



# **Welcome to Computers as Authors**

# About Me

Pronouns: she/her

I'm currently a 3rd year PhD student

I earned my BS in Math from UT Austin

I spent a year in Seattle working at The Allen Institute for AI





I got married this last summer!

We have a dog named Chapo



I enjoy baking and  
powerlifting

My favorite shows are  
Masterchef and the  
Bachelorette





## Your turn!

Please introduce yourself and tell us:

- Your name & pronouns
- Why you took this class



## Goals for this class

- Gain an high level understanding of text generation methods
- Understand the full development cycle of text generation
- Be able to reason about the ethical implications of text generation models
- Inspire excitement about research



## Logistics

- Full syllabus is on Canvas
- Office Hours are by appointment
- Grading is Pass / Fail based on attendance and participation
- Workload will include readings and a final presentation



## Attendance

- Attendance is mandatory for HEART classes. If you need to miss a class, please email me in advance (before class starts) to have it excused.
- You may have 2 excused absences.
- You may have 1 unexcused absence.
- Attendance will be taken by ungraded, in-class surveys





# COVID

- We will follow the university's guidelines available here:  
<https://covidinfo.jhu.edu/>
- If you are not feeling well, please don't come to class.

---

**What are you hoping to learn in  
this class?**

---

**What examples of Natural Language Generation have you encountered/  
heard of?**

### **Eliza**

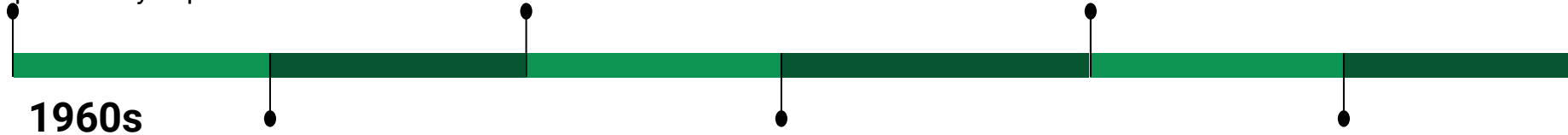
Attempted to simulated a  
psychotherapist

### **Parry**

Attempted to simulate a  
person with paranoid  
schizophrenia.

### **Machine Translation**

Russian <-> English  
particularly important



Welcome to

```
EEEEEE LL      IIII  ZZZZZZ  AAAAA
EE      LL      II    ZZ     AA   AA
EEEEEE LL      II    ZZZ    AAAAAA
EE      LL      II    ZZ     AA   AA
EEEEEE LLLLLL  IIII  ZZZZZZ  AA   AA
```

Eliza is a mock Rogerian psychotherapist.  
The original program was described by Joseph Weizenbaum in 1966.  
This implementation by Norbert Landsteiner 2005.

```
ELIZA: Is something troubling you ?
YOU:   Men are all alike.
ELIZA: What is the connection, do you suppose ?
YOU:   They're always bugging us about something or other.
ELIZA: Can you think of a specific example ?
YOU:   Well, my boyfriend made me come here.
ELIZA: Is it important to you that your boyfriend made you come here ?
YOU:   He says I'm depressed much of the time.
ELIZA: I am sorry to hear that you are depressed.
YOU:   It's true. I am unhappy.
ELIZA: Can you explain what made you unhappy ?
YOU:
```

<https://www.masswerk.at/elizabot/>

## Eliza

Attempted to simulated a psychotherapist

## Parry

Attempted to simulate a person with paranoid schizophrenia.

## Machine Translation

Russian <-> English particularly important

## Statistical MT takes off

## Pipeline architectures with evaluation

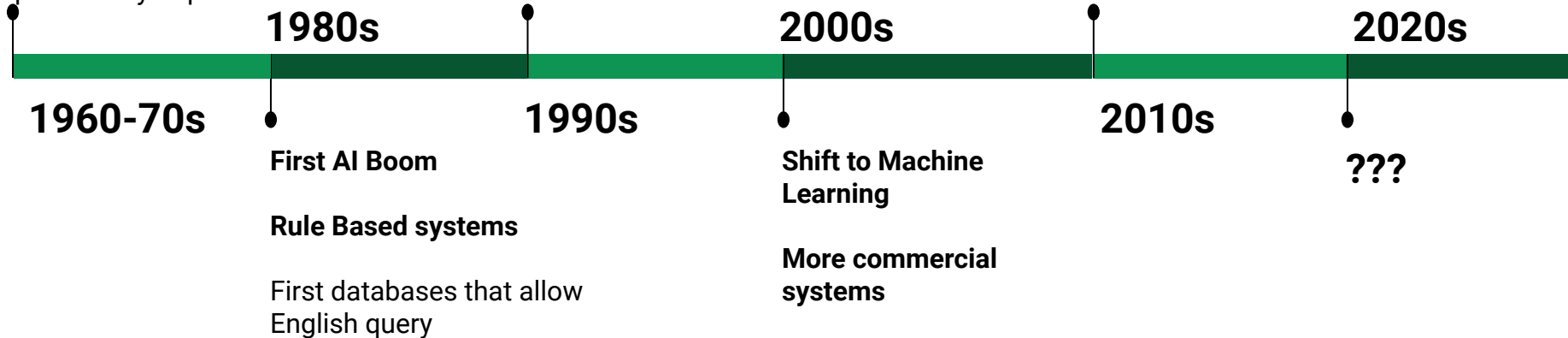
## FoG

First commercial NLG system  
Generated weather reports

## Second AI boom

## Shift to deep learning

Word2vec, LSTMs, transformers  
Ethics in AI  
More focus on replicability







# Welcome Survey

[Pollev.com/ic226](https://Pollev.com/ic226)

