

Here is what distinguishes human generated diss tracks/rap battles from AI generated ones.

One concept:

Contingent Structural Metaphors

These are defined as:

Metaphors/references that specifically leverage the opponent and/or subject's "internal structure" as an object to make an abstract connection or isomorphism to another aspect of the opponent - their flaws, mistakes, or internal contradictions. Here, internal structure is defined by an amalgamation of their lore, idiosyncrasies, interests, setting in their world, experiences, etc. Note that the "contingent" part of this term is reflected in the definition in that these metaphors should not be universally applicable - they must arise specifically from the opponent's or subject's own "internal structure", and not plausibly from anyone else's "internal structure". This definition is pretty close to the socionics definition of the function Ne - isomorphism, latent potential energy, hidden essence/similarities between outwardly disparate objects. Contingent Structural Metaphors can alternatively also be labeled "Nontrivial Isomorphisms".

Contingent Structural Metaphors can come in the form of wordplay, roasts/punchlines, to more nuanced setup/abstraction. The initial object in the metaphor could also in some cases be structurally isomorphic to multiple of the opponents' flaws or experiences (for example, a Contingent Structural Metaphor that is isomorphic to both the opponent's concrete experiences spelled out in their life AND a deep personal weakness they have), giving it layered double meaning.

Contingent Structural Metaphors can also be enhanced by being (1) extended across several lines or even a whole verse or (2) being

isomorphic to multiple aspects/parts of the character ranging from obvious to subtle, the latter which was discussed earlier.

Examples of “Contingent Structural Metaphors”:

Example 1 (Minecraft Steve vs. Takina Inoue rap battle):

Minecraft Steve’s line:

“Aimless and deep down afraid, that’s how you go about your day
Sakana’s fitting cus you were fished out as an orphan by the DA”

The second line is a good example of a Contingent Structural Metaphor. This is because “Sakana!” is a fun and memorable line uttered by Takina Inoue in episode 4 of Lycoris Recoil (very specific to her character), and Minecraft Steve is leveraging this “structure” by mapping it isomorphically to the metaphorical concept of being “caught by a fisherman”.

Example 2 (Pvz 2 Peashooter vs. Chisato Nishikigi rap battle):

Peashooter’s line:

“Couldn’t even stand to kill, instead you let them recover
Your biological dad would have made better use of that rubber”

The second line here is again an example of a Contingent Structural Metaphor. This is because in the show Lycoris Recoil, Chisato notably only uses rubber bullets to only injure and not kill enemies, which is concretely spelled out in the first line (specific to her character, so it’s contingent). The second line connects this using subtle wordplay to both (1) Chisato’s status as an orphan, (2) Wishing that she wasn’t even conceived by her biological parents (3) the fact that it’s a frivolous waste of materials judging from the phrasing “better use of”. (2) is because “rubber” is a metaphor/shorthand for a condom.

Example 3 (Squid Game vs. Mr Beast Rap Battle):

Mr Beast's line roasting Seong Gihun: "But you lost all of it to a pensioner who lost his fucking marbles."

This is a Contingent Structural Metaphor because Mr. Beast is referencing both the 4th game of Squid Game (marble game) and the lore-based fact that Player 001 ("the pensioner") did in fact literally lose his marbles but instead of getting executed just got escorted out of the game. "Lost his fucking marbles" is also a metaphor for intellectual disability and dementia, representing Player 001's advancing brain tumor and how Gihun wasn't even able to outwit him despite that.

Contingent Structural Metaphors are the crux to a good diss track/rap battle (other than just rhymes, which anyone, including AI, can replicate) and require genuine human creativity to make due to being strongly rooted in idiosyncratic intuition rather than any concrete rule-based logic. This pattern is derived from what I've noticed by comparing rap battles/diss tracks I've either watched or written by myself vs. rap battles/diss tracks generated by AI.

AI's diss tracks/rap battles tend to come off as didactic (like two characters reciting speeches to each other as if they were just "arguing" rather than "rap battling"), with the opponent's flaws being clearly spelled out in the form of direct insults. If metaphors are even used (which they can be for more sophisticated AI responses), they tend to be generic/universal metaphors (such as "you're like a bird stuck in a cage in that you never escape your evil thoughts") rather than (crucially) specific/contingent on the structural properties of the opponent's lore and information. On the other hand contingency/lore-specific information for the opponent that the AI manages to infuse in the rap battle is NOT also used in a metaphor to construct a clever/witty isomorphism to another aspect of the opponent (usually their failings, weaknesses, or personal flaws) - it's

just stated directly and used as an example of one of their weaknesses, as if they were trying to include supporting evidence for an essay, rather than as a vehicle to structurally/intrinsically encode their weaknesses. For example “You call yourself chivalrous but you’ve never even kissed a girl” is an example of using the opponent’s contingent information but not leveraging it or encoding it in metaphorical structure.

What makes a good diss track or rap battle is:

- (1) The rhymes
- (2) The rhythm/flow
- (3) Contingent Structural Metaphors (alternatively labeled “Nontrivial Isomorphisms”) rather than just pure insults (metaphor without contingency) or lore references (contingency without metaphor)

State of the art AI can replicate (1) and (2) decently but I’ve never seen it produce (3) at all, especially not at all intentionally.

Without Contingent Structural Metaphors (CSMs), a diss track or rap battle collapses down to either a speech or argument. (even if the rhymes and rhythm/flow are still very good)

Rubric for judging the quality of a diss track/rap battle:

Criteria I: Rhymes (20 points), roughly equivalent to Breadth on my generalized media rubric

Does the diss track/rap battle rhyme at all? Is the rhyming complex and well-thought out? Are more nuanced rhyming schemes used than just AABB/end-line rhymes?

Criteria II: Flow/Consistency (20 points), roughly equivalent to Consistency on my generalized media rubric

Do the rhymes feel forced or organic? Are any Contingent Structural Metaphors weaved into the prose in a way that doesn't disrupt the flow or feel contrived? Does the rap battle/diss track logically transition from section to section, particularly if it's a rap battle, does each subsequent alternating verse comment on/connect to the previous verse by the other character? Does each character (if a rap battle) get a roughly equal number of lines?

Criteria III: Contingent Structural Metaphors (60 points), roughly equivalent to Depth on my generalized media rubric

Are there any metaphors used at all? Are they both nontrivial/layered isomorphisms as well as contingent to the specific opponent?

Total: 100 points