

# Introduction: History + Overview

LING 575K Deep Learning for NLP

Shane Steinert-Threlkeld

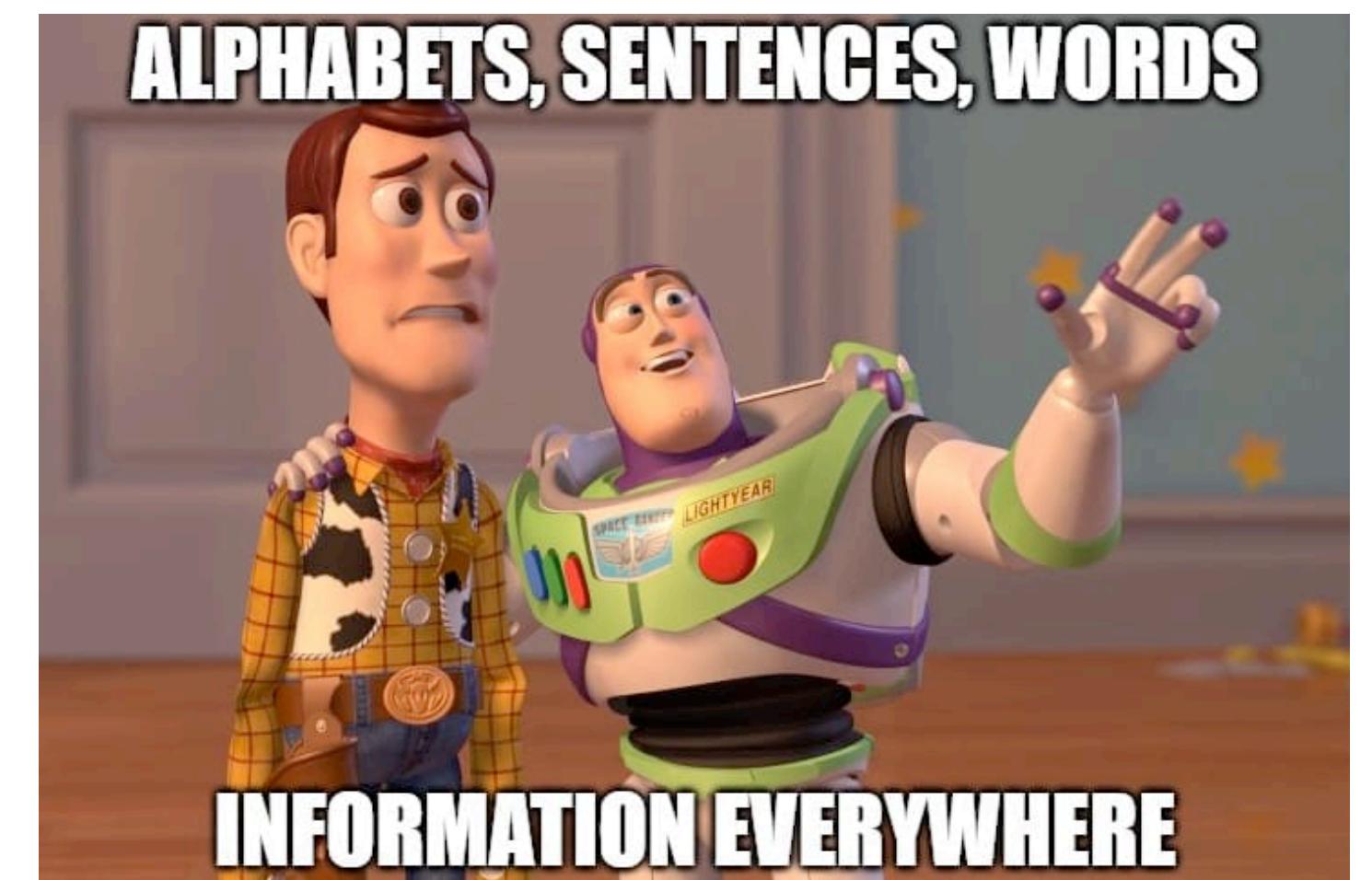
March 29 2021

# Today's Plan

- Brief general introduction
- Potted History of Deep Learning
- Potted History of Models in NLP
- Course information / logistics

# What is deep learning for NLP?

- Language is an amazingly flexible system for communicating complex information.
  - Novel expressions
  - Arbitrarily complex
  - Systematic generalization
- Prime example of a *symbolic system*
- How do we enable computers to understand and process language?
  - Traditional approach: by manipulating symbols

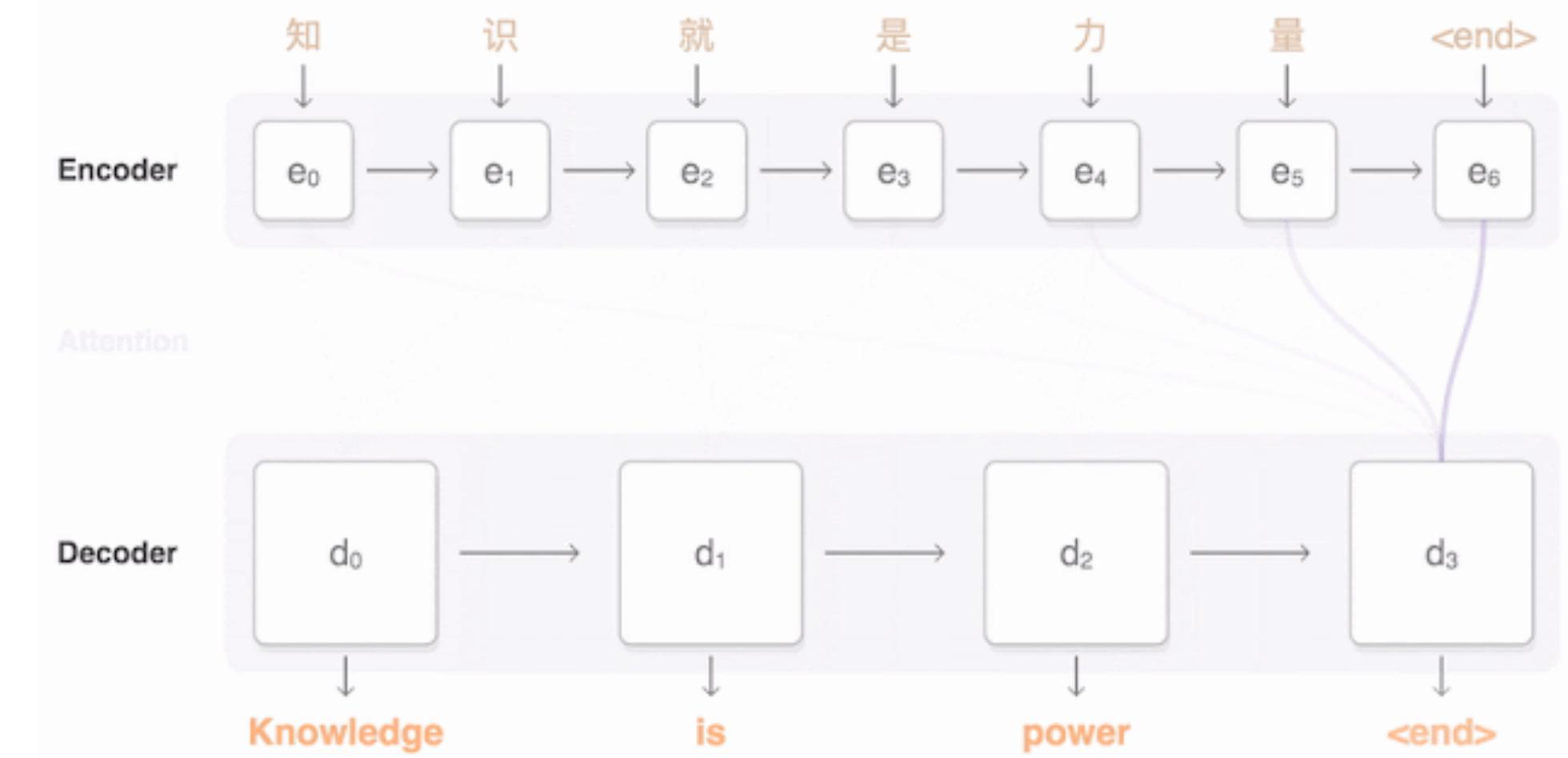
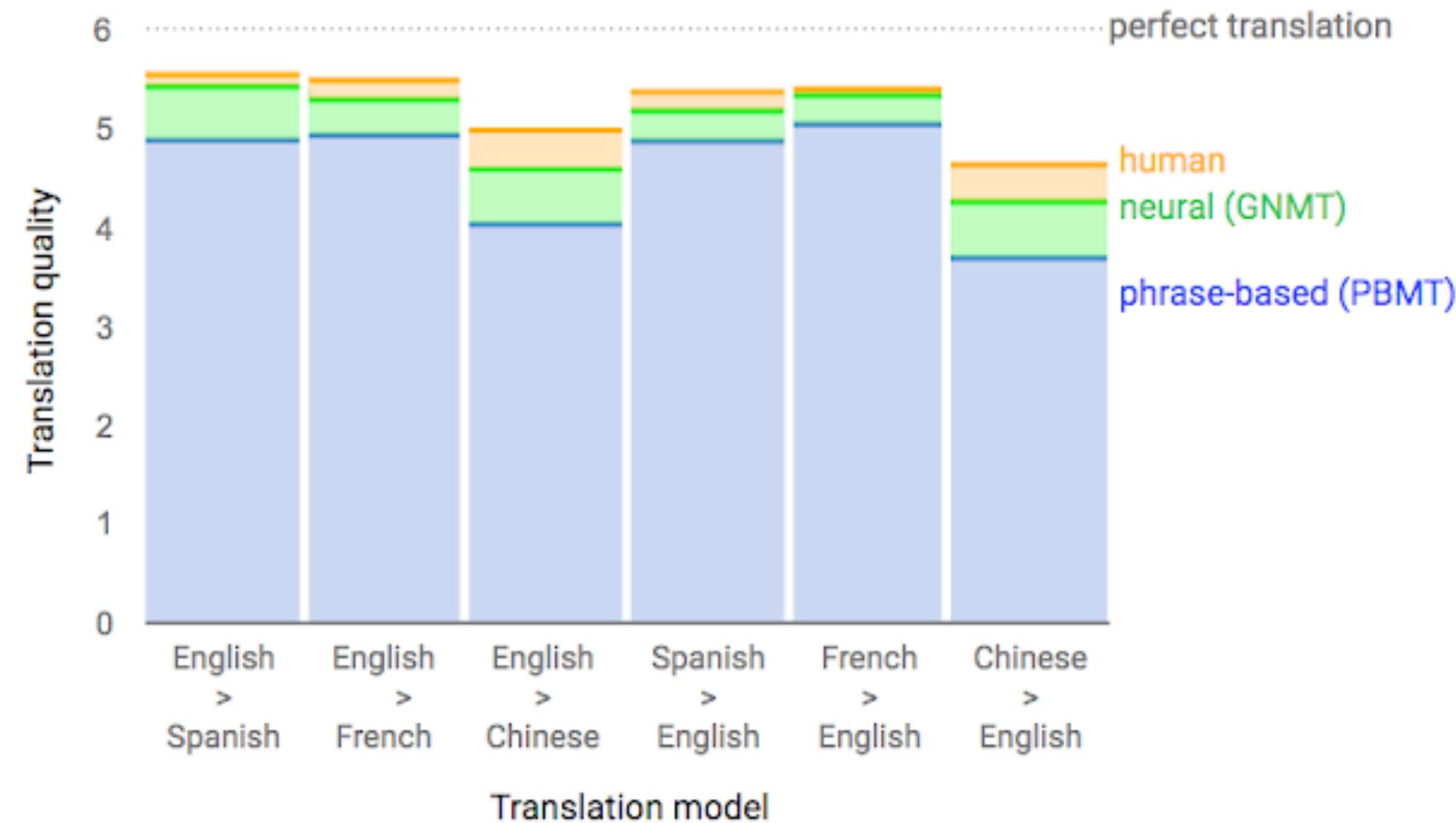


# What is deep learning for NLP?

- Application of neural networks specifically to language data and tasks
- Discrete symbols are replaced by *continuous vectors*
- Large models build “deep” (hopefully hierarchically structured) representations of text
- But: can they successfully mimic human language understanding?



# “Early” Success: Neural Machine Translation



when was the university of washington founded

X |

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About 219,000,000 results (1.10 seconds)

University of Washington / Founded

November 4, 1861



(The University building is on the hill in the center of the photograph.) On **November 4, 1861**, the Territorial University of Washington began classes in a building located on a site now occupied by the Olympic Hotel. The University was on the outskirts of the village of Seattle, which had a population of 250.

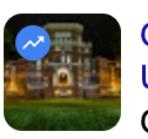
<https://www.lib.washington.edu> > exhibits > site > early

## I. The University of Washington's Early Years — UW Libraries

People also search for



Gonzaga University  
September 17, 1887



Oregon State University  
October 27, 1868, Oregon



Washington State University  
March 28, 1890

Feedback

People also ask

Who founded University of Washington?

## University of Washington

Public university in Seattle, Washington

The University of Washington is a public research university in Seattle, Washington. Founded in 1861, Washington is one of the oldest universities on the West Coast; it was established in downtown Seattle approximately a decade after the city's founding to aid its economic development. [Wikipedia](#)

Avg cost after aid	Graduation rate	Acceptance rate
\$12K	84%	52%

Graduation rate is for first-time, full-time undergraduate [more](#)  
Source: US Dept of Education · Learn more

**Undergraduate enrollment:** 30,905 (2018–19)

**Average annual in-state cost**

Before aid	After aid
\$28,394	\$12,001

Aid includes grants and scholarships from the institution, state, and federal government

Source: US Dept of Education (IPEDS) · Learn more

Dinner next week

Evan Brown, Maalika Patel

Dinner next week

Hey Evan and Maalika,

Haven't seen you in a while! Wanna grab dinner next week at my place? My address is 34 Smith Street, Somers, CT 06071.

Text Documents

DETECT LANGUAGE GERMAN ENGLISH SPANISH HEBREW GERMAN ENGLISH

The University of Washington was founded in 1861 in Seattle. × ☆ אוניברסיטת וושינגטון נוסדה בשנת 1861 בסיאטל.

60 / 5000

Send feedback

# What This Course Is and Is Not

- Provide a firm theoretical understanding of how to apply deep learning methods to natural language tasks
- From the ground up, progressing in complexity
- We will apply different kinds of models to interesting linguistic tasks, but this course is not simply:
  - How to use the latest libraries (though we will)
  - Full end-to-end application development
- By understanding the theory behind and building blocks of progressively complex systems, you will be able to:
  - Process new developments, diagnose / debug perplexing errors, understand why things work the way they do (in the good and the bad case)

# A Potted History of NNs

# The first artificial neural network: 1943

BULLETIN OF  
MATHEMATICAL BIOPHYSICS  
VOLUME 5, 1943

## A LOGICAL CALCULUS OF THE IDEAS IMMANENT IN NERVOUS ACTIVITY

WARREN S. McCULLOCH AND WALTER PITTS

FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, COLLEGE OF MEDICINE,  
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AT THE ILLINOIS NEUROPSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTE,  
AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



# Turing Award: 2018

The screenshot shows the official website for the ACM A.M. Turing Award. At the top left is the ACM logo. To its right is a large image of a man's face with the text "A.M. TURING AWARD". Below this are two rows of small portrait photos of previous Turing award winners. A navigation bar at the top includes links for "MORE ACM AWARDS", "HOME", "SEARCH", "A.M. TURING AWARD WINNERS BY...", "ALPHABETICAL LISTING", "YEAR OF THE AWARD", and "RESEARCH SUBJECT". The main content area features a blue banner announcing "GEOFFREY HINTON AND YANN LECUN TO DELIVER TURING LECTURE AT FCRC 2019" on "June 23, 5:15 - 6:30 P.M., Symphony Hall". Below this, there are three columns: one for "Yoshua Bengio" (with a photo), one for "Geoffrey E Hinton" (with a photo), and one for "Yann LeCun" (with a photo). The rightmost column contains the announcement text and a link to "View the Livestream". The bottom section provides a detailed description of the recipients' contributions to deep learning.

**GEOFFREY HINTON AND YANN LECUN TO DELIVER TURING LECTURE AT FCRC 2019**  
June 23, 5:15 - 6:30 P.M., Symphony Hall

We are pleased to announce that Geoffrey Hinton and Yann LeCun will deliver the Turing Lecture at FCRC 2019. Hinton's talk, "The Deep Learning Revolution," and LeCun's talk, "The Deep Learning Revolution: The Sequel," will be presented June 23rd from 5:15-6:30pm in Symphony Hall, Phoenix, Arizona.

No registration or tickets necessary to attend.

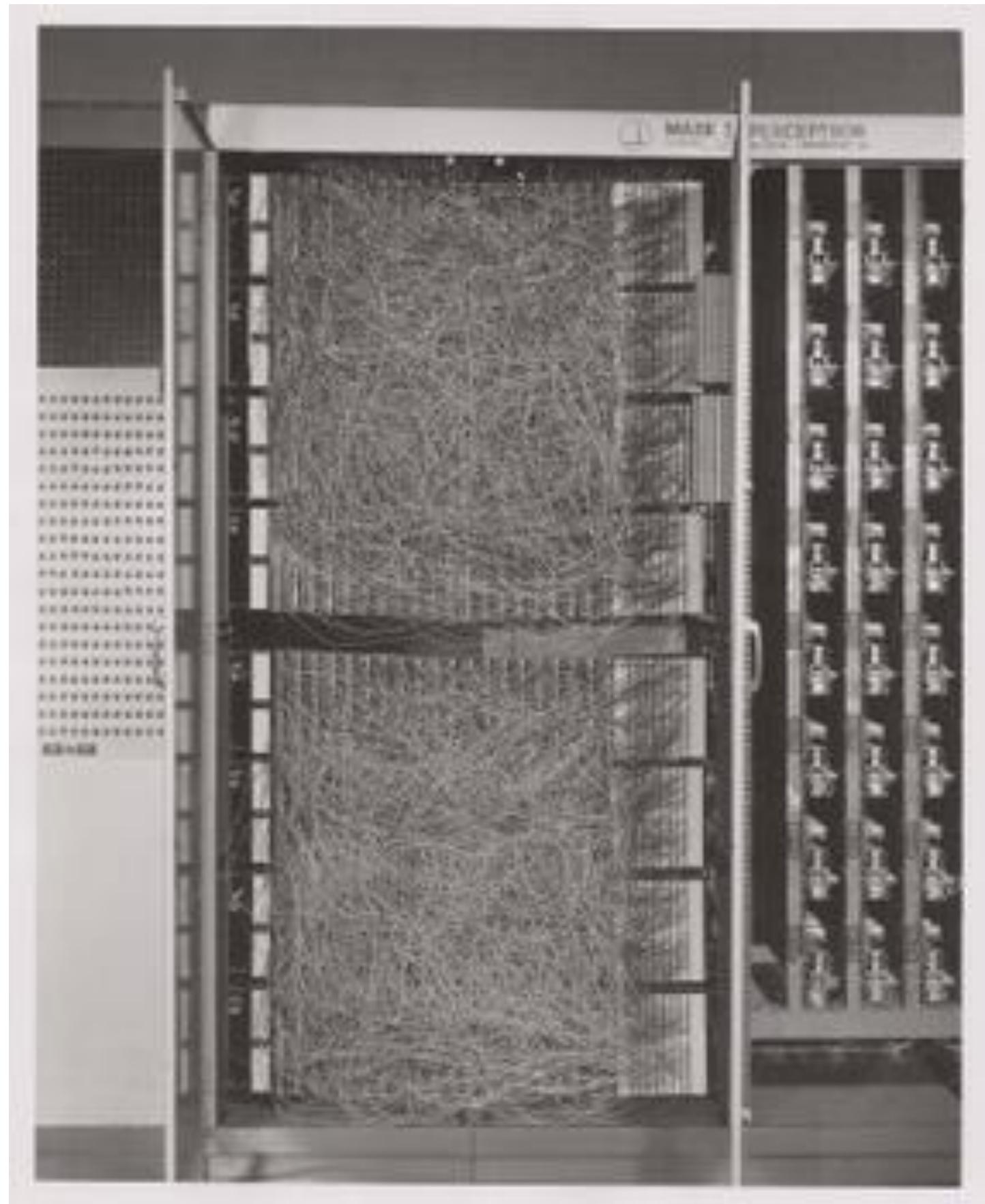
*[View the Livestream](#)*

**FATHERS OF THE DEEP LEARNING REVOLUTION RECEIVE ACM A.M. TURING AWARD**  
Bengio, Hinton, and LeCun Ushered in Major Breakthroughs in Artificial Intelligence

ACM named [Yoshua Bengio](#), [Geoffrey Hinton](#), and [Yann LeCun](#) recipients of the 2018 ACM A.M. Turing Award for conceptual and engineering breakthroughs that have made deep neural networks a critical component of computing. Bengio is Professor at the University of Montreal and Scientific Director at Mila, Quebec's Artificial Intelligence Institute; Hinton is VP and Engineering Fellow of Google, Chief Scientific Adviser of The Vector Institute, and University Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto; and LeCun is Professor at New York University and VP and Chief AI Scientist at Facebook.

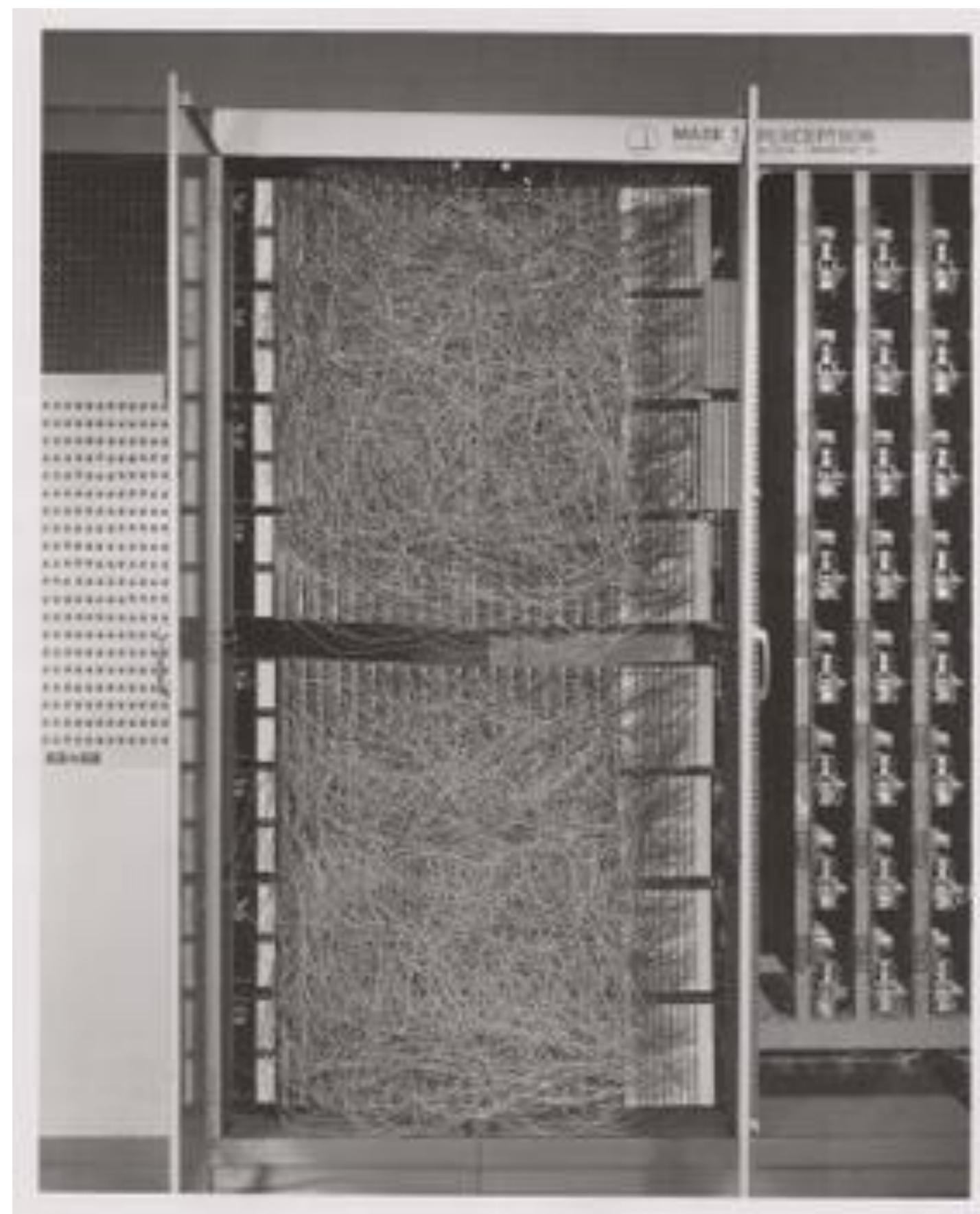
Working independently and together, Hinton, LeCun and Bengio developed conceptual foundations for the field, identified surprising phenomena through experiments, and contributed engineering advances that demonstrated the practical advantages of deep neural networks. In recent years, deep learning methods have been

# Perceptron (1958)



[source](#)

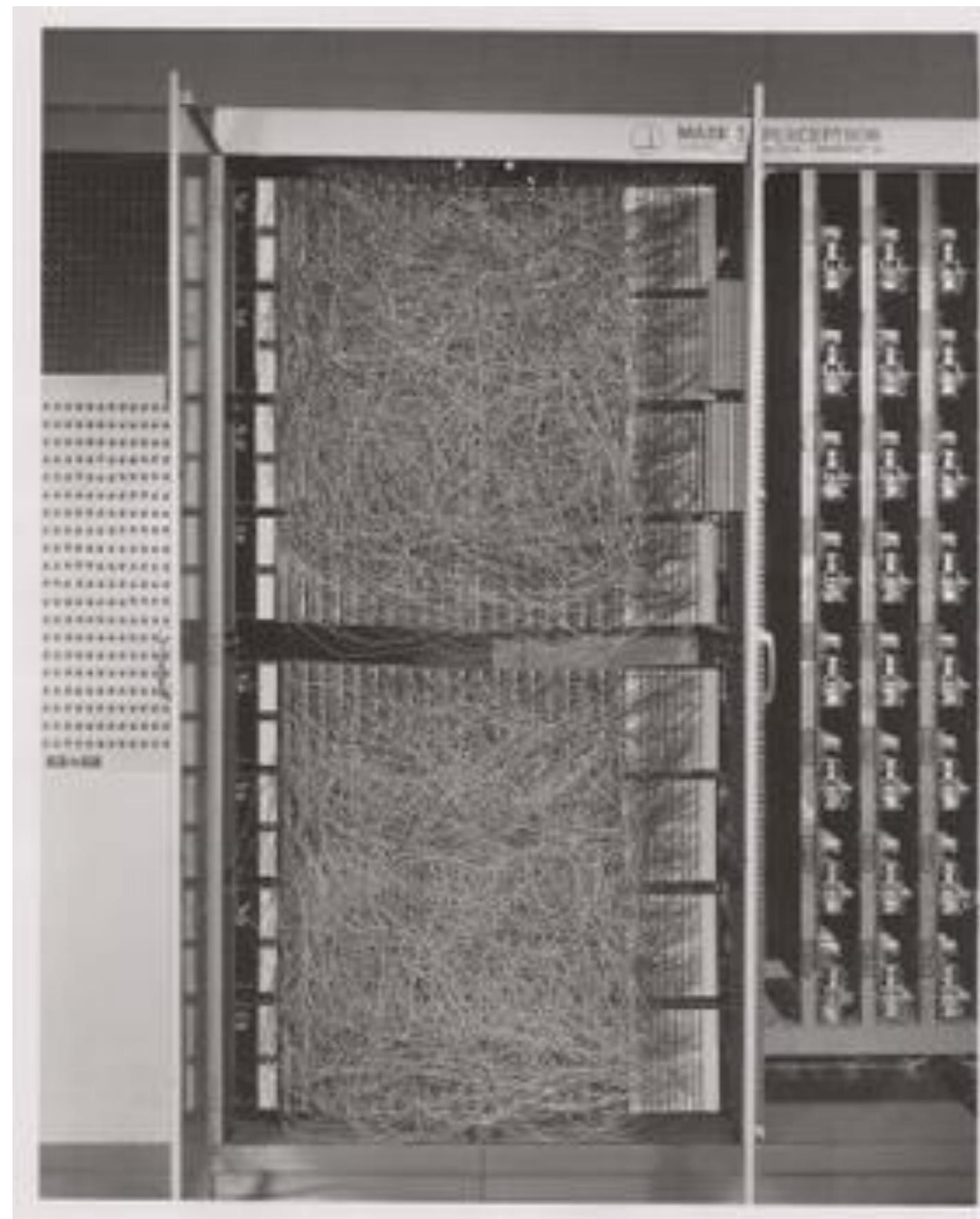
# Perceptron (1958)



[source](#)

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{x} + b > 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# Perceptron (1958)



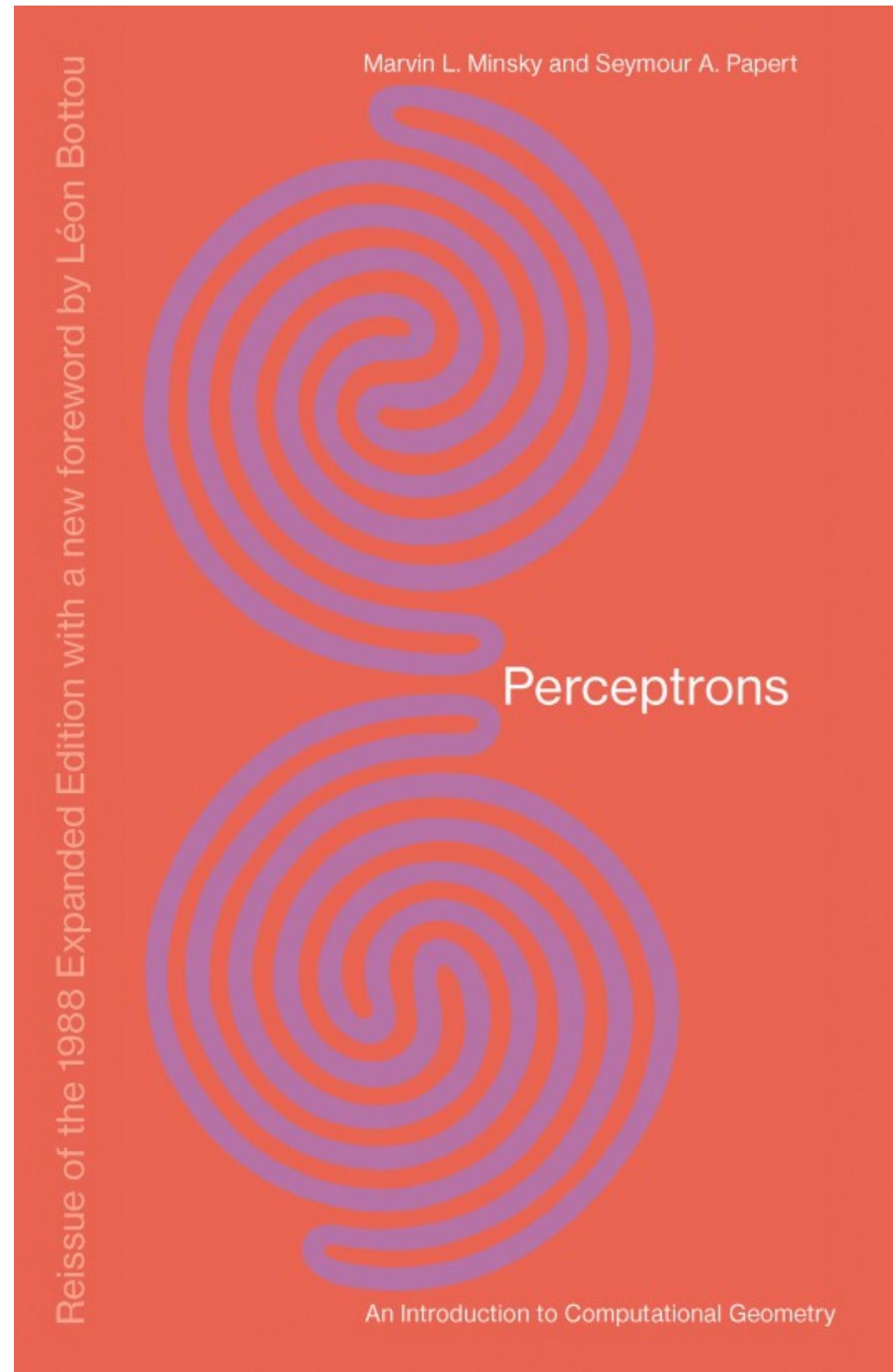
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“the embryo of an electronic computer that [the Navy] expects will be able to walk, talk, see, write, reproduce itself and be conscious of its existence.”

—New York Times

[source](#)

# Perceptrons (1969)



- Limitative results on functions computable by the basic perceptron
- Famous example (we'll return to it later):
  - Exclusive disjunction (XOR) is not computable
  - Other examples that are uncomputable assuming *local connectivity*

# AI Winter

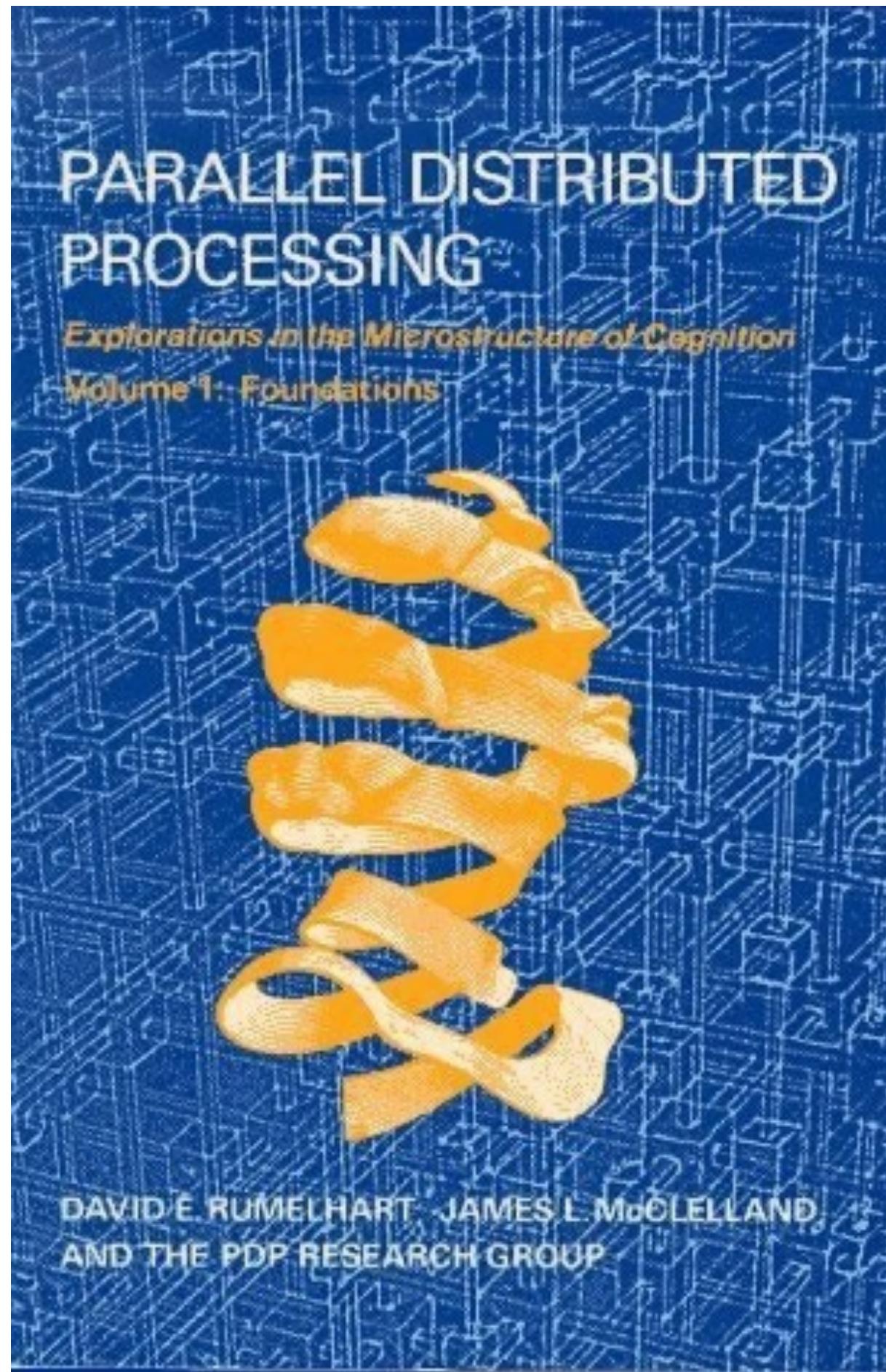
# AI Winter

- Reaction to the results:
  - The approach of learning perceptrons for data cannot deliver on the promises
  - Funding from e.g. government agencies dried up significantly
  - Community lost interest in the approach

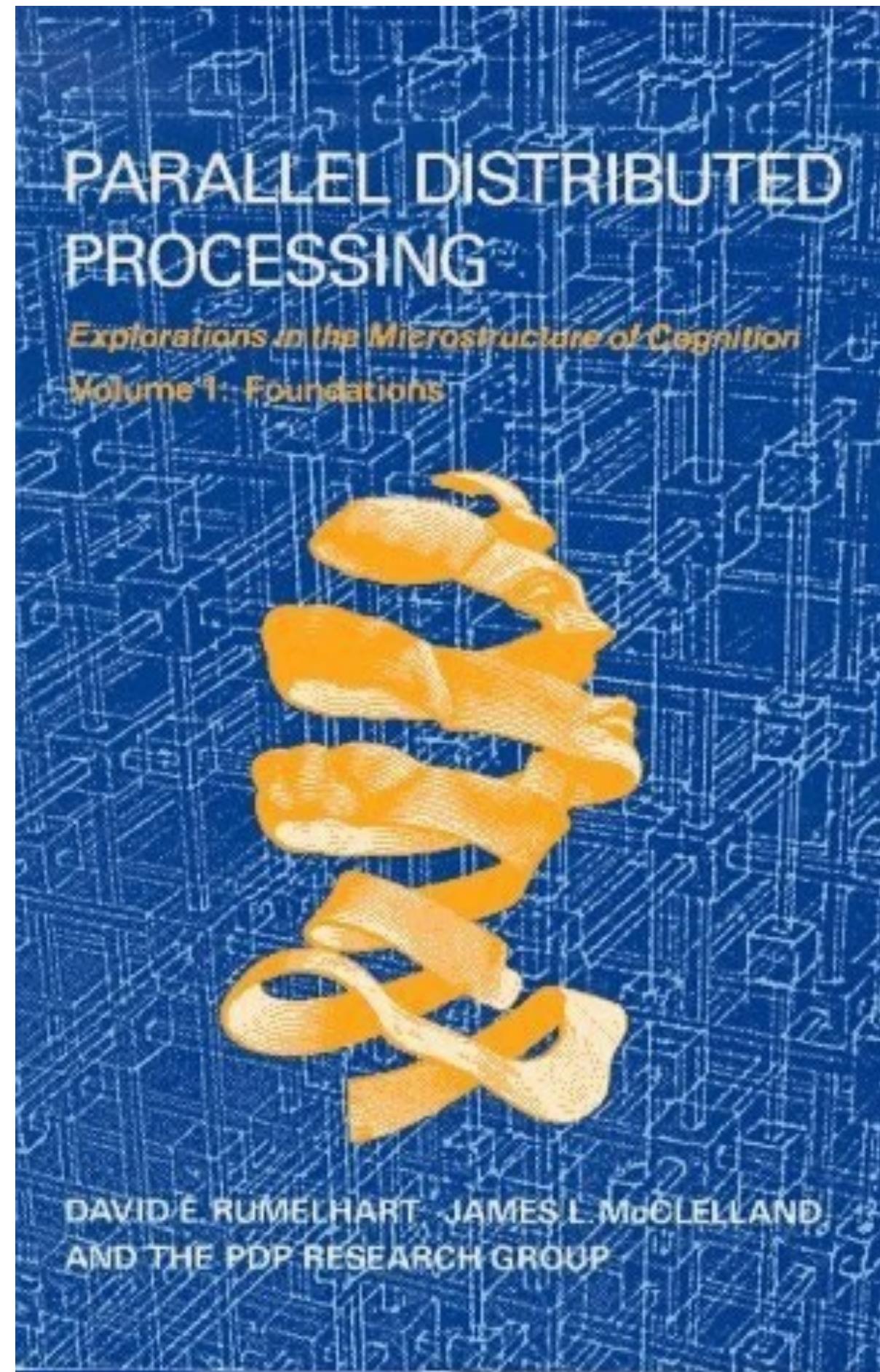
# AI Winter

- Reaction to the results:
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  - Community lost interest in the approach
- Very unfortunate:
  - Already known from McCulloch and Pitts that any boolean function can be computed by “deeper” networks of perceptrons
  - Negative consequences of the results were significantly over-blown

# Deeper Backpropagation (1986)

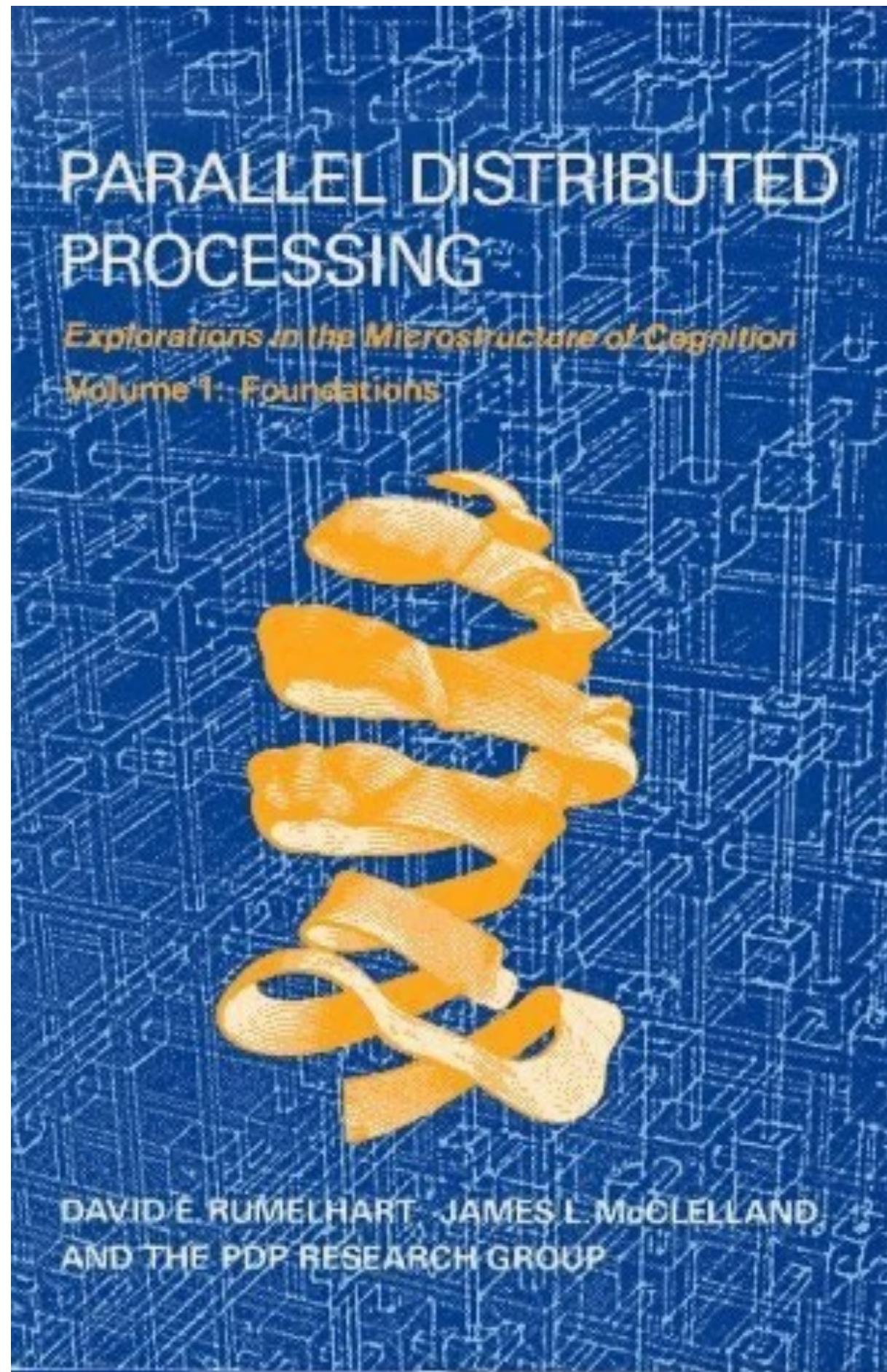


# Deeper Backpropagation (1986)



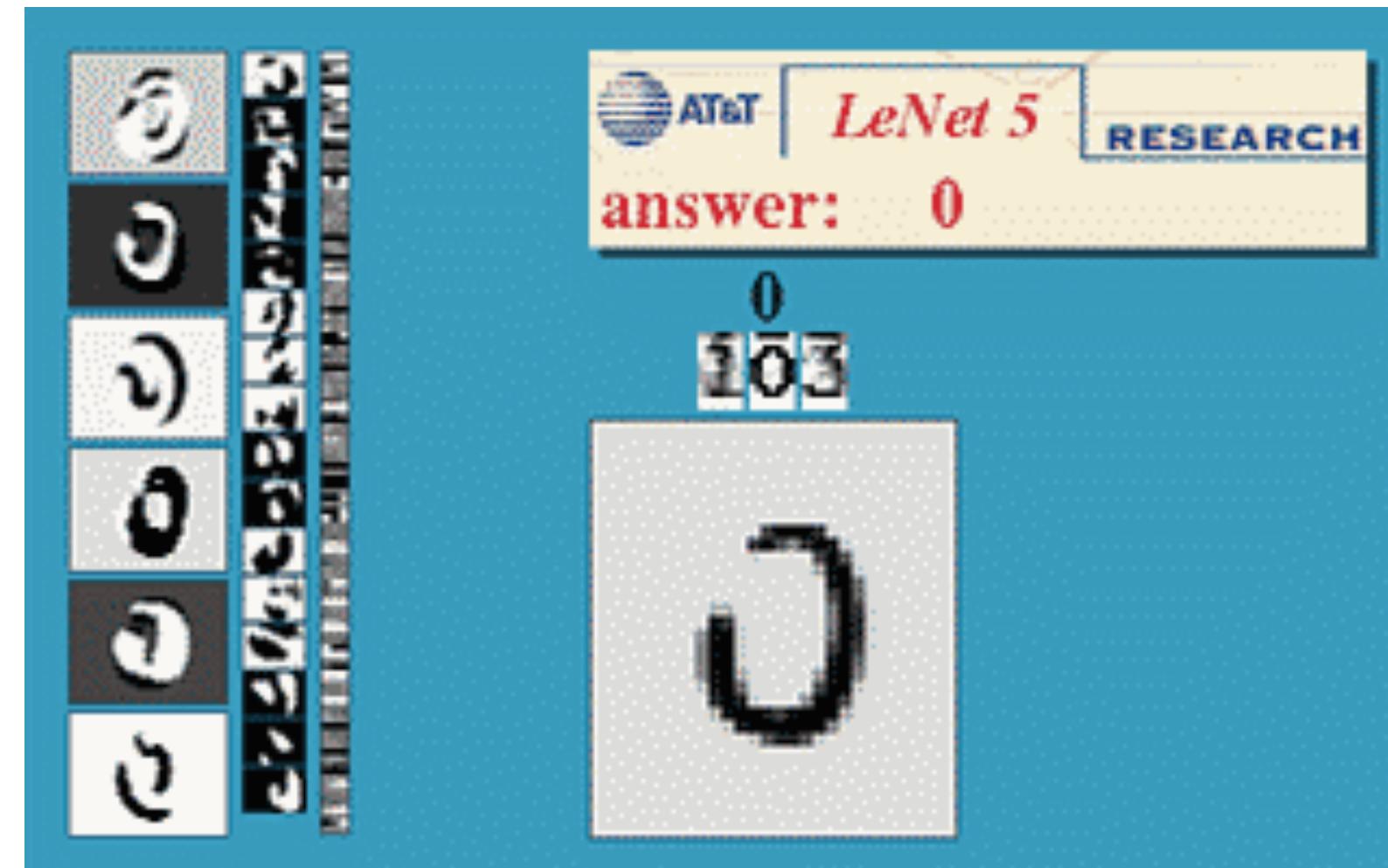
- Multi-layer networks, trained by backpropagation, applied to cognitive tasks

# Deeper Backpropagation (1986)



- Multi-layer networks, trained by backpropagation, applied to cognitive tasks
- “Efficient applications of the chain rule based on dynamic programming began to appear in the 1960s and 1970s, mostly for control applications (Kelley, 1960; Bryson and Denham, 1961; Dreyfus, 1962; Bryson and Ho, 1969; Dreyfus, 1973) .... The idea was finally developed in practice after being independently rediscovered in different ways (LeCun, 1985; Parker, 1985; Rumelhart et al., 1986a). The book *Parallel Distributed Processing* presented the results of some of the first successful experiments with back-propagation in a chapter (Rumelhart et al., 1986b) that contributed greatly to the popularization of back-propagation and initiated a very active period of research in multilayer neural networks.”

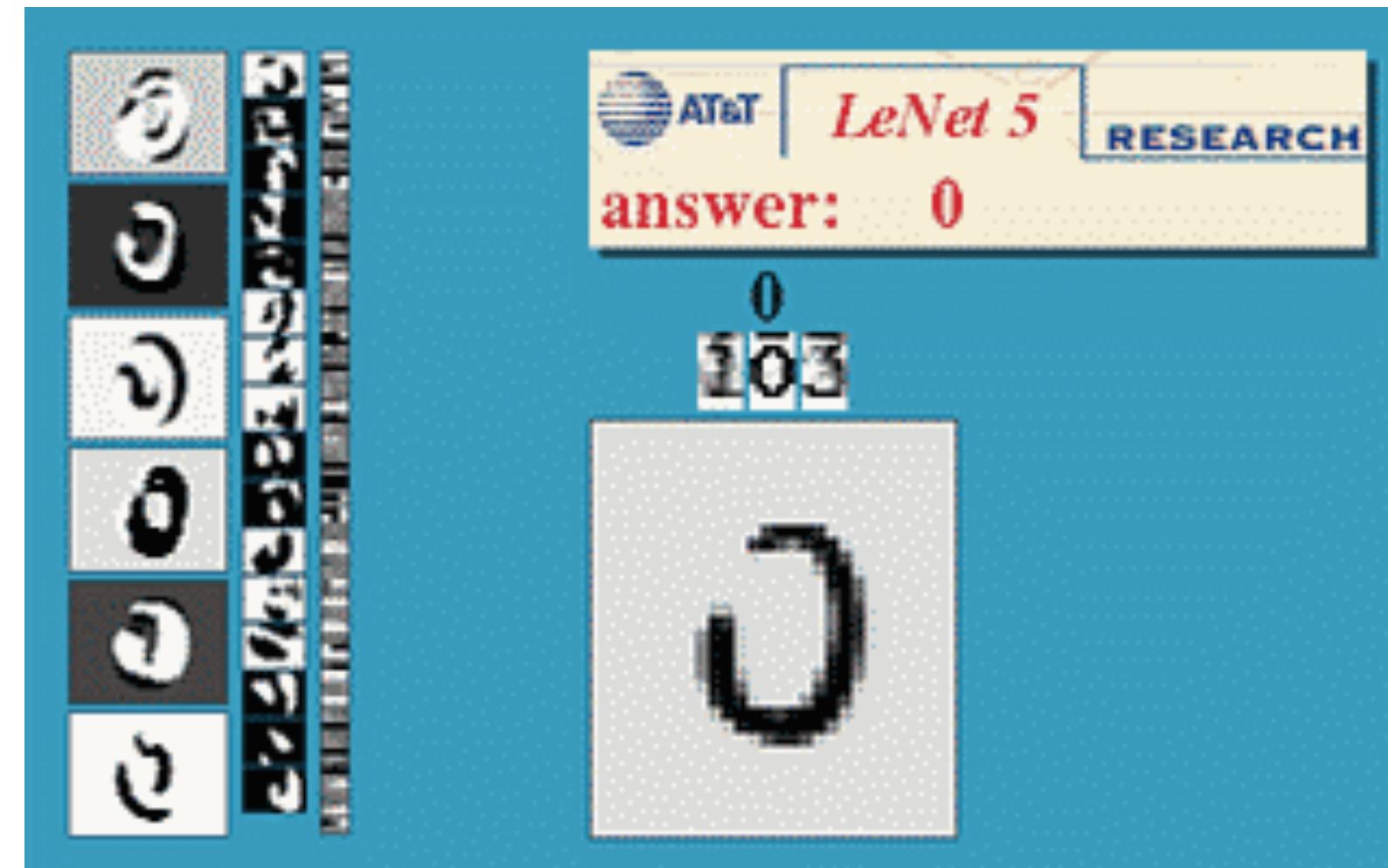
# Successful Engineering Application (1989)



[original website](#)

- *Convolutional* networks (“LeNet”, after Yann LeCun) applied to recognizing hand-written digits
- MNIST dataset
- Still useful for setting up pipelines, testing simple baselines, etc.
- Deployed for automatic reading of mailing addresses, check amounts, etc.

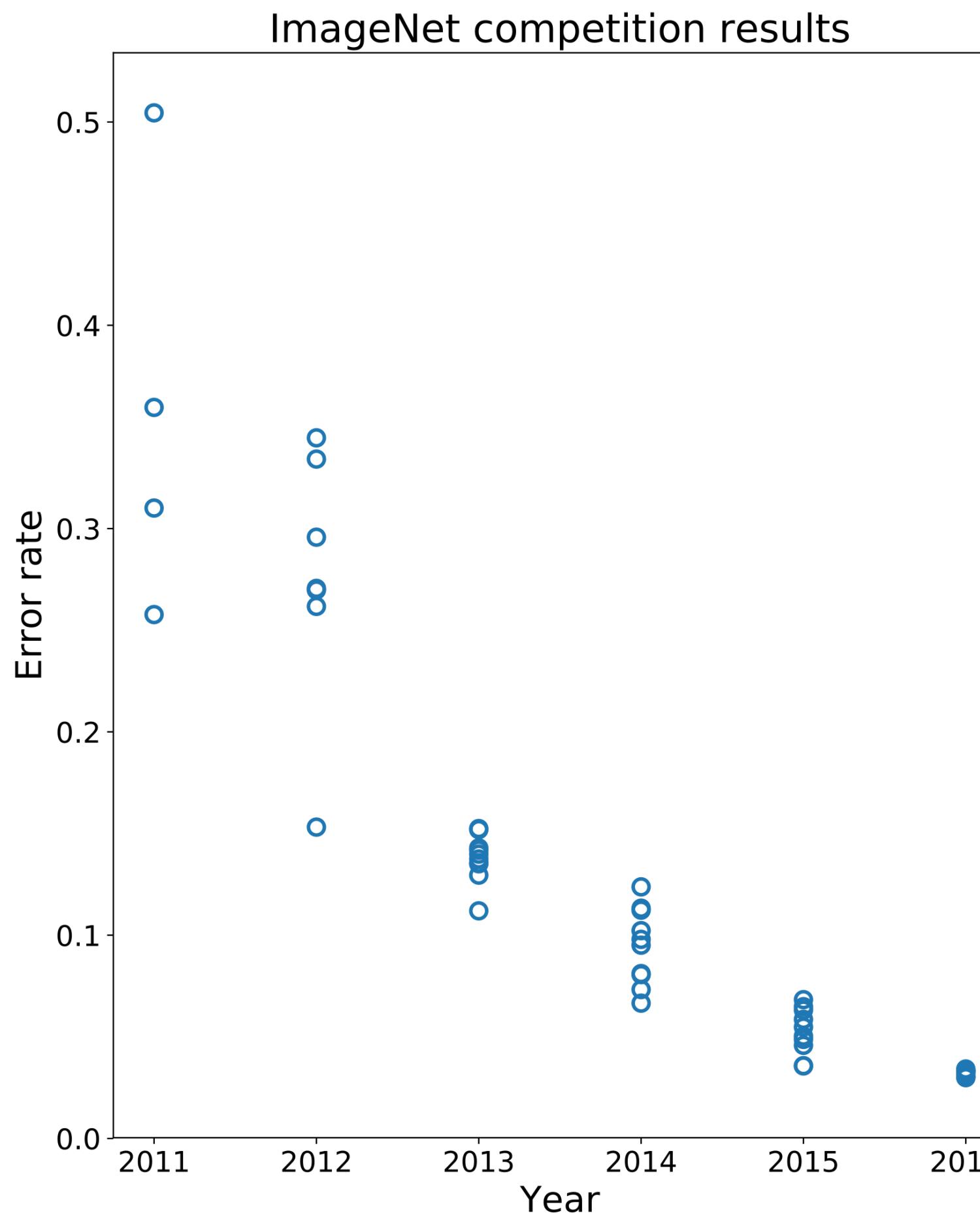
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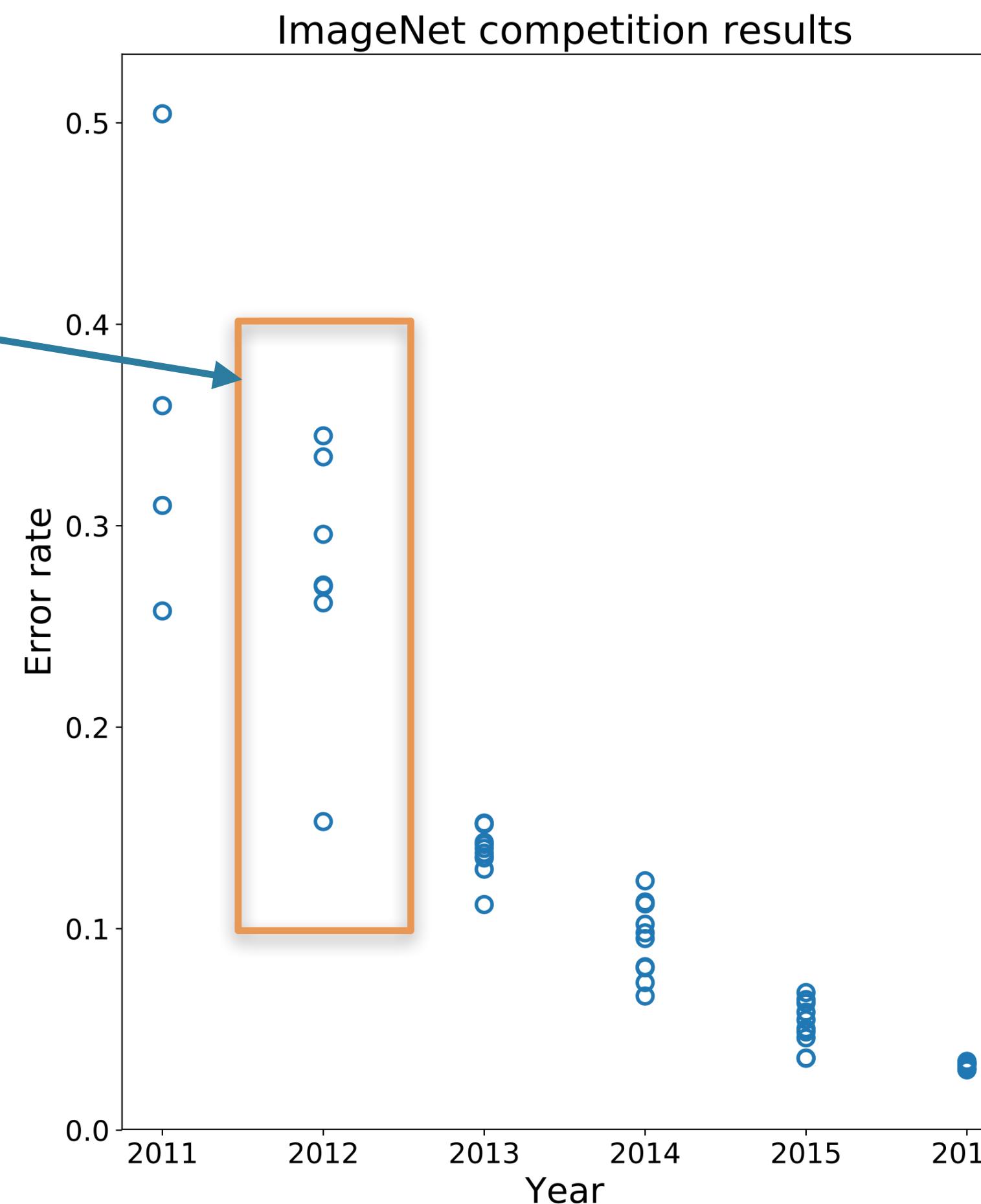
# ImageNet (ILSVRC) results (2012)



[source](#)

# ImageNet (ILSVRC) results (2012)

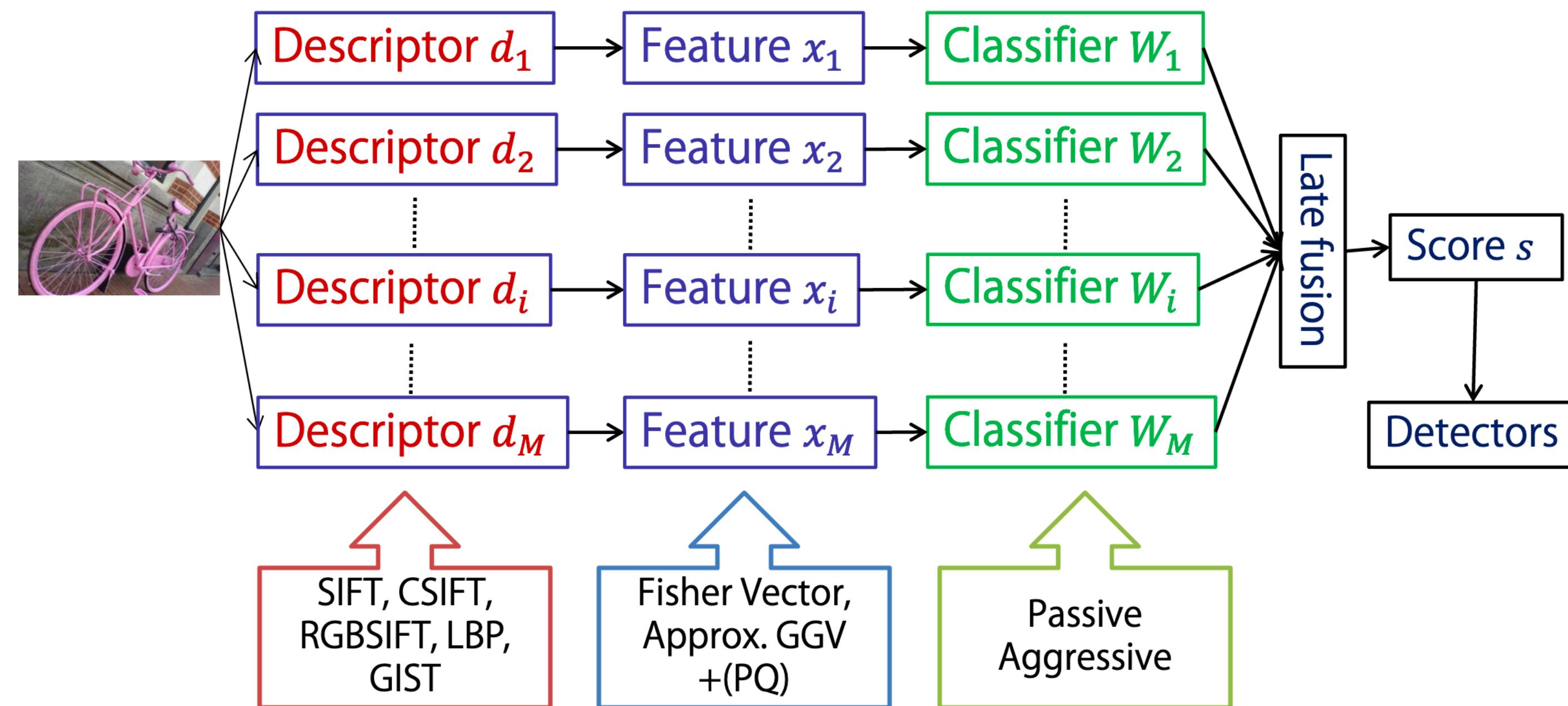
What happened in 2012?



[source](#)

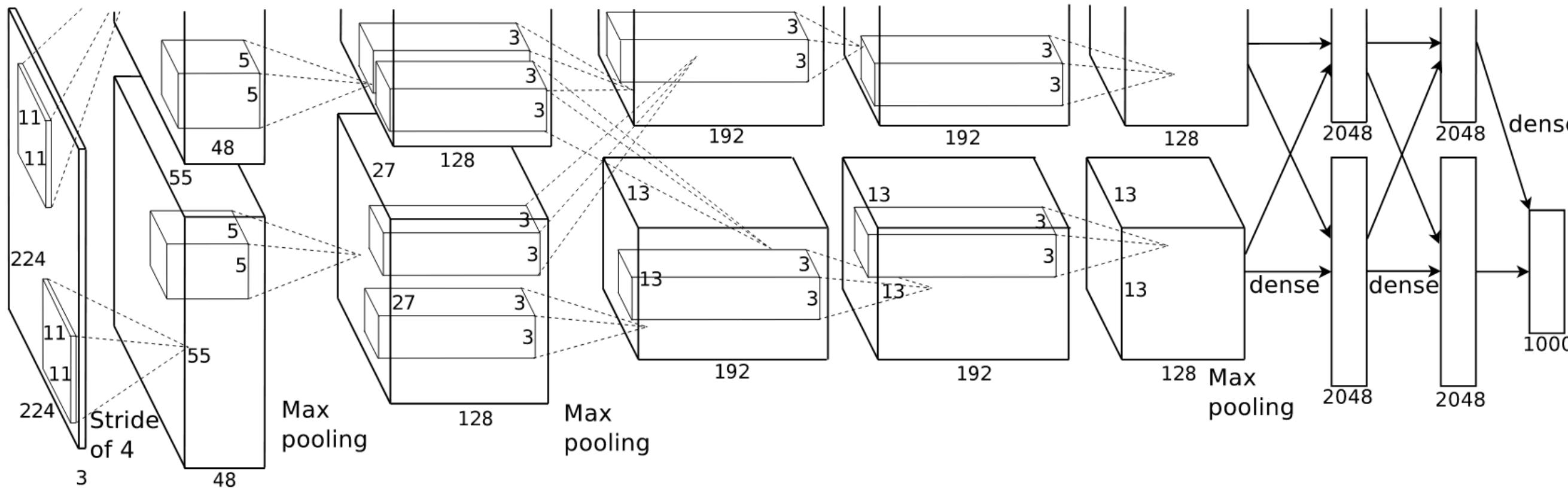
# ILSVRC 2012: runner-up

Fisher based features + Multi class linear classifiers



[source](#)

# ILSVRC 2012: winner



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## ImageNet Classification with Deep Convolutional Neural Networks

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[NeurIPS 2012 paper](#)

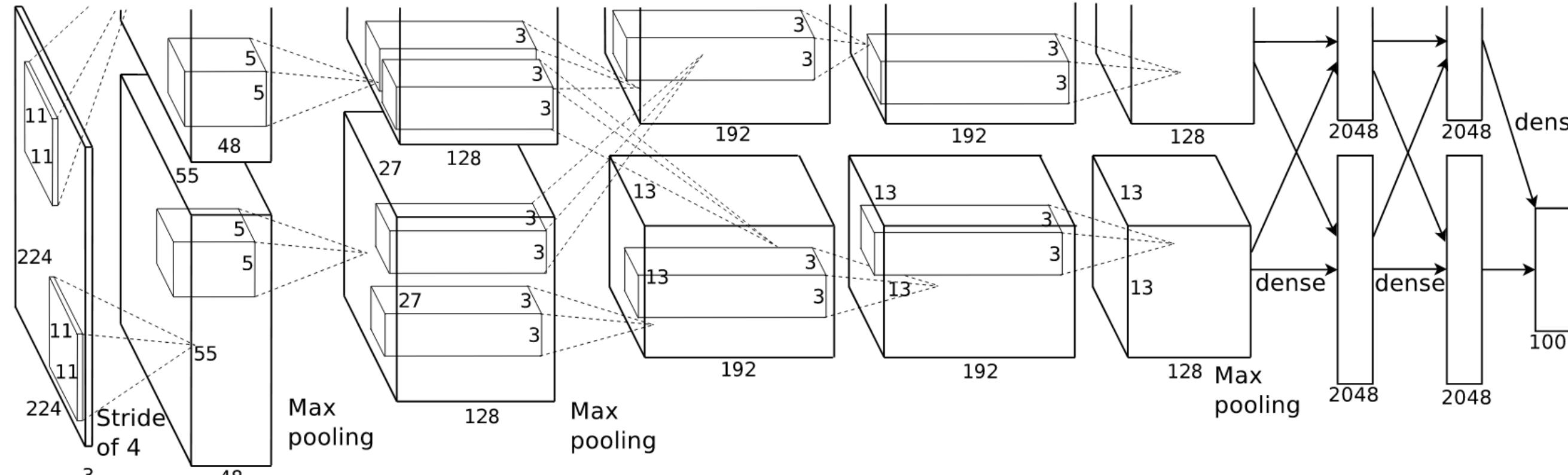
**Alex Krizhevsky**  
University of Toronto  
kriz@cs.utoronto.ca

**Ilya Sutskever**  
University of Toronto  
ilya@cs.utoronto.ca

**Geoffrey E. Hinton**  
University of Toronto  
hinton@cs.utoronto.ca

# ILSVRC 2012: winner

“AlexNet”



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## ImageNet Classification with Deep Convolutional Neural Networks

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[NeurIPS 2012 paper](#)

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2012-now

# 2012-now

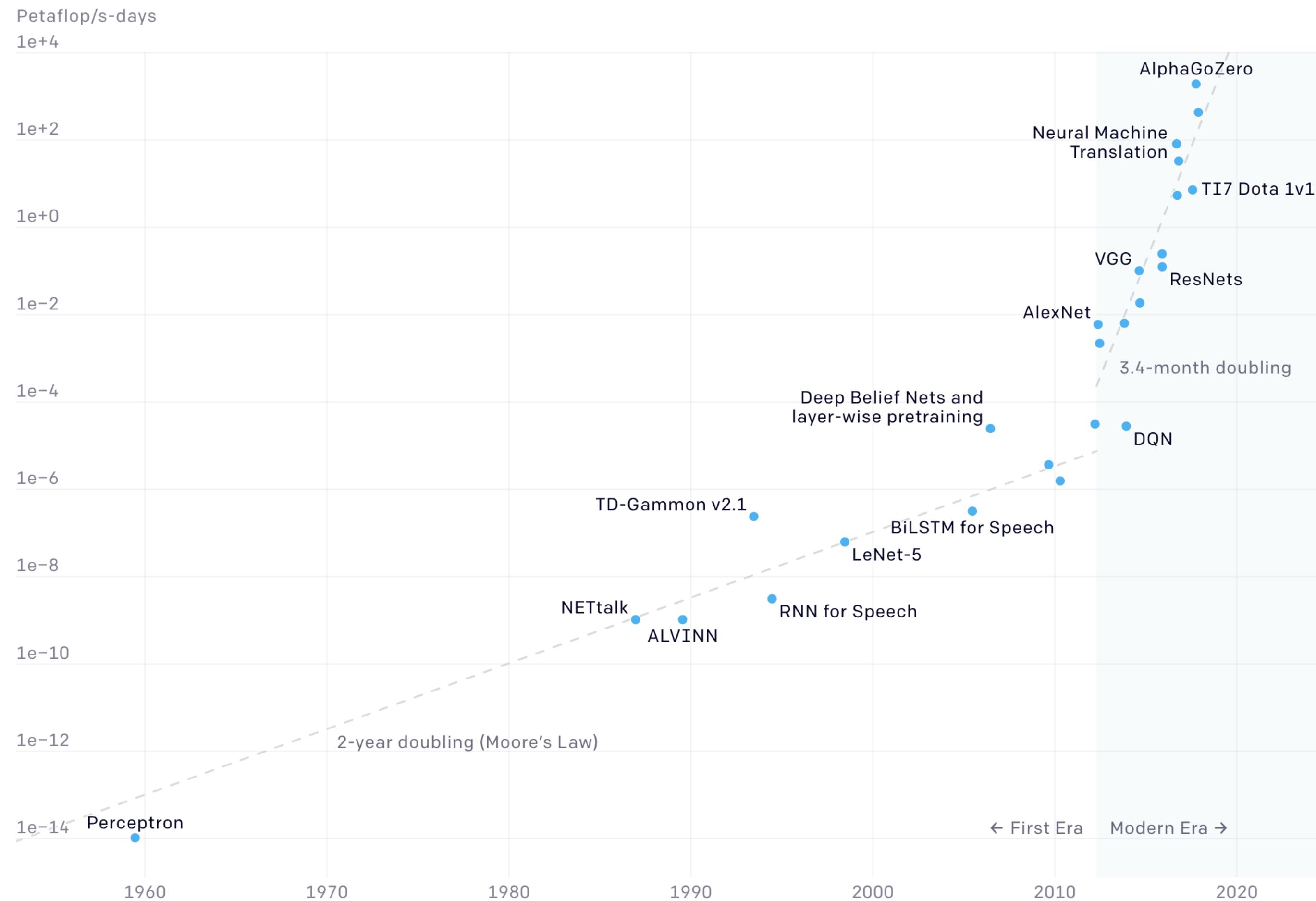
- Widespread adoption of deep neural networks across a range of domains / tasks
  - Image processing of various kinds
  - Reinforcement learning (e.g. AlphaGo/AlphaZero, ...)
  - NLP!

# 2012-now

- Widespread adoption of deep neural networks across a range of domains / tasks
  - Image processing of various kinds
  - Reinforcement learning (e.g. AlphaGo/AlphaZero, ...)
  - NLP!
- What happened?
  - Better learning algorithms / training regimes
  - Larger and larger, standardized datasets
  - Compute! GPUs, now dedicated hardware (TPUs)

# Compute in Deep Learning

Two Distinct Eras of Compute Usage in Training AI Systems

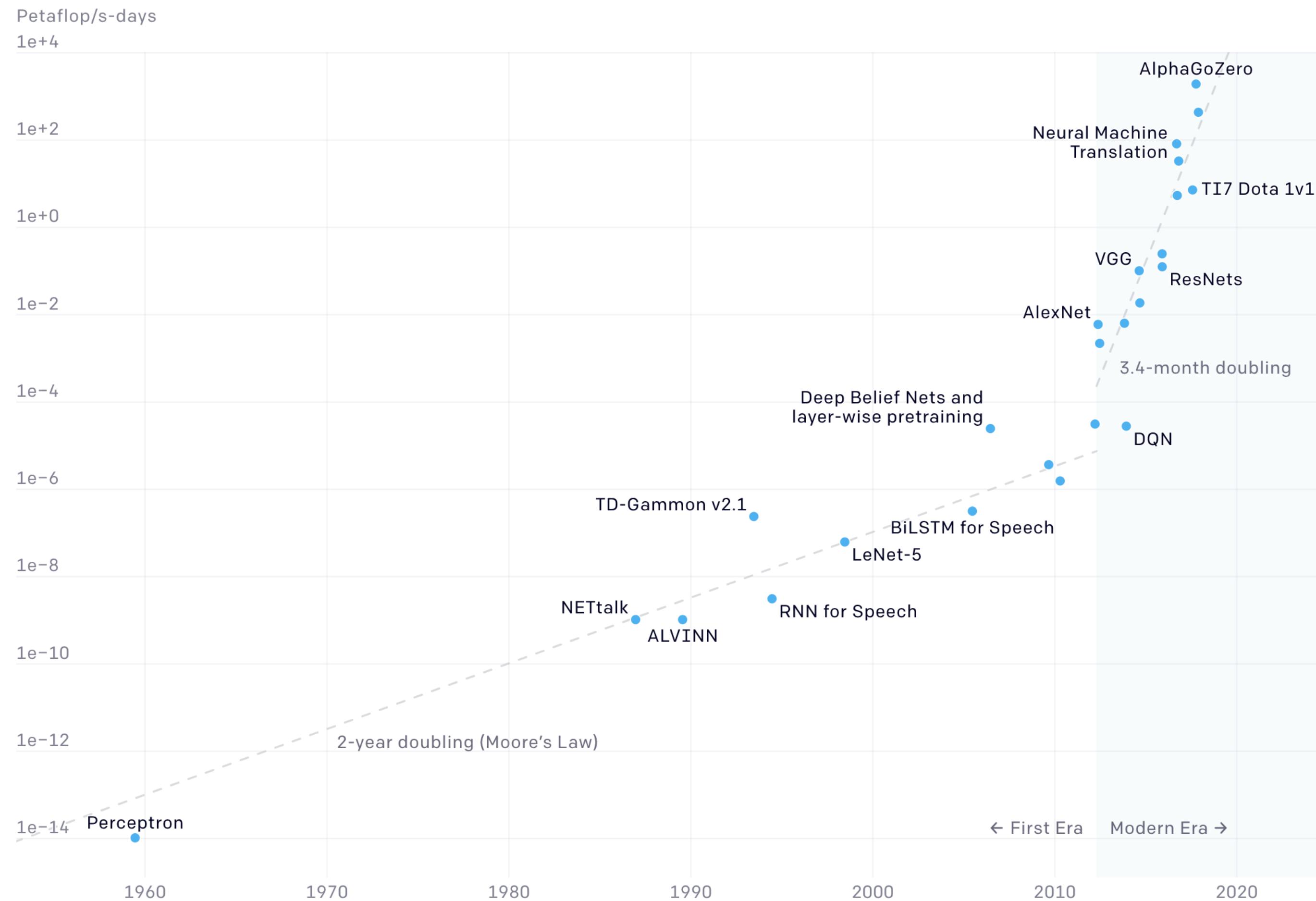


[source](#)

# Compute in Deep Learning

log-scale!!

Two Distinct Eras of Compute Usage in Training AI Systems



[source](#)

# Caveat Emptor

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  - Monetarily
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## Energy and Policy Considerations for Deep Learning in NLP

Emma Strubell   Ananya Ganesh   Andrew McCallum  
College of Information and Computer Sciences  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
`{strubell, aganesh, mccallum}@cs.umass.edu`

### Abstract

Recent progress in hardware and methodology for training neural networks has ushered in a new generation of large networks trained on abundant data. These models have obtained notable gains in accuracy across many NLP tasks. However, these accuracy improvements depend on the availability of exceptionally large computational resources that necessitate similarly substantial energy consumption. As a result these models are costly to train and develop, both financially, due to the cost of hardware and electricity or cloud compute time, and environmentally, due to the carbon footprint required to fuel modern tensor

	CO <sub>2</sub> e (lbs)
Air travel, 1 person, NY↔SF	1984
Human life, avg, 1 year	11,023
American life, avg, 1 year	36,156
Car, avg incl. fuel, 1 lifetime	126,000
Training one model (GPU)	
NLP pipeline (parsing, SRL)	39
w/ tuning & experiments	78,468
Transformer (big)	192
w/ neural arch. search	626,155

Table 1: Estimated CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from training common NLP models, compared to familiar consumption.<sup>1</sup>

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### Green AI

Roy Schwartz\*<sup>◊</sup>   Jesse Dodge\*<sup>◊♣</sup>   Noah A. Smith<sup>◊♡</sup>   Oren Etzioni<sup>◊</sup>

<sup>◊</sup>Allen Institute for AI, Seattle, Washington, USA  
♣ Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA  
♡ University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA

July 2019

#### Abstract

The computations required for deep learning research have been doubling every few months, resulting in an estimated 300,000x increase from 2012 to 2018 [2]. These computations have a surprisingly large carbon footprint [40]. Ironically, deep learning was inspired by the human brain, which is remarkably energy efficient. Moreover, the financial cost of the computations can make it difficult for academics, students, and researchers, in particular those from emerging economies, to engage in deep learning research.

This position paper advocates a practical solution by making **efficiency** an evaluation criterion for research alongside accuracy and related measures. In addition, we propose reporting the financial cost or “price tag” of developing, training, and running models to provide baselines for the investigation of increasingly efficient methods. Our goal is to make AI both greener and more inclusive—enabling any inspired undergraduate with a laptop to write high-quality research papers. **Green AI** is an emerging focus at the Allen Institute for AI.

Consumption	CO <sub>2</sub> e (lbs)
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# Potted History of Models in NLP

# Four Broad “Eras”

- Four very general phases in types of models dominant in NLP:
  - 100% rule-based systems [1960s - ]
  - Machine learning, I [mid-80s - mid-90s]
    - Decision trees, naive bayes, etc
  - Log-linear (maxent, i.e.) models [mid-90s - mid-2010s]
  - Neural networks [2013 - now]
- NB: \_all\_ of these are still used in applications in every area!
  - They all have different strengths and weaknesses

# Early NLP Systems (1960s-1990s)

- SHRDLU, e.g.:

Person: Pick up a big red block.

Computer: OK.

Person: Grasp the pyramid.

Computer: I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHICH PYRAMID YOU MEAN.

Person (changing their mind): Find a block which is taller than the one you are holding and put it into the box.

Computer: BY "IT", I ASSUME YOU MEAN THE BLOCK WHICH IS TALLER THAN THE ONE I AM HOLDING.

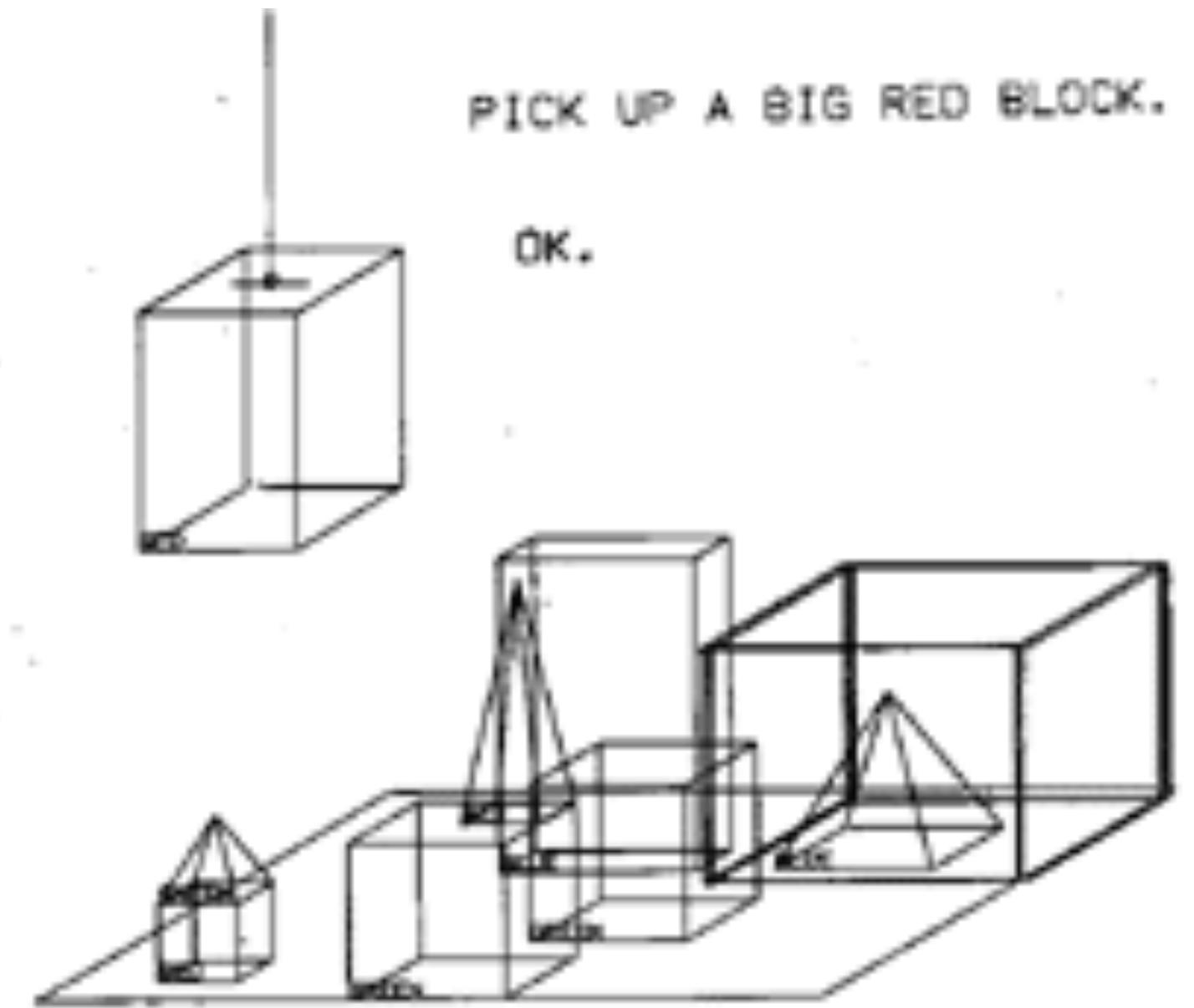
Computer: OK.

Person: What does the box contain?

Computer: THE BLUE PYRAMID AND THE BLUE BLOCK.

Person: What is the pyramid supported by?

Computer: THE BOX.



# Early NLP Systems (1960s-1990s)

- 100% rule-based, hand-written algorithms
- Lots of energy in ontology development / knowledge representation
- Exhibit many core features of human linguistic competence:
  - Compositional generalization
  - Abstract representations of meaning
- Fully “interpretable”, because fully engineered
- But:
  - Brittle, no graceful degradation, domain-specific

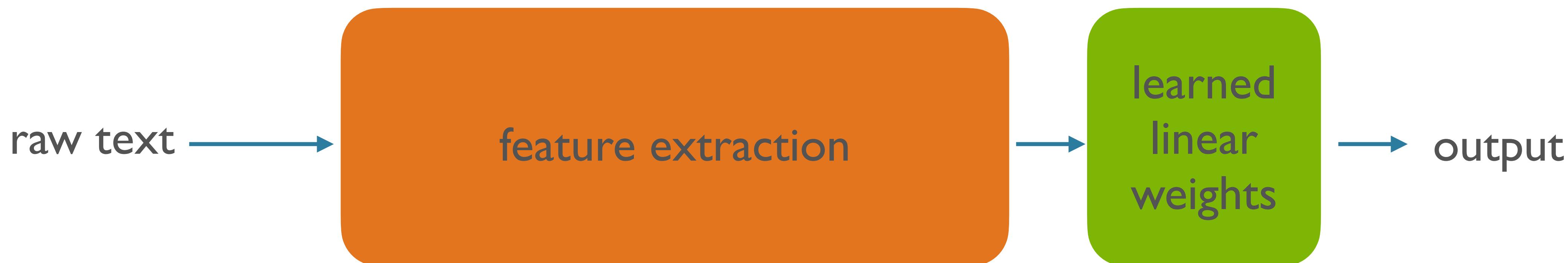
# ML I (80s-90s)

- Increase in compute power, availability of larger corpora for parameter estimation
- Generally, *generative models* (i.e. models of joint distribution  $P(x, y)$ )
  - N-grams, Naive Bayes, HMMs, PCFGs, ...
- Parameter estimation via counting = very simple training
- Generally relies on heavy use of feature engineering
- Still work surprisingly well! Always try them first.

# Log-linear models

- Aka maximum entropy (maxent), multinomial classifiers, ...
- *Discriminative* models (i.e. of  $P(y | x)$ )

$$P(y | x) \propto e^{\sum_j w_j f_j(x, y)}$$



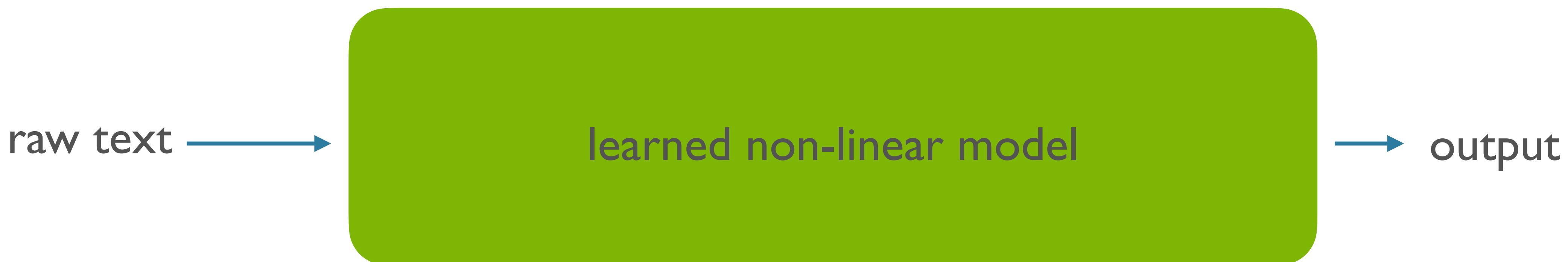
# Log-linear models

- Learnable using standard optimization methods
- Interpretable: can see feature importance
  - e.g. [Klein et al 2003](#) on Named Entity Recognition:
    - Weight for class PER for feature CURWORD:Grace: 0.03
    - Weight for class PER for prefix “<G”: 0.45
- Feature engineering:
  - Expensive
  - Incomplete
  - Sparse [= wasted compute as well]

	O	LOC	MISC	ORG	PER
WORDS					
PWORD:at	-0.18	0.94	-0.31	0.28	-0.73
CWORD:Grace	-0.01	0	0	-0.02	0.03
NWORD:Road	0.02	0.27	-0.01	-0.25	-0.03
PWORD-CWORD:at-Grace	0	0	0	0	1.0
CWORD-NWORD:Grace-Road	0	0	0	0	0
NGRAMS (prefix/suffix only here)					
<G	-0.57	-0.04	0.26	-0.04	0.45
<Gr	0.27	-0.06	0.12	-0.17	-0.16
<Gra	-0.01	-0.37	0.19	-0.09	0.28
<Grac	-0.01	0	0	-0.02	0.03
<Grace	-0.01	0	0	-0.02	0.03
<Grace>	-0.01	0	0	-0.02	0.03
Grace>	-0.01	0	0	-0.02	0.03
race>	0	0	0	-0.02	0.03
ace>	0.08	0.24	0.07	-0.30	-0.10
ce>	0.44	0.31	-0.34	-0.02	-0.38
e>	0.38	-0.14	-0.18	-0.06	0
TAGS					
PTAG:IN	-0.40	0.24	0.16	0.08	-0.08
CTAG>NNP	-1.09	0.45	-0.26	0.43	0.47
NTAG>NNP	0.05	-0.19	0.18	-0.12	0.08
PTAG-CTAG:IN-NNP	0	0.14	-0.03	-0.01	-0.10
CTAG-NTAG>NNP-NNP	-0.11	-0.05	0	-0.38	-0.54
TYPES					
PTYPE:x:2	-0.07	-0.15	0.35	0.18	-0.31
CTYPE:Xx	-2.02	0.46	0.19	0.57	0.80
NTYPE:Xx	-0.22	-0.42	-0.19	0.29	0.54
PTYPE-CTYPE:x:2-Xx	-0.20	0.08	0.10	0.10	-0.09
CTYPE-NTYPE:Xx-Xx	0.55	-0.13	-0.55	-0.13	0.26
PTYPE-CTYPE-NTYPE:x:2-Xx-Xx	0.10	0.37	0.10	0.12	-0.69
WORDS/TYPES					
PWORD-CTYPE:at-Xx	-0.21	0.57	-0.21	0.41	-0.56
CTYPE-NWORD:Xx-Road	-0.01	0.27	-0.01	-0.23	-0.03
STATES					
PSTATE:O	2.91	-0.92	-0.72	-0.58	-0.70
PPSTATE-PSTATE:O-O	1.14	-0.60	-0.08	-0.43	-0.04
WORDS/STATES					
PSTATE-CWORD:O-Grace	-0.01	0	0	-0.02	0.03
TAGS/STATES					
PSTATE-PTAG-CTAG:O-IN-NNP	0.12	0.59	-0.29	-0.28	-0.14
PPSTATE-PPTAG-PSTATE-PTAG-CTAG:O-NN-O-IN-NNP	0.01	-0.03	-0.31	0.31	0.01
TYPES/STATES					
PSTATE-CTYPE:O-Xx	-1.13	0.37	-0.12	0.20	0.68
PSTATE-NTYPE:O-Xx	-0.69	-0.3	0.29	0.39	0.30
PSTATE-PTYPE-CTYPE:O-x:2-Xx	-0.28	0.82	-0.10	-0.26	-0.20
PPSTATE-PPTYPE-PSTATE-PTYPE-CTYPE:O-x-O-x:2-Xx	-0.22	-0.04	-0.04	-0.06	0.22
Total:	-1.40	2.68	-1.74	-0.19	-0.58

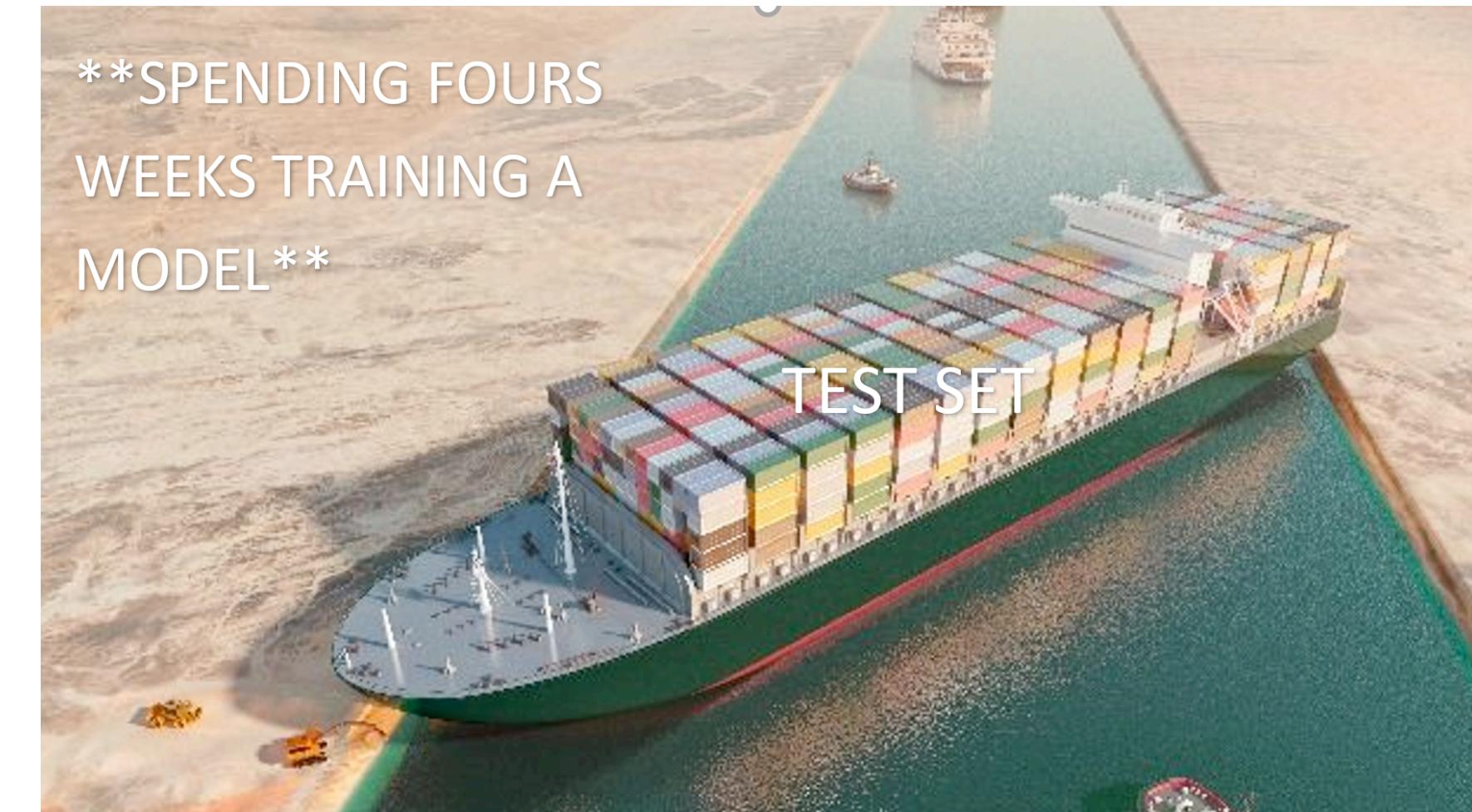
# Neural Networks

- Key idea:
  - No feature engineering
  - Have a larger model *learn which features are useful*
    - [but can be combined with feature extraction as well]
- “End-to-end” learning paradigm:



# Neural Networks

- Cons [to recur throughout course]:
  - “Black box”:
    - How do we know *what* the model has learned?
    - How can we trust it in deployment?
    - Often learns to solve a dataset, not a task; may be very different from our linguistic competence
  - Larger and larger compute needs [equity, environmental costs]
  - Larger and larger data needs
    - Documentation debt
    - Privacy concerns
    - Amplifying biases



# Course Information / Overview

# Learning Objectives

- Provide hands-on experience with building neural networks and using them for NLP tasks
- Theoretical understanding of building blocks
  - Computation graphs + gradient descent
  - Forward/backward API
    - Chain rule for computing gradients [backpropagation]
  - Various network architectures; their structure and biases

# Content

- Model architectures [in computation graph paradigm]:
  - Feed-forward networks
  - Recurrent networks
  - Transformers
- Primary tasks:
  - Language modeling
  - Text classification [sentiment analysis in particular]
  - Translation
- Pre-training + fine-tuning, interpretability/analysis

# Content, cont.

- Special topics:
  - Low-resource / multilingual NLP [C.M. Downey]
  - Ethics, fairness, limitations [Angelina McMillan-Major]
  - Multimodal NLP [Yonatan Bisk]
  - Future directions

# Course web page

- Course page: <https://www.shane.st/teaching/575k/spr21/index.html>
- Canvas: <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1447728>
  - Lecture recording
  - Assignment submission / grading
  - Discussion!

# Communication

# Communication

- Contacting teaching staff:
  - If you prefer, you can use your Canvas inbox for all course-related emails:
  - If you do send email, please include LING575k in your subject line of email to us.
  - We will respond within 24 hours, but only during “business hours” during the week.

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  - If you have the question, someone else does too. Someone else besides the teaching staff might also have the answer.

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  - If you have the question, someone else does too. Someone else besides the teaching staff might also have the answer.
- We will use Canvas:Announcement for important messages and reminders.

# Office hours

# Office hours

- Shane:
  - Email: [shane@uw.edu](mailto:shane@uw.edu)
- Office hours:
  - Wednesday 3-5pm
  - <https://washington.zoom.us/my/shane>

# TA office hours

- C.M. Downey:
  - Email: [cmdowney@uw.edu](mailto:cmdowney@uw.edu)
  - Office hours:
    - TBD, fill out [when2meet!](#)

# Homework assignments

# Homework assignments

- Due date: every Thurs at 11pm unless specified otherwise.
- The submission area closes two days after the due date.
- Late penalty:
  - 1% for the 1<sup>st</sup> hour
  - 10% for the 1<sup>st</sup> 24 hours
  - 20% for the 1<sup>st</sup> 48 hours
- Your code must run, and will be tested, on patas.

# Homework Submission

- For each assignment, submit two files through Canvas:

- A note file: `readme.txt` or `readme.pdf`
  - A gzipped tar file that includes everything: `hwX.tar.gz`

```
cd hwX/      # suppose hwX is your dir that includes all the files
```

```
tar -czvf hw.tar.gz *
```

- Before submitting, run `check_hwX.sh` to check the tar file: e.g.,

```
/dropbox/20-21/575k/hw1/check_hw1.sh hw1.tar.gz
```

- `check_hwX.sh` checks only the existence of files, not the format or content of the files.
- For each shell script submitted, you also need to submit the source code and binary code: see  
`575k/hwX/submit-file-list`

# Rubric

- Standard portion: 25 points
  - 2 points: hw.tar.gz submitted
  - 2 points: readme.[txt|pdf] submitted
  - 6 points: all files and folders are present in the expected locations
  - 10 points: program runs to completion
  - 5 points: output of program on patas matches submitted output
- Assignment-specific portion: 75 points

# Regrading requests

- You can request regrading for:
  - wrong submission or missing files: show the timestamp
  - crashed code that can be **easily** fixed (e.g., wrong version of compiler)
  - output files that are not produced on patas
- At most two requests for the course.
- 10% penalty for the part that is being regraded.
- For regrading and any other grade-related issues: you must contact the TA within a week after the grade is posted.

# Final grade

- Grade:
  - Assignments: 100% (lowest score is removed)
  - Bonus for participation: up to 2%
  - The percentage is then mapped to final grade.
- No midterm or final exams
- Grades in Canvas:Grades
- TA feedback returned through Canvas:Assignments

# Assignment Overview

- Assignments 1-5: FFNNs for LM/classification from the ground up
  - Implemented in edugrad
  - Minimal Implementation of PyTorch API
- 6-7: RNNs for LM + classification
- Attention and NMT
- Transformers / pre-training

# Next Time

- WTF is a word vector?
- How do we train them?
  - Crash course in gradient descent
- Establishing notation for the rest of the course

Thanks! Looking forward to a great quarter!