

NLTK-Powered Text Summarization: Streamlining Information Access

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Abstract—A primary goal of natural language processing, text summary seeks to reduce lengthy texts to their essential elements while maintaining their overall structure and meaning. In order to provide brief summaries, this article investigates a number of methods used in text summarizing, such as extractive and abstractive approaches. In order to demonstrate the practical use of text summary in completing a thesis. In addition, the research highlights the necessity for quantitative and qualitative evaluation approaches by discussing the significance of evaluation metrics like ROUGE in evaluating the quality of generated summaries. To cover all bases, we also go over what we know about summarization performance from recent studies, such as the association between ROUGE ratings.

Index Terms—NLTK (Natural Language Toolkit), Text Summarization, NLP (Natural Language Processing), Recall Oriented Understudy for Gisting Evaluation (ROUGE),

I. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, with so much information at our fingertips, finding what we're looking for quickly and easily has become critical in the digital era. An important part of Natural Language Processing (NLP), text summarizing helps with this problem by reducing long articles or documents to brief summaries while keeping important details. In this work, we explore the field of NLTK-powered text summary, where we look at how Natural Language Processing (NLP) approaches, and more specifically, NLTK, simplify information access by producing understandable and concise summaries.

With the ever-increasing volume of digital content across all industries, manual data extraction has become a tedious and laborious process. Being able to skim a paper and extract its essential information is a skill that is highly valued in many fields, including academia, journalism, and business. By automating this process with text summarizing techniques that are powered by natural language processing, users can acquire relevant insights much faster than reading complete publications. In this study, we take a look at the fundamentals of abstractive and extractive methods of text summarization.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The text summary is the arsenal of shortening a portion of textual content while retaining its essential/vital information and key points. To serve this purpose we use two main approaches: extractive summarization(key sentences are selected straight from the source manuscript based on criteria

like relevance and frequency of occurrence) and abstractive summarization(new sentences are generated that capture the essence of the text through paraphrasing and rephrasing). This technique is relatively very important in NLP for several reasons. Firstly, it supports in IR, by providing users with summarized versions of documents, permitting them to grasp key ideas without the need to read the entire text. Secondly, summarization supports in document management by organizing large assemblages of documents and making them easier to search and retrieve based on specific topics. As well, it also enables content generation tasks by automatically creating brief and informative summaries of articles or reviews. To end, developing effective summarization systems contributes to advancing research in NLP by requiring a deep understanding of text semantics and structure. The study by Chetana Varagantham Et al.[18] proposes a framework for text summarization utilizing Natural Language Processing(NLP) to generate briefer, easier forms of textual content. The proposed system industrializes text summarization using an extractive summarization method, combining clustering techniques to extract summary sentences. The workflow includes NLP segments like sentence segmentation, tokenization, stop word removal, and stemming. The project aims to reduce input data to compressed summarized results. Various features of text summarization have been discussed by Deepali K. Gaikwad et alia[19] such as Term frequency, Location, Cue method, and Sentence length. This paper talks about various approaches to text summarization: 1. Abstractive Approach : a. Structure-based approach: In this approach, most vital data points from the document are encoded from the original document via cognitive schemes such as IR, templates, and other structures such as ontology and tree structure. b. Semantic-based approach: In this approach, semantic analysis of the data is done where the semantic representation is used to forage the data into the NLP system. Identification of noun phrases and verb phrases by processing linguistic data is the main focus of this method. 2. Extractive Approach : For this, authors have used Indian Languages to compare the performances of various text summarizers.

Overall, text summarization enhances information processing, content management, and text understanding which ultimately improves productivity and decision-making across

various domains. As time is getting advanced, the problem of data overload is also rising. Text summarization is one of the solutions to it as compression of the data is being done. Doing it with traditional methods can also be hectic, so the concept of automatic text summarization has been introduced. M.F. Mridha et al.[1] provides a thorough review of automatic text summarization research projects, highlighting the evolution of the text summarization field and discussing current challenges and future research directions. The authors have also discussed the Challenges with evaluation metrics used in text summarization, User perspective and understanding of the source text during summarization, and Limitations of the current algorithms used in automatic text summarization. Automatic Text Summarization (ATS)(Bilal et al., 2023)[2] is a rapidly growing field that generates summaries of large volumes of text, saving time and effort. Techniques include extractive, abstractive, and hybrid approaches. Despite advancements, ATS still demonstrates noticeable differences compared to human-created summaries.

III. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF TEXT SUMMARIZATION TECHNIQUES

From the time when text summarization was done manually to this new and advanced era where we have automated text summarization approaches, a historical overview of text summarization talks about this fascinating journey of changes. So here is the chronological exploration :

Manual Summarization : – Pre-Computer Era – This was the era when computers were not present. So all the work was done manually. Similarly, text summarization of lengthy texts like, granths, and Upanishads was also done manually to easily grasp the core idea and the information regarding it. Techniques like paraphrasing, highlighting the key points, etc. were used by the scholars to summarize the textual data.

Early Computational Approaches : –1950s-1980s – Here we are talking about the period between the 1950s and 1980s when computers were recently in use while researchers were starting to explore more efficient methods for text summarization rather than traditional manual summarization. Early techniques were used to focus on simple approaches like word frequency and extraction which were based on predefined rules. In the 1960s, Basic Automatic Indexing for Information Retrieval was developed to extract the key data points for document indexing and summarization using statistical methods.

Rule-based Summarization Approach : –1980s - 1990s – In the 1980s, Rule-based systems were used for text summarization which used linguistic and domain-specific approaches to serve the purpose. The focused and reliable approaches for these systems were the syntactic analysis and semantic analysis which are important in identifying key sentences and extracting key information. The General Inquirer which was developed in the 1960s and refined in the 1980s, used predefined rules for the categorization and summarization of the text on the basis of semantic tools.

Statistical Approaches : 1990s - 2000s – Statistical methods gained fame in the 1990s, using algorithms such as TF-

IDF and TextRank for extractive type of summarization. A statistical analysis is performed where these approaches assign scores to words written in the text based on the analysis of their frequency and distribution in the text. The words with high frequency and high score are selected for generating summary. The creation of large corpora and the availability of computational resources facilitated the development of statistical models for text summarization.

Machine Learning and Neural Networks : 2000s – Present – In the present time i.e., 21st century, ML learning methods like supervised and unsupervised learning, and reinforcement learning have revolutionized text summarization. Some DL models in which particularly Neural Networks and Transformer-based totally architectures like BERT and GPT, have accomplished awesome success in generating abstractive varieties of summaries. These models learn to generate summaries by analyzing large amounts of text data and capturing all the complex linguistic patterns and semantics for the accurate extraction of the core idea and exact meaning of the original text for generating summaries.

Domain-specific and Multi-document Summarization : Recent advancements in text summarization have led to the development of domain-specific and multi-document summarization techniques. Domain-specific summarization systems are tailored to specific domains such as legal, medical, or scientific literature, leveraging domain knowledge and specialized terminology. Multi-document summarization algorithms aggregate information from multiple sources to generate comprehensive summaries that capture key insights from diverse perspectives.

Evaluation Metrics and Challenges : Throughout its evolution, text summarization has faced challenges in evaluation and benchmarking. Various metrics such as ROUGE and Bilingual Evaluation Understudy have been developed to assess the quality of summaries objectively. Challenges consisting of content material choice, coherence, and fluency continue to be regions of energetic advancements and research in the genre of text summarization

In summary, the synopsis of history of text summarization techniques reflects a journey of innovation and progress, driven by advancements in computational linguistics, machine learning, and natural language processing. From manual abstraction to neural network-based abstractive summarization, the quest for automated text summarization continues to evolve, offering new opportunities and challenges in the digital age.

IV. DIFFERENT APPROACHES FOR EXTRACTIVE TEXT SUMMARIZATION

Frequency-based methods : These are simple and easy to implement, and provide computational efficiency for large datasets, providing a quantitative measure based on frequency too. These methods are generally used for an extractive type of text summarization. But these have certain limitations too as these fail to capture semantic meaning or context, Do not consider relationships between terms or sentences, or Go over the top about frequently occurring terms, which may not

always be relevant. The study by Sheetal Patil Et alia[17] proposes a frequency-based approach for text summarization, directing to save time and information by automating text data retrieval. Text summaries are important for reducing vital facts from textual content/documents. The proposed system uses NLP and ML. It uses extractive and abstractive methods, improving access time and sequencing, and can be used in commercial(fiscal too) capture services. Future scope includes topic modeling, and summarizing in sports and technology. Applications are text summarization, keyword extraction, document categorization, IR, etc. Common examples are TF-IDF and the sentence-scoring approach.

Graph-based methods: These models cover some of the back-draws of frequency-based methods as unlike frequency-based methods, these are good at capturing the relationship relationships between text units (e.g., sentences) through graph representation, Justification for both content relevance and connectivity within the document, and Can identify key sentences based on graph centrality measures too. It also has some down points like it is relatively complex than frequency-based methods, Performance may vary depending on the quality of the graph construction and parameters chosen or can give a hard time while capturing long-range dependencies in documents Applications can be better extractive text summarization, document clustering, keyphrase extraction, etc.. Common examples are TextRank[4] and LexRank Algorithm. Tripti Sharma Et al.[20] have written this paper in which they mentioned and discussed about the past works done in this arena of text summarization such as the Title word method, Fixed phase feature, paragraph method, and uppercase word feature. The authors also have discussed some of the Python libraries that are used for text summarization like: NLTK: It stands for Natural Language Toolkit, developed at the University of Pennsylvania in the year 2001 by Edward Loper and Steven Bird. Till date, it is the most used and popular library of Python for working on human language data. It uses the TF-IDF algorithm for summarizing text. It has a number of libraries for the purpose of text processing and works in a certain manner with multiple phases such as tokenization, frequency matrix, calculating term frequency, and generating a matrix. Other approaches and their outputs have also been discussed by the respective authors. The approach for summarizing scientific publications using a greedy Extractive Summarization algorithm is presented in the study, which performs comparably to SOTA models, contributing by discovering top-line techniques and providing a cleaned dataset with high-ROUGE summaries.[6]

Every one of those methods has its strong point and boundaries, and the choice of method totally depends on the specific requirements for the projects or tasks related to text summarization, such as the size and nature of any dataset, desired level of semantic accuracy, and computational resources available. As This study investigates optimal parameter settings for TextRank keyword extraction in real datasets Hulth2003 and Krapivin2009. Experiments show that TextRank performs best when set to co-occurrence window

size 3, iteration number 20, decay factor 0.9, and rank 10.[4]

For example, recently in the study by Pratik K. Biswas et al.[13], extractive summarization of call transcripts was done where the authors used different pre-trained models to efficiently summarize the call transcripts.

V. DIFFERENT APPROACHES FOR ABSTRACTIVE TEXT SUMMARIZATION

Sequence-to-Sequence Models: As the name says, these models take an input sequence, process it, and generate an output sequence. These may identify long-range dependencies and semantic correlations in text and are frequently based on LSTM or Transformer. They enable endwise training, allowing the model to learn to generate summaries directly from input(original) documents. However, seq2seq models may struggle with capturing global context and maintaining coherence in longer summaries. Their Training and inference times can also be quite expensive, especially for Transformer-based models. These are widely used in news summarization, document summarization, and conversational agents.

Pre-trained Language Models[15]: A machine learning model that has been trained on a sizable dataset and may be optimized for a particular job to yield better results is called a pre-trained model. They may require domain-specific data or some modification to produce accurate results. For extractive and abstractive text summarizing tasks, they are quite successful. Pre-trained models[15] have established SOTA performance in news summarization, biomedical summarization, and legal document summarization. Common examples are T5[15], BART[8][16], PEGASUS[14], etc.

Every one of those methods has its strong point and boundaries, and the selection of method totally hinges on the detailed requirements of the text summarization job, for instance, the size and nature of that dataset, desired level of semantic accuracy, and computational resources available. These advancements in text summarization empowered by DL techniques for sure offer improved effectiveness, scalability, and applicability across a wide range of tasks and domains regarding text summarization area. As these models continue to evolve, they hold significant promise for enhancing information retrieval, content generation, and knowledge extraction from textual data.

VI. EVALUATION METRICS

Now that we know the different approaches or methods to perform text summarization, a measure is also required and essential so that we can compare these approaches to know which is better for the task that we are performing and calculate their effectiveness. Commonly used evaluation metrics for text summarization help measure the eminence and effectiveness of generated synopses compared to reference summaries or hand-written summaries. Two widely used metrics that we will be using in this report are ROUGE score and BLEU score.

BLEU : BLEU, metric used in text summarization to evaluate the similarity between a summary and a reference

summary. It computes precision scores for n-grams and calculates a cumulative score, with higher scores indicating better agreement. BLEU is commonly used in machine translation evaluation but may not fully capture abstractive summaries' quality.

ROUGE : ROUGE is a set of metrics that assess the overlap between n-grams in a model produced summary and a reference summary, focusing on measuring the recall. It includes ROUGE-1, ROUGE-2, and ROUGE-L, and ROUGE-LSUM metrics. ROUGE scores range from 0 to 1, with 1 indicating perfect overlap. It's used in extractive and abstractive summarization tasks.

Both ROUGE and BLEU metrics provide quantitative measures of summary quality, helping researchers and practitioners assess and compare different summarization systems. However, Ponrudee Netisopakul et al.[12] proposed in their study that BLEU score and ROUGE scores are somewhat interrelated because both of them evaluate the resemblance between two fragments of text. To produce texts that are letter-perfect analogous to reference texts, BLEU score or ROUGE score are upright choices. However, it's essential to interpret these metrics alongside qualitative evaluations and human judgment to gain a comprehensive understanding of summarization performance.

VII. APPLICATIONS

Text summarization treasures applications across diverse domains, offering benefits such as information condensation, content organization, improved accessibility, and many more. Here are examples of real-world applications in various domains including some research papers as examples:

Summarization of Text and Image Captioning[3]: Text summarization can be used for summarization with image captioning. P. Maha Lakshmi et al.[3] present a new DL-based model for information retrieval and text summarization for which authenticated Gigaword corpus and DUC corpus was used, emphasizing the importance of accurate summaries for efficient understanding of large content.

News Article Summarization: News organizations use text summarization techniques to automatically generate concise summaries of news articles. InShorts News utilizes summarization algorithms to provide readers with brief summaries of articles in their mobile apps. These summaries allow users to quickly grasp the main points of a news story without reading the entire article. **Document Summarization**: Large or very large documents, it even sound tiring, so will be reading them. So, the text summarization technique is used by users for summarizing their documents which can be any textual document like PDFs, documents of different languages, medical reports, and many more. The paper proposed by Youhyun Shin[5] describes a Korean abstractive summarization method that leverages multiple pre-trained models using a multi-encoder transformer approach, demonstrating feasibility and effectiveness in utilizing diverse Korean PLMs. The study requires much time and effort for pre-training the different PLMs. - The study focuses on Korean-specific PLMs, potentially limiting

the generalizability to different languages. - The study does not explore combination strategies for multiple PLMs in depth. - The study mentions the need for further research to extend the model to utilize various types of PLMs beyond BERT-based models. According to Abdulkader Helwan et al. [9], the recent development of DL and LLM might greatly aid in the crucial task of summarizing medical reports so that the general public can access them. To summarize these findings, the authors of this study have developed an improved T5 model. The Indiana Dataset, which is accessible to the public, is used for model testing and training. The ROUGE set of measures is used to evaluate it. The authors conclude that the results obtained are encouraging.

Evani Lalitha et al.[10] proposed a study over text summarization of medical documents by using different abstractive techniques. The authors describe that medical researchers need summaries from medical documents to make in-depth studies. Abstractive text summarization is a solution to this issue. Techniques like T5, BART, and PEGASUS are used, where PEGASUS achieved the highest of the three ROUGE score of 0.37. These methods extract useful information and summarize it according to the user's interests.

Social Media Content Summarization: Social media is a vast cloud of digital information. Even on a very little thing, people like to comment down their thoughts as reviews. Take the example of the skin care sector in general, which is leading on social media. The skin care industry is growing, leading to increased demand for article review information. When people b The most popular facial wash product brand is Cetaphil, making it crucial for potential buyers to read reviews before purchasing. Three summary techniques are compared in this study: BERT, BART, and T5. The findings indicate that BART regularly outperforms BERT and T5 in terms of average ROUGE Score, indicating that BART's generative method is more successful in handling the complexity and diversity of evaluations for skin care products.[7]

Automatic Summarization of Scientific Papers: Researchers and scholars use text summarization to extract key findings, methodologies, and conclusions from scientific papers, facilitating literature review and knowledge discovery. Taking the example of my own case. Sometimes it becomes very frustrating and tiring to the eyes to read very lengthy papers. Even after reading, there are chances of forgetting the key points and missing the path. So text summarization helps to provide us with the key data points and the main idea of different sections of the paper or a paper as a whole depending on the need of the one. Many platforms like Elicit provide this facility of auto-summarizing research papers in no time. Truly saves a lot of time! These examples demonstrate how text summarization technologies are utilized across different domains to enhance information retrieval, streamline content consumption, and improve decision-making processes. As advancements in NLP continue, the applications of text summarization are expected to expand further, benefiting individuals and organizations in various fields.

Text summarization faces challenges in ensuring quality,

coherence, and adaptability. Challenges that we are currently facing include data overloading, lengthy document summarization, coherent language generation, generalization across languages, evaluation, and ethical considerations. Addressing these challenges will lead to more robust and effective summarization systems.

VIII. EXISTING PROBLEM

As we know that NLTK is a powerful Python library for NLP-related tasks in which text summarization is included. However, there are still some limitations and challenges that are faced during the task. On a primary note, NLTK offers tools for extractive type of summarization in which selection and reorganization of existing sentences from the source text. However, abstractive summarization is more thought-provoking as it generates new sentences to abridge the content. Hence advanced techniques are required yonder NLTK's capabilities. The problem addressed here is the need for productive text - summarization of that huge and lengthy quantity of text from numerous resources using NLP and ML through both the extractive and abstractive techniques.

IX. PROPOSED SOLUTION

The proposed solution aims to address the deficiency in NLTK's abstractive text summarization capabilities by integrating advanced neural network architectures, specifically Transformer-based models, into its summarization pipeline. This involves leveraging models such as BART, PEGASUS, or T5 to utilize state-of-the-art deep learning techniques. By doing so, NLTK can produce more concise and accurate summaries, effectively capturing the essence and core ideas of the source text. Additionally, the solution comprises various strategic components to enhance NLTK's summarization process. Initially, it focuses on data preprocessing, which includes formatting and cleaning the input text to ensure compatibility with Transformer-based models. Moreover, custom tokenization techniques are implemented to handle domain-specific vocabulary, linguistic nuances, and special characters, thereby enhancing summarization accuracy. Furthermore, the solution offers users fine-grained control over summarization constraints, enabling them to dynamically adjust hyperparameters like summary length and decoding strategies. This flexibility leads to improved diversity and quality of generated summaries, tailored to meet users' specific preferences and requirements. In terms of evaluation, the solution involves developing custom metrics to accurately assess the semantic accuracy, rationality, fluency, and relevance of summaries. Additionally, human-in-the-loop evaluation mechanisms are integrated to collect feedback and reviews from users and experts, facilitating continuous enhancement of NLTK's summarization capabilities. Lastly, effective deployment alternatives and model compression methods are integrated to minimize computational overhead and ensure smooth integration of NLTK's summarization models into production environments. By implementing these solutions, NLTK can overcome its limitations in abstractive text summarization, empowering

users to create high-quality, accurate, and relevant summaries that effectively encapsulate the key ideas and essence of the original data.

X. DATA COLLECTON

The SAMSum dataset was used to generate summaries by means of three separate models in this study. Hugging Face's SAMSum dataset includes user-generated content (UGC) from a variety of forums covering topics like as personal experiences, feelings, opinions, and more. Conversations with multi-sentence summaries are included in it, and it is used as a standard for training summarization systems.

XI. MODELS

- **T5** - The T5 model is a huge step forward in NLP; it provides a standard structure for all kinds of text-to-text tasks and does them at a state-of-the-art level. A wide variety of language understanding and generation applications benefit greatly from its adaptability in comprehending and generating text in different languages and formats.
- **BART** - One model that Facebook AI introduced is BART, which stands for Bidirectional and Auto-Regressive Transformers. Its sequence-to-sequence architecture and pre-training objectives make it a great fit for text summary, even though that wasn't its original intent. BART uses denoising and autoregressive aims that it learned from big text corpora, so it can capture representations of language that are rich in nuance. As it is fine-tuned for summarizing, BART adjusts its parameters to learn how to provide brief summaries of input documents. It can grasp both global and local textual dependencies thanks to its use of bidirectional and auto-regressive training objectives. Abstractive summaries are what BART is good at generating, so it may condense the input material and include new phrases or rephrases that weren't there before. When it comes to text summarization, BART is a formidable model that provides top-tier results in a number of different areas.
- **PEGASUS** - Another model used for text summarizing in this study is PEGASUS. Its cutting-edge results in abstractive summarization competitions have earned it widespread renown. To prepare for training, PEGASUS employs masked language modeling, which is then fine-tuned using summarization datasets. It is a great complement to the models that were tested in this study because of how well it summarizes information.

XII. RESULTS

Finally, text summarization tasks were greatly improved by using state-of-the-art NLP models like T5, Pegasus, and BART to the SAMSum dataset. Each model had its own set of advantages; T5 showed incredible adaptability across a wide range of uses, while BART showed off its higher performance thanks to its novel architecture. Pegasus showed promise as well, suggesting it might produce useful and accurate summaries. Using these cutting-edge models, we improved

the SAMSum dataset’s abstractive summarizing capabilities, which led to new developments in natural language processing. Text summarization systems have the potential to be even more advanced in the future with more research into and enhancement of these models, as well as better data pretreatment and evaluation methods. Using powerful natural language processing models such as T5, Pegasus, and BART is crucial for producing high-quality summaries that are customized to the SAMSum dataset, according to the results.

Firstly, I calculated the rouge score for the existing pre-trained model on the used dataset. After this, we defined the training arguments/parameters to fine-tune the T5, BART, and PEGASUS models and train them. After the training, we again evaluated the scores for the fine-tuned models.

	Before	After
T5	0.250558	0.469064
BART	0.297033	0.558923
PEGASUS	0.290575	0.588214

TABLE I
ROUGE-1

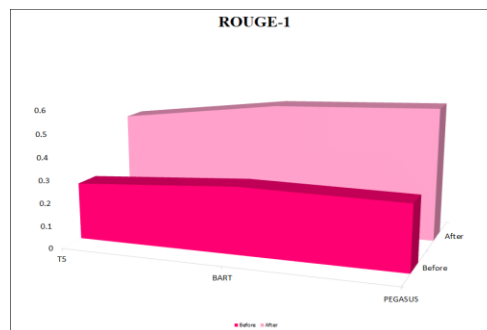


Fig. 1. Visual representation of Table 1

	Before	After
T5	0.069439	0.221379
BART	0.098298	0.50754
PEGASUS	0.081793	0.44979

TABLE II
ROUGE-2

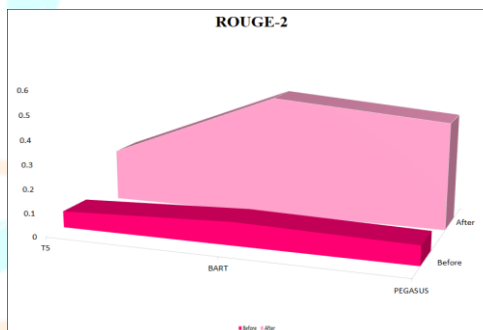


Fig. 2. Visual representation of Table 2

	Before	After
T5	0.191725	0.380754
BART	0.224003	0.544562
PEGASUS	0.224739	0.543817

TABLE III
ROUGE-L

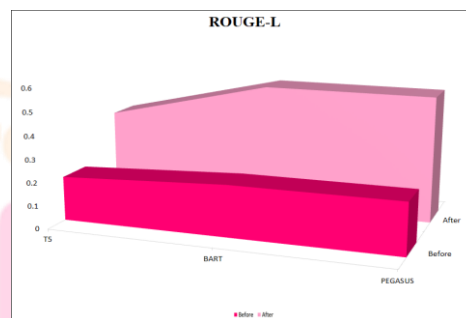


Fig. 3. Visual representation of Table 3

	Before	After
T5	0.191837	0.380714
BART	0.224083	0.543998
PEGASUS	0.224994	0.543896

TABLE IV
ROUGE-LSUM

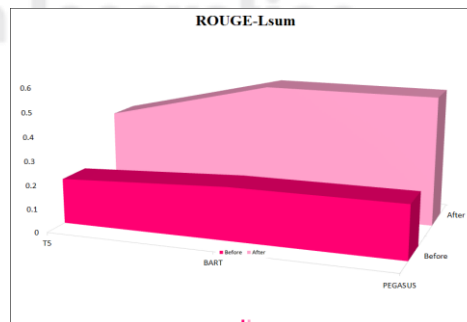


Fig. 4. Visual representation of Table 4

These are the final results and evaluations of this project.

XIII. DISCUSSION

The effectiveness of cutting-edge natural language processing models, including T5, BART, and PEGASUS, in text summarization is highlighted in the analysis, showcasing their ability to generate precise and informative summaries. Within this cohort, T5 shines for its adaptability, BART for its exceptional contextual understanding, and PEGASUS for its innovative architecture, which propels it beyond previous methodologies. These models collectively demonstrate the potential for significant advancements in text summarization tasks, offering a glimpse into the future of natural language processing research.

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