Knowledge Distillation for Data Pruning

Eilis Casey, Zhexi Lu, and Michael Zuo

Group-5

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Overview

We propose a novel method for data pruning.

Using Knowledge Distillation (KD) methods, we will retain difficult samples for a model to learn.

This will provide a more meaningful dataset for the model to learn on.

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Introduction

For Large Language Models (LLMs) to achieve such remarkable results, they require a large training corpus

- 570GB of data for GPT-3
- 45TB of data for GPT-4

Thus, training requires substantial computational and financial resources.

Data Pruning

Data Pruning is a technique to reduce the dataset size without compromising performance.

Two types:

1. Feature Pruning
2. Instance Pruning

Our approach will focus on **instance pruning**.

Data Pruning Methods

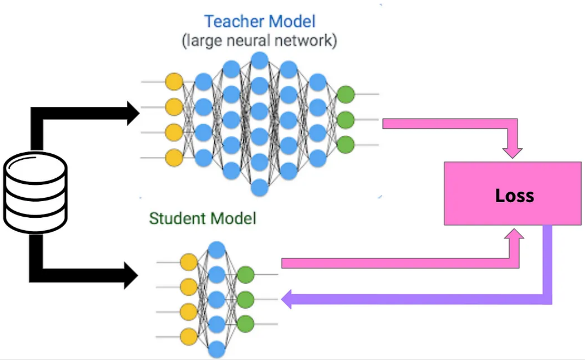
Several pruning approaches:

- **Clustering**: Group similar data points and selects representatives
- **Outlier Removal**: Discards anomalous or noisy data points
- **Prototype Selection**: Retain a subset that effectively defines the decision boundary
- **Gradient-based**: Leverage model gradients to evaluate data importance

Our approach focuses on **Prototype Selection** using **Knowledge Distillation** techniques.

Knowledge Distillation

Knowledge Distillation (KD) is a technique for transferring knowledge from a large, complex model (the *teacher*) to a smaller, simpler model (the *student*)



KD Methods

There are several methods for KD:

1. **Offline Distillation**: Pretrained teacher model guides training of student
2. **Online Distillation**: Teacher and student learn together
3. **Self-Distillation**: Special case of online, where deep layers of models help train shallow layers of the same model.

For our approach, we use **offline** KD.

Overview

Overview of our method:

- Fine-tune student model using a pre-trained teacher model
- Examine the Kullback-Leibler (KL) divergence between the teacher and student outputs
- Data points where the KL divergence is larger indicate that the student model has difficulty learning that sample
- Retain these data points, prune the others

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Related Work

Another paper "Distilling the knowledge in data pruning" explores using KD with data pruning.

This paper proposes a method for training a student model on a randomly pruned dataset, using KL divergence from a teacher model trained on the full dataset as the key loss component.

Differs from our proposed method because KD has not been used as a tool for pruning but instead as a technique to offset the effects of pruning.

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Notation

We denote M_t and M_s to be the teacher and student models, respectively.

The models produce logits $\mathbf{z}_t$ and $\mathbf{z}_s$.

Apply $\mathrm{softmax}(\cdot)$ to the logits the obtain the probability distributions:

$$p_t(y_j|x_i) = \frac{\exp(z_{t,ij})}{\sum_{k=1}^{V}\exp(z_{t,ik})}$$

$$p_s(y_j|x_i) = \frac{\exp(z_{s,ij})}{\sum_{k=1}^{V}\exp(z_{s,ik})}$$

Dynamic Data Pruning

To identify informative samples for fine-tuning, compute KL divergence between teacher and student model logits, $\mathbf{z}_t$ and $\mathbf{z}_s$, respectively.

$$\mathrm{KL}(\mathbf{z}_t, \mathbf{z}_s) = \frac{1}{N} \sum i = 1^N \sum j = 1^V p_t(y_j|x_i) \log \frac{p_t(y_j|x_i)}{p_s(y_j|x_i)} \quad (1)$$

Where N is the sequence length and V is the vocabulary size

Selection

We select samples where the KL divergence exceeds a threshold τ:

$$\text{Select } x \text{ if } \mathrm{KL}(\mathbf{z}_t, \mathbf{z}_s) > \tau.$$

We increase τ gradually at each epoch, squeezing out fewer, but more divergent, samples in later training steps.

Loss Function

We fine-tune the student model using the selected data samples.

The loss function used is the standard cross-entropy loss for causal language modeling:

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N} \log p_s(y_i | y_{<i}; \theta), \tag{2}$$

where θ represents the parameters of the student model, y_i is the target tokens at position i, and $y_{<i}$ is the previously generated tokens before token i.

Fine-tuning with LoRA

To update the student model without incurring high computational costs, we employ Low-Rank Adaptation (LoRA).

LoRA updates weight matrix $\mathbf{W} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times k}$ by

$$\mathbf{W}' = \mathbf{W} + \Delta\mathbf{W}, \quad \Delta\mathbf{W} = \mathbf{AB} \tag{3}$$

where $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times r}$ and $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times k}$ are the low-rank matrices with rank $r \ll \min(d, k)$.

Training Algorithm

Algorithm 1 Data Pruning and Fine-Tuning with Dynamic Threshold

Require: Teacher model M_t, student model M_s, dataset $\mathcal{D}$, initial threshold τ, increase rate α, maximum threshold $\tau_{\max}$, minimum sample count $N_{\min}$

Initialize LoRA parameters in M_s
for each epoch **do**
    $S \leftarrow \{\}$
    for each sample $\mathbf{x}$ in $\mathcal{D}_{\text{train}}$ **do**
        Compute teacher logits $\mathbf{z}_t$ and student logits $\mathbf{z}_s$
        Compute KL divergence $\text{KL}(\mathbf{z}_t, \mathbf{z}_s)$
        if $\text{KL}(\mathbf{z}_t, \mathbf{z}_s) > \tau$ **then**
            $S \leftarrow S \cup \{\mathbf{x}\}$
        end if
    end for
    if $|S| < N_{\min}$ **then**
        Break (Stop training due to insufficient samples)
    end if
    for each batch in S **do**
        Compute loss $\mathcal{L}$ using M_s
        Backpropagate and update LoRA parameters
    end for
    Evaluate M_s on $\mathcal{D}_{\text{valid}}$
    Update threshold: $\tau \leftarrow \min(\tau \cdot (1 + \alpha), \tau_{\max})$
end for

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Experiment Setting

- **Dataset:** We used the first 2000 instruction data in Alpaca. We randomly selected 90% of the data as the training set and 10% of the data as the validation set.
- **Dynamic Data Pruning:** The LoRA configuration is set with r=8, lora alpha=16, and a dropout of 0.1.

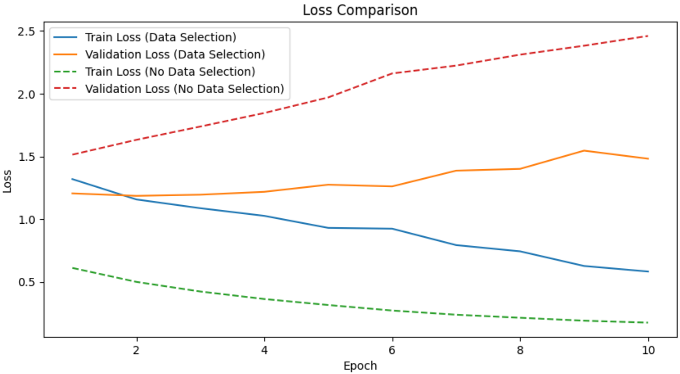
  The AdamW optimizer with a learning rate of 10^{-4} is used to update only the LoRA parameters.

Evaluation Metrics

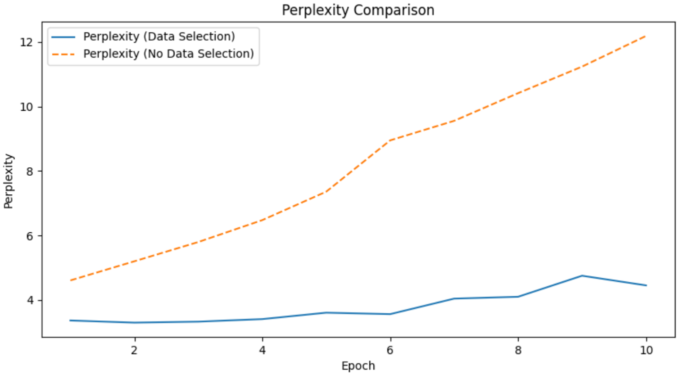
To assess the performance of the student model, we use the following metrics:

- **Loss**: The average cross-entropy loss over the validation set.
- **Perplexity**: Computed as $\exp(\mathcal{L})$, indicating the model's confidence.
- **Accuracy**: The percentage of correctly predicted tokens or outputs in the validation set.

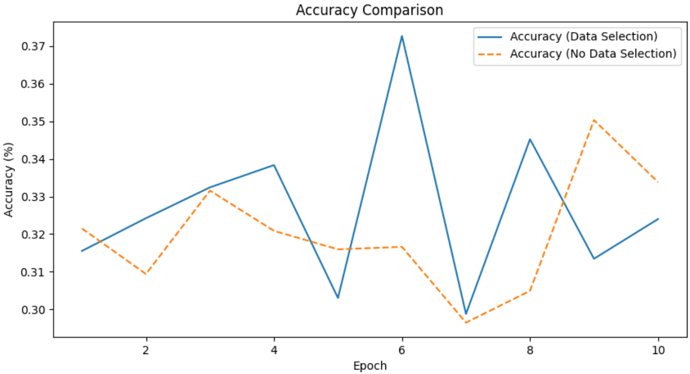
Loss


Loss Comparison
Train Loss (Data Selection)
Validation Loss (Data Selection)
Train Loss (No Data Selection)
Validation Loss (No Data Selection)
Loss
Epoch
2.5
2.0
1.5
1.0
0.5
2
4
6
8
10

Perplexity


Perplexity Comparison
Perplexity (Data Selection)
Perplexity (No Data Selection)
Perplexity
Epoch
12
10
8
6
4
2
4
6
8
10

Accuracy


Accuracy Comparison
Accuracy (Data Selection)
Accuracy (No Data Selection)
Accuracy (%)
0.30
0.31
0.32
0.33
0.34
0.35
0.36
0.37
Epoch
2
4
6
8
10

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Conclusion

- Dynamic pruning of training samples based on KL divergence improves quality and generalization ability of trained model
- Slower separation of training vs test loss when (over)training without notable loss of accuracy
- Perplexity curve stays relatively flat when applying our data selection technique
- Data is used “less often” throughout training


Thank
You!!!