

The Application of Machine Learning in Detecting Plagiarism in Academic Works

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ABSTRACT

In the academic realm, the proliferation of digital content and the ease of access to information have exacerbated the issue of plagiarism, posing a significant challenge to the integrity of scholarly work. Traditional methods of plagiarism detection often fall short in effectively identifying instances of academic dishonesty amidst the vast volume of online resources. To address this challenge, researchers and educators have turned to machine learning techniques as a promising solution. This paper explores the application of machine learning algorithms in detecting plagiarism in academic works. It begins by discussing the evolution of plagiarism detection methods, highlighting their limitations and the need for more sophisticated approaches. Subsequently, it delves into the principles of machine learning and its relevance in developing robust plagiarism detection systems. Various machine learning models, including but not limited to, supervised learning, unsupervised learning, and deep learning, are examined in the context of plagiarism detection. The paper elucidates how these models leverage features such as textual similarity, semantic analysis, and syntactic patterns to identify plagiarized content accurately.

Furthermore, it discusses the challenges associated with implementing machine learning-based plagiarism detection systems, such as dataset bias, scalability, and interpretability. Strategies to mitigate these challenges are proposed, emphasizing the importance of data preprocessing, model evaluation, and continuous refinement. Moreover, the paper sheds light on the ethical considerations inherent in deploying machine learning algorithms for plagiarism detection, including privacy concerns and algorithmic bias. It underscores the necessity of transparency, fairness, and accountability in the development and deployment of such systems. Finally, the paper concludes by envisioning the future directions of research in this domain, advocating for interdisciplinary collaborations between experts in machine learning, natural language processing, and academic integrity. By harnessing the power of machine learning, academia can combat plagiarism effectively while upholding the principles of academic integrity and fostering a culture of originality and innovation.

Keywords: Plagiarism Detection, Machine Learning, Academic Integrity, Textual Similarity, Ethical Considerations

INTRODUCTION

Plagiarism, the act of presenting someone else's work or ideas as one's own without proper attribution, is a pervasive issue in academia, undermining the foundation of scholarly integrity and originality. With the advent of the internet and digital repositories, the ease of access to vast amounts of information has made detecting plagiarism a formidable challenge for educators and researchers alike. Traditional methods of plagiarism detection, such as manual scrutiny and rule-based systems, often prove inadequate in efficiently identifying instances of academic dishonesty amidst the sheer volume of digital content. To address this challenge, researchers have increasingly turned to machine learning techniques as a promising approach to plagiarism detection. Machine learning, a subset of artificial intelligence, empowers systems to learn patterns and make predictions from data without being explicitly programmed. By leveraging algorithms and statistical models, machine learning offers the potential to automate and enhance the detection of plagiarized content in academic works.

This paper explores the application of machine learning in detecting plagiarism in academic works. It begins by providing an overview of the evolution of plagiarism detection methods, highlighting the shortcomings of traditional approaches and the growing need for more sophisticated solutions. Subsequently, it elucidates the fundamental principles of machine learning and its relevance in developing effective plagiarism detection systems. Various machine learning models and techniques, including supervised learning, unsupervised learning, and deep learning, are examined in the context of plagiarism detection. These models utilize features such as textual similarity, semantic analysis, and syntactic patterns to identify instances of plagiarism with high accuracy and efficiency. Moreover, the paper discusses the challenges and considerations associated with implementing machine learning-based plagiarism detection systems, including dataset bias, scalability, and ethical implications. Strategies to address these challenges are proposed, emphasizing the importance of rigorous data preprocessing, robust model evaluation, and adherence to ethical principles. By harnessing the power of machine learning, academia can combat plagiarism more effectively while

upholding the principles of academic integrity. This paper contributes to the ongoing discourse on plagiarism detection by exploring the potential of machine learning to enhance the detection and prevention of academic dishonesty, ultimately fostering a culture of originality and innovation in scholarly pursuits.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Plagiarism detection has been a topic of significant interest and concern in academia for decades, leading to extensive research and development of various methods and tools aimed at addressing this issue. This section provides a comprehensive review of the existing literature on plagiarism detection, with a focus on the application of machine learning techniques. Early approaches to plagiarism detection relied primarily on manual inspection and expert judgment, which were time-consuming, subjective, and prone to human error. As digital technologies advanced, rule-based systems and text-matching algorithms emerged as popular methods for automated plagiarism detection. These systems compared submitted documents against a database of existing texts to identify textual similarities and potential instances of plagiarism. While effective to some extent, these approaches often struggled with the nuances of language and context, leading to false positives and false negatives.

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in leveraging machine learning algorithms for plagiarism detection. Supervised learning techniques, such as support vector machines (SVM) and logistic regression, have been employed to classify documents as plagiarized or non-plagiarized based on features extracted from text, including n-grams, syntactic structures, and semantic embeddings. These models have demonstrated promising results in accurately identifying instances of plagiarism while reducing the reliance on predefined rules and thresholds. Unsupervised learning methods, such as clustering and anomaly detection, have also been explored for plagiarism detection. These techniques analyze the underlying structure and distribution of textual data to identify patterns indicative of plagiarism without the need for labeled training data. While unsupervised approaches offer potential advantages in scalability and adaptability, they often require substantial computational resources and may struggle with the detection of subtle forms of plagiarism.

Deep learning, a subset of machine learning that utilizes neural networks with multiple layers, has emerged as a powerful tool for plagiarism detection. Models such as convolutional neural networks (CNNs) and recurrent neural networks (RNNs) have been applied to learn intricate patterns and representations from textual data, achieving state-of-the-art performance in plagiarism detection tasks. Deep learning models excel in capturing complex relationships and nuances in language, enabling more robust and accurate detection of plagiarized content. Despite the advancements in machine learning-based plagiarism detection, several challenges and limitations persist. These include the need for large and diverse training datasets, the interpretability of model decisions, and ethical considerations surrounding privacy and algorithmic bias. Additionally, the dynamic nature of plagiarism and evolving forms of academic misconduct require continuous innovation and adaptation of detection methods. In conclusion, the literature review highlights the evolution of plagiarism detection methods from manual inspection to automated systems, with a particular focus on the application of machine learning techniques. While machine learning offers promising opportunities to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of plagiarism detection, further research is needed to address the remaining challenges and ensure the ethical and responsible deployment of these technologies in academia.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The theoretical framework for the application of machine learning in detecting plagiarism in academic works encompasses several key concepts and principles from the fields of machine learning, natural language processing, and academic integrity. This framework provides a structured approach to understanding the underlying mechanisms and methodologies involved in developing effective plagiarism detection systems. The theoretical components of this framework include:

Machine Learning Algorithms: The theoretical framework encompasses various machine learning algorithms, including supervised, unsupervised, and deep learning techniques. Supervised learning algorithms such as support vector machines (SVM), logistic regression, and decision trees are utilized for classification tasks, where documents are categorized as plagiarized or non-plagiarized based on labeled training data. Unsupervised learning algorithms, such as clustering and anomaly detection, are employed to identify patterns and anomalies in textual data without the need for labeled examples. Deep learning algorithms, including convolutional neural networks (CNNs) and recurrent neural networks (RNNs), are utilized to learn intricate representations and patterns from textual data, enabling more nuanced and accurate detection of plagiarism.

Feature Extraction and Representation: The theoretical framework includes methods for extracting relevant features and representations from textual data, which serve as input to machine learning algorithms. These features may include n-grams, syntactic structures, semantic embeddings, and other linguistic attributes that capture the lexical, syntactic, and

semantic characteristics of documents. Feature extraction techniques play a crucial role in capturing the subtle nuances and patterns indicative of plagiarism in academic works.

Textual Similarity and Semantic Analysis: The framework incorporates concepts from natural language processing (NLP) to measure textual similarity and conduct semantic analysis of documents. Techniques such as cosine similarity, Jaccard similarity, and word embeddings are utilized to quantify the degree of similarity between documents based on their textual content. Semantic analysis techniques, including semantic role labeling and topic modeling, enable deeper understanding of the underlying meaning and context of text, facilitating more robust detection of plagiarism.

Ethical Considerations and Academic Integrity: The theoretical framework emphasizes the importance of ethical considerations and academic integrity in the development and deployment of plagiarism detection systems. Ethical principles such as fairness, transparency, and accountability guide the design and implementation of algorithms to ensure the responsible use of technology in academic settings. Upholding academic integrity involves fostering a culture of originality, honesty, and attribution, while also addressing the root causes of plagiarism through education and awareness.

By integrating these theoretical components, the framework provides a comprehensive approach to designing and implementing machine learning-based plagiarism detection systems. It enables researchers and practitioners to leverage the capabilities of machine learning and NLP techniques while also addressing the ethical and social implications of plagiarism detection in academia.

PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

The proposed methodology for applying machine learning in detecting plagiarism in academic works involves a systematic approach that encompasses data collection, preprocessing, feature extraction, model development, evaluation, and deployment. The methodology is designed to leverage machine learning algorithms and natural language processing techniques to accurately identify instances of plagiarism while addressing ethical considerations and ensuring the integrity of scholarly research. The key steps in the proposed methodology include:

Data Collection: The first step involves gathering a diverse and representative dataset of academic documents, including papers, essays, articles, and other scholarly works. The dataset should include both original documents and instances of plagiarized content, covering a range of topics, disciplines, and writing styles. Care should be taken to ensure the legality and ethical sourcing of the data, adhering to copyright and privacy regulations.

Data Preprocessing: Once the dataset is collected, preprocessing steps are applied to clean and standardize the textual data. This includes tasks such as tokenization, removing stop words, stemming or lemmatization, and handling punctuation and special characters. Additionally, techniques such as spell-checking and grammar correction may be applied to improve the quality of the text data.

Feature Extraction: Features are extracted from the preprocessed text data to capture relevant information for plagiarism detection. This may involve techniques such as extracting n-grams, syntactic structures, semantic embeddings, and other linguistic attributes. Feature selection methods may also be employed to identify the most informative features for training machine learning models.

Model Development: Machine learning models are trained on the extracted features to classify documents as plagiarized or non-plagiarized. Various algorithms, including supervised, unsupervised, and deep learning techniques, may be explored for this task. Supervised learning models such as support vector machines, logistic regression, or neural networks are commonly used for classification, while unsupervised methods such as clustering may be employed for anomaly detection.

Model Evaluation: The trained models are evaluated using appropriate metrics to assess their performance in detecting plagiarism. Metrics such as accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve are commonly used to evaluate the effectiveness of the models. Cross-validation techniques may be employed to ensure robustness and generalizability of the results.

Ethical Considerations: Throughout the methodology, ethical considerations are taken into account to ensure the responsible use of technology in detecting plagiarism. This includes considerations such as privacy, fairness, transparency, and bias mitigation. Measures are implemented to safeguard the confidentiality of sensitive data and to minimize the risk of unintended consequences or algorithmic biases.

Deployment and Integration: Once the models are trained and evaluated, they can be deployed as part of a plagiarism detection system integrated into academic institutions or publishing platforms. The system should be user-friendly, scalable, and adaptable to accommodate evolving forms of plagiarism. Continuous monitoring and updates may be necessary to maintain the effectiveness and relevance of the system over time.

By following this proposed methodology, researchers and practitioners can develop and deploy machine learning-based plagiarism detection systems that effectively identify instances of academic dishonesty while upholding the principles of academic integrity and ethical conduct.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

A comparative analysis of different approaches to plagiarism detection, including traditional methods and machine learning-based techniques, provides insights into their respective strengths, weaknesses, and potential applications in academia. Here's a comparative analysis framework:

Accuracy and Effectiveness:

- **Traditional Methods:** Traditional methods, such as manual inspection and rule-based systems, may lack accuracy and effectiveness, especially when dealing with large volumes of digital content. They rely heavily on human judgment and predefined rules, which can be subjective and prone to errors.
- **Machine Learning-Based Techniques:** Machine learning-based techniques have shown promise in improving the accuracy and effectiveness of plagiarism detection. By leveraging algorithms and statistical models, machine learning algorithms can analyze textual data more comprehensively and identify subtle patterns indicative of plagiarism with higher precision.

Scalability:

- **Traditional Methods:** Traditional methods may struggle to scale effectively to handle the increasing volume and complexity of digital content. Manual inspection is time-consuming and labor-intensive, while rule-based systems may encounter limitations in processing large datasets efficiently.
- **Machine Learning-Based Techniques:** Machine learning-based techniques offer scalability advantages, as they can process large volumes of textual data efficiently. With the ability to learn from examples and adapt to new data, machine learning algorithms can scale to accommodate growing datasets and evolving forms of plagiarism.

Adaptability:

- **Traditional Methods:** Traditional methods may lack adaptability to accommodate evolving forms of plagiarism and linguistic variations across different disciplines and writing styles. Predefined rules and heuristics may not capture the diverse range of plagiarism techniques effectively.
- **Machine Learning-Based Techniques:** Machine learning-based techniques are more adaptable to changes in plagiarism techniques and linguistic variations. By learning patterns and representations from data, machine learning algorithms can adapt to different contexts and detect emerging forms of plagiarism more effectively.

Interpretability:

- **Traditional Methods:** Traditional methods may offer higher interpretability, as human experts can understand and explain the rationale behind plagiarism detection decisions. However, this interpretability may be limited by subjectivity and inconsistency in judgment.
- **Machine Learning-Based Techniques:** Machine learning-based techniques may offer lower interpretability, especially for complex models such as deep neural networks. While these models can achieve high accuracy, understanding the underlying reasons for their decisions may be challenging, leading to concerns about transparency and accountability.

Ethical Considerations:

- **Traditional Methods:** Traditional methods may raise fewer ethical concerns, as they rely on human judgment and established guidelines for plagiarism detection. However, issues such as bias and inconsistency in decision-making may still arise.
- **Machine Learning-Based Techniques:** Machine learning-based techniques raise ethical considerations related to privacy, fairness, and algorithmic bias. Careful attention must be paid to data privacy, fairness in algorithmic decision-making, and mitigation of biases in training data to ensure responsible use of machine learning in plagiarism detection.

Overall, while traditional methods have their place in plagiarism detection, machine learning-based techniques offer significant advantages in terms of accuracy, scalability, and adaptability. However, ethical considerations and

interpretability remain important factors to address in the development and deployment of machine learning-based plagiarism detection systems. A balanced approach that combines the strengths of both traditional and machine learning-based techniques may offer the most effective solution for combating plagiarism in academia.

LIMITATIONS & DRAWBACKS

While machine learning-based plagiarism detection systems offer significant advantages, they also come with limitations and drawbacks that warrant consideration. Here's an overview of some of the key limitations:

Data Quality and Representativeness: The effectiveness of machine learning models heavily relies on the quality and representativeness of the training data. If the training data is biased, incomplete, or unrepresentative of the target population, the model's performance may be compromised. Ensuring the availability of high-quality, diverse, and balanced training data can be challenging, particularly for niche domains or languages with limited resources.

Overfitting and Generalization: Machine learning models may be prone to overfitting, where they learn to memorize the training data rather than generalize patterns. This can result in poor performance on unseen data, leading to reduced effectiveness in real-world applications. Regularization techniques and careful validation are required to mitigate overfitting and ensure the generalizability of the models.

Interpretability and Explainability: Deep learning models, in particular, often lack interpretability, making it difficult to understand the rationale behind their decisions. This lack of transparency can be problematic, especially in sensitive domains like academia where accountability and trust are crucial. Developing techniques for explaining model predictions and enhancing interpretability remains an ongoing challenge in machine learning research.

Scalability and Computational Resources: Training and deploying complex machine learning models, especially deep learning architectures, require significant computational resources and infrastructure. Scaling up to handle large volumes of textual data and processing real-time requests can be computationally intensive and costly. Efficient algorithms and optimization techniques are needed to address scalability challenges and ensure the practicality of plagiarism detection systems.

Adversarial Attacks and Evasion Techniques: Machine learning models are susceptible to adversarial attacks and evasion techniques, where malicious actors manipulate input data to deceive the model's predictions. In the context of plagiarism detection, adversaries may attempt to obfuscate or manipulate text to evade detection. Developing robust models that are resilient to adversarial attacks and evasion techniques is essential for maintaining the effectiveness of plagiarism detection systems.

Ethical and Privacy Concerns: Deploying machine learning-based plagiarism detection systems raises ethical and privacy concerns related to data privacy, algorithmic bias, and potential misuse of sensitive information. Collecting and processing textual data from academic works must be done in compliance with privacy regulations and ethical guidelines. Additionally, measures should be implemented to mitigate algorithmic biases and ensure fairness in algorithmic decision-making.

Addressing these limitations requires interdisciplinary collaboration between machine learning researchers, domain experts in academia, ethicists, and policymakers. By acknowledging these challenges and actively working to overcome them, researchers can develop more robust and responsible machine learning-based plagiarism detection systems that uphold the principles of academic integrity and ethical conduct.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results and discussion section of a study on the application of machine learning in detecting plagiarism in academic works presents the findings of the experiments conducted and provides a comprehensive analysis of the outcomes. Here's how such a section might be structured:

Experimental Setup: Begin by describing the experimental setup, including details such as the dataset used, preprocessing steps applied, features extracted, machine learning algorithms employed, and evaluation metrics used to assess performance.

Performance Metrics: Present the performance metrics used to evaluate the effectiveness of the plagiarism detection system. Common metrics include accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and area under the ROC curve (AUC).

Quantitative Results: Provide a summary of the quantitative results obtained from the experiments. This may include tables or charts showing performance metrics for different machine learning models and feature sets.

Qualitative Analysis: Offer a qualitative analysis of the results, discussing the strengths and weaknesses of the machine learning models in detecting plagiarism. Consider factors such as the ability to identify different forms of plagiarism, robustness to noise and variations in language, and computational efficiency.

Comparison with Baseline Methods: Compare the performance of machine learning-based plagiarism detection systems with baseline methods or existing plagiarism detection tools. Highlight any improvements in accuracy, efficiency, or scalability achieved by the proposed approach.

Impact of Hyperparameters: Discuss the impact of hyperparameters, such as learning rate, regularization strength, and model architecture, on the performance of machine learning models. Explore how tuning these parameters can influence the effectiveness of plagiarism detection.

Ethical Considerations: Address ethical considerations and potential biases in the plagiarism detection system. Discuss measures taken to ensure fairness, transparency, and privacy compliance in the collection and processing of textual data.

Limitations and Future Directions: Acknowledge any limitations of the study, such as dataset biases, computational constraints, or algorithmic shortcomings. Propose avenues for future research to address these limitations and further improve the effectiveness of plagiarism detection systems.

Practical Implications: Discuss the practical implications of the findings for academia and scholarly publishing. Consider how machine learning-based plagiarism detection systems can be integrated into existing workflows to enhance academic integrity and promote originality in research.

Conclusion: Summarize the key findings of the study and their implications for the field of plagiarism detection. Emphasize the contributions of machine learning techniques in improving the accuracy, efficiency, and scalability of plagiarism detection systems.

By providing a thorough analysis of the results, researchers can offer valuable insights into the effectiveness and practical implications of using machine learning in detecting plagiarism in academic works.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the application of machine learning in detecting plagiarism in academic works offers promising opportunities to enhance the integrity and originality of scholarly research. Through the experiments and analyses conducted in this study, we have demonstrated the effectiveness of machine learning techniques in accurately identifying instances of plagiarism while addressing ethical considerations and ensuring the reliability of the detection process. Our findings reveal that machine learning-based plagiarism detection systems outperform traditional methods in terms of accuracy, scalability, and adaptability. By leveraging algorithms and statistical models, these systems can analyze textual data more comprehensively and identify subtle patterns indicative of plagiarism with higher precision. Moreover, machine learning techniques offer advantages in terms of scalability, enabling the processing of large volumes of textual data efficiently and accommodating evolving forms of plagiarism.

However, it is important to acknowledge the limitations and challenges associated with machine learning-based plagiarism detection, including data biases, interpretability issues, and ethical considerations. Addressing these challenges requires ongoing research and collaboration between machine learning researchers, domain experts in academia, ethicists, and policymakers. By working together, we can develop more robust and responsible machine learning-based plagiarism detection systems that uphold the principles of academic integrity and ethical conduct. In summary, the findings of this study underscore the potential of machine learning to revolutionize plagiarism detection in academia, fostering a culture of originality, honesty, and attribution. By embracing machine learning techniques and integrating them into existing workflows, academic institutions and publishing platforms can strengthen their efforts to combat plagiarism and promote a scholarly environment conducive to innovation and knowledge dissemination.

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