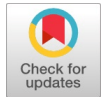


# Hcnnxgboost: A Hybrid Cnn-Xgboost Approach for Effective Emotion Detection in Textual Data

Shivani Vora, Rupa G. Mehta



**Abstract:** In recent years, emotional analysis has become a key focus in computational studies, driven by the need to understand societal sentiments. This exploration is motivated by its numerous promising applications, including community well-being evaluation, human-computer interaction, suicide prevention, and personalised recommendations. Even with progress in other areas, such as identifying expressions from facial cues and speech, the study of text-based emotion recognition remains a fascinating field of research because machines struggle to interpret context, especially when compared to human capabilities. Our research addresses this by introducing a multiclass text-based emotion detection system that combines a CNN architecture with XGBoost for improved classification in natural language processing. We pre-process publicly available datasets and utilise GloVe pre-trained word embeddings for improved text representation. A significant contribution of our work is enhancing the feature space by combining CNN probabilities with the original text data. The proposed HCNXGBoost model outperforms all other machine learning and deep learning algorithms across the EMOINT, ISEAR, and Crowdfunder datasets, achieving F-scores of 90.1%, 87.4%, and 62.2%, respectively. Experimental evaluations on benchmark datasets show improved F-scores, confirming the effectiveness of our approach. Comparisons with other classifiers underscore the enhanced performance and effectiveness of our hybrid CNN-XGBoost (HCNN-XGBoost) model, making it one of the most effective solutions for emotion classification in natural language processing tasks.

**Keywords:** Emotion Recognition, Deep Learning, Convolution Neural Network, Extreme Gradient Boosting.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Information Technology is everywhere and has dramatically changed our lives, allowing us to interact and be creative like never before. As technology advances, it makes daily tasks easier and helps meet our needs more effectively. For machines to accomplish this, they must understand human behaviour, particularly emotions. Understanding and expressing emotions are crucial parts of human behavior, and machines must deeply understand emotions to anticipate human needs [1]. Machines can identify human emotions through text, facial expressions, or speech.

Various research streams focus on inferring emotions from different modes of communication, but text-based emotion recognition still requires more attention from researchers. Extracting emotions from textual data is challenging due to the absence of facial expressions and variations in speech. This difficulty is further intensified by various factors, including the complexity of understanding context, the use of sarcasm, the inherent ambiguity of natural language, and the fast-evolving nature of Internet slang. Although significant strides have been made in the realms of speech and facial emotion recognition, text-based systems require more research to address these challenges and accurately interpret emotions in written communication. In recent years, the interest in emotion detection within text has surged, given its vast potential applications in artificial intelligence, psychology, political science, suicide prevention, human-computer interaction, marketing, and community well-being assessment. Emotion detection from text involves identifying various categories of emotion, such as anger, joy, fear, and sadness. This can be accomplished through dictionary-based methods, machine learning, deep learning, or hybrid approaches. Studies have shown that dictionary-based approaches rely on linguistic features, such as linguistic rules, ontologies, bag-of-words models, and dictionaries. In contrast, machine learning approaches employ algorithms such as logistic regression, Naive Bayes classifiers, support vector machines, and artificial neural networks. The scalability and domain customisation limitations of lexicon-based methods can be addressed by machine learning approaches, which can also learn to recognise implicit emotional signals. Conventional machine learning techniques require extensive feature extraction, whereas deep learning algorithms automatically learn conceptual features from data incrementally, thereby eliminating the need for domain expertise and complex feature engineering. Recent studies have demonstrated a growing adoption of deep learning and ensemble learning algorithms to improve the accuracy of emotion detection tasks. Research shows that ensemble learning techniques create more generalizable models by combining several individual models [2][3][4]. Deep learning models with multiple layers are currently outperforming traditional models [5][6][7][8][9]. Deep ensemble learning combines the strengths of both deep learning and ensemble learning, yielding models with improved generalisation performance [10]. Current studies demonstrate that an ensemble XGBoost algorithm is highly effective for text-based emotion detection, owing to its ability to handle high-dimensional data, manage class imbalance, and prevent overfitting [11]. Motivated by recent studies, our research proposes a hybrid CNN with XGBoost (hCNN-XGBoost) approach

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for effective emotion detection in English-language texts.

The key contributions of this research are as follows:

- Capturing rich feature sets to understand the lexical semantics for the classification of emotion using the CNN algorithm.
- Combining the CNN prediction as probabilities with the original text data to augment the feature space for improved emotion classification.
- Conduct experiments on different cutting-edge machine learning and deep learning techniques using three text-based datasets (EmoInt, ISEAR, and CrowdFlower (CF)).

The paper is structured as follows: Section 2 reviews previous works on CNN-based text classification, highlighting research gaps. Section 3 introduces the proposed hybrid CNNXGBoost approach and pre-processing techniques. Section 4 discusses empirical results and comparative analysis with existing systems. Section 5 concludes with future research directions and a list of references.

## II. RELATED WORK

Recently, approaches that employ deep learning and ensemble learning methods for emotion detection in text have been proposed. Deep learning methods utilise embedding vectors as input, which inherently convert syntactic and semantic information into a more abstract representation. Numerous data-driven approaches have been proposed for text-based classification, and CNN-based techniques have proven notably effective in text classification. CNNs have also shown promise in emotion recognition. Seo-Hui Park et al. employed CNNs to analyze tweets, achieving notable accuracy for certain emotions while struggling with others [12]. These findings underscore the complexities involved in accurately capturing the nuances of human emotions. Earlier, CNN-based text classification models proposed in [13][14] suffered from shallow architectures, limiting their ability to capture complex semantic features. Subsequent research [15] aimed to address these limitations by increasing model depth but encountered challenges in training, scalability, and generalizability. Later studies explored specific text domains such as short text, biomedical, and residential and introduced techniques like attention and multi-task learning [16][17]. However, these works often lacked comprehensive evaluation across diverse datasets and real-world applications. While significant progress has been made, the development of robust and scalable CNN-based text classification models for various domains remains an active area of research. The author of the work [2] Proposed a BERT-based ensemble learning model for harmful news identification, achieving a 66.3% F1-score, although limited by dataset quality. The work by Kazmaier and Vuuren showcased the effectiveness of the ensemble approach in sentiment analysis, showing up to 5.53% performance improvements, but noted the computational challenges [3]. Briskilal developed an ensemble model using BERT and RoBERTa for classifying idioms and literal texts, achieving a 2% accuracy improvement, with limitations related to dataset size [4]. Motivated by these findings, our research proposes a hybrid CNN with XGBoost (hCNNXGBoost) approach for effective emotion detection in English text. The proposed

methodology is described in the next section.

## III. THE PROPOSED SYSTEM

This section introduces a novel hybrid approach for a text-based emotion detection system, integrating a CNN architecture with XGBoost (hCNNXGBoost) for improved multiclass classification tasks in Natural Language Processing. Our proposed model, hCNNXGBoost, is a CNN-based method for classifying text data. It uses pre-trained word embeddings and convolutional layers with ReLU activation to extract features. For classification, the model uses global pooling and fully connected layers, with the softmax function to determine class probabilities. Training is guided by sparse categorical cross-entropy loss. Once trained, the CNN model produced probability scores for each emotion class when making predictions on the test dataset. These probabilities were then incorporated as additional features, augmenting the original test dataset. The enhanced test dataset, now with probability features derived from the CNN, was used as input for the XGBoost classifier. This combination of components allows our model to achieve improved text classification across diverse multiclass datasets, including both balanced and imbalanced data.

### A. Data Preparation

The data is prepared by applying several pre-processing techniques. These include replacing contraction words with their complete forms, numbers, removing punctuation, and URLs, as well as replacing line breaks and extra white spaces. Additionally, emoticons are replaced with appropriate words, and emojis in tweets are converted to text using the “emot” library in Python.

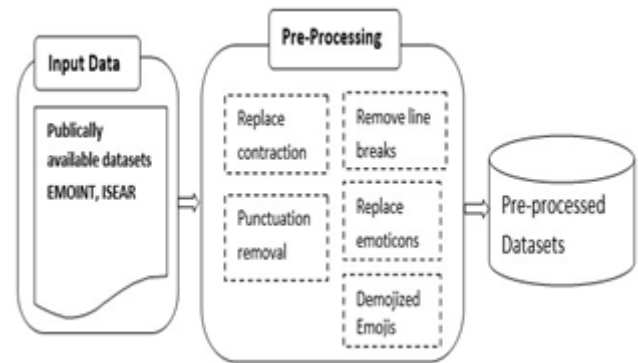


Fig.1: Pre-Processing Operations Performed on Datasets

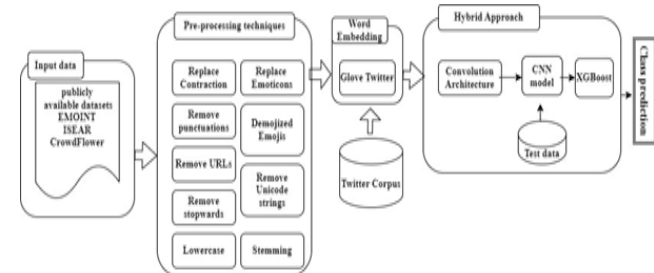


Fig.2: The Proposed Hybrid CNN with XGBoost

(hCNNXGBoost) This model for text classification utilises a demojization process that helps preserve the emotional information conveyed by emojis and emoticons in the

text.

## B. Model Preparation

We separately train the CNN deep learning model for multi-class classification tasks. We used a holdout validation dataset to validate base models. Predictions from base models are used to train an XGBoost ensemble classifier with the default parameters provided in Python's Scikit library.

▪ **Input Representation for CNN Model:** The input to the CNN model is a sequence of words in the form of tokens. Each word is represented as a dense word vector, typically obtained using pre-trained word embeddings, such as GloVe. These word vectors serve as the basis for the input representation of the CNN model.

▪ **Convolution Layer:** The convolution layer in the CNN applies filters of different sizes to the input word embeddings. These filters slide over the input sequence and perform element-wise multiplications with local word vectors to extract local features. The convolution operation is mathematically represented as follows:

$$Conv(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} (x * w_i) + b_i \quad (1)$$

Where  $x$  is the input sequence of word embeddings,  $w_i$  are the filter weights, and  $b_i$  is the bias term for the  $i$ th filter. The sum represents the result of applying the  $k$  filters to the input, producing feature maps.

▪ **ReLU Activation Layer:** The Rectified Linear Unit (ReLU) [18] activation layer introduces non-linearity to the model. It applies the element-wise ReLU function to the output of the convolution layer, ensuring that only positive values are propagated to the next layer while setting negative values to zero. The ReLU activation function is defined as:

$$ReLU(x) = \max(0, x) \quad (2)$$

▪ **Classification:** Following ReLU activation, the features undergo pooling to obtain global representations of the text. These pooled features are then fed to a fully connected layer with softmax activation, which assigns probabilities to each class label. Additionally, a dropout layer [19] is implemented between the hidden layer and output layer, randomly enabling or disabling connections (setting some to 0) among hidden units during each training phase update.

This helps in mitigating overfitting. The sparse categorical cross-entropy loss function [20] is used for training.

$$LOSS = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{c=1}^C y_{i,c} \log(p_{i,c}) \quad (3)$$

Where  $N$  is the number of samples in the batch,  $C$  is the number of classes,  $y_{i,c}$  is the binary indicator (0 or 1) for the actual class label of sample  $i$ , and  $p_{i,c}$  is the predicted probability of sample  $i$  belonging to class  $c$ .

▪ **Extreme Gradient Boosting (XGBoost) Classifier:** XGBoost leverages the probabilities obtained from the CNN, transformed by the fully connected layer, as additional features to inform the classification process. XGBoost is highly effective for text-based emotion detection due to its ability to handle high-dimensional data generated by text vectorisation methods. It also offers built-in mechanisms to handle class imbalance and prevent overfitting through regularization. Additionally, XGBoost can manage non-linear relationships in data through kernel functions, providing flexibility in capturing complex patterns in text data [11]. The architecture of the proposed hCNNXGBoost model is illustrated in Fig. 2. The model trains and tunes the CNN deep learning model using pre-trained GloVe word

embeddings, which are based on 2 billion tweets, comprising 27 billion tokens and a vocabulary of 1.2 million words [21]. In our CNN model, we employ a convolutional layer followed by max-pooling (conv-pool).

**Table I: Various Hyperparameters for Training of The CNN Model**

Parameter	Values for Each Text-based Dataset
Loss	Cross-Entropy
Hidden Activations	ReLU [18]
Output Activations	Softmax [22]
Shared Layers	CNN – 1D (conv-pool)
Fully-connected Layer	64 neurons, L2 regularization
Convolution Filters	Filters-512 Filter sizes-(2), (2,3,4) and (3,4,5)
Batch	64
Epochs	51 (with checkpoint option)
Dropout [19]	25%
Optimizer	Adam [23]

The convolutional layer includes 64 filters that slide over 2-word sequences. This is followed by a fully connected layer with 64 nodes and an output layer. The number of neurons in the output layer matches the number of classes in the dataset. The fully connected layer uses the ReLU activation function [17], and L2 regularization is applied as the loss function. For classification, the output layer employs the softmax activation function [22]. To enhance regularization, we apply a 25% dropout [19] in the fully connected layer. Adam optimizer [23] with default parameters is utilized for gradient-based training. A detailed list of hyperparameters for training the CNN deep neural network is presented in Table 1. The selection of hyperparameters for the CNN model was obtained by using the "Hyperopt" hyperparameter optimization algorithm [24]. Hyperparameter optimisation is the process of identifying the optimal combination of hyperparameter values to achieve maximum performance within a reasonable amount of time. It significantly influences the predictive accuracy of a machine learning algorithm. Hyperopt, a powerful Python library, uses a technique called Bayesian optimization to fine-tune parameters. The number of trees used in XGBoost was set to 25. The XGBoost algorithm was utilized from the "xgboost" library.

## C. Datasets

We evaluated our proposed model using five benchmark datasets: EmoInt, ISEAR, and CrowdFlower (CF). The details of all three datasets are depicted in Table 2.

▪ **EmoInt Dataset:** This dataset, from the WASSA-2017, shared task [25], contains tweets representing four emotions (anger, fear, joy, sadness) with intensity scores. It includes 3,613 training tweets, 347 validation tweets, and 3,142 test tweets.

▪ **ISEAR Dataset:** Collected through questionnaires from individuals of various cultural backgrounds, this dataset contains 7,666 sentences expressing seven emotions (anger, disgust, fear, sadness, shame, joy, guilt) [26]. We divided the data into 80% for training, 10% for validation, and 10% for testing.

▪ **CrowdFlower Dataset:** The dataset is significantly imbalanced across the emotion categories, with varying tweet counts [27].



For experiments, we take proportionate stratified samples from the CrowdFlower (CF) dataset. Here, the fraction of the sampling size used is 0.3. We used 11,977 proportionate stratified samples with an 80-10-10 split for training, validation, and testing.

**Table II: Details of the Experimental Datasets**

Datasets	Type of Class	# Classes	Train	Val	Test	Total
EmoInt <sup>1</sup>	Balanced	4	3,613	347	3,142	7,102
ISEAR <sup>2</sup>	Balanced	7	6132	307	1227	7,666
CF <sup>3</sup>	Imbalanced	13	9581	480	1916	11977

<sup>1</sup><https://aclanthology.org/W17-5207>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.affective-sciences.org/researchmaterial>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.kaggle.com/c/crowdflowersearch-relevance/overview>

## IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To thoroughly evaluate the proposed hybrid CNNXGBoost model, we utilized six different machine learning techniques: Logistic Regression (LR), Support Vector Machine (SVM), Multinomial Naive Bayes, Random Forest (RF), XGBoost, and Artificial Neural Network (ANN). Given that CNN is a deep learning architecture based on convolutional neural networks, for comparison, we incorporated some deep learning techniques. The algorithms above were developed using the Python-based Scikit-learn library, with some parameter modifications. In Logistic Regression (LR) for multiclass classification, we set the parameter "multiclass" to "multinomial". The number of trees used in Random Forest and XGBoost was set to 25. The XGBoost algorithm was utilized from the "xgboost" library. Specifically, we implemented bidirectional LSTM (BiLSTM), bidirectional GRU (BiGRU), and RCNN. We performed experiments with TextCNN using different filter sizes for convolution operations and conducted the results. The Python-based Keras library was used for implementing ANN and deep learning models. The hyperparameters of the deep learning-based models are optimized through the Hyperopt algorithm. For evaluation, we computed the F-score for classifying emotions. We analysed CNN architectures with filter sizes of 2, mixed sizes of 2-3-4, and mixed sizes of 3-4-5. Table 3 illustrates the results. The single filter size of 2 performed best on the ISEAR and CrowdFlower datasets, showing comparable performance on the EmoInt dataset, making it the more suitable choice overall. We implemented the CNN model with various linear and nonlinear classifiers. Results are presented in Table 4. The results show the f-score performance of CNN with linear and nonlinear classifiers, such as Logistic regression and SVM, on the EmoInt, ISEAR, and CF datasets. XGBoost improves f-scores by an average of 22.32% over LR and 26.00% over SVM, highlighting its better performance in emotion detection tasks and making it the best choice for text classification. We tested the XGBoost classifier with 5 to 100 trees and found optimal performance with 20 to 25 trees. We selected 25 trees to achieve the optimal balance of accuracy and efficiency. To strengthen the credibility of our proposed approach, we conducted a thorough evaluation using state-of-the-art machine learning

and deep learning algorithms. Table 5 presents a comparative analysis of the proposed model's results with those of leading algorithms.

**Table III: Comparisons of the Performance of Variants of CNN Models on Datasets**

Model	f-score (%)		
variants of 1D convolution layers	EmoInt	ISEAR	CF
Single filter size of 2	84.91	57.37	31.66
combination of (2, 3, 4) filter sizes	84.72	56.47	34.11
combination of (3, 4, 5) filter sizes	84.91	51.34	31.71

**Table IV: Results of the CNN Model with Different Classifiers on four Datasets**

Model	f-score (%)		
CNN with different classifiers	EmoInt	ISEAR	CF
CNN with LR	83.80	61.04	27.90
CNN with SVM	60.72	62.3	36.67
CNN with XGBoost	90.1	87.4	62.2

The results show that the proposed hCNNXGBoost model outperforms all other machine and deep learning algorithms across the EmoInt, ISEAR, and CrowdFlower datasets, achieving f-scores of 90.1%, 87.4%, and 62.2%, respectively. Conventional machine learning models, such as Multinomial NB, LR, and SVM, have lower F-scores, ranging from 27.40% to 78.87%. Random Forest and XGBoost demonstrate moderate performance, with F-scores ranging from 31.66% to 80.99%. Among DL models, CNN performs well on EmoInt (85.2%) and ISEAR (60.2%) but less so on CrowdFlower (33.89%). Other DL models, such as BiGRU, BiLSTM, and RCNN, have variable f-scores from 28.15% to 83.64%. The hCNNXGBoost's consistently improved performance highlights its robust architecture, effectively combining convolutional and gradient-boosting techniques to handle the complexities of multi-class emotion classification. The visual representation is depicted in Figure 3.

### A. Comparative Analysis

We compare our proposed hCNNXGBoost system to the existing methodologies to further justify our work. Comparison of the existing approaches with the proposed approach for EmoInt, ISEAR, and CrowdFlower (CF) emotion datasets (refer to Table 6). Results show that, among the mentioned systems, the proposed hCNNXGBoost model performs accurately on all three emotion datasets and demonstrates remarkable effectiveness in emotion detection tasks.

## V. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE

This study introduces a hybrid CNN with an XGBoost model, adept at multiclass emotion detection in natural language processing.

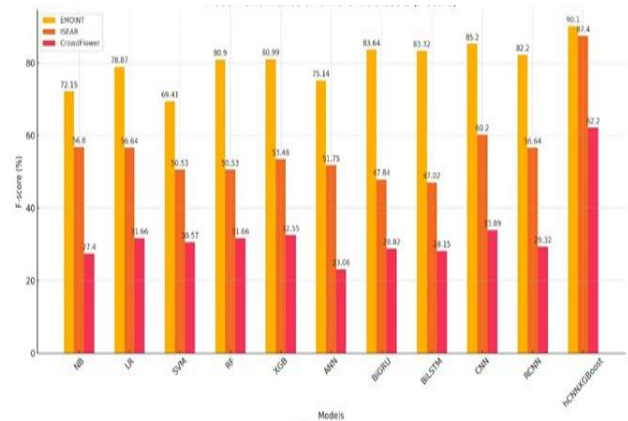
**Table V: Results of the Proposed hCNNXGBoost Approach Against Other Algorithms**

Model	f1-score (%)		
	EmoInt	ISEAR	CF
Naïve Bayes (NB)	72.15	56.8	27.4
Logistic regression (LR)	78.87	56.64	31.66
Support Vector Machine (SVM)	69.41	50.53	30.57
Random Forest (RF)	80.9	50.53	31.66
XGBoost (XGB)	80.99	53.46	32.25
Artificial Neural Network (ANN)	75.14	51.75	23.06
Bidirectional GRU (BiGRU)	83.64	47.84	28.82
Bidirectional LSTM (BiLSTM)	83.32	47.02	28.15
Convolution Neural Network (CNN)	85.2	60.2	33.89
Recurrent Convolutional Neural Network (RCNN)	82.2	56.64	29.32
The proposed hCNNXGBoost	90.1	87.4	62.2

Through rigorous experimentation across various datasets, our approach demonstrates improved F-scores, notably outperforming other models, which confirms its efficacy. The model was tested across diverse datasets, handling imbalanced datasets with varying class distributions, showcasing its adeptness in emotion-centric tasks. The fusion of CNN probabilities with the original text data enriches the feature space, thereby improving the precision of emotion classification. Future extensions could include multilingual and multilabel emotion detection, as well as addressing interpretability and bias within the hybrid model for practical applications.

**Table VI: Comparison of the Proposed Model against Existing Approaches in All Datasets**

Dataset	Study	Technique	Result f-score (%)
EmoInt	Akhtar et al. (2022) [28]	Multi-task Ensemble (CNN, LSTM, GRU)	89.3
	Bostan & Klinger (2018) [29]	Corpus Analysis	88
	The Proposed hCNNXGBoost	CNN combined with the XGBoost algorithm	90.1
ISEAR	Felbo et al. (2017) [30]	The DeepMoji model consists of an LSTM	57
	Bostan et al. (2018) [29]	maximum entropy classifiers using Bag of Words features	60.5
	Kratzwald et al. (2018) [31]	Sent2affect transfer learning technique and BiLSTM model	59.6
	Batbaatar et al. (2019) [32]	SENN model with BiLSTM and CNN	74.6
	Rei and Mladenici (2023) [33]	Language models (RoBERTa) with zero-shot transfer	76
		Language models (RoBERTa) with few-shot transfer	62
	The Proposed hCNNXGBoost	CNN combined with the XGBoost algorithm	87.4
CF	Y. Oscar (2020) [34]	Ensemble Neural Network (CNN, RNN, Pooling)	38
	The Proposed hCNNXGBoost	CNN combined with the XGBoost algorithm	62.2



**Fig.3: Comparison of Algorithm Performance Across Three Datasets**

## DECLARATION STATEMENT

After aggregating input from all authors, I must verify the accuracy of the following information as the article's author.

- **Conflicts of Interest/Competing Interests:** Based on my understanding, this article does not have any conflicts of interest.
- **Funding Support:** This article has not been funded by any organizations or agencies. This independence ensures that the research is conducted with objectivity and without any external influence.
- **Ethical Approval and Consent to Participate:** The content of this article does not necessitate ethical approval or consent to participate with supporting documentation.
- **Data Access Statement and Material Availability:** The adequate resources of this article are publicly accessible.
- **Author's Contributions:** The authorship of this article is attributed equally to all participating authors.

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