Evaluating MLOps Tools

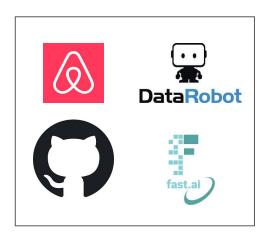
Watch this talk on YouTube

Hamel Husain

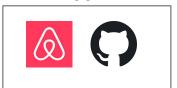
Stanford CS329S ML Systems Design, February 2022

About Hamel

Building Tools



"Cool" Applied ML



OSS Contributions



"Uncool" Applied ML



Motivation

It All Started With Some Provocative Comments



ML Educator, Author, Frequently Gives Talks

"... People don't use PyTorch for production, no <u>real</u> applied ML occurs in pytorch "

"data drift and model drift are a completely solved problem in TFX"



Me

This Is Incredibly Common In Tech, But More Acute In MLOPS





- Zealouts often appear when there is an incredible amount of entropy in a domain
- Zealouts often come prepared with an arsenal of cherry picked features
- Appeal to authority: This worked at {Google, Facebook, etc}

Criterion For Evaluating Tools

- Friction in critical parts of the workflow
- Rapid prototyping / iteration
- As few DSLs as possible
- Ergonomic
- Interopability w/other tools
- Quality of documentation
- Progressive complexity: easy to get started



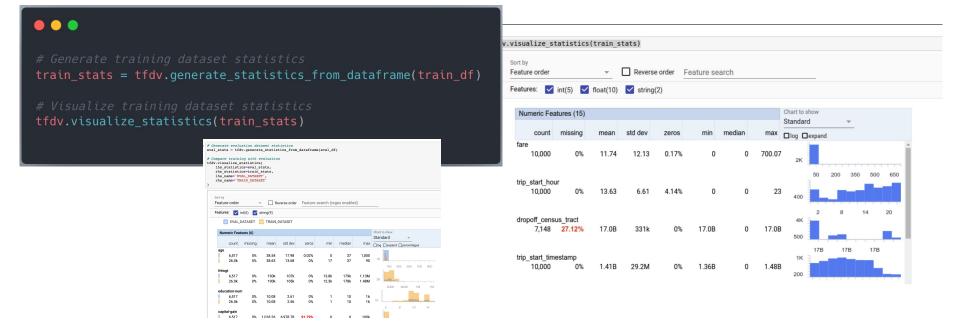


Things I Like About TFX

- 1. TF Data Validation
- 2. Tensorboard
- 3. TF Serving

Things I like about TFX: TFDV For Auto-EDA

The way we currently do EDA is broken. We often end up creating the same set of viz for each dataset. Two lines of code and we can get a headstart. Works with existing tools. Really light weight.



Things I like about TFX: TFDV For Data Validation

TFDV offers reasonable data validation that allows you to quickly compare two datasets and detect (1) anomalies and (2) schema changes.

```
# Check evaluation data for errors by validating the evaluation dataset statisti
anomalies = tfdv.validate_statistics(statistics=eval_stats, schema=schema)
# Visualize anomalies
tfdv.display_anomalies(anomalies)
```

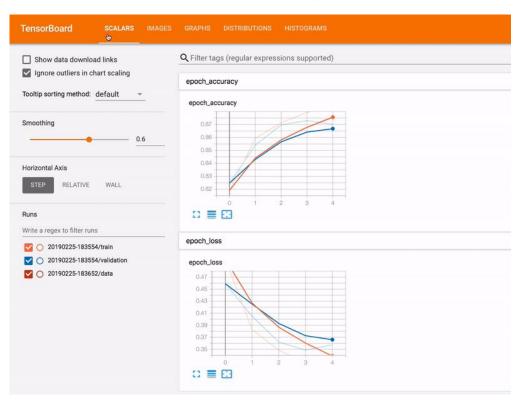
	Anomaly short description	Anomaly long description
Feature name		
'race'	Unexpected string values	Examples contain values missing from the schema: Asian (<1%).
'native-country'	Unexpected string values	Examples contain values missing from the schema: Mongolia (<1%).
'occupation'	Unexpected string values	Examples contain values missing from the schema: gamer (<1%).

Works with existing tools out of the box.

Very lightweight.

Things I like about TFX: Tensorboard

Loved by ML people everywhere. Framework agnostic. Easy to use. Just works.

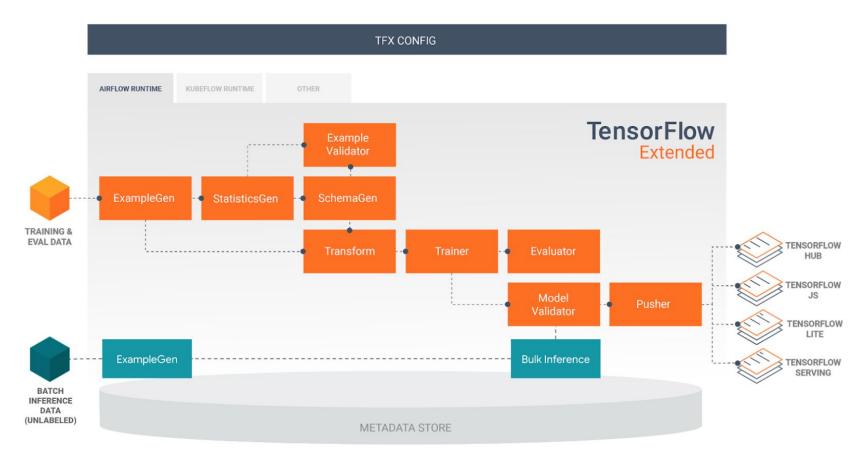


Things I like about TFX: TF Serving

TF Specific, but easy to use. Lots of good features. Easy to get started.

```
tensorflow_model_server \
    --rest_api_port=8505 \
    --model_name=my_model \
     --model_base_path="/content/${HAMEL_MODEL_DIR}" >server.log 2>&1
```

Things I don't like about TFX: Everything Else



Tools Need To Promote Rapid Iteration On Data



Andrew Ng

"I recommend you hold the model or code fixed and iteratively improve the quality of the data."

"I found that rather than taking a model centric view .. you can use an open source implementation of something you download of GitHub and instead just focus on optimizing the data."

TFX Transform

Let's Discourage Feature Engineering

```
traffic volume = tf.cast(inputs[ VOLUME KEY], tf.float32)
    outputs[ transformed name( VOLUME KEY)] = tf.cast(
       tf.greater(tf.cast(inputs[_VOLUME_KEY], tf.float32),
tft.mean(tf.cast(inputs[_VOLUME_KEY], tf.float32))),
        tf.int64)
```

You are limited to the narrow set of ops that TF provides.

Must learn a new DSL to perform simple math operations like >

You wrote plain python code or used pandas? Too bad. Refactor it.

Spacy? Forget about it

TFX Transform

Want To Iterate On Data? Slowwww Down Scripts only please! No notebooks.

```
%%writefile {_traffic_transform_module_file}
 import tensorflow as tf
 import tensorflow_transform as tft;
 import traffic_constants
 # Unpack the contents of the constants module
 DENSE FLOAT FEATURE KEYS = traffic constants.DENSE FLOAT FEATURE KEYS
 RANGE FEATURE KEYS = traffic constants.RANGE FEATURE KEYS
 VOCAB FEATURE KEYS = traffic constants.VOCAB FEATURE KEYS
 VOCAB SIZE = traffic constants.VOCAB SIZE
 00V SIZE = traffic constants.00V SIZE
```

Difficult to perform feature transforms interactively.

Even official tutorials export a python script so transforms can be executed.

Iteration is slow. High cognitive load.

"Hello World" / Paved Paths Use Distributed Compute APIs

```
import os
from typing import Optional, Text, List
from absl import logging
from ml metadata.proto import metadata store pb2
import tfx.v1 as tfx
PIPELINE_NAME = 'my_pipeline'
PIPELINE_ROOT = os.path.join('.', 'my_pipeline_output')
METADATA_PATH = os.path.join('.', 'tfx_metadata', PIPELINE_NAME, 'metadata.db')
ENABLE CACHE = True
def create_pipeline(
 pipeline_name: Text,
  pipeline root:Text.
  enable_cache: bool,
  metadata_connection_config: Optional[
   metadata_store_pb2.ConnectionConfig] = None,
  beam_pipeline_args: Optional[List[Text]] = None
  components = []
  return tfx.dsl.Pipeline(
        pipeline_name=pipeline_name,
        pipeline_root=pipeline_root,
        components=components.
        enable cache=enable cache.
        metadata_connection_config=metadata_connection_config,
        beam_pipeline_args=beam_pipeline_args,
def run_pipeline():
  my_pipeline = create_pipeline(
      pipeline_name=PIPELINE_NAME.
      pipeline_root=PIPELINE_ROOT,
      enable_cache=ENABLE_CACHE.
      metadata_connection_config=tfx.orchestration.metadata.sqlite_m
  tfx.orchestration.LocalDagRunner().run(my_pipeline)
```

if __name__ == '__main__':
 logging.set_verbosity(logging.INFO)

run_pipeline()

Distributed computing framework and new DSLs from the beginning vs using existing tools.

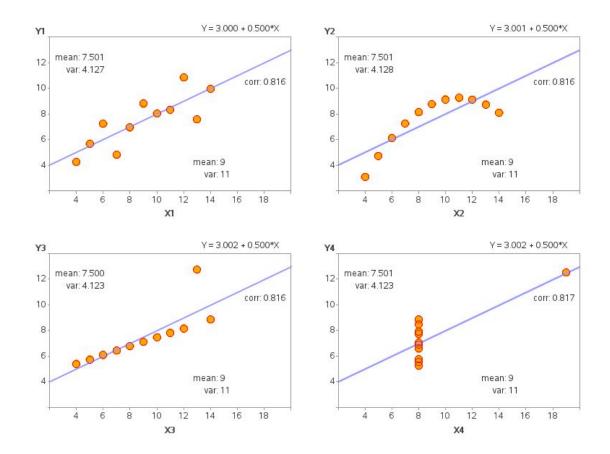
Jump straight into the deep end of complexity

Orchestrating TFX Pipelines

Apache Beam

Several TFX components rely on Beam for distributed data processing. In addition, TFX can use Apache Beam to orchestrate and execute the pipeline DAG. Beam orchestrator uses a different BeamRunner than the one which is used for component data processing. With the default DirectRunner setup the Beam orchestrator can be used for local

You Can't Understand Your Data w/o Visualizations



Model Validation (TFMA)

Data visualizations with code **config files** using existing **a new DSL**

```
tensorflow model analysis as tfma
   m google.protobuf import text format
eval config = text format.Parse("""
 ## Model information
 model specs {
  # For keras (and serving models), you need to add a `label key`.
   label_key: "label"
 ## Post training metric information. These will be merged with any built-in
 ## metrics from training.
   metrics { class name: "ExampleCount" }
   metrics { class name: "BinarvAccuracy" }
   metrics { class name: "BinaryCrossentropy" }
   metrics { class_name: "AUC" }
   metrics { class name: "AUCPrecisionRecall" }
                                                                 OUTPUT DIR = os.path.join(BASE DIR, 'output')
   metrics { class name: "Precision" }
   metrics { class name: "Recall" }
   metrics { class name: "MeanLabel" }
   metrics { class name: "MeanPrediction" }
                                                                 eval result = tfma.run model analysis(
   metrics { class name: "Calibration" }
                                                                      eval shared model=eval shared model,
   metrics { class name: "CalibrationPlot" }
   metrics { class name: "ConfusionMatrixPlot" }
                                                                      eval config=eval config,
   # ... add additional metrics and plots ...
                                                                      data location=TFRECORD FULL,
                                                                      output path=OUTPUT DIR)
 ## Slicing information
                                                            WARNING:tensorflow:SavedModel saved prior to TF 2.5 detec
 # overall slice
 slicing_specs {}
                                               slicing specs {
 # slice specific features
 slicing specs {
                                                  feature values: {
   feature keys: ["sex"]
                                                     key: "native-country"
                                                     value: "Canada"
 slicing specs {
   feature keys: ["race"]
 # slice specific values from features
 slicing specs {
                                               # slice feature crosses
   feature values: {
     key: "native-country"
                                              slicing specs {
     value: "Cambodia"
                                                  feature kevs: ["sex", "race"]
 slicing specs {
```

. tfma.EvalConfig()

- Config based*, difficult to iterate.
- Need to learn a special DSL you can't use anywhere else.
- Data must be in TFRecord format. Additional prerequisites.

* You can use more python than what is shown here, but it's still incredibly difficult.



Turn what is usually code into a giant config file!

Model Validation (TFMA)

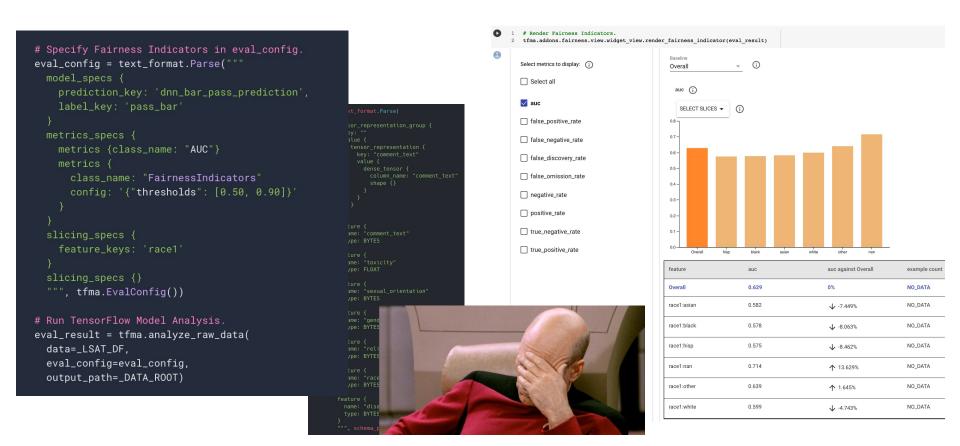
```
# Render metrics for feature crosses
tfma.view.render_slicing_metrics(
    eval_result,
    slicing_spec=tfma.SlicingSpec(
        feature_keys=['sex', 'race']))
```

- Nothing new here
- Completely Siloed From Tensorboard
- Metrics on slices
- "Tableau in a notebook" without the flexibility





TFMA Fairness Indicators: Another Viz & Slicing Library



More config-based visualizations

But Python Has Great DataViz Tools





Metrics on "slices" Is Already Easy w/ Existing Tools

And more flexible!

```
from sklearn.metrics import (
    accuracy_score as acc,
    roc_auc_score as roc)

df.groupby('sex').apply(lambda x: pd.Series({
    "Accuracy": acc(x["label"], x["prediction"]),
    "AUC": acc(x["label"], x["prediction"])
}))
```

Accuracy AUC sex AUC Female 0.505861 0.505861 Male 0.494292 0.494292

Tool Myopia Can Lead To Blindspots



"... People don't use PyTorch for production, no **real** applied ML occurs in pytorch"

"data drift and model drift are a completely solved problem in TFX"



Me

Skew Detection in TFX: Summary Statistics

Categorical: L-Infinity Norm

Numeric: Jensen-Shannon Divergence

Anomal	v short	description

Anomaly long description

Feature name

'payer_code'	High Linfty distance between current and previous	The Linfty distance between current and previous is 0.0342144 (up to six significant digits), above the threshold 0.03. The feature value with maximum difference is: MC
'diabetesMed'	High Linfty distance between training and serving	The Linfty distance between training and serving is 0.0325464 (up to six significant digits), above the threshold 0.03. The feature value with maximum difference is: No

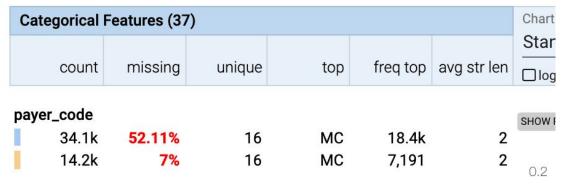
Skew Detection Is Very Limited & Not Actionable

Anomaly short description

Anomaly long description

Feature name

'payer_code'	High Linfty distance between current and previous	The Linfty distance between current and previous is 0.0342144 (up to six significant digits), above the threshold 0.03. The feature value with maximum difference is: MC
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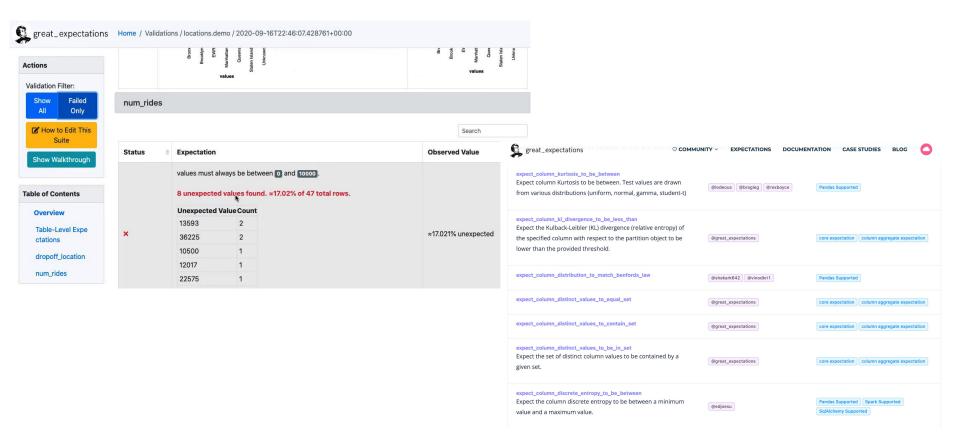


Not clear which summary stats are included in the calculation of L-infinity norm.

Univariate - doesn't account for interactions

Not Very Actionable. What Now?

Other tools can offer more visibility and options



A Practical Approach To Detect Skew: Adversarial Validation

Training Serving

- Train a model to discriminate between the train / serving set
- If there is any predictive power there is drift

You can use existing model interpretability tools to figure out whats causing the drift. No new infra or tools necessary.

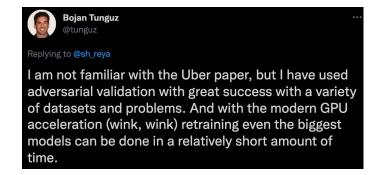
Not limited to univariate analysis, will catch complex interactions between features.

Adversarial Validation Approach to Concept Drift Problem in User Targeting Automation Systems at Uber

Jing Pan
Uber Technologies
San Francisco, California
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Vincent Pham Uber Technologies San Francisco, California vincent.pham@uber.com Mohan Dorairaj Uber Technologies San Francisco, California mohan@uber.com

Huigang Chen Uber Technologies San Francisco, California huigang@uber.com Jeong-Yoon Lee Uber Technologies San Francisco, California jeong@uber.com



Developer Ergonomics The Gold Standard: Keras



One of the most loved ML APIs ever designed.

Documentation is more important than features



"The one thing that's super important is investing high quality documentation compared to developing new features."

TFX: Documentation Is Often Missing

```
infer_output_type
infer_output_type(
    unused_input_type
register_urn
@classmethod
register_urn(
    urn, parameter_type, constructor=None
runner_api_requires_keyed_input
runner_api_requires_keyed_input()
to_runner_api
to_runner_api(
   context, has_parts=False, **extra_kwarqs
```

tfma.post_export_metrics.auc_plots View source on GitHub This is the function that the user calls. tfma.post_export_metrics.auc_plots(*args, **kwargs Was this helpful?

Reduce cognitive load and boilerplate



"If the cognitive load of a workflow is sufficiently low, it should be possible for a user to go through it from memory without looking up a tutorial or documentation after having done it once or twice".

Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4tO3TfL0QzY

Confusing API: removing an item from a set

```
tfdv.get_feature(schema, 'Cover_Type').not_in_environment.append('SERVING')
```

Would it have been possible to remove this item in a more pythonic way?

Special DSLs for simple operations can make it really hard to remember how to do things.

Entry level paths often do not exist: Ex. Metadata store

```
connection_config = metadata_store_pb2.ConnectionConfig()

connection_config.sqlite.filename_uri = '...'

connection_config.sqlite.connection_mode = 3 # READWRITE_OPENCREATE

store = metadata_store.MetadataStore(connection_config)
```

Setup is painful. This is something done automatically for you in Metaflow & MLFlow using sensible defaults.

Doing a Simple Train/Validation Split

Tons of boilerplate to perform the most simple operation.

Source: https://www.tensorflow.org/tfx/guide/examplegen

Progressive disclosure of complexity



"A key design principle I follow in libraries (e.g. Keras) is "progressive disclosure of complexity". Make it easy to get started, yet make it possible to handle arbitrarily flexible use cases, only requiring incremental learning at each step".

Source: https://twitter.com/fchollet/status/1231285340335267840

"Hello World" and Paved Paths Use Apache Beam

```
import os
from typing import Optional, Text, List
from absl import logging
from ml metadata.proto import metadata store pb2
import tfx.v1 as tfx
PIPELINE_NAME = 'my_pipeline'
PIPELINE_ROOT = os.path.join('.', 'my_pipeline_output')
METADATA_PATH = os.path.join('.', 'tfx_metadata', PIPELINE_NAME, 'metadata.db')
ENABLE CACHE = True
def create_pipeline(
  pipeline_name: Text,
  pipeline root:Text.
  enable_cache: bool,
  metadata_connection_config: Optional[
   metadata_store_pb2.ConnectionConfig] = None,
  beam_pipeline_args: Optional[List[Text]] = None
  components = []
  return tfx.dsl.Pipeline(
        pipeline_name=pipeline_name,
        pipeline_root=pipeline_root,
        components=components.
        enable cache=enable cache.
        metadata_connection_config=metadata_connection_config,
        beam_pipeline_args=beam_pipeline_args,
def run_pipeline():
  my_pipeline = create_pipeline(
      pipeline_name=PIPELINE_NAME.
      pipeline_root=PIPELINE_ROOT,
      enable_cache=ENABLE_CACHE.
      metadata_connection_config=tfx.orchestration.metadata.sqlite_m
  tfx.orchestration.LocalDagRunner().run(my_pipeline)
```

if __name__ == '__main__':
 logging.set_verbosity(logging.INFO)

run_pipeline()

Distributed computing and new DSLs from the beginning vs using existing tools.

Jump straight into the deep end of complexity

Orchestrating TFX Pipelines

Apache Beam

Several TFX components rely on Beam for distributed data processing. In addition, TFX can use Apache Beam to orchestrate and execute the pipeline DAG. Beam orchestrator uses a different BeamRunner than the one which is used for component data processing. With the default DirectRunner setup the Beam orchestrator can be used for local

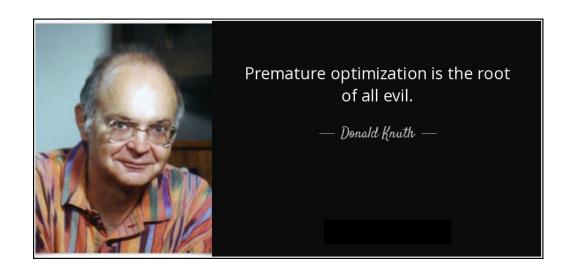
BUT WAIT



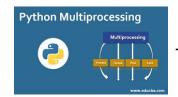
The Scalability Argument



But we need scale. Apache Beam allows us to scale.







Large VM

The Portability/Reproducability Argument



If you don't tie your transforms to your model you get train serving skew



The Don't Use It Argument



"You don't have to use tools like TF Transform until you are ready to make pipelines"

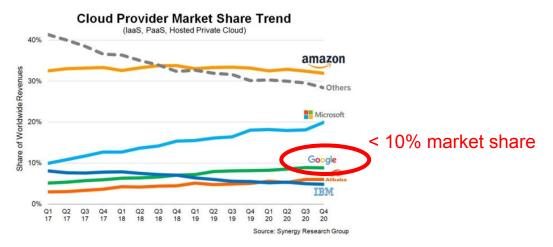


I'd rather not mess with this in the first place

This is all easy with GCP: Vertex Al Pipelines



I use Vertex AI Pipelines (GCP) which makes TFX easy



Invest your time and skills like this

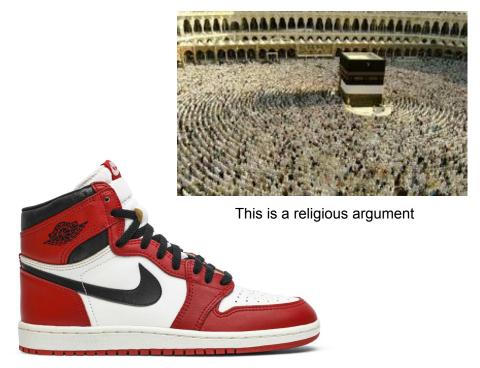


But Google Is Smart



Google has smart people.

You can enjoy success with ML like them if you use their tools.



"Use their tools" Is very effective marketing

Final Thoughts

The Irony

The fastest way to accrue debt is to cargo cult these tools

Machine Learning: The High-Interest Credit Card of Technical Debt

D. Sculley, Gary Holt, Daniel Golovin, Eugene Davydov, Todd Phillips, Dietmar Ebner, Vinay Chaudhary, Michael Young

{dsculley,gholt,dgg,edavydov}@google.com {toddphillips,ebner,vchaudhary,mwyoung}@google.com Google,Inc

Abstract

Machine learning offers a fantastically powerful toolkit for building complex systems quickly. This paper argues that it is dangerous to think of these quick wins as coming for free. Using the framework of technical debt, we note that it is remarkably easy to incur massive ongoing maintenance costs at the system level when applying machine learning. The goal of this paper is highlight several machine learning specific risk factors and design patterns to be avoided or refactored where possible. These include boundary erosion, entanglement, hidden feedback loops, undeclared consumers, data dependencies, changes in the external world, and a variety of system-level anti-patterns.

Hidden Technical Debt in Machine Learning Systems

D. Sculley, Gary Holt, Daniel Golovin, Eugene Davydov, Todd Phillips {dsculley, gholt, dgg, edavydov, toddphillips}@google.com Google, Inc.

Dietmar Ebner, Vinay Chaudhary, Michael Young, Jean-François Crespo, Dan Dennison {ebner, vchaudhary, mwyoung, jfcrespo, dennison}@google.com Google.Inc.

Abstract

Machine learning offers a fantastically powerful toolkit for building useful complex prediction systems quickly. This paper argues it is dangerous to think of these quick wins as coming for free. Using the software engineering framework of *technical debt*, we find it is common to incur massive ongoing maintenance costs in real-world ML systems. We explore several ML-specific risk factors to account for in system design. These include boundary erosion, entanglement, hidden feedback loops, undeclared consumers, data dependencies, configuration issues, changes in the external world, and a variety of system-level anti-patterns.

When Would You Recommend TFX?

- Not binary: I love some components and dislike others.
- Overall, probably a bad fit for the vast majority of people.
- Might be a good fit if:
 - Very committed to TF
 - Running on GCP (beam, vertex ai pipelines)
 - Need to deploy to edge devices
 - Scale: Optimization is more expensive vs developer time
 - Even then, not convinced is a great fit for many people.

Don't Become A Tool Zealot

- It will narrow the way you think about problems.
- Introduces bias towards working on certain tasks over others (i.e. data cleaning vs crafting model architectures).
- Will prevent you from hiring diverse talent.
- Can lead to blindspots (ex: data drift, fairness, etc).
- Try new tools often, especially ones that use a different approach.
- These are the same reasons you should learn other programming languages

... Even if you have no time to try other things, keep an open mind