

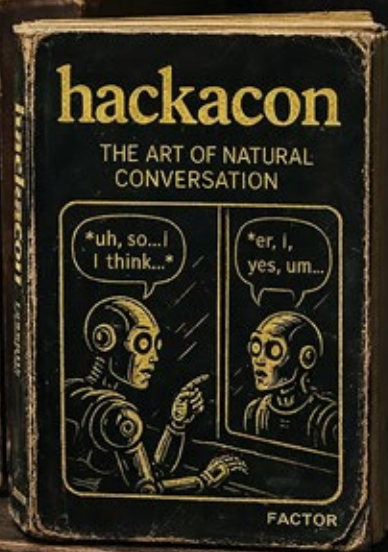


Lancaster
University



HackaCon

The Conversation Hackathon



Can AI create convincingly natural, human-sounding conversations between two specific speakers?

COMING TO A COMPUTER NEAR YOU:



AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2026



THE CHALLENGE

How far can we use AI to create convincingly natural, human-sounding conversations between two specific speakers?
It's tougher than you'd think.

WHY?

Because conversation is full of overlaps, backchanneling, coughs, fillers, repetitions, hesitations, errors, pauses, and more. Conversational skills are also high-precision, cognitively demanding, and deployed within milliseconds.

Now imagine AI that can chat with you just like a human – that can laugh at your jokes real-time, make supportive noises as you confide, and act just like a friend... or a fraudster.

AI isn't there. Yet. But we expect it to catch up fast, and when it does, it's likely to supercharge crime.

HackaCon is the critical step between where we are now and the future of spontaneously interactive AI. It's about understanding what's coming next.



Up for that challenge?

Register your interest and await further instruction.

Good luck