

# Translating a Cretan Book using Java and ChatGPT API

**Dr Heinz M. Kabutz**

Last updated 2024-02-23

**© 2024 Heinz Kabutz – All Rights Reserved**



**Javaspecialists.eu**  
java training



# Vacation Time - Project Euler



- **Project Euler**

- **2023 was rough, all work no play**
- **End of December, finally time to relax**
- **Started solving maths puzzles with code**
  - **[www.projecteuler.net](http://www.projecteuler.net)**
  - **They get progressively more difficult**
  - **Good thinking and coding practice**
  - **Only catch: Up all night dreaming of better algorithms**
- **#25 in Greece**



# Introducing Εμμανουήλ Γεωργίου Κουτράκης

## ● Mr Manolis

- 2nd oldest man in our village Chorafakia
  - 91 years old
- Lead psalmist (singer) in the church
  - Still stands and sings from 7-10am
- Spent 20 years writing a history book about our village and area
  - Impeccable memory - synteknos' papou
- How we met ...

Photo by Wouter Pardaens





# Tsikoudia Kazani - Cauldron



- **Cretan "Medicine"**
  - Mr Giannis "σμίξαμε"
  - One week of working day and night
  - Hundreds of liters of excellent tsikoudia
    - Tastes better straight from the cauldron

Photo by Wouter Pardaens





Photo by  
Wouter Pardaens



# The Book



- **My Village Chorafakia**
  - Written in Cretan Dialect
  - Beautiful flowery language
  - Asked if I knew someone to type it out
    - 20 years of handwritten manuscript
    - Almost 500 photographs
  - Eventually the book was printed
    - I bought it, but couldn't understand it
    - Asked if I could try translate it into English





Photo by  
Wouter Pardaens



# First Attempt

- **WordPress Website with translation plugin**
  - **[www.chorafakia.com](http://www.chorafakia.com)**
- **Translation happened automatically with Google Translate**
  - **Stored in database for later editing**
- **Upgraded plugin and lost all the translations**



## Next up - LibreOffice

- **Tried to convert the PDF to LibreOffice**
  - **Worked fine for things like footnotes of the Cretan dialect**
  - **However, couldn't break up document into smaller chunks**
    - **Divide and conquer**
  - **Translation would require copy & pasting**
    - **Not practical at all**



# AsciiDoc

- **Next up: AsciiDoc**

- **Text based markup format for writing documents and books**
  - **Wrote Java Dynamic Proxies with this tool**
  - **Not as powerful as LaTeX, but good enough**
- **Could break up text into hundreds of small chunks**
- **Could put everything in GitHub**
- **Produced PDF, EPUB, HTML5, etc.**



# Photos with Descriptions

- **Book has hundreds of photos from bygone eras**
  - Each photo has a number and a description



Η μεγάλη παραλία του  
Καλαθά και το γραφικό  
νησάκι.

**"The large beach  
of Kalathas and the  
picturesque islet."**



# Original Book Designed for Print

- **Not easy to read**
  - **Lexicon of Cretan words at the back**
    - **But you need to know what the Cretan words are**
      - **Sometimes marked with \***
      - **Lexicon words not sorted alphabetically**
  - **All the colour pictures are at the end**
    - **Cheaper to print**
    - **Far more difficult to read**
      - **Constant flipping pages and searching for photo**



# The Book Translation as a Software Project

- **Software Engineering is closely related to informatics**
  - **Broke book into hundreds of small chunks**
  - **Each chunk is in text format**
    - **Easy to translate**
    - **Stored in GitHub**
  - **Book built using a Makefile and scripts**



# Enter ChatGPT 4.0

- **Google Translate won't cut it**
  - Not terrible, but also not great
- **Signed up for ChatGPT 4.0**
  - Incredible, even translated poetry
    - Not rhyme, but definitely sounds poetic



## Original: Poem to a Little Tree

- Δεντράκι που είσαι στη σχισμή του βράχου ριζωμένο  
πες μου που βρίσκεις την τροφή, που βρίσκεις το νερό  
με ροζιασμένο τον κορμό και χιλιοπληγωμένο  
πώς θρέφεις φύλλα πράσινα, πώς δένεις τον καρπό;
- Κείνος που αστέρια γιόμισε ψηλά τον ουρανό,  
κι έδωσε ξέχωρη φωνή στ' αηδόνι να λαλεί,  
κι έδωσε γλύκα πλιότερη στης μάνας το φιλί  
κείνος μου δίνει την τροφή, μου δίνει και νερό.



## Google Translate: Poem to a Little Tree

- **Tree that you are in the cleft of the rock rooted  
tell me where you find the food, where you find the water  
with a rosy torso and thousands of wounds  
how do you nourish green leaves, how do you bind the fruit?**
- **He who stars shone high in the sky,  
and gave a distinct voice to the nightingale to sing,  
and gave the mother a sweeter kiss  
he gives me food, he also gives me water.**



## ChatGPT 3.5: Poem to a Little Tree

- **Tree that you are in the crevice of the rock, rooted,  
tell me where you find your food, where you find your water.  
With your trunk rosy and heavily wounded,  
how do you nurture green leaves, how do you bear fruit?**
- **He who filled the sky high with stars,  
and gave a distinct voice to the nightingale to sing,  
and gave sweeter sweetness to a mother's kiss,  
he gives me food, he gives me water too.**



## ChatGPT 4.0: Poem to a Little Tree

- **Little tree rooted in the crevice of a rock,  
tell me, where do you find food, where do you find water?  
With your reddened trunk and scarred a thousand times,  
how do you nourish green leaves, how do you bear fruit?**
- **He who filled the sky with stars high above,  
who gave the nightingale its unique song,  
who made a mother's kiss the sweetest,  
he gives me sustenance, he gives me water.**



# DRY - Don't Repeat Yourself

- **Copied and pasted individual sections into ChatGPT prompt**

Translate into English, keeping AsciiDoc tags intact:

```
.Πανοραμική φωτογραφία του λιβαδιού, όπως είναι τσοι τωρινούς χρόνους.  
[#Image_049]  
image::../images/Image_049.png[]
```

## – Produced this

```
.Panoramic photo of the meadow, as it is in current times.  
[#Image_049]  
image::../images/Image_049.png[]
```



# IntelliJ AI Integration

- **IntelliJ Ultimate has an AI integration**
  - **Let's try out translating Image\_049.adoc**



# What about Generative AI?

- **Concern about**

- **Copyrighted material**
- **Leaking sensitive business information, passwords, API keys, etc.**
- **Making all programmers unemployed**
  - **<https://www.trueup.io/layoffs>**
  - **And other jobs too**
    - **Models, authors, translators, artists, musicians, sex workers, etc.**
    - **Not hair dressers (yet)**



# Before we continue ...

- **A small gift for you (no, it's not tsikoudia - expires tonight)**
  - Be sure to enable emails

Voxxed 2402 Voucher





# Bulk Translation of Photo Blocks

- **Instead of translating one at a time, batch 50 photos at a time**
  - **Less latency for translation request, but kept on failing**
  - **ChatGPT has a limitation on number of tokens**



# Translating using the ChatGPT API

- **Instead of copy & paste, I asked ChatGPT how to use the API**
  - **"Show me how to send prompts to the ChatGPT API using Java"**
    - ChatGPT showed me step by step how to do it with Apache HttpClient
  - **"Show me using the Java 11 HttpClient"**
    - A minute later, changed the example to use the Java 11 HttpClient



# ChatGPT API using Java 11 HttpClient

```
public class ChatGPTApiClientJava11 {  
    private static final String API_URL =  
        "https://api.openai.com/v1/chat/completions";  
    private static final String API_KEY =  
        "your_api_key_here"; // Replace with your actual API key  
  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        sendPrompt("Tell me a joke");  
    }  
}
```



# ChatGPT API using Java 11 HttpClient

```
public static void sendPrompt(String prompt) {  
    HttpClient client = HttpClient.newHttpClient();  
    HttpRequest request = HttpRequest.newBuilder()  
        .uri(URI.create(API_URL))  
        .header("Authorization", "Bearer " + API_KEY)  
        .header("Content-Type", "application/json")  
        .POST(BodyPublishers.ofString("{ \"model\": \"  
            \"gpt-3.5-turbo\", \"messages\": [  
                { \"role\": \"user\", \"content\": \"  
                    prompt + \"\"}] }"))  
        .build();  
}
```



# ChatGPT API using Java 11 HttpClient

```
try {  
    HttpResponse<String> response =  
        client.send(request, BodyHandlers.ofString());  
    System.out.println(response.body());  
} catch (IOException | InterruptedException e) {  
    e.printStackTrace();  
}  
}
```



## Json using GSON, etc.

- **Of course, we should use a library for Json such as GSON**

- **Again, we can ask ChatGPT to create the classes**

```
record ChatGPTRequest(String model, List<Message> messages) { }
record Message(String role, String content) {
    public Message(String content) {
        this("user", content);
    }
}
record ChatResponse(String id, String object, long created,
                    String model, List<Choice> choices, Usage usage,
                    String system_fingerprint) { }
record ErrorResponse(String message, String tokens, String code) { }
record Choice(int index, Message message, String finish_reason) { }
record Usage(int prompt_tokens, int completion_tokens, int total_tokens) { }
```



# Translating all the AsciiDoc files

- **We can translate each file sequentially like this**

```
try (Stream<Path> stream = Files.walk(start)) {  
    stream.filter(Files::isRegularFile)  
        .filter(path -> !path.toString().contains("locations/"))  
        .filter(path -> path.toString().endsWith(".adoc"))  
        .map(Path::toUri)  
        .map(URI::toString)  
        .forEach(srcFilename -> translate(srcFilename, language));  
}
```

- **Why would it be a mistake to convert this to a parallel stream?**



# How long does the translation take?

- **Models have different speed and accuracy**
  - Number of request and response tokens
  - Cost of each token
  - Rate limits on how many tokens per minute etc.
  - e.g. gpt-3.5-turbo or gpt-4-1106-preview



# Structured concurrency using virtual threads

## ● Use a virtual thread executor service for the HttpClient

```
private static final HttpClient client = HttpClient.newBuilder()
    .executor(Executors.newVirtualThreadPerTaskExecutor())
    .build();
```

## ● Fork each of the translation tasks

```
try (Stream<Path> stream = Files.walk(start)) {
    try (var scope = new StructuredTaskScope.ShutdownOnFailure()) {
        stream.filter(Files::isRegularFile)
            .filter(path -> !path.toString().contains("locations/"))
            .filter(path -> path.toString().endsWith(".adoc"))
            .map(Path::toUri)
            .map(URI::toString)
            .forEach(srcFilename -> scope.fork(() -> translate(srcFilename, language)));
        scope.join().throwIfFailed();
    }
}
```



# Can you translate the book into French please?

- **Mr Manolis asked me on Sunday**
  - **German and French for some friends**
    - **German I had already**
- **Let's try French now**
  - **We will monitor how much it costs to use the ChatGPT API**
    - **<https://platform.openai.com/account/billing/overview>**
  - **First with a Semaphore of 1**
    - **Making it single-threaded**
  - **Then with model 4.0**



# Copying Symbolic Links

- **The directory structure has a lot of symbolic links**
  - Images, locations, etc.
- **Asked ChatGPT to write the code for me**
  - See `MagicBookTranslator.copySymbolicLinks(source, target)`
  - Used `walkFileTree()` with a `FileVisitor`
    - Email from a famous Java Champion:
      - "You had a hunch that the code from your chatbot might not have been the best. The `Files.walkFileTree` method is needlessly complex. Just use `Files.walk`."
      - Let's try do it with `Files.walk()` ...



# What about the other code?

- **We can look at it, but ...**
  - **ChatGPT wrote most of the code**
    - **You can just ask it to do the same for you**



# Where to next?

- **Generative AI is already quite good**
  - However, a lot of companies are reluctant
    - Who owns our ideas, where is the generated code coming from?
      - New York Times is suing Microsoft for copyright violation
      - Oracle sued Google for copying the Java API for Android (but lost)
    - IntelliJ AI uses OpenAI ChatGPT
      - Doesn't use our prompts for training
      - And they will offer on-prem LLM soon, probably second half of 2024
    - Companies like Cohere.com offer LLM licenses
    - Microsoft Azure can also partition our data better than OpenAI



# Whilst we are taking questions ...

- Remember to get this - and make sure to enable emails!

Voxxed 2402 Voucher

