

Continuous Integration of Machine Learning Models with `ease.ml/ci`

Towards a Rigorous Yet Practical Treatment

Cedric Renggli (ETH Zurich), **Bojan Karlaš** (ETH Zurich), **Bolin Ding** (Data Analytics and Intelligence Lab, Alibaba Group), **Feng Liu** (Huawei Technologies), **Kevin Schawinski** (Modulos AG), **Wentao Wu** (Microsoft Research), **Ce Zhang** (ETH Zurich)

Past Work: Speed & Automation



The Tradeoffs of Large Scale Learning

Léon Bottou
NEC laboratories of America
Princeton, NJ 08540, USA
leon@bottou.org

Accurate, Large Minibatch SGD: Training ImageNet in 1 Hour

Priya Goyal Piotr Dollár Ross Girshick Pieter Noordhuis
Iain Alloch Yangqing Jia Kaiming He

ImageNet Training in Minutes

Yang You¹, Zhao Zhang², Cho-Jui Hsieh¹, James Demmel¹, Kurt Keutzer¹
UC Berkeley¹, TACC², UC Davis³
{youyang, demmel, keutzer}@cs.berkeley.edu

Abstract

Since its creation, the ImageNet-1k benchmark set has played a significant role as a benchmark for ascertaining the accuracy of different deep neural net (DNN) models on the classification problem. Moreover, in recent years it has also served as the principal benchmark for assessing different approaches to DNN training. Finishing a 90-epoch ImageNet-1k training with ResNet-50 on a NVIDIA M40 GPU takes 14 days. This training requires 10^{14} single precision operations in total. On the other hand, the world's current fastest supercomputer can finish 2×10^{13} single precision operations per second. If we can make full use of the computing capability of the fastest supercomputer for DNN training, we should be able to finish the 90-epoch ResNet-50 training in five seconds. Over the last two years, a number of researchers have focused on closing this significant performance gap through scaling DNN training to larger numbers of processors. Most successful ap-

Highly Scalable Deep Learning Training System with Mixed-Precision: Training ImageNet in Four Minutes

Xianyan Jia¹, Shutao Song¹, Wei He¹, Yangzihao Wang¹, Haidong Rong¹, Feihu Zhou¹,
Liqiang Xie¹, Zhenyu Guo¹, Yuanzhou Yang¹, Liwei Yu¹, Tiegang Chen¹, Guangxiao Hu¹,
Shaohuai Shi², Xiaowen Chu²

Tencent Inc.¹, Hong Kong Baptist University²

{xianyanjia, sampsonsong, winsonwehe, slashwang, hudsonrong, hopezhou,
felixxie, alexguo, jokeyang, leolwyu, steelchen, teginhu}@tencent.com;
{cssshui, chxw}@comp.hkbu.edu.hk

¹Authors contributed equally

ABSTRACT

Synchronized stochastic gradient descent (SGD) optimizers with data parallelism are widely used in training large-scale deep neural networks. Although using larger mini-batch sizes can improve the system scalability by reducing the communication-to-computation ratio, it may hurt the generalization ability of the models. To this end, we build a highly scalable deep learning training system for dense GPU clusters with three main contributions: (1) We propose a mixed-precision training method that significantly improves the training throughput of a single GPU without losing accuracy. (2) We propose an optimization approach for extremely large mini-batch size (up to 64k) that can train CNN models on the ImageNet dataset without losing accuracy. (3) We measure highly optimized

to use large batch to achieve weak scaling [2, 4, 5, 12, 23, 27]. In this way, the speedup is obtained by utilizing overall throughput of the system and fewer updates of the model.

However, there are two challenges when using large batch across large clusters:

- **Challenge 1:** Larger mini-batch size often leads to lower test accuracy, as there exists a generalization gap [15].
- **Challenge 2:** When using large clusters, it is harder to achieve near-linear scalability as the number of machines increases, especially for models with the high communication-to-computation ratio.

Challenge 1: Larger mini-batch size reduces the variance of

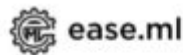


Amazon SageMaker



Cloud AutoML

Our own small Prototypes



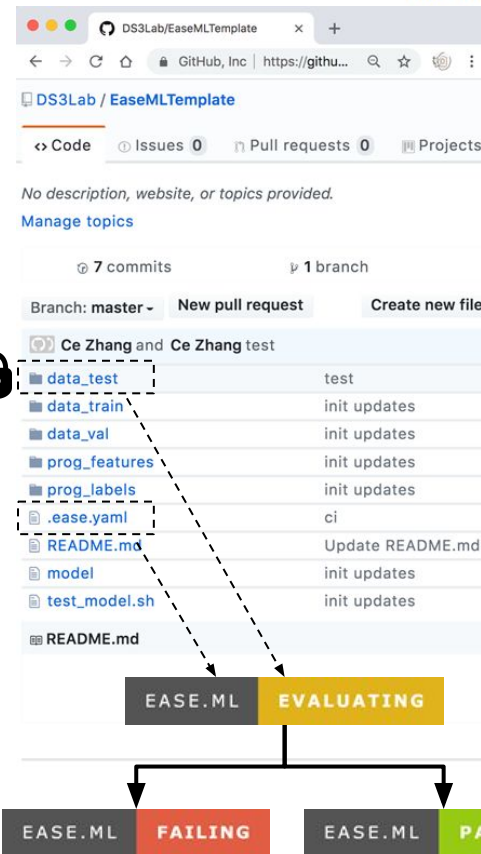
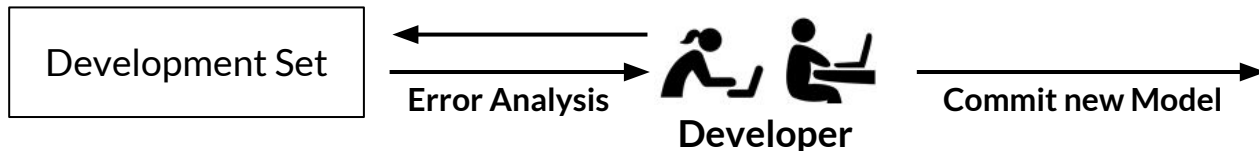
Are ML Systems “Usable”?

Observation

If some of our users are not careful, they are left with nothing else than a more powerful “overfitting machine”.

Let’s provide some guidelines for proper ML systems usage!

ease.ml/ci



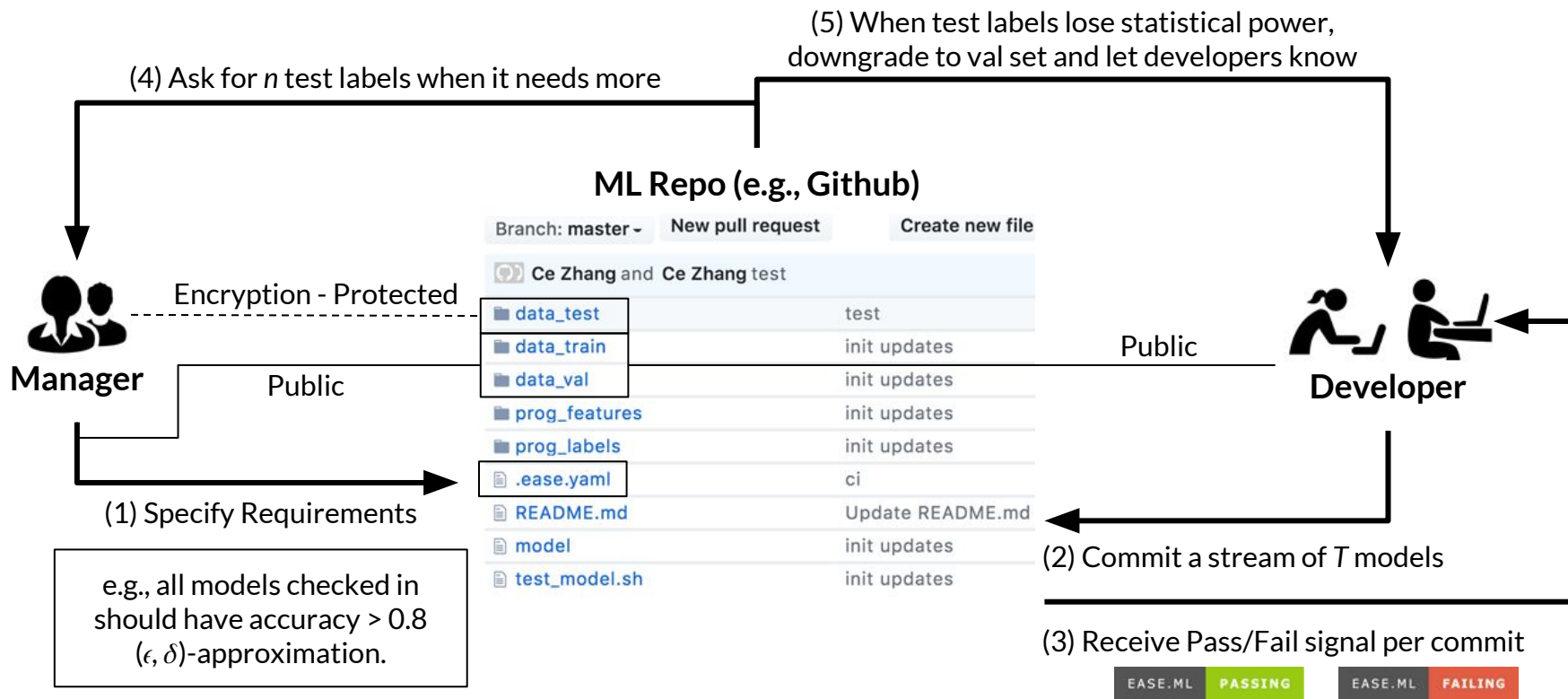
What is hard about this?

1. **Rigorous** guaranties, but as **cheap** as possible.
2. Leaking information at every commit implies **Adaptive Analytics**.

Our results:

- **Statistically sound** estimators to reduce sample (and label) complexity of the testset by **1 - 2 order of magnitude**.

System Overview



Managers Specify Requirements



R1: New model needs to be better than the old model by at least 1%, with probability 0.999.

$$n - o > 0.01, p > 0.999$$

R2: New model cannot be different from the old model on more than 10% of predictions, with probability 0.999.

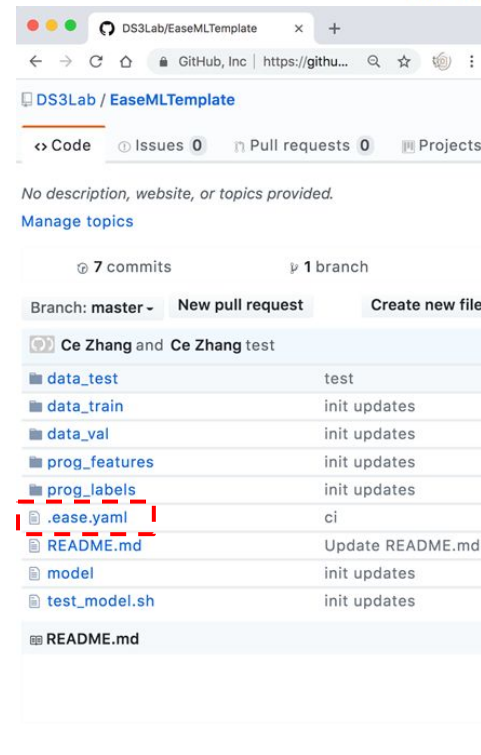
$$d < 0.1, p > 0.999$$

R3: New model always have accuracy higher than 0.8, with probability 0.999.

$$n > 0.8, p > 0.999$$

R4: Satisfy both R1 and R2, with probability 0.999.

$$n - o > 0.01 \text{ and } d < 0.1, p > 0.999$$



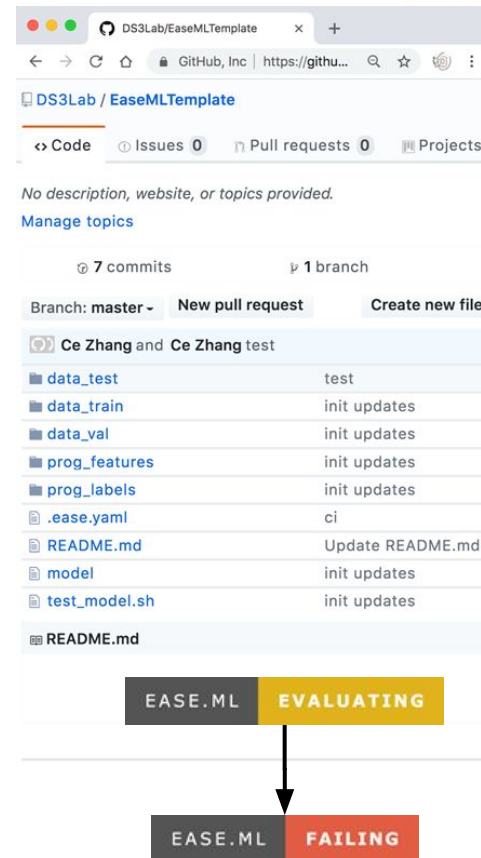
Developers Task



Developer

Develop a ML model and **commit**.

```
Ces-MacBook-Pro:EaseMLTemplate cezhan$ git add prog_features/*
Ces-MacBook-Pro:EaseMLTemplate cezhan$ git add prog_labels/*
Ces-MacBook-Pro:EaseMLTemplate cezhan$ git commit -m "new model"
[master 0f0bb3f] new model
 2 files changed, 0 insertions(+), 0 deletions(-)
 create mode 100644 prog_features/feature3.py
 create mode 100644 prog_labels/label3.py
Ces-MacBook-Pro:EaseMLTemplate cezhan$ git push
Counting objects: 10, done.
Delta compression using up to 4 threads.
Compressing objects: 100% (10/10), done.
Writing objects: 100% (10/10), 1001 bytes | 1001.00 KiB/s, done.
Total 10 (delta 5), reused 0 (delta 0)
remote: Resolving deltas: 100% (5/5), completed with 1 local object.
To https://github.com/DS3Lab/EaseMLTemplate.git
 7255f6b..0f0bb3f master -> master
Ces-MacBook-Pro:EaseMLTemplate cezhan$
```



DS3Lab / EaseMLTemplate

<> Code 0 Issues 0 Pull requests 0 Projects

No description, website, or topics provided.

Manage topics

7 commits 1 branch

Branch: master New pull request Create new file

Ce Zhang and Ce Zhang test

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| data_test | test |
| data_train | init updates |
| data_val | init updates |
| prog_features | init updates |
| prog_labels | init updates |
| .ease.yaml | ci |
| README.md | Update README.md |
| model | init updates |
| test_model.sh | init updates |

README.md

EASE.ML EVALUATING

EASE.ML FAILING

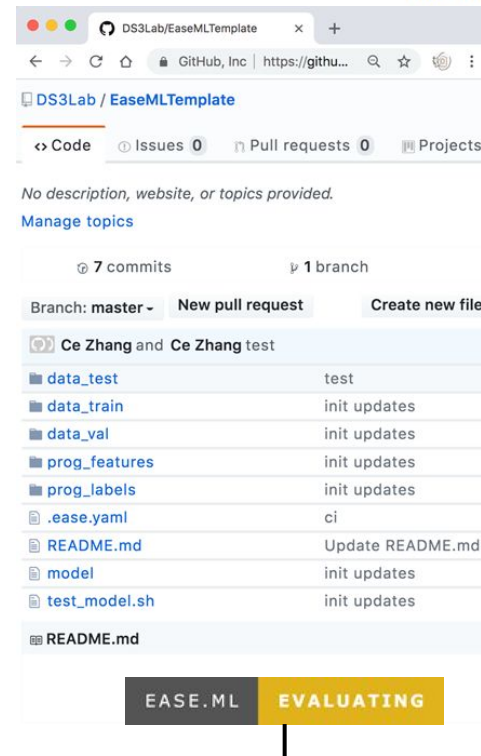
Developers Task



Developer

Develop a new ML model and **recommit**.

```
Ces-MacBook-Pro:EaseMLTemplate cezhan$ git commit -m "another model"
[master 7012c53] another model
 2 files changed, 0 insertions(+), 0 deletions(-)
 create mode 100644 prog_features/feature4.py
 create mode 100644 prog_labels/label4.py
Ces-MacBook-Pro:EaseMLTemplate cezhan$ git push
Counting objects: 4, done.
Delta compression using up to 4 threads.
Compressing objects: 100% (4/4), done.
Writing objects: 100% (4/4), 369 bytes | 369.00 KiB/s, done.
Total 4 (delta 3), reused 0 (delta 0)
remote: Resolving deltas: 100% (3/3), completed with 3 local objects.
To https://github.com/DS3Lab/EaseMLTemplate.git
 0f0bb3f..7012c53 master -> master
Ces-MacBook-Pro:EaseMLTemplate cezhan$
```



Core Technical Component:

Adaptive Statistical Queries

We are inspired by the following seminal work:

- The ladder: A reliable leaderboard for machine learning competitions. Blum and Hardt, 2015
- The algorithmic foundations of differential privacy. Dwork et. al., 2014
- The reusable holdout: Preserving validity in adaptive data analysis. Dwork et. al., 2015

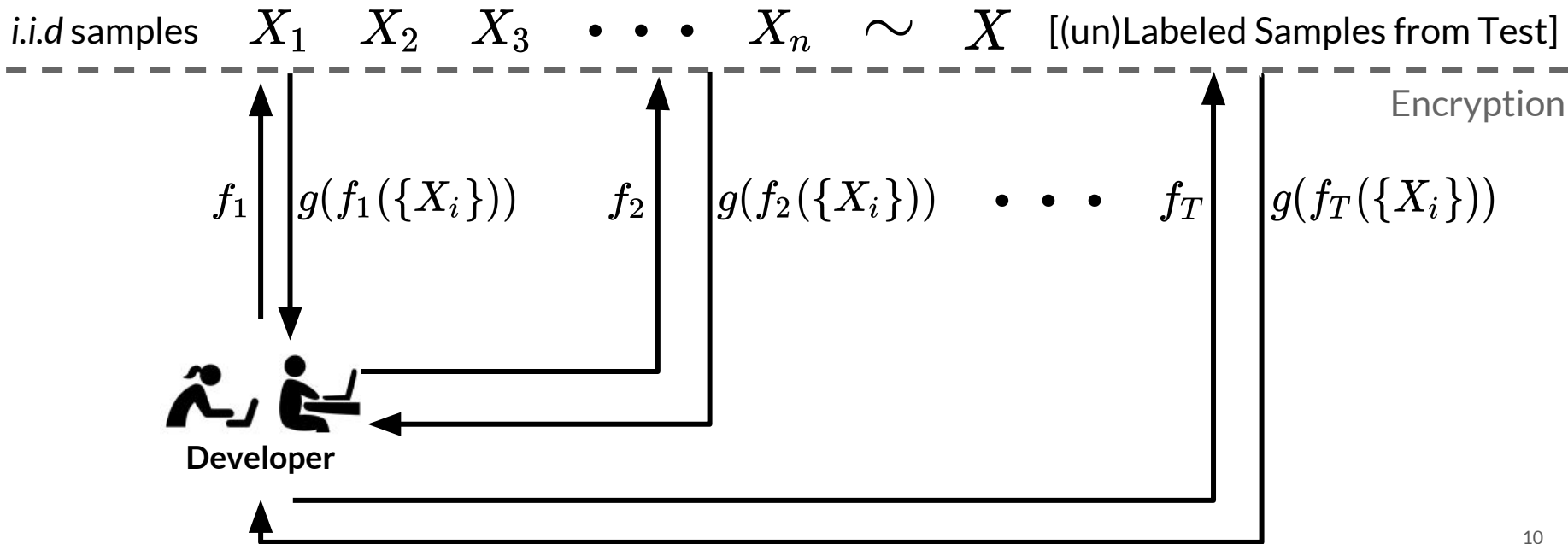
Background: Adaptive Analytics

Contract between System and User:

$$\Pr [\exists t, |f_t(X_1, \dots, X_n) - f_t(X)| > \epsilon] < \delta$$

Given ϵ, δ, T , how large does n need to be?

How can we decrease the dependency of n on ϵ, δ, T as much as possible?



Background: Single Steps – Hoeffding's Inequality

Theorem (Hoeffding, 1963):

Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n be i.i.d random variables with

$\forall X_i \ 0 \leq X_i \leq 1$ and $\bar{X} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$:

Then $\forall \epsilon$

$$\Pr \left[\bar{X} - \mathbb{E}[\bar{X}] \geq \epsilon \right] \leq \exp(-2n\epsilon^2).$$

$$\delta \leq \exp(-2n\epsilon^2) \longrightarrow n \geq \frac{\ln \frac{1}{\delta}}{2\epsilon^2}$$

Background: Multiple Steps – Existing Solutions

$$f_2(\{X_i\}) = h_{g(f_1(\{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n\}))}(\{X_i\})$$

Baseline Approach: Resampling

Require a new sample for each step.

Ladder (Blum and Hardt, 2015)

Constrains how $g(-)$ evolves over time.

Other DP - inspired approaches

$\epsilon = 0.01$
 $\delta = 0.001$
 $T = 32$

$$n \geq T \frac{-\ln \frac{\delta}{T}}{2\epsilon^2} \approx 1.7M$$

Expensive: ~53K / Day

$$n \geq 69K$$

$g(-)$ is non-monotonic

Unclear how to add noise to $g(-)$ in CI

Goal: Optimizing Sample Complexity for the specific regime that our system cares about.

Overview of Optimizations

Goal: Optimizing Sample Complexity for the specific regime that our system cares about.

1) General Optimization

2) Stable Signal

3) Conditional Variance

4) Active Labeling

Adaptive Analytics - Observation 1

Observation 1: The Most Trivial Approach is Not That Bad

- We know $g(-)$ returns a binary signal.
- # of possible functions for T binary signals $\leq 2^T$
- Apply union bound on all possible functions.

$$\frac{\delta}{2^T} \leq \exp(-2n\epsilon^2) \longrightarrow n \geq \frac{T \ln 2 - \ln \delta}{2\epsilon^2} \quad \leftarrow \text{Still order } O(T)$$

| | Baseline | Union Bound |
|-------------------|---|---|
| $\epsilon = 0.01$ | | |
| $\delta = 0.001$ | | |
| $T = 32$ | $n \geq T \frac{-\ln \frac{\delta}{T}}{2\epsilon^2} \approx 1.7M$ | $n \geq \frac{T \ln(2) - \ln \delta}{2\epsilon^2} \approx 145K$ |

Adaptive Analytics - Observation 2

Observation 2: Conditional Variance Bound

The most popular condition used in ease.ml/ci:

$n - o > 0.01$ and $d < 0.1$, $p > 0.999$

The new model is better than the old model by at least 1 percentage point.

The new model only makes different predictions on at most 10% of data points compared to the old model.

Observation 2.1: $d < 0.1$ does not need labels.

Observation 2.2: Conditioned on $d < 0.1$, $n - o$ has small variance.

Adaptive Analytics - Observation 2

Observation 2: Conditional Variance Bound

Theorem (Bennett, 1962):

Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n be i.i.d random variables with
 $\forall X_i \mid X_i \mid \leq 1, \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}[X^2] = \sigma^2$ and $S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$:

Then $\forall \epsilon$

$$\Pr \left[\frac{S_n - \mathbb{E}[X_i]}{n} \geq \epsilon \right] \leq \exp \left(-\sigma^2 h \left(\frac{n\epsilon}{\sigma^2} \right) \right),$$

with $h(u) = (1 + u) \ln(1 + u) - u$ for $u > 0$.

Baseline

Union Bound

Benett

$$\epsilon = 0.01$$

$$\delta = 0.001$$

$$T = 32$$

~7.5 M






~609 K

~63 K

Adaptive Analytics - Observation 3

Observation 3: Not all labels are useful

Focus: $\mathbf{n} - \mathbf{o} > 0.01, \mathbf{p} > 0.999$

| | | | | | |
|------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| |  |  |  |  |  |
| Old Model: | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| New Model: | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

Same predictions – Not useful
to estimate the difference

If new models and old models are only different in their prediction with probability ν , how many savings can we have in terms of labels (NOT SAMPLES) that we need to provide?

If the probability of two models being different is $\nu \sim O(\sqrt{\epsilon})$, then the amount of labels we need is $n \geq O(1/\epsilon)$.

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Hoeffding | 15K samples/signal |
| $\nu = 0.1$ | 2.2K samples/signal |
| (Assuming unlabeled data points are free) | |

ease.ml/ci in Action



ease.ml/ci



Popular Use Cases: ($\epsilon = 0.0125$)

$n - o > 0.01$ and $d < 0.1$

$n > 0.8$

Cheap Mode: ($\epsilon = 0.025$)

$n - o > 0.01$ and $d < 0.1$

$n > 0.8$



10s / Label

of Labels/32 Models

Baseline

ease.ml/ci

4.8M

41K

(150K / Day)

(1.3K / Day)

1.1M

95K

(35K / Day)

(3K / Day)

1.2M

11K

(38K / Day)

(330 / Day)

283K

24K

(8.9K / Day)

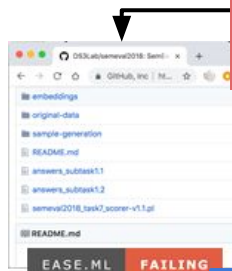
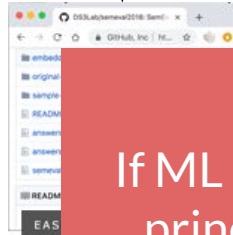
(745 / Day)

300 Labels / Day => < 1 Hour / Day

Ongoing Projects

ease.ml/ci

```
$ git commit -m newmodel
```



If ML is “Software 2.0”, what are the missing principles in “Software Engineering 2.0”?

ease.ml/meter

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50%



Release of both Systems planned this Summer