



# Modelling Interestingness: Stories as L-Systems and Magic Squares

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# Presentation outline

- **Introduction**
- **Modelling Interestingness**
- **Stories as L-Systems**
- **Stories as Magic Squares**
- **Proof of concept**
- **Conclusive remarks**



# Introduction



# Introduction

## Premises

- Automatic Story Generation (ASG), by using symbolic as well subsymbolic approaches, succeeds in achieving human-like results [1] on the lexical level, whereas the macro-planning of the event sequence is yet frequently evaluated against coherence and built upon logic rules [2];
- Currently, despite the successes of the field towards full automation and realism, the practical use of ASG is nowadays limited as support to content creation, or even as pure intellectual game (in the groove of potential literature).



# Introduction

## Problem statement

- The discrepancy between the general goal of ASG and its actual usage calls for a shift in focusing efforts in this domain;
- Since the results in lexical interestingness are already satisfactory, it would be valuable to find a way to model interestingness also on the level of events sequence.



# Modelling Interestingness



# Modelling Interestingness

Related Work – Statistical measures for Self-Information

$$wow_i = \log_2 \frac{1}{(p_i | K_{ontext})}$$

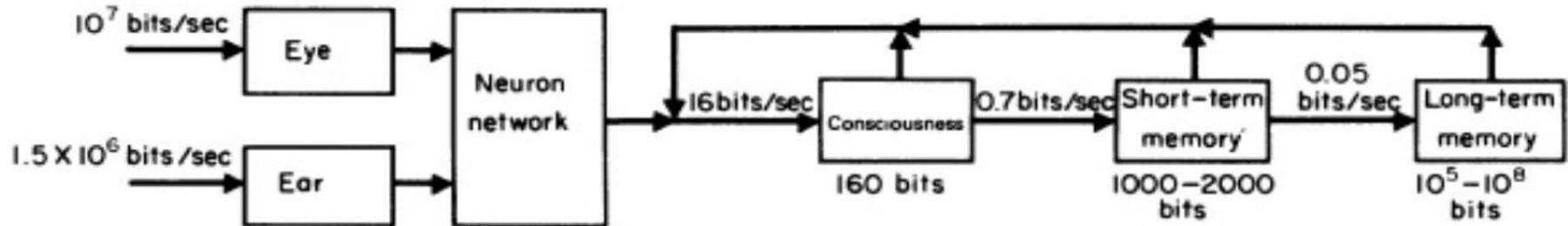
$$KL(P(M|D), P(M)) = \int P(M|D) \log \frac{P(M|D)}{P(M)} dM$$

[3]



# Modelling Interestingness

Related Work - Franke's information flow from sense organs to brain



[4]

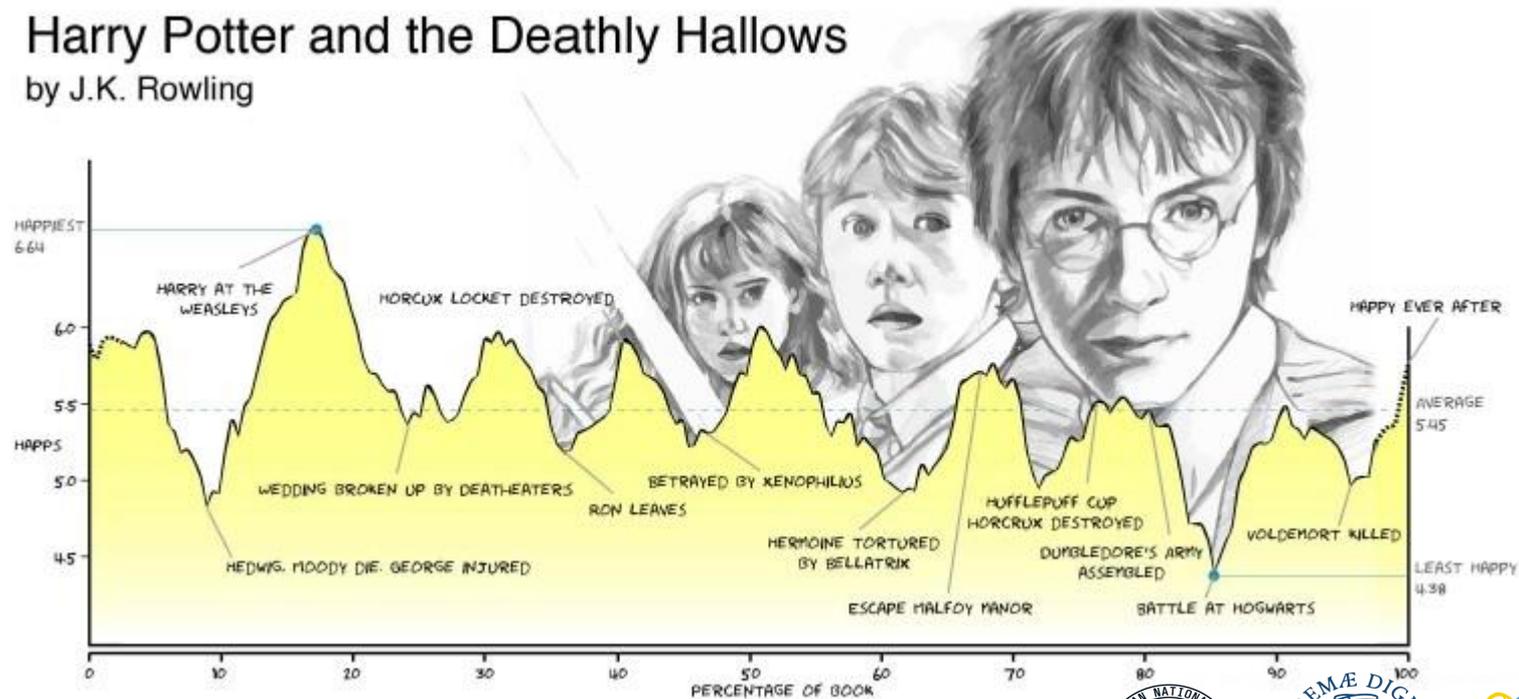


# Modelling Interestingness

## Related Work - Emotional arc of Harry Potter VII

### Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

by J.K. Rowling



[5]



# Stories as L-Systems

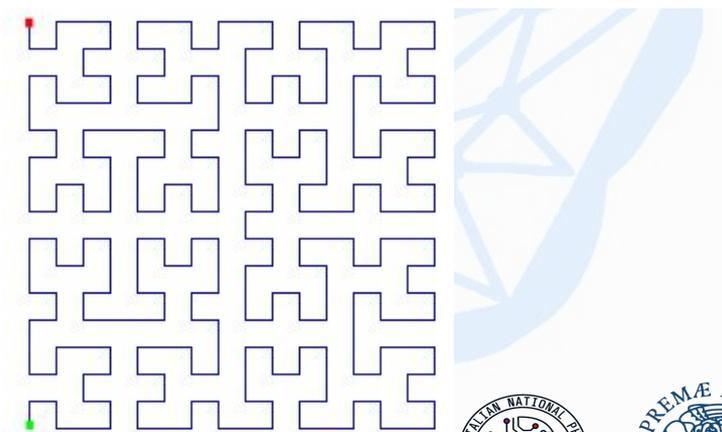


# Stories as L-Systems

The Thue-Morse sequence and the Hilbert's curve

$$\begin{aligned} V &\rightarrow 0, 1; \\ \omega &\rightarrow 0; \\ P &\rightarrow (0 \rightarrow 01), (1 \rightarrow 10). \end{aligned}$$


---

$$\begin{aligned} V &\rightarrow A, B; \\ S &\rightarrow f, l, r; \\ \omega &\rightarrow A; \\ P &\downarrow \\ A &\rightarrow lBfrAfArfBl; \\ B &\rightarrow rAflBfBlfAr. \end{aligned}$$


[6]



# Stories as L-Systems

A fairy-tale modelled according to the L-System notation

$$E = (C, P, F, \alpha, \omega, Z);$$

$$C = (d, k, l);$$

$$C^1 = (1, 2, 3);$$

$$C \vDash C^1;$$

$$P = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\text{size}(C)^{\text{size}(C)}} p_i;$$

$$p \in P = ccc, c \in C^1;$$

$$F = \text{vec}(p_1 \xrightarrow{z \in Z} p_2 \xrightarrow{z \in Z} \dots \xrightarrow{z \in Z} p_n);$$

$$f \in F = \text{subvec}(F);$$

$$\alpha = [ddd] = [111];$$

$$\omega = [lll] = [333];$$

$Z$ :

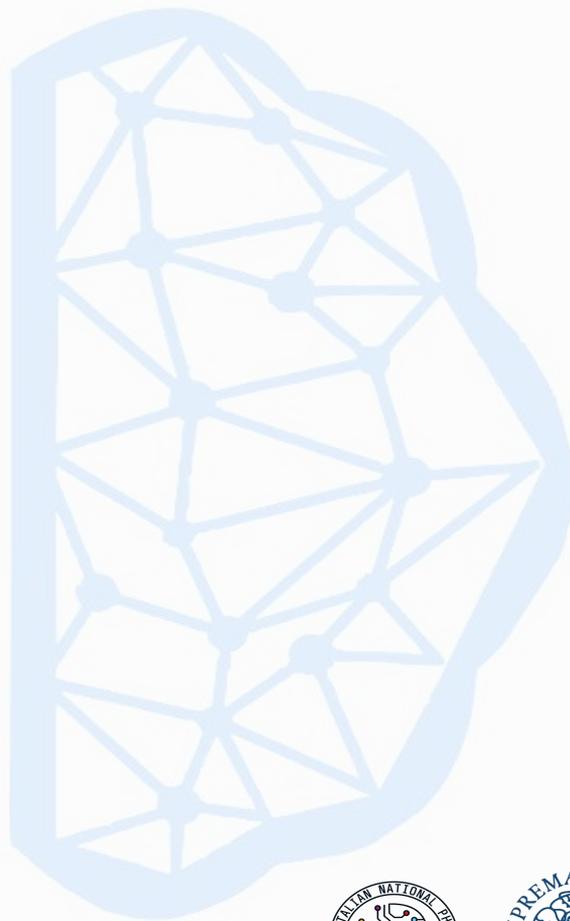
$$[c * 1] \rightarrow [c * (2 \vee 3)];$$

$$[c * 2] \rightarrow [c * 3];$$

$$[c * 3] \rightarrow [c * (c + 1) * 1] \vee \omega.$$



# Stories as Magic Squares



# Stories as Magic Squares

The Thue-Morse sequence and the Magic Square of the Sun

0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	A	6	32	3	34	35	1	12	14	15	16	17	17
1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	B	19	7	11	27	28	8	11	7	9	10	10	12
1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	B	30	14	16	15	23	24	1	4	2	3	5	6
0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	A	19	20	22	21	17	18	5	2	4	3	1	0
1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	B	25	29	9	10	26	12	7	11	9	8	6	6
1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	B	36	2	33	4	5	31	18	16	15	14	13	13
0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	A												

# Stories as Magic Squares

## Lévi-Strauss' matrix with bundle of relationships

Kadmos seeks his sister  
Europa ravished by  
Zeus

Kadmos kills the  
dragon

The Spartoi kill  
each other

Labdacos (Laios' fa-  
ther) = *lame* (?)

Oedipus kills his  
father Laios

Laios (Oedipus' fa-  
ther) = *left-sided* (?)

Oedipus kills the  
Sphinx

Oedipus marries his  
mother Jocasta

Eteocles kills his  
brother Polynices

Oedipus = *swollen-  
foot* (?)

Antigone buries her  
brother Polynices despite  
prohibition

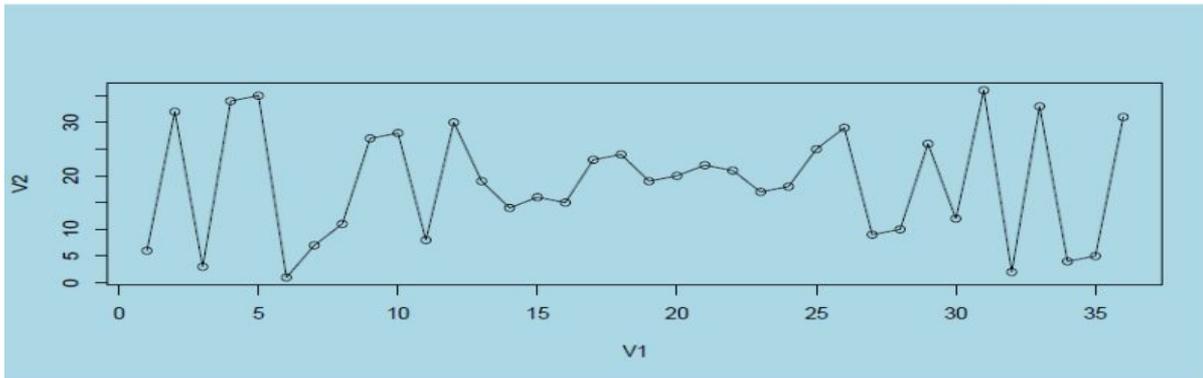
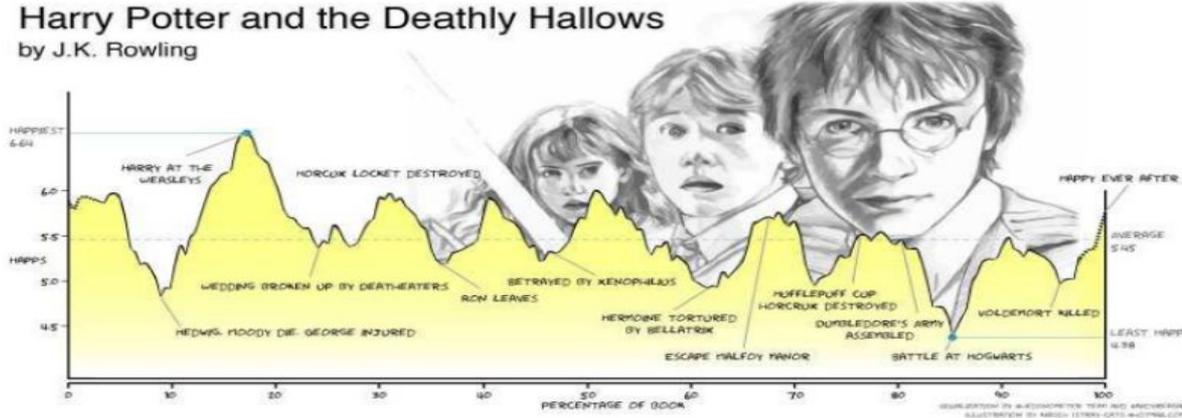
[7]



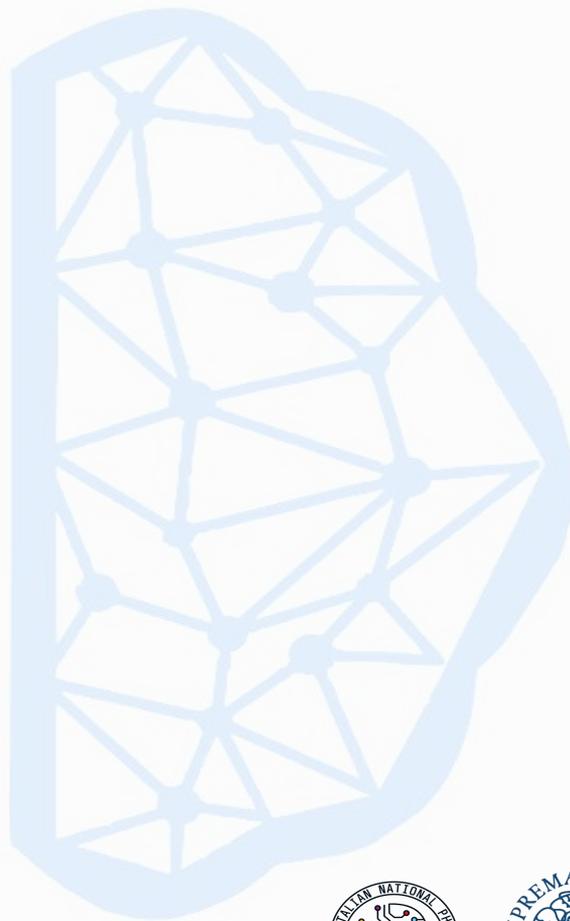
# Stories as Magic Squares

## The Thue-Morse sequence and the Magic Square of the Sun

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows  
by J.K. Rowling

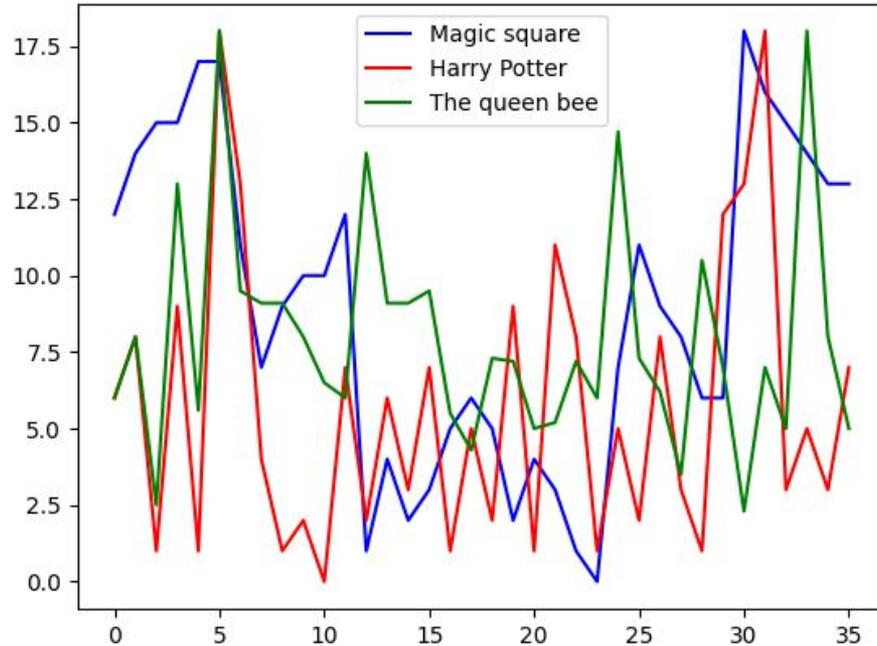


# Proof of concept



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A long and a short story modelled as time-series of self-information values



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A long and a short story modelled as time-series of self-information values

In the following, the Kolmogorov-Smirnov (KS) and the Epps-Singleton (ES) test statistics performed on the vectors 1 and 2 ('Magic Square' and 'Harry Potter'):

```
KstestResult(statistic=0.3055, pvalue=0.0689)
```

```
Epps_Singleton_2sampResult(statistic=10.4553, pvalue=0.0334)
```

The KS and the ES tests performed on the vectors 1 and 3 ('Magic Square' and 'The Queen Bee'):

```
KstestResult(statistic=0.3055, pvalue=0.0684)
```

```
Epps_Singleton_2sampResult(statistic=17.2947, pvalue=0.0017)
```

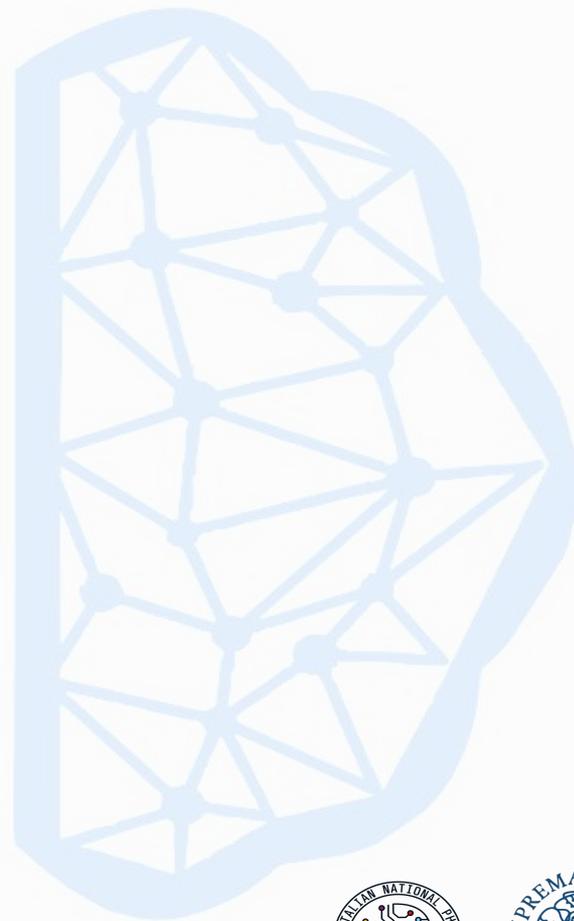
The KS and the ES tests performed on the vectors 2 and 3 ('Harry Potter' and 'The Queen Bee'):

```
KstestResult(statistic=0.3888, pvalue=0.0081)
```

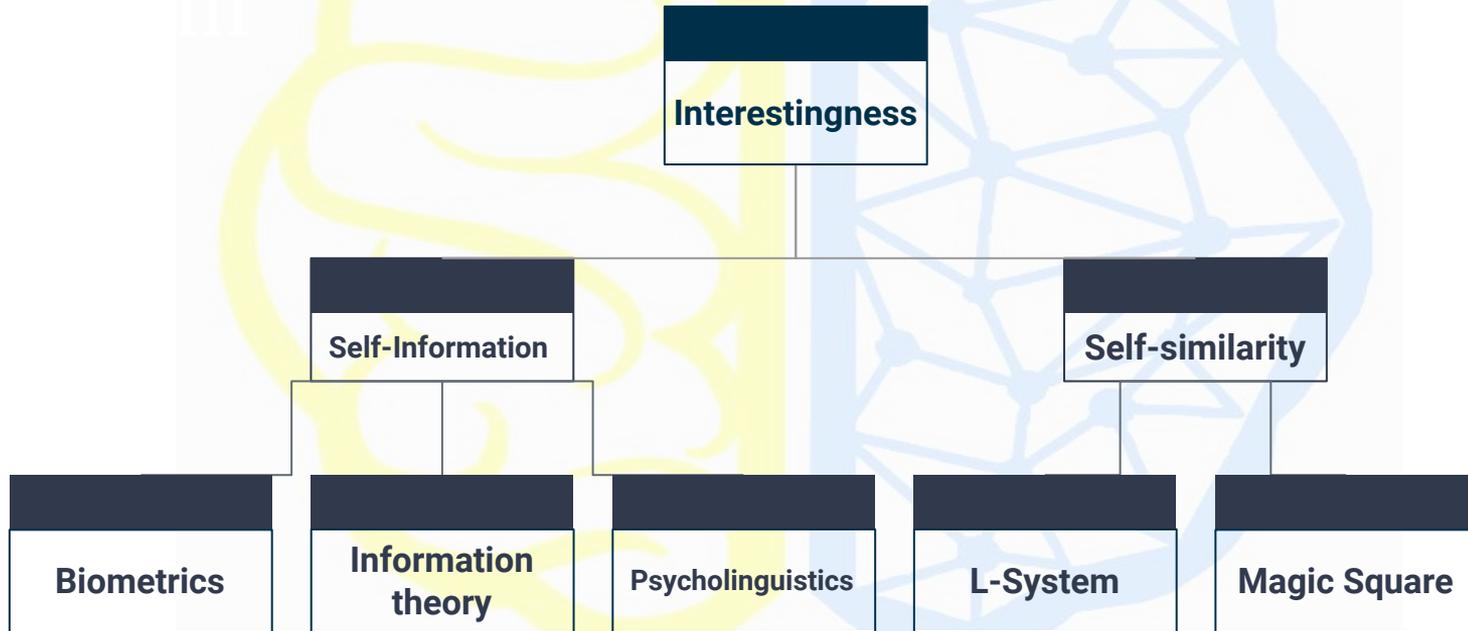
```
Epps_Singleton_2sampResult(statistic=18.1595, pvalue=0.0011)
```



# Conclusive remarks



# Conclusive remarks



# References

- [1] Dong C, Li Y, Gong H, Chen M, Li J, Shen Y, et al.. A Survey of Natural Language Generation; 2022.
- [2] Elson DK. A Platform for Symbolically Encoding Human Narratives. Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence. 2007:8.
- [3] L. Itti, P. Baldi, Bayesian surprise attracts human attention, in: Advances in neural information processing systems, 2006, pp. 547–554.
- [4] H. W. Franke, A Cybernetic Approach to Aesthetics, Leonardo 10 (1977) 203.
- [5] Reagan A.J., Mitchell L., Kiley D., Danforth C. M., Dodds P. S., The emotional arcs of stories are dominated by six basic shapes (2016) 31.
- [6] A. Lindenmayer, Mathematical models for cellular interactions in development ii. simple and branching filaments with two-sided inputs, Journal of Theoretical Biology (1968) 300–315.
- [7] C. Lévi-Strauss, Structural Anthropology, Basic Books, New York, 1963.





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# Everyone lived happily ever after

Thank you for the attention