

## Background

- Abstractive multi-document summarization (MDS)
  - Input: topically related documents
  - Output: a concise and informative summary
- Summarizing multiple documents in an abstractive fashion

$$p(\hat{z}|\mathcal{D}) = \prod_{i=0}^T p(\hat{w}_i|\mathcal{D}, \hat{w}_0, \hat{w}_1, \dots, \hat{w}_{i-1})$$

## Related work and challenges

### PLM-based MDS

- General-purpose PLMs, e.g.,
  - BART, Longformer, and T5
- Tailored-purpose PLMs, e.g.,
  - PEGASUS (Zhang et al. 2020a)
  - PRIMERA (Xiao et al. 2022)
- Drawbacks
  - Limited to learn **cross-document relationships** because of the flat concatenation of source documents

### Graph-based MDS

- Only a handful models, e.g.,
  - Graphs of paragraphs (Li et al. 2020)
  - Hierarchical graphs based on the document structure (Jin et al. 2020)
- Drawbacks
  - Only leverage homogeneous graphs
  - without considering edge types of graphs
  - while the cluster of documents should be heterogeneous

## Our solution of HGSUM

### The constructed heterogeneous graph

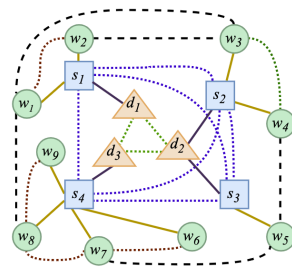


Figure 1: The structure of the heterogeneous graph given three documents in a document cluster: The orange triangles denote document nodes  $d$ , the blue quadrates denote sentence nodes  $s$ , the green circles denote word nodes  $w$ , and the line (or curve) segments between nodes denote edges. A detailed description of the graph is in the Preliminaries.

### The architecture of HGSUM

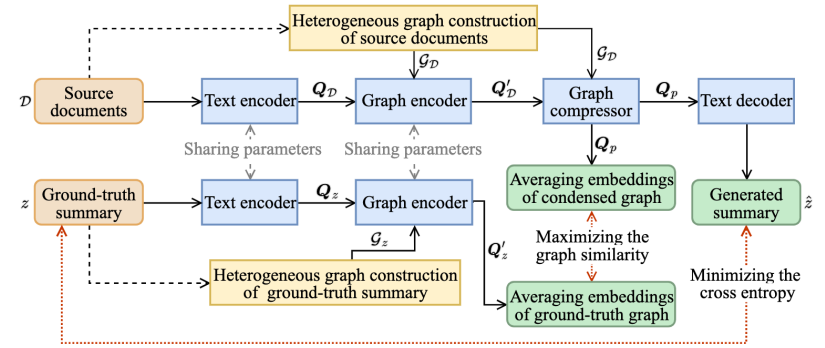


Figure 2: The HGSUM architecture: There are four main components: (1) text encoder (initialised using PRIMERA weights); (2) graph encoder; (3) graph compressor; and (4) text decoder (initialised using PRIMERA weights).

$$\mathcal{L} = \beta \mathcal{L}_{ce} + (1 - \beta) \mathcal{L}_{gs} \quad \mathcal{L}_{ce} = -\frac{1}{T} \sum_{i=1}^T w_i \log \hat{w}_i \quad \mathcal{L}_{gs} = -\text{sim}(\text{avg}(\mathbf{Q}_p), \text{avg}(\mathbf{Q}'_z))$$

## Experiments

### Main results

Model	MULTI-NEWS			WCEP-100			ARXIV		
	R-1	R-2	R-L	R-1	R-2	R-L	R-1	R-2	R-L
PEGASUS	47.70	18.36	43.62	42.43	17.33	32.35	44.21	16.95	38.87
LED	47.68	19.72	43.83	43.05	20.94	34.99	46.50	18.96	41.87
PRIMERA	49.40	<u>20.51</u>	<u>45.35</u>	43.11	<b>21.85</b>	<u>35.89</u>	<u>47.24</u>	<u>20.24</u>	42.61
MGSUM	45.63	16.71	40.92	38.88	14.22	23.37	40.58	11.22	29.93
GraphSum	45.71	17.12	41.99	39.56	14.38	29.41	42.98	16.55	37.01
HGSUM (our model)	<b>50.64</b>	<b>21.69</b>	<b>45.90</b>	<b>44.21</b>	<u>21.81</u>	<b>36.21</b>	<b>49.32</b>	<b>21.30</b>	<b>44.50</b>
Performance gain	+2.51%	+5.75%	+1.21%	+2.55%	-0.18%	+0.89%	+4.40%	+5.24%	+4.44%

Table 3: Model performance on summarizing MULTI-NEWS, WCEP-100, and ARXIV in terms of F1 of ROUGE scores. The best performance results are in boldface, while the second best is underlined.

- ✓ HGSUM outperforms most of the benchmark systems, demonstrating the effectiveness of incorporating a compressed heterogeneous graph for text summarization

### Ablation study

Model	R-1	R-2	R-L	BScore
HGSUM	50.64	21.69	45.90	87.38
w/o MGAT	48.87	20.32	43.21	87.08
w/o graph compressor	49.00	20.38	45.01	86.92
w/o multi-task training	48.10	20.30	44.24	86.85

Table 5: Results of ablation study on MULTI-NEWS.

Initialized by	R-1	R-2	R-L	BScore
random weights	18.99	27.86	16.88	79.32
LED	48.36	19.99	44.25	86.73
PRIMERA	50.64	21.69	45.90	87.38

Table 6: Summarization results of HGSUM with different initialization on MULTI-NEWS.