16.5.2

Computers Understanding Language

You have been programming for a bit and know that computers like explicit directions to execute programs. With this in mind, you can start to break down the process for a computer to understand language. Since the game reviews you're processing are all in text format, you decide to focus on that aspect of NLP.

Computers comprehend language differently than humans do, so you have to teach the computer how to understand natural language.

On a fundamental level, the computer processes information as 1s and 0s. Machine-level programming languages, which are simple programming languages, process those 1s and 0s and can perform simple operations. Higher-level programming languages execute more complex tasks. Each programming language builds on one another. This high-level overview explains in part what happens when a computer processes language.

We need NLP so that computers can better analyze language and someday communicate seamlessly with humans. Despite significant advancements in NLP, computers still struggle to understand the whole context of a text. For now, they just understand definitions and the literal meaning of a text. They don't understand sarcasm, subtext or anything not explicitly defined or expressed.

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