Talking Tech

ChatGPT, Large Language Models, and AI

Read

"ChatGPT Is a Blurry JPEG of the Web" by Ted Chiang for *The New Yorker*
https://tinyurl.com/56prxwh6

Science fiction author Ted Chiang calls ChatGPT (and other LLMs) a "lossy" version of the internet and explores what that means for its use. While his explanation is at times more metaphorical than technical, that does make it a little more accessible.

"How ChatGPT and Other LLMs Work—and Where They Could Go Next" by David Nield for *WIRED*

WIRED's article is a quick and highly understandable description of the basics of how LLMs work, so it's an excellent place to start. If you're not a subscriber, ask at the second floor help desk to access the article.

***More Than a Glitch: Confronting Race, Gender, and Ability Bias in Tech* by Meredith Broussard**
https://tinyurl.com/mt8hx74x

If you're interested in some of the social aspects of AI use, journalist Meredith Broussard is a great author to start with. The biases baked into computer algorithms (which their creators may not realize they've introduced) have far-reaching consequences, and this book introduces many of them.

"You Are Not a Parrot" by Elizabeth Weil for *New York Magazine*
https://tinyurl.com/3rmtuytj

If you spend enough time learning about large language models, you might start hearing about stochastic parrots. This article discusses some of the factions in AI research and the wildly differing opinions people have about AI personhood (and occasionally human personhood) and what that means in terms of how LLMs work and produce text.

Watch & Listen

"A.I. and Stochastic Parrots with Emily Bender and Timnit Gebru" episode of the *Factually! With Adam Conover* podcast
https://tinyurl.com/47yw5r46

Adam Conover, who became popular for his *Adam Ruins Everything* series, talks about what people get wrong about AI with Emily Bender, a professor of computational linguistics at the University of Washington, and Timnit Gebru, a computer scientist famously fired from Google for raising AI ethics concerns.

"Why AI Is Incredibly Smart and Shockingly Stupid" TED Talk by Yejin Choi
https://tinyurl.com/38a92jan

Yejin Choi, a computer science professor at the University of Washington and a MacArthur Fellow, describes artificial intelligence's lack of "common sense," current methods to improve LLMs, and the barriers that make that difficult.