Overton Apple-flavored ML

2019/10/07 Nantes Machine Learning Meetup

What / When / Where

Publishing date

Early September

Conference

NeurIPS

Goal

ML software lifecycle management

Maturity

Production

Challenges to overcome

- Precise monitoring
- Complex pipelines
- Efficient feedback loop

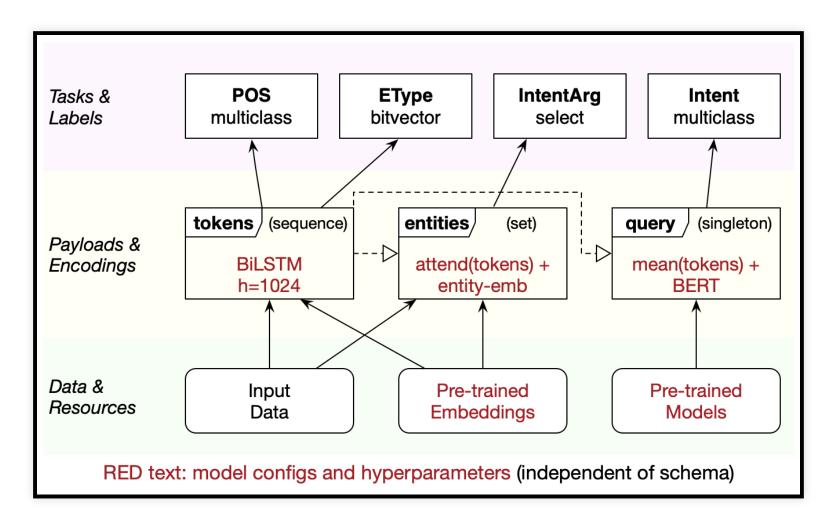
Architectural choices

- Code-less deep learning
- Multi-task learning
- Weak supervision

Principles

- Models & training code = experts
- "black box" by engineers

Modularity



Configuration

```
Schema
"pavloads": {
  "tokens" {
   "type": "sequence",
   "max_length": 16
  "query": {
    "type": "singleton",
    "base": ["tokens"]
  "entities": {
    "type": "set",
    "range": "tokens"
"tasks" : {
  "P0S": {
    "payload": "tokens",
    "type": "multiclass"
  "EntityType": {
    "payload": "tokens",
    "type": "bitvector"
  "Intent": {
   "payload": "query",
    "type": "multiclass"
 "IntentArg": {
    "payload": "entities",
    "type": "select"
```

```
Example Data Record
"payloads": {
 "tokens": ["How", "tall", ...],
 "query": "How tall is the president of the
           united states",
 "entities": {
   0: {"id": "President (title)", range: [4,5]},
   1: {"id":"United_States", range: [6,9]},
   2: {"id":"U.S._state",range:[8,9]},
"tasks": {
   "spacy": ["ADV", "ADJ", "VERB", ...]
 "EntityType": {
   "eproj": [[], ..., ["location", "country"]]
 "Intent": {
   "weak1": "President",
   "weak2": "Height"
   "crowd": "Height"
 "IntentArg": {
   "weak1": 2.
   "weak2": 0,
   "crowd": 1
                                     JS ON
```

```
Model Tuning
  "tokens": {
    "embedding": [
      "GLOV-300",
      "BERT".
      "XLNet"
    "encoder": [
      "LSTM",
      "BERT",
      "XLNet"
    "size": [
      256, 768, 1024
  "query": {
    "agg": [
       "max", "mean"
  "entities": {
    "embedding": [
      "wiki-256",
      "combo-512".
    "attention": [
      "128x4", "256x8"
}
```

Problems

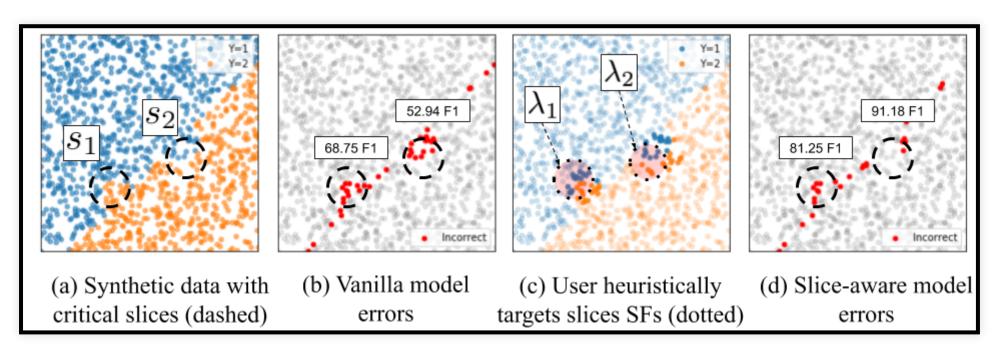
- Lots of subtasks (implicit & explicit)
- Need to evaluate & monitor them
- Need to improve on them

Approach

Slice-based learning

- Definition of data subsets
- Augmentation of model capacity
- Dedicated metrics

Slice-based learning



Definition of critical data subsets

With "slice functions":

```
def sf_bike(x):
    return "bike" in object_detector(x)

def sf_night(x):
    return avg(X.pixels.intensity) < 0.3</pre>
```

Slice experts

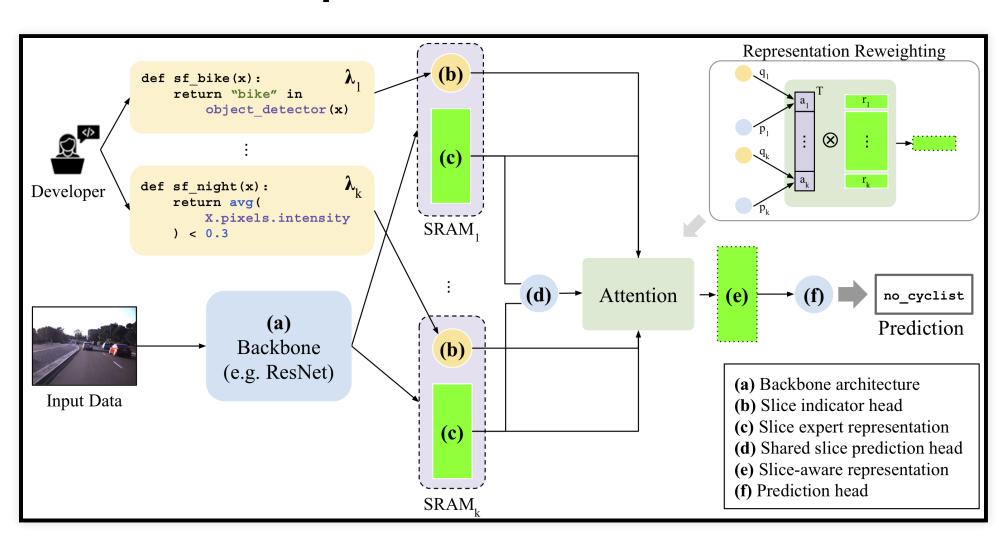
For each slice, an expert:

- should add capacity to the model
- has to know when to trigger
- has to have dedicated metrics

Hard parts

- Noise: slices are defined with heuristics
- Scale 1: when the number of slices goes up, does the model still run fast enough?
- Scale 2: when the number of slices goes up, is the model still good enough?

Proposed solution



Resources

- Snorkel blog "Slice-based Learning"
- NeurIPS paper "Slice-based Learning: A Programming Model for Residual Learning in Critical Data Slices"

Problem statement

We need data, but:

- It's expensive, not available, yadda yadda
- Especially for interesting corner cases
- It's noisy

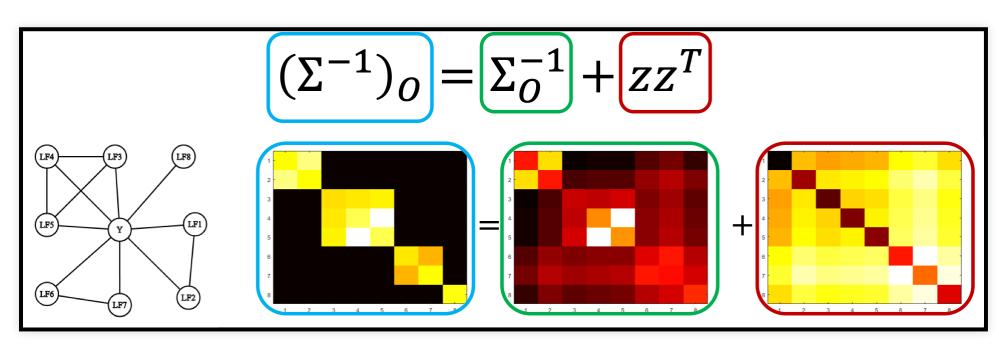
Solution

Use heuristics

```
@labeling_function()
def lf_regex_check_out(x):
    """Spam comments say 'check out my video', 'check it out', et
    return SPAM if re.search(r"check.*out", x.text, flags=re.I) e
```

Solution

Then correct the loss accounting for their correlation



Implementation

Overton uses a modified version of the "Label Model" from Snorkel.

Resources

- Snorkel blog « Introducing the New Snorkel »
- ICML paper "Learning Dependency Structures for Weak Supervision Models"

Conclusion

- Modularity (alike AllenNLP, tensor2tensor)
- Dedicated metrics & multi-tasks
- Improvements on critical data subsets
- Artifical data with theoretical corrections

Questions / Discussion