
Summarization

Machine Translation

Summarization

- *Text summarization is the process of distilling the most important information from a text to produce an abridged version for a particular task and user*
 - Definition adapted from Mani and Maybury 1999
- Types of summaries in current research:
 - **Outlines or abstracts** of any document, article, etc.
 - **Snippets summarizing a Web page** or a search engine results page
 - **Action items** or other summaries of a business meeting
 - **Summaries** of email threads
 - **Simplifying text** by compressing sentences

Single vs. Multiple Documents

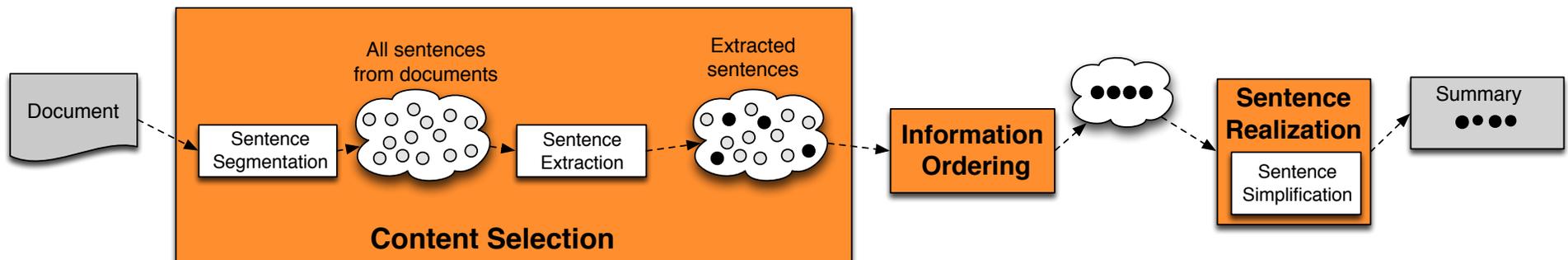
- **Single-document summarization**
 - Given a single document, produce
 - abstract
 - outline
 - headline
- **Multiple-document summarization**
 - Given a group of documents, produce a gist of the content, and create a cohesive answer that combines information from each document
 - a series of news stories on the same event
 - a set of web pages about some topic or question

Extractive vs. Abstractive

- **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

Typical approaches to general problem

- Currently, achieve extraction instead of a true re-phrasing
 - **Content Selection**
 - Identify the sentences or clauses to extract
 - **Information Ordering**
 - How to order the selected units
 - **Sentence Realization**
 - Perform cleanup on the extracted units so that they are fluent in their new context.



Content Selection

- Simple approach is to select sentences that have more informative words according to saliency defined from a topic signature of the document
- Centroid-based summarization uses log-likelihood ratios for words, computing the probability of observing the word in the input more often than in the background corpus
- Other centrality methods try to rank the sentences according to a centrality score
- Methods based on rhetorical parsing use coherence relations to identify satellite and nucleus sentences
- Machine learning methods use features based on
 - Position, cue phrases, word informativeness, sentence length, cohesion (computing lexical chains of the document)

Information Ordering

- Simplest is to keep the **document ordering**
- **Chronological ordering:**
 - Order sentences by the date of the document (for summarizing news)..
(Barzilay, Elhadad, and McKeown 2002)
- **Coherence:**
 - Choose orderings that make neighboring sentences similar (by cosine).
 - Choose orderings in which neighboring sentences discuss the same entity (Barzilay and Lapata 2007)
- **Topical ordering**
 - Learn the ordering of topics in the source documents

Simplifying Sentences

Zajic et al. (2007), Conroy et al. (2006), Vanderwende et al. (2007)

- Simplest method: parse sentences, use rules to decide which modifiers to prune
 - (more recently a wide variety of machine-learning methods)

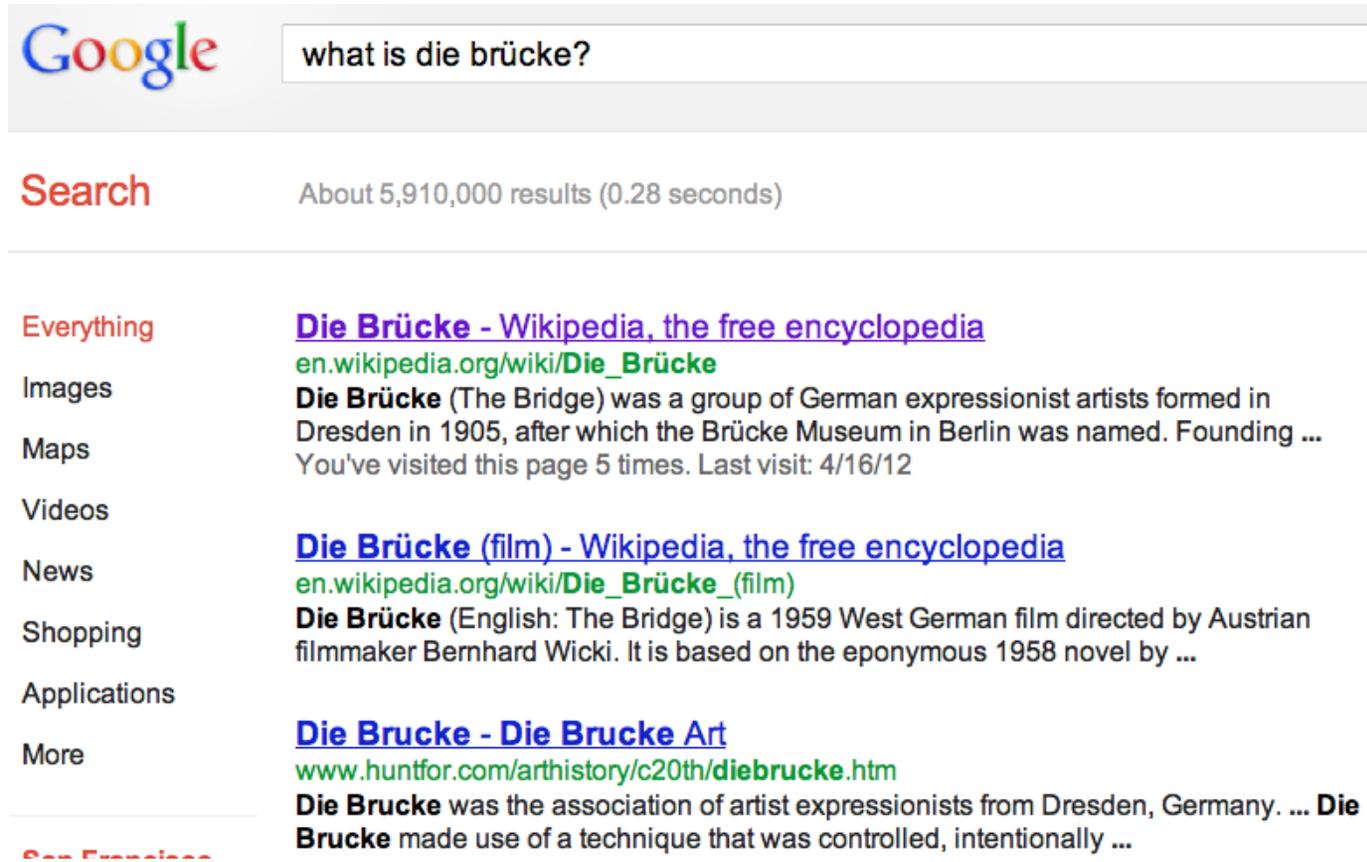
appositives	Rajam, 28, an artist who was living at the time in Philadelphia , found the inspiration in the back of city magazines.
attribution clauses	Rebels agreed to talks with government officials, international observers said Tuesday .
PPs without named entities	The commercial fishing restrictions in Washington will not be lifted unless the salmon population increases [PP to a sustainable number]
initial adverbials	“For example”, “On the other hand”, “As a matter of fact”, “At this point”

Summarization Evaluation

- Extrinsic (task-based) evaluation: humans are asked to rate the summaries according to how well they are enabled to perform a specific task
- Intrinsic (task-independent) evaluation
 - Human judgments to rate the summaries
 - ROUGE (Recall Oriented Understudy Gisting Evaluation)
 - Humans generate summaries for a document collection
 - System-generated summaries are rated according to how close they come to the human-generated summary
 - Measures have included unigram overlap, bigram overlap, and longest common subsequence
 - Pyramid method
 - Humans identify “units of meaning” and then an overlap measure is computed

Summarization for Question-Answering: Snippets

- Create **snippets** summarizing a web page for a query
 - Google: 156 characters (about 26 words) plus title and link



The screenshot shows a Google search interface. The search bar contains the text "what is die brücke?". Below the search bar, the word "Search" is displayed in red, followed by the text "About 5,910,000 results (0.28 seconds)". The search results are organized into a list of categories on the left: "Everything", "Images", "Maps", "Videos", "News", "Shopping", "Applications", and "More". The "Everything" category is selected, and the first result is titled "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 ... You've visited this page 5 times. Last visit: 4/16/12". The second result is titled "Die Brücke (film) - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia" with the URL "en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Die_Brücke_(film)". The snippet for this result reads: "Die Brücke (English: The Bridge) is a 1959 West German film directed by Austrian filmmaker Bernhard Wicki. It is based on the eponymous 1958 novel by ...". The third result is titled "Die Brücke - Die Brücke Art" with the URL "www.huntfor.com/arthistory/c20th/diebrucke.htm". The snippet for this result reads: "Die Brücke was the association of artist expressionists from Dresden, Germany. ... Die Brücke made use of a technique that was controlled, intentionally ...".

Machine Translation

- Translating text from one language to another is a task challenging even for humans to try to fully capture the style and nuanced meaning of the original
- While research focuses on trying to produce the fully-automatic, high-quality translation, there are many tasks for which a rough translation is sufficient
- The differences between languages include systematic differences that can be modeled in some way and idiosyncratic and lexical differences that must be dealt with one by one.

Why MT is hard

- Given the Japanese phrase
fukaku hansei shite orimasu
- If this is translated to English as
we apologize
it is not faithful to the original meaning
- But if we translate it as
we are deeply reflecting (on our past behavior, and what we did wrong, and how to avoid the problem next time)

the translation is not fluent.

Example from Jurafsky and Martin text.

Differences between languages

- Morphological differences:
 - Number of morphemes per word
 - Isolating languages: Vietnamese and Cantonese, each word has one morpheme
 - Polysynthetic languages: “Eskimo”, a single word has many morphemes corresponding to a complete sentence.
 - Degree to which morphemes are segmentable
 - Agglutinative, morphemes have clean boundaries (Turkish)
 - Fusion languages, single affix may have multiple morphemes (Russian)

Differences between languages

- Syntactic differences
 - Basic word order of verbs, subjects and objects
 - SVO: English, Mandarin, French, German, ...
 - SOV: Hindi, Japanese
 - VSO: Classical Arabic and Biblical Hebrew
 - Head marking and dependent marking languages
 - Mark relation between dependent and head on the head
 - Example: Hungarian marks possessive on the head noun
 - Or on dependent
 - Direction of motion with respect to verb
 - Grammatical constraints on matching gender-marked words
 - Many others . . .

Differences between languages

- Semantic differences
 - Lexical gap
 - One language doesn't have a word for concept in another
 - Differences in way that conceptual space is divided up for different words

Classical MT

- In this line of MT research, approaches can be classified according to the level of unit of translation
 - Direct translation uses a word translation approach
 - Syntactic and semantic transfer approaches use syntactic phrase and semantic units, respectively, as the unit of translation

Statistical Approaches

- Build probabilistic models of faithfulness and fluency and combine the models to produce the most probable translation.
- Modeled as a noisy channel “pretend that the foreign input F is a corrupted version of the target language output E and the task is to discover the hidden sentence E that generated the observed sentence F .”
- Requires three components
 - Language model to compute $P(E)$
 - Translation model to compute $P(F|E)$
 - Decoder, which is given F and produces the most probable E
 - Usually phrase-based

Alignment and Parallel Corpora

- All translation models are based on probabilities of word alignment
- Word alignment models are automatically trained from parallel corpora
- Hansard corpora work best for this
 - Translations of official government documents
 - Canadian parliament documents for French, English and a variety of native American languages
 - United Nations proceedings documents
 - Literary parallel corpora are not as suitable because of the stronger presence of literary devices, such as metaphor

MT Evaluation

- Human raters can evaluate along the two dimensions of fluency and fidelity (and there are several individual metrics for each of these dimensions)
- BLEU automatic evaluation system
 - Evaluation corpus contains human generated translations
 - Metrics evaluate how closely the system-generated translations correspond to the human ones