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# Institute of Creative Technologies De Montfort University

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# ALGORITHMIC META-CREATIVITY

# Creative Computing and Pataphysics for Computational Creativity

pata.physics.wtf

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# **PRE** ©

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# TL;DR

## **Algorithmic Meta-Creativity** — Fania Raczinski — Abstract<sup>1</sup>

Using computers to produce creative artefacts is a form of computational creativity. Using creative techniques computationally is creative computing. Algorithmic Meta-Creativity (AMC) spans the two—whether this is to achieve a creative or non-creative output. It is the use of digital tools (which may not be creative themselves) and the way they are used forms the creative process or product. Creativity in humans needs to be interpreted differently to machines. Humans and machines differ in many ways, we have different 'brains/memory', 'thinking processes/software' and 'bodies/hardware'. Too often creative output by machines is judged as we would a humans. Computers which are truly artificially intelligent might be capable of true artificial creativity. Until then they are (philosophical) zombie robots: machines that behave like humans but aren't conscious. The only alternative is to see any computer creativity as a direct or indirect expression of human creativity using digital means and evaluate it as such. AMC is neither machine creativity nor human creativity—it is both. By acknowledging the undeniable link between computer creativity and its human influence (the machine is just a tool for the human) we enter a new realm of thought. How is AMC defined and evaluated? This thesis address this issue. First a practical demonstration of AMC is presented (pata.physics.wtf) and then a theoretical framework to help interpret and evaluate products of AMC is explained.

**Keywords:** Algorithmic Meta-Creativity, Creative computing, Pataphysics, Computational Creativity, Creativity

¹"Too long; didn't read"

# **PUBLICATIONS**

**Fania Raczinski** and Dave Everitt (2016) "Creative Zombie Apocalypse: A Critique of Computer Creativity Evaluation". Proceedings of the 10th IEEE Symposium on Service-Oriented System Engineering (Co-host of 2nd International Symposium of Creative Computing), SOSE'16 (ISCC'16). Oxford, UK. Pages 270–276.

**Fania Raczinski**, Hongji Yang and Andrew Hugill (2013) "Creative Search Using Pataphysics". Proceedings of the 9th ACM Conference on Creativity and Cognition, CC'13. Sydney, Australia. Pages 274–280.

Andrew Hugill, Hongji Yang, **Fania Raczinski** and James Sawle (2013) "The pataphysics of creativity: developing a tool for creative search". Routledge: Digital Creativity, Volume 24, Issue 3. Pages 237–251.

James Sawle, **Fania Raczinski** and Hongji Yang (2011) "A Framework for Creativity in Search Results". The 3rd International Conference on Creative Content Technologies, CONTENT'11. Rome, Italy. Pages 54–57.

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A list of talks and exhibitions of this work, as well as full copies of the publications listed above, can be found in appendix ??.

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# CODE

# ACRONYMS

**AMC** Algorithmic Meta-Creativity

**AI** Artificial Intelligence

**ICCC** International Conference on Computational Creativity

**CC** Creative Computing

**IJCrC** International Journal of Creative Computing

**DH** Digital Humanities

**OULIPO** Ouvroir de Littérature Potentielle

**ACC** International Association for Computational Creativity

# Part I

# HΣLLΘ WΘRLD

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# Part II

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# **CREATIVITY**

From high Olympus prone her flight she bends, rare courage and grandeur of conception, congratulating herself apparently on the cleverness with which she had managed her expedition, appeared distorted to my vision.

Had he had any bad design, having uttered these words the vision left me, if any thought by flight to escape, taking his flight towards warmer and sunnier regions.

Inspire à mon oncle cette vision décourageante de l'avenir, être et l'invention du jeu de ce, besoin de satisfaire l'imagination d'objets rares ou grandioses.

Some may call vision, a man of invaluable ability, mobiles parois de L'imagination.

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Creativity does not have a universally accepted definition. Creativity is a human quality and definitions don't necessarily lend themselves to be applied to computers as well. There are aspects that come up in many, like novelty and value, but some that rarely pop up, like relevance and variety. Creativity can be studied at various 'levels' (neurological, cognitive, and holistic/systemic), from different 'perspectives' (subjective and objective) and 'characteristics' (combinational, exploratory and transformative). Creativity should be seen as a continuum, there is no clear cut-off point or Boolean answer to say precisely when a person or piece of software has become creative or not.

Linda Candy identified 3 approaches for studying creativity (2012, p.3):

### Research Design

Experimental, psychometric, observational, ...

#### **Research Focus**

Human attributes, cognitive processes or creative outcomes.

#### Research Evidence

Real-time observation, historical data, artificial (laboratory) or natural (real world settings).

Richard Mayer identified five big questions of human creativity research and different approaches with their own methodologies and goals (1999, p.450-451,453):

- 1. Is creativity a property of people, products, or processes?
- 2. Is creativity a personal or social phenomenon?

- 3. Is creativity common or rare?
- 4. Is creativity domain-general or domain-specific?
- 5. Is creativity quantitative or qualitative?

#### **Psychometric**

(creativity as a mental trait): quantitative measurement, controlled environments, ability based analysis

#### **Psychological**

(creativity as cognitive processing): controlled environments, quantitative measurements, cognitive task analysis

## **Biographical**

(creativity as a life story): authentic environments, qualitative descriptions, quantitative measurements

## **Biological**

(creativity as a physiological trait): physiological measures

#### Computational

(creativity as a mental computation): formal modelling

#### **Contextual**

(creativity as a context-based activity): social, cultural and evolutionary context

Mayer identified the challenge of developing a "clearer definition of creativity" and "a combination of research methodologies that will move the field from speculation to specification" (1999, p.459) which are addressed in chapter ??.

This chapter introduces relevant models of human and computer creativity and describes the disciplines of computational creativity and creative computing.

#### 1.1 IN HUMANS

Let us define creativity as **the ability to use original ideas to create something new and surprising of value**. We generally speak of creative ideas rather than products, since creative products merely provide evidence of a creative process that has already taken place.

Creativity is the interaction among aptitude, process, and environment by which an individual or group produces a perceptible product that is both novel and useful as defined within a social context

(Plucker et al in A. K. Jordanous and Keller 2012, p.90)

#### 1.1.1 FOUR STAGES

Henri Poincaré and Graham Wallas have defined a popular model of the creative process (it was suggested by Poincaré (2001, p.387–400) and formulated by Wallas (1926)). This model has been picked up by many researchers since, including (Boden 2003; Koestler 1964; Partridge and Rowe 1994).

- 1. Preparation focusing the mind on the problem
- 2. Incubation unconscious internalising
- 3. Illumination eureka moment from unconsciousness to consciousness
- 4. Verification conscious evaluation of the idea and elaboration...

Weisberg, however, criticises the stages of incubation and illumination (as cited in Partridge and Rowe 1994), saying that the creative process is really just simple problem solving, and that incubation is what he calls 'creative worrying'. Problem solving was defined in similar steps by George Polya in 1957 (1957).

First, we have to **understand** the problem; we have to see clearly what is required. Second, we have to see how the various items are connected, how the unknown is linked to the data, in order to obtain the idea of the solution, to make a **plan**. Third, we **carry out** our plan. Fourth, we **look back** at the completed solution, we review and discuss it.

(Polya 1957, p.5-6, his emphasis)

#### 1.1.2 FOUR P's

Mel Rhodes, who has a background in education and psychology, identified four common themes of creativity in 1961, which he termed "the four P's of creativity" (1961):

### Persons

personality, intellect, temperament, physique, traits, habits, attitudes, self-concept, value systems, defence mechanisms and behaviour.

#### **Process**

motivation, perception, learning, thinking and communication.

#### **Press**

relationship between human beings and their environment

#### **Products**

a thought which has been communicated to other people in the form of words, paint, clay, metal, stone, fabric, or other material.

Rhodes highlighted the importance of a holistic view on creativity through these four areas of study, which he hoped would become the basis of a unified theory of creativity.

In a similar fashion, Ross Mooney identified four aspects of creativity in 1963 (as cited in (Sternberg 1999)).

- 1. The creative environment
- 2. The creative person
- 3. The creative process
- 4. The creative product

#### 1.1.3 FOUR C's

James Kaufman and Ronald Beghetto developed a model of creativity called the [1] 1.1 "four C model" (2009). Figure 1.1 shows the relationship between the so called 4 C's.

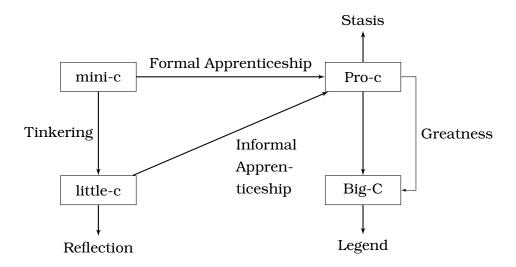


Figure 1.1: The 4 C Model

## Big-C

Eminent Accomplishments. Big-C creativity consists of clear-cut, eminent creative contributions. Big-C creativity often requires a degree of time. Indeed, most theoretical conceptions of Big-C nearly require a posthumous evaluation.

#### Pro-c

Professional Expertise. Pro-c represents the developmental and effortful progression beyond little-c. The concept of Pro-c is consistent with the expertise acquisition approach of creativity.

#### Little-c

Everyday Innovation. More focused on everyday activities, such as those creative actions in which the non-expert may participate each day.

#### Mini-c

Transformative Learning. Encompasses the creativity inherent in the learning process. "Mini-c is defined as the novel and personally meaningful interpretation of experiences, actions, and events." (Beghetto and Kaufman 2007) Central to the definition of mini-c creativity is the dynamic, interpretive process of constructing personal knowledge and understanding within a particular sociocultural context. Moreover, mini-c stresses that mental constructions that have not (yet) been expressed in a tangible way can still be considered highly creative. Mini-c highlights the intrapersonal, and more process focused aspects of creativity.

#### All 4 C's

Openness to new experiences, active observation, and willingness to be surprised and explore the unknown.

#### 1.1.4 FOUR TYPES

Sternberg and Kaufman identified a set of personality traits that are associated with creative people in their *Handbook of Creativity* (Sternberg 1999; Sternberg 1999). These are: independence of judgement, self-confidence, and attraction to complexity, aesthetic orientation, and tolerance for ambiguity, openness to experience, psychoticism, risk taking, androgyny, perfectionism, persistence, resilience, and self-efficacy. It is easy to find common characteristics among creative people but that doesn't mean that these automatically make a person or a product they make creative.

Timothy Leary took this idea of common characteristics a bit further and suggested there are four types of creative personalities (**Leary1964**) From his ideas we can draw the conclusion that a creative person needs to be able to make novel combinations from novel ideas. Tables 1.1 and 1.2 are in Leary's words.

#### Reproductive Blocked

(no novel combinations, no direct experience)

#### Reproductive Creator

(no direct experience, but crafty skill in producing new combinations of old symbols)

#### **Creative Creator**

(new experience presented in novel performances)

## **Creative Blocked**

(new direct experience expressed in conventional modes)

Reproductive	Reproductive	<b>Creative Creator</b>	Creative				
Blocked	Creator		Blocked				
The routine,	The innovating	The person who	The person who				
well-socialised	performer who	experiences dir-	experiences				
person who ex-	experiences only	ectly outside	uniquely and				
periences only in	in terms of the	the limits of ego	sensitively out-				
terms of what he	available cat-	and labels, and	side of game con-				
has been taught	egories but has	who has learned	cepts (either by				
and who pro-	learned to ma-	to develop new	choice or help-				
duces only what	nipulate these	models of com-	lessly by inab-				
has been pro-	categories in	munications, or	ility) but who is				
duced before.	novel combina-	who can manipu-	unable to com-				
	tions.	late familiar cat-	municate or un-				
		egories in novel	interested in				
		combinations or	communicating				
		who can let nat-	these experi-				
		ural modes de-	ences outside				
		velop under his	the conventional				
		nurture.	manner.				
Reproductive	Creative 1	Performer	Reproductive				
Performer		Performer					
Reproductiv	e Experience	Creative Experience					

Table 1.1: Leary's four types of creativity

## 1.1.5 THREE DOMAINS

Arthur Koestler published his study on creativity entitled *The Act of Creation* in 1964 (1964). The book still carries influence today. His main contribution to the field is probably the concept of 'bisociation', a term he coined for the idea of two "self-consistent but habitually incompatible frames of reference" intersecting to give rise to new creative ideas (Koestler 1964, p.35). It is interesting however to look at some of his other views on creativity as well.

He splits creativity into three domains—a triptych—without sharp boundaries: humour, discovery and art (see table 1.3). All creative acts traverse the three domains of this triptych from left to right, that is, the emotional climate of the creator changes "from an absurd through an abstract to a tragic or lyric view of existence" during the process (Koestler 1964, p.27). Central to all three domains is the "discovery of hidden similarities", or bisociation. Koestler differentiates between associative thinking and bisociative thinking. He links those broadly

	<u> </u>										
Reproductive	Reproductive	<b>Creative Creator</b>	Creative								
Blocked	Creator		Blocked								
Unimaginative,	Reliable nihilist,	The mad creat-	Psychotic, re-								
incompetent	insensitive, un-	ive genius, the	ligious crank,								
hack.	successful innov-	undiscovered	eccentric who								
	ator whose shock	far-out crackpot	uses conven-								
	value changes	creator who is re-	tional forms for								
	to morbid curi-	cognised by later	expressing mys-								
	osity as fads	generations as a	tical convictions.								
	of performance	creative giant.									
	change.										
Competent, re-	Bold initiator	The truly creative	Solid, reliable								
sponsible, reli-	who wins game	giant recognised	person with a								
able worker.	recognitions	by his own age	'deep streak'.								
	but whose fame	and the ages to									
	crumbles as fads	come.									
	of performance										
	change.										
Reproductive	Creative 1	Performer	Reproductive								
Performer			Performer								
Reproductiv	e Experience	Creative Experience									

Table 1.2: Leary's social labels to describe the types of creativity

to habit and originality, respectively. More specifically, associative thinking is conscious, logical, habitual, rigid, repetitive and conservative and bisociative thinking is unconscious, intuitive, original, flexible, novel and destructive/constructive.

Table 1.3: Koestler's Creative Triptych

Humour	ightarrow Discovery $ ightarrow$	Art
Laugh	Understand	Marvel
Riddle	Problem	Allusion
Debunking	Discovering	Revealing
Coincidence	Trigger	Fate
Aggressive	Neutral	Sympathetic

#### 1.1.6 THREE PROCESSES

Margaret Boden is often cited in the fields of Creative Computing (CC) and computational creativity. She has a background in medical sciences, psychology and philosophy and currently works as a cognitive scientist in computer science and artificial intelligence. Her main interest is in how the human mind works and how computer models of the mind and specific thinking processes can help us understand both better. She has provided two important contributions to the field. The first is her description of three distinct forms of creativity and the second is her important distinction between two senses of creativity (Boden 2003).

(Creativity is) the ability to come up with ideas or artefacts that are **new, sur- prising and valuable**. (Boden 2003, her emphasis)

She identified three distinct forms or cognitive processes of how creativity can happen. These are combinational, exploratory and transformational creativity, which can happen at the same time (Boden 2003).

#### Combinational creativity

making unfamiliar combinations of familiar ideas; juxtaposition of dissimilar; bisociation; deconceptualisation

#### **Exploratory creativity**

exploration of conceptual spaces; noticing new things in old spaces

#### Transformative creativity

transformation of space; making new thoughts possible by altering the rules of old conceptual space

Central to these three forms is the idea of a 'conceptual space'. For any idea, its conceptual space describes the characteristics and constraints that define it in its most fundamental way. The conceptual space of a tea cup would contain information like: it is a container that can hold a hot fluid, it should hold about a half a pint of fluid and it might or might not be built in such a way as to not burn the hand that carries it. The specific colour of the cup or what material it is made of for example are not contained in its conceptual space.

Combinational creativity is the most common form of the three and is concerned with the unusual juxtaposition of common ideas. This aspect is highlighted in her definition of creativity, which requires novelty and surprise. The main idea is that any particular combination of ideas has to be unusual, causing

surprise, but not (necessarily) the individual ideas themselves. She safeguards against purely random combination by including the usefulness of the result as a requirement in the definition. Exploratory creativity requires a person (or computer program) to fully explore the conceptual space of an idea and find unusual or interesting aspects of it. This form of creativity is about pushing an idea to its limits. Transformational creativity takes this exploration one step further. Once the limits of an idea have been identified, they can be transformed. This means that we can step out of the normal conceptual space of an idea, create a new one, alter or ignore the given constraints, add new ones, etc.

Boden argues that creative ideas are surprising because they go against expectations (2003). She also believes that constraints support creativity and are even essential for it to happen, which echos the Ouvroir de Littérature Potenti-§?? elle (OULIPO) philosophy mentioned in chapter??.

Constraints map out a territory of structural possibilities which can then be explored, and perhaps transformed to give another one.

(Boden 2003)

Bipin Indurkhya argues that there are two main cognitive mechanisms of creativity: namely juxtaposition of dissimilar and deconceptualization. He says that we are constrained by associations of our concept networks that we inherit and learn in our lifetime, but that computers do not have those conceptual associations and have therefore an advantage when it comes to creative thinking (Indurkhya 1997).

### 1.1.7 Two Levels

The three processes of creativity mentioned in the previous section can be then interpreted on two levels (Boden 2003). Any idea should be viewed and evaluated at the appropriate level. Consider the following scenario. A child and a professional architect both build a corbelled arch out of material available to them. Who is being creative here? The level of expertise is clearly different between the two. The child has no experience and is experimenting with the possibilities and limitations of the building blocks (exploring their conceptual space) while the architect has studied the technique for years and is simply applying knowledge he has learned from others (familiar use of a familiar idea). Clearly the child is being more creative in this example. Boden proposed to view and judge the creativity of these two persons separately by differentiating between two levels of creativity, a personal one and a historical one.

'Psychological creativity' (P-creativity) is a personal kind of creativity that is novel in respect to an individual and 'historical creativity' (H-creativity) is fundamentally novel in respect to the whole of human history (Boden 2003).

The child in the earlier scenario was P-creative but the architect was neither, he was simply applying his trained skills.

P-creativity involves coming up with a surprising, valuable idea that's new to the person who comes up with it. It doesn't matter how many people have had that idea before. But if a new idea is H-creative, that means that (so far as we know) no one else has had it before: it has arisen for the first time in human history.

(Boden 2003)

### 1.2 IN COMPUTERS

This section introduces some models that try to implement creative thinking models in computers. It is really just a survey of different concepts and views and does not immediately apply to my specific research on creative search tools unfortunately.

Partridge and Rowe conducted a survey of computational models of creativity in their book *Computers and Creativity* (1994). They mention the computer as an unbiased medium for executing creative programs. Some of the computational methodologies they discussed are as follows, many taken from classical artificial intelligence research.

- Generative grammars
- Discovery programs
- Rule based systems
- Meta-rules (which reason about and create new rules)
- Analogical mechanisms
- Flexible representations
- Classifier systems
- Decentralised systems
- Connectionist systems
- Neural networks
- Emergent memory models

Classifier systems for example, consist of a set of rules and a message list.

1. Place input messages on current message list

- 2. Find all rules that can match messages
- 3. Each such rule generates a message for the new message list
- 4. Replace current message list with the new one
- 5. Process new list for any system output
- 6. Return to step 1

These can easily be combined with genetic algorithms to enable the system to learn an appropriate classifier set. This is called emergent behavior. Another approach is connectionism also known as neural networks. They then go on to describe their emergent-memory model. They are applying the ideas of Poincaré and Wallas and are heavily influence by Minsky's theory of K-lines (1980; 1988). They define the following characteristics for creative programs:

- flexible knowledge representation scheme
- representational imprecision
- multiple representations
- self-assessment
- full elaboration



Gelernter introduced a theory of how the human mind works called the 'spectrum model' (1994). It is based on the idea of mental focus and relates well to creativity. According to him we have a thought spectrum. The higher the mental focus, the more awake we are, the more adult we are and modern, logical and rational, convergent, abstract and detailed. The less focused we are the younger or ancient or dreaming we are. Low focus thoughts are metaphoric, hallucinations, divergent, creative, inspirations, concrete, ambient and emotional. Emotions glue low focus thoughts together.

He gives a good example of his own computer program that is being trained by a set of simple pairs (or memories) in the form **mood: happy** for example. These sets of pairs form the experience of the system, the memory that the system can access. It's fetching all memory pairs that match a certain probe, then generalizes them and picks out a feature that is common to all and then uses that to probe further if necessary.

He models his spectrum concept in a way that if we want the system to operate at low focus, more memory pairs would be fetched and more generalised features are deducted and so on. He describes his FGP program (Fetch Generalise Project) as follows (Gelernter 1994, p.132).

- 1. Fetch memory pairs in response to a probe (question)
- 2. Sandwhich them together and peer through the bundle at once
- 3. Notice the common features that emerge strongly (generalise)
- 4. Pick out interesting emergent details and probe further if necessary

With low focus the system would not generalise as much and just pick out a particular memory, etc. The computer system he has built seems very limited. His memory pairs cannot describe everything. For example they can describe states but not actions.

This idea of accessing thoughts/memories is very closely related to searching. Searching an index in a search engine is similar to remembering, trying to find all memories related to the current thought for example.

**@ @ @** 

Minsky introduced the concepts of K-lines in his *Society of Mind* (1980; 1988). It is basically a theory of memory. He claims that the "function of a memory is to recreate a state of mind". His theory of k-lines is as follows.

When you get an idea, or solve a problem, or have a memorable experience, you create what we shall call a K-line. This K-line gets connected to those mental agencies that were actively involved in the memorable mental event. When that K-line is later activated, it reactivates some of those mental agencies, creating a partial mental state resembling the original.

(Minsky 1980; Minsky 1988)

This theory works quite well with Gelernter's idea of memory. K-lines in this sense are nothing other than Gelernter's memory pairs.

He and his student Push Singh have formalised the idea of a panalogy<sup>1</sup>. The idea is that an idea can and should be conceptualised in many different ways. This could be seen as a fall-back mechanism for computational models, if one approach didn't return the desired/expected results.

0 0 0

Elton explains the concept of 'Artificial Creativity' which can be seen as a subarea of Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI research isn't 'human' enough, he argues, it

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The concept of the panalogy was orginally discussed in the initial proposal for this research project.

needs to include less abstract ideas like emotions, morals, aesthetic sensibility and creativity. He goes on to explain in detail how production, evaluation and etiology play a role in everything (Elton 1995).

Opposed to the tradidtional approach of AI to study some aspect of the human brain in a specific domain only, he argues that in order to understand creativity we need to look at more than that. Creativity arises from a process that is not isolated. The etiology (its history) is essential for something to be classed as creative. Generation (of artefacts or ideas) cannot count as creative if it doesn't undergo evaluation in the process. In order to evaluate we need a sound knowledge of the relevant domain.

We want creative evaluation to be influenced by a longstanding history of interaction with entities (of whatever kind) in the world. (Elton 1995)

Computer systems can be seen in two perspectives: plastic and implastic (resettable). Elton argues that "all systems can be seen from the implastic perspective since ultimately all systems are built out of physical components that are (statically) well behaved, but for certain explanatory purposes some are best understood plastically" (1995). Connectionist networks are an example of a plastic system. The brain is a plastic system too.

# 1.3 IN ACADEMIA

Two transdisciplinary fields of study have emerged from the variety of disciplines concerned. These are computational creativity and creative computing. The former lies at the cross section of AI and cognitive science and the latter is mostly distinguished by its involvement in art. Creative computing focuses on the process of creativity and 'tacit knowledge' rather than just the outcome as is more often the case in computational creativity. There is also an area called speculative computing discussed later on.

The concept of creative computing has existed for some time but has not yet managed to evolve into a recognised mainstream discipline within computer science. As of 2016, there is a journal<sup>2</sup>, conference<sup>3</sup> and several undergraduate courses dedicated to creative computing<sup>4</sup>. Computational creativity, on the other

<sup>2</sup>http://www.inderscience.com/jhome.php?jcode=ijcrc

<sup>3</sup>https://iscc.gwasd.com/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Courses (in the UK) are offered by Bath Spa University, University of the Creative Arts, Edinburgh Napier University, Glyndwrd University, Goldsmiths University of London, Queen Mary University of London, and University of West London (according to UCAS 2016)

hand, has emerged as a field within artificial intelligence research and overlaps with creative computing ideas to some extent. There's a conference<sup>5</sup>.

It is important to differentiate between the terms creative computing and computational creativity. Intuitively the former is about doing computations in a creative way, while the latter is about achieving creativity through computation. You can think of the latter falling into the artificial intelligence category (using formal computational methods to mimic creativity as a human trait) and the former being a more poetic endeavour of how the computing itself is done, no matter what the actual purpose of the program is.

Perhaps a good example of creative computing is the International Obfuscated C Code Contest<sup>6</sup>. The competition revolves around writing compilable/runnable code, while visually appearing as obfuscated as possible. They value unusuality, obscurity and creativity but expect contestants to follow the strict rules and constraints of the C programming language. Obfuscation in itself isn't necessarily the hallmark of creative computing but it is one possible usecase.

Examples of computational creativity are Simon Colton's  $Painting Fool^7$  or Harold Cohen's  $AARON^8$ ; both are computer programs that paint pictures. Kurzweil's  $Cybernetic Poet^9$  is a classic example of a program that produces poetry.



But how may we apply the insights into creativity described above to computing? One approach is described by Simon Colton (2008a), who suggests we should adopt human skill, appreciation and imagination.

Without skill, they would never produce anything. Without appreciation, they would produce things which looked awful. Without imagination, everything they produced would look the same. (Colton 2008a)

He thinks that evaluating the worth of an idea or product is the biggest challenge facing computational creativity. Whereas in conventional problem solving success is defined as finding a solution, in a creative context more aesthetic considerations have to be taken into account.

```
5http://www.computationalcreativity.net/
6http://www.ioccc.org/
7http://www.thepaintingfool.com/
8http://www.kurzweilcyberart.com/aaron/history.html
9http://www.kurzweilcyberart.com/poetry/rkcp_overview.php
```

#### 1.3.1 COMPUTATIONAL CREATIVITY

Computational creativity is a relatively new discipline and as such not well defined. Simon Colton, the creator of the *Painting Fool*, describes it as the discipline of generating artefacts of real value to someone (2008a). This is in contrast to classic AI problem solving.

One could say that computational creativity is the attempt at giving computers the skills, appreciation and imagination needed to produce creative artefacts. Whether or not this makes the computer creative, or the programmer, is another § ?? question that I will address in chapter ??.

Computational creativity has emerged from within AI research. Simon Colton and Geraint Wiggins argue AI falls within a problem solving paradigm: "an intelligent task, that we desire to automate, is formulated as a particular type of problem to be solved" (2012, p.2), whereas "in Computational Creativity research, we prefer to work within an artefact generation paradigm, where the automation of an intelligent task is seen as an opportunity to produce something of cultural value." (2012, p.2) Hugill and Yang on the other hand argue its role within computer science falls under the scientific paradigm (2013, p.8), (see also A. H. Eden 2007), as opposed to CC in the technocratic paradigm.

The International Association for Computational Creativity (ACC)<sup>10</sup> promotes the advancement of computational creativity which they define as follows.

Computational Creativity is the art, science, philosophy and engineering of computational systems which, by taking on particular responsibilities, exhibit behaviours that unbiased observers would deem to be creative. (10002014)

Computational creativity is multidisciplinary, bringing together researchers from artificial intelligence, cognitive psychology, philosophy, and the arts. Its main goal is to model, simulate or replicate human creativity using a computer and it has the following three aims:

- to construct a program or computer capable of human-level creativity
- to better understand human creativity and to formulate an algorithmic perspective on creative behavior in humans
- to design programs that can enhance human creativity without necessarily being creative themselves

<sup>10</sup>http://computationalcreativity.net

The ACC manages the annual International Conference on Computational Creativity (ICCC), whose recent call for papers (for ICCC 2014) gives a useful insight into their research agenda. It can be broken down as follows:

- Paradigms, metrics, frameworks, formalisms, methodologies, perspectives
- Computational creativity-support tools
- Creativity-oriented computing in education
- Domain-specific vs. generalised creativity
- Process vs. product
- Domain advancement vs. creativity advancement
- Black box vs. accountable systems

Simon Colton and Geraint Wiggins have also identified several directions for future research in the field (2012, p.5):

- 1. Continued integration of systems to increase their creative potential.
- 2. Usage of web resources as source material and conceptual inspiration for creative acts by computer.
- 3. Using crowd sourcing and collaborative creative technologies bringing together evaluation methodologies based on product, process, intentionality and the framing of creative acts by software.

#### 1.3.2 CREATIVE COMPUTING

In the recent first issue of the International Journal of Creative Computing (IJCrC) Hugill and Yang introduced CC formally as a new discipline (2013) with an overarching theme of 'unite and conquer' (Yang 2013, p.1, his emphasis). Its broad aim is to "reconcile the objective precision of computer systems (mathesis) with the subjective ambiguity of human creativity (aesthesis)." (Hugill and Yang 2013, p.5). Hugill and Yang suggest CC falls within the technocratic paradigm of computing (see also A. H. Eden 2007, p.8), i.e. the discipline is closest related to software engineering, rather than mathematics or natural sciences. They identify five main topics for CC research (Hugill and Yang 2013, p.15-17):

#### Challenges

transdisciplinarity, cross-compatibility, continuity and adaptivity

#### **Types**

creative development of a product, development of a CC product and development of tool for creativity support

#### **Mechanisms**

Boden's combinational, exploratory and transformational creativity

#### **Methods**

development of suitable transdisciplinary CC research methodologies

#### **Standards**

resist standardisation, novel, continuous user interaction, creative mechanisms

The main challenge is for technology to become "more adaptive, smarter and better engineered to cope with frequent changes of direction, inconsistencies, irrelevancies, messiness and all the other vagaries that characterise the creative process" (Hugill and Yang 2013, p.5). In part, these issues are due to the transdisciplinary nature of the field and factors such as common semantics, standards, requirements and expectations are typical challenges. Hugill and Yang therefore argue that creative software should be flexible and able to adapt to ever changing requirements, it should be evaluated and re-written continuously and it should be cross-compatible.

The different types of CC highlight the different aspects researchers and practitioners focus on during their work. These are:

#### **Process**

creative development of a computing product,

#### **Product**

development of a Creative Computing product and

#### Community

development of computing environment to support creativity.

The creative computing process should consist of combinational, exploratory and transformational activities (in the sense of Margaret Boden's theory, as discussed in section??).

Broadly speaking, you could say that the 'process' approach works bottom-up and the 'product' approach works top-down.

The 'community' approach reflects what Hugill and Yang call the "local and global levels", which represent the two types of creativity identified by Boden (P- and H-crestraty). It is concerned with developing environments, tools and methods and the management of these. Cross-compatibilty can be seen as the solution to these personal/local and historical/global issues.

Similar to the four step r**§**0**???** of the creative process by Poincaré and Wallas (2001; 1926) and the four stage model of problem solving by Polya (1957), Hugill

and Yang propose a four step model for the creative computing process. They do this by comparing the acts of artistic creation and software engineering in some detail. They found that the two processes follow essentially the same levels of abstraction (from the abstract to the concrete) (Hugill and Yang 2013, p.15):

- 1. Motivation (digitised thinking)
- 2. Ideation (design sketch)
- 3. Implementation (creative system)
- 4. Operation (effect of system/revision)

The similarity to other creativity models is further discussed in chapser??.

Given the transdisciplinary nature of CC, Hugill and Yang suggest that existing research methodologies are unsuitable and new ones have to be developed. The following is an example of a possible CC research methodology they propose as a starting point (Hugill and Yang 2013, p.17):

- 1. Review literature across disciplines
- 2. Identify key creative activities
- 3. Analyse the processes of creation
- 4. Propose approaches to support these activities and processes
- 5. Design and implement software following this approach
- 6. Experiment with the resulting system and propose framework

They further propose four standards for CC (2013, p.17) namely, resist standardisation, perpetual novelty, continuous user interaction and combinational, exploratory and or transformational.

### 1.3.3 SPECULATIVE COMPUTING

*SpecLab* is a book by Johanna Drucker (2009) about her experiences as a researcher moving between disciplines and the projects she worked on as part of the Digital Humanities laboratory at the University of Virginia, USA. Several of those projects had pataphyscial inspirations.

In his review on the back cover of the book, John Unsworth says that Drucker "emphasizes the graphical over the textual, the generative over the descriptive, and aesthetic subjectivity over analytical objectivism." Her main argument is that in the design of digital knowledge representation, subjectivity and aesthetics are an essential feature. She confronts logical computation with aesthetic principles with the idea that design is information.

Aesthesis is the theory of ambiguous and subjective knowledge, ideological and epistemological, while mathesis is formal objective logic and they contrast each other. Knowledge is always interpretation and subjectivity is always in opposition to objectivity. Knowledge becomes synonymous with information and as such can be represented digitally as data and metadata.

Arguably, few other textual forms will have greater impact on the way we read, receive, search, access, use and engage with the primary materials of humanities studies than the metadata structures that organize and present that knowledge in digital form.

(Drucker 2009, p.9)

But how is this metadata analysed? How do we analyse this type of structured data? And most important of all, she asks, what can be considered as data, what can be expressed in those quantitative terms or other standard parameters? Is data neutral, raw or does it have meaning? Here she also points out that many information structures have graphical analogies and can be understood as diagrams that organize the relations of elements within the whole.

Because "computational methods rooted in formal logic tend to be granted more authority [...] than methods grounded in subjective judgement", she introduces the discipline of **SP!** (**SP!**) as the solution to that problem. The concept can be understood as a criticism of mechanistic, logical approaches that distinguish between subject and object.

Speculative computing takes seriously the destabilization of all categories of entity, identity, object, subject, interactivity, process, or instrument. In short, it rejects mechanistic, instrumental, and formally logical approaches, replacing them with concepts of autopoiesis (contingent interdependency), quantum poetics and emergent systems, heteroglossia, indeterminacy and potentiality, intersubjectivity, and deformance. Digital Humanities is focused on texts, images, meanings, and means. Speculative Computing engages with interpretation and aesthetic provocation.

Pataphysics governs exceptions and anomalies and she introduces a, what she calls, 'patacritical' method of including those exceptions as rules—even if repeatability and reliability are compromised. Bugs and glitches are privileged over functionality, and although that may not be as useful in all circumstances, they are "valuable to speculation in a substantive, not trivial, sense." In an essay on **SP!** she says "Pataphysics celebrates the idiosyncratic and particular within the world of phenomena, thus providing a framework for an aesthetics of specificity within generative practice" (Drucker and Nowviskie 2007). To break out of the formal logic and defined parameters of computer science we need speculative

capabilities and pataphysics. "The goal of pataphysical and speculative computing is to keep digital humanities from falling into mere technical application of standard practices" (2007).

'Pataphysics inverts the scientific method, proceeding from and sustaining exceptions and unique cases, while quantum methods insist on conditions of indeterminacy as that which is intervened in any interpretative act. Dynamic and productive with respect to the subject-object dialectic of perception and cognition, the quantum extensions of speculative aesthetics have implications for applied and theoretical dimensions of computational humanities.

(Drucker and Nowviskie 2007)

With this, Drucker introduces Speculative Aesthetics, which links interface design in which other speculative computing principles. She also refers to Kant and his idea of 'purposiveness without purpose'. She says that the appreaciation of design as it is (outside of untility) is the goal of speculative aesthetics.

**HERE** 

### 1.3.4 DIGITAL HUMANITIES

Anne Burdick et al. have written a manifesto for the field of Digital Humanities (DH) (2012). Computing has had a big impact on the humanities as a discipline so much so that DH was born of the encounter between the two. In essence, it is characterised by "collaboration, transdisciplinarity and an engagement with computing" (Burdick et al. 2012, p.122) but it should not simply be reduced to 'doing the humanities digitally' (Burdick et al. 2012, p.101). It spans across many traditional areas of research, such as literature, philosophy, history, art, music, design and of course computer science—making the concept of transliteracy fundamental.

Transliteracy is "the ability to read, write and interact across a range of platforms, tools and media from signing and orality through handwriting, print, TV, radio and film, to digital social networks." (Thomas et al. 2007)

"The field of Digital Humanities may see the emergence of polymaths who can 'do it all'": who can research, write, shoot, edit, code, model, design, network, and dialogue with users (Burdick et al. 2012, p.15). DH encompasses several core activities which on various levels depend on and support each other.

#### Design

Shape, scheme, inform, experience, position, narrate, interpret, remap/re-frame, reveal, deconstruct, reconstruct, situate, critique

#### Curation, analysis, editing, modelling

Digitise, classify, describe, metadata, organise, navigate

### Computation, processing

Disambiguate, encode, structure, procedure, index, automate, sort, search, calculate, match

#### Networks, infrastructure

Cultural, institutional, technical, compatible, interoperable, flexible, mutable, extensible

## Versioning, prototyping, failures

Iterate, experiment, take-risks, redefine, beta-test

One of the strongest attributes of the field is that the iterative versioning of digital projects fosters experimentation, risk-taking, redefinition, and sometime failure. (...) It is important that we do not short-circuit this experimental process in the rush to normalize practices, standardize methodologies, and define evaluative metrics.

(Burdick et al. 2012, p.21)

A list of the emerging methods Burdick et al. have identified are shown below in the *Field map of digital humanities: emerging methods and genres* (2012, p.29-60).

- enhanced critical curation
  - digital collections
  - multimedia critical editions
  - object-based argumentation
  - expanded publication
  - experiential and spatial
  - mixed physical and digital
- · augmented editions and fluid textuality
  - structured mark-up
  - natural language processing
  - relational rhetoric
  - textual analysis
  - variants and versions
  - mutability
- scale: the law of large numbers

- quantitative analysis
- text-mining
- machine reading
- digital cultural record
- algorithmic analysis
- distant/close, macro/micro, surface/depth
  - large-scale patterns
  - fine-grained analysis
  - close reading
  - distant reading
  - differential geographies
- cultural analytics, aggregation, and data-mining
  - parametrics
  - cultural mash-ups
  - computational processing
  - composite analysis
  - algorithm design
- visualization and data design
  - data visualization
  - mapping
  - information design
  - simulation environments
  - spatial argument
  - modelling knowledge
  - visual interpretation
- · locative investigation and thick mapping
  - spatial humanities
  - digital cultural mapping
  - interconnected sites
  - experimental navigation
  - geographic information systems (GIS)
  - stacked data
- the animated archive
  - user communities
  - permeable walls
  - active engagement
  - bottom-up curation
  - multiplied access

- participatory content creation
- distributed knowledge production and performative access
  - global networks
  - ambient data
  - collaborative authorship
  - interdisciplinary teams
  - use as performance
  - crowd-sourcing
- humanities gaming
  - user engagement
  - rule-based play
  - rich interaction
  - virtual learning environments
  - immersion and simulation
  - narrative complexity
- code, software, and platform studies
  - narrative structures
  - code as text
  - computational processes
  - software in a cultural context
  - encoding practices
- database documentaries
  - variable experience
  - user-activated
  - multimedia prose
  - modular and combinatoric
  - multilinear
- repurposable content and remix culture
  - participatory Web
  - read/write/rewrite
  - platform migration
  - sampling and collage
  - meta-medium
  - inter-textuality
- pervasive infrastructure
  - extensible frameworks
  - heterogeneous data streams
  - polymorphous browsing

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- cloud computing
- ubiquitous scholarship
  - augmented reality
  - web of things
  - pervasive surveillance and tracking
  - ubiquitous computing
  - deterritorialization of humanistic practice

#### **COMPUTER ETHICS**

One way of characterizing these processes is to use an alliteration that allows us to keep track of some of the core features of RRI in ICT, namely the four "p"s, which are: product, process, purpose and people. The purpose of using the four "p"s is to draw attention to the fact that, in addition to the widely recog- nized importance of both product and process of technical development, the purpose of the development needs to be considered and people involved in the innovation need to be incorporated in RRI. (Stahl, Jirotka and G. Eden 2013)

ETHICS: PROCESS< PRODUCT< PURPOSE ROBOT ETHICS: similar to 4-p's of creativity

(McBride 2013)

it has three actors: Robot engineer, client and user.

- 4 approaches:
- challenge the myth of autonomy
- Developing practice-based approaches (in context of it purpose and environment)
- Managing ethical variety
- A model for human-centred robot ethics

#### Virtuous robot:

- Human-centred
- Man-machine interdependency
- Practice based (context)
- Ethical variety

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## **INTERLUDE I**

(...) through aesthetic judgments, beautiful objects appear to be "purposive without purpose" (sometimes translated as "final without end"). An object's purpose is the concept according to which it was made (the concept of a vegetable soup in the mind of the cook, for example); an object is purposive if it appears to have such a purpose; if, in other words, it appears to have been made or designed. But it is part of the experience of beautiful objects, Kant argues, that they should affect us as if they had a purpose, although no particular purpose can be found.

(Burnham 2015, ch.2a)

Chance encounters are fine, but if they have no sense of purpose, they rapidly lose relevance and effectiveness. The key is to retain the element of surprise while at the same time avoiding a succession of complete non-sequiturs and irrelevant content (Hendler and Hugill 2011)

Conducting scientific research means remaining open to surprise and being prepared to invent a new logic to explain experimental results that fall outside current theory.

(Jarry 2006)

#### **Part III**

## THE CΘRE: TΣCHNΘ-LΘGIC



#### **Part IV**

# THE CΘRE: TΣCHNΘPR∀CTICΣ



## **INTERLUDE II**

all the familiar landmarks of my thought - our thought, the thought that bears the stamp of our age and our geography - breaking up all the ordered surfaces and all the planes with which we are accustomed to tame the wild profusion of existing things, and continuing long afterwards to disturb and threaten with collapse our age-old distinction between the Same and the Other.

(Foucault 1966)—taking about Borges

Only those who attempt the absurd achieve the impossible.

(attributed to M.C. Escher)

A great truth is a truth whose opposite is also a great truth. Thomas Mann

(as cited in Wickson, Carew and Russell 2006)

Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle is merely an application, a demonstration of the Clinamen, subjective viewpoint and anthropocentrism all rolled into one.

(Jarry 2006)

Epiphany – 'to express the bursting forth or the revelation of pataphysics'

Dr Sandomir (Hugill 2012, p.174)

Machines take me by surprise with great frequency.

(Turing 2009)

The view that machines cannot give rise to surprises is due, I believe, to a fallacy to which philosophers and mathematicians are particularly subject. This is the assumption that as soon as a fact is presented to a mind all consequences of that fact spring into the mind simultaneously with it.

(Turing 2009)

Opposites are complementary.

It is the hallmark of any deep truth that its negation is also a deep truth.

Some subjects are so serious that one can only joke about them.

Niels Bohr

There is no pure science of creativity, because it is paradigmatically idiographic — it can only be understood against the backdrop of a particular history.

(Elton 1995)

Tools are not just tools. They are cognitive interfaces that presuppose forms of mental and physical discipline and organization. By scripting an action, they produce and transmit knowledge, and, in turn, model a world.

(Burdick et al. 2012, p.105)

Humanists have begun to use programming languages. But they have yet to create programming languages of their own: languages that can come to grips with, for example, such fundamental attributes of cultural communication and traditional objects of humanistic scrutiny as nuance, inflection, undertone, irony, and ambivalence.

(Burdick et al. 2012, p.103)

#### Part V

## MΣT∀-L⊖GIC∀LYSIS



#### Part VI

## $\Sigma V \Sigma R \forall F T \Sigma R$



## INTERLUDE III

#### **Part VII**

## **POST**©



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