

MULTIMODAL SENTIMENT ANALYSIS ON SONGS USING ENSEMBLE  
CLASSIFIERS

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BY

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THESIS

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# ABSTRACT

We consider the problem of performing sentiment analysis on songs by combining audio and lyrics in a large and varied dataset, using the Million Song Dataset for audio features and the MusicXMatch dataset for lyric information.

The algorithms presented on this thesis utilize ensemble classifiers as a method of fusing data vectors from different feature spaces. We find that multimodal classification outperforms using only audio or only lyrics. This thesis argues that utilizing signals from different spaces can account for inter-class inconsistencies and leverages class-specific performance. The experimental results show that multimodal classification not only improves overall classification, but is also more consistent across different classes.

Keywords: Music Information Retrieval; Sentiment Analysis; Multimodal Classification; Classification Algorithms; Multimodal Fusion

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# INTRODUCTION

In recent years, music-based services have been trying to make their applications more user-centered. One way to make sure that the user experience is foremost, is to provide services that match the user's current emotional state. This can be implemented by understanding the emotional content of the songs and playlists that are being played.

Sentiment analysis is the portion of music informational retrieval (MIR) where an algorithm recognizes the main emotions that a song evokes. Emotions are subjective, so classifying individual songs into distinct groups is a challenging problem. Most human subjects agree in broad strokes on emotional classifications. However it is not uncommon to find songs where there is no consensus, leading to inconsistencies in class groupings. As a result, sentiment analysis is still an open problem that requires the investigation of alternative methods that employ different modalities to counteract class inconsistencies. Success in this approach would allow a more robust classification algorithm that is better suited for real-world applications.

The motivation behind this research is to find a method that accounts for these inter-class inconsistencies across a large dataset. During initial testing it became apparent that certain classifiers perform well on specific sentiments and fail to learn features that represent others. This research seeks to account for this difference by combining the classifiers to output classifications in a more consistent manner, thus improving the reliability of the overall system.

This thesis will be focusing on the employment of support vector machines (SVM), Gaussian naive bayes and multinomial naive bayes classifiers to recognize emotional information. The audio features that will be employed are based on mel-frequency cepstral coefficients (MFCC), which are obtained from the response of the song's windowed spectrogram to a set of basis functions. A bag-of-words vector is used to represent the lyric portion of the song. The modal fusion will be tested through both feature fusion and

classifier fusion.

The dataset used for this thesis is called the Million Song Dataset, and was compiled by Labrosa [1]. This dataset contains a million different songs represented by their pitch, loudness, and timbre. The songs are also accompanied by much metadata such as artist, release date, and tags. Sentiment classification was obtained from these tags. If a sentiment was used to describe a song, it is assumed that the song conveyed that sentiment. The lyric information was obtained from the MusicXMatch dataset [2], which provides lyric information out of order in a bag-of-words format. Since there was no way to obtain semantic information from an unordered bag-of-words representation, this research did not focus on the impact of semantics on sentiment classification.

This report starts with a brief overview of previous work performed on this topic, followed by a description of the methods and the algorithms developed, then a section detailing the actual experiments, a section on results and analysis. It closes with a section on conclusions and suggestions for future work.

## PREVIOUS WORK

There has been considerable amount of work done in the field of multimodal sentiment analysis. This Chapter will briefly cover a portion of the relevant research that was considered during the development of the presented methodologies. The relevant topics that were researched for this thesis were: audio sentiment analysis, text sentiment analysis, and multimodal classification.

### Audio Sentiment Analysis

The study of the relationship between emotional content and audio signals is a very mature field. Researchers have expanded on the success found in the speech recognition community while using mel-frequency cepstral coefficients (MFCC) to explore their uses in music modeling [3]. MFCCs are currently a staple in audio processing and are commonly used in MIR applications such as genre classification [4], since they are a quantifiable method for comparing the timbral texture of songs. Timbre has been used with some success to classify the emotional content of songs [5]; however, class inconsistencies proved to be a difficult challenge that creates substantial misclassification between edge cases. Timbre has also been used to generate songs that evoke particular emotions [6]. These vectors have been commonly classified using support vector machines (SVM) and naive Bayes classifiers.

### Text Sentiment Analysis

Similarly, the study of the relationship between text and emotional content is quite developed, applications range from predicting Yelp ratings based on the sentiment expressed on the review [7] to extracting the emotional progression

of major literary pieces [6]. There are many methods to represent and extract emotional information from texts. The Yelp experiment uses statistical word vectors to capture word semantics and emotions as a probability. Other researchers have represented textual information in a bag-of-features framework and classified them using naive Bayes, SVMs and maximum entropy classifiers to recognize positive or negative valances [8].

Researchers have extended text processing methods to better capture emotional subtleties. For example, a word can have different emotional values depending on its context. Analyzing this information requires the creation of complex sentiment vectors that encode how meanings change based on semantics [9]. Similarly researchers have improved classification accuracy by preprocessing text [10], and using the cleaned data to capture emotional subtleties like the use of negation and modifiers to emotional words [11].

Although there is a great body of research on how to obtain rich sentiment vectors from text, the goal of this thesis is demonstrate the added advantage of a multimodal approach. For that end, the lyric vectors were kept simple to clearly underline the benefit of combining them with audio information. In addition, it is necessary to point out that obtaining a large enough dataset of lyrics is difficult due to legal restrictions. As a result, the features used will be the unordered representation of the lyrics in a bag-of-words vector provided by the MusicXMatch dataset [2].

## Multimodal Classification

Multimodal classification is the task of using feature vectors from different spaces, for example text and audio, to reach a single classification. There are two main methods of combining the information from both vector spaces: feature fusion and classifier fusion [12].

Feature fusion is the technique that takes signals from different feature spaces and joins them to train a single multimodal classifier. The standard fusion method is called "series fusion", which consists of concatenating the vectors together and training the classifier on the union of both spaces. Several alternatives have been suggested to maintain the same amount of expressibility in the vector while keeping the vector space as small as possible. Instead of concatenating the vectors together, it is possible to join vectors in



parallel [13] by making vectors from the linear combinations of a real-valued feature with another complex-valued feature. The benefit of the series fusion over the parallel method is that many diverse features can be fused together to obtain more robust data. As seen in the research by Liang et al., genre classification was improved by joining five different vectors all resulting from different preprocessing methods for text and audio vectors [14].

Classifier fusions train an array of unimodal classifiers and using some function to consolidate the predictions [15]. This method seamlessly fuses features from very different spaces. Caridakis et al. combined facial expressions, body gestures, and speech by having a classifier voting system where the class with most votes and higher probability was chosen amongst all the decisions [16]. The final decision-making process can be taken a step further by adding an additional classifier that learns from the decisions provided from classifier array [17]. The algorithms presented in this research were largely based on this last approach.

Multimodal classification has been successful in improving the accuracy of classification [12] [18]. However, some of the previous work either ran the experiments on highly homogenous datasets where all the music was in the same language, belonged to the same genre, or were carefully classified by a single subject thus eliminating class inconsistencies. The goal of this research is to obtain improved classification and reliability from a varied dataset through ensemble classifiers.

### 3

## METHOD

Emotions are highly nuanced since there are many experiences that do not fall neatly within a category. The difference between bittersweet and nostalgic, for example, is very difficult to quantify. In a study of gestures across different cultures, Ekman et al. concluded that there are six basic emotions called the Ekman emotions, which are joy, sadness, anger, fear, disgust, and surprise [19]. For this research we will focus on classifying songs based on the first three emotions (joy/happiness, sadness, and anger), mainly because there are not enough sample songs whose main emotions are the last three (fear, disgust, and surprise).

### Features Used

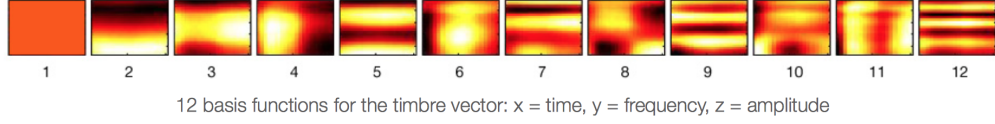
The audio features used for the experiment are the timbre data in the Million Song Dataset (MSDS) developed by EchoNest. These features are zero-mean vectors of length 12, extracted by windowing the spectrogram in constant-width segments. Although the segment width varies from song to song, it is typically under a second long, and it is determined so that the timbre and harmony are relatively uniform throughout.

The song is broken up into a series of non-overlapping windows  $\mathcal{S}_i$  for the  $i^{th}$  segment. The images in Figure 3.1 are a visual representation of the basis functions  $g_j$  that were applied to each segment. An audio feature  $f$  is extracted from each segment and has the form of a vector of length 12, where each element of the vector is defined by Equation 3.1.

$$f_j(x) = \sum_{p \in \mathcal{S}_i} g_j(p) \bullet x(p) \quad j \in \{1, 2, \dots, 12\} \quad (3.1)$$

The lyric information was obtained from the musicXmatch database [2] that provides the songs in a bag-of-words format. This format consists of a

vector of length 5000 representing a stemmed dictionary where the value at each element is the number of times that a particular word is used in the song. Data is distributed in this form so that it respects artists' rights over the ordering of the words while still being able to represent the content.



**Figure 3.1:** EchoNest's Basis Functions Used to Generate MFCC-like Vectors.<sup>1</sup>

## Classifiers

As mentioned in Chapter 2, similar problems have been address with certain amount of success using naive Bayes and SVMs. For the experiment the classifiers selected were the Gaussian naive Bayes, multinomial naive Bayes, and kernel SVM with histogram intersection as the kernel.

### Naive Bayes

The naive Bayes classifier is a statistical classifier that selects the most-likely class given a particular data point. The classifier builds a statistical model for each class that follows a given distribution. Under the assumption that each feature is statistically independent, it computes the conditional probability for the input vector given each model and returns the model with the highest probability.

$$\hat{y} = \operatorname{argmax}_y P(y) \prod_{i=1}^n P(x_i|y) \quad (3.2)$$

The distinction between the Gaussian naive Bayes and the multinomial naive Bayes is the distribution that is assumed for the conditional probability  $P(x_i|y)$ . The Gaussian naive Bayes classifier, as the name suggests, assumes that data is normally distributed and that the covariance matrix are diagonal. It is a good starting point when little information is known about the data.

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<sup>1</sup>[http://developer.echonest.com/docs/v4/\\_static/AnalyzeDocumentation.pdf](http://developer.echonest.com/docs/v4/_static/AnalyzeDocumentation.pdf)

The multinomial naive Bayes supposes that data follows a multinomial distribution, which is a generalization of the binomial distribution. The difference between binomial and multinomial is that in binomial the outcome of each of the  $k$  trials is either "yes" with a probability of  $p$  or "no" with a probability of  $(1 - p)$ . Under the multinomial distribution, the outcome of each of the  $k$  trials can be one of  $n$  different classes such that  $\sum_{i=1}^n p_i = 1$ . Since an event cannot occur a negative number of times, the multinomial distributions is well suited for problems where the vectors are non-negative such as for histogram analysis.

## Support Vector Machines

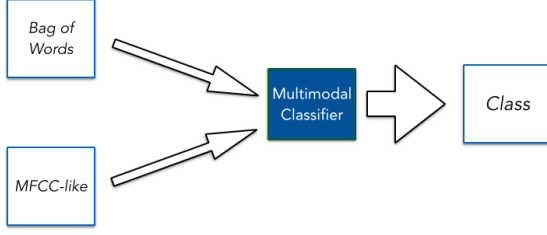
Support Vector Machines are classifiers that construct hyperplanes that maximize the margin to the labeled data points. The margin is defined to be the shortest distance from hyperplane to any of the points. As a result a linear SVM finds a function that linearly separates the data points into clusters for classification. Soft SVMs exist that tolerate data that is not linearly separable by allowing some misclassification.

An SVM can be non-linear if the data points are preprocessed non-linearly before creating the hyperplane. Non-Linear SVMs rely on functions called kernels that map data points into a higher dimensional space where the points can be separated by a single hyperplane.

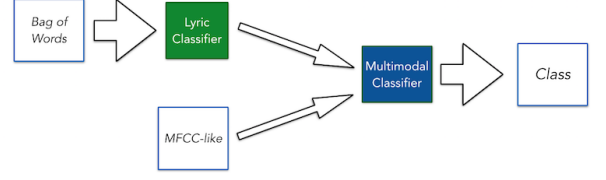
For the experiments detailed on this paper, we used a non-linear SVM with a histogram intersection kernel. Histogram intersection is a method that finds the minimum intersection between two histograms [20], which means that it is generally more accurate similarity metric than euclidean distances for histograms. The histogram intersection kernel is defined by Equation 3.3.

$$k_{HI}(h_a, h_b) = \sum_{i=1}^n \min(h_a(i), h_b(i)) \quad (3.3)$$

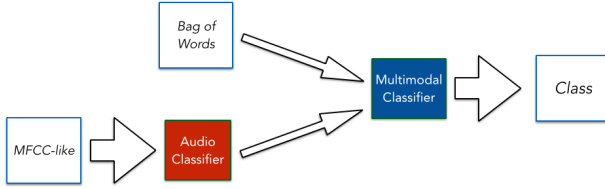
Equation 3.3 details the metric used to compare the intersection of two histograms. The distance of a particular pair of histograms is the sum of minimum value of each column of the histogram. By computing the distance between every pair of histograms using this metric, the SVM can easily group similar data points together.



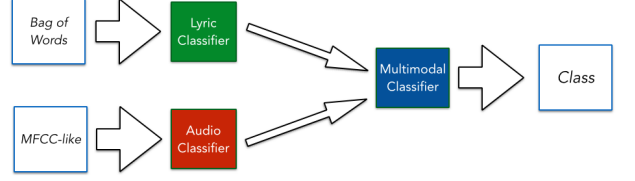
**Figure 3.2:** Series Fusion



**Figure 3.3:** Lyrics Only Partial Ensemble



**Figure 3.4:** Audio Only Partial Ensemble



**Figure 3.5:** Full Ensemble

## Fusion Methods

Using the features and the classifiers detailed above, four different fusion methods were used for classification: series fusion, two separate partial ensemble and full ensemble. These were defined by concatenating the feature vectors at different levels of the classification. Figure 3.2 shows two raw vectors used to train a multimodal classifier. Figure 3.3 and Figure 3.4 show one level of pre-classification. An initial classifier is used on either the lyric or the audio raw vectors, respectively, to create an intermediate vector. This resulting feature is joined with the remaining raw vector to train a multimodal classifier. Figure 3.5 shows two levels of pre-classification, where both raw vectors are classified and a multimodal classifier is used on the intermediate vectors.

It is important to note that out of the classifiers detailed above, only Gaussian naive Bayes is suited to classify negative-valued features. As a result not all the classifiers can be used for all the vectors. The multinomial naive Bayes classifier requires that audio segments be normalized to be non-negative to be fitted to the multinomial distribution. We introduce the following classifier sets:

$$\mathcal{A} = \text{set of audio classifiers} = \{\text{Gaussian NB, Multinomial NB}\}$$

$\mathcal{L}$  = set of lyric classifiers = {Gaussian NB, Multinomial NB, SVM}

$\mathcal{M}$  = set of multimodal classifiers = {Gaussian NB, Multinomial NB, SVM}

The set  $\mathcal{A}$  is used for audio features, the set  $\mathcal{L}$  is used for lyric features, and the set  $\mathcal{M}$  is used for multimodal features. In Figures 3.2-3.5, the squares labeled as ‘Multimodal Classifier’, ‘Audio Classifier’ and ‘Lyric Classifier’ represent a sampled classifier from the corresponding set.

## Series Fusion

The series fusion method is the basic approach discussed in Chapter 2. This method concatenates each raw audio vector with the corresponding raw lyric vector. As a result each song has hundreds of segments, each of which is a vector of length 5012. This large dataset can be computationally prohibitive for certain classifiers. The classifier set for this structure is :

$$Series = \mathcal{M} \setminus \{SVM\}$$

The reason why SVMs were not included in this test was because the runtime complexity of training an linear SVM is at worst  $O(d^2n)$  where  $d$  is the number of dimensions and  $n$  is the number of samples [21]. With a hundred vectors per song where each vector has 5012 dimensions, it becomes impractical to run this test.

This fusion method involves taking a classifier from the set *Series* and training it on the dataset resulting from the concatenation of the audio vectors and bag of words.

## Audio Partial Ensemble

The audio partial ensemble methods come from noting that the complexity of the series fusion method stemmed from the fact that the amount of vectors for each of the modes was lopsided. Each song has exactly one bag of words vector of length 5000, while having hundreds of audio segments of length 12. Audio partial ensemble explores classifying those hundreds of segments into emotions and representing them as a single classification histogram that can be combined with the bag of words.

This method initially classifies all the song’s audio segments, and builds a histogram for each song containing how many of these segments were classified for each emotion. As a result the audio data goes from being represented by hundreds of vectors of length 12, to a single histogram of length 3 that provides some concrete information of the emotional content of the song.

The classifier set *Audio Partial Ensemble* is defined as all the combinations between the Multimodal classifier set and the Audio classifier set. The resulting set is as follows:

$$\textit{Audio Partial Ensemble} = \mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{M}$$

For this fusion method, a classifier is taken from  $\mathcal{A}$ , and is used to build the emotional histogram from the audio segments. This histogram is then concatenated to the bag of words to create the multimodal vector, which is used to train the classifier from  $\mathcal{M}$ .

## Lyric Partial Ensemble

The lyric partial ensemble configuration is very similar to the audio partial ensemble, with the modification that the initial classification is performed to the bag of words vector instead of the audio.

The classifier set *Lyric Partial Ensemble* is defined as all the combinations between  $\mathcal{L}$  and the  $\mathcal{M}$ .

$$\textit{Lyric Partial Ensemble} = \mathcal{L} \times \mathcal{M}$$

This fusion method takes a classifier from  $\mathcal{L}$  and determines the likelihood that each bag of words belong to each class, resulting in a vector of length 3. This likelihood vector is concatenated to the MFCC-like vectors from the audio data to create the multimodal features. A classifier from  $\mathcal{M}$  is used to make the final decision based on this vector.

## Full Ensemble

Taking both partial ensembles to the next logical step, full ensemble performs an initial classification on both the audio and the lyric vectors independently

and then concatenates the the intermediate results into a single multimodal vector. The audio vectors are converted into the same emotional histogram used in the audio partial ensemble method. The bag of words, like in lyric partial ensemble, is used to create a likelihood vector. The emotional histogram and the bag of words classification are concatenated and used as a single vector for multimodal classification.

The classifier set for *Full Ensemble* is defined by all combinations between the  $\mathcal{A}$ ,  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $\mathcal{M}$  sets. The resulting set is defined as follows:

$$Full\ Ensemble = \mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{L} \times \mathcal{M}$$

This fusion method takes a classifier from  $\mathcal{A}$  to build an emotional histogram of the song and a classifier from  $\mathcal{L}$  to build a likelihood vector for the song. These two vectors are concatenated to form the multimodal vector used to train a classifier from  $\mathcal{M}$ .



## 4

# EXPERIMENT

Given the size of the dataset, it was necessary to perform significant preprocessing for each test to run in a sensible amount of time. The experiments require that every song has audio vectors, a lyric vector, and a true emotional label. To get the subset of the Million Song Dataset (MSDS) that had these characteristics, it was necessary to perform two levels of filtering. First we needed to identify which songs had sentiment labels. From this subset, we needed to identify which songs were also included in the MusicXMatch dataset. As a final step, the dataset was truncated so that each class had the same number of samples to avoid having any misrepresentation.

Song labeling was performed by looking at the mbtags provided in the metadata provided by the MSDS. If the tags contained the word ‘happy’, ‘angry’ or ‘sad’, the corresponding song was considered to be part of that class. This method resulted in three distinct sets. These sets were cross referenced with the MusicXMatch dataset to determine which songs contained both an emotion label a bag of words features from the intersection of the two sets, 1000 songs for each sentiment were randomly selected.

The algorithms detailed in Chapter 3 were implemented on python using the sklearn toolkit<sup>1</sup>[22]. A python module was developed to handle sampling and extracting features and class vectors, training classifiers and creating the emotional histogram. These functions were built into a single module to ensure that all the tests ran on the same code, thus avoiding any issues with accuracy difference due to code conflicts. To streamline the training and testing processes, 100 randomly selected audio segments were sampled for each song. This allowed the test program to quickly identify where the prediction for one song ended and the next one started without much overhead.

The module was then used to implement five different programs: series fusion, partial ensemble, full ensemble, audio and lyrics unimodal. It was important that each program could take user input to select which classifier

is to be used for what portion of the algorithm. A script was written around these programs to try all classifier combinations as described in Chapter 3.

It is important to mention that the audio unimodal benchmark showed that Gaussian naive Bayes consistently provided better results than the multinomial naive Bayes, which allowed us to trim a subset of the combinations used for the full ensemble tests by requiring audio initial classification to be done with a Gaussian naive Bayes classifier. As a result, we ran six different unimodal benchmarks, nine different configurations for full ensemble tests, eighteen different partial ensemble tests and two series fusions, for a total of thirty-five different runs.

Each run consisted of training the algorithm four times with different sized training sets to understand the associated learning curves. The training sets were comprised of 20, 50, 100 and 500 sample songs for each class. After training the algorithm, it was tested against a set of 300 different songs which was also comprised of an equal number of songs for each class. Each run was repeated thirty times to have many data points for each configuration, to be able to compare performances more accurately. The confusion matrices were recorded for post processing, and the results will be discussed in Chapter 5.

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<sup>1</sup>The histogram intersection kernel code was obtained from kuantkid's branch of the open source scikit-learn project.  
<https://github.com/kuantkid/scikit-learn/commit/16c82d8f2fe763df7bfee9bbcc40016fb84affcf>

## RESULTS

This Chapter will present the results of the experiments detailed in the Chapter 4 while providing some insight into what differentiates the fusion algorithms from the unimodal benchmarks. To do so, two different metrics are used to compare the algorithms. Average accuracy is the standard method for comparing classification algorithms. Since one of the goals of this paper is to improve the reliability of the overall system in diverse datasets, it is not beneficial to have near perfect accuracy for one class and sub-random choice on another class. This gap is smoothed out while comparing average accuracies, which is why the algorithms are also compared using sensitivity.

Sensitivity is a measurement of how well a test recognizes a condition. Sensitivity is only defined for binary problems, so the classification outcome had to be reinterpreted. Since this problem dealt with three classes, each run created three different one-vs-all confusion matrices that determined the True Positives (TP) and the False Negatives (FN) for each class. The class sensitivity was calculated as following:

$$\text{Sens}_i = \frac{TP_i}{TP_i + FN_i} \quad i \in \{\text{happy}, \text{sad}, \text{angry}\} \quad (5.1)$$

The sensibility value assigned to a classifier was the average of all class sensitivities. Since each experiment had thirty runs, then there were a total of ninety different class sensitivities for each classifier. The average of these was considered the classifier's sensitivity.

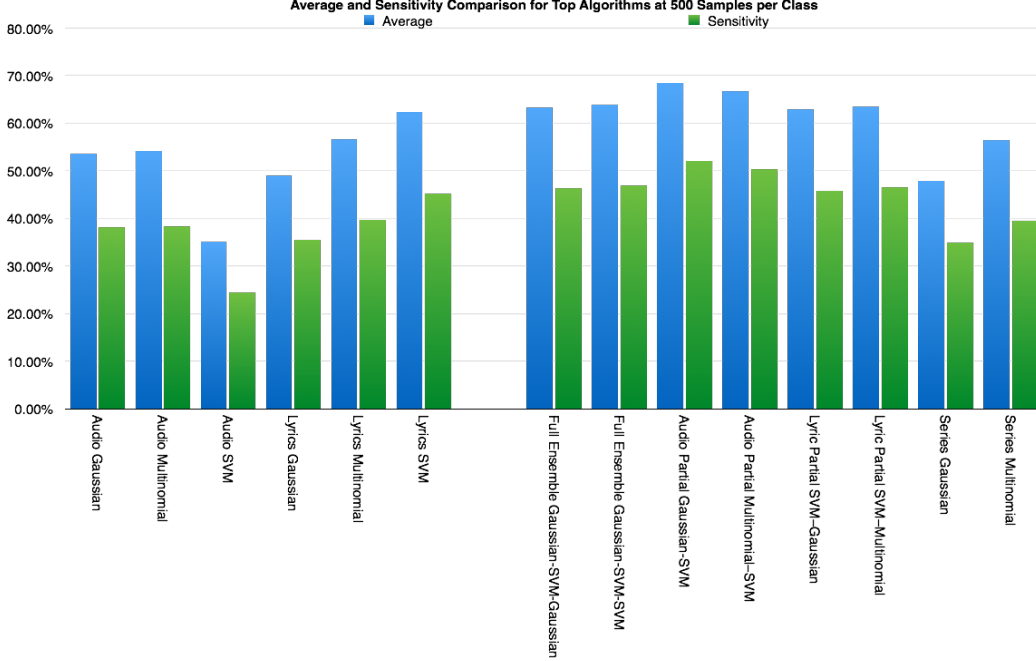
Table 5.1 contains a summary of the accuracies of all the configurations trained with 500 samples for each class. Each row represents an experiment, and it is summarized with the average of all the class accuracies, the standard deviation of the class accuracies and the sensitivity mentioned above. The naming convention used to describe each algorithm is as follows:

{Method AudioClassifier - LyricClassifier - MultimodalClassifier}

Where Method can be a unimodal configurations (Audio or Lyrics) or a multimodal configuration ( ‘Full Ensemble’, ‘Audio Partial’, ‘Lyric Partial’ or ‘Series’).

**Table 5.1:** Accuracy Measured in Average Accuracy and Sensitivity Using 500 Samples per Class

		Average	StdDev	Sensitivity	Average Rank	Sensitivity Rank
1	Audio Gaus	0.5356	0.2447	0.382	25	25
2	Audio Multi	0.5409	0.2318	0.384	24	24
3	Audio SVM	0.3508	0.2803	0.244	35	35
4						
5	Lyrics Gaus	0.4904	0.2788	0.354	26	27
6	Lyrics Multi	0.5671	0.1630	0.398	19	19
7	Lyrics SVM	0.623	0.0864	0.452	9	9
8						
9	Full Gaus-Gaus-Gaus	0.5438	0.2476	0.391	23	23
10	Full Gaus-Gaus-Multi	0.5807	0.1342	0.409	15	15
11	Full Gaus-Gaus-SVM	0.5733	0.1303	0.403	17	17
12	Full Gaus-Multi-Gaus	0.6047	0.1115	0.434	10	11
13	Full Gaus-Multi-Multi	0.5733	0.1334	0.402	18	18
14	Full Gaus-Multi-SVM	0.5872	0.0984	0.415	14	14
15	Full Gaus-SVM-Gaus	0.6339	0.0682	0.464	7	7
16	Full Gaus-SVM-Multi	0.5888	0.1293	0.417	13	13
17	Full Gaus-SVM-SVM	0.6388	0.0698	0.469	4	4
18						
19	Partial Audio Gaus-Gaus	0.4811	0.2964	0.350	30	30
20	Partial Audio Gaus-Multi	0.6377	0.1436	0.468	5	5
21	Partial Audio Gaus-SVM	<b>0.6846</b>	0.0809	<b>0.520</b>	1	1
22	Partial Audio Multi-Gaus	0.4812	0.296	0.353	29	28
23	Partial Audio Multi-Multi	0.5992	0.1763	0.434	12	10
24	Partial Audio Multi-SVM	0.6677	0.1198	0.504	2	2
25	Partial Audio SVM-Gaus	0.4888	0.2850	0.354	28	26
26	Partial Audio SVM-Multi	0.6024	0.1656	0.431	11	12
27	Partial Audio SVM-SVM	0.6517	0.0966	0.482	3	3
28						
29	Partial Lyric Gaus-Gaus	0.4902	0.2839	0.352	27	29
30	Partial Lyric Gaus-Multi	0.4802	0.2801	0.349	31	32
31	Partial Lyric Gaus-SVM	0.3828	0.3109	0.273	33	33
32	Partial Lyric Multi-Gaus	0.5796	0.1492	0.408	16	16
33	Partial Lyric Multi-Multi	0.5662	0.147	0.395	20	21
34	Partial Lyric Multi-SVM	0.5646	0.1725	0.397	22	20
35	Partial Lyric SVM-Gaus	0.6286	0.0783	0.458	8	8
36	Partial Lyric SVM-Multi	0.636	0.0789	0.466	6	6
37	Partial Lyric SVM-SVM	0.3598	0.2920	0.258	34	34
38						
39	Series Gaus	0.478	0.2964	0.350	32	31
40	Series Multi	0.5651	0.153	0.395	21	22

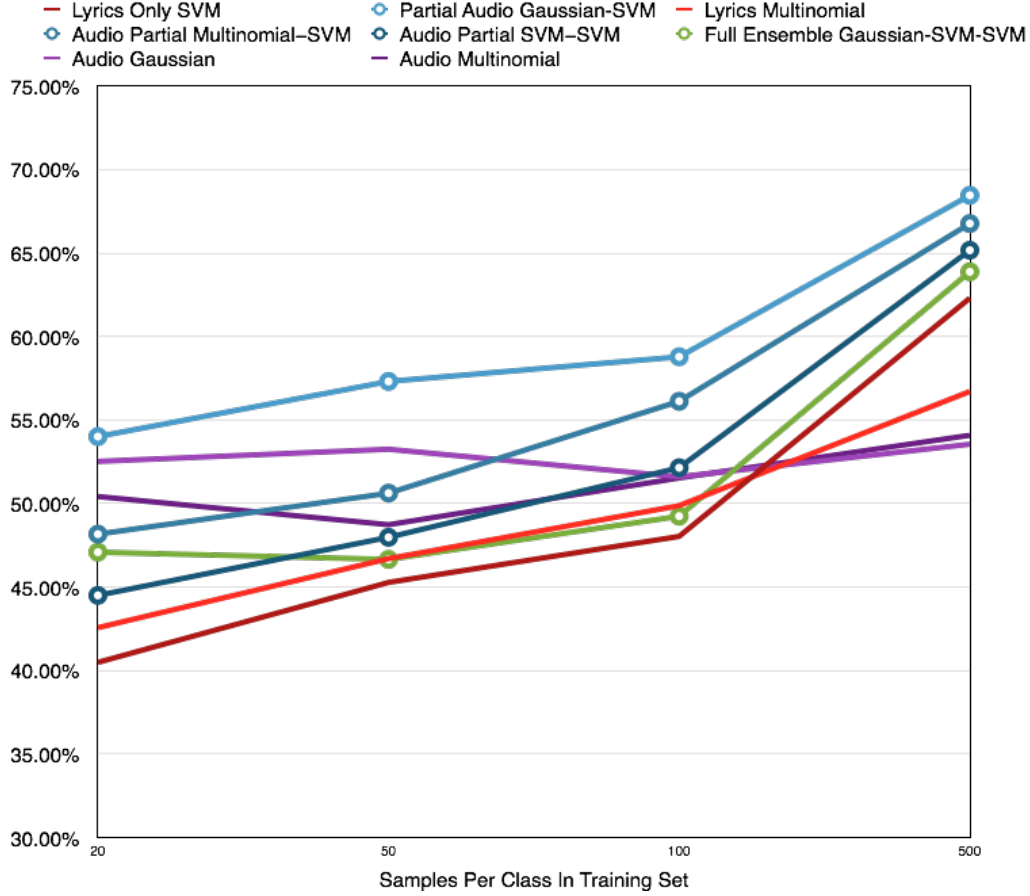


**Figure 5.1:** Average and Sensitivity Comparison for Top Algorithms at 500 Samples per Class. The left side contains the accuracies and sensitivity values for the unimodal classifiers. The right side contains the accuracies and sensitivity values for the top multimodal classifiers for each configuration.

It is interesting to notice some trends in Table 5.1. First note that the overall accuracy for fusion algorithms tends to be slightly higher than the accuracy for the unimodal benchmarks at the top of the table. This is further explored by looking at the standard deviation of these accuracies; the benchmarks tend to have a higher variance than the fusion experiments. Note that the sensitivity metric tends to be higher when the standard deviation is lower. Algorithms with a high sensitivity value tend to do better overall.

Figure 5.1 contains a representation of all the benchmarks and the top two algorithms for each configuration. One can quickly see that series methods do not perform very well. Looking at the other fusion methods, it becomes apparent that doing an initial classification of either raw audio or the raw bag of words before fusing the data had drastic benefits. The best unimodal method is the Lyrics SVM classifier shown in row 7 in Table 5.1. Even though it was the best unimodal classifier, it still ranked 9<sup>th</sup> overall. All algorithms with better ranking are multimodal methods.

Figure 5.1 shows the performance of the top classifiers and the top benchmarks using 500 training sample per class. It provides a good understanding



**Figure 5.2:** Learning Curves for Top Unimodal and Multimodal Classifiers. Plain lines represent unimodal classifiers. While the lines with circles represent the multimodal classifiers.

of what configurations are most effective. Figure 5.2 contains the learning curve of some of the top classifiers for both unimodal and multimodal. Some of the unimodal classifier perform better at smaller datasets. However once the dataset reaches 500 samples per class, all the multimodal classifiers surpass the unimodal ones. Figure 5.2 also suggests that the training sizes used are not enough to overfit the data since the slope form most of the curves is increasing for all the points displayed. This behavior indicates that a larger dataset should provide better accuracies for many of these algorithms.

## Better Reliability

Both the sensitivity and the variance serve as a good indication of the reliability of the system. A multi-class classification algorithm could possibly have strong average recognition accuracy as a result of performing really well for one class but poorly for the others. A high average and a high variance is highly indicative of this case. However, a high sensitivity or a high average paired with a low variance indicate that the classifier is both reliable and accurate.

Table 5.2 shows the average confusion matrices for the top two fusion algorithms and the top three benchmarks. The columns represent the true label "H", "S", "A" for the classes happy, sad and angry. The rows represent the algorithm's prediction "h", "s", "a" for happy, sad and angry.

Table 5.2 is very informative in terms of what classes are harder to recognize. Clearly, happy songs pose a greater challenge than angry songs. This makes sense because angry words tend to only be present in angry music. For example words like "wrath" or "rage" are more indicative of emotion than words like "sunny" or "cheer". The same occurs with the Sad classification, but to a lesser extent.

Consider how the accuracy for angry songs remains relatively constant throughout all the experiments, but the accuracy for happy songs plummets in Table 5.2.d and Table 5.2.e. Table 5.2.e shows that the audio-only Gaussian classifier incorrectly selects the angry classification for 56.77% of happy songs and for 39.03% of sad songs. This behavior is evidence that the angry class is getting over-classified, since a disproportionate number of songs receive that classification. Similarly Table 5.2.d assigns happy songs to one of the three classes with almost equal probability, which suggests the classifier cannot identify this class as well as others.

These issues are at play in the case of unimodal classifiers, which would be undesirable for real world applications. As seen in Table 5.2.a and Figure 5.2.b, multimodal classifiers can identify happy songs more accurately without any noticeable loss in angry classification. Additionally these classifiers do not select a particular class in a disproportionate manner.



(a) Audio Partial Gaussian-SVM				(b) Audio Partial Mutimodal-SVM			
	H	S	A		H	S	A
h	<b>58.93%</b>	15.60 %	16.97%	h	<b>58.70%</b>	19.00 %	17.80%
s	19.93%	<b>73.07 %</b>	9.67%	s	18.70%	<b>67.10 %</b>	7.70%
a	21.13%	11.33 %	<b>73.37%</b>	a	22.60%	13.90 %	<b>74.50</b>

(c) Lyrics SVM				(d) Lyrics Multinomial			
	H	S	A		H	S	A
h	<b>52.83%</b>	19.77 %	17.27%	h	<b>36.93%</b>	13.37 %	7.87%
s	23.13%	<b>63.93 %</b>	12.60%	s	32.23%	<b>59.27 %</b>	18.20%
a	24.03%	16.30 %	<b>70.13%</b>	a	30.83%	27.37 %	<b>73.93</b>

(e) Audio Gaussian			
	H	S	A
h	<b>24.23%</b>	7.80 %	7.53%
s	19.00%	<b>53.17 %</b>	9.20%
a	56.77%	39.03 %	<b>83.27</b>

**Table 5.2:** Confusion Matrices for Top Fusion and Top Benchmarks. Sub-tables (a) and (b) show that top fusion classifiers are more accurate and reliable than the top unimodal classifier in sub-table (b). Sub-tables (d) and (e) show the most prominent issues found in unimodal classifiers. The column 'H' in sub-tables (d) shows that the classifier is making random choices to classify the happy class. The row 'a' in table (e) shows that the classifier is over-classifying songs as angry.

## 6

# CONCLUSION

Through the experiments and results presented in this research, we have reached the conclusion that multimodal classifiers improve both the accuracy and the robustness of the process. We determined that some sentiments are harder to identify. It was also demonstrated that the recognition of these challenging sentiments can be improved greatly through multimodal classification without having a significant impact on the accuracy of other classes.

Although many configurations were introduced, the most promising were the Partial Lyric and the Partial Audio architectures. These two groups dominated the ranks of the top ten in both accuracy and Sensitivity. All comparison metrics reached the conclusion that the Partial Audio architecture with an initial Gaussian classifier followed by an SVM with histogram intersection as a kernel is the strongest classifier.

## FUTURE WORK

We explored the benefits of combining classification methods in different configurations. The features used for the paper underlined the added benefit of multimodal classification. Possible future work includes using more complex features that take into account sentence semantics to capture word modifiers. Another possible route for improvement on this paper would be to extend the number of classes used to all six Ekman emotions.

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