[IFEZ X K-BioX ABDD Summit @ Song-Do]
The Holistic AI-Biotech Landscape - Silicon Valley Technologies Reshaping Drug Discovery & Precision Medicine

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About Speaker

- *Co-Founder & CTO @ Erudio Bio, Inc., San Jose & Novato, CA, USA* 2023 ∼
- *Co-Founder & CEO @ Erudio Bio Korea, Inc., Korea* 2025 ∼
- *Leader of Silicon Valley Privacy-Preserving AI Forum (K-PAI), USA* 2024 ∼
- *AI-Korean Medicine Integration Initiative Task Force Member @ The Association of Korean Medicine* 2025 ∼
- *KFAS-Salzburg Global Leadership Fellow @ Salzburg Global Seminar* 2024 ∼
- *Adjunct Professor, EE Department @ Sogang University, Seoul, Korea* 2020 ∼
- *Advisory Professor, EECS Department @ DGIST, Korea* 2020 ∼
- *Global Advisory Board Member @ Innovative Future Brain-Inspired Intelligence System Semiconductor of Sogang University, Korea* 2020 ∼
- Technology Consultant @ Gerson Lehrman Gruop (GLG), NY, USA 2022 ∼
- Chief Business Development Officer @ WeStory.ai, Cupertino, CA, USA 2025 ∼
- Advisor @ CryptoLab, Inc., San Jose, CA, USA 2025 ∼
- *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 2017 $\sim$ 2020
- Principal Engineer @ Software R&D Center, Samsung Electronics 2016 $\sim$ 2017
- Principal Engineer @ Strategic Marketing & Sales, Memory Business 2015 $\sim$ 2016
- Principal Engineer @ DT Team, DRAM Development, Samsung 2012 $\sim$ 2015
- Senior Engineer @ CAE Team, Memory Business, Samsung, Korea 2005 $\sim$ 2012
- PhD - Electrical Engineering @ Stanford University, CA, USA 2001 $\sim$ 2004
- Development Engineer @ Voyan, Santa Clara, CA, USA 2000 $\sim$ 2001
- MS - Electrical Engineering @ Stanford University, CA, USA 1998 $\sim$ 1999
- BS - Electrical & Computer Engineering @ Seoul National University 1994 $\sim$ 1998

Highlight of Career Journey

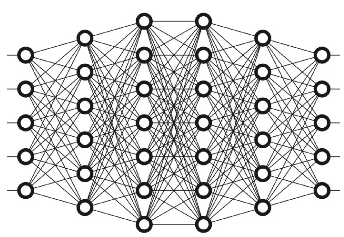
- BS in EE @ SNU, MS & PhD in EE @ Stanford University
  - *Convex Optimization - Theory, Algorithms & Software*
  - advisor - *Prof. Stephen P. Boyd*
- Principal Engineer @ Samsung Semiconductor, Inc.
  - AI & Convex Optimization
  - collaboration with *DRAM/NAND Design/Manufacturing/Test Teams*
- Senior Applied Scientist @ Amazon.com, Inc.
  - e-Commerce AIs - anomaly detection, deep RL, and recommender system
  - *Jeff Bezos's project - drove $200M in sales 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.
- *Co-Founder & CEO* - AI Technology & Business Development @ Erudio Bio Korea, Inc.

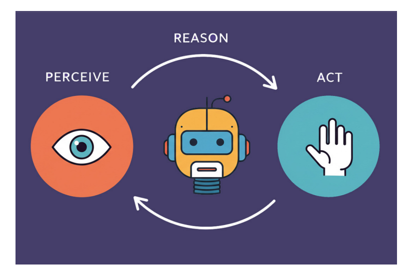
Unpacking AI, Biotech, and Silicon Valley!

AI Agents

AI progress in 21st century in keywords

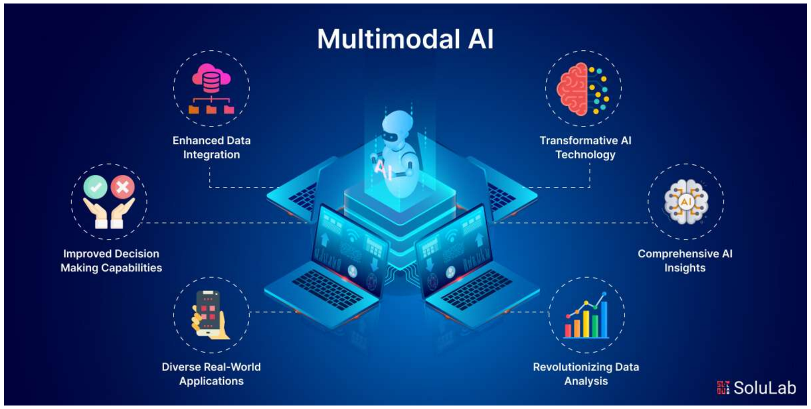
- 2010 ∼ Big Data
- 2012 ∼ Deep Learning
- 2017 ∼ Transformer - Attention is All you need!
- 2022 ∼ LLM & genAI
- 2024 ∼ AI Agent (Agentic AI)

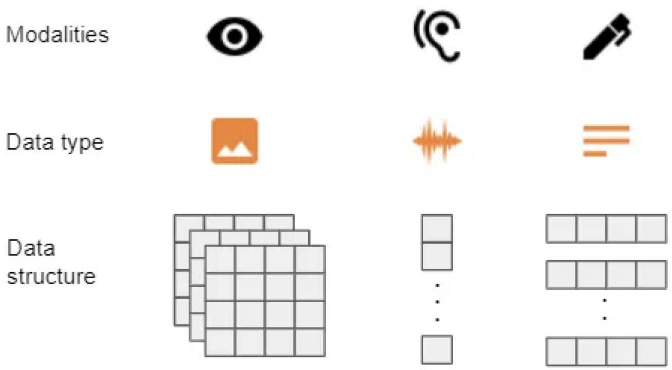




Multimodal learning

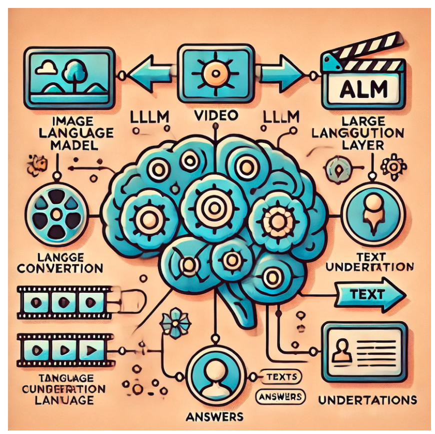
- understand information from multiple modalities, *e.g.*, text, images, audio, video
- representation learning methods
  - combine multiple representations or learn multimodal representations simultaneously
- applications
  - images from text prompt, videos with narration, musics with lyrics
- collaboration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

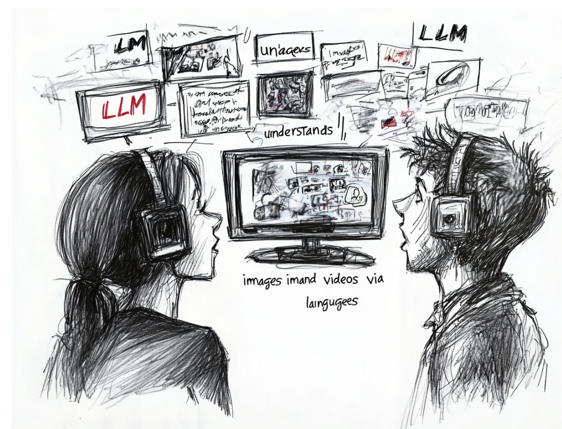




Implications of success of LLMs

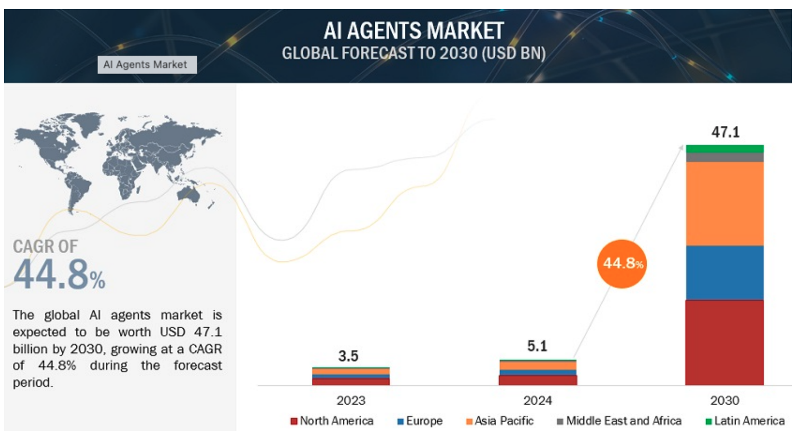
- many researchers change gears towards LLM
  – from computer vision (CV), speach, music, video, even reinforcement learning
- *LLM is not only about NLP . . .* humans have . . .
  - evolved to optimize natural language structures for eons
  - handed down knowledge using *this natural languages* for 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)*

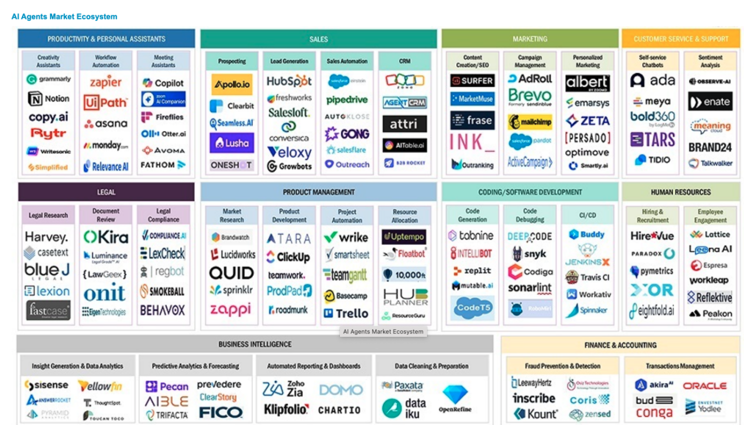




Multimodal AI (mmAI)

- 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



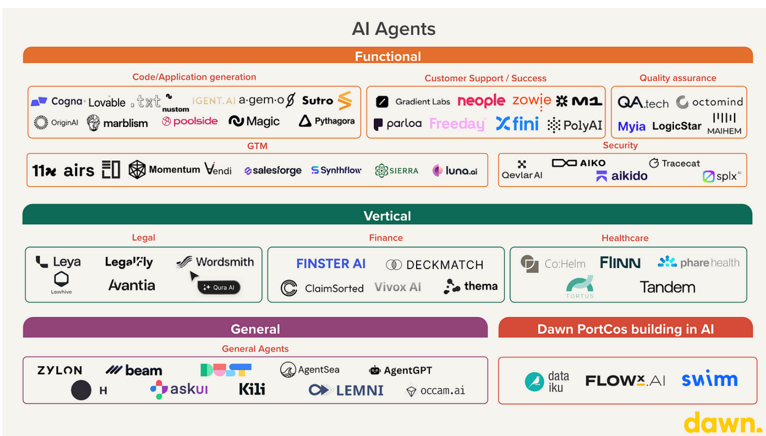


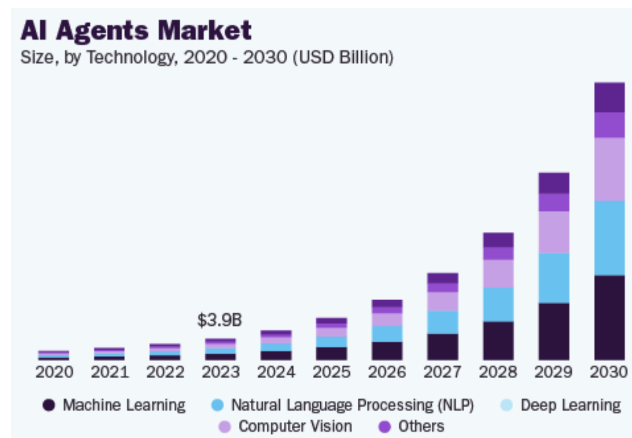
mmAI Technology

- 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





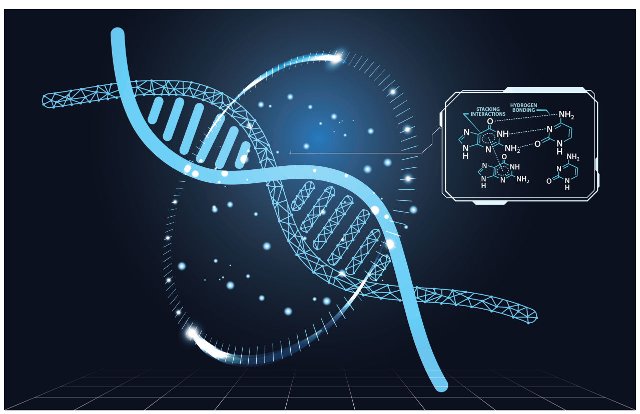
AI agents - Present & Future

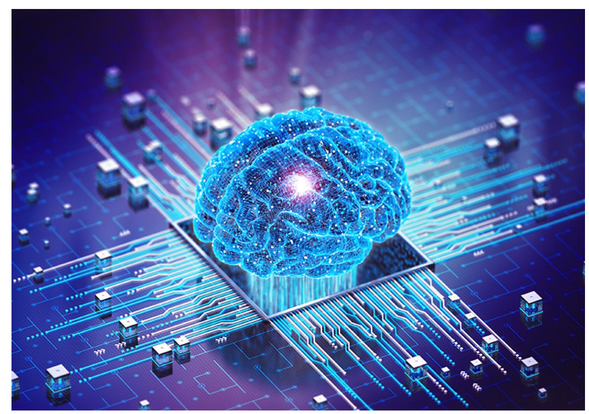
- emerging applications
  - scientific research - agents analyzing & running experiments & generating hypotheses
  - creative collaboration - AI partners in design & art combining multiple mediums
  - environmental monitoring - processing satellite sensor data for climate analysis
  - healthcare - enhanced 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

AI & Biotech

AI in biology

- AI has been used in biological sciences, and science in general
- AI's ability to process large amounts of raw, unstructured data ($e.g.$, DNA sequence data)
  - reduces time and cost to conduct experiments in biology
  - enables others types of experiments that previously were unattainable
  - contributes to broader field of engineering biology or biotechnology
- AI increases human ability to make direct changes at cellular level and create novel genetic material ($e.g.$, DNA and RNA) to obtain specific functions





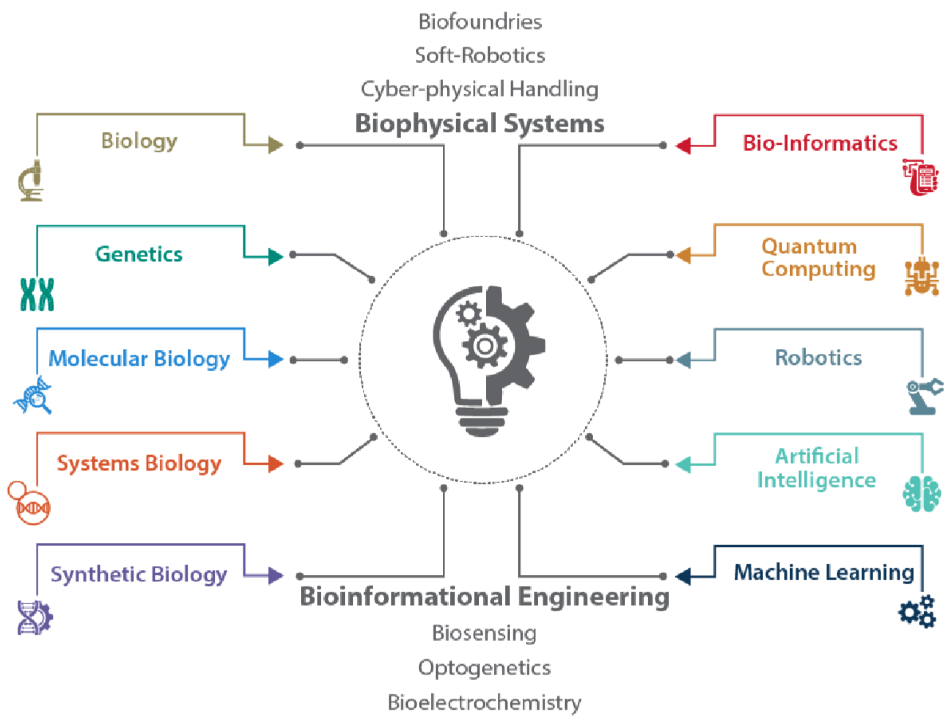
Biotech

Biotech

- biotechnology
  - is multidisciplinary field leveraging broad set of sciences and technologies
  - relies on and builds upon advances in other fields such as nanotechnology & robotics, and, increasingly, AI
  - enables researchers to read and write DNA
    - sequencing technologies "read" DNA while gene synthesis technologies take sequence data and "write" DNA turning data into physical material
- 2018 National Defense Strategy & Senior US Defense and Intelligence Officials identified emerging technologies that could have disruptive impact on US national security [Say21]
  - *AI*, lethal autonomous weapons, hypersonic weapons, directed energy weapons, *biotechnology,* quantum technology
- other names for biotechnology are engineering biology, synthetic biology, biological science (when discussed in context of AI)

Biotech - multidisciplinary field

- sciences and technologies enabling biotechnology include (but not limited to)
  - (molecular) biology, genetics, systems biology, synthetic biology, bio-informatics, quantum computing, robotics [DFJ22]

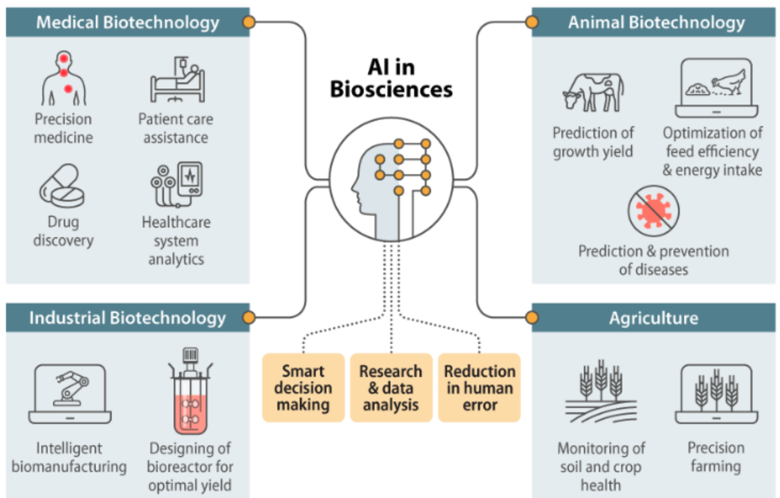


Convergence of AI and biological design

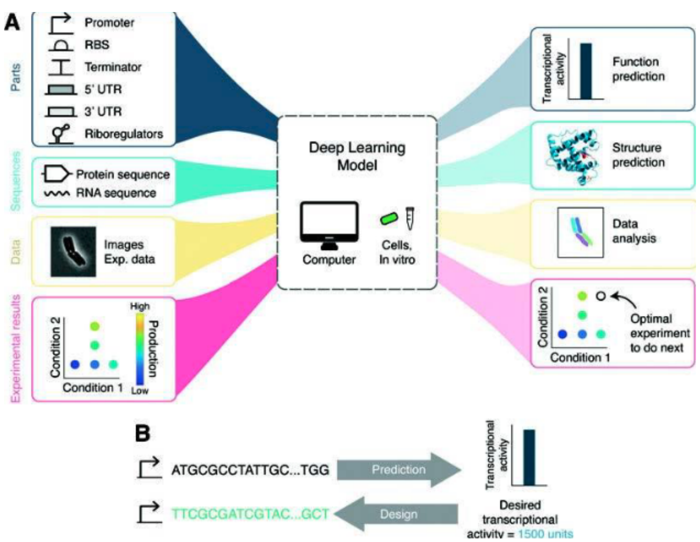
- AI & biological sciences converging [BKP22]
  - each building upon the other's capabilities for new research and development across multiple areas
- Demis Hassabis, CEO & cofounder of DeepMind, said of biology [Toe23]

  > ". . . biology can be thought of as information processing system, albeit extraordinarily complex and dynamic one . . . just as mathematics turned out to be the right description language for physics, biology may turn out to be *the perfect type of regime for the application of AI!"*

- both AI & biotech rely on and build upon advances in other scientific disciplines and technology fields, such as nanotechnology, robotics, and increasingly big data ($e.g.$, genetic sequence data)
  - each of these fields itself convergence of multiple sciences and technologies
- so *their impacts can combine to create new capabilities*



Multi-source genetic sequence data



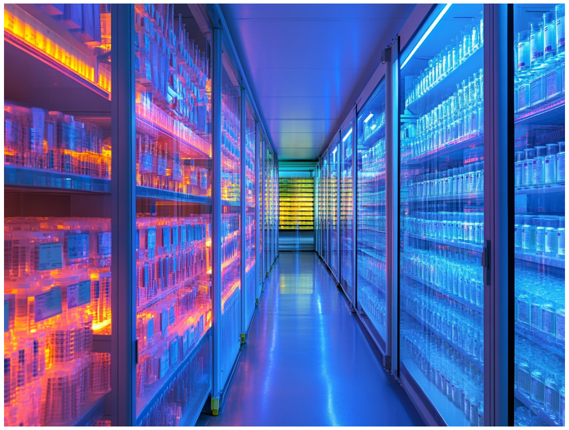
- AI, essential to analyzing exponential growth of genetic sequence data

  "AI will be essential to fully understanding how genetic code interacts with biological processes" - US National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence (NSCAI)

  – process huge amounts of biological data, *e.g.*, genetic sequence data, coming from different biological sources for understanding complex biological systems
    - sequence data, molecular structure data, image data, time-series, omics data
- *e.g.*, analyze genomic data sets to determine the genetic basis of particular trait and potentially uncover genetic markers linked with that trait

Quality & quantity of biological data

- limiting factor, however, is *quality and quantity* of biological data, $e.g.$, DNA sequences, that AI is trained on
  - $e.g.$, accurate identification of particular species based on DNA requires reference sequences of *sufficient quality* to exist and be available
- databases have varying standards - access, type, and quality of information
- design, management, quality standards, and data protocols for reference databases can affect utility of particular DNA sequence



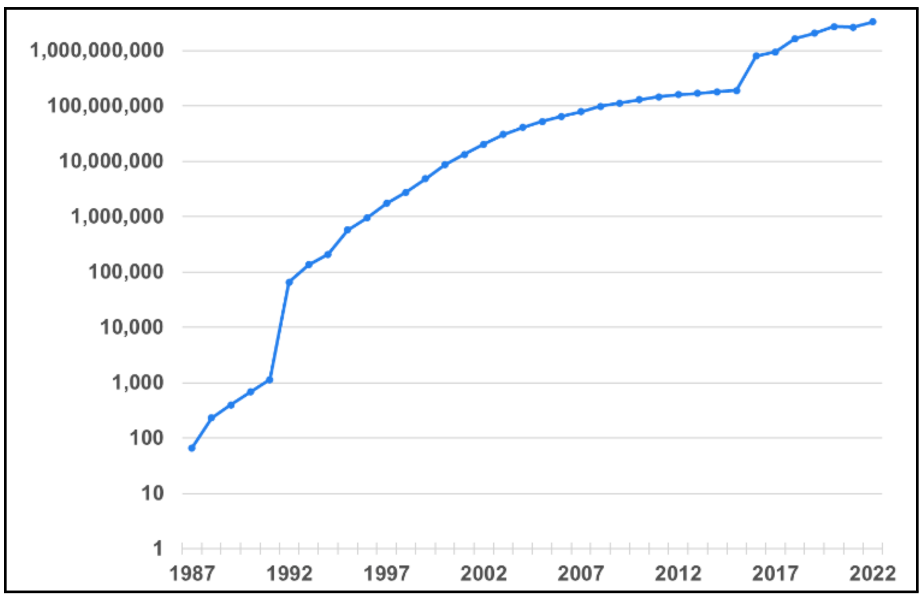
Rapid growth of biological data

- volume of genetic sequence data grown exponentially as sequencing technology evolved
- more than 1,700 databases incorporating data on genomics, protein sequences, protein structures, plants, metabolic pathways, *etc.*, *e.g.*
  - open-source public database
    - Protein Data Bank, US-funded data center - more than *terabyte of three-dimensional structure data* for biological molecules, *e.g.*, proteins, DNA, RNA
  - proprietary database
    - Gingko Bioworks - more than *2B protein sequences*
  - public research groups
    - Broad Institute - produces roughly *500 terabases of genomic data per month*
- great potential value in aggregate volume of genetic datasets that can be collectively mined to discover and characterize relationships among genes

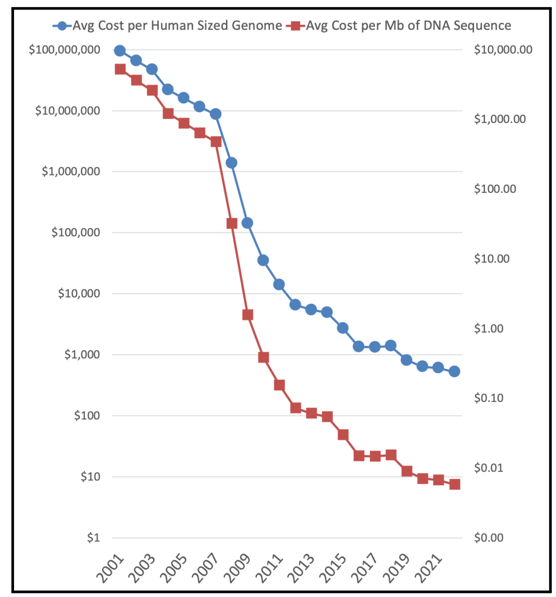
Volume and sequencing cost of DNA over time

- volume of DNA sequences & DNA sequencing cost
  - data source: National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) [Wet23] & International Nucleotide Sequence Database Collaboration (INSDC)
- *more dramatic than Moore's law!*

sequences in INSDC



DNA sequencing cost



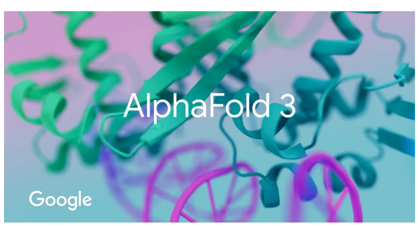
Bio data availability and bias

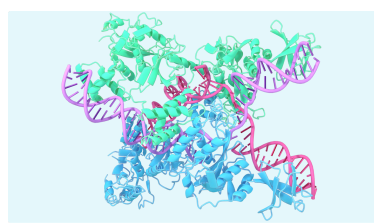
- US National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence (NSCAI) recommends
  - US fund and prioritize development of a biobank containing *"wide range of high-quality biological and genetic data sets securely accessible by researchers"*
  - establishment of database of broad range of human, animal, and plant genomes would
    - *enhance and democratize biotechnology innovations*
    - *facilitate new levels of AI-enabled analysis of genetic data*
- bias - availability of genetic data & decisions about selection of genetic data can introduce bias, $e.g.$
  - training AI model on datasets emphasizing or omitting certain genetic traits can affect how information is used and types of applications developed - *potentially privileging or disadvantaging certain populations*
  - access to data and to AI models themselves may impact communities of differing socioeconomic status or other factors unequally

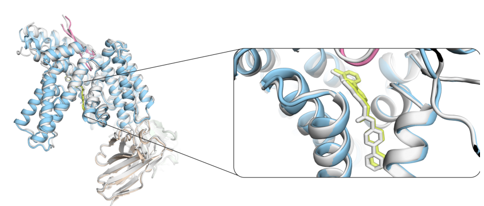
Emerging Trends in Biotech

AlphaFold

- solving 50-year-old protein folding problem, *"one of biology's grand challenges"*
  - definition - given amino acid sequence, predict how it folds into a 3D structure
  - proteins fold in microseconds, but predicting computationally nearly impossible
- AlphaFold 1 (2018) - DL + physics-based energy functions $\rightarrow$ AlphaFold 2 (2020) - attention-based NN solving protein folding "in principle" $\rightarrow$ AlphaFold 3 (2024) - diffusion-based DL, drug-protein interactions, protein complexes
- AlphaFold protein structure database
  - $>$200MM protein structures - nearly every known protein, used by $>$2MM researchers
- Applications & implications
  - drug discovery - target identification, lead optimization, side effect prediction
  - enzyme engineering, agriculture, environmental, vaccine development







AlphaGo

- Go board marked with 19×19 grid - $(19 \times 19)! = 361! \approx 1.44 \times 10^{768}$
  1437923258884890654832362511499863354754907538644755876127282765299227795534389618856841908003141196
  0714137944348905859683839682333043216077138088370565578796691924861827097800358990211005794501073330
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  2695595343233942204301825548143785112222186834487969871267194205609533306413935710635197200721473378
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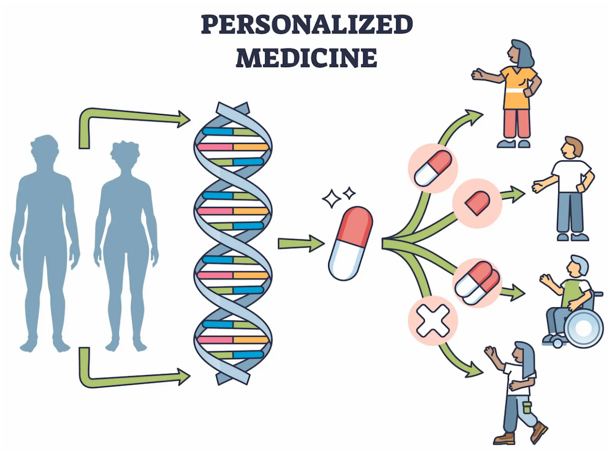
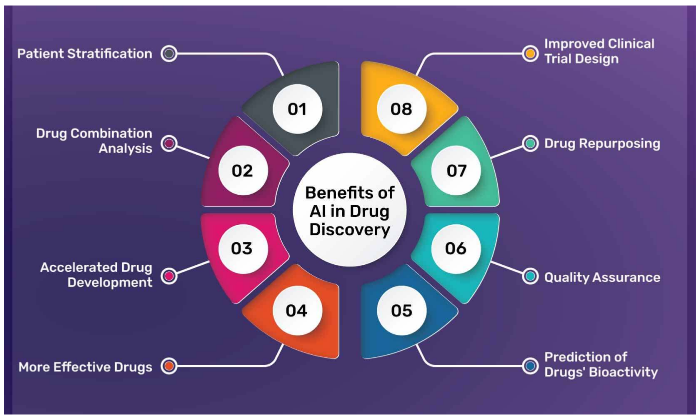
- deep reinforcement learning with Monte Carlo tree search
  - trained on thousands of years of Go game history
  - AlphaGo Zero learns by playing against itself
- development experience, insight, knowledge, know-how transferred to AlphaFold

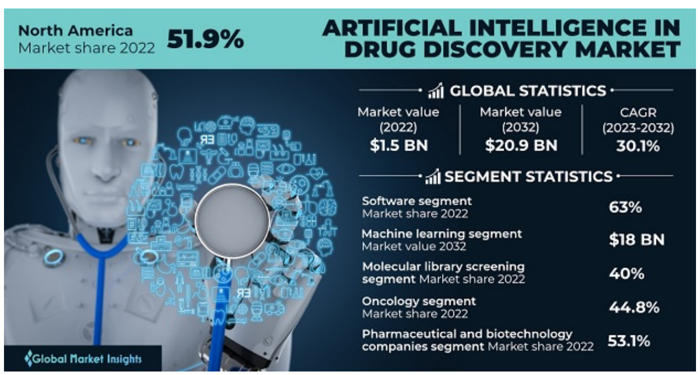
Personalized medicine

- *shift from one-size-fits-all approach to tailored treatments*
- based on individual genetic profiles, lifestyles & environments
- AI enables analysis of vast data to predict patient responses to treatments, thus enhancing efficacy and reducing adverse effects
- *e.g.*
  - custom cancer therapies
  - personalized treatment plans for rare diseases
  - precision pharmacogenomics
- companies - Tempus, Foundation Medicine, *etc.*



AI-driven drug discovery

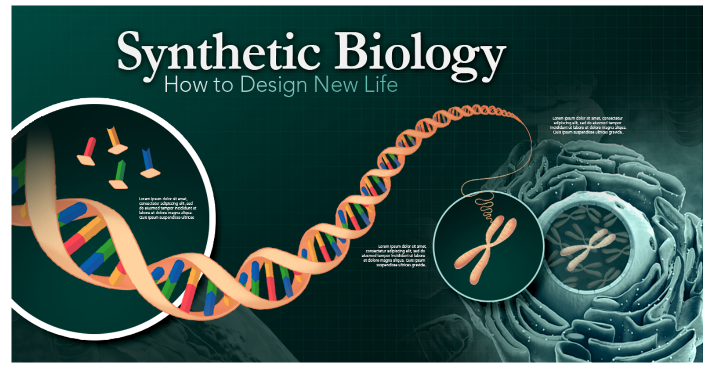


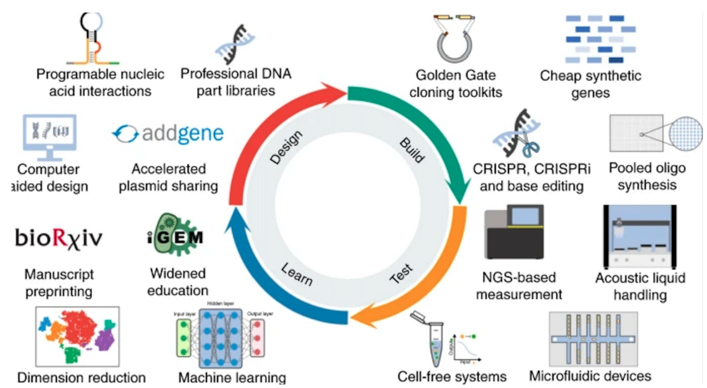


- traditional drug discovery process - time-consuming and costly often taking decades and billions of dollars
- AI streamlines this process by predicting the efficacy and safety of potential compounds with more speed and accuracy
- AI models analyze chemical databases to identify new drug candidates or repurpose existing drugs for new therapeutic uses
- companies - Insilco Medicine, Atomwise.

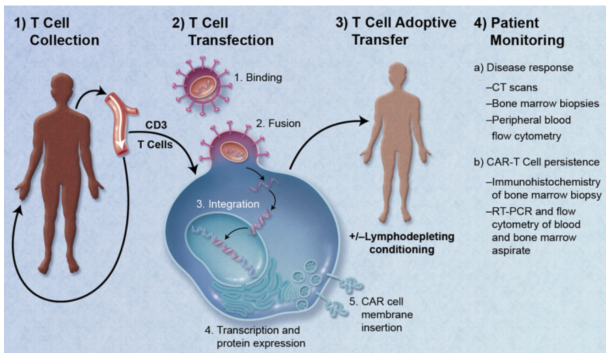
Synthetic biology

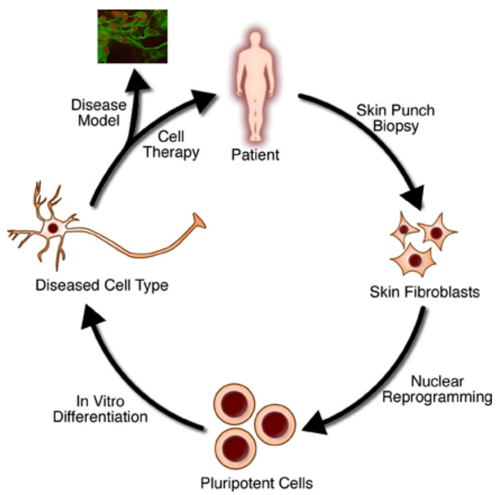
- use AI for gene editing, biomaterial production and synthetic pathways
- combine principles of biology and engineering to design and construct new biological entities
- AI optimizes synthetic biology processes from designing genetic circuits to scaling up production
- company - Ginkgo Bioworks uses AI to design custom microorganisms for applications ranging from pharmaceuticals to industrial chemicals





Regenerative medicine

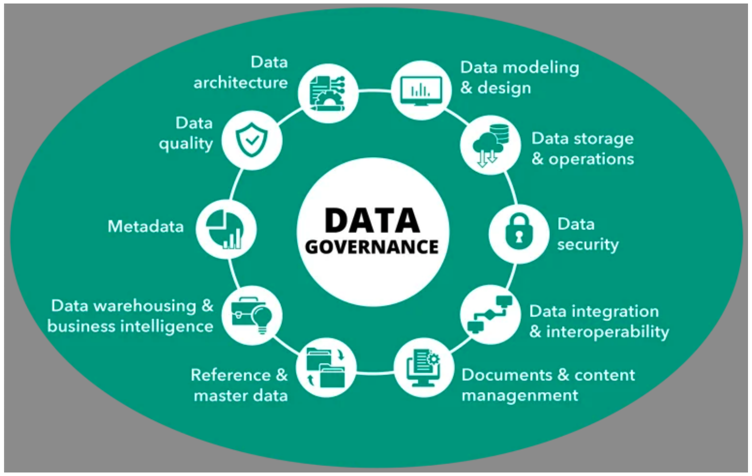




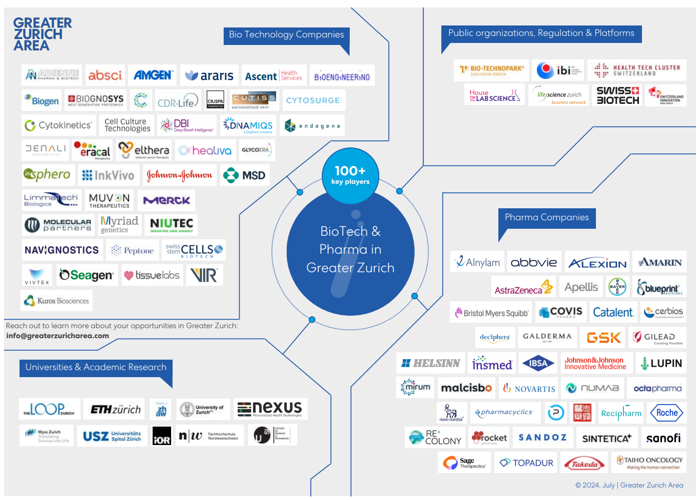
- AI advances development of stem cell therapies & tissue engineering
- AI algorithms assist in identifying optimal cell types, predicting cell behavior & personalized treatments
- particularly for conditions such as neurodegenerative diseases, heart failure and orthopedic injuries
- company - Organovo leverages AI to potentially improve the efficacy and scalability of regenerative therapies, developing next-generation treatments

Bio data integration

- integration of disparate data sources, including genomic, proteomic & clinical data - one of biggest challenges in biotech & healthcare
- AI delivers meaningful insights *only when* seamless data integration and interoperability realized
- developing platforms facilitating comprehensive, longitudinal patient data analysis - vital enablers of AI in biotech
- company - Flatiron Health working on integrating diverse datasets to provide holistic view of patient health



Biotech companies



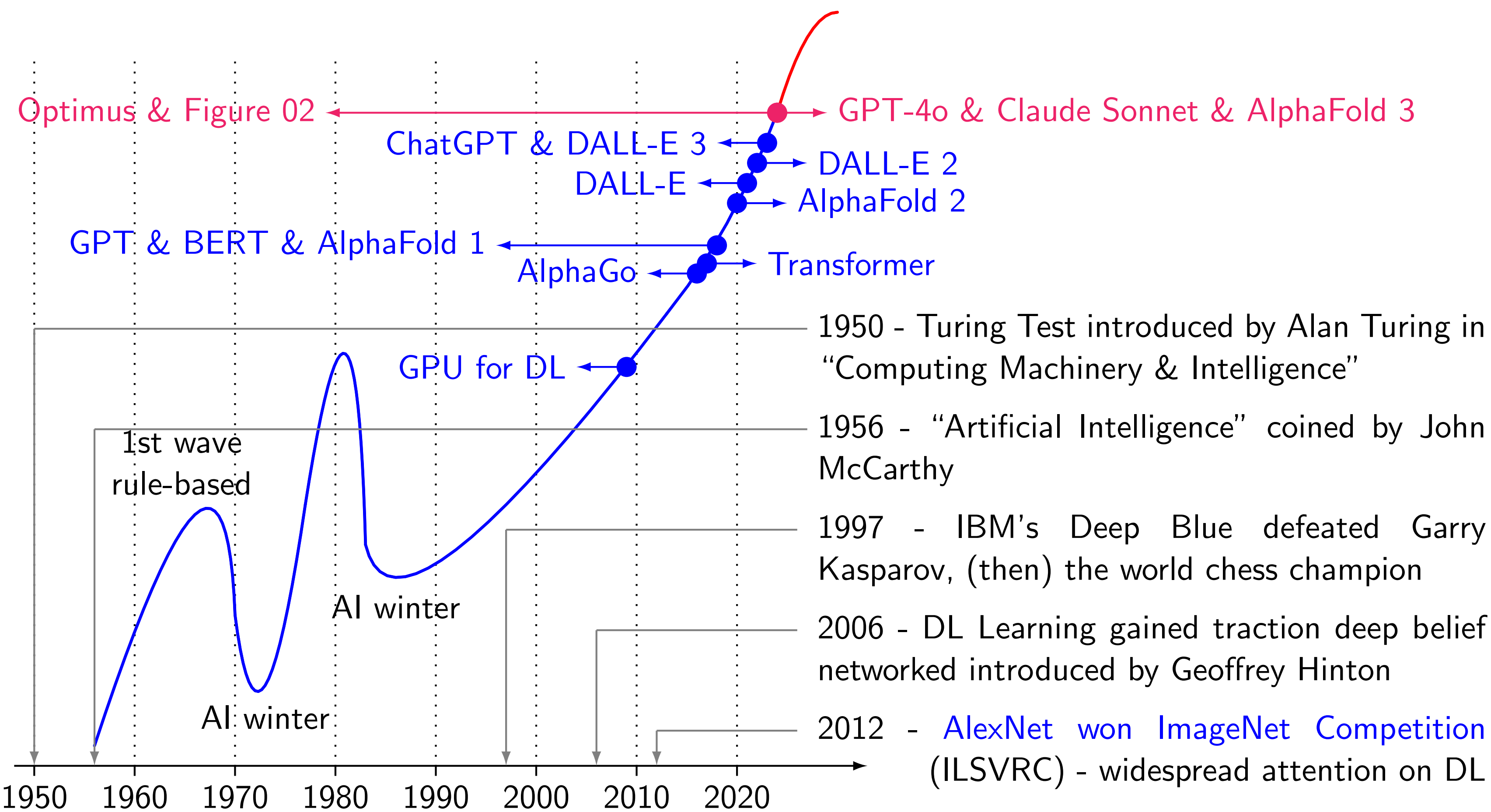
- Atomwise - small molecule drug discovery
- Cradle - protein design
- Exscientia - precision medicine
- Iktos - small molecule drug discovery and design
- Insilico Medicine - full-stack drug discovery system
- Schrödinger, Inc. - use physics-based models to find best possible molecule
- Absci Corporation - antibody design, creating new from scratch antibodies, *i.e.*, "de novo antibodies", and testing them in laboratories

Silicon Valley's Cultural Engine of Innovation and Disruption

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

- Samsung Semiconductor, Inc.
  - inception into industry from academia, 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
  - great decisions regarding business development; business models, market fit, go-to-market (GTM) strategies based on lessons learned *in a hard way* ☺

Joining Amazon.com, Inc. at the inflection point of AI

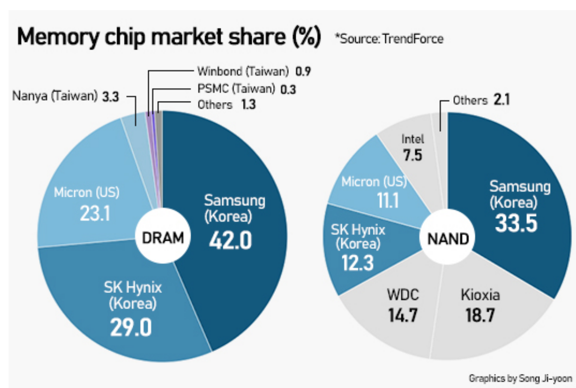


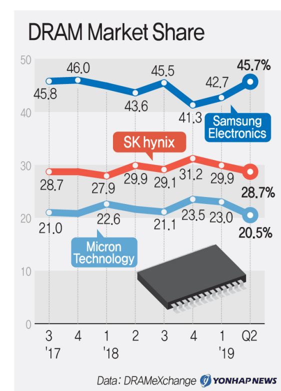
Innovation ecosystem of Silicon Valley

- key characteristics
  - risk-taking culture, *trust* in technology → *genuine* respect for engineers and scientists
  - easy access to huge capital - VCs, angel investors alike
  - talent density - engineers, researchers, scientists, entrepreneurs, PMs, TPMs, . . .
  - 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 (and or hence) product & industry innovation
  - act as testing ground for disruptive ideas

Case study: Amazon - amazing differentiators of big techs

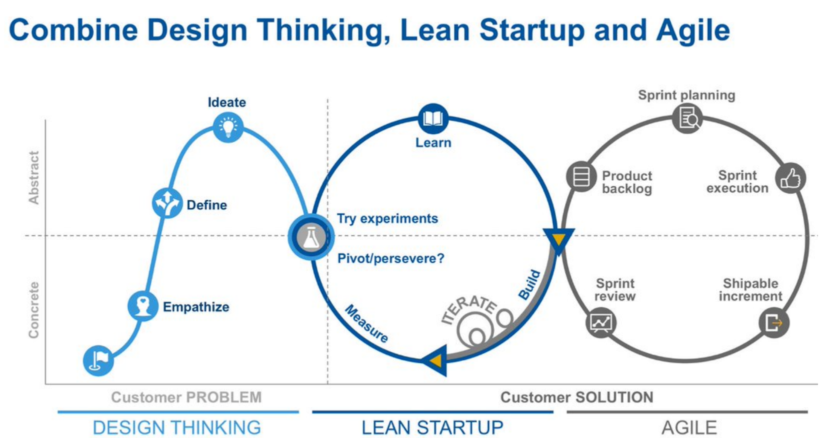
- Amazon's culture & leadership principles
  - customer obsession as driver of innovation
  - high standards & ownership culture, disagree & commit
  - bias for action and long-term thinking - sounds contradictory?
  - mechanisms like "two-pizza teams" & "Day One" for (or rather despite) scalability
- lessons for Korean corporations
  - 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!*

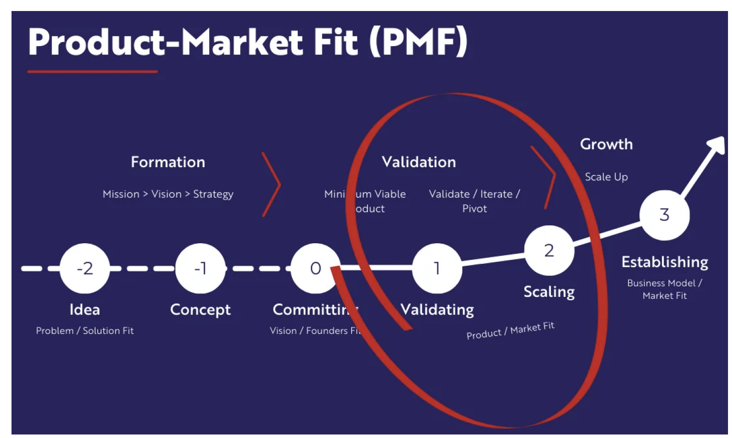




Founding and scaling startups

- 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 / perseverance
- insight
  - importance of domain expertise in addition to AI
  - balancing innovation with good business decisions





Bridging Silicon Valley & Korea

- cultural differences
  - risk appetite & failure tolerance
  - decision-making speed vs 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/market-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

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- CEOs, CTOs, CFOs, COOs, CMOs & CCOs @ startup companies in Silicon Valley
- VCs on Sand Hill Road - Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside in California, USA

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Thank You