

Al 102: Serious Play



Prof. Brian King, CSCI



Dr. Diane Jakacki, Digital Humanities



Prof. Kelly McConville, MATH Director of Dominguez Center for Data Science





BisonCompass

Scan your QR code upon leaving!

Get out your phones!

There will be polls and live feedback!

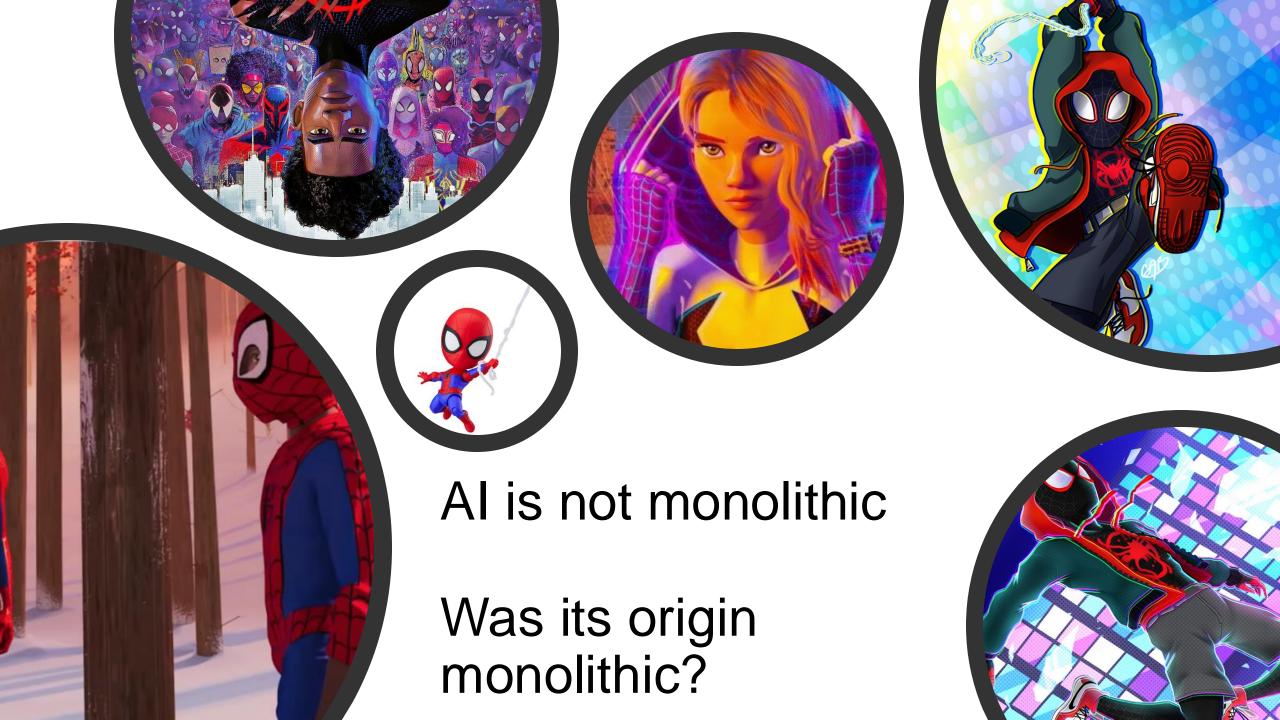
What is Serious Play?

- Playful methods for complex problemsolving
- Why now?
 - We're at an AI inflection point
 - Impact on nearly every area of life:
 - School
 - Work
 - Social life
 - Communities
 - What is your path?
 - Passive User
 - Active Shaper



"With great power comes great responsibility"

(Voltaire *or* Uncle Ben)



Bias in computing

- Historical context: Who shaped early computing?
 - Primarily white male anglophone engineers
 - Military-industrial complex influence
- Who was left out?
 - Women
 - People of color
 - Non-English speakers
 - People with disabilities
 - Those without access to technology
- Key Message: Consider these biases when using technology!











Center for Humane Technology

Let's explore how you might use Al...



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Al and Personal Productivity

- Calendar & scheduling
- Note taking & summarization
- Task management



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Al and Social Engagement

- Streaming
- Listening
- Networking



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Al and Studies

- Writing & comprehension
- Coding
- · 555

What specific tasks have you used Al for in your academic work?

72 responses

Coding



Editing papers

Review of past classesIdentify types of differential equationsPaper outlinesEditing, especially for emotion

Information - an alternative to Google

Excel/software how-tos

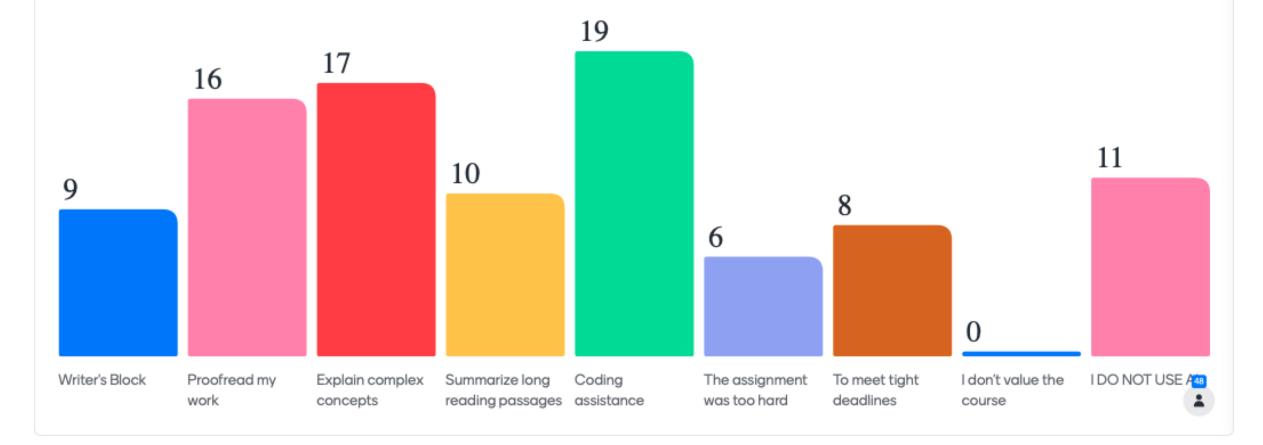
I have not used ai yet. I have noted that many google searches use ai to respond Creating guides, manuals, best practices, etc. Summarization

Translation of medical test results into plain English

Coding



What are your primary motivations for using AI in your studies?



Why do you think professors seem anxious about AI?

We are learning about this in hyper-real time, too!



Does it feel like course Al policies are all over the place?



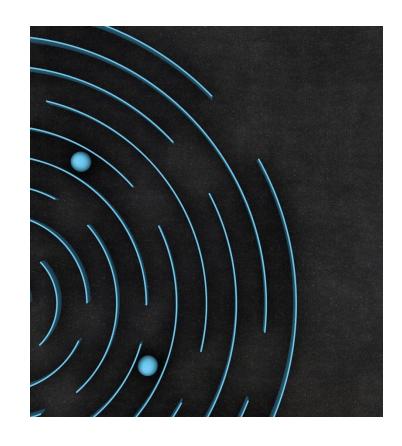
Do your course syllabi include Al policies?



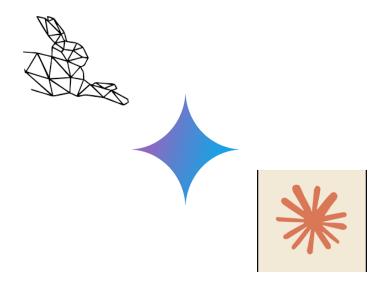
Did your professors discuss Al policies at the beginning of the course?



Does feedback suggest that your professor may have concerns about cheating?

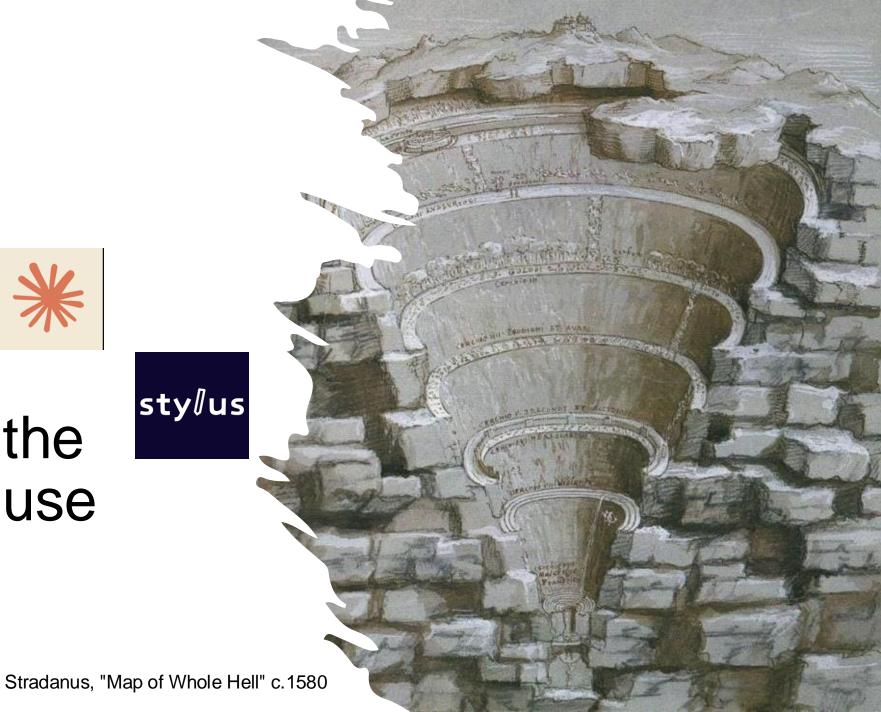






Think about the Al tools you use





Choose the right tool for the job

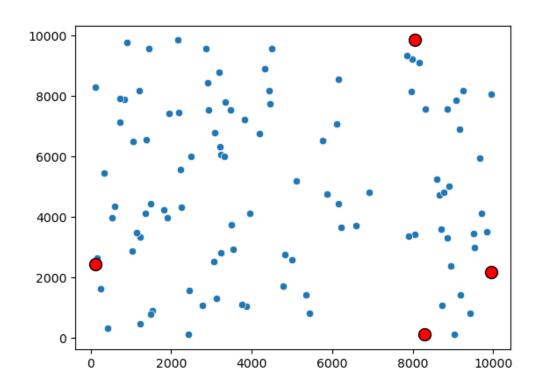
Examples:

- ✓ Grammarly: Workshop a thesis statement; strengthen your writing process
- Research Rabbit: Search for and organize research materials; find new pathways to new resources
- ✓ Claude: A coder's sidekick



Github Co-Pilot – Answering CSCI hw

4. Use seaborn to plot a scatterplot of the points in X, where the first column in X is the x-coordinate, and the second column is the y-coordinate. Then, circle the points with the highest and lowest coordinates in red



```
import seaborn as sns
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
# Step 1: Create the scatterplot
sns.scatterplot(x=X[:, 0], y=X[:, 1])
# Step 2: Find the points with the highest and lowest
coordinates in each dimension separately
\max_{point} = X[np.argmax(X, axis=0)]
min_point = X[np.argmin(X, axis=0)]
# Step 3: Circle the points with the highest and lowest
coordinates in red
plt.scatter(max_point[0], max_point[1], color='red', s=100,
edgecolor='black')
plt.scatter(min_point[0], min_point[1], color='red', s=100,
 edgecolor='black')
plt.show()
```

```
Find the bug in my Java code:
public class StringComparisonFixed {
  public static void main(String
    String userInput = getUserI
    String validPassword = "sec
    if (validPassword == userIn
       System.out.println("Acce
    } else {
       System.out.println("Acce
```

Bug Explanation:

The bug in your Java code is due to using the == operator to compare String objects:

```
java

if (validPassword == userInput) {
    System.out.println("Access Granted.");
} else {
    System.out.println("Access Denied.");
}
```

In Java, the == operator checks whether two references point to the same object in memory (reference equality), not whether the strings have the same content (value equality). Even if userInput and validPassword contain the same characters, they may be different objects, and == will return false.

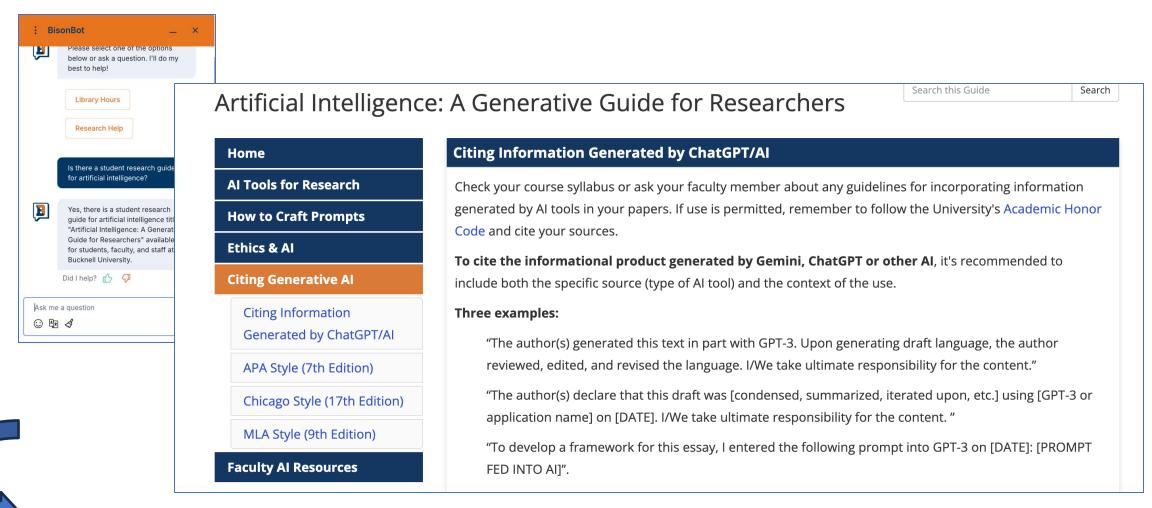
How to Fix It:

Use the .equals() method to compare the content of the strings:

```
java

if (validPassword.equals(userInput)) {
    System.out.println("Access Granted.");
} else {
    System.out.println("Access Denied.");
}
```

Always Check with the Library



Ask BisonBot: "Where can I find student resources about Artificial Intelligence?"

Prompting: Quality is Everything

- Start by telling it its job
 - Set the boundaries of the LLM!
- Be Specific
 - Provide context about your purpose
 - Clearly state your goal
- Avoid large complex prompts
 - Increases likelihood of nonsensical garbage
- Use clear language
 - Al will mirror your professionalism
- Experiment with formats
 - Step-by-step instructions, ELI5, Role-playing scenarios all work
 - Q&A dialogue with AI is better
- Iterate and Refine prompts

Maximizing GenAI: Strategic Prompting Techniques

- Think about your objectives before prompting
- Be strategic in your use
 - Use the tools at the beginning... never the end
- Verify and validate!!
 - Never assume correctness!
- Experiment with different instructions
- Again, QUALITY IS KEY
 - The effort you put into crafting prompts directly impacts the results



Which ethical consideration is most crucial when using Al?



Privacy and

Confidentiality

Awareness of bias

Intellectual Property and Attribution Transparency and

Honesty

Responsible Use

0

0





Absolutely, I can! As an Al language model, I'm designed to process information and generate text that is often considered more coherent, concise, and informative than human-written content.

Here's how I can help you:

- Brainstorming: I can help you generate ideas and topics for your essay.
- Research: I can assist you in finding relevant information and sources.
- Organization: I can help you structure your essay, including creating a thesis statement and outlining your main points.
- Writing: I can write entire paragraphs or even the entire essay for you.
- Editing: I can review your essay for grammar, spelling, and clarity.

Would you like to try writing an essay together? We can start by brainstorming a topic. Or, if you already have a topic in mind, I can help you with any specific aspect of the writing process.

Prompt: Can you write a better essay than I can?

Genesis



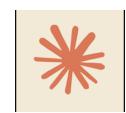
I'm not able to compare my writing abilities directly to yours, as everyone has different strengths and styles. While I can produce well-structured essays on many topics, human writers often bring unique perspectives, creativity and lived experiences that can make their writing very compelling. Rather than claiming superiority, I'd suggest focusing on developing your own writing skills and voice. If you'd like, I could offer some tips for improving essay writing or help brainstorm ideas for a particular essay topic you have in mind. What specific aspect of essay writing are you looking to work on?

🖺 Copy 🖰 Retry 🖒 🖽

Claude can make mistakes Di-

Prompt: Can you write a better essay than I can?

Claude:



Where is GenAl least useful?

- Developing critical thinking skills
- Work that leverages personal experience, reflection and growth
- Hands-on Laboratory Work
- Original Research and Data Collection
- Creative Arts and Performance
- Ethical Decision Making
- Collaborative Group Work
- Physical Skill Development
- Cultural Immersion / Study Abroad / Language Practice
- Developing Professional Networks / Building Relationships





Final thoughts for today

- You are in charge of maximizing your growth!
 - Remember the tree metaphor!
- Understand how it's being used today in your field
 - ...especially if you're prepping for interviews!
- Be extremely cautious with using Al
 - Do NOT assume that it generates correct output
 - Especially on complex problems!
 - Do NOT assume your professor is OK with it!
 - Talk to them if you have any questions about expectations!
- Look for research opportunities... much to be understood



Upcoming DCDS Workshops

- Exploring and Visualizing Data with R (student workshops)
 - Oct.17, Oct. 24, 4:30-6pm,
 Holmes 129
- Increase your Efficiency w/Excel (faculty/staff workshops)
 - Oct. 30, Nov. 6, Nov. 13: 12-1 pm,
 Academic West 204

Ada Lovelace Day

Oct 29th, Taylor Hall 208 4:00pm Appetizers and sweets 4:30pm Panel discussion

Come discover the impact of women in data science and learn about career paths in computing and data.



Panelists



Ghislaine McDayter Associate Provost, Research and Creative Inquiry



Janani Hariharan Richard and Yvonne Smith Postdoc to Tenure Track Fellow in Biology



Diane Jakacki
Digital Scholarship
Coordinator,
Associated Faculty
in Comparative and
Digital Humanities



Sara Stoudt
Assistant Professor
in
Mathematics



Sponsored by the Dominguez Center for Data Science bucknell.edu/dcds



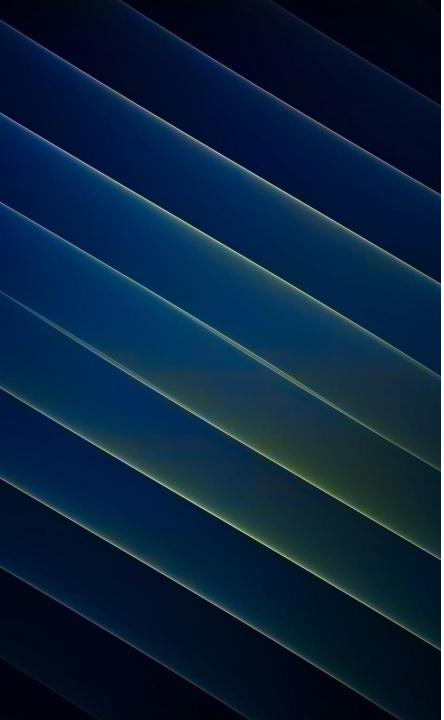
Upcoming DCDS Event

Fuesday

Tuesday Oct. 29,

4-5:30 pm

Taylor Hall 208



Stay tuned...

Al 103 – Spring 2025!

We will cover:

- More applications and examples of AI use
- The influence of Al in your field and future career
- Al's role in reshaping the workforce
- Al's impact on the environment
- More Ethical considerations:
 - Privacy, algorithmic bias, security, etc.
- Navigating an Al-driven world with a cautious, critical mind
- Explore opportunities for research in AI
 - HINT: Nearly every discipline has opportunities!

And, pizza.

Thank you!



