

Keynote: Why Large Language Models Appear to be Intelligent and Creative: Because They Generate Bullshit! — Abstract

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Abstract

[Problem] This article tries to explain why so many perceive large language models (LLMs), such as ChatGPT, as intelligent and creative.

[Observations] An LLM generates convincingly cogent bullshit (BS) in the Frankfortian sense. Humans instinctively perceive the ability to BS convincingly as an honest sign of intelligence.

[Conclusion] Therefore, humans instinctively perceive an LLM as intelligent.

[Observations] A creative idea can be an exception to the norm that is perceived by humans to be a good idea after all. An LLM's BS contains mistakes, some of which are perceived as creative.

[Conclusion] Therefore, humans perceive an LLM as creative.

[Observations] Fundamentally, an LLM is a large model of a language, no less and no more. Normally, applying a model to a problem that is not modeled by the model yields nonsense.

[Conclusion] Therefore, it is no surprise that asking an LLM to do any task but a strictly linguistic task yields BS!

Keywords

Bullshit, ChatGPT, Creativity, Humans, Intelligence, Large language models, Modeling, Perceptions

The full article on which this keynote talk is based is

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The third Observations and Conclusion mentioned in the abstract above are not in the article and are new in the talk.

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