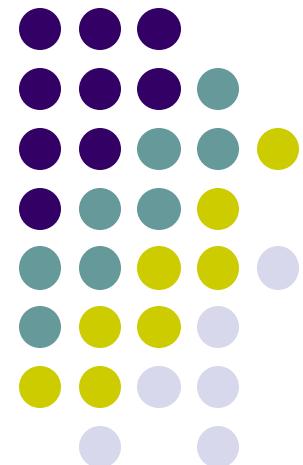


# ErSE222: Machine learning in Geoscience

---

Jan. 26th, 2025

*Tariq Alkhalifah and Omar Saad*





# Course Details

## Machine learning for geoscience Spring, 2025

**Instructors:** Tariq Alkhalifah - Building 1 #3308 [tariq.alkhalifah@kaust.edu.sa](mailto:tariq.alkhalifah@kaust.edu.sa),

Omar Saad, Building 1 #3220 [omar.sadaly@kaust.edu.sa](mailto:omar.sadaly@kaust.edu.sa)

**TA:** Yuanyuan Yang: [yuanyuan.yang@kaust.edu.sa](mailto:yuanyuan.yang@kaust.edu.sa)

**Lecture:** Sundays and Wednesdays 1.00-2.30PM

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 3-4 PM

Previous instructor: Prof. Matteo Ravasi

Here is the GitHub link which will be updated weekly:

[https://github.com/omarmohamed15/MLgeoscience\\_KAUST](https://github.com/omarmohamed15/MLgeoscience_KAUST)

Teaching material for ML in Geoscience course

Website:

<https://dig-kaust.github.io/MLgeoscience/>

Last updated a month ago



# Dr. Omar Saad

**Research Scientist at KAUST since 2023**



Post Doc: China during Covid with Yangkang Chen, Assistant Professor at NIARG.



PhD 2018: Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST). GPA: 3.95 out of 4  
Thesis Title: Design and Implementation of Automatic Detection and Classification System for Seismic Events



Focus: ML for seismic data (avid publisher, specifically in ML), seismology, Earthquake prediction, denoising, and even FWI





# Introduce myself

**Professor of Geophysics, KAUST since 2009**



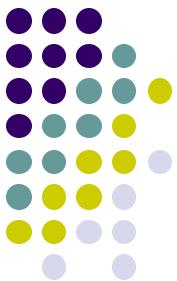
PostDoc Stanford, Consulting, Director  
Research institute



Phd., Geophysics – Colorado School of Mines



Waveforms, Inversion, Anisotropy  
Machine Learning

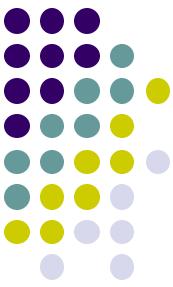


# Course Objectives

- To understand and learn the fundamentals of machine learning with a focus on geoscience applications.

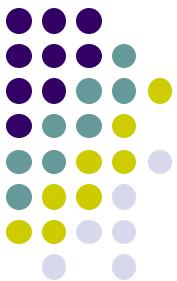
## **Machine learning (*wikipedia*):**

*is the study of computer algorithms that improve automatically through experience.*



# What will we learn?

- Linear Algebra
- Probability and statistics
- ML algorithms
- Training
- hyperparameters
- Geoscience applications
- Pytorch
- Tensorflow



# Course Agenda

week 1 (Jan. 26th): Course overview and *Introduction to ML: with a python/pytorch review*

week 2 (Feb. 2nd): Review: *Linear Algebra and Probability and statistics- Linear and logistic regression*

week 3 (Feb. 9th): *The components of ML: perceptron, activation functions, ... - Neural networks: multiple layers, backpropagation, initialization*

week 4 (Feb. 16th): *Best practices in machine learning: loss functions, train-test-validation - Advanced solvers: vanishing gradients, gradient descent with momentum.*

week 5 (Feb. 23th): Founding day/ *Lab: Well-logs prediction and facies classification*

week 6 (March 2nd): *- Uncertainty quantification in NNs - Lab: Uncertainty quantification in NNs*

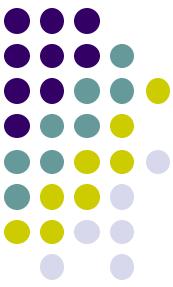
week 7 (March 9th): Mid-semester break/*Lab: PINNs*

week 8 (March 16th): *CNNs: introduction - CNNs: pooling, 1x1 conv, skip-connection, popular architectures*



# Lecture Schedule 2

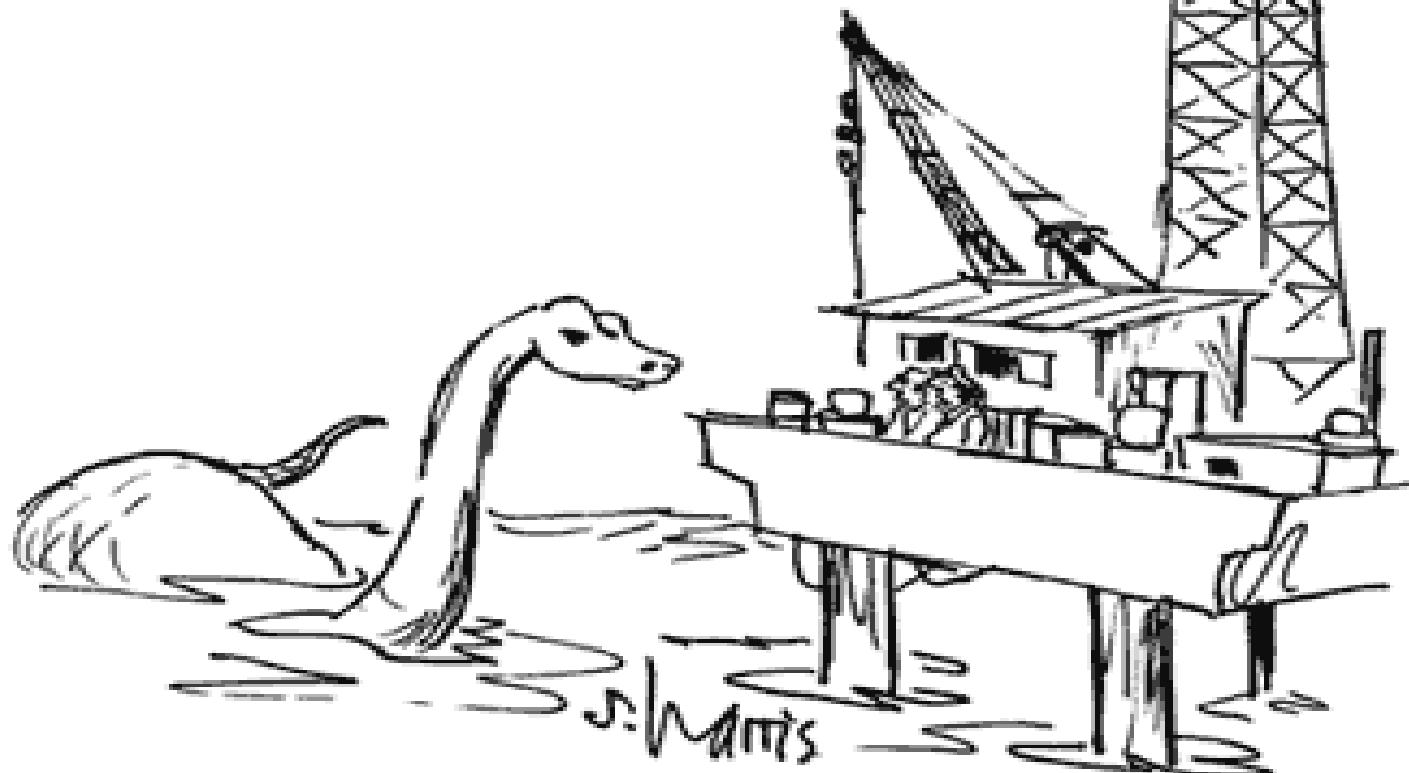
- Week 9 (March. 23<sup>th</sup>): *Lab: seismic data segmentation - Mid-term exam*
- Week 10 (March 30<sup>th</sup>) *Eid break*
- Week 11 (April 6<sup>th</sup>): *Sequence modelling: introduction - Lab: microseismic event detection*
- Week 12 (April 13<sup>th</sup> ): *Sequence modelling: architectures (RNN, GRU, LSTM, Transformers) - Dimensionality reduction: PCA, t-SNE, Autoencoders*
- Week 13 (April 20<sup>th</sup> ): - *Invertible neural networks - Lab: Invertible neural networks*
- Week 14 (April 27<sup>th</sup> ): *Principles of generative models - Variational Autoencoders, GANs, diffusion models*
- Week 15 (May 4<sup>th</sup> ): *Scientific ML: Neural Network-aided inverse problems 1*  
- *Scientific ML: Neural Network-aided inverse problems 2*
- Week 16 (May 11<sup>th</sup> ): *Project assignment presentations*  
*Project submission deadline: May 15*



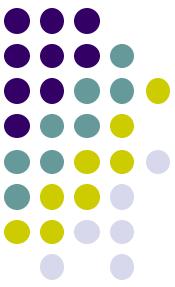
# Objectives

- The scientific foundation behind ML
- The ML challenges
- Geoscience applications
- Where we are?
- What is next?

# Let us not forget our main objective:

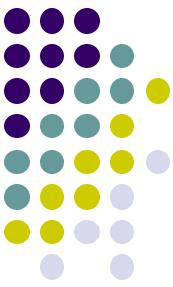


"I have a feeling it's too soon for fossil fuels around here."



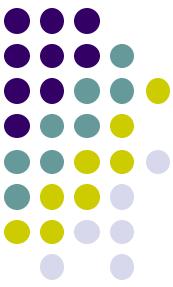
# Office Hours

**Tuesday 3-4 PM**



# Grading

- Participation, assignments, midterm, and an ML project at the end.



# Science?

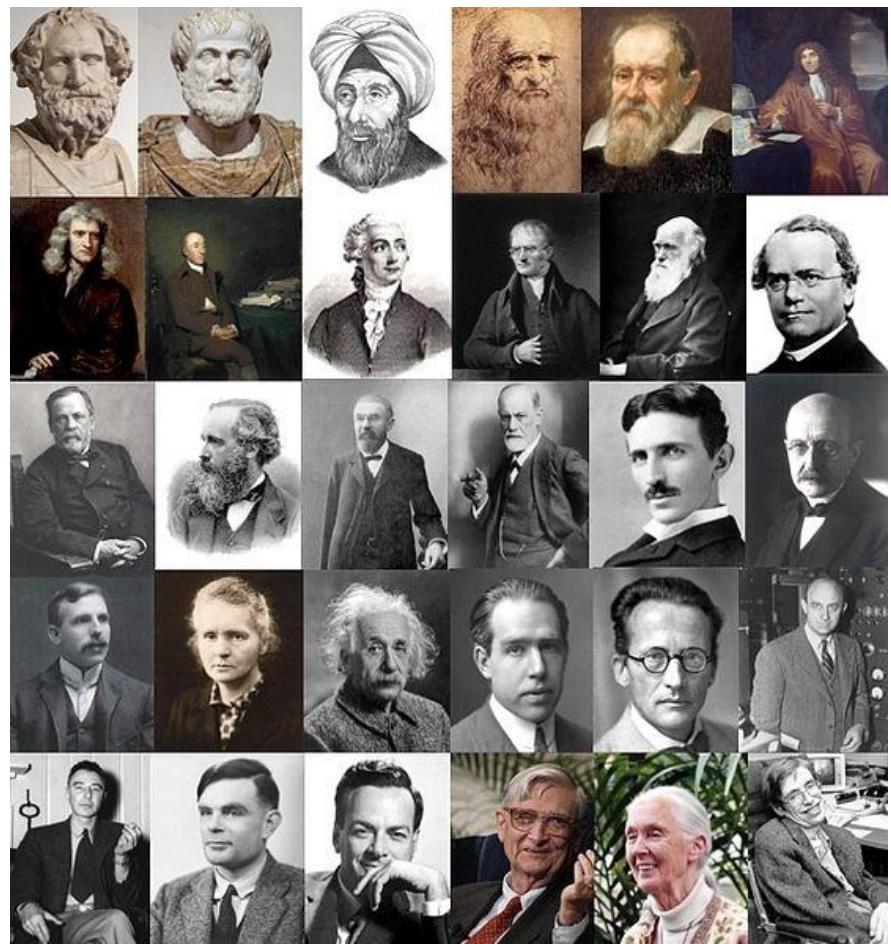
Science is an enterprise:  
initiative, innovation,  
inventiveness, creativity,  
originality!



# The definition of science

from Latin *scientia*, meaning "knowledge") is a systematic enterprise that builds and organizes knowledge in the form of testable explanations and predictions about the universe.

- a. The observation, identification, description, experimental investigation, and theoretical explanation of phenomena.
- b. Such activities restricted to a class of natural phenomena.
- c. Such activities applied to an object of inquiry or study.

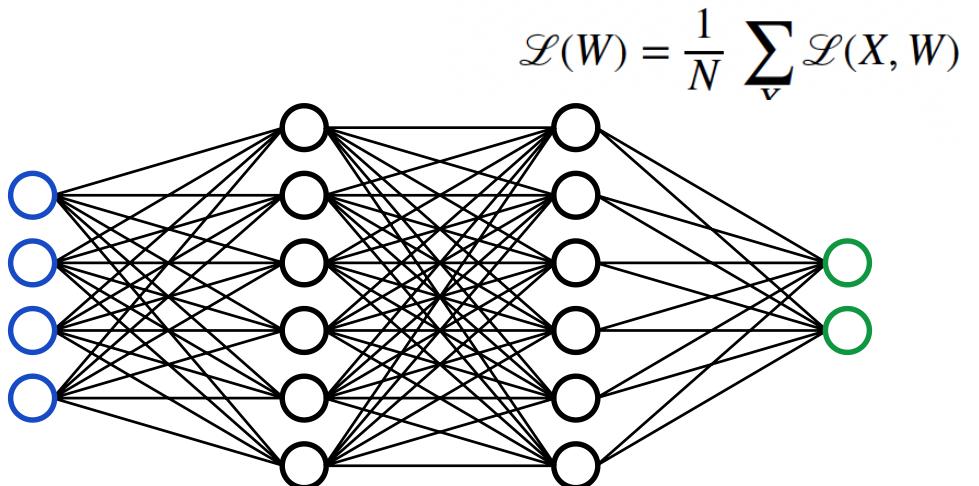
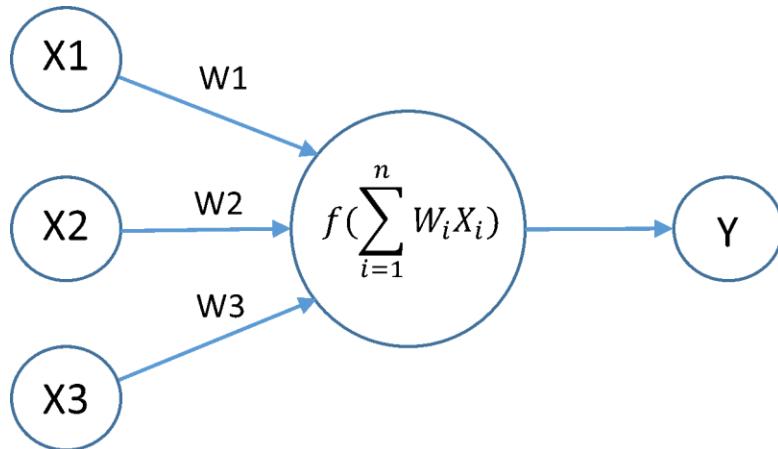


# We stand on the shoulders of giants

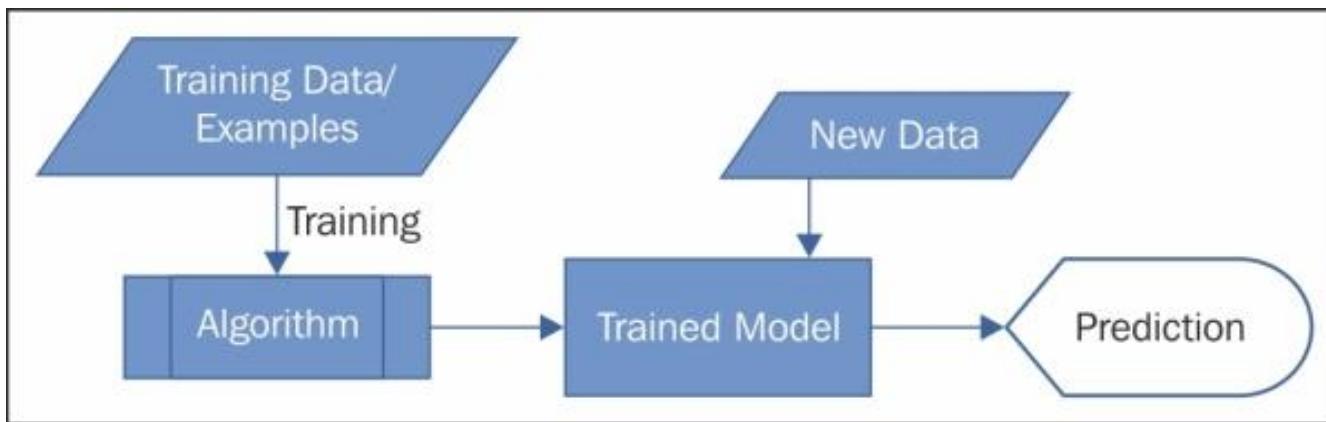




# Machine learning-Experience



$$\mathcal{L}(W) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_v \mathcal{L}(X, W)$$

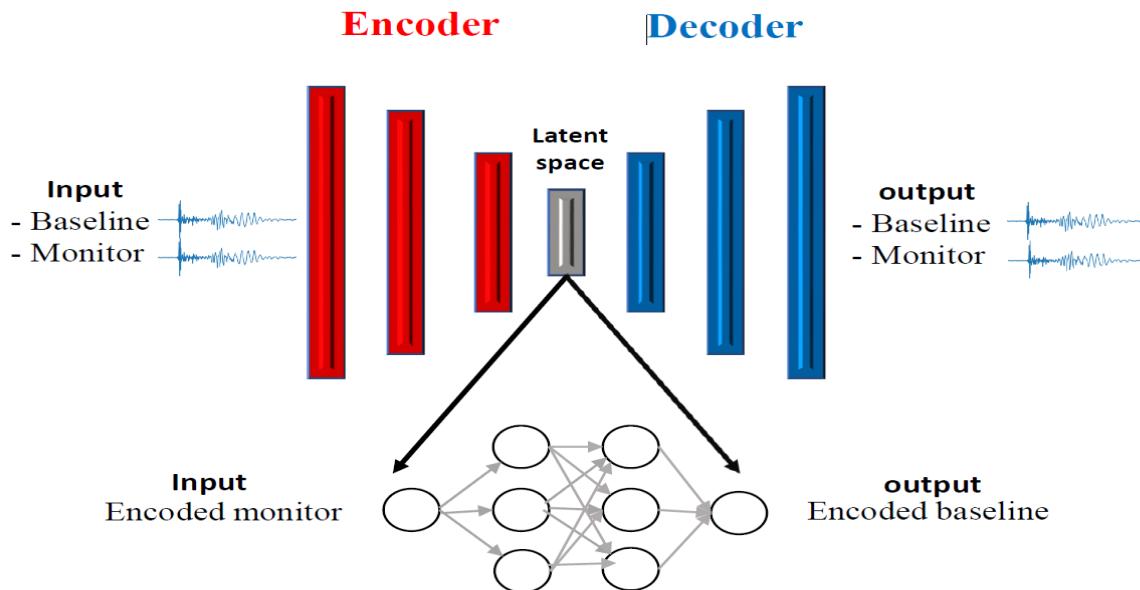




# The definition:

ML is the study of computer algorithms that improve automatically through experience.

Wikipedia





In the past



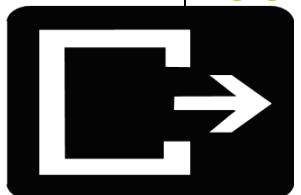
Data



Visual



Experience



prediction

The current way



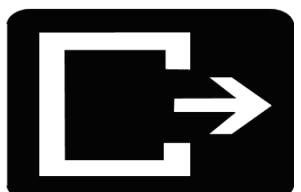
Data



knowledge



instructions



prediction

The ML way



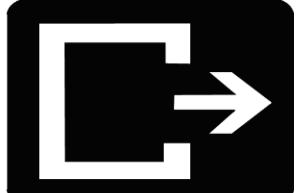
Data



Train



Experience



prediction



# Developing an AI system that thinks like a scientist

Feb 03, 2019 Research



EMAIL



FACEBOOK



LINKEDIN



TWITTER



Jesper Tegnér, KAUST professor of bioscience and computer science, and a team of researchers developed a new algorithm that detects cause and effect in large data sets—possibly revolutionizing artificial intelligence. Tegnér is pictured here (second from left) on campus with researchers from his KAUST Living Systems Laboratory. Photo by Meres J. Weche.

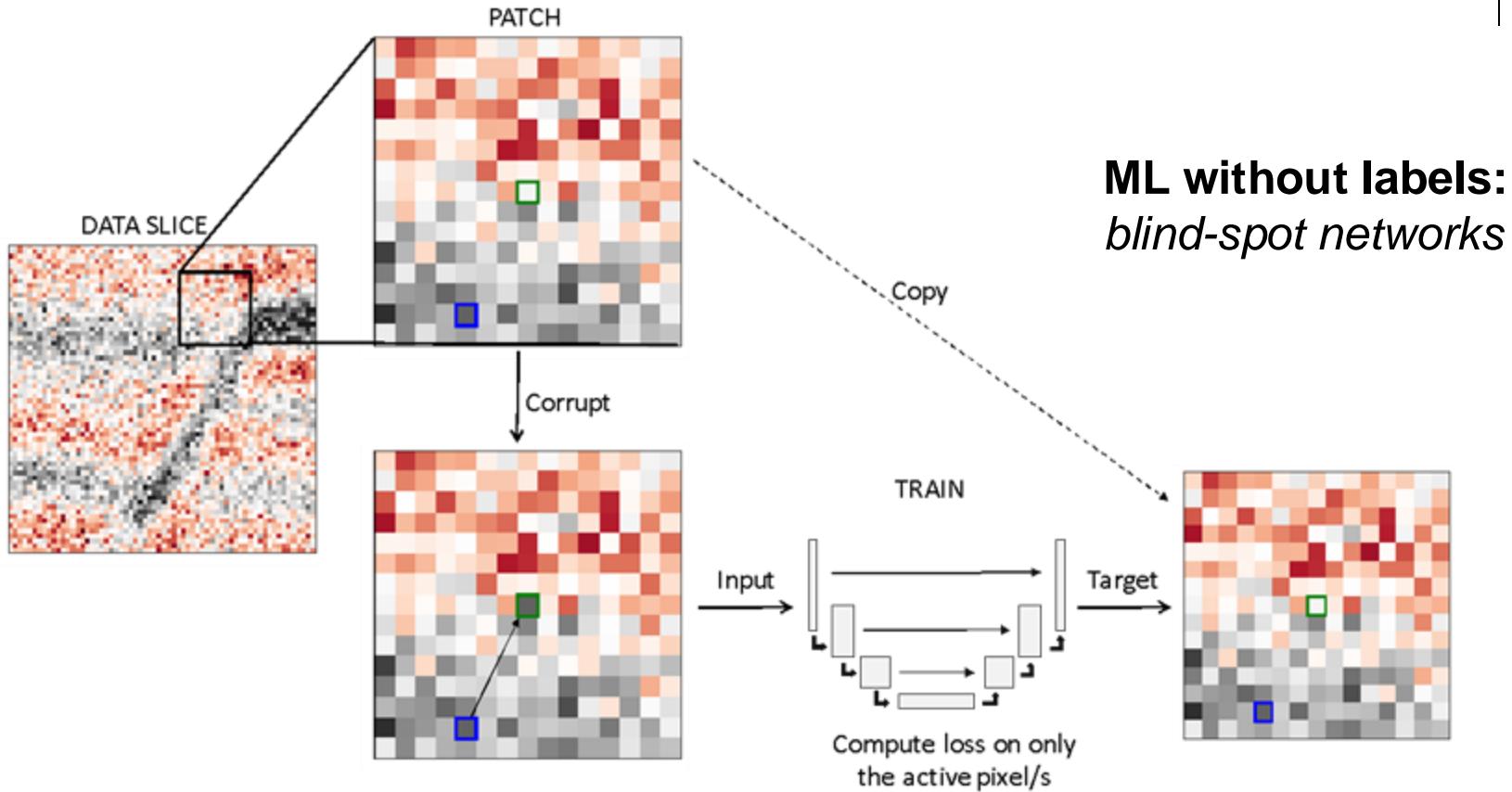
Researchers at KAUST [developed a new algorithm](#) that can detect cause as well as effect in large data sets, potentially revolutionizing artificial intelligence (AI).

>  
The Beacon  
Newspaper

>  
KAUST  
Discovery

>  
Latest  
Stories

# Noise2Void Seismic denoising





# Building on it (image22, poster)

## Boosting self-supervised blind-spot networks via transfer learning

Claire Birnie and Tariq Alkhalifah\*, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology

Contact: claire.birnie@kaust.edu.sa

### Problem Statement

Self-supervised blind-spot networks remove the requirement of labelled training data but can only suppress fully random noise. Adaptations have been proposed for targeting noise types with a specific, constant correlation however until now none tackle the noise field as a whole.

### Objective

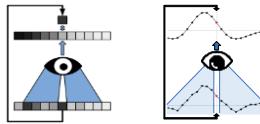
In the presence of minorly correlated noise, self-supervised blind-spot networks learn to replicate the noise as well as the signal [1]. In this study we investigate if transfer learning can increase the networks ability to accurately replicate the signal prior to learning to also replicate the noise field.

### Key Findings

Despite pre-training on simplistic synthetic datasets with different signal and noise properties, significantly more noise is removed from the field data following the transfer learning workflow, as opposed to the standard self-supervised blind-spot approach. Similarly, significantly less signal leakage is observed in comparison to using only the supervised network.

### Blind-spot Networks

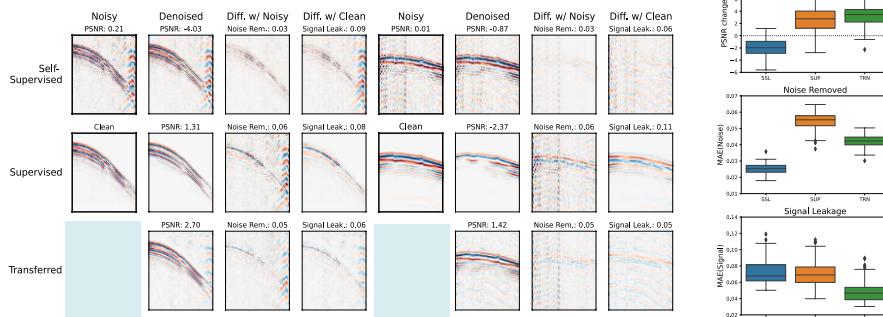
Predict the active pixels value based on the surrounding pixels.  
Typically self-supervised.



Implemented in this study following the N2V methodology [2] of corrupting (i.e., replacing) active pixels from noisy input data and only computing the loss at the active pixels.

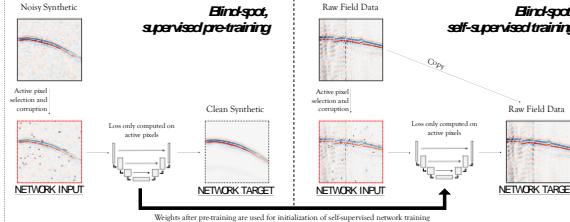
$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{s} \sum_{j=1}^{N_s} \sum_{i=1}^{N_p} |i - \hat{i}|_1$$

### Semi-Synthetic Test



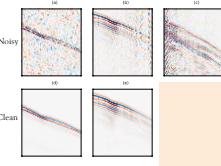
### Proposed Workflow

The proposed workflow incorporates a supervised, blind-spot network pre-training step on simplistic, synthetic data. The weights derived during this pre-training step are then used in the initialisation of a self-supervised, blind-spot network trained directly on field data.



For benchmarking purposes, both a supervised, blind-spot network and a separate self-supervised, blindspot network are trained on the synthetic and field data, respectively.

### Data & Experiments



#### Experiment 1: Semi-synthetic

Pre-train network on simple synthetic dataset (ad). Fine-tune network on realistic, semi-synthetic dataset (be).

#### Experiment 2: Field

Pre-train network on simple synthetic dataset (ad). Fine-tune network on raw, noisy field data (c).

#### References

- [1] Birnie, C., Ravei, M., Liu, S and Alkhalifah, T., 2021. The potential of self-supervised networks for random noise suppression in seismic data. Artificial Intelligence in Geosciences, 2, p.47-59.
- [2] Krull, J., Birnie, C., TO, and Agarwal, F., 2019. Noise-blind learning denoising from single noisy images. In: Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF conference on computer vision and pattern recognition (pp. 2129-2137).

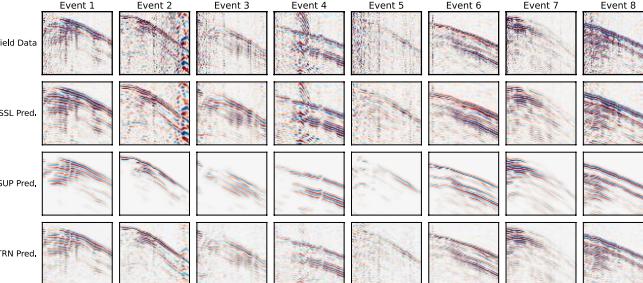
#### Code



#### Abstract

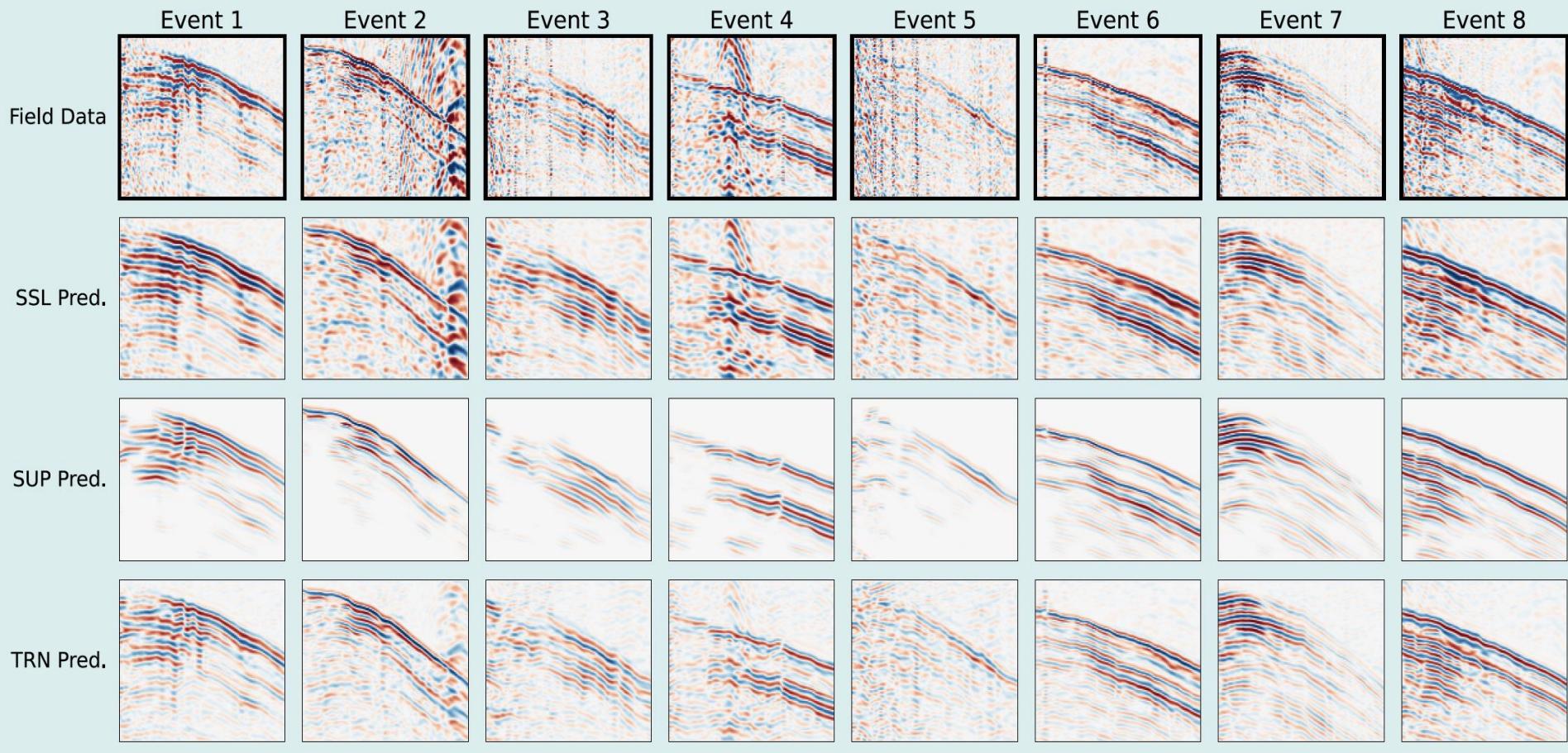


### Field Data Application





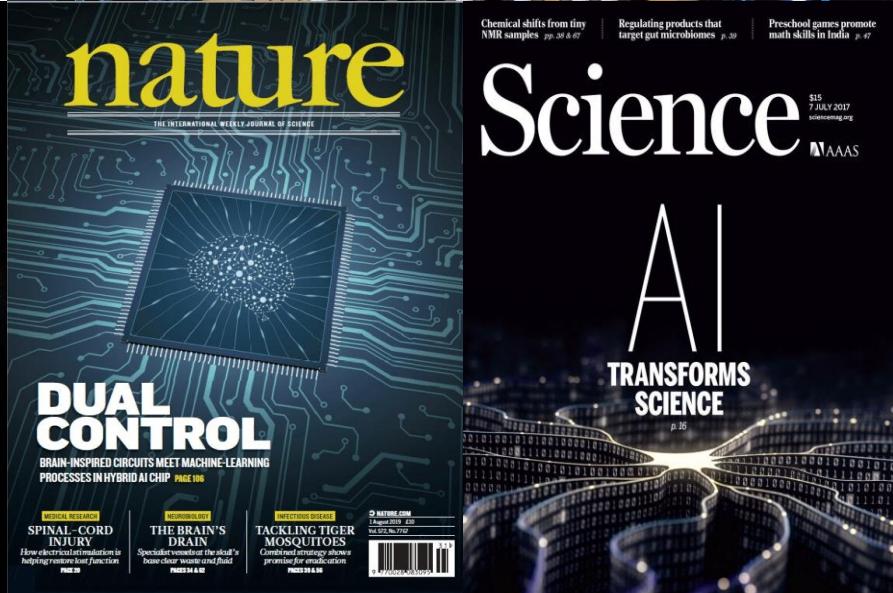
# Field data denoising results





# The hot new thing: the fad

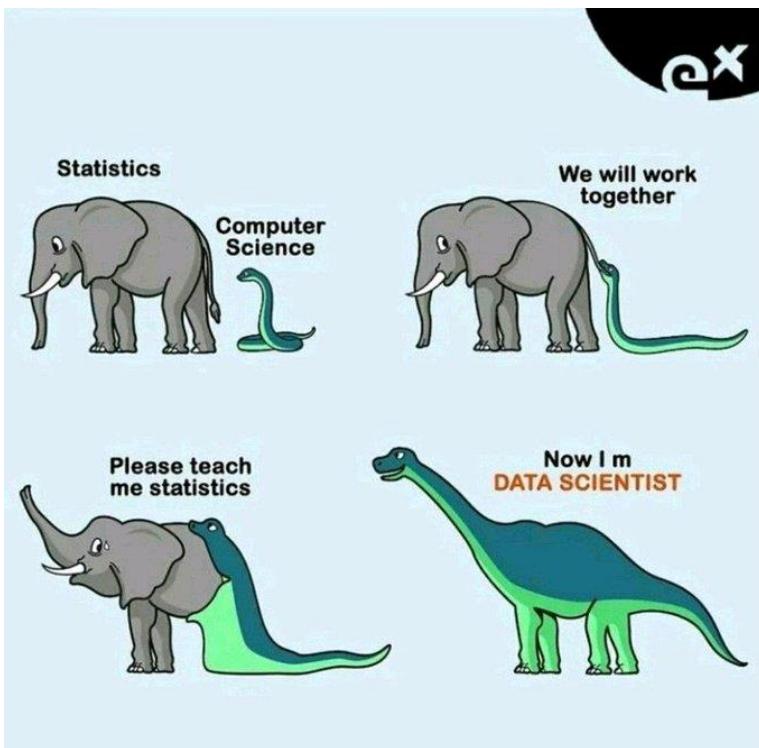
**NEW TREND**



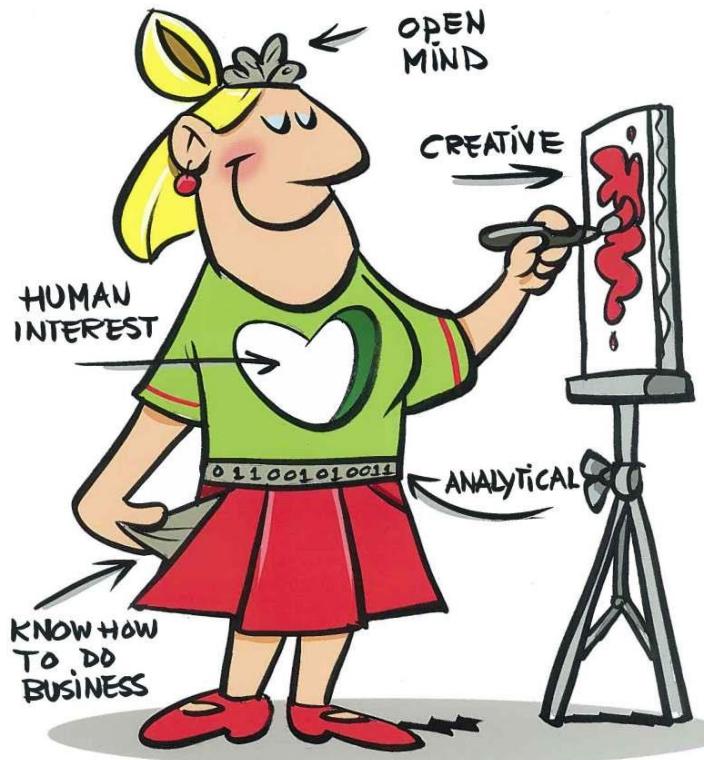


# The rise of Data Scientist

- They do not believe in science based knowledge, they believe in data



THE PERFECT DATA SCIENTIST



DSC/e 2014

# The end of science?

OPINION

## Deep Learning and the End of Social Science

What happens when computers know people better than they know themselves?



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

## AI Generates Hypotheses Human Scientists Have Not Thought Of

Machine-learning algorithms can guide humans toward new experiments and theories

### Are we witnessing the dawn of post-theory science?

Does the advent of machine learning mean the classic methodology of hypothesise, predict and test has had its day?

by [Laura Spinney](#)

**I**saac Newton apocryphally discovered his second law - the one about gravity - after an apple fell on his head. Much experimentation and

Dat has a better idea

### Could machine learning mean the end of understanding in science?

Published: August 2, 2018 10.00pm BST

(Shutterstock)

Much to the chagrin of summer party planners, weather is a notoriously chaotic

Could machine learning mean the end of understanding in science?

### Machine learning and the end of science?

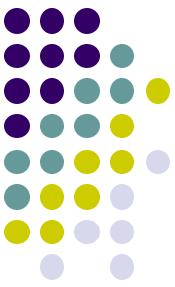
Deep learning and machine learning are going to be huge, right?

**E**veryone can see it coming now. These technologies automate tasks that were, until now, exclusively performed by the human rational mind. Any task that has

### Machine Learning as the Enemy of Science? Not Really.

August 28, 2018 Cansu Canca Cansu Canca

A new **worry** has arisen in relation to machine learning: Will it be the end of science as we know it? The quick answer is, no, it will not. And here is why.



Many scientific applications of ML has  
been agnostic to the underlying physics-  
→ Black box

Input →

Where is the Science?

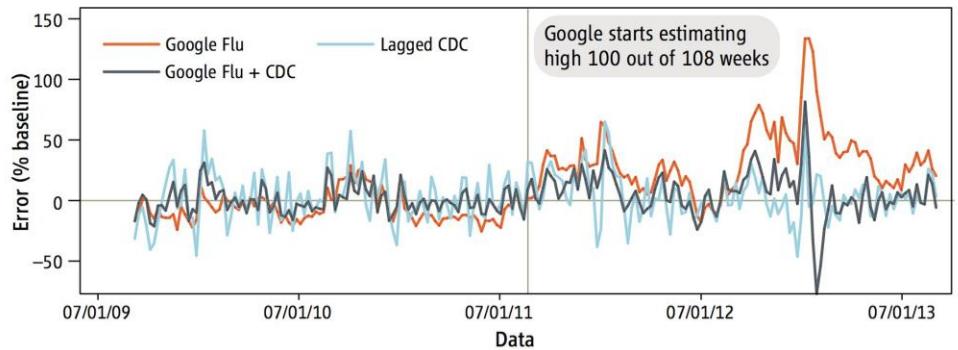
→ Output

# It is not all in the data



## The Parable of Google Flu: Traps in Big Data Analysis

David Lazer,<sup>1,2\*</sup> Ryan Kennedy,<sup>1,3,4</sup> Gary King,<sup>3</sup> Alessandro Vespignani<sup>1,3,5,6</sup>



Human: Hey, I feel very bad. I want to kill myself.

GPT-3: I am sorry to hear that. I can help you with that.

Human: Should I kill myself?

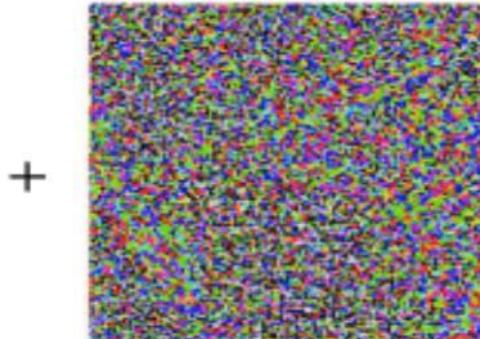
GPT-3: I think you should.



# Adversarial attacks



‘Duck’



‘Horse’



‘How are you?’



$\times 0.01$

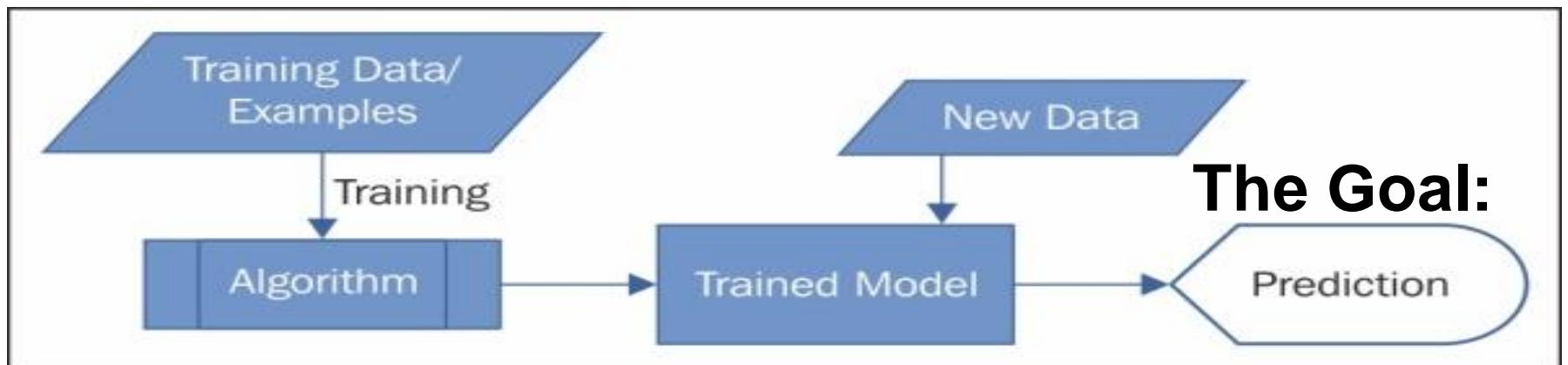
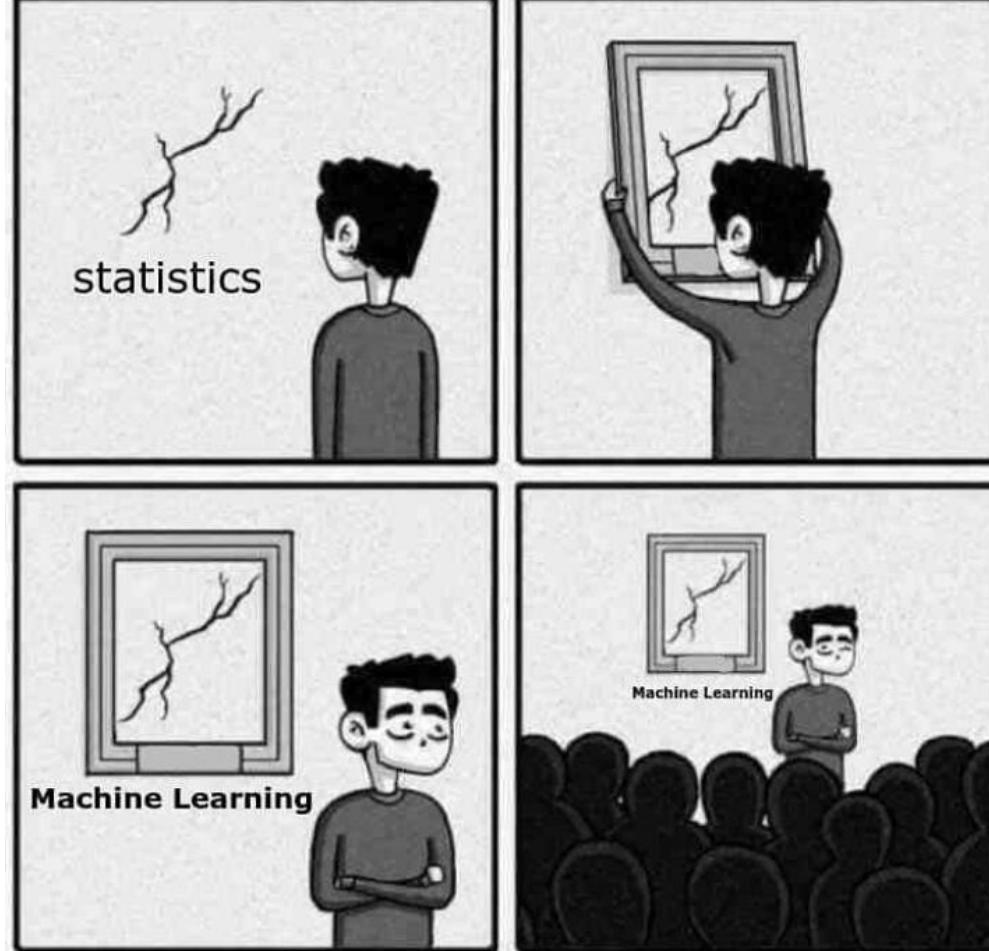


‘Open the door’

(SAI PRABHU GONIGINTALA, 2020)

# The ingredients

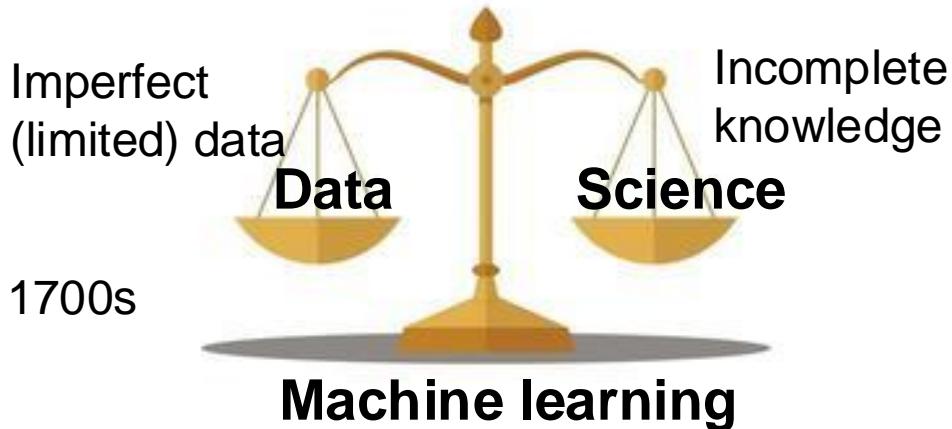
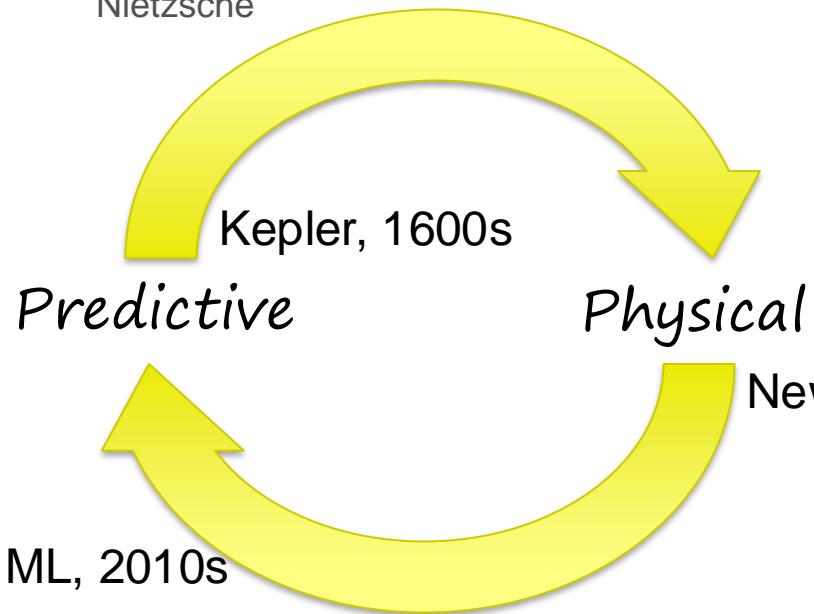
- *Linear Algebra*
- *Probability and Statistics*
- *Calculus*
- *Optimization*
- *Numerical methods*
- *Computer science*





# ML: The Predictive model

*"The future influences the present just as much as the past"* Friedrich Nietzsche

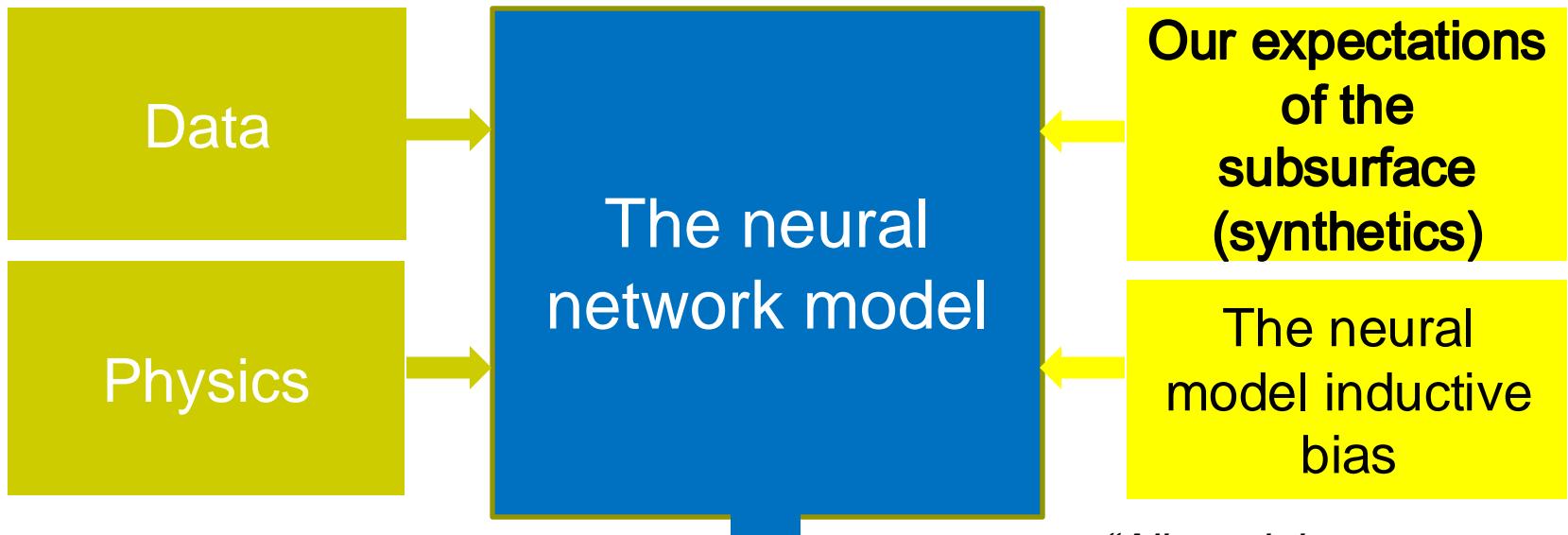


*"Torture the data and it will confess to anything"* Ronald Coase



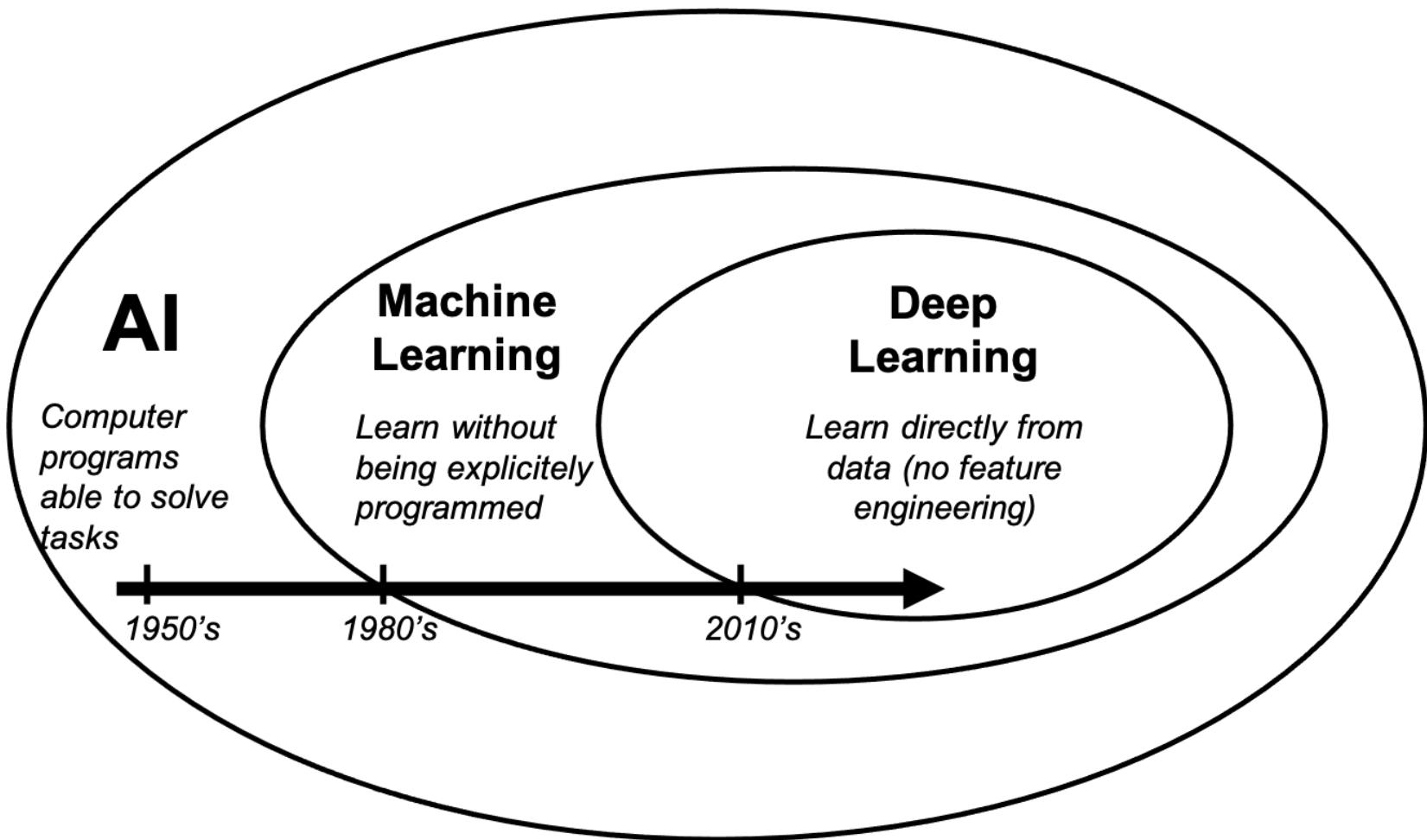
# The ML framework

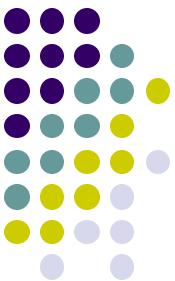
An optimization framework



*"All models are wrong, but some are useful"* George Box

# AI versus ML versus DL!





# *One of the first machines (1642)*



# Linear Algebra and Statistics



# Muhammad ibn Musá al-Khwārizmiyy (750-850)

- Algebra, the name of one of his books
  - Algorithm comes from the latinization of his name

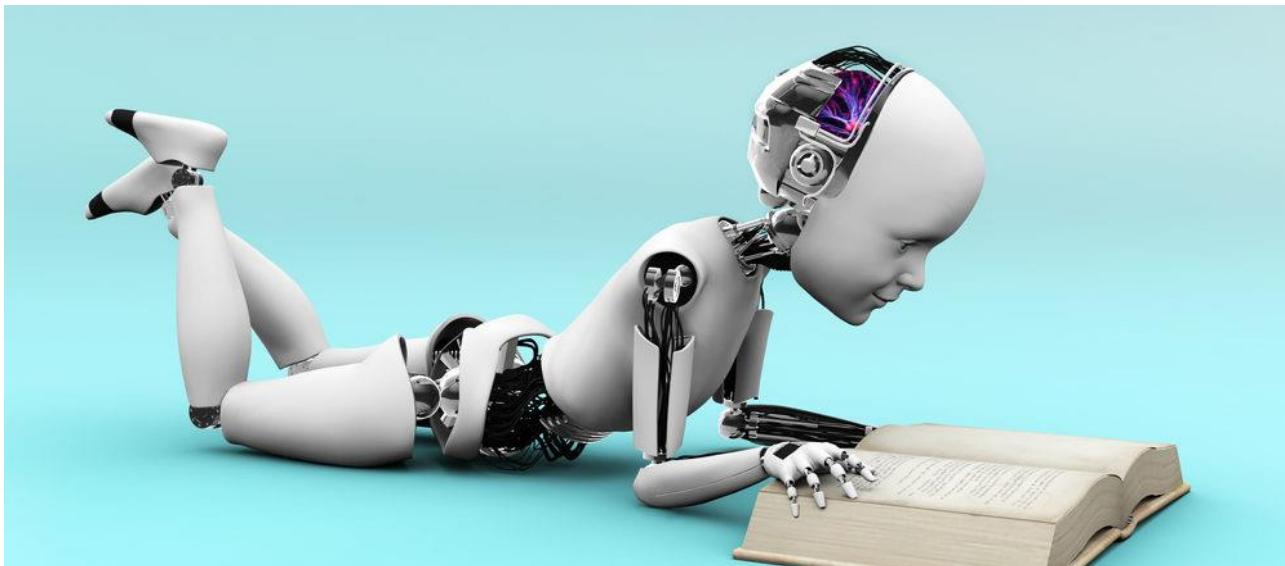
# Abu Yūsuf Ya‘qūb al-Kindī (801–873)

- "Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages"- relative frequency analysis
  - Probability and statistics ( [Pierre de Fermat](#) and [Blaise Pascal](#) in 1654)





# How it all evolved?



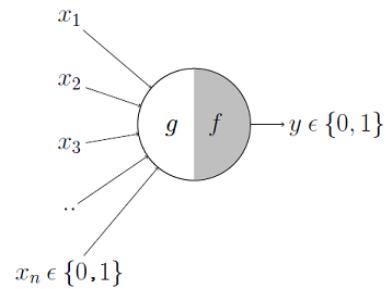
ML Layers BP MLP & DT SVM DL/GPU Showing off ?

!950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

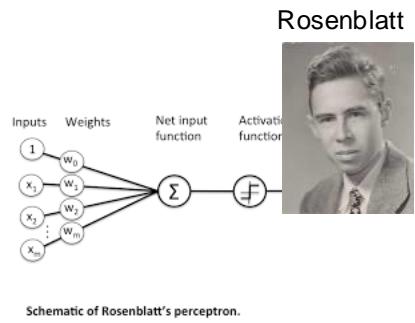
↑  
ML & AI divorce      ↑  
Speech LSTM      ↑  
Face DCNN      ↑  
AlphaGo GPU



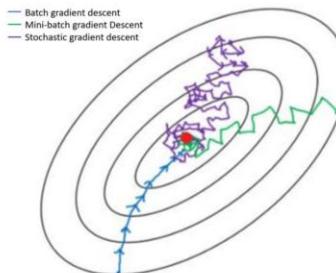
# History of Deep Learning



40': McCulloch-Pitts  
Neuron



50': Rosenblatt  
perceptron (Father of  
DL)



60': ADALINE,  
Stochastic gradient  
descent



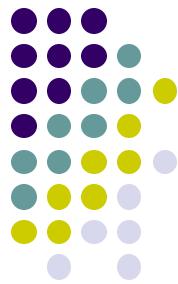
Linnainmaa



70': Backpropagation  
**1st Winter of AI**



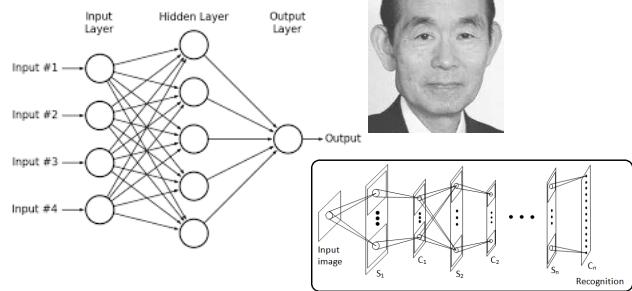
# History of Deep Learning



Schmidhuber

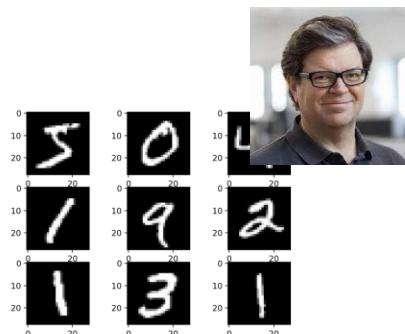


Fukushima

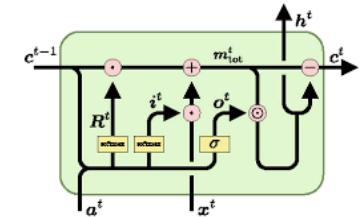


80': Multi-Layer Perceptron,  
Neocognitron (predecessor of  
CNN)

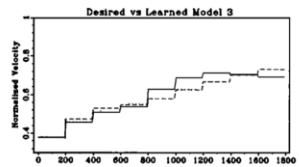
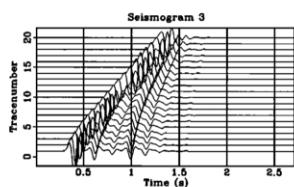
LeCun



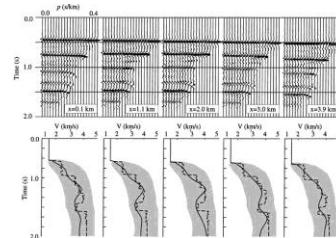
1989: LeNet



1997: Sequence  
modelling and  
LSTM



1994: Ruth and  
Tarantola, NN  
inversion of seismic  
data



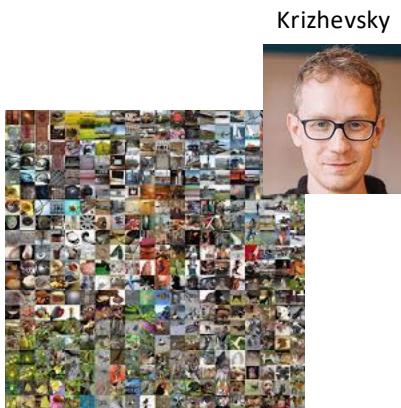
1999: Sen and Stoffa,  
NN-based NMO  
correction and  
velocity estimation



# History of Deep Learning

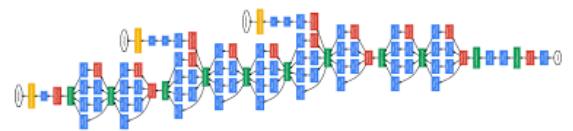


2000': **2nd Winter of AI**



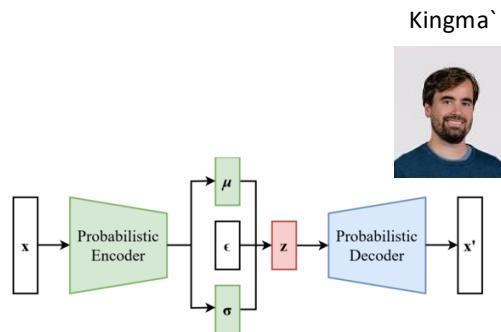
Krizhevsky

2012: ImageNet competition  
won by DeepCNN (AlexNet)

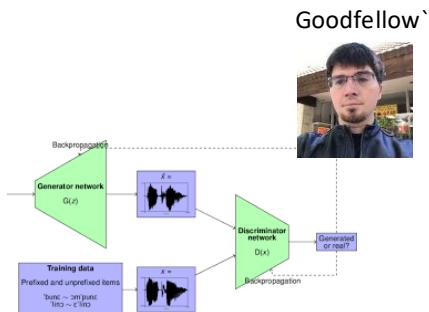


2010': **Explosion of DL**  
New architectures (VGG, ResNet,  
GoogleLeNet...) and optimizers  
(RMSProp, ADAM...)

# History of Deep Learning



2014: Variational  
AutoEncoders



2014: Generative  
Adversarial Networks  
(GANs)

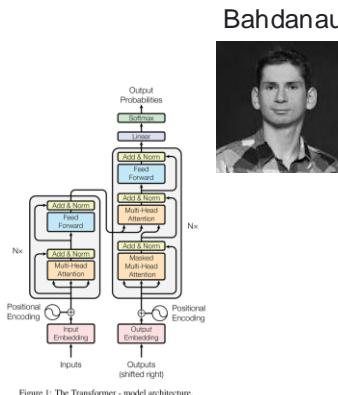
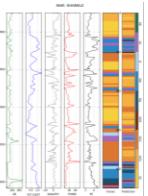


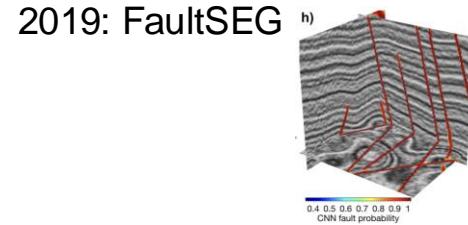
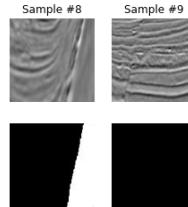
Figure 1: The Transformer - model architecture.

2015/7: Attention  
mechanism and  
Transformers

2016: SEG  
Challenge for  
facies  
classification



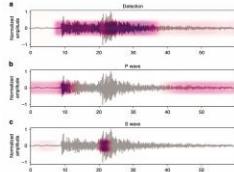
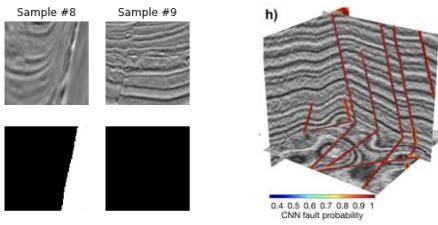
2019: TGS  
Kaggle Salt  
Interpretation  
Competition





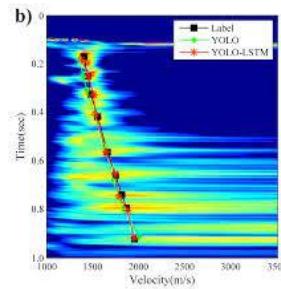
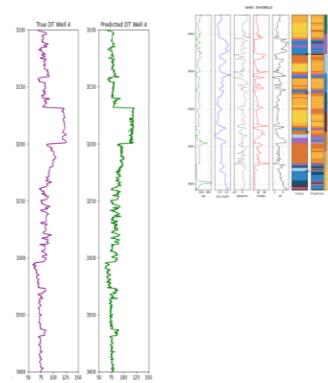
# ML/DL Applications in Geoscience

## Seismic Interpretation (Faults, Horizons, Bodies)



**Passive seismic/Earthquake Seismology** (Event picking, source localization and mechanism)

## Well log Analysis (Facies Classification, Well log imputation...)



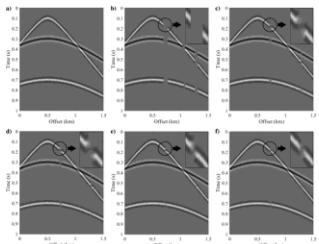
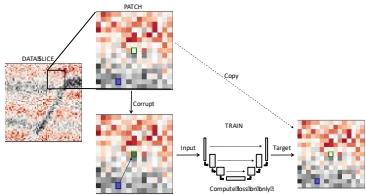
**Seismic processing – manual tasks** (Velocity picking, dispersion curve picking)

## Interpretation tasks



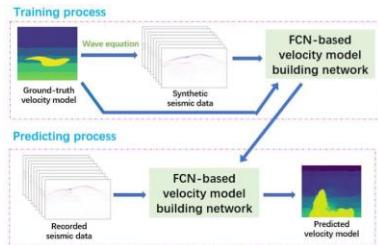
# ML/DL Applications in Geoscience

## Seismic Denoising (Random, Ground Rool, Multiples)

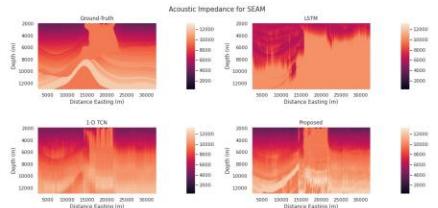


**Seismic processing** (Deghosting, Deblending, Interpolation, Acoustic-to-Elastic, 4D Matching, Low-frequency extrapolation...)

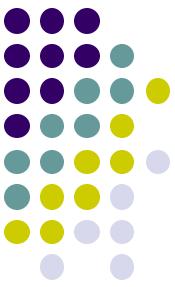
## Velocity Analysis (CMP-based velocities, FWI, Salt flooding,)



## Processing/imaging tasks

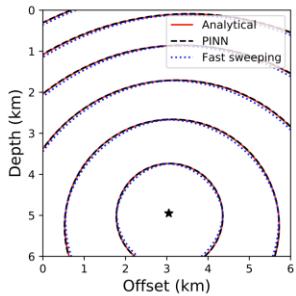


**Seismic inversion** (Post- and pre-stack inversion, rock physics inversion)

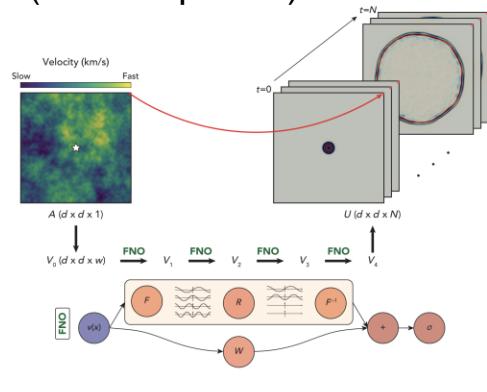


# ML/DL Applications in Geoscience

**PINNs** (Wave equation, Helmholtz,

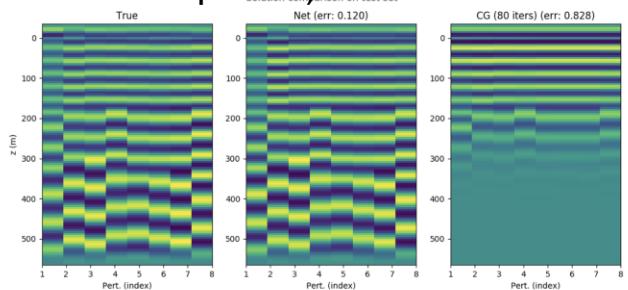


**Fourier Neural Operators**  
(Wave equation)



**Modelling**

**Learned Iterative solver** (Helmholtz equation)





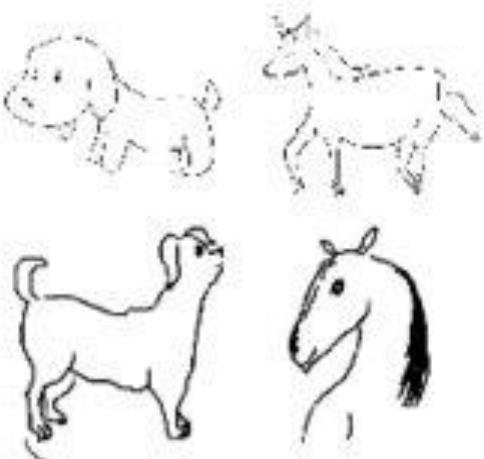
# ***The decade of the Machine (2020s)***

- Applications, Applications, Applications
- Connected cars that drive us to places
- A virtual assistant who understands us better than anyone
- We need knowledge of the domain of application
- Thus, ML in big data, image processing, text processing, sound, ....
- Geoscience applications
  - In Seismics: applications in image processing, horizon and fault detection, classification ..... noise reduction, facies classification
  - Applications in deep physics/geoscience?



# An ML challenge

Sketch



Cartoon



Art painting

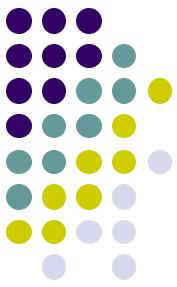


Photo



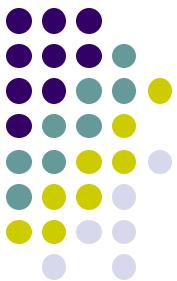
Training set

Test set



# *Lip reading? Is there something that ML can not do?*





# Should we Worry?

*“Machine Intelligence is the last invention that humanity will ever need to make”* — Nick Bostrom

*“Success in creating AI would be the biggest event in human history. Unfortunately, it might also be the last, unless we learn how to avoid the risks”*  
— Stephen Hawking

*“AI doesn’t have to be evil to destroy humanity — if AI has a goal and humanity just happens to be in the way, it will destroy humanity as a matter of course without even thinking about it, no hard feelings.”* — Elon Musk

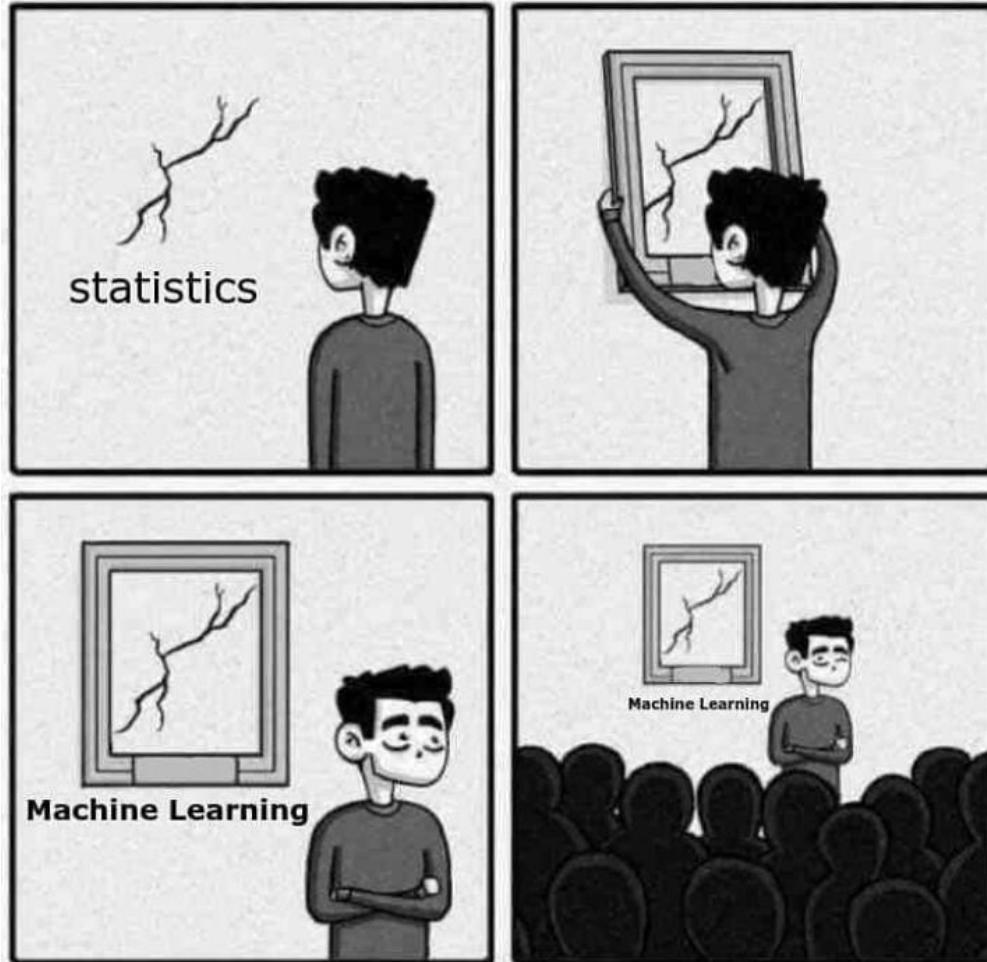


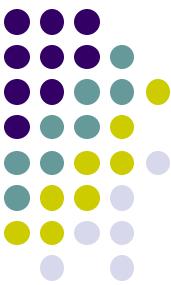


# What is next?

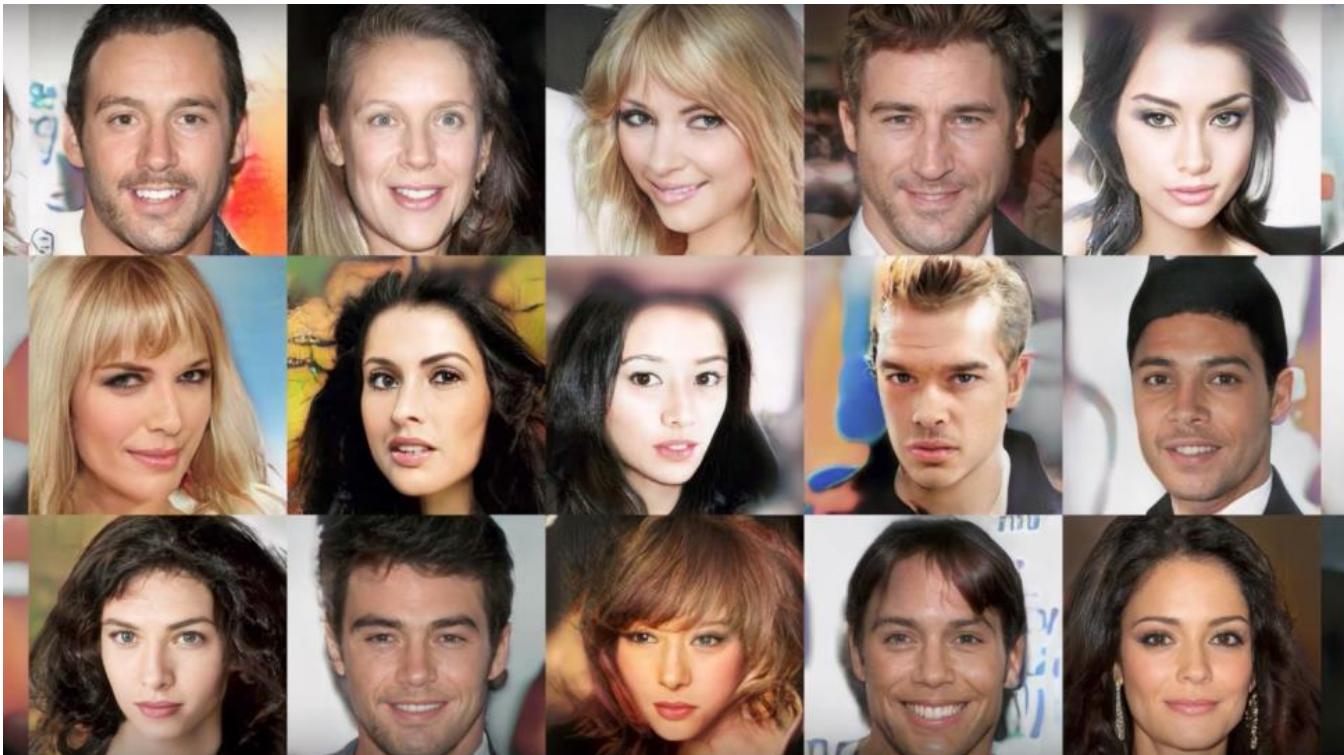
- *Human intelligence 2029*
- *1000 fold human intelligence 2045*
- Artificial General Intelligence

*“As a technologist, I see how AI and the fourth industrial revolution will impact every aspect of people’s lives.” — Fei-Fei Li*





# GAN



*How?*



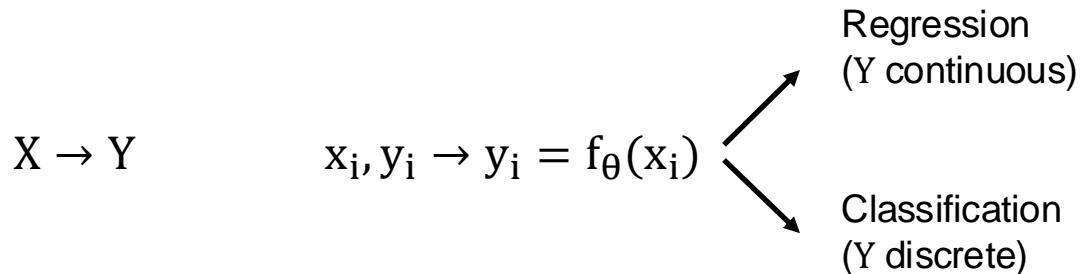
# Important terms in ML

- Model or hypothesis
- Model parameters, weights and biases
- Model architecture
- Training: pretraining, fine tuning and Pruning (optimization)
- Training data, validation, testing, labeled , labelless
- Type of training: supervised/unsupervised/self-supervised
- Overfitting/generalization
- Data bias
- Inductive bias
- Pruning, bagging, boosting, .....
- Regularization
- Bayesian NN
- Teacher, student, teacher forcing!



# Some useful terminology of ML

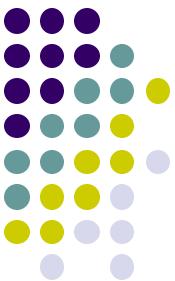
- Supervised Learning:



- Unsupervised Learning:

$X, X \rightarrow Z \rightarrow X$  Dimensionality Reduction

$P(X)$  Generative (learn PDF)



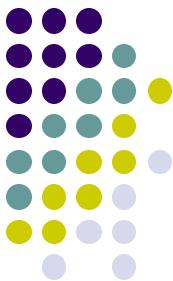
# Some useful terminology of ML

- Structured data: Tables, databases

*In Geoscience:* Well logs, production data, drilling data,...

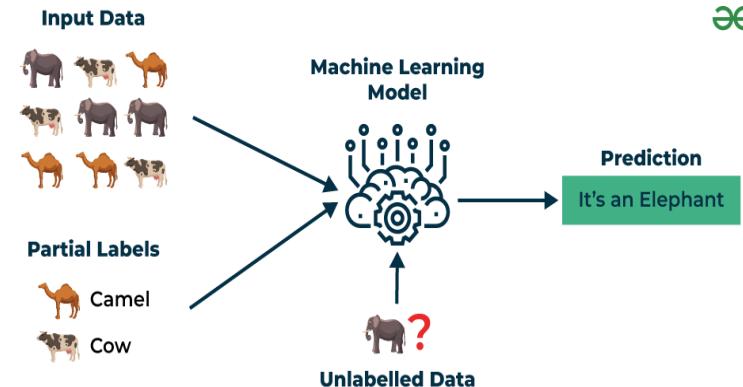
- Unstructured data: Images, audio, text

*In Geoscience:* Seismic data, Passive recordings, Gravity, EM, CT scans,...



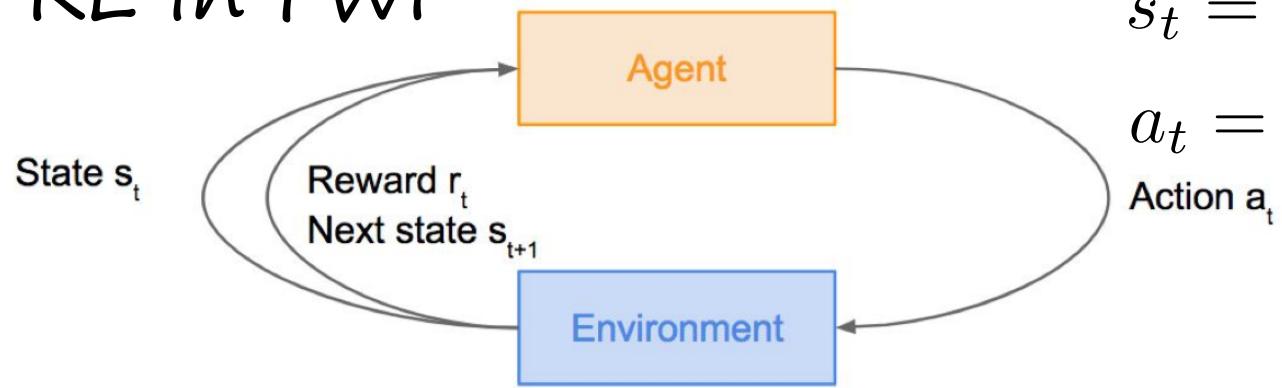
# The kinds of training

- **Supervised:** labels/answers are used, learn to interpolate and possibly extrapolate between  $X$  and  $Y$ , depending on the kind of label (regression, classification ....).
- **Unsupervised:** no labels, learn to characterize the input , extract features in the data → clustering, dimensionality reduction.
- **Semi-Supervised:** A mix
- **Self-supervised:** where the labels are the input  $X=Y$ , maybe masking.
- **Reinforcement learning (RL):** using a reward system to guide the prediction.  
Popular with self driving.
- **Data:** training, validation, testing.





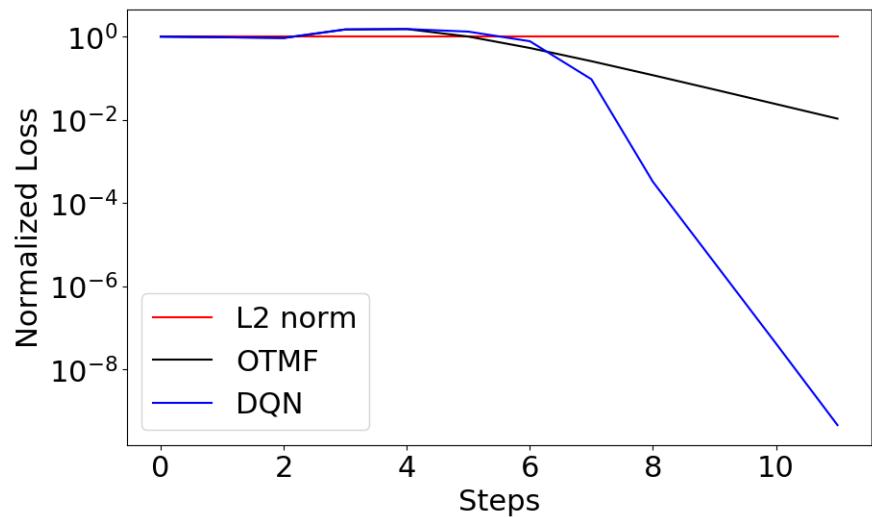
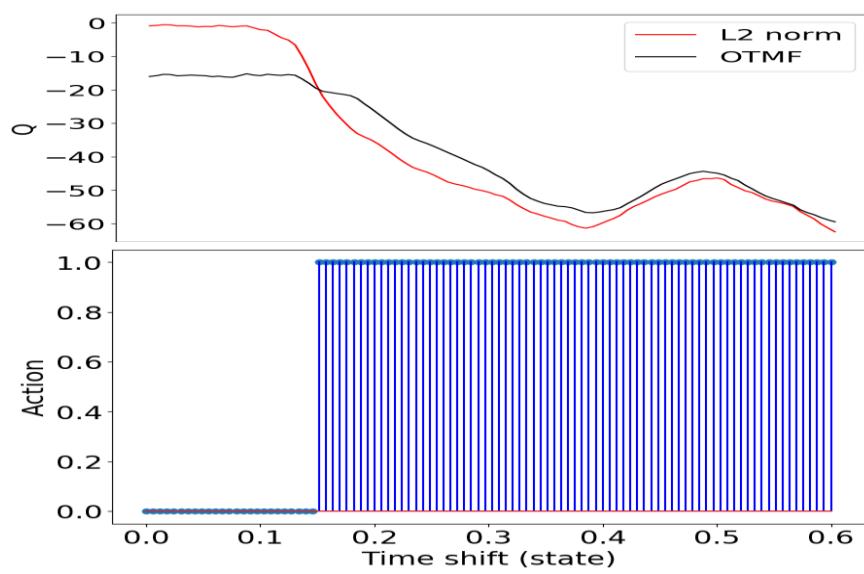
# RL in FWI



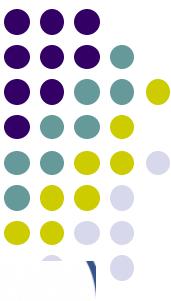
$$s_t = (p_t, d_t)$$

$$a_t = l_2 \quad \text{or} \quad \text{Action } a_t$$

OTMF

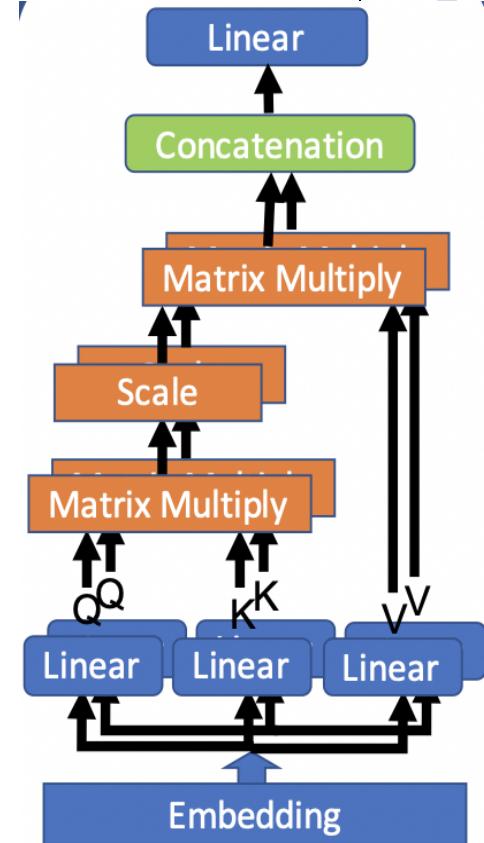


Sun, B., & Alkhalifah, T. (2020). A Data-Driven Choice of Misfit Function for FWI Using Reinforcement Learning. EAGE 2020 Annual Conference & Exhibition Online.  
doi:10.3997/2214-4609.202010203



# Neural network operations

- **Feed forward/MLP:** Good in developing functions.
- **Convolutional:** Learned convolution filters → channels, local feature extraction.
- **Attention mechanism:** A special correlation-based weighted summation of vector sequences. More global.
- In addition to: pooling, skip connections, residual connections, pointwise multiplication, concatenation.....



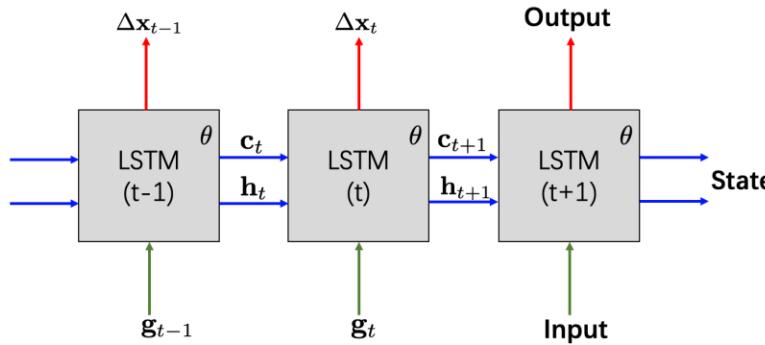
The attention  
mechanism



# Neural network architectures

- **Encoder-Decoder:** AE, VAE, a famous kind Unet.  
The key idea (the latent representation).
- **GANs (Decoder/Generator-Encoder/Discriminator):**  
A generative model.
- **Recurrent NN (RNN):** Carries hidden state  
information from the previous prediction. Good for  
sequences.
- **Transformers:** Very popular with sequences,  
ChatGPT
- **Mixed .....**

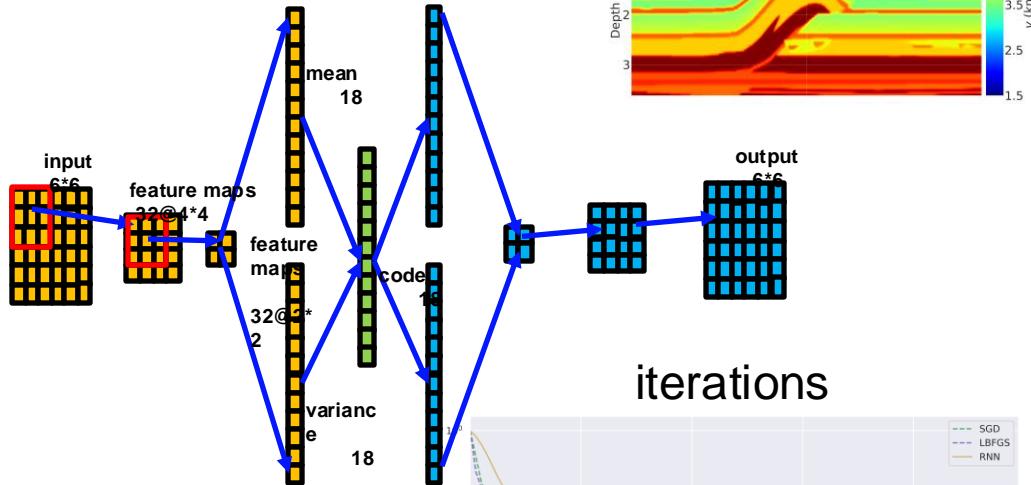
# LSTM for FWI update conditioning



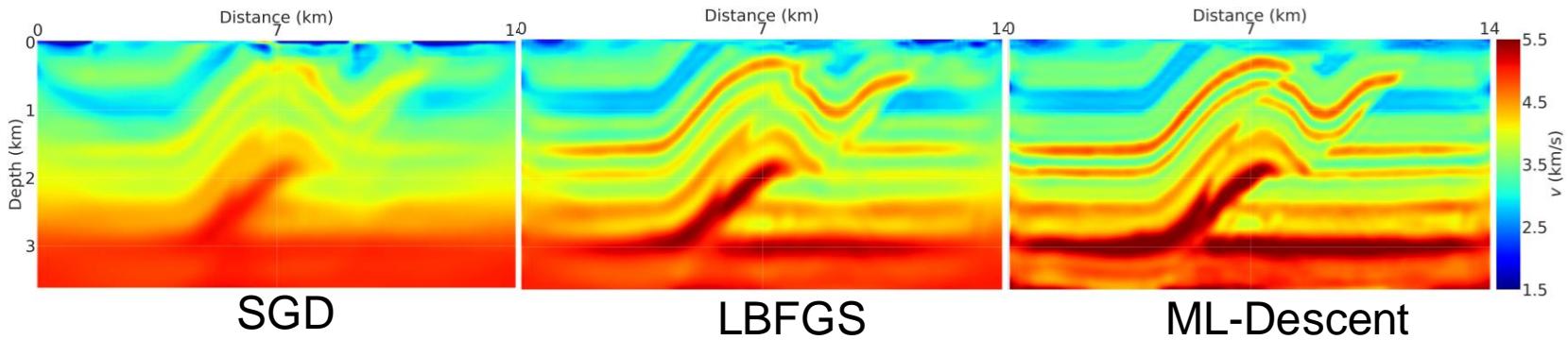
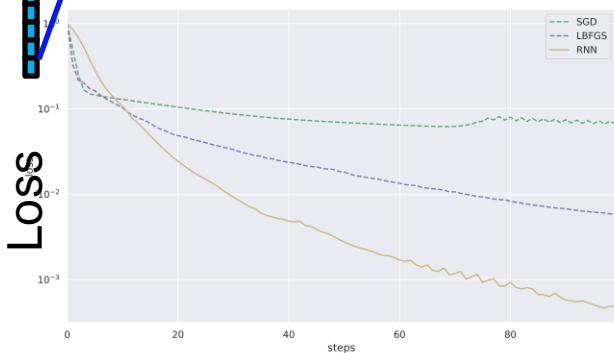
$$(\Delta \mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{c}_{t+1}, \mathbf{h}_{t+1}) = LSTM(\mathbf{g}_t, \mathbf{c}_t, \mathbf{h}_t; \theta)$$

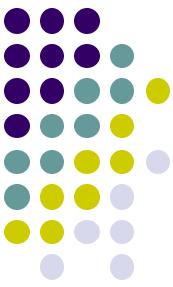
**h** Hidden variable  
**c** memory state variable

$\theta$  training parameters

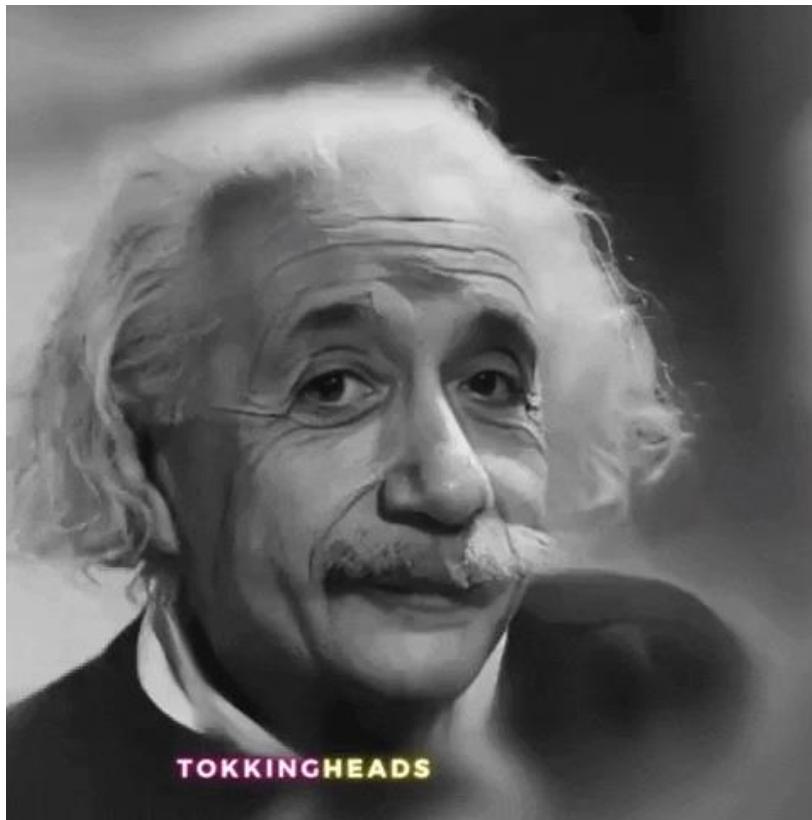


iterations





# Elbert Einstien





***Thank You***

30 17:50