

1.1 Introduction to AI

1.1.1 What is artificial intelligence?

Artificial Intelligence is the branch of computer science concerned with making computers behave like humans.

Major AI textbooks define artificial intelligence as "the study and design of intelligent agents," where an **intelligent agent** is a system that **perceives** its **environment** and **takes actions** which maximize its chances of success. **John McCarthy**, who coined the term in 1956, defines it as "the science and engineering of making intelligent machines, especially intelligent computer programs."

The definitions of AI according to some textbooks are categorized into four approaches and are summarized in the table below:

Systems that think like humans —The exciting new effort to make computers think ... machines with minds,in the full and literal sense. (Haugeland,1985)	Systems that think rationally —The study of mental faculties through the use of computer models. (Charniak and McDermont,1985)
Systems that act like humans The art of creating machines that perform functions that require intelligence when performed by people. (Kurzweil,1990)	Systems that act rationally “Computational intelligence is the study of the design of intelligent agents. (Poole et al.,1998)

The four approaches in more detail are as follows :

(a) Acting humanly: The Turing Test approach

- Test proposed by Alan Turing in 1950
- The computer is asked questions by a human interrogator.

The computer passes the test if a human interrogator, after posing some written questions, cannot tell whether the written responses come from a person or not. Programming a computer to pass, the computer need to possess the following capabilities:

- ❖ **Natural language processing** to enable it to communicate successfully in English.
- ❖ **Knowledge representation** to store what it knows or hears
- ❖ **Automated reasoning** to use the stored information to answer questions and to draw new conclusions.
- ❖ **Machine learning** to adapt to new circumstances and to detect and extrapolate patterns

To pass the complete Turing Test,the computer will need

- ❖ **Computer vision** to perceive the objects,and
- ❖ **Robotics** to manipulate objects and move about.

(b) Thinking humanly : The cognitive modeling approach

We need to get inside actual working of the human mind :

- (a) through introspection – trying to capture our own thoughts as they go by;
- (b) through psychological experiments

Allen Newell and Herbert Simon, who developed **GPS**, the **—General Problem Solver** tried to trace the reasoning steps to traces of human subjects solving the same problems. The interdisciplinary field of **cognitive science** brings together computer models from AI and experimental techniques from psychology to try to construct precise and testable theories of the workings of the human mind

(c) Thinking rationally : The “laws of thought approach”

The Greek philosopher Aristotle was one of the first to attempt to codify —right thinking, that is irrefutable reasoning processes. His **sylogism** provided patterns for argument structures that always yielded correct conclusions when given correct premises—for example, Socrates is a man; all men are mortal; therefore Socrates is mortal.

These laws of thought were supposed to govern the operation of the mind; their study initiated a field called **logic**.

(d) Acting rationally : The rational agent approach

An **agent** is something that acts. Computer agents are not mere programs, but they are expected to have the following attributes also : (a) operating under autonomous control, (b) perceiving their environment, (c) persisting over a prolonged time period, (e) adapting to change.

A **rational agent** is one that acts so as to achieve the best outcome.

1.1.2 The foundations of Artificial Intelligence

The various disciplines that contributed ideas, viewpoints, and techniques to AI are given below :

Philosophy (428 B.C. – present)

Aristotle (384-322 B.C.) was the first to formulate a precise set of laws governing the rational part of the mind. He developed an informal system of syllogisms for proper reasoning, which allowed one to generate conclusions mechanically, given initial premises.

	Computer	Human Brain
Computational units	1 CPU, 10^8 gates	10^{11} neurons
Storage units	10^{10} bits RAM 10^{11} bits disk	10^{11} neurons 10^{14} synapses
Cycle time	10^{-9} sec	10^{-3} sec
Bandwidth	10^{10} bits/sec	10^{14} bits/sec
Memory updates/sec	10^9	10^{14}
Table 1.1 A crude comparison of the raw computational resources available to computers (circa 2003) and brain. The computer's numbers have increased by at least by a factor of 10 every few years. The brain's numbers have not changed for the last 10,000 years.		

Brains and digital computers perform quite different tasks and have different properties. Table 1.1 shows that there are 10000 times more neurons in the typical human brain than there are gates in the CPU of a typical high-end computer. Moore's Law predicts that the CPU's gate count will

equal the brain's neuron count around 2020.

Psychology(1879 – present)

The origin of scientific psychology are traced back to the work of German physiologist Hermann von Helmholtz(1821-1894) and his student Wilhelm Wundt(1832 – 1920)

In 1879,Wundt opened the first laboratory of experimental psychology at the university of Leipzig.

In US,the development of computer modeling led to the creation of the field of **cognitive science**.

The field can be said to have started at the workshop in September 1956 at MIT.

Computer engineering (1940-present)

For artificial intelligence to succeed, we need two things: intelligence and an artifact. The computer has been the artifact of choice.

AI also owes a debt to the software side of computer science, which has supplied the operating systems, programming languages, and tools needed to write modern programs

Control theory and Cybernetics (1948-present)

Ktesibios of Alexandria (c. 250 B.c.) built the first self-controlling machine: a water clock with a regulator that kept the flow of water running through it at a constant, predictable pace. Modern control theory, especially the branch known as stochastic optimal control, has as its goal the design of systems that maximize an **objective function** over time.

Linguistics (1957-present)

Modern linguistics and AI, then, were "born" at about the same time, and grew up together, intersecting in a hybrid field called **computational linguistics** or **natural language processing**.

1.1.3The History of Artificial Intelligence

The gestation of artificial intelligence (1943-1955)

There were a number of early examples of work that can be characterized as AI, but it was Alan Turing who first articulated a complete vision of AI in his 1950 article "Computing Machinery and Intelligence." Therein, he introduced the Turing test, machine learning, genetic algorithms, and reinforcement learning.

The birth of artificial intelligence (1956)

McCarthy convinced Minsky, Claude Shannon, and Nathaniel Rochester to help him bring together U.S. researchers interested in automata theory, neural nets, and the study of intelligence. They organized a two-month workshop at Dartmouth in the summer of 1956.

Perhaps the longest-lasting thing to come out of the workshop was an agreement to adopt McCarthy's new name for the field: **artificial intelligence**.

Early enthusiasm, great expectations (1952-1969)

The early years of AI were full of successes-in a limited way.

General Problem Solver (GPS) was a computer program created in 1957 by Herbert Simon and Allen Newell to build a universal problem solver machine. The order in which the program considered subgoals and possible actions was similar to that in which humans approached the same problems. Thus, GPS was probably the first program to embody the "thinking humanly" approach.

At IBM, Nathaniel Rochester and his colleagues produced some of the first AI programs. Herbert Gelernter (1959) constructed the Geometry Theorem Prover, which was able to prove theorems that many students of mathematics would find quite tricky.

Lisp was invented by John McCarthy in 1958 while he was at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). In 1963, McCarthy started the AI lab at Stanford.

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Tom Evans's ANALOGY program (1968) solved geometric analogy problems that appear in IQ tests, such as the one in Figure 1.1

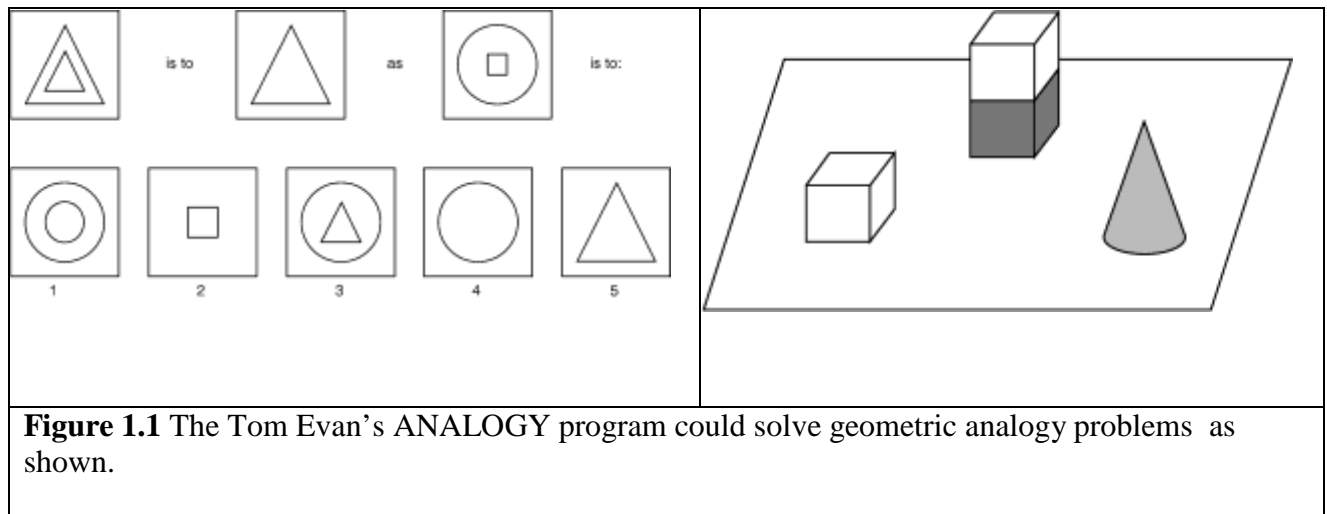


Figure 1.1 The Tom Evan's ANALOGY program could solve geometric analogy problems as shown.

A dose of reality (1966-1973)

From the beginning, AI researchers were not shy about making predictions of their coming successes. The following statement by Herbert Simon in 1957 is often quoted:

—It is not my aim to surprise or shock you-but the simplest way I can summarize is to say that there are now in the world machines that think, that learn and that create. Moreover, their ability to do these things is going to increase rapidly until-in a visible future-the range of problems they can handle will be coextensive with the range to which the human mind has been applied.

Knowledge-based systems: The key to power? (1969-1979)

Dendral was an influential pioneer project in artificial intelligence (AI) of the 1960s, and the computer software **expert system** that it produced. Its primary aim was to help organic chemists in identifying unknown organic molecules, by analyzing their mass spectra and using knowledge of chemistry. It was done at Stanford University by Edward Feigenbaum, Bruce Buchanan, Joshua Lederberg, and Carl Djerassi.

A1 becomes an industry (1980-present)

In 1981, the Japanese announced the "Fifth Generation" project, a 10-year plan to build intelligent computers running Prolog. Overall, the A1 industry boomed from a few million dollars in 1980 to billions of dollars in 1988.

The return of neural networks (1986-present)

Psychologists including David Rumelhart and Geoff Hinton continued the study of neural-net models of memory.

A1 becomes a science (1987-present)

In recent years, approaches based on **hidden Markov models** (HMMs) have come to dominate the area. Speech technology and the related field of handwritten character recognition are already making the transition to widespread industrial and consumer applications.

The **Bayesian network** formalism was invented to allow efficient representation of, and rigorous reasoning with, uncertain knowledge.

The emergence of intelligent agents (1995-present)

One of the most important environments for intelligent agents is the Internet.

1.1.4 The state of art

What can AI do today?

Autonomous planning and scheduling: A hundred million miles from Earth, NASA's Remote Agent program became the first on-board autonomous planning program to control the scheduling of operations for a spacecraft (Jonsson *et al.*, 2000). Remote Agent generated plans from high-level goals specified from the ground, and it monitored the operation of the spacecraft as the plans were executed-detecting, diagnosing, and recovering from problems as they occurred.

Game playing: IBM's Deep Blue became the first computer program to defeat the world champion in a chess match when it bested Garry Kasparov by a score of 3.5 to 2.5 in an exhibition match (Goodman and Keene, 1997).

Autonomous control: The ALVINN computer vision system was trained to steer a car to keep it following a lane. It was placed in CMU's NAVLAB computer-controlled minivan and used to navigate across the United States-for 2850 miles it was in control of steering the vehicle 98% of the time.

Diagnosis: Medical diagnosis programs based on probabilistic analysis have been able to perform at the level of an expert physician in several areas of medicine.

Logistics Planning: During the Persian Gulf crisis of 1991, U.S. forces deployed a Dynamic Analysis and Replanning Tool, DART (Cross and Walker, 1994), to do automated logistics planning and scheduling for transportation. This involved up to 50,000 vehicles, cargo, and people at a time, and had to account for starting points, destinations, routes, and conflict resolution among all parameters. The AI planning techniques allowed a plan to be generated in hours that would have taken weeks with older methods. The Defense Advanced Research Project Agency (DARPA) stated that this single application more than paid back DARPA's 30-year investment in AI.

Robotics: Many surgeons now use robot assistants in microsurgery. HipNav (DiGioia *et al.*, 1996) is a system that uses computer vision techniques to create a three-dimensional model of a patient's internal anatomy and then uses robotic control to guide the insertion of a hip replacement prosthesis.

Language understanding and problem solving: PROVERB (Littman *et al.*, 1999) is a computer program that solves crossword puzzles better than most humans, using constraints on possible word fillers, a large database of past puzzles, and a variety of information sources including dictionaries and online databases such as a list of movies and the actors that appear in them.

1.2 INTELLIGENT AGENTS

1.2.1 Agents and environments

An **agent** is anything that can be viewed as perceiving its **environment** through **sensors** and **SENSOR** acting upon that environment through **actuators**. This simple idea is illustrated in Figure 1.2.

- A human agent has eyes, ears, and other organs for sensors and hands, legs, mouth, and other body parts for actuators.
- A robotic agent might have cameras and infrared range finders for sensors and various motors for actuators.
- A software agent receives keystrokes, file contents, and network packets as sensory inputs and acts on the environment by displaying on the screen, writing files, and sending network packets.