# ChatGPT, procedural generation, and large language models: a history

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John Fink Digital Scholarship Librarian McMaster University A (series of) disclaimers:



What is randomness?

### Yijing / I-Ching (1000-750 BC)

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# The Man in the High Castle (1962)



### Bibliomancy (1753 - as a term)

They we

The lights of the Bermuda Triangle Chili Parlor, two blocks away, made a welcome sight. As we got closer, we saw that the storefront was surrounded by a little puddle of brightness made by the light bulbs behind the steamy window and the red neon sign which said EAT. Parked outside the Bermuda Triangle Chili Parlor were six or seven motorcycles-shiny ones, with all sorts of gadgets and decorations on them. Each of the motorcycles had a fancy dragon or alligator either painted in gold on the gas tank or worked into a fancy chrome backrest. We figured they belonged to the motorcycle club that had passed us earlier.

By this time, we could smell all sorts of good cooking smells and hear the faint clinking of dishes and silverware. por, a blast of noise, warmth, and When we opene of chili hit us. Now up to that the most incr with chili was stuff out of a can time, my o the cafeteria in my old school. and stuf ny first whiff, I could tell that this at from the chili I had run across so s unfogged a little, I could see a sign e counter. It said Chili-one dollar;

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# The Cut-Up Technique (1920s)



# ELIZA (1966)

# Computational Linguistics

### ELIZA—A Computer Program For the Study of Natural Language Communication Between Man And Machine

Joseph Weizenbaum

Massachusetts Institute of Technology,\* Cambridge, Mass.

The object of this paper is to cause just such a reevaluation of the program about to be "explained". Few programs ever needed it more.

#### ELIZA Program

ELIZA is a program which makes natural language conversation with a computer possible. Its present implementation is on the MAC time-sharing system at MIT. It is written in MAD-SLIP [4] for the IBM 7094. Its name was chosen to emphasize that it may be incrementally improved by its users, since its language abilities may be

# Oblique Strategies (1975)



# Rogue (1980)

### |....| |..... |@.....K....+ +..].....\*...

Level: 1 Gold: 0 Hp: 12(12) Str: 16(16) Arm: 4 Exp: 1/0

# Murder on the Zinderneuf (1983)





### C) 1983, 1984 FREE FALL ASSOCIATES & Electromic Arts

#### Suspect:Roget Topic:Van Wente "He's getting money somewhere, and it isn't from selling works of art"



# Racter and The Policeman's Beard (1984)

The First Book Ever Written by a Computer

#### THE POLICEMAN'S BEARD IS HALF CONSTRUCTED

Computer prose and poetry by Racter

"



Illustrations by Joan Hall Introduction by William Chamberlain A Bizarre and Fantastic Journey into the Mind of a Machine

Tomatoes from England and lettuce from Canada are eaten by cosmologists from Russia. I dream implacably about this concept. Nevertheless tomatoes or lettuce inevitably can come leisurely from my home, not merely from England or Canada. My solicitor spoke that to me; I recognized it. My fatherland is France, and I trot coldly while bolting some lobster on the highway to my counsellor. He yodels a dialogue with me about neutrons or about his joy. No agreements here! We sip seltzer and begin a conversation. Intractably our dialogue enrages us. Strangely my attorney thinks and I gulp slowly and croon, "Do you follow me?"



• 1000BC - Yijing / I-Ching

#### • 1000BC-2017AD - some inconsequential stuff happens

but wait!

### Danny Dunn and the Homework Machine (1958)



A little conversation about the weather.





Why I say "Large Language Model" and not "AI"

So, about 2017...

### **Attention Is All You Need**

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A B 4 4

- 2017 "Attention Is All You Need" paper
- 2018 "Improving Language Understanding by Generative Pre-Training" paper
- 2020 "Language Models are Few-Shot Learners" paper (GPT-3)
- 2022 InstructGPT, and then ChatGPT
- 2023 and then....

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"Progress is now moving so swiftly that every few weeks the state-of-the-art is changing or models that previously required clusters to run now run on Raspberry PIs."

 $-\ https://github.com/brexhq/prompt-engineering$ 

### Important concepts for GPT and other models

- Context Window and Tokens
- Few-Shot / No-Shot
- Parameters
- Training
- The Prompt, aka "Programming for English Majors"
- And the Random Seed.

- Context Window is the "memory" of an LLM
- And Tokens words, roughly fill up that "memory"
- And the *response* also takes tokens.



- Few-Shot a few examples to "teach" an LLM, such as:
- "I hate it when my phone battery dies." negative
- "My day has been great!" positive
- "Here is an article." neutral
- "This presentation is going fantastic!!!!" positive(ly optimistic)
- And No-Shot is exactly what you think it is.

- Usually done on text corpuses
- The Pile (825GiB), Github, ShareGPT, etc.
- And other terms like RLHF (Reinforcement Learning from Human Feedback)
- The larger the model, the more resources it takes to train or re-train.

- Roughly corresponds to how "Complex" or "Smart" a model is.
- (...very roughly)
- But *definitely* correlates to resources needed to run the model.
- Which is why, say, GPT-4 requires this....



And you can run a 7B model on this....



llama.cpp - https://github.com/ggerganov/llama.cpp

In May (yes, the month that we are still in right now) a Google internal document was leaked to the public, titled "We Have No Moat, and Neither Does OpenAl". It's worth quoting some bits from it, because it's a doozy.

- "While our models still hold a slight edge in terms of quality, the gap is closing astonishingly quickly. Open-source models are faster, more customizable, more private, and pound-for-pound more capable. They are doing things with \$100 and 13B params that we struggle with at \$10M and 540B. And they are doing so in weeks, not months. This has profound implications for us."
- "Indeed, in terms of engineer-hours, the pace of improvement from these models vastly outstrips what we can do with our largest variants, and the best are already largely indistinguishable from ChatGPT. Focusing on maintaining some of the largest models on the planet actually puts us at a disadvantage."

### THE FUTURE OF LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS

- ....Skynet????
- ....fully automated luxury communism???
- ....larger context windows?

Any questions? jfink@mcmaster.ca https://glammr.us/@jbfink