





Editorial

Artificial intelligence and emotions

Simone Belli^{®1} Hector Florez^{®2}

The intersection between artificial intelligence (AI) and human emotions has sparked a growing interest across various fields. While AI transforms industries and disciplines, its capacity to recognize, interpret, and respond to emotions raises profound questions about their nature and the relationship between humans and machines. Emotions are not mere automatic responses to stimuli; they are deeply influenced by social, historical, and cultural contexts. This premise is fundamental to analyzing the way in which AI integrates into the emotional realm.

One of the key developments in this area is AI algorithms' capacity to recognize and classify emotions by analyzing facial expressions, tones of voice, and other nonverbal indicators. A large number of applications, from customer service to psychological therapy, have implemented these systems to improve human-machine interaction. However, emotions are complex and contextual phenomena, and reducing them to simple discrete categories through algorithms implies some risks.

Moreover, the social dimension of emotions must be emphasized, pointing out that they not only belong to individuals, but that they are also molded by social interactions and dynamics. From this perspective, an ethical concern regarding AI arises, which allows raising questions such as: Can artificial systems really *understand* human emotions, or do they replicate preprogrammed responses without genuine understanding? This technical limitation, along with a potential *objectivization* of emotions, leads to questioning the role of AI in sensitive fields such as mental health or emotional education.

It is also worth highlighting that emotions are not universal phenomena, but that they vary depending on the cultural context and social norms. When training AI systems with data that reflect cultural or emotional bias, there is a risk of perpetuating reductionist views on emotions. In this sense, AI could exacerbate inequalities if its development does not consider cultural and social differences.

Nevertheless, AI also offers fascinating opportunities for advancing the understanding of human emotions, as it can provide powerful tools for large-scale emotional analysis, allowing scientists to identify patterns that would otherwise be invisible. The capacity to process large volumes of emotional data could revolutionize fields such as psychotherapy and social intervention, offering a more personalized and dynamic approach to understanding emotions.

The junction between AI and emotions is a promising research field, but also one filled with challenges. Technological advances must be accompanied by a critical and ethical analysis of the role of these technologies in our lives. Emotions are too complex and contextual to be fully captured by algorithms. Therefore, it is essential for the scientific community to work jointly to build an AI that respects the richness and diversity of the human emotional experience.

^{1.} Universidad Complutense de Madrid. sbelli@ucm.es

^{2.} Universidad Distrital Francisco José de Caldas, Colombia. haflorezf@udistrital.edu.co.