# Question Answering

Generating Snippets and other Single-Document Answers

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## **Snippets: query-focused summaries**

Was cast-metal movable type invented in korea?

About 591,000 results (0.14 seconds)

#### Movable type - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Movable\_type

Jump to <u>Metal movable type</u>: Transition from wood type to <u>metal</u> type occurred in 1234 ... The following description of the **Korean** font <u>casting</u> ... In the early fifteenth century, however, the **Koreans invented** a form of <u>movable type</u> that has ...

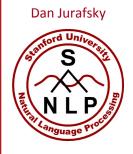
#### History of printing in East Asia - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\_of\_printing\_in\_East\_Asia

The following description of the **Korean** font **casting** process was recorded by the ... While **metal movable type** printing was **invented in Korea** and the oldest ...

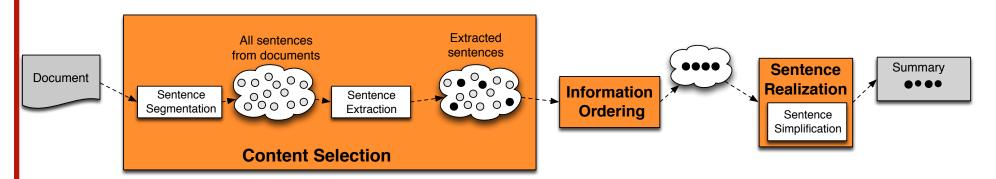
## Korea, 1000–1400 A.D. | Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History | The ... www.metmuseum.org/toah/ht/?period=07&region=eak

The **invention** and use of **cast-metal movable type** in **Korea** in the early thirteenth century predates by two centuries Gutenberg's **invention** of metal **movable type** ...



## **Summarization: Three Stages**

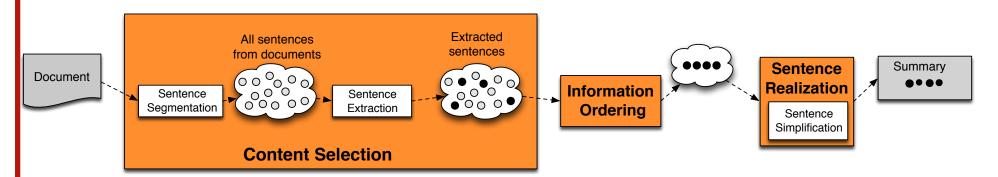
- content selection: choose sentences to extract from the document
- 2. information ordering: choose an order to place them in the summary
- 3. sentence realization: clean up the sentences





## **Basic Summarization Algorithm**

- content selection: choose sentences to extract from the document
- 2. information ordering: just use document order
- 3. sentence realization: keep original sentences





#### **Unsupervised content selection**

H. P. Luhn. 1958. The Automatic Creation of Literature Abstracts. IBM Journal of Research and Development. 2:2, 159-165.

- 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  $weight(w_i) = tf_{ij} \times idf_i$
  - 2. topic signature: choose a smaller set of salient words
    - mutual information
    - log-likelihood ratio (LLR) Dunning (1993), Lin and Hovy (2000)

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



# Topic signature-based content selection with queries

Conroy, Schlesinger, and O'Leary 2006

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

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

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

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





## **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
  - cohesion
- Train
  - a binary classifier (put sentence in summary? yes or no)

- Problems:
  - hard to get labeled training data
  - alignment difficult
  - performance not better than unsupervised algorithms
- So in practice:
  - Unsupervised content selection is more common

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