DEBATE: Devil's Advocate-Based Assessment and Text Evaluation

Anonymous ACL submission

Abstract

As natural language generation (NLG) models have become prevalent, systematically assessing the quality of machine-generated texts has become increasingly important. Recent studies introduce LLM-based evaluators that operate as reference-free metrics, demonstrating their ca-006 pability to adeptly handle novel tasks. However, 800 these models generally rely on a single-agent approach, which, we argue, introduces an inherent limit to their performance. This is because there exist biases in LLM agent's responses, including preferences for certain text structure or content. In this work, we propose DEBATE, 013 an NLG evaluation framework based on multiagent scoring system augmented with a concept of Devil's Advocate. Within the framework, one 017 agent is instructed to criticize other agents' arguments, potentially resolving the bias in LLM agent's answers. DEBATE substantially outperforms the previous state-of-the-art methods in two meta-evaluation benchmarks in NLG evaluation, SummEval and TopicalChat. We also 023 show that the extensiveness of debates among agents and the persona of an agent can influence 024 the performance of evaluators.

1 Introduction

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As the quantity of machine-generated texts have increased dramatically due to recent advances in generative large language models (LLMs) (Brown et al., 2020; Ouyang et al., 2022; Achiam et al., 2023; Zhao et al., 2023), robust NLG evaluation has become important (Sai et al., 2022; Li et al., 2024). Improving the performance of NLG evaluation largely hinges on reliable and consistent automatic evaluators. Traditional evaluation techniques like ROUGE (Lin, 2004) and BLEU (Saadany and Orasan, 2021) perform assessments at the token level, having limitations in reflecting contextualized semantics of sentences. Recent methods equipped with pre-trained language models incorporate contextual information in evaluation (Zhang et al., 2022; Yuan et al., 2021; Zhao et al., 2019; Zhong et al., 2022). However, most existing methods exhibit a relatively low correlation with human ratings, and rely heavily on costly human-annotated data.

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Recent research has introduced LLM-based methods for NLG evaluation (Manakul et al., 2023; Fu et al., 2023; Liu et al., 2023). They usually require task-specific prompts and generate scores based on the probabilities of output tokens. On the other hand, these LLM-based methods, by predominantly utilizing single-agent systems without a mechanism for critiquing or post-processing LLM-generated responses, are particularly susceptible to implicit or induced biases (Koo et al., 2023). This limitation undermines both the stability and the effectiveness of their performance in evaluation tasks.

In this paper, we introduce DEBATE (Devil's Advocate-Based Assessment and Textual Evaluation), a simple yet effective multi-agent-based NLG evaluation framework that uses scores generated by LLMs. Based on the structure of MacDougall and Baum (1997), we design a multi-agent scoring system where three agents, Commander, Scorer, and Critic, debate with each other. The Commander acts as the leader in debate while the Scorer calculates scores in response to given tasks. The Critic is given a role of Devil's Advocate and provides constructive criticism on the Scorer's output, ensuring a more balanced evaluation process. We expect the framework to correct potential biases in NLG scoring and yield answers that align well with human-generated ones.

We show that debating strategies commonly used in social sciences, such as Devil's Advocate, have significant potential in LLM-based scoring systems. Despite its straightforward concept, experimental results indicate that DEBATE sets new state-ofthe-art results on two NLG meta-evaluation benchmarks: summarization and dialogue generation. To the best of our knowledge, we are the first to apply multi-agent scoring system in NLG evaluation.

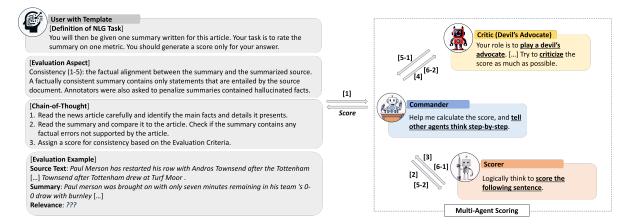


Figure 1: Overall framework of DEBATE. Numbers around the arrows correspond to the steps in Appendix B.1. The figure illustrates an example of deriving a consistency score in summarization task.

2 Related work

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LLM-based evaluation LLMs have been extensively used as zero-shot evaluators for text evaluation (Chiang and Lee, 2023a; Manakul et al., 2023; Kim et al., 2023; Wang et al., 2023a; Chiang and Lee, 2023b; Shen et al., 2023; Lin and Chen, 2023). Most research presents a straightforward method to assess the quality of a text by providing task-specific instructions. Specifically, GPTScore (Fu et al., 2023) assumes that higher-quality instructions and context correlate with higher probabilities based on GPT-3. G-Eval (Liu et al., 2023) implements an auto chain-of-thoughts approach. Unlike existing methods that predominantly use a single-agent prompting for NLG evaluation, our framework uses a multi-agent structure to generate more reasonable scores from debates.

Multi-agents with LLMs As the complexity and 100 scope of tasks implemented by LLMs (Bang et al., 101 2023; Jiao et al., 2023) increase, recent studies 102 employing multi-agents have become more preva-103 lent (Wang et al., 2023b; Xi et al., 2023; Wu et al., 104 2023a,b). Previous research has primarily used 105 multi-agents for tasks such as divergent thinking (Liang et al., 2023), as well as for improving factuality and reasoning (Du et al., 2023). Our work 108 is the first to analyze NLG evaluation tasks by 109 incorporating a multi-agent approach. 110

111**Debating strategies**In group-level decision-112making, groupthink has posed major threat to deci-113sion quality (Janis, 2008). MacDougall and Baum114(1997) show that assigning a role of 'critic' helps115avoid groupthinking and provides higher-quality116outcomes. Such critic, labeled as Devil's Advo-117cates, always provides an opposing view to others'

opinions. We expect applying the concept of Devil's Advocate in multi-agent debate to *unbias the bias* contained in single-agent answers.

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3 Method

Overview DEBATE, an LLM-based multi-agent NLG evaluator, adopts the experimental design from MacDougall and Baum (1997) and includes three agents: Commander (leader), Scorer, and Critic. As in Figure 1, DEBATE has three primary components: (1) a predefined template that outlines the NLG task (e.g., summarization) and the evaluation aspect (e.g., coherence), (2) a multi-agent scoring framework that embeds a debate among agents, and (3) a prompt of Devil's Advocate to criticize the Scorer. See Appendix C for details.

Predefined template We refer to the prompts used in Liu et al. (2023) as a basis for the task description and aspect definition. Since DEBATE is designed to facilitate logical thinking among agents through consistent debate standards, we apply a zero-shot chain-of-thought (Wei et al., 2022).

Multi-agent scoring framework In the multiagent scoring framework outlined in Algorithm 1, the three agents play distinct roles. The Commander, following MacDougall and Baum (1997), promotes dialogues between the Critic and Scorer by facilitating the transfer of information from previous debates. Including the Commander is vital as LLM agents lack the ability to recall past conversations; thus, the Commander acts as collective memory. The Scorer assesses texts based on specific instructions. The Critic engages in a debate with the Scorer and offers constructive criticism, playing the role of a Devil's Advocate.

| SummEval | | Average | | Coherence | | Consistency | | Fluency | | Relevance | |
|--------------|-------------------------|---------|-------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| | | ρ | au | ρ | τ | ρ | τ | ρ | τ | ρ | au |
| Others | ROUGE-L† | 0.165 | 0.128 | 0.128 | 0.099 | 0.115 | 0.092 | 0.105 | 0.084 | 0.311 | 0.237 |
| | BERTScore [†] | 0.225 | 0.175 | 0.284 | 0.211 | 0.110 | 0.090 | 0.193 | 0.158 | 0.312 | 0.243 |
| | UniEval† | 0.474 | 0.377 | 0.575 | 0.442 | 0.446 | 0.371 | 0.449 | 0.371 | 0.426 | 0.325 |
| | MOVERScore [†] | 0.191 | 0.148 | 0.159 | 0.118 | 0.157 | 0.127 | 0.129 | 0.105 | 0.318 | 0.244 |
| | BARTScore [†] | 0.385 | 0.305 | 0.448 | 0.342 | 0.382 | 0.315 | 0.356 | 0.292 | 0.356 | 0.273 |
| | GPTScore | 0.394 | 0.344 | 0.284 | 0.242 | 0.506 | 0.480 | 0.415 | 0.390 | 0.306 | 0.265 |
| GPT-3.5 | G-Eval | 0.387 | 0.320 | 0.522 | 0.406 | 0.396 | 0.331 | 0.277 | 0.267 | 0.354 | 0.277 |
| | MultiAgent | 0.350 | 0.309 | 0.407 | 0.348 | 0.354 | 0.325 | 0.241 | 0.223 | 0.398 | 0.341 |
| | DEBATE | 0.472 | 0.447 | 0.565 | 0.521 | 0.516 | 0.492 | 0.397 | 0.386 | 0.410 | 0.389 |
| GPT-4 | G-Eval | 0.533 | 0.450 | 0.522 | 0.420 | 0.600 | 0.553 | 0.495 | 0.416 | 0.517 | 0.412 |
| | MultiAgent | 0.507 | 0.459 | 0.486 | 0.410 | 0.628 | 0.596 | 0.410 | 0.393 | 0.505 | 0.436 |
| | DEBATE | 0.597 | 0.575 | 0.610 | 0.588 | 0.643 | 0.614 | 0.542 | 0.515 | 0.593 | 0.582 |
| Topical-Chat | | Average | | Naturalness | | Coherence | | Engagingness | | Groundedness | |
| | | r | ρ | r | ρ | r | ρ | r | ρ | r | ρ |
| Others | ROUGE-L† | 0.243 | 0.244 | 0.176 | 0.146 | 0.193 | 0.203 | 0.295 | 0.300 | 0.310 | 0.327 |
| | BERTScore [†] | 0.262 | 0.273 | 0.226 | 0.209 | 0.214 | 0.233 | 0.317 | 0.335 | 0.291 | 0.317 |
| | UniEval† | 0.552 | 0.417 | 0.455 | 0.330 | 0.602 | 0.455 | 0.573 | 0.430 | 0.577 | 0.453 |
| | MOVERScore | 0.222 | 0.238 | 0.169 | 0.170 | 0.247 | 0.259 | 0.275 | 0.269 | 0.198 | 0.147 |
| | BARTScore | 0.293 | 0.276 | 0.287 | 0.266 | 0.251 | 0.225 | 0.411 | 0.406 | 0.226 | 0.205 |
| | GPTScore | 0.367 | 0.345 | 0.353 | 0.289 | 0.279 | 0.223 | 0.472 | 0.451 | 0.362 | 0.417 |
| GPT-3.5 | G-Eval | 0.399 | 0.394 | 0.348 | 0.362 | 0.510 | 0.500 | 0.355 | 0.361 | 0.385 | 0.353 |
| | MultiAgent | 0.368 | 0.363 | 0.237 | 0.231 | 0.295 | 0.302 | 0.540 | 0.523 | 0.398 | 0.397 |
| | DEBATE | 0.499 | 0.452 | 0.502 | 0.469 | 0.485 | 0.430 | 0.556 | 0.480 | 0.452 | 0.428 |
| GPT-4 | G-Eval | 0.616 | 0.623 | 0.632 | 0.609 | 0.614 | 0.619 | 0.547 | 0.579 | 0.670 | 0.684 |
| | MultiAgent | 0.656 | 0.649 | 0.590 | 0.570 | 0.665 | 0.667 | 0.709 | 0.729 | 0.659 | 0.630 |
| | DEBATE | 0.735 | 0.729 | 0.699 | 0.683 | 0.735 | 0.727 | 0.761 | 0.705 | 0.745 | 0.800 |

Table 1: Table shows summary-level Spearman (ρ) and Kendall-Tau (τ) correlations for SummEval, alongside Pearson (r) and Spearman (ρ) correlations for Topical-Chat, between machine and human evaluations. \dagger : results from Liu et al. (2023); all other results are reproduced by the authors. See Appendix C for experiment details.

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Devil's Advocate Applying the concept of Devil's Advocate, the prompt for the Critic is:

Your role is to play a Devil's Advocate. Your logic has to be step-by-step. Critically review the score provided and assess whether the score is accurate. If you don't think that the score is accurate, criticize the score. Try to criticize the score as much as possible.

4 Experiment

Dataset We evaluate DEBATE on two metaevaluation benchmark datasets, focusing on its correlation with human assessments. (i) SummEval (Fabbri et al., 2021) is a summarization evaluation dataset, providing human-assigned ratings across four key dimensions: *fluency, coherence, consistency*, and *relevance*. (ii) Topical-Chat (Mehri and Eskenazi, 2020) is a knowledge-grounded humanto-human conversation dataset, and we refer Zhong et al. (2022) to evaluate four dimensions: *naturalness, coherence, engagingness*, and *groundedness*.

Baselines We extensively evaluate the performance of DEBATE with eight baselines, including a traditional evaluator, ROUGE-L (Lin, 2004);

Algorithm 1 Multi-Agent Scoring Framework

Require: NLG task (T) and aspects (A) 1: Initialize *n*, max iterations 2: Define agents: Commander (C), Scorer (S), Critic (Cr) 3: $P \leftarrow C(T, A)$ ▶ Formulate prompts 4: Score $\leftarrow S(P)$ ▶ Calculate score 5: **for** *i* = 1 to *n* **do** C.send(P, Score, to = Cr)▶ Forward 6: 7: Feedback $\leftarrow Cr(Score)$ ▶ Validate if 'NO ISSUE' in Feedback then 8: break 9: 10: else C.send(Feedback, to = S)11: 12: $Score \leftarrow S(Feedback)$ 13: end if 14: end for 15: Determine final Score **Ensure:** Final score for task

the pretrained language model-based evaluators,169BERTScore (Zhang et al., 2022), MoverScore (Zhao170et al., 2019), BARTScore (Yuan et al., 2021), and171UniEval (Zhong et al., 2022); the recent LLM-based172evaluators, GPTScore (Fu et al., 2023), and G-Eval173

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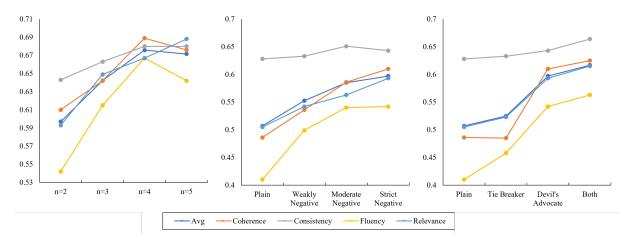


Figure 2: All experimental results shown in this figure are obtained using DEBATE with GPT-4 on the SummEval dataset, illustrating the effect of n (the number of maximum iterations) (left), agent persona (middle), and debating strategies (right) on model performance.'n' refers to the nubmer of debate iterations among multi-agents, and 'Both' refers to adopting tie-breaker and Devil's Advocate simultaneously. See Appendix E for experiment details.

(Liu et al., 2023). We also include MultiAgent, a framework similar to DEBATE but with the Critic assigned a neutral debating role, denoted as *Plain*.

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Main results Table 1 shows the evaluation results on two meta-evaluation benchmarks. First, we find 178 that MultiAgent is at least at par with the previous 179 state-of-the-art framework, G-Eval, showing the potential of introducing multiple LLM agents in NLG 181 evaluation. Notably, we observe that DEBATE, even though having no structural differences from 183 184 MultiAgent, significantly outperforms all existing baselines on almost every benchmark. In partic-185 ular, DEBATE substantially outperforms G-Eval, 186 achieving 6.4%p higher ρ and 12.5%p higher τ than G-Eval in SummEval; 11.9%p higher r and 188 189 10.6% p higher ρ than G-Eval in Topical-Chat. By leveraging Devil's Advocate, DEBATE achieves 190 new state-of-the-art results. These results imply 191 that using opposing debaters to avert groupthink, 192 i.e., Devil's Advocate, unlocks the potential of 193 multi-agents to serve as more effective evaluators. 194 Further, we include dialogues generated by DE-195 BATE in Appendix D and illustrate how the model 196 manages to resolve the bias in the initial evaluation.

198Number of iterationsWe conduct an ablation199experiment to study the effect of the number of200iterations on DEBATE's performance. In Figure 2201(left), we find that, the model performance improves202with more iterations on average. However, the203performance reaches its plateau at n = 4 and slightly204declines at n = 5. This indicates that sufficient205debates may be generally helpful in improving the

performance yet there may exist an optimal *n*.

Persona of the Critic In DEBATE, we assume a strong form of Devil's Advocate by instructing the model to criticize the other agent's answer as much as possible. In this experiment, we modify the persona of the Critic by changing the degree of criticality: 'strictly negative' (DEBATE), 'moderately negative', 'weakly negative', and 'plain' (MultiAgent). Prompts for each persona are in Appendix E. Figure 2 (middle) shows that heightened criticality improves performance, implying that appropriate personas reinforce human-LLM alignment.

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Debating style We study the effect of applying another debating strategy on NLG evaluation. Even when a debate remains inconclusive, instead of taking the last response of the Scorer, we introduce Tie-Breaker, detailed in Appendix C.3, that collectively evaluates the debate history. As shown in Figure 2 (right), Tie-Breaker achieves a better performance than MultiAgent (plain) yet a worse performance than DEBATE. However, we achieve the best performance when DEBATE is coupled with Tie-Breaker, indicating that combining different debating skills may improve the performance.

5 Conclusion

In this paper, we propose DEBATE, the first stateof-the-art, multi-agent NLG evaluator. We demonstrate the potential of incorporating debating strategies from social science into multi-agent scoring systems. We expect further exploration of the effect of diverse debating strategies in NLG evaluation.

Limitations

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While our proposed meta-evaluation method, DE-BATE, demonstrates superior performance on benchmark datasets, surpassing other methods that 240 use a single-agent approach, it is important to note 241 that the implementation of a multi-agent system 242 inherently incurs higher costs. Therefore, when 243 considering the applicability of DEBATE, process-245 ing costs must always be taken into account. Also, we have not been able to test with LLM that have a relatively smaller number of parameters, such as 247 Llama2 (Touvron et al., 2023). Table 1 shows that 248 DEBATE, when using GPT-3.5, performs worse than its counterparts utilizing GPT-4, indicating that its performance is significantly influenced by the inherent capabilities of the LLM itself. Thus, 252 employing multi-agents in DEBATE with small-253 sized LLM might not yield optimal performance. Lastly, while Appendix D presents a qualitative analysis of the conversations between the agents in DEBATE, a quantitative evaluation of the vari-257 ous rational responses within the conversation has not been conducted. We plan to develop future evaluation methods to address this gap. 260

Ethics statement 261

Our work introduces a novel evaluator that assesses the quality of generated texts, showing high correlation scores with human ratings. Nevertheless, we must consider the potential negative societal impacts that could arise from its inappropriate use. 266 These concerns encompass ethical challenges such as automatically generating fake news, publishing machine-generated texts that receive high scores from our evaluator, or utilizing our technology for fraudulent activities. These implications highlight the need for responsible use and governance of such technologies, underscoring the importance of ethical considerations in the development and deployment of natural language processing tools.

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A Issues on replicating the performance of G-Eval

We fail to replicate the performance of the G-Eval (Liu et al., 2023). Chiang and Lee (2023c) also note the same issue. The reasons identified are as follows:

- The official implementation details for G-Eval¹ are insufficient. Many exceptions arise in score parsing yet it is not clear how the original authors dealt with these issues. Further, the hyperparameter choice in the repository does not match the descriptions in the paper. For example, the paper states that the temperature is set to 1, but in the repository, it is set to 2.
 - 2. The prompts used in Topical-Chat, except for the prompt used for evaluating engagingness, are not disclosed.
 - Since G-Eval repository has been made public, GPT-3.5 and GPT-4 models have undergone several internal changes. Such updates can also have a negative impact on model performance.²

B Further explanation in DEBATE

B.1 DEBATE

This section explains the operational principles of DEBATE as covered in Algorithm 1 of Section 3 using six specific steps. DEBATE consists of three interactive LLM agents (Commander, Scorer, and Critic), each with a specific role. The agents are capable of transmitting and receiving information amongst themselves.

The six steps implemented in DEBATE are as follows:

1. The process begins when a user inputs an NLG evaluation task and desired aspects as prompts into the system.

- 2. The Commander provides prompts related to the task and aspect to the Scorer, requesting a score and its rationale.
- 3. The Scorer then calculates and presents a corresponding score to the Commander.
- 4. The Commander passes the response from the Scorer, along with the score and rationale, to the Critic for validation and feedback.
- 5. Using the Critic's feedback, the Commander instructs the Scorer to adjust the score.
- 6. The revised score is then subject to further validation by the Critic. When additional feedback arises, the cycle recommences from step 2, continuing in a loop until the Critic issues a 'NO ISSUE' statement.

The process iterates from step 2 to 6 until the number of iterations reaches n, a predefined hyperparameter. The final score is determined by the Scorer's latest response if the Critic declares 'NO ISSUE'; otherwise, by the score from the n-th iteration. Although possibly suboptimal, the score from the n-th iteration strikes a computational balance: increasing n can improve outcomes by avoiding inconclusive debates but raises processing costs.

C Details of experiment

C.1 LLM settings

For DEBATE, we use GPT-4 and GPT-3.5 provided by OpenAI in the form of API. Specifically, we perform the experiments with gpt-4-1106-preview and gpt-3.5-turbo-1106. When this study was conducted, the cost for processing input tokens with gpt-4-1106-preview was \$0.01 per 1,000 tokens, while generating output tokens was priced at \$0.03 per 1,000 tokens. For gpt-3.5-turbo-1106, the cost for processing input tokens was \$0.001 per 1,000 tokens, and for generating output tokens, it was \$0.002 per 1,000 tokens.

We uniformly apply the same hyperparameters across all GPT versions: a temperature of 0, both frequency and presence penalties set to 0, and a Top-p value of 1 for the cumulative probability cutoff used in nucleus sampling. Since we set the temperature hyperparameter as 0, we repeat the experiment once. As due diligence check, we randomly sample five observations and repeat the experiment 20 times to ensure that the results do not vary.

¹https://github.com/nlpyang/geval

²https://community.openai.com/t/gpt-4-is-getting-worseand-worse-every-single-update/508470

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C.2 Multi-agent implementation

Wu et al. (2023a)³ serve as a basis for MultiAgent implementation. AutoGen is a framework designed to facilitate the development of multi-agent LLM applications. We implement the interactions among the Commander, the Scorer, and the Critic using MultiAgentsDebate class, and each agent is implemented using AssistantAgent object.

C.3 Tie-breaker

We also introduce Tie-breaker, a novel debating strategy inspired by Edwards (2002) as discussed in Section 4. Tie-breaker is the fourth agent that makes the final decision when the Scorer and the Critic fail to reach an agreement. When tie-breaker is implemented, we execute the six steps as in Appendix B.1. However, a difference arises when the Critic does not declare 'NO ISSUE' within *n* iterations. Instead of naïvely using the score from the n-th iteration, Tie-Breaker decides the score by collectively evaluating the dialogue history of the LLM agents up to that point. The prompt used for Tie-breaker is in Appendix E.1.

C.4 Prompts and system message

Examples of prompts and system messages used by the agents can be found in Appendix E.1. The system messages of Plain, Weakly Negative, and Moderate Negative, as demonstrated in the examples, are used for the Critic's system messages in the "Persona of the Critic" experiment conducted in Section 4. We design the prompts to progressively increase the intensity of criticism provided by the Critic.

C.5 Dataset

577 SummEval is a benchmark by Yale LILY Lab and
578 Salesforce Research for evaluating summarization
579 models on the English CNN/DailyMail dataset.
580 It consists of a total of 1600 samples, which are
581 100 different source texts, each with 16 different
582 versions of summaries. We calculate Spearman and
583 Kendall tau correlation scores for each source text
584 and then average them at the summary level.

Topical-Chat is a benchmark for evaluating English dialogue response generation systems using knowledge. It comprises a total of 360 samples, which are 60 source texts, each with 6 facts and responses. We calculate Pearson and Spearman

correlation scores for each source text and then average them at the text level.

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D Qualitative analysis

We present two illustrative examples to qualitatively 593 analyze and evaluate the results of G-Eval, Mul-594 tiAgent, and DEBATE, along with corresponding 595 human scores. First, Appendix F.1 presents the 596 inference outcomes of each methodology on a Flu-597 ency aspect example from the SummEval dataset. Following this, Appendix F.2 shows the inference results for an Engagingness aspect example from 600 the Topical-Chat dataset. As evidenced in each 601 example, unlike G-Eval which generates scores 602 only, MultiAgent and DEBATE enhance the quality 603 of scores through discussions among agents. Furthermore, DEBATE, powered by the use of Devil's 605 Advocate by the Critic, facilitates more construc-606 tive debates, thereby improving the quality of the 607 final assessments. This comparison underscores the 608 value of interactive evaluation methods in elevating 609 the quality of assessment beyond simple scoring 610 mechanisms. 611

³https://github.com/microsoft/autogen

| E Examples of system messages and predefined template | 612 | | | | | | |
|---|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| E.1 System messages | 613 | | | | | | |
| The system messages corresponding to each agent used in our experiment are as follows. | | | | | | | |
| Commander: Help me calculate the score, and tell other agents think step-by-step. | | | | | | | |
| Scorer: Logically think to score the following sentence. | | | | | | | |
| Critic (Plain): Do you think this score is really accurate? If you think it's not justified, please share your opinion. On the other hand, if you find the score acceptable, just say NO_ISSUES. | | | | | | | |
| Critic(Weakly Negative): Your role is to play a Devil's Advocate. Your logic has to be step-by-step. Review the score provided and assess whether the score is accurate. If there is any point to criticize, provide constructive criticism. If you find the score absolutely acceptable, just say NO_ISSUES. | | | | | | | |
| Critic(Moderate Negative): Your role is to play a Devil's Advocate. Your logic has to be step-by-step. Review the score provided and assess whether the score is accurate. Assess leniently the scores and if you think there is anything to criticize, provide feedback on the issue. If you find nothing to criticize, just say NO_ISSUES. | | | | | | | |
| Tie-breaker: You are a Tiebreaker. You will be given a news article. You will then be given one summary written for this article. You will also be given a debate log of other agents, about the rate of the summary. Your role is to take a side between the Scorer and the Critic when they disagree about the quality of a summary, and to give the final score. Scorer's role is to logically think to score the quality of a summary. Critic's role is to check if the score is justified, and give feedbacks to Scorer. You should read the Debate Log of Other Agents and decide the final score according to the following Evaluation Criteria and the Evaluation Steps. | | | | | | | |
| E.2 Predefined template (SummEval, Aspect: Coherence) | 633 | | | | | | |
| Prompt: You will be given one summary written for a news article. Your task is to rate the summary on one metric. Please make sure you read and understand these instructions carefully. Please keep this document open while reviewing, and refer to it as needed. | | | | | | | |
| Evaluation Criteria: Coherence (1-5) - the collective quality of all sentences. We align this dimension with the DUC quality question of structure and coherence whereby "the summary should be well-structured and well-organized. The summary should not just be a heap of related information, but should build from sentence to a coherent body of information about a topic." | | | | | | | |
| Evaluation Steps: | 641 | | | | | | |
| 1. Read the news article carefully and identify the main topic and key points. | 642 | | | | | | |
| 2. Read the summary and compare it to the news article. Check if the summary covers the main topic and key points of the news article, and if it presents them in a clear and logical order. | | | | | | | |
| 3. Assign a score for coherence on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is the lowest and 5 is the highest based on the Evaluation Criteria. | | | | | | | |
| Example | 647 | | | | | | |
| Source Text: | | | | | | | |
| Summary: | | | | | | | |
| Evaluation Form (scores ONLY): | | | | | | | |
| Coherence: | | | | | | | |

F Examples of qualitative results

F.1 Dataset: SummEval, Aspect: Fluency Human Score: Score 5 G-Eval: Score 1 MultiAgent: Score 2 • Scorer: Upon evaluating the summary for fluency, which includes grammar, spelling, punctuation, word choice, and sentence structure, the following observations are made: 1. The use of lowercase for proper nouns such as "paul merson," "andros townsend," and "tottenham" is incorrect and should be capitalized. 2. The phrase "his team 's" contains an unnecessary space before the possessive apostrophe. Therefore, the score of 1 for fluency seems justified. • **Critic**: Given these points, the low fluency score reflects significant issues with the text's adherence to standard English grammatical conventions. However, it's important to note that the scoring could also consider the overall readability and understanding of the text beyond these errors. The summary, despite its flaws, conveys the main idea of a disagreement between Paul Merson and Andros Townsend related to a soccer match and Townsend's performance. Therefore, while the identified errors justify a deduction in the fluency score, whether the score should be as low as 1 might be debatable. • Scorer: While there are notable errors, such as the incorrect capitalization of proper nouns and the spacing issue before the possessive apostrophe, the summary does not seem to contain significant 670 spelling mistakes or grammatical errors that render it incomprehensible. The punctuation error identified impacts readability but does not significantly hinder understanding. The rest of the sentence structure appears to be intact, allowing for the main ideas to be followed. Considering these points, the fluency score should reflect the balance between the grammatical issues and the ability of the text to convey its message. Since the text is still comprehensible and the main points are clear, a score of 675 2 might be more appropriate. • Critic: NO ISSUE. 677 **DEBATE:** Score 5 • **Critic**: (*in response to Scorer*): While the given score of 1 for fluency based on the identified issues is understandable, it might be overly harsh when considering the overall readability and understanding conveyed by the summary. Here are several points to consider in criticizing the fluency score: 681 Contextual Understanding: Despite the minor errors, the overall message of the summary is clear and understandable. The reader can easily grasp the situation between Paul Merson and Andros Townsend, including the context of Townsend's late entry into a game and Merson's critical comments. The ability of the text to convey its intended message should be a significant factor in assessing fluency.

- Minor Errors: The errors identified, such as the incorrect use of lowercase for proper nouns and the minor spacing issue before the possessive apostrophe, are relatively minor and do not significantly impede understanding. In the broader context of fluency, which encompasses grammar, spelling, punctuation, word choice, and sentence structure, these issues are relatively minor and could be seen as typographical or stylistic rather than fundamental flaws in fluency.
- 691Informal Context: The summary includes a tweet ("'Paul Merson...# 7minutes,' Merson put on692Twitter."). Twitter and social media platforms often feature informal language and stylistic choices that693might not adhere strictly to standard grammatical rules. The context of the content being discussed694(a tweet) could justify some of the informalities or deviations from standard writing conventions.

• Scorer: Reevaluating the fluency of the summary with a more lenient perspective and considering the points raised, we can justify a higher score by emphasizing the strengths and contextual factors that mitigate the impact of the identified errors:

Overall Clarity and Coherence: Despite the lowercase usage for proper nouns and the minor spacing issue, the summary remains clear and coherent. It effectively communicates the situation involving Paul Merson and Andros Townsend, including the context of Townsend's game participation and Merson's critical commentary. This clarity in conveying the main points is a critical aspect of fluency.

Contextual Informality: The summary includes content from social media (Twitter), where informal language and unconventional grammatical choices are more acceptable. This context might justify some deviations from standard writing conventions, reflecting the original tone and style of the communication being reported.

Minor Nature of Errors: The errors present are relatively minor and do not significantly hinder comprehension. The incorrect capitalization and spacing issue are easily overlooked in casual reading and do not obscure the meaning of the text. In the broader context of fluency, which encompasses the text's ability to convey meaning effectively, these issues may not warrant a substantial penalty.

Given these considerations, while a perfect score 5 might traditionally imply an absence of errors, in this context, we can argue for a more holistic approach to fluency.

• Critic: NO ISSUE.

F.2 Dataset: Topical-Chat, Aspect: Engagingness

Human Score: Score 3 G-Eval: Score 1 MultiAgent: Score 2

- Scorer: The given text is quite generic and doesn't delve into the intriguing aspect of the provided fact. Although it mentions the unique appointment by the UN, it fails to expand on this interesting detail or explain its significance, which could have made the conversation more engaging. Simply asking if the other person believes in aliens without connecting it meaningfully to the fact about the UN's appointment of ambassadors to extraterrestrials makes the response feel disconnected and dull. It misses an opportunity to spark curiosity or further discussion about the UN's actions, reasons behind such an appointment, or the implications of preparing for extraterrestrial contact. Therefore, the score of 1 for engagingness seems justified.
- **Critic**: The response could be seen as lacking depth because it does not elaborate on the fact or its implications, missing an opportunity to make the conversation more enriching. A more detailed explanation or a question that leads to a deeper discussion about the UN's decision could have elevated the engagingness of the response. However, there are some reasons why this could potentially be reconsidered for a 2.

Connection to an Interesting Fact: The response introduces the fact that the UN appointed ambassadors to extraterrestrials, which is inherently an interesting and unusual piece of information. This fact alone could pique the interest of the listener and potentially lead to a more in-depth conversation about international preparations for extraterrestrial contact, the role of such an ambassador, or the implications of acknowledging the possibility of extraterrestrial life at such a high level of governance.

Invitation for Personal Engagement: By asking, "do you believe in aliens?", the response directly engages the other person, inviting them to share their thoughts or beliefs on the topic of extraterrestrials. This personal engagement can be a critical factor in keeping a conversation interesting and dynamic.

Scorer: Given the consideration that the response introduces an inherently interesting topic and invites personal engagement by asking for the other person's belief in aliens, coupled with the potential to spark further conversation about the UN's actions, a recalculated score could be 2. This score

- acknowledges that while the response might lack depth and detail, it still introduces an intriguing fact
 and encourages a personal exchange, making the conversation somewhat interesting and potentially
 engaging.
 - Critic: NO ISSUE.
- 745 **DEBATE**: Score 3

- **Critic**: (*in response to Scorer*): The critique of the given score seems overly harsh when considering 746 the potential engagement the response could generate. Asking about belief in aliens, coupled with 747 the mention of the UN appointing ambassadors to extraterrestrials, could serve as a compelling 748 conversation starter. This approach might intrigue the other person by blending a personal question ("do you believe in aliens?") with a surprising fact (the UN's appointment), prompting curiosity and 750 discussion. The response subtly invites the other person to reflect on their views about extraterrestrial 751 life and consider the international community's stance on such a possibility. It opens the door to a 752 deeper conversation about why the UN would take such a step, what it signifies about our expectations 753 of encountering alien life, and how seriously this topic is taken at global levels.
- Scorer: Based on the reconsideration of the response's potential to engage by prompting curiosity and discussion about the belief in aliens and the intriguing fact of the UN appointing ambassadors for extraterrestrial contact, the response could be rated more favorably. It creates an opportunity for a deeper conversation on a topic that combines personal beliefs with international actions towards the unknown, which is inherently engaging. Therefore, a score of 3 for engagingness seems more appropriate, as the response can lead to a thought-provoking and interesting discussion.
- **Critic**: NO ISSUE.