Natural Language Generation to Generate Text Summaries

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Abstract

Text summarization is used most often nowadays, as it plays a main role in summarizing longer documents into shorter ones for a better understanding of the human. People prefer having shorter versions of the document read compared to longer documents. Text summarization not only benefits humans but also for the digital media to generate efficient content. There has been research going for extensive on summarization task. In this literature review, we will have a look at the various methods used for text summarization. We will be seeing how these techniques face the challenge of preserving the entire meaning of the document. We will also take a look at how the techniques have evolved over the years.

8 1 Introduction

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In today's world, time is very important for an individual. Many people might have seen lengthy documents, and they just don't read the longer version of the documents. There are a humongous number of available lengthy documents that are useful for humans but due to their time constraints or negligence, they just ignore those. If the lengthy documents are summarized preserving the whole meaning, then it would be helpful, this is where Text summarization comes into the picture.

Before beginning the text summarization, we need
to understand what exactly the text summarization
is with respect to the Natural Language Processing
task.

33 Text summarization is of two types:

- i. Extractive Summarization
- ii. Abstractive Summarization.

Extractive summarization is an easier task
 compared to abstractive summarization. In
 Extractive summarization, the vocabulary used

will be of the source document by maintaining the meaning of the whole document. In Abstractive summarization, the vocabulary used will be of novel words and generate completely new sentences by preserving the meaning of the source document.

The challenges that text summarization faces are sentence repetition, fluency, coherence, out-of-vocabulary words, sentence precise meaning, and meaning-specific content. The recent work in the field of text summarization has overcome the challenges up to an extent, but the work for accuracy is still going on.

52 2 Literature Review

53 2.1 Traditional Methods which deal only with Extractive Summarization

55 2.1.1 Graph-Based Summarization

In the paper Litvak et al., 2008 the authors ₅₇ proposed two solutions for the text summarization 58 task i.e., supervised and unsupervised. Supervised 59 works on the classification algorithms on a 60 summarized collection of documents represented 61 in a graph. The graph represents the syntactic 62 representation of textual web documents. The 63 nodes represent words and edges represent 64 semantic relationships. For unsupervised, they use 65 a rank-based HITS Algorithm. The unsupervised 66 doesn't train on the collection of summaries but it 67 works on the HITS algorithm, the challenge is NP-68 Hard, so rather than going for convergence they run 69 for one iteration. The dataset used here is the 70 Document Understanding Conference 2002 (DUC, ⁷¹ 2002). For the classification task, if the nodes of a 72 graph belong to at least one summary then it is set 73 to 1, else 0. The Supervised task works better than 74 the unsupervised task. The work concludes with

76 unsupervised, it depends on the convergence 126 which contains user reviews compared to the 77 criteria they set and the accuracy is around 80%. 127 DUC datasets which are formal news articles The 78 When the training data is not that good then the use 128 results were evaluated on the ROUGE metric, and unsupervised HITS Algorithm 79 of the 80 recommended.

₈₂ not be useful considering the fact of the model ¹³² 2015 is good compared to the former. This description as it might not present the summaries 133 technique also lacks the abstractive nature of the 84 accurately because many of the sentences/words 134 summary. We look at the techniques further that 85 might get repeated and uniqueness will not be 86 there, extractive also seems to be underperformed. 136 2,2

for 87 2.1.2 Maximizing **Semantic** Volume **Summarization**

Next, we look further at different techniques 139 90 which can be helpful for text summarization. The 140 sentence using the neural attention model. It is a 91 paper Yogatama et al., 2015 discusses the text 141 neural language model with an encoder and 92 summarization approach by maximizing the 142 decoder. The encoder is modeled with an 93 semantic volume. To maximize the volume a 143 attention-based encoder Bahdanau et al. (2014) 94 greedy approach is being used which is based on 144 with a latent soft alignment over the input. 95 the Gram-Schmidt. The baseliners considered for 145 96 this technique are Maximal Marginal Relevance 97 (Carbonell and Goldstein, 1998) and Coverage-98 based summarization. The greedy approach used is 99 also an NP-Hard problem, so they try to optimize 100 by maintaining a constraint for the volume. The 101 datasets used here are TAC-2008 and TAC-2009. 102 The proposed model based on the budget constraint 103 outperforms the baseline model as it considers a good amount of semantic volume for coverage.

Compared to the Litvak et al., 2008 graph 106 model, the model proposed by Yogatama et al., 107 2015 performs well because of the advantage of the 108 semantic volume. This one captures more 146 109 extractive information compared to the Graph- 147 110 based model(Litvak et al., 2008). This approach 148 111 has a future scope of including more volume by 149 The model works on a conditional probability 112 embedding the words by compressing volume 150 which maximizes the likelihood. further, but it lacks an abstractive nature and can 151 The neural language feed-forward network is given only be used for extractive tasks.

115 2.1.3 Summarization using dense Embeddings 154

117 Yogatama et al., 2015, whereas paper Kobayashi et al., 2015 presents in a different 157 DUC-2004 and annotated Gigaword dataset way by describing summarization based on the 158 (Graff et al., 2003; Napoles et al., 2012). The dense embeddings and here model function is 159 model outperforms the baseline models for both defined by the cosine similarity with an extension the datasets and the perplexity metric used for the of the submodular function defined. Their 161 Gigaword dataset (Graff et al., 2003; Napoles et function is calculated based on the nearest 162 al., 2012) and the proposed model Attentionneighbors KL-divergence. The dataset used here Based (ABS) is low, which is very good compared

75 84% accuracy for the classification task and for the 125 is the Opinosis dataset (Ganesan et al., 2010) were higher compared is 129 these results 130 the Yogatama et al., 2015, although the dataset The paper Litvak et al., 2008 outcomes might 131 was different, the impact of Kobayashi et al., 135 can overcome the drawbacks presented before.

Improvements in the Neural Language **Models for Abstractive Summarization**

138 2.2.1 **Neural Attention Model**

The paper Rush et al., 2015 summarizes the

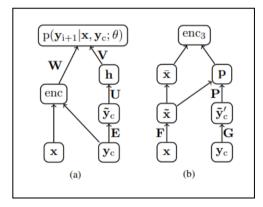


Figure 1: Rush et al., 2015 (a) NNLM decoder with additional encoder. (b) Attention-based encoder (enc3).

152 by(Rush et al., 2015):

p(nextword|context,x; θ) \preceq exp(Vh+W_{enc}(x,y_c)), (1) where h uses the tanh activation function There is an approach seen in the paper 155 The model uses minimization of the negative logthe 156 likelihood. For training data, we use both the

164 to the same model which does not have the 165 encoder.

Overall, the presented model in the paper Rush 167 et al., 2015 is good from the perspective of 168 sentence summarization which is abstractive. This 169 model also lacks the proper level of abstraction 170 when applied to the documents of many 171 sentences, as this model iust gives 172 summarization of sentences and if the sentence is 173 repeated in a different way, then it repeats the 174 sentence with the abstractive summary of the 175 sentence.

176 2.2.2 **Hierarchical Document Encoding Using Attention-Based Extractor** 177

abstract 217 The task of achieving the summarization seems to be a tough task. One of 218 document reader with a neural sentence extractor extractive 219 challenging aspects of 180 the summarization is the training data. Let's have a 182 look at other papers on how they are going to 183 resolve this issue, where the previous papers' proposed models are repeating sentence 185 summarizations and are less abstractive.

The paper Cheng et al., 2016 seems to be a proper extension of the work done previously by Rush et al., 2015. Compared to the former here 189 many sentences from a document are considered 190 rather than just performing abstractive 220 191 summarization of a sentence at a time. Here the 221 models used are Hierarchical Document Encoder 222 and Attention-Based Extractor. The encoder's job 223 passed to the Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN) 194 is to maintain the meaningful representation of 224 which use the Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) documents based on words and sentences. Neural 225 activation function to overcome the vanishing 196 networks are used for summarization tasks. There 226 gradient problem. The word extraction acts as a 197 are two extractions: sentence and word. The 227 generation task, and it generates the summary 198 sentence extraction objective is to maximize the 228 based on all the conditions applied to the layers. 199 log-likelihood and the importance of the word 229 The model outperformed the Rush et al., 2015 200 extractor is that it ensures the long extractive 230 model in both DailyMail and DUC-2002 datasets. 201 summaries are not taken.

203 validate both DailyMail and DUC-2002 are used, 233 model is still not very abstractive as the and the metrics used for evaluation are ROUGE 234 redundancy is there because it is just abstractive 205 and Human Evaluation. The two datasets are 235 for a few sentences and the repeated sentences 206 created from the DailyMail for the sentence 236 occur which are not known to the model. So, this 207 extractor and the word extractor.

208 Some rules are taken into account for sentence 209 extractor i.e. 1 if the document matches 239 that the abstractive nature of the repetitive 210 highlights, else 0. The lexical overlap is taken for 211 word extractor between highlights and the news 212 article. The out-of-vocabulary words are handled 213 by replacing similar kinds of semantic words. The 242 2.3.1 CopyNet using Sequence-to-Sequence 214 sentences are passed to a convolutional neural 243 215 network(CNN) with max-pooling which are document-level representations and then these are 244

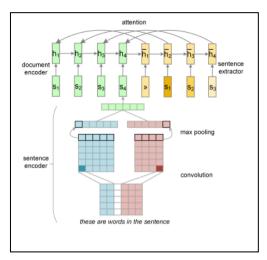


Figure 2: Cheng et al., 2016 A recurrent convolutional

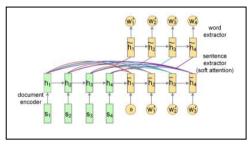


Figure 3: Cheng et al., 2016 Neural attention mechanism for word extraction.

Although the model Cheng et al., 2016 202 The training data used here is DailyMail and to 232 overcomes the Rush et al., 2015 model, still, the 237 technique in the paper Cheng et al., 2016 should 238 be studied further, and necessary updates such 240 sentences is handled.

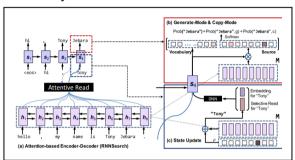
241 2.3 **Copy Mechanisms**

Model

Some of the techniques fail to represent the 245 actual summarization and coherency and they

246 present with the unnecessary not related words 247 which form a sentence. To handle this, the paper ²⁴⁸ Gu et al., 2016 introduces the copy mechanism in 249 Sequence-to-Sequence Learning. This technique 250 presents the appropriate sentence by copying 251 longer sequence words such that at least accurate 252 information is summarized. The Sequence-to Sequence is an encoder-decoder model and it outperforms the RNN-based model.

model This also handles vocabulary words as it searches the semantic



2016 Figure 3: et al., CopyNet Architecture.

unknown word sequence. The dataset used is the LCSTS dataset (Hu et al., 2015) which is gathered from news media on Sina Weibo.

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This model outperforms the RNN-based 263 models, and it is obvious because it doesn't 264 deviate from the actual content which summarizes i.e., the exact important words are preserved. 266 Although it performs well by handling this, it 267 lacks abstractive text and the sentences can be 268 repeated because of the copying nature.

Decoder 293 **Attention-Based** Encoder Sequence-to-Sequence RNN 270

Let's take a look at the techniques 295 272 improved from the above-discussed ones, here in 296 273 the paper Nallapati et al., 2016 where the authors 297 274 use Sequence-to-Sequence RNN with extra novel 298 275 models. They consider Attentional Encoder- 299 276 Decoder RNN on two different corpora. They 300 277 have also proposed a new dataset consisting of 301 278 multisentence summaries. The inclusion of 302 279 different novel models for the Seq2Seq RNN are 303 280 Large Vocabulary Trick (LVT) (Jean et al., 2014), 304 ²⁸¹ Feature-rich Encoder, and Switch Generator- ³⁰⁵ 282 Pointer. Feature-rich Encoder has Linguistic 306 ²⁸³ features such as POS, NER, TF, and IDF. With the ³⁰⁷ 284 help of the Switch Generator, out-of-vocabulary 308 words are handled as the pointer keeps track of the 309 286 source document, the G – softmax layer produces 310 ²⁸⁷ words, and the P – Pointer network is activated to ³¹¹ 288 copy from the source. The dataset used here is

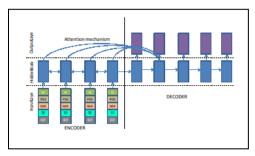


Figure 4: Nallapati et al., 2016 Feature-richencode

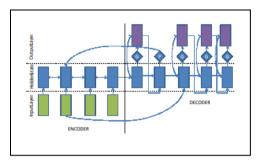


Figure 5: Nallapati et al., 2016 Switching generator/pointer model

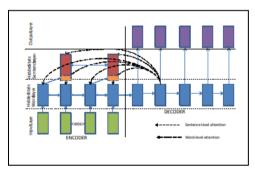


Figure 6: Nallapati et al., 2016 Hierarchical encoder with hierarchical attention

annotated Gigaword corpus(Rush et al., 2015), and training is done on 200-dimensional (Mikolov et al., 2013) word2vec vectors trained on Gigaword corpus(Rush et al., 2015). The results are compared with the different types of novel models and Rush et al., 2015 and validated Gigaword and DUC-2003 corpus. The metrics used here are ROUGE-1, ROUGE-2, ROUGE-L. The copy percent is also shown in the table. The current model has the lowest copy percent(78.7%) which means the remaining words are abstract compared to the Rush et al., 2015 models which have a 91.5% copy rate i.e. less abstractive compared to the model Nallapati et al., 2016. For the DUC-2003, Nallapati et al., 2016 performed the best compared to the former.

So far we have seen the Neural Sequenceto-Sequence RNN which has outpowered the 314 other models seen in both abstractive and 354 2.4.1 315 extractive text summarization, to handle out-of- 355 316 vocabulary words we have seen the concept of 317 pointer network which copies the words from 318 source documents if any oov occurs. But the base model Neural Seq2Seq RNN can't handle oov 358 The datasets used are TL;DR corpus which has words, Neural Seq2Seq RNN + pointer network handles oov words but not the repetitive sentences as the authors are not keeping track of the 361 summarization models have an inductive bias 323 generated sentences in the document.

324 **2.3.3 Pointer-Generator Model**

325 To handle the above drawbacks, the paper See et 326 al., 2017 suggests the technique to do so.

The model here with the pointer-generator 328 covers the oov words and incorporates the 329 coverage criteria to keep track of the completed 330 texts in order not to repeat the sentence. The

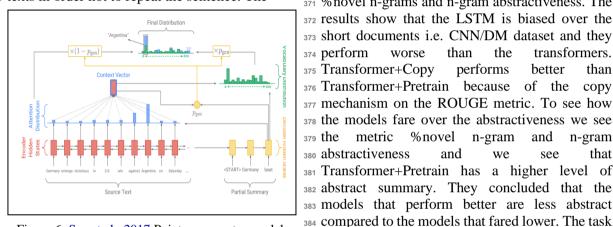


Figure 6: See et al., 2017 Pointer-generator model 332 model is trained on the CNN/Daily Mail 333 (Hermann et al., 2015) dataset (Nallapati et al., 334 2016) and some scripts supplied by Nallapati et 387 2.4.2 335 al., 2016. The outcomes of this model are 336 compared with Nallapati et al., 2016 and they are 337 very good for the metric ROUGE. The model See 389 338 et al., 2017 is more abstractive compared to 390 Transformer can be seen in the paper Xu et al., Nallapati et al., 2016. The best model is 391 2020. Here the copy mechanism is the graph-340 abstractive but it does not produce novel n-grams, 392 based self-attainment which captures the words 341 whereas the baseline model of See et al., 2017 393 from the source document nicely. Compared to 342 produces more novel n-grams and the reason will 343 be because of the oov words which are treated as 344 <UNK>. So far this is a very good model 345 compared to all models that aim for abstraction 346 and this model See et al., 2017 also doesn't seem 347 to be perfect, and more research should be done 348 regarding this.

349 2.4 **Transformer-Based Models**

Now the only ones left to see the area of 351 study are pre-trained models and the transformer-352 based models. The transformer models are trained 394 353 on a vast amount of data.

Transfer Learning with Finetuned Language Models

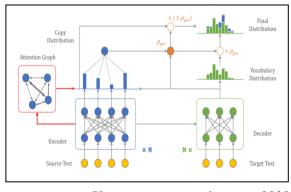
356 The paper Gehrmann et al., 2019 uses transfer 357 learning instead of copy-attention mechanisms. 359 user-written summaries from Reddit, which is an 360 abstractive dataset. Many abstractive 362 because they always generate 363 summaries. When a model is trained on the 364 abstractive dataset, it can gain abstraction from 365 datasets. The authors here, train on TL;DR corpus 366 and evaluate both TL;DR and CNN/DM corpus. 367 The models used here are LSTM as a baseline, 368 LSTM+Copy from See et 369 Transformer+Copy and Transformer+Pretrain. 370 The evaluation metrics used here are ROUGE and 371 % novel n-grams and n-gram abstractiveness. The 372 results show that the LSTM is biased over the 373 short documents i.e. CNN/DM dataset and they the 374 perform worse than transformers. 375 Transformer+Copy performs better Transformer+Pretrain because of the mechanism on the ROUGE metric. To see how 378 the models fare over the abstractiveness we see metric %novel n-gram 380 abstractiveness and we see that 381 Transformer+Pretrain has a higher level of 382 abstract summary. They concluded that the 383 models that perform better are less abstract

Self-Attention Guided Copy Mechanism

385 of finding the abstractive summary is always

386 challenging.

Advancing on the copy mechanism of the



2020 Figure7:Xu et al., Transformer+encoder self-attention graph

396 the working of the model Gehrmann et al., 2019 439 3 397 Transformer+Copy, this graph-based method 398 copies the words accurately. Here the training data 440 399 is CNN/DailyMail and Gigaword. This model Xu 441 ROUGE (Lin, 2004), BLEU, Human Evaluation, et al., 2020 works better compared to the 442 and perplexity. Transformer+Copy Gehrmann et al., 2019 in 443 terms of the accuracy in presenting the Out-of- 444 in the output summary to the source document. It this paper, the authors incorporate graph-based 446 generated summary to the source document. In 405 self-attention guided copy mechanism into the 447 ROUGE there are different types such as ROUGE-Transformer model.

407 2.4.3 **Abstractive Text Summarization**

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We will see the pre-trained encoders like 452 scores are the better. 410 Bidirectional Encoder Representations from

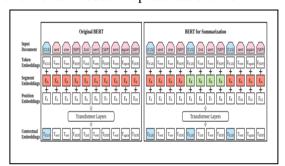


Figure 8: Liu et al., 2019 Architecture of the 463 original BERT model (left) and BERTSUM 464 (right)

414 Transformers (BERT; Devlin et al. 2019) 466 and presented in the paper Liu et al., 2019. Above 467 drawback of normalization by %novel n-grams. 416 Figure 8 is the architecture of BERT. This model 417 follows a two-step approach of fine-tuning the encoder twice with extractive and abstractive summarization objectives.

The model is trained for 3 different 470 summarization are: 421 datasets. They are CNN/Daily (Hermann et al., 471 422 2015) Mail, New York Times Annotated Corpus 472 423 (NYT: Sandhaus 2008), and XSum (Narayan et 473 424 al., 2018a). The model is evaluated on those 3 474 425 datasets The Bert Model outperforms the other 475 426 models for any dataset. This model achieves 476 427 state-of-the-art performances for both extractive 477 and abstractive summarization. The previous 478 429 models aimed for the better summarization task, 479 handled by copy mechanisms. Many attention-430 here the authors aim for good document encoding. 480 based techniques are used for the fluency and

432 outperforms the other models of any text 482 repetition is very challenging and is handled by 433 summarization task such as Extractive or 483 the pointer-based techniques. 434 Abstractive.

The general issues with the transformer 436 models are large training data requirements, 437 require high performing computers which are 438 very expensive.

Background Evaluation

The evaluation metrics used to evaluate are

ROUGE considers the overlap between n-grams Vocabulary words from the source document. In 445 focuses on the recall. It measures how good is the 1, ROUGE-2, and ROUGE-n where they measure Pretrained Encoder like BERT for 449 the overlap of unigrams, bigrams, and n-grams. 450 ROUGE-L (Lin, 2004) is the overlap of the longest 451 common subsequence. The higher the ROUGE

> While ROUGE focuses on Recall, BLEU 454 focuses on the precision of the summary with the 455 original document. This metric sees the quality of 456 the summary and its fluency.

> Human Evaluation involves the individual 458 evaluation criteria of everyone which helps in 459 identifying fluency, readability, and coherence 460 from a human perspective.

Perplexity is also a metric, which indicates the understanding of a summary. A lower perplexity score is a good one.

Perplexity = $\exp(average cross-entropy loss)$

%novel n-gram is a proxy for abstractiveness n-gram abstractiveness overcomes the

Challenges of the summarization task

challenges of main

- Preserving the meaning of document which is similar to the source document.
- Handling Out-of-Vocabulary Words ii.
- iii. Fluency and coherence
- iv. Sentence repetition
- Abstractive summaries

Out-of-vocabulary (OOV) words are The authors conclude that the model 481 coherence of the summarization. The sentence

484 5 **Summary**

In the literature review of the text summarization 486 task, we have seen the improvement of the models 487 for extractive and abstractive over the years. The 489 abstractive task. We have seen the traditional 539 Yatsuka. 2015. Summarization Based on Embedding graph-based supervised 491 unsupervised ranking-based algorithms 492 extractive summaries. With the 493 improvements, we have seen the Neural Language 494 Model for the text summarization which is also 544 [4] Alexander M. Rush, Sumit Chopra, and Jason abstractive. To improve the accurate meaning of 545 Weston. 2015. A Neural Attention Model for the sentence we have seen the copy mechanisms. 540 AUSTRACTIVE DETICATE On Empirical Methods in To improve the out-of-vocabulary words we use 548 Natural Language Processing, pages 379–389, Lisbon, ⁴⁹⁸ pointer-based networks. The abstractive task came ⁵⁴⁹ Portugal. Association for Computational Linguistics. 499 into the picture with the Sequence-to-Sequence 500 models with an encoder and decoder. Here we get 551 501 at least some abstractiveness compared to the 552 502 extractive models. To not repeat the sentence in a 553 503 document we use coverage with the help of pointer 554 504 network seq2seq. And then we have seen the 555 505 transformers and the BERT model, BERT 556 [6] Jiatao Gu, Zhengdong Lu, Hang Li, and Victor O.K. 506 outpowers all the models in both extractive and 557 507 abstractive tasks. For the transformers, the research 558 508 work needs to be done because the lower ROUGE 559 ⁵⁰⁹ value model is more abstractive and vice versa.

Future Scope for Improvements

511 There is always a need for advancements in text 564 512 summarization, considering the challenges seen. 565 513 Attention-based techniques are used for fluency 566 514 and coherence, these long-range dependencies 567 515 could further be improved to capture the source text 568 516 effectively for the summarization. Handling Outof-Vocabulary words is done by copy mechanisms, 518 but the advancements need to abstractiveness by just replacing it with novel 572 Manning. 2017. Get To The Point: Summarization words. Task-specific improvements should also be 573 with Pointer-Generator Networks. In Proceedings of 521 made as we just can't use computationally expensive methods for a simple task. Trained ₅₇₆ pages 1073–1083, Vancouver, Canada. Association for models on one type of dataset should also work 577 Computational Linguistics. 524 very well on similar kinds of other data.

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