Related Work

**Discussion and Implication**

Machine Learning catalog summarized from Empirical studies

Collected 22 code smells in total and linked them to four pipeline stages: Data Cleaning, Feature Engineering, Model Training, Model Evaluation.

16 smells are generic and 6 smells are API-specific smells. Generic smells occur no matter which library the user uses. On the other hand API-Specific smells depends on the specific library API design.

Possible Impacts of smells on application codes are : error-prone, less efficient, less re-producible, causing memory issues, less readable and less robust.

Most of the times data scientists would not have software Engineering background and are not up-to-date with the best practices from the software engineering field. So our catalog of smells mitigate this by providing guidelines during the development of machine learning applications.

Using Tensor Flow bugs, replication package replication package and found that many instances have already been deprecated because TensorFlow has upgraded to version 2. Hence, we expect that new API-specific code smells will appear with new versions and library features. In fact, our results showcase that most API related smells are only reported by grey literature in general instead of literature. We argue that collecting a catalog of code smells helps in promoting a continuous effort between practitioners and academics.

three smells can be considered temporary smells: Dataframe Conversion API Misused, Matrix Multiplication API Misused and Gradients Not Cleared before Backward Propagation.

Study focused on six python ML Libraries and frameworks.

**5.1 Implication to data scientists:** - Unnecessary Iteration code smell describes the inefficient code structure, and it often occurs at data cleaning stages. Another code smell Hyperparameter Not Explicitly Set indicates irreproducible code and it is at model training stage. Data scientists and machine learning application developers can check these aspects while checking their code. Future work will validate whether eliminating these code smells will lead to more accurate results during training, better hyperparameter optimization, clearer and higher quality code, and less maintenance effort.

**5.2 Implication to Machine Learning Library Developers:-** The effect of index chaining appears to be in the examples in stack overflow even though they are explained in the pandas documentation. This indicates that many developers are struggling to follow the documentation strictly. It might stem from the fast iteration cycle in the development process of the team or developer’s lack 0f experience. Author argued that passively showing warning on documentation might not suffice. It is important that library developers has to actively engage in community forums such as stack overflow to help the community avoid non-obvious issues. Hence their contribution is crucial in the development of coding tools that support best practices. Also it’s important for library developers to reach out to existing projects that aim at helping the development of machine learning software tools. Library developers know better than anyone what is optimal way of leveraging their libraries.

**5.3 Implication to Code Analysis Tool Developers :-** As some code smells can not be addressed by designing better API’s. The static analysis tools can be used to follow the best practices and warn the pitfalls to the application developers.

This research serves as the base for providing automated tools for identifying unwanted patterns in the code. Automated tools can minimize the job of developers and providing support for good quality code assurance. Because humans are occasionally forgetful. It is preferable to have technology that expressly checks whether best practices are bring followed.

Furthermore, some code smells are related to the context. This is aligned with previous work that proposes context-aware code analysis tools for machine learning applications. For example, PyTorch library developers recommend application developers to use the deterministic option during the development but not set it in the production code due to the consideration for performance. Therefore, the automated tool can have different configuration settings. For example, according to the pipeline stage, it can have a development setting and a deployment setting.

**5.4 Implication to Students:- Implication to students :-** Many students in the ML industry do not have prior education on machine learning application development since it requires a combination of software engineering and data science practices. Students can make use of this catalog to learn more about the common anti-patterns in machine learning application development and prepare for future jobs.