

# AI: Strategy + Marketing (MGT 853)

## Introduction (Session 1)

Vineet Kumar

Yale School of Management  
Spring 2025

# Agenda for Today's Session

## Course Logistics

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- What is AI? A brief history
- AI, ML, Data Science



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- What is AI? A brief history
- AI, ML, Data Science
- Why AI now?
- What AI priorities do firms have?
- Types of ML
- AI stakeholders: consumers, firms, regulators and more

# Course Logistics

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- Evaluate the broader societal implications of AI, and how different stakeholders (consumers, employees, firms, regulators, investors and others) are impacted by AI.

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  - No pressure to read the optional stuff before class! Whenever you get time...

# About Myself (He / Him)

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- Advising startups and established organizations in AI
- If you're working on your own business idea, happy to talk

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## YSOM and Course Policy

No electronic device use (only university-approved exceptions)



# Grading & Assessment

- Grading involves both group and individual assessment

| Component                  | Details   | Points |
|----------------------------|---|--------|
| Assignments                | 1 Pairs and 3 individual<br>(Due Tuesdays 9 am) | 50     |
| Participation & Attendance | Individual                                      | 30     |
| Project                    | Group   | 25     |

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- *Think of the LLM's "answer" as a baseline, you should aim to do better than that.*

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Your goal should be to educate everyone in this class

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- Might move one of the presentation dates to be earlier in the course

# Course Material Overview

## You will:

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## You will **NOT**:

- Understand the math behind how algorithms work
- Understand the best way to implement specific ML algorithms
- Develop new AI / ML algorithms and tools (Take CS courses for that)

# Course Content

# Course Outline

Can Change Significantly! See Canvas for Latest

| #   | Date           | Topic   | Assignment Due (9 am)                           |
|---|----------------|---|---|
| Module A: AI Foundations                        |                |   |   |
| 1   | Mar 25 (Tue)   | Course Introduction and Supervised and Un-supervised Algorithms |   |
| 2   | Mar 27 (Thu)   | ML Essentials   |   |
| 3   | April 1 (Tue)  | Deep Learning, Reinforcement Learning and Generative Models     | A1 (Individual / Pairs)                         |
| Module B: AI Decision Making Framework          |                |   |   |
| 4   | April 3 (Thu)  | Economics of AI $\iff$ Business Strategy                        |   |
| 5   | April 8 (Tue)  | Decision Making with AI / Interpretable and Explainable AI      | A2 (Individual)                                 |
| 6   | April 10 (Thu) | Ethical Issues in AI  | Group Project Proposal (one paragraph)          |
| Module C: AI in Business + Society              |                |   |   |
| 7   | April 15 (Tue) | Uber (CASE)   | A3 (Individual)                                 |
| 8   | April 17 (Thu) | Zebra Medical (CASE)  |   |
| 9   | April 22 (Tue) | Generative AI in practice                                       | A4 (Individual)                                 |
| 10  | April 24 (Thu) | Miroglio Fashion (CASE)   |   |
| 11  | April 29 (Thu) | Capstone: Human Capital   |   |
| Module D: Project Presentations and Course Wrap |                |   |   |
| 12  | May 1 (Thu)    | Presentations   | Presentation Slides Due for ALL groups on May 1 |
| 13  | May 6 (Tue)    | Presentations and Course Wrap                                   |   |

# Is this a coding heavy class?

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- ML Models Practicum (over the next couple sessions)



# ML Models Practicum in Class

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- Predictions  $\implies$  Decisions



# Module B: AI and Society

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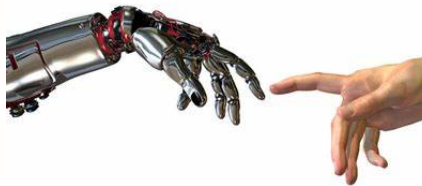
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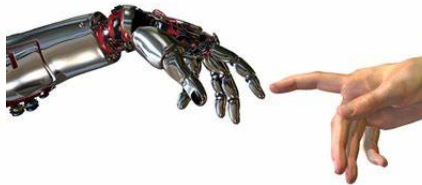
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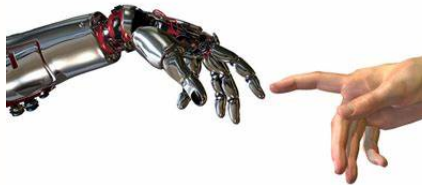
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- How can managers build trust and avoid fragility in AI systems?
- What is the role of industry bodies and regulators?



# Module C: AI in Business + Society

- How is AI used in practice?

## Case Studies:

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*Zebra*

Miroglio Fashion

Guest Speaker?



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- What are the biggest challenges and risks firms face in deploying AI?

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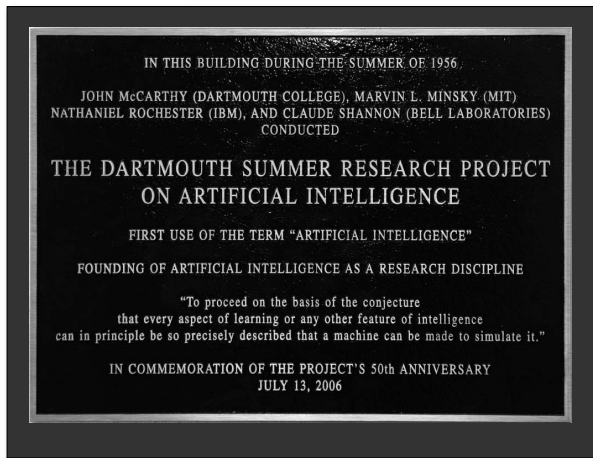
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# Historical Overview

# History of AI

## Dartmouth College Conference

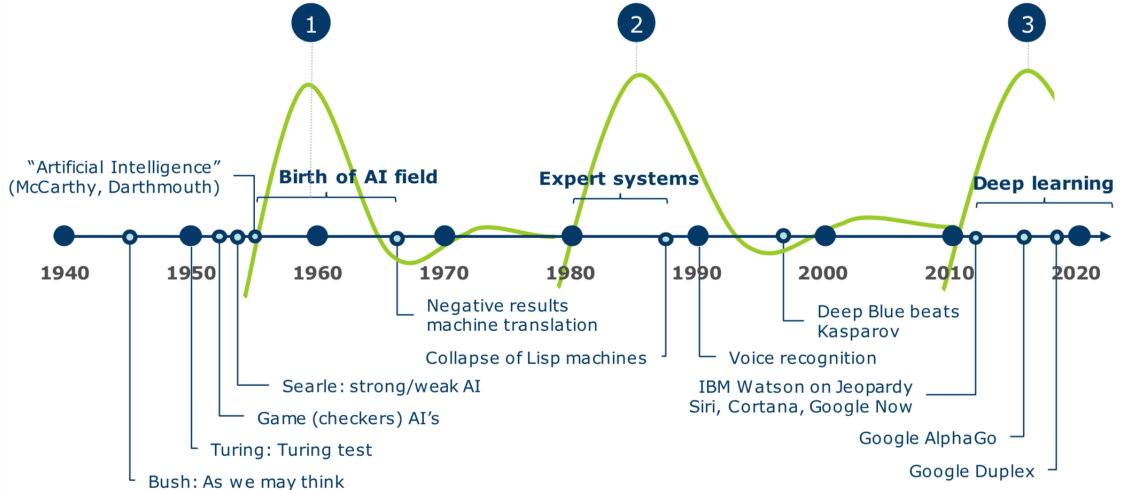


Photographer: Joe Mehling

Source: <https://ojs.aaai.org/index.php/aimagazine/article/view/1911/1809>

# History of AI

## Three waves of AI



Source: <https://pixelspark.nl/2019/>

# Humans and Machines

## Context for Turing

- Machines are very good at specific things, and can do things that humans cannot do
- A simple "machine" the wheel can go much faster than humans.
- But for a very long time, it was thought that there was one thing that humans could do that machines cannot do.
- Humans Can Think. Machines Cannot.

What exactly does it mean – “to think” ? Can Machines Think?



# Turing's View of AI

[https://www.csee.umbc.edu/courses/471/](https://www.csee.umbc.edu/courses/471/papers/turing.pdf)

[papers/turing.pdf](#)

A. M. Turing (1950) Computing Machinery and Intelligence. *Mind* 49: 433-460.

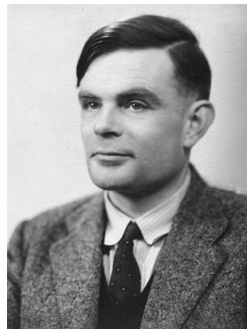
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## COMPUTING MACHINERY AND INTELLIGENCE

By A. M. Turing

### 1. The Imitation Game

I propose to consider the question, "Can machines think?" This should begin with definitions of the meaning of the terms "machine" and "think." The definitions might be framed so as to reflect so far as possible the normal use of the words, but this attitude is dangerous. If the meaning of the words "machine" and "think" are to be found by examining how they are commonly used it is difficult to escape the conclusion that the meaning and the answer to the question, "Can machines think?" is to be sought in a statistical survey such as a Gallup poll. But this is absurd. Instead of attempting such a definition I shall replace the question by another, which is closely related to it and is expressed in relatively unambiguous words.



# Turing's Test

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## Turing asks:

If a computer (C) replaces human (M), will human interrogator (Q) know?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-18475646>

# (Simplified) Turing's Test

## Turing suggests:

If the computer (C) can fool the interrogator (Q) into thinking it is human, then it is said to possess **“Artificial Intelligence”**



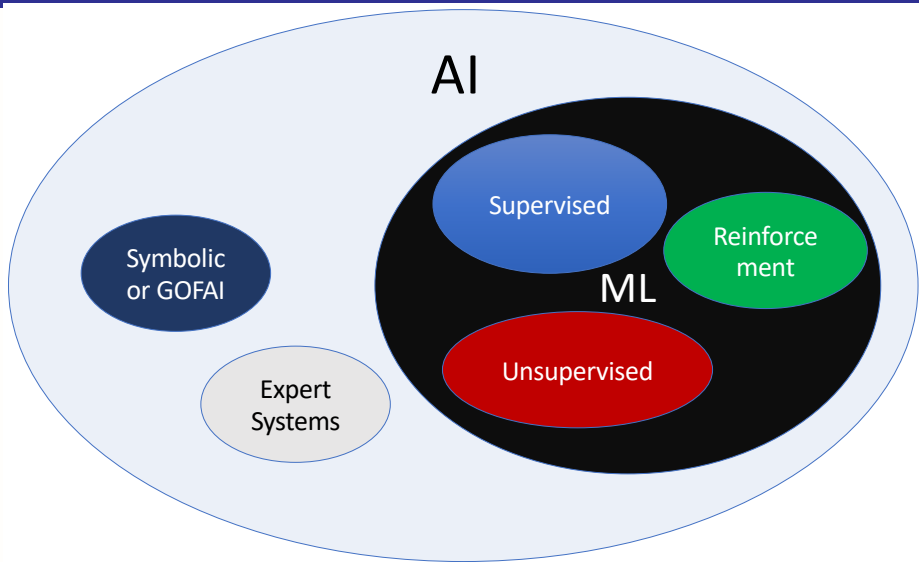
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General idea for AI is to achieve human-level intelligence

# Types of AI



# GOFAI

## Good Old Fashioned AI

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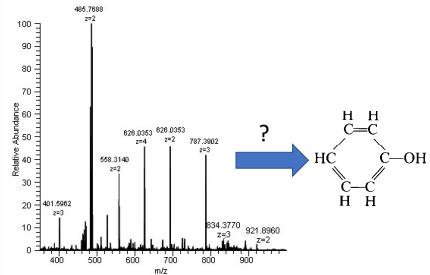
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- (-) Typically suitable for small or toy problems

# Expert Systems

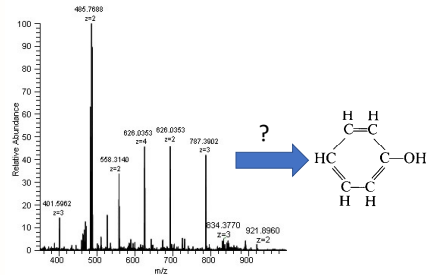
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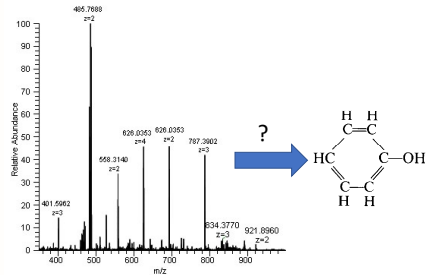
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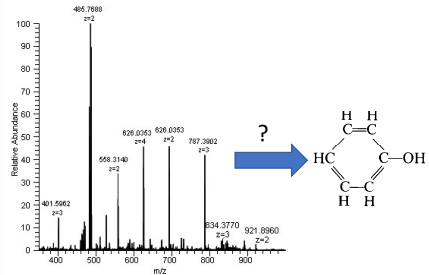
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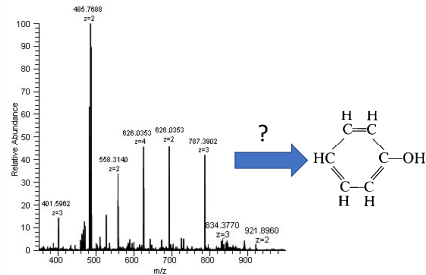
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- Other applications in disease diagnosis (e.g. glaucoma), fraud detection etc.



# Definitions: AI and ML

## Artificial Intelligence

“...Intelligence can in principle be so precisely described that a machine can be made to simulate it.” (John McCarthy)

## Machine Learning

- “The field of study that gives computers the ability to learn without explicitly being programmed” (Arthur Samuel)

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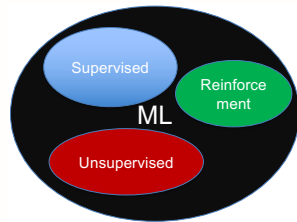
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- “Improve over Task T with respect to some performance measure P based on experience E” (Tom Mitchell)

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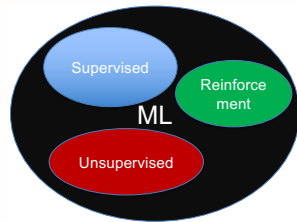
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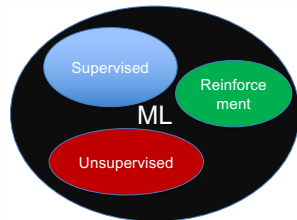
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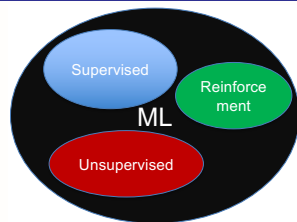
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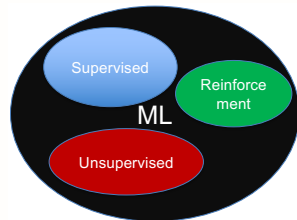
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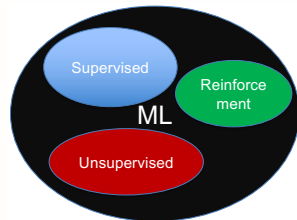
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Rest of the course will focus on ML (use interchangeably with AI)

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Most commonly used form of ML in practice



Logistic Regression  
Polynomial Regression  
Support Vector  
Machines  
Decision Trees  
Deep Neural Nets

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Can use for exploratory analysis and segmentation even when question is unclear



Cluster Analysis  
K-means  
K-Nearest Neighbor  
Association Rule Mining  
Principal Components  
Analysis

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## Q-learning

- Learn how to make good “sequence of decisions” under uncertainty

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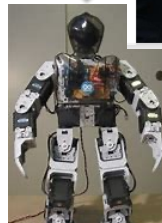
No data required



Former Go champion beaten by DeepMind  
retires after declaring AI invincible

James Vincent 5 days ago

The South Korean Go champion Lee Se-dol has retired from professional play, telling *Yonhap news agency* that his decision was motivated by the ascendancy of AI.



# Why AI Now?

AI has been around for decades, so why has it become popular now?

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  - What's the connection between ML and Graphics?

# Impact of AI / ML



# AI Drives Change in Firm Strategy

Google Products and Services Artificial Intelligence Companies Google (company)

**What does it mean for Google to become an "AI-first" (quoting Sundar) company? How will this affect prioritization and product development?**

🔗 <https://googleblog.blogspot.com/2016/04/this-years-founders-letter.html>

Google sees huge value in moving from 80% accuracy in search to 99.x% accuracy

Willing to de-prioritize everything else (before this, Google was "Mobile First")



Peter Norvig, Research Director at Google

Answered May 16 2016 · Upvoted by Pål Bergerskogen, M.Sc Artificial Intelligence, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (2018) and Ken Fishkin, former Software Engineering Manager at Google (2013-2018)

"Classic" Google was an information retrieval company: you give a query, we quickly respond with ten suggestions of relevant pages, and it is your job to make sense of the suggestions. "Modern" Google, as Sundar has set out the vision, is based not just on suggestions of relevant information, but on informing and assisting. Informing, meaning that we give you the information you need, when you need it. For example, Google Now telling you it is time to leave for an appointment, or that you are now at the grocery store and previously you asked to be reminded to buy milk. And assisting means helping you to actually carry out actions—planning a trip, booking reservations; anything you can do on the internet, Google should be able to assist you in doing.

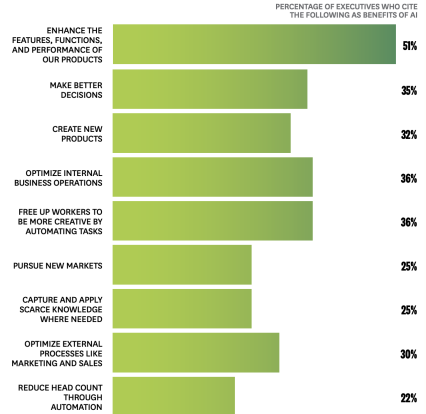
With information retrieval, anything over 80% recall and precision is pretty good—not every suggestion has to be perfect, since the user can ignore the bad suggestions. With assistance, there is a much higher barrier. You wouldn't use a service that booked the wrong reservation 20% of the time, or even 2% of the time. So an assistant needs to be much more accurate, and thus more intelligent, more aware of the situation. That's what we call "AI-first."

# What are CEO priorities in AI?

- Both external market-facing and internal
- Top external: product
- Top internal: enable employees to do higher-value jobs
- *Not so much about reducing labor costs*

## THE BUSINESS BENEFITS OF AI

We surveyed 250 executives who were familiar with their companies' use of cognitive technologies to learn about their goals for AI initiatives. More than half said their primary goal was to make existing products better. Reducing head count was mentioned by only 22%.



SOURCE: DELOITTE 2017

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- AI has important societal and ethical implications (Module 2)

# Next: Supervised and Unsupervised Learning

- Familiarize yourselves with using **Google Colab** using Python:
- More practice will help you understand the next class better
- Link to Code: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1L8LZvM-nEDhbUnZQzcnAv2Zo7cfwQViR>
- Start with the **Welcome To Colaboratory.ipynb** notebook if you're not familiar with Colab.
- **Practicum:** We will walk through code using these datasets
- Assignment 1 involves understanding and exploring the code. *You will not have to write your own code.*