International Journal of Electrical, Electronics and Computer Engineering **14**(1&2): 29-31(2025)

ISSN No. (Online): 2277-2626

A Comprehensive Literature Review on Emotion Detection in Text using NLP (Hybrid Approach)

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(Received: 15 February 2025, Accepted: 24 March 2025)
(Published by Research Trend, Website: www.researchtrend.net)

ABSTRACT: **To identify sentiments and emotions of people towards a certain goal, in order to accomplish that we use sentiment analysis. Emotion detection is a subset of sentiment analysis as it focuses on a unique emotion behind the text rather than classifying it as a positive, negative or neutral statement. This study investigates the application of Natural Language Processing (NLP) alongside a combined method that integrates machine learning (ML) and deep learning (DL) techniques for emotion recognition from text. We analyse several ML and DL models, suggest a hybrid method that utilises their advantages, and assess their performance against standard datasets. The findings of previous research reveal that the hybrid method significantly enhances accuracy in emotion detection. Furthermore, we highlight areas that require additional research and recommend topics for future studies.**

Keywords: Emotion Detection, Natural Language Processing (NLP), Machine Learning (ML), Deep Learning (DL), Hybrid Approach, Sentiment Analysis.

INTRODUCTION

Text is very much present in our digital existence, and increasingly we need to not just understand what people are saying, but how they feel when they say it. This solution is called emotion detection, an intriguing topic within natural language processing (NLP) that is becoming even more valuable across industries. For my research, I have been exploring this topic, particularly on ways we can blend traditional machine learning with newer approaches using deep learning algorithms through the emotion detection process. When referencing emotion detection, we're referring to the ability to train machines to recognize the emotional states expressed in text. This kind of capability can be applied to a wide range of scenarios. In sentiment analysis, we don't just categorize a piece of text as simply "positive" or "negative" - we add value by adding a channel of added detail - joy, excitement, frustration, disappointment, etc. For customer service teams, having insight into the emotional state of customer messages, them can proactively react to frustrated individuals and improve the customer experience quickly. Marketing teams value this technology because it provides insight into consumers' emotional responses to their product or service, not just whether people "like" something or not. However, detecting emotions from text is hard. Human language has a high level of nuance. A single phrase, in different contexts, can express completely different emotions. Sarcasm or irony flip meaning on its head, and emotions are extremely contextual – knowing and understanding someone's emotional perspective may depend on knowing what happened before and after the conversation. Lastly, there is a practical issue of not having enough labelled data for all of the emotions and across all the contexts. Researchers address these issues with several methods (Albornoz *et al.*, 2017). NLP techniques assist with processing and analysing text, essentially breaking it down into content that can be more easily analysed. Traditional machine learning algorithms (e.g. Support Vector Machines, Random Forest) can learn patterns from labelled examples. Deep learning models – in particular, neural networks such as RNNs, CNNs and transformers – have produced outstanding results in learning complex patterns from large datasets. The most exciting area of work for researchers right now is hybrid methods that combine some (or all) of these approaches. Generally, traditional ML models are more suitable for smaller datasets, while deep learning works best for learning complex patterns when there is a lot of data available. By combining them, we can develop stronger emotion detection systems. My research focuses on hybrid methods, while also covering the current methods available, the strengths and weaknesses of these methods, and gaps in the research that will inform where the field should move next.

RELATED WORK

Over the years, emotion detection in text has progressed from primitive lexicon-based approaches to sophisticated deep learning models. Initially, researchers used only handcrafted lexicons associating

words with emotional categories. Next, machine learning models classified text using features that were drawn from the text. Recently, deep learning models, particularly recurrent neural networks (RNNs) and transformer models, have become the benchmark for performance on emotion tracking tasks because RNNs and transformers can capture cognitive nuances of human emotion from text. This section will explore these methods, with a discussion about the strengths and weaknesses of certain methods and how hybrid methods could provide opportunities for improvement.

This study introduced the NRC Emotion Lexicon (EmoLex), a comprehensive lexicon associating words with eight basic emotions and two sentiments. It has been widely utilized in sentiment analysis and emotion detection tasks (Soleyman *et al*., 2014).

The authors explored deep learning techniques for emotion detection in user-generated content, specifically Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks. Their work demonstrated the effectiveness of combining these models to capture contextual nuances in text (Albornoz *et al*., 2017).

This research focused on transfer learning approaches, employing models like BERT and LSTM for emotion classification. The study highlighted the benefits of leveraging pre-trained language models to improve performance on emotion detection tasks.

The authors proposed a hybrid approach that integrates rule-based methods with machine learning techniques for emotion classification. This combination aimed to enhance accuracy by leveraging the strengths of both methodologies. This work utilized lexicon-based methods, incorporating resources like LIWC and Affective Norms, to detect emotions in text. The study emphasized the importance of lexicons in capturing affective meanings (Saxena *et al.*, 2020).

The researchers focused on emotion-cause pair detection, developing models to identify events leading to specific emotions. This approach provided insights into the causality of emotions in textual data.

This study explored multimodal emotion detection by combining textual and audio features. The integration of multiple modalities aimed to improve the accuracy of emotion recognition systems.

The authors applied reinforcement learning techniques to emotion detection in dialogue systems. Their approach aimed to enhance the adaptability and responsiveness of conversational agents.

Table 1: Comparative study of existing techniques.

Authors	Techniques Used	Objectives	Performance Metrics	Dataset
Soleyman *et al.* (2014)	Lexicon-based Sentiment Analysis (e.g., EmoLex, SenticNet)	To detect emotions using sentiment lexicons and rule-based approaches for Twitter data.	Precision, Recall, F1-Score, Accuracy	Twitter dataset, Emotion-annotated tweets
Albornoz *et al.* (2017)	Deep Learning (e.g., CNN, LSTM)	To apply deep learning models for emotion detection using text features, focusing on user-generated content.	Accuracy, F1-Score, Precision, Recall	ISEAR dataset, Twitter data
Saxena *et al.* (2020)	Lexicon-based (LIWC, Affective Norms)	To improve emotion detection using a lexicon-based approach combined with NLP preprocessing methods.	Precision, Recall, Accuracy	Product reviews, social media posts

RESEARCH GAP

This literature review presents comprehensive studies in the field of emotion detection in text using NLP. This broad literature review serves as a roadmap to uncover the limitations of current approaches and leads to the improvement of well-defined research problems. Despite the significant progress made in emotion detection using Natural Language Processing (NLP), ongoing challenges continue to call for additional studies, particularly on hybrid methods. While deep learning approaches, like Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs), for instance, or Transformer-based approaches, are successful in modeling more complex structures in language, they generally require large amounts of labeled data, and are often interpreted as 'black box' algorithms. Traditional machine learning (ML) methods, like Support Vector Machines (SVMs) and Naive Bayes classifiers, can promptly develop more efficient approaches to feature engineering, yet can be cumbersome when learning sophisticated non-linear relationships between textual data. There is a clear gap in the effective integration of these models to combine the strengths of each paradigm. Several hybrid approaches as applied today often leave much to be desired in one or more of the following weaknesses:

1. Suboptimal Feature Fusion. Many of the hybrid models rely upon overly simplistic approaches to fusion of features extracted from ML and DL components that may create redundancy or information loss.

2. Contextual Sensitivity. Current hybrid models may not fully account for the subjective nuances of emotional expression in a contextually sensitive manner, nor account for ambiguity, sarcasm, or irony. Generalizability

3. Across Domains. domains (e.g., social media, articles, books, etc.), indicating a need for more resilient and amplified architectures.

4. Explainability. Integrating DL components may impact or impede the explainability of hybrid models to understand the basis for emotion detection/qualification and how it arrives at its classification process.

FINDING SUGGESTIONS

To adequately address the critical shortcomings of existing emotion detection systems, we must suggest a strategic transition toward hybrid approaches that carefully combine the complementary strengths of machine learning (ML) and deep learning (DL) methods. There are several interesting lines of inquiry to consider:

Hybrid Feature Engineering with Deep Learning Classification: One productive line of inquiry is to use ML methods to optimize features and then apply those engineered features to models for classification with DL. Classical ML algorithms (Support Vector Machines (SVM) or a feature selection method) can be used to identify and engineer salient linguistic features (e.g., n-grams, parts of speech (POS), sentiment lexicons) that are most predictive of emotion states. These linguistic features typically capture substantive domain knowledge and can be instantiated as input features in DL architectures (e.g., Convolution Neural Networks (CNN) or a Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN)). That is, we leverage the feature engineering capabilities of ML and the classification power of DL, which hopefully minimizes the reliance on data-intensive training and interpretability.

Ensemble Architectures for Robust Emotion Prediction: The next area of promising research is developing ensemble architectures that aggregate the predictive outputs from multiple ML and DL models. This work recognizes the naturally occurring diversities in emotional expression and attempts to take advantage of the complementary characteristics of different models. Ensemble approaches, such as weighted averaging, stacking, or boosting, can aggregate predictions from different models (e.g., SVM, Transformer models, and hybrid models) to create more accurate and robust emotion detection systems. Ensemble architectures can help boost generalization performance and decrease the likelihood of overfitting to specific datasets.

Attention-Enhanced Hybrid Models: The incorporation of attention mechanisms in hybrid models facilitates enhanced focus on salient textual features. Attention mechanisms enable DL models to prioritize specific words or phrases in a text; these can be integrated with ML components to create better emotion detection models (e.g. a hybrid model could utilize a transformer with an attention mechanism for contextual dependencies while handling ML classifiers for certain linguistic structures delineated through feature engineering). By doing so, a text can be analyzed more precisely, where the model identifies the most emotionally impactful components of a text.

CONCLUSIONS

This article highlights the possible implications of hybrid methods to help the field of emotion detection. By thoughtfully combining machine learning and deep learning techniques, it is possible to build systems that better and more reliably detect emotion in text. There is still a long way to go, and it is worth noting that while we have made good progress, there is much to be done in research to overcome some of the existing limitations, especially in the cases of detecting subtle emotions and generalising across a variety of text contexts. Robust, contextually-aware, adaptable emotion detection systems will lead to many valuable applications that will enhance human-computer interaction, improve communication, and provide a valuable understanding of human emotion.

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