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# Ben Goertzel

**Ben Goertzel** is an artificial intelligence researcher, CEO and founder of SingularityNET<sup>[1]</sup>, leader of the OpenCog Foundation<sup>[2]</sup>, and the AGI Society<sup>[3]</sup>, and chair of Humanity+<sup>[4]</sup>. He helped popularize the term 'artificial general intelligence'.<sup>[5]</sup>

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## Ben Goertzel



Goertzel after giving a talk at the 2009 Humanity+ Summit in Irvine, California

**Born** 8 December 1966

**Occupation** CEO and founder of SingularityNET

**Website** goertzel.org (<http://goertzel.org/>)

## Early life and education

Three of Goertzel's Jewish great-grandparents emigrated to New York from Lithuania and Poland.<sup>[6]</sup> Goertzel's father is Ted Goertzel, a former professor of sociology at Rutgers University.<sup>[7]</sup> Goertzel left high school after the tenth grade to attend Bard College at Simon's Rock, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in Quantitative Studies.<sup>[8]</sup> Goertzel graduated with a PhD in Mathematics from Temple University under the supervision of Avi Lin in 1990, at age 23.<sup>[9]</sup>

## Career

Goertzel is the CEO and founder of SingularityNET, a project combining artificial intelligence and blockchain to democratize access

to artificial intelligence.<sup>[10]</sup> He was a Director of Research of the Machine Intelligence Research Institute.<sup>[11]</sup> He is also chief scientist and chairman of AI software company Novamente LLC; chairman of the OpenCog Foundation; and advisor to Singularity University.

Goertzel was the Chief Scientist of Hanson Robotics, the company that created Sophia the Robot.<sup>[12]</sup>

## Views on AI

Dr. Goertzel is a leading developer of the OpenCog framework for artificial general intelligence. He has published many technical papers on the OpenCog architecture <sup>[13]</sup>.

In May 2007, Goertzel spoke at a Google tech talk about his approach to creating artificial general intelligence.<sup>[14]</sup> He defines intelligence as the ability to detect patterns in the world and in the agent itself, measurable in terms of emergent behavior of "achieving complex goals in complex environments".<sup>[15]</sup> A "baby-like" artificial intelligence is initialized, then trained as an agent in a simulated or virtual world such as Second Life<sup>[16]</sup> to produce a more powerful intelligence.<sup>[17]</sup> Knowledge is represented in a network whose nodes and links carry probabilistic truth values as well as "attention values", with the attention values resembling the weights in a neural network. Several algorithms operate on this network, the central one being a combination of a probabilistic inference engine and a custom version of evolutionary programming.<sup>[18]</sup>



Ben Goertzel at Brain Bar

The 2012 documentary *The Singularity* by independent filmmaker Doug Wolens showcased Goertzel's vision and understanding of making artificial general intelligence.<sup>[19][20]</sup>

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## See also

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- Artificial general intelligence
- Paraconsistent logic

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## External links

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- [Ben Goertzel at arXiv.org](https://arxiv.org/search/advanced?advanced=1&terms-0-operator=AND&terms-0-term=Ben+Goertzel&terms-0-field=author&classification-physics_archives=all&classification-include_cross_list=include&date-filter_by=all_dates&date-year=&date-from_date=&date-to_date=&date-date_type=submitted_date&abstracts=show&size=50&order=-announced_date_first) ([https://arxiv.org/search/advanced?advanced=1&terms-0-operator=AND&terms-0-term=Ben+Goertzel&terms-0-field=author&classification-physics\\_archives=all&classification-include\\_cross\\_list=include&date-filter\\_by=all\\_dates&date-year=&date-from\\_date=&date-to\\_date=&date-date\\_type=submitted\\_date&abstracts=show&size=50&order=-announced\\_date\\_first](https://arxiv.org/search/advanced?advanced=1&terms-0-operator=AND&terms-0-term=Ben+Goertzel&terms-0-field=author&classification-physics_archives=all&classification-include_cross_list=include&date-filter_by=all_dates&date-year=&date-from_date=&date-to_date=&date-date_type=submitted_date&abstracts=show&size=50&order=-announced_date_first))
- [TEDxBerkeley - "Decentralized AI"](https://www.ted.com/talks/ben_goertzel_decentralized_ai) ([https://www.ted.com/talks/ben\\_goertzel\\_decentralized\\_ai](https://www.ted.com/talks/ben_goertzel_decentralized_ai)) (video:16min, March 2019)
- [SingularityNET](https://singularitynet.io) (<https://singularitynet.io>)

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