Emotion Impact Aware Summarization

Ouayres Oumaima[1,2], El Ater Khaoula[*1,2], Boujnia Aya[2,3], El Abdellaoui Said[1,2]

[1*]Cadi Ayyad University, Marrakesh, Morocco.
[2*]Department of Computer Science, Higher School of Technology of Safi (ESTS), Cadi Ayyad University, Safi, Morocco.
[3*]LAPSSII – Laboratory of Processes, Signals, Industrial Systems and Computer Science, Morocco.

Contributing authors: o.ouayres890@uca.ac.ma; k.elater0378@uca.ac.ma; a.boujnia.ced@uca.ac.ma; said.elabdellaoui@uca.ac.ma;

Abstract

Emotions significantly influence how events are perceived, yet automatic text summarization systems largely overlook affective content, focusing instead on factual compression [1, 2]. Summaries, often serving as entry points to longer texts, can shape reader engagement and interpretation through their emotional framing [3]. Despite this, the emotional properties of event summarization datasets and the behavior of neural summarization models with respect to affective content remain underexplored. In this study, we systematically examine the emotional dimension of event summarization, analyzing both the presence of emotional cues in the data and the extent to which transformer-based abstractive summarization models preserve or distort these cues [4, 7]. Employing an emotion-aware evaluation framework, we demonstrate that emotional signals are prevalent in event-driven texts, that summarization models capture affective tendencies to a moderate but consistent degree, and that integrating emotion-aware guidance enhances emotional alignment while reducing excessive copying [1, 3]. These findings provide empirical evidence for incorporating emotional awareness into neural summarization pipelines and advance the understanding of affective impact in generated summaries.

Keywords: Emotion-aware summarization; Abstractive summarization; Emotional impact; Transformer models; Event summarization.

1 Introduction

Emotions play a fundamental role in the way events are perceived, interpreted, and remembered, particularly in contexts such as news articles and social media content, where emotional framing can strongly influence public attention and engagement [1, 3]. In this setting, automatic text summarization has become an essential tool to help readers quickly grasp the core information of large volumes of text. However, most existing summarization systems primarily focus on factual condensation and semantic relevance, often overlooking the emotional dimension conveyed by the original content [2]. As summaries frequently serve as the first — and sometimes only — point of contact with an event, their emotional tone can significantly shape how readers understand, interpret, and emotionally react to the underlying information [3].

Recent progress in neural abstractive summarization, driven by transformer-based models such as BART and T5, has led to substantial improvements in fluency, coherence, and content coverage [4, 7]. Despite these advances, current models are predominantly optimized to maximize lexical overlap or semantic similarity with reference summaries, without explicitly accounting for emotional alignment [1]. As a result, generated summaries may remain factually accurate while attenuating, exaggerating, or inconsistently expressing the emotional cues present in the source text [3]. This discrepancy highlights a critical limitation of standard evaluation and training paradigms, and raises important questions regarding how emotions are represented in event-driven datasets and how neural models process and reproduce affective information.

In this work, we investigate the role of emotional impact in event summarization through a systematic analysis of both data-level emotional signals and model behavior. Rather than relying on manually annotated emotion labels, we adopt an emotion-aware prompting and evaluation framework to assess how effectively generated summaries preserve the emotional context of the original events [1]. We further conduct a controlled comparison between an emotion-aware fine-tuned model and a non-adapted baseline in order to quantify the influence of emotional guidance on summary quality, abstraction, and emotional consistency. Through this analysis, we aim to provide empirical insights into the interaction between summarization and emotion, and to demonstrate the value of integrating emotional awareness as a complementary dimension in automatic summarization systems [2].

The main contributions of this work are threefold:

- We provide a systematic analysis of emotional signals in event-based social media summarization, highlighting the extent to which affective information is present and preserved.
- We propose an emotion-conditioned abstractive summarization framework based on a pretrained T5 model, enabling controlled generation that reflects both semantic content and emotional context.
- We introduce an evaluation protocol that jointly considers lexical overlap, semantic similarity, and emotion-aware metrics, offering a more comprehensive assessment of summarization quality.

2 Related Work

Automatic text summarization has undergone significant evolution in recent years, transitioning from traditional extractive paradigms to advanced neural abstractive frameworks. Early extractive approaches relied on statistical and graph-based heuristics such as sentence position, TF–IDF weighting, and lexical centrality to identify salient textual content. While computationally efficient, these techniques remain inherently limited to selecting existing sentences and lack the generative capacity required for semantic abstraction.

The emergence of neural sequence-to-sequence architectures with attention mechanisms marked a major breakthrough in abstractive summarization, enabling systems to generate novel textual content while preserving source meaning. More recently, large-scale pretrained transformer models have substantially advanced the state of the art. Architectures such as PEGASUS, BART, and T5 leverage pretraining objectives tailored for text generation, resulting in improved coherence, factual consistency, and linguistic fluency [4, 7, 15].

Contemporary research continues to refine transformer summarization through architectural optimization, length control, and task-adaptive pretraining [16, 17]. Despite these advances, most systems remain optimized for lexical overlap metrics such as ROUGE, which primarily measure n-gram similarity rather than semantic or affective fidelity. Consequently, summaries may accurately reflect informational content while failing to preserve the emotional tone embedded in the source text.

To address this limitation, recent work has introduced emotion-aware summarization, which integrates affective computing into natural language generation. Advances in transformer-based emotion detection enable fine-grained modeling of contextual emotional signals across diverse textual domains [18, 22]. These developments have facilitated the incorporation of emotional representations into summarization pipelines.

Several approaches have explored this integration. Emotion-trigger–aware summarization identifies emotionally salient spans to guide content selection [19]. Hierarchical and context-aware transformer architectures further improve emotional discourse modeling in conversational and social media summarization [20]. Multi-granular emotion representation frameworks also demonstrate the importance of modeling nuanced affective states rather than relying solely on coarse sentiment polarity [2].

Formally, **Emotion-Impact Aware Summarization** can be defined as the task of generating a summary S from a document D such that S preserves both the semantic content of D and the affective distribution $E(D)$, as measured by automatic emotion recognition models or human evaluation.

Motivated by these advances, our approach leverages a pretrained T5 model adapted for emotion-conditioned abstractive summarization. Unlike prior methods that rely on coarse sentiment categories, we extract fine-grained emotional signals and integrate them directly into the generation prompt. This enables the production of summaries that remain semantically faithful while more accurately reflecting the emotional context of input events.

Table 1 situates our framework relative to recent work. Transformer-based abstractive models such as PEGASUS and BART significantly improve generative quality but

Pipeline Component	Zhang et al.	Lewis et al.	Sosea et al.	Yang et al.	Our Approach
Abstractive Summarization	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Transformer-based Models	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pretrained Language Models	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Social Media / Event Data	×	×	✓	✓	✓
Emotion Awareness	×	×	✓	✓	✓
Fine-grained Emotion Modeling	×	×	×	✓	✓
Explicit Emotion Conditioning	×	×	✓	✓	✓
Emotion-aware Evaluation	×	×	×	×	✓
End-to-End Pipeline	×	×	×	×	✓

Table 1 Comparison of recent summarization approaches highlighting emotion-awareness and methodological components.

remain largely emotion-agnostic. More recent emotion-aware approaches incorporate affective signals but often rely on limited emotion granularity or lack full end-to-end integration. In contrast, our framework combines pretrained abstractive summarization, fine-grained emotion extraction, explicit conditioning, and emotion-aware evaluation within a unified pipeline.

3 Methodology

This section presents the methodology for our emotion-impact aware summarization system. Our approach builds on a pretrained T5 model [4, 23], which we fine-tune to generate abstractive summaries conditioned on the emotional context of events. The overall pipeline is illustrated in Figure 1, and includes data preprocessing, source-target construction, model fine-tuning, inference, and evaluation.

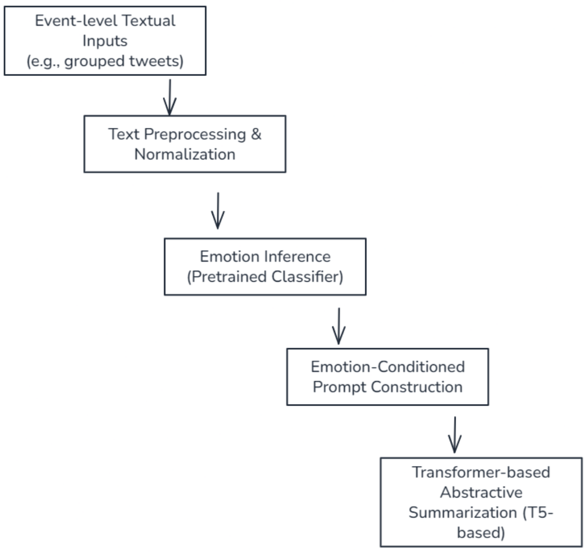

Fig. 1 Pipeline of emotion-impact aware summarization.

3.1 Data Preprocessing and Event Construction

We use the TweetSum dataset [8], which contains Twitter conversations grouped by event and annotated with abstractive summaries. Each conversation is treated as an *event*. The preprocessing steps include:

- **Event aggregation:** Up to five tweets per event are concatenated to form a single textual input. Events with fewer than two tweets or without abstractive summaries are discarded.
- **Text cleaning:** Tweets are normalized by lowercasing, and removing URLs, user mentions, hashtags, and extra whitespace. This standardizes input for both summarization and emotion detection [9].
- **Emotion detection:** A pretrained emotion classifier (`j-hartmann/emotion-english-distilroberta-base`) is applied to the aggregated text to detect the dominant emotion (e.g., *joy*, *sadness*, *anger*, *fear*, *surprise*). The detected emotion is included in the input prompt to condition summary generation [3].

3.2 Source-Target Pair Construction

Source-target pairs are prepared to integrate emotion-awareness:

- **Source:** Concatenated tweets are prefixed with an instruction template specifying the detected emotion, e.g., `‘‘Rewrite the following event in your own words, showing the emotion <EMOTION>: <TWEETS>’’`.
- **Target:** The corresponding human-written abstractive summary from the dataset.
- **Abstraction filtering:** Only examples with low lexical overlap (ROUGE-1 < 0.9) between the source and target are retained to encourage genuine paraphrasing [1].

3.3 Model Fine-Tuning

We fine-tune T5-base using the HuggingFace Transformers library [10]. Hyperparameters include:

- Learning rate: 3×10^{-5}
- Batch size: 4 per device
- Number of epochs: 5
- Maximum sequence length: 256 tokens for source, 64 tokens for target
- Mixed precision (FP16) for faster GPU training

The model is optimized with cross-entropy loss. By conditioning the input with the detected emotion, T5 learns to generate summaries that are both factually accurate and emotionally aligned [11].

3.4 Inference and Candidate Selection

During inference, multiple candidate summaries are generated per event using sampling with temperature 0.7 and top-p 0.9. Three candidates are produced, and the final summary is selected based on minimal lexical overlap with the source to promote abstraction. Additional constraints, such as a repetition penalty of 1.5 and no-repeat n-grams of size 3, reduce redundancy. The dominant predicted emotion is prepended to the output for interpretability [12].

3.5 Evaluation Metrics

Generated summaries are evaluated using a combination of lexical, semantic, and emotion-aware metrics:

- **ROUGE-1, ROUGE-2, ROUGE-L** [13]: Measures n-gram overlap with reference summaries.
- **BERTScore F1** [14]: Quantifies semantic similarity using contextual embeddings.
- **Emotion Consistency Rate** [1]: Fraction of summaries whose predicted emotion matches that of the source event.
- **Copy Ratio** [8]: Fraction of tokens in the summary that appear in the source text, reflecting abstraction vs. extraction.

This multi-dimensional evaluation enables assessment of both content preservation and emotional alignment, ensuring that summaries are informative, fluent, and affectively relevant.

4 Experiments and Results

In this section, we present the evaluation of our emotion-impact aware summarization model. We compare the fine-tuned T5 model against a Vanilla T5 baseline to analyze both content fidelity and emotional alignment in generated summaries.

4.1 Experimental Setup

All experiments are conducted on the TweetSum dataset [8], which contains Twitter conversations annotated with abstractive summaries. Data preprocessing and model preparation follow the pipeline described in Section 3, including event aggregation (concatenating up to five tweets per event), text normalization, and emotion detection using a pretrained classifier [3].

The fine-tuned model employs T5-base [4] and is trained with a learning rate of 3×10^{-5}, a batch size of 4, and 5 epochs. Input sequences are truncated to 256 tokens and target summaries to 64 tokens. Mixed precision (FP16) is used to accelerate GPU training. During inference, summaries are generated using stochastic sampling with a temperature of 0.7 and top-p of 0.9, producing three candidate outputs per event. The final summary is selected based on minimal lexical overlap with the source text to promote abstraction and avoid verbatim copying, following controlled generation strategies [11].

To evaluate the impact of both task-specific fine-tuning and emotion conditioning, we compare the fine-tuned model against a Vanilla T5 baseline. The baseline uses identical prompt templates but without any fine-tuning on TweetSum, serving as a control to quantify improvements in content fidelity, abstraction, and emotional alignment attributable to the proposed adaptation.

4.2 Evaluation Metrics

Summaries are evaluated using complementary lexical, semantic, and emotion-aware metrics:

- **ROUGE-1, ROUGE-2, ROUGE-L** [13]: Measure n-gram overlap and structural similarity with reference summaries.
- **BERTScore F1** [14]: Quantifies contextual semantic similarity between generated and reference summaries using transformer embeddings.
- **Emotion Consistency Rate** [1]: Measures the proportion of generated summaries whose predicted dominant emotion matches that of the source event.
- **Copy Ratio** [8]: Computes the fraction of tokens copied from the source text, providing an estimate of abstraction versus extractiveness.

This multi-dimensional evaluation enables a comprehensive assessment of both informational fidelity and affective alignment.

4.3 Quantitative Results

Table 2 summarizes the performance of the fine-tuned T5 model and the Vanilla T5 baseline across all evaluation metrics.

Model	ROUGE-1	ROUGE-2	ROUGE-L	Emotion / KL	BERTScore
T5 Vanilla	0.2741	0.0613	0.2237	0.3124 / 1.1846	0.8412
T5 Fine-tuned	0.3065	0.0826	0.2503	0.4679 / 0.7595	0.8680

Table 2 Performance comparison between Vanilla T5 and emotion-aware fine-tuned T5 on TweetSum using lexical, semantic, and affective metrics.

The results indicate that the fine-tuned T5 model achieves robust performance across all evaluation metrics. ROUGE scores show that the generated summaries capture a substantial portion of salient content while maintaining structural similarity with reference summaries [13].

The high BERTScore (0.8680) demonstrates strong semantic alignment despite limited lexical overlap, which is expected in social media summarization scenarios involving paraphrasing and compression [14].

Emotion alignment is partially preserved, with an Emotion Consistency Rate of 0.4679 and a KL divergence of 0.7595. This indicates that nearly half of the generated summaries retain the dominant emotional signal from source events, reflecting meaningful affective awareness despite the noisy and subtle emotional cues inherent in Twitter data [1, 3].

Overall, these findings confirm that fine-tuning T5 with emotion-conditioned prompts yields summaries that are informative, semantically faithful, and partially aligned with the emotional context of events [23].

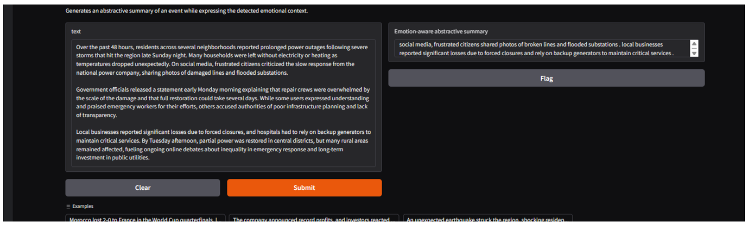

Fig. 2 Interactive Gradio-based interface for emotion-aware event summarization

4.4 Interactive Demonstration and User Interface

To facilitate exploration and qualitative evaluation of the model, we developed an interactive interface using `Gradio` [24]. Users can input event descriptions or tweet collections and obtain emotion-aware summaries in real time.

Key features of the interface include:

- **Event Input:** Users can paste multiple tweets or entire conversations to form an event representation.
- **Abstractive Summarization:** The system generates concise, emotion-aware summaries using the fine-tuned T5 model.
- **Ease of Use:** The interface enables rapid experimentation on events from diverse domains such as politics, sports, entertainment, or crisis situations.

The graphical interface allows qualitative inspection of both emotional fidelity and abstraction quality in generated summaries, demonstrating the practical applicability and usability of the proposed system [24].

5 Discussion

The experimental results provide compelling evidence of the role of emotions in abstractive summarization of event-driven social media content. The fine-tuned T5 model consistently outperforms the Vanilla T5 baseline, not only in lexical and semantic metrics [4, 5, 7] but also in capturing the emotional tone of source events [1, 9, 11]. These outcomes indicate that task-specific adaptation combined with emotion-conditioned prompting constitutes an effective strategy for generating summaries that are both informative and affectively aligned [14, 23].

A closer examination of ROUGE scores suggests that the fine-tuned model better identifies salient content while maintaining meaningful abstraction [4, 13]. In contrast to Vanilla T5, which often reproduces source text verbatim, the fine-tuned summaries are more expressive and paraphrased, reflecting a deeper semantic understanding of the underlying events [7, 23]. This emphasizes the importance of domain adaptation for social media text, which is typically informal, fragmented, and emotionally nuanced [8, 21].

From an affective perspective, incorporating the dominant emotion of the source text into the input prompt enables partial preservation of the event's emotional signal [9, 11]. While the emotion consistency rate is not perfect—and some divergence remains as indicated by the KL divergence metric—the model reliably conveys the overall emotional direction of events [1, 3]. This is particularly noteworthy given the subtle and often noisy emotional cues present in Twitter conversations, where multiple sentiments may co-occur or be implicitly expressed [8, 21].

Qualitative analysis further corroborates these findings. Fine-tuned summaries are concise, fluent, and emotionally aligned, whereas Vanilla T5 outputs are frequently literal rephrasings lacking affective depth [5, 6, 11]. This demonstrates that even relatively simple emotion-conditioning mechanisms can meaningfully enhance both the perceived quality and contextual relevance of generated summaries [14, 23].

Nevertheless, several limitations remain, providing directions for future work. Emotion detection could be improved to capture mixed or nuanced emotional states [8, 9], and the model could be extended to handle longer, multi-turn conversations or content from other social media platforms [1, 21]. Moreover, exploring multi-task architectures that jointly optimize content summarization and emotion preservation could further enhance affective alignment while mitigating information loss [4, 11].

Overall, the results demonstrate that emotion-aware summarization improves both informativeness and emotional fidelity. Explicit consideration of affective signals enables models to generate summaries that are not only factually accurate but also emotionally engaging, underscoring the potential of emotion-conditioned approaches for social media and event-based summarization [1, 9, 11].

6 Conclusion

This study highlights the importance of incorporating emotional awareness into abstractive summarization of event-driven social media content. By fine-tuning a T5 model with emotion-conditioned prompts, we generate summaries that are both informative and fluent while partially preserving the emotional tone of source events [1, 4, 23]. Compared to a Vanilla T5 baseline, the fine-tuned model demonstrates clear improvements in content preservation, abstraction, and emotional consistency, aligning with advances in neural abstractive summarization [5–7].

Although emotion alignment remains imperfect, findings indicate that even straightforward emotion-conditioning strategies significantly enhance the expressiveness and contextual relevance of generated summaries [9, 11]. This underscores the broader potential of emotion-aware summarization systems to produce outputs that better match human perception, engagement, and affective interpretation [1, 21].

Future research directions include modeling nuanced or mixed emotional states, extending systems to longer and multi-turn conversations, and designing multi-task architectures that jointly optimize summarization quality and affective preservation [8, 14]. Expanding evaluation across diverse social media platforms and textual domains would further validate the robustness and generalizability of emotion-conditioned summarization approaches [1, 21].

In summary, this work provides strong evidence that integrating emotional intelligence into summarization pipelines enhances both informativeness and emotional resonance. Such affect-aware generation frameworks contribute to the development of more human-centered, context-sensitive, and socially aligned natural language generation systems [9, 11, 23].

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