

Review of: "If knowledge were simpler, we would all be wiser"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

****Academic Review: "If knowledge were simpler, we would all be wiser"*****

****Introduction:****

The article delves into the intricacies of academic knowledge and the challenges it presents for learners. It emphasizes the potential benefits of simplifying complex academic concepts without compromising their utility.

****Key Novelties:****

1. ****Historical Perspective on Simplification:**** The article provides a fresh perspective by drawing parallels between historical simplifications, such as the transition from Roman numerals to the decimal system, and the potential for similar simplifications in modern academic knowledge.
2. ****Role of AI in Knowledge Simplification:**** The mention of AI tools like ChatGPT as potential aids in understanding complex academic concepts is a novel approach. The author suggests that while AI can assist in understanding, there's a need to simplify the underlying knowledge for a more profound human understanding.
3. ****User-Centric Approach to Knowledge:**** The article introduces the idea that the simplicity of a piece of knowledge should be judged against its usefulness and the domain in which it can be applied. This user-centric approach to evaluating knowledge is a departure from traditional methods that focus solely on the content.
4. ****Potential Benefits of Simplification:**** The article highlights the enormous potential benefits of simplifying knowledge. These include specialists reaching the frontiers of their discipline quicker, students requiring less study time, and a potential boost to human progress by preventing it from getting bogged down in unnecessary complexities.
5. ****Challenges of Over-Simplification:**** While advocating for simplification, the article also warns against the dangers of over-simplification. It emphasizes the need to strike a balance between making knowledge accessible and retaining its depth.

****Review:****

The article "If knowledge were simpler, we would all be wiser" by Michael Wood offers a compelling argument for the simplification of academic knowledge. Wood's approach, which combines historical examples with modern challenges, provides a comprehensive overview of the topic. The introduction of AI tools as potential aids in understanding complex

academic concepts is particularly noteworthy. However, the article could benefit from more concrete examples of how current academic knowledge can be simplified without losing its essence. Additionally, while the potential benefits of simplification are well-highlighted, a deeper exploration of the practical steps required to achieve this simplification would enhance the article's impact. Overall, Wood's piece is a valuable contribution to the discourse on academic knowledge and its accessibility.