

Siamese Multiplicative LSTM for Semantic Text Similarity

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ABSTRACT

Learning the Semantic Textual Similarity (STS) is a critical issue for many NLP tasks such as question answering, document summarization and etc.. In this paper, we combine the Multiplicative LSTM structure with a Siamese architecture which learn to project word embeddings of each sentence into a fixed-dimensional embedding space to represent this sentence. Then these sentence embeddings can be used to evaluate the STS task. We compare with several similar architectures and the proposed method has achieved better results and is competitive with the best state-of-the-art siamese neural network architecture.

CCS CONCEPTS

• Computing methodologies → Lexical semantics.

KEYWORDS

siamese network, multiplicative lstm, semantic similarity

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1 INTRODUCTION

The task of calculating the similarity between a pair of texts using both direct and indirect relationships between them is defined as measuring Semantic Textual Similarity (STS)[30]. Originally, the STS task is only used for comparing the similarity between short texts such as abstracts and product descriptions[20, 22]. International Workshops on Semantic Evaluation (SemEval) introduced

the STS tasks which lead to an increase of the interest that the field received from the research community. And the SemEval tasks also led to the development of the standard STS datasets like the SICK corpus[21] and the standardized the similarity score as a numerical value between 1 and 5[12].

Semantic Text Similarity is a fundamental and important task in Natural Language Processing (NLP) which can be greatly improved by modeling the underlying semantic representations of the compared sentences. STS can be applied in many text related research such as information retrieval, text classification, semantic search, question answering, sentiment analysis, machine translation and the others[13, 14].

Gomaa and Fahmy [14] categorized the text similarity measuring method into three kinds: string-based, corpus-based and knowledge-based. While Mamdouh Farouk [13] classified the approaches of calculating sentences similarity based on the adopted methodology into three categories: word-to-word based, structure-based, and vector-based. Beyond the corpus-based and knowledge-based method, the categorized method proposed by Dhivya Chandrasekaran and Vijay Mago[8] also include the deep neural network-based methods and hybrid methods.

Numerous STS measuring methods have been proposed by researchers as a result of SemEval workshops for the growing importance of having a better STS metric [29]. With the development of amount annotated data, many deep learning methods can be introduced to solve the STS tasks. Shuang Peng et al. [27] categorized recently proposed scheme into three kinds: the siamese network, matching-aggregation and BERT-based method. In this article, we focus on the siamese architecture and all the various variations.

Siamese networks are suitable for finding similarity or a relationship between two comparable things[29]. Siamese network was first introduced in [6] to verify signatures written on a pen-input tablet. Chopra et al. [10] used this method to learn a similarity for the face verification. Koch etc.[18] also use this network to check the similarity between images. Mueller [24] and Neculoiu [25] first use the siamese architecture to measure sentence similarity by using two LSTMs to construct the comparing structure with Manhattan distance metric. Ichida [16] proposed the Siamese GRU structure to improve Mueller's work [24].

Siamese architectures are good at measuring STS, for the case that we can chose the same kind of inputs which are able to be

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processed by a similar model. In this way the networks will represent semantics by using vectors, making them easier to compare pairs of sentences. And the weights are shared across sub networks, so there are fewer parameters to train. This means that the siamese network require less training data and less tendency to over-fit.

Krause2016 etc. [19] proposed a hybrid architecture named multiplicative LSTM (mLSTM). The mLSTM is composed of the factorized hidden-to-hidden transition of mRNNs and the gating framework from LSTMs. The authors put the mRNN’s intermediate state m_t into each gating units of the LSTM to combine the mRNN and LSTM architectures.

By the multiplicative LSTM architecture, so in this article, we construct the Siamese Multiplicative LSTM network by using the siamese network architecture and the mLSTM to evaluate STS task which get a improved achievement.

This paper is organized as follows: in Section 2, we make an overview of relevant works for STS evaluation. The proposed Siamese Multiplicative LSTM network is introduced in Section 3. Then we show the evaluation result on the several STS datasets comparing with the other two schemes in Section 4. Finally, we give our conclusion in Section 5.

2 RELATED WORKS

Mueller and Thyagarajan [24] proposed a Siamese LSTM structure to represent the sentences which is encoded using the pre-trained word embedding vectors. And in this structure, the same weights are chosen to encode sentences which produce comparable sentence representations for similar sentence pairs. Then the closeness scores can be predicted by use of the Manhattan distance between the pair sentence representations.

Neculoiu et al. [25] proposed a character level two layer bidirectional LSTM network to evaluate the similarity between job titles by using the contrastive loss function. Semantic differences can be captured by this Siamese network while being invariant under non-semantic string differences [26].

Kenter et al. [17] presented Siamese CBOW model which trained the embeddings of words in a sentences directly for the purpose of being averaged. And this model use the cosine similarity between the two sentence vectors as the final semantic similarity score.

Yin et al. [31] proposed the attention based CNN model for considering the mutual influence between the sentence pair which is different from learning the representation of sentence separately and got better performance.

In [26], the proposed hybrid siamese network architectures which had the following characters: (i) the encoders shared parameters; (ii) the comparison between two sentences was measured by euclidean distance; (iii) multi-layer perceptron was added to optimize the contrastive and the logistic loss. By the above traits, the authors claimed that this model can exploit a more informative feedback. The first deep learning model is the sentence encoder. A sentence of length n is able to be expressed as a sequence of words (w_1, \dots, w_n) , which are drawn from a vocabulary V . And each word is represented as a vector, $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^d$, looked up into an embedding matrix, $\mathbf{E} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times |V|}$. Then the sentence encoder f takes a sequence of words as in input, embeds and transforms them into a fixed-sized vector. The function f is used to encode both sentences in a pair, by sharing the same

set of weights. “This is a typical of a siamese setting, where the same network maps the two objects of a pair into a low dimensional space, where their distance is small if they are similar.” At last, the euclidean distance of two sentences s_1 and s_2 will be calculated as follows:

$$d(s_1, s_2) = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (f(s_1)_i - f(s_2)_i)^2}$$

The output of the siamese encoder is fed into a multilayer perceptron (MLP) which is the architecture of the proposed hybrid siamese network. The MLP takes the concatenation of the sentence representations and their distance $c = [f(s_1); f(s_2); d(s_1, s_2)]$, in input, and outputs the probability of a match between the two sentences. By the above traits, the authors claimed that this model can exploit a more informative feedback.

In [16], Ichida et al. proposed a Siamese neural network architecture combined with two GRUs (Gating Recurrent Units) which have fewer parameters than LSTM units. A GRU cell consists of two gates that controls flow data through states. Gate r_t controls updates on internal memory, which is not propagated to next state. Gate z_t controls how much of internal memory should be considered on next state. The following equations represent the operations realized by gates r_t and z_t in order to results, and show how next hidden state is computed in a GRU unit. This scheme also used the Manhattan distance function to calculate the difference between encoded sentences. The authors compared the two recurrent neural network architectures LSTM and GRU based on the SICK dataset.

$$\begin{aligned} r_t &= \sigma(W_r h_{t-1} + U_r x_t + b_r) \\ z_t &= \sigma(W_z h_{t-1} + U_z x_t + b_z) \\ h_t &= z_t \otimes h_{t-1} \oplus (1 - z_t) \otimes \tanh(W_h x_t + U_h (r_t \otimes h_{t-1}) + b_h) \end{aligned}$$

In [28], the authors used a siamese CNN structure to represent the relevance of words among the sentences. In this scheme, the authors uses a convolution network to take account of the local context of words and an LSTM to consider the global context of sentences. Then a siamese LSTM was used to analyze the whole sentence based on its words and the local context. And also the Manhattan distance was used to predict the semantic similarity between the pair of sentences.

Peng et al.[27] presented an enhanced recurrent convolutional neural network (Enhanced-RCNN) model to evaluate the sentence similarity. By this architecture, the siamese multi-layer CNNs were used to extract key information from the sentence pair and the attention-based RNNs were utilized to capture the interactive effects between the two sentences. In details, the proposed Enhanced-RCNN model is composed of three components: input encoding, interactive sentence representation, and similarity modeling. There are three components in the input encoding section, such as bidirectional GRU (BiGRU)[9], CNN, and Pooling. The authors use BiGRU to extract the sequence and context features of sentences and to memorize the long-distance information. CNN is good at capturing “keywords and phrases information” in sentences comparing with BiGRU. This characteristic has been used in summarization research [7]. And the pooling layer in this model processes the CNN output and can help reduce the model parameters and enhance the extensiveness and robustness. However, the module of

interactive sentence representation aimed to obtain an appropriate representation for each sentence with consideration of the interactive effects from the other sentence. With the interactive sentence representation derived, the authors designed a particular fusion layer to combine the two sentence representation separately for overall similarity modeling.

3 SIAMESE MULTIPLICATIVE LSTM NETWORK

3.1 Siamese Multiplicative LSTM Model

The proposed Siamese Multiplicative LSTM Architecture is shown in Fig.1. We construct two networks MuLSTM^A and MuLSTM^B to present the sentence pair separately. However in this place, we only focus on the siamese architecture with tied weights. So $\text{MuLSTM}^A = \text{MuLSTM}^B$ in this network. Each sentence will be encoded to word vectors before they are sent into the Multiplicative LSTM network. And we choose GoogleNews-vectors [23] to represent words of sentence. Then these word embeddings of each sentence can be constructed as one fixed-dimensional embedding to represent this sentence.

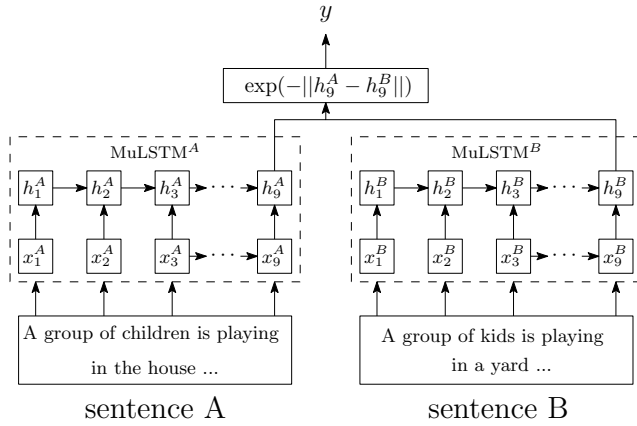


Figure 1: Siamese Multiplicative LSTM Architecture

3.2 Multiplicative LSTM

The classic LSTM is commonly used RNN architecture which uses a series of multiplicative gates to control the information flows in and out of internal states of the network[15]. The variants of LSTM used by Multiplicative LSTM is shown as follows.

The input layer x_t and the previous hidden state h_{t-1} outputs to the current hidden state.

$$\hat{h}_t = W_{hx}x_t + W_{hh}h_{t-1}$$

There are also three gating units, input gate i , output gate o , and forget gate f which have both recurrent and feed-forward connections:

$$i_t = \sigma(W_{ix}x_t + W_{ih}h_{t-1})$$

$$o_t = \sigma(W_{ox}x_t + W_{oh}h_{t-1})$$

$$f_t = \sigma(W_{fx}x_t + W_{fh}h_{t-1}),$$

where σ is the logistic function. The internal state vector c_t is written from each hidden unit which is controlled by the input gate. And the forget gate determines how much of the previous internal state c_{t-1} is preserved. This combination of write and forget gates allows the network to control what information should be stored and overwritten across each time-step. The internal state is updated by

$$c_t = f_t \odot c_{t-1} + i_t \odot \tanh(\hat{h}_t).$$

The output gate also controls how much of each unit's activation is preserved. So the LSTM cell is able to keep information that is not relevant to the current output, while may be relevant later. The final output of the hidden state can be calculated as

$$h_t = \tanh(c_t) \odot o_t.$$

According to the variants of classic LSTM described above, the Multiplicative LSTM architecture [19] is composed of the flexible input-dependent transitions of mRNNs, the long time lag and the information control of LSTMs. The complex transitions result from the factorized hidden weight matrix would be controlled easier for the case of LSTMs' gated units. We can use utilize more flexible input-dependent transition functions than in regular mRNNs for adding the additional sigmoid input and forget gates featured in LSTM units. Also in this structure, m_t would be shared across all LSTM unit types. And the mLSTM can be described as follows.

$$m_t = (W_{mx}x_t) \odot (W_{mh}h_{t-1})$$

$$\hat{h}_t = W_{hx}x_t + W_{hm}m_t$$

$$i_t = \sigma(W_{ix}x_t + W_{im}m_t)$$

$$o_t = \sigma(W_{ox}x_t + W_{om}m_t)$$

$$f_t = \sigma(W_{fx}x_t + W_{fm}m_t)$$

4 EXPERIMENTS

4.1 Data

The SICK dataset [21] consists of 10,000 English sentence pairs. And each pair is annotated with a relatedness continuous score $\in [1, 5]$ corresponding to the average relatedness judged by 10 different individuals.

The STS dataset consists of several datasets which were built by the organizers of the SemEval shared task. And in this article, we

Table 1: Datasets for Semantic Similarity Used

Dataset Name	Sentence Pairs	Similarity Score	year
SICK [21]	10,000	[1, 5]	2014
STS2012 [4]	5250	[0, 5]	2012
STS2013 [5]	2250	[0, 5]	2013
STS2014 [2]	3750	[0, 5]	2014
STS2015 [1]	3000	[0, 5]	2015
STS2016 [3]	1186	[0, 5]	2016
MSRP [11]	5801	0, 1	2004
QQP	404,290	0, 1	2017

Table 2: Results of Evaluated Models

Dataset Name	MaLSTM			MaGRU			MuLSTM		
	r	ρ	MSE	r	ρ	MSE	r	ρ	MSE
SICK	0.6131	0.4906	0.7526	0.6561	0.5326	0.6616	0.7374	0.6024	0.5093
STS2012	0.5264	0.5483	1.8570	0.7554	0.7128	0.9645	0.7626	0.7469	1.0707
STS2013	0.2683	0.2752	3.0494	0.3968	0.4038	2.6756	0.3218	0.3050	2.3548
STS2014	0.1355	0.1325	3.4446	0.3995	0.4072	2.2936	0.4068	0.3841	2.1689
STS2015	0.4753	0.4734	2.0249	0.5154	0.5151	1.8389	0.5810	0.5682	1.5945
STS2016	0.4956	0.4945	2.2235	0.5701	0.5702	1.9946	0.4966	0.4923	2.1331
MSRP	0.5758	0.5578	0.1669	0.6427	0.6091	0.1376	0.6594	0.6322	0.1332
QQP	0.0837	0.1119	0.3255	0.1230	0.1219	0.3081	0.1606	0.1564	0.3094

will use STS 2012 ~ 2016. Each sentence pair is annotated with the similarity score in the scale of [0, 5].

The Microsoft Research paraphrase corpus (MSRP) has 5801 pairs of sentences. And each pair of sentence has a “Quality” tag with a binary value (0 or 1) to indicate whether human raters’ judgement of the pair sentences to be similar enough.

The Quora Question Pairs (QQP)¹ dataset consists of a training set of 404,290 question pairs and a test set of 2,345,795 question pairs which is provided as part of a Kaggle competition.

All the details of the above mentioned dataset used in this paper are shown in Table 1.

4.2 Experiments Settings

Our LSTM use 50-dimensional hidden representations h_t and memory cells c_t . We use a forget bias of 2.5 to model long-range dependencies, Adadelata method to optimize parameters, and a learning rate of 0.001. To represent each sentence with the same length for the convenience of comparison, we will pad the short sentence with the length 25. And the longer ones will be cut to 25. For the training and test data sets, most lengths of the experiment sentences will be less than 25.

4.3 Evaluation

Table 2 show the results of the proposed model comparing with other architectures on the several dataset. In this table, we show the best result of three models as MaLSTM[24], MaGRU [16] and the proposed method named MuLSTM. MaLSTM is the baseline that we defined for this research. All the models are measured by the three evaluation metrics usually employed in the STS task: Pearson correlation (r), Spearman correlation (ρ) and Mean Square Error (MSE). As shown in Table 2, for example the SICK test, the r value of our proposed scheme get 0.7374 which is the best comparing to the other two methods: 0.6131, 0.6561. And $\rho = 0.6024$, $MSE = 0.5093$ is also the best result for the STS dataset. For the evaluation metric r , our method has got the best result on the SICK, STS2012, STS2014, STS2015, MSRP and QQP datasets. For the evaluation metric ρ , the proposed method has got the best result on the SICK, STS2012, STS2015, MSRP and QQP datasets. And for the MSE, the MuLSTM has got the best result on the SICK, STS2013, STS2014, STS2015 and

MSRP datasets. By the result, our proposed scheme most get the best value on r , ρ and MSE.

5 CONCLUSION

In this paper, we compare the proposed Siamese Multiplicative LSTM network with the other two common Siamese neural network architectures for STS evaluation: MaLSTM and MaGRU. The experiment shows that the proposed scheme has a better result on the three metrics: Pearson correlation, Spearman correlation and Mean Square Error. We also choose several padding parameters such as 20, 25 and 30. Then we find that this length also have a great influence on the measuring results.

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¹<https://www.kaggle.com/c/quora-question-pairs>

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