



Pre-trained (using large data and massive compute so that it is ready to be used without any additional training)

Generalized — one model for many tasks (unlike traditional AI which was specific for a task such as image recognition)

Adaptable (through prompting — the input to the model using say text)

Large (in terms of model size and data size e.g. GPT-3 has 175B parameters and was trained on about 500,000 million words, equivalent of over 10 lifetimes of humans reading nonstop!)

Self-supervised — no specific labels are provided and the model has to learn from the patterns in the data which is provided — see the cake illustration below.

Foundation Models (in the context of language modeling) are defined as pre-trained Large Language Models, trained on huge amounts of data for multiple tasks. It represents the 'starting point' of modern language modeling. From here we can either fine-tune a model, add prompts, or add a knowledge base. Note, FM's are not all created equal. Some of them could be domain-specific (ex: BloombergGPT by Bloomberg). Even Foundation models trained on similar datasets can also vary in their responses.





