his brain

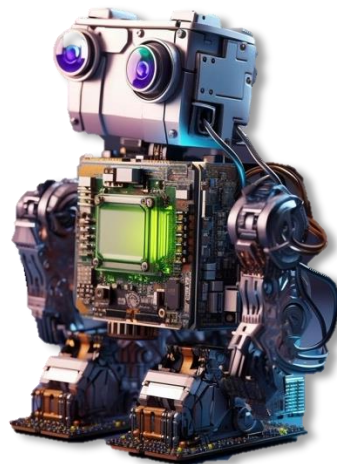


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# Let's look in his brain

```
app.py:
```

```
print("hello world")
```

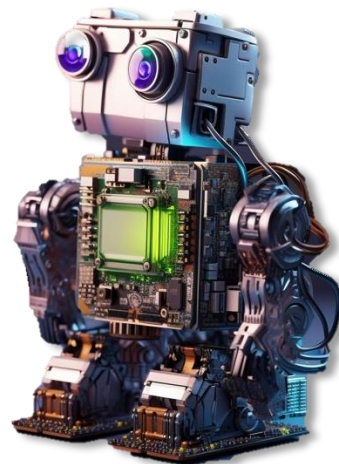


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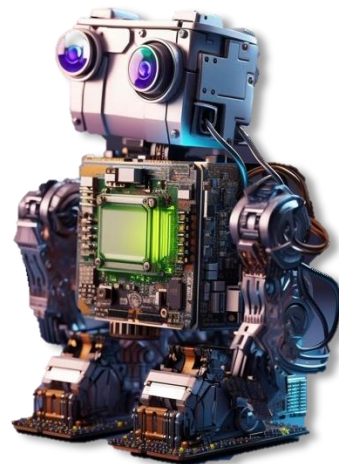
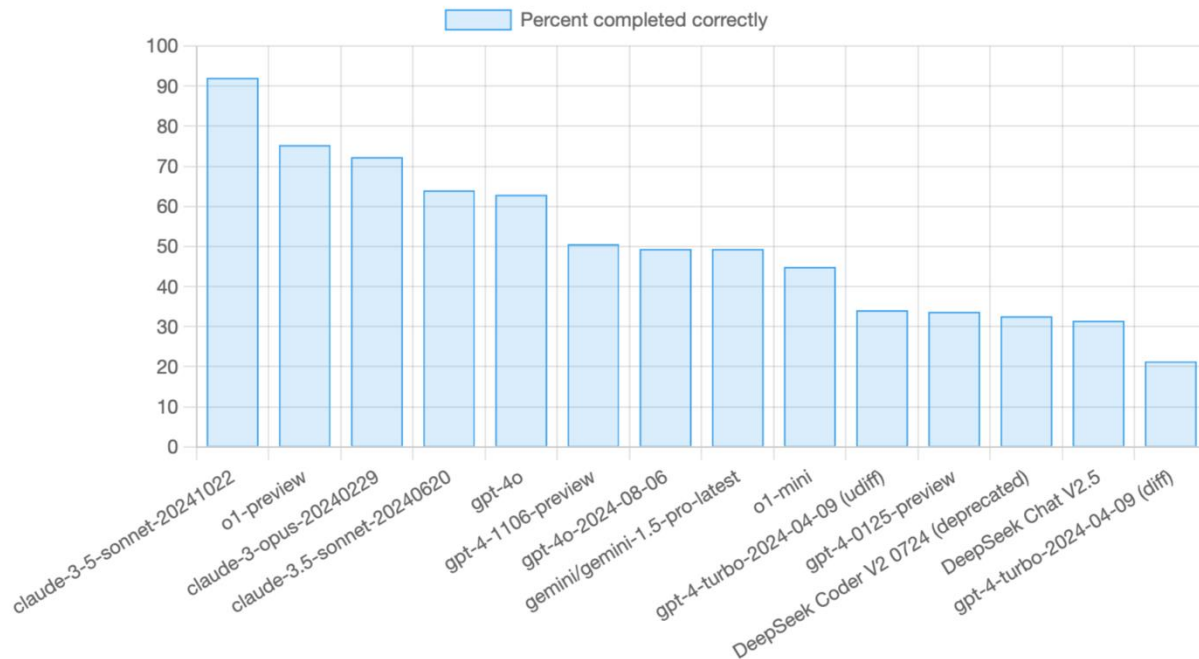
# Let's look in his brain

## Refactor DatabaseSchemaEditor.quote\_value

Refactor the `quote_value` method in the `DatabaseSchemaEditor` class to be a stand-alone, top-level function. Name the new function `quote_value`, exactly the same name as the existing method. Update any existing `self.quote_value` calls to work with the new `quote_value` function.



## Let's look in his brain



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## Answer

Use

`claude-3-5-sonnet-20241022`

Unless your stuff is private then use

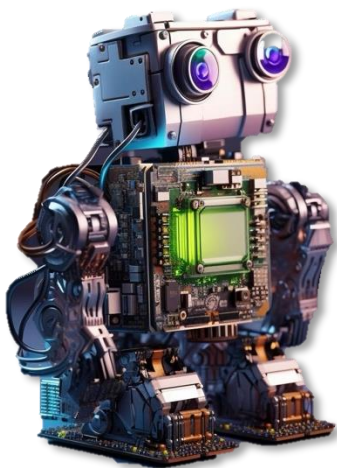
`Qwen2.5-Coder-32B-Instruct`

or

`DeepSeek V2.5`

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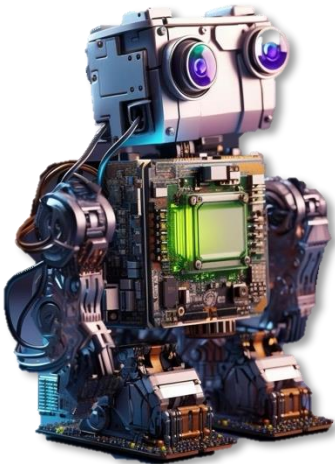
## Top tips



- Be as specific as you can about exactly what you want (or ask it to help you refine)
- make sure private stuff stays private!
- small incremental changes
- test as you go

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## What's going to go wrong?

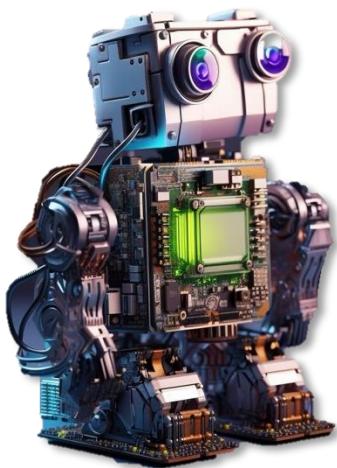


- Spaghetti code – not cohesive and difficult to maintain
- Functions with outputs they didn't need
- random imports that are different from what it said yesterday / in another file
- over complication



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## What's not changing?



- We want to build our ideas, explore our data, understand the world
- We want tools that:
  - helps us do this efficiently,
  - minimize information overload
  - don't miss critical parts,
  - let us be the final judge
  - help us make the important decisions, but not the irrelevant ones.

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# Sydney Informatics Hub

**Sydney Informatics Hub** is a **Core Research Facility** within PVC-RI, enabling excellence in computational and data-driven research through advanced digital infrastructure, expert data consultancy and analytics training.



*Statistics*



*Data Science,  
AI & Software*



*Research  
Computing*



*Bioinformatics*



# SIH Training

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Different offerings, in person, online, and hybrid content in a variety of formats from webinars to interactive workshops.



Attendees at all career levels, from undergraduate students to senior professors, and representation from every Faculty and School.



Partnerships with national organisations like Australian BioCommons:  
[biocommons.org.au/training-cooperative](https://biocommons.org.au/training-cooperative).



Find out more on our training calendar:  
[sydney.edu.au/informatics-hub/training](https://sydney.edu.au/informatics-hub/training). Or stay up to date with our newsletter.



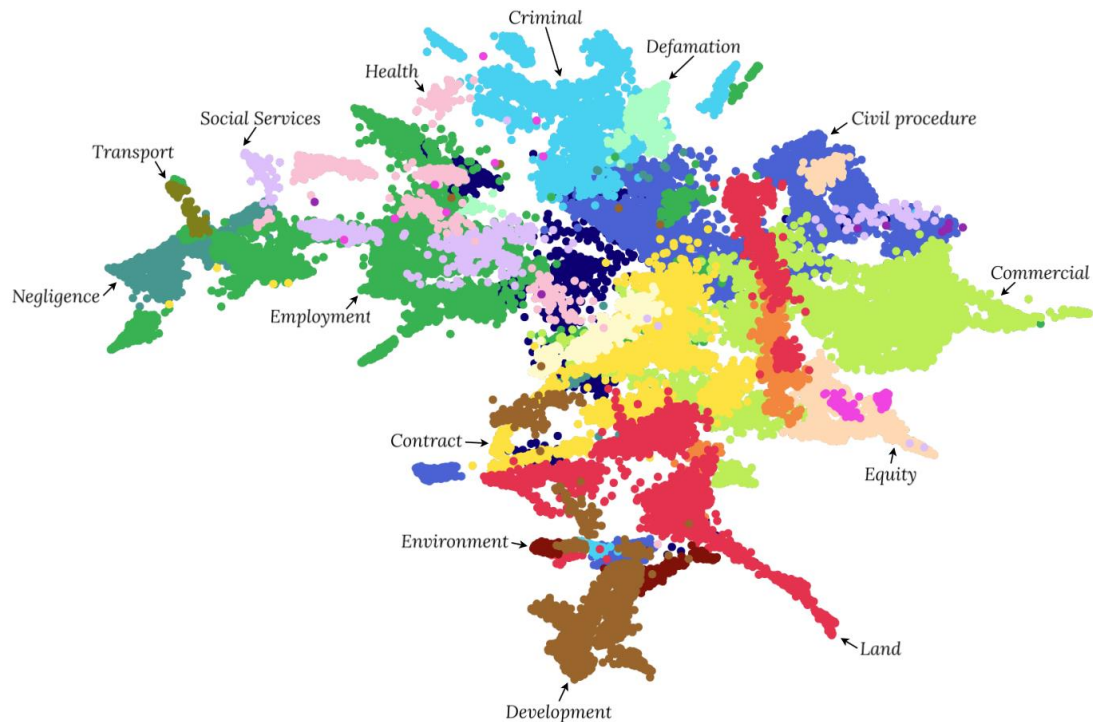
[sydney.edu.au/informatics-hub/training](https://sydney.edu.au/informatics-hub/training)

| Statistics   | Data Science                | Research Computing         | Bioinformatics                  | Events            |
|--------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Fundamentals | Machine Learning            | High Performance Computing | 'omics Techniques               | Hacky Hour        |
| Modelling    | Visualisation               | Cloud Computing            | Reproducible Pipelines          | Summer Schools    |
| Specialist   | Natural Language Processing | Containers                 | Data Analytics                  | Coding Challenges |
|              | Geospatial Analysis         | Workflows                  | National Compute Infrastructure |                   |

# Research examples with AI

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## Open Australian Legal Corpus



# Extracting information from text with language models



OpenAI GPT-4o  
(May '24)

Caselow

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New South Wales Supreme Court

CITATION : Dunn v McCarthy [2010] NSWSC 675

HEARING DATE(S) : 21/06/2010

JUDGMENT DATE : 7 July 2010

JURISDICTION : Equity Division

JUDGMENT OF : Macready AsJ at 1

DECISION :  
1. In lieu of the legacy of \$30,000 in favour of the plaintiff contained in the will of the late Frederick Milton Gear dated 20 February 2008, the plaintiff will receive a legacy in the sum of \$160,000.  
2. Interest to be paid on the balance of such legacy if it is not paid within three months from today's date and if not so paid, to bear interest at the rate prescribed for under the Probate and Administration Act 1898.  
3. That the plaintiff's costs to be paid on the ordinary basis and the defendant's costs on an indemnity basis be paid or retained from the estate of the deceased.

CATCHWORDS : Family Provision. Application by stepson given modest legacy. Legacy increased. No matter of principle.

NSW Supreme Court  
Inheritance law judgments

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Name                       | James Nevill Dunn   |
| Role in trial              | Plaintiff   |
| Costs                      | \$40,000 (p6)   |
| Natural person?            | true  |
| Relationship to deceased   | stepson (p1)  |
| Was dependent on deceased? | partly dependent (p32)  |
| Alleged misconduct?        | false   |
| Estranged from deceased?   | briefly estranged <del>due to a misunderstanding</del> (p43)  |
| Financial circumstances    | receives a pension of \$520 per fortnight, wife earns \$800 per fortnight, owns a house with a \$15,000 mortgage (p39-40) |



Inheritance Case Law – Dr. Ben Chen  
SIH: Mike Lynch, Xinwei Luo

# Semantic search on private data

Digital Criminal Justice Project–  
Dr. Carolyn McKay



SIH: Nathaniel Butterworth,  
Gordon McDonald, Marius Mather  
[bit.ly/sih\\_search](https://bit.ly/sih_search)

Local language model  
(not in the cloud)

Survey and Interview transcripts  
⚠️ Highly protected data

Semantic Query  
food



Find

100%

Before the sun had risen, the wife came and awakened the two children, saying, "Get up, you lazy bones; we are going into the forest to cut wood." Then she gave each of them a piece of bread, and said, "That is for dinner, and you must not eat it before then, for you will get no more." Grethel carried the bread under her apron, for Hansel had his pockets full of the flints. Then they set off all together on their way to the forest. When they had gone a little way Hansel stood still and looked back towards the house, and this he did again and again, till his father said to him, "Hansel, what are you looking at? take care not to forget your legs."

6 "O father," said Hansel, "I am looking at my little white kitten, who is sitting up on the roof to bid me good-bye." - "You young fool," said the woman, "that is not your kitten, but the sunshine on the chimney-pot." Of course Hansel had not been looking at his kitten, but had been taking every now and then a flint from his pocket and dropping it on the road. When they reached the middle of the forest the father told the children to collect wood to make a fire to keep them, warm; and Hansel and Grethel gathered brushwood enough for a little mountain; and it was set on fire, and when the flame was burning quite high the wife said, "Now lie down by the fire and rest yourselves, you children, and we will go and cut wood; and when we are ready we will come and fetch you."

7 So Hansel and Grethel sat by the fire, and at noon they each ate their pieces of bread. They thought their father was in the wood all the time, as they seemed to hear the strokes of the axe: but

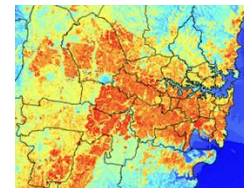


# Understanding cities with computer vision

Prof. Ben Eggleton, NSW Smart Sensing, SIH: Henry Lydecker, Sahand Vahidnia, Thomas Mauch, Xinwei Luo



## Urban Heat ML Model

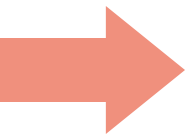


## Geospatial Features

Local Climate Zone = "2: Compact Midrise"

(49% class confidence)

## Input Image



Computer Vision

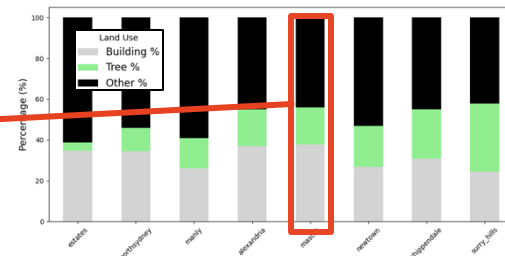
RGB Visual Light  
Satellite Imagery  
**Aerial Imagery (Best)**



[bit.ly/aigis](https://bit.ly/aigis)

Insights, ML,  
Analysis

## Compare neighborhoods

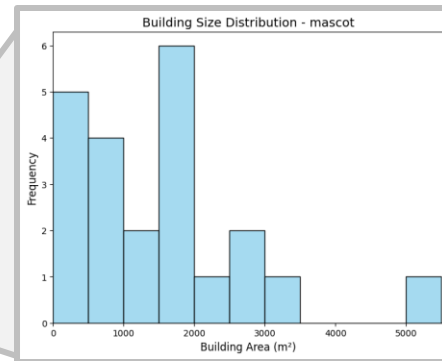


### Tree Patches

- 101 tree patches
- 15% coverage

### Building Outlines

- 22 buildings
- 38% coverage
- building footprint area distribution





# Speeding up microscopy data processing

SIH: Sebastian Haan, Nathaniel Butterworth

[bit.ly/sih-micro](https://bit.ly/sih-micro)

## Key highlights



Sped up annotation process by up to 10x existing approaches

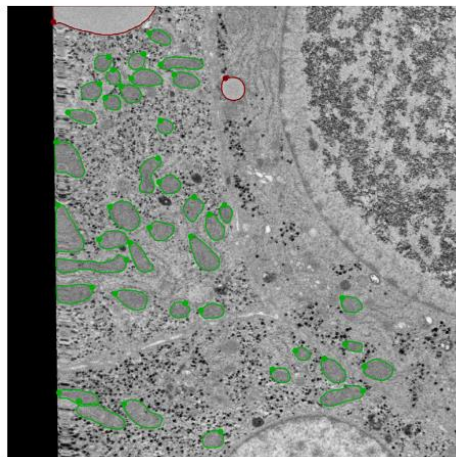


Full technology review of existing solutions with best practice solutions provided to clients

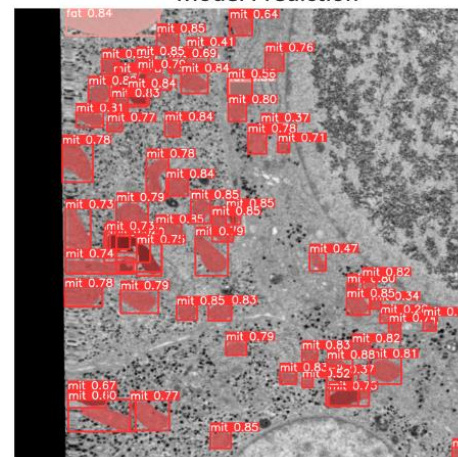


Strategic collaboration between SIH and SMM

Ground Truth



Model Prediction



Sydney Microscopy & Microanalysis collects immense amounts of data at the micro, nano, & atomic scales. We developed AI pipelines to speed up cell segmentation in electron microscopy images, automating 3D cell tomography.

# Australian Text Analytics Platform

*Text analysis tools for all researchers*



[www.atap.edu.au](http://www.atap.edu.au)

## Some tools on the platform:



Document and corpus similarity tool

- Compare differences between documents, e.g. to eliminate near-duplicates.



Quotation tool and semantic tagging

- Extract quotes from text e.g. news articles
- [www.atap.edu.au/posts/quotation-tool/](http://www.atap.edu.au/posts/quotation-tool/)



Discursis

- An analysis and visualisation tool for conversational data
- [www.atap.edu.au/posts/discursis/](http://www.atap.edu.au/posts/discursis/)

Facebook and Instagram, which Facebook owns, followed up in the evening, announcing that Trump wouldn't be able to post for 24 hours following two violations of its policies

This is where this document is different



Facebook and Instagram, which Facebook owns, followed up in the evening, announcing that Trump wouldn't be able to post for 24 hours following two violations of its policies

The White House did not immediately offer a response to the actions

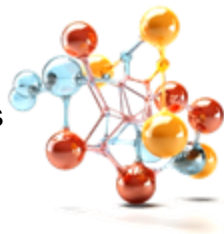
... people were on ventilators and people were dying at that stage , and that 's the context in  
QUOTE  
... unceston . " I was n't aware of the decisions . " Former finance minister Simon Birmingham said  
QUOTE  
SPEAKER  
PERSON  
/ whether Mr Morrison should leave . Nationals leader David Littleproud said Australians should  
PERSON  
SPEAKER  
ORG  
PERSON  
QUOTE  
NORP  
Albanese is awaiting advice from the solicitor - general on whether Mr Morrison 's actions have any lar



# Generative X

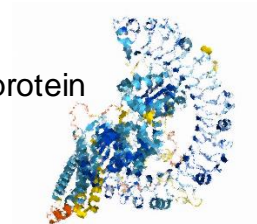
## Drug discovery

Design your own chemicals



## Biology

Design your own protein  
synthetic biology

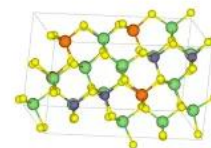


## Manufacturing

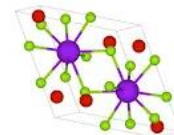
Design me a diffraction grating / micro resonator / widget with these properties...

## Material discovery

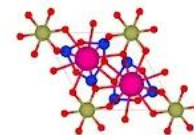
AI mineral discovery and  
autonomous material synthesis



$\text{Li}_4\text{MgGe}_2\text{S}_7$



$\text{KV}_2\text{Se}_3$



$\text{Rb}_2\text{HfSi}_3\text{O}_9$





**Sydney Informatics Hub**

Dr Gordon McDonald, Informatics Team Lead

[gordon.mcdonald@sydney.edu.au](mailto:gordon.mcdonald@sydney.edu.au)

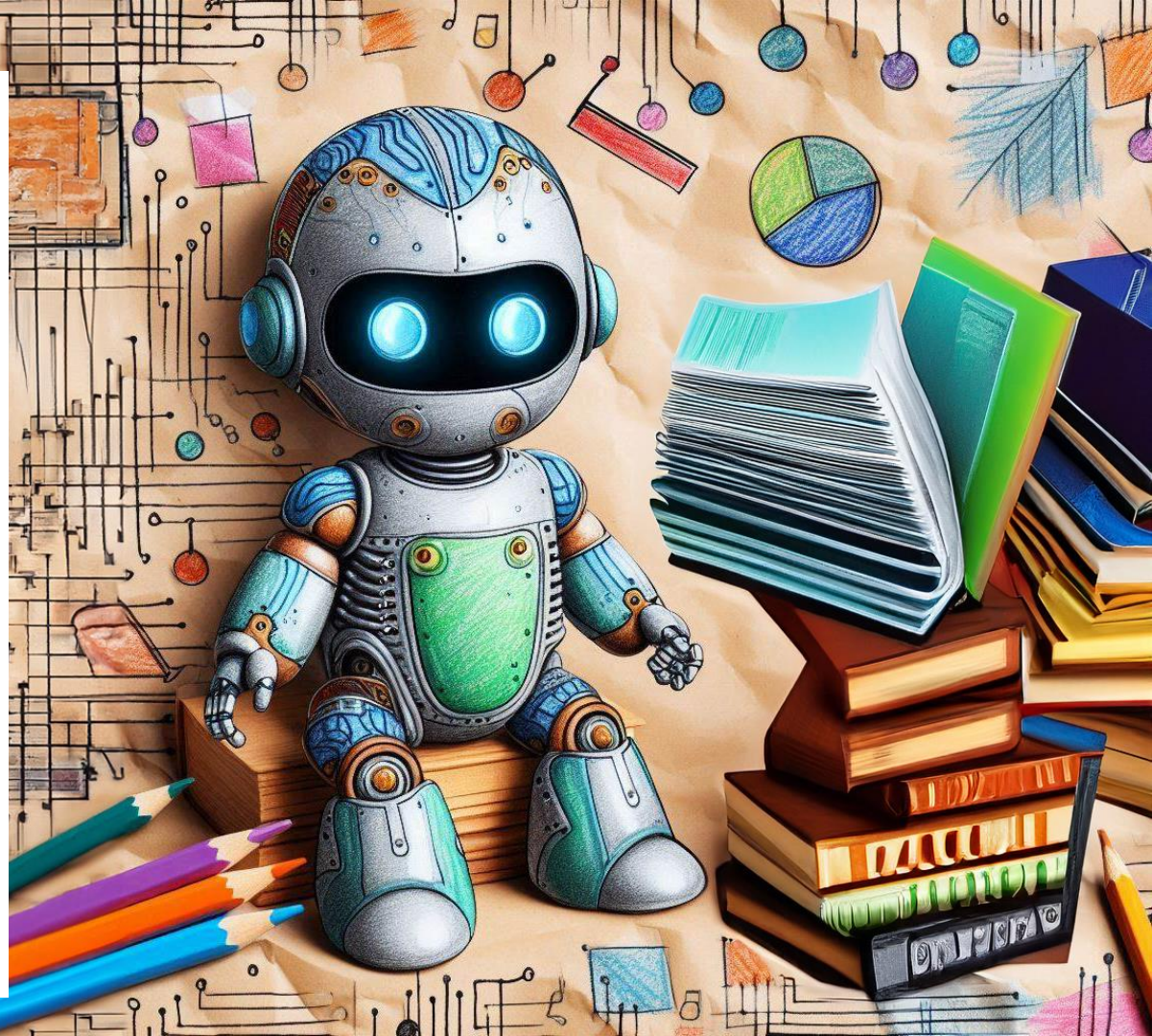
[sydney.edu.au/informatics-hub](https://sydney.edu.au/informatics-hub)

[sih.info@sydney.edu.au](mailto:sih.info@sydney.edu.au)



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# Some Tools and Platforms

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# Audio

**Translate audio** between different languages, keeping your tone of voice

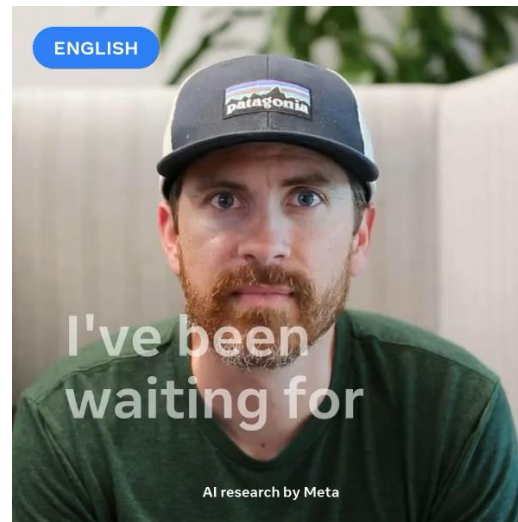
<https://seamless.metademolab.com/expressive>

**Generate Speech**

<https://elevenlabs.io>

**Generate Music**

<https://suno.com>



# On-device video transcription

If you're on a mac

[sindresorhus.com/aiko](https://sindresorhus.com/aiko)

Data and model runs in your browser – word level timestamps

[huggingface.co/spaces/Xenova/whisper-word-level-timestamps](https://huggingface.co/spaces/Xenova/whisper-word-level-timestamps)

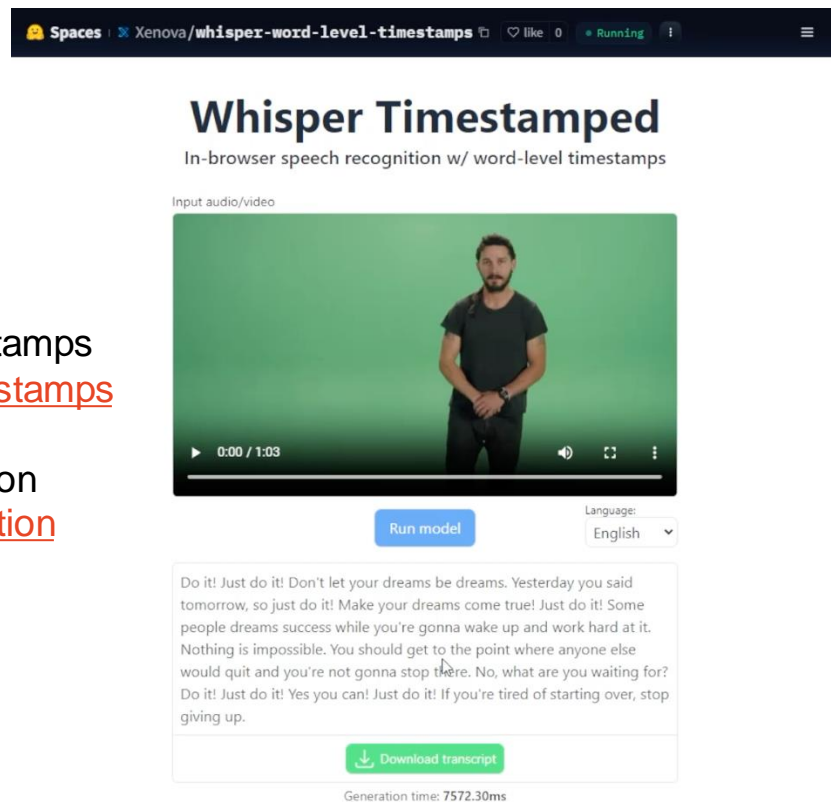
Data and model runs in your browser – speaker diarization

[huggingface.co/spaces/Xenova/whisper-speaker-diarization](https://huggingface.co/spaces/Xenova/whisper-speaker-diarization)

If you're ok with code and installs

[github.com/ggerganov/whisper.cpp](https://github.com/ggerganov/whisper.cpp)

(Not on device) Sharepoint automatic video transcription



The screenshot shows the Hugging Face Spaces interface for the 'Whisper Timestamped' demo by Xenova. The header bar includes the Spaces logo, the user 'Xenova', the space name 'whisper-word-level-timestamps', a 'like' button with a count of 0, a 'Running' status indicator, and a menu icon. The main title 'Whisper Timestamped' is displayed in a large, bold font, followed by the subtitle 'In-browser speech recognition w/ word-level timestamps'. Below this is a video player showing a man speaking against a green background. The video player has a progress bar at 0:00 / 1:03 and standard playback controls. To the right of the video player is a 'Language:' dropdown menu set to 'English'. Below the video player is a blue 'Run model' button. Underneath the button is a text area containing the transcription of the video: 'Do it! Just do it! Don't let your dreams be dreams. Yesterday you said tomorrow, so just do it! Make your dreams come true! Just do it! Some people dreams success while you're gonna wake up and work hard at it. Nothing is impossible. You should get to the point where anyone else would quit and you're not gonna stop there. No, what are you waiting for? Do it! Just do it! Yes you can! Just do it! If you're tired of starting over, stop giving up.' Below the text area is a green 'Download transcript' button. At the bottom of the interface, it shows 'Generation time: 7572.30ms'.



# Image segmentation

Segment a human

[huggingface.co/spaces/facebook/sapiens-seg](https://huggingface.co/spaces/facebook/sapiens-seg)

Segment images

[sam2.metademolab.com](https://sam2.metademolab.com)

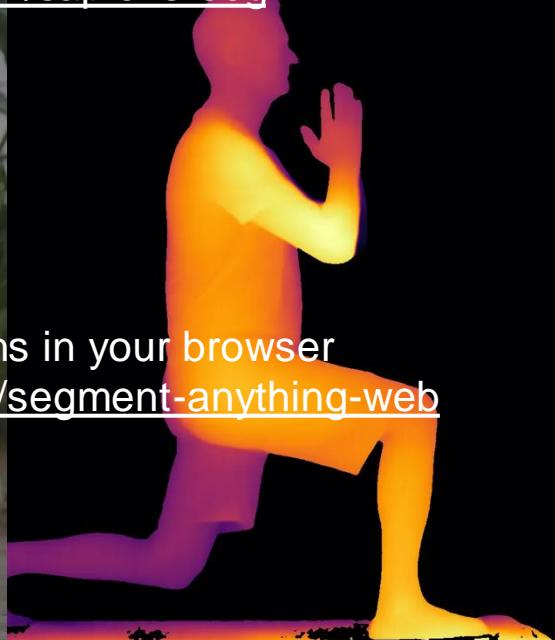
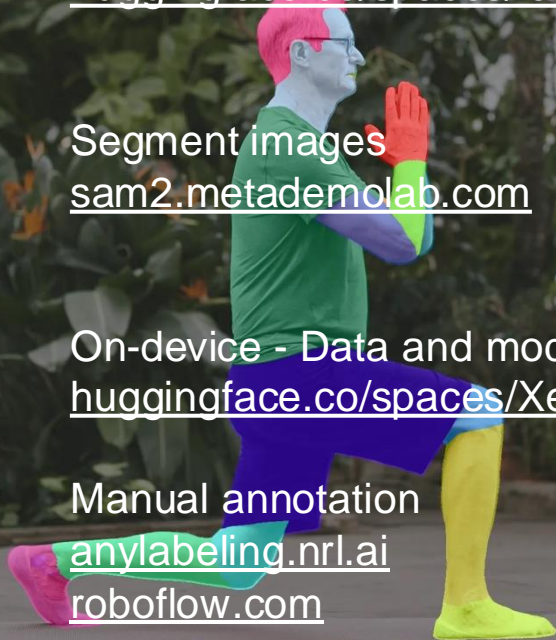
On-device - Data and model runs in your browser

[huggingface.co/spaces/Xenova/segment-anything-web](https://huggingface.co/spaces/Xenova/segment-anything-web)

Manual annotation

[anylabelling.nrl.ai](https://anylabelling.nrl.ai)

[roboflow.com](https://roboflow.com)





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## Platforms & Tools

- [Huggingface](#) – Open & free tools for AI proof of concepts
- [Papers with code](#) – compare state of the art models' performance
- [Colab](#) – free Jupyter notebook interface from Google
- [Weights & Biases](#) – Model training and evaluation diagnostics
- [Roboflow](#) – Very easy to use dataset utilities
- [PaddlePaddle](#) - frameworks for AI use cases

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# Literature Search

Research Rabbit – free for researchers, operates on donation model

Elicit free trial, then \$10/month

Rayyan \$8/month researcher, \$4/month student

Scite Free trial then \$13-\$22/month

SciSpace

Scopus-AI

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# Coding assistance

Free (ish)

Aider

Jupyter-AI

Open Interpreter

MetaGPT

Copilot

Paid

ChatGPT

Github Copilot

Best language models to use  
with these tools now (10-09-24):

- claude-3.5-sonnet (via API)
- gpt-4o (via API)
- DeepSeek 2.5 (via API)
- Local models? (none of them are quite good enough yet to be useful) 😞

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# Agent building



## Agents

to reduce  
time to science

Free (ish)

Cogniti

Flowise

MetaGPT

Paid

ChatGPT Custom GPTs

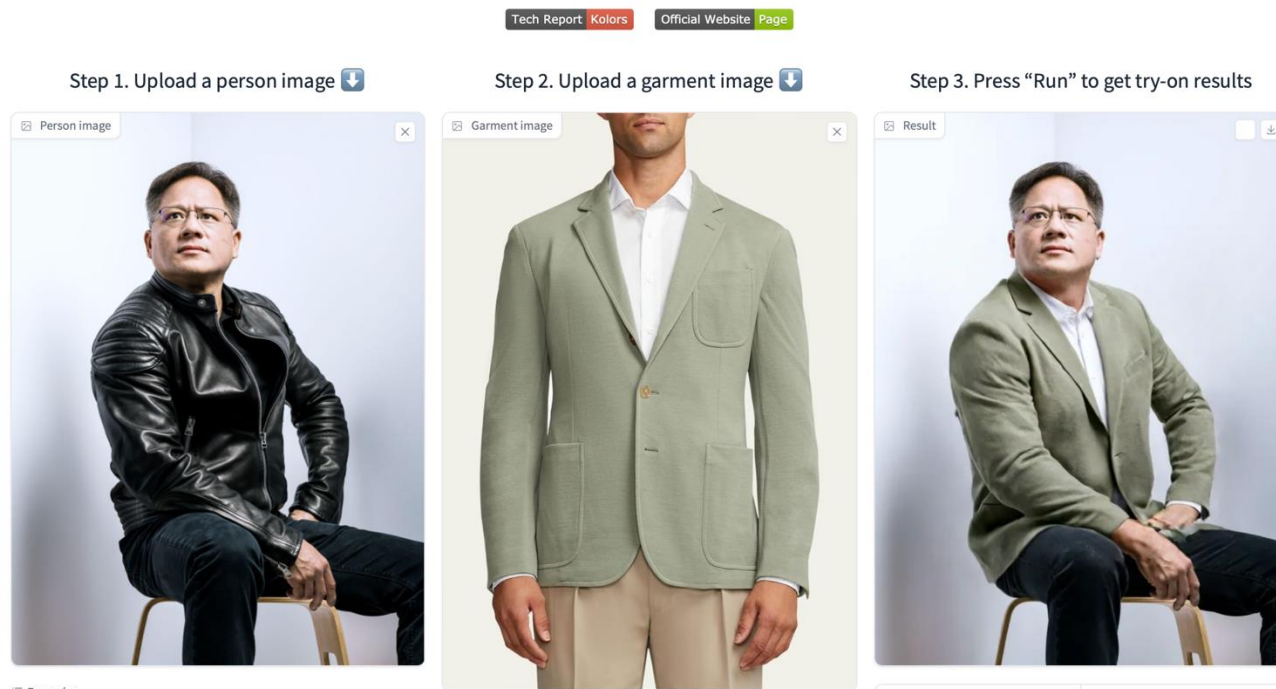
Azure Promptflow

Try on virtual clothes!

To find more new models as they are released:

<https://huggingface.co/spaces>

## Kolors Virtual Try-On in the Wild



<https://huggingface.co/spaces/Kwai-Kolors/Kolors-Virtual-Try-On>



## Sydney Informatics Hub

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[sih.info@sydney.edu.au](mailto:sih.info@sydney.edu.au)



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