

Same Author or Just Same Topic? Towards Content-Independent Style Representations

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Abstract

Linguistic style is an integral component of language. Recent advances in the development of style representations have increasingly used training objectives from *authorship verification (AV)*: Do two texts have the same author? The assumption underlying the AV training task (same author approximates same writing style) enables self-supervised and, thus, extensive training. However, a good performance on the AV task does not ensure good “general-purpose” style representations. For example, as the same author might typically write about certain topics, representations trained on AV might also encode content information instead of style alone. We introduce a variation of the AV training task that controls for content using conversation or domain labels. We evaluate whether known style dimensions are represented and preferred over content information through an original variation to the recently proposed STEL framework. We find that representations trained by controlling for conversation are better than representations trained with domain or no content control at representing style independent from content.

1 Introduction

Linguistic style (i.e., how something is said) is an integral part of natural language. Style is relevant for natural language understanding and generation (Nguyen et al., 2021; Fidler and Goldberg, 2017) as well as the stylometric analysis of texts (El and Kassou, 2014; Goswami et al., 2009). Applications include author profiling (Rao et al., 2010) and style preservation in machine translation systems (Niu et al., 2017; Rabinovich et al., 2017).

While authors are theoretically able to talk about any topic and (un-)consciously choose to use many styles (e.g., designed to fit an audience (Bell, 1984)), it is typically assumed that there are combinations of style features that are distinctive for an author (sometimes called an author’s idiolect).

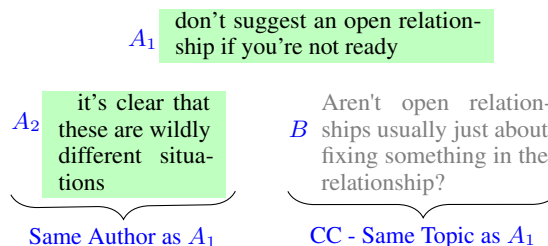


Figure 1: **Contrastive Authorship Verification (CAV) Setup and Content Control (CC) Variable.** The CAV task is to match A_1 with the utterance A_2 that was written by the same author. Contrary to the traditional authorship verification task (AV), this is complemented by a third “contrastive” utterance that was written by a different author (B). In addition to the CAV variation to AV, we experiment with content control (CC) by selecting B and A_1 to have the same approximate content with the help of a topic proxy. As topic proxies we use conversation and domain information.

Based on this assumption, the *authorship verification* task (AV) aims to predict whether two texts have been written by the same author (Coulthard, 2004; Neal et al., 2017; Martindale and McKenzie, 1995). Recently, training objectives based on the AV task have been used to train style representations (Boenninghoff et al., 2019b; Hay et al., 2020; Zhu and Jurgens, 2021). Training objectives on AV are especially promising because they do not require any additional labeling when author identifiers are available. Similar to the distributional hypothesis, the assumption underlying the AV training task (same author approximates same writing style) enables extensive self-supervised learning.

Style and content are often correlated (Gero et al., 2019; Bischoff et al., 2020): For example, people might write more formally about their professional career but more informally about personal hobbies. As a result, style representations might encode spurious content correlations (Poliak et al., 2018), especially when their AV training objective does not control for content (Halvani et al., 2019;

Sundararajan and Woodard, 2018). Current style representation learning methods either use no or only limited control for content (Hay et al., 2020) or use domain labels to approximate topic (Boenninghoff et al., 2019a). Zhu and Jurgens (2021) work with 24 domain labels (here: product categories) for more than 100k Amazon reviews to improve generalizability. However, using a small set of labels might be too coarse-grained to fully represent and thus control for content. In this paper, we use “content” and “topic” to refer to different concepts. We assume same content (fulfilled if two utterances are paraphrases of each other) implies same topic (e.g., two utterances that discuss personal hobbies), while same topic does not necessarily imply same content.

Approach. We introduce two independent variations to the AV task (see Figure 1): adding a contrastive sentence (CAV setup) and addressing content correlation with a topic proxy (CC). We train several siamese BERT-based neural networks (Reimers and Gurevych, 2019) to compare style representations learned with the new variations to the AV task. We train on utterances from the platform Reddit but our approach could be applied to any other conversation dataset as well. While previous work mostly aimed for learning representations that represent an author’s individual style (Boenninghoff et al., 2019b; Hay et al., 2020; Zhu and Jurgens, 2021), we aim for general-purpose style representations. As a result, we evaluate the generated representations on (a) whether known style dimensions (e.g. formal vs. informal) are present in the embedding space (Section 4.2) and preferred over content information (Section 4.3) and (b) whether sentences written by the same author are closer to each other even when they have different content (Section 4.1).

Contribution. With this paper, we (a) contribute an extension of the AV task that aims to control for content (CC) with conversation labels, (b) introduce a novel variation of the AV setup by adding a contrastive utterance (CAV setup), (c) compare style representations trained with different levels of content control (CC) on two task setups (AV and CAV), (d) introduce a variation of the STEL framework (Wegmann and Nguyen, 2021) to evaluate whether representations prefer content over style information and (e) demonstrate found stylistic features via agglomerative clustering. We find that representations trained on the conversation topic proxy

are better than representations trained with domain or no content control at representing style independent from content. Additionally, combining the conversation topic proxy with the CAV setup leads to better results than combining it with the AV setup. We show that our representations are sensitive to stylistic features like punctuation and apostrophe types such as ’ vs. ' using agglomerative clustering. We hope to further the development of content-controlled style representations. Our code and data are available on GitHub.¹

2 Related Work

Recently, deep learning approaches have been used in authorship verification (Shrestha et al., 2017; Litvak, 2019; Boenninghoff et al., 2019a; Saedi and Dras, 2021; Hay et al., 2020; Hu et al., 2020; Zhu and Jurgens, 2021). Training on transformer architectures like BERT has been shown to be competitive with other neural as well as non-neural approaches in AV and style representation (Zhu and Jurgens, 2021; Wegmann and Nguyen, 2021). AV methods have controlled for content by restricting the feature space to contain “content-independent” features like function words or character n-grams (Neal et al., 2017; Stamatatos, 2017; Sundararajan and Woodard, 2018). However, even these features have been shown to not necessarily be content-independent (Litvinova, 2020).

Semantic sentence embeddings are typically trained using supervised or self-supervised learning (Reimers and Gurevych, 2019). For supervised learning, models are often trained on manually labelled natural language inference datasets (Conneau et al., 2017). For self-supervised learning, *contrastive* learning objectives (Hadsell et al., 2006) have been increasingly used. Contrastive objectives push semantically distant sentence pairs apart and pull semantically close sentence pairs together. Different strategies for selecting sentence pairs have been used, e.g., same sentences as semantically close vs. randomly sampled as semantically distant sentences (Giorgi et al., 2021; Gao et al., 2021). Reimers and Gurevych (2019) also experiment with a *triplet loss*, which pushes an anchor closer to a semantically close sentence and pulls the same anchor apart from a semantically distant sentence. Semantic representations are typically first evaluated on the task that they have been

¹<https://github.com/nlpsoc/Style-Embeddings>

trained on, e.g., binary tasks for binary contrastive objectives and triplet tasks (similar to Figure 1) for triplet objectives (Reimers and Gurevych, 2019). Semantic representations are often also evaluated on the STS benchmark (Cer et al., 2017) or semantic downstream tasks like semantic search, NLI (Bowman et al., 2015; Williams et al., 2018) or SentEval (Conneau and Kiela, 2018).

Typically, objective functions that are known from semantic embedding learning have been used (Hay et al., 2020; Zhu and Jurgens, 2021) with AV training tasks to learn style representations. Zhu and Jurgens (2021) address possible spurious correlations by sampling half of the different and same author utterances from the same and the other half from different domains (e.g., subreddits for Reddit). Style representations are often trained and evaluated on the AV task (Boenninghoff et al., 2019a; Zhu and Jurgens, 2021; Bischoff et al., 2020).

3 Style Representation Learning

We describe the new Contrastive Authorship Verification setup (CAV) and our approach to content control (CC) in Section 3.1. Then we describe the generation of training tasks (Section 3.2) and the hyperparameters for model training (Section 3.3).

3.1 Training Task

The authorship verification (AV) task is the task of predicting whether two texts are written by the same or different authors. In the following, we introduce two independent variations to the AV task: Adding (1) contrastive information with the CAV setup and (2) content control via topic proxies.

CAV setup. We introduce an adaption of the Authorship Verification task — the Contrastive Authorship Verification setup (CAV, Figure 1): Given an anchor utterance A_1 and two other utterances A_2 and B , the task is to identify which of the two sentences were written by the same author as A_1 . Using a contrastive AV setup adds learnable information to the task (namely the contrast between A_2 and B w.r.t. A_1) and enables the use of learning objectives that require three input sentences and have been successful in semantic embedding learning (Reimers and Gurevych, 2019). We experiment with both CAV and AV setups for style representation learning. In the future, it is also possible to adapt this setup to include several instead of just one contrastive “negative” different author utter-

ance (similar to contrastive semantic learning, e.g., in Gao et al. (2021)). One task with the CAV setup, which consists of three utterances (A_1, A_2, B), can be split up into two AV tasks: (A_1, A_2) and (A_1, B). We compare the CAV and AV setups during evaluation (Section 4).

Content Control (CC). Models optimized for AV have been known to make use of semantic information (Sari et al., 2018; Sundararajan and Woodard, 2018; Potha and Stamatos, 2018) and to perform badly in cross-topic settings (Halvani et al., 2019; Bischoff et al., 2020). Recent studies use AV tasks to train style representations and address possible correlations by controlling for domain (Zhu and Jurgens, 2021; Boenninghoff et al., 2019b). However, it is unclear to what extent these domain labels are better (or worse) than other ways of controlling for content. We compare three different levels of content control by approximating content with the help of a topic proxy. We sample the utterance pairs written by different authors (B and A_1 for CAV, c.f. Figure 1) (i) from the same *conversation*, (ii) from the same *domain* (e.g., subreddit for Reddit as in Zhu and Jurgens (2021)) or (iii) *randomly* (as a baseline, similar to Hay et al. (2020)). Our newly proposed use of the same conversation “topic proxy” is inspired by semantic sentence representation learning, where conversations have previously been used as a proxy for semantic information encoded in utterances (Yang et al., 2018; Liu et al., 2021). We test to what extent the three different topic proxies are contributing to content-independent style representations during evaluation (Section 4.3).

3.2 Task Generation

We use a 2018 Reddit sample with utterances from 100 active subreddits² extracted via ConvoKit (Chang et al., 2020)³. Per subreddit, we sample 600 conversations with at least 10 posts (which we call utterances). All subreddits are directed at an English audience, which we infer from the subreddit descriptions.

Generation. We removed all invalid utterances⁴. Then, we split the set of authors into a non-

²https://zissou.infosci.cornell.edu/convokit/datasets/subreddit-corpus/subreddits_small_sample.txt

³MIT license

⁴Utterance of only spaces, tabs, line breaks or of the form: "", " [removed] ", "[removed]", "[removed]", "[deleted]", "[deleted]", " [deleted] "

CC level	Data Split	Setup		Utterance #	Author		(A_1, A_2)		(A_1, B)	
		# AV	# CAV		#	ma	co	do	co	do
Conversation	train set	420,000	210,000	546,757	194,836	9	0.27	0.56	1.00	1.00
	dev set	90,000	45,000	116,451	41,848	8	0.26	0.55	1.00	1.00
	test set	90,000	45,000	116,621	41,902	8	0.27	0.55	1.00	1.00
Domain	train set	420,000	210,000	544,587	240,065	9	same pairs		0.01	1.00
	dev set	90,000	45,000	116,490	50,939	8	as		0.02	1.00
	test set	90,000	45,000	116,586	51,182	8	conversation		0.02	1.00
No	train set	420,000	210,000	548,082	270,079	9	same pairs		0.00	0.01
	dev set	90,000	45,000	117,149	57,352	8	as		0.00	0.01
	test set	90,000	45,000	117,434	57,726	8	conversation		0.00	0.02

Table 1: **Data Split Statistics.** Per content control (CC) level, we display the number of tasks per setup (# CAV, # AV), unique utterances and authors for each split. We also show the maximum number of times an author occurs as A_1 ’s author (ma) and the fraction of same author (A_1, A_2) and utterance pairs of different authors (A_1, B) that occur in the same conversation (co) and domain (do).

overlapping 70% train, 15% development and 15% test author split. For each CC level (conversation, domain, no) and each author split, we generated a set of training tasks, i.e., nine sets in total (see Table 1).

First, we generated the tasks for the train split of the dataset with conversation content control. We sampled 210k distinct utterances A_1 from the train author split. We use a weighted sampling process to not overrepresent authors that wrote more utterances than others. The maximum time one author wrote A_1 is 9 (c.f. “ma” in Table 1). Then, for each utterance A_1 , we randomly sampled an utterance B that was part of the same conversation as A_1 but written by a different author. Then, for all 210k (A_1, B) -pairs, an utterance A_2 was sampled randomly from all utterances written by the same author as A_1 and for which $A_1 \neq A_2$ holds. We equivalently sampled 45k tasks for the dev and test.

For the domain and no CC level, we reuse A_1 and A_2 , to keep as many correlating variables constant as possible. Thus, we only resampled 210k utterances B written by a different author from A_1 by sampling from the same domain or randomly.

We make sure that each combination of (A_1, A_2, B) occurs only once. Thus there are no repeating CAV tasks.⁵ However, it is possible that some utterances occur more than once across tasks. In total, we generate 210k train, 45k dev and 45k test tasks for each CC level (see Table 1), corresponding to a total of 420k, 90k and 90k AV-pairs when

splitting the CAV task into (A, SA) and (A, DA) pairs (c.f. Section 3.1).

3.3 Training

We use the Sentence-Transformers⁶ python library (Reimers and Gurevych, 2019)⁷ to fine-tune several siamese networks based on (1) ‘bert-base-uncased’, (2) ‘bert-base-cased’ (Devlin et al., 2019) and (3) ‘roberta-base’ (Liu et al., 2019). We expect those to perform well based on previous work (Zhu and Jurgens, 2021; Wegmann and Nguyen, 2021). We compare using (a) contrastive loss (Hadsell et al., 2006) with the AV setup (Section 3.1) tasks and (b) triplet loss (Reimers and Gurevych, 2019) with the CAV setup (Figure 1). The binary contrastive loss function uses a pair of sentences as input while the triplet loss expects three input sentences. For the loss functions, we experiment with three different values for the margin hyperparameter (i) 0.4, (ii) 0.5, (iii) 0.6. We train with a batch size of 8 over 4 epochs using 10% of the training data as warm-up steps. We use the Adam optimizer with the default learning rate (0.00002). We leave all other parameters as default. We use the BinaryClassificationEvaluator on the AV setup with contrastive loss and the TripletEvaluator on the CAV setup with triplet loss from Sentence-Transformers to select the best model out of the 4 epochs. The BinaryClassificationEvaluator calculates the accuracy of identifying similar and dissimilar sentences, while the TripletEvaluator checks if the distance between A and SA is smaller than

⁵Due to the sampling process, there might be same author (A_1, A_2) pairs that occur twice. However, this remains unlikely due to the high number of authors and utterances. Overall, the share of repeating pairs remains lower than 1%.

⁶<https://sbert.net/>

⁷with Apache License 2.0

Training Task		Testing Task					
		Conversation	AV Domain	No	Conversation	CAV Domain	No
Setup	CC level	AUC $\pm\sigma$	AUC $\pm\sigma$	AUC $\pm\sigma$	acc $\pm\sigma$	acc $\pm\sigma$	acc $\pm\sigma$
RoBERTa base		.53	.57	.61	.53	.58	.63
AV	Conversation	.69 \pm .02	.70 \pm .02	.71 \pm .02	.68 \pm .02	.69 \pm .02	.70 \pm .02
	Domain	.68 \pm .01	.71 \pm .01	.73 \pm .02	.67 \pm .01	.70 \pm .01	.73 \pm .00
	No	.58 \pm .01	.63 \pm .02	.79 \pm .00	.59 \pm .01	.66 \pm .01	.78 \pm .00
CAV	Conversation	.69 \pm .00	.70 \pm .00	.71 \pm .00	.68 \pm .00	.69 \pm .00	.70 \pm .00
	Domain	.68 \pm .00	.70 \pm .00	.72 \pm .00	.68 \pm .00	.70 \pm .00	.72 \pm .01
	No	.58 \pm .00	.63 \pm .03	.77 \pm .00	.59 \pm .00	.65 \pm .00	.77 \pm .00

Table 2: **Test Results.** Results for 6 different fine-tuned RoBERTa models on the test sets. We display the accuracy of the models for the contrastive authorship verification setup (CAV) and the AUC for the authorship verification task (AV) with different content control approaches (CC). We display the standard deviation (σ). Best performance per column is boldfaced. Models generally outperform others on the CC level they have been trained on.

the distance between A and DA. We use cosine distance as the distance function.

4 Evaluation

We evaluate the learned style representations on the Authorship Verification task (i.e., the training task) in Section 4.1. Then, we evaluate whether models learn to represent known style dimensions via the performance on the STEL framework (Wegmann and Nguyen, 2021) in Section 4.2. Last, we evaluate representations on their content-independence with an original manipulation of STEL (Section 4.3).

4.1 Authorship Verification

We display the AV and CAV performance of trained models in Table 2. On the development sets, RoBERTa models consistently outperformed the cased and uncased BERT models. Also, different margin values only led to small performance differences (Appendix A). Consequently, in Table 2, we only display the performance of the six fine-tuned RoBERTa models on the test sets using the three different content controls (CC) and two different task setups (AV and CAV setups) with constant margin values of 0.5.

AV performance is usually calculated with either (i) AUC or (ii) accuracy using a predetermined threshold (Zhu and Jurgens, 2021; Kestemont et al., 2021). We use cosine similarity to calculate the similarity between sentence representations. Thus, there is no clear constant default threshold to decide between same and different author utterances. A threshold could be fine-tuned on the development set, however for simplicity we use AUC to calculate AV performance instead. We use accuracy for the

CAV task — here no threshold is necessary (cosine similarity is calculated between A_1 , A_2 and A_1 , B and the highest similarity utterance is chosen). This makes the performance scores on the test sets less comparable across setups – however, comparability of the CAV and AV performance scores are limited in any case as the AV vs. CAV setups are fundamentally different. Performance scores can be compared across the same column, i.e., within the same AV and CAV setup. We aggregate performance with mean and standard deviation for three different random seeds per model parameter combination.⁸

Overall, the AV & CAV training task setup (rows in Table 2) lead to similar performance on the test sets. As a result, we do not distinguish between them in this section’s discussion. Generally, the representations tested on the CC level they were trained on (diagonal) outperform other models that were not trained with the same CC level. For example, representations trained with the conversation CC level, perform better on the test set with the conversation CC than representations trained with the domain or no CC.

Tasks with the conversation label are hardest to solve. For all models, the performance is lowest on the conversation test set and increases on the domain and further on the random test set. This is in line with our assumption that the conversation test set has semantically closer different author utterance (A_1 , B)-pairs that make the AV task harder due to reduced spurious content cues (Section 3.1).

Representations trained with the conversation CC might encode less content information.

⁸We used seeds 103-105. A total of 5 out of 18 models did not learn. We re-trained those with different seeds.

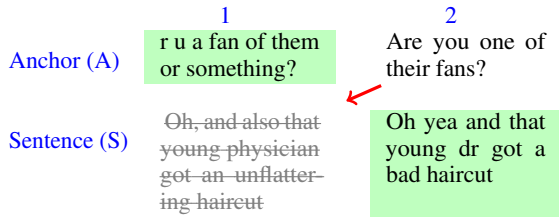


Figure 2: **STEL-Or-Content Task**. We take the original STEL instances (figure without manipulations) and move A2 to the sentence position with the different style (here: the more formal A2 replaces the more formal S1). These resulting triple tasks can test if a model prefers style over content cues.

The average performance across the three CC levels is slightly higher for the models trained with domain than conversation CC level and lowest for no CC. Across the three test sets with the different CC levels, the standard deviation in performance is biggest for models trained without CC and smallest for models trained with the conversation CC. Representations trained with domain or no CC might latch on to more semantic features because they are more helpful on the no and domain CC test sets. Models learned with the conversation CC might in turn learn more content-agnostic representations. Overall, a representation that performs well on the AV task alone might do so by latching on to content (not style) information. As a result, a good AV performance alone might not be indicative of a good representation of style. We further evaluate the quality of style representations and their content-independence in Sections 4.2 and 4.3.

4.2 STEL Task

We calculate the performance of the representations on the STEL framework (Wegmann and Nguyen, 2021)⁹. Here, models are evaluated on whether they are able to measure differences in style across four known dimensions of style (formal vs. informal style, complex vs. simple style, contraction usage and number substitution usage). Models are tested on 1830 tasks of the same setup: Two “sentences” S1 and S2 have to be matched to the style of two given “anchor” sentences A1 and A2. The task is binary. Sentences can either be matched

⁹<https://github.com/nlpsoc/STEL>, with data from Rao and Tetreault (2018); Xu et al. (2016) and with permission from Yahoo for the “L6 - Yahoo! Answers Comprehensive Questions and Answers version 1.0 (multi part)”: <https://webscope.sandbox.yahoo.com/catalog.php?datatype=1>. Data and code available with MIT License with exceptions for proprietary Yahoo data.

without reordering (A1-S1 & A2-S2) or with reordering (A1-S2 & A2-S1). For example, consider the sentences in Figure 2 before alterations. The correct solution to the task is to reorder the sentences, i.e., to match A1 with S2 because they both exhibit a more informal style and A2 with S1 because they both exhibit a more formal style. The STEL sentence pairs (S1, S2) and (A1, A2) are always paraphrases of each other (in contrast to A_1 and B for the AV task which are only chosen to be about the same approximate topic, c.f. 3.1). The anchor pairs and sentence pairs are randomly matched and are thus otherwise expected to have no connection in content or topic. Representations can thus not make use of learned content features to solve the task.

We display the STEL results for the RoBERTa models in Table 3. **STEL performance is comparable across all fine-tuned models — for all different CC levels and AV & CAV setups**. Surprisingly, the overall STEL performance for the fine-tuned models is lower than that of the original RoBERTa base model (Liu et al., 2019). Thus, models may have ‘unlearned’ some style information. In the remainder of this subsection, we analyze possible reasons for this STEL performance drop.

Performance stays approximately the same or improves for the formal/informal and the contraction dimensions but drops for the complex/simple and the nb3r substitution dimensions. Based on manual inspection, we notice nb3r substitution to regularly appear in specific conversations and for specific topics. Future work could investigate whether the use of nb3r substitution is less consistent for one author than other stylistic dimensions. As the nb3r dimension of STEL only consists of 100 instances, future work could increase the number of instances. Further, we perform an error analysis to investigate the STEL performance drop in the complex/simple dimension. We manually look at consistently unlearned (i.e., wrongly predicted by the fine-tuned but correctly predicted by the original RoBERTa model) or learned (i.e., wrongly predicted by the RoBERTa model and correctly predicted by the fine-tuned model) STEL instances (see details in Appendix B.1). We find several problematic examples where the correct solution to the task is at least ambiguous. We display two such examples in Table 4. The share of examples with problematic ambiguities is higher for the unlearned (50/55) than for the newly learned STEL instances (29/41).

	all		formal, n = 815		complex, n = 815		nb3r, n = 100		c'tion, n = 100	
	o	o-c	o	o-c	o	o-c	o	o-c	o	o-c
			acc±σ	acc±σ	acc±σ	acc±σ	acc±σ	acc±σ	acc±σ	acc±σ
org	.80	.05	.83	.09	.73	.01	.94	.13	1.0	.00
c	.71	.35	.83 ± .02	.64 ± .00	.57 ± .02	.13 ± .04	.61 ± .02	.04 ± .01	.91 ± .10	.00 ± .01
A d	.73	.28	.84 ± .01	.56 ± .04	.69 ± .05	.05 ± .02	.61 ± .02	.03 ± .02	.98 ± .03	.00 ± .00
n	.72	.22	.85 ± .01	.46 ± .04	.57 ± .01	.03 ± .01	.62 ± .04	.05 ± .02	.98 ± .01	.00 ± .00
C c	.71	.42	.81 ± .02	.69 ± .02	.59 ± .01	.24 ± .02	.65 ± .09	.03 ± .01	.99 ± .02	.04 ± .02
d	.71	.32	.82 ± .01	.61 ± .02	.57 ± .01	.12 ± .01	.64 ± .05	.03 ± .01	.99 ± .01	.01 ± .01
n	.71	.24	.85 ± .00	.50 ± .02	.56 ± .01	.04 ± .01	.59 ± .03	.06 ± .01	.98 ± .04	.00 ± .00

Table 3: **STEL and STEL-Or-Content Results.** We display STEL accuracy across 4 style dimensions (n =number of instances) for the same RoBERTa models as in Table 2: Per task setup (AV - A, CAV - C) and content control level (conversation - c, domain - d, none - n), the performance on the original (o) and the STEL-Or-Content task instances (o-c) are displayed. Per column, the best performance is boldfaced. For the fine-tuned RoBERTa models, performance generally increases on the STEL-Or-Content task compared to the original RoBERTa model (org).

Generally, the number of complex/simple STEL instances with ambiguities is surprisingly high for both the learned as well as the unlearned instances, consistent with the lower performance of the models in this category. Several of the found ambiguities should be relatively easy to correct in the future (e.g., spelling mistakes or punctuation differences).

4.3 Content-Independence of Style Representations

We tested whether models are able to distinguish between different authors (in Section 4.1) and represent styles when the content remains the same (Section 4.2). However, we have not tested whether models learn to represent style independent from content.

Different approaches have been used to test whether style representations encode unwanted content information, including (a) comparing performance on the AV task across domain (Boeninghoff et al., 2019b; Zhu and Jurgens, 2021), (b) assessing performance on function vs. content words (Hay et al., 2020; Zhu and Jurgens, 2021) and (c) predicting domain labels from utterances using their style representations (Zhu and Jurgens, 2021). However, these evaluation methods have limitations: Domain labels usually come from a small set of coarse-grained labels and function words have been shown to not necessarily be content-independent (Litvinova, 2020). Additionally, next to content, AV might include other spurious features that help increase performance without representing style.

To test if models learn to prefer style over content, we introduce a variation to the STEL framework — the *STEL-Or-Content* task: From one orig-

inal STEL instance (Section 4.2), we take the sentence that has the same style as A2 and replace it with A2. In Figure 2, this leads to S1 being replaced by A2. The new task is to decide whether A1 matches with the new S1 (originally A2) or with S2. The task is more difficult than the original STEL task as S2 is written in the same style as A1 but has different content and the new S1 is written in a different style but has the same content. The representations will have to decide between giving ‘style or content’ more weight. This setup is similar to the CAV task (Figure 1). The main differences to the CAV task are (i) that we do not use same author as a proxy for same style but instead use the predefined style dimensions from the STEL framework and (ii) that we control for content with the help of paraphrases (instead of using only a topic proxy).

We display the STEL-Or-Content results in Table 3. The performance for the new task is low (< 0.5 which corresponds to a random baseline). However, the task is also very difficult as lexical overlap is usually high between the anchor and the false choice (i.e., the sentence that was written in a different style but has the same content). Nevertheless, performance should only be considered in combination with other evaluation approaches (Sections 4.1 and 4.2) as on this task alone models might perform well because they punish same content information.

Models trained on the CAV task with the conversation CC level are the best at representing style independent from content. The performance increases from an accuracy of 0.05 for the original RoBERTa model to up to $0.42 \pm .01$ for the representation trained with the CAV task and the

Agg.	GT	Anchor 1 (A1)	Anchor 2 (A2)	Sentence 1 (S1)	Sentence 2 (S2)	Ambiguity
un	✓	TDL Group announced in March 2006, in response to a request [...]	[...] storm names Alberto Helene Beryl Isaac Chris [...]	Palestinian voters in the Gaza Strip [...] were eligible to participate in the election.	1. Palestinian voters in the Gaza Strip [...] were eligible to participate in the election.	A1/A2 have different content
l	✗	[...] 51 Phantom [...] received nominations in that same category.	[...] 1 phantom [...] received nominations in the same category.	[...] the Port Jackson District Commandant could exchange with all military land with buildings on the harbor.	[...] the Port Jackson District Commandant could communicate with all military installations on the harbour.	A2 spelling mistake, S1 sounds unnatural

Table 4: **STEL Error Analysis.** For the complex/simple STEL dimension, we display examples of ambiguous instances that were learned (l) or unlearned (un) the fine-tuned RoBERTa models. A ground truth (GT) of ✓ means that S1 matches with A1 and S2 with A2 in style, while ✗ means S1 matches with A2 and S2 with A1.

conversation CC. This ‘CAV conversation representation’ did not just learn to punish same content cues because of its performance on the AV task and the STEL framework: (1) On the AV task, the representation performed comparably on all three test sets. If the model had learned to just punish same content cues, we would expect a clearer difference in performance as confounding same content information should be more prevalent for the random than the conversation test set. (2) The representation performed comparably to the other representations on the STEL framework, where style information is needed to solve the task but content information cannot be used.

5 Style Representation Analysis

We want to further understand what the style representations learned to be similar styles. We take the best-performing style representation (RoBERTa trained on the CAV task with the conversation CC and seed 106) and perform agglomerative clustering on a sample of 5,000 CAV tasks of the conversation test set resulting in 14,756 unique utterances. We use 7 clusters based on an analysis of Silhouette scores (Appendix C). Out of all utterance pairs that have the same author, 46.2% appear in the same cluster. This is different from random assignments among 7 clusters¹⁰ which corresponds to $20.1\% \pm .00$. As authors will have a certain variability to their style, a perfect clustering according to general linguistic style would not assign all same author pairs to the same cluster.

In Table 5, we display examples for 4 out of 7 clusters. We manually looked at a few hundred examples per cluster to find consistencies. We found

¹⁰Calculated mean and standard deviation of 100 random assignments of utterances to the 7 clusters of the same size.

C #	Consistent	Example
3	no last punct.	I am living in china, they are experiencing an enormous baby boom
4	punctuation / casing	huh thats odd i'm in the 97% percentile on iq tests, the sat, and the act
5	' vs '	I assume it's the blind lady?
7	linebreaks	I admire what you're doing but [...] I know I'm [...]

Table 5: **Clusters for RoBERTa Trained on CAV with Conversation Content Control.** We display one example for 4 out of 7 clusters. We mention noticeable consistencies within the cluster (Consistent).

clear consistencies within clusters in the punctuation (e.g., 97% of utterances have no last punctuation mark in Cluster 3 vs. an average of 37% in the other clusters), casing (e.g., 67% of utterances that use *i* instead of *I* appear in Cluster 4), contraction spelling (e.g., 22 out of 27 utterances that use *didnt* instead of *didn't* appear in Cluster 4), the type of apostrophe used (e.g., 90% of utterances use ‘ vs ’ in Cluster 5 vs. an average of 0% in the other clusters) and line breaks within an utterance (e.g., 72% of utterances in Cluster 7 include line breaks vs. an average of 22% in the other clusters). We mostly found letter-level consistencies — likely because they are easiest to spot manually. We expect representations to also capture more complex stylistic information because of their performance on the AV and STEL tasks (Section 4). Future work could analyze whether and what other stylistic consistencies are represented by the models.

For comparison we also cluster with the base RoBERTa model (see Appendix D). The only three interesting RoBERTa clusters (i.e., clusters 2,3,4

that contain more than three elements and not as many as 86.7% of all utterances), seem to mostly differ in utterance length (average number of characters are 15 in Cluster 2 vs. in 1278 in Cluster 3) and in the presence of hyperlinks (84% of utterances contain ‘https://’ in Cluster 4 vs. an overall average of 2%). Average utterance lengths are not as clearly separated by the clusters of the trained style representations.

6 Limitations and Future Work

We propose several directions for future research:

First, conversation labels are already inherently available in conversation corpora like `Reddit`. However, it remains a difficulty to transfer the conversation CC to other than conversation datasets. Moreover, even when using the conversation CC, content information might still be useful for AV: If one person writes “my husband” and another writes “my wife” within the same conversation, it is highly unlikely that those utterances have been generated by the same person. With the recent advances in semantic sentence embeddings, it might be interesting to train style representations on CAV tasks with a new content control level: Two utterances could be labelled as having the same content if their semantic embeddings are close to each other (e.g., when cosine similarity is above a certain threshold).

Second, for the `STEL-Or-Content` task, the so-called “triplet problem” (Wegmann and Nguyen, 2021) remains a potential problem. Consider the example in Figure 2. Here, the `STEL` framework only guarantees that A1 is more informal than A2 and S2 is more informal than S1. Thus, in some cases A2 can be stylistically closer to A1 than S2. However, we expect this case to be less prevalent: A2 would need to be already pretty close in style to A1, or both S2 and S1 would need to be substantially more informal or formal than A1. In the future, removing problematic instances could alleviate a possible maximum performance cap.

Third, the representation models may learn to represent individual stylistic variation as we use utterances from the same individual author as positive signals (c.f. Zhu and Jurgens (2021)). However, because the representation models learn with same author pairs that are generated from thousands of authors, it is likely that they also learn consistencies along groups of authors that use similar style features (e.g., demographic groups based on age or education level, or subreddit communities). Future

work could explore how different CC levels and training tasks influence the type of styles that are learned.

7 Conclusion

Recent advances in the development of style representations have increasingly used training objectives from authorship verification (Hay et al., 2020; Zhu and Jurgens, 2021). However, representations that perform well on the Authorship Verification (AV) task might do so not because they represent style well but because they latch on to spurious content correlations. We train different style representations by controlling for content (CC) using conversation or domain membership as a proxy for topic. We also introduce the new Contrastive Authorship Verification setup (CAV) and compare it to the usual AV setup. We propose an original adaptation of the recent `STEL` framework (Wegmann and Nguyen, 2021) to test whether learned representations favor style over content information. We find that representations that were trained on the CAV setup with conversation CC represent style in a way that is more independent from content than models using other CC levels or the AV setup. We demonstrate some of the learned stylistic differences via agglomerative clustering — e.g., the use of a right single quotation mark vs. an apostrophe in contractions. We hope to contribute to increased efforts towards learning general-purpose content-controlled style representations.

Ethical Considerations

We use utterances taken from 100 subcommunities (i.e., subreddits) of the popular online platform `Reddit` to train style representations with different training tasks and compare their performance. With our work, we aim to contribute to the development of general style representations that are disentangled from content. Style representations have the potential to increase classification performance for diverse demographics and social groups (Hovy, 2015).

The user demographics on the selected 100 subreddits are likely skewed towards particular demographics. For example, locally based subreddits (e.g., `canada`, `singapore`) might be over-represented. Generally, the average `Reddit` user is typically

more likely to be young and male.¹¹ Thus, our representations might not be representative of (English) language use across different social groups. However, experiments on the set of 100 distinct subreddits should still demonstrate the possibilities of the used approaches and methods. We hope the ethical impact of reusing the already published Reddit dataset (Baumgartner et al., 2020; Chang et al., 2020) to be small but acknowledge that reusing it will lead to increased visibility of data that is potentially privacy infringing. As we aggregate the styles of thousands of users to calculate style representations, we expect it to not be indicative of individual users.

We confirm to have read and that we abide by the ACL Code of Ethics.

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¹¹<https://www.journalism.org/2016/02/25/reddit-news-users-more-likely-to-be-male-young-and-digital-in-their-news-preferences/>

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A Results on the Development Set

A.1 Hyperparameter Tuning

We evaluated contrastive (on the AV training setup), triple (on the CAV training setup) and online contrastive loss (on the AV training setup) using implementations from `Sentence-Transformers`. We experiment with the loss hyperparameter “margin” with values of 0.4, 0.5, 0.6 for the uncased BERT model (Devlin et al., 2019) on the domain training data. Results are displayed in Figure 6. Contrastive and triplet loss perform better than online contrastive loss. The margin value only has a small influence on the performance scores. Based on these results, we decided to run all further models only with the contrastive and triplet loss functions and a margin value of 0.5.

	conversation		domain		no	
	CAV acc	AV auc	CAV acc	AV auc	CAV acc	AV auc
c 0.4	0.63	0.63	0.68	0.68	0.71	0.71
c 0.5	0.63	0.63	0.68	0.68	0.71	0.71
c 0.6	0.62	0.63	0.68	0.68	0.71	0.71
t 0.4	0.63	0.62	0.68	0.67	0.70	0.70
t 0.5	0.64	0.64	0.68	0.68	0.70	0.70
t 0.6	0.63	0.63	0.67	0.67	0.70	0.70
c-on 0.4	0.58	0.58	0.64	0.64	0.67	0.67
c-on 0.5	0.58	0.58	0.64	0.64	0.67	0.67
c-on 0.6	0.58	0.58	0.64	0.64	0.67	0.67

Table 6: **Hyperparameter-tuning results on the dev AV and CAV datasets with varying content control.**

Results for BERT uncased trained on the contrastive authorship verification tasks (CAV). With different loss functions (contrastive - c, triple - t, contrastive online - c-on) and margin values (0.4, 0.5, 0.6). For each dev set (conversation, domain and no content control), we display the accuracy of the models for the CAV task and the AUC for the authorship verification task (AV). For each dev set and CAV/AV setup, the best performance is boldfaced. contrastive and triple loss behave comparable. The margin value only has a small influence.

	conv		sub		no		conv		sub		no		
	CAV	AV	CAV	AV	CAV	AV	thr	acc	thr	acc	thr	acc	
	acc	AUC	acc	AUC	acc	AUC							
-	bert	0.52	0.51	0.59	0.57	0.64	0.61	0.82	0.51	0.70	0.55	0.69	0.58
	BERT	0.53	0.52	0.59	0.57	0.63	0.60	0.86	0.51	0.85	0.55	0.85	0.58
	RoBERTa	0.53	0.53	0.58	0.57	0.63	0.61	0.96	0.52	0.97	0.55	0.97	0.58
	bert c 0.5	0.65	0.66	0.66	0.67	0.68	0.68	0.72	0.61	0.73	0.62	0.73	0.63
	bert t 0.5	0.65	0.66	0.66	0.67	0.67	0.68	0.27	0.61	0.27	0.62	0.29	0.63
c	BERT c 0.5	0.66	0.67	0.67	0.68	0.69	0.70	0.24	0.62	0.28	0.63	0.26	0.64
	BERT t 0.5	0.66	0.67	0.67	0.68	0.68	0.69	0.72	0.62	0.73	0.63	0.73	0.64
	RoBERTa c 0.5	0.69	0.70	0.70	0.71	0.70	0.72	0.72	0.64	0.72	0.64	0.73	0.65
	RoBERTa t 0.5	0.68	0.69	0.69	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.30	0.63	0.31	0.64	0.32	0.64
	bert c 0.5	0.63	0.63	0.68	0.68	0.71	0.71	0.73	0.59	0.73	0.63	0.73	0.65
	bert t 0.5	0.64	0.64	0.68	0.68	0.70	0.70	0.16	0.60	0.19	0.63	0.19	0.64
s	BERT t 0.5	0.65	0.65	0.68	0.68	0.71	0.71	0.20	0.61	0.27	0.63	0.23	0.65
	BERT c 0.5	0.64	0.65	0.69	0.69	0.71	0.72	0.74	0.60	0.74	0.64	0.72	0.66
	RoBERTa c 0.5	0.67	0.68	0.71	0.72	0.73	0.74	0.72	0.63	0.72	0.65	0.72	0.67
	RoBERTa t 0.5	0.68	0.68	0.70	0.70	0.72	0.73	0.22	0.63	0.24	0.65	0.19	0.66
	bert c-0.5	0.55	0.54	0.63	0.62	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.53	0.77	0.58	0.74	0.69
	bert t-0.5	0.55	0.54	0.62	0.61	0.74	0.75	0.14	0.53	0.37	0.57	0.24	0.68
r	BERT c 0.5	0.57	0.56	0.64	0.63	0.76	0.77	0.40	0.54	0.35	0.59	0.23	0.69
	BERT t 0.5	0.58	0.56	0.64	0.62	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.54	0.76	0.59	0.74	0.69
	RoBERTa c 0.5	0.59	0.58	0.65	0.64	0.77	0.78	0.80	0.56	0.77	0.60	0.74	0.71
	RoBERTa t 0.5	0.59	0.57	0.65	0.63	0.77	0.77	0.38	0.55	0.34	0.59	0.19	0.66

(a) CAV and AV Performance

(b) Details on the AV results

Table 7: **(Dev) Results.** We display the accuracy of the models for the contrastive authorship verification (CAV) setup and the AUC for the authorship verification (AV) setup on each dev set (conversation, domain and no). We show results for 18 fine-tuned models: BERT uncased (bert), RoBERTa and BERT cased trained with the conversation, domain and no content control. With different loss functions (contrastive - c, triple - t) and margin values (0.4, 0.5, 0.6). For the AV task, we also display the optimal threshold according to AUC (thr) and its matching accuracy. Generally, RoBERTa models perform the best with increasing performance from conversation to domain to random. Accuracies for < CAV are higher than for AV. Models perform the best on the task they have been trained on. Contrastive and Triple loss seem to behave comparable. Best performance per dev set and CAV/AV task is boldfaced.

A.2 Detailed Results on the Development Sets

We display the performance of further fine-tuned models on the dev sets in Table 7. RoBERTa (Liu et al., 2019) generally performs better than the uncased and cased BERT model (Devlin et al., 2019). Performance for the triplet and contrastive loss functions are comparable. We only use RoBERTa models in the main paper and both contrastive and triplet loss as a result.

train data	model	all		formal		complex		nb3r		c'tion	
		STEL	o-c	STEL	o-c	STEL	o-c	STEL	o-c	STEL	o-c
-	BERT uncased (bert)	0.75	0.03	0.76	0.05	0.70	0.00	0.93	0.09	1.00	0.00
	BERT cased (BERT)	0.78	0.05	0.80	0.10	0.71	0.00	0.92	0.11	1.00	0.00
conv.	bert c 0.5	0.68	0.21	0.72	0.40	0.59	0.07	0.73	0.06	1.00	0.01
	bert t 0.5	0.68	0.30	0.71	0.52	0.61	0.15	0.72	0.05	0.99	0.06
	BERT c 0.5	0.73	0.32	0.83	0.62	0.60	0.19	0.67	0.06	1.00	0.00
	BERT t 0.5	0.73	0.37	0.79	0.66	0.63	0.15	0.74	0.05	1.00	0.15
domain	bert c 0.4	0.70	0.12	0.76	0.26	0.61	0.01	0.72	0.02	1.00	0.00
	bert c 0.5	0.69	0.13	0.74	0.27	0.59	0.01	0.68	0.05	1.00	0.00
	bert c 0.6	0.70	0.13	0.76	0.26	0.61	0.01	0.72	0.04	1.00	0.00
	bert c-on 0.4	0.65	0.02	0.67	0.03	0.60	0.00	0.69	0.02	0.84	0.00
	bert c-on 0.5	0.65	0.02	0.67	0.03	0.60	0.00	0.69	0.02	0.84	0.00
	bert c-on 0.6	0.65	0.02	0.67	0.03	0.60	0.00	0.69	0.02	0.84	0.00
	bert t 0.4	0.71	0.15	0.78	0.31	0.59	0.01	0.78	0.05	1.00	0.00
	bert t 0.5	0.68	0.18	0.74	0.37	0.58	0.03	0.72	0.06	1.00	0.00
	bert t 0.6	0.69	0.22	0.76	0.44	0.58	0.04	0.69	0.06	1.00	0.00
		BERT c-0.5	0.73	0.23	0.82	0.48	0.61	0.02	0.77	0.03	1.00
	BERT t-0.5	0.71	0.28	0.81	0.56	0.57	0.06	0.80	0.04	1.00	0.00
random	bert c 0.5	0.69	0.09	0.77	0.20	0.58	0.01	0.68	0.02	0.98	0.00
	bert t 0.5	0.70	0.13	0.75	0.26	0.61	0.03	0.79	0.06	1.00	0.00
	BERT c-0.5	0.72	0.21	0.84	0.44	0.55	0.02	0.75	0.07	1.00	0.01
	BERT t-0.5	0.73	0.23	0.84	0.48	0.59	0.03	0.68	0.05	1.00	0.00

Table 8: **Results on STEL and STEL-Or-Content.** We display STEL accuracy for different language models and methods. The performance on the set of STEL and STEL-Or-Content (o-c) task instances is displayed. The best performance is boldfaced. Performance for the trained models goes down for the original STEL framework in the complex/simple and nb3r substitution dimension. Performance generally increases for the STEL-Or-Content task.

B Details on STEL results

We display the STEL results on further trained models in Table 8. Interestingly, cased BERT seems to be the better choice for the contraction STEL dimension.

aggregate		unlearned		learned	
		f/i	c/s	f/i	c/s
CC	conversation	21	34	62	22
	domain	13	34	62	24
	no	21	44	67	24
setup	AV	8	9	61	11
	CAV	6	14	55	14
-	all	1	4	48	8

Table 9: **Error Analysis STEL Results.** For the formal/informal (f/i) and complex/simple (c/s) STEL dimension, we display the number of instances that were unlearned and learned by all RoBERTa models in an aggregate. We use three different aggregates: (i) all models trained with a given CC level, (ii) all models trained with a certain task setup and (iii) all models.

	unlearned	learned
no ambiguity	$\frac{5}{55} \approx 9\%$	$\frac{12}{41} \approx 29\%$
typo simple	$\frac{21}{55} \approx 38\%$	$\frac{13}{41} \approx 32\%$
typo complex	$\frac{11}{55} \approx 20\%$	$\frac{6}{41} \approx 15\%$
error grammar simple	$\frac{15}{55} \approx 27\%$	$\frac{9}{41} \approx 22\%$
error grammar complex	$\frac{5}{55} \approx 9\%$	$\frac{3}{41} \approx 7\%$
changed content	$\frac{5}{55} \approx 9\%$	$\frac{3}{41} \approx 7\%$
word as/more complex	$\frac{16}{55} \approx 29\%$	$\frac{11}{41} \approx 27\%$
naturalness	$\frac{7}{55} \approx 13\%$	$\frac{3}{41} \approx 7\%$

Table 10: **Categories Error Analysis STEL Results.** For the six fine-tuned RoBERTa models, we manually looked at the common learned as well as the unlearned simple/complex examples. We put the examples in the displayed ambiguity classes.

B.1 Error Analysis RoBERTa STEL results

In Table 9, we display the number of learned and unlearned STEL instances across different aggregates for the RoBERTa models. We combine all such unique STEL instances across the aggregates and annotate if they contain ambiguities. In Table 10, we display the results. Overall, the learned STEL instances contain fewer ambiguities. However, they still show considerable amounts of ambiguities.

C Details on cluster parameters

We use agglomerative clustering for the RoBERTa model trained on the CAV setup with a margin of 0.5 and conversations as CC with seed 106 (R CAV CONV 106). We experiment with different numbers of clusters and display the results in Table 11. The highest Silhouette scores are reached for cluster sizes of 5, 6, 7. We select a cluster size of 7 for evaluation.

n	avg. silhouette
2	0.23
3	0.21
4	0.23
5	0.27
6	0.27
7	0.26
8	0.23
9	0.19
10	0.20
11	0.19
12	0.18
13	0.19
14	0.17
15	0.16
16	0.16
17	0.16
18	0.17
19	0.17
20	0.17
21	0.16
22	0.16
23	0.15
24	0.15
25	0.15
26	0.15
30	0.15
40	0.15
50	0.15
100	0.13
150	0.13
200	0.12

Table 11: **Silhouette values.** We experiment with different numbers of clusters for one fine-tuned RoBERTa model (R CAV CONV 106). It was on the CAV task with conversation CC. The highest Silhouette score is reached for cluster sizes of 5–7.

D Details on the cluster analysis

We give more examples of the seven clusters in Table 12. Refer to our Github repository for the complete clustering. We did not find obvious consistencies for clusters 1, 2 and 6. That does, however, not mean that more nuanced stylistic consistencies are not present. We recommend using a higher number of clusters, possibly different clustering algorithms and testing out statistics for known style features to pinpoint more consistencies.

Out of all utterance pairs that have the same author, 46.2% appear in the same cluster for the style embedding model. This is different from a random distribution among 7 clusters¹² which corresponds to $20.1\% \pm .00$. As authors will have a certain variability to their style as well (e.g., [Zhu and Jurgens \(2021\)](#)), a perfect clustering according to writing

¹²Calculated mean and standard deviation of 100 random assignments of utterances to the 7 clusters, with the same number of elements in each cluster.

style would not assign all same author pairs to the same cluster. For the RoBERTa base model the fraction of same author pairs in the same cluster is closer to the random distribution (75.4% vs. 76.1% for the random distribution¹³). The fraction of utterance pairs that appear in the same domain are close to the random distribution for both the style embedding model (23.6% vs. 20.1%) and the RoBERTa base model (77.6% vs. 76.0%). The percentage for the RoBERTa base models is a lot higher as the first cluster contains almost 90% of all utterances. Random assignment of utterances across the 7 clusters, that keeps the clustering size would already lead to 76.0% same author pairs appearing in the same cluster (almost all of them in the first). Results are similar for utterance pairs that appear in the same conversation.

¹³The share is high for RoBERTa base because the first cluster already contains 86.7% of all utterances.

C	#	Consistency	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3
1	4065	citing previous comments, standard punctuation, URLs	Yes. Proportionally, this kid's feet are absolutely enormous.	> Please delete your account. Says the no life who always shits on anything Kanye or anti-Drake I can promise you that capitalism is very much alive in Norway.	[This should help.](YOUTUBE-LINK)
2	4016	short sentences?	Nice catch! Well done. cookies are in the back of this Grammar party. You can have two.	You can mute them we've been told!	Came here to post this only to find it's already the top voted comment. This is a good sub.
3	2165	no last punctuation mark	I am living in china, they are experiencing an enormous baby boom	Seems like sarcasm. But could also be Poe	[...] The earth probably has two or more degrees of symmetry, but less than infinite (like a sphere), but I'm honestly not too concerned about the minutiae of it
4	1794	punctuation / casing	huh thats odd i'm in the 97% percentile on iq tests, the sat, and the act	Its not a problem if you a got a full game. Whats the problem if a game didnt get expansions?	Fair point, I didnt know that. Just at glance I kind of went 'woah that doesnt seem right'
5	1555	' instead of ' apostrophe	I assume it's the blind lady?	Oh I wasn't really dismissing them. I'm saying Ford will try their own thing compared to Fiat	It's 4am in Brussels and I am still hyped
6	781	similar to 1?	Well, as your neighbors, I'd say Fuck you.. But we're not like that, see? We want to be part of the alliance, not part of the 'fuck you, we cant be competitive with jobs or innovate any more, so we're going to run massive tariffs against all our friendly nations	Hah, thus the one calf larger than the other issue. I have it too ;)	[So you are saying that current encryption falls apart as long as the quantum computer is large enough](URL). (for reference, the current highest qubit is 50)'
7	380	linebreaks	I admire what you're doing but [...] I know I'm in the minority. [...]	75% of the problems I run into are solved by [...] I work in live streaming.	All the suggestions others have given are excellent. RS7 makes the most sense to me. But [...] Meanwhile, [...]

Table 12: **Clustering - fined-tuned RoBERTa model.** We display examples for each cluster of the 7 clusters that resulted from the agglomerative clustering of 14,756 randomly sampled texts with the RoBERTa model fine-tuned on the CAV setup with the conversation CC. We mention noticeable consistencies (Consistency) within the cluster and give three examples each. Consistencies that are not as clear are marked with a '?'.

C	#	Consistency	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3
1	12798	wide variety	Just googled it, looks like a great device for the price! If I weren't so impatient I would have bought this online. Great battery life!	This is exactly why i believe iphone 5 body was perfect example of good balance with design(timeless) and utility	[...] The earth probably has two or more degrees of symmetry, but less than infinite (like a sphere), but I'm honestly not too concerned about the minutiae of it
2	1110	short utterances	here we go!!	And her good posture.	Not in California.
3	310	long utterances	I've never had the pleasure of seeing Neil live but I got on a big kick a few years ago after buying one of his live albums (can't remember which one) where I listened to all his live albums and then wanted to see as many of his live performance I could find on YouTube. [...]	> but the movie has the superior ending I think. [...] [...]	So heavily influenced by the social economics ... but still voluntary, got it. [...] Then how about this. [...] Everyone still keeps their child that way, you even promote child birth. No sterilization, no stigmatization of poor people, no poor people stuck with child with heavy needs requiring care that they can't pay for.
4	232	URLs	https://youtu.be/GmULc5VANsw	[This](https://np.reddit.com/r/MakeupAddiction/comments/25hkqi/how_to_tell_if_your_foundationprimer_is_silicone/) might help!	I thought there was 51 stars because of Puerto Rico https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/51st_state

Table 13: **Clusters for RoBERTa base.** We display examples for 4 out of 7 clusters as a result of the agglomerative clustering of 14756 randomly sampled texts from the conversation test set. We mention noticeable consistencies (Consistency) within the cluster and give three examples each.

E Computing Infrastructure

The training of 23 RoBERTa (Liu et al., 2019), 13 uncased BERT and 6 cased BERT models (Devlin et al., 2019) took about 846 GPU hours with one RTX6000 card with 24 GB RAM on a Linux computing cluster. Further analysis and clustering of two RoBERTa models took about 24 GPU hours. We used a machine with 32 GB RAM and 8 intel i7 CPUs using Ubuntu 20.04 LTS without GPU access to generate the training data.

We used `SentenceTransformers` 2.1.0 (Reimers and Gurevych, 2019) and `numpy` 1.18.5 (Harris et al., 2020), `scipy` 1.5.2 (Virtanen et al., 2020) and `scikit-learn` 0.24.2 (Pedregosa et al., 2011).

We use previous work, including code and data, consistent with their specified or implied intended use (Reimers and Gurevych, 2019; Chang et al., 2020; Wegmann and Nguyen, 2021). The `ConvoKit` open-source Python framework invites NLP researchers and ‘anyone with questions about conversations’ to use it (Chang et al., 2020). The `SentenceTransformers` Python framework can be used to compute sentence / text embeddings.¹⁴ We comply with asking permission for part of the dataset for STEL and citing the specified works (Wegmann and Nguyen, 2021). Wegmann and Nguyen (2021) state the intended use of developing improved style(-sensitive) measures.

F Intended Use

We hope our work will inform further research into style and its representations. We invite researchers to reuse any of our provided results, code and data for this purpose.

¹⁴<https://sbert.net/>