RED v2: Enhancing RED Dataset for Multi-Label Emotion Detection

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Abstract

RED (Romanian Emotion Dataset) is a machine learning-based resource developed for the automatic detection of emotions in Romanian texts, containing single-label annotated tweets with one of the following emotions: joy, fear, sadness, anger and neutral. In this work, we propose REDv2, an open-source extension of RED by adding two more emotions, trust and surprise, and by widening the annotation schema so that the resulted novel dataset is multi-label. We show the overall reliability of our dataset by computing inter-annotator agreements per tweet using a formula suitable for our annotation setup and we aggregate all annotators’ opinions into two variants of ground truth, one suitable for multi-label classification and the other suitable for text regression. We propose strong baselines with two transformer models, the Romanian BERT and the multilingual XLM-Roberta model, in both categorical and regression settings.

Keywords: emotion detection, multi-label classification, text regression, Romanian tweets

1. Introduction

Interpreting correctly one’s own emotions, as well as other people’s emotional states, is a central aspect of emotional intelligence. Today, people can automate the process of emotion detection by creating machine learning models, provided by the fact that the model training was done on qualitative and sufficient data. With the constant increase of social media usage there is also an increase in online public data, freely available for model creation. Thus, analyzing emotions in online content naturally has become more and more of a topic of interest in the recent years. Sentiment analysis, along with emotion analysis, are key technologies used to gain insights from social media networks, the opinion mining field reaching a level of maturity, sufficient enough to be used in practical applications (Iglesias and Moreno, 2019).

There are many definitions to emotions (Peng et al., 2021), but as defined in (Liu, 2015), an emotion is “a mental state that arises spontaneously rather than through a conscious effort; it is also often accompanied by physiological changes.”. Many psychologists tried to create a taxonomy of emotions, but probably one of the most agreed upon taxonomy is Robert Plutchick’s wheel of emotions (Plutchik, 1973). He identified eight primary emotions: happiness, trust, fear, surprise, sadness, disgust, anger and anticipation. Having a model that automatically detects emotions in text has a wide range of applications, from computing the overall opinion of clients and/or potential customers in the field of brand management (Istrati and Ciobotaru, 2022), to automatic adaptation of chatbot answers in respect to the user’s emotional state.

The first dataset of single labeled texts for detecting emotions from Romanian content is REDv1 (Romanian Emotion Dataset) (Ciobotaru and Dinu, 2021), a dataset containing roughly 4000 tweets annotated for the following emotions: fear, anger, happiness, sadness and neutral. Starting from this work, we expand REv1 by adding two more classes of emotions, surprise and trust, and also by increasing the overall number of texts and by widening the annotation schema to multi-label. In Table 1 we present a sample of our novel dataset, along with English translations, to aid the non-Romanian readers of this article.

The main contributions of this work are:

1. Expanded REDv1 (Ciobotaru and Dinu, 2021) by increasing the size of the dataset, by thoroughly cleaning it (see inter-annotator considerations), and by expanding it from single to a multi-label annotation schema. Thus REDv2 represents the largest Twitter emotion dataset for the Romanian language.

2. We provide baselines and validate the dataset with strong transformer-based models.

3. The dataset, models and evaluation scripts are open-source, freely available at https://github.com/Alegzandra/RED-Romanian-Emotions-Dataset/tree/main/REDv2

2. Recent Works

There are mainly two approaches that tackle the problem of emotion detection - the lexicon based approach and the machine learning approach (Canales...
and Martínez-Barco, 2014). In this work we use a hybrid approach (Gievsk et al., 2015) - we scrap tweets based on lexicon, manually verify them and based on those we create a multi-label dataset suitable for machine learning.

Detecting emotions from text is not a new research endeavour. One of the first created benchmarks for emotion detection in texts is Affect Text (Strapparava and Mihalcea, 2007), a dataset consisting of 1250 news headlines annotated for Anger, Disgust, Fear, Happiness, Sadness and Surprise created for SemEval-2007, task 14. In English, there exist many datasets for emotion detection annotated using single labels, like ISEAR (Scherer and Wallbott, 1994), WASSA (Mohammad and Bravo-Marquez, 2017) (this dataset also takes into account emotion intensity), just to name a few. But naturally a text can contain more that one emotion, as one can express his/her ideas in many different ways, the problem on emotion detection (ED) can be extrapolated to creating ED models trained on multi-label ED datasets.

SemEval-2018 task 1 (Mohammad et al., 2018) targeted detecting emotions in tweets using a multi-label dataset: Affect in Tweets Dataset (Mohammad and Kiritchenko, 2018). On this dataset (Jabreel and Moreno, 2019) obtains state-of-the-art results by using a method to convert the multiple emotions into a binary classification problem. (Huang et al., 2019) create a balanced multi-label dataset containing emotional tweets, BMET (Balanced Multi-Label Emotional Tweets) and propose a novel model to solve the multi-label classification problem called Seq2Emo, a neural network that takes into account correlations between labels. But probably the largest manually annotated dataset for multi-label emotion detection texts is GoEmotions (Demszky et al., 2020), containing 58k English Reddit comments, labeled for one or more of the 27 emotions, or neutral.

Emotion detection from Romanian texts is a domain researched previously by (Briciu and Lupea, 2017). They created the first lexicon for Romanian emotion detection, and further expanded the lexicon through formal concept analysis (Lupea and Briciu, 2019) where they create comparisons with another important lexical resource for Romanian, RoWordNet (Dumitrescu et al., 2018). (Dinu et al., 2021) release a lexicon containing 770 Romanian pejorative words among three other pejorative lexicons for English, Spanish and Italian. Further, they release two datasets of annotated tweets containing pejorative words in English and Spanish tweets.

LaRoSeDa (A Large Romanian Sentiment Data Set) (Tache et al., 2021) is another important resource tangent to the field of emotion detection, comprised of 15,000 reviews in Romanian, annotated into positive and negative. Regarding sentiment analysis, (Istrati and Ciobotaru, 2022) explain in detail how they created a dataset of annotated Romanian tweets into positive and negative and create a baseline for sentiment detection in Romanian.

As far as we know, besides REDv1 (Ciobotaru and Dinu, 2021) there aren’t any datasets for emotion detection in Romanian content. In this work we have improved REDv1 and we present it at its second version, with an enhanced number of labelled texts, two additional emotions and suitable for multi-label classification.

### 3. Dataset

Our dataset consists of 5449 tweets, labelled for one or more of the following emotions: sadness, surprise, fear, anger, trust, happiness, or neutral.

#### 3.1. Scraping Process

Starting with (Ciobotaru and Dinu, 2021), we considered the work of (Mohammad and Bravo-Marquez, 2017) when creating the first annotated dataset in Romanian for detecting fear, anger, happiness and sadness in short texts, and added a neutral class, as it has been previously shown by (Al-Rubaye et al., 2016) the importance of having a neutral class when classifying sentiments or emotions.

In this work, we took into consideration two more classes of emotions: trust and surprise, bringing the total number of labels per tweet to 7. Looking at the original (Ciobotaru and Dinu, 2021), the authors created lists of query words correspondent to each of the following classes: fear, anger, happiness, sadness and neutral. They scrapped tweets based on these words, manually annotated them (one label per tweet), leading to the creation of the first annotated dataset for emotion detection in Romanian short texts.

| Text | Emotion(s) |
|------|------------|
| Ca orice lucru nasol, incepe luna | Tristete |
| Like every bad thing, it starts monday | Sadness |
| Multumim frumos, sunt mândră de tine! Si noi vă iubim | Incredere, Bucurie |
| Thank you very much, I am proud of you! We love you too | Trust, Happiness |
| <PROPN>, socată de cazul de dopaj de la <PROPN> | Surpriză |
| <PROPN>, shocked about the doping case at <PROPN> | Surprise |

Table 1: Sample annotated texts from our dataset, with English translations.
In this work, we added query words from RoEmoLex, a lexicon of words developed for emotion analysis of Romanian texts, by (Briciu and Lupea, 2017). In Table 2 we present the total number of query words used for scrapping tweets for our improved dataset, REDv2, versus the number of tweets for the initial dataset, REDv1.

We scrapped tweets using the extra query words in order to improve the dataset by increasing the number of tweets per class, and creating two more classes: trust and sadness. Scraping was done using Snscrape\(^1\) python library, in the time-frame: 1\(^{st}\) of February 2020 - 1\(^{st}\) of February 2021. All tweets were checked for Romanian using langdetect\(^2\) python library.

### 3.2. Annotation Methods

#### 3.2.1. First Annotation Step

The first annotation process involved 11 annotators, psychology students whose primary language is Romanian. They checked the scrapped tweets for each extra query word and kept a maximum of 50 tweets per query word. After the checking process was done, a number of 3973 new annotated tweets resulted. While REDv1 dataset contained 4047 annotated tweets, we concatenated it with the newly annotated tweets and it resulted a new dataset containing 7947 annotated tweets, with the labels: sadness, happiness, fear, anger, surprise, trust and neutral.

The final number of tweets after the first step of the annotation process is detailed in Table 3.

All tweets were gathered from public accounts and, in order to protect confidentiality of Twitter users, we removed usernames and proper nouns from the final public dataset.

#### 3.2.2. Second Annotation Step

The second annotation process involved 66 annotators, psychology students whose primary language is Romanian, including the 11 annotators from the first annotation step. They were each given sections consisting of 360 to 370 tweets. In order to facilitate the annotation process, we used the Docccano tool (Nakayama et al., 2018) where each annotator had access only to his dataset and every tweet could receive one or more labels or be marked as invalid. The annotators were instructed to select the Invalid label for the tweets they weren’t sure about, or for the tweets that didn’t make any more sense after removing usernames and proper nouns. Each of the 7947 unique tweets in the second batch was assigned to and annotated by 3 annotators.

### 3.3. Dataset preprocessing

From the resulted dataset we removed the tweets that received the Invalid label by at least one annotator, and also those tweets that had full mismatch between annotators, resulting a dataset containing 5449 tweets. Each annotation a tweet received was represented by a 3x7 matrix, which we will further call annotation matrix, with binary elements, 1 meaning that the text received a label for the emotion corresponding to the vector’s index, and 0 otherwise. First line in matrix represents labels from Annotator 1, second line in matrix represents labels from Annotator 2 and the third line represents labels from Annotator 3. An exemplification of annotation matrix is shown in Figure 1.

In order to protect the anonymity of tweets authors as well as of the persons and institution discussed in texts and other sensitive data, we replaced the following text entities: proper nouns with ◄PROPN► (be it name or institution) using spacy ro_core_news_lg model\(^3\) (Dumitrescu and Avram, 2019), email addresses with ◄EMAIL►, telephone numbers with ◄TEL►, usernames with ◄USERNAME► and links with ◄URL►, using regex methods.

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\(^1\)https://github.com/JustAnotherArchivist/snscrape

\(^2\)https://pypi.org/project/langdetect/

\(^3\)https://spacy.io/models/ro
Further, we removed artefacts resulted from the scrap-
ring process: &amp, &gt, &lt, and also deleted the next line carrier symbol.

3.4. Dataset split

We provide train, validation and test splits of the dataset for future model training & evaluation. However, the multi-label nature of the dataset posed problems in bal-
ancing the splits so they contain an overall even dis-
tribution of labels. As shown in (Szymański and Kaj-
danowicz, 2017), traditional single-label approaches to stratifying data fail to provide balanced datasets. An imbalanced train/validation/test dataset might include large differences of certain labels(emootions) between splits, leading to poor classifier performance. To over-
come this problem we used the implementation of iter-
ative stratification from (Szymański and Kajdanowicz, 2017) which managed to provide a very balanced label stratification from (Szymański and Kajdanowicz, 2017).

We have to classify N texts into K classes, with labels
\( c_1, c_2, ..., c_K \). Expert 1 thinks that the text \( x \) would fit into class \( c_{J_1}(x) \), where \( J_1 \subset 1,2...K \) is a set of indices. Second expert thinks that the text \( x \) would rather fit into class \( c_{J_2}(x) \), where \( J_2 \subset 1,2...K \), and so on, up to expert m who thinks that the same text \( x \) would rather fit into class \( c_{J_m}(x) \), where \( J_m \subset 1,2...K \).

We take into consideration the agreement between ex-
erts on both the case when they select the same label per tweet, and the case when they both decide not to select a particular label. The IAA score per tweet will be computed by counting the number of agreed upon labels by annotator \( J_i \) and annotator \( J_j \) in annotation matrix (both annotators agreed on either selecting or not selecting a particular label), using the following for-

\[
\beta(J_1, ..., J_m) = 1 - \frac{2}{K * m(m-1)} \sum_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq m} |J_i \Delta J_j| \tag{1}
\]

where \( m \) is the number of experts deciding upon the text. \( K \) is the number of labels, and \( |J_i \Delta J_j| \) is the num-
ber of elements in the symmetrical difference between set \( J_i \) and set \( J_j \), and is computed with the following formula:

\[
|J_i \Delta J_j| = |J_i - J_j \cup J_j - J_i| \tag{2}
\]

We use the notation \( |A| \) to express the number of ele-
ments in set \( A \).

In our annotation setup we have 3 experts and 7 labels (Sadness, Surprise, Fear, Anger, Neutral, Trust, Happiness). Thus, in our case, Equation 1 becomes:

\[
\beta(J_1, J_2, J_3) = 1 - \frac{|J_1 \Delta J_2| + |J_1 \Delta J_3| + |J_2 \Delta J_3|}{3K} \tag{3}
\]

Based on Equation 2, we compute inter-agreement scores for each text. The resulted mean is 0.84, and the median is 0.8. The histogram is shown in figure 2.

Figure 2: Histogram of REDv2 tweets using \( \beta \) IAA score.

Figure 3 shows the histogram of a simulated dataset with a uniform distribution of labels, where we compute the \( \beta \) score on each tweet. Also, in our case, with \( m=3 \), \( m \) being the number of annotators, the minimum value of \( \beta \) is 1/3. In Figure 2 the minimum value of \( \beta \) is 0.4 because of the fact that prior to computing IAA scores on the dataset we elimi-
nated the tweets having not even a partial agreement on the labels by at least two annotators out of three.
In Table 4 we show the statistical summary on the results of $\beta$ IAA score on both REDv2 and the simulated dataset. Considering the random distribution of labels case where the mean IAA score computed with Equation 3 is 0.5, our result of 0.84 would mean that the dataset is annotated with good confidence. This statement is also reinforced by the fact that we can see in the histogram of the random generated dataset (Figure 3) that there are no texts with perfect agreement of 1, in contrast to the histogram of REDv2 (Figure 2) where we can see that more than 1000 texts have perfect agreement.

| No. of labels | No. of tweets | Percentage |
|---------------|---------------|------------|
| 1             | 4754          | 87.25      |
| 2             | 671           | 12.31      |
| 3             | 23            | 0.42       |
| 4             | 1             | 0.02       |

Table 4: Summary of $\beta$ applied on the simulated dataset with random labels vs on REDv2.

### 4.2. Setting the Ground Truth

The next step was to set the ground truth of the texts by combining the annotations coming from the three annotators. The dataset comes with two settings of the annotators’ agreement per each tweet: the classification setting, and the regression setting.

#### 4.2.1. The classification setting

This particular way to settle the different annotations for each tweet was created by setting a label only if at least 2 annotators agreed on it. For example, if only one annotator of the three felt that a tweet was sad, the label Sad was not set.

The resulting label distribution is shown in Table 5, where 87.25% of tweets from the dataset have been labelled with one agreed emotion, 12.31% of tweets with two emotions and the rest labelled with 3 or 4.

| No. of labels | No. of tweets | Percentage |
|---------------|---------------|------------|
| 1             | 4754          | 87.25      |
| 2             | 671           | 12.31      |
| 3             | 23            | 0.42       |
| 4             | 1             | 0.02       |

Table 5: Percentage of tweets by number of labels for categorical setting

#### 4.2.2. The regression setting

The task of creating an emotion detection model can also be viewed as a regression problem, by taking into consideration all labels received by a tweet, with their corresponding degree of appearance in the annotation matrix.

First, we summed the lines in the annotation matrix so that each tweet received as labels the sum of the labels put by all the three annotators, according to the formula:

$$L_t = (L_{t,A_1} + L_{t,A_2} + L_{t,A_3})/3$$  

(4)

where $L_t$ is the set containing the labels for tweet $t$ and $L_{t,A_x}$ is the set of labels given by annotator $A_x$.

Thus, each tweet receives as final label a vector that can contain one or more of the following values: 0, 0.33, 0.66 or 1, where 0 means that none of the annotators agreed on the label corresponding to the first position in vector, 0.33 means that one annotator out of three selected the label, 0.66 means that two annotators out of three selected the label, and 1 means that all three annotators agreed on the label.

In this setting, if we eliminate duplicate labels per tweet, 31.9% of tweets are single-label, 39.66% of tweets have two labels, 22.92% three labels, and the rest of the tweets, 5.6%, have 4 labels or more. The detailed number of tweets and their corresponding number of labels are shown in Table 6.

| No. of labels | No. of tweets | Percentage |
|---------------|---------------|------------|
| 2             | 2908          | 39.66      |
| 1             | 1339          | 31.90      |
| 3             | 1681          | 22.92      |
| 4             | 359           | 4.9        |
| 5             | 42            | 0.57       |
| 6             | 3             | 0.04       |
| 7             | 1             | 0.01       |

Table 6: Percentage of tweets by number of labels in the regression setting

In figure 4 we show the correlation of emotions for the regression setting using the corrplot R package⁴. We

⁴https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/corrplot/vignettes/corrplot-intro.html
can see that we have the most positive correlations between Happiness and Trust, Sadness and Anger, Fear and Sadness, while the most negative correlations are between Sadness and Happiness, Anger and Happiness, as well as Fear and Happiness. The results are in correspondence with common sense.

Figure 4: Correlation of emotions by common appearances

5. Experiments and Results

In this section we set a baseline for the REDv2 dataset using transformer models.

As previously specified, given the fact that the dataset has 3 annotators per tweet, we can formulate the problem of emotion detection either as the task of multi-label classification per tweet using the agreement labels, or as the task of regression on the mean values of the 3 annotators’ labels. Whereas in the first setting we will obtain a True/False prediction per emotion given a tweet, in the second setting we will obtain a percentage of how likely each emotion is reflected in the respective tweet.

The dataset is evaluated using two models, the monolingual Romanian BERT (Dumitrescu et al., 2020) and the multilingual XLM-Roberta (Conneau et al., 2019), in both problem settings.

5.1. Model architecture

The model itself is straight-forward:

1. The input of the model is the tokenized tweet, going directly in the transformer which outputs a sequence of token embeddings
2. The embeddings are averaged and a fixed 0.1 dropout is applied to the resulting vector
3. The vector goes into a dense layer that outputs 7 neurons, corresponding to the 7 labels, followed by a sigmoid non-linearity.

|                          | Ham | Acc | F1  | MSE  |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Ro-BERT$^1$              | 0.097 | 0.542 | 0.670 | 10.06 |
| XLM-Roberta$^1$         | 0.104 | 0.531 | 0.668 | 26.74 |
| Ro-BERT$^2$              | 0.121 | 0.504 | 0.619 | 18.41 |
| XLM-Roberta$^2$         | 0.104 | 0.522 | 0.649 | 9.56  |

Table 7: Romanian BERT and XML-Roberta in the classification setting ($^1$) and regression setting ($^2$). $\text{Ham}$ represents the Hamming loss.

4. Depending on the type of training desired, two loss functions are present: the Binary Cross Entropy loss for the multi-label problem formulation, and the Mean Squared Error - MSE (Wiki, 2022b) loss for the regression problem formulation.

We note that every tweet on which the model trains contains both the categorical labels and the mean annotator scores. Thus, when the model outputs the 7 logits passed through the sigmoid, we use this value for the regression setting, and the thresholded value at 0.5 for the categorical setting. Thus, in both settings we can compute the MSE loss as well as the Hamming loss, accuracy and F1 scores.

5.2. Evaluation

Training is performed on the train dataset, with early stopping on the validation set. Results are reported on the test set. Both categorical and regression settings are run with the same hyperparameters: patience = 5, batch size = 16 and learning rate = $2e^{-5}$. The models smoothly converge within a few epochs.

Before discussing results, for our multi-labeling problem, we choose the Hamming loss (Wiki, 2022a) as the most representative metric, as it is commonly used in such settings and it also accounts for label imbalance. The Hamming loss is the fraction of wrong labels to the total number of labels; it penalizes only the individual labels. We also report the accuracy score which is simply how many times has the model predicted all emotions correctly. The F1 score is actually the micro-F1, computed by counting the total true positives, false negatives and false positives. The Hamming, accuracy and F1 scores are computed on the predicted binary labels, while the MSE is computed on the logits directly after applying the sigmoid non-linearity to bring them to the [0-1] value interval.

Table 7 shows the summary of the baselines, while table 8 shows a breakdown of the best performing model results per label.

Looking at the results of table 7, our intuition is validated: the Romanian BERT, while less than half the size of the XLM-Roberta (124M parameters vs 278M) performs overall better. This performance also correlates with the Word Fertility Rate computed on the dataset: BERT uses, on average, 1.39 tokens to encode each word in the tweets, while XLM-Roberta uses 1.67 tokens per word. More tokens per word leads to longer
Table 8: Breakdown of Romanian BERT per-label metrics in the regression setting

|       | Acc | F1  | P   | R   |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Anger | 0.88| 0.69| 0.62| 0.77|
| Fear  | 0.92| 0.63| 0.59| 0.66|
| Happiness | 0.92| 0.65| 0.56| 0.77|
| Sadness | 0.91| 0.75| 0.74| 0.76|
| Surprise | 0.81| 0.59| 0.53| 0.67|
| Trust  | 0.91| 0.54| 0.45| 0.68|
| Neutral | 0.93| 0.78| 0.73| 0.83|

sequences that yield less distinct values after averaging all the tokens’ embeddings.

Another interesting result is why did optimizing the MSE objective led to slightly better results than the Binary Cross Entropy which is the standard loss in multi-labeling problems? One answer could be that modeling the mean annotators’ values rather than just the most agreed-upon labels actually models the predicted probability distribution of the labels closer to the true distribution; there is less information loss in the mean values than in the thresholded values. However, results are very close in both settings. Finally, while XLM-Roberta did obtain the lowest MSE error, it did not obtain the best Hamming loss nor accuracy.

Looking at the breakdown per label, accuracy is generally high due to the number of zeros in the dataset, as accuracy computes the true positives (TP) and true negatives (TN) divided by the number of instances. F1 is lower as it is a function of precision (TP/TP+FP) and recall (TP/TP+FN). We generally see higher recall than precision.

Table 8 also shows that emotions Trust and Happiness are generally easier to predict than the others.

Overall, we can draw a few conclusions: (1) looking at the individual emotions’ detection rate, accuracy is generally high, thus validating this dataset as usable in industry; (2) there is sufficient room for improvement as shown by the overall micro-F1, thus this dataset will not be saturated by near-human level accuracy of stronger models in the near-future, lending to much needed research and development in this area for the Romanian language.

6. Conclusions and Future Works

This article presents REDv2, an enhanced emotion detection dataset containing 5449 tweets multi-labeled with 7 emotions: anger, fear, happiness, sadness, trust, surprise and neutral.

The dataset creation procedure has been described and analyzed. Given our annotating constraints, we propose a new IAA score, that, to our knowledge has not been used in the literature so far. We document this score in detail and demonstrate its validity, as well as the dataset’s reliability, by comparing statistical summaries and histograms on both our dataset, and on a similar but randomly created dataset, using a normal distribution of labels. The results show an overall reliability of REDv2 of 0.82, versus 0.52 obtained on the random dataset.

We provide train/validation/test splits of the dataset, created with an iterative stratification strategy to provide an overall balanced label distribution between the splits.

Furthermore, building upon the fact that we have 3 annotators per tweet, we provide 2 types of final annotations: a categorical one, created by keeping an emotion only if at least 2 of the 3 annotators agreed upon it (thus labeling a tweet with 7 binary values for the 7 emotions), and a regression one, created by averaging the 3 annotations for each emotion (labeling the same tweet with a 7-valued array of numbers between 0 and 1).

Finally, we propose strong baselines with two transformer models. We compare a monolingual Romanian BERT model versus a multilingual Roberta model, showing that even if Roberta is twice the size, it still obtains slightly worse results than the Romanian BERT.

The two models were tested in both categorical and regression settings, with the regression setting obtaining the best performance, and we discuss around the findings. We also note per-emotion accuracy, showing that some emotions are more easily recognizable than others.

For a proposed REDv3 we plan to further increase the size of the dataset, to add disgust and anticipation classes and to manually check the invalid labeled texts to increase confidence in the annotated tweets, leading to a direct increase of the emotion detection models’ performance.

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