

A photograph of the Fallingwater house by Frank Lloyd Wright, built into a rocky cliff over a waterfall. The house features cantilevered stone and concrete overhangs. It is surrounded by dense green trees and foliage. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

Machine Learning in Production Toward Architecture and Design

After requirements...

Fundamentals of Engineering AI-Enabled Systems

Holistic system view: AI and non-AI components, pipelines, stakeholders, environment interactions, feedback loops

Requirements:

- System and model goals
- User requirements
- Environment assumptions
- Quality beyond accuracy
- Measurement
- Risk analysis
- Planning for mistakes

Architecture + design:

- Modeling tradeoffs
- Deployment architecture
- Data science pipelines
- Telemetry, monitoring
- Anticipating evolution
- Big data processing
- Human-AI design

Quality assurance:

- Model testing
- Data quality
- QA automation
- Testing in production
- Infrastructure quality
- Debugging

Operations:

- Continuous deployment
- Contin. experimentation
- Configuration mgmt.
- Monitoring
- Versioning
- Big data
- DevOps, MLOps

Teams and process: Data science vs software eng. workflows, interdisciplinary teams, collaboration points, technical debt

Responsible AI Engineering

Provenance,
versioning,
reproducibility

Safety

Security and
privacy

Fairness

Interpretability
and explainability

Transparency
and trust

Ethics, governance, regulation, compliance, organizational culture

Learning Goals

- Describe the role of architecture and design between requirements and implementation
- Identify the different ML components and organize and prioritize their quality concerns for a given project
- Explain the key ideas behind decision trees and random forests and analyze consequences for various qualities
- Demonstrate an understanding of the key ideas of deep learning and how it drives qualities
- Plan and execute an evaluation of the qualities of alternative AI components for a given purpose

Readings

Required reading: Hulten, Geoff. "Building Intelligent Systems: A Guide to Machine Learning Engineering." (2018), Chapters 17 and 18

Recommended reading: Siebert, Julien, Lisa Joeckel, Jens Heidrich, Koji Nakamichi, Kyoko Ohashi, Isao Namba, Rieko Yamamoto, and Mikio Aoyama. "Towards Guidelines for Assessing Qualities of Machine Learning Systems." In International Conference on the Quality of Information and Communications Technology, pp. 17–31. Springer, Cham, 2020.

Recall: ML is a Component
in a System in an
Environment



- **ML components** for transcription model, pipeline to train the model, monitoring infrastructure...
 - **Non-ML components** for data storage, user interface, payment processing, ...
 - User requirements and assumptions
 - System quality vs model quality
 - System requirements vs model requirements

Recall: Systems Thinking



A system is a set of inter-related components that work together in a particular environment to perform whatever functions are required to achieve the system's objective -- Donella Meadows

Thinking like a Software Architect



So far: Requirements

- Identify goals for the system, define success metrics
- Understand requirements, specifications, and assumptions
- Consider risks, plan for mitigations to mistakes
- Approaching component requirements: Understand quality requirements and constraints for models and learning algorithms

From Requirements to Implementations...

We know what to build, but how? How do we meet the quality goals?



Software architecture: Key design decisions, made early in the development, focusing on key product qualities

Architectural decisions are hard to change later

Software Architecture

The software architecture of a program or computing system is the structure or structures of the system, which comprise software elements, the externally visible properties of those elements, and the relationships among them. -- [Kazman et al. 2012](#)

Architecture Decisions: Examples

- What are the major components in the system? What does each component do?
- Where do the components live? Monolithic vs microservices?
- How do components communicate to each other? Synchronous vs asynchronous calls?
- What API does each component publish? Who can access this API?
- Where does the ML inference happen? Client-side or server-side?
- Where is the telemetry data collected from the users stored?
- How large should the user database be? Centralized vs decentralized?
- ...and many others

Software Architecture

*Architecture represents the set of **significant design** decisions that shape the form and the function of a system, where **significant** is measured by cost of change. -- [Grady Booch, 2006]*

How much Architecture/Design?



Software Engineering Theme: *Think before you code*

Like requirements: Slower initially, but upfront investment can prevent problems later and save overall costs

- > Focus on most important qualities early, but leave flexibility

Quality Requirements Drive Architecture Design

Driven by requirements, identify most important qualities

Examples:

- Development cost, operational cost, time to release
- Scalability, availability, response time, throughput
- Security, safety, usability, fairness
- Ease of modifications and updates
- ML: Accuracy, ability to collect data, training latency

Architecture Design Involve Quality Trade-offs



☰ Q. What are quality trade-offs between the two?

Why Architecture? (Kazman et al. 2012)

Represents earliest design decisions.

Aids in **communication** with stakeholders: Shows them “how” at a level they can understand, raising questions about whether it meets their needs

Defines **constraints** on implementation: Design decisions form “load-bearing walls” of application

Dictates **organizational structure**: Teams work on different components

Inhibits or enables **quality attributes**: Similar to design patterns

Supports **predicting** cost, quality, and schedule: Typically by predicting information for each component

Aids in software **evolution**: Reason about cost, design, and effect of changes

Case Study: Twitter

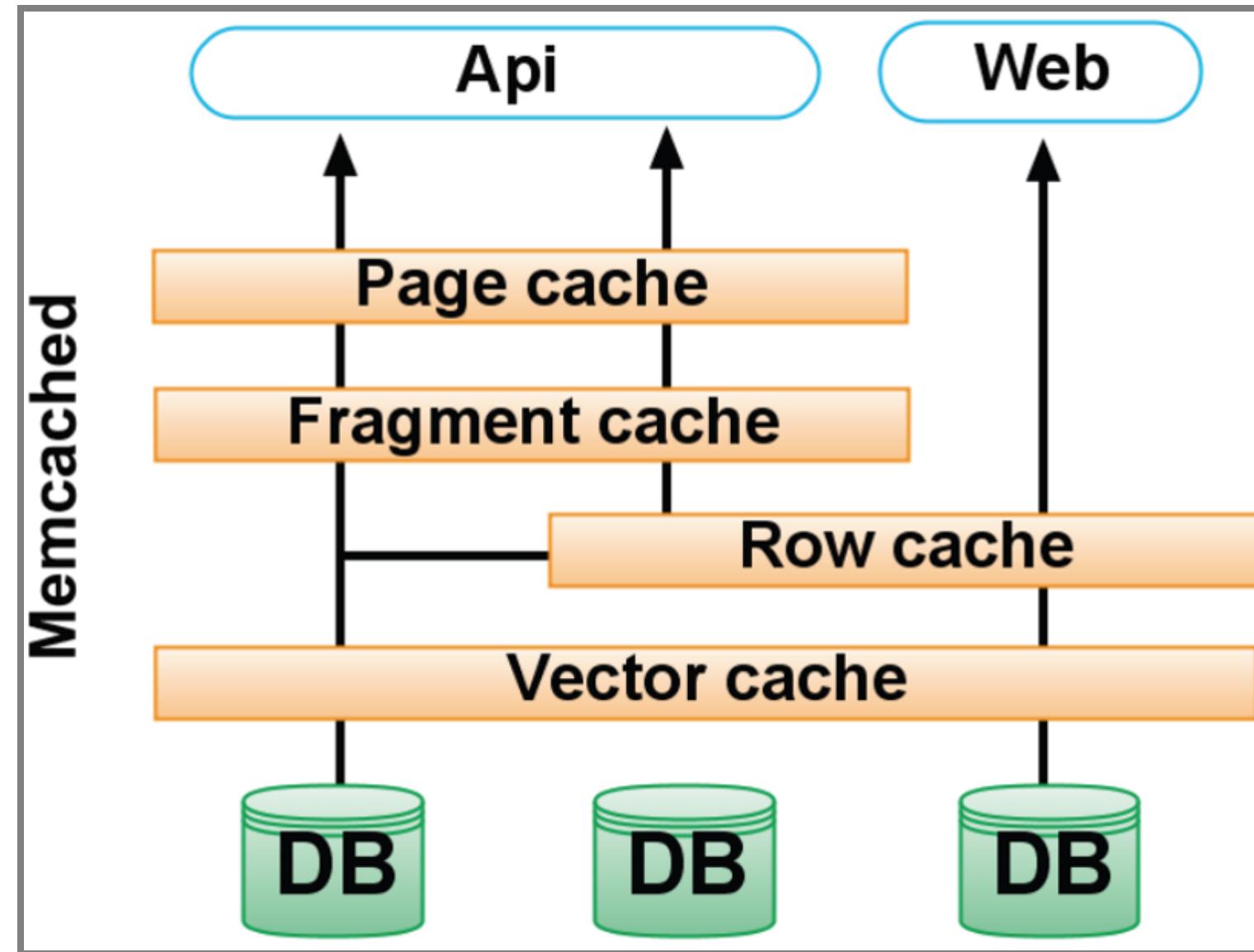


Speaker notes

Source and additional reading: Raffi. [New Tweets per second record, and how!](#) Twitter Blog, 2013



Twitter - Caching Architecture



Speaker notes

- Running one of the world's largest Ruby on Rails installations
- 200 engineers
- Monolithic: managing raw database, memcache, rendering the site, and * presenting the public APIs in one codebase
- Increasingly difficult to understand system; organizationally challenging to manage and parallelize engineering teams
- Reached the limit of throughput on our storage systems (MySQL); read and write hot spots throughout our databases
- Throwing machines at the problem; low throughput per machine (CPU + RAM limit, network not saturated)
- Optimization corner: trading off code readability vs performance



Twitter's Redesign Goals

- **Performance**
 - Improve median latency; lower outliers
 - Reduce number of machines 10x
- **Reliability**
 - Isolate failures
- **Maintainability**
 - "*We wanted cleaner boundaries with "related" logic being in one place*": encapsulation and modularity at the systems level (vs class/package level)
- **Modifiability**
 - Quicker release of new features: "*run small and empowered engineering teams that could make local decisions and ship user-facing changes, independent of other teams*"

Twitter: Redesign Decisions

- Ruby on Rails -> JVM/Scala
- Monolith -> Microservices
- RPC framework with monitoring, connection pooling, failover strategies, loadbalancing, ... built in
- New storage solution, temporal clustering, "roughly sortable ids"
- Data driven decision making



Twitter Case Study: Key Insights

Architectural decisions affect entire systems, not only individual modules

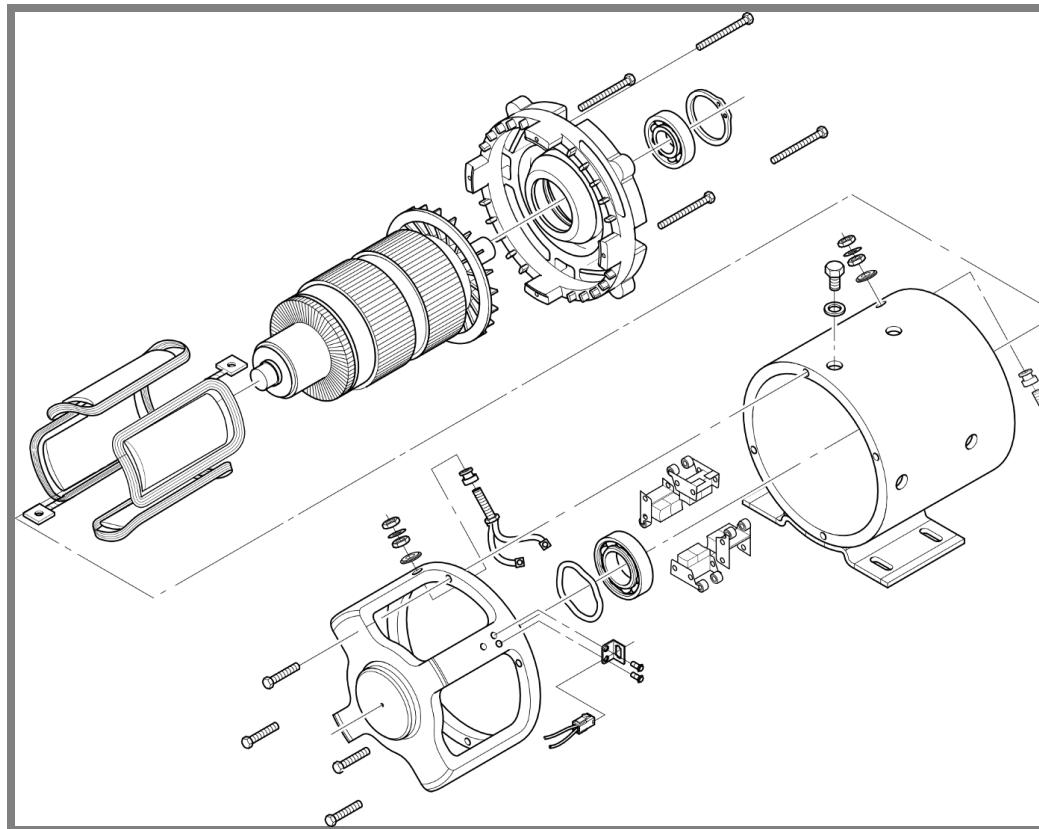
Abstract, different abstractions for different scenarios

Reason about quality attributes early

Make architectural decisions explicit

Question: Did the original architect make poor decisions?

Decomposition, Interfaces, and Responsibility Assignm.



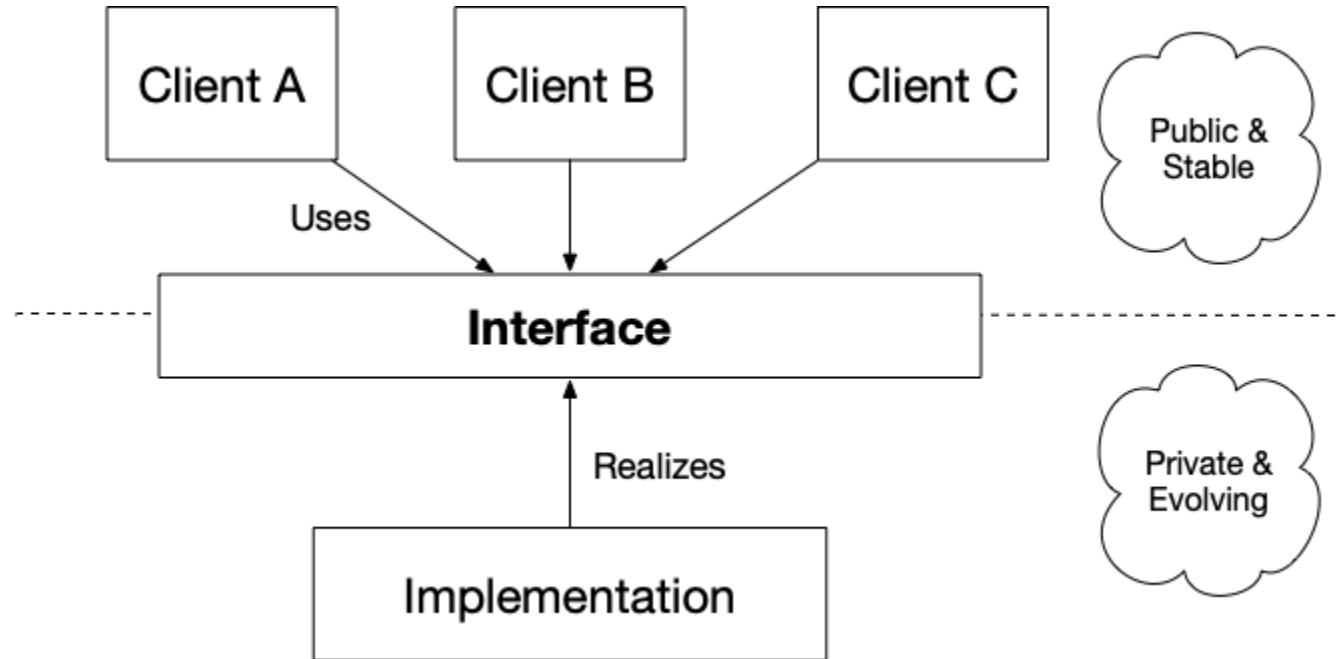
System Decomposition



Identify components and their responsibilities

Establishes interfaces and team boundaries

Information Hiding



Hide design decisions that are likely to change from clients

≡ Q. Examples? What are the benefits of information hiding?

Information Hiding

Decomposition enables scaling teams

- Each team works on a component
- Coordinate on *interfaces*, but implementations remain hidden

Interface descriptions are crucial

- Who is responsible for what
- Component requirements (specifications), behavioral and quality
- Especially consider nonlocal qualities: e.g., safety, privacy

Challenges: Interfaces rarely fully specified, source of conflicts, changing requirements

Each system is different...

the-changelog-318

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NOTES

Write your notes here

Speaker 5 ▶ 07:44

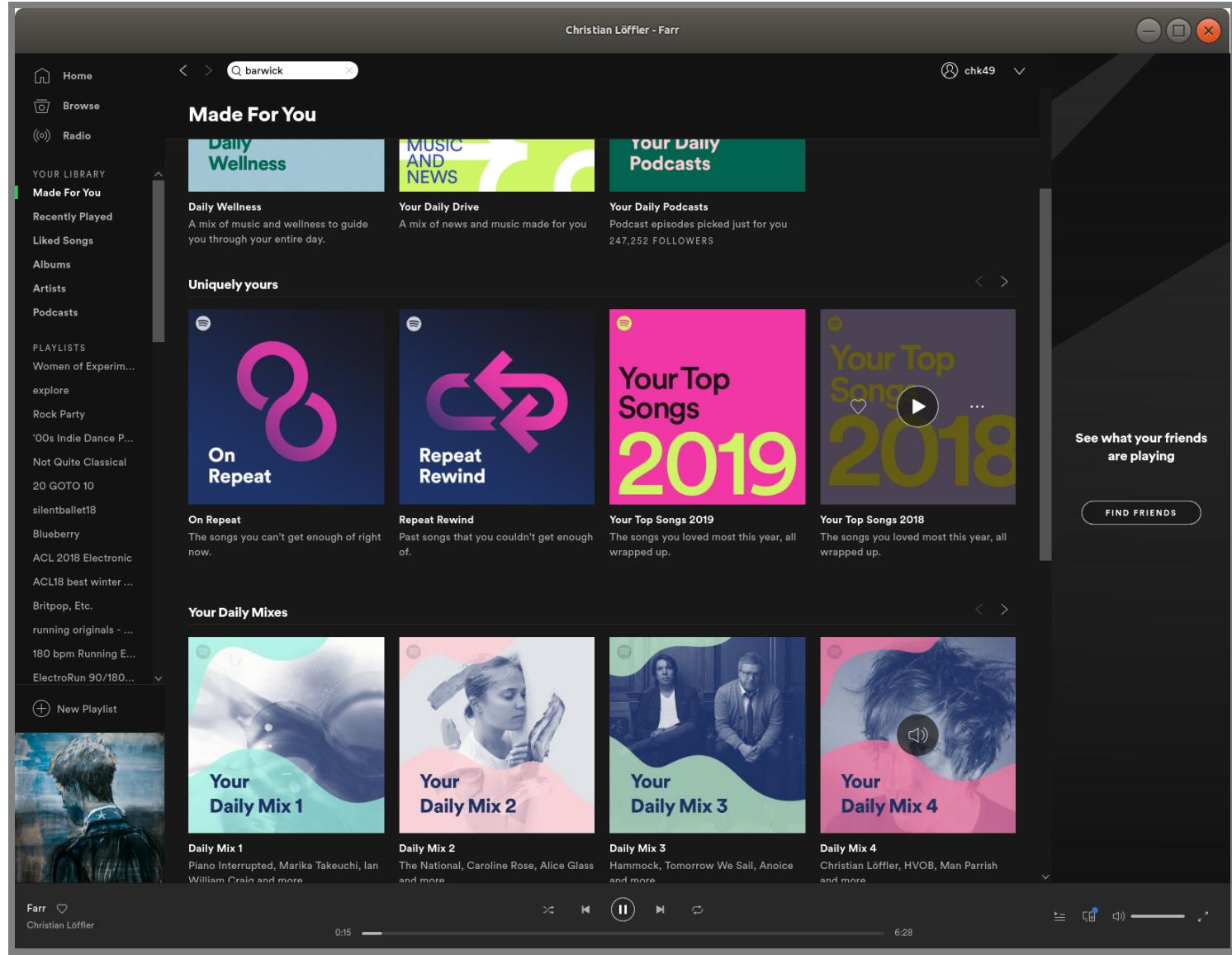
Yeah. So there's a slight story behind that. So back when I was in, uh, Undergrad, I wrote a program for myself to measure a, the amount of time I did data entry from my father's business and I was on windows at the time and there wasn't a function called time dot [inaudible] time, uh, which I needed to parse dates to get back to time, top of representation, uh, I figured out a way to do it and I gave it to what's called the python cookbook because it just seemed like something other people could use. So it was just trying to be helpful. Uh, subsequently I had to figure out how to make it work because I didn't really have to. Basically, it bothered me that you had to input all the locale information and I figured out how to do it over the subsequent months. And actually as a graduation gift from my Undergrad, the week following, I solved it and wrote it all out.

Speaker 5 ▶ 08:38

And I asked, uh, Alex Martelli, the editor of the Python Cookbook, which had published my original recipe, a, how do I get this into python? I think it might help

How did we do on your transcript? ☆☆☆☆☆

Each system is different...



Each system is different...



Each system is different...



System Decomposition

Each system is different, identify important components

Examples:

- Personalized music recommendations: microservice deployment in cloud, logging of user activity, nightly batch processing for inference, regular model updates, regular experimentation, easy fallback
- Transcription service: irregular user interactions, large model, expensive inference, inference latency not critical, rare model updates
- Autonomous vehicle: on-board hardware sets limits, real-time needs, safety critical, updates necessary, limited experimentation in practice, not always online
- Smart keyboard: privacy focused, small model, federated learning on user device, limited telemetry

Common Components in ML-based Systems

- **Model inference service:** Uses model to make predictions for input data
- **ML pipeline:** Infrastructure to train/update the model
- **Monitoring:** Observe model and system
- **Data sources:** Manual/crowdsourcing/logs/telemetry/...
- **Data management:** Storage and processing of data, often at scale
- **Feature store:** Reusable feature engineering code, cached feature computations

Common System-Wide Design Challenges

Separating concerns, understanding interdependencies

- e.g., anticipating/breaking feedback loops, conflicting needs of components

Facilitating experimentation, updates with confidence

Separating training and inference; closing the loop

- e.g., collecting telemetry to learn from user interactions

Learn, serve, and observe at scale or with resource limits

- e.g., cloud deployment, embedded devices

Scoping Relevant Qualities of ML Components

From System Quality Requirements to Component Quality Specifications

AI = DL?



ML Algorithms Today

Design Decision: ML Model Selection

How do I decide which ML algorithm to use for my project?

Criteria: Quality Attributes & Constraints

Recall: Quality Attributes

Measurable or testable properties of a system that are used to indicate how well it satisfies its goals

Examples

- Performance
- Features
- Reliability
- Conformance
- Durability
- Serviceability
- Aesthetics
- Perceived quality
- and many others



Reference: Garvin, David A., [What Does Product Quality Really Mean](#). Sloan management review 25 (1984).

Accuracy is not Everything

Beyond prediction accuracy, what qualities may be relevant for an ML component?



Speaker notes

Collect qualities on whiteboard



Qualities of Interest?

Scenario: ML component for transcribing audio files

the-changelog-318
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▶ Back 5s 1x Volume

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Write your notes here

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How did we do on your transcript? ★★★★☆

Speaker notes

Which of the previously discussed qualities are relevant? Which additional qualities may be relevant here?

Cost per transaction; how much does it cost to transcribe? How much do we make?



Qualities of Interest?

Scenario: Component for detecting lane markings in a vehicle



Speaker notes

Which of the previously discussed qualities are relevant? Which additional qualities may be relevant here?

Realtime use



Qualities of Interest?

Scenario: Component for detecting credit card frauds, as a service for banks

Speaker notes

Very high volume of transactions, low cost per transaction, frequent updates

Incrementality



Common of ML Qualities to Consider

- Accuracy
- Correctness guarantees? Probabilistic guarantees (--> symbolic AI)
- How many features?
- How much data needed? Data quality important?
- Incremental training possible?
- Training time, memory need, model size -- depending on training data volume and feature size
- Inference time, energy efficiency, resources needed, scalability
- Interpretability, explainability
- Robustness, reproducibility, stability
- Security, privacy, fairness

| NFR | Cluster | System Element the NFR Can be Defined Over | | | | |
|-------------------|---------|--|-------|-------|---------|-----------------|
| | | Train. Data | Algo. | Model | Results | Whole System |
| Completeness | 1 | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ |
| Correctness | 1 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Fault Tolerance | 1 | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ |
| Integrity | 1 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Repeatability | 1 | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Explainability | 2 | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Transparency | 2 | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Ethics | 3 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Fairness | 3 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Adaptability | 5 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Domain Adaptation | 5 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Flexibility | 5 | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ |
| Interoperability | 5 | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ |
| Portability | 5 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ |
| Reusability | 5 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ |
| Maintainability | 7 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ |
| Testability | 7 | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Traceability | 7 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Usability | 7 | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

From: Habibullah, Khan Mohammad, Gregory Gay, and Jennifer Horkoff. "Non-Functional Requirements for Machine Learning: An Exploration of System Scope and Interest." arXiv preprint arXiv:2203.11063 (2022).

Preview: Interpretability/Explainability

"Why did the model predict X?"

Explaining predictions + Validating Models + Debugging

```
IF age between 18-20 and sex is male THEN predict arrest  
ELSE IF age between 21-23 and 2-3 prior offenses THEN predict arrest  
ELSE IF more than three priors THEN predict arrest  
ELSE predict no arrest
```

- Some models inherently simpler to understand
- Some tools may provide post-hoc explanations
- Explanations may be more or less truthful
- How to measure interpretability?

Preview: Robustness



- Small input modifications may change output
- Small training data modifications may change predictions
- How to measure robustness?

≡ Image source: [OpenAI blog](#)

Preview: Fairness

Does the model perform differently for different populations?

```
IF age between 18-20 and sex is male THEN predict arrest  
ELSE IF age between 21-23 and 2-3 prior offenses THEN predict  
ELSE IF more than three priors THEN predict arrest  
ELSE predict no arrest
```

- Many different notions of fairness
- Often caused by bias in training data
- Enforce invariants in model or apply corrections outside model
- Important consideration during requirements solicitation!

Recall: Measuring Qualities

- Define a metric: Define units of interest
 - e.g., requests per second, max memory per inference, average training time in seconds for 1 million datasets
- Collect data
- Operationalize metric: Define measurement protocol
 - e.g., conduct experiment: train model with fixed dataset, report median training time across 5 runs, file size, average accuracy with leave-one-out cross-validation after hyperparameter tuning
 - e.g., ask 10 humans to independently label evaluation data, report reduction in error from the ML model over human predictions
- Describe all relevant factors: Inputs/experimental units used, configuration decisions and tuning, hardware used, protocol for manual steps

On terminology: *metric/measure* refer a method or standard format for measuring something; *operationalization* is identifying and implementing a method to measure some factor

On terminology



Data scientists seem to speak of *model properties* when referring to accuracy, inference time, fairness, etc

- ... but they also use this term for whether a *learning technique* can learn non-linear relationships or whether the learning algorithm is monotonic

Software engineering wording would usually be *quality attribute*, *quality requirement*, *quality specification* or *non-functional requirement*

Common ML Algorithms and their Qualities

Linear Regression: Qualities



- Tasks: Regression
- Qualities: Advantages: ?? Drawbacks: ??

Speaker notes

- Easy to interpret, low training cost, small model size
- Can't capture non-linear relationships well



Decision Trees

| Amount | Weekend | AtNight | CAvgAmount | TermRisk | Fraud |
|--------|---------|---------|------------|----------|-------|
| 10.00 | 1 | 0 | 16.666000 | 0.0 | 0 |
| 55.96 | 1 | 0 | 55.960000 | 0.0 | 0 |
| 24.02 | 1 | 0 | 22.540000 | 0.0 | 0 |
| 42.71 | 0 | 0 | 26.631667 | 0.0 | 0 |
| 135.23 | 0 | 0 | 135.230000 | 0.0 | 0 |
| 52.68 | 0 | 0 | 49.823333 | 1.0 | 1 |
| 40.35 | 1 | 0 | 61.360000 | 0.0 | 0 |
| 14.36 | 0 | 0 | 12.583333 | 0.0 | 0 |
| 66.60 | 0 | 0 | 77.165000 | 0.0 | 0 |
| 161.64 | 0 | 0 | 102.240000 | 0.0 | 0 |
| 5.63 | 0 | 0 | 8.358182 | 0.0 | 0 |
| 6.50 | 1 | 1 | 6.606667 | 0.14 | 0 |
| 105.76 | 0 | 1 | 62.356667 | 0.0 | 0 |

$f(\text{amount}, \text{weekend}, \text{atNight}, \text{customerAvgAmount}, \text{terminalRisk}) =$



Building Decision Trees

$f(\text{amount}, \text{weekend}, \text{atNight}, \text{customerAvgAmount}, \text{terminalRisk}) =$



- Identify all possible decisions
- Select the decision that best splits the dataset into distinct outcomes (typically via entropy or similar measure)
- Repeatedly further split subsets, until stopping criteria reached

Decision Trees: Qualities



- Tasks: Classification & regression
- Qualities: Advantages: ?? Drawbacks: ??

Speaker notes

- Easy to interpret (up to a size); can capture non-linearity; can do well with little data
- High risk of overfitting; possibly very large tree size
- Obvious ones: fairly small model size, low inference cost, no obvious incremental training; easy to interpret locally and even globally if shallow; easy to understand decision boundaries



Random Forests



- Train multiple trees on subsets of data or subsets of decisions.
- Return average prediction of multiple trees.
- Qualities: Advantages: ?? Drawbacks: ??

Speaker notes

Increased training time and model size, less prone to overfitting, more difficult to interpret



Neural Networks



ENGINEERING TIP:
WHEN YOU DO A TASK BY HAND,
YOU CAN TECHNICALLY SAY YOU
TRAINED A NEURAL NET TO DO IT.

Speaker notes

Artificial neural networks are inspired by how biological neural networks work ("groups of chemically connected or functionally associated neurons" with synapses forming connections)

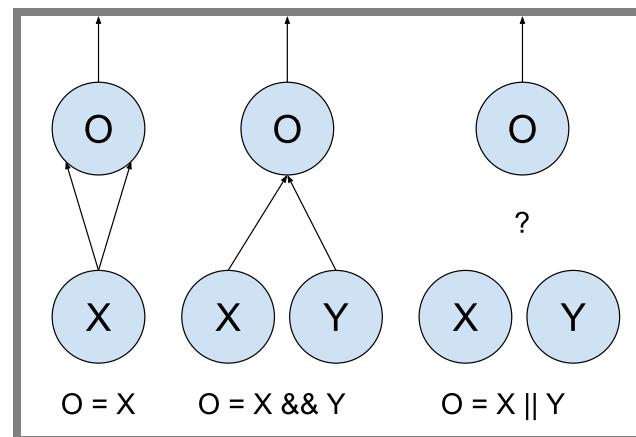
From "Texture of the Nervous System of Man and the Vertebrates" by Santiago Ramón y Cajal, via

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neural_circuit#/media/File:Cajal_actx_inter.jpg

Artificial Neural Networks

Simulating biological neural networks of neurons (nodes) and synapses (connections), popularized in 60s and 70s

Basic building blocks: Artificial neurons, with n inputs and one output; output is activated if at least m inputs are active



(assuming at least two activated inputs needed to activate output)

Threshold Logic Unit / Perceptron

computing weighted sum of inputs + step function

$$z = w_1x_1 + w_2x_2 + \dots + w_nx_n = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{w}$$

e.g., step: $\phi(z) = \text{if } (z < 0) \text{ 0 else 1}$





$$\begin{aligned}
 o_1 &= \phi(b_1 + w_{1,1}x_1 + w_{1,2}x_2) \\
 o_2 &= \phi(b_2 + w_{2,1}x_1 + w_{2,2}x_2) \\
 o_3 &= \phi(b_3 + w_{3,1}x_1 + w_{3,2}x_2)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$f_{\mathbf{W}, \mathbf{b}}(\mathbf{X}) = \phi(\mathbf{W} \cdot \mathbf{X} + \mathbf{b})$$

(\mathbf{W} and \mathbf{b} are parameters of the model)

Multiple Layers



Speaker notes

Layers are fully connected here, but layers may have different numbers of neurons



$$f_{\mathbf{W}_h, \mathbf{b}_h, \mathbf{W}_o, \mathbf{b}_o}(\mathbf{X}) = \phi(\mathbf{W}_o \cdot \phi(\mathbf{W}_h \cdot \mathbf{X} + \mathbf{b}_h) + \mathbf{b}_o)$$



≡ (matrix multiplications interleaved with step function)

Learning Model Parameters (Backpropagation)

Intuition:

- Initialize all weights with random values
- Compute prediction, remembering all intermediate activations
- If predicted output has an error (measured with a loss function),
 - Compute how much each connection contributed to the error on output layer
 - Repeat computation on each lower layer
 - Tweak weights a little toward the correct output (gradient descent)
- Continue training until weights stabilize

Works efficiently only for certain ϕ , typically logistic function:

= $\phi(z) = 1/(1 + \exp(-z))$ or ReLU: $\phi(z) = \max(0, z)$.

Deep Learning

More layers

Layers with different numbers of neurons

Different kinds of connections, e.g.,

- Fully connected (feed forward)
- Not fully connected (eg. convolutional networks)
- Keeping state (eg. recurrent neural networks)
- Skipping layers

See Chapter 10 in Géron, Aurélien. "[Hands-On Machine Learning with Scikit-Learn, Keras, and TensorFlow](#)", 2nd Edition (2019) or any other book on deep learning

Speaker notes

Essentially the same with more layers and different kinds of architectures.



Deep Learning



- Tasks: Classification & regression
- Qualities: Advantages: ?? Drawbacks: ??

Speaker notes

- High accuracy; can capture a wide range of problems (linear & non-linear)
- Difficult to interpret; high training costs (time & amount of data required, hyperparameter tuning)



Example Scenario

MNIST Fashion dataset of 70k 28x28 grayscale pixel images, 10 output classes

Example Scenario

- MNIST Fashion dataset of 70k 28x28 grayscale pixel images, 10 output classes
- $28 \times 28 = 784$ inputs in input layers (each 0..255)
- Example model with 3 layers, 300, 100, and 10 neurons

```
model = keras.models.Sequential([
    keras.layers.Flatten(input_shape=[28, 28]),
    keras.layers.Dense(300, activation="relu"),
    keras.layers.Dense(100, activation="relu"),
    keras.layers.Dense(10, activation="softmax")
])
```

≡ How many parameters does this model have?

Example Scenario

```
model = keras.models.Sequential([
    keras.layers.Flatten(input_shape=[28, 28]),
    # 784*300+300 = 235500 parameter
    keras.layers.Dense(300, activation="relu"),
    # 300*100+100 = 30100 parameters
    keras.layers.Dense(100, activation="relu"),
    # 100*10+10 = 1010 parameters
    keras.layers.Dense(10, activation="softmax")
])
```

Total of 266,610 parameters in this small example! (Assuming float types, that's 1 MB)

Network Size

- 50 Layer ResNet network -- classifying 224x224 images into 1000 categories
 - 26 million weights, computes 16 million activations during inference, 168 MB to store weights as floats
- Google in 2012(!): 1TB-1PB of training data, 1 billion to 1 trillion parameters
- OpenAI's GPT-2 (2019) -- text generation
 - 48 layers, 1.5 billion weights (~12 GB to store weights)
 - released model reduced to 117 million weights
 - trained on 7-8 GPUs for 1 month with 40GB of internet text from 8 million web pages
- OpenAI's GPT-3 (2020): 96 layers, 175 billion weights, 700 GB in memory, \$4.6M in approximate compute cost for training

Speaker notes

<https://lambdalabs.com/blog/demystifying-gpt-3/>



Cost & Energy Consumption

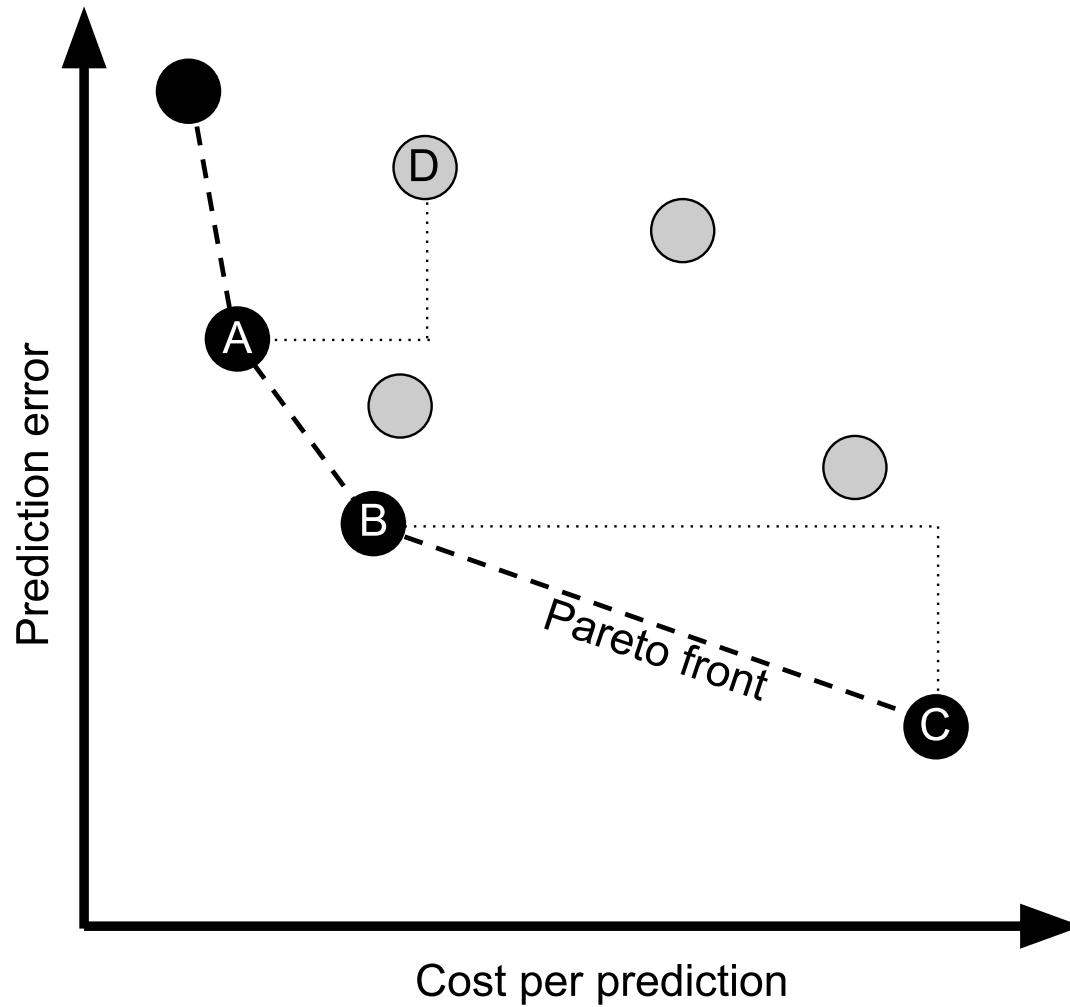
| Consumption | CO2 (lbs) | Training one model (GPU) | CO2 (lbs) |
|------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Air travel, 1 passenger, NY↔SF | 1984 | NLP pipeline (parsing, SRL) | 39 |
| Human life, avg, 1 year | 11,023 | w/ tuning & experimentation | 78,468 |
| American life, avg, 1 year | 36,156 | Transformer (big) | 192 |
| Car, avg incl. fuel, 1 lifetime | 126,000 | w/ neural architecture search | 626,155 |

Cost & Energy Consumption

| Model | Hardware | Hours | CO2 | Cloud cost in USD |
|-------------|----------|---------|---------|-------------------|
| Transformer | P100x8 | 84 | 192 | 289-981 |
| ELMo | P100x3 | 336 | 262 | 433-1472 |
| BERT | V100x64 | 79 | 1438 | 3751-13K |
| NAS | P100x8 | 274,120 | 626,155 | 943K-3.2M |
| GPT-2 | TPUv3x32 | 168 | — | 13K-43K |
| GPT-3 | | | — | 4.6M |

Strubell, Emma, Ananya Ganesh, and Andrew McCallum. "[Energy and Policy Considerations for Deep Learning in NLP](#)." In Proc. ACL, pp. 3645-3650. 2019.

Constraints and Tradeoffs



Design Decision: ML Model Selection

How do I decide which ML algorithm to use for my project?

Criteria: Quality Attributes & Constraints

Constraints

Constraints define the space of attributes for valid design solutions



Speaker notes

Design space exploration: The space of all possible designs (dotted rectangle) is reduced by several constraints on qualities of the system, leaving only a subset of designs for further consideration (highlighted center area).



Types of Constraints

Problem constraints: Minimum required QAs for an acceptable product

Project constraints: Deadline, project budget, available personnel/skills

Design constraints

- Type of ML task required (regression/classification)
- Available data
- Limits on computing resources, max. inference cost/time

Constraints: Cancer Prognosis?



Constraints: Music Recommendations?



Trade-offs between ML algorithms

If there are multiple ML algorithms that satisfy the given constraints, which one do we select?

Different ML qualities may conflict with each other; this requires making a **trade-off** between these qualities

Among the qualities of interest, which one(s) do we care the most about?

- And which ML algorithm is most suitable for achieving those qualities?
- (Similar to requirements conflicts)

Multi-Objective Optimization

- Determine optimal solutions given multiple, possibly **conflicting** objectives
- **Dominated** solution: A solution that is inferior to others in every way
- **Pareto frontier**: A set of non-dominated solutions
- Consider trade-offs among Pareto optimal solutions



Speaker notes

Tradeoffs among multiple design solutions along two dimensions (cost and error). Gray solutions are all dominated by others that are better both in terms of cost and error (e.g., solution D has worse error and worse cost than solution A). The remaining black solutions are each better than another solution on one dimension but worse on another — they are all pareto optimal and which solution to pick depends on the relative importance of the dimensions.



Trade-offs: Cost vs Accuracy

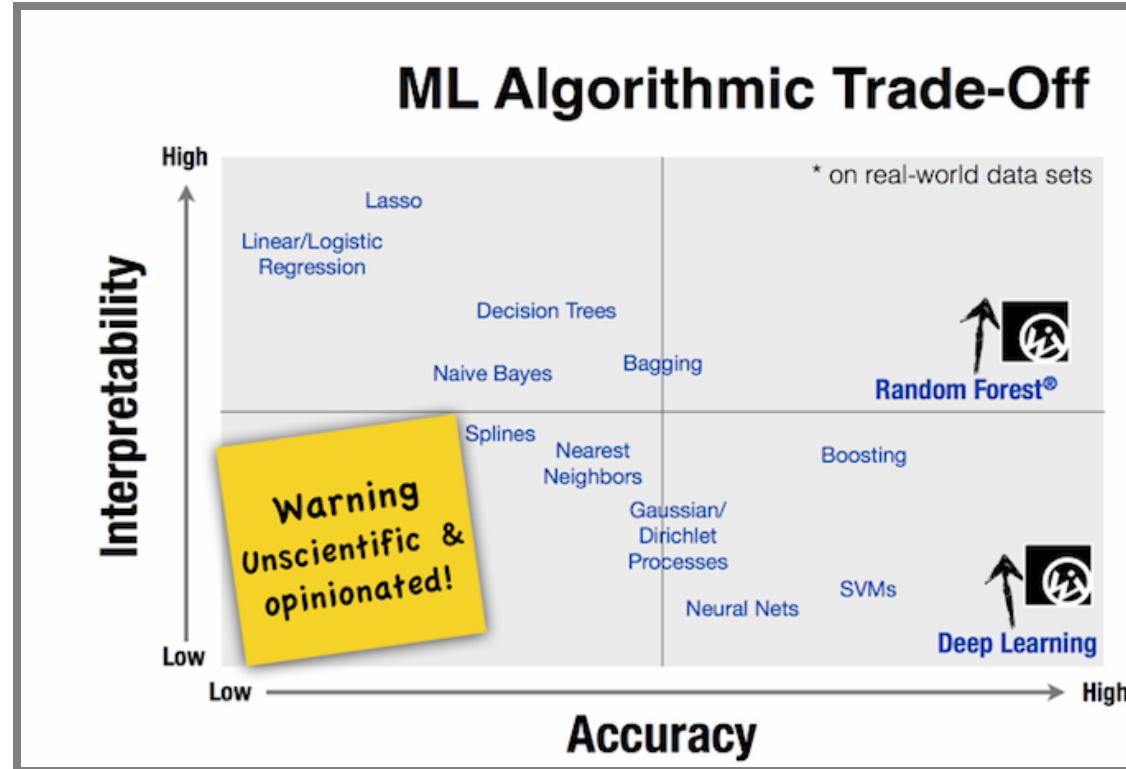
The screenshot shows the Netflix Prize Leaderboard page. At the top, it says "Netflix Prize" and has a large red "COMPLETED" stamp. Below that is a navigation bar with links for Home, Rules, Leaderboard, Update, and Download. The main section is titled "Leaderboard" and says "Showing Test Score. [Click here to show quiz score](#)". It includes a dropdown menu to "Display top 20 leaders". The table below lists the top 8 teams:

| Rank | Team Name | Best Test Score | % Improvement | Best Submit Time |
|------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 1 | BellKor's Pragmatic Chaos | 0.8567 | 10.06 | 2009-07-26 18:18:28 |
| 2 | The Ensemble | 0.8567 | 10.06 | 2009-07-26 18:38:22 |
| 3 | Grand Prize Team | 0.8582 | 9.90 | 2009-07-10 21:24:40 |
| 4 | Opera Solutions and Vandelay United | 0.8588 | 9.84 | 2009-07-10 01:12:31 |
| 5 | Vandelay Industries! | 0.8591 | 9.81 | 2009-07-10 00:32:20 |
| 6 | PragmaticTheory | 0.8594 | 9.77 | 2009-06-24 12:06:56 |
| 7 | BellKor in BigChaos | 0.8601 | 9.70 | 2009-05-13 08:14:09 |
| 8 | Dace | 0.8612 | 9.59 | 2009-07-24 17:18:43 |

"We evaluated some of the new methods offline but the additional accuracy gains that we measured did not seem to justify the engineering effort needed to bring them into a production environment."

Amatriain & Basilico. Netflix Recommendations: Beyond the 5 stars, Netflix Technology Blog (2012)

Trade-offs: Accuracy vs Interpretability



Q. Examples where one is more important than the other?

Bloom & Brink. [Overcoming the Barriers to Production-Ready Machine Learning Workflows](#),
Presentation at O'Reilly Strata Conference (2014).

Breakout: Qualities & ML Algorithms

Consider two scenarios:

1. Credit card fraud detection
2. Pedestrian detection in sidewalk robot

As a group, post to #lecture tagging all group members:

- *Qualities of interests: ??*
- *Constraints: ??*
- *ML algorithm(s) to use: ??*

Summary

Software architecture focuses on early key design decisions, focused on key qualities

Between requirements and implementation

Decomposing the system into components, many ML components

Many qualities of interest, define metrics and operationalize

Constraints and tradeoff analysis for selecting ML techniques in production ML settings

Further Readings

- Bass, Len, Paul Clements, and Rick Kazman. Software architecture in practice. Addison-Wesley Professional, 3rd edition, 2012.
- Yokoyama, Haruki. "Machine learning system architectural pattern for improving operational stability." In 2019 IEEE International Conference on Software Architecture Companion (ICSA-C), pp. 267–274. IEEE, 2019.
- Serban, Alex, and Joost Visser. "An Empirical Study of Software Architecture for Machine Learning." In Proceedings of the International Conference on Software Analysis, Evolution and Reengineering (SANER), 2022.
- Lakshmanan, Valliappa, Sara Robinson, and Michael Munn. Machine learning design patterns. O'Reilly Media, 2020.
- Lewis, Grace A., Ipek Ozkaya, and Xiwei Xu. "Software Architecture Challenges for ML Systems." In 2021 IEEE International Conference on Software Maintenance and Evolution (ICSME), pp. 634–638. IEEE, 2021.
- Vogelsang, Andreas, and Markus Borg. "Requirements Engineering for Machine Learning: Perspectives from Data Scientists." In Proc. of the 6th International Workshop on Artificial Intelligence for Requirements Engineering (AIRE), 2019.
- Habibullah, Khan Mohammad, Gregory Gay, and Jennifer Horkoff. "[Non-Functional Requirements for Machine Learning: An Exploration of System Scope and Interest](#)." arXiv preprint arXiv:2203.11063 (2022).

