The Evolution of AI: Predictive, Generative, and Agentic

W. Evan Johnson, Ph.D.

Professor, Division of Infectious Disease

Director, Center for Data Science

Rutgers University -- New Jersey Medical School

From Prediction to Agency

Understanding the paradigm shift in Artificial Intelligence

A Timeline of AI Capabilities

1

Predictive AI

Goal: Forecast & Classify

Focuses on analyzing historical data to predict future outcomes or categorize inputs.

2

Generative AI

Goal: Create & Ideate

Focuses on learning patterns to generate new, original content (text, image, code).

3

Agentic AI

Goal: Act & Solve

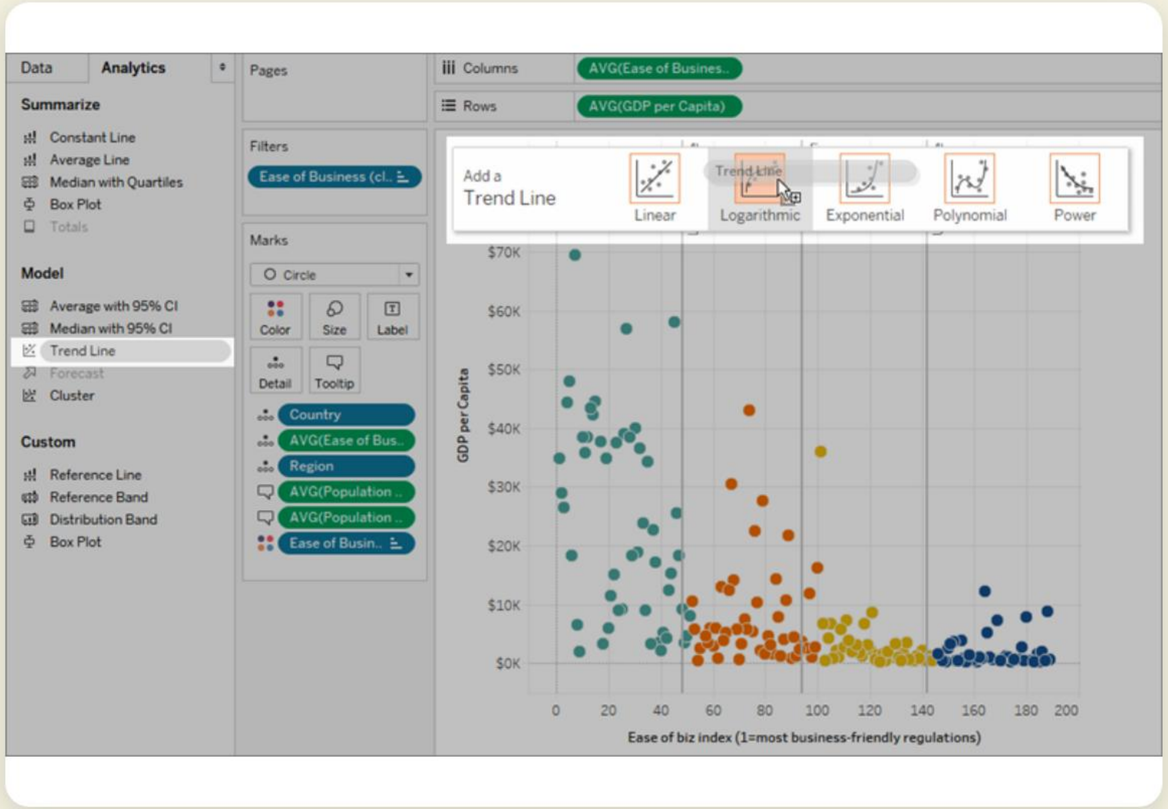
Focuses on autonomous decision-making and tool usage to achieve multi-step goals.

1. Predictive AI

The Foundation of Machine Learning

Predictive AI, often referred to as "Traditional AI" or "Discriminative AI," is designed to perform a specific task by analyzing data and making a decision or prediction.

- **Function:** Maps input variables to output classes or values.
- **Mechanism:** Minimizes error between predicted and actual outcomes based on training data.
- **Key Question:** "Based on the past, what is likely to happen next?"



Predictive AI Techniques

Regression

Predicting continuous values, such as housing prices, stock trends, or disease progression scores based on input features.

Classification

Categorizing data into distinct classes, such as spam detection, medical diagnosis (Benign vs. Malignant), or image recognition.

Clustering

Unsupervised learning to find hidden structures or groups within data, often used for customer segmentation or genomic analysis.

2. Generative AI

Generative AI represents a shift from analyzing existing data to creating new data. It learns the underlying probability distribution of a dataset to generate novel samples similar to the original.

Unlike predictive models that output a label or number, GenAI outputs complex artifacts like essays, realistic images, functional code, or synthetic biological data.

Key Question: "Can you create something new that looks like what you've seen before?"

Powering Generative AI

Large Language Models (LLMs)

Built on the **Transformer** architecture, these models use self-attention mechanisms to predict the next token in a sequence. They excel at understanding context, summarization, and translation.

Diffusion Models

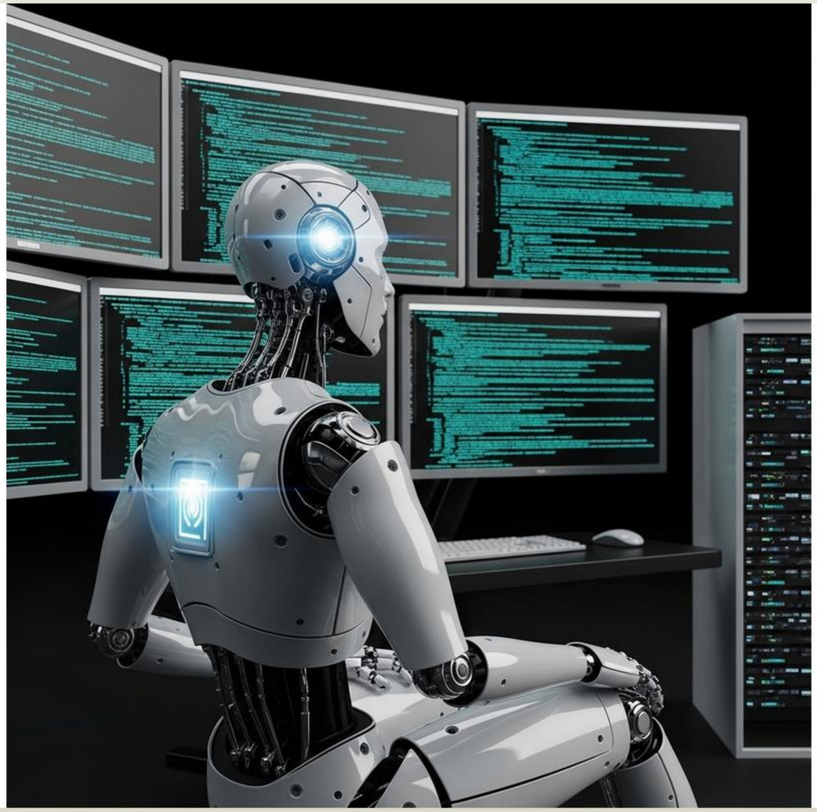
A class of models that generate high-quality images by gradually removing noise from a random signal. They are the engine behind tools like Midjourney and DALL-E, enabling text-to-image synthesis.

3. Agentic AI

From Chatbots to Agents

Agentic AI refers to systems that can autonomously perceive, reason, and act to achieve high-level goals. They don't just "talk"; they "do."

- **Autonomy:** Capable of planning multi-step workflows without constant human intervention.
- **Tool Use:** Can browse the web, write and execute code, or query databases.
- **Looping:** Operates in a "Perception-Action-Observation" loop to correct errors and refine strategies.



The Architecture of Agency

Perception

The agent gathers information from its environment (e.g., reading a file, browsing a webpage, or receiving a user prompt).

Reasoning (Brain)

Usually an LLM that breaks down the goal into a plan, decides which tools to use, and reflects on past outputs.

Action (Tools)

The execution layer where the agent utilizes APIs, calculators, or code interpreters to effect change or retrieve data.

Comparative Analysis

Feature	Predictive AI	Generative AI	Agentic AI
Primary Goal	Forecast accuracy & Classification	Content creation & Human-like response	Task completion & Autonomous action
Interaction	Input -> Class/Value	Prompt -> Response (Chat)	Goal -> Multi-step Workflow
Output	Numbers, Labels, Probabilities	Text, Images, Audio, Code	Completed Tasks, API Calls, File Edits
Reasoning	Statistical correlations	Pattern matching & Probability	Planning, Reflection, & Tool Selection

The Future: Multi-Agent Systems

We are moving towards ecosystems where specialized agents (coders, researchers, designers) collaborate to solve complex problems.

The role of humans is shifting from "operator" to "manager" of these agent swarms.

Questions & Discussion

Thank you for your attention.

contact@rutgers.edu

Image Sources

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