Fundamentals of Artificial Intelligence Chapter 01: Introduction to A.I.

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M.S. Course "Artificial Intelligence Systems", academic year 2022-2023

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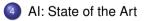
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Outline

Al: Fiction vs. Reality

What is AI?

Soundations and History of AI



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Al: Fiction vs. Reality

What is AI?

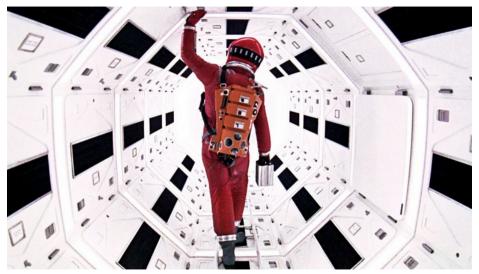
Foundations and History of AI



There is plenty of AI in fiction ...



"Metropolis", 1927, by Fritz Lang



"2001, Space Odyssey", 1968, by Stanley Kubrick

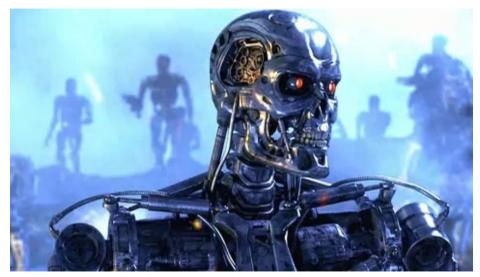
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"Star Wars", 1977, by George Lucas



"Blade Runner", 1982, by Ridley Scott



"Terminator", 1984, by James Cameron

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"A.I., Artificial Intelligence", 2001, by Steven Spielberg



"I, Robot", 2004, by Alex Proyas



"Wall-E", 2008, by Andrew Stanton



"Ex Machina", 2015, by Alex Garland

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"Blade Runner, 2049", 2017, by Denis Villeneuve

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... and many others ...

(see, e.g., https://www.looper.com/198685/the-stunning-evolution-of-ai-in-movies/) Many AI fantasies from fiction are becoming reality ...

... self-driving cars, ...



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... autonomous vacuum cleaners, ...

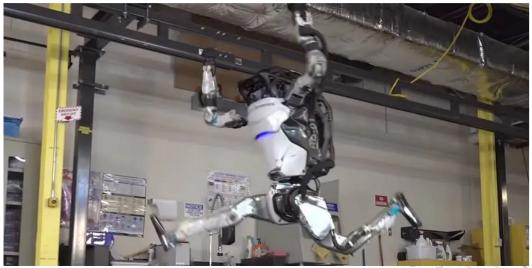


... soccer-playing robots, ...



©Sony

.. acrobatic humanoid robots, ...



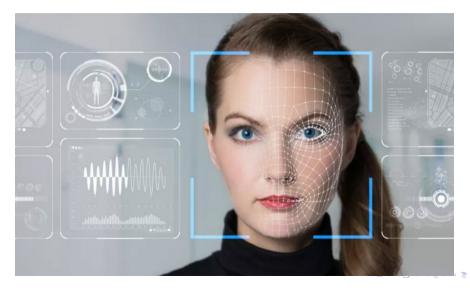
... autonomous trading bots, ...



..., vocal assistants, ...

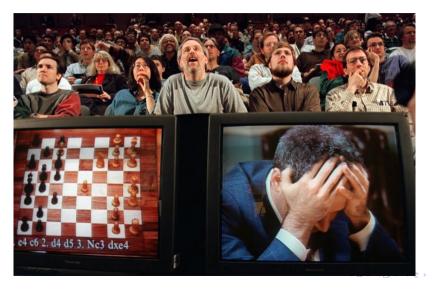


... image/face recognition tools, ...



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... world-champion beating chess players, ...



... world-champion beating go players, ...



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... Al fighter pilots, ...



... and many others ...











Intelligence

For thousands of years, we have tried to understand how we think:

- how can a "handful of matter" perceive, understand, predict, and manipulate a world far larger and more complicated than itself?
- involves many disciplines, including logic, psychology, cognitive science, neuroscience, philosophy, ethics, linguistics, ...

Artificial Intelligence

- it attempts not just to understand, but also to build intelligent entities
- involves all the above disciplines, but also mathematics, computer science, engineering, economics, control theory & cybernetics, electronics, ...

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Intelligence (from Wikipedia)

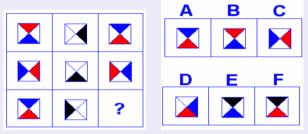
"Intelligence has been defined in many ways: the capacity for logic, understanding, self-awareness, learning, emotional knowledge, reasoning, planning, creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

More generally, it can be described as the ability to perceive or infer information, and to retain it as knowledge to be applied towards adaptive behaviors within an environment or context. (...)" Intelligence (from Wikipedia)

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Example: simple puzzle

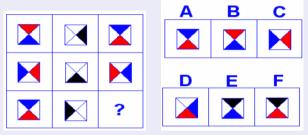


(Courtesy of Michela Milano, UniBO)

• What is the solution of this puzzle?

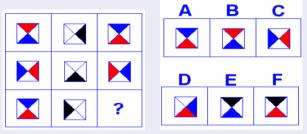
- \Rightarrow (I'd say) B: result of column-by-column clockwise rotation
- What have you done for solving it?
 - \blacksquare read & recognize figures \Longrightarrow perceive information.
 - recognize patterns, problem and candidate solutions.
 - \implies retain knowledge
 -) choose solution \Longrightarrow infer other knowledge

Example: simple puzzle



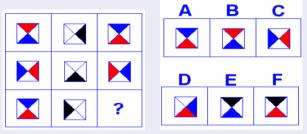
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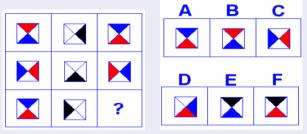
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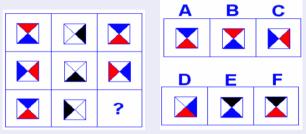
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• thought processes & reasoning

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behavior & action

• Success according to human standards

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- human-centered approach: involves observations and hypotheses about human behavior
- rationalist approach involves a combination of mathematics and engineering.

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What is Artificial Intelligence? [cont.]

Thinking Humanly	Thinking Rationally
"The exciting new effort to make comput- ers think <i>machines with minds</i> , in the full and literal sense." (Haugeland, 1985)	"The study of mental faculties through the use of computational models." (Charniak and McDermott, 1985)
"[The automation of] activities that we associate with human thinking, activities such as decision-making, problem solv-ing, learning" (Bellman, 1978)	"The study of the computations that make it possible to perceive, reason, and act." (Winston, 1992)
Acting Humanly	Acting Rationally
"The art of creating machines that per- form functions that require intelligence when performed by people." (Kurzweil, 1990)	"Computational Intelligence is the study of the design of intelligent agents." (Poole <i>et al.</i> , 1998)
"The study of how to make computers do things at which, at the moment, people are better." (Rich and Knight, 1991)	"AI is concerned with intelligent behavior in artifacts." (Nilsson, 1998)

Problem: How do humans think?

- Idea: develop a theory of the mind
- \Rightarrow express the theory as computer programs
 - e.g. Newell & Simon's General Problem Solver (1961)
 - Requires scientific theories of brain activities (cognitive model)
 - Inter-disciplinary field: Cognitive Science
 - combines computer models from AI and experimental techniques from psychology
 - construct precise and testable theories of the human mind
 - Al and Cognitive Science nowadays distinct
 - A.I: find an algorithm performing well on a task
 - C.S: find a good model of human performance

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- Alan Turing "Computing Machinery and Intelligence" (1950)
- Operational test of intelligence (aka "The Imitation game"):
 - A human, a computer, an interrogator in a different room.
 - The Interrogator should classify the human and the machine.
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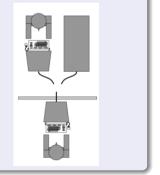
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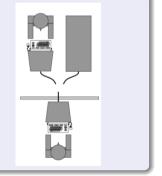
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Capabilities for passing the Turing Test

• natural language processing to enable it to communicate successfully in English (or other)

- knowledge representation to store what it knows or hears
- automated reasoning to answer questions and to draw new conclusions
- machine learning to adapt to new circumstances and to detect and extrapolate patterns

For Total Turing test (with physical interaction wrt. interrogator):

- computer vision to perceive objects
- computer speech to communicate orally
- robotics to manipulate objects and move about
- These disciplines compose most of AI
- Turing Test is still relevant in AI (although not fundamental)

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Some successes with Turing test

- (2014) a chatbot by Eugene Goostman, mimicking the answer of a 13 years old boy, has succeeded the test.
 - chatbots are now frequently available
- vocal assistants are now of common use
 - e.g. Alexa (Amazon), Siri (Apple), Cortana (Microsoft), ...

Limitations of Turing Test

- not reproducible, constructive or amenable to mathematical analysis
- Al researchers devoted little effort to make systems pass the Turing Test
- [Do humans always pass the Turing test? (See e.g. <u>here</u>)]
- Should we really emulate humans to achieve intelligence?
- Shouldn't we study the underlying principles of intelligence instead?

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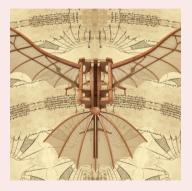
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Metaphorical Example

Successful flight machines have not been developed by imitating birds, rather by studying engines and aerodynamics.





(see e.g. this video).

Problem: Can we capture the laws of thought?

• Aristotle: What are correct argument and thought processes?

- codify "right thinking" i.e. irrefutable reasoning processes (syllogisms): (e.g. "all men are mortal; Socrates is a man; therefore, Socrates is mortal")
- \Rightarrow Logic and Logical inference
- The Logicist tradition in AI hopes to create intelligent systems using logic-based inference systems
 - "algorithm = logic + control"
 - logic programming, automated-deduction systems, ...
 - logics: propositional, first-order, modal & decription, temporal, ...
- Two main limitations:
 - not easy to state informal knowledge into the formal terms of logic
 - problems undecidable or computationally very hard (NP-hard)
- Logical reasoning is currently part of many fields of Al
 - problem solving, knowledge representation & reasoning, planning,
 - does not exhaustively cover AI

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Thinking Rationally: The "Laws of Thought" Approach

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Problem: Can we make systems "do the right thing"?

- An agent is an entity that perceives and acts
 - persists over a prolonged time period
- A rational agent acts so as
 - o to achieve the best outcome (maximize goal achievement), or
 - to addeve the best expected outcome (under uncertainty)
- Rational agents need all skills needed for the Turing Test!
- Thinking rationally is sometimes part of being a rational agent
 - e.g. planning an action.
 - sometimes action without thinking (e.g. reflexes)
- Two advantages over previous approaches:
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- achieving perfect rationality is not feasible in complex environments
 - computational demands too high
 - however, good working hypothesis and starting point for analysis
- \Rightarrow dealing with limited rationality
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Weak vs. Strong AI

- Weak AI: Is it possible to build systems that act as if they were intelligent?
- Strong AI: Is it possible to build systems that are intelligent? (i.e., that have conscious minds, wills and sentiments?)

- General AI refers to systems able to cope with any generalized task which is asked of it, much like a human.
- Narrow AI refers to systems able to handle one particular task.
 AI system displays a certain degree of intelligence only in a particular narrow field to perform highly specialized tasks

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AI Systems Classification [cont.]

Symbolic Approach vs. Connectionist Approach

- Top-down, or Symbolic Approach:
 - Symbolic representation of knowledge
 - Logics, ontologies, rule based systems, declarative architecture
 - Human-understandable models
- Bottom up, or Connectionist Approach:
 - Based on Neural networks.
 - Knowledge is not symbolic and it is "encoded" into connections between neurons.
 - Concepts are learned by examples
 - Non understandable by humans

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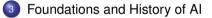
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- Philosophy: Logic, reasoning, mind as a physical system, foundations of learning, language and rationality
- Mathematics: Formal representation and proof, computation, (un)decidability, (in)tractability, probability
- Economics: formal theory of rational decisions, game theory
- Neuroscience: physical substrate for mental activities
- Psychology: adaptation, phenomena of perception and motor control
- Computer Science & Engineering: algorithms, data structures, efficient implementations
- Control Theory & Cybernetics: homeostatic systems, stability, optimal agent design
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The Gestation of AI (1943-1955)

- 1943: Warren Mc Culloch and Walter Pitts: a model of artificial Boolean neurons to perform computations
 - First steps toward connectionist computation and learning
 - Marvin Minsky and Dann Edmonds (1951) constructed the first neural network computer
- 1950: Alan Turing: "Computing Machinery and Intelligence"
 - Turing Test
 - First complete vision of AI

The Birth of AI (1956) and Era of Great Expectations

- Darmouth Workshop (1956) brought together top minds on automata theory, neural nets and the study of intelligence
 - Allen Newell and Herbert Simon: The Logic Theorist
 - first nonnumerical thinking program used for theorem proving
 - proved theorems from Russel&Whitehead Principia Mathematica
- The era of great expectations (1952-1969)
 - Newell and Simon introduced the General Problem Solver (GPS)
 - could handle a (limited) number of logical puzzles
 - imitation of human problem-solving: strategy to address subgoals
 - Idea: any system (human or machine) exhibiting intelligence must operate by manipulating data structures composed of symbols
 - John McCarthy
 - Invented LISP (and time-sharing)
 - Logic-oriented Advice Taker, decoupling knowledge and reasoning
 - Marvin Minsky
 - addressed microworlds, problems in limited domain that appear to require intelligence to solve (e.g. blocks-world, geometric problems)
 - S. Winograd and J.D. Cowan, et al.: early work on neural networks

Collapse in AI research (1966 - 1973)

- Progress was slower than expected.
 - enthusiast predictions turned unrealistic
- Some systems lacked scalability
 - computational intractability due to combinatorial explosion in search
- Fundamental limitations on techniques and representations
 - Minsky&Papert (1969): important limitations to neural networks

Al Revival via knowledge-based systems (1969-1970)

- General-purpose ⇒ domain specific systems
 - narrow domains, exploiting domain-specific knowledge
 - E.g. DENDRAL: successful in inferring molecular structure from information by mass-spectrometer (Buchanan et al. 1969)
- Expert systems applied to areas of human expertise
 - e.g., MYCIN: diagnose blood infections (Feigenbaum et al.)
 - based on 450 domain-specific rules from experts & textbooks
 - a calculus for uncertainty
- Several progresses in Natural language processing
 - incorporate domain knowledge in NLP

Al becomes an industry (1980-present)

- commercial expert system R1 at DEC (McDermott, 1982)
 - helped configure orders for computer system (saves: 40M\$/year)
- followed a period of national and industry investments in AI
- followed a period of expert systems industry busts ("AI Winter")

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The return of neural networks (1986-present)

- (re)invented the back-propagation learning algorithm
 - applied to many learning problems in computer science and psychology
- revival of connectionist models for intelligent systems (vs. symbolic or logicist approaches)

Al adopts the scientific method (1987-present)

- A "gentle revolution" in AI content and methodology
 - build on existing theories than to propose brand-new ones
 - base claims on rigorous theorems or hard experimental evidence rather than on intuition
 - show relevance to real-world applications rather than toy example
- AI has finally come firmly under the scientific method
 - hypotheses must be subjected to rigorous empirical experiment
 - results must be analyzed statistically for their importance
 - \implies general increase in technical depth
- Resurgence of probability, focus on uncertainty
 - (speech & handwriting recognition): hidden Markov models
 - neural networks benefited from statistics, pattern recognition, and machine learning mining
 - rigorous reasoning with uncertainty: Baynesian networks
 - Similar "gentle revolutions" occurred in robotics, computer vision, and knowledge representation.

The emergence of intelligent agents (1995-present)

• renewed interest in the "whole agent" problem:

"How does an agent act/behave embedded in real environments with continuous sensory inputs?"

- Es: AI in the internet domain "-bots"
 - Decision support systems, robotic agents, natural language
- Need for interaction between sensing and reasoning
 - \implies reasoning and planning systems must handle uncertainty
- Al forced into much closer contact with other fields
 - e.g. control theory, economics

The availability of very large data sets (2001-present)

Big data and massive computing power (e.g. GPUs) have enabled deep networks to be properly trained and to work properly

- Until recently: emphasis on algorithms
- Recent works in AI: emphasis on data (for machine learning & deep learning)
- ⇒ learning methods rather than hand-coded knowledge engineering used to express the knowledge a system needs
 - Large amount and variety of AI applications (speech and image recognition, spam filtering, robotics, machine translation, autonomous vehicles, game playing, ...)
 - many AI applications are now deeply embedded in the infrastructure of every industry

The Deep-Learning Tsunami (2015-present)

- "Deep Learning waves have lapped at the shores of computational linguistics for several years now, but 2015 seems like the year when the full force of the tsunami hit the major Natural Language Processing (NLP) conferences." [C. Manning]
- Previous successes in the fields of image classification and speech...
- Experts in the field (LeCun, Hinton, Bengio) agree on the fact that there will be important developments in text and video understanding, machine translation, question answering ... [Turing award]
- Google masters GO: Deep-learning software defeats human professional for the first time. AlphaGo. Nature 529, 445-446 (28 January 2016). In March 2016, Lee Sedol defeated.

Main AI Research Venues

Major Al Journals

- Artificial Intelligence
- Computational Intelligence
- Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research
- IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence
- IEEE Intelligent Systems
- [area-specific journals]

Main AI Conferences

- International Joint Conference on AI (IJCAI)
- National Conference on AI (AAAI)
- European Conference on AI (ECAI)
- [area-specific conferences]

• Main professional societies for AI

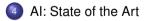
- American Association for Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)
- ACM Special Interest Group in Artificial Intelligence (SIGART)
- Society for Artificial Intelligence and Simulation of Behaviour (AISB)











Al is everywhere ...

- Search engines
- Route planning (e.g. maps, traffic)
- Logistics (e.g. packages, inventory, airlines)
- Medical diagnosis, machine diagnosis
- Automated help desks
- Spam/fraud detection
- Smarter devices, e.g. cameras
- Product recommendations
- Assistants, smart homes
- ... Lots more!

... classify incoming e-mails as spam (or not), ...



http://www.resilientsystems.co.uk/

... predict stock price evolution, ...



... understanding handwriting, ...

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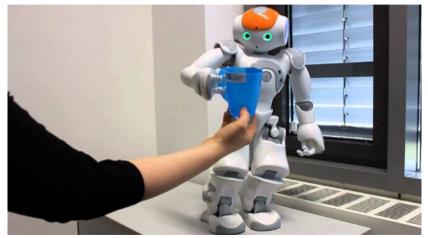




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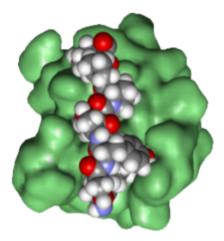
[LeCun et al. 1989]

... learn to grab a cup, ...



http://www.informatik.uni-bremen.de/

... design a molecule with given properties, ...



http://pande.stanford.edu/

... translate text from Chinese to English, ...



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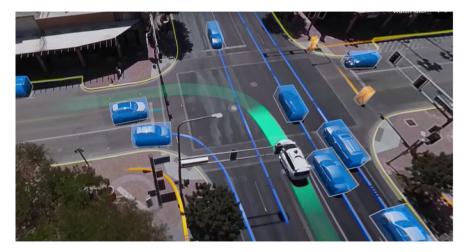
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... convert a voice into text, ...



... predict traffic trajectories, ...



... automatically writing the caption of a figure, ...



"man in black shirt is playing guitar."



"construction worker in orange safety vest is working on road."



"two young girls are playing with lego toy."



"boy is doing backflip on wakeboard."



"girl in pink dress is jumping in air."



"black and white dog jumps over bar."

[Karpathy & Fei-Fei, 2015; Donahue et al., 2015; Xu et al, 2015;...]



"young girl in pink shirt is swinging on swing."



"man in blue wetsuit is surfing on wave."

... driving autonomously, ...



©Google Inc.

... run & jump on two legs, ...



©Boston Dynamics

... beat a top-gun pilot in a simulated F16 dogfight, ...



Play a decent game of Jeopardy?	
• Win against any human at chess?	
• Win against the best humans at Go?	
• Play a decent game of tennis?	
• Grab a particular cup and put it on a shelf?	
• Unload any dishwasher in any home?	
Drive safely along the highway?	
Drive safely in Naples' center on rush hour?	
Buy groceries on the web?	
Buy groceries at next corner shop?	
• Discover and prove a new mathematical theorem?	
Perform a surgical operation?	
• Translate spoken Chinese into spoken English in real time	? YES
Write an intentionally funny story?	NO

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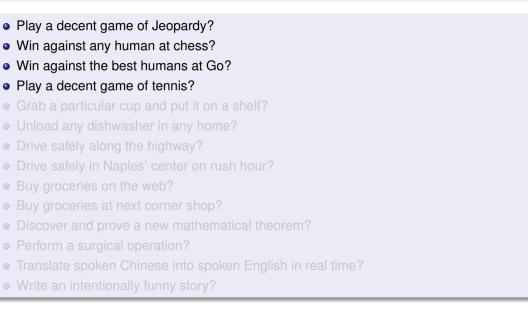
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Play a decent game of Jeopardy? • Win against any human at chess? • Win against the best humans at Go? Play a decent game of tennis? • Grab a particular cup and put it on a shelf? • Unload any dishwasher in any home? • Drive safely along the highway? • Drive safely in Naples' center on rush hour? Buy aroceries on the web? Buy groceries at next corner shop? • Discover and prove a new mathematical theorem? Perform a surgical operation? Write an intentionally funny story?

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