

Artificial Stupidity, will it work?

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Artificial Stupidity, will it work?

Artificial Stupidity works!

**Artificial Intelligence is the future.
No doubt about that.**

Nevertheless, the relentless search for Artificial Intelligence is not taking into consideration a very powerful resource: Artificial Stupidity.

Artificial Stupidity, will it work?

Programmers are totally convinced that humans are incredibly clever and therefore believe that they need an intelligent computer to communicate with them.

In fact, humans are generally quite stupid, and consequently to communicate with them a fairly stupid software will do.

On average, most people use around 500 words a day, and the questions they can ask a computer are repetitive and limited in number.

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Let us consider automatic responders, or programmes, like Siri, for example. Their performance is unsatisfactory, remarkably poorer than the technical potential currently available.

If we think about the questions that users ask Siri every day, we find out that in most cases Siri is unable to recognise them, or does not offer a useful reply.

The user is also aware of this and gives up after a few attempts, annoyed by yet another technological artefact which proves to be nothing more than a piece of junk.

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Moreover, automatic responders lack in personality, sense of humour, and are not responsive to analogies.

They are also useless at remembering conversations and at analysing dialogues. For example, they cannot memorize words that are strictly connected to positive or negative moods.

Finally, automatic responders are not connected to other functions which are now available on any smartphone: for example, they do not “feel” whether you are walking or still, and do not know if you are sedentary.

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For many years, people did not use computers as they were designed for engineers who got a kick out of tapping away at complicated key sequences which were known only to them.

Then Mac computers arrived on the market, with their friendly interface and they changed everything.

It wasn't a just a technical issue: it was a different story altogether.

Engineers were no longer necessary. What was needed instead, were people able to play with technology and willing to think like standard users who may not hold a degree in engineering.

I apologise for saying this, considering that most of you are probably engineers.

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Thanks to the research and the results of projects and lab works, robots give us hope that products aimed at consumers, the general public, normal people, will be more advanced from an interactive point of view.

BUT

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Still, what we need to create an efficient Artificial Stupidity system that differentiates robots from other electronic contrivances, making them engaging, fun to use and to live with, is neither an expensive software or ingenious algorithms.

What we need is a team of scriptwriters, experts in dialogues, comedians and writers who enjoy experimenting.

It would be then possible to build the first prototype of a robot able to give you the timetable of flights to Belize as well as suggest any sentence tailored to suit any situation, rather than the standard ones: that is sentences that cannot be reproduced and are not repetitive, such as:

“Yes, I can do that, but first you must make a 100 thousand euro transfer to my bank account in the Cayman Islands.”

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“If you take out that potato from your mouth I might be able to actually understand what you are saying.”

“You have been saying sad words lately, what is happening?”

“Are you insulting me?

Do you actually think it’s a clever thing to do to take out your frustrations on a mass of electronic circuits?

Do you think I can suffer?

You should go back to school and study the difference between organic and inorganic chemistry. I am inorganic. You are organic.

If you don’t wash you smell, I don’t.”

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And those who think that the potential of Artificial Stupidity is limited, are totally wrong. The results that can be obtained are far more remarkable than those that may be achieved by Artificial Intelligence.

Artificial Stupidity offers users a simple service as well as a mirror, as it sends back an automatic processing of their communication.

And projecting back to us how stupid we are is an essential educational service for the destiny of humankind.

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Artificial Stupidity: a proposal

- Creating an international and European work group with actors, scriptwriters, and writers to work with the robotics community on HRI (human-robot interaction)
- Organise a summer school at Alcatraz, in Umbria (Italy) in 2017
- Setting up a theatre piece with robots

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Thanks for your kind attention!