Pune AI Community
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Seen that speakers at the AI meetups/talks/conferences often get requests from individuals and teams asking for guidance on their AI ideas. Most of these ideas sound exciting and are eager to develop solutions using Gen AI (LLMs - Large Language Models, in particular). But .. but.. Just because you can use an LLM, doesn't mean you should. Many a times we are trying to kill a mosquito with a cannon.

So, before diving deep, one needs to ask a few basic questions. It is surprising how many people skip this first step of simple background checks and information gathering. So, thought of putting it out here for everyone.

When choosing an AI project, some practical questions matter:

➡️ Is it a real pain point? A clear pressing need that someone urgently wants solved?

➡️ Can simpler methods solve it? Maybe a rule-based system or a classic algorithm is enough. Does it really need LLMs or fancy Gen-AI?

➡️ What already exists? What are others doing? What gaps still remain?

➡️ If the solution needs ML, DL, or LLMs, do we have the data, the compute, and the expertise to train and deploy?

➡️ For those in academia, have you checked recent research and benchmarks first?

To make this fun, here is a short quiz:
Pick any of these domains and list common problems and how you think they can be solved. For example, in manufacturing, predictive maintenance is often solved using either statistically using time-series or by supervised ML/DL for anomaly or event prediction, again on the time-series.

The domains:

➡️ Agriculture

➡️ Aerospace

➡️ Automotive

➡️ Defense

➡️ Manufacturing

Yes, it is broad. Yes, the quiz is a bit naive and open-ended. But that is the point. Let us start somewhere, build awareness, and challenge ourselves to think more clearly about where specific AI methods actually fit.

So, what do you think belongs where? Are we over-using Gen-AI as the hammer for every nail? Share your thoughts.

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Question for debate: Are we forcing LLMs into use cases where simpler and more reliable methods would outperform them?