

GenGO: ACL Paper Explorer with Semantic Features

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Abstract

We present *GenGO*¹, a system for exploring papers published in ACL conferences. Paper data stored in our database is enriched with multi-aspect summaries, extracted named entities, a field of study label, and text embeddings by our data processing pipeline. These metadata are used in our web-based user interface to enable researchers to quickly find papers relevant to their interests, and grasp an overview of papers without reading full-text of papers. To keep *GenGO* available online as long as possible, we design *GenGO* to be simple and efficient to reduce maintenance and financial costs. In addition, the modularity of our data processing pipeline lets developers easily extend it to add new features. We make our code available to foster open development and transparency: <https://gengo.sotaro.io/>.²

1 Introduction

The rapidly growing number of scientific papers makes it difficult for researchers to keep up-to-date with the state of the literature (Bornmann and Mutz, 2015). Scholarly document processing (SDP) aims to support researchers with this challenge by building tools to process knowledge stored in research papers (Chandrasekaran et al., 2020) and has been increasingly drawing attention from academic and industrial communities. Together with the recent developments in natural language processing (NLP), a number of powerful technologies are now available in SDP. For instance, automatic scientific paper summarization systems provide short summaries encapsulating the essential points in a paper so that researchers can grasp the overview without reading its abstract or even full-text (Cachola et al., 2020; Yasunaga et al., 2019). A series of works on paper representation learning aims to obtain numerical representations of papers

that can be used for information retrieval or recommendation (Ostendorff et al., 2022; Singh et al., 2023). Automatic information extraction systems allow repositories of papers to be organized in a structured manner (Jain et al., 2020; Viswanathan et al., 2021). There are also system demonstrations that implement user interfaces to the SDP technologies to make the aforementioned models available to scientists. Erera et al. (2019) introduce a system that lets users consume papers with automatically generated summaries. Hongwimol et al. (2021) is a web-based tool where users can explore different complex concepts and their relations by exploiting scientific knowledge graphs.

As the NLP community also faces a large number of publications (Bollmann et al., 2023) with dynamically changing trends (Schopf et al., 2023), there are systems which explicitly target this domain. The ACL Anthology (Bollmann et al., 2023) serves as an essential resource for the community by providing a repository of papers published in ACL conferences. Schäfer et al. (2011) introduce the ACL Anthology Searchbench that implements ACL Anthology a more fine-grained structured search. Ding et al. (2020) device a model-based semantic search in addition to the lexical search to provide a powerful literature search infrastructure. However, currently, there are no works which integrate different types of SDP technologies (e.g., summarization, information retrieval and extraction) in one system for NLP papers.

In this paper, we describe our system, dubbed *GenGO*, equipped with various semantic features to help researchers consume a large number of papers efficiently. Specifically, *GenGO* combines three types of SDP technologies. (1) **Multi-aspect summarization**: one paper in *GenGO* is coupled with four one-sentence summaries that summarize the Overview, Challenge, Approach, and Outcome of a paper. This enables researchers to quickly understand the overview of a paper from different

¹gengo (言語) means ‘language’ in Japanese.

²Demo video: <https://youtu.be/yYh9U5IVbIw>

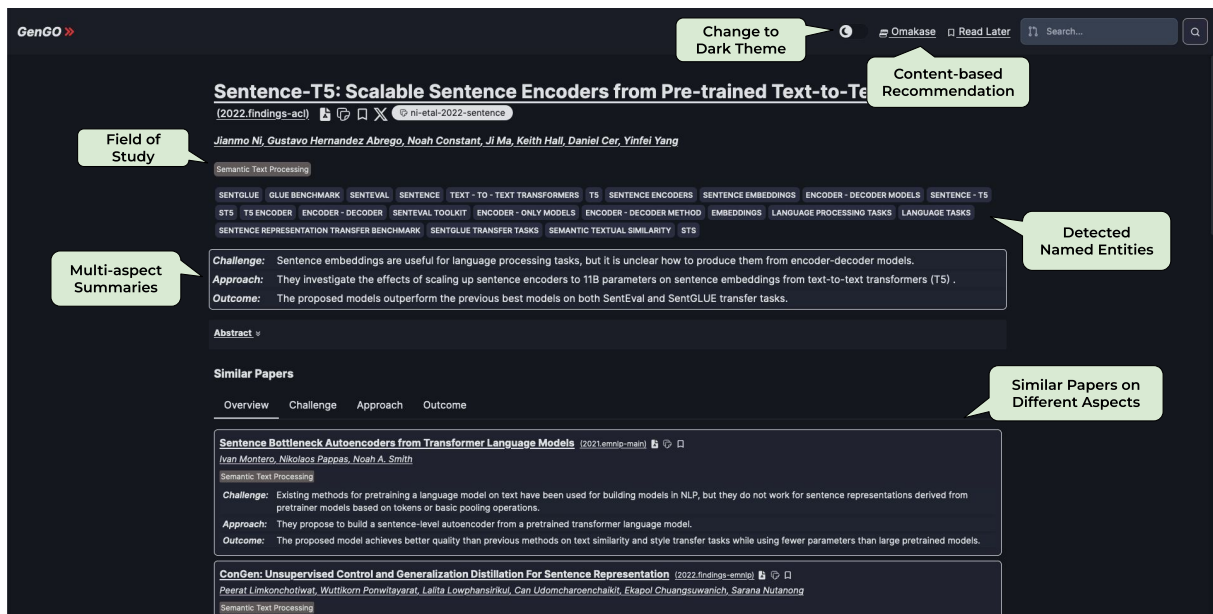


Figure 1: A screenshot exhibits how *GenGO* presents one paper. Each paper is complemented with multi-aspect summaries, field of study labels, named entities, and similar papers.

viewpoints. (2) **Semantic search:** our system can retrieve papers that are semantically relevant given user-provided queries. (3) **Information extraction:** *GenGO* automatically extracts technical terms and predicts the topic of a paper to enable fine-grained filtering and search. We design *GenGO* to be efficient and simple using cloud-based software so it requires low maintenance and financial cost, and currently achieves to index 30k+ papers.

2 Developments in SDP

In this section, we review existing papers and commercial products that target processing scholarly documents. The models and datasets used in the development of *GenGO* are marked with *.

2.1 Automatic text summarization

Text summarization systems for scientific papers have been an interest in NLP for decades. One of the early works, Paice (1980) proposes a system that aims to automatically produce abstract sections of papers. Recently, the performance of summarization models drastically improved with the emergence of neural network-based models (Rush et al., 2015; Gehrmann et al., 2018; Raffel et al., 2020a). While one straightforward approach for paper summarization would be to feed the texts of a paper to models to produce summaries, there are works that exploit unique characteristics in scholarly documents to improve their performance. Cohan and Goharian (2015) propose to use citation sentences

to avoid inconsistency between summaries. Xiao and Carenini (2019) use global and local content in the paper to improve the summarization of long research papers. Additionally to the efforts on modelling, there are also various works that introduce language resources to develop and evaluate scientific paper summarization systems. Cohan et al. (2018) constructed a dataset by regarding the abstract sections in papers as summaries and the rest as inputs. Cachola et al. (2020)* collected the summaries written by authors and reviewers of a paper submitted to an open reviewing platform, which later extended into a cross-lingual variant by Takeshita et al. (2022, 2023). The most relevant summarization work to our system is the ACLSum dataset introduced by Takeshita et al. (2024a)*, in which 250 papers published in ACL-related conferences are annotated with abstractive and extractive summaries on three different aspects, namely Challenge, Approach, and Outcome.

2.2 Information retrieval

In recent NLP conferences, one proceeding can have more than 1k papers (EMNLP’23 main track has 1,047 papers), making efficient means of finding relevant papers essential. Bhagavatula et al. (2018) propose a method which takes a paper draft and finds relevant papers using a text embedding model. The aspect-based similarity model presented by Ostendorff et al. (2020) enables researchers to find papers by queries on different

aspects. Cohan et al. (2020) introduce SPECTER, a scientific language model pre-trained using citation graphs, it produces high-performance paper embeddings. While it does not solely target scientific documents, all-MiniLM-L6-v2 (Reimers and Gurevych, 2019)* is a lightweight text embedding model which is trained on a number of sentence pair datasets including scientific texts using a contrastive objective function.

2.3 Text classification

Scientific documents often do not come with rich metadata that can be used to form a structured data repository. Jurgens et al. (2018) introduce a citation intent classification dataset for the NLP domain. This enables richer citation graphs of scientific papers. Schopf et al. (2023)* present a semi-automatically and manually annotated dataset for the field of study classification, respectively for training and evaluation purposes. The classification model trained on the dataset enables automatic analysis of how the research trend in NLP changes over time.

2.4 Information extraction

The ScienceIE task (Augenstein et al., 2017) aims to develop methods that extract keyphrases from scientific papers, which can be further used in retrieval systems. Jain et al. (2020)* presents, the SciREX dataset, a document-level information extraction dataset based on machine learning papers. Viswanathan et al. (2021) propose to use citation graph to perform information extraction from scientific documents.

2.5 Applications

While the aforementioned works present models or language resources, they require a user interface to be delivered to researchers. There are a number of academic system demonstrations and commercial services that are designed to fill this gap. The IBM Science Summarizer presents research papers coupled with automatically produced extractive summaries (Erera et al., 2019). Gökçe et al. (2020) present an online editor where users can explore the existing papers while writing a manuscript. Hongwimol et al. (2021) introduce a web-based interactive tool which visualizes explanations and relationships between concepts using graph-structured data. A system introduced by Gu and Hahnloser (2023) enables users to find relevant papers with generated or extracted summaries

given user-provided context and keywords. In addition to the system demonstrations which are often done in academic institutions such as universities, there are also software developed more intensively including commercial products. Semantic Scholar (Kinney et al., 2023) is a search engine that also provides paper summarization and recommendations. Zeta Alpha (Fadaee et al., 2020) and Elicit³ provide search features and also chat-based interfaces based on recent large language models.

To the best of our knowledge, there are no system demonstrations that combine automatic summarization, information retrieval and extraction methods in NLP papers. While web-based applications developed by private organizations mentioned such as Semantic Scholar provide similar functionalities, the closed nature of these software hinders transparency of how and which models are being used.

3 System requirements

One pragmatic challenge for a system demonstration project is to keep the system up and running, especially when it is maintained by a few developers with a limited budget. Indeed, 10 out of 27 web-based system demonstrations presented at ACL 2023 (held in July) are offline after less than one year (at the time of writing, March 2024). We speculate that this is due to (1) maintenance effort and (2) financial costs as mentioned by Bollmann et al. (2023). To achieve a long lifespan of our system, we design *GenGO* to minimize the aforementioned two factors. (1) Maintenance effort: we minimize the number of servers to be taken care of. Specifically, our system does not rely on custom servers that often demand intensive system maintenance. Instead, we opt for a server-less architecture by making use of managed cloud-based services. To reduce (2) Financial costs: we designed our pipeline not to make any online inferences that require GPUs. Our data processing pipeline can run fully offline, process each document once, and store the results in a database. The only online inference *GenGO* makes is when to compute a text embedding of a user-provided query. Instead of hosting a server to compute embeddings for each user request, we use a lightweight text embedding model and perform the inference on the user’s device. Because of these design decisions, *GenGO* is currently running without any financial cost from

³<https://elicit.com/>

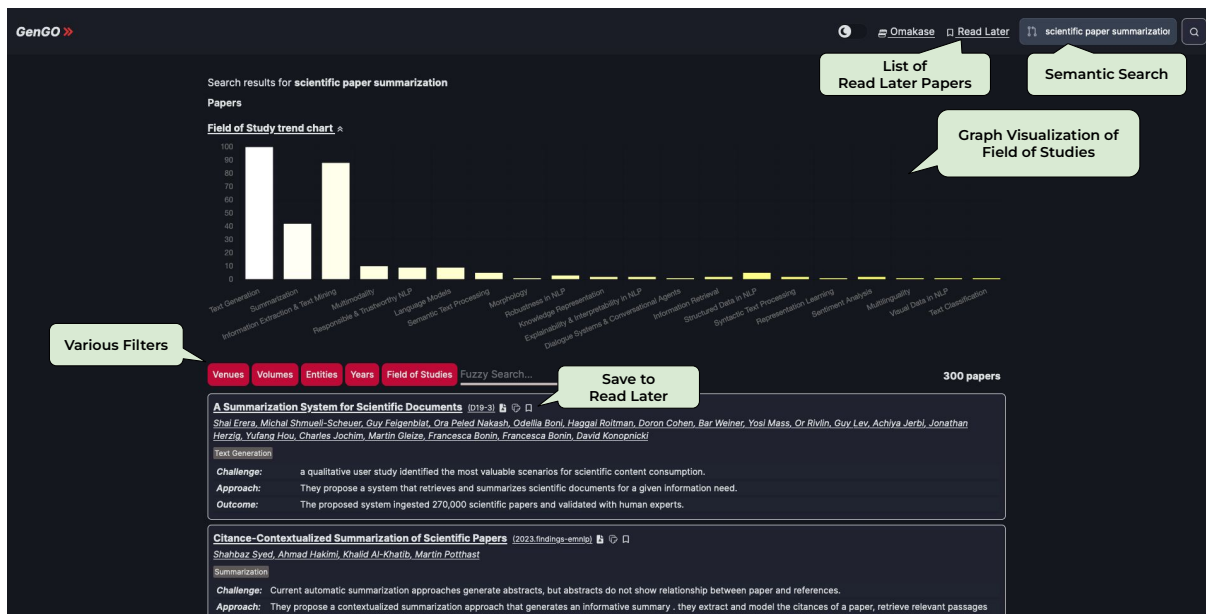


Figure 2: A screenshot showing how *GenGO* presents a list of papers retrieved by its semantic search functionality. Users can apply various filters to the list (e.g., venue, named entities, field of studies, etc...) to efficiently find relevant papers.

our disposal while indexing more than 30k papers. By using the cost estimator provided by Qdrant⁴, we estimate that when the number of indexed papers increases by ten times, it would require around 10 Euro per month.

4 *GenGO*

In this section, we describe the main features of *GenGO* (§4.1) and a system overview (§4.2). Table 5 in Appendix lists all the models and datasets with external links.

4.1 Main features

Multi-aspect summarization. We complement each paper with automatically generated one-sentence summaries on four different aspects, namely Overview (Generic overall summary), Challenge (The current situation faced by the researcher), Approach (How they intend to carry out investigation), and Outcome (Overall conclusion). Refer [Fisas et al. \(2015\)](#) for the detailed definitions. This enables users to quickly understand these aspects of a paper without reading its full-text or even the abstract.

We use two summarization datasets and two transformer-based models. To generate Overview summaries, we use a BART-large model ([Lewis et al., 2020](#)) fine-tuned on the SciTLDR dataset

⁴<https://cloud.qdrant.io/calculator>

| Dataset | R-1 | R-2 | R-L | R-K |
|--------------------|------|------|------|-------|
| SciTLDR - Overview | 43.9 | 22.3 | 36.6 | 41.36 |
| ACLSum - Challenge | 18.9 | 2.5 | 13.6 | 50.27 |
| ACLSum - Approach | 44.8 | 22.4 | 38.4 | 55.85 |
| ACLSum - Outcome | 42.3 | 21.7 | 35.0 | 37.14 |

Table 1: Performance of summarization models.

([Cachola et al., 2020](#)). To generate multi-aspect summaries, we fine-tune one T5-base ([Raffel et al., 2020b](#)) on each aspect using the ACLSum dataset ([Takeshita et al., 2024a](#)). Table 1 shows the performance of each model evaluated on corresponding datasets by ROUGE F1 ([Lin, 2004](#)) and its keyword-focused extension, ROUGE-K ([Takeshita et al., 2024b](#)). In *GenGO*, we follow the corresponding papers and use the abstract for the overview summarization, and the abstract, introduction and conclusion sections for multi-aspect summarization as inputs.

Semantic search and recommendation.

GenGO can retrieve semantically relevant documents given a user-provided query, and provide two types of paper recommendations. (1) Content-based recommendation: where each paper is presented with its similar papers in four different aspects (Overview, Challenge, Approach, and Outcome). (2) History-based recommendation: papers relevant to the user’s reading history.

| Dataset | NDCG@10 | MAP@10 |
|---------|---------|--------|
| SciFact | 0.645 | 0.596 |
| SciDocs | 0.216 | 0.129 |

Table 2: Performance of retrieval model

| Dataset | Precision | Recall | F1 |
|--------------|-----------|--------|-------|
| NLP Taxonomy | 92.46 | 93.99 | 92.21 |

Table 3: Performance of field of Study classification models.

We use the all-MiniLM-L6-v2 model⁵ as our underlying text encoder model. To perform the semantic search, we compute cosine similarities between an embedding of a user-provided query and embeddings of all of the indexed papers and return the 300 most similar papers. To compute paper embeddings, we use paper titles and abstracts as inputs to the text encoder. For content-based recommendation on the Overview aspect, we use an embedding of the opened paper as a query vector. For the other three aspects, we use the generated summaries (refer to Section 4.1) on the corresponding aspect as a query text. To provide reading history-based recommendations, we use an average vector from the papers in the user’s reading history as a query vector. Table 2 shows the performances of the all-MiniLM-L6-v2 model on two retrieval benchmark datasets from the scientific domain, SciDocs (Cohan et al., 2020) and SciFACT (Wadden et al., 2020). To respect the user’s privacy, we store the reading history information using the localStorage property of the user’s web browser.

Field of study filtering. We predict the field of study labels (g.g., Text Generation) for each paper to enable users to apply filtering by the topics of their interests.

We use the model published by Schopf et al. (2023). Its underlying model architecture is BERT-base (Devlin et al., 2019) and parameters are initialized using SPECTER model (Cohan et al., 2020) and the authors fine-tune the model using their classification dataset. We present the performance of the model reported in the original paper in Table 3. In *GenGO*, we follow the strategy from the original paper and use titles and abstracts as inputs.

Field of study visualizer. Every time a user sees a list of papers in *GenGO*, it is complemented by a

⁵<https://huggingface.co/sentence-transformers/all-MiniLM-L6-v2>

| Type | Precision | Recall | F1 |
|---------|-----------|--------|-------|
| Method | 72.18 | 70.43 | 71.29 |
| Task | 65.58 | 53.41 | 58.87 |
| Dataset | 50.00 | 53.26 | 51.58 |
| Metric | 72.17 | 60.27 | 65.68 |

Table 4: Performance of named entity recognition model.

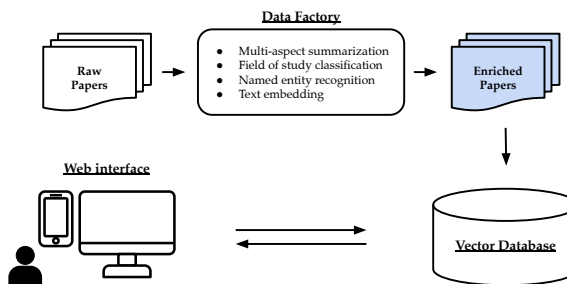


Figure 3: A system overview.

bar-graph visualization of the field of study labels. Users can grasp topic popularity in a conference proceeding or a publication list of a researcher. Figure 2 shows an example over a list of search results.

Named entity filtering. We attach named entities extracted from the paper content as metadata to achieve fine-grained filtering.

We train the transition-based parser model implemented in spaCy (Honnibal et al., 2020) on the SciRex dataset (Jain et al., 2020) to extract entities from titles and abstracts. Table 4 shows the results of the test split of SciRex.

Save to read later. While this does not require any NLP-based methodologies, since we intend our platform to be used to digest many papers quickly, we implemented this feature so that a user can "save" a paper while skimming over a long list of papers for later to study in detail.

We use the localStorage property of web browsers to save the paper information. This enables to keep the data locally on the user’s device instead of external servers.

4.2 System description

GenGO stands on three components, *data factory*, *vector database*, and *web-based user interface* as depicted in Figure 3. In the remainder of this section, we describe each component in detail.

Data factory. This module prepares the published research articles from the ACL anthology to be indexed in our database. Concretely, it first

downloads a paper in the PDF format from ACL Anthology, runs Grobid (Lope, 2008–2023) to extract the full-text, and segments the text into sentences using Spacy⁶. After having the structure data of a paper, we run models described in Section 4.1 for each paper. After this enrichment process, as the final step in the data factory, it uploads the resulting data to the vector database, described in the following paragraph. Currently, we opt for relatively lightweight models so that this pipeline can run even on a consumer laptop without GPUs. For instance, it takes 4 hours to process 700+ papers from ACL 2020 on a MacBook Air M2.

Vector database. Instead of traditional relational databases, we use a vector database to host our enriched paper data. Vector databases can store documents with metadata and use numerical vectors for indexing to achieve vector-based searching given a query vector. We can achieve semantic search by using semantic embedding vectors of papers’ texts and user-provided queries. Among several available vector database implementations, we opt for Qdrant⁷. This is due to that Qdrant is an open-source software making the retrieval mechanism transparent, followed by more minor technical reasons such as the support of multiple vectors for one data point enabling *GenGO* to retrieve papers on different aspects, and fast search speed compared to the other implementations. We host our Qdrant instance using the managed solution provided by a company which leads the development of Qdrant. At the time of writing, *GenGO* indexes publications from nine major ACL conferences from 2018 to 2023, resulting in more than 30k papers and running free of charge. This database is the only component in our system that requires financial costs when scaling up the system. In the current pricing options, we estimate that the Qdrant cloud solution would require c.a. 10 Euro if we increase the number of indexed papers by 10 times.

Web-based user interface. Like most modern web applications, *GenGO* is developed using a JavaScript framework to achieve interactivity. Specifically, we use Svelte⁸. To achieve responsive design, we use tailwindcss⁹ as our CSS framework, and host our frontend application using Vercel¹⁰.

⁶<https://spacy.io/>

⁷<https://qdrant.tech/>

⁸<https://svelte.dev/>

⁹<https://tailwindcss.com/>

¹⁰<https://vercel.com/>

5 Limitation of current system

Because the metadata used to build the *GenGO* is from the ACL Anthology project, our system inherits its challenges such as the disambiguation of author names (Bollmann et al., 2023). In addition, there are several limitations unique to our system. (1) Speed and the number of indexed papers: Compared to similar services developed by large institutions such as Semantic Scholar, our system relies on limited computational resources. This currently results in slower response time especially when showing a long list of papers, and also to compensate for the limited size of the data storage, we only index approximately 30% of papers from the whole ACL Anthology repository. We are also hindered in applying the most powerful models available in our data factory due to the lack of sufficient computational resources. (2) Summarization quality: Hallucination in text generation remains an open challenge (Dong et al., 2022; Koh et al., 2022; Ma et al., 2023). During the development, we observed cases where the generated summaries do not convey the full information of a paper or contain information inconsistent with the corresponding paper. (3) Retrieval bias: While the semantic search approach used in our system can work with paraphrases or synonyms, due to the ‘blackboxness’ of model-based encoders, it remains unclear whether such models have a bias towards retrieving certain styles of texts (MacAvaney et al., 2022).

6 Conclusion

In this paper, we described *GenGO*, a system to explore ACL papers with various types of semantically empowered functionalities. Our system enables NLP researchers to quickly find relevant papers using semantic search and various fine-grained filters, and grasp paper overviews by reading multi-aspect summaries. *GenGO* also provides utility features such as paper recommendations or ‘read it later’ to further enhance user experience.

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A Appendix

| Name | Task | URL |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| BART_{LARGE} | Summarization (Overview) | https://huggingface.co/sobamchan/bart-large-scitldr |
| T5_{BASE} | Summarization (Challenge) | https://huggingface.co/sobamchan/t5-base-aclsum-challenge-nofilter |
| T5_{BASE} | Summarization (Approach) | https://huggingface.co/sobamchan/t5-base-aclsum-approach-nofilter |
| T5_{BASE} | Summarization (Outcome) | https://huggingface.co/sobamchan/t5-base-aclsum-outcome-nofilter |
| SciTLDR | Summarization (Overview) | https://github.com/allenai/scitldr |
| all-MiniLM-L6-v2 | Retrieval | https://huggingface.co/sentence-transformers/all-MiniLM-L6-v2 |
| Taxonomy classifier | Field of study classification | https://huggingface.co/TimSchopf/nlp_taxonomy_classifier |
| SciREX | NER | https://github.com/allenai/SciREX/ |

Table 5: A list of models and datasets with external URLs used in *GenGO*.