

Dear Participant,

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this aspect of my project.

"What is this research about?"

The goal of this project is to implement and evaluate Active Learning approaches to train a machine learning model that will be able to identify 'beta' in comments posted about rock climbing routes.

As part of this project a small amount of human annotation is required.

"What do I need to know before taking part in this project?"

Participants should have experience with traditional rock climbing and the language associated with it. Namely, participants should be familiar with the concept of 'beta' and be able to identify it in comments from UKC.com.

"What will I be asked to do?"

Participants will be asked to log on to the annotation environment and identify comments that contain 'beta'.

The purpose of your participation is to serve as a 'human oracle' in the active learner that I have built. The learner is attempting to use text classification techniques to identify 'beta' in comments from UKClimbing.com. Currently the model is able to identify comments containing beta with about 85% accuracy. We hope to improve this score. The learner has explored the comments on UKC and has identified 100 comments as 'queries'. These queries are comments that will be beneficial in helping the model to learn to classify future comments. Your role will be to label these queries, i.e. identify the comments that contain 'beta'.

To participate in the study you will be asked to log on to the annotation environment hosted [here](#). Your username will be your name in the format firstname_surname.

"What will happen to my data?"

The labels/annotation that participants provide for the comments will be aggregated to provide a label for each comment - "contains beta" / "does not contain beta".

These comments and their labels will then be used as additional training data to train a classification model.

During the study, please be sure to read all instructions carefully and label as many comments as you are willing to - (It is possible to skip comments by submitting without selecting an answer, however you will be shown these comments again until you have labelled all comments). You will be able to log in and out of the system as often as you wish over the next week.

For the purpose of this study it is important to clarify the definition of 'beta'. We propose to use the following definition :

"Beta - advice on how to successfully complete (or protect) a particular climbing route, boulder problem or crux sequence. Guide book information/description should not be considered beta."

We have provided some examples:

"Great day out climbing with John" - does not contain beta.

"The crux is easier if you get the good jam with your left hand and build your feet high in the crack" - contains beta.

"I got a little lost and got super pumped off route - stay right at the tree" - does not contain beta (route finding like this is similar to guide book info).

"There's a hidden cam placement behind the flake (purple dmm dragon)" - contains beta.

"Super polished" - does not contain beta (it may influence your decision to get on the route, but it will not really aid your success as you'll find this out for yourself pretty quick).

"Very sharp and run out" - does not contain beta (as above).

Complaining about grades is not beta.

If you have any questions please contact me at my email address.

Regards,
Eoghan