**SemEval 2016 Task 5**

**Aspect-Based Sentiment Analysis (ABSA)**

**Submission guidelines**

**Introduction**

The ABSA 2016 task will run in two phases:

**Phase A**: Test sets consisting of raw texts (split in sentences) for different domains (restaurants, hotels, laptops, mobile phones, digital cameras, and telecommunications) in 8 languages[[1]](#footnote-1) (English, Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, French, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish) will be provided. The participating teams will have to identify and return the aspect categories (Slot 1) towards which opinions are expressed at the sentence-level (Subtask 1) and (for some domains and languages) also at the text level (Subtask 2). For Subtask 1, in some domains (restaurants, hotels, and telecommunications) systems should also identify and return the targets (OTEs-Slot2) as well as to build the <category, target> tuples (Slots 1&2). For more information consult the ABSA-16 site[[2]](#footnote-2).

**Phase B**: The gold (correct) annotations for phase A will be provided and participants will have to return the corresponding polarity values for Subtask 1 (positive, negative, or neutral) and Subtask 2 (positive, negative, neutral, or conflict).

**Participants are free to decide the domain(s), subtask(s), and slot(s) they wish to participate in.** The evaluation measures for all slots/subtasks (target, category, polarity) are described in the respective document that is available at the ABSA-16 site[[3]](#footnote-3).

**Submission format**

Each participating team may submit up to two runs per slot of each test set, one ***Constrained*** and one ***Unconstrained***[[4]](#footnote-4). In both phases (A and B), the xml file(s) that your system will generate should follow the format of the training files. A script that validates that a system's output (xml) is in the correct format is provided with the evaluation measures. Please run it to ensure that you will submit a valid xml which can be evaluated.

All your xml files for each phase should be uploaded as a single zip named **TID\_PH.zip** where **TID** is the id of your team and **PH** is the evaluation phase (A or B). Each xml file name should have the following format: **TID\_DOM\_LANG\_PH\_SB\_SLOT\_SUBN\_TYPE.xml**

* **DOM** is the domain of the submission. Please use the following convention {Restaurants -> REST, Laptops->LAPT, Phones-> PHNS, Cameras-> CAME, Hotels-> HOTE, Telecom ->TELC}.
* **LANG**is the language of the dataset. Please use the following convention {English->EN, Arabic->AR, Chinese->CH, Dutch->DU, French->FR, Russian->RU, Spanish->SP, Turkish->TU}.
* **SB** indicates the subtask: {Subtask 1->SB1, Subtask2->SB2}.
* **SLOT** indicates the slot(s) for which this submission is for.
* SLOT value = 1 indicates results only for Slot1. For example, for the sentence “*The prices were CHEAP compared to the quality of service and food*” the following annotations should be included in the xml file.

|  |
| --- |
| <Opinion category="RESTAURANT#PRICES"/>  <Opinion category="SERVICE#GENERAL />  <Opinion category="FOOD#QUALITY"/> |

Similar annotations have to be generated also for Subtask 2 (at the text-level).

* SLOT value = 2 indicates results only for Slot2. For example for the previous sentence the following annotations should be included in the xml file.

|  |
| --- |
| <Opinion target="service" from="49" to="56" />  <Opinion target="food" from="61" to="65" /> |

* SLOT value = 12 indicates results for <Slot1, Slot2> tuples. For example, for the previous sentence the following annotations should be included in the xml file.

|  |
| --- |
| <Opinion target="NULL" category="RESTAURANT#PRICES" from="0" to="0"/>  <Opinion target="service" category="SERVICE#GENERAL" from="49" to="56"/>  <Opinion target="food" category="FOOD#QUALITY" from="61" to="65"/> |

SLOT value = 3 indicates results for Slot3. The gold Slot 1/Slot 2 annotations of phase A will be provided and you will have to return them in the same order along with the predicted polarity. For example, for the previous sentence the following annotations should be returned.

|  |
| --- |
| <Opinion target="NULL" category="RESTAURANT#PRICES" polarity="positive" from="0" to="0"/>  <Opinion target="service" category="SERVICE#GENERAL" polarity="positive” from="49" to="56"/>  <Opinion target="food" category="FOOD#QUALITY" polarity=”positive" from="61" to="65"/> |

Similar annotations (excluding Slot2) have to be generated and for Subtask 2.

* **SUBN** indicates the number of submission: 1 or 2.
* **TYPE** constraint->C or unconstraint->U.

For example, a team with id “tm1” that participates in phases A and B, for both subtasks with two runs for all slots for the test set of English Restaurants, should upload the following 12 xml files archived in two zip files:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| tm1\_A.zip | tm1\_REST\_EN\_A\_SB1\_1\_1\_C.xml  tm1\_REST\_EN\_A\_SB1\_2\_1\_C.xml  tm1\_REST\_EN\_A\_SB1\_12\_1\_C.xml  tm1\_REST\_EN\_A\_SB2\_1\_1\_C.xml | tm1\_REST\_EN\_A\_SB1\_1\_2\_U.xml  tm1\_REST\_EN\_A\_SB1\_2\_2\_U.xml  tm1\_REST\_EN\_A\_SB1\_12\_2\_U.xml  tm1\_REST\_EN\_A\_SB2\_1\_2\_U.xml |
| tm1\_B.zip | tm1\_REST\_EN\_B\_SB1\_3\_1\_C.xml  tm1\_REST\_EN\_B\_SB2\_3\_1\_C.xml | tm1\_REST\_EN\_B\_SB1\_3\_2\_U.xml tm1\_REST\_EN\_B\_SB2\_3\_2\_U.xml |

**Submission process**

The outputs (in zip files as described above) will be uploaded to a submission server. Details about the evaluation schedule (the exact start and end dates for phases A and B) and further instructions about the submission process will be announced at the ABSA-16 website and the ABSA Google-group (**semeval-absa@googlegroups.com**).

1. Each domain is supported for one or more languages. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Subtask 2 is supported only for specific domains and languages. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. http://alt.qcri.org/semeval2016/task5/index.php?id=data-and-tools [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. http://alt.qcri.org/semeval2016/task5/ [↑](#footnote-ref-4)