

Al (and GIS) in Digital Economy: What Looks Good and What's Real

Calton Pu

Professor and J. P. Imlay Chair in Software College of Computing, Georgia Tech

Slide credit to open sources and many collaborators

All references to real entities are for illustration only, no advertising intended.

Digital Economy

- Looking Good and It's Real
- Top ten companies by net worth:
 - Tech companies: Apple (USD\$1T), Microsoft, Google
 - Electronic commerce: Amazon, Alibaba
 - Communications and social media: Tencent, Facebook
 - Finance (early adopters of mainframes): Berkshire Hathaway, JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America
- Big and small companies run on IT

Cloud & Big Data (commercial)

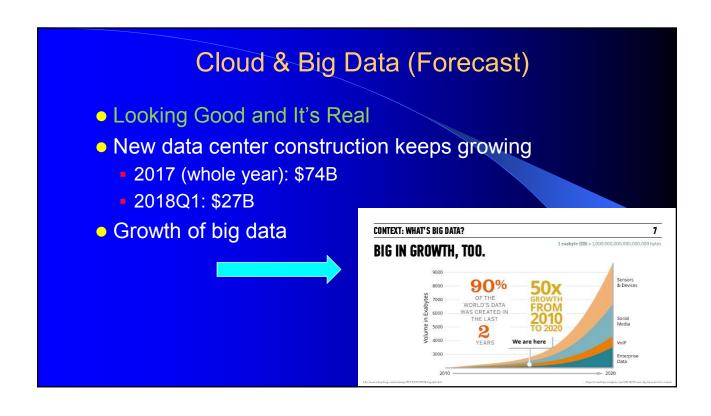
- Looking Good and It's Real
- Google market cap \$741B
 - Probably more data than anyone else
 - 13 declared data centers around the world; drawing 260MW in 2011 (2,259,998 MWh total).

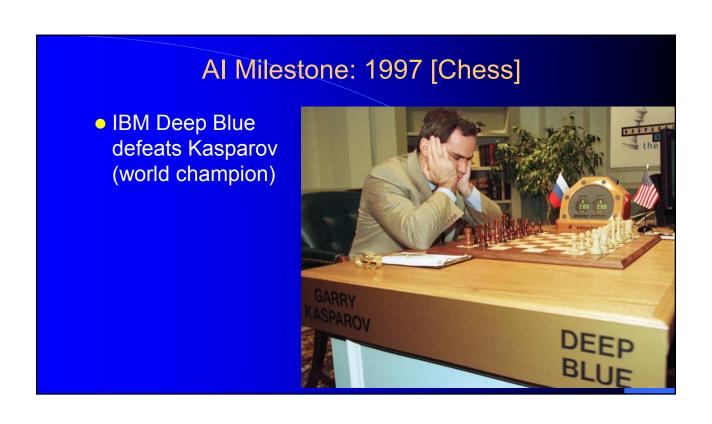


Cloud & Big Data (government)

- Looking Good and It's Real
- NSA (maybe more than Google)
- Utah Data Center (circa 2016), drawing 65MW (about half of Salt Lake City)











Al in Restricted Domains

- Looking Good and It's Real
- Domain 1: Unstoppable in well-defined games
 - 1997 [Chess]: Deep Blue defeats Kasparov
 - 2011 [Q&A]: IBM Watson wins Jeopardy! game
 - 2016 [Go]: AlphaGo defeats Lee Sedol

Al Milestone: 2005 [Autonomous Vehicles]

[DARPA Grand Challenge]: 131 miles (in desert)



Al Milestone: 2007 [Autonomous Vehicles]

[DARPA Urban Challenge]: 55 miles (in closed airport)



Al in Restricted Domains

- Looking Good, but the reality gets complicated
- Domain 2: Autonomous vehicles
 - 2005 [DARPA Grand Challenge]: 131 miles of desert trails (won by a Stanford team)
 - 2007 [DARPA Urban Challenge]: 55 miles of urban roads (won by a CMU team)
 - Lots of buzz, tests, pilot projects, investments

Looking Good: Waymo (Google) in Atlanta



Reality: It's OK; There is a Human in Them.

 Quote from my mother (who lives in Mountain View)

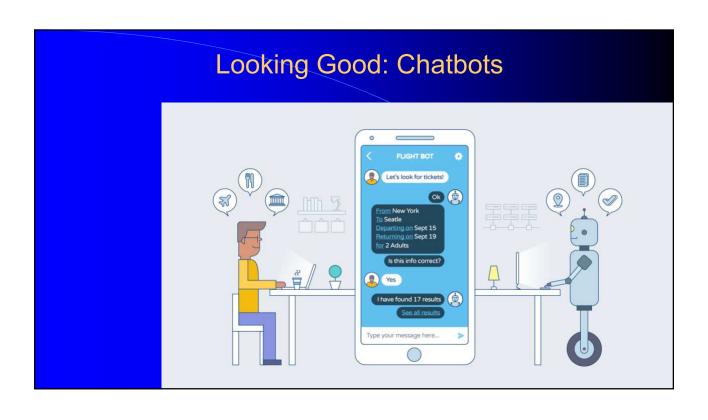


Looking Good: Driverless Shuttles

 Sydney Olympic Park, plus Las Vegas, Grand Rapids, Paris, Atlanta, ..., (trying to bridge the "last mile")

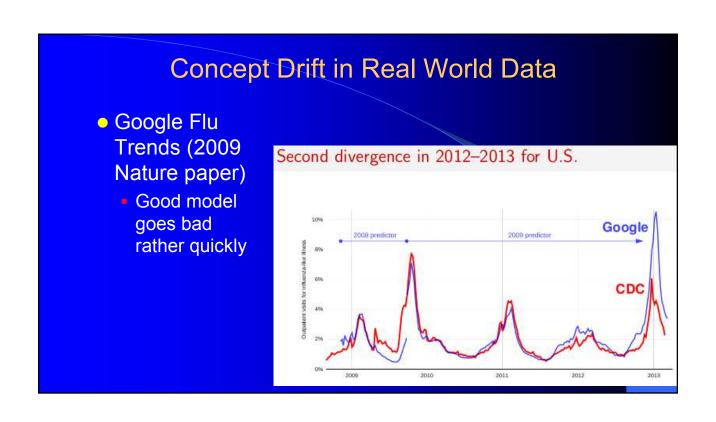












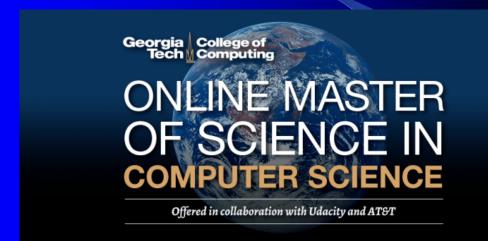
Al in the Real World

- Deployments of IBM Watson in commercial applications have needed a lot of human assistance
- Autonomous vehicles still need human drivers (when outside of restricted environments)
- Smart City projects have been primarily successful demos and promising stories
- Everything still looking very good
- Reality: serious research challenges (deceptive input, concept drift)

21

Real Success (with a Pinch of AI)

Georgia Tech MOOC: 10,000+ enrolled in 2018



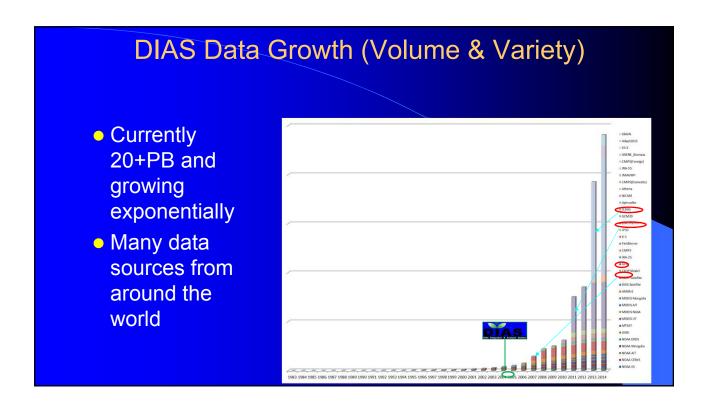
Looking Good: an Al Teaching Assistant

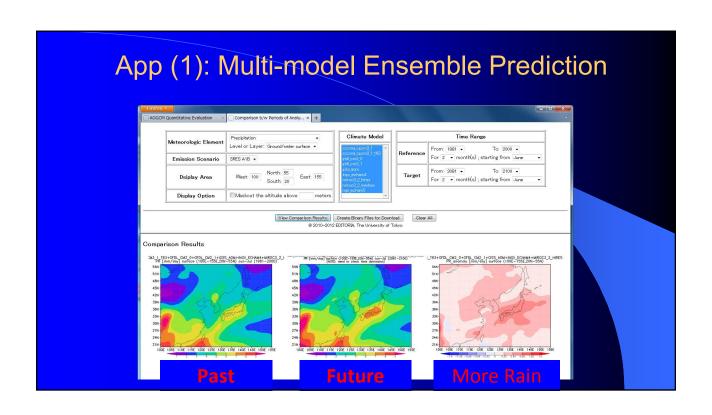
 Reality: a successful experiment, and we still use human TAs (no plans to switch to Al)

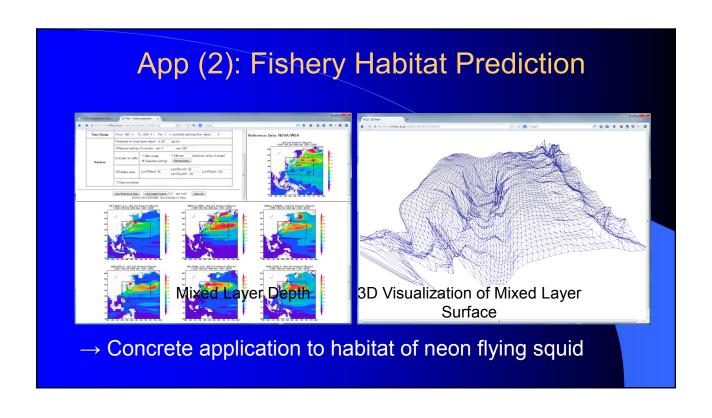


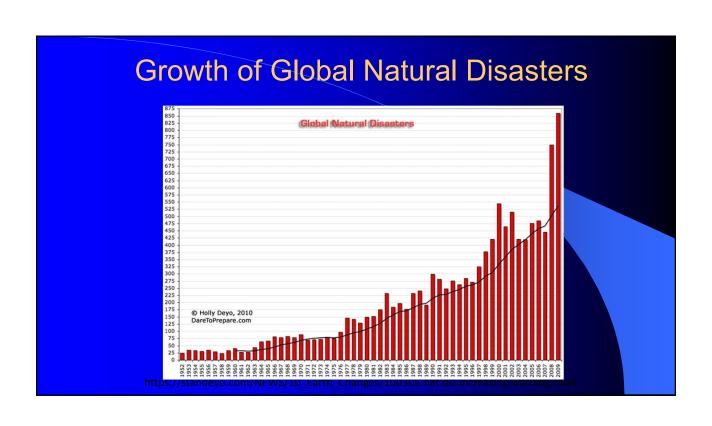
Real Success: Big GIS Data

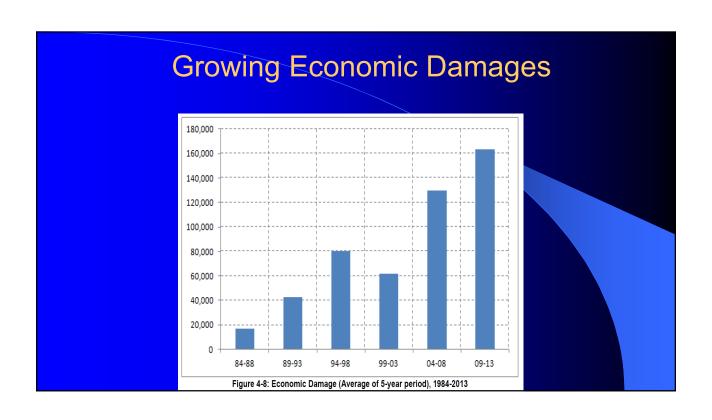
- Looking Good and It's Real
- Illustrative examples on sensor and satellite data on the environment
 - University of Tokyo (Prof. Kitsuregawa): DIAS (Data Integration and Analysis System)
 - Zhejiang University (Prof. Jianwei Yin)





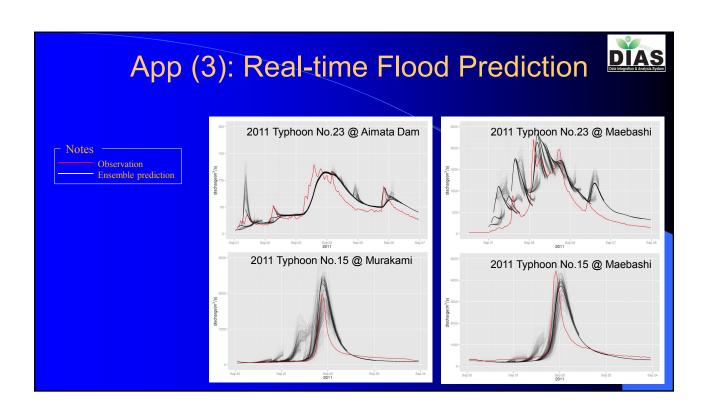


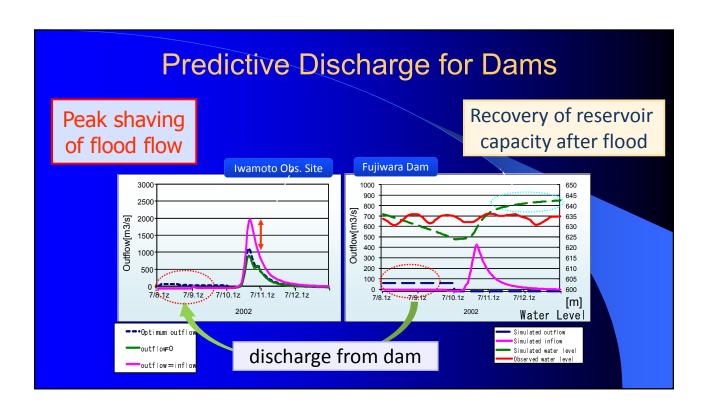


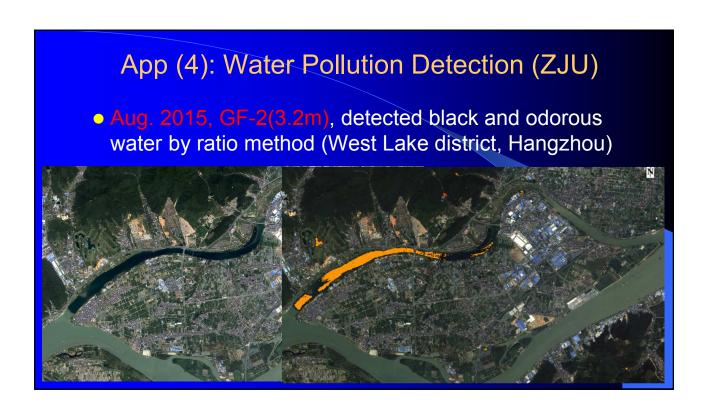


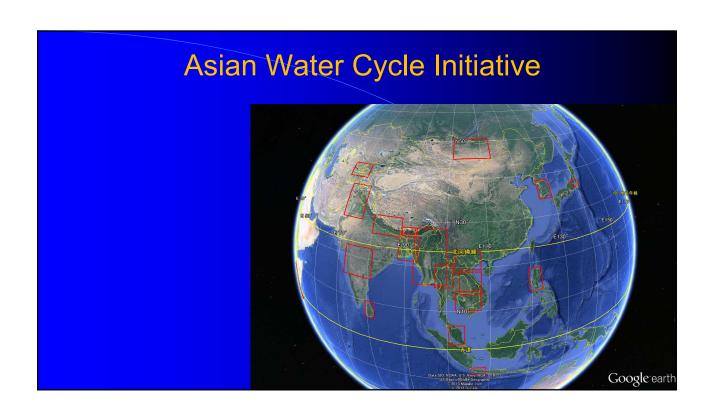


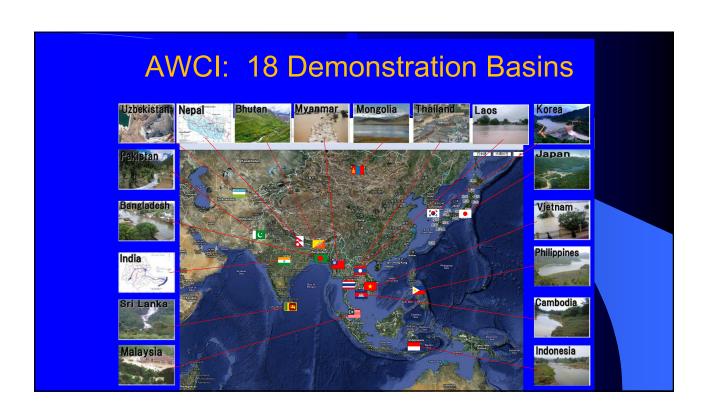






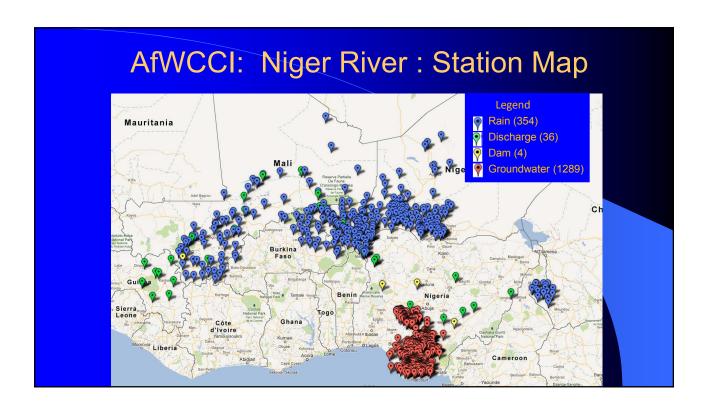












What Looks Good and Is Real

- Al and ML have many successes
 - Defeating champions in games (chess, Jeopardy, go)
 - Restricted domains (autonomous vehicles in desert)
- Lots of promise and hope
 - Investments (e.g., IBM Watson, Tesla, Kitty Hawk)
 - Deployments have been less than fully autonomous

There Are Real Challenges

- Real world data introduce serious and open research challenges for ML and Al
 - Concept drift (e.g., Google Flu Trends)
 - Deceptive input (e.g., Microsoft Tay)
- Looking Good can also be Real:
 - Big GIS Data with a pinch of AI, e.g., environmental monitoring and control in water management
- UN: National Institutional Arrangements promote information sharing towards Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in developing countries