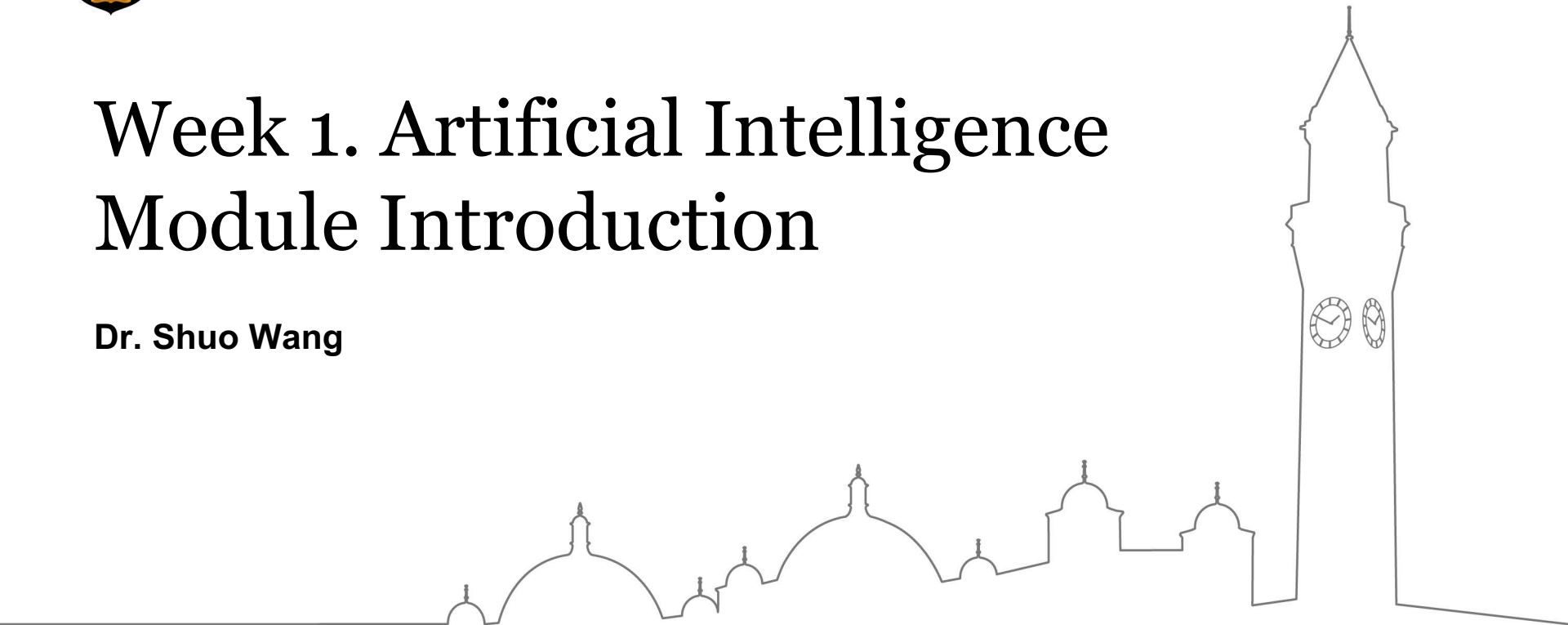




UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

# Week 1. Artificial Intelligence Module Introduction

**Dr. Shuo Wang**



# Module Objectives

- Demonstrate an understanding of traditional AI approaches
- Demonstrate an understanding of the core principles of Optimisation and Machine Learning
- Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between basic concepts of differentiation and techniques of AI
- Apply core principles of artificial intelligence to solve problems



# Lecture Overview

- Why AI?
- What exactly is AI?
- Module overview



# Super Recognizers



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

# Underground pipe leak detection



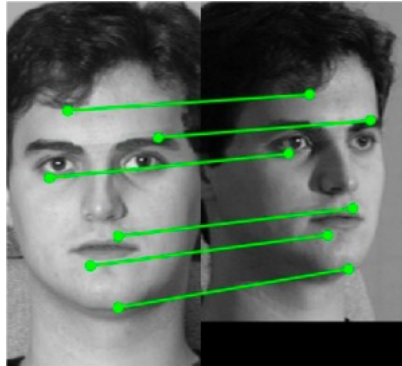
# So, why AI? Benefits?



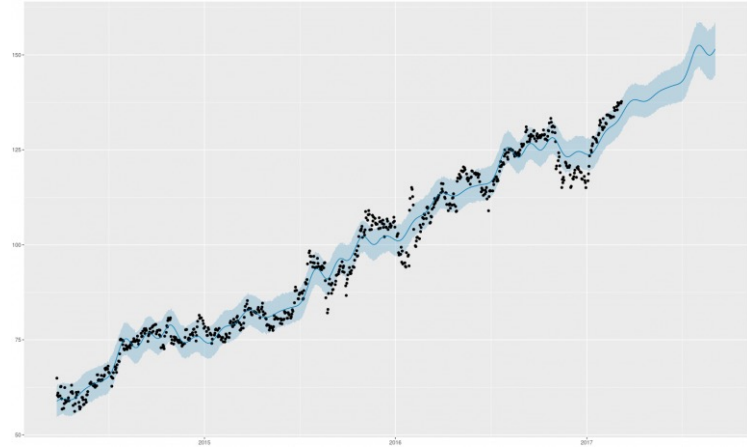
UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

# What Problems Can AI Solve?

- Face Recognition



# Machine Learning Problems



Financial time series forecasting



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM



# AI for Solving Machine Learning Problems

- AI can be used to **automatically create models** from data to perform certain tasks through machine learning.
- Typically **not guaranteed to find perfect models**, but may be able to find good models, depending on the difficulty of the problem and on the data available.
- Good for problems where models are necessary and it is difficult to create good models manually.
- Good for problems where there is no need for a perfect answer.



# What Problems Can AI Solve?

## Traveling Salesman Problem (TSP):

- Given  $N$  cities and the distances between each pair of cities, a salesman must travel passing through all the cities once and only once.
- Depending on the route the salesman takes, the travel distance can be longer or shorter.
- Problem: find a route that minimizes the travelling distance.



# Optimization Problems



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

## Bin Packing Problems

# AI for Solving Optimisation Problems

- AI can help us to solve optimisation problems in a **reasonable amount of time** through optimisation techniques
- Typically **not guaranteed to find optimal solutions in a reasonable amount of time**, but able to find good (near-optimal) solutions in a reasonable amount of time.
- Good for optimisation problems where it is not a requirement to guarantee that the optimal solutions are found.
- Good for optimisation problems where we cannot afford enumerating all possible solutions to guarantee that a perfect solution is found.
- Good for optimisation problems where no specific technique exists that guarantees that an optimal solution can be found quickly.



# Search Problems



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

# Logics

- Knowledge is represented in the form of logical statements.
- New knowledge can be inferred from existing statements.
- Problems can be solved based on such knowledge.

If it is raining outside, then it is wet outside.



# What is AI?

- Many different definitions
  - Think humanly
  - Act humanly
  - Think rationally
  - Act rationally



# What is AI?

- **Russell and Norvig's definition**, based on “act rationally”:
  - AI is the area of Computer Science which studies “rational agents”.
  - **Rational agents** are computer programs that perceive their environment and take actions that maximise their chances of achieving the best [expected] outcome.



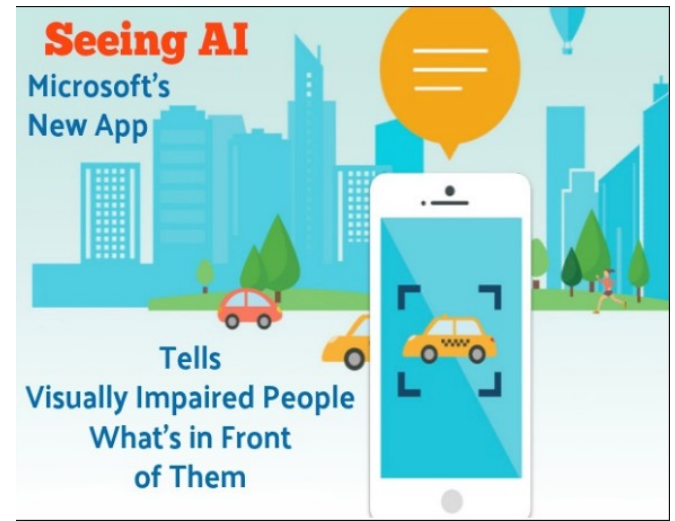


# AI in Real Life

- **Facebook** uses neural nets for their automatic tagging algorithms, **Google** for their photo search, **Amazon** for their product recommendations, **Pinterest** for their home feed personalization, and **Instagram** for their search infrastructure.



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM



# In this Module:

- You will get an [introduction](#) to different areas of Artificial Intelligence, including search / optimisation, and machine learning.
  - Artificial intelligence [algorithms / approaches](#) that can be used to create rational agents.
  - Examples of [real world problems](#) that can be solved using such algorithms.
  - Learn to solve real-world problems using [Java-based AI tool – Weka](#).
- This will give you a general idea of the area.
- It will help you to decide whether you wish to investigate any topic further.



# Module Organisation

[Teaching plan](#) (subject to changes) available in the “modules” tab on Canvas.

## Teaching on campus:

- 2h lecture on Friday (attendance strictly taken) + 1 tutorial (attendance not taken)
- Recording of on campus lecture and slides available after the lectures on Friday.
- Reading materials and quizzes on the fundamentals covered during the lectures to try after the lecture on Canvas.
- Tutorials for smaller groups are exercise classes with the TAs.

Content of Week  $x$  will be covered in Tutorial of Week  $x+1$ . So, we recommend you to study Week  $x$ 's materials before the Week  $x+1$ 's tutorials.



# Office Hours (Drop-ins)

- At least one office hour per day of the week by TA (from week2).
- You can attend any of the TAs drop-in hour.
- For lecturer office hours, please attend the office hours of the lecturer who led the content that you have questions about.
- Office and drop-in hours listed in Canvas, please use them.



# Module Lecturers - Edgbaston



Shuo Wang  
Weeks 1 – 3  
Topics: Introduction,  
ML (classification)



Sharu Jose  
Weeks 4, 5, 7  
Topics: ML(clustering),  
Weka



Leonardo Stella  
Weeks 8 – 10  
Topics: search and  
optimisation



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

# Microsoft Teams

- For [online Q&A](#) throughout the week.
- MS Teams enables the module team to help with answering questions, so that questions can be answered more quickly.
- MS Teams enables peer support — students are also welcome to answer each other's questions!
- There is an individual channel for each week.
- Please [do not send questions by email](#) unless you wish them to be confidential.



# Assessment

- Continuous Assessment (20% of marks)
  - 1 summative Canvas quizz, worth 10%  
It will be timed, but can be taken at any time between the release and due dates.  
Release week 4, due week 5.  
Deadline is strict.
  - One open problem solving task (using Weka), worth 10%.  
Given 2 weeks and submit your solution.  
Week 7-9
- Exam (80% of marks).





# Module Teaching Assistants

10 TAs for tutorials, drop-in sessions and Teams channels

They are:

- Efstratios Palias, Huanbo Lyu, Xi He, Qianrong Liu, Yi Miao, Xinxing Cheng, Naya Desai, Weijian Zhang, Shanshan Mao, Imane Basset



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM