

Multi-Modal Emotion Recognition Feature Extraction and Data Fusion Methods Evaluation

Sanjeeva Rao Sanku, B. Sandhya



Abstract: Research into emotion detection is crucial because of the wide range of fields that can benefit from it, including healthcare, intelligent customer service, and education. In comparison to unimodal approaches, multimodal emotion recognition (MER) integrates multiple modalities, including text, facial expressions, and voice, to provide improved accuracy and robustness. This article provides a historical and present-day overview of MER, focusing on its relevance, difficulties, and approaches. We examine several datasets, comparing and contrasting their features and shortcomings; they include IEMOCAP and MELD. Recent developments in deep learning approaches, particularly fusion strategies such as early, late, and hybrid fusion, are reviewed in the literature. Data redundancy, complicated feature extraction, and real-time detection are among the identified shortcomings. Our suggested technique enhances emotion recognition accuracy by using deep learning to extract features using a hybrid fusion approach. To overcome existing restrictions and advance the field of MER, this study aims to guide future investigations in the right direction. Examining various data fusion strategies, reviewing new methodologies in multimodal emotion identification, and identifying problems and research needs make up the primary body of this work.

Keywords: Multimodal Emotion Recognition (MER), Speech Analysis, Facial Expression Recognition, MELD, Hybrid Fusion

I. INTRODUCTION

Research in the field of emotion identification is crucial because it allows computers to understand human emotions and respond intelligently to human needs. In the classroom, students' emotional states can significantly impact their productivity and well-being. Teachers may gain a better understanding of their students' emotional health and academic performance by using emotion detection technology that tracks their emotional states. Because technology might help physicians comprehend their patients' emotional states, emotion recognition could be helpful in healthcare [1]. This would enable more personalised and tailored medical treatment.

By precisely identifying customers' emotional needs and providing tailored services, emotion identification can enhance intelligent customer service systems. With the ability to completely transform the way humans interact with computers, emotion detection systems have quickly become a prominent focus of AI research. In the early stages of emotion recognition research, researchers focused mainly on recognizing individual modalities such as voice emotion recognition, text emotion recognition, and facial expression identification [2]. Nevertheless, the restricted precision of emotional assessments based on a single mode is due to inadequate data and vulnerability to interference. As a result, researchers have increasingly turned to using numerous modalities to enhance the accuracy of emotional evaluations. Therefore, in response to this, researchers created multimodal emotion recognition (MER) [3]. In addition, MER may quantify the relationship between distinct aspects of many modalities by using the idea of maximum mutual information [4]. The most valuable and distinguishing features of each modality may therefore be extracted in this way. This approach significantly enhances the model's ability to distinguish between emotions. Thus, MER has attracted considerable interest from scholars interested in combining data from multiple modalities. Emotional judgments may be more complete and accurate when these components complement and support one another. Emotional judgments are therefore much improved [5] [6][7]. One way to classify emotions is into neutral or non-neutral categories. A lack of strong feelings or expressions in reaction to different circumstances is often associated with neutral emotions. There are two main types of emotions that are not neutral: positive and negative. Negative traits, including anxiety, failure, and pessimism, have been linked to unpleasant feelings. A person's health can suffer if they frequently experience these unpleasant emotions. It was also shown to correlate directly with the duration that people can focus on a single task. An individual's cardiovascular system may become dysfunctional as a result of these negative feelings. Positive emotions, on the other hand, are seen very differently. Optimal well-being is associated with positive feelings, such as happiness and pleasure [8]. Figure 1 illustrates the taxonomy of emotions previously discussed.

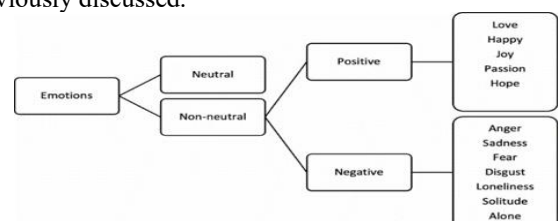


Fig.1: The Categorization of Various Emotions for Multimodal Emotion Identification

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*Correspondence Author(s)

Sanjeeva Rao Sanku*, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University College of Engineering, Osmania University, Hyderabad (Telangana), India. Email ID: ssanjeevarao@gmail.com, ORCID ID: 0009-0003-5966-4629

Prof. B. Sandhya, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, MVSR Engineering College, Hyderabad (Telangana), India, Email ID: sandhya_cse@mvsrec.edu.in

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A. Components of Multimodal Emotion Recognition

- Speech: Captures vocal expressions of emotion.
- Text: Analyzes written language for emotional content.
- Facial Expressions: Identifies emotions through facial movements.
- Physiological Signals: Includes EEG, heart rate, and skin conductance.

B. Datasets

To train and evaluate emotion identification algorithms, datasets that incorporate multimodal data are essential. Examples include IEMOCAP and the MELD (Multimodal EmotionLines Dataset).

C. Iemocap

An essential resource for emotion detection research is the Interactive Emotional Dyadic Motion Capture (IEMOCAP) [9] dataset, which was established by the Signal Analysis and Interpretation Lab (SAIL) at the University of Southern California. A comprehensive investigation of emotional states in interactive scenarios is made possible by the dataset's amalgamation of multiple modalities, including video, voice, facial motion capture, and text data. Ten performers, evenly split between men and women, contributed to compiling the statistics. The performers, who were partnered according to gender and divided into five groups, delivered both prepared and spontaneous lines. The diversity of emotional content in this collection of chats makes it a more accurate representation of emotional communication in the real world. IEMOCAP offers a diverse range of emotional situations for examination, including 4784 spontaneous and 5255 scripted encounters. The conversations encompass a wide range of emotions, from joy to wrath, surprise, fear, disgust, irritation, excitement, and even neutrality. This allows for a more nuanced examination of emotions by including continuous aspects such as activation, arousal, and dominance. The main advantage of IEMOCAP is that it is authentic; deep learning models can use it to identify genuine emotional signals across different modalities, as the emotions it captures are real and not simulated. But IEMOCAP does have certain restrictions. Although the dataset encompasses a wealth of modalities and emotional categories, its relatively modest size may render it unsuitable for deep learning models that require more extensive data. The model's adaptability to various cultures and languages is limited by its linguistic focus on English. Because it is only available in English, the model is less flexible and less suited to use with other cultures and languages. The fact that the data was obtained in a controlled laboratory setting could impact the authenticity of the sensations, which might impede the model's capacity to generalize in real-world circumstances. Additionally, the sample exhibits a significant class imbalance, which may lead to erroneous results for less prevalent emotions.

D. Meld

The Multimodal Emotion Lines Dataset (MELD) [10] offers a fresh perspective in the field of MER by focusing on the emotional complexities inherent in dialogues involving multiple participants. The dataset is a structured compilation of text from the hit American TV show "Friends," comprising 1,433 conversations with a total of 13,708 words. The MELD dataset provides a diverse range of emotions for study, with

each phrase assigned to one of seven categories: anger, contempt, sorrow, joy, neutrality, surprise, or fear. Along with these specific designations, every remark also has an emotional categorization of good, harmful, or neutral, which helps to comprehend the attitude more broadly. Contextual models for dialogue-based emotion identification can be built and improved with the help of this dataset, whose design aligns with its primary goal. An essential yet largely unexplored facet of human communication—the emotional dynamics within multi-party debate settings—may be uncovered through the use of this dataset. When using the dataset for study or model building, it is essential to examine its cultural applicability and realism. The dataset's authenticity is compromised since the conversations are derived from a fictional television series. Consequently, they could fail to capture the nuances of spontaneous, unplanned conversations. Furthermore, the television series is American-made; therefore, the conversations mostly reflect American cultural standards and idioms. Understanding cultural diversity is crucial in emotion recognition research, as models trained on this dataset may not perform as well in other cultural settings. Despite these caveats, the MELD dataset remains a valuable resource for research on emotion detection in natural speech. It fills a gap in the literature by focusing on conversations with multiple participants. It may help shape future emotion detection algorithms that are both more complex and sensitive to context.

II. MULTIMODAL EMOTION RECOGNITION

To develop multimodal emotion identification frameworks, researchers are exploring various methods for this purpose. The identification of facial position and extraction of mathematical, visual, or a combination of both mathematical and visual selections on the target face are standard features of these systems. The available alternatives are sometimes segregated by facial region location or entirely distinct facial locations, encompassing various types of information. Prior research has focused chiefly on integrating audiovisual data to facilitate automated emotion identification, such as merging speech and facial expressions. Their corpus revealed that feature-level fusion was the most effective method for distinguishing between angry and neutral expressions. Distinguishing between joyful and sad emotions, however, was best accomplished via decision-level fusion. The researchers concluded that the optimal fusion technique depends on the specific application. The multimodal identification system incorporates not only voice and facial emotion but also the thermal distribution of infrared pictures. In decision-level fusion, each modality is trained independently using several unimodal classifiers, and their outputs are combined using predefined weighting algorithms. Many methods for fusing models at the level of individual models have been proposed. Due to its potential applications in healthcare, social robotics, and human-computer interaction, multimodal emotion recognition (MER) has garnered significant attention in recent years.

Emotion recognition systems are made more accurate and reliable by combining several modalities, including text, audio, and facial expressions. Focusing on fusion methods, datasets, applications, and the difficulties of model interpretability, this literature review examines the most recent developments in deep learning-based MER approaches. Jiménez-Guarneros and Fuentes-Pineda (2024) [29] introduced CFDA-CSF, a method that integrates cross-subject domain adaptation to address variability in emotion recognition across different individuals. Their approach combines facial and speech features using domain adaptation techniques to enhance generalization across subjects. This multi-modal method improves emotion recognition accuracy by mitigating the effects of individual differences. Sun et al. (2024) [30] proposed a hierarchical knowledge distillation approach for multi-modal emotion recognition. By leveraging a teacher-student framework, their model distills knowledge from a complex, multi-modal teacher network to a simpler student network. This method ensures that the student model retains critical emotional features while being more computationally efficient. Alsaadawi and Daş (2024) [31] utilised a bi-directional LSTM graph convolutional network (Bi-LG-GCN) for the MELD dataset, thereby enhancing emotion recognition by capturing contextual and sequential dependencies in multimodal data. Their approach demonstrates the potential of graph-based models in handling complex interactions between different modalities. Kumar et al. (2024) [32] explored hybrid fusion methods that combine speech and image data to create an interpretable multimodal emotion recognition system. Their research highlights the need to integrate data from many modalities to improve accuracy and interpretability. Umair et al. (2024) [33] developed Emo Fu-Sense, which integrates various multi-modal data streams through a novel fusion technique. Their method emphasises the coherent integration of emotional signals, resulting in a more comprehensive understanding of the user's emotional state. Makhmudov et al. (2024) [34] enhanced the handling of multimodal data by incorporating attention techniques within BERT and CNN systems. They demonstrate how attention processes can enhance emotion identification by focusing on the most crucial details in the input data. Wang et al. (2024) [35] introduced Husformer, a multi-modal transformer model designed for human state recognition. This model leverages the transformer's ability to handle sequential data, offering robust multimodal fusion and state recognition capabilities. Pereira et al. (2024) [36] compiled a comprehensive overview of recent developments and current practices in emotion detection, conducting a systematic analysis of technologies that utilise computer vision and deep learning. Their review highlights the importance of integrating various data sources and the challenges associated with multi-modal emotion recognition. Li et al. (2024) [37] introduced Magdra, a network for multimodal attention that utilises algorithms for dynamic routing by agreement to control the merging of different modalities. By continually adjusting to the input data, this model strikes a good balance between the modalities, resulting in improved recognition performance. To achieve multi-modal emotion identification, Wang et al. (2023) [38] integrate EEG inputs with facial expressions. Their method leverages the complementary nature of physiological and

visual data, integrating EEG signals with facial expressions to enhance the emotional context. Better recognition results are achieved by combining EEG and facial data, which provides a more comprehensive picture of the underlying emotional states. Lei and Cao (2023) [39] utilized preference learning for audio-visual emotion recognition. Their model incorporates both intended and perceived emotion labels to refine the learning process, aligning the predictions more closely with human perception. Liu et al. (2023) [40] proposed a multi-modal fusion network that focuses on complementarity and the relative importance of each modality. Their model adapts to varying strengths of different modalities, ensuring that the fusion process effectively captures the most salient emotional cues. Hou et al. (2023) [41] proposed a Semantic Alignment Network (SAN) that aligns multi-modal data by learning a shared semantic space. This alignment enhances the integration of modalities by ensuring that the features from different sources contribute coherently to emotion recognition. Shahzad et al. (2023) [42] modified the Xception model to fuse multi-modal CNN features for emotion recognition. Their approach integrates CNN features across modalities, demonstrating significant improvements in accuracy by capturing detailed spatial and temporal patterns. Zhang et al. (2023) [43] developed a Structure-Aware Multi-Graph Network with a primary emphasis on conversational multi-modal emotion identification. Their approach leverages structural information from multi-graph networks, which capture the relational dynamics between different modalities. Zhang et al. (2023) [44] created the M3GAT, an Interactive Graph Attention Network that can handle several tasks and modalities. Through the use of graph attention mechanisms, this model dynamically prioritises various modalities, yielding exceptional performance in conversational sentiment analysis and emotion identification. Singh et al. (2022) [45] developed Emoint-trans, a multimodal transformer designed to identify social conversational emotions and intentions. Transformers excel at handling sequential data, enabling nuanced analysis of conversational context. Zou et al. (2022) [46] improved multimodal fusion with the Main Modal Transformer, which prioritizes the dominant modality in fusion processes for conversation-based emotion recognition. Lian et al. (2022) [47] proposed SMIN—a Semi-supervised Multi-modal Interaction Network—to address the issue of insufficient labelled data for conversational emotion identification. Their network utilises both labelled and unlabeled data to enhance model performance. Yoon (2022) [48] investigated cross-modal translation, a method for improving the accuracy and resilience of emotion detection models by combining input from other datasets. Wang et al. (2022) [49] investigated the integration of EEG and speech signals for emotion recognition. Their study highlights the complementary nature of physiological and speech data, providing a comprehensive view of the emotional state. Zheng et al. (2022) [50] introduced a Multi-channel Weight-Sharing Autoencoder with Cascade Multi-Head Attention for emotion recognition. This model effectively fuses features by sharing weights across channels and employing attention mechanisms to prioritize salient features.

Yang et al. (2022) [51] emphasized methods for multi-modal interaction with context and different modes of speech to identify emotions. Their approach enhances the system's emotional understanding and prediction capabilities by capturing the contextual interactions of several modalities. Liu et al. (2021) [52] compared the performance and robustness of various multimodal deep-learning models for emotion recognition. Their comparative study offers valuable insights into how multiple models address the complexities of multimodal data. Guanhui and Xiaoping (2021) [53] fused correlation features of speech and visual data. Their method effectively captures the synchronous and asynchronous interactions between modalities, enhancing emotion recognition accuracy. Tables I and II provide a comprehensive overview of the current status and prospects in the domain of multimodal emotion recognition.

A. Identified Gaps

- Data Redundancy and Conflict
- To deal with contradictory or duplicated input in visual and auditory modalities, effective fusion algorithms are needed.

B. Feature Extraction Complexity

- Extracting features from audio and physiological signals remains a complex and challenging task.

C. Missing Data

- Handling missing data in one or more modalities is crucial to maintaining robustness in emotion recognition.

D. Real-time Detection

- Developing systems capable of real-time emotion detection is necessary for practical applications.

III. DATA FUSION METHODS

When it comes to multimodal emotion identification, data fusion approaches are crucial. By combining data from multiple modalities, these strategies enhance the accuracy and resilience of emotion detection systems. The methods can be broadly classified into three categories: early fusion, late fusion, and hybrid fusion.

A. Early Fusion

Early fusion refers to the process of merging raw data or characteristics from disparate modalities at an early stage,

before inputting them into a unified model. This approach leverages the correlation between different modalities from the beginning of the learning process, as shown in Fig. 2. Although early fusion has been crucial in the field of MER, researchers need to address its limitations to enhance the optimisation of this strategy further. This continuous inquiry presents an intriguing subject of study in the ongoing development of MER. In this approach, features extracted from speech, text, and facial expressions are concatenated into a single feature vector, which is then input into a unified model for emotion prediction.

B. Late Fusion

Late fusion combines the outputs of individual models trained on different modalities. Each modality is processed independently, and its predictions are fused at a later stage, often using techniques such as weighted averaging or voting. On the other hand, late fusion presupposes that each modality works autonomously, which fails to take into account the interdependence of modalities and may lead to imprecise result forecasts. To improve the accuracy of emotion detection (Fig. 3), future studies should focus on creating fusion methods that retain the benefits of late fusion while also incorporating inter-modality interactions. During late fusion, individual models are used to analyze each modality (speech, text, face), and the resulting outputs are merged using a fusion procedure to provide the ultimate prediction.

C. Hybrid Fusion

Hybrid fusion has elements from both early and late fusion. It integrates characteristics at several stages of the processing pipeline, enabling interactions across different modalities at different levels of abstraction. In hybrid fusion, intermediate features from individual modality-specific models are concatenated and then fed into a unified model, which processes these fused features to make the final prediction. The intricacy of these approaches also poses challenges, most notably in addressing the increasing processing demands and in determining the optimal balance between early and late fusion algorithms. To advance in the area of multimodal effect detection, continuous study and improvement are necessary for hybrid fusion approaches (Fig. 4). These diagrams and descriptions highlight the various stages at which data fusion can occur, demonstrating the versatility and potential of each approach in multimodal emotion recognition systems.

Table I: Performance of Feature Extraction and Fusion Methods on Most Widely Used Data Sets

S.NO, Author	Modalities Used and Feature Extraction Methods	Fusion policy adopted	Classifier used	Dataset	Performance
1. Wei-Long et al. [11]	EEG, Eye movements, STFT,	Feature-level fusion EEG RBM	PCA, Deep Neural Network	EEG data, Eye movement data	Classified four emotions: happy, sad, fear, and neutral, with 72.39% accuracy.
2. Shahla et al. [12]	Audio, visual, text, Fisher vector encoding,	Dempster Shafer, MFA, CFA, CCA	SVM, Naive Bayes	DEAP	Classified three emotions: happy, sad and fear

3. Having Huang et al [13]	Audio, video, CNN	GAP	ECNN	DEAP	Classified four emotions: relaxation, depression, excitement, and fear, with 82.92 % accuracy.
4. Hongli Zhang et. Al [14]	Audio, video, BDAE,	Bimodal deep automatic encoder	LIBSVM	Radboud faces database	Classified four emotions: happy, sad, fear and neutral, with 85.71% accuracy.
5. Shamane Siriwardhana et. Al [15]	Text, audio, vision, SSL	Transformers(SS E-FT), Attention(IMA)	Deep Learning	IEMOCAP, MELD, CMU-MOSI, CMU-MOSEI	Classified five emotions: happy, sad, angry, neutral, and excited. Analyzed sentiment also from conversations.
6. Jinming Zhao et. Al [16]	Text, visual, audio, BERT	Transformers	Self-supervised learning	IEMOCAP, MSP-IMPROV	Classified four emotions: happy, sad, angry and neutral.
7. Sarala Padi et. Al [17]	Speech, text, BERT, ResNet	Weighted Average(WA)	Residual Networks, Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers	IEMOCAP	Classified four emotions: angry, happy, neutral, and sad, with 70.33% accuracy.
8. Puneet Kumar et. al. [18]	Speech, images, VGG	Gradient Descent	Deep Neural Networks	IIT Roorkee Speech Image Emotion Recognition dataset, IEMOCAP	Classified four emotions: anger, happiness, hate, and sadness, with 83.29% accuracy.
9. Yücel Cimtay et. Al [19]	Image, GSR, voice, Inception ResnetV2	Hybrid fusion weighted sun	CNN	Cohn Kanade, Faces DB, Radboud, AffectNet, LUMED-2, DEAP	Classified emotions: angry, disgust, afraid, happy, neutral, sad and surprised with 74.2% accuracy.
10. Fengmao Lv et. Al [20]	Text, image, attention	Transformers	Unsupervised classifier	CMU-MOSI, CMU-MOSEI, IEMOCAP	Happy, sad, angry, neutral
11. Jiahui Pan et. Al [21]	Image, audio, GhostNet, LFCNN, LSTM	Optimal weight distribution	Deep learning	CK++, CMO-DB, MAHNOB-HCI	Classified emotions: Anger, disgust, fear, happy, sad, surprise, contempt, with 94.36% accuracy.
12. Sanghyun Lee et. Al [22]	Text, audio, visual, SoundNet, VGGish, BERT	SMAF, MAF, and VF transformers	Deep learning	CMU-MOSI, CMU-MOSEI, IEMOCAP	Classified emotions as happy, angry, sad, and neutral with 85.3% accuracy.
13. Dung Nguyen et. Al [23]	Audio, visual, 2DConv-AE, 1DConv-AE	LSTM	Deep Neural Network	RECOLA	Classified emotions include happiness, anger, excitement, depression, and boredom.
14. Yi Yang et. Al [24]	Image, audio, ICA	RBM	Deep Belief Networks, SVM	SEED	Classified three emotions: Positive, neutral, and hostile.
15. Lucas Goncalves et. Al [25]	Audio, visual, VGG	Dot product attention, MHA	Neural Networks	CREMA-D corpus, MSP-IMPROV corpus	Gained 77.2% classification accuracy
16. Ke Zhang et. Al [26]	Text, audio, visual, DDQN, RL	RNN, GRU	RNN	IEMOCAP, MELD	Classified as Happy, sad, neutral, angry, excited and frustrated emotions
17. Norbert Braunsch et. Al [27]	Text, audio, BERT, Encoders	LUDWING	Deep learning	IEMOCAP	Classified four emotions: angry, happy, sad and neutral.
18. Guan-Nan Dong et. Al [28]	Text, audio, CNN_Bi-LSTM, word2vec	AFFM	CNN	IEMOCAP, MELD	Classified six emotions: anger, happiness, excitement, sadness, frustration, and neutral

Table II: Key Findings Using Various Feature Extraction and Fusion Methods

S.NO	Author	Methods Used for Feature Extraction	Methods used for Data Fusion	Datasets	Key Findings
1 [29]	Jiménez-Guarneros & Fuentes-Pineda (2024)	SMI BeGaze for eye movement, STFT for EEG features	t-SNE visualization in 2D	SEED, SEED-IV, SEED-V	Improved cross-subject emotion recognition performance
2 [30]	Sun et al. (2024)	VGG, ALBERT, Pretrained MTCNN	HKD- MER(Hierarchical Knowledge Distillation MER)	MOSET, IEMOCAP	Hierarchical knowledge distillation improves multimodal. Emotion recognition.
3 [31]	Alsaadawi & Daş (2024)	K-PCA(Kernel PCA)	Bi-LG-GCN	MELD	Enhanced emotion recognition on MELD dataset using Bi-LG-GCN

Multi-Modal Emotion Recognition Feature Extraction and Data Fusion Methods Evaluation

4 [32]	Kumar et al. (2024)	Deep Learning based classifiers	ParallelNet, VGG, ResNet	IIT-R SIER Custom dataset	Interpretable emotion recognition through the hybrid fusion of speech and image
5 [33]	Umair et al. (2024)	LSTM, CNN, and RNN	Emotion Fusion-Sense (Emo Fu-Sense)	Various datasets	Novel multimodal emotion classification technique
6 [34]	Makhmudov et al. (2024)	Mel Spectrogram Features, BERT, Bi-GRU	Attention Mechanisms in BERT and CNN	MELD, CMU-MOSEI	Enhanced emotion recognition through attention mechanisms in BERT and CNN
7 [35]	Wang et al. (2024)	Husformer	Cross-modal Attention Transformers- Husformer	DEAP, WESAD, MOCAS and CogLoad	Multi-modal transformer for human state recognition
8 [36]	Pereira et al. (2024)	Computer Vision and Deep Learning	LSTM	Various computer vision datasets	A systematic review of emotion detection methods
9 [37]	Li et al. (2024)	Multi-modal Attention Graph Network (Magdra)	PAA, ECT	IEMOCAP, CMU-MOSI	Dynamic routing-by-agreement improves multi-label emotion recognition
10 [38]	Wang et al. (2023)	Fusion of EEG signals and facial expressions, CNN, attention, DeepVANet	Weight assignment, AdaBoost	DEAP, MAHNOB-HCI	Multimodal emotion recognition from EEG and facial expressions
11 [39]	Lei & Cao (2023)	OpenSMILE, OFFBA	RankSVM, RankNet, Lambda MART	CREMA-D	Audio-visual emotion recognition with preference learning
12 [40]	Liu et al. (2023)	Attention, LSTM	Multimodal fusion networks	MELD, IEMOCAP	Network with complementarity and importance enhances emotion recognition
13 [41]	Hou et al. (2023)	Encoders, SMI, attention	SAMS	MELD, IEMOCAP	Semantic alignment network improves emotion recognition
14 [42]	Shahzad, H. M., et al. (2023)	Convolution models	Multi-Modal CNN	M-LFW-F, CREMA-D	The modified Xception model improves emotion recognition
15 [43]	Zhang, Duzhen, et al. (2023)	RoBERTa, openSMILE, 3D-CNN	SAMGN	IEMOCAP, MELD	Efficient emotion recognition in conversations
16 [44]	Zhang, Yazhou, et al. (2023)	ResNet, BERT	Multi-Task Interactive Graph Attention Network	MELD, DailyDialog	Effective for sentiment analysis and emotion recognition
17 [45]	Singh, Gopendra Vikram, et al. (2022)	BiLSTM, openSMILE, ResNeXt	MISA	EmoInt-MD	Identifies emotions and intents in social conversations
18 [46]	Zou, ShiHao, et al. (2022)	Main Modal Transformer	MMTr, CMF	MELD	Enhances multimodal fusion in conversations
19 [47]	Lian, Zheng, Bin Liu, and Jianhua Tao (2022)	Bi-GRU, Attention	Semi-supervised Multimodal Interaction Network(SMIN)	IEMOCAP, MELD, CMU-MOSI	Improved conversational emotion recognition
20 [48]	Yoon, Yeo Chan (2022)	FAN, fully connected layer, glove word embedding	Cross-Modal Translator	IEMOCAP, CMU-MOSEI	Utilizes multiple datasets for robust recognition
21 [49]	Wang, Qian, et al. (2022)	AFE, PLDA, ELM	AVER, WEVER, RF, ET	MED4, SEED, DEAP	Uses EEG and speech for emotion recognition
22 [50]	Zheng, Jiahao, et al. (2022)	Encoder, Attention	MCWSA-CMHA	IEMOCAP, MSP-IMPROV	Cascade multi-head attention enhances performance
23 [51]	Yang, Dingkang, et al. (2022)	Transformers	Contextual and Cross-Modal Interaction	IEMOCAP, RAVDESS	Focuses on speech emotion recognition
24 [52]	Liu, Wei, et al. (2021)	STFT	DCCA	SEED-V, DREAMER	Compare the performance and robustness of different models
25 [53]	Guanghui, Chen, and Zeng Xiaoping (2021)	AlexNet, C3D-Sports-1M	Correlation Features Fusion	RML, eINTERFACE05, BAUM-1	Fuses speech and visual features for emotion recognition

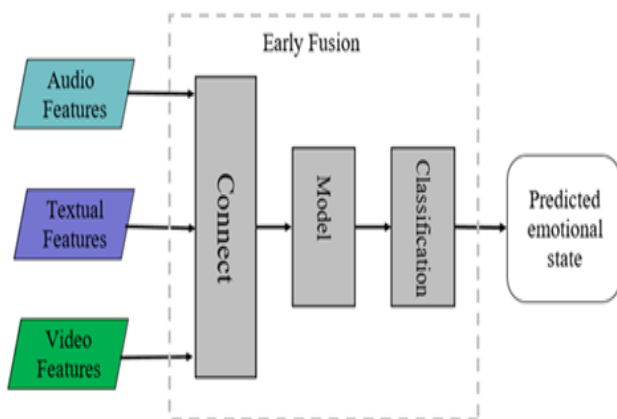


Fig. 2: Framework for Recognizing Emotions Using Several Modes, Based on Early Fusion Techniques

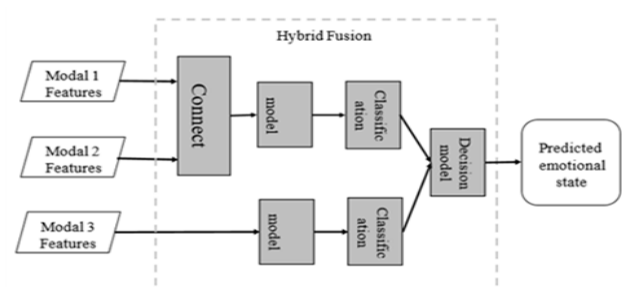


Fig.3: A Framework for Recognizing Emotions Using Several Modes, Based on the Concept of Late Fusions

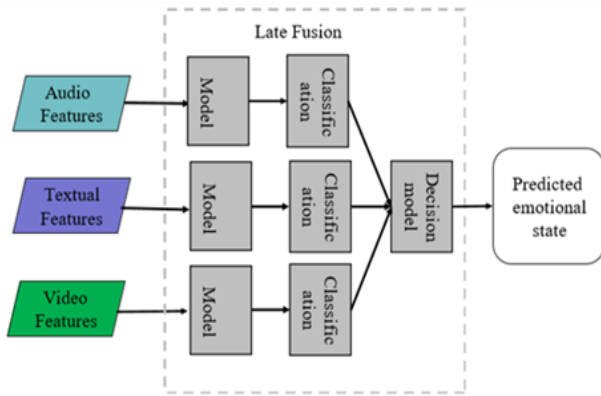


Fig. 4.: A Framework for Recognizing Emotions Using a Combination of Different Modes and Fusion Techniques

IV. EFFECTIVE DATA FUSION FOR MULTIMODAL EMOTION RECOGNITION CHALLENGES

To make emotion recognition systems more accurate and resilient, multimodal emotion identification attempts to incorporate additional data from various modalities, including text, facial expressions, and speech. However, several challenges must be addressed to develop effective data fusion methodologies.

These challenges include:

A. Heterogeneity of Data

Different modalities provide diverse types of data, including auditory signals from speech, textual data from transcripts, and visual data from facial expressions. The intrinsic properties of these data types (e.g., temporal vs. spatial, continuous vs. discrete) can make it challenging to combine them effectively.

Temporal Alignment: Speech and facial expressions evolve, necessitating the synchronisation of features extracted from these modalities.

Feature Representation: Speech features (e.g., MFCCs) differ from textual features (e.g., word embeddings) and facial features (e.g., facial landmarks), necessitating a common representation framework.

Fig.4.A framework for recognizing emotions using a combination of different modes and fusion techniques.

B. Modality-Specific Noise and Artefacts

The performance of the emotion detection system may be negatively impacted by various forms of noise and artefacts that affect each modality.

Speech: Background noise, microphone quality, and speaker variability can affect the quality of speech features.

Text: Text derived from speech through automatic speech recognition (ASR) may contain transcription errors, especially in noisy environments or with non-native speakers.

Facial Expressions: Variations in lighting, occlusions, and camera angles can affect the accuracy of facial feature extraction.

C. Missing or Incomplete Data

In practical applications, not all modalities may be available at all times due to sensor failures, occlusions, or user preferences.

Handling Missing Modalities: Effective fusion methods must account for situations where one or more modalities are missing and still make accurate predictions.

Imputation Techniques: Methods such as data imputation or estimation of missing features need to be robust and accurate to avoid introducing biases.

D. Computational Complexity

Combining multiple modalities can significantly increase the computational burden, making real-time processing challenging.

Limitations on Available Resources: Real-time multimodal processing may be taxing for devices with little computing power, such as mobile phones.

Algorithm Complexity: Complex fusion algorithms can lead to increased training and inference times, which may not be feasible in time-sensitive applications.

E. Optimal Fusion Strategies

The optimal selection of the fusion technique (early fusion, late fusion, or hybrid fusion) is of utmost importance and may vary based on the specific application and the available data.

Early Fusion: While it allows for the exploitation of correlations between modalities from the start, it may suffer from high dimensionality and require extensive pre-processing.

Late Fusion: This approach is more straightforward and modular, but it may overlook the interdependencies between modalities that could enhance performance.

Hybrid Fusion: Combining the strengths of both early and late fusion, hybrid fusion can be complex to design and optimize.

F. Interpretability of Models

Interpreting deep learning models, particularly those used in multimodal fusion, can pose challenges, thereby hindering comprehension of the specific contributions of distinct modalities to the ultimate prediction.

Transparency: The trustworthiness and accountability of the model depend on its decision-making process being open and understandable.

Explainability Techniques: Developing methods to explain the contribution of each modality and feature can help in debugging and improving the model.

G. Generalization Across Domains

Emotion recognition models trained on specific datasets often fail to generalise well to other domains or environments.

Domain Adaptation: Ensuring that the model can adapt to different speaking styles, languages, and cultural expressions of emotion is essential for real-world applications.

Transfer Learning: However, a substantial quantity of labelled data from the target domains may be necessary to fine-tune pre-trained models.

H. Evaluation Metrics and Benchmarking

Standardised evaluation metrics and benchmark datasets are necessary to compare the performance of different fusion methodologies effectively.

Performance Metrics:
Accuracy, F1-score,



confusion matrices, and other metrics should be used to evaluate and compare models.

Benchmark Datasets: Comprehensive datasets that include synchronized multimodal data and cover a wide range of emotional expressions are essential for benchmarking.

V. METHODOLOGY

A. Semantic Diagram

The proposed methodology involves extracting features from text, audio, and video modalities and then using a hybrid fusion approach to combine these features. A robust classification model will be developed to identify emotions accurately. There is no text provided. Fig. 5 depicts the all-encompassing structure of a standard deep learning-powered MER (Machine Emotion Recognition) system. Emotion recognition (MER) is a rapidly growing area in artificial intelligence (AI), driven by the rapid development of deep learning methods that have played a significant role in its advancement.

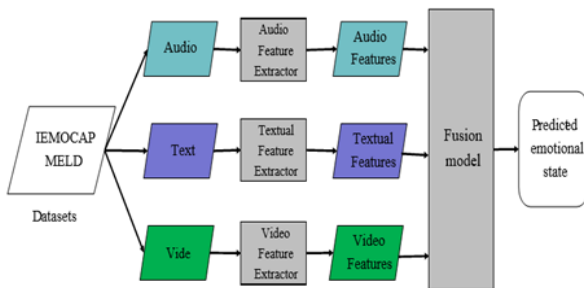


Fig.5: An Outline of a Standard Multimodal Emotion Identification System

The essence of this lies in the creation of accurate network architectures and their accompanying measures of error. Many modern loss functions are inspired by concepts related to entropy, with the cross-entropy loss function being a notable example. Essentially, several deep learning architectures enhance their models by optimising specific loss functions associated with entropy, either by maximising or minimising them. The flexibility of deep learning algorithms enables their precise customisation to leverage interactions between multiple senses, resulting in the extraction of emotionally rich characteristics for accurate emotion identification. Researchers are seeing incredible results when they use deep learning algorithms to MER. Firstly, we present commonly used MER datasets and conduct a comprehensive study of their intrinsic properties and potential issues. Additionally, we examine the advantages and disadvantages of various datasets, helping researchers select the most suitable datasets for their specific studies. Furthermore, we thoroughly examine several strategies for extracting emotional features from many modes of communication, with a particular focus on highlighting the advantages and limitations of each technique. Finally, we provide a comprehensive review of MER algorithms, focusing on fusion methods for early, late, hybrid, and intermediate layers. We examine the pros and cons of various fusion methods, providing valuable perspectives to aid researchers in choosing the most suitable fusion approaches. We anticipate that our study will address the existing deficiency in the area and serve as a valuable resource for academics seeking a comprehensive understanding of the latest

developments and future research opportunities in the domain of MER.

B. Implementation Steps

- **Data Collection:** Utilise datasets such as IEMOCAP and DEAP.
- **Feature Extraction:** Employ NLP techniques for text, MFCCs for speech/audio, and FACS for facial/video expressions.
- **Data Fusion:** Efficient data fusion methods are crucial for combining features from different modalities. There are three main types of fusion methods: early, late, and hybrid.
- **Classification:** Common classifiers used in emotion recognition include Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs), Support Vector Machines (SVMs), and recurrent neural networks (RNNs).

VI. CHALLENGES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

A crucial step in understanding and responding to human emotions in various settings is recognising multimodal emotions. In comparison to single-modal techniques, MER systems provide more accurate and robust emotion recognition by combining voice, text, and facial expressions. The exploration of deep learning techniques and fusion strategies reveals the potential for substantial improvements in emotion recognition systems. However, challenges such as handling heterogeneous data, modality-specific noise, and real-time processing must be addressed.

To make MER systems more accurate and valuable, we suggest a paradigm that combines enhanced feature extraction with hybrid fusion. Emotion recognition models should be generalised across diverse domains and cultural settings, and future research should focus on improving model interpretability and developing more efficient fusion approaches. This comprehensive study lays the groundwork for further research to enhance multimodal emotion recognition.

VII. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we present various feature extraction methods for different modalities, including audio, video, and text. Various feature fusion methods are presented with their evaluation. This is particularly useful for researchers working in multimodal data fusion and classification.

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

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Prof. B. Sandhya was awarded a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Hyderabad in 2011. She is currently working as a Professor in the CSE department at MVSR Engineering College, Hyderabad. She has over 22 years of experience in teaching, research, and consultancy.

Her principal areas of research include Image Processing, Machine learning, Deep learning, and Computer Vision. She has authored or co-authored approximately 40 research publications in international conferences and journals, garnering a total of around 170 citations.

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AUTHORS PROFILE



Sanjeeva Rao Sanku is pursuing a Ph.D in Computer Science and Engineering from Osmania University, Hyderabad. He completed his M.Tech and B.Tech in CSE from JNTU Hyderabad University. His research areas include Data mining, Machine Learning, and Deep Learning. He has 17+ years of teaching and research experience.