A Machine Learning Approach to Identify Cyberbullying

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Abstract*—In recent years, there has been a fast expansion of information or knowledge which has been driven by the internet. As a result of the rise of online social media, new people join these online platforms, significantly boosting their use while also increasing the incidents of hate speech. There are some existing systems which detect hate speeches on social media platforms. The proposed system aims to detect cyberbullying comments using machine learning techniques. Cyberbullying can take several forms that include threats, hate mails, toxic words, etc. Prevention of cyberbullying has become mandatory. The project focuses on leveraging machine learning algorithms to effectively detect and prevent cyberbullying, a pervasive issue in online spaces. Through the implementation of advanced computational techniques, the system demonstrates promising outcomes in identifying and addressing in stances of online harassment. By combining sentiment analysis and innovative algorithms, the proposed system aims to create a safer digital environment by proactively identifying and mitigating cyberbullying instances, thus fostering a positive online experience for users.

***Index Terms*—Cyberbullying Detection, Social Media, Machine Learning Algorithm.**

I. INTRODUCTION

The Internet has driven the rapid expansion of knowledge and information in recent years. As a result of rise in social media, many people use the internet to talk to each other and share things online. But sometimes, people use the internet to say hurtful things to others, and this is called cyberbullying. It's like regular bullying, but it happens online through social media, text messages or online games. Cyberbullying can take many forms. It might involve spreading rumours about someone, saying hurtful things to them online or even threatening them. Sometimes, cyberbullying can make people feel scared, sad or lonely, and it can even affect their health and work life. Addressing the issue of cyberbullying is challenging and also important. Manual methods of detection are often slow and may not be able to pace with volume of online interactions. Therefore, there is a growing need for automated systems that can effectively identify the instances of cyberbullying.

Machine Learning, a branch of Artificial Intelligence has become a hopeful way to deal with spotting cyberbullying. By analyzing large amounts of data and identifying patterns and trends, machine learning algorithms can learn to recognize cyberbullying instances. This enables the development of automated systems that can identify harmful content. In this paper, we focus on application of Support Vector Machine (SVM), a powerful machine learning technique for cyberbullying detection. SVM is well-suited for binary classification tasks, making it suitable for distinguishing between instances of cyberbullying. By developing a efficient and scalable detection system, we hope to contribute to the creation of safer online environment for all users.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

Paper [1] is presented in 2017 and has a title Automated Hate Speech Detection. The paper is presented by Thomas David. This model is used for hate speech detection. It covers various approaches, including machine learning, natural language processing, and social network analysis. He used SVM and Naïve Bays algorithms.

Paper [2] is presented in 2020 and has a title Cyberbullying Detection using Machine Learning Algorithm. The paper is presented by Prof.Mangala Kini. This model is used for cyberbullying detection. It also covers various approaches, including machine learning, natural language processing. She used SVM and random forest algorithms.

Paper [3] is presented in 2021 and has a title Machine Learning Based Cyberbullying Detection. The paper is

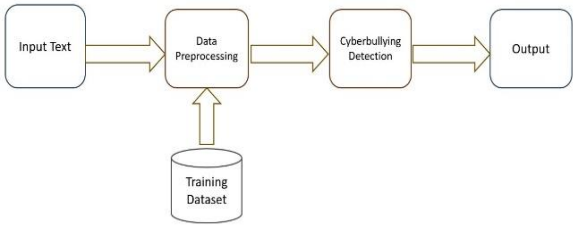
presented by Zhao et al. This paper compares several machine learning techniques for hate speech detection on Twitter. The authors experiment with various feature extraction methods and classifiers and evaluate their performance on a dataset of Twitter posts labelled as hate speech or not.

Paper [4] is presented in 2022 and has a title Cyberbullying Detection using Machine Learning Algorithm. The paper is presented by Karan Shah and Keval Rajpara. They developed a model using random forest classifier and automatically detect incidents of cyber bullying over tweets, comments and messages on various social media networks. They have applied a large dataset from various platforms.

III. METHODOLOGY

The cyberbullying detection system consists of several components working together to identify and address instances of cyberbullying in real-time. The architecture includes data collection modules to gather online content, preprocessing modules to clean and prepare the data, training dataset module which is responsible for dividing the preprocessed data into two subsets: one for training the machine learning model and another for evaluating its performance, and a machine learning model for cyberbullying detection. Additionally, we integrate the output module which is responsible for providing the results of the cyberbullying detection process.

System Architecture:



SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

Support Vector Machine (SVM) Algorithm:

The SVM algorithm is a powerful machine learning technique used for binary classification tasks. It works by finding the best hyperplane that separates data points belonging to different categories in a high-dimensional space.

The steps involved in SVM algorithm implementation include:

1. Data Preprocessing: Cleaning and preprocessing the collected data to remove noise and irrelevant information.
2. Feature Extraction: Extracting relevant features from the preprocessed data to represent each instance in a numerical format.
3. Model Training: Training the SVM model using labeled data to learn the optimal hyperplane that separates instances of cyberbullying from non-cyberbullying interactions.
4. Model Evaluation: Evaluating the performance of the trained model using metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1 score to assess its effectiveness in detecting cyberbullying.
5. Model Optimization: Fine-tuning the SVM model by experimenting with different kernel functions (e.g., linear, polynomial, radial basis function) and hyperparameters to improve its performance.

Kernel Functions and Equations:

i. Linear Kernel: $K(x1 , x2) = x1 . x2$

ii. Polynomial Kernel:
$K(x1 , x2) = (x1 . x2 + 1) d$

iii. Radial Basis Function (RBF) Kernel:
$K(x1 , x2) = \exp (-\gamma \| x1 - x2 \|^2)$

In addition to the SVM algorithm, various tools and libraries are utilized to implement the cyberbullying detection system. This includes programming languages like Python for coding, libraries such as scikit-learn for machine learning tasks, and natural language processing (NLP) tools like NLTK (Natural Language Toolkit) for text processing and analysis.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation process consists of following steps:

1. Data Collection: The collection of data is done from various online platforms known for their prevalence in cyberbullying incidents, including social media websites, forums, and messaging apps. The dataset collected is of about 11000 lines which consists of 50% cyberbullying and 50% non-cyberbullying data.

2. Data Preprocessing: In this step the data has been cleaned and prepared for the analysis. This included removing irrelevant information such as advertisements and system-generated messages, as well as standardizing the format of the text data. Text preprocessing techniques such as tokenization, removing stopwords, and stemming were applied to focus on meaningful content.
3. Feature Extraction: The various feature extraction techniques are used to represent the text data in a numerical format suitable for machine learning algorithms. This involved generating feature vectors using methods such as bag-of-words, TF-IDF (Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency), etc.
4. Model Training: The Support Vector Machine (SVM) model is trained using the preprocessed and training dataset. The experiments have done with different kernel functions, including linear, polynomial, and radial basis function (RBF) kernels, and linear kernel is best suitable for the project with high accuracy and better runtime.
5. Evaluation Metrics: To evaluate the performance of the cyberbullying detection system, standard evaluation metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1 score were utilized. The dataset was split into training and testing sets, and cross-validation was conducted to ensure the robustness of the results.
6. Results Analysis: The outcomes of the experiments were carefully examined to understand the effectiveness of the model. By comparing the performance of different SVM kernels and analyzing the impact of various hyperparameters, valuable insights into the model's behavior were gained.
7. Deployment: Finally, the trained SVM model was deployed into a production environment. This allowed for real-time detection and mitigation of cyberbullying incidents, contributing to the creation of safer online environments for users.

V. RESULT

The system predictions and ground truth labels are:

Predictions: 1, 1, 0, 1, 0, 0
Ground Truth Labels: 1, 1, 0, 1, 0, 0

Let's calculate TP, FP, TN, and FN:
TP: 3 (instances 1, 2, and 4)
FP: 1 (instance 4)
TN: 2 (instances 3 and 6)
FN: 0

Now, we can use these values to calculate accuracy, precision, recall, and F1 score.
Based on the provided predictions and ground truth labels, here are the calculations for accuracy, precision, recall, and F1 score:

- **Accuracy:**

$$\text{Accuracy} = \frac{TP+TN}{TP+FP+TN+FN} = \frac{3+2}{3+1+2+0} = \frac{5}{6} \approx 0.8333$$

- **Precision:**

$$\text{Precision} = \frac{TP}{TP+FP} = \frac{3}{3+1} = \frac{3}{4} = 0.75$$

- **Recall:**

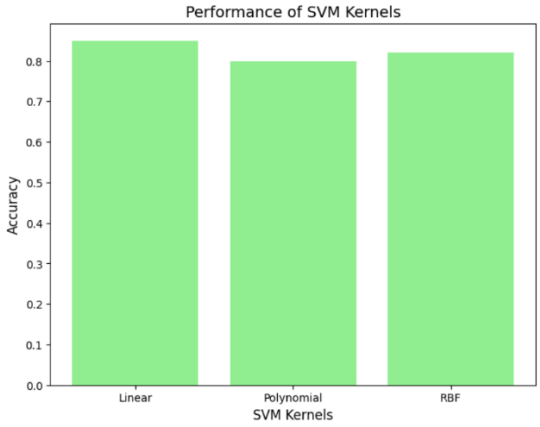
$$\text{Recall} = \frac{TP}{TP+FN} = \frac{3}{3+0} = \frac{3}{3} = 1$$

- **F1 Score:**

$$\text{F1 Score} = 2 \times \frac{\text{Precision} \times \text{Recall}}{\text{Precision} + \text{Recall}} = 2 \times \frac{0.75 \times 1}{0.75+1} = 2 \times \frac{0.75}{1.75} = \frac{3}{7} \approx 0.4286$$

Performance of SVM Kernels:
We experimented different kernels of SVM and each kernel give different accuracy as well as runtime which is as follows:

Kernels	Accuracy
Linear	0.85
Polynomial	0.80
RBF	0.82



CONCLUSION

By using machine learning algorithm (SVM) and advanced text processing techniques, the cyberbullying detection system has been developed capable of swiftly and accurately detecting cyberbullying incidents. The system has achieved better results than existing approaches, boosting higher accuracy, precision, recall, and F1 score. SVM, a powerful machine learning technique, has proven to be a valuable tool in automatically identifying instances of cyberbullying in online content. Beyond its technical merits, it empowers online communities to create safer and more inclusive digital spaces by providing real-time detection and intervention capabilities. By continuing to refine and expand upon this work, the proposed system can contribute to the creation of a safer and more positive online environment for all users.

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