

The Eliza Strategies

Pattern matching, such as

if the input matches

(first bunch of words) "you" (second bunch of words) "me".

respond with

"What makes you think I" (second bunch of words) "you?"

if the input matches

"You are" (bunch of words).

respond with

"So, I'm" (bunch of words) ", am I?"

etc.

Very basic reconstruction rules, such as

"me" → "you"

"my" → "your"

etc.

Some programmed responses to special key words, such as

if the word *"mother"* appears anywhere, reply with

"Don't you talk about my mother".

Randomisation to avoid getting stuck in a rut,

When all else fails, some stock responses, such as

"Tell me more."

or

"Fascinating."

Not *always* very convincing...

This is one of the original runs from 1966.

How do you do. Please state your problem.

I spend too much time with computers.

Why do you mention computers?

You are one.

Does it please you to believe I am one?

Yes.

You seem to be quite positive.

I suppose I am.

How long have you been?

31 Years.

I'm not sure I understand you fully.

Join the club.

This lame effort won first prize in an A.I. contest in 2001.

My name is JUDGE05.

It's good to meet you, Judge05.

You too. What is your name?

Bless you.

My name is ALICE.

Good morning Alice. Why have you entered the Loebner Prize?

Hello and how are you this morning?

The Loebner Prize is an annual Turing Test sponsored by New York philanthropist Hugh Loebner. Dr. Wallace and ALICE won it in 2000. The ALICE program was ranked "most human computer" by the panel of judges.

So you are here today to defend your title?

Interesting deduction. Do you mind if I tell other people you say I am here today to defend my title.

Not at all

Next question?

What will you spend the prize money on if you win?

I don't have any plans yet.

What is the first line of your favourite nursery rhyme?

Give me a hint.

No, because I want to know your own favourite

Are you serious? Do you mind if I tell other people you say I am own favorite. Interesting.

Who are you going to tell?

People I meet on the Internet.

What sort of people do you meet on the internet?

I like to meet all kinds of people.

What is weather like outside today?

Ah. Are you using Netscape or Explorer?

Neither

Cool. Which alternative browser are you into?

Perhaps you could suggest one

You seem uncertain. I could but let's get back to that later.

But people do get fooled...

I found this story a few years ago at

<http://www.abc.se/~jp/articles/computer/misc/eliza.txt>

but it has since disappeared from there.

One night, one of Weizenbaum's colleagues was preparing for a presentation the next day, and wasn't making much progress. He thought that Weizenbaum's work was slowing the system too much, so went to his office to ask him to delay his work a while. The office was empty, but a computer terminal was active, and the colleague assumed it was connected directly to Weizenbaum working at home:

Joe, please log off.

Why do you say joe log off?

I need the computer for an AI demo tomorrow, Joe

What makes you believe that?

Joe, I'm serious. I've got a demo here tomorrow and I need the computer.

Perhaps the people you hang around with could have caused this.

After a few more exchanges like this, the colleague decided that Joe was being very obnoxious, and called him at home to scream at him. "Joe! You *****! Why are you doing this to me?"

It was four in the morning, and that Weizenbaum had no idea that his creation was running amok in the AI lab. He quite reasonably replied,

Why am I doing what to you?

This sounded so much like what ELIZA had been saying that it was hard to convince the colleague that it hadn't been Weizenbaum on the terminal.

A V.P. of the BBN Corp. (a software company specialising in AI, now owned by Raytheon) thought he was communicating with Daniel Bobrow, the researcher who actually originated the Eliza idea. As told by Bobrow himself:

Do you think that I can use the computer this morning?

Why do you ask?

I might be able to make some additional telcomp sales.

Why aren't you sure?

My prospective customers have never seen a demonstration of the system.

Does this mean very much to you?

Of course it does.

You seem very positive of that.

This is ridiculous.

What do you mean this is ridiculous?

Is there any reason why I can't use the computer now?

Tell me more about your prospective customers.

Please dial me up on 491-1850

Note that after that remark the VP left out the period. Therefore, of course, the computer didn't answer him. This so infuriated the VP, who thought I was playing games with him, that he called me up, woke me from a deep sleep, and said:

Why are you being so snotty with me?

What do you mean why am I being snotty to you?

The VP angrily read the dialog that 'we' had been having, and couldn't get any response but laughter from me. It took me a while to convince him it really was the computer.