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# Article Unveiling Human Values: Analyzing Emotions behind Arguments

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Abstract: Detecting the underlying human values within arguments is essential across various domains, ranging from social sciences to recent computational approaches. Identifying these values 2 remains a significant challenge due to their vast numbers and implicit usage in discourse. This study explores the potential of emotion analysis as a key feature in improving the detection of human values 4 and information extraction from this field. It aims to gain insights into human behavior by applying 5 intensive analyses of different levels of human values. Additionally, we conduct experiments that integrate extracted emotion features to improve human value detection tasks. This approach holds the potential to provide fresh insights into the complex interactions between emotions and values within discussions, offering a deeper understanding of human behavior and decision making. Uncovering 9 these emotions is crucial for comprehending the characteristics that underlie various values through 10 data-driven analyses. Our experiment results show improvement in the performance of human value 11 detection tasks in many categories. 12

Keywords: human values, emotion analysis, language models, LLMs, GenAI

# 1. Introduction

Understanding human values is a multifaceted endeavor that lies at the intersection of psychology, sociology, and philosophy. Values are the fundamental beliefs that guide individuals' behaviors, decisions, and perceptions of the world around them. While values are often expressed through rational arguments and logical reasoning, they are also deeply intertwined with emotions. Emotions play a crucial role in shaping our values, influencing the way we perceive events, interact with others, and form opinions.

Analyzing fine-grained emotions from text is a significant part of extracting infor-21 mation from different texts, and utilizing emotion features can express more subtle and 22 complex sentiments and improve detection performance in various NLP tasks, such as mod-23 eling and emotion recognition in human behavior [1]. Unravelling these emotions becomes 24 vital for understanding the characteristics behind different values through data-driven 25 analyses. Fine-grained emotion analysis enables us to not only identify the overarching 26 emotions present in these interactions but also to distinguish between subtle emotional 27 nuances. For instance, it can differentiate between the anger fueled by perceived injustice 28 and the excitement of discovering a new perspective. Such distinctions are crucial for un-29 covering the motivations and thought processes that underlie individuals' value systems. 30

As an extension of our previous study [2], we aim to explore the complex relationship 31 between human values and emotions by focusing on the analysis of emotions behind 32 arguments. We recognize that arguments, whether they occur in everyday conversations, 33 political debates, or scholarly discourse, are not solely driven by logical reasoning but are 34 also profoundly influenced by the emotional factors that accompany them. By examining 35 the emotional aspects of arguments, we aim to uncover the emotional features underlying 36 different levels of human values that shape and inform these exchanges. In our analysis, 37 we extend beyond sentiment analysis as it provides a limited scope in capturing the 38

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complexity of human emotions. Fine-grained emotion analysis, on the other hand, provides a finer view, focusing on a wide range of emotions such as joy, sadness, surprise, fear, and disgust [3]. By incorporating this level of granularity into our analysis, we can gain a deeper understanding of how specific emotions influence the formation and evolution of human values.

As we delve deeper into this research, we investigate not only identifying emotions but also exploring the relationships between these emotions and different levels of human values. We seek to explore how emotions manifest in arguments and what they reveal about the values held by individuals and societies. Ultimately, we aim to conduct an experiment to utilize the extracted emotional features from arguments to improve the performance of the human value detection task.

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows: Section 2 presents an overview of the background knowledge and related works on human value detection and emotion analysis. Section 3 delves into the analysis of the emotional dimensions associated with human value levels. Our experimental results and findings are discussed in detail in Section 4. Finally, Section 5 concludes our work and outlines potential future directions for research in this field.

# 2. Background and Related Works

Human values are the fundamental beliefs and principles that guide individuals' behavior, decisions, and interactions with others. These values are deeply embedded within cultures and societies and serve as guiding principles for ethical behavior, shaping individuals' attitudes, priorities, and actions. They play a crucial role in shaping personal identity, social cohesion, and the overall fabric of society. Based on Schwartz's theory [4], there are basic values that are universally recognized across cultures such as Self-Enhancement, Self-Transcendence, Openness to Change, and Conservation. These values are structured in a circular pattern, with opposing values positioned opposite each other on the circle. Individuals and cultures may prioritize certain values over others, leading to variations in behavior, attitudes, and societal norms [5–8].

Human arguments are ways people express and confirm their values using different 67 styles, words, and goals. With digital communication being so widespread nowadays [9], 68 Kiesel et al. [16] introduced a comprehensive multi-level taxonomy of human values 69 considering natural language arguments, comprising 54 distinct values categorized on four 70 levels, as depicted in Figure 1. However, the task of detecting human values via machine 71 learning algorithms is challenging due to the sheer diversity of values and their often 72 implicit presence within arguments. In this regard, a dataset has been introduced in task 73 4 of the SemEval 2023 for Identifying Human Values behind Arguments (https://touche. 74 webis.de/clef24/touche24-web/human-value-detection.html accessed on 28 March 2024) 75 that incorporates over 9000 arguments mapped to a consolidated multi-level taxonomy [10]. 76 Consequently, recent research efforts have been dedicated to enhancing the effectiveness 77 of such detection methodologies that contain a variety of approaches aimed at refining 78 the performance of algorithms tasked with identifying and categorizing human values 79 within the discourse landscape [11,12]. For example, from an architectural perspective, 80 Schroter et al. reached the best-performing approach by ensembling transformer-based 81 models [13], and Hemati et al. proposed a two-stage pipeline architecture called Label 82 Graph Transformer to find the interactions between labels [14]. In [15], the authors proposed 83 a similarity-aware model by taking a similarity score approach. 84



**Figure 1.** Illustration of the taxonomy of human values and their hierarchical levels (1–4), selected for their relevance in social science research [16]. Level 1 is associated with 54 values, which are classified into the more abstract categories found at levels 2–4.

Emotions and sentiments play a major role in extracting knowledge from different 85 sources. Therefore, the tasks of emotion detection and sentiment analysis have gained 86 significant attention in recent years [17,18]. Leveraging emotion features extracted from 87 various sources has proven to be beneficial in enhancing performance across a multitude 88 of domain-specific tasks. For example, Bandhakavi et al. [19] harnessed weakly labelled 89 data from blogs, news headlines, and tweets to extract effective features for emotion 90 classification. In the question-answering task, Gui et al. [20] introduced a novel approach 91 that extracts both word-level sequence features and lexical features to improve emotion 92 cause extraction. Furthermore, fine-grained emotion features have demonstrated their 93 efficacy in enhancing the performance of implicit hate speech detection within a multi-task 94 setup alongside sentiment analysis [21].

To the best of our knowledge, previous studies have not explored the utilization of emotion features in human value detection tasks. Therefore, following a thorough review and extraction of emotions associated with various levels of human values, we aim to leverage these features to enhance the effectiveness of human value detection by extending our previous study [2].

#### 3. Emotion Analysis of Human Values

In this study, we analyzed fine-grained emotions utilizing the three taxonomies provided by the GoEmotions model [22]. The original taxonomy of this model comprised 27 emotions including the neutral category, which is a finer-grained version of two other taxonomies: Hierarchical Grouping (positive, negative, ambiguous) and Ekman's six main emotion categories (anger, disgust, fear, joy, sadness, surprise) including neutral. However, we ignored the 'Neutral' label from our analysis to focus more on the conflicting emotion combinations in our analysis.

To extract emotion knowledge from arguments, we utilized a human value dataset containing 9324 arguments in total [10]. The human value dataset was generated based on the taxonomy with four different levels (Figure 1).

Level 1 is associated with 54 fine-grained values, sourced from cross-cultural social science studies. Each value encapsulates a widely accepted belief that aligns with the principles of psychology. While some values such as 'Have a stable society' or 'Be responsible' are commonly accepted among different people and societies, others

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such as 'Be holding religious faith' or 'Have freedom of action' may provoke more controversy owing to variations in priorities among individuals and cultures.

- Level 2 encounters value categories, which contain 20 distinct categories associated with the 54 values. These categories span a broad spectrum, including facets like Self-direction, Universalism, and Benevolence, offering a comprehensive framework for understanding human values across different dimensions.
- Level 3 introduces higher-order value conflicts, drawing upon Schwartz's work [4]. 122 This level explores conflicts such as openness to change versus conservation and self-transcendence versus self-enhancement, shedding light on the intricate dynamics between contrasting sets of values. 125
- Level 4 comprises two sublevels. Level 4a focuses on different personal and social focus, considering the divergent motivational tendencies underlying individual and collective value systems. Meanwhile, Level 4b further divides into Self-protection, Anxiety-avoidance, and Growth, Anxiety-free, offering insights into the underlying motivations that drive human behavior in pursuit of value fulfilment.

We employed the Huggingface implementation of the GoEmotion model (https: 131 //github.com/monologg/GoEmotions-pytorch accessed on 28 March 2024) to quantify 132 emotions associated with each value category. This Transformer-based model computes 133 a probabilistic score for each emotion, ranging from 0 to 1, where the higher score for the 134 output emotion shows a higher possibility of containing that emotion, offering insights 135 into the likelihood of its occurrence. For our experiments, after testing different thresholds 136 for the model, we set the threshold at 0.1 to encompass a broad spectrum of emotions in 137 the output model for each value. 138

Using the above taxonomies and datasets, we explored the distribution of extracted 139 emotions across three emotion levels (positive, negative, ambiguous) within each human 140 value category (level 2). This analysis primarily focused on level 2 emotion analysis, which 141 serves as the foundation for evaluating both baseline and proposed models in Section 4. 142 Figure 2 illustrates the visual representation of the emotional landscape associated with 143 different values. This distribution shows that while there is a bias in the number of 144 arguments in each human value category, each argument contains more than one emotion 145 label, especially positive emotions. 146



**Figure 2.** The number of extracted emotions from each human value category (Level 2). (The total number of arguments corresponding to the value category is shown in front of each category). It shows the bias distribution of arguments in each category; however, there is at least one emotion assigned to the argument.

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#### 3.1. Levels 1 and 3 Analysis

We initiated our emotion analysis focusing on the 54 human values at level 1 of the 148 taxonomy, along with their corresponding higher-order human values at level 3, employing 149 the Ekman setup. As depicted in Figure 3, our findings suggest that 'joy' is a prevalent 150 positive emotion linked to these human values with the 'Have freedom of Action' as the 151 strongest associated human value while 'anger' stands out as a dominant negative emotion 152 category. We observed that the rest of the negative emotional categories, namely disgust, 153 fear, and sadness, rank notably lower across nearly all human values. However, 'surprise' 154 exhibits a relatively uniform distribution across various human value categories. 155

The level 1 analysis helped us to understand how emotions generally spread among all values and how individuals emotionally engage with and respond to different values.



**Figure 3.** Network model of Ekman emotion label (in gray color nodes) with target human values at level 1. Colored nodes represent the corresponding level 3 human value labels and edge size based on the label frequency of the emotion assigned to the value. It shows the overall tendency of 'joy' (as positive) and 'anger' (as negative) emotions but with different distributions at level 3.

Upon taking a broader perspective at the higher-order level of human values, we observe distinct patterns within the contrasting value categories. Specifically, a detailed examination of Figure 3 reveals that values such as 'Be polite', 'Be respectful of traditions', and 'Be humble', all fall under the 'Conservation' category, exhibiting a more balanced distribution of emotions compared to values categorized under 'Openness to Change', which tend to lean towards positive emotions.

Indeed, the same pattern is not as explicitly observed when contrasting the categories of 'self-transcendence' and 'self-enhancement' concerning positive emotions. Conversely, when examining negative emotions, 'self-enhancement' values exhibit a relatively lower overall percentage compared to 'self-transcendence' values.

These contradictions offer valuable insights that can be used to enhance the performance of human value detection in our experiments. By leveraging these nuances, we can refine our methodologies to better discern and interpret the intricate connections between emotions and human values.

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# 3.2. Level 2 Analysis

Transitioning to level 2 of our human values analysis, we utilized the original con-173 figuration of the emotion model with 27 emotions to obtain a broader perspective of 174 various emotion distributions. Our analysis focused on fine-grained emotions, consisting 175 of 27 emotions categorized into three main groups: positive, negative, and ambiguous. 176 As depicted in Figure 4, in positive emotions, most human values align with the 'Ap-177 proval' category followed by 'optimism', 'admiration', and 'caring' as the next favored 178 positive emotions. The other positive emotions contain a small portion of overall distribu-179 tions. Considering negative emotions, 'disapproval' and 'annoyance' emerge as dominant 180 categories. 181

This observation suggests that during arguments centered on negative opinions, individuals often aim to express disapproval of certain values or experiences that evoke annoyance, while positive opinions tend to convey approval of specific values. Furthermore, the prevalence of 'realization' among ambiguous emotions indicates that these values do not strongly lean towards either approval or disapproval. Notably, these emotional nuances hold significant potential as additional features for enhancing the classification process.

Moreover, given that the dataset comprises arguments structured with a premise, a conclusion, and a stance indicator specifying whether the premise supports or opposes the conclusion, it is noteworthy that the extracted emotions predominantly reflect opposing sentiments, such as 'approval' and 'disapproval'.

In conclusion, the extracted information from emotion distribution in all human value levels highlights the significance of particular emotions with varying polarities in human value arguments, suggesting their potential as valuable features for enhancing the performance of human value detection algorithms which are presented in the next section.



**Figure 4.** Fine-grained emotion distribution of human values. The y-axis represents the value category of the dataset at level 2, and the x-axis shows the fine-grained emotions from the original taxonomy of GoEmotions. The blue color in this heatmap is assigned for emotions under positive sentiment categories, and red and orange indicate emotions of negative and ambiguous categories, respectively, [2].

# 4. Results and Discussion

We experimented to assess the influence of utilizing emotion features in the human 197 value classification for the detection of human values at level 2 (to compare the performance with the reported results in the base paper [10]). First, we acquired the emotion features 199 from the argument dataset and then we passed these features to the main BERT model 200 [23]. By augmenting the extracted emotion features with textual features, we generated the 201 results presented in Table 1. These findings highlight the considerable advantages of incor-202 porating emotion-related data into assessing human values. Our model (BERT + emotions) 203 consistently surpassed the 1-Baseline across all evaluated categories. Notably, compared 204 to the primary BERT model, we achieved a 2% increase in micro-average performance, 205 with particularly substantial improvements observed in categories such as 'Stimulation', 206 'Face', 'Humility', and 'Benevolence: dependability'. Overall, our model performed better 207 in 12 categories out of 20 and is equal to the base BERT model in 2 categories. 208

	<b>BERT + Emotions</b>			1-Baseline	BERT
Value Category	Precision	Recall	F1-Score	F1-Score	
Self-direction: thought	0.33	0.64	0.44	0.17	0.44
Self-direction: action	0.42	0.75	0.54	0.40	0.55
Stimulation	0.16	0.52	0.24	0.09	0.05
Hedonism	0.21	0.84	0.34	0.03	0.20
Achievement	0.47	0.73	0.57	0.41	0.56
Power: dominance	0.20	0.57	0.30	0.13	0.29
Power: resources	0.39	0.77	0.52	0.12	0.44
Face	0.19	0.55	0.28	0.12	0.13
Security: personal	0.62	0.89	0.73	0.51	0.74
Security: societal	0.45	0.88	0.60	0.40	0.59
Tradition	0.35	0.45	0.39	0.19	0.43
Conformity: rules	0.38	0.77	0.51	0.31	0.47
Conformity: interpersonal	0.19	0.30	0.23	0.07	0.23
Humility	0.20	0.44	0.28	0.09	0.07
Benevolence: caring	0.41	0.88	0.56	0.35	0.46
Benevolence: dependability	0.33	0.66	0.44	0.19	0.14
Universalism: concern	0.49	0.93	0.64	0.54	0.67
Universalism: nature	0.49	0.86	0.62	0.17	0.71
Universalism: tolerance	0.17	0.44	0.25	0.22	0.32
Universalism: objectivity	0.39	0.65	0.49	0.46	0.33
macro avg	0.32	0.68	0.44	0.26	0.42

Table 1. Experimental result of human value classification (level 2) using emotion features and comparison with 1-Baseline and the main BERT model.

In evaluating our model's performance, we selected three distinct categories that 209 showed different patterns in performance. Firstly, in the 'Stimulation' category comprising 210 247 arguments, our model demonstrated significant improvements compared to both 211 the baseline and the primary BERT model, achieving an accuracy of 0.24, surpassing the 212 respective scores of 0.09 and 0.05.

Secondly, in the 'Conformity: interpersonal' category, which consisted of 207 arguments, our model did not exhibit any improvement compared to the base BERT model, yielding an accuracy of 0.23.

Lastly, in the 'Universalism: nature' category encompassing 427 arguments, while our model managed to outperform the baseline, it fell short of surpassing the performance of 218 the primary BERT model (0.62 vs. 0.71).

To unravel the influence of emotional features within these three selected categories, 220 we delved into 27 fine-grained emotions, selecting two positive categories (approval and 221 optimism), two negative categories (annoyance and disapproval), and one ambiguous 222 category (realization) as the dominant emotion categories among all. 223

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As depicted in Figure 5, our model exhibited its strongest performance when the dis-224 tribution of positive emotions (approval and optimism) outweighed the negative emotions 225 (42.7% for positive vs. 13.7% for negative of overall emotion distribution). Conversely, 226 in categories where negative emotions dominated, such as 'Conformity: interpersonal', 227 with a prevalence of 41.6%, our model only marginally outperformed the baseline, with 228 emotion features failing to enhance the performance of the main BERT model. Interestingly, 229 when confronted with an even distribution of positive and negative emotions, our model 230 struggled to match the performance of the primary BERT model. This disparity could 231 potentially stem from a lack of bias in the emotion distribution. 232

While these overarching patterns shed light on the interplay between emotion dis-<br/>tribution and model performance, it is crucial to acknowledge that other variables may<br/>also contribute to the poor performance of the model in some categories. For instance, the<br/>limited number of arguments for various human value categories could hinder the model's<br/>ability to effectively generalize across diverse datasets. Exploring these additional factors<br/>will be instrumental in further refining our understanding and improving the performance<br/>of our models in human value detection tasks.233



**Figure 5.** The distribution of dominant emotion categories for the three selected human value categories where our model outperformed both the baseline and BERT (Stimulation), where there was no improvement compared to BERT (Conformity: interpersonal), and where it failed to reach base BERT performance (Universalism: nature).

To gain a better understanding of the results gained by our model and the relation 240 between various emotions with human value categories, we employed the Pearson cor-241 relation coefficient, a robust statistical method widely recognized for evaluating linear 242 relationships between variables. To comprehensively analyze the spectrum of emotions 243 in human values, we conducted correlation analyses specifically between Hierarchical 244 Grouping emotions (positive, negative, ambiguous) in levels 3 and 4 of human values, since 245 these two levels show contradicting perspectives from human values and may be a good 246 perspective from which to analyze the reason for lower performances in related categories. 247 The Pearson correlation is calculated as follows, where  $x_i$  and  $y_i$  represent individual data 248 points and  $\bar{x}$  and  $\bar{y}$  are their respective means. The correlation coefficient (r) ranges from 249 -1 to 1, where 1 indicates a perfect positive and linear relationship, -1 indicates a perfect 250 negative linear relationship, and 0 indicates no linear relationship between emotion labels 251 in human value categories. 252

$$r = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - \bar{x})^2} \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \bar{y})^2}}$$

The correlation analysis conducted on levels 3 and 4 of human values provides in-253 sightful findings, as presented in Tables 2 and 3. Across all emotion labels, we consistently 254 observe high levels of correlation between emotion categories. However, our emotion 255 model generally fell short of outperforming the base BERT model in most categories, falling 256 under the 'Self-transcendence' category at level 3. Correspondingly, the correlation results 257 for this category also exhibit lower values compared to other categories. 258

In contrast, our model exhibited superior performance in all subcategories of 'Self-259 enhancement', surpassing both the baseline and the main BERT model, with the correlation values also reaching the highest levels for this category.

Taking a closer look at Table 2, when comparing the Social Focus category with the 262 Personal Focus category, while the output for negative and positive emotions appears 263 quite similar, notable differences emerge in the ambiguous and positive emotions, with 264 correlations of 0.8266 for Social Focus and 0.9648 for Personal Focus. 265

Within the Self-protection and Anxiety-avoidance category, the correlation results 266 consistently exceed 0.95 for all emotions, indicating strong associations. Conversely, in 267 the Growth and Anxiety-free category, correlations do not surpass 0.88. This variance in 268 emotion distribution patterns among related values in this category may contribute to the 269 observed discrepancy. 270

	Op	enness to Cha	ange		Conservation	n
	Positive	Negative	Ambiguous	Positive	Negative	Ambiguous
Positive	-	0.8746	0.8626	-	0.9779	0.9732
Negative	0.8746	-	0.8931	0.9779	-	0.9890
Ambiguous	0.8626	0.8931	-	0.9732	0.9890	-
	Self-transcendence			Self-enhancement		
	Positive	Negative	Ambiguous	Positive	Negative	Ambiguous
Positive	-	0.9498	0.7106	-	0.9919	0.9975
Negative	0.9498	-	0.7685	0.9919	-	0.9882
Ambiguous	0.7106	0.7685	-	0.9975	0.9882	-

Table 2. Pearson correlations among emotions in level 3 (Openness to change vs. Conservation) and (Self-transcendence vs. Self-enhancement).

Table 3. Pearson correlations among emotions in level 4a (Social and Personal focus) and level 4b (Self-protection, Anxiety-avoidance and Growth, Anxiety-free).

	Social Focus			Personal Focus			
	Positive	Negative	Ambiguous	Positive	Negative	Ambiguous	
Positive	-	0.9593	0.8266	-	0.9653	0.9648	
Negative	0.9593	-	0.8415	0.9653	-	0.8865	
Ambiguous	0.8266	0.8415	-	0.9648	0.8865	-	
	Self-protection, Anxiety-avoidance			Growth, Anxiety-free			
	Positive	Negative	Ambiguous	Positive	Negative	Ambiguous	
Positive	-	0.9593	0.9634	-	0.8674	0.8731	
Negative	0.9593	-	0.9769	0.8674	-	0.8434	
Ambiguous	0.9634	0.9769	-	0.8731	0.8434	-	

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### 5. Conclusion and Future Works

In the initial stages of our comprehensive analysis, we illuminated the diverse dis-272 tribution of emotions across various human value categories, laying the foundation for 273 the integration of these features into our classification model. This insightful exploration 274 prompted the innovative idea of harnessing emotion-related information to enrich the 275 classification process. By incorporating these emotion features, we not only deepen our 276 understanding of human values but also enhance the effectiveness of the classification 277 model, underscoring the potential for significant advancements in this domain. Our analy-278 sis revealed diverse emotional patterns, including using contradictory emotions such as 279 'approval' and 'disapproval' within various human value categories. Additionally, via a 280 correlation analysis, we unveiled the connections between emotions within each human 281 value category. Ultimately, by incorporating emotion features into our experimental setup, 282 we demonstrated an enhanced performance in detecting human values compared to the 283 baseline method. 284

In our future research, we plan to build upon our findings by constructing a compre-285 hensive knowledge graph using insights from emotional features and exploring additional 286 methods for extracting information related to human values. Additionally, we tend to 287 extract more complex relationships between emotion and human values by utilizing struc-288 tural equation modeling. We also aim to leverage large language models (LLMs) and 289 innovative techniques like chain-of-thought (CoT) prompting to enhance our reasoning ca-290 pabilities. This integrated approach, combining emotion-driven analysis, knowledge graph 291 development, and LLM-based reasoning, represents our strategic vision for advancing 292 human value detection tasks through interdisciplinary analysis. 293

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