Summary Pilot

Imagine you are trying to summarize the following debates for a friend. Please read each of the following 8 short debates carefully, summarizing the main points in your own words at the end of each debate.

S1 and S2 indicate the different writers of these typed debates. The numbers after the hyphens are the turn numbers (thus, S1-1 indicates the first turn by Writer 1, and S2-1 indicates the first turn by Writer 2). The writers across the 8 debates are not the same people.

**Debate #1**

**S1-1:** check out this article

http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn14094-bacteria-make-major-evolutionary-shift-in-the-lab.html

thats evolution folks

**S2-1:** Isnt evolution a process that takes millions and millions of years to take into affect?

**S1-2:** a few mounths in a lab does not equal millions and millions of years

so no, evolution can happen in short periods of time, due to extreme environmental conditions

**S2-2:** Well that really was the point of my question..

If something is only changing over a monthly time period then is it really evolution? Or is it short term..but still detailed adaptation?

There is definately a difference between the two. Oh and another question..Why did the bacteria form that trait anyway? The article (unless i misread it) made no reference to why the bacteria did what it did.

**S1-3:** weather it happened in a few mounths or a few million years, if the organisms have physically changed to a different organism,

ie. it has new physical systems that werent there before, that is evolution

it did what it did because it was beneficial to the health and survival of the species, if it wasnt it wouldnt have evolved the new traits

**Your Summary of Debate #1:**

Two persons discuss about an evolution experiment performed on a particular bacteria, under controlled conditions. The first user believes that the experiment depicts evolution. It shows that the species have acquired new traits, have changed physically for their benefit, though under certain conditions and in a limited timeframe. However, the second user does not believe that way. He thinks that evolution takes millions of years and cannot be depicted in a few months. This could also be a result of adaptation. Further, he thinks that the experiment nowhere mentions this change is a result of evolution.

**Debate #2**

**S1-1:** I dont like watching Real Time with Bill Maher.

I think Maher is a smart cat, he is without a doubt a guy on the left but he always has something smart to say. I watch his show every now and then but i can only handle so much.

He is anti religious to the point where its annoying. In his eyes anyone who has a religion is a fool and doesnt deserve a brain.

His show only shows the smart liberal side. His show would be more watchable if he didnt leave all of those liberal opinions unchecked and actually had a conservative or two on his show that wasnt a buffoon.

**S2-1:** I couldn't agree more. I find him extremely irritating in that he seems unable to explore a topic and determine a side based on anything other than predetermined opinions. I would have much more time for him if he really delved into topics and showed how he arrived at his conclusions rather than make glib remarks at easy targets whilst smelling his own farts.

Like maths homework, there's no point showing the answer if you don't show the working out.

**S1-2:** The trouble is he's actually a smart guy! But the guy has more tunnel vision than even some of the worst right wing pundits. His show would be a lot better if it was more balanced out.

**S2-2:** Yes, couldn't have said it better. It is almost frustrating to see his wit not being employed fully.

**Your Summary of Debate #2:**

Two persons discuss about a show named Real Time and its host Bill Maher. First user believes that though Maher is a smart guy but he does not watch his shows regularly as they are one sided .It depicts that people who believe in religion are almost buffoons and without any brains ;and this can be annoying. The show would have been better if it had been more balanced, rather than always showing the liberals as smart .The second user agrees with the first one and further says that these shows depict a predetermined opinion. The host simply presents the conclusions without any details .This is just like a math answer without any steps; hence it is insignificant, presented in an improper way and does not employ the capabilities of the host fully.

**Debate #3**

**S1-1:** God can make and enforce his laws. But messengers have no authority over pro-choicers.

**S2-1:** Doesn't Ron Paul oppose abortion?

**S1-2:** Ethically yes, but politically he wants it to be left up to the states. A mature decision.

**S2-2:** "Our campaign is all about freedom, and you can't have freedom without life. And believe me, as a doctor, I know that life begins at conception." - Ron Paul

**S1-3:** Okay. But, Paul believes it should be left up to the judgment of the states.

**Your Summary of Debate #3:**

Two persons debate whether Ron Paul opposes abortion. First person thinks that Paul has left this decision to the states and this is a mature decision. However the second person feels that Paul does oppose abortion .To further support his view he gives an indirect quote of Paul in which Paul opposes abortion.

**The discussion is about if Paul is against abortion.S2 feels he supports abortion and quotes him where he is against abortion, but the other speaker is of the view that Paul may believe it ethically but believes that it should be upto states to decideDebate #4**

**S1-1:** Alien Ant Farm- Smooth Criminal.

Better than the original:

Michael Jackson- Smooth Criminal.

**S2-1:** That is a total lie : [ no one beats Jackson at his own songs

**S1-2:** It is not a lie, it is an opinion.

Alien Ant Farm had a better guitar rift, and added more excitement to a rather flat song by Michael Jackson.

The song was suited to rock, not pop.

**S2-2:** The lie part was a joke, apologies if you misunderstood :P

I'm sorry but I don't think anyone's vocals could top Michael's when it comes to his own songs. A better guitar riff, sure. Crappier vocals? Definitely.

Lets face it, when it comes down to MJ's songs vocals are the largest part.

**S1-3:** I shall give you that, AAF can not match MJ vocals lol.

BUT... I'm too busy singing it myself to hear him so still go with AAF :p lol

**S2-3:** LOL.... touche.... touche.

**Your Summary of Debate #4:**

Two persons discuss about a song namely Smooth Criminal by Michael Jackson. The first one feels that Alien Ant Farm did it better than original .Second user indicates this as a total lie. To this, the first one says that it is his opinion and not a lie as Alien Ant Farm gave it more excitement, guitar was better and it suited more to rock than Pop. The first user again confronts, says that no one can match the vocals of Michael Jackson.

Second user agrees to the vocals part but remarks with a laugh that he is too busy singing himself and hence, would still believe that Alien Ant Farm were better.

**Debate #5**

**S1-1:** Bush has been eagerly desperate in injecting US military troops to middle eastern countries which lead to speculations on the 9/11 being a conspiracy. He poured billions expecting to get bigger from the availability of oil in the countries by which he (undoubtedly) exploited.

**S2-1:** Only a stupid fool believes 9/11 was a consiracy.

**S1-2:** well there are a handful of "stupid fools" out there, and you can't force your ideology on them

**S2-2:** I'm not trying to force my ideology on anyone.

People should be free to be stupid fools.

**Your Summary of Debate #5:**

There’s a discussion if 9/11 was a conspiracy. First person thinks that Bush was desperate in injecting US military troops to Middle Eastern countries. He invested, expecting to get bigger returns from the availability of oil in those countries. However, the second person totally opposes this view with a sarcastic remark that only a stupid fool would believe 9/11 to be conspiracy. To this, the first person answers with a further sarcasm that stupid fools do exist and each person has his own ideology. This continues and the second person further taunts the first one by saying that people are free to be stupid fools.

**Debate #6**

**S1-1:** The mind is a part of the brain.

**S2-1:** Yes, the mind is part of the brain, just as the mind is a part of everyother part of your body.

**S1-2:** Name one body part other than the brain where the mind exists.

**S2-2:** Every cell of your body contains the mind.

**S1-3:** How is a cell from a body part such as a toenail responsible for one's thoughts and feelings?

**S2-3:** I was going to paste it on here but I thought maybe you should check out the article.This may or may not help. My focus is more on wether the mind continues to exist after the brain dies. In doing so one has to question where is the mind located, and does our mind exist only in the brain. One must also question what is the mind.

<http://westallen.typepad.com/brains_on_purpose/2009/02/if-you-are-interested-in-law-and-neuroscience-read-this-article.html>

**Your Summary Debate #6:**

Two persons debate about mind. The first one believes it to be a part of brain while the other one thinks that mind is a part of every other part of body .The first user puts up a query to name any part except brain where mind exists. To this the second user responds that every cell of the body contains mind. The first user again puts up a question that how anybody part ,for example a toenail can be responsible for one's thoughts and feelings .To this the second user puts up that he actually wanted to debate if mind exists after brain is dead .To support his view he gives reference to a neuroscience website.**Debate #7**

**S1-1:** Russia is becoming increasingly agressive in Europe and China is clearly taking an unethical advantage of Africa.

This symbolic alliance has the hallmarks of an impending stand off between west and east that will either revive cold war fears or make them a reality.

**S2-1:** Russia is good now. They've had their stint in rehab and they are on the rebound now. They wont relapse and break into old bad habits that got them into rehab in the first place right?....right?...RIGHT!?

YAY World War 3!!!!!!!!!!!

**S1-2:** In the UK where I live it has recently been anounced that Russia has been moved to the third biggest threat to the UK after al-Qaeda and Iran British security services.

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/crime/article4265569.ece

**S2-2:** All i can really say to that is..woah. This is going to be a big big problem down the road.

**Your Summary Debate #7:**

Two persons debate if Russia can be a threat, and possibility of revival of cold war. The first one believes that Russia has become aggressive and in UK it is being treated as a third biggest threat after al-Qaeda and Iran British security services. To prove his point he even provides a link to one of such websites. On the other hand the second user initially believes that it was these bad habits that lead to Russia in a rehab phase, hence they would not repeat it and relapse. However, when the first person quotes a website link to support his view, the second person thinks it could be a big problem.

**Debate #8**

**S1-1:** I don't think he can maintain the exposure to quality football that he would have in Europe or South America and subsequently will have problems playing at the level expected for international football.

However, if his descision was based on gaining celebrity status then it makes sense. Financially he got a good deal too, although he could possibly have gotten the same or more from a European club.

**S2-1:** Don't forget he also manages to get more Americans to watch the world's favorite sport.

**S1-2:** But there is only 350 million United State citizens. Not much in comparrison to the global comsumption of (proper) football.

Even the lowest estimates place the world cup at 260 million viewers (for the final). And unfortunatly the amount of Americans watching football (soccer) fall way below that (5 million watch the domestic game).

It needs more than one player to give it a kick start in merikia.

**S2-2:** Need to start somewhere though, right? :P

Don't forget its a country that enjoys watching cars drive around in an oval for an entire day (just joshin' ya Americans : ])

**Summary Debate #8:**

Two persons debate on the benefits of playing football in Europe or South America as compared to America. The first one feels that Europe or South America give more exposure and are also financially better deals. If the decision to play otherwise is to gain popularity then it may be justified. The second user thinks that this might also increase the number of Americans watching the world's favorite sport. However, the first user thinks that there are very few American viewers of football as compared to worldwide viewership; and more than one player is needed to change this. The second person feels that this might be a way to initiate the change because Americans usually enjoy watching car race.

**Thank you for helping us with our pilot!**

Please tell us how long it took you to do write these summaries of the 8 debates: \_close to an hour\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please put any other feedback here:

I had skimmed through the forums data. Though it was not an extensive study but a few thoughts were in my mind such as; do the two posts agree, do they respect each other’s opinion or are they attacking each other, being nasty or sarcastic.

I have tried to give an unbiased summary but still mentioned the above fact as it might make a difference to the pilot study.

Regarding the data set and its application to machine learning

Can we consider “nice/nasty and respect /attack” annotations

as class labels for a Regression problem : to predict the value of scalar nice/nasty and respect attack from a given quote response pair.

May be I was thinking if this could be a machine learning project to select features from text by using certain feature selection tools such as LICW which I think is also used in this dataset and then use feature extraction algorithms of weka to predict the relevant features and then predict the value of the scalar variables nice/nasty and respect /attack .

Hi Marilyn,

In my last meeting