

Emotion Analysis and Generation

Birds of a Feather Session

BoF, EACL 2026

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Emotion Examples



Which emotion is associated with each example?

How did you recognize that?

- “She became angry.”
- “A tear is running down his face.”
- “We are going for a walk at the beach.”

With this exercise, we discussed two things:

- What is an appropriate set of emotions?
- How are they expressed/recognized?

Emotion Models – Basic Emotions



How to define a categorical system of emotions?

- Distinctive universal signals
- Presence in other primates
- **Distinctive physiology**
- Distinctive universals in antecedent **events**
- Coherence among emotional response
- Quick onset
- Brief duration
- Automatic **appraisal**
- Unbidden occurrence

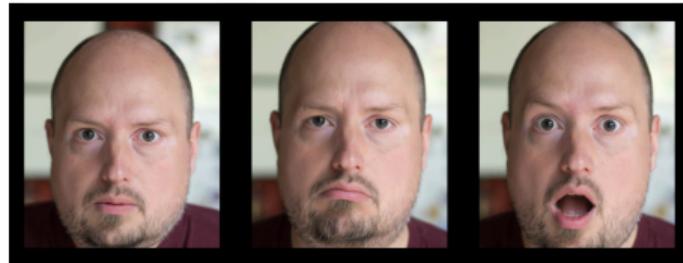
Ekman (1992): An argument for basic emotions.



Joy

Anger

Disgust



Fear

Sadness

Surprise

Ekman: What are non-basic emotions?



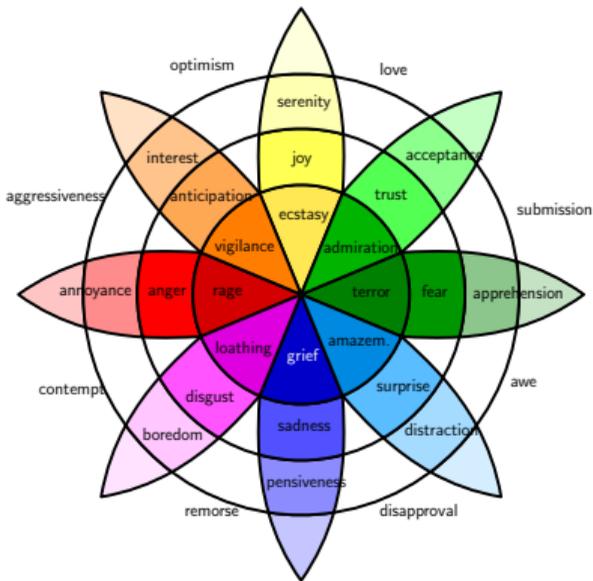
- “I do not allow for non-basic emotions” (Ekman, 1999)
 - ⇒ They do not exist.
- What is **love**, **depression**, or **hostility**?
 - Personality traits (hostility, openness)
 - Moods (depression, anxiety, long-term disturbances are clinically relevant)
 - Emotional plots (love, grief, jealousy)

Models of Basic Emotions: Plutchik's Wheel

An emotion is a patterned bodily reaction that follows a function

- protection – fear
- destruction – anger
- reproduction – joy
- deprivation – sadness
- incorporation – acceptance
- rejection – disgust
- exploration – anticipation
- orientation – surprise

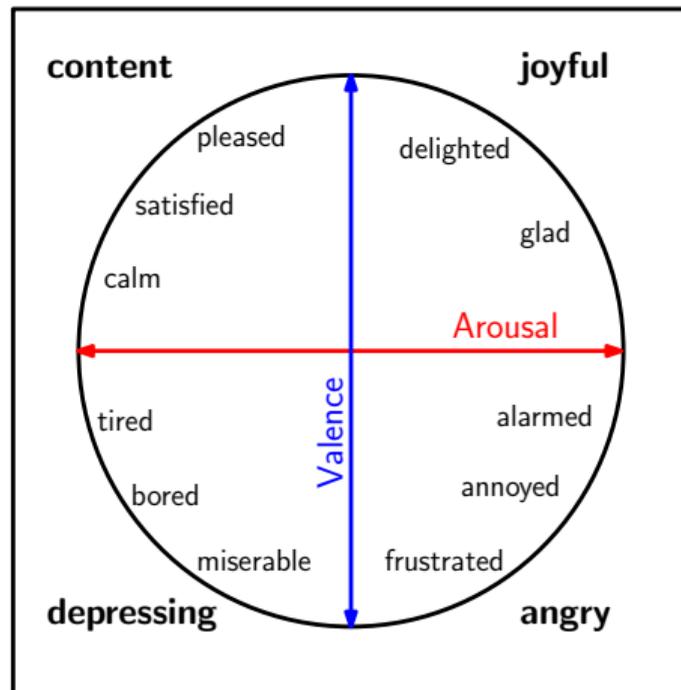
⇒ These are basic emotions according to Plutchik (1970)



Emotion Models – Valence–Arousal Model of Affect



- Perhaps mixtures and opposites do not make sense, but there are other ways to explain the relations between emotions?



Russell, R. (1980). A Circumplex Model of Affect.

Definition of Emotions: Components



Emotion (Scherer, 2005)

Emotions are “an **episode** of interrelated, synchronized changes in the states of [...] **five organismic subsystems** in response to the evaluation of a [...] **stimulus-event** ...”



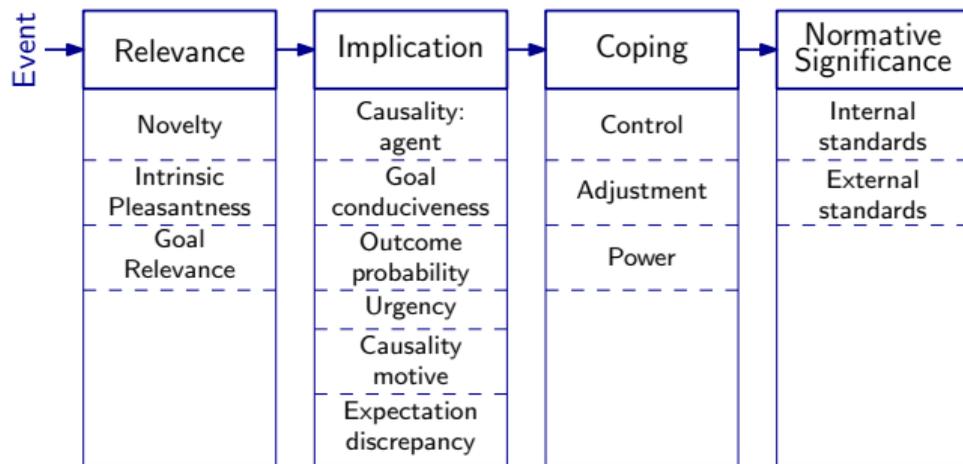
Event

Feeling	Expression	Bodily Symptom
Action Tendency	Cognitive Appraisal	
Fear		

Components

Name

Cognitive Appraisal in Scherer's Component Process model



K.R. Scherer (2001). Appraisal Considered as a Process of Multilevel Sequential Checking.

Many theories have not been used yet in NLP...

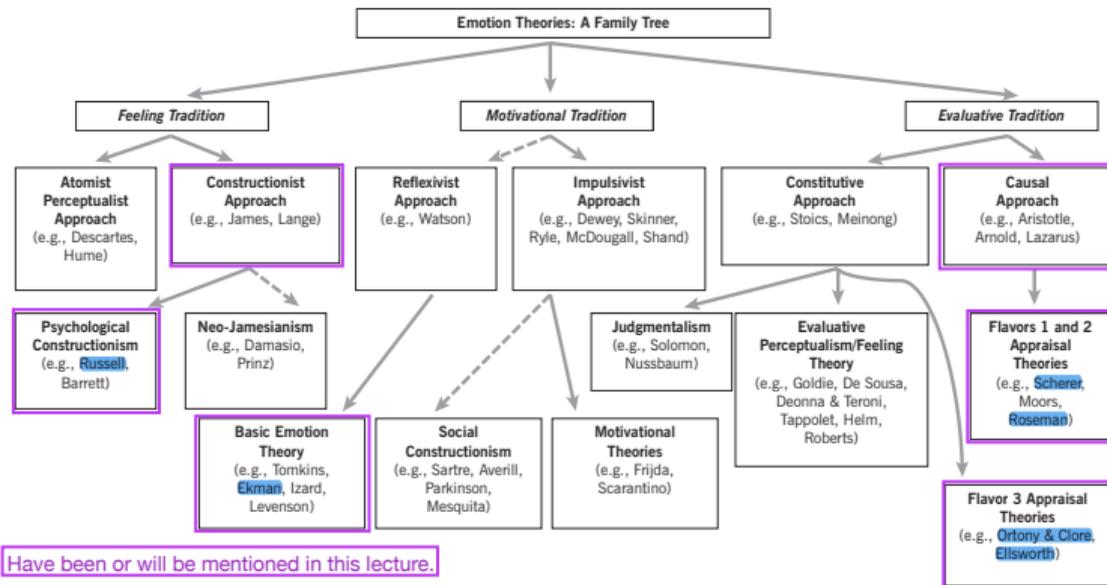


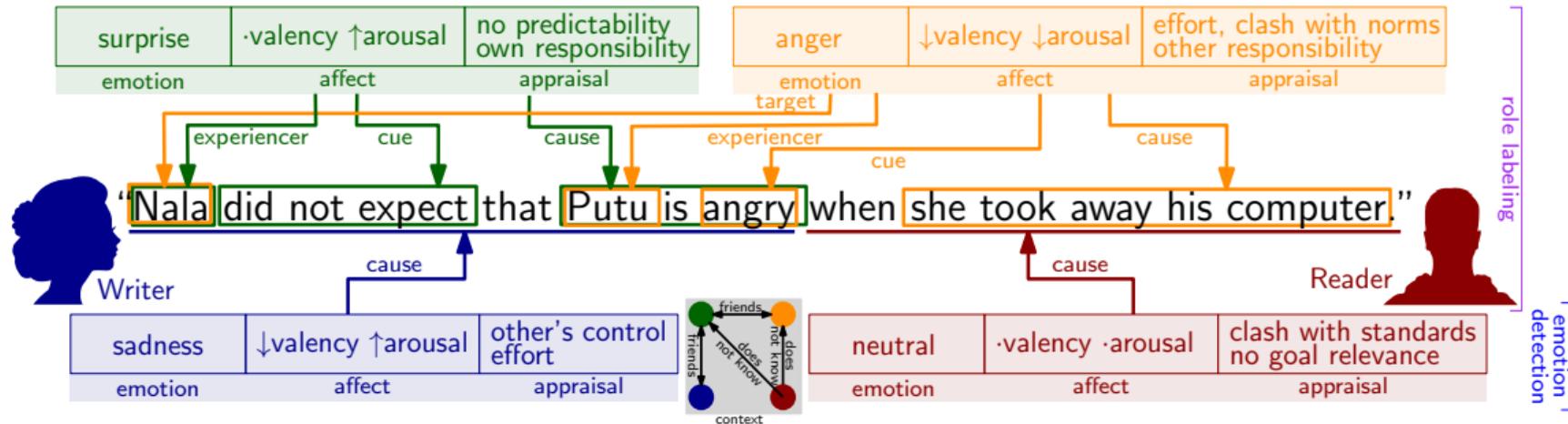
FIGURE 1.1. A family tree for theories of emotions. Dashed lines are meant to signal more tenuous connections among traditions, approaches, and research programs than solid lines.

Scarantino: The Philosophy of Emotions and Its Impact on Affective Science. In: Handbook of Emotions. 2016

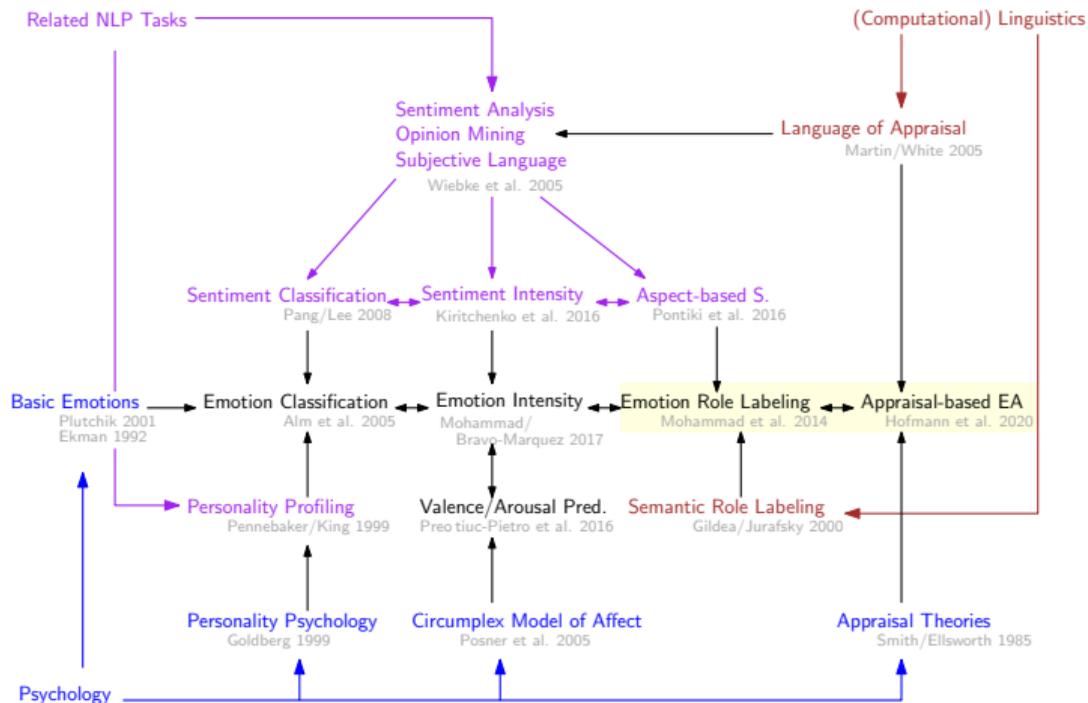
Emotion Analysis: What we want to do.



Subtasks and Their Relations



Embedding in the Research Landscape



Applications



- Literature analysis (arcs and character relations)
- Social media analysis
- News analysis
- Empathetic chatbots
- Understanding emotions from psychological perspective
- Fact checking, deception detection
- ...

Next Steps



- We will now: Discuss your challenges and topics you work on!

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