

[SNU INMC 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*
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- *KFAS-Salzburg Global Leadership Initiative Fellow @ Salzburg Global Seminar, Salzburg, Austria*
- Technology Consultant @ Gerson Lehrman Group (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 @ Amazon.com, Inc., Vancouver, BC, Canada – 2020
- Principal Engineer @ Software R&D Center, DS Division, Samsung, Korea – 2017
- Principal Engineer @ Strategic Marketing & Sales Team, Samsung, Korea – 2016
- Principal Engineer @ DT Team, DRAM Development Lab, Samsung, Korea – 2015
- Senior Engineer @ CAE Team, Samsung, Korea – 2012
- PhD - Electrical Engineering @ Stanford University, CA, USA – 2004
- Development Engineer @ Voyan, Santa Clara, CA, USA – 2001
- MS - Electrical Engineering @ Stanford University, CA, USA – 1999
- BS - Electrical & Computer Engineering @ Seoul National University 1994 – 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 - anomaly detection, deep RL, and recommender system
 - Jeff Bezos's project - boosted up sales by *\$200M* via Amazon Mobile Shopping App
- *Co-Founder & CTO* / Global R&D Head & Chief Applied Scientist @ Gauss Labs, Inc.
- *Co-Founder & CTO* - AI Technology & Business Development @ Erudio Bio, Inc.

Today

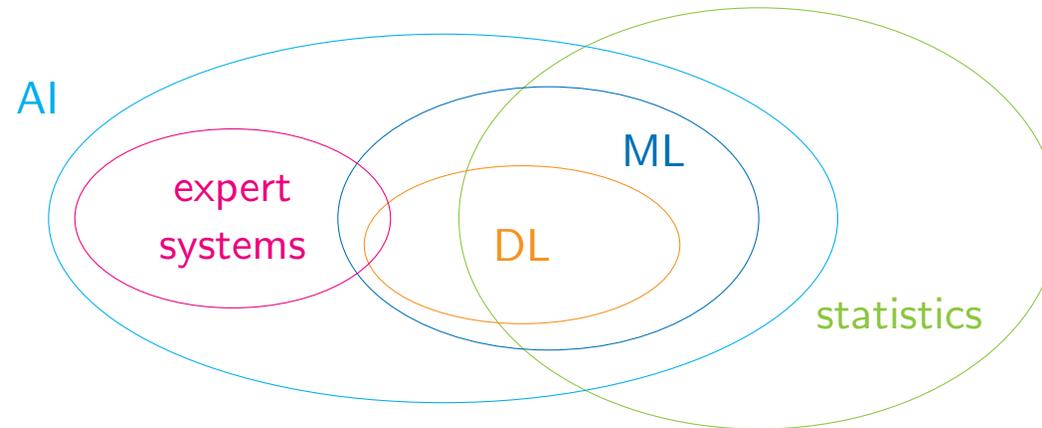
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Artificial Intelligence

Definition and History

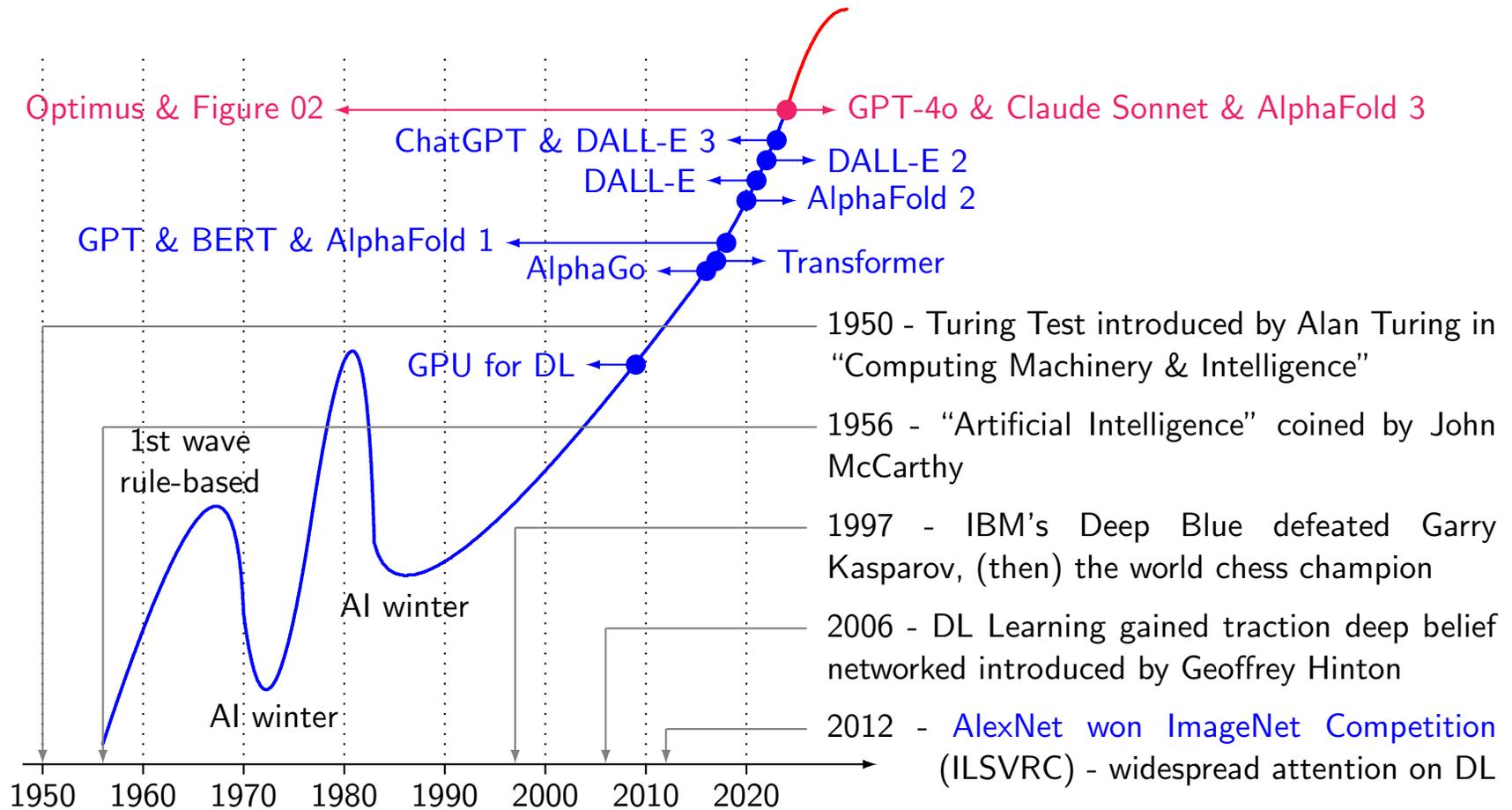
Definition & relation to other technologies

- 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 system¹ [HGH⁺22]



¹ML: machine learning & DL: deep learning

History



Significant AI Achievements - 2014 – 2025

Deep learning revolution

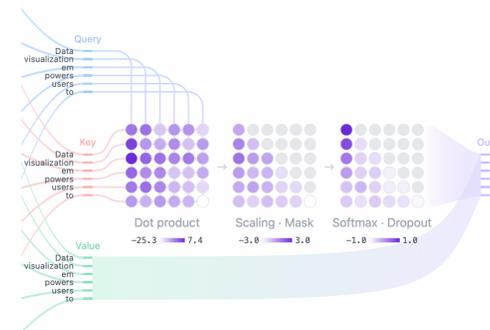
- 2012 – 2015 - DL revolution²
 - CNNs demonstrated exceptional performance in image recognition, *e.g.*, [AlexNet's victory in ImageNet competition](#)
 - widespread adoption of DL learning in CV transforming industries
- 2016 - AlphaGo defeats human Go champion
 - DeepMind's AlphaGo defeated world 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



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

Transformer changes everything

- 2017 – 2018 - Transformers & NLP breakthroughs³
 - *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



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

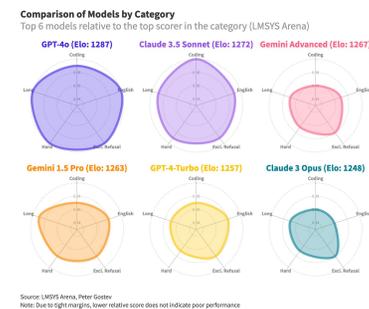
Lots of breakthroughs in AI technology and applications in 2024

- 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*



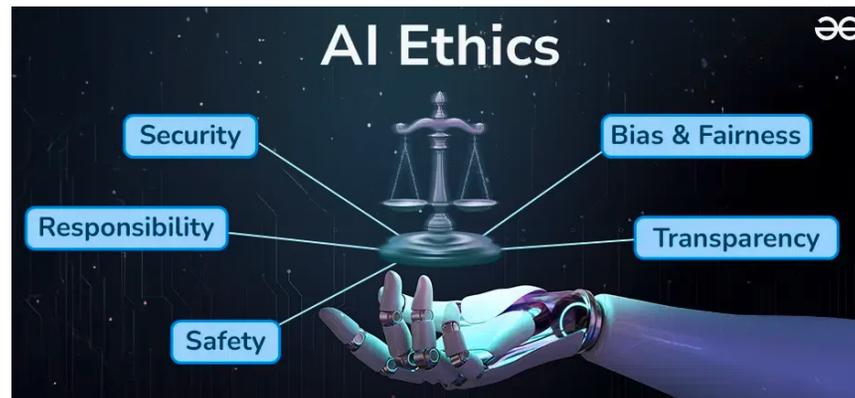
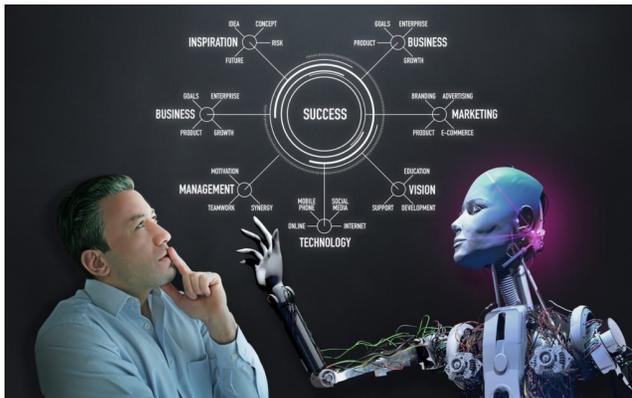
Major AI Breakthroughs in 2025

- 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

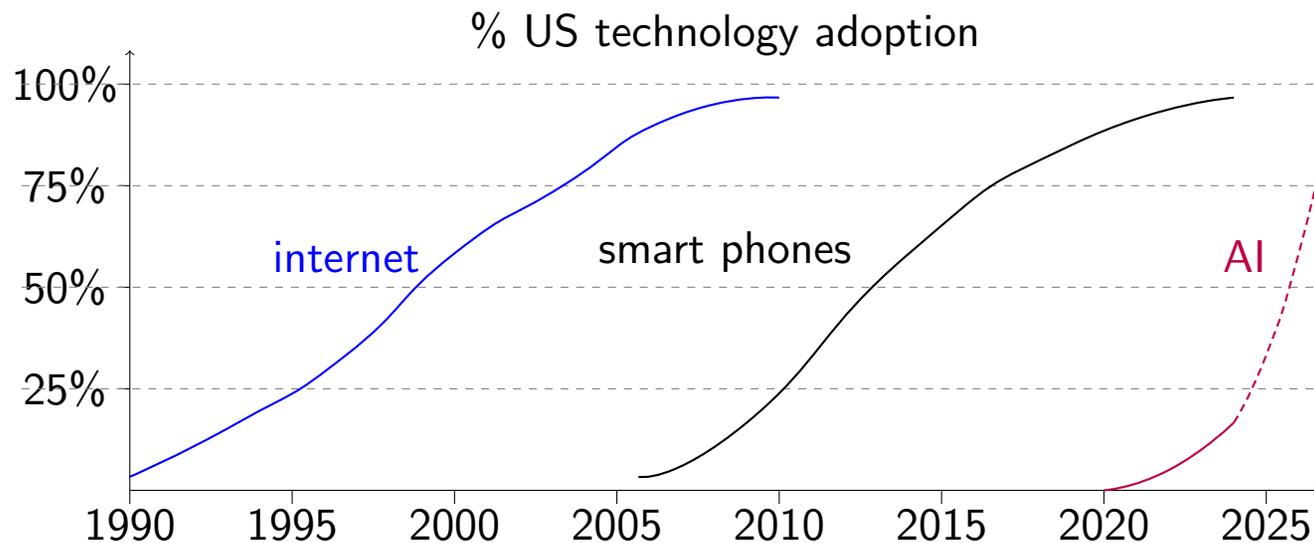
- accelerating human-AI collaboration
 - not only reshaping industries but *altering how humans interact with technology*
 - AI's role as collaborator and augmentor redefines productivity, creativity, the way we address global challenges, *e.g., sustainability & healthcare*
- AI-driven automation *transforms 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*



Measuring AI's Ascent

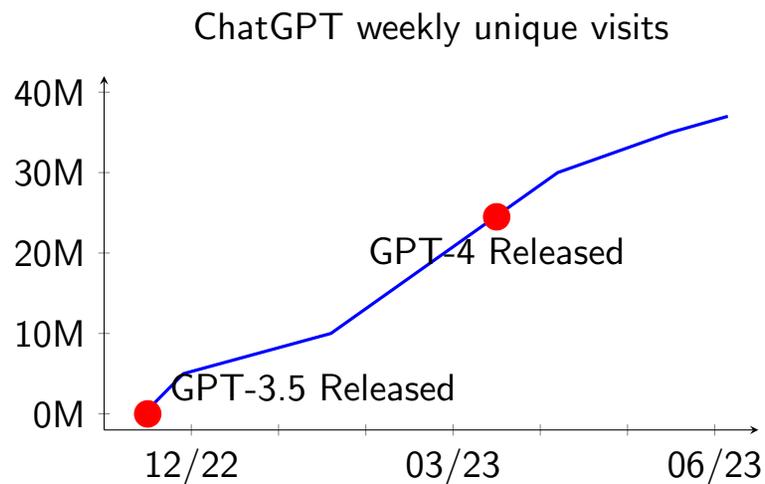
Where are we in AI today?

- 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

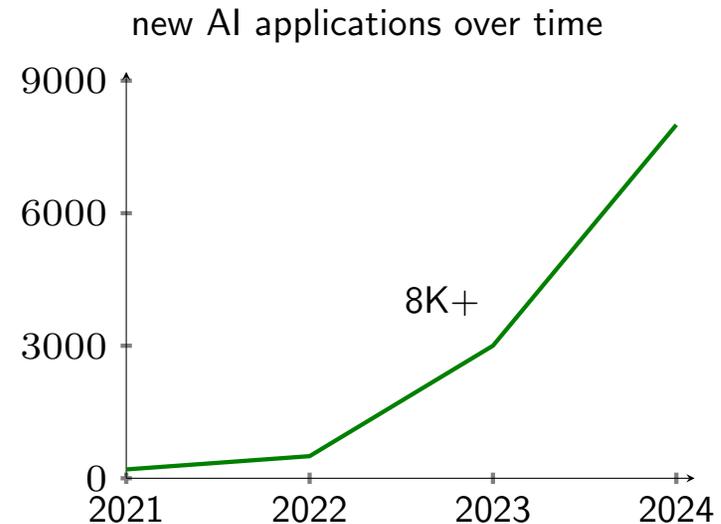
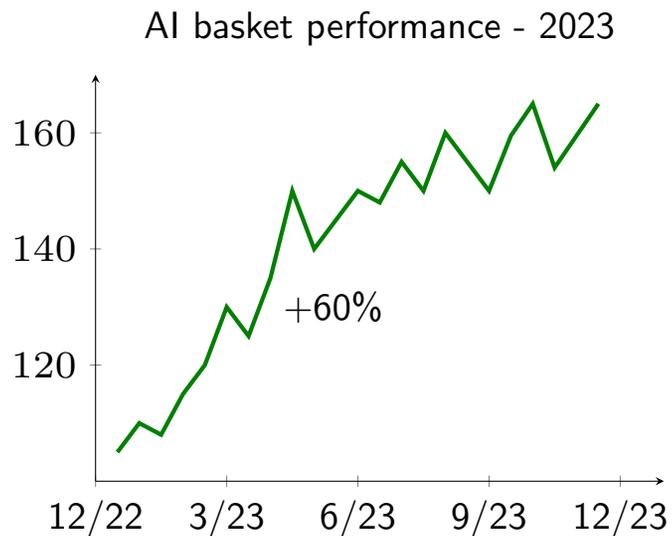
- took only *5 months for ChatGPT users to reach 35M*
- NVIDIA 2023 Q2 earning exceeds market expectation by big margin - \$7B vs \$13.5B
 - surprisingly, *101% year-to-year growth*
 - even more surprisingly *gross margin was 71.2%* - up from 43.5% in previous year⁴



⁴source - Bloomberg

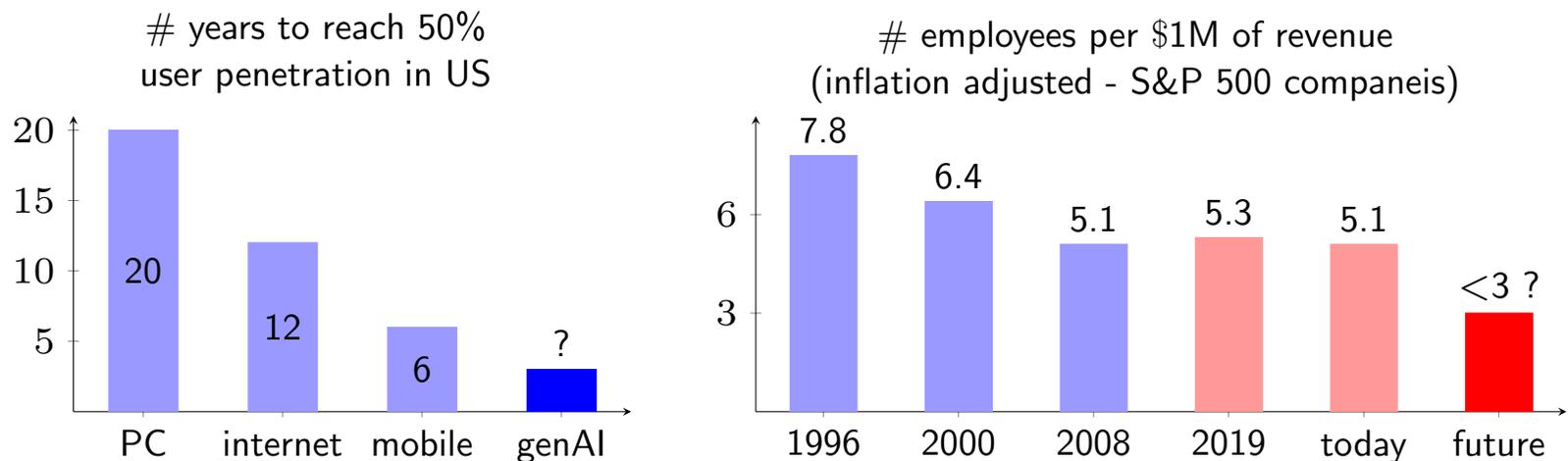
Explosion of AI ecosystems - AI stock market

- *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



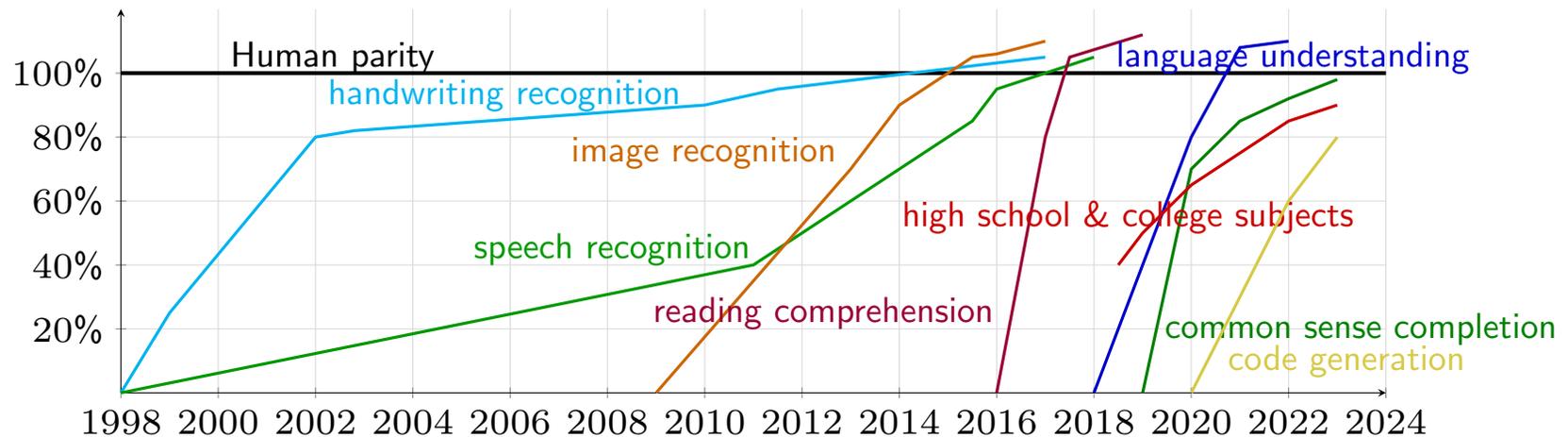
AI's transformative impact - adoption speed & economic potential

- 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



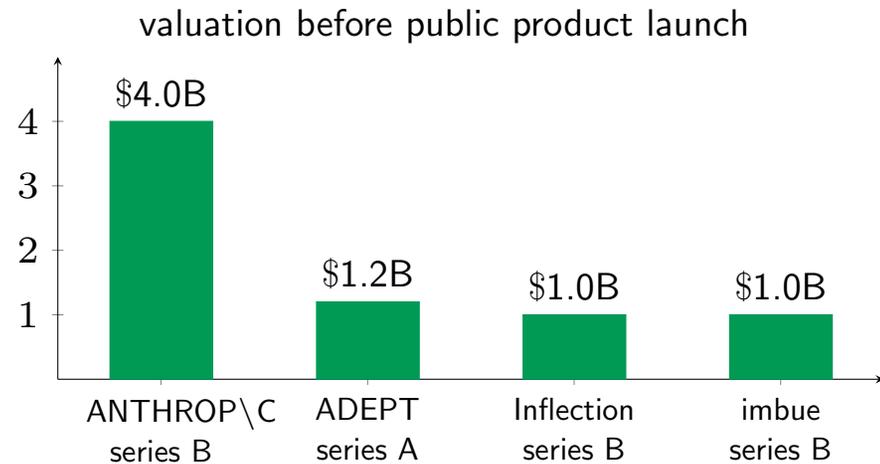
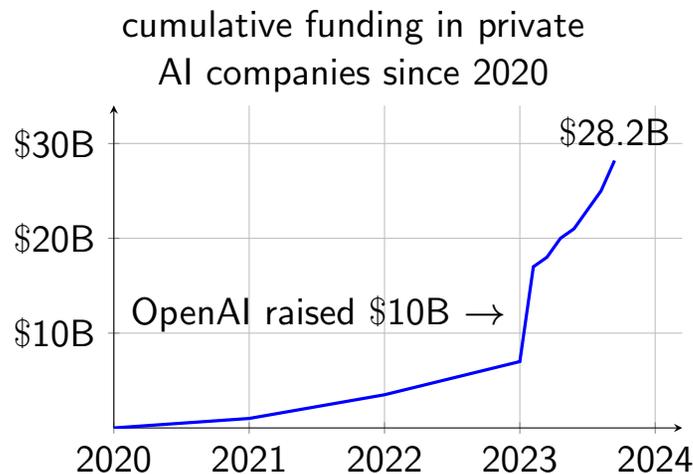
AI getting more & more faster

- 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



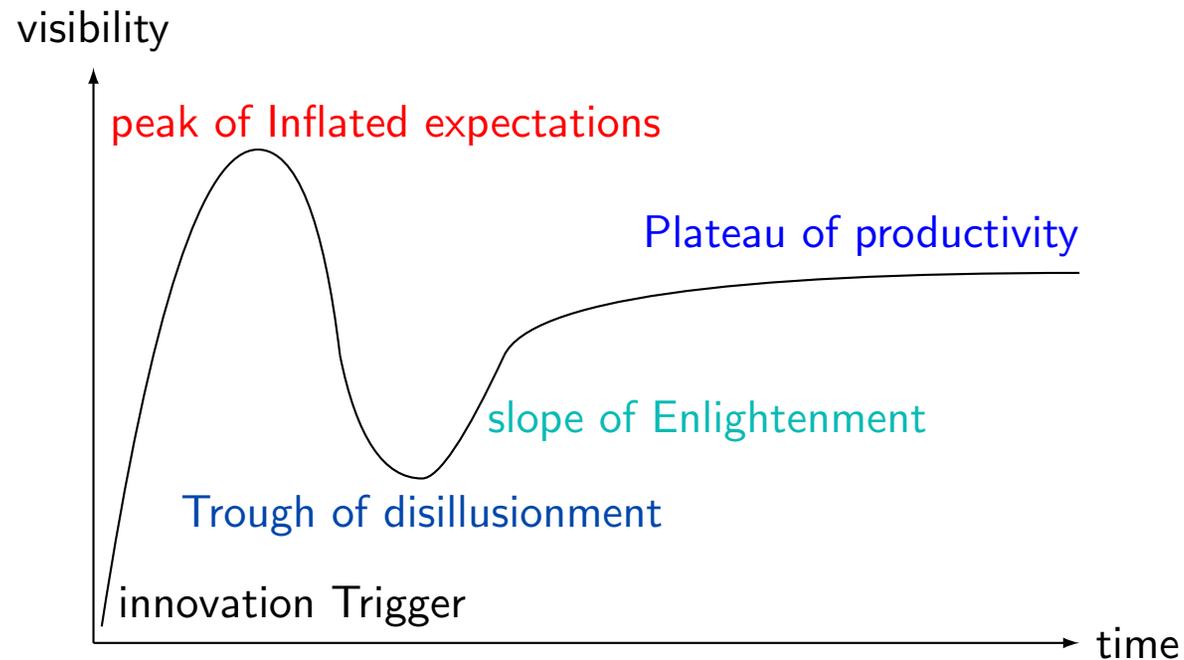
Massive investment in AI

- *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 stellar 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 companies with data centers
 - *big 4 hyperscalers generate* \$150B + annual revenue



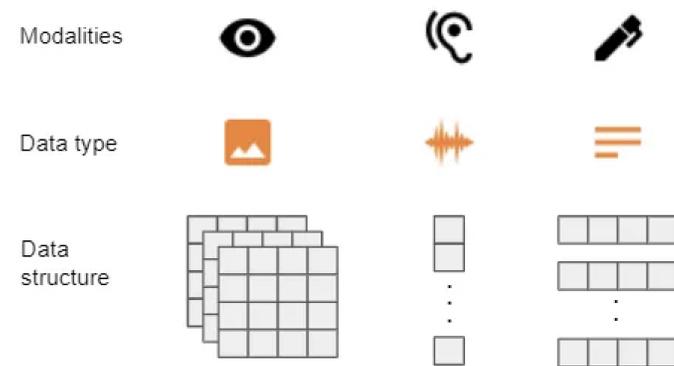
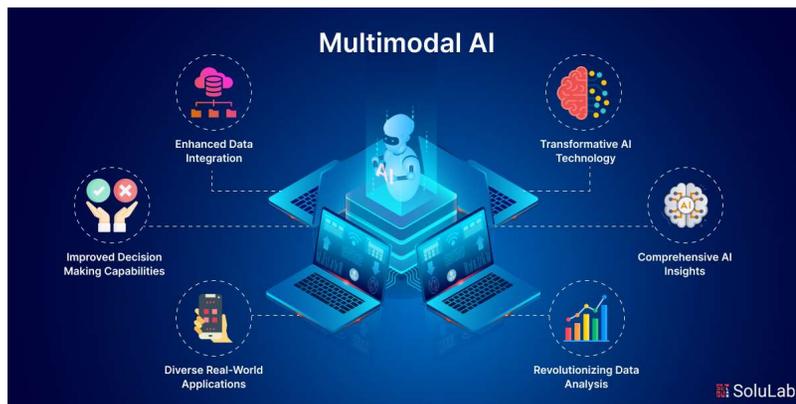
Yes & No

characteristics of hype cycles	speaker's views
value accrual misaligned with investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● OpenAI still operating at a loss; business model <i>still</i> not clear ● gradual value creation across broad range of industries and technologies (<i>e.g.</i>, CV, LLMs, RL) unlike fiber optic bubble in 1990s
overestimating timeline & capabilities of technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AI already providing significant utility across various domains ● vs quantum computing remains promising in theory but lacks widespread practical utility

AI Agents

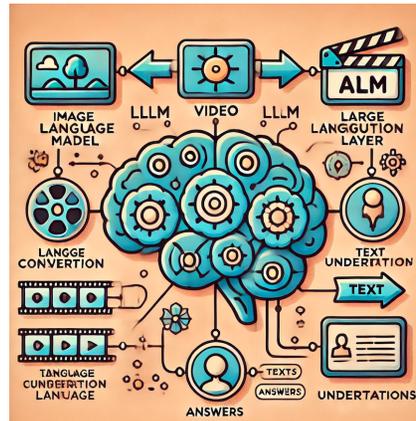
Multimodal learning

- 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)



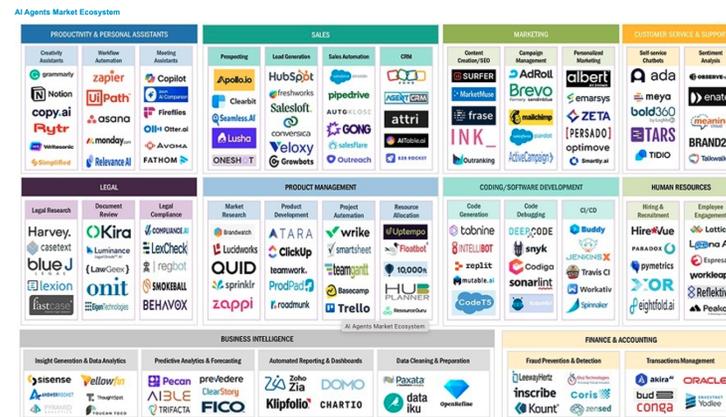
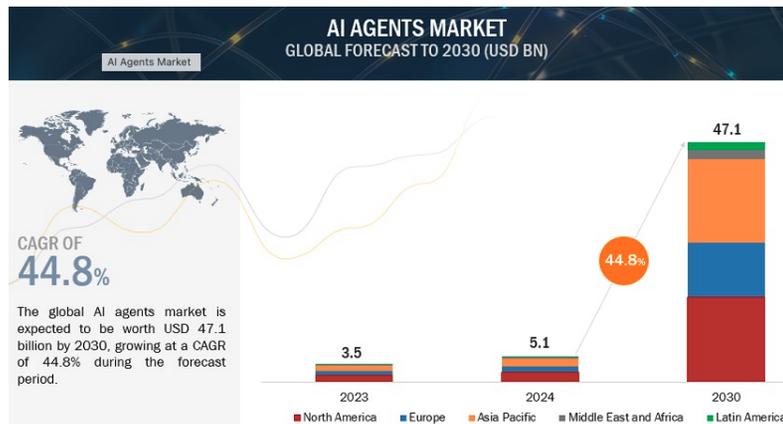
Implications of success of LLMs

- many researchers change gears towards LLM
 - from computer vision (CV), speech, 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

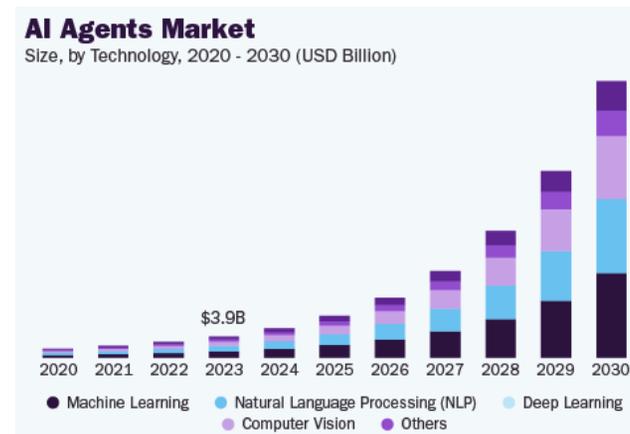
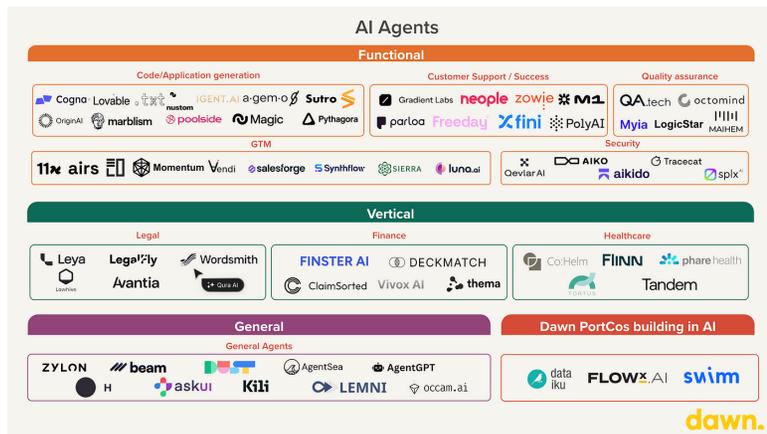


mmAI Technology

- 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

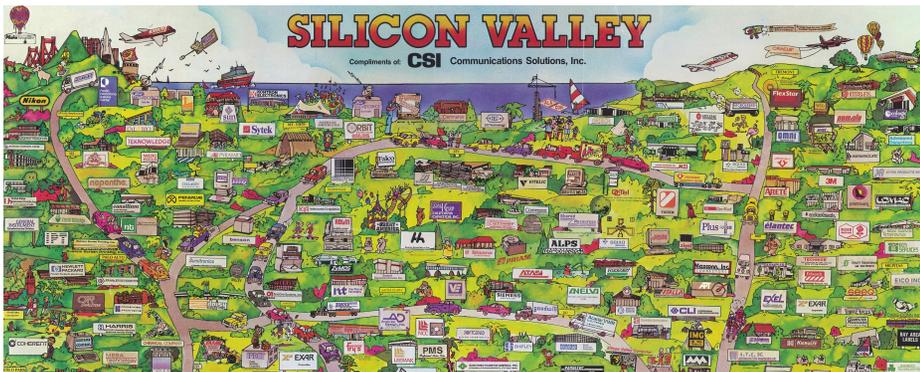
My journey - from Samsung, Amazon & Gauss Labs to Erudio Bio

- 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

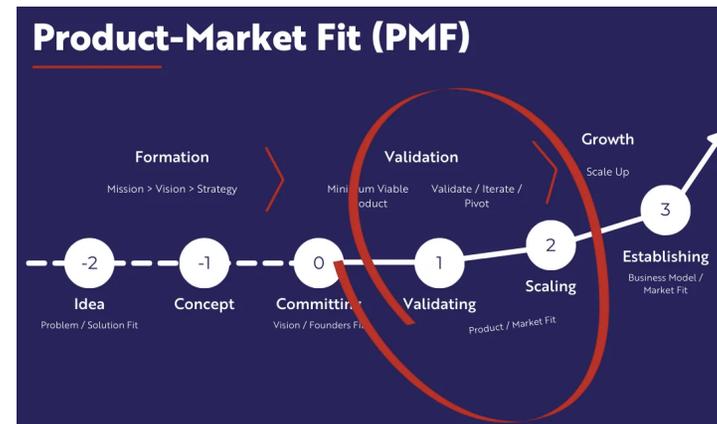
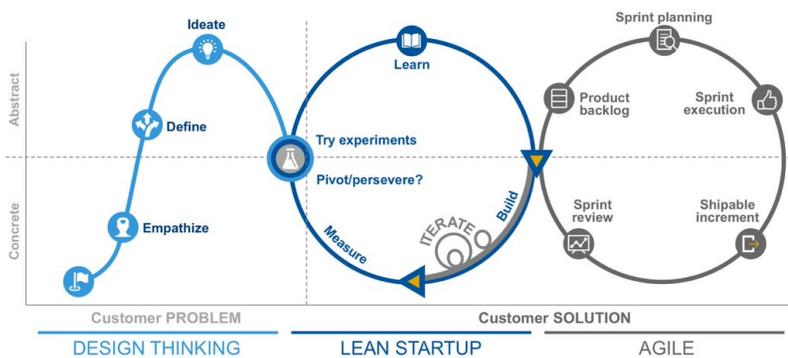
- key characteristics
 - risk-taking culture, trust in technology
 - easy access to huge capital - VCs, angel investors alike
 - talent density - engineers, entrepreneurs, researchers, scientists
 - diversity, “collision density” of ideas
 - ecosystem of collaboration and competition - startups, academia,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



Founding and scaling startups

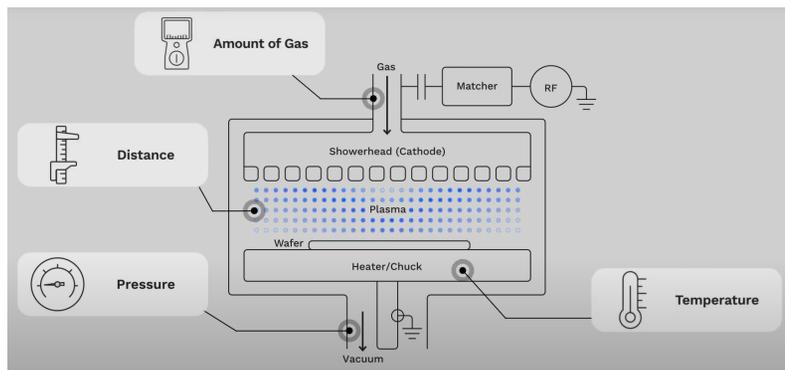
- challenges
 - competence of and chemistry among co-founders crucial
 - technology & great team are *necessary*, but *not sufficient (at all!)* for success
 - business models, market fit, timing, agility, flexibility for pivoting and perseverance
- insight
 - importance of domain expertise in addition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

Combine Design Thinking, Lean Startup and Agile



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



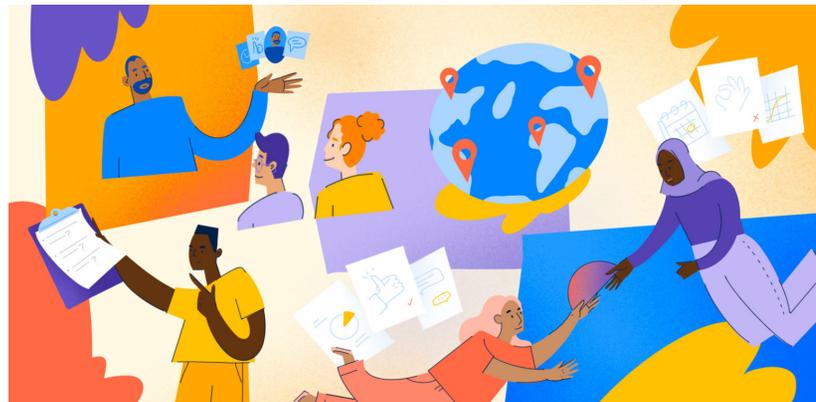
Bridging Silicon Valley & Korea

- 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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- VCs on Sand Hill Road - Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside in California, USA

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Thank You