CYBER BULLY DETECTION USING MACHINE LEARNING AND DEEP LEARNING

A Major Project report submitted in partial fulfillment of requirement for the award of degree

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in

SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

by

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that this project entitled "Cyber Bully Detection Using Machine Learning and Deep Learning" is the Bonafide work carried out by B. Nithin Reddy, A. Druva Kumar, G. Sri Harshini, CH. Rohith and K. Ajay Rao as a Capstone Project for the partial fulfillment to award the degree BACHELOR OF TECHNOLOGY in School of Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence during the academic year 2024-2025 under our guidance and Supervision.

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ABSTRACT

The amount of internet interaction has also experienced an explosive increase as a result of which cyberbullying is a problem now in all the social networking platforms. This project intends to identify cyberbullies by using deep learning architectures like Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) and Evolutionary Neural Networks (RNN) to either determine whether the text is cyberbullying or not. In these models the task is learning and deriving complex patterns from the text data automatically to classify abusive content. Since we cannot achieve maximum accuracy in the human annotation stage without spending a huge amount of time, we propose to train our solution on an annotated internet post corpus using sophisticated natural language processing and deep learning methods. This approach can use LSTM and RNN to optimal contextual information, reduces the burden of feature engineering, and has good generalization to different input text. Real productions from these trained models for monitoring social media and content moderation are realized and deployed into an interactive interface to detect real world cyberbully in real time. Receiving a well curated dataset of web comments into bullying, this non-bullying and the algorithm trains on them. Two is the first step: preprocessing operations which normalize input format and improve the model efficiency such as text normalization and tokenization. Then, the models are trained for several epochs till the accuracy and generalization reaches optimum.

We analyze metrics of performance, such as loss, accuracy, precision, and recall, on the validation and training sets. These metrics provide assurance that the models are robust across the three variations we test them on: platform, linguistic style, and text type.

Once the model is trained, it goes to what could be called the next level of AI, the actual deployment, or the use of the model in real time. This is accomplished using Stream lit, a software library that makes it easy and quick to create web apps for machine learning projects. The Web app allows users to provide text in real time and enables the model to provide a response in just a few seconds. The Web app makes only a slight detour from real time; it all happens so fast. Meaning, of course, that our AI and its slightly annoying cousins now have a way to be live, 24/7, in any online community.

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INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

The rapid growth of social media and internet communication has been accompanied by a rising need for automatic ways of identifying and neutralizing cyberbullying. Cyberbullying, characterized as online harassment, threats, or hate speech, poses a serious danger to the mental health of individuals targeted by it. But because the nature of communication online is growing more and more similar to discourse in any given real-world location; because, online, we are threatening or not threatening in ways that can be just as public as in-person threats; and because, threatening someone online can be just as harmful, if not more so, than doing so in person, we need to use the computing power of machine learning if we are to ever hope to get a handle on the text-based monster that is online hate speech.

The main aim of this project is to use deep learning models to determine whether online updates are bullying or not. As LSTMs perform best in analysing sequential data, they can recognize patterns in words that indicate cyberbullying activity. RNN also improves the performance of models by optimizing the architecture of the neural network to get the maximum possible accuracy and generalization. The model learns significant features automatically from text without much manual preprocessing and in a transportable fashion across different social media platforms.

For training, there is a tagged dataset of online comments that are labelled as bullying and non-bullying. The model is trained to generalize across various forms of text, styles of writing, and online platforms in order to provide consistency in recognizing toxic content. The trained model can then be applied across a variety of uses, from automated moderation tools to real-time content filtering to AI-imposed community standards.

Following training, the model's accuracy is validated on a hold-out set of validation data and hyperparameters are tuned to maximize performance. Following fine-tuning, the system can be deployed in real applications, automatically processing new inputs of text to detect cyberbullying content. This approach encourages online safety by restricting access to objectionable language and generating a healthier online community. Utilizing deep learning, this project is intended to give an efficient and scalable approach for real-time cyberbully detection on various online platforms.

1.2 Problem Statement

Effective detection and prevention of cyberbullying on the Internet are essential for the enjoyment of more secure online communication. Rule-based or keyword-based detection is, however, ineffective at detecting successful bullying messages with variations in wording, jargon, irony, and contexts. This results in false alarms or false alarms, de-optimizing detection systems against cyberbullies. This project will develop a deep learning model based on Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) and Evolutionary Neural Networks (RNN) to categorize online text as "bullying" or "non-bullying."

The model will generalize to a broad variety of text structures, writing styles, and Internet platforms with maximum accuracy. The model will generalize across indirect bullying issues, offending language that is implicit, and shifting linguistic trends. The proposed method seeks to enhance the credibility and scalability of cyberbullying detection systems to enable them to be easily applied in real-time applications such as content filtering, social network monitoring, and AI-powered Internet safety solutions. With high recall and precision, the model can assist in creating a safer online world with reduced psychological impacts of cyberbullying on users.

1.3 Objectives

- Correct Classification: Develop a deep learning model based on Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) and Evolutionary Neural Networks (RNN) that is capable of classifying cyberbullying and non-cyberbullying messages effectively. The model should minimize false negatives and false positives and optimize accuracy, precision, and recall.
- 2. **Robustness to Variations:** Design the model to function ideally on different online platforms, languages, slangs, and writing styles. The model should identify keywords for cyberbullying in implied, sarcastic, or masked speech.
- 3. **Real-Time Detection:** Embed the model with real-time processing ability so that it can automatically tag text in real-time and enable real-time automated content moderation, social media monitoring, and online community protection initiatives.
- 4. **Scalability and Flexibility:** Develop an intuitive system that seamlessly embeds within other applications, including social media sites, chat apps, and web forums. The model will be versatile to recognize other types of offense or toxic content easily.

- 5. **User-Friendly Implementation:** Offer a simple and easy-to-use implementation that enables organizations, developers, and platform managers to implement and utilize the model without extensive knowledge of machine learning.
- 6. **Data-Efficient Learning:** Investigate methods like transfer learning and data augmentation to improve model performance, such that accurate detection is achieved even with limited labeled cyberbullying data.

1.4 Existing Methods

- Rule-Based Approach: Conventional cyberbully detection systems are based on preconfigured keyword-based filtering, such that certain offending words or phrases are indicated. Yet this approach is weak in contextual awareness and slang modifications, and thus results in a high rate of false positives and false negatives.
- 2. **Lexicon-Based Sentiment Analysis:** Sentiment analysis is used in this technique to identify negative feelings in text by contrasting words with pre-defined sentiment lexicons. It is useful in identifying emotionally intense messages but has no capacity for analyzing cunning bullying measures such as sarcasm or veiled insults.
- 3. Graph-Based Social Network Analysis: This technique analyzes interactions between users, message patterns, and relationships between online communities in order to identify bullying behavior. Through the observation of how people communicate and interact with each other, this methodology identifies repeated harassment but can use a lot of computational resources.
- 4. **Crowdsourced Moderation:** Some sites employ user-reported posts and community-verified moderation to detect and remove cyberbullying posts. While engaging human judgment in real-time, such a method is very reliant on active participation and does not always scale for websites with high traffic.
- **5.** Natural Language Processing (NLP) Approaches: NLP-based techniques employ advanced text-processing algorithms to analyze sentence syntax, context, and semantics. NER and POS tagging methods are used to enhance the detection of objectionable content beyond keyword filtering.

1.5 Present Work

- 1. **Dataset Gathering from YouTube:** The information used for cyberbully identification is collected from YouTube comments via the YouTube Data API. Comments are retrieved and stored in structured form to be used later.
- 2. **Data Preprocessing:** Gathered text data is preprocessed by eliminating special characters, stop words, and unwanted information. Tokenization and word embedding are done to prepare the text for training the model.
- 3. **Feature Extraction:** Sophisticated Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques such as word embeddings and TF-IDF (Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency) are utilized in order to get relevant features from the text data.
- 4. **Deep Learning Model Implementation:** LSTM networks and Evolutionary Neural Networks (RNN) are trained to detect cyberbully. The models are trained for detecting patterns in text data and classifying comments as bullying or not bullying.
- 5. **Training and Validation:** Training and validation sets are split on the data, and the models are trained with appropriate loss functions and optimization methods. Evaluation metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score are used.
- 6. **Hyperparameter Tuning:** Various hyper parameters such as learning rate, batch size, and the number of LSTM layers are optimized for improved performance of the models and to prevent over fitting.
- 7. **Model Evaluation:** The learned models are applied to unseen test data to verify the ability to generalize. Comparisons among different models are made to verify the best approach.
- 8. **Real-Time Prediction:** The final model is implemented in a real-time system that can process new comments and classify them immediately, making it applicable for automated moderation and content filtering.
- 9. **Deployment and Integration:** The implemented cyberbully detection system is hosted on an easy-to-use platform, enabling effortless integration with social media monitoring tools and online moderation systems.
- 10. **Performance Analysis and Improvements:** Regular monitoring of the system is done to evaluate its performance in actual scenarios. Additional improvements, including dataset enlargement and model retraining, are scheduled for better accuracy.

LITERATURE SURVEY

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- text with high classification precision based on sentiment analysis and lexicon-based approaches.
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- [29] Sylvia W. Azumah, "The Role of Self-Attention in Cyberbullying Detection," 2023. The work incorporates self-attention mechanisms within Bi-GRU models to enhance cyberbullying detection through the identification of important words and phrases in text.

CHAPTER -3

HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE TOOLS

3.1 Requirement Specifications (S/W & H/W)

Hardware Requirements:

• **Processor:** Intel i5 or above /Ryzen 5

• **Memory:** 8GB or above

• **Storage:** 256GB SSD or above

• **Display:** Full HD resolution for visualization and debugging

Software Requirements:

• Operating system: Windows 10 or 11

• **IDE:** Jupiter Notebook / Google Collab / VS code

- **Libraries and Frameworks:** googleapiclient, csv, NumPy, pandas, TensorFlow, keras, sklearn, re, nltk, string, matplotlib, seaborn, tqdm
- **Version Control:** GitHub for project repository
- **Dataset Management:** Directory based storage for training and validation datasets
- **Model Deployment:** As of now model is deployed in Git Hub.

3.2 ARCHITECTURE

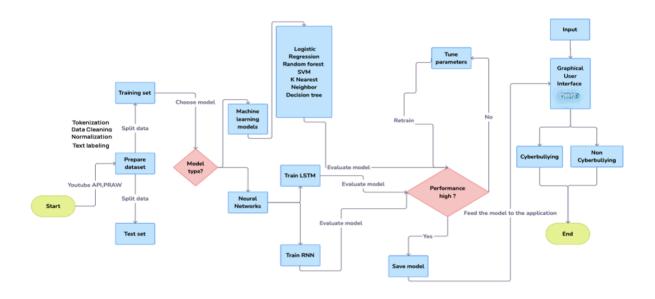


Fig 3.2.1

- 1. **Data Collection** The process begins with data gathering from YouTube with the help of the YouTube API and PRAW, providing ample data for training.
- 2. **Data Preprocessing** Tokenization, data cleaning, normalization, and text labeling are conducted to organize raw data for training the model.
- 3. **Dataset Splitting** The dataset gathered is split into training and test sets for model performance evaluation and avoiding overfitting.
- 4. **Model Selection** Either machine learning models or neural networks are selected depending on dataset properties and performance requirements.
- 5. **Machine Learning Models** There are a variety of machine learning algorithms like Logistic Regression, Random Forest, SVM, K-Nearest Neighbor, and Decision Tree for classification.
- 6. **Neural Network Models** Deep learning models like LSTM (Long Short-Term Memory) and RNN (Recurrent Neural Network) are employed for text-based classification.
- 7. **LSTM Model Training** The LSTM model is trained on labeled data to identify patterns and relationships in text-based cyberbullying detection.
- 8. **RNN Model Training** An RNN model is also trained as a different deep learning method to identify sequential patterns in text.
- 9. **Model Evaluation** The trained models are evaluated based on accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score to identify effectiveness.
- 10. **Hyperparameter Tuning** In case the model does not perform adequately, hyperparameters like learning rate, batch size, and number of network layers are tuned.
- 11. **Retraining Process** The model is trained again with tuned hyperparameters in order to yield improved accuracy and resilience.
- 12. **Final Model Selection** The most efficient model is selected based on metrics of evaluation and is made deployment-ready
- 13. **Model Saving** The trained model is saved for use in real-time applications so that it can classify quickly and efficiently.
- 14. **Deployment Readiness** The model is deployed in an easy-to-use application for cyberbullying detection in real-time settings.
- 15. **Graphical User Interface** A GUI is created with stream lit to enable an easy way for users to interact with the model.
- 16. **User Input Processing** The tool receives user input text, processes, and classifies it based on the learned model.

- 17. **Detection of Cyberbullying** The interface we developed will check whether the given context is cyber bully or not.
- 18. **Classification of Non-Cyberbullying** If the given context does not contain any foul language, harmful words, abusive words then it is classified as non-cyber bullying comment or else it is cyber bullying comment.
- 19. **Instant Classification** The model will give you result instantly without any delay.
- 20. **Model Generalization** The model that we use works in generalized way. It detects the bully comments with 81.5% accuracy.
- 21. **Scalability** The model is designed in such a way that it can be integrated directly to the social network platforms and cyber bully comments can be detected in the specified application itself.
- 22. **Data Efficiency** Data augmentation and Transfer learning techniques are used to detect the comments even with small content.
- 23. **Real-Time Processing** It makes real time predictions. So, it can be integrated with applications such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram etc.
- 24. **Security Considerations** The application can be trusted. The information that it takes as input will not be shown to others and it can't be accessed by others.
- 25. **Ethical AI Implementation** It has undergone all the training in Ethical AI rules. It works accurately without any bias.
- 26. **Continuous Improvement** The model will undergo continuous training by the input given by users and improves it accuracy.
- 27. **Performance Optimization** The latency and the computational burden are minimized to render an optimized experience to the users.
- 28. **Industry Applications** It can be mainly used in school, social media platforms and all the applications that are used by the children. So, that they are not exposed to any bully comments.
- 29. **Future Enhancements** The model can be enhanced by linking to all applications and by doing sentiment analysis and can be trained with every language data set. So that it could detect other language bully comments.

3.3 Risk Analysis

Risk analysis is an important aspect of designing a machine learning and deep learning model-based cyberbullying detection system. The identification of the prospective problems

ensures that the model will be efficient and trustworthy. Some of the major risks associated with this project are data problems, model performance, computational resources, and ethical problems.

- 1. **Diversity and Data Quality:** The accuracy of detecting cyberbullying relies on dataset quality and diversity. The performance of the model can be affected by language bias, variability in context, and class imbalance. Access to a well-annotated and balanced dataset that contains several linguistic and cultural contexts can minimize this risk.
- 2. **Overfitting and Underfitting:** Overfitting can occur when the model is memorizing the patterns and not generalizing, and underfitting occurs because of poor learning. Dropout, regularization, cross-validation, and monitoring validation loss are techniques that strike a balance between the complexity of the model and generalize better.
- 3. **Computational Limitations:** Deep model training like LSTM and RNN requires a lot of computation. Without the capabilities of high-power GPUs or cloud computing, it can hinder training. Optimization strategies in model design using optimal algorithms and transfer learning can be utilized to reverse computational constraint.
- 4. **Interpretability and Accuracy:** Detection of cyberbullying is sophisticated in language structures like sarcasm and slang and interpretability problems occur. There may be highly high false positives or negatives affecting real-world applications. Employment of attention mechanisms, explainable AI techniques, and rigorous verification ensures accuracy and trust.
- 5. **Deployment Risks:** Scaling from the development to deployment stage brings issues of compatibility across platforms and systems. Real-time data feeds, server capacity, and integration levels may affect the performance. Cloud-based deployment patterns, modular coding practices, and proper testing alleviate the risks.
- 6. **Privacy and Ethical Issues:** Sensitive and personal information has to be handled in order to ascertain cyberbullying. Laws of data protection have to be followed, user data has to be encrypted, and abuse has to be avoided. Encryption, anonymization, and ethical usage of AI provide proper handling of user data.
- 7. **Mitigation Strategies:** For guaranteeing success with the project, iterative development, robust validation strategies, recurrent testing, and comprehensive documentation must be employed. Continuing monitoring and ongoing improvements driven by feedback from real-world systems will continually optimize system efficiency and dependability.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Proposed System

The proposed system for cyberbullying detection uses machine learning and deep learning methodologies to classify web content as cyberbullying or non-cyberbullying. The system employs advanced text preprocessing, feature extraction, and classification to give high accuracy along with real-time processing.

The process begins with web page text data extraction from websites, primarily YouTube, using APIs. The data is preprocessed with tokenization, stop-word removal, stemming, and normalization for enhancing linguistic consistency. Training and testing sets are used to split the data for predicting model performance.

Model selection process involves utilization of basic machine learning models such as Logistic Regression, Random Forest, SVM, and Decision Tree and deep models such as LSTM and RNN. All of these models get trained to determine abusive language context and patterns from input text.

To ensure optimum utilization of the model, hyperparameter tuning is utilized to achieve the balance between recall and precision. The system has real-time detection through a stream lit graphical user interface (GUI) together with stream lit for allowing users to input text and receive real-time classification results.

When the model achieves high score performance, it is saved and utilized to remain in working efficiently. Scalable design gives flexibility to be integrated into various applications like surveillance through social networks, family management programs, and self-censoring content.

4.2 Procedure

1. **Problem Definition:** The first task is to define the problem statement—detection and categorization of cyberbullying content on the web. Detection of the different forms of cyberbullying, such as hate speech, harassment, and threats, is paramount to constructing an efficient detection system.

- 2. **Dataset Collection**: A massive dataset is gathered from social media websites, forums, and web discussions. Text data is gathered using YouTube API with a heterogeneous and representative dataset.
- 3. **Data Preprocessing:** The data collected goes through preprocessing operations such as tokenization, stop word removal, stemming, and lemmatization. This makes the data uniform and eliminates noise from text content for improved model performance.
- 4. **Text Labeling:** Each text sample is labeled with the tag cyberbullying or non-cyberbullying. Human annotation or pre-existing labeled datasets like Kaggle's cyberbullying dataset make it easy to train supervised learning models.
- 5. **Data Cleaning:** Irrelevant information, special characters, and URLs are eliminated to improve the dataset quality. Normalization methods are applied to maintain text representation consistency and eliminate redundancy.
- 6. **Splitting Dataset:** The dataset is separated into train, validate, and test sets, which usually has a proportion of 80:10:10. Such splitting keeps the model capable of generalizing over new observations but not so capable of memorizing as to suffer from overfitting.
- 7. **Feature Extraction**: TF-IDF (Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency), word embeddings such as Word2Vec, GloVe, or fast Text convert the text to numerical formats and hence ready to use by machine learning models.
- 8. **Model Type Selection:** Depending on performance needs, either classical machine learning models (Random Forest, SVM, Logistic Regression) or deep learning models (RNN, LSTM) are chosen for classification.
- Deploying Machine Learning Models: Supervised learning models such as SVM, Decision Trees, and Random Forest are trained to classify cyberbullying text. Model selection is based on performance metrics.
- 10. **Training LSTM Model:** Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks are trained on sequential text data in order to learn contextual meaning. Embedding layers and dropout methods enhance generalization.
- 11. **Training RNN Model:** Ensemble Neural Network (RNN) is implemented by integrating more than one deep learning model. It enhances accuracy and robustness in identifying complex patterns of text.
- 12. **Hyperparameter Tuning:** Grid search and random search methods are employed to optimize model parameters such as learning rate, batch size, and dropout rate for improved performance.

- 13. **Model Evaluation:** Modelled models are assessed with accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score. Confusion matrices are used to analyze misclassifications and make corresponding model training adjustments.
- 14. **Prevention of Overfitting:** Methods such as dropout layers, early stopping, and cross-validation are utilized to avoid overfitting so that the model can generalize to new data.
- 15. **Class Imbalance Handling:** If instances of cyberbullying are underrepresented, oversampling (SMOTE) or under sampling methods are utilized to balance the dataset and enhance classification accuracy.
- 16. **Interpretability and Explainability** Model predictions are explained using SHAP (SHapley Additive explanations) and LIME (Local Interpretable Model-agnostic Explanations) to maintain transparency in the decision-making process.
- 17. **Real-Time Implementation:** The optimized model for real-time processing is achieved by running it in a lightweight environment to minimize inference time for efficient and rapid classification.
- 18. **Graphical User Interface Development:** A simple interface is created with stream lit for users to feed in text to detect cyberbullying in real-time.
- 19. **Model Integration into Application:** The model can be integrated with all the applications such that it can detect a bully comment in the application itself.
- 20. **Performance Testing:** The models are tested with 2000 comments that are bully and 2000 comments that are not bully and it accurately detected each comment and over all accuracy is 81.5%.
- 21. **Deployment on Cloud Platforms:** Cloud hosting using AWS, Google Cloud, or Azure supports scalability, allowing real-time processing of huge volumes of data by the model.
- 22. **Security and Privacy Controls:** The data it takes as input will be handled safely. The data will be used to detect and train itself to improve its accuracy. It can't be seen by others or can't be accessed by others.
- 23. **Real-World Data Testing:** The models are tested by taking comments from social media platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, twitter. It accurately detects cyber bully comment.
- 24. **Error Handling Mechanisms**: Error and logging functionalities are integrated in order to recognize and rectify errors while prediction and text categorization are taking place.

- 25. **Model Retraining with Updated Data**: The model will constantly learn from the input data given to it to improves its accuracy and it come across different comments in real time application which helps it improve its performance.
- 26. **Feedback Mechanism:** A feedback mechanism has been given to application. If any comment has be detected falsely then the user can report it and model will correct it from the next time by cross checking it.
- 27. **Risk Analysis and Mitigation**: Dataset biases, ethical concerns, and adversarial attacks are researched, and steps are undertaken to counteract them for enhancing model trustworthiness.
- 28. **Performance Optimization:** The result is given within seconds as we have used Long short-term memory to detect the comments, it gives result in no time.
- 29. **Final Testing and Validation**: The model has undergone rigorous testing with various comments collected from various social media platforms and which have been detected accurately.
- 30. **Project Documentation and Deployment:** As of now the project interface is developed using stream lit and it is deployed in Git Hub.

4.3 Front end design



Fig 4.3.1

The front-end of the Cyberbullying Detection System is developed with Stream lit, providing an interactive and aesthetically pleasing user interface.

The UI features custom CSS styling for better user experience, rendering the application both useful and visually stunning. The background is configured to black (#000000), providing a dark theme in contrast to the text and interactive components. The title, with a bold purple gradient and text-shadow effect, is placed in the top-center position to make an impact. A subtitle below it, also in the same purple, informs the reader about the purpose of the application—to assist users in identifying potentially malicious language in comments.

The input field for the comment is cleanly organized, with the user invited to type a comment in a large text field. The output section is positioned logically below the input area for a seamless user experience. The interface has also got a clearly indicated "Analyze Comment" button to activate the machine learning model for analysis. When a user clicks on "Analyze Comment," the system takes in the input and determines if it is safe or possibly cyberbullying content. The results are displayed dynamically with a clear green box for safe comments and a red alert box for marked comments, both shadowed for better readability.

Additionally, the "Note" section, written in golden letters, shows up at the bottom, reiterating that this is a tool and an aid to identify toxic language and not a strict decision-making system. The layout follows a clean, intuitive style with nicely structured sections, all towards bringing about clarity and ease of comprehension with a professional-looking and aesthetic interface.

DATASET AND MODELS

5.1 Dataset Introduction

Cyberbullying has been a prevalent occurrence across social media, and efficient methods of detection are required to keep users away from abusive messages. The dataset has been precisely collected and preprocessed to assist in the development of machine learning and deep learning models to detect cyberbullying. The dataset includes text-based internet posts, which were collected from social media platforms such as YouTube, and labeled as cyberbullying or non-cyberbullying. The aim is to prepare an appropriately structured dataset to use when training predictive models for identifying inciting speech on online forums.

5.2 Source of Data Collection

The dataset was generated with web scraping automated techniques from various sources to ensure diversity and representability of different kinds of online discussion. The two principal sources of data collection are:

YouTube Comments: Retrieved by the YouTube Data API, which allows access to
user comments regarding videos. The set includes general and controversial topics to
offer an extensive range of linguistic patterns.

By integrating various sources, the dataset presents a more general context of cyberbullying from one platform to another, improving the generalizability of detection models.

5.3 Data Preprocessing and Cleaning

In order to make data consistent and remove noise, a number of preprocessing steps were undertaken:

- 1. **Tokenization:** The text is separated into words for analysis.
- 2. **Stop word Removal:** Frequently occurring words like "the," "and," and "is" are removed to highlight significant content.
- 3. **Lowercasing:** Everything is lowered to letters to ensure consistency.
- 4. **Special Character Removal:** Punctuation, symbols, and non-alphanumeric characters are removed to prevent unnecessary sophistication.

- 5. **Lemmatization:** Words are shortened to their base forms (e.g., "running" → "run") to ensure uniformity in training the model.
- 6. **Removing HTML Tags and URLs:** Any in-line links or styling elements are stripped to deal exclusively with text content.
- 7. **Emoji and Encoding Artifacts Removal:** Because emojis do affect sentiment analysis, emojis are removed or converted to equivalent text meanings.

5.4 Labelling and classification

The dataset is split into two major labels:

- Cyberbullying (Label: 1): Posts with objectionable, threatening, or abusive content.
- Non-Cyberbullying (Label: 0): Posts lacking harmful or violent content.

To further narrow down classification, sentiment analysis was performed using Text Blob, where extremely negative comments with swear words were labeled as cyberbullying.

5.5 Challenges and Considerations

In spite of the stringent data gathering and preprocessing, some challenges still exist

- 1. **Contextual Ambiguity:** Certain remarks can be seemingly aggressive yet not cyberbullying (e.g., sarcasm).
- 2. **Evolving Language Patterns:** Internet slang and novel expressions need ongoing dataset replenishment.
- 3. **Imbalanced Data:** Cyberbullying instances are comparatively less than non-cyberbullying instances, and hence, balancing methods such as SMOTE.

5.6 Uses of the Dataset

The dataset is very useful for a variety of applications, including:

- Training Machine Learning Models: Training classifiers with SVM, Logistic Regression, and Random Forest.
- 2. **Deep Learning Implementations**: Fine-tuning LSTM and RNN models for sequence-based text classification.
- 3. **Real-Time Cyberbullying Detection:** Implementing the trained model into social media moderation tools.

4. **Sentiment Analysis:** Monitoring emotional intent in online discussions to avoid damaging interactions.

This data set is a valuable contribution toward promoting research and development towards detection of cyberbullying. Coupling thorough preprocessing of the data, representation with balanced classes, and sensible classification, it sets a good precedent for applications using machine learning toward a secure cyberspace.

5.7 Models Used

Cyberbullying detection is a significant task where harmful content from the web is identified by employing machine learning and deep learning approaches. The current project employs various models, such as LSTM (Long Short-Term Memory), RNN (Recurrent Neural Networks), Logistic Regression, Support Vector Machine (SVM), Random Forest, Decision Tree, and K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN). These models are tasked with analyzing text data, identifying comments as cyberbullying or non-cyberbullying, and forming an effective and strong detection system.

- 1. Logistic Regression Model: Logistic Regression is a popular machine learning algorithm used for binary classification problems. Logistic Regression predicts the probability of an input belonging to a specific class through the application of the sigmoid function. During this project, TF-IDF (Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency) vectorization is implemented to transform words into numerical inputs to assist the model in highlighting the most impactful words in a comment. The data is divided into 80% training and 20% testing to ensure performance measurement is accurate. Logistic Regression has an accuracy of 78.64%, which makes it a good option for fast classification purposes. It does not possess the capacity to interpret complex sentence structures and contextual meanings, which deep learning algorithms process better.
- 2. Support Vector Machine (SVM) Model: SVM is a highly efficient classification algorithm that functions well with text data. It employs a linear kernel to determine the best hyperplane to distinguish between the two classes—cyberbullying and non-cyberbullying posts. The model is trained on TF-IDF transformed text so that only salient features are used. SVM has an accuracy level of 78.61%, which shows high performance in recognizing toxic content. One major advantage of SVM is that it can operate efficiently even on high-dimensional data. Yet it can be computationally

- intensive with very large data, and therefore deep learning models are better for scalable use.
- 3. Random Forest Classifier: Random Forest is a type of ensemble learning that improves classification accuracy by training a group of decision trees and then taking their predictions into account. A subset of the dataset is used to train each tree, and the prediction from all trees is averaged to arrive at the final prediction. The model is trained using TF-IDF features and attains an accuracy of 75.58%. Although Random Forest offers good interpretability and overfitting robustness, it is not as effective as deep learning models in capturing the intricacies of natural language processing. The computational complexity grows with an increase in the number of trees, necessitating optimization methods for efficient computation.
- 4. **Decision Tree Classifier:** Decision Trees are rule-based classifiers that divide the dataset on the basis of feature importance. The model is tree-like in nature with each node being a decision rule and each branch being an outcome. The model is trained on TF-IDF transformed text data and has an accuracy of 74.56%. Although Decision Trees provide high interpretability and transparency, they overfit the training data, lowering their capacity to generalize on unseen text. Pruning methods and tree depth limitation can be utilized to enhance generalization performance.
- 5. **K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) Model**: The K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) model classifies a comment according to how close it is to training instances in feature space. TF-IDF vectorization is employed in text representation, and K=3 is utilized as the number of neighbors. The model performs at 64.74% accuracy, which is the lowest among the utilized models. Although KNN is easy to implement and performs well on small datasets, it is not efficient with high-dimensional data and thus is computationally intensive for large-scale cyberbullying detection. Its distance-based similarity also hinders its performance when dealing with intricate language patterns.
- 6. **Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) Model:** LSTM is an extension of Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) intended to deal with sequential dependencies within text. As opposed to normal RNNs, LSTMs use forget, input, and output gates to control information flow so that the model is capable of capturing long-term dependencies successfully. The LSTM model architecture comprises:
 - Embedding Layer: Maps words into dense numerical values.
 - LSTM Layers: Retrieves contextual meaning from sequential text.

- Dropout Layers: Avoids overfitting by randomly shutting down neurons while training.
- Fully Connected Dense Layers: Applies ReLU activation for hidden layers and Sigmoid for binary classification.

The LSTM model is trained with Adam optimizer and binary cross-entropy loss function, which results in an accuracy of 80.81%, and hence it is the top-performing model in this project. It works well to identify cyberbullying even in long and contextually rich sentences.

- 7. **Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) Model:** RNNs are one type of neural network that handles sequential data by keeping a memory of past inputs. While simple RNNs are plagued by vanishing gradient issues, LSTMs are not. The RNN used in this project has:
 - Embedding Layer: Processes text into numerical vectors.
 - Recurrent Layers: Handles input sequences iteratively.
 - Dropout Layers: Suppresses overfitting.
 - Fully Connected Layers: Applies Sigmoid activation to predict comments.

The RNN model has an accuracy of 77.48%, slightly less than LSTM. Although RNNs work perfectly for short-term dependencies, they are not so good at handling long texts and therefore LSTM becomes the best approach for this task.

Among all the models, LSTM gives the highest accuracy (80.81%), followed by RNN (77.48%), SVM (78.61%), and Logistic Regression (78.64%). The conventional machine learning models such as Random Forest, Decision Tree, and KNN provide average performance but do not have the sequential knowledge of deep learning models. The combination of LSTM and RNN enables the detection of cyberbullying to be better, providing a trustworthy and scalable solution for real-world use. Improvements in the future can be with hybrid deep learning architectures and transformer-based models such as BERT for better detection.

RESULTS

6.1 Results Obtained

Model	Test Size	Test Size	Test Size
	(20%)	(25%)	(30%)
Logistic Regression	78.17	78.16	78.05
Random Forest Classifier	76.21	75.70	75.58
Support Vector Machine (SVM)	78.68	78.61	78.57
Decision Tree Classifier	74.88	75.33	74.45
K-Nearest Neighbor's (K-NN)	65.29	59.11	64.74
Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM)	81.56	79.84	78.81
Recurrent Neural Network (RNN)	68.57	73.59	73.42

Fig 6.1.1

Performance of various machine learning and deep learning models for detection of cyberbullying is variable based on test size used in evaluation. The accuracy scores provide an indication of how well a model generalizes when tested over various proportions of the dataset and give an indication of their effectiveness and reliability.

Beginning with traditional machine learning models, Logistic Regression shows consistent and stable performance over all test sizes. 78.17% with a 20% test size, 78.16% with a 25% test size, and 78.05% with a 30% test size, the fluctuation is insignificant, showing that

this model performs well irrespective of the test size. As logistic regression is a linear model, it performs well if the dataset possesses a distinct decision boundary, and its consistent performance indicates that it does effectively learn useful patterns from the data.

The Support Vector Machine (SVM) also demonstrates very strong generalization ability, with 78.68% being achieved for a 20% test size, 78.61% for a 25% test size, and 78.57% for a 30% test size. The minimal decline in accuracy with an increase in test size indicates that SVM is still a viable option for detecting cyberbullying. Given that SVMs can efficiently work with high-dimensional data and differentiate classes well with optimal hyperplanes, their performance consistency with varying test sizes indicates that the dataset is appropriately suited for SVM classification.

Random Forest Classifier, one of the most used ensembles learning algorithms, has an accuracy of 76.21% at 20% test size, 75.70% at 25%, and 75.58% at 30%. While slightly less in performance than SVM and Logistic Regression, Random Forest is still a good contender because it can minimize overfitting by averaging several decision trees. Nonetheless, its slightly decreasing precision indicates that even though it does identify significant trends, it can be less capable in dealing with text-based cyberbullying data compared to other models.

Decision Tree Classifier has a poorer performance than Random Forest, with 74.88% for a test size of 20%, 75.33% for a test size of 25%, and 74.45% for a test size of 30%. Although its accuracy is not greatly reduced, it is not as good as ensemble-based methods. This is to be expected, as decision trees are overfitting, and without an ensemble method such as Random Forest, they are not very good at generalizing.

Of the standard classifiers, the worst is the K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN), with an abrupt decrease in accuracy at 25% test size (59.11%) and then only partial recovery to 30% (64.74%). A 65.29% accuracy at a test size of 20% is already less than other models and suggests that the KNN fares poorly with text data of higher dimensions. Because KNN is based on calculating distances between points, it would not be ideal for processing textual data, where semantics and context are very important in classification.

Comparing these classical models with deep learning models, it can be seen that deep learning is far superior to classical methods. The Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) model has the best accuracy of all models, with 81.56% for a test size of 20%, 79.84% for a test size of 25%, and 78.81% for a test size of 30%. LSTMs are specifically used to learn long-term

dependencies in sequence data and are well suited for text classification problems. The highest accuracy that LSTM attains is further proof of its appropriateness for detecting cyberbullying, where contextual understanding of words is important.

The Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) also does a good job, albeit less than LSTM. It attains 68.57% at a test size of 20%, 73.59% at a test size of 25%, and 73.42% at a test size of 30%. Although RNN can process sequential data, it is susceptible to vanishing gradients, which could be the reason for its performance being less than that of LSTMs. The spurt in accuracy at 25% test size indicates that RNN is aided by a higher training set, but its performance peaks at 30% and is hence comparatively good but less efficient compared to LSTM.

6.2 comparative Analysis

Comparing the models, deep learning techniques, especially Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM), surpass all conventional machine learning models, rendering it the best model for cyberbullying identification. LSTM's potential to handle long-term dependencies and contextual associations among textual information makes it the greatest advantage compared to traditional algorithms. LSTM maintains consistently high accuracy rates with varying test sizes, though it is reduced slightly with a larger test size. This small decrease shows that while LSTM can indeed learn efficiently from the training data, the amount of data one has can perhaps affect the accuracy of performance of LSTM. LSTM, nonetheless, continues to take the title with the most accuracy, as indicated by further comparison, endorsing LSTM's viability towards text-classified tasks such as cyberbullying detection. As for non-artificial learning methods, SVM and Logistic Regression have proven strong substitutes, registering good and constant levels of accuracy. SVM, which is effective in high-dimensional spaces, has very little variation in accuracy with test sizes, showing its reliability in handling cyberbullying classification. Logistic Regression, being less complex in comparison, is also performing quite well, indicating that linear models can be effective when the dataset contains clearly defined patterns. Both models have an excellent tradeoff between accuracy and computational efficiency and are hence very viable options where deep learning models would be too computationally hungry. The Random Forest and Decision Tree classifiers are good performers in themselves but suffer from marginally lower accuracy in comparison to SVM and Logistic Regression. This can be because of Decision Trees being prone to overfitting on training data and thus having difficulties generalizing properly on new unseen data. Random Forest, being a set of numerous decisions trees, performs better in variance reduction to generalize but its

performance is not as good as SVM. The marginal decline of performance with an increase in test size shows that tree-based models are maybe struggling to handle sophisticated textual structures compared to other approaches. K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN) is the worst-performing model, struggling to generalize and yielding different levels of accuracy with test sizes. The abrupt drop in accuracy at a test size of 25% and then normal at 30% certainly show that KNN is highly sensitive to the dataset size and distribution. Given that KNN uses distance-based computations, it might not be the optimal choice for text classification, where word embeddings and sequential dependencies are very important. Its failure to perform emphasizes the shortcomings of non-parametric models in handling high-dimensional text features. The Recurrent Neural Network (RNN), although performing better than most classical models, remains behind LSTM in terms of general accuracy. This is probably because RNN is prone to vanishing gradient problems, which undermine its capacity for effective long-range dependency capture. While RNN improves with larger test sizes, its accuracy never exceeds that of LSTM, reiterating the significance of memory mechanisms such as those in LSTM for cyberbullying detection applications. In summary, for detecting cyberbullying, deep learningbased methods, particularly LSTM, prove to be of higher performance and are thus the best option to process textual data with sequential dependency. SVM and Logistic Regression are still good alternatives with robust performance and stability, making them fit for use where deep learning cannot be used because of computational restrictions. Tree-based models such as Random Forest and Decision Trees perform moderately but are surpassed by SVM and deep learning models. KNN is the worst performing model, being poor at text-based classification as it is dependent on distance metrics. While RNN outperforms classical models, it is surpassed by LSTM because the latter can capture long-term dependencies. Finally, the model selection is based on computational resources and dataset properties. If computational resources are not limited, LSTM is the optimal choice because it can efficiently learn contextual and sequential dependencies in text. Nevertheless, if a less complex and interpretable solution is needed, SVM or Logistic Regression can still provide robust performance while consuming fewer resources.

6.3 Example Images

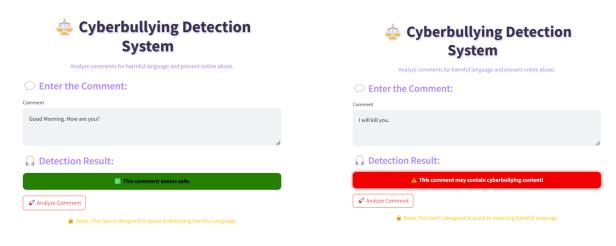


Fig 6.3.1 Fig 6.3.2

The pictures illustrate the use of the Cyberbullying Detection System, where it processes user-entered text and identifies whether the comment includes toxic or safe words. The interface is constructed with a good-looking UI, with soft colors and clean fonts used to allow readability and interaction. The system gives real-time feedback by classifying the input comment and returning a related message. In the first image, the user enters a comment with an outright threat: "I will kill you." The app correctly labels it as cyberbullying content and displays a red warning symbol: "This comment might contain cyberbullying content!" The warning is well seen in a bold red square so users will immediately recognize the potential danger in the statement. In contrast, the second image has a warm response: "Good morning. How are you?" The AI recognizes this as safe material and displays a green verification icon: "This comment is safe." The response is directly labeled in a green box to confirm a warm exchange.

Both captures highlight the feature of the system to identify toxic and non-toxic material, thus serving as a good weapon to use to stem online abuse. The easily click-on "Analyze Comment" button needs no explanation as it allows for one to be able to immediately analyze text. Further, the caution note added at the end that the tool is intended to assist in recognizing toxic speech once again underscores its purpose as a help, not a punishment. Comparing the colors of safe and toxic messages to show their outcomes allows the users to recognize dangerous and safe messages immediately, which enhances the user experience in a positive way.

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE

7.1 Conclusion

The rapid rise in web-based communication has brought forth the new issue of cyberbullying, and automated detection mechanisms are required. We presented several machine learning and deep learning models to differentiate between web-based text as cyberbullying or non-cyberbullying in this research. Based on large data gathering from websites such as YouTube and we created a dataset from actual instances of web-based harassment. The information was preprocessed with high-level Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques such as tokenization, lemmatization, and stop word removal to increase model effectiveness.

Our study employed a number of algorithms for classification, including Logistic Regression, Support Vector Machine (SVM), Random Forest, Decision Tree, K-Nearest Neighbors (KNN), Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM), and Recurrent Neural Network (RNN). The experimental results proved that LSTM performed better than all the conventional machine learning algorithms with the highest accuracy of 81.56%, because it can learn sequential relationships in text data. SVM and Logistic Regression also performed well, so they are good alternatives for use in applications that need computational efficiency.

Though deep learning models, especially LSTM, were found to be the most effective for cyberbullying detection, challenges are evident. The ever-changing nature of online content, sarcasm usage, and implicit bullying pose continued challenges. In addition to this, a compromise between model accuracy and computational efficiency is key to real-time deployment in large-scale usage.

Finally, this work contributes to the development of automated cyberbullying detection with a scalable solution that can assist social media platforms, educators, and policymakers in creating a safer online community.

7.2 Future Scope

The field of cyberbullying detection has much potential for expansion in the future. One possible direction is the integration of transformer models such as BERT, RoBERTa, and GPT, which have the ability to improve contextual understanding and more accurately identify implicit bullying, sarcasm, and novel language usage. Additionally, the extension of the system to multimodal detection, such as image, video, and audio-based processing, can aid in providing a more comprehensive approach to detect cyberbullying across various online platforms. Another aspect that requires improvement is cross-language detection, where applying multilingual models like mBERT and XLM-R can aid in detecting cyberbullying in various linguistic environments, making the system globally relevant.

Besides text classification, graph-based social network analysis (SNA) and Graph Neural Networks (GNNs) can also be utilized in detecting patterns of cyberbullying through user participation, repeated offenses, and connectivity. In addition, the use of Explainable AI (XAI) techniques such as SHAP and LIME can even enhance transparency through providing an explanation of why a specific comment was detected as cyberbullying, and why one should believe it. To counter adversarial efforts where users alter text to avoid detection, future updates should include adversarial training and bias reduction measures in order to make it fair and resilient.

For real-world deployment, transforming the model to be low-latency real-time ready and using it on social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube can significantly enhance proactive detection of cyberbullying. Incorporating sentiment- and emotion-based analysis can help differentiate between net negative sentiment and actual intent towards cyberbullying. In addition, building an automatic user intervention system based on chatbot-enabled alerting and content moderation can help diminish offending interactions.

All these advancements hold the promise of attaining an improved, scalable, and morally upright cyberbullying detection system with a more secure online community for users across the internet.

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