

An Analysis of Datasets, Metrics and Models in Keyphrase Generation

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Abstract

Keyphrase generation refers to the task of producing a set of words or phrases that summarises the content of a document. Continuous efforts have been dedicated to this task over the past few years, spreading across multiple lines of research, such as model architectures, data resources, and use-case scenarios. Yet, the current state of keyphrase generation remains unknown as there has been no attempt to review and analyse previous work. In this paper, we bridge this gap by presenting an analysis of over 50 research papers on keyphrase generation, offering a comprehensive overview of recent progress, limitations, and open challenges. Our findings highlight several critical issues in current evaluation practices, such as the concerning similarity among commonly-used benchmark datasets and inconsistencies in metric calculations leading to overestimated performances. Additionally, we address the limited availability of pre-trained models by releasing a strong PLM-based model for keyphrase generation as an effort to facilitate future research.

1 Introduction

Keyphrase generation involves generating a set of words or phrases that summarise the content of a source document. These so-called keyphrases concisely and explicitly encapsulate the core content of a document, which makes them valuable for a variety of NLP and information retrieval tasks. For instance, keyphrases were proven useful for improving document indexing (Fagan, 1987; Zhai, 1997; Jones and Staveley, 1999; Gutwin et al., 1999; Boudin et al., 2020), summarization (Zha, 2002; Wan et al., 2007; Liu et al., 2021; Koto et al., 2022) and question-answering (Subramanian et al., 2018; Yang et al., 2019; Lee et al., 2021), analyzing topic evolution (Hu et al., 2019; Cheng et al., 2020; Lu et al., 2021) or assisting with reading comprehension (Chi et al., 2007; Jiang et al., 2023a).

Keyphrase generation expands on keyphrase extraction by enabling the production of *keyphrases absent from the source text* (Liu et al., 2011). This ability is critical when dealing with short documents that often lack appropriate keyphrase candidates. Meng et al. (2017) provided the seminal work on keyphrase generation, introducing a sequence-to-sequence learning approach. Their model builds upon an RNN encoder-decoder architecture (Cho et al., 2014; Sutskever et al., 2014) and incorporates a copying mechanism (Gu et al., 2016) to identify important phrases within the source text. Equally importantly, they introduced KP20k, a dataset that laid the groundwork for end-to-end training of neural models for keyphrase generation.

Over the past few years, continuous efforts have been devoted to improve the effectiveness of keyphrase generation models. These efforts have been spread across different lines of research, such as model architectures, data resources, and use-case scenarios, often pursued separately. This analysis paper presents an overview of the current state of keyphrase generation, discussing recent progress, remaining limitations and open challenges. More specifically, we compiled and analysed a collection of over 50 papers on keyphrase generation, identifying the type(s) of contribution these papers made (§3.1), examining the most frequently used benchmark datasets (§3.2) and evaluation metrics (§3.3), providing descriptions of proposed models while highlighting important milestones (§3.4), and investigating how proposed models perform against each other (§3.5).

Our findings are that: 1) commonly used benchmark datasets are so similar that reporting results on more than one adds no value, 2) the performance of models is often overestimated due to discrepancies in evaluation protocols, and 3) while dedicated models have been superseded by fine-tuned pre-trained language models (PLMs), the overall performance gain since early models remains limited.

Our work goes beyond surveying the existing literature and addresses some of the aforementioned concerns by training, documenting and releasing a strong PLM-based model for keyphrase generation along with an evaluation framework to facilitate future research (§4). Finally, we discuss some of the open challenges in keyphrase generation and propose actionable directions to address them (§5).

2 Scope of the Study

Our analysis encompasses a total of 52 research papers selected based on the following criteria: they are accessible through the ACL Anthology, they contain the phrase “*keyphrase generation*” either in their titles or abstracts, and they have been published after the seminal work of Meng et al. (2017). For a more comprehensive coverage, we also include papers from other NLP-related venues, comprising AACL (4 papers), SIGIR (1 paper), and CIKM (1 paper). To keep the number of papers manageable, we arbitrarily disregard papers from pre-print servers (e.g. arXiv) or those published in non-ACL venues. Nonetheless, we are confident that our sample represents a comprehensive portion of the research on keyphrase generation, encompassing all papers published at major NLP venues in the last seven years. This includes, for instance, the ten most cited articles in the field.¹

For each paper in our sample, we manually collect the following information:

- The **type(s) of contribution** the paper is making. We adopt the ACL 2023 classification of contribution types (Rogers et al., 2023), which includes: 1) NLP engineering experiment (most papers proposing methods to improve state-of-the-art), 2) approaches for low-compute settings, efficiency, 3) approaches for low-resource settings, 4) data resources, 5) data analysis, 6) model analysis and interpretability, 7) reproduction studies, 8) position papers, 9) surveys, 10) theory, 11) publicly available software and pre-trained models.
- For papers proposing models, we record their **best scores** on each dataset they experiment with, in the form of $\langle \text{dataset}, \text{metric}, \text{value} \rangle$ triples. We extract scores primarily from the main tables of the content, supplementing with tables from appendices only if they report superior performance. In cases where

multiple model variants are reported, we select the one demonstrating the best overall performance, or, when it is not clear, the one that performs best on the KP20k dataset. In total, we extracted 826 triples from our sample, corresponding to 50 distinct models.

- We also document the **architecture** of the proposed models (e.g RNNs, Transformers), the use of **statistical significance tests** on the results, and the availability of both the **code** and the **model weights**.

All the data collected in the course of this study is available at www.github.com/anonymous.

3 Analysis

In this section, we analyze the selected papers across five key dimensions: types of contribution (§3.1), benchmark datasets (§3.2), evaluation metrics (§3.3), model architectures (§3.4), and the best reported performances (§3.5).

3.1 Types of contribution

We start our analysis by presenting statistics on the types of contribution made in the papers we examined (see Table 1). Most of the papers propose new models (87%), suggesting that the primary emphasis within the field is on improving the performance of the state-of-the-art. This trend is reinforced by the fact that the second most common contribution is data resources (19%), essential for validating improvements. Some attention was given to model analysis and interpretability (14%), particularly through empirical evaluations of multiple models (Çano and Bojar, 2019; Meng et al., 2021, 2023; Wu et al., 2023) and evaluations via downstream tasks (Boudin et al., 2020; Boudin and Gallina, 2021). Approaches for low-resource settings also received some attention (14%), initially with data-efficient models (Lancioni et al., 2020; Wu et al., 2022a), then through data augmentation methods (Gao et al., 2022; Garg et al., 2023; Kang and Shin, 2024) and most recently, domain adaptation strategies (Boudin and Aizawa, 2024).

One underexplored area is the development of low-compute approaches, maybe overlooked in the race toward larger models designed to boost performance. This trend contrasts with practical applications, such as document indexing, where speed and efficiency are critical. Our analysis also reveals the limited attention given to data analysis, repro-

¹<https://www.semanticscholar.org/search?q=keyphrase%20generation&sort=total-citations>

duction studies and surveys in the literature.² This paper seeks to address this gap by providing new insights into the redundancy of existing datasets, conducting replication experiments on model evaluation, and offering a comprehensive overview of models for keyphrase generation.

Type of contribution	%
NLP engineering experiment	86.5
Data resources	19.2
Model analysis and interpretability	13.5
Approaches for low-resource settings	13.5
Software and pre-trained models	7.7
Reproduction studies	1.9

Table 1: Percentage of papers making each type of contribution (a paper may contribute to multiple types).

3.2 Benchmark Datasets

We proceed with our analysis by examining the most frequently used datasets (see Figure 1, detailed statistics of the datasets are provided in §A.2). We find that 26 distinct datasets were employed across the examined papers, with five datasets notably more prevalent than others: KP20k (Meng et al., 2017), SemEval-2010 (Kim et al., 2010), Inspec (Hulth, 2003), Krapivin (Krapivin et al., 2009), and NUS (Nguyen and Kan, 2007). These datasets are commonly used together, with 22 out of 52 papers (42%) employing all five, and 39 out of 52 (75%) employing at least two. All five datasets exclusively contain scientific abstracts, whereas the remaining datasets are sourced from various domains, such as news, social media and web pages. This domain bias can be attributed to two main factors: the availability of scientific abstracts, and the frequent presence of author-assigned keyphrases, serving as naturally occurring ground truth. When considering size, only a handful of datasets contain a sufficient number of samples (i.e. $> 100k$ training samples, underlined in Figure 1) to effectively train generative models. The majority of these datasets, however, are relatively small (i.e. $< 1k$ samples) and are mainly used for testing purposes.

A closer examination of the five widely-used datasets reveals substantial overlap. All consist of scientific abstracts from the Computer Science domain, and at least three—KP20k, SemEval-2010, and Krapivin—share documents from the same

²We note, however, that several surveys on keyphrase extraction have been conducted; see Appendix A.1 for a review.

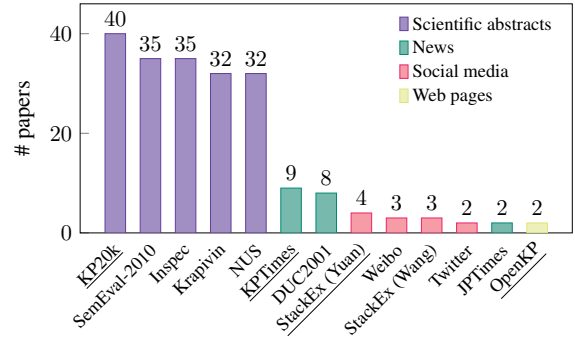


Figure 1: Number of papers utilizing each dataset. Underlined datasets contain 100k+ training samples. Datasets used only once are omitted for clarity.

source, the ACM Digital Library. This raises concerns about potential data leakage and questions the value of using these datasets together in experimental setups.

To shed light on these questions, we measured the correlation between the model scores across datasets, exploring whether models perform uniformly across different datasets. Our objective here is to determine the extent to which including more than one of these datasets in the experiments of a paper provides additional insights. From the correlation matrix in Figure 2, we see that the performance of models among the five widely-used datasets is almost perfectly correlated (Pearson’s correlation coefficient $\rho > 0.9$, p-value < 0.01). This observation implies that *there is no practical benefit in reporting the results on more than one of these five datasets*, despite the common practice among previous studies of doing so.

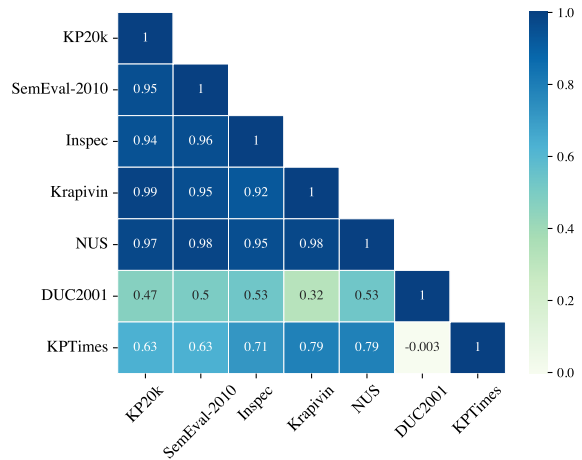


Figure 2: Pearson’s correlation coefficient ρ computed between the model scores across datasets.

3.3 Evaluation Metrics

We move forward with our analysis by examining the evaluation of automatically generated keyphrases within our sample of papers. With the exception of (Wu et al., 2022b), all the proposed models are solely assessed through intrinsic evaluation, which involves comparing their output with a single ground truth, typically using exact matching. From the extracted score triples, we find that 42 distinct evaluation metrics were reported across the papers (see Figure 3, detailed definitions of the evaluation metrics are provided in §A.3). The majority of papers describing models (40 out of 50, 80%) provide separate results for present and absent keyphrases, following the methodology of (Meng et al., 2017). As for the metrics, there is a high degree of consensus on the F_1 measure, with two configurations standing out: $F_1@M$ (using all the keyphrases predicted by the model) and $F_1@k$ (using the top- k predicted keyphrases, with $k \in \{5, 10\}$).

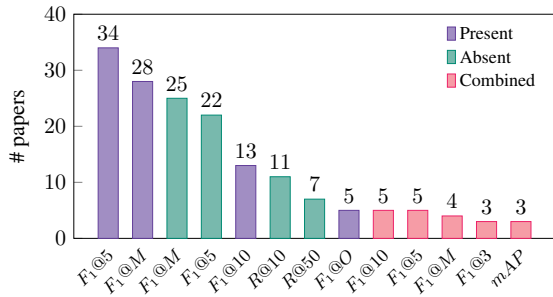


Figure 3: Number of papers employing each evaluation metric. Metrics used < 3 times are excluded for clarity.

Upon closer inspection of the evaluation settings in our sample of papers, we identified two major inconsistencies in how metrics are calculated. First, two variants of $F_1@k$ co-exist. Starting with (Chan et al., 2019), model predictions that do not reach k keyphrases are extended with incorrect (dummy) phrases. This prevents $F_1@k$ and $F_1@M$ scores from being identical, but lowers the scores for models generating fewer than k keyphrases. More critically, this practice undermines direct comparability with earlier work.

Second, we find that some form of normalization procedure is frequently applied prior to computing evaluation metrics, as observed in at least 30 out of 50 papers (60%).³ This procedure, commonly

³This information is often difficult to locate, as it is frequently omitted from papers and requires examining the source code and data.

referred to as Meng et al. (2017)’s pre-processing, is applied to ground-truth keyphrases and involves the following steps: 1) removing all the abbreviations/acronyms in parentheses, 2) tokenizing on non-letter characters, and 3) replacing digits with symbol `<digit>`. This normalization impacts the evaluation (see an example in Table 3 in §A.4), potentially leading to an overestimation of model performance and jeopardizing comparability with studies that do not employ it.

To gain insights on this issue, we conducted a series of replication experiments by reassessing the performance of three models—catSeqTG-2RF1 (Chan et al., 2019), ExHiRD-h (Chen et al., 2020) and SetTrans (Ye et al., 2021b)—for which the authors stated that they applied this normalization and provided the outputs of their model. To ensure comparability and consistency, we compute $F_1@k$ scores with dummy phrases when the number of predicted keyphrases is less than k , following (Chan et al., 2019) and subsequent works.

From the results in Figure 4, we observe that applying the normalization procedure significantly increases the scores for the majority of the evaluation metrics. The impact of the normalization procedure is more pronounced for present keyphrases, showing an absolute difference of +2.2 points ($F_1@M$) and +3.5 points ($F_1@5$). We notice a some difference in scores between the original (■) and our

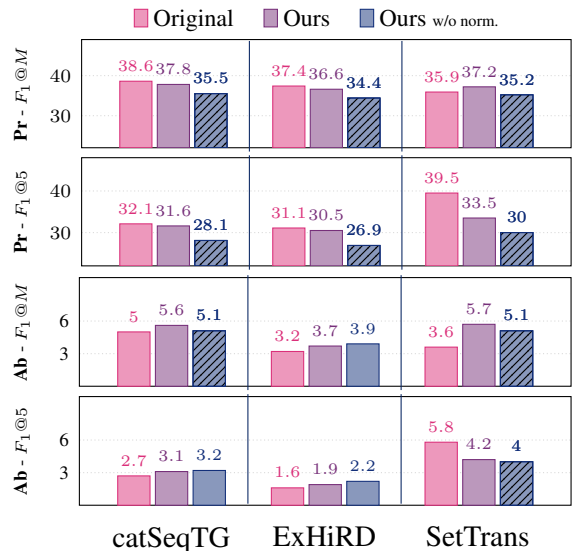


Figure 4: Replicated evaluation results on the KP20k dataset, alongside the performance reported in the original paper. Dashed bars (■) indicate a significant decrease of performance compared to normalization, as determined by the Student’s paired t-test (p -value < 0.01).

replicated evaluation (■), which we attribute to our method for determining whether a keyphrase is present or absent in the source document (see A.3). These observations alert that *the performance of many models have been overestimated from using this normalization procedure*, advocating for a cautious comparison of results between studies.

3.4 Proposed Models

In this section, we take a closer look at the models proposed in our sample of papers. Figure 5 presents an overview of these models in the form of an evolutionary tree, highlighting five works that we consider important milestones for keyphrase generation. In short, we first witness early efforts dedicated to refining the task formulation of keyphrase generation, followed by a transitional phase from RNN-based to Transformers-based models, and most recently, the adoption of fine-tuned PLMs. Below, we provide brief descriptions of each model, organized around these milestone works and presented in chronological order.

2017 Meng et al. (2017) introduced a *RNN-based encoder-decoder model for keyphrase generation*, alongside the KP20k dataset. This model was further improved with additional decoding mechanisms (Chen et al., 2018; Zhao and Zhang, 2019), multi-task learning (Ye and Wang, 2018), external resources (Chen et al., 2019a), latent topic information (Wang et al., 2019; Zhang et al., 2022), better encoding techniques (Chen et al., 2019b; Kim et al., 2021), or self-training (Shen et al., 2022).

2018 Yuan et al. (2020) introduced the *ONE2MANY training paradigm*, enabling models to generate a variable number of keyphrases.⁴ Subsequent studies have improved upon this work through the use of reinforcement learning (Chan et al., 2019; Luo et al., 2021), hierarchical decoding (Chen et al., 2020), GANs (Lancioni et al., 2020; Swaminathan et al., 2020), diversity promotion (Bahuleyan and El Asri, 2020), or diverse decoding strategies (Huang et al., 2021; Zhao et al., 2021; Santosh et al., 2021; Wang et al., 2022).

2021 Meng et al. (2021) explored the generalization capabilities of keyphrase generation models and were among the first to apply

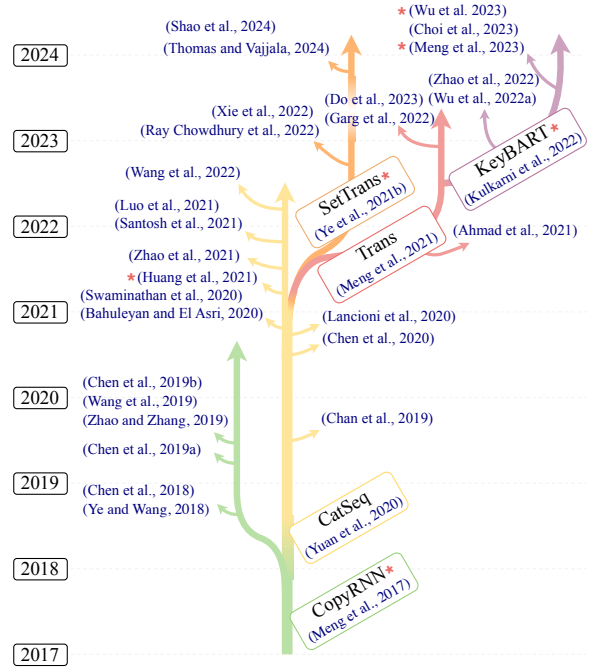


Figure 5: Evolutionary tree of the keyphrase generation models in our analysis. Some models are omitted for clarity. * indicate that the model weights are available.

Transformers for this task. Other works improved the performance of Transformers-based models through manipulation of the input document (Ahmad et al., 2021; Garg et al., 2022) or guided decoding (Do et al., 2023).

2021 Ye et al. (2021b) proposed the *ONE2SET training paradigm* that utilizes control codes to generate a set of keyphrases. Further work improved this approach through data augmentation (Ray Chowdhury et al., 2022), model calibration (Xie et al., 2022), joint keyphrase extraction (Thomas and Vajjala, 2024a) or LLM verification (Shao et al., 2024).

2022 Kulkarni et al. (2022) investigated the utilization of *PLMs for keyphrase generation*. Subsequent studies confirmed that fine-tuning a PLM, namely BART (Lewis et al., 2020), for keyphrase generation achieves SOTA results (Wu et al., 2021; Houbre et al., 2022; Wu et al., 2022a; Meng et al., 2023; Wu et al., 2023), and further improved its performance through output filtering (Zhao et al., 2022), low-resource fine-tuning (Wu et al., 2022a; Kang and Shin, 2024; Boudin and Aizawa, 2024), contrastive learning (Choi et al., 2023) or encoder-only models (Wu et al., 2024a).

⁴This work was submitted to arXiv in October 2018.

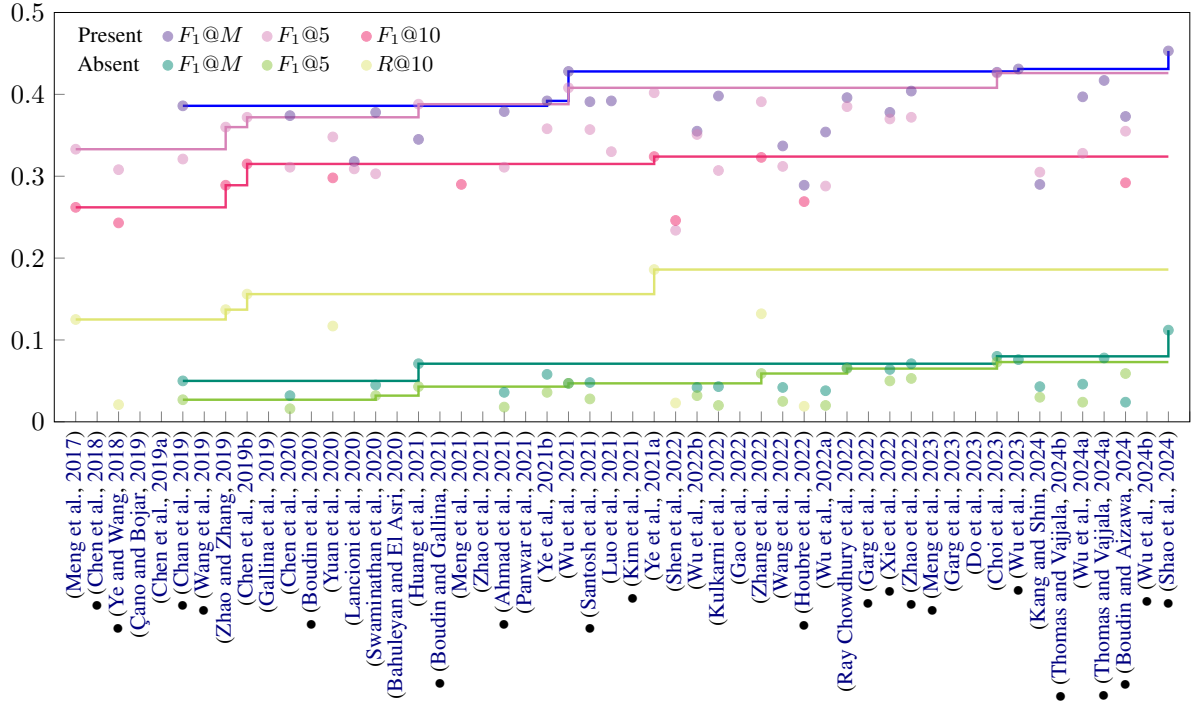


Figure 6: Best scores achieved by each model in terms of $F_1@M$, $F_1@5$ and $F_1@10$ for present keyphrases and $F_1@M$, $F_1@5$ and $R@10$ for absent keyphrases on the KP20k dataset. The lines represent the state-of-the-art performance over time. • indicate that the paper utilizes statistical tests to validate the significance of the results.

Figure 7 provides a more detailed depiction of the architectures used by the proposed keyphrase generation models over the years. Starting from 2021, we observe a swift transition from RNNs to Transformers, accelerated by the recent line of research on fine-tuning PLMs for the task. This trend aligns with observations across numerous other NLP tasks, where (pre-trained) Transformers consistently achieve state-of-the-art performance.

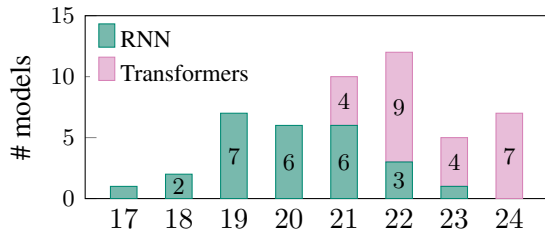


Figure 7: Architectures of the proposed keyphrase generation models over the years.

While it is relatively common for studies introducing models to release the code for reproducing their experiments (34 out of 50, 68%), it is much rarer for the model weights to be made available, with only 8 out of 50 studies doing so (marked with the symbol * in Figure 5). Importantly, code availability alone is not enough for reproducing the

results reported in published literature (Arvan et al., 2022). This lack of model weights complicates fair comparisons between models and imposes unnecessary computational and environmental costs associated with retraining.

3.5 Empirical Results

We conclude our analysis by conducting a large-scale comparison of the performance of the proposed models in our sample of papers, focusing on the best scores they achieve on the KP20k benchmark dataset (see Figure 6). We plot the state-of-the-art performance over time using lines, considering the three most commonly used evaluation metrics for both present and absent keyphrases. To the best of our knowledge, this is the comprehensive overview of state-of-the-art keyphrase generation model performance over time.

Overall, we observe a modest yet steady increase in state-of-the-art performance, with the most recent leap attributed to the use of LLMs for filtering keyphrase candidates generated by a fine-tuned PLM (Shao et al., 2024). Two additional observations can be gleaned from the Figure: 1) the absolute improvement in state-of-the-art performance since earlier works is limited; for instance, only 3.1% in present $F_1@M$ separates the

works of Chan et al. (2019) and Thomas and Vajjala (2024a); and 2) the performance in absent keyphrase prediction remains notably low, barely reaching 11% in $F_1@M$. For the latter, we believe that the reasons could be traced back to the unreliability of the evaluation metrics, which rely on strict matching against a single ground truth (see §3.3). This issue becomes more pronounced in the case of absent keyphrases where lexical variation is more prevalent, leading to lower scores.

Another notable observation is the limited use of statistical significance testing in the results, with only 20 out of the 50 doing so (marked with • in Figure 6). We assume this is a consequence of the scarce availability of model weights (see §3.4), which hinders the reproducibility of prior research and the ability to directly compare model outputs. Yet, statistical significance testing is crucial to assess the likelihood of potential improvements to models occurring by chance (Dror et al., 2018), casting doubts on the actual progress of the task.

4 A strong baseline model

Our analysis highlights the progress achieved by current keyphrase generation models, while drawing attention to the lack of standardized evaluation procedures and the limited availability of pre-trained models. To address these challenges, we provide a strong baseline model for keyphrase generation, along with an evaluation framework to facilitate future research.

Upon analysing the proposed model scores (see §3.5), we find that fine-tuning a PLM for the task consistently yields the best performance. Based on this observation, we adopt this approach for our baseline model, leveraging BART-large (Lewis et al., 2020) as the initial PLM, in line with recent studies (Meng et al., 2023; Wu et al., 2023). The model is fine-tuned on the KP20k training set for 10 epochs in a ONE2MANY setting (Yuan et al., 2020), that is, given a source text as input, the task is to generate keyphrases as a single sequence of delimiter-separated phrases. During fine-tuning, gold keyphrases are arranged in the present-absent order which was found to give the best results (Meng et al., 2021). Notably, we do not apply any pre-processing to either the source texts or the ground-truth keyphrases, thereby fixing the issues we identified in §3.3.

At test time, we evaluate the model using greedy decoding to generate the most probable keyphrases,

or beam search ($K=20$) to assemble the top- k keyphrases across all beams. To select the best-performing model, we save a checkpoint at the end of each epoch and evaluate its performance on the validation set of KP20k, using $F_1@M$ scores against the ground truth keyphrases. Overall, fine-tuning for 9 epochs produces the highest scores (see Figure 8), leading us to select the corresponding checkpoint as our baseline model.

Code for training, inference and evaluation is available at github.com/anonymous. Additionally, all model weights, including checkpoints, are accessible at huggingface.co/anonymous. Implementation details are given in Appendix A.5.

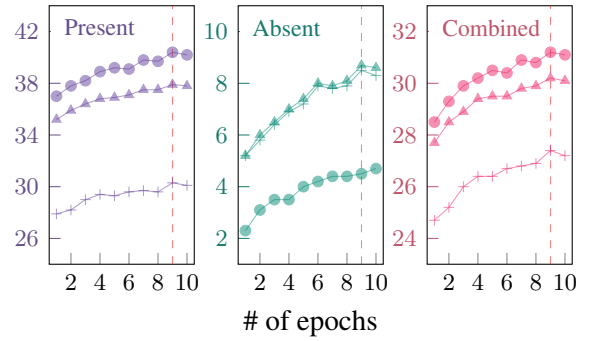


Figure 8: Performance of our baseline model on the KP20k validation set across training epochs, measured by $F_1@M$ ($\circ$), $F_1@5$ ($\triangle$) and $F_1@10$ ($+$) for present, absent and combined keyphrases.

Here, we evaluate the performance of our baseline model on KP20k test set and compare it against previously proposed models. Table 2 summarizes the results for both present and absent keyphrase prediction. Our model achieves strong overall performance, surpassing most prior models and achieving state-of-the-art results in absent keyphrase prediction in terms of $F_1@5$. We believe that this level of performance establishes our baseline model as a robust point of reference for future research.

Metric		Ours	Best	# ↓	# ↑
$F_1@M$	Present	39.9	45.3	19	6
	Absent	4.5	11.2	9	13
$F_1@5$	Present	37.7	42.6	19	6
	Absent	8.2	7.3	23	0

Table 2: Performance of our baseline model on the KP20k test set, compared to the best-reported scores in literature, with the number of previous models underperforming ($\# \downarrow$) or outperforming ($\# \uparrow$) the baseline.

5 Open Challenges and Discussion

We wrap up this paper by highlighting two challenges in keyphrase generation and suggesting actionable strategies to address them. Finally, we discuss what LLMs can do for the task.

5.1 Benchmark Datasets

Our analysis revealed alarming levels of redundancy between the most frequently used benchmark datasets, stressing the need to deviate from the common practice of relying on the same five datasets. Thus, the first challenge we identified is the lack of diverse, sizeable benchmark datasets for keyphrase generation. While recent efforts have been devoted to building new datasets, they either reuse most samples from KP20k (Mahata et al., 2022), contain too few samples (Piedboeuf and Langlais, 2022) or are restricted to a specific domains (Houbre et al., 2022; Boudin and Aizawa, 2024) or goals (Wu et al., 2024b).

Creating a new dataset is undoubtedly difficult, as manual annotation of keyphrases is both costly and requires domain expertise. A practical solution is to look for naturally occurring keyphrases, and scientific papers with their author-provided keywords are a well-known match. Another common issue of existing datasets is their lack of proper document sourcing. For instance, the documents in KP20k were collected from “various online digital libraries” and lack crucial metadata such as DOIs, authorship details or licences. Given these considerations, we suggest leveraging arXiv for creating a new dataset as it aligns with our requirements: it offers content under Creative Commons, provides a substantial volume of categorized, identified and machine-readable (L^AT_EX) documents.

5.2 Evaluation Metrics

The second challenge we identified, which connects to the benchmark datasets, concerns the questionable robustness of automatic evaluation. There are two main issues with current evaluation methods. First, keyphrases are task-dependent. For example, keyphrases relevant for document indexing may differ from those relevant for reading comprehension. This aspect is rarely addressed in previous studies, despite its significant implications, notably on the need for distinct ground truth keyphrases depending on the targeted task. Second, commonly-used evaluation metrics rely on simple matching against a single ground truth, which is likely to be

incomplete.

One potential solution to address these issues is to rely on extrinsic evaluation, that is, assessing the performance of keyphrase generation models through downstream tasks. For instance, prior works have proposed to evaluate models through their impact on document retrieval effectiveness (Boudin et al., 2020; Boudin and Gallina, 2021). Two other notable works in this direction are Jiang et al. (2023b), which evaluates keyphrases in a task-oriented setting to assist reader comprehension, and Wu et al. (2024c), which examines the alignment between keyphrases and LLM-generated queries. However, the additional computational costs associated with conducting such extrinsic evaluations may hinder their adaption. Here, we suggest testing the ability of LLMs to evaluate generated keyphrases, as this approach has proven successful in several tasks (Chiang and Lee, 2023).

5.3 LLMs for Keyphrase Generation

Keyphrase generation stands out as one of the few NLP tasks where LLMs have not yet replaced dedicated supervised models. Nonetheless, initial efforts to leverage LLMs for this task, primarily using in-context learning (Song et al., 2023b; Martínez-Cruz et al., 2023; Bai et al., 2024), have demonstrated promising results. Recently, Shao et al. (2024) validated the effectiveness of LLMs as a keyphrase reranking method for dedicated models. Here, we highlight two important considerations when using LLMs for keyphrase generation.

The first is data contamination, which occurs when test data is included in the model’s training data. Given the extensive size and diverse sources of pre-training datasets used for LLMs, it is likely that widely available documents composing the current benchmarks have been included. Solutions to address this issue are not straightforward, but applying pre-training data detection methods (Zhou et al., 2024; Zhang et al., 2024) to identify and mitigate data leakage is a necessary first step.

The second is the computational costs. Generating keyphrases using LLMs across a vast collection of documents is prohibitively expensive. While “lightweight” models (Grattafiori et al., 2024) or fast inference strategies (Liu et al., 2024) are being developed to reduce these costs, scalable solutions remain an open challenge. Reporting the performance-inference speed trade-off of future models would help better position their practical usefulness.

Limitations

Scope of the analysis

While we are confident that the sample of papers covered in this analysis provides a comprehensive representation of the research on keyphrase generation, our selection is not exhaustive. Specifically, it does not account for papers published in non-ACL journals or hosted on pre-print servers, which may present additional perspectives or recent advancements in the field. Our analysis focuses on keyphrase generation and does not cover the closely related field of keyphrase extraction, which converges on the datasets and evaluation metrics.

Manual extraction of best scores

Our analysis focuses on the best scores reported for the models and could be extended to include baselines and ablation studies. Collecting the best scores from the selected papers was not always possible due to typos or ambiguities in the tables. Furthermore, our disambiguation strategy—selecting either the model demonstrating the best overall performance or, when unclear, the one performing best on the KP20k dataset—may result in suboptimal scores for other datasets.

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A Appendix

A.1 Related Surveys

To our knowledge, this is the first attempt at compiling and analyzing the performance of keyphrase generation models. In contrast, several surveys have been carried out on keyphrase extraction, starting with (Hasan and Ng, 2014), which focused on pre-deep-learning unsupervised methods. Subsequent surveys, such as (Çano and Bojar, 2019), (Papagiannopoulou and Tsoumakas, 2020) and (Firoozeh et al., 2020), included additional, more recent methods and presented comparative experimental studies. More recently, Song et al. (2023a) carried out a comprehensive review of keyphrase extraction methods, covering PLM-based models, and Xie et al. (2023) performed a large-scale analysis of keyphrase prediction methods, which included results from some generative models. Despite marked differences, notably in the model architectures and training procedures, previous research on keyphrase extraction and generation converge on the datasets and evaluation metrics, making these surveys complementary to ours.

A.2 Statistics of the Benchmark Datasets

Detailed statistics of the datasets are provided in Table 4.

A.3 Details of Evaluation Metrics

For a given document d , the performance of a model is evaluated by comparing its predicted keyphrases $\mathcal{P} = \{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_M\}$ with a set of gold truth keyphrases $\mathcal{Y} = \{y_1, y_2, \dots, y_O\}$. Keyphrases are lowercased, stemmed with the Porter Stemmer (Porter, 1997), and duplicates are removed prior to score calculation. When only the top- k predictions $\mathcal{P}_{:k} = \{p_1, \dots, p_{\min(k, M)}\}$ are used for evaluation, the *precision*, *recall* and F_1 *measure* are computed as follows:

$$P@k = \frac{|\mathcal{P}_{:k} \cap \mathcal{Y}|}{|\mathcal{P}_{:k}|} \quad R@k = \frac{|\mathcal{P}_{:k} \cap \mathcal{Y}|}{|\mathcal{Y}|}$$

$$F_1@k = 2 \times \frac{P@k \times R@k}{P@k + R@k}$$

The most commonly used metrics are defined as:

- $F_1@5$: $F_1@k$ when $k = 5$.
- $F_1@10$: $F_1@k$ when $k = 10$.
- $F_1@M$: M denotes the number of predicted keyphrases. Here, all the predicted phrases are used for evaluation, i.e. without truncation.

- $F_1@O$: O denotes the number of gold truth keyphrases.

- $R@10$: $R@k$ when $k = 10$.

- $R@50$: $R@k$ when $k = 50$.

Noting that when using the top- k predictions and the number of predicted keyphrases M is lower than k , incorrect phrases are appended to $\mathcal{P}$ until that M reaches k .

A keyphrase is labelled as present if it constitutes a subsequence of token of d (in stemmed form), and absent otherwise. This method is stricter than regex-based matching commonly used in previous work. When results for present and absent are reported separately, only the present or absent keyphrases from $\mathcal{P}$ and $\mathcal{Y}$ and used for score calculation. Papers usually report the macro-average scores over all the data examples in a benchmark dataset.

A.4 Example of normalized keyphrases

An example of data normalization as in Meng et al. (2017)⁵ is presented in Table 3.

A.5 Implementation Details

We use the BART-large model weights⁶ as our initial pre-trained language model and perform fine-tuning on the KP20k training set⁷ for 10 epochs. We use the AdamW optimizer with a learning rate of 1e-5 and a batch size of 4. Fine-tuning the model using 2 Nvidia GeForce RTX 2080 took 400 hours.

⁵https://github.com/memray/OpenNMT-kpg-release/blob/d16bf09e21521a6854ff3c7fe6eb271412914960/notebook/json_process.ipynb

⁶<https://huggingface.co/facebook/bart-large>

⁷<https://huggingface.co/datasets/taln-ls2n/kp20k>

Title: Autoimmune polyendocrinopathy candidiasis ectodermal dystrophy: known and novel aspects of the syndrome

Abstract: Autoimmune polyendocrinopathy candidiasis ectodermal dystrophy (APECED) is a monogenic autosomal recessive disease caused by mutations in the autoimmune regulator (AIRE) gene and, as a syndrome, is characterized by chronic mucocutaneous candidiasis and the presentation of various autoimmune diseases. During the last decade, research on APECED and AIRE has provided immunologists with several invaluable lessons regarding tolerance and autoimmunity. This review describes the clinical and immunological features of APECED and discusses emerging alternative models to explain the pathogenesis of the disease.

Keyphrases: apeced – aire – chronic mucocutaneous candidiasis – il-17 – il-22

Normalized: apeced – aire – chronic mucocutaneous candidiasis – il <digit>

Table 3: Example of document from KP20k (S2CID: 32645143) with its associated keyphrases and their normalized forms.

Dataset	train / dev / test	#kp	lkpl	%abs
KP20k (Meng et al., 2017)	514k / 20k / 20k	5.3	2.1	36.7
SemEval-2010 (Kim et al., 2010)	144 / – / 100	15.7	2.1	55.5
Inspec (Hulth, 2003)	1k / 500 / 500	9.6	2.3	21.5
Krapivin (Krapivin et al., 2009)	1844 / – / 460	5.2	2.2	43.8
NUS (Nguyen and Kan, 2007)	– / – / 211	11.5	2.2	48.7
DUC2001 (Wan and Xiao, 2008)	– / – / 308	8.1	2.1	2.7
KPTimes (Gallina et al., 2019)	260k / 10k / 20k	5.0	1.5	54.4
StackEx (Yuan et al., 2020)	298k / 16k / 16k	2.7	–	42.5
Weibo (Wang et al., 2019)	37k / 4.6k / 4.6k	1.1	2.6	75.8
StackEx (Wang et al., 2019)	39.6k / 4.9k / 4.9k	2.4	1.4	54.3

Table 4: Statistics of the benchmark datasets taken from (Wan and Xiao, 2008; Gallina et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2019; Yuan et al., 2020; Do et al., 2023)