Comparative Analysis of BERT-Based Models for Emotion Detection

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Abstract

Emotion detection is critical in mental health support tools. This project explores multi-label emotion classification using transformer models on the GoEmotions dataset to support triage in university chatbots. We evaluate BERT-based transformer models across various training strategies. Our findings show that Distil-BERT, fine-tuned with threshold optimization (F1 = 0.5778) and enhanced by layer freezing (F1 = 0.5799), outperforms other models and binary classifiers. Results highlight DistilBERT as an efficient and effective solution for detecting overlapping emotions in real-world mental health applications.

1 Introduction

Emotion recognition is a key component of emotionally aware artificial intelligence systems, especially in mental health applications where understanding user affect can inform meaningful interventions. In this project, we develop a multilabel emotion classification model fine-tuned on the GoEmotions dataset to detect several possible emotions from a single user message. Our focus is on a real-world use case involving a triage module in a mental health chatbot used by university counseling centers. Such systems help screen students for emotional distress and guide them toward appropriate resources, such as peer support, informational material, or clinical follow-up, based on their detected emotional state.

Unlike basic sentiment analysis tasks that classify text into broad categories like positive or negative, our task involves distinguishing among over twenty nuanced emotions such as grief, nervousness, embarrassment, and pride. The complexity lies in the fact that a single message may express more than one of these emotions simultaneously. This multi-label nature significantly increases the difficulty of the task compared to traditional single-label sentiment classification.

To evaluate our models, we use the F1 score as our primary metric. In a mental health triage setting, both types of errors carry risk: missing a distress-related emotion can result in someone not receiving help when needed, while incorrectly flagging non-distress emotions may cause unnecessary interventions. The F1 score balances precision and recall, helping us account for both false positives and false negatives in a way that supports responsible and efficient triage.

In our experiments, we explore a range of modeling approaches including BERT, RoBERTa, Distil-BERT, and DeBERTa architectures, class balancing strategies, threshold tuning, and per-emotion binary classification. These experiments aim to identify the methods that best support emotion detection in real-world, high-stakes contexts.

2 Background

A number of recent studies have tackled multilabel emotion classification problems, aiming to detect multiple emotional states from text. Specifically, Demszky et al. (2020) made a significant contribution by introducing the GoEmotions dataset, a large-scale and fine-grained dataset annotated for 27 emotion categories plus neutrality. To establish baseline performance, they experimented with BiLSTM and BERT-base models, finding that transformer-based models consistently outperformed traditional architectures. While BERT model performance was promising, they observed that class imbalance posed challenges—particularly for low-frequency emotions, which were often misclassified as more common ones. Nevertheless, their work demonstrated the effectiveness of BERT for this task and provided a solid foundation for subsequent research in multilabel emotion detection.

Building on prior work, Kane et al. (2022) proposed a transformer-based ensemble for multi-label emotion detection. Their method leveraged data

augmentation and sampling techniques to address class imbalance and involved training an ensemble of transformer models, resulting in improved overall F1 performance. However, the ensemble method incurs high computational cost due to repeated training across models.

In our work, we focus on a systematic comparison of several transformer backbones introduced in recent years. Specifically, we examine BERT (Devlin et al. (2019)), which laid the foundation for contextualized language representations; RoBERTa (Liu et al. (2019)), which enhances BERT through larger-scale pretraining and dynamic masking, and improved training efficiency and performance; Distilbert (Sanh et al. (2019)), a lightweight alternative that preserves most of BERT's performance while being faster and smaller; and DeBERTa (He et al. (2021)), which introduces a disentangled attention mechanism for improved context modeling.

Rather than adopting computationally expensive ensemble models, we explore more lightweight and scalable strategies. These include experimenting with class weight implementation, threshold optimization for each label on individual pre-trained models, and selective layer freezing to reduce training cost and mitigate overfitting. Our approach offers an efficient solution to address both label imbalance and complex label interactions in multilabel emotion classification

3 Methods

3.1 Data

The dataset used is the publicly available GoEmotions dataset created by Google Research. It contains over 58k English Reddit comments, each manually annotated with one or more labels from 27 fine-grained emotion categories or Neutral. The dataset supports multi-label emotion classification, where a single sentence can express multiple, overlapping emotional states.

Our exploratory data analysis (EDA) revealed significant class imbalance, with emotions like *grief* underrepresented and *neutral* dominating (see Figure 3 in Appendix). This informed our need to test imbalance-handling techniques during modeling. Additionally, most samples were associated with multiple emotion labels, indicating the need for a multi-label classification approach (see Figure 4 in Appendix). A co-occurrence heatmap revealed frequent emotion pairs, such as *disapproval* and *annoyance* (see Figure 5 in Appendix). These

co-occurrences indicate label dependencies, suggesting a fixed threshold may be suboptimal for all labels and motivating our test of label-specific thresholds.

3.2 Selecting Models

We evaluated four transformer models (BERT, RoBERTa, DistilBERT, and DeBERTa) to compare BERT to more recent models. Each model was chosen for its capability in handling complex multi-label emotion classification.

BERT was selected as the baseline due to its strong text classification performance and ability to capture nuanced context. Because of its bidirectional attention, it is able to understand the full context. BERT will be used as the reference for comparing improvements in performance with modern models.

RoBERTa was selected as one of the modern models because it builds on BERT by removing next-sentence prediction tasks using dynamic masking. Making it helpful when understanding complex emotional contexts better (Cortiz, 2021). Previous studies show RoBERTa often outperforms BERT in F1 score while maintaining efficiency.

DistilBERT, a lightweight alternative to BERT, was selected for its efficiency. It reduces model size by 40%, retains about 97% of BERT's language understanding capabilities, and runs approximately 60% faster, making it particularly well-suited for real-time applications such as sentiment and emotion analysis (Sanh et al., 2019).

DeBERTa was selected for its advanced architectural improvements. It improves language understanding by disentangling position and content information using an enhanced attention mechanism. DeBERTa also incorporates a modified mask decoder that strengthens pre-training. These innovations contribute to its strong performance across a range of natural language processing benchmarks and its ability to capture complex emotional context (He et al., 2021).

3.3 Experimentation

To identify factors driving performance in a multilabel emotion prediction, we conducted five experiments across all four models. The baseline used default settings. We then optimized thresholds to improve F1 scores and applied class weights. We also tested freezing early layers to reduce overfitting. These experiments help identify whether performance improvements stem from the model architecture or the training strategies.

Table 1: Summary of Experiments

#	Name	Description		
1	Simple Base-	Creating a simple model without		
	line	adding weights, thresholds, or freez-		
		ing layers.		
2	Simple Base-	Apply thresholds to the predictions		
	line + Thresh-	of the baseline model to improve		
	olds	classification performance.		
3	Weighted Loss	Add class weights to the loss func-		
		tion to address class imbalance.		
4	Weighted +	Combine class weighting with		
	Threshold	threshold tuning (thresholds derived		
		from weighted model).		
5	Weighted +	Add freezing of lower layers in the		
	Threshold +	model to reduce overfitting and im-		
	Freezing Layers	prove generalization.		

Our dataset exhibits class imbalance. To address this, we implemented custom models incorporating class weights during training. We computed a pos_weight vector based on the inverse frequency of each label. These weights are passed into BCEWithLogitsLoss, which penalizes misclassifications of underrepresented labels. This approach helps the model learn infrequent classes more effectively. Imbalanced data is common in multilabel emotion classification, necessitating methods to handle it. Custom models are used for BERT, RoBERTa, DistilBERT, and DeBERTa only when the underlying model needs to explicitly handle class imbalance, otherwise standard pretrained models were used.

Model outputs raw logits for each label; we applied sigmoid activation to obtain probabilities. To determine custom thresholds per label, we used validation set performance. For each label, we identified the threshold yielding the best individual F1 score. This method was chosen because different emotion classes exhibit varying distributions, and label-specific thresholds can optimize the precision-recall tradeoff.

3.4 Training N Binary Models

To assess if label-specific modeling performs better, we trained six separate binary classifiers using each pretrained transformer model. We selected the top three and bottom three performing labels based on the F1 score from BERT's best-performing model (Experiment 2). This isolates learning dynamics per emotion and tests if individual models perform better, and with which pretrained transformer. To account for class imbalance, each binary model

was trained using a balanced subset of the training data, 50% positive and 50% negative samples per label.

4 Results and Discussion

4.1 BERT

Test set evaluations show Experiment 2 achieved the best overall multi-label classification performance (F1 = 0.5753). While Experiment 4 (F1 = 0.5633) showed strong performance, particularly on minority classes (*pride*, *relief*, and *grief*), our primary goal was accurate multi-label emotion detection across all labels. Therefore, we prioritized overall model performance. The general F1 improvement across all labels in Experiment 2 makes it more suitable. Experiment 5 showed freezing added minimal change; therefore, Experiment 4 remained the second-best model.

Table 2: BERT: Test Set Evaluation Metrics per Experiment

#	Subset Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1	Runtime (min)
1	0.1508	0.7778	0.3564	0.4904	10:29
2	0.0918	0.5274	0.6329	0.5753	10:27
3	0.0511	0.4076	0.6403	0.4981	10:36
4	0.0730	0.5016	0.6423	0.5633	10:39
5	0.0730	0.5016	0.6423	0.5633	10:56

Table 3: F1 scores on the test set for majority and minority emotion labels across the best (Experiment 2) and second-best (Experiment 4) BERT-based models.

Label F1 – Experiment 2		F1 – Experiment 4				
Majority Classes						
Neutral	0.7864	0.7618				
Approval	0.5066	0.4730				
Admiration	0.6900	0.6770				
	Minority Classe	?S				
Pride	0.1299	0.2093				
Relief	0.2741	0.3459				
Grief	0.1285	0.3317				

Analyzing the best BERT model, we identified labels with high false negative rates. These labels were *grief*, *pride*, and *relief*. For all three labels, *neutral* was frequently predicted alongside the actual label. This may occur because *neutral* is the majority class, leading the model to predict it frequently.

For *grief*, the model sometimes predicted related emotions like *sadness*, *remorse*, and *disappointment*. These emotions share contextual similarities with *grief* in English, potentially causing the model to predict them instead. This highlights a challenge in multi-label emotion classification: significant

semantic overlap between labels. Similar trends occurred for *pride* and *relief*. For *pride*, similar predicted labels included *approval* and *admiration*. For *relief*, they included *realization* and *approval*. This trend persisted for RoBERTa, DistilBERT, and DeBERTa.

Figure: Best BERT Model - Minority Class Predictions

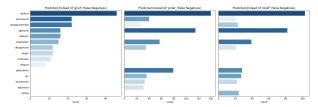


Figure 1: Other labels being chosen for minority class for best BERT model

4.2 Model Comparison: RoBERTa, DistilBERT, and DeBERTa

We evaluated RoBERTa, DistilBERT, and De-BERTa across five experimental setups to understand their relative performance on multi-label emotion classification. As shown in Table 4, each model was tested under a consistent experimental framework to examine the effects of class weighting, threshold tuning, and layer freezing. Across all three architectures, Experiment 2, which involved fine-tuning the base model with threshold optimization, consistently achieved the highest F1 scores (RoBERTa: 0.5761, DistilBERT: 0.5778, DeBERTa: 0.5604). This suggests that threshold tuning plays a critical role in balancing precision and recall across labels.

Experiment 1, a simple baseline without weighting or threshold tuning, produced relatively high precision but suffered from low recall, limiting overall effectiveness. Introducing class weighting alone (Experiment 3) generally improved recall at the cost of precision, leading to many false positives—especially notable with DeBERTa. This pattern is consistent with observations reported in Demszky et al. (2020), which caution that naive weighting may amplify noise in underrepresented labels. Combining weighting with threshold tuning (Experiment 4) yielded improvements over weighting alone, but typically did not surpass the results from Experiment 2. This reinforces that while class balancing is necessary, overly aggressive weighting can be counterproductive when not paired with proper calibration.

The addition of layer freezing to reduce over-fitting (Experiment 5) had limited impact. Both RoBERTa and DistilBERT showed marginal declines in F1 compared to Experiment 4, suggesting that freezing offered little performance benefit even for smaller models. For DeBERTa, the drop was slightly more pronounced, reinforcing that layer freezing may not be effective for multi-label emotion classification on the GoEmotions dataset.

Comparing across models, DistilBERT, despite being smaller, matched or slightly exceeded RoBERTa's performance, making it a strong candidate when computational efficiency is considered. While RoBERTa had slightly stronger recall in some settings, and DeBERTa showed competitive recall results with class weighting, DistilBERT's ability to generalize well with fewer parameters makes it appealing for real-time or resource-constrained deployments, such as mental health chatbots.

Overall, these results reflect expected trade-offs between model size, precision, and recall sensitivity. The consistent performance patterns across experiments highlight the value of threshold tuning and class balancing strategies for multi-label emotion detection, regardless of the underlying transformer architecture. These findings are summarized in Table 4.

Table 4: Test Set Evaluation Metrics by Model and Experiment

Exp. #	Subset Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1	Runtime (min)				
	RoBERTa (2 epochs, batch size = 16)								
1	0.1505	0.7808	0.3531	0.4862	11:32				
2	0.0860	0.5185	0.6479	0.5761	11:17				
3	0.0103	0.2814	0.8684	0.4251	13:01				
4	0.0593	0.4710	0.6804	0.5567	12:41				
5	0.0629	0.4532	0.6477	0.5552	8:13				
	DistilB.	ERT (3 epochs	, batch size	= 16)					
1	0.1527	0.7564	0.3793	0.5053	8:28				
2	0.0956	0.5346	0.6286	0.5778*	8:20				
3	0.0600	0.4190	0.6406	0.5067	8:51				
4	0.0812	0.5111	0.6358	0.5667	8:23				
5	0.0755	0.5179	0.6211	0.5648	4:58				
	DeBE	RTa (2 epochs,	batch size	= 16)					
1	0.1452	0.7806	0.3346	0.4684	16:40				
2	0.0777	0.4938	0.6478	0.5604	17:58				
3	0.0089	0.2664	0.8802	0.4090	19:24				
4	0.0632	0.4847	0.6574	0.5580	19:29				
5	0.0602	0.4837	0.6088	0.5391	12:05				

4.3 N Binary Classification Models

To assess if binary classification models outperform multi-label models, we selected the three best and worst performing labels based on F1 scores from BERT's best model (Experiment 2). The goal was to determine if binary models could improve performance on minority and low-performing labels. Although *neutral* was a top-performing label by F1

score, we excluded it due to runtime and memory constraints with DeBERTa.

The best-performing labels selected were *love*, *gratitude*, and *amusement*. The worst-performing labels selected were *relief*, *pride*, and *grief*.

Table 5: Per-label performance for best and binary versions of each model (F1 Score).

Label	BERT		RoBERTa		DistilBERT		DeBERTa	
	Best	Binary	Best	Binary	Best	Binary	Best	Binary
Love	0.7850	0.5938	0.7853	0.6077	0.7794	0.6122	0.7918	0.6059
Gratitude	0.7592	0.6032	0.7467	0.5706	0.7546	0.6031	0.7625	0.5947
Amusement	0.7540	0.5523	0.7638	0.5664	0.7480	0.5243	0.7564	0.5435
Relief	0.2625	0.1014	0.2957	0.1536	0.2904	0.1084	0.2457	0.1291
Pride	0.1050	0.0920	0.1642	0.0401	0.1884	0.0970	0.1348	0.0823
Grief	0.1596	0.0548	0.2044	0.0847	0.2397	0.0672	0.1158	0.0612

Compared to the multi-label models, the binary models underperformed across all labels, as shown in Table 5 (see Table 7 in the Appendix for the full table). This may occur because multi-label models capture co-occurring emotions and shared contexts, while binary models treat each label independently. For the low-performing labels(*pride*, *grief*, and *relief*),the DistilBERT multi-label model performed best on *pride* and *grief*, while RoBERTa performed best on *relief*. These emotions are rare in our dataset and can be contextually subtle. These labels often co-occur with other emotions (Figure 2), making them difficult to detect with isolated binary models.

Figure: Top 5 Co-occurring Labels

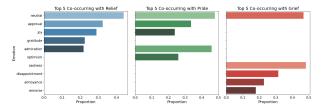


Figure 2: Using training set with actual values to see which labels often appear together

Overall, this suggests multi-label models are better suited for emotion classification tasks involving overlapping emotions and shared contextual cues.

4.4 Final Discussion

Our experiments show the pretrained DistilBERT model, fine-tuned for multi-label classification with optimized probability thresholds (Experiment 2), achieved the strongest overall performance (F1 = 0.5778). It outperformed all other BERT-based baselines, making it the best performer. Additionally, DistilBERT was the most efficient model, running approximately 60% faster than others, high-

lighting advantages in both accuracy and computational efficiency.

Comparing Experiment 2 (thresholds only) and Experiment 4 (weights + thresholds), we observed Experiment 4 improved performance on certain minority labels (e.g., *grief*) but at the expense of performance on several majority labels. While acknowledging the importance of detecting minority labels in mental health, our priority was selecting a model offering consistent, balanced performance across all emotional states. This provides a more reliable foundation for future enhancements or targeted fine-tuning. Therefore, we selected Experiment 2 as our preferred model.

Table 6: F1 scores on the test set for majority and minority emotion labels across the best (Experiment 2) and second-best (Experiment 4) DistilBERT models.

Label	F1 – Experiment 2	F1 – Experiment 4				
Majority Classes						
love	0.7794	0.7682				
gratitude	0.7546	0.7567				
amusement	0.7480	0.7426				
	Minority Classes					
embarrassment	0.3372	0.3264				
nervousness	0.2807	0.2838				
grief	0.2397	0.3220				

To further enhance this model, we applied selective layer freezing—freezing lower transformer layers (excluding embeddings) while fine-tuning only the top layers. This yielded a modest performance gain, increasing the F1 score to 0.5799. Additionally, it reduced training time and mitigated overfitting, suggesting better generalization and achieving the highest performance across all experiments.

A closer examination of the best-performing model (Experiment 2 with layer freezing) compared to Experiment 4 shows that its predictions more closely align with the ground truth, both in terms of label accuracy and the number of predicted labels per instance. Sample outputs provided in the Appendix Figure 31 & 32 further illustrate how this model's predicted label distributions correspond more accurately to the actual data.

A key contributor to success was threshold optimization for each label. Tuning individual thresholds, rather than using a uniform threshold, enabled better handling of class imbalance and optimization of the precision-recall tradeoff. This is particularly important in multi-label classification tasks where label frequencies vary widely and multiple labels often co-occur within a single instance.

Importantly, our final multi-label model also outperforms the N binary classifiers approach, where a separate classifier is trained for each label (see Table 5). While binary classifiers treat each label independently, the multi-label DistilBERT model captures inter-label dependencies, which are especially relevant in emotion classification tasks. Computationally, the multi-label model is far more efficient, requiring only one forward pass during inference versus 28 passes for the binary models. While binary classifiers were tested as an alternative approach to improve performance on minority and low-performing labels, the multi-label model ultimately demonstrated stronger consistency, scalability, and overall performance.

5 Conclusion

Our goal was to assess whether modern transformers (RoBERTa, DistilBERT, DeBERTa) outperform BERT in multi-label emotion classification, or if performance stems from training strategies. Across five experiments, DistilBERT performed best with threshold optimization alone (F1 = 0.5778). Further exploration showed applying layer freezing to this model increased the F1 score from 0.5778 to 0.5799. This demonstrates that a lighter model can achieve strong results with proper tuning. Distil-BERT also had the fastest training runtime, beneficial for conducting experiments and reducing computational costs.

Performance on minority emotion labels remained relatively low even with per-label binary models. To improve identification of overlapping emotions, future work could explore contextual similarities between labels to better distinguish subtle emotional expressions.

Authors' Contributions

All authors collaboratively conducted initial EDA, examining label distributions and co-occurrence patterns. Simran handled dataset preprocessing and created the train/validation/test splits. She also developed and executed the five experiments using BERT and RoBERTa, trained the corresponding N binary classifiers, and performed additional EDA on the final model to assess performance and extract insights. Jo ran the five experiments using DistilBERT, implemented binary classifiers with that architecture, and conducted further analysis on the final model, which was selected as the best-performing model. Vicky fine-tuned De-

BERTa models for all five experiments, trained N binary classifiers with DeBERTa, and carried out the cross-model performance analysis. All authors contributed to interpreting results and writing the final report.

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Appendix

Table 7: Per-label performance for best and binary versions of each model (F1 Score).

Label	BERT		RoBERTa		DistilBERT		DeBERTa	
	Best	Binary	Best	Binary	Best	Binary	Best	Binary
Love	0.7850	0.5938	0.7853	0.6077	0.7794	0.6122	0.7918	0.6059
Gratitude	0.7592	0.6032	0.7467	0.5706	0.7546	0.6031	0.7625	0.5947
Amusement	0.7540	0.5523	0.7638	0.5664	0.7480	0.5243	0.7564	0.5435
Relief	0.2625	0.1014	0.2957	0.1536	0.2904	0.1084	0.2457	0.1291
Pride	0.1050	0.0920	0.1642	0.0401	0.1884	0.0970	0.1348	0.0823
Grief	0.1596	0.0548	0.2044	0.0847	0.2397	0.0672	0.1158	0.0612

Figure: Label Frequency

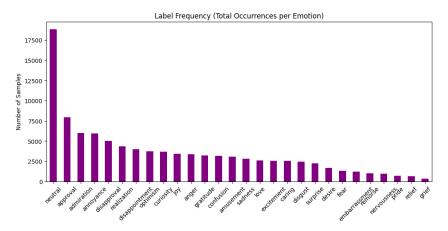


Figure 3

Figure: Number of Labels per Text

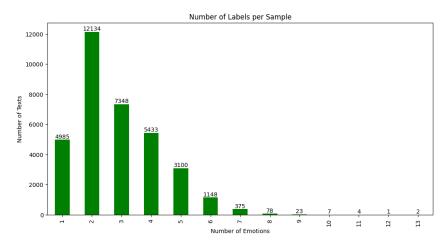


Figure 4

Figure: Label Correlation

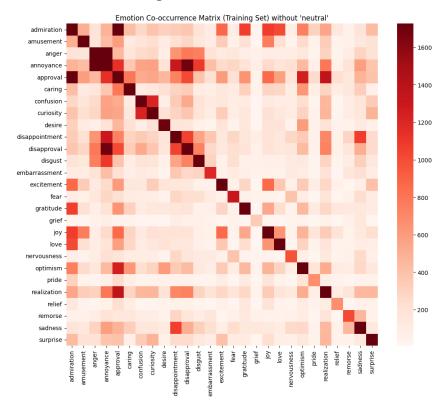


Figure 5

Figure: Token Length Distribution

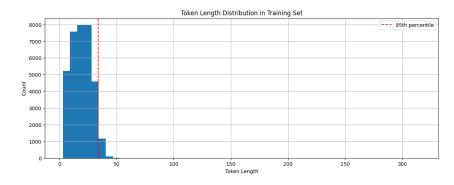


Figure 6

Figure: Top 5 Co-occurring labels

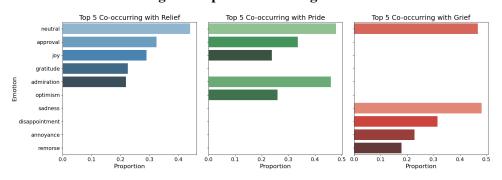


Figure 7: Using training set with actual values to see which labels often appear together

Figure: BERT Experiment 2 Training and Validation

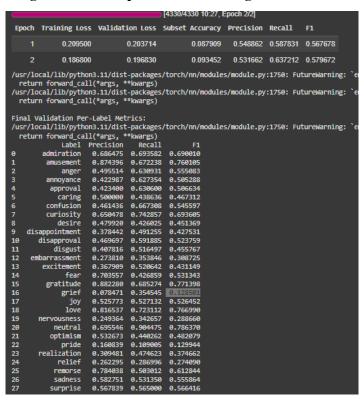


Figure 8

Figure: BERT Experiment 2 Thresholds

admiration	admiration	0.40	0.689158
amusement	amusement	0.50	0.767237
anger	anger	0.25	0.552124
annoyance	annoyance	0.25	0.509735
approval	approval	0.25	0.506974
caring	caring	0.30	0.481504
confusion	confusion	0.25	0.537407
curiosity	curiosity	0.35	0.686916
desire	desire	0.25	0.443636
disappointment	disappointment	0.25	0.439773
disapproval	disapproval	0.30	0.522219
disgust	disgust	0.25	0.457990
embarrassment	embarrassment	0.15	0.298981
excitement	excitement	0.20	0.424861
fear	fear	0.45	0.536232
gratitude	gratitude	0.50	0.775731
grief	grief	0.05	0.113636
joy	joy	0.30	0.517069
love	love	0.35	0.770073
nervousness	nervousness	0.15	0.312676
neutral	neutral	0.30	0.788795
optimism	optimism	0.30	0.486987
pride	pride	0.10	0.159624
realization	realization	0.20	0.370013
relief	relief	0.10	0.288973
remorse	remorse	0.40	0.617329
sadness	sadness	0.35	0.562671
surprise	surprise	0.25	0.566646

Figure 9

Figure: BERT Experiment 2 Test Set Label Evaluation

```
Final Validation Per-Label Metrics:

/usr/local/lib/python3.11/dist-packages/torch/nn/modules, return forward_call(*args, **kwargs)
Label Precision Recall F1

0 admiration 0.710913 0.689919 0.700258

1 amusement 0.859473 0.671569 0.753990
2 anger 0.453753 0.609361 0.520169
3 annoyance 0.443009 0.668616 0.5220169
4 approval 0.414128 0.610402 0.494650
5 caring 0.503193 0.450286 0.475271
6 confusion 0.460908 0.662138 0.543494
7 curiosity 0.661465 0.745274 0.699677
8 desire 0.477495 0.424348 0.449355
9 disappointment 0.373933 0.48588 0.422508
10 disapproval 0.461538 0.585538 0.422508
11 disgust 0.425344 0.517943 0.467098
12 embarrassment 0.256000 0.308434 0.279781
13 excitement 0.363262 0.497743 0.420000
14 fear 0.650558 0.428922 0.516987
15 gratitude 0.873908 0.671141 0.759219
16 grief 0.873908 0.671141 0.759219
16 grief 0.873908 0.671141 0.759219
17 joy 0.515343 0.517679 0.516508
18 love 0.803659 0.767171 0.704991
19 nervousness 0.255422 0.363014 0.299859
20 neutral 0.694614 0.9059049 0.785990
21 optimism 0.596220 0.438256 0.404824
22 pride 0.136986 0.085166 0.104987
23 realization 0.292593 0.434962 0.349848
24 relief 0.241228 0.287958 0.262530
25 remorse 0.730942 0.515823 0.604824
26 sadness 0.557007 0.515823 0.604824
26 sadness 0.557007 0.515823 0.551502 0.504826
27 surprise 0.519463 0.514628 0.517034
```

Figure 10

Figure: BERT Experiment 2 Test Set Output

```
Predictions on test data:

Text: My goodness I didn't even know this existed. This is my first time seeing something like this. Pretty cool stuff. Predicted labels: ['admiration', 'excitement', 'joy', 'realization', 'surprise']
Actual labels: ['admiration' 'excitement', 'surprise']

Text: Thanks for your recommendation! My guy loves board games and those sound like they'd scratch our itches. Predicted labels: ['gratitude', 'love']

Actual labels: ['excitement', 'gratitude', 'love']

Text: Oh hey, someone with a brain. Rare round here. Predicted labels: ['approval', 'excitement', 'neutral', 'realization', 'surprise']

Actual labels: ['amusement', 'approval', 'excitement', 'realization']

Text: Stop crying. Predicted labels: ['caring', 'grief', 'neutral', 'sadness']

Actual labels: ['annoyance', 'caring', 'disapproval', 'neutral', 'sadness']

Text: Sure. Let's start with the terrorists with the biggest guns. How about Israel, or Saudi Arabia? Predicted labels: ['approval', 'confusion', 'curiosity', 'neutral']

Actual labels: ['approval', 'confusion', 'curiosity', 'neutral']
```

Figure 11

Figure: Best BERT Model - Minority Class Predictions

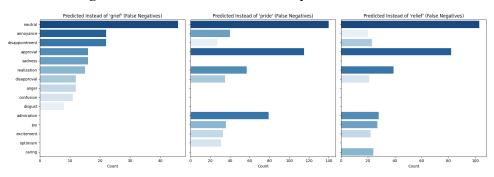


Figure 12: Other labels being chosen for minority class for best BERT model

Figure: BERT Best Model (Experiment 2) Evaluation

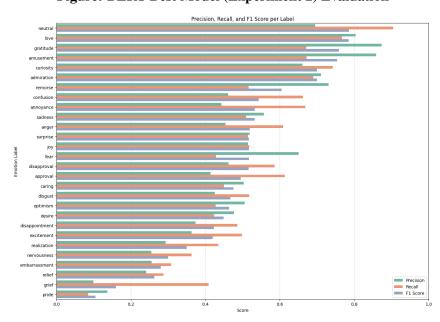


Figure 13

Figure: BERT Best Model (Experiment 2) F1

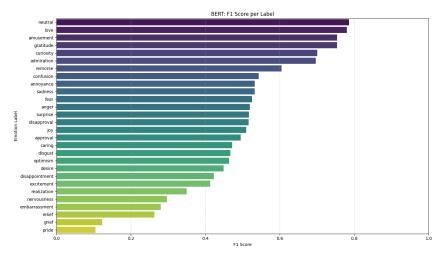


Figure 14

Figure: BERT Best Model (Experiment 2) Recall

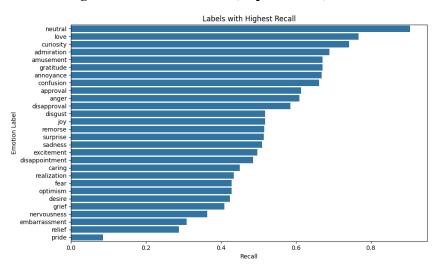


Figure 15

Figure: BERT - Training N Binary Model Results

```
accuracy
love
gratitude
            0.909839
0.896414
                         0.446596 0.885914
0.461187 0.871524
                                               0.593835
0.603185
            0.883336
                         0.417798 0.814706
                                               0.552343
            0.759051
                          0.054045 0.821990
                                               0.101421
            0.741989
0.722068
                         0.049573 0.642553
0.028311 0.845455
    pride
grief
                                               0.092045
0.054786
   false_negative_rate
0.114086
0.128476
gratitude
                                                                                                 0.871524
                                                                          0.185294
                                                                                                 0.814706
                                                 0.242008
                                                                                                 0.821990
                        0.744054
                                                 0.255946
    pride
                                                                         0.357447
                                                                                                 0.642553
                                                 0.279119
                                                                          0.154545
    .
grief
                        0.720881
```

Figure 16

Figure: BERT - Training N Binary Model F1 Comparison with Best Model

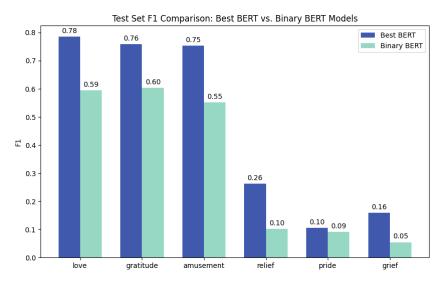


Figure 17

Figure: RoBERTa Experiment 2 Training and Validation

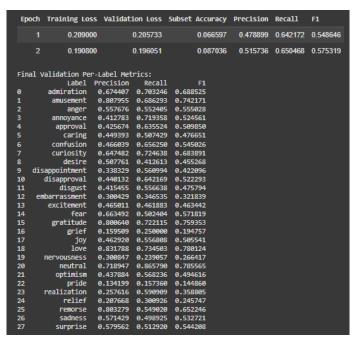


Figure 18

Figure: RoBERTa Experiment 2 Thresholds

	label	threshold	f1
admiration	admiration	0.40	0.693519
amusement	amusement	0.45	0.765893
anger	anger	0.25	0.549601
annoyance	annoyance	0.25	0.521687
approval	approval	0.25	0.507961
caring	caring	0.25	0.480874
confusion	confusion	0.25	0.536058
curiosity	curiosity	0.30	0.696015
desire	desire	0.25	0.467433
disappointment	disappointment	0.20	0.445950
disapproval	disapproval	0.25	0.524726
disgust	disgust	0.25	0.458685
embarrassment	embarrassment	0.15	0.297170
excitement	excitement	0.25	0.431088
fear	fear	0.35	0.549180
gratitude	gratitude	0.45	0.763061
grief	grief	0.10	0.224638
joy	joy	0.30	0.526882
love	love	0.50	0.790031
nervousness	nervousness	0.15	0.317460
neutral	neutral	0.35	0.789010
optimism	optimism	0.25	0.493671
pride	pride	0.10	0.180488
realization	realization	0.15	0.377838
relief	relief	0.10	0.303263
remorse	remorse	0.50	0.619926
sadness	sadness	0.30	0.572014
surprise	surprise	0.25	0.558659

Figure 19

Figure: RoBERTa Experiment 2 Test Set Label Evaluation

rin	al Validation Pe	n Labol Mot	misse	
FIL	label	Precision	.rics: Recall	F1
	admiration			
0 1		0.675534	0.727366	0.700493
	amusement	0.842710	0.698382	0.763788
2	anger	0.530396	0.539427	0.534873
	annoyance	0.407513	0.705766	0.516688
4	approval	0.420332	0.646617	0.509479
	caring	0.443299	0.465144	0.453959
	confusion	0.476578	0.663516	0.554721
	curiosity	0.653184	0.710676	0.680718
8	desire	0.543943	0.392123	0.455721
	disappointment	0.360685	0.577201	0.443951
10	disapproval	0.445402	0.660780	0.532124
11	disgust	0.407104	0.547794	0.467085
12	embarrassment	0.311558	0.304668	0.308075
13	excitement	0.434983	0.415385	0.424958
14	fear	0.605590	0.462085	0.524194
15	gratitude	0.804348	0.696798	0.746720
16	grief	0.168675	0.259259	0.204380
17	joy	0.495836	0.558397	0.525261
18	love	0.843111	0.734839	0.785260
19	nervousness	0.342593	0.247492	0.287379
20	neutral	0.718693	0.872006	0.787961
21	optimism	0.414439	0.520134	0.461310
22	pride	0.163180	0.165254	0.164211
23	realization	0.259847	0.604238	0.363412
24	relief	0.251572	0.358744	0.295749
25	remorse	0.831633	0.525806	0.644269
26	sadness	0.625333	0.508677	0.561005
27	surprise	0.584541	0.491870	0.534216
	•			

Figure 20

Figure: RoBERTa Experiment 2 Test Set Output

```
Predictions on test data:

Text: My goodness I didn't even know this existed. This is my first time seeing something like this. Pretty cool stuff. Predicted labels: ['admiration', 'excitement', 'realization', 'surprise']

Text: Thanks for your recommendation! My guy loves board games and those sound like they'd scratch our itches. Predicted labels: ['gratitude', 'love']

Actual labels: ['excitement', 'gratitude', 'love']

Text: Oh hey, someone with a brain. Rare round here. Predicted labels: ['approval', 'excitement', 'neutral', 'realization', 'surprise']

Actual labels: ['approval', 'excitement', 'neutral', 'realization']

Text: stop crying. Predicted labels: ['anger', 'caring', 'disappointment', 'neutral', 'sadness']

Actual labels: ['annoyance', 'caring', 'disapproval', 'neutral', 'sadness']

Text: Sure. Let's start with the terrorists with the biggest guns. How about Israel, or Saudi Arabia? Predicted labels: ['approval', 'confusion', 'curiosity', 'neutral']

Actual labels: ['approval', 'confusion', 'curiosity', 'neutral']
```

Figure 21

Figure: RoBERTa Best Model (Experiment 2) Evaluation

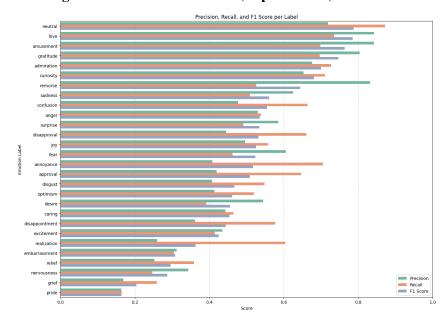


Figure 22

Figure: RoBERTa Best Model (Experiment 2) F1

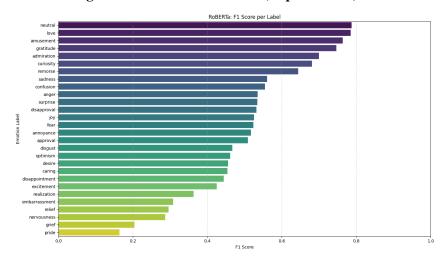


Figure 23

Figure: RoBERTa Best Model (Experiment 2) Recall

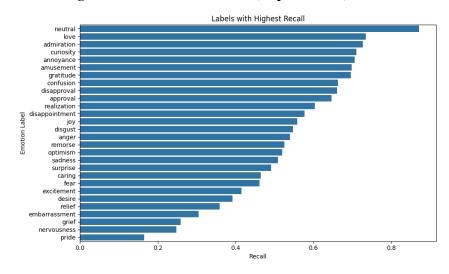


Figure 24

Figure: RoBERTa - Training N Binary Model Results

```
0.463460 0.882283
0.420958 0.885122
0.437144 0.803996
                                                          0.607699
0.570561
0.566354
               0.877447
0.887927
gratitude
                               0.085597 0.748879
                                                           0.153634
               true_negative_rate
                                            false_positive_rate
                                                                           false_negative_rate true_positive_rate
                             0.919757
0.876669
                                                                                          0.117717
0.114878
                                                            0.080243
0.123331
                                                                                                                        0.882283
                              0.896332
0.842445
                                                            0.103668
                                                                                           0.196004
                                                            0.157555
                              0.833450
```

Figure 25

Figure: Best RoBERTa Model - Minority Class Predictions

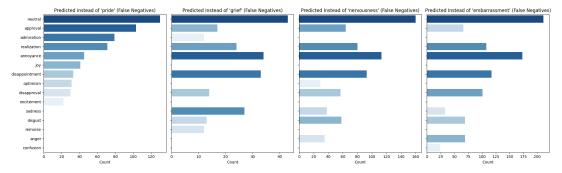


Figure 26: Other labels being chosen for minority class for best RoBERTa model

Figure: RoBERTa - Training N Binary Model F1 Comparison with Best Model

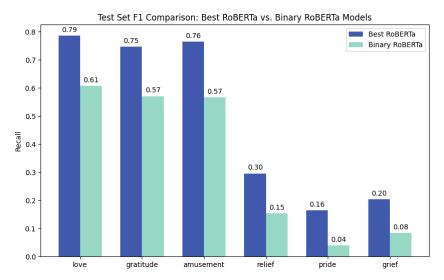


Figure 27

Figure: DistilBERT Experiment 2 + Freezing Training and Validation

Epoch	Training Loss	Validation Loss	Subset Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1
1	0.208600	0.201359	0.092326	0.568399	0.579408	0.573851
2	0.194300	0.196597	0.091114	0.539695	0.623438	0.578552
3	0.182700	0.195685	0.094838	0.546249	0.627056	0.583870

Final Validation Per-Label Metrics:						
	Label	Precision	Recall	F1		
0	admiration	0.686660	0.687371	0.687015		
1	amusement	0.849013	0.678737	0.754386		
2	anger	0.553522	0.531634	0.542358		
3	annoyance	0.433476	0.600595	0.503531		
4	approval	0.425750	0.630220	0.508189		
5	caring	0.457819	0.505682	0.480562		
6	confusion	0.424154	0.699038	0.527959		
7	curiosity	0.627342	0.759664	0.687191		
8	desire	0.541966	0.402852	0.462168		
9	disappointment	0.427319	0.444867	0.435917		
10	disapproval	0.440406	0.621718	0.515586		
11	disgust	0.409043	0.493655	0.447384		
12	embarrassment	0.352941	0.276923	0.310345		
13	excitement	0.451128	0.412844	0.431138		
14	fear	0.679856	0.453237	0.543885		
15	gratitude	0.855781	0.691049	0.764643		
16	grief	0.201258	0.290909	0.237918		
17	joy	0.558027	0.496985	0.525740		
18	love	0.822539	0.726545	0.771567		
19	nervousness	0.308772	0.307692	0.308231		
20	neutral	0.701368	0.894795	0.786362		
21	optimism	0.545251	0.399345	0.461030		
22	pride	0.274510	0.132701	0.178914		
23	realization	0.315719	0.483539	0.382010		
24	relief	0.253205	0.354260	0.295327		
25	remorse	0.772093	0.500000	0.606947		
26	sadness	0.551042	0.562168	0.556549		
27	surprise	0.600563	0.533750	0.565189		

Figure 28

Figure: DistilBERT Experiment 2 + Freezing Thresholds

	label	threshold	f1
admiration	admiration	0.35	0.686032
amusement	amusement	0.40	0.769231
anger	anger	0.35	0.552679
annoyance	annoyance	0.25	0.506886
approval	approval	0.25	0.505038
caring	caring	0.25	0.468517
confusion	confusion	0.20	0.531308
curiosity	curiosity	0.30	0.687164
desire	desire	0.30	0.453749
disappointment	disappointment	0.30	0.442807
disapproval	disapproval	0.25	0.514871
disgust	disgust	0.25	0.450279
embarrassment	embarrassment	0.20	0.306180
excitement	excitement	0.30	0.444968
fear	fear	0.40	0.554785
gratitude	gratitude	0.40	0.769312
grief	grief	0.10	0.200692
joy	joy	0.35	0.523962
love	love	0.40	0.775460
nervousness	nervousness	0.20	0.282895
neutral	neutral	0.30	0.788988
optimism	optimism	0.35	0.475045
pride	pride	0.15	0.189944
realization	realization	0.20	0.378322
relief	relief	0.10	0.288732
remorse	remorse	0.40	0.610413
sadness	sadness	0.30	0.560915
surprise	surprise	0.30	0.557441

Figure 29

Figure: DistilBERT Experiment 2 + Freezing Test Set Label Evaluation

```
Final Validation Per-Label Metrics:
           Label Precision
                              Recall
                                           F1
       admiration
                  0.695829 0.696538 0.696183
                   0.841727 0.688235 0.757282
       amusement
2
                   0.506837 0.500450 0.503623
            anger
3
                  0.449265 0.625731 0.523014
        annovance
4
        approval 0.417075 0.613662 0.496622
5
          caring
                   0.460963 0.492571 0.476243
6
        confusion
                  0.431730 0.707428 0.536217
        curiosity
                  0.647979 0.757045 0.698279
7
8
           desire
                  0.535211 0.396522 0.455544
9
   disappointment 0.394663 0.415373 0.404753
     disapproval
10
                  0.435833 0.614932 0.510119
11
         disgust
                  0.446138 0.525120 0.482418
12
    embarrassment 0.389078 0.274699 0.322034
                  0.444304
                            0.396163
13
      excitement
                                      0.418854
            fear 0.612040 0.448529 0.517680
14
15
        gratitude 0.857143 0.684564 0.761194
16
           grief
                   0.187970
                            0.227273 0.205761
                  0.543651 0.496827 0.519185
17
             joy
18
            love
                  0.804455
                            0.756694 0.779844
19
     nervousness
                   0.277419
                            0.294521 0.285714
20
         neutral
                  0.702912 0.892982 0.786628
21
                  0.542129 0.399836 0.460235
        optimism
22
           pride
                   0.296610 0.148936 0.198300
23
      realization 0.304246 0.448727 0.362625
24
          relief
                  0.260000 0.408377 0.317719
                  0.710407 0.496835 0.584730
25
          remorse
26
         sadness
                  0.520921 0.541893 0.531200
         surprise
                  0.543704 0.488032 0.514366
```

Figure 30

Figure: DistilBERT Experiment 2 + Freezing Test Set Output

```
Predictions on test data:

Text: My goodness I didn't even know this existed. This is my first time seeing something like this. Pretty cool stuff. Predicted labels: ['admiration', 'excitement', 'joy', 'realization', 'surprise']

Actual labels: ['admiration', 'excitement', 'surprise']

Text: Thanks for your recommendation! My guy loves board games and those sound like they'd scratch our itches. Predicted labels: ['admiration', 'gratitude', 'love']

Actual labels: ['excitement', 'gratitude', 'love']

Text: Oh hey, someone with a brain. Rare round here. Predicted labels: ['approval', 'excitement', 'neutral', 'realization', 'surprise']

Actual labels: ['amusement', 'approval', 'excitement', 'realization']

Text: Stop crying. Predicted labels: ['caring', 'neutral', 'sadness']

Text: Sure. Let's start with the terrorists with the biggest guns. How about Israel, or Saudi Arabia? Predicted labels: ['approval', 'confusion', 'curiosity', 'neutral']

Actual labels: ['approval', 'confusion', 'curiosity', 'neutral']
```

Figure 31

Figure: DistilBERT Experiment 4 Test Set Output

```
Predictions on test data:

Text: My goodness I didn't even know this existed. This is my first time seeing something like this. Pretty cool stuff. Predicted labels: ['admiration', 'approval', 'excitement', 'joy', 'realization', 'relief', 'surprise']

Actual labels: ['admiration', 'excitement', 'surprise']

Text: Thanks for your recommendation! My guy loves board games and those sound like they'd scratch our itches. Predicted labels: ['admiration', 'approval', 'gratitude', 'love']

Actual labels: ['excitement', 'gratitude', 'love']

Text: Oh hey, someone with a brain. Rare round here. Predicted labels: ['approval', 'excitement', 'neutral', 'realization', 'surprise']

Actual labels: ['amusement', 'approval', 'excitement', 'realization']

Text: Stop crying. Predicted labels: ['anger', 'annoyance', 'caring', 'neutral']

Actual labels: ['annoyance', 'caring', 'disapproval', 'neutral', 'sadness']

Text: Sure. Let's start with the terrorists with the biggest guns. How about Israel, or Saudi Arabia? Predicted labels: ['approval', 'curiosity', 'neutral']

Actual labels: ['approval', 'confusion', 'curiosity', 'neutral']
```

Figure 32

Figure: DistilBERT Best Model (Experiment 2 + Freezing) Evaluation

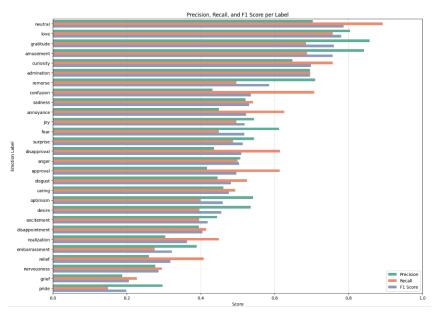


Figure 33

 $Figure:\ DistilBERT\ Best\ Model\ (Experiment\ 2 + Freezing)\ F1$

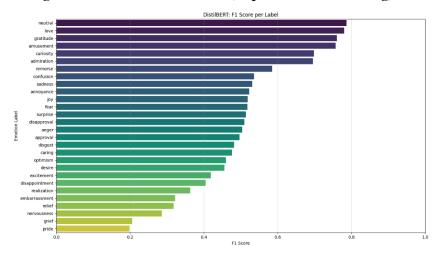


Figure 34

Figure: DistilBERT Best Model (Experiment 2 + Freezing) Recall

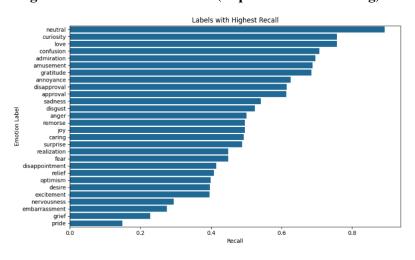


Figure 35

Figure: DistilBERT - Training N Binary Model Results

=== Perfor	mance Summ	ary ===				
label	accuracy	precision	recall	f1_score		
love	0.919020	0.475515	0.859139	0.612194		
gratitude	0.896501	0.461382	0.870566	0.603122		
amusement	0.867833	0.384369	0.824510	0.524314		
relief	0.780617	0.058113	0.806283	0.108413		
pride	0.753161	0.052379	0.651064	0.096958		
grief	0.790923	0.035109	0.790909	0.067233		
=== Error	Dates					
label	true_nega	tive_rate	false_pos	itive_rate	false_negative_rate	true_positive_rate
love		0.923833		0.076167	0.140861	0.859139
gratitude		0.899076		0.100924	0.129434	0.870566
amusement		0.872031		0.127969	0.175490	0.824510
relief		0.780185		0.219815	0.193717	0.806283
pride		0.755282		0.244718	0.348936	0.651064
grief		0.790923		0.209077	0.209091	0.790909

Figure 36

Figure: Best DistilBERT Model - Minority Class Predictions

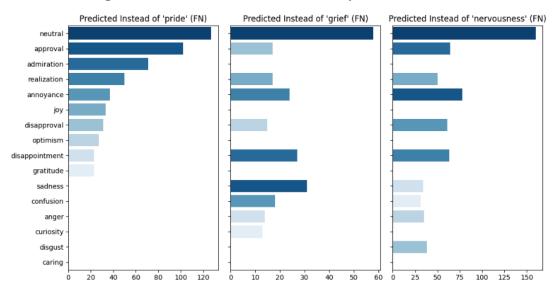


Figure 37: Other labels being chosen for minority class for best DistilBERT model

Figure: DistilBERT - Training N Binary Model F1 Comparison with Best Model

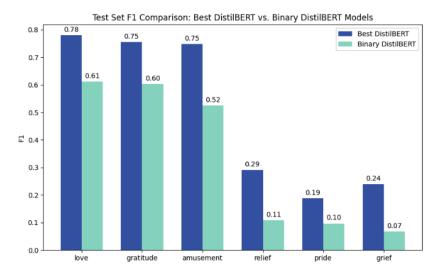


Figure 38

Figure: DeBERTa Experiment 2 Training and Validation

Epoch	Training Loss	Validation Loss	Subset Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1
1	0.215600	0.206633	0.073532	0.501338	0.597987	0.545414
2	0.195800	0.198502	0.080461	0.495649	0.647794	0.561600

Final Validation Per-Label Metrics:					
	Label	Precision	Recall	F1	
0	admiration	0.664033	0.739648	0.699804	
1	amusement	0.858458	0.692665	0.766701	
2	anger	0.484132	0.630053	0.547537	
3	annoyance	0.429247	0.629832	0.510544	
4	approval	0.424981	0.629081	0.507271	
5	caring	0.413103	0.515909	0.458818	
6	confusion	0.456006	0.627885	0.528317	
7	curiosity	0.618982	0.756303	0.680787	
8	desire	0.463203	0.381462	0.418377	
9	disappointment	0.343750	0.552091	0.423694	
10	disapproval	0.412160	0.659308	0.507230	
11	disgust	0.373866	0.522843	0.435979	
12	embarrassment	0.172054	0.423077	0.244626	
13	excitement	0.392250	0.475917	0.430052	
14	fear	0.556522	0.460432	0.503937	
15	gratitude	0.848904	0.708373	0.772298	
16	grief	0.073009	0.300000	0.117438	
17	joy	0.572241	0.433247	0.493137	
18	love	0.826873	0.732265	0.776699	
19	nervousness	0.215938	0.293706	0.248889	
20	neutral	0.698975	0.898286	0.786195	
21	optimism	0.557713	0.423077	0.481154	
22	pride	0.075298	0.388626	0.126154	
23	realization	0.253458	0.615912	0.359128	
24	relief	0.257310	0.197309	0.223350	
25	remorse	0.729858	0.463855	0.567219	
26	sadness	0.602865	0.492030	0.541837	
27	surprise	0.579652	0.541250	0.559793	

Figure 39

Figure: DeBERTa Experiment 2 Thresholds

	label	threshold	f1
admiration	admiration	0.35	0.698323
amusement	amusement	0.45	0.764676
anger	anger	0.25	0.548500
annoyance	annoyance	0.25	0.508812
approval	approval	0.25	0.500234
caring	caring	0.20	0.425826
confusion	confusion	0.25	0.532900
curiosity	curiosity	0.30	0.683352
desire	desire	0.30	0.413793
disappointment	disappointment	0.20	0.420994
disapproval	disapproval	0.25	0.518482
disgust	disgust	0.25	0.443444
embarrassment	embarrassment	0.10	0.236863
excitement	excitement	0.25	0.416796
fear	fear	0.30	0.522911
gratitude	gratitude	0.45	0.771263
grief	grief	0.05	0.093913
joy	joy	0.40	0.512869
love	love	0.40	0.778986
nervousness	nervousness	0.15	0.254428
neutral	neutral	0.30	0.784164
optimism	optimism	0.30	0.466302
pride	pride	0.05	0.131287
realization	realization	0.15	0.348533
relief	relief	0.15	0.236264
remorse	remorse	0.50	0.597786
sadness	sadness	0.40	0.555172
surprise	surprise	0.30	0.550372

Figure 40

Figure: DeBERTa Experiment 2 Test Set Label Evaluation

```
Final Validation Per-Label Metrics:
            Label Precision
                                Recall
a
       admiration 0.670550 0.732688 0.700243
        amusement 0.830986 0.694118 0.756410
1
            anger 0.446920 0.613861 0.517254
2
        annoyance 0.448549 0.662768 0.535012 approval 0.416539 0.619355 0.498092
3
1
           caring 0.417053 0.514286 0.460594
5
        confusion 0.460784 0.638587 0.535308
6
7
        curiosity 0.645513 0.766946 0.701009
           desire 0.463983 0.380870 0.418338
8
9
   disappointment 0.342224 0.559497 0.424684
10
       disapproval
                   0.416330 0.665491 0.512217
                   0.378028 0.522727 0.438755
11
          disgust
    embarrassment 0.175101 0.416867 0.246614
12
13
       excitement 0.402572 0.459368 0.429099
14
             fear 0.532258 0.485294 0.507692
        gratitude 0.852906 0.689358 0.762460
15
            grief
16
                   0.073529 0.272727 0.115830
             joy 0.594530 0.453309 0.514403
love 0.819427 0.766007 0.791817
17
18
      nervousness 0.233990 0.325342 0.272206
19
20
          neutral 0.697243 0.895522 0.784041
21
         optimism 0.535375 0.414554 0.467281
            pride 0.082166 0.374468 0.134763
22
23
      realization 0.240567 0.583620 0.340699
24
           relief
                   0.270440 0.225131 0.245714
          remorse 0.724299 0.490506 0.584906
25
          sadness 0.588624 0.484222 0.531343
26
         surprise 0.522599 0.492021 0.506849
```

Figure 41

Figure: DeBERTa Experiment 2 Test Set Output

```
Predictions on test data:

Text: My goodness I didn't even know this existed. This is my first time seeing something like this. Pretty cool stuff. Predicted labels: ['admiration', 'surprise']

Actual labels: ['admiration', 'excitement', 'surprise']

Text: Thanks for your recommendation! My guy loves board games and those sound like they'd scratch our itches. Predicted labels: ['gratitude', 'love']

Actual labels: ['excitement', 'gratitude', 'love']

Text: Oh hey, someone with a brain. Rare round here. Predicted labels: ['neutral', 'surprise']

Actual labels: ['amusement', 'approval', 'excitement', 'realization']

Text: Stop crying. Predicted labels: ['sadness']

Actual labels: ['annoyance', 'caring', 'disapproval', 'neutral', 'sadness']

Text: Sure. Let's start with the terrorists with the biggest guns. How about Israel, or Saudi Arabia? Predicted labels: ['curiosity', 'neutral']

Actual labels: ['approval', 'confusion', 'curiosity', 'neutral']
```

Figure 42

Figure: DeBERTa Best Model (Experiment 2) Evaluation

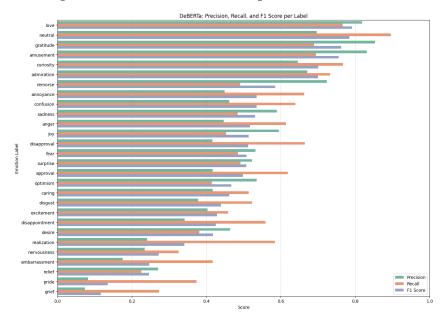


Figure 43

Figure: DeBERTa Best Model (Experiment 2) F1

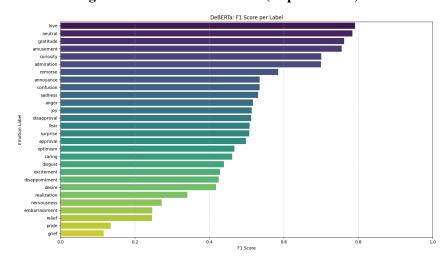


Figure 44

Figure: DeBERTa Best Model (Experiment 2) Recall

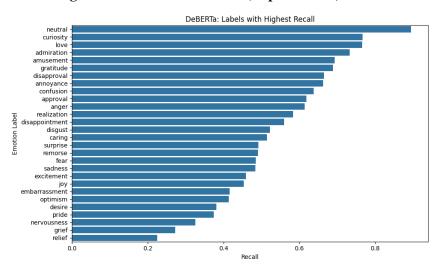


Figure 45

Figure: DeBERTa - Training N Binary Model Results

=== Perfor	mance Summ	ary ===				
label	accuracy	precision	recall	f1_score		
love	0.915036	0.462577	0.877765	0.605866		
gratitude	0.890785	0.447292	0.886865	0.594664		
amusement	0.876927	0.404204	0.829412	0.543527		
relief	0.815347	0.070004	0.827225	0.129085		
pride	0.729777	0.044234	0.595745	0.082353		
grief	0.755673	0.031779	0.836364	0.061231		
=== Error	Rates ===					
label	true_nega	tive_rate	false_pos	itive_rate	false_negative_rate	true_positive_rate
love		0.918031		0.081969	0.122235	0.877765
gratitude		0.891174		0.108826	0.113135	0.886865
amusement		0.881531		0.118469	0.170588	0.829412
relief		0.815148		0.184852	0.172775	0.827225
pride		0.732561		0.267439	0.404255	0.595745
grief		0.754897		0.245103	0.163636	0.836364

Figure 46

Figure: Best DeBERTa Model - Minority Class Predictions

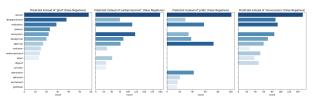


Figure 47: Other labels being chosen for minority class for best DeBERTa model

Figure: DeBERTa - Training N Binary Model F1 Comparison with Best Model

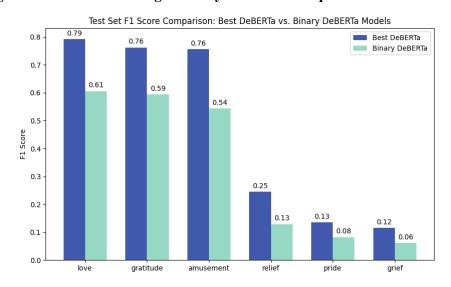


Figure 48