

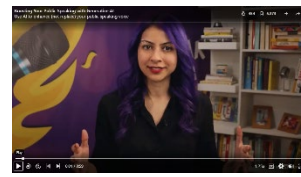
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AI

### Why Are Large Language Models so Terrible at Video Games? AI models code simple games, but struggle to play them



"[Large language models](#) (LLMs) have improved so quickly [that the benchmarks themselves](#) have evolved, adding more complex problems in an effort to challenge the latest models. Yet LLMs haven't improved across all domains, and one task remains far outside their grasp: They have no idea how to play [video games](#).

While a few have managed to beat a few games (for example, [Gemini 2.5 Pro beat Pokemon Blue](#) in May of 2025), these exceptions prove the rule. The eventually victorious AI completed games far more slowly than a typical human player, made bizarre and often repetitive mistakes, and required custom software to guide their interactions with the game.

[Julian Togelius](#), the director of New York University's [Game Innovation Lab](#) and co-founder of AI game testing company Mod.ai, explored the implications of LLMs' limitations in video games [in a recent paper](#). He spoke with *IEEE Spectrum* about what this lack of video games skills can tell us about the broader state of AI in 2026."

Source: [Nature](#) (11 Mar 2026)

AI

### The hidden costs of 'helpful' AI



"A [computer-science experiment captures](#), with unusual clarity, the difference between designing artificial-intelligence systems that are ever-more powerful according to a fixed benchmark and developing tools that genuinely support human judgement. Researchers have created a collaborative chess game in which each team comprises pairs, partnering a strong AI with a weaker, human-like one. A coin toss decides, before each move, which partner will play. Neither knows in advance which will go next. The result was striking. Despite being weaker at conventional chess, AI tools designed to make moves that the human-like partner could build on consistently beat teams led by Leela, a superhuman chess AI. Being powerful was not enough: compatibility with a partner was more important.

This result reframes what interpretability should mean in the context of AI adoption. Rather than asking whether a human can understand an AI system's output, we should check whether they can act on it productively. In radiology, for example, that might mean an AI tool suggesting not just a diagnosis, but also highlighting the region of a chest X-ray that prompted the diagnosis, so that the physician can assess whether the system's focus matches their own analysis."

Source: [Nature](#) (31 Mar 2026)

AI DEEPAKE

### Deepfake X-rays are so real even doctors can't tell the difference



"A new study published on March 24 in *Radiology*, the journal of the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA), shows that both radiologists and multimodal large language models (LLMs) have difficulty telling real X-rays apart from artificial intelligence (AI)-generated "deepfake" images. The findings raise concerns about the risks posed by synthetic medical images and highlight the need for better tools and training to help protect the accuracy of medical imaging and prepare health care professionals to recognize deepfakes.

A "deepfake" is a video, photo, image or audio file that appears authentic but has been created or altered using AI.

"Our study demonstrates that these deepfake X-rays are realistic enough to deceive radiologists, the most highly trained medical image specialists, even when they were aware that AI-generated images were present," said lead study author Mickael Tordjman, M.D., post-doctoral fellow, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York. "This creates a high-stakes vulnerability for fraudulent litigation if, for example, a fabricated fracture could be indistinguishable from a real one. There is also a significant cybersecurity risk if hackers were to gain access to a hospital's network and inject synthetic images to manipulate patient diagnoses or cause widespread clinical chaos by undermining the fundamental reliability of the digital medical record..."

Source: [Radiological Society of North America](#) (26 Mar 2026)

AGEING

### Humor helps older adults navigate ageing – research



"Humour plays a vital role in helping older adults cope with the challenges of ageing and staying socially connected, according to new research.

The research team at Aberystwyth University drew on indepth interviews with older adults across Wales, Scotland and England, to reveal the ways humour impacts wellbeing in later life.

The study showed that older people use it as a coping mechanism, and a way of maintaining dignity in the face of bereavement and the declining wellbeing of loved ones.

The academics also found that the over 60s also use comedy to allay their health concerns and as a social lifeline.

Women were more likely to describe using it to navigate emotionally sensitive situations or to deflect difficult feelings, while men tended to emphasise its role in social bonding. Women were also more aware of the negative side of joke-telling than men."

Source: [EurekAlert!](#) (31 Mar 2026)

ARCHITECTURE

### Architecture's Blind Spot: The Gap Between Design and Construction

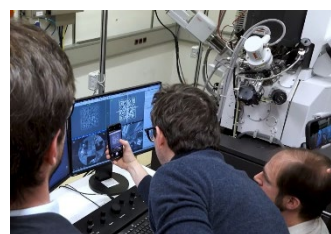


"Initial sketches in notebooks and tracing paper, conceptual diagrams, perspectives, physical models, and massing studies capture the architectural imagination. But they represent only the beginning of the practice. The real challenge is translating ideas into buildable systems. Every wall, junction, and assembly must be resolved in detail, with systems working together in a way that allows the project to be built as intended. This is where most of the effort, complexity, and risk are concentrated, and where projects are ultimately resolved or begin to stumble. It is in this context that the Design Development (DD) and Construction Documentation (CD) take place, when the project must address the full weight of coordination, components, performance, and constructability. While schematic design defines spatial and formal directions, DD and CD demand answers to a different set of questions: how do systems come together? How is performance maintained at transitions? Which products, tolerances, and sequences will allow the project to hold together as it moves from model to construction? These stages carry the bulk of effort and cost. Estimates suggest roughly 70 to 75% of a building's development time and fees occurs during DD and CD and, paradoxically, it is precisely in this interval that some of the most significant gaps in technological support still persist in contemporary practice."

Source: [Archdaily](#) (25 Mar 2026)

ARCHITECTURE

### World Record: The World's Smallest QR Code



"TU Wien has entered the Guinness Book of Records together with its industry partner Cerabyte — for producing and successfully reading the smallest QR codes ever created.

Just how small can a QR code be? Small enough that it can only be recognised with an electron microscope. A research team at TU Wien, working together with the data storage technology company Cerabyte, has now demonstrated exactly that. The QR code covers an area of just 1.98 square micrometers — smaller than most bacteria. The record has now been verified and officially entered into the Guinness Book of Records.

The technology has enormous potential for long-term data storage: Conventional magnetic or electronic data storage systems often have lifespans of only a few years. But if information is written bit by bit into ceramic materials, it can endure for centuries or even millennia."

Source: [Tu Wejn](#) (16 Feb 2026)

DESIGN

### Quirky table tennis equipment promotes "more creative" play at French school



"French architecture studio Exercice has installed four unconventional [table tennis](#) tables at a school in Ingré, France, to encourage [children](#) to make up their own rules and strategies.

Named Ping Pong Park, the equipment is an extension of [Exercice's](#) research into play as a means for social connection, which has resulted in a series of playgrounds with objects that can be used in different ways.

"These are not conventional sports installations, but social sculptures: accessible, participatory and constantly evolving through collective appropriation," the studio pointed out."

Source: [Dezeen](#) (27 Mar 2026)

Healthcare

### Insulin pills may soon replace daily injections



"For more than 100 years, scientists have pursued the idea of insulin in pill form, often described as a "dream" treatment for diabetes. The challenge has been the body itself. Enzymes in the digestive system break down insulin before it can work, and the intestine lacks a natural way to absorb it into the bloodstream. As a result, many patients still depend on daily injections, which can take a toll on their quality of life.

A team at Kumamoto University, led by Associate Professor Shingo Ito, has now developed a promising solution. Their approach uses a cyclic peptide that can pass through the small intestine, known as the DNP peptide. This platform allows insulin to be delivered orally in a way that was not previously possible."

Source: [Kumamoto University](#) (24 Mar 2026)

MED TECH

### This tiny implant, smaller than a grain of salt, can read your brain

PRIVACY

### Facial Recognition Is Spreading Everywhere: Misapplied tech is causing real-world harm

QUANTUM

### Physicists just turned glass into a powerful quantum security device

SOLAR

### Solar cells just did the "impossible" with this 130% breakthrough

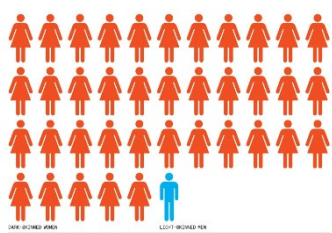


"A neural implant developed at Cornell rests on a grain of salt. About 300 microns long and 70 microns wide, it's the smallest neural implant capable of wirelessly transmitting brain activity data.

Researchers at Cornell University, working with collaborators, have created an extremely small neural implant that can sit on a grain of salt. Despite its size, the device can wirelessly transmit brain activity data from a living animal for more than a year.

The advance, reported in Nature Electronics, shows that microelectronic systems can operate at a remarkably small scale. This could open the door to new approaches in brain monitoring, bio-integrated sensors, and other medical and technological uses..."

Source: [CELL PRESS](#) (20 Feb 2026)

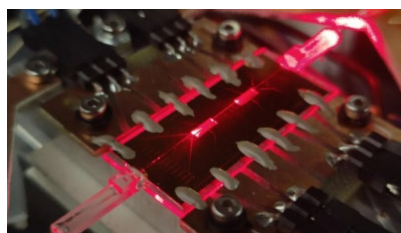


"[Facial recognition](#) technology (FRT) dates back 60 years. Just over a decade ago, deep-learning methods tipped the technology into more useful—and [menacing](#)—territory. Now, retailers, your neighbors, and [law enforcement](#) are all storing your face and building up a fragmentary photo album of your life.

Yet the story those photos can tell inevitably has errors. FRT makers, like those of any diagnostic technology, must balance two types of errors: false positives and false negatives. There are three possible outcomes.

In best-case scenarios—such as comparing someone's passport photo to a photo taken by a border agent—false-negative rates are [around two in 1,000](#) and false positives are [less than one in 1 million](#)."

Source: [IEEE Spectrum](#) (30 Mar 2026)



"As quantum computers grow more powerful, many current encryption methods could eventually become vulnerable. One promising solution is quantum cryptography, which relies on the laws of physics rather than mathematical complexity to keep data secure. However, making quantum communication practical requires small, dependable devices that can accurately read delicate quantum signals carried by light.

Researchers from the University of Padua, Politecnico di Milano, and the CNR Institute for Photonics and Nanotechnologies have demonstrated a new approach using an unexpected material: borosilicate glass. Reported in Advanced Photonics, their study describes a high-performance quantum coherent receiver built directly inside glass using femtosecond laser writing. This method delivers low optical loss, stable performance, and compatibility with existing fiber-optic systems, all of which are important for moving quantum technologies beyond lab experiments."

Source: [SPIE](#) (24 Mar 2026)



"In research published in the Journal of the American Chemical Society on March 25, scientists from Kyushu University in Japan, working with collaborators at Johannes Gutenberg University (JGU) Mainz in Germany, developed a new way to push past this barrier. They used a molybdenum-based metal complex known as a "spin-flip" emitter to capture extra energy generated through singlet fission (SF), often described as a "dream technology" for improving light conversion.

With this approach, the team achieved energy conversion efficiencies of around 130%, exceeding the traditional 100% limit and pointing toward more advanced solar technologies."

Source: [Kyushu University](#) (28 Mar 2026)

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