

Annotation Guidelines

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1 Introduction

This document provides annotation guidelines and description to assist annotators in labeling data accurately and consistently. The goal is to ensure that all annotators understand the labeling process, criteria, and examples clearly, regardless of their background knowledge.

2 Guidelines

2.1 Overview of the Annotator's Job

Annotators are responsible for labeling text data according to predefined categories. Their role is to carefully analyze each instance and assign the most appropriate label based on the provided definitions and criteria.

2.2 Label Set and Descriptions

The following labels are available for annotation:

- **Sarcastic:** Using remarks that clearly mean the opposite of what is said, often to humorously criticize or mock something. For definition of sarcasm [click here!](#)
- **Not-Sarcastic:** Statements that are direct, sincere, and lack any sarcastic intent.

2.3 Labeling Criteria and Rules

To ensure consistency, annotators should follow these steps when labeling data:

1. Read the given text carefully.
2. Consider the intended meaning.
3. Apply the most suitable label based on the descriptions above i.e., Sarcastic or Not-Sarcastic.
4. If uncertain and unable to make a decision, the annotator may look up information online. If the issue persists, please contact one of the group members for assistance.

2.4 Examples of Each Label

Here are examples illustrating correct labeling decisions:

- **Example 1:** Thirtysomething scientists unveil doomsday clock of hair loss.
Correct Label: **Sarcastic**
Reasoning: This text is sarcastic because it exaggerates hair loss by comparing it to a "doomsday clock," making the concern seem overly dramatic and ironic
- **Example 2:** Eat your veggies: 9 deliciously different recipes
Correct Label: **Not-Sarcastic**
Reasoning: This text is not sarcastic because it is a straightforward and encouraging statement promoting vegetable-based recipes. There is no exaggeration, irony, or contradiction that would indicate sarcasm.
- **Example 3:** Mother comes pretty close to using word 'streaming' correctly
Correct Label: **Sarcastic**
Reasoning: This text is sarcastic because it mocks the mother's near but incorrect use of the word "streaming," implying that she is struggling with modern terminology. The phrase "pretty close" suggests that she didn't quite get it right, adding an ironic tone that highlights the gap between her understanding and the correct usage.
- **Example 4:** Cat so scared in shelter won't even look at you
Correct Label: **Not-Sarcastic**
Reasoning: This text is not sarcastic because it is a straightforward statement describing the cat's fearful behavior in the shelter. There is no irony, exaggeration, or contradiction that would indicate sarcasm.

3 Tools to Use

The following options are available for completing the annotation task, given that the dataset is provided in a CSV file:

- Use **Google Sheets** ([link](#)) to import and annotate the CSV file (recommended).
- Use **Microsoft Excel** to import and annotate the CSV file.
- Directly edit the CSV file using a text editor or spreadsheet software.

4 Contact Information

For any clarification or assistance, any group member can be contacted via direct message on Microsoft Teams or through the contact information provided below.

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