mGTE: Generalized Long-Context Text Representation and Reranking Models for Multilingual Text Retrieval

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Abstract

We present systematic efforts in building longcontext multilingual text representation model (TRM) and reranker from scratch for text retrieval. We first introduce a text encoder (base size) enhanced with RoPE and unpadding, pretrained in a native 8192-token context (longer than 512 of previous multilingual encoders). Then we construct a hybrid TRM and a crossencoder reranker by contrastive learning. Evaluations show that our text encoder outperforms the same-sized previous state-of-the-art XLM-R. Meanwhile, our TRM and reranker match the performance of large-sized state-of-the-art BGE-M3 models and achieve better results on long-context retrieval benchmarks. Further analysis demonstrate that our proposed models exhibit higher efficiency during both training and inference. We believe their efficiency and effectiveness could benefit various researches and industrial applications.^{[1](#page-0-1)}

1 Introduction

Text retrieval aims to find relevant passages or documents from a large corpus given a query [\(Manning,](#page-7-0) [2008\)](#page-7-0). It is often implemented as a multi-stage process, consisting of two main components: a *retriever* and a *reranker* [\(Gao et al.,](#page-6-0) [2021a;](#page-6-0) [Zhang](#page-10-0) [et al.,](#page-10-0) [2022;](#page-10-0) [Zhao et al.,](#page-10-1) [2024\)](#page-10-1). The retriever identifies a set of candidate documents that are potentially relevant to the query based on the similarity between their sparse (lexical term weights) or/and dense representations from a text representation model (TRM). While the reranker reorders these retrieved candidates to refine the results based on the relevance score generated by a more precise yet computationally demanding model that processes both the query and a candidate document together.

Recent advances in large language models (LLMs) and retrieval augmented generation (RAG)

Figure 1: Training pipeline. We first build an 8k longcontext multilingual encoder. Then based on it, we train text representation and reranking models for retrieval.

[\(Gao et al.,](#page-7-1) [2023\)](#page-7-1) systems have led to an unprecedented surge in demand for versatile, plug-andplay TRMs and rerankers. These new applications heavily involve processing long and multilingual texts, which could not be addressed by conventional encoder-based models and urgently require upgraded ones. To this end, some resort to enhancing existing multilingual encoders, *e.g.,* XLM-R [\(Conneau et al.,](#page-6-1) [2020\)](#page-6-1), with extended context window up to 8192 [\(Chen et al.,](#page-6-2) [2024\)](#page-6-2). Others turn to use multilingual LLMs which already have the required capabilities [\(Zhang et al.,](#page-9-0) [2023a\)](#page-9-0), but their models might be computationally expensive for self-hosted search services.

In the English community, it has been proven that training long-context encoders from scratch is promising for text retrieval [\(Günther et al.,](#page-7-2) [2023;](#page-7-2) [Nussbaum et al.,](#page-8-0) [2024\)](#page-8-0). In this work, we continue this journey, presenting systematic efforts in building the long-context multilingual text encoder, TRM, and reranker. We suggest a holistic pipeline (Figure [1\)](#page-0-2) as well as several techniques in modeling and training for multilingual long-context retrieval.

Concretely, we first introduce a text encoder enhanced with Rotary Position Embedding (RoPE, [Su et al.,](#page-9-1) [2024\)](#page-9-1) and unpadding [\(Portes et al.,](#page-8-1) [2023\)](#page-8-1), pre-trained by masked language modeling (MLM) [\(Devlin et al.,](#page-6-3) [2019\)](#page-6-3) via a two-stage curriculum for the native 8,192 tokens context. Based on our encoder, we propose a hybrid TRM capable of generating both elastic dense [\(Kusupati et al.,](#page-7-3) [2022\)](#page-7-3)

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¹Models are released at [https://hf.co/Alibaba-NLP/](https://hf.co/Alibaba-NLP/gte-multilingual-base) [gte-multilingual-base](https://hf.co/Alibaba-NLP/gte-multilingual-base).

Figure 2: Our text encoder architecture.

and sparse vectors for efficient first-stage retrieval, as well as a cross-encoder reranker. We construct them via the contrastive learning objective [\(Wang](#page-9-2) [et al.,](#page-9-2) [2022;](#page-9-2) [Li et al.,](#page-7-4) [2023\)](#page-7-4) with large-scale meticulously curated datasets, providing robust off-theshelf retrieval models.

We conduct extensive experiments to verify our method. For the text encoder, we evaluate on two natural language understanding (NLU) benchmarks, *i.e.,* XTREME-R [\(Ruder et al.,](#page-8-2) [2021\)](#page-8-2) and GLUE [\(Wang et al.,](#page-9-3) [2018\)](#page-9-3), and show that our encoder outperforms the same-sized previous stateof-the-art XLM-R. For the TRM and reranker, we evaluate on multiple retrieval benchmarks with multilingual and long-context settings, *e.g.,* MIR-ACL [\(Zhang et al.,](#page-10-2) [2023b\)](#page-10-2) and MLDR [\(Chen et al.,](#page-6-2) [2024\)](#page-6-2), where our models match the performance of state-of-the-art BGE-M3 [\(Chen et al.,](#page-6-2) [2024\)](#page-6-2) and achieve better long-context performance by a smaller size. We open-source our models and code to facilitate further research and applications.

2 Method

2.1 Text Encoder

To construct powerful long-context multilingual text encoder models, we implement several enhancements to BERT [\(Devlin et al.,](#page-6-3) [2019\)](#page-6-3) architecture and train it from scratch using the vocabulary of XLM- R^2 R^2 [\(Conneau et al.,](#page-6-1) [2020\)](#page-6-1) series.

Specifically, we replace the absolute positional embeddings with RoPE [\(Su et al.,](#page-9-1) [2024\)](#page-9-1), and upgrade the feedforward network (FFN) to gated linear unit (GLU) [\(Shazeer,](#page-8-3) [2020\)](#page-8-3). To ensure compatibility with libraries like FlashAttention [\(Dao,](#page-6-4) [2023\)](#page-6-4), we remove the dropout applied to attention scores. In addition, we pad the token embedding size to be a multiple of 64, which could speedup the model throughput [\(Portes et al.,](#page-8-1) [2023\)](#page-8-1).

Unpadding Mode Inspired by [Portes et al.](#page-8-1) [\(2023\)](#page-8-1), we unpad the input batch to reduce redundant computations associated with padding tokens (Figure [2\)](#page-1-1). We use xFormers [\(Lefaudeux et al.,](#page-7-5) [2022\)](#page-7-5) to implement the variable length attention. It dispatch the attention forward and backward to different kernels 3 based on the numerical precision, attention head size and device type. We unpad the MLM labels as well to reduce the computation cost of predicting non-masked tokens.

Data We assemble our multilingual pre-training data from a combination of the following sources: C4 [\(Raffel et al.,](#page-8-4) [2020\)](#page-8-4), Skypile [\(Wei et al.,](#page-9-4) [2023\)](#page-9-4) (2021-2023 subsets), mC4 [\(Xue et al.,](#page-9-5) [2021\)](#page-9-5), CulturaX [\(Nguyen et al.,](#page-8-5) [2024\)](#page-8-5), Wikipedia [\(Founda](#page-6-5)[tion\)](#page-6-5) and books (proprietary). We filter them and curate a dataset covering 75 Languages. Appendix Table [7](#page-11-0) presents the statistics of our dataset.

Training Curriculum We pre-train the model via masked language modeling (MLM) [\(Devlin](#page-6-3) [et al.,](#page-6-3) [2019\)](#page-6-3)^{[4](#page-1-3)}. The MLM probability is set to 30% [\(Portes et al.,](#page-8-1) [2023\)](#page-8-1). Following [Conneau and Lam](#page-6-6)[ple](#page-6-6) [\(2019\)](#page-6-6) and [Conneau et al.](#page-6-1) [\(2020\)](#page-6-1), the data from different languages is sampled by a multinomial distribution with probabilities ${q_i}_{i=1...N}$, where

$$
q_i = \frac{p_i^{\alpha}}{\sum_{j=1}^{N} p_j^{\alpha}} \text{ with } p_i = \frac{n_i}{\sum_{j=1}^{N} n_j}, \quad (1)
$$

and n_i is the number of texts in language *i*. We set $\alpha = 0.5$. This sampling strategy could increase texts from low-resource languages. To train the native 8192-context model more efficiently, we adopt a phased training curriculum [\(Xiong et al.,](#page-9-6) [2024\)](#page-9-6):

- MLM-2048: we chunk the input into 2048 tokens and set RoPE base to 10, 000.
- MLM-8192: we chunk the input into 8192 tokens and set RoPE base to 160, 000.

Through this method, we could train the model with a large context length in limited resources^{[5](#page-1-4)}.

² <https://hf.co/FacebookAI/xlm-roberta-base>

 3 We adopt the memory-efficient attention [\(Rabe and Staats,](#page-8-6) [2021\)](#page-8-6) in this work.

⁴We remove the next sentence prediction objective of BERT following [\(Liu et al.,](#page-7-6) [2019\)](#page-7-6).

⁵In our early experiments of English models, we investigated continue training by RetroMAE [\(Xiao et al.,](#page-9-7) [2022\)](#page-9-7) after MLM-8192. However, we did not observe any improvement.

Figure 3: Our TRM and reranker.

Training Setup Following [Portes et al.](#page-8-1) [\(2023\)](#page-8-1), we use the learning rate decoupled^{[6](#page-2-0)} AdamW [\(Loshchilov and Hutter,](#page-7-7) [2018\)](#page-7-7) with weight decay $1e - 5$. We disable gradient clipping (set to 0) [\(Liu](#page-7-6) [et al.,](#page-7-6) [2019\)](#page-7-6). All models are trained on A100 GPU servers by BF16 PyTorch native automatic mixed precision via transformers [\(Wolf et al.,](#page-9-8) [2020\)](#page-9-8). We list the detailed hyper-parameters of each training stage in Appendix [A.2](#page-10-3) and Table [8.](#page-12-0) We denote the resulting models as mGTE-MLM-2048/8192.

2.2 Text Representation Model

Based on our encoder, we construct the TRM for the first-stage text retrieval in two steps: contrastive pre-training and fine-tuning [\(Wang et al.,](#page-9-2) [2022;](#page-9-2) [Li](#page-7-4) [et al.,](#page-7-4) [2023\)](#page-7-4). Both steps share the same InfoNCE [\(Oord et al.,](#page-8-7) [2018\)](#page-8-7) learning objective:

$$
\mathcal{L} = -\log \frac{\exp(s(q, d^+)/\tau)}{\sum_{i=1}^N \exp(s(q, d^i)/\tau)},
$$
 (2)

where τ , q, and d denote the temperature parameter, query and document. The positive d^+ is the relevant document to q, and other irrelevant documents are negatives. These negatives can be either hard-negatives or in-batch negatives (documents of other instances in the same batch). $s(q, d)$ is the relevance score of q and d , measured by the dot product or cosine similarity between their respective representations.

Contrastive Pre-Training We take the encoder output hidden state of the [CLS] token as the dense representation (*i.e.,* embedding) and compute the relevance score by cosine similarity. Our pretraining data (Appendix Table [9\)](#page-13-0) comprise naturally occurring text pairs (*e.g.,* question-answer pairs from Quora and StackExchange, title-content pairs of CommonCrawl), translation pairs [\(Team](#page-9-9) [et al.,](#page-9-9) [2024\)](#page-9-9), and crosslingual instruction tuning data [\(Muennighoff et al.,](#page-7-8) [2023b\)](#page-7-8). We train the

model with a batch size of 16, 384 and a learning rate of $5e - 4$ for 240k steps. Each batch is sampled from a single data source by the same distribution of Eq[.1.](#page-1-5) The queries (*resp.* documents) are truncated to the max tokens of 512 (*resp.* 1024). We reverse scale the RoPE base from 160, 000 to 20, 000 to fit the 1024 context length and acquire the long-context retrieval ability (denotes revNTK, ablation in [§3.4\)](#page-5-0). We set τ of InfoNCE to 0.01 and only use in-batch negatives. More details refer to Appendix [B.3.](#page-12-1) We denote this contrastive pretrained model as mGTE-CPT, which is actually an unsupervised embedding model.

Matryoshka Embedding Many of recently released models and APIs offer elastic embeddings by Matryoshka representation learning (MRL) [\(Kusupati et al.,](#page-7-3) [2022\)](#page-7-3), providing competitive subvectors of embeddings to save index storage and speedup search. Let $e \in \mathbb{R}^H$ denotes an embedding and e_{id} is the sliced sub-vector from dimension 0 to $d < H$. MRL^{[7](#page-2-1)} optimizes the weighted sum of multiple losses from different d dimensional sub-vectors, *i.e.*, compute InfoNCE by $s_d(e^q)$ $_{.d}^{q}, e_{.d}^{d}).$ We add this objective to our TRM fine-tuning stage.

Sparse Representation [Chen et al.](#page-6-2) [\(2024\)](#page-6-2) show that neural sparse representations (term/token weights predicted by TRM) could greatly improve the long-context retrieval performance. We follow this design, computing the term weight w_t of each token of the input by $w_t = \text{ReLU}(Wh_t)$, where h_t is the encoder hidden state of token t with dimension size H and $W \in \mathbb{R}^{H \times 1}$ is randomly initialized. If a token appears multiple times in the text, we keep the max weight. The relevance score is computed by the joint importance of the co-occurring terms (denoted as $q \cap d$) within the query and document pair: $s_{\text{sparse}}(q, d) =$ $\sum_{t\in q\cap d} (w_t^{\tilde{q}})$ $t^q_t \cdot w_t^d$). This is then used to derive the InfoNCE loss for training.

Contrastive Fine-Tuning Now we construct the TRM by multi-task learning of matryoshka embedding and sparse representation:

$$
\mathcal{L}_{\text{TRM}} = \lambda \mathcal{L}_{\text{sparse}} + \sum_{d \in D} w_d \mathcal{L}_{:d} , \qquad (3)
$$

where $D = \{32k \mid k \in \mathbb{N}, k \ge 1, 32k \le H\}$ is MRL dimension set, w_d is the weight of dimension d, and λ is the weight of sparse representation loss.

 6 However, [Xie et al.](#page-9-10) [\(2023b\)](#page-9-10) state that the decoupled weight decay is not ideal. We recommend to keep the default setting.

⁷Here we mean the MRL-E in [Kusupati et al.](#page-7-3) (2022) .

Model		Pair Class.	M.C.		Structure Prediction		Question Answering	Cross-lingual Retrieval			
	Avg. XCOPA UDPOS WikiANN XNLI			XOuAD	MLOA	TyDiOA-GoldP Mewsli-X LAReOA Tatoeba					
#Languages (Total 50)		15		38	47	11			38	11	38
Metrics		Acc.	Acc.	F1	F1	F1/EM	F1/EM	F1/EM		$mAP@20$ $mAP@20$	Acc.
mBERT-base	59.43	66.63	55.49	71.80	62.34		66.23 / 51.03 57.37 / 42.44	55.01 / 38.05	44.65	75.26	39.49
XLM-R-base	62.02	74.50	50.45	73.84	61.23		72.83/58.01 61.54/46.45	53.09 / 37.11	42.09	63.43	67.20
mGTE-MLM-2048 65.24		73.17	63.62	73.25	60.87		75.33 / 60.00 64.02 / 48.57	53.58 / 36.68	44.41	72.13	72.02
mGTE-MLM-8192 64.44		73.37	61.98	73.14	59.83		74.81 / 59.37 64.24 / 48.80	49.85 / 33.27	44.52	71.54	71.10

Table 1: XTREME-R [\(Ruder et al.,](#page-8-2) [2021\)](#page-8-2) results in the cross-lingual zero-shot transfer (models are trained on English data) setting. M.C. stands for Multiple Choice. The EM scores are not included in the average.

Model	Params	Pos.		Seq. Len. GLUE Avg.
RoBERTa-base $^{\alpha}$	125M	Abs	512	86.4
XLM-R-base	279M	Abs	512	80.44
mGTE-MLM-2048	305M	RoPE	2048	83.42
mGTE-MLM-8192			8192	83.47

Table 2: GLUE [\(Wang et al.,](#page-9-3) [2018\)](#page-9-3) devset averages (w/o WNLI). The detailed scores for each subset are shown in Table [13.](#page-16-0) ^aTaken from Table 8 of [Liu et al.](#page-7-6) [\(2019\)](#page-7-6). The rest are from our runs, refer to Appendix [C.2.](#page-15-0)

We fine-tune our contrastive pre-trained embedding model on diverse high-quality datasets with hardnegatives (*e.g.,* MS MARCO [\(Nguyen et al.,](#page-8-8) [2016\)](#page-8-8), MIRACL [\(Zhang et al.,](#page-10-2) [2023b\)](#page-10-2), listed in Table [11\)](#page-14-0). We adopt a dynamic batching strategy [\(Chen et al.,](#page-6-2) [2024\)](#page-6-2) to fine-tune 8192-context data. The batch sampling strategy is the same as the pre-training stage. The τ of MRL and sparse is set to 0.05 and 0.01 respectively. Other details refer to Appendix [B.3.](#page-12-1) We denote this fine-tuned model as mGTE-TRM.

2.3 Text Reranking Model

We also build a reranker using the cross-encoder architecture. It takes the query q and document d together as input: [CLS] q [SEP] d , and directly predicts their relevance score by the [CLS] output state: $s_{\text{rerank}} = \boldsymbol{W}\boldsymbol{h}_{\text{[CLS]}}$. In our experiment, $\boldsymbol{W} \in$ $\mathbb{R}^{H \times 1}$ is randomly initialized.

The model is fine-tuned by InfoNCE in one step 8 based on our pre-trained 8k-context text encoder model. Unless otherwise specified, we employ identical data and training settings as our TRM fine-tuning stage ([§2.2\)](#page-2-2). The difference lies in our adjustment of the hard-negatives. We describe the detailed settings in Appendix [B.4.](#page-12-2) We denote this model as mGTE-reranker.

Model	Seq.	en	zh	- fr	pl
$BGE-M3$ -unsupervised [†]	8192			56.48 57.53 57.95 55.98	
mGTE-CPT	$512*$			60.16 58.67 59.72 57.66	
	8192			60.04 58.63 59.74 57.11	
mE5-base	514			59.45 56.21 56.19 55.62	
mE5-large	514			61.50 58.81 56.07 60.08	
$BGE-M3$ (Dense) [†]	8192			59.84 60.80 58.79 60.35	
mGTE-TRM (Dense)	8192			61.40 62.72 59.79 58.22	
E5-mistral-7b	32768	66.63 60.81		48.33	
voyage-multilingual-2	32000			61.65	
Cohere-multilingual- $v3.0$	512	64.01		56.02	
OpenAI-3-large	8191	64.59			
OpenAI-3-small	8191	62.26			

Table 3: Embedding model performance on MTEB English [\(Muennighoff et al.,](#page-7-9) [2023a\)](#page-7-9), Chinese [\(Xiao](#page-9-11) [et al.,](#page-9-11) [2024\)](#page-9-11), French [\(Ciancone et al.,](#page-6-7) [2024\)](#page-6-7) and Polish (Poświata et al., [2024\)](#page-8-9). The scores of other models are retrieved from the MTEB online leaderboard. [∗]To be consistent with the setting in contrastive pre-training, in retrieval tasks, the max sequence length of the document side is set to 1024. [†]Denote our runs.

3 Evaluation

We separately evaluate our text encoder in [§3.1,](#page-3-1) TRM and reranker in [§3.2](#page-4-0) and [§3.3.](#page-4-1)

3.1 Natural Language Understanding

We evaluate the encoder on the cross-lingual natural language understanding (NLU) benchmark $XTEREME-R⁹$ $XTEREME-R⁹$ $XTEREME-R⁹$ [\(Ruder et al.,](#page-8-2) [2021\)](#page-8-2) and the English NLU benchmark GLUE [\(Wang et al.,](#page-9-3) [2018\)](#page-9-3). Results show that our encoder outperforms the samesized previous state-of-the-art XLM-R [\(Conneau](#page-6-1) [et al.,](#page-6-1) [2020\)](#page-6-1) on all benchmarks.

XTREME-R We focus on the *zero-shot crosslingual transfer* setting where models are finetuned on English trainset and tested on multi- and cross-lingual data. The fine-tuning setup is described in Appendix [C.1.](#page-14-1) We run mBERT-base,

⁸We found that the contrastive pre-training of reranker does not improve the performance.

 9^9 We use XTREME-R [\(Ruder et al.,](#page-8-2) [2021\)](#page-8-2) instead of XTREME [\(Hu et al.,](#page-7-10) [2020\)](#page-7-10) since we found the retrieval tasks of XTREME is unstable and difficult to evaluate.

	Params	Seq. Len.	Avg.	MLDR	MIRACL	MKQA	BEIR	LoCo
Metric				nDCG@10	nDCG@10	recall $@20$	nDCG@10	nDCG@10
#languages (Total 33)				13	18	25		
BM25	٠		47.0	53.6	31.9	28.1	41.7	79.9
mE5-base	279M	514	53.5	30.5	62.3	53.7	48.9	72.2
mE5-large	560M	514	57.7	34.2	65.4	63.5	51.4	74.3
E5-mistral-7b	7111M	32768	62.4	42.6	62.2	62.4	56.9	87.8
OpenAI-3-large	٠	8191	٠	۰	54.9	62.1	55.4	79.4
BGE-M3 Dense			64.3	52.5	67.7	67.8	48.7	84.9
BGE-M3 Sparse	568M	8192	55.1	62.2	53.9	36.3	38.3	84.9
BGE-M3 Dense + Sparse			67.7	64.8	68.9	68.1	49.4	87.4
mGTE-TRM Dense			66.7	56.6	62.1	65.8	51.1	88.9
mGTE-TRM Sparse	304M	8192	57.2	71.0	55.9	31.6	39.2	88.1
mGTE-TRM Dense + Sparse			68.9	71.3	64.5	66.0	51.4	91.3

Table 4: Retrieval results on MIRACL [\(Zhang et al.,](#page-10-2) [2023b\)](#page-10-2) and MLDR [\(Chen et al.,](#page-6-2) [2024\)](#page-6-2) (multilingual), MKQA [\(Longpre et al.,](#page-7-11) [2021\)](#page-7-11) (crosslingual), BEIR [\(Thakur et al.,](#page-9-12) [2021\)](#page-9-12) and LoCo [\(Saad-Falcon et al.,](#page-8-10) [2024\)](#page-8-10) (English).

Figure 4: Elastic embedding results on MTEB English.

XLM-R-base, and our encoder, as shown in Table [1.](#page-3-3) Our 2048 and 8192 encoder models achieve average scores that are higher than those of XLM-R by 3.22 and 2.42 points, respectively.

GLUE We also report the performance on the devset of GLUE benchmark [\(Wang et al.,](#page-9-3) [2018\)](#page-9-3). The fine-tuning details refer to Appendix [C.2.](#page-15-0) Table [2](#page-3-4) presents the average scores (Table [13](#page-16-0) provides the full results). Our models consistently outperform XLM-R-base and reasonably lag behind the English RoBERTa-base [\(Liu et al.,](#page-7-6) [2019\)](#page-7-6).

3.2 Text Embedding

Our contrastive pre-training actually yields a text embedding model. To understand the pre-training and fine-tuning of TRM, and to compare with other models, we first run the most popular text embedding benchmark MTEB [\(Muennighoff et al.,](#page-7-9) [2023a\)](#page-7-9) as well as its Chinese, French and Polish versions.

Multilingual MTEB The results in Table [3](#page-3-5) also present the scores of LLM-based models and commercial APIs for reference. For contrastive pre-trained models, our model outperforms BGE-M3-unsupervised [\(Chen et al.,](#page-6-2) [2024\)](#page-6-2) on all four subsets, through our backbone has fewer params than XLM-R-large. Comparing with BGE-M3 and mE5 [\(Wang et al.,](#page-9-13) [2024b\)](#page-9-13), our final TRM achieves best scores on Chinese and French, and is competitive on English.

Elastic Embedding We compare our TRM (only elastic embeddings) with open-source model and commercial APIs on MTEB English (Figure [4\)](#page-4-2). Our model presents close scores to the same-sized English-only nomic-v1.5, which is promising for a multilingual model. However, it is still behind OpenAI APIs, which is reasonable since they are guessed to be much larger models.

3.3 Text Retrieval

We conduct evaluations to our TRM and reranker on retrieval benchmarks in multilingual (Miracl [\(Zhang et al.,](#page-10-2) [2023b\)](#page-10-2) and MLDR [\(Chen et al.,](#page-6-2) [2024\)](#page-6-2)), crosslingual (MKQA [\(Longpre et al.,](#page-7-11) [2021\)](#page-7-11)) setting, and the commonly used English BEIR [\(Thakur et al.,](#page-9-12) [2021\)](#page-9-12) and LoCo [\(Saad-Falcon](#page-8-10) [et al.,](#page-8-10) [2024\)](#page-8-10). Our models are close to the state-ofthe-art large models on Miracl, MKQA and BEIR, while achieve better scores on long-context datasets MLDR and LoCo. Details are in Appendix [E.](#page-15-1)

First-Stage Retrieval We compare our TRM to the hybrid model BGE-M3 [\(Chen et al.,](#page-6-2) [2024\)](#page-6-2), dense models like mE5 [\(Wang et al.,](#page-9-13) [2024b\)](#page-9-13) and E5-mistral-7b [\(Wang et al.,](#page-9-14) [2024a\)](#page-9-14), and BM25. As shown in Table [4,](#page-4-3) our TRM consistently outperforms mE5 and OpenAI APIs, better than BGE-M3 on MLDR, and close to it on the rest parts.

	Params	Seq. Len.	Avg.	MLDR	MIRACL	MKOA	BEIR
Metric				nDCG@10	nDCG@10	recall $@20$	nDCG@10
#languages (Total 33)				13	18	25	
Retrieval (mGTE-TRM Dense)	304M	8192	58.9	56.6	62.1	65.8	50.9
jina-reranker-v2-multilingual	278M	8192	59.4	53.2	65.8	68.8	49.7
bge-reranker-v2-m3	568M	8192	65.7	66.8	72.6	68.7	54.6
mGTE-reranker	304M	8192	67.4	78.7	68.5	67.2	55.4

Table 5: Results of reranking based on the candidates retrieved by our TRM dense model (refer to Table [4\)](#page-4-3).

Table 6: Dense retrieval efficiency. Encoding time is running MLDR-hi corpus (3806 texts with average 4456 tokens after truncating to maximum 8192) on one A100 GPU with FP16. Search latency is measured on a faiss index with 8.8M texts. MEA is the memory-efficient attention in xFormers. SDPA-MEA denotes MEA dispatched by scaled dot-product attention of PyTorch.

Reranking In Table [5,](#page-5-1) we evaluate rerankers based on the candidates retrieved by Our-TRM dense model. Our model outperforms the powerful bge-reranker-v2-m3 [\(Chen et al.,](#page-6-2) [2024\)](#page-6-2) with a smaller size. Moreover, it greatly surpasses the same-sized jina-reranker-v2-multilingual.

3.4 Analysis

Efficiency We compare the efficiency of our TRM with BGE-M3 on dense retrieval in Table [6.](#page-5-2) To simulate the real-world scenario, the encoding time is the duration of encoding texts without length grouping. Our TRM is up to 14 times faster than BGE-M3 (52s *v.s.* 744s). The end-to-end unpadding with xFormers is crucial for encoding, which reduces the time by 5 times (52s *v.s.* 279s).

Scaled Contrastive Pre-Training We utilize the reversed NTK scaling in contrastive pre-training to reduce required text length, where we set the RoPE base to 1/8 of the original and train the 8k encoder with 1k max length. To evaluate the effectiveness, we run the same training without the reversed NTK, comparing the MLDR scores in Figure [5.](#page-5-3) With revNTK, models exhibit slightly lower

Figure 5: MLDR scores in contrastive pre-training. none keeps the RoPE untouched in pre-training. 1024 and 8192 are the max sequence length in evaluations. revNTK-8912 recovers the 8k context by NTK scaling.

performance on 1k context but achieve more stable 8k performance across different training steps.

4 Related Work

Training long-context TRMs has become a hot topic recently. OpenAI released 8191 context APIs [\(Neelakantan et al.,](#page-8-11) [2022\)](#page-8-11) have set the target for open-source community. [Portes et al.](#page-8-1) [\(2023\)](#page-8-1) and [Günther et al.](#page-7-2) [\(2023\)](#page-7-2) replace position embedding of BERT with Alibi [\(Press et al.,](#page-8-12) [2022\)](#page-8-12) attention bias and pre-train from scratch, which is shown to be effective in build 8k TRMs. [Nussbaum et al.](#page-8-0) [\(2024\)](#page-8-0) explore the more powerful RoPE [\(Su et al.,](#page-9-1) [2024\)](#page-9-1) in BERT pre-training and their 2048-context pre-trained encoder achieve better retrieval performance on English. [Zhu et al.](#page-10-4) [\(2024\)](#page-10-4) suggest patch E5 [\(Wang et al.,](#page-9-2) [2022\)](#page-9-2) with RoPE. We also use RoPE and provide multi-stage training for native 8192-context text encoder, TRM, and reranker.

[Chen et al.](#page-6-2) [\(2024\)](#page-6-2) propose long-context multilingual TRM and reranker based on XLM-RoBERTalarge [\(Conneau et al.,](#page-6-1) [2020\)](#page-6-1) by extending position embedding to 8192 via continue training. We pretrain native 8k multilingual models from scratch for better long-context performance and efficiency.

5 Conclusion

We present the holistic practice of building native 8192-context multilingual retrieval models. We first suggest a text encoder with RoPE and unpadding, which is pre-trained by a two-stage MLM curriculum for 8k context. Evaluations on NLU benchmarks show that our encoder outperforms XLM-RoBERTa in the same size. Based on our encoder, we construct a hybrid TRM and a crossencoder reranker by contrastive learning. The TRM is pre-trained with reversed RoPE NTK scaling and fine-tuned to generate both Matryoshka embeddings and sparse representations. Results on monolingual and crosslingual retrieval benchmarks show that our TRM and reranker are close to larger ones on regular datasets, and achieve better performance on long-context datasets. This means our models are more efficient for industrial applications.

Acknowledgements

This work was supported by Alibaba Research Intern Program.

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Appendix

A MLM Pre-Training

In this section, we describe the data and training configurations of the MLM pre-training of our suggested text encoder.

A.1 Data

Our multilingual pre-training data are composed from following sources:

- C4 [\(Raffel et al.,](#page-8-4) [2020\)](#page-8-4),
- Skypile [\(Wei et al.,](#page-9-4) [2023\)](#page-9-4) (2021-2023 subsets),
- mC4 [\(Xue et al.,](#page-9-5) [2021\)](#page-9-5) (excluded English),
- CulturaX [\(Nguyen et al.,](#page-8-5) [2024\)](#page-8-5),
- Wikipedia [\(Foundation\)](#page-6-5),
- books (proprietary).

We filter them and curate a dataset with 1,028B tokens (by XLM-R tokenizer), covering 75 languages (Chinese Simplified and Traditional are counted as one). Table [7](#page-11-0) presents the statistics of our final dataset.

A.2 Training Details

We pre-train out text encoder with a two-stage curriculum by masked language model (MLM) objective. The first stage model is trained on maximum

length 2048 with batch size 8192 for roughly 0.6 epoch (250k steps) on sampled data (by XLM sampling Eq[.1\)](#page-1-5). In the second stage, we down sample texts shorter than 2048 and continue train the model for 30k steps with maximum length 8192 and batch size 2048. The RoPE base is set to 10, 000 and 160, 000 for the first and second stage, respectively [\(Xiong et al.,](#page-9-6) [2024;](#page-9-6) [Liu et al.,](#page-7-12) [2024;](#page-7-12) [Men et al.,](#page-7-13) [2024\)](#page-7-13).

The text encoder is initialized in base size (12 layers of hidden state size 768) by PyTorch default initialization. We train the model by transformers library [\(Wolf et al.,](#page-9-8) [2020\)](#page-9-8) in BF16 precision. Following [Portes et al.](#page-8-1) [\(2023\)](#page-8-1), we use the learning rate decoupled AdamW optimizer with weight decay 1e-5. The other hyper-parameters are in Table [8.](#page-12-0) During training, we split texts that exceed the max sequence length into chunks, but we do not modify shorter texts.

The 250k steps of first stage, MLM-2048, took 10.75 days on 32 A100 80G GPUs. The 30k steps of second stage, MLM-8192, took 20.5 hours on 32 A100 80G GPUs. We acknowledge that this is not the optimal setting and recommend further explorations to optimize the pre-training.

A.3 Additional Discussion on RoPE

We chose RoPE [\(Su et al.,](#page-9-1) [2024\)](#page-9-1) (to replace absolute position embedding) due to its advantageous properties. RoPE offers excellent context extension capabilities, allowing models to be trained on shorter context windows and then run inference on longer ones. Additionally, it implements asymmetric relative distance encoding, meaning $D(i, j) \neq D(j, i)$, which appears to be particularly important for the training of BERT-like encoderonly models that rely on bidirectional attention. Furthermore, the effectiveness of RoPE has been empirically validated by numerous models, such as RoFormer [\(Su et al.,](#page-9-1) [2024\)](#page-9-1) and LLaMA [\(Touvron](#page-9-15) [et al.,](#page-9-15) [2023\)](#page-9-15).

B Contrastive Learning

In this section, we describe the data and training configurations of the contrastive learning of our TRM and reranker.

B.1 Pre-Training Data

Following previous studies, we create large-scale weakly correlated text pairs from diverse sources. The data are primarily consisted of four parts: English pairs [\(Wang et al.,](#page-9-2) [2022;](#page-9-2) [Li et al.,](#page-7-4) [2023\)](#page-7-4),

Table 7: MLM pre-training data, where we have a total of 1,028B tokens (by XLM-RoBERTa tokenizer). The raw texts are stored in 4.47 TiB arrow files. We report the list of 75 languages (Chinese Simplified and Traditional are counted as one) and include the number of tokens and the size of the data (arrow files, in GiB) for each language.

Table 8: MLM pre-training hyper-parameters.

Chinese pairs [\(Li et al.,](#page-7-4) [2023;](#page-7-4) [Xiao et al.,](#page-9-11) [2024\)](#page-9-11), multilingual pairs (cc-news^{[10](#page-12-3)}), and crosslingual instruction and translation pairs [\(Muennighoff et al.,](#page-7-8) [2023b;](#page-7-8) [Team et al.,](#page-9-9) [2024\)](#page-9-9). We filter the data by removing duplicates and low-quality pairs, resulting in a total of 2,938.8M pairs. Table [9](#page-13-0) lists the statistics of our contrastive pre-training data (cc-news is separately presented by languages in Table [10\)](#page-13-1).

B.2 Fine-Tuning Data

We collect publicly available high-quality dataset as our fine-tune data as detailed in Table [11.](#page-14-0) For English, we utilize seven datasets: MS MARCO [\(Nguyen et al.,](#page-8-8) [2016\)](#page-8-8), Natural Questions (NQ) [\(Kwiatkowski et al.,](#page-7-14) [2019\)](#page-7-14), TriviaQA [\(Joshi et al.,](#page-7-15) [2017\)](#page-7-15), HotpotQA [\(Yang et al.,](#page-9-16) [2018\)](#page-9-16), SQuAD [\(Ra](#page-8-13)[jpurkar et al.,](#page-8-13) [2016\)](#page-8-13), FEVER [\(Thorne et al.,](#page-9-17) [2018\)](#page-9-17), AllNLI from SimCSE [\(Gao et al.,](#page-6-8) [2021b\)](#page-6-8). For Chinese, we compile six datasets: DuReader [\(Qiu et al.,](#page-8-14) [2022\)](#page-8-14), mMARCO-zh [\(Bonifacio et al.,](#page-6-9) [2021\)](#page-6-9), T2- Ranking [\(Xie et al.,](#page-9-18) [2023a\)](#page-9-18), CmedQAv2 [\(Zhang](#page-9-19) [et al.,](#page-9-19) [2018\)](#page-9-19), SimCLUE^{[11](#page-12-4)}, Multi-CPR [\(Long et al.,](#page-7-16) [2022\)](#page-7-16). Additionally, we incorporate three multilingual datasets: Mr.TyDi [\(Zhang et al.,](#page-10-5) [2021\)](#page-10-5), MIRACL [\(Zhang et al.,](#page-10-2) [2023b\)](#page-10-2), and MLDR [\(Chen](#page-6-2) [et al.,](#page-6-2) [2024\)](#page-6-2). We exclusively use the trainset of each dataset and employ our contrastive pre-trained model to mine hard negatives.

B.3 TRM Training Setup

Here we separately describe the training setting of the contrastive pre-training and TRM fine-tuning.

Contrastive Pre-Training In the contrastive pretraining, we train a dense representation model (embedder) which take the [CLS] hidden state as the embedding of the input. We use the same XLM sampling strategy (eq[.1\)](#page-1-5) to sample batches from each source of Table [9](#page-13-0) or cc-news subset of Table [10,](#page-13-1) where the texts of one batch only come from one single source, and the batch size is 16, 384. We train the model by transformers with deepspeed ZeRO [\(Rajbhandari et al.,](#page-8-15) [2020\)](#page-8-15) stage 1 in FP16 precision for roughly 0.4 epoch (240k steps, took 154 hours on 16 A100 80G GPUs) of our data (3.93B pairs on sampled data by Eq[.1\)](#page-1-5). We use the AdamW optimizer with the learning rate 2e-4, linear decay, and warm-up ratio 0.05. The β_1 = 0.9, $\beta_2 = 0.999$, and $\epsilon = 1e - 07$. We set gradient clipping to 1.0.

TRM Fine-Tuning In the fine-tuning stage, we further train our embedding model with highquality datasets as detailed in [§B.2.](#page-12-5) For each query, we incorporate one positive passage and 8 hard negative passages. To enhance long-context retrieval capabilities and maximize training efficiency, we adopt a dynamic batch size strategy as previous work [\(Chen et al.,](#page-6-2) [2024\)](#page-6-2). Firstly, we group the training data according to their lengths for each dataset. Different batch sizes are then used for varying lengths during training. Additionally, we divide the entire batch into multiple sub-batches, encoding each sub-batch iteratively with gradient checkpointing [\(Chen et al.,](#page-6-10) [2016\)](#page-6-10) and then gather them to get the final batch's embeddings. We train the embedding model with 10 epochs with 8 A100 80G GPUs. All other hyper-parameters remain consistent with those used in the contrastive pretraining stage. In Table [12,](#page-14-2) we list the batch size of different length.

B.4 Reranker Training Setup

We utilize the identical fine-tuning dataset for both the reranker and the TRM. For each query, we introduce 10 negative samples, comprising 6 hard negatives and 4 randomly selected negatives. All training parameters expect batch size are kept consistent with those employed for the TRM. The batch sizes are listed in Table [12.](#page-14-2)

¹⁰<commoncrawl.org/blog/news-dataset-available> ¹¹<https://github.com/CLUEbenchmark/SimCLUE>

Table 9: Contrastive pre-training data, where cc-news multilingual data are not included (Table [10\)](#page-13-1). For this Table, we have a total of 2,595.57M pairs (raw texts stored by 2.55 TiB jsonl files).

Table 10: The cc-news multilingual pairs (343.26M in total, raw texts stored by 512.8 GiB jsonl files), used in contrastive pre-training together with all data of Table [9.](#page-13-0) MIX[∗] denotes the mixed pairs of languages that are less than 1GiB (such as af, ceb). We utilize a very large batch size (16, 384), and since each batch contains text exclusively from a single source, these low-resource languages might not fill an entire batch. Consequently, we have merged these languages together.

Dataset	Language	Size
MS MARCO, HotpotQA, NQ, NLI, etc.	English	\vert 1.4M
DuReader, T ² -Ranking, SimCLUE, etc.	Chinese	\perp 2.0M
MIRACL, Mr.TyDi, MLDR	Multilingual 118.9K	

Table 11: Specification of training data adopted in Finetuning stage.

length	BS(E)	$S-BS(R)$	BS(E)	$S-BS(R)$
$0 - 500$	768	256	512	256
500-1000	384	128	384	128
1000-2000	256	64	256	64
2000-3000	160	48	160	48
3000-8000	80	16	80	16

Table 12: Batch size (BS) and sub batch size (S-BS) of different length for embedding (E) and reranker (R) model in the fine-tune stage.

C NLU Evaluation

We evaluate our text encoder as well as baselines on the multilingual XTREME-R [\(Ruder et al.,](#page-8-2) [2021\)](#page-8-2) and English GLUE [\(Wang et al.,](#page-9-3) [2018\)](#page-9-3) benchmarks. We describe the fine-tuning setup and the evaluation details in the following subsections. The eval-uation scripts are available in our github repo^{[12](#page-14-3)}.

C.1 XTREME-R

We only run XTREME-R [\(Ruder et al.,](#page-8-2) [2021\)](#page-8-2) in the zero-shot cross-lingual transfer learning setting, where models are fine-tuned on English trainset and tested on multi- and cross-lingual data. We compare our encoder with mBERT-base-cased^{[13](#page-14-4)} and XLM-RoBERTa-base^{[14](#page-14-5)}. All models are finetuned in the same setting and hyper-parameters.

The results are already presented in Table [1.](#page-3-3)

As XTREME-R has no final release, we implement the evaluation code based on the code of XTREME[15](#page-14-6). However, there are some differences in the retrieval evaluation, where our code will deduplicate the retrieval corpus. In addition, we implement the XCOPA in multiple choice, which might be different from XTREME-R. In finetuning, if not specified, we use the epoch number of 3, learning rate of 2e-5, batch size of 32, and max sequence length of 128 [\(Hu et al.,](#page-7-10) [2020\)](#page-7-10).

XNLI We fine-tune the model on $MNLI¹⁶$ $MNLI¹⁶$ $MNLI¹⁶$ [\(Williams et al.,](#page-9-20) [2018\)](#page-9-20) trainset and then evaluate the checkpoint on $XNLI¹⁷$ $XNLI¹⁷$ $XNLI¹⁷$ [\(Conneau et al.,](#page-6-11) [2018\)](#page-6-11).

XCOPA We run this data as the multiple choice task. The model is first trained on $SIQA^{18}$ $SIQA^{18}$ $SIQA^{18}$ citesap-etal-20[19](#page-14-10)-social and then COPA¹⁹ [\(Roemmele](#page-8-16) [et al.,](#page-8-16) [2011\)](#page-8-16) for 5 epochs on each dataset. The checkpoint of COPA is evaluated on XCOPA^{[20](#page-14-11)} [\(Ponti et al.,](#page-8-17) [2020\)](#page-8-17).

UDPOS We extract pos-tagging data from the UD [\(de Marneffe et al.,](#page-6-12) [2021\)](#page-6-12) v2.7 and train the model on trainset of English parts by 10 epochs.

WikiANN We fine-tune the model on the trainset of English by 10 epochs and evaluate on selected WikiANN [\(Rahimi et al.,](#page-8-18) [2019\)](#page-8-18) testsets^{[21](#page-14-12)}.

XQuAD We fine-tune on the trainset of SQuAD (Raipurkar et al., [2016\)](#page-8-13) v1.1^{[22](#page-14-13)} for 3 epochs with the learning rate 3e-5 and max length 384. Then we evaluate the checkpoint on XQuAD^{[23](#page-14-14)} [\(Artetxe](#page-6-13) [et al.,](#page-6-13) [2020\)](#page-6-13).

MLQA We directly evaluate the same checkpoint of XQuAD on MLQA[24](#page-14-15) [\(Lewis et al.,](#page-7-17) [2020\)](#page-7-17) with the same setting.

TyDiQA-GoldP We train the model on TyDiQA- $GoldP²⁵$ $GoldP²⁵$ $GoldP²⁵$ [\(Clark et al.,](#page-6-14) [2020\)](#page-6-14) trainset in the same setting as XQuAD. Then we evaluate the checkpoint on the testset.

Mewsli-X We generate the data following their github^{[26](#page-14-17)}. This is a updated version so that we can not compare with the results in the XTREME-R paper. We train the model on the English wikipedia (mention, entity)-pairs for 2 epochs with the batch size 64 and max length 64. Then we evaluate the checkpoint in the language agnostic retrieval setting, refer to [Ruder et al.](#page-8-2) [\(2021\)](#page-8-2) for more details.

¹²<github.com/izhx/nlu-evals>

¹³<hf.co/google-bert/bert-base-multilingual-cased>

¹⁴<hf.co/FacebookAI/xlm-roberta-base>

¹⁵<github.com/google-research/xtreme>

¹⁶<hf.co/datasets/nyu-mll/glue> MNLI subset. ¹⁷<hf.co/datasets/facebook/xnli>

¹⁸hf.co/datasets/allenai/social_i_qa

¹⁹hf.co/datasets/aps/super_glue copa split.

²⁰<hf.co/datasets/cambridgeltl/xcopa>

²¹<hf.co/datasets/unimelb-nlp/wikiann>

²²<hf.co/datasets/rajpurkar/squad>

²³<hf.co/datasets/google/xquad> ²⁴<hf.co/datasets/facebook/mlqa>

²⁵hf.co/datasets/juletxara/tydiqa_xtreme ²⁶[https://github.com/google-research/](https://github.com/google-research/google-research/blob/master/dense_representations_for_entity_retrieval/mel/mewsli-x.md#getting-started)

[google-research/blob/master/dense_](https://github.com/google-research/google-research/blob/master/dense_representations_for_entity_retrieval/mel/mewsli-x.md#getting-started) [representations_for_entity_retrieval/mel/](https://github.com/google-research/google-research/blob/master/dense_representations_for_entity_retrieval/mel/mewsli-x.md#getting-started) [mewsli-x.md#getting-started](https://github.com/google-research/google-research/blob/master/dense_representations_for_entity_retrieval/mel/mewsli-x.md#getting-started)

LAReQA This task is actually conducted on $XQuAD-R²⁷$ $XQuAD-R²⁷$ $XQuAD-R²⁷$ [\(Roy et al.,](#page-8-19) [2020\)](#page-8-19). We fine-tune the model on the trainset of SQuAD v1.1 in dualencoder architecture ([CLS] as the embedding) and retrieval setting for 3 epochs with the batch size 16, max query length 96, and max document length 256. Then we evaluate the checkpoint on XQuAD-R in same setting.

Tatoeba We directly evaluate the checkpoint from LAReQA on Tatoeba^{[28](#page-15-3)} [\(Facebook,](#page-6-15) [2019\)](#page-6-15) in the same setting.

C.2 GLUE

The GLUE benchmark [\(Wang et al.,](#page-9-3) [2018\)](#page-9-3) is English transfer learning, *i.e.,* models are trained and tested on the trainset and testset of each dataset (CoLA [\(Warstadt et al.,](#page-9-21) [2019\)](#page-9-21), SST-2 [\(Socher et al.,](#page-8-20) [2013\)](#page-8-20), MRPC [\(Dolan and Brockett,](#page-6-16) [2005\)](#page-6-16), STS-B [\(Cer et al.,](#page-6-17) [2017\)](#page-6-17), QQP, MNLI [\(Williams et al.,](#page-9-20) [2018\)](#page-9-20), QNLI [\(Rajpurkar et al.,](#page-8-13) [2016\)](#page-8-13), RTE).

We evaluate the GLUE benchmark based on the scripts^{[29](#page-15-4)} and data^{[30](#page-15-5)} provided by transformers. In fine-tuning of each dataset, we use the epoch number of 3, learning rate of 2e-5, batch size of 32, and max sequence length of 128. For MRPC, STS-B, and RTE, we start from the checkpoint of MNLI following [\(Liu et al.,](#page-7-6) [2019\)](#page-7-6). The MNLI checkpoint is shared with XNLI of XTREME-R ([§C.1\)](#page-14-1).

The detailed results are in Table [13.](#page-16-0) We also include scores of our English models (Our-en-*, pre-trained on C4-en) and baselines [\(Portes et al.,](#page-8-1) [2023;](#page-8-1) [Günther et al.,](#page-7-2) [2023;](#page-7-2) [Nussbaum et al.,](#page-8-0) [2024\)](#page-8-0).

D Text Embedding Evaluation

We have demonstrated the average scores on MTEB English, Chinese, French and Polish (Table [3\)](#page-3-5). In this section, we delve into the details, presenting results of different tasks on each language. For a fair comparison, we do not include the derived models (developed by secondary training on other public off-the-shelf models) in English and Chinese. In addition to the results obtained from the online leaderboard, our own MTEB evaluations were conducted using version 1.2.0 of mteb library.

²⁸<hf.co/datasets/mteb/tatoeba-bitext-mining> ²⁹[github.com/huggingface/transformers/tree/](github.com/huggingface/transformers/tree/main/examples/pytorch/text-classification#glue-tasks) [main/examples/pytorch/text-classification#](github.com/huggingface/transformers/tree/main/examples/pytorch/text-classification#glue-tasks) [glue-tasks](github.com/huggingface/transformers/tree/main/examples/pytorch/text-classification#glue-tasks)

³⁰<hf.co/datasets/nyu-mll/glue>

MTEB-en Table [14](#page-16-1) shows the results on English MTEB [\(Muennighoff et al.,](#page-7-9) [2023a\)](#page-7-9). For reference, we include our English embedding models (Our-en-base/large-embed, trained by the twostage contrastive learning on the English part of our data) and top-performing systems from the online leaderboard. We can see that the multilingual models still have a noticeable gap compared to the English models.

MTEB-zh Table [15](#page-17-0) presents the C-MTEB [\(Xiao](#page-9-11) [et al.,](#page-9-11) [2024\)](#page-9-11) (MTEB Chinese subset) results. We include the results of several LLM-based embedding models and APIs. Given that the Chinese community is also keen on optimizing embedding models, the gap between multilingual models and Chinese models is quite noticeable.

MTEB-fr Table [16](#page-17-1) demonstrates the F-MTEB [\(Ciancone et al.,](#page-6-7) [2024\)](#page-6-7) (MTEB French subset) results. Our TRM dense is comparable to the specialized French API mistral-embed. However, compared to our our-cpt model, the improvement from fine-tuning is not significant.

MTEB-pl Table [17](#page-17-2) lists the Polish MTEB (Poświata et al., [2024\)](#page-8-9) results. Our model does not outperform large-sized BGE and mE5. We speculate this may be due to the limited amount of Polish pairs in the contrastive pre-training, resulting in insufficient training.

E Text Retrieval Evaluation

The retrieval process can be divided into two main stages: recall and reranking. In the recall stage, documents are retrieved using both dense vectors and sparse representations. The final recall score is calculated by weighting the dense retrieval score with a fixed coefficient of 1 and the sparse retrieval score with coefficients ranging from 0.001 to 0.01. Documents not retrieved by either method receive a score of 0. During the ranking stage, the top 100 documents from the recall results are selected as candidates. These candidates are then sorted using our reranker model to produce the final retrieval results.

We present the detail results of MLDR [\(Chen](#page-6-2) [et al.,](#page-6-2) [2024\)](#page-6-2) (multilingual long-context retrieval, Table [18\)](#page-18-0), MKQA [\(Longpre et al.,](#page-7-11) [2021\)](#page-7-11) (multilingual, Table [19\)](#page-18-1), MIRACL [\(Zhang et al.,](#page-10-2) [2023b\)](#page-10-2) (multilingual, Table [20,](#page-18-2) BEIR [\(Thakur et al.,](#page-9-12) [2021\)](#page-9-12) (English, Table [21\)](#page-19-0) and LoCo [\(Saad-Falcon et al.,](#page-8-10) [2024\)](#page-8-10) (English long-context, Table [22\)](#page-19-1).

²⁷[hf.co/datasets/google-research-datasets/](hf.co/datasets/google-research-datasets/xquad_r) [xquad_r](hf.co/datasets/google-research-datasets/xquad_r)

Table 13: GLUE [\(Wang et al.,](#page-9-3) [2018\)](#page-9-3) devset scores (w/o WNLI). ^αTaken from Table 8 of [Liu et al.](#page-7-6) [\(2019\)](#page-7-6). ^βTaken from Table S3 of [Portes et al.](#page-8-1) [\(2023\)](#page-8-1). ^γTaken from Table 2 of [Nussbaum et al.](#page-8-0) [\(2024\)](#page-8-0). ^δTaken from Table 2 of [Günther et al.](#page-7-2) [\(2023\)](#page-7-2). The rest of the numbers are from our runs, refer to [§C.2](#page-15-0) for details.

Table 14: Results on MTEB English subset [\(Muennighoff et al.,](#page-7-9) [2023a\)](#page-7-9). We compare models from the online leaderboard, where derived models (developed by secondary training on other public off-the-shelf models) are not listed. †Denote our runs. [∗]To be consistent with the setting in contrastive pre-training, in retrieval tasks, the max sequence length of the document side is set to 1024.

Table 15: Results on C-MTEB [\(Xiao et al.,](#page-9-11) [2024\)](#page-9-11) (MTEB Chinese). We compare models from the online leaderboard, where derived models (developed by secondary training on other public off-the-shelf models) are not listed. [†]Denote our runs. [∗]To be consistent with the setting in contrastive pre-training, in retrieval tasks, the max sequence length of the document side is set to 1024.

Table 16: Results on F-MTEB [\(Ciancone et al.,](#page-6-7) [2024\)](#page-6-7) (MTEB French). We compare top-performing models from the online leaderboard. †Denote our runs. [∗]To be consistent with the setting in contrastive pre-training, in retrieval tasks, the max sequence length of the document side is set to 1024.

Table 17: Results on MTEB Polish subset (Poświata et al., [2024\)](#page-8-9) We compare top-performing models from the online leaderboard. †Denote our runs. [∗]To be consistent with the setting in contrastive pre-training, in retrieval tasks, the max sequence length of the document side is set to 1024.

	Max Length Avg	ar	de en es fr hi it ja			ko	pt	ru	th	zh
BM25	8192		53.6 45.1 52.6 57.0 78.0 75.7 43.7 70.9 36.2 25.7 82.6 61.3 33.6 34.6							
mE5 _{large}	512		34.2 33.0 26.9 33.0 51.1 49.5 21.0 43.1 29.9 27.1 58.7 42.4 15.9 13.2							
$mE5_{\text{base}}$	512		30.5 29.6 26.3 29.2 45.2 46.7 19.0 40.9 24.9 20.9 50.8 37.8 12.2 12.8							
$E5_{\text{mistral-7b}}$	8192		42.6 29.6 40.6 43.3 70.2 60.5 23.2 55.3 41.6 32.7 69.5 52.4 18.2 16.8							
BGE-m3-Dense	8192		52.5 47.6 46.1 48.9 74.8 73.8 40.7 62.7 50.9 42.9 74.4 59.5 33.6 26.0							
BGE-m3-Sparse	8192		62.2 58.7 53.0 62.1 87.4 82.7 49.6 74.7 53.9 47.9 85.2 72.9 40.3 40.5							
BGE-m3-Dense+Sparse	8192		64.8 63.0 56.4 64.2 88.7 84.2 52.3 75.8 58.5 53.1 86.0 75.6 42.9 42.0							
mGTE-TRM Dense	8192		56.6 55.0 54.9 51.0 81.2 76.2 45.2 66.7 52.1 46.7 79.1 64.2 35.3 27.4							
mGTE-TRM Sparse	8192		(71.0) 74.3 66.2 66.4 93.6 88.4 61.0 82.2 66.2 64.2 89.9 82.0 47.4 41.8							
mGTE-TRM Dense+Sparse	8192		71.3 74.6 66.6 66.5 93.6 88.6 61.6 83.0 66.7 64.6 89.8 82.1 47.7 41.4							
$+$ mGTE-reranker	8192		73.8 76.6 70.4 69.3 96.4 89.6 67.8 81.9 68.1 71.1 90.2 86.1 46.7 44.8							

Table 18: Evaluation of multilingual long-doc retrieval on the MLDR [\(Chen et al.,](#page-6-2) [2024\)](#page-6-2) testset (measured by nDCG@10).

Table 19: Recall@20 on MKQA [\(Longpre et al.,](#page-7-11) [2021\)](#page-7-11) dataset for cross-lingual retrieval in all 25 languages. The All of M3-Embedding denotes the hybrid retrieval result of dense, sparse, and multi-vec scores.

Table 20: Multi-lingual retrieval performance on the MIRACL [\(Zhang et al.,](#page-10-2) [2023b\)](#page-10-2) dev set (measured by nDCG@10).

Table 21: BEIR benchmark [\(Thakur et al.,](#page-9-12) [2021\)](#page-9-12) nDCG@10 scores. We include top models from MTEB Retrieval English leaderboard. †Denote our runs.

Table 22: The nCDG@10 scores on the LoCo benchmark [\(Saad-Falcon et al.,](#page-8-10) [2024\)](#page-8-10). [†]Denote our runs.