August 14, 2025

NeurIPS 2025 Call For Education Materials

Dear Committee Members,

I am a Professor of Science & Technology Studies and Anthropology at UC Davis and at Aarhus University in Denmark. I study how science, technology and medicine change, and have been teaching "data and society" for 10 years, and "AI & Co-Creativity" for three years to undergraduates in both countries. I'm fascinated by how the metaphors and examples through which people understand AI shapes how they use it.

This video is aimed at undergraduates, educators, and the general public.

It is a 14-minute video illustrating a way of thinking about LLMs that helps us understand hallucinations and prompting in a very helpful way for becoming better prompters and interpreters of their responses. I suggest that because they are trained on texts (e.g. sentences) – each actually highly specific to who said them, when and in what context – that they have picked up on features (in Anthropic's sense) in a deeply specific and fascinating way. This can help us understand how to better think about the ethics of truth in LLM usage, and to become better prompters.

I have shared this way of thinking in my classes and it has greatly helped my students work with LLMs in more reflective and engaged ways. I have also presented to the general public at the Exploratorium in January, 2025, which was very well received.

If there are specific criticisms, corrections, or desires to edit it, I'm happy to comply. I'm used to making videos for teaching but not for general consumption!

Link with subtitles: https://share.descript.com/view/P47dfJt4XNU

Sincerely,

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