

Exercise for Textual Inference - Task 1

- For the following text pairs (T,H)
 - decide whether entailment holds (indicated by „YES“) or not (indicated „NO“)
 - check out, whether a simple bag-of-words approach is sufficient (you may consider some lexical preprocessing, like stemming, POS-tagging)
 - if not, check out what additional knowledge sources might be helpful (syntax, lexical semantics, domain or world knowledge, ...)

Example 1

(entailment="???)

<t>Mr. Sherwood speculated that the leeway that Sea Containers has means that Temple would have to "substantially increase their bid if they're going to top us." </t>

<h>Someone would have to increase the bid.</h>

Example 2

(entailment="???)

<t>After all, if you were going to set up a workshop you had to have the proper equipment and that was that.</t>

<h>Somebody had to have the equipment.</h>

Example 3

(entailment="???)

<t>The first was that America had become or was in danger of becoming a second-rate military power.</t>

<h>America was in danger.</h>

Task 2

- For the following hypothesis H , a set of texts T_i are given that all entail H .
- Let A = syntactic information, B = lexical semantics, C = inference.
- Assign to each T_i one of A , B , or C , which means that either A or B or C is the major information source to decide entailment. Briefly indicate, on what basis your decision was made.

Example

H: People were forced to leave their pets behind when they evacuated New Orleans.

T1: Thousands of people were forced to leave their pets behind when they evacuated New Orleans. (A or B or C ?)

T2: Animal rescue officials have been collecting scores of pets and other animals from the shattered city, while many survivors have told of their distress at having to leave beloved cats and dogs behind in the watery city when they fled. (A or B or C ?)

T3: Such emotional scenes were repeated perhaps thousands of times along the Gulf Coast last week as pet owners were forced to abandon their animals in the midst of evacuation. (A or B or C ?)

T4: For Elizabeth Finch, the owner of two dogs named Zorra and Hans Blix, the sight of citizens forced to choose between their pets and their safety was, like the disaster itself, indicative of broader social rifts. (A or B or C ?)

T5: The animals are being cared for at a farm north of Louisiana until they can be reunited with their families, many of whom were told they would not be able to bring their pets on evacuation buses and helicopters. (A or B or C ?)