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Emotion Detection using Multimodal Deep Learning Techniques

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Abstract: ***Emotion detection is a growing field in artificial intelligence. It aims to help machines understand human feelings through signals like speech, facial expressions, and text. Traditional systems usually depend on one type of input, which limits their accuracy since emotions are complex and expressed in various ways. To address this issue, this work suggests a multimodal deep learning method that combines features from text, speech, and images. Text data is represented using transformer-based embeddings. Audio signals are analyzed with recurrent neural networks that use Mel-Frequency Cepstral Coefficients (MFCCs). Facial features are extracted with convolutional neural networks (CNNs). These different features are merged into a single representation and classified using a deep neural network. Experimental results show that this multimodal framework outperforms unimodal models, leading to better accuracy, precision, and recall. This study emphasizes the potential of multimodal emotion detection in fields like online learning, healthcare, customer service, and human-computer interaction.***
Keywords: Emotion Detection; Multimodal Learning; Deep Learning; Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN); Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN); Human–Computer Interaction.

I. INTRODUCTION

Emotions play a crucial role in human communication and decision-making. Teaching machines to recognize these emotions is an important step in improving artificial intelligence. Emotion detection identifies human feelings through signals such as facial expressions, speech, and text. Traditional methods often rely on a single input, like sentiment analysis from text or facial expression recognition from images. While these methods can be helpful, they often struggle in real-life situations. Text-based models may miss sarcasm, speech models can be affected by noise, and image models might fail in poor lighting.

To tackle these issues, researchers have looked to multimodal deep learning, which combines different inputs to create a more reliable and accurate system. By merging features from text, speech, and images, these models capture richer emotional signals and cover for the shortcomings of individual sources. This paper proposes a multimodal deep learning framework that integrates these three inputs, extracts features using advanced models, and classifies emotions with greater accuracy. This approach aims to support practical applications, including online learning, healthcare, customer service, and human-computer interaction.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Research in emotion detection has explored different ways, including text, speech, and images. Early studies in text-based methods mainly focused on sentiment analysis using machine learning algorithms like Support Vector Machines and Naïve Bayes. With the growth of deep learning, models like Recurrent Neural Networks (RNNs) and transformer-based architectures like BERT have shown better results in understanding contextual meaning and emotional tone in text.

For speech-based detection, researchers have used acoustic features such as pitch, energy, and Mel-Frequency Cepstral Coefficients (MFCCs) to analyze emotional states. Models like CNNs and LSTMs have been effective in capturing changes over time in speech, although they are sensitive to noise and recording conditions.

In image-based detection, Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) are the most common approach. Large datasets like FER2013 and CK+ have allowed for accurate facial expression recognition. However, these systems can struggle in real-world situations like low lighting, occlusion, or deliberate masking of emotions.

Recently, researchers have shifted toward multimodal deep learning to address the limitations of single-modal systems. By combining text, speech, and facial cues, multimodal frameworks offer a better understanding of emotions. Studies indicate that multimodal fusion improves accuracy and reliability, making it a hopeful direction for applications in healthcare, education, and human–computer interaction.

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III. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

The proposed work presents a multimodal deep learning framework for emotion detection that combines text, speech, and image features. Unlike unimodal systems that rely on a single input and often yield incomplete results, the multimodal approach merges different signals to improve accuracy and reliability.

The process begins with data collection and preprocessing. Textual transcripts, audio recordings, and facial images are prepared for analysis. Text data is cleaned, tokenized, and transformed into contextual embeddings using transformer-based models like BERT. Speech data is changed into Mel-Frequency Cepstral Coefficients (MFCCs), which are then processed using recurrent neural networks to capture tone and rhythm. Facial images are examined with convolutional neural networks (CNNs), which pull out spatial patterns like eye movements and mouth shapes that show emotions.

After extracting features from each modality, they come together at a fusion layer. This integration helps the system understand relationships across modes, such as connecting a neutral sentence with a frustrated tone or a sad facial expression. The combined features are sent through a deep neural network that classifies them with a softmax function to determine the most likely emotion label.

The workflow of the system can be summarized as:

Data Collection → Preprocessing → Feature Extraction (Text, Speech, Image) → Feature Fusion → Classification → Emotion Output.

This framework provides a better overall understanding of human emotions and can be used in real-world situations like online learning platforms, healthcare systems, and customer support applications.

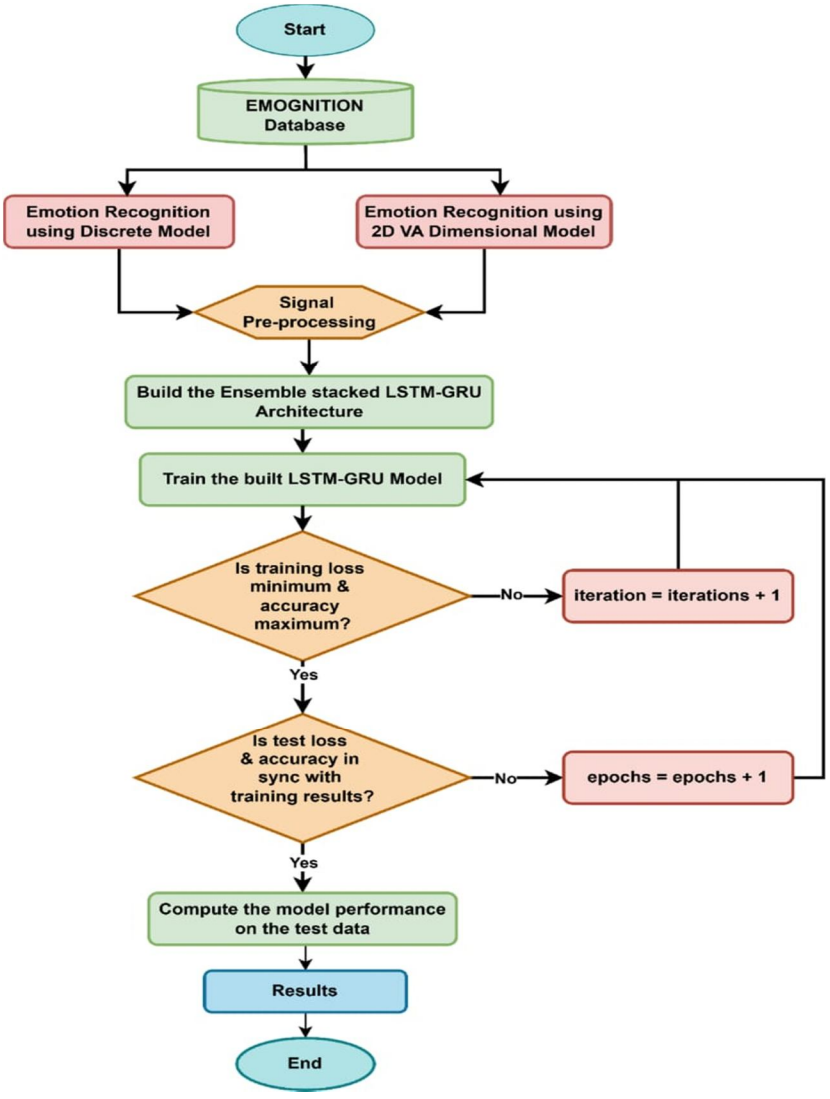

Figure 1: Workflow of the proposed multimodal emotion detection system

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IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A benchmark dataset with five main emotion categories—happy, sad, angry, neutral, and surprised—was used to assess the suggested multimodal deep learning model. The findings demonstrate that the system performs well in every class, with accuracy for happy and other positive emotions being especially high. The multimodal framework continuously outperformed conventional unimodal methods. Speech-only models were impacted by background noise and voice changes, while text-only models had trouble identifying sarcasm and hidden tones. Under controlled conditions, image-based systems performed well; however, in situations where the face was partially obscured or in low lighting, their accuracy decreased. The suggested model overcome these drawbacks and generated predictions that were more accurate by integrating features from speech, text, speech, and images, the proposed model overcame these limitations and produced more reliable predictions.

Emotion	Accuracy (%)
Happy	90.2
Sad	84.7
Angry	85.1
Neutral	86.8
Surprise	85.9

Table 1: Accuracy of the proposed model for different emotions

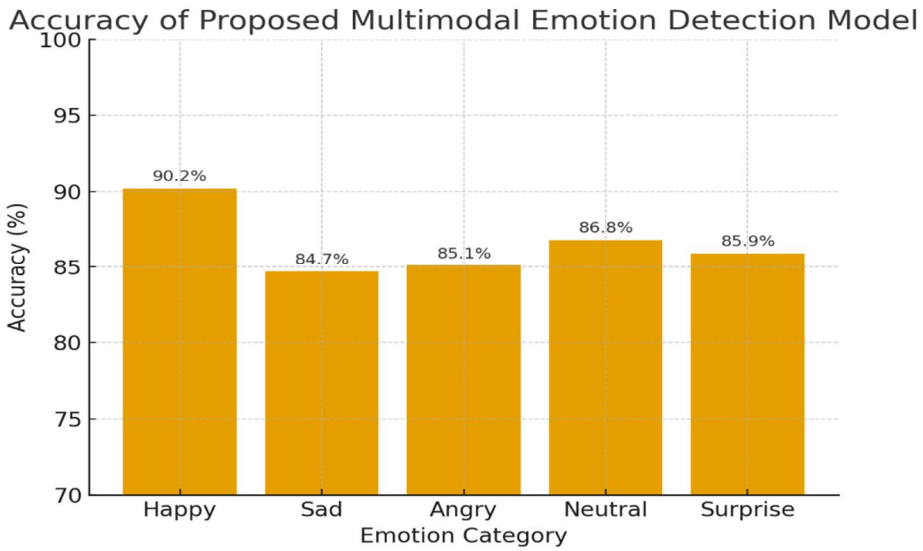

Figure 2: Emotion-wise accuracy of the proposed multimodal

V. CONCLUSION

This work presents a multimodal deep learning approach for emotion detection that integrates text, speech, and facial image features to achieve higher accuracy and robustness. Unlike unimodal methods, which rely on a single source of data, the proposed framework combines complementary signals to better capture the complexity of human emotions. The experimental results show that the system performs well across different emotion categories such as happy, sad, angry, neutral, and surprise.

The study highlights the potential of multimodal systems in real-world applications, including online education, healthcare, and customer service, where accurate emotion understanding is essential. Future enhancements may focus on using larger datasets, applying transformer-based fusion models, and enabling real-time emotion recognition for interactive AI systems.

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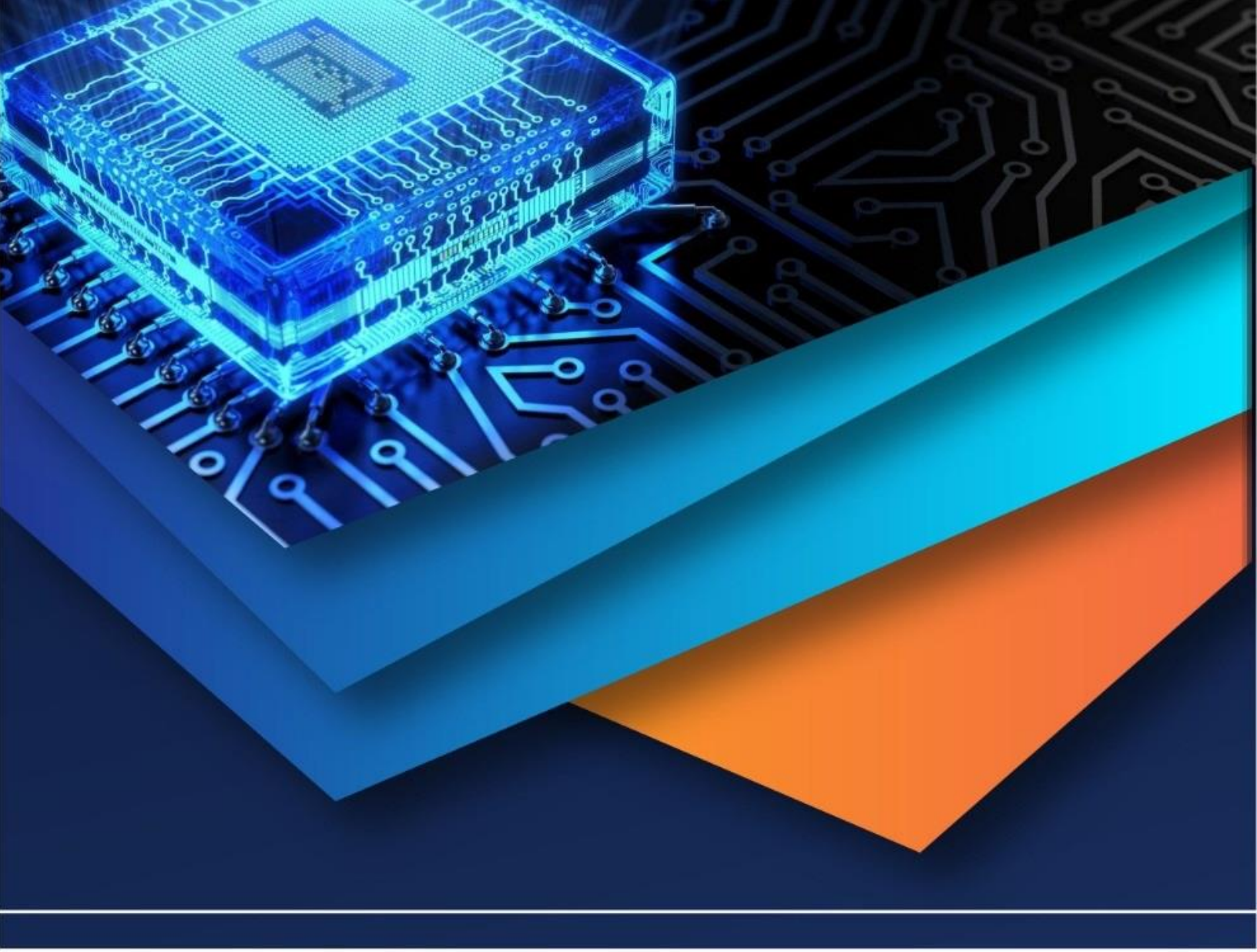

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