

The seal of the University of Freiburg is visible in the background on the left side. It features a circular design with a tree in the center, surrounded by the text 'UNIVERSITAS FREIBURGENSIS' and 'FUNDATA 1891'.

CS231n: Deep Learning for Computer Vision

Lecture 1: Introduction

Welcome to CS231n



Welcome to CS231n

Course Instructors



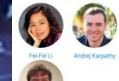
Fei-Fei Li Andrej Karpathy

Teaching Assistants



2015

Course Instructors



2016

Teaching Assistants



Justin Johnson Andrew Senior
Serena Young Subhro Das Steven Chen Abhinav Gupta Nishant Rai
Hui Pham Isaac Bell Narmada Arand Lane McIntosh Catherine Dong

Instructors



2017

Instructors



2021

Teaching Assistants



Instructors



Fei-Fei Li
Rangya Krishna
Danfei Xu
Arnela Syun

Teaching Assistants



William Shen (Head TA) Jonathan Boatz Daniel Cai Junyoung Seok De-An Huang
Andrew Kondrich Fang Yu Lin Damian Mrowca Boxiao Pan Nishant Rai
Lynne P. Thapra Chris Wallis Rui Wang Yi Wen Karen Yang
Brent Yi Christina Yuan Kevin Zakka Yiheng Zhang

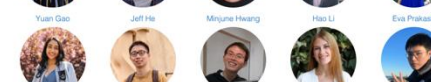
2020

Instructors



Fei-Fei Li
Yunchu Li
Ruihan Gao

Teaching Assistants

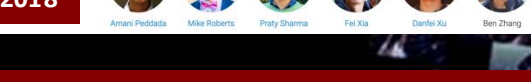


Ziang Liu (Head TA) Tannay Agarwal Samir Agarwal Samuel Clarke Zane Durante
Yuan Gao Jeff He Minjue Huang Hao Li Eva Prakash
Manasa Sharma Bokun Deming Sheng Haichen Shi Manuka Sharma

2023

2018

Instructors



Teaching Assistants



CS231n's Ten Year Anniversary: Returning Lecturers



Fei-Fei Li
2015-2025



Andrej Karpathy
2015-2016



Justin Johnson
2016-2019, 2025



Serena Yeung
2017-2019



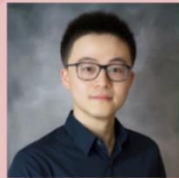
Ranjay Krishna
2020-2021



Danfei Xu
2020-2021



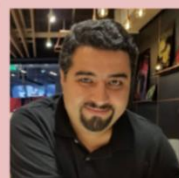
Jiajun Wu
2022



Ruohan Gao
2022-2023



Yunzhu Li
2023

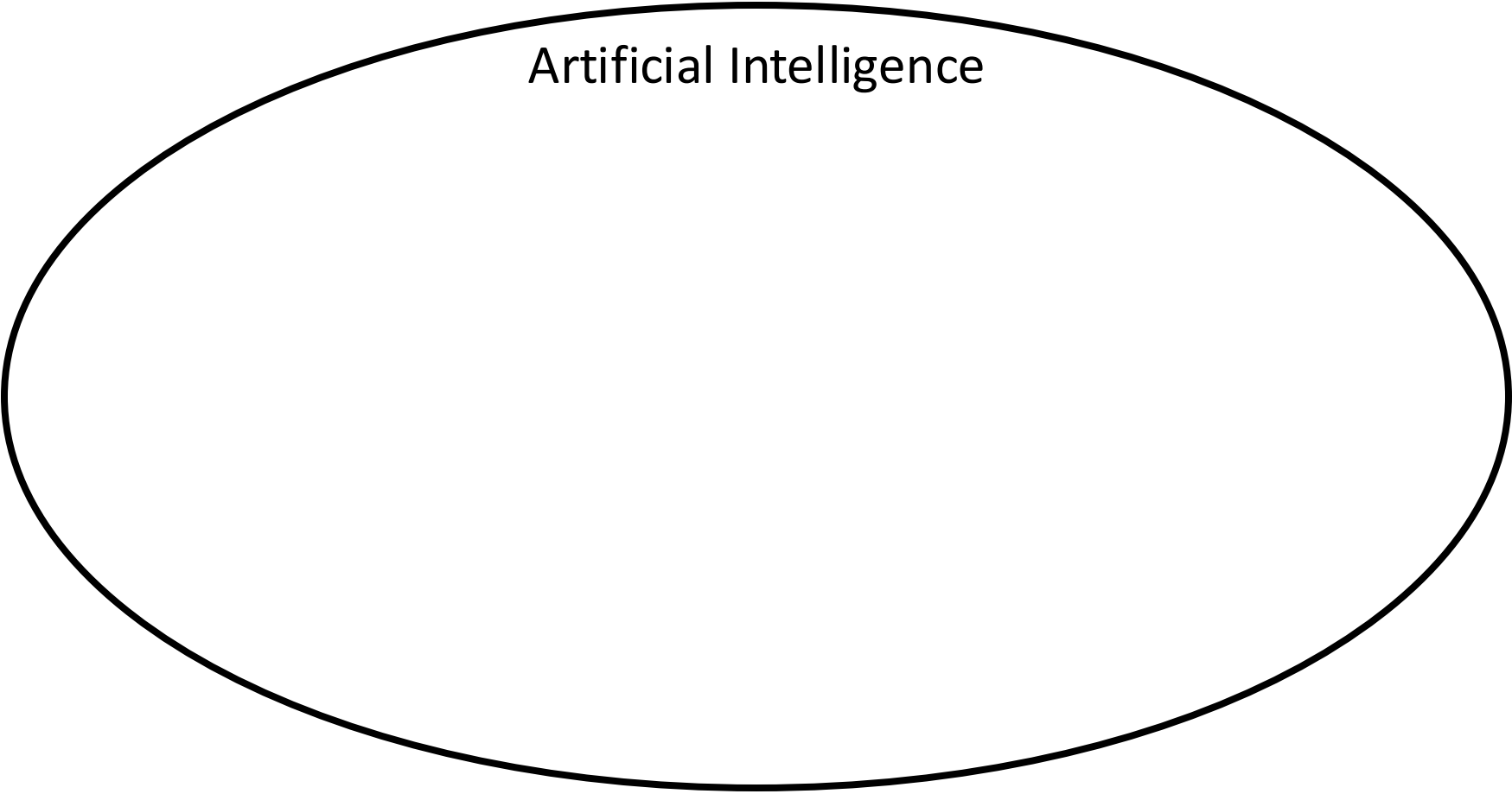


Ehsan Adeli
2024-2025

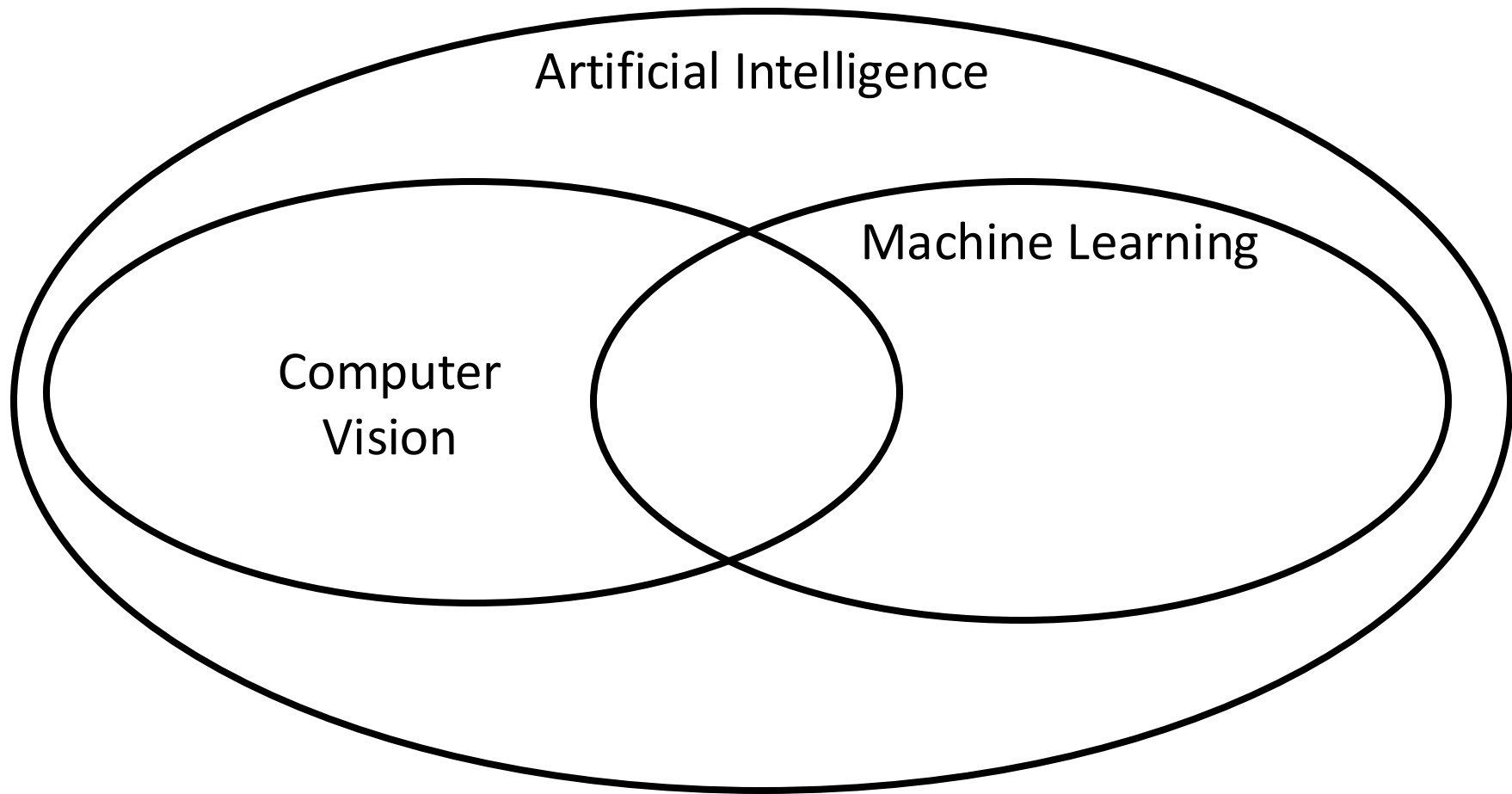


Zane Durante
2024-2025

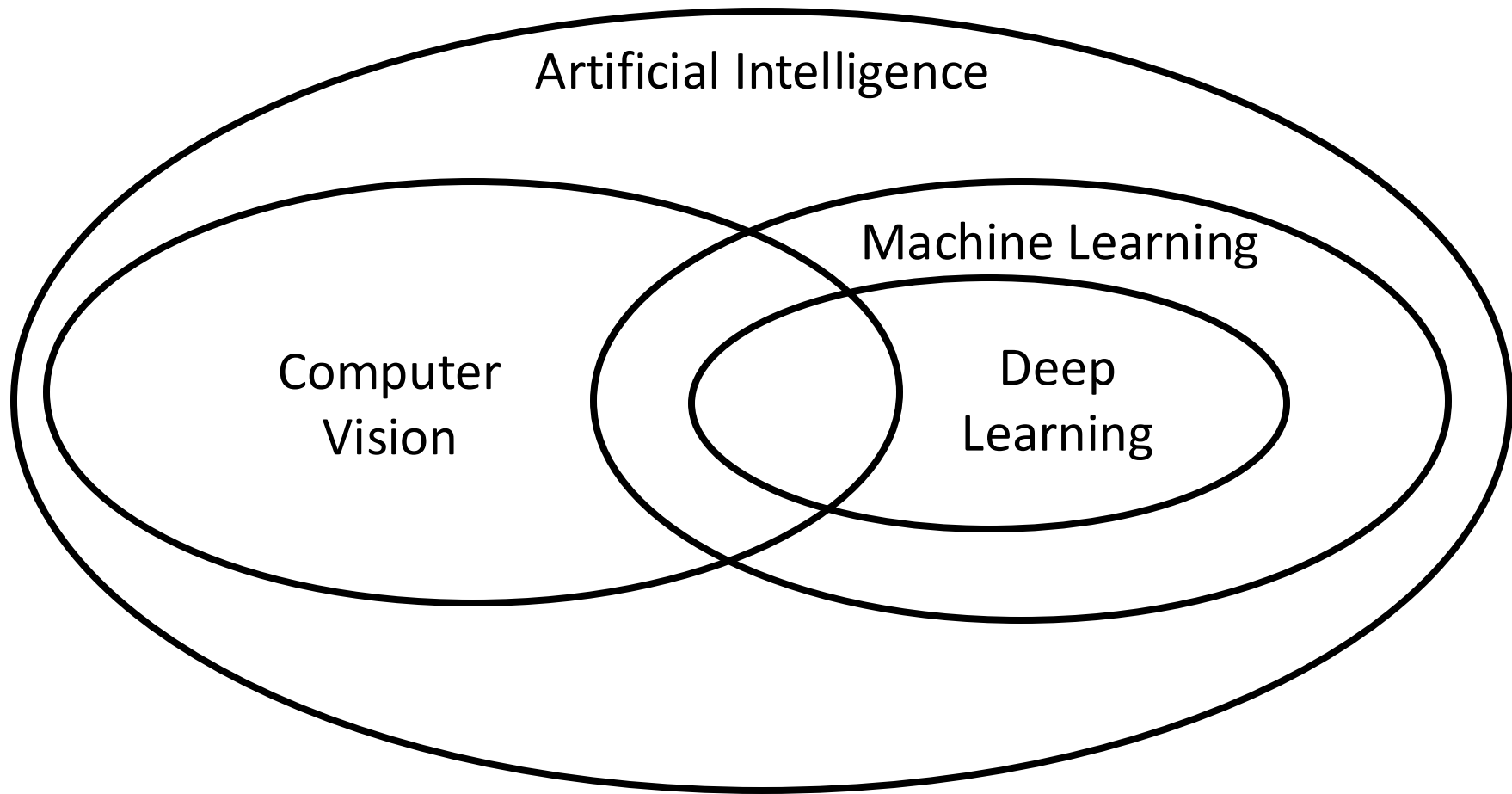
Artificial Intelligence



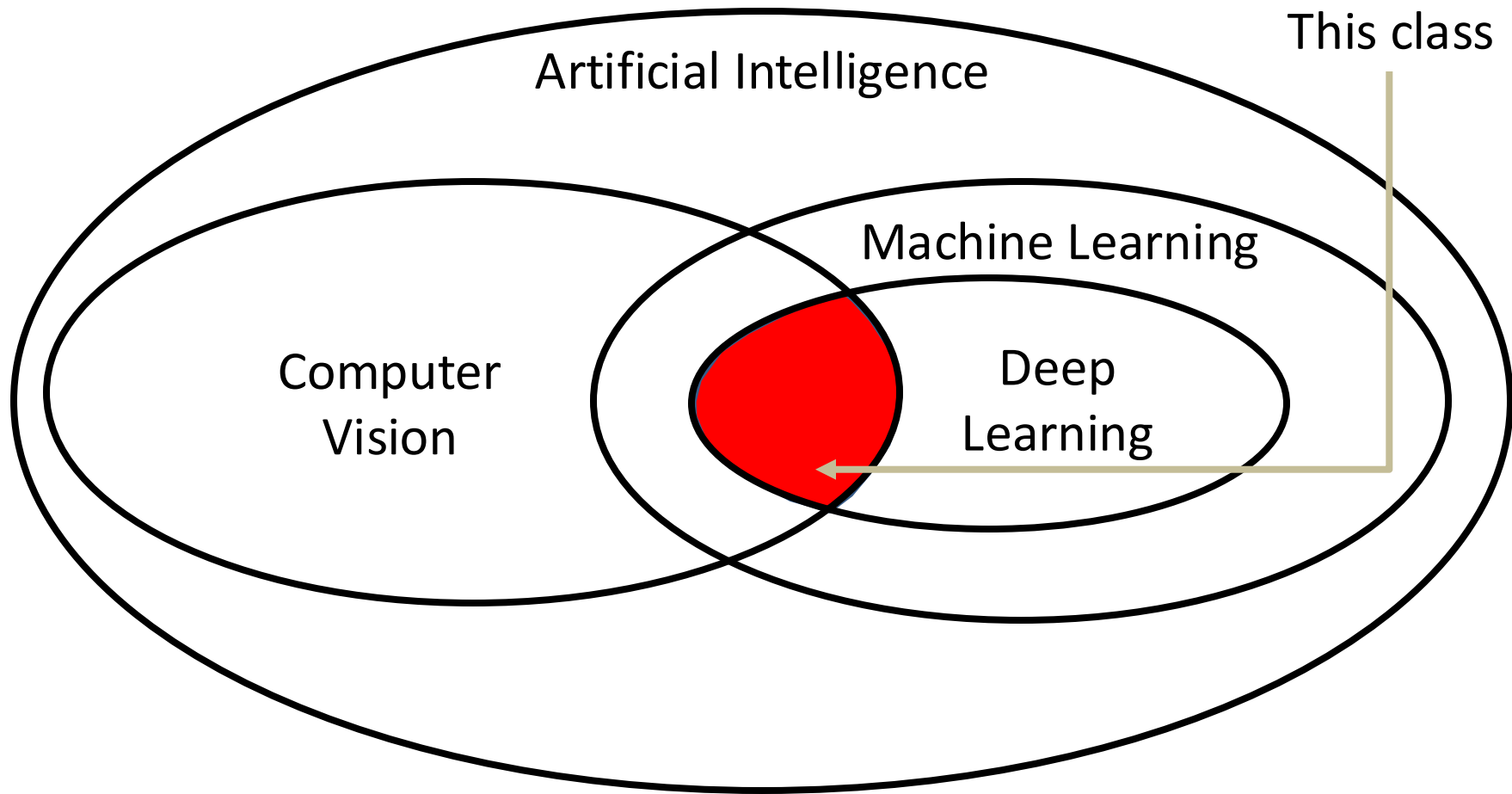
Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson



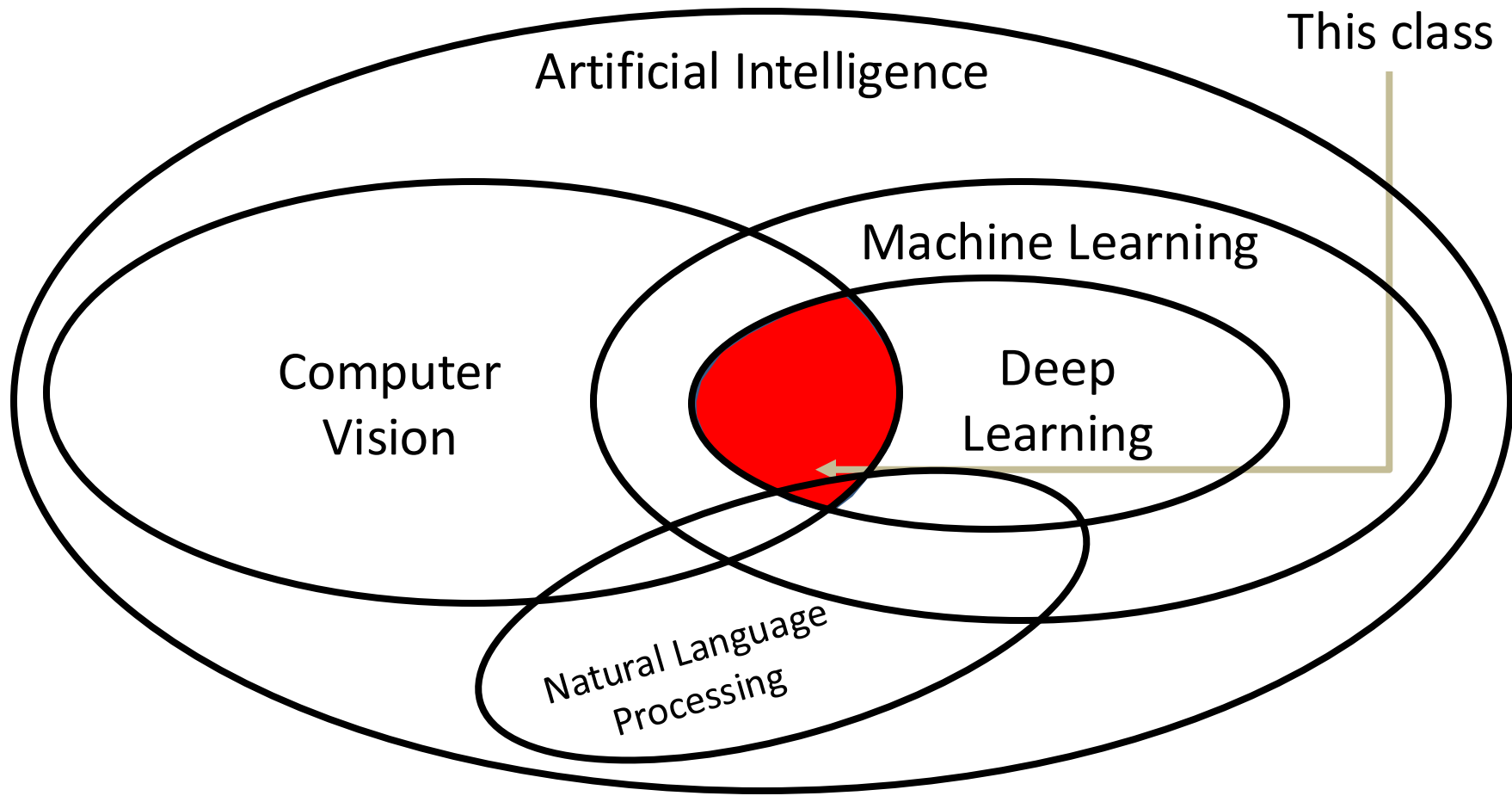
Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson



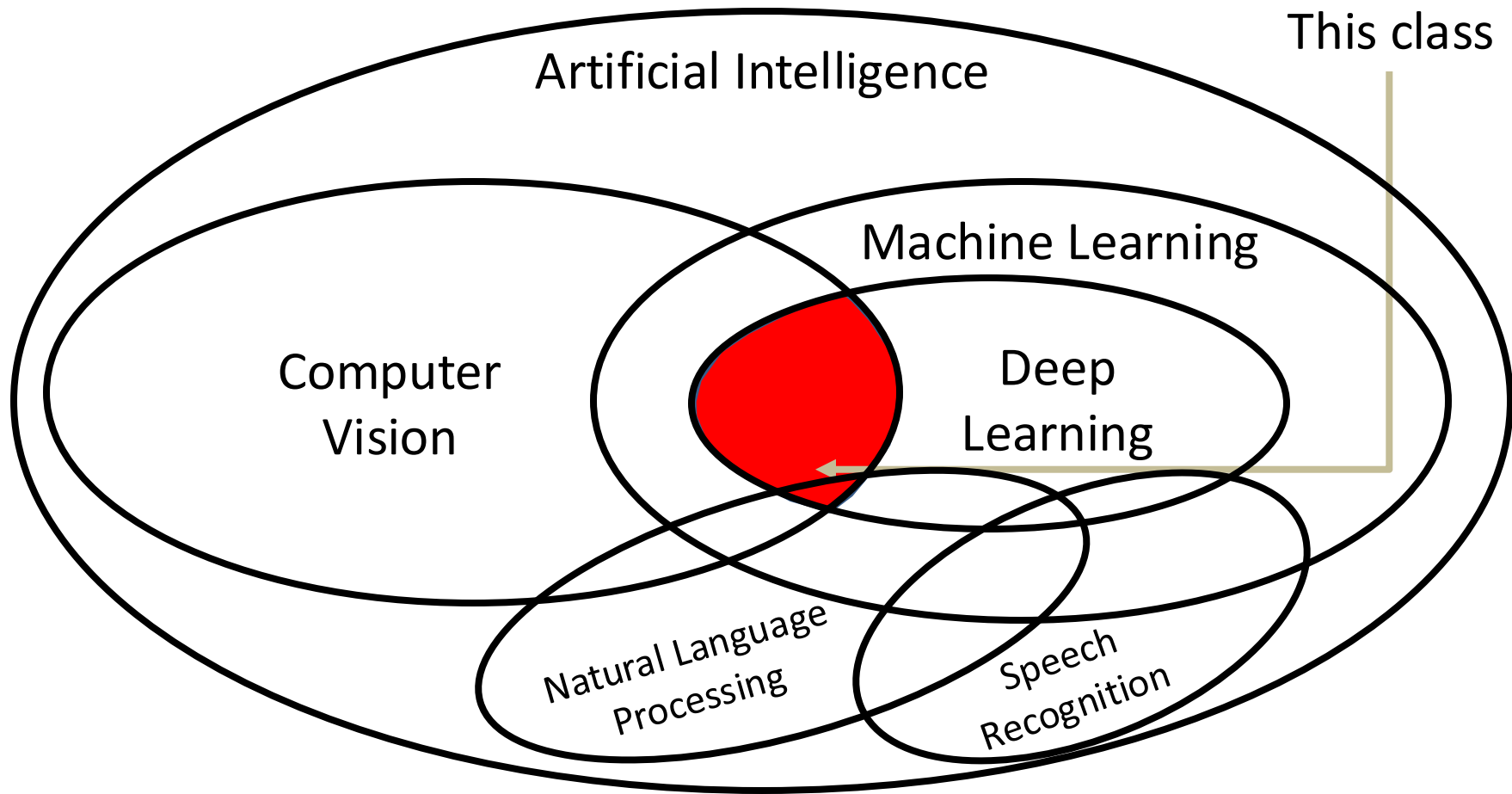
Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson



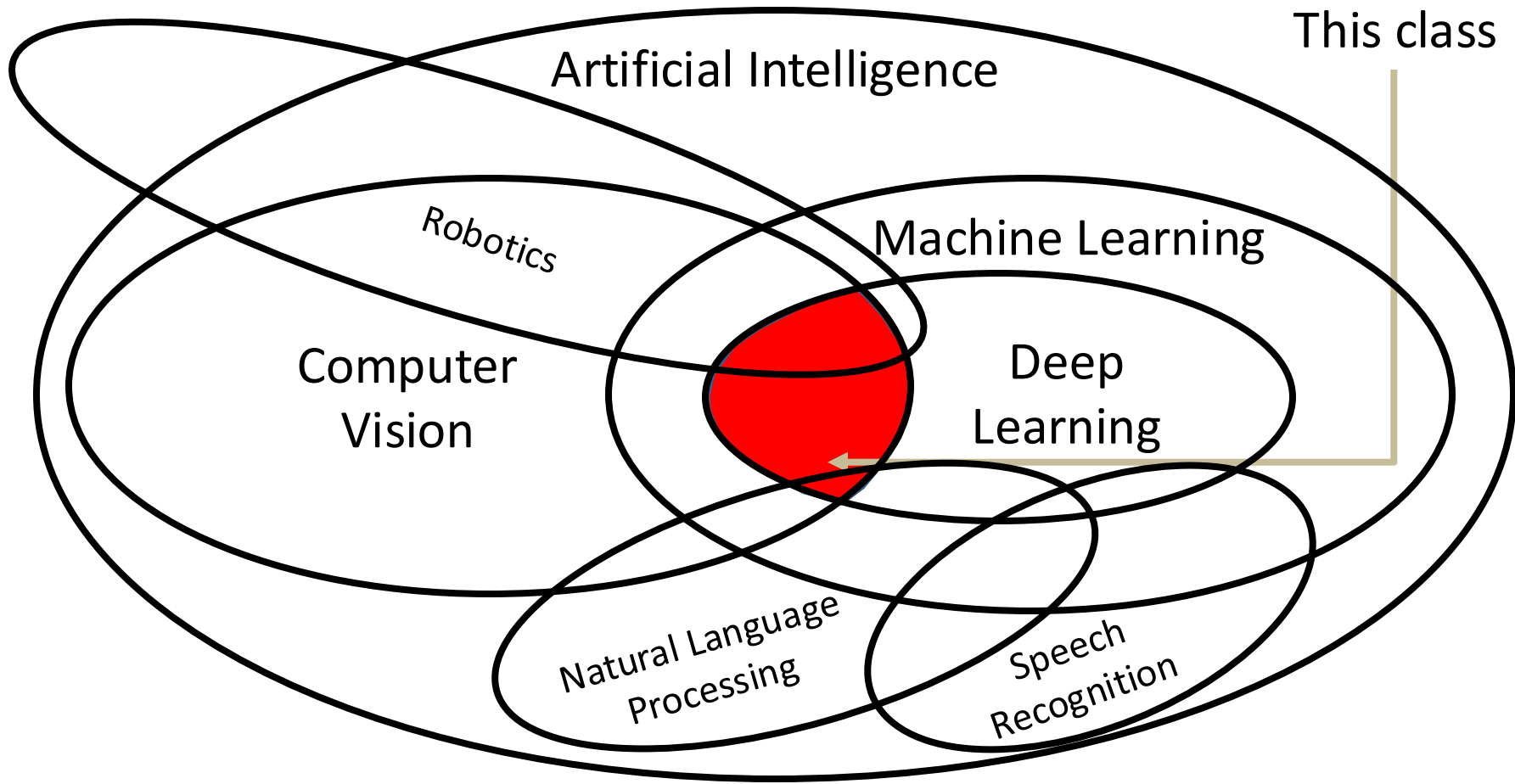
Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson



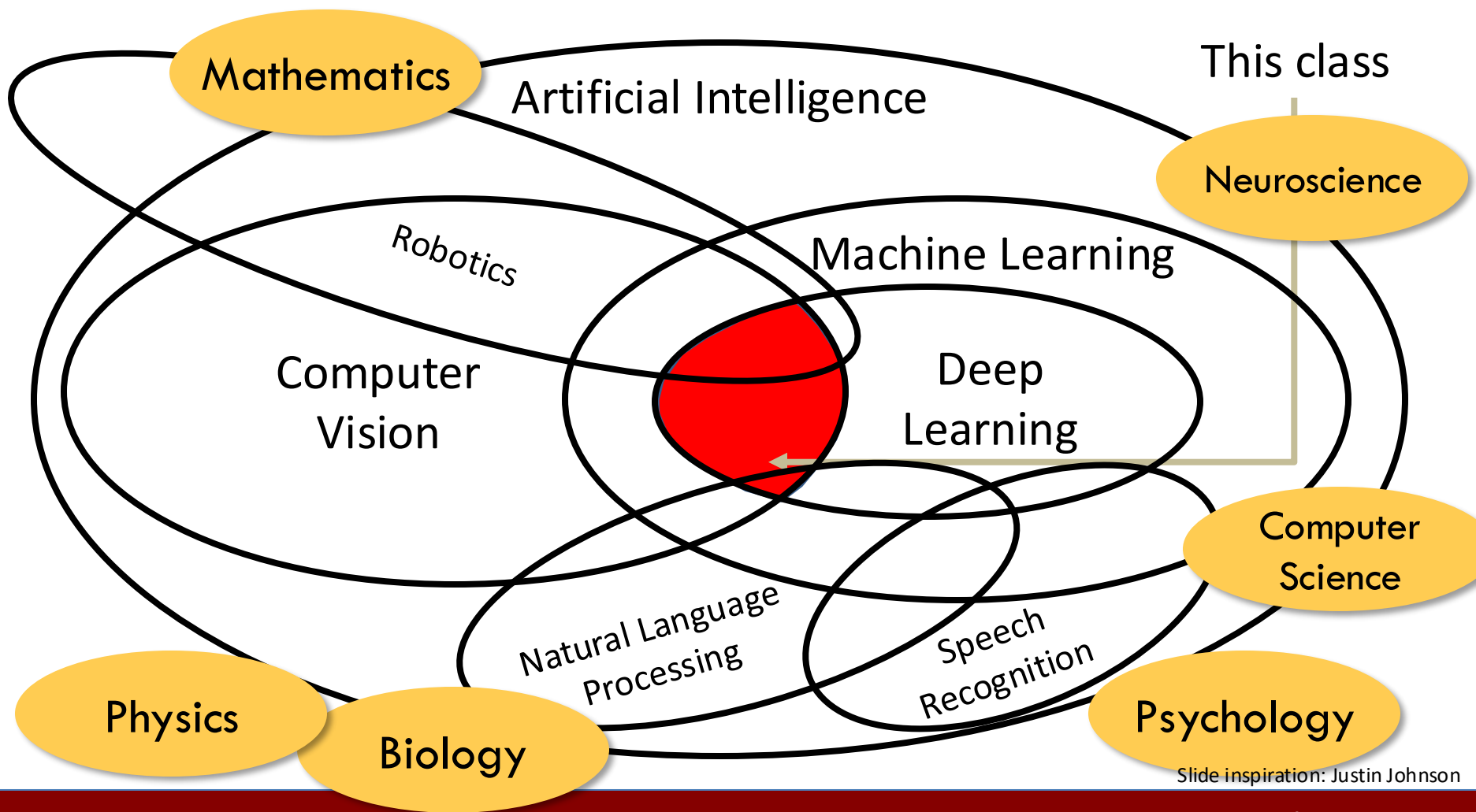
Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson



Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson



Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson



Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

Today's agenda

- A brief history of computer vision and deep learning
- CS231n overview

Evolution's Big Bang: Cambrian Explosion, 530-540million years, B.C.



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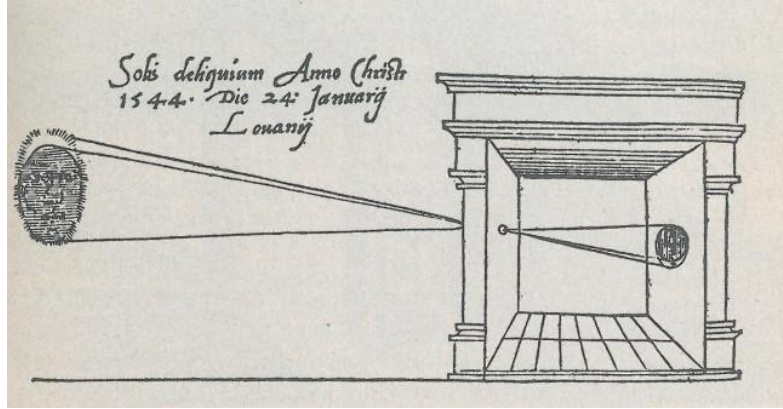


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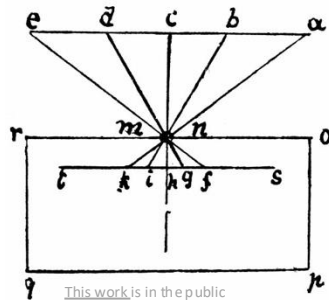


Camera Obscura

Gemma Frisius, 1545



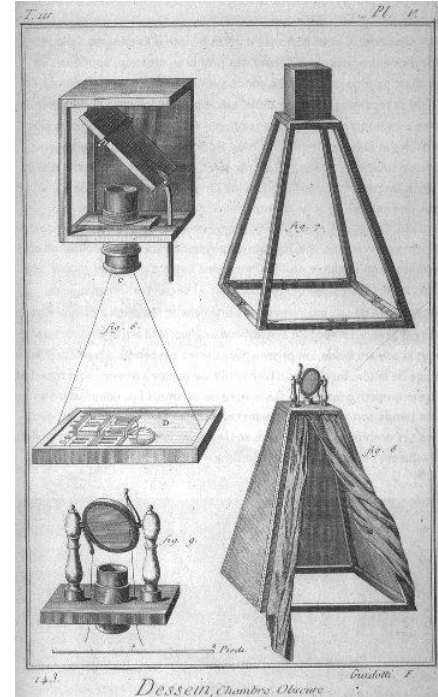
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Leonardo da Vinci,
16th Century AD

Encyclopedia, 18th Century



Dessein, Chambre Obscure
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Computer Vision is everywhere!



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Where did we come from?

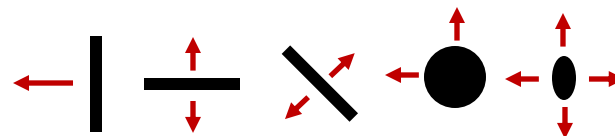
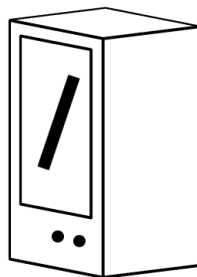
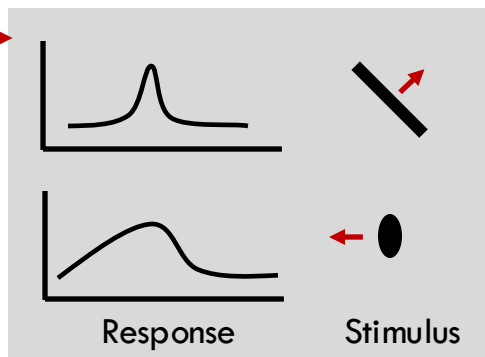
Hubel and Wiesel, 1959

Measure
brain activity



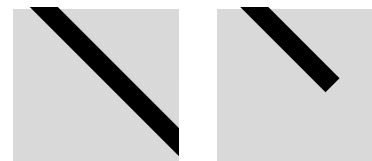
Cat image by CNX OpenStax is licensed under CC BY 4.0; changes made

1959
Hubel & Wiesel



Simple cells:
Response to specific
rotation and orientation

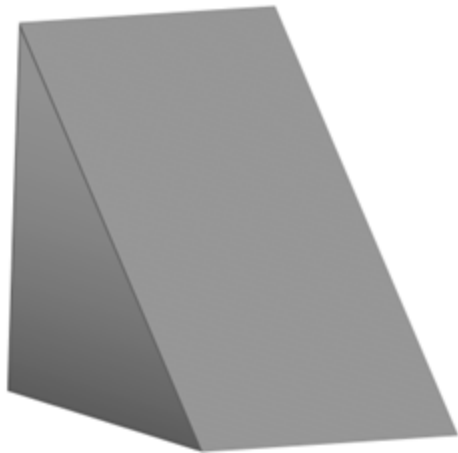
Complex cells:
Response to light
orientation and
movement, some
translation invariance



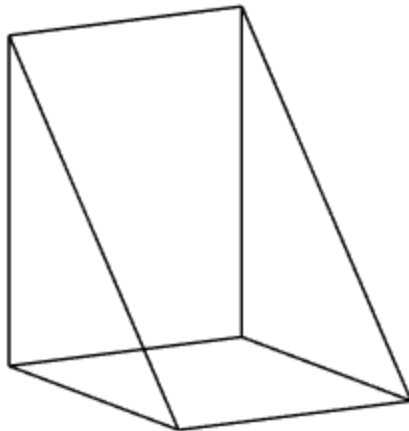
No response

Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

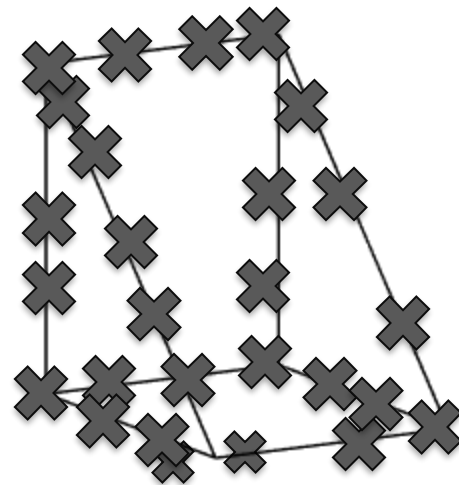
Larry Roberts, 1963



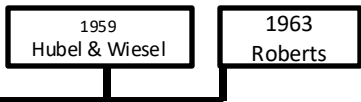
(a) Original picture



(b) Differentiated picture



(c) Feature points selected



Lawrence Gilman Roberts, “Machine Perception of Three-Dimensional Solids”, 1963

Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
PROJECT MAC

Artificial Intelligence Group
Vision Memo. No. 100.

July 7, 1966

THE SUMMER VISION PROJECT

Seymour Papert

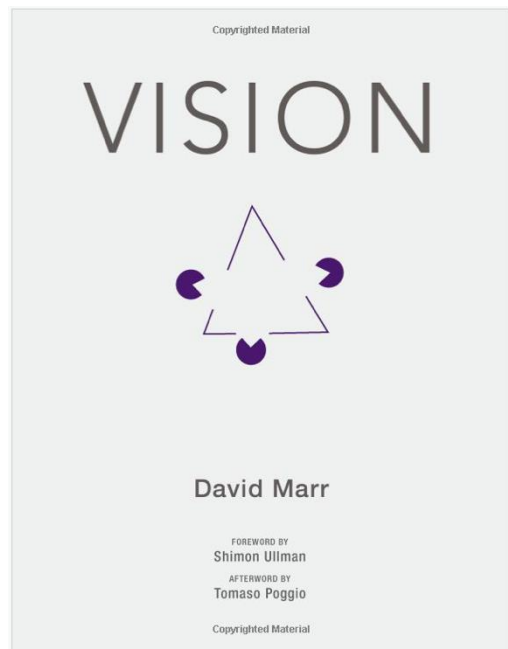
The summer vision project is an attempt to use our summer workers effectively in the construction of a significant part of a visual system. The particular task was chosen partly because it can be segmented into sub-problems which will allow individuals to work independently and yet participate in the construction of a system complex enough to be a real landmark in the development of "pattern recognition".

1959
Hubel & Wiesel

1963
Roberts

<https://dspace.mit.edu/handle/1721.1/6125>

Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

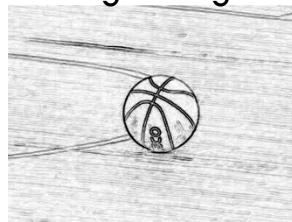


Input image

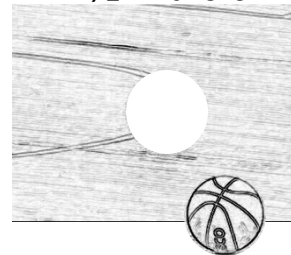


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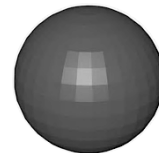
Edge image



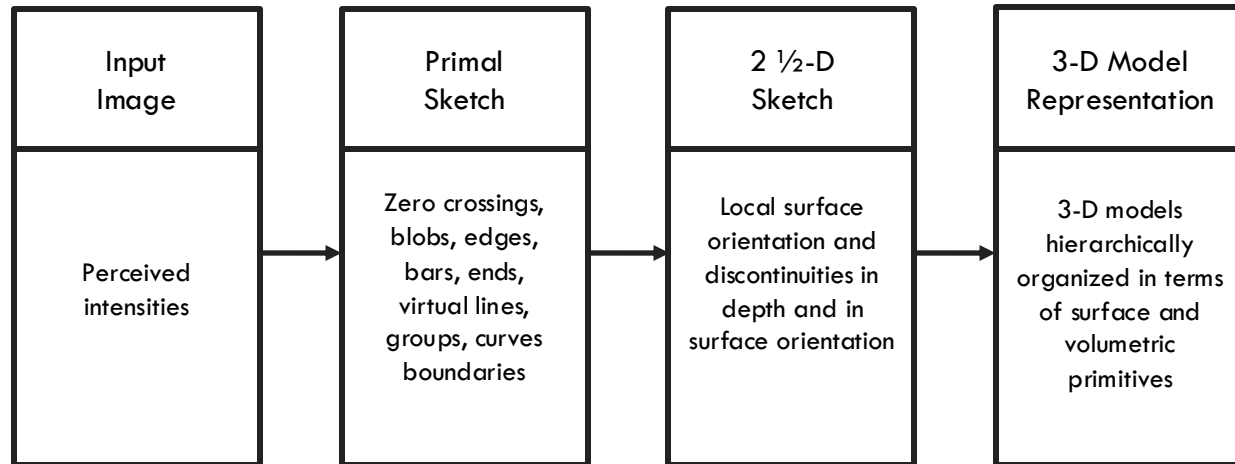
2 1/2-D sketch



3-D model



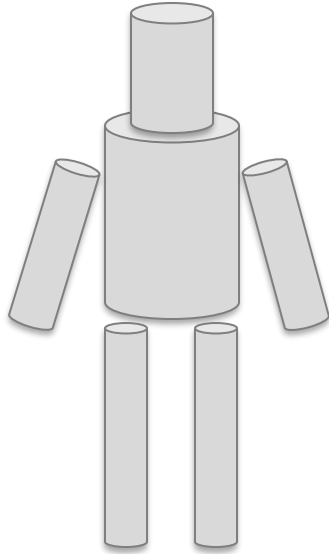
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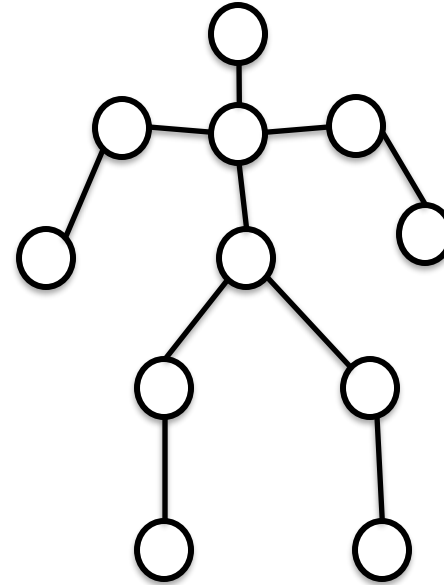
Stages of Visual Representation, David Marr, 1970s

Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

Recognition via Parts (1970s)



Generalized Cylinders,
Brooks and Binford,
1979

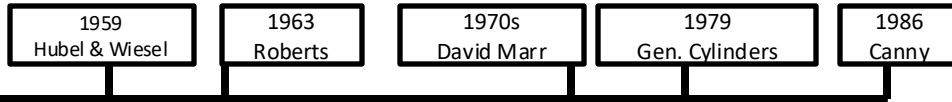
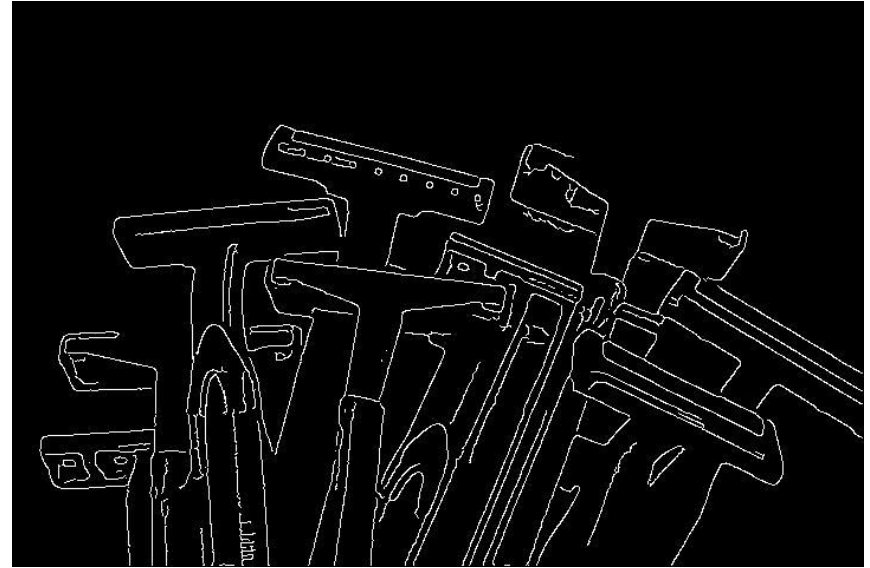


Pictorial Structures,
Fischler and Elshlager, 1973



Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

Recognition via Edge Detection (1980s)

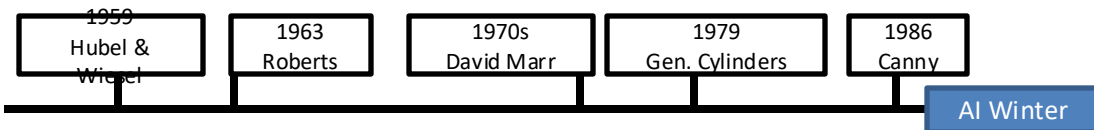


John Canny, 1986
David Lowe, 1987

Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

Arriving at an “AI winter”

- Enthusiasm (and funding!) for AI research dwindled
- “Expert Systems” failed to deliver on their promises
- But subfields of AI continues to grow
 - Computer vision, NLP, robotics, compbio, etc.



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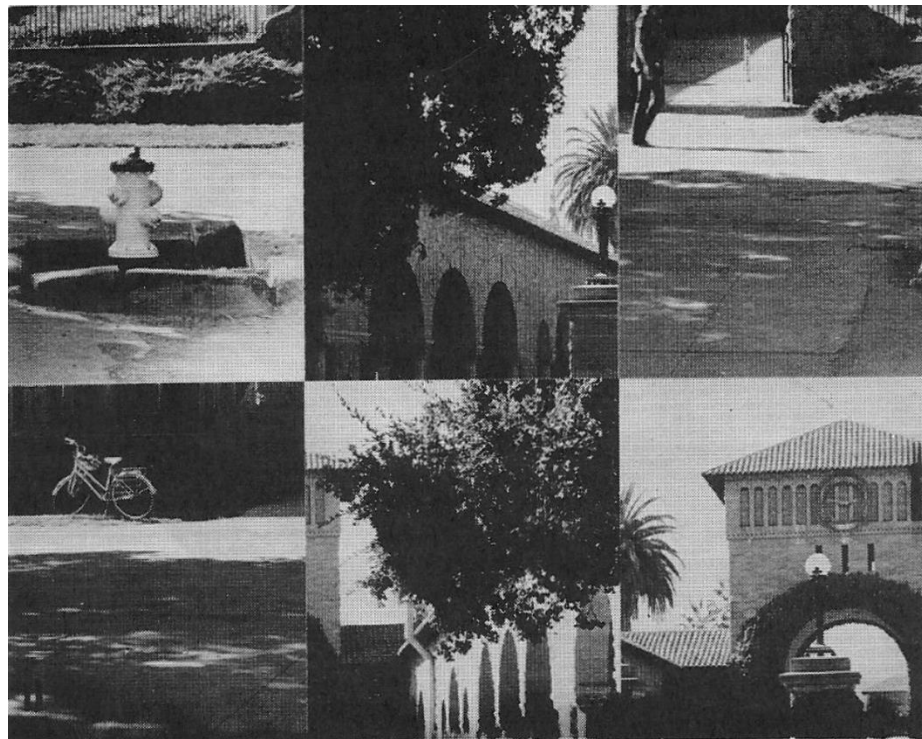
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Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

In the meantime...seminal work in
cognitive and neuroscience

Perceiving Real-World Scenes

Irving Biederman



I. Biederman, *Science*, 1972

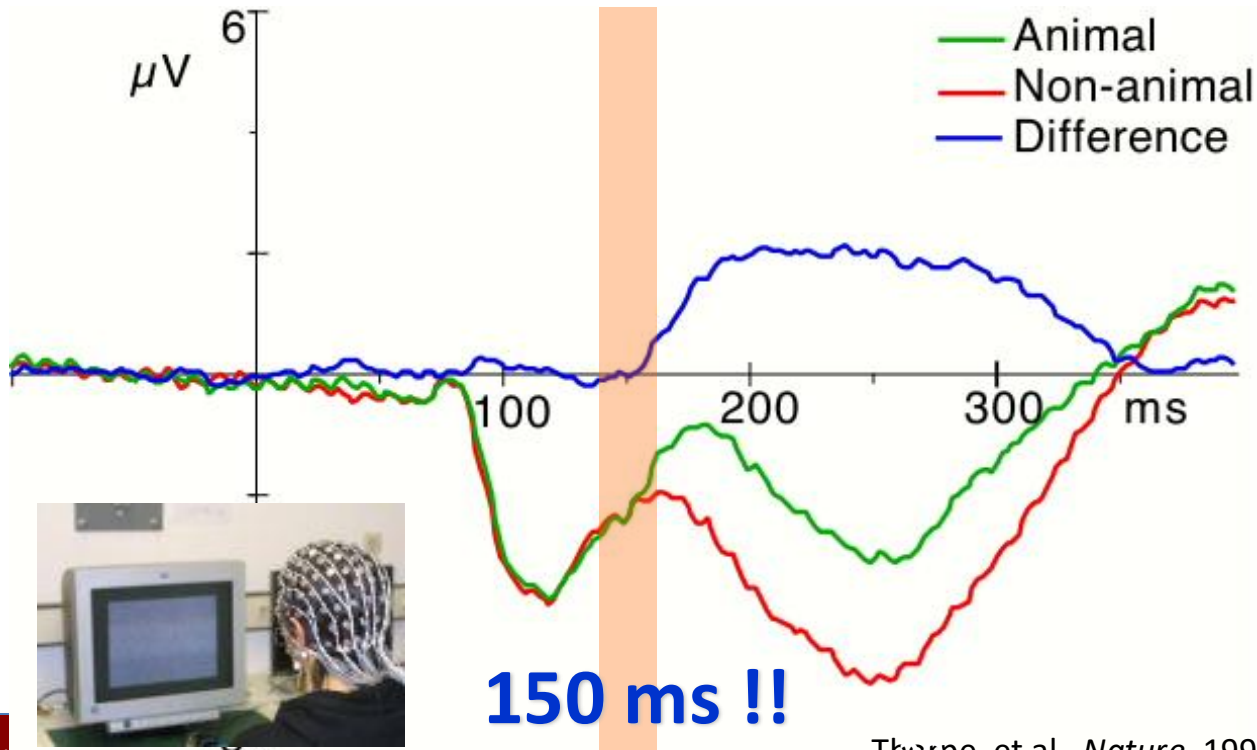
Rapid Serial Visual Perception (RSVP)



Potter, etc. 1970s

Speed of processing in the human visual system

Simon Thorpe, Denis Fize & Catherine Marlot



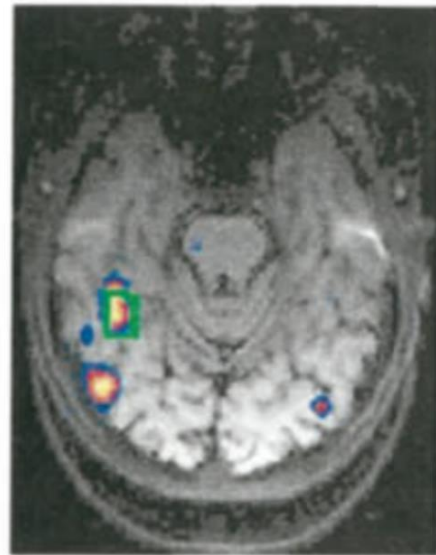
150 ms !!

Thorpe, et al. *Nature*, 1996

April 1, 2025

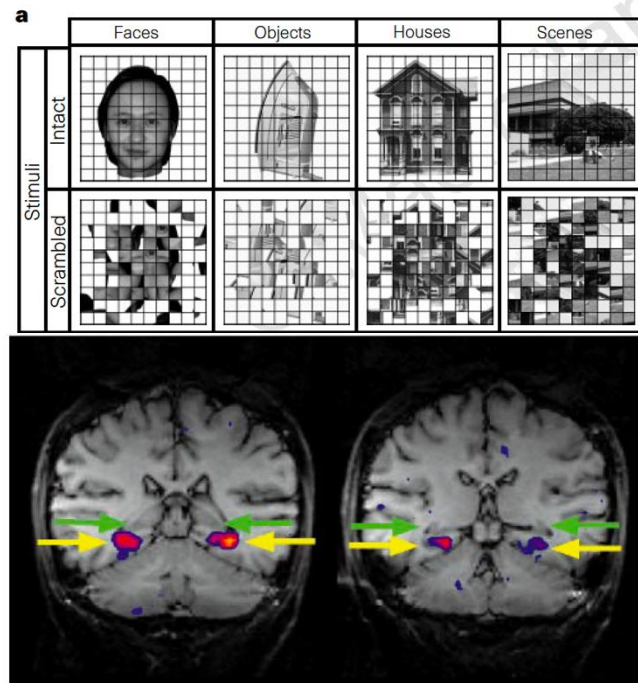
Neural correlates of object & scene recognition

Faces > Houses



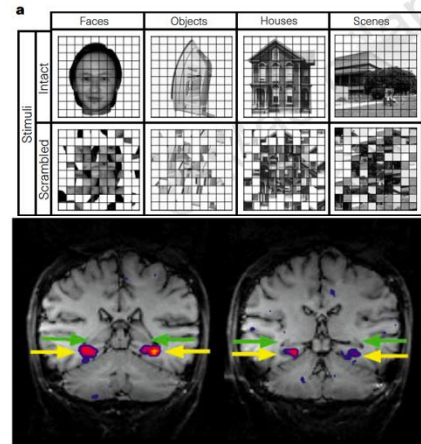
% signal change

Kanwisher et al. J. Neuro. 1997

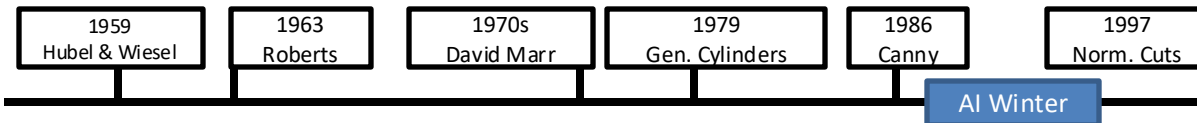


Epstein & Kanwisher, Nature, 1998

Visual recognition is a fundamental task for visual intelligence



Recognition via Grouping (1990s)



Normalized Cuts, Shi and Malik, 1997

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Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

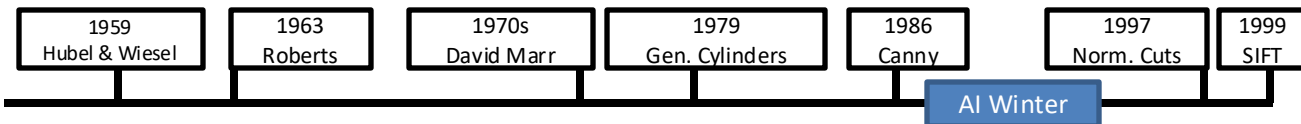
Recognition via Matching (2000s)



Image is public domain



Image is public domain



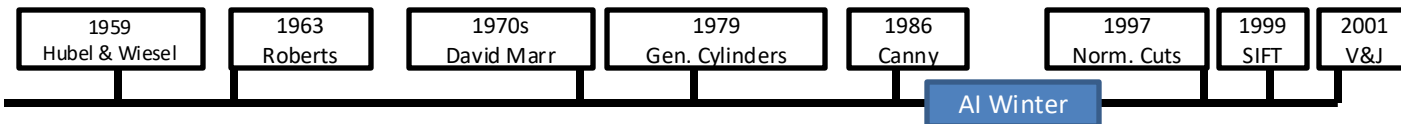
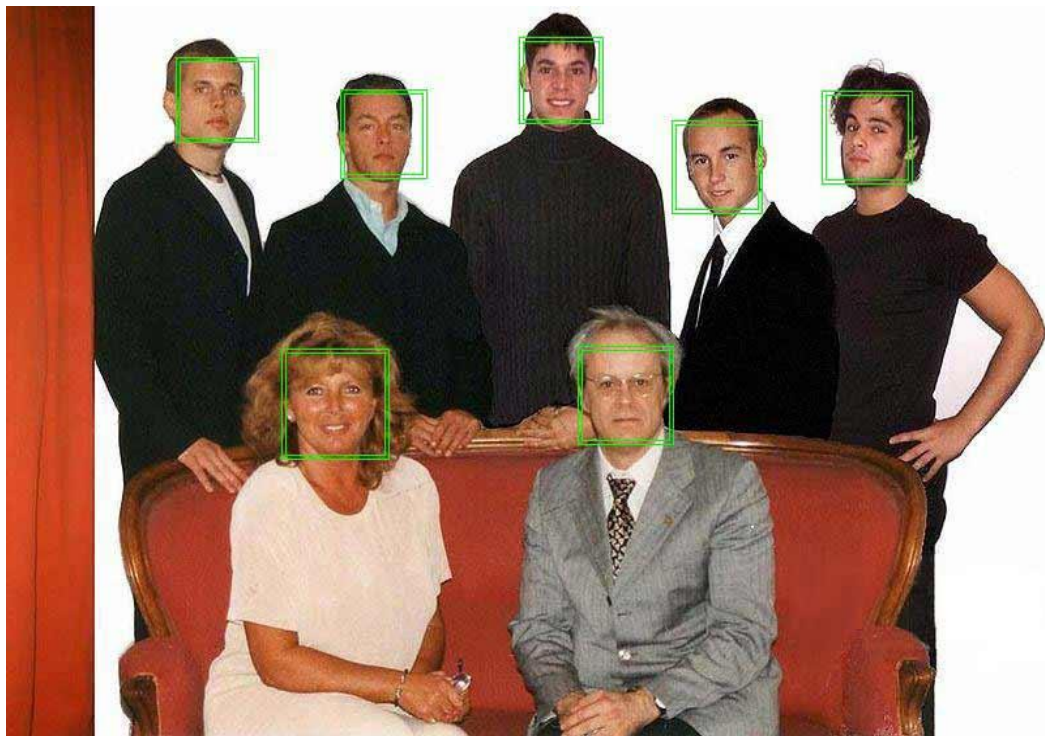
SIFT, David
Lowe, 1999

Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

Face Detection

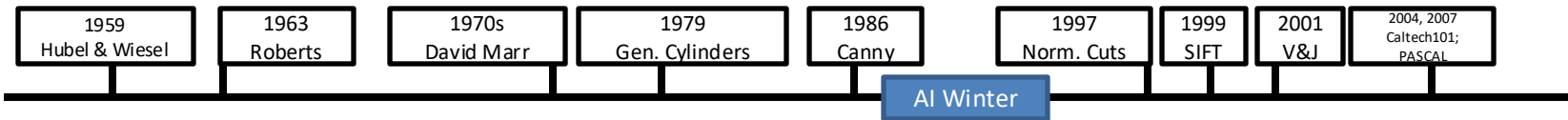
Viola and Jones, 2001

One of the first successful applications of machine learning to vision



Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

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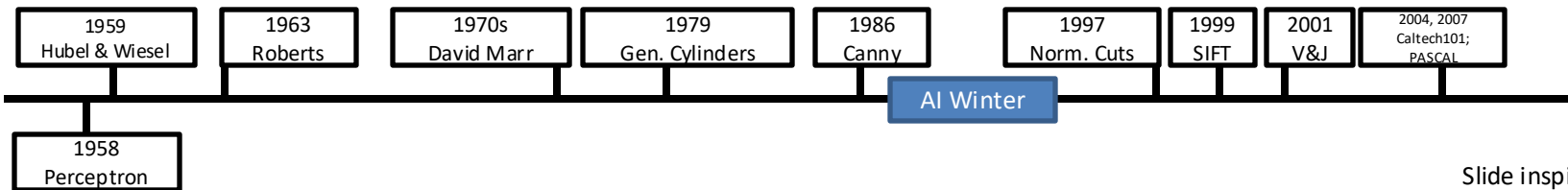
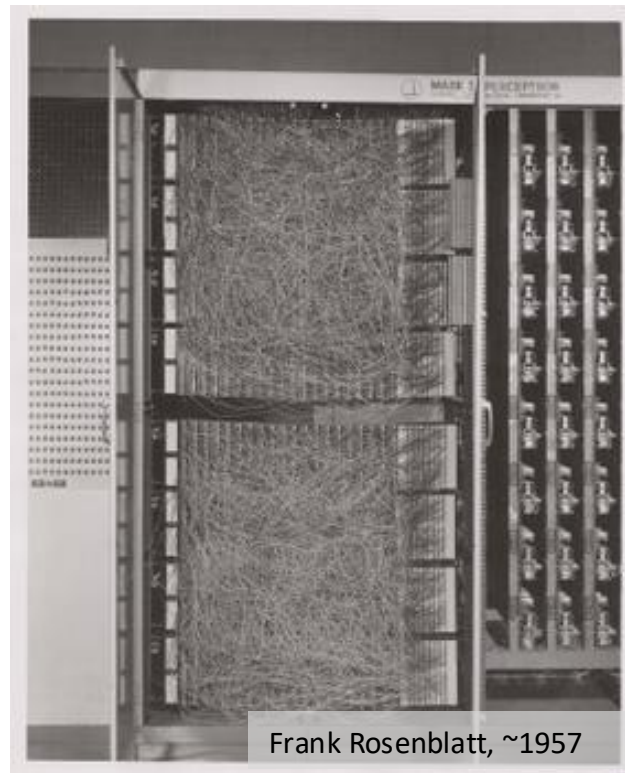
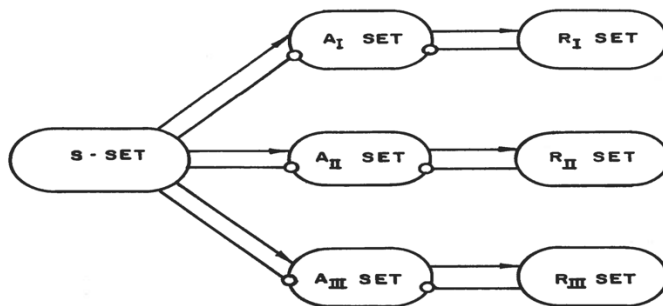
Fei-Fei Li & Ehsan Adeli & Zane Durante

Learning representations by back-propagating errors

David E. Rumelhart*, Geoffrey E. Hinton†
& Ronald J. Williams*

* Institute for Cognitive Science, C-015, University of California,
San Diego, La Jolla, California 92093, USA

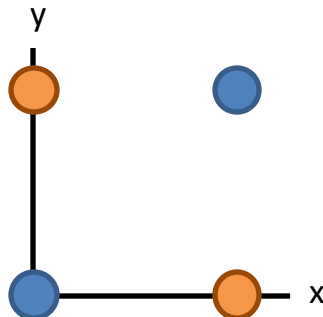
† Department of Computer Science, Carnegie-Mellon University,
Pittsburgh, Philadelphia 15213, USA



Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

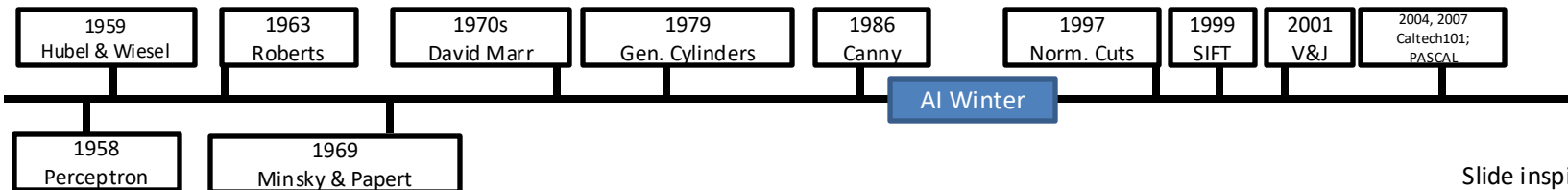
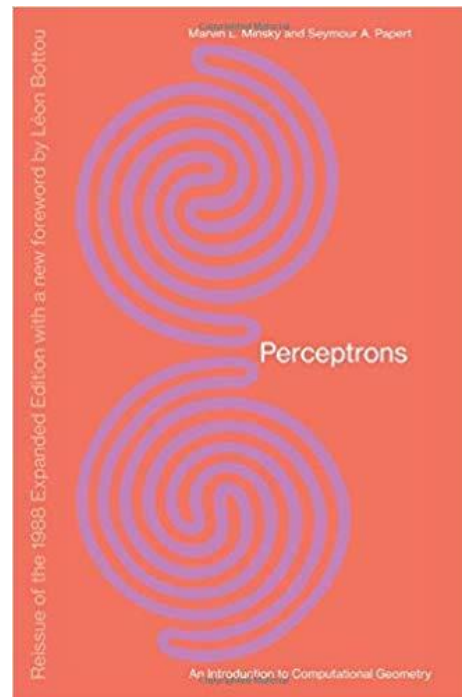
Minsky and Papert, 1969

X	Y	$F(x,y)$
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0



Shown that Perceptrons could not learn the XOR function

Caused a lot of disillusionment in the field



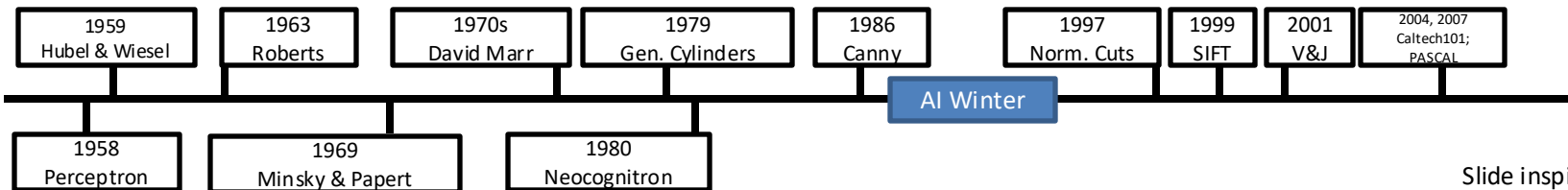
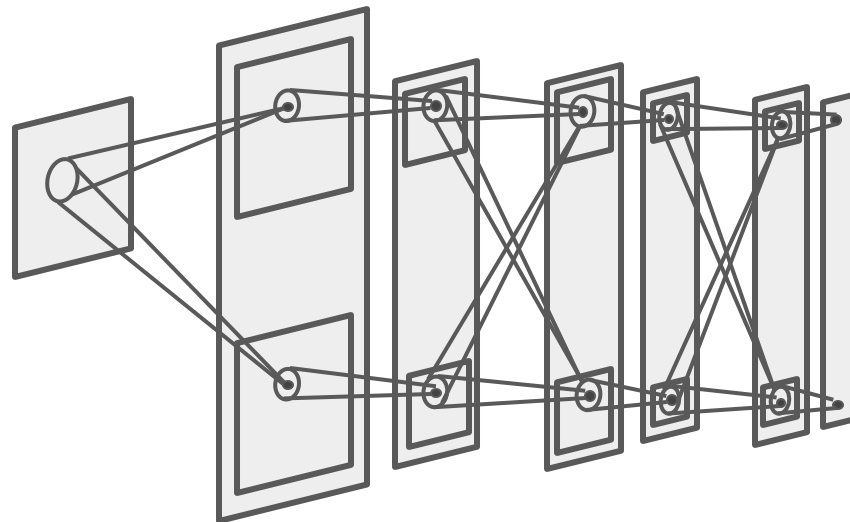
Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

Neocognitron: Fukushima, 1980

Computational model the visual system,
directly inspired by Hubel and Wiesel's
hierarchy of complex and simple cells

Interleaved simple cells (convolution)
and complex cells (pooling)

No practical training algorithm

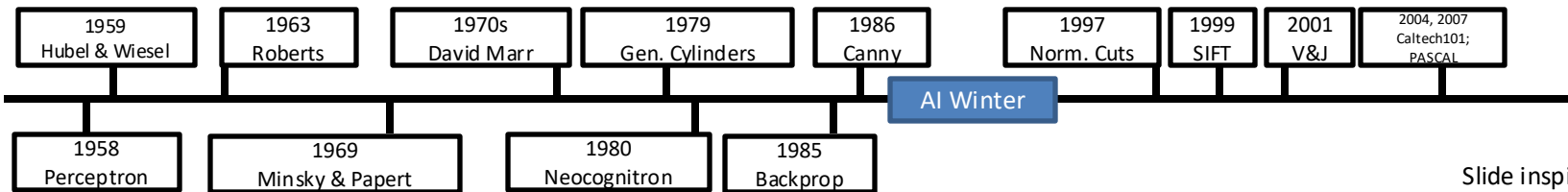
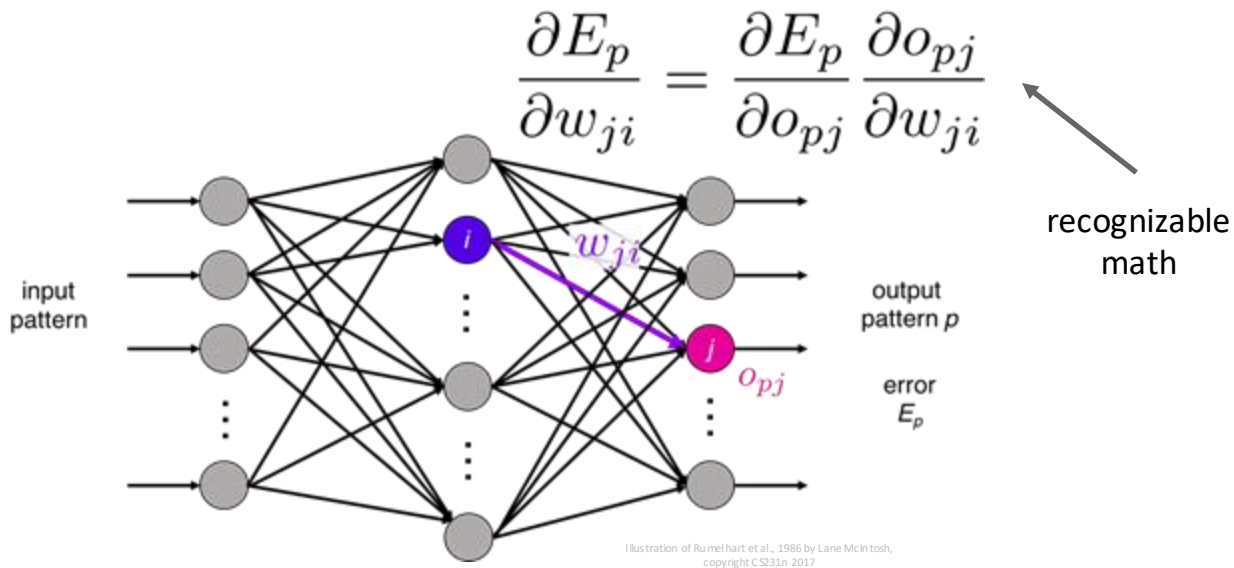


Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

Backprop: Rumelhart, Hinton, and Williams, 1986

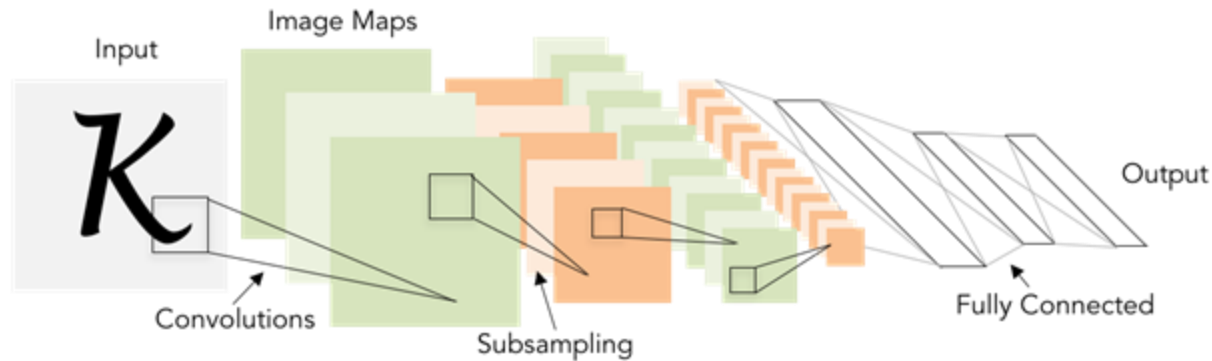
Introduced
backpropagation
for computing
gradients in neural
networks

Successfully trained
perceptrons with
multiple layers



Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

Convolutional Networks: LeCun et al, 1998

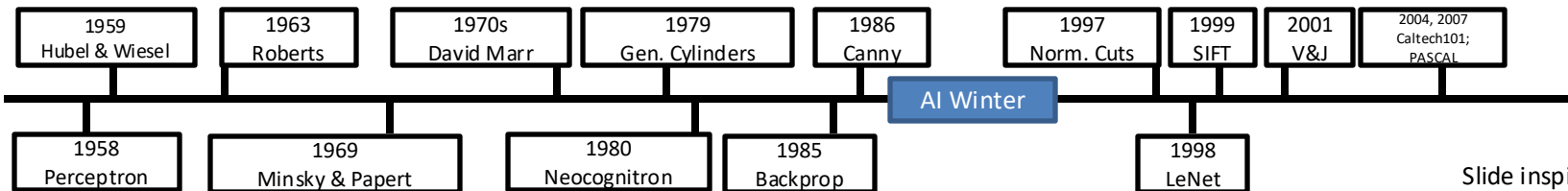


Applied backprop algorithm to a Neocognitron-like architecture

Learned to recognize handwritten digits

Was deployed in a commercial system by NEC, processed handwritten checks

Very similar to our modern convolutional networks!



Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

2000s: “Deep Learning”

People tried to train neural networks that were deeper and deeper

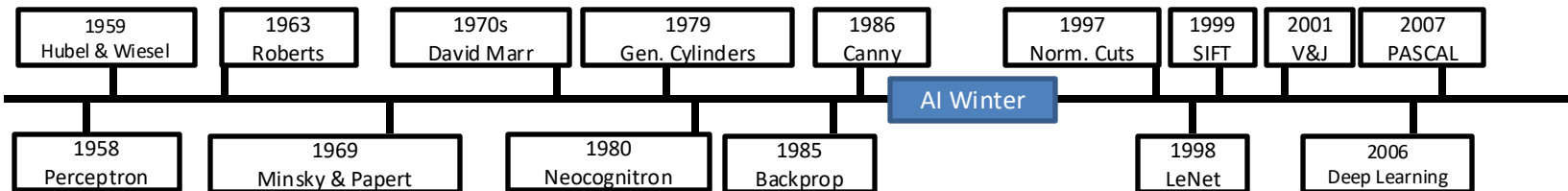
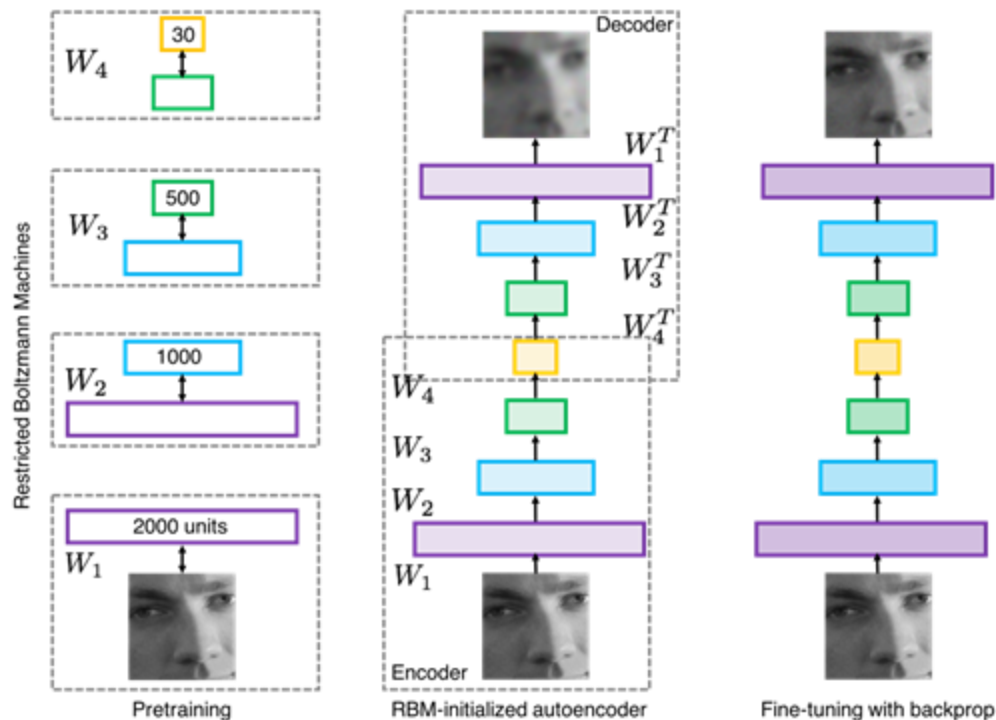
Not a mainstream research topic at this time

Hinton and Salakhutdinov, 2006

Bengio et al, 2007

Lee et al, 2009

Glorot and Bengio, 2010



2000s: “Deep Learning”

People tried to train neural networks that were deeper and deeper

Not a mainstream research topic at this time

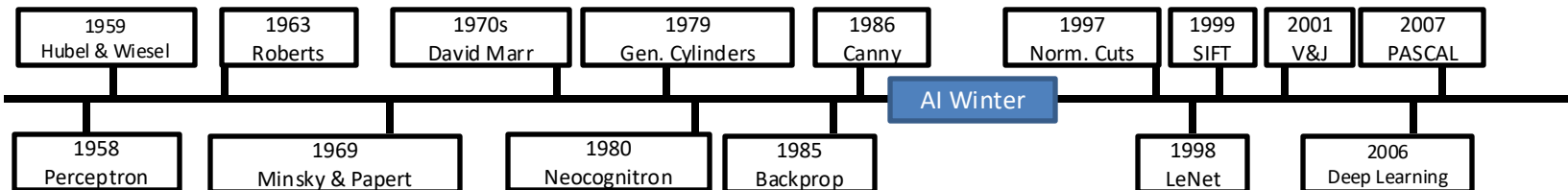
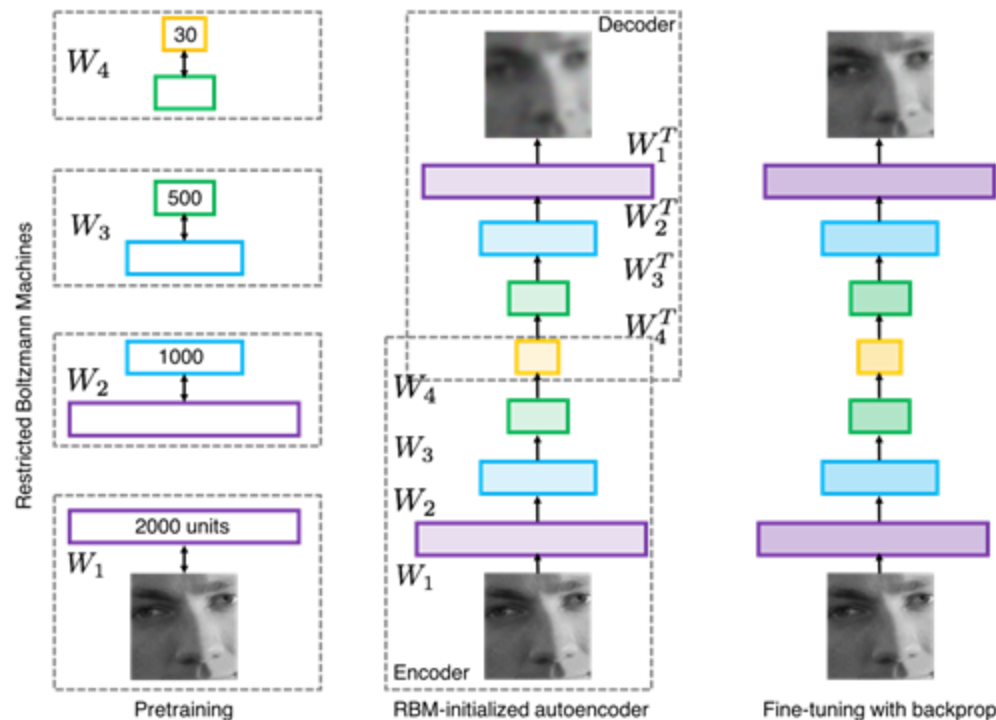
No good dataset to work on

Hinton and Salakhutdinov, 2006

Bengio et al, 2007

Lee et al, 2009

Glorot and Bengio, 2010



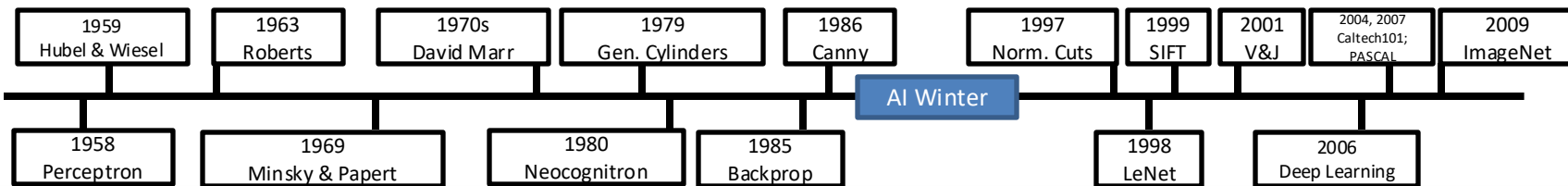
IMAGENET Large Scale Visual Recognition Challenge

The Image Classification Challenge:
1,000 object classes
1,431,167 images

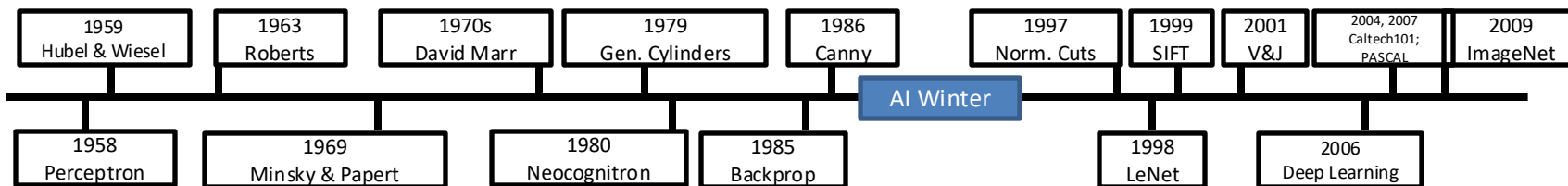
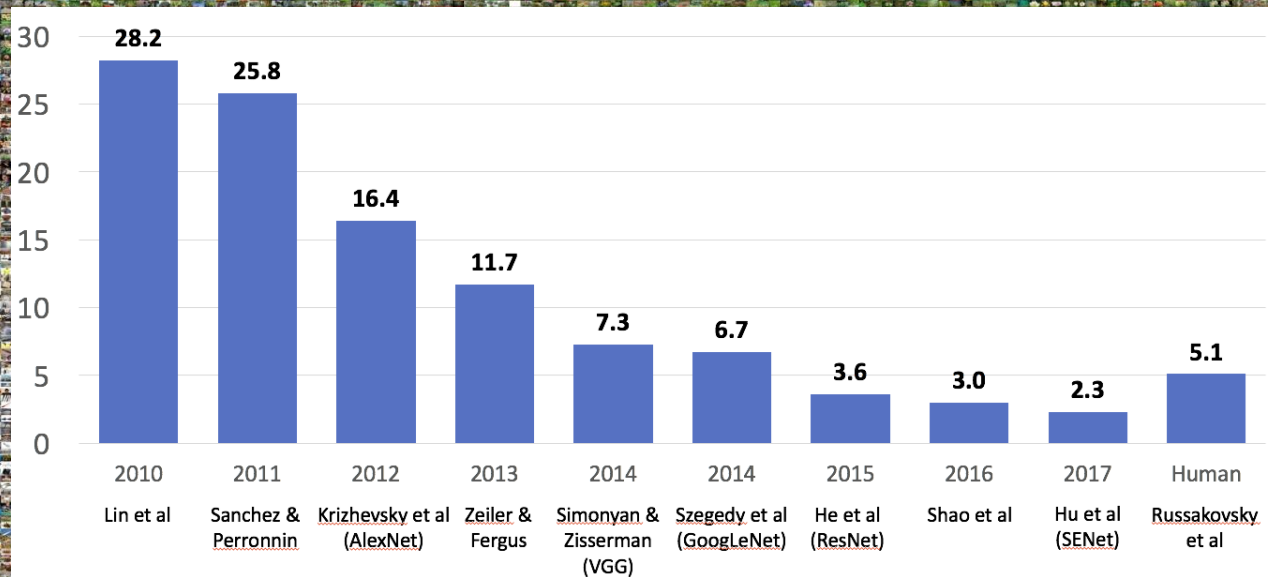


Output:
Scale
T-shirt
Steel drum
Drumstick
Mud turtle

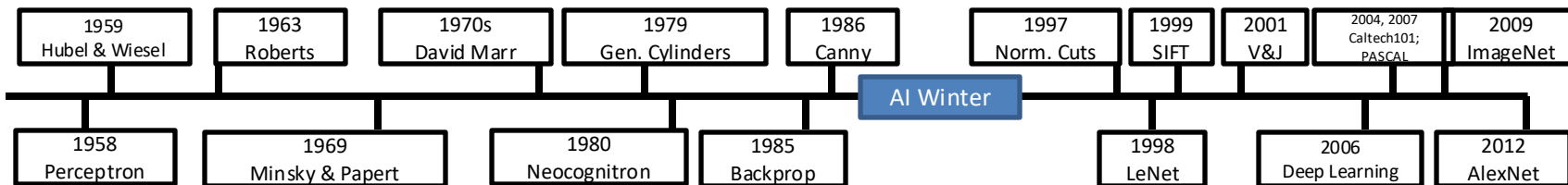
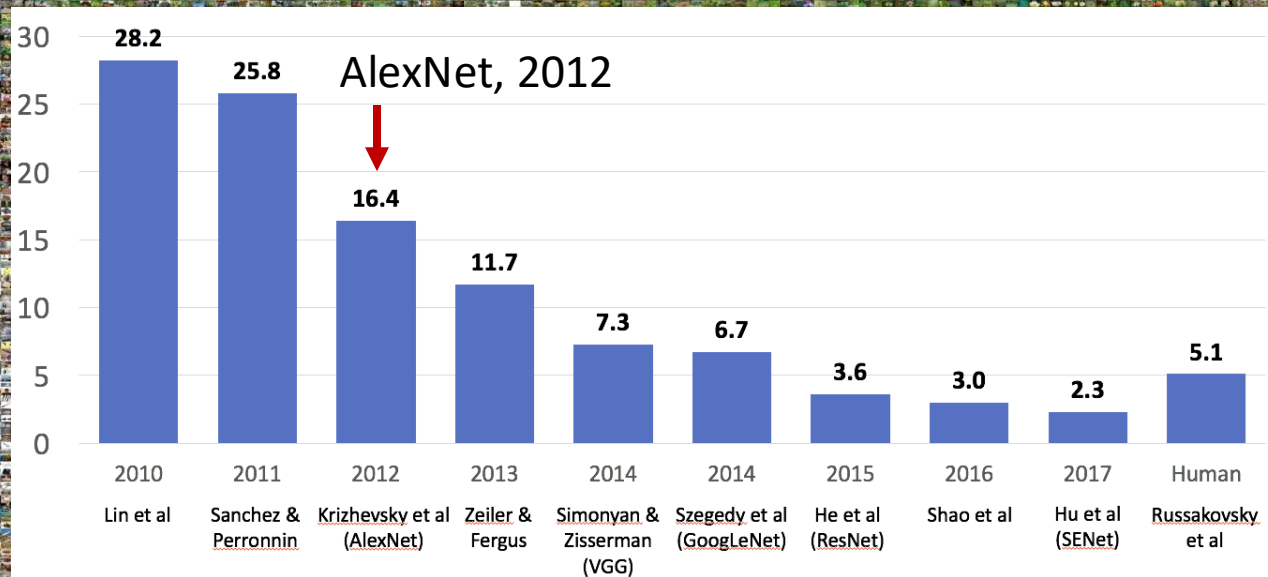
Deng et al, 2009
Russakovsky et al. IJCV 2015



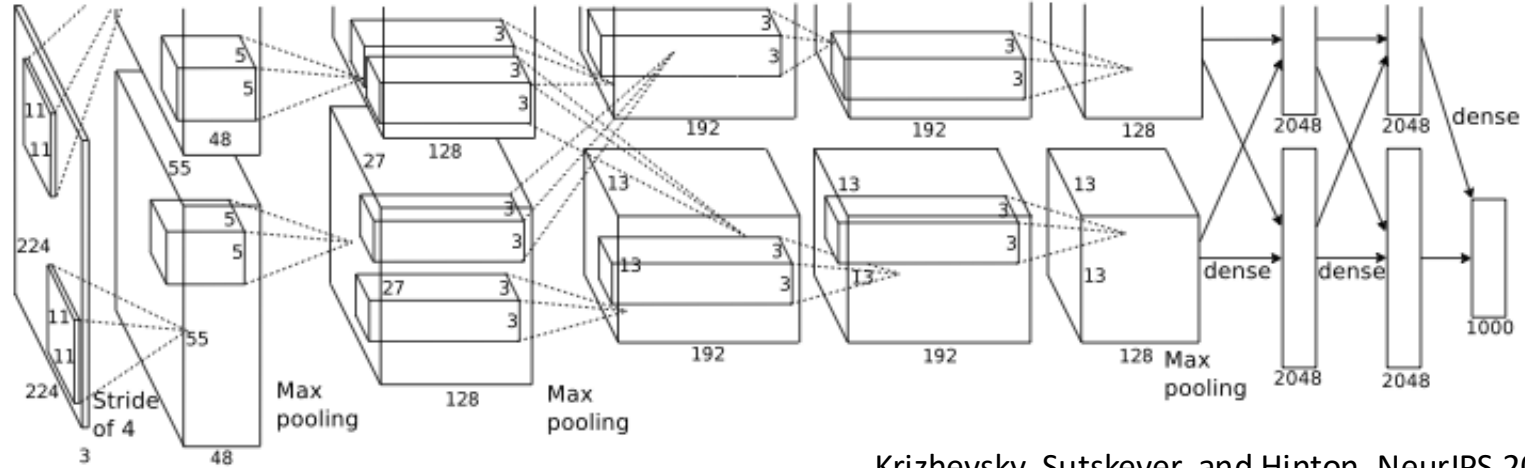
IMAGENET Large Scale Visual Recognition Challenge



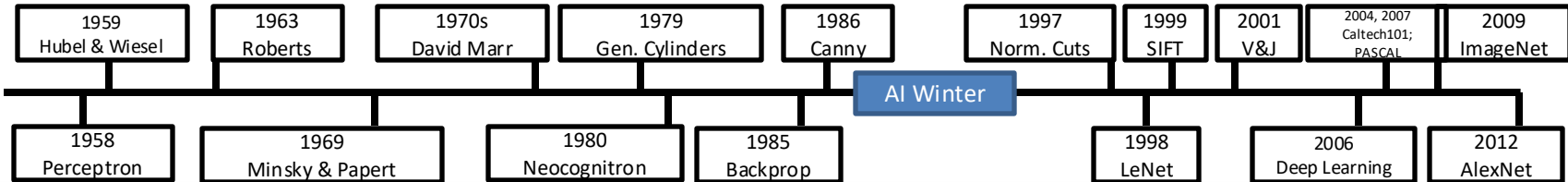
IMAGENET Large Scale Visual Recognition Challenge



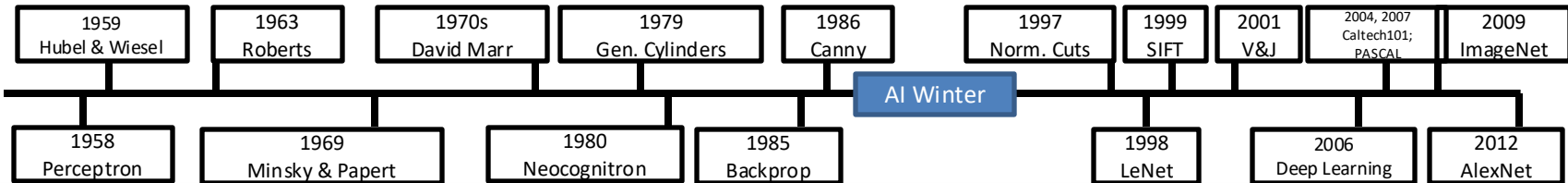
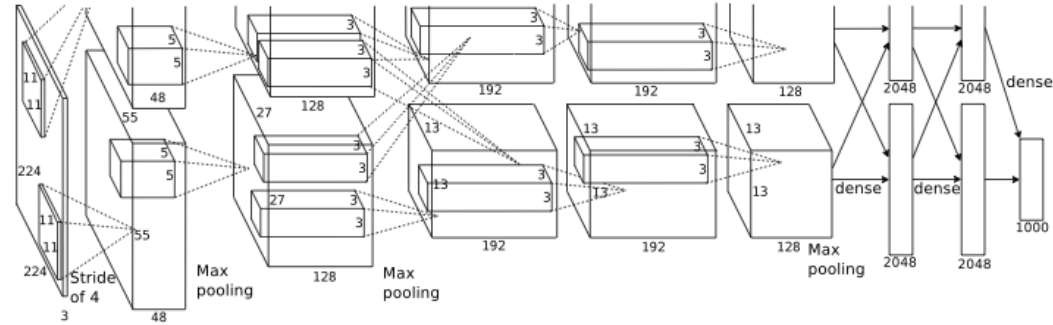
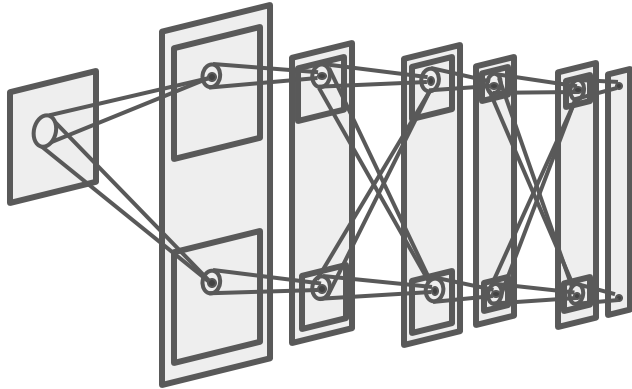
AlexNet: Deep Learning Goes Mainstream



Krizhevsky, Sutskever, and Hinton, NeurIPS 2012

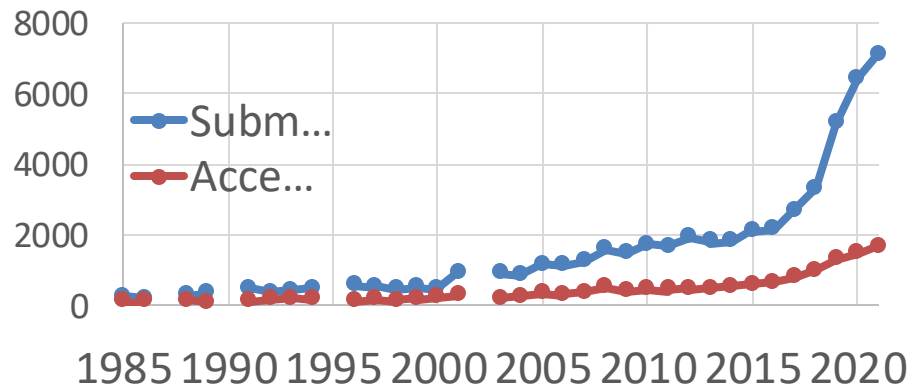


AlexNet vs. Neocognitron: 32 years apart

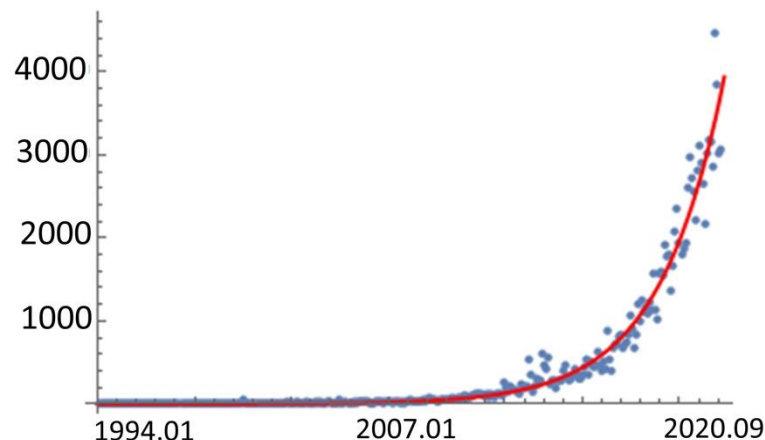


2012 to Present: Deep Learning Explosion

CVPR Papers

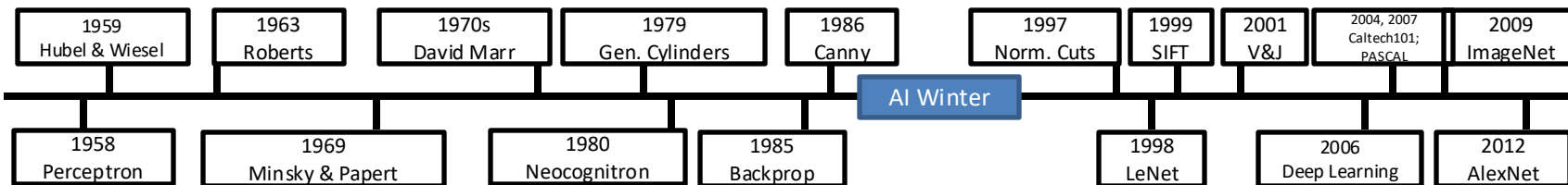


ML+AI arXiv papers per month



Publications at top Computer Vision conference

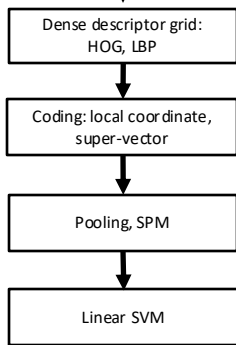
arXiv papers per month [\(source\)](#)



2012 to Present: Deep Learning is Everywhere

Year 2010

NEC-UIUC

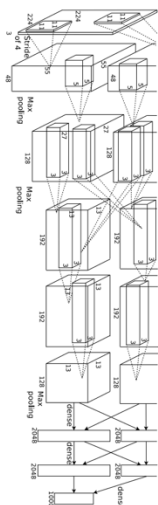


[Lin CVPR 2011]

Lion image by Swiss frog
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Year 2012

SuperVision

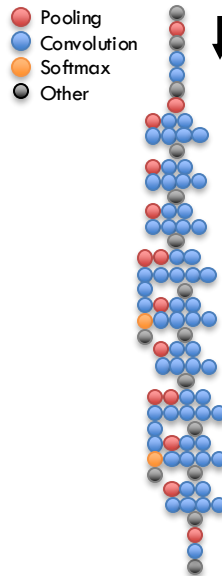


[Krizhevsky NIPS 2012]

Figure copyright Alex Krizhevsky, Ilya Sutskever, and Geoffrey Hinton, 2012. Reproduced with permission.

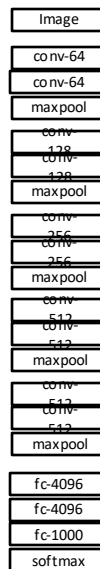
Year 2014

GoogLeNet



[Szegedy arxiv 2014]

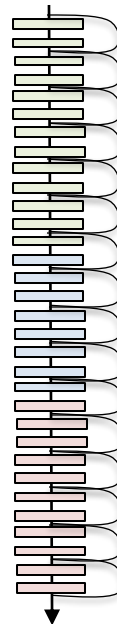
VGG



[Simonyan arxiv 2014]

Year 2015

MSRA



[He ICCV 2015]

2012 to Present: Deep Learning is Everywhere

Image Classification



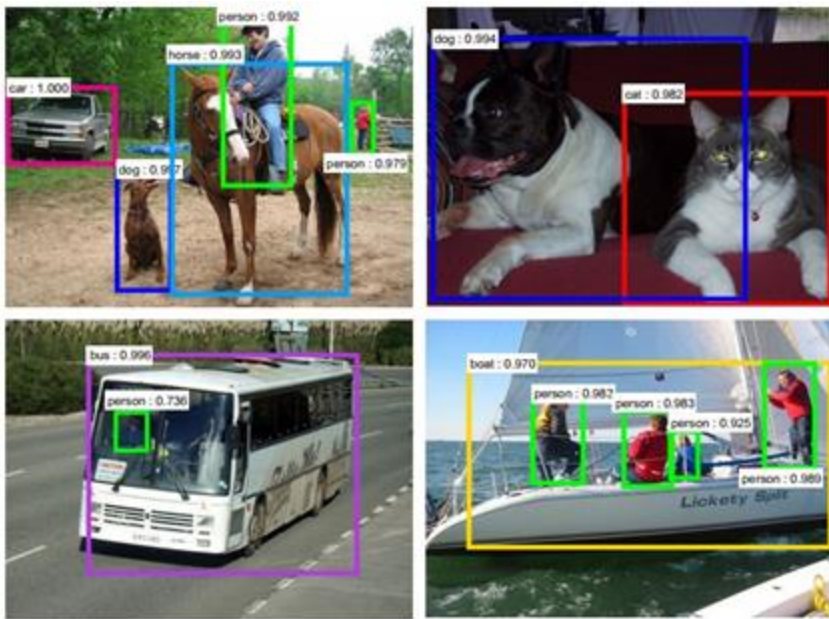
Image Retrieval



Figures copyright Alex Krizhevsky, Ilya Sutskever, and Geoffrey Hinton, 2012. Reproduced with permission.

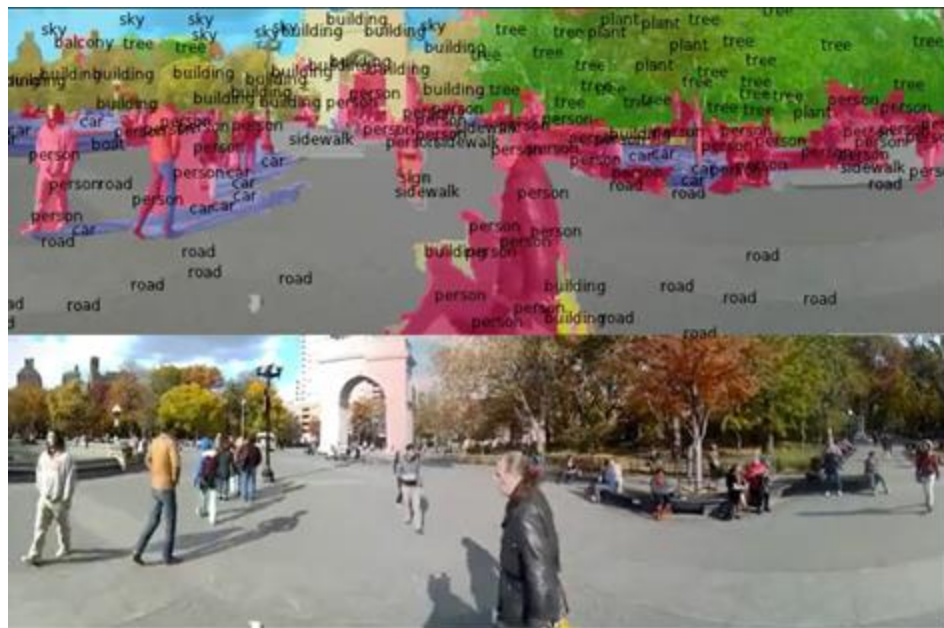
2012 to Present: Deep Learning is Everywhere

Object Detection



Ren, He, Girshick, and Sun, 2015

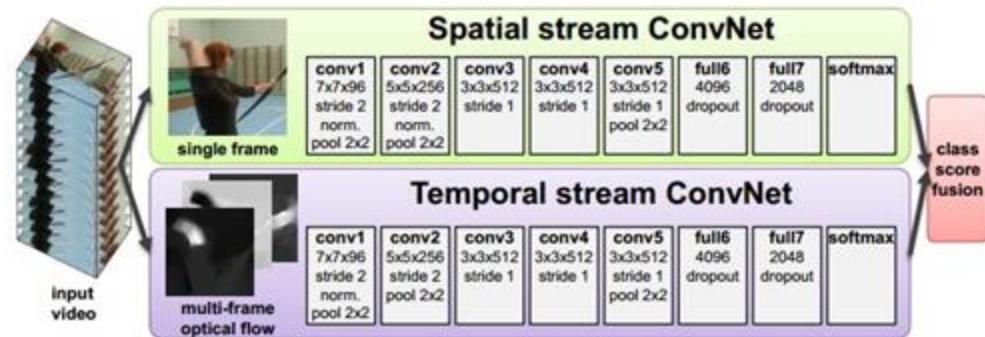
Image Segmentation



Fabaret et al, 2012

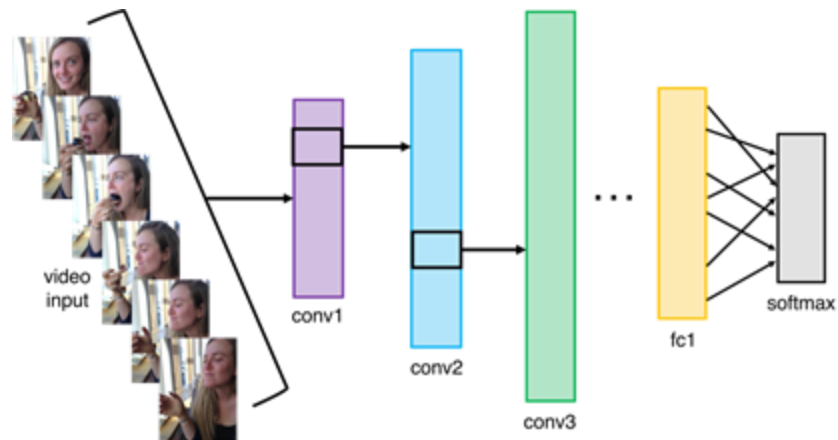
2012 to Present: Deep Learning is Everywhere

Video Classification



Simonyan et al, 2014

Activity Recognition

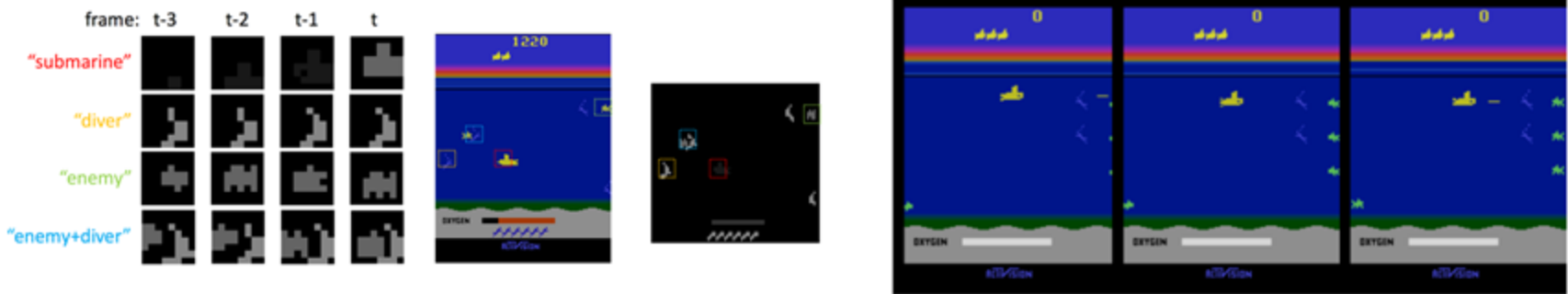


2012 to Present: Deep Learning is Everywhere

Pose Recognition (Toshev and Szegedy, 2014)

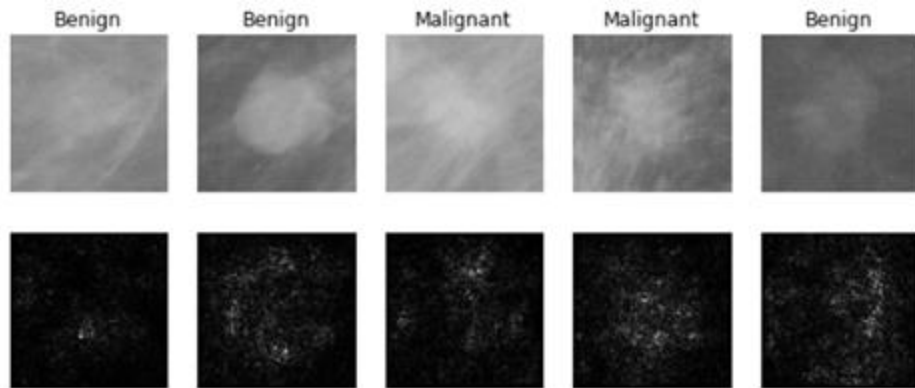


Playing Atari games (Guo et al, 2014)



2012 to Present: Deep Learning is Everywhere

Medical Imaging



Levy et al, 2016 Figure reproduced with permission

Galaxy Classification



Dieleman et al, 2014

From left to right: [public domain by NASA](#), usage permitted by ESA/Hubble, [public domain by NASA](#), and [public domain](#).

Whale recognition



Kaggle Challenge

[This image](#) by Christin Khan is in the public domain and originally came from the U.S. NOAA.

2012 to Present: Deep Learning is Everywhere



*A white teddy bear
sitting in the grass*



*A man in a baseball
uniform throwing a ball*



*A woman is holding
a cat in her hand*

Image Captioning

Vinyals et al, 2015

Karpathy and Fei-Fei,
2015



*A man riding a wave
on top of a surfboard*



*A cat sitting on a
suitcase on the floor*

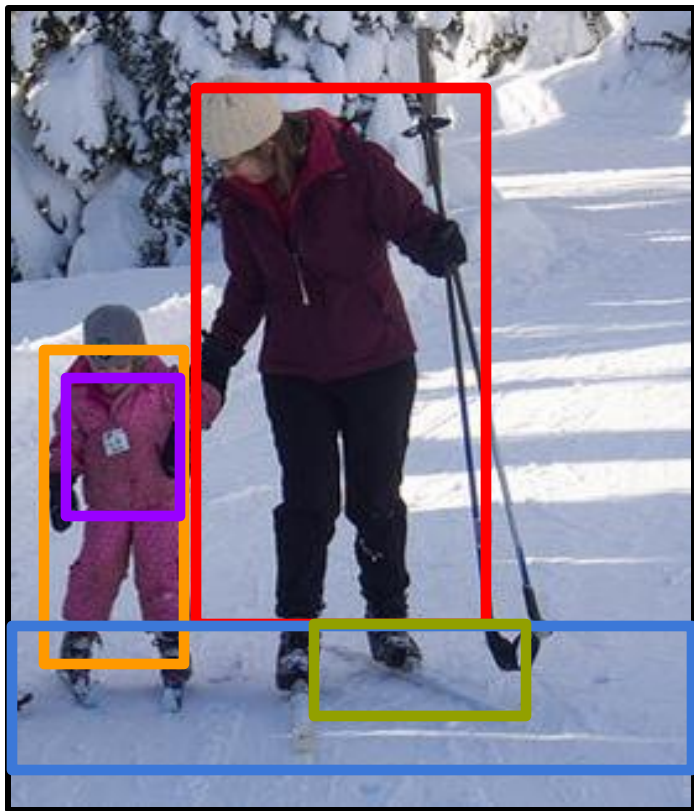


*A woman standing on a
beach holding a surfboard*

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<https://pixabay.com/en/luggage-antique-cat-1643010/>
<https://pixabay.com/en/teddy-plush-bears-cute-teddy-bear-1623436/>
<https://pixabay.com/en/surf-wave-surfer-sport-litoral-1668716/>
<https://pixabay.com/en/woman-female-model-sport-trail-adult-983967/>
<https://pixabay.com/en/handstand-lake-meditation-496008/>
<https://pixabay.com/en/baseball-player-shortstop-in-field-1045263/>

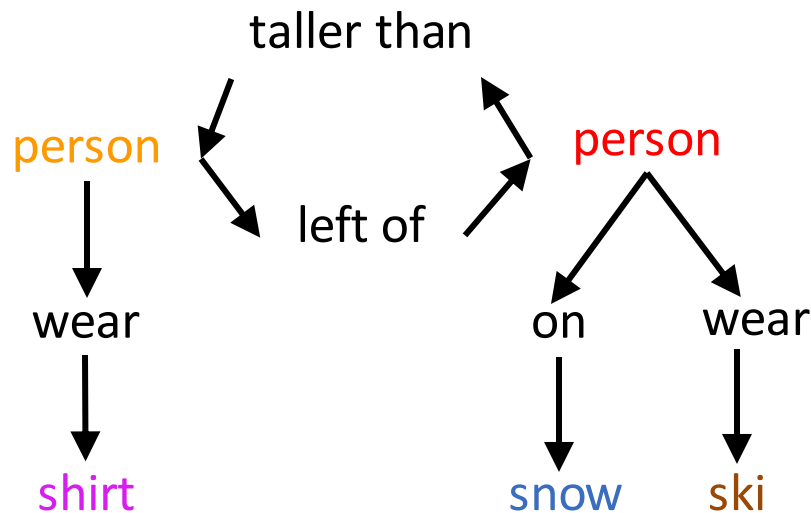
Captions generated by Justin Johnson using *NeuralTalk2*

2012 to Present: Deep Learning is Everywhere

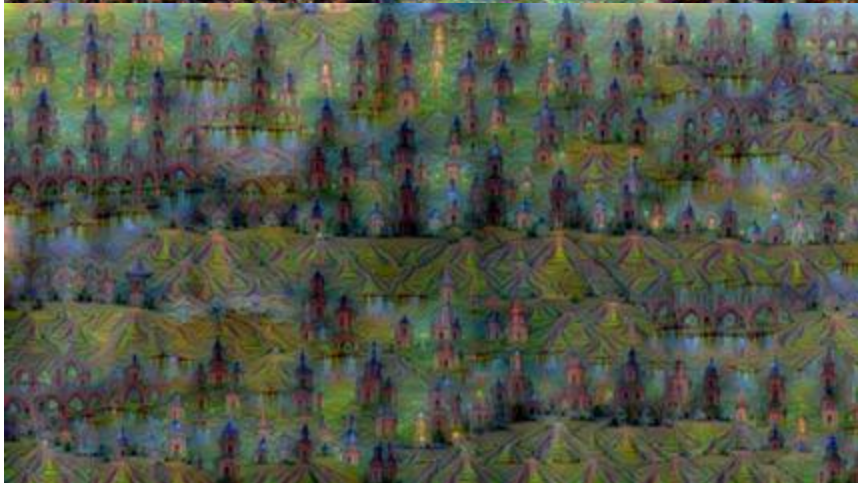
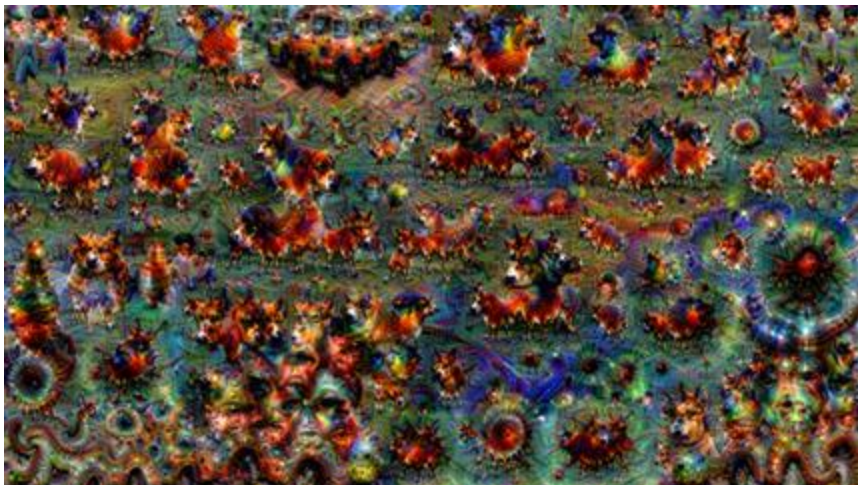


Results:

spatial, comparative, asymmetrical, verb,
prepositional



Krishna*, Lu*, Bernstein, Fei-Fei, *ECCV* 2016



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 Starry Night and Tree Roots by Van Gogh are in the public domain
 Bokeh image is in the public domain
 Stylized images copyright Justin Johnson, 2017;
 reproduced with permission

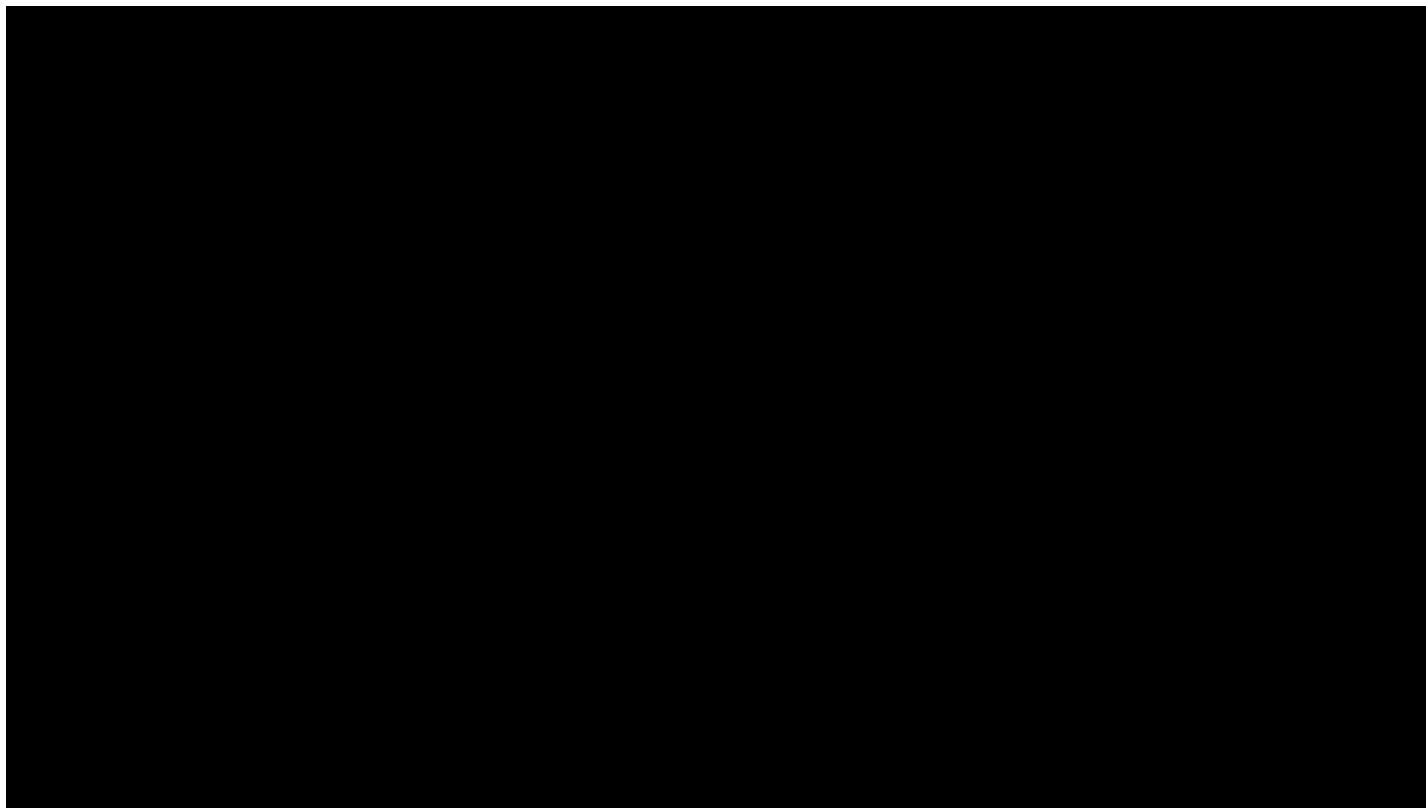


Mordvinsev et al, 2015
 Gatys et al, 2016

Figures copyright Justin Johnson, 2015. Reproduced with permission. Generated using the Inception v3 model from a blog post by Google Research.

Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

2012 to Present: Deep Learning is Everywhere



Karras et al, "Progressive Growing of GANs for Improved Quality, Stability, and Variation", ICLR 2018

Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

2012 to Present: Deep Learning is Everywhere

TEXT PROMPT

an armchair in the shape of an avocado. an armchair imitating an avocado.

AI-GENERATED IMAGES



Slide inspiration: Justin Johnson

2012 to Present: Deep Learning is Everywhere

TEXT PROMPT

an armchair in the shape of a peach. an armchair imitating a peach.

AI-GENERATED IMAGES

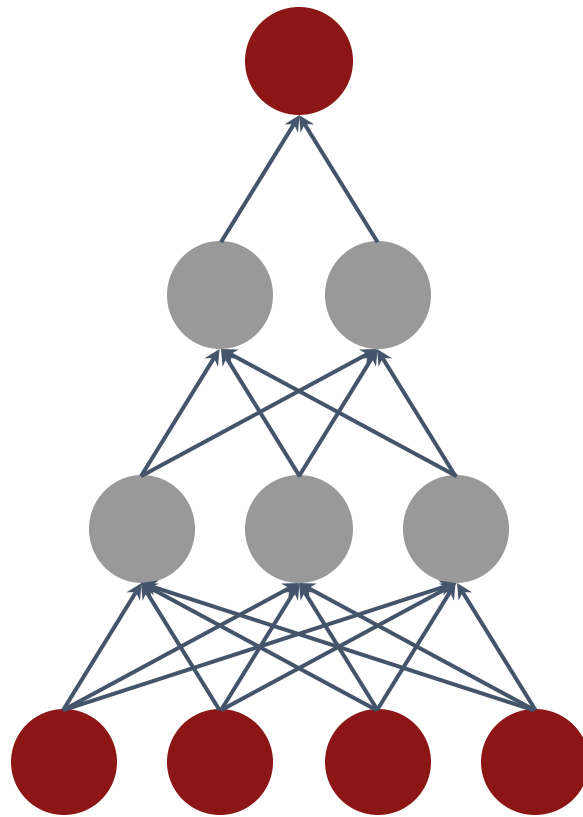


Ramesh et al, "DALL-E: Creating Images from Text", 2021. <https://openai.com/blog/dall-e/>



Computation

April 1, 2023



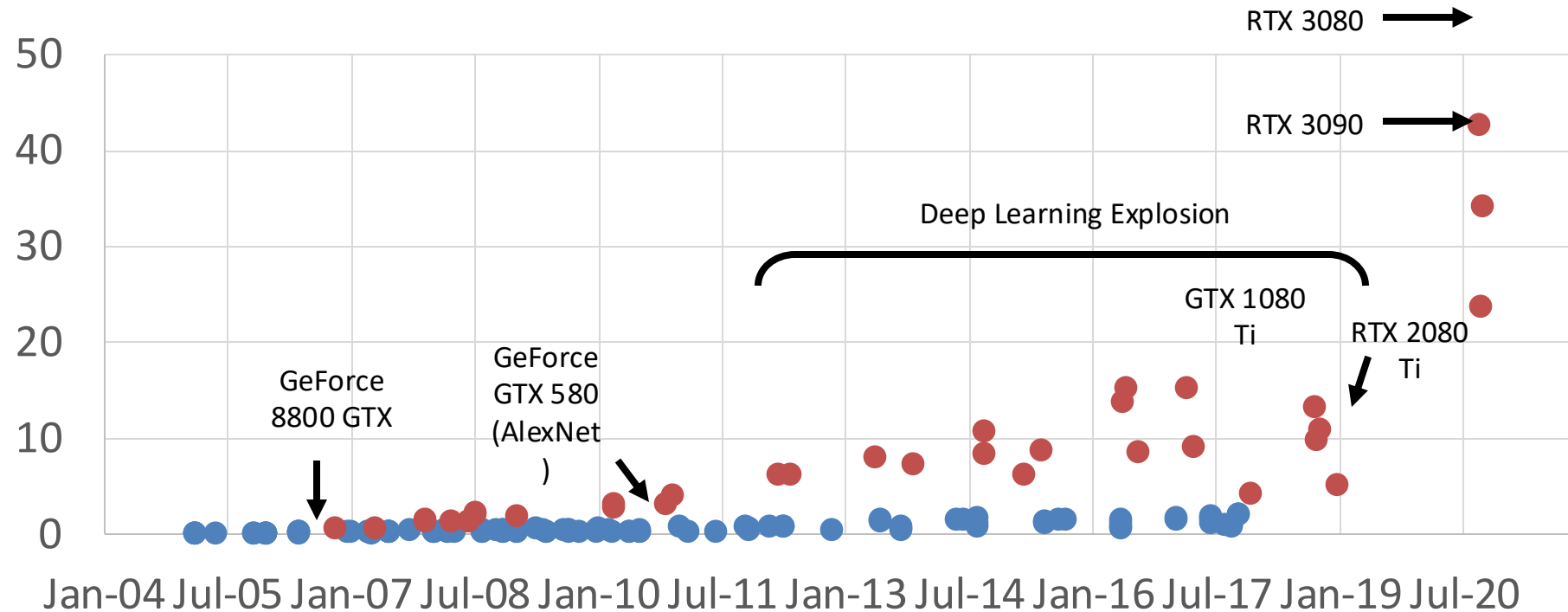
Algorithms



Data

GFLOP per Dollar

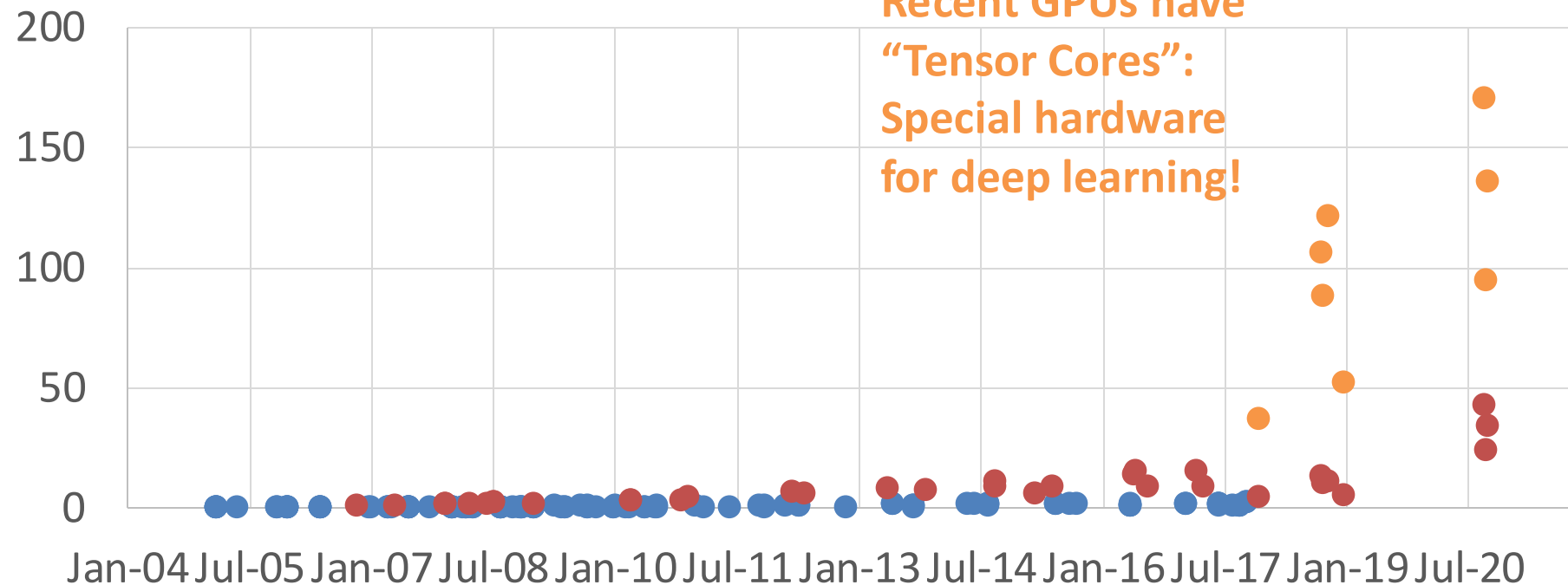
● CPU ● GPU (FP32)



GFLOP per Dollar

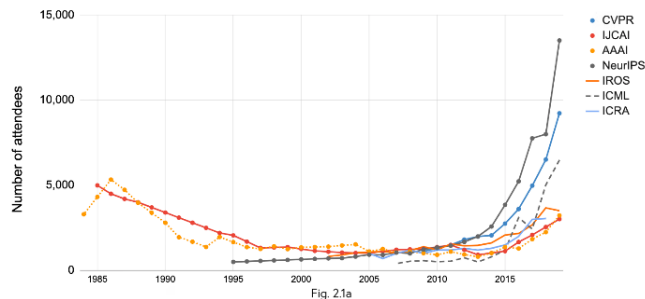
● CPU ● GPU (FP32) ● GPU (Tensor Core)

Recent GPUs have
“Tensor Cores”:
Special hardware
for deep learning!



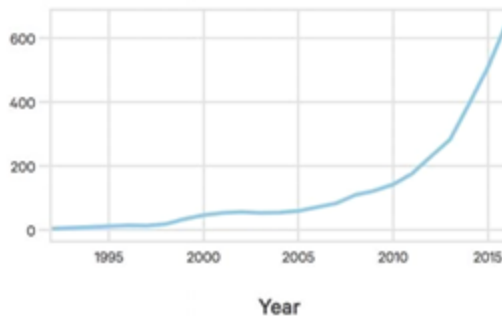
AI's Explosive Growth & Impact

Attendance at large conferences (1984-2019)
Source: Conference provided data.



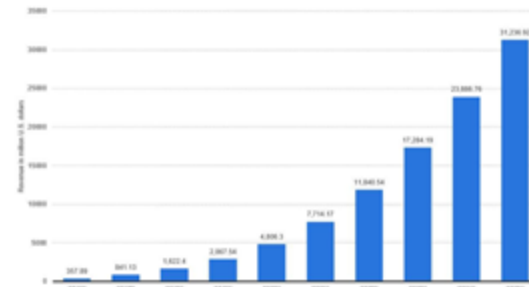
**Number of attendance
At AI conferences**

Source: The Gradient



**Startups Developing AI
Systems**

Source: Crunchbase, VentureSource, Sand
Hill Econometrics



**Enterprise Application AI
Revenue**

Source: Statista

Despite the successes, computer vision still has a long way to go

Computer Vision Can Cause Harm

Harmful Stereotypes

Gender Classifier	Darker Male	Darker Female	Lighter Male	Lighter Female	Largest Gap
 Microsoft	94.0% 	79.2% 	100% 	98.3% 	20.8%
 FACE++	99.3% 	65.5% 	99.2% 	94.0% 	33.8%
 IBM	88.0% 	65.3% 	99.7% 	92.9% 	34.4%

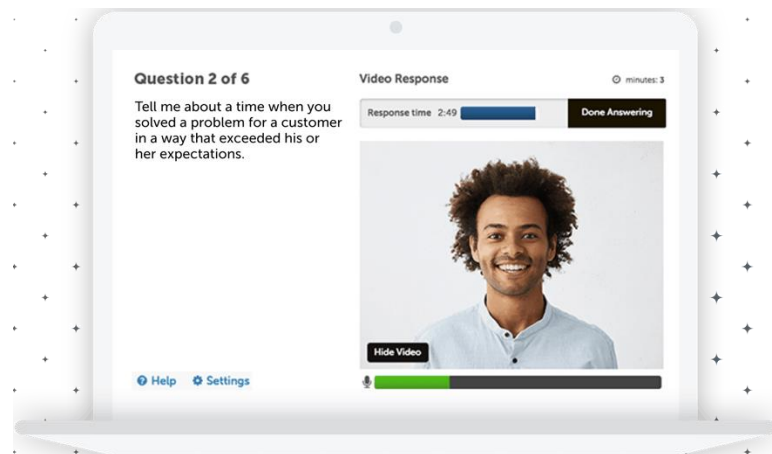


Affect people's lives

Technology

A face-scanning algorithm increasingly decides whether you deserve the job

HireVue claims it uses artificial intelligence to decide who's best for a job. Outside experts call it 'profoundly disturbing.'



Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2019/10/22/ai-hiring-face-scanning-algorithm-increasingly-decides-whether-you-deserve-job/>
<https://www.hirevue.com/platform/online-video-interviewing-software>

Example Credit: Timnit Gebru

Computer Vision Can Save Lives

How to take care of seniors while keeping them safe?



Early Symptom Detection of COVID-19



Monitor Patients with Mild Symptoms



Manage Chronic Conditions

Versatile



Mobility



Infection



Sleep



Diet



Scalable



Low-cost



Burden-free



And there is a lot we don't know how to do



https://fedandfit.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/summer-activities-for-kids_optimized-scaled.jpeg



This image is
copyright-free [United States government work](#)

Slide inspiration: Andrej Karpathy

Today's agenda

- A brief history of computer vision & deep learning
- CS231n overview