EXTRACTION OF QUESTIONS FROM THE INTERNET USING A MACHINE LEARNING APPROACH

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Introduction

There is a massive amount of data available on the internet.

Extracting only the **relevant sections** of data has become important.

This would result in massive savings of both time and effort.

For both faculty and students, obtaining a list of questions pertaining to a topic would be useful.

It is tedious to search for various query permutations and manually visit each page and then find such questions.

Would be highly useful if this could be automated.

Problem Statement

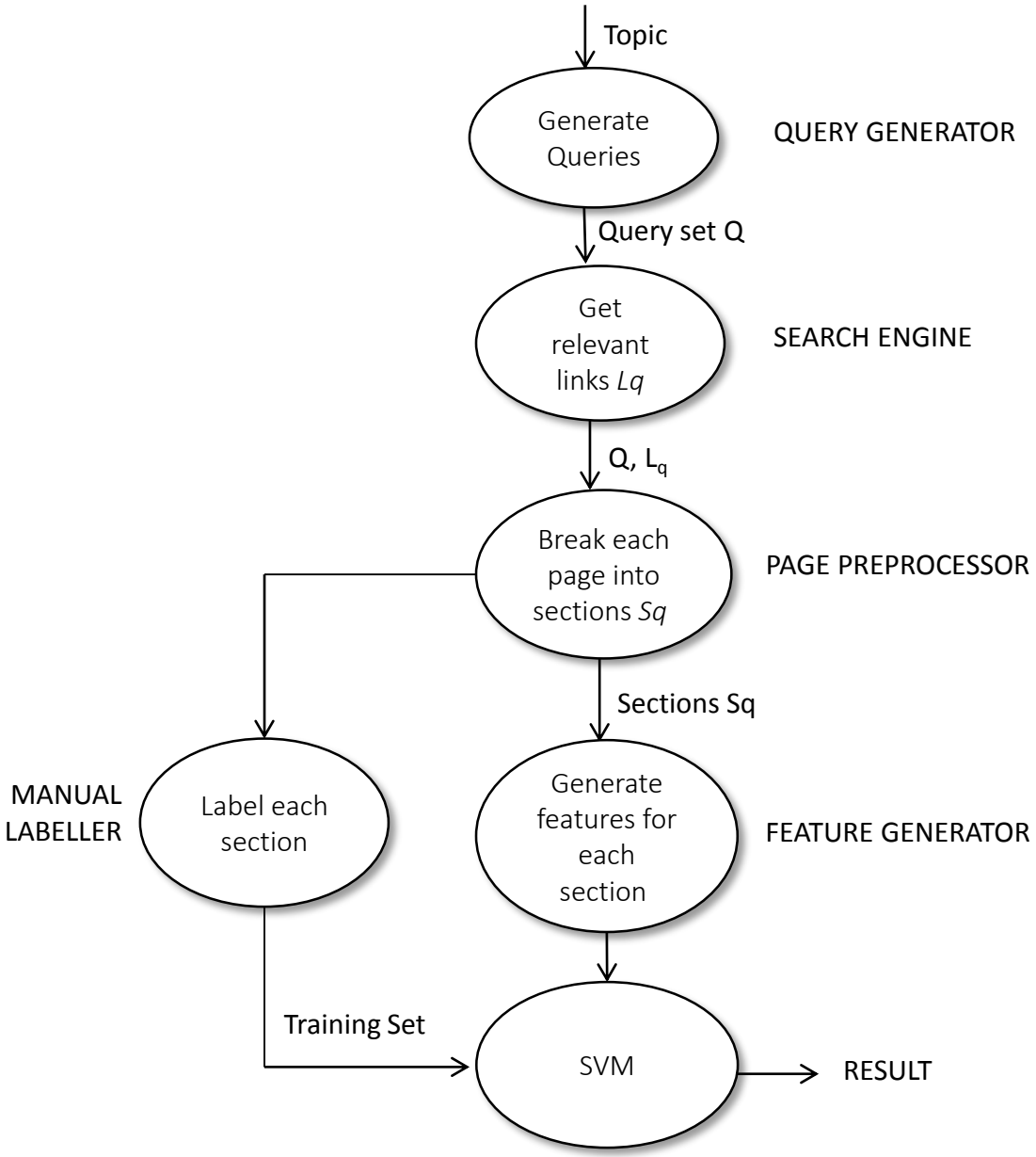
Given input a topic **t**,

Search the internet for pages possibly containing questions related to **t**

Output a set **R** comprising of relevant questions extracted from these pages.

Contents

Architecture



Features

Features for relevance of text[1] -

I. Word Rank Based Features
II. Bigram Rank Based Features
III. Coverage of Top Ranked Tokens

Proposed features to determine if text is a question -

IV. Coverage of Interrogative Indicators
V. Absence of Specific Keywords

I. Word Rank Based Features

Rank – position in the list if the words were ordered by frequency of occurrence in S_q

Each word rank is a feature.

Value – Frequency of word in section

Dimensionality reduction by bucketing.

II. Bigram Rank Based Features

A ***bigram*** is defined to be two consecutive words occurring in a section[1].

Find the top *n* frequently occurring bigrams in S_q.

The feature vector is computed in a manner similar to the previous one.

“Machine learning” may be more important than “machine” and “learning” separately.

III. Coverage of Top Ranked Tokens

Relevance may also be determined by the coverage of top ranked words in the section[1].

Words are ranked on the basis of frequency of occurrence.

For each section, find the coverage of the top ranked words per bucket.

Example –

- Top 5 tokens - `learning', `machine', `data', `access', `database'.
- Section contains `learning' and `data', feature value is 2

IV. Coverage of Interrogative Indicators

This feature indicates the likelihood of the section being a question.

The coverage of a predefined list of interrogative indicators is taken as the value for this feature.

Examples of interrogative indicators –

- “what”
- “why”
- “?”

V. Absence of Specific Keywords

Questions are generally devoid of specific keywords such as “because” and “yes”.

The coverage of a predefined list of such keywords is taken as a negative value for this feature.

Contents

Work done in S8

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- Data File Design

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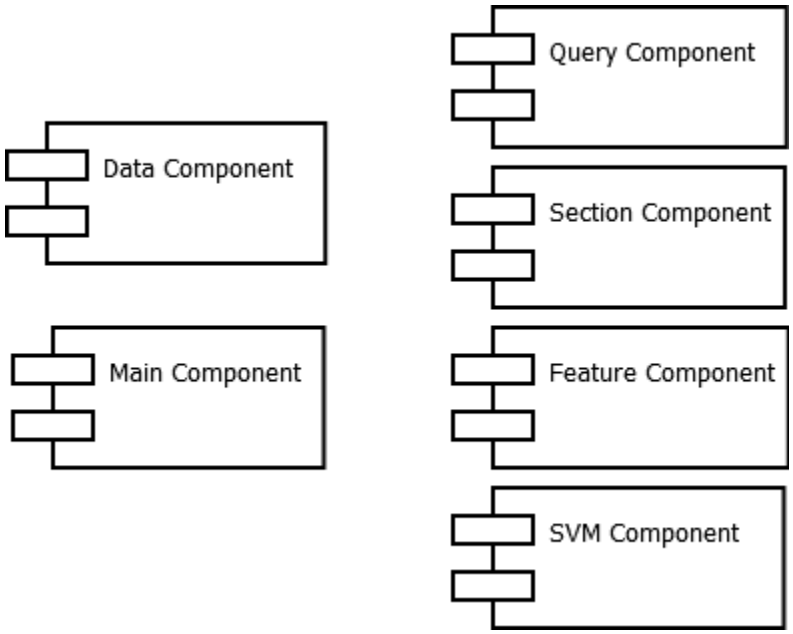
Class Design

The overall design consists of six components designed for high cohesion and low coupling.

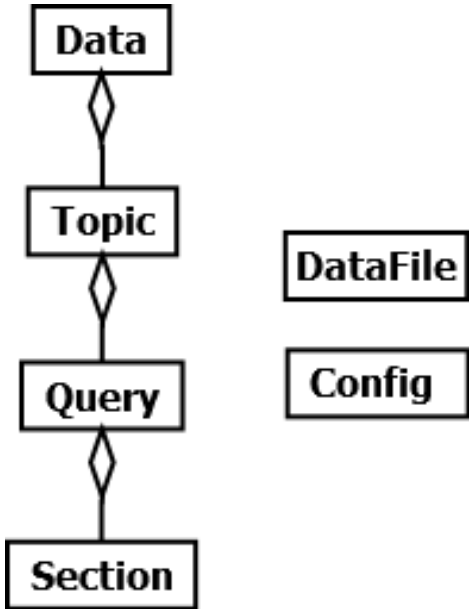


Main Component

This component is responsible for calling all other components and finally generating the list of questions as output.

Data Component

The data component stores the overall data and its classes provided interfaces to access and modify this data.



Query Component

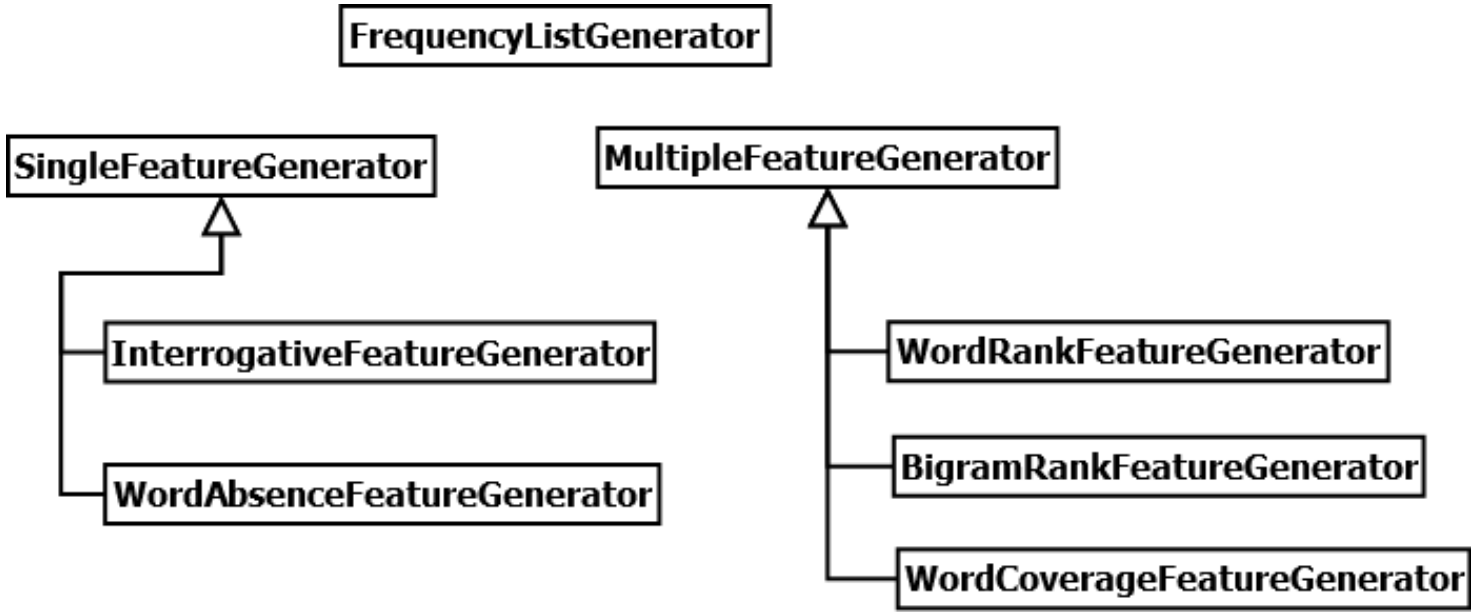
The query component is responsible for taking the input topic, then generating the requisite subtopics and queries related to the same.

Section Component

The section component processes each query and generates a list of Section objects for each query.

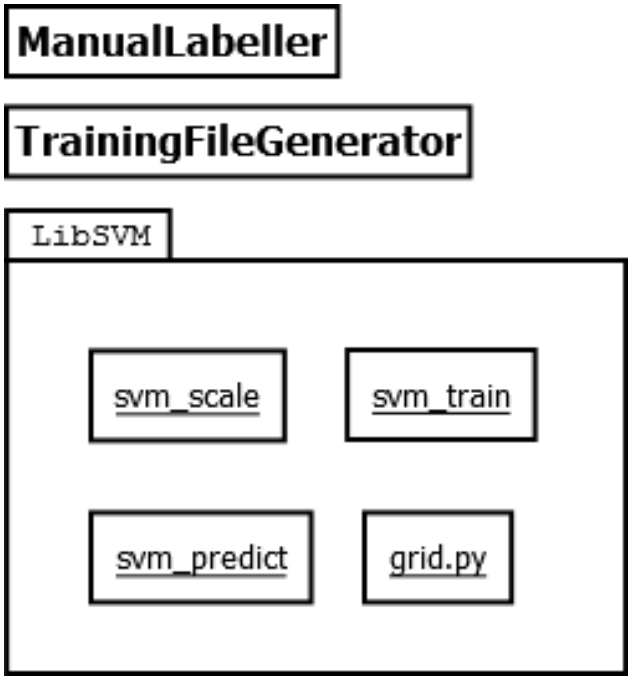
Feature Component

The feature component has classes to generate all the requisite features for the sections.



SVM Component

Consists of all the classes which are related to the machine learning aspect of the program.



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Data Structure Design

n–ary tree

Suitable for component-based architecture

Easy modeling of data

Extensible

Quick access

Group data in a functional manner

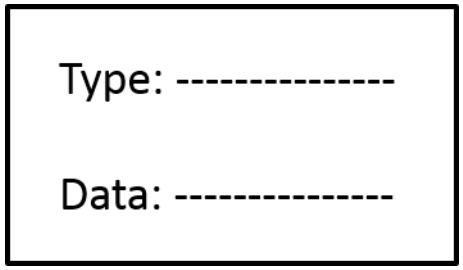
Node Design

The node will have the following attributes:

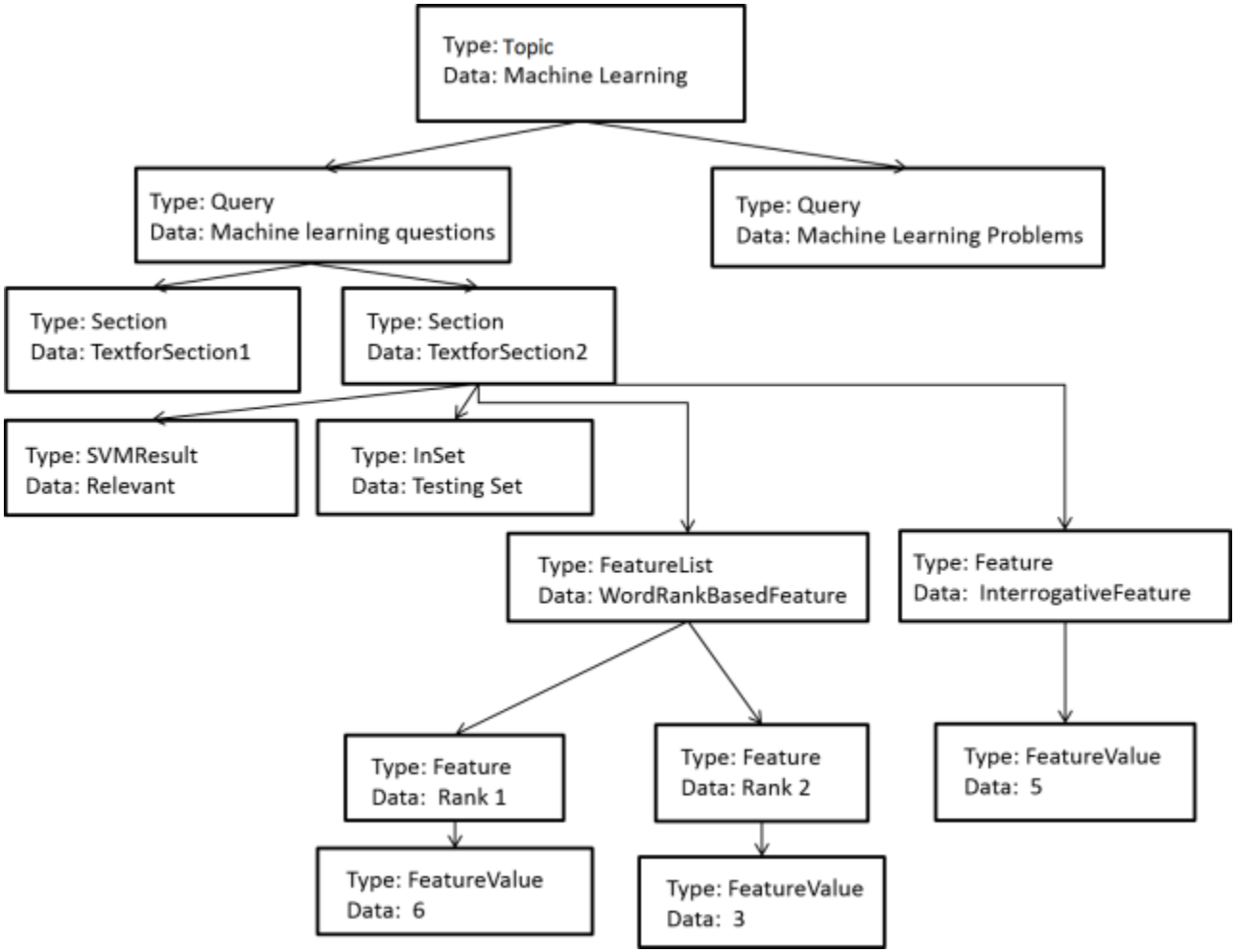
Type: The type of node

Data: The corresponding data

ChildList: List of child nodes



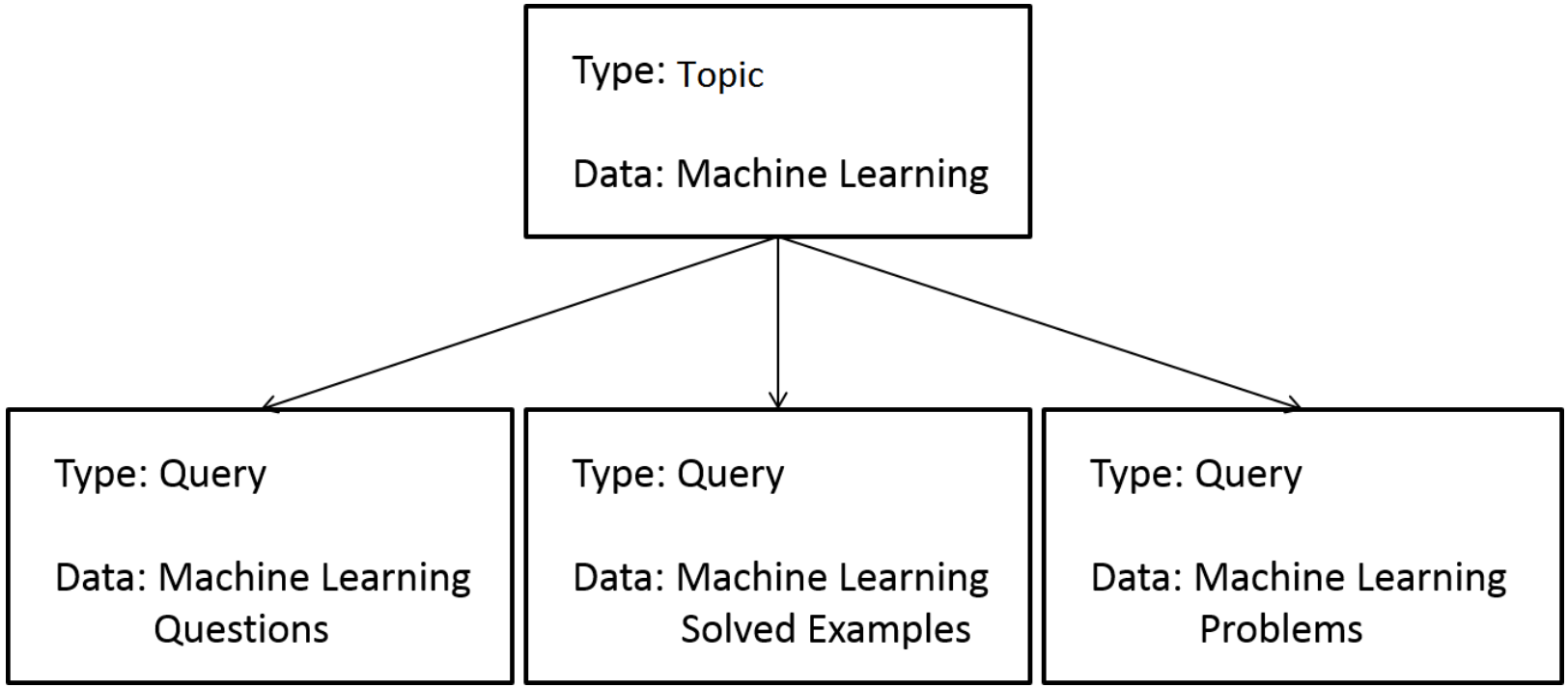
Tree Design


Type: Topic
Data: Machine Learning
Type: Query
Data: Machine learning questions
Type: Query
Data: Machine Learning Problems
Type: Section
Data: TextforSection1
Type: Section
Data: TextforSection2
Type: SVMResult
Data: Relevant
Type: InSet
Data: Testing Set
Type: FeatureList
Data: WordRankBasedFeature
Type: Feature
Data: InterrogativeFeature
Type: Feature
Data: Rank 1
Type: Feature
Data: Rank 2
Type: FeatureValue
Data: 5
Type: FeatureValue
Data: 6
Type: FeatureValue
Data: 3

Data Tree Life-Cycle

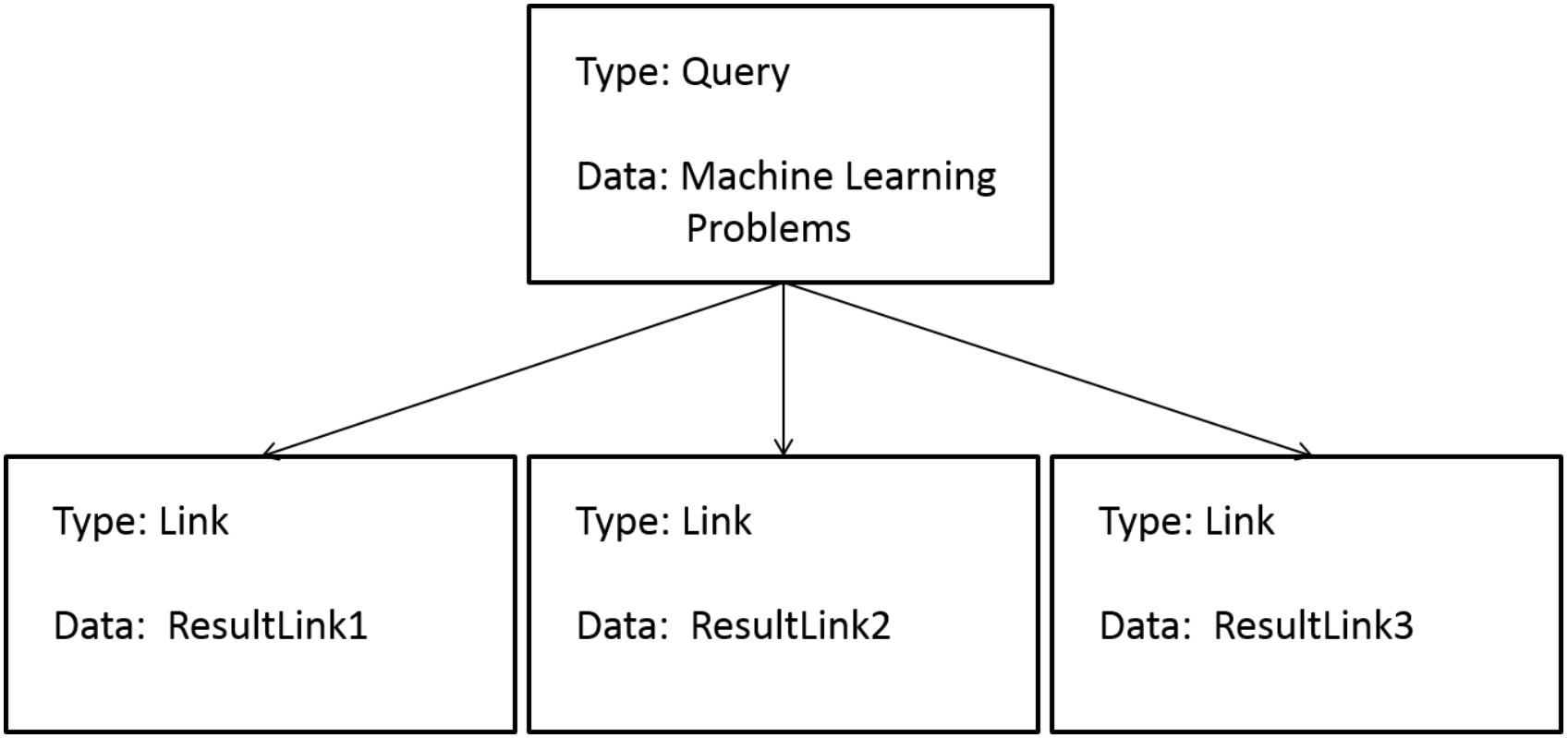
Query Generation

The Query Generator generates a set of queries to search for from the given search topic.



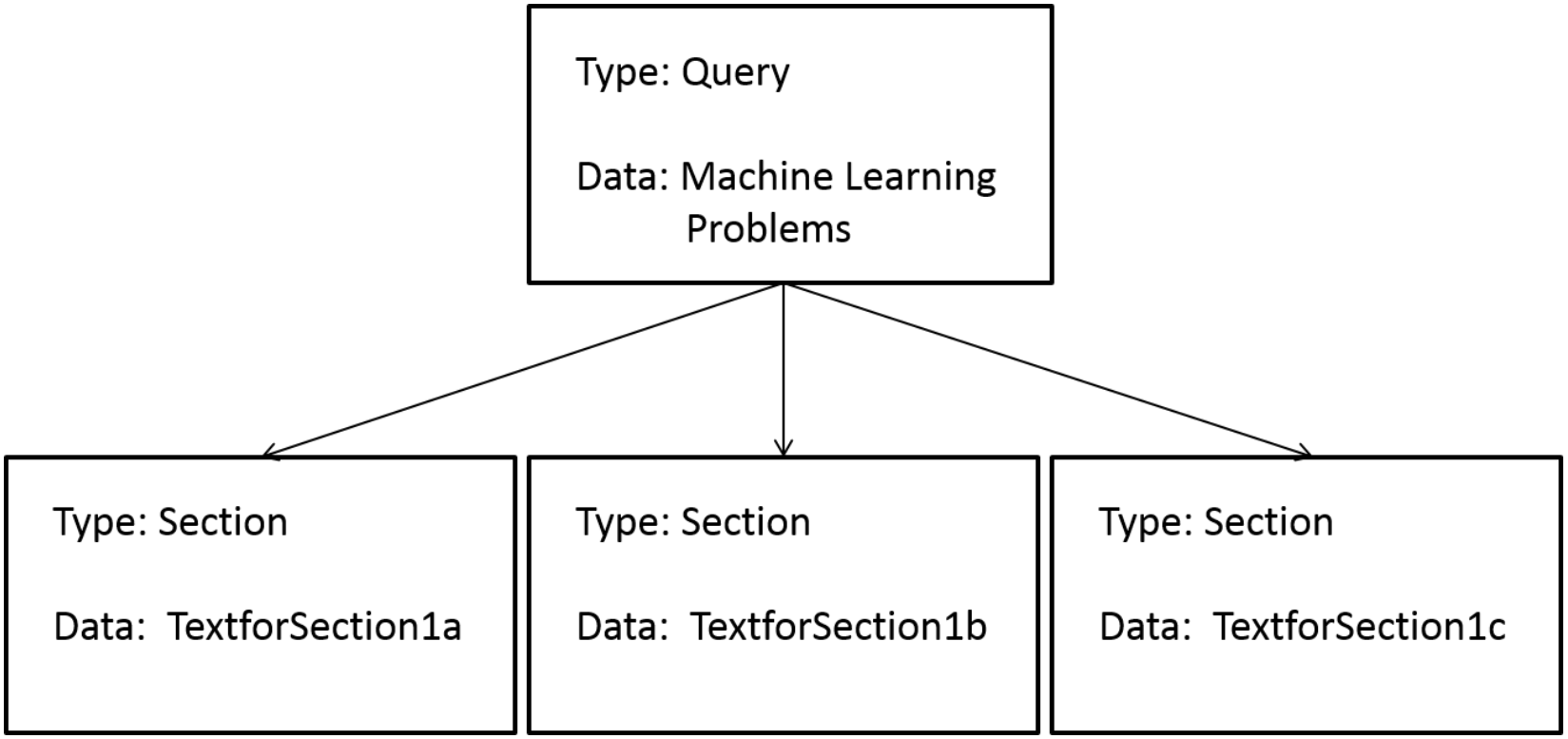
Link Generation

For each of the queries, a set of links corresponding to the search results for that query is generated.



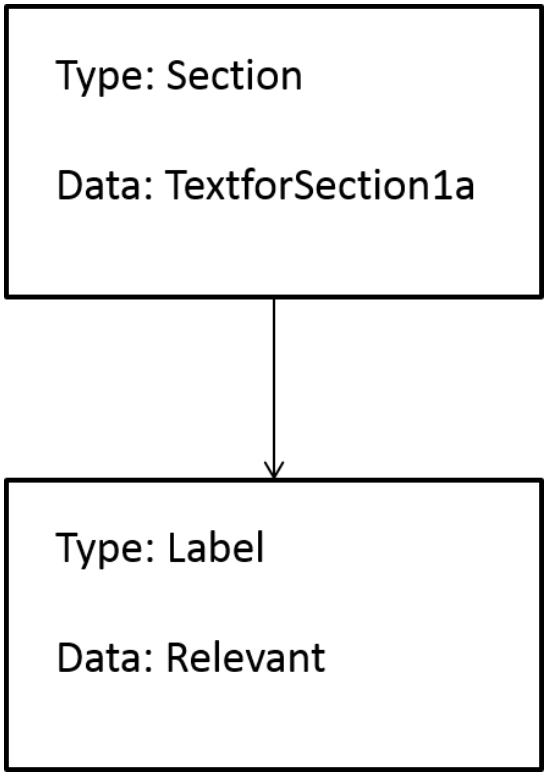
Section Generation

The Section Generator parses each of the links, removes unnecessary data and then divides each page into sections.



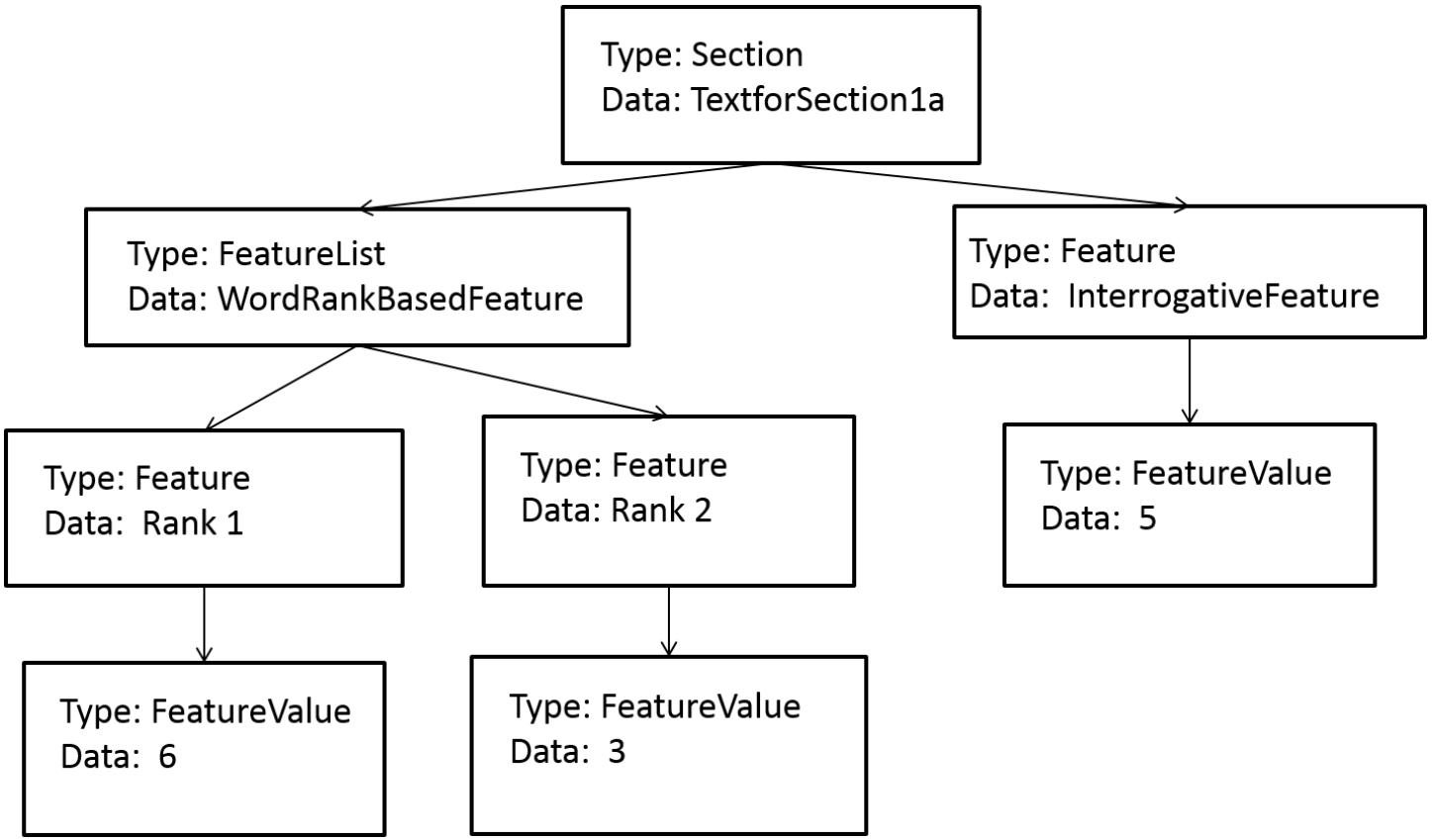
Labelling

Sections intended to be part of the training set will be labelled as relevant or not relevant.



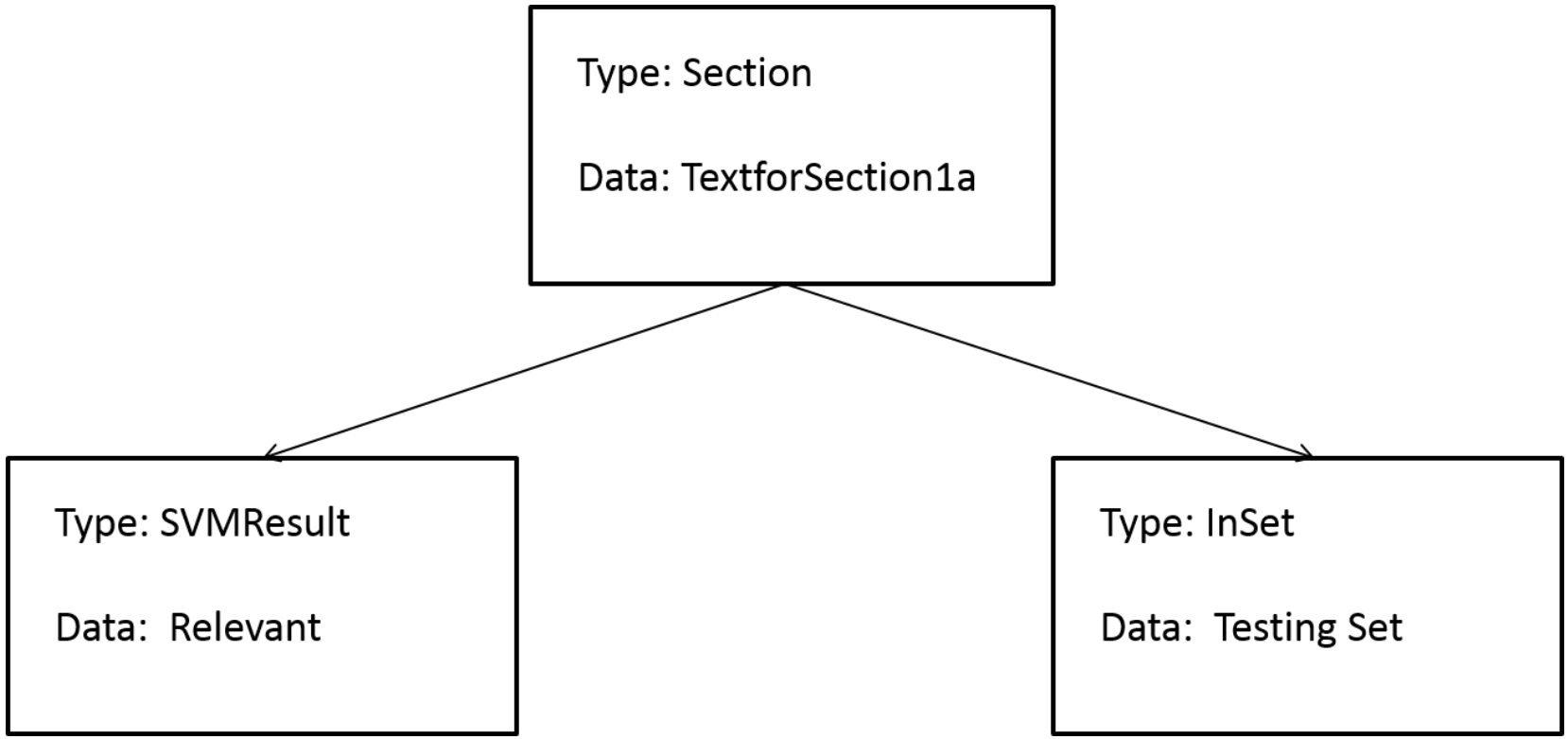
Feature Generation

The features of each section are generated by the Feature Generator.



SVM Classification

The results of the Support Vector Machine classification and the set to which the result belongs are also represented as shown.



Data File Design

XML file format

Suitable for a tree like data structure[2]

High Performance

Extensibility

Transparency - analyze or modify the file at any point

JAXB[5] (Java Architecture for XML Bindings)

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="yes"?>
<data>
    <topic>
        <text>operating systems</text>
        <query>
            <text>operating systems questions</text>
            <linkList>
                <link>http://www.techinterviews.com/operating-system-questions</link>
                <link>
                http://www.careercup.com/page?pid=operating-system-interview-questions</link>
                <link>http://www.computerhope.com/os.htm</link>
                <link>http://www.indiabix.com/technical/operating-systems/</link>
                <link>
                http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows-vista/32-bit-and-64-bit-windows-frequently-asked-questions</link>
            </linkList>
            <sectionList>
                <section>
                    <text>Operating system questions | TechInterviews Search Tech Interviews Tech Interviews Prepare for job interviews with the questions and answers asked by high-tech employers Skip to content * .NET * C++ * Database * General * Hardware * Java * Networking * Puzzles * SAP ABAP * Testing * Unix/Linux * VB * Web dev * Windows Hardware , Unix/Linux , Windows &gt;&gt; Operating system questions « 8086 interview questions Jakarta struts questions» Operating system questions By admin | January 17, 2005 * What are the basic functions of an operating system? - Operating system controls and coordinates the use of the hardware among the various applications programs for various uses.
</text>
                    <manualLabel>1</manualLabel>
                    <svmLabel>0</svmLabel>
                    <interrogativeFeature>0.0</interrogativeFeature>
                    <wordAbsenceFeature>0.0</wordAbsenceFeature>
                </section>
```

data.xml example

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Config File Design

config.properties

Configurable parameters in the Java Properties format

The user is free to change parameters as per requirements

Reduce wastage of time during testing and analysis by eliminating needless recompilations

config.properties

```
numberTopics=3
pagesPerQuery=3

# WordRank Feature
wordRankFeatureListSize=100
wordRankBucketSize=10

# BigramRank Feature
bigramFeatureListSize=100
bigramBucketSize=10

#WordCoverage Feature
wordCoverageFeatureListSize=100
wordCoverageBucketSize=10

#Word Lists - separate each phrase with commas
querySuffixList=questions,problems,solved examples
interrogativeIndicatorList=what,why,explain,find,calculate,describe,how,
wordAbsenceList=because,yes,no,therefore,answer,q.e.d.,proved

linkBlacklist=.pdf,.doc,youtube.com,=pdf,=doc

```

config.properties example

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SVM Identification

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SVM Package Identification

LIBSVM[3] library for the Support Vector Machine

Efficient implementation of Radial Basis Kernel[3]

Good performance[4]

High accuracy[4]

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Section Generation Heuristic

Paragraph and sentence boundary detection is done using the *SentParDetector* class from the *spiatools* library by Scott Piao[6]

Sentences with length > 400 characters further broken down

Every paragraph with sentences >= 6 split in half and the check is repeated

Frequency List Generation

Generated for Query objects and corresponding Section objects

Done for both unigrams and bigrams

Text content broken into tokens using the *StandardTokenizer* class from the Apache Lucene library[7]

The frequency of each token calculated and stored in a hashtable

- Key – token
- Value – frequency

The hashtable is sorted in order of decreasing frequency

Training Data Generation

The Training Data was generated for 3 topics –

- operating systems
- data structures and algorithms
- computer architecture

6467 sections

- 1243 relevant
- 5223 irrelevant

To avoid unbalanced data bias[8], SVM weightage –

- 4 for relevant sections
- 1 for irrelevant sections

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Performance Measure

$$t_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } f(x_i) = y_i \\ 0 & \text{if } f(x_i) \neq y_i \end{cases}$$

$$Accuracy = \frac{\sum t_i}{n} \times 100\%$$

$x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n$ are the testing data

$f(x_1), f(x_2), \ldots, f(x_n)$ are the decision values by the SVM

$y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_n$ are the manual labels[4]

Performance Measure

5-fold Cross Validation Accuracy

In k-fold cross-validation, the sample is partitioned into k equal size subsamples and a single subsample is retained as the validation data, and the remaining k-1 subsamples are used as training data.

This is repeated k times and the results averaged to produce a single estimation.

Feature Analysis

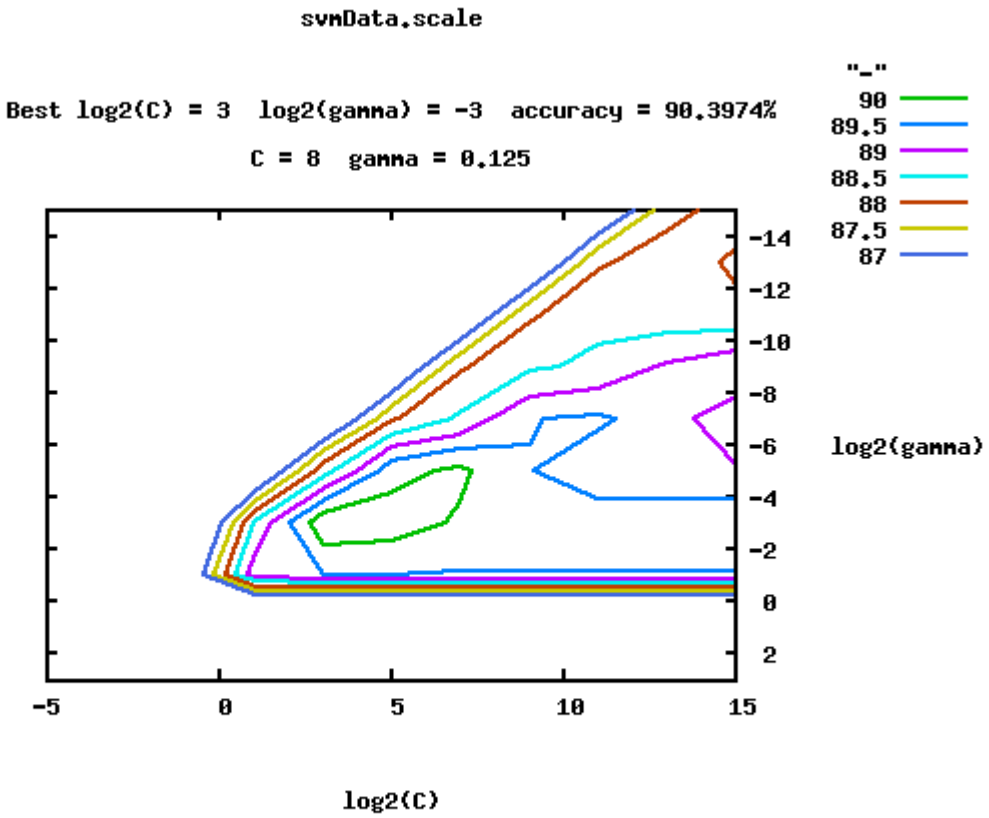
For each combination of features –

Features scaled[9] to [0,1] using *svm_scale*

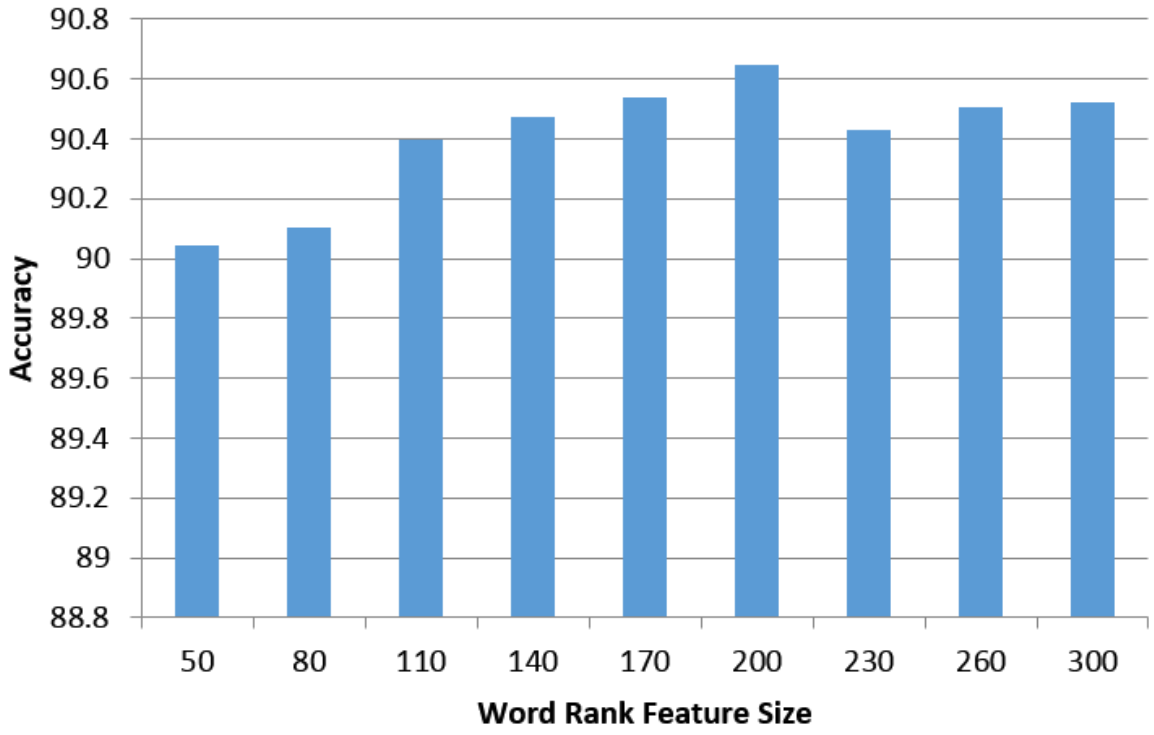
Optimal *C* and *γ* SVM parameters determined using *grid.py*

5-fold Cross Validation Accuracy determined

Feature Analysis



Word Rank Based Features



Word Rank Bucket Size = 1

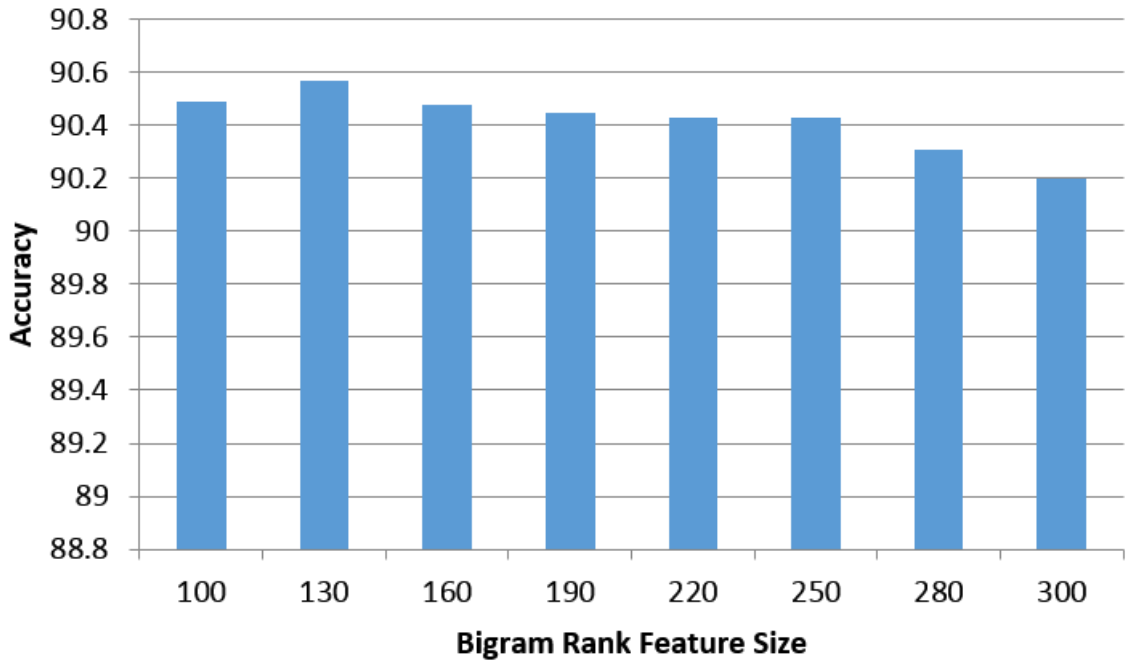
Bigram Rank Bucket Size = 1

Word Coverage Bucket Size = 5

Bigram Rank Features = 150

Word Coverage Based Features = 150

Bigram Rank Based Features



Word Rank Features = 150

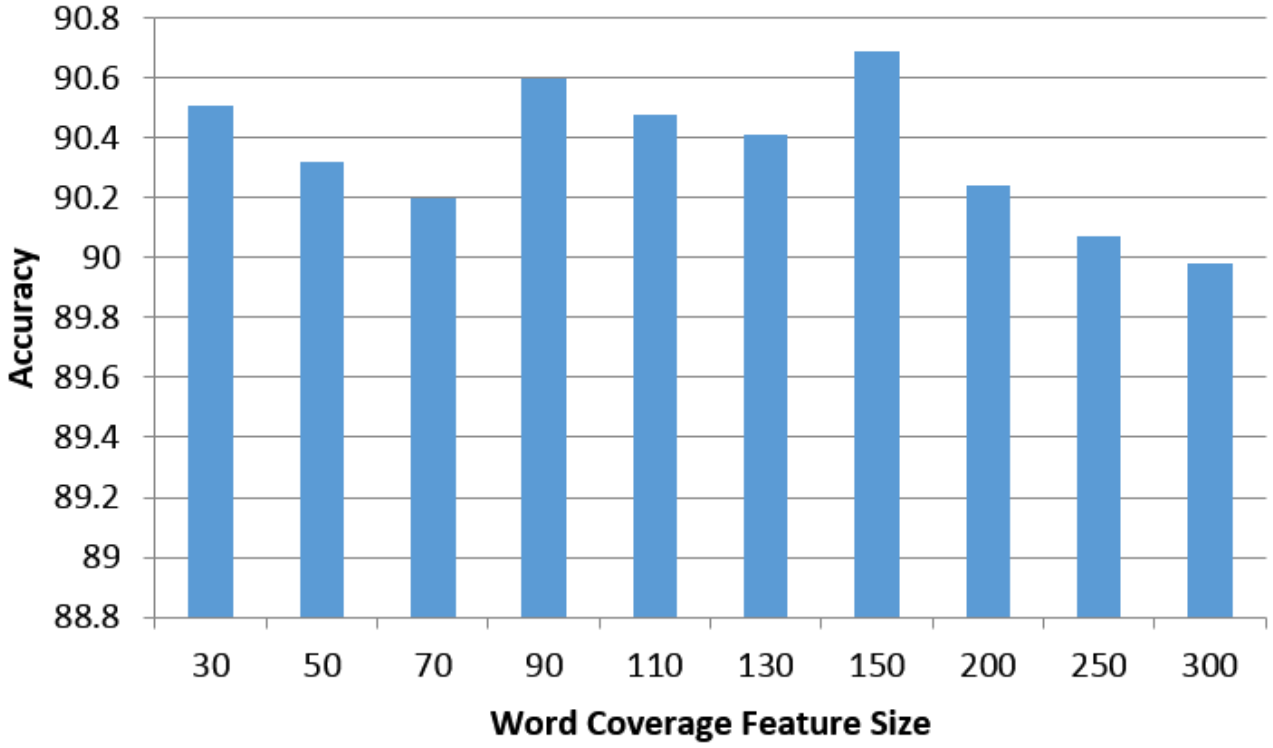
Bigram Rank Bucket Size = 1

Word Coverage Bucket Size = 5

Word Rank Bucket Size = 1

Word Coverage Based Features = 150

Word Coverage Based Features



Word Rank Features = 150

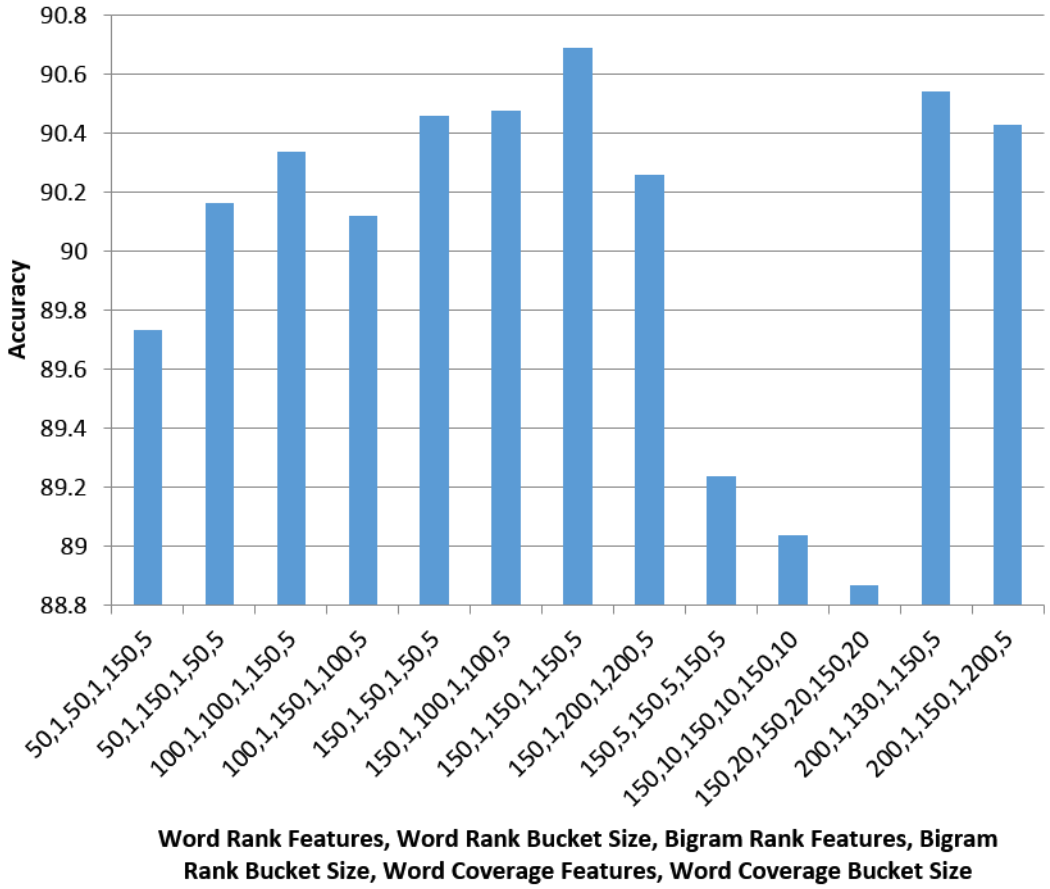
Bigram Rank Features = 150

Word Coverage Bucket Size = 5

Word Rank Bucket Size = 1

Bigram Rank Bucket Size = 1

Optimal Feature Configuration



Optimal Feature Configuration

Accuracy **90.69%**

Word Rank Features	= 150
Word Rank Bucket Size	= 1
Bigram Rank Features	= 150
Bigram Rank Bucket Size	= 1
Word Coverage Features	= 150
Word Coverage Bucket Size	= 5

Optimal SVM parameters

$C = 8.0$

$\gamma = 0.125$

Training Set Size Analysis

Procedure –

Training Set generated using stratified subsampling of Data Set

The features were scaled[9] to [0, 1] using *svm_scale*

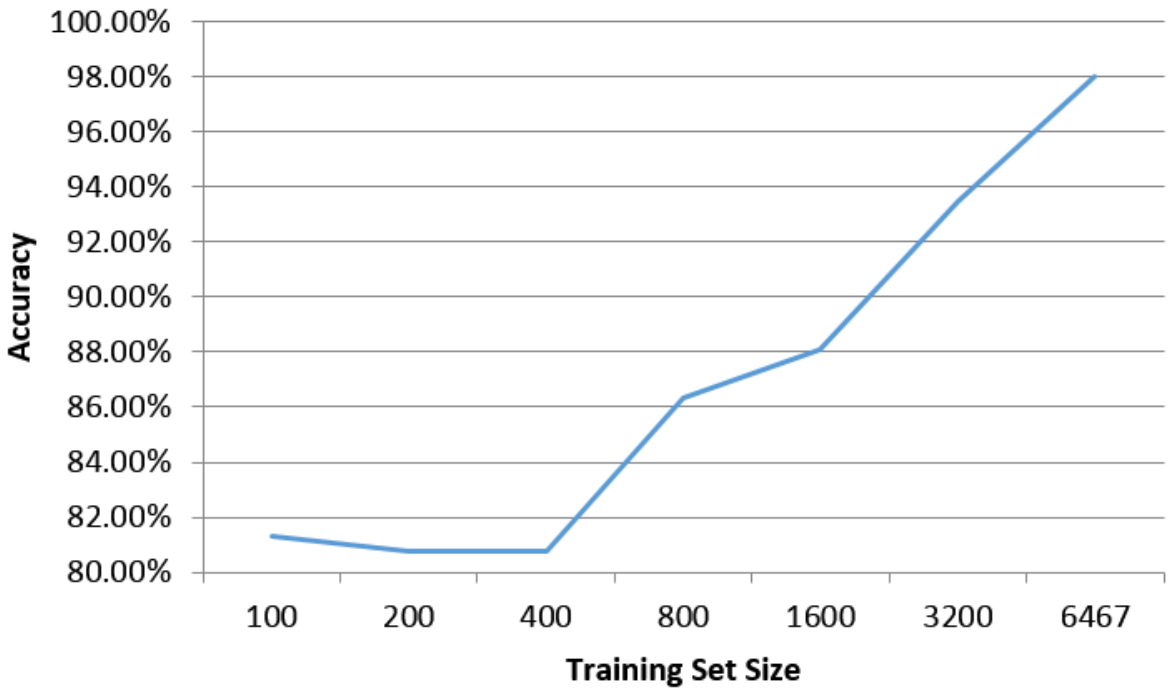
Optimal *C* and *γ* SVM parameters determined using *grid.py*

SVM Model generated using the Training Set

Accuracy calculated by predicting the Data Set

Observation

Accuracy increases exponentially with training set size.



Proposed Feature Analysis

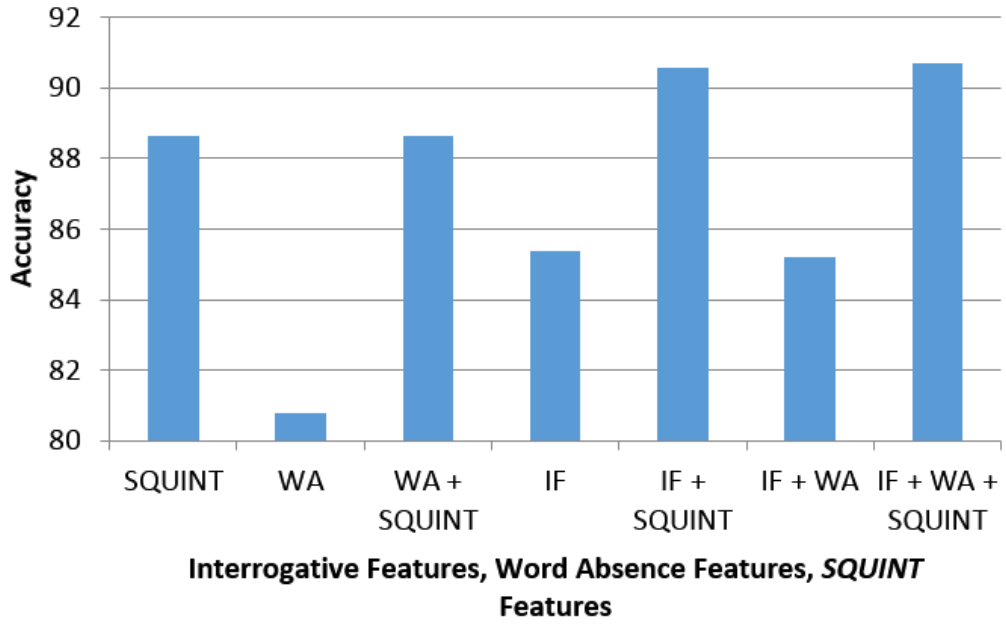
The effect of our proposed features was studied by

- Configurations of the Training File generated by selecting combinations of the 3 classes of features
- Features scaled[9] to [0,1] using *svm_scale*
- Optimal *C* and *γ* SVM parameters determined using *grid.py*
- 5-fold Cross Validation Accuracy determined

Observation

Interrogative feature + SQUINT features – 90.55% accuracy

All features – 90.69% accuracy



Real Run

```
96
97  1. What precisely defines a strategic situation?
98  Why is rational choice more complicated in strategic situations?
99
100 2. What is a Nash equilibrium?
101 Are Nash equilibria necessarily Pareto optimal?
102 Why or why not?
103
104 3. What does one need to know in order to define a "game"?
105
106 b.
107 What would game theorists predict will happen?
108 What do you think actually happens?
109 Why?
```

Sample topic – ‘Game Theory’

Contents

Conclusion and Future Work

Proposed method of using a SVM to classify relevant questions from the internet – successful

Future work –

- Multi-class SVM classification
- Other features
- Using different types of classifiers eg. Neural Networks

References

1. SQUINT - SVM for Identification of Relevant Sections in Web Pages for Web Search, Riku Inoue, Siddharth Jonathan J.B., Jyotika Prasad, Department of Computer Science, Stanford University
2. XML, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XML
3. LIBSVM, http://www.csie.ntu.edu.tw/~cjlin/libsvm/
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5. JAXB, Ort, Ed, and Bhakti Mehta. "Java architecture for xml binding (jaxb)." *Sun Developer Network* (2003).
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9. A Practical Guide to Support Vector Classication, Chih-Jen Lin, Department of Computer Science, National Taiwan University, Talk at University of Freiburg, July 15, 2003.