# Group-wise Contrastive Learning for Neural Dialogue Generation

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## Author

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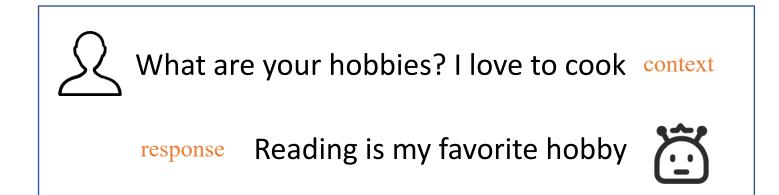
- Hongshen Chen (陈宏申)
  - NLP tech lead for JD.com recommendation platform





## Task

• Neural Dialogue Generation



## Problem

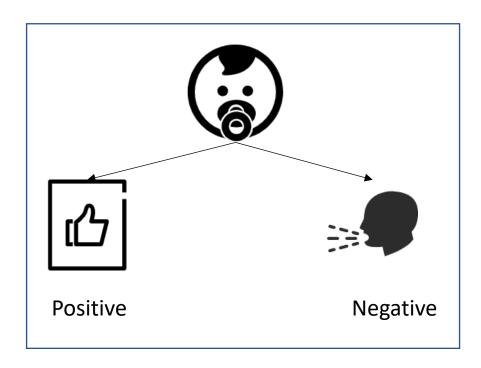
- Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE) Objective
  - relatively high frequencies in conversational datasets



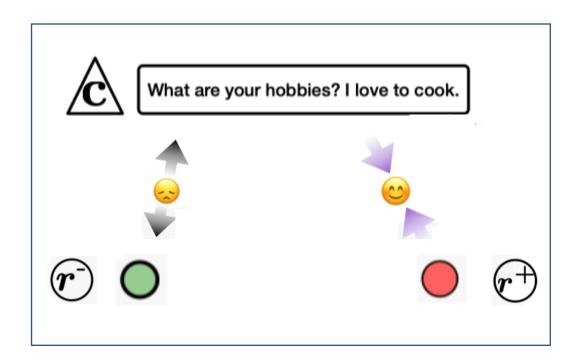
Safe but Dull and Vacuous

#### Motivation

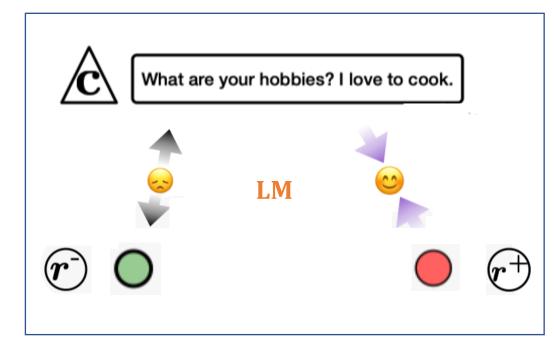
• Humans not only learn from the positive signals but also benefit from correcting behaviors of undesirable actions.



• Contrastive Learning



• Contrastive Learning

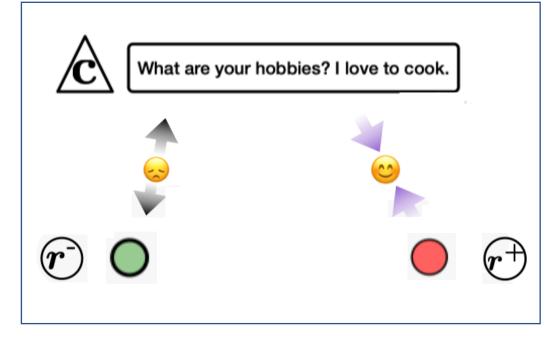


$$\begin{split} \mathcal{L}''(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \mathbb{D}) &= \\ &- \frac{1}{N} \sum_{(\boldsymbol{c}, \boldsymbol{r}) \in \mathbb{D}} \log \sigma(\operatorname{lm}[(\boldsymbol{c}, \boldsymbol{r})^{+}; \boldsymbol{\theta}]) \\ &- \frac{1}{N} \sum_{(\boldsymbol{c}, \boldsymbol{r}) \in \mathbb{D}} \log \left[1 - \sigma(\operatorname{lm}[(\boldsymbol{c}, \boldsymbol{r})^{-}; \boldsymbol{\theta}])\right] \end{split}$$

• Contrastive Learning

$$\mathcal{D}((\boldsymbol{c}, \boldsymbol{r}); \boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\phi}) = \log rac{p_m(\boldsymbol{r} | \boldsymbol{c}, \boldsymbol{\theta})}{p_n(\boldsymbol{r} | \boldsymbol{c}, \boldsymbol{\phi})}$$

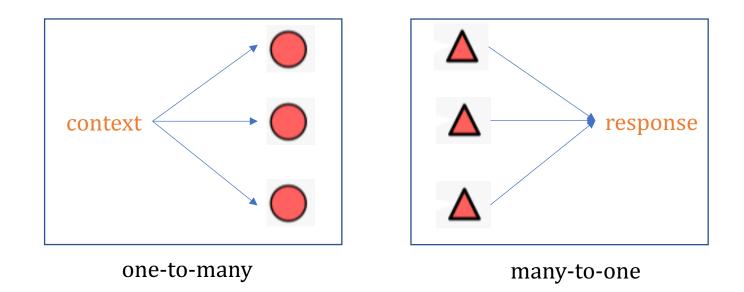
pretrained baseline model



$$egin{split} \mathcal{L}''(m{ heta};\mathbb{D},m{\phi}) = \ &-rac{1}{N}\sum_{(m{c},m{r})\in\mathbb{D}}\log\sigma(\mathcal{D}((m{c},m{r})^{+};m{ heta},m{\phi})) \ &-rac{1}{N}\sum_{(m{c},m{r})\in\mathbb{D}}\log\left[1-\sigma(\mathcal{D}((m{c},m{r})^{-};m{ heta},m{\phi}))
ight] \end{split}$$

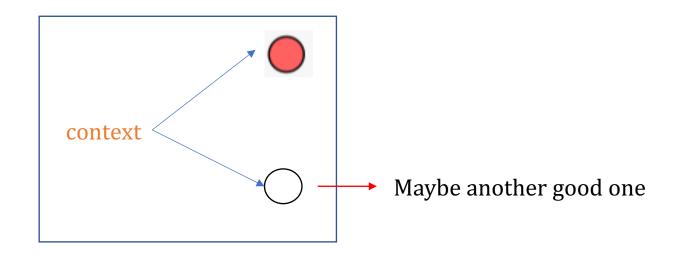
## Problem

• multi-mapping relations

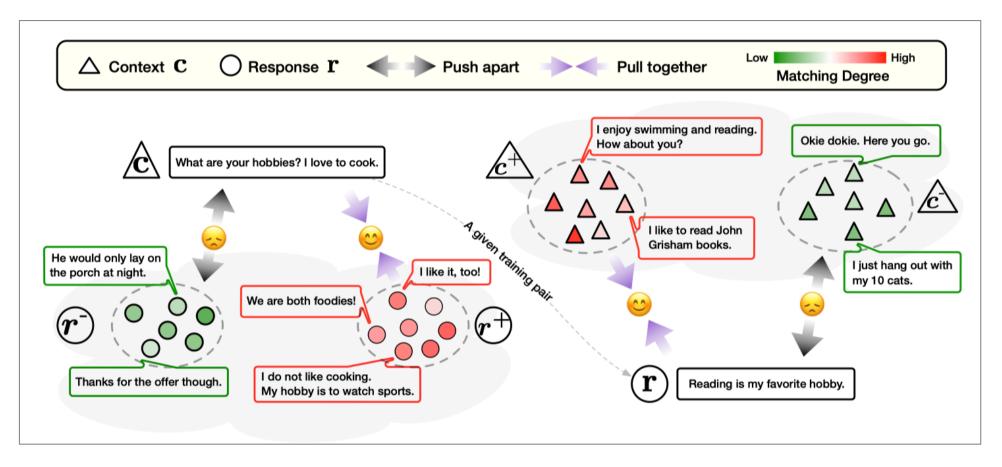


## Problem

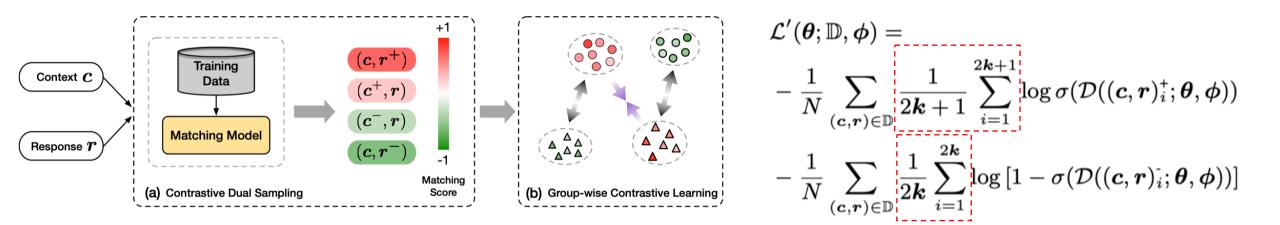
• Single pair contrastive learning



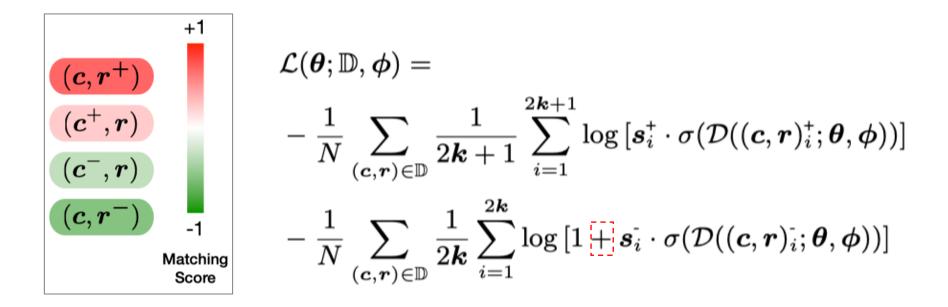
• Contrastive Dual Sampling



• Group-wise Contrastive Learning



• Weighted Group-wise Contrastive Learning



## Experiments

	PersonaChat	Douban	OpenSubtitles
#context-response pairs	140,248	218,039	353,046
Avg. #turns per context	2.69	3.94	3.79
Avg. #words per utterance	11.96	15.28	6.85
Training Pairs	113,558	198,039	293,129
Validation Pairs	13,602	10,000	29,960
Test Pairs	13,088	10,000	29,957
#Tokens	18,029	40,000	40,000

Table 1: Data statistics for PersonaChat, Douban and OpenSubtitles datasets.

	Models	BLEU-1/2/3/4	Dist-1	Dist-2	Dist-3	Avg.	Ext.	Gre.	Coh.	Ent-1 / 2
(a)	SEQ2SEQ	12.040 / 3.9950 / 0.8815 / 0.2312	0.4309	2.045	4.303	36.33	28.66	63.64	41.66	6.891 / 10.81
	SEQ2SEQ (►)	13.660 / 4.9160 / 1.5970 / 0.6122	0.8492	5.093	12.000	39.76	31.74	64.76	49.39	7.016 / 10.90
	HRED	12.410 / 3.8360 / 0.8455 / 0.2364	0.4744	2.546	6.127	36.52	28.37	64.12	39.08	6.792 / 10.66
	HRED (►)	13.180 / 4.3220 / 1.0360 / 0.3274	0.7130	4.468	11.220	38.54	29.65	64.26	44.07	6.931 / 10.84
	TRANSFORMER	11.460 / 3.2080 / 0.5389 / 0.1476	0.4813	2.544	6.146	35.72	27.38	63.61	38.02	6.804 / 10.55
	TRANSFORMER $(\blacktriangleright)$	12.660 / 3.8920 / 0.8406 / 0.2577	0.7859	4.562	10.950	37.42	28.95	64.02	41.96	6.918 / 10.80
	HRAN	12.190 / 3.8290 / 0.7752 / 0.2171	0.5074	2.883	7.104	36.53	28.08	63.58	40.22	<b>6.964</b> / 10.83
	HRAN (►)	13.430 / 4.5030 / 1.0630 / 0.3513	0.7713	4.974	12.380	39.04	30.08	64.48	46.63	6.942 / <b>10.87</b>
	SEQ2SEQ	5.585 / 0.7887 / 0.1008 / 0.0296	1.1610	6.105	13.100	46.75	36.80	53.52	52.13	7.225 / 11.13
	Seq2Seq (►)	5.821 / 0.7910 / 0.1053 / 0.0377	1.3010	7.935	18.070	46.96	36.99	53.41	53.40	7.464 / 11.66
	HRED	<b>5.899</b> / 0.7925 / 0.0786 / 0.0206	0.8334	5.147	14.160	48.12	36.50	54.20	49.99	7.107 / 10.90
(b)	HRED (►)	5.778 / <b>0.7968 / 0.0996 / 0.0387</b>	1.2910	7.461	19.450	48.23	36.51	53.34	50.31	7.436 / 11.10
(0)	TRANSFORMER	5.229 / 0.6443 / 0.0764 / 0.0240	1.1140	5.658	13.830	45.45	35.45	53.04	48.04	7.084 / 11.15
	TRANSFORMER $(\blacktriangleright)$	5.386 / 0.6460 / 0.0889 / 0.0274	1.3280	6.723	15.800	45.96	36.11	53.33	48.92	7.238 / 11.16
	HRAN	5.366 / 0.7229 / <b>0.0860</b> / 0.0182	1.0960	6.679	17.250	47.44	36.35	53.93	50.25	7.202 / <b>11.15</b>
	HRAN (►)	5.541 / 0.7424 / 0.0723 / 0.0194	1.6630	10.030	24.240	48.01	36.99	53.46	51.81	<b>7.394 /</b> 10.94
	SEQ2SEQ	5.666 / 1.0870 / <b>0.2471</b> / 0.0416	0.2880	2.110	5.566	54.22	46.11	63.96	56.82	6.685 / 10.54
	Seq2Seq (►)	5.696 / 1.1290 / 0.2199 / 0.0476	0.4495	3.681	10.860	54.32	47.13	64.54	58.60	6.792 / 10.80
	HRED	5.489 / 0.9953 / 0.2206 / 0.0711	0.3020	2.179	6.355	54.61	54.36	67.91	56.45	6.699 / 10.74
(c)	HRED (►)	5.670 / 1.0930 / 0.2461 / 0.0828	0.4490	3.099	8.949	54.19	54.36	68.16	57.26	6.722 / 10.80
	TRANSFORMER	4.619 / <b>0.8294</b> / 0.1500 / 0.0307	0.3470	2.038	5.028	52.29	44.21	63.16	53.40	6.677 / 10.40
	TRANSFORMER $(\blacktriangleright)$	<b>4.712</b> / 0.8197 / <b>0.1744</b> / <b>0.0314</b>	0.3897	2.437	6.188	52.34	45.12	63.52	54.11	6.722 / 10.50
	HRAN	5.090 / 0.8424 / 0.1665 / 0.0405	0.3205	2.604	8.188	54.74	54.52	68.16	56.58	6.556 / 10.53
	HRAN (►)	5.423 / 0.9192 / 0.1913 / 0.0529	0.5034	3.935	11.920	54.40	54.54	68.30	57.48	6.699 / 10.89

Learning Approaches	BLEU-1 / 2 / 3 / 4	Dist-1	Dist-2	Dist-3	Avg.	Ext.	Gre.	Coh.	Ent-1 / 2
Adversarial	12.190 / 4.0060 / 0.8950 / 0.2644	0.6269	3.357	7.374	35.93	29.00	63.65	42.38	6.980 / 10.88
MMI	<b>14.030</b> / 4.6460 / 1.3340 / 0.5022	0.4734	2.443	5.515	39.34	30.92	64.84	45.16	6.874 / 10.65
DEEPRL	12.660 / 4.0150 / 1.0140 / 0.3314	0.6838	3.838	8.581	37.23	29.68	64.30	44.13	6.885 / 10.85
CVAE	11.570 / 2.8100 / 0.6357 / 0.1714	0.2876	2.326	7.506	39.29	30.61	63.67	41.76	6.869 / 10.82
DIALOGWAE	11.430 / 2.9260 / 0.5676 / 0.1436	0.9936	5.080	9.928	38.68	28.70	63.39	41.06	7.009 / <b>11.09</b>
Ours	13.660 / <b>4.9160</b> / <b>1.5970</b> / <b>0.6122</b>	0.8492	5.093	12.000	39.76	31.74	64.76	49.39	<b>7.016 /</b> 10.90

Table 3: Performance (%) of our approach instantiated on naive SEQ2SEQ and baseline approaches on PersonaChat.

- Human Evaluation
  - fluency, informativeness, coherence and engagingness.

Opponent	Win	Loss	Tie	Kappa
Ours vs. VANILLA MLE	53%	10%	37%	0.5750
Ours vs. Adversarial	47%	15%	38%	0.5495
Ours vs. MMI	43%	12%	45%	0.5863
Ours vs. DEEPRL	40%	22%	38%	0.6036
Ours vs. CVAE	40%	15%	45%	0.5510
Ours vs. DIALOGWAE	45%	18%	37%	0.4216

Table 4: The results of human evaluation on the test set of PersonaChat.

Framework variants	BLEU-1 / 2 / 3 / 4	Dist-1	Dist-2	Dist-3	Avg.	Ext.	Gre.	Coh.	Ent-1 / 2
(a) w/o group-wise sampling	12.870 / 4.102 / 0.9564 / 0.2308	0.3965	2.070	4.633	36.52	29.09	64.21	42.40	6.836 / 10.62
(b) w/o group-wise positive sampling	13.120 / 4.800 / 1.4180 / 0.5967	0.4632	2.270	5.002	38.26	31.18	64.66	43.03	6.812 / 10.49
(c) w/o group-wise negative sampling	13.210 / 4.698 / 1.3970 / 0.5587	0.7175	3.532	7.473	38.23	30.96	64.62	46.27	6.911 / 10.68
(d) w/o response-side sampling	13.340 / 4.730 / 1.4820 / 0.5779	0.8487	4.964	11.340	39.31	31.51	64.66	48.35	6.938 / 10.75
(e) w/o context-side sampling	13.170 / 4.539 / 1.4160 / 0.5308	0.8455	4.892	11.210	39.57	31.81	64.56	47.19	6.904 / 10.66
(f) w/o impact of matching scores	13.560 / 4.359 / 1.1140 / 0.3823	0.6086	3.809	9.037	38.78	30.35	64.44	46.88	6.952 / <b>10.90</b>
Full version	13.660 / 4.916 / 1.5970 / 0.6122	0.8492	5.093	12.000	39.76	31.74	64.76	49.39	7.016 / 10.90

Table 5: Ablation test (%) using SEQ2SEQ with different framework variants on PersonaChat.

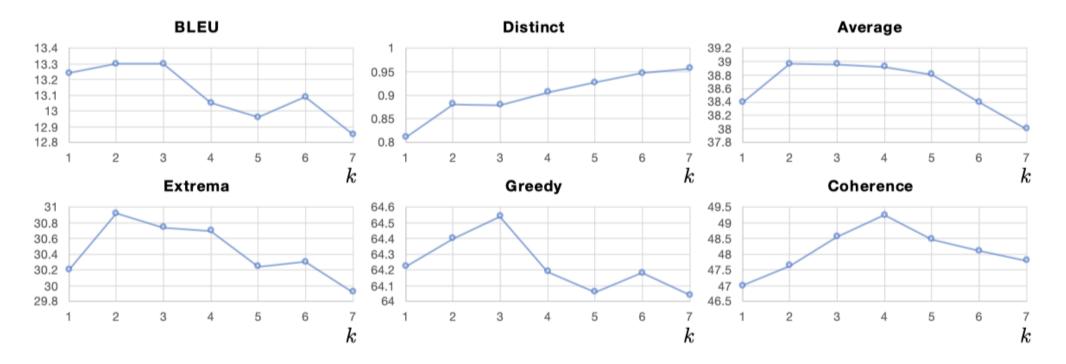


Figure 3: Evaluation results (%) with different group size k on the validation set of PersonaChat using the proposed framework instantiated on SEQ2SEQ. BLEU-1 and Dist-1 are denoted as "BLEU" and "Distinct", respectively.

## Conclusion

- Introduce contrastive learning to dialogue generation.
- Dual Sampling and Weighted Group-wise contrastive learning.
- Extensive Experiments and Good Results.