e-ISSN:2582-7219

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH IN SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

Volume 7, Issue 5, May 2024

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD SERIAL NUMBER INDIA

Impact Factor: 7.521

International Journal Of Multidisciplinary Research In Science, Engineering and Technology (IJMRSET)

| ISSN: 2582-7219 | www.ijmrset.com | Impact Factor: 7.521| Monthly Peer Reviewed & Referred Journal |

| Volume 7, Issue 5, May 2024 |

| DOI:10.15680/IJMRSET.2024.0705011 |

Comment Toxicity Detection using CNN

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ABSTRACT: In the era of digital advancement, online platforms have emerged as central spaces for user-generated content, encompassing discussions across diverse fields. Nevertheless, the surge in harmful dialogue poses notable obstacles to the well-being of virtual communities. This research introduces an innovative strategy to tackle this challenge, centering on the application of advanced machine learning methods for identifying toxic comments. By preprocessing textual information and harnessing comment structures, our algorithm categorizes comments into toxic and non-toxic segments. Furthermore, employing interpretability techniques offers insights into the decision-making process of our model, enhancing its transparency. This investigation contributes to the enhancement of comment moderation practices and the cultivation of more positive online exchanges. It underscores the importance of utilizing state-of-the-art methodologies to counteract the detrimental impacts of toxic dialogue and foster safer digital environments.

KEYWORDS: Digital discourse, online platforms, Toxic discourse, Comment toxicity detection, Deep learning technique, online community well-being.

I. INTRODUCTION

In today's digital era, the expansive growth of online platforms has transformed communication dynamics, facilitating global user engagement in varied discussions and seamless idea exchange. Nonetheless, this democratization of conversation has unveiled a prevalent concern: the proliferation of harmful remarks jeopardizing the inclusivity and well-being of virtual communities. The escalating volume of user-generated content spanning diverse domains, ranging from social networking sites to online news platforms, has underscored the pressing necessity for efficacious moderation tactics to counteract toxic dialogue. Addressing this exigency, our study concentrates on pioneering a novel methodology for identifying comment toxicity, employing deep learning technique leveraging Convolution Neural Network (CNN), we strive to construct a resilient model adept at precisely categorizing comments as either toxic or non-toxic. Our approach entails meticulous preprocessing of textual information, embedding representations, and capitalizing on comment hierarchy to capture subtle linguistic nuances. Through extensive experimentation across varied datasets, we validate the effectiveness of our proposed model in mitigating the detrimental impacts of toxic discourse. Furthermore, we delve into interpretability techniques to augment transparency and instill confidence in the decision-making process of the model. By pushing the boundaries of comment moderation capabilities, our study contributes to nurturing healthier online exchanges and fostering an all-encompassing digital environment.

A. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT OF THE RESEARCH

In recent times, the rapid expansion of online social circles and platforms has enabled unparalleled levels of engagement and knowledge dissemination. Nevertheless, this upsurge in virtual discussions has also brought to light the proliferation of harmful remarks, encompassing hate speech, harassment, and misinformation. The anonymity and accessibility facilitated by online platforms have compounded this challenge, raising concerns about its detrimental effects on users' mental well-being and the overall health of virtual communities. Current content moderation strategies often hinge on manual intervention or simplistic keyword-based filters, proving inadequate in tackling the intricate and context-sensitive nature of toxic comments. Consequently, there's a mounting call for automated systems capable of precisely identifying and curtailing toxic discourse in real-time. Deep learning methodologies, including CNNs have demonstrated efficacy in diverse natural language processing endeavors. By harnessing the potential of deep learning, our study aims to formulate a resilient and scalable solution for detecting comment toxicity, thereby nurturing safer and more equitable online arenas.

B. PROBLEM STATEMENT AND SIGNIFICANCE

The rise of harmful remarks presents a notable hurdle to the inclusiveness and welfare of virtual communities, urging the implementation of adept moderation tactics. Conventional approaches to identifying toxic dialogue are frequently manual, tedious, and susceptible to partiality. Automated remedies relying on basic keyword screening fail to grasp the intricate subtleties of toxic comments accurately. Hence, there exists a pressing demand for sophisticated machine

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learning methodologies, including deep learning architectures incorporating CNNs, to offer effective and adaptable resolutions for pinpointing comment toxicity. Tackling this obstacle holds paramount importance in nurturing more positive online exchanges and fostering the establishment of secure and more beneficial digital realms.

C. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

The main goal of this study is to create a resilient deep learning model for detecting comment toxicity, utilizing CNNs. Our aim is to attain precision in distinguishing comments as toxic or non-toxic, thereby enabling efficient management of online conversations. This research entails thorough experimentation on varied datasets to assess the model's efficacy and investigate interpretability methods. Furthermore, we endeavor to enhance the current standards in comment moderation, thereby nurturing digital environments that are safer and more accommodating.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Machine learning algorithms are effective in classifying online toxic comments. However, traditional methods like logistic regression, SVM classifier, naive Bayes, and decision tree have lower accuracy compared to deep learning algorithms. Deep learning models such as CNNs and RNNs outperform traditional algorithms in toxic comment classification. This highlights the potential of deep learning techniques to enhance online comment moderation for safer digital environments.[4]

The efficacy of supervised machine learning models in detecting toxic comments within region specific social media is done by identifying the most effective models for this task by analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches. While one method involves using a single machine learning algorithm like CNN, it necessitates merging datasets from various classes, posing challenges and potentially resulting in lower performance. To mitigate this, a multi-stage approach is proposed for employing two separate models trained on distinct comment classes to enhance detection accuracy and overcome limitations of single-model approaches[1].

The utilization of deep learning algorithms for categorizing social media comments can be explored. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) as effective in classifying comments into distinct categories such as toxic, severe toxic, obscene, insult, hate speech, and threat. However, a notable concern arose regarding the dataset used for training, which exhibited a bias towards toxic comments. This bias potentially impacts the accuracy of classifying other comment types, highlighting a significant drawback in the study's approach.[3]

III. METHODOLOGY

Dataset Description:

The dataset employed in this investigation, consisting of about 150,000 entries and 6 features, was obtained from Kaggle, a well-known platform acknowledged for hosting data science contests and datasets. It encompasses comments generated by users sourced from an array of online platforms spanning different sectors like social media, news portals, and discussion forums. Human moderators have meticulously annotated the dataset to categorize comments into six groups: toxic, severely toxic, obscene, identity-based hate, threat, and insult. This meticulous annotation enables thorough examination and assessment in tasks related to detecting comment toxicity.

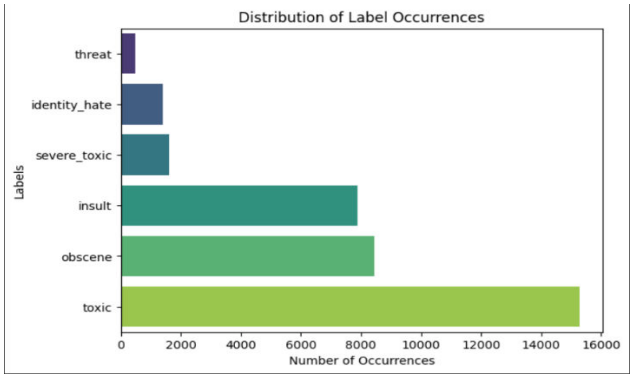

Fig 3.1.1 Distribution of Label Occurrences

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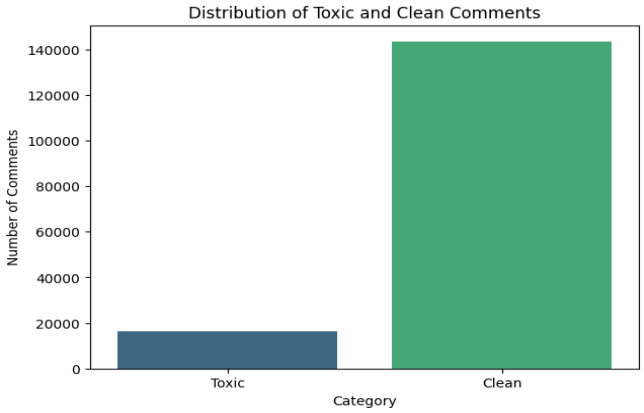

Fig 3.1.2 Distribution of Toxic and Clean Comments

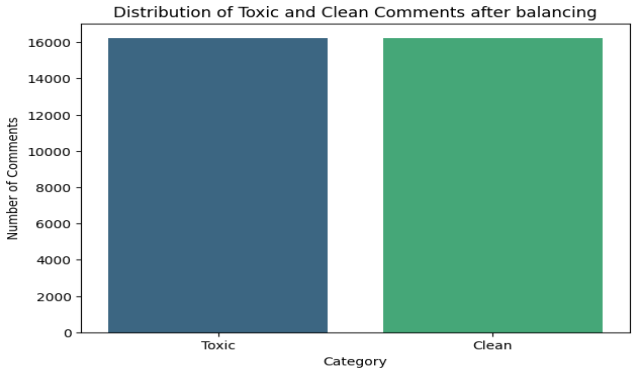

Fig 3.1.3 Distribution of Toxic and Clean Comments after balancing

Preprocessing:

Cleansing and standardizing the textual data was one of the most important steps before model training. This involved tokenization, removing special characters and punctuation, lowercasing, and lemmatization. Additionally, we applied techniques such as stop-word removal and removal of urls to enhance the quality of the input data.

- Tokenization : When a text is tokenized, it is broken down into smaller units called tokens, which can be words, phrases, or individual characters. This facilitates more efficient analysis and understanding of the text.
- Stopword Removal : Removal of stopwords refers to the elimination of common words that carry little to no semantic meaning, such as articles, conjunctions, and prepositions.
- Lemmatization : This process helps normalize variations of words and reduces the dimensionality of the feature space, making it easier for the model to identify patterns and similarities among words.
- Lowercase Conversion : Lowercase conversion involves converting all letters in the text to lowercase. This standardization ensures consistency in word representation and prevents the model from treating words with different cases as distinct entities.
- Removal of URL's and numbers : Removal of URLs and numbers entails eliminating hyperlinks and numeric characters from the text. URLs and numbers typically do not contribute to the semantics of the text and can be safely removed to streamline the preprocessing pipeline.

Convolutional Neural Network (CNN):

CNN is a deep learning architecture widely used in image recognition and natural language processing tasks, including our comment toxicity detection project. It comprises convolutional layers that apply filters to extract features from input data, such as textual embeddings of comments. These filters capture local patterns, enabling the model to identify relevant features important for classification, such as specific word combinations indicative of toxicity.

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Implementation Steps :
1. Preprocess data: Load dataset, perform text preprocessing.
2. Initialize embedding layer with chosen dimensions.
3. Define convolutional layers to extract features.
4. Add pooling layers for down sampling.
5. Include fully connected layers and output layer for classification.

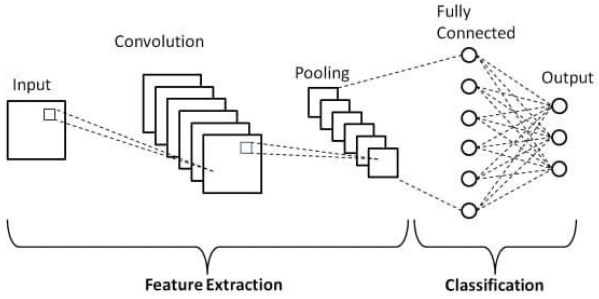

Fig 3.1.4 Convolutional Neural Network

IV. RESULTS

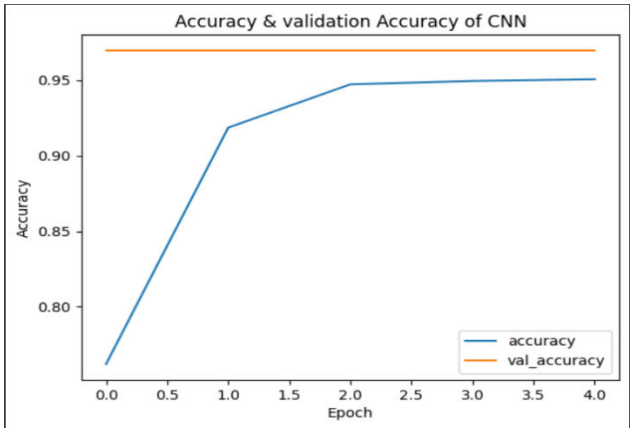

Fig 4.1.1 Accuracy & validation Accuracy of CNN

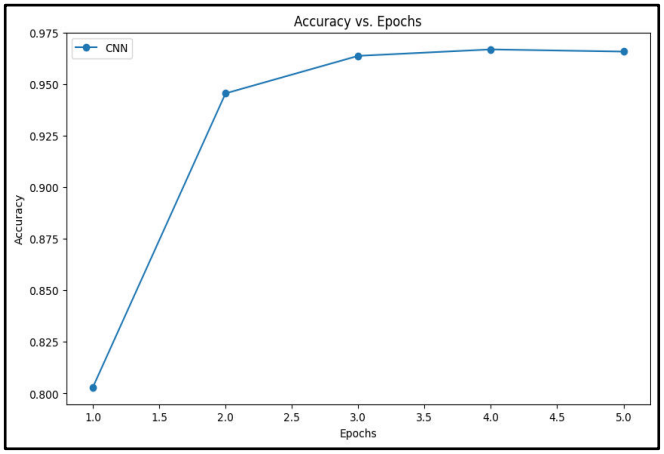

Fig 4.1.2 Accuracy vs Epochs of CNN

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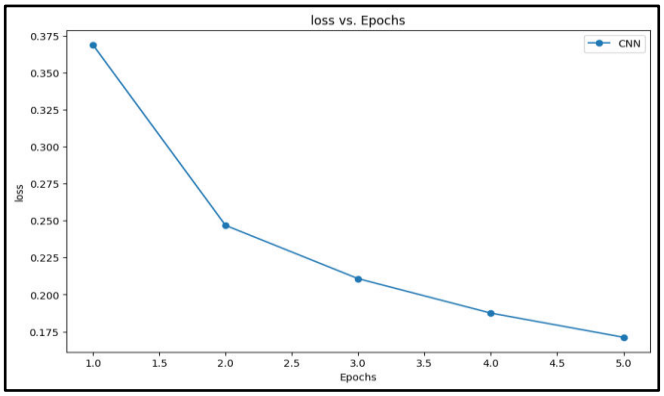

Fig 4.1.3 Loss vs Epochs of CNN

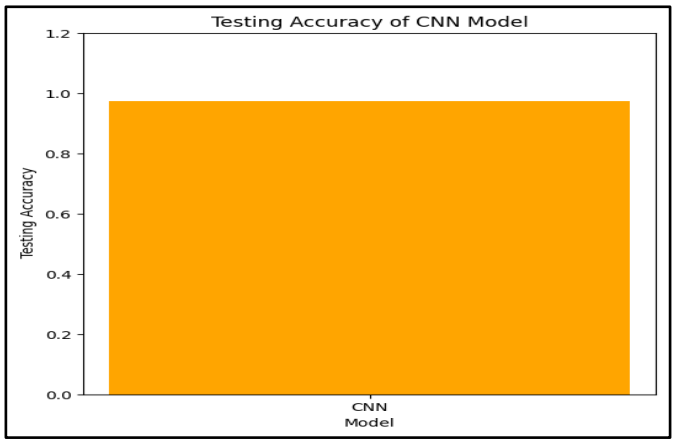

Fig 4.1.4 Testing Accuracy of CNN

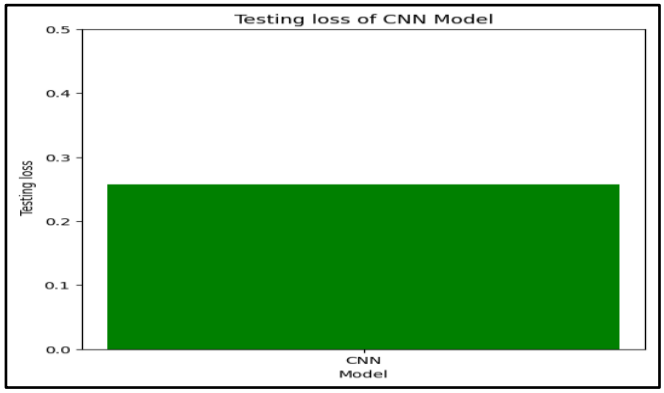

Fig 4.1.4 Testing Loss of CNN

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TABLE I. COMPARISON TABLE OF ACCURACIES

MODELS	TRAINING ACCURACY	VALIDATION ACCURACY	TEST ACCURACY
CNN	95.05	96.96	97.22

V. CONCLUSION

In concluding our study, we have observed significant performance metrics of the CNN model in detecting comment toxicity. With a training accuracy of 95.05%, validation accuracy of 96.96%, and testing accuracy of 97.22%, the CNN model demonstrates remarkable proficiency in accurately categorizing comments. These results underscore the efficacy and reliability of the CNN architecture in addressing the challenges of toxic discourse online. Moving forward, optimization of CNN-based approaches hold promise for enhancing comment moderation strategies and fostering healthier digital environments.

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