[SNU EE AI Seminar] The AI Landscape - Navigating Technology, Industry Shifts, and Future Trends

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About Speaker

- *Co-founder & CTO @ Erudio Bio, San Jose & Novato, CA, USA*
- Advisor & Evangelist @ CryptoLab, Inc., San Jose, CA, USA
- Chief Business Development Officer @ WeStory.ai, Cupertino, CA, USA
- Advisory Professor, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science @ DGIST, Korea
- Adjunct Professor, Electronic Engineering Department @ Sogang University, Korea
- Global Advisory Board Member @ Innovative Future Brain-Inspired Intelligence System Semiconductor of Sogang University, Korea
- *KFAS-Salzburg Global Leadership Initiative Fellow @ Salzburg Global Seminar*, Salzburg, Austria
- Technology Consultant @ Gerson Lehrman Gruop (GLG), NY, USA
- *Co-founder & CTO & Head of Global R&D & Chief Applied Scientist & Senior Fellow @ Gauss Labs, Inc., Palo Alto, CA, USA* *2020 – 2023*

- Senior Applied Scientist @ Mobile Shopping Team, Amazon.com, Inc., Vancouver, BC, Canada – 2020
- Principal Engineer @ Software R&D Center of DS Division, Samsung, Korea – 2017
- Principal Engineer @ Strategic Marketing & Sales Team, Samsung, Korea – 2016
- Principal Engineer @ DT Team of DRAM Development Lab, Samsung, Korea – 2015
- Senior Engineer @ CAE Team - Samsung, Korea – 2012
- MS & PhD - Electrical Engineering @ Stanford University, CA, USA – 2004
- Development Engineer @ Voyan, Santa Clara, CA, USA – 2001
- BS - Electrical Engineering @ Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea – 1998

Highlight of Career Journey

- BS in EE @ SNU, MS & PhD in EE @ Stanford University
  - *Convex Optimization - Theory, Algorithms & Software*
  - advised by *Prof. Stephen P. Boyd*
- Principal Engineer @ Samsung Semiconductor, Inc.
  - AI & Convex Optimization
  - collaboration with *DRAM/NAND Design/Manufacturing/Test Teams*
- Senior Applied Scientist @ Amazon.com, Inc.
  - e-Commerce AIs - time-series anomaly detection, deep reinforcement learning & recommender system
  - Jeff Bezos's project - increase sales by *$200M* via Amazon Mobile Shopping App
- Co-founder & CTO & Head of Global R&D & Chief Applied Scientist & Senior Fellow @ Gauss Labs, Inc.
- Co-founder & CTO - AI Technology & Business Development @ Erudio Bio, Inc.

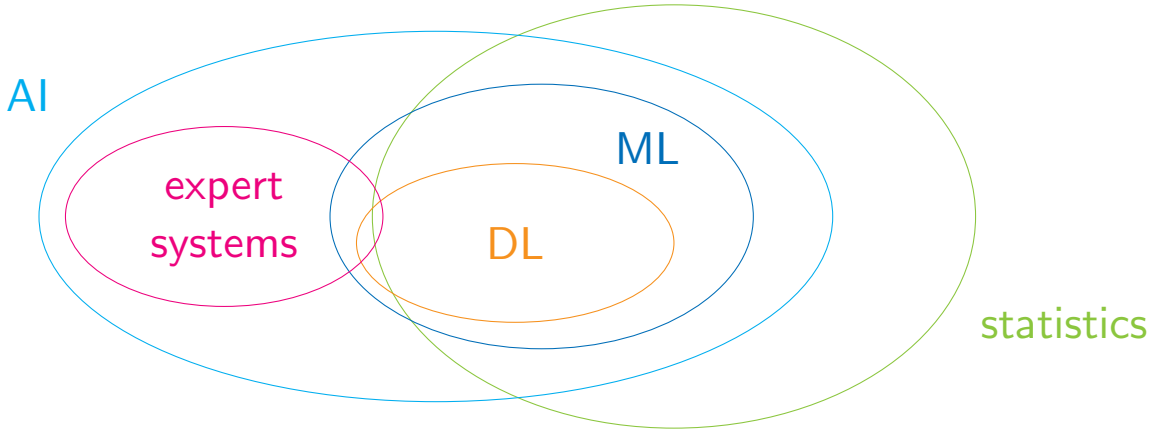
Today

Artificial Intelligence

Definition and History

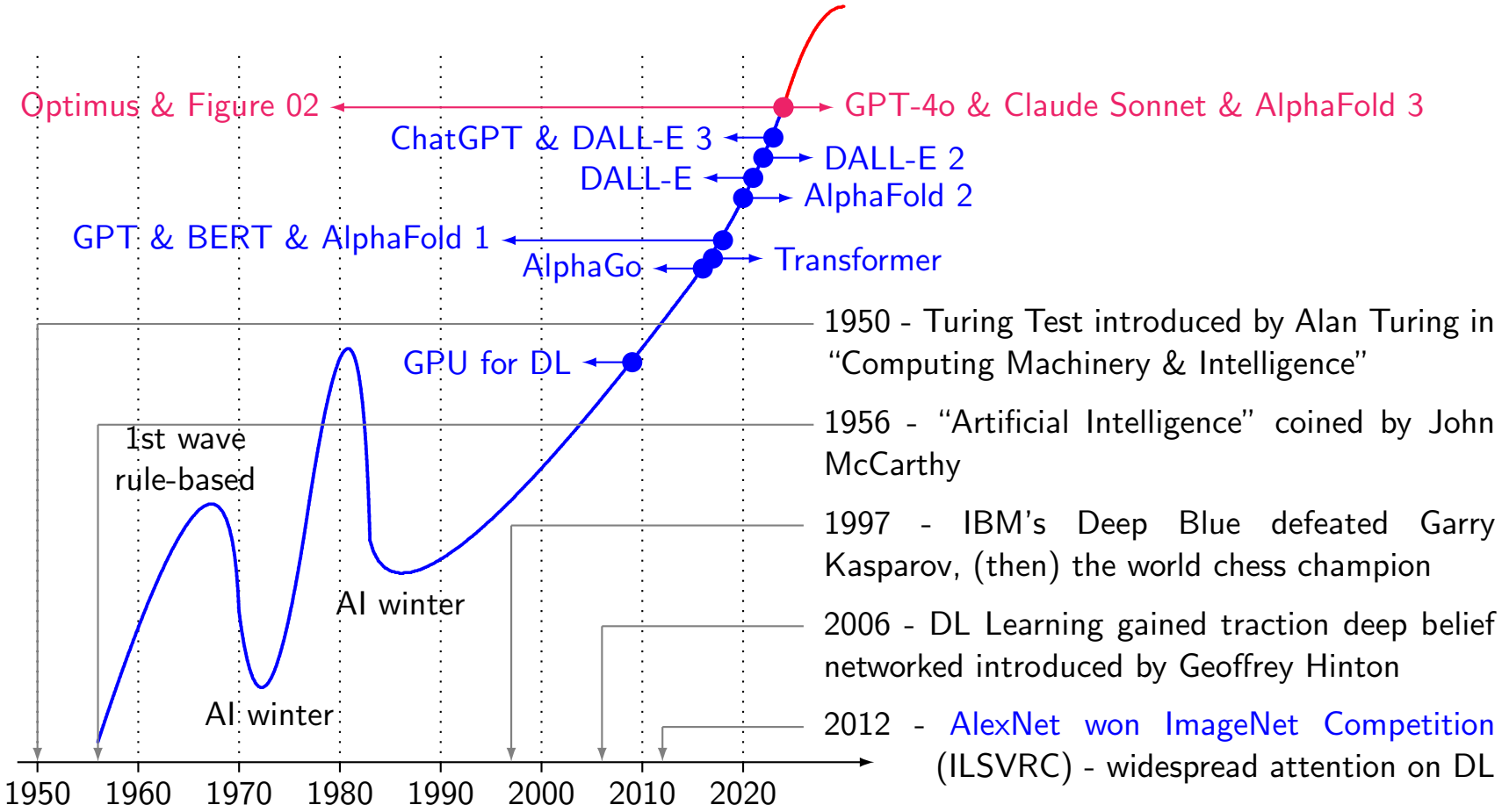
Definition & relation to other technologies

- AI
  - is technology doing tasks requiring human intelligence, such as learning, problem-solving, decision-making & language understanding
  - encompasses *range of technologies, methodologies, applications & products*
- AI, ML, DL, statistics & expert system[1] [HGH+22]



[1] ML: machine learning & DL: deep learning

History



1950 - Turing Test introduced by Alan Turing in "Computing Machinery & Intelligence"

1956 - "Artificial Intelligence" coined by John McCarthy

1997 - IBM's Deep Blue defeated Garry Kasparov, (then) the world chess champion

2006 - DL Learning gained traction deep belief networked introduced by Geoffrey Hinton

2012 - AlexNet won ImageNet Competition (ILSVRC) - widespread attention on DL

Significant AI Achievements - 2014 – 2025

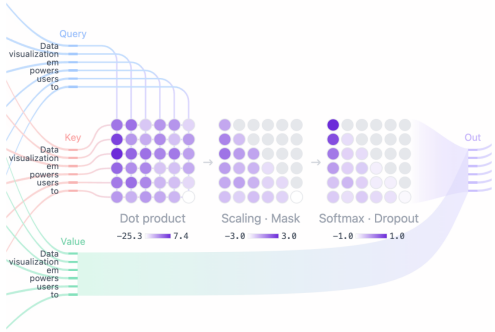
Deep learning revolution

- 2012 – 2015 - DL revolution[2]
  - CNNs demonstrated exceptional performance in image recognition, $e.g.$, *AlexNet's victory in ImageNet competition*
  - widespread adoption of DL learning in CV transforming industries
- 2016 - AlphaGo defeats human Go champion
  - DeepMind's AlphaGo defeated world champion in Go, extremely complex game *believed to be beyond AI's reach*
  - significant milestone in RL - AI's potential in solving complex & strategic problems

[2] CV: computer vision, NN: neural network, CNN: convolutional NN, RL: reinforcement learning

Transformer changes everything

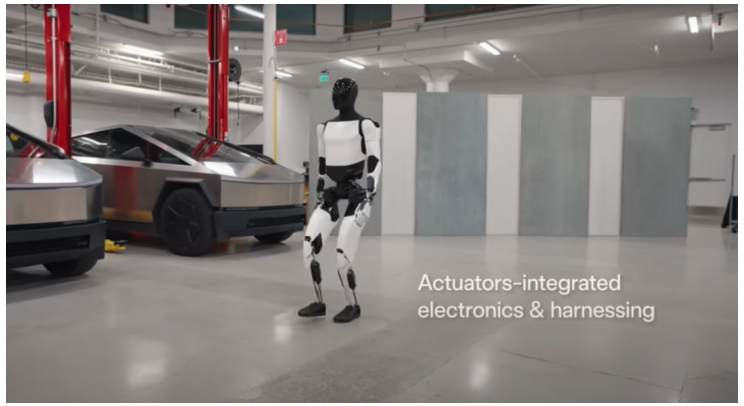
- 2017 – 2018 - Transformers & NLP breakthroughs[3]
  - *Transformer (e.g., BERT & GPT) revolutionized NLP*
  - major advancements in, *e.g.*, machine translation & chatbots
- 2020 - AI in healthcare – AlphaFold & beyond
  - DeepMind's *AlphaFold solves 50-year-old protein folding problem* predicting 3D protein structures with remarkable accuracy
  - accelerates drug discovery and personalized medicine - offering new insights into diseases and potential treatments



[3] NLP: natural language processing, GPT: generative pre-trained transformer

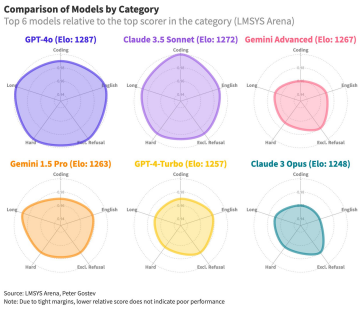
Lots of breakthroughs in AI technology and applications in 2024

- proliferation of advanced AI models
  - GPT-4o, Claude Sonnet, Claude 3 series, Llama 3, Sora, Gemini
  - *transforming industries* such as content creation, customer service, education, $etc.$
- breakthroughs in specialized AI applications
  - Figure 02, Optimus, AlphaFold 3
  - driving unprecedented advancements in automation, drug discovery, scientific understanding - *profoundly affecting healthcare, manufacturing, scientific research*



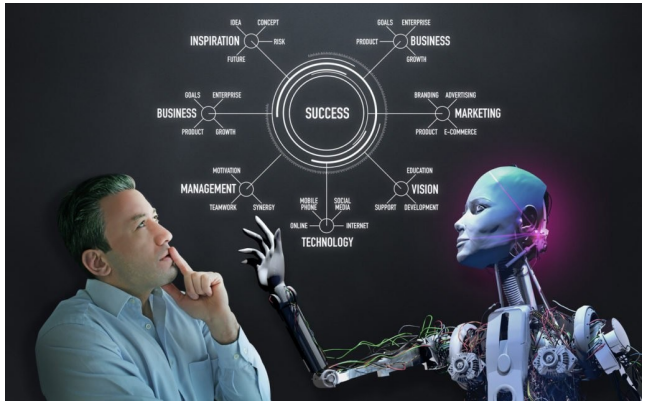
Major AI Breakthroughs in 2025

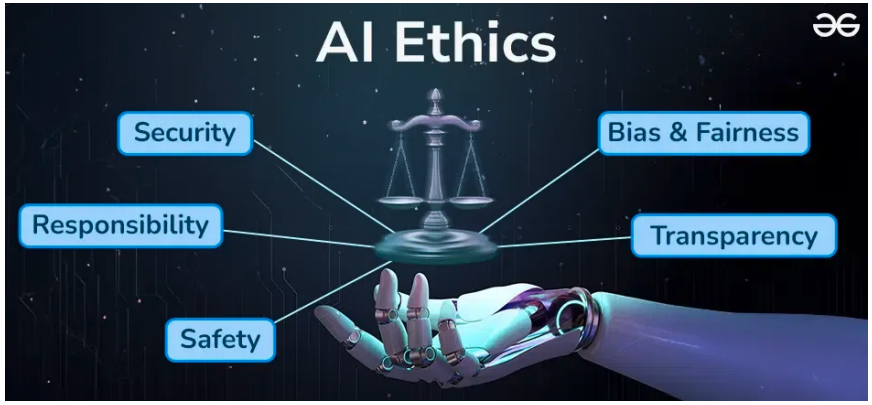
- next-generation foundation models
  - GPT-5 and Claude 4 demonstrate emergent reasoning abilities
  - open-source models achieving parity with leading commercial systems from 2024
- hardware innovations
  - NVIDIA's Blackwell successor architecture delivering 3-4x performance improvement
  - AMD's MI350 accelerators challenging NVIDIA's market dominance
- AI-human collaboration systems
  - seamless multimodal interfaces enabling natural human-AI collaboration
  - AI systems effectively explaining reasoning and recommendations
  - augmented reality interfaces providing real-time AI assistance in professional contexts



Transformative impact of AI - reshaping industries, work & society

- accelerating human-AI collaboration
  - not only reshaping industries but *altering how humans interact with technology*
  - AI's role as collaborator and augmentor redefines productivity, creativity, the way we address global challenges, $e.g.$, *sustainability & healthcare*
- AI-driven automation *transforms workforce dynamics* - creating new opportunities while challenging traditional job roles
- *ethical AI considerations* becoming central not only to business strategy, but to society as a whole - *influencing regulations, corporate responsibility & public trust*

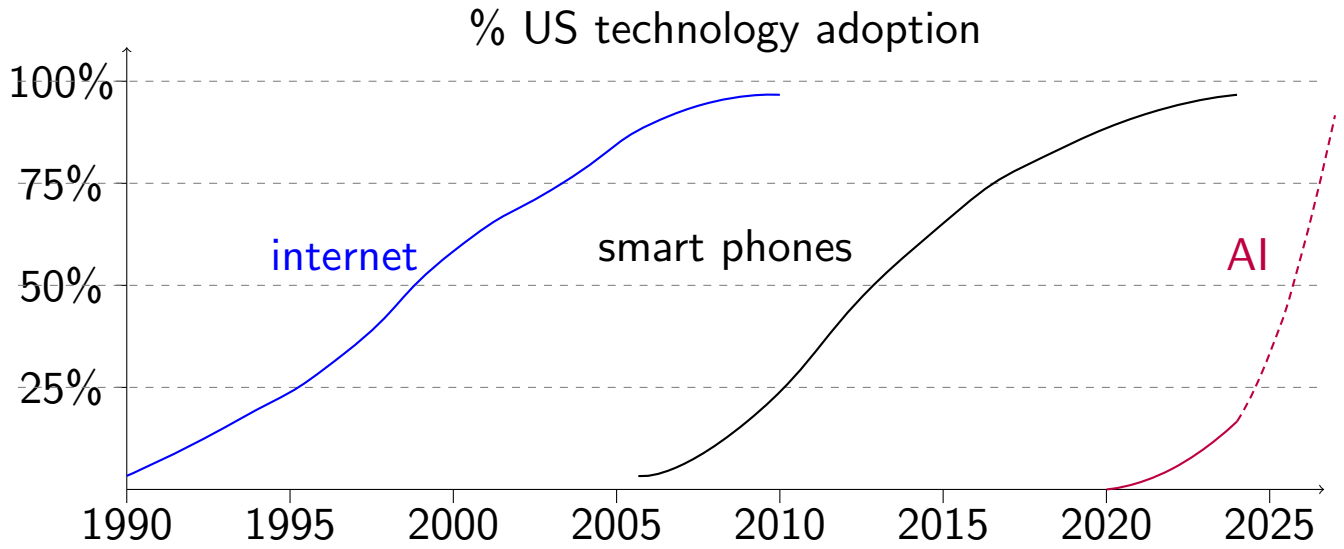




Recent Advances in AI

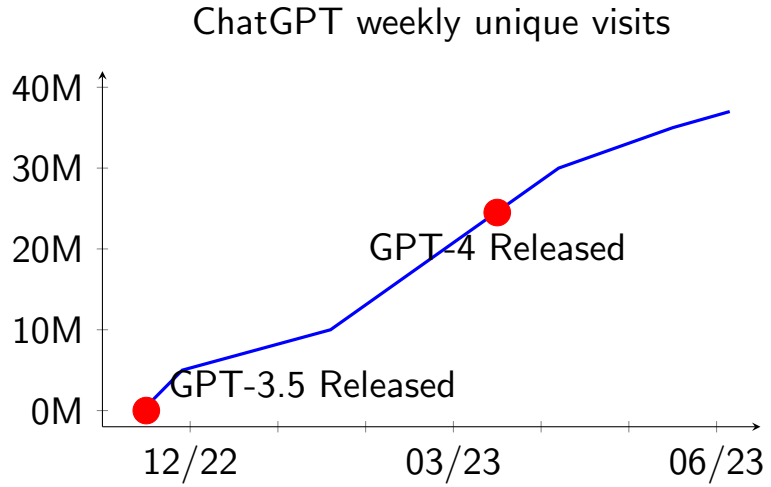
Where are we in AI today?

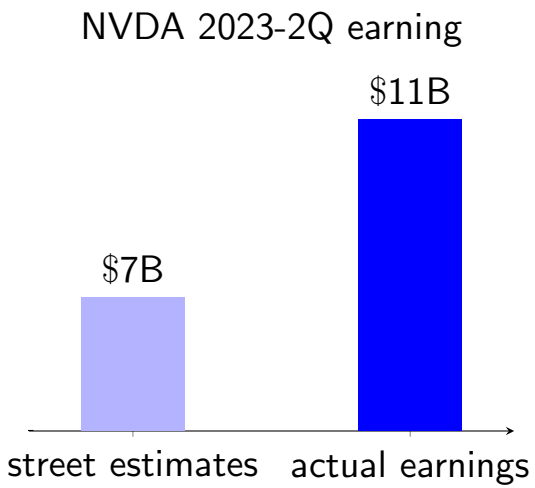
- sunrise phase - currently experiencing dawn of AI era with significant advancements and increasing adoption across various industries
- early adoption - in early stages of AI lifecycle with widespread adoption and innovation across sectors marking significant shift in technology's role in society



Explosion of AI ecosystems - ChatGPT & NVIDIA

- took only *5 months for ChatGPT users to reach 35M*
- NVDIA 2023 Q2 earning exceeds market expectation by big margin - $7B vs $13.5B
  - surprisingly, *101% year-to-year growth*
  - even more surprisingly *gross margin was 71.2%* - up from 43.5% in previous year[4]



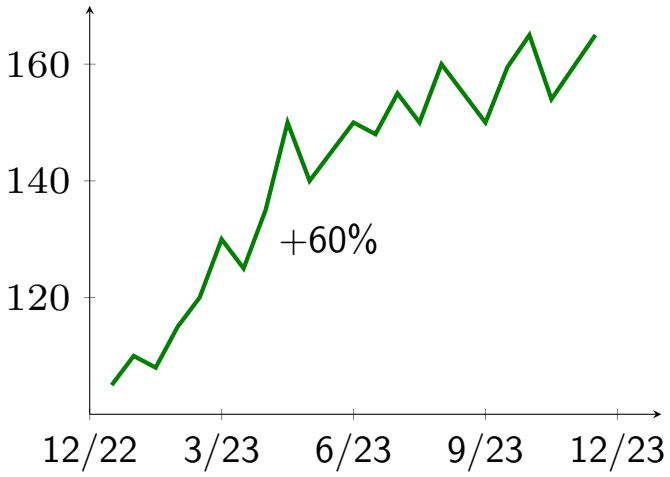


[4] source - Bloomberg

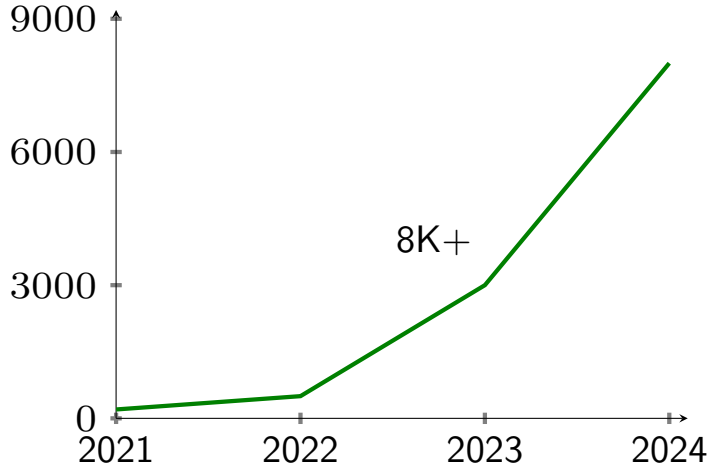
Explosion of AI ecosystems - AI stock market

- *AI investment surge in 2023 - portfolio performance soars by 60%*
  - AI-focused stocks significantly outpaced traditional market indices
- *over 8,000 new AI applications* developed in last 3 years
  - applications span from healthcare and finance to manufacturing and entertainment

AI basket performance - 2023

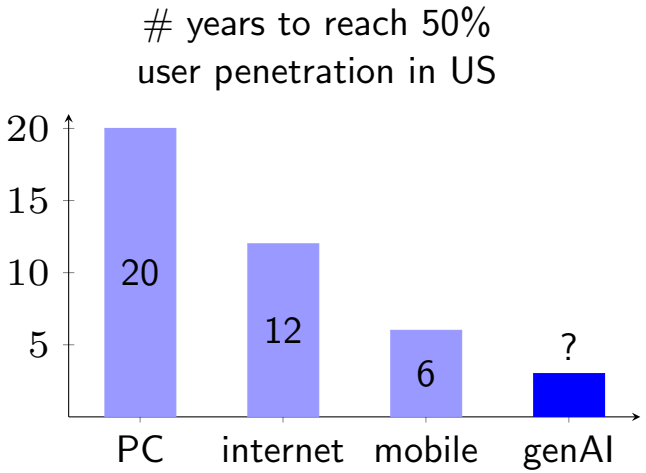


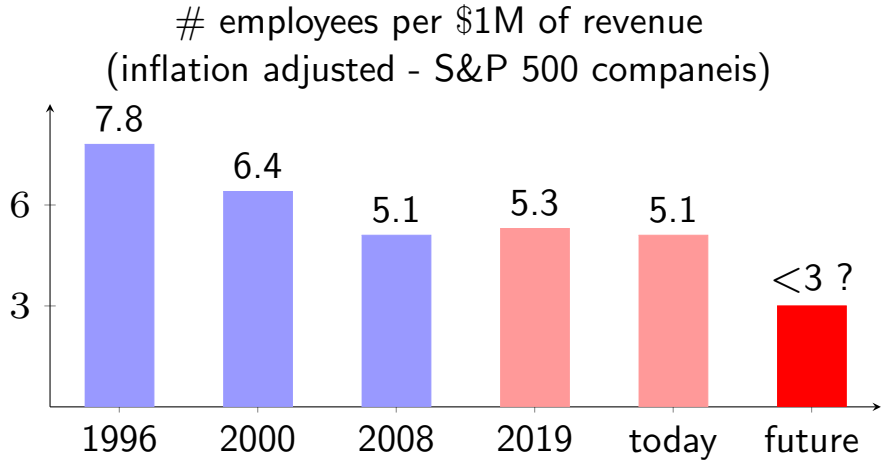
new AI applications over time



AI's transformative impact - adoption speed & economic potential

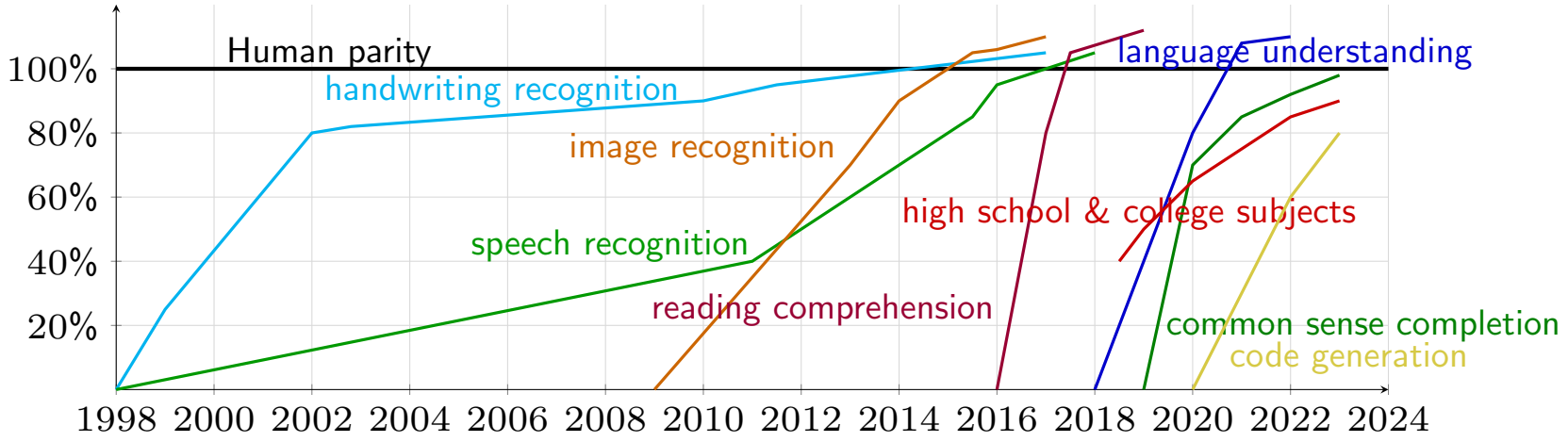
- adoption - has been twice as fast with platform shifts suggesting
  - increasing demand and readiness for new technology improved user experience & accessibility
- AI's potential to drive economy for years to come
  - 35% improvement in productivity driven by introduction of PCs and internet
  - greater gains expected with AI proliferation





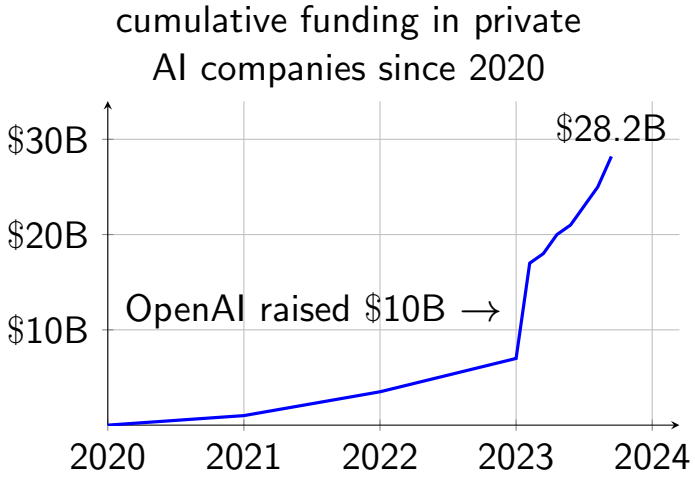
AI getting more & more faster

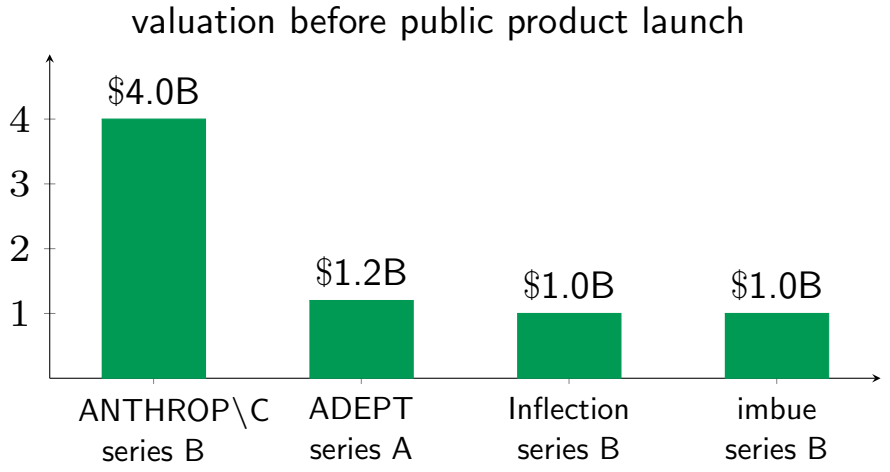
- steep upward slopes of AI capabilities highlight accelerating pace of AI development
  - period of exponential growth with AI potentially mastering new skills and surpassing human capabilities at ever-increasing rate
- closing gap to human parity - some capabilities approaching or arguably reached human parity, while others having still way to go
  - achieving truly human-like capabilities in broad range remains a challenge



Massive investment in AI

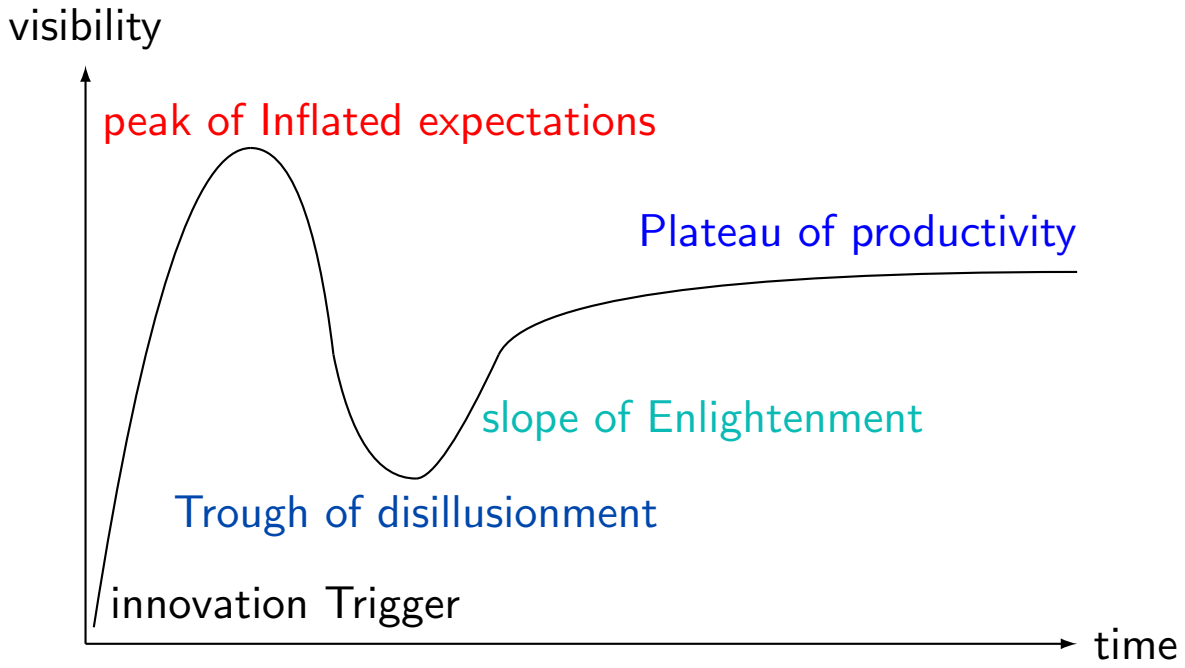
- *explosive growth* - cumulative funding skyrocketed reaching staggering $28.2B
- OpenAI - significant fundraising (=$10B) fueled rapid growth
- *valuation surge* - substantial valuations even before public products for stella companies
- *fierce competition for capital* among AI startups driving innovation & accelerating development
- massive investment indicates *strong belief in & optimistic outlook for potential of AI* to revolutionize industries & drive economic growth





Is AI hype?

Technology hype cycle



- innovation trigger - technology breakthrough kicks things off
- peak of inflated expectations - early publicity induces many successes followed by even more
- trough of disillusionment - expectations wane as technology producers shake out or fail
- slope of enlightenment - benefit enterprise, technology better understood, more enterprises fund pilots

Fiber vs cloud infrastructure

- fiber infrastructure - 1990s
  - Telco Co's raised $1.6T of equity & $600B of debt
  - bandwidth costs decreased 90% within 4 years
  - companies - Covage, NothStart, Telligent, Electric Lightwave, 360 networks, Nextlink, Broadwind, UUNET, NFS Communications, Global Crossing, Level 3 Communications
  - became *public good*
- cloud infrastructure - 2010s
  - entirely new computing paradigm
  - mostly public companeis with data centers
  - *big 4 hyperscalers generate* $150B + annual revenue

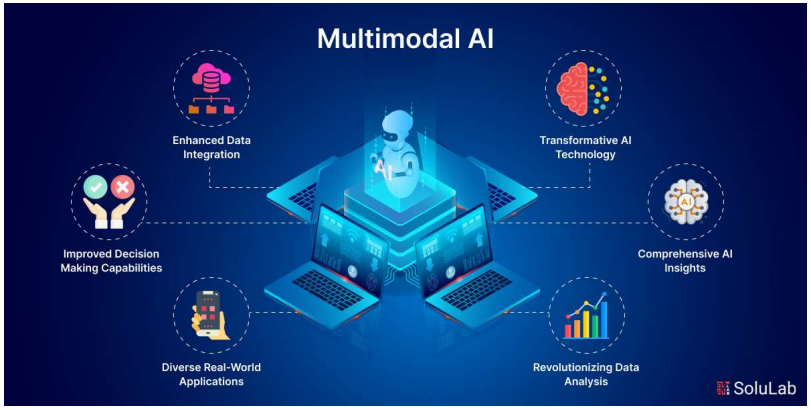
Yes & No

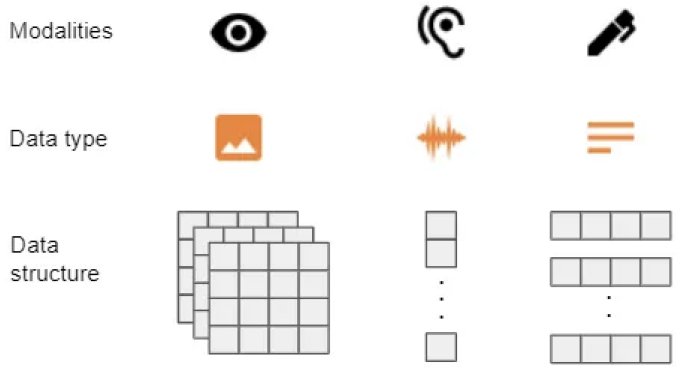
characteristics of hype cycles	speaker's views
value accrual misaligned with investment	• OpenAI still operating at a loss; business model *still* not clear • gradual value creation across broad range of industries and technologies ($e.g.$, CV, LLMs, RL) unlike fiber optic bubble in 1990s
overestimating timeline & capabilities of technology	• self-driving cars delayed for over 15 years, with limited hope for achieving level 5 autonomy • AI, however, has proven useful within a shorter 5-year span, with enterprises eagerly adopting
lack of widespread utility due to technology maturity	• AI already providing significant utility across various domains • vs quantum computing remains promising in theory but lacks widespread practical utility

AI Agents

Multimodal learning

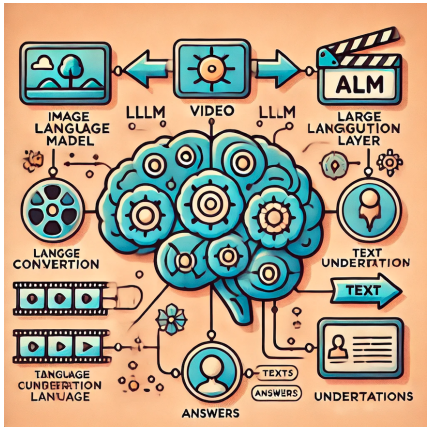
- understand information from multiple modalities, $e.g.$, text, images, audio, video
- representation learning methods
  - combine multiple representations or learn multimodal representations simultaneously
- applications
  - images from text prompt, videos with narration, musics with lyrics
- collaboration among different modalities
  - understand image world (open system) using language (closed system)





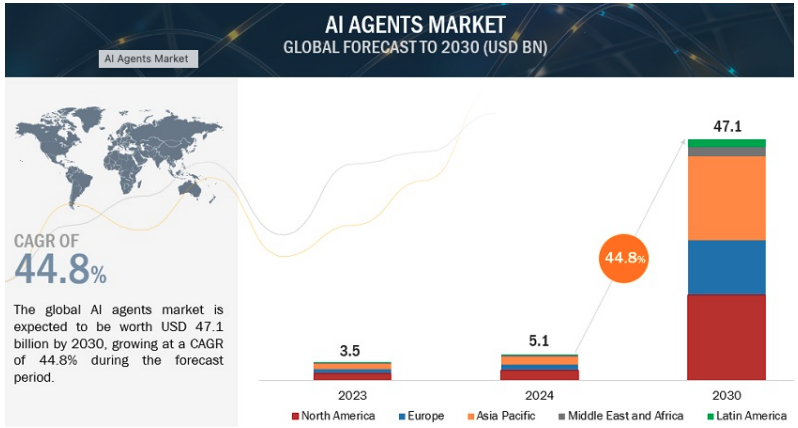
Implications of success of LLMs

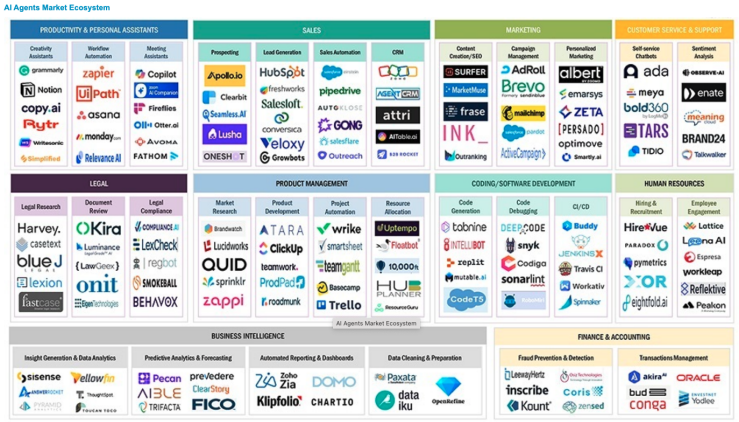
- many researchers change gears towards LLM
  - from computer vision (CV), speach, music, video, even reinforcement learning
- *LLM is not only about NLP . . .* humans have . . .
  - evolved to optimize natural language structures for eons
  - handed down knowledge using *this natural languages* for thousands of years
  - internal structure (or equivalently, representation) of natural languages optimized via *thousands of generation by evolution*
- LLM *connects non-linguistic world (open system) via natural languages (closed system)*



Multimodal AI (mmAI) - definition & history

- mmAI - systems processing & integrating data from multiple sources & modalities, to generate unified response / decision
- 1990s – 2000s - early systems - initial research combining basic text & image data
- 2010s - CNNs & RNNs enabling more sophisticated handling of multimodality
- 2020s - modern multimodal models - Transformer-based architectures handling complex multi-source data at highly advanced level
- mmAI *mimics human cognitive ability* to interpret and integrate information from various sources, leading to holistic decision-making



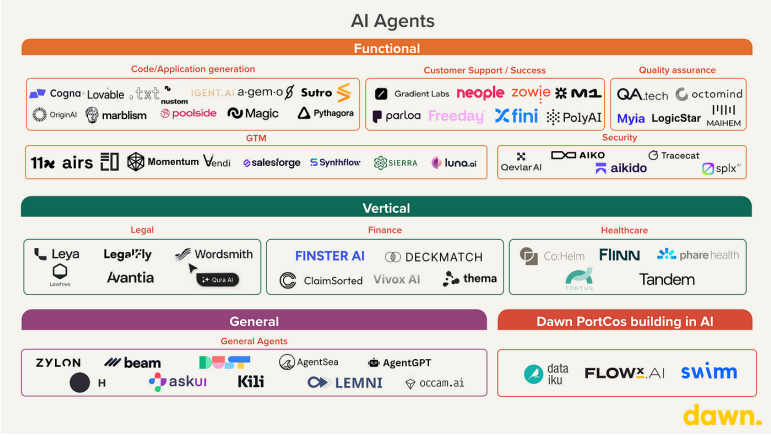


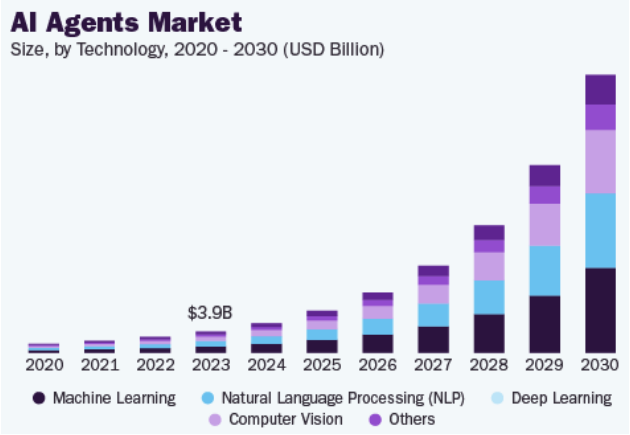
mmAI Technology

- core components
  - data preprocessing - images, text, audio & video
  - architectures - unified Transformer-based ($e.g.$, ViT) & cross-attention mechanisms / hybrid architectures ($e.g.$, CNNs + LLMs)
  - integration layers - fusion methods for combining data representations from different modalities
- technical challenges
  - data alignment - accurate alignment of multimodal data
  - computational demand - high-resource requirements for training and inferencing
  - diverse data quality - manage variations in data quality across modalities
- advancements
  - multimodal embeddings - shared feature spaces interaction between modalities
  - self-supervised learning - leverage unlabeled data to learn representations across modalities

AI agents powered by multimodal LLMs

- foundation
  - integrate multimodal AI capabilities for enhanced interaction & decision-making
- components
  - perceive environment through multiple modalities (visual, audio, text), process using LLM technology, generate contextual responses & take actions
- capabilities
  - understand complex environments, reason across modalities, engage in natural interactions, adapt behavior based on context & feedback





AI agents - Present & Future

- emerging applications
  - scientific research - agents analyzing & running experiments & generating hypotheses
  - creative collaboration - AI partners in design & art combining multiple mediums
  - environmental monitoring - processing satellite sensor data for climate analysis
  - healthcare - enhanced diagnostic combining imaging, $e.g.$, MRI, with patient history
  - customer experience - virtual assistants understanding spoken language & visual cues
  - autonomous vehicles - integration of visual, radar & audio data
- future
  - ubiquitous AI agents - seamless integration into everyday devices
  - highly tailored personalized experience - in education, entertainment & healthcare

Silicon Valley's Cultural Engine of Innovation and Disruption

My journey - from Samsung, Amazon & Gauss Labs to Erudio Bio

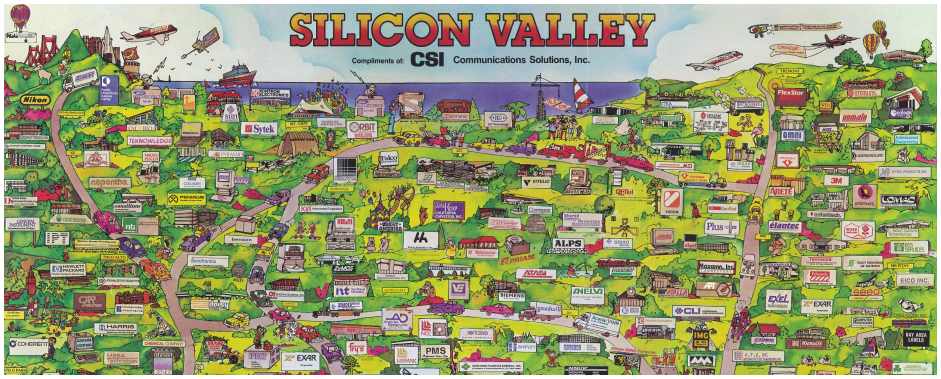
- Samsung Semiconductor, Inc.
  - inception into industry from academia
  - work with amazing engineers and leaders of the world's best memory chip maker!
- Amazon.com, Inc.
  - experience so-called Silicon Valley big tech culture and technology
  - set tone for my future career trajectory!
- Gauss Labs, Inc.
  - found & operate AI startup, shaping corporate culture & spearheading R&D as CTO
  - inherent challenges of Korean conglomerate spin-off startup - cultural constraints, over-capitalization, and leadership limitations
- Erudio Bio, Inc.
  - concrete & tangible bio-technology in addition to AI
  - good decisions about business models, market fit, go-to-market (GTM) strategies





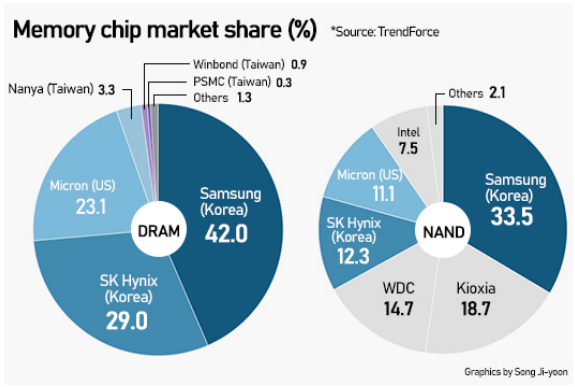
Innovation ecosystem of Silicon Valley

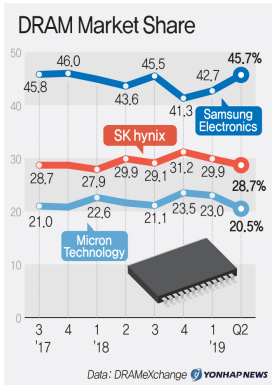
- key characteristics
  - risk-taking culture, trust in technology
  - easy access to huge capital - VCs, angel investors alike
  - talent density - engineers, entrepreneurs, researchers, scientists
  - diversity, “collision density” of ideas
  - ecosystem of collaboration and competition - startups, academia, industry leaders
- what they mean for global big tech
  - set trends in AI, software & hardware innovation
  - act as testing ground for disruptive ideas



Case study: Amazon - amazing differentiators of big techs

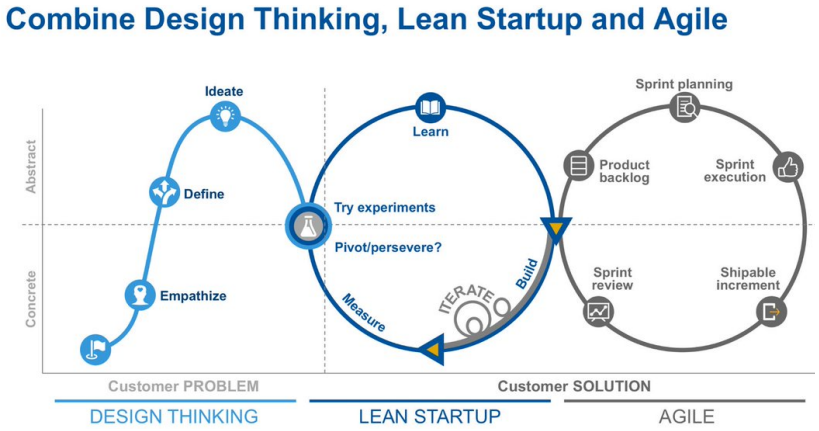
- Amazon's culture & leadership principles
  - customer obsession as driver of innovation
  - high standards & ownership culture
  - bias for action and long-term thinking - sounds contradictory?
  - mechanisms like "two-pizza teams" & "Day One" for scalability
- lessons for Samsung
  - applying customer-centric innovation in hardware & AI, *e.g.*, on-device AI
  - balancing agility with long-term R&D
  - *build / adapt / apply on the core strength of Samsung that no other company has!*

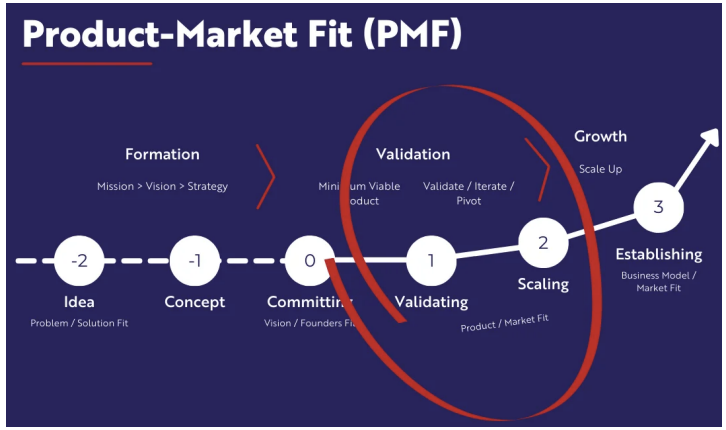




Founding and scaling startups

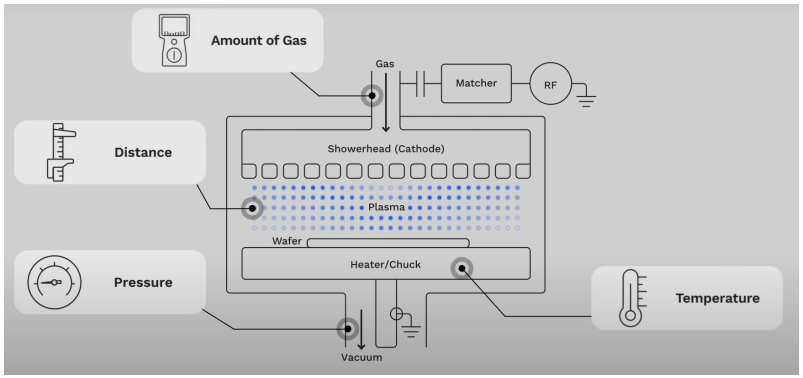
- challenges
  - competence of and chemistry among co-founders crucial
  - technology & great team are *necessary*, but *not sufficient (at all!)* for success
  - business models, market fit, timing, agility, flexibility for pivoting and perseverance
- insight
  - importance of domain expertise in addition to AI
  - balancing innovation with good business decisions





AI in shaping future of semiconductor and beyond

- opportunities
  - computer vision applications, $e.g.$, defect inspection, (failure) pattern classification
  - AI-driven optimization in manufacturing, quality control
- challenges
  - data quality, accessibility, $e.g.$, integration with legacy systems
  - demand for extreme accuracy, concept drift & shift
- *bad* examples
  - predictive maintenance - extremely hard (or impossible) problem



Bridging Silicon Valley & Korea

- cultural differences
  - risk appetite & failure tolerance
  - decision-making speed and hierarchy
  - innovation vs execution focus
- opportunities for collaboration
  - leveraging Korea's manufacturing expertise with Silicon Valley's software/AI strengths
  - building global teams with diverse perspectives

To be successful . . .

- embrace customer-centric mindset in innovation and for business decisions
- balance agility with long-term vision
- foster cross-cultural collaboration for global impact
- ((very) strategically and carefully) leverage AI to solve real-world industrial challenges

Selected References & Sources

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Thank You