

Devastatingly, we have lost a bright light in our field. Felix Hill was not only a deeply insightful thinker -- he was also a generous, thoughtful mentor to many researchers. He majorly changed my life, and I can't express how much I owe to him.

Even now, Felix still has so much to give -- to all of us. Below, I've compiled some of his writings that I think would be inspiring to anyone in the field. They reflect his unusual perspective, his incisive writing, and his irreverent, witty sense of humor. It's a pleasure and an epiphany to read any of these.

I hope this is a small way to help ensure that Felix's light continues to shine, as it deserves to

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1. Why do transformers work so well on language? (bit.ly/4h1lbeR) Atypically few jokes in this one, but starting around 0:32:00 Felix answers a fundamental question that I've never seen addressed so well. He ties the architectural properties of the transformer 1:1 to properties of language. I think this perspective is so illuminating and incredibly underappreciated.

2. What deep learning can teach us about linguistics and science (bit.ly/4gGFmzZ). It starts with a pretty entertaining refutation of Chomskian linguistics, and then dives into an optimistic and pretty irrefutable argument about why neural networks can teach us about language.

3. How to write a paper (bit.ly/40698qO). One of many things I learned from Felix -- he taught me to put together a research story from the beginning, including imagined results. This narrative helps guide the research, even if the story might change with each new set of experiments.

4. The bittersweet lesson (bit.ly/3BLsEky). Felix wrote this a few weeks before he died, and it's a unique, insightful take on the bitter lesson. He asked for feedback but sadly I got overwhelmed with other things and it stayed on my todo list for too long.. I didn't get to tell him what a beautiful essay I thought it was, and how much he still had to contribute...

5. Mental health in (AI) research (bit.ly/3BT3lwW). If you are struggling, please do reach out for help, and please do hold on. There may not always be a complete fix, but there are always ways to make things significantly better. I believe this from the bottom of my heart

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This is just a small sampling of Felix's incredible body of work. Please share any others that I have missed, and also do dive into the richness of all his research and writing.