NSFW-Ninja: Masters of Disguise in the Content Filter Jungle

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Abstract

The proliferation of social media platforms has led to an increased need for content moderation, with NSFW (Not Safe For Work) detectors playing a pivotal role in maintaining a safe and respectful online environment. However, these detectors are not immune to manipulation, raising concerns about their effectiveness and reliability. This work presents a systematic investigation into the vulnerabilities of NSFW detectors through a black-box attack methodology. Additionally, we present an adversarial attack on the existing NSFW detectors present on popular social media sites. We will systematically perturb the NSFW images and observe the response from the detector. The direction of the perturbation will move the image closer to the detection boundary. In summary, this project seeks to investigate the robustness and expose vulnerabilities in NSFW detectors, demonstrating their susceptibility to manipulation and contributing to the development of more robust and ethical content moderation systems.

1 Introduction

In the digital age, the widespread use of social media platforms has revolutionized the way we communicate, share, and interact with content online. This transformation has brought forth an increased necessity for content moderation, aiming to maintain a safe and respectful online environment for users of all ages. At the forefront of this moderation effort are NSFW (Not Safe For Work) detectors, AI-based systems designed to automatically identify and flag content that may be explicit, offensive, or otherwise unsuitable for public consumption.

These NSFW detectors have become indispensable tools for social media platforms, playing a pivotal role in safeguarding users from inappropriate or harmful content. However, the effectiveness and reliability of these detectors have come under scrutiny in recent years. While they have undoubtedly made significant strides in improving content moderation, they are not impervious to manipulation.

Although NSFW Content consists of text and images, our focus is primarily on images. We will take images that are NSFW originally; and perturb them adversarially such that the final image isn't tagged as NSFW on social media platforms (like Reddit). At the same time, we will also maintain that the perturbation is very small and imperceptible to humans. This is generally done by limiting the L_∞ norm of the perturbation.

Adversarial attacks refer to a class of techniques and methods in the field of machine learning and artificial intelligence (AI) that are used to manipulate or deceive machine learning models. These attacks are designed to exploit vulnerabilities in machine learning algorithms and neural networks in particular. Szegedy et. al. [11] first showed that object recognition systems can be fooled by attacking the MNIST dataset. Since then many different approaches have been developed to exploit detection and recognition systems. In this report, we will assume that the content moderation systems are recognition systems that classify images as NSFW or SFW. Such attacks fall under the white-box and black-box attacks categories. In the white-box scenario, attackers have the ability to access the structures and parameters of the target models, enabling them to create adversarial

examples. Conversely, in the black-box scenario, attackers lack any access to the model's structure and parameters. Since we are attacking content moderation systems we cannot access, our method will fall under the black-box setting.

However, existing black-box attack either uses a huge amount of queries [7, 5, 1, 15] or leverages target model training data for a transfer-based attack [33, 31, 16, 32, 9, 29]. We don't have access to the training data of the target model and neither we can perform a huge amount of queries on content moderation systems. Therefore, we opt for a hybrid approach that performs a very small amount of queries and anchors on the transferability of intermediate features across DNN models [20].

2 Literature Review

Adversarial attacks can typically be categorized into two primary categories: white-box attacks and black-box attacks. In a white-box setting, attackers possess detailed information about the victim models, including model structure, parameters, weights, training methodology, etc. In contrast, in a black-box setting, attackers lack access to such information and can only access the output from the model. White-box attacks often rely on exploiting gradient information from the victim model to craft adversarial examples. Prominent white-box attack methods include the Fast Gradient Sign Method (FGSM) [12], Project Gradient Descent (PGD) [18], Carlini and Wagner Attack (C&W) [4], Deepfool [19] and BPDA [2]. However, the white-box attack is unrealistic in our scenario since we don't have access to the content moderation models deployed by the social media sites.

In contrast, black-box attacks occur when attackers do not have access to vital information about the victim model. This setting is more reflective of real-world applications, where the inner workings of the model are hidden from potential attackers. Our attack on content moderation systems also falls under this category. There are mainly two categories of Black-box attacks - *Decision-based attacks* and *Transfer-based attacks*.

2.1 Decision-based attacks

The decision-based attacks query the target model and get the final label (in the classification task) from the target model.

Brendel et al.[3] proposed the first approach that involves a random walk on the decision boundary. In each iteration, the approach randomly selects a direction and projects it onto a boundary sphere to create a high-quality adversarial example, but it's query-intensive and lacks convergence guarantees. Guo et al.[13] proposes Low Frequency Adversarial Perturbation(LFAP) which made few modifications to boundary attack to construct low frequency perturbation. In this method, instead of sampling Gaussian noise low frequency noise is being sampled. By restricting to low-frequency subspace, which has a larger density of adversarial directions, this step succeeds more often, speeding up the convergence towards the target image. Meanwhile, a Query-Limited attack [14] focuses on estimating output probability scores through model queries to transform hard-label attacks into soft-label problems.

On the other hand, [6] takes a different approach, reformulating hard-label attacks as optimization problems aimed at finding the direction that minimizes the distance to the decision boundary. In practical tests, the algorithm efficiently targeted hard-label black-box Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) models on MNIST, CIFAR, and ImageNet, requiring significantly fewer queries (in orders of thousands). The Sign-OPT attack [7] follows a similar optimization approach as [6], treating hard-label attacks as the task of finding the direction with the shortest distance to the decision boundary. Additionally, it efficiently estimated the gradient's sign in any direction, rather than the gradient itself, requiring just a single query. A more recent attack [5] utilized the zeroth-order sign oracle to enhance the Boundary attack, resulting in substantial improvements. They employed a one-point gradient estimate, which, while unbiased, can have higher variance compared to the gradient estimate in [7].

Even though the number of queries required has significantly reduced over the years, their budget is still a big issue due to the extremely small query budget in the content moderation systems. It seems that the robust detection and flagging systems being employed in the most popular social media demand a new attack with just a few queries (in order of a hundred).

2.2 Transfer-based Attacks

Transfer-based black-box attacks are a type of adversarial attack where the attacker generates adversarial examples using a surrogate white-box model and then transfers them to an unknown target black-box model. Transfer-based attacks work because adversarial examples can often fool similar models, and deep learning models are sensitive to small input changes.

Cheng et al.[8] propose a method called Prior-Guided Random Gradient-free(P-RGF) which uses the gradient of a surrogate model as a prior to guide the search direction and then adjusts the direction based on the query feedback from the target model. One of the limitations of the P-RGF method is that it requires a surrogate model that has similar architecture and training data as the target model which might not be possible at times. Another limitation is that it assumes that the target model is deterministic and doesn't have any defense mechanisms such as randomization or gradient masking.

Wang et al.[30] tries to overcome these shortcomings by proposing a novel input transformation-based attack called Structure Invariant Attack(SIA), which applies a random image transformations onto each image block to generate a set of diverse images for gradient calculation. This improves the transferability of the adversarial examples, which can exploit common vulnerabilities of different models and bypass their defenses. Although successful, it may reduce their stealthiness and make them easier to detect by humans, unlike other adversary measures.

A patch-based attack was proposed by Gao et al. [10]. Instead of manipulating the images pixel-wise, it tries adding patches to the image. They incorporated an amplification factor in the FGSM method to increase the step size in each iteration, ensuring that when a pixel's gradient exceeds the ϵ constraint, it is accurately distributed to its neighboring regions through a projection kernel. Zhang et. al. [33] proposed a feature-level attack that employs neuron importance scores. The scores are computed by attributing the model's output to each neuron in the network and total neuron attribution is minimized to craft adversarial examples. But for our scenario, we have no access to the data that is used to train the content moderation models.

All of these transfer-based adversarial attacks assumed that the training data of the target model follows similar distributions as the surrogate model. Zhang et. al. [15] proposed to train the surrogate models in a data-free black-box scenario. They used a GAN for data generation and leveraged model distillation on the substitute model which acts as the discriminator. But they had to make a trade-off with a huge amount of query. For attack on content moderation systems, we have a very small budget for the number of queries (it may be possible to leverage APIs if available to perform such queries but for most of the social media platforms - Reddit, Facebook, Instagram, etc, such APIs aren't available for free). Therefore, we propose a hybrid approach - an extremely limited query-based transfer attack. It has been shown that the DNN models share similar features in their receptive fields [31]. Therefore, even though we don't have the training data, we can generate our own data [21]. The trained model on this data would then share similar features to the target model. We will be leveraging Grad-Cam [22] scores to give scores to the features and the input pixels and minimize this score by querying the target model.

3 Motivation and Scope

The ubiquity of social media platforms has created an urgent need for effective content moderation, particularly in identifying and filtering out NSFW (Not Safe For Work) content. NSFW detectors serve as the first line of defense in protecting users from potentially harmful or inappropriate material. However, their vulnerabilities to manipulation and evasion have raised serious concerns. To our knowledge, there hasn't been any work that tries to perform NSFW-based adversarial attacks. This research is motivated by the imperative to comprehensively understand and address the limitations of NSFW detectors in social media. By conducting black-box attacks on these systems, we aim to uncover vulnerabilities, assess their resilience, and propose strategies for enhancement. Our work seeks to contribute to developing more robust content moderation mechanisms, ultimately fostering safer and more respectful online environments.

4 Implementation Method : White-Box Attack

To implement our attack, we need a few components. Firstly, we need an NSFW detector so that we can attack it using white-box and then black-box. Moreover, the trained model will provide us with insights into the learned distribution of the NSFW images. Since our dataset is comprised of the images from the NSFW-tagged Reddit images (and SFW images as well), we hope that the trained network will extract transferable features, that can used in the black-box attack. After the trained network, we are doing a white-box attack on our trained model. The reason is that the white-box attack will give us the exploitable features of the images. Although it can be argued that the exploitable features may not be transferable to Reddit, it has been shown that object detectors and image recognition systems look at very similar (or overlapping) image features [34]. One of the primary reasons is the use of transfer learning in different vision tasks.

Our pipeline can be broadly divided into 3 parts - i) Training an NSFW detector, ii) Performing a White-box attack on the trained detector, and iii) Transfer the attack to Reddit. We will be going through each of these 3 stages in detail in the following sections.

4.1 Training an NSFW Detector (Based on Bumble NSFW Detector)

4.1.1 Network Architecture

The first task is to train an NSFW detector. There are many architectures to select from - MobileNets, EfficientNets, ResNets, InceptionNets, VGGs, etc. We looked for architectures that have been currently deployed in content moderation systems. We found out that Bumble [25] has released a private detector for detecting lewd images on Bumble chat. However, it's trained on a different dataset and has a slightly different task at hand (it's not exactly an NSFW detector but rather for lewd images that are more common in Bumble chat). But this gave us a starting point. They have used EfficientNet-v2 [27] as their base architecture. We are instead using pre-trained Inception-Resnet-v2 (trained on ImageNet) [26] as it is a better choice where generalization to new images is critical. Since the diversity of NSFW images varies a lot, we want a more generalized model, and Inception-Resnet-v2 fits into that category. We replaced the final layer (top layer) of the Inception-Resnet-v2 with 2-dense layers. This way, these 2 layers will learn NSFW features and we can exploit these learned features for future tasks (transferring to black-box attack). The network architecture for the training is shown in the figure 1.

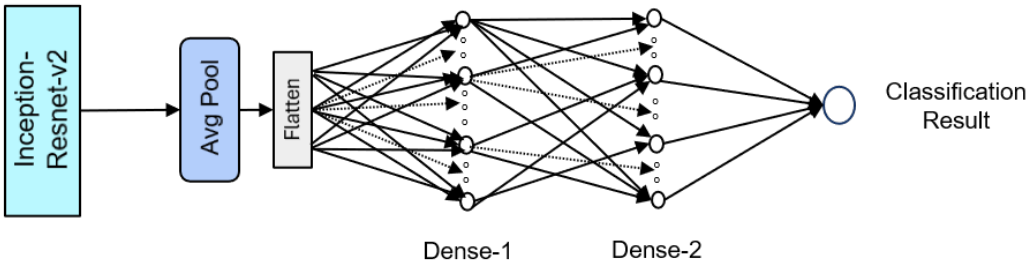

Figure 1: Training Pipeline for NSFW detector

First, the image is passed through a pre-trained Inception-Resnet-v2 model (with the top layer removed). Then, the output is fed into two dense layers (Dense-1 and Dense-2) via an average pooling in between. At the end, we take the outputs from the Dense-2 layer and pass them through the final dense layer to get a single output. We take the sigmoid of the output to get a probability value which we consider as an NSFW score (0 means SFW and 1 means NSFW).

(a) 1 red region (b) 2 red regions (c) 3 red regions

Figure 2: Grad-CAM heatmaps can produce multiple high-value (red) regions

4.1.2 Dataset

One of the primary challenges of our task is to make a dataset. There isn't any publicly available dataset of Reddit NSFW images. We tried generating NSFW images [21]. The problem with such methods was that the generated images were not always tagged as NSFW by Reddit. It means that there is a separate definition of NSFW on Reddit as compared to these images generated. To get the actual images that are tagged as NSFW by Reddit, we made a web-scraper that will crawl through different NSFW subreddits and scrape the images. Although this method should work in theory, there are a few issues with it - Images may get deleted by the moderators, and the posted images are not NSFW at all. It is easy to solve the first issue in which Reddit posts a template image whenever an image is deleted.

The second issue is more complicated - images are not NSFW at all. Since we have nearly 0.1 million images, it is not feasible for us to go through the images manually. Instead, we used a mixture of multiple methods - Bumble private detector [25], a Python-based NSFW detector [1], and Google's SafeSearch [2]. Even though none of these detect NSFW (according to Reddit), using a combination of these we were able to filter out images that will be considered NSFW whatsoever (extremely explicit images). This way, we constructed our dataset - 52200 training images, and 5800 testing images.

4.1.3 Training and Evaluation of NSFW Detector

We divided the training set into - 46400 training and 5800 validation images. The training epochs are 1000, optimizer is Adam-W [17] with weight decay as 0.01, learning rate 0.001 and β_1, β_2 as 0.9 and 0.99 (used as standard). The images are resized to 256×256, and the loss function is binary cross-entropy. The Inception-Resnet-v2 is pre-trained on ImageNet and Dense-1 layer has 256 neurons and the Dense-2 layer has 128 neurons with ReLU activations in each of them.

The training accuracy for 1000 epochs is 92.7 % and the test accuracy came out to be 88.1 %. Although both accuracies can be further improved, we are not interested in making a perfectly accurate NSFW detector but rather exploiting it.

4.2 White-box attack on the trained detector

Our attack is based on the heat map generated by the Grad-CAM. Grad-CAM generates a heat map that quantifies the importance of different regions/pixels in an image that contributed to the classification of that particular image. Our intuition was that we could add noise gradually to the important region (as described by Grad-CAM) of an NSFW image and ultimately decrease the scores of these pixels. Another approach based on entropy [28] has been employed earlier for detecting attacks. We are adding Gaussian noise (with learnable parameters) to the heatmap regions and will iteratively add noise till the moment the image starts getting misclassified.

Assume that the image is given by I and the corresponding heat map generated by Grad-CAM as $G(I)$. Also, assume that our NSFW detector is M. We have $M(I) = 0$ (label 0 corresponds to NSFW). Grad-CAM heatmaps can have more than 1 hot region. We calculate the number of regions based on the number of disconnected red regions as shown in the figure 2. Assuming that the number

[1] https://github.com/GantMan/nsfw_model

[2] https://cloud.google.com/vision/docs/detecting-safe-search

of such regions is N, we will initialize N different Gaussians on the centroid of these regions with mean as $\mu_1, \mu_2, ...$ and standard deviation as $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, ...$ Let us denote all the μ's as μ and σ's as σ.

It should be noted that although we are initializing the μ's at the centroid of these heatmaps, we are treating them as variables (with a limit on their distances from these centroids). The primary reason is that the heatmaps are themselves not exact representations of the pixel weights (for the classification of the image). We always apply square patches to the heatmap regions of the image. In the case of multiple heatmaps (figure 2), multiple square patches will be added.

Let us denote the shape of square patches to be s. We will be treating s also as a learnable parameter. After applying Gaussians to the image I, with parameters as μ and σ in the shape of a square patch of size s, we get our new image $I'(\mu, \sigma, s)$.

Assuming that the original label is y, the loss function corresponding to this new image will be

$$\mathcal{L}(M(I'(\mu, \sigma, s)), y) \tag{1}$$

Our objective is to maximize this loss such that the added noise (the gaussian noise that we are adding) remains small.

$$\|I' - I\|_\infty \leq \epsilon \tag{2}$$

where ϵ is allowable noise (a hyper-parameter), also called an attack budget. Now, combining equations 1 and 2

$$I' = \underset{I':\|I'-I\|_\infty \leq \epsilon}{\arg\max} \mathcal{L}(M(I'(\mu, \sigma, s)), y) \tag{3}$$

This equation 3 can be solved using the projected gradient descent (PGD) algorithm [18].

Algorithm 1 White-box attack

1. Train a model M on the dataset D (NSFW + SFW Images)
2. Sample an image $I \in \mathbf{R}^{H \times W \times 3} \sim D$
3. Get the Grad-CAM output of the image G = gradcam(I)
4. Compute the number of disconnected red regions (high-value regions), denoted by N.
5. Initialize N Gaussians with random σ and mean as the centroid of the red regions
6. Initialize the length of the square patch randomly as s.
7. Apply these Gaussians to the image I to get the new image $I'(\mu, \sigma, s)$.
8. Optimize the following equation using PGD [18]
$$I' = \underset{I':\|I'-I\|_\infty \leq \epsilon}{\arg\max} \mathcal{L}(M(I'(\mu, \sigma, s)), y)$$

For this white-box attack, we chose our model M as EfficientNet-v2 (since this was the model being used by the Bumble). But we can perform the same white-box attack on any other architecture as well. A general algorithm is shown in 1 where any model M can be used.

4.2.1 Evaluating the White-box attack

To check the effectiveness of our attack, we chose 6 different models - Resnet18, Resnet34, Resnet50, Resnet101, Inception-v3, and ViT. We trained each of these models using the same dataset and performed a white-box attack on them. Please note, since this is a white-box attack, it means if we train Resnet18, we are gonna attack Resnet18 only (M in the algorithm 1 is Resnet18 in that case).

We are using **Attack Success Rate** as the evaluation metric. It is defined as the percentage of attempted attacks that successfully fooled (misclassified in our case) the target model. We chose 200 images randomly from our test set (since doing it on the entire test set would have taken a lot of time) and the results are shown in the table 1.

Model	Attack Success Rate
Inception-v3	78%
Resnet-18	72%
Resnet-34	87%
Resnet-50	81%
Resnet-101	88%
ViT	81%

Table 1: Attack Success Rate for white-box attack on different models

5 Variations in Grad-CAM maps across Models

In the white-box attack, we observed that Grad-CAM maps don't show much variation across models. It means that the Grad-CAM heatmap generated from, say model Inception-v3, is similar to the one generated by Resnet-50. It also makes sense because there are important features in an image that a model looks into and these features must overlap across models. Transfer learning leverages a similar principle that the learned features (in some deeper layers of models) can be used in different vision tasks. The generalization of learned CNN features is well known and explored [24, 23]. In our case, different models are trained on similar datasets and therefore could learn similar features or patterns, Grad-CAM may identify similar regions as important. For example, if models focus on the presence of certain edges, textures, or object parts, the heatmaps might look alike.

We hypothesize that the generated heatmaps from Grad-CAM are similar across models. To measure this similarity, we used Earth Mover's Distance (EMD), also called *Wasserstein* distance. This is generally used to measure the distance between 2 probability distributions. Since we can consider the pixel values within an image as coming from some distribution (specific to that image), we can measure the Wasserstein distance between different pairs of heatmaps generated from different models. We randomly sampled 200 images from the test set and generated Grad-CAM heatmaps for all of them for all 6 models (Resnets-18,34,50, Inception-v3, and ViT).

Let's denote the 200 images by $I_1, I_2, ..., I_{200}$ and 6 models by $M_1, M_2, ..., M_6$. Also, the Grad-CAM heatmap generated by model M_i for image I_j is G_{ij}. We define the EMD between any models M_x and M_y as -

$$\text{EMD}(M_x, M_y) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \text{EMD}(G_{xi}, G_{yi}) \tag{4}$$

where N is the number of images, 200 in this case. The EMD between 2 images can be computed using the standard EMD formula (we used *scipy.stats* library in Python). We computed this EMD between all pairs of the models and the results are summarized in the table 2 (it is a symmetric table, so we didn't fill the other diagonal).

Table 2: Wasserstein Distance between models based on equation 4

	Inception-v3	**Resnet-18**	**Resnet-34**	**Resnet-50**	**Resnet-101**	**ViT**
Inception-v3	0					
Resnet-18	0.0128	0				
Resnet-34	0.0023	0.0131	0			
Resnet-50	0.0063	0.0106	0.0014	0		
Resnet-101	0.0046	0.0095	0.0035	0.0011	0	
ViT	0.0087	0.0104	0.0063	0.0049	0.0061	0

We can observe from the table that the EMD is very close for most of the models (except Resnet-18 which has the lowest ASR in white-box attack). So exploiting the Grad-CAM features can be used for black-box attacks. Also, we can observe that Resnet-101 and Resnet-34 have minimum distances (if we take an average of all the distances from these models).

6 Implementation Method: Black-Box Attack

In the implementation of the black-box attack, we have adopted a methodology akin to our approach in the white-box attack. Our assumption is rooted in the observed similarity scores, suggesting that heatmaps generated for any alternative "classification model" will exhibit resemblances. Based on this similarity in heatmaps, we posit that Reddit's classification model is likely to share common underlying features.

This assumption serves as a foundational premise for our black-box attack strategy. By leveraging the identified features and patterns from our model's heatmaps, we aim to craft adversarial inputs that exploit potential weaknesses or blind spots in Reddit's content moderation system. This approach is guided by the belief that shared characteristics in the heatmap responses can be indicative of vulnerabilities that transcend specific model architectures. It underscores the broader exploration of adversarial techniques and their potential applicability across different classification models.

Algorithm 2 Black-Box attack

1. Train multiple models M1, M2, ... on the dataset D (NSFW + SFW Images)
2. For any image I, generate grad-cam heatmaps G1, G2, ...
3. Take the intersection of these heatmaps $G1 \cap G2 \cap G3$ ...
4. Using the final heatmap, do the same procedure as in White-box attack

$$I' = \underset{I':\|I'-I\|_\infty \leq \epsilon}{\arg\max} \mathcal{L}(M(I'(\mu, \sigma, s)), y)$$

M is Resnet101 (ensemble can be used)

7 Results

7.1 White-Box attack on Bumble

In our analysis, we specifically focused on the content moderation model utilized for in-chat media on the Bumble platform, distinguishing it from the model responsible for profile pictures. Out of the 15 adversarial images specifically designed for testing the in-chat media model, a remarkable outcome emerged — only one image was tagged as NSFW, while the remaining 14 went undetected by the content moderation system.

To provide a comprehensive benchmark for the system's performance, control images were introduced. In this context, the addition of 3 explicitly NSFW images resulted in the expected outcome — all were successfully detected. Furthermore, 3 normal images, devoid of NSFW content, were introduced, serving as a baseline for non-sensitive material.

These findings underscore the nuanced and potentially distinct capabilities of the content moderation models employed by Bumble for different types of media. The selective success of adversarial images compared to the effective detection of explicitly NSFW control images suggests variability in the model's sensitivity and raises pertinent questions regarding its robustness and adaptability to diverse content types. Further exploration and analysis are essential to unveil the intricacies of these content moderation mechanisms.

7.2 Black-Box attack on Reddit

Our attempts to post images on Reddit without NSFW tags yielded noteworthy results. However, due to a high volume of queries in the initial days, our accounts encountered frequent bans—attributed to either perceived spamming or the inadvertent posting of NSFW images. Unfortunately, these account restrictions hindered our ability to conduct an extensive amount of testing.

Despite the challenges, our evaluation of the content moderation system involved the preparation of 10 images, each infused with varying levels of induced noise. In this testing phase, only 2 out of the 10 images successfully passed through the content moderation filter without being flagged as NSFW. These outcomes highlight the intricacies and potential limitations of the moderation system, warranting further investigation into its robustness and adaptability in handling diverse content and noise levels.

8 Future Work

- We wish to continue working on the problem statement and perform attacks on standard datasets like MNIST, CIFAR etc to publish baseline evaluations.
- In the context of our research, a potential explanation for suboptimal performance on Reddit may stem from a disparity in approach. While our model is designed for classification tasks, Reddit's system might be geared more towards detection methods. In this black-box scenario, where the inner workings are not entirely transparent, we acknowledge that our understanding is speculative. To address this, a future avenue of exploration involves adapting our approach to align with detection strategies employed by platforms like Reddit. This adjustment aims to enhance compatibility and improve the overall effectiveness of our model in diverse online environments.
- As a potential solution to address the challenges observed in the Reddit context, we propose implementing a strategy involving dataset annotation through weak supervised classification. Specifically, we intend to leverage tools like Nudenet for object detection of NSFW (Not Safe For Work) content. By incorporating this approach, we aim to enhance the model's ability to discern and categorize explicit or sensitive content more effectively. This annotation process will provide the model with additional training data, potentially improving its performance in scenarios where detection methods are prevalent, such as those encountered on platforms like Reddit.

9 Conclusion

In conclusion, our investigation unveiled the vulnerability of Bumble's In-chat content moderation model to white-box attacks, successfully exploiting weaknesses within the system. While the efficacy of our approach in black-box scenarios was not as pronounced, our study illuminated instances of model failure and demonstrated that, with strategic approaches, it could be circumvented. Notably, our contribution extends beyond exposing vulnerabilities; we introduced a novel attack leveraging Grad-CAM, enriching the landscape of adversarial techniques.

These findings underscore the critical imperative for platforms, like Bumble, to fortify their content moderation models against adversarial exploits. The identified vulnerabilities and instances of evasion emphasize the ongoing challenges in establishing robust and resilient moderation mechanisms. Our advocacy for intensified research in adversarial attacks on content moderation models extends to the exploration of novel strategies. By advancing our understanding and developing more sophisticated defenses, platforms can bolster their ability to filter out undesirable content, shielding users from potentially harmful material. Our novel GradCAM-based attack introduces a new dimension to the evolving field of adversarial methods, contributing to the collective knowledge aimed at enhancing the security and reliability of content moderation systems.

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