The takeoff nobody noticed.



The people building frontier AI say the singularity has started. No alarm went off.

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KURZWEIL, 2005 AND 2024

2045

The singularity as a single moment you would notice.

Vernor Vinge, 1993: superhuman intelligence "within thirty years". Ray Kurzweil set 2045 and kept the date in 2024.

> **"We are past the event horizon; the takeoff has started."**

Sam Altman, The Gentle Singularity, 10 June 2025

Elon Musk, 4 January 2026: "We have entered the Singularity."

10–100x

human speed, in Dario Amodei's description of powerful AI.

Millions of copies, working for hours or days on a task. "A country of geniuses in a datacenter." Machines of Loving Grace, October 2024.

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unpublished research problems solved by at least one AI system.

Second First Proof batch, four AI systems, expert-graded. Cited by Terence Tao at the International Congress of Mathematicians, 24 July 2026.

> **"We will transition from an era of proof scarcity to an era of proof abundance."**

Terence Tao, Mathematics in the Age of AI, ICM 2026

Machines produce proofs faster than people can check or understand them.

7 months

for the length of task AI agents can finish to double.

METR, 2019 to 2025, software tasks. Barely visible in a quarter. Over five years, a factor of about 380. Later estimates are faster.

Output stops being the scarce part.

FIELD	PEOPLE STILL HAVE TO
Mathematics	Referee, understand, decide what matters
Software	Review changes, own security and outages
Research	Check sources, sign the conclusion
Law	Take responsibility for every clause
Audit	Form the opinion and put a name to it

Five questions for this quarter.

01 Where does AI already produce work faster than we can review it?

02 How much AI output is approved without anyone able to explain it?

03 Who is accountable when approved output is wrong?

04 Do we measure production speed, or verified output?

05 Which skills do we keep so we can still check the machines?

The limit on progress is now how fast people can understand.

Next: what happens to truth when machines prove things through methods we cannot follow.



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