Say Hello Forum

Gianna Rasmussen

Hi, I am Gianna (Gia) Rasmussen.

I am a computer science major with a comedy film minor, and I am going to Northwestern for my Masters in AI next fall.

My plan with AI used to be world domination, however now I am more interested in studying the oceans and space. I want to use AI to discover things and understand the unknown.

I write for a webtoon original webcomic called Andy Bass, which I helped create with one of my friends in high school.

My favorite thing to do is to create things. I sew clothes and stuffed animals, bake cakes and cookies from scratch, cook complex meals (the harder to make the better), write stories and jokes, paint, draw, small animations, and a bunch of other stuff. I tend to rotate hobbies.

Every thanksgiving I debone and stuff a turkey, and at the end of every quarter I make a variety of different kinds of croquettes for me and my roommates. I made 140 croquettes two weeks ago, they are all gone.

I don't have a sewing machine, so I have to hand sew everything I make. I really love Late Victorian and Edwardian fashion. I have made my own corset (pet peeve: anyone who thinks corsets are evil. They are really cool. Tight lacing, the deadly kind, was deadly but only rich women who didn't do anything but stand around all day wore them. Most women wore corsets that basically just functioned as bras.)

Currently I am making a riding skirt/split skirt. I love skirts so much, and I love pants that look like skirts even more.

When I was a child I desired to be a goat. I had a plan on how I would transform into one and how I would explain my transformation to my parents. I ate bits of chocolate milk cartoons and Styrofoam lunch trays every day. My stomach is made of steel.

I am really bad at music, 100% tone deaf. I spent all of middle school learning keyboard and only was able to complete one song. My singing voice needs some work too if my roommates are to be believed.

That's all!

Say Hello Forum - Comment

Michelle Camargo-Reyes

Hi Michelle,

What kind of podcasts do you listen to? I like Distractable and the Magnus Archives, and was super into Welcome to Night Vale in high school (I even have a tattoo inspired by it).

And what kind of things do you enjoy reading? Books, fanfiction, comics, graphic novels, poetry? I like fantasy stuff or books with fun or weird concepts. Right now my favorite book series is the Scholomance (A Deadly Education is the first book in the series). There is also this IKEA horror novel I love, where the book looks like an IKEA instruction manual. I do read a lot of fanfiction, they are easy reads with familiar characters so I like to unwind with them.

- Gia

Say Hello Forum - Comment

Peter Jachim

Hi Peter,  
After looking up what an English concertina is, the fact you are learning it is the best and worst thing I have ever heard. I can just imagine practicing it and hearing it and that fills me with so much joy and dread.   
*Good Omens* was such a good show. The humor was so good, I loved it. Have you seen *The Nevers*? It's my favorite, and I feel like there is some intersection between the two shows with some of the humor and fantasy elements. They are very different, but I feel like some of the humor lines up really well.   
- Gia

Say Hello Forum - Comment

Kate Burns

A 100 year old house, that is awesome! I could only imagine how great it is to learn things about your home and all the fun facts you have.

Also, you have to find some sort of cool use for the trough! Imagine all the possibilities! SO fun!

What kinds of books do you read?

General AI discussion

Sentience in AI

I am curious to see what everyone's views on the concept of fully sentient AI.

Since everyone could have a different view on what a "fully sentient" AI is, I am just going to explain my definition. When discussing sentience in AI, I am referring to the ability of the AI to think and experience or feel emotions at the level of a human. The thinking part of my definition mainly refers to the ability of the AI to make complex decisions.

The ability of the AI to experience emotions is where I am most intrigued (and warry). Emotions are a major factor in decision making for most sorts of pack animals and social creatures. I imagine a fully sentient AI would act exactly like a human and have the ability to process and understand events in a way a human would.

There is a great deal of philosophical debate concerning the concept of fully sentient AI because there really is no way to measure what is real when it comes to intangible things. A lot of this has to do with the concept of solipsism, the idea that you can only know that you exist. Many of you likely have heard some variant of the question: "What if you are the only person who exists and you just made everyone else up?". I don't believe that I am the only person who exists, however, I do believe that we will never be able to prove whether an AI can feel or if it is simply parroting emotion.

What do you guys think?

Myers-Briggs mini personality content theory

What are you thinking of for your MB content theory area?

I am just going to run-down my ideas at the moment:

A schedule optimizing AI based on the MB Personality types, specifically one that can be applied to creating an undergraduate college course schedule.

The AI would be given a set of requirements a student needs to meet and would sort through the classes that meet those requirements based on the user's personality type. Some classes will be offered online only, some will be offered in-person only, and some will have both options.

The AI is told to create a schedule the fulfills four specific credits, the AI will look at all of the classes that the person can take to fulfil the credits and begin to narrow down class options based on different aspects of the personality types.

This actually leads to my second idea.

An AI that decides, based on course descriptions, what MB Personality Type a course has. The AI will also take into account what the course is classified as (Philosophy, Arts & Lit, etc.), the descriptions found in the course summary with keywords that are generally associated with the different types (possibly down to the trait).

Generally I think an AI that can find the classes that match with a personality type would have been helpful in discovering some classes that are easy to miss and would potentially be useful in creating a course schedule.

I want to try to simplify this as much as possible since there is a major dependency on words and understanding the English language in the class sorting, however I do believe I have something workable with it.

My next idea is not very similar to the previous two.

An AI will form a story with occasional breaks to allow for a user to make a choice. There will be 8 choices at the start and go down by 2 after each choice. The choices would represent each type, and lead to a different route in the story.

The goal of the AI is to make the most satisfying kind of story for the 16 different types by adjusting what happens next and how the options are presented based on previous answers.

General AI discussion

Sentience in AI - Reply

I have never looked at The China Brain thought exercise before but I found myself nodding along as most of what is discussed mirrors my own thoughts on the topic of creating artificial sentience.

I got into AI because I had ambitions to create artificial sentience. Why? It seemed cool.

But, I got older and started to really think about it and what that would mean for the world and now I think we should avoid it like we avoid getting into a car crash.

To put my thoughts on the subject into simple sentences: I do not think anyone should want human sentience, it is a stressful experience and giving that to a computer seems like it could do a lot of bad things. Humans are already destructive enough, I don't think adding more into the mix is a good idea.

But what if it happens on accident is something I had not thought of!

There is very little we can do about the potential for the accidental creation of artificial sentience. We know too little and as far as we are aware there is no basis for it.

We know aliens have the potential to exist, and I see any plan for that as futile as well. Without a basis of knowledge, the only plans that can be made we be lacking.

Humanity will simply have to take it in stride and hope nothing goes horribly wrong.

The biggest comfort I have in the subject is that it is very unlikely the AI will be smart. Computers are pretty dumb, if we stumble into artificially created sentience I don't think it would be that smart either.

Myers-Briggs mini personality content theory

What are you thinking of for your MB content theory area? - Reply

I actually was considering something similar to the tags idea you suggested, however did could not get the logic of it right.

One of my initial thoughts was having a sort of layered tag system.

The course would have it's own independent set of tags, classifying the type of course.

The second layer would be Professor tags that describe teaching style. These tags would be the same for all classes the Professor teaches and just kind of give the student the idea of things the Professor typically emphasizes in their courses such as in-class participation.

That way the AI could be more precise because it would also be looking at things that could contribute to making a better choice for the student based on personality type.

I could try narrowing down the scope more if I want to do this system, simply have the AI choose the best class for each personality type with two-three courses to look at.

Though it would probably be best, since this is only a mini, to focus on only course description tags.

I don't want to overcomplicate this, however I also don't want to overly simplify since it will make the results less accurate at some point. That's what I am trying to balance, not overdoing it (as I more prone to do) but not oversimplifying.

I certainly will be considering the tag system more, and think about what tags would be most beneficial.

Thanks for the suggestion!

General AI discussion

Sentience in AI - Reply

I thought about this more, trying to come up with an answer for the possibility of a new kind of slavery, even just a partial one or something that skims the surface (because this is not an easy question).

And really I still believe wait and see and hope for the best is one of the best ways we can go about it while keeping a watchful eye for resistance/expression of negative feelings.

If an AI displayed a desire for freedom, that's a pretty big deal and a sign to pump the breaks and investigate.

I cannot really suggest anything beyond my own personal policies, as I have no idea on how to go beyond that.