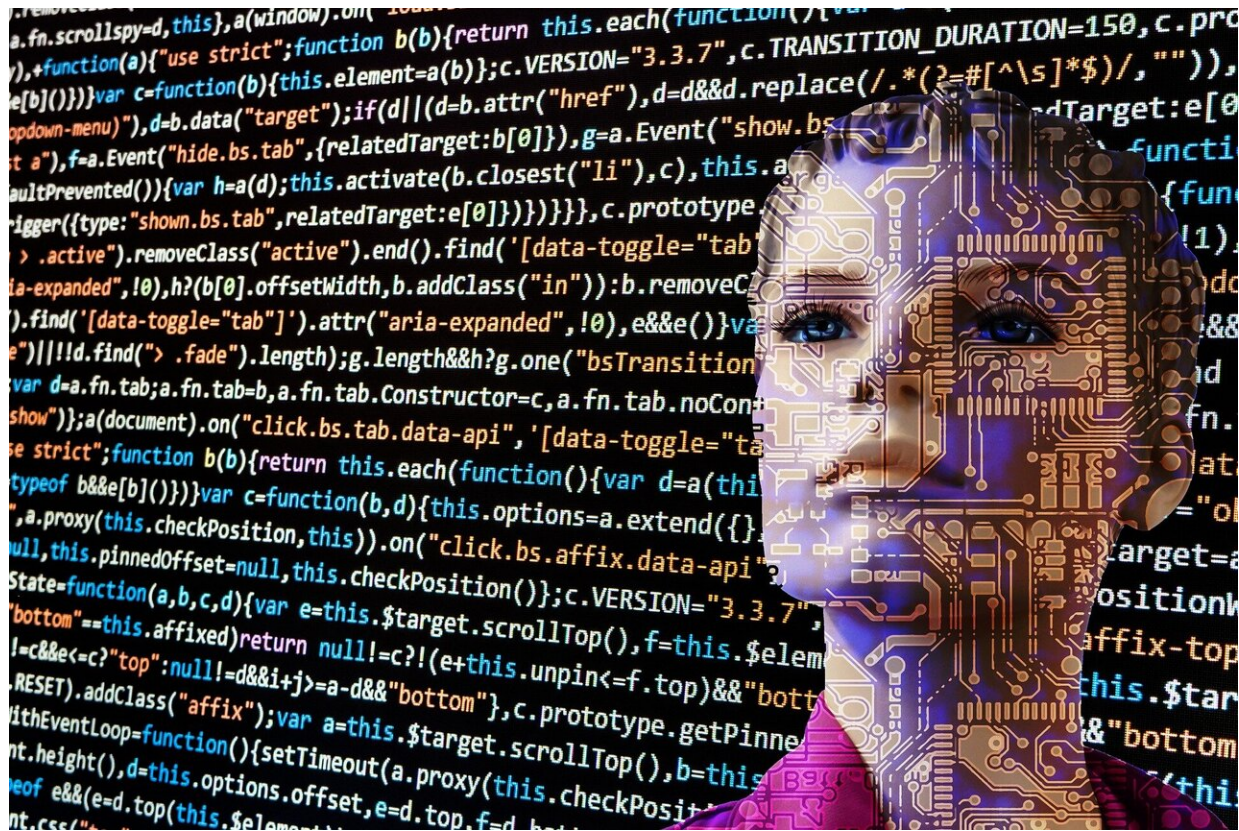# AI can 'lie and BS' like its maker, but still not intelligent like humans, argues researcher

November 21 2023, by Angela Koenig

Credit: CC0 Public Domain

The emergence of artificial intelligence has caused differing reactions from tech leaders, politicians and the public. While some excitedly tout AI technology such as ChatGPT as an advantageous tool with the

potential to transform society, others are alarmed that any tool with the word "intelligent" in its name also has the potential to overtake humankind.

The University of Cincinnati's Anthony Chemero, a professor of philosophy and psychology in the UC College of Arts and Sciences, contends that the understanding of AI is muddled by linguistics: That while indeed intelligent, AI cannot be intelligent in the way that humans are, even though "it can lie and BS like its maker."

According to our everyday use of the word, AI is definitely intelligent, but there are intelligent computers and have been for years, Chemero explains in [a paper he co-authored](#) in the journal *Nature Human Behaviour*. To begin, the paper states that ChatGPT and other AI systems are [large language models](#) (LLM), trained on massive amounts of data mined from the internet, much of which shares the biases of the people who post the data.

"LLMs generate impressive text, but often make things up whole cloth," he states. "They learn to produce grammatical sentences, but require much, much more training than humans get. They don't actually know what the things they say mean," he says. "LLMs differ from [human cognition](#) because they are not embodied."

The people who made LLMs call it "hallucinating" when they make things up; although Chemero says, "it would be better to call it 'bullshitting,'" because LLMs just make sentences by repeatedly adding the most statistically likely next word—and they don't know or care whether what they say is true.

And with a little prodding, he says, one can get an AI tool to say "nasty things that are racist, sexist and otherwise biased."

The intent of Chemero's paper is to stress that the LLMs are not intelligent in the way humans are intelligent because humans are embodied: Living beings who are always surrounded by other humans and material and cultural environments.

"This makes us care about our own survival and the world we live in," he says, noting that LLMs aren't really in the world and don't care about anything.

The main takeaway is that LLMs are not intelligent in the way that humans are because they "don't give a damn," Chemero says, adding "Things matter to us. We are committed to our survival. We care about the world we live in."

Provided by University of Cincinnati