Large Language Models and the Changing Face of Computational Linguistics

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Large Language Models (LLMs) such as ChatGPT are revolutionising Computational Linguistics and Natural Language Processing. It no longer requires specialised expertise to build very sophisticated Natural Language Processing applications. This talk surveys the strengths and weaknesses of LLMs, and explains how "agentic architectures" enhance LLMs with more conventional "tools". Finally, I'll talk about the changing research landscape of Computational Linguistics, and speculate about the role that academic research might play in "big science".