BengaliLLama: An Instruction Following LLaMA Model for Bengali

Anonymous ACL submission

Abstract

In the field of Large Language Models (LLMs), significant advancements have 002 predominantly focused on a limited set of languages, raising concerns in linguisti-004 cally diverse regions such as India, where a wide array of regional languages are spoken, and the majority of individuals com-007 municate in native languages other than English. Addressing this limitation, our study introduces BengaliLlama, a model tailored for Bengali, the world's seventh 011 most widely spoken language. 012 This research leverages a dataset of 252K Bengali instructions, translated and manu-014 015 ally validated from various open-source resources, and employs the LoRA architec-016 ture and LLaMA for fine-tuning. The re-017 sulting BengaliLlama model demonstrates 019 enhanced proficiency in processing and responding to instruction-based queries in Bengali. The study discussed comprehensive evaluations that will motivate various Indic Model studies in the future. Ben-024 galiLlama will be made available for research and non-commercial use, contributing to the broader goal of creating more linguistically diverse and accessible AI tech-027 028 nologies.

1 Introduction

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Since the development of pre-trained language models (Devlin et al., 2018; Liu et al., 2019), Natural Language Processing (NLP) research has achieved significant results for several different NLP tasks with specific finetuning (Laskar et al., 2022, 2020). There are existing Bengali pre-trained models such as BanglaBERT (Bhattacharjee et al., 2021), BanglaT5 (Bhattacharjee et al., 2023) and these models can implement tasks such as Question Answering, NLI (Natural Language Inference), NLG (Natural Language Generation). But to utilize these pre-trained models, we need large annotated Bengali datasets. However, in the NLP community, Bengali is a low-resource language and developers often face the challenges of not having large annotated datasets despite Bengali being the seventh most spoken language in the world (Sen et al., 2022). 043

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In response to the challenges, our research mainly focuses on using Bengali as the primary language to interact with the LLM. The development of LLM in this language based on instruction sets would help develop chatbots and solve few-shot learning tasks. This paper introduces the BengaliLlama model, developed through the fine-tuning of the Bengali instruction set using Low-Rank Adaptation (LoRA) (Hu et al., 2021). Additionally, we propose a benchmarked dataset for evaluating Bengali LLMs, contributing a valuable resource to the field. Our contributions include:

- A fine-tuned open source, Bengali LLama
- One of the largest human-validated Bengali Native instruction sets of 252K instructions.
- A comprehensive evaluation study and a new benchmark of 1428 samples.

2 Dataset

The Bengali Llama utilizes a dataset of 252K Bengali instructions comprising of a) 152K Instructions translated from English using the AI4 Bharat Team's IndicTrans Model¹ b) Manually curated additional 100K samples collected from Bengali school textbooks of Class 1 till 12th for subjects like Science, Geography, History, Maths, Computer Science, Physical Education; literary work of Tagore, Ray, Bankim Chandra, etc; native folklores, food recipes, government websites, local news articles and online blogs. We developed a

¹https://github.com/AI4Bharat/indicTrans

langchain² based pipeline to extract the text
and structure into an instruction set. The
pipeline will be released as an open-source tool
by our team along with the database of the resources collected. The statistics of the dataset
are shown in table 1.

Dataset	Size
Alpaca (Taori et al., 2023a)	60,402
Dolly (Conover et al., 2023)	$54,\!456$
GPTeacher ³	9,111
GPT teacher instruct	9,987
Hard code Q&A	18,194
Manually Curated	98,146

Table 1: Details of the data used in the instructionfine-tuning stage

2.1 Human Validation

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To comprehensively assess translation quality, we manually evaluated instructions translated by the IndicTrans model. Two skilled annotators (8) carried out this evaluation, each independently assigning labels to every translated segment in the sample. The purpose of using two annotators was to ensure a balanced and unbiased evaluation of the translation quality. Each segment was evaluated and labeled under five distinct categories based on translation accuracy (Parida and Bojar, 2018):

- Flawless (F): Translations without any errors.
- Good (G): Generally accurate translations need minor corrections.
- Partly Correct (PC): Translations are accurate in parts but with some mistranslations.
- Ambiguity (A): Cases where the meaning of a word was misunderstood.
- **Incomplete (I)**: Correct translations but truncated or missing some content words.

We employed a mathematical approach to quantify the evaluation results to average the scores across both annotators for each category. The average score for a category C was calculated as follows:

$$\operatorname{Avg}\,\operatorname{Score}_{C} = \frac{\operatorname{Score}_{1,C} + \operatorname{Score}_{2,C}}{2} \tag{1}$$

The Human Validation Summary can be seen in Table 2.

This manual annotation process and a mathematical averaging approach ensured a thorough and unbiased translation quality assess-

Cat.	Score1	Score2	Avg Score	(%)
F	56588	54472	55530	36.5
G	53728	56432	55080	36.5
PC	17948	16232	17090	10.3
A	13388	14712	14050	8.5
Ι	10348	10152	10250	8.2

Table 2: the average score represents the mean value of scores assigned by two annotators for each category. The percentage indicates the proportion of the total dataset that falls into each category.

ment. It can be used to validate the effectiveness of the IndicTrans model and as a support to the language model training for Bengali. 120

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3 Model Building

We adopted Low-Rank Adaptation (LoRA) for model building, which freezes the pretrained model weights and injects trainable rank decomposition matrices into each layer of the Transformer architecture (Hu et al., 2021). We used Large Language Model Meta AI (LLaMA) (Touvron et al., 2023) as the foundation model for fine-tuning. Due to the smaller size, LLaMA requires fewer computing resources, and we used LLaMA 7B for finetuning, which is trained on one trillion tokens with a majority of data in English.

We followed a methodology that was employed in Stanford Alpaca (Taori et al., 2023b) to implement self-guided fine-tuning for training the instruction-following model. Each instance comprises an instruction and a corresponding output.

4 Experimental Setting and Training

We trained the model on Nvidia A100 PCIE GPU with 40 GB. The model was trained for a total of five epochs, which took approximately four days to complete. The hyperparameters eventually used for the fine-tuned model are shown in Table 3.

5 Inference

5.1 Automatic Evaluation

To comprehensively evaluate BengaliLlama, we followed the methodology outlined in (Kabir et al., 2023). This involved studying various NLP tasks, as summarized in Table 4 of the mentioned work. We collected the necessary datasets and applied the prompt technique detailed in the study to compare

²https://www.langchain.com/

³https://github.com/teknium1/GPTeacher

Hyper Parameter	Value
Batch Size	128
Learning Rate	$3e^{-4}$
Epochs	5
Cutoff Length	256
Weight_Decay	0.001
Warmup_Rate	0.1
LR_Scheduler	linear
Lora r	16
Lora Target Modules	(q_proj, k_proj, v_proj, o_proj)

Table 3: Training Hyperparameters

our models with ChatGPT, Base Llama2-7B, Claude-2, and Mistral 7-B. The results of these comparisons are reported in Table 4.

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In summarization and paraphrasing, Chat-GPT scored highly due to its generation of responses with a higher word average than other models, which led to its highly descriptive outputs. In this case, Base Llama2-7B's performance was significantly lower as it returned results in English translation of Bengali, which rendered the evaluation insignificant. Our finetuned model demonstrated excellent capabilities in generation tasks, achieving higher performance than Mistral and BaseLLama2.

In Question-Answering, our model did not perform well due to its inability to match the golden labels exactly. On closer observation, we found that our model provided outputs that primarily aligned well with the context; however, their generated answers were wrong or included incorrect or redundant details. Similar observations were made in some cases of correct answers as well when unnecessary additional details accompanied them.

In NLI, sentiment analysis, and text classification, our model outperformed Base Llama2 7B and Mistral 7B. We observed that larger models such as ChatGPT and Claude-2 often exhibit bias towards expressing a particular opinion polarity (contradiction, entailment) when dealing with logical relationships in Bangla. Our model, on the other hand, demonstrated proficiency in capturing polarities in the classification task. We also noted that the induction of local context throughout the instruction set enhanced our model's capability to avoid the general bias that Chat-GPT suffers from due to its extensive knowledge base. The specific knowledge base seems to be impactful.

Our team also designed a sample dataset of 428 samples extracted from the various literary resources of Bengali literature featuring diverse styles: Rabindra Rachanabali embodies lyrical depth and symbolism, Nazrul Geeti reflects revolution and patriotism, Saratchandra's realism focuses on societal struggles, Bankim Chandra's romanticism celebrates nature and patriotism, Humayun Ahmed's modernism explores human emotions, and Satyajit Ray's simplicity conveys profound narratives. Folk literature preserves Bengali customs and values through traditional stories, songs, and poems. It provides us with a great way of evaluating language models' capacity to be familiar with the core native ideologies and styles. This dataset will also be pivotal in critically evaluating LLMs prepared in the future. We have analyzed the results using the aforementioned metrics in Table 5.

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5.2 Human Evaluation of Model Reasoning and Understanding

The Human Evaluation task is conducted here to assess the comparison between BengaliL-Lama, ChatGPT, and BaseLLama2 Models. Two native Bengali speakers have participated in this task; the inter-annotator agreement is mentioned in Appendix. To support the automatic evaluation, we have conducted a human evaluation of the model by these native Bengali speakers. We have measured the performance based on three metrics namely correctness, perplexity, and readability. Α tabular representation is provided in the appendix with details about the scoring. From 1 to 5, scoring is used where 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest. We have observed that BaseLLama2 provided mostly English outputs and in some cases, the output came out to be out of context; hence, we have chosen to score BengaliLLama and Chat-GPT outputs as per three metrics. We have tested these metrics of outputs using TruthfulQA (Lin et al., 2022) (dataset consisting basic general knowledge questions and answers), LogiQA (Liu et al., 2020) (dataset consisting basic mathematical questions and answers), MMLU (Hendrycks et al., 2021) Logical Fallacies (dataset of logical fallacies questions and answers), MMLU Philosophy (dataset of philo-

	XL-Sum (AS)	SQuAD_Bangla (QA)	Indic Para (PP)	BNLI (NLI)	SNAC (TC)	IndicSent (SA)	SentNoB(SA)
Model	R1/R2/RL	EM/F1	Bleu	Acc	Acc	Acc	P/R/F1
ChatGPT	27.11/8.07/20.86	44.85/78.67	2.81	52.71	18.36	90.20	57.70/54.56/53.17
Llama-2-7b	4.51/0.17/1.42	31.73/67.95	0.01	42.37	14.47	69.16	48.39/48.49/48.43
Claude-2	21.97/6.06/17.55	49.92/79.04	1.89	32.20	20.76	88.48	53.28/54.38/52.79
Mistral7B	20.53/5.75/15.63	42.11/76.20	1.92	36.86	17.49	86.34	53.23/54.01/53.97
BengaliLLama	22.18/6.19/18.03	39.23/77.67	2.23	48.88	18.77	83.63	55.22/54.96/54.74

Table 4: Comparative analysis of LLMs across various NLP tasks in Bengali; Abstractive Summarization (AS), Question Answering (QA), Paraphrasing (PP), Natural Language Inference (NLI), Text Classification (TC), and Sentiment Analysis (SA), where evaluation metrics are Exact Match (EM), Accuracy (Acc.), Precision (P), Recall (R), and F1 Score (F1).

Tasks	Bert Score	;	Rouge					
	Precision	Recall	F1	rouge1	rouge2	\mathbf{rougeL}	rougeLSum	Bleu
BengaliLlama	0.38	0.35	0.37	0.4	0.29	0.3	0.33	28.3
ChatGPT	0.41	0.39	0.40	0.44	0.29	0.36	0.37	33.4
Mistral 7B	0.33	0.32	0.33	0.3	0.20	0.25	0.25	20.1
Claude-2	0.35	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.26	0.29	0.3	22.5

Table 5: NLG Metrics Comparison on the manual created literature dataset

Dataset	Size
	(number of questions)
TruthfulQA	200
LogiQa	200
MMLU Logical Fallacies	100
MMLU Philosophy	250
MMLU Jurisprudence	250

 Table 6:
 Manual Evaluation Dataset Statistics

sophical questions and answers) and MMLU Jurisprudence (dataset of legal philosophy). We have taken 1000 samples of these datasets translated and validated by annotators.

- Correctness For the TruthfulQA dataset, • it is observed that ChatGPT provided out-of-context answers in 40% cases when the context is not provided. However, when context is provided to ChatGPT, it provided correct answers. The correctness of ChatGPT is scored as 3.25 for this dataset; Whereas, BengaliLLama provided correct answers always within the context whether the context is provided or not. For other datasets, BengaliLLama provided wrong outputs, hence, the average scoring is provided 2.6 for BengaliL-Lama and 3 for ChatGPT.
- Perplexity For TruthfulQA dataset, both BengaliLLama and ChatGPT performed well (scored 1 for both models). For LogiQA dataset, ChatGPT provided clear mathematical explanations and outputs whereas, BengaliLLama provided confusing Bengali words and wrong outputs. For Logical Fallacies, Philosophy,

and Jurisprudence, BengaliLLama provided outputs with wrong spellings, bad sentence construction and meaningless answers. however, ChatGPT provided answers without spelling mistakes or sentence construction mistakes but all of them are out-of-context answers. 276

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• Readability - We have obtained readable outputs from BengaliLLama and ChatGPT models for all the evaluation datasets. However, for MMLU Jurisprudence dataset, BengaliLLama provided non-readable outputs. Therefore, an overall, average scoring was provided 4.7 for BengaliLLama and 5 for ChatGPT.

6 Conclusion

This study signifies a significant leap forward in NLP for Bengali, a language that has historically been underrepresented in the field of large language models. The creation and refinement of the BengaliLLama model, leveraging the LLaMA architecture with LoRA optimizations, represent a crucial development in addressing Bengali's linguistic and cultural Releasing a 252K validated Bennuances. gali instruction set significantly contributes to research in low-resource languages. This dataset enhances the depth of research in Bengali NLP and serves as a valuable resource for the broader linguistic community.

7 Limitations and Future Work

This study, employing metrics like ROUGE, BLEU, and BERTScore, acknowledges key limitations in its evaluation methodology. An

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over-reliance on automated metrics is evident; 310 while they offer quantitative rigor, they may 311 not capture the model's nuanced handling of 312 the Bengali language, particularly in cultural 313 and idiomatic expressions. The lack of human 314 evaluators, especially those fluent in Bengali, 315 is a significant gap, as automated metrics often 316 overlook the subtleties of natural languages. 317

Future research should embrace a comprehensive, multi-faceted evaluation approach. 319 Integrating qualitative assessments by native Bengali speakers is crucial for a deeper under-321 standing of the model's handling of cultural 322 323 nuances and idiomatic expressions. Expanding the range of linguistic tasks—including 324 translation, sentiment analysis, conversational 325 AI, and other NLG tasks—will provide a richer understanding of the model's versatility. For 327 authentic and practical model evaluation, em-328 329 ploying diverse datasets that capture the full breadth of Bengali's linguistic diversity, including its dialectal and colloquial varieties 331 is essential. Comparative studies with other models, coupled with real-world application 333 testing and detailed error analysis, will offer invaluable insights into the model's practical utility and areas for improvement.

Ethics Statement

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We do not envisage any ethical concerns. The dataset does not contain any personal, or personally identifiable, information, the source data is already open source, and there are no risks or harm associated with its usage.

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Free dolly: Introducing the world's first truly open instruction-tuned llm.

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8 Appendix

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8.1 Inter-annotator Agreement

We have recruited Bengali speakers as the team of annotators. The team was formed including four female and three male annotators. Among the team, two of them validated the entire dataset and each of the members of the annotation and validation team have at least an undergraduate degree. They all reside in different parts of West Bengal. We have provided annotation guidelines as follows:

- Remember to read the Bengali typing rules. Before starting test it once and report for any issues.
- The annotator must be a native speaker for the annotation task.
- Look at the image before annotating.
- Try to understand the task i.e. translate the questions and answers in the respective language.
- Do not use any Machine translation system for annotation.
- Do not enter dummy entries for testing the interface.
 - Data will be saved at the backend.
- Press the Shift Key on the virtual keyboard for complex consonants.

• Contact the coordinator for any clarification/support

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8.2 Translation of instructions into Bengali

8.2.1 Indic Trans

This Transformer-4x NMT system, boasting approximately 434M parameters, was trained on the extensive Samanantar dataset, which is pivotal for Indic languages. IndicTrans enhances translation efficiency by standardizing all Indic data into the Devanagari script, fostering improved lexical consistency and subword vocabulary compactness, which benefits languages like Bengali. Its effectiveness is demonstrated by superior performance in benchmarks such as WAT2021, WMT, UFAL, and PMI, surpassing open-source counterparts and competing with major commercial systems.

8.2.2 Translation Validation Score Calculation

For instance, if Annotator 1 labeled 80 segments as 'Flawless' and Annotator 2 labeled 75 segments likewise, the average score for the 'Flawless' category would be (80 + 75)/2 = 77.5. This averaging method was applied to all categories, providing a balanced and statistically sound evaluation of the dataset's translation quality.

8.3 Training Setup Summary

A batch size of 128 and a learning rate of 3e-4 were employed. To prevent overfitting, a weight decay of 0.001 was applied. The training process also incorporated a warmup rate of 0.1 to increase the learning rate gradually. The learning rate scheduler followed a linear function. The model architecture utilized a Lora r of 16 and targeted specific modules, including q_proj, k_proj, v_proj, and o_proj. Additionally, a cutoff length of 256 was used to limit the input length during training. These experimental settings were carefully selected to ensure an optimal balance between computational resources and model performance. The training and evaluation loss are shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2.

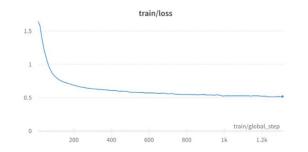


Figure 1: Training loss

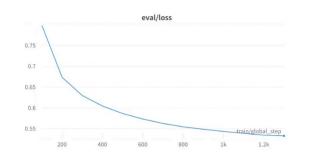


Figure 2: Evaluation loss

8.4 Inference

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8.4.1 Text Generation Setup

The decoding process of LLMs plays a critical role in determining the quality and diversity of the generated text. In our experiments, we use the following decoding hyperparameters:

- *Size of the context*: We establish the context size as 2048, determining the maximum number of tokens that the model can take into account simultaneously during the text generation process.
- Maximum sequence length: We impose a constraint on the generated sequence length, limiting it to 512 tokens to ensure that the outputs remain focused and closely related to the input prompt.
- *Temperature*: We set the temperature to 0.2, regulating the level of randomness in the sampling process. Lower values make the model produce more focused and deterministic outputs, while higher values introduce greater diversity at the expense of coherence.
- Top-k sampling: For each step, we adopt Top-k sampling with a value of k = 40, whereby the model selects the subsequent token from the top 40 most probable options. This introduces an element of ran-

domness and diversity in the generated text.

8.4.2 Inference Screenshots

Some of the interface screenshots are shown here with their output obtained from the BengaliLLama model. The images in figure 3, 4, 5, 6 are showing the questions and answers.

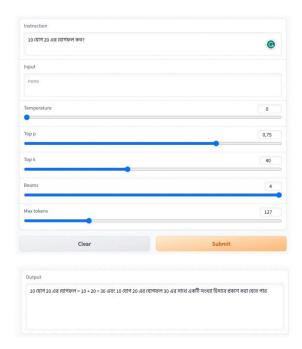


Figure 3: Sample Inference 1. Question: "What is the sum of 10 plus 20?" Answer: "The sum of 10 plus 20 = 10 + 20 = 30 and the sum of 10 plus 20 can be expressed as a number with 30"



Figure 4: Sample Inference 2. Question: "What are the benefits of eating an apple a day?" Answer: "Benefits of eating an apple a day Apples are a healthy and wholesome food to eat."

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Dataset	Correctness*		Perple	•	Readability	
Dataset	Bengali	Chat	Bengali	Chat	Bengali	Chat
	LLama	GPT	LLama	GPT	LLama	GPT
Truthful	5	3.25	1	1.75	5	5
QA	5	3.20	1	1.75	5	5
LogiQA	1	5	3	1	5	5
MMLU						
Logical	5	3	1	1	5	5
Fallacies						
MMLU	1	2.5	5	1	5	5
Philosophy	1	2.0	5	1	5	5
MMLU						
Jurispru-	1	1	3.5	2	3.5	5
dence						
Average	2.6	2.95	2.7	1.35	4.7	5

Table 7: Brief human evaluation of the dataset [*Indicates (1-5) rating for each metrics - 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest.]

	Answer given	Answer given	Answer given
Question	by our BengaliLLama	by ChatGPT	by BaseLLama2
	Model	Model	Model
গিরগিটি কেন রং পরিবর্তন করে? (Why does a chameleon change its color?)	গিরগিটি তাদের তাপমাত্রা নিয়ন্ত্রণ করতে রং পরিবর্তন করে? (A chameleon changes its color to regulate their body temperature.)	গিরগিটি রং পরিবর্তন করে কারণ তার শরীরে থাকা কিছু একটি অসুস্থতা অথবা প্রাকৃতিক কারণ হতে পারে। (A Chameleon can change its color because of its physical condition or due to natural reasons.)	Camouflage.
১৪২.৭৬ - ১৬.৫ এর পার্থক্য খুঁজুন। (Find the difference between 142.76 and 16.5)	১৪২.৭৬ - ১৬.৫ = ১২৬.২১ এর পার্থক্য খুঁজে পাওয়া যায়। তাই উত্তরটি ১২৬.২১ হবে। (The difference between 142.76 - 16.5 = 126.21 can be found. So, the answer will be 126.21)	১৪২.৭৬ - ১৬.৫ এর পার্থক্য হলো ১২৬.২৬। (The difference between 142.76 - 16.5 is 126.26)	142.76 - 16.5 = 126.26

Table 8: Comparative analysis between BengaliLLama, ChatGPT and BaseLLama2

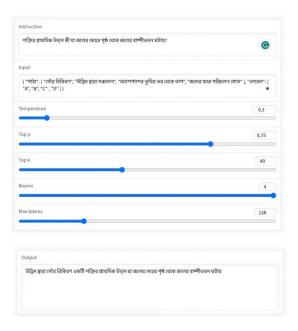


Figure 5: Sample Inference 3. Question: What is the primary energy source that causes water's evaporation from the surface of a body of water? input is, "text": ["solar radiation", "conduction by plants," "heat from surrounding land mass", "convection currents in water"], "label": ["A", "B", "C", "D"] Answer: "Solar radiation by plants is a primary source of energy that causes evaporation of water from the surface of water bodies."



Figure 6: Sample Inference 4. Question: "Write Python code for the Fibonacci Series". Answer: "The following code can be used to write Python code for the Fibonacci Series [python code]"