

AI FLUENCY CRASH COURSE one sheet

What Is AI?

Artificial Intelligence is an umbrella term for machines or software that can solve problems that typically involves human thinking and do tasks like sorting, predicting, generating. But not all AI is created equal:

Core Categories:

- **Strong AI (AGI):** Hypothetical, sci-fi-level consciousness. Doesn't exist.
- **Weak AI:** Narrow, task-specific. Most current AI fits here.

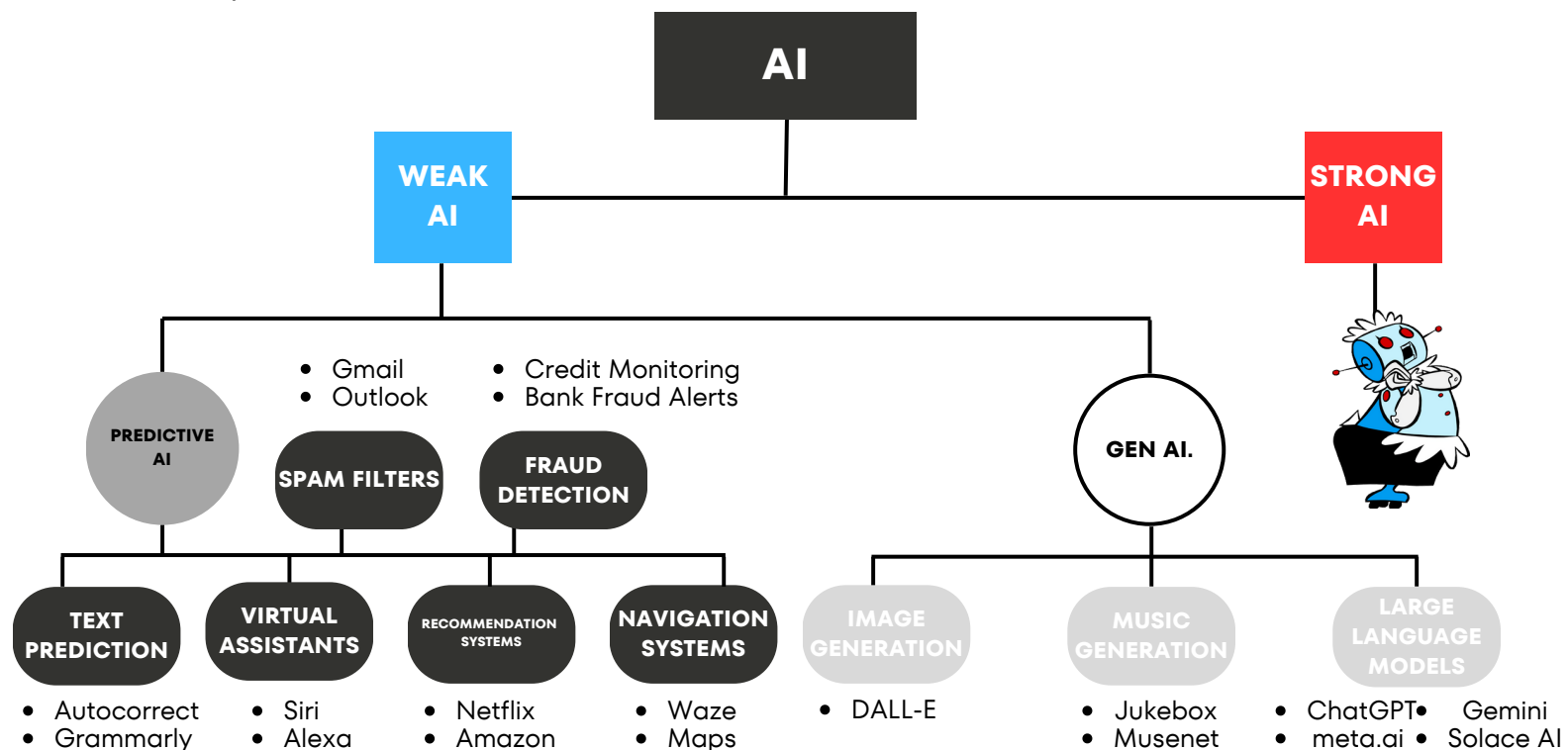
Types of Weak AI:

- **Predictive AI:** Sorts, recommends, filters (e.g., Netflix suggestions, spam filters).
- **Generative AI:** Produces new content—like sermons, prayers, or lesson plans.*

*Solace AI uses Generative AI, specifically a Large Language Model (LLM) trained to respond to words with more words.

Visualizing AI - Taxonomy Tree

Before we dive deeper, it helps to see the bigger picture. This taxonomy tree shows how different forms of AI relate to each other—and where tools like Solace AI fit in the family.



What's Under the Hood?: Parsing an LLM

OpenAI's ChatGPT is one example of a Large Language Model (LLM), but most LLMs—like Gemini, Claude, or Meta AI—share similar foundations under the hood. To better understand how these tools work, it helps to look closely at the name “ChatGPT,” which reveals key clues about its design and purpose.

Chat + G + P + T

Chat	Generative	Pre-Trained	Transformer
<i>What it does and the format it uses</i>	<i>The nature of what it produces</i>	<i>How it learned (and learns) how to do what it does</i>	<i>The way it predicts the next word based on patterns it's learned.</i>
LLMs are text-in text-out programs. Like texting with a computer.	The content produced via prompt is original and based on your command.	The model doesn't know facts or ideas; it recognizes patterns in language based on the data it has seen.	It generates text by predicting the next word based on patterns

What AI Isn't

As helpful as this tool can be, it's also important to keep our expectations grounded. AI can feel impressive, and sometimes even surprisingly human-like, but it's not limitless or magic. Knowing what it isn't can help us use it more faithfully and more freely.

- **It's not sentient.** It doesn't think, feel, or understand. It works by identifying patterns, not making meaning.
- **It's not spiritually aware.** It can echo sacred language, but it doesn't know the Spirit. It reflects what it's seen, not what it believes.
- **It's not neutral.** It's trained on our human language—rich with creativity, but also shaped by bias, blind spots, and brokenness.

This is a tool. A powerful one, yes. But not a theologian. Not a pastor. And certainly not your conscience.

That's why our role—as faithful, discerning users—matters so much.

Further questions to explore