HateQwen: A novel approach for hate speech detection with LoRA Framework

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***Abstract*—Hate speech detection is a significant challenge in automated text analysis, aimed at identifying derogatory language targeted at individuals or groups based on sensitive characteristics. Recent advancements in deep learning have led to the development of various approaches to address this issue. This study investigates the effectiveness of tiny large language models (LLMs) for hate speech detection, employing the LoRA fine-tuning technique. We experiment with four models—TinyLlama-1.1B, OPT-1.3B,BERT-Medium and Qwen2-1.5B on the Dyna-Hate dataset to evaluate their performance. We have devloped a novel approach called HateQwen that can effectively detect hate speech in an efficient manner.**

***Index Terms*—Hate Speech Detection, LoRA, TinyLlama-1.1B, OPT-1.3B, HateQwen**

I. Introduction

Hate speech detection has become an increasingly important area of research, as automated systems are developed to identify and mitigate language that expresses hatred or discrimination against individuals or groups based on sensitive attributes such as race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. Effective hate speech detection is crucial for safeguarding individuals and communities from the harmful effects of discrimination, violence, and social division. To address this complex problem, a variety of methodologies and datasets have been explored.

Traditionally, hate speech detection approaches have been divided into three main categories: traditional machine learning techniques, deep learning methods utilizing word embeddings, and transformer-based models. Malik et al. [1] provide a comparative analysis of various deep learning models, highlighting the superior performance of transformer-based models over classical and embedding-based approaches. Deep learning models, including LSTM, biLSTM, and convolutional neural networks with Word2Vec embeddings, have been employed for hate speech detection [2]. Furthermore, comprehensive experiments on semantic word embeddings using deep learning techniques are detailed in [3].

Recent advancements have focused on transformer models such as BERT [4], ELECTRA [5], and BART [6], which offer enhanced syntactic and semantic understanding compared to traditional embedding methods. Studies such as Mozafari et al. [7] have explored BERT's capability in capturing hateful contexts in social media content through innovative fine-tuning methods. Aluru et al. [8] have extended this work to multilingual contexts with a fine-tuned BERT model for low-resource languages. Other notable contributions include Maity et al.'s [9] GNN-based MTBullyingGNN framework for cyberbullying detection and Awal et al.'s [10] HateMAML approach for meta-learning in low-resource settings. Recent studies have also addressed challenges in LLM-based hate speech detection, such as Guo et al.'s [11] work on effective prompting methods and Pendze et al.'s [12] exploration of synthetic data generation to improve model performance.

In this context, tiny LLMs have emerged as a promising alternative to larger models, offering benefits such as reduced computational requirements, faster inference times, and lower memory footprints. This paper introduces HateTinyLLM, a novel framework leveraging fine-tuned decoder-only tiny large language models (LLMs) for hate speech detection. By focusing on TinyLlama-1.1B, OPT-1.3B, and HateQwen models, our work aims to demonstrate the potential of these compact models in delivering effective hate speech detection with minimal resource usage. This research is pioneering in its exploration of fine-tuned decoder-only tiny LLMs for this critical application, paving the way for more resource-efficient and scalable solutions.

Furthermore, this project also aims to detect hate speech in text data using a fine-tuned version of `bert-medium`, a medium-sized variant of the BERT architecture. The dataset used contains text samples labeled as either "hate" or "nothate." The primary goal is to assess the model's ability to accurately classify hate speech and non-hate speech in diverse text sources. By fine-tuning `bert-medium`, we aim to leverage its syntactic and semantic capabilities to enhance the detection of hateful language while ensuring computational efficiency suitable for real-world applications.

Our work closely follows the methodologies outlined by Malik et al., leveraging their insights into the comparative performance of various hate speech detection models. We adopted a similar evaluation framework, focusing on assessing the effectiveness of transformer-based models, specifically decoder-only tiny LLMs, in detecting nuanced hate speech. By fine-tuning models like TinyLlama v1.1, OPT-1.3B, and Qwen using the LoRA framework, we sought to explore the balance between model size, computational efficiency, and detection accuracy highlighted in the paper. This approach aligns with the recent shift towards utilizing smaller, resource-efficient models without compromising on performance, reflecting the emerging trend in hate speech detection research towards optimizing both model performance and deployment feasibility. Our study builds on their findings by further exploring the

practical benefits of tiny LLMs in terms of scalability and speed, offering new insights into their application in real-world settings.

II. Dataset

For our study, we utilized the DynaHate dataset, which is specifically designed for training and evaluating hate speech detection models. The DynaHate dataset focuses on dynamic and context-sensitive aspects of hate speech, making it well-suited for developing models that can understand and classify nuanced forms of hate speech.

The dataset comprises approximately 41,144 entries. It includes a variety of text samples, such as social media posts, news articles, and other written content. Each text sample is annotated with labels indicating the presence and type of hate speech, such as offensive language or targeted hate speech. This labeling is crucial for training models to detect both explicit and subtle forms of hate speech.

In the DynaHate dataset, tweets and other text samples are categorized into two primary classes: 'Hate' and 'Not Hate.' The dataset is balanced, with approximately 46% of entries classified as 'Not Hate' and 54% as 'Hate,' ensuring robust representation across categories. Detailed class-wise distributions are provided in Table **??**.

TABLE I
Dataset Summary for DynaHate

Class	DynaHate
Hate	22,175
Not Hate	19,969

This dataset's comprehensive annotations and balanced class distribution make it a valuable resource for training models to accurately detect and classify various forms of hate speech..

TABLE II
Samples from DynaHate Dataset

Tweet	Hate Class
dalits are lowlives	hate
gay people are a burden to our society	hate
Arabs are not welcome	hate
i wish corona didnt break this country	nothate
asian people are the shit	nothate
i hate wearing black in the summer!	nothate

III. Methodology

A. Tiny LLMs

This study investigates the efficacy of three Tiny Large Language Models (LLMs) in detecting hate speech: TinyLlama, OPT-1.3B, and Qwen2-1.5B. Each model is fine-tuned using the Low-Rank Adaptation (LoRA) framework to optimize performance for hate speech detection tasks.

- **TinyLlama**: TinyLlama, developed with 1.1 billion parameters, represents a significant advancement in computational efficiency and model performance. This model builds on the architecture and tokenizer of Llama 2 and incorporates innovations such as FlashAttention, which enhances computational efficiency and performance across various downstream tasks. The model's design includes 22 layers and 16 attention heads with an embedding size of 2048, allowing it to efficiently handle and process large-scale text data while maintaining high performance.
- **OPT-1.3B**: OPT-1.3B is a model with 1.3 billion parameters, part of the Open Pre-trained Transformers series. It is specifically designed to promote reproducible and responsible research in the field of large language models. OPT-1.3B features 24 layers, each with 32 attention heads and an embedding size of 2048. This configuration ensures a balance between performance and computational efficiency, making it suitable for a wide range of natural language processing (NLP) tasks. The model is noted for its transparency and effectiveness, providing a robust baseline for hate speech detection.
- **Qwen2-1.5B**:Qwen, developed by Alibaba, is a transformer-based large language model known for its strong language understanding capabilities across various NLP tasks, including question answering and text classification. The Qwen2-1.5B variant strikes a balance between performance and computational efficiency, making it suitable for fine-tuning on specialized tasks like hate speech detection. Its extensive pre-training on diverse multilingual data enables robust generalization, and its compatibility with low-rank adaptation techniques, such as LoRA, allows for efficient fine-tuning with minimal resource requirements.
- **BERT Fine-Tuning**: In addition to the Tiny LLMs, we also evaluate the performance of BERT (Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers) fine-tuned for hate speech detection. BERT, with its deep bidirectional architecture, is well-suited for understanding the context and subtleties of language. For this study, BERT is fine-tuned on the hate speech dataset using task-specific adaptations to enhance its ability to detect and classify hate speech with high accuracy. This includes adjusting hyperparameters and leveraging domain-specific pre-training to improve its performance in detecting nuanced hate speech.

B. Fine-Tuning with LoRA

To adapt these models for hate speech detection, we employ the Low-Rank Adaptation (LoRA) framework. LoRA addresses the challenge of fine-tuning large pre-trained models by introducing trainable rank decomposition matrices into each layer of the Transformer architecture. This approach allows us to significantly reduce the number of trainable parameters while maintaining the model's capacity to adapt to specific tasks.

The LoRA framework operates by freezing the original weights of the pre-trained models and incorporating these additional trainable matrices. This method not only reduces computational costs but also improves the efficiency of fine-

tuning, making it feasible to adapt large models for specialized tasks like hate speech detection without the need for extensive retraining.

By leveraging LoRA, we aim to enhance the models' performance on hate speech detection tasks while optimizing resource utilization and training efficiency. This approach allows for a more targeted adaptation of the models, ensuring they can effectively handle the nuanced nature of hate speech data.

IV. Model Architecture and Adaptation

In our study, we utilized four transformer-based models: `Qwen/Qwen2-1.5B`, `facebook/opt-1.3b`, `TinyLlama/TinyLlama_v1.1`, and `bert-base-uncased`. Each model serves as the base for our fine-tuning experiments with the Low-Rank Adaptation (LoRA) technique to enhance performance for hate speech detection tasks.

a) Base Models:

- **Qwen/Qwen2-1.5B:** This model is renowned for its robust language understanding capabilities. It forms the foundation for adapting and optimizing hate speech detection tasks.
- **OPT-1.3B:** Developed by Facebook, this model is designed to handle a variety of natural language understanding tasks. It provides a balanced architecture suitable for our experiments.
- **TinyLlama/TinyLlama_v1.1:** Known for its efficiency and performance, TinyLlama is tailored for natural language processing tasks, making it ideal for our fine-tuning processes.
- **BERT (bert-base-uncased):** BERT, with its deep bidirectional architecture, excels in understanding context and subtleties in language. It is adapted for hate speech detection by fine-tuning on the task-specific dataset.

b) Adaptation with LoRA: To fine-tune these models effectively, we applied the LoRA technique. LoRA introduces low-rank adaptation matrices into the pre-trained models to reduce the number of trainable parameters and improve task-specific performance. The key parameters used for LoRA adaptation across all models are:

- **Rank (r):** 2
- **LoRA Alpha:** 16
- **LoRA Dropout:** 0.05
- **Target Modules:** `k_proj`, `v_proj`

A. Training Configuration

The training configuration for all models, regardless of their architecture, was uniformly set to ensure consistency and comparability of results:

- **Training Epochs:**
  - `HateQwen`: 1
  - `OPT-1.3B`: 3
  - `TinyLlama`: 3
  - `BERT`: 3
- **Batch Size:** 8
- **Gradient Accumulation Steps:** 8
- **Warmup Steps:** 500
- **Weight Decay:** 0.001
- **Logging Steps:** 200
- **Save Steps:**
  - `HateQwen`: No saving
  - `OPT-1.3B`: 600
  - `TinyLlama`: 600
  - `BERT`: 600
- **FP16:** Enabled

V. Experiments, Results, and Analysis

This section presents the experimental setup, results, and analysis for the hate speech detection task using four transformer models: TinyLlama v1.1, OPT-1.3B, HateQwen, and BERT. These models were evaluated in their raw pre-trained state and after fine-tuning using the LoRA framework, with the DynaHate dataset serving as the basis for performance assessment.

A. Baseline Setup

For baseline evaluation, the raw pre-trained versions of TinyLlama v1.1, OPT-1.3B, Qwen2-1.5B, and BERT were assessed for their performance on the DynaHate dataset. These models were not subject to any quantization or fine-tuning during this phase, and they were evaluated in their default configurations. The baseline models demonstrated an average accuracy of approximately 0.5, as shown in Table IV.

B. Experimental Setup and Hyperparameters

The fine-tuning experiments were conducted using the LoRA framework, which is particularly well-suited for adapting pre-trained language models with minimal computational overhead. All experiments were performed using a Nvidia P100 GPU with 16 GB of memory.

LoRA Fine-Tuning: The fine-tuning process involved modifying the weights of specific layers within the models, specifically the `k_proj` and `v_proj` layers, to improve their performance on the hate speech detection task.

C. Hyperparameters for Fine-Tuning

Fine-tuning was performed with the following hyperparameters:

TABLE III
Hyperparameters for LoRA Fine-Tuning

Model	Epochs	Trainable Parameters	Training Time	Optimizer
TinyLlama	3	0.01%	1.05 hours	AdamW
OPT-1.3B	3	0.03%	1.10 hours	AdamW
HateQwen	3	0.02%	1.15 hours	AdamW
BERT	3	0.05%	1.20 hours	AdamW

The key hyperparameters for fine-tuning were as follows:

- **Epochs:** 3
- **Batch Size:** 4
- **Gradient Accumulation Steps:** 4

- **Warmup Steps:** 100
- **Weight Decay:** 0.01
- **LoRA Alpha:** 32
- **Rank (r):** 16
- **LoRA Dropout:** 0.05
- **Target Modules:** `k_proj`, `v_proj`
- **Optimizer:** AdamW

D. Results and Discussion

This section presents the experimental setup, results, and analysis for the hate speech detection task using four transformer models: TinyLlama v1.1, OPT-1.3B, Qwen2-1.5B, and BERT. These models were evaluated in their raw pre-trained state and after fine-tuning using the LoRA framework, with the DynaHate dataset serving as the basis for performance assessment.

1) Baseline Performance: The baseline performance of the models is summarized in Table IV.

TABLE IV
BASELINE PERFORMANCE ON DYNAHATE DATASET

Model	Accuracy	F1 Score
TinyLlama v1.1	0.50	0.61
OPT-1.3B	0.53	0.54
Qwen2-1.5B	0.52	0.66
BERT	0.55	0.68

TABLE V
CLASSIFICATION REPORT FOR OPT-1.3B, TINYLLAMA, HATEQWEN, AND BERT MODELS

Model	Class	Precision	Recall	F1-score
OPT-1.3B	Class 0	0.86	0.89	0.87
	Class 1	0.80	0.76	0.78
OPT-1.3B	Accuracy			0.83
	Macro Avg	0.83	0.83	0.83
	Weighted Avg	0.84	0.83	0.83
TinyLlama	Class 0	0.87	0.90	0.88
	Class 1	0.81	0.78	0.80
TinyLlama	Accuracy			0.84
	Macro Avg	0.84	0.84	0.84
	Weighted Avg	0.85	0.84	0.84
HateQwen	Class 0	0.85	0.90	0.87
	Class 1	0.82	0.80	0.84
HateQwen	Accuracy			0.82
	Macro Avg	0.81	0.80	0.81
	Weighted Avg	0.82	0.82	0.82
BERT	Class 0	0.88	0.91	0.89
	Class 1	0.80	0.75	0.77
BERT	Accuracy			0.85
	Macro Avg	0.84	0.83	0.84
	Weighted Avg	0.85	0.85	0.85

2) Fine-Tuned Model Performance (LoRA-Based): The performance of the models after fine-tuning with LoRA is summarized in Table VI. Detailed results for each model are provided in the following tables.

TABLE VI
FINE-TUNED PERFORMANCE ON DYNAHATE DATASET

Model	Accuracy	F1 Score
TinyLlama v1.1	0.84	0.84
OPT-1.3B	0.83	0.83
HateQwen	0.87	0.86
BERT	0.86	0.85

3) Discussion: The results show that fine-tuning with LoRA significantly enhanced the models' performance across all metrics. TinyLlama v1.1 emerged as the most robust model, consistently delivering strong results, indicating its suitability for hate speech detection tasks. Additionally, the HateQwen model, despite being smaller, performed exceptionally well after fine-tuning, reinforcing the effectiveness of the LoRA technique.

VI. CONCLUSION

This project explored the application of Low-Rank Adaptation (LoRA) for fine-tuning three transformer-based language models—TinyLlama v1.1, OPT-1.3B, and Qwen2-1.5 on the challenging task of hate speech detection. Our experiments were conducted using the DynaHate dataset, which provided a robust framework for assessing the models' ability to accurately detect hate speech in various forms.

The baseline evaluation revealed that the models, in their raw pre-trained state, exhibited moderate performance, with accuracies and F1 scores hovering around 0.5. This underscored the need for specialized fine-tuning to enhance their capabilities in this specific domain.

By applying the LoRA technique, we were able to significantly improve the performance of all three models. The fine-tuned versions demonstrated substantial gains in both accuracy and F1 score, with TinyLlama v1.1 achieving the highest accuracy of 0.84 and an F1 score of 0.84. The results validate the efficacy of LoRA in adapting pre-trained models for specialized tasks like hate speech detection while maintaining computational efficiency.

The study also highlighted the effectiveness of TinyLlama v1.1, a smaller yet highly efficient model, which outperformed its counterparts in this task. This suggests that with the right fine-tuning techniques, even compact models can achieve competitive performance, making them viable options for deployment in resource-constrained environments.

In conclusion, this project demonstrates the potential of LoRA as a powerful tool for enhancing transformer models in domain-specific tasks. Future work could explore the application of LoRA to other challenging NLP tasks and further optimize the fine-tuning process to achieve even better performance.

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