	doc_1		doc_2		decision	id
cases	authors	 Hao Wang Yangguang Li Zhen Huang Yong Dou Lingpeng Kong Jing Shao 	authors	 Hao Wang Yangguang Li Zhen Huang Yong Dou Lingpeng Kong J. Shao 		
	title	SNCSE: Contrastive Learning for Unsupervised Sentence Embedding with Soft Negative Samples	title	SNCSE: Contrastive Learning for Unsupervised Sentence Embedding with Soft Negative Samples		
	publication_dat	publication_date 2022-03-02 00:00:00		2022-01-16 00:00:00	, I	
	source	SupportedSources.INTERNET_ARCHIVE	source	SupportedSources.SEMANTIC_SCHOLAR	1	ااا
	journal		journal	ArXiv		
	volume		volume	abs/2201.05979		
	doi		doi			
	urls	• https://web.archive.org/web/20220519194113/https://arxiv.org/pdf/2201.05979v3.pdf	urls	https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/995ee983a7dd66bf30408a5d1c1a8c3684431998		
	id	id3322093429226048180	id	id244352396605885208		161
	abstract	Unsupervised sentence embedding aims to obtain the most appropriate embedding for a sentence to reflect its semantic. Contrastive learning has been attracting developing attention. For a sentence, current models utilize diverse data augmentation methods to generate positive samples, while consider other independent sentences as negative samples. Then they adopt InfoNCE loss to pull the embeddings of positive pairs gathered, and push those of negative pairs scattered. Although these models have made great progress on sentence embedding, we argue that they may suffer from feature suppression. The models fail to distinguish and decouple textual similarity and semantic similarity. And they may overestimate the semantic similarity of any pairs with similar textual regardless of the actual semantic difference between them. This is because positive pairs in unsupervised contrastive learning come with similar and even the same textual through data augmentation. To alleviate feature suppression, we propose contrastive learning for unsupervised sentence embedding with soft negative samples (SNCSE). Soft negative samples share highly similar textual but have surely and apparently different semantic with the original samples. Specifically, we take the negation of original sentences as soft negative samples, and propose Bidirectional Margin Loss (BML) to introduce them into traditional contrastive learning framework, which merely involves positive and negative samples. Our experimental results show that SNCSE can obtain state-of-theart performance on semantic textual similarity (STS) task with average Spearman's correlation coefficient of 78.97% on BERTbase and 79.23% on RoBERTabase. Besides, we adopt rank-based error analysis method to detect the weakness of SNCSE for future study.	abstract	Unsupervised sentence embedding aims to obtain the most appropriate embedding for a sentence to reflect its semantic. Contrastive learning has been attracting developing attention. For a sentence, current models utilize diverse data augmentation methods to generate positive samples, while consider other independent sentences as negative samples. Then they adopt InfoNCE loss to pull the embeddings of positive pairs gathered, and push those of negative pairs scattered. Although these models have made great progress on sentence embedding, we argue that they may suffer from feature suppression. The models fail to distinguish and decouple textual similarity and semantic similarity. And they may overestimate the semantic similarity of any pairs with similar textual regardless of the actual semantic difference between them. This is because positive pairs in unsupervised contrastive learning come with similar and even the same textual through data augmentation. To alleviate feature suppression, we propose contrastive learning for unsupervised sentence embedding with soft negative samples (SNCSE). Soft negative samples share highly similar textual but have surely and apparently different semantic with the original samples. Specifically, we take the negation of original sentences as soft negative samples, and propose Bidirectional Margin Loss (BML) to introduce them into traditional contrastive learning framework, which merely involves positive and negative samples. Our experimental results show that SNCSE can obtain state-of-the-art performance on semantic textual similarity (STS) task with average Spearman's correlation coefficient of 78.97% on BERTbase and 79.23% on RoBERTabase. Besides, we adopt rank-based error analysis method to detect the weakness of SNCSE for future study. â^—Work was done as an internship in Sensetime. Communication E-mail: wanghao2@sensetime.com		
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