

Saint Louis Generative AI Lab

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Agenda

Chaos from AI

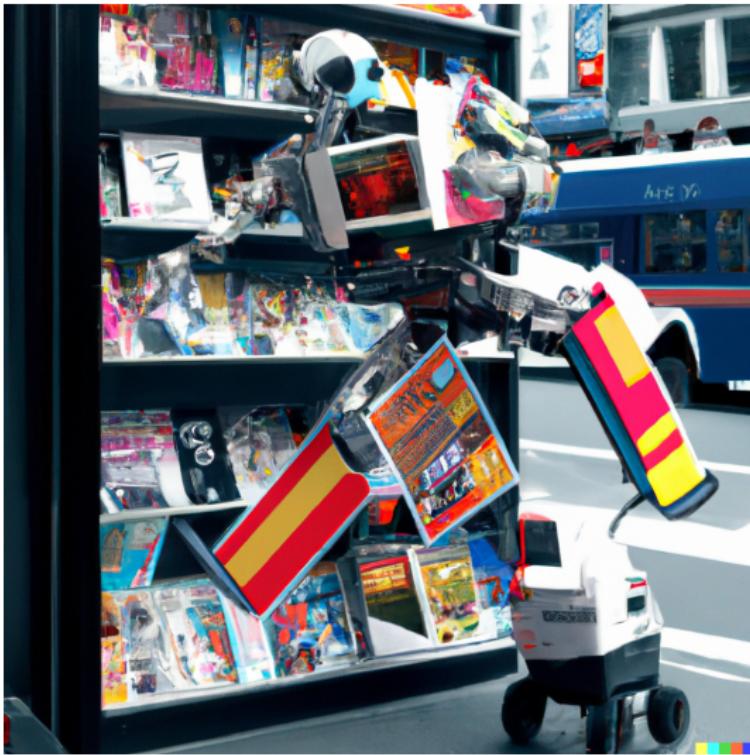
- Literary magazines are closing submissions
- Hard to find good travel guides
- Amazon plays both sides

The snowflake method

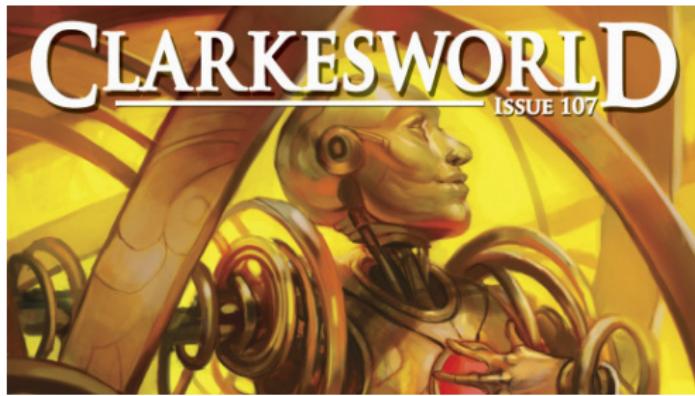
- What is it and why does it fit with AI?
- Structure of a novel
- Some basic step-by-step

https://github.com/capnion/random/blob/master/acm_capnion_3october2023_stlgenai.pdf

Chaos from AI



Problems at fiction magazines



It is difficult to run a literary magazine right now...

- Claresworld closes submissions
- A submission reader's perspective

Problems with travel guides on Amazon

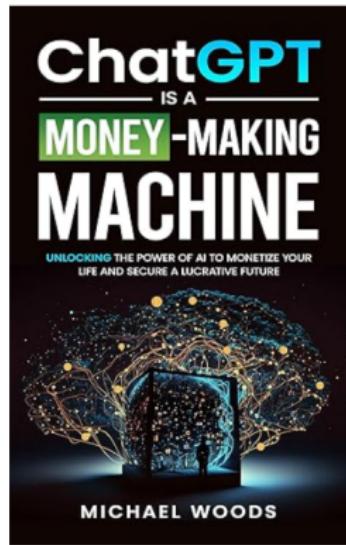
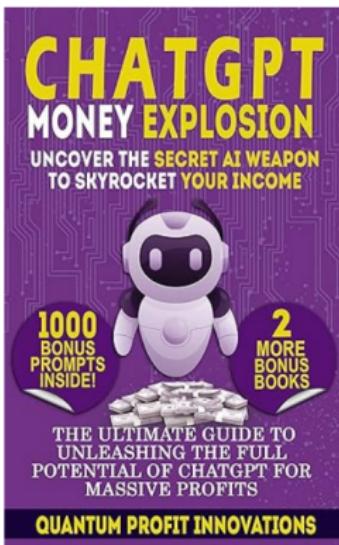
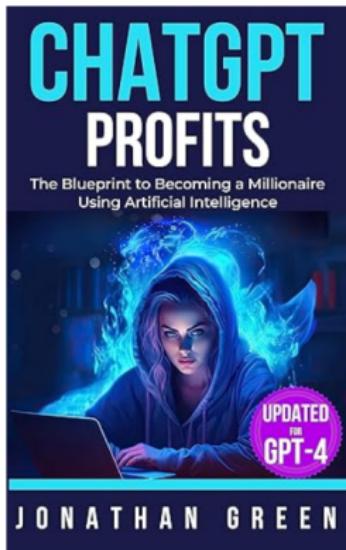


It is difficult to find good travel advice right now...

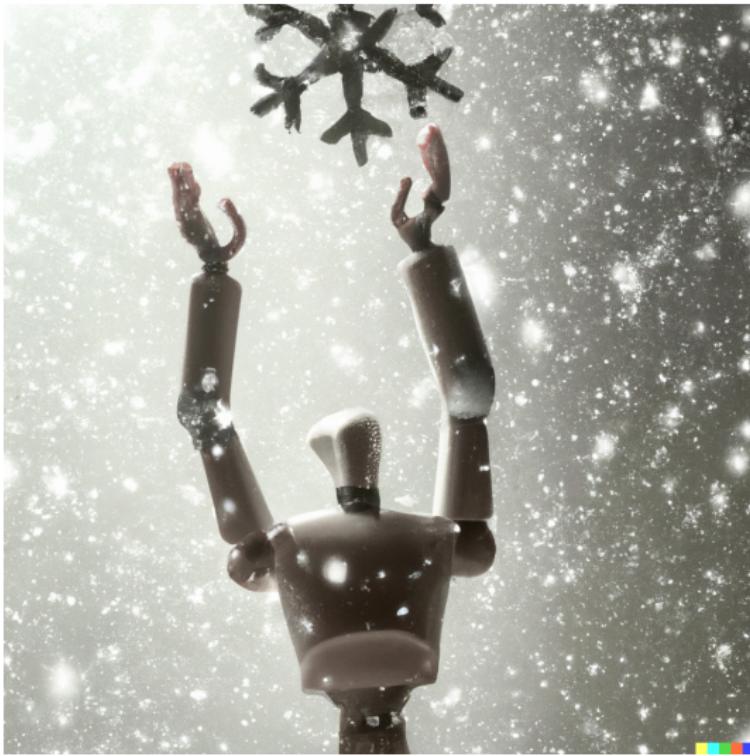
- Amazon is flooded with fake travel guides
- Amazon is also flooded with fake positive reviews

And how can this be?

Amazon all but sells guidebooks on how to spam Amazon.



The Snowflake Method



The Snowflake Method

The snowflake method emphasizes starting with high-level ideas and structure before gradually filling in details.

Large language models like ChatGPT...

- are great at detailed, specific brainstorming
- can write decent enough prose when given context
- have only limited input and output length
- are sometimes bland and generic

Rough idea: Start with something very high level and use AI to help fill in the next, more detailed iteration. Repeat. (Eventually you have to do final editing yourself.)

Structure of a Novel

Good novels have a lot of structure. Specify it in advance.



Conflict in your novel? Villain? Climax? “Top-level” questions...

Example Step-By-Step

Top-Level

- Write a one-sentence summary
- Answer top-level questions

Outlining

- AI writes a summary for each chapter
- How do the summaries fit the top-level decisions?
- AI revises summaries according to feedback

Eventually: “Write a passage describing the climactic fight scene in Chapter 7...”

Structure of a Novel



In which chapter does any given up peak or trough occur?

What events are driving that rise or fall in tension?