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Performance Benchmarking of MAML and Proto Nets of Meta-Learning Models at Low-Data and Complex Learning System

Dr. Sachin Zende[1],Prof. (Dr.) Swapnesh Taterh[2]

[1]Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science, Maharashtra Academy of Engineering & Educational Research, MIT ACSC, Pune

[2]Professor, Department of Design Analytics & Cyber Security, Maharashtra Academy of Engineering & Educational Research, MIT ACSC, Pune

Email: sszende@mitacsc.ac.in[1], staterh@mitacsc.ac.in[2]

Abstract: Meta-learning, an important subfield of machine learning, focuses on creating algorithms that are learned by observing or leveraging the behavior of other learning algorithms. The concept of learning to learn. [1]. Meta-learning is a machine learning approach where the model is trained not just to solve one task, but to learn patterns across many tasks so it can adapt quickly to new tasks with very little data**.** This approach provides a framework for understanding and tackling a wide range of machine learning tasks by leveraging past experiences, enabling systems to adapt and learn new tasks much more quickly. The field of meta-learning has been experiencing steady growth, driven by major advancements in practical model-selection assistants, task-adaptive learning methods, and the development

of a strong conceptual framework. The objective of this study is to investigate the principles and methodologies of meta-learning, focusing on its application to enhance the speed and accuracy of learning new tasks in machine learning systems. The aim of this research is to contribute to the ongoing development of meta-learning by exploring its potential to improve machine learning systems, specifically in terms of task adaptability, model selection, and learning efficiency. The study seeks to establish a deeper understanding of how meta-learning can be applied to optimize the performance of machine learning models across a variety of tasks and domains.

Keywords: MAML (Model-Agnostic Meta-Learning), MANN (Memory-Augmented Neural Network), NLP (Natural Language Processing)

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I. Introduction: Meta-learning simply known as "learning to learn," involves algorithms that enable machines to understand and adapt to new tasks and techniques quickly in machine learning. Traditional machine learning models are trained on specific datasets for specific tasks [2]. Meta-learning has attracted significant interest within the machine learning community, driven by its ability to address increasingly complex and diverse tasks. Meta-learning algorithms accept learning algorithm information as input then generate forecasts and offer it to the data on the efficiency of the learning algorithms as its results. The reason for meta-learning is to empower the models to summarize new inconspicuous issues utilizing little information. Learning means you study one subject and answer questions from that subject. Meta-learning means you learn how to study any subject fast, even with very small number of examples.

The best example in real life situation is learning is like a student who prepares for an exam by memorizing only the answers to the specific questions likely to appear in that in one exam. Meta-Learning, on the other hand, is like a student who focuses on understanding how to learn any new subject quickly instead of memorizing only one set of answers, the learning ability itself becomes stronger. Meta-learning means learning how to learn. Very basic example is supposing kids are leaning how to identify the cats in given set of images and after sometime kids are understating cats very easily. But we put one image of a tiger in the same set kids are failed to detect, Learning is similar to a student who memorizes answers for a single exam, performing well only on that specific task, whereas meta-learning resembles a child who learns how to learn any new subject quickly, enabling rapid adaptation—such as identifying a tiger even when trained only on a small set of cat images. [3]

II Advancing Meta-Learning: Meta-learning distinguishes itself from traditional machine-learning approaches by giving models the ability to learn how to learn. Unlike conventional methods that specialize in specific tasks, meta-learning equips the models with the capacity to generalize across various tasks by learning from a diverse range of experiences. This paradigm shifts enables machines to swiftly adapt to new challenges, resembling the way humans acquire knowledge and skills. Recent studies have explored advanced techniques and applications to push the boundaries of meta-learning, both within machine learning and deep learning, focusing on practical applications of learned knowledge There are three types advanced meta learning.

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A Meta-Reinforcement Learning: The meta-reinforcement algorithms that enable agents to adapt their statements to new environments through the experience's gained from multiple tasks and data ideas [4].

B Meta-Learning with Transformers: Transformer-based architectures have been adapted for meta-learning tasks, showcasing improvements in few-shot learning and adaptation to machine learning tasks

C Meta-Learning for Natural Language Processing: Meta-learning techniques have been applied to various tasks, including language modelling, machine translation, and text classification, demonstrating enhanced performance with limited datasets in machine learning tasks and the models work easily through it. Why Meta-Learning is important in the real word because many real-world situations (medical, education, robotics) have very little labelled data.

asks.

III Key Components Meta-Learning: It involves two parts in the context of advanced machine learning

A Meta-Training: During meta-training, the model is exposed to a diverse range of tasks. Instead of focusing on mastering one task, the model learns how to extract common patterns and insights from different tasks. This process enables the model to develop a generalized understanding that can be applied to new tasks.

B Meta-Testing: Once trained, the model's performance is evaluated on new tasks that it hasn't encountered during training. The goal is to assess how well the model can adapt and learn from these unseen tasks based on its meta-learned knowledge.

IV Methodologies of Meta-Learning: It enables machines to learn more efficiently and effectively from limited data, while quickly adapting to changes in the problem [5].

A Few-Shot Learning: Few-shot learning is a type of learning technique in which a model can learn effectively from only a few training examples and with very few training steps.

B. Transfer Learning: Transfer learning is a technique where knowledge gained from one task is leveraged to improve learning on a related task. Using a pre-trained model, a new model can be developed with limited data and minimal training steps by transferring the learned knowledge

V. Date Models: There are four date models are used in meta learning [6][7]

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A Logistic Regression is a simple and traditional method used to classify data into two or more categories. It calculates the probability of something belonging to a certain class. Even though it is not as powerful as modern deep learning models, it is useful because it is easy to understand and fast to use. For example, it can predict whether a student will pass or fail based on factors like attendance and test scores.

B. Normal Fine-Tuning: Fine-tuning is a transfer learning approach in which a model is first pertained on a large dataset and then adapted to a new, smaller dataset by updating all or some of its layers. This method is widely used in deep learning applications where domain-specific data is limited. Fine-tuning improves performance by leveraging previously learned features instead of training from scratch. In educational comparison, it resembles taking a knowledgeable student and refining their understanding of a specific subject.

C. Prototypical Networks (Proto Nets): Prototypical Networks are metric-based meta-learning models. They learn an embedding space in which each class is represented by a "prototype," computed as the mean vector of the support examples of that class. During classification, a new example is assigned to the class whose prototype is closest in the embedding space. Proto Nets are efficient for low-data scenarios because they rely on distance measurements rather than repeatedly updating parameters. Conceptually, it mirrors grouping learners based on similarity and classifying new individuals by checking which group they resemble most.

D. MAML (Model-Agnostic Meta-Learning): MAML is a gradient-based meta-learning framework designed to enable rapid learning from a very limited number of examples. Instead of training a model to perform well on only one task, MAML (Model-Agnostic Meta-Learning) is trained across multiple tasks to learn a set of parameters that can be rapidly adapted to a new task with only a few gradient updates. This makes MAML particularly well-suited for few-shot learning scenarios where labelled data is limited. Analogously, in an educational context, it is like training a student to develop effective learning strategies, enabling them to quickly master any new subject with minimal guidance.

Serial No	Method	Very Simple Meaning
1	MAML	Learns how to learn fast with few examples
2	Proto Nets	Classify by finding closest group center

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3	Fine-Tuning	Use a pre-trained model and adjust it
4	Logistic Regression	Simple probability-based classifier

Table 1.1 Comparison table of four data models

Step No.	**Steps**	**Description**
1	Define Objective	Decide what you want to predict (e.g., student performance, grade, answer correctness).
2	Collect Data	Gather student answers, scores, attendance, participation, and labels from teachers.
3	Data Pre-processing	Clean the data, remove errors, convert labels into numbers, prepare text/embedding's.
4	Create Tasks/ Splits	Divide data into validation, training and testing sets (70% / 15% / 15%); for meta-learning create small tasks.
5	Model Setup	Select and prepare the four models: MAML, Prototypical Networks, Fine-Tuning, Logistic Regression.
6	Training	Train each model separately: episodes for MAML & ProtoNets; normal fine-tuning; simple training for Logistic Regression.
7	Testing	Test on unseen student data and compute accuracy, F1-score, confusion matrix.

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8	Comparison	Compare which model performs best with few examples and overall.
9	Analysis & Interpretation	Explain why certain models performed better and what the results mean for student learning analysis.
10	Reporting	Prepare tables, graphs, results, and write final conclusion for research paper.

Table1.2 Steps for data collection

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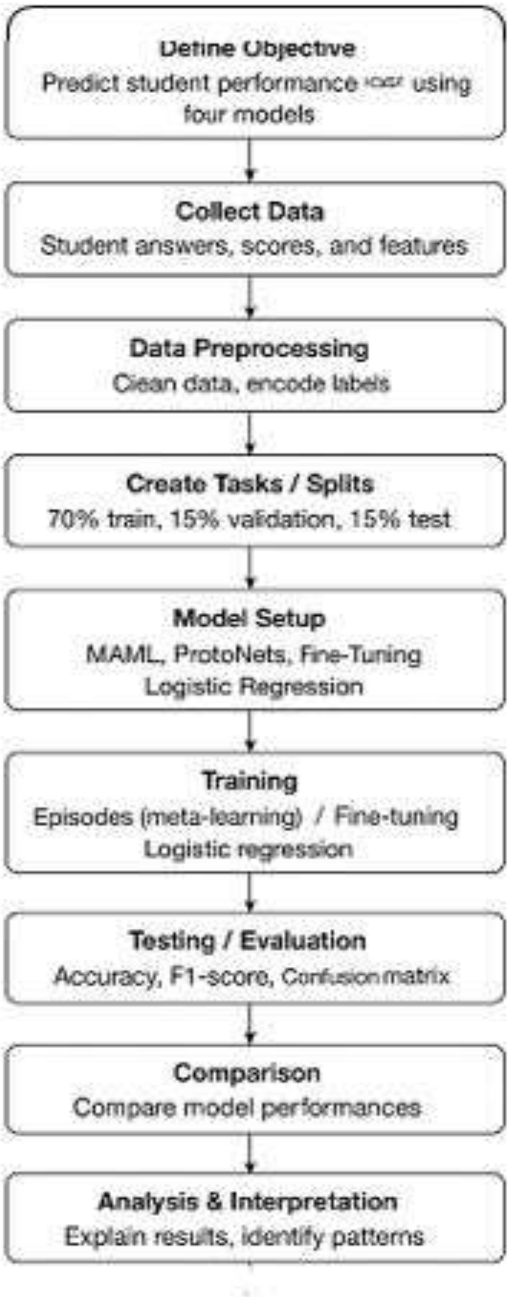


1.1 Flowchart for data collection using four algorithm/Data model

Start

Step 1: Define Objective

Step 2: Collect Student Data

Step 3: Pre-process Data

Step 4: Create Tasks and Split Data

Step 5: Set Up Four Models

├── MAML

├── Prototypical Networks

├── Fine-Tuning

└── Logistic Regression

Step 6: Train Each Model

Step 7: Test and Evaluate Models

Step 8: Compare Performance

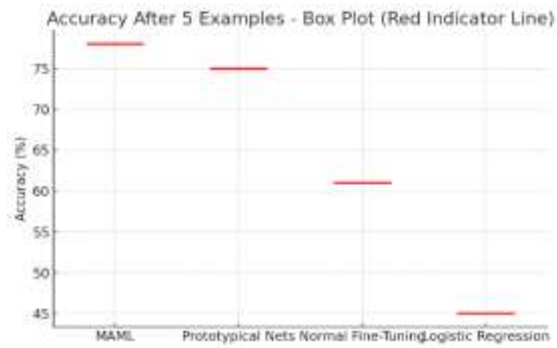
Step 9: Analyse and Interpret Results

Step 10: Write Report and Conclusion

End

Algorithm for data collection

Serial Name	Model Name	Accuracy After 5 Examples
1	MAML	78%
2	Prototypical Nets	75%
3	Normal Fine-Tuning	61%
4	Logistic Regression	45%



Graph 1.1 Accuracy of four models after five shot learning

IV. Observations: This study compared four learning approaches—MAML, Prototypical Networks, Normal Fine-Tuning, and Logistic Regression—using a 5-shot learning setup (K = 5 examples). The results show that meta-learning methods significantly outperform traditional models when training data is very limited. MAML achieved the highest accuracy (78%), followed closely by Prototypical Networks (75%), while standard Fine-Tuning (61%) and Logistic Regression (45%) performed noticeably worse. Overall, the findings highlight that meta-learning models are more efficient, adaptive, and better suited for low-data environments such as student performance prediction or personalized learning tasks

V. Conclusion: The comparison of the four models under 5-shot learning conditions clearly shows that meta-learning techniques perform significantly better than traditional methods when only a small number of examples are available. MAML achieved the highest accuracy (78%), closely followed by Prototypical Networks (75%), demonstrating strong ability to

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learn and adapt quickly from limited student data. Normal Fine-Tuning performed moderately well (61%) but required more data to reach higher accuracy. Logistic Regression showed the lowest performance (45%), highlighting its limitations in low-data and complex learning tasks. Overall, the results confirm that meta-learning models—especially MAML and ProtoNets—are more effective for analysing student responses when training data is small.

VI Future research

We can explore several directions to strengthen and extend these findings. First, the dataset can be expanded with more student categories and diverse learning tasks to test the generalizability of meta-learning models. Second, additional meta-learning algorithms—such as Reptile, Meta-SGD, and Matching Networks—can be evaluated to compare performance more broadly. Third, future studies could examine how model accuracy changes when noise, missing data, or real classroom conditions are introduced. Finally, integrating explainable AI (XAI) techniques may help educators understand why meta-learning methods perform better, enabling more effective student analytics and personalized learning systems.

VII Applications of Meta-Learning

A. Virtual assistant: Virtual assistants like Siri, Alexa, or Google Assistant use meta-learning to improve their language understanding and response generation capabilities over time, adapting to new topics, accents, or languages. By learning from a variety of tasks and user interactions, virtual assistants can better recognize user intent behind voice commands, improving accuracy and response relevance. Meta-learning helps virtual assistants identify and extract specific entities like names, locations, and dates from user queries, enabling more precise responses

B. Robotics - Robots using meta-learning can quickly adjust to new tasks, like picking up different objects or working in different environments, with minimal extra training.

C. Image recognition apps: Apps like Google Photos or Facebook's image recognition technology can recognize objects, scenes, and even people's faces in images. These apps use meta-learning to adapt to new image types, scenes, or objects without requiring extensive retraining.

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D. Natural Language Processing: Meta-learning helps models understand and sort text into categories even when they have only a small example to learn from. This is useful for handling new types of text or languages with little data.

E. Computer Vision: Meta-learning helps computer vision models better identify and separate objects in images, even if there are only a few samples available. This is especially helpful in sector like medical imaging where getting labelled data can be challenging.

F. Healthcare: Meta-learning no helps tailor medical treatments to individual patients by learning from a wide range of patient data. This means treatments can be adapted more quickly and effectively.

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