

# Coursework

This coursework is inspired by the bAbI project of Facebook AI Research (<https://research.fb.com/projects/babi/>) which aims to improve automatic text understanding and reasoning and evaluate it through question answering.

You are given:

1) a set of 6 tasks, each of which is focused on a particular aspect of text understanding: chaining facts, simple induction, deduction, etc. Each task is represented by:

- a text file containing short statements (an input file that should be taken by your programme as an argument, e.g. *task1.txt*), and
- a list of questions that the programme should read one by one from the standard input and output short answers based on the knowledge from the input file. The questions for all tasks are gathered in *questions.txt*. There you can also see the format of answers. The answer “don't know” is possible in all tasks if the knowledge from the input is not enough, except for tasks 1 and 4.

2) a test file *test.txt* for validation of your programme. The questions and answers for the test are also in *questions.txt*.

Statements in the input files describe facts concerning some events, spatial attitudes or temporal relations. In a single file they form a “story”, so that the information about somebody/something can change through the development of the “action”. For example, this can look like:

```
John is in the garden
Bob is in the office
John picked up the football
Bob went to the kitchen
```

To answer questions, the programme might need to use information from one or several statements (supporting facts):

```
Where is John ? A: garden
Where is the football ? A: garden
Where was Bob before the kitchen ? A: office
```

Based on the types of questions and information in input files, the tasks are divided into the following:

1. *Yes/No/Maybe Questions*. Simple questions based on a single supporting fact. Lack of information here results into “maybe”, not “don't know”.

```
John moved to the garden
Daniel went to the bathroom
John went to the hallway
Is John in the garden ? A: no
Is Daniel in the bathroom ? A: yes
Is Mary in the kitchen ? A: maybe
```

2. *Two Supporting Facts*. Two statements have to be chained to answer the question.

```
John is in the playground
John picked up the football
Bob went to the kitchen
Where is the football ? A: playground
Where is the milk ? A: don't know
```

3. *Counting*. Calculation of the number of objects with a certain property. All numbers are 0 in the beginning.

Daniel picked up the football  
Daniel dropped the football  
Mary handed the milk to Daniel  
Daniel took the apple  
How many objects is Daniel holding ? A: 2

4. *Simple Negation and Indefinite Knowledge*. Dealing with supporting facts that imply a statement is false or describe possibilities. Lack of information results into “maybe”.

Sandra travelled to the office  
Fred is no longer in the office  
John is either in the bedroom or the bathroom  
Is Fred in the office ? A: no  
Is Sandra in the office ? A: yes  
Is John in the bedroom ? A: maybe  
Is John in the office ? A: no  
Is Mary in the garden ? A: maybe

5. *Time Reasoning*. Finding out the order of events.

Mary went to the park  
Mary journeyed to the school  
Mary is no longer in the school  
Where was Mary before the school ? A: park

6. *Path Finding*. Given the description of various locations, the programme should output the path between them.

The office is east of the hallway  
The kitchen is north of the office  
The garden is west of the bedroom  
The office is west of the garden  
The bathroom is north of the garden  
How do you go from the kitchen to the garden ? south, east

The test file contains a single “story” and involves the relations from all tasks in a mixed order. The actors (e.g. “John”), objects (“playground”) and vocabulary are the same as in the training input files. So, obviously, your programme should be able to understand not only the facts from the input files, but any statements of the same types with shuffled actors and objects.

Another test file will be used to evaluate your programme. You are of course free to make up your own test stories and questions for testing. You do not need to invent more relations than those in the input files or handle contradictions or wrong input resulting in parse errors.

Submit a zip-file *SurnameName\_coursework.zip* containing:

1. the main module *SurnameName\_coursework.hs*, which takes an input file as an argument, reads questions from the standard input one by one and outputs answers,
2. other modules (if you have them),
3. text comments (optional).

No need to attach input files with tasks.