

# Predictability of Textual Financial Reports on Corporate Default: A Sentiment Analysis Approach

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## ABSTRACT

Current works in textual analysis for the financial reports were trying to quantify textual data into meaningful predictors for future financial performance or stock returns. However, little works have been paid to determining predictors for enterprise survival probability using context-rich textual financial reports, especially in discrete-time settings. Our work proposes a new financial sentiment measure on top of the dictionary-based sentiment analysis to determine whether the manager's reflections towards their company's performance, expressed at various aspects, are positive, negative, or neutral in the business and financial context. This research then examines the effects of the proposed measure and other conventional predictors on corporate default. We especially stress on the predictivity of textual analysis using endogenous source for credit risk modelling and how textual-based predictors differ from traditional predictors in terms of timeliness and accurateness. This research is built on a large sample of US enterprises with company fixed characteristics and financial ratios, which is further augmented with financial sentiment. Based on a financial sentiment dictionary, perform dictionary-based sentiment analysis to summarise to what extent textual data could improve corporate default prediction.

## KEYWORDS

credit scoring; textual analysis; predictivity; dictionary-based; sentiment analysis

## 1. Introduction

United States Securities and Exchanges Commission (SEC) with the ultimate responsibility of protecting investor, maintaining the market efficiency, and control its capital formation, is having listed US enterprises filing their periodic financial reports via EDGAR (Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis, and Retrieval) system with 10-Ks and 10-Qs forms for annual and quarterly reports, respectively. In these forms, besides their detail financial statements, enterprises need to include their Management Discussion & Analysis (MDA<sup>1</sup>) in the filings, a forward-looking statement, in which the executives examine their company’s performance, address of compliance & risks, and express their views on future goals and new projects. This homogeneous text provides an extremely rich-feature dataset that could be useful for credit risk modelling for listed firms in the US with not just financial statements, but unstructured, textual reports.

On the other hand, most current works in textual analysis on the financial reports were trying to quantify textual data into meaningful predictors for future company financial performance. However, little works have been paid to forming predictors for enterprise survival probability using textual data from the financial reports (for the detailed reviews of financial textual analysis and financial disclosures, reader could refer to Leuz and Wysocki (2016), Loughran and Mcdonald (2016), and Elshandidy et al. (2018)). Yet the predictive power of the new textual-based predictor are also needed to be assessed and compared with traditional predictors in both cross-sectional and longitudinal settings.

This work first create new features from text data of the filings, it then further confirms that these textual features are significant in predicting corporate default. Based on that, we compare the traditional models built on accounting data with the ones trained on textual data. The results not only confirm the comparable predictive power of textual data but also demonstrate that the combined model built on both types of data could further improve both model fitness and model predictivity power. The experiments are carried under three treatment of imbalanced dataset (IDS), with stratified k-fold cross validation, and using several predictive power measurements. In what follows, we first present the relevant literature on classification models and textual analysis in credit risk in section 2. Section 3 is devoted to the process of mining MDAs, forming textual features, and comparison frameworks. The results are presented in section 4 and we conclude our work in section 5.

## 2. Literature Review

Single-period or cross-sectional, statistical forecasting models are estimated based on data recorded over a single period of time (Altman, 1968; Altman et al., 2010), and they mostly employ financial ratios as a parametric approach in credit scoring. Recently, machine learning models as better alternatives are being used more frequently as the computer powers have increase significantly. Jo et al. (1997) pointed out that artificial neuron network (ANN) outperformed statistical models. Huang Huang et al. (2004) reaffirmed the performance of support vector machine

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.sec.gov/corpfin/cf-manual/topic-9>

(SVM) as it is comparable with the back-propagation neuron network and genetic programming. The study of Tsai and Hung (2014) for four approaches in combining the statistical and machine learning models indicated that the combined model of LR and ANN provided the best result. In general, machine learning models are state of the art and can improve the predictive accuracy, however, their practical application is questionable since it lacks the ease of interpretation, explanation, and understanding from the practitioners' viewpoint (Baesens et al., 2003; Sun et al., 2014).

At the same time, there are several works on quantifying the textual data into meaningful predictors for predicting future company financial performance(Healy et al., 1999; Lawrence, 2013), or stock returns (Kraus and Feuerriegel, 2017; Zhou, 2018). In the pioneer work of Loughran and McDonald (2011), they built a dictionary with six word lists that offers more accurate tone for financial text compare with the traditional Harvard Dictionary, based on this dictionary, Engelberg et al. (2012) showed that public news provide valuable trading chances for competent information processing short sellers; Bonsall et al. (2017) created a new financial reporting readability measure; Bonsall and Miller (2017) showed that firms with improved readability of their filings have better ratings, lower bond rating disagreement, and lower cost of debt. More recently, Zhou (2018) and Jiang et al. (2019) analysed and examined the relationship of homogeneous and heterogeneous sources of financial texts and indicated that higher manager sentiment followed by lower earnings disruption and higher investment growth. Gandhi et al. (2018) used sentiment words to examine the financial distress of US banks, their empirical findings suggested that more negative words in the reports is related to a higher probability of distressed delisting subsequently. In addition, little works have been devoted to the performance of classification models built on textual features, and relatively compare them with the traditional ones.

Regarding the employed features for the classifiers, Altman (1968) z-scores are well-known features in building corporate default prediction models. Further extension are also made such as Altman et al. (2010) for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Different financial institutes might use different feature set for their final models, depend on their risk apatite. Hence, it is desirable to have a comparison for the predictive power of other alternative features built from textual analysis with the traditional features.

In addition, we want to further stress that one crucial problem in the current practices of credit scoring modeling is imbalanced dataset (IDS), built or trained using IDS, classifiers tends to perform extremely poor on minority class despite producing high accuracy measures Chen et al. (2016). The IDS characteristic naturally exists in most of credit portfolios data since the majority of corporate borrowers are good and those bad ones are rare. To mitigate this problem, at data level, researchers could perform undersampling, oversampling, or creating synthetic samples based on SMOTE Chawla et al. (2002) or ROSE Menardi and Torelli (2014) techniques. Despite literature shows that there are sophisticated methods of creating additional data for the minority class, including SMOTE Chawla et al. (2002) or ROSE Menardi and Torelli (2014), however, these methods can not effectively deal with categorical features and might produce unrealistic samples (e.g. companies with -1 employee), hence we proceed to employ undersampling and oversampling at the final stage of modeling process.

By and large, this study uses forward-looking statement, MDAs, in the 10K filings of US listed firm from 1997 to 2018 to examine how could textual data help predicting the default/liquidation firms.

### 3. Methodology

#### 3.1. *Financial wordlist*

Loughran and Mcdonald (2011) showed that some words which are negative in Harvard IV dictionary<sup>2</sup> are actually neutral or even positive in the financial context, such as cancer, depreciation, liability, and so forth. To mitigate the proxy for industry or other unintended effects in using general sentiment dictionary or wordlist, they proposed five word lists: positive; uncertainty; litigious; strong modal words; and weak modal words<sup>3</sup>. These wordlists are related to market reactions such as trading volume, unexpected earnings, and subsequent stock return volatility. We present on what follows how we form textual features using counting and dictionary-based classifier based on these wordlists.

#### 3.2. *Dictionary-based sentiment classifier*

Dictionary-based (or rule-based) sentiment classifier uses several rules to calculate sentiment score using sentiment words from a lexicon or wordlist, positive words are assigned +1 sentiment scores, while negative and uncertainty words are assigned -1 scores, the sentence sentiment will be calculated based on the aggregate score adjusted for rules. In this study, we employ three simple rules, based on Loughran and Mcdonald (2011) financial wordlists (LM) as follows:

- (1) count the number of negative and positive words in a sentence,
- (2) consider the shifting of sentiment with constrastive conjunction such as ‘but’, ‘however’, ‘despite’, ‘neither’ and so forth, and
- (3) examine the tri-gram preceding the lexical feature for flipping polarity of the text.

#### 3.3. *Textual features*

We then form the following textual features:

- (1) Percentage of negative, positive, uncertainty, litigious, modal strong, modal weak words in the entire filling, namely pneg, ppos, punc, plit, pmods, and pmodw, respectively. We further compute the sentiment feature (senti) by taking the difference between ppos and pneg.
- (2) Count of negative, positive, uncertainty, litigious, modal strong, modal weak words in the MDA section only, namely NEG, POS, UNC, LIT, MODS, and MODW, respectively.
- (3) Count of negative, positive, and neutral sentences for each MDA namely CNEG, CPOS, and CNEU, respectively, using dictionary-based classifier defined above. We then further computer the percentage of negative and positive sentences in an MDA as PCNEG and PCPOS.

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<sup>2</sup><http://www.wjh.harvard.edu/inquirer/homecat.htm>

<sup>3</sup>Available at <http://www.nd.edu/mcdonald/Word.Lists.html>

### 3.4. Predictive measurement

Having more textual features, we proceed to examine their predictive performance and examine to what extent they could complement the financial features. Regarding the final model performance on predicting default/liquidation firms, it is advisable to have measurements that captures difference aspects of the classifiers, especially with the present of IDS. Goadrich Davis and Goadrich (2006) proposed to used Area Under Precision-Recall Curve (AUPRC) when we perform classification on an IDS and want to concentrate on the positive examples, the default corporates. Specifically, sensitivity is directly influenced by class imbalance, whereas True Positive Rate only depends on positives. In this particular viewpoint of credit risk modeling, we pay more attention to Recall value as in total number of predicted bad corporate loan applications, how many of them are actually bad as bad loans could easily wipe out all the interest profit of entire loan portfolio. Generally, in this study, we employ five metrics to:

- assess the correctness of the models categorical predictions:
  - Precision:

$$P = Pr(Y = 1|\hat{Y} = 1).$$

- Recall:

$$R = Pr(\hat{Y} = 1|Y = 1).$$

where 1 denotes a default class, 0 denotes a non default class, and  $\hat{Y}$  is the estimate of the true class label  $Y$ .

- assess the discriminatory ability of the scorecard:
  - Area Under ROC curve (AUC). This metric is independent with class distribution and shows the probability that the classifier will rank a randomly chosen positive example higher than a randomly chosen negative example, i.e.:

$$AUC = Pr(score(x^+) > score(x^-)).$$

- Area Under Precision-Recall Curve (AUPRC) (Davis and Goadrich, 2006). This metric shows how meaningful is a default loan application predicted by the classifier given the baseline probabilities of loan assessment problem, i.e.:

$$AUPRC = \sum_n (R_n - R_{n-1})P_n.$$

where  $P_n$  and  $R_n$  are the Precision and Recall at the  $n^{th}$  threshold respectively.

- assess the accuracy of the scorecards probability predictions: Brier Score (BS), it can be computed using the following formula:

$$BS = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{t=1}^N (f_t - o_t)^2.$$

where  $f_t$  is the predicted probability,  $o_t$  is the actual outcome of the observation  $t$ , and  $N$  is the number of observations.

## 4. Data

### 4.1. Financial data

We collect accounting data from Wharton Research Data Services (WRDS) for all listed firms in US from 1997-2018, specifically, elements include Total Assets (at), Total Current Assets (act), Intangible Assets (intan), Total Inventory (invnt), Cash (ch), Total Receivables (recvt), Total Dividend (dvt), Total Current Liabilities (lct), Working Capital (wcap), Total Revenue (revt), Retain Earning (re), Earning Before Interests and Taxes (ebit), Total Market Value (mkvalt), Common Stock (cstk), Sale (sale), Shareholder Equity (seq), Net Income (ni), and Note-payables (np) are extracted from financial statements. Detail statistics of these financial report elements are presented in Table 5 of the Appendix. Based on these elements, we impute for the missing observations using multiple imputation using chain equations - MICE (Buuren and Groothuis-Oudshoorn, 2011) and calculate the 5-factors z-score (Z1-Z5) as Altman (1968) and 5-factor for SMEs as Altman et al. (2010) (A1-A5) to proxy for the financial accounting features. As for the default flags, firms are marked default if they filed for liquidation under Chapter 7 or Chapter 11 bankruptcy filings<sup>4</sup>.

### 4.2. 10K filing

Raw filings of listed firms in US could be retrieved from EDGAR (Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis, and Retrieval system<sup>5</sup>). After removing Tables, Figures, attached PDFs, and other redundant elements, we extract the MDA section in each filing. We cover 10K and 10KSB filings in this study as other types of filing either notice a delay in document filings (10K405) or a transition of accounting period (10KT and 10K405T).

We present the descriptive statistics of MDA data we mined from SEC filings in Table 1, other statistics relating to the accounting data, reader could refer to Table 5 in the Appendix. From 1997 to 2018, the number of MDAs we find from the 10Ks filings ranging from minimum 7092 (2018) to maximum 12,475 (2005), it start at 8711 MDAs found in 1997, increases to 12475 MDAs in 2005, and then starts decreasing down 7092 in 2018. There is a tendency of decreasing number of MDAs since 2008, the originated year of the recent crisis. In general, despite having lower number of filings for the recent years, the number of sentences in a MDA is increasing in both mean and median.

Default of firms over years is presented in Figure 1 as follows:

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<sup>4</sup><https://www.sec.gov/reportspubs/investor-publications/investorpubsbankrupthtm.html>

<sup>5</sup><https://www.sec.gov/edgar/aboutedgar.htm>

|      | #MDAs | #Not found | #uncommon | #omitted | #Sentences | mean  | median | #tokens |
|------|-------|------------|-----------|----------|------------|-------|--------|---------|
| 1997 | 8711  | 422        | 7         | 561      | 740208     | 85    | 64     | 47328   |
| 1998 | 8931  | 454        | 4         | 563      | 862791     | 96.6  | 73     | 51372   |
| 1999 | 8934  | 391        | 2         | 611      | 1044325    | 116.9 | 89     | 54665   |
| 2000 | 9508  | 458        | 8         | 580      | 1065612    | 112.1 | 79     | 57295   |
| 2001 | 9447  | 424        | 1         | 510      | 1131682    | 119.8 | 83     | 59454   |
| 2002 | 10179 | 434        | 2         | 806      | 1488084    | 146.2 | 89     | 64979   |
| 2003 | 11878 | 419        | 6         | 1236     | 2107816    | 177.5 | 117    | 74079   |
| 2004 | 12124 | 390        | 4         | 1496     | 2274859    | 187.6 | 115    | 76837   |
| 2005 | 12475 | 635        | 2         | 2016     | 2501571    | 200.5 | 120    | 81210   |
| 2006 | 12251 | 678        | 5         | 1863     | 2472559    | 201.8 | 135    | 81163   |
| 2007 | 12087 | 485        | 5         | 1840     | 2526728    | 209   | 145    | 83147   |
| 2008 | 11432 | 443        | 6         | 1470     | 2519519    | 220.4 | 156    | 83350   |
| 2009 | 9919  | 366        | 4         | 769      | 2525077    | 254.6 | 189    | 79620   |
| 2010 | 9165  | 190        | 3         | 676      | 2405854    | 262.5 | 199    | 78967   |
| 2011 | 8840  | 162        | 2         | 659      | 2290261    | 259.1 | 193    | 78147   |
| 2012 | 8393  | 175        | 1         | 693      | 2214756    | 263.9 | 195    | 75322   |
| 2013 | 8105  | 186        | 1         | 677      | 2183919    | 269.5 | 203    | 74772   |
| 2014 | 8084  | 184        | 1         | 751      | 2193408    | 271.3 | 202    | 76434   |
| 2015 | 7985  | 182        | 1         | 912      | 2181273    | 273.2 | 204    | 76066   |
| 2016 | 7589  | 158        | 2         | 1081     | 2077774    | 273.8 | 201    | 74669   |
| 2017 | 7248  | 184        | 1         | 1113     | 1931412    | 266.5 | 192    | 71713   |
| 2018 | 7092  | 256        | 0         | 1136     | 1850778    | 261   | 186.5  | 71617   |

#MDAs is the total number of MDAs; #Not found is the number of filings that do not have MDA; #uncommon is the number of uncommon MDAs that we are unable to trace the sections they begin or end with; #omitted is the number of filings that have the MDA section omitted; #Sentences is the total number of sentences of all MDAs; mean and median are the mean and median of number of sentence in MDAs, respectively; #tokens is the total number of unique words in all MDAs.

Table 1.: MDAs from filings

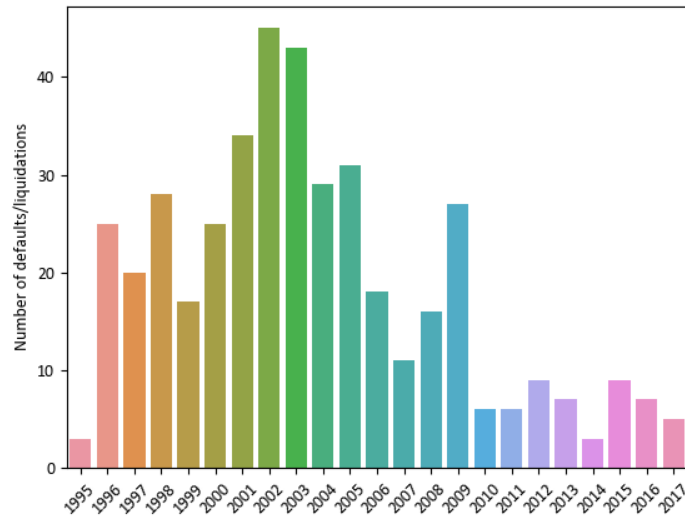


Figure 1.: Number of defaults per year

The number of defaults reaches highest value of 43 firms in 2002 after 2001 financial crisis, we could also observe a spike of default firms in 2009 follows 2008 crisis. We further devise the number of default under each GICS <sup>6</sup>, which is an efficient investment

<sup>6</sup><https://www.msci.com/gics>

tool to capture the breadth, depth and evolution of industry sectors, in Table 2.

| GICS         | #Defaults | #Company | %Defaults |
|--------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| 10           | 31        | 5923     | 0.52      |
| 15           | 24        | 5713     | 0.42      |
| 20           | 36        | 10723    | 0.33      |
| 25           | 47        | 7871     | 0.59      |
| 30           | 11        | 3969     | 0.28      |
| 35           | 21        | 12662    | 0.17      |
| 40           | 1         | 171      | 0.58      |
| 45           | 19        | 10260    | 0.18      |
| 50           | 18        | 1671     | 1.07      |
| 55           | -         | 56       | -         |
| 60           | -         | 119      | -         |
| <b>Total</b> | 208       | 59163    | 0.35      |

Table 2.: GICS sector codes and number of defaults

The sector that has the highest number of defaults is 25-Consumer Discretionary, followed by 20-Industrials with 36 firms. Those smallest sectors, including 60-Real-Estate, 55-Utilities, and 40-Financials having only one default firm (as in the initial stage, we exclude the financial industry in WRDS filter using SIC industry code). This Table show the extremely high degree of imbalance in our data, total number of default/liquidation firms account for just 0.35% of all firms. This suggest, if trained using original data, classifiers might overfitted toward the majority class and the performance measures might not be comparable. At the final stage, we merge the financial data and SEC filings using CIK, form type, and filling date. The final data consist of 50,957 firms, of which 175 are default (approximate 0.34%).

## 5. Results

In this section, we present the comparison of regularized logistic regression models fitted for (i) financial features only, (ii) textual features only, and (iii) combine features in Table 3. The performance in term of predictive power are presented in Table 4 where we show the performance of traditional financial model and combined model using five performance metrics under 10-fold stratified cross validation. The results are reported under gridsearch for the best parameter C of the logistic regression classifier and further augmented with undersampling and oversampling to treat the IDS problem.

### 5.1. Regression

The regression results in Table 3 show three models fitted using logistic regression, control for size and industry, and 1 year lag. Full detail are presented in Table 6 of Appendix. **z-score** is the model fitted using 10 financial features computed as Altman (1968); Altman et al. (2010), **Text** is the model fitted using 18 textual features which are described in subsection 3.3, and the final model, **Combine**, is fitted using both financial and textual features. Regarding the significant of financial features, our results are inline with the current literature of corporate default/liquidation modelling (Altman et al., 2010). On the other hand, the textual features are also significant. As for the entire filling, the percentage of modal-strong and modal-weak words are both



|           | z-score                | Text                   | Combine                |
|-----------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Intercept | -0.1979<br>(0.3928)    | -2.3628*<br>(1.3917)   | 0.9382<br>(1.4329)     |
| A1        | -1.6923***<br>(0.6239) |                        | -1.2690**<br>(0.5974)  |
| A2        | -0.1909<br>(0.2553)    |                        | -0.1784<br>(0.2514)    |
| A3        | -1.3933***<br>(0.3249) |                        | -1.2284***<br>(0.3387) |
| A4        | -2.6194***<br>(0.6297) |                        | -2.5920***<br>(0.6561) |
| A5        | -1.5063***<br>(0.4837) |                        | -1.7554***<br>(0.5053) |
| Z1        | -0.6510<br>(0.4196)    |                        | -0.2819<br>(0.4241)    |
| Z2        | -0.0290<br>(0.4953)    |                        | 0.1458<br>(0.5158)     |
| Z3        | -1.3672**<br>(0.6338)  |                        | -1.2314*<br>(0.6465)   |
| Z4        | -1.6061***<br>(0.2964) |                        | -1.5825***<br>(0.3103) |
| Z5        | 0.7518**<br>(0.3037)   |                        | 0.3791<br>(0.3273)     |
| CNEG      |                        | 3.8558**<br>(1.6699)   | 4.8806***<br>(1.7392)  |
| CNEU      |                        | -1.8360<br>(1.2439)    | -2.4985**<br>(1.2530)  |
| CPOS      |                        | -0.0269<br>(1.2551)    | 0.1041<br>(1.2717)     |
| PCNEG     |                        | 0.3164<br>(0.5401)     | -0.5290<br>(0.5831)    |
| PCPOS     |                        | -1.0322**<br>(0.5259)  | -0.7771<br>(0.5329)    |
| LIT       |                        | -0.3925<br>(0.9393)    | -0.1917<br>(0.9811)    |
| MODS      |                        | 0.6659<br>(0.7192)     | -0.1615<br>(0.7440)    |
| MODW      |                        | -0.5820<br>(0.8805)    | -0.8320<br>(0.8848)    |
| NEG       |                        | 0.4524<br>(1.5948)     | -0.7297<br>(1.6397)    |
| POS       |                        | -0.4296<br>(1.2131)    | 0.6396<br>(1.2522)     |
| UNC       |                        | -1.1214<br>(1.2207)    | -0.3036<br>(1.1968)    |
| plit      |                        | 0.4959<br>(0.4263)     | 1.0975**<br>(0.4348)   |
| pmods     |                        | 1.1790***<br>(0.3179)  | 0.6101*<br>(0.3391)    |
| pmodw     |                        | -1.5003***<br>(0.5581) | -1.9683***<br>(0.5770) |
| pneg      |                        | -1.6440<br>(1.5806)    | -1.4065<br>(1.5784)    |
| ppos      |                        | 0.8212<br>(0.6882)     | 1.0456<br>(0.6970)     |
| punc      |                        | -0.9387<br>(0.5879)    | -0.1654<br>(0.6039)    |
| senti     |                        | -3.5038**<br>(1.6750)  | -2.8255*<br>(1.6700)   |
| N         | 50957                  | 50957                  | 50957                  |
| AIC       | 2042.7632              | 2124.7182              | 1962.9561              |
| BIC       | 2219.5379              | 2372.2029              | 2298.8281              |
| LLR       | 332.5181               | 266.5631               | 448.3253               |
| R-squared | 0.1424                 | 0.1141                 | 0.1920                 |

N is the number of observations and LLR is the log-rank test statistics.  
\*\*\*, \*\*, and \* indicate 99%, 95% and 90% significant levels, respectively.

Table 3.: Regression

significant, where the higher the percentage of modal-strong words, the more likely the firm to be default. Focusing on MDA section only, we find the more negative sentences in a MDA a firm has, the higher the probability of it becoming default. On the other hand, the higher percentage of positive sentences relative to total number of sentences in MDA, the lower the default probability. As *sent* is the difference between percentage of positive and negative words, this shows that firm having more positive words relative to negative words in their fillings have lower probability of default.

In term of combined model, excluding Z5 and percentage of positive sentences (PCPOS), all the other financial and textual features remain significant. Interestingly, the number of neutral sentences (CNEU) is significant, suggests that, the higher the neutral sentences in the MDA, the lower the likely of the firm to be default. Meanwhile, the higher the number of litigious words in a MDA, the higher the likelihood of firm to be default.

All in all, we demonstrate that, the LM wordlists help not only forming new textual features on explaining default, but also complement effectively with traditional financial-based features. In what follows, we further examine the predictive powers of the combined model with the traditional one.

## 5.2. Predictive power comparison

In this subsection, the performance of combined model using 28 features is compared with the 10-financial features under no sampling, undersampling and oversampling strategies. We report the 10-fold stratified cross-validation using gridsearch for parameter C of logistic regression classifier.

|       | z-score |         |         | Combine   |            |            |
|-------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|------------|------------|
|       | N       | U       | O       | N         | U          | O          |
| AUC   | 0.8324  | 0.8303  | 0.8326  | 0.8586*** | 0.8569***  | 0.8590***  |
| F1    | 0.4991  | 0.4284  | 0.4327  | 0.4991    | 0.4395***  | 0.4514***  |
| R     | 0.0000  | 0.7765  | 0.7628  | 0.0000    | 0.7829     | 0.7512***  |
| P     | 0.0000  | 0.0108  | 0.0111  | 0.0000    | 0.0113***  | 0.0125***  |
| AUPRC | 0.0369  | 0.0351  | 0.0286  | 0.0535*** | 0.0384     | 0.0352***  |
| BS    | -0.0034 | -0.1842 | -0.1692 | -0.0034   | -0.1692*** | -0.1448*** |

N is no sampling, U is undersampling, and O is oversampling strategy.  
 \*\*\* indicates the corresponding repeated measure t-test is significant at 99%.

Table 4.: Predictive power comparison

First, we notice the very poor performance (especially in Recall, Precision, and hence F1 score) of both models on the original data, where we do not employ any balancing strategy on the training set. Also, there is an uplift in AUC and AUPRC using combined model with both financial and textual features. Across all sampling settings, the oversampling produces the best model performance thank to its generating instead of removing observations as in undersampling setting. Compare with traditional model, combined model has higher predictive power in 4 over 6 measures and all 6 measures in undersampling and oversampling strategy, respectively.

## 6. Conclusions

Textual data are gathering many attentions thank to its complement with other sources of data in explaining the manager sentiment and stock returns (Lopez Lira, 2019), uncovering the role of investment analyst report (Huang et al., 2018), or improving manager sentiment tone understanding (Zhou, 2018). This study further shows that, they improve the traditional model built on the accounting data in predicting corporate default/liquidation.

By using more than 50k observations of listed firms in the US market from 1997 to 2018, and with simple counting for sentiment words both in the entire filings or in the MDA section of the filing, we demonstrate the high predictivity power of textual features in building forecasting models. Despite the severe problem of imbalanced dataset in default/liquidation prediction, the textual features are significant in the regression model and further improve prediction model in almost 5 over 6 predictive measurements.

This study is without its limitation, first, we just examine the US listed firms, which have the benefit of the availability of textual data. Second, assigning -1 and +1 score for positive and negative words are somewhat harsh, since words might have difference level of negative or positive, further work could examine to what degree we should assign negative, positive or neutral to a word or the entire sentence and radiate to the entire MDA or filing. Another avenue could be exploring which aspects of the business are the worst or best performers using sentiment analysis.

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# Appendix

**PANEL 1: Financial statements elements statistics**

|       | at         | act        | intan      | invt      | ch        | dvt       | lct        | lt         | wcap       | revt       |
|-------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| count | 86196.000  | 84797.000  | 81638.000  | 85708.000 | 85565.000 | 84619.000 | 84837.000  | 86196.000  | 84731.000  | 85921.000  |
| mean  | 4118.302   | 1217.743   | 858.391    | 284.317   | 272.502   | 89.814    | 928.688    | 2491.773   | 279.546    | 2934.885   |
| std   | 19224.416  | 5655.499   | 5462.940   | 1347.345  | 1292.234  | 592.195   | 4827.252   | 12177.598  | 1799.280   | 14150.218  |
| min   | 0.001      | -0.168     | -0.423     | 0.000     | -0.134    | -325.377  | 0.000      | 0.001      | -43132.545 | -1964.999  |
| 25%   | 26.927     | 14.269     | 0.000      | 0.381     | 1.805     | 0.000     | 5.922      | 9.265      | 1.703      | 13.857     |
| 50%   | 186.378    | 82.971     | 3.870      | 10.634    | 13.877    | 0.000     | 33.375     | 72.032     | 28.528     | 138.835    |
| 75%   | 1246.340   | 414.989    | 116.742    | 92.331    | 82.579    | 3.874     | 213.332    | 687.642    | 155.221    | 969.236    |
| max   | 507560.425 | 192486.646 | 225278.000 | 48586.913 | 53528.000 | 67643.805 | 192819.656 | 460442.000 | 56120.000  | 470171.000 |

|       | re          | ebit       | mkvalt     | sale       | seq        | ni         | dltt       | dm        | emp       | gdwl       |
|-------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| count | 84042.000   | 85793.000  | 61887.000  | 85807.000  | 86195.000  | 85805.000  | 86141.000  | 80436.000 | 78807.000 | 80728.000  |
| mean  | 821.767     | 333.038    | 3064.844   | 2937.978   | 1554.264   | 176.908    | 921.058    | 150.610   | 8.641     | 498.611    |
| std   | 7845.878    | 1800.682   | 15901.855  | 14159.247  | 8001.189   | 1527.857   | 4476.683   | 1075.271  | 30.442    | 3138.554   |
| min   | -143336.328 | -25913.000 | 0.000      | -1964.999  | -86154.000 | -98696.000 | -0.023     | 0.000     | 0.000     | 0.000      |
| 25%   | -58.985     | -3.571     | 27.282     | 13.832     | 8.472      | -8.340     | 0.000      | 0.000     | 0.088     | 0.000      |
| 50%   | -1.867      | 4.762      | 173.450    | 138.825    | 74.588     | 0.715      | 8.898      | 0.180     | 0.619     | 0.000      |
| 75%   | 122.538     | 84.664     | 989.844    | 969.980    | 463.727    | 37.491     | 287.779    | 19.804    | 4.000     | 55.402     |
| max   | 398278.000  | 71230.000  | 790050.098 | 470171.000 | 284434.000 | 104821.000 | 207174.000 | 59127.799 | 863.824   | 146583.307 |

**PANEL 2: Demographic elements statistics**

|        | addzip | city    | state | county | sic   | ggroup | gind     | gsector | gsubind    | idbflag | incorp | spcsrc | au    | auop  |
|--------|--------|---------|-------|--------|-------|--------|----------|---------|------------|---------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| count  | 86196  | 86196   | 86196 | 86196  | 86196 | 86196  | 86196    | 86196   | 86196      | 86196   | 86196  | 86196  | 86196 | 86196 |
| unique | 4601   | 2178    | 62    | 37     | 266   | 25     | 67       | 12      | 148        | 2       | 55     | 10     | 25    | 7     |
| top    | nan    | Houston | nan   | nan    | 2836  | 3520.0 | 352010.0 | 35.0    | 35201010.0 | D       | DE     | nan    | 9.0   | 1.0   |
| freq   | 1376   | 3302    | 13037 | 86026  | 5422  | 11224  | 6770     | 17232   | 6770       | 72957   | 45452  | 37054  | 17463 | 57263 |

Table 5.: Descriptive statistics for accounting data

|           | z-score                | Text                   | Combine                |
|-----------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Intercept | -0.1979<br>(0.3928)    | -2.3628*<br>(1.3917)   | 0.9382<br>(1.4329)     |
| A1        | -1.6923***<br>(0.6239) |                        | -1.2690**<br>(0.5974)  |
| A2        | -0.1909<br>(0.2553)    |                        | -0.1784<br>(0.2514)    |
| A3        | -1.3933***<br>(0.3249) |                        | -1.2284***<br>(0.3387) |
| A4        | -2.6194***<br>(0.6297) |                        | -2.5920***<br>(0.6561) |
| A5        | -1.5063***<br>(0.4837) |                        | -1.7554***<br>(0.5053) |
| Z1        | -0.6510<br>(0.4196)    |                        | -0.2819<br>(0.4241)    |
| Z2        | -0.0290<br>(0.4953)    |                        | 0.1458<br>(0.5158)     |
| Z3        | -1.3672**<br>(0.6338)  |                        | -1.2314*<br>(0.6465)   |
| Z4        | -1.6061***<br>(0.2964) |                        | -1.5825***<br>(0.3103) |
| Z5        | 0.7518**<br>(0.3037)   |                        | 0.3791<br>(0.3273)     |
| CNEG      |                        | 3.8558**<br>(1.6699)   | 4.8806***<br>(1.7392)  |
| CNEU      |                        | -1.8360<br>(1.2439)    | -2.4985**<br>(1.2530)  |
| CPOS      |                        | -0.0269<br>(1.2551)    | 0.1041<br>(1.2717)     |
| LIT       |                        | -0.3925<br>(0.9393)    | -0.1917<br>(0.9811)    |
| M1        |                        | 0.6659<br>(0.7192)     | -0.1615<br>(0.7440)    |
| M3        |                        | -0.5820<br>(0.8805)    | -0.8320<br>(0.8848)    |
| NEG       |                        | 0.4524<br>(1.5948)     | -0.7297<br>(1.6397)    |
| POS       |                        | -0.4296<br>(1.2131)    | 0.6396<br>(1.2522)     |
| UNC       |                        | -1.1214<br>(1.2207)    | -0.3036<br>(1.1968)    |
| pcneg     |                        | 0.3164<br>(0.5401)     | -0.5290<br>(0.5831)    |
| pcpos     |                        | -1.0322**<br>(0.5259)  | -0.7771<br>(0.5329)    |
| plit      |                        | 0.4959<br>(0.4263)     | 1.0975**<br>(0.4348)   |
| pmods     |                        | 1.1790***<br>(0.3179)  | 0.6101*<br>(0.3391)    |
| pmodw     |                        | -1.5003***<br>(0.5581) | -1.9683***<br>(0.5770) |
| pneg      |                        | -1.6440<br>(1.5806)    | -1.4065<br>(1.5784)    |
| ppos      |                        | 0.8212<br>(0.6882)     | 1.0456<br>(0.6970)     |
| punc      |                        | -0.9387<br>(0.5879)    | -0.1654<br>(0.6039)    |
| senti     |                        | -3.5038**<br>(1.6750)  | -2.8255*<br>(1.6700)   |
| Size      | -1.0784***<br>(0.1981) | -0.4262**<br>(0.1871)  | -0.8799***<br>(0.2091) |
| G10       | -0.5093<br>(0.3184)    | -0.4919<br>(0.3203)    | -0.2778<br>(0.3334)    |
| G15       | -0.7189**<br>(0.3258)  | -0.9124***<br>(0.3336) | -0.7458**<br>(0.3392)  |
| G20       | -0.8731***<br>(0.3159) | -1.2089***<br>(0.3206) | -0.8295**<br>(0.3258)  |
| G25       | -0.4067<br>(0.2996)    | -0.6603**<br>(0.3063)  | -0.4146<br>(0.3104)    |
| G30       | -0.8202**<br>(0.3958)  | -0.8605**<br>(0.4002)  | -0.6102<br>(0.4071)    |
| G35       | -1.9317***<br>(0.3911) | -1.9622***<br>(0.3857) | -1.7328***<br>(0.4007) |
| G40       | -0.0136<br>(1.0552)    | -0.3324<br>(1.0472)    | 0.0884<br>(1.0640)     |
| G45       | -1.1523***<br>(0.3736) | -1.8093***<br>(0.3692) | -1.1684***<br>(0.3839) |
| N         | 50957.0000             | 50957.0000             | 50957.0000             |
| AIC       | 2042.7632              | 2124.7182              | 1962.9561              |
| BIC       | 2219.5379              | 2372.2029              | 2298.8281              |
| LLR       | 332.5181               | 266.5631               | 448.3253               |
| R-squared | 0.1424                 | 0.1141                 | 0.1920                 |

Table 6.: Regression - All variables