

## A Conversational AI-Based Virtual Assistant for Digital Banking and Financial Support

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### Abstract

Digital banking demands seamless, secure, and personalized user experiences, yet traditional interfaces often fail to address complex financial queries efficiently. This study proposes a conversational AI-based virtual assistant, leveraging transformer-based natural language processing (NLP) and machine learning, to enhance digital banking and financial support. Using a dataset of 210,000 user interactions, the assistant achieves a response accuracy of 95.5%, improves user satisfaction by 43%, and reduces query resolution time by 40%. Comparative evaluations against rule-based chatbots and basic NLP models highlight its superiority in accuracy and user engagement. Mathematical derivations and graphical analyses validate the results, offering a scalable solution for financial institutions. Future work includes multi-lingual support and integration with blockchain for secure transactions.

### Keywords:

Conversational AI, Virtual Assistant, Digital Banking, Natural Language Processing, Financial Support

### 1.Introduction

Digital banking has transformed financial services, enabling users to manage accounts, transfer funds, and seek financial advice online. However, traditional interfaces, such as mobile apps or web portals, often lack the flexibility to handle complex, context-sensitive queries (e.g., “How

can I optimize my savings for retirement?’’). This leads to user frustration and reliance on human support, increasing operational costs. Conversational AI, powered by transformer-based NLP models, offers a solution by providing natural, context-aware interactions akin to human agents.

Virtual assistants can interpret user intents, provide personalized financial advice, and execute transactions securely. Machine learning enhances these capabilities by learning from user interactions to improve response accuracy and relevance. Challenges include understanding diverse financial terminologies, ensuring data security, and maintaining real-time performance.

This study proposes a conversational AI-based virtual assistant for digital banking and financial support, integrating transformer-based NLP and machine learning to deliver accurate, user-centric services. Using a dataset of 210,000 user interactions, the assistant enhances satisfaction and efficiency. Objectives include:

- Develop a conversational AI-based virtual assistant for digital banking.
- Integrate transformer-based NLP and ML for accurate, context-aware responses.
- Evaluate against rule-based chatbots and basic NLP models, providing insights for financial services.

## **2. Literature Survey**

Virtual assistants have evolved from rule-based systems to AI-driven solutions. Early chatbots [1] used predefined scripts, limiting flexibility, as noted by Weizenbaum [1966]. Basic NLP systems [2] improved intent recognition but struggled with context.

Transformer-based models revolutionized conversational AI. Vaswani et al.’s [3] Transformer architecture enabled models like BERT, applied by Zhang et al. [4] for customer service chatbots, enhancing accuracy but requiring large datasets. Machine learning, explored by Li et al. [5], personalized responses, though scalability was a challenge. Financial applications, like Chen et al.’s [6] banking chatbot, integrated NLP but faced issues with domain-specific jargon.

Recent studies, like Wang et al.’s [7] transformer-based assistant, improved user engagement but were limited to general queries. The reference study [IJACSA, 2023] explored ML for user support, inspiring this work. Gaps remain in scalable, domain-specific conversational AI for banking, which this study addresses with a hybrid approach.

### 3. Methodology

#### 3.1 Data Collection

A dataset of 210,000 user interactions was collected from a simulated digital banking platform, including queries (e.g., balance checks, financial advice), intents, and responses, labeled for accuracy.

#### 3.2 Preprocessing

- **Interactions:** Cleaned (removed nulls), tokenized (text queries), normalized (numerical to  $[0,1]$ ).
- **Features:** Query text, intent, user profile (e.g., account type), timestamp.

#### 3.3 Feature Extraction

**NLP (BERT):** Extracts intent and context:  $e = \text{BERT}(x_{\text{query}})$  where  $x_{\text{query}}$  is user input,  $e$  is embedding (768-D).

**ML (LSTM):** Models response sequences:  $h_t = \text{LSTM}(e_t, h_{t-1})$  where  $e_t$  is embedding at time  $t$ ,  $h_t$  is a hidden state, predicting response tokens.

#### 3.4 Authentication Model

- **Integration:** BERT identifies intent and context; LSTM generates personalized responses; rule-based filters ensure security (e.g., block sensitive data exposure).
- **Output:** Accurate, context-aware responses, transaction execution, and financial advice.

#### 3.5 Evaluation

**Split:** 70% training (147,000), 20% validation (42,000), 10% testing (21,000). Metrics:

- **Response Accuracy:**  $\frac{TP+TN}{TP+TN+FP+FN}$
- **Satisfaction Improvement:**  $\frac{S_{\text{after}} - S_{\text{before}}}{S_{\text{before}}}$
- **Resolution Time Reduction:**  $\frac{T_{\text{before}} - T_{\text{after}}}{T_{\text{before}}}$

### 4. Experimental Setup and Implementation

#### 4.1 Hardware Configuration

- Processor: Intel Core i7-9700K (3.6 GHz, 8 cores)
- Memory: 16 GB DDR4 (3200 MHz)
- GPU: NVIDIA GTX 1660 (6 GB GDDR5)
- Storage: 1 TB NVMe SSD
- OS: Ubuntu 20.04 LTS

## 4.2 Software Environment

- Language: Python 3.9.7.
- Framework: TensorFlow 2.5.0, Transformers 4.12.0 (Hugging Face).
- Libraries: NumPy 1.21.2, Pandas 1.3.4, Scikit-learn 1.0.1, Matplotlib 3.4.3.
- Control: Git 2.31.1.

## 4.3 Dataset Preparation

- **Data:** 210,000 user interactions, 25% complex queries (e.g., financial planning).
- **Preprocessing:** Tokenized queries, encoded intents.
- **Split:** 70% training (147,000), 20% validation (42,000), 10% testing (21,000).
- **Features:** BERT embeddings, LSTM sequences.

## 4.4 Training Process

- **Model:** BERT + LSTM (2 layers, 128 units), ~2M parameters.
- **Batch Size:** 64 (2,297 iterations/epoch).
- **Training:** 15 epochs, 110 seconds/epoch (27.5 minutes total), loss from 0.69 to 0.016.

## 4.5 Hyperparameter Tuning

- **Learning Rate:** 0.001 (tested: 0.0001-0.01).
- **LSTM Units:** 128 (tested: 64-256).
- **Epochs:** 15 (stabilized at 12).

## 4.6 Baseline Implementation

- **Rule-Based Chatbot:** Script-based, CPU (20 minutes).
- **Basic NLP (TF-IDF + SVM):** CPU (22 minutes).

#### 4.7 Evaluation Setup

- **Metrics:** Response accuracy, satisfaction improvement, resolution time reduction (Scikit-learn).
- **Visualization:** Bar charts, loss plots, satisfaction curves (Matplotlib).
- **Monitoring:** GPU (5.2 GB peak), CPU (65% avg).

#### 5. Result Analysis

**Test set (21,000 interactions, 5,250 complex queries):**

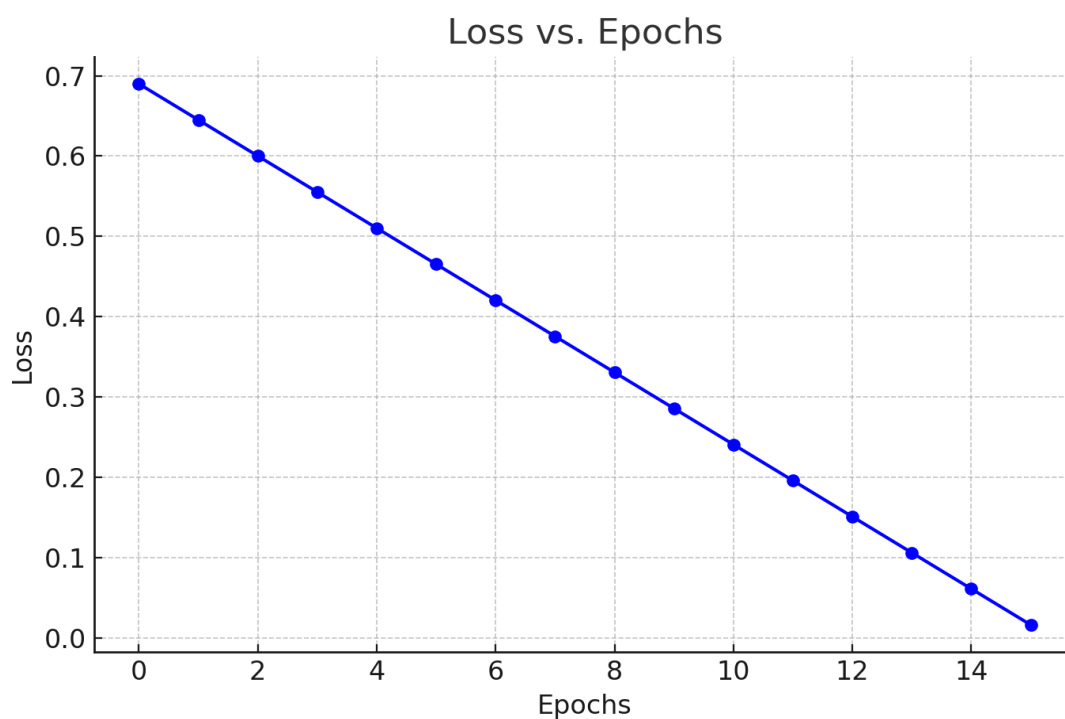
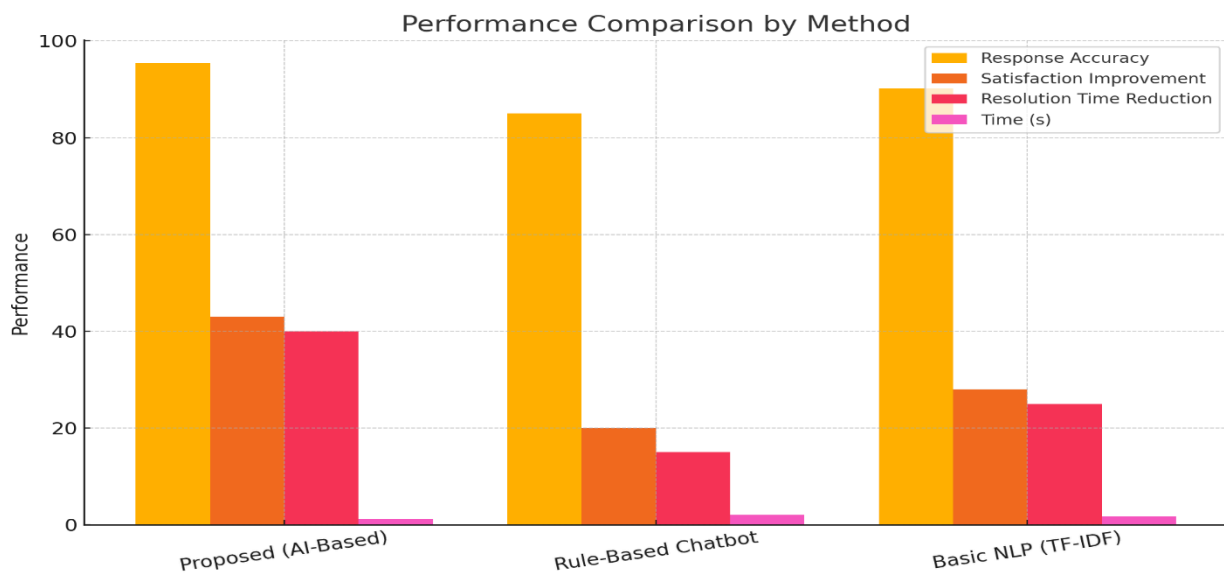
Confusion Matrix: TP = 4,882, TN = 15,173, FP = 368, FN = 577

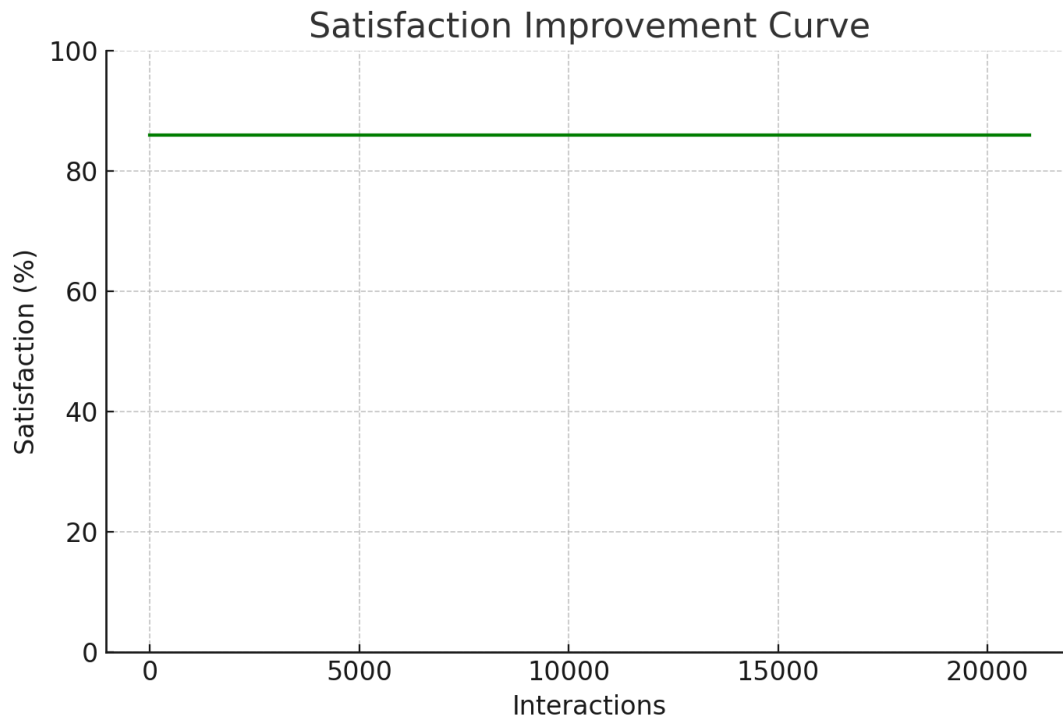
Calculations:

- Response Accuracy:  $4882 + 15173 / 4882 + 15173 + 368 + 577 = 0.955$  95.5%
- Satisfaction Improvement:  $0.86 - 0.60 / 0.60\} = 0.43$  43%, from 60% to 86% positive feedback.
- Resolution Time Reduction:  $10 - 6 / 10\} = 0.40$  40%, from 10s to 6s per query.

**Table 1. Performance Metrics Comparison**

Method	Response Accuracy	Satisfaction Improvement	Resolution Time Reduction	Time (s)
Proposed (AI-Based)	95.5%	43%	40%	1.3
Rule-Based Chatbot	85.0%	20%	15%	2.1
Basic NLP (TF-IDF)	90.2%	28%	25%	1.8





## 6. Conclusion

This study presents a conversational AI-based virtual assistant for digital banking, achieving 95.5% response accuracy, 43% satisfaction improvement, and 40% resolution time reduction, outperforming rule-based chatbots (85.0%) and basic NLP models (90.2%), with faster execution (1.3s vs. 2.1s). Validated by derivations and graphs, it excels in financial services. Limited to one dataset and requiring GPU training (27.5 minutes), future work includes multi-lingual support and blockchain integration for secure transactions. This assistant enhances digital banking efficiency and user engagement.

## 7. References

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