Northwestern

SCIENCE CAFE

WHY YOUR COMPUTER DOESN'T UNDERSTAND YOU (yet)

presented by Professor Kenneth D. Forbus
Department of Computer Science and Education
McCormick School of Engineering Northwestern University;
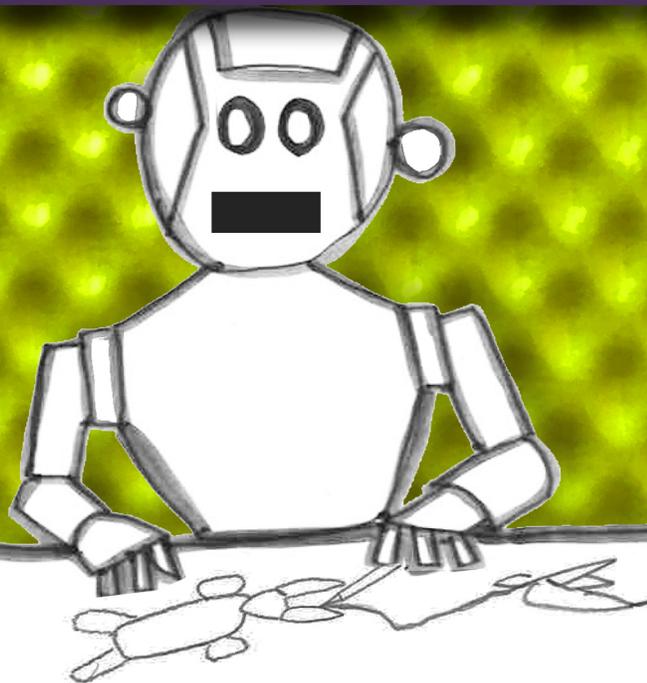
Wednesday
November 15, 2017
6:30 - 8:00pm

The Firehouse Grill
750 Chicago Avenue
Evanston

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is in the news constantly these days. What is real, and what is hype? There has been real progress, but the picture painted by the press is often distorted.

This talk will describe how Ken Forbus' group at Northwestern, in collaboration with other cognitive scientists, is working towards software that you can treat as a collaborator, rather than as a tool. This includes learning from people via language and sketching, and also helping students learn by giving them feedback about their sketches. These AI advances are based on modeling human cognition, including analogical reasoning and spatial cognition. The software has also been used to model moral decision-making, which is important for AI systems that need to make decisions that we find appropriate.

Given this context, Forbus will also address some common myths about AI. This will include why you should not fear a robot uprising, why self-driving cars are really hard, and something that you might actually want to be worried about and for which we need to make good choices about, as a society.

Science Cafe: Eat. Drink. Talk research in a relaxed atmosphere.

We are committed to promoting engagement with scientific topics and making it accessible to all.