

Natural Language Processing

CSE 447

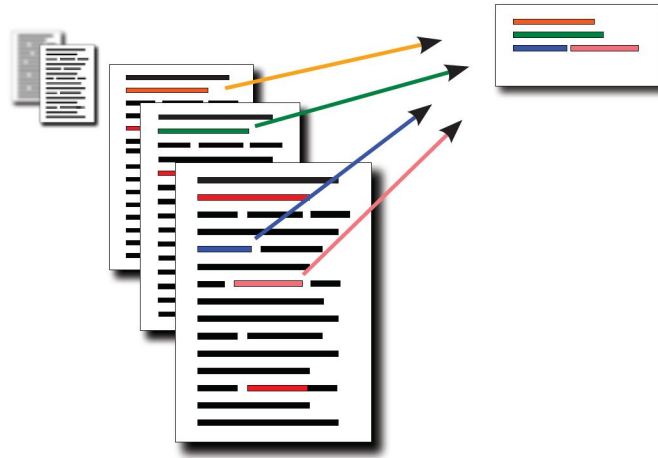
Text Summarization

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Text Summarization

- **Goal:** produce an abridged version of a text that contains information that is *important* or *relevant* to a user.



Applications of Summarization

- **simplifying** text by compressing sentences
- **outlines or abstracts** of any document, article, etc
- **summaries** of email threads
- **action items** from a meeting

Why Text Summarization Still Matters

Q: "GPT-4 can do everything... why bother learning about text summarization?"

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Answer:

- Before ChatGPT, researchers focused on individual tasks and developed systems by incorporating **specific insights for each task**.
- When ChatGPT came along, **scaling up models seemed like a "magic wand"** that could handle everything.

Why Text Summarization Still Matters

Q: "GPT-4 can do everything... why bother learning about text summarization?"

Answer:

- Before ChatGPT, researchers focused on individual tasks and developed systems by incorporating **specific insights for each task**.
- When ChatGPT came along, **scaling up models seemed like a "magic wand"** that could handle everything.
- But recently, even experts like Ilya Sutskever, have noted that this **scaling approach might be reaching its limits**. Have to train smarter, not just bigger.
- So, maybe it's time to revisit those "old" strategies—**bringing task-specific insights back into the picture?**

Range of Text Summarization Complexity

Easy ←————→ **Hard**



2-4 sentence → 1 sentence

1-page document → 1 paragraph

1 email → summary

Range of Text Summarization Complexity

Easy ←————→ **Hard**



2-4 sentence → 1 sentence

1-page document → 1 paragraph

1 email → summary

1-hour transcript → 5-10 action items

8-page paper → 1 paragraph

20-email thread → summary

Categories

- **Input**
 - Single-Document Summarization (SDS)
 - Multiple-Document Summarization (MDS)
- **Output**
 - Extractive
 - Abstractive
- **Focus**
 - Generic
 - Query-focused Summarization
- **Machine learning methods**
 - Supervised
 - Unsupervised

Input: Single vs. multiple documents

■ **Single-document summarization**

- Given a single document, produce
 - abstract
 - outline
 - headline

■ **Multiple-document summarization**

- Given a group of documents, produce a gist of the content:
 - a series of news stories on the same event
 - a set of web pages about some topic or question

Single-document Summarization

Document

Cambodian leader Hun Sen on Friday rejected opposition parties' demands for talks outside the country, accusing them of trying to "internationalize" the political crisis.

Government and opposition parties have asked King Norodom Sihanouk to host a summit meeting after a series of post-election negotiations between the two opposition groups and Hun Sen's party to form a new government failed.

Opposition leaders Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Sam Rainsy, citing Hun Sen's threats to arrest opposition figures after two alleged attempts on his life, said they could not negotiate freely in Cambodia and called for talks at Sihanouk's residence in Beijing. Hun Sen, however, rejected that.

I would like to make it clear that all meetings related to Cambodian affairs must be conducted in the Kingdom of Cambodia," Hun Sen told reporters after a Cabinet meeting on Friday. "No-one should internationalize Cambodian affairs.

It is detrimental to the sovereignty of Cambodia," he said. Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party won 64 of the 122 parliamentary seats in July's elections, short of the two-thirds majority needed to form a government on its own. Ranariddh and Sam Rainsy have charged that Hun Sen's victory in the elections was achieved through widespread fraud. They have demanded a thorough investigation into their election complaints as a precondition for their cooperation in getting the national assembly moving and a new government formed

Summary

Cambodian government rejects opposition's call for talks abroad

Figure 1: Single-document summarization.

Multiple-document Summarization

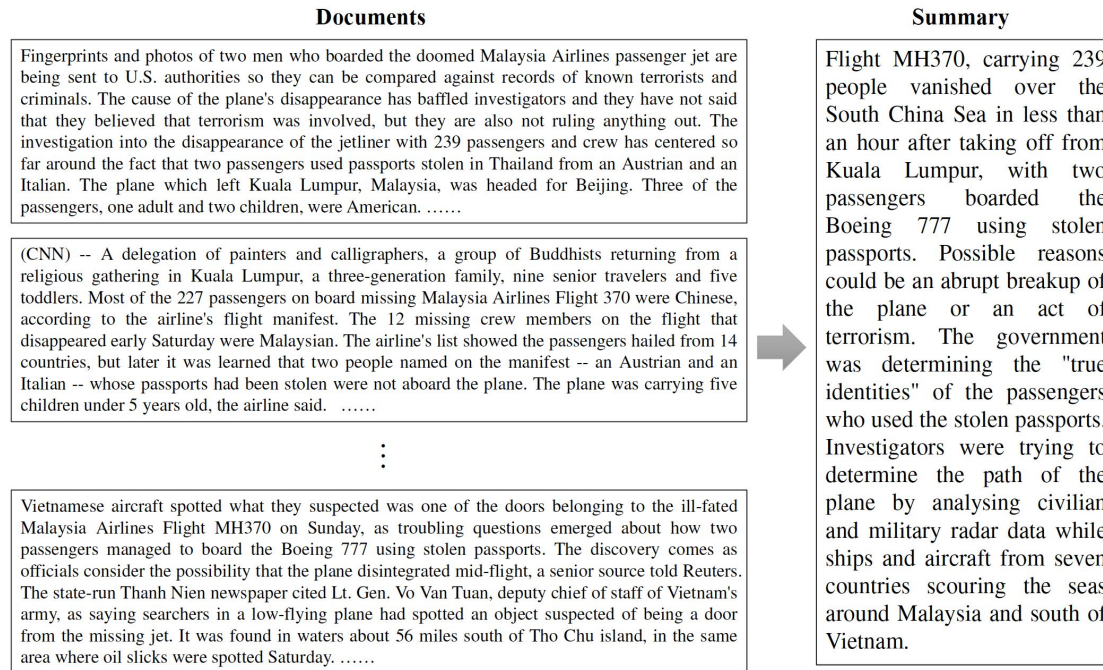


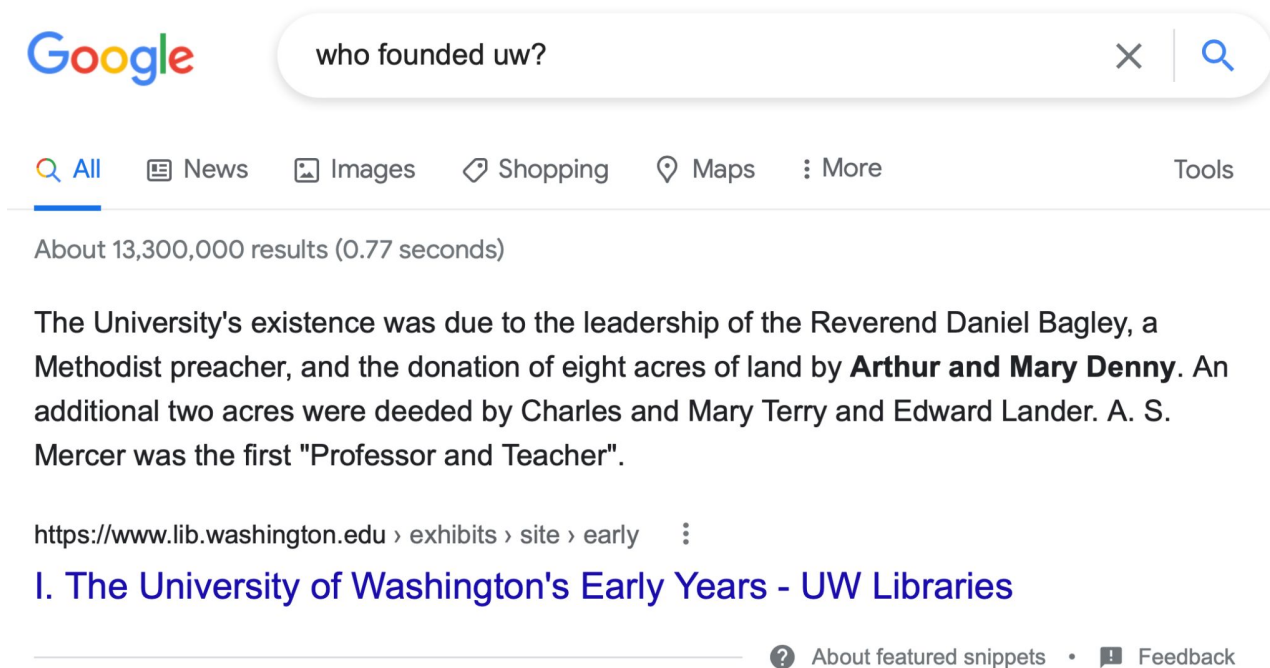
Figure 2: Multi-document summarization for the topic “Malaysia Airlines Disappearance”.

Focus: Generic & Query-focused Summarization

- **Generic** summarization:
 - Summarize the content of a document
- **Query-focused** summarization:
 - summarize a document with respect to an information need expressed in a user query.
 - a kind of complex question answering:
 - Answer a question by summarizing a document that has the information to construct the answer

Summarization for Question Answering: Snippets

- Create **snippets** summarizing a web page **for a query**



The image shows a Google search interface. The search bar contains the query "who founded uw?". Below the search bar, navigation links for "All", "News", "Images", "Shopping", "Maps", and "More" are visible, along with a "Tools" link. The search results indicate "About 13,300,000 results (0.77 seconds)". A featured snippet is displayed, providing a summary of the information. Below the snippet, the source URL is shown: "https://www.lib.washington.edu › exhibits › site › early". The snippet title is "I. The University of Washington's Early Years - UW Libraries". At the bottom of the search results, there are links for "About featured snippets" and "Feedback".

Google

who founded uw?

All News Images Shopping Maps More Tools

About 13,300,000 results (0.77 seconds)

The University's existence was due to the leadership of the Reverend Daniel Bagley, a Methodist preacher, and the donation of eight acres of land by **Arthur and Mary Denny**. An additional two acres were deeded by Charles and Mary Terry and Edward Lander. A. S. Mercer was the first "Professor and Teacher".

<https://www.lib.washington.edu> › exhibits › site › early

I. The University of Washington's Early Years - UW Libraries

About featured snippets • Feedback

Output: Extractive & Abstractive summarization

- **Extractive** summarization:
 - create the summary from phrases or sentences in the source document(s)
- **Abstractive** summarization:
 - express the ideas in the source documents using (at least in part) different words

History of Summarization

- Since 1950s:
 - Concept Weight (Luhn, 1958), Centroid (Radev et al., 2004), LexRank (Erkan and Radev, 2004), TextRank (Mihalcea and Tarau, 2004), Sparse Coding (He et al., 2012; Li et al., 2015) Feature+Regression (Min et al., 2012; Wang et al., 2013)
- Most of the summarization methods are **extractive**. (pre deep learning)
- **Abstractive** summarization is full of challenges.
 - Some indirect methods employ sentence fusing (Barzilay and McKeown, 2005) or phrase merging (Bing et al., 2015).
 - The indirect strategies will do harm to the linguistic quality of the constructed sentences.

How to detect salient words/sentences? (= Salience Detection)

Methods

Simple baseline: take the first sentence

Die Brücke

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

For other uses, see [Die Brücke \(disambiguation\)](#).

Die Brücke (The Bridge) was a group of German expressionist artists formed in Dresden in 1905, after which the **Brücke Museum in Berlin** was named. Founding members were Fritz Bleyl, Erich Heckel, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner and Karl Schmidt-Rottluff. Later members were Emil Nolde, Max Pechstein and Otto Mueller. The seminal group had a major impact on the evolution of modern art in the 20th century and the creation of expressionism.^[1]

Die Brücke is sometimes compared to the Fauves. Both movements shared interests in primitivist art. Both



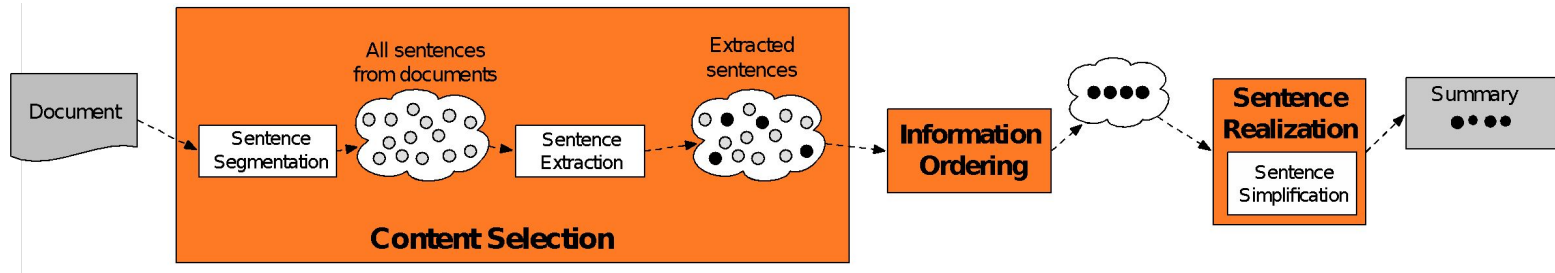
Google search results for "what is die brücke?". The search bar contains the query "what is die brücke?". The search results show "About 5,910,000 results (0.28 seconds)". The first result is "Die Brücke - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia" with the URL "en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Die_Brücke". The snippet for this result reads: "Die Brücke (The Bridge) was a group of German expressionist artists formed in Dresden in 1905, after which the Brücke Museum in Berlin was named. Founding ...".

Snippets: query-focused summaries

Was cast-metal movable type invented in korea?

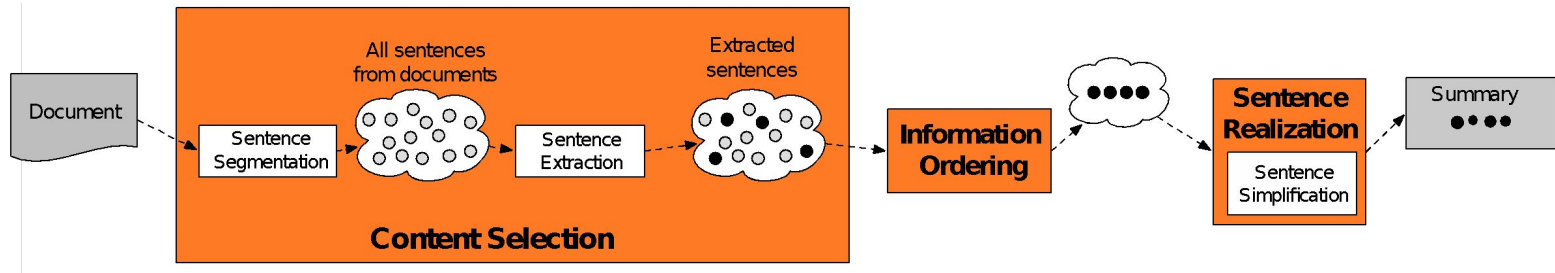
Summarization: Three Stages

1. **content selection**: choose sentences to extract from the document
2. **information ordering**: choose an order to place them in the summary
3. **sentence realization**: clean up the sentences



Summarization: Three Stages

1. **content selection**: choose sentences to extract from the document
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Unsupervised content selection

- Intuition dating back to Luhn (1958):
 - Choose sentences that have **salient** or **informative** words
- Two approaches to defining salient words
 1. **tf-idf**: weigh each word w_i in document j by tf-idf (tf: term-frequency, idf: inverse-document-frequency)
$$weight(w_i) = tf_{ij} \times idf_i$$
 2. **topic signature**: choose a smaller set of salient words
 - Use log-likelihood ratio (LLR) Dunning (1993), Lin and Hovy (2000)

Unsupervised content selection

- **Topic signature:** choose a smaller set of salient words

Topic 10 Signature Terms of Topic 258 — Computer Security					
Unigram	$-2\log\lambda$	Bigram	$-2\log\lambda$	Trigram	$-2\log\lambda$
computer	1159.351	computer security	213.331	jet propulsion laboratory	98.854
virus	927.674	graduate student	178.588	robert t. mo	98.854
hacker	887.377	computer system	146.328	cornell university graduate	79.081
morris	666.392	research center	132.413	lawrence berkeley laboratory	79.081
cornell	385.684	computer virus	126.033	nasa jet propulsion	79.081
university	305.958	cornell university	108.741	university graduate student	79.081
system	290.347	nuclear weapon	107.283	lawrence livermore national	69.195
laboratory	287.521	military computer	106.522	livermore national laboratory	69.195
lab	225.516	virus program	106.522	computer security expert	66.196
mcclary	128.515	west german	82.210	security center bethesda	49.423

Topic signature-based content selection w/ queries

Conroy, Schlesinger, and O'Leary 2006

- choose words that are informative either
 - by log-likelihood ratio (LLR)
 - or by appearing in the query

$$weight(w_i) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } -2 \log \lambda(w_i) > 10 \\ 1 & \text{if } w_i \in \text{question} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

(could learn more complex weights)

- Weigh a sentence (or window) by weight of its words:

$$weight(s) = \frac{1}{|S|} \sum_{w \in S} weight(w)$$

Graph-based Ranking Algorithms

- unsupervised sentence extraction

Rada Mihalcea, ACL 2004

$$Similarity(S_i, S_j) = \frac{|W_k|_{W_k \in S_i \& W_k \in S_j}}{\log(|S_i|) + \log(|S_j|)}$$

- 3: BC-Hurricane Gilbert, 09-11 339
- 4: BC-Hurricane Gilbert, 0348
- 5: Hurricane Gilbert heads toward Dominican Coast
- 6: By Ruddy Gonzalez
- 7: Associated Press Writer
- 8: Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (AP)
- 9: Hurricane Gilbert Swept toward the Dominican Republic Sunday, and the Civil Defense alerted its heavily populated south coast to prepare for high winds, heavy rains, and high seas.
- 10: The storm was approaching from the southeast with sustained winds of 75 mph gusting to 92 mph.
- 11: "There is no need for alarm," Civil Defense Director Eugenio Cabral said in a television alert shortly after midnight Saturday.
- 12: Cabral said residents of the province of Barahona should closely follow Gilbert's movement.
- 13: An estimated 100,000 people live in the province, including 70,000 in the city of Barahona, about 125 miles west of Santo Domingo.
- 14: Tropical storm Gilbert formed in the eastern Caribbean and strengthened into a hurricane Saturday night.
- 15: The National Hurricane Center in Miami reported its position at 2 a.m. Sunday at latitude 16.1 north, longitude 67.5 west, about 140 miles south of Ponce, Puerto Rico, and 200 miles southeast of Santo Domingo.
- 16: The National Weather Service in San Juan, Puerto Rico, said Gilbert was moving westward at 15 mph with a "broad area of cloudiness and heavy weather" rotating around the center of the storm.
- 17: The weather service issued a flash flood watch for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands until at least 6 p.m. Sunday.
- 18: Strong winds associated with the Gilbert brought coastal flooding, strong southeast winds, and up to 12 feet to Puerto Rico's south coast.
- 19: There were no reports on casualties.
- 20: San Juan, on the north coast, had heavy rains and gusts Saturday, but they subsided during the night.
- 21: On Saturday, Hurricane Florence was downgraded to a tropical storm, and its remnants pushed inland from the U.S. Gulf Coast.
- 22: Residents returned home, happy to find little damage from 90 mph winds and sheets of rain.
- 23: Florence, the sixth named storm of the 1988 Atlantic storm season, was the second hurricane.
- 24: The first, Debby, reached minimal hurricane strength briefly before hitting the Mexican coast last month.

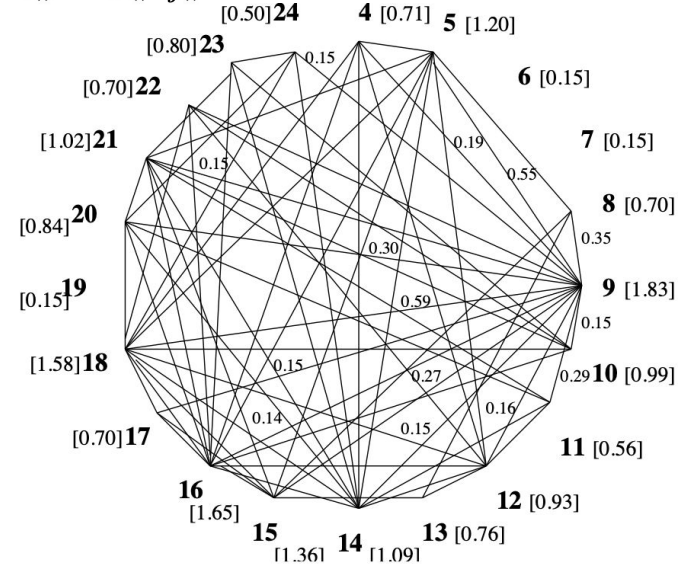


Figure 1: Sample graph build for sentence extraction from a newspaper article.

CNN/DM dataset

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

Trump will head to Texas on Tuesday

The White House has yet to say where Trump will travel

Washington (CNN) — President Donald Trump struck a unifying tone Monday as he addressed the devastation in Texas wrought by Hurricane Harvey at the top of a joint news conference with Finland's president.

"We see neighbor helping neighbor, friend helping friend and stranger helping stranger," Trump said. "We are one American family. We hurt together, we struggle together and believe me, we endure together."

Trump extended his "thoughts and prayers" to those affected by the hurricane and catastrophic flooding that ensued in Texas, and also promised Louisiana residents that the federal government is prepared to help as the tropical storm makes its way toward that state.

"To the people of Texas and Louisiana, we are 100% with you," Trump said from the East Room of the White House.

Supervised content selection

- Given:
 - a labeled training set of good summaries for each document
- Align:
 - the sentences in the document with sentences in the summary
- Extract features
 - position (first sentence?)
 - length of sentence
 - word informativeness
 - cue phrases
- Train
 - a binary classifier
(put sentence in summary? yes or no)
- Problems:
 - alignment difficult → performance not better than unsupervised algorithms
- So in practice:
 - Unsupervised content selection is more common

Evaluating Summaries: ROUGE

ROUGE

(Recall Oriented Understudy for Gisting Evaluation)

Lin and Hovy 2003

- A metric for automatically evaluating summaries
 - Based on BLEU (a metric used for machine translation)
 - Not as good as human evaluation (“Did this answer the user’s question?”)
 - But much more convenient

ROUGE

(Recall Oriented Understudy for Gisting Evaluation)

Lin and Hovy 2003

- A metric for automatically evaluating summaries
 - Based on BLEU (a metric used for machine translation)
 - Not as good as human evaluation (“Did this answer the user’s question?”)
 - But much more convenient
- Given a document D , and an automatic summary X :
 1. Have N humans produce a set of reference summaries of D
 2. Run system, giving automatic summary X
 3. What percentage of the bigrams from the reference summaries appear in X ? → ROUGE-2

$$ROUGE-2 = \frac{\sum_{s \in \{\text{RefSummaries}\}} \sum_{\text{bigrams } i \in S} \min(\text{count}(i, X), \text{count}(i, S))}{\sum_{s \in \{\text{RefSummaries}\}} \sum_{\text{bigrams } i \in S} \text{count}(i, S)}$$

A ROUGE example: Q: “What is water spinach?”

- System output: “Water spinach is a leaf vegetable commonly eaten in tropical areas of Asia.”
- Human Summaries (Gold)

Human 1: Water spinach is a green leafy vegetable grown in the tropics.

Human 2: Water spinach is a semi-aquatic tropical plant grown as a vegetable.

Human 3: Water spinach is a commonly eaten leaf vegetable of Asia.

- ROUGE-2 =

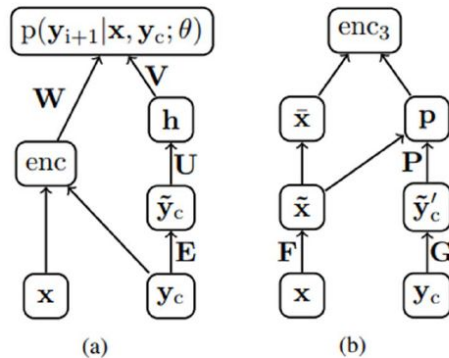
$$\frac{3 + 3 + 6}{10 + 9 + 9} = 12/28 = .43$$

Neural Text Summarization

A neural attention model for abstractive sentence summarization

Rush et al., EMNLP 2015

- Inspired by attention-based seq2seq models (Bahdanau, 2014)



$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{enc}_3(x, y_c) &= \mathbf{p}^\top \tilde{\mathbf{x}}, \\
 \mathbf{p} &\propto \exp(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}\mathbf{P}\tilde{\mathbf{y}}_c'), \\
 \tilde{\mathbf{x}} &= [\mathbf{F}\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{F}\mathbf{x}_M], \\
 \tilde{\mathbf{y}}_c' &= [\mathbf{G}\mathbf{y}_{i-C+1}, \dots, \mathbf{G}\mathbf{y}_i], \\
 \forall i \quad \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_i &= \sum_{q=i-Q}^{i+Q} \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_i / Q.
 \end{aligned}$$

Figure 5: (a) NNLM decoder with additional encoder element. (b) Attention based encoder.

A neural attention model for abstractive sentence summarization

Rush et al., EMNLP 2015

- Inspired by attention-based seq2seq models (Bahdanau, 2014)

Input ($\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{18}$). First sentence of article:

russian defense minister ivanov called sunday for the creation of a joint front for combating global terrorism

Output ($\mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_8$). Generated headline:

*russia calls for joint front against **terrorism*** \Leftarrow $g(\text{terrorism}, \mathbf{x}, \text{for}, \text{joint}, \text{front}, \text{against})$

Figure 2: Example input sentence and the generated summary. The score of generating \mathbf{y}_{i+1} (terrorism) is based on the context \mathbf{y}_c (for ... against) as well as the input $\mathbf{x}_1 \dots \mathbf{x}_{18}$. Note that the summary generated is abstractive which makes it possible to **generalize** (russian defense minister to russia) and **paraphrase** (for combating to against), in addition to **compressing** (dropping the creation of), see Jing (2002) for a survey of these editing operations.

Abstractive Text Summarization using Sequence-to-sequence RNNs and Beyond

Nallapati et al., CoNLL 2016

- Implements many tricks (nmt, copy, hierarchical, external knowledge...)

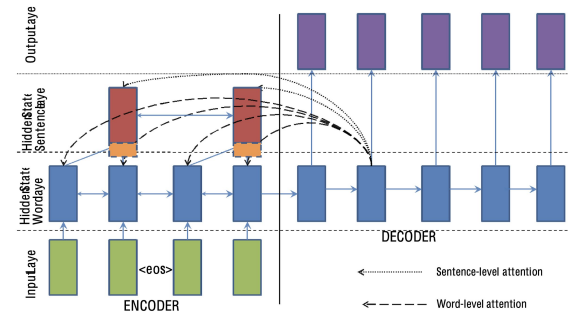
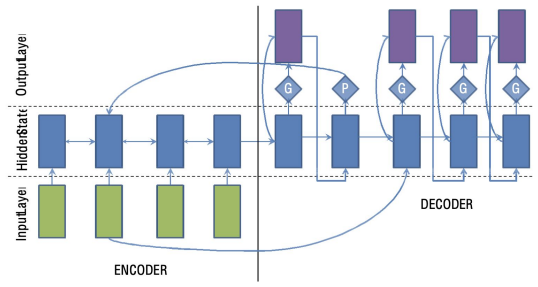
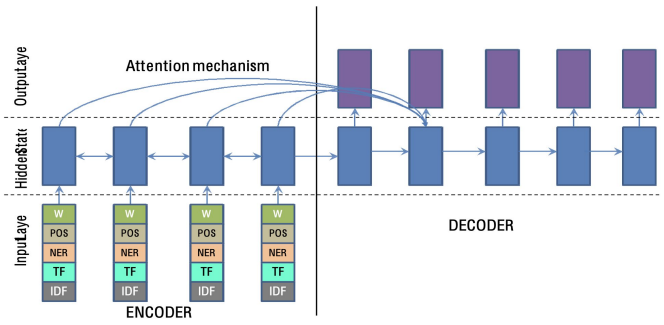


Figure 1: Feature-rich-encoder: We use one embedding

Figure 2: Switching generator/pointer model: When the

Figure 3: Hierarchical encoder with hierarchical attention:

Abstractive Text Summarization using Sequence-to-sequence RNNs and Beyond

Nallapati et al., CoNLL 2016

- Implements many tricks (nmt, copy, coverage, hierarchical, external knowledge)
- Hierarchical encoder showed mixed results
- Word-level features slightly helpful
- Copy mechanism leads to the best performance (ptr)

#	Model name	Rouge-1	Rouge-2	Rouge-L	Src. copy rate (%)
Full length F1 on our internal test set					
1	words-lvt2k-1sent	34.97	17.17	32.70	75.85
2	words-lvt2k-2sent	35.73	17.38	33.25	79.54
3	words-lvt2k-2sent-hieratt	36.05	18.17	33.52	78.52
4	feats-lvt2k-2sent	35.90	17.57	33.38	78.92
5	feats-lvt2k-2sent-ptr	*36.40	17.77	*33.71	78.70
Full length F1 on the test set used by (Rush et al., 2015)					
6	ABS+ (Rush et al., 2015)	29.78	11.89	26.97	91.50
7	words-lvt2k-1sent	32.67	15.59	30.64	74.57
8	RAS-Elman (Chopra et al., 2016)	33.78	15.97	31.15	
9	words-lvt5k-1sent	*35.30	16.64	*32.62	

Article: (...) wayne rooney smashes home during manchester united 's 3-1 win over aston villa on saturday. (...)

Summary: manchester united **beat** aston villa 3-1 at old trafford on saturday.

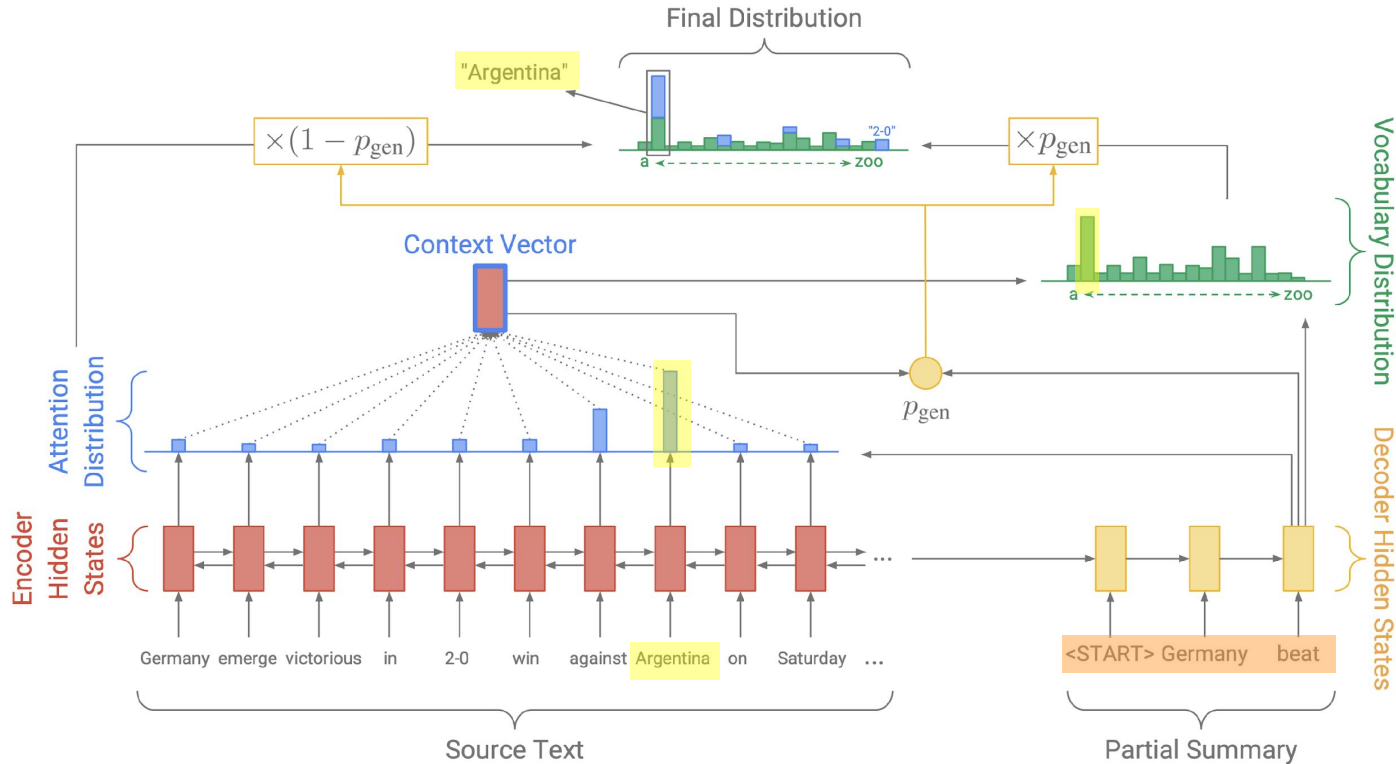
Copy Mechanism

- OOV, Extraction
- "Pointer networks" (Vinyals et al., 2015 NIPS)
- "Pointing the Unknown Words" (Gulcehre et al., ACL 2016)
- " Incorporating Copying Mechanism in Sequence-to-Sequence Learning " (Gu et al., ACL 2016)
- " Get To The Point: Summarization with Pointer-Generator Networks " (See et al., ACL 2017)

Pointer Generator Networks

Copy words from the source text

See et al., ACL 2017



Pointer Generator Networks

See et al., ACL 2017

1. Calculate vocab generation probability

$$P_{\text{vocab}} = \text{softmax}(V'(V[s_t, h_t^*] + b) + b')$$

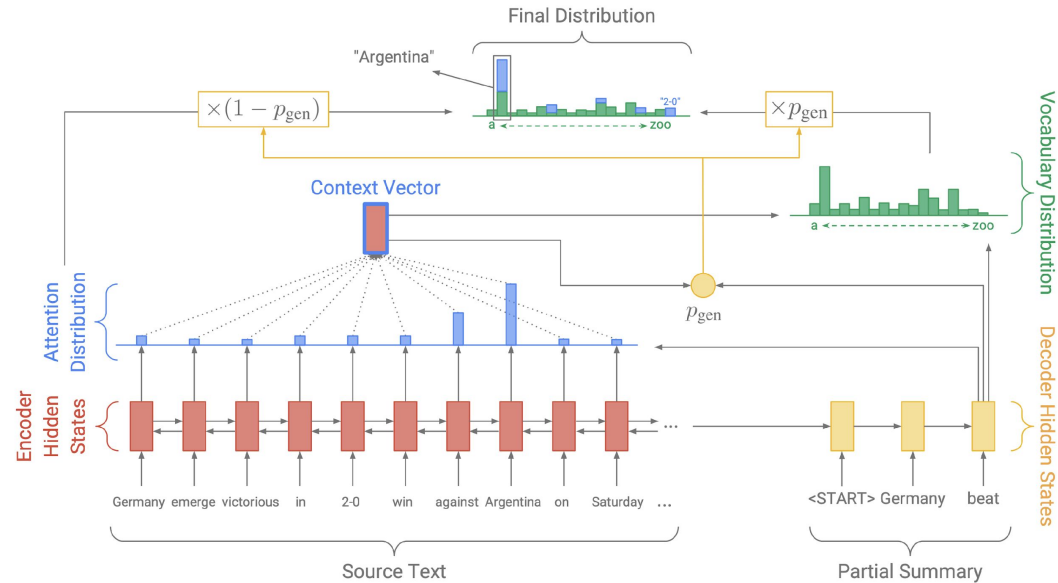
2. Calculate probability of generation (vs. copy)

$$p_{\text{gen}} = \sigma(w_{h^*}^T h_t^* + w_s^T s_t + w_x^T x_t + b_{\text{ptr}})$$

3. Combine generation and copy probability of words

$$P(w) = p_{\text{gen}} P_{\text{vocab}}(w) + (1 - p_{\text{gen}}) \sum_{i:w_i=w} a_i^t$$

4. Choose the final output



Pointer Generator Networks

Article: andy murray (...) is into the semi-finals of the miami open , but not before getting a scare from 21 year-old austrian dominic thiem, who pushed him to 4-4 in the second set before going down 3-6 6-4, 6-1 in an hour and three quarters. (...)

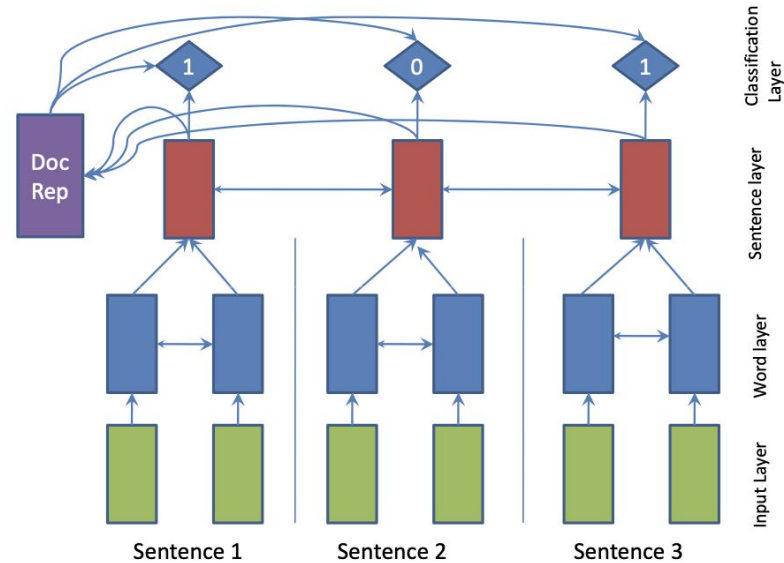
Summary: andy murray **defeated** dominic thiem 3-6 6-4, 6-1 in an hour and three quarters.

Article: (...) wayne rooney smashes home during manchester united 's 3-1 win over aston villa on saturday. (...)

Summary: manchester united **beat** aston villa 3-1 at old trafford on saturday.

Neural Extractive Models

- "SummaRuNNer: A Recurrent Neural Network Based Sequence Model for Extractive Summarization of Documents." (Nallapati et al., AAAI 2017)



Hybrid approach

- " Bottom-Up Abstractive Summarization " (Gehrmann et al., EMNLP 2018)
"a common mistake made by neural copy models is copying very long sequences or even whole sentences."

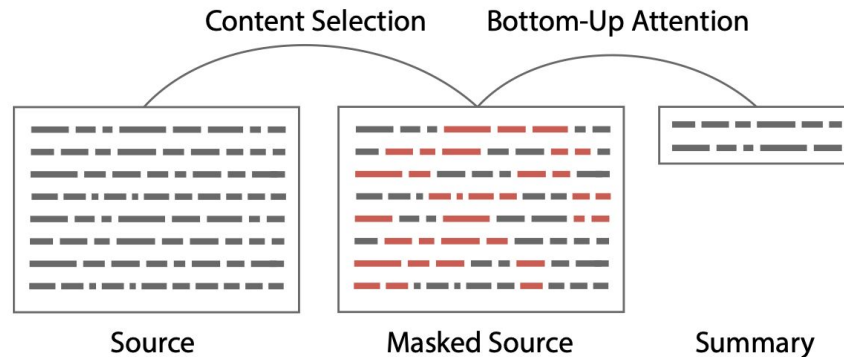
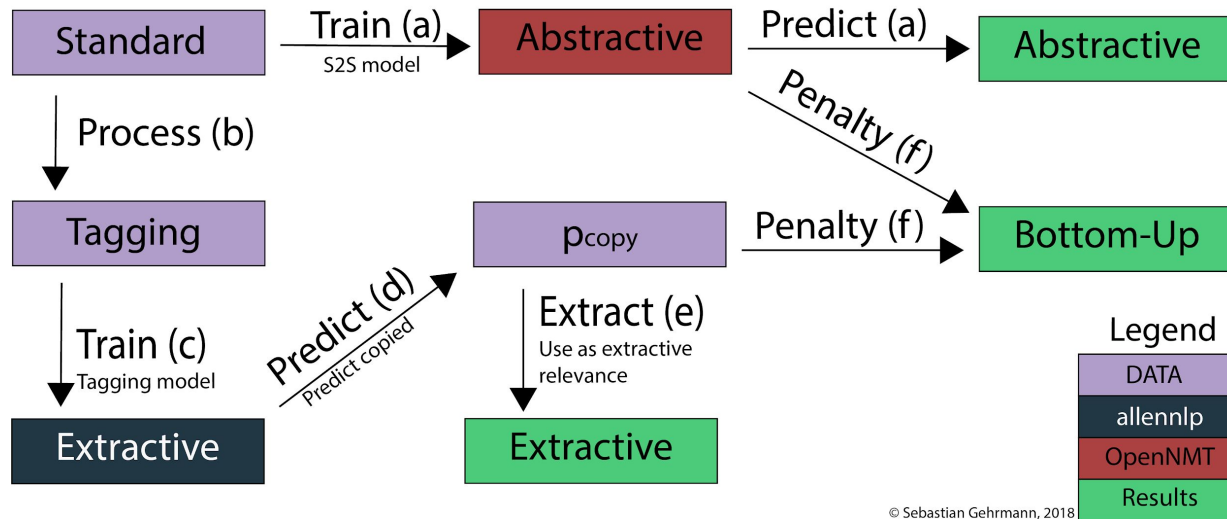


Figure 2: Overview of the selection and generation processes described throughout Section 4.

Hybrid approach

- "Bottom-Up Abstractive Summarization" (Gehrmann et al., EMNLP 2018)

Bottom-Up Attention Models for Extractive Abstractive Summarization



© Sebastian Gehrmann, 2018

Hybrid approach

- " Bottom-Up Abstractive Summarization " (Gehrmann et al., EMNLP 2018)

Method	R-1	R-2	R-L
ML + RL (Paulus et al., 2017)	39.87	15.82	36.90
Saliency + Entailment reward (Pasunuru and Bansal, 2018)	40.43	18.00	37.10
Key information guide network (Li et al., 2018a)	38.95	17.12	35.68
Inconsistency loss (Hsu et al., 2018)	40.68	17.97	37.13
Sentence Rewriting (Chen and Bansal, 2018)	40.88	17.80	38.54
Pointer-Generator (our implementation)	36.25	16.17	33.41
Pointer-Generator + Coverage Penalty	39.12	17.35	36.12
CopyTransformer + Coverage Penalty	39.25	17.54	36.45
Pointer-Generator + Mask Only	37.70	15.63	35.49
Pointer-Generator + Multi-Task	37.67	15.59	35.47
Pointer-Generator + DiffMask	38.45	16.88	35.81
Bottom-Up Summarization	41.22	18.68	38.34
Bottom-Up Summarization (CopyTransformer)	40.96	18.38	38.16

Other lines of research

- Coverage Mechanism
 - “Modeling Coverage for Neural Machine Translation” (Tu et al., 2016 ACL)
- Reinforcement Learning
 - “A deep reinforced model for abstractive summarization.” (Paulus et al., ICLR 2018)
 - “Learning to summarize from human feedback” (Stiennon et al., NIP 2020)
- Factual Summarization
 - “Understanding Factuality in Abstractive Summarization with FRANK: A Benchmark for Factuality Metrics” (Pagnoni et al., NAACL 2021)
- Prompt-based Summarization
 - “Planning with Learned Entity Prompts for Abstractive Summarization” (Narayan et al., TACL 2021)
 - “Prefix-Tuning: Optimizing Continuous Prompts for Generation” (Li and Liang, ACL 2021)

Conclusion

- **Salience Detection**

- How to detect important/relevant words or sentences?

- **Remaining Challenges**

- Long text abstractive summarization
- Abstractive multi-document summarization