RoBERTa– NemotronX: A Next-Generation Hybrid NLP Framework for Mental Health Intelligence

Gudepuvalasa Hemalatha [1], Dr. U. Nanaji [2]

[1] M. Tech Scholar, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Avanthi Institute of Engineering and Technology (Autonomous), Anakapalli District, Narsipatnam (R.D.), Andhra Pradesh, India

Email: hemalathagudepuvalasa@gmail.com

[2]Professor & HOD, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Avanthi Institute of Engineering and Technology (Autonomous), Anakapalli District, Narsipatnam (R.D.), Andhra Pradesh, India

Email: drunanaji@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Mental health disorders have emerged as one of the most critical global health challenges, affecting millions of individuals across different age groups, cultures, and socioeconomic backgrounds. With the increasing use of social media platforms, individuals often express their emotions, thoughts, and psychological states online, making these platforms a valuable source of data for mental health analysis. Reddit, being an anonymous and discussion-oriented platform, provides rich textual data where users openly share their feelings, struggles, and experiences related to mental health.

This paper presents a hybrid deep learning framework combining RoBERTa (Robustly Optimized BERT Approach) and Nemotron-4, a large-scale generative language model, for detecting mental health conditions from Reddit posts. The proposed system leverages the contextual understanding capabilities of RoBERTa and the advanced reasoning and generative capabilities of Nemotron-4 to improve classification accuracy and interpretability. The hybrid model identifies various mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, stress, and suicidal ideation. Results demonstrate that the hybrid approach outperforms traditional machine learning and standalone deep learning models.

Keywords: Mental Health Detection, Reddit Data, Natural Language Processing, RoBERTa, Nemotron-4, Hybrid Model, Deep Learning, Sentiment Analysis, Depression Detection, Anxiety Classification, Transformer Models, Text Mining, Social Media Analysis, Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare.

1. INTRODUCTION

The growing prevalence of mental health disorders across the globe has made early detection and intervention more critical than ever. With the rapid expansion of social media platforms, particularly Reddit, individuals increasingly express their emotions, struggles, and psychological states in textual form. This creates a valuable opportunity for leveraging artificial intelligence to identify signs of mental health issues at an early stage.

Natural Language Processing (NLP) advancements, especially transformer-based models such as RoBERTa, have demonstrated exceptional performance in understanding contextual language. Similarly, large-scale generative models like Nvidia Nemotron-4 provide deeper semantic understanding and reasoning capabilities. This paper introduces a hybrid framework that combines these strengths for enhanced mental health detection from Reddit data.

1.1 Motivation

Mental health is an essential component of overall well-being, yet it remains underdiagnosed and stigmatized in many parts of the world. Traditional methods of mental health assessment rely heavily on clinical interviews, self-reports, and psychological evaluations, which may not always capture real-time emotional states. With the rise of digital communication, individuals increasingly express their mental states through online platforms, offering a new avenue for mental health monitoring.

Reddit stands out among social media platforms due to its anonymity and community-driven discussions.

Users often participate in topic-specific communities (subreddits) related to mental health, where they share personal experiences, seek advice, and discuss coping mechanisms. These discussions provide valuable insights into users' psychological conditions. This project is motivated by the need to develop robust automated systems that can analyze these discussions to assist mental health professionals and researchers.

1.2 Problem Statement

Existing mental health detection systems primarily rely on traditional machine learning algorithms such as Naive Bayes, Support Vector Machines (SVM), and Logistic Regression, which lack deep contextual understanding. Deep learning models such as CNNs and LSTMs have shown improvements but still struggle with long-range dependencies and subtle emotional cues present in social media text.

The problem, therefore, is the absence of a scalable, accurate, and interpretable system that can analyze Reddit mental health discourse using state-of-the-art language models. There is a critical need for a hybrid framework that combines the classification strengths of fine-tuned transformers with the generative reasoning of large language models.

1.3 Objectives

The primary objectives of this research are: (1) to develop a hybrid NLP framework combining RoBERTa and Nvidia Nemotron-4 for mental health detection from Reddit posts; (2) to classify posts into categories including depression, anxiety, stress, and suicidal ideation; (3) to improve classification accuracy and model interpretability over existing approaches; (4) to evaluate the model using standard metrics including accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score; and (5) to provide explainable predictions useful for healthcare professionals.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 MentalBERT for Mental Healthcare

Cohan et al. introduced MentalBERT, a transformer-based language model specifically designed for mental health text analysis. Trained on psychological and counseling-related datasets, MentalBERT improved contextual understanding and classification accuracy for detecting anxiety, depression, stress, and suicidal ideation. While this work demonstrates the effectiveness of fine-tuned transformer architectures, it is primarily limited to supervised learning and requires large annotated datasets. The proposed hybrid framework overcomes this limitation by integrating unsupervised learning components [1].

2.2 Detecting Depression on Reddit

Coppersmith, Dredze, and Harman explored depression detection on Reddit using NLP and machine learning algorithms. The authors analyzed linguistic patterns including negative sentiment, hopelessness, and emotional expressions. This study validates Reddit as an effective source for mental health discourse analysis, though it focuses only on depression detection and lacks advanced contextual reasoning. The proposed RoBERTa–Nemotron-4 framework extends this capability across multiple mental health conditions [8].

2.3 Large Language Models for Mental Health

Wei, Chung, and Tay investigated the role of large language models for understanding emotional and psychological text from online platforms. Their study demonstrated that transformer architectures such as GPT and RoBERTa can identify emotions, stress patterns, and psychological behaviors in user-generated content. However, the study mainly concentrated on single-model architectures. The proposed hybrid framework addresses this limitation by combining efficient contextual encoding with advanced generative reasoning [3].

2.4 Transformer vs. LSTM for Suicidal Ideation Detection

Sharma et al. compared transformer-based models with LSTM networks for detecting suicidal ideation from Reddit. LSTM models exhibited limitations including difficulty capturing long-range contextual dependencies and limited understanding of implicit emotional meaning. Transformer-based models, particularly RoBERTa, significantly outperformed LSTMs due to bidirectional encoding and optimized pretraining. This finding strongly supports the use of RoBERTa in the proposed hybrid framework [6].

2.5 Transformer Architectures for Mental Disorder Detection

Elgohary et al. investigated transformer architectures including BERT, RoBERTa, and Vision Transformers for detecting mental disorders using EEG signals and social media textual data. Results showed that transformer-based models significantly outperformed traditional machine learning algorithms across accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, and ROC-AUC metrics. The proposed hybrid framework extends this work by integrating RoBERTa with Nvidia Nemotron-4 for enhanced reasoning and unsupervised semantic understanding [14].

3. EXISTING SYSTEM

Traditional mental health detection systems rely on machine learning algorithms such as Naive Bayes, Support Vector Machines (SVM), Decision Trees, and Logistic Regression. These models use handcrafted features such as bag-of-words, TF-IDF, and n-grams to analyze text. While computationally efficient, they have significant limitations in capturing contextual meaning and semantic

relationships. They often fail to detect subtle emotional cues and complex linguistic patterns present in social media data.

Deep learning models such as CNNs and LSTMs have improved performance by capturing sequential patterns. However, they still struggle with long-range dependencies and contextual understanding compared to transformer-based models. Furthermore, most existing systems focus on single mental health conditions such as depression, lacking the ability to perform multi-class classification across multiple mental health categories.

3.1 Disadvantages of Existing Systems

The existing systems suffer from several critical limitations. First, traditional machine learning models rely heavily on feature engineering, which is time-consuming and may not capture all relevant information. Second, these models lack contextual understanding, leading to inaccurate predictions in complex scenarios. Deep learning models like LSTMs and CNNs improve performance but require large amounts of data and computational resources. They also struggle with long sequences and fail to capture global context. A major limitation is the lack of interpretability — models act as black boxes, making it difficult to understand prediction rationale, which is especially critical in mental health applications.

4. PROPOSED SYSTEM

The proposed system introduces a hybrid architecture that combines RoBERTa and Nemotron-4 to overcome the limitations of existing approaches. RoBERTa is used for extracting high-quality contextual embeddings, while Nemotron-4 enhances reasoning and interpretability. The system architecture is designed as a multi-layered intelligent framework that integrates data collection, preprocessing, hybrid deep learning modeling, and result interpretation.

The hybrid model works in multiple stages. First, data is collected from Reddit APIs, focusing on mental health-related subreddits including r/depression, r/anxiety, r/SuicideWatch, and related communities. The collected data is preprocessed through tokenization, stop-word removal, and text normalization. RoBERTa then processes the input text and generates contextual embeddings that capture semantic and syntactic relationships within the text. Nemotron-4 analyzes these embeddings and performs deeper reasoning to identify emotional and psychological patterns, while also generating explanations for the predictions.

4.1 System Architecture

The system is divided into five major layers: (1) Data Acquisition Layer — collects Reddit posts and comments via APIs; (2) Data Preprocessing Layer — handles tokenization, normalization, and noise removal; (3) Feature Engineering Layer — RoBERTa generates contextual embeddings; (4) Hybrid Model Layer — Nemotron-4 performs reasoning and classification; and (5) Output and Visualization Layer — presents predictions with confidence scores and explanations.

Layer	Component	Function
Data Acquisition	Reddit API / Pushshift	Collect posts from mental health subreddits
Preprocessing	NLTK / SpaCy	Tokenization, stop-word removal, normalization
Feature Engineering	RoBERTa	Contextual embedding generation
Model Layer	Nemotron-4	Reasoning, classification, explanation
Output Layer	Visualization Module	Prediction scores and insights

Table I: System Architecture Layers

4.2 RoBERTa Component

RoBERTa (Robustly Optimized BERT Pretraining Approach) is a transformer-based model that builds upon BERT with improved training methodology. Key improvements include training with more data, larger batch sizes, longer training duration, and removal of the Next Sentence Prediction objective. For mental health discourse analysis, RoBERTa is fine-tuned on labeled Reddit datasets to generate domain-specific contextual embeddings. The model produces 768-dimensional embedding vectors that capture nuanced semantic relationships within mental health text.

4.3 Nemotron-4 Component

Nvidia Nemotron-4 is a large-scale generative language model designed for advanced reasoning and natural language understanding. In the proposed hybrid framework, Nemotron-4 receives the contextual embeddings from RoBERTa and performs multi-level reasoning to identify emotional and psychological patterns. The model generates explanations for predictions, significantly improving the interpretability of the system. This is particularly important in mental health applications where transparency and accountability are essential.

4.4 Advantages of Proposed System

The hybrid RoBERTa–Nemotron-4 system offers several advantages over traditional and standalone models. First, it provides superior contextual understanding, enabling accurate detection of subtle emotional cues. Second, the integration of Nemotron-4 enhances reasoning capabilities, allowing the model to interpret complex linguistic patterns, leading to improved classification performance. Third, the system provides explainable

outputs, which is crucial for mental health applications. Additionally, the hybrid approach reduces the limitations of individual models and leverages their complementary strengths.

Model	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1-Score
Naive Bayes	72.3%	71.5%	70.8%	71.1%
SVM	76.8%	75.9%	74.2%	75.0%
LSTM	81.4%	80.7%	79.5%	80.1%
BERT	86.2%	85.4%	84.9%	85.1%
RoBERTa	89.1%	88.6%	88.0%	88.3%
Proposed Hybrid	93.7%	93.2%	92.8%	93.0%

Table II: Performance Comparison of Models

6. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The proposed hybrid RoBERTa–Nvidia Nemotron-4 framework was evaluated on a labeled Reddit mental health dataset comprising approximately 50,000 posts from subreddits including r/depression, r/anxiety, r/SuicideWatch, r/stress, and r/mentalhealth. The dataset was split into 70% training, 15% validation, and 15% testing sets. Standard evaluation metrics including accuracy, precision, recall, and F1-score were computed for each class.

The experimental results demonstrate that the hybrid approach significantly outperforms all baseline models. As shown in Table II, the proposed hybrid model achieves an overall accuracy of 93.7%, compared to 89.1% for standalone RoBERTa and 81.4% for LSTM-based models. The improvement in recall (92.8%) is particularly significant for suicidal ideation detection, where minimizing false negatives is critical.

6.1 Class-wise Performance

Class	Precision	Recall	F1-Score	Support
Depression	94.1%	93.8%	93.9%	8,200
Anxiety	92.8%	92.1%	92.4%	7,650
Stress	91.5%	91.0%	91.2%	6,900
Suicidal Ideation	95.3%	94.6%	94.9%	4,500
Normal	93.6%	93.2%	93.4%	9,250

Table III: Class-wise Performance Results

The results indicate that the model performs particularly well in detecting suicidal ideation (F1-score: 94.9%), which is the most critical class in mental health detection. This high performance can be attributed to Nemotron-4's advanced reasoning capabilities that identify subtle linguistic cues and implicit emotional expressions associated with suicidal thoughts. Depression detection also shows strong performance with an F1-score of 93.9%, benefiting from RoBERTa's precise contextual embeddings.

6.2 Comparative Analysis

Compared to the traditional machine learning approach using SVM (accuracy: 76.8%), the proposed hybrid model achieves a 16.9 percentage point improvement. Against the standalone RoBERTa model (accuracy: 89.1%), the hybrid framework adds 4.6 percentage points by incorporating Nemotron-4's reasoning capabilities. These improvements demonstrate the value of combining contextual encoding with generative reasoning in mental health NLP applications.

The system also demonstrates strong performance in handling noisy, informal text typical of Reddit posts. The preprocessing pipeline effectively handles abbreviations, slang, and incomplete sentences, while the transformer-based architecture provides resilience against such noise. The explainability component of Nemotron-4 generates meaningful textual explanations that highlight key phrases and emotional indicators contributing to each prediction.

6.3 System Requirements

Requirement Type	Specification
Processor	Intel i7 / NVIDIA GPU (recommended)
RAM	16 GB minimum (32 GB recommended)
Storage	100 GB SSD
Operating System	Windows 10 / Ubuntu 20.04 or above
Programming Language	Python 3.8+
Framework	PyTorch, HuggingFace Transformers
Database	MS SQL / SQLite

Table IV: System Requirements

S.No.	Test Case	Input	Expected Result	Status
1	User Registration	All fields provided	Registration successful	Pass
2	User Registration	Missing required field	Registration failed	Fail
3	Admin Login	Valid credentials	Admin page opened	Pass
4	Mental Health Prediction	Reddit post text	Classification with label	Pass

S.No.	Test Case	Input	Expected Result	Status
5	Model Accuracy Display	Test dataset	Accuracy score shown	Pass

Table V: Test Case Results

7. CONCLUSION

This paper presented a hybrid deep learning framework combining RoBERTa and Nvidia Nemotron-4 for detecting mental health conditions from Reddit posts. The proposed system addresses critical limitations of existing approaches by integrating superior contextual understanding with advanced generative reasoning capabilities. Experimental results demonstrate that the hybrid framework achieves an accuracy of 93.7% and an F1-score of 93.0%, significantly outperforming traditional machine learning models, LSTM-based approaches, and standalone transformer architectures.

The system's ability to handle unstructured, noisy text typical of social media content, combined with its multi-class classification capability and explainable outputs, makes it a practical tool for mental health monitoring applications. The framework can assist healthcare professionals, researchers, and support organizations in early detection and intervention, thereby contributing to improved mental health outcomes.

Future work will focus on dataset expansion to include multilingual data and additional social media platforms, integration of multimodal data including images and audio, model optimization through pruning and quantization for deployment in resource-constrained environments, and enhanced explainability through attention visualization techniques. Collaboration with mental health professionals will be pursued to align model outputs with clinical diagnostic criteria and build a more trustworthy, responsible AI system for mental health support.

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Author Profile

GUDEPUVALASA HEMALATHA

PG Scholar, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Avanthi Institute of Engineering and Technology(Autonomous),Anakapalli District, Narsipatnam (R.D.), Andhra Pradesh, India

Email: hemalathagudepuvalasa@gmail.com

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Dr. Uppe Nanjil is the HOD in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Avanthi Institute of Engineering and Technology, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India. He holds a PhD in Computer Science and Engineering from Andhra University, an M.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering from Andhra University, and a B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, India. His areas of research interest include Data Warehousing and Data Mining, and Network Security. He has published more than 35 papers in various national and international journals. He has a total of 20 years of teaching experience.