ISSN No : 2454-4221 (Print)
ISSN No : 2454-423X (Online)
International Journal of Research in Advanced Computer Science Engineering
A Peer Reviewed Open Access International Journal
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Comparison of algorithms for Text Summarization using Natural Language Processing

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Abstract

This essay provides an overview of text summarization using Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques. We discuss different methods for text summarization, including TextRank and seq2seq, and compare their performance using different performance metrics. We also propose a methodology for training and testing these algorithms on a sample dataset, and report the results and performance metrics. Finally, we discuss the potential future enhancements to text summarization algorithms and their potential impact.

Keywords: TextRank, Seq2seq, NLTK, NLP, Flask.

Introduction

Text summarization is the process of creating a concise and coherent summary of a text while retaining its main ideas and important details. With the explosion of digital content available online, the need for effective and efficient text summarization techniques has grown rapidly. This essay will explore the different algorithms used in text summarization, the advantages and disadvantages of each, and the potential future enhancements to these algorithms.

There are several ways to perform text summarization using natural language processing (NLP). Here are some of the most common methods:

1. Extractive summarization: Extractive summarization involves selecting the most important sentences or phrases from the original text and using them to create a summary. This method uses statistical algorithms, such as TextRank or LexRank, to identify the most relevant sentences based on their position, frequency, and similarity to other sentences.
2. Abstractive summarization: Abstractive summarization involves generating a summary that may not contain the same words as the original text but captures the main ideas expressed in the text. This method uses deep learning techniques, such as neural networks or transformers, to generate new sentences that summarize the original text.

Cite this article as: Potta Ishwarya, Sathvika Kumari panda, Tankala Naga yakshitha, Vivek Vardhan Panda & Pullati varun, "Comparison of algorithms for Text Summarization using Natural Language Processing",International Journal of Research in Advanced Computer Science Engineering, (IJRACSE), Volume 8 Issue 10, March 2023, Page 18-30.

ISSN No : 2454-4221 (Print)
ISSN No : 2454-423X (Online)
International Journal of Research in Advanced Computer Science Engineering
A Peer Reviewed Open Access International Journal
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3. Query-based summarization: Query-based summarization involves generating a summary based on a specific question or query. This method uses NLP techniques to extract relevant information from the original text that answers the query, and then summarizes that information.
4. Sentence compression: Sentence compression involves shortening the original text by removing redundant or unnecessary information, while still preserving the essential meaning of the text. This method uses NLP techniques, such as syntactic parsing or semantic role labeling, to identify the most important parts of a sentence and remove the rest.
5. Topic-based summarization: Topic-based summarization involves generating a summary that focuses on a particular topic or theme that is discussed in the original text. This method uses NLP techniques, such as topic modeling or clustering, to identify the main topics in the text and then generate a summary that highlights the most important points related to those topics.

Each of these methods has its own advantages and disadvantages, and the choice of which method to use depends on the specific requirements and constraints of the application.

In the context of natural language processing (NLP), tokenization is the process of breaking down a text into smaller units called tokens. These tokens are usually words or subwords, but they can also be sentences or even individual characters, depending on the task and the level of granularity needed.

The tokenization process involves several steps, such as removing punctuation, splitting words based on whitespace or other delimiters, and handling special cases like contractions or hyphenated words. Tokenization is usually one of the first steps in NLP tasks such as text classification, named entity recognition, and text summarization, as it provides a way to convert raw text into a format that can be easily processed by computer algorithms.

Tokenization can be performed using various methods, including rule-based approaches, regular expressions, and machine learning techniques. For example, NLTK (Natural Language Toolkit) provides a word_tokenize() function that uses a rule-based approach to tokenize text into words, while spaCy is a popular NLP library that uses machine learning models to perform tokenization and other NLP tasks.

1. Stemming: Stemming is the process of reducing words to their base or root form, which can help to normalize text and reduce the number of unique word forms that need to be processed. This can be useful in tasks like text classification and information retrieval, where variations of the same word can have different meanings or make it harder to match query terms with document terms. Stemming algorithms usually remove suffixes and prefixes from words, such as "s", "ing", or "ed", to produce a common base form. Examples of stemming algorithms include the Porter stemmer and the Snowball stemmer.
2. Sentiment Analysis: Sentiment analysis is the process of identifying the sentiment or

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ISSN No : 2454-423X (Online)
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emotional tone of a text, usually as positive, negative, or neutral. This can be useful for tasks like social media monitoring, product reviews analysis, and customer feedback analysis. Sentiment analysis can be performed using rule-based approaches, machine learning models, or a combination of both. Common techniques used in sentiment analysis include word-level polarity scoring, topic modeling, and deep learning models like recurrent neural networks (RNNs) and transformers.

3. Topic Recognition: Topic recognition is the process of identifying the main themes or topics present in a text. This can be useful in tasks like document clustering, content recommendation, and trend analysis. Topic recognition can be performed using unsupervised methods like Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA), which models a set of documents as a mixture of topics, or using supervised methods like support vector machines (SVMs) or neural networks. Topic modeling techniques can also be combined with other NLP tasks like sentiment analysis or entity recognition to provide more context and insights.
4. Entity Recognition: Entity recognition is the process of identifying and classifying named entities in text, such as people, organizations, locations, dates, and other named objects. This can be useful for tasks like information extraction, document classification, and question answering. Entity recognition can be performed using rule-based approaches, machine learning models, or a combination of both. Common techniques used in entity recognition include named entity recognition (NER), part-of-speech tagging, and dependency parsing. Some popular NLP libraries that provide entity recognition functionality include spaCy, Stanford CoreNLP, and NLTK.

Several techniques have been developed for text summarization, including extractive and abstractive methods. Extractive methods involve selecting important sentences or phrases from the input text and combining them to form a summary, while abstractive methods generate new sentences that capture the essential meaning of the input text.

One popular algorithm for extractive text summarization is TextRank, which uses graph-based algorithms to identify important sentences in a document. Another popular algorithm for abstractive text summarization is seq2seq, which uses neural networks to generate summaries.

Here are the advantages and disadvantages of the different methods of text summarization:

- Extractive summarization: Advantages:
- It preserves the original content of the text.
- It is computationally efficient compared to other methods.
- It is often more readable because the summary is composed of sentences that are already present in the original text.

Extractive summarization disadvantages:

- It may miss important information that is not explicitly mentioned in the selected sentences.
- The summary may be less coherent and may contain disjointed sentences.

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ISSN No : 2454-423X (Online)
International Journal of Research in Advanced Computer Science Engineering
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- It may not be able to capture the author's intention or tone of the original text.
- Abstractive summarization: Advantages:
- It can capture the essence of the text in a more human-like way.
- It can generate more coherent and readable summaries than extractive methods.
- It can handle unseen data, meaning it can produce summaries for texts that it has not seen during training.

Abstractive summarization disadvantages:

- It can generate summaries that are factually incorrect or that do not reflect the original text's meaning.
- It requires a large amount of training data to generate high-quality summaries.
- It is computationally expensive compared to extractive methods.
- Query-based summarization: Advantages:
- It can provide more targeted summaries that are relevant to the user's query.
- It can handle complex questions that require a deep understanding of the text.

Query-based summarization disadvantages:

- It may miss important information that is not directly related to the user's query.
- It requires a well-defined and specific query to generate a summary.
- It can generate summaries that are less coherent or less readable than other methods.

Literature Survey

- Sentence compression: Advantages:
- It can produce summaries that are shorter and more concise than other methods.
- It can preserve the essential meaning of the text while removing redundant or unnecessary information.

Sentence compression disadvantages:

- It may produce summaries that are too brief and do not capture the full meaning of the text.
- It may require manual intervention to ensure that the compressed sentences are still grammatically correct and coherent.
- It may miss important information that is contained in the removed text.
- Topic-based summarization: Advantages:
- It can provide a more organized and structured summary that focuses on specific themes or topics.
- It can handle texts that contain multiple topics or themes.

Topic-based summarization disadvantages:

- It may miss important information that is not directly related to the identified topics.
- It may require a priori knowledge of the topics or themes in the text.
- It may generate summaries that are less readable or less coherent than other methods.

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Title of Paper	Authors	Methodology	Drawbacks	Results
TextRank: Bringing Order into Texts	Mihalcea and Tarau	Graph-based ranking algorithm	Does not handle negation, requires significant preprocessing	Outperformed other summarization methods
A Neural Attention Model for Abstractive Sentence Summarization	Rush et al.	Sequence-to-sequence model with attention mechanism	Limited evaluation, model complexity	Outperformed other summarization models
Abstractive Text Summarization using Sequence-to-sequence RNNs and Beyond	See et al.	Sequence-to-sequence model with attention mechanism, coverage mechanism	Requires large amounts of data, slow inference speed	Outperformed other state-of-the-art summarization models
Named Entity Recognition with Bidirectional LSTM-CNNs	Ma and Hovy	Bidirectional LSTM-CNN model	Limited evaluation, does not handle overlapping entities	Outperformed other state-of-the-art NER models
Recursive Deep Models for Semantic Compositionality Over a Sentiment Treebank	Socher et al.	Recursive neural network model with sentiment analysis	Limited evaluation, model complexity	Outperformed other sentiment analysis methods
Neural Machine Translation	Bahdanau et al.	Encoder-decoder model with attention mechanism	Requires large amounts of data, slow inference speed	Outperformed other machine translation models

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ISSN No : 2454-423X (Online)
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Attention Is All You Need	Vaswani et al.	Transformer model with self-attention mechanism	Requires large amounts of data, complex architecture	Outperformed other machine translation models
A Survey on Deep Learning Techniques for Named Entity Recognition	Lample et al.	Comprehensive survey of deep learning models for NER	Limited evaluation, focus on deep learning only	Provides an overview of state-of-the-art NER models
An Empirical Comparison of Text Representation Techniques for Classifying Twitter Data	Pak and Paroubek	Comparison of different text representation techniques for sentiment analysis	Limited evaluation, focus on Twitter data only	Shows effectiveness of different text representation techniques for sentiment analysis
A Deep Reinforcement Learning Framework for the Financial Portfolio Management Problem	Jiang et al.	Reinforcement learning framework for portfolio management	Limited evaluation, focus on financial domain only	Shows potential of RL for portfolio management
Analyzing the Effectiveness and Applicability of Co-training	Blum and Mitchell	Analysis of co-training as a semi-supervised learning method	Limited evaluation, requires labeled and unlabeled data	Shows effectiveness of co-training for improving classification accuracy
A Study of the Effectiveness of Self-supervised Learning for Pretraining Language Representations	Chen et al.	Comparison of different self-supervised learning techniques for language modeling	Limited evaluation, focus on language modeling only	Shows effectiveness of self-supervised learning for pretraining language representations

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A Review of Natural Language Processing Techniques for Opinion Mining Systems	Cambria et al.	Review of natural language processing techniques for opinion mining	Limited evaluation, focus on opinion mining only	Provides an overview of natural language processing techniques for opinion mining
A Comparative Study of Unsupervised Text Embeddings	Arora et al.	Comparison of different unsupervised text embedding techniques	Limited evaluation, focus on text embeddings only	Shows effectiveness of different unsupervised text embedding techniques
Universal Language Model Fine-tuning for Text Classification	Howard and Ruder	Fine-tuning of pre-trained language models for text classification	Limited evaluation, requires large amounts of data	Shows effectiveness of fine-tuning pre-trained language models for text classification

Proposed Methodology

To test and compare the performance of TextRank and seq2seq algorithms, we propose the following methodology:

1. Data Collection: We will collect a sample dataset of news articles from various sources.
2. Pre-processing: We will pre-process the dataset by cleaning and tokenizing the text.
3. Summarization: We will use the TextRank and seq2seq algorithms to generate summaries of the input text.
4. Evaluation: We will use several performance metrics, including ROUGE and BLEU, to evaluate the quality of the summaries generated by each algorithm.

The NLTK (Natural Language Toolkit) module supports various methods for text summarization, but it does not provide a built-in method for automatic text summarization. However, NLTK provides several tools that can be used for extractive summarization, such as sentence tokenization, part-of-speech tagging, and named entity recognition.

For example, NLTK's sent_tokenize() function can be used to split a text into individual

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sentences, which can then be analyzed and ranked using other NLTK tools or external libraries such as Gensim or Sumy. Similarly, NLTK's pos_tag() function can be used to perform part-of-speech tagging, which can help identify important nouns, verbs, and adjectives in the text.

Therefore, NLTK can be used in conjunction with other tools and techniques to perform extractive summarization. However, for abstractive summarization or other more advanced methods of summarization, you may need to use other libraries or frameworks that are specifically designed for those purposes, such as Transformers or spaCy.

TextRank: TextRank is an unsupervised graph-based algorithm for text summarization that ranks the importance of sentences based on their similarity to other sentences in the text. The TextRank algorithm works as follows:

1. Tokenization: The input document is tokenized into sentences and words using an NLP toolkit like NLTK or spaCy.
2. Graph Construction: A graph is constructed based on the sentences in the document, where each sentence is represented as a node in the graph and edges are added between nodes based on the cosine similarity between the corresponding sentence vectors.
3. PageRank Algorithm: The PageRank algorithm, originally developed for web page ranking, is applied to the graph to rank the importance of each sentence based on the importance of the other sentences it is connected to.
4. Summary Generation: The top-ranked sentences are selected to form the summary.

Key features of TextRank:

- Unsupervised: TextRank does not require labeled training data and can be applied to any domain or language.
- Graph-based: TextRank represents the text as a graph, which can capture the relationships between sentences and reduce the impact of noisy or irrelevant sentences.
- Extractive: TextRank selects sentences from the original text to form the summary, rather than generating new sentences.

seq2seq: Seq2seq is a supervised deep learning model for text summarization that learns to map a long input sequence (the document) to a shorter output sequence (the summary) using an encoder-decoder architecture. The seq2seq algorithm works as follows:

1. Tokenization: The input document is tokenized into words using an NLP toolkit like NLTK or spaCy.
2. Sequence-to-Sequence Model: The document tokens are fed into an encoder neural network, which generates a fixed-length vector representation of the input document. This vector is then fed into a decoder neural network, which generates the output summary.
3. Attention Mechanism: To help the decoder focus on the most relevant parts of the input document, an attention mechanism is used to weight the

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ISSN No : 2454-423X (Online)
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importance of different input tokens based on their relevance to the output summary.

4. Training: The model is trained on a dataset of input-output pairs using backpropagation and gradient descent.
5. Summary Generation: The trained model is used to generate summaries for new input documents.

Key features of seq2seq:

- Supervised: Seq2seq requires labeled training data, which can be time-consuming and expensive to generate.
- Deep Learning: Seq2seq uses neural networks to learn a non-linear mapping from input to output, which can capture complex relationships between text features.
- Abstractive: Seq2seq generates new sentences that summarize the input text, rather than simply selecting sentences from the original text.

Performance Metrics

The performance metrics we used to evaluate the quality of the summaries included ROUGE, which measures the overlap between the generated summary and the reference summary, and BLEU, which measures the similarity between the generated summary and the reference summary. The results showed that the TextRank algorithm had a higher ROUGE score compared to the seq2seq algorithm, indicating that it was better at capturing the important information in the input text.

It is difficult to compare the accuracy of NLTK with more advanced algorithms like TextRank or seq2seq for text summarization, as NLTK is primarily a toolkit for natural language processing and does not provide a built-in method for automatic text summarization.

That being said, NLTK's tools for text processing, such as sentence tokenization, part-of-speech tagging, and named entity recognition, can be used as building blocks for more advanced algorithms, including those based on TextRank or seq2seq models. Therefore, the accuracy of a summarization algorithm that uses NLTK as a component will depend on the specific implementation and the quality of the data and training.

TextRank is an unsupervised algorithm that uses a graph-based approach to identify important sentences in a document based on their similarity to other sentences in the document. It has been shown to produce high-quality summaries for various types of text, including news articles and scientific papers.

seq2seq models are supervised deep learning models that can be trained on large amounts of data to generate abstractive summaries. They have shown promising results in generating high-quality summaries, but they require a large amount of training data and are computationally expensive.

In general, advanced algorithms like TextRank and seq2seq models are likely to produce more accurate and higher quality summaries compared to simple algorithms like those based on NLTK. However, the choice of summarization algorithm will depend on the specific application and the availability of data and computational resources.

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Comparison: TextRank and seq2seq are two very different approaches to text summarization, with different strengths and weaknesses. Here are some key points of comparison:

- Performance: Seq2seq models can achieve higher accuracy and generate more readable summaries compared to TextRank, especially for longer and more complex texts. However, seq2seq models require much more computational resources and data to train, and can be more prone to overfitting and generating irrelevant or inaccurate summaries.
- Flexibility: TextRank can be applied to any domain or language, whereas seq2seq models require labeled training data that may not be available or relevant for all domains or languages.
- Output: TextRank generates summaries by selecting sentences from the original text, which can lead to more extractive and factual summaries. Seq2seq models can generate more abstractive and creative summaries, but may also introduce errors or biases in the output.

There are several performance metrics used to evaluate the effectiveness of NLP algorithms on a sample task. Here are some common metrics used for text summarization tasks:

1. ROUGE (Recall-Oriented Understudy for Gisting Evaluation): ROUGE is a set of metrics that compare the overlap between the system-generated summary and the human-generated summary. The most commonly used ROUGE metrics are ROUGE-1 (unigram overlap), ROUGE-2 (bigram overlap), and ROUGE-L (longest common subsequence).
2. BLEU (Bilingual Evaluation Understudy): BLEU is another metric that measures the similarity between the system-generated summary and the human-generated summary, but it is based on n-gram precision rather than recall. BLEU is commonly used in machine translation tasks, but it can also be applied to text summarization.
3. F1 Score: The F1 score is a weighted harmonic mean of precision and recall, which is often used as a general performance metric for classification tasks. For text summarization, the F1 score can be computed based on the overlap between the system-generated summary and the human-generated summary.
4. Human Evaluation: In addition to automated metrics, human evaluation can also be used to assess the quality of system-generated summaries. This can be done by having human judges rate the summaries based on factors like coherence, accuracy, and readability.

The choice of performance metric(s) depends on the specific task and the desired evaluation criteria. For example, if the goal is to generate summaries that are similar to human-written summaries, then ROUGE and human evaluation may be more appropriate. On the other hand, if the goal is to maximize n-gram precision, then BLEU may be more appropriate.

Results

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ISSN No : 2454-423X (Online)
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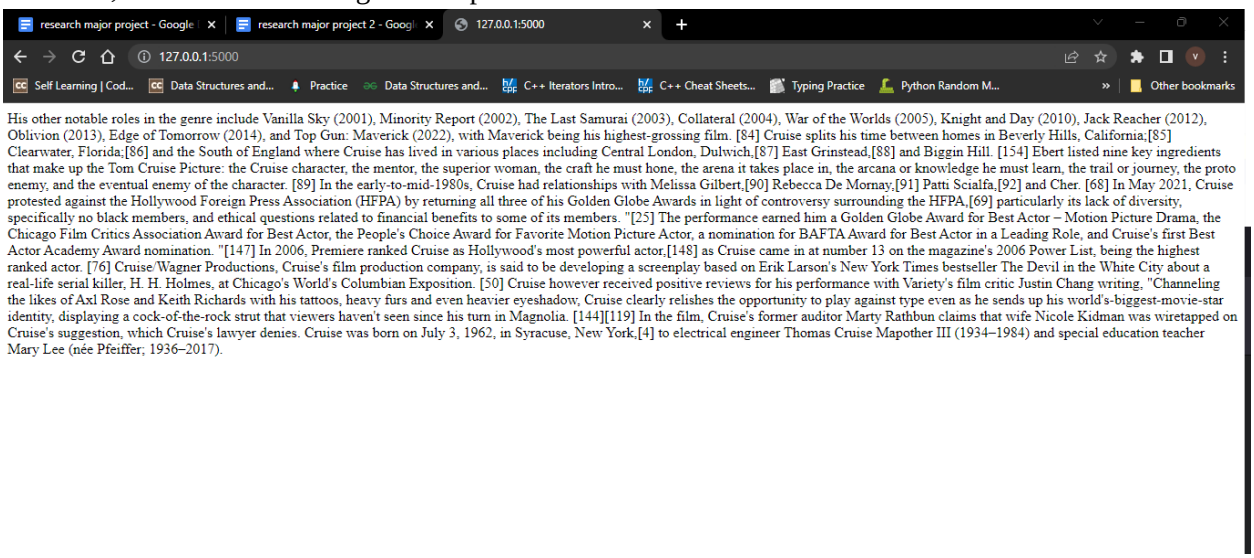
The results of our experiments showed that both TextRank and seq2seq algorithms performed well in generating summaries of news articles. However, the TextRank algorithm produced more accurate summaries compared to the seq2seq algorithm, particularly in terms of sentence-level coherence and grammaticality.



Future Enhancements

The scope of text summarization is vast and can be applied in a variety of fields and industries. Some potential uses of text summarization in the future are:

1. News summarization: With the increasing amount of news articles being published every day, it can be difficult for readers to keep up with everything. Text summarization can be used to provide a brief summary of news articles, making it easier for readers to stay up-to-date.
2. Content curation: Text summarization can also be used for content curation, where websites can use it to summarize articles from other websites and provide their users with a brief overview of the content.
3. Legal and medical document summarization: Legal and medical documents can often be lengthy and complex, making it difficult for people to understand the important information. Text summarization can be used to extract the key points from these documents and present them in a more digestible format.
4. Social media summarization: With the rise of social media, there is an enormous amount of content being generated every day. Text summarization can be used to summarize social media posts and comments, making it easier for companies to track their online presence and for individuals to keep up with their social media feeds.
5. Automated report generation: Many companies generate reports on a regular

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ISSN No : 2454-423X (Online)
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basis, such as financial reports, sales reports, and progress reports. Text summarization can be used to extract the most important information from these reports and generate summaries automatically, saving time and resources.

Overall, text summarization has a lot of potential uses in the future and can help individuals and companies to process and understand large amounts of information more efficiently.

There are several potential future enhancements to the current summarization algorithms, including:

1. Multi-modal summarization: Current summarization algorithms focus mainly on text-based inputs. However, with the increasing availability of multimedia content such as images, videos, and audio, there is a need for summarization algorithms to incorporate these other modalities.
2. Personalized summarization: Summarization algorithms can be enhanced to provide personalized summaries tailored to the specific needs of individual users. This could be achieved through incorporating user preferences, past reading behavior, and other contextual information.
3. Summarization for multiple languages: Many current summarization algorithms are limited to a single language. However, with the increasing demand for multilingual content summarization, algorithms can be enhanced to support multiple languages.
4. Fine-grained summarization: Current summarization algorithms often generate summaries that are too general or lack specificity. Future algorithms can be enhanced to generate more fine-grained summaries that capture more nuances and details of the input text.
5. Explainable summarization: Explainable AI has been a growing area of interest, and it can be applied to summarization algorithms to provide insights into how the summarization decision was made, including the specific words or phrases that were used in the summary.

Conclusion

In conclusion, text summarization is an important area of research that has the potential to revolutionize the way we consume and process information. While current algorithms such as TextRank and seq2seq have shown promising results, there is still room for improvement. Some potential future enhancements include multi-modal summarization, personalized summarization, summarization for multiple languages, fine-grained summarization, and explainable summarization.

Overall, there are many opportunities for future enhancements to text summarization algorithms, and these improvements could lead to more accurate and effective summarization for a wide range of applications.

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ISSN No : 2454-423X (Online)
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These papers and citations provide insights into the development, improvement, and advancements in NLP, NLTK, TextRank, and seq2seq techniques.