

Who am I?

Where does it come from?

What is Deep Learning?

How do we do it?

Case Study

Pros and Cons

What's Next ?

Q & A

# DEEP LEARNING

## in Property Assessment

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- *The respected opinions expressed are the considered and subjective views of the trainers/presenters.*
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- *The results of the case study will not affect the original assessments prepared by the subject municipality and will not impact the assessment quality of the same municipality.*



# Ning Zheng



# Appraisal Journey of

Ning Zheng

2006-2014

- Moved to Edmonton;
- Took Appraisal and Assessment Program;
- Joined the City of Edmonton as an assessor

2004

- Master of Science
- Majored in International Real Estate

2012

- Earned AACI designation;
- Earned AMAA designation from Alberta Assessors Association

2014-Now

- Joined the Government of Alberta - Assessment Audit as an Auditor;
- Developed in-house Annual Audit Application;
- Became a full-stack web developer through online learning during the pandemic years;
- Became a deep learning model developer through online learning during the pandemic years.

Current Main Focus:

- Developing deep learning use cases for proper Mass Appraisal functions;
- Developing quantitative assessment quality assurance system for Alberta;



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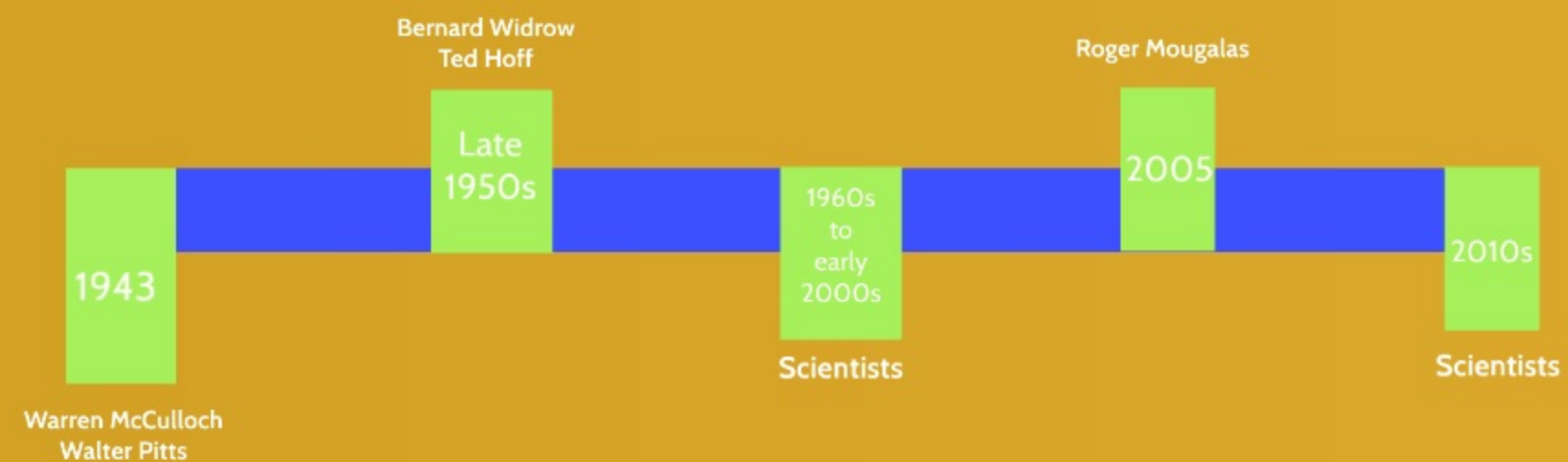
# DEEP LEARNING

## in Property Assessment

It originated  
from

a long time  
ago, even  
before we  
were born....

# Deep Learning Origin and Evolution



1943

Warren McCulloch  
Walter Pitts



Bernard Widrow  
Ted Hoff

Late  
1950s

1960s  
to  
early  
2000s

**Scientists**



# Roger Mougalas

2005

2010s

Scientists



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# What is Deep Learning?

*"a type of machine learning based on artificial neural networks in which multiple layers of processing are used to extract progressively higher level features from data."*

*-Oxford Dictionary*



Data Mining

Machine Learning

Deep Learning Tools



# Data Mining

*"involves exploring and analyzing large blocks of information to glean meaningful patterns and trends"* -Investopedia.com



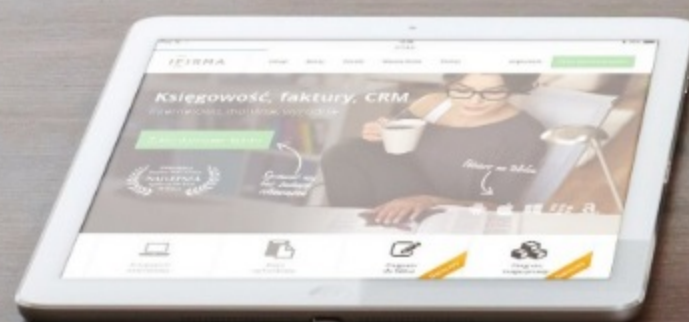
## Exploration

Data Cleaning, Count, Variance, Central Tendency, Distribution, Correlation, Outliers review...

## Analyses

Inferential Analysis, Text Analysis, Diagnostic Analysis, Predictive Analysis, Prescriptive Analysis...







# Machine Learning

*"Machine learning is a subset of artificial intelligence(AI) focused on building systems that can learn from historical data, identify patterns, and make logical decisions with little to no human intervention.*

*It is a data analysis method that automates the building of analytical models using data that encompasses diverse forms of digital information including numbers, words, clicks and images."*

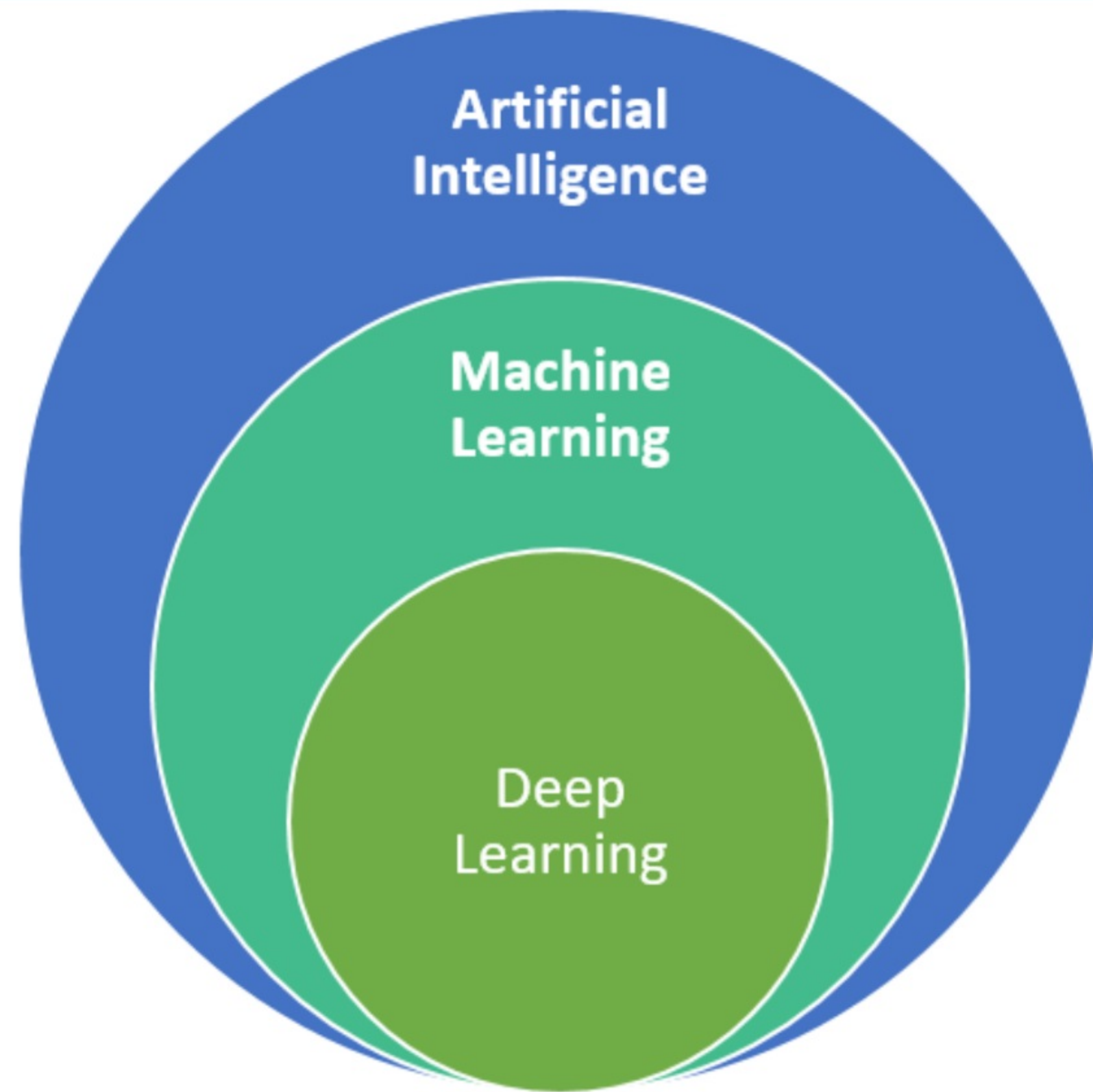
- microfocus.com











*Figure 1: artificial intelligence, machine leaning and deep learning Source: Nadia BERCHANE (M2 IESCI, 2018)*

# What is Deep Learning?

*"a type of machine learning based on artificial neural networks in which multiple layers of processing are used to extract progressively higher level features from data."*

*-Oxford Dictionary*



# Deep Learning Tools



**Theano**

MILA, Python only

**DeepLearningKit**

Apple iOS, OSX, tvOS, etc.

**TensorFlow**

Google



# TensorFlow

Google



# TensorFlow

Google

Written in C++ and CUDA.

Developed by Google.

Provide interface to Python, Java, Javascript, Go, etc.,

Easy for beginners or experts to create deep learning models for mobile, web, desktop and cloud.

Solve deep learning problems like Classification, Perception, Understanding, Discovering, Prediction and Creation, etc.,



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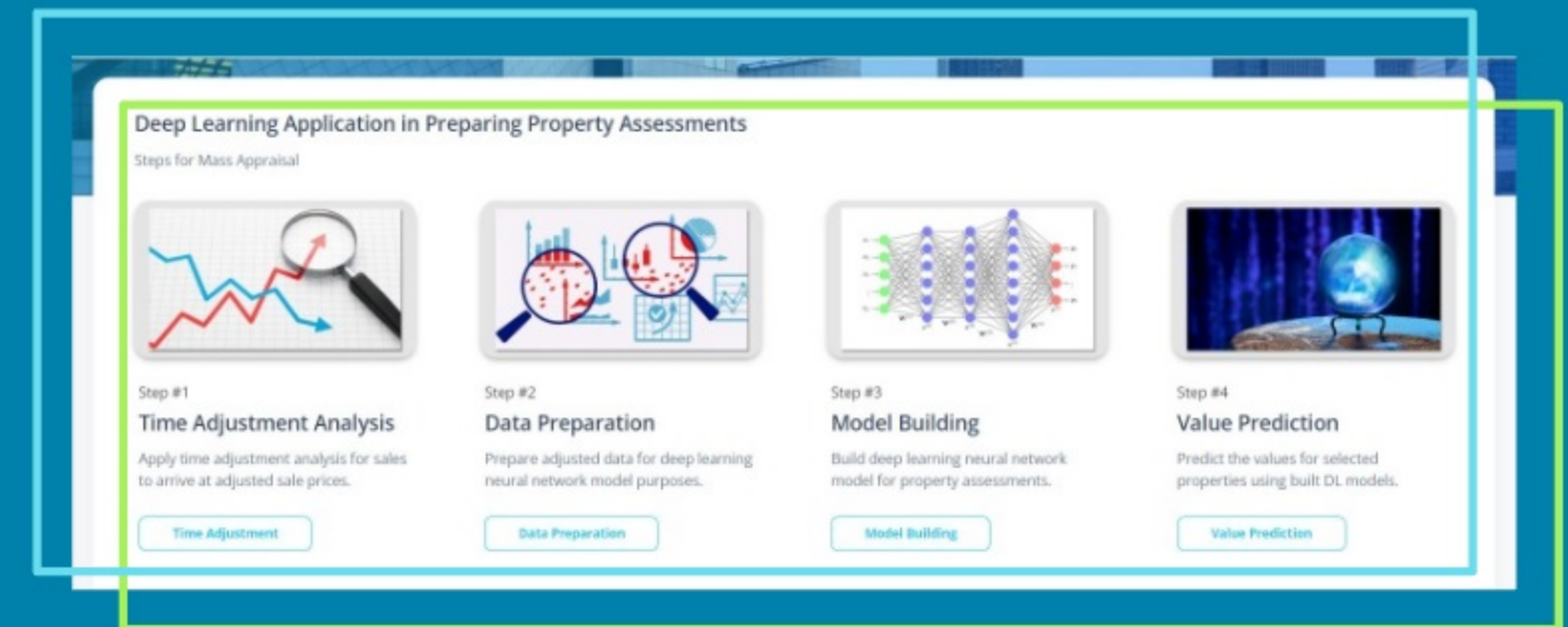
# How to apply Deep Learning in Mass Appraisal?

Step 1: Time Adjustment Analysis

Step 2: Data Preparation

Step 3: Model Building

Step 4: Value Prediction



Step 1

Step 2

Step 3

Step 4



# Step 1: Time Adjustment Analysis

*"an adjustment is done to account for changes in market prices since the date of the sale"*

- UBC "Foundation of Real Estate Appraisal"



## Output

*Time Adjusted Sale Prices*

---



## Method

*SAR or Unit Value*

---



## Algorithms

*Simple Linear Regression or Multi-trend Linear Regression*

---



# Step 2: Data Preparations

*"Data preparation is the process of preparing raw data so that it is suitable for further processing and analysis. Key steps include collecting, cleaning, labeling, and transforming raw data into a form suitable for machine learning (ML) algorithms and then exploring and visualizing the data."*

– [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)



## Know Your Data

*Summaries of data columns*

---



## Transform Data

*Categorical and continuous data transformations*

---



## Split Datasets

*Split whole dataset into training and testing datasets*

---



# Step 3: Model Building

*TensorFlow offers multiple levels of abstraction so you can choose the right one for your needs. Build and train models by using the high-level TensorFlow API, which makes getting started with TensorFlow and deep learning easy.*



## Assign Features and Labels

*What feeds in and what expects out*



## Configure Neural Network Structure

*Set layers, units, and activation functions*



## Set Training Parameters

*Configure the training parameters for better results*



## Testing Built Model for Performance

*Confirm the performance of trained model on test data*



# Step 4: Value Prediction

*Applying professionally built models back to the whole property inventory to predict the assessed values for property tax purposes.*



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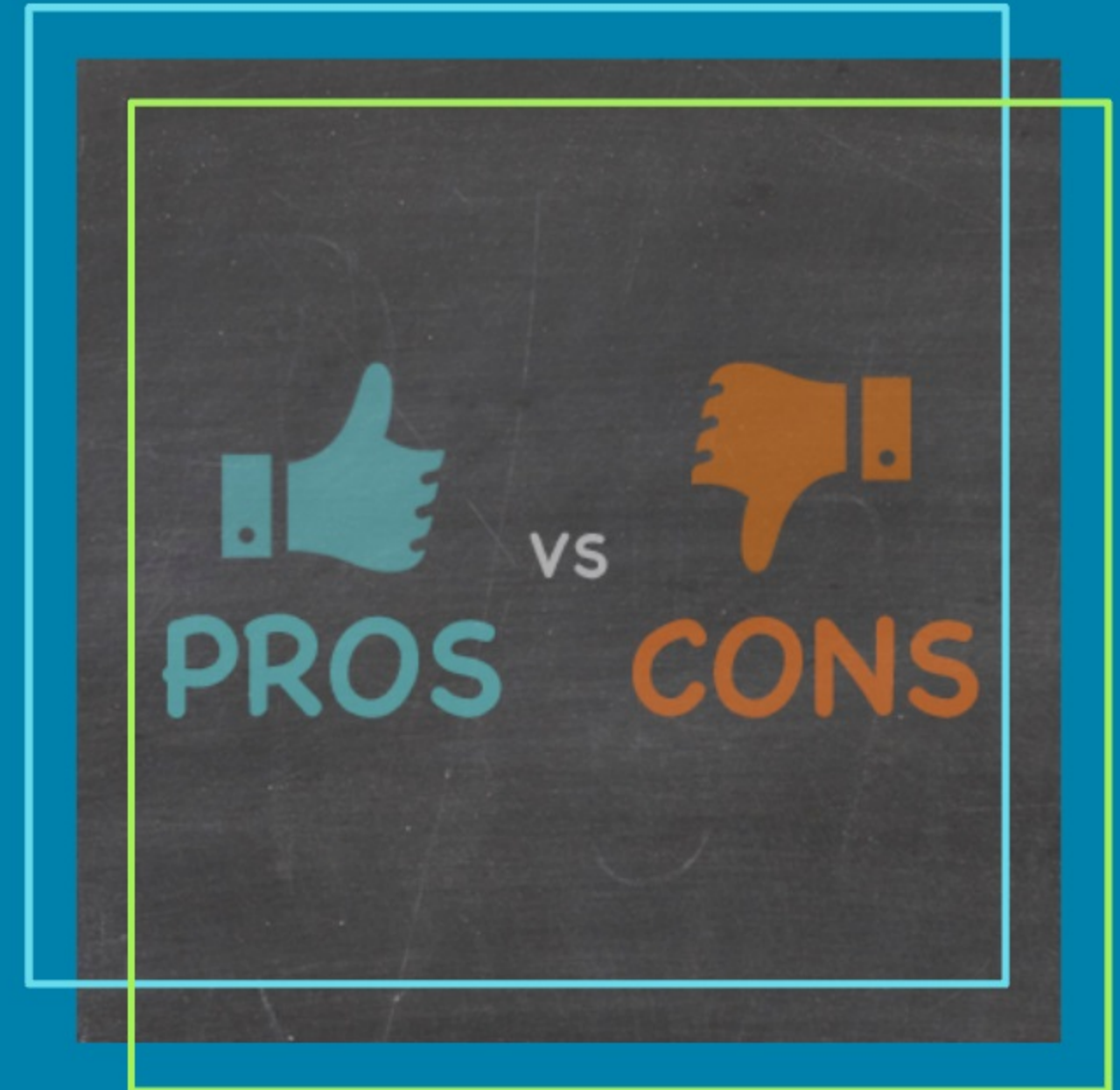
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# Pros and Cons of Applying DL

There's no doubt that deep learning is super-efficient for many tasks. However, they're not a silver bullet that will solve all problems.

Let's discuss some of the pros and cons of the Deep Learning technology.



Pros and Cons

# Pros



Handling Large and Complex Data



Improved Performance



Handling Non-linear relationship



Better Self-Learning, Less Human Intervention



Removed Appraiser's Own Bias

# Cons



Data Hungry



Black Box Problem



High Computational Cost



Possible Overfitting



Requires Domain Expertise



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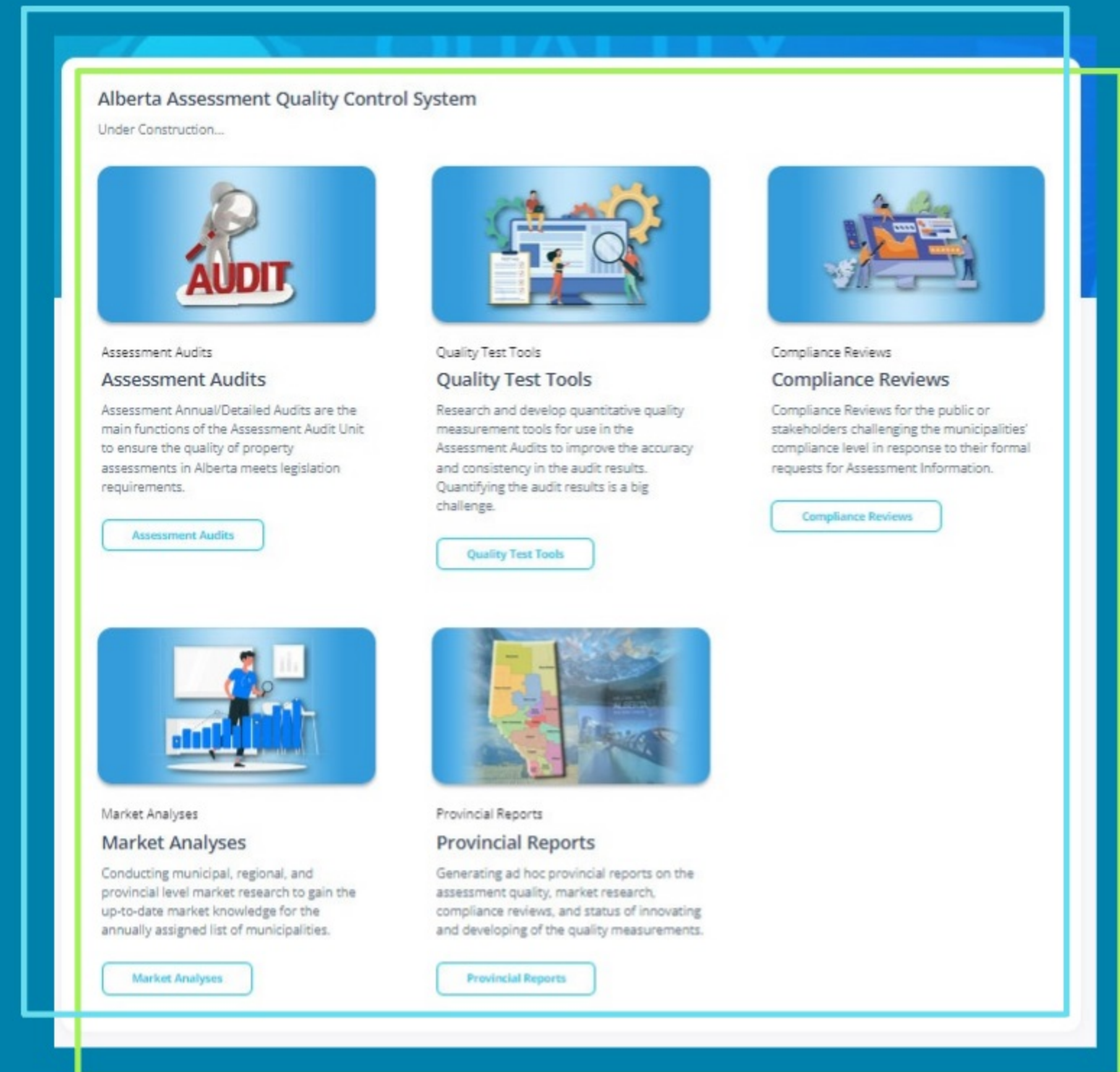
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# Post Modeling - Assessment Quality

*Currently Under Construction...*

- Assessment Audits
- Quality Tests Development
- Compliance Reviews
- Regional/Provincial Market Analyses
- Regional/Provincial Reports





# Q & A

Contact me if you have any  
ideas or questions about  
this topic:

[ning.zheng@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ning.zheng@gov.ab.ca)

