

AI-Driven Fraud Detection in Homeowners and Renters Insurance Claims

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Abstract

Homeowners and renters insurance claims are numerous and variable. Insurance carriers have every intention to pay legitimate claims, yet HRI insurance claims present unique challenges because the insured's loss is often due to a peril insured against. It is precisely this unpredictability associated with perils insured against that creates the greatest opportunity for fraud. The urgency to relieve the insured of his or her distress generally short-circuits the process of investigation. Moreover, the norm within the industry is to settle first and investigate later. This environment creates a breeding ground for both opportunistic and organized fraud. A substantial portion of the claims activity in the HRI space represents organized fraud perpetrated by groups who, based on their prior experiences, believe they can navigate around the later-in-the-process investigation hurdles without consequence. If these fraudsters can bypass the case management system and the carrier's investigative staff, then in the months and years ahead, they will refile and settle again and again and again, with impunity.

Internet search activity data provides unique insight into fraud risk. Search activity is a leading indicator of demand for many types of goods and services. Furthermore, the Internet search process is relatively frictionless. Estimates suggest that over 200 billion searches are conducted each year using major search engines; this number is rapidly growing. Consequently, the problem addressed in this paper is to develop a case management and decision support system that leverages existing online activity data to help insurance carriers identify potentially fraudulent HRI claims before settlement. As a response to the market need, the developed system provides a near real-time predictive infrastructure that allows for complementary offline predictive analytics and online predictive queries driven by state-of-the-art prediction models and predictive queries. Additionally, the proposed case management infrastructure allows for the development of both generic and customized backend and frontend case management modules that support claims processing across carriers.

Keywords: Homeowners And Renters Insurance, Insurance Claims Fraud, Predictive Fraud Detection, Opportunistic Fraud In Insurance, Organized Fraud Rings, Perils Insured Against, Case Management Systems, Decision Support Infrastructure, Internet Search Data Analysis, Real-Time Fraud Prediction, Predictive Analytics In Insurance, Online Predictive Queries, Fraudulent Claim Identification, Claims Settlement Risks, Insurance Fraud Prevention, Behavioral Indicators Of Fraud, Customized Case Management Modules, Search Behavior As Fraud Signal, Insurance Industry Fraud Challenges, Claims Processing Enhancement.

1. Introduction

Increasingly, (re)insurers faced difficulties associated with growing competition and tightening margins. This led to a focus on operational efficiency and cost-cutting and together with the growth of data analytics tools led to an increase in research work related to (re)insurers' operational matters, particularly underwriting, claims, and fraud operation. Fraudulent activity related to (re)insurers' claims operations has a long history; however, they have become an increasing issue in the industry over the past decade. Therefore, the purpose of this report is to summarize and describe key works related to AI in the field of fraud detection, particularly for homeowners insurance and renters insurance. This includes both works that especially focus on analysis and insights from a data context, as well as those that, more traditionally, look at selected AI methods.

In particular, in our report we (1) identify and describe the major works in the field of fraud detection for homeowners and renters insurance. We recognize that much of the existing publications are vendor-focused and tend to discuss their tools; (2) be specific regarding the key areas of application for AI in fraud detection for homeowners and renters insurance claims; (3) discuss some considered comments regarding the broader implications of the deployment of AI in fraud detection and what the current state of research suggests for the future of this application within insurance.



Fig 1 : AI-Powered Insurance Fraud Detection with AI Agents

1.1. Purpose and Scope of the Report

The insurance industry has long been a target for fraudulent activities. The property/casualty insurance industry estimated that the direct cost of all crime-related insurance fraud was \$6.2 billion in 2017. A longtime insurance fraud investigator estimated that a whopping \$80 billion is lost to non-health insurance fraud annually, including up to \$32 billion in property and casualty insurance. Homeowners' insurance costs have increased significantly over the last few years. Homeowners insurance premiums increased about 50% from 2008 to 2017, from approximately the average premium was \$763 in 2008 to \$1,208 in 2017. And this upward trend is expected to continue. Meanwhile, a report showed that claim fraud in almost any line of insurance could increase premiums.

In response, many insurers have begun to adopt advanced technologies including Artificial Intelligence (AI) – Machine Learning (ML) algorithms that promise to help their companies identify more suspicious claims or higher-risk customers. These technologies allow analysts to process massive data sets quickly and reliably and increase their effectiveness at estimating loss costs and pricing individual policies, especially for lines that have previously relied entirely on historical analysis and judgment-based adjustments to building loss cost predictions. These capabilities enhance the potential for significantly improved underwriting surveillance of individual policies across diverse risk classes. Both the predictive model power and the, particularly for the older IA markets, easier empirical calibration would be achieved through combining financial, weather risk, and CAT model-driven hazard data with external AI, internet, and more traditional data.

2. Understanding Insurance Fraud

Insurance fraud is one of the most frequent and costliest financial crimes perpetuated globally by insurance companies. Insurance fraud involves deception and dishonesty for financial gain. The organization generates revenue and spreads risk among its policyholders by offering coverage for various payouts in case of unexpected circumstances like a house fire or theft. However, some insurance policyholders can be found taking advantage of the organization instead of sharing the risk. Such individuals create fraudulent claims against the organization to avail of monetary benefits. As a result, such activities increase the operational cost of the insurance organizations. The insurance company includes this expense in the premium amount paid by a policyholder, thus passing the financial burden to the honest customers. This gives rise to insurance fraud. With the advent of Artificial Intelligence, the ability to analyze large amounts of data has become a crucial point of understanding user behavior and market trends. AI provides companies with the tools to detect what was once very difficult to uncover manually. For the insurance industry, AI simplifies these algorithms further than traditional statistical-based models.

Types of Insurance Fraud

The insurance fraud may be caused either due to the insurer or the insured. Although such a general understanding of insurance fraud is common, there can also be certain types of fraud at the insurer's end as well. To determine the type of insurance fraud, it is generally understood that the action is illegal and carried out for monetary gain. Detection of such fraudulent activities can be performed by studying the patterns. Investigating for such further perspective may bring in new procedures to implement for specific designs. Under insurance fraud, there are two categories; we can further classify the fraudulent behavior into either soft frauds or hard frauds. Where the hard frauds consist of actions that are blatant dishonest acts and the soft frauds are then the actions that are gray areas, for example, lying about a policy for a lower premium on the claim.

Equation 1 : Fraud Probability Score (FPS):

P_f = Probability that a claim is fraudulent

σ = Sigmoid activation function

X = Feature vector (e.g., claim amount, claim timing, previous history)

θ = Model parameters

b = Bias term

$$P_f = \sigma(X \cdot \theta + b)$$

2.1. Types of Insurance Fraud

Insurance and reinsurance companies operate in a highly competitive environment, with profit margins under pressure. Almost every other business is in a situation where the cost of providing a service is higher than the money for providing these services. In general terms, insurance fraud can be committed against the government by falsely claiming benefits or reimbursement for services not rendered. In such cases, the cost is borne by taxpayers. Figures quoted range anywhere from 2% to 30% of the total health expenditure. Other frauds are perpetrated against private insurance companies by executives or employees who falsely utilize company funds for personal reasons, or against insurance companies by customers, doctors, hospitals, or external organizations.

Insurance fraud is defined as any act committed with the intent to fraudulently obtain payment from an insurance process. Cost estimates for fraud exceed \$100 billion annually. These frauds are not limited to increasing the cost of health insurance alone, but the different types of fraud committed against homeowners insurance companies can also result in inflated construction repair costs of fire or flood-damaged homes, false and inflated claims for flood, theft, earthquake, or fire damage, and vehicle break-ins. The frauds against renters insurance companies report bogus claims filed for theft or fire damage, fire bugs setting mines ablaze to cash in on renters insurance, along two-search delays on stolen property claims. Fraud can be committed for any insurance policy, but individuals who commit fraud against homeowners and renters insurance companies usually commit these fraudulent communications against auto insurance policies.

2.2. Impact of Fraud on Insurance Industry

Insurance is one of the largest economic contributors globally, generating significant revenues and claims. Customers entrust insurance companies with their hard-earned money, and policyholders receive from their insured alternate means of securing help when a loss occurs. There is a level of trust that customers rely on, and these firms must maintain. When faced with the unfortunate circumstance of loss, customers should not experience a financial burden; unfortunately, there are circumstances where claim submission is exaggerated or made falsely, and deceitful claims cause the entire insurance system to become inefficient. These individuals who file insurance claims fraudulently drive loss costs, which in turn create higher premium costs. The insurance companies then pass the increased expense incurred by fraudulent claims onto the law-abiding policyholders by way of increased premiums. Further, insurance company investigations into fraudulent activity are incredibly costly and labor-intensive. These companies utilize many means to determine whether a claim is fraudulent, including having a custom-built fraud detection system, implementing adaptive testing and different anomaly detection, or conducting a thorough human investigation.

Policyholders bear the costs of fraudulent claims in various ways, including the preparation and presentation of loss documentation, the burden of communicating with all parties involved, such as insurance adjusters and repair contractors, and the time lost on sick leave or vacation due to the pending damage to their home. More seriously, policyholders suffer the emotional effects of fraud, which may include stress and anxiety about their loss. Homeowners whose claims have been wrongly denied and insureds may seek and occasionally obtain legal redress from insurers, resulting in further costs to policyholders through increases in the insurance companies' overhead expenses.

3. The Role of AI in Fraud Detection

Fraud detection in home insurance claims has seen progress with the adoption of technology-based solutions like data analytics and social media investigation tools. These technology solutions offer end-to-end automation potential which if adopted fully, bring about increased detection accuracy, lower false positives, and reduced claims leakage. Despite the availability of sophisticated policy analytics solutions, the fraud detection process remains high-touch, requires complicated integrations with information silos, is expensive, and is executed in centralized fraud detection units. Additionally, the likelihood that investigators will collaborate adequately on cases – towards the cause of generating richer input investigations – is remote. The problem continues to remain one of possibility, not probability. A claim can be flagged for investigation for several reasons the claim being too large, the claim involving temporary public assistance, etc. On the other hand, a significantly larger proportion of smaller claims also harbor a higher probability of fraud.

In this paper, we focus on driving investigation actions based on fraud AI fingerprints. The AI fingerprints will automatically enrich the case with fraud data, thus increasing the likelihood that a more experienced investigator will take

more effective investigation actions. Effectively, we are enabling the lower-powered resource – the claims adjuster – to make better decisions based on fraud intelligence augmentation, as clauses before hand-off to investigation units. We draw from video fraud surrogates and insurance industry case studies to profile the advanced AI methods applicable to this hinterland problem. Attention-grabbing cases, reminiscent of designing for serendipity, show results where AI injects investigative honesty for what are the otherwise lower percentage cases. We contrast the traditional cost driver towards what we refer to as the Captain America phase of AI i.e., the good that AI can achieve not just in higher revenues, but also in protecting honest consumers in its wake. We end the paper with possible avenues of future work in fraud detection capabilities using AI and augmented study design methodologies.

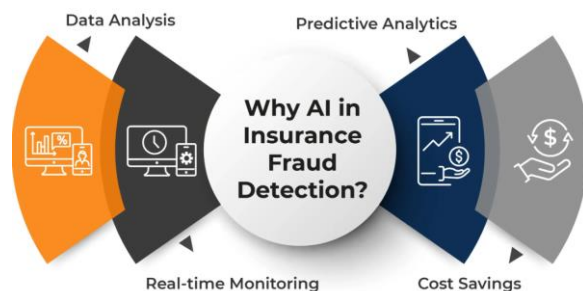


Fig 2 : Insurance Claim Fraud Detection Using Automation and AI

3.1. Overview of AI Technologies

In this section, we present the AI technologies that are widely employed for facilitating fraud detection in insurance claims. Throughout this essay, we will use the terms AI and AI technologies interchangeably. To set the stage, we first briefly review the evolution of AI technologies which we envision as a continuum. The modern AI era started when the term AI was coined in the summer of 1956. The first fifty years of AI technology development and deployment are often referred to as symbolic AI, which is based on complex manual features and algorithms for localization, object classification, vision and speech understanding, planning, and reasoning, among others. Great successes were achieved in narrow domains within the robotics industry. The earlier part of the current era of AI, called statistical AI, followed the introduction of better statistical models for localizing and recognizing objects in images, such as models based on conditional random fields or random decision forests. The last decade has been revolutionized by the so-called deep learning. Like statistical AI, deep learning also relies on the availability of automatic, and very large parameterized, models for representation and decision-making. Unlike statistical AI, however, the models are trained using much more data and with less knowledge about the underlying visual recognition and other problems.

Technically, deep learning has brought us convolutional neural networks, deep belief networks, and recurrent neural networks, among others, that rely on neural networks containing more than four or five hidden layers. Many properties of these so-called deep neural networks have contributed to their recent successes in representation and decision-making tasks. Throughout this essay, we use the “AI algorithm” to refer to symbolic, statistical, and deep-learning models and train them using symbolic, maximum-likelihood statistical, or end-to-end deep-learning training methods. AI is fundamentally an “algorithmic” technology that provides the ability to generate models that can be employed as smart mechanisms and models for intelligent automation in real-world applications. The output of the AIs is in the form of algorithms that either create a model representation of the real world or model the mechanism that governs the intelligent decisions made by humans.

3.2. Machine Learning Algorithms for Fraud Detection

The emergence of intelligent machines has led to the development of various machine learning algorithms that already play a significant role in both home and car insurance sector risk controls. These algorithms commonly adopt traditional methods and, thanks to the availability of big data, process massive amounts of information in order to detect suspicious patterns. These models are widely used to perform various critical tasks such as risk selection and claim verification.

Among these algorithms, we find logistic regression, decision trees, support vector machines, naive Bayes, k-nearest neighbors, random forests, gradient boosting techniques, and multilayer perceptrons. These days, however, deep learning models such as convolutional neural networks, recurrent neural networks, and transformers are garnering increased interest. Note that convolutional neural networks are commonly used in image-related fraud detection. In the case of text or temporal information, recurrent neural networks, and transformer models tend to be selected. These models follow traditional supervised and unsupervised paradigms while taking at their input images, temporal data, video, or text.

Despite the importance of insurance fraud detection, only a handful of algorithms presented above have been implemented in early studies. It is found that the supervised algorithms most often used are logistic regression, support vector machines, decision trees, random forests, and ensemble methods, while the unsupervised methods most likely used are k-nearest

neighbors, clustering, and density estimation models. In the insurance domain, fraud detection is a special case of anomaly detection since the number of fraudulent claims is significantly low relative to the total claims. In addition, the characteristics of fraud claims differ from those of legitimate claims, making it relevant to detect fraudulent claims from a large pool of normal claims.

4. Data Sources for AI-Driven Detection

Most of the serious investigations into the use of alternative data in AI-driven crime detection have focused primarily if not exclusively on internal data—i.e., transactional data that firms have always collected. We propose that insurances might benefit from expanding their data environments to include external data, and especially external data that captures social and economic activity at the local level.

Claims Data

The primary source of data for all fraud detection algorithms is claims data. Each claim can be represented as a vector of features. Insurance market history strongly suggests that many potentially predictive features have little value for distinguishing fraudulent claims. For example, while the timing of the claim, the identity of the insured and the insurance agent, and the size of the claim might all indicate suspicious investing behavior for otherwise similar claims, knowing these four pieces of information cannot be very valuable in predicting malfeasance. However, premiums, coverage details, and loss history might have predictive value. Various other features of claims and claimants are also potentially informative about fraud detection, including whether the claim was opened after a policy was canceled, prior insurance company, overall loss adjusted expenses, whether the claimant had a prior policy excluded for fraud, and foreclosures in the area.

External Data Sources

Location-based external predictive data sources include criminal record searches, rental price comparisons, and court data with case detail on any relevant past or pending litigation. While property transactions are usually public data, making information on ownership easily available, the process of verifying whether a location is or should be a rental is not a simple match with a public record.



Fig 3 : Technologies Improving Insurance Fraud Detection

4.1. Claims Data

The data source for AI-driven fraud detection is insurance company claims data. Paper-and-pencil claims are constructed by the unique combination of descriptive characteristics from the insured policy, declaration page and the general amount of damages, the normal severity of the line of business and unique geography, event date, physical conditions, home-specific requirements, the claimant's qualifications, and other insurance-related information. The advantage of claims data is that those are the actual incidence of fraud as opposed to survey data which cannot provide the true incidence of fraud, which tends to be much less than survey data imply. Claims data can be used to report on how often people secretly commit fraud, while survey data report on how frequently people answer questions in ways that may imply they are engaged in fraud. Moreover, no private data is being requested, making claims data more secure.

Claims data for the models of AI applied to detect homeowners insurance fraud are for insurance claims filed after a natural disaster or extreme weather event. The majority of extreme weather events are storms that produce severe weather that can cause flooding or tornadoes. The long-standing argument against survey data is that those performing insurance fraud or filing a false claim will provide incorrect answers, and therefore the data collected are incorrect. This inability to discover the incidence of insurance fraud is best addressed using claims data. Claims data are useful proxies for the

investigation of alternative approaches. For example, the data can be used to analyze the relationship between the natural hazard zone in which a home is located and insurance fraud.

4.2. External Data Sources

External data sources may elicit a mild reaction. However, the ability to identify an address digitally plays a critical role in determining the risk profile of a given home and the individuals living there. It can assist in underwriting, evaluating but also monitoring the conduct of policyholders, and validating their claims.

Insurance is about assessing risk more accurately than your competition. It is also about writing policies that reflect the personal subsets of risk about the past claims history of that individual, the instant current risk around the property, and the individuals proximal to that property while also determining who and what should not be a part of that policy or any other policy within a broader geography. It would be easy to draw a visualization bubble around a policyholder or a family living under the same roof. Here dependents refer to kids, spouses, live-in partners, or any relatives sharing a common roof.

External Data Sources rely on public access data about Tax, Utilities, Merchant Requests associated with the Property and that policyholder's Mortgage History to identify, assess, and predict Risk. Anomalies such as purchasing a property via cash versus bank mortgage financing; not being involved in the mortgage process; no provision of Social Security Number; changes to the title deed, property information, equity, lien holders, or mortgage company; lack of a notarized signature; frequent changes in transactions with their Merchant Associations; discrepancies between Tax, Utility, and another External Data comparison; anomalies relating to Non-Mortgage payments; Prior Insured Losses; Properties Under Construction; multiple policies in the same Tax Account; Insurance Bonded without Collector Type or Insured Losses; Lien/Collector without Insured Losses; Early Collateral Termination; Multiple Lien holder and Mortgages; Unsecured Mortgages; Permanent Closures; and Changes to Bank Routing Number over time provide insight as data points to determine whether a policyholder is committing or attempting to commit fraud related to that transaction.

4.3. Social Media and Public Records

Even after the advent of mobile technologies that provide us with cameras everywhere, detecting fraud in insurance is complicated. Fraud schemes are complex, and coordination can be difficult to detect through inquiries of the insured or the general public. Also, if crime is suspected, collaborators may not respond accurately to questionnaires if they even have any connection to the claim. For these reasons, companies often seek corroborative evidence from third-party sources. These sources are usually public sources such as social media news portals or government agency records ranging from planning and building authorizations and property taxation to police investigations into criminal activities. Collaboration schemes vary in property lines, with the examination of local news being particularly indicative of property crime. For policies covering RTI, such as the one written by most specialty insurers for vacation properties, data scraping of social media by using location information for the advertised properties can expose false occupancy claims if a claim is filed during ad coverage. Some specialty RTI insurers operating in vacation markets and the majority of specialty insurers for commercial residential units have engaged in allegations that policyholders' properties are conducting short rental operations in violation of policy underwriting guidelines. These schemes are often associated with other fraudulent activities, and discussions by police agencies about the potential for fraud collaboration from tax audits are often found in news portals. For these reasons, specialty insurers often track these discussions for other than just traditional warnings of property crime by police agencies.

5. AI Techniques in Fraud Detection

Because traditional fraud detection methodologies did not yield satisfactory performance, and in response to the rapidly evolving insurance fraud landscape, insurance companies are increasingly deploying AI techniques in their fraud detection systems. Knowledge-based AI techniques using heuristics were used in rules-based expert fraud detection models. However, the performance of such systems was not satisfactory. The reliance solely on human expertise, at least in the earlier period of fraud detection systems implementing AI, was a drawback. Various machine learning algorithms were employed beginning in the 1970s, including Bayesian-based models, odds-based models, and decision trees. Neural networks continued to be heralded as the most promising machine learning algorithms in fraud detection, but the performance of fraud detection systems that primarily depended on them was still not satisfactory. After a slow uptake during the 1980s and 1990s, fraud detection systems utilizing machine learning capabilities gained traction in the 2000s and rapidly improved performance. With the advent of big data in the 2010s, insurance companies rapidly incorporated advanced AI techniques, including automated machine learning, deep learning, and graph analytics into their fraud detection systems. More recently, natural language processing techniques have also been increasingly integrated into the AI toolset to ensure extensive coverage in fraud detection.

Anomaly detection finds patterns of activity in any form of data that do not conform to expected behavior, using a learning algorithm. Employing anomaly detection is a natural first step in identifying possible association with fraud. Some anomalous patterns of behavior, when observed, can be sufficient to signal a heightened risk of fraud.

5.1. Anomaly Detection

AI Techniques in Fraud Detection 5.1. Anomaly Detection

AI techniques applied to insurance fraud detection can be grouped in two ways: Anomaly Detection and Predictive Analytics. Anomaly Detection is typically used for the detection of new types of insurance fraudulent behavior or new types of relationships that have not been carefully reviewed by the insurance specialist. Predictive Analytics techniques can be used to determine the most probable characteristics of a future fraud act, fraudulent actor, or fraudulent relationship based on predictive variables computed from a past labeled data sample, where an expert has validated each past claim and has defined if it is fraudulent or non-fraudulent.

Anomaly Detection techniques are more exploratory and therefore tend to lead to serendipitous discoveries of previously unknown scam actors, which subsequently have to be analyzed exhaustively to confirm that they are fraudulent actors. In this sense, they can work as a triggering alarm for Fraud Analysts in the groceries, telecommunication, and insurance industries, to further review several claims that are not very high, but very likely non-ordinary, verifying and experimentally validating keywords for text mining, or randomly select a number of these alarms to certify different extreme pattern behaviors that promptly identify a document as being referential of scam actors. This is possible because the probability density function of the anomalies is very different from those of the majority classes, which include normal behavior and the behavior of some non-fraudulent actors.

5.2. Predictive Analytics

Predictive analytics has long been popular in insurers' risk management and decision-making, leveraging models and algorithms to generate detailed forecasts of key questions, such as: how many claims will be made this year, how many will be fraudulent, how much loss will be caused etc. The demographic models used as statistical tools to predict these important questions for years are pretty basic tools mainly using the loss and claim experience of the insurance company to predict the future. However, for the insurance industry specifically, volume predictions have to be a function of different factors such as the overall economy, government regulations, and morbidity, whereas loss reserve predictions should depend on industry-related factors such as changes in claims adjusting practices, growth of the various specialty markets, increasing costs of reconstruction, or adjustments to loss characteristics. Now with the development of ML and big data, a new trend is to use more sophisticated and optimized techniques that combine actuarial judgment with big data, advanced analytical algorithms, and more focused KPIs to produce more segmented predictions more smartly. Some insurance companies are using some of the advanced predictive modeling techniques available today, such as GLM, Random Forests, Neural Networks, and Bayesian or Hidden Markov models to be able to adapt their risk level in dynamic or uncertain environments, such as post-catastrophe scenario or before potential market dislocation. Dynamic fraud detection would allow specialist insurers to change their key performance indicators to market fluctuations. Fast and proactive implementation of predictive analytics could minimize exposure to insurance fraud as no one insurer can afford to have a bad experience continuously or for long without affecting their overall portfolio profitability.

Equation 2 : Anomaly Detection Score (ADS):

where:

- S_a = Anomaly score
- X = Feature vector
- μ = Mean of normal claims
- σ = Standard deviation of normal claims

$$S_a = \frac{\|X - \mu\|^2}{\sigma^2}$$

5.3. Natural Language Processing

Natural Language Processing (NLP) is a subfield of AI that enables computers to comprehend and process human languages by developing methods that can analyze textual data, providing a structured, interpretable format, and distilling useful knowledge for models based on that data. Insurance-related data is indeed rich in natural language by nature. Even though a claim may include photographs or videos, it's likely those attachments will be accompanied by multiple documents such as loss descriptions, loss reserve descriptions, appraisals, and police reports. Furthermore, it's common for an insurance adjuster to include additional notes in a claims system. Because so many documents with natural language exist in insurance data, its usefulness as input to ML models is tremendous. For example, one benefit of NLP applied to

claims is that it allows modelers to use the vast amount of unstructured data in the claims process to potentially drive important features for model development.

Other benefits of using NLP in the claim fraud space include multilingual capabilities, adaptability, and the use of pre-built models. Many claims processes, especially if a public entity, will span different diverse languages. Using NLP on these documents allows model developers the ability to collapse languages into a common language. Additionally, claims processes can change over time. Modelers can update the NLP model to handle changes in an organization's claims process due to updates in regulation, claims personnel, software, etc. Many off-the-shelf models can be used with little to no customization. Advances in NLP have evolved rapidly and many free, pre-trained, off-the-shelf NLP models exist. The Transformer model is an excellent example that has served as a foundation for many recent advancements.

6. Challenges in Implementing AI Solutions

While AI technology has great potential for improving fraud detection in insurance, there are several challenges associated with implementing AI solutions. One potential challenge is related to privacy concerns of customers and regulatory requirements. Since AI technology relies on analyzing huge volumes of user data to build powerful models, insurance companies need to specifically pay attention to how they store and use their customer data. In the case of insurers, customer claims data is sensitive. Insurers must ensure that customer data is secured in the cloud environment, giving no opportunities for hackers to misuse the stored data. They also need to ensure that the data is securely deleted after the model training is done.

Another important challenge is dealing with bias that could creep into AI models due to various reasons. Bias is a huge challenge for many machine learning models which can result in unethical, unfair, and improper decisions in real-world applications. For example, say you have built a property insurance fraud detection model and the model predicts high chances of fraudulent activity for an insurance claim. Bias in model prediction will happen if the homeowner/renter is from a particular religion or is a BIPOC individual. In such cases, the decision might be wrong, and recurrent prediction might discourage people from submitting genuine claims. If this happens repeatedly, it loses the trust of affected individuals, thus impacting the business adversely. This could also lead to litigation and reputational risks for companies.

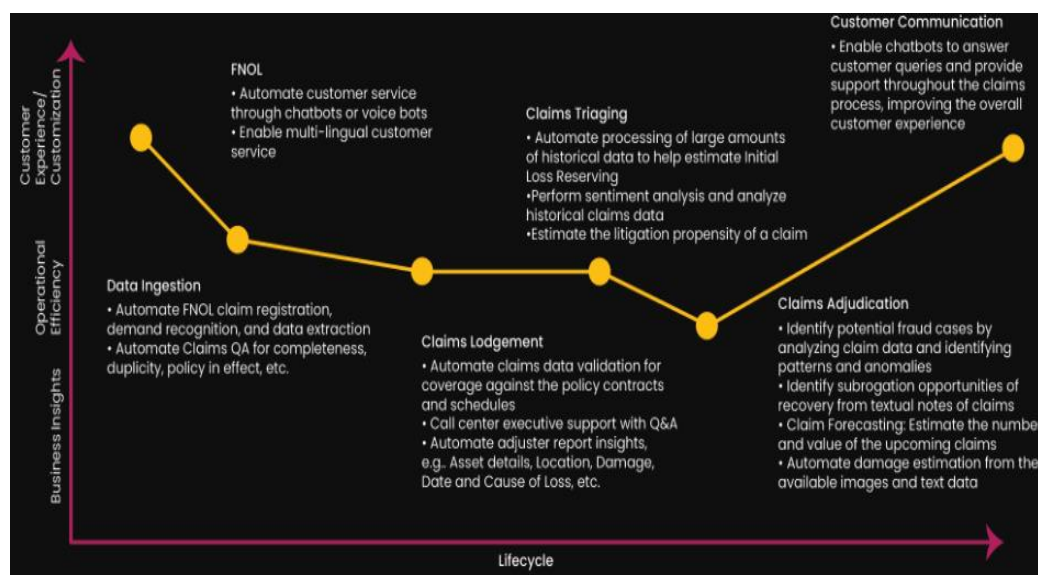


Fig 4 : Challenges and Solutions While Implementing AI in Insurance

Integrating the AI systems for fraud detection into the existing insurance claims management systems also poses a challenge. Implementing detection techniques requires a multidisciplinary effort and a high degree of coordination among various aspects of a business. If integration is not performed properly, it could lead to wrong model predictions, which could lead to incorrect business decisions like denial of claim to a genuine customer.

6.1. Data Privacy Concerns

As fraud detection becomes more powerful, fraudsters will attempt to shield their identities from intervention. The more advanced the modeling becomes, the greater the risk formal investigators face. Who is truly out there behind the mask of engaged heat? The fact remains that to make these new-fangled technologies work at their peak, requires maintaining outlying stored data. However, the more information that is being saved, the more it becomes susceptible to the risk of a

data intrusion event that could jeopardize consumer privacy. Perhaps it would be better to stay at the second-generation fraud detection operations where the potential gains outweigh the possible negative impact on consumer privacy. Posing the question what motivates these efforts in the first place? Are insurers taking the principle of mutually assured benefit to the most sensitive of levels: in collecting private information to combat fraudulent claims are they diminishing their purpose to implement an insurance mechanism that helps ease the burden of defaulting?

Privacy of personal information is a concern for today's consumers, so being required to share intimate details of your life, family, health, and finances with digital entities, business or social is a trade-off that must be understood and accepted. The ringtone pattern associated with one's cellphone or the landing pattern of a drone situated outside target residences adds a layer of user profile information being gathered without awareness of acceptability; potentially leading to a reluctance to participate in the opt-in model associated with AI fraud detection used by some tech companies. Claims investigation processes have become fairly involved with the investigation unit often becoming only the first tier of the process. Additional layers are quite often triggered at the point of service by the call center agent or the insurer's underwriter who handles the quote evaluation.

6.2. Bias in AI Models

A significant challenge in developing AI algorithms is ensuring the integrity of the underlying data and the resultant model. Algorithms are only as strong as the data used to produce them. Datasets can include historical biases that, when re-used in model development, replicate and amplify existing prejudices. These biases can be explicit in the dataset, where the data contain pre-determined group labels, or be latent, where implicit relationships in the variables influence certain groups to a greater degree or more negatively, perhaps due to identifiable characteristics such as gender, age, or economic status. Discriminatory bias can particularly affect classifier models, where the prediction is not a continuous numeric value but instead one of a discrete group. However, supervised algorithms with continuous outcomes can also suffer from bias.

There is an increasing number of high-profile examples demonstrating historical bias in both the data and models developed as a result. Recidivism prediction algorithms have been shown to unfairly discriminate against certain groups, facial recognition algorithms have been found to systematically misidentify certain demographics, and an algorithm used to make credit recovery decisions for banking institutions has been shown to discriminate against the poorest regions. A key concern is that AI algorithms are increasingly finding applications in critical areas of human life – such as law enforcement, access to finance, and hiring processes – and, with serious implications if they disproportionately do not reflect the population they serve. Consequently, there are growing calls for AI researchers and practitioners to be more reflective, explicitly plan for and document decisions around bias in their work, and for governance regimes to provide greater oversight of the ethical behavior of companies developing AI.

6.3. Integration with Existing Systems

Building a dashboard, model implementation, or testing new machine learning algorithms is relatively simple for an isolated product. With AI/Fraud-Detection capabilities belonging to every product, or any product configurable by a customer with a simple click-o-button. Organizations have to consider the integration of AI Machine Learning capabilities with the rest of their IT ecosystem. Examples of this ecosystem are Claim management systems that incumbents built over decades and coming from various eras. Custom-built systems, market solutions, and Third-Party file transfer are all common parts of the Claim Management ecosystem and contain data specific to each Insurance Company but proprietary, and their integration responds frequently to a vendor-versus-market approach.

Moving outside of the company or building dozens of complex bridges to connect the AI solution to the other internal systems limits the expected value from the implementation or increases dramatically the complexity involved in a bad implementation process. Having the claim fraud evaluation as an extra step at the end of the current digital Claim process increases the possibility of a low adoption process, limits the Notify vs Investigate claim important differentiation and needs claim procedures involved to communicate which other processes. Examples of procedures that require a Notify vs. Investigate claims demarcation are Fraud Triangle evaluation, Fraud prospects from analytics, and Multiple claims open on other lines in the Assign Line Office are just examples of coordination between the Fraud and the All-Insurance areas.

7. Case Studies of AI in Action

There is immense interest in using machine learning in the insurance industry. In addition to insurers building AI capabilities in-house, several companies are developing and selling insurance-focused AI platforms, creating highly competitive and innovative environments. Along with this interest and this competitive atmosphere, several AI implementations have come to fruition in the last few years. Some have been wholly successful in providing the expected results, reaching key performance indicators deemed meaningful along with a satisfactory return on investment; others have reached only partial success, gaining only some of their goals; and others are been abandoned or were short-lived

after realizing some critical problems and speedbumps. In addition to these implementations, several failed cases from other companies in similar fields can also act as mentors.

Successful Implementations

First, the successes. This group of implementations has covered numerous aspects of the insurance industry. The services implemented have included predicting and routing customer service inquiries, preventing so-called 'sue and settle' claims, predicting and preventing losses, providing medical evaluations and case management, optimizing the medical provider network, and identifying fraudulent claims. The variety and number of success stories provide a large resource of knowledge that guides new projects as well as new companies entering the scene. Early efforts used relatively simple machine learning processes focused on a few specific aspects like claim severity prediction.

As the field has matured, more companies have developed more complex and all-encompassing systems equipped with cutting-edge machine learning innovations that claim faster and more personalized service for the insured and can deal with real-world difficulties like imbalanced classes, bad actors at low frequencies, missing data, and overhead in practical decision-making. These more developed methodologies have begun to appear more frequently for back-office or business processes, like claim payouts and intricate fraud detection, implying that machine learning is becoming more frequently applied to core insurance processes.

7.1. Successful Implementations

In recent years, several insurance companies have embraced AI and other advanced analytics to identify fraud at first notice of loss. This subsection spotlights two such successful implementations. Hadley National Insurance, for example, uses AI to help select its files for investigation. The company first applied machine learning models to the files flagged by its rules-based system, the industry standard. Because its choices were already pre-selected, Hadley did not need to create a validation data set. The company's investigators reviewed the files ranked "riskier" by the models, checking whether they contained any evidence justifying further investigative work. This enabled Hadley to establish the assessed performance and predictive validity of these AI models and, afterward, to combine the AI model results with the rule-based approach. The work with machine learning was so promising that Hadley is now using more sophisticated deep-learning neural networks to further enhance the accuracy of its risk assessments.

South Carolina Farmers Insurance Company has developed an AI solution that reviews 100% of the claims received and performs a deep scan of the digital source data of each. This proprietary technology looks for signals of digital identity theft which may be precursors to all but the most sophisticated property claims fraud schemes. Contrary to traditional approaches, which screen individual claims, in most instances, just before a check is issued only to deny the claim later, Farmers identify the digital fingerprints of cybercriminals who may have sent multiple claims through several different channels to the reinsurance market. The digital fingerprints may also reveal other digital footprints, which would identify relationships among claims presented in different countries across the globe. These insights are then used to feed recommendation engines of curated alerts for underwriters and claims investigators about the claims being presented.

7.2. Lessons Learned from Failures

Numerous researchers have described fraud detection efforts that have failed. In reviewing these historical AI failures, we extract some general lessons regarding pitfalls in applying AI to property-casualty insurance. First, to fail at identification of the fraud signal, not enough observation of the claim population is conducted, or implementation is management-briefed to support a previously specified conclusion, or, the effort is equivalent to dropping a face on a table and not measuring the angle of scatter from an on-axis top view (in short, insufficient sample size, objective statistical analysis, and implementation quality). The inverse is the case as well: it is possible to draw too much attention to one signal. At a certain point, such a micro-level of focus becomes dangerous; any model will "predict" any small aspect of the dataset merely by fitting passingly close to observed behavior. At that point, the AI may simply be mimicking outcome data and not "predicting"; and the use of the deployed tool as a claims-handling aid would be ill-advised. Second, the policyholder groups are often large and not even close to homogeneous, yet have behavior that is upon occasion strongly correlated to special characteristics of members. Thus, aggregation of claimant observation into large, homogenous groups can lead to erroneous assumptions regarding whether there is hidden fraud—on either extreme. Taking too narrow a focus can lead to missing the primary problems. Conversely, taking too wide a focus can lead to missing special problems observed only for smallish groups of claimants. The same considerations apply in a claims-handling aid; such tools must have rigorous officer overview to avoid the risk that they are giving bad advice (and an officer overview will always, then, be needed, as is the case for all application areas of AI).

8. Regulatory Considerations

This is a section "8. Regulatory Considerations". This section presents a survey of regulations, policies and discussions regarding AI-driven models used in claims management.

A range of issues exist concerning the fairness and transparency of AI-ML algorithms, especially concerning the potentially objectionable results due to outcome bias. Such bias may occur if the model is biased against certain groups or if the predictions and actions taken tend to have a disparate impact. The insurance domain, which is highly regulated, has long relied on predictive modeling techniques to improve actuarial soundness and reduce fraud. The use of advanced algorithms, however, presents new challenges and opportunities for insurers. Questions related to transparency, unfair discrimination, and comparative impact are now raised that have not been fully addressed in the actuarial literature. The suggestion by some suggest that regulators require sufficient and convincing justification from all insurers, and subject those explanations to regulatory scrutiny, both before deployment and on an ongoing basis, that is “regulatory review in the guise of corporate science.” This chapter provides our views on some of the challenges faced. While the existing laws for insurance fraud detection by models are already quite encompassing, the focus will be on how these general provisions governing all predictive models – both old and new – will apply to models still in use and service, particularly new AI implementations. Overall, while we intend to provide an introduction to the regulated nature of the business, we do not provide prescriptions for the current regulatory environment nor a blueprint for future regulatory trends.

8.1. Current Regulations on Fraud Detection

Only a few of the United States' laws that regulate fraud detection are generally considered and analyzed in-depth here, and such research usually focuses specifically on insurance claims. Laws that touch upon fraud detection – anti-fraud laws, laws that protect consumer privacy, and data collection and use laws – are adopted at all levels of government. These laws are created and executed by federal, state, and local agencies and then enforced by administrative code. Given this system, any AI-driven fraud detection system must submit to an array of jurisdiction restrictions, including administrative codes. In short, any proposed coding or algorithm is subject to considerable regulation. Moreover, fraud detection always requires sensitive information about individuals. However privacy law imposes rules about the types of data that can be collected, the procedures that must be followed to collect them, and the permitted use of each category of data. One of insurance's fundamental principles is that it requires consent to the unfair advantage that insurance companies have when it investigates, using its power as an insurer, information about its policyholder's past experiences, and also when its agent conducts a prior investigation on behalf of the group of policyholders who are seeking insurance. Any contract between individuals involved in an insurance transaction must specify how personal data will be handled. Insurers must therefore proceed with care in their use of AI-driven fraud detection systems that include sensitive data.

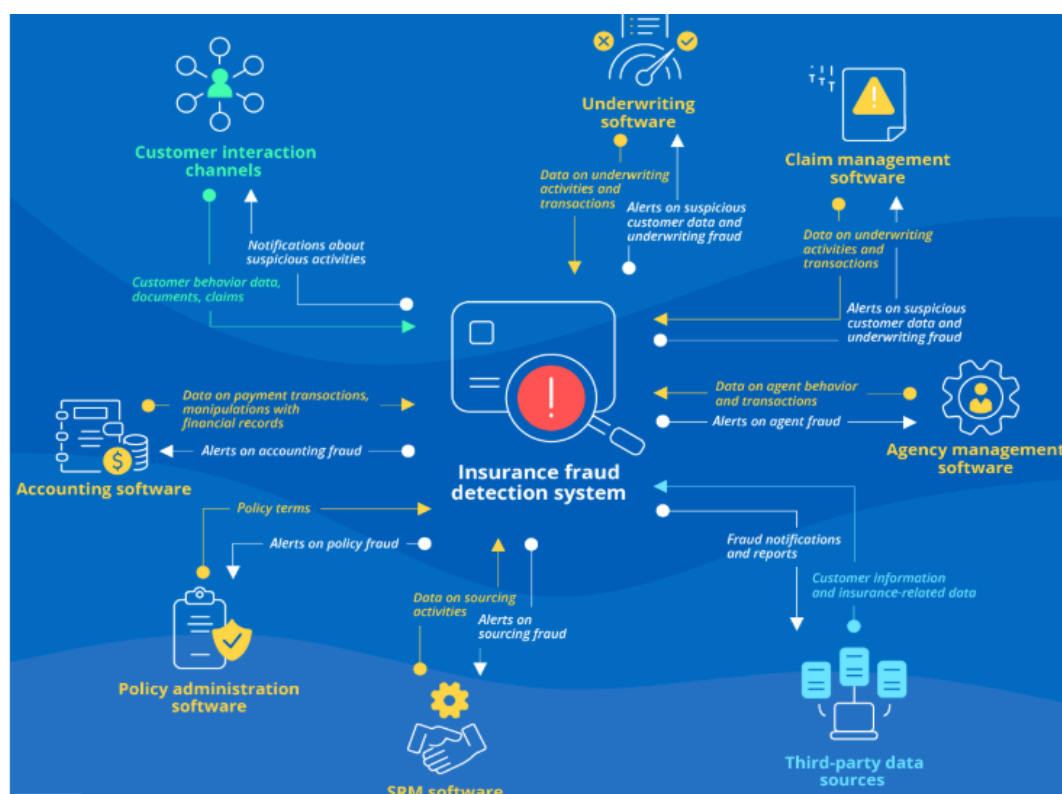


Fig 5 : Insurance Fraud Detection

8.2. Future Regulatory Trends

In the future, it is anticipated that regulators will mandate insurers to produce more granular and precise reporting of claims data to a greater number of agencies, use more standardized machine learning models, and submit these models for validation before their use. Some of these potential requirements would reduce the ability of fraud detection insurers to personalize their fraud detection models and thus reduce efficacy. It is anticipated that regulators will begin monitoring and scrutinizing the most predictive features of the modeling. Protecting consumer privacy will continue to be an important regulatory issue, particularly as it pertains to the potential use of social media.

It is important to note that this is not the first time the insurance industry has had to deal with a changing regulatory landscape. The insurance industry went through a mandatory standardization of automobile claim coding due to governmental scrutiny of potential fee collusion between insurers and service providers. Similar standardization is being recommended and possibly in the future from regulators. Understanding the potential for future regulations is integral to the future application of machine learning in the insurance industry.

9. Future of AI in Insurance Fraud Detection

The future of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in insurance fraud detection will be influenced by stakeholders in the insurance industry. Emerging technology will enable increased efficiency and ROI. Predictions for the next decade focus on more sophisticated detection and prevention tools with integrated solutions. This chapter further elaborates on the above factors' influence on the future of AI in the insurance industry.

Emerging Technologies. The convergence of telecommunications, artificial intelligence, and big data and analytics technologies will enable novel innovations. New telematics, photo, and documentation interfaces will allow insurance providers to respond instantly to homeowner and renter claims while feeding big data reservoirs. Innovative large and deep neural network architectures will allow faster insurance industry training and put to work pre-trained models to score more efficiently. Integration of claims detection with customer investment and retention systems will make it easier to combine loss forecasting and claims investigations with customer engagement.

Predictions for the Next Decade. Over the next decade, the predictive capabilities of claims fraud detection systems will become more sophisticated, embedded in claims systems, and heavily based on the application of neural network technology. Predictive models will continue to be built mostly by predictive model solution vendors, but insurance companies will be involved more and more by providing business context, guidance, and validation of vendor-provided models. The number of tools focused on claims detection will increase, but many will incorporate historical data and model outputs from predictive model vendors. New models will be able to exploit a growing diversity of company first-party loss data, as well as data from banks and credit card companies. New and improved vendor models will become better at detecting fraud in all major player categories and at quantifying the likelihood of further criminal activity by insurance customers identified as high-risk or suspicious. These models will incorporate deep or other neural network capabilities that use panel data or longitudinal data more seamlessly.

9.1. Emerging Technologies

Blockchain technology has become a popular subject of discussion for several business functions in recent years. Blockchain, which can be best described as supported and enhanced physically by peer-to-peer networks, enables the use of a shared ledger that is immutable and authorizes multiple parties without third-party intervention. Blockchain represents a decentralized infrastructure with unprecedented characteristics of speed, trust, security, and transparency that can transform businesses and society. The peer-to-peer networks enable verification of transactions with a level of security that removes the need for third-party forensics services. Several industries, including the financial and healthcare industries, are using blockchain technology to transfer information. Other industries are investigating its potential for fraud risk management. The decentralized and relatively anonymous structure of blockchain does not completely erase the risk of fraud at the initial stages or future risks of malicious attacks. Companies must evolve their blockchain technology and its implementation synergy with other technology applications. Partners are also critical for a successful implementation that favors company strategies and sacrifices the one-off short-term cost solution. The characteristics of lower costs, no third party, and an incredibly fast verification cycle can redirect several advertising, gaming, identity protection, entertainment, or ticket sales away from the relatively slow traditional companies that verify such transactions. Computer security and social networks are examples of AI tools incorporated into blockchain and other technologies for fraud risk management in the financial industry. AI and neural networks are used for creating intelligent agents for improved security in blockchain technology that recognizes requests and reviews rules with no system overload. Another combination uses neural networks to build a model to identify authorized and fraudulent transactions. These tools could then be used to indicate and take appropriate action for the untimely resolution of malicious attacks. Moreover, AI is also used to track malicious attacks through a decentralized solution that maintains tracking data in the blockchain. Finally, AI and the blockchain can reinforce each other by augmenting user privacy, validating the decisions made by AI, and deregulating the AI market.

9.2. Predictions for the Next Decade

Large models characterize today's artificial intelligence frontier. Despite their numerous advantages, including the ability to solve difficult 'zero-shot' tasks with few demonstrations, they also have numerous drawbacks that may limit their application in fraud detection. First, they are often trained on a large corpus of uncured data, which could introduce elements that are harmful to be deployed in practice. Their in-sample quality is typically only a fraction of their performance for zero-shot tasks. Finally, their deployment is costly, because the time and energy required to use them at inference time is prohibitively expensive. Therefore, it is likely that insurance fraud detection teams will continue to invest in and leverage more tailored AI models – those pre-trained on task-centric data. Due to the dearth of sensitive, private datasets, it is unlikely we will rely on federated learning to train these models.

In the future, insurance fraud detection teams will increasingly embrace explainable models. The financial consequences of misclassifying a fraudulent claim could bring enormous harm to individuals and society. By preventing insurers from considering these critical factors while making decisions, standard 'black box' AI models are unlikely to be deployed without legal scrutiny, thus motivating firms to adopt more interpretable systems. Overall, as 'interpretability' advances continue to make model decision-making more understandable, it is likely that explainable systems will become the norm. As fraud detection models become more tailored for specific clients, their predictions will gradually become more accurate. Accuracy – one of the greatest hurdles still facing practical AI – is now becoming a norm rather than an exception in the insurance domain.

Equation 3 : Fraud Detection Optimization Loss (FDOL):

where:

- \mathcal{L} = Weighted loss function
- α = Weight for false positives (FP)
- β = Weight for false negatives (FN)

$$\mathcal{L} = \alpha \cdot FP + \beta \cdot FN$$

10. Conclusion

AI-Driven Fraud Detection in Homeowners and Renters Insurance Claims is a topical study that is valuable, insightful, and thought-provoking. We hope it inspires others to pursue similar research. The substance of the project study makes evident the potential of a joint effort in stakeholder collaboration within the insurance ecosystem. In addition, it showcases AI algorithms as well suited for the current insurance regulatory environment where model interpretability being a crucial feature allows for explainable and responsible AI. Finally, it reconfirms the need for compliance with data governance principles as a prerequisite to achieving a fair and ethical technology.

The major results obtained in this project show that AI algorithms can successfully supplement the current methods used to combat fraud in renters insurance claims, as well as detect fraud in homeowners' insurance claims. The results also show that the introduction of AI in claims management processes should include a reevaluation of the thresholds used to accept and reject claims. In addition, intelligent automation should be done via soft touch made by insurance professionals and not by abrupt hard touch that would potentially jeopardize the insurer-insured relationship. The main challenge insurance companies face is to integrate new AI fraud detection models in their current decision processes, and this study advises in favor of making the change gradually where the trust and understanding of stakeholders are at the center. Changes will not happen overnight, but by fostering an open mind and leveraging on the trust that insurers have built among their customers, we believe advanced technologies such as explainable AI can benefit the community while ensuring fair and just decisions.

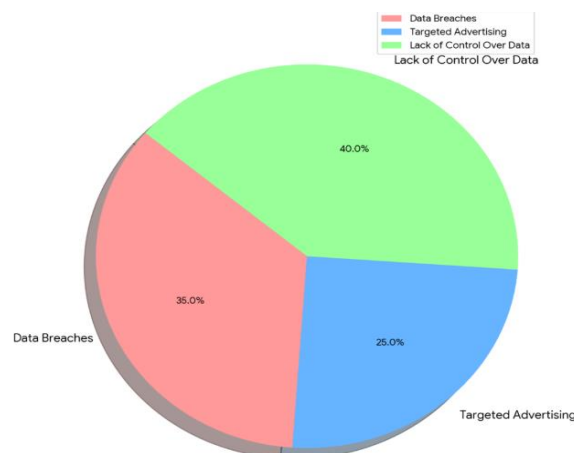


Fig 6 : AI Renters Insurance

10.1. Final Thoughts and Recommendations

Creative approaches using state-of-the-art AI and machine learning algorithms have exploded in many segments of the world economy over the traverse of the last decade. Specifically, companies have utilized these algorithms to predict outcomes, boost revenue and profitability, improve customer experience, increase sales, and reduce claims, among many other things. These AI-driven approaches have permeated many areas of traditional interest in the insurance industry, but these implementation techniques have not yet transformed the traditional approaches used in loss cost and reserve estimation, underwriting, claims management, and actuary staffing of domestic insurance companies to the same degree as they have in other sectors of the economy, such as e-commerce, finance, retail, and travel. While these recent advances in AI and machine learning have not yet solved many of these practical issues in the property and casualty insurance sectors, we believe they do have the potential to substantially improve many of these traditional industry processes. This paper intends to use one area, casualty claims fraud detection in homeowners and renters insurance claims, to demonstrate how these AI and machine learning techniques can assist some of these traditional insurance activities. The properties of claims fraud detection, ideas from the literature on predictive modeling, and state-of-the-art AI algorithms on supervised classification are discussed and applied in an actual claimants' fraud detection example. The results demonstrate the feasibility and potential useful implementation of this area of AI for traditional insurance activities. What's more, in an era of concerns about the lack of diversity in computer science and the AI industry, we believe that traditional statistical methods of the type described in this paper can engage a wider audience in the teaching and understanding of the practical use of these AI methods.

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