
From: Noam Chomsky <[REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 9, 2015 9:26 PM
To: jeffrey E.
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: jazz concert

We've been thinking hard about the trip. Something we'd really like to do, and a wonderful offer. Seems it won't work on this trip though. Valeria has lots of commitments in Brazil, and in particular wants to be able to spend as much time as possible with her son. So I guess we'll have to keep to that, this time. Hope there'll be an opportunity later.

I'll try to use the image of sailing next time, now that you bring it up. In younger days, used to love to sail. The most peaceful relaxing experiences one can imagine. Don't trust myself any more.

From: jeffrey E. [mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, December 07, 2015 5:55 AM
To: Noam Chomsky <[REDACTED]
Subject: Re: jazz concert

You are welcome in the Caribbean from today, onwards. you choose. I will handle all logistics. flights cost heli . etc. the weather is nice this week - come tomorrow if you like there are non stop flights to st thomas now from boston

sense-- signal from noise. is not new. sense seems to be second order. ie a dynamic image of a boat on water . shows certain rigidity. structure etc. picking out the boat not that difficult . what it is seems to be signal from noise squared

On Sun, Dec 6, 2015 at 11:21 PM, Noam Chomsky <[REDACTED] wrote:

Well, with that yachting insignia, I guess I'm lost.

Getting sense from noise is the general problem of understanding. Seems to me kind of like studying Nature. I don't see how we can study problems we can scarcely even formulate. What's "sense"?

But the main problem I see with his work is that I think he's looking at the wrong data.

Jazz. Have been trying to internalize and master your advice, but I think I'm too much wedded to Gromov: trying to extricate sense from noise.

Caribbean sounds like more and more fun, the more we think about it.

Noam

From: jeffrey E. [mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com <mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, December 06, 2015 6:05 AM
To: Noam Chomsky <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: jazz concert

uh oh, you are starting to look like a member of the 1 percent -- along with your elegant wife (elegant- - max info in a small formula)

gromov- I think his explanations were fuzzy. . I think it could be better described as- is there a formalization for "sense" ?(as in "does it makes sense".) is it modular ?, related to entropy?, statistical? the mathematics of sense making. ? what operation needs to be done to tease out sense from noise. not merely, signal

re jazz, it is not important to "distinguish" one from another . ask yourself -how did it make you feel? the effect is not context free. if your trombone friend wasn't the musician , I m sure it would not have sounded the same . if he had gone on stage laughed for a while and then broke down crying you would have immediatley been able to distinguish the difference between those two "sounigs" (sic). however , unlike classical music , if the same thing happened the next week . neither the crying nor the laughter would have been played , sound for sound, tempo for tempo ,(no notation). but the feelings would be pretty close to the same .

Caribbean looking forward to it.

On Sun, Dec 6, 2015 at 12:07 AM, Noam Chomsky <[REDACTED]> wrote:

I was a hit at the jazz concert with my elegant new sweater this evening. Wearing it even helped, I think, to move me a few steps towards the day when I'll be able to distinguish one piece from another.

Special concert for us. One trombone player is a close friend, Jay Keyser. He had a terrible fall a year ago, was almost completely paralyzed, told he would never be able to use his hands, let alone walk. With fantastic determination he fought his way out of it. Now back to playing trombone in his jazz group (Aardvark). Can type. Walks with a walker a mile a day by himself. A real miracle. He's regularly invited to medical groups to lecture on how he did it. So watching him play was a mehaye (as they used to say in Coney Island).

Valeria will send a picture all of us on the stage – me in my resplendent garb.

Very interesting afternoon, though I still think that Gromov is on the wrong track. Time will tell.

Noam

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