Supplementary Material for CLEVRER-Humans: Describing Physical and Causal Events the Human Way

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We bear all responsibility in case of violation of rights. The data created or used during this study are 1 openly available on the project's website (https://sites.google.com/stanford.edu/clevrer-humans). We 2

confirm that the data is under CC0 license. We will provide maintenance to the website and dataset 3

regularly and upon request. 4

The rest of this supplementary document is organized as the following. First, in Section A we 5 provide visualizations of data collected in CLEVRER-Humans, as well as more analysis on the 6 comparison between human causal judgments and heuristics-based labels. In Section B, we describe 7 the implementation details of models studied in the main paper and add additional failure case 8 analysis of models. Next, in Section C, we describe the user interface for dataset collection. Finally, 9 in Section D, we supplement dataset sheets for CLEVRER-Humans. 10

Dataset Visualization and Analysis

Fig. 2 and Fig. 3 show the example graph collected in the stage I (causal event cloze) and stage II 12 (binary CEG labelling), respectively. First, Fig. 2 shows that the causal cloze tasks can progressively 13 collect a large number of human-written event descriptions by re-using the response of previous 14 annotators. On average, we can obtain 29.4 descriptions per video, highlighting the advantage of our 15 design. Second, the condensed CEGs contains high-quality causal relations of physical events, as 16 shown in Fig. 3. It demonstrates both the language diversity and the richness of causal relations in 17 the CEGs of CLEVRER-Humans. These figures provide a straightforward illustration of our data 18 collection pipeline and the quality of our data. 19

A.1 Dataset Statistics 20

Α 11

First, CLEVRER-Humans contains dense annotations of causal relations between physical events. 21 Fig. 1a and Fig. 1b show the distributions of the number of nodes and edges in each CEG. The 22 average number of CEG nodes is 4.71 and the average number of labeled edges is 12.7. These dense 23

24 annotations of CEGs form the rich and complicated causal structures in our dataset.

Second, CLEVRER-Humans offers diverse free-form language descriptions while retaining balances 25

in object properties. Fig. 1c shows the length distribution of event descriptions: the average length is 26

7.00 (as a reference, the average event description length of CLEVRER is 8.93). CLEVRER-Humans 27 has a vocabulary length of size 219, which is much greater than CLEVRER (82). Fig. 1d and Fig. 1e 28

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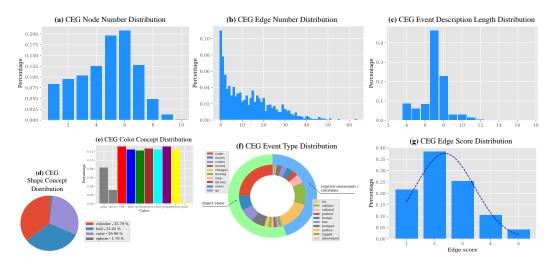


Figure 1: Statistics on the CLEVRER-Humans dataset. From left to right, the first row figures are distributions of (a) the number of nodes per CEG, (b) the number of edges per CEG, and (c) sentence lengths excluding the "which of the following is responsible for" prefix. The second row figures are distributions of (d) object shapes, (e) colors, (f) event type attributions based on verbs, and (g) CEG edge scores labelled by MTurkers, respectively.

show the distribution of object property concepts: colors and shapes. They remain unbiased when considering the synonyms such as "ball" and "sphere" and "gray" and "silver."

³¹ Next, most importantly, CLEVRER-Humans engage a variety of physical events for causal reasoning

32 tasks. In particular, Fig. 1f shows the distribution of event types computed based on the main verb of

³³ the event description. The outer circle represents the general event families. The corresponding inner

³⁴ breakdowns display more than 10 variations of the expression based on verbs for each event type.

³⁵ In comparison, the original CLEVRER dataset contains only three event types (and verbs): enter,

³⁶ exit, and collide. Therefore, CLEVRER-Humans significantly improves the diversity and brings in a

37 challenge for machines to recognize and ground these events in practice.

³⁸ In the following box, we list all verbs that have been annotated by human annotators and generated

³⁹ by our machine generative model. We have lemmatized all verbs to remove the tense.

come, move, change, stop, throw, slow, go, travel, begin, spin, roll, stand, halt, roll, lose, leave, head, want, hurl, enter, hit, collide, push, bump, push, tag, sideswipe, bounce, strike, touch, cause

We also would like to point out that for some verbs, if they seem to be synonyms (e.g., bump and sideswipe), they can have subtle differences in physical grounding. For example, A bumps into B usually implies that A is moving faster than B and its collision changed the state of B. Furthermore, different tense of the same verb have different meanings in sentences: "the event that ball A moved is responsible for the collision" is different from "the event that ball A is moving is responsible for the collision." In the former case, ball A does not have to be moving while the collision happens.

46 It is possible to hand-craft a lot of rules to handle each individual cases (e.g., bump, sideswipe, roll), 47 but that will require additional hyperparameters for thresholds, and may be hard to align with human

- 47 but that will require additional hype48 perception.
- ⁴⁹ Finally, CLEVRER-Humans' annotation reflects the subjective judgment of causality in physical
- ⁵⁰ events. CLEVRER-Humans offers 5 choices when asking MTurkers to label the causality level.
- ⁵¹ Fig. 1g shows the distribution of edge scores with an average of 2.37. Note that this distribution is
- 52 skewed towards lower scores (as shown by the Gaussian approximation in the dotted curve). This
- reflects the fact that most event pairs do not have causal relationships. Finally, although we have

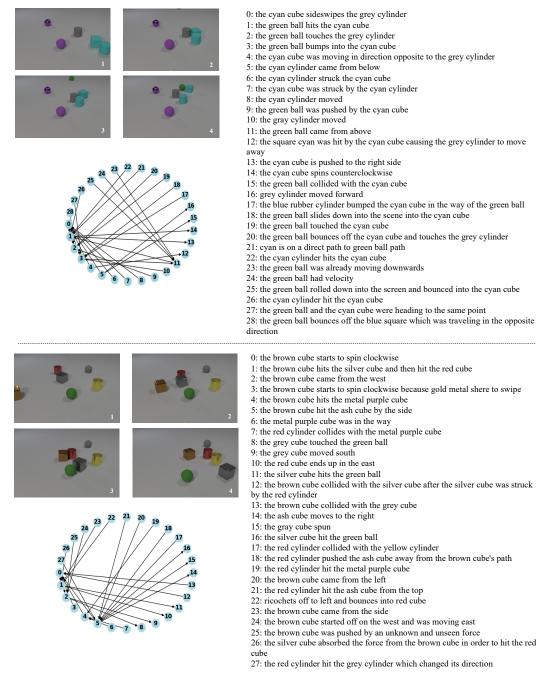


Figure 2: Visualization of two samples of annotations collected in Stage I causal cloze tasks. They are collected progressively by feeding the response of a user as the input of another one. The black arrows indicate the annotation orders.

- ⁵⁴ binarized the edge labels for the sake of consistency with CLEVRER, the raw score-based judgment
 ⁵⁵ can be potentially helpful in other tasks such as cognitive science studies.
- ⁵⁶ Therefore, we can conclude that CLEVRER-Humans is a high-quality causal relation dataset with
- ⁵⁷ significantly more diverse event types and language descriptions than CLEVRER.

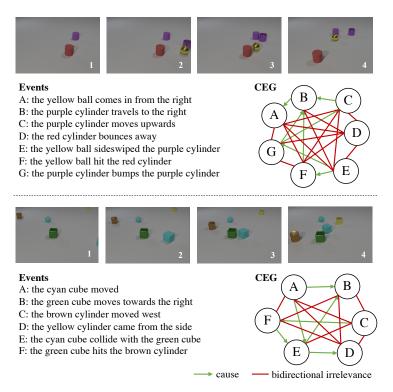


Figure 3: Visualization of two samples of CEGs in CLEVRER-Humans. The green arrows represent causal relations and the red edges represent bidirectional irrelevance. We can see the rich causal relations among physical events presented in the CEGs.

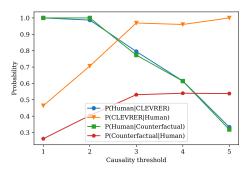


Figure 4: Effect of different causality thresholds on the binarized human causal relation. The x-axis is the ablation threshold (i.e., 4 means a score \geq 4 represents a causal relation). The y-axis is the conditional probability.

	$\mathbf{Y} = y_1$	$\mathbf{Y} = y_2$	$\mathbf{Y} = y_1 \wedge y_2$	$\mathbf{Y} = y_1 \vee y_2$	$\mathbf{Y} = y_1 \oplus y_2$
P(X = Human Y)	0.62	0.61	0.23	0.34	0.34
P(Y X = Human)	0.96	0.54	0.29	0.62	0.33

Table 1: Comparison between different combinations of heuristics-generated causal labels and human labels, on a sampled subset of CLEVRER [1]. The entry P(X|Y) denotes the fraction of event relations that are annotated as causal by protocol X given that the relations are annotated as causal by protocol Y. y_1, y_2 denote the existence of causal relations defined CLEVRER's heuristic and Counterfactual causal relation, respectively.

58 A.2 Comparison between Heuristic and Human Causal Judgments

- ⁵⁹ We supplement the effect of different thresholds on the graded causal relation in Fig. 4. In the human
- ⁶⁰ performance study, we asked the participants to choose a threshold from 1-5 if they had to binarize
- their judgment. The average threshold suggested by the participants is 3.6. In practice, we choose a
- ⁶² threshold of 4 to obtain the causal relation that humans are more certain about.
- 63 Having shown the two common heuristics-generated causal labels (CLEVRER's and counterfactual
- 64 intervention) diverges from human judgment, we also provide the results on comparisons between
- 65 different combinations of heuristics-generated causal labels and human judgments. We use the logic
- operators and (\land), or (\lor), xor (\oplus). As shown in Table 1, none of these combinations can give an
- close enough approximation to human judgment, which further justifies our motivation to use human
- ⁶⁸ labeled causal data for CLEVRER-Humans.

69 **B** Implementation Details

In this section, we present the implementation details of our neural-network-based event description
 generator, the baseline models studied in the main paper, and the error bars for models across different
 random seeds.

73 B.1 Stage II Implementation

74 We first describe the input pre-processing for neural event generators. For each object, we concatenate 75 the one-hot encoding of physical properties (including shapes, colors, and materials) and the motion 76 information (including location, orientation, velocity, angular velocity, and whether the object is 77 inside the camera view) in each of the 128 frames in a video. For each object, at each time step, the 78 input dimension is 24.

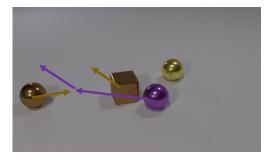
Our rule-based event detector for object pairs works as the following. For object pairs, we first extract 79 all segments that are composed of consecutive frames when two objects are close two each other. 80 Specifically, we say two objects are close if the L_{∞} norm of the displacement vector between two 81 objects is smaller than 0.5 meter (i.e., their x, y, z displacements are all smaller than 0.5 meter). 82 Within each segment, the event detector predicts event types including moving together, object 83 approaching, and collision, based on changes in the motion information. For example, if two objects 84 are physically close for more than 20 frames without rapid changes in velocity, we consider them 85 relatively static, thus "moving together." If both objects change directions within their close period, 86 87 we consider a collision happened. We can further distinguish the changes in relative positions (either "bouncing back" or "one approaching another") by the sign of the dot product of velocity vectors. For 88 any object pair, if no events are detected in the course of the entire video, we do not include this pair 89 for future captioning. 90

After getting the input sequences, we use neural event generators consisting of an encoder and a 91 decoder to produce captions. The encoder uses a linear layer and a GRU unit to encode the input 92 sequence [2]. The decoder applies Softmax on the embedding of input and the hidden state to produce 93 the attention weights. It then uses GRU and a linear layer to produce an English caption of specific 94 objects in the video. Single-object and pairwise captioning models share the same architecture but 95 are trained independently. The hidden dimension of both the encoder and the decoder is 256 for 96 single-object models and 128 for pairwise models. The dropout rate for the decoder is set to 0.3 for 97 single-object models and 0.1 for pairwise models. All models are trained with a learning rate of 0.001. 98 For the grammar check module in the post processor, we drop the sentences with two consecutively 99 repeated words. We also exclude the sentences that miss verbs or verb arguments, such as sentences 100 ending with words "from," "to," "at," "is," etc. 101

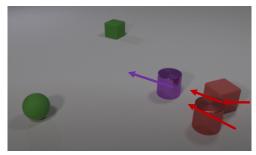
102 B.2 Baseline Implementation

Language-Only models. For the language-only models, we use a LSTM [3] with GloVe [4] word embedding. The hidden dimension of 512 and the dropout rate is 0.2. We use the Adam optimizer [5] with a learning rate is 4×10^{-4} and a weight decay of 10^{-5} . The batch size is 4. Following the data splits in CLEVRER, we split 20% of the training pairs as the validation set and choose the model with the highest validation accuracy.

CNN+LSTM. For the CNN+LSTM models, we use a pre-trained ResNet-50 to extract 2,048-108 dimensional features from the video frames [6]. We uniformly sample 25 frames for each video as 109 input. The word embedding for questions is initialized by the GloVe [4] word embedding. Both 110 LSTMs (the question encoder and the video sequence encoder) have 1 layer with a hidden dimension 111 of 512. We apply a dropout rate of 0.2 on the input layer and 0.5 on the hidden layers. We use 112 the Adam [5] optimizer with a weight decay of 5×10^{-4} . The learning rate is 10^{-5} training from 113 scratch and 10^{-3} for finetuning. The batch size is 128 for both trained-from-scratch and finetuning 114 experiments. We split 20% of the training pairs as the validation set and choose the model with the 115 highest validation accuracy. 116



Question: What is responsible the purple ball collides with the brown cube? Choice: The purple ball comes up. Answer: Wrong Model prediction: Correct



Question: What is responsible for the red cube sideswiped the purple cylinder? Choice: The red cube bumped the red cylinder. Answer: Wrong Model prediction: Correct

Figure 5: Examples of common prediction errors. The arrows in the image represent the moving direction of objects of interest in the video. **Left:** failure caused by nuances in human language. While the purple ball is constantly moving upwards coordinate-wise, humans understand the phrase "comes up" as more of the later part of the trajectory (after the purple ball collides with the brown ball). Therefore, machines cannot give a correct prediction. **Right:** failure in bridging the domain shift. Humans may consider the change in the trajectory to be minor and appears not to be a deciding factor of the outcome event, but the model predicts it as a cause following similar heuristics in CLEVRER.

BERT+LSTM We supplement CNN+BERT models as a model with a stronger text encoder. The CNN is the same as in the CNN+LSTM baseline. We use the pretrained BERT uncased base model from HuggingFace library [7]. The BERT tokenizer is set to max length 32 padding and truncation. During training, We fix weights of the text encoder. We use the Adam optimizer with a weight decay of 5×10^{-4} , and a learning rate of 10^{-5} training from scratch and 10^{-3} for finetuning. The batch size is 128. We choose the model with highest validation accuracy with 20% of the training set as the validation set.

ALOE. We implement our model based on the publicly released code [8]. Since the public release does not contain training code, we implement the training procedure using the following settings. For object embeddings, we use the pre-trained MONet embeddings released by the authors. For optimization, we use the Adam [5] optimizer with a weight decay of 10^{-3} (we have also benchmarked 10^{-2} , 10^{-3} and 10^{-4}). We split 5% of the training pairs as the validation set and choose the model with the highest validation accuracy.

130 B.3 Error analysis

We summarize the common failures of the models: for pretrained-only models, the common error
comes from the failure of incorporating more diverse language and events. For example, as shown in
Table 2, the program parser of NS-DR and VRDP fails to generate proper programs for descriptions
in CLEVRER-Humans. The deficiency of language understanding often leads to wrong predictions.

For training from scratch models, one possible reason to the test errors is the nuances in human 135 language. Specifically, models do not only need to identify the objects being referred to but also 136 their physical properties: the cause of "the red cube slows down" can be hard to identify because 137 speed does not appear to be as explicit as other properties such as colors and shapes. As shown 138 in our comparison between human judgement and heuristics-based causal judgements, the nuance 139 in language can influence human judgments, posing difficulties for machines to ground the events 140 and simulate the reasoning process. For instance, the left figure in Fig. 5 illustrates the nuances 141 in language resulting a discrepancy between human judgment and prediction. Moreover, for large 142

Event	Parsed program
The purple sphere slows down from the right.	["events", "objects", "purple", "filter_color", "sphere", "filter_shape", "unique", "filter_collision", "objects", "unique", "filter_color",
The red ball comes to a stop.	"sphere", "filter_shape", "unique", "filter_collision", "unique"] ["events", "objects", "red", "filter_color", "unique", "filter_collision", "objects", "red", "filter_color", "unique", "filter_collision", "unique"]
The yellow cube comes from the right side at a fast speed.	["events", "objects", "yellow", "filter_color", "cube", "filter_shape", "unique", "filter_out", "unique"]

Table 2: Examples of errors produced by program parser. In the first row, the model cannot identify the event "slow down from the right" and gives incorrect parsing to find another object involved in a collision ("filter_collision"). In the second row, the model cannot represent the event "come to a stop" due to the expand in vocabulary and gives an incorrect output ("filter_collision"). In the third row, the model mistakenly represents the enter event as the exit event ("filter_out") because the description is more complicated in CLEVRER-Humans. We follow the notation of programs as in NSDR and VRDP.

models such as ALOE, learning to simulate human reasoning process from scratch based on very
 little data can be difficult, especially with limited training size.

¹⁴⁵ For finetuned models, we have not seen significant improvement brought by the pretraining phase.

146 This is primarily because of the domain gap between human judgement and heuristics-based labelling.

¹⁴⁷ Specifically, our human experiments have shown that p(Human | CLEVRER-Heuristic) = 0.62. That

is, only 62% of the event pairs that have been labelled as causal in CLEVRER, are labelled as causal

by human annotators. The right figure in Fig. 5 gives an example of the error caused by the domain

shift. Future work may consider other ways of pretraining, such as pretraining on event recognition,

which may be more transferable, and pretraining with other types of heuristics.

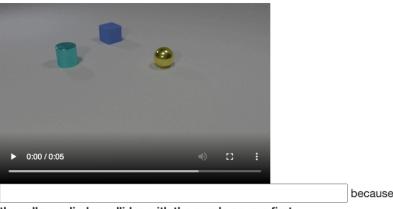
152 C Labeling Interface

We develop labeling interfaces based on boto3 with Amazon MTurk python API. We include example 153 trials of both the causal cloze tasks and CEG annotation tasks in Fig. 6 and Fig. 7, respectively. 154 The full instruction texts are provided on the labeling page of our project's website. The estimated 155 hourly pay to the Mechanical Turk participants is about \$6.1 and the total amount spent on participant 156 compensation is about \$3500. Specifically, the cloze tests and part of the pairwise causal relationship 157 annotations were completed by users from the U.S., and the pay was \$7.7/hour (above federal 158 minimum wage). At a later stage of our project, we were unfortunately constrained by the budget 159 available to us and opened the tasks to workers outside the U.S. Thus, overall, our average hourly 160 wage is \$6.1. Our goal has always been to commit to best practice and offer fair pay to users whenever 161 possible, and we will continue to do so in the future. 162

In causal cloze tasks, the participants are asked to write an event description given a cause or outcome event, as shown in Fig. 6. We specify the expectation of responses (such as using complete sentences, avoiding ambiguous third-person pronouns, etc.) in the instruction. We design a small comprehension quiz with 7 multiple choice questions and 2 chances to submit to ensure the participants understand the instructions correctly.

In the CEG annotation tasks, the participants are asked to label the correctness and causal relation of two event descriptions as shown in Fig. 7. We give 4 examples with detailed explanations to help them understand the rationale of the task. We also give an illustration of object colors and shapes for

- reference. Bounding boxes are added to the videos to accelerate the process of locating objects of
- 172 interest.



the yellow cylinder collides with the purple square first.

○ The prompt has no problem.

- I don't know what the prompt is talking about.
- O The prompt makes sense to me but I cannot think of a way to fill in the blank.

Figure 6: Example of a causal cloze trial. The participants are asked to fill in the blank after watching a video. They can also select the checkboxes if they do not understand the prompt.

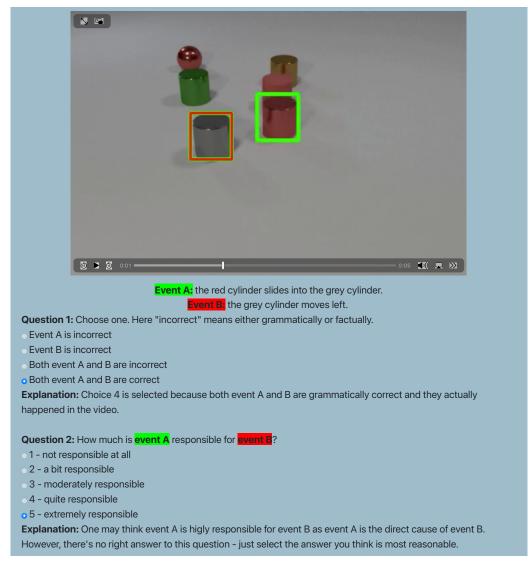


Figure 7: Example of a CEG trial. The participants are first asked to select if the event descriptions are correct. If both correct, they are asked to label the level of causal relations between the descriptions. For each event pair, we provide bounding boxes for objects involved in the events for better annotation efficiency.

173 **D** Dataset Release

Our dataset is under CC0 License. We provide a documentation using data statements for NLP in [9].

Short form data statement CLEVRER-Humans is a large-scale video reasoning dataset of humanannotated physical event descriptions and their causal relations. It contains machine-generated texts based on crowdsourcing data in US English (en-US). The language quality and causal structure annotations are obtained by watching videos, reading texts, and entering responses on MTurk.

179 The following is the long form data statement of CLEVRER-Humans:

Curation Nationale CLEVRER-Humans contains descriptions and causal relations of physical 180 events such as an object entering the scene and two objects colliding with each other. The goals in 181 selecting texts were to ensure the interpretability and correctness of the descriptions and to provide 182 a variety of free-form captioning of physical events in videos. We first collected human written 183 event descriptions by causal cloze tasks, then used machine learning models to generate more natural 184 language descriptions based on the curated data. We post-processed the data by grammar checking, 185 object existence checking, and verb re-balancing. Finally, we obtained human annotations on the 186 texts through crowdsourcing: if the labelers annotated the texts interpretable and correct, we ask them 187 to provide a pairwise graded causal judgment of the events. 188

Language Variety The event description data for causal cloze tasks were collected on MTurk.
 Information about which varieties of English are represented is not available, but at least CLEVRER Humans includes US (en-US) mainstream English.

Speaker Demographic We used a cascaded generator composed of a rule-based event detector and a neural pairwise generator to generate texts. When the curating training data in causal cloze tasks, we restricted the location of these MTurkers to be in the US. It is expected that most speakers use English as their native language. Estimated demographics of MTurkers may refer to [10].

Annotator Demographic We hire the MTurkers with the approved HITs of 1000 or higher. We expect the MTurkers to be the general public who are familiar with basic crowdsourcing process. When collecting data, we release the tasks in batches, where each HIT contains 30 QA pairs mostly coming from one or two videos. We perform quality check to unsure annotators have sufficient knowledge of English language. We also answer their questions about the annotation process by emails. It is expected that most speakers use English as their native language. Estimated demographics of annotators may refer to [10].

Speech Situation The intended audience of the texts is the general public. The texts are all in written form. MTurkers are expected to read the text and watch the video when doing causal cloze and causal labeling tasks. The video is about 5 seconds, which can be played as many times as one wishes.

Text Characteristics The texts are plain English descriptions of a physical event in a video. A sentence usually contains one or more physical object(s) (i.e. sphere, cylinder, or cube) and the related movements or interactions presented in the video. Ideally, the generated event descriptions can maintain the vocabulary and structural characteristics similar to the training data from causal cloze tasks. The detailed statistics of the text are shown in the Dataset Statistics section.

- 212 **Recording Quality** N/A
- 213 Other N/A
- **Provenance Appendix** The videos of CLEVRER-Humans are from the CLEVRER dataset [1].

215 **D.1 Intended Use**

CLEVRER-Humans can be used as a benchmark in physical scene understanding and causal reasoning.
It evaluates machines ability to understand and analyze physical interventions in a restricted setting.
Machines are provided with a short video and expected to answer questions regarding the causes of
events in the video.

220 D.2 Maintenance Plan

We will host our dataset permanently on our project's website. Users are granted access to the dataset through links on the website. We provide versioning of the dataset and archive backup regularly.

223 D.3 Quality Check

Quality checks over CEG node correctness are performed by majority voting. Since we have split the annotation of each video to 3 annotators, and they will see overlapping events and annotate their correctness. Checks for edge correctness are performed by including additional "quality checking" questions. Specifically, each annotator will see 3 videos and 10 questions for each video. 1 of the video will be from a small and manually-curated dataset by authors, containing 30 videos. The entire answer set will be accepted if and only if the annotators answers those quality-checking questions correctly (more specifically, have a small divergence with our answer).

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