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[`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)

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[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)

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

* Computing Embeddings

*

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GitHub](https://github.com/UKPLab/sentence-transformers/blob/master/examples/applications/computing-embeddings/README.rst)

* * *

Computing Embeddings¶

Once you have [installed](installation.md) Sentence Transformers, you can easily use Sentence Transformer models:

1.

```
[`SentenceTransformer`](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/SentenceTransformer.html#sentence_transformers.SentenceTransformer  
"sentence_transformers.SentenceTransformer")
```

2.

```
[`SentenceTransformer.encode`](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/SentenceTransformer.html#sentence_transformers.SentenceTransformer.encode  
"sentence_transformers.SentenceTransformer.encode")
```

3.

```
[`SentenceTransformer.similarity`](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/SentenceTransformer.html#sentence_transformers.SentenceTransformer.similarity  
"sentence_transformers.SentenceTransformer.similarity")
```

```
from sentence_transformers import SentenceTransformer
```

```
# 1. Load a pretrained Sentence Transformer model
```

```
model = SentenceTransformer("all-MiniLM-L6-v2")
```

```
# The sentences to encode
```

```
sentences = [
```

```
    "The weather is lovely today.",
```

```
"It's so sunny outside!",  
"He drove to the stadium.",  
]
```

```
# 2. Calculate embeddings by calling model.encode()  
embeddings = model.encode(sentences)  
print(embeddings.shape)  
# [3, 384]  
  
# 3. Calculate the embedding similarities  
similarities = model.similarity(embeddings, embeddings)  
print(similarities)  
# tensor([[1.0000, 0.6660, 0.1046],  
#         [0.6660, 1.0000, 0.1411],  
#         [0.1046, 0.1411, 1.0000]])
```

Note

Even though we talk about sentence embeddings, you can use Sentence Transformers for shorter phrases as well as for longer texts with multiple sentences. See [Input Sequence Length](#) for notes on embeddings for longer texts.

Initializing a Sentence Transformer Model

The first step is to load a pretrained Sentence Transformer model. You can use any of the models from the [\[Pretrained](#)

Models](../docs/sentence_transformer/pretrained_models.html) or a local model.

See also

[`SentenceTransformer`](../../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/SentenceTransformer.html#sentence_transformers.SentenceTransformer

"sentence_transformers.SentenceTransformer") for information on parameters.

```
from sentence_transformers import SentenceTransformer
```

```
model = SentenceTransformer("all-mpnet-base-v2")
```

```
# Alternatively, you can pass a path to a local model directory:
```

```
model = SentenceTransformer("output/models/mpnet-base-finetuned-all-nli")
```

The model will automatically be placed on the most performant available device, e.g. ``cuda`` or ``mps`` if available. You can also specify the device explicitly:

```
model = SentenceTransformer("all-mpnet-base-v2", device="cuda")
```

Calculating Embeddings

The method to calculate embeddings is `SentenceTransformer.encode``.

Prompt Templates

Some models require using specific text `_prompts_` to achieve optimal performance. For example, with `[intfloat/multilingual-e5-large](https://huggingface.co/intfloat/multilingual-e5-large)` you should prefix all queries with ``"query: "`` and all passages with ``"passage: "``. Another example is `[BAAI/bge-large-en-v1.5](https://huggingface.co/BAAI/bge-large-en-v1.5)`, which performs best for retrieval when the input texts are prefixed with ``"Represent this sentence for searching relevant passages: "``.

Sentence Transformer models can be initialized with ``prompts`` and ``default_prompt_name`` parameters:

* ``prompts`` is an optional argument that accepts a dictionary of prompts with prompt names to prompt texts. The prompt will be prepended to the input text during inference. For example:

```
model = SentenceTransformer(
    "intfloat/multilingual-e5-large",
    prompts={
        "classification": "Classify the following text: ",
        "retrieval": "Retrieve semantically similar text: ",
        "clustering": "Identify the topic or theme based on the text: ",
    },
)
# or
```

```

model.prompts = {
    "classification": "Classify the following text: ",
    "retrieval": "Retrieve semantically similar text: ",
    "clustering": "Identify the topic or theme based on the text: ",
}

```

* `default_prompt_name` is an optional argument that determines the default prompt to be used. It has to correspond with a prompt name from `prompts`. If `None`, then no prompt is used by default. For example:

```

model = SentenceTransformer(
    "intfloat/multilingual-e5-large",
    prompts={
        "classification": "Classify the following text: ",
        "retrieval": "Retrieve semantically similar text: ",
        "clustering": "Identify the topic or theme based on the text: ",
    },
    default_prompt_name="retrieval",
)
# or
model.default_prompt_name="retrieval"

```

Both of these parameters can also be specified in the

`config_sentence_transformers.json` file of a saved model. That way, you

won't have to specify these options manually when loading. When you save a

Sentence Transformer model, these options will be automatically saved as well.

During inference, prompts can be applied in a few different ways. All of these scenarios result in identical texts being embedded:

1. Explicitly using the ``prompt`` option in ``SentenceTransformer.encode``:

```
embeddings = model.encode("How to bake a strawberry cake", prompt="Retrieve semantically similar text: ")
```

2. Explicitly using the ``prompt_name`` option in ``SentenceTransformer.encode`` by relying on the prompts loaded from a) initialization or b) the model config:

```
embeddings = model.encode("How to bake a strawberry cake", prompt_name="retrieval")
```

3. If ``prompt`` nor ``prompt_name`` are specified in ``SentenceTransformer.encode``, then the prompt specified by ``default_prompt_name`` will be applied. If it is ``None``, then no prompt will be applied:

```
embeddings = model.encode("How to bake a strawberry cake")
```

Input Sequence Length

For transformer models like BERT, RoBERTa, DistilBERT etc., the runtime and memory requirement grows quadratic with the input length. This limits

transformers to inputs of certain lengths. A common value for BERT-based models are 512 tokens, which corresponds to about 300-400 words (for English).

Each model has a maximum sequence length under `model.max_seq_length``, which is the maximal number of tokens that can be processed. Longer texts will be truncated to the first `model.max_seq_length`` tokens:

```
from sentence_transformers import SentenceTransformer
```

```
model = SentenceTransformer("all-MiniLM-L6-v2")
```

```
print("Max Sequence Length:", model.max_seq_length)
```

```
# => Max Sequence Length: 256
```

```
# Change the length to 200
```

```
model.max_seq_length = 200
```

```
print("Max Sequence Length:", model.max_seq_length)
```

```
# => Max Sequence Length: 200
```

Note

You cannot increase the length higher than what is maximally supported by the respective transformer model. Also note that if a model was trained on short texts, the representations for long texts might not be that good.

Multi-Process / Multi-GPU Encoding

You can encode input texts with more than one GPU (or with multiple processes on a CPU machine). For an example, see:

[computing_embeddings_multi_gpu.py](https://github.com/UKPLab/sentence-transformers/blob/master/examples/applications/computing-embeddings/computing_embeddings_multi_gpu.py).

The relevant method is

[start_multi_process_pool()](../docs/package_reference/sentence_transformer/SentenceTransformer.html#sentence_transformers.SentenceTransformer.start_multi_process_pool "sentence_transformers.SentenceTransformer.start_multi_process_pool"), which starts multiple processes that are used for encoding.

[Previous](../docs/sentence_transformer/usage/usage.html "Usage") [Next](../docs/sentence_transformer/usage/semantic_textual_similarity.html "Semantic Textual Similarity")

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