Malware Classification

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Problem?

- Hundreds of malware samples discovered every day
- Reverse engineering not always possible
- Manual categorization is
  - Time consuming
  - Expensive
  - Subject to human mistakes

Malware

- Software that is intended to damage or disable computers [illegible]puter systems
- Divided in families (e.g Zeus [illegible]
- Each family cont[illegible]centralized, updated versi[illegible]
- **Famil[illegible]istics**

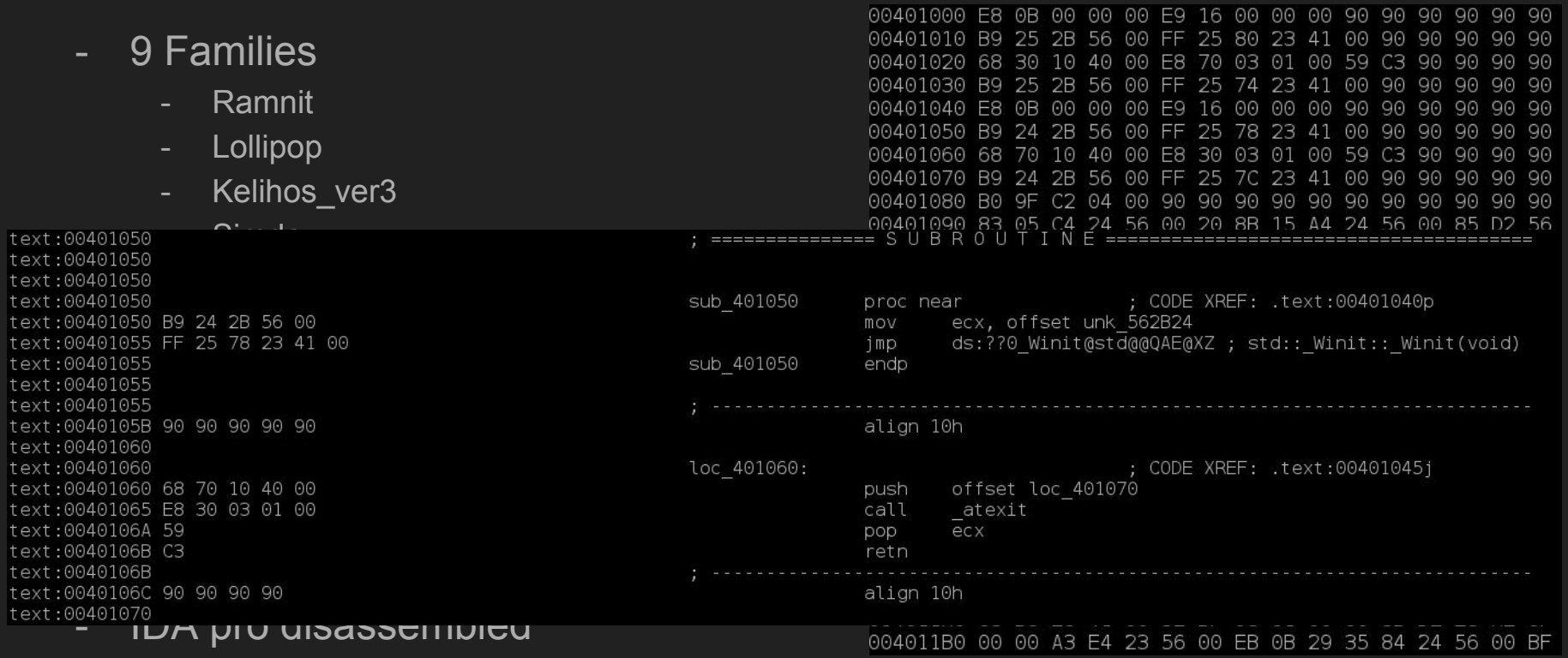
IDEAS?

Yeah...what about the data though?

- Good malware collections are hard to find
- Encryption and packing do not help in the task
- Virus Total and similar?
  - Hard to distinguish new and old samples
  - Miss-classification can affect the ground truth

Microsoft Malware Classification Challenge

- 9 Families
  - Ramnit
  - Lollipop
  - Kelihos_ver3
  - Simda
  - IDA pro disassembled



Have we got features?

- Size of the bytes file
- Strings within the file
- Number of Basic Block
- Sections (e.g. .text, .idata, .rdata)
- # of calls
- # of mov
- # of jmps (e.g. jge, jmp, je etc.)
- # of pop
- # of push
- # of xor
- # of sub
- # of add

Dynamic features non-available due to missing PE header

Multi-class classifiers

- Support Vector Machines

- Random Forest

- Neural Networks

Total features vector of

410318 elements

Number of samples of

10868 elements

SVM Results

Best configuration found {'kernel': 'rbf', 'C': 100, 'gamma': 0.0001}

Test size 33% Train size 66%

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
1	0.98	0.99	0.98	518
2	1.00	1.00	1.00	844
3	1.00	1.00	1.00	956
4	0.90	0.98	0.94	145
5	1.00	0.87	0.93	15
6	0.98	0.99	0.98	248
7	1.00	0.97	0.99	139
8	0.98	0.96	0.97	400
9	0.99	1.00	1.00	322
avg / total	0.99	0.99	0.99	3587

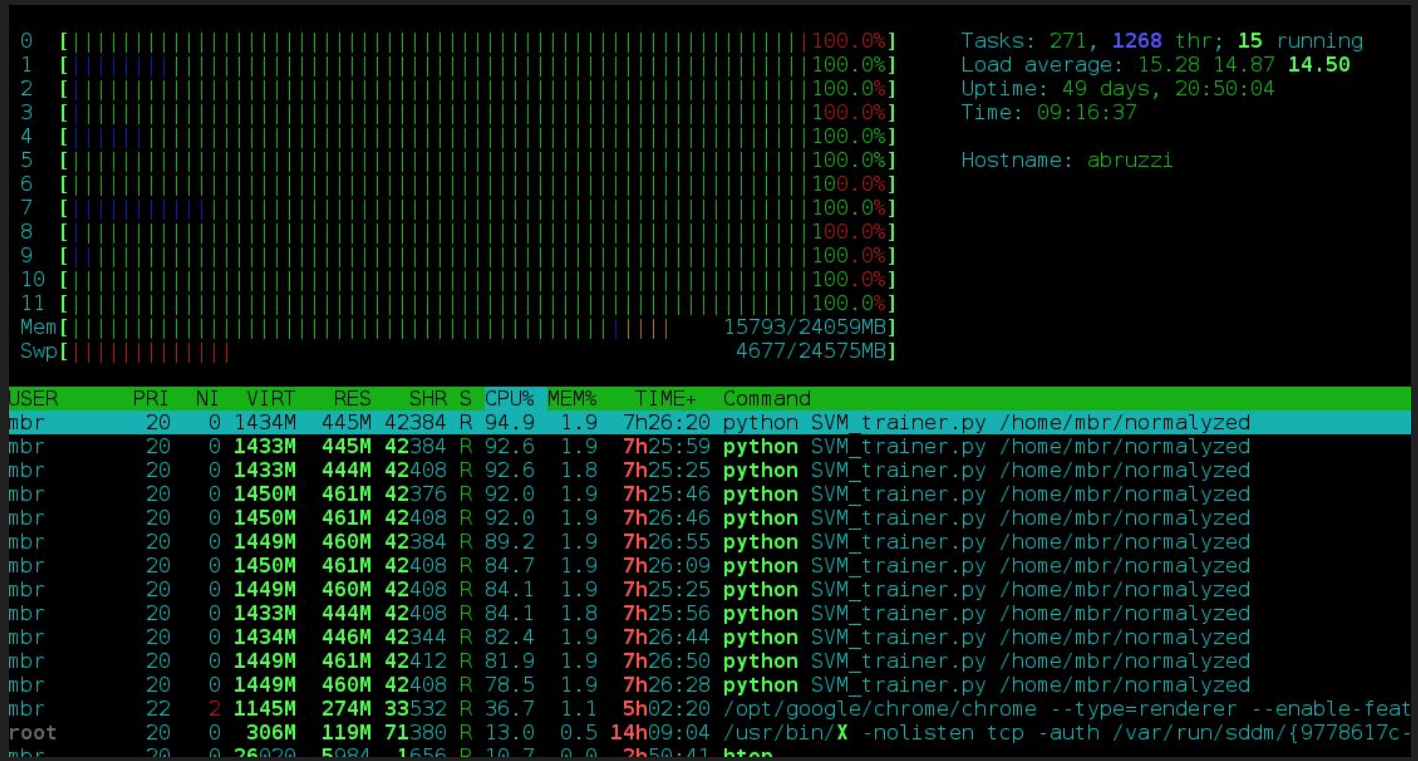
Random Forest Results

Best configuration found {'bootstrap': False, 'min_samples_leaf': 1, 'min_samples_split': 2, 'criterion': 'gini', 'max_features': 3, 'max_depth': None}

Test size 33% Train size 66%

	precision	recall	f1-score	support
1	0.93	0.98	0.96	518
2	0.99	0.99	0.99	844
3	1.00	0.99	1.00	956
4	0.90	0.98	0.94	145
5	0.90	0.60	0.72	15
6	1.00	0.99	0.99	248
7	0.98	0.96	0.97	139
8	0.98	0.92	0.95	400
9	0.99	1.00	0.99	322
avg / total	0.98	0.98	0.98	3587

Neural Network Results



Related Works

- Learning and Classification of Malware Behaviour (DIMVA 2008)
  - ~10K samples, SVM, 14 Families, Dynamic features
- Lines of malicious code: Insights into the Malicious Software Industry (ACSAC 12)
  - 11 Families, Dynamic features, Dormant Functionalities
- Say no to overfitting (winner of Microsoft competition)
  - Semi-supervised learning, n-grams, bytes visualization

Conclusion

- So far the best algorithm is SVM for this kind of classification
  - If it will ever terminate we will see if NN are better in this setting

- The feature selection seems reflect real characteristics of the malware families

- Acknowledge to sklearn, my SSD disk and multiprocessing :)

The end...questions?