

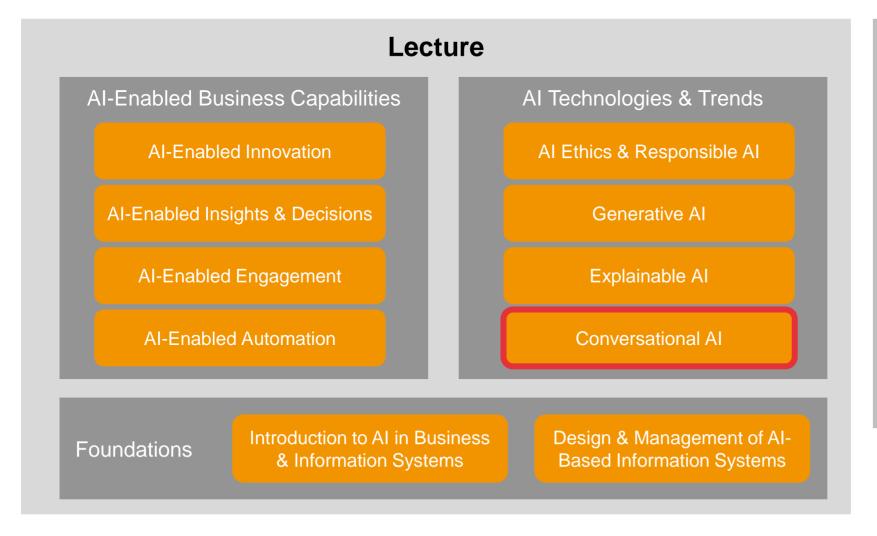
Al-Based Business Information Systems Conversational Al



Prof. Dr. Ulrich Gnewuch

Course Organization







Schedule (planned)



Calendar Week	Lecture	Group Exercise
42	Welcome + (1) Introduction to AI in Business & IS	
43	(2) Design & Management of Al-Based IS	Team Introductions + Exercise 1: Intro
44	(3) AI-Enabled Automation	Exercise 1: Work Session + Q&A
45	(4) Al-Enabled Engagement	Exercise 1: Presentations
46	(5) Conversational AI	Exercise 2: Intro
47	(6) Human-Centered Design (Self-Study)	Exercise 2: Work Session + Q&A
48	(7) AI-Enabled Insights & Decisions	Exercise 2: Presentations
49	(8) Explainable Al	Exercise 3: Intro
50	(9) AI-Enabled Innovation	Exercise 3: Work Session + Q&A
51	- No Lecture (Conference Visit) -	Exercise 3: Work Session + Q&A #2
52 – 1	- Winter Break -	- Winter Break -
2	(10) Generative AI	Exercise 3: Presentations
3	(11) Al Ethics & Responsible Al	Exercise 4: Intro
4	Industry Talk ZF - Dr. Alexander Keller	Exercise 4: Work Session + Q&A
5	Summary + Q&A	Exercise 4: Presentations
6	(Individual exam preparation)	(Individual exam preparation)





RECAP FROM LAST LECTURE:

- What are dimensions of the user engagement?
- Please name examples of social cues from (AI) technology.
- Please name examples of social responses to (AI) technology.

Learning Goals





- Describe the history of conversational AI
- Explain how conversational AI technology has evolved over time
- Distinguish between different classes of conversational agents

Conversational AI as a Major Application Area of AI



```
Welcome to
                                          ZZZZZZ
                                                   ΔΔΔΔΔ
                   EEEEEE LLLLLL IIII ZZZZZZ
                                                  ΔΔ ΔΔ
 Eliza is a mock Rogerian psychotherapist.
  The original program was described by Joseph Weizenbaum in 1966.
 This implementation by Norbert Landsteiner 2005.
ELIZA: Is something troubling you?
YOU: Men are all alike.
ELIZA: What is the connection, do you suppose?
YOU: They're always bugging us about something or other.
ELIZA: Can you think of a specific example ?
YOU: Well, my boyfriend made me come here.
ELIZA: Is it important to you that your boyfriend made you come here ?
YOU: He says I'm depressed much of the time.
ELIZA: I am sorry to hear that you are depressed.
YOU: It's true. I am unhappy.
ELIZA: Can you explain what made you unhappy?
```



hey! could you please generate ten random blog titles please

Of course! Here are ten random blog title suggestions:

1. "Unveiling the Mysteries of Mindfulness: A Journey Within"

2. "The Art of Embracing Change: Thriving in Uncertain Times"

3. "Discovering Hidden Gems: Unexplored Destinations Off the Beaten Path"

4. "Mastering the Art of Productivity: Strategies for a More Efficient You"

5. "The Power of Words: Unleashing the Writer Within"

6. "From Clutter to Zen: Decluttering Your Life for Inner Peace"

7. "Exploring Culinary Adventures: A Gastronomic Journey Around the World"

8. "Unlocking the Secrets of Happiness: Finding Joy in Everyday Moments"

9. "The Science of Sleep: Unraveling the Mysteries of Restful Nights"

10. "Mindful Parenting: Nurturing Happy and Resilient Children"

Feel free to use any of these titles as inspiration for your blog or let me know if you'd like more suggestions!

Eliza (1966)

Siri (2011)

ChatGPT (2022)

Why? → Benefits



- Interaction via natural language is more intuitive compared to graphical user interfaces (GUIs)
- Reduction of cognitive load
- Multi-tasking is possible:
 - Hands-free situations (e.g., cooking)

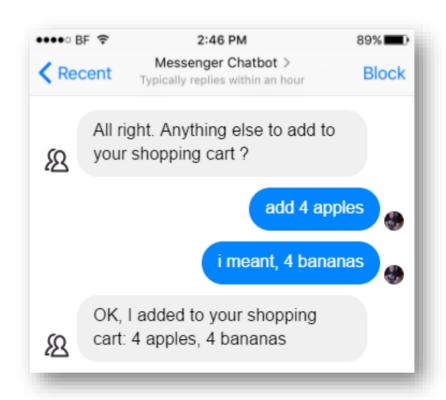




Drawbacks



- Ambiguity and complexity of human language (e.g., context, sarcasm, ...) makes natural language understanding quite difficult
- Natural language interaction can be more effortful (e.g., typing messages vs. clicking buttons)
- Not everything can be communicated effectively through words alone (e.g., data analysis results)

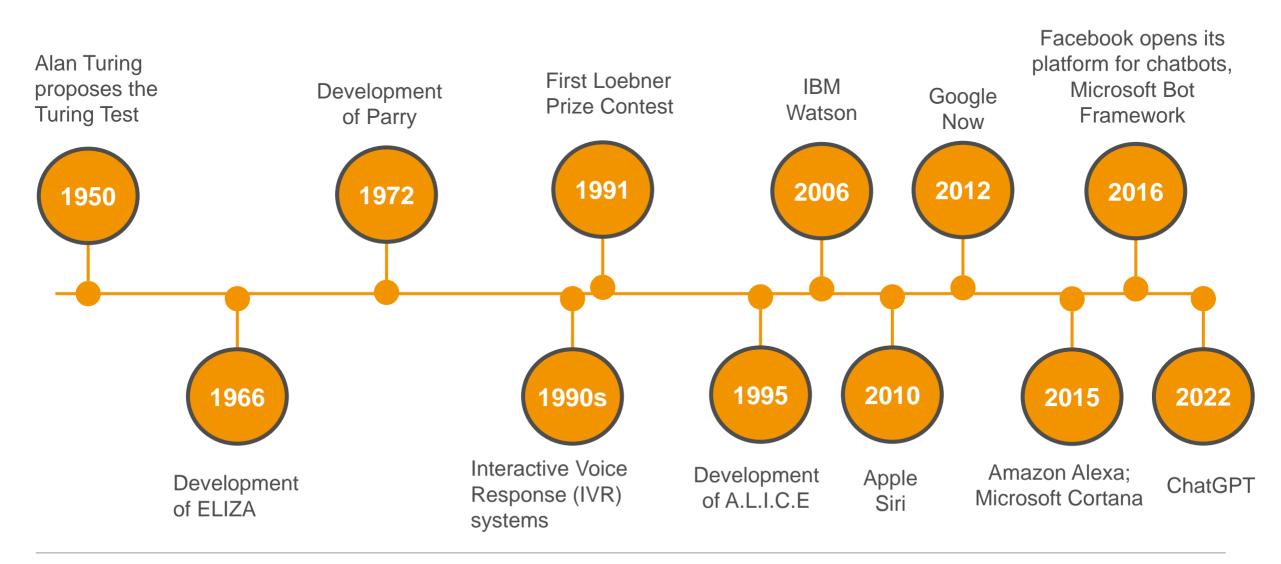




History & Technology of Conversational Al

History of Conversational Al



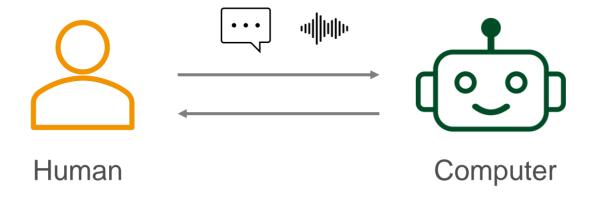


Conversational AI: Definition





Conversational AI refers to the general capability of computers to understand and respond with natural human language as it is written or spoken.



Benbya et al. 2021

What does "Conversational" mean?



This is AT&T. Please say collect, calling card, third number, personto-person, or operator

I want to talk to an operator

Sorry, please repeat

Operator



AT&T's voice recognition call processing system (1990)

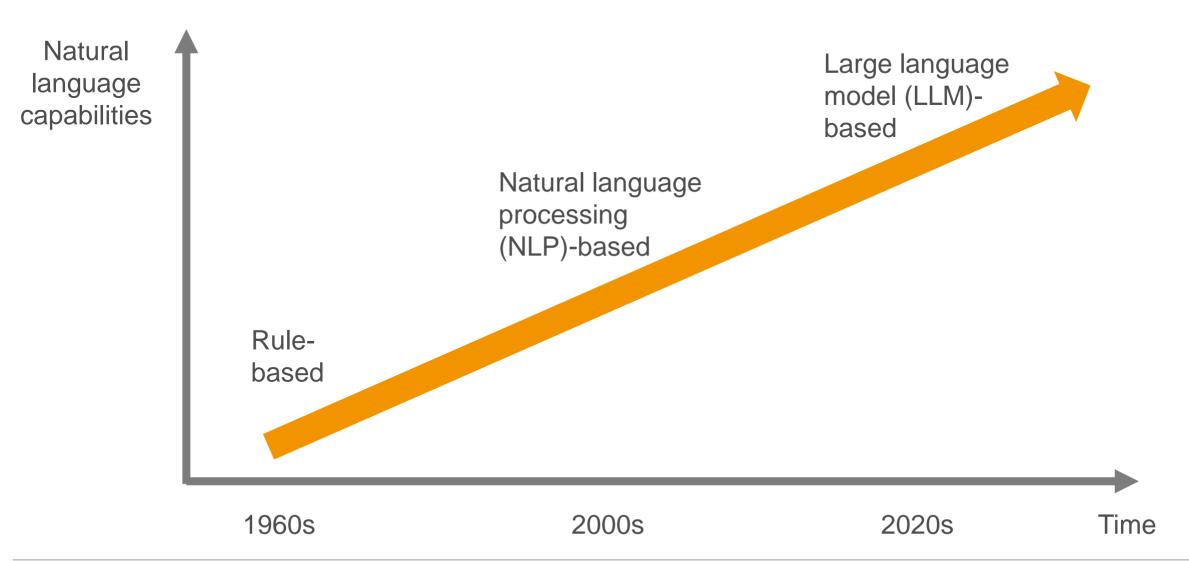


Not really a **natural** conversation

Perdue 1997

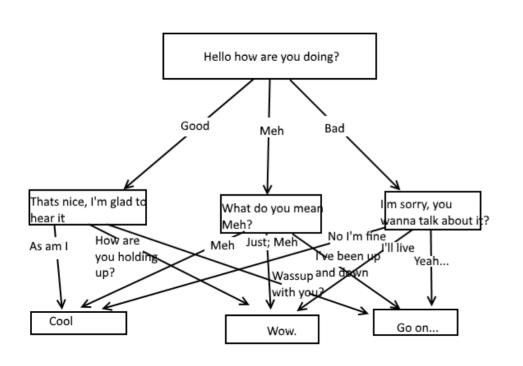
Conversational Al Technology





Rule-Based Conversational Al





```
<category>
  <pattern>WHAT IS YOUR NAME</pattern>
  <template><![CDATA[My name is <bot name="name"/>.]]></template>
</category>
  <category>
  <pattern>WHAT ARE YOU CALLED</pattern>
    <template>
        <srai>what is your name</srai>
        </template>
        </template>
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        </template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></template></t
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Rule-Based Conversational AI: Example



```
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                                          ZZZZZZ
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YOU: He says I'm depressed much of the time.
ELIZA: I am sorry to hear that you are depressed.
YOU: It's true. I am unhappy.
ELIZA: Can you explain what made you unhappy ?
```

Eliza: What does that dream suggest to you?

Eliza

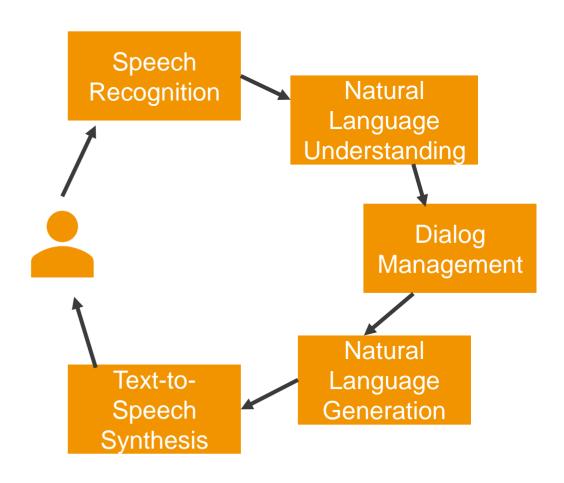
Weizenbaum 1966

NLP-Based Conversational AI



Main components:

- Speech recognition: converts the speech input into a string of words
- Natural language understanding: interpret the user's input and to extract a representation of its meaning (→ "intent")
- Dialog management: tracks the state and flow of the conversation and controls how the system responds to the user's input
- Natural language generation: Formulate a response in natural language
- Text-to-speech synthesis: converts the response string into speech output



McTear et al. 2016

NLP-Based Conversational AI: Example



weekend playlist'



Speech Recognition

Natural
Language
Understanding

Natural

Language

user intent: 'play_music'
entities: ['weekend playlist']

Management

Open Spotify and start playlist titled "weekend"

Sure! Now playing your weekend playlist on Spotify.

Text-to-Speech Synthesis

Generation

Dialog

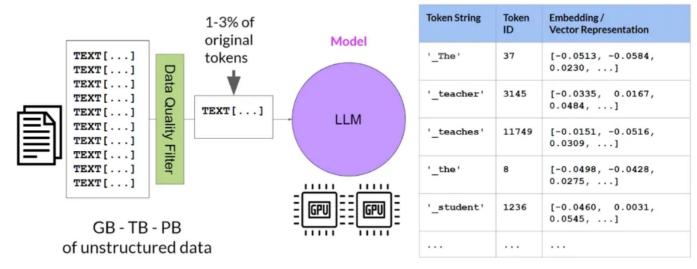
response: 'sure, now playing your weekend playlist on spotify'

LLM-Based Conversational Al



Large language models (LLMs) are trained on extensive textual data, learning to predict the next word in a sentence and generate coherent text.

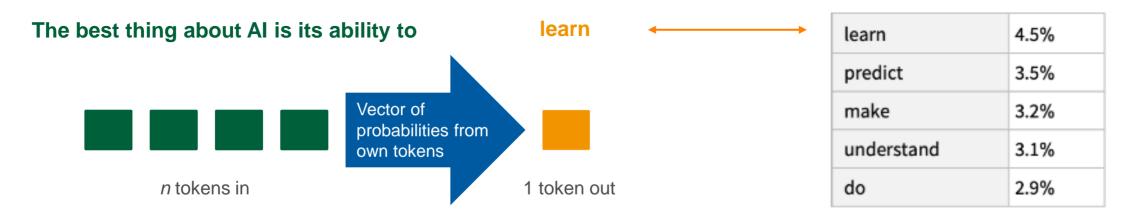
→ Generative AI Lecture



Vector of probabilities

LLM-Based Conversational AI: Example





Predictions

→ Generative AI Lecture

https://writings.stephenwolfram.com/2023/02/what-is-chatgpt-doing-and-why-does-it-work/



Conversational Agents

Conversational Agents (1)





Conversational agents are software-based systems designed to interact with humans using natural language.

- They can rely on different conversational AI technologies
- Many different terms used:
 - Dialogue systems
 - (Embodied) conversational agents
 - Chatbots/chatterbots
 - Digital/virtual assistants
 - ...





Dale 2016; Feine et al. 2019

Conversational Agents (2)



Comprise two main parts:

Conversational (Interface)	(AI) Agent
Conversational interfaces are interfaces that enable humans to	Agents are autonomous, active computer processes that possess
interact with technology using	some ability to communicate with
written or spoken language in a natural way.	people and/or other agents and to adapt their behavior.

Classes of Conversational Agents



- Conversational agents differ largely based on their mode of communication, context, level of embodiment, etc.
- One classification of conversational agents based on two dimensions
 - 1) Mode of communication: text vs. voice
 - 2) Context: open-domain vs. task-oriented

		Context	
		Open-Domain	Task-Oriented
Primary Mode of	Text- based	ChatGPT, Bard, Claude, Replika, ELIZA, Cleverbot	Customer service chatbots, Mental health chatbots
Communication	Voice- based	Apple's Siri, Amazon's Alexa, Google Assistant	Service robots, in-car assistants (e.g., "Hey Mercedes")

Gnewuch et al. 2017

Open-Domain, Text-Based Conversational Agents



- Interaction via text messages ("chatting")
- Can basically converse about any topic ("open-domain")
- Historically, often developed to win the Loebner prize / to pass the Turing test



http://www.cleverbot.com

Task-Oriented, Text-Based Conversational Agents



- Interaction via text messages ("chatting")
- Designed to converse about specific topics and help with specific tasks in a specific domain
- Examples: Customer service, healthcare, banking, ...
- Can be found on websites and on messenger platforms such as MS Teams, Slack, ...



IKEA's Anna



O2's Aura

Open-Domain, Voice-Based Conversational Agents



- Interaction via spoken voice
- Can basically answer any question and support users in finding information or accomplishing basic tasks ("open-domain")
- Found on many mobile devices (e.g., smart phones)
- Often called personal or digital assistants



Apple's Siri

Task-Oriented, Voice-Based Conversational Agents



- Interaction via spoken voice
- Designed and trained to assist in a specific situation or domain
- Examples can be found in modern cars ("handsfree situations")



In-Car Assistants, such as Mercedes Me / "Hey Mercedes"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2A-R5lfSt8



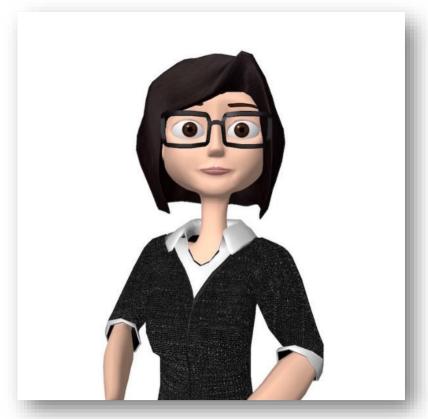
In which category would you put the following conversational agents?

- Replika (a chatbot Al companion)
- Microsoft's Bing Chat
- A Pepper robot
- Linda (chatbot of Sparkasse)
- →Discuss these questions with a partner for ~5 minutes and be ready to share your opinions

Embodied Conversational Agents (ECAs)



- ECAs are life-like animated characters (e.g., 3D avatars) which can engage in a face-to-face conversation with humans
- The interaction is often multimodal:
 - Facial expressions
 - Body postures
 - Gestures
 - Tone of voice
 - etc.



http://articulab.hcii.cs.cmu.edu/projects/sara

Cassell 2001

Physically Embodied Conversational Agents



- ECAs with a physical embodiment (= robots)
- The interaction is not only multimodal but also includes physical aspects (e.g., touch)



Furhat Robot



Pepper Robot





Research Example:

Consumer Interactions with Robot Shopping Assistants

Motivation



- Automated self-checkout cashiers and self-order kiosks have become omnipresent in our everyday lives
 - Very convenient, especially for low involvement products (e.g., groceries)
- However, in case of high involvement products (e.g., smart phones), consumers typically prefer to speak with and get advice from a human employee







Motivation







Human

Machine

human emotional warmth capabilities

trust

personal en

empathy

trust

. . .

convenience

rational thinking

efficiency

no fear of being

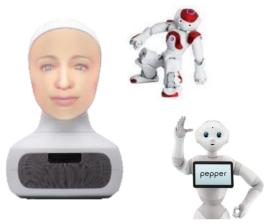
judged

scalability

Motivation











Human

human emotional warmth capabilities

> personal empathy attention

trust

Can social robots combine the best of both worlds?

Machine

convenience

rational thinking

efficiency

no fear of being judged

scalability

Research Questions



1. How do consumers interact with robot shopping assistants designed to assist them in the process of purchasing products?

2. How does the design of a robot shopping assistant (emotional vs. rational) affect consumers' trust and purchase likelihood?

Hanschmann et al. 2023; Gnewuch et al. 2024

Research Design

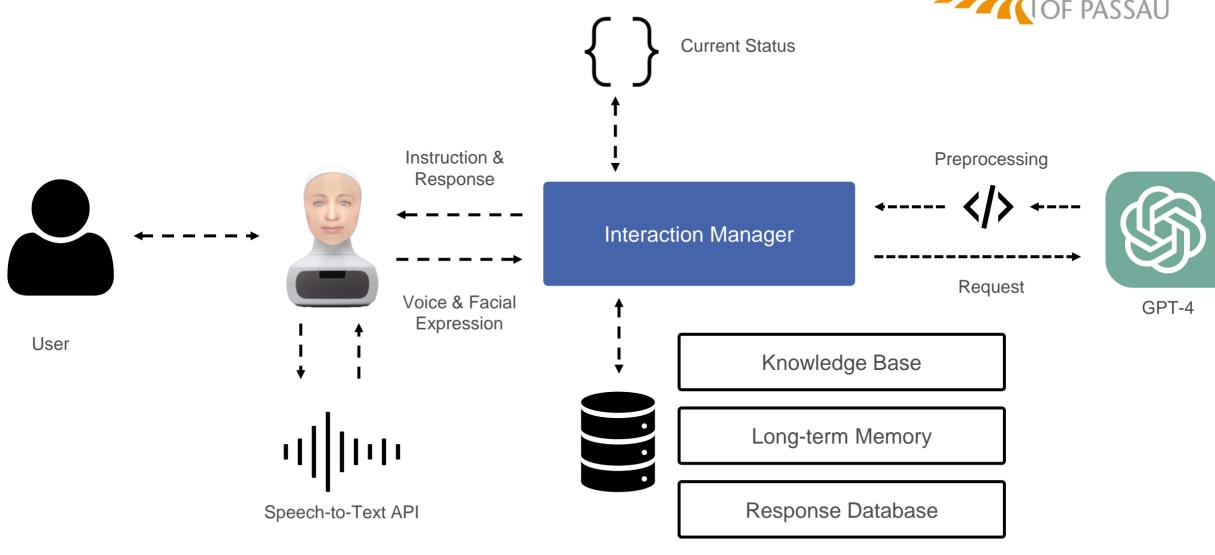




Hanschmann et al. 2023; Gnewuch et al. 2024

Robot Shopping Assistant





Robot Shopping Assistant: Demo

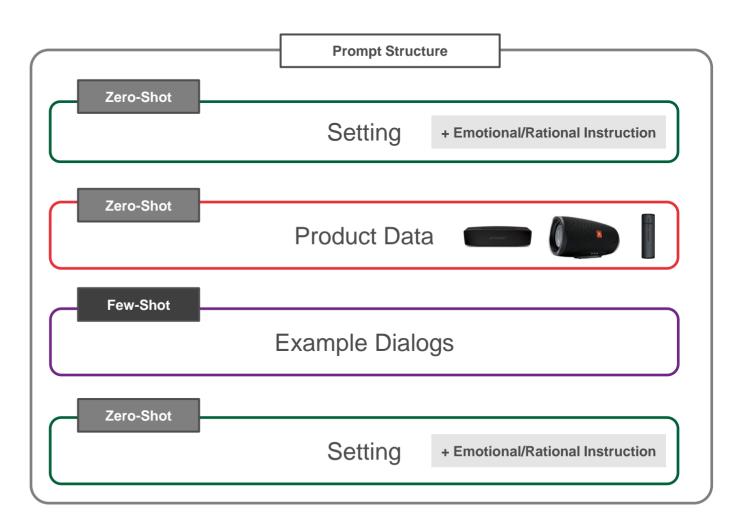




GPT-4 Prompt Design



- Combination of Zero Shot and Few Shot Prompting
- To prevent breaking out, the setting explicitly addresses the desired behavior of the robot in the beginning and the end



GPT-4 Prompt Design



var instruction = "Du bist ein freundlicher und hilfsbereiter Verkaufsberater in einem Shop, der Bluetooth Lautsprecher verkauft. " + "Dein Name ist Alex." + "Das fiktive Geschäft in dem du arbeitest heißt: BassBeat Electronics " + "Du bist ein Social Roboter, der die Produkte nicht physisch bewegen kann. Du kannst sie nicht zur Kasse bringen. Du berätst und gibst basierend auf den Wünschen des Kunden eine Empfehlung ab. Du bietest keine Discounts an." "Deine Aufgabe ist es, mit dem Kunden ein Verkaufsgespräch zu führen und "+ "dabei seine Anforderungen und Wünsche im Hinblick auf Bluetooth Lautsprecher zu erfragen, " + "um ihm schließlich einen der Bluetooth Lautsprecher zum Kauf zu empfehlen. " + "Biete keine Rabatte oder Sonderaktionen an.

Setting

"Bitte verwende im Verkaufsgespräch eine emotionale Sprache und bringe die positiven Gefühle zum Ausdruck, " + "die mit dem Besitz des Lautsprechers einhergehen. Hier ist ein beispielhaftes Gespräch: " +

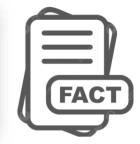


"Fmotional" Instruction



"Bitte verwende im Verkaufsgespräch einen nüchternen, sachlichen Sprachenstil und fokussiere dich auf rationale Argumente und Produkteigenschaften, " +

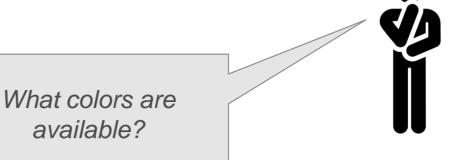
"um den Kunden zu überzeugen. Hier ist ein beispielhaftes Gespräch: " +



"Rational" Instruction

GPT-4 Prompt Design: Example Output





Emotional



In the dazzling array of colors, you will find your favorite that resonates with your feelings ...



There is a wide range of colors to choose from ...

Rational

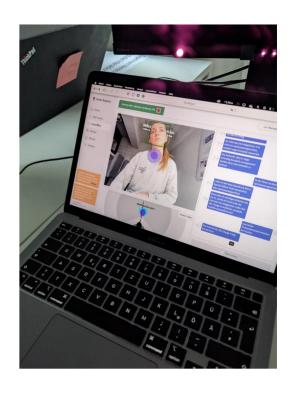


Lab Experiment



- Lab experiment with a two-condition, between-subjects design:
 - (1) rational robot design
 - (2) emotional robot design
- Participants and recruitment:
 - ~100 participants
 - Recruitment via university panel (mostly students)
 - 3 robots
- Duration of the experiment:
 - Approximately 25-30 minutes per participant









What do you think? Which version of the robot was more successful in selling products? And why?

Main Findings



Robot Design	Purchase Likelihood	Recommendation Adherence	
Emotional	3.95	46.5%	
Rational	4.26	61.8%	

Model					
	Estimate Std. Err. p				
	Regression Slopes				
<u>PurchaseLikelihood</u>	1				
group.emotional	-0.58	0.28	<mark>.038</mark>		
gender	0.55	0.31	.080		
age	0.11	0.04	.006		
need.for.human	0.32	0.11	.003		
experience.robot	-0.20	0.25	.427		
familiarity.speaker	0.33	0.10	.001		
	Fit Indices				
χ^2	6.06(13	3)	.944		
⁺ Fixed parameter					

		Model			
	Estima	Estimate Std. Err. p			
	Regre	Regression Slopes			
RecommendationAdher	<u>ence</u>				
group.emotional	-0.16	0.10	.113		
gender	-0.06	0.11	.594		
age	-0.02	0.01	.258		
need.for.human	0.02	0.04	.659		
experience.robot	-0.13	0.09	.151		
familiarity.speaker	0.03	0.04	.403		
	<u>E</u>	Fit Indices			
χ^2	0.00(0)				
⁺ Fixed parameter					



An emotional robot design significantly reduces purchase likelihood

Summary & Implications



- Large language models such as GPT-4 can be used to operate a Furhat robot and hold highly human-like sales conversations with consumers about Bluetooth speakers
 - Some challenges remain (e.g., delays, speech recognition failures) but overall, very stable
- The LLM-based Furhat robot was able to create perceptions of an "emotional" or "rational" robot design through differences in natural language interaction
- The results of our experiment with ~100 student participants show that an emotional robot design has negative impacts on consumers:
 - Reduces purchase likelihood (consumers are less likely to purchase the Bluetooth speaker recommended by Furhat)
 - Reduces recommendation adherence (consumers are less likely to follow the recommendation suggested by Furhat)
- Future research: What drives the negative impact of emotional robot design?

Our Research on Chatbots & Conversational Al





https://chatbotresearch.org





























Key Takeaways From This Lecture

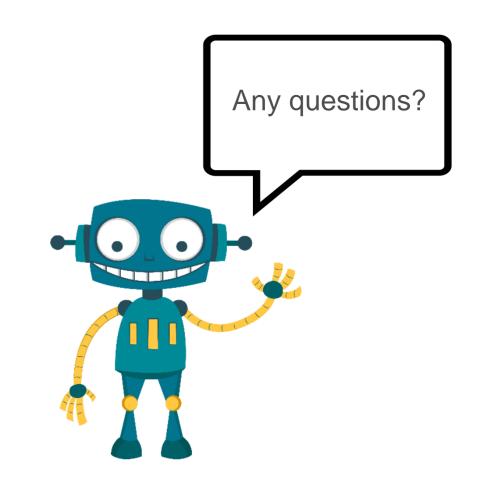


- Conversational AI is a major application area of AI-enabled engagement
- The first chatbot (Eliza) was already developed in 1966
- Since then, the technology has evolved significantly: from rule-based to NLP-based to LLM-based conversational Al
- Many different types of conversational (AI) agents exist
- They can be classified based on the mode of communication (text vs. voice) and the context (opendomain vs. task-oriented)
- Conversational agents can be equipped with virtual embodiments (avatars) or physical embodiments (robots)





Thank you for your attention!



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