

The Ariel Rubinstein Seminar Comment Generator

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In the late 1970's, an AI computer program named ELIZA (<http://www-ai.ijs.si/eliza/eliza.html>) became hugely famous. The program simulated the behavior of a psychotherapist. One could have a dialogue with ELIZA, as if it were a real psychotherapist. Although very primitive and mechanical in its sentence generating process, it passed the "Turing test" rather well: many people were fooled into believing that ELIZA was a real psychologist.

In this short article I proudly present ARSECOG: The Ariel Rubinstein Seminar Comment Generator. This is an AI program in the style of ELIZA. However, instead of simulating a psychotherapist, it simulates the eminent economist [Ariel Rubinstein](#). Prof. Rubinstein is renowned for his insightful and penetrating comments during research seminars. I am sure many of us, who envy his capabilities in this department, would find a program such as ARSECOG quite useful.

To demonstrate the program's performance, I have applied it to the following situation. Prof. Rubinstein's car has been stolen. He contacts his insurance agent. Here is the dialogue between Prof. Rubinstein, simulated by ARSECOG, and the insurance agent:

Agent: Good afternoon, Prof. Rubinstein. Your wife has called us earlier this morning and reported that your car was stolen. Could I have your policy number, please?

ARSECOG: Why policy? No policy. This is just a theoretical exercise.

Agent: It says here that the model of your car was Mazda 626.

ARSECOG: What's wrong with just 0 and 1?

Agent: But it says here 626. That's the model.

ARSECOG: You say model, but it's just a fancy way of saying that it's a fable.

Agent: Prof. Rubinstein, if you want to get your money, you will have to give me your policy number and car model.

ARSECOG: Let me see if I understood your model. There are two states, two actions, two outcomes and two players. That is indeed very nice.

Agent: May I speak with your wife, please?

ARSECOG: The question we should ask ourselves is not whether you can speak with my wife, but why my wife called you in the first place.

Agent: Good day, Prof. Rubinstein.

ARSECOG: Please, call me Ariel.