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Subject: Re: Politics and AI

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 31 Jan 2025 15:27:24 GMT

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For decades, AI wasn't useful in business. In fact, one of my favorite researchers, Melanie Mitchell, a lady that studied under Douglas Hofstadter, said that it was suggested to her in 1990 that she refrain from putting AI on her resume.

One exception, in those days, was a technology called "expert systems," which were essentially rules engines, a collection of human-readable rules that codified intelligence on a particular subject.

Another exception is called Monte Carlo simulations, and those were used for predictive analysis.

But neural networks and genetic algorithms - two very important types of information processing used in the field of AI - were largely ignored in business because results generated by those kinds of systems were seen as too unreliable.

The first places I saw these approaches become useful in business were in things like optical character recognition and language translation. They were good at dealing with ambiguities and what I would call "messy data." I also started seeing these kinds of statistical processing approaches used in data warehouse analysis and in search algorithms.

That's when these technologies started being attractive to business, and so naturally, that's when AI started being more heavily funded.

Before that, you only saw AI technologies in universities and research organizations.

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