



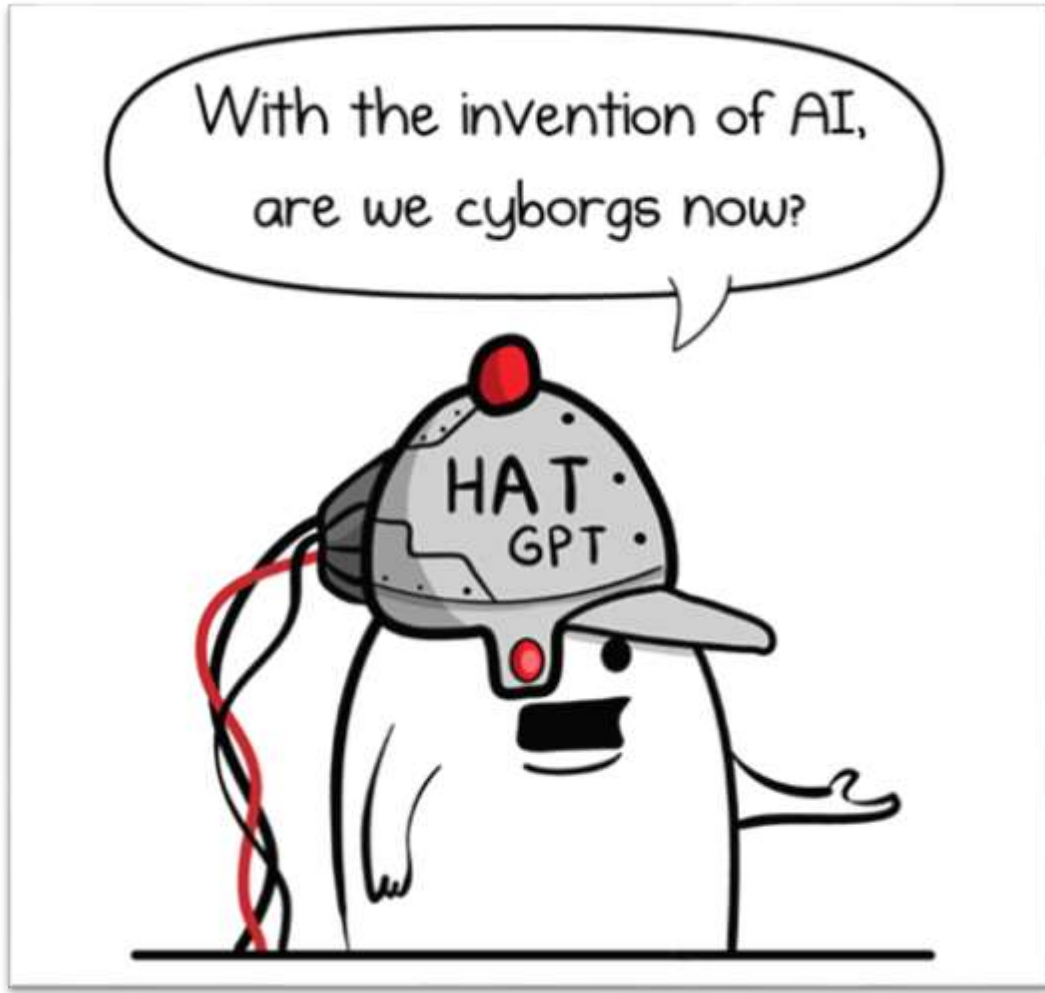
Punctuated Stagnation

Mahesh Madhav

Fellow, CPU Performance and Media Production

June 27, 2026

Acknowledge symbiosis



Hard work turns into intuition

Intuition requires constant exercise

Danger arises when LLM access is mistaken for expertise

October 2025

https://theoatmeal.com/comics/ai_art

Acknowledge symbiosis

CYBORGS, CENTAURS AND SELF-AUTOMATORS: THE THREE MODES OF HUMAN-GENAI KNOWLEDGE WORK AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR SKILLING AND THE FUTURE OF EXPERTISE

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September 2024 – December 2025

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4921696>

Unicorns, Centaurs, and Cyborgs: Co-design Powering the Intelligence Era

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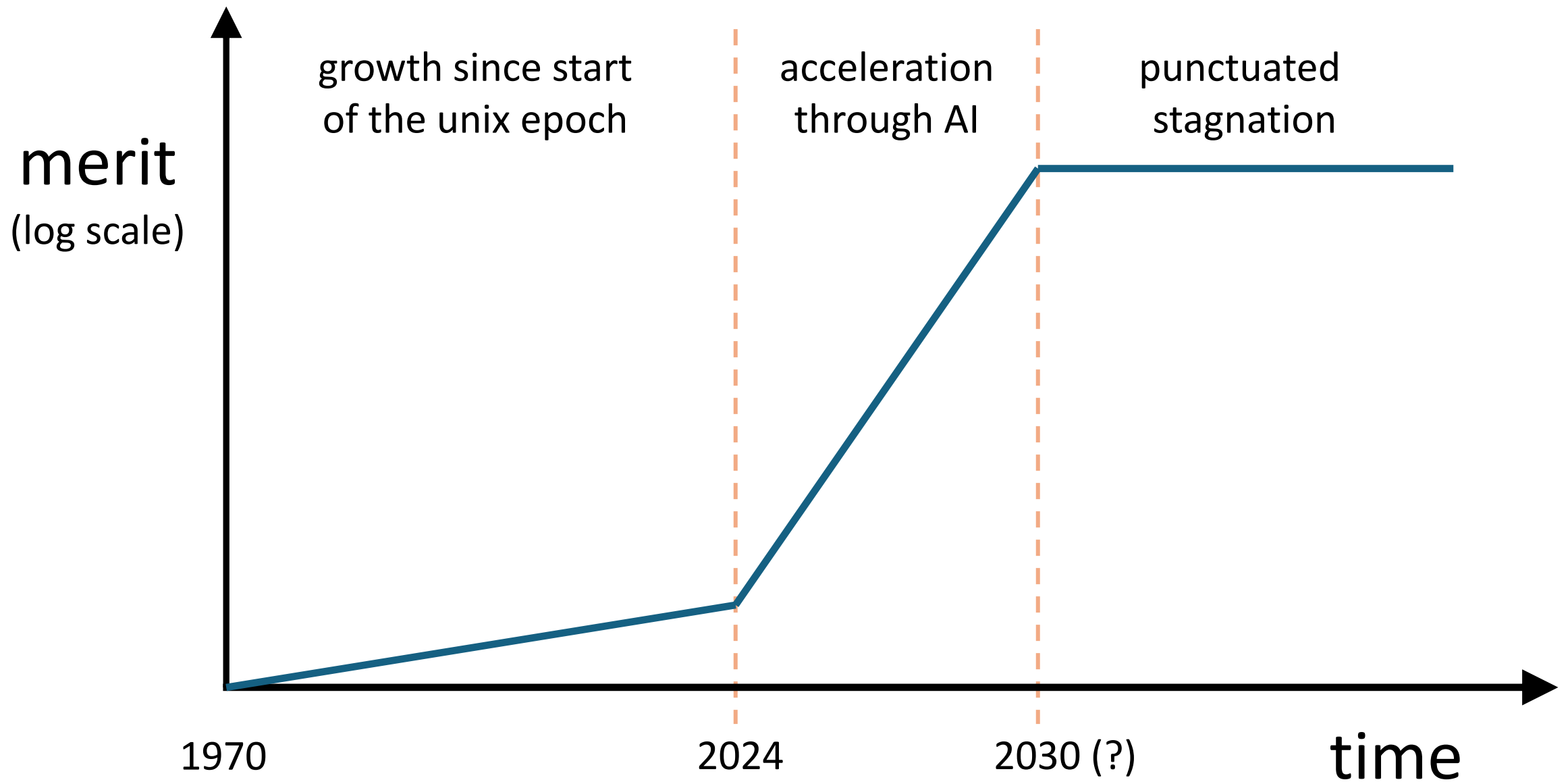
Abstract

We are in the middle of a new "intelligence revolution". From consumer products to enterprise cloud offerings, and even foundational scientific research, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is fundamentally transforming all aspects of our life. These amazing advances have been made possible by equally impressive innovations in the underlying computing systems powering AI, but the continued pace of growth and change will require even more. In this talk, we will discuss vertically-integrated optimizations in AI infrastructure that have already birthed a new cottage industry of "unicorns", ranging from physical data centers hardware to software and cloud solutions, and identify the exciting opportunities ahead. We will then look forward to future "centaurs and cyborgs," symbiotic partnerships between human ingenuity and artificial intelligence, highlighting the opportunities and challenges



March 2026, ASPLOS Keynote

<https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3779212.3795611>



Race to halt!

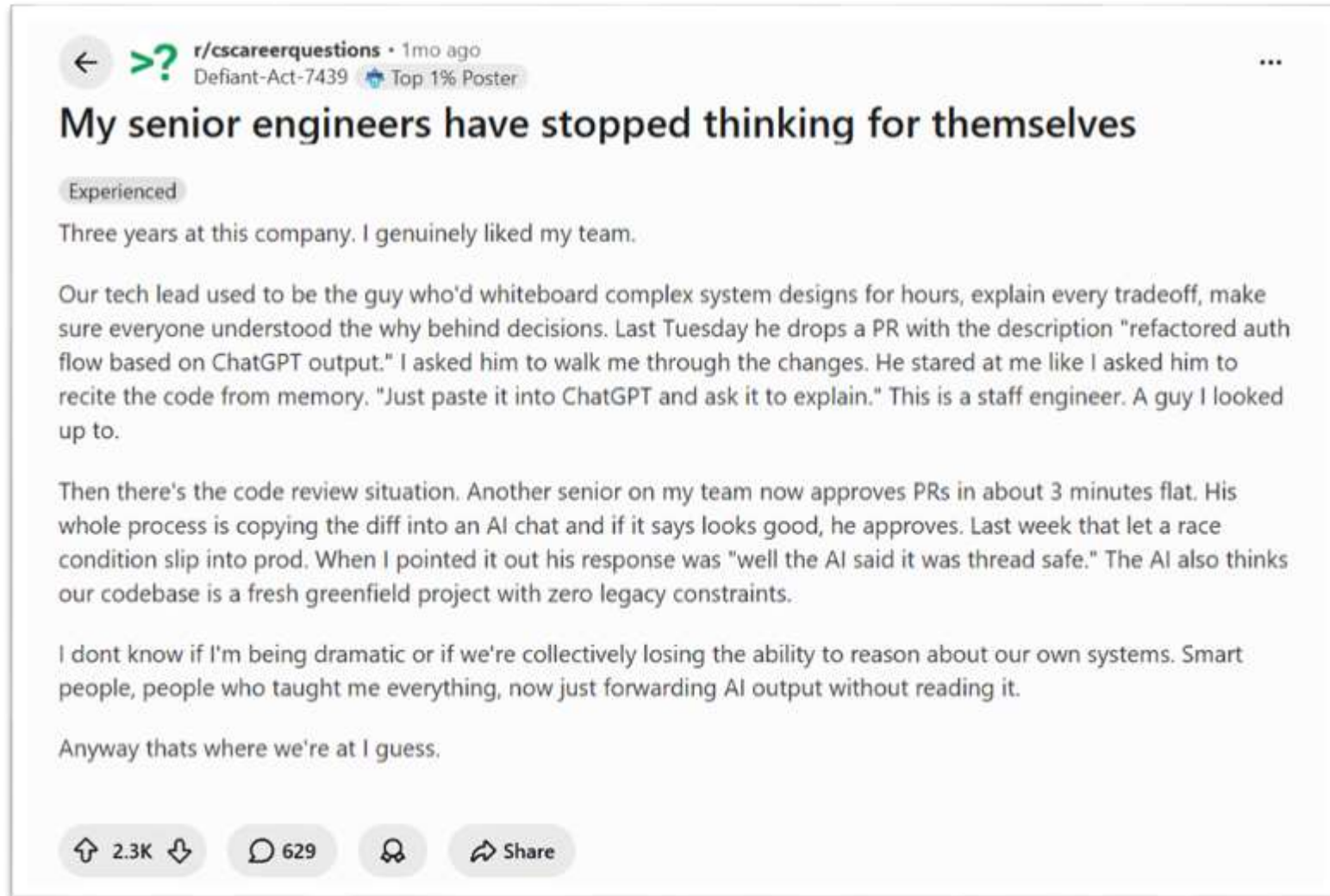
If the “merit” takes a long time to reach a plateau ...

- Students don't enroll in CompArch
- Junior Architects shift industries
- Senior Architects retire

... Computer Architects go extinct.



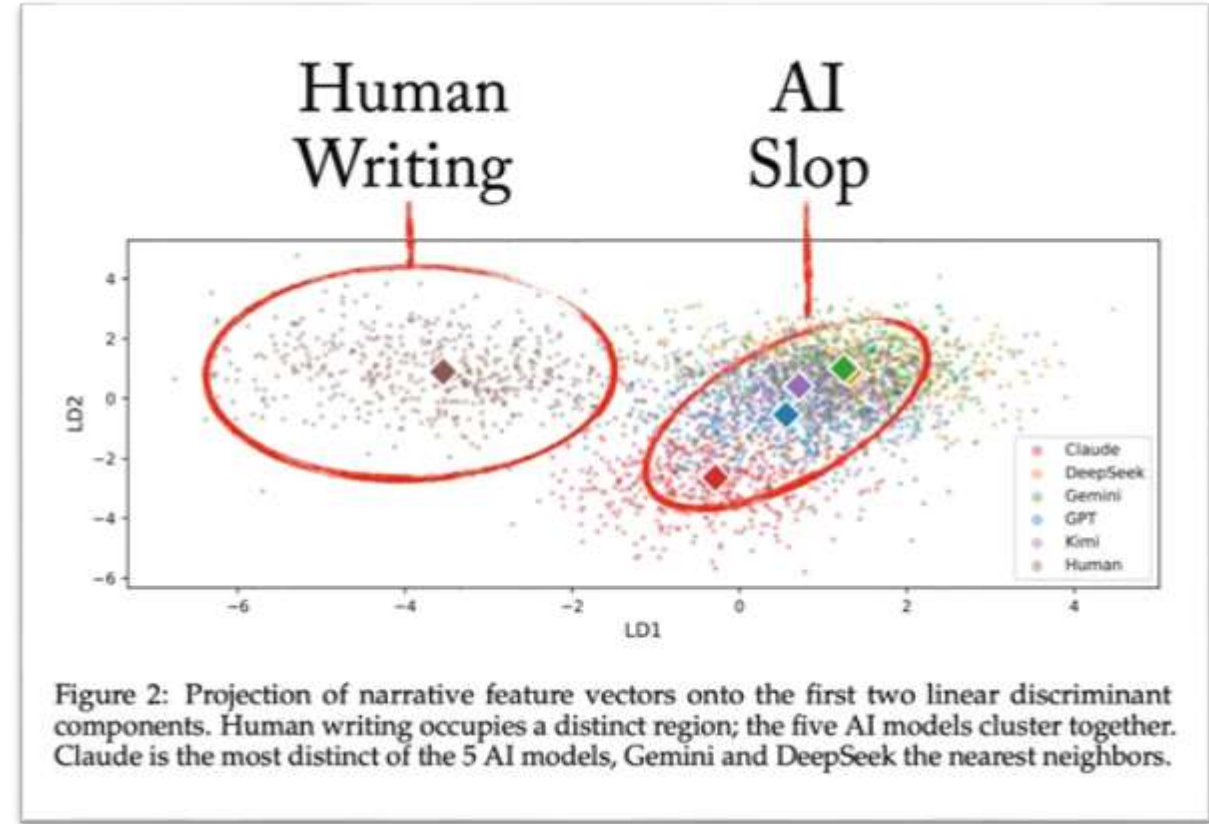
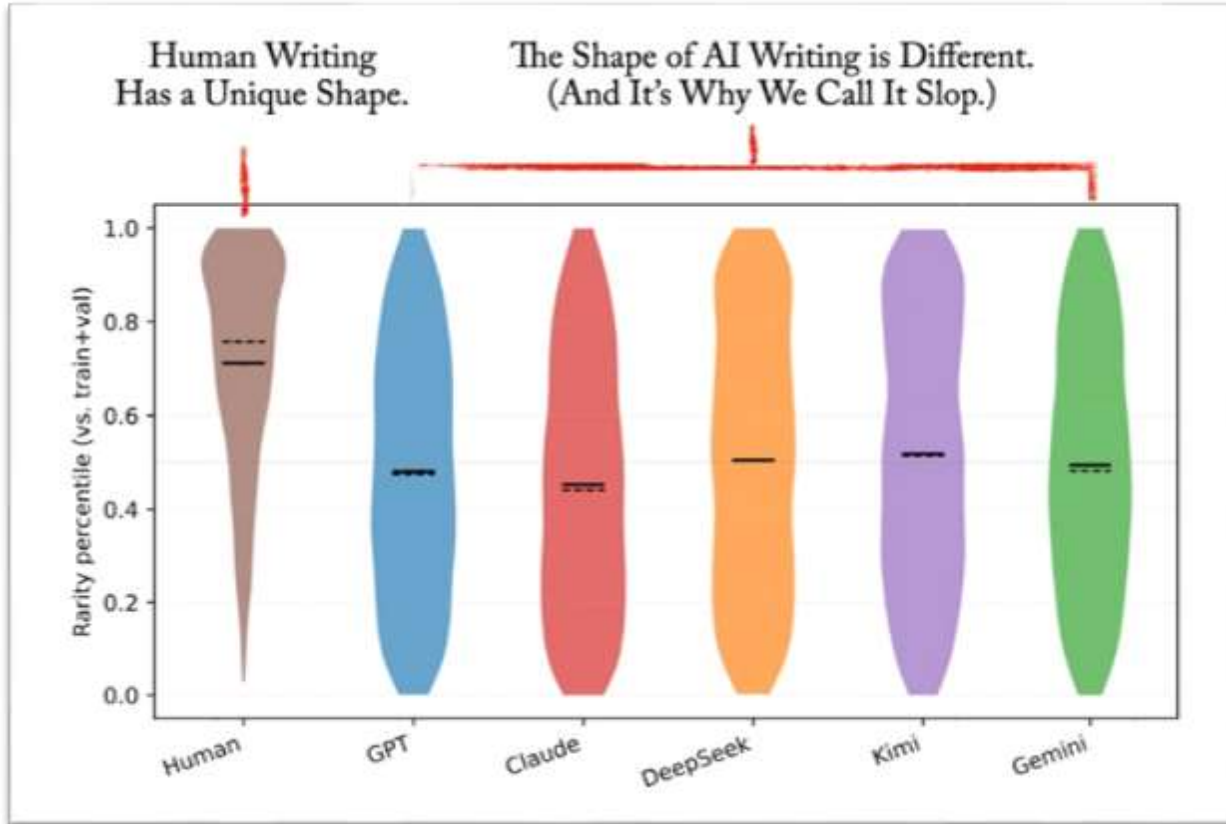
Let's turn off our brains ...



May 2026, Reddit

https://www.reddit.com/r/cscareerquestions/comments/1tkccsi/my_senior_engineers_have_stopped_thinking_for/

Regression to a terrible mean ...



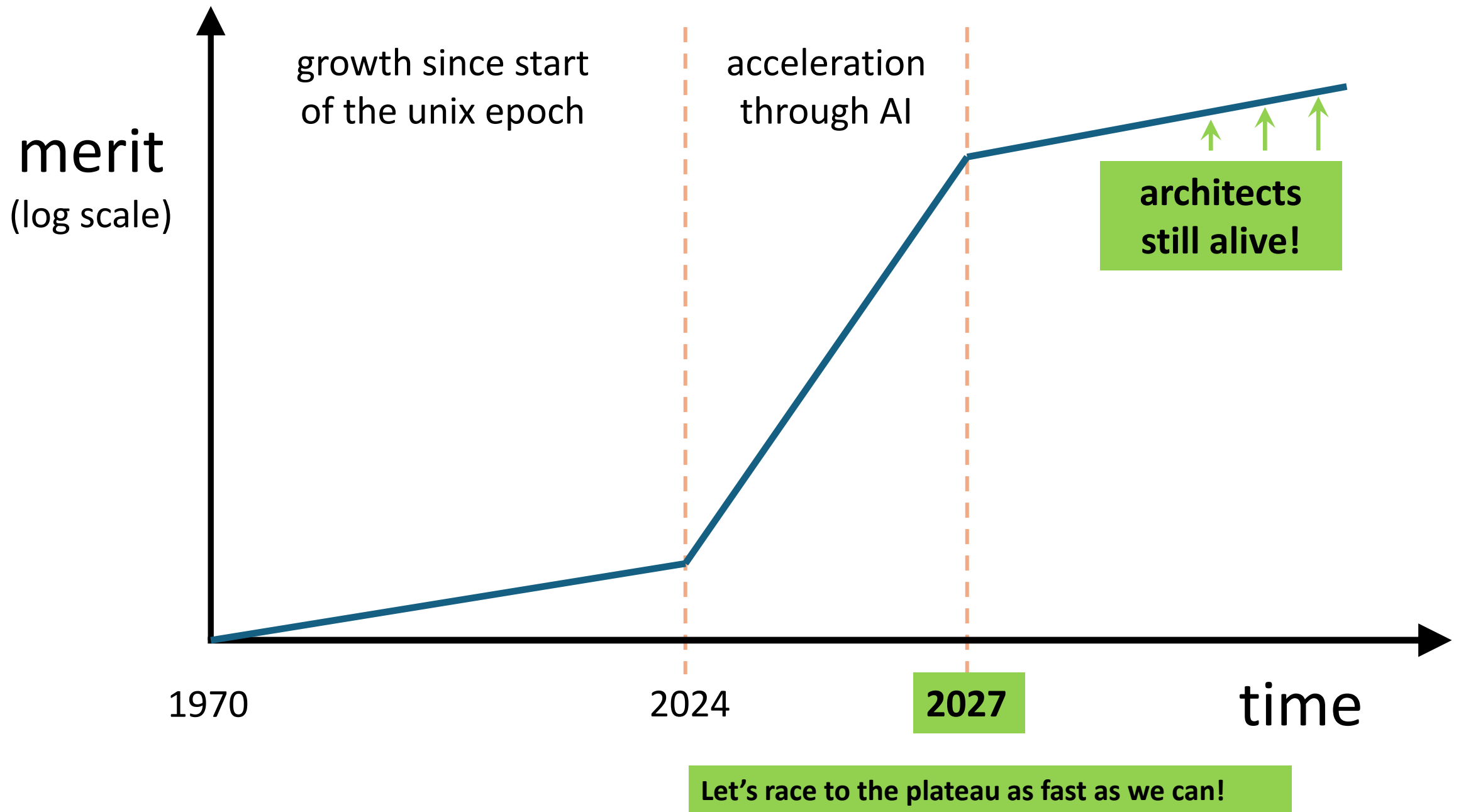
StoryScope: Investigating idiosyncrasies in AI fiction

April 2026, U-Maryland and Google

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2604.03136>

The Shape of Enshittification, June 2026

<https://thedigitalcontrarian.substack.com/p/the-shape-of-enshittification-104>



A large, stylized, dark red letter 'A' is centered on a solid red background. The 'A' is composed of two thick, slightly curved strokes that meet at a sharp point at the top. The text 'go fast!' is written in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font, positioned horizontally across the middle of the 'A'.

go fast!