Tweet Emotion Annotation Guidelines

1. Introduction

Your task is to annotate tweets by identifying their emotional tone based on **two dimensions**:

- **Valence** (positive, neutral, or negative)

- **Arousal** (low, medium, or high)

The goal is to analyze how understanding emotions in tweets can help combat fake news. Correctly identifying the **intensity** and **sentiment** of emotions in each tweet will provide valuable insights for our research.

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2. Instructions

For each tweet, assign **two labels**:

- **Valence**: Indicates the emotional tone of the tweet (positive, neutral, or negative).

- **Arousal**: Measures the intensity of the emotional expression (low, medium, or high).

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3. Explanation of Categories

Valence (Emotional Tone)

- **Positive**:
  The tweet conveys optimistic, happy, or hopeful emotions — e.g., excitement, joy, or approval.

  Example:
  "I totally agree with JoJo on this. You cannot compare TFG's insane wall with Biden's eviction moratorium – apples & oranges."
  → *Positive* (shows agreement and a favorable stance)

- **Neutral**:
  The tweet is emotionally neutral or lacks a clear stance. Often factual or descriptive.

  Example:
  "For the first time in 35 years, America has more businesses dying than starting."
  → *Neutral* (factual statement, no emotional language)

- **Negative**:
  The tweet expresses criticism, sadness, anger, fear, or disapproval.

  Example:
  "The left doesn't care how they won this election. By hook or by crook."
  → *Negative* (critical and skeptical tone)

Arousal (Emotional Intensity)

- **High Arousal**:
  Intense, energetic, or urgent emotional tone. May include **capital letters**, **exclamation marks**, or **strong language**.

  Example:
  "Beijing Biden Has Rescinded Trump's Executive Order Banning Chinese Involvement in Our Power Grid!!!"
  → *High Arousal* (dramatic, emotionally charged)

- **Medium Arousal**:
  Clearly emotional, but without exaggeration. Emotions are present but moderate.

  Example:
  "I think we need a strong background check for Americans for gun purchases, but we also need to close all immigration loopholes."
  → *Medium Arousal* (opinionated, emotionally present but measured)

- **Low Arousal**:
  Calm, reserved, or mildly emotional. No urgency or intensity.

  Example:
  "The U.S. Constitution has 4,400 words. It is the oldest and shortest written Constitution of any major government in the world."
  → *Low Arousal* (informative and neutral in tone)

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4. Handling Borderline Cases

Valence Borderlines

- **Neutral vs. Positive**:
  If slightly optimistic or approving, classify as **positive**.

  Example:
  "Biden's policies are finally helping Americans get back on their feet."
  → *Positive* (mild optimism)

- **Neutral vs. Negative**:
  If subtly critical or frustrated, classify as **negative**.

  Example:
  "I never put much into the Arizona Audit, but now I almost pray it's a reality and Trump is reinstated."
  → *Negative* (subtle frustration and skepticism)

Arousal Borderlines

- **Low vs. Medium**:
  If emotion is expressed calmly, label **low**. If there's a noticeable tone but not intense, label **medium**.

  Example:
  "We definitely need a strong background check for gun purchases but also need to close immigration loopholes."
  → *Medium Arousal* (emotion present, but composed)

- **Medium vs. High**:
  If emotionally charged but not extreme, label **medium**. If urgent or exaggerated, label **high**.

  Example:
  "Beijing Biden Beckons China to Take Over the U.S. Power Grid!!!"
  → *High Arousal* (intense and alarmist language)

General Tips for Borderline Cases

- Focus on the **most dominant emotion** when deciding between categories.

- Consider **urgency and intensity**:

    - Is it dramatic or extreme? → High Arousal

    - Is it emotional but controlled? → Medium Arousal

IMPORTANT

If you're **unsure** even after applying these guidelines:

- **Still annotate the tweet**, but

- **Mark it with an "r"** in the **Revision column**
  → This flags it for peer review and discussion.