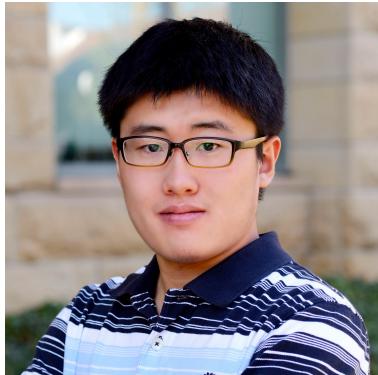




Snorkel: Accelerating Machine Learning with Training Data Management

Alex Ratner
UW / Stanford

Snorkel Team @ Stanford



Braden Hancock

Ines Chami

Vincent Chen

Clara McCreery

Sen Wu

Chris Ré

And many more!

snorkel.org

ML Application =

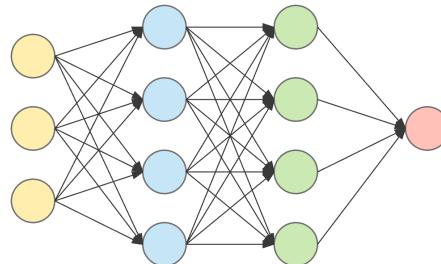
Model

+

Data

+

Hardware



```
from tensorflow.models \  
import resnet as model  
import resnet2 as model
```



```
aws ec2 run-instances \  
--instance-type p3.2xlarge  
--instance-type p3.16xlarge
```

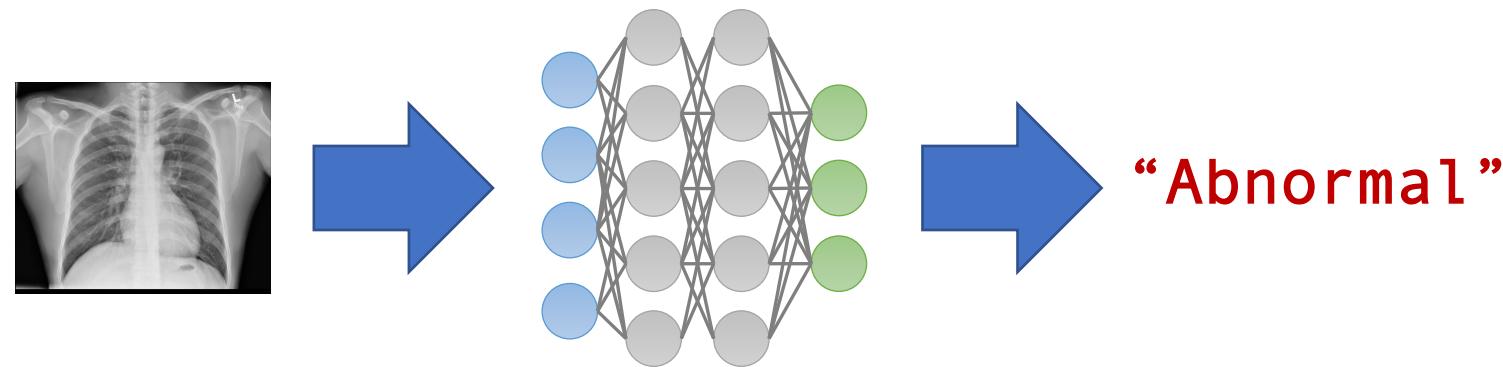
State-of-the-art models and hardware are commodities
Training data is not

Training data is the key ingredient in ML



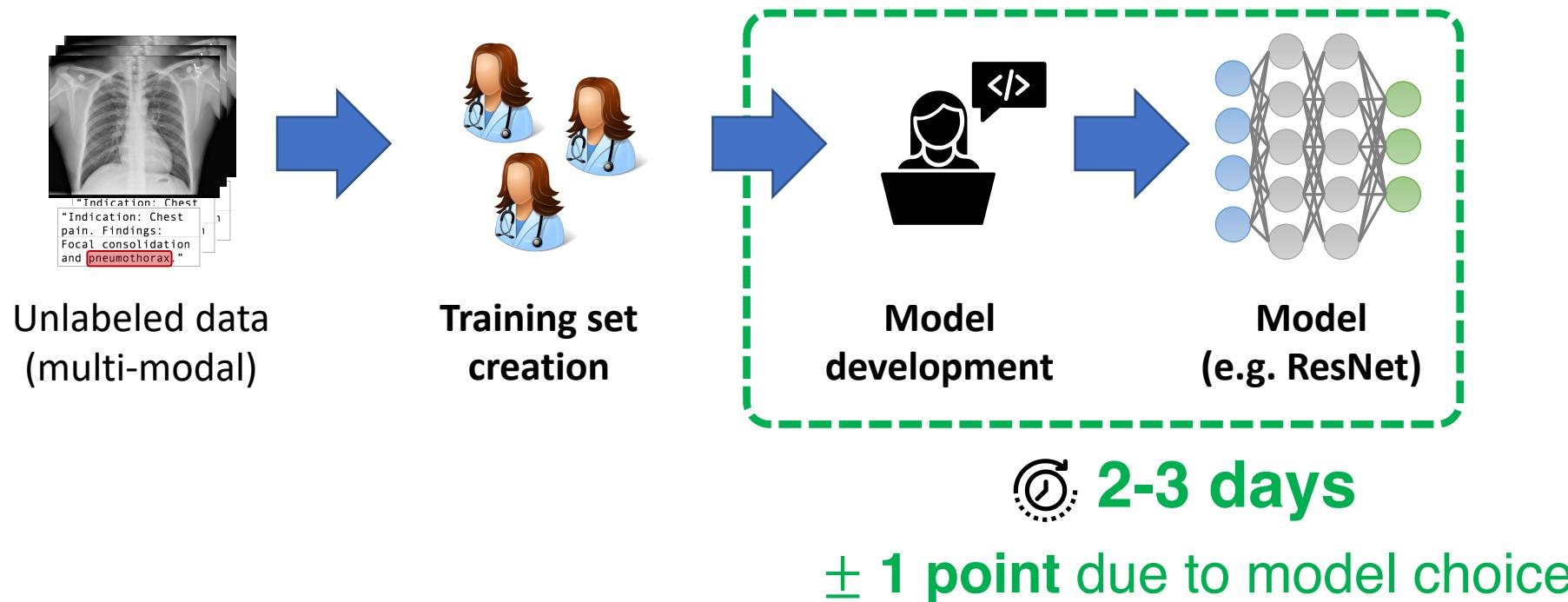
But it's created and managed in *manual, ad hoc ways*

Example: Chest X-Ray Triage



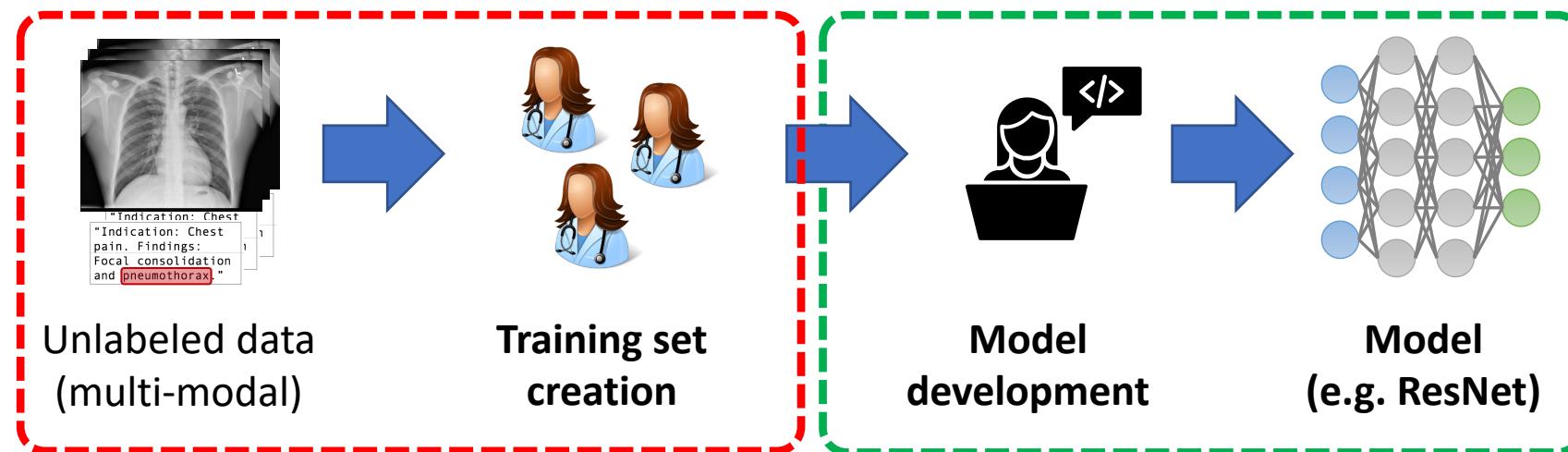
Motivation: Case prioritization for e.g. low-resource hospitals

Example: Chest X-Ray Triage



Model dev is often radically easier today!

Example: Chest X-Ray Triage



⌚ 8 months

± 9 points due to training set size

± 8 points due to training set quality

⌚ 2-3 days

± 1 point due to model choice

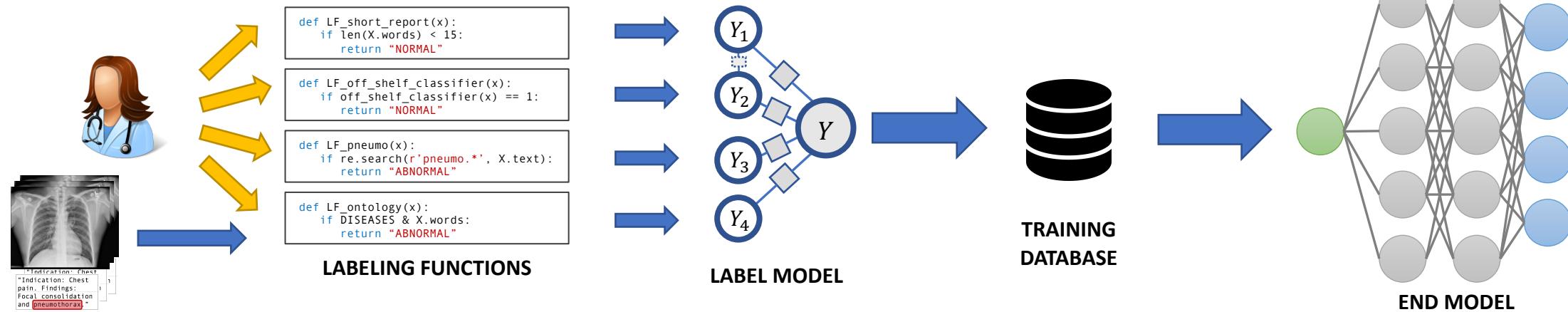
Training data is often the key differentiator

KEY IDEA:

Let users build and manage
training datasets programmatically,
then clean & integrate it for them

**snorkel**

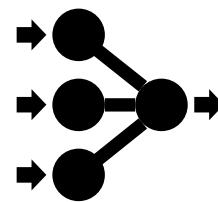
The Snorkel Pipeline



Unlabeled
data



Users write
labeling functions
to heuristically
label data



Snorkel
*cleans and
combines* the
LF labels



The resulting
training database
used to train an
ML model

Radiology Example: ~8 hours writing LFs

Example: Fraud Detection



Goal: Be able to *rapidly adapt* training sets under changing conditions using *programmatic labeling*

Snorkel: Real-World Deployments



snorkel

snorkel.org



Science & Medicine



Industry



Government

In many cases: From *person-months* of hand-labeling to *hours*

Where is weak supervision most helpful?

- Private data (can't ship to crowd workers)
- High-expertise data (need specially-trained domain experts)
- High rate-of-change tasks (constant need to re-label)

High unit annotation cost integrated over time

How well does focusing on training data management work?



The (Super)GLUE Benchmark

General Language Understanding Evaluation



9 language understanding tasks
(NL inference, sentiment, etc.)

~1M total examples

SuperGLUE Example

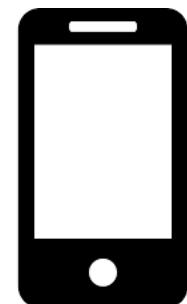
WiC task: Is the **target** word being used in the same way in both sentences?

id: x1

Sentence 1: Call my **bank**.

Sentence 2: Find picnic spot near the river **bank**.

Label: **FALSE**



id: x2

Sentence 1: Play **Taylor Swift**.

Sentence 2: Text “hi!” to **Taylor Swift**.

Label: **TRUE**

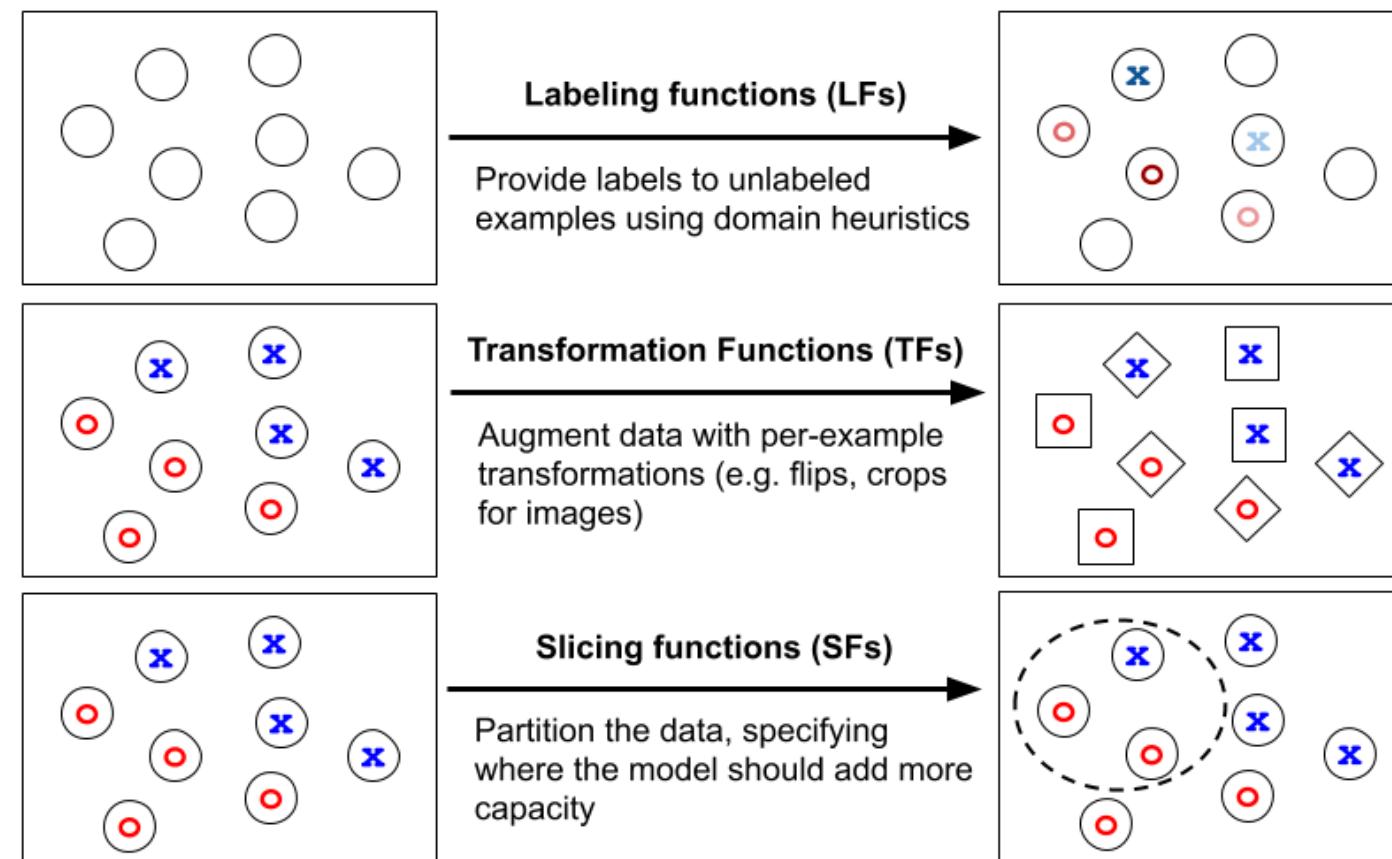
Q: SOTA by specifying training data?



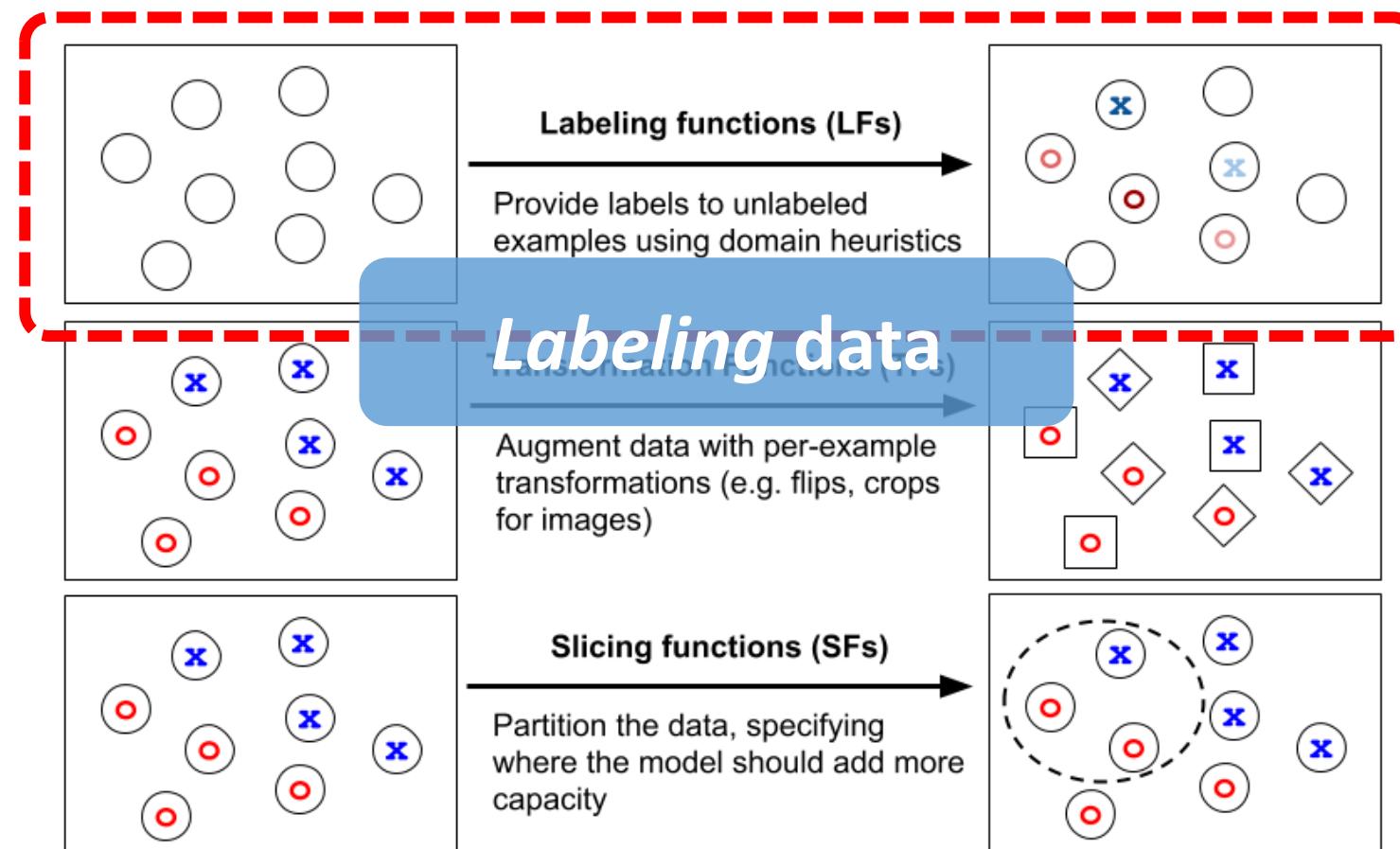
Rank	Name	Model	URL	Score
1	SuperGLUE Human Baselines	SuperGLUE Human Baselines		89.6
2	Stanford Hazy Research	Snorkel Metal		74.5
3	SuperGLUE Baselines	BERT++		70.5
		BERT		68.0
		CBOW		48.6
		Most Frequent Class		46.9
		Outside Best		-

New SOTA score!

Three Key Training Data Operations



Three Key Training Data Operations



SuperGLUE Labeling Function (LF)

```
def lf_matching_trigrams(x):
    if trigram(x.sentences[0].target) == trigram(x.sentences[1].target):
        return TRUE
    else:
        return ABSTAIN
```

id: x1

Sentence 0: Can I invite you for dinner on Sunday night?

Sentence 1: The organizers invite submissions of papers.

Label: FALSE

`lf_matching_trigrams(x1) == ABSTAIN`

id: x2

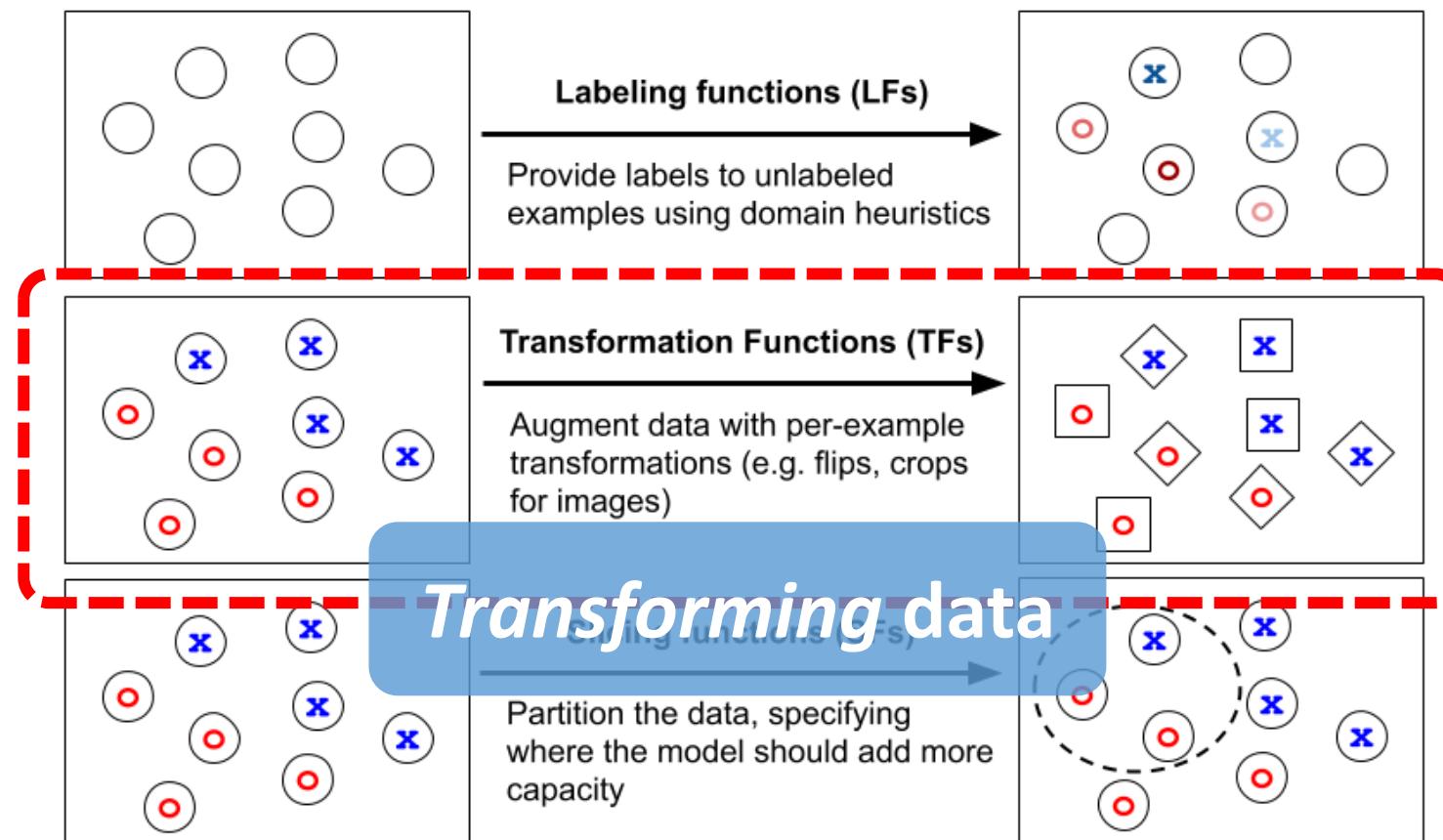
Sentence 0: He felt a stream of air .

Sentence 1: The hose ejected a stream of water .

Label: TRUE

`lf_matching_trigrams(x2) == TRUE`

Three Key Training Data Operations



SuperGLUE Transformation Function (TF)

```
def tf_days_of_the_week(x):
    yield x
    for DAY in DAYS_OF_WEEK:
        yield replace_with_synonym(x, word=DAY, synonyms=DAYS_OF_WEEK)
```

id: x1

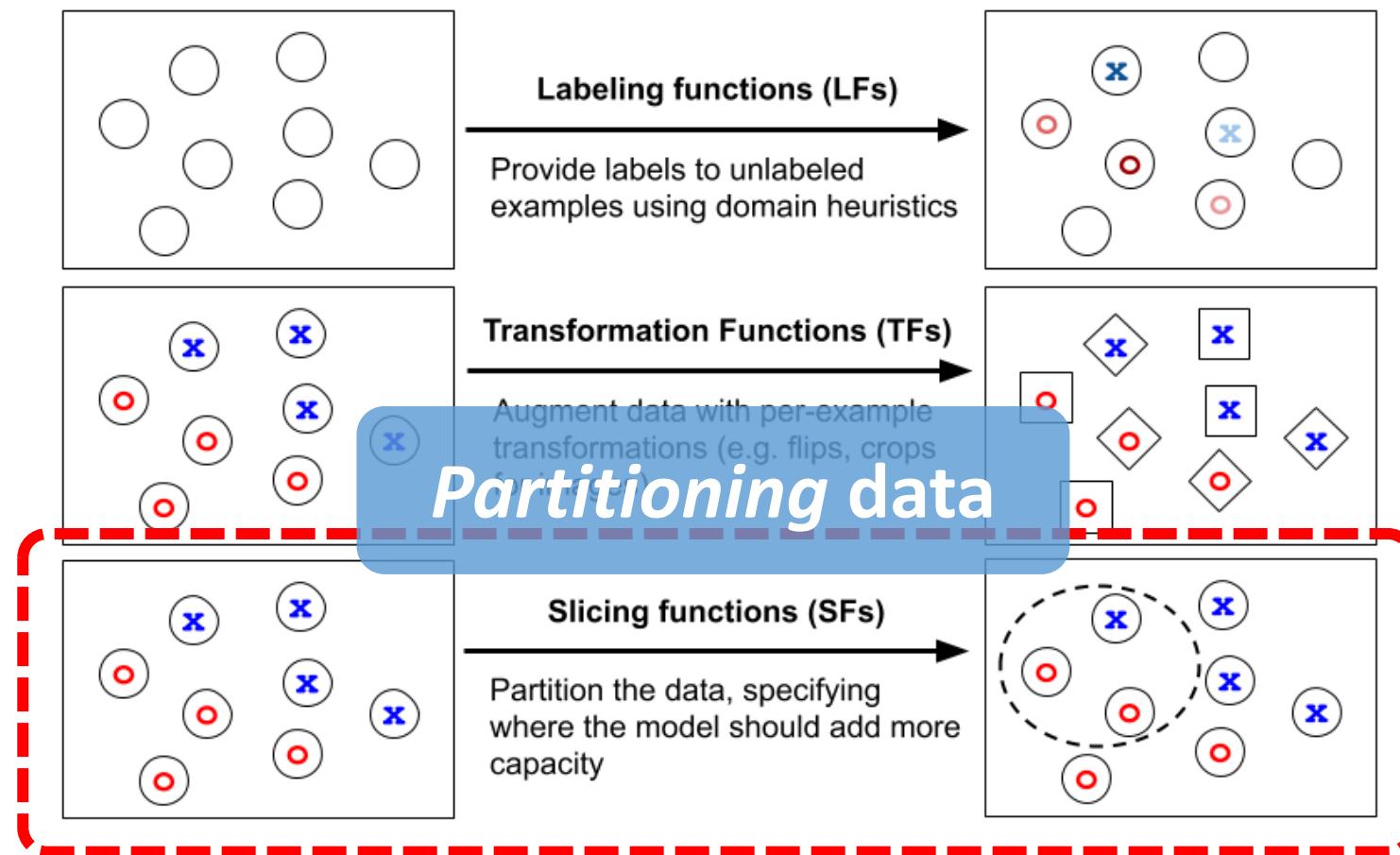
Sentence 1: Can I **invite** you for dinner on **Sunday** night?

Sentence 2: The organizers **invite** submissions of papers.

tf_days_of_the_week(x1) →

Sentence 1: Can I **invite** you for dinner on **Sunday** night?
Sentence 1: Can I **invite** you for dinner on **Monday** night?
Sentence 1: Can I **invite** you for dinner on **Tuesday** night?
Sentence 1: Can I **invite** you for dinner on **Wednesday** night?
Sentence 1: Can I **invite** you for dinner on **Thursday** night?
Sentence 1: Can I **invite** you for dinner on **Friday** night?
Sentence 1: Can I **invite** you for dinner on **Saturday** night?

Three Key Training Data Operations



SuperGLUE Slicing Function (SF)

```
def sf_target_is_noun(x):
    if x.sentences[0].target.pos == NOUN and x.sentences[1].target.pos == NOUN
        return NOUN_SLICE
    else:
        return ABSTAIN
```

id: x1

Sentence 0: Can I **invite** you for dinner on Sunday night?

Sentence 1: The organizers **invite** submissions of papers.

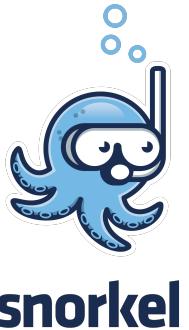
`sf_target_is_noun(x1) == ABSTAIN`

id: x2

Sentence 0: He felt a **stream** of air .

Sentence 1: The hose ejected a **stream** of water .

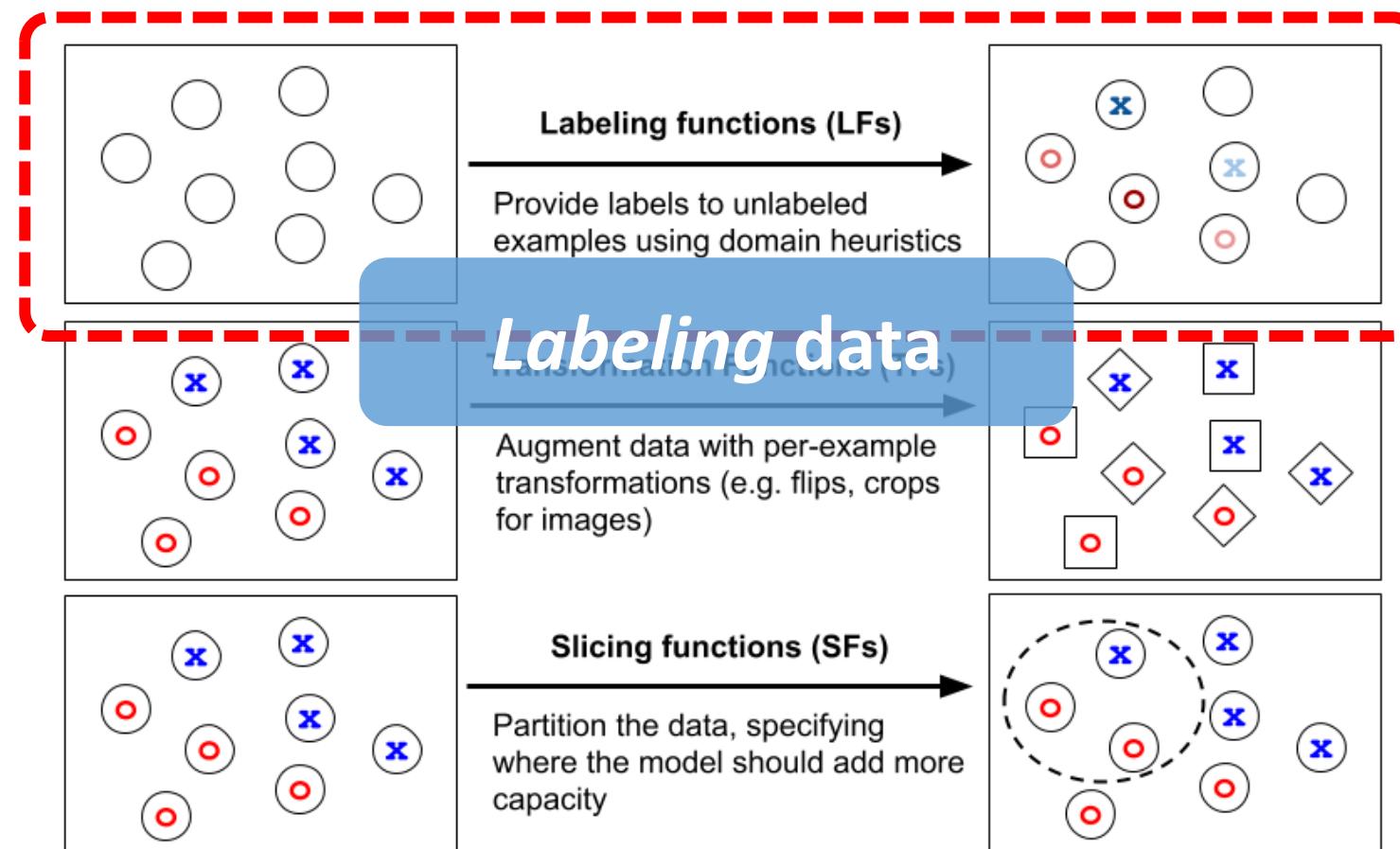
`sf_target_is_noun(x2) == NOUN_SLICE`



Key Idea: Let users spend
their time building and
modifying the training data

snorkel.org

Three Key Training Data Operations

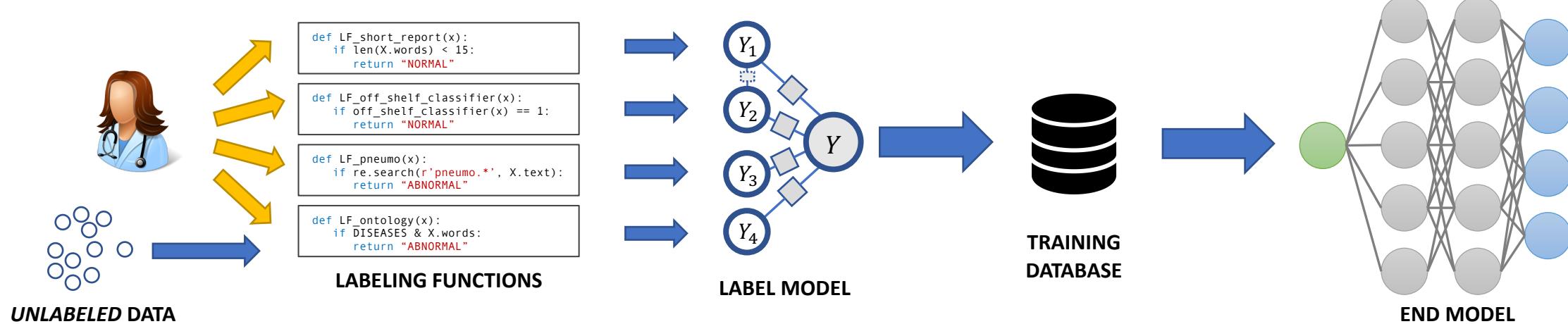


**Problem: Hand-labeling
is slow, expensive, &
static**

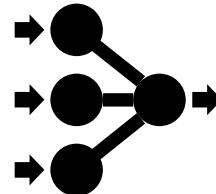
**Idea: Enable users to
label training data
*programmatically***



The Snorkel Pipeline



Users write
labeling functions
to heuristically
label data



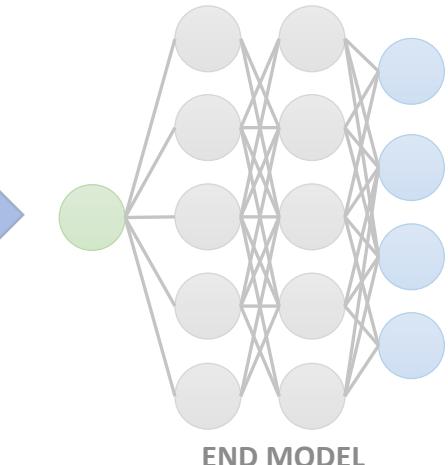
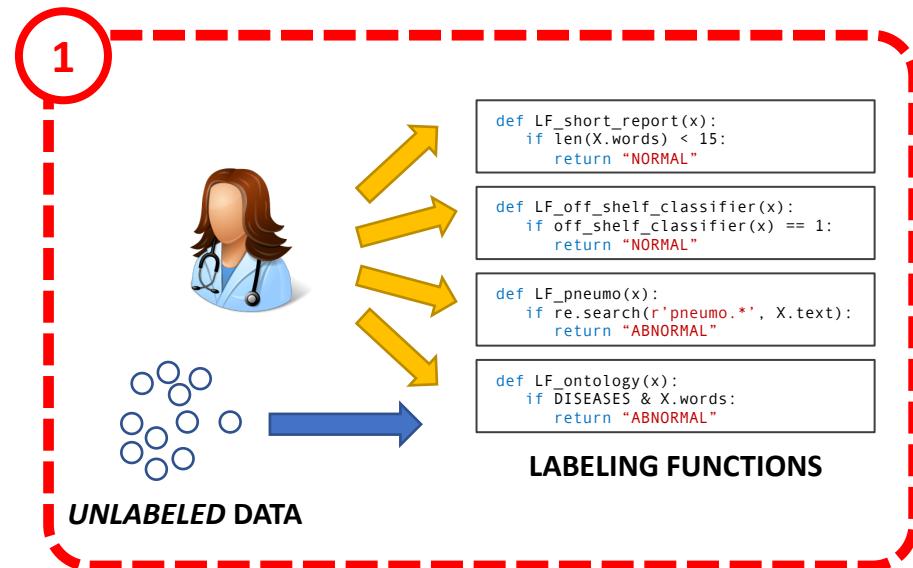
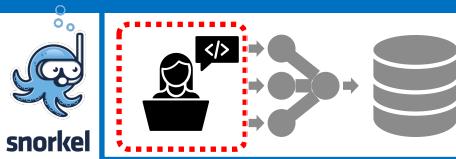
Snorkel
cleans and
combines the
LF labels



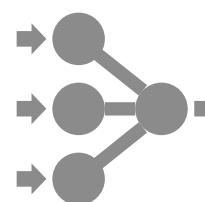
The resulting
training database
used to train an
ML model

Note: No hand-labeled training data!

(1) Writing Labeling Functions



 **Users write *labeling functions* to heuristically label data**



Snorkel *cleans and combines* the LF labels



The resulting training database used to train an ML model

SuperGLUE Labeling Function (LF)

```
def lf_matching_trigrams(x):
    if trigram(x.sentences[0].target) == trigram(x.sentences[1].target):
        return TRUE
    else:
        return ABSTAIN
```

id: x1

Sentence 0: Can I invite you for dinner on Sunday night?

Sentence 1: The organizers invite submissions of papers.

Label: FALSE

`lf_matching_trigrams(x1) == ABSTAIN`

id: x2

Sentence 0: He felt a stream of air .

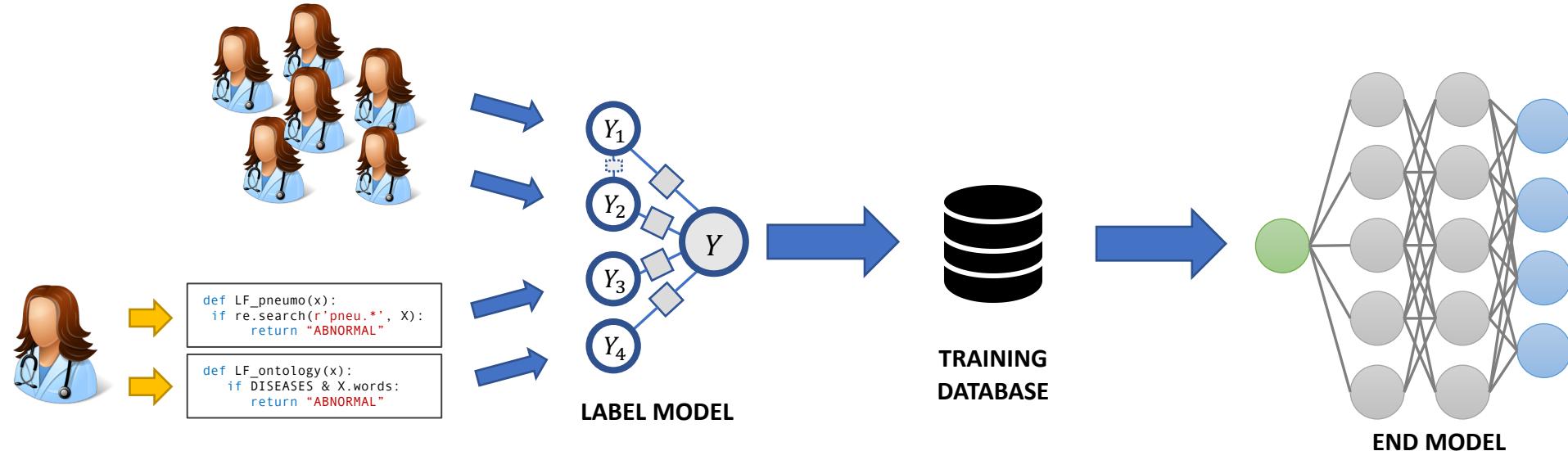
Sentence 1: The hose ejected a stream of water .

Label: TRUE

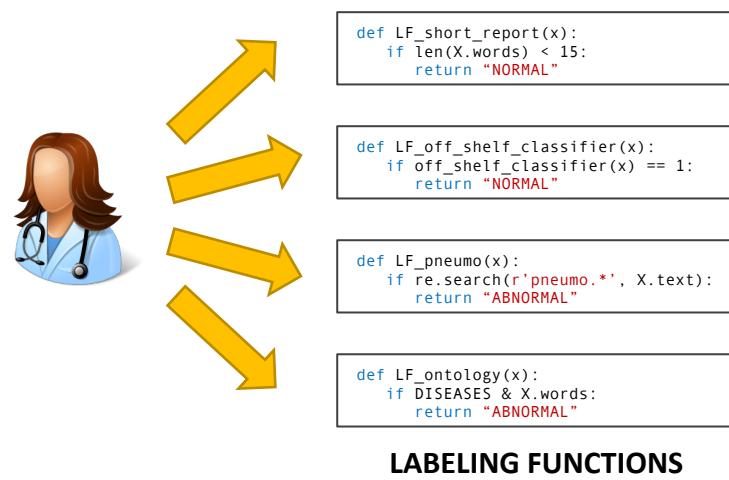
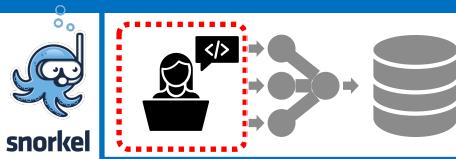
`lf_matching_trigrams(x2) == TRUE`



Hybrid Crowd + Programmatic Labeling



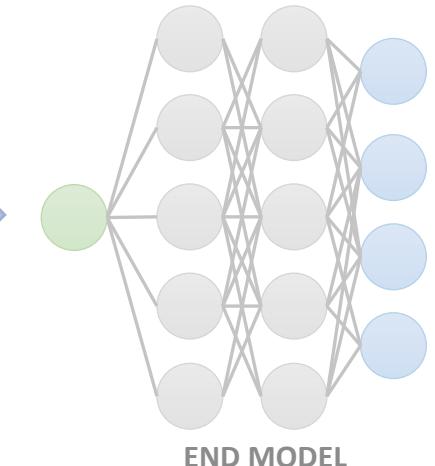
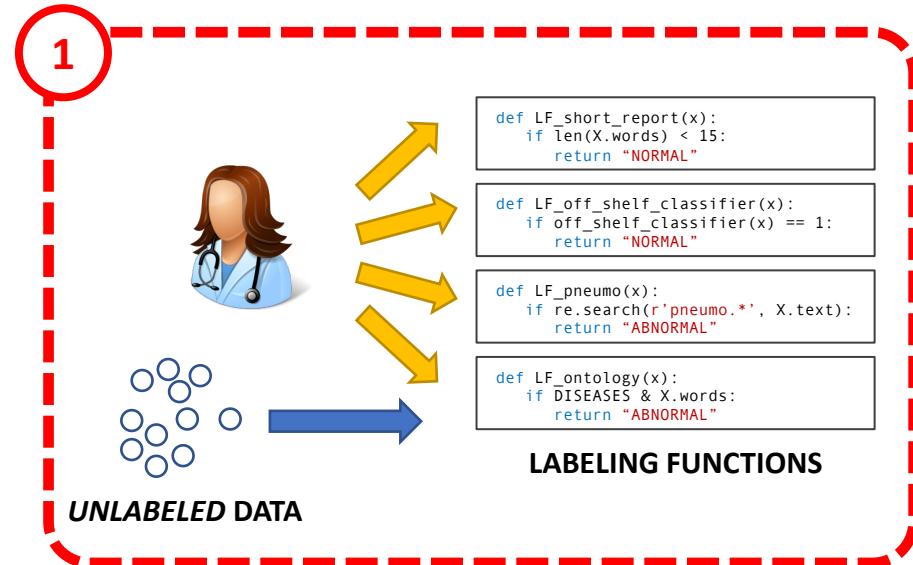
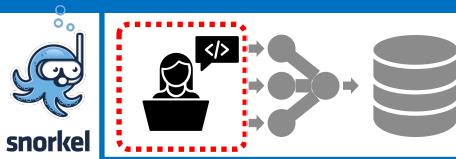
**Snorkel as a management layer for human
(e.g. internal crowd) + programmatic labeling**



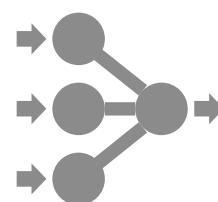
Result: Supervision as Code

But, very messy
supervision...

(1) Writing Labeling Functions



 **Users write *labeling functions* to heuristically label data**

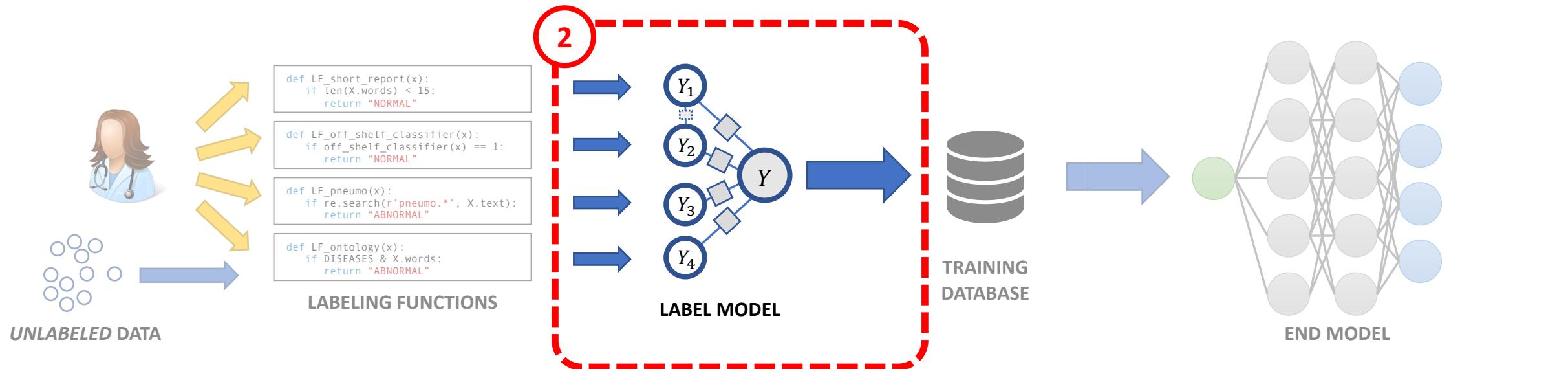
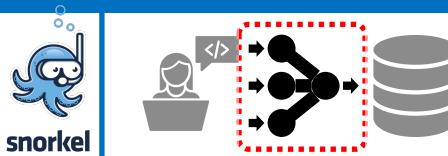


Snorkel *cleans and combines* the LF labels

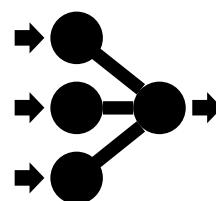


The resulting training database used to train an ML model

(2) Clean & integrate noisy labels



Users write
labeling functions
to heuristically
label data

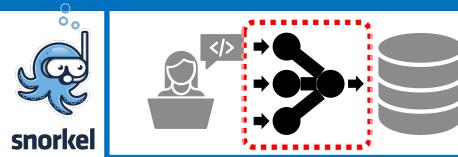


Snorkel
cleans and
***combines* the**
LF labels

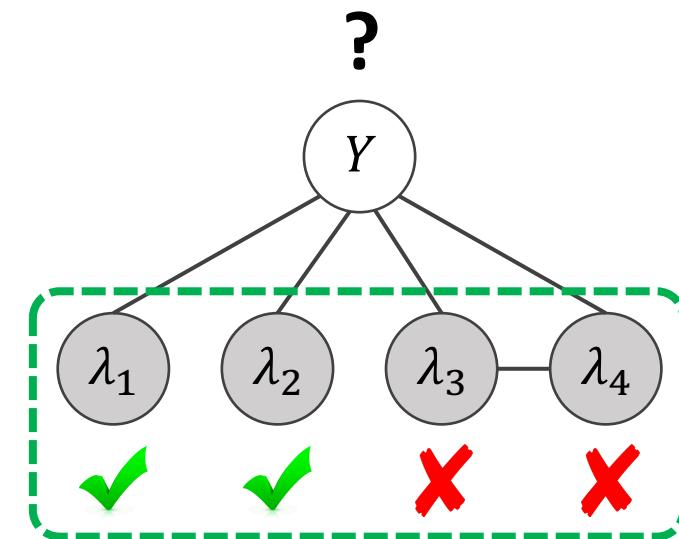


The resulting
training database
used to train an
ML model

How can we do this without ground-truth labels?



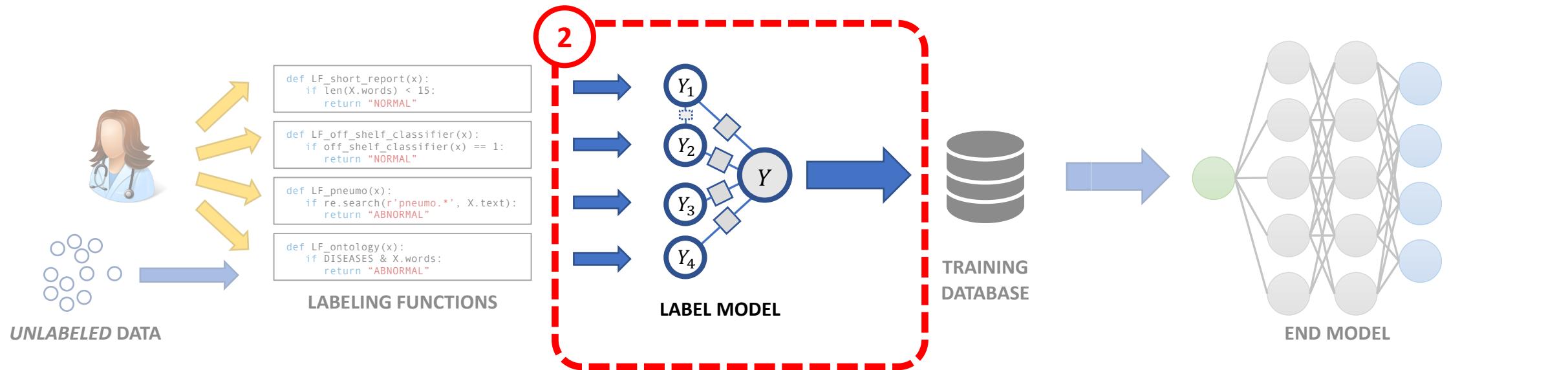
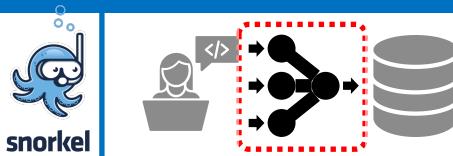
Key idea: Learn from
the *agreements* &
disagreements
between the LFs



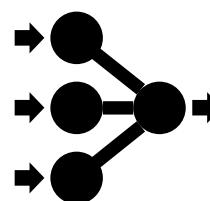
[Ratner et. al., AAAI '19]

[Ratner et. al., NeurIPS '16]

(2) Clean & integrate noisy labels



Users write *labeling functions* to heuristically label data

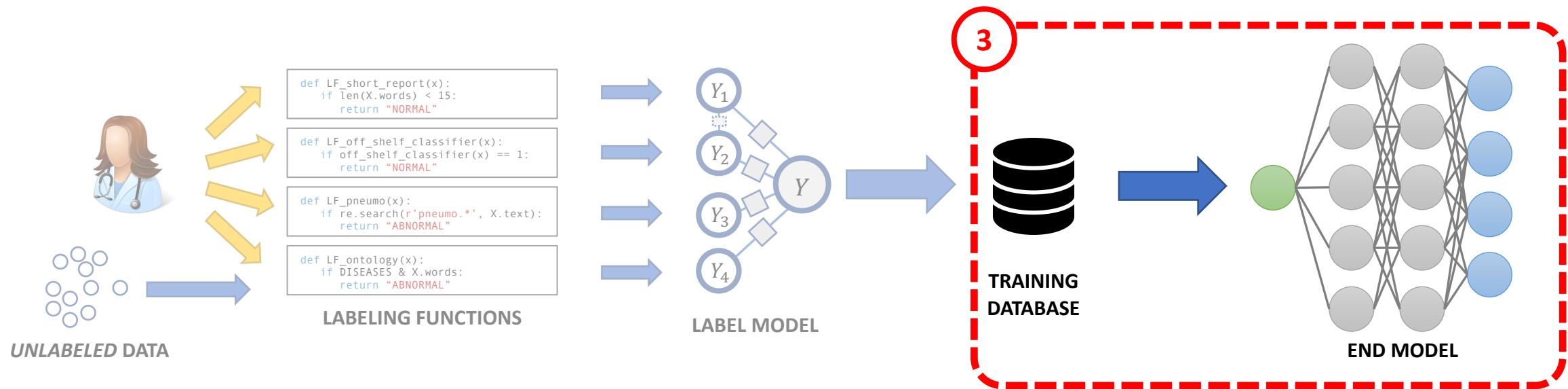


Snorkel *cleans and combines* the LF labels

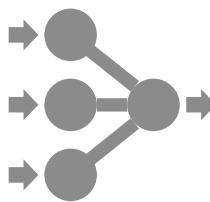


The resulting training database used to train an ML model

(3) Train end model w/ training DB



Users write
labeling functions
to heuristically
label data



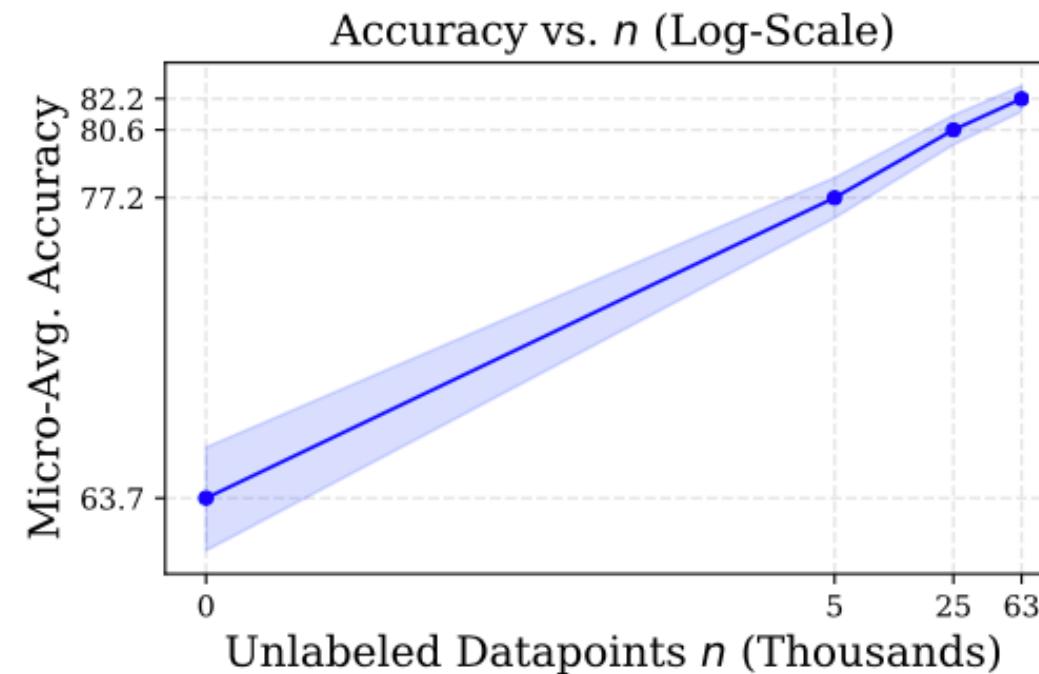
Snorkel
cleans and
combines the
LF labels



The resulting
training database
used to train an
ML model

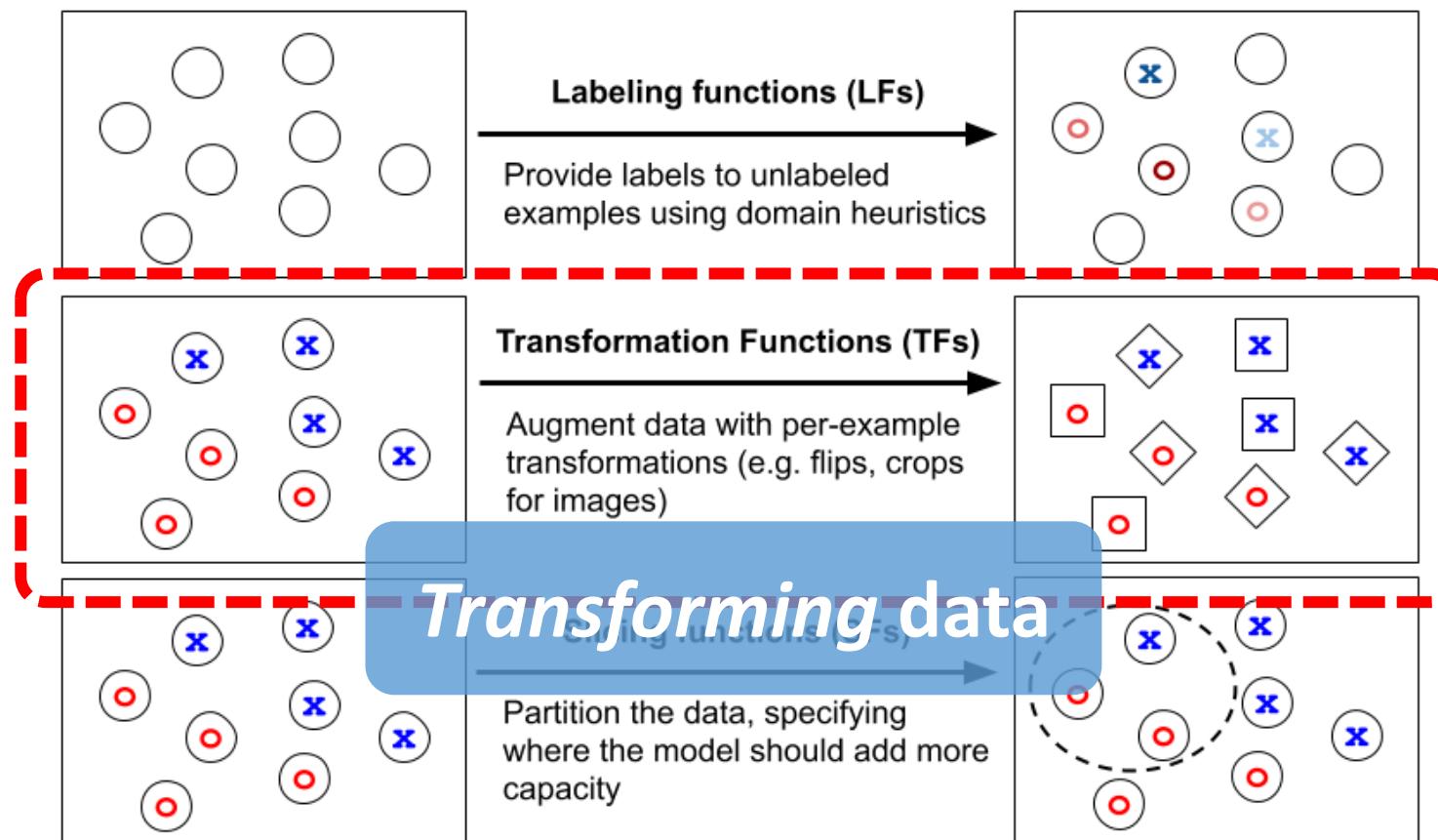
Key question: How do we communicate the lineage
(quality) of the training labels?

Highlight: Scaling with *unlabeled* data

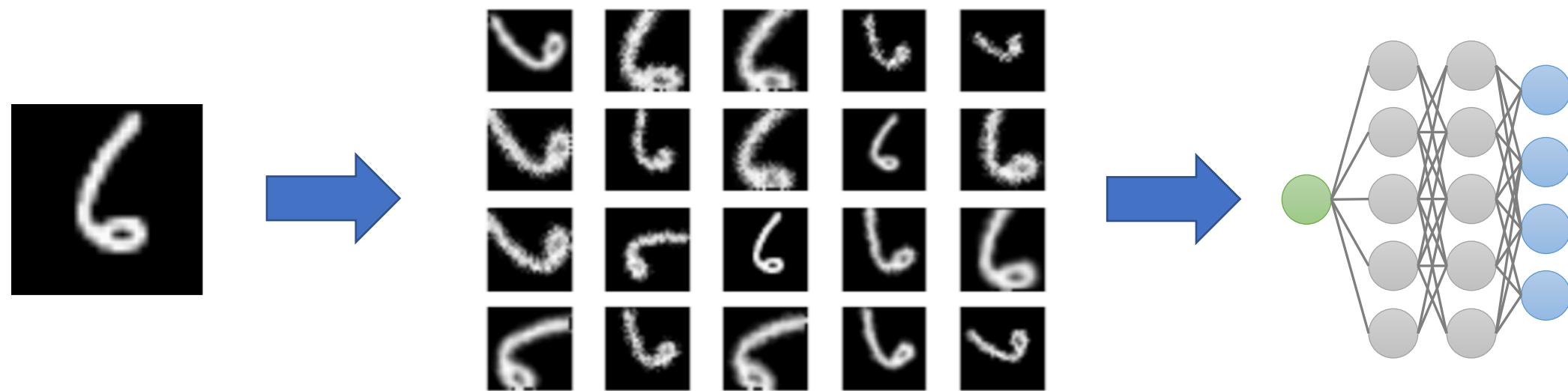


Takeaway: Add more *unlabeled* data---without changing the LFs---and get better end performance!

Three Key Training Data Operations



One Critical Tool: Data Augmentation



Ex: 13.4 pt. avg. accuracy gain from data augmentation across top ten CIFAR-100 models

SuperGLUE Transformation Function (TF)

```
def tf_days_of_the_week(x):
    yield x
    for DAY in DAYS_OF_WEEK:
        yield replace_with_synonym(x, word=DAY, synonyms=DAYS_OF_WEEK)
```

id: x1

Sentence 1: Can I **invite** you for dinner on **Sunday** night?

Sentence 2: The organizers **invite** submissions of papers.

tf_days_of_the_week(x1) →

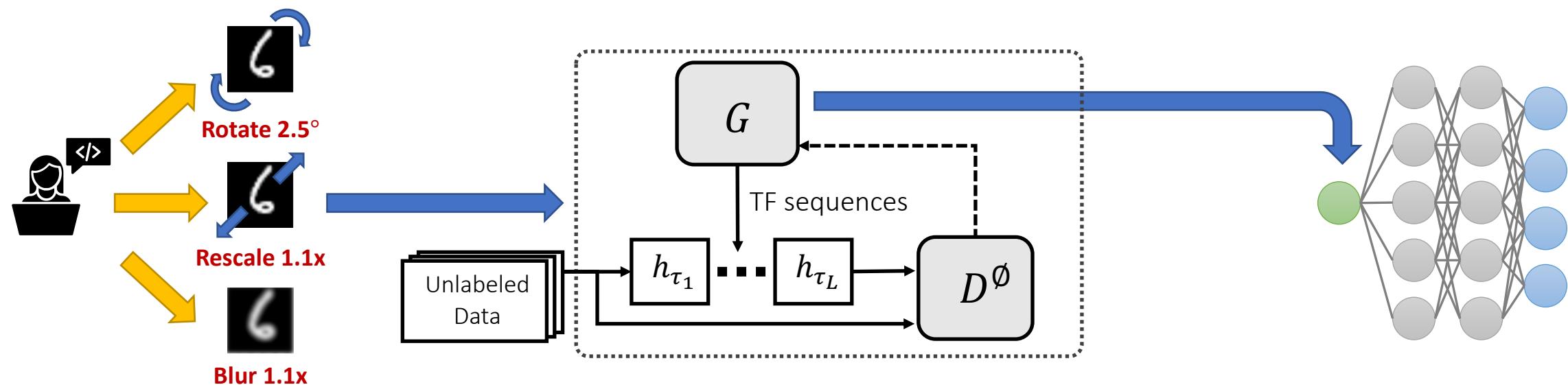
Sentence 1: Can I **invite** you for dinner on **Sunday** night?
Sentence 1: Can I **invite** you for dinner on **Monday** night?
Sentence 1: Can I **invite** you for dinner on **Tuesday** night?
Sentence 1: Can I **invite** you for dinner on **Wednesday** night?
Sentence 1: Can I **invite** you for dinner on **Thursday** night?
Sentence 1: Can I **invite** you for dinner on **Friday** night?
Sentence 1: Can I **invite** you for dinner on **Saturday** night?

Problem: Data augmentation is *critical*, but hard to hand-tune

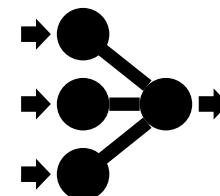
Idea: Users provide *transformations* which we automatically tune and compose



Automatic Data Augmentation from User-Specified Invariances



 Users write ***transformation functions (TFs)***

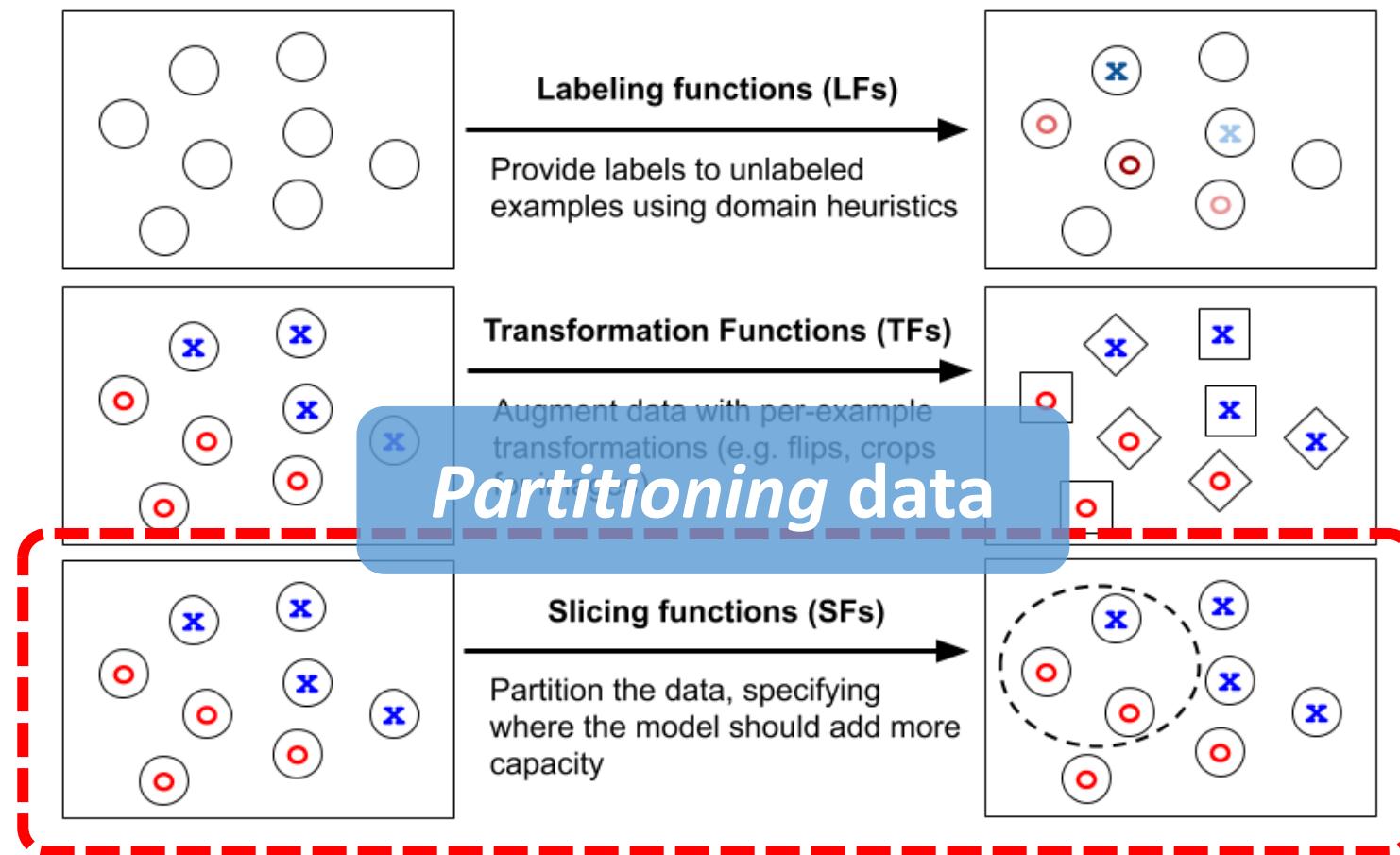


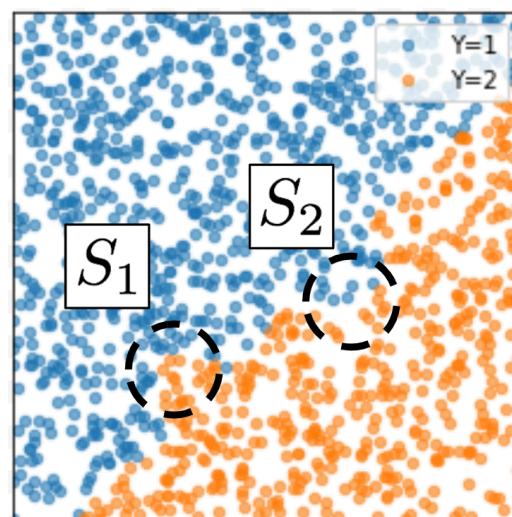
We learn a **generative model** to tune & compose the TFs



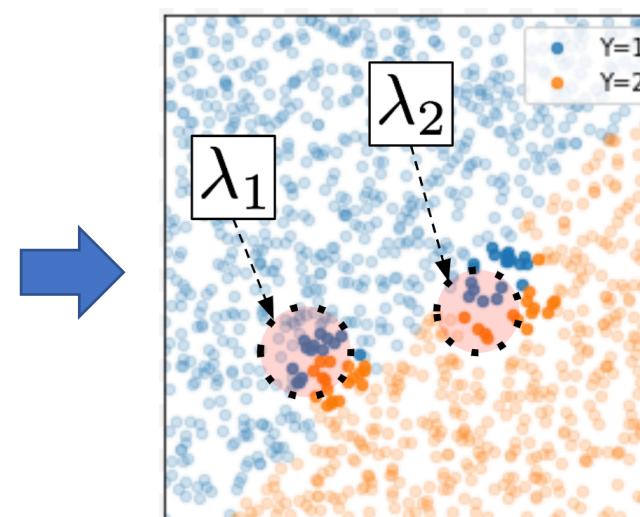
The **learned data augmentation policy** used for training the end model

Three Key Training Data Operations

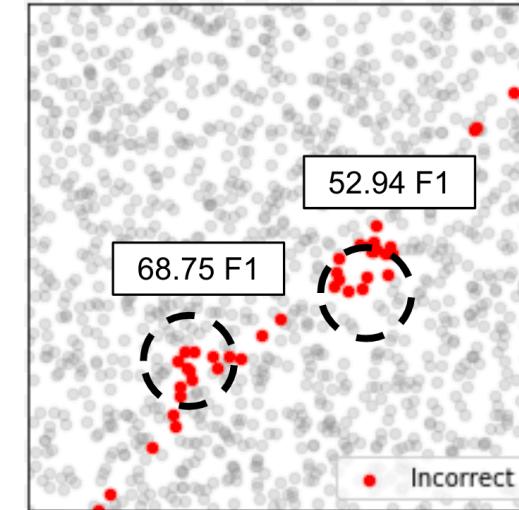
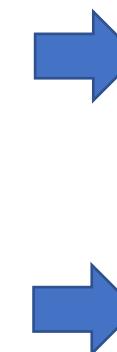




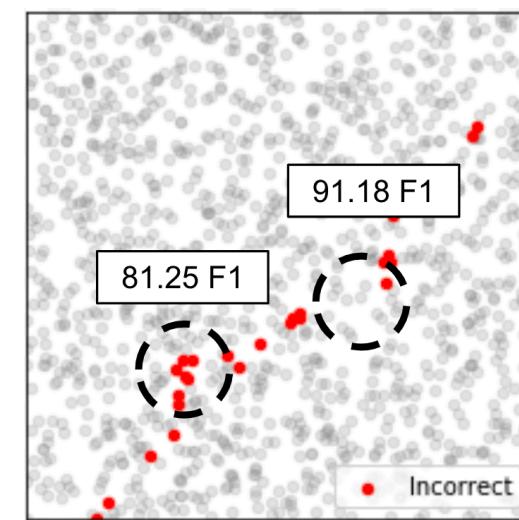
Slices of interest



Heuristic (noisy) SFs



Without Slices



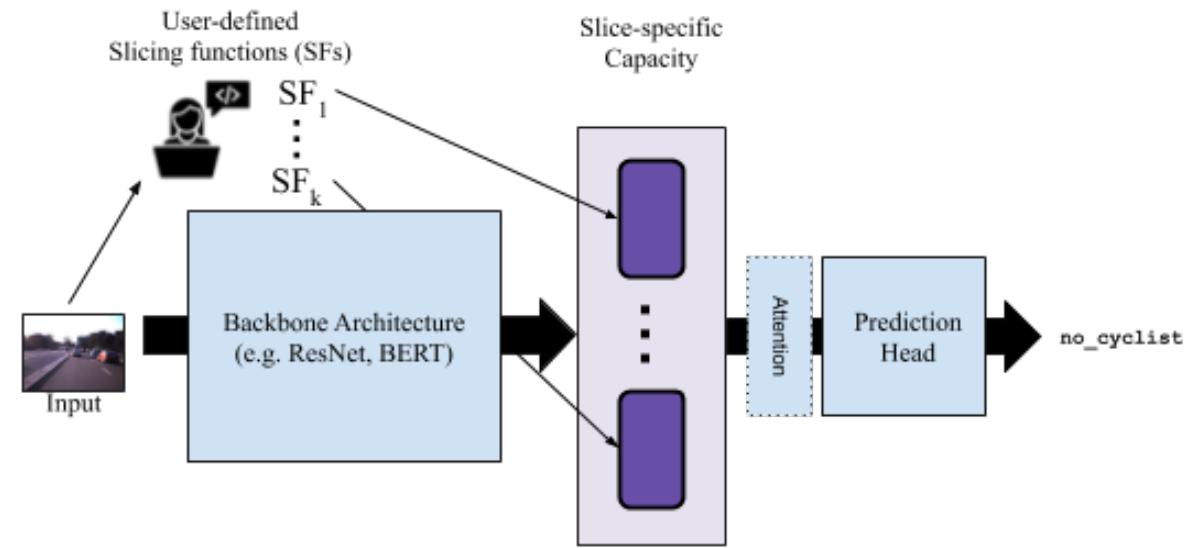
With Slices

+25 pts

Slicing Functions (SFs) specify where the model should add more capacity

Slicing Functions (SFs)

- The model learns to predict which slices each data point belongs to.
- An **attention mechanism** learns how to combine the representations learned for each slice to make its final prediction.



SuperGLUE Slicing Function (SF)

```
def sf_target_is_noun(x):
    if x.sentences[0].target.pos == NOUN and x.sentences[1].target.pos == NOUN
        return NOUN_SLICE
    else:
        return ABSTAIN
```

id: x1

Sentence 0: Can I **invite** you for dinner on Sunday night?

Sentence 1: The organizers **invite** submissions of papers.

`sf_target_is_noun(x1) == ABSTAIN`

id: x2

Sentence 0: He felt a **stream** of air .

Sentence 1: The hose ejected a **stream** of water .

`sf_target_is_noun(x2) == NOUN_SLICE`

Conclusion

- Key idea: Build MTL models by **programmatically building & modifying the training dataset**
- Three core operations to manipulate training data:
 - Labeling (LFs)
 - Transforming (TFs)
 - Partitioning / "slicing" (SFs)
- Full code using Snorkel posted soon (by 6/24)!

Snorkel.Stanford.edu