

LLMs in Action: Developing a COM AI Player for an Interactive Tic-Tac-Toe Game using OpenAI Developer API

Lesson 1: Large Language Models

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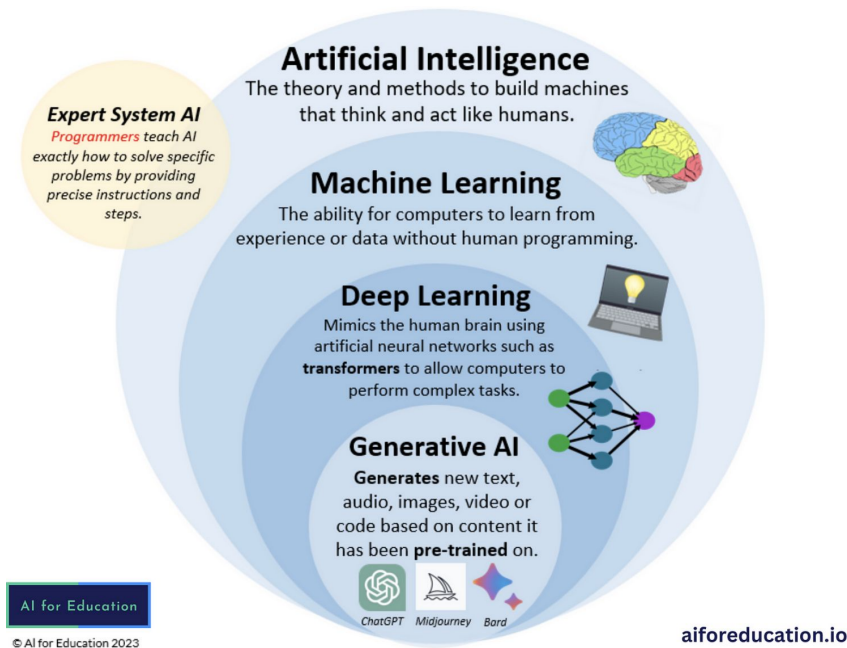
COM3550 Undergraduate Ambassadors Scheme
University of Sheffield

Overview

- **Motivation**
 - A Brief History of Artificial Intelligence (AI)
 - Machine Learning, Deep Learning and Generative AI
- **What are LLMs?**
 - How LLMs Work
 - Applications
 - Limitations
- **Aside: Careers in AI**

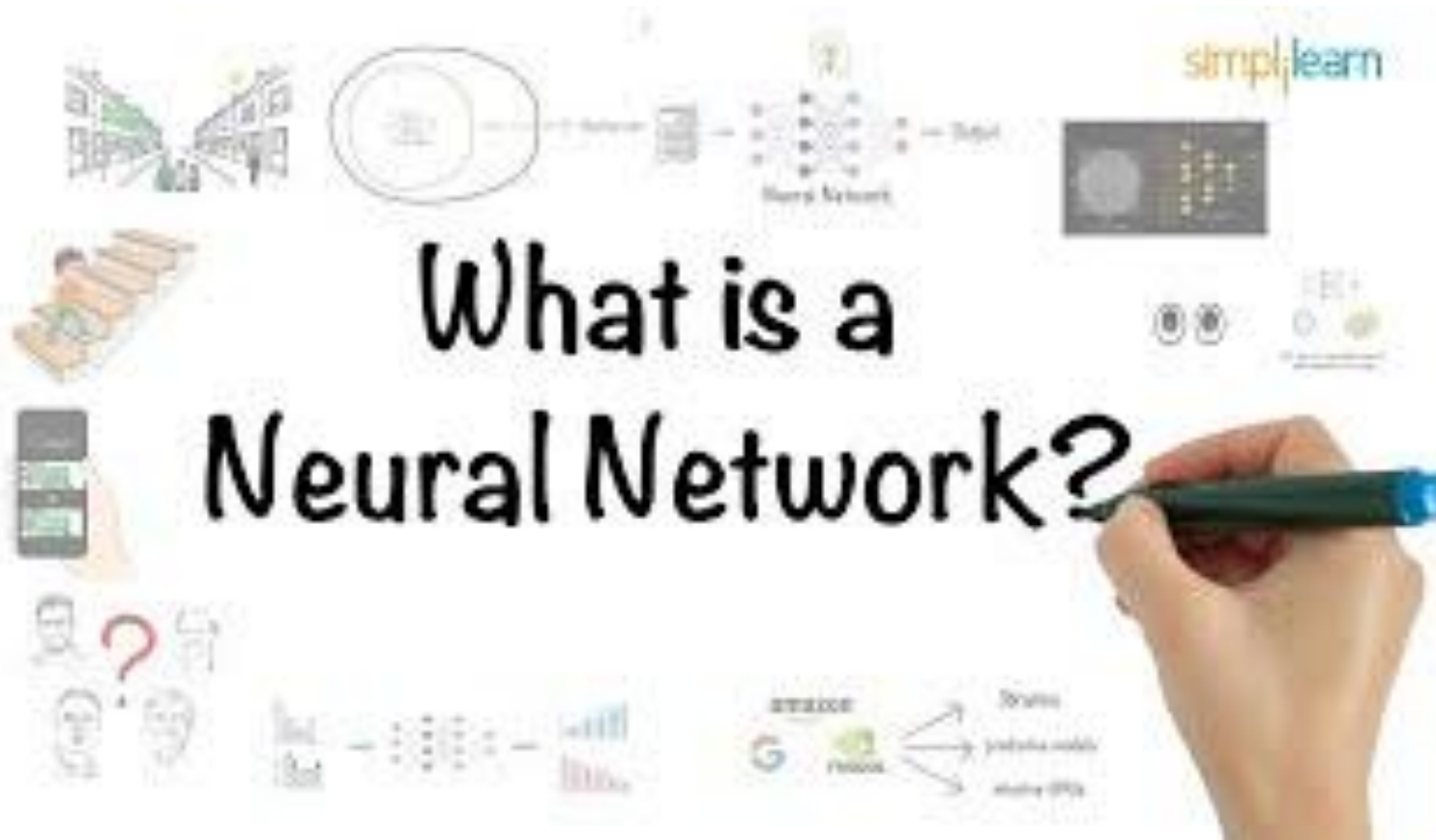
Motivation: A brief history in AI

The powerful language models we have today builds from decades of research in AI

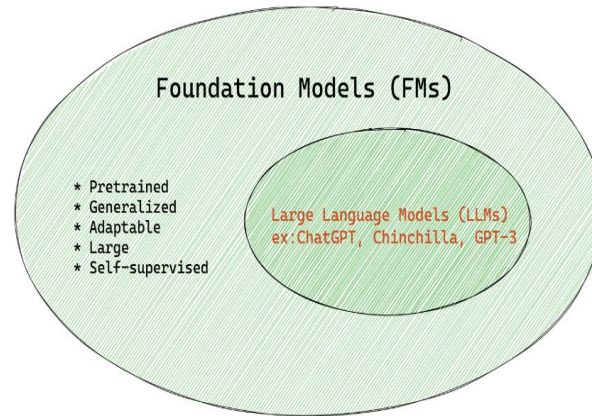


- **1950s:** 1950s - Alan Turing proposes the Turing Test, marking the birth of AI.
- **1960s-1970s:** **Rule-based systems** and **expert systems** emerge (e.g., ELIZA, DENDRAL).
- **1980s-2000s:** Introduction of early **machine learning** methods.
- **2010s:** **Deep learning** revolutionises AI with CNNs, transformers, etc
- **2020s:** Rise of **Generative AI** (LLMs, DALL·E, ChatGPT) and AGI research.

Video: Neural Networks



What are LLMs?



- LLMs are a subset of **Foundation Models (FM)**
 - Deep learning models **trained** on broad datasets
 - Used across multiple domains (text, vision, speech, etc.)
 - Based on the **transformer architecture**
 - Serve as a base for **fine-tuning** on specific tasks
- LLMs are designed specifically to understand and generate human-like text
- *“All llms are foundation models but not all foundation models are LLMs”*

Language modeling

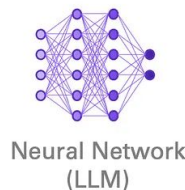
Imagine the following task: Predict the next word in a sequence

[The cat likes to sleep in the ____] → What **word** comes next?

Can we frame this as a ML problem? Yes, it's a **classification** task.

Now we have (say)
~50,000 classes (i.e.
words)

[The cat likes to sleep in the]
Input



Word	Probability
ability	0.002
bag	0.071
box	0.085
...	...
zebra	0.001

Output

Massive training data

We can create **vast amounts of sequences** for training a language model

● Context ● Next Word ● Ignored

[The cat likes to sleep in the]
[The cat likes to sleep in the]
[The cat likes to sleep in the]
[The cat likes to sleep in the]
[The cat likes to sleep in the]

We do the same with much **longer sequences**. For example:

A language model is a probability distribution over sequences of words. [...] Given any sequence of words, the model predicts the next ...

Or also with **code**:

```
def square(number):  
    """Calculates the square of a number."""  
    return number ** 2
```

And as a result - the model becomes incredibly good at **predicting the next word** in any sequence.

Natural language generation

After training: We can **generate text** by predicting **one word at a time**

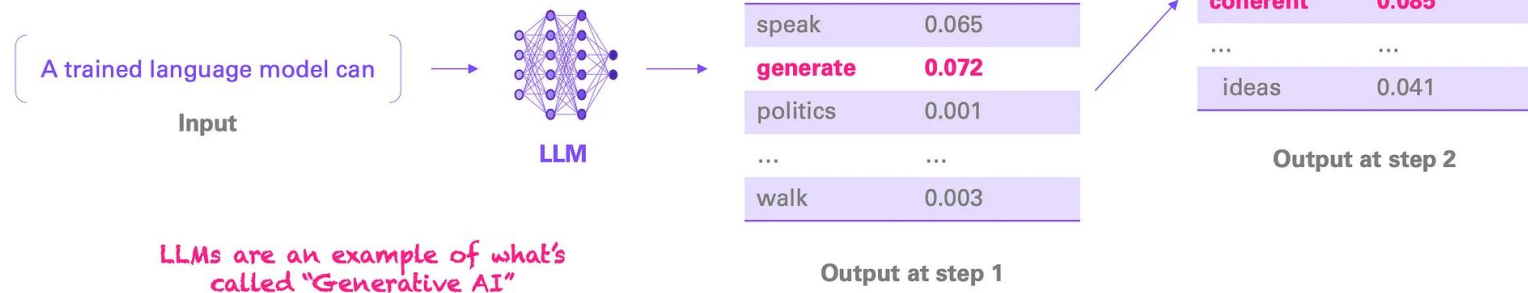






Image from: <https://medium.com/data-science-at-microsoft/how-large-language-models-work-91c362f5b78f>

Popular GenAI Models

Company	Popular Models
 OpenAI	GPT, Codex, DALL-E, Sora
 Google DeepMind	Gemini, BERT variants, Veo 2
 Meta	LLaMA
 deepseek	R1
ANTHROPIC	Claude

Video: Text-to-Video Model Comparison

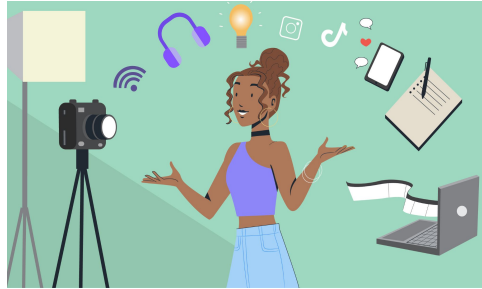
Veo 2 (Google) vs Sora (OpenAI)



Business Applications of LLMs



Customer Service



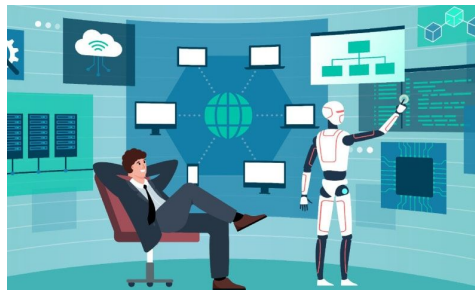
Content Creation



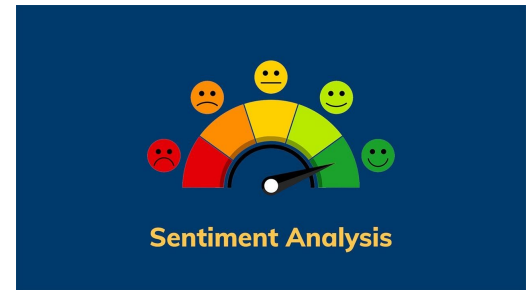
Software Development



Education



Data Analysis



Sentiment Analysis

Limitations of LLMs

- **Hallucinations**
 - May generate plausible but inaccurate information
- **Data bias**
 - May produce biased or stereotypical content
 - Often a product of datasets containing bias information
- **High computational costs**
 - Significant resources required for training and deployment
- **Ethical Implications**
 - Privacy concerns regarding data usage and storage
- **Data Security risks**
 - e.g “*DeepSeek data leak exposes 1 million sensitive records*” (Forbes, 2025)
 - Caused by misconfigured cloud storage instance lacking access control

Aside: Careers in Artificial Intelligence

Top AI Jobs in the UK (2025)

Career Path	Description	Average Salary
Machine Learning Engineer	Designs and develops algorithms enabling machines to learn from data.	£59,000
AI Engineer	Creates intelligent systems that perform human-like tasks.	£52,000
Computer Vision Engineer	Develops systems that interpret and process visual information.	£57,884
NLP Engineer	Builds systems allowing computers to understand and generate human language.	£53,000
Data Scientist	Analyzes large datasets to extract meaningful insights.	£51,761
Robotics Engineer	Designs and builds robotic systems.	£46,025
Deep Learning Engineer	Develops advanced neural networks for deep learning applications.	£58,000
AI Product Manager	Oversees development and management of AI-driven products.	£64,713
AI Consultant	Provides strategic advice on AI integration.	£50,000
Generative AI Engineer	Works on generative AI models, a rapidly emerging field.	£72,000

Data from: www.accesscreative.ac.uk, www.glassdoor.co.uk

Summary

- LLMs are foundation models trained on large datasets to generate human-like text.
- They use deep learning architectures like transformers for contextual understanding.
- During text generation, they predict the next word token-by-token based on learned probabilities.
- **Applications:**
 - Used in customer service, content creation, software development, education, and data analysis.
- **Limitations:**
 - Prone to hallucinations, data bias, high computational costs, ethical concerns, and security risks.

Questions?
