

1 We appreciate all of the reviewers’ valuable comments and feedback, which have helped improve our paper. We will  
2 shortly release a PyTorch implementation with tutorials and detailed commands for easy reproducibility. We respond to  
3 each of the reviewers’ comments below.

4 **Reviewer 1.** We begin by addressing R1’s concerns about the impact and importance of our work, including whether  
5 we are the first to study weak supervision for sequential data. First, we agree with the reviewer that the related work  
6 section is short, and will edit the draft to add references related to existing weak supervision and sequential modeling  
7 works. None of the existing methods in weak supervision handle *multi-resolution* sources over *sequential* data.

8 We find that multi-resolution labels for large-scale data applications like video are critical to performance gains. This  
9 key notion motivates our work. We highlight this idea with several real-world tasks from the draft:

10 (1) We collaborated with a *large self-driving car company* using our method to label their video data to train models for  
11 autonomous driving. The **Car** task (line 268-269, Figure 3, Table 4 in Appendix) is a sampled version of this task.

12 (2) We *improved over results recently published in Nature Communications* related to labeling MRI video data at  
13 the population scale (4000 patients, Table 3). We report these results as the **BAV** task (line 253-355, Table 1), which  
14 improves over published state-of-the-art results by 5.7 F1 points.

15 (3) We demonstrated how our method can be used for textual BIO (beginning-inside-outside) tagging via the **EHR** task  
16 (lines 689-694, Table 3 in Appendix). This task operates over real-world patient data, and our method is able to *model a*  
17 *collection of lexicons from a public database* as multi-resolution supervision sources (lines 765-769 in Appendix).

18 Since submission, we are also working with a *large video-sharing website* to label content across millions of videos.

19 Third, R1 asks about the generalization bounds and the broader impact of our theoretical  
20 results. We indeed prove a generalization bound for classification problems in our  
21 work; specifically, we bound the expected loss of our model on a random unseen data  
22 point, as is standard in generalization theory. Note that the loss function in our bound  
23 is flexible, and could correspond to several losses. The result is a first step towards  
24 future results that more finely characterize generalization with no ground truth labels.  
25 The result and the theorem it is based on has broader implications beyond just our  
26 algorithm; for example, the argument of line 222-223 shows that parameter sharing  
27 is critical to efficiently modeling temporal data (i.e., without sharing, the number of  
28 samples scales exponentially in the sequence size). We will further clarify these notions  
29 in the updated draft.

30 Finally, R1 asks about baseline benchmarks. We compare to Gibbs sampling in Section  
31 4, Table 1 when we improve over data programming (DP) [45], which is a Gibbs-  
32 sampling based weak supervision method. We also compare to Gibbs in terms of  
33 accuracy (Appendix, Figure 4, middle) and runtime (right). We find a  $90\times$  improvement in runtime — a significant  
34 speedup. Variational methods did not scale up sufficiently to handle our setting (large amounts of data and no labels).  
35 To better understand the gains attained by our method relative to baselines, we have included a qualitative analysis in  
36 Figure 3 of our submission. For reproducibility, we included our code with a README in the supplementary materials.

37 **Reviewers 2 and 5.** We agree with and appreciate R2 and R5’s suggestions about improving the writing and presentation  
38 style. Since submission, we have improved and revised our presentation by simplifying notation, adding intuition, and  
39 providing more examples. R5 comments on the presentation of parameter tying. We have edited the draft accordingly  
40 to present the concept more directly, leaving the most general case to the appendix. We will also correct the reference to  
41 the non-existent section in the revised draft.

R2 asks whether our method is applicable in cases where a single source assigns labels at multiple resolutions. Our  
method can handle this situation. We explain using a concrete example. Say we have a weak supervision source that  
assigns labels at the frame-level ( $F$ ) and at the scene-level ( $S$ ). Then, the output vector for the source would be

$$Y = [F_{label}^1, F_{label}^2, F_{label}^3, S_{label}],$$

42 where  $F_{label}^i$  refers to the label for the  $i$ -th frame in the scene and  $S_{label}$  refers to the label at the scene-level.

43 For a datapoint where the source only assigns frame-level labels (say all positive), the output vector would look like  
44  $Y = [1, 1, 1, 0]$ , where 0 is an abstain. In case it applies a label to  $F^1$  and the overall scene, it would look like  
45  $Y = [1, 0, 0, 1]$ . The generative model would take into account the hierarchical nature of the labels, since the structure  
46 is encoded in the model (Figure 1 in the draft). The output vector of the generative model would have the same format  
47 with a probabilistic label per entry (for frames  $F^1, F^2, F^3$ , and scene  $S$  in this case). The user can then choose the  
48 resolution at which she requires training labels. We will edit our draft to include clarifications about and add examples  
49 for how a single source can label at multiple resolutions.

