

ROUGE-L Score Calculation - Detailed Example

♦ ROUGE-L Score: Definition

ROUGE-L (Recall-Oriented Understudy for Gisting Evaluation – Longest Common Subsequence)

measures the longest common subsequence (LCS) between a candidate and a reference text. It emphasizes the sequence of words, not necessarily consecutive but in order, making it useful for summarization and free-form generation tasks.

♦ ROUGE-L Formula

Let:

- $LCS(X, Y)$ = length of longest common subsequence between reference X and candidate Y
- m = length of reference
- n = length of candidate

Then we compute:

- Precision (P): $P = LCS(X, Y) / n$
- Recall (R): $R = LCS(X, Y) / m$
- F-measure (ROUGE-L):
 $F = (1 + \beta^2) * P * R / (R + \beta^2 * P)$, where $\beta = 1$ by default (F1 Score)

♦ Example

Reference: "a cat is sitting on the mat"

Candidate: "cat is sitting on mat"

♦ Step-by-Step Calculation

1. Find LCS between reference and candidate

Reference: a cat is sitting on the mat

Candidate: cat is sitting on mat

$LCS = \text{"cat is sitting on mat"} \rightarrow \text{Length} = 5$

2. Compute Precision (P)

$$P = LCS / \text{Candidate length} = 5 / 5 = 1.0$$

3. Compute Recall (R)

$$R = LCS / \text{Reference length} = 5 / 7 \approx 0.714$$

4. Compute F1 Score (ROUGE-L)

$$F = 2 * P * R / (P + R) = 2 * 1.0 * 0.714 / (1.0 + 0.714) \approx 0.833$$

Final ROUGE-L Score \approx 0.833

◆ **Summary Table**

Metric	Value
LCS Length	5
Precision (P)	1.0
Recall (R)	0.714
ROUGE-L (F1)	0.833