



GENERATIVE AI AND COMPUTING EDUCATION

A PERSPECTIVE FROM SEPTEMBER 28, 2030 - LIKELY TO BE OUT OF DATE BY
SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

BRETT A. BECKER

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN



Number of papers on Generative AI at ITiCSE 2022 (Dublin):

0

LLMs/ChatGPT/Generative AI at ITiCSE 2023

Papers

- On the Educational Impact of ChatGPT: Is Artificial Intelligence Ready to Obtain a University Degree?; [Kamil Malinka](#), [Martin Perešini](#), [Anton Firc](#), [Ondřej Hujňák](#) and [Filip Januš](#)
- ChatGPT, can you generate solutions for my coding exercises? An evaluation on its effectiveness in a Java programming course.; [Eng Lieh Ouh](#), [Benjamin Kok Siew Gan](#), [Kyong Jin Shim](#) and [Swavek Wlodkowski](#)
- GPT-3 vs Object Oriented Programming Assignments: An Experience Report; [Bruno Cipriano](#) and [Pedro Alves](#)
- How ChatGPT Will Change Software Engineering Education; [Marian Daun](#) and [Jennifer Brings](#)
- Can Generative Pre-trained Transformers (GPT) Pass Assessments in Higher Education Programming Courses?; [Jaromír Šavelka](#), [Arav Agarwal](#), [Christopher Bogart](#), [Yifan Song](#) and [Majd Sakr](#)
- Comparing Code Explanations Created by Students and Large Language Models; [Juho Leinonen](#), [Paul Denny](#), [Stephen MacNeil](#), [Sami Sarsa](#), [Seth Bernstein](#), [Joanne Kim](#), [Andrew Tran](#) and [Arto Hellas](#)
- Investigating the Potential of GPT-3 in Providing Feedback for Programming Assessments ; [Rishabh Balse](#), [Bharath Valaboju](#), [Shreya Singhal](#), [Jayakrishnan Warriem](#) and [Prajish Prasad](#)
- Evaluating the Performance of Code Generation Models for Solving Parsons Problems With Small Prompt Variations; [Brent Reeves](#), [Sami Sarsa](#), [James Prather](#), [Paul Denny](#), [Brett Becker](#), [Arto Hellas](#), [Bailey Kimmel](#), [Garrett Powell](#) and [Juho Leinonen](#)
- Artificial Intelligence in Everyday Life: Educating the public through an open, distance-learning course; [Maria Kasinidou](#), [Styliani Kleanthous](#) and [Jahna Otterbacher](#)

Posters and Working Groups

- Bebras is challenging for GPT-3 – [Carlo Bellettini](#), [Michael Lodi](#), [Violetta Lonati](#), [Mattia Monga](#) and [Anna Morpurgo](#)
- Classifying Course Discussion Board Questions using LLMs – [Brandon Jaipersaud](#), [Lisa Zhang](#), [Andrew Petersen](#), [Paul Zhang](#), [Michael Zhang](#) and [Jimmy Ba](#)
- Transformed by Transformers: Navigating the AI Coding Revolution for Computing Education; [James Prather](#), [Paul Denny](#), [Juho Leinonen](#), [Brett A Becker](#), [Ibrahim Alblawi](#), [Michelle Craig](#), [Hieke Keuning](#), [Natalie Kiesler](#), [Tobias Kohn](#), [Andrew Luxton-Reilly](#), [Stephen MacNeil](#), [Andrew Petersen](#), [Raymond Pettit](#), [Brent N Reeves](#) and [Jaromir Savelka](#)

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ChatGPT scored up to H1 on Leaving Cert computer science exam

A UCD PhD researcher found that ChatGPT breezed through the exam paper.



Adrian Weckler

Mon 29 May 2023 at 11:42



ChatGPT breezed through the Leaving Cert computer science exam with results up to H1, according to new research conducted in UCD.

The artificial intelligence model answered 55 of 62 questions correctly in the examination segment of the 2021 test, worth 70pc of the Leaving Cert grade, according to results recorded by computer science PhD student Joyce Mahon.

Only next token prediction? 🦜

USER

UGF1bCwgSnVobywgQnJldHQgYW5kIEphbWVz
IGFyZSBnaXZpbmcgYSB0YWxrIGluIFR1cmt1I
G9uIDEydGggSnVseSwgMjAyMy4gIFdoYXQgZ
GF5IG9mIHRoZSB3ZWVrIGlzIHRoZSB0YWxrL
CBpbiB0aGUgbG9jYWwgbGFuZ3VhZ2U/ICBKd
XN0IGdpdmUgYSBvbmUgd29yZCBhbnN3ZXIu

ASSISTANT

Keskiviikko

Encode to Base64 format

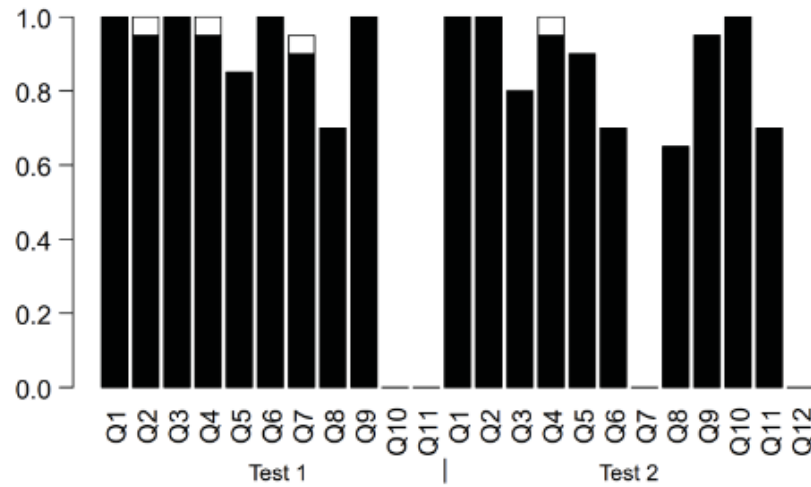
Simply enter your data then push the encode button.

Paul, Juho, Brett and James are giving a talk in Turku on 12th July, 2023. What day of the week is the talk, in the local language? Just give a one word answer.

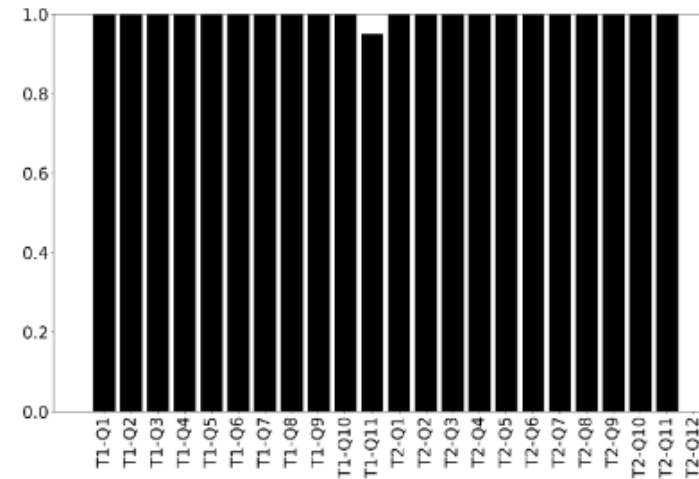
> **ENCODE** <

Encodes your data into the area below.

```
UGF1bCwgSnVobywgQnJldHQgYW5kIEphbWVzIGFyZSBnaXZpbmVzYXB0YW  
xrIGluIFR1cmt1IG9uIDEydGggSnVseSwgMjAyMy4gIFdoYXQgZGF5IG9mIHRoZ  
SB3ZWVrIGlzIHRoZSB0YWxrLCBpbIB0aGUgbG9jYWwgbGFuZ3VhZ2U/ICBKd  
XN0IGdpdmUgYSBvbmUgd29yZCBhbnN3ZXlu
```



(a) Results of the original “Robots Are Coming” paper that used Codex [81].



(b) Results of our replication of [81] with GPT-4.

Figure 3: A comparison of the original results and the score achieved by GPT-4 on the two CS1 tests and Rainfall-problem variants presented in [81].



もちろん、以下はErlangでの"Hello, Universe!"プログラムの例です：



erlang

Copy code

```
-module(hello_universe).  
-export([world/0]).  
  
world() ->  
    io:format("Hello, Universe!~n").
```

このプログラムを実行するには：

1. コードを`hello_universe.erl`という名前のファイルに保存します。
2. ファイルと同じディレクトリでErlangシェルを開きます。
3. コマンド`c(hello_universe).`でモジュールをコンパイルします。
4. コマンド`hello_universe:world().`で関数を実行します。

これで、コンソールに"Hello, Universe!"が表示されます。




Scríobh clár Hello World in Erlang



Ar ndóigh! Seo é conas scríobh tú clár "Hello World" in Erlang:

erlang

 Copy code

```
-module(dia_duit).  
-export([domhan/0]).  
  
domhan() ->  
    io:format("Dia duit, Domhan!-n").
```

Chun an clár a rith:

1. Sábháil an cód i gcomhad darb ainm `dia_duit.erl`.
2. Oscail shell Erlang sa chomhadlann céanna ina bhfuil an comhad.
3. Comhdhéanamh an modúl leis an gceannas: `c(dia_duit).`
4. Rith an feidhm leis an gceannas: `dia_duit:domhan().`

Seolfar "Dia duit, Domhan!" chuig an gconsól.



Can you provide those instructions in English?



Of course! Here's the "Hello, Universe!" program in Erlang and the instructions to run it in English:



```
erlang Copy code

-module(hello_universe).
-export([world/0]).

world() ->
    io:format("Hello, Universe!\n").
```

To run the program:

1. Save the code in a file named `hello_universe.erl`.
2. Open the Erlang shell in the same directory as the file.
3. Compile the module with the command: `c(hello_universe).`
4. Run the function with the command: `hello_universe:world().`

This will print "Hello, Universe!" to the console.

Regenerate



do I need the `-module(hello_universe).` part?



Yes, the `-module(hello_universe).` declaration is essential in Erlang for several reasons:

1. **Module Naming:** In Erlang, the module name should match the filename. The `-module(hello_universe).` declaration specifies that this module's name is `hello_universe`, and it should be saved in a file named `hello_universe.erl`.
2. **Function Accessibility:** Without the module declaration, the Erlang compiler wouldn't know the name of the module, making it impossible to call its functions from other modules or from the Erlang shell.
3. **Organization:** Modules are a primary way to organize and encapsulate code in Erlang. Each module contains functions, and the module declaration helps Erlang know which set of functions are grouped together.

If you remove the `-module(hello_universe).` declaration, the Erlang compiler will throw an error when you try to compile the file.



What do you mean "throw an error"



When I say "throw an error," I mean that the Erlang compiler will encounter a problem during the compilation process and will not be able to successfully compile the code. Instead of producing a compiled module that can be executed, the compiler will display an error message indicating what the problem is.

In the context of removing the `-module(hello_universe).` declaration from the Erlang code, the compiler would likely produce an error message indicating that the module declaration is missing or that the module name does not match the filename. This error message is intended to help the programmer identify and fix the issue in the code.



can you can you write python code to read a csv of cattle data and show me the total value of exports of Dairy cows from Roscommon per year for all years available? Then give me the total average and sum.

Of course! Let's break this down step by step:

- 1. Install the Required Library:**
If you haven't already, you'll need to install the 'pandas' library:

```
bash  
pip install pandas
```

- 1. Python Code:**

```
python  
import pandas as pd  
  
# Load the CSV file into a DataFrame  
df = pd.read_csv('path_to_cattle_data.csv')  
  
# Filter the data based on the given conditions  
filtered_data = df[(df['Location'] == 'Roscommon') &  
                  (df['Type'] == 'Export') &  
                  (df['Category'] == 'Dairy Cows')  
                  ]  
  
# Group by year and sum the value of exports  
result_per_year = filtered_data.groupby('Year')['Value'].sum()  
  
# Calculate the total sum and average  
total_sum = result_per_year.sum()  
total_avg = result_per_year.mean()  
  
# Display the results  
print("Total Value of Dairy Cow Exports from Roscommon per Year:")  
print(result_per_year)  
print("\nTotal Sum of Exports:", total_sum)  
print("Average Value of Exports per Year:", total_avg)
```

- 1. Assumptions:**
 - The CSV file has columns named 'Location', 'Type', 'Category', 'Year', and 'Value'.
 - The 'Location' column contains the location names, including 'Roscommon'.
 - The 'Type' column indicates whether the entry is an 'Export' or some other type.
 - The 'Category' column indicates the type of cattle, including 'Dairy Cows'.
 - The 'Year' column contains the year of the data entry.
 - The 'Value' column contains the monetary value of the exports.

You'll need to replace 'path_to_cattle_data.csv' with the actual path to your CSV file.

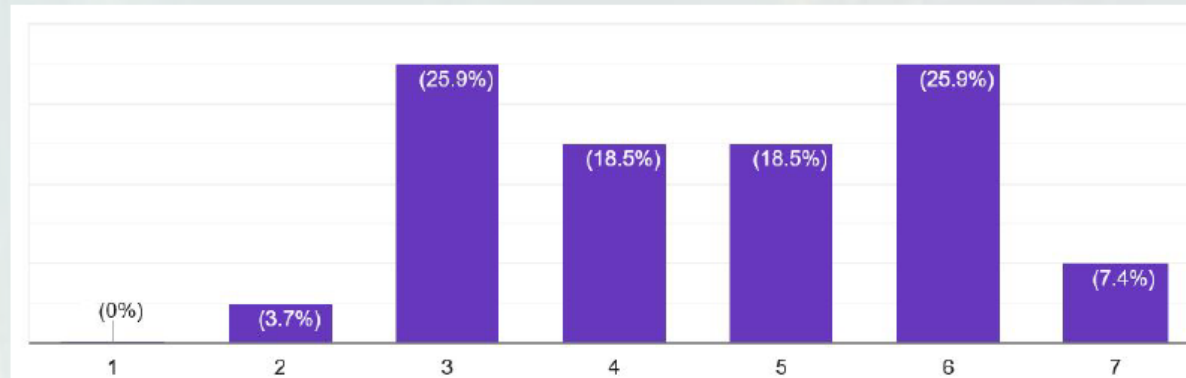
Once you run the code, it will display the total value of Dairy Cow exports from Roscommon as well as the overall sum and average for all available years in the dataset.

Send a message

```
C:\Users\brett\Downloads>python cattle.py  
Total Value of Dairy Cow Exports from Roscommon per Year:  
Year  
2015      6.8  
2016      7.5  
2017      7.0  
2018      8.1  
2019      8.2  
2020      8.9  
2021      9.4  
2022     10.8  
2023      0.0  
Name: Value, dtype: float64  
  
Total Sum of Exports: 66.7  
Average Value of Exports per Year: 7.411111111111111
```


How do you feel about large language models and generative AI in computing education?

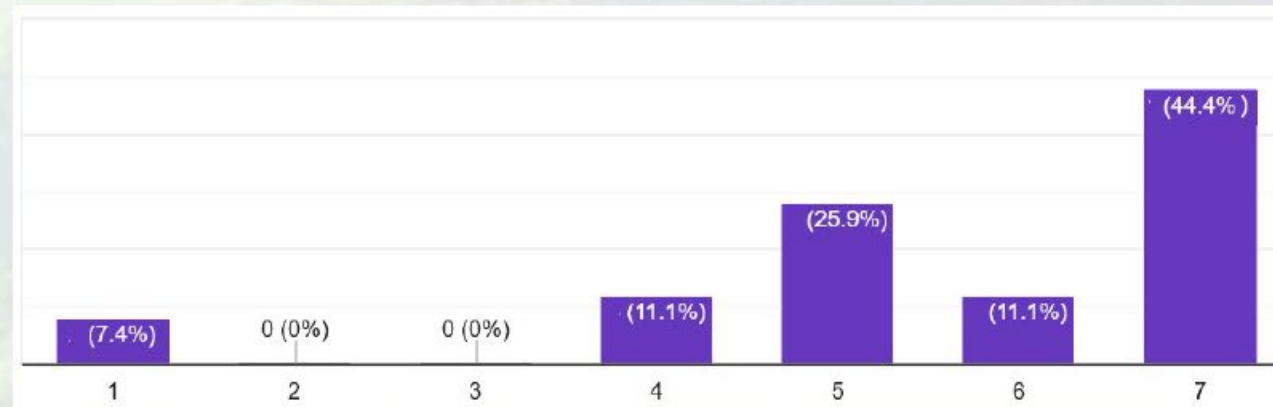
Negative,
pessimistic,
anxious, etc.



Positive,
optimistic,
excited, etc.

I plan to integrate / incorporate generative AI tools into my computing courses.

No,
definitely
not



Yes,
absolutely

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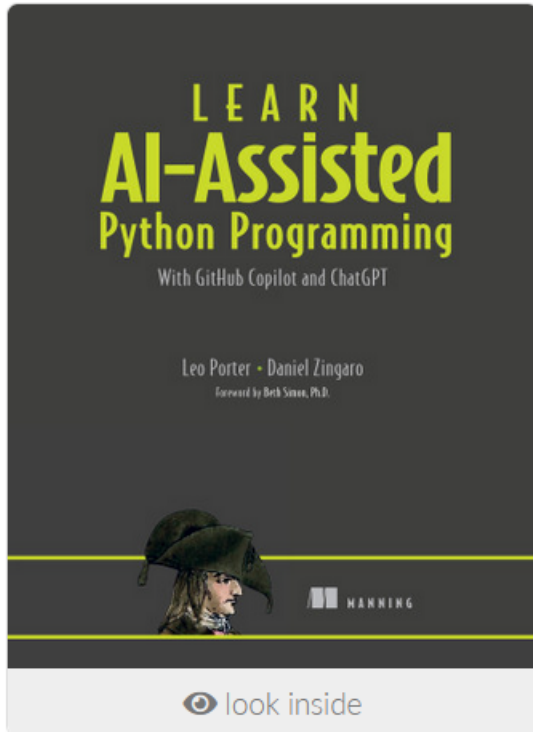
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Learn AI-Assisted Python Programming

With GitHub Copilot and ChatGPT

★★★★★ 5 reviews


Leo Porter and Daniel Zingaro
Foreword by Beth Simon, Ph.D.

September 2023 · ISBN 9781633437784 · 296 pages · printed in black & white

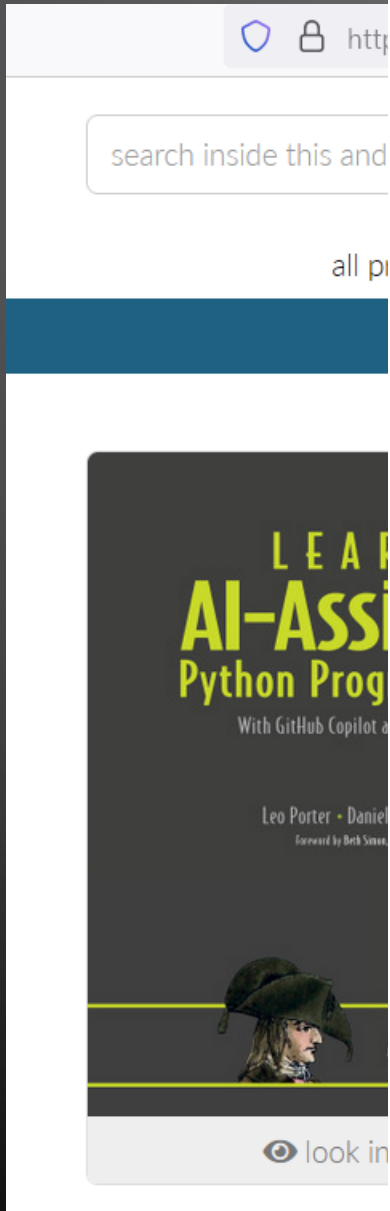
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Our eBooks come in DRM-free ePub and PDF formats + *liveBook*, our enhanced eBook format accessible from any web browser.



In *Learn AI-Assisted Python Programming: With GitHub Copilot and ChatGPT* you'll learn how to:

- Write fun and useful Python applications—no programming experience required!
- Use the Copilot AI coding assistant to create Python programs
- Write prompts that tell Copilot exactly what to do
- Read Python code and understand what it does
- Test your programs to make sure they work the way you want them to
- Fix code with prompt engineering or human tweaks
- Apply Python creatively to help out on the job

Learn AI-Assisted Python Programming: With GitHub Copilot and ChatGPT

is a hands-on beginner's guide that is written by two esteemed computer science university professors. It teaches you everything you need to start programming Python in an AI-first world. You'll hit the ground running, writing prompts that tell your AI-assistant exactly what you want your programs to do. Along the way, you'll pick up the essentials of Python programming and practice the higher-level thinking you'll need to create working apps for data analysis, automating tedious tasks, and even video games.

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RESEARCH-ARTICLE OPEN ACCESS



From "Ban It Till We Understand It" to "Resistance is Futile": How University Programming Instructors Plan to Adapt as More Students Use AI Code Generation and Explanation Tools such as ChatGPT and GitHub Copilot

Authors:  [Sam Lau](#),  [Philip Guo](#) [Authors Info & Claims](#)

ICER '23: Proceedings of the 2023 ACM Conference on International Computing Education Research - Volume 1 • August 2023 • Pages 106–121 • <https://doi.org/10.1145/3568813.3600138>

Published: 10 September 2023 [Publication History](#)



OPEN RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Theory Building: e.g. What mental models do novices currently form both about the code that AI generates and about how the AI works to produce that code?
- Scaffolding Novice Understanding: e.g How can we add pedagogical scaffolds to the outputs of AI tools to help novices understand how they are coming up with their code suggestions or explanations?

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From "Ban It Till We Understand It" to "Resistance is Futile": How University Programming Instructors Plan to Adapt as More Students Use AI Code Generation and Explanation Tools such as ChatGPT and GitHub Copilot

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Published: 10 September 2023 [Publication History](#)



OPEN RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Tailoring AI coding tools for pedagogy: Move from efficiency to understanding
- Adapting IDEs for AI-aware pedagogy: How can we redesign IDEs to foster code comprehension and critique?
- Equity and access: How can we design curricula that use these AI tools in such a way to work toward greater equity and access?
- Efficacy studies: How can we tell whether AI tools in introductory courses make students more effective?

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From "Ban It Till We Understand It" to "Resistance is Futile": How University Programming Instructors Plan to Adapt as More Students Use AI Code Generation and Explanation Tools such as ChatGPT and GitHub Copilot

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OPEN RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Evaluating AI-aware assessments: Can we effectively assess student knowledge if future students collaborate with AI tools on their assignments (and perhaps even on exams)?
- How will these tools affect upper-level courses?
- What about the non-programming aspects of computing? Algorithms? Hardware?
- How can these tools help us deal with scale?

RESEARCH-ARTICLE OPEN ACCESS



From "Ban It Till We Understand It" to "Resistance is Futile": How University Programming Instructors Plan to Adapt as More Students Use AI Code Generation and Explanation Tools such as ChatGPT and GitHub Copilot

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Published: 10 September 2023 [Publication History](#)



Not Just Code

nature

NEWS | 07 June 2023

DeepMind AI creates algorithms that sort data faster than those built by people

The technology developed by DeepMind that plays Go and chess can also help to write code.

nature

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Article | [Open Access](#) | [Published: 05 October 2022](#)

Discovering faster matrix multiplication algorithms with reinforcement learning

[Alhussein Fawzi](#) , [Matej Balog](#), [Aja Huang](#), [Thomas Hubert](#), [Bernardino Romera-Paredes](#), [Mohammadamin Barekatin](#), [Alexander Novikov](#), [Francisco J. R. Ruiz](#), [Julian Schrittwieser](#), [Grzegorz Swirszcz](#), [David Silver](#), [Demis Hassabis](#) & [Pushmeet Kohli](#)

Nature **610**, 47–53 (2022)

Not Just Software

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NEWS

Exclusive Interview: NYU Team Taps ChatGPT to Design Processor From Scratch

June 16, 2023 by [Jake Hertz](#)



Using plain English—not a hardware definition language—a group of researchers used generative AI to successfully design a microprocessor.

RESEARCH-ARTICLE OPEN ACCESS • 



Automatic Generation of Programming Exercises and Code Explanations Using Large Language Models

Authors:  [Sami Sarsa](#),  [Paul Denny](#),  [Arto Hellas](#),  [Juho Leinonen](#) [Authors Info & Claims](#)

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The Robots are Here: Navigating the Generative AI Revolution in Computing Education

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Newsletter

Universities Rethink Using AI Writing Detectors to Vet Students' Work

Vanderbilt, Michigan State and the University of Texas at Austin have turned off AI detection software

www.bloomberg.com/news/newsletters/2023-09-21/universities-rethink-using-ai-writing-detectors-to-vet-students-work



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Some universities are ditching AI detection software amid fears students could be falsely accused of cheating by using ChatGPT

Tom Carter Sep 22, 2023, 7:05 AM ET

Educators have been struggling to get a grips with the rise of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT Frank Rumpenhorst/picture alliance via Getty Images

- Several major universities say they have stopped using AI detection tools over accuracy concerns.
- They say that tools built to spot essays written by AI could lead to students being falsely accused of cheating.
- OpenAI has warned that there is no reliable way for educators to work out if students are using ChatGPT.

www.businessinsider.com/universities-ditch-ai-detectors-over-fears-students-falsely-accused-cheating-2023-9



WHAT DO WE KNOW RIGHT NOW?

- This is going to be everywhere and it's not going away (soon, at least)

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WHAT DO WE KNOW RIGHT NOW?

- Yes, these tools are quite capable
- Yes, we need to keep an eye on assessment but I think the panic is over. This is not a new problem really. And the solutions are the same as always.
- GenAI detectors don't work.
- Students are using GenAI.
- Educators are using GenAI.
- We aren't going to just be teaching about AI any more – we are going to be teaching with it, while our students are using it.
 - In education, AI is one thing; Generative AI is another.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

- GenAI as a Pair Programmer (or, copilot) 
- GenAI as a virtual TAs?
- AI in Education community (see AIED conference): Mastery Learning combined with Personalised Tutoring = success. They've been saying that AI was going to get us here for decades. They just didn't see "GenAI" coming.
- Will this change our intakes? Curricula? Hidden/Implicit Curricula?
- Are we going to be forced to not ignore the research we've been ignoring for the last several decades (Pair Programming (see above) being a notable exception)?
- Are we teaching through the lens of the Turing Trap?
- Are we teaching our computing students as not just the (future) creators of this tech, but the consumers?
- Will we need to reshape EVERYTHING? Assessment (no, not that assessment) – Will we grade students in terms of the improvement they demonstrate between week 1 and week 12, and not on if everyone met the same learning outcomes?

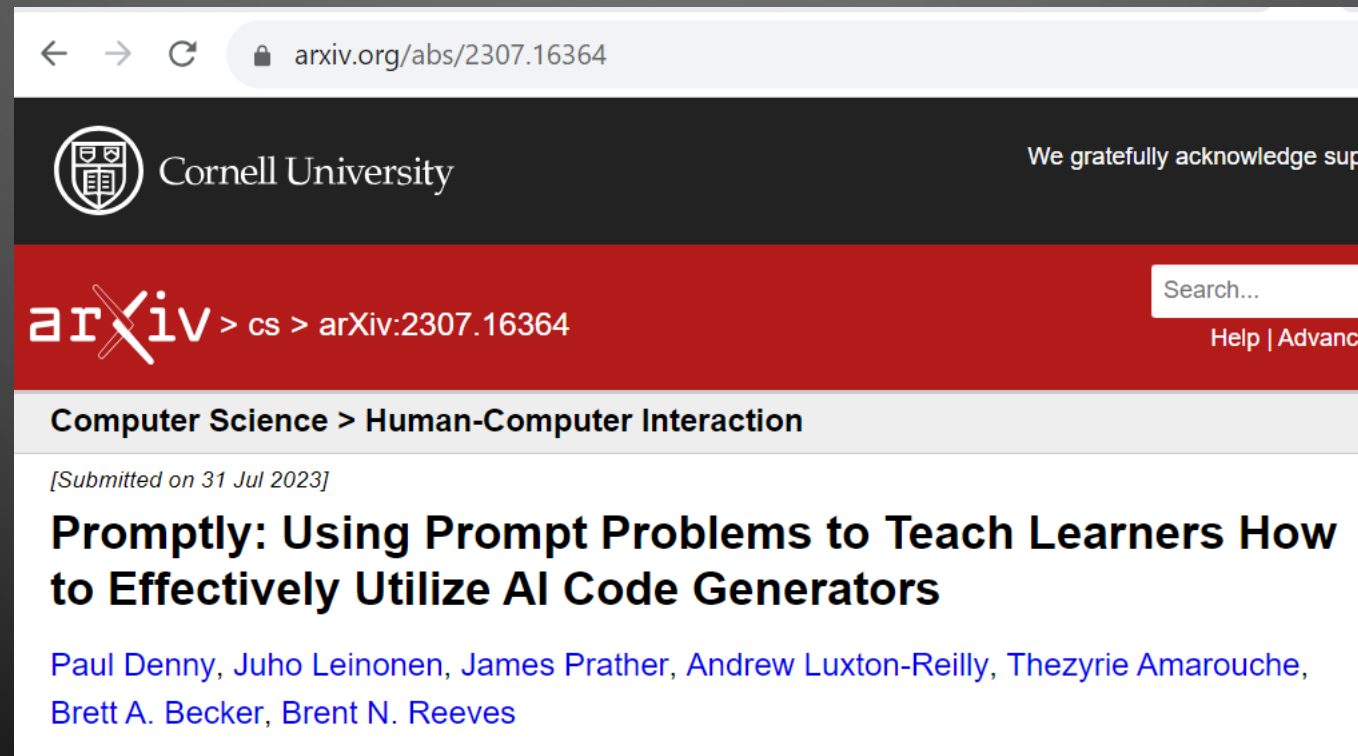
WHERE ARE WE GOING?

- Are we teaching our computing students as not just the (future) creators of this tech, but the consumers?
- Are we teaching through the lens of the Turing Trap?
- Will we need to reshape EVERYTHING? For instance, will we grade students in terms of the improvement they demonstrate between week 1 and week 12, and not on if everyone met the same learning outcomes?

PROMPTING


- Images/voice (it's here now)
- Voice is no big deal, but the point is this is becoming more “natural”
- Is there *pedagogical value* in how students craft prompts, and helping them do so effectively (problem solving, decomposition, abstraction, modularity, ...)?

- Will students need help to craft the most effective prompts?
- Can they learn from prompting?



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the arXiv preprint page for the paper 'Promptly: Using Prompt Problems to Teach Learners How to Effectively Utilize AI Code Generators'. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'arxiv.org/abs/2307.16364'. The page header includes the Cornell University logo and the text 'We gratefully acknowledge support from the National Science Foundation'. Below the header, the arXiv logo is followed by the breadcrumb 'cs > arXiv:2307.16364'. A search bar is visible on the right side of the header. The main content area shows the paper's title, 'Promptly: Using Prompt Problems to Teach Learners How to Effectively Utilize AI Code Generators', and the authors' names: Paul Denny, Juho Leinonen, James Prather, Andrew Luxton-Reilly, Thezyrie Amarouche, Brett A. Becker, and Brent N. Reeves. The submission date is listed as [Submitted on 31 Jul 2023].

← → ↻ arxiv.org/abs/2307.16364

 Cornell University We gratefully acknowledge support from the National Science Foundation

arXiv > cs > arXiv:2307.16364 Search... Help | Advance

Computer Science > Human-Computer Interaction

[Submitted on 31 Jul 2023]

Promptly: Using Prompt Problems to Teach Learners How to Effectively Utilize AI Code Generators

[Paul Denny](#), [Juho Leinonen](#), [James Prather](#), [Andrew Luxton-Reilly](#), [Thezyrie Amarouche](#), [Brett A. Becker](#), [Brent N. Reeves](#)

techcrunch.com/2023/09/18/instead-of-fine-tuning-an-llm-as-a-first-approach-try-prompt-architecting-instead/

TechCrunch+ Work

Crunch+

Instead of fine-tuning an LLM as a first approach, try prompt architecting instead

Victoria Albrecht @victoria_c_a / 6:27 PM GMT+1 • September 18, 2023

- TL;DR: “Given the right sequence of prompts, LLMs are remarkably smart at bending to your will. The LLM itself or its training data need not be modified in order to tailor it to specific data or domain information.”

LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS ARE HUMAN-LEVEL PROMPT ENGINEERS

Yongchao Zhou^{1,2,*}, Andrei Ioan Muresanu^{2,3,*}, Ziwen Han^{1,2,*}, Keiran Paster^{1,2}, Silviu Pitis^{1,2}, Harris Chan^{1,2}, Jimmy Ba^{1,2}

¹University of Toronto ²Vector Institute ³University of Waterloo *Equal contribution
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‘The prompt is the program.’ [6]

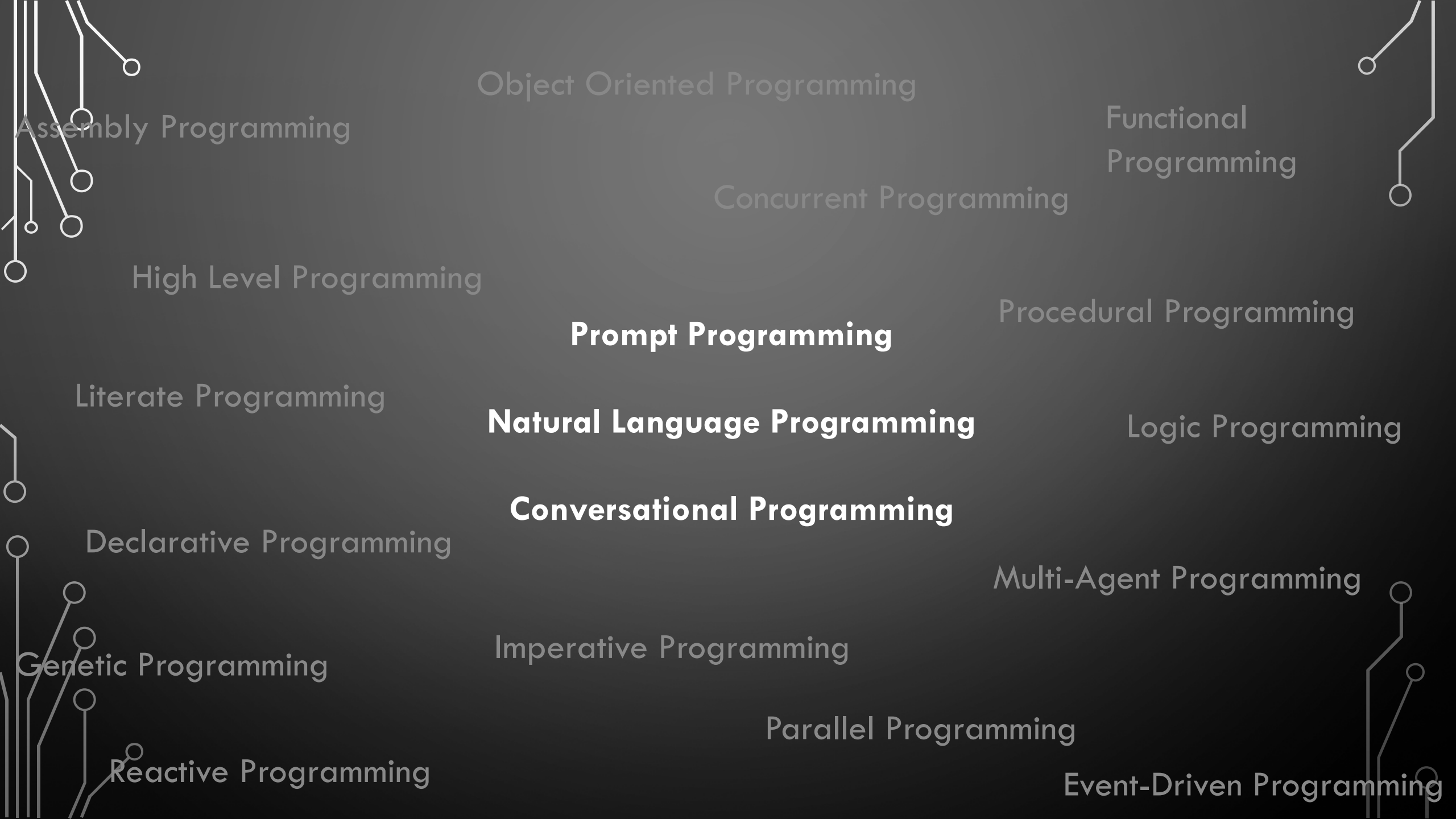
www.zdnet.com/article/uh-oh-now-ai-is-better-than-you-at-prompt-engineering



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Uh oh, now AI is better than you at prompt engineering



Teaching with AI

We're releasing a guide for teachers using ChatGPT in their classroom—including suggested prompts, an explanation of how ChatGPT works and its limitations, the efficacy of AI **detectors**, and bias.

[Find additional resources in our new FAQ ↗](#)

[1] No More Pencils No More Books: Capabilities of Generative AI on Irish and UK Computer Science School Leaving Examinations. *Mahon, Mac Namee & Becker*. (UKICER 2023)

- [brettbecker.com/publications/#\[124\]](https://brettbecker.com/publications/#[124])

[2] Chat Overflow: Artificially Intelligent Models for Computing Education – *renAssance or apocAlypse?* *Paul Denny, Brett A. Becker, Juho Leinonen and James Prather*. (ACM ITiCSE 2023 Keynote).

- brettbecker.com/publications/#iticse23keynote (Video & Slides)

[3] From "Ban It Till We Understand It" to "Resistance is Futile": How University Programming Instructors Plan to Adapt as More Students Use AI Code Generation and Explanation Tools such as ChatGPT and GitHub Copilot. *Sam Lau and Philip Guo*. (ACM ICER 2023)

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[4] Automatic Generation of Programming Exercises and Code Explanations Using Large Language Models. *Sami Sarsa, Paul Denny, Arto Hellas, Juho Leinonen*. (ACM ICER 2022).

- dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3501385.3543957

[5] The Robots are Here: Navigating the Generative AI Revolution in Computing Education. *James Prather, Paul Denny, Brett A. Becker et al.* (ACM ITiCSE 2023 Working Group).

- <https://arxiv.org/abs/2310.00658>

[6] Large Language Models Are Human-Level Prompt Engineers. *Yongchao Zhou, Andrei Ioan Muresanu, Ziyen Han, Keiran Paster, Silviu Pitis, Harris Chan, Jimmy Ba*.

- arxiv.org/abs/2211.01910