

Experiments in Artificial Intelligence — Continuing, Winter 2026

Session 3 | February 25, 2026 | OLLI at Southern Oregon University

Session Outline

I. The Infrastructure Behind AI

- Electricity demand from data centers, measured in gigawatts
- Financial projections for data-center revenue growth (JP Morgan, Raymond James)

II. Notable Figures in AI

- Dario and Daniela Amodei — Anthropic / Claude
- Ilya Sutskever — OpenAI co-founder
- Mustafa Suleyman — Microsoft AI, formerly DeepMind and Inflection AI
- Background: the Anthropic–Department of Defense dispute over Claude's military use conditions

III. The Pace of Computing Progress

- Processor speed: Intel's first chip (1971) to today
- Network speed: 1930s telegraph to today's gigabit internet
- Software size and AI model parameter counts, over time

IV. How a Neural Network Learns

- Worked example: recognizing handwritten digits
- Weights, bias, cost function, and backpropagation

V. Core Vocabulary

- Alignment, tokens, context window, RLHF
- (Full definitions in the companion Terms & Concepts document)

VI. Microsoft 365 & Copilot Ecosystem Tour

- Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, OneNote, Teams, OneDrive, Designer
- Side-by-side comparison: OpenAI, Google, Microsoft, and Apple product ecosystems

VII. Copilot's Business-Oriented Connectors

- ServiceNow, Workday, SharePoint, Microsoft Dynamics
- Contrast with ChatGPT's more consumer-facing connectors (Session 2)

VIII. Live Demo — Copilot's Office Agent

- Multi-step autonomous research and document creation

- Producing a cited Word document on Oregon elected-office requirements in about 14 minutes

IX. Closing Discussion

- Implications for knowledge work and university education
- Note on possible future advertising within ChatGPT

Prepared with AI assistance from a transcript of the recorded session.