Automated cause of death classification from verbal autopsy

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Abstract:

Cause of death (COD) estimates are critical to tracking population health status and inform policy priorities. In countries without vital registration systems, verbal autopsy (VA) is widely used to gather information on COD, where proximal informants are interviewed to report circumstances preceding the death in the form of unstructured narratives and structured responses. However, current automated COD classifications algorithms rely solely on the structured data, neglecting information in the narratives. This work explores approaches to integrating VA narratives into the automated COD classification framework, leveraging the capabilities of pre-trained language models and machine learning techniques.

This talk also introduces the setup of Reference Death Archive (RDA), a publicly accessible dataset archive with trusted analytics infrastructure for deaths with reference cause, VA, and additional information like pathology results.