



avantgarde

Deep Learning and astrology

I propose how newly emerging technologies based on *Big Data* and *Deep Learning* could be applied to proving and exploring astrology in new ways. The idea is actually extremely simple, almost banal, while at the same time carrying a lot of potential for the future, both in terms of potentially giving astrology broader public recognition and finding out what in astrology really “works” (at least in a practical, saturnian way).

The Idea

Big companies like Google have access to billions of images in the internet (this is part of so-called *Big Data*), often with user comments like “this is my car in front of my house”. What those companies then do, is feed computers with this information (this is called *Deep Learning*), creating basically an electronic copy of how brain cells in a human brain are interconnected in the computer, a so-called *neural network*. After that, new images can be presented to the neural network and it can often tell what is on them.

The details of that are certainly hairy, but it turns out that already today the computer can often beat humans at recognizing what is on an image!

To make things more tangible, here an example of what you would typically feed a neural network for a single image:



car / house / VW Beetle / ...

Now, suppose you knew when the photo was taken and where. Note that most electronic cameras today, including the ones in cell phones, usually provide this information for free, via GPS and an internal and/or internet clock, and save this information automatically with each image.

Then you could derive quite similar *astrological* tags from the image:



Ascendent Taurus / Venus in Leo / Saturn in Pisces . . .

Now, you could simply first feed the neural network with images plus such astrological tags and afterwards present it with new images. If there was something to astrology, the neural network would likely be able to say something like “Ascendent Taurus” or “Venus in Leo”.

Conclusion

Even though the idea I just presented is very simple, realizing it would likely require years of dedicated work by skilled scientists and probably best with assistance by skilled astrologers, and would probably look quite a bit different in detail, but overall something like this appears within reach in the coming decades. I would expect, if the neural network was able to recognize astrological constellations, that there would be quite some surprises in this, not only for science, but also for astrology!

This article was written on 17 December 2017, while the idea in this concrete form dates back to this summer and the general idea to tap the internet to prove astrology dates back on my side to 23 October 2003 in a Usenet post to alt.astrology.tropical.