The Influence of Loss Function Usage at SIAMESE Network in Measuring Text Similarity

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Abstract-In a text matching similarity task, a model takes two sequence of text as an input and predicts a category or scale value to show their relationship. A developed model is to measure the similarity - one of relationship between those two text. The model is SIAMESE network that implement two copies of same network of CNN, it takes text_1 and text_2 as the inputs respectively for two CNN networks. The output of each CNN network is features vector of the corresponding text input, both outputs are then fed by a loss function to calculate the value of loss (i.e. similarity). This research implemented two types of loss functions, i.e. Triplet loss and Contrastive loss. The usage purpose of these two types of loss functions was to see the influence toward the measurement results of similarity between two text being compared. The metrices used for this comparison are precision, recall, and F1-score. Based on the experimental results done on 1500 pairs of sentences, and varied on the epoch value starting from 10 until 200 with an increment of 10, showed the best result was for epoch value of 180 with precision 0.8004, recall 0.6780, and F1-score 0.6713 for Triplet loss function; and epoch value of 160 with precision 0.6463, recall 0.6440, and F1-score 0.6451 for Contrastive loss function gave the best performance. So that, the Triplet loss function gave better influence than Contrastive loss function in measuring similarity between two given sentences.

Keywords—Sentence; similarity; triplet; contrastive; CNN; Siamese; dataframe

I. INTRODUCTION

The very fast growth of information nowdays causes a particular problem, such as an overwhelming of information [21]. It is very likely among those collections of huge of information found some similar ones, so that, they can be grouped into several classes based on their similarity. In order to overcome the overwhelming of information, each class will only be represented by a single information. Obviously, to identify the similar information requires a process called similarity measurement. A text similarity measurements is one of text mining approach that capable of coping with the information overwhelming. This process begins with finding similar word for sentece, then paragraph, and finally document [6]. Text similarity approach will ease people to find relevance information. It has a great support in successness for text mining operations such as, searching and information retrieval (IR), text classification, information extraction (IE), document clustering [8], sentiment analysis [4] [10] [16][3] [13], machine translation, text summarization, and natural language processing (NLP). Text similarity measurement may be done by comparing text - text matching. In text comparison tasks, a model takes two texts as inputs and predicts a category or a scale value indicates the relationship between those two texts. A big number of varieties of tasks such as, natural language inference [2] [11], paraphrase identification [17], answer selection [19] could be consider as special form of text matching problems. Recently, deep neural network is the most popular choice for text mining. Semantic alignment and comparison of two sequence of texts are the key of neural text matching. Most of previous deep neural network contain single inter-sequence alignment layer. In order to make the alignment process fully used, model must take many external syntaxtical features or alignment as additional inputs at alignment layer [5] [7], adopt a complex alignment mechanism [17], or build a big number of post-process layers to analyze alignment results [7].

This research proposed two models to compute similarity value between two texts using SIAMESE network in which each uses two different types of loss function - Triplet loss and Contrastive loss. The model consists of two copies of same CNN networks, where each recieves text (or sentence) as input. Subsequently, each CNN network results feature vector of each recieved text, and finally fed by loss function to compute the similirity value. Each model will be tested using the same dataset **Quora Question Pair similarity** taken from https://www.kaggle.com/c/quora-question-pairs. In order to see the influence of using these two types of loss function, the three metrics: *precision, recall*, and F1-*score* will be computed.

II. RELATED WORKS

Deep neural network is very dominant in text matching area. While semantic alignment and comparison between two text sequences is the core of text matching [17]. The very beginning task explores encoding of each sequence individuallly into a vector and then bulds a neural network classifier over the two vectors. In this paradigm, recurrence [2], recursive [12], convolutional network [20] were used as sequence encoder. In this model, where encoding from a sequence independent with other sequence caused the last classifier had difficulty in modeling complex relations. Therefore, the subsequent tasks adopt framework matching aggregation to match two sequences at the lower level and aggregate results based on attention mechanism. DecomAtt used a simple form from attention for alignment and aggregate representations aligned by feed-foward network [15]. ESIM used a similar attention mechanism and implement bidirectional LSTMs as encoders and aggregators [5]. In order to improve model's performance, the researcher adopted three main paradigms. The first paradigm used syntacs that richer hand-writing features. HIM used syntactic parse tree [5]. The many usages of POS were found in previous tasks, some of them in [12]

[7]. The exact match with lemmatized tokens was reported as a powerfull binary features [7][12]. The second way was adding the complexity to alignment computation. BiMPM exploited an advanced multi-perspective matching operation [17], and MwAN implemented multi heterogeneous attention functions to calculate the alignment's results. The third way to improve model is by building heavy post-processing layers for alignment results. CAFE extracted additional indicators from allignment process using alignment factorization. DIIN adopted DenseNet as a deep convolutional feature extractor to filter information from alignment results [7]. The more effective models could be built when inter-sequence matching was allowed to be done more than once. CSRAN performed multi-level attention refinement with dense connections among many levels [12]. DRCN stacked encoding and alignment layers [12]. DRCN concatenated all previous alignment results and must've used autoencoder to cope with features space explotion. SAN exploited recurrent networks to combine many alignment results [14]. An architecture of deep based on new way relating contiguous blocks called by augmented residual connections to filter previous aligned information roling as inmportant features for text matching [18].

III. METHODOLOGY

This section presents the building of two Siamese networks each with **triplet loss** and **contrastive loss** functions. The training model for Siamese network with triplet loss function consists of three copies of same network of CNN, it takes $text_1$, $text_2$ and $text_3$ as the inputs, while one with contrastive loss function consists of two copies only, it takes $text_1$, and $text_2$ as the inputs. However, the testing model for Siamese network both with triplet and contrastive loss function consist of two copies of same network of CNN, it takes $text_1$, and $text_2$ to be calculated their similarity. The dataset used to do training and testing was **Quora Question Pair similarity** taken from https://www.kaggle.com/c/quoraquestion-pairs. At the end, the three metrics: precision, recall, and F1-score were computed to see the influence of loss function's usage in each network.

A. Learning Model

Based on the objective of the research, the model was built with three main components: twin network, similarity function, and output layer.

- Twin Network: most feature's extraction for text take place in this network. It has two copies of same networks, two networks share set of same weights. It capable of receiving two different inputs - two sequence of text. Each network in it is a convolutional text encoder. CNN network is used twice before performing backpropagation.
- 2) **Similarity function**: two outputs from twin netork representing features learned automatically from two compared text was fed by a layer. Subsequently, distance formula was used to compare the similarity between two text in *n*-dimensional space.
- 3) **Output layer**: last layer whose single neuron connecting *n* neurons from the results of previous similarity function. The role of this part of the model was to decide the probability of tested text to be a

member the text used as reference. The probability was computed using **Sigmoid** function as in equation (1).

$$p = \sigma(\Sigma_j \sigma_j |h_j^1 - h_j^2|) \tag{1}$$

where h_j^1 and h_j^2 are values of *j*-th neuron of first twin network and second twin network respectively, σ_j is weight between neuron output and *j*-th neuron in similarity layer.

The structure of Siamese network is shown in Fig. 1 [23].



Fig. 1. The Structure of Siamese Network

The two types of loss function are implemented in the research, namely, **triplet** and **contrastive**. The aim of this implementation is to find the influence of loss function usage in similarity value computed between two text.

a. Triplet Network

A triplet network is comprised of three instances of the same feedforward network (with shared parameters). When fed with three samples, the network outputs two intermediate values - the L_2 distances between the embedded representation of two of its inputs from the representation of the third. The three inputs will be denoted as x, x^+ and x^- , and the embedded representation of the network as Net(x). In words, this encodes the pair of distances between each of x^+ and x^- , against the reference x, i.e., $||Net(x) - Net(x^{-})||_{2}$ and $||Net(x) - Net(x^{+})||_{2}$. The distance between reference input x and positive input x^+ was minimized, on the other hand, the distance between reference input x and negative input x^{-} was maximized. The structure of **triplet** network is shown in Fig. 2 [9].

b. Contrastive Network

The **contrastive** loss function takes output from network for positive sample and computes the distance to an example from the same class and contrast it with distance to negative examples. In other word, the value of loss is low if positive samples are encoded to similar representations (closer), and negative examples are encoded to different representations (farer). The formula used to compute distance was **cosine similarity** distance as shown in equation (2).

$$Loss(x_p, x_q, y) = y * ||x_p - x_q||^2 + (1 - y) * max(0, m^2 - ||x_p - x_q||^2)$$
(2)



Fig. 2. The Structure of Triplet Network

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As previously mentioned, the dataset used the research was public. It was taken from in https://www.kaggle.com/c/quora-question-pairs. The dataset was in CSV file containing 5000 pairs of Quora questions. The dataset was read to generate dataframe, and then the generated dataframe was devided into two: 70% for training and the other 30% for testing. The next process was building Word2Vec model using Gensim for embedding layer of deep learning. Then define function to transform sentence into vector containing index of Word2Vec's vocabularies. Another two important functions to be defined were triplet and contrastive loss, continued to define the CNN Siamese network with both triplet and contrastive loss functions, and then trained it.

A. Dataframe

The dataframe was generated in several steps: first applying simple process both to question 1 (*sent_1*) and question 2 (*sent_2*), to do this there was a function *simple_process* taken from https://radimrehurek.com/gensim/utils.html #gensim.utils.simple_preprocess for tokenization. This process was done fao all pairs of sentences in the dataset. From these all tokenized pairs of sentence, the number of tokens from the longest sentence was calculated based on the *mean* and *deviation standard*. This value was used to do padding, to made all tokenized pairs of sentences had the same length. In order to train the Siamese CNN model with triplet loss function, a negative sentence (the third tokenized sentence) must have been added to each pair of tokenized sentence (i.e. tokenized_sent_1 and tokenized_sent_2) for training dataframe. The format of training dataframe is shown in Fig. 3.

However, in the testing process for Siamese CNN model even with triplet loss function only need two tokenized sentences (tokenized_sent_1 and tokenized_sent_2). The dataframe format for testing was shown in Fig. ??.

is_duplicate	sent_2		sent_1	qid2	qid1	id	
1	are the onomic cations nning	What ec impli of bar	How can the ban of 500 and 1000 rupee notes in	6721	18052	337503	337503
zed_sent_3	token	ent_2	tokenized_s	sent_1	nized_	e toke	distand
, does, bigly, mean]	[what	e, the, nomic, ns, of, b	[what, ar ecor implicatio	an, the, of, and, es, in	[how, c ban, bee, not	D rup	
	frame	ng Data	nat of Trainin	he Form	ig. 3. 1	F	
sent_2		sent_1		qid2	qid1	id	
do I crack tough exams?	How	is more A or IIT?	Which exam tough NDA	439624	139623	14821 4	314821 3
ized_sent_2	token	nt_1	kenized_se	ice to	dista	icate	is_dup
, do, i, crack, ugh, exams]	[how to	n, is, nda, or, iit]	which, exar nore, tough, c	1 n		0	

Fig. 4. The Format of Testing Dataframe

B. Word2Vec Model

Before building the CNN Siamese network, the Word2Vec model was built using Gensim for embedding layer in deep learning. It was built with CBOW (https://iksinc.online/tag/continuous-bag-of-words-cbow/) with 20 iterations, vector length of 100, and window size was 5. The Word2Vec was trained once using string of words (tokenozed sentence as a result of concatenation between tokenized of sentence 1 and tokenized of sentence 2), and saved it. During the process of training the model, there was a function required to convert a sentence into a vector containing Word2Vec vocabulary indices. For the model using triplet loss function, the converter changed three tokenized sentences (i.e. tokenized_sent_1, tokenized_sent_2, tokenized_sent_3) into three vectors containing indices of Word2Vec vocabularies (i.e. sent 1 ids, sent 2 ids, sent 3 ids), and two tokenized sentences (i.e. tokenized sent 1, tokenized sent 2) into two vectors containing indices of Word2Vec vocabulary (i.e. sent_1_ids, sent_2_ids) respectively in training and testing processes. However, for the model using contrastive loss function, the converter changed two tokenized sentences (i.e. tokenized sent 1, tokenized sent 2) into two vectors containing indices of Word2Vec vocabularies (i.e. sent_1_ids, sent_2_ids) in both training and testing processes. The sample of conversion results was shown in Fig. 5.

While the definition of the function that convert list of tokens to list of indices was shown in Fig. 6.

C. Triplet Loss

The **Triplet** loss function takes three inputs: baseline (an anchor sentence), positive (true sentence - one closest to an anchor), and negative (false sentence - one farest to an anchor). Therefore, the objective of this function is to minimize the

is_duplicate	e di	stance tokenized_se	nt_1 tokenized_sent	_2 sent_1_ids	sent_2_ids
0	1	[why, don, t, we, use, conveyor, belts, to, sh	[how, likely, is, that, the, us, or, russia, w	[15, 106, 43, 52, 75, 14103, 10068, 6, 18462,	[4, 852, 2, 28, 0, 105, 22, 626, 36, 3063, 77,
1	0	[is, it, a, good, idea, to, buy, a, used, car,	[what, are, the, pros, and, cons, of, buying,	[2, 16, 5, 42, 422, 6, 123, 5, 129, 231, 33, 5	[1, 10, 0, 622, 11, 624, 9, 937, 5, 129, 231,

Fig. 5. The Conversion Result Sample

```
def tokens2ids(tokens, vec_len):
    padding_idx = word2vec.wv.vocab['_pad'].index
    ids = [padding_idx] * vec_len
    for i, token in enumerate(tokens):
        if token in word2vec.wv.vocab:
            ids[i] = word2vec.wv.vocab[token].index
```

return ids

Fig. 6. The Definition of Converter Function

distance between an anchor sentence with a positive sentence, on the other hand, maximize the distance between an anchor sentence with a negative sentence. The implementation of the **triplet** function was shown in Fig. 7.

```
class TripletLoss(nn.Module):
    def __init__(self, margin=1.0):
        super(TripletLoss, self).__init__()
        self.margin = margin
    def forward(self, output1, output2, output3):
        loss = torch.pow(\
            F.pairwise_distance(output1,output2), 2)+\
            torch.pow((F.pairwise_distance(output1,output2)-\
            F.pairwise_distance(output1,output2)-\
            F.pairwise_distance(output1,output2)+\
            self.margin), 2)
    return loss.sum()
```

D. Contrastive Loss

Unlike the **triplet**, the **contrastive** loss function only takes two inputs: positive sample and negative example. The objective is to contrast the distance between positive sample and an example from the same class with the distance between positive sample and negative example.

The implementation of the **triplet** function was shown in Fig. 8.



These two functions were only used during the training process to update the weights of network in order to converge;

the **triplet** loss used two distances, and the **contrastive** loss only used one distance. While during the testing, no loss function needed, but the distance between two sentences. Because the model simply used the final weights resulted from training process.

E. CNN Siamese Network

The CNN **Siamese** network was built with the following specifications:

- 1) The embedding layer was the Word2Vec model that had already been trained.
- 2) Three 2-dimensional convolutional layers with configurable hyperparameters.
- 3) For every convolutional layer used *tanh* as an activation function, dropout, and maxpool layer.

The architecture of CNN that was implemented in the CNN Siamese or just Siamese model was shown in Fig. 9 [22].



Fig. 9. The Architecture of Implemented CNN

The hyperparameter of the CNN **Siamese** network was shown in Fig. 10.

```
BATCH_SIZE = 64
EMBEDDING_DIM = wordZvec.wv.vectors.shape[1]
EPOCHS = 200
#(in_channels, out_channels, kernel_size, dilation, padding)
CONVS_PARAMS = (
    (1, 100, (1, EMBEDDING_DIM), 1, (0, 0),),
    (1, 100, (3, EMBEDDING_DIM), 1, (0, 0),),
    (1, 100, (5, EMBEDDING_DIM), 1, (2, 0),)
    (1, 100, (5, EMBEDDING_DIM), 1, (2, 0),)
    )
LEARNING_RATE = 0.0001
MARGIN = 1
THRESHOLD = 1
```

Fig. 10. The CNN Siamese's Hyperparameter

The CNN **Siamese** model with **triplet** loss function consisting of three exact same models of CNN was trained using triple tokenized sentences (i.e. tokenized_sent_1, tokenized_sent_2, and tokenized_sent_3) from the dataframe training. The output of each CNN model was fed by **Triplet** loss function to calculate the loss value. On the other hand, the CNN **Siamese** model with **contrastive** loss function consisting of two exact same models of CNN was trained using pair of tokenized sentences (i.e., tokenized_sent_1, and tokenized_sent_2) from the dataframe training. The output of each CNN model was fed by **contrastive** loss function to calculate the loss value. Finally, both model of CNN **Siamese** with **triplet** and **contrastive** loss function respectively were tested by feeding two tokenized sentences to be calculated their similirity value. Both testing were conducted using the same number of 1500 pairs of sentences (Quora questions), and varied for the values of EPOCH starting from 10 until 200 with an increment of 10 to obtain the values of three metrics: precision, recall and F1-score. The values of three matrics for each CNN **Siamese** model were shown respectively in Table I and Table II.

TABLE I. THE PRECISIONS, RECALLS AND F1-SCORES OF THE CNN SIAMESE WITH TRIPLET

Epoch	Training Loss	Precision	Recall	F1-Score
10	64.3868	0.3762	0.6133	0.4663
20	19.4053	0.3762	0.6133	0.4663
30	8.6268	0.6277	0.6187	0.4896
40	4.9022	0.6469	0.6447	0.5753
50	3.2373	0.6762	0.6827	0.6602
60	2.3511	0.7073	0.7127	0.7074
70	1.8006	0.7254	0.7207	0.7224
80	1.4510	0.7433	0.7253	0.7288
90	1.2047	0.7526	0.7160	0.7194
100	1.0458	0.7520	0.6980	0.7003
110	0.9170	0.7562	0.6873	0.6880
120	0.8245	0.7746	0.6960	0.6956
130	0.7459	0.7774	0.6860	0.6838
140	0.6954	0.7834	0.6807	0.6768
150	0.6398	0.7892	0.6800	0.6752
160	0.6074	0.7885	0.6707	0.6642
170	0.5824	0.7907	0.6707	0.6639
180	0.5589	0.8004	0.6780	0.6713
190	0.5404	0.7973	0.6700	0.6621
200	0.5203	0.7986	0.6733	0.6659

TABLE II. THE PRECISIONS, RECALLS AND F1-SCORES OF THE CNN SIAMESE WITH CONTRASTIVE

Epoch	Training Loss	Precision	Recall	F1-Score
10	16.2760	0.3762	0.6133	0.4663
20	5.8481	0.3762	0.6133	0.4663
30	2.6012	0.3760	0.6127	0.4660
40	1.4245	0.6290	0.6193	0.4921
50	0.8705	0.6370	0.6333	0.5434
60	0.5853	0.5921	0.6200	0.5508
70	0.4222	0.6068	0.6287	0.5824
80	0.3151	0.6113	0.6313	0.5976
90	0.2358	0.6071	0.6260	0.6030
100	0.1795	0.6199	0.6347	0.6190
110	0.1423	0.6246	0.6367	0.6258
120	0.1149	0.6283	0.6367	0.6305
130	0.0934	0.6332	0.6400	0.6354
140	0.0775	0.6331	0.6360	0.6344
150	0.0653	0.6422	0.6427	0.6424
160	0.0566	0.6463	0.6440	0.6451
170	0.0498	0.6336	0.6300	0.6315
180	0.0449	0.6436	0.6387	0.6407
190	0.0404	0.6299	0.6227	0.6254
200	0.0370	0.6440	0.6353	0.6384

In accordance with the testing results, it seemed that an ordinary CNN did not fit enough for this dataset even though each trained epoch showed its convergence, but the validation results were not good. This was caused either by the difference between distribution of words in the training data and the one in testing data or an ordinary CNN model found difficulty to distinguish two sentences with very similar structures, but in fact they were different semantically. For instance, "What's your favorite political bumper sticker?" with "What was your favorite bumper sticker in the 2000s?". These two sentences was taged "not similar", even their structures were similar, and there were some others. Conceptually, a CNN usually performs convolution with kernel. The kernel size used in this model was [1, 3, 5] multiplied by the size of embedding yielded by Word2Vec. If there are similar sentence structures, the result of the convolution will only be different in some elements of convolution's results matrix. So that, the similarity between matrices of convolution's results from two sentence inputs will be high (i.e., two sentences are similar). Even though dropout and regularization had been implemented, this problem would still happened, because there were pair of sentences with similar structures would be considered either similar or not similar. In order to solve the problem it needs a language model and a more complex network. In this experiment, Word2Vec yielded vector of word based on surrounding words. It was not contextual, it means that one word would be represented by a vector that always the same.

From both Table I and Table II was derived chart comparing the two loss functions (triplet and contrastive) each for metric *precision*, *recall* and F1-*score*. Fig. 11, 12 and 13 show the chart of comparing metric between two loss functions, respectively for *precision*, *recall* and F1-*score*.



Fig. 11. The Chart of *Epoch* versus *Precision* for Triplet and Contrastive Loss Function



Fig. 12. The Chart of *Epoch* versus *Recall* for Triplet and Contrastive Loss Function

The three metric, precision, recall and F1-score were



Fig. 13. The Chart of *Epoch* versus F1-*Score* for Triplet and Contrastive Loss Function

computed using the formula derived from a confusion matrix.

V. CONCLUSIONS

The two CNN Siamese models had been succesfully built, one with triplet loss function and the other with contrastive loss functions. The size of dataset used for training and testing were 3500 and 1500 respectively for the total of 5000. Both models were treated equally either in training or testing processes. In the training process, the model with triplet loss function consisted of three exact the same CNN models, while one with contrastive loss function only consisted of two exact the same CNN models. From the results of the model testing, it was seen that among 20 values of epoch there was one with epoch value of 180 with precision 0.8004, recall 0.6780, and F1-score 0.6713 for triplet loss function; and epoch value of 160 with precision 0.6463, recall 0.6440, and F1-score 0.6451 for contrastive loss function gave the best performance. So that, the triplet loss function gave better influence than contrastive loss function in measuring similarity between two given sentences.

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