

Computer makes analogy about Water-flow

1. Calling this "making an analogy between heat flow and water flow" simply because some of the alphanumeric strings inside those data structures have the same spelling as the English words "heat", "water", and so on is an extremely loose and overly charitable way of characterizing what has happened.

Eliza Effect

2. This type of illusion is generally known as the "Eliza effect", which could be defined as the susceptibility of people to read far more understanding than is warranted into strings of symbols - especially words - strung together by computers.

Eliza Program

3. The most superficial of syntactic tricks convinced some people who interacted with ELIZA that the program actually understood everything that they were saying, sympathized with them, even empathized with them.

Eliza Program

4. The infamous program's purpose was to act like a non directive Rogerian psychotherapist, responding to typed lamentations of patients with very bland questions that echoed their own words back to them, most of the time simply urging them to continue typing along the same lines("Please go on"), and occasionally suggesting a change of topics.

Just this Once (Novel by AI)

5. I do not know why Minsky, who had just finished co-authoring a novel himself, was so willing to play along with the claim that a computer program had written a novel, as if he really believed it.

Letter to New York Times Editor

6. However, in truth, no program in the world understands even one concept at the same level of complexity as an ordinary person does.

Letter to New York Times Editor

7. It's most unclear from the article what Scott French's computer was actually able to do, but the impression was clearly given that the computer was handling sophisticated concepts such as "jealousy", "sex", "competition", and so forth, not to mention everyday ones like "woman", "throat", and "jump".

The Dubious Claim of Cross-domain Analogy-making

8. Such close scrutiny, carried out regrettably seldom by AI researchers, forces one to confront in great depth questions about where and when meaning is present - questions about how and when meanings are truly carried by symbols.

The Dubious Claim of Cross-domain Analogy-making

9. Of course, this complaint might be seen by many as mere nitpicking. Obviously - so the argument would run - Holyoak and Thagard were simply avoiding a whole series of complex and awkward turns of phrase by speaking as if the terms in the expressions handed to ACME really referred to real-world entities and relationships - and surely this is a useful and harmless move to make.

A Kid Doing a Somersault

10. What generally results is some kind of intermediate level of description, in which a bit of caution is used but much is left ambiguous, so that readers are still free to draw conclusions that often will amount to some kind of Eliza effect - benefiting the researchers, needless to say.