

Get better at Generative AI by understanding what's under the hood, picking the right problems, and learning how to minimise errors

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Learning outcomes/objectives

Understand some of the key concepts behind the scenes of Generative AI, including next-token-prediction, reasoning, tool use, and system prompts.

Use Generative AI competently, including confidence in choosing tasks that can be delegated to it and understanding how to write decent prompts.

Become appropriately suspicious of Generative AI use, including how to spot bad output and how to reduce the likelihood of errors.

Content

Generative AI continues to become more widespread, and is increasing in capability each month. Many people have a surface familiarity with the chatbot interface. However, most have not been exposed to how these algorithms work, which features allow them to mimic intelligence, or principled approaches to how they can be used effectively. Like anything, a little bit of deep knowledge goes a long way, and you don't know what you don't know.

This workshop is split into several parts. First, I will cover the key concepts of next-token-prediction, reasoning, and tool use that Generative AI relies on. Then, I will walk you through some of the practical steps you can take (better prompting, model selection) to improve your answers. Lastly, I will describe some of the better use cases for AI that are applicable to most workplaces.

Format of activities

Participants will be expected to attend with a laptop or internet capable device (phone okay, not ideal). They will be given prompting activities to complete, including starter prompts to customise and run themselves, followed by a group discussion of what was discovered.

Target audience

Mainly targeted at those who have a bit of familiarity with Generative AI but feel they have fallen behind in terms of how to use it effectively.