

Lecture 10-2 Work and Wealth



Participation Quiz

10. You get on a ski lift at the bottom of the mountain and take it all the way up to the top. What fraction of the lift's chairs do you pass?

How many chairs do you pass?



By Ratko Bozovic

Half of them	
Two-thirds of them	
All of them	
Three-quarters of them	

Increase in Productivity

- Working long hours
 - North Americans (particularly Americans) work longer hours than other cultures and other times in history
- Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism
 - A famous explanation of this restless work ethic
 - Linked it to Calvinist theology of predestination
- We have exchanged leisure time for possessions
 - Do you think this exchange is worth it? Would you exchange a much lower standard of living for much more free time?

What is Artificial Intelligence?

Al is the study, design, and development of computational processes that solve problems that previously required human intelligence

Not all of computer science is focused on AI.

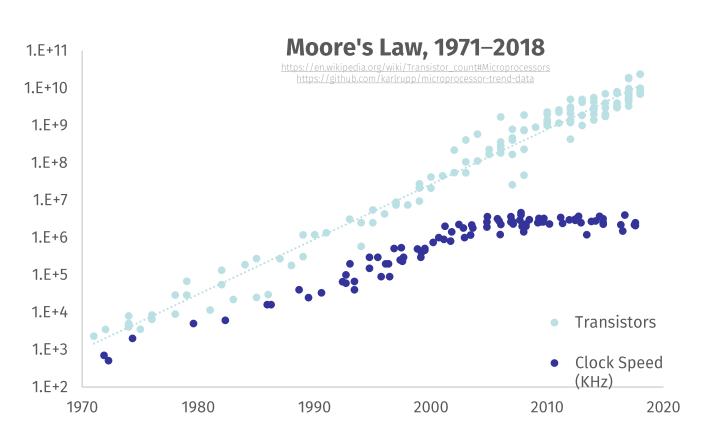
But, it's hard to think of a field in CS that isn't contributing fundamentally to it

The "Al Paradox": once we become familiar with a technology, we stop considering it Al



Why is it happening?

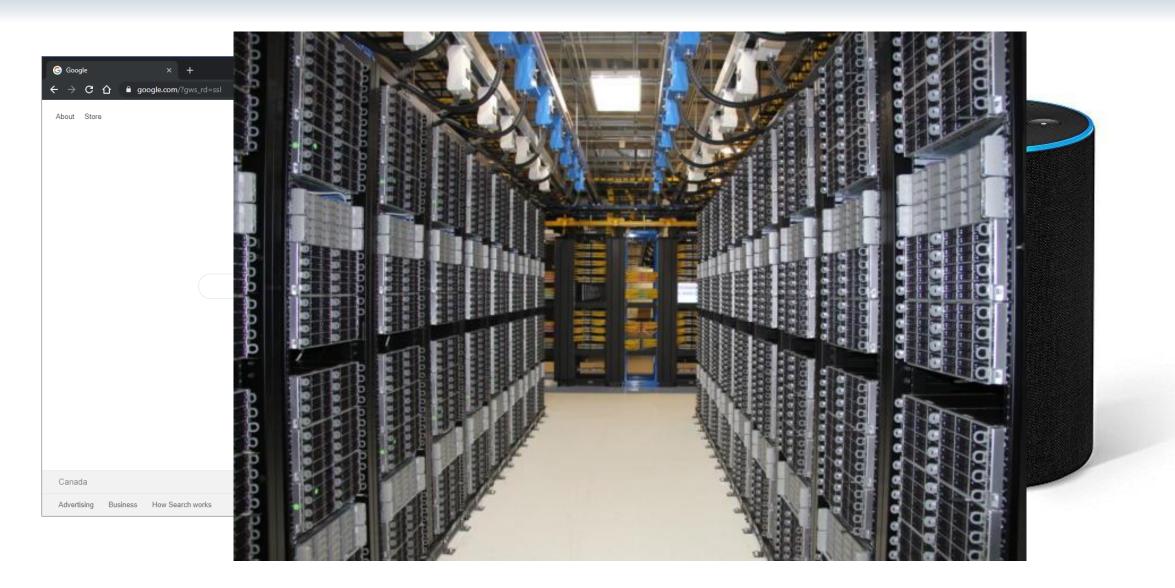
- 1. Scientific/mathematical breakthroughs, esp in machine learning
- 2. Growth in raw computing power



For comparison:

Species	# Neurons in Brain
Fruit Fly	10 ⁵
Cat	10 ⁹
Chimpanzee	1010
Human	1011

Today, most modern AI systems look like...



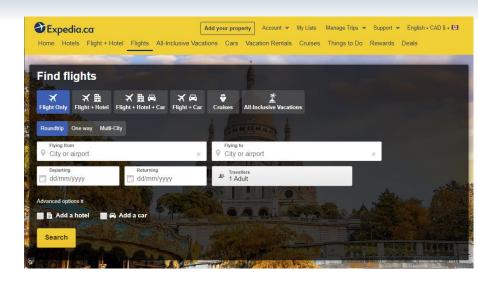
Growing Military Use

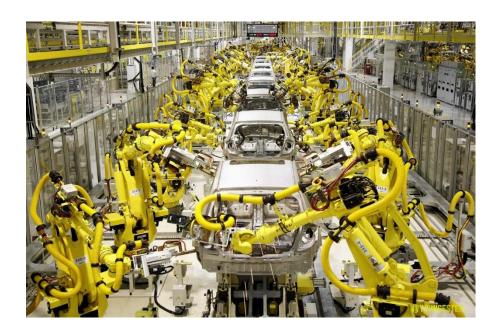


Based on slides Southearson Education, inc. Publishing as Pearson Addison-wes

Economic Impact

- Likely impacts:
 - Increased mechanization of routine labor
 - Automation of lower-end knowledge work
- Automation is nothing new
 - like other waves of innovation, AI will almost certainly make society as a whole much richer
 - but, it may also exacerbate income inequality
- What will this mean for the economy of the future?
 - Post-scarcity economy?
 - Human labor as a luxury good?





Social Impact

- How will AI technologies transform society?
- Will there be a social backlash against AI?
 - If so, what will be considered AI?



- How will human relationships change in the presence of alwaysavailable social agents?
- As we are increasingly augmented by AI, what are our inherent cognitive/emotional/motivational limitations, beyond which augmentation won't help?



Technology that will be in widespread use

- Tailored solutions for specific tasks, not general intelligence
- Prototypes that work today in labs
 & narrow deployments



- Non-text input modalities (vision; speech)
- Consumer modeling (recommendation; marketing)
- Cloud services (translation; question answering; Al-mediated outsourcing)
- Transportation (automated trucking; some self-driving cars)
- Industrial robotics (factories; some drone applications)
- Al knowledge work (logistics planning; radiology; legal research; call centers)
- Policing & security (electronic fraud; cameras; predictive policing)



Technologies that won't take off as quickly

- Overall, areas in which
 - major entrenched regulatory regimes need to be navigated
 - there exist social/cultural barriers to adoption
 - the human touch is crucial
 - substantial new hardware would need to be developed

Some examples:

- childcare, healthcare, eldercare
- education
- coaching, counselling
- consumer robots beyond niche applications
- semantically rich language understanding



Ethical consideration of advances in Al

- Is it wrong to create machines capable of making human labor obsolete? Will humans become demoralized by the presence of vastly more intelligent robots?
- How can we ensure that intelligent robots will not be put to an evil purpose by a malevolent human? How can we ensure they do not adopt malevolent purposes themselves?
- Is it morally acceptable to create "personal" (self-conscious) AI?



Work and Wealth

"The government should attempt to slow or stop the spread of automation technologies that are likely to eliminate large numbers of jobs."

