
Does artificial intelligence know everything?
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Does artificial intelligence know everything? The short answer is no. Artificial intelligence, often shortened to AI, is a computer program that produces answers from what it has learned. It does not know everything because its knowledge has limits. The rest of this book explains those limits step by step, using plain examples you can follow without any technical background.



An artificial intelligence system is a computer program trained on many examples to produce answers. It is not a person and it does not have a mind of its own. When you type a question, the program calculates a likely response from patterns in its training. It has no feelings, no opinions, and no awareness of what it is doing.



A model learns from the material it was trained on. That material is called training data: a large collection of text, images, or other examples. Whatever was not in that material is not part of what the model learned. For example, if the training data never included a rare plant, the model will not know that plant unless it can look it up.



Training happens at a certain time and then stops. The date when training ends is called the training cutoff. Events after that point are not in the model's training. For example, a model trained up to a certain year cannot know about a news event that happened the following year unless it has another way to find out.



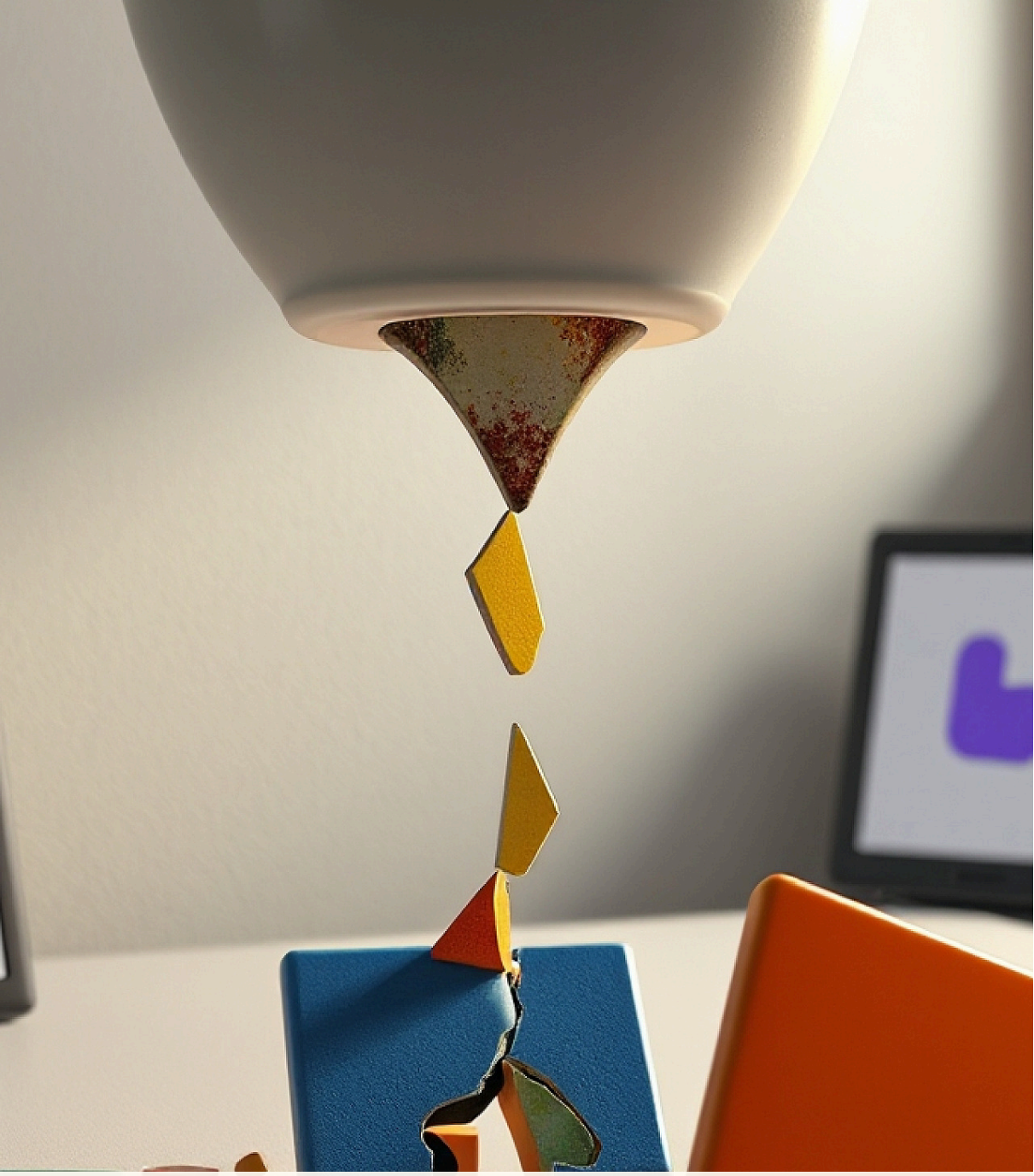
A model with no internet access cannot look things up. Internet access means the program can search the web for current information. Ask such a model about a recent event, and it may say it does not know or may give an outdated answer. It cannot know about something that happened after its training and that it cannot look up.



Some systems can use tools such as a web search to find newer information. A tool is an extra program the model can call to get data it does not have. This adds knowledge beyond the training data. For example, a system with a search tool can find today's weather or a recent sports result by looking it up online.



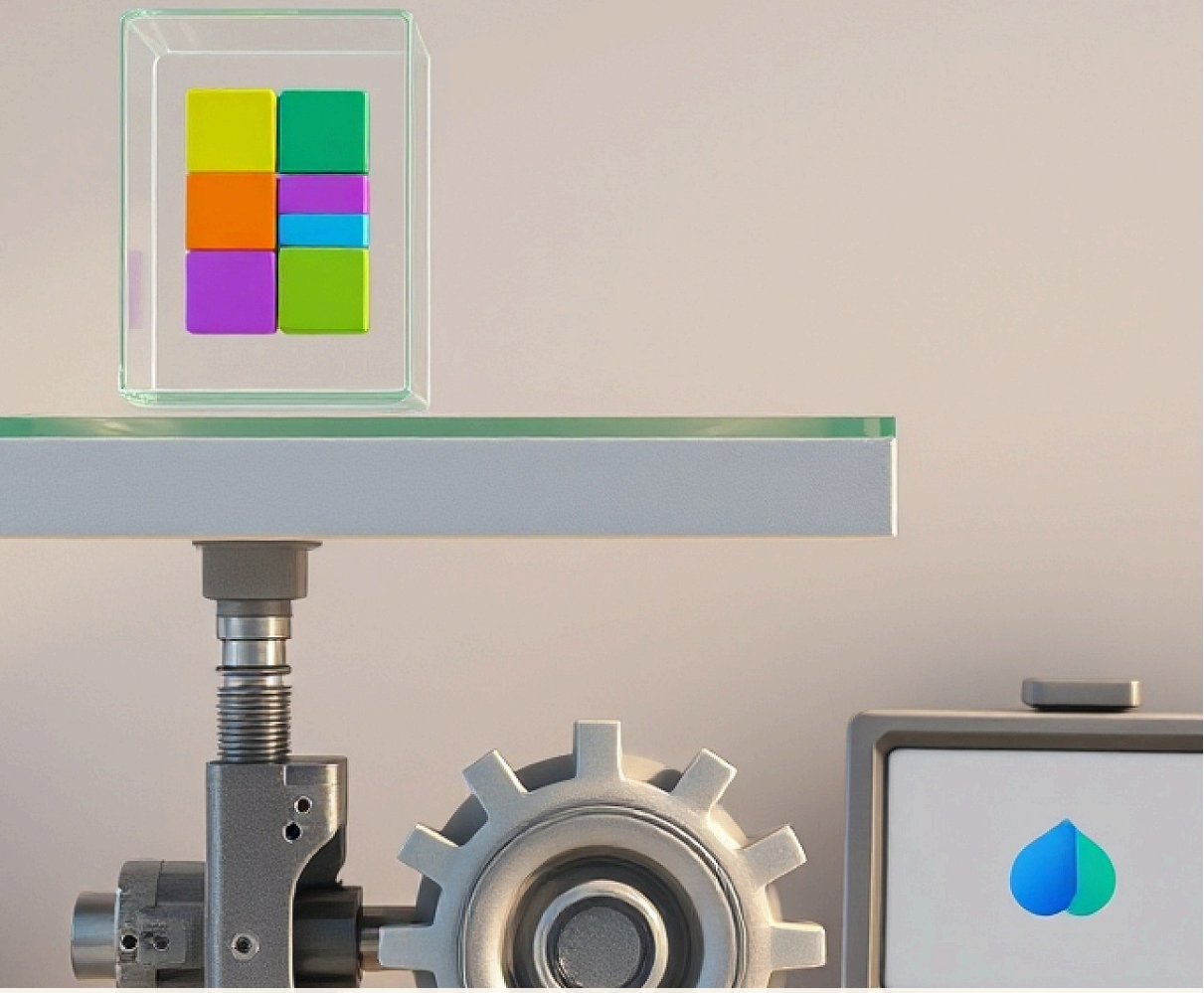
A tool only gives what it can reach. If the tool is unavailable or limited, the system's knowledge is limited in the same way. For example, a search tool that only covers certain websites will miss information from other sites. The system's reach depends on the tool, and the tool has boundaries.



Internet sources can be incorrect or incomplete. A system that reads them can pick up those errors. For example, a webpage might state a wrong date for a historical event. If the system copies that date without checking, its answer will be wrong even though it used a tool. Wrong sources lead to wrong knowledge.



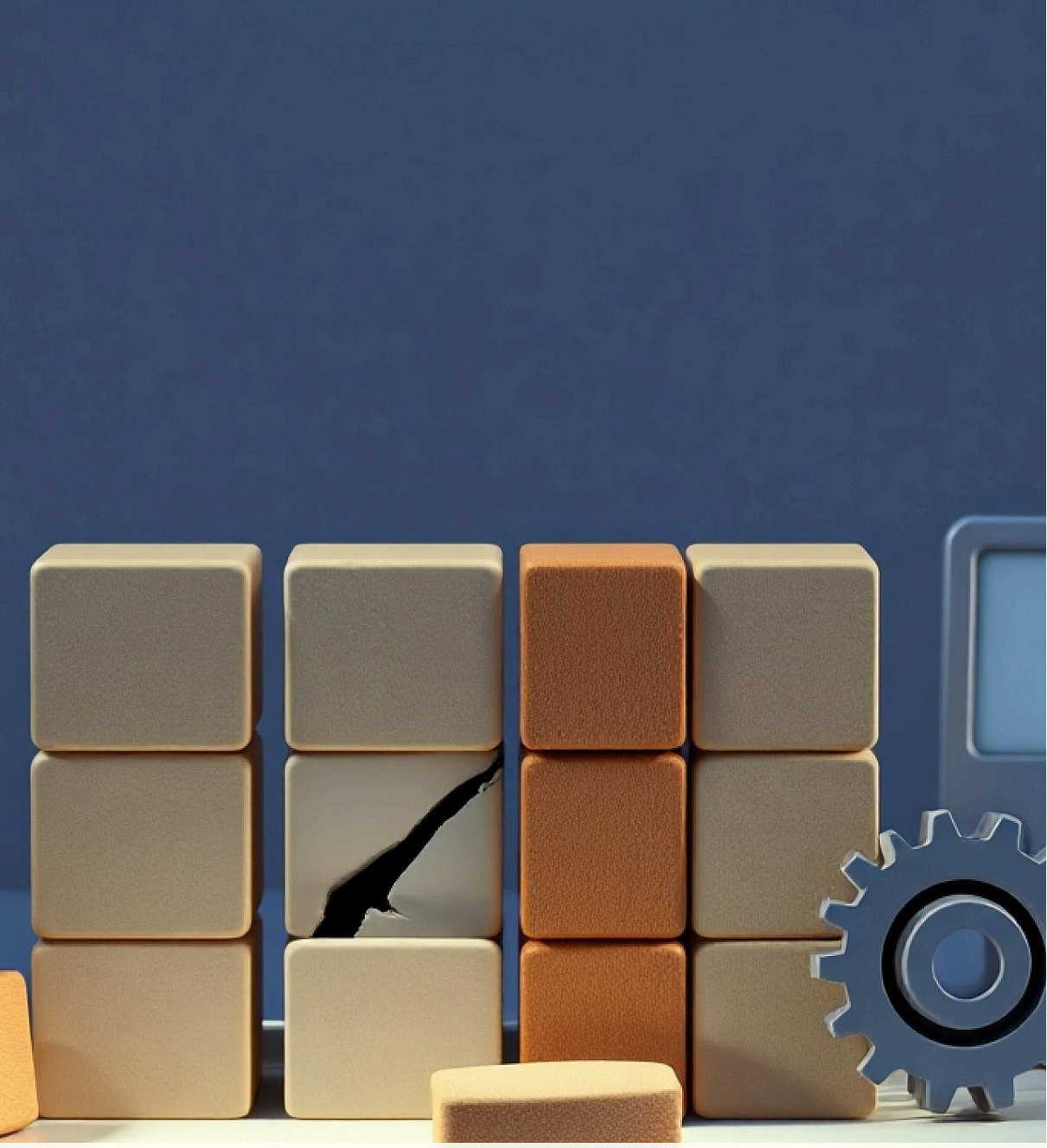
A source may tell only part of a story. A system relying on it can give an answer that is missing important facts. For example, a news article might report the start of an event but not its ending. The system then gives a partial answer that sounds complete. Incomplete sources mislead the system and the person asking.



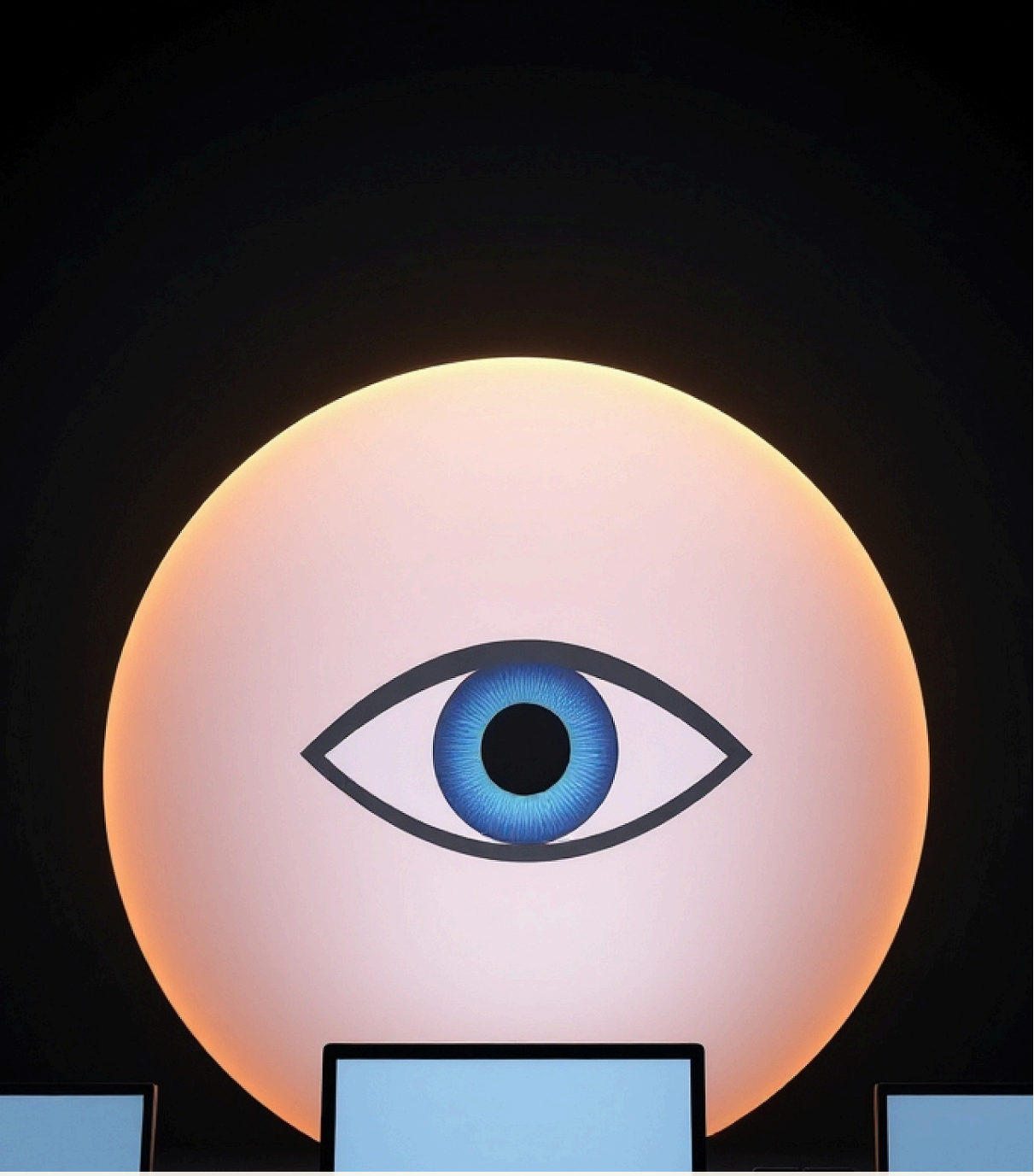
Having knowledge and using it correctly are two different things. A system can hold a fact and still use it badly. This happens because producing an answer is a separate process from storing the fact. For example, a model might know the rule for adding fractions but still make a mistake when solving a problem.



A model can explain a mathematical rule clearly and correctly. For example, it can state that to add fractions you first find a common denominator. This shows the rule is part of what it knows. The explanation is accurate and easy to follow, so you might assume the model will always apply the rule perfectly.



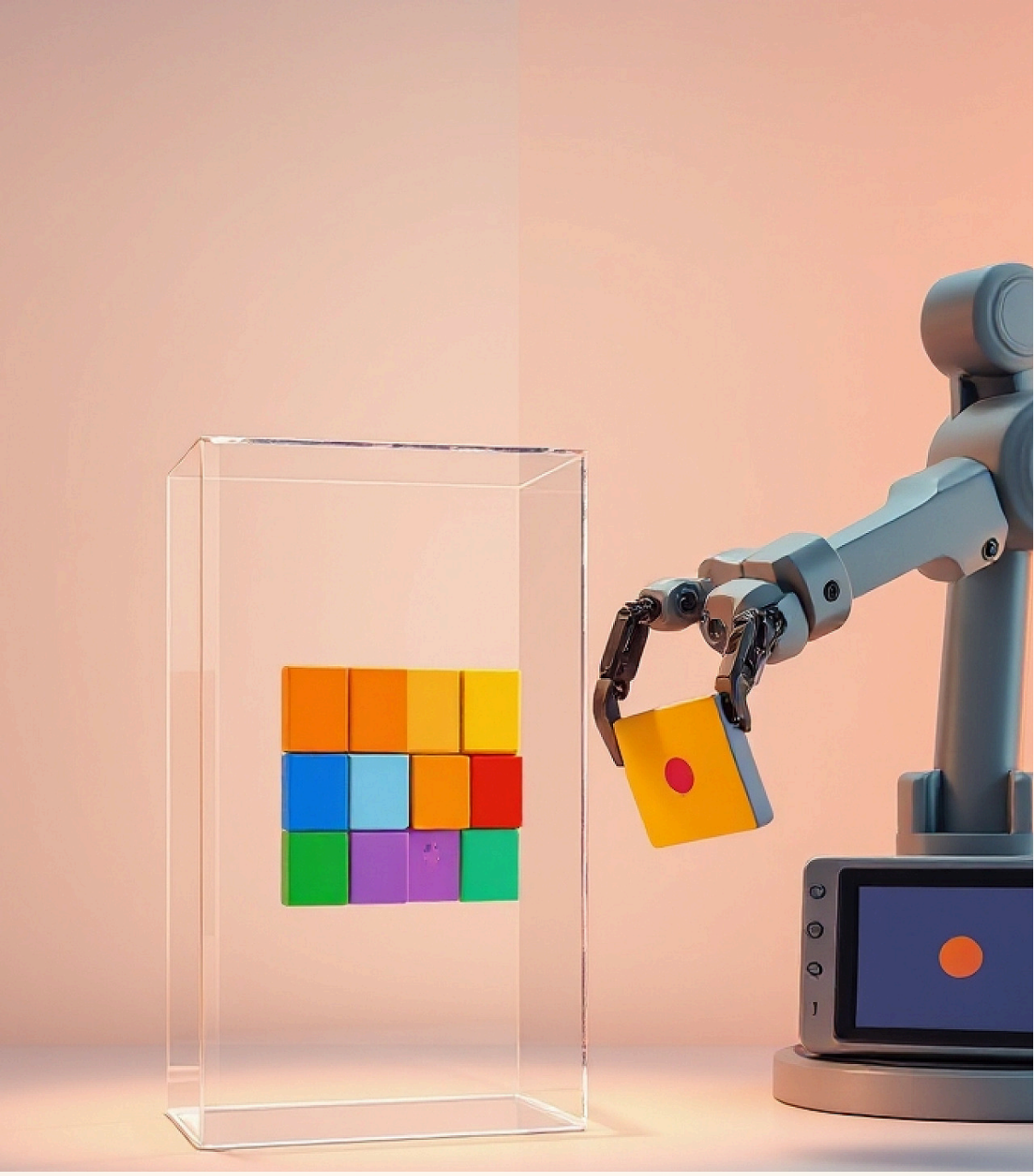
The same model can make an error while applying that same rule in a calculation. For example, it might add the numerators and denominators directly without finding a common denominator. Knowing the rule did not guarantee using it correctly. This shows that knowledge and correct application are separate skills, and a model can have one without the other.



A common belief is that artificial intelligence knows everything. This belief ignores training limits and tool limits. A model only knows what its training data contained and what its tools can reach. For example, a model without internet access cannot know about a recent event. The belief is false because it overlooks these boundaries.



Another common belief is that internet access makes a system all-knowing. Wrong or incomplete sources still limit what it can know. For example, a system might find a webpage with an incorrect fact and repeat it. Internet access helps, but it does not remove the problem of bad sources. The system's knowledge is only as good as its sources.



A third common belief is that a system which can state a fact will always use it correctly. Applying knowledge can still go wrong. For example, a model might explain a grammar rule perfectly and then break that rule in the next sentence. Stating a fact and using it are different abilities. You should not assume correct knowledge means correct use.



Artificial intelligence does not know everything. Its knowledge is limited by training data and by the tools it can use. Using knowledge correctly is a separate matter, and a model can state a rule yet still make a mistake when applying it. Remember these limits when you use AI answers, and check important facts yourself.