



# AI's march, a game of thrones and a new view of the cosmos

**The name Geoffrey Hinton was little known outside the tech industry until last week**, when the so-called “godfather of AI” gave an interview after leaving Google in which he warned that machine learning is leading us into uncharted territory. So is now the time to get properly frightened about the capabilities unleashed by machine learning? Technology writer John Naughton in this week’s big story says an unequivocal yes. Our technology correspondents also report on efforts by the US, UK and EU to pause and evaluate this galloping tech revolution.

**The big story** [Page 10](#) →

**Britain spent last weekend watching avidly or determinedly avoiding** the exuberant display of ancient ceremony around the coronation of King Charles III. Our coverage takes a fondly amused look at all the pageantry, personalities and gold braid with Rachel Cooke, while columnist Nesrine Malik unpicks the game through which the institution hangs on to popular support. We also visit Belize to find out how arguments about reparations for slavery are linked to its relationship to the British crown.

**Surreal and sacred** [Page 22](#) →; **Opinion** [Page 48](#) →

**Our features this week mix down-to-earth human stories with more starry horizons.** We profile cosmologist Catherine Heymans, who despite the narrowing confines of her life with long Covid continues to research the dark universe. And Charlotte Edwardes’ interview with Ruth Wilson finds the actor disarmingly frank as she discusses Hollywood hypocrisy and why having cosmetic “work” done isn’t for her.

**A new dawn** [Page 34](#) →; **The outsider** [Page 51](#) →



## On the cover

Fears that AI might outsmart and outrun its human creators were ramped up by the man dubbed the ‘godfather’ of machine learning, Geoffrey Hinton, who quit Google last week with a warning that the nightmare scenario of artificial intelligence being able to destroy us could be closer than we care or dare to think.

*Illustration: Guardian Design*



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