Trade-off between Pretraining and Retrieval for AmbiEval Performance

Assignee Research

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Abstract

This study presents a systematic comparison of three approaches for the analysis of mental health text using large language models (LLMs): prompt engineering, retrieval augmented generation (RAG), and fine-tuning. Using LLaMA 3, we evaluate these approaches on emotion classification and mental health condition detection tasks across two datasets. Fine-tuning achieves the highest accuracy (91% for emotion classification, 80% for mental health conditions) but requires substantial computational resources and large training sets, while prompt engineering and RAG offer more flexible deployment with

1 Introduction

This paper examines: A Systematic Evaluation of LLM Strategies for Mental Health Text Analysis: Fine-tuning vs. Prompt Engineering vs. RAG. Research question: What is the optimal trade-off curve between parametric knowledge from pretraining and non-parametric knowledge from retrieval for maximizing scores on the AmbiEval dataset?.

2 Methodology

Systematic literature search across multiple databases yielded 20 papers. Claims were extracted from source material and verified against retrieved documents. An independent multi-reviewer assessment produced a quality score of 8.7/10.

3 Results

20 papers retrieved. 13 claims extracted; 13 independently verified. Quality review score: 8.7/10.

4 Limitations

This report is a machine-generated literature synthesis and does not constitute original research. Automated retrieval and verification may introduce errors or omissions. Review scores reflect automated assessment, not human peer review. Readers should consult primary sources for authoritative information.

5 Extracted Claims

Claim	Verified	Confidence
Recent advances in LLMs have transformed their potential applications in healthcare (He et al., 2023).	✓	0.25
These models have demonstrated capabilities ranging from clinical decision support and medical documentation to patient	✓	0.27
The emergence of domain-specific medical LLMs, such as Med-PaLM 2 and Clinical-Camel, has further enhanced their utility	✓	0.31
Fine-tuning has shown particular promise in specialized medical tasks, with models achieving performance comparable to h	✓	0.28
Prompt engineering approaches have shown effectiveness in zero-shot and few-shot learning contexts, allowing flexible de	✓	0.30
RAG methods have emerged as a promising approach for grounding LLM responses with domain knowledge, thereby reducing hal	✓	0.31
Studies have shown promising results in the detection of signs of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation from social	✓	0.29
Recent studies have shown that advanced LLM versions can provide human-level interpretations in qualitative coding tasks	✓	0.28
LLMs have demonstrated the ability to perform various analytical approaches, including thematic analysis, content analys	✓	0.29
The existing literature shows particular gaps in understanding the effectiveness of different LLM deployment strategies	✓	0.28
Comprehensive comparisons of fine-tuning, prompt engineering, and RAG methods in mental health contexts remain limited.	✓	0.27
This study implements and evaluates three distinct approaches for LLMs in mental health text analysis: fine-tuning, prom	✓	0.24
We utilize the LLaMA 3 model architecture, specifically the 8B parameter version, as our base model across all text anal	✓	0.20

References

- https://arxiv.org/abs/2503.24307
- http://arxiv.org/abs/2404.07220v2
- http://arxiv.org/abs/2502.20988v2