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**Abstract:** This paper introduces the Are u Depressed (AuD) model, which aims to detect depressive emotional intensity and classify detailed depressive symptoms expressed in user utterances. The study includes the creation of a BWS dataset using a tool for the Best-Worst Scaling annotation task and a DSM-5 dataset containing nine types of depression annotations based on major depressive disorder (MDD) episodes in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5). The proposed model employs the DistilBERT model for both tasks and demonstrates superior performance compared to other machine learning and deep learning models. We suggest using our model for real-time depressive emotion detection tasks that demand speed and accuracy. Overall, the AuD model significantly advances the accurate detection of depressive emotions in user utterances.

Keywords: depression intensity; Best-Worst Scaling; DSM-5 dataset; DistilBERT; attention

# 1. Introduction

Although people enjoy a higher standard of living today, new challenges such as rapid changes in living and working environments and human relationships can contribute to mental fatigue, leading to depression [1] and negative impacts on physical health. To address this issue, we aim to develop a method for early detection of depressive symptoms based on people's conversations.

Many studies have been conducted on detecting depressive symptoms from users using user interviews and social media. Shen et al. [2] used Twitter to build depressed and non-depressed datasets, and Cohan et al. [3] constructed a dataset with nine categories related to the DSM-5 from Reddit. Other researchers focus on developing new models for detecting depression based on text, such as Jain et al. [4], who analyzed data from the subreddits 'r/SuicideWatch' and 'r/depression' using machine learning techniques, and Cha et al. [5], who developed a deep-learning-based prediction model for early detection of depression using social media data. Some studies explore multi-modal datasets, such as Lin et al. [6], who proposed an automated depression detection method that uses voice signals and language content from patient interviews.

However, previous studies detecting depressive emotions focus on binary classification problems, i.e., whether users are depressed. Consequently, the datasets are primarily structured in this way, and there are relatively few studies on predicting the intensity of depression or classifying complex depressive emotions. To address this gap, in this paper, we introduce two new datasets: the Best-Worst Scaling [7] (BWS) dataset and the DSM-5 dataset, which are designed for detecting the intensity of depressive emotions and complex depressive emotions, respectively, labeled according to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition [8] (DSM-5) criteria. We also develop a Best-Worst Scaling annotation tool [9] using Flask and MySQL to assist in annotation. We employ the DistilBERT [10] language model to train and infer these datasets and



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**Copyright:** © 2023 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (https:// creativecommons.org/licenses/by/ 4.0/). compare their performance with other machine learning and deep learning algorithms. Our proposed model architecture, AuD, is designed to quickly deduce depression intensity, complex depressive emotions, and high attention score tokens. We show the superiority of our model through performance comparisons with other algorithms, such as BERT [11] and ELECTRA [12]. Given that fast inference speed and superior performance are critical in real-time service environments such as chatbots, we suggest that the AuD model is well-suited for depression-related detection tasks.

Table 1 shows a sample of the Best-Worst Scaling (BWS) dataset. In this dataset, each user utterance consists of a single sentence and is assigned a score between 0 and 1. These scores are then converted to a scale of 0 to 16 to prepare the dataset for training the model.

Table 1. Sample of the BWS dataset.

Sample Text	Score (0~1)
I have tried to ignore my feelings but I really am depressed	0.875
I need to realize I am unhappy for no reason	0.6875
I don't feel sad I just don't really feel	0.0625
They want to change it because it's too sour	0

Our classification system for depression is based on the DSM-5 guidelines published by the American Psychiatric Association (APA) in 2013. Specifically, we categorize depression into nine distinct types corresponding to the symptoms listed in the DSM-5. To be diagnosed with major depressive disorder [13] (MDD), a person must exhibit at least five symptoms for two weeks or longer. Table 2 represents the nine symptoms that form the basis of our complex depressive emotion categories. In addition, we add a daily label to classify user utterances that are unrelated to depression.

Criteria	Label
A1	depressed
A2	lethargic
A3	appetite/weight problem
A4	sleep disorder
A5	emotional instability
A6	fatigue
A7	excessive guilt/worthlessness
A8	cognitive problems
A9	suicidal thoughts
Etc	daily (not depressed)

**Table 2.** Labels for major depressive disorder episodes.

Table 3 shows a sample of the DSM-5 dataset. Each user utterance in this dataset consists of a single sentence and is assigned a label based on the DSM-5 classification system presented in Table 2.

Table 3. Sample of the DSM-5 dataset.

Sample Text	Label
I am not happy, I always feel sad	depressed
I lost my appetite, I haven't eaten anything but two hard boil eggs	appetite/weight problem
It made me insane with insomnia	sleep disorder
I am so fatigued and tired of waiting to be happy	fatigue
One day I am going to die by my own will	suicidal thoughts

This paper is organized into six sections. Section 1 serves as the introduction, providing an overview of the research problem and objectives. Section 2 presents a comprehensive

literature review, discussing previous work on our research topic. Section 3 describes the process we used to construct our dataset. Section 4 provides a detailed description of the proposed model, including its architecture, training process, and attention mechanisms. In Section 5, we compare the performance of different models and use the best-performing model to predict a virtual conversation. Finally, Section 6 presents the results of our study and outlines potential avenues for future research based on our findings.

#### 2. Literature Review

This section presents a literature review focusing on detecting depressive emotions in three parts: mental illness datasets, text-based mental illness detection, and multi-modal mental illness detection. In terms of depression-related datasets, most studies utilize binary classification datasets that determine whether the user is depressed or not. In text-based mental illness detection, multiple machine learning algorithms are typically utilized. Finally, multi-modal mental illness detection tasks use a combination of text, audio, and image data to detect depression.

# 2.1. Mental Illness Datasets

In detecting mental illness, researchers attempt to detect depression using social media platforms such as Twitter and Reddit and construct new datasets based on them. For example, based on Twitter, Shen et al. [2] construct two datasets, D1, and D2, collecting tweets between 2009 and 2016. They label tweets that contain the pattern "I am/I was/I have been diagnosed with depression" as depression data, D1, and those from users who have never posted any tweet containing the word "depress" as non-depression data, D2. Similarly, Yates et al. [14] collect data from the Reddit platform between 2006 and 2016 to create the Reddit Self-reported Depression Diagnosis (RSDD) dataset. They divide users into depression and non-depression groups (control group) and filter out false-positive posts containing hypotheticals, negations, and quotes.

Similar to this, most social media datasets only have two labels: depression and non-depression. On the other hand, Cohan et al. [3] further expand on the RSDD dataset through constructing the Self-reported Mental Health Diagnoses (SMHD) dataset with nine categories. They use the DSM-5 to select top-level disorders, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, depression, anxiety, obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), eating disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), autism, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Although the SMHD dataset includes nine categories of mental health disorders, it does not focus on specific symptoms of depression. Therefore, we create our new dataset that explicitly targets depression and its symptoms.

## 2.2. Text-Based Mental Illness Detection

Several studies use various Natural Language Processing (NLP) and machine learning algorithms to analyze social media data for detecting depression and other mental illnesses. For example, Choudhury et al. [15] analyze Twitter data of users diagnosed with MDD using the Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (CES-D) questionnaire and develop an MDD classifier to predict which users are susceptible to depression. Similarly, Jain et al. [4] use machine learning algorithms, including regression analysis, Naïve Bayes (NB), and Support Vector Machines (SVM) to analyze data collected from the subreddits 'r/SuicideWatch' and 'r/depression'. Nasrullah et al. [16] also use Reddit data to classify mental illnesses such as anxiety, bipolar disorder, dementia, and psychosis and develop an ensemble model combining Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) and a Convolutional Neural Network (CNN). Amanat et al. [17] propose a Recurrent Neural Network (RNN) to analyze text data and detect depression early. Moreover, Cha et al. [5] develop a deep-learning-based prediction model for the early detection of depression in high-risk groups using social media data. The model consisting of Bi-LSTM and 1-D CNNs classifies depressed and non-depressed posts.

In recent years, pre-trained language models such as Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers (BERT) have gained popularity in detecting depression based on social media data. For instance, Kabir et al. [18] employ BERT and DistilBERT models to classify depression and its severity in four categories (non-depressed, mild, moderate, and severe) using tweets. Kim et al. [19] used two separate BERT-based classifiers to detect users' depression based on social media texts. In another study, Ji et al. [20] customize BERT and RoBERTa models for the mental health care domain through training them on mental-health-related subreddits, including 'r/depression', 'r/SuicideWatch', 'r/Anxiety', 'r/offmychest', 'r/bipolar', 'r/mentalillness', and 'r/mentalhealth', resulting in improved performance in mental health detection tasks.

#### 2.3. Multi-Modal Mental Illness Detection

Several studies propose automated methods for detecting depression using multimodal data such as voice signals, language content, and video-based evaluation metrics. For example, Lin et al. [6] develop a novel approach to depression detection via simultaneously processing voice signals and text data using Bi-LSTM networks with attention layers and 1-D CNNs. Similarly, Makiuchi et al. [21] propose a multi-modal fusion of speech and speech representations for detecting depressive disorders and inferring Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ) scores through each model. They use deep spectral features extracted from pre-trained Visual Geometry Group (VGG-16) networks for speech processing, a Gate Convolutional Neural Network (GCNN) consisting of LSTM layers, and BERT for text embedding, and use CNNs consisting of LSTM layers. In addition, Saidi et al. [22] propose a novel method for the automated detection of depression using an audio-based hybrid model. The model uses a CNN for automatic feature extraction and an SVM for classification.

## 3. Dataset

This paper utilizes 1600 depression intensity data and 138,867 specific depressive states obtained through preprocessing the DailyDialog [23] dataset and collecting data from the subreddit 'r/depression' [24] on Reddit. This section describes the process of curating the BWS and DSM-5 datasets.

#### 3.1. Curation of the Reddit Data

In this paper, we utilize Reddit to obtain text data about depression. The subreddit 'r/depression' provides a space for individuals suffering from depression to connect and support one another. This subreddit opened in 2009 and has been actively operated. It enforces a basic rule for its users: posts and comments must be related to depression and written in a sympathetic tone when responding to others seeking help.

Using the Reddit Archive [25], we collect data through extracting posts and comments from 'r/depression' written between January 2010 and December 2016. Figure 1 shows the distribution of token lengths in the Reddit dataset, with the x-axis representing the token length and the y-axis representing the number of data points.

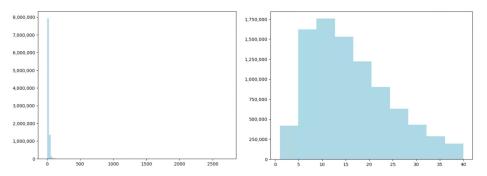


Figure 1. Distribution of the Reddit data token length before (left) and after (right) data preprocessing.

## 3.1.1. Remove Cross Post, URL, and Null

A cross-post refers to a post not only on the 'r/depression' subreddit but also on another subreddit. We discover that some of these cross-posts do not relate to depression. Therefore, we filter out posts with null posts and posts containing URLs leading to other sites.

## 3.1.2. Remove Comments without Posts

During data processing, we discover that specific comments in our dataset do not have corresponding root posts. As a result, we remove any comments that do not have a matching ID value with a post.

#### 3.1.3. Sentence-by-Sentence Segmentation

The posts and comments gathered from the Reddit archive consist of multiple sentences. We segment shorter passages into individual sentences using the period symbol '.' to facilitate annotation work.

## 3.1.4. Length Filtering

We use the Natural Language Toolkit (NLTK) to tokenize our text data. However, some of our data has unusually long token lengths, as shown in Figure 1. To address this issue, we use quartiles to identify and eliminate outliers, where the token length of the Reddit data exceeds the upper boundary (41 tokens).

## 3.1.5. Remove Non-English Text

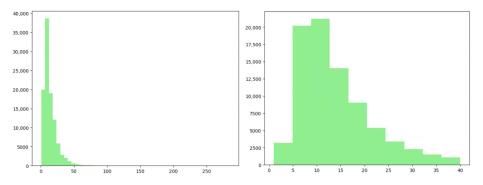
We utilize the Papago API [26], the language detection feature, to filter out non-English text from our dataset. This API can detect up to 18 languages and return 'en' if the text is identified as English. Using this language detection feature, we remove all non-English text and meaningless characters from the dataset.

# 3.1.6. Remove Personal Information Data

The BERT-base-NER [27] model can recognize four entity names: place (LOC), organization (ORG), person (PER), and other (MISC). We utilize the NER model to depersonalize our data through removing any instances that include an individual's name.

## 3.2. Curation of the DailyDialog Data

The DailyDialog dataset is a high-quality, multi-turn, open-domain English dialogue dataset that contains 13,118 dialogues. The dataset is split into a training set with 11,118 dialogues and validation and test set s with 1000 dialogues each. We use this dataset to detect not only depressive utterances but also daily utterances in depression-related emotion classification models. Figure 2 shows the distribution of token lengths in the DailyDialog dataset, with the x-axis representing the token length and the y-axis representing the number of data points.



**Figure 2.** Distribution of the DailyDialog data token length before (**left**) and after (**right**) data preprocessing.

To ensure that the distributions of the two datasets are comparable, we adjust the token length of the DailyDialog data to match the maximum token length of the Reddit data, which is 41 tokens. Figure 3 displays a boxplot of the token length distribution of the Reddit data and the DailyDialog data after curation. The x-axis represents the token length, the y-axis represents the dataset name, and the orange line within each box represents the median token length value.

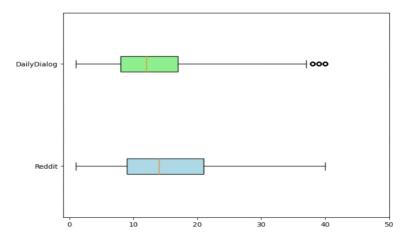


Figure 3. Box plot of each dataset's token distribution after data curation.

### 3.3. Best-Worst Scaling

The Best-Worst Scaling [7] method extends the pairwise comparison approach to multiple options, where participants are asked to select all the least attractive options from a set of choices. In this method, annotators receive a collection of *n* items (*n*-tuple, n > 1) and are asked to identify the best and worst things among them.

To ensure efficiency, we adopt a four-item scale for BWS annotation, following the recommendations of Mohammad et al. [28,29] and Kiritchenko et al. [30]. In their study, they annotate an average of 1774 texts to calculate emotion intensities for anger, fear, joy, and sadness. Our study annotates 1600 sentences from Reddit and the DailyDialog dataset to build the BWS dataset. Figure 4 illustrates the process of creating the BWS dataset.

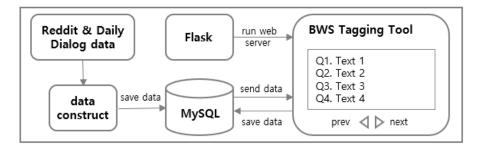


Figure 4. Architecture of Best-Worst Scaling data.

## 3.3.1. Data Construction for Best-Worst Scaling

Before applying the BWS task, we create two separate datasets: one containing sentences with depressed emotions and the other without them. To create the former, we filter sentences from the Reddit dataset containing reference words or similar words corresponding to the A1 category. Details of these words are mentioned in Section 3.4.1. We refer to this dataset as the A1 dataset. Next, we apply an additional filter to the A1 dataset to extract sentences in which the user explicitly expresses being depressed (e.g., "I am depressed" or "I feel depressed"), resulting in the depressed dataset.

To further refine the depressed dataset, we remove sentences that contain negative expressions indicating the user is not depressed (e.g., "am not," "do not feel"), as described

in the filter criteria listed in Section 3.4.2. The resulting subset is referred to as the notdepressed dataset. We merge this dataset with the sample of 360 sentences from the DailyDialog dataset to create the final not-depressed dataset. Figure 5 depicts the overall process.

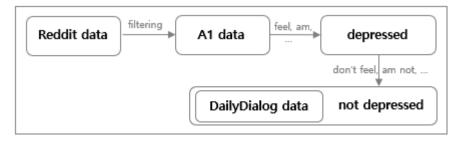


Figure 5. Data construction for Best-Worst Scaling.

3.3.2. Annotation Work with Best-Worst Scaling

The BWS annotation task involves selecting the strongest and weakest sentences from four given items. During the annotation process, we instruct an annotator to choose the sentence with the strongest intensity from the depressed dataset and the sentence with the weakest intensity from the not-depressed dataset. To construct the BWS dataset, we randomly select 1200 sentences from the depressed dataset and 400 sentences from the not-depressed dataset, resulting in 1600 sentences. We include all 360 sentences from the DailyDialog data among the 400 selected sentences to ensure easy selection of the weakest intensity from the not-depressed dataset.

We create eight BWS sets to create the BWS tagging dataset using the quadruple generation criteria outlined in Mohammad et al. [28,29]. Each set consists of 400 questions, with four items (sentences) per question and 1600 sentences across all sets. Once the sets are constructed, we ensure each question contains four unique sentences. We then divide the sentences into short and long sentences based on the median sentence length of 77 characters, ensuring that questions are aligned with sentences of similar length. Finally, we set the maximum number of identical tokens allowed based on the sentence length. We allow up to five identical tokens for short sentences, while for long sentences, we allow up to eight identical tokens.

We utilize a tool [9] built with Flask and MySQL to complete the BWS annotation task. As shown in Figure 6, the tool's main screen allows the annotator to select the BWS tagging set they wish to work. After choosing a set, the annotator is taken to the BWS annotation work page, as depicted in Figure 7. They select the sentences with the strongest and weakest depressive intensity among the four sentences provided and store their selections in the database.

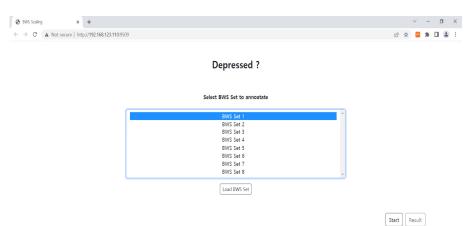


Figure 6. Main page of the Best-Worst Scaling tagging tool.

BWS Scalin	g ×	+		`	~	-	٥	×
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	Depressed							
	Depressed							
		1. (Q1188) i am lonely most of the time						
		2. (Q970) they dont know that i am depressed						
		3. (Q733) true but i suppose i feel sad when i am hurt or when i see my parents hurt						
		4. (Q1421) My son has a memorial service for his grandmother this Saturday.						
	Strongest							
		● 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 Seve						
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Figure 7. Annotation work with Best-Worst Scaling tagging tool.

# 3.3.3. Best-Worst Scaling Scoring

Table 4 displays a sample of the BWS score data obtained through annotation work. The BWS score data includes the 1600 sentences used in the BWS annotation task, as well as the number of times each sentence appeared in the task (eight times), the number of times chosen as the strongest depressive intensity, and the number of times selected as the weakest depressive intensity.

Table 4. Sample of the BWS score data.

Text	Total	Strongest	Weakest
I need to realize I am unhappy for no reason	8	3	0
I want to be alone but I am lonely	8	4	0
I am depressed I hate myself	8	8	0
Do you have lessons with me?	8	0	8

The process for calculating depression intensity using the BWS score data is explained by Equation (1). The equation uses the variables  $intensity_D$ ,  $cnt_S$ ,  $cnt_W$ , and  $cnt_T$ , where cntrefers to the number of appearances, and s, w, and T correspond to the strongest, weakest, and total scores, respectively.

$$intensity_D = \frac{cnt_S - cnt_W}{cnt_T} \tag{1}$$

Although the BWS score is calculated as between -1 and 1, a negative value is inappropriate for representing emotional intensity. Therefore, we use a linear conversion process to convert the score to a range between 0 and 1 [31–33]. This conversion process is illustrated in Equation (2), where a and b correspond to the minimum and maximum values of 0 and 1, respectively. Table 1 displays a sample of scores obtained through this linear conversion process.

$$x' = a + \frac{(x - \min(x))(b - a)}{\max(x) - \min(x)}$$
(2)

### 3.4. DSM-5 Dataset

The DSM-5 dataset is designed for classifying complex depressive emotions. We leverage Reddit and DailyDialog data to create the DSM-5 dataset containing nine depressionrelated symptoms described in the MDD [13] section of the DSM-5 and daily utterances. The process for constructing the DSM-5 dataset is depicted in Figure 8 below.

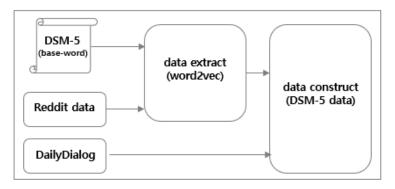


Figure 8. Construction of the DSM-5 dataset.

## 3.4.1. Data Extraction

To extract data related to complex depressive emotions, we identify reference words corresponding to the nine significant symptoms of MDD. Using a Word2Vec [34] model trained on the Reddit data, we generate a list of ten highly similar words for each reference word. To ensure accuracy, we cross-reference these words with their definitions in a dictionary and add any identical words to the list of similar words. Table 5 provides the nine reference words and their corresponding similar words. We note that some terms listed as equal are typos for the reference word. Using the reference words and the list of similar words, we can extract relevant data from the Reddit dataset.

Criteria	Base Word	Similar Word	
A1	depressed	deppressed, sad, unhappy, lonely, unwell, moody, distressed	
A2	lethargic	fatigued, sluggish, groggy, unmotivated, listless despondent, demotivated	
A3	appetite, weight	apetite, lbs, kg, metabolism, apatite	
A4	insomnia, hypersomnia, sleep	migraines, bruxism, nausea, ibs, tinnitus, sleeplessness, diarrhea, narcolepsy, sleepiness, drowsniess, disturbances, sleeping, bed, asleep	
A5	agitation, retardation	irritability, restlessness, nervousness, vertigo, impairment, instability psychomotor, unwellness	
A6	fatigue	tiredness	
A7	worthless, guilt	useless, pathetic, unlovable, unloveable, inadequate, helpless, miserable, talentless, hopeless, subhuman, shame, resentment, selfhatred, jealously, selfoathing, selfhate, frustration	
A8	concentrate, indecisive	focus, concentrate, concentrating, focusing, refocus, focused, forgetful, picky, forgetful, pessimistic	
A9	suicidal, die	sucidal, homicidal, sucidial, suicial, suicidial, selfharm, scuicidal, disappear, kill, starve, cease, dissappear	

**Table 5.** Related words to DSM-5.

3.4.2. Data Construction Using Filters

In order to construct the DSM-5 dataset, we begin by extracting sentences that contain words related to MDD based on a pre-defined word list. However, some of these sentences

may be irrelevant to MDD despite containing related words. Table 6 provides examples of unrelated sentences encountered during the process.

Table 6. Data not related to depressive episodes.

Criteria	Text
A1	a fellow depressed stranger
A3	not some overweight guy who has not been laid
A7	being anti-social does not make you worthless

We define two filters to obtain highly related data on MDD as outlined in Table 7. Using filter 1 for each symptom, we extract the relevant data. However, it can be challenging to distinguish between positive and negative emotions using only filter 1. For example, it is difficult to differentiate between "I feel depressed" and "I do not feel depressed." To address this issue, we develop filter 2 to identify sentences with negative connotations. This process enables us to classify users who express negative emotions as not depressed if the model receives a sentence such as "I do not feel depressed" as input. In the case of the fifth criterion, medical terms are included, and therefore filter 1 is not applied; only filter 2 is used.

Table 7. DSM-5 data filters.

Criteria	Filter 1	Filter 2
A1	am, is, are, feel	not, do(es)n't feel
A2	am, is, are, feel	not, do(es)n't feel
A3	loss, lost, gain, surge	-
A4	too much, not much, can't	-
A5	-	not, do(es)n't feel
A6	am, is, are, feel	not, do(es)n't feel
A7	am, is, are, feel	not, do(es)n't feel
A8	(can't), am, is, are	(can), not, do(es)n't feel
A9	(want, go, will, try, have) + to	not, do(es)n't + have, want, go, will, try + to

To classify non-depressed users, we add a daily label and merge the DailyDialog dataset. Table 8 shows the distribution of the DSM-5 dataset by label.

Table 8. Data distribution of DSM-5.

	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5
	A6	A7	A8	A9	Daily
DSM-5	152,734	3041	8984	17,760	2217
	1865	99,988	23,154	37,409	81,290

# 4. Model

The overall model architecture proposed in this paper is depicted in Figure 9. We train the language model using the BWS and DSM-5 datasets we create. When a user's utterance is input into the model, the BWS model identifies the intensity of depression. The DSM-5 model classifies the specific type of depressive emotion the user expresses. We apply attention operations to each model to return the output values and tokens with high attention scores for each model.

We use DistilBERT [10] as our language model, which leverages knowledge distillation during the pre-training phase. Studies show that it is possible to reduce the size of a BERT model by 40% while retaining 97% of its language understanding capabilities and being 60% faster. We use this model to increase our applicability to real-time services such as chatbots requiring fast response with better performance.

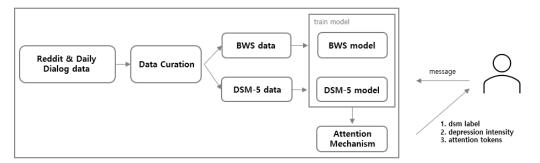


Figure 9. Overall model architecture.

To train our model, we partition the BWS and DSM-5 datasets into three subsets: train, validate, and test. Initially, we divide each dataset into train and test sets using an 8:2 ratio. Subsequently, we split each dataset's train set into train and validation subsets using a 9:1 ratio. Table 9 presents the resulting data distribution across the different subsets. For performance comparison with other models, we have set the number of epochs (5), batch size (8), and learning rate ( $5 \times 10^{-5}$ ) of all models to be the same.

Table 9. Number of instances in each dataset.

	Train	Val	Test	All
BWS data	1152	128	320	1600
DSM-5 data	88,874	22,219	27,774	138,867

### 4.1. Prediction of Depressive Emotional Intensity

We train the DistilBERT model for BWS data; the resulting model is AuD BWS. To compare the model's performance in predicting the intensity of depressive emotions, we use the deflated and non-deflated data to build the BWS data to train a binary classification model. A comparison of the predictive results of the AuD BWS and the binary classification model can be found in Section 5.

## 4.1.1. BWS Model

To prepare the BWS data score for model training, we convert it into an integer type through multiplying it by 16 since the score ranges between 0 and 1. This conversion process results in an integer data type with a minimum value of 0 and a maximum value of 16, making the data easier to handle. We train the BWS model to minimize the root mean square error (RMSE) value. The algorithm for the BWS model is outlined below (Algorithm 1).

Algorithm 1 BWS model
LOAD BWS data
<b>SET</b> BWS data (score) = INT(BWS data(score) $\times$ 16)
SPLIT data (train, val, test)
LOAD pretrained language model, tokenizer, config
ADD regression layer to pretrained model
SET training config
TRAIN BWS model (train, val data)
TEST BWS model (test data)

The training results of the AuD BWS model, including the RMSE values for each train and validation set, are illustrated in Figure 10.

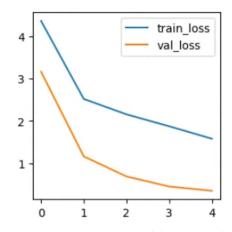


Figure 10. AuD BWS model's training log.

## 4.1.2. BWS Binary Model

To compare with the BWS model, we also construct a binary classification model using the same BWS data, consisting of 1200 depressed and 400 not-depressed data points. We refer to this model as the BWS binary model. We maintain the same training environment for both models. However, for the BWS binary model, we assign a label of 0 to depressed data and 1 to non-depressed data during training. The algorithm for the BWS binary model is provided below (Algorithm 2).

Algorithm 2 BWS binary model
LOAD depressed data (1200), not depressed data (400)
SET LABEL depressed: 0, not depressed: 1
SPLIT data (train, val, test)
LOAD pretrained language model, tokenizer, config
ADD regression layer to pretrained language model
SET training config
TRAIN BWS binary model (train, val data)
TEST BWS binary model (test data)

The training results for the BWS binary model, including the RMSE values for the train and validation sets, are illustrated in Figure 11.

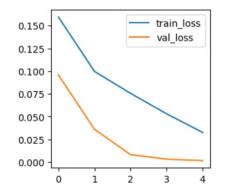


Figure 11. BWS binary model's training log.

#### 4.2. Classification of Complex Depressive Emotions

We train the DistilBERT model for the DSM-5 data, and the resulting model is AuD DSM-5. To address the issue of class imbalance in the DSM-5 dataset, we randomly select and utilize 30,000 samples from A1, 20,000 from A7, 10,000 from A8, 25,000 from A9, and 20,000 from the daily label. We train the DSM-5 model using categorical cross-entropy loss minimization. The algorithm for the DSM-5 model is provided below (Algorithm 3).

Algorithm 3 DSM-5 model

The training results of the AuD DSM-5 model, including categorical cross-entropy loss values for the train and validation sets, are illustrated in Figure 12.

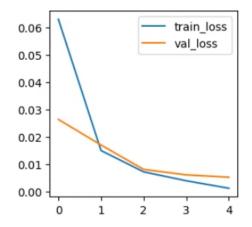


Figure 12. AuD DSM-5 model's training log.

### 4.3. Utilization of Attention Information

We incorporate attention information [35,36] to analyze the model's output. We begin with summing the weight values of all attention heads in the final output of the model as expressed in Equation (3), where L represents a language model's layer, A represents the weight value of attention heads, and n represents the number of attention heads.

$$A_{last} = L_{last} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n} A_i \right) \tag{3}$$

We obtain *Alast* as a two-dimensional array in the form of (seq\_len, seq\_len), which we convert into a one-dimensional array through column-wise summation to simplify further analysis. Using this value, we determine the tokens with the highest weights, excluding the [CLS], [SEP], ".", and "," tokens. Additionally, we limit the number of tokens returned to a maximum of half the number of input sentence tokens.

We can visualize the attention information using BertViz [37]. Figure 13 shows the result of visualizing the attention values generated through passing the sentence "I cannot sleep well these days" to the AuD DSM-5 model. This visualization focuses on the attention heads presented in the last layer. The thickness of each line represents the attention score, with thicker lines indicating higher scores. Each color represents each attention head. Figure 13 shows that the model pays the most attention to the "sleep" token when updating the [CLS] token.

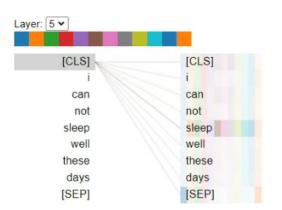


Figure 13. Visualization of attention weights using BertViz.

## 5. Analysis of Results

In this section, we evaluate the performance of the two models discussed in Section 4: AuD BWS and AuD DSM-5. We conduct performance comparisons of our models with other machine learning algorithms and deep learning models. Additionally, we examine the embedding visualization results of the DSM-5 model for the Reddit test data. Finally, we share the prediction results of the model for the user–chatbot virtual conversation.

### 5.1. Comparison with Other Algorithms

We conduct performance evaluations of the BWS and DSM-5 models using 27,774 Reddit test data points and compare them with other machine learning and deep learning algorithms. All models have been trained with the same epoch (5), learning rate  $(5 \times 10^{-5})$ , and batch size (8). The performance evaluation results of each model are presented in Table 10. Our findings indicate that the BERT model outperforms other models for regression problems, while the DistilBERT model is the best for classification problems. Furthermore, the deep learning models perform better than the machine learning models. Among the deep learning models, the pre-trained models, such as BERT, DeBERTa [38], RoBERTa [39], and ELECTRA, perform better than non-pre-trained models, such as DNN, BiLSTM, and CNN. We select the DistilBERT model for our tasks based on these results.

Table 10. Performance evaluation of machine learning and deep learning algorithms.

	Models	Regre	ssion		Classification		
	widdeis	RMSE	R2	Precision	Recall	Specificity	F1
	Support Vector Regressor [40]	3.944	0.3518	-	-	-	-
Machine Learning	K-NN [41] Regression	3.9181	0.3603	-	-	-	-
Leaning	Naïve-Bayes [42]	-	-	0.9156	0.573	0.9763	0.8089
	K-NN Classification	-	-	0.8504	0.6506	0.9699	0.7483
	Random Forest [43]	-	-	0.9586	0.8795	0.9927	0.9396
	DNN	3.4472	0.5048	0.9718	0.9602	0.9956	0.9631
	DNN + Bi-LSTM	2.59	0.72	0.9893	0.9874	4 0.9983	0.9863
	CNN-1D [44]	3.7623	0.4101	0.9723	0.9642	0.9963	0.969
Deep	BERT	2.0557	0.8239	0.9984	0.9984	0.9998	0.9987
Learning	DeBERTa	2.3020	0.7792	0.9983	0.9977	0.9998	0.9988
	RoBERTa	2.6558	0.7061	0.9974	0.997	0.9997	0.9981
	ELECTRA	2.5173	0.7360	0.9976	0.9983	0.9998	0.9983
	DistilBERT (ours)	2.1601	0.8056	0.9989	0.9988	0.9998	0.999

We conduct an inference speed evaluation for each model on the same GPU environment. The dataset used for the evaluation is the size of 27,774 Reddit DSM-5 test data points, and the results are presented in Table 11. Our findings show that the DistilBERT model has a faster inference speed than half of the other pre-trained deep learning models, indicating that our model can be applied even in real-time environments that require a fast response.

Table 11. Inference speed evaluation of each Language Model.

	BERT	DeBERTa	RoBERTa	ELECTRA	DistilBERT (Ours)
Inference Time (s)	62.765(s)	110.813(s)	60.226(s)	60.561(s)	29.348(s)

#### 5.2. Visualization of Embedding Vectors

Two commonly used techniques for reducing high-dimensional vectors into lowdimensional vectors are Principal Component Analysis (PCA) [45] and t-distributed Stochastic Neighbor Embedding (t-SNE) [46,47]. In Maaten et al.'s work [48], a 768-dimensional vector is first reduced to a 30-dimensional vector using the PCA method and then reduced to a 2-dimensional vector using t-SNE.

In our study, the AuD DSM-5 model returns a 768-dimensional vector, and we visualize the embedding vector for the DSM-5 test data using the model's hidden state value. The 768dimensional vector is first reduced to a 30-dimensional vector using the PCA method and then reduced to a 2-dimensional vector through t-SNE. Figure 14 shows a 2D visualization, and it is evident that the text belonging to each label is well distinguished.

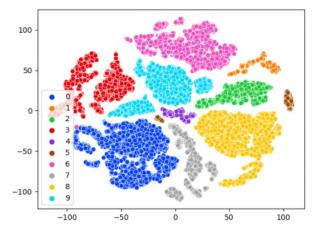


Figure 14. Visualization of the DSM-5 test data's embedding vector.

#### 5.3. Experiment on a Virtual Conversation

We design a virtual conversation to evaluate the performance of the AuD model. The conversation follows a specific order: an introduction, the user expressing their feelings of depression, sharing their current state, and concluding the conversation. The conversation structure is presented in Table 12. We use only the user's utterance portion of the virtual conversation for model prediction.

#### 5.3.1. Prediction of the BWS Model

The depression intensity values predicted using the BWS model for each utterance in the virtual conversation are presented in Table 13. The model provides detailed predictions for depression intensity, and the outputs of turn 4 and turn 5 indicate that specific tokens, such as "very," impact the intensity of depression.

Turn	Speaker	Text	
1	User	Hey	
1	Chatbot	Hello, nice to meet you	
2	User	Who are you?	
2	Chatbot	I am a psychological counseling chatbot.	
3	User	Ah-huh	
3	Chatbot	How are you?	
4	User	I am very depressed today	
4	Chatbot	What is the matter?	
5	User	I do not know why but just depressed	
5	Chatbot	When you are depressed, you have to move	
6	User	Also I lost 30 pounds and I feel lethargic	
6	Chatbot	That sounds too bad	
7	User	Anyway, thanks for listening	
7	Chatbot	Yes, see you next time	

Table 12. Virtual conversation.

Table 13. AuD BWS model's intensity prediction.

Turn	Text	Intensity
1	Hey	0.1015
2	Who are you?	0.0346
3	Ah-huh	0.0195
4	I am very depressed today	12.7464
5	I do not know why but just depressed	8.6879
6	Also I lost 30 pounds and I feel lethargic	8.6295
7	Anyway, thanks for listening	0.0038

Table 14 displays the prediction of depressive emotion intensity for the virtual conversation using the BWS binary model. This model predicts utterances with depressed emotions close to 0 and non-depressed emotions close to 1. However, as the model only outputs values near 0 or 1, it is difficult to obtain detailed depression intensity scores.

Table 14. BWS binary model's intensity prediction.

Turn	Text	Intensity
1	Hey	1.0265
2	Who are you?	1.0167
3	Ah-huh	1.0157
4	I am very depressed today	0.0003
5	I do not know why but just depressed	0.0012
6	Also I lost 30 pounds and I feel lethargic	0.0616
7	Anyway, thanks for listening	1.0158

5.3.2. Prediction of the DSM-5 Model

The results of classifying complex depression-related emotions for the virtual conversations using the DSM-5 model are represented in Table 15. The table shows that the model performs well in organizing depression-related feelings, specifically for the utterances in turns 4, 5, and 6.

In turn 6 of the user's utterance, the DSM-5 model detects two depression-related emotions: loss of appetite and sleep disorder. However, the model classifies them into a single label. To address this, we perform multi-label classification through modifying the output format to return all labels whose output logit value exceeds the threshold (>3), as shown in Table 16. Since the AuD model proposed in this paper is not designed explicitly for multi-label classification tasks.

Turn	Text	Label
1	Hey	daily
2	Who are you?	daily
3	Ah-huh	daily
4	I am very depressed today	depressed
5	I do not know why but just depressed	depressed
6	Also I lost 30 pounds and I feel lethargic	lethargic
7	Anyway, thanks for listening	daily

Table 15. Label classification of the AuD DSM-5 model.

Table 16. Multi-label Classification of the AuD DSM-5.

Turn	Text	Label
1	Hey	daily
2	Who are you?	daily
3	Ah-huh	daily
4	I am very depressed today	depressed
5	I do not know why but just depressed	depressed
6	Also I lost 30 pounds and I feel lethargic	lethargic, appetite/weight problem
7	Anyway, thanks for listening	daily

#### 5.3.3. Attention Tokens

During a virtual conversation, we identify tokens with high weights when the user's utterances contain three or more tokens. We then display these tokens to the user to highlight important words or phrases that may indicate the source of their depressive emotions. This approach can help the user gain insight into their emotional state and understand the factors contributing to their feelings. Table 17 shows the resulting output of this process.

Table 17. Tokens with high attention weights.

Turn	Text	Attention Tokens
1	Hey	-
2	Who are you?	'?', 'you'
3	Ah-huh	-
4	I am very depressed today	'depressed', 'i'
5	I do not know why but just depressed	'depressed', 'i', 'but'
6	Also I lost 30 pounds and I feel lethargic	'##har', '##gic', 'let'
7	Anyway, thanks for listening	'listening', 'thanks'

# 6. Conclusions

6.1. Results

Our study uses data collected from two sources, Reddit and DailyDialog, and involves building two models to predict depression intensity and classify complex depressive emotions.

To create the DSM-5 dataset, we develop a set of 10 detailed depressive emotion labels based on the MDD criteria in the DSM-5, as outlined by the American Psychiatric Association. Additionally, we create a Best-Worst Scaling annotation task tool that can be used to generate a depressive emotion intensity dataset. Using this dataset, we develop two models—the AuD BWS model and the AuD DSM-5 model—which predict depressive emotion intensity and provide an attention token with a high attention score and the model output results.

We compare our model's performance with other machine learning algorithms and deep learning models and find that DistilBERT provides fast speed and excellent predic-

tion/classification performance. Therefore, we suggest using the DistilBERT model for real-time services where response rates are essential, such as chatbots.

### 6.2. Future Research Plan

Our future research plans are based on the limitations we encountered during our study. One of our primary goals is to develop a depression detection model that considers the conversation history between users and chatbots. Currently, the model is designed to receive a single sentence as input, but conversations are ongoing and continuous in real-world scenarios. Through incorporating conversation history, we aim to improve the accuracy of our depression detection model.

We also plan to explore multi-label classification for depressive emotions. People often experience multiple complex emotions simultaneously, such as depression and lethargy, but our current model is focused only on single-label classification. To address this limitation, we aim to develop a detailed depressive-emotion-related multi-label model that can independently predict and provide emotion intensity for each label simultaneously. The model will enable us to understand better the complex emotions associated with depression and provide more accurate predictions.

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