

Uncertainty in Recurrent Decision Tree Classifiers

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Explainable Machine Learning

October 27, 2020

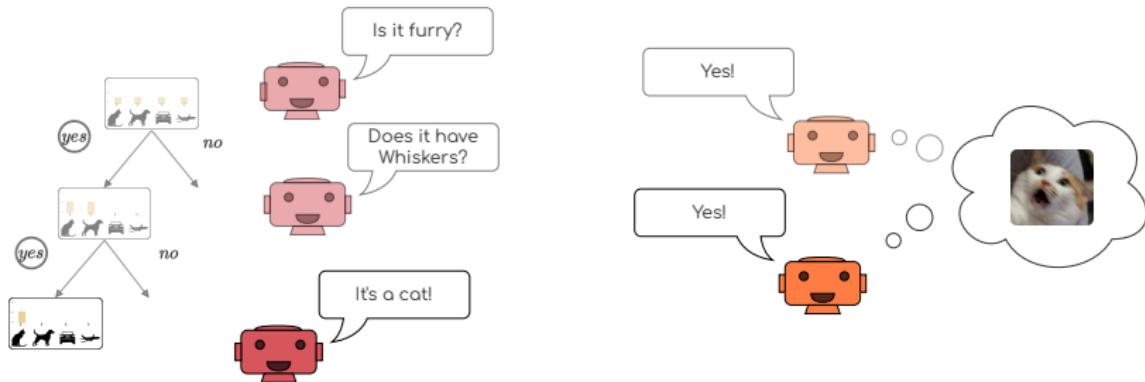
What?

Setting

- Many powerful architectures for image classification
- Prominent example: ResNet
- Popular models only yield classification
- No reasoning behind classification

What?

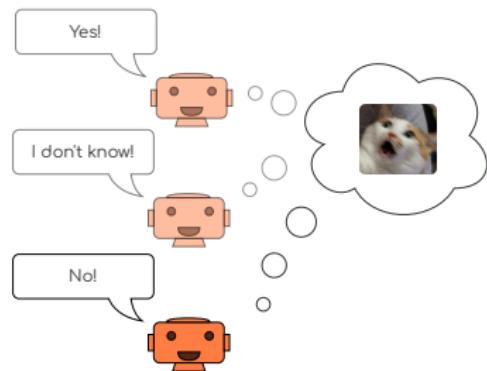
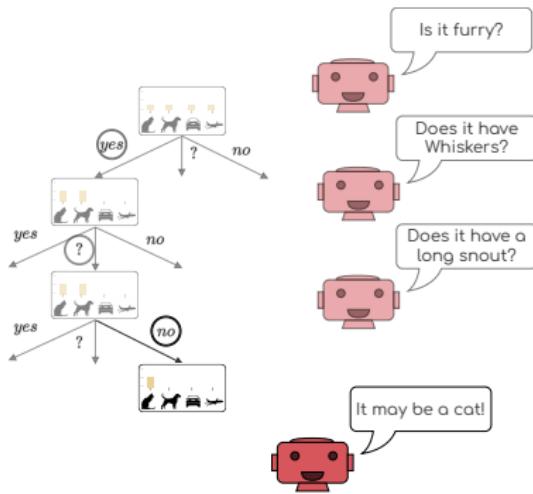
What is a Recurrent Decision Tree Classifier?



- Alaniz and Akata [1] propose RDTC
- Two communicating agents
- Left: ask questions — right: look at data and answer them
- Unfolding tree reveals reasoning behind classification

What?

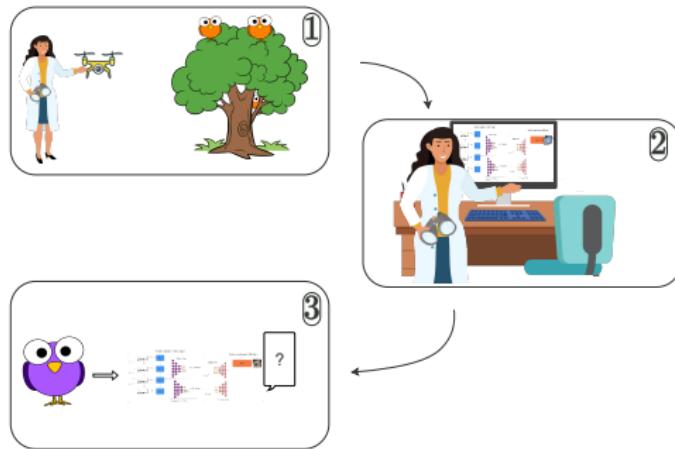
Introducing Uncertainty to a RDTC



- o Right agent is aware of uncertainties
- o Communicates this to left agent

Why do we need uncertainty?

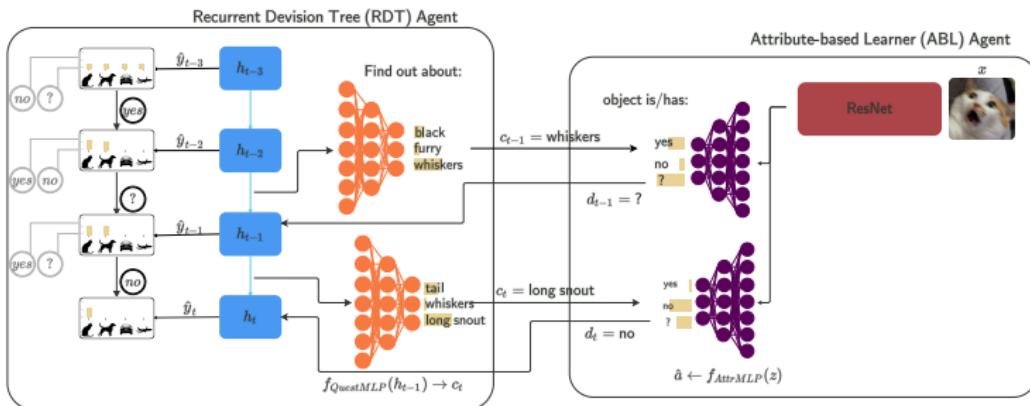
A Practical Example...



- Ornithologist surveys area using drone and CV software
- Classification is automated with our model
- Bird species unknown to model yield high uncertainty
- Those can be classified manually

How?

Architecture



- RDT can not see the images and only ask if attribute is present
- The AbL can see the image and answer RDT's questions

Attribute-based Learner

Answering questions

- Extract features from image using ResNet
- MLP maps features to 'yes-no' answers
- those indicate absence/presence of attributes
- Discrete answer from AbL though applying

$$\text{TempSoftmax}(\log \pi) = \frac{\exp((\log \pi_i)/\tau)}{\sum_{j=1}^K \exp((\log \pi_j)/\tau)} = d_t \text{ on } \log \pi$$

which are logit values for either 'Yes', or 'No' per attribute.

- TempSoftmax as differentiable approximation to argmax

Recurrent Decision Tree

Building a decision tree

- LSTM
 - Hidden state based on previous hidden states and new answers
- Explicit Memory
 - Stores all questions and corresponding answers
 - Its content is the decision tree
- $f_{ClassMLP}$
 - Make classification based on LSTM's hidden state
- $f_{QuestMLP}$
 - Find next question to ask based on LSTM's hidden state
 - Next question is the index the $f_{QuestMLP}$ poses
 - To turn logits into a discrete value, Gumbel softmax is used
 - This allows us to sample an index from the logits
 -

$$GumbelSoftmax(\log \pi) = \frac{\exp((\log \pi_i + g_i)/\tau)}{\sum_{j=1}^K \exp((\log \pi_j + g_j)/\tau)}$$

Training

Joint Objective

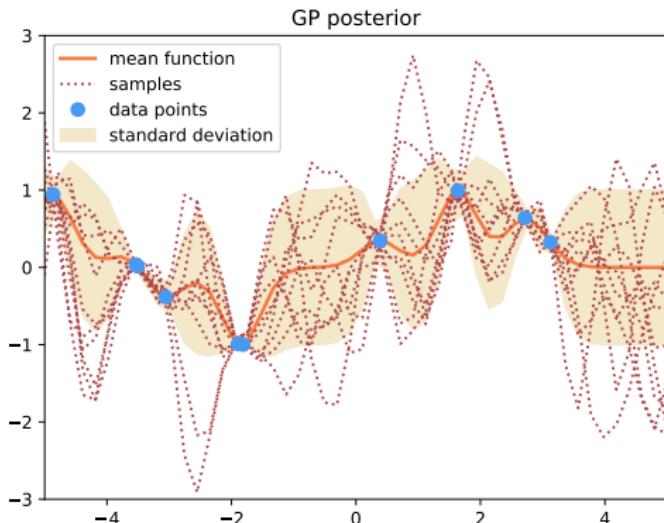
- We optimize for class (and attribute accuracy)

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T [(1 - \lambda) \mathcal{L}_{CE}(y, \hat{y}_t) + \lambda \mathcal{L}_{CE}(\alpha_{y,c_t}, \hat{\alpha}_{c_t})]$$

- λ can be used to balance the two loss terms
- For all of our experiments, we use $\lambda = 0.2$

Background

A small excursion to Gaussian Processes (GP)



- Data can be described by (infinitely) many functions
- A GP is a PDF over these functions
- Intuition: → GP yields probability for function values
- Parameterized by mean function and covariance function
- Variance corresponds to model uncertainty

Background

Dropout Uncertainty Estimation

- Gal and Ghahramani [2] proof that variance from dropout corresponds to model uncertainty
- We use their proof as foundation for our uncertainty estimate
- Neural net is set of weighted linear functions, activated by non-linearity
- Putting PDF over each weight creates finite GP

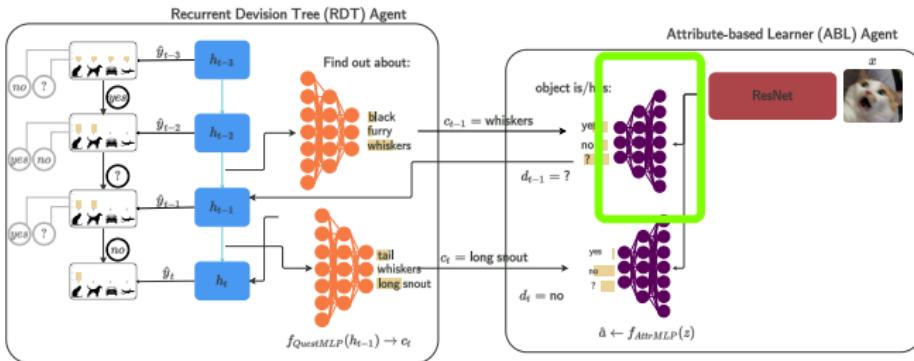
Background

Dropout Uncertainty Estimation

- We can view neural net as approximation to GP
- Posterior over functions requires computing integrals
- Intractable integrals require methods of variational inference
 - GP objective → minimization objective
 - For covariance function → Monte-Carlo integration
- Variational GP's objective can be rewritten as dropout net
- Variance arising from dropout can be interpreted as model uncertainty

How?

How do we get uncertainty information?

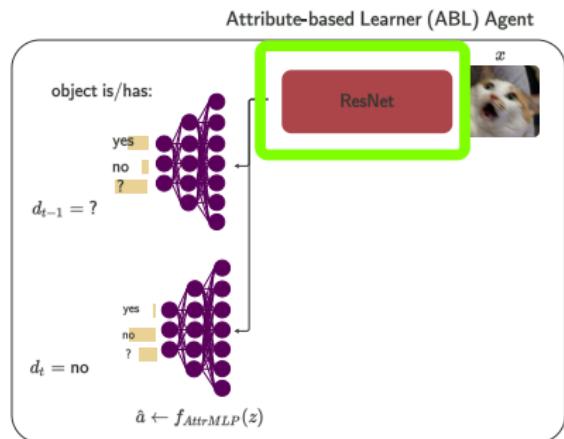


- We use Gal and Ghahramani's [2] proof to estimate uncertainty
- We want AbL to say '?' in the case of high uncertainty
- Make $f_{AttrMLP}$ a dropout MLP
- After extracting features → compute $Var(n \text{ forward passes})$
- According to proof, this corresponds to model uncertainty

Attribute-based Learner

Extracting features

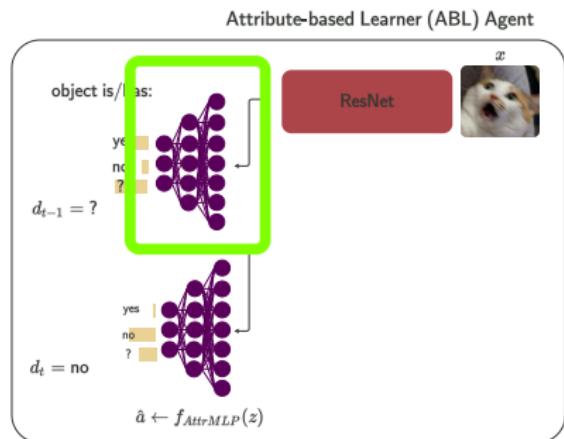
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Attribute-based Learner

Mapping features to attributes

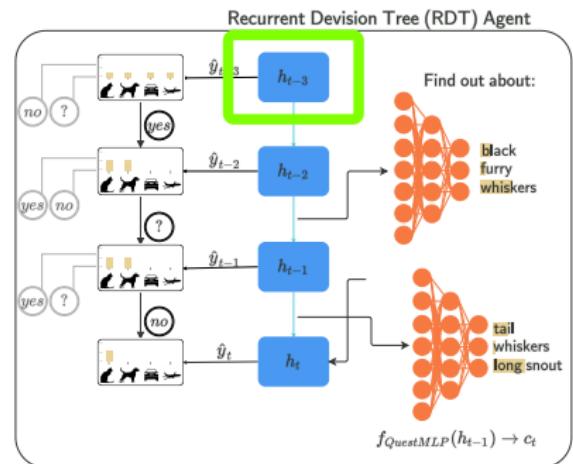
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Recurrent Decision Tree

LSTM

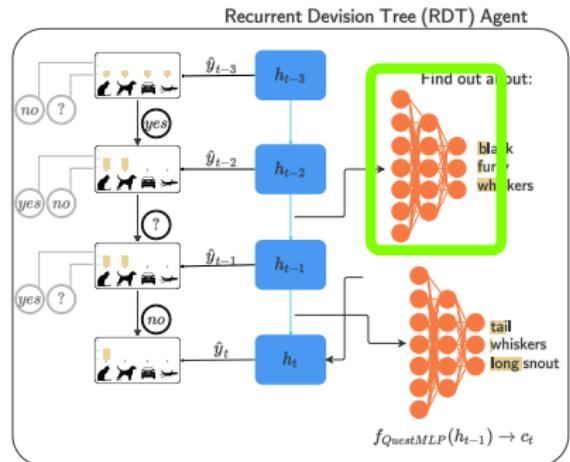
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Recurrent Decision Tree

Choosing questions

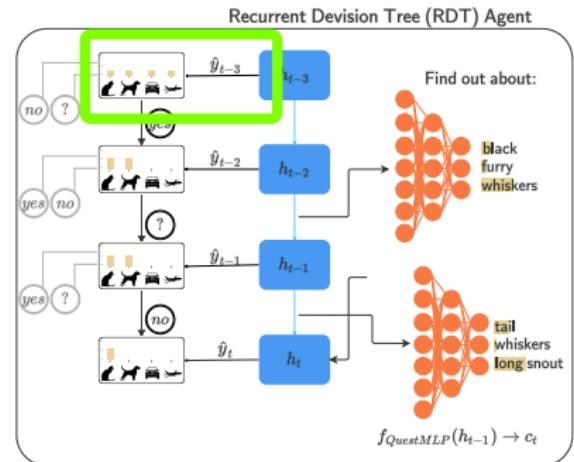
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Recurrent Decision Tree

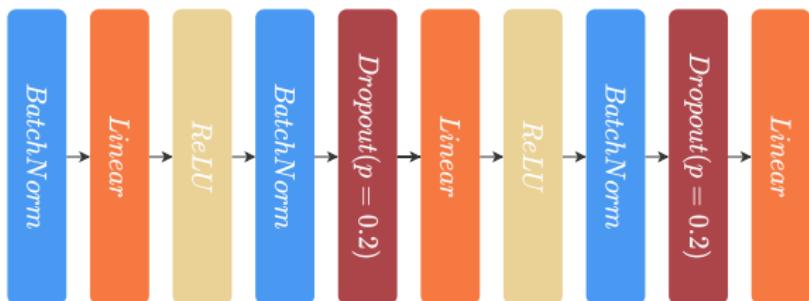
Making a classification

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Getting Uncertainty Information

Estimating Uncertainty in the AbL



- We include dropout layers in $f_{AttrMLP}$
- We tested different configurations
- Combination of batchnorm and dropout worked best

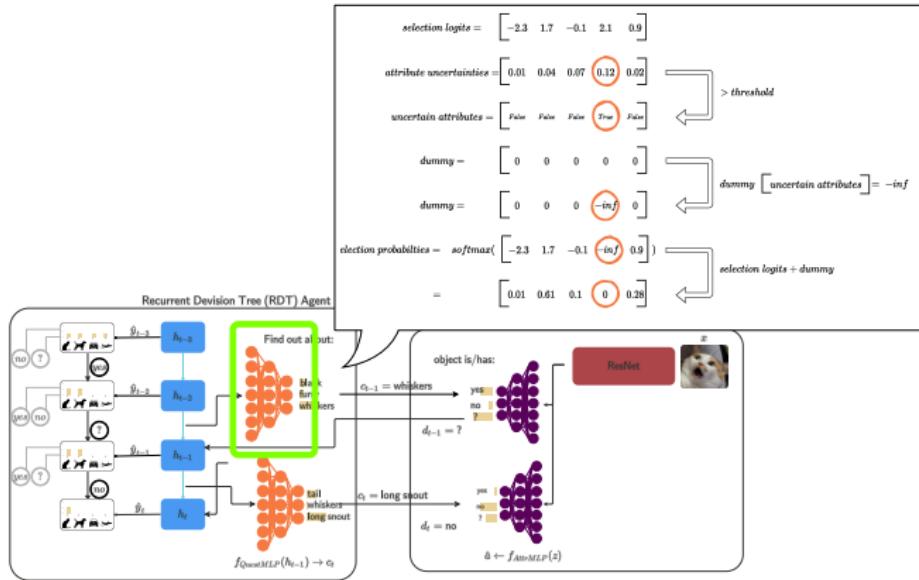
Using Uncertainty Information

Uncertainty Information as Inductive Bias

- We use uncertainty in two different strategies
 - Prevent model from asking about uncertain attributes
→ remRDTC
 - We give the model the ability to answer with 'I don't know'
→ extRDTC
- Don't allow the model to use gradients from uncertain attributes
- Uncertainty information remains inductive bias

Using Uncertainty Information

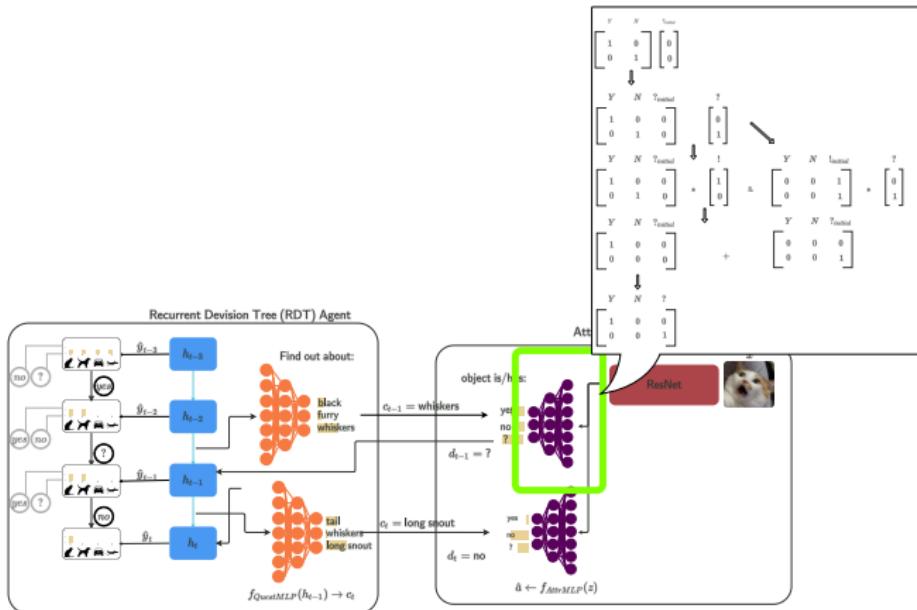
Removing uncertain attributes (remRDTc)



- Reminder: output from $f_{QuestMLP}$ is attribute index
- If attribute is deemed uncertain by AbL, replace selection logits at those indices with $-\infty$
→ Gumbel softmax cannot pick these attributes

Using Uncertainty Information

Extending the vocabulary (extRDTc)



- Binary vector with 1s where uncertainty is above threshold
- Append to initial answer
- Prevent conflicting answers

Introducing Uncertainty

- Gal and Ghahramani’s [2] proof allows dropout uncertainty estimation
- We use their proof to introduce uncertainty to RDTC by Alaniz and Akata [1]
- Uncertainty information is used in two strategies
 - remRDTC
 - extRDTC

Experiments

- RDTC is now aware of, and can express its uncertainties
- We use this in our experiments to:
 - Investigate uncertainty and its relationship to other variables
 - Test our model on OOD data
 - Test the model's performance on benchmark datasets

Experiments

Datasets

- Animals with Attributes 2 (AWA2)
 - medium size, coarse grained
- aPY
 - small size, coarse grained
- CUB
 - large size, fine grained

Experiments

Investigating Uncertainties in CUB

- Misclassification rate, uncertainty, and usage of attributes

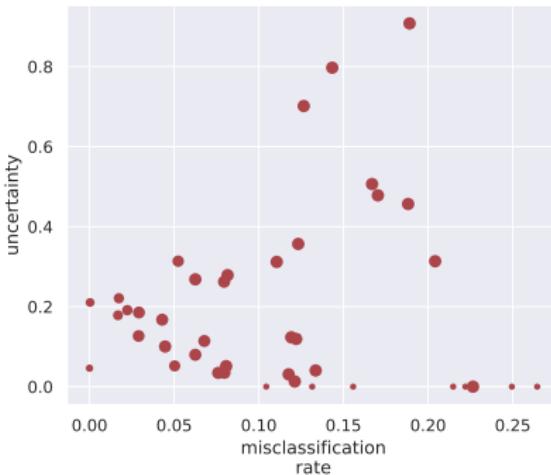


- Positive correlation between usage and accuracy
- Almost no correlation between uncertainty and accuracy

Experiments

Investigating Uncertainties in CUB

- Uncertainty, misclassification rate, usage (size \propto usage)

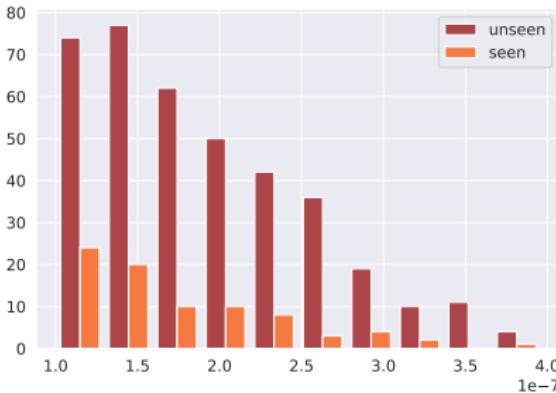


- Uncertain attribute seem to be misclassified more often

Experiments

OOD Detection

- We test extRDTc in zero shot setting (using CUB)
- $\frac{1}{4}$ of classes not seen in training
- Histogram of uncertainty values of seen and unseen classes



- Unseen classes have higher uncertainty values

Experiments

Comparison to other models

- Decision Tree (DT)
 - Use extracted ResNet features
 - Try to split until every leaf node corresponds to one class
- Explainable Decision Tree (XDT)
 - Same as DT, but using learned attribute representations instead of features
 - Attribute representations are created using $f_{AttrMLP}$ as head for ResNet
- dNDF [4]
 - Every node in the tree is a parametric differentiable function
 - Every route through the tree leads to a leaf node representing a class distribution
 - Objective is to learn the optimal route through the tree for each example
- aRDTC
 - RDTC with $\lambda > 0$
- ResNet
 - Not explainable
 - Trained on ImageNet and then fine-tuned for specific datasets

Experiments

Results on Benchmark Datasets

	AWA2	aPY	CUB
ResNet [3]	98.2± 0.0	85.1± 0.6	79.0± 0.2
DT	78.0± 0.4	64.3± 0.6	19.3± 0.3
dNDF[4]	97.6± 0.2	85.0± 0.6	73.8± 0.3
RDTC[1]	98.0± 0.1	85.7± 0.7	78.1± 0.2
XDT	73.9± 0.9	59.9± 1.5	4.9± 1.3
aRDTC[1]	98.6	86.1	77.9± 0.6
remRDTC(ours)	98.7	86.4	77.7
extRDTC(ours)	98.7	85.4	77.8

Experiments

Results on Benchmark Datasets

	aRDTC [1]	Random Baseline	remRDTC	extRDTC
AWA2				
Class	98.6	98.5	98.7	98.7
Attribute	80.4	84.6	87.5	82.31
aPY				
Class	86.1	86.5	86.4	85.4
Attribute	86.4	86.2	87.6	87.1
CUB				
Class	77.9	76.8	77.7	77.8
Attribute	68.6	70.0	77.4	82.6

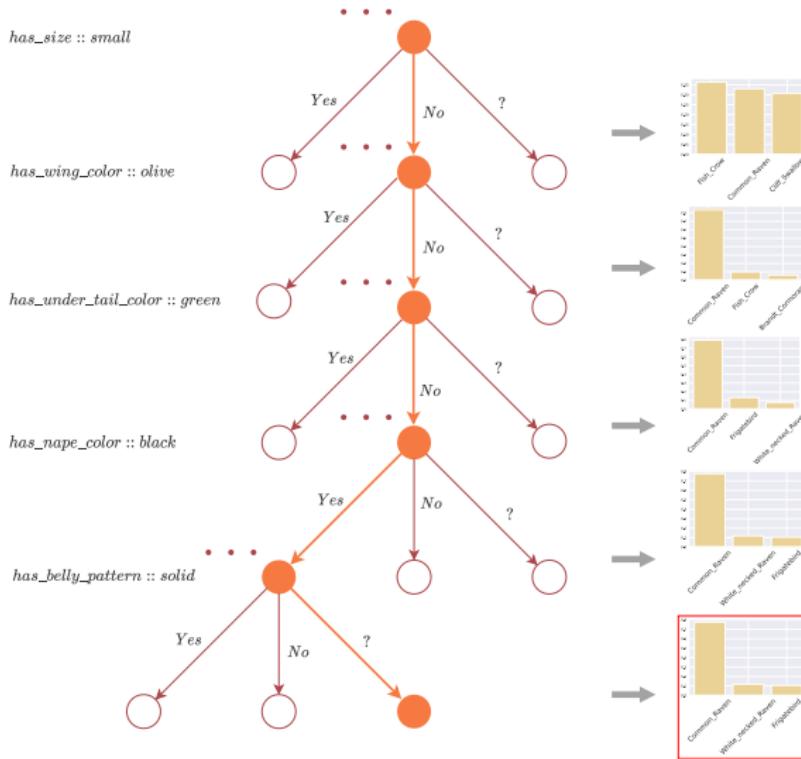
Discussion

Looking back...

- The right kind of uncertainty?
 - Uncertainty arising from noise or occlusions is not considered
- Other methods of uncertainty estimation
 - Often computationally expensive
 - Open area of research
- Beyond attribute uncertainty
 - Estimate uncertainty in other parts of the model (i.e. $f_{ClassMLP}$)

Conclusions

A qualitative Example



References

- [1] S. Alaniz and Z. Akata. Explainable observer-classifier for explainable binary decisions. arXiv preprint arXiv:1902.01780, 2019.
- [2] Y. Gal and Z. Ghahramani. Dropout as a bayesian approximation: Representing model uncertainty in deep learning. In international conference on machine learning, pages 1050–1059, 2016.
- [3] K. He, X. Zhang, S. Ren, and J. Sun. Deep residual learning for image recognition. In Proceedings of the IEEE conference on computer vision and pattern recognition, pages 770–778, 2016.
- [4] P. Kotschieder, M. Fiterau, A. Criminisi, and S. Rota Bulo. Deep neural decision forests. In Proceedings of the IEEE international conference on computer vision, pages 1467–1475, 2015.