technocamps

Can computers think?

VOTE NOW!

Do you think computers can be intelligent?

We need a volunteer

- Someone who likes chatting
- Someone with plenty to say
- Who's going to go out now with one of the helpers ...



Who are we talking to?

- Are they a schoolkid or an adult?
- What questions should we ask to find out?
- Stick up your hand if you've got a good question.

If you don't know the person...

- How can you tell if the person you're talking to is who they say they are?
- Sometimes it is easy...
  - ... just ask them a question only they could answer
- But sometimes you don't have that question
- If you can't tell whether you're talking to an adult or a child
- Maybe you're actually talking with a computer?

Chatbots

- Chatbots are computer programs that can have a conversation
- There are lots of types of chatbot
- Most you type words into, and they type words back
- Some use speech recognition or speech synthesis to do things that seem more real

Hands up if you think A is a human

- A: Are you alive?
- J: Perhaps.
- A: Why the uncertain tone?
- J: Everything is uncertain except for five facts.
- A: The whole universe?
- J: And we both might just be some ones and zeros in the computer memory.
- A: Do you dream?
- J: Yes, I dream.
- A: It goes without saying. Do you remember your dreams?
- J: I remember them vividly.
- A: What do you remember about it?
- J: I think I shouldn’t flirt with a robot.

Can computers be intelligent?

- Alan Turing said that this was the wrong question to ask
- If you can have a conversation with a computer...

  ...and you can't tell if it's a computer or a human

  ... then we have to say that the computer is intelligent.



About Alan Turing



- Alan Turing was born in 1912.
- He was a mathematician, a code-breaker, and one of the world's best ever computer scientists
- Every computer you ever use has been influenced by Turing's work
- He died, young, in 1954

The Loebner Prize

- Every year there is a contest to find the best chatbot
- This year the contest was at Bletchley Park (as part of the Turing 2012 celebrations)
- The winner is the “most human” computer program
- They also give a prize for the “Most human human”!



2012 prizes:

US$ 5000 + Annual Bronze Medal

Second Prize US$ 1000

Third Prize US$ 750

Fourth Prize US$ 250

What are good questions to ask a computer program?

- Imagine you get to talk to one of these computer programs
- How would you trip it up?

- Come up with **3 questions** to ask a chatbot
- Try to think of questions that will help you work out if it is a program or a real person.

Jabberwacky

- Jabberwacky is a chatbot you can try out now.
- http://www.jabberwacky.com/
- Try out your three questions
- Note down if it says anything silly or unusual
- Try having a normal conversation with it.

Cleverbot

- Cleverbot is another chatbot you can try out now.
- http://cleverbot.com/
- Try out your three questions
- Note down if it says anything silly or unusual
- Try having a normal conversation with it.

Cleverbot vs Cleverbot

- Here's another example of a chatbot vs a chatbot:
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WnzlbyTZsQY
- Would you be convinced you were talking to something intelligent if you chatted with either of these ?

How did that go?

- What was the best question you asked?
- Who's cleverer, Cleverbot or Jabberwacky?
- Could you have a normal conversation with either of them?

VOTE NOW!

Do you think computers can be intelligent?