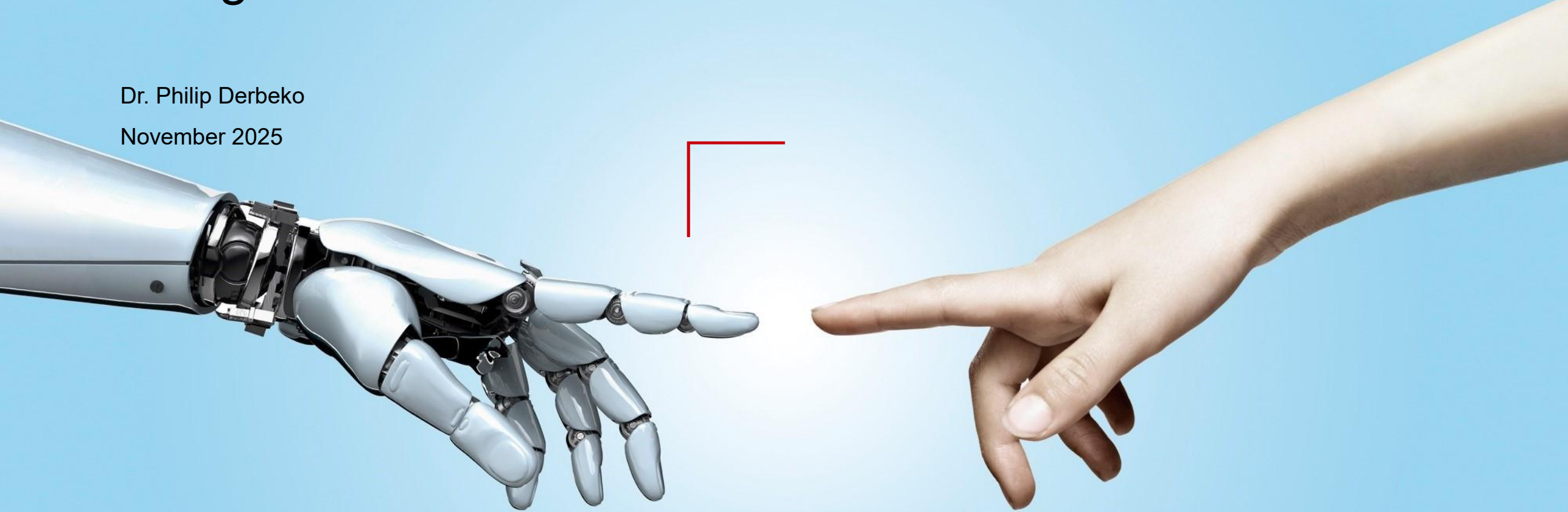


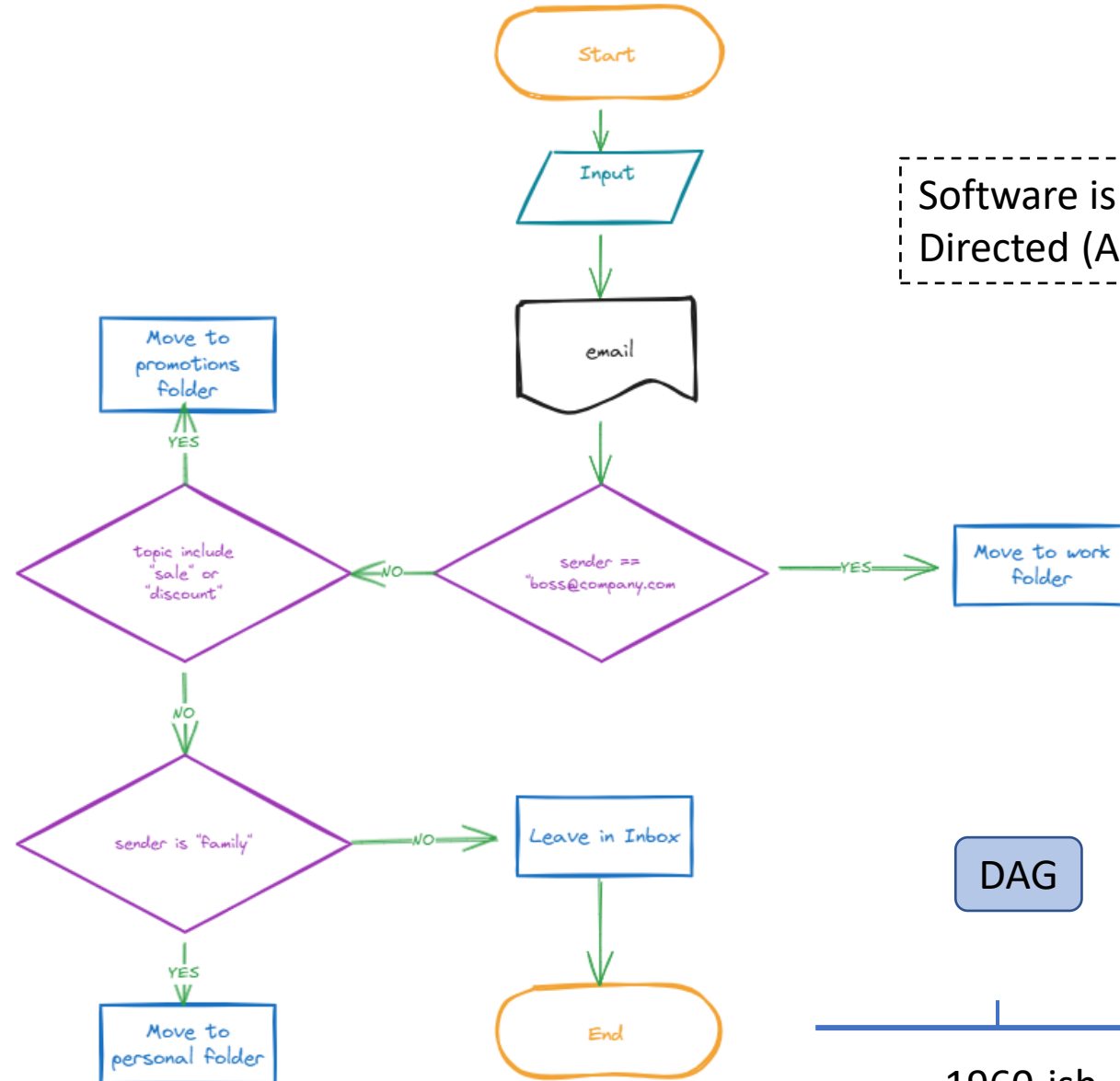
Using AI for SW

Dr. Philip Derbeko

November 2025



Flow Charts



Software is
Directed (Acyclic) Graph - DAG



DAG

1960-ish

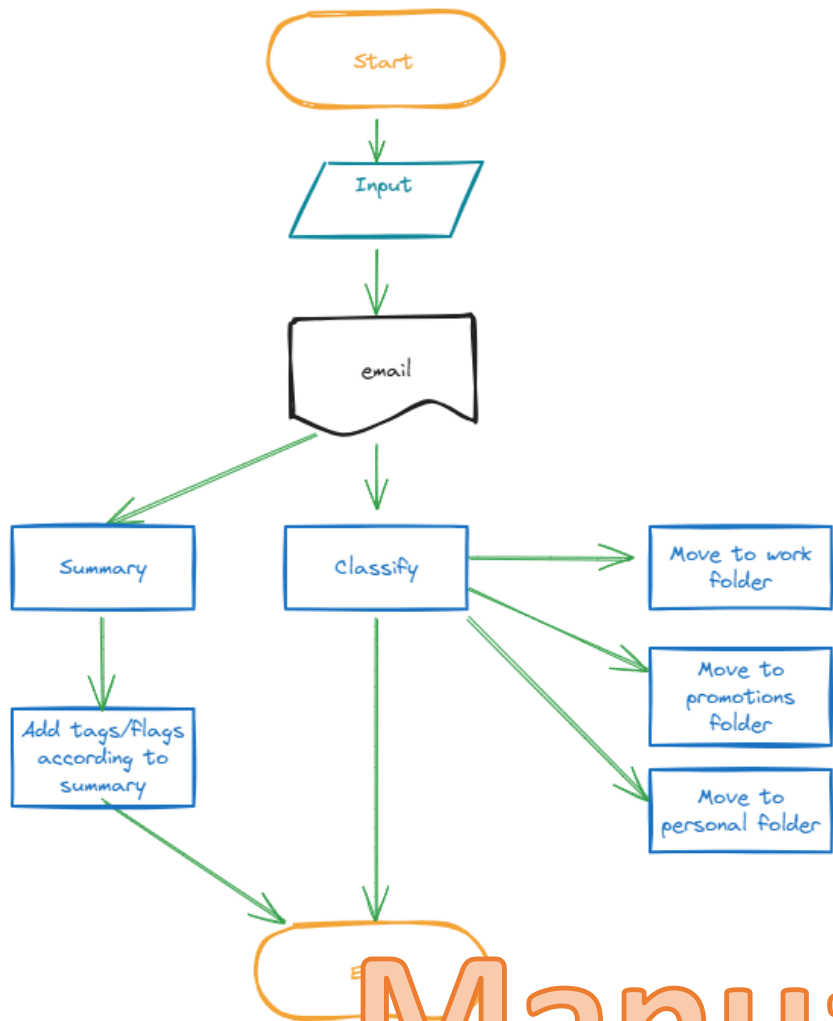
Flow Chart – back to email example

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

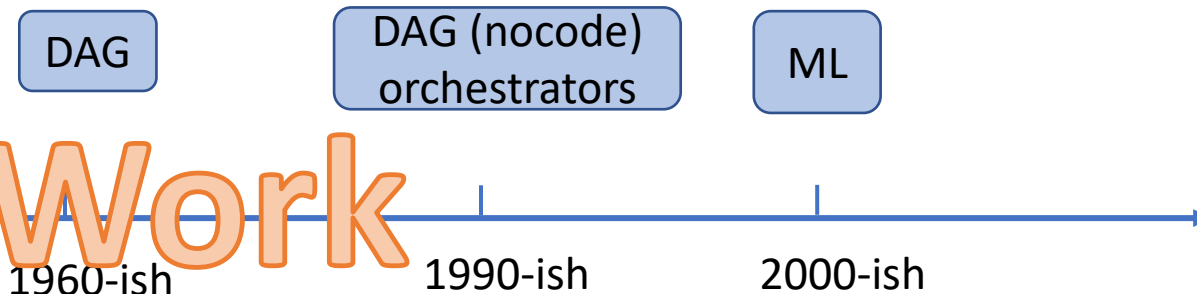


ML enables smarter blocks.

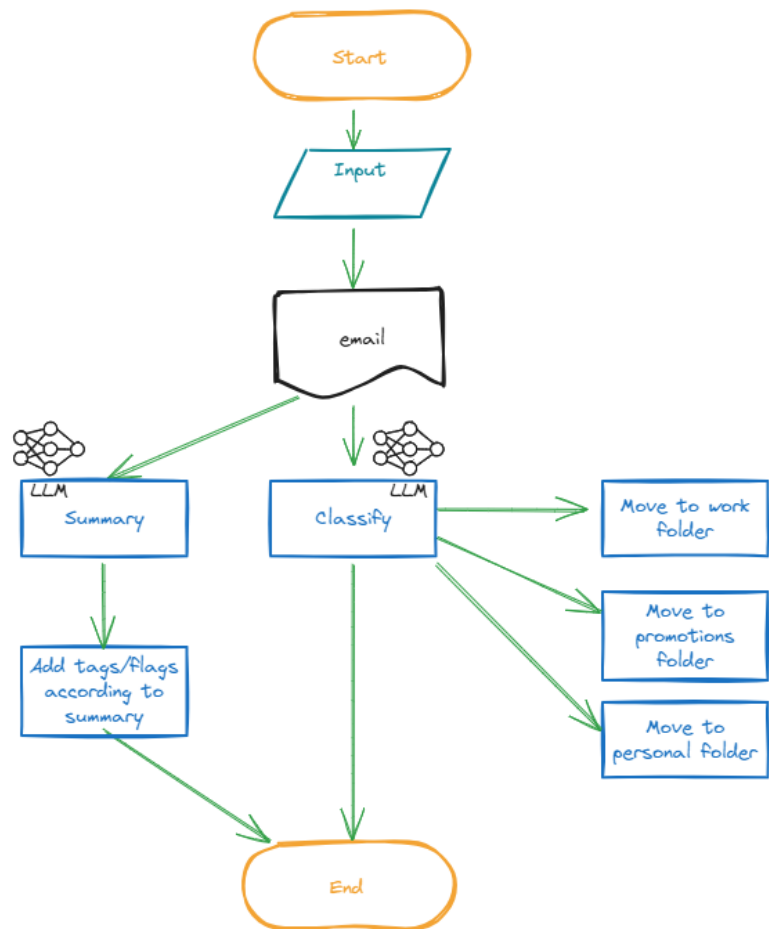
But:

- 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.

Manual Work



LLM as a building block



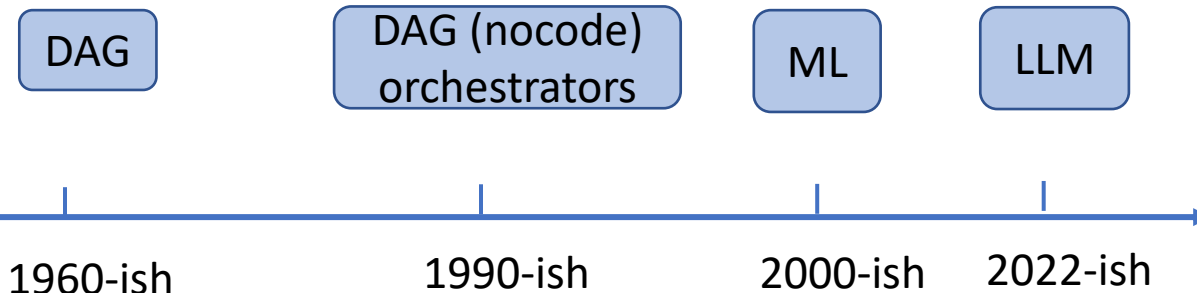
LLM is used to perform complex actions.

The flow is still manually defined.

BUT:

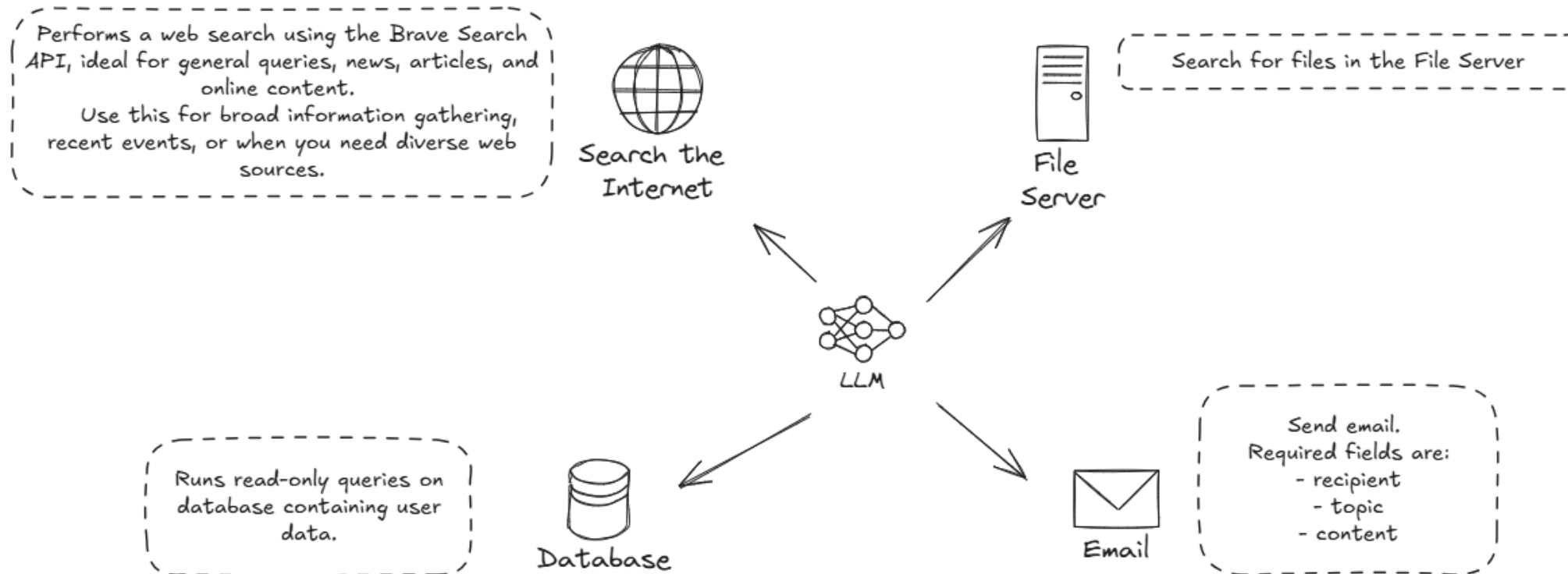
- The building blocks are flexible and extendable
- No need to re-train if a new classification is added
- Easy to personalize – in-context.
- Easy to guide by providing examples (in-context learning)
- Actions are performed with semantic understanding.

Manual Work



Tools

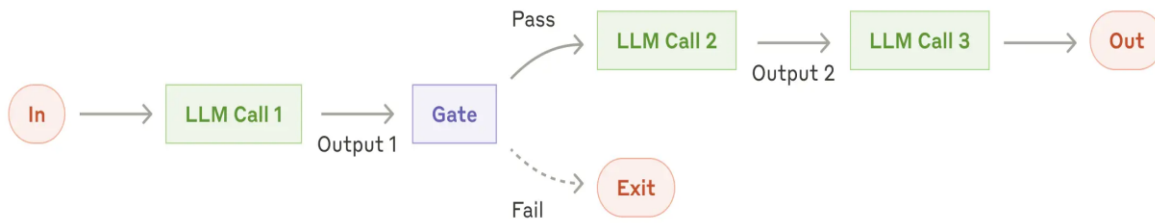
- Tools are any external capability that LLM/Agent can invoke to get information or to act
- Tool provides input data and short info when to use it.
- Usually JSON is used as a data format.



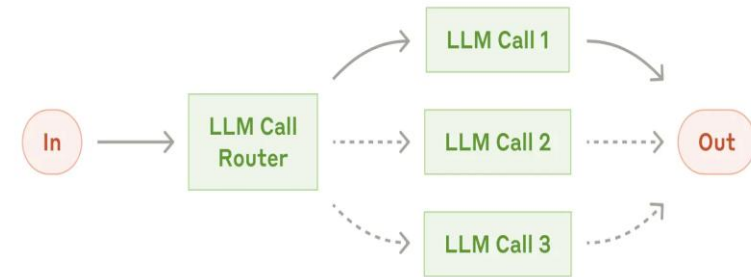
Design Patterns

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

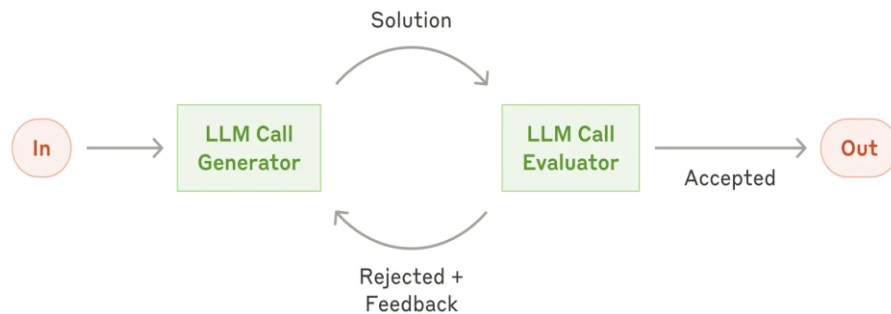


Design Patterns - 2

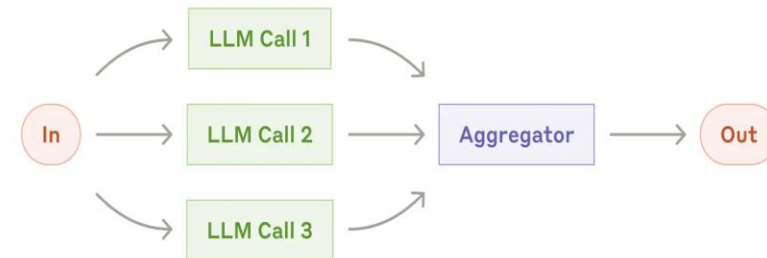
Call Chaining – decomposable task

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

Evaluator – especially good when evaluation is easy



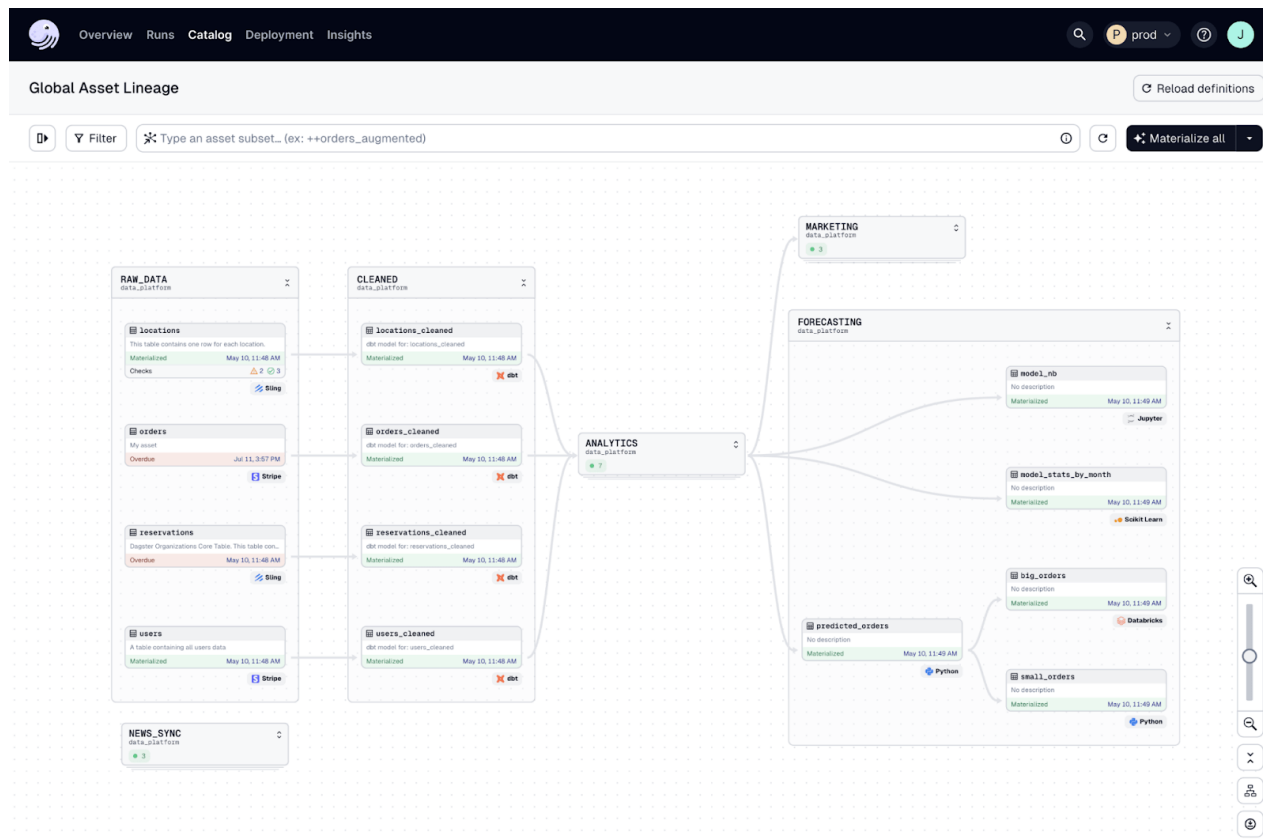
Parallelization – segmentation or majority voting





The End

Flow Chart Automations



DAG

Let's automate DAG execution!!!

Still alive and kicking, especially for data flows:

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

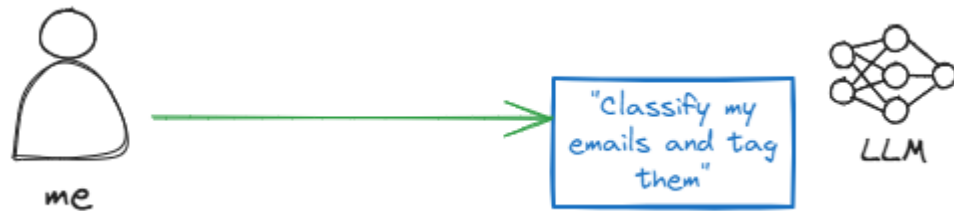
DAG (nocode) orchestrators

1960-ish

1990-ish

Agents

Promise of Agents: No flow charts

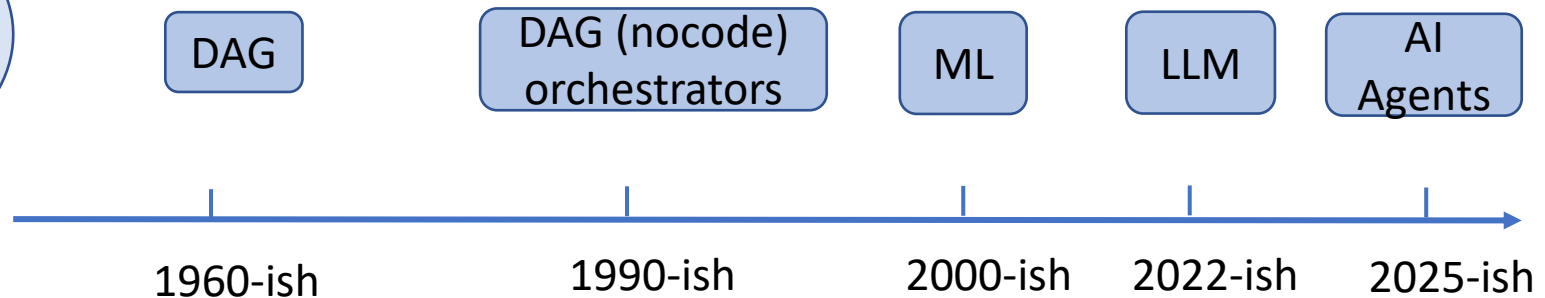


"Also prioritize emails, if you see something urgent alert me, and ask me if something not clear"

No more DAG / Flow Chart.
Let LLM make decisions.

Agent as a loop:

1. LLM determines the next step
2. Code executes the next step action
3. The result is sent to the LLM
4. Until the task is completed, go to 1.



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   }
337 }
```

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
- ...

