

# CatDB: Data-catalog-guided, LLM-based Generation of Data-centric ML Pipelines

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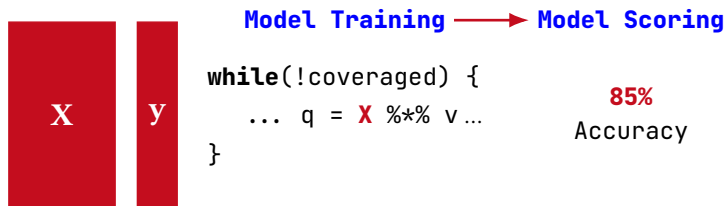
Saeed Fathollahzadeh <sup>1</sup>, Essam Mansour <sup>1</sup>, and Matthias Boehm <sup>2,3</sup>



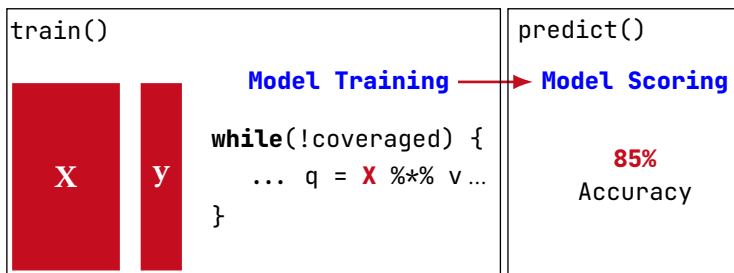
September 1-5



# Data-centric ML Pipelines - Background



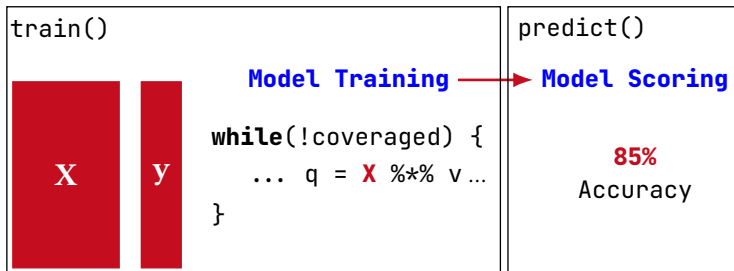
# Data-centric ML Pipelines - Background



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Model and Feature Selection

Hyperparameter Tuning + CV



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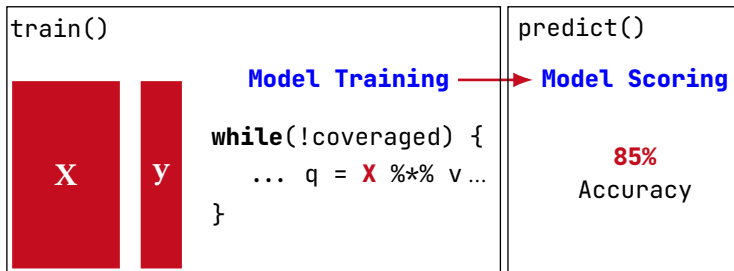
## Data Preparation

### Data Integration & Data Cleaning

### Data Programming & Augmentation

### Model and Feature Selection

### Hyperparameter Tuning + CV



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## Data Preparation

### Data Integration & Data Cleaning

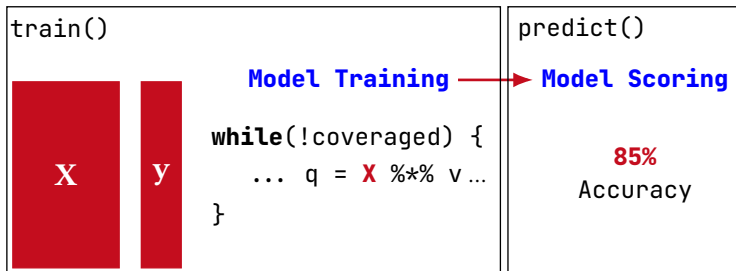
### Data Programming & Augmentation

### Model and Feature Selection

### Hyperparameter Tuning + CV



[e.g., Alex Krizhevsky  
ImageNet 2012  
Challenge Winner]



# Motivation

## Raw Data

Table #1			Table #2		
c <sub>1</sub>	c <sub>2</sub>	...	c <sub>1</sub>	c <sub>2</sub>	...
1	a	...	A	0	..
2	-	...	B	1	...
...	...	...	...	..	...

.....

Table #N			
c <sub>1</sub>	c <sub>2</sub>	...	target (y)
1	A	...	Yes
2	0	...	No
...	...	...	...

How to **Automatically** and **Efficiently**  
Build a Data-centric ML Pipeline?

CatDB

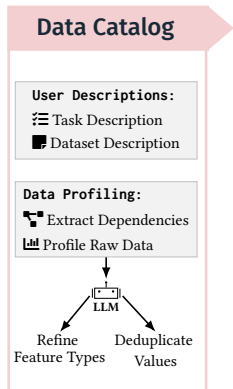
## ML Pipeline

```
1: import pandas as pd
2: import SimpleImputer
3: import OneHotEncoder
4: import ColumnTransformer
5: import Pipeline
6: import RandomForestRegressor
7: import r2_score

8: train = pd.read_csv("train.csv")
9: test = pd.read_csv("test.csv")

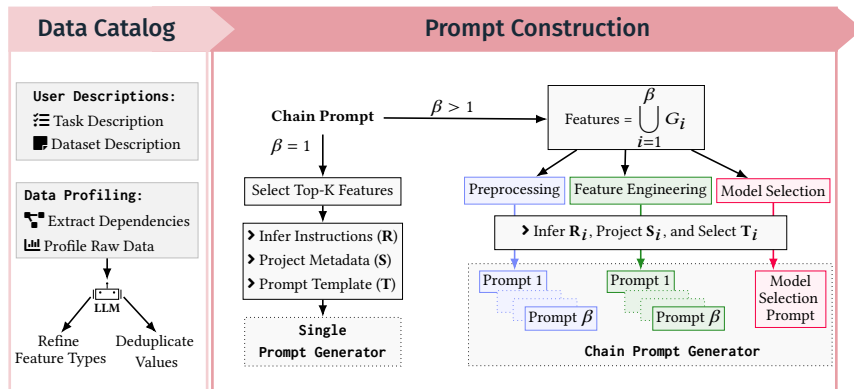
10: cat = ["Experience", "Gender"]
11: cat = Pipeline(steps=[
12:     ("imputer", SimpleImputer(...
13:     ("onehot", OneHotEncoder(...
14: ])
15: preprocessor = ColumnTransformer(
16:     transformers = [("cat", ...)]
17: )
18: model = RandomForestRegressor(...)
19: p = Pipeline(steps=[ ... ])
20: p.fit(X_train, y_train)
21: y_test_pred = p.predict(X_test)
```

# Data-centric ML pipeline generation in CatDB

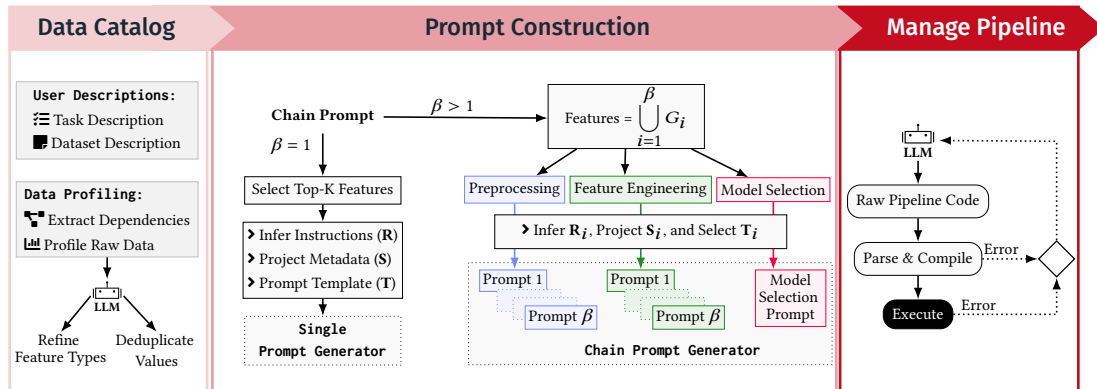




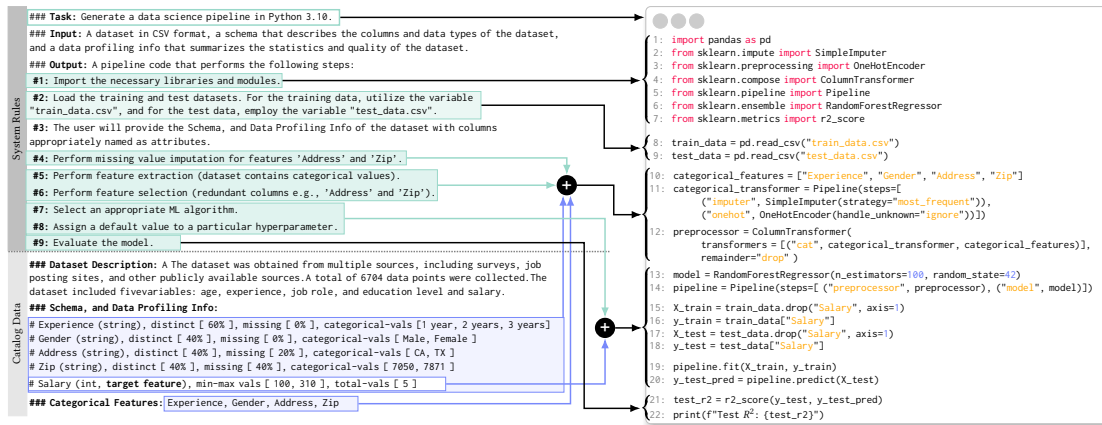
# Data-centric ML pipeline generation in CatDB



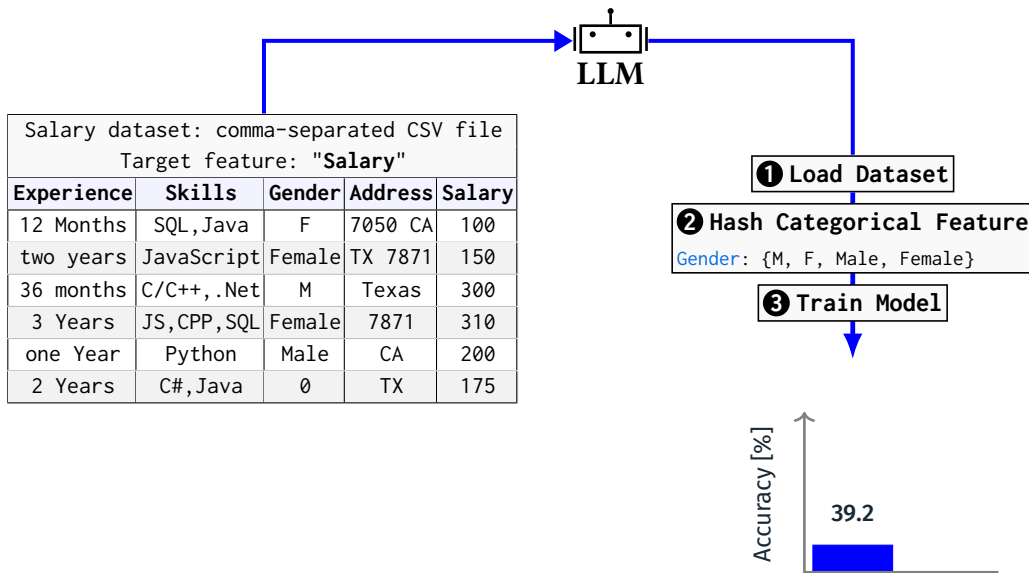
# Data-centric ML pipeline generation in CatDB



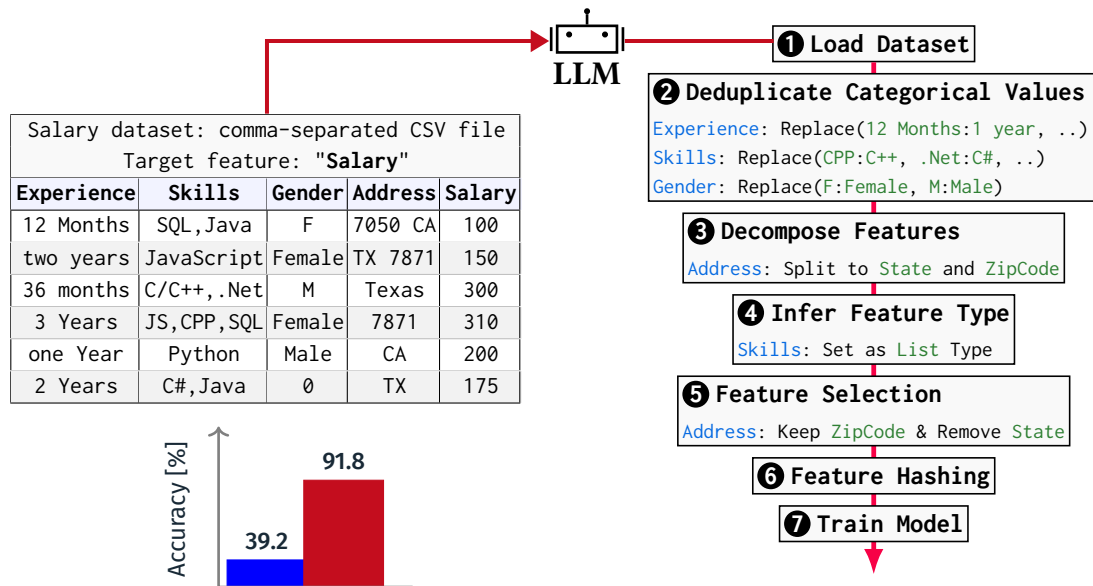
# CatDB-generated prompt & resulting pipeline



# Example: Pipeline DAG in SOTA vs. CatDB



# Example: Pipeline DAG in SOTA vs. CatDB



# Example of Data Catalog Update and Data Cleaning

## Raw Dataset

Salary dataset: comma-separated CSV file				
Target feature: "Salary"				
Experience	Skills	Gender	Address	Salary
12 Months	SQL,Java	F	7050 CA	100
two years	JavaScript	Female	TX 7871	150
36 months	C/C++, .Net	M	Texas	300
3 Years	JS,CPP,SQL	Female	7871	310
one Year	Python	Male	CA	200
2 Years	C#,Java	0	TX	175

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Refine  
Duplicates

Clean Dataset								
#	Experience	Gender	State	Zip	C++	...	Python	Salary
1	1 year	Female	CA	7050	0	...	0	100
2	2 years	Female	TX	7871	0	...	0	150
3	3 years	Male	TX		1	...	0	300
4	3 years	Female		7871	1	...	0	310
5	1 year	Male	CA		0	...	1	200

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Update  
Data Catalog

Column Name	% Distinct	Feature Type	Samples
Experience	100	Sentence	[12 Months, two years, ...]
Skills	100	Sentence	["Python,Java", ...]
Gender	60	Categorical	[F, Female, M]
Address	100	Sentence	[7050 CA, TX 7871, CA, ...]
Experience	60	Categorical	[1 year, 2 years, 3 years]
Skills	--	List	[SQL, Java, C++, ...]
Gender	40	Categorical	[Male, Female]
State	40	Categorical	[CA, TX]
Zip	40	Categorical	[7050, 7871]

Data Catalog



# Experiment Setup

## ■ Real-world Datasets (20 datasets):

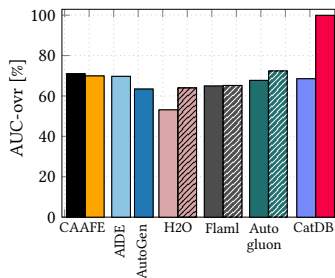
- **single/multiple tables,**
- **few/many samples,**
- **small/large number of features,** and
- **clean/dirty data.**

## ■ Comparing Systems:

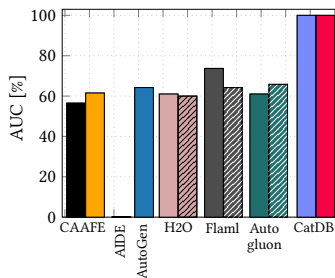
- **LLM-based Systems:** CAAFE, AIDE, AutoGen
- **AutoML Tools:** H2O, Flaml, Auto-Sklearn, AutoGluon
- **AutoML-based Workflows:** Data cleaning w/ **SAGA** and **Learn2Clean**, and data augmentation w/ **ADASYN**

# Performance Comparison (LLM = Gemini-1.5)

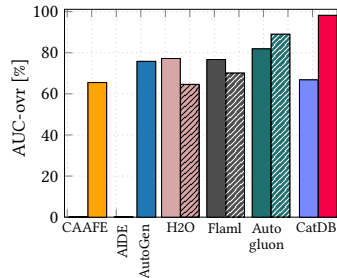
Legend: CatDB (Orig Data) (light blue), CatDB (Refined Catalog) (red), CAAFE TabPFN (black), CAAFE RandomForest (orange), AutoML w/Preprocessing (hatched)



(a) Etailing



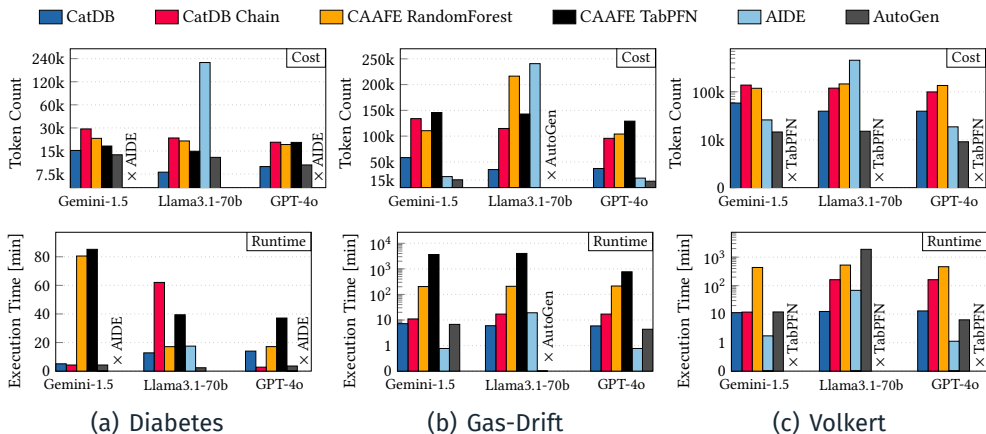
(b) Wifi



(c) Yelp

- **Deduplication** → Removes duplicates, balances labels.
- **Categorical Features** → Fixes formatting, transforms complexity.
- **Feature Refinement** → Drops constant/misread features, preserves distribution.

# Cost and Runtime Comparison (10 iterations)



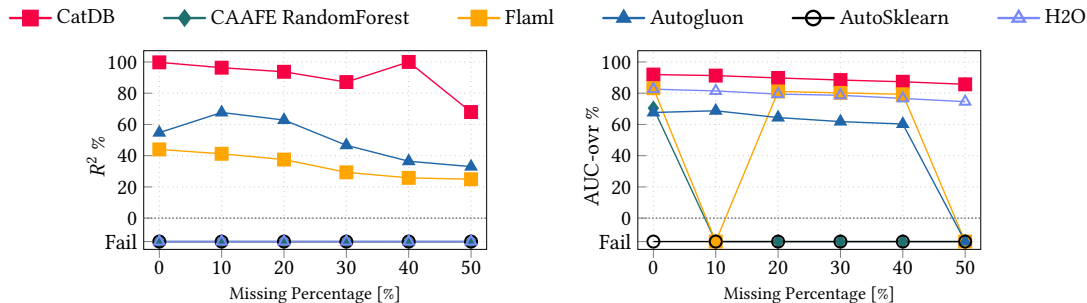
## ■ Cost Efficiency:

- AIDE & AutoGen use Hank-crafted prompts.
- CatDB consumes fewer tokens by projecting the Data Catalog.

## ■ Runtime Speedup:

- CatDB achieve **8x-14x** faster.
- AIDE & AutoGen consider only execution time.

# Outlier and Missing Value Injection (Gemini-1.5)



(a) Utility MV + Outlier=5%

(b) Volkert MV + Outlier=5%

■ **Robustness** → CatDB maintains high performance even with increasing missing values and 5% outliers.

# Conclusions

- **Data Catalog Integration** → Use metadata & rules for tailoring pipelines.
- **Catalog Refinements** → Enhance catalogs to guide ML pipeline creation.
- **Prompt Chaining** → Sequence prompts to optimize generation.
- **Error Handling** → Validate, fix with knowledge base for reliable pipelines.



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