

Lightweight Emotion Detection from Text — Brief Literature Review (2020–2025)

1) Task & “Lightweight” scope

Emotion detection = predicting emotions from short texts. GoEmotions (58k Reddit comments, 27 emotions + neutral) is the main benchmark. Lightweight means models with fewer parameters and faster inference, e.g., DistilBERT, ALBERT, ModernBERT.

2) Datasets

- GoEmotions — 27 emotions; baseline BERT F1 \approx 0.46 (fine-grained), 0.64 (6 emotions).
- dair-ai / Emotion — 6 emotions (Twitter).
- EmoContext (SemEval-2019) — 4 dialog emotions.

3) Lightweight Models

- DistilBERT — ~40% fewer params, ~60% faster.
- ALBERT — parameter-sharing, efficient.
- ModernBERT — modern efficient encoder; public GoEmotions fine-tunes exist.
- Distilled student for GoEmotions — easy baseline.

4) Baselines & SOTA signals

Original GoEmotions baseline (BERT-base): avg F1 \approx 0.46 (27 emotions). Lightweight variants (DistilBERT, ALBERT, ModernBERT) give strong trade-offs.

5) Lightweighting techniques

- Knowledge Distillation (teacher \rightarrow student).
- Quantization (int8 / int4).
- Efficient encoders (ModernBERT).
- Data augmentation for rare emotions.

6) Evaluation

Report micro-/macro-/weighted-F1. Show both full (27+neutral) and grouped (6-emotion) results.

7) Recommended project plan

Task: GoEmotions multi-label classification. Baselines: DistilBERT, ALBERT, distilled checkpoint, ModernBERT. Experiments: KD, quantization. Report: Params, latency, F1 (micro/macro/weighted).

References

Demszky et al., 2020 – GoEmotions dataset.
Sanh et al., 2019 – DistilBERT.
Lan et al., 2019 – ALBERT.
ModernBERT model cards (HuggingFace, 2024).
Recent KD/quantization studies (2024–2025).