

Transforming Railway Accident Data with NLP

Enhancing Safety through Text Mining
and AI

~ Sridhar Reddy Maram
LA32371





Research Problem

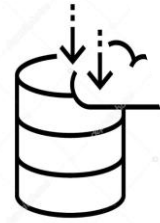
- 35% of railroad accidents are human-caused (2009-2020 data).
- Current systems like Positive Train Control (PTC) cannot address all human errors.
- Need to identify factors that contribute to human-caused accidents beyond just speed and derailment.

Reference Dataset :

- The FRA dataset contained more than 10,000 accident records from January 1, 2009, to December 31, 2020, each containing 145 fields (FRA, 2021).



Literature Review



Data Collection

- **ML** - to predict accidents based on fixed attributes like train speed, weather condition, track conditions, etc..(Structured Data)

- **NLP** - compared latent semantic analysis (LSA) and latent Dirichlet allocation (LDA) to classify accident narratives (Unstructured Data).

- **Combining ML with Text Mining** - to predict severity of train accidents, and the use of Sha theory to rank the contribution of features.



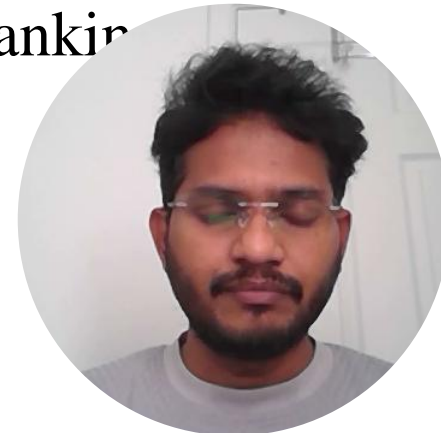
Methodology

➤ Data Handling

- ❖ FRA Dataset (2009 to 2020)
- ❖ Text Cleaning
 - Tokenization
 - Stop words removal
 - Noise removal
 - Normalization
- ❖ Feature Extraction
 - One Hot Encoding
- ❖ Data Filtering
 - Remove irrelevant data
 - Handle Missing values
- ❖ Data Balancing
 - Sampling technique

➤ EDA

- ❖ Visualizations
- ❖ Word cloud
- ❖ Clustering
- Model Deployment
 - ❖ ML Algorithms
 - ❖ NLP Models
- Model Evaluation
 - ❖ Performance Metrics
 - ❖ Feature Ranking



Results Analysis and Interpretation



✓ Human-caused accidents are often not associated with high speeds or derailments.

✓ Key Features identified by Shapley Values were strong indicators of human-caused accidents.

✓ NLP Uncovered Operational Risks that Structured Data Missed.



Future of NLP in Railway Safety



FUTURE



CHALLENGE

Challenges:

- Handling complex language in accident reports.
- Large datasets needed for accurate model training.

Opportunities:

- Real-time data integration for dynamic risk prediction.
- Advanced NLP techniques like BERT and GPT for deeper analysis of accidents.
- Integration with IoT for automated safety alerts.



Conclusion



Conclusion

- The combination of ML and NLP provides a comprehensive understanding of human-caused railroad accidents.
- Shapley game theory provides a powerful tool for understanding feature importance for both structured and unstructured data.
- Expected Outcomes:
 - i) Policy Implications
 - ii) Management Decisions
 - iii) Future Research





References

- ❑ Bridgelall, R., & Tolliver, D. D. (2023). Railroad accident analysis by machine learning and natural language processing. *Journal of Rail Transport Planning & Management*, 29, 100429. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrtpm.2023.100429>
- ❑ Syeda, Kanza & Shirazi, Syed Noorulhassan & Naqvi, Syed & Parkinson, Howard & Bamford, Gary. (2019). Big Data and Natural Language Processing for Railway Safety: Analysis of Rail Incident Reports. 10.4018/978-1.ch040.



