

[![Logo](../../_static/logo.png)](../../index.html)

Getting Started

- * [Installation](../../docs/installation.html)

- * [Install with pip](../../docs/installation.html#install-with-pip)

- * [Install with Conda](../../docs/installation.html#install-with-conda)

- * [Install from Source](../../docs/installation.html#install-from-source)

- * [Editable Install](../../docs/installation.html#editable-install)

- * [Install PyTorch with CUDA support](../../docs/installation.html#install-pytorch-with-cuda-support)

- * [Quickstart](../../docs/quickstart.html)

- * [Sentence Transformer](../../docs/quickstart.html#sentence-transformer)

- * [Cross Encoder](../../docs/quickstart.html#cross-encoder)

- * [Next Steps](../../docs/quickstart.html#next-steps)

Sentence Transformer

- * [Usage](../../docs/sentence_transformer/usage/usage.html)

- * [Computing Embeddings](../computing-embeddings/README.html)

- * [Initializing a Sentence Transformer Model](../computing-embeddings/README.html#initializing-a-sentence-transformer-model)

- * [Calculating Embeddings](../computing-embeddings/README.html#calculating-embeddings)

- * [Prompt Templates](../computing-embeddings/README.html#prompt-templates)

- * [Input Sequence Length](../computing-embeddings/README.html#id1)

- * [Multi-Process / Multi-GPU Encoding](../computing-embeddings/README.html#multi-process-multi-gpu-encoding)

* [Semantic Textual Similarity](../docs/sentence_transformer/usage/semantic_textual_similarity.html)

* [Similarity Calculation](../docs/sentence_transformer/usage/semantic_textual_similarity.html#similarity-calculation)

* [Semantic Search](../semantic-search/README.html)

* [Background](../semantic-search/README.html#background)

* [Symmetric vs. Asymmetric Semantic Search](../semantic-search/README.html#symmetric-vs-asymmetric-semantic-search)

* [Manual Implementation](../semantic-search/README.html#manual-implementation)

* [Optimized Implementation](../semantic-search/README.html#optimized-implementation)

* [Speed Optimization](../semantic-search/README.html#speed-optimization)

* [Elasticsearch](../semantic-search/README.html#elasticsearch)

* [Approximate Nearest Neighbor](../semantic-search/README.html#approximate-nearest-neighbor)

* [Retrieve & Re-Rank](../semantic-search/README.html#retrieve-re-rank)

* [Examples](../semantic-search/README.html#examples)

* [Retrieve & Re-Rank](../retrieve_rerank/README.html)

* [Retrieve & Re-Rank Pipeline](../retrieve_rerank/README.html#retrieve-re-rank-pipeline)

* [Retrieval: Bi-Encoder](../retrieve_rerank/README.html#retrieval-bi-encoder)

* [Re-Ranker: Cross-Encoder](../retrieve_rerank/README.html#re-ranker-cross-encoder)

* [Example Scripts](../retrieve_rerank/README.html#example-scripts)

* [Pre-trained Bi-Encoders (Retrieval)](../retrieve_rerank/README.html#pre-trained-bi-encoders-retrieval)

* [Pre-trained Cross-Encoders (Re-Ranker)](../retrieve_rerank/README.html#pre-trained-cross-encoders-re-ranker)

* [Clustering](../clustering/README.html)

- * [k-Means](../clustering/README.html#k-means)
- * [Agglomerative Clustering](../clustering/README.html#agglomerative-clustering)
- * [Fast Clustering](../clustering/README.html#fast-clustering)
- * [Topic Modeling](../clustering/README.html#topic-modeling)
- * [Paraphrase Mining](../paraphrase-mining/README.html)

*

[`paraphrase_mining()`](../paraphrase-mining/README.html#sentence_transformers.util.paraphrase_mining)

- * Translated Sentence Mining
- * Margin Based Mining
- * Examples
- * [Image Search](../image-search/README.html)
- * [Installation](../image-search/README.html#installation)
- * [Usage](../image-search/README.html#usage)
- * [Examples](../image-search/README.html#examples)
- * [Embedding Quantization](../embedding-quantization/README.html)
- * [Binary Quantization](../embedding-quantization/README.html#binary-quantization)
- * [Scalar (int8) Quantization](../embedding-quantization/README.html#scalar-int8-quantization)
- * [Additional extensions](../embedding-quantization/README.html#additional-extensions)
- * [Demo](../embedding-quantization/README.html#demo)
- * [Try it yourself](../embedding-quantization/README.html#try-it-yourself)
- * [Speeding up Inference](../../docs/sentence_transformer/usage/efficiency.html)
- * [PyTorch](../../docs/sentence_transformer/usage/efficiency.html#pytorch)
- * [ONNX](../../docs/sentence_transformer/usage/efficiency.html#onnx)
- * [OpenVINO](../../docs/sentence_transformer/usage/efficiency.html#openvino)
- * [Benchmarks](../../docs/sentence_transformer/usage/efficiency.html#benchmarks)
- * [Creating Custom Models](../../docs/sentence_transformer/usage/custom_models.html)

* [Structure of Sentence Transformer

Models](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/usage/custom_models.html#structure-of-sentence-transformer-models)

* [Sentence Transformer Model from a Transformers

Model](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/usage/custom_models.html#sentence-transformer-model-from-a-transformers-model)

* [Pretrained Models](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/pretrained_models.html)

* [Original Models](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/pretrained_models.html#original-models)

* [Semantic Search

Models](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/pretrained_models.html#semantic-search-models)

* [Multi-QA Models](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/pretrained_models.html#multi-qa-models)

* [MSMARCO Passage

Models](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/pretrained_models.html#msmarco-passage-models)

* [Multilingual

Models](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/pretrained_models.html#multilingual-models)

* [Semantic Similarity

Models](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/pretrained_models.html#semantic-similarity-models)

* [Bitext Mining](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/pretrained_models.html#bitext-mining)

* [Image &

Text-Models](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/pretrained_models.html#image-text-models)

* [INSTRUCTOR

models](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/pretrained_models.html#instructor-models)

* [Scientific Similarity

Models](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/pretrained_models.html#scientific-similarity-models)

* [Training Overview](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/training_overview.html)

* [Why Finetune?](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/training_overview.html#why-finetune)

* [Training

Components](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/training_overview.html#training-components)

- * [Dataset](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/training_overview.html#dataset)

- * [Dataset Format](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/training_overview.html#dataset-format)

- * [Loss Function](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/training_overview.html#loss-function)

- * [Training

Arguments](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/training_overview.html#training-arguments)

- * [Evaluator](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/training_overview.html#evaluator)

- * [Trainer](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/training_overview.html#trainer)

- * [Callbacks](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/training_overview.html#callbacks)

- * [Multi-Dataset

Training](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/training_overview.html#multi-dataset-training)

- * [Deprecated

Training](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/training_overview.html#deprecated-training)

- * [Best Base Embedding

Models](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/training_overview.html#best-base-embedding-models)

- * [Dataset Overview](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/dataset_overview.html)

- * [Datasets on the Hugging Face

Hub](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/dataset_overview.html#datasets-on-the-hugging-face-hub)

- * [Pre-existing

Datasets](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/dataset_overview.html#pre-existing-datasets)

- * [Loss Overview](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/loss_overview.html)

- * [Loss modifiers](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/loss_overview.html#loss-modifiers)

- * [Distillation](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/loss_overview.html#distillation)

- * [Commonly used Loss

Functions](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/loss_overview.html#commonly-used-loss-functions)

- * [Custom Loss

Functions](../../../../docs/sentence_transformer/loss_overview.html#custom-loss-functions)

- * [Training Examples](../../docs/sentence_transformer/training/examples.html)
- * [Semantic Textual Similarity](../../training/sts/README.html)
- * [Training data](../../training/sts/README.html#training-data)
- * [Loss Function](../../training/sts/README.html#loss-function)
- * [Natural Language Inference](../../training/nli/README.html)
- * [Data](../../training/nli/README.html#data)
- * [SoftmaxLoss](../../training/nli/README.html#softmaxloss)
- * [MultipleNegativesRankingLoss](../../training/nli/README.html#multiplenegativesrankingloss)
- * [Paraphrase Data](../../training/paraphrases/README.html)
- * [Pre-Trained Models](../../training/paraphrases/README.html#pre-trained-models)
- * [Quora Duplicate Questions](../../training/quora_duplicate_questions/README.html)
- * [Training](../../training/quora_duplicate_questions/README.html#training)

*

[MultipleNegativesRankingLoss](../../training/quora_duplicate_questions/README.html#multiplenegativesrankingloss)

- * [Pretrained Models](../../training/quora_duplicate_questions/README.html#pretrained-models)
- * [MS MARCO](../../training/ms_marco/README.html)
- * [Bi-Encoder](../../training/ms_marco/README.html#bi-encoder)
- * [Matryoshka Embeddings](../../training/matryoshka/README.html)
- * [Use Cases](../../training/matryoshka/README.html#use-cases)
- * [Results](../../training/matryoshka/README.html#results)
- * [Training](../../training/matryoshka/README.html#training)
- * [Inference](../../training/matryoshka/README.html#inference)
- * [Code Examples](../../training/matryoshka/README.html#code-examples)
- * [Adaptive Layers](../../training/adaptive_layer/README.html)
- * [Use Cases](../../training/adaptive_layer/README.html#use-cases)
- * [Results](../../training/adaptive_layer/README.html#results)

- * [Training](../../training/adaptive_layer/README.html#training)
- * [Inference](../../training/adaptive_layer/README.html#inference)
- * [Code Examples](../../training/adaptive_layer/README.html#code-examples)
- * [Multilingual Models](../../training/multilingual/README.html)
 - * [Extend your own models](../../training/multilingual/README.html#extend-your-own-models)
 - * [Training](../../training/multilingual/README.html#training)
 - * [Datasets](../../training/multilingual/README.html#datasets)
 - * [Sources for Training Data](../../training/multilingual/README.html#sources-for-training-data)
 - * [Evaluation](../../training/multilingual/README.html#evaluation)
 - * [Available Pre-trained Models](../../training/multilingual/README.html#available-pre-trained-models)
 - * [Usage](../../training/multilingual/README.html#usage)
 - * [Performance](../../training/multilingual/README.html#performance)
 - * [Citation](../../training/multilingual/README.html#citation)
- * [Model Distillation](../../training/distillation/README.html)
 - * [Knowledge Distillation](../../training/distillation/README.html#knowledge-distillation)
 - * [Speed - Performance Trade-Off](../../training/distillation/README.html#speed-performance-trade-off)
 - * [Dimensionality Reduction](../../training/distillation/README.html#dimensionality-reduction)
 - * [Quantization](../../training/distillation/README.html#quantization)
- * [Augmented SBERT](../../training/data_augmentation/README.html)
 - * [Motivation](../../training/data_augmentation/README.html#motivation)
 - * [Extend to your own datasets](../../training/data_augmentation/README.html#extend-to-your-own-datasets)
 - * [Methodology](../../training/data_augmentation/README.html#methodology)
 - * [Scenario 1: Limited or small annotated datasets (few labeled sentence-pairs)](../../training/data_augmentation/README.html#scenario-1-limited-or-small-annotat

ed-datasets-few-labeled-sentence-pairs)

* [Scenario 2: No annotated datasets (Only unlabeled sentence-pairs)](../../training/data_augmentation/README.html#scenario-2-no-annotated-datasets-only-unlabeled-sentence-pairs)

* [Training](../../training/data_augmentation/README.html#training)

* [Citation](../../training/data_augmentation/README.html#citation)

* [Training with Prompts](../../training/prompts/README.html)

* [What are Prompts?](../../training/prompts/README.html#what-are-prompts)

* [Why would we train with Prompts?](../../training/prompts/README.html#why-would-we-train-with-prompts)

* [How do we train with Prompts?](../../training/prompts/README.html#how-do-we-train-with-prompts)

* [Training with PEFT Adapters](../../training/peft/README.html)

* [Compatibility Methods](../../training/peft/README.html#compatibility-methods)

* [Adding a New Adapter](../../training/peft/README.html#adding-a-new-adapter)

* [Loading a Pretrained Adapter](../../training/peft/README.html#loading-a-pretrained-adapter)

* [Training Script](../../training/peft/README.html#training-script)

* [Unsupervised Learning](../../unsupervised_learning/README.html)

* [TSDAE](../../unsupervised_learning/README.html#tsdae)

* [SimCSE](../../unsupervised_learning/README.html#simcse)

* [CT](../../unsupervised_learning/README.html#ct)

* [CT (In-Batch Negative Sampling)](../../unsupervised_learning/README.html#ct-in-batch-negative-sampling)

* [Masked Language Model (MLM)](../../unsupervised_learning/README.html#masked-language-model-mlm)

* [GenQ](../../unsupervised_learning/README.html#genq)

* [GPL](../../unsupervised_learning/README.html#gpl)

[* \[Performance Comparison\]\(../../unsupervised_learning/README.html#performance-comparison\)](#)
[* \[Domain Adaptation\]\(../../domain_adaptation/README.html\)](#)
[* \[Domain Adaptation vs. Unsupervised Learning\]\(../../domain_adaptation/README.html#domain-adaptation-vs-unsupervised-learning\)](#)
[* \[Adaptive Pre-Training\]\(../../domain_adaptation/README.html#adaptive-pre-training\)](#)
[* \[GPL: Generative Pseudo-Labeling\]\(../../domain_adaptation/README.html#gpl-generative-pseudo-labeling\)](#)
[* \[Hyperparameter Optimization\]\(../../training/hpo/README.html\)](#)
[* \[HPO Components\]\(../../training/hpo/README.html#hpo-components\)](#)
[* \[Putting It All Together\]\(../../training/hpo/README.html#putting-it-all-together\)](#)
[* \[Example Scripts\]\(../../training/hpo/README.html#example-scripts\)](#)
[* \[Distributed Training\]\(../../docs/sentence_transformer/training/distributed.html\)](#)
[* \[Comparison\]\(../../docs/sentence_transformer/training/distributed.html#comparison\)](#)
[* \[FSDP\]\(../../docs/sentence_transformer/training/distributed.html#fsdp\)](#)

Cross Encoder

[* \[Usage\]\(../../docs/cross_encoder/usage/usage.html\)](#)
[* \[Retrieve & Re-Rank\]\(../retrieve_rerank/README.html\)](#)
[* \[Retrieve & Re-Rank Pipeline\]\(../retrieve_rerank/README.html#retrieve-re-rank-pipeline\)](#)
[* \[Retrieval: Bi-Encoder\]\(../retrieve_rerank/README.html#retrieval-bi-encoder\)](#)
[* \[Re-Ranker: Cross-Encoder\]\(../retrieve_rerank/README.html#re-ranker-cross-encoder\)](#)
[* \[Example Scripts\]\(../retrieve_rerank/README.html#example-scripts\)](#)
[* \[Pre-trained Bi-Encoders \(Retrieval\)\]\(../retrieve_rerank/README.html#pre-trained-bi-encoders-retrieval\)](#)
[* \[Pre-trained Cross-Encoders\]](#)

(Re-Ranker)](../retrieve_rerank/README.html#pre-trained-cross-encoders-re-ranker)

* [Pretrained Models](../docs/cross_encoder/pretrained_models.html)

* [MS MARCO](../docs/cross_encoder/pretrained_models.html#ms-marco)

* [SQuAD (QNLI)](../docs/cross_encoder/pretrained_models.html#squad-qnli)

* [STSbenchmark](../docs/cross_encoder/pretrained_models.html#stsbenchmark)

* [Quora Duplicate

Questions](../docs/cross_encoder/pretrained_models.html#quora-duplicate-questions)

* [NLI](../docs/cross_encoder/pretrained_models.html#nli)

* [Community Models](../docs/cross_encoder/pretrained_models.html#community-models)

* [Training Overview](../docs/cross_encoder/training_overview.html)

* [Training Examples](../docs/cross_encoder/training/examples.html)

* [MS MARCO](../training/ms_marco/cross_encoder_README.html)

* [Cross-Encoder](../training/ms_marco/cross_encoder_README.html#cross-encoder)

* [Cross-Encoder Knowledge

Distillation](../training/ms_marco/cross_encoder_README.html#cross-encoder-knowledge-distillation)

Package Reference

* [Sentence Transformer](../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/index.html)

*

[SentenceTransformer](../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/SentenceTransformer.html)

*

[SentenceTransformer](../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/SentenceTransformer.html#id1)

*

[SentenceTransformerModelCardData](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/SentenceTransformer.html#sentencetransformermodelcarddata)

*

[SimilarityFunction](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/SentenceTransformer.html#similarityfunction)

* [Trainer](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/trainer.html)

*

[SentenceTransformerTrainer](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/trainer.html#sentencetransformertrainer)

* [Training Arguments](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/training_args.html)

*

[SentenceTransformerTrainingArguments](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/training_args.html#sentencetransformertrainingarguments)

* [Losses](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/losses.html)

*

[BatchAllTripletLoss](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/losses.html#batchalltripletloss)

*

[BatchHardSoftMarginTripletLoss](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/losses.html#batchhardsoftmargintripletloss)

*

[BatchHardTripletLoss](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/losses.html#batchhardtripletloss)

*

[BatchSemiHardTripletLoss](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/losses.html#batchsemihardtripletloss)

*

[ContrastiveLoss](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/losses.html#contrastiveloss)

*

[OnlineContrastiveLoss](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/losses.html#onlinecontrastiveloss)

*

[ContrastiveTensionLoss](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/losses.html#contrastivetensionloss)

*

[ContrastiveTensionLossInBatchNegatives](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/losses.html#contrastivetensionlossinbatchnegatives)

* [CoSENTLoss](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/losses.html#cosentloss)

* [AngleLoss](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/losses.html#angleloss)

*

[CosineSimilarityLoss](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/losses.html#cosinesimilarityloss)

*

[DenoisingAutoEncoderLoss](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/losses.html#denoisingautoencoderloss)

*

[GISTEmbedLoss](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/losses.html#gistembedloss)

*

[CachedGISTEmbedLoss](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/losses.html#cachedgistembedloss)

* [MSELoss](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/losses.html#mseloss)

*

[MarginMSELoss](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/losses.html#marginmseloss)

)

*

[MatryoshkaLoss](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/losses.html#matryoshkaloss)

)

*

[Matryoshka2dLoss](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/losses.html#matryoshka2dloss)

*

[AdaptiveLayerLoss](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/losses.html#adaptivelayerloss)

*

[MegaBatchMarginLoss](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/losses.html#megabatchmarginloss)

*

[MultipleNegativesRankingLoss](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/losses.html#multiplenegativesrankingloss)

*

[CachedMultipleNegativesRankingLoss](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/losses.html#cachedmultiplenegativesrankingloss)

*

[MultipleNegativesSymmetricRankingLoss](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/losses.html#multiplenegativessymmetricrankingloss)

*

[CachedMultipleNegativesSymmetricRankingLoss](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/losses.html#cachedmultiplenegativessymmetricrankingloss)

* [SoftmaxLoss](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/losses.html#softmaxloss)

* [TripletLoss](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/losses.html#tripletloss)

* [Samplers](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/sampler.html)

*

[BatchSamplers](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/sampler.html#batchsamplers)
)

*

[MultiDatasetBatchSamplers](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/sampler.html#multidatasetbatchsamplers)

* [Evaluation](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/evaluation.html)

*

[BinaryClassificationEvaluator](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/evaluation.html#binaryclassificationevaluator)

*

[EmbeddingSimilarityEvaluator](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/evaluation.html#embeddingsimilarityevaluator)

*

[InformationRetrievalEvaluator](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/evaluation.html#informationretrievalevaluator)

*

[NanoBEIREvaluator](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/evaluation.html#nanobeirevaluator)

*

[MSEEvaluator](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/evaluation.html#mseevaluator)
)

*

[ParaphraseMiningEvaluator](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/evaluation.html#paraphraseminingevaluator)

*

[RerankingEvaluator](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/evaluation.html#reranking-evaluator)

*

[SentenceEvaluator](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/evaluation.html#sentence-evaluator)

*

[SequentialEvaluator](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/evaluation.html#sequential-evaluator)

*

[TranslationEvaluator](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/evaluation.html#translation-evaluator)

*

[TripletEvaluator](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/evaluation.html#triplet-evaluator)

* [Datasets](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/datasets.html)

*

[ParallelSentencesDataset](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/datasets.html#parallel-sentences-dataset)

*

[SentenceLabelDataset](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/datasets.html#sentence-label-dataset)

*

[DenoisingAutoEncoderDataset](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/datasets.html#denoising-auto-encoder-dataset)

*

[NoDuplicatesDataLoader](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/datasets.html#no-duplicates-data-loader)

- * [Models](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/models.html)
 - * [Main Classes](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/models.html#main-classes)
 - * [Further Classes](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/models.html#further-classes)
- * [quantization](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/quantization.html)
 - * [quantize_embeddings()](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/quantization.html#sentence_transformers.quantization.quantize_embeddings)
 - * [semantic_search_faiss()](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/quantization.html#sentence_transformers.quantization.semantic_search_faiss)
 - * [semantic_search_usearch()](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/quantization.html#sentence_transformers.quantization.semantic_search_usearch)
- * [Cross Encoder](../../docs/package_reference/cross_encoder/index.html)
 - * [CrossEncoder](../../docs/package_reference/cross_encoder/cross_encoder.html)
 - * [CrossEncoder](../../docs/package_reference/cross_encoder/cross_encoder.html#id1)
 - * [Training Inputs](../../docs/package_reference/cross_encoder/cross_encoder.html#training-inputs)
 - * [Evaluation](../../docs/package_reference/cross_encoder/evaluation.html)
 - * [CEBinaryAccuracyEvaluator](../../docs/package_reference/cross_encoder/evaluation.html#cebinaryaccuracyevaluator)
 - * [CEBinaryClassificationEvaluator](../../docs/package_reference/cross_encoder/evaluation.html#cebinaryclassificationevaluator)

*

[CECorrelationEvaluator](../../docs/package_reference/cross_encoder/evaluation.html#cecorrelationevaluator)

* [CEF1Evaluator](../../docs/package_reference/cross_encoder/evaluation.html#cef1evaluator)

*

[CESoftmaxAccuracyEvaluator](../../docs/package_reference/cross_encoder/evaluation.html#cesoftmaxaccuracyevaluator)

*

[CERerankingEvaluator](../../docs/package_reference/cross_encoder/evaluation.html#cererankingevaluator)

* [util](../../docs/package_reference/util.html)

* [Helper Functions](../../docs/package_reference/util.html#module-sentence_transformers.util)

*

[`community_detection()`](../../docs/package_reference/util.html#sentence_transformers.util.community_detection)

* [`http_get()`](../../docs/package_reference/util.html#sentence_transformers.util.http_get)

*

[`is_training_available()`](../../docs/package_reference/util.html#sentence_transformers.util.is_training_available)

*

[`mine_hard_negatives()`](../../docs/package_reference/util.html#sentence_transformers.util.mine_hard_negatives)

*

[`normalize_embeddings()`](../../docs/package_reference/util.html#sentence_transformers.util.normalize_embeddings)

*

[`paraphrase_mining()`](../../docs/package_reference/util.html#sentence_transformers.util.paraphrase_mining)

ase_mining)

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[`semantic_search()](../../docs/package_reference/util.html#sentence_transformers.util.semantic_search)

*

[`truncate_embeddings()](../../docs/package_reference/util.html#sentence_transformers.util.truncate_embeddings)

*

[Model

Optimization](../../docs/package_reference/util.html#module-sentence_transformers.backend)

*

[`export_dynamic_quantized_onnx_model()](../../docs/package_reference/util.html#sentence_transformers.backend.export_dynamic_quantized_onnx_model)

*

[`export_optimized_onnx_model()](../../docs/package_reference/util.html#sentence_transformers.backend.export_optimized_onnx_model)

*

[`export_static_quantized_openvino_model()](../../docs/package_reference/util.html#sentence_transformers.backend.export_static_quantized_openvino_model)

* [Similarity Metrics](../../docs/package_reference/util.html#module-sentence_transformers.util)

* [`cos_sim()](../../docs/package_reference/util.html#sentence_transformers.util.cos_sim)

* [`dot_score()](../../docs/package_reference/util.html#sentence_transformers.util.dot_score)

*

[`euclidean_sim()](../../docs/package_reference/util.html#sentence_transformers.util.euclidean_sim)

*

[`manhattan_sim()](../../docs/package_reference/util.html#sentence_transformers.util.manhattan_sim)

*

[pairwise_cos_sim()](../../docs/package_reference/util.html#sentence_transformers.util.pairwise_cos_sim)

*

[pairwise_dot_score()](../../docs/package_reference/util.html#sentence_transformers.util.pairwise_dot_score)

*

[pairwise_euclidean_sim()](../../docs/package_reference/util.html#sentence_transformers.util.pairwise_euclidean_sim)

*

[pairwise_manhattan_sim()](../../docs/package_reference/util.html#sentence_transformers.util.pairwise_manhattan_sim)

__[Sentence Transformers](../../index.html)

* [(../../index.html)

* [Usage](../../docs/sentence_transformer/usage/usage.html)

* Translated Sentence Mining

* [Edit on

GitHub](https://github.com/UKPLab/sentence-transformers/blob/master/examples/applications/parallel-sentence-mining/README.md)

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Translated Sentence Mining¶

Bitext mining describes the process of finding parallel (translated) sentence

pairs in monolingual corpora. For example, you have a set of English sentences:

This is an example sentence.

Hello World!

My final third sentence in this list.

And a set of German sentences:

Hallo Welt!

Dies ist ein Beispielsatz.

Dieser Satz taucht im Englischen nicht auf.

Here, you want to find all translation pairs between the English set and the German set of languages.

The correct (two) translations are:

Hello World! Hallo Welt!

This is an example sentences. Dies ist ein Beispielsatz.

Usually you apply this method to large corpora, for example, you want to find all translated sentences in the English Wikipedia and the Chinese Wikipedia.

Margin Based Mining

We follow the setup from [Artetxe and Schwenk, Section 4.3](<https://arxiv.org/pdf/1812.10464.pdf>) to find translated sentences in two datasets:

1. First, we encode all sentences to their respective embedding. As shown in [our paper](<https://arxiv.org/abs/2004.09813>) is [LaBSE](<https://huggingface.co/sentence-transformers/LaBSE>) currently the best method for bitext mining. The model is integrated in Sentence-Transformers
2. Once we have all embeddings, we find the $_k_$ nearest neighbor sentences for all sentences in both directions. Typical choices for k are between 4 and 16.
3. Then, we score all possible sentence combinations using the formula mentioned in Section 4.3.
4. The pairs with the highest scores are most likely translated sentences. Note, that the score can be larger than 1. Usually you have to find some cut-off where you ignore pairs below that threshold. For a high quality, a threshold of about 1.2 - 1.3 works quite well.

Examples

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[bucc2018.py](https://github.com/UKPLab/sentence-transformers/tree/master/examples/applications/parallel-sentence-mining/bucc2018.py) \- This script contains an example for the [BUCC 2018 shared task](https://comparable.limsi.fr/bucc2018/bucc2018-task.html) on finding parallel sentences. This dataset can be used to evaluate different strategies, as we know which sentences are parallel in the two corpora. The script mines for parallel sentences and then prints the optimal threshold that leads to the highest F1-score.

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[bitext_mining.py](https://github.com/UKPLab/sentence-transformers/tree/master/examples/applications/parallel-sentence-mining/bitext_mining.py) \- This file reads in two text files (with a single sentence in each line) and outputs parallel sentences to `*parallel-sentences-out.tsv.gz`.

* **[In-domain Data Selection for MT](https://www.clinjournal.org/clinj/article/view/137)** \- This paper also employed Sentence Transformers to generate/select in-domain parallel data for machine translation systems “ using monolingual texts.

[Previous](../paraphrase-mining/README.html "Paraphrase Mining") [Next
(../image-search/README.html "Image Search")]

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