SOMD2025: A Challenging Shared Task for Software Related Information Extraction

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Abstract

The use of software in acquiring, analyzing, and interpreting research data underscores its role as an essential artifact of scientific inquiry. Understanding and tracing the provenance of software in research helps in reproducible and collaborative research works. In this paper, we present an overview of our second iteration of the **So**ftware **M**ention **D**etection (SOMD) shared task as a part of the Scholarly Document Processing (SDP) workshop, that will be held in conjunction with ACL in 2025. The objective of this shared task is to encourage participants to reevaluate the methodologies employed in the tasks of joint named entity recognition (NER) and relation extraction (RE) for software mentions using the gold standard benchmark that has been provided. Our shared task has two phases of challenges. First, the participants focus on implementing a joint framework for NER and RE for the given dataset. Furthermore, the second phase encompasses an out-of-distribution dataset, which is utilized to assess the generalizability of the methodologies proposed in Phase I. The competition, which transpired from March to April of 2025, garnered the participation of 18 individuals and spanned a duration of two months. Four teams have finished the competition and submitted full system descriptions. Participants applied various approaches, including joint and pipeline models, and explored data augmentation with LLM-generated samples. The evaluation was based on a macro F1 score for both NER and RE, with the average reported as the SOMD score. The winning teams achieved a SOMD score of 0.89 in Phase I and 0.63 in Phase II, demonstrating the challenge of generalization.

1 Introduction

Scientific research is becoming progressively datacentric, and software plays an important role across disciplines by enabling the analysis, processing, and modeling of research data. As such, it has emerged as a key scholarly artifact, essential not only for conducting research but also for ensuring the reproducibility and advancement of scientific knowledge. To ensure transparency and reproducibility of scientific work, it is essential to identify the software used and trace its provenance, thus encouraging collaboration among scientists/researchers. Software mentions in scholarly publications are heterogeneous, informal, and in widespread use. Therefore, identifying and disambiguating software mentions, while attending to its metadata, is an essential yet challenging task. Various Knowledge Graph resources, such as OpenAire (Manghi et al., 2019) and Software KG (Schindler et al., 2020), link open-access articles to the software used, supporting the need for robust methods to identify, extract, link, and disambiguate software mentions.

Various existing citation principles regarding software usage and mentions(Katz et al., 2021; Smith et al., 2016) promote knowledge sharing and innovation. However, these principles are not always strictly followed in all works, resulting in informal and incomplete information regarding the software mentioned or used (Schindler et al., 2024). Robust Information Extraction (IE) methods help to detect and disambiguate software mentions and related metadata. SOMESCI (Schindler et al., 2021) is a manually curated gold standard corpus about software mentioned in scientific articles, providing training samples for Named Entity Recognition (NER), Relation Extraction(RE), Entity Disambiguation(ED), and Entity Linking(EL). Based on this dataset, the SOMD2024 shared task was organized to advance research on automatic detection and analysis of software mentions in scholarly articles. The task challenged participants to develop methods for (i) Detecting Software Mentions, (ii) Identifying Associated Attributes, and (iii) Classifying the Relations between Software

and their Attributes.

In this paper, we present the Software Mention Detection shared task (SOMD2025)—the successor to SOMD2024 (Krüger et al., 2024). The goal is to advance the field through communitydriven development and evaluation of new methods. SOMD2025 builds on the success of the previous edition. But while the first iteration focused on establishing NER, attribute detection and RE for software mentions in separate subtasks, SOMD2025 emphasizes a joint evaluation of these subtasks. Our task advances the development of a pipeline for IE components (NER; RE) for scientific knowledge. These pipelines serve as an initial step for functions such as metadata enrichment, semantic linking, and knowledge graph construction from scholarly articles, aligning with NFDI4DS's¹ and BERD@NFDI's² broader mission of supporting the research data lifecycle and providing infrastructures. We focus on the discovery and traceability of the software mentioned in research publications—a crucial step in the reproducibility of research.

In addition to learning and evaluating the joint NER and RE framework, we introduce an out-ofdistribution (OOD) test set to assess the generalizability of the models—a significantly more challenging benchmark compared to the in-distribution data. We hosted the two subsequent phases of the competition in the CodaBench platform (Xu et al., 2022). Phase I aims at model development, where we provide gold-standard training and test splits to the participants. Phase II challenges participants to apply their models from Phase I on an out-ofdistribution dataset comprised of scholarly documents that were not part of the training or test set used in Phase I. Although 18 participants registered, only three teams submitted for Phase I and five teams made submission for Phase II. Four of them submitted a system description for the workshop proceedings. To encourage future research, we have transformed Phase 2 into an Open Submission Phase that will allow further development of IE systems for our task.³

We provide the competition details in the rest of the paper. We include the task description and the evaluation metrics in section 3 and a description of the dataset for both phases in section 3.2. We summarize results in section 5, where we compare the methods of different participants.

2 Related Work

Software Mention Recognition. Early efforts in recognizing software mentions in scientific articles relied on manual analysis of small corpora (Howison and Bullard, 2016; Nangia and Katz, 2017) or targeted extraction of specific tools (Li et al., 2017, 2016). Automatic approaches such as rulebased systems and bootstrapping offered moderate performance (Pan et al., 2015; Duck et al., 2016). Deep learning models, particularly BiLSTM-CRF architectures (Schindler et al., 2020), improved accuracy but required more robust annotated datasets. Recently, transformer-based models like SciB-ERT trained on the SoMeSci corpus (Schindler et al., 2022, 2021) achieved state-of-the-art NER results. Importantly, SoMeSci also includes annotations for software attributes (e.g., version, license) (Schindler et al., 2021) and their links to software mentions, providing a foundation for relation extraction. Similarly, SoftwareKG (Schindler et al., 2020) offers a knowledge graph of software entities and metadata mined from scientific literature, further highlighting the need for integrated NER and RE.

somb shared Task. The SOMD2024 shared task built upon these efforts by targeting software mention detection, attribute recognition, and relation classification using the SOMESCI corpus (Schindler et al., 2021). Participants explored diverse modeling approaches, including large language models and encoder/decoder architectures (Khan et al., 2024; Otto et al., 2024; Thi et al., 2024; Nguyen Xuan et al., 2024). Unlike the prior edition, which handled tasks independently, this year's task emphasizes joint learning and evaluation of NER and RE to encourage integrated solutions.

Joint NER and Relation Extraction. Joint learning of NER and RE has emerged as a robust alternative to traditional pipeline approaches, which often suffer from error propagation. Integrated models have demonstrated improved accuracy and efficiency by simultaneously extracting entities and their relations (Hennen et al., 2024; Huguet Cabot and Navigli, 2021; Wadden et al., 2019; Ye et al., 2022a). While these models have been widely adopted in general and biomedical domains, only a few efforts—such as SoMeSci and SoftwareKG—explicitly address relation-level modeling in the software domain. Their contributions underscore

¹https://www.nfdi4datascience.de/

²https://www.berd-nfdi.de/

³https://www.codabench.org/competitions/5840/



Figure 1: Illustration of NER and relation extraction annotations in the input data.

the growing importance of joint models in domainspecific information extraction. Prior studies consistently show joint frameworks outperform pipeline systems (Li and Ji, 2014), addressing limitations in earlier methods (Zeng et al., 2014; Zhang et al., 2017).

3 Task Description

We focus on the discovery and traceability of the software mentioned in research publications—a crucial step to ensure the reproducibility of research. For this purpose, we propose Information Extraction of software and related metadata, including Named Entity Recognition and Relation Extraction. We approach the concept of software as a form of research artifact, with softwarerelated IE serving as a foundational element in the construction of Research Knowledge Graphs (RKGs) (Schindler et al., 2021; Karmakar et al., 2023). These RKGs, in turn, are built upon a foundation of scholarly articles, thereby facilitating the aggregation and organization of research findings. We encourage participants to build robust and generalizable NLP methods, i.e., models for software mentions, attribute detection, and relation extraction. An instance of a sentence with annotated software mentions, attributes, and relations is illustrated in Figure 1.

SOMD2024 (Krüger et al., 2024) had hosted these problems as three independent subtasks. SOMD2025 combines these three subtasks into an end-to-end setup for training and evaluation. We endorse jointly learning the automatic extraction of software mentions, its attributes, and their relations from scholarly documents. Our task belongs to the well-known problem in information extraction, i.e., Joint Learning Paradigm for NER and RE (Li and Ji, 2014; Huguet Cabot and Navigli, 2021; Hennen et al., 2024). We have two phases of competition. We provide the labeled dataset for phase I, supporting model training. It contains three aligned files per instance: a tokenized text file, a NER label file, and a relation label file, each line corresponding to a sentence. The NER file uses IOB2

tagging with entity types such as Application, Abbreviation, and Version. The relation file encodes binary relations as <relation_type> <head_index> <tail_index>, with indices referencing the starting tokens (0-based). The test set in Phase I and II includes only the tokenized text, and participants are required to submit predicted NER and relation files. Full format details are available on the competition page⁴.

3.1 Shared Task Schedule

Phase I: Model Development. Given the labeled gold dataset, participants develop an initial model for joint NER and RE for the gold standard dataset. Participants submit their outcomes on an unlabeled test/development set with the same distribution as a training set as they belong to the same original dataset.

Phase II: To test the generalizability of Phase I approaches, we deliver in Phase II an out-of-distribution test set for the same task. The goal of this phase is to adapt and refine models designed for Phase I to handle out-of-distribution data effectively.

Open Submission Phase: After the end of the competition, we initialize an open submission phase inviting researchers to submit their results on the benchmark dataset from Phase II. This phase is not part of the competition but an initiative encouraging ongoing collaboration and facilitating long-term engagement within the research community.

3.2 Dataset

We utilize the gold standard SOMESCI (Schindler et al., 2021) corpus for Phase I, which comprises 3756 manually annotated software mentions from 1367 PubMed Central articles. It supports Named Entity Recognition, Relation Extraction, Entity Disambiguation, and Entity Linking. Annotations include software version, developer, URL, citations,

⁴https://www.codabench.org/competitions/5840/

mention type (e.g., usage, creation), and software type (e.g., application, plugin). There are a total of 7237 labeled entities across 47,524 sentences. We resample the original corpus to create predefined training and testing splits for NER and RE. We manually add negative samples, i.e., sentences without entities and relations, to better simulate real-world data scenarios. We show the statistics of the overall dataset and individual entity label and relation label distributions in Table 3.

For Phase II, we sample PubMed Central Open Access scientific articles. We automatically annotate these articles using a state-of-the-art model (Schindler et al., 2022) based on SciB-ERT (Beltagy et al., 2019), trained on the SoMeSci gold-standard benchmark dataset (Schindler et al., 2021), to extract software mentions, their attributes, and the relations between them. We consider this a weakly labeled dataset. The overall statistics of detected named entities and relations are provided in the Table 4. To create a gold standard labeled test set, five annotators; three are master's students in relevant fields, and two PhD candidates reviewed and corrected the weakly labeled test set. We use the same annotation guidelines as the original SOMESCI corpus to ensure consistency. Table 4 compares dataset statistics before (weakly annotated) and after review.

3.3 Scoring Metric

We use the same evaluation metrics for all phases. We evaluate the NER and RE performance using the F1 score on exact matches. We opted for the macro F1 score as our dataset is imbalanced, as shown in Table 3 and 4. This decision ensures equal evaluation importance for all classes, regardless of the class frequency. As a final metric to evaluate the competing approaches, we use the mean of macro F1 for NER and macro F1 for RE. This 'F1 SOMD' called metric favors IE systems, which are able to perform well on both tasks, i.e., NER and RE.

3.4 Submissions

The shared task competition encompassed two phases from February 24 to April 3, 2025. Registration began on February 24, followed by the initial training and test data release on February 27. Phase I ran from February 27 to March 25, during which participants could submit up to 5 daily runs. Phase II started with a new dataset release on March 25 and closed on April 3, allowing five daily submissions. The open post-evaluation phase on

Codabench allows 10 daily submissions per participant, enabling further experimentation and result refinement.

4 Participants and Approaches

A total of 18 teams registered for the SOMD2025 shared task. Three teams participated fully by submitting results in both Phase I and Phase II, as well as providing a system description. These teams were the TU Graz Data Team (TUGraz), a team from the Nepal-based company EKbana, and one participant from the Universidade de Aveiro (UAveiro). Additionally, there was one late participation, consisting of a master's student from the Georgia Institute of Technology and an independent researcher (psr123), who submitted only for Phase II and provided a system description. These four teams are referred to as the final participants in this paper. One further participant submitted results in Phase II but did not provide a system description and is therefore not discussed further. All final participants used the open submission phase to further test and refine their approaches after the conclusion of Phase II. In this section, we introduce the four final approaches alongside two baseline models.

4.1 Approaches

All final participants employed finetuning approaches, with some leveraging additional training data, as detailed in Table 1. All teams utilized pretrained language models (PLMs). The largest model used for finetuning was DeBERTa v3, comprising up to 418 million parameters, including the embedding layer (He et al., 2021a,b). The largest model applied for generating embeddings without layer finetuning was the Multilingual E5 instruct model with 560 million parameters (Wang et al., 2024). One participant incorporated a graph neural network (GNN) based on the words of parsed input sentences, with edges defined by their dependency tree (UAveiro). Additionally, this team used DeepSeek v3 (Liu et al., 2024) to classify detected relation types. Regarding loss strategies, only one team (TUGraz) and our baseline approach adopted a joint loss for NER and RE. The remaining teams trained RE and NER modules separately and applied a pipeline approach for inference on the test data.

In terms of data augmentation and generated training data, two out of four approaches utilized addi-

Table 1: Overview of approaches used in SOMD2025. The loss strategy reflect the usage of joint learning for the NER and RE task in contrast to train separate models with separate losses.

Team	Model Architecture	PLM	Loss Strategy	Data Augmentation
TUGraz EKbana psr123 UAveiro	Transformer Transformer + Adapter Transformer GNN + Transformer	DeBERTa v3 ModernBERT DeBERTa v3 Multilingual E5	joint separate separate separate	SOMD2024 + LLM Generated Negative Samples + LLM Generated —
Baseline	HGERE (Transf. + GNN)	SciBERT	joint	_

tional training data. One team (psr123) augmented the training data specifically with sentences from the same domain as the test set that contain no mentions, to expose the model to negative examples. Another team (EKbana) used the SOMD2024 dataset as additional training data. Furthermore, new training samples were generated using large language models (LLMs) by both EKbana and psr123.

4.2 Baseline Model

Recent work has shown that supervised NER and RE with small language models can achieve strong performance on scholarly information extraction tasks (Yan et al., 2023; Zhang et al., 2024). Among the current approaches, joint models that unify entity and relation prediction have gained attention for their ability to capture dependencies between tasks. In our experiments, we adopt HGERE (Yan et al., 2023) as a joint baseline model. HGERE extends the marker-based PL-Marker framework (Ye et al., 2022b) by introducing a hypergraph neural network that models interactions between subjects, objects, and relations. We selected HGERE due to its effective integration of task components and its demonstrated performance in similar domains.

5 Results

In this section, we present the results of the SOMD2025 shared task, including performance scores for both phases of the competition. For this section, we focus on the more challenging Phase II test set because it better illustrates the generalization capabilities of the used IE models. We compare the results of all final participating teams, highlight the top-performing systems, and contrast them with baseline models. Additionally, we include results from the non-competitive open submission phase as including unpublished Codabench results reported in the corresponding system descriptions of the teams. This provides further insight into model improvements beyond the official evaluation

period. The main results can be found in Table 2, illustrating TUGraz as the winner of the challenging Phase II with a SOMD score of 0.63. The TU Graz team used a joint loss for NER and RE and was not dependent on data augmentation to achieve that score.

Note that two of four teams were not able to submit RE results in time, illustrating the hurdle to overcome to switch from well-established NER models to RE models. The leading competing approaches, TUGraz (0.69 SOMD score in the noncompetitive version for Phase II) and our proposed baseline model HGERE (0.62 SOMD score for Phase II), both employ a joint loss for the NER and RE tasks without utilizing additional training data. The UAverio performance results report that an unconventional approach utilizing a dependency graph-based representation of language is not able to achieve the same results as transformer-based approaches. Transformer-based approaches are able to use attention to mitigate information between all tokens directly.

6 Discussion

6.1 The Role of LLMs

None of the participants used prompting of LLMs as a final competition approach. But some of the approaches used LLMs in other roles. TUGraz is the only team reporting performances for prompting approaches without any finetuning. They tested only NER in Phase I, achieving a macro F1 of 0.39 with Gemini 2 in a zero-shot approach. Additionally, they reported results of LLaMA 3 8B (Grattafiori et al., 2024) finetuning for Phase I, a SOMD score of 0.66. Compared to finetuning approaches based on smaller language models, these results led the team to the decision not to pursue this direction further.

Two other teams, EKbana and psr123, experimented with synthetic training data generated by LLMs. Team psr123 used existing entities from available training samples and asked models to

Table 2: macro F1 score Results for SOMD2025 Shared Task. SOMD score is the mean of NER and RE macro F1.

		Phase I (macro F1)		Phase II (macro F1)			
Submission	Team	SOMD	NER	RE	SOMD	NER	RE
official	TUGraz	88	90	85	63	68	57
	EKbana	89	93	84	55	64	46
	psr123	_	_	_	32	65	0
	UAverio	39	45	34	15	30	0
non-competitive	TUGraz	_	_	_	69	77	62
	Baseline	89	91	87	62	68	57
	EKbana	_	_	_	60	69	50
	psr123	_	_	_	56	65	47
	U Averio	_	_	_	22	44	0

produce new contexts mentioning the same entities. They experimented with synthetic data from three different models, with the best configuration (samples generated with Mistral 7B) resulting in a performance gain of 6% points for macro F1 NER. The observed performance gain can be primarily attributed to a significant increase in precision. Team EKbana attempted to tweak results in the out-ofdistribution based Phase II by searching for new vocabulary in the Phase II test set sentences compared to Phase I data. They then used these new terms as input to produce new training examples, aiming to adapt their Phase I model to the new distribution of the test data. This approach led to a performance boost of 0.09 SOMD score after several experiments utilizing this data. Whether this approach is generalizable to other distribution shifts, such as domain shift, remains to be proven in future research.

The last usage example among participants was the role of a relation classifier in UAverio's approach. Their model outputs relation candidates in the form of entity mentions and they prompted a Deepseek v3 model to identify the correct relation direction and label. Nonetheless, the overall mediocre performance does not provide valuable interpretability regarding the promise of this approach.

6.2 The Impact of Additional Training Data

Team psr123 showed that adding negative sentences (i.e., sentences without any software mentions) significantly improved the performance of their RE model, from 0.15 to 0.47 macro F1 on the Phase II test set. However, team TUGraz demonstrated that a similar experiment using De-BERTa v3 (He et al., 2021a) with a separate loss for RE achieved a higher RE macro F1 of 0.56 without additional negative samples. This suggests that a deeper analysis of implementation details and hyperparameter settings is needed to accurately assess

the impact of adding negative examples.

Team EKbana's use of SOMD2024 data as additional training data for Phase I deserves special attention. As described in Section 3.2, the SOMD2025 Phase I data is a resampled version of the SOMD2024 dataset. This results in data leakage when SOMD2024 data is used for training. EKbana's Phase I result in Table 2 should be interpreted with this in mind.

6.3 Loss Strategy

Team TUGraz highlighted the effectiveness of using a joint loss for NER and RE in their system description. Their experiments showed a performance improvement of 1 to 10 SOMD score points compared to training with separate losses. Our Baseline approach, which also relies on a joint loss, supports the conclusion that selecting an appropriate model architecture—and in particular, the loss function—is more critical than adding extra training data, whether synthetically generated or composed of additional negative sentences. A well-defined experimental setup and careful design choices enabled team TUGraz to achieve the best performance and win the shared task.

7 Conclusion

The SOMD2025 shared task addressed the challenge of extracting software mentions, attributes, and relations from scientific articles using a joint NER and RE framework. With two evaluation phases, including an out-of-distribution test set, the task emphasized both extraction accuracy and model generalizability. Participating teams employed diverse strategies, including pretrained language models, graph-based architectures, and data augmentation using LLMs. Results show that while current methods perform well on in-distribution data, generalization remains a significant challenge.

(a) Dataset Split Summary. **Pos.** denotes the number of sentences that have both entities and relations. Neg. denotes the number of sentences that have no relation label. Negatives are split into (i) sentences with entities but no relations, and (ii) sentences with neither entities nor relations.

Split	# Sents	Pos.	Neg. (Ent/None)
Train	1149	1021	16 / 112
Test	203	182	3 / 18

(b) Entity Label Distribution

(c) Relation Label Distribution

Entity	Train	Test
Application	1232	217
Version	904	168
Developer	616	125
Citation	382	53
ProgrammingEnvironment	234	37
URL	216	32
PlugIn	211	34
OperatingSystem	146	22
Release	69	13
Abbreviation	58	4
Extension	43	7
License	43	7
SoftwareCoreference	14	1
AlternativeName	14	2

Relation	Train	Test
Version_of	904	168
Developer_of	623	126
Citation_of	387	53
URL_of	218	32
PlugIn_of	141	25
Release_of	69	13
Abbreviation_of	58	4
Specification_of	53	14
Extension_of	44	7
License_of	40	7
AlternativeName_of	14	2

The top systems showed improvements over previous baselines, particularly in Phase I, and provided valuable insights into joint learning strategies and training data choices. The shared task supports sustained progress in software-related information extraction from scholarly texts by continuing with an open, ongoing submission phase.

8 Limitations

The current setup of the SOMD shared task is constrained by the lack of a representative distribution of negative samples across both the training and test sets. Furthermore, the scope of the research is limited to the biomedical domain, as determined by the selection of relevant open access publications. Additionally, the methodology of the shared task does not incorporate a disambiguation step, which is identified as a direction for future work.

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Table 4: Phase-2 Dataset Overview: Sentence Statistics, Entity and Relation Label Distributions. The reviewed set is a manually corrected subset of the weakly labeled data.

(a) Entity Label Distribution

Entity Type Weak Reviewed Application 662 363 135 96 Version Developer 47 20 216 187 Citation ProgrammingEnvironment 70 24 70 URL 84 PlugIn 38 20 OperatingSystem 7 2 Release 10 10 Abbreviation 19 12 Extension 7 6 License SoftwareCoreference 4 3 18 17 AlternativeName

(b) Relation Label Distribution

Relation Type	Weak	Reviewed
Version_of	134	96
Developer_of	41	20
Citation_of	173	187
URL_of	72	70
PlugIn_of	22	13
Release_of	8	10
Abbreviation_of	16	12
Specification_of	12	-
Extension_of	5	6
License_of	-	7
AlternativeName_of	14	17

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