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

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

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

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

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

*

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

*

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

*

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

*

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

*

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

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* Semantic Textual Similarity

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GitHub](https://github.com/UKPLab/sentence-transformers/blob/master/docs/sentence_transformer/usage/semantic_textual_similarity.rst)

* * *

Semantic Textual Similarity

For Semantic Textual Similarity (STS), we want to produce embeddings for all texts involved and calculate the similarities between them. The text pairs with the highest similarity score are most semantically similar. See also the [Computing Embeddings](../../examples/applications/computing-embeddings/README.html) documentation for more advanced details on getting embedding scores.

Documentation

1.

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

2.

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

3.

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

```
from sentence_transformers import SentenceTransformer
```

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

```
# Two lists of sentences
```

```
sentences1 = [
```

```
    "The new movie is awesome",
```

```
    "The cat sits outside",
```

```
    "A man is playing guitar",
```

```
]
```

```
sentences2 = [
```

```
    "The dog plays in the garden",
```

```
    "The new movie is so great",
```

```
    "A woman watches TV",
```

```
]
```

```
# Compute embeddings for both lists
```

```
embeddings1 = model.encode(sentences1)
```

```
embeddings2 = model.encode(sentences2)
```

```
# Compute cosine similarities
```

```
similarities = model.similarity(embeddings1, embeddings2)
```

```
# Output the pairs with their score
```

```
for idx_i, sentence1 in enumerate(sentences1):
```

```
    print(sentence1)
```

```
for idx_j, sentence2 in enumerate(sentences2):

    print(f" - {sentence2: <30}: {similarities[idx_i][idx_j]:.4f}")
```

The new movie is awesome

- The dog plays in the garden : 0.0543
- The new movie is so great : 0.8939
- A woman watches TV : -0.0502

The cat sits outside

- The dog plays in the garden : 0.2838
- The new movie is so great : -0.0029
- A woman watches TV : 0.1310

A man is playing guitar

- The dog plays in the garden : 0.2277
- The new movie is so great : -0.0136
- A woman watches TV : -0.0327

In this example, the

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

`"sentence_transformers.SentenceTransformer.similarity"`) method returns a 3x3 matrix with the respective cosine similarity scores for all possible pairs between ``embeddings1`` and ``embeddings2``.

Similarity Calculationif•

The similarity metric that is used is stored in the SentenceTransformer

instance under

```
[`SentenceTransformer.similarity_fn_name`](../../package_reference/sentence_transformer/SentenceTransformer.html#sentence_transformers.SentenceTransformer.similarity_fn_name  
"sentence_transformers.SentenceTransformer.similarity_fn_name"). Valid options  
are:
```

* `SimilarityFunction.COSINE` (a.k.a. \cosine): Cosine Similarity (**default**)

* `SimilarityFunction.DOT_PRODUCT` (a.k.a. \dot): Dot Product

* `SimilarityFunction.EUCLIDEAN` (a.k.a. $euclidean$): Negative Euclidean Distance

* `SimilarityFunction.MANHATTAN` (a.k.a. $manhattan$): Negative Manhattan Distance

This value can be changed in a handful of ways:

1. By initializing the SentenceTransformer instance with the desired similarity function:

```
from sentence_transformers import SentenceTransformer, SimilarityFunction  
  
model = SentenceTransformer("all-MiniLM-L6-v2",  
similarity_fn_name=SimilarityFunction.DOT_PRODUCT)
```

2. By setting the value directly on the SentenceTransformer instance:

```
from sentence_transformers import SentenceTransformer, SimilarityFunction
```

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

```
model.similarity_fn_name = SimilarityFunction.DOT_PRODUCT
```

3. By setting the value under the `"similarity_fn_name"` key in the `config_sentence_transformers.json` file of a saved model. When you save a Sentence Transformer model, this value will be automatically saved as well.

Sentence Transformers implements two methods to calculate the similarity between embeddings:

*

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

`"sentence_transformers.SentenceTransformer.similarity"`): Calculates the similarity between all pairs of embeddings.

* `SentenceTransformer.pairwise_similarity`: Calculates the similarity between embeddings in a pairwise fashion.

```
from sentence_transformers import SentenceTransformer, SimilarityFunction
```



```

# Load a pretrained Sentence Transformer model

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

# Embed some sentences

sentences = [
    "The weather is lovely today.",
    "It's so sunny outside!",
    "He drove to the stadium.",
]

embeddings = model.encode(sentences)

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]])

# Change the similarity function to Manhattan distance

model.similarity_fn_name = SimilarityFunction.MANHATTAN

print(model.similarity_fn_name)

# => "manhattan"

similarities = model.similarity(embeddings, embeddings)

print(similarities)

# tensor([[ -0.0000, -12.6269, -20.2167],
#         [-12.6269, -0.0000, -20.1288],
#         [-20.2167, -20.1288, -0.0000]])

```

Note

If a Sentence Transformer instance ends with a

`[`Normalize`](../../package_reference/sentence_transformer/models.html#sentence_transformers.models.Normalize`

`"sentence_transformers.models.Normalize")` module, then it is sensible to choose the \cdot metric instead of \cos .

Dot product on normalized embeddings is equivalent to cosine similarity, but \cos will re-normalize the embeddings again. As a result, the \cdot metric will be faster than \cos .

If you want find the highest scoring pairs in a long list of sentences, have a look at [\[Paraphrase Mining\]\(../../examples/applications/paraphrase-mining/README.html\)](#).

[\[Previous\]\(../../examples/applications/computing-embeddings/README.html "Computing Embeddings"\)](#) [\[Next \]\(../../examples/applications/semantic-search/README.html "Semantic Search"\)](#)

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