Comparative Lexicon

Email me liub@cs.uic.edu, if you have any questions.

If you use the lexicon in your work, please cite the following paper:


For further information about sentiment analysis of comparative sentences, please refer to:


Comparative Lexicon

Most English comparatives are formed by adding the suffix -er and superlatives are formed by adding the suffix -est to their base adjectives and base adverbs.

However, adjectives and adverbs with two syllables or more and not ending in y do not form comparatives or superlatives by adding -er or -est. Instead, more, most, less, and least are used before such words, e.g., more beautiful.

English also has irregular comparatives and superlatives:

more, most, less, least, better, best, worse, worst, further/farther and furthest/farthest.

Non-standard words indicating comparisons:

beat, defeat, destroy, decimate, equal, equally, kill, lead, obliterate, outclass (out class and out-class), outdo, outperform, outplay, overtake (over take and over-take), smack, subdue, subpar, surpass, top, trump, unmated, win.

Note: We need to be aware that not all appearances of these words indicate sentiment. See the book.

(1) Nonequal gradable comparison

ahead of

cannot | not as ... as
never | not ... as .. as
blow away
blow out of water
(buy | choose | favor | grab | pick | purchase | select | stick to) over
X can do something positive Y cannot
cannot race against
cannot compete with
cannot | not match
compare (with | to | and | over)
compare X and Y
in comparison (of | with)
no comparison


cannot compare
(drop | dump) X for
(edge | lead | take) past
edge out
get rid of X for
gain from
cannot hold a candle
(inferior | superior) to
lag behind
lead against
lead by
lose to | against
number one
on par
on a par with
(not | nothing) like
prefer to | over
X steal Y from Z
suck against
take over | out
up against
vulnerable to ("Blackberry is vulnerable to iPhone’s attack."")
weapon against
win against

(2). Equative comparison

as ... as
equal
equivalent
equal to
equally
identical
on (a) par
the same (as)

There are also many comparative terms which do not indicate explicit sentiment, e.g.,

similar, dissimilar, match, unequal, unlike, not alike etc.

Further information on the topic of comparative opinion analysis (including non-gradable comparisons), please refer to my 2015 book.