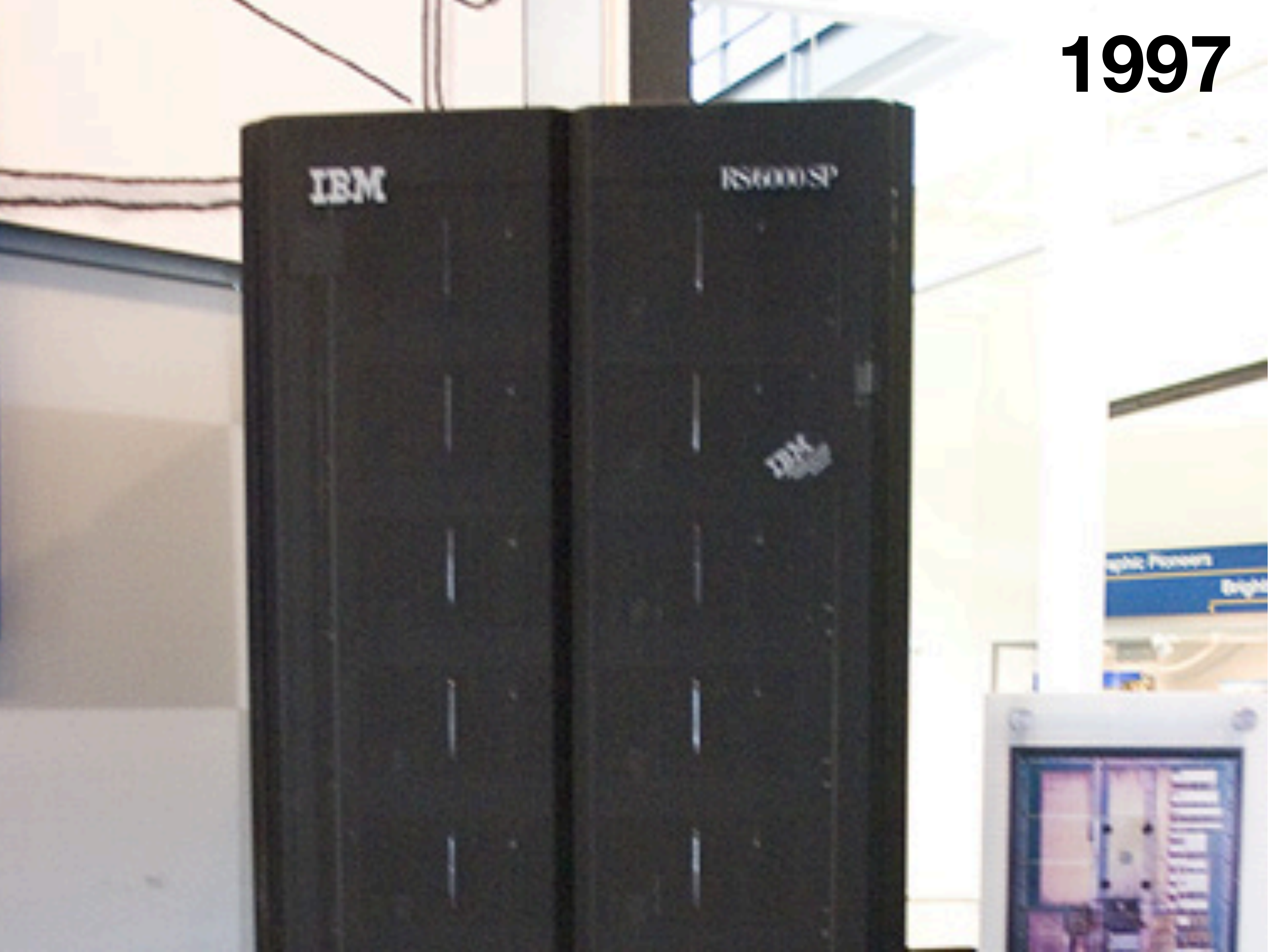
CSC665: Principles of Machine Learning

Spring 2019

Why Machine Learning? (AI?)

“Artificial intelligence is the science of making machines do things that would require intelligence if done by men”
Marvin Minsky, … 1968

1997



ARTICLE

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Mastering the game of Go without human knowledge

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A long-standing goal of artificial intelligence is an algorithm that learns, *tabula rasa*, superhuman proficiency in challenging domains. Recently, AlphaGo became the first program to defeat a world champion in the game of Go. The tree search in AlphaGo evaluated positions and selected moves using deep neural networks. These neural networks were trained by supervised learning from human expert moves, and by reinforcement learning from self-play. Here we introduce an algorithm based solely on reinforcement learning, without human data, guidance or domain knowledge beyond game rules. AlphaGo becomes its own teacher: a neural network is trained to predict AlphaGo's own move selections and also the winner of AlphaGo's games. This neural network improves the strength of the tree search, resulting in higher quality move selection and stronger self-play in the next iteration. Starting *tabula rasa*, our new program AlphaGo Zero achieved superhuman performance, winning 100–0 against the previously published, champion-defeating AlphaGo.

Much progress towards artificial intelligence has been made using supervised learning systems that are trained to replicate the decisions of human experts[1–4]. However, expert data sets are often expensive, unreliable or simply unavailable. Even when reliable data sets are available, they may impose a ceiling on the performance of systems trained in this manner[5]. By contrast, reinforcement learning systems are trained from their own experience, in principle allowing them to exceed human capabilities, and to operate in domains where human expertise is lacking. Recently, there has been rapid progress towards this goal, using deep neural networks trained by reinforcement learning. These systems have outperformed humans in computer games, such as Atari[6,7] and 3D virtual environments[8–10]. However, the most chal-

trained solely by self-play reinforcement learning, starting from random play, without any supervision or use of human data. Second, it uses only the black and white stones from the board as input features. Third, it uses a single neural network, rather than separate policy and value networks. Finally, it uses a simpler tree search that relies upon this single neural network to evaluate positions and sample moves, without performing any Monte Carlo rollouts. To achieve these results, we introduce a new reinforcement learning algorithm that incorporates lookahead search inside the training loop, resulting in rapid improvement and precise and stable learning. Further technical differences in the search algorithm, training procedure and network architecture are described in Methods.

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What do we have?

- Fast computers! We could simply write the whole spam-filtering programs ourselves
  - But (for example) spam changes over time, and we wish we didn’t have to rewrite our programs every day
  - And it’s really hard to write code that works well
- **Given any program, we can say how well a program does on data that is known good (our “training set”)**

What’s our plan?

- We make the computer write its own programs

- More strictly, we write *meta-programs* that are easy for a computer to optimize

    - It’s easier for computers to search over regular structure than irregular, so the space of programs computers search over is “simpler” than the space of programs humans search over.

What’s our plan?

- In ML, we study how to organize software so that it’s easy to find the best program to use for our task
- Different definitions of “easy”, “find”, “best”, and “task” account for most of what we will see in the course

What’s our plan?

- Are we trying to predict tomorrow’s temperature in Tucson?
- Are we trying to label an image?
    - Is there more than one label?
- Are we trying to generate an image from a label?
- Are we trying to translate a sentence?

What are our tools?

- Probability
- Statistics
- Calculus
- Linear Algebra
- Optimization
- Software Engineering

Structure of the Course

- Weekly readings and homework assignments
    - We’ll use Hal Daume’s CIML
- Final project
- Midterm, Final Exam

- This is an intense course, be ready.

QUIZ

Next Lecture

- Required reading: CIML, chapter 1 (Decision Trees)
- Homework Assignment 1 posted on webpage.