A Rap on the Knuckles and a Twist in the Tale From Tweeting Affective Metaphors to Generating Stories with a Moral

Tony Veale

Last modified: 2016-03-05

Abstract

Rules offer a convenient means of limiting the operational scope of our AI programs so as to not transgress predictable moral boundaries. Yet the imposition of an operational morality based on mere rules will not turn our machines into moral agents, just the unthinking tools of moral designers. If we are to imbue our machines with a profound functional morality, we must first gift them with a moral imagination, for empathic morality — where one agent treats another as it would want to be treated itself — requires an ability to project oneself into the realms of the counterfactual. In this paper we thus explore the role of the moral imagination in generating new and inspiring stories. The creation of novel tales with a built-in moral requires that an artificial system possess the ability to guess at the morality of characters and their actions in novel settings and events. Our moralizing tale-spinner — which generates Aesop-style tales about human-like animals with identifiable human qualities — also faces another challenge: it must render these tales as micro-texts that can be distributed as tweets. As we shall also use metaphor to lend elasticity to our moral conceptions, these short stories, rich in animal metaphors, will comprise part of the daily output of the @MetaphorMagnet Twitterbot.

Keywords

morality, story generation, computational creativity

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Moral of the Story: People make mistakes. We are allowed to make mistakes. But the actions we take while in a rage will haunt us forever. Pause and ponder. Think before you act. Soon it became too hot to go any further and, seeing a large plane tree nearby, they threw themselves on the ground to rest in its shade. Gazing up into the branches one man said to the other: What a useless tree this is. It does not have fruit or nuts that we can eat and we cannot even use its wood for anything. Metaphors aren’t merely the candy sprinkles on the doughnut of language, not just embellishments to the music of poetry and prose. Metaphors are ways of thinking—and also ways of shaping the thoughts of others. All of us, every day, speak and write and think in metaphors. In fact, it's hard to imagine how we'd get by without them. And because figurative comparisons lie at the heart of language and thought, they have been pinned down and picked apart by scholars in a wide variety of disciplines. Of course, everyone knows what happens when gangs of professors set about to study a Definition, Usage and a list of Metaphor Examples. Metaphor is a figure of speech which makes an implicit, implied or hidden comparison between two things. A Metaphor is a figure of speech that makes an implicit, implied, or hidden comparison between two things that are unrelated, but which share some common characteristics. In other words, a resemblance of two contradictory or different objects is made based on a single or some common characteristics. In simple English, when you portray a person, place, thing, or an action as being something else, even though it is not actually that “something else,” you are speaking metaphorically. The following phrase is an example of metaphor, “My brother is the black sheep of the family,” because he is neith