Entropy based explanation of N.N.

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Feb. 2024

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XAI introduction

Introduction

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Why? Because they work well.

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Why? Because they work well.

Their advancement enabled industry and academia to tackle problems that were thought intractable before.

Problem: Such algorithms/models are usually included in the systems as black boxes, though, their answer is not always correct and usually they don't provide justification for their answer.

Introduction (cont.)

So we can't leverage the power of these black boxes in safety critical systems as we would do for other proven correct black box algorithms.

XAI (eXplainable AI) tries to overcome this limitation by polishing/opening these black boxes, more specifically by improving some of the model aspects:

- **Transparency** → Simulatability + Decomposition + Alg. transparency
- Interpretability → Answers to the question Does the model provides an explanation of its process and an output justification?
- Trustworthiness/confidence → Given the model and the explanations how much do users trust them? (e.g. self driving cars)

White boxes exist too

XAI techniques \rightarrow try to open black boxes.

But white boxes exist too (transparent by default models).

 \downarrow

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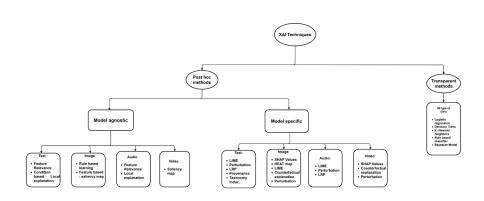
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- Decision trees
- KNN
- Logistic regression

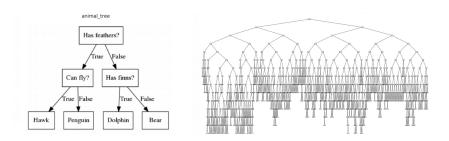
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XAI taxonomy



More grey than white boxes

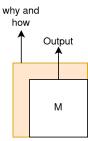
When white box models grow in size they tend to become more opaque by losing some transparency.



Consider for example simulatability or decoposability.

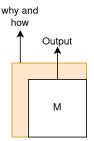
Post hoc methods

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Can be further subdivided in:

- Model specific: They aim to explain a particular class of models by also leveraging their structure.
- Model agnostic: More general class of models which don't make assumptions on the structure of the model, thus they can only analyze I/O pairs.

An orthogonal subdivision

Instead of subdividing post hoc methods into model specific or agnostic we can subdivide the on the basis of their explanations :

- Local explanations → They explain only why a single sample produces such output (e.g. LIME). They don't scale in general.
- Global explanations → They explain the whole model or whole classes of samples (if we are in a classification task).

An orthogonal subdivision

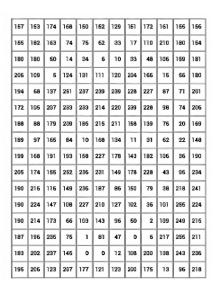
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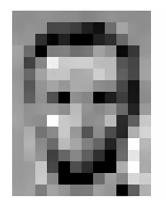
Explaining output in terms of input it may not be sufficient though.

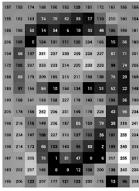
We need concepts

What do you see?



We need concepts (cont.)





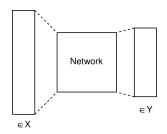


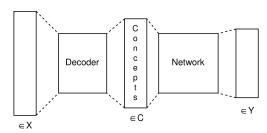
We need concepts (cont.)

Input features may not be human understandable, so **concept based methods** were introduced.

Concepts are high level features which are human understandable

Concept based methods take concepts as input. In particular given a classification task, a **Concept based classifier** is a function $h: C \to Y$ which takes as input concepts extracted by a decoder $(g: X \to C)$.





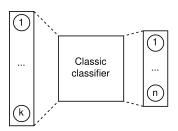
Entropy based explanation of

N.N.

Model topology

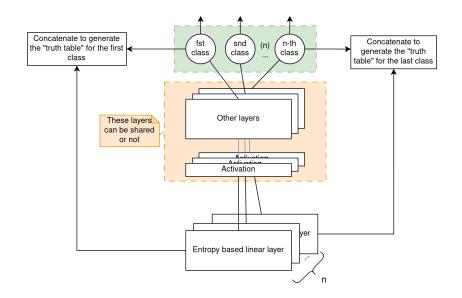
Context : Classification of samples with k concepts in n classes

The topology of the network (a concept based classifier) resembles a classic classifier, the main difference (aside the truth tables) is in the first layer, which now is a *entropy based linear layer* and in the fact that there are many n, one for each class, of them.



The goal of this network is to classify correctly the samples as well as characterize with a relatively short boolean formula all the n classes.

Model topology (cont.)



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Note that we have up to the last layer a stack of *n* classifiers (if we don't merge them first in the middle layers).

The main component that drives the model explainability is the entropy linear layer which takes as input a concept tuple (sample) and computes two pieces of data :

- hidden states which the rest of the network will use to compute the output.
- a boolean concept tuple describing the sample by a boolean formula only on it's most relevant components.

Model topology (cont.)

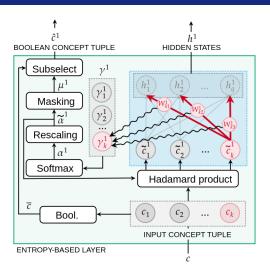
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The goal of each boolean concept tuple (one for each class) is to describe shortly in concept terms (relevant to the i-th class) the sample considered.

Entropy linear layer



n of these characterize the first layer of the network. They are linear, so parameter wise they only need a weight matrix W^{i} and a bias vector b^{i} .

To compute the two outputs we first need to determine the attention which each class (i) has towards each concept (j).

For simplicity in the previous image such attention is depicted by the γ vector (they are not additional parameters) :

$$\gamma_j^i = \| \textit{\textbf{W}}_j^i \|_1$$

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$$\gamma_j^i = ||W_j^i||_1$$

The attention each class i has towards the j-th concept is the norm of the j-th row of the weight matrix of the i-th entropy linear layer.

A higher γ^i_j value means the concept j is more relevant for characterizing the class i, on the other hand $\gamma^i_j \to 0$ indicates that such concept is irrelevant in this context.

The attention vector of each layer is then normalized with a slightly modified softmax function :

$$\alpha_j^i = \frac{e^{\gamma_j^i/\tau}}{\sum_{l=1}^k e^{\gamma_l^i/\tau}} \quad \text{with } \tau \in \mathbb{R}^+$$

au tells how to weight differently the concept difference (i.e. it drives the length of the boolean concept tuple).

The values are then just rescaled for numerical reasons:

$$\widetilde{\alpha}_j^i = \frac{\alpha_j^i}{\max_u \alpha_u^i}$$

Having the attention values for each class now we can now compute the Hadamard product of the attention values with the concept tuple :

$$\widetilde{\boldsymbol{c}}^i = \boldsymbol{c} \odot \widetilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}^i$$

By doing so in \widetilde{c}^i we will have that the less relevant concepts for the i-th class will be sensibly smaller (in absolute value) than their counterparts in the input tuple c.

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As a final step the linear result of the linear layer (i.e. the hidden state) is calculated :

$$h^i = W^i \widetilde{c}^i + b^i$$

Entropy linear layer - the boolean concept tuple?

Define a function $\mathbb{I}_{\geq \epsilon}(X) : \mathbb{R}^m \to \{0,1\}^m$ that given a vector X it returns a vector in which each component is 0 if $x_i < \epsilon$ or 1 else.

To define the boolean interpretation for the tuple c, namely \hat{c}^i we calculate :

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{c}}^i := \xi(\mathbb{I}_{\geq \epsilon}(\boldsymbol{c}), \mathbb{I}_{\geq \epsilon}(\widetilde{\boldsymbol{\alpha}}^i))$$

where ξ returns a vector by selecting the components of the first vector in which the second vector in the respective position contains 1. The resulting vector is thus a 0 and 1 vector of length $\leq k$.

Training

Consider a training set C and a sample $c \in C$.

First a boolean representation of the network output is defined, namely $\bar{f}^i(c) = \mathbb{I}_{\geq \epsilon}(f^i(c))$ where $f^i(c)$ is the prediction for c to belong into the i-th class (given by the i-th entropy layer). An element of the i-th truth table is made up of the concatenation (column-wise) of \hat{c}^i and $\bar{f}^i(c)$.

The elements of the truth table generated in this way will be concatenated row-wise. The final i - th truth table ¹ will be expressed as :

$$T^i = (\hat{C}^i || \overline{f}^i)$$

^{1.} Which is not a truth table in the classical sense

Where is the entropy?

The entropy comes into play in the loss function:

$$\mathcal{L}(f, y, \alpha^{1}, \alpha^{2}, ...\alpha^{n}) = L(f, y) + \lambda \sum_{i=1}^{n} \mathcal{H}(\alpha^{i})$$

Where L(f, y) is any loss function used in a multi-label classification task (e.g. cross-entropy or KL divergence) and λ is an hyper-parameter balancing the accuracy of the model and the succinctness of the explanation given.

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The second part of the loss seems a L1 Regularization over α^i ($\lambda \sum_{i=1}^{n} |(\alpha^i)|$).

But according to the results, L1 regularization wasn't penalizing enough the attention vectors to derive short explanations.

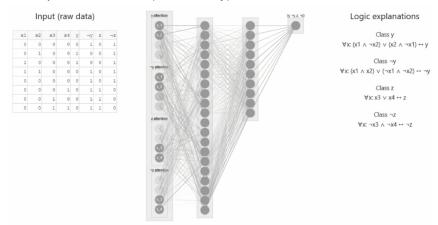
The explanations

How do we generate explanations?

- Local (single sample) explanation: an entry in the truth table is a column wise concatenation of \hat{c}^i and $\bar{f}^i(c)$. To derive an explanation for a sample need to conjoin the true concepts and the negated counterparts of the false ones. Repeating this process for all the classes will give us a n conjuctions explaining why the sample belongs or not to each class.
- Class explanation: provides an explanation of a whole class, namely it characterizes all the samples that will be classified as belonging to such class. To derive such explanation for a generic class i consider T_i and put in a disjunction all the local explanations for the samples positively labelled (i.e $\overline{f}^i(c) = 1$).

An example

Four concepts, four classes (two actually):



The topology in this case seems a bit counter intuitive.

Conclusions

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The idea is very intuitive and according to the results, the performances are in line with those of many white box models.

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But...

- If the network become bigger, do explanations still hold? recall that the explanations come only from the first layer...
- Can it scale? we are repeating the input layer *n* times at best.

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