Re-examining Automatic Keyphrase Extraction Approaches in Scientific Articles

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Abstract

We tackle two major issues in automatic keyphrase extraction using scientific articles: candidate selection and feature engineering. To develop an efficient candidate selection method, we analyze the nature and variation of keyphrases and then select candidates using regular expressions. Secondly, we re-examine the existing features broadly used for the supervised approach, exploring different ways to enhance their performance. While most other approaches are supervised, we also study the optimal features for unsupervised keyphrase extraction. Our research has shown that effective candidate selection leads to better performance as evaluation accounts for candidate coverage. Our work also attests that many of existing features are also usable in unsupervised extraction.

1 Introduction

Keyphrases are simplex nouns or noun phrases (NPs) that represent the key ideas of the document. Keyphrases can serve as a representative summary of the document and also serve as high quality index terms. It is thus no surprise that keyphrases have been utilized to acquire critical information as well as to improve the quality of natural language processing (NLP) applications such as document summarizer (Dávanzo and Magnini, 2005), information retrieval (IR) (Gutwin et al., 1999) and document clustering (Hammouda et al., 2005).

In the past, various attempts have been made to boost automatic keyphrase extraction performance based primarily on statistics (Frank et al., 1999; Turney, 2003; Park et al., 2004; Wan and Xiao, 2008) and a rich set of heuristic features (Barker and Cormack, 2000; Medelyan and Witten, 2006; Nguyen and Kan, 2007). In Section 2, we give a more comprehensive overview of previous attempts.

Current keyphrase technology still has much room for improvement. First of all, although several candidate selection methods have been proposed for automatic keyphrase extraction in the past (e.g. (Frank et al., 1999; Park et al., 2004; Nguyen and Kan, 2007)), most of them do not effectively deal with various keyphrase forms which results in the ignorance of some keyphrases as candidates. Moreover, no studies thus far have done a detailed investigation of the nature and variation of manually-provided keyphrases. As a consequence, the community lacks a standardized list of candidate forms, which leads to difficulties in direct comparison across techniques during evaluation and hinders re-usability.

Secondly, previous studies have shown the effectiveness of their own features but not many compared their features with other existing features. That leads to a redundancy in studies and hinders direct comparison. In addition, existing features are specifically designed for supervised approaches with few exceptions. However, this approach involves a large amount of manual labor, thus reducing its utility for real-world application. Hence, unsupervised approach is inevitable in order to minimize manual tasks and to encourage utilization. It is a worthy study to attest the reliability and re-usability for the unsupervised approach in order to set up the tentative guideline for applications.

This paper targets to resolve these issues of candidate selection and feature engineering. In our work on candidate selection, we analyze the nature and variation of keyphrases with the purpose of proposing a candidate selection method which improves the coverage of candidates that occur in various forms. Our second contribution re-examines existing keyphrase extraction features
reported in the literature, in terms of their effectiveness and re-usability. We test and compare the usefulness of each feature for further improvement. In addition, we assess how well these features can be applied in an unsupervised approach.

In the remaining sections, we describe an overview of related work in Section 2, our proposals on candidate selection and feature engineering in Section 4 and 5, our system architecture and data in Section 6. Then, we evaluate our proposals, discuss outcomes and conclude our work in Section 7, 8 and 9, respectively.

2 Related Work

The majority of related work has been carried out using statistical approaches, a rich set of symbolic resources and linguistically-motivated heuristics (Frank et al., 1999; Turney, 1999; Barker and Cornacchia, 2000; Matsuo and Ishizuka, 2004; Nguyen and Kan, 2007). Features used can be categorized into three broad groups: (1) document cohesion features (i.e. relationship between document and keyphrases) (Frank et al., 1999; Matsuo and Ishizuka, 2004; Medelyan and Witten, 2006; Nguyen and Kan, 2007), and to lesser, (2) keyphrase cohesion features (i.e. relationship among keyphrases) (Turney, 2003) and (3) term cohesion features (i.e. relationship among components in a keyphrase) (Park et al., 2004).

The simplest system is KEA (Frank et al., 1999; Witten et al., 1999) that uses TF*IDF (i.e. term frequency * inverse document frequency) and first occurrence in the document. TF*IDF measures the document cohesion and the first occurrence implies the importance of the abstract or introduction which indicates the keyphrases have a locality. Turney (2003) added the notion of keyphrase cohesion to KEA features and Nguyen and Kan (2007) added linguistic features such as section information and suffix sequence. The GenEx system (Turney, 1999) employed an inventory of nine syntactic features, such as length in words and frequency of stemming phrase as a set of parametrized heuristic rules. Barker and Cornacchia (2000) introduced a method based on head noun heuristics that took three features: length of candidate, frequency and head noun frequency. To take advantage of domain knowledge, Hulth et al. (2001) used a hierarchically-organized domain-specific thesaurus from Swedish Parliament as a secondary knowledge source. The TextRank (Park et al., 2004) also ranks the candidate keyphrases by its judgment of keyphrases’ degree of domain specificity based on subject-specific collocations (Dameru, 1993), in addition to term cohesion using Dice coefficient (Dice, 1945). Recently, Wan and Xiao (2008) extracts automatic keyphrases from single documents, utilizing document clustering information. The assumption behind this work is that the documents with the same or similar topics interact with each other in terms of salience of words. The authors first clustered the documents then used the graph-based ranking algorithm to rank the candidates in a document by making use of mutual influences of other documents in the same cluster.

3 Keyphrase Analysis

In previous study, KEA employed the indexing words as candidates whereas others such as (Park et al., 2004; Nguyen and Kan, 2007) generated handcrafted regular expression rules. However, none carefully undertook the analysis of keyphrases. We believe there is more to be learned from the reference keyphrases themselves by doing a fine-grained, careful analysis of their form and composition. Note that we used the articles collected from ACM digital library for both analyzing keyphrases as well as evaluating methods. See Section 6 for data in detail.

Syntactically, keyphrases can be formed by either simplex nouns (e.g. algorithm, keyphrase, multi-agent) or noun phrases (NPs) which can be a sequence of nouns and their auxiliary words such as adjectives and adverbs (e.g. mobile network, fast computing, partially observable Markov decision process) despite few incidences. They can also incorporate a prepositional phrase (PP) (e.g. quality of service, policy of distributed caching). When keyphrases take the form of an NP with an attached PP (i.e. NPs in of-PP form), the preposition of is most common, but others such as for, in, via also occur (e.g. incentive for cooperation, inequality in welfare, agent security via approximate policy, trade in financial instrument based on logical formula). The patterns above correlate well to part-of-speech (POS) patterns used in modern keyphrase extraction systems.

However, our analysis uncovered additional linguistic patterns and alternations which other studies may have overlooked. In our study we also found that keyphrases also occur as a simple con-
Table 1: Candidate Selection Rules

| Criteria | Rules |
|----------|-------|
| Frequency | (Rule1) Frequency heuristic i.e. frequency $\geq 2$ for simplex words vs. frequency $\geq 1$ for NPs |
| Length | (Rule2) Length heuristic i.e. up to length 3 for NPs in non-PP form vs. up to length 4 for NPs in of-PP form (e.g. synchronous concurrent program vs. model of multiagent interaction) |
| Alternation | (Rule3) of-PP form alternation (e.g. number of sensor = sensor number, history of past encounter = past encounter history) |
| Extraction | (Rule4) Possessive alternation (e.g. agent's goal = goal of agent, security's value = value of security) |
| Extraction | (Rule5) Noun Phrase = ($NN|NNN|NNP|NNPS|JJ|JJR|JJ$) ($NN|NNS|NNP|NNPS)$ |
| Extraction | (Rule6) Simplex Word/NP IN Simplex Word/NP (e.g. quality of service, sensitivity of VOIP traffic (VOIP traffic extracted), simplified instantiation of zebrroid (simplified instantiation extracted)) |

In this section, before we present our method, we first describe the detail of keyphrase analysis.

In our keyphrase analysis, we observed that most of author assigned keyphrase and/or reader assigned keyphrase are syntactically more often simplex words and less often NPs. When keyphrases take an NP form, they tend to be a simple form of NPs. i.e. either without a PP or with only a PP or with a conjunction, but few appear as a mixture of such forms. We also noticed that the components of NPs are normally nouns and adjectives but rarely, are adverbs and verbs. As a result, we decided to ignore NPs containing adverbs and verbs in this study as our candidates since they tend to produce more errors and to require more complexity.

Another observation is that keyphrases containing more than three words are rare (i.e. 6% in our data set), validating what Paukkeri et al. (2008) observed. Hence, we apply a length heuristic. Our candidate selection rule collects candidates up to length 3, but also of length 4 for NPs in of-PP form, since they may have a non-genetive alternation that reduces its length to 3 (e.g. performance of distributed system = distributed system performance). In previous studies, words occurring at least twice are selected as candidates. However, during our acquisition of reader assigned keyphrase, we observed that readers tend to collect NPs as keyphrases, regardless of their frequency. Due to this, we apply different frequency thresholds for simplex words ($\geq 2$) and NPs ($\geq 1$). Note that 30% of NPs occurred only once in our data.

Finally, we generated regular expression rules to extract candidates, as presented in Table 1. Our candidate extraction rules are based on those in Nguyen and Kan (2007). However, our Rule6 for NPs in of-PP form broadens the coverage of
possible candidates. i.e. with a given NPs in of-PP form, not only we collect simplex word(s), but we also extract non-of-PP form of NPs from noun phrases governing the PP and the PP. For example, our rule extracts effective algorithm of grid computing as well as effective grid computing as candidates while the previous works’ rules do not.

5 Feature Engineering

With a wider candidate selection criteria, the onus of filtering out irrelevant candidates becomes the responsibility of careful feature engineering. We list 25 features that we have found useful in extracting keyphrases, comprising of 9 existing and 16 novel and/or modified features that we introduce in our work (marked with *). As one of our goals in feature engineering is to assess the suitability of features in the unsupervised setting, we have also indicated which features are suitable only for the supervised setting (S) or applicable to both (S, U).

5.1 Document Cohesion

Document cohesion indicates how important the candidates are for the given document. The most popular feature for this cohesion is TF*IDF but some works have also used context words to check the correlation between candidates and the given document. Other features for document cohesion are distance, section information and so on. We note that listed features other than TF*IDF are related to locality. That is, the intuition behind these features is that keyphrases tend to appear in specific area such as the beginning and the end of documents.

F1 : TF*IDF (S, U) TF*IDF indicates document cohesion by looking at the frequency of terms in the documents and is broadly used in previous work(Frank et al., 1999; Witten et al., 1999; Nguyen and Kan, 2007). However, a disadvantage of the feature is in requiring a large corpus to compute useful IDF. As an alternative, context words(Matsuo and Ishizuka, 2004) can also be used to measure document cohesion. From our study of keyphrases, we saw that substrings within longer candidates need to be properly counted, and as such our method measures TF in substrings as well as in exact matches. For example, grid computing is often a substring of other phrases such as grid computing algorithm and efficient grid computing algorithm. We also normalize TF with respect to candidate types: i.e. we separately treat simplex words and NPs to compute TF. To make our IDF’s broadly representative, we employed the Google n-gram counts, that were computed over terabytes of data. Given this large, generic source of word count, IDF can be incorporated without corpus-dependent processing, hence such features are useful in unsupervised approaches as well. The following list shows variations of TF*IDF, employed as features in our system.

- (F1a) TF*IDF
- (F1b*) TF including counts of substrings
- (F1c*) TF of substring as a separate feature
- (F1d*) normalized TF by candidate types (i.e. simplex words vs. NPs)
- (F1e*) normalized TF by candidate types as a separate feature
- (F1f*) IDF using Google n-gram

F2 : First Occurrence (S, U) KEA used the first appearance of the word in the document(Frank et al., 1999; Witten et al., 1999). The main idea behind this feature is that keyphrases tend to occur in the beginning of documents, especially in structured reports (e.g., in abstract and introduction sections) and newswire.

F3 : Section Information (S, U) Nguyen and Kan (2007) used the identity of which specific document section a candidate occurs in. This locality feature attempts to identify key sections. For example, in their study of scientific papers, the authors weighted candidates differently depending on whether they occurred in the abstract, introduction, conclusion, section head, title and/or references.

F4* : Additional Section Information (S, U) We first added the related work or previous work as one of section information not included in Nguyen and Kan (2007). We also propose and test a number of variations. We used the substrings that occur in section headers and reference titles as keyphrases. We counted the co-occurrence of candidates (i.e. the section TF) across all key sections that indicates the correlation among key sections. We assign section-specific weights as individual sections exhibit different propensities for generating keyphrases. For example, introduction
contains the majority of keyphrases while the title or section head contains many fewer due to the variation in size.

- (F4a*) section, ‘related/previous work’
- (F4b*) counting substring occurring in key sections
- (F4c*) section TF across all key sections
- (F4d*) weighting key sections according to the portion of keyphrases found

**F5**: Last Occurrence \((S,U)\) Similar to distance in KEA, the position of the last occurrence of a candidate may also imply the importance of keyphrases, as keyphrases tend to appear in the last part of document such as the conclusion and discussion.

5.2 Keyphrase Cohesion

The intuition behind using keyphrase cohesion is that actual keyphrases are often associated with each other, since they are semantically related to topic of the document. Note that this assumption holds only when the document describes a single, coherent topic – a document that represents a collection may be need to be segmented into its constituent topics.

**F6**: Co-occurrence of Another Candidate in Section \((S,U)\) When candidates co-occur in several key sections together, then they are more likely keyphrases. Hence, we used the number of sections that candidates co-occur.

**F7**: Title overlap \((S)\) In a way, titles also represent the topics of their documents. A large collection of titles in the domain can act as a probabilistic prior of what words could stand as constituent words in keyphrases. In our work, as we examined scientific papers from computer science, we used a collection of titles obtained from the large CiteSeer\(^1\) collection to create this feature.

- (F7a*) co-occurrence (Boolean) in title collocation
- (F7b*) co-occurrence (TF) in title collection

**F8**: Keyphrase Cohesion \((S,U)\) Turney (2003) integrated keyphrase cohesion into his system by checking the semantic similarity between top \(N\) ranked candidates against the remainder. In the original work, a large, external web corpus was used to obtain the similarity judgments. As we did not have access to the same web corpus and all candidates/keyphrases were not found in the Google n-gram corpus, we approximated this feature using a similar notion of contextual similarity. We simulated a latent 2-dimensional matrix (similar to latent semantic analysis) by listing all candidate words in rows and their neighboring words (nouns, verbs, and adjectives only) in columns. The cosine measure is then used to compute the similarity among keyphrases.

5.3 Term Cohesion

Term cohesion further refines the candidacy judgment, by incorporating an internal analysis of the candidate’s constituent words. Term cohesion posits that high values for internal word association measures correlates indicates that the candidate is a keyphrase (Church and Hanks, 1989).

**F9**: Term Cohesion \((S,U)\) Park et al. (2004) used in the Dice coefficient (Dice, 1945) to measure term cohesion particularly for multi-word terms. In their work, as NPs are longer than simplex words, they simply discounted simplex word cohesion by 10%. In our work, we vary the measure of TF used in Dice coefficient, similar to our discussion earlier.

- (F9a) term cohesion by (Park et al., 2004),
- (F9b*) normalized TF by candidate types (i.e. simplex words vs. NPs),
- (F9c*) applying different weight by candidate types,
- (F9d*) normalized TF and different weighting by candidate types

5.4 Other Features

**F10**: Acronym \((S)\) Nguyen and Kan (2007) accounted for the importance of acronym as a feature. We found that this feature is heavily dependent on the data set. Hence, we used it only for N&K to attest our candidate selection method.

**F11**: POS sequence \((S)\) Hulth and Megyesi (2006) pointed out that POS sequences of keyphrases are similar. It showed the distinctive distribution of POS sequences of keyphrases and use them as a feature. Like acronym, this is also subject to the data set.

\(^1\)It contains 1.3M titles from articles, papers and reports.
**F12**: **Suffix sequence** ($S$) Similar to acronym, Nguyen and Kan (2007) also used a candidate’s suffix sequence as a feature, to capture the propensity of English to use certain Latin derivational morphology for technical keyphrases. This feature is also a data dependent features, thus used in supervised approach only.

**F13**: **Length of Keyphrases** ($S,U$) Barker and Cormack (2000) showed that candidate length is also a useful feature in extraction as well as in candidate selection, as the majority of keyphrases are one or two terms in length.

### 6 System and Data

To assess the performance of the proposed candidate selection rules and features, we implemented a keyphrase extraction pipeline. We start with raw text of computer science articles converted from PDF by pdf2text. Then, we partitioned the into section such as title and sections via heuristic rules and applied sentence segmenter 2, ParsCit 3 (Councill et al., 2008) for reference collection, part-of-speech tagger 4 and lemmatizer 5 (Minnen et al., 2001) of the input. After preprocessing, we built both supervised and unsupervised classifiers using Naive Bayes from the WEKA machine learning toolkit (Witten and Frank, 2005), Maximum Entropy 6, and simple weighting.

In evaluation, we collected 250 papers from four different categories 7 of the ACM digital library. Each paper was 6 to 8 pages on average. In **author assigned keyphrase**, we found many were missing or found as substrings. To remedy this, we collected **reader assigned keyphrase** by hiring senior year undergraduates in computer science, each whom annotated five of the papers with an annotation guideline and on average, took about 15 minutes to annotate each paper. The final statistics of keyphrases is presented in Table 2 where **Combined** represents the total number of keyphrases. The numbers in () denotes the number of keyphrases in of-PP form. Found means the number of **author assigned keyphrase** and **reader assigned keyphrase** found in the documents.

|            | Author | Reader | Combined |
|------------|--------|--------|----------|
| Total      | 1252 (53) | 3110 (111) | 3816 (146) |
| NPs        | 904    | 2537   | 3027     |
| Average    | 3.85 (4.01) | 12.44 (12.88) | 15.26 (15.85) |
| Found      | 769    | 2509   | 2864     |

**Table 2:** Statistics in Keyphrases

### 7 Evaluation

The baseline system for both the supervised and unsupervised approaches is modified N&K which uses TF*IDF, distance, section information and additional section information (i.e. F1-4). Apart from baseline, we also implemented basic KEA and N&K to compare. Note that N&K is considered a supervised approach, as it utilizes features like acronym, POS sequence, and suffix sequence.

Table 3 and 4 shows the performance of our candidate selection method and features with respect to supervised and unsupervised approaches using the current standard evaluation method (i.e. exact matching scheme) over top 5th, 10th, 15th candidates.

**BestFeatures** includes F1c:TF of substring as a separate feature, F2:first occurrence, F3:section information, F4d:weighting key sections, F5:last occurrence, F6:co-occurrence of another candidate in section, F7b:title overlap, F9a:term cohesion by (Park et al., 2004), F13:length of keyphrases. Best-TF*IDF means using all best features but TF*IDF.

In Tables 3 and 4, C denotes the classifier technique: unsupervised (U) or supervised using Maximum Entropy ($S^8$).

In Table 5, the performance of each feature is measured using N&K system and the target feature. + indicates an improvement, - indicates a performance decline, and ? indicates no effect or unconfirmed due to small changes of performances. Again, supervised denotes Maximum Entropy training and Unsupervised is our unsupervised approach.

### 8 Discussion

We compared the performances over our candidate selection and feature engineering with simple KEA, N&K and our baseline system. In evaluating candidate selection, we found that longer

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2http://www.eng.ritsumei.ac.jp/asao/resources/sentseg/
3http://wing.comp.nus.edu.sg/parsCit/
4http://search.cpan.org/dist/Lingua-EN-Tagger/Tagger.pm
5http://www.informatics.susx.ac.uk/research/groups/nlp/carroll/morph.html
6http://maxent.sourceforge.net/index.html
7C2.4 (Distributed Systems), H3.3 (Information Search and Retrieval), I2.11 (Distributed Artificial Intelligence-Multiagent Systems) and J4 (Social and Behavioral Sciences-Economics)

8Due to the page limits, we present the best performance.
Table 3: Performance on Proposed Candidate Selection

| Method | Features | Five | Fifteen |
|--------|----------|------|---------|
|        | Match    | Prec | Recall | Fscore |
|        |          |      |        |       |
| All    | U        | 0.83 | 0.64% | 0.23% | 0.32% | 0.99 | 0.92% | 0.64% | 0.74% | 0.14 | 0.85% | 0.65% | 0.87% |
|        | S        | 0.97 | 15.44% | 5.19% | 7.82% | 1.39 | 13.88% | 9.09% | 10.99% | 1.84 | 12.24% | 12.03% | 12.13% |
|        | N&K      | 1.04 | 26.48% | 8.67% | 13.06% | 2.04 | 20.36% | 13.34% | 16.12% | 2.54 | 16.93% | 16.64% | 16.78% |
|        | baseline | 0.92 | 18.13% | 6.00% | 9.04% | 1.57 | 15.66% | 10.27% | 12.41% | 2.30 | 14.64% | 14.39% | 14.51% |
|        |          | S    | 1.15 | 23.04% | 7.55% | 11.17% | 1.90 | 18.99% | 12.42% | 15.01% | 2.44 | 16.24% | 15.96% | 16.19% |

Length-c<3

| Method | Features | Five | Fifteen |
|--------|----------|------|---------|
|        | Match    | Prec | Recall | Fscore |
|        |          |      |        |       |
| RDA    | U        | 0.94 | 0.64% | 0.23% | 0.32% | 0.09 | 0.92% | 0.66% | 0.74% | 0.14 | 0.85% | 0.65% | 0.87% |
|        | S        | 1.01 | 16.16% | 5.29% | 7.97% | 1.40 | 14.00% | 9.17% | 11.08% | 1.84 | 12.24% | 12.03% | 12.13% |
|        | N&K      | 1.40 | 27.92% | 9.15% | 13.78% | 2.10 | 21.04% | 13.78% | 16.65% | 2.62 | 17.49% | 17.19% | 17.34% |
|        | baseline | 0.92 | 18.4% | 6.03% | 9.08% | 1.58 | 15.76% | 10.32% | 12.47% | 2.20 | 14.64% | 14.39% | 14.51% |
|        |          | S    | 1.18 | 23.08% | 7.76% | 11.69% | 1.90 | 19.00% | 12.45% | 15.04% | 2.40 | 16.00% | 15.72% | 15.86% |

Length-c<3

| Method | Features | Five | Fifteen |
|--------|----------|------|---------|
|        | Match    | Prec | Recall | Fscore |
|        |          |      |        |       |
| RDA    | U        | 0.01 | 0.24% | 0.08% | 0.12% | 0.95 | 0.52% | 0.54% | 0.41% | 0.97 | 0.48% | 0.47% | 0.47% |
|        | S        | 0.83 | 16.64% | 5.48% | 8.21% | 1.42 | 14.21% | 9.33% | 11.27% | 1.87 | 12.45% | 12.24% | 12.34% |
|        | N&K      | 1.53 | 30.64% | 10.04% | 15.12% | 2.31 | 23.08% | 15.12% | 18.27% | 2.88 | 19.20% | 18.87% | 19.03% |
|        | baseline | 0.98 | 19.68% | 6.45% | 9.72% | 1.72 | 17.24% | 11.29% | 13.64% | 2.37 | 15.79% | 15.51% | 15.65% |
|        |          | S    | 1.35 | 26.56% | 8.79% | 13.11% | 2.09 | 20.08% | 13.68% | 16.53% | 2.69 | 17.92% | 17.61% | 17.76% |

Table 4: Performance on Feature Engineering

| Features | C | Match | Prec | Recall | Fscore |
|----------|---|-------|------|--------|--------|
|          |   |       |      |        |        |
| Best     | U | 1.14 | .228 | .747 | .113  |
|          | S | 1.56 | .312 | .102 | .154  |
|          |   | 1.92 |      |       |       |
|          |   | 2.50 |      |       |       |
|          |   | 2.61 |      |       |       |
|          |   | 2.35 |      |       |       |
|          |   | 2.08 |      |       |       |
| Best     | U | 1.14 | .228 | .747 | .113  |
|          | S | 1.56 | .311 | .102 | .154  |
|          |   | 2.46 |      |       |       |
|          |   | 2.12 |      |       |       |
|          |   | 2.61 |      |       |       |
|          |   | 2.12 |      |       |       |

Table 5: Performance on Each Feature

| A Method Feature |
|------------------|
| + S              |
| F1,F2,F13,F4a,F6a,F9a |
| U F1a,F2,F13,F4a,F6d,F5,F7,F9a |
| - S              |
| F1b,F1c,F1d,F1f,F1b,F4a,F6,F7,F9b,F9d,F13 |
| U F1d,F4c,F6,F6c,F6,F6,F7,F9b,F9d |
| + S              |
| F1c,F1f,F1j,F12 |

Table 6: Performance on Candidate Selection

| Method | Features | Fifteen |
|--------|----------|---------|
|        | Match    | Prec | Recall | Fscore |
|        |          |      |        |       |
| Best   | U        | 1.14 | .228 | .747 | .113 |
|        | S        | 1.56 | .312 | .102 | .154 |
|        |          | 1.92 |      |       |       |
|        |          | 2.50 |      |       |       |
|        |          | 2.61 |      |       |       |
|        |          | 2.35 |      |       |       |
|        |          | 2.08 |      |       |       |
| Best   | U        | 1.14 | .228 | .747 | .113 |
|        | S        | 1.56 | .311 | .102 | .154 |
|        |          | 2.46 |      |       |       |
|        |          | 2.12 |      |       |       |
|        |          | 2.61 |      |       |       |
|        |          | 2.12 |      |       |       |

As unsupervised methods have the appeal of not needing to be trained on expensive hand-annotated data, we also compared the performance of supervised and unsupervised methods. Given the features initially introduced for supervised learning, unsupervised performance is surprisingly high. While supervised classifier produced a matching count of 3.15, the unsupervised classifier obtains a count of 2.61. We feel this indicates that the existing features for supervised methods are also suitable for use in unsupervised methods, with slightly reduced performance. In general, we observed that the best features in both supervised and unsupervised methods are the same – section information and candidate length. In our analysis of the impact of individual features, we observed that most features affect performance in the same way for both supervised and unsupervised approaches, as shown in Table 5. These findings indicate that although these features may be inherently useful in a supervised approach, they are stable and can be expected to perform similarly in unsupervised approaches.
9 Conclusion

We have identified and tackled two core issues in automatic keyphrase extraction: candidate selection and feature engineering. In the area of candidate selection, we observe variations and alternations that were previously unaccounted for. Our selection rules expand the scope of possible keyphrase coverage, while not overly expanding the total number candidates to consider. In our re-examination of feature engineering, we compiled a comprehensive feature list from previous works while exploring the use of substrings in devising new features. Moreover, we also attested to each feature’s fitness for use in unsupervised approaches, in order to utilize them in real-world applications with minimal cost.

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