NeSy Learning Day 3: Learning Imbalances

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About this Course

- **✓ Day 1: Introduction to NeSy**
- **✓ Day 2: Learnability**
- **✓ Day 3: Learning Imbalances in NeSy**
- **✓ Day 4: Reasoning Shortcuts**
- **✓ Day 5: Probabilistic Reasoning**

Outline of Today's Lecture

√Introduction to Learning Imbalances

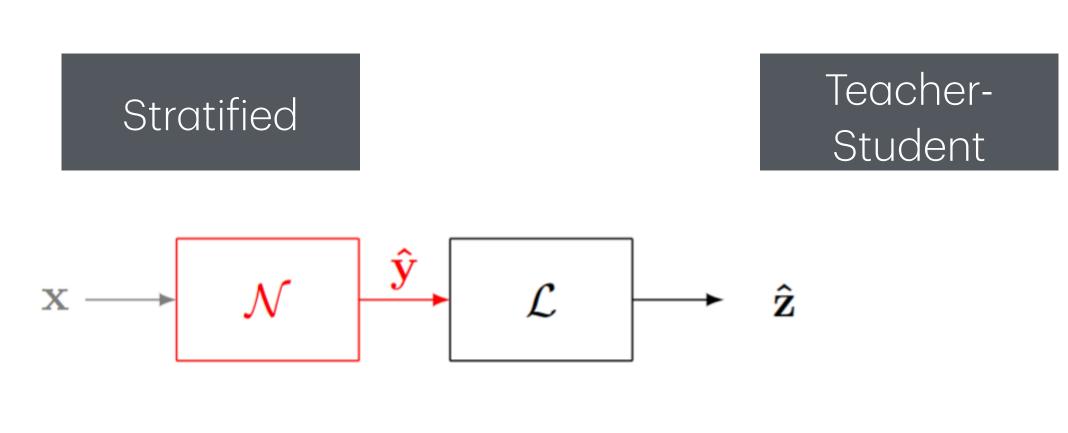
- ✓ Learning Imbalances in traditional ML
- ✓ Learning Imbalances in NeSy

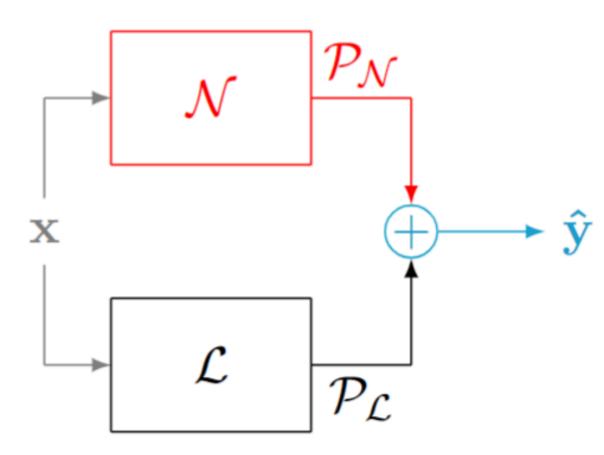
✓Mitigating Learning Imbalances

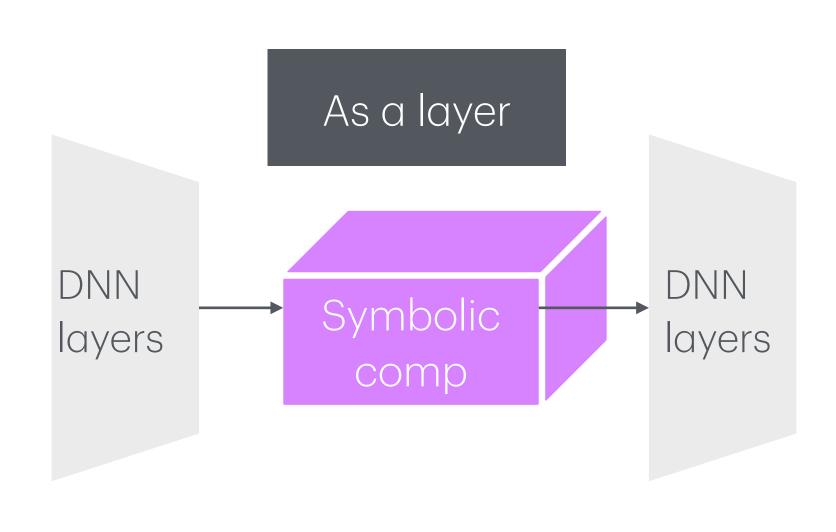
- √ Testing time techniques
 - ✓ Reduction to robust optimal transport
- ✓ Training time techniques
 - √ Reduction to integer linear programming
- **√Teacher-Student NeSy**

Quick Recap of Day 2

Types of Integration





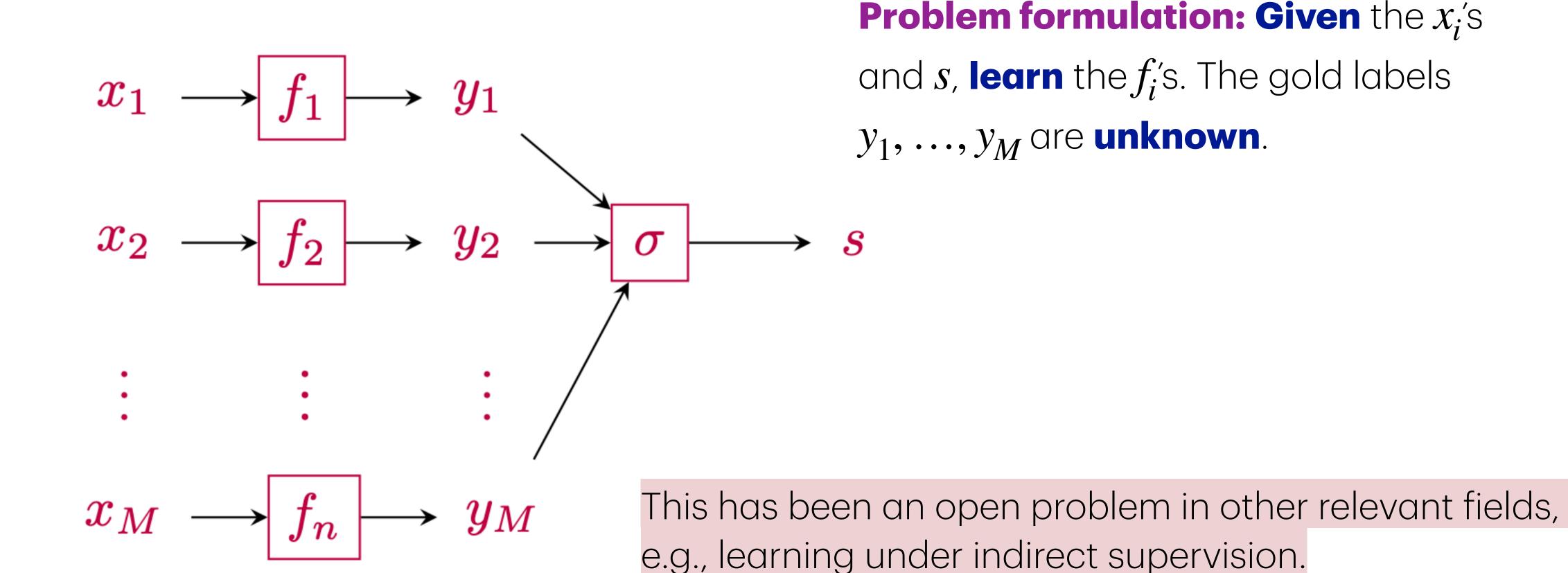


- ✓ DeepProbLog [NeurIPS 2018]
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Learning Setting



Kaifu Wang, Efthymia Tsamoura, and Dan Roth. On Learning Latent Models with Multi-Instance Weak Supervision. In NeurIPS, 2023.

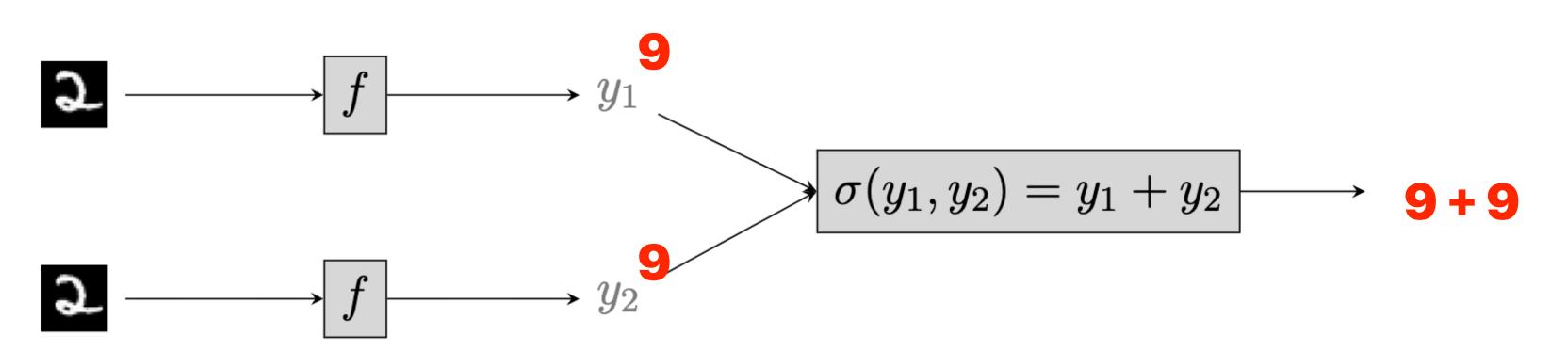
PAC-Learnability

A problem instance is PAC-learnable if there exists an algorithm \mathscr{A} such that for any two user parameters ϵ and δ the following holds under any input distribution:

- ✓ with probability at least 1- δ
- ✓ the learned classifier f misclassifies an input with probability $\leq \epsilon$
- ✓ when given at least $m_{\epsilon,\delta}$ samples

Polynomial in ϵ and δ

PAC-Learnability: Known and Deterministic σ



Suppose the following:

✓ All mass is concentrated in 2 with gold label 2

 \sqrt{f} misclassifies 2 as 9. Hence, the gold labels are (2,2), but f outputs (9,9)

Question: are fs classification errors concealed or not?

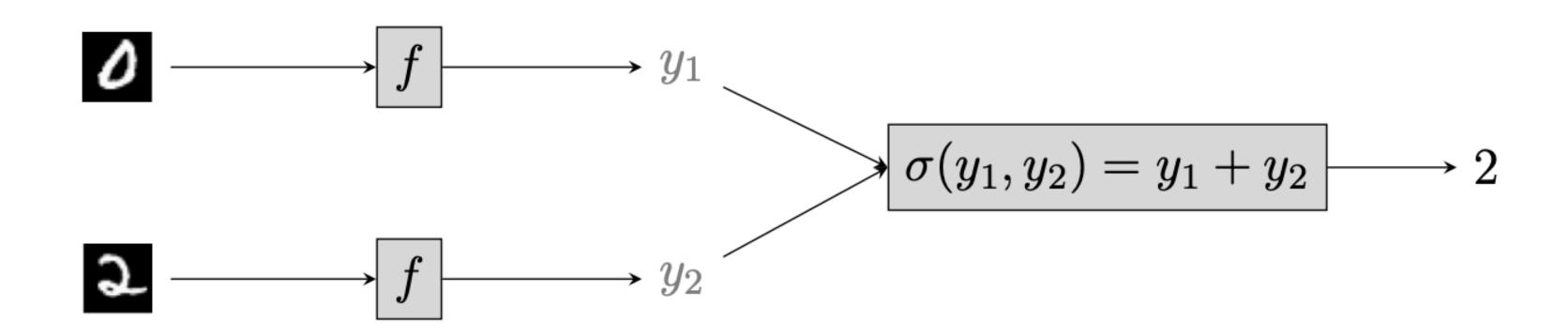
Answer: no, since $2 + 2 \neq 9+9$

Reasoning: if for any (y,...,y) and (y',...,y'), we have $\sigma(y,...,y) \neq \sigma(y',...,y')$, then the classification errors are not concealed.

Relevant Settings

- ✓ Partial label learning
- ✓ Learning via transition matrices

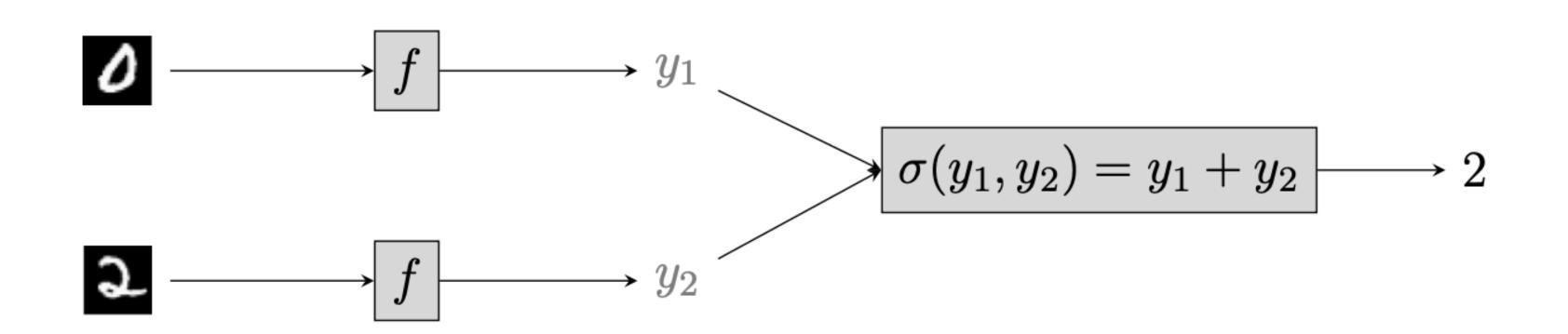
NeSy Learning



Training sample: ((2,0), (2,0), (1,1)})



Transition Matrix Formulation of 2SUM



hidden labels

$$\textbf{observed labels} \qquad \mathbf{T}_1 = \mathbf{T}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} s = 0 & 1 & \cdots & 9 \\ s = 0 & \mathbb{P}(Y = 0) & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ \mathbb{P}(Y = 1) & \mathbb{P}(Y = 0) & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbb{P}(Y = 9) & \mathbb{P}(Y = 8) & \cdots & \mathbb{P}(Y = 0) \\ s = 11 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & \mathbb{P}(Y = 2) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ s = 18 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & \mathbb{P}(Y = 9) \end{bmatrix}$$

Learning Imbalances in NeSy

Kaifu Wang, Efthymia Tsamoura, and Dan Roth. On characterizing and mitigating imbalances in multi-instance weak supervision. CoRR, abs/2407.10000, 2024

Learning Imbalances: What Are They?

Major differences in the errors occurring when classifying instances of different classes (aka class-specific risks). In other words:

A classifier is much better in classifying instances of some class (e.g., cats) than classing instance of other classes (e.g., different species of birds)

Learning Imbalances in Traditional ML

- √Core problem in ML
 - ✓ Real-world data is imbalanced
- √ Theoretical results focus on supervised learning
 - ✓ Very few theoretical results in weakly-supervised learning [Journal of Machine Learning Research, 2011]

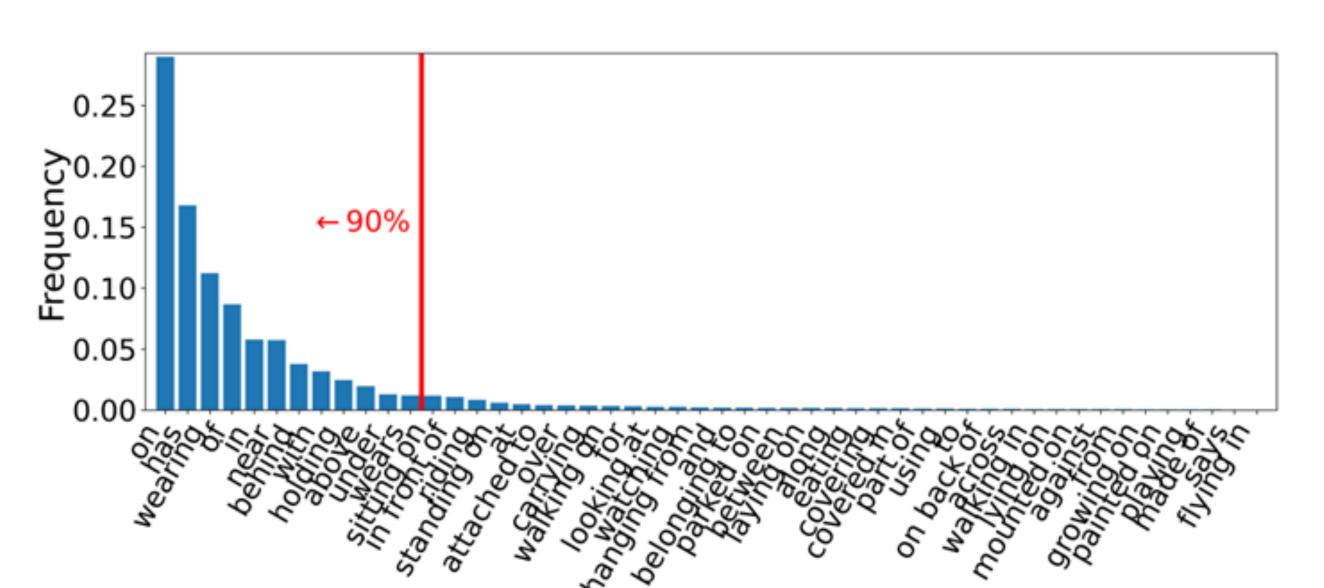
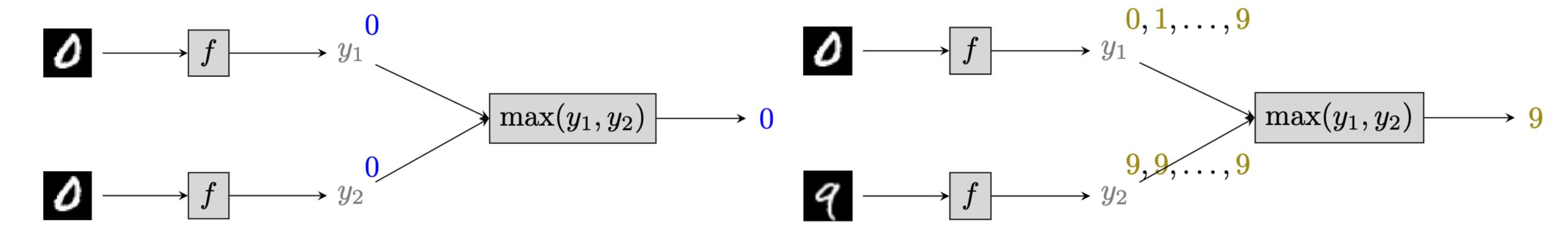


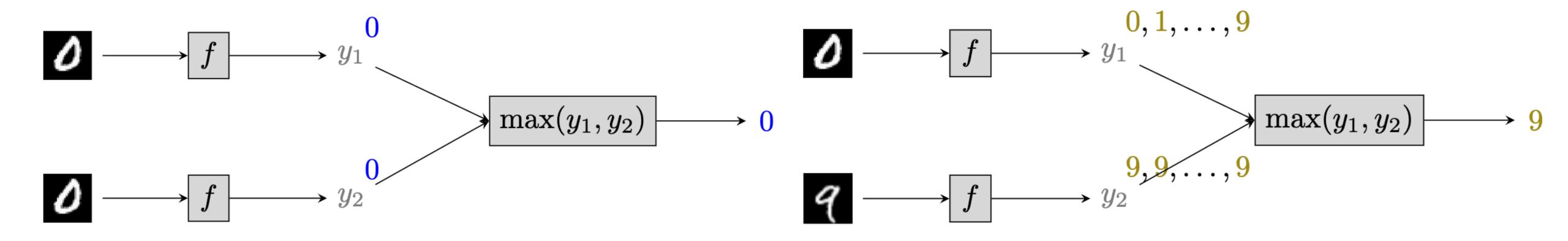
Figure. Distribution of training facts categorized per class in Visual Genome [International Journal of Computer Vision, 2017]

Root of learning imbalances in traditional ML: imbalanced training data

Question: Do you think that there is another root of learning imbalances in NeSY?

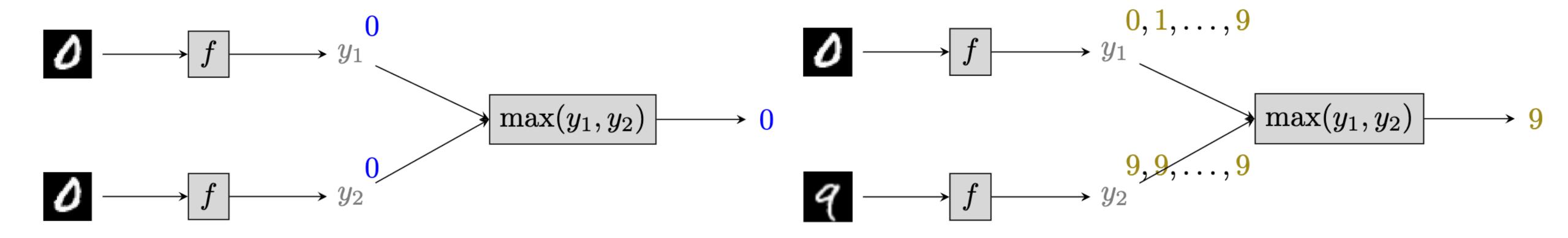


Question: Which class is easier to learn when the number of (, , , , ,) equals the number of (, , , , ,)?

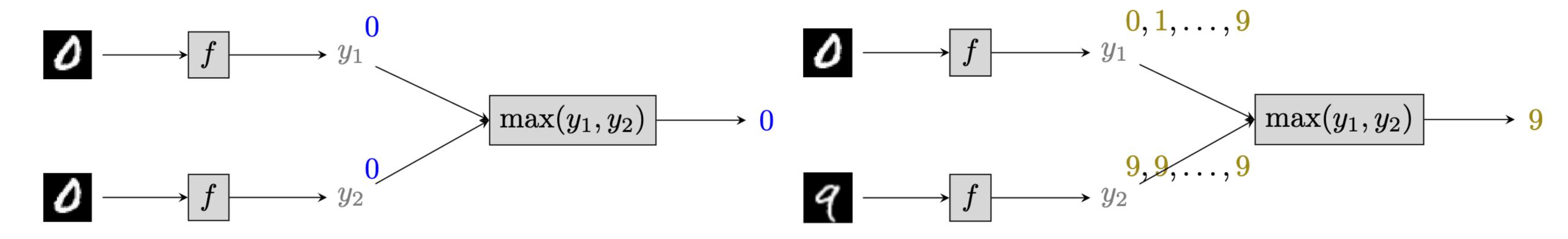


Question: Which class is easier to learn when the number of (, , , , , ,) equals the number of (, , , , , ,)?

Answer: class 0 (reduction to supervised learning)

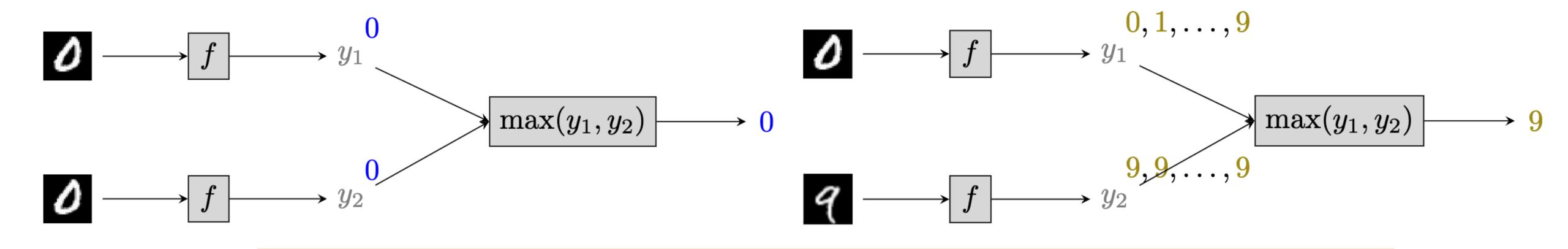


Question: Which class is easier to learn when the number of 2 equals the number of 3 and samples are formed by i.i.d. sampling?



Question: Which class is easier to learn when the number of **2** equals the number of **3** and samples are formed by i.i.d. sampling?

Answer: class 9 (way more samples of the form (9,0,9), (0,9), (0,9), or (9,9), than (0,0)



The sampling process along with σ may lead to imbalances in the samples

Question: Which class is easier to learn when the number of of equals the number of and samples are formed by i.i.d. sampling?

Answer: class 9 (way more samples of the form (9,0,9), (0,9), (0,9), or (9,9), than (0,0)

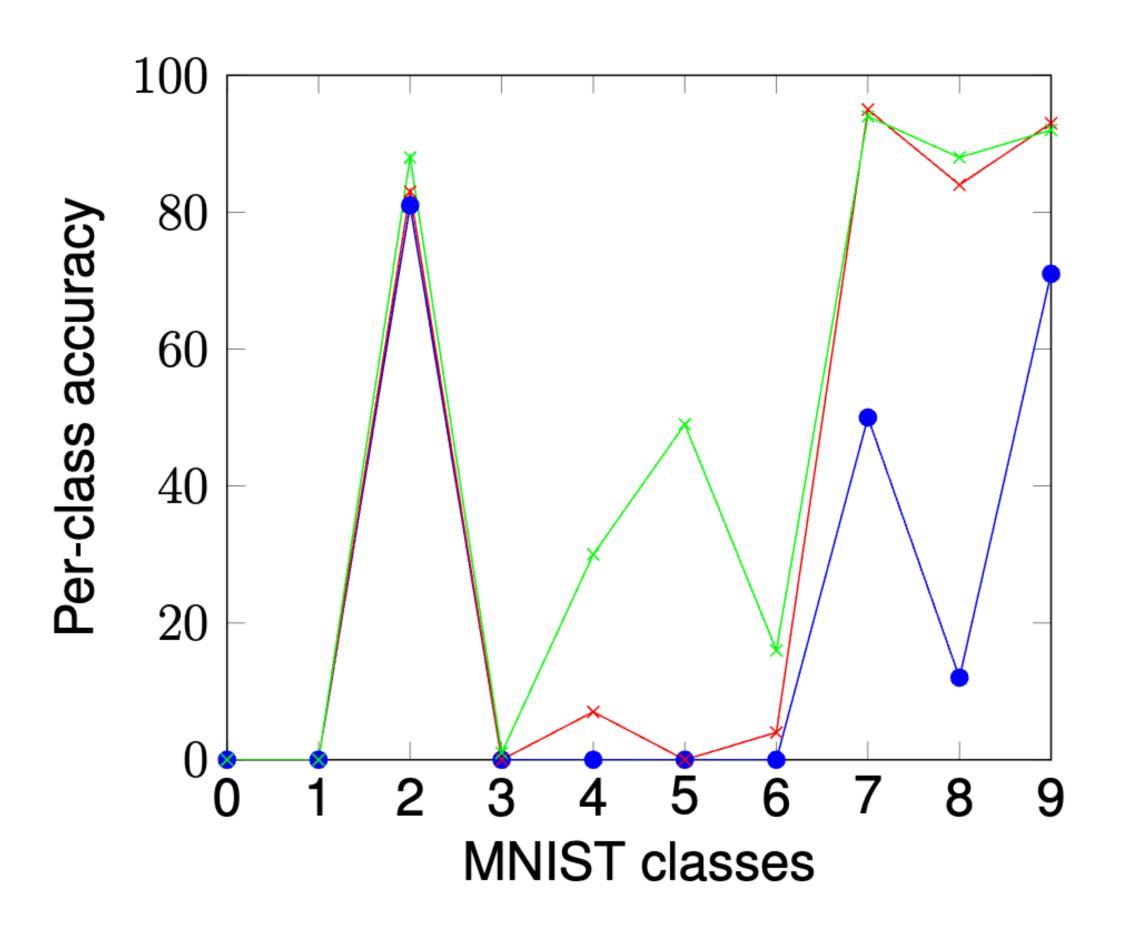


Figure: Accuracy of the MNIST classifier. Blue, red and green curves show accuracy at 20, 40 and 100 epochs. Learning converges in 100 epochs.

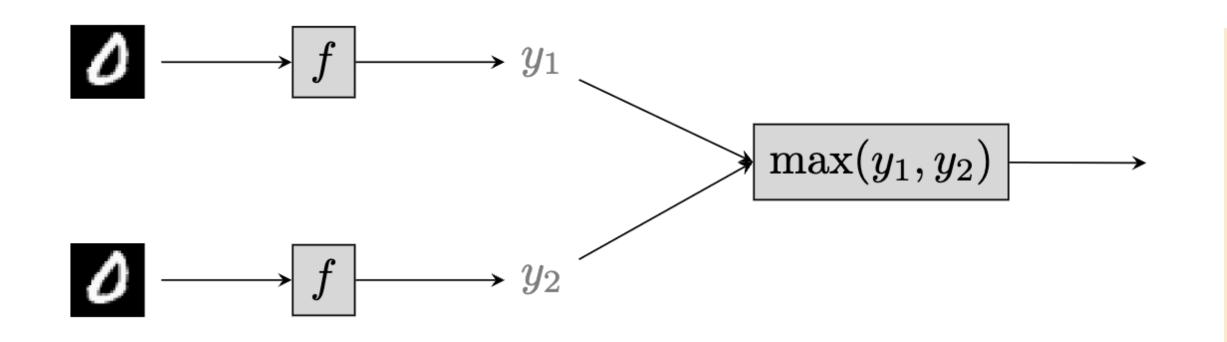
✓ We bounded $R_j(f)$ via function:

Probability classifier f misclassifies an instance of class j (e.g., a zero)

Probability the overall output is wrong (e.g., target max is 9, but we output 0)

$$\Phi_{\sigma,j}(R_{\mathsf{P}}(f,\sigma))$$

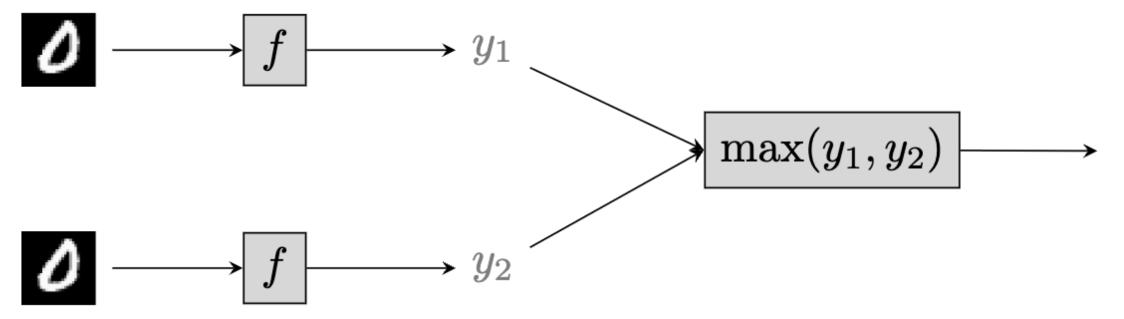
Symbolic function, e.g., max



In other words, if you the **probability of obtaining a wrong overall output**, you
can bound the **probability** f **misclassifies a specific class**

Proposition 3.3. Let $d_{[\mathcal{F}]}$ be the Natarajan dimension of $[\mathcal{F}]$. Given a confidence level $\delta \in (0,1)$, we have that $R_j(f) \leq \Phi_{\sigma,j}(\widetilde{R}_P(f;\sigma,\mathcal{T}_P,\delta))$ with probability $1 - \delta$ for any $j \in [c]$, where

$$\widetilde{R}_{\mathsf{P}}(f;\sigma,\mathcal{T}_{\mathsf{P}},\delta) = \widehat{R}_{\mathsf{P}}(f;\sigma,\mathcal{T}_{\mathsf{P}}) + \sqrt{\frac{2\log(\mathrm{e}m_{\mathsf{P}}/2d_{[\mathcal{F}]}\log(6Mc^2d_{[\mathcal{F}]}/\mathrm{e})}{m_{\mathsf{P}}/2d_{[\mathcal{F}]}\log(6Mc^2d_{[\mathcal{F}]}/\mathrm{e})}}} + \sqrt{\frac{\log(1/\delta)}{2m_{\mathsf{P}}}} \tag{3}$$
 Empirical error in the overall output



In other words, if you the **probability of obtaining a wrong overall output**, you
can bound the **probability f misclassifies a specific class**

✓ We bounded $R_j(f)$ via function:

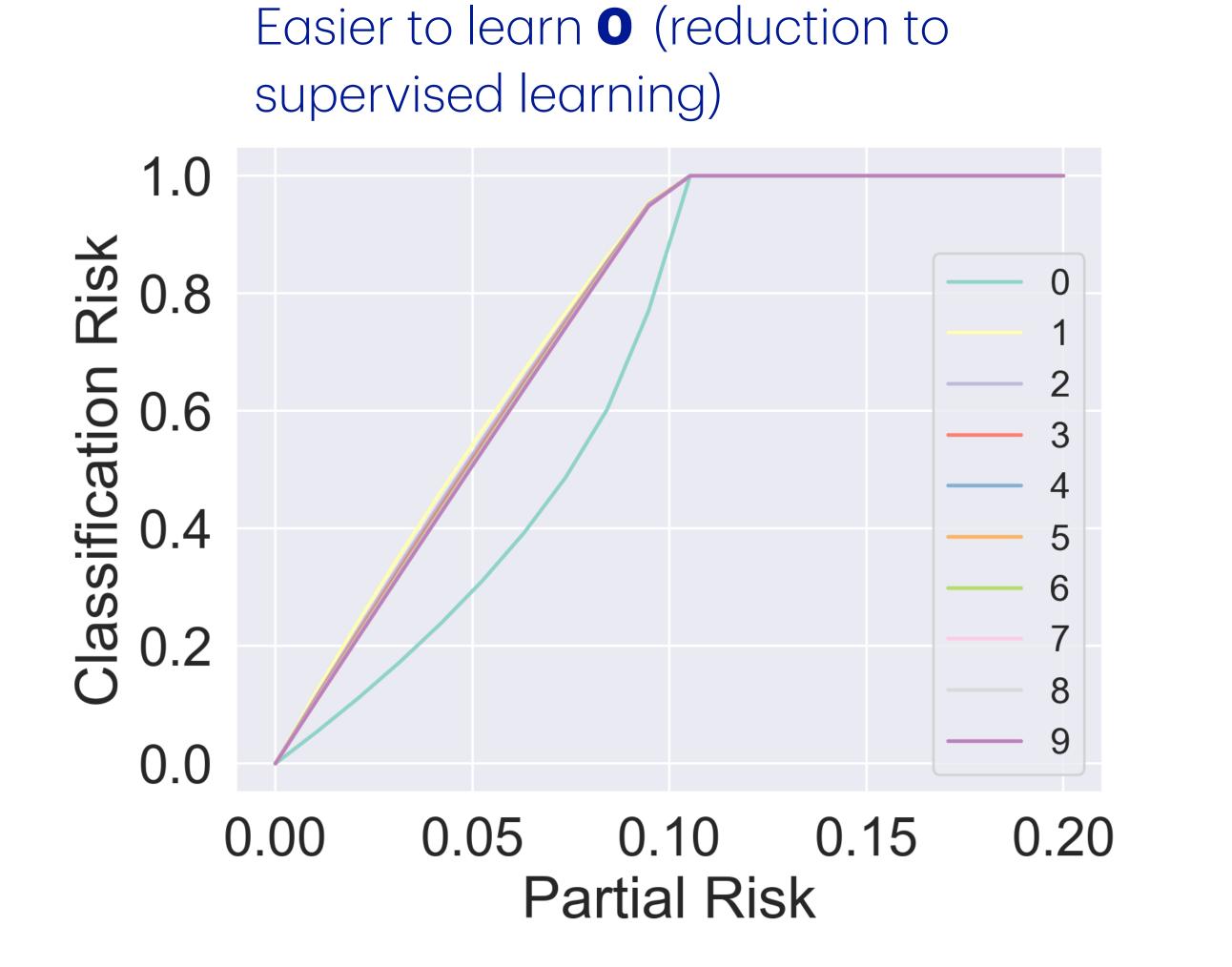
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Probability the overall output is wrong (e.g., target max is 9, but we output 0)

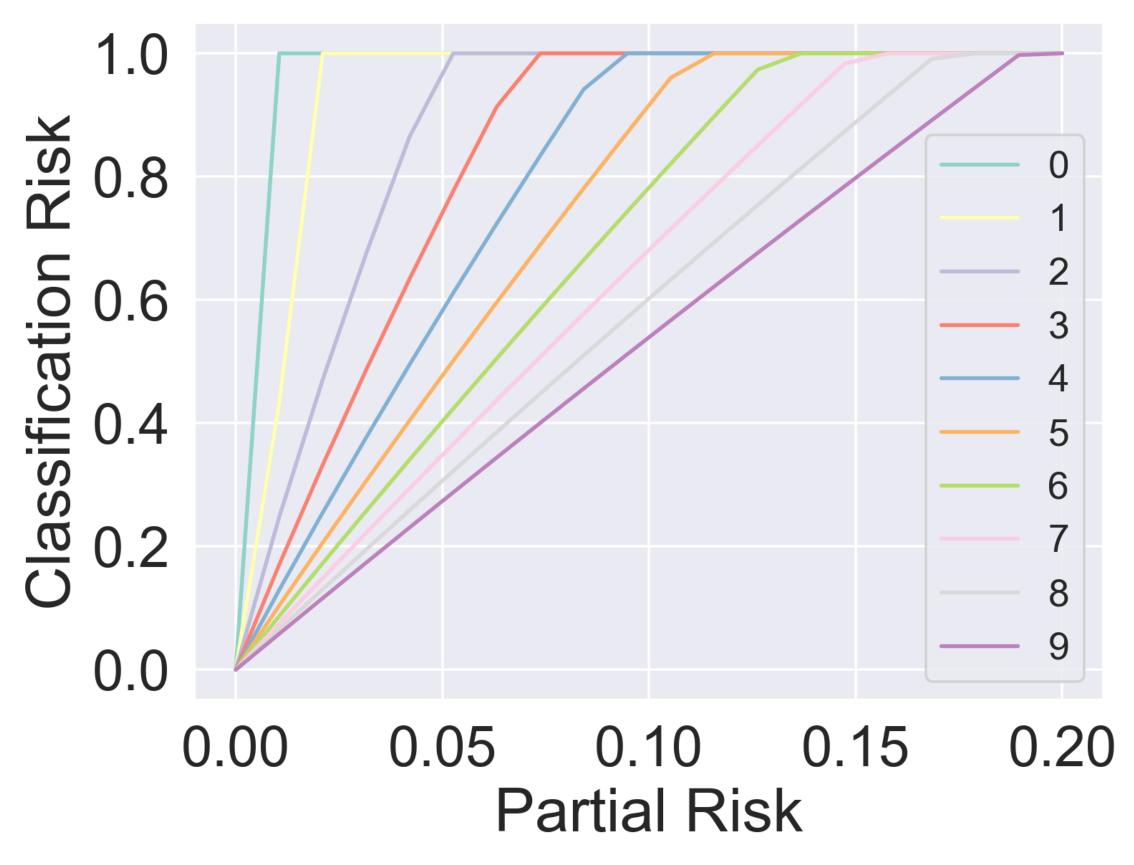
$$\Phi_{\sigma,j}(R_{\mathsf{P}}(f,\sigma))$$

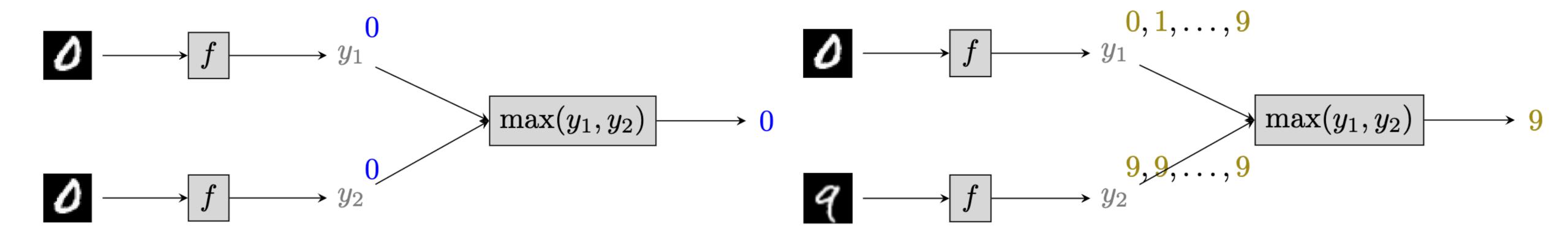
Symbolic function, e.g., max

- √This bound is computed via solving a quadratic program
- ✓ Does not make any assumptions on σ









Existing results in ML: equally difficult to learn class 0 and 9

Question: Which class is easier to learn when the number of **2** equals the number of **3** and samples are formed by i.i.d. sampling?

Mitigating Imbalances in NeSy

Kaifu Wang, Efthymia Tsamoura, and Dan Roth. On characterizing and mitigating imbalances in multi-instance weak supervision. CoRR, abs/2407.10000, 2025

Mitigating Imbalances

Objective: Enforce the prior distribution (common approach in ML):

- √ Give more importance to minority classes during training
- ✓ Encourage the model to predict minority classes during testing.

Prediction matrix **P**

$$y = 0 \cdot \cdots \cdot y = 9$$

$$0.1 \cdot \cdots \cdot 0.05$$

$$\vdots$$

$$0.7 \cdot \cdots \cdot 0.01$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\vdots$$

$$0.01 \cdot \cdots \cdot 0.8$$

Predictions for the i-th test sample

Testing sample

Rationale: Given a (gold) label distribution \hat{r} , correct the predictions \mathbf{P} to \mathbf{P}' , so that \mathbf{P}' adheres to \hat{r} .

Challenges:

- √ The technique should be lightweight
- $\checkmark P'$ should be close enough to P
- $ightharpoonup \mathbf{P}'$ should not strictly abide to \hat{r} (to tolerate noise)

Rationale: Given a (gold) label distribution \hat{r} , correct the predictions \mathbf{P} to \mathbf{P}' , so that \mathbf{P}' adheres to \hat{r} .

Challenges:

- √ The technique should be lightweight
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- ightharpoonup P' should not strictly abide to P (to tolerate noise)

$$\min_{\mathbf{P}' \in \mathbb{R}_{+}^{n \times c}, \mathbf{P}' \mathbf{1}_{c} = \mathbf{1}_{n}} \frac{\langle -\log(\mathbf{P}), \mathbf{P}' \rangle}{\langle -\log(\mathbf{P}), \mathbf{P}' \rangle} + \tau KL(\mathbf{P}' \mathbf{1}_{n} | | n\hat{r})$$

 ${f P}'$ should induce a valid distribution

$$\min_{\mathbf{P}' \in \mathbb{R}_{+}^{n \times c}, \mathbf{P}' \mathbf{1}_{c} = \mathbf{1}_{n}} \langle -\log(\mathbf{P}), \mathbf{P}' \rangle + \tau KL(\mathbf{P}' \mathbf{1}_{n} | | n\hat{r})$$

 ${f P}'$ should induce a valid distribution

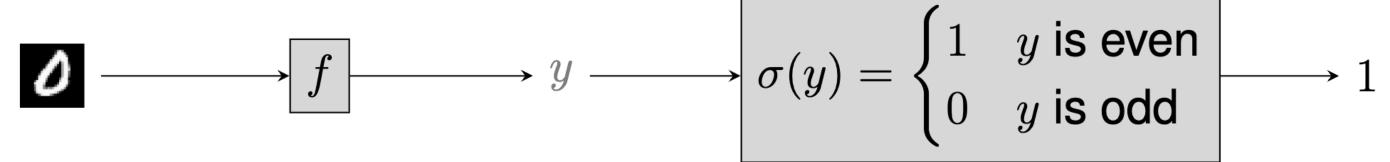
- ✓ Formulation is a robust semiconstrained optimal transport (RSOT) problem instance
- ✓ Approximate the optimal solution using the robust semi-Sinkhorn algorithm [NeurIPS, 2021]

$$\min_{\mathbf{P}' \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times c} \mathbf{P'1} = 1} \frac{\langle -\log(\mathbf{P}), \mathbf{P'} \rangle}{\langle -\log(\mathbf{P}), \mathbf{P'} \rangle} + \tau KL(\mathbf{P'1}_n | | n\hat{r}) + \eta H(\mathbf{P'})$$

Entropic regularization term to find solutions in PTIME

Problem: We will first focus on the case where we have one input instance at a time

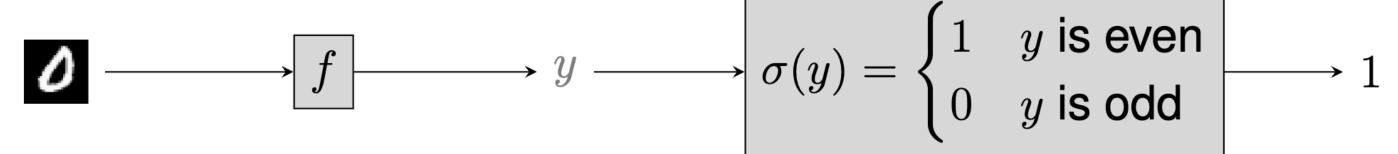
Example



Training sample: (**2**, {0,2,4,6,8})

Problem: We will first focus on the case where we have one input instance at a time

Example



Training sample: (2, {0,2,4,6,8})

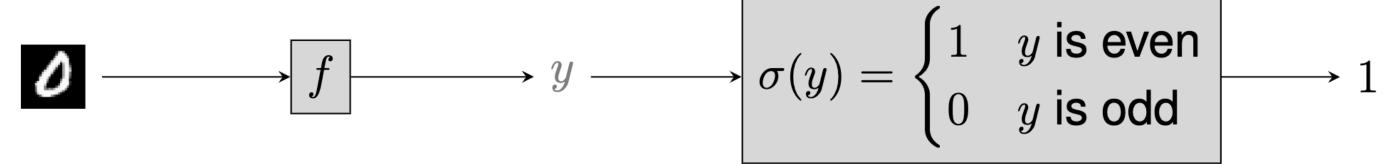
Prediction matrix ${f P}$

$$y = 0 \cdot \cdots \cdot y = 9$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0.1 \cdot \cdots \cdot 0.05 \\ \vdots \\ 0.7 \cdot \cdots \cdot 0.01 \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ 0.01 \cdot \cdots \cdot 0.8 \end{pmatrix}$$

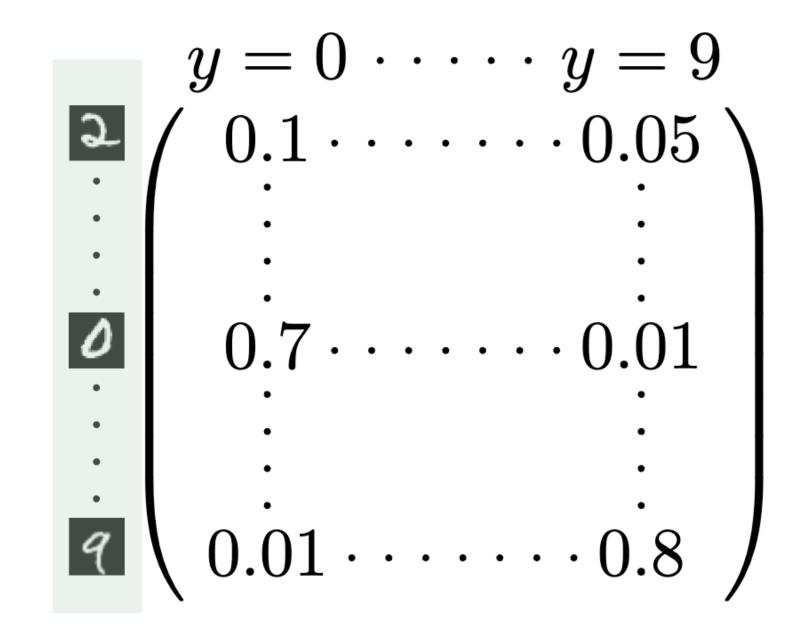
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Example



Training sample: (2, {0,2,4,6,8})

Prediction matrix ${f P}$



Rationale: Given a (gold) label

distribution \hat{r} , correct the predictions ${f P}$

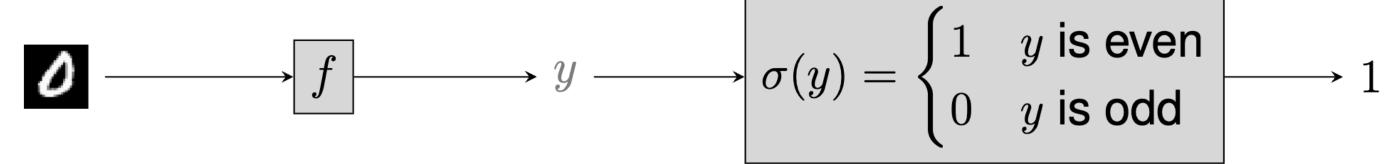
to ${f Q}$, so that ${f Q}$ adheres to \hat{r} .

Challenges:

- √ The technique should be lightweight
- √ Q should be close enough to P
- √The predictions should satisfy σ

Problem: We will first focus on the case where we have one input instance at a time

Example



Training sample: (2, {0,2,4,6,8})

Prediction matrix **P**

$$y = 0 \cdot \cdots \cdot y = 9$$

$$0.1 \cdot \cdots \cdot 0.05$$

$$\vdots$$

$$0.7 \cdot \cdots \cdot 0.01$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\vdots$$

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Challenges:

√ The technique should be lightweight

√Q should be close enough to **P**

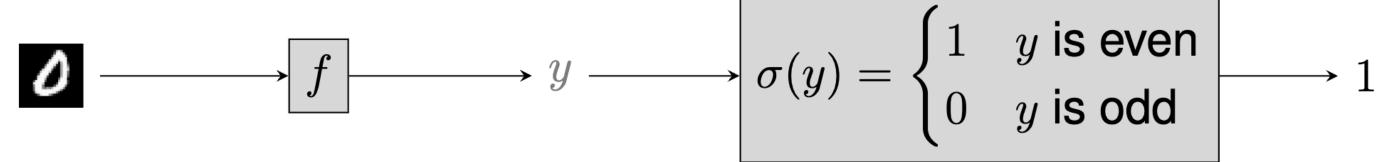
√The predictions should satisfy σ

 $\min_{\mathbf{Q}} \langle \mathbf{Q}, -\log(\mathbf{P}) \rangle$

s.t. a cell should be empty if not a valid label

Problem: We will first focus on the case where we have one input instance at a time

Example



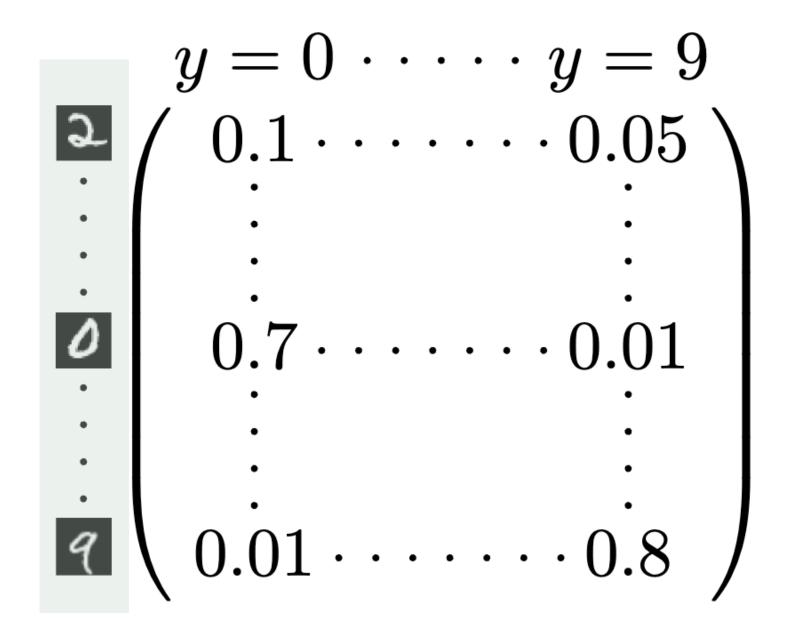
Training sample: (2, {0,2,4,6,8})

Question: Do we need additional constraints?

$$\min_{\mathbf{Q}} \langle \mathbf{Q}, -\log(\mathbf{P}) \rangle$$

s.t. a cell should be empty if not a valid label

Prediction matrix ${f P}$



Challenges:

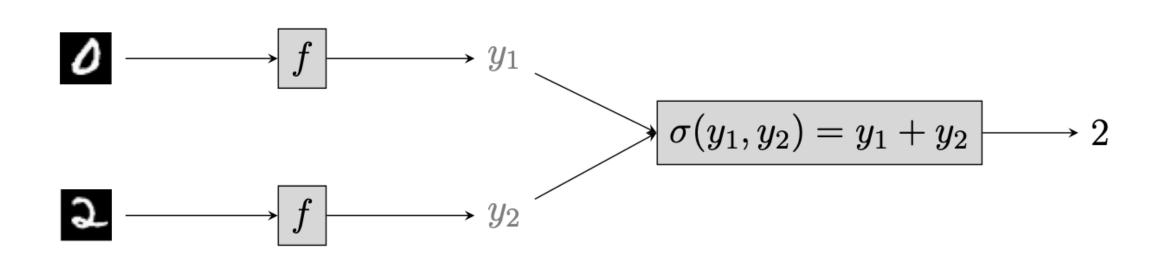
√ The technique should be lightweight

 $\checkmark \mathbf{Q}$ should be close enough to \mathbf{P}

√The predictions should satisfy σ

Mitigating Imbalances During Training

Problem: We will first focus on the generic case



Training sample: ((2, 2) {(0,2), (2,0), (1,1)})

Prediction matrix ${f P}_1$

$$y = 0 \cdot \cdots \cdot y = 9$$

$$0.1 \cdot \cdots \cdot 0.05$$

$$\vdots \\ 0.7 \cdot \cdots \cdot 0.01$$

$$\vdots \\ \vdots \\ 0.01 \cdot \cdots \cdot 0.8$$

Prediction matrix \mathbf{P}_2

$$y = 0 \cdot \cdots \cdot y = 9$$
 $0.02 \cdot \cdots \cdot 0.8$
 $0.3 \cdot \cdots \cdot 0.07$
 $0.2 \cdot \cdots \cdot 0.005$

Mitigating Imbalances During Training

Prediction matrix ${f P}_1$

$$y = 0 \cdot \cdots \cdot y = 9$$

$$0.1 \cdot \cdots \cdot 0.05$$

$$\vdots \\
0.7 \cdot \cdots \cdot 0.01$$

$$\vdots \\
\vdots \\
0.01 \cdot \cdots \cdot 0.8$$

Prediction matrix ${f P}_2$

$$y = 0 \cdot \cdots \cdot y = 9$$
 $0.02 \cdot \cdots \cdot 0.8$
 $0.3 \cdot \cdots \cdot 0.07$
 $0.2 \cdot \cdots \cdot 0.005$

Rationale: Given a (gold) label distribution \hat{r} , correct the predictions \mathbf{P}_i to \mathbf{Q}_i , so that \mathbf{Q}_i adheres to \hat{r} .

Challenges:

- √ The technique should be lightweight
- ${f Q}_i$ should be close enough to ${f P}_i$
- $\checkmark \mathbf{Q}_i$ should not strictly abide to \hat{r} (to tolerate noise)
- √The predictions should satisfy σ

Mitigating Imbalances During Training

Challenges:

- √ The technique should be lightweight
- ${f Q}_i$ should be close enough to ${f P}_i$
- $\sqrt{\mathbf{Q}_i}$ should not strictly abide to \hat{r} (to tolerate noise)
- \checkmark The predictions should satisfy σ

Reduction to integer linear programming

objective

$$\min_{(\mathbf{Q}_1, \dots, \mathbf{Q}_M)} \sum_{i=1}^M \langle -\log(\mathbf{P}_i), \mathbf{Q}_i \rangle,$$

Integer linear programming formulation of NeSy

$$\sum_{t=1}^{R_{\ell}} [\alpha_{\ell,t}] \geq 1, \qquad \ell \in [n]$$

$$-|\varphi_{\ell,t}|[\alpha_{\ell,t}] + \sum_{k=1}^{|\varphi_{\ell,t}|} [\varphi_{\ell,t,k}] \geq 0, \qquad \ell \in [n], t \in [R_{\ell}]$$

$$-\sum_{k=1}^{|\varphi_{\ell,t}|} [\varphi_{\ell,t,k}] + [\alpha_{\ell,t}] \geq (1 - |\varphi_{\ell,t}|), \quad \ell \in [n], t \in [R_{\ell}]$$

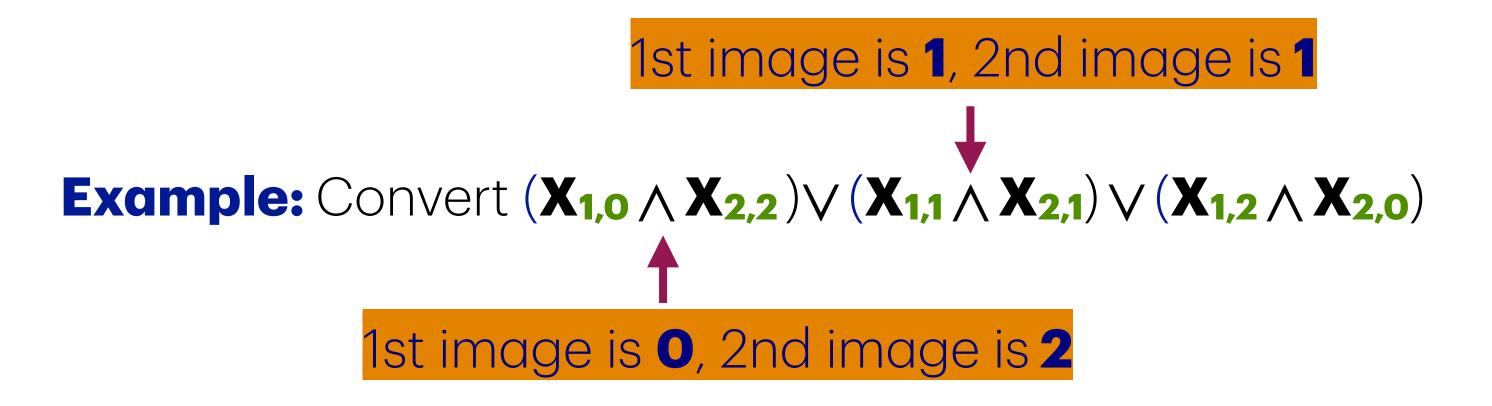
$$\sum_{j=1}^{c} [q_{\ell,i,j}] = 1, \qquad \ell \in [n], i \in [M]$$

$$[q_{\ell,i,j}] \in [0,1], \qquad \ell \in [n], i \in [M], j \in [c]$$

$$|\mathbf{Q}_{i} \cdot \mathbf{1}_{n} - n\hat{\mathbf{r}}| \leq \epsilon, \qquad i \in [M]$$

NeSy to Integer Linear Programming

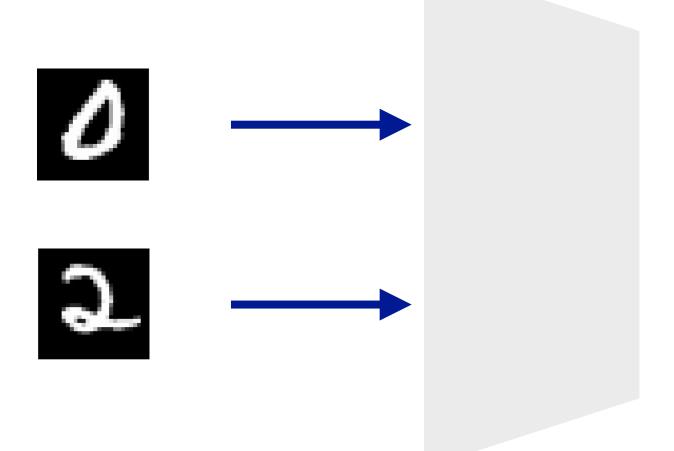
Constraints in NeSy can be expressed as formulas in disjunctive normal (DNF) form



Goal: Train the DNN knowing that the input MNIST images sum up to 2.

Goal: Convert a Boolean constraint ϕ to a set of linear equations ${\mathscr L}$, s.t.:

 $\checkmark \phi$ becomes true if and only if $\mathscr L$ is satisfied



NeSy to Integer Linear Programming

Example: Convert $(X_{1,0} \land X_{2,2}) \lor (X_{1,1} \land X_{2,1}) \lor (X_{1,2} \land X_{2,0})$

Step 1: Convert to CNF (via the Tseytin transformation), i.e., formulas of this form:

 $\Phi_1 \wedge \Phi_2 \wedge \ldots \wedge \Phi_n$, each Φ_i is a disjunction of (negated) Boolean variables

Step 2: Translate each clause to a linear constraint using some predefined rules

Rules to Convert a Boolean Constraint to an ILP

Boolean constraint

$$X_1 \wedge X_2 \wedge \ldots \wedge X_n$$

$$X_1 \vee X_2 \vee \ldots \vee X_n$$

$$X_1 \vee X_2 \vee \ldots \vee X_n$$

$$\neg X$$

Linear constraint

$$\sum_{i} [X_i] = n$$

$$\sum_{i} [X_i] \ge 1$$

Non-Mutually exclusive

$$\sum_{i} [X_i] = 1$$

Mutually exclusive

$$1 - [X]$$

Rules to Convert a Boolean Constraint to an ILP

Boolean constraint

$$X_1 \wedge X_2 \wedge \ldots \wedge X_n$$

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Linear constraint

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$$\sum_{i} [X_i] \ge 1$$

Non-Mutually exclusive

$$\sum_{i} [X_i] = 1$$

Mutually exclusive

$$1 - [X]$$

Test: Convert the CNF formula $X_1 \wedge (\neg X_2 \vee \neg X_3)$ into the corresponding integer linear program

Computing the Marginals of the Hidden Labels

 \checkmark Statistically consistent technique to compute the gold hidden label ratios r

✓Problem (via example)

- **✓Given** samples of the form (**11**, **12**, max = 9)
- **✓Compute** the distribution of the instances in each class

Not covered in this lecture

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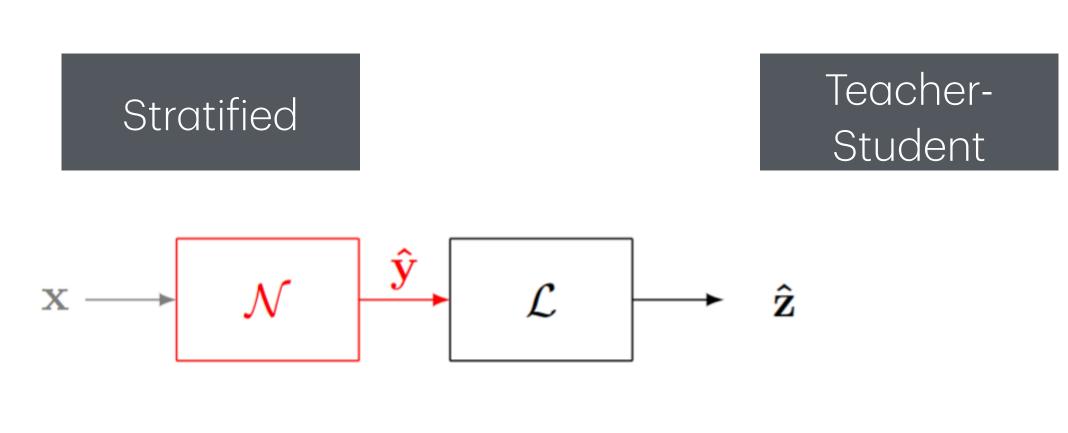
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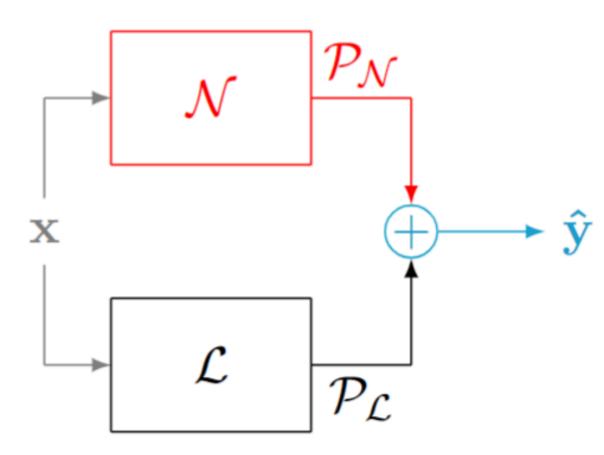
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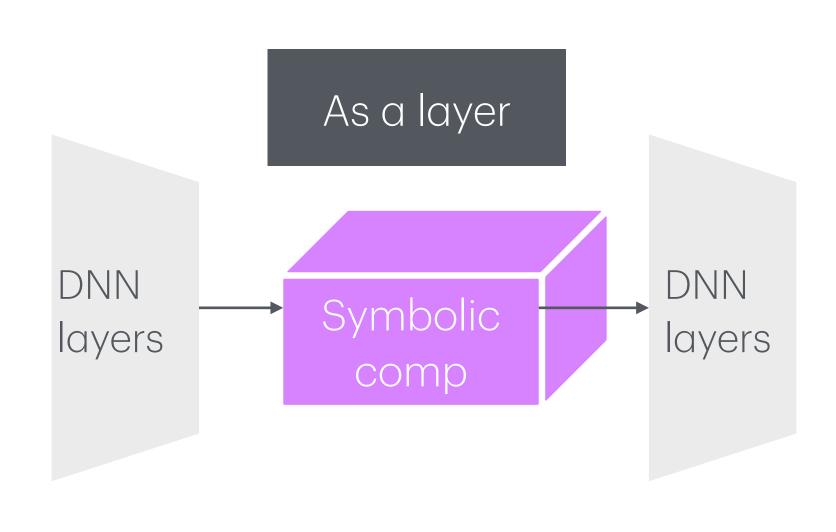
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- √ Testing time techniques
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- **√Teacher-Student NeSy**

Types of Integration







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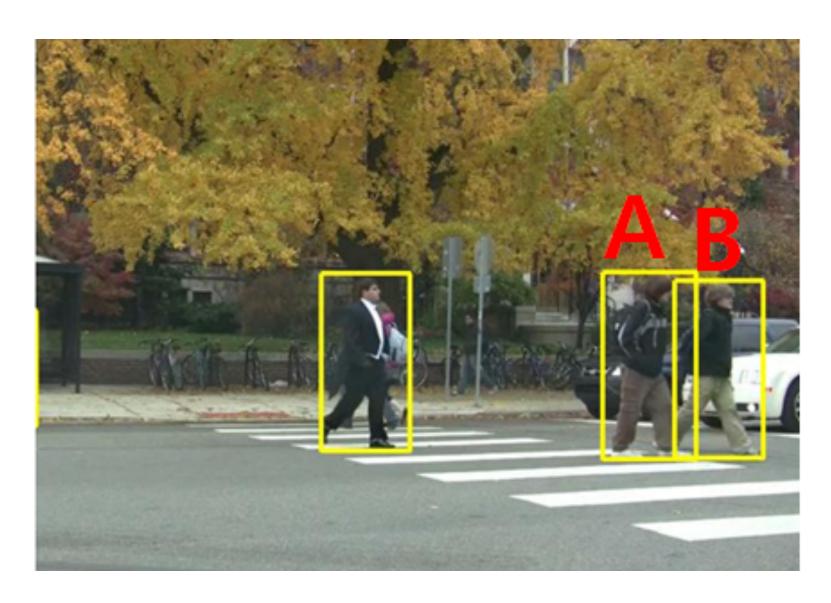
Knowledge Distillation

Traditional ML: Distill knowledge from a complex deep network to a small one

NeSy: Distill knowledge from a logical theory into a deep network

Knowledge Distillation: State-of-the-art

- ✓ Inability to express complex relationships between the input and the output data, (Hu et al., 2016a;b), (Wang & Poon, 2018)
- ✓ Problems with the optimization leading to vacuum supervision



Task. Understand the activity of a group of actors in a video

Rules of this form, could not be supported

DOING(A, activity) \wedge CLOSE(A,B) $\xrightarrow{0.75}$ DOING(B, activity)

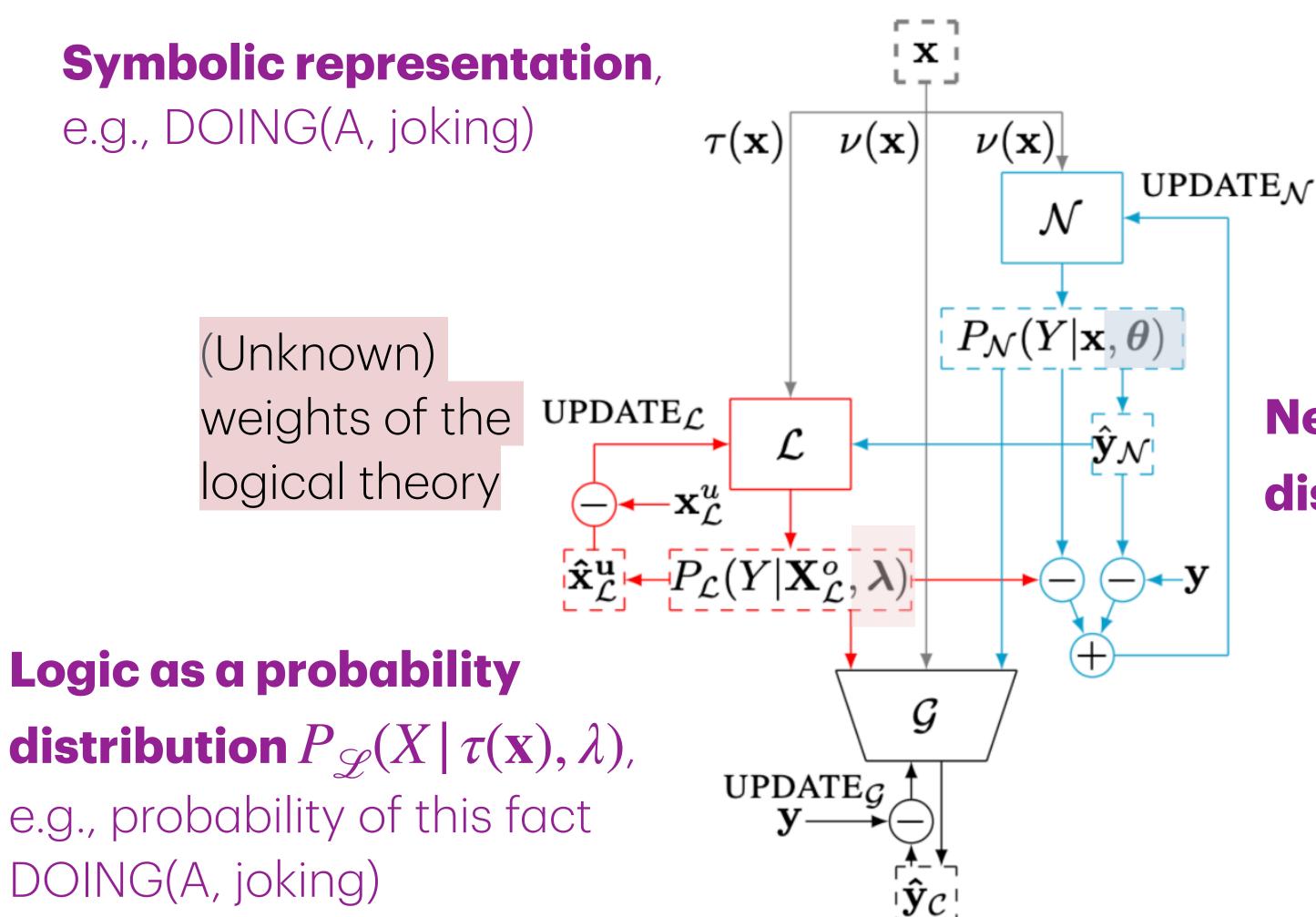
Concordia

- √ Supports general uncertain theories in first-order
- √ Offers plug-and-play interface
- ✓ Integrates symbolic with neural components without relying on the independence assumption
- √ Can use the deep network predictions as priors

Leon Jonathan Feldstein, Jurcius Modestas and Efthymia Tsamoura. Parallel neurosymbolic integration with Concordia. In ICML, 2023.

Concordia: Architecture

Raw data



Neural representation,

e.g., tensor representation of a bounding box

(Unknown) parameters of the network

Network as a probability distribution , $P_{\mathcal{N}}(X | \nu(\mathbf{x}), \theta)$

Key Ideas: (1) Represent the problem in symbolic form. (2) Treat logic as a conditional distribution

Concordia: Architecture

Updating θ at step t+1: Predicted outputs, e.g.,

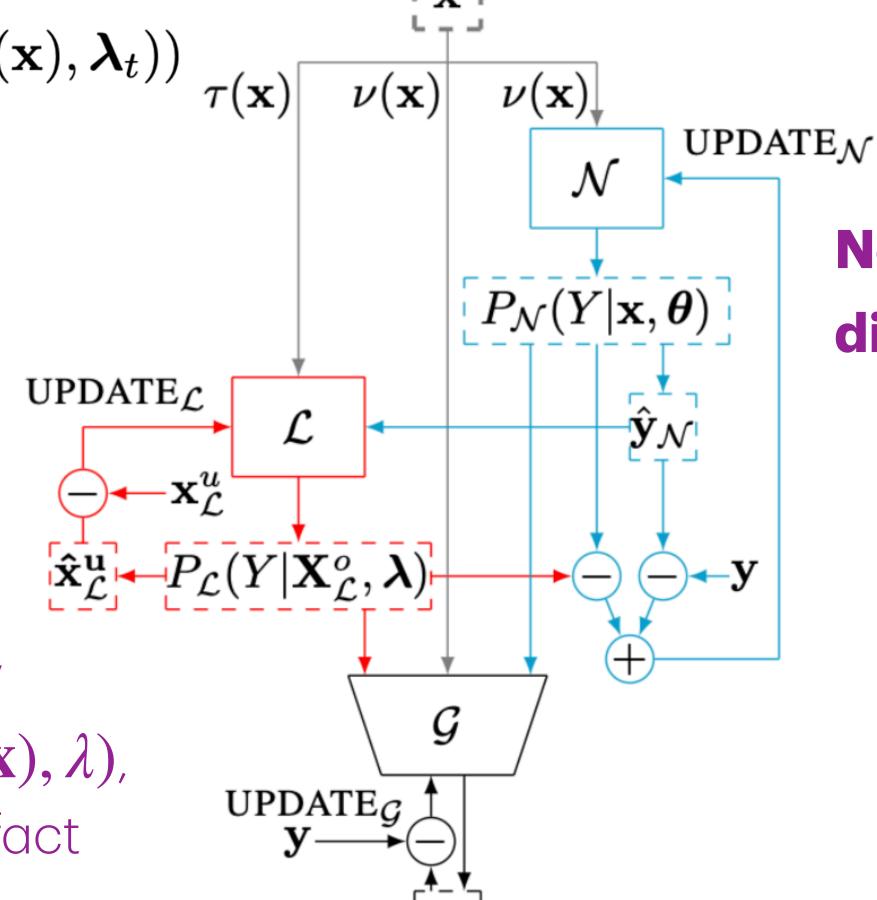
Predicted outputs, e.g., Person A is running

 $\boldsymbol{\theta}_{t+1} = \operatorname*{arg\,min}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \ell(\hat{\mathbf{y}}, \mathbf{y}) +$

 $KL(P_{\mathcal{N}}(Y|\mathbf{X}_{\mathcal{N}} = \nu(\mathbf{x}), \boldsymbol{\theta}_t)||P_{\mathcal{L}}(Y|\mathbf{X}_{\mathcal{L}}^o = \tau(\mathbf{x}), \boldsymbol{\lambda}_t))|_{\tau(\mathbf{x})}$

Question: Can Concordia support unsupervised learning?

Gold output: Person A is standing



Network as a probability distribution , $P_{\mathcal{N}}(X | \nu(\mathbf{x}), \theta)$

Logic as a probability

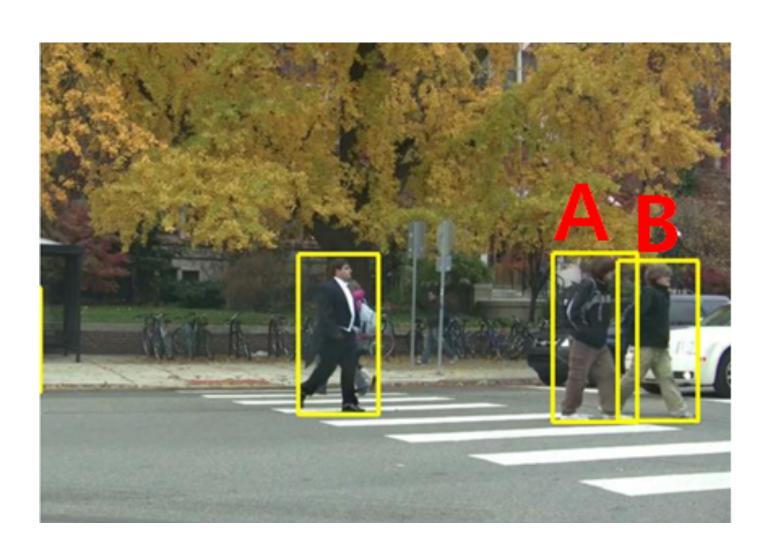
 $\mathbf{distribution}\, P_{\mathscr{L}}(X\,|\, \tau(\mathbf{x}),\lambda),$

e.g., probability of this fact DOING(A, joking)

Logic as a Probability Distribution

- ✓ Many uncertain logics give this ability, e.g.,
 - ✓ ProbLog to be covered in subsequent lectures
 - ✓ Markov Logic Networks
 - ✓ Probabilistic Soft Logic

Empirical Results



Task. Understand the activity of a group of actors in a video

Accuracy over 5 runs

Model	Avg (%)	Max (%)	Min (%)
$ACD+\mathcal{L}$ [17]	86.00	-	-
MobileNet	90.07	91.36	89.61
IARG(MobileNet) [14]	90.18	92.39	87.55
Concordia (Mobile Net, \mathcal{L})	90.73	93.19	89.54
Inception	89.72	91.83	86.84
IARG(Inception) [14]	88.88	91.67	85.33
Concordia (Inception, \mathcal{L})	92.75	93.34	92.31

The activity of an actor is the same with the activity of the frame $\lambda_1: \text{FRAME}(B,F) \land \text{FLABEL}(F,A) \to \text{DOING}(B,A)$

Two actors close to each other perform the same activity

 $\lambda_2 : \text{DOING}(B_1, A) \land \text{CLOSE}(B_1, B_2) \rightarrow \text{DOING}(B_2, A)$

 $\lambda_3 : SEQUENCE(B_1, B_2) \land CLOSE(B_1, B_2) \rightarrow SAME(B_1, B_2)$

 $\lambda_4: \mathrm{DOING}(B_1,A) \wedge \mathrm{SAME}(B_1,B_2) \to \mathrm{DOING}(B_2,A)$ If the actor within two bounding boxes is the same, then she

 $\lambda_5: exttt{DNN}(B,A) o exttt{DOING}(B,A)$ likely performs the same activity

The actor does what the networks predicts

Outline of Today's Lecture

√Introduction to Learning Imbalances

- ✓ Learning Imbalances in traditional ML
- ✓ Learning Imbalances in NeSy

✓Mitigating Learning Imbalances

- ✓ Testing time techniques
 - ✓ Reduction to robust optimal transport
- ✓ Training time techniques
 - √ Reduction to integer linear programming

√Teacher-Student NeSy

More Cool Research

- √Trigger Graphs: Exact & scalable probabilistic reasoning over hundreds over millions of facts [VLDB 2021, SIGMOD 2023]
 - √Relies on redundancy-free reasoning and provenance circuits
- ✓SPECTRUM: Rule mining under formal guarantees in the order of seconds over millions of facts [AAAI 2023, arXiv 2025]
 - ✓Involves addressing a tough problem in graph theory
- √Concordia: Neurosymbolic teacher-student learning [ICML 2023]
 - ✓ First over general first-order theories
- **√SO-Chase:** Goal-driven QA over expressive ontologies under formal guarantees [AAAI 2018, arXiv 2024]
 - √Fixes incompleteness errors in relevant SOTA
- **✓NGP:** Neurosymbolic scene graph generation [AAAI 2023]
 - ✓SOTA over all deep neural baselines up to 2024

Thank you!

✓ More info can be found at: https://tsamoura.github.io/