

Abstract

A mechanism for extracting debate graphs from debate transcriptions is described. The idea is to represent the structure of a debate as a graph with speakers as nodes. Nodes are labelled according to the "attitude" of the speaker, whether they "agree" or "disagree" with the motion, using a classifier constructed from a training set of labelled speeches. Links between nodes are established according to the semantic similarity between speeches. The graph links are labelled as being either "supporting" or "opposing". If both speakers have the same attitude (both negative or both positive) the link is labelled as being supporting; otherwise the link is labelled as being opposing. To act as a focus for the work, and for the evaluation reported in this paper, transcriptions of UK "House of Commons" debates were used.