

**[AI Nexus x SNU Silicon Valley Immersion Program]
Technology, Entrepreneurship, and the Global Mindset -
Learned in Silicon Valley**

Sunghee Yun

Co-Founder & CTO @ Erudio Bio, Inc.

Co-Founder & CEO @ Erudio Bio Korea, Inc.

Co-Founder & Leader & Chair of Silicon Valley AI Nexus

Visiting Professor @ Sogang University

Advisory Professor @ DGIST

About Speaker

- *Co-Founder & CTO @ Erudio Bio, Inc., San Jose & Novato, CA, USA* 2023 ~
- *Co-Founder & CEO @ Erudio Bio Korea, Inc., Korea* 2025 ~
- *Co-Founder, Leader, and Chair of Silicon Valley AI Nexus, USA* 2024 ~
- *CGO / Global Managing Partner @ LULUMEDIC, Seoul, Korea* 2025 ~
- *AI-Korean Medicine Integration Initiative Task Force Member @ The Association of Korean Medicine, Seoul, Korea* 2025 ~
- *Advisor to Korean American Semiconductor Professional Alliance (KASPA)* 2026 ~
- *KFAS-Salzburg Global Leadership Fellow @ Salzburg Global Seminar, Austria* 2024 ~
- *Adjunct Professor, EE Department @ Sogang University, Seoul, Korea* 2020 ~
- *Advisory Professor, EECS Department @ DGIST, Korea* 2020 ~
- *Global Advisory Board Member @ Innovative Future Brain-Inspired Intelligence System Semiconductor of Sogang University, Korea* 2020 ~
- *Technology Consultant @ Gerson Lehrman Group (GLG), NY, USA* 2022 ~

- Co-Founder & CTO / Head of Global R&D / Chief Applied Scientist / Senior Fellow @ Gauss Labs, Inc., Palo Alto, CA, USA 2020 ~ 2023
- VP / Fellow @ SK hynix 2020 ~ 2021
- Senior Applied Scientist @ Amazon.com, Inc., Vancouver, BC, Canada 2017 ~ 2020
- Principal Engineer @ Software R&D Center, Samsung Electronics 2016 ~ 2017
- Principal Engineer @ Strategic Marketing & Sales, Samsung Electronics 2015 ~ 2016
- Principal Engineer @ DT Team, DRAM Dev, Samsung Electronics 2012 ~ 2015
- Senior Engineer @ CAE Team, Memory Business, Samsung Electronics 2005 ~ 2012
- PhD - Electrical Engineering @ Stanford University, CA, USA 2001 ~ 2004
- Development Engineer @ Voyan, Santa Clara, CA, USA 2000 ~ 2001
- MS - Electrical Engineering @ Stanford University, CA, USA 1998 ~ 1999
- BS - Electrical & Computer Engineering @ Seoul National University 1994 ~ 1998

Highlight of Career Journey

- BS in Electrical Engineering (EE) @ Seoul National University
- MS & PhD in Electronics Engineering (EE) @ Stanford University
 - *Convex Optimization - Theory, Algorithms & Software*
 - Advisor - *Prof. Stephen P. Boyd*
- Principal Engineer @ Samsung Semiconductor, Inc.
 - *AI & Convex Optimization*
 - collaboration with *DRAM/NAND Design/Manufacturing/Test Teams*
- Senior Applied Scientist @ Amazon.com, Inc.
 - *e-Commerce AIs* - anomaly detection, deep RL, and recommender system
 - *Jeff Bezos's project* - drove \$200M in sales via Amazon Mobile Shopping App
- *Co-Founder & CTO / Global R&D Head & Chief Applied Scientist* @ Gauss Labs, Inc.
- *Co-Founder & CTO* @ Erudio Bio, Inc.
- *Co-Founder & CEO* @ Erudio Bio Korea, Inc.

Unpacking AI for KFAS Scholarship Program Students

- Silicon Valley AI Nexus - 5
 - our journey
 - strategic partnerships & ecosystem
 - community & engagement & interest groups
 - collaboration with institutions & universities
- Silicon Valley's Cultural Engine of Innovation and Disruption - 16
 - my journey from Samsung & Amazon to Gauss Labs & Erudio Bio
 - innovation ecosystem of Silicon Valley
 - case study - Amazon - corporate culture & leadership principles
 - founding and scaling startups
 - bringing Silicon Valley & Korea
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Silicon Valley AI Nexus

Silicon Valley AI Nexus (or just AI Nexus)

- pioneering community of professionals dedicated to building privacy-preserving AI solutions, products, and systems
- comprehensive expertise across AI domains
 - biotechnology, healthcare, and medical research
 - industrial applications and data centers
 - cloud infrastructure, storage solutions, mobile technologies
 - customer service platforms, multi-agent systems
 - RAG implementations, vector databases, agentic AI frameworks
- vision
 - *shaping future where AI innovation and privacy protection go hand in hand*
- active community with [homepage](#) & KakaoTalk collaboration platform for members

Our journey - forum history

- Nov-Dec 2024 - “The AI Strikes Back” & “Free Your Data”
 - Prof. Jung Hee Cheon (homomorphic encryption revolution)
- Jan 2025 - “The AI Knight Rises”
 - [Sunghee Yun](#) @ Erudio Bio on deep learning to flourishing societies
- Feb 2025 - “Silicon Citadel”
 - Chanik Park @ MangoBoost on AI data infrastructure
- Mar 2025 - “Blockchain Awakens”
 - Daejun Park @ a16z crypto on decentralized AI
- Apr 2025 - “Advancing Humanity”
 - Stanford Medicine team on bio/medical AI
 - co-hosting with K-BioX
- May 2025 - “The Autonomous Alliance”
 - Microsoft, GitHub, Uclone, SK Hynix on AI agents

Our journey - forum history

- Jun 2025 - “Silicon Companions”
 - Altos Ventures on robotics & smart devices
- Aug 2025 - “The Human-Centric AI Revolution”
 - address legal and ethical issues related to AI
- Nov 2025 - “The AI Silicon Race”
 - Korea-US Innovation Leadership at K-ASIC



Strategic partnerships & ecosystem

- *Perpetual Partnership with KOTRA Silicon Valley as Strategic Alliance*
- 2026 co-hosting partners
 - K-ASIC (Korea AI & IC Innovation Center)
 - K-BioX (biotech innovation)
 - KOTRA Silicon Valley (trade & investment)
 - Consulate General of the Republic of Korea at San Francisco (diplomatic support)
 - KABANC (Korean American Bar Association of Northern California - legal expertise)
- building bridges between Silicon Valley innovation and Korean institutional networks
- creating comprehensive support ecosystem: technical, legal, business, diplomatic



Community & engagement

- membership requirements
 - attend one! AI Nexus event!
- member benefits
 - networking with AI professionals across all domains
 - knowledge sharing and collaboration opportunities
 - direct access to world-class speakers and experts
- forum format - 5pm-8pm, typically Wednesdays at premier Silicon Valley venues
- venues - Stanford, KOTRA, SK Hynix, Altos Ventures, K-ASIC, and more
- active community engagement and professional development



Three Core Tenets

- *Explore & Lead*
 - world-class forums, the AI & Humanity Council, and thought leadership shaping AI's most consequential questions
- *Elevate Community*
 - mentorship, startup showcases, professional connections, and leadership opportunities that amplify every voice
- *Give Back to Society*
 - policy engagement, academic partnerships, and public discourse ensuring AI's benefits reach beyond Silicon Valley

AI Nexus encourages and embraces Interest Groups

- Bio / Medical / Data Group (7)
 - Chanik Insuk Jeff Jongmin Minha Mitch Sunghee led by Chanik
- Karaoke Group (4)
 - Hayden Jeff Sunghee Yeseul led by Sunghee
- AI Hands-on Group (5)
 - Chanik James Kyoung Whan Minha Sunghee led by Minha
- East Bay Group (7)
 - Daniel Eugene Hyunjung Linda MiSook MJ Sunghee led by Hyunjung

Collaboration with Institutions & Universities

- MOUs
 - SNU
 - *AI Nexus × SNU College of Engineering Silicon Valley Immersion Program*
 - *Winter Internship 2026*
 - asked by
 - KIC SV
 - SVreboot
 - XL8
 - KASPA
 - Korea Univ.
 - Sungkyunkwan Univ.
 - KAIST
 - Korean American Semiconductor Professional Alliance (KASPA)
 - *etc.*

Collaboration with Institutions & Universities

- Co-hosting with
 - K-BioX
 - KOTRA SV
 - KIC SV
 - K-ASIC
 - Korea-America Student Conference (KASC)
 - Consulate General of the Republic of Korea at San Francisco
 - Korean American Bar Association of Northern California (KABANC)
 - *etc.*

AI Nexus Committee

- Board of Directors
 - *Sunghee Yun* - Co-Founder & Char
 - *Minha Hwang* - Co-Founder & AI Master
 - *Sue Kim* - Co-Founder & Marketing Leader
 - *Youngwook (Hayden) Song* - Co-Founder & Legal Affairs Advisor
 - *Bo Hyoung (Jeff) Lee* - Co-Founder & Legal Affairs Advisor
 - *MiSook Chung* - Co-Founder & Community Engagement Chair
- Vision & Principles Committee
- Tech & Social Media Committee
- Program & Content Committee
- the full list of committees can be found [here!](#)

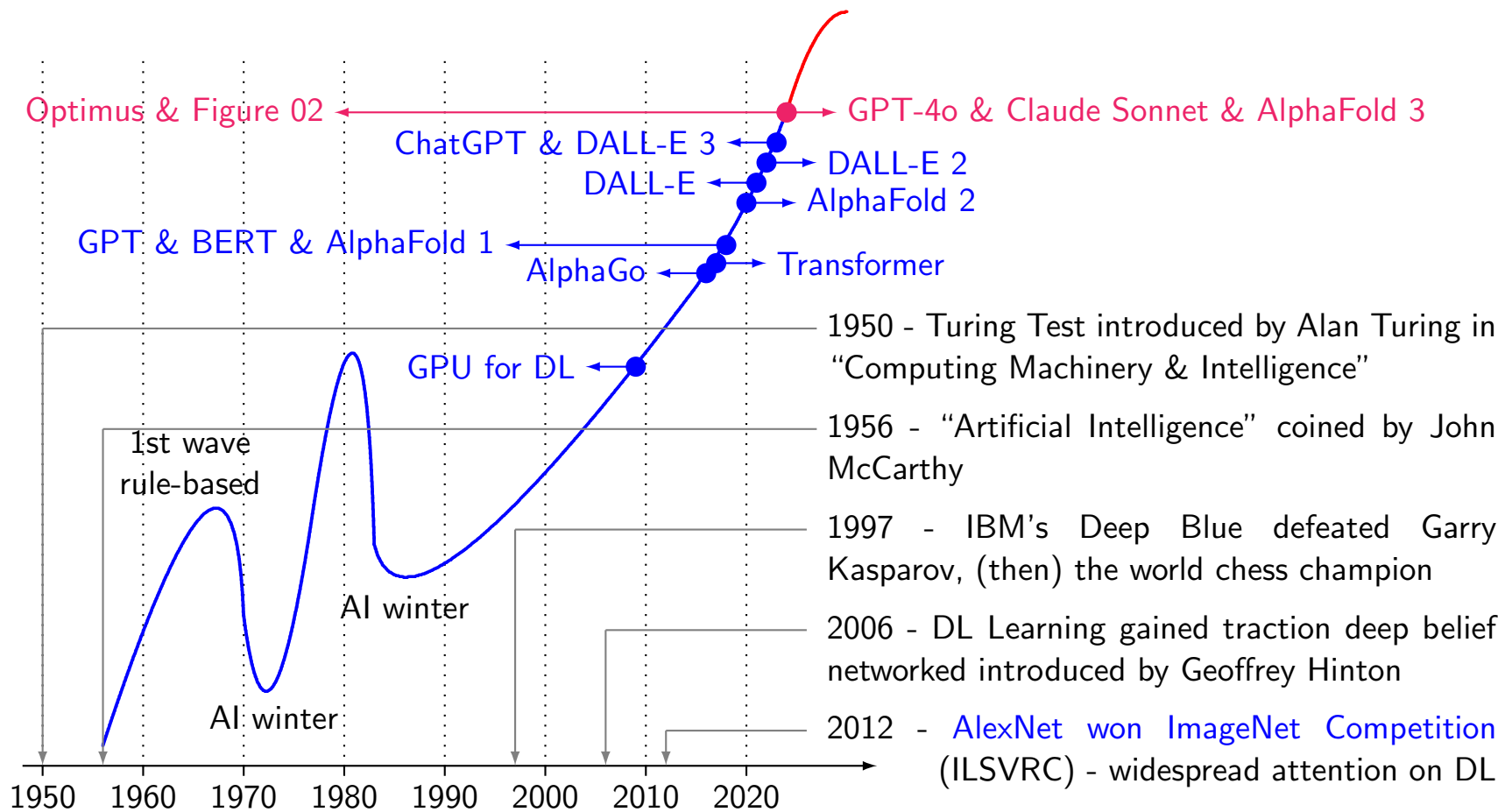
Silicon Valley's Cultural Engine of Innovation and Disruption

My journey from Samsung & Amazon to Gauss Labs & Erudio Bio

- Samsung Semiconductor, Inc.
 - inception into industry from academia, the world's best memory chip maker!
- Amazon.com, Inc.
 - experience so-called Silicon Valley big tech culture and technology
 - set tone for my future career trajectory!
- Gauss Labs, Inc.
 - found & operate AI startup, shaping corporate culture & spearheading R&D as CTO
 - inherent challenges of Korean conglomerate spin-off startup - cultural constraints, over-capitalization, and leadership limitations
- Erudio Bio, Inc.
 - concrete & tangible bio-technology in addition to AI
 - great decisions regarding business development; business models, market fit, go-to-market (GTM) strategies based on lessons learned *in a hard way* 😊

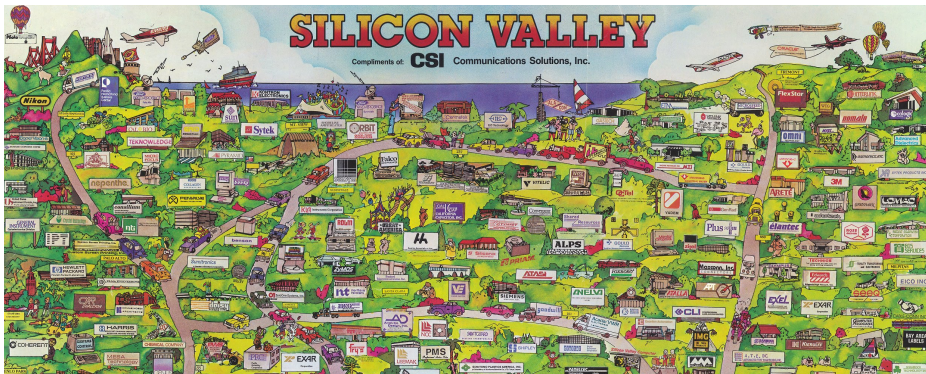


Joining Amazon.com, Inc. at the inflection point of AI



Innovation ecosystem of Silicon Valley

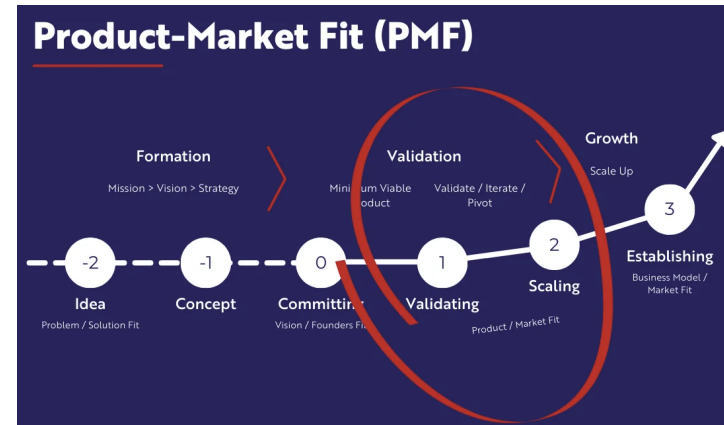
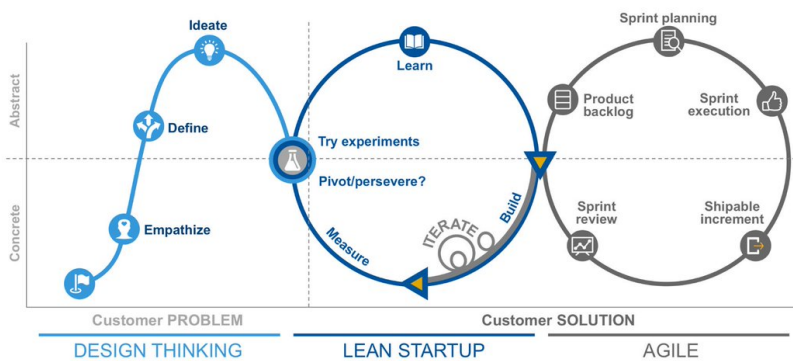
- key characteristics
 - risk-taking culture, *trust* in technology → *genuine* respect for engineers and scientists
 - easy access to huge capital - VCs, angel investors alike
 - talent density - engineers, researchers, scientists, entrepreneurs, PMs, TPMs, . . .
 - diversity, “collision density” of ideas
 - ecosystem of collaboration and competition - startups, academia, industry leaders
- what they mean for global big tech
 - set trends in AI, software & hardware (and or hence) product & industry innovation
 - act as testing ground for disruptive ideas



Founding and scaling startups

- challenges
 - competence of and chemistry among co-founders crucial
 - technology & great team are *necessary*, but *not sufficient (at all!)* for success
 - business models, market fit, timing, agility, flexibility for pivoting / perseverance
- insight
 - importance of domain expertise in addition to AI
 - balancing innovation with good business decisions

Combine Design Thinking, Lean Startup and Agile



Bridging Silicon Valley & Korea

- cultural differences
 - risk appetite & failure tolerance
 - decision-making speed vs hierarchy
 - innovation vs execution focus
- opportunities for collaboration
 - leveraging Korea's manufacturing expertise with Silicon Valley's software/AI strengths
 - building global teams with diverse perspectives



To be successful . . .

- embrace customer/market-centric mindset in innovation and for business decisions
- balance agility with long-term vision
- foster cross-cultural collaboration for global impact
- ((very) strategically and carefully) leverage AI to solve real-world industrial challenges



Selected References & Sources

Selected references & sources

- Robert H. Kane “Quest for Meaning: Values, Ethics, and the Modern Experience” 2013
- Michael J. Sandel “Justice: What’s the Right Thing to Do?” 2009
- Daniel Kahneman “Thinking, Fast and Slow” 2011
- Yuval Noah Harari “Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind” 2014
- M. Shanahan “Talking About Large Language Models” 2022
- A.Y. Halevry, P. Norvig, and F. Pereira “Unreasonable Effectiveness of Data” 2009
- A. Vaswani, et al. “Attention is all you need” @ NeurIPS 2017
- S. Yin, et. al. “A Survey on Multimodal LLMs” 2023
- Chris Miller “Chip War: The Fight for the World’s Most Critical Technology” 2022
- CEOs, CTOs, CFOs, COOs, CMOs & CCOs @ startup companies in Silicon Valley
- VCs on Sand Hill Road - Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Woodside in California, USA

Thank You