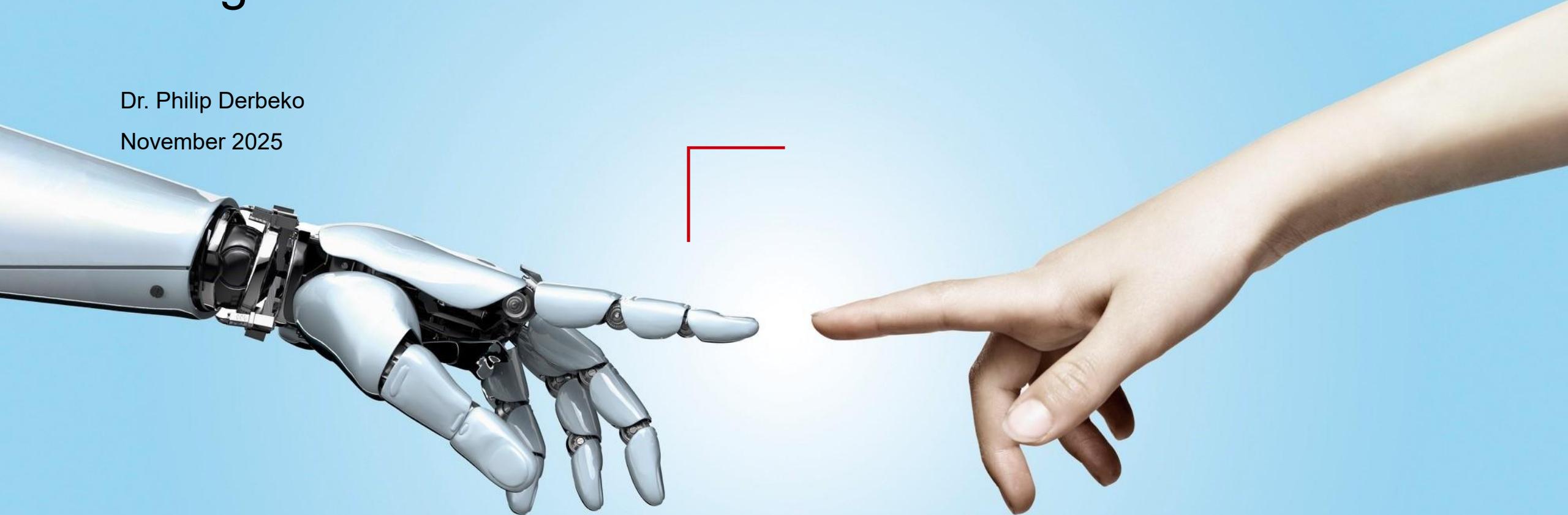


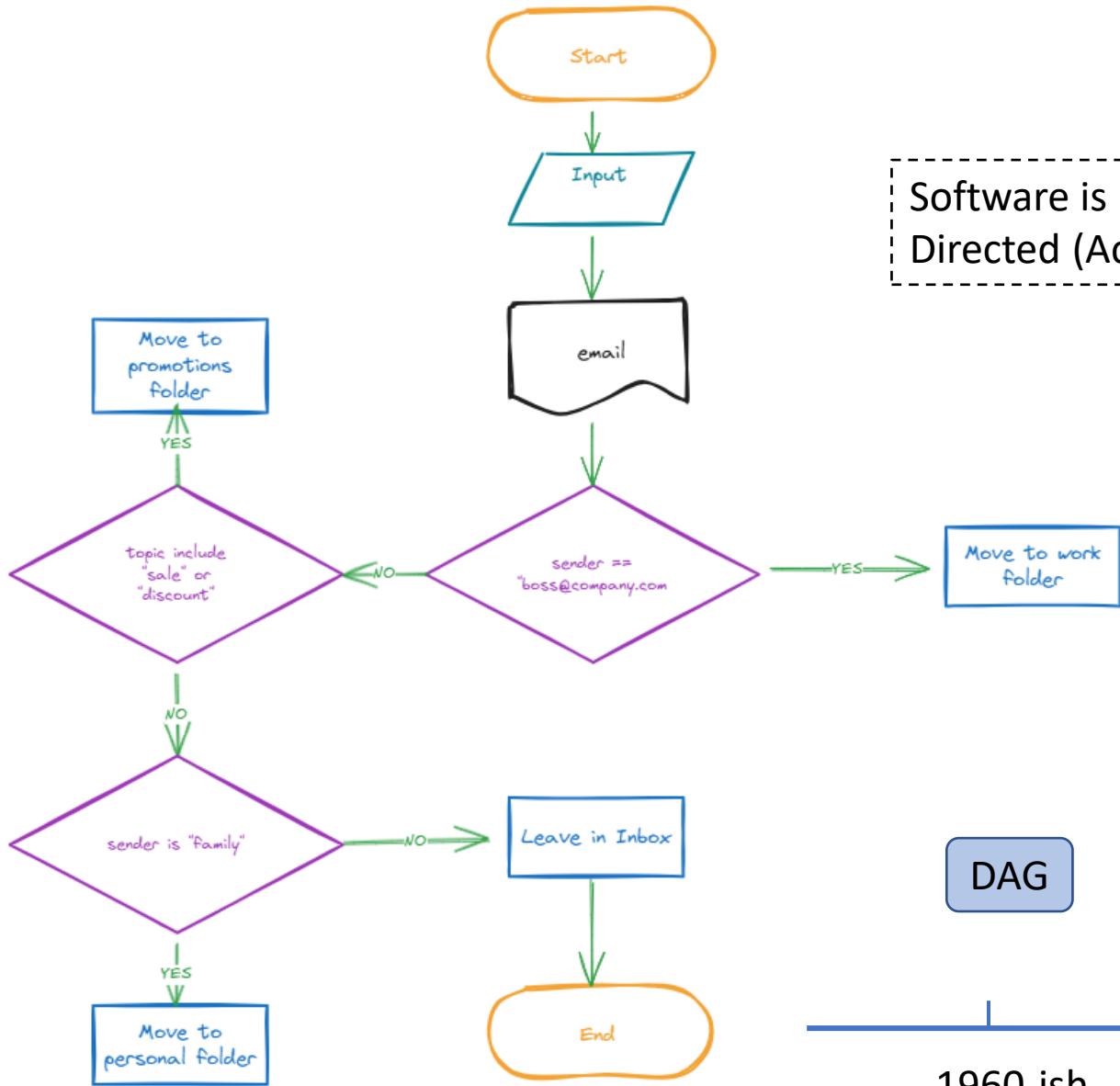
# Using AI for SW

Dr. Philip Derbeko

November 2025



# Flow Charts



Software is  
Directed (Acyclic) Graph - DAG

DAG

1960-ish



# Flow Chart – back to email example

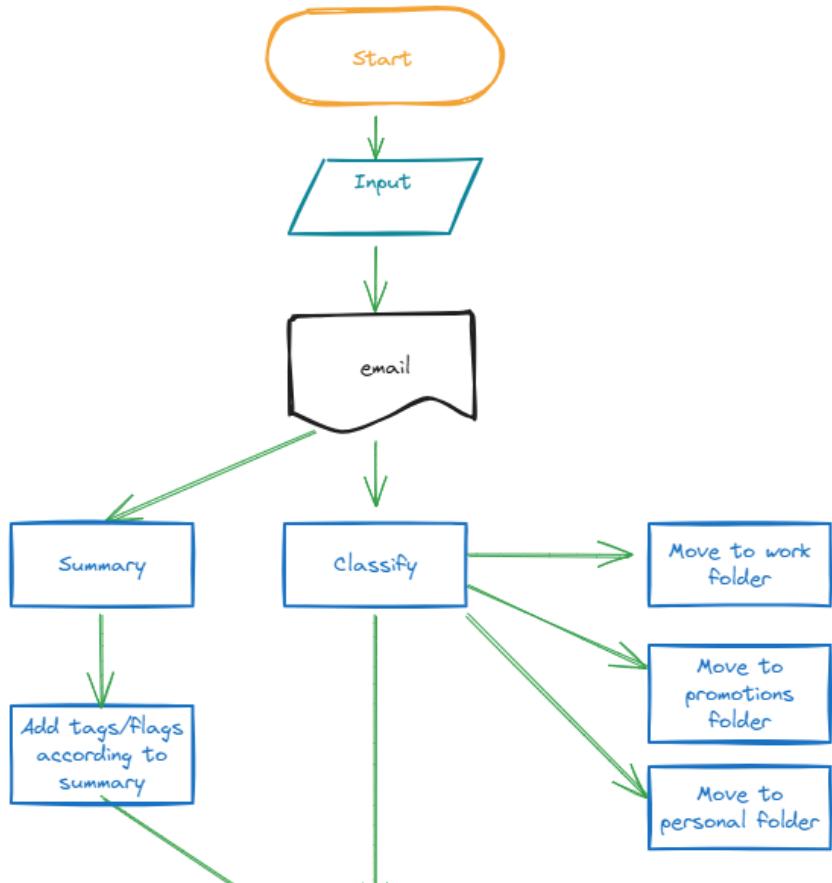
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Limitations:

- **Rigid and Static** – new family member, new boss, and other changes will require tweaking of the rules.
- **Scalability** – managing hundreds of rules is hard and rules begin to contradict one another.
- **Extensibility** – extending the flow with new actions or more information is hard.
- **Lack of Context** – the system only looks at a specific characteristic of the message. An important email from Sales department might end up in “promotions” folder.
- **No Learning** – The system does not learn from its mistakes or from its results.

Manual Work

# Machine Learning



ML enables smarter blocks.

But:

- The flow is still manually defined.
- Reliance on Explicit Features – manually defined
- Lack of semantic understanding
- Susceptible for evasion – senders can trick the system
- Limited scope – each additional function, like summary, suggest actions, etc., has to be manually implemented.
- Changes in system usually require re-training of the ML components.
- Hard to personalize – have to be retrained.

DAG

DAG (nocode)  
orchestrators

ML

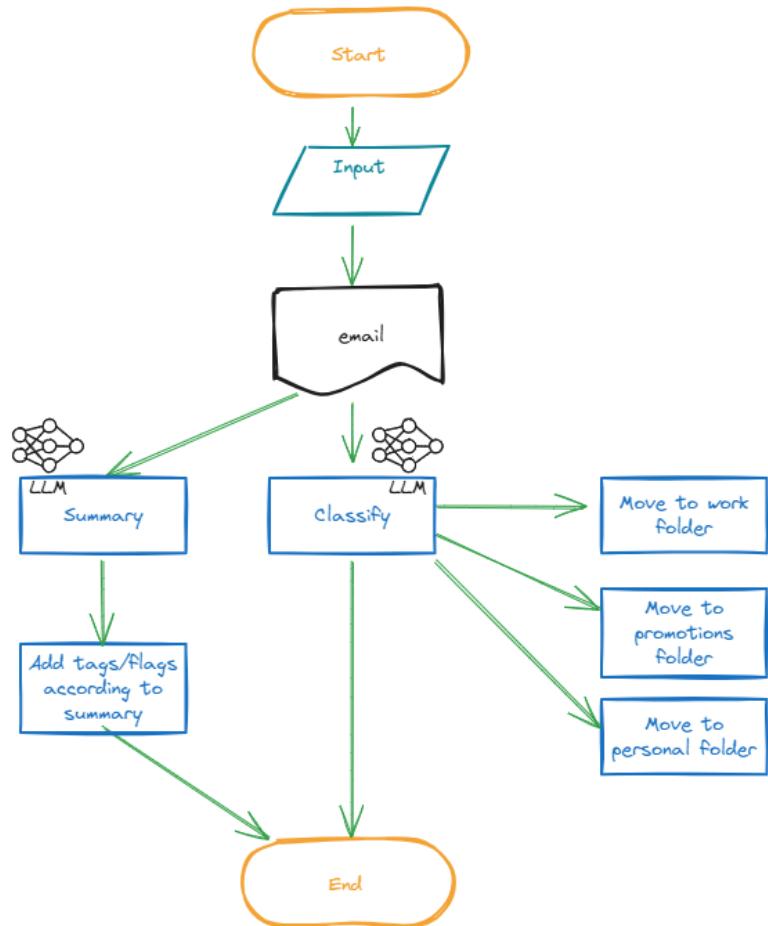
Manual Work

1960-ish

1990-ish

2000-ish

# LLM as a building block



LLM is used to perform complex actions.  
The flow is still manually defined.

**BUT:**

- The building blocks are flexible and extendable
- No need to re-train if a new classification is added
- Easy to personalize – in-context.
- Easy to guide by providing examples (in-context learning)
- Actions are performed with semantic understanding.

DAG

DAG (nocode)  
orchestrators

ML

LLM

Manual Work

1960-ish

1990-ish

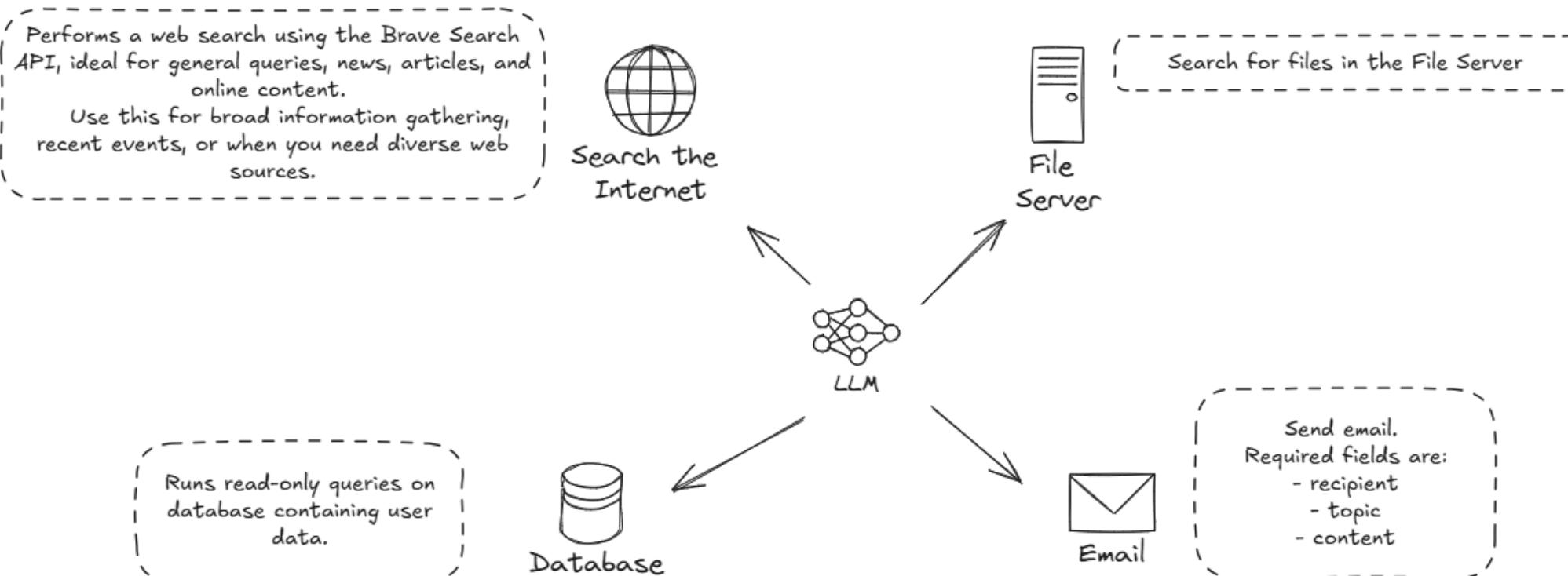
2000-ish

2022-ish

# Tools

---

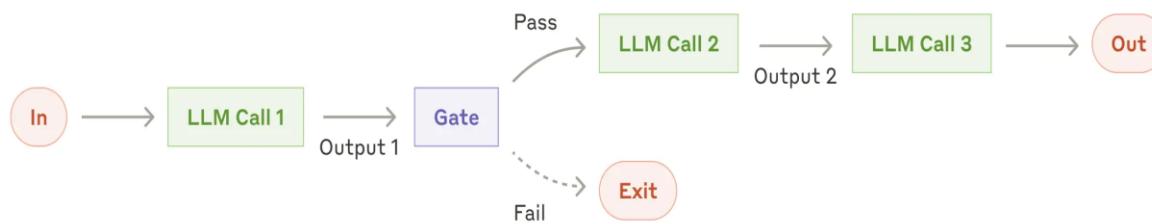
- Tools are any external capability that LLM/Agent can invoke to get information or to act
- Tool provides input data and short info when to use it.
- Usually JSON is used as a data format.



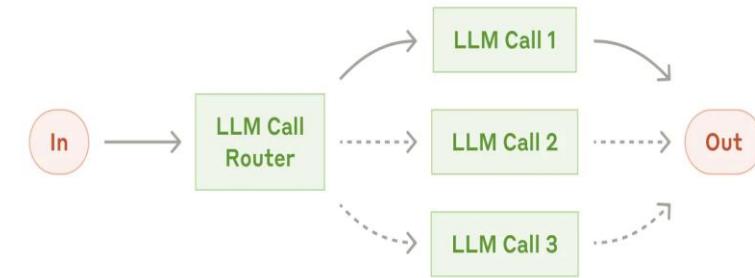
# Design Patterns

Shamelessly copied from <https://www.anthropic.com/engineering/building-effective-agents>

Call Chaining – decomposable task



Routing – different types of tasks, better no overlap



Orchestrator – complex tasks with unsure next step

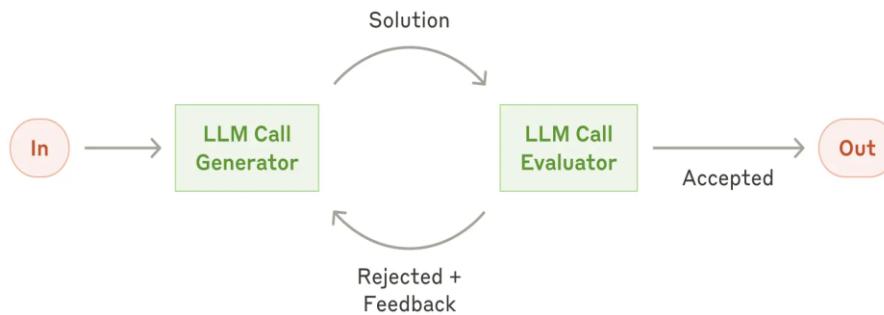


# Design Patterns - 2

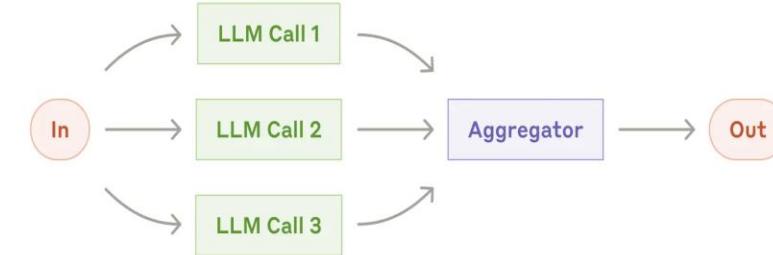
Call Chaining – decomposable task

Shamelessly copied from <https://www.anthropic.com/engineering/building-effective-agents>

Evaluator – especially good when evaluation is easy

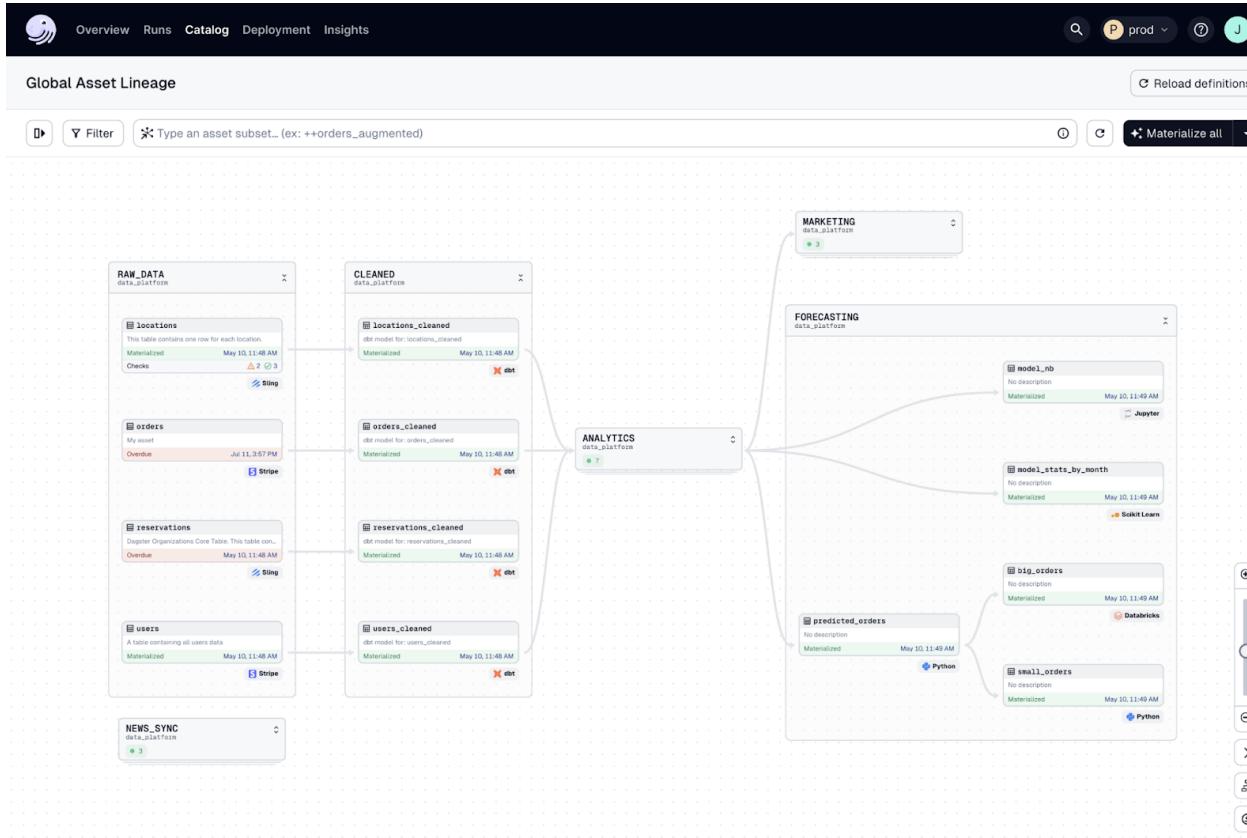


Parallelization – segmentation or majority voting





# Flow Chart Automations



DAG

DAG (nocode)  
orchestrators

Let's automate DAG execution!!!

Still alive and kicking, especially  
for data flows:

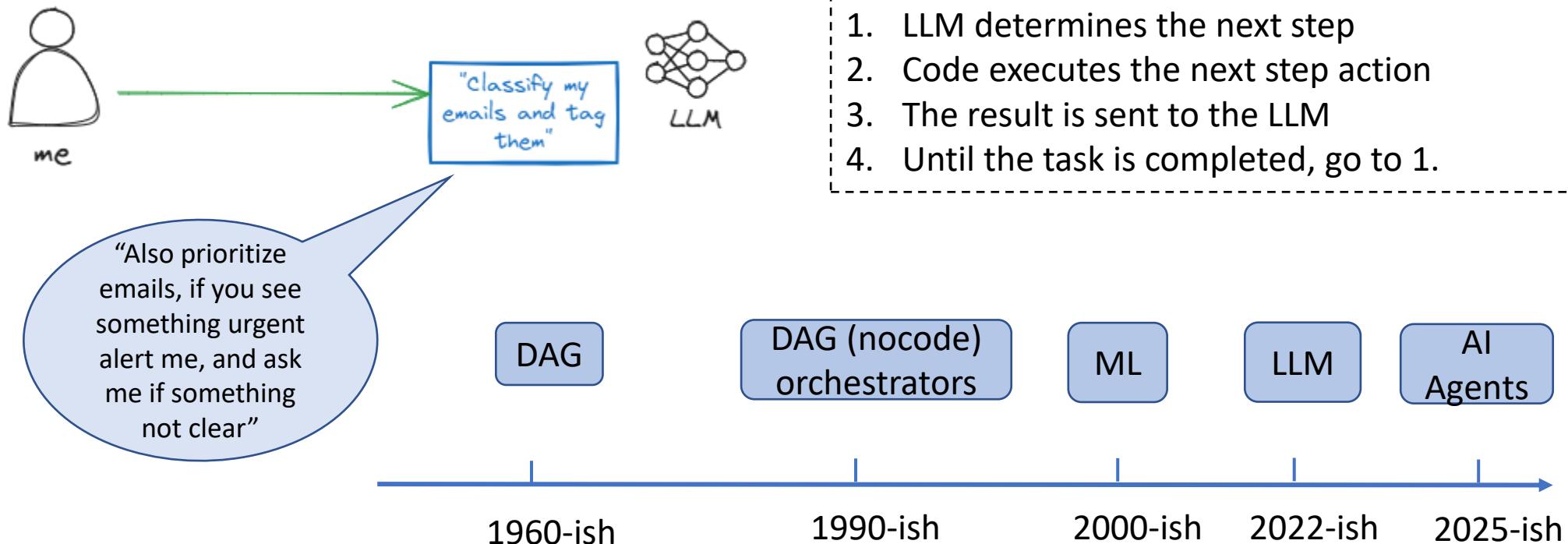
- Apache Airflow
- Prefect
- Dagster
- AWS Step Functions
- ...

1960-ish

1990-ish

# Agents

## Promise of Agents: No flow charts



# Tools - Example

MCP Server: <https://github.com/modelcontextprotocol/servers-archived/tree/main/src/brave-search>

```
{  
  "mcpServers": {  
    "brave-search": {  
      "command": "npx",  
      "args": [  
        "-y",  
        "@modelcontextprotocol/server-brave-search"  
      ],  
      "env": {  
        "BRAVE_API_KEY": "YOUR_API_KEY_HERE"  
      }  
    }  
  }  
}  
  
11  const WEB_SEARCH_TOOL: Tool = {  
12    name: "brave_web_search",  
13    description:  
14      "Performs a web search using the Brave Search API, ideal for general queries, news, articles, and online content. "  
15      "Use this for broad information gathering, recent events, or when you need diverse web sources. " +  
16      "Supports pagination, content filtering, and freshness controls. " +  
17      "Maximum 20 results per request, with offset for pagination. ",  
18    inputSchema: {  
19      type: "object",  
20      properties: {  
21        query: {  
22          type: "string",  
23          description: "Search query (max 400 chars, 50 words)"  
24        },  
25        count: {  
26          type: "number",  
27          description: "Number of results (1-20, default 10)",  
28          default: 10  
29        },  
30        offset: {  
31          type: "number",  
32          description: "Pagination offset (max 9, default 0)",  
33          default: 0  
34        },  
35      },  
36      required: ["query"],  
37    },  
38  };  
~
```

```
315  server.setRequestHandler(CallToolRequestSchema, async (request) => {  
316    try {  
317      const { name, arguments: args } = request.params;  
318  
319      if (!args) {  
320        throw new Error("No arguments provided");  
321      }  
322  
323      switch (name) {  
324        case "brave_web_search": {  
325          if (!isBraveWebSearchArgs(args)) {  
326            throw new Error("Invalid arguments for brave_web_search");  
327          }  
328          const { query, count = 10 } = args;  
329          const results = await performWebSearch(query, count);  
330          return {  
331            content: [{ type: "text", text: results }],  
332            isError: false,  
333          };  
334        }  
335      }  
336    } catch (error) {  
337      logger.error(`Error handling request: ${error.message}`);  
338    }  
339  }  
340};  
341  
342 module.exports = {  
343   server,  
344   CallToolRequestSchema,  
345   CallToolResponseSchema  
346};  
347
```

# Model Content Protocol - MCP

---

- MCP was introduced by Anthropic in November 2024 as an open source standard. The protocol replaced OpenAI function-calling and ChatGPT plug-in due to its openness.
- In March 2025 OpenAI officially adopted the protocol by adding support in Agents API
- Google announced coming support for MCP in April 2025
- Microsoft announced native MCP support in Windows on May 2025 (Build 2025)
- MS Semantic Kernel added support for MCP in April 2025
- May 2025 – CrewAI added support for MCP
- ...

