Abstract

Natural language processing techniques have demonstrated promising results in keyphrase generation. However, one of the major challenges in neural keyphrase generation is processing long documents using deep neural networks. Generally, documents are truncated before given as inputs to neural networks. Consequently, the models may miss essential points conveyed in the target document. To overcome this limitation, we propose SEG-Net, a neural keyphrase generation model that is composed of two major components, (1) a selector that selects the salient sentences in a document and (2) an extractor-generator that jointly extracts and generates keyphrases from the selected sentences. SEG-Net uses Transformer, a self-attentive architecture, as the basic building block with a novel layer-wise coverage attention to summarize most of the points discussed in the document. The experimental results on seven keyphrase generation benchmarks from scientific and web documents demonstrate that SEG-Net outperforms the state-of-the-art neural generative methods by a large margin.

1 Introduction

Keyphrases are short pieces of text that summarize the key points discussed in a document. They are useful for many natural language processing and information retrieval tasks (Wilson et al., 2005; Berend, 2011; Tang et al., 2017; Subramanian et al., 2018; Zhang et al., 2017b; Wan and Xiao, 2008; Jones and Staveley, 1999; Kim et al., 2013; Hulth and Megyesi, 2006; Hammouda et al., 2005; Wu and Bolivar, 2008; Dave and Varma, 2010). In the automatic keyphrase generation task, the input is a document, and the output is a set of keyphrases that can be categorized as present or absent keyphrases. Present keyphrases appear exactly in the target document, while absent keyphrases are only semantically related and have partial or no overlap to the target document. We provide an example of a target document and its keyphrases in Figure 1.

In recent years, the neural sequence-to-sequence (Seq2Seq) framework (Sutskever et al., 2014) has become the fundamental building block in keyphrase generation models. Most of the existing approaches (Meng et al., 2017; Chen et al., 2018; Yuan et al., 2020; Chen et al., 2019b) adopt the Seq2Seq framework with attention (Luong et al., 2015; Bahdanau et al., 2014) and copy mechanism (See et al., 2017; Gu et al., 2016). However, present phrases indicate the indispensable segments of a...
Transformer (Vaswani et al., 2017) as the backbone with salient and non-salient labels. A similar notion to design the sentence-selector is to decomative methods. We perform ablation and analysis effectiveness over the state-of-the-art neural generators from web documents to demonstrate its efficacy.

The layer-wise coverage attention keeps track of the target document segments that are covered by previously generated phrases to guide the self-attention mechanism in Transformer while attending the encoded target document in future generations. We evaluate SEG-Net on five benchmarks from scientific articles and two benchmarks from web documents to demonstrate its effectiveness over the state-of-the-art neural generative methods. We perform ablation and analysis to show that selecting salient sentences improve present keyphrase extraction and the layer-wise coverage attention and facilitates absent keyphrase generation. Our novel contributions are as follows.

1. SEG-Net that identifies the salient sentences in the target document first and then use them to generate a set of keyphrases.
2. A layer-wise coverage attention.

2 Problem Definition

Keyphrase generation task is defined as given a text document $x$, generate a set of keyphrases $K = \{k_1, k_2, \ldots, k_{|K|}\}$ where the document $x = [x_1, \ldots, x_{|x|}]$ and each keyphrase $k_i = [k_{i1}, \ldots, k_{i|k_i|}]$ is a sequence of words. A text document can be split into a list of sentences, $S_x = [s^1_x, s^2_x, \ldots, s^{|S_x|}_x]$ where each sentence $s^j_x = [x_j, \ldots, x_{j+|s^j_x|-1}]$ is a consecutive subsequence of the document $x$ with begin index $j \leq |x|$ and end index $(j + |s^j_x|) < |x|$. In literature, keyphrases are categorized into two types, present and absent. A present keyphrase is a consecutive subsequence of the document, while an absent keyphrase is not. However, an absent keyphrase may have a partial overlapping with the document’s word sequence. We denote the sets of present and absent keyphrases as $K_p = \{k_1^p, k_2^p, \ldots, k_{|K_p|}^p\}$ and $K_a = \{k_1^a, k_2^a, \ldots, k_{|K_a|}^a\}$, respectively. Hence, we can express a set of keyphrases as $K = K_p \cup K_a$.

SEG-Net decomposes the keyphrase generation task into three sub-tasks. We define them below.

**Task 1 (Salient Sentence Selection).** Given a list of sentences $S_x$, predict a binary label $(0/1)$ for each sentence $s^j_x$. The label 1 indicates that the sentence contains a present keyphrase or overlaps with an absent keyphrase. The output of the selector is a list of salient sentences $S_x^{sal}$.

**Task 2 (Present Keyphrase Extraction).** Given $S_x^{sal}$ as a concatenated sequence of words, predict a label (B/I/O) for each word that indicates if it is a constituent of a present keyphrase.

**Task 3 (Absent Keyphrase Generation).** Given $S_x^{sal}$ as a concatenated sequence of words, generate a concatenated sequence of keyphrases in a sequence-to-sequence fashion.

3 SEG-Net for Keyphrase Generation

Our proposed model, SEG-Net jointly learns to extract and generate present and absent keyphrases.
from the salient sentences in a target document. The key advantage of SEG-Net is the maximal utilization of the information from the input text in order to generate a set of keyphrases that summarize all the key points in the target document. SEG-Net consists of a sentence-selector and an extractor-generator. The sentence-selector identifies the salient sentences from the target document (Task 1) that are fed to the extractor-generator to predict both the present and absent keyphrases (Task 2, 3). We detail them in this section.

3.1 Embedding Layer
The embedding layer maps each word in an input sequence to a low-dimensional vector space. We train three embedding matrices, $W_e$, $W_{pos}$, and $W_{seg}$ that convert a word, its absolute position, and segment index into vector representations of size $d_{model}$. The segment index of a word indicates the index of the sentence that it belongs to. In addition, we obtain a character-level embedding for each word using Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) (Kim, 2014a). To learn a fixed-length vector representation of a word, we add the four embedding vectors element-wise. To form the vector representations of the keyphrase tokens, we only use their word and character-level embeddings.

3.2 Sentence-Selector
The objective of the sentence-selector is to predict the salient sentences in a document, as described in Task 1. Given a sentence, $s^i_x = [x_j, \ldots, x_{j+|s|-1}]$ from a document $x$, the selector predicts the salience probability of that input sentence. First, the embedding layer maps each word in the sentence into a $d_{model}$ dimensional vector. The sequence of word vectors are fed to the Transformer encoder that produces contextualized word representations $[o_1, \ldots, o_{|s|}]$ where $o_t \in \mathbb{R}^{d_{model}}$. Then we apply max and mean pooling on the output representations to form $s_{max}, s_{mean} \in \mathbb{R}^{d_{model}}$ that are concatenated $s_{pool} = s_{max} \oplus s_{mean}$ to form the sentence embedding vector. We feed the vector $s_{pool}$ through a three-layer, batch-normalized (Ioffe and Szegedy, 2015) maxout network (Goodfellow et al., 2013) to predict the salience probability.

3.3 Extractor-Generator
The extractor-generator module in SEG-Net takes a list of salient sentences from a document as an input that are concatenated to form a sequence of words and predicts the present and absent keyphrases. We illustrate the extractor-generator module in Figure 2 and describe its major components as follows.

**Encoder** The encoder consists of an embedding layer followed by an $L$-layer Transformer encoder. Each word in the input sequence $[x_1, \ldots, x_n]$ is first mapped to an embedding vector. Then the sequence of word embeddings is fed to the Transformer encoder that produces contextualized word representations $[o'_1, \ldots, o'_L]$ where $l = 1, \ldots, L$ using the multi-head self-attention mechanism.

**Extractor** In a nutshell, the extractor acts as a 3-way classifier that predicts a tag for each word in the input sequence.
the BIO format. The extractor takes \([o_1^L, \ldots, o_n^L]\) as input and predicts the probability of each word being a constituent of a present keyphrase.

\[
p_j = \text{softmax}\left(W_{r_2}(\tanh(W_{r_1}o_T^b + b_{r_1})) + b_{r_2}\right),
\]

where \(W_{r_1}, W_{r_2}, b_{r_1}, b_{r_2}\) are trainable parameters.

**Decoder** The decoder generates the absent keyphrases as a concatenated sequence of words \([y_1^*, \ldots, y_m^*]\) where \(m\) is the sum of the length of the phrases. The decoder predicts the absent phrases word by word given previously predicted words in a greedy fashion. The decoder employs an embedding layer, \(L\)-layers of Transformer decoder followed by a softmax layer. The embedding layer converts the words into vector representations that are fed to the Transformer decoder. We use relative positional encoding \((\text{Shaw et al., 2018})\) to inject order information of the keyphrase terms. The output of the last \((L\text{-th})\) decoder layer \(h_{1}^L, \ldots, h_{n}^L\) is passed through a softmax layer to predict a probability distribution over the vocabulary \(V\).

\[
p(y_t|y_{1:t−1}, x) = \text{softmax}(W_vh_t^L + b_v),
\]

where \(W_v \in \mathbb{R}^{V \times d_{\text{model}}}\) and \(b_v \in \mathbb{R}^V\).

**Coverage Attention** The coverage attention \((\text{Tu et al., 2016; Yuan et al., 2020; Chen et al., 2018})\) keeps track of the parts in the document that has been covered by previously generated phrases and encourages future generation steps to summarize the other segments of the target document. The underlying idea is to decay the attention weights of the previously attended input tokens while decoder attends the encoded input tokens at time step, \(t\). To equip the multi-layer structure of the Transformer with a layer-wise coverage attention, we adopt the layer-wise encoder-decoder attention technique \((\text{He et al., 2018})\). We compute the attention weights, \(\alpha_{ti} = \frac{e_{ti}}{\sum_{k=1}^{L} e_{tk}}\) in encoder-decoder attention at each layer where \(e_{ti}\) is as follows.

\[
e_{ti} = \begin{cases} 
\frac{\exp(e_{ti})}{\sum_{k=1}^{L} \exp(e_{tk})} & \text{if } t = 1 \\
\frac{\exp(e_{ti})}{\sum_{k=1}^{L} \exp(e_{tk})} & \text{otherwise},
\end{cases}
\]

where \(e_{ti}\) is the scaled-dot product between the target token \(y_t\) and the input token \(x_i\).

**Copy Attention** Absent keyphrases have partial or no overlapping with the target document. With the copy mechanism, we want the decoder to learn to copy phrase terms that overlap with the target document. Hence, we adopt the copy mechanism and use an additional attention layer to learn the copy distribution on top of the decoder stack.

Formally, we take the output from the last layer of the encoder \([o_1^L, \ldots, o_n^L]\) and compute the attention score of the decoder output \(h_T^L\) at time step \(t\) as: \(\text{att}(o_t^L, h_T^L) = o_t^L W_{\text{att}} h_T^L\). Then we compute the context vector, \(c_t^L\) at time step \(t\):

\[
a_t^L = \frac{\text{att}(o_t^L, h_T^L)}{\sum_{k=1}^{n} \exp(\text{att}(o_k^L, h_T^L))}; \quad c_t^L = \sum a_t^L o_t^L.
\]

The copy mechanism uses the attention weights \(a_t^L\) as the probability distribution \(P(y_t^* = x_i|u_t = 1) = a_t^L\) to copy the input tokens \(x_i\). We compute the probability of using the copy mechanism at the decoding step \(t\) as \(p(u_t = 1) = \sigma(W_u|h_T^L||c_T^L| + b_u)\), where \(|||\) denotes the vector concatenation operator. Then we obtain the final probability distribution for the output token \(y_t^*\) as: \(P(y_t^*) = P(y_t^* = u_t = 0)P(y_t^*|u_t = 0) + P(u_t = 1)P(y_t^*|u_t = 1)\) where \(P(y_t^*|u_t = 0)\) is defined in Eq. (1). All probabilities are conditioned on \(y_{1:t−1}^*, x\), but we omit them to keep the notations simple.

### 3.4 Learning Objectives

We individually train the sentence-selector and the extractor-generator in SEG-Net.

**Sentence-Selector** For each sentence in a document \(x\), the selector predicts the salience label. We choose the sentences containing present keyphrases or overlap with absent keyphrases as the gold salient sentences and use the weighted cross-entropy loss for selector training.

\[
\mathcal{L}_s = -\frac{1}{|x|} \sum_{j=1}^{|x|} \omega \hat{y}_j \log \hat{y}_j + (1 - \hat{y}_j) \log (1 - \hat{y}_j),
\]

where \(\hat{y}_j \in \{0, 1\}\) is the ground-truth label for the \(j\)-th sentence and \(\omega\) is a hyper-parameter to balance the importance of salient and non-salient sentences.

**Extractor-Generator** The extractor-generator takes a list of salient sentences as a concatenated sequence of words. For each word of the input sequence, the extractor predicts whether the word appears in a contiguous subsequence that matches a present keyphrase. The extractor treats the task as a binary classification task and we compute the extraction loss \(\mathcal{L}_e\) as in Eq. (3).

The decoder in extractor-generator generates the list of absent keyphrases in a sequence-to-sequence
We compute the negative log-likelihood $L_g$ of the ground-truth keyphrases.

$$L_g = -\sum_{t=1}^{n} \log p(y_t^* | y_1^*, \ldots, y_{t-1}^*, x),$$

where $n$ is sum of the length of all absent phrases. The overall loss to train the extractor-generator is computed as a weighted average of the extraction and generation loss, $L_{eg} = \beta L_e + (1 - \beta) L_g$.

## 4 Experiment Setup

### 4.1 Datasets and Preprocessing

We conduct experiments on five scientific benchmarks from the computer science domain: KP20k (Meng et al., 2017), Inspec (Hulth, 2003), Krapivin (Krapivin et al., 2009), NUS (Nguyen and Kan, 2007), and SemEval (Kim et al., 2010). Each example from these datasets consists of the title, abstract, and a list of keyphrases. Following previous works (Meng et al., 2017; Chan et al., 2019; Chen et al., 2019b,a; Yuan et al., 2020), we use the training set of the largest dataset, KP20k, to train and employ the testing datasets from all the benchmarks to evaluate the baselines and our models. KP20k dataset consists of 530,000 and 20,000 articles for training and validation, respectively. We remove all the articles from the training portion of KP20k that overlaps with its validation set, or in any of the five testing sets. After filtering, the KP20k dataset contains 509,818 training examples that we use to train all the baselines and our models.

We perform experiments on two web-domain datasets that consist of news articles and general web documents. The first dataset is KPTimes (Galлина et al., 2019) that provides news text paired with editor-curated keyphrases. The second dataset is an in-house dataset generated from the click logs of a large-scale commercial web search engine. Specifically, we randomly sampled web documents that were clicked at least once during the month of February in 2019. For each sampled web document, we collected 20 queries that led to the highest number of clicks on it. This design choice is motivated by the observation that queries frequently leading to clicks on a web document usually summarize the main concepts in the document. We further filter out the less relevant queries by ranking them based on the number of clicks. The relevance score for each query is assigned by an in-house query-document relevance model. We also remove duplicate queries by comparing their bag-of-words representation. The dataset consists of 206,000, 24,000, and 26,000 unique web documents for training, validation, and evaluation, respectively.

Statistics of the test portion of the experiment datasets are provided in Table 1 in Appendix. Following Meng et al. (2017), we apply lowercasing, tokenization and replacing digits with $\langle$digit$\rangle$ symbol to preprocess all the datasets. We use spaCy (Honnibal et al., 2020) for tokenization and collecting the sentence boundaries.

### 4.2 Baseline Models and Evaluation Metrics

We compare the performance of SEG-Net with four state-of-the-art neural generative methods, catSeq (Yuan et al., 2020), catSeqD (Yuan et al., 2020), catSeqCorr (Chen et al., 2018), and catSeqTG (Chen et al., 2019b). In addition, we consider the vanilla Transformer (Vaswani et al., 2017) as a baseline. The catSeq, catSeqCorr and catSeqTG models are known as CopyRNN (Meng et al., 2017), CorrRNN (Chen et al., 2018) and TGNet (Chen et al., 2019b) respectively. CopyRNN, CorrRNN or TGNet gen-

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Table 1: Summary of the test portion of the keyphrase benchmarks used in experiments. $\%$ Sent$^*$ represents the percentage of non-salient sentences in the input text. $\%$ PKp and $\%$ AKp indicate the percentage of present and absent keyphrases, respectively.

| Dataset    | # Example | Source Len. Max / Avg. | # Sentence | % Sent$^*$ | Max / Avg. # Kp Len. | Avg. # Kp | % PKp | % AKp |
|------------|-----------|------------------------|------------|------------|----------------------|----------|-------|-------|
| KP20k      | 20,000    | 1,438 / 179.8          | 108 / 7.8  | 29.2       | 23 / 2.04            | 5.28     | 62.9  | 37.1  |
| Inspec     | 500       | 386 / 128.7            | 23 / 5.5   | 16.5       | 10 / 2.48            | 9.83     | 73.6  | 26.4  |
| Krapivin   | 400       | 554 / 182.6            | 28 / 8.2   | 28.3       | 6 / 2.21             | 5.84     | 55.7  | 44.3  |
| NUS        | 211       | 973 / 219.1            | 42 / 11.8  | 32.6       | 70 / 2.22            | 11.65    | 54.4  | 45.6  |
| SemEval    | 100       | 473 / 234.8            | 22 / 11.9  | 27.0       | 11 / 2.38            | 14.66    | 42.6  | 57.4  |
| KPTimes    | 20,000    | 7,569 / 777.9          | 631 / 28.9 | 35.4       | 18 / 1.84            | 5.27     | 58.8  | 41.2  |
| In-house   | 26,000    | 9,745 / 969.1          | 538 / 35.6 | 44.0       | 16 / 2.69            | 4.08     | 37.5  | 62.5  |
Table 2: Results of keyphrase prediction on the scientific benchmarks. The bold-faced and underline values indicate the best and statistically significantly better (by paired bootstrap test, $p < 0.05$) performances across the board.

| Model          | KP20k          | Inspec          | Krapivin        | NUS            | SemEval        |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                | F1@M | F1@5 | F1@M | F1@5 | F1@M | F1@5 | F1@M | F1@5 | F1@M | F1@5 |
| **Present Keyphrase Generation** |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |
| catSeq         | 0.367 | 0.291 | 0.262 | 0.225 | 0.354 | 0.269 | 0.397 | 0.323 | 0.283 | 0.242 |
| catSeqD        | 0.363 | 0.285 | 0.263 | 0.219 | 0.349 | 0.264 | 0.394 | 0.321 | 0.274 | 0.233 |
| catSeqCorr     | 0.365 | 0.289 | 0.269 | 0.227 | 0.349 | 0.265 | 0.390 | 0.319 | 0.290 | 0.246 |
| catSeqTG       | 0.366 | 0.292 | 0.270 | 0.229 | **0.366** | **0.282** | 0.393 | 0.325 | 0.290 | 0.246 |
| Transformer    | 0.368 | 0.291 | 0.264 | 0.225 | 0.356 | 0.274 | 0.405 | 0.328 | 0.288 | 0.245 |
| SEG-Net        | **0.379** | **0.311** | 0.265 | 0.216 | **0.366** | **0.276** | **0.461** | **0.396** | **0.332** | **0.283** |
| **Absent Keyphrase Generation** |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |
| catSeq         | 0.032 | 0.015 | 0.008 | 0.004 | 0.036 | 0.018 | 0.028 | 0.016 | 0.028 | 0.020 |
| catSeqD        | 0.031 | 0.015 | 0.011 | 0.006 | 0.037 | 0.018 | 0.024 | 0.015 | 0.024 | 0.016 |
| catSeqCorr     | 0.032 | 0.015 | 0.009 | 0.005 | **0.038** | **0.020** | 0.024 | 0.014 | 0.026 | 0.018 |
| catSeqTG       | 0.032 | 0.015 | 0.011 | 0.005 | 0.034 | 0.018 | 0.018 | 0.011 | 0.027 | 0.019 |
| Transformer    | 0.031 | 0.015 | 0.009 | 0.005 | **0.038** | **0.020** | 0.028 | 0.016 | 0.029 | 0.020 |
| SEG-Net        | **0.036** | **0.018** | **0.015** | **0.009** | 0.036 | 0.018 | **0.036** | **0.021** | **0.030** | **0.021** |

4.3 Implementation Details

**Hyper-parameters** We use a fixed vocabulary of the most frequent $|V| = 50,000$ words in both sentence-selector and extractor-generator. We set $d_{\text{model}} = 512$ for all the embedding vectors. We set $L = 6$, $h = 8$, $d_k = 64$, $d_v = 64$, $d_ff = 2,048$ in Transformer across all our models. We detail the hyper-parameters in Table 11 in Appendix.

**Training** We perform grid search for $\beta$ over $[0.4, 0.5, 0.6]$ on the dev set and found $\beta = 0.5$ results in the best performance. Loss weights for positive samples $\omega$ are set to 0.7 and 2.0 during selector and extractor training.\(^3\) We train all our models using Adam (Kingma and Ba, 2015) with a batch size of 80 and a learning rate of $10^{-4}$. During training, we use dropout and gradient clipping. We halve the learning rate when the validation performance drops and stop training if it does not improve for five successive iterations. We train the sentence-selector and extractor-generator modules for a maximum of 15 and 25 epochs, respectively. Training the modules takes roughly 10 and 25 hours on two GeForce GTX 1080 GPUs, respectively.

**Decoding** The absent keyphrases are generated as a concatenated sequence of words. Hence, unlike prior works (Meng et al., 2017; Chen et al., 2018, 2019b,a; Zhao and Zhang, 2019), we use greedy search as the decoding algorithm during testing, and we force the decoder never to output the same trigram more than once to avoid repetitions in the generated keyphrases. This is accomplished by not selecting the word that would create the same trigram already exists in the previously decoded sequence. It is a well-known technique utilized in text summarization (Paulus et al., 2018).

\(^3\)The values are chosen by simply computing the fraction of the positive and negative samples.

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\[^2\]https://github.com/kenchan0226/keyphrase-generation-rl
5 Results

We compare our proposed model SEG-Net with the baselines on the scientific and web domain datasets. We present the experiment results in Table 2 and 3.

### Present keyphrase prediction

From the results, it is evident that SEG-Net outperforms all the baseline methods by a significant margin \((p < 0.05, t\text{-test})\) in 3 out of 5 scientific datasets and both web domain datasets. Unlike the baseline methods, SEG-Net extracts the present keyphrases from the salient sentences, contributing most to the performance improvement. In the Krapivin dataset, the performance is on par, while in the Inspec dataset, SEG-Net performs worst in terms of F1@5. The performance drop is explainable as Inspect dataset consists of shorter documents (see the average lengths in Table 1). In NUS and SemEval datasets, the performance improvements are noteworthy; 5.6 and 4.2 F1@M points over the second-best method. The number of ground truth keyphrases in those two datasets are higher than other scientific datasets, and extracting present keyphrases boosts the performance (more discussion in § 6). SEG-Net significantly improves the web domain datasets (3.1 F1@5 points in KPTimes and 5.0 F1@5 points in In-house datasets) over the best baseline methods, catSeqTG, and Transformer, respectively.

### Absent keyphrase prediction

Unlike present phrases, absent phrases do not appear exactly in the target document. Hence, predicting them is more challenging and requires a comprehensive understanding of the underlying document semantic. From Table 2 and 3, we see that SEG-Net correctly generates more absent keyphrases than the baselines on all the experimental datasets, except Krapivin. To our surprise, SEG-Net results in a large performance improvement (1.0 points in terms of F1@M) in the KPTimes dataset. We suspect that in KPTimes dataset, the target absent keyphrases are semantically associated with different segments of the document and thus generating such keyphrases from the salient sentences results in larger improvements. Overall, the absent phrase prediction results indicate that SEG-Net is capable of understanding the underlying document semantic better than the baseline methods.

### Number of generated keyphrases

Generating an accurate number of keyphrases indicates models’ understanding of the documents’ semantic. A small number of phrase predictions demonstrate a model’s inability to identify all the key points; over generation implies a model’s wrong understanding of the crucial points. Hence, we compare SEG-Net with all the baseline approaches for predicting the appropriate number of phrases. We measure the mean absolute error (MAE) between the number of generated keyphrases and the number of ground-truth keyphrases \((\text{Chan et al., 2019})\). The results for KP20k are presented in Table 4. The lower MAEs for SEG-Net indicate it better understands documents’ semantic. However, in the KPTimes dataset, we observe SEG-Net predicts more present keyphrases than the baselines (see Table 3 in Appendix). This is due to the extractive nature of SEG-Net, and documents having more closely related keyphrases (e.g., SEG-Net predicts ground-truth
We evaluate SEG-Net by providing the ground-truth salient sentences to quantify the improvement achievable with a perfect sentence-selector. We found that the present keyphrase prediction performance would have increased by 3.2 and 4.1 F1@M points with a perfect sentence-selector.

The impact of using salient sentences to generate absent keyphrases is significant for the web domain datasets (e.g., 2.8 F1@M points in KPTimes). We show the performances on KPTimes test documents with different length in Figure 3 and the results suggest that SEG-Net improves absent keyphrase prediction significantly for longer documents, and we credit this to the sentence selector. The selector’s accuracy on the KP20k and KPTimes datasets are 78.2 and 73.7 in terms of (macro) F1 score. We evaluate SEG-Net by providing the ground-truth salient sentences to quantify the improvement achievable with a perfect sentence-selector. We found that the present keyphrase prediction performance would have increased by 3.2 and 4.1 F1@M points with a perfect sentence-selector.

We compare the sentence selector with the baselines that select the first N sentences from the target document, and the results are presented in Table 5. SEG-Net’s selector has a higher precision that indicates it processes input texts with more salient sentences. On the other hand, the recall is substantially lower for the scientific domain due to false-negative predictions. Our experiments suggest that salient sentence selection positively impacts and has additional room for improvement.

### 6 Analysis

The differences between the Transformer baseline and SEG-Net are (1) decoupling keyphrase extraction and generation, (2) use salient sentences for keyphrase prediction, and (3) layer-wise coverage attention. We perform ablation on the three design choices and present the results in Table 5.

**Decoupling extraction and generation** SEG-Net extracts present keyphrases and generates absent keyphrases as suggested in Chen et al. (2019a) with a difference in the extractor. SEG-Net employs a 3-way classifier (to predict BIO tags) that enables consecutive present-keyphrases extraction. The ablation study shows that separating extraction and generation boosts present keyphrase prediction (as much as 2.8, 1.0, and 2.2 F1@M points in NUS, SemEval, and KPTimes datasets, respectively).

**Salient sentence selection** One of SEG-Net’s key contributions is the sentence-selector that identifies the salient sentences to minimize the risk of missing critical points due to truncating long target documents (e.g., web documents). The contribution of sentence-selector in present keyphrase prediction is evident from the ablation study. The impact of using salient sentences to generate absent keyphrases is significant for the web domain datasets (e.g., 2.8 F1@M points in KPTimes).

We show the performances on KPTimes test documents with different length in Figure 3 and the results suggest that SEG-Net improves absent keyphrase prediction significantly for longer documents, and we credit this to the sentence selector. The selector’s accuracy on the KP20k and KPTimes datasets are 78.2 and 73.7 in terms of (macro) F1 score. We evaluate SEG-Net by providing the ground-truth salient sentences to quantify the improvement achievable with a perfect sentence-selector. We found that the present keyphrase prediction performance would have increased by 3.2 and 4.1 F1@M points with a perfect sentence-selector.

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### Table 6: Precision and recall computed by selecting $N$ predicted salient sentences in SEG-Net, and the first $N$ sentences from the target documents in the baselines. We set $N$ for each target document so that the total length of the selected sentences does not exceed a limit of 200 words. It is important to note that the baseline recall is close to 100.0 for the scientific domain datasets because the average length of the target documents from that domain is closer to 200 words.

| Dataset  | SEG-Net Prec. | SEG-Net Recall | Baseline Prec. | Baseline Recall |
|----------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| **Scientific Domain** | | | | |
| KP20k    | 84.5          | 86.3           | 75.1           | 95.0            |
| Inspec   | 95.0          | 82.6           | 87.1           | 98.8            |
| Krapivin | 85.5          | 85.3           | 75.8           | 95.1            |
| NUS      | 91.8          | 81.0           | 78.1           | 92.0            |
| SemEval  | 97.1          | 75.7           | 83.5           | 90.3            |
| **Web Domain** | | | | |
| KPTimes  | 81.7          | 44.9           | 73.0           | 45.7            |
| In-house | 82.9          | 49.1           | 66.8           | 51.3            |

**Layer-wise coverage attention** The ablation study shows the positive impact of the layer-wise coverage attention in SEG-Net. The improvement in absent keyphrase generation for the KPTimes dataset (3.0 F1@M points) is significant, while it is relatively small in other experiment datasets. We hypothesize that the coverage attention helps when keyphrases summarize concepts expressed in different segments of a long document. We confirm our hypothesis by observing the performance trend with and without the coverage attention mechanism (we observe a similar trend as in Figure 3).

We provide additional experiment results and qualitative examples in Appendix.

### 7 Related Work

Keyphrase extraction approaches identify important phrases that appear in a document. The existing approaches generally work in two steps. First, they select a set of candidate keyphrases based on heuristic rules (Hulth, 2003; Medelyan et al., 2008; Liu et al., 2011; Wang et al., 2016). The selected keyphrases are scored as per their importance in the second step, which is computed by unsupervised ranking approaches (Wan and Xiao, 2008; Grineva et al., 2009) or supervised learning algorithms (Hulth, 2003; Witten et al., 2005; Medelyan et al., 2009; Nguyen and Kan, 2007; Lopez and Romary, 2010). Finally, the top-ranked candidates are returned as the keyphrases. Another pool of extractive solutions follows a sequence tagging approach (Luan et al., 2017; Zhang et al., 2016; Gollapalli et al., 2017; Gollapalli and Caragea, 2014). However, the extractive solutions are only able to predict the keyphrases that appear in the document and thus fail to predict the absent keyphrases.

Keyphrase generation methods aim at predicting both the present and absent phrases. Meng et al. (2017) proposed the first generative model, known as CopyRNN, which is composed of attention (Bahdanau et al., 2014; Luong et al., 2015) and copy mechanism (Gu et al., 2016; See et al., 2017). Multiple extensions of CopyRNN were proposed in subsequent works (Chen et al., 2018, 2019b). Different from these approaches, Zhang et al. (2017a) proposed CopyCNN that utilizes convolutional neural network (CNN) (Kim, 2014b) to form sequence-to-sequence architecture. However, these generation methods are trained to predict one keyphrase from the target document. In contrast, Yuan et al. (2020) proposed to concatenate all the ground-truth keyphrases and train models to generate them as one output sequence.

Other noteworthy approaches in literature utilize data from external source (Chen et al., 2019a), syntactic supervision (Zhao and Zhang, 2019), semi-supervised learning (Ye and Wang, 2018), reinforcement learning (Chan et al., 2019), adversarial training (Swaminathan et al., 2020), unlikelihood training (Bahuleyan and El Asri, 2020) to improve keyphrase generation.

### 8 Conclusion

This paper presents SEG-Net, a keyphrase generation model that identifies the salient sentences in a target document to utilize maximal information for keyphrase prediction. In SEG-Net, we incorporate a novel layer-wise coverage attention to cover all the critical points in a document and diversify the present and absent keyphrases. We evaluate SEG-Net on seven benchmarks from scientific and web documents, and the experiment results demonstrate SEG-Net’s effectiveness over the state-of-the-art methods on both domains.

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### Supplementary Material: Appendices

Table 7: Test set results on the KP20k dataset with “name variations” as proposed in Chan et al. (2019).

| Model      | Present | Absent |
|------------|---------|--------|
|            | F1@M   | F1@5  | F1@M | F1@5 |
| catSeq     | 0.376  | 0.298 | 0.034 | 0.016 |
| catSeqD    | 0.372  | 0.293 | 0.033 | 0.016 |
| catSeqCorr | 0.375  | 0.300 | 0.034 | 0.016 |
| catSeqTG   | 0.374  | 0.302 | 0.033 | 0.016 |
| SEG-Net    | 0.390  | 0.326 | 0.042 | 0.021 |

Table 8: Impact of different embeddings at the input layer in SEG-Net.

| Input features | Present |
|----------------|---------|
|                | F1@M   | F1@5  |
|                |        |       |
| SEG-Net        | 0.379  | 0.311 |
| w/o Character Emb. | 0.376 | 0.309 |
| w/o Segment Emb.   | 0.378 | 0.310 |
| SEG-Net        | 0.481  | 0.367 |
| w/o Character Emb. | 0.462 | 0.332 |
| w/o Segment Emb.   | 0.475 | 0.365 |
| SEG-Net        | 0.298  | 0.161 |
| w/o Character Emb. | 0.284 | 0.152 |
| w/o Segment Emb.   | 0.295 | 0.159 |

A Additional Ablation Study

Variation of named entities A keyphrase can be expressed in different ways, such as “solid state drive” as “ssd” or “electronic commerce” as “ecommerce” etc. A model should receive credit if it generates any of those variations. Hence, Chan et al. (2019) aggregated name variations of the ground-truth keyphrases from the KP20k evaluation dataset using the Wikipedia knowledge base. We evaluate our model on that enriched evaluation set, and the experimental results are listed in Table 7. We observed that although SEG-Net extracts the present keyphrases, it can predict present phrases with variations such as “support vector machine” and “svm” if they co-exist in the target document.

Impact of embedding features The embedding layer of extractor-generator learns four different embedding vectors: word embedding, position embedding, character-level embedding, and segment embedding that are element-wise added. We remove character embedding and segment embedding and observe slight performance drop in present keyphrase prediction. The results are presented in Table 8. The character embeddings are employed as we limit the vocabulary to the most frequent $V$ words. During our preliminary experiment, we observed that character embeddings have a notable impact in the web domain, where the actual vocabulary size can be large. The addition of segment embedding is also helpful, specially the sentence-selector may predict salient sentences from any part of the document. We hypothesize that the sentence index guides the self-attention mechanism in the extractor-generator.

Fine-tuning via Reinforcement Learning Following Chan et al. (2019), we apply reinforcement learning (RL) to fine-tune the extractor-generator module of SEG-Net on absent keyphrase generation. As we can see from Table 9, due to RL fine-tuning, the absent keyphrase generation improves significantly, which corroborates with the findings of Chan et al. (2019). While fine-tuning catSeqTG model via RL helps present keyphrase generation in KP20k, it does not help in KPTimes dataset. Since SEG-Net extracts the present keyphrases, their predictions do not benefit from the RL fine-tuning step (instead, performance drops slightly).
### Table 12: Present and absent keyphrase prediction results on the experiment datasets.

| Model       | Present F1@10 | Present F1@O | Absent F1@10 | Absent F1@O |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| KP20k       | 0.201         | 0.350        | 0.012        | 0.027        |
| Inspec      | 0.140         | 0.201        | 0.005        | 0.011        |
| Krapivin    | 0.172         | 0.315        | 0.011        | 0.025        |
| NUS         | 0.270         | 0.378        | 0.013        | 0.022        |
| SemEval     | 0.199         | 0.258        | 0.014        | 0.018        |
| KPTimes     | 0.244         | 0.464        | 0.122        | 0.208        |
| In-house    | 0.094         | 0.282        | 0.014        | 0.035        |

### Table 11: Hyper-parameters used to train SEG-Net. We use the same setup for the Transformer model.

| Parameter                                      | Value                   |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Vocabulary size, $|V|$                | 50,000                  |
| # CNN filters                                   | 512 1D                  |
| Model size, $d_{\text{model}}$                  | 512                     |
| encoder layers                                  | 6                       |
| decoder layers                                  | 6                       |
| $h, d_k, d_v, d_{ff}$                            | 8, 64, 64, 2048         |
| dropout                                         | 0.2                     |
| optimizer                                       | Adam                    |
| learning rate                                   | 0.0001                  |
| learning rate decay                             | 0.5                     |
| batch size                                      | 80                      |
| Maximum gradient norm                           | 1.0                     |
| # Params (sentence-selector)                     | 41.6M                   |
| # Params (extractor-generator)                   | 54.2M                   |

### B Evaluation Metrics

We want to draw attention to a crucial detail about the evaluation metric setup. Due to differences in post-processing before computing the evaluation metric values, the reported scores in papers differ. Recent works in literature mostly follow either the evaluation metric implementation from Chan et al. (2019) or Yuan et al. (2020). Both works have shared their implementation publicly available, and we use the implementation of Chan et al. (2019).

We reported F1@5 and F1@M scores in this work, where M denotes the number of predicted keyphrases. We also compute F1@10 and F1@O, where O represents the number of ground truth keyphrases, and the results are presented in Table 12. Many prior works have reported R@10 and R@50 for absent phrase generation. To compute R@50, we need to perform beam decoding to generate many keyphrases, typically more than 200 (Yuan et al., 2020). In our opinion, generating hundreds of keyphrases from a document does not truly reflect the models’ ability in understanding document semantic. Therefore, we do not prefer to assess models’ ability in terms of R@50 metrics.

### C Qualitative Analysis

We provide a few qualitative examples in Figure 4.

### D Reproducibility References

- We train and test the first four baseline models using their public implementation. We use the Transformer implementation from OpenNMT for catSeq (Transformer) and SEG-Net.
- We adopt the implementation of paired bootstrap test script to perform significance test.
- The preprocessed scientific article datasets are available here.
- KPTimes dataset is available here.
Title: smart speakers powered by voice agents seen ushering in era of ai

Article: major tech firms have been keen to sell speakers equipped with voice-based artificial intelligence agents recently. [EOS] the debuts of smart speakers are seen as the prelude to an ai era, ushering in a new technological age in which virtual assistants are expected to become as ubiquitous as smartphones, allowing people to connect to the internet by voice with greater ease. [EOS] whether these speakers will really take off and whether the technology will be popular in japan remain to be seen. [EOS] the following questions and answers explore these issues as well as why ai speakers are creating a buzz and what will be the role of japanese firms in this field. [EOS] what makes ai speakers special? they look like normal portable home speakers, but one big difference is that they communicate with users verbally. [EOS] users can tell the speakers to play music, search the internet, pull up weather forecasts, send text messages, make phone calls and perform other daily tasks. [EOS] ... (truncated)

[catSeq] smartphones; artificial intelligence; science and technology

[SEG-Net] smart speakers; smartphones; ai; japan; speakers; google; apple; computers and the internet; tech industry

[Ground-truth] google; apple; line; ai; amazon.com; iot

Title: how much do you know about dengue fever?

Article: the health ministry has confirmed the first domestic dengue fever case in japan in nearly 70 years. [EOS] a saitama prefecture teen girl was found wednesday to have contracted the virus through a mosquito in japan, followed by news that two more people—a man and a woman in tokyo—have also been infected. [EOS] more than 200 dengue cases are reported in japan each year, but those are of patients who contracted dengue virus abroad. [EOS] the world health organization estimates the number of infections across the globe to be 50 million to 100 million per year. [EOS] while the news has led to widespread fears that a pandemic outbreak might have arrived, experts are quick to deny such a scenario, while offering some advice on what measures people can take to minimize their exposure. [EOS] following are some basic questions and answers regarding the infectious disease and measures that can be taken to prevent infection. [EOS] what is dengue fever and what causes it? dengue fever is a tropical viral disease, also known as dengue hemorrhagic fever or break-bone fever, ...

[catSeq] dengue fever; japan; medicine and health

[SEG-Net] dengue fever; japan; dengue; dengue virus; health organization; mosquitoes; vaccines immunization

[Ground-truth] dengue fever; world health organization; dengue virus; infectious diseases

Title: photo report: foodex japan 2013

Article: foodex is the largest trade exhibition for food and drinks in asia, with about 70,000 visitors checking out the products presented by hundreds of participating companies. [EOS] i was lucky to enter as press; otherwise, visitors must be affiliated with the food industry—and pay ¥ 5,000—to enter. [EOS] the foodex menu is global, including everything from cherry beer from germany and premium mexican tequila to top-class french and chinese dumplings. [EOS] the event was a rare chance to try out both well-known and exotic foods and even see professionals making them. [EOS] in addition to booths offering traditional japanese favorites such as udon and maguro sashimi, there were plenty of innovative twists, such as dorayaki, a sweet snack made of two pancakes and a red-bean filling, that came in coffee and tomato flavors. [EOS] ...

[catSeq] japan; agriculture

[SEG-Net] foodex japan; foodex; food; japan; international trade and world market; snack food

[Ground-truth] foodex; japanese food; japan pulse
Title: majority of australian women sexually harassed at work : survey

Article: kuala lumpur - two in three australian women have been sexually harassed at work , with the majority of cases unreported , according to a survey released on tuesday that highlighted challenges activists said prevent women from advancing in their careers . [EOS] some 64 percent of women and 35 percent of men said they had been harassed at their current or former workplace , according to the survey of over 9,600 people by the australian council of trade unions , the country ’ s main group representing workers . [EOS] the majority of those surveyed said they were subjected to offensive behavior or unwanted sexual attention . [EOS] however only about a quarter of them made formal complaints , due to fears of repercussion , the survey found . [EOS] “ everyone should go to work free from the fear of harassment and unwanted sexual attention , ” the council ’ s president , michele o ’ neil , said in a statement . [EOS] “ for many people — mainly women — today in australia this is not the reality . [EOS] our workplace laws have failed women who are experiencing harassment at work . [EOS] ” campaigners said sexual harassment creates a workplace environment that is discriminatory towards women , which can prevent them from moving forward in their careers . [EOS] “ sexual harassment in the workplace closes off women ’ s opportunities and supports the attitudes that make violence more likely , ” merrindahl andrew , from the australian women against violence alliance , said by email . [EOS] australia was ranked 35 out of 144 countries in the world economic forum ’ s 2017 gender gap index , up from 46 in 2016 due to greater female representation among legislators and managers . [EOS] although the global # metoo movement has helped raised awareness about sexual harassment , the advocacy group plan international said the lack of strong policies and enforcement has discouraged victims from coming forward in australia . [EOS] ... (truncated)