

This document is a guide to the experimental materials and data associated with the paper “Using inferred probabilities to measure the accuracy of imprecise forecasts.” The explanations below assume you have read the paper.

The file entitled “Reader Instructions” are the instructions to the readers for the forecast documents described in the paper. Please note that the reader instructions include all of the text from the original forecast documents. So for example, the reader instructions for Group 1 include the text of the 2006 forecasts for Iran, Iraq, Sudan and South Africa.

The file entitled “Ground Truth Rater Instructions” are the instructions to the subject matter experts or information researchers who rated the ground truth of each forecast event. Please note the ground truth rater instructions for Group 4 are missing, but the instructions are exactly the same as the other three groups and can easily be reconstructed from these materials.

The power point file entitled “Parsing Rules” lays out the rules we employed to extract forecast events from the forecast documents. Please note that the parsing rules do more than just extract forecast events. They also include instructions for extracting current event descriptions, causal connections between events, definitional connections between events, and a labeling of some events as hypothetical or policy events. These additional features are used for a different study that endeavors to measure whether these documents provide an accurate causal understanding irrespective of whether or not the (unconditional) forecasts are correct.

Finally the Excel file “Forecast Accuracy Data” provides the compiled data that was the basis for our analyses.