



CS231n: Deep Learning for Computer Vision

Lecture 1: Introduction

Welcome to CS231n



Welcome to CS231n

Course Instructors



Teaching Assistants



2015

Course Instructors



Teaching Assistants



2016

Instructors



2018

Teaching Assistants

Instructors



Teaching Assistants



2017

Instructors



Teaching Assistants



2020

Instructors



Teaching Assistants



2021

Instructors



Teaching Assistants



2023

CS231n's Ten Year Anniversary: Returning Lecturers



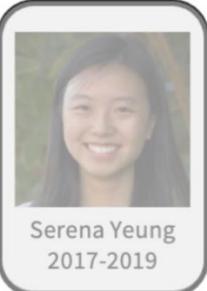
Fei-Fei Li
2015-2025



Andrej Karpathy
2015-2016



Justin Johnson
2016-2019, 2025



Serena Yeung
2017-2019



Ranjay Krishna
2020-2021



Danfei Xu
2020-2021



Jiajun Wu
2022



Ruohan Gao
2022-2023



Yunzhu Li
2023



Ehsan Adeli
2024-2025



Zane Durante
2024-2025

Artificial Intelligence

Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

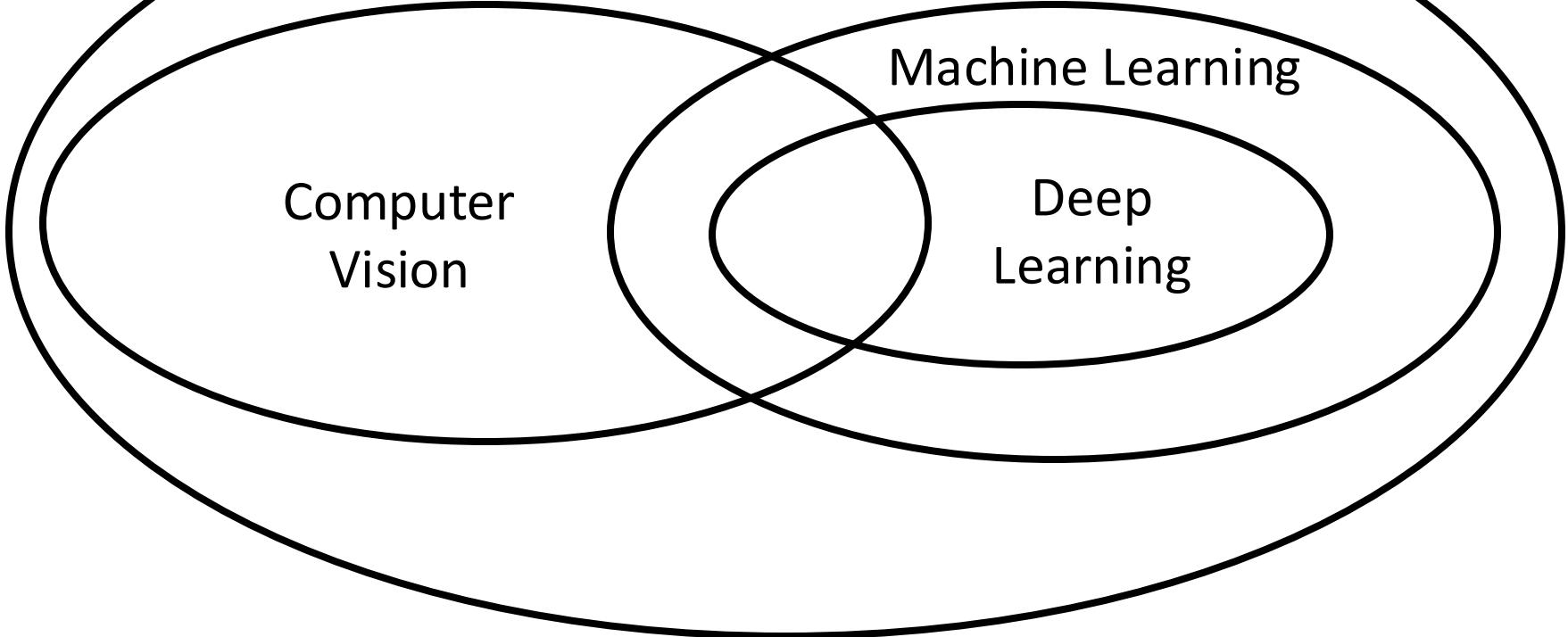
Artificial Intelligence

Machine Learning

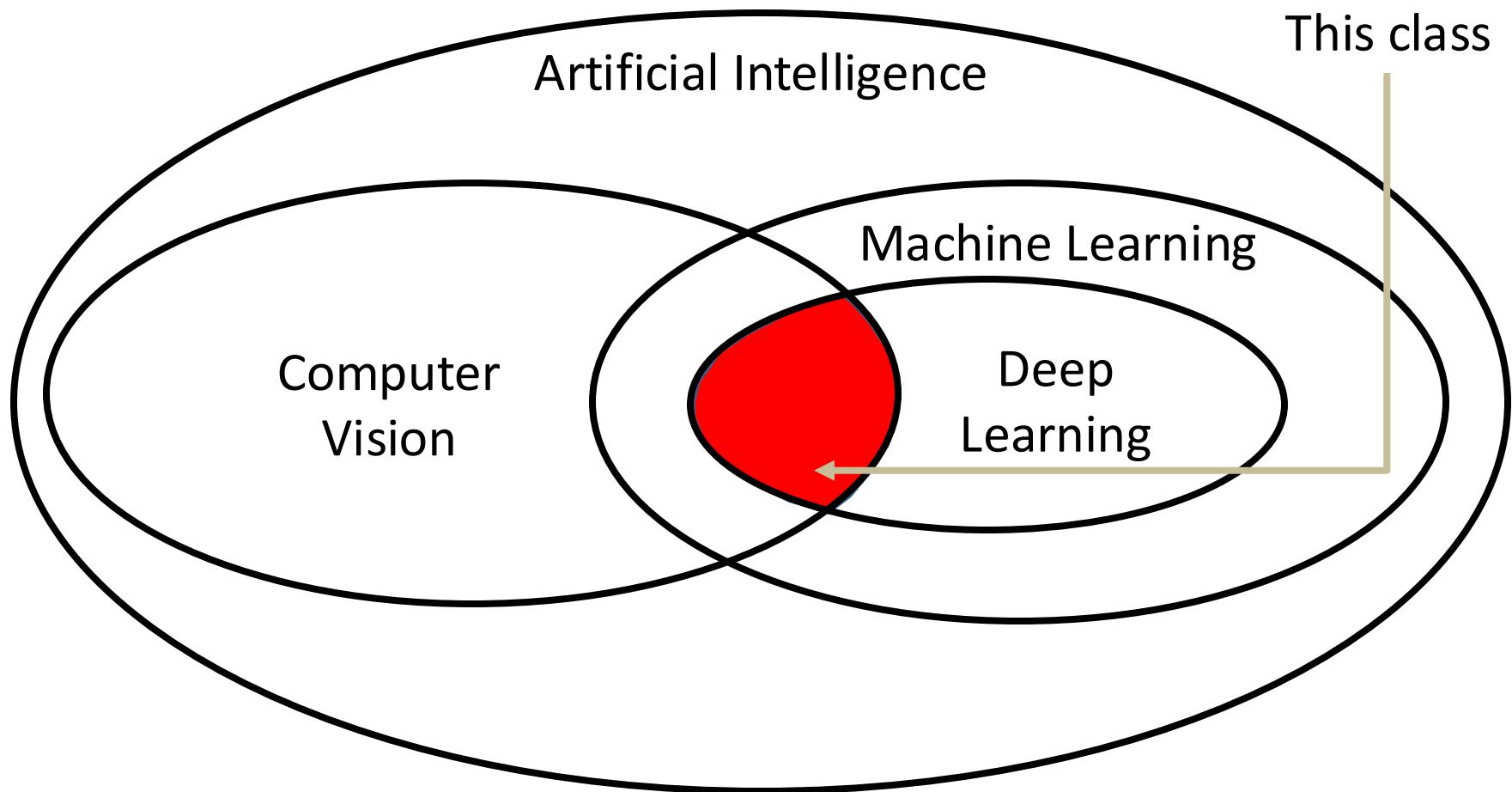
Computer
Vision

Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

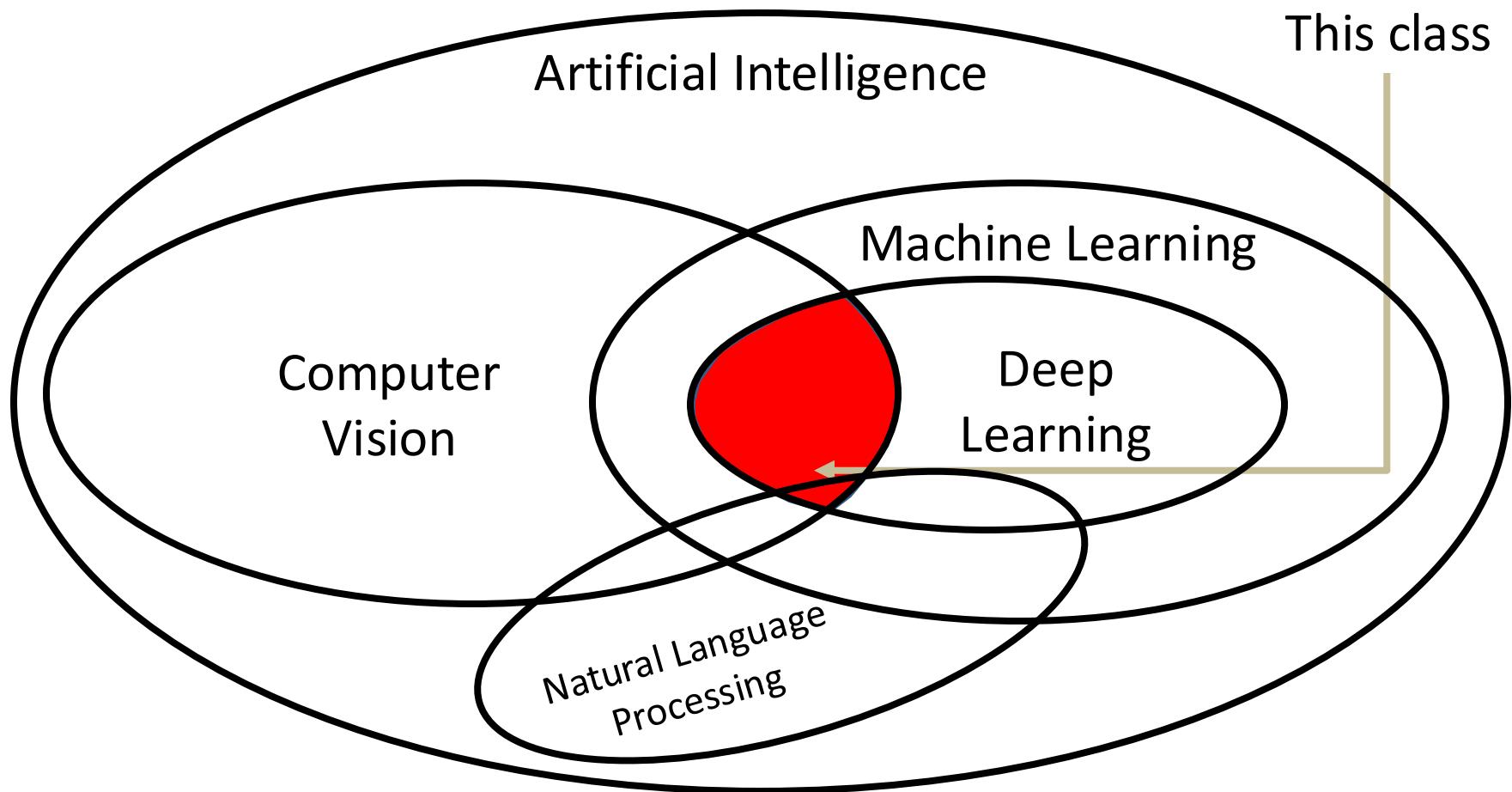
Artificial Intelligence



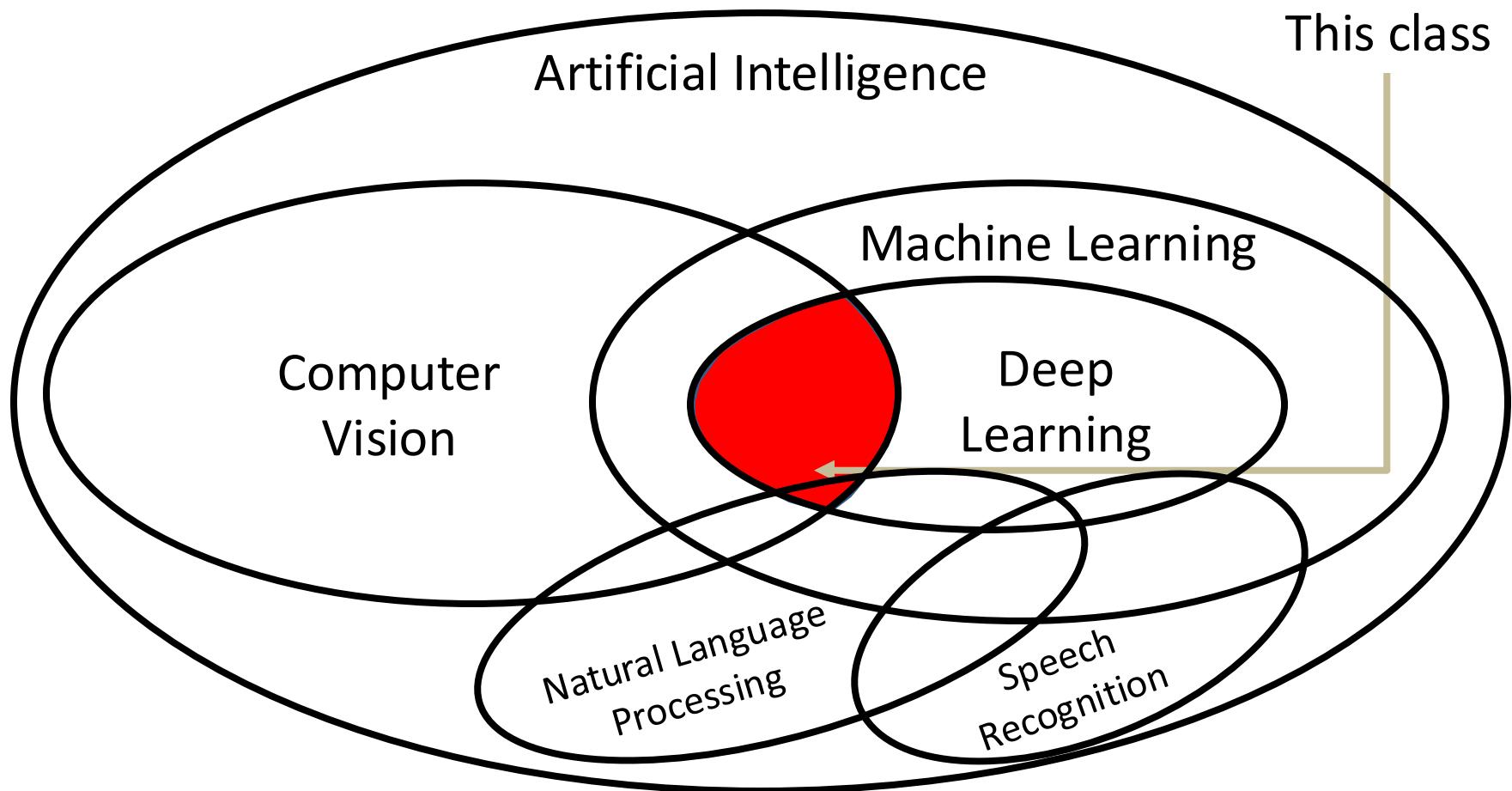
Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson



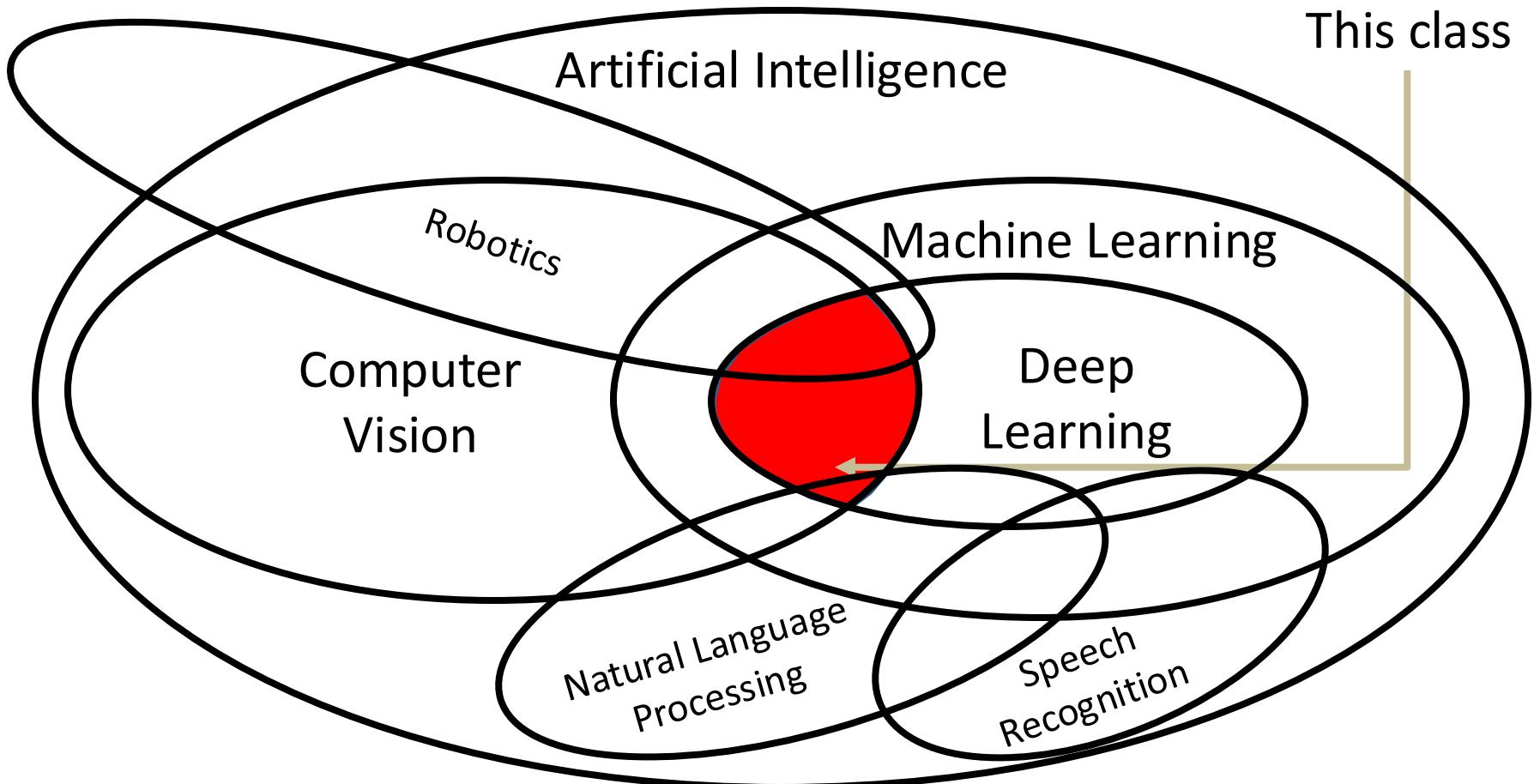
Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson



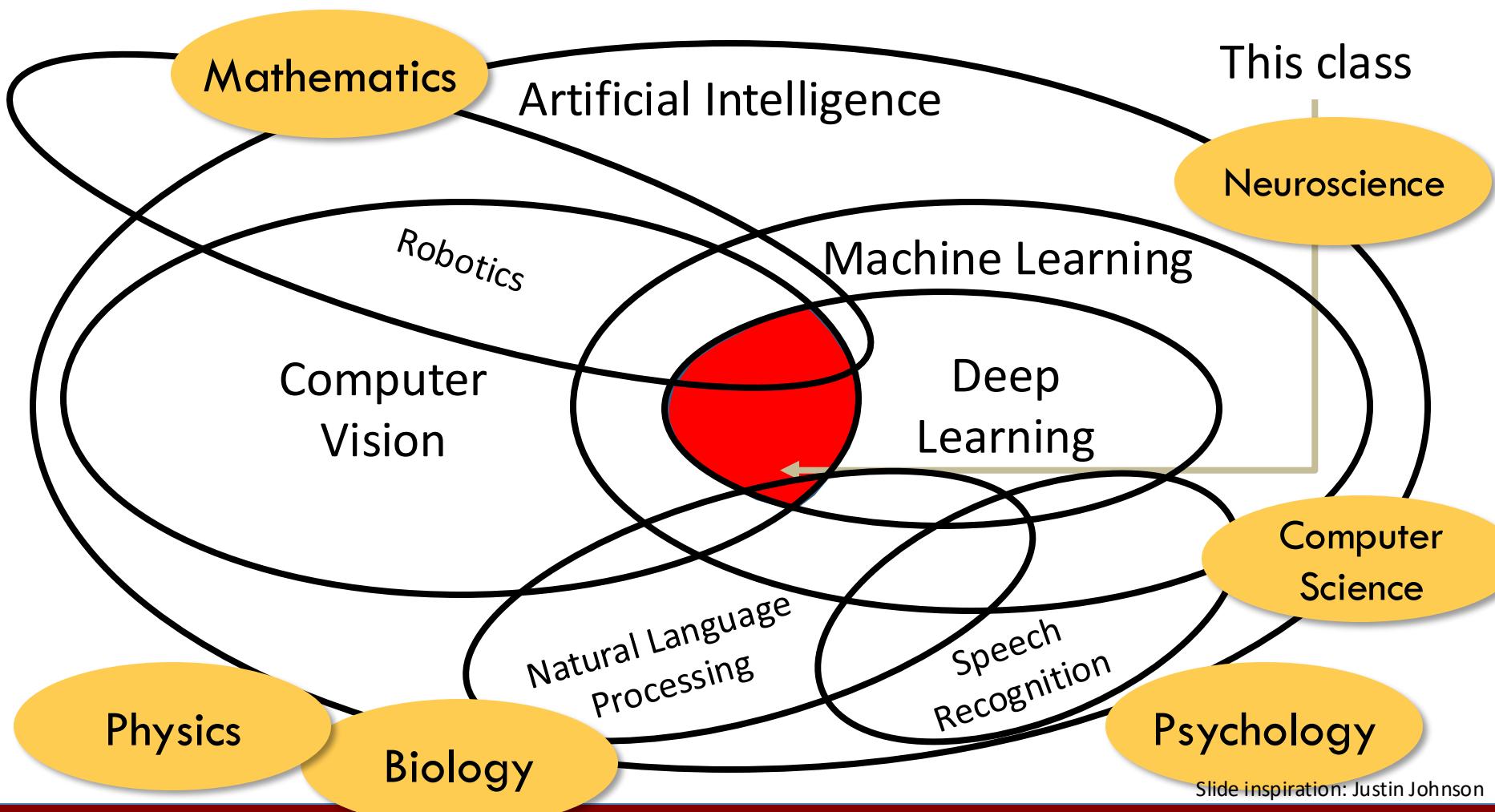
Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson



Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson



Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson



Today's agenda

- A brief history of computer vision and deep learning
- CS231n overview

Evolution's Big Bang: Cambrian Explosion, 530-540million years, B.C.



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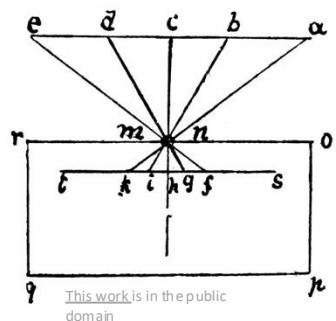
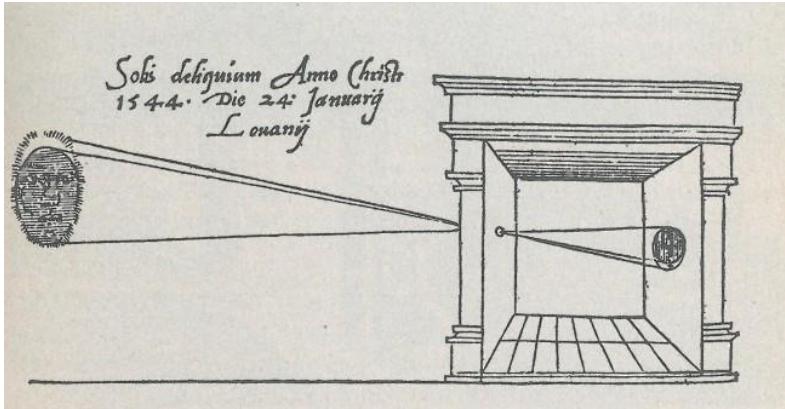


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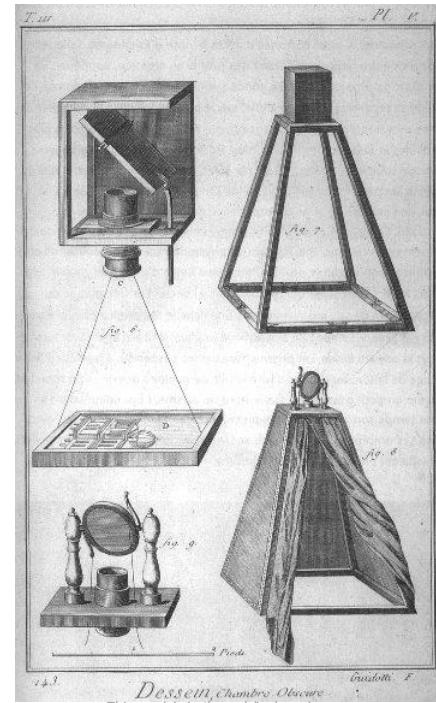
Camera Obscura

Gemma Frisius, 1545



Leonardo da Vinci,
16th Century AD

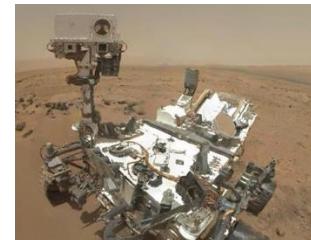
Encyclopedia, 18th Century



Computer Vision is everywhere!



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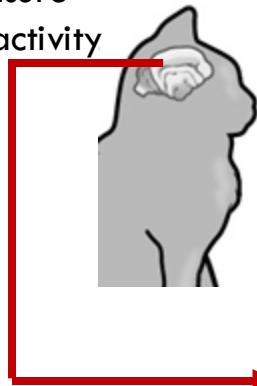


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Where did we come from?

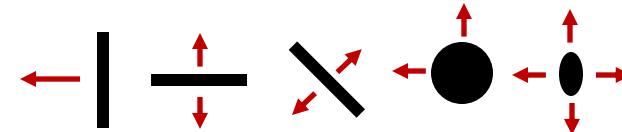
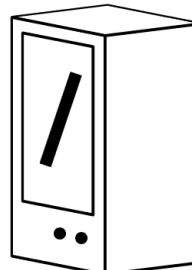
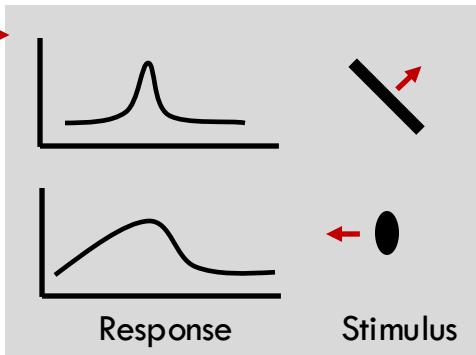
Hubel and Wiesel, 1959

Measure
brain activity



Cat image by [CNX OpenStax](#) is licensed under [CC BY 4.0](#); changes made

1959
Hubel & Wiesel

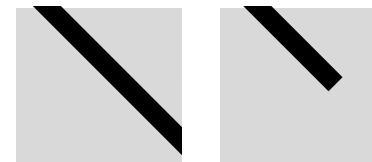


Simple cells:

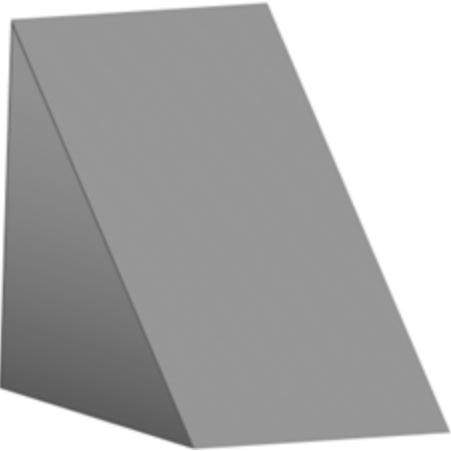
Response to specific rotation and orientation

Complex cells:

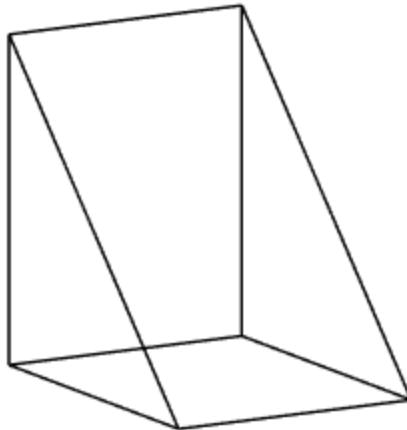
Response to light orientation and movement, some translation invariance



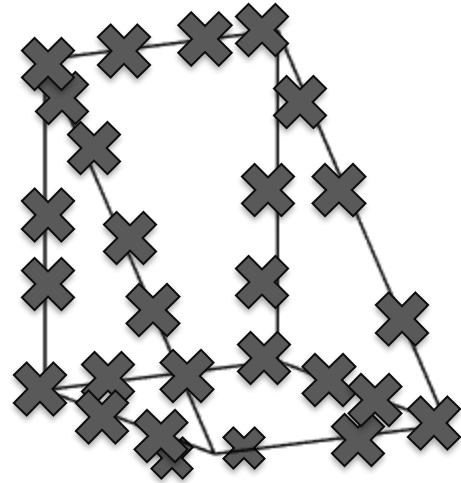
Larry Roberts, 1963



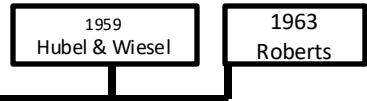
(a) Original picture



(b) Differentiated picture



(c) Feature points selected



Lawrence Gilman Roberts, "Machine Perception of Three-Dimensional Solids", 1963

Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
PROJECT MAC

Artificial Intelligence Group
Vision Memo. No. 100.

July 7, 1966

THE SUMMER VISION PROJECT

Seymour Papert

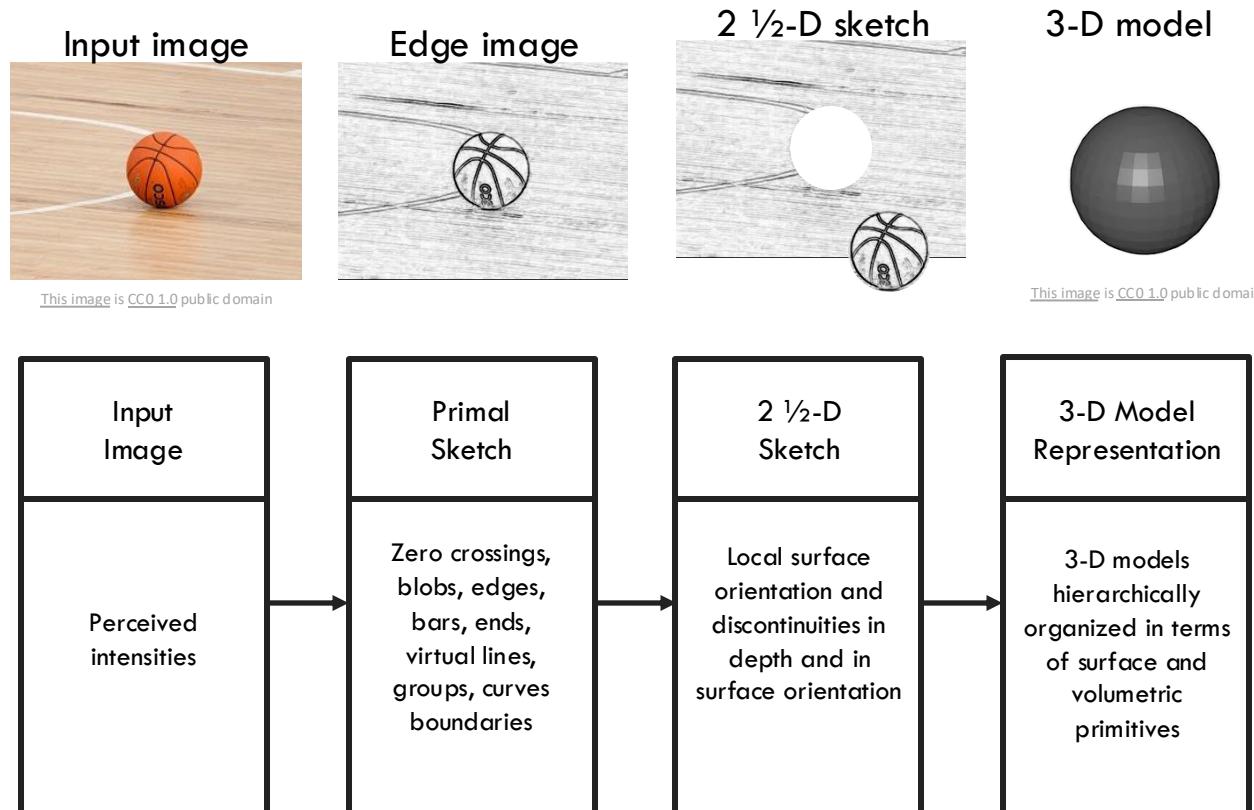
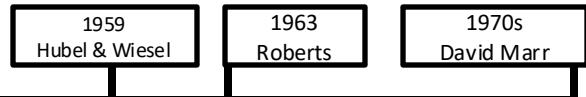
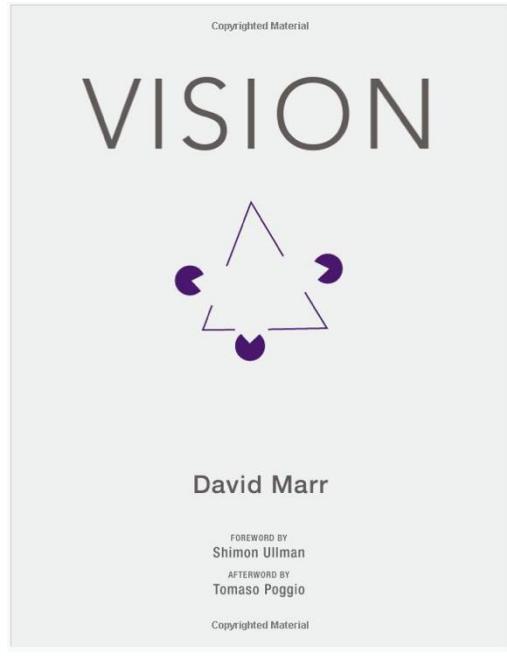
The summer vision project is an attempt to use our summer workers effectively in the construction of a significant part of a visual system. The particular task was chosen partly because it can be segmented into sub-problems which will allow individuals to work independently and yet participate in the construction of a system complex enough to be a real landmark in the development of "pattern recognition".

1959
Hubel & Wiesel

1963
Roberts

<https://dspace.mit.edu/handle/1721.1/6125>

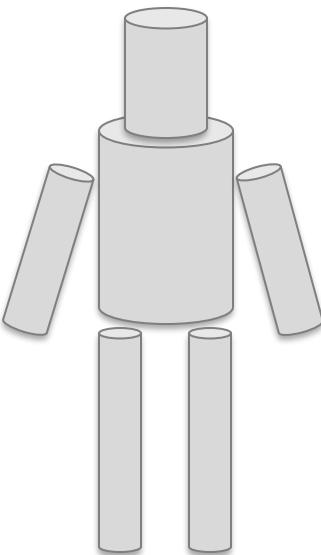
Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson



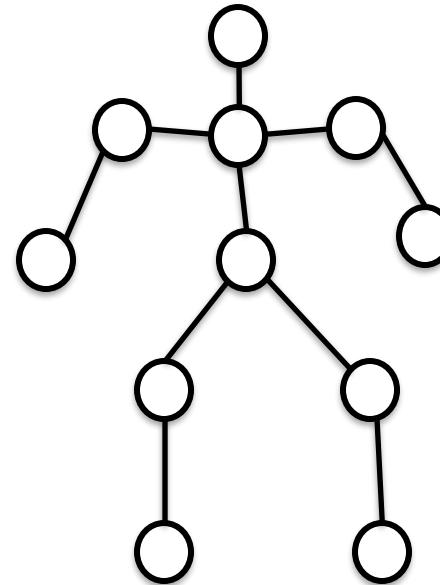
Stages of Visual Representation, David Marr, 1970s

Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

Recognition via Parts (1970s)



Generalized Cylinders,
Brooks and Binford,
1979



Pictorial Structures,
Fischler and Elshlager, 1973



Recognition via Edge Detection (1980s)



1959
Hubel & Wiesel

1963
Roberts

1970s
David Marr

1979
Gen. Cylinders

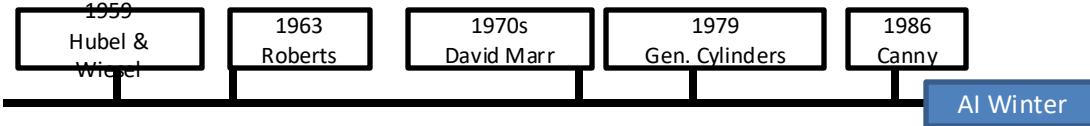
1986
Canny

John Canny, 1986
David Lowe, 1987

Image is CC0 1.0 public domain

Arriving at an “AI winter”

- Enthusiasm (and funding!) for AI research dwindled
- “Expert Systems” failed to deliver on their promises
- But subfields of AI continues to grow
 - Computer vision, NLP, robotics, compbio, etc.



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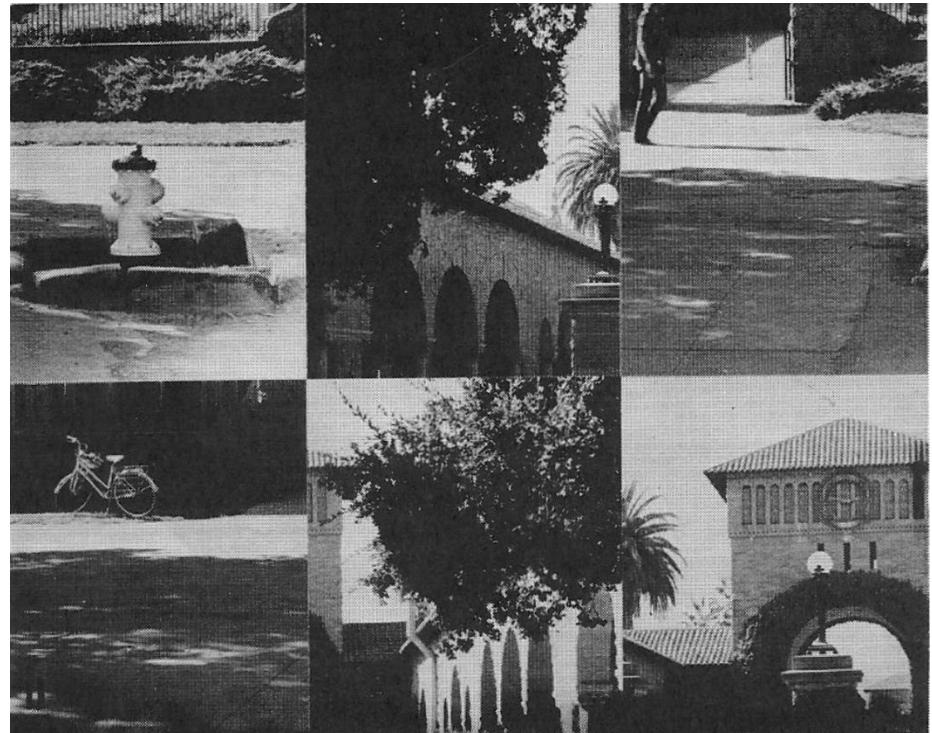
[Right Image](#) is CC-BY 2.0; changes made

Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

In the meantime...seminal work in
cognitive and neuroscience

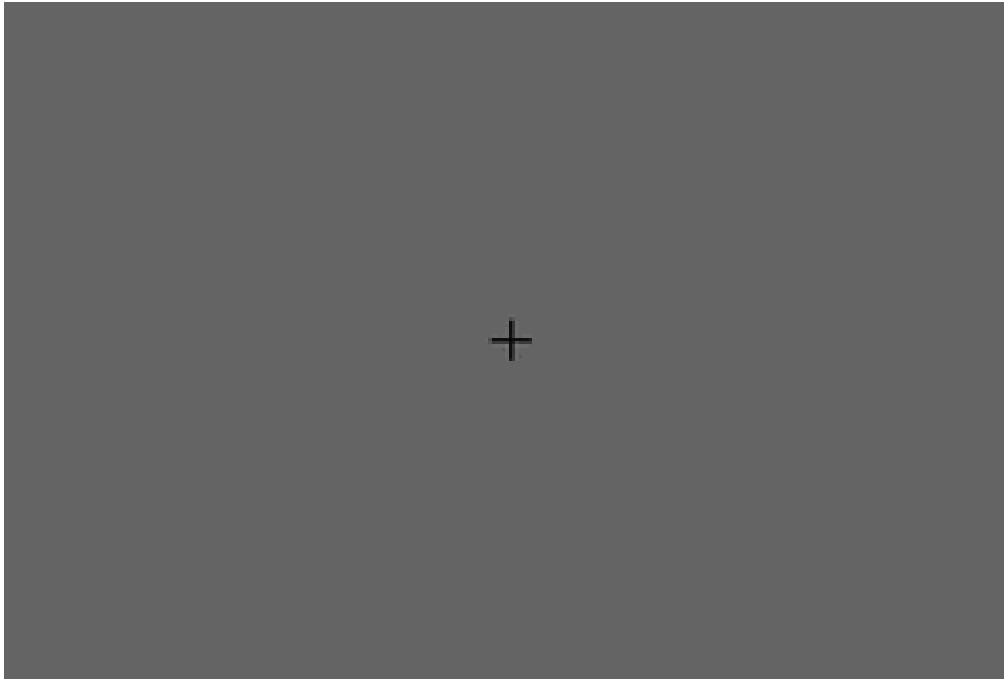
Perceiving Real-World Scenes

Irving Biederman



I. Biederman, *Science*, 1972

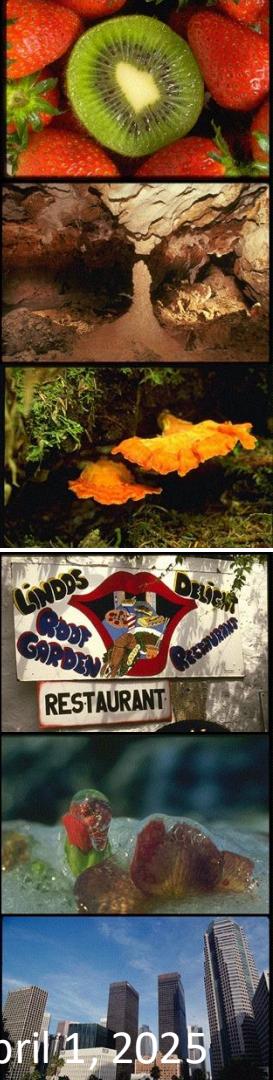
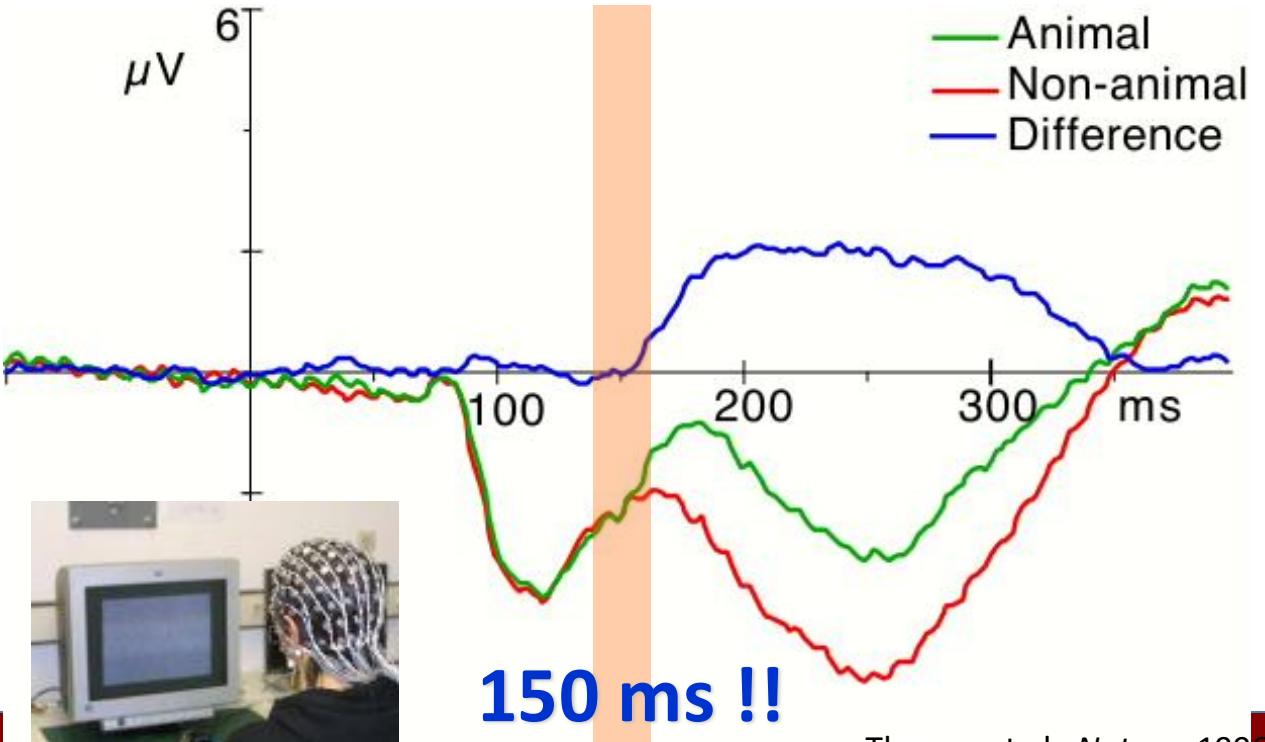
Rapid Serial Visual Perception (RSVP)



Potter, etc. 1970s

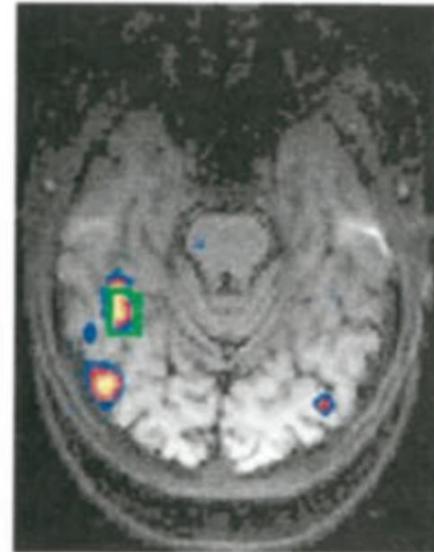
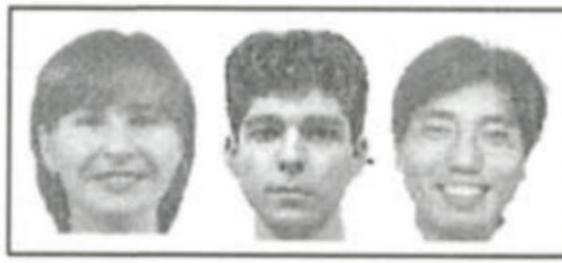
Speed of processing in the human visual system

Simon Thorpe, Denis Fize & Catherine Marlot



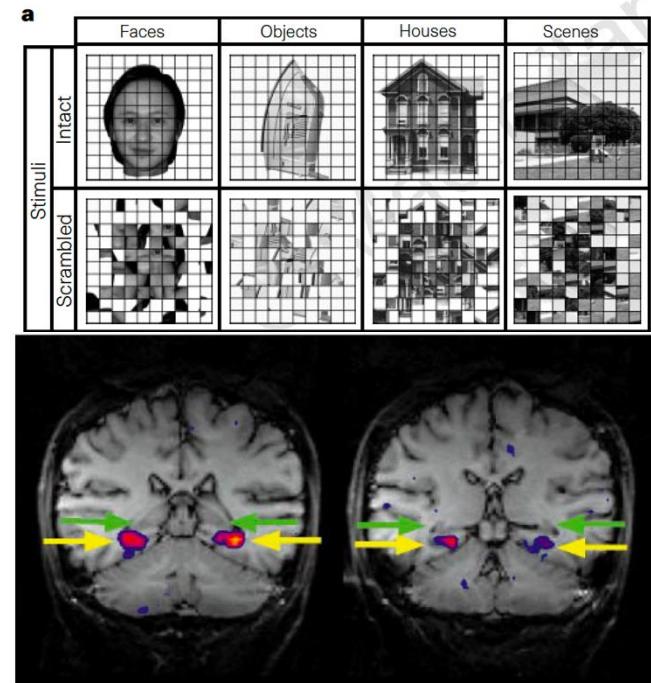
Neural correlates of object & scene recognition

Faces > Houses



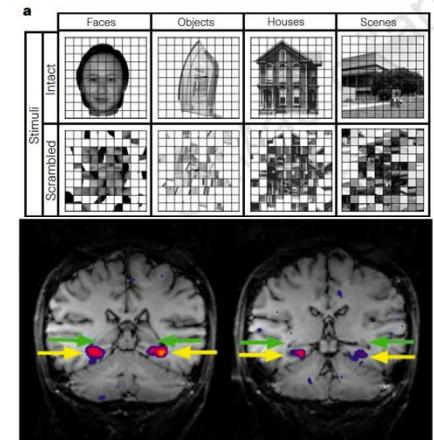
Kanwisher et al. J. Neuro. 1997

% signal change



Epstein & Kanwisher, Nature, 1998

Visual recognition is a fundamental task for visual intelligence



Recognition via Grouping (1990s)



1959
Hubel & Wiesel

1963
Roberts

1970s
David Marr

1979
Gen. Cylinders

1986
Canny
1997
Norm. Cuts

AI Winter

Normalized Cuts, Shi and Malik, 1997

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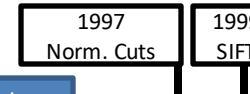
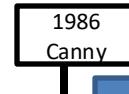
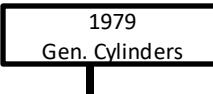
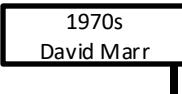
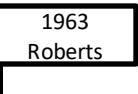
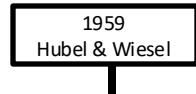
Recognition via Matching (2000s)



[Image](#) is public domain



[Image](#) is public domain



AI Winter

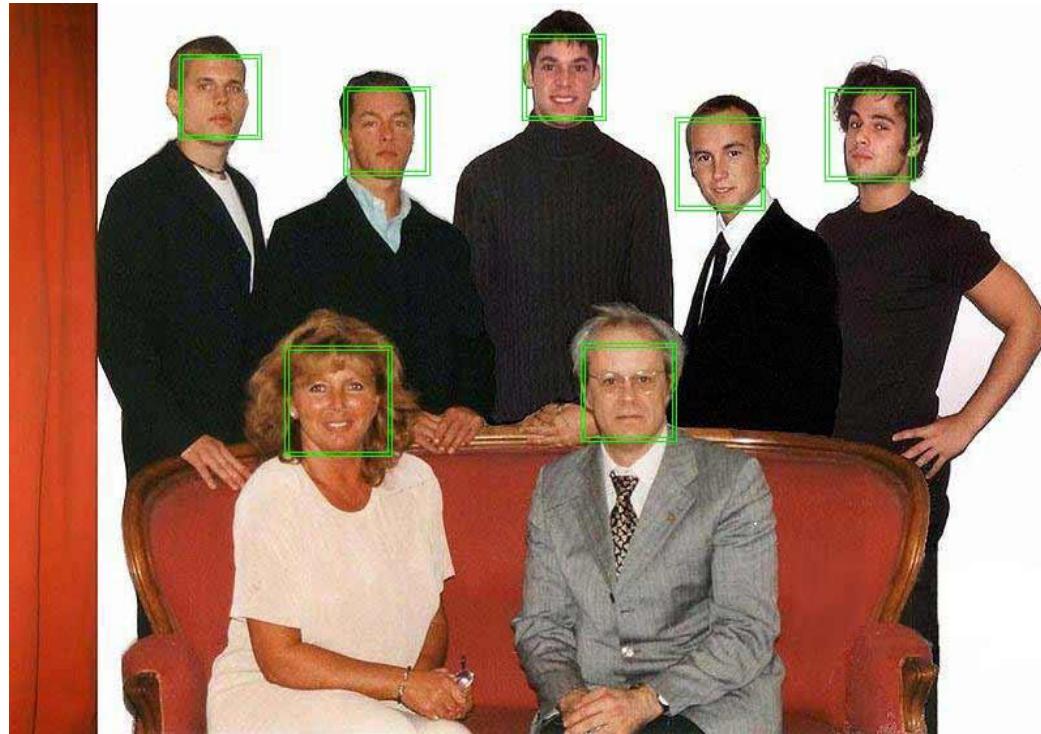
SIFT, David
Lowe, 1999

Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

Face Detection

Viola and Jones, 2001

One of the first successful applications of machine learning to vision



1959
Hubel & Wiesel

1963
Roberts

1970s
David Marr

1979
Gen. Cylinders

1986
Canny

1997
Norm. Cuts

1999
SIFT

2001
V&J

AI Winter

Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

Caltech 101 images



1959
Hubel & Wiesel

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1986
Canny

1997
Norm. Cuts

1999
SIFT

2001
V&J

2004, 2007
Caltech101;
PASCAL

AI Winter

PASCAL Visual Object Challenge

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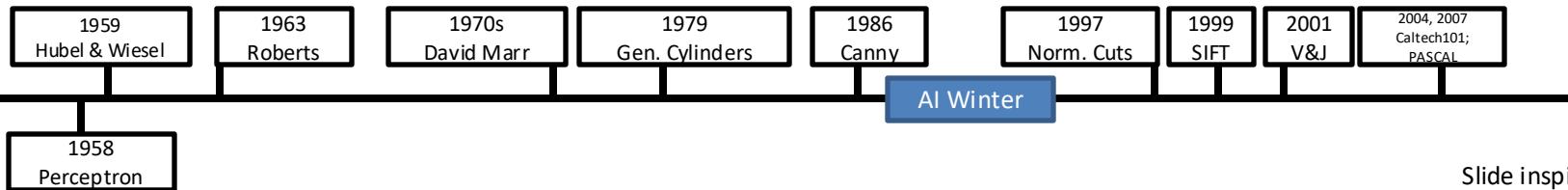
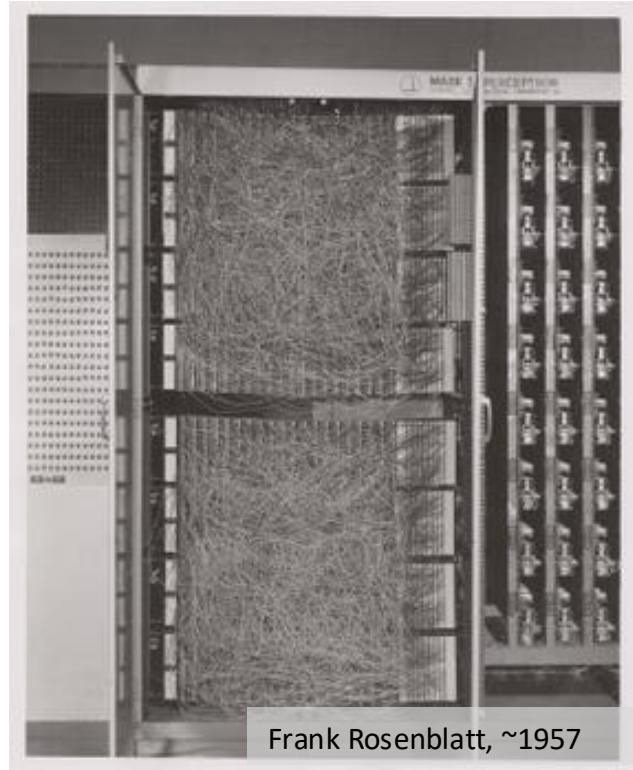
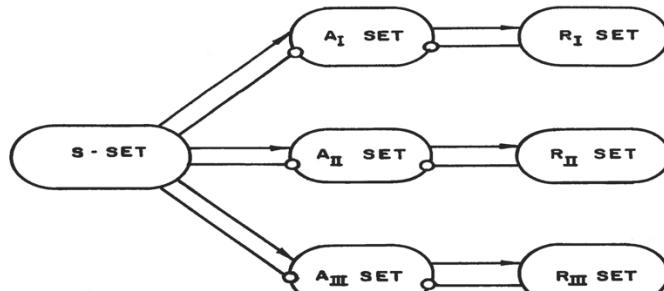
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Learning representations by back-propagating errors

David E. Rumelhart*, Geoffrey E. Hinton†
& Ronald J. Williams*

* Institute for Cognitive Science, C-015, University of California,
San Diego, La Jolla, California 92093, USA

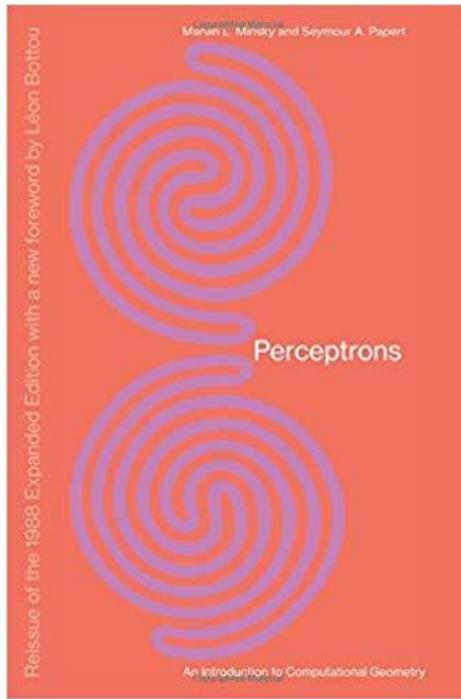
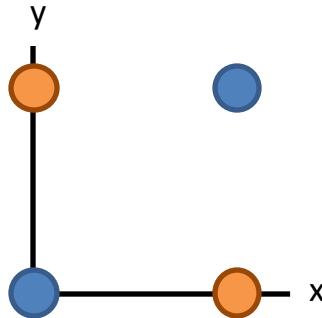
† Department of Computer Science, Carnegie-Mellon University,
Pittsburgh, Philadelphia 15213, USA



Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

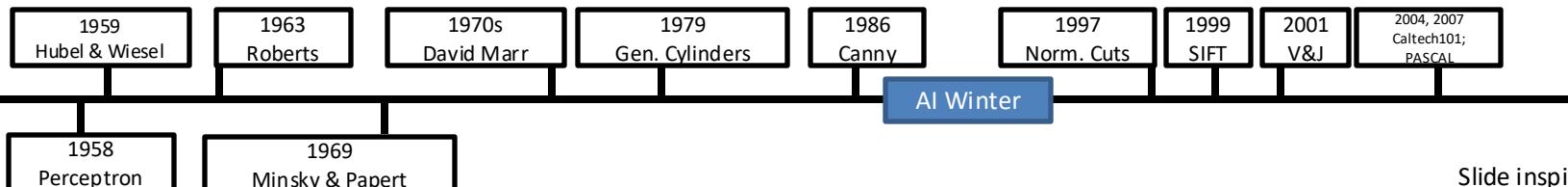
Minsky and Papert, 1969

X	Y	F(x,y)
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0



Showed that Perceptrons could not learn the XOR function

Caused a lot of disillusionment in the field



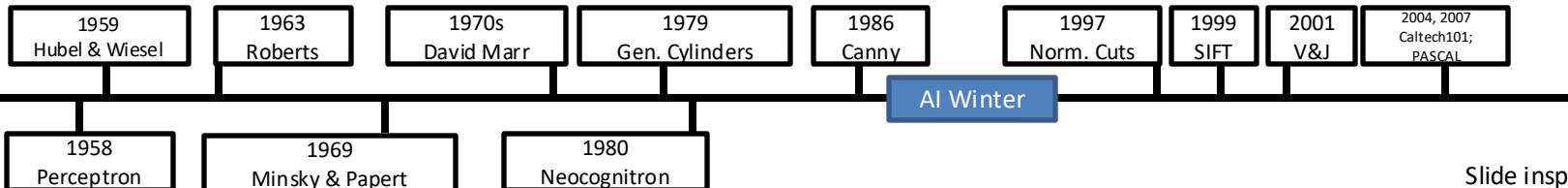
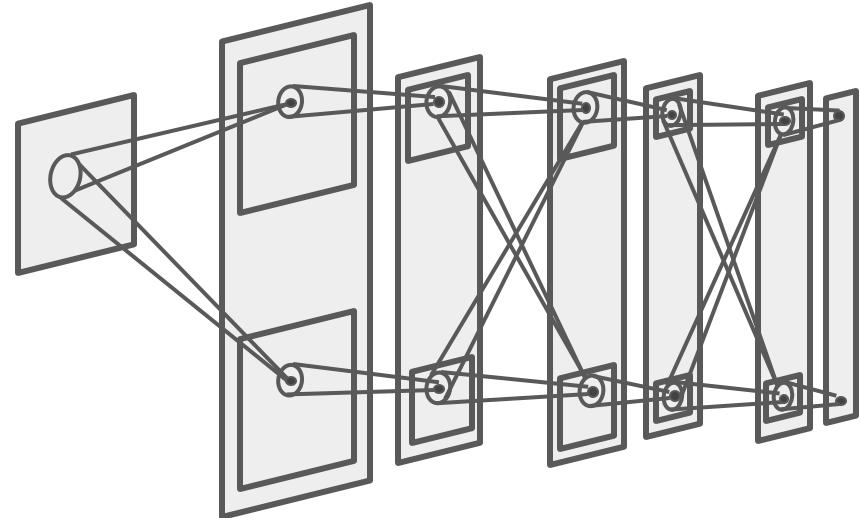
Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

Neocognitron: Fukushima, 1980

Computational model the visual system,
directly inspired by Hubel and Wiesel's
hierarchy of complex and simple cells

Interleaved simple cells (convolution)
and complex cells (pooling)

No practical training algorithm



Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

Backprop: Rumelhart, Hinton, and Williams, 1986

Introduced backpropagation for computing gradients in neural networks

Successfully trained perceptrons with multiple layers

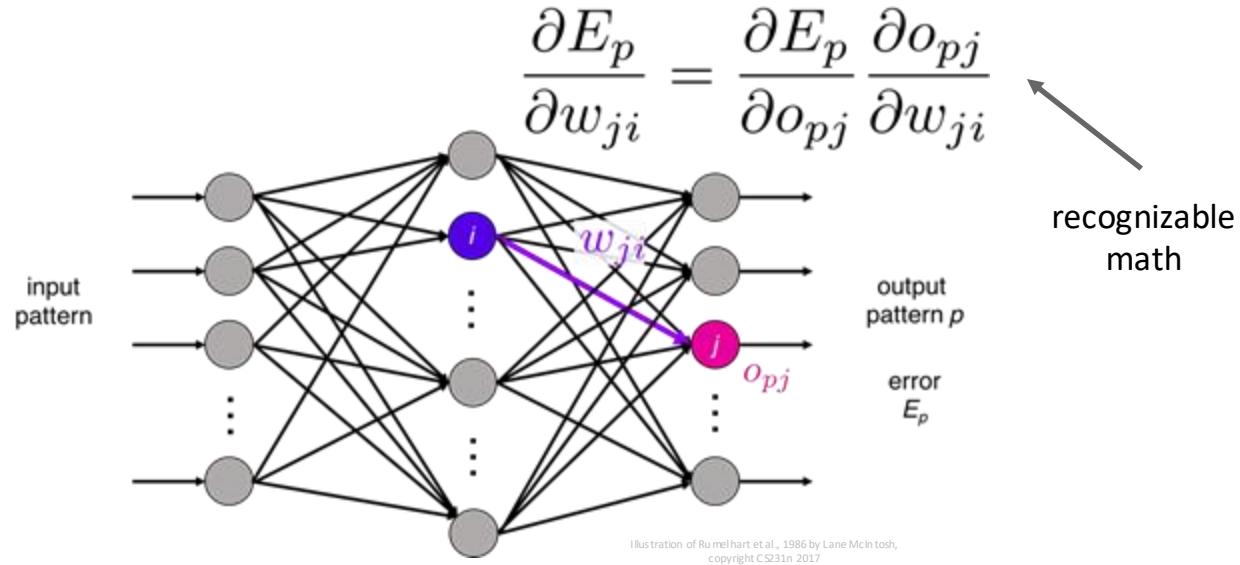
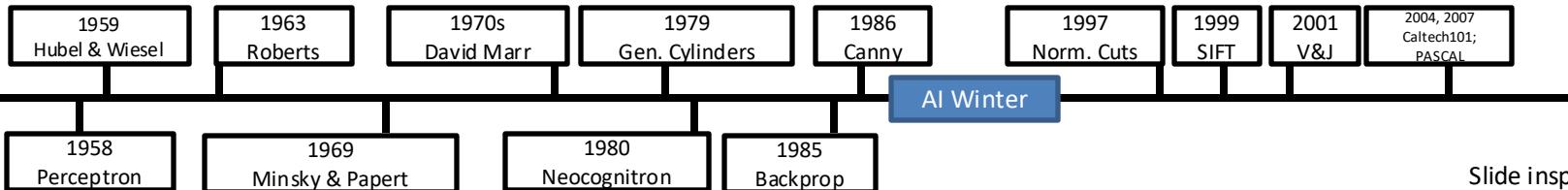
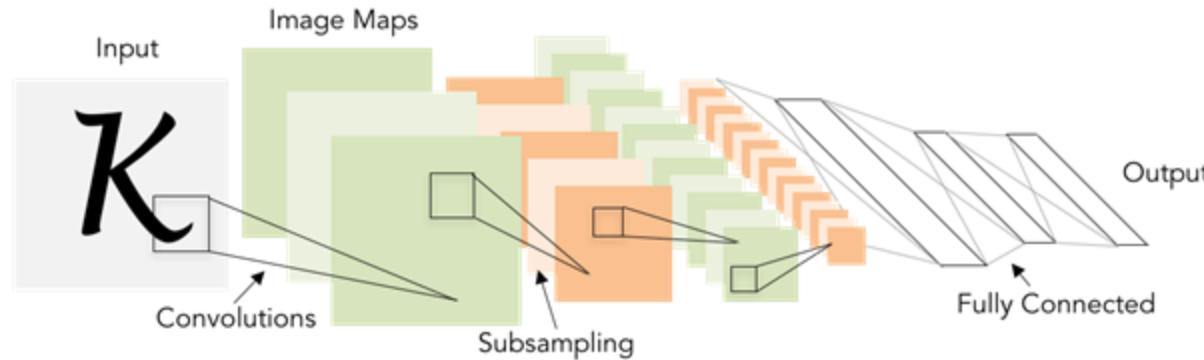


Illustration of Rumelhart et al., 1986 by Lane McIntosh,
copyright CS231n 2017



Convolutional Networks: LeCun et al, 1998

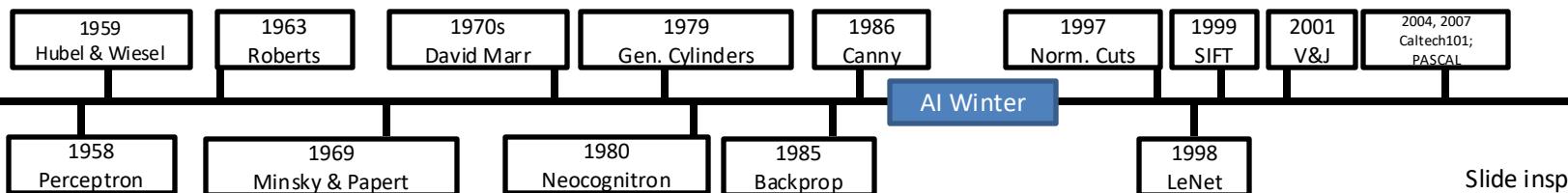


Applied backprop algorithm to a Neocognitron-like architecture

Learned to recognize handwritten digits

Was deployed in a commercial system by NEC, processed handwritten checks

Very similar to our modern convolutional networks!



Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

2000s: “Deep Learning”

People tried to train neural networks that were deeper and deeper

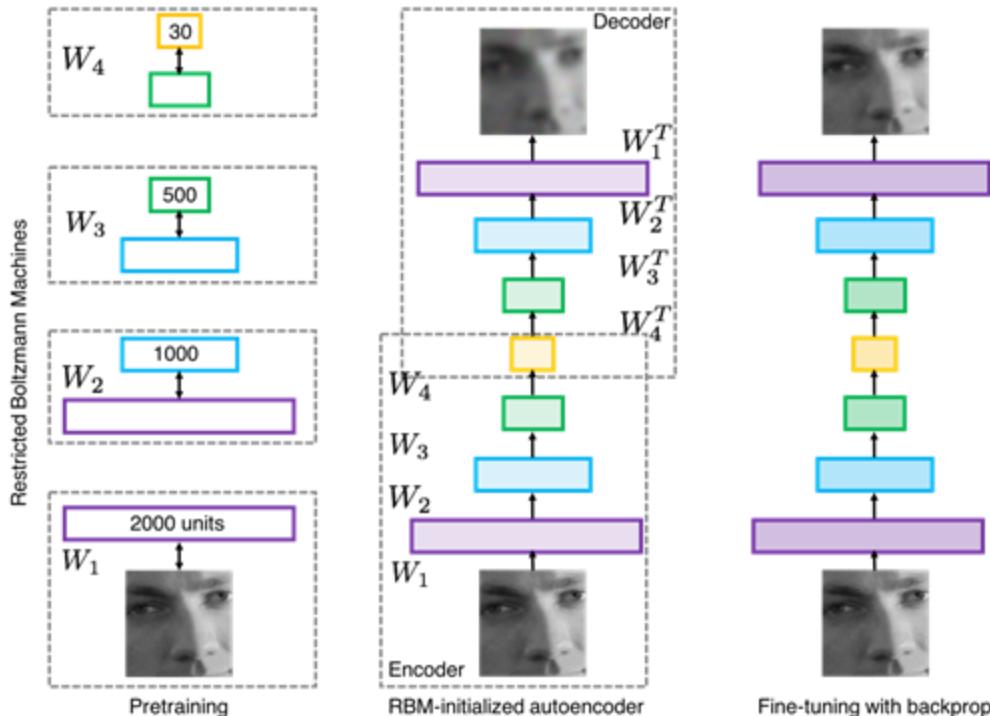
Not a mainstream research topic at this time

Hinton and Salakhutdinov, 2006

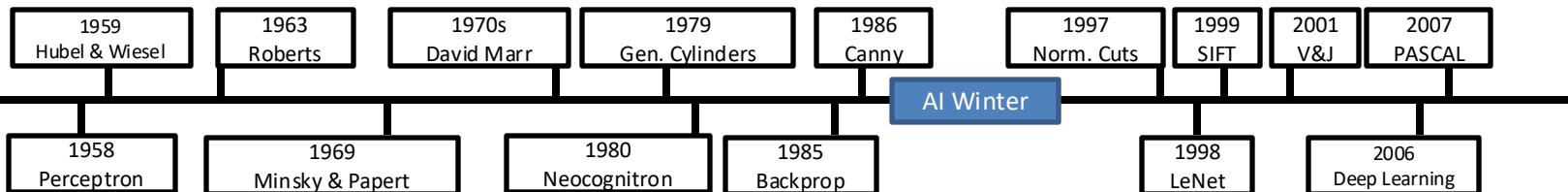
Bengio et al, 2007

Lee et al, 2009

Glorot and Bengio, 2010



Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson



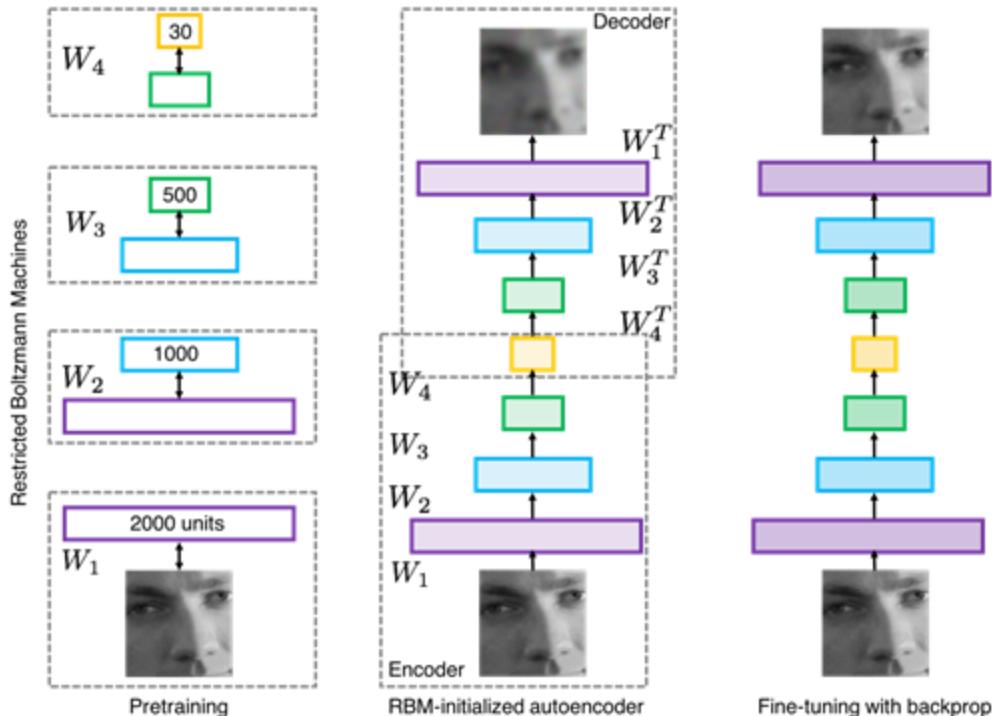
2000s: “Deep Learning”

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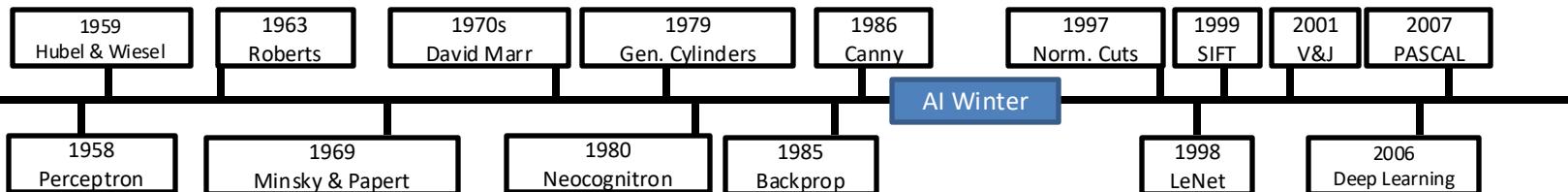
Not a mainstream research topic at this time

No good dataset to work on

Hinton and Salakhutdinov, 2006
Bengio et al, 2007
Lee et al, 2009
Glorot and Bengio, 2010



Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson



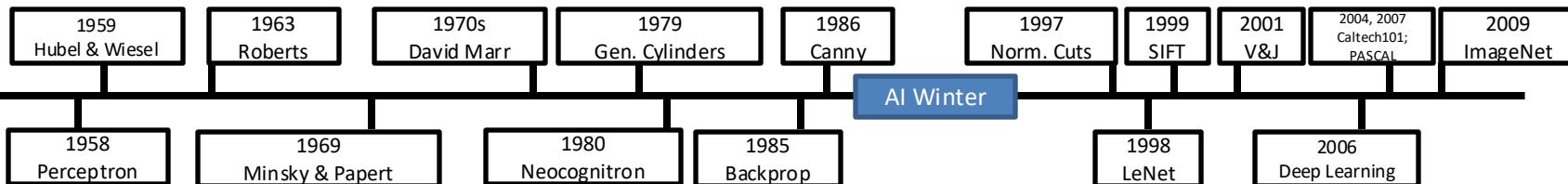
IMAGENET Large Scale Visual Recognition Challenge

The Image Classification Challenge:
1,000 object classes
1,431,167 images

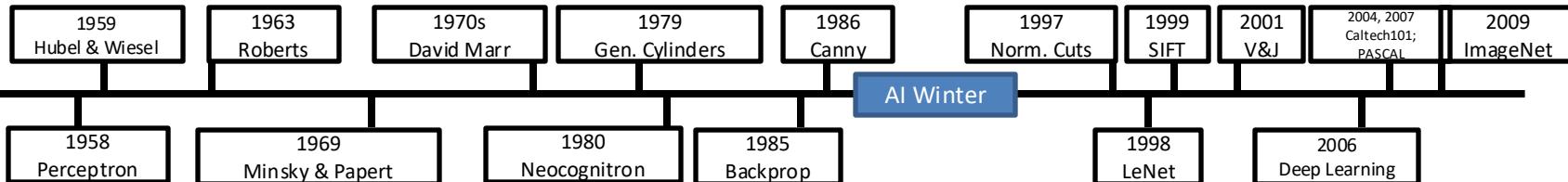
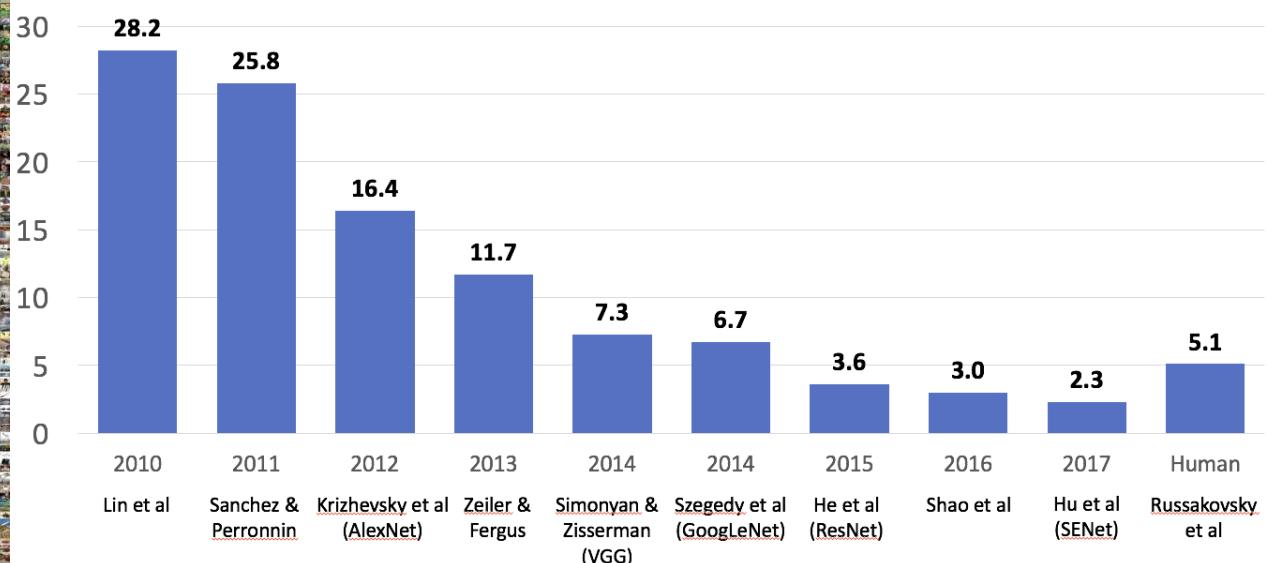


Output:
Scale
T-shirt
Steel drum
Drumstick
Mud turtle

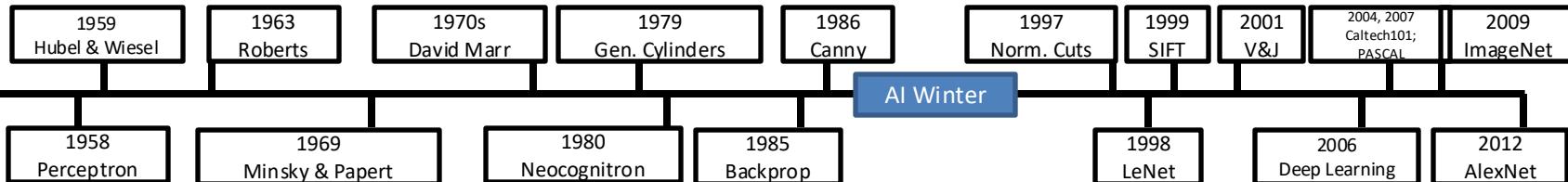
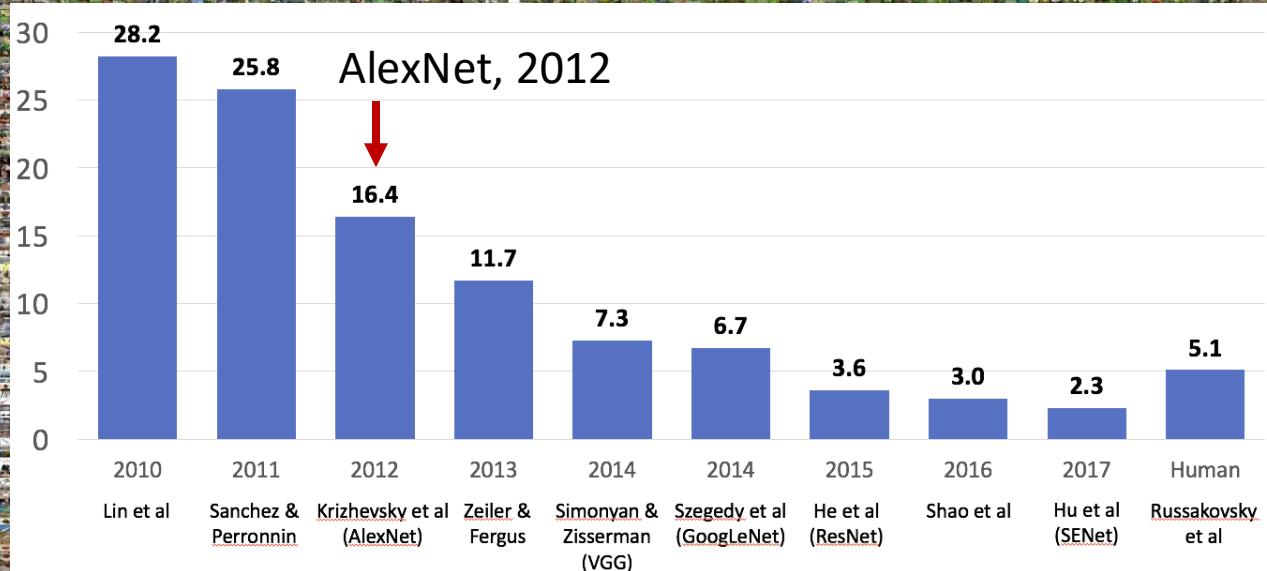
Deng et al, 2009
Russakovsky et al. IJCV 2015



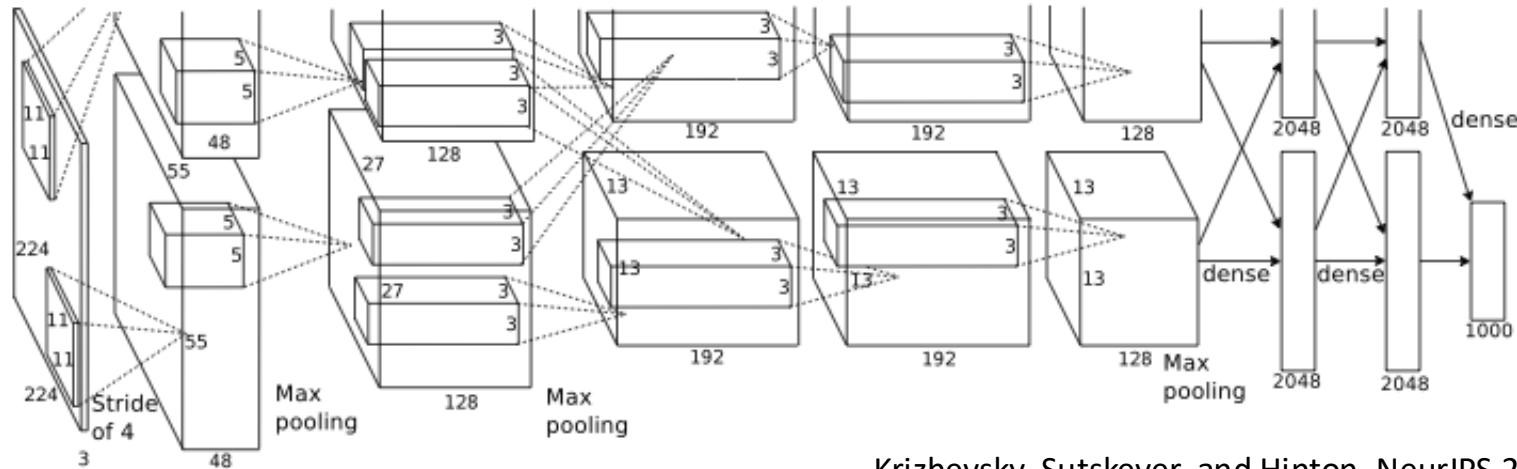
IMAGENET Large Scale Visual Recognition Challenge



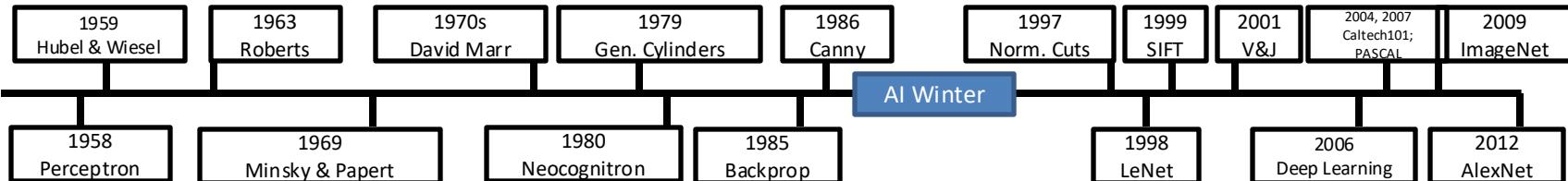
IMAGENET Large Scale Visual Recognition Challenge



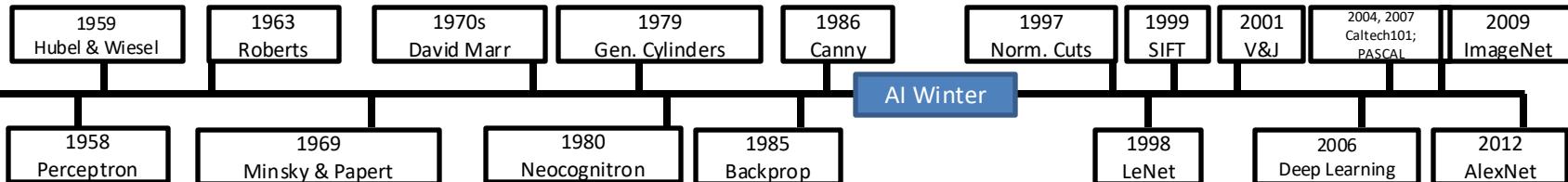
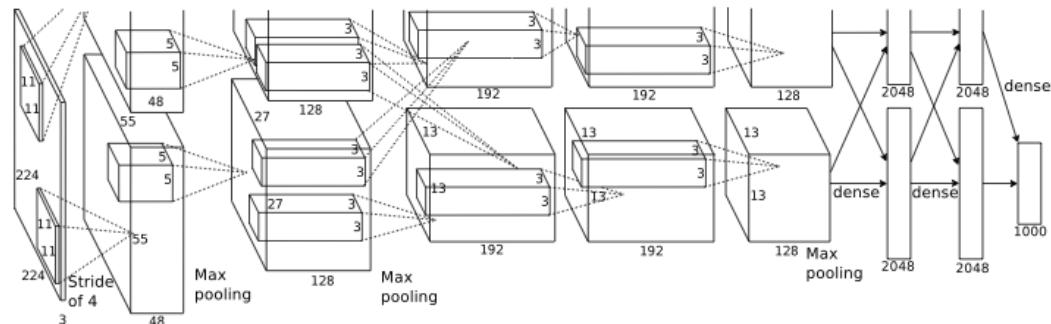
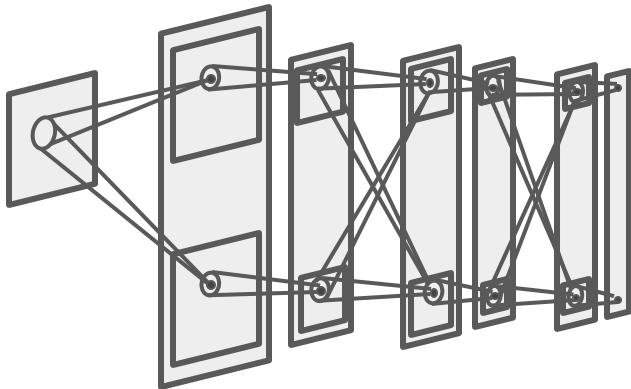
AlexNet: Deep Learning Goes Mainstream



Krizhevsky, Sutskever, and Hinton, NeurIPS 2012

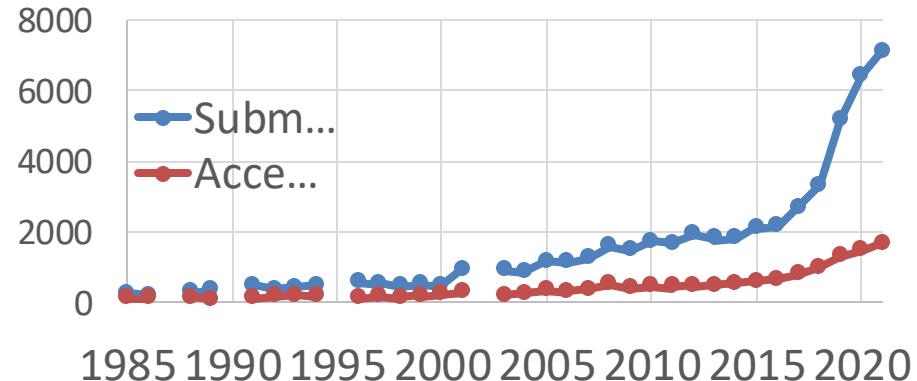


AlexNet vs. Neocognitron: 32 years apart

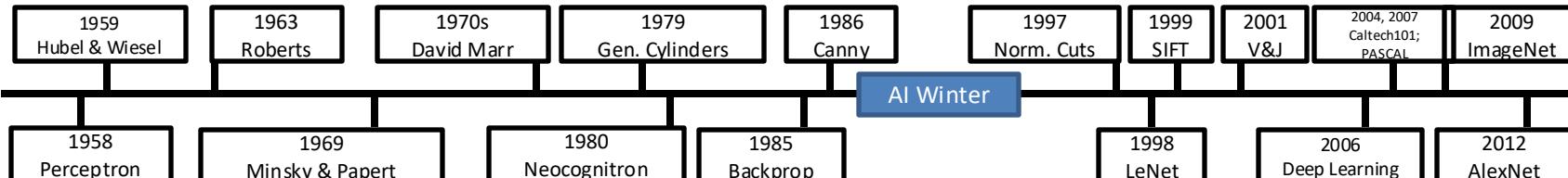


2012 to Present: Deep Learning Explosion

CVPR Papers



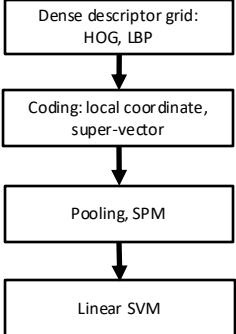
Publications at top Computer Vision conference



2012 to Present: Deep Learning is Everywhere

Year 2010

NEC-UIUC

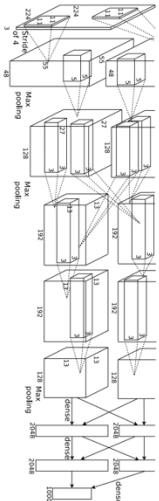


[Lin CVPR 2011]

Lion image by Swiss frog
is
licensed under CC BY 3.0

Year 2012

SuperVision



[Krizhevsky NIPS 2012]

Figure copyright Alex Krizhevsky, Ilya Sutskever, and Geoffrey Hinton, 2012. Reproduced with permission.
Reproduced with permission.

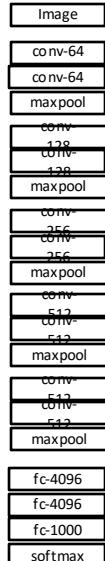
Year 2014

GoogLeNet



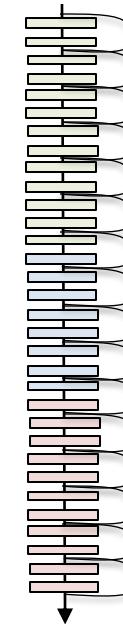
[Szegedy arxiv 2014] [Simonyan arxiv 2014]

VGG



Year 2015

MSRA



[He ICCV 2015]

2012 to Present: Deep Learning is Everywhere

Image Classification



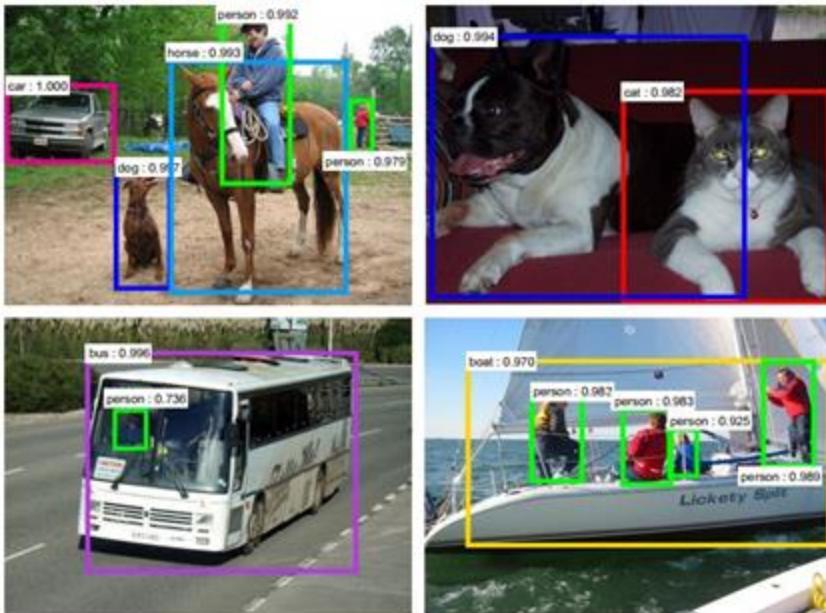
Image Retrieval



Figures copyright Alex Krizhevsky, Ilya Sutskever, and Geoffrey Hinton, 2012. Reproduced with permission.

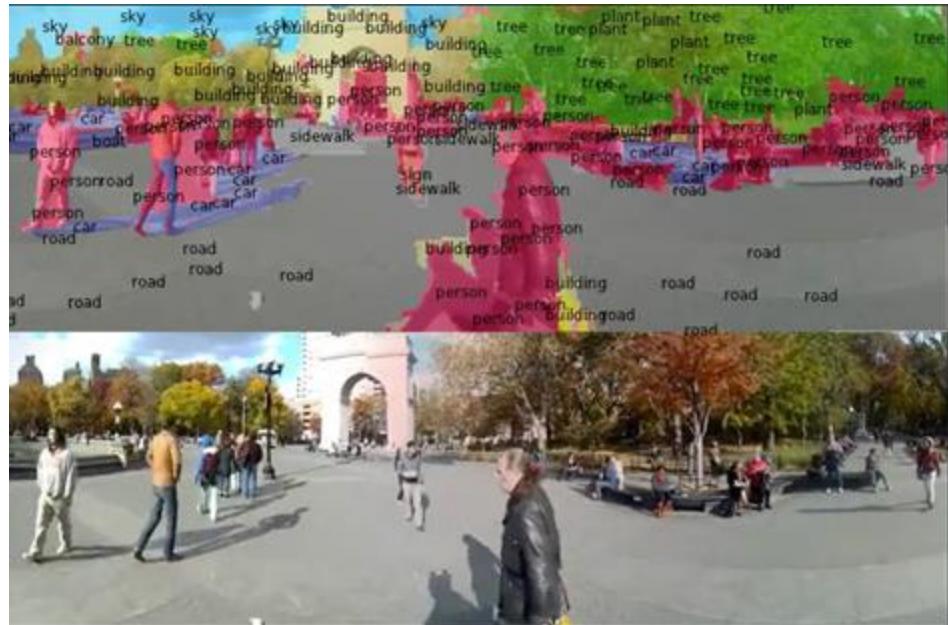
2012 to Present: Deep Learning is Everywhere

Object Detection



Ren, He, Girshick, and Sun, 2015

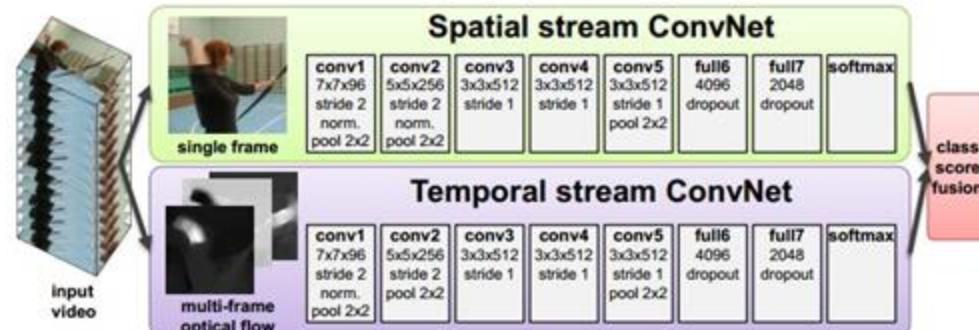
Image Segmentation



Fabaret et al, 2012

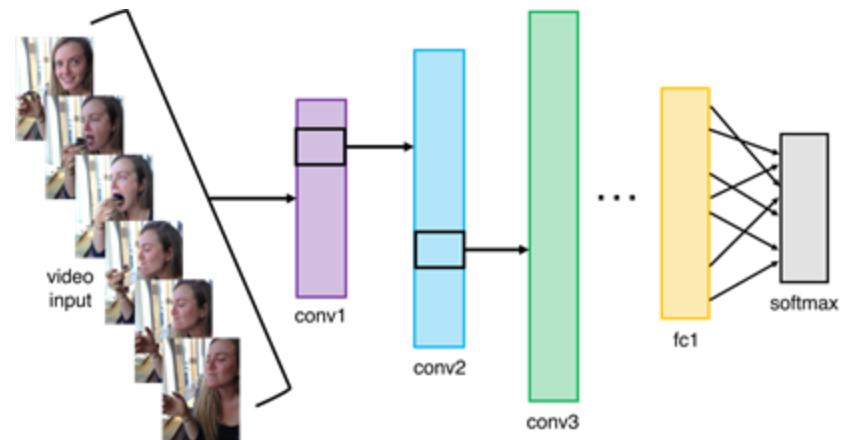
2012 to Present: Deep Learning is Everywhere

Video Classification



Simonyan et al, 2014

Activity Recognition

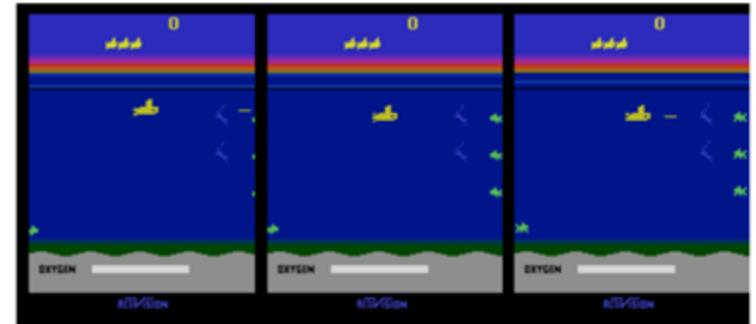
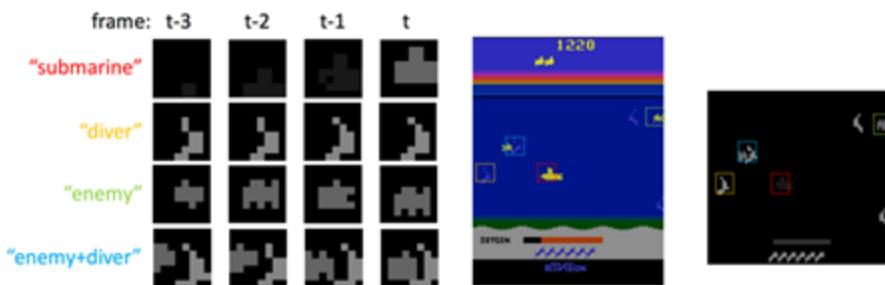


2012 to Present: Deep Learning is Everywhere

Pose Recognition (Toshev and Szegedy, 2014)

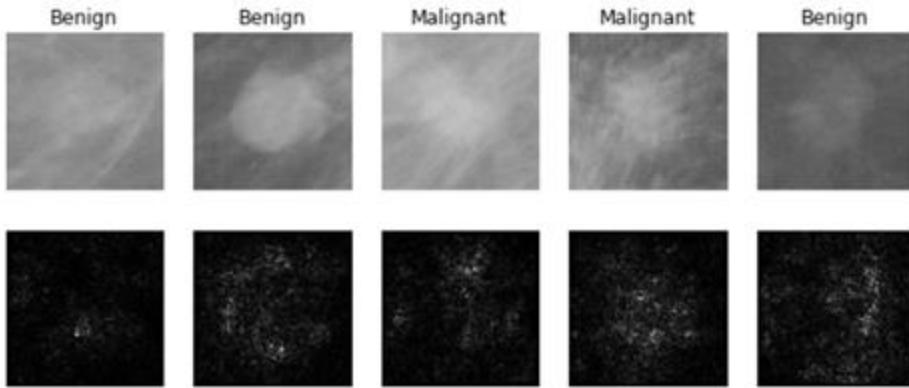


Playing Atari games (Guo et al, 2014)



2012 to Present: Deep Learning is Everywhere

Medical Imaging



Levy et al, 2016

Figure reproduced with permission

Whale recognition



Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

Galaxy Classification



Dieleman et al, 2014

From left to right: [public domain by NASA](#), [usage permitted by ESA/Hubble](#), [public domain by NASA](#), and [public domain](#).

Kaggle Challenge

This image by Christin Khan is in the public domain and originally came from the U.S. NOAA.

2012 to Present: Deep Learning is Everywhere



Image Captioning

Vinyals et al, 2015

Karpathy and Fei-Fei,
2015

*A white teddy bear
sitting in the grass*

*A man in a baseball
uniform throwing a ball*

*A woman is holding
a cat in her hand*



*A man riding a wave
on top of a surfboard*



*A cat sitting on a
suitcase on the floor*

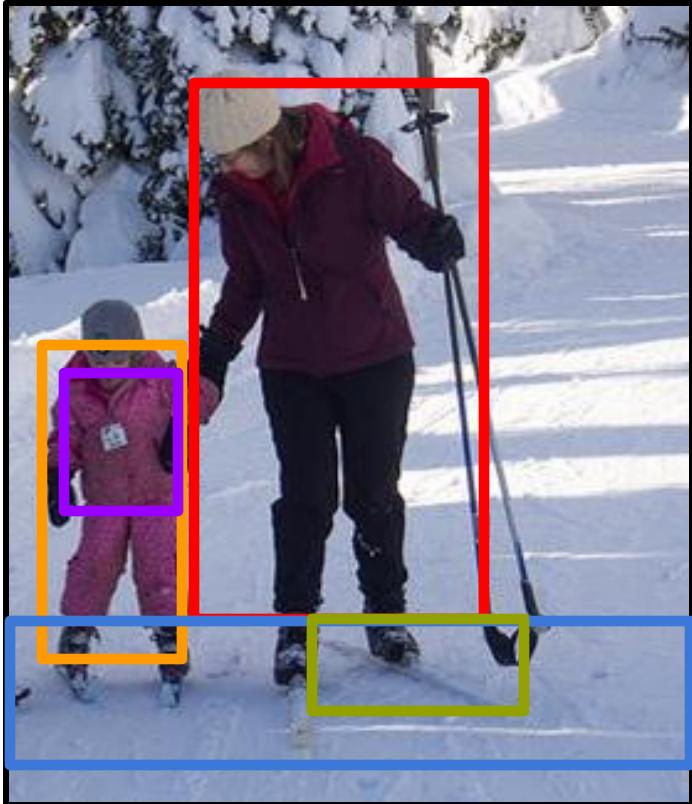


*A woman standing on a
beach holding a surfboard*

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<https://pixabay.com/en/teddy-plush-bears-cute-teddy-bear-1643010/>
<https://pixabay.com/en/antique-cat-1623436/>
<https://pixabay.com/en/surf-wave-summer-sport-ltoral-11668716/>
<https://pixabay.com/en/woman-female-model-portrait-adult-983967/>
<https://pixabay.com/en/handstand-lake-meditation-496008/>
<https://pixabay.com/en/baseball-player-shortstop-left-field-1045263/>

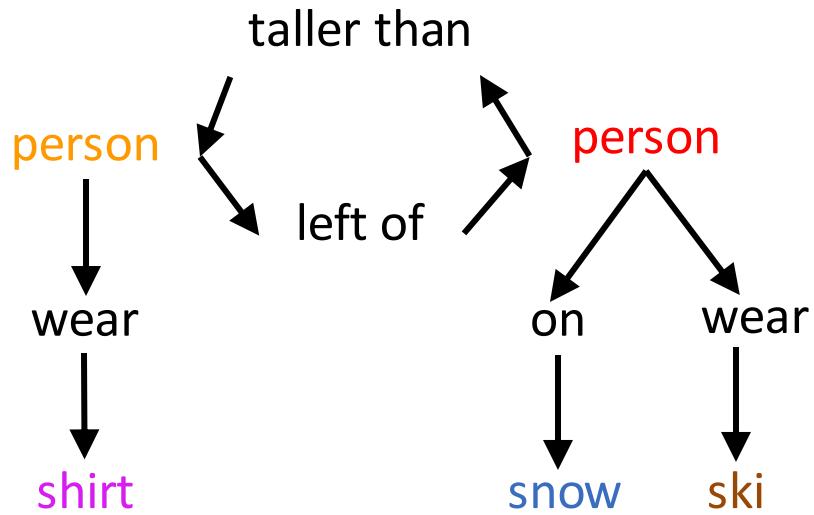
Captions generated by Justin Johnson using NeuralTalk2

2012 to Present: Deep Learning is Everywhere



Results:

spatial, comparative, asymmetrical, verb,
prepositional



Krishna*, Lu*, Bernstein, Fei-Fei, ECCV 2016



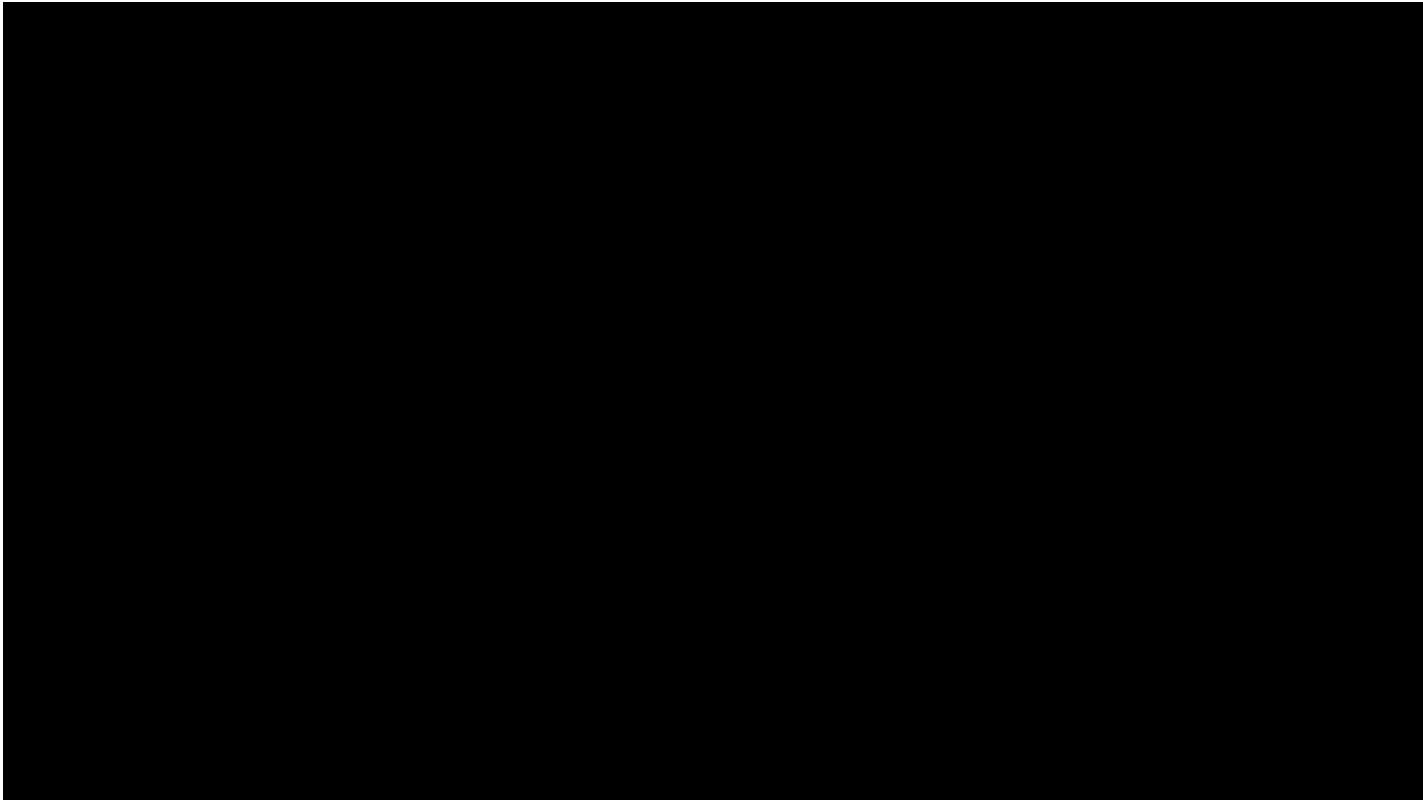
Original image is CC0 public domain
[Starry Night](#) and [Tree Roots](#) by Van Gogh are in the public domain
Bokeh image is in the public domain
Stylized images copyright Justin Johnson, 2017;
reproduced with permission

Mordvinsev et al, 2015
Gatys et al, 2016

Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

Figures copyright Justin Johnson, 2015. Reproduced with permission. Generated using the Inceptionism approach from a blog post by Google Research.

2012 to Present: Deep Learning is Everywhere



2012 to Present: Deep Learning is Everywhere

TEXT PROMPT

an armchair in the shape of an avocado. an armchair imitating an avocado.

AI-GENERATED IMAGES



Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

2012 to Present: Deep Learning is Everywhere

TEXT PROMPT

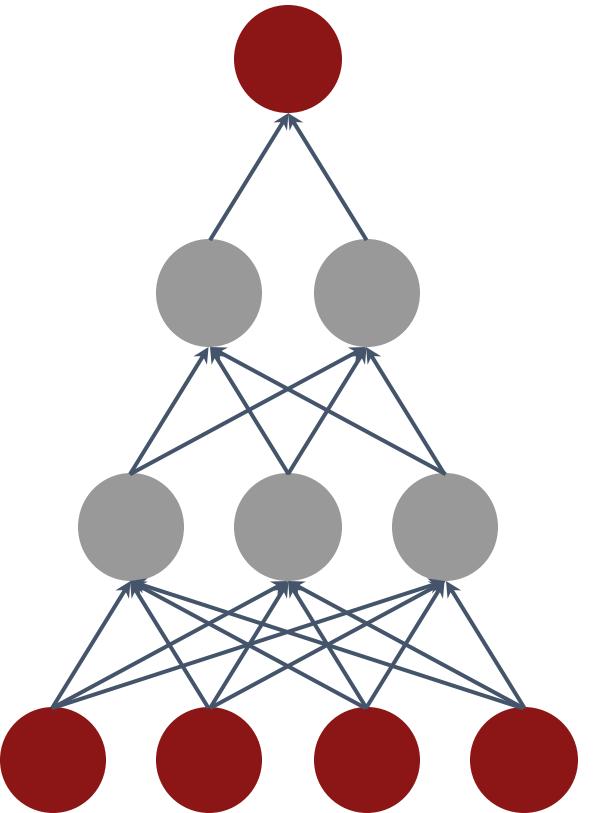
an armchair in the shape of a peach. an armchair imitating a peach.

AI-GENERATED IMAGES





Computation
April 1, 2025



Algorithms



Data

GFLOP per Dollar

● CPU ● GPU (FP32)

RTX 3080 →

RTX 3090 →

Deep Learning Explosion

GTX 1080

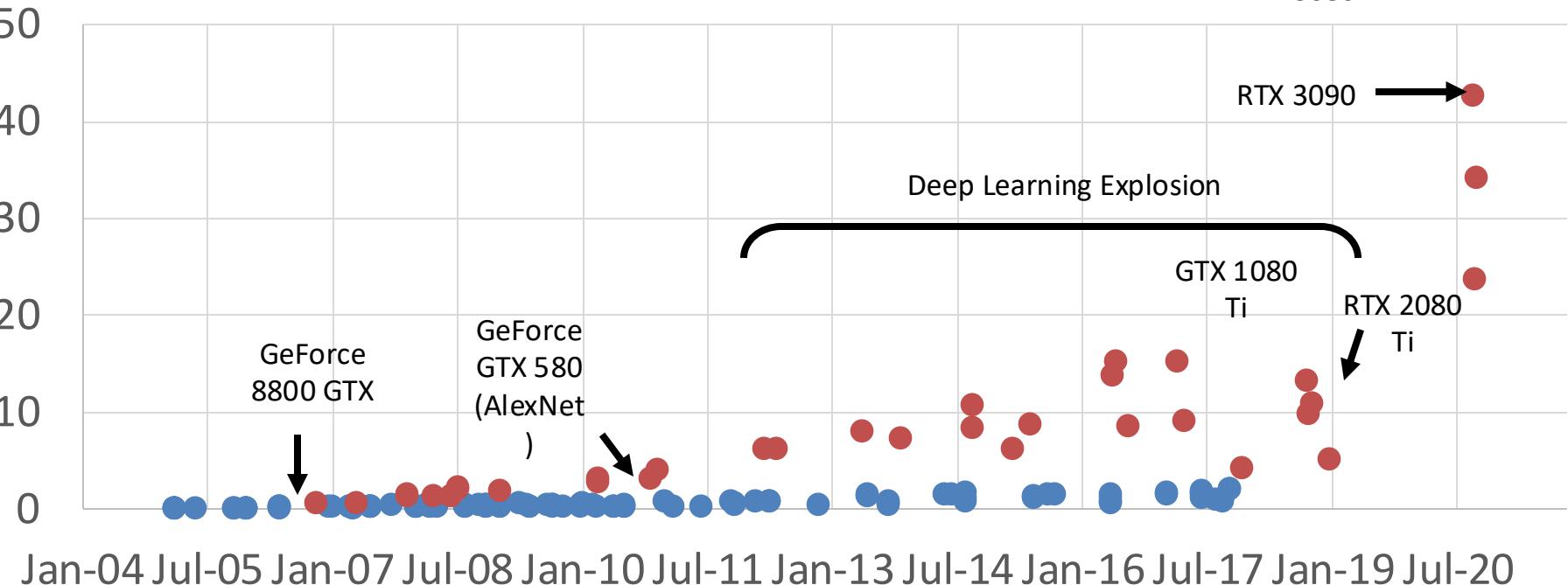
Ti

RTX 2080

Ti

GeForce
8800 GTX

GeForce
GTX 580
(AlexNet
)

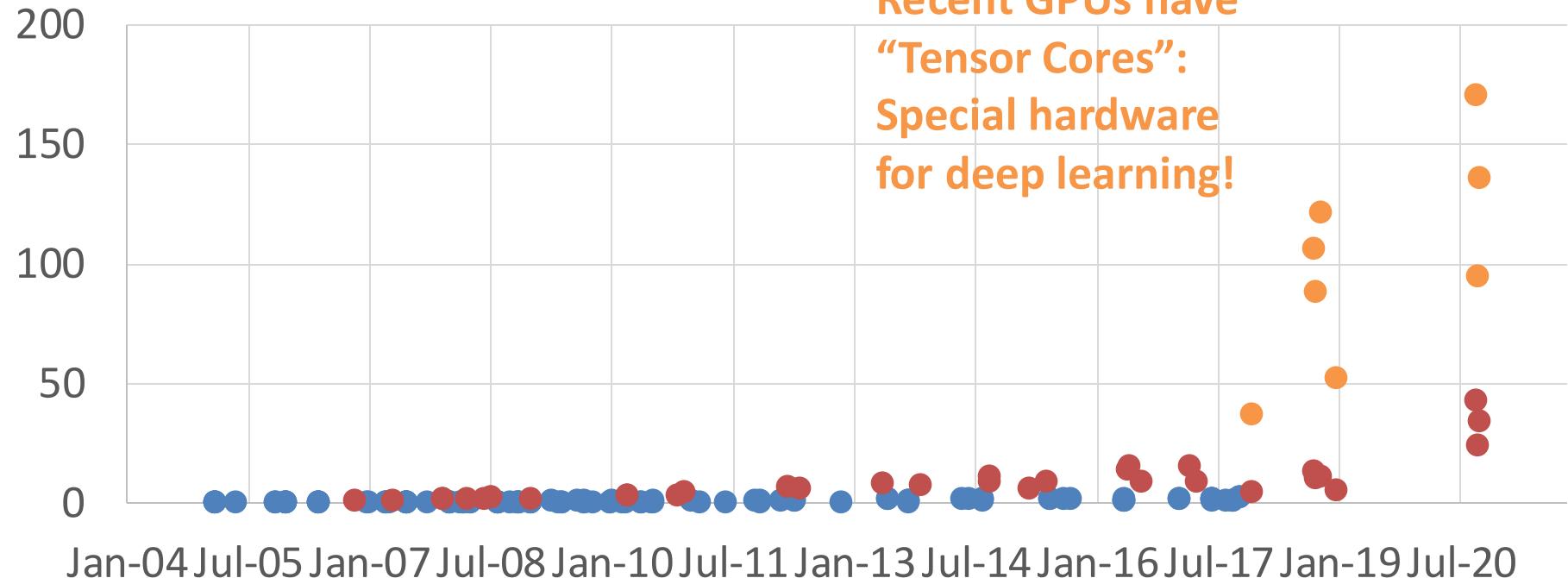


GFLOP per Dollar

● CPU ● GPU (FP32) ● GPU (Tensor Core)

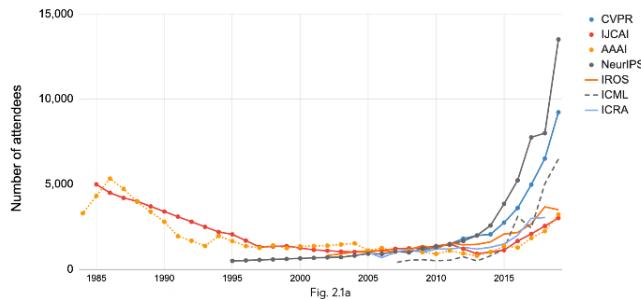
Recent GPUs have

“Tensor Cores”:
Special hardware
for deep learning!



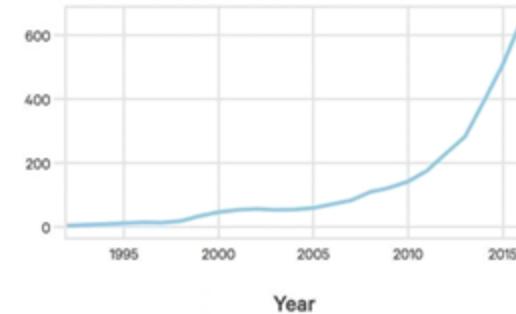
AI's Explosive Growth & Impact

Attendance at large conferences (1984-2019)
Source: Conference provided data.



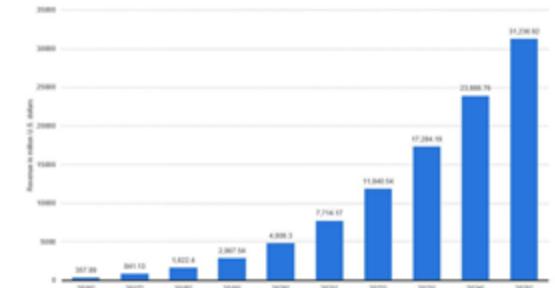
Number of attendance
At AI conferences

Source: The Gradient



Startups Developing AI
Systems

Source: Crunchbase, VentureSource, Sand
Hill Econometrics



Enterprise Application AI
Revenue

Source: Statista

Despite the successes, computer
vision still has a long way to go

Computer Vision Can Cause Harm

Harmful Stereotypes

Gender Classifier	Darker Male	Darker Female	Lighter Male	Lighter Female	Largest Gap
Microsoft	94.0%	79.2%	100%	98.3%	20.8%
FACE++	99.3%	65.5%	99.2%	94.0%	33.8%
IBM	88.0%	65.3%	99.7%	92.9%	34.4%

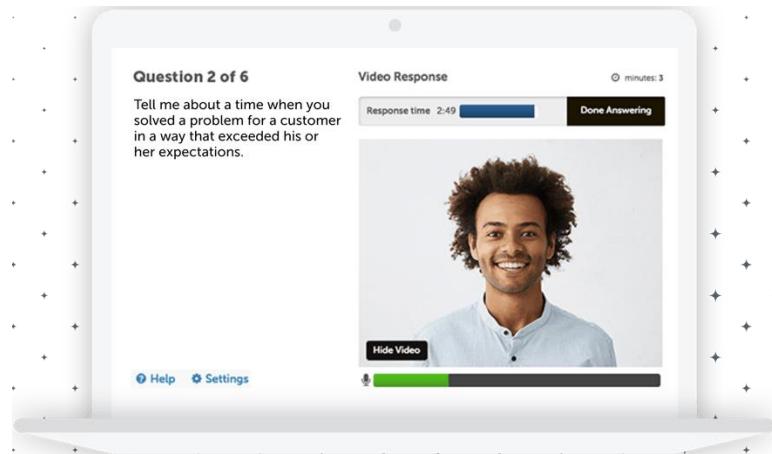


Affect people's lives

Technology

A face-scanning algorithm increasingly decides whether you deserve the job

HireVue claims it uses artificial intelligence to decide who's best for a job. Outside experts call it 'profoundly disturbing.'



Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2019/10/22/ai-hiring-face-scanning-algorithm-increasingly-decides-whether-you-deserve-job/>
<https://www.hirevue.com/platform/online-video-interviewing-software>

Example Credit: Timnit Gebru

Computer Vision Can Save Lives

How to take care of seniors
while keeping them safe?



Early Symptom Detection
of COVID-19



Monitor Patients with
Mild Symptoms



Manage Chronic Conditions

Versatile



Mobility



Infection



Sleep



Diet

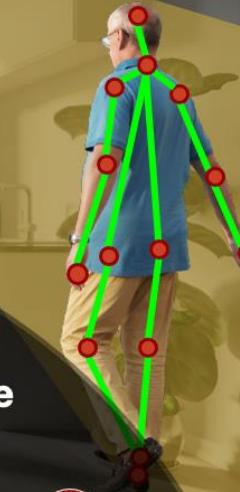
Scalable



Low-cost



Burden-free



And there is a lot we don't know how to do



https://fedandfit.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/summer-activities-for-kids_optimized-scaled.jpeg



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Today's agenda

- A brief history of computer vision & deep learning
- CS231n overview