Vector Databases and Semantic Search

Vector Database Fundamentals

Vector database - Wikipedia Jump to content From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia Type of specialized database system Part of a series onMachine learningand data mining Paradigms Supervised learning Unsupervised learning Semi-supervised learning Self-supervised learning Reinforcement learning Meta-learning Online learning Batch learning Curriculum learning Rule-based learning Neuro-symbolic AI Neuromorphic engineering Quantum machine learning Problems Classification Generative modeling Regression Clustering Dimensionality reduction Density estimation Anomaly detection Data cleaning AutoML Association rules Semantic analysis Structured prediction Feature engineering Feature learning Learning to rank Grammar induction Ontology learning Multimodal learning Supervised learning(classification * regression) Apprenticeship learning Decision trees Ensembles Bagging Boosting Random forest k-NN Linear regression Naive Bayes Artificial neural networks Logistic regression Perceptron Relevance vector machine (RVM) Support vector machine (SVM) Clustering BIRCH CURE Hierarchical k-means Fuzzy Expectation-maximization (EM) DBSCAN OPTICS Mean shift Dimensionality reduction Factor analysis CCA ICA LDA NMF PCA PGD t-SNE SDL Structured prediction Graphical models Bayes net Conditional random field Hidden Markov Anomaly detection RANSAC k-NN Local outlier factor Isolation forest Neural networks Autoencoder Deep learning Feedforward neural network Recurrent neural network LSTM GRU ESN reservoir computing Boltzmann machine Restricted GAN Diffusion model SOM Convolutional neural network U-Net LeNet AlexNet DeepDream Neural field Neural radiance field Physics-informed neural networks Transformer Vision Mamba Spiking neural network Memtransistor Electrochemical RAM (ECRAM) Reinforcement learning Q-learning Policy gradient SARSA Temporal difference (TD) Multi-agent Self-play Learning with humans Active learning Crowdsourcing Human-in-the-loop Mechanistic interpretability RLHF Model diagnostics Coefficient of determination Confusion matrix Learning curve ROC curve Mathematical foundations Kernel machines Bias-variance tradeoff Computational learning theory Empirical risk minimization Occam learning PAC learning Statistical learning VC theory Topological deep learning Journals and conferences AAAI ECML PKDD NeurIPS ICML ICLR IJCAI ML JMLR Related articles Glossary of artificial intelligence List of datasets for machine-learning research List of datasets in computer vision and image processing Outline of machine learning vte A vector database, vector store or vector search engine is a database that uses the vector space model to store vectors (fixed-length lists of numbers) along with other data items. Vector databases typically implement one or more approximate nearest neighbor algorithms,[1][2] so that one can search the database with a query vector to retrieve the closest matching database records. Vectors are mathematical representations of data in a high-dimensional space. In this space, each dimension corresponds to a feature of the data, with the number of dimensions ranging from a few hundred to tens of thousands, depending on the complexity of the data being represented. A vector's position in this space represents its characteristics. Words, phrases, or entire documents, as well as images, audio, and other types of data, can all be vectorized.[3] These feature vectors may be computed from the raw data using machine learning methods such as feature extraction algorithms, word embeddings[4] or deep learning networks. The goal is that semantically similar data items receive feature vectors close to each other. Vector databases can be used for similarity search, semantic search, multi-modal search, recommendations engines, large language models (LLMs), object detection, etc.[5] Vector databases are also often used to implement retrieval-augmented generation (RAG), a method to improve domain-specific responses of large language models. The retrieval component of a RAG can be any search system, but is most often implemented as a vector database. Text documents describing the domain of interest are collected, and for each document or document section, a feature vector (known as an "embedding") is computed, typically using a deep learning network, and stored in a vector database. Given a user prompt, the feature vector of the prompt is computed, and the database is queried to retrieve the most relevant documents. These are then automatically added into the context window of the large language model, and the large language model proceeds to create a response to the prompt given this context.[6] Techniques[edit] The most important techniques for similarity search on high-dimensional vectors include: Hierarchical Navigable Small World (HNSW) graphs Locality-sensitive Hashing (LSH) and Sketching Product Quantization (PQ) Inverted Files and combinations of these techniques.[citation needed] In recent benchmarks, HNSW-based implementations have been among the best performers.[7][8] Conferences such as the International Conference on Similarity Search and Applications, SISAP and the Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) host competitions on vector search in large databases. Implementations[edit] This is a dynamic list and may never be able to satisfy particular standards for completeness. You can help by adding missing items with reliable sources. Name License Aerospike[9][10] Proprietary AllegroGraph[11][12] Proprietary (Managed Service) Apache Cassandra[13][14] Apache License 2.0 Azure Cosmos DB[15] Proprietary (Managed Service) Chroma[16][17] Apache License 2.0[18] ClickHouse[19] Apache License 2.0 Couchbase[20][21] BSL 1.1[22] CrateDB[23] Apache License 2.0 DataStax[24] Proprietary (Managed Service) Elasticsearch[25] Server Side Public License, Elastic License[26] HAKES[27] Apache License 2.0[28] HDF5 Query Indexing[29] BSD 3-Clause[30] JaguarDB[31][32] Proprietary LanceDB[33] Apache License 2.0[34] Lantern[35] BSL 1.1[36] LlamaIndex[37] MIT License[38] MariaDB[39][40] GPL v2[41] Marqo[42] Apache License 2.0[43] Meilisearch[44] MIT License[45] Milvus[46][47] Apache License 2.0 MongoDB Atlas[48] Server Side Public License (Managed service) Neo4j[49][50] GPL v3 (Community Edition)[51] ObjectBox[52] Apache License 2.0[53] OpenSearch[54][55][56] Apache License 2.0[57] Oracle Database[58] Proprietary (Managed Service or License) Pinecone[59] Proprietary (Managed Service) Pixeltable (Incremental Embedding)[60] Apache License 2.0[61] Postgres with pgvector[62] PostgreSQL License[63] Qdrant[64] Apache License 2.0[65] Redis Stack[66][67] Redis Source Available License[68] Snowflake[69] Proprietary (Managed Service) SurrealDB[70] BSL 1.1[71] Typesense[72] GPL v3 (Community Edition)[73] Vespa[74] Apache License 2.0[75] Weaviate[76] BSD 3-Clause[77] See also[edit] Curse of dimensionality - Difficulties arising when analyzing data with many aspects ("dimensions") Machine learning - Study of algorithms that improve automatically through experience Nearest neighbor search - Optimization problem in computer science Recommender system - System to predict users' preferences References[edit]

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Embedding Technologies

Understanding Vector Embeddings in AI | SimplAI Skip to main contentOn this pageVector Embedding Vector embeddings are essential in the world of artificial intelligence and data processing, as they help manage large datasets more effectively. This technique converts complex data into numerical vectors, making it easier to process, analyze, and utilize. Vector embeddings are particularly important in natural language processing (NLP), image recognition, and recommendation systems, where maintaining the context and meaning of the data is crucial. What is Vector Embedding? Vector embedding is a technique used to transform data into numerical vectors that capture the relationships and meanings within the data. This method organizes data in a way that facilitates easier processing and analysis. In the context of text processing, vector embeddings ensure that each text segment is converted into a vector, retaining the original context and meaning for efficient handling by AI models. Why a Vector Embedding Strategy is Essential 1. Enhanced Processing Efficiency Large datasets can be tough for AI models. Vector embeddings break data into smaller, manageable vectors, making processing faster and more efficient. This approach optimizes computational resources, reducing processing time and costs. Example: Processing an entire book at once isn't practical. By converting the book into vector embeddings for chapters or paragraphs, AI handles the text more efficiently. 2. Improved Model Performance AI models work better with smaller, contextually relevant data chunks. Large, unprocessed datasets can overwhelm models, causing errors and reducing accuracy.

Vector embeddings ensure manageable, contextually appropriate data, enhancing performance. Example: Sentiment analysis models perform better when analyzing sentences or paragraphs rather than entire documents. 3. Maintaining Context and Coherence AI models need data that retains its original context and coherence to produce meaningful outputs. Poorly managed data can lose context, leading to irrelevant or incorrect results. Vector embeddings help preserve data context and meaning. Example: In a chatbot, breaking down user queries into coherent vector embeddings ensures accurate responses. 3. Facilitating Retrieval and Answering Systems Effective vector embedding is key for systems that retrieve information based on user queries. Accurate embeddings ensure relevant data retrieval, enhancing system reliability and user satisfaction. Example: In a document retrieval system, breaking documents into well-defined vector embeddings allows quick identification of relevant information. 4. Supporting Diverse Data Formats Different data types-like text, images, and audio-require tailored embedding strategies. A robust vector embedding strategy handles various formats effectively, ensuring correct data processing regardless of structure. Example: In a data processing pipeline with multiple document types, adaptive embedding strategies ensure appropriate handling based on content and format. Different Types of Embedding Models 1. Word Embeddings Word embeddings convert individual words into numerical vectors that capture semantic meanings and relationships. These models are fundamental in natural language processing tasks. Need to discuss whether is there a need to show different types of embedding models and whether should we add some models as an example or their descriptions Word2Vec Overview: Developed by Google, Word2Vec uses neural networks to learn word associations. Key Features: CBOW (Continuous Bag of Words): Predicts a target word based on context words. Skip-gram: Predicts context words based on a target word. Use Cases: Text classification, sentiment analysis, and similarity detection. GloVe (Global Vectors for Word Representation) Overview: Developed by Stanford, GloVe captures global statistical information from a corpus. Key Features: Combines the benefits of matrix factorization and local context window methods. Use Cases: Document similarity, semantic analysis, and word analogy tasks. FastText Overview: Created by Facebook, FastText extends Word2Vec by considering subword information. Key Features: Better handles rare words and morphologically rich languages. Use Cases: Language modeling, text classification, and named entity recognition. 2. Sentence Embeddings Sentence embeddings represent entire sentences as vectors, capturing the meaning and context of the sentence as a whole. BERT (Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers) Overview: Developed by Google, BERT provides deep contextual embeddings by considering the entire sentence context. Key Features: Bidirectional: Looks at context from both directions (left and right). Transformer-based: Utilizes attention mechanisms for more accurate representations. Use Cases: Question answering, language inference, and text classification. RoBERTa (Robustly Optimized BERT Pretraining Approach) Overview: An enhanced version of BERT with improved training techniques and performance. Key Features: Trained with more data and longer sequences. Removes the next sentence prediction objective. Use Cases: Similar to BERT, but with higher accuracy and robustness. 3. Document Embeddings Document embeddings extend the concept to entire documents, allowing for the analysis of larger text blocks while preserving the context. Doc2Vec Overview: An extension of Word2Vec that generates vectors for entire documents. Key Features: Paragraph Vector-Distributed Memory (PV-DM): Considers the document context along with the words. Paragraph Vector-Distributed Bag of Words (PV-DBOW): Ignores word order, focusing on predicting words randomly. Use Cases: Document classification, topic modeling, and information retrieval. 4. Contextual Embeddings Contextual embeddings capture the meaning of words or phrases based on their usage in a particular context, which can change depending on surrounding text. ELMo (Embeddings from Language Models) Overview: Developed by Allen Institute for AI, ELMo provides deep contextualized word representations. Key Features: Utilizes bidirectional LSTM (Long Short-Term Memory) networks. Generates embeddings that change with context. Use Cases: Named entity recognition, sentiment analysis, and coreference resolution. GPT (Generative Pre-trained Transformer) Overview: Developed by OpenAI, GPT models use a transformer architecture to generate text-based on input prompts. Key Features: Unidirectional: Processes text in a left-to-right manner. Pre-trained on vast text corpora and fine-tuned for specific tasks. Use Cases: Text generation, summarization, and conversational AI. 5. Multimodal Embeddings Multimodal embeddings integrate data from different modalities, such as text, images, and audio, into a unified vector space. CLIP (Contrastive Language-Image Pretraining) Overview: Developed by OpenAI, CLIP learns visual concepts from natural language descriptions. Key Features: Trained on a variety of internet images with corresponding text. Can perform zero-shot classification. Use Cases: Image recognition, captioning, and cross-modal retrieval. Understanding MTEB: Massive Text Embedding Benchmark The Massive Text Embedding Benchmark (MTEB) is a comprehensive tool designed to evaluate the performance of various text embedding models across multiple natural language processing (NLP) tasks. By providing a standardized framework for comparison, MTEB helps researchers and developers select the best embedding models for their specific needs. Why MTEB is Important? Choosing the right text embedding model is critical for achieving optimal results in NLP applications. MTEB addresses this need by offering: Standardized Evaluation: MTEB provides a consistent set of benchmarks to assess different models, ensuring fair and reliable comparisons. Wide Coverage: It includes a variety of tasks, such as classification, clustering, and information retrieval, reflecting real-world use cases. Performance Insights: By using MTEB, users can gain detailed insights into the strengths and weaknesses of each model, aiding in informed decision-making. Components of MTEB MTEB is structured around several key components: Benchmark Datasets: MTEB includes a diverse set of datasets that cover various languages, domains, and text lengths. This diversity ensures that models are tested across a broad spectrum of scenarios. Evaluation Metrics: It employs multiple evaluation metrics to provide a comprehensive assessment of model performance. Common metrics include accuracy, precision, recall, F1 score, and computational efficiency. Task Categories: MTEB encompasses multiple NLP tasks to evaluate the versatility of embedding models: Text Classification: Assessing the model's ability to categorize text into predefined classes. Clustering: Evaluating how well the model groups similar texts together. Information Retrieval: Testing the model's efficiency in retrieving relevant information from large datasets. Semantic Textual Similarity: Measuring how accurately the model captures the similarity between text pairs. Text Generation: Gauging the model's capability to generate coherent and contextually relevant text. How to Use MTEB

Using MTEB involves several steps: Model Selection: Choose the text embedding models you wish to evaluate. Dataset Preparation: Use the benchmark datasets provided by MTEB for a standardized evaluation. Evaluation: Run the selected models on the benchmark datasets and record their performance across various metrics. Comparison: Compare the performance results to identify the best-performing models for your specific use case. Benefits of MTEB Objective Comparison: MTEB eliminates biases by providing a neutral platform for model evaluation. Efficiency: It saves time by offering ready-to-use benchmark datasets and evaluation scripts. Informed Decisions: By offering detailed performance insights, MTEB helps in making data-driven decisions when selecting embedding models. How to Choose the Best Embedding Model for Your Use Case Selecting the right embedding model for your specific use case is crucial for maximizing the performance and efficiency of your AI applications. Here's a detailed steps to help you determine the best embedding model for your needs. 1. Understand Your Data and Requirements The first step in choosing an embedding model is to thoroughly understand the nature of your data and the specific requirements of your application. Type of Data: Identify whether your data consists of text, images, audio, or a combination. Different embedding models are optimized for different data types. Text Data: Common in NLP tasks such as sentiment analysis, text classification, and machine translation. Image Data: Used in image recognition, object detection, and similar tasks. Audio Data: Applicable in speech recognition and audio classification. Application Requirements: Determine the specific goals of your application, such as classification, clustering, retrieval, or generation. Classification: Assigning categories to data points (e.g., spam detection, sentiment analysis). Clustering: Grouping similar data points together (e.g., topic modeling). Retrieval: Finding relevant information from a large dataset (e.g., search engines). Generation: Creating new data points based on existing data (e.g., text generation). 2. Evaluate Popular Embedding Models Consider the most commonly used embedding models and their strengths and weaknesses: Strengths: Identify the key advantages of each model, such as their ability to capture semantic relationships, efficiency, and performance on specific tasks. Weaknesses: Note the limitations, such as computational requirements, training complexity, and potential issues with generalizability. 3. Benchmarking and Comparison Use benchmarking tools like MTEB (Massive Text Embedding Benchmark) to compare the performance of different embedding models on tasks relevant to your use case. Performance Metrics: Evaluate models based on metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, F1 score, and computational efficiency. Task Suitability: Ensure the model performs well on tasks similar to your application, such as sentiment analysis, text classification, or information retrieval. 4. Practical Testing and Validation Implement a few shortlisted models and test them on your specific dataset. Evaluate their performance based on: Accuracy: Measure how well the model captures the nuances of your data. Speed: Assess the training and inference times to ensure they meet your application's requirements. Scalability: Determine if the model can handle the scale of your data. 5. Consider Computational Resources The availability of computational resources plays a crucial role in selecting an embedding model: Resource Availability: Ensure you have the necessary computational power (CPUs, GPUs) to train and deploy the model. Cost: Consider the cost of using proprietary models and balance it against the performance benefits they offer. 6. Flexibility and Integration Choose a model that integrates well with your existing systems and offers flexibility for future updates: API Support: Check if the model has robust API support for easy integration. Community and Documentation: Prefer models with active communities and comprehensive documentation to facilitate troubleshooting and optimization. Conclusion Choosing the best embedding model for your use case involves understanding your data and application requirements, evaluating popular models, using benchmarking tools, conducting practical tests, considering computational resources, and ensuring flexibility and integration. By carefully assessing these factors, you can select the most suitable embedding model to enhance the performance and efficiency of your AI applications.What is Vector Embedding?Why a Vector Embedding Strategy is EssentialDifferent Types of Embedding Models1. Word EmbeddingsWord2VecGloVe (Global Vectors for Word Representation)FastText2. Sentence EmbeddingsBERT (Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers)RoBERTa (Robustly Optimized BERT Pretraining Approach)3. Document EmbeddingsDoc2Vec4. Contextual EmbeddingsELMo (Embeddings from Language Models)GPT (Generative Pre-trained Transformer)5. Multimodal EmbeddingsCLIP (Contrastive Language-Image Pretraining)Understanding MTEB: Massive Text Embedding BenchmarkWhy MTEB is Important?Components of MTEBHow to Use MTEBBenefits of MTEBHow to Choose the Best Embedding Model for Your Use Case1. Understand Your Data and Requirements2. Evaluate Popular Embedding Models3. Benchmarking and Comparison4. Practical Testing and Validation5. Consider Computational Resources6. Flexibility and IntegrationConclusion Embedding Models: - Sentence Transformers: Multi-language sentence embeddings - OpenAI Ada-002: High-quality general-purpose embeddings - Cohere Embeddings: Multilingual and domain-specific options - BGE Models: State-of-the-art retrieval performance Embedding Techniques: - Dense vs. Sparse representations - Dimensionality considerations (384, 768, 1536 dimensions) - Domain adaptation and fine-tuning - Evaluation metrics: cosine similarity, dot product, euclidean distance