METHODS, APPARATUSES, AND DEVICES FOR GENERATING WORD VECTORS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This patent application claims priority to Chinese Patent Application No. 201810111369.8, filed February 5, 2018 and entitled "METHODS, APPARATUSES, AND DEVICES FOR GENERATING WORD VECTORS," which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0002] The present specification relates to the technical field of computer software, and in particular, to methods, apparatuses, and devices for generating word vectors.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Most of today's natural language processing solutions employ a neural network-based architecture in which an important underlying technology is word vector. A word vector is a vector that maps a word to a fixed number of dimensions, where the vector indicates the semantic information of the word.

[0004] In existing technologies, commonly used algorithms for generating word vectors include, for example, Google's word vector algorithm, Microsoft's deep neural network algorithm, etc.

[0005] In view of the existing technologies, there is a need for more accurate solutions for generating word vectors.

SUMMARY

[0006] Implementations of the present specification provide methods, apparatuses, and devices for generating word vectors, to provide a more reliable solution for generating word vectors.

[0007] The implementations of the present specification provide the following solutions:

[0008] An implementation of the present specification provides a method for generating word vectors, including: obtain words by segmenting a corpus; establish a feature vector for each obtained word based on n-ary characters corresponding to the obtained word, where each n-ary character represents n consecutive characters of a word corresponding to the n-ary character; train a convolutional neural network based on the feature vectors of the obtained words and the feature vectors of context words associated with each obtained word in the corpus; and generate a word vector for each obtained word based on the feature vector of the obtained word and the trained convolutional neural network.

[0009] An implementation of the present specification provides an apparatus for generating word vectors, including: an acquisition module, configured to obtain words by segmenting a corpus; an establishment module, configured to establish a feature vector for each obtained word based on n-ary characters corresponding to the obtained word, where each n-ary character represents n consecutive characters of a word corresponding to the n-ary character; a training module, configured to train a convolutional neural network based on the feature vectors of the obtained words and the feature vectors of context words associated with each obtained word in the corpus; and a generation module, configured to generate a word vector for each obtained word based on the feature vector of the obtained word and the trained convolutional neural network.

[0010] An implementation of the present specification provides another method for generating word vectors, including:

Step 1: Establishing a vocabulary of words obtained by segmenting a corpus, where the obtained words exclude a word that appears for less than a predetermined number of times in the corpus.

Step 2: Determining a total number of n-ary characters corresponding to all of the obtained words, where same n-ary characters are counted once, and each n-ary character represents n consecutive characters of an obtained word corresponding to the n-ary character.

Step 3: Establishing, for each obtained word, based on each n-ary character corresponding to the obtained word, a feature vector whose dimensionality is the total number, where each dimension of the feature vector corresponds to a different n-ary character, and the value of each dimension indicates whether a corresponding n-ary character is mapped to the obtained word corresponding to the feature vector.

Step 4: Traversing the corpus on which word segmentation is performed, and performing step 5 with respect to the current word accessed during the traversal, and if the traversal is completed, performing step 6; otherwise continuing the traversal.

Step 5: Using the current word as a center, sliding towards both sides for at most k words to establish a window, and using the words in the window except the current word as context words, inputting feature vectors of the context words associated with the current word into a convolutional layer of the convolutional neural network for convolutional calculation, and inputting a result of the convolutional calculation into a pooling layer of the convolutional neural network for pooling calculation to obtain a first vector; inputting a feature vector of the current word and a feature vector of a negative sample word selected in the corpus into the full connection layer of the convolutional neural network for calculation to obtain a second vector and a third vector; and updating parameters of the convolutional neural network based on the first vector, the second vector, the third vector, and a specified loss function, where the convolutional calculation is performed according to the following formula:

$$\tilde{x}_i = x_{i:i+\theta-1} = \left[x_i^T, x_{i+1}^T, \ldots, x_{i+\theta-1}^T\right]^T$$

$$y_i = \sigma(\omega \tilde{x}_i + \zeta)$$

the pooling calculation is performed according to the following formula:

$$c(j) = \max_{i=1,2,\ldots,t-\theta+1}\{y_i(j)\}, \text{ or } c(j) = \text{average}_{i=1,2,\ldots,t-\theta+1}\{y_i(j)\}$$

and the loss function includes:

$$l(w, c; \omega, \zeta, \varsigma, \tau) = log\left(1 + \sum_{m=1}^{\lambda} exp\left(-\gamma \cdot \left(s(w, c) - s(w'_m, c)\right)\right)\right)$$

where x_i indicates a feature vector of the ith context word; $x_{i:i+\theta-1}$ indicates a vector that is obtained by concatenating the feature vectors of the ith to the $i+\theta-1^{\text{th}}$ context words; y_i indicates the ith element in the vector that is obtained through the convolutional calculation; ω indicates weight parameters of the convolutional layer; ζ indicates offset parameters of the convolutional layer; σ indicates an activation function; max indicates a maximum value function; average indicates an average value function; $c(j)$ indicates the jth element in the first vector that is obtained through pooling calculation; t indicates the number of context words; c indicates the first vector; w indicates the second vector; w'_m indicates the third vector corresponding to the mth negative sample word; ω indicates weight

parameters of the convolutional layer; ζ indicates offset parameters of the convolutional layer; ς indicates weight parameters of the full connection layer; τ indicates offset parameters of the full connection layer; γ indicates a hyperparameter; s indicates a similarity calculation function; and λ indicates the number of negative sample words.

Step 6: Inputting the feature vector of each obtained word into the full connection layer of the trained convolutional neural network for calculation to obtain corresponding word vectors.

[0011] An implementation of the present specification provides a device for generating word vectors, including: at least one processor, and a memory communicatively connected to the at least one processor, where the memory stores instructions that can be executed by the at least one processor, and the instructions are executed by the at least one processor to enable the at least one processor to: obtain words by segmenting a corpus; establish a feature vector for each obtained word based on n-ary characters corresponding to the obtained word, where each n-ary character represents n consecutive characters of a word corresponding to the n-ary character; train a convolutional neural network based on the feature vectors of the obtained words and the feature vectors of context words associated with each obtained word in the corpus; and generate a word vector for each obtained word based on the feature vector of the obtained word and the trained convolutional neural network.

[0012] The previously described at least one technical solution adopted in the implementations of the present specification can achieve the following beneficial effects: The convolutional neural network can depict the context and overall semantic information of the word through the convolutional calculation and the pooling calculation and extract more context and semantic information, and the n-ary character can express the word more finely, so that the word vector can be more accurately generated.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0013] To describe the technical solutions in the implementations of the present specification or in the existing technologies more clearly, the following is a brief introduction of the accompanying drawings for illustrating such technical solutions. Clearly, the accompanying drawings described below are merely some

implementations of the present specification, and a person skilled in the art can derive other drawings from such accompanying drawings without making innovative efforts.

[0014] FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram illustrating an overall architecture involved in an actual application scenario of solutions of the present specification;

[0015] FIG. 2 is a schematic flowchart illustrating a method for generating word vectors according to some implementations of the present specification;

[0016] FIG. 3 is a schematic diagram illustrating a feature vector of an English word in an application scenario according to some implementations of the present specification;

[0017] FIG. 4 is a schematic diagram illustrating a convolutional neural network in an actual application scenario according to some implementations of the present specification;

[0018] FIG. 5 is a schematic flowchart illustrating another method for generating word vectors according to some implementations of the present specification; and

[0019] FIG. 6 is a schematic structural diagram illustrating an apparatus for generating word vectors that corresponds to FIG. 2 according to some implementations of the present specification.

DESCRIPTION OF IMPLEMENTATIONS

[0020] Implementations of the present specification provide methods, apparatuses, and devices for generating word vectors.

[0021] To enable a person skilled in the art to better understand technical solutions in the present specification, the following clearly and completely describes the technical solutions in the implementations of the present specification with reference to the drawings that accompany the implementations. Clearly, the described implementations are merely some rather than all of the implementations of the present application. Based on the implementations of the present specification, all other implementations obtained by a person of ordinary skill in the art without making innovative efforts shall fall within the protection scope of the present application.

[0022] FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram of an overall architecture involved in an actual application scenario of solutions of the present specification. The overall architecture relates primarily to a server that is used to train a convolutional neural network to generate word vectors. A feature vector of each obtained word can be

established based on an n-ary character, and a convolutional neural network can be trained based on the feature vectors and the context of the words. The feature vectors can be established by the server or another device.

[0023] The solutions of the present specification are applicable to languages that are formed by alphabetic letters, such as English, French, German, and Spanish, and are also applicable to languages that are formed by non-alphabetic elements but can be easily mapped to alphabetic letters, such as Chinese (which can be mapped to pinyin letters) and Japanese (which can be mapped to Roman letters). For ease of description, in the following implementations, the solutions of the present specification are mainly described with respect to scenarios of English.

[0024] FIG. 2 is a schematic flowchart illustrating a method for generating word vectors according to some implementations of the present specification. From the perspective of a device, an actor that executes the process includes, for example, at least one of a personal computer, a large- or medium-sized computer, a computer cluster, a mobile phone, a tablet computer, a smart wearable device, a vehicle, etc.

[0025] The process in FIG. 2 includes the following steps:

[0026] S202: Obtain individual words by segmenting a corpus.

[0027] In some implementations of the present specification, more specifically, the obtained words can be at least some of the words that appear at least once in the corpus. To facilitate subsequent processing, each word can be stored in a vocabulary, and individual words can be read from the vocabulary for use.

[0028] It is worthwhile to note that, considering that if a word appears too few times in the corpus, the number of corresponding iterations in the subsequent processing is also small, and the training result reliability is relatively low, such a word can be screened out. In this case, more specifically, the obtained words are some words out of all the words that appear at least once in the corpus.

[0029] S204: Establish a feature vector for each obtained word based on n-ary characters corresponding to the obtained word, where each n-ary character represents n consecutive characters of a word corresponding to the n-ary character.

[0030] In this implementation of the present specification, characters of the word can include the characters constituting the word, or other characters to which the characters constituting the word are mapped. For example, the word "boy" includes characters “b”, “o”, and “y”.

[0031] To express the order of words, some mark characters can be added to the

original words based on certain rules, and these mark characters can also be considered characters of the words. For example, a mark character can be added to a position such as a start position and/or an end position of the original word, and after such marking, the word "boy" can take the form of “#boy#”, and the two “#” can be considered characters of the word “boy”.

[0032] Further, n is an integer not less than 1. Using “#boy#” as an example, the word includes the following 3-ary characters: “#bo” (the 1st to 3rd characters), “boy” (the 2nd to 4th characters), and “oy#” (the 3rd to 5th characters); and includes the following 4-ary characters: “#boy” (the 1st to 4th characters) and “boy#” (the 2nd to 5th characters).

[0033] In some implementations of the present specification, the value of n can be dynamically adjusted. For the same word, at the time of determining the n-ary characters corresponding to the word, “n” can have a single value (e.g., only 3-ary characters corresponding to the word are determined) or multiple values (e.g., 3-ary characters and 4-ary characters corresponding to the word are determined).

[0034] To facilitate computer processing, n-ary characters can be represented based on specified codes (e.g., numbers). For example, different characters or different n-ary characters can be represented by different codes or code strings.

[0035] In some implementations of the present specification, the feature vector of a word can have values assigned to different dimensions to indicate the n-ary characters corresponding to the word. More precisely, the feature vector of the word can also be used to indicate the order of the n-ary characters corresponding to the word.

[0036] S206: Train a convolutional neural network based on the feature vectors of the obtained words and of their context words in the corpus.

[0037] In some implementations of the present description, the convolution layer of the convolution neural network is used for extracting local information from neurons, and the pooling layer of the convolution neural network is used for synthesizing all local information of the convolution layer to obtain global information. Specifically, in scenarios of the present specification, local information can refer to overall semantics of some context words associated with the current word (each obtained word can be used as the current word), and global information can refer to overall semantics of all context words associated with the current word.

[0038] S208: Generate a word vector for each obtained word based on the feature vector of the obtained word and the trained convolutional neural network.

[0039] By training the convolutional neural network, appropriate parameters can be determined for the convolutional neural network, so that the convolutional neural network can more accurately depict the overall semantics of the context words and the corresponding semantics of the current words. The parameters include, for example, weight parameters and offset parameters.

[0040] The word vector can be obtained by making inferences from the feature vector based on the trained convolutional neural network.

[0041] By using the method in FIG. 2, the convolutional neural network can depict the overall semantic information of the context of the word through convolutional calculation and pooling calculation and extract more semantic information of the context, and the n-ary characters can express the word more finely, so that the word vector can be more accurately generated.

[0042] Based on the method shown in FIG. 2, some implementations of the present specification further provides some implementation solutions of the method, as well as extension solutions, which are described below.

[0043] In some implementations of the present specification, for step S204, the establishing of a feature vector for each obtained word based on the n-ary characters corresponding to the obtained word can specifically include:

[0044] determining a total number of different n-ary characters for all n-ary characters corresponding to the obtained word; and establishing, for each word, a feature vector whose dimensionality is determined based on the total number, where the feature vector can be assigned values to different dimensions to indicate the n-ary characters corresponding to the word.

[0045] For example, all of the n-ary characters corresponding to the obtained word are indexed from 0 at an increment of 1. The same n-ary characters have the same index number. Assuming that the total number is N_c, then the index number of the last n-ary character is $N_c - 1$. A feature vector whose dimension is $N_c$is established for each word. Specifically, assuming that n = 3, and that the indexes of all the 3-ary characters corresponding to a word are 2, 34, and 127, then the 2nd, the 34th , and the 127th elements in the feature vector established for that word can be 1, and the remaining elements are 0.

[0046] More intuitively, based on the above example, this implementation of the present specification provides a schematic diagram illustrating a feature vector of an English word in an application scenario, as shown in FIG. 3. The English word is

"boy", and a mark character “#” is added at the start position and the end position. f indicates the process of establishing a feature vector based on the word. The feature vector is, for example, a column vector that is established based on each 3-ary character of “boy”. It can be seen that, the values of three elements in the feature vector are 1s, which respectively indicate the 3-ary characters “#bo”, “boy”, and “oy#”; and the values of other elements are 0s, which indicates that “boy” does not correspond to any other 3-ary character.

[0047] In this implementation of the present specification, when the convolutional neural network is trained, the goal is to ensure that the similarity between the feature vectors of the current word and its context words to be relatively high after inferences made based on the trained convolutional neural network.

[0048] Further, context words are regarded as positive sample words, and, as a contrast, one or more negative sample words associated with the current word can be selected based on certain rules to be involved in the training, so as to ensure fast training convergence and obtain more accurate training results. In this case, the goal can further include ensuring that the similarity between the feature vectors of the current word and the negative sample word are relatively low after inferences have been made based on the trained convolutional neural network. Negative sample words can be selected randomly in the corpus, or selected in the non-context words, etc. The present specification does not limit the specific ways of calculating such similarity. For example, the similarity can be calculated based on a cosine operation of the angle between vectors, the similarity can be calculated based on the square sum operation of the vectors, etc.

[0049] According to the above analysis, for step S206, the convolutional neural network is trained based on the feature vectors of the obtained words as well as the feature vectors of their context words in the corpus. Specifically, the training can include:

[0050] training the convolutional neural network based on the feature vectors of the obtained words as well as the feature vectors of their context words and their negative sample words in the corpus.

[0051] In some implementations of the present specification, the training process of the convolutional neural network can be iteratively performed. A relatively simple way is to traverse the corpus after word segmentation, and each time one of the obtained words is accessed, an iteration is performed, until the traversal is complete.

The convolutional neural network can then be considered to have been trained using the corpus.

[0052] Specifically, the training of the convolutional neural network based on the feature vectors of the obtained words and the feature vectors of their context words and negative sample words in the corpus can include:

[0053] traversing the corpus after word segmentation, and executing the following for the current word accessed during the traversal (the content of this execution corresponds to a process during one iteration):

[0054] for the current word obtained after word segmentation, determining one or more context words and negative sample words in the corpus; inputting feature vectors of the context words associated with the current word into a convolutional layer of the convolutional neural network for convolutional calculation; inputting the result of the convolutional calculation into a pooling layer of the convolutional neural network for pooling calculation to obtain a first vector; inputting a feature vector of the current word into the full connection layer of the convolutional neural network for calculation to obtain a second vector, and inputting a feature vector of a negative sample word associated with the current word into the full connection layer of the convolutional neural network for calculation to obtain a third vector; and updating parameters of the convolutional neural network based on the first vector, the second vector, the third vector, and a specified loss function.

[0055] More intuitively, the above process is described with reference to FIG. 4. FIG. 4 is a schematic diagram illustrating a convolutional neural network in an actual application scenario according to some implementations of the present specification.

[0056] The convolutional neural network in FIG. 4 mainly includes a convolutional layer, a pooling layer, a full connection layer, and a Softmax layer. In the process of training the convolutional neural network, the feature vectors of the context words are processed by the convolutional layer and the pooling layer to extract the semantic information of the context words as a whole, and the feature vector associated with the current word and its negative sample words can be processed by the full connection layer. Detailed description is provided below.

[0057] In this implementation of the present specification, it is assumed that a sliding window is used to determine a context word, the center of the sliding window is the current word being accessed during the traversal, and the words in the sliding window other than the current word are context words. The feature vectors of all the

context words are inputted to the convolutional layer, and then convolutional calculation can be performed according to the following formula:

$$\tilde{x}_i = x_{i:i+\theta-1} = \left[x_i^T, x_{i+1}^T, \ldots, x_{i+\theta-1}^T\right]^T$$

$$y_i = \sigma(\omega \tilde{x}_i + \zeta)$$

where x_i indicates a feature vector (which is assumed to be a column vector) of the ith context word; $x_{i:i+\theta-1}$ indicates a vector that is obtained by concatenating the feature vectors of the ith to the $i+\theta-1^{\text{th}}$ context words; y_i indicates the ith element in the vector (the result of the convolutional calculation) obtained through the convolutional calculation; ω indicates the weight parameter(s) of the convolutional layer; ζ indicates the offset parameter(s) of the convolutional layer; σ indicates an activation function, for example, if the Sigmoid function is used, $\sigma = \frac{1}{1+e^{-x}}$.

[0058] Further, after the result of the convolutional calculation is obtained, the result can be input into the pooling layer for pooling calculation. Specifically, maximum pooling calculation or average pooling calculation can be used.

For maximum pooling calculation, as an example, the following formula is used:

$$c(j) = \max_{i=1,2,\ldots,t-\theta+1} \{y_i(j)\}$$

For average pooling calculation, as an example, the following formula is used:

$$c(j) = \text{average}_{i=1,2,\ldots,t-\theta+1} \{y_i(j)\}$$

where max indicates a maximum value function; average indicates an average value function; $c(j)$ indicates the jth element in the first vector obtained through the pooling calculation ; and t indicates the number of context words.

[0059] FIG. 4 also exemplarily illustrates the current word “liquid” in a corpus, 6 context words “as”, “the”, “vegan”, “gelatin”, “substitute”, and “absorbs” associated with the current word in the corpus, and 2 negative sample words “year” and “make” associated with the current word in the corpus. In FIG. 4, it is assumed that all the feature vectors established based on the n-ary characters have N_c dimensions, and $\theta = 3$ indicates the length of the convolution window. Then, the vectors obtained through concatenation during the convolutional calculation have $\theta \cdot N_c = 3 \cdot N_c$ dimensions.

[0060] The feature vector of the current word can be input to the full connection layer, and can be calculated according to, for example, the following formula:

$$w = \sigma(\varsigma \cdot q + \tau)$$

where w indicates the second vector that is output by the full connection layer after processing the feature vector of the current word; ς indicates the weight parameter(s) of the full connection layer; q indicates the feature vector of the current word; and τ indicates the offset parameter(s) of the full connection layer.

[0061] Similarly, for each negative sample word, a respective feature vector can be input to the full connection layer and processed in a way as the current word is processed, to obtain a third vector, and the third vector corresponding to the mth negative sample word is denoted as w'_m.

[0062] Further, the updating the parameters of the convolutional neural network based on the first vector, the second vector, the third vector, and the specified loss function can include, for example, calculating a first similarity between the second vector and the first vector, and a second similarity between the third vector and the first vector; and updating the parameters of the convolutional neural network based on the first similarity, the second similarity, and the specified loss function.

[0063] A loss function is used as an example. The loss function can be, for example:

$$l(w, c; \omega, \zeta, \varsigma, \tau) = log\left(1 + \sum_{m=1}^{\lambda} exp\left(-\gamma \cdot \left(s(w, c) - s(w'_m, c)\right)\right)\right)$$

where c indicates the first vector; w indicates the second vector; w'_m indicates the third vector corresponding to the mth negative sample word; ω indicates weight parameter(s) of the convolutional layer; ζ indicates offset parameter(s) of the convolutional layer; ς indicates weight parameter(s) of the full connection layer; τ indicates offset parameter(s) of the full connection layer; γ indicates a hyperparameter; s indicates a similarity calculation function; and λ indicates the number of negative sample words.

[0064] In practice, if no negative sample word is used, the term for calculating the similarity between the first vector and the third vector can be removed from the loss function used.

[0065] In some implementations of the present specification, after training of the convolutional neural network, a word vector can be generated by making inferences from the feature vector. Specifically, for step S208, the generating of a word vector for each obtained word based on the feature vector of each obtained word and the trained convolutional neural network can specifically include:

[0066] inputting the feature vector of each obtained word into the full connection layer of the trained convolutional neural network for calculation to obtain a vector output, which is considered a corresponding word vector.

[0067] Based on the same idea, some implementations of the present specification provides another method for generating word vectors, which is an example implementation of the method for generating word vectors in FIG. 2. FIG. 5 is a schematic flowchart illustrating such a method for generating word vectors.

[0068] The process in FIG. 5 includes following steps:

Step 1: Establishing a vocabulary of words obtained by segmenting a corpus, where the obtained words exclude a word that appears for less than a predetermined number of times in the corpus; going to step 2.

Step 2: Determining a total number of n-ary characters corresponding to all of the obtained words, where same n-ary characters are counted once, and each n-ary character represents n consecutive characters of an obtained word corresponding to the n-ary character; going to step 3.

Step 3: Establishing, for each obtained word, based on each n-ary character corresponding to the obtained word, a feature vector whose dimensionality is the total number, where each dimension of the feature vector corresponds to a different n-ary character, and the value of each dimension indicates whether a corresponding n-ary character is mapped to the obtained word corresponding to the feature vector; going to step 4.

Step 4: Traversing the corpus on which word segmentation is performed, and performing step 5 with respect to the current word accessed during the traversal, and if the traversal is completed, performing step 6; otherwise continuing the traversal.

Step 5: Using the current word as a center, sliding towards both sides for at most k words to establish a window, and using the words in the window except the current word as context words, inputting feature vectors of the context words associated with the current word into a convolutional layer of the convolutional neural network for convolutional calculation, and inputting a result of the convolutional calculation into a pooling layer of the convolutional neural network for pooling calculation to obtain a first vector; inputting a feature vector of the current word and a feature vector of a negative sample word selected in the corpus into the full connection layer of the convolutional neural network for calculation to obtain a second vector and a third vector; and updating parameters of the convolutional neural network based on the first

vector, the second vector, the third vector, and a specified loss function, where the convolutional calculation is performed according to the following formula:

$$\tilde{x}_i = x_{i:i+\theta-1} = \left[x_i^T, x_{i+1}^T, \ldots, x_{i+\theta-1}^T\right]^T$$

$$y_i = \sigma(\omega \tilde{x}_i + \zeta)$$

the pooling calculation is performed according to the following formula:

$$c(j) = \max_{i=1,2,\ldots,t-\theta+1}\{y_i(j)\}, \text{ or} c(j) = \text{average}_{i=1,2,\ldots,t-\theta+1}\{y_i(j)\}$$

and the loss function includes:

$$l(w, c; \omega, \zeta, \varsigma, \tau) = log\left(1 + \sum_{m=1}^{\lambda} exp\left(-\gamma \cdot \left(s(w, c) - s(w'_m, c)\right)\right)\right)$$

where x_i indicates a feature vector of the ith context word; $x_{i:i+\theta-1}$ indicates a vector that is obtained by concatenating the feature vectors of the ith to the $i+\theta-1^{\text{th}}$ context words; y_i indicates the ith element in the vector that is obtained through the convolutional calculation; ω indicates weight parameter(s) of the convolutional layer; ζ indicates offset parameter(s) of the convolutional layer; σ indicates an activation function; max indicates a maximum value function; average indicates an average value function; $c(j)$ indicates the jth element in the first vector that is obtained through pooling calculation; t indicates the number of context words; c indicates the first vector; w indicates the second vector; w'_m indicates the third vector corresponding to the mth negative sample word; ω indicates weight parameter(s) of the convolutional layer; ζ indicates offset parameter(s) of the convolutional layer; ς indicates weight parameter(s) of the full connection layer; τ indicates offset parameter(s) of the full connection layer; γ indicates a hyperparameter; s indicates a similarity calculation function; and λ indicates the number of negative sample words.

Step 6: Inputting the feature vector of each obtained word into the full connection layer of the trained convolutional neural network for calculation to obtain corresponding word vectors.

[0069] The steps in this method for generating word vectors can be performed by the same or different modules, which are not specifically limited in the present specification.

[0070] The foregoing has described the method for generating word vectors according to some implementations of the present specification. Based on the same

idea, some implementations of the present specification further provides a corresponding apparatus, as shown in FIG. 6.

[0071] FIG. 6 is a schematic structural diagram illustrating an apparatus for generating word vectors that corresponds to FIG. 2 according to some implementations of the present specification. The apparatus can be located in the entity to execute the process in FIG. 2 and includes: an acquisition module 601, configured to obtain individual words by segmenting a corpus; an establishment module 602, configured to establish a feature vector for each obtained word based on n-ary characters corresponding to the obtained word, where each n-ary character represents n consecutive characters of the word corresponding to the n-ary character; a training module 603, configured to train a convolutional neural network based on the feature vectors of the obtained words and the feature vectors of context words associated with each obtained word in the corpus; and a generation module 604, configured to generate a word vector for each obtained word based on the feature vector of each obtained word and the trained convolutional neural network.

[0072] Optionally, characters of a word include each character constituting the word, and mark characters added to the start position and/or the end position of the word.

[0073] Optionally, the establishment module 602's establishing of a feature vector of each obtained word based on each n-ary character corresponding to each word specifically includes: determining, by the establishment module 602, a total number of distinct n-ary characters in a collection of respective n-ary characters corresponding to each of the obtained words; and establishing, for each word, a feature vector whose dimensionality is determined based on the total number, where the feature vector can be assigned values to different dimensions to indicate n-ary characters corresponding to the obtained word.

[0074] Optionally, the training module 603's training of the convolutional neural network based on the feature vectors of the obtained words and the feature vectors of the context words and the negative sample words associated with each obtained word in the corpus specifically includes:

[0075] training, by the training module 603, the convolutional neural network based on the feature vectors of the obtained words and the feature vectors of the context words and the negative sample words associated with the words in the corpus.

[0076] Optionally, the training module 603's training of the convolutional neural

network based on the feature vectors of the obtained words and the feature vectors of the context words and the negative sample words associated with the words in the corpus specifically includes:

[0077] traversing, by the training module 603, the corpus after word segmentation, and executing the following when the current word is accessed during the traversal: determining one or more context words and negative sample words associated with the current word in the corpus after word segmentation; inputting feature vectors of the context words associated with the current word into a convolutional layer of the convolutional neural network for convolutional calculation; inputting the result of the convolutional calculation into a pooling layer of the convolutional neural network for pooling calculation to obtain a first vector; inputting a feature vector of the current word into the full connection layer of the convolutional neural network for calculation to obtain a second vector, and inputting a feature vector of a negative sample word associated with the current word into the full connection layer of the convolutional neural network for calculation to obtain a third vector; and updating parameters of the convolutional neural network based on the first vector, the second vector, the third vector, and a specified loss function.

[0078] Optionally, the training module 603's performing of a convolutional calculation specifically includes:

[0079] performing, by the training module 603, the convolutional calculation according to the following formula:

$$\tilde{x}_i = x_{i:i+\theta-1} = \left[x_i^T, x_{i+1}^T, \ldots, x_{i+\theta-1}^T\right]^T$$

$$y_i = \sigma(\omega \tilde{x}_i + \zeta)$$

where x_i indicates a feature vector of the ith context word; $x_{i:i+\theta-1}$ indicates a vector that is obtained by concatenating the feature vectors of the ith to the $i+\theta-1^{\text{th}}$ context words; y_i indicates the ith element in the vector that is obtained through the convolutional calculation; ω indicates weight parameter(s) of the convolutional layer; ζ indicates offset parameter(s) of the convolutional layer; σ indicates an activation function.

[0080] Optionally, the training module 603's performing of a pooling calculation specifically includes:

[0081] performing, by the training module 603, maximum pooling calculation or average pooling calculation.

[0082] Optionally, the training module 603's updating of the parameters of the convolutional neural network based on the first vector, the second vector, the third vector, and the specified loss function specifically includes: calculating, by the training unit 603, a first similarity between the second vector and the first vector, and a second similarity between the third vector and the first vector; and updating the parameters of the convolutional neural network based on the first similarity, the second similarity, and the specified loss function.

[0083] Optionally, the loss function specifically includes:

$$l(w, c; \omega, \zeta, \varsigma, \tau) = log\left(1 + \sum_{m=1}^{\lambda} exp\left(-\gamma \cdot \left(s(w, c) - s(w'_m, c)\right)\right)\right)$$

where c indicates the first vector; $w$indicates the second vector; w'_m indicates the third vector corresponding to the mth negative sample word; ω indicates weight parameter(s) of the convolutional layer; ζ indicates offset parameter(s) of the convolutional layer; ς indicates weight parameter(s) of the full connection layer; τ indicates offset parameter(s) of the full connection layer; γ indicates a hyperparameter; s indicates a similarity calculation function; and λ indicates the number of negative sample words.

[0084] Optionally, the generation module 604's generating of a word vector for each obtained word based on the feature vector of the obtained word and the trained convolutional neural network specifically includes:

[0085] inputting, by the generation module 604, the feature vector of each obtained word into the full connection layer of the trained convolutional neural network for calculation to obtain a vector output after the calculation as a corresponding word vector.

[0086] Based on the same idea, an implementation of the present specification further provides a device for generating word vectors, including: at least one processor, and a memory communicatively connected to the at least one processor, where the memory stores instructions that can be executed by the at least one processor, and the instructions are executed by the at least one processor to enable the at least one processor to: obtain individual words by segmenting a corpus; establish a feature vector for each obtained word based on n-ary characters corresponding to the obtained word, where each n-ary character represents n consecutive characters of a word corresponding to the n-ary character; train a convolutional neural network based

on the feature vectors of the obtained words and the feature vectors of context words associated with each obtained word in the corpus; and generate a word vector for each obtained word based on the feature vector of the obtained word and the trained convolutional neural network.

[0087] Based on the same idea, an implementation of the present specification further provides a non-volatile computer storage medium, where the storage medium stores computer executable instructions that are used to: obtain individual words by segmenting a corpus; establish a feature vector for each obtained word based on n-ary characters corresponding to the obtained word, where each n-ary character represents n consecutive characters of a word corresponding to the n-ary character; train a convolutional neural network based on the feature vectors of the obtained words and the feature vectors of context words associated with each obtained word in the corpus; and generate a word vector for each obtained word based on the feature vector of the obtained word and the trained convolutional neural network.

[0088] Specific implementations of the present specification are described above. Other implementations fall within the scope of the appended claims. In some situations, the actions or steps described in the claims can be performed in an order different from the order in the implementation and the desired results can still be achieved. In addition, the process depicted in the accompanying drawings does not necessarily require a particular execution order to achieve the desired results. In some implementations, multi-tasking and parallel processing can be advantageous.

[0089] The implementations of the present specification are described in a progressive way. For same or similar parts of the implementations, mutual references can be made to the implementations. Each implementation focuses on a difference from the other implementations. In particular, for implementations of an apparatus, a device, and a non-volatile computer storage medium, because implementations of an apparatus, a device, and a non-volatile computer storage medium are basically similar to method implementation, description is relatively simple, and references can be made to parts of the method implementation descriptions.

[0090] The apparatus, device, and non-volatile computer storage medium provided in the implementations of the present specification correspond to the method. Therefore, the apparatus, device, and non-volatile computer storage medium also have beneficial technical effects that are similar to those of corresponding method. Because the beneficial technical effects of the methods have been described in detail above, the

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for generating word vectors, comprising:

obtaining words by segmenting a corpus;

establishing a feature vector for each obtained word based, at least in part, on one or more n-ary characters corresponding to the obtained word, wherein each n-ary character represents n consecutive characters of a word;

training a convolutional neural network based, at least in part, on the feature vectors of the obtained words and the feature vectors of context words associated with each obtained word in the corpus by:

traversing the corpus after word segmentation, and performing the following actions responsive to a current word being accessed during the traversing:

determining one or more context words and one or more negative sample words associated with the current word in the corpus;

inputting feature vectors of the context words associated with the current word into a convolutional layer of the convolutional neural network for convolutional calculation;

inputting a result of the convolutional calculation into a pooling layer of the convolutional neural network for pooling calculation to obtain a first vector;

inputting a feature vector of the current word into a full connection layer of the convolutional neural network for calculation to obtain a second vector; and

inputting a feature vector of a negative sample word associated with the current word into the full connection layer of the convolutional neural network for calculation to obtain a third vector; and

updating parameters of the convolutional neural network based, at least in part, on the first vector, the second vector, the third vector, and a specified loss function; and

generating a word vector for each obtained word based, at least in part, on the feature vector of the obtained word and the trained convolutional neural network.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein characters of an obtained word comprise each character constituting the obtained word, and mark characters added to one or more of a start position and an end position of the obtained word.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the establishing the feature vector for each obtained word based, at least in part, on one or more n-ary characters corresponding to the obtained word comprises:

determining a total number of distinct n-ary characters in a collection of respective n-ary characters corresponding to each of the obtained words; and

establishing, for each obtained word, a feature vector whose dimensionality is determined based, at least in part, on the total number.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the number of dimensions of the feature vector is the total number.

5. The method according to claim 3, wherein values are assigned to individual dimensions of the feature vector to indicate a mapping between n-ary characters and the obtained word.

6. The method according to claim 1, further comprising performing the convolutional calculation, at least in part, by concatenating the feature vectors of a subset of the context words associated with the current word.

7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising performing the pooling calculation by:

performing at least one of a maximum pooling calculation or an average pooling calculation.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein updating the parameters of the convolutional neural network based, at least in part, on the first vector, the second vector, the third vector, and the specified loss function comprises:

calculating a first similarity between the second vector and the first vector, and a second similarity between the third vector and the first vector; and

updating the parameters of the convolutional neural network based, at least in part, on the first similarity, the second similarity, and the specified loss function.

9. The method according to claim 1, wherein the loss function includes at least a weight parameter of the convolutional layer, an offset parameter of the convolutional layer, a weight parameter of the full connection layer, an offset parameter of the full connection layer, a hyperparameter, and a similarity calculation function.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the generating a word vector for each obtained word based, at least in part, on the feature vector of the obtained word and the trained convolutional neural network comprises:

inputting the feature vector of each obtained word into the full connection layer of the trained convolutional neural network to obtain a vector output.

11. An apparatus for generating word vectors, comprising:

an acquisition module, configured to obtain words by segmenting a corpus;

an establishment module, configured to establish a feature vector for each obtained word based, at least in part, on one or more n-ary characters corresponding to the obtained word, wherein each n-ary character indicates n consecutive characters of a word;

a training module, configured to train a convolutional neural network based, at least in part, on the feature vectors of the obtained words and the feature vectors of context words associated with each obtained word in the corpus by:

traversing the corpus after word segmentation, and performing the following actions responsive to a current word being accessed during the traversal:

determining one or more context words and one or more negative sample words associated with the current word in the corpus;

inputting feature vectors of the context words associated with the current word into a convolutional layer of the convolutional neural network for convolutional calculation;

inputting a result of the convolutional calculation into a pooling layer of the convolutional neural network for pooling calculation to obtain a first vector;

inputting a feature vector of the current word into a full connection layer of the convolutional neural network for calculation to obtain a second vector; and

inputting a feature vector of a negative sample word associated with the current word into the full connection layer of the convolutional neural network for calculation to obtain a third vector; and

updating parameters of the convolutional neural network based, at least in part, on the first vector, the second vector, the third vector, and a specified loss function; and

a generation module, configured to generate a word vector for each obtained word based on the feature vector of the obtained word and the trained convolutional neural network.

12. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein characters of an obtained word comprise each character constituting the obtained word, and mark characters added to a start position and/or an end position of the obtained word.

13. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the establishing, by the establishment module, of a feature vector for each obtained word based, at least in part, on one or more n-ary characters corresponding to the obtained word comprises:

determining, by the establishment module, a total number of distinct n-ary characters in a collection of respective n-ary characters corresponding to each of the obtained words; and

establishing, for each obtained word, a feature vector whose dimensionality is determined based, at least in part, on the total number.

14. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the number of dimensions of the feature vector is the total number.

15. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein values are assigned to individual dimensions of the feature vector to indicate a mapping between n-ary characters and the obtained word.

16. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein performing the convolutional calculation by the training module comprises:

performing, by the training module, the convolutional calculation according to the following formula:

$$\tilde{x}_i = x_{i:i+\theta-1} = \left[x_i^T, x_{i+1}^T, \ldots, x_{i+\theta-1}^T\right]^T$$

$$y_i = \sigma(\omega \tilde{x}_i + \zeta)$$

wherein x_i indicates a feature vector of the ith context word; $x_{i:i+\theta-1}$ indicates a vector that is obtained by concatenating the feature vectors of the ith to the $i+\theta-1^{\text{th}}$ context words; y_i indicates the ith element in the vector that is obtained through the convolutional calculation; ω indicates one or more weight parameters of the convolutional layer; ζ indicates one or more offset parameters of the convolutional layer; σ indicates an activation function.

17. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein performing the convolutional calculation by the training module comprises:

performing, by the training module, at least one of a maximum pooling calculation or an average pooling calculation.

18. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the updating, by the training module, of the parameters of the convolutional neural network based, at least in part, on the first vector, the second vector, the third vector, and the specified loss function comprises:

calculating, by the training unit, a first similarity between the second vector and the first vector, and a second similarity between the third vector and the first vector; and

updating the parameters of the convolutional neural network based, at least in part, on the first similarity, the second similarity, and the specified loss function.

19. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the loss function comprises:

$$l(w, c; \omega, \zeta, \varsigma, \tau) = log\left(1 + \sum_{m=1}^{\lambda} exp\left(-\gamma \cdot \left(s(w, c) - s(w'_m, c)\right)\right)\right)$$

wherein c indicates the first vector; w indicates the second vector; w'_m indicates the third vector corresponding to the mth negative sample word; ω indicates one or more weight parameters of the convolutional layer; ζ indicates one or more offset parameters of the convolutional layer; ς indicates one or more weight parameters of the full connection layer; τ indicates one or more offset parameters of the full connection layer; γ indicates a hyperparameter; s indicates a similarity calculation function; and λ indicates the number of negative sample words.

20. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the generating, by the generation module, of a word vector for each obtained word based, at least in part, on the feature vector of the obtained word and the trained convolutional neural network comprises:

inputting, by the generation module, the feature vector of each obtained word into the full connection layer of the trained convolutional neural network to obtain a vector output.

21. A method for generating word vectors, comprising:

Act 1: establishing a vocabulary of words obtained by segmenting a corpus, wherein the obtained words exclude a word that appears for less than a predetermined number of times in the corpus;

Act 2: determining a total number of n-ary characters corresponding to all of the obtained words, wherein same n-ary characters are counted once, and each n-ary character represents n consecutive characters of an obtained word corresponding to the n-ary character;

Act 3: establishing, for each obtained word, based on each n-ary character corresponding to the obtained word, a feature vector whose dimensionality is the total number, wherein each dimension of the feature vector corresponds to a different n-ary character, and the value of each dimension indicates whether a corresponding n-ary character is mapped to the obtained word corresponding to the feature vector;

Act 4: traversing the corpus on which word segmentation is performed, and performing Act 5 with respect to the current word accessed during the traversal, and if the traversal is completed, performing Act 6; otherwise continuing the traversal;

Act 5: using the current word as a center, sliding towards both sides for at most k words to establish a window, and using the words in the window except the current word as context words, inputting feature vectors of the context words associated with the current word into a convolutional layer of the convolutional neural network for convolutional calculation, and inputting a result of the convolutional calculation into a pooling layer of the convolutional neural network for pooling calculation to obtain a first vector; inputting a feature vector of the current word and a feature vector of a negative sample word selected in the corpus into the full connection layer of the convolutional neural network for calculation to obtain a second vector and a third vector; and updating parameters of the convolutional neural network based on the first vector, the second vector, the third vector, and a specified loss function, wherein

the convolutional calculation is performed according to the following formula:

$$\tilde{x}_i = x_{i:i+\theta-1} = \left[x_i^T, x_{i+1}^T, \ldots, x_{i+\theta-1}^T\right]^T$$

$$y_i = \sigma(\omega \tilde{x}_i + \zeta)$$

the pooling calculation is performed according to the following formula:

$c(j) = \underset{i=1,2,\ldots,t-\theta+1}{max}\{y_i(j)\}$, or$c(j) = \underset{i=1,2,\ldots,t-\theta+1}{\text{average}}\{y_i(j)\}$

and the loss function comprises:

$$l(w, c; \omega, \zeta, \varsigma, \tau) = log\left(1 + \sum_{m=1}^{\lambda} exp\left(-\gamma \cdot \left(s(w, c) - s(w'_m, c)\right)\right)\right)$$

wherein x_i indicates a feature vector of the ith context word; $x_{i:i+\theta-1}$ indicates a vector that is obtained by concatenating the feature vectors of the ith to the $i + \theta - 1^{\text{th}}$ context words; y_i indicates the ith element in the vector that is obtained through the convolutional calculation; ω indicates weight parameters of the convolutional layer; ζ indicates offset parameters of the convolutional layer; σ indicates an activation function; max indicates a maximum value function; average indicates an average value function; $c(j)$ indicates the jth element in the first vector that is obtained through pooling calculation; t indicates the number of context words; c indicates the first vector; w indicates the second vector; w'_m indicates the third vector corresponding to the mth negative sample word; ω indicates weight parameters of the convolutional layer; ζ indicates offset parameters of the convolutional layer; ς indicates weight parameters of the full connection layer; τ indicates offset parameters of the full connection layer; γ indicates a hyperparameter; s indicates a similarity calculation function; and λ indicates the number of negative sample words; and

Act 6: inputting the feature vector of each obtained word into the full connection layer of the trained convolutional neural network for calculation to obtain corresponding word vectors.