H20al H2O Open Ecosystem for State-of-the-art Large Language Models

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Abstract

Large Language Models (LLMs) represent a revolution in AI. However, they also pose many significant risks, such as the presence of biased, private, copyrighted or harmful text. For this reason we need open, transparent and safe solutions. We introduce a complete open-source ecosystem for developing and testing LLMs. The goal of this project is to boost open alternatives to closed-source approaches. We release h2oGPT, a family of fine-tuned LLMs from 7 to 70 Billion parameters. We also introduce H2O LLM Studio, a framework and no-code GUI designed for efficient fine-tuning, evaluation, and deployment of LLMs using the most recent state-of-the-art techniques. Our code and models are licensed under fully permissive Apache 2.0 licenses. We believe open-source language models help to boost AI development and make it more accessible and trustworthy.

1 Introduction

Since the Transformer (Vaswani et al., 2017) was introduced in the Natural Language Processing (NLP) community, the advances in this field have increased exponentially (Wolf et al., 2020).

Starting from popular models such as BERT (Devlin et al., 2018a) or Generative Pre-trained Transformers (GPT) (Radford et al., 2018) -both introduced in 2018-, researchers have been pushing the limits of scaling and learned representations in language models (Liu et al., 2019; Radford et al., 2019; Brown et al., 2020; Chowdhery et al., 2022).

Recent advances in Large Language Models (LLMs) are all over the news; these models represent a revolution in Artificial Intelligence (AI) due to their real-world applications through natural language processing (NLP), from internet chatbots to virtual assistants and programmers. However, these also pose significant risks and challenges. The most popular models (*e.g.*, chatGPT (OpenAI, 2023)) are proprietary and not truly open-source, either transparent regarding their training data.



Figure 1: Evolution of our project in GitHub. Our tools have been widely adopted by the NLP community. See https://github.com/h2oai/h2ogpt.

This fast advance leads to a wide range of practical challenges that must be addressed in order for these models to be widely utilized and explored. The popularity and demand of LLMs call for systems to train, fine-tune, evaluate, scale, and deploy the models on a variety of platforms. Given the training costs (millions of dollars), practitioners increasingly rely on pre-trained general-purpose LLMs and fine-tune them for specific downstream tasks and datasets. This requires a wide catalogue of open-source pre-trained LLMs, and sophisticated procedures and tools for efficient fine-tuning. Moreover, considering the massive size of these models (usually from 7 to 100 Billion parameters), we also need compression techniques to deploy them successfully on different platforms.

We believe open-source language models help to boost AI development and make it more accessible and trustworthy. They lower entry hurdles, allowing people to tailor these models to their needs. This openness increases innovation, transparency, and fairness. As part of this effort, we **introduce two open-source libraries**: *h2oGPT* and *H2O LLM Studio*, for LLMs development, including Multi LLM deployment and evaluation widely adopted in the NLP community (see Fig. 1). **h2oGPT** (https://github.com/h2oai/h2ogpt) is a library dedicated to supporting open-source LLMs research, and facilitating their integration while ensuring privacy and transparency. Most integrated models are designed for both research and production. The main use-case of this library is to deploy and test efficiently a wide variety of LLMs on private databases and documents. This tool allows users to compare different models on several tasks and datasets concurrently. An example of this application is https://gpt.h2o.ai/.

H2O LLM Studio (https://github.com/ h2oai/h2o-11mstudio) complements the previous library, and allows users to efficiently fine-tune any LLM using the most recent *state-of-the-art* techniques such as LoRA adapters (Hu et al., 2021), reinforcement learning (RLHF), and 4-bit training. After fine-tuning (or training), the models can be easily exported and deployed at the Hugging Face Hub¹. Moreover, the library includes a graphic user interface (GUI) specially designed for large language models.

h2oGPT and *H2O LLM Studio* are an ongoing effort maintained frequently by the team of engineers and researchers at H2O.ai with exciting support from the open-source NLP community and external contributors. Both are released under the Apache 2.0 license ². Tutorials and detailed documentation are available at the corresponding websites and the technical report (Candel et al., 2023).

2 Related Work

Large language models (LLMs) are designed to process and understand vast amounts of natural language data *e.g.*, internet questions, text in documents, financial data, textbook material, etc. As foundation models (Bommasani et al., 2021), these are trained from broad data at scale (Howard and Ruder, 2018), and can be adapted (*ie.* fine-tuned) to a wide range of down-stream tasks (Wang et al., 2018; Lewis et al., 2019).

They are built on the *Transformer* neural network architecture (Vaswani et al., 2017), which allows them to capture complex language patterns and relationships. Derived from the Transformer, we find BERT-like models (Devlin et al., 2018b; Le et al., 2020; Liu et al., 2019) focused on pretraining with bidirectional encoders. We also find the popular Generative Pre-trained Transformers (GPTs) (Radford et al., 2018, 2019; Brown et al., 2020; OpenAI, 2023), focused on generative pre-training. These serve as the engine of chatGPT.

Since 2022, we experience a new revolution in NLP with the rise of LLMs (over billion parameters models). These models usually follow a multistage training strategy, starting with a task-agnostic pre-training on large and diverse datasets. Some related LLMs are LLaMA (Touvron et al., 2023a), GPT-NeoX (Black et al., 2022), BLOOM (Scao et al., 2022), Palm (Chowdhery et al., 2022), OPT (Zhang et al., 2022), and GPT-4 (OpenAI, 2023). We also explore community models such as Falcon (Penedo et al.), Alpaca (Taori et al., 2023), and OpenAssistant (Köpf et al., 2023).

2.1 Why Open-Source LLMs?

While commercially hosted and centralized LLMs like ChatGPT -based on GPT-4 (OpenAI, 2023)-, Microsoft's Bing AI Chat, and Google's Bard are powerful and effective, they have certain risks and limitations compared to open-source LLMs:

- Data Privacy and Security: Many require sending data to external servers. This can raise concerns about data privacy, security, and compliance, especially for sensitive information or industries with strict regulations.
- **Dependency and Customization**: We want to allow users to train LLMs on private data safely, and customize the models to their specific needs and applications. Moreover the users can deploy them on their own infrastructure, and even modify the underlying code.
- **Traceability and Transparency**: To understand the risky behaviours of LLMs (*e.g.*, hallucinations, biases, private information etc.), and ensure their safe and trustworthy use, it is fundamental to analyze the dataset and training strategies used to produce such model.
- **Carbon footprint**: Users tend to adopt our open *state-of-the-art* models, instead of running expensive and complicated experiments (in most cases to replicate results). Therefore, we aim to reduce the overall carbon footprint (*ie.* GPU hours consumption) by providing high-quality models and tools.

Overall, open-source LLMs offer greater flexibility, control, and cost-effectiveness, while addressing data privacy and security concerns.

¹https://huggingface.co/models

²https://www.apache.org/licenses/LICENSE-2.0



Figure 2: **Open LLM Ecosystem**. (left) The user does not need to transfer private data to 3rd parties, and can select any popular LLM *e.g.*, LLaMA, Falcon. (mid) H2O LLM Studio allows to train and fine-tune any language model using *state-of-the-art* techniques and a GUI without coding. (right) The models can be easily evaluated, exported and deployed. More information at https://github.com/h2oai/h2o-llmstudio. Apache 2 License.

3 H2O LLM Studio

An open-source framework for efficient fine-tuning LLMs without coding, using a graphic user interface (GUI) specially designed for large language models ³. This is illustrated in Figures 2 and 4.

We use the most popular **adapters** for fast finetuning such as Low-Rank Adaptation (LoRA) (Hu et al., 2021) and QLoRA (Dettmers et al., 2023), as well as 8-bit (up to 4-bit) model training with a low memory footprint, and the corresponding **quantization**. This allows to fine-tune small LLMs in regular GPUs, even using Google Colab or Kaggle. For example < 10B models (*e.g.*, LlaMa-2 7B) can be fine-tuned in a single NVIDIA-T4 (16GB).

We also integrate *Reinforcement Learning from Human Feedback (RLHF)* (Ouyang et al., 2022; Stiennon et al., 2020). This feature is inspired in TRL ⁴ (von Werra et al., 2020), with the Proximal Policy Optimisation (PPO) by (Ziegler et al., 2019). LLM Studio allows complete **customization** of the experimental setup: dataset, *state-of-the-art* model selection, optimizer, learning rate schedule, tokenizer, sequence length (number of tokens), lowrank adapter, validation set and metrics, etc.

The users can **track** several simultaneous experiments, and easily **export** the logs and results. Moreover, the models can be easily exported to the Hugging Face Hub, to be shared with the community or deploy locally and privately.

The framework supports **any open-source language model**, we here highlight the most popular *state-of-the-art* large models: GPT-NeoX (Black et al., 2022), Falcon (Penedo et al.), LLaMa and Llama 2 (Touvron et al., 2023b), Vicuna (Chiang et al., 2023), WizardLM (Xu et al., 2023; Luo et al., 2023), h2oGPT (Candel et al., 2023), and MPT (MosaicML, 2023). We summarize these models in Table 1. Most models are trained on a large amount of data (over 1T tokens), they can handle extremely long inputs (large context length), and are licensed for commercial use.

³https://github.com/h2oai/h2o-llmstudio

⁴https://github.com/lvwerra/trl

Model	Size (B)
Llama 2 (Touvron et al., 2023b)	7 / 13 / 70
CodeLlama (Touvron et al., 2023b)	34
Falcon (Penedo et al.)	7 / 40 / 180
Mistral AI (Mistral AI, 2023)	7
GPT-NeoX (Black et al., 2022)	20
WizardLM (Xu et al., 2023)	7 / 13 / 70
Vicuna (Chiang et al., 2023)	13
MPT (MosaicML, 2023)	7/30
h2oGPT (Candel et al., 2023)	7 to 70
GPT-3.5 (by OpenAI)	?

Table 1: Most popular pre-trained LLMs for fine-tuning. We report the size in Billions (B) of parameters.

We acknowledge **other existing tools** such as LLMTune (Kuleshov, 2023) and EasyLM (Geng, 2023). However, these do not include as many features as LLM Studio (*e.g.*, GUI, supported models and techniques, etc), their licenses can be less permissive. Our tools are amongst the most adopted LLM-related software in GitHub (considering stars and forks by July 2023) — see Fig. 1.

4 Multi LLM Deployment and Evaluation

Any model produced from LLM Studio can be easily integrated into HuggingFace's space & models. We refer to our own space for more information and access to our models ⁵.

In Fig. 3 (top) we show a snapshot of our demo h2oGPT https://gpt.h2o.ai/. We deploy multiple *state-of-the-art* LLM models including Falcon (7/40B), Llama 2 (7/13/70B), and GPT-3.5. This allows us to compare different models and setups.

The user's prompt is evaluated by the different LLMs **concurrently**. We can see the answer generation progress for each model, at the same time. Using this software we can identify clear differences between LLMs easily, for example fast/low inference, hallucinations, common response patterns, bias, memorized data etc. Also, we can analyze the effect of **prompt engineering** on the different models and expose vulnerabilities. The users can deploy the models on a wide variety of inference servers (HF TGI server, vLLM, Gradio, OpenAI), and evaluate performance using reward models.

Document Analysis *h2oGPT* also allows to query and summarize documents in many formats (*e.g.*, PDFs, Word, Code, Text, MarkDown, etc).

We implement an efficient use of context using instruct-tuned LLMs (no need for LangChain).

Note that this ecosystem can be reproduced locally, to analyze the models in a private and safe manner.We also provide a OpenAI-compliant Python client API for client-server control.

Guides & Material We provide a short **Video tutorial (2 mins)**, and a complete video overview of the ecosystem (16 min, 340K views) on YouTube.

Also a step-by-step tutorial Make Your Own GPT With h2oGPT & H2O LLM Studio (1hr).

We also host all of our models in HF: https: //huggingface.co/h2oai. We refer the reader to our GitHubs for more demos, and documentation.

5 Future Work

Our open-source LLM Ecosystem is in constant development, *h2oGPT* and *LLM Studio* are updated based on the most recent research advances and demands. We plan to integrate new model quantization techniques, distillation and long-context training (context length over 100K tokens).

We also plan to support more multi-lingual models, and multi-modal models.

6 Limitations

Datasets Fine-tuning requires data text pairs of instruction and expected result/answer.

Biases and Offensiveness LLMs are trained on a diverse range of unfiltered internet text data, which may contain biased, racist, offensive, or otherwise inappropriate content. Therefore, the generated content by these models may sometimes exhibit biases or produce content that is offensive or inappropriate. We do not endorse, support, or promote any such content or viewpoints.

Usage The large language model is an AI-based tool and not a human. It may produce incorrect, offensive, nonsensical, or irrelevant responses. It is the user's responsibility to critically evaluate the generated content and use it at their discretion.

Carbon footprint Training LLMs is expensive and their use is associated to tons of CO_2 emissions (Touvron et al., 2023a).

Hallucinations LLMs are probabilistic, therefore, certain "random" behaviour is natural and expected, especially on complex prompts (*e.g.*, logical paradoxes, reasoning problems, etc) and "unknown content" not present in the training corpus.

⁵https://huggingface.co/h2oai



1 **Input prompt**. The users clicks on *submit* and the multiple LLMs will start to interact. You can also *save* the prompt, stop execution, etc.

Ask anything	Submit	Redo
can you complete the following piece of pytorch code?	Stop	Undo
class Transformer(nn.Module):	Save	Clear

2 Multiple LLM evaluation. This visualization-evaluation allows the user to detect clear differences between the models for example, inference speed and clear hallucinations.

h2oGPT [h2oai/h2ogpt-gm-oasst1-en-2048-falcon-7b-v3]	h2oGPT [meta-llama/Llama-2-7b-chat-hf]
can you complete the following piece of pytorch code?	can you complete the following piece of pytorch code?
class Transformer(nn.Module):	class Transformer(nn.Module):
Sure, here's a completed version of the code:	Sure, I'd be happy to help you complete the
import torch	PyTorch code for a Transformer class! Here is a possible implementation based on the original
<pre>class Transformer(nn.Module): def init (self, num layers, num heads, dropout=0.1</pre>	Transformer architecture proposed in the paper "Attention Is All You Need" by Vaswani et al.:
<pre>super()init()</pre>	import torch
<pre>self.num_layers = num_layers</pre>	import torch.nn as nn
<pre>self.num_heads = num_heads</pre>	

Expert mode. Users can change the *temperature*, cumulative probabilities (*top p*), context (*top k tokens*), maximum output length, maximum runtime, etc.

Temperature	0.2	\sim
ower is deterministic (but may lead to repeats), Higher		
nore creative (but may lead to hallucinations)		

Figure 3: **h2oGPT**. Evaluation of multiple *state-of-the-art* LLM models using the same prompt. This visualization and evaluation allows the user to detect clear differences between the models *e.g.* faster or slower inference, clear hallucinations, common memorized patterns. Demo available at https://gpt.h2o.ai/ completely free.

5 H2O LLN	1 Studio								
^ Navigation	Charts Summary Tra	ain Data Insights	Validation Prediction Insights	Logs	Config				
Home	LEARNING RATE ① 0.0001				TRAIN BA	ATCH LOSS ①			
Settings	0.000075				3 2.5 2 1.5 1.5 1.6 1.7 1.7 1.7 1.7 1.7 1.7 1.7 1.7 1.7 1.7				
Import dataset									
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Experiments 1					metric \lor	val metric	progress	status \lor	info
0.75			56.0% Current GPU load		BLEU	50.8443	14%	running	ETA: 01:08
0.5		2.6% Current CPU load			name \vee		prob	lem type \vee	
	0.25 0 finished queued + running failed + stopped 6.4 GB / 186.7 GB Memory usage		3	tweet-se	entiment	Cau	sal Language	Modeling	
				kaggle-ll	m-exam	Cau	sal Language	Modeling	
✓ Detailed GPU stats GPU #1 - current utilization: 56.0% - VRAM usage: 17.6 GB / 22.2 GB - NVIDIA A10G				oasst		Cau	sal Language	Modeling	

Complete LLM Framework. Users can track all the experiments and the system's status. The software allows complete *customization* of the experimental setup: dataset and model selection, validation and metrics, optimizer, adapters, RLHF, bit precision, etc.

Dataset *	
tweet-sentiment	~
Problem Type *	
Causal Language Modeling	\sim
Import config from YAML Off ⁽¹⁾	
Experiment Name	
LLM for Sentiment Analysis	
LLM Backbone	
h2oai/h2ogpt-gm-oasst1-en-2048-falcon-7b-v3	~

Advanced Settings. Users can use *state-of-the-art* techniques to speed up training and obtain real-time performance metrics. Also we allow Tokenizer and context customization.

Backbone Dtype	Use Rihf On (1)	Lora 🚺 On 🛈
int4	Reward Model	Lora R
Gradient Checkpointing On (i)	OpenAssistant/oasst-rm-2.1-pythia-1.4b	0
Force Embedding Gradients Off	Adaptive KI Control On (i)	Lora Alpha
Intermediate Dropout	Initial KI Coefficient	
0	O	

Figure 4: **LLM Studio** allows efficient training and fine-tuning of LLMs using *state-of-the-art* techniques (*e.g.*, advanced models, LoRA, int4, RLHF), and an intuitive GUI with complete experiment's customization. More information in https://github.com/h2oai/h2o-llmstudio. Apache 2 License.

Broad Impact

We advocate for the use of open-source LLMs to accelerate AI development and enhance its transparency, accessibility, security, and reliability. Our open framework for training, fine-tuning, deployment and analysis of LLMs enables this to any user, in a private and safe manner. We provide a detailed **Disclaimer** for users of our software.

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