Transfer Learning

Overview

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Transfer of Learning
A psychological point of view

• The study of dependency of human conduct, learning or performance on prior experience.
  
  - [Thorndike and Woodworth, 1901] explored how individuals would transfer in one context to another context that share similar characteristics.

  ➢ C++ ➔ Java
  ➢ Maths/Physics ➔ Computer Science/Economics
Transfer Learning
In the machine learning community

• The ability of a system to recognize and apply knowledge and skills learned in previous domains/tasks to novel tasks/domains, which share some commonality.

• Given a target domain/task, how to identify the commonality between the domain/task and previous domains/tasks, and transfer knowledge from the previous domains/tasks to the target one?
## Transfer Learning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional Machine Learning</th>
<th>Transfer Learning</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Training domains" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Training items" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Test domains" /></td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Test items" /></td>
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</table>

- **Domain A**: training domains
- **Domain B**: test domains
- **Domain C**: training items
- **Domain C**: test items
Transfer Learning
Different fields

• Transfer learning for reinforcement learning.

• Transfer learning for classification, and regression problems.
  [Pan and Yang, A Survey on Transfer Learning, IEEE TKDE 2010]

Focus!
Motivating Example I: Indoor WiFi localization

-30dBm -70dBm -40dBm
Indoor WiFi Localization (cont.)

Training
S=(-37dbm, .., -77dbm), L=(1, 3)
S=(-41dbm, .., -83dbm), L=(1, 4)
...
S=(-49dbm, .., -34dbm), L=(9, 10)
S=(-61dbm, .., -28dbm), L=(15, 22)

Localization model

Test
S=(-37dbm, .., -77dbm)
S=(-41dbm, .., -83dbm)
...
S=(-49dbm, .., -34dbm)
S=(-61dbm, .., -28dbm)

Device A

Average Error
Distance

~ 1.5 meters

Drop!

~10 meters

Training
S=(-33dbm, .., -82dbm), L=(1, 3)
...
S=(-57dbm, .., -63dbm), L=(10, 23)

Localization model

Test
S=(-37dbm, .., -77dbm)
S=(-41dbm, .., -83dbm)
...
S=(-49dbm, .., -34dbm)
S=(-61dbm, .., -28dbm)

Device A

Device B
Difference between Domains

Time Period A

Device A

Time Period B

Device B
Motivating Example II: Sentiment classification

10 hours ago
Edward Priz replied:

You know, this isn't the first time that "States Rights" has been used as a cover for racist policies. In fact, the whole "States Rights" thing has become a sort of code for heavy-handed racist policies, hasn't it? And it does provide a sort of contextual...

10 hours ago
RICH HIRTH replied:

The issue here is probable cause. A police officer can question if he has probable cause, and he can document it. This law can be abused if being Latino is probable cause. That is license to harass for the police. As long as the law is applied fairly there...

2 hours ago
Julia Gomez replied:

The Arizona law is so clearly unconstitutional that I do not think it will ever reach the point of being enforced. The article did not say so, but the Republican governor is afraid of a GOP primary electorate that is even more reactionary than usual. That is why she signed the bill, not because she thinks it is legally defensible.
Sentiment Classification (cont.)

Training

Electronics

 Testing

Electronics

Sentiment Classifier

~ 84.6%

Classification Accuracy

Drop!

~72.65%

DVD
## Difference between Domains

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A Major Assumption in Traditional Machine Learning

- Training and future (test) data come from the same domain, which implies
  
  - Represented in the same feature spaces.
  
  - Follow the same data distribution.
In Real-world Applications

• Training and testing data may come from different domains, which have:
  - Different marginal distributions, or different feature spaces:
    \[ \mathcal{X}_S \neq \mathcal{X}_T, \text{ or } P_S(x) \neq P_T(x) \]
  - Different predictive distributions, or different label spaces:
    \[ \mathcal{Y}_S \neq \mathcal{Y}_T, \text{ or } f_S \neq f_T \text{ (} P_S(y|x) \neq P_T(y|x) \text{)} \]
How to Build Systems on Each Domain of Interest

- Build every system from scratch?
  - Time consuming and expensive!

- Reuse common knowledge extracted from existing systems?
  - More practical!
The Goal of Transfer Learning

- **Labeled Training**
  - Source Domain Data
  - Electronics
  - Time Period A
  - Device A

- **Unlabeled data/a few labeled data for adaptation**

- **Transfer Learning Algorithms**

- **Predictive Models**
  - Target Domain Data
  - Target Domain Data
  - Testing

- **Time Period B**
  - Device B
  - DVD
Transfer Learning Settings
Transfer Learning Approaches

- Instance-based Approaches
- Feature-based Approaches
- Parameter-based Approaches
- Relational Approaches
Instance-based Transfer Learning Approaches

General Assumption
Source and target domains have a lot of overlapping features (domains share the same/similar support)
# Instance-based Transfer Learning Approaches

**Case I**

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Given $D_S = {x_{S_i}, y_{S_i}}<em>{i=1}^{n_S}$, $D_T = {x</em>{T_i}}_{i=1}^{n_T}$,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learn $f_T$, s.t. $\sum_i \epsilon(f_T(x_{T_i}), y_{T_i})$ is small,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>where $y_{T_i}$ is unknown.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<td>$\mathcal{Y}_S = \mathcal{Y}_T$, and $P(Y_S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\mathcal{X}_S \approx \mathcal{X}_T$,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$P(X_S) \neq P(X_T)$.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Case II**

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Given $D_S = {x_{S_i}, y_{S_i}}<em>{i=1}^{n_S}$, $D_T = {x</em>{T_i}, y_{T_i}}_{i=1}^{n_T}$, $n_T \ll n_S$,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learn $f_T$, s.t. $\epsilon(f_T(x_{T_i}), y_{T_i})$ is small, and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$f_T$ has good generalization on unseen $x_T^*$.</td>
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<tr>
<td>$\mathcal{Y}_S = \mathcal{Y}_T$,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>but $f_S \neq f_T$ ($P_S(y</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Instance-based Approaches

Case I

Given a target task,

\[
\theta^* = \arg \min_{(x,y) \sim P_T} \mathbb{E}[l(x, y, \theta)]
\]

\[
= \arg \min_{(x,y) \sim P_T} \mathbb{E} \left[ \left( \frac{P_S(x, y)}{P_S(x, y)} l(x, y, \theta) \right) \right]
\]

\[
= \arg \min \int_y \int_x P_T(x, y) \left( \frac{P_S(x, y)}{P_S(x, y)} l(x, y, \theta) \right) dx dy
\]

\[
= \arg \min \int_y \int_x P_S(x, y) \left( \frac{P_T(x, y)}{P_S(x, y)} l(x, y, \theta) \right) dx dy
\]

\[
= \arg \min \mathbb{E}_{(x,y) \sim P_S} \left[ \frac{P_T(x, y)}{P_S(x, y)} l(x, y, \theta) \right]
\]
Instance-based Approaches

Case I (cont.)

\[ \text{If } P_S(x, y) = P_T(x, y) \]

\[ \theta^* = \arg \min E_{(x_T, y_T) \sim P_T}[l(x_T, y_T, \theta)] \]

\[ \theta^* = \arg \min E_{(x_S, y_S) \sim P_S}[l(x_S, y_S, \theta)] \]

\[ \theta^* = \arg \min \sum_{i=1}^{n_S} l(x_{Si}, y_{Si}, \theta) + \lambda \Omega(\theta) \]
Instance-based Approaches

Case I (cont.)

Assumption: \( \{P_S(x) \neq P_T(x), P_S(y|x) = P_T(y|x)\} \Rightarrow P_S(x, y) \neq P_T(x, y) \)

\[
\theta^* = \arg\min_{(x,y) \sim P_S} \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{P_T(x,y)}{P_S(x,y)} l(x,y,\theta) \right] \\
= \arg\min_{(x,y) \sim P_S} \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{P_T(x)P_T(y|x)}{P_S(x)P_S(y|x)} l(x,y,\theta) \right] \\
= \arg\min_{(x,y) \sim P_S} \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{P_T(x)}{P_S(x)} l(x,y,\theta) \right]
\]

Denote \( \beta(x) = \frac{P_T(x)}{P_S(x)} \),

\[
\theta^* = \arg\min \sum_{i=1}^{n_S} \beta(x_{S_i}) l(x_{S_i}, y_{S_i}, \theta) + \lambda \Omega(\theta)
\]
Instance-based Approaches

Case I (cont.)

How to estimate $\beta(x) = \frac{P_T(x)}{P_S(x)}$?

A simple solution is to first estimate $P_T(x)$, $P_S(x)$, respectively, and calculate $\frac{P_T(x)}{P_S(x)}$. ❌

An alternative solution is to estimate $\frac{P_T(x)}{P_S(x)}$ directly. ✔

Correcting Sample Selection Bias / Covariate Shift
[Quionero-Candela, etal, Data Shift in Machine Learning, MIT Press 2009]
Instance-based Approaches

Correcting sample selection bias

• Imagine a rejection sampling process, and view the source domain as samples from the target domain.
Instance-based Approaches
Correcting sample selection bias (cont.)

- The distribution of the selector variable maps the target onto the source distribution

\[ P_S(x) \propto P_T(x) P(s = 1| x) \]

\[ \beta(x) = \frac{P_S(x)}{P_T(x)} \propto \frac{1}{P(s = 1| x)} \]

- Label instances from the source domain with label 1
- Label instances from the target domain with label 0
- Train a binary classifier

[Zadrozny, ICML-04]
Instance-based Approaches

Kernel mean matching (KMM)

Maximum Mean Discrepancy (MMD)

Given $X_S = \{x_{S_i}\}_{i=1}^{n_S}$, $X_T = \{x_{T_i}\}_{i=1}^{n_T}$, drawn from $P_S(x)$ and $P_T(x)$, respectively,

$$\text{Dist}(P(X_S), P(X_T)) = \left\| \frac{1}{n_S} \sum_{i=1}^{n_S} \Phi(x_{S_i}) - \frac{1}{n_T} \sum_{j=1}^{n_T} \Phi(x_{T_j}) \right\|_H$$

[Alex Smola, Arthur Gretton and Kenji Kukumizu, ICML-08 tutorial]
Instance-based Approaches
Kernel mean matching (KMM) (cont.)

\[
\begin{align*}
\arg\min_{\beta} & \left\| \frac{1}{n_S} \sum_{i=1}^{n_S} \beta(x_{S_i}) \Phi(x_{S_i}) - \frac{1}{n_T} \sum_{j=1}^{n_T} \Phi(x_{T_j}) \right\| \\
\text{s.t.} & \quad \beta(x_{S_i}) \in [0, B] \text{ and } \left| \frac{1}{n_S} \sum_{i=1}^{n_S} \beta(x_{S_i}) - 1 \right| \leq \epsilon.
\end{align*}
\]

[Huang et al., NIPS-06]
Instance-based Approaches

Direct density ratio estimation

[Sugiyama et al., NIPS-07, Kanamori et al., JMLR-09]

Recall $\beta(x) = \frac{P_T(x)}{P_S(x)}$

Let $\widetilde{\beta}(x) = \sum_{\ell=1}^{b} \alpha_{\ell} \psi_{\ell}(x)$, and denote $\widetilde{P}_T(x) = \widetilde{\beta}(x) P_S(x)$

KL divergence loss

$\arg \min_{\{\alpha_{\ell}\}_{\ell=1}^{b}} \text{KL}[P_T(x) || \widetilde{P}_T(x)]$

[Sugiyama et al., NIPS-07]

Least squared loss

$\arg \min_{\{\alpha_{\ell}\}_{\ell=1}^{b}} \int_{X_S \cup X_T} \left( \widetilde{\beta}(x) - \beta(x) \right)^2 P_S(x) dx$

[Kanamori et al., JMLR-09]
Instance-based Approaches

Case II

- $\mathcal{Y}_S = \mathcal{Y}_T,$

  but $f_S \neq f_T$ ($P_S(y|x) \neq P_T(y|x)$).

- Intuition: Part of the labeled data in the source domain can be reused in the target domain after re-weighting
Instance-based Approaches
Case II (cont.)

➢ **TrAdaBoost** [Dai *etal* ICML-07]
  – For each boosting iteration,
    - Use the same strategy as AdaBoost to update the weights of target domain data.
    - Use a new mechanism to decrease the weights of misclassified source domain data.
Feature-based Transfer Learning Approaches

When source and target domains only have some overlapping features. (lots of features only have support in either the source or the target domain)
Feature-based Transfer Learning Approaches (cont.)

How to learn $\varphi$?

- **Solution 1**: Encode application-specific knowledge to learn the transformation.

- **Solution 2**: General approaches to learning the transformation.
# Feature-based Approaches

Encode application-specific knowledge

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### Feature-based Approaches

Encode application-specific knowledge (cont.)

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<th>hooked</th>
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<td>Electronics</td>
<td>1 1 0 0 0 0</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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Training

\[ y = f(x) = \text{sgn}(w \cdot x^T), \quad w = [1, 1, -1, 0, 0, 0] \]

Prediction
Feature-based Approaches
Encode application-specific knowledge (cont.)

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Feature-based Approaches
Encode application-specific knowledge (cont.)

Three different types of features

- Source domain (*Electronics*) specific features, e.g., *compact, sharp, blurry*
- Target domain (*Video Game*) specific features, e.g., *hooked, realistic, boring*
- Domain independent features (pivot features), e.g., *good, excited, nice, never_buy*
Feature-based Approaches
Encode application-specific knowledge (cont.)

- How to identify *pivot* features?
  - Term frequency on both domains
  - Mutual information between features and labels (source domain)
  - Mutual information on between features and domains

- How to utilize pivots to *align* features across domains?
  - Structural Correspondence Learning (SCL) [Biltzer *etal*. EMNLP-06]
  - Spectral Feature Alignment (SFA) [Pan *etal*. WWW-10]
Feature-based Approaches
Structural Correspondence Learning (SCL)

Goal: Intuition

- Use **pivot** features to construct **pseudo** tasks that are related to the target classification task
- Model correlations between **pivot** features and other features using multi-task learning techniques
- Discover new shared features by exploiting the feature correlations
Structural Correspondence Learning

Algorithm

- Identify $P$ pivot features
- Build $P$ classifiers to predict the pivot features from remaining features
- Discover shared feature subspace
  - Compute top $K$ eigenvectors
  - Project original features into eigenvectors to derive new shared features
- Train classifiers on the source using augmented features (original features + new features)
Feature-based Approaches
Spectral Feature Alignment (SFA)

Intuition

- Use a bipartite graph to model the correlations between pivot features and other features
- Discover new shared features by applying spectral clustering techniques on the graph
Spectral Feature Alignment (SFA)

High level idea

- If two domain-specific words have connections to more common pivot words in the graph, they tend to be aligned or clustered together with a higher probability.
- If two pivot words have connections to more common domain-specific words in the graph, they tend to be aligned together with a higher probability.
Derive new features

**Pivot features**
- exciting
- good
- never_buy

**Domain-specific features**
- realistic
- compact
- hooked
- sharp
- blurry
- boring

**Electronics**
- Video Game

**Domain-specific features**

**Spectral Clustering**

**Video Game**

**Electronics**
Spectral Feature Alignment (SFA)

Derive new features (cont.)

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\[ y = f(x) = \text{sgn}(w \cdot x^T), \quad w = [1, 1, -1] \]

**Training**

**Prediction**

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Spectral Feature Alignment (SFA) Algorithm

- Identify $P$ pivot features
- Construct a bipartite graph between the pivot and remaining features.
- Apply spectral clustering on the graph to derive new features.
- Train classifiers on the source using augmented features (original features + new features)
Feature-based Approaches

Develop general approaches

Time Period A

Time Period B

Device A

Device B
Feature-based Approaches

General approaches

- Learning features by minimizing distance between distributions
- Learning features inspired by multi-task learning
- Learning features inspired by self-taught learning
Feature-based Approaches
Transfer Component Analysis [Pan et al., IJCAI-09, TNN-11]
Transfer Component Analysis (cont.)

Latent factors

Source

Target

Temperature

Signal properties

Power of APs

Building structure

Cause the data distributions between domains different
Transfer Component Analysis (cont.)

Source

Target

Noisy component

Signal properties

Building structure

Principal components
Learning $\varphi$ by only minimizing distance between distributions may map the data onto noisy factors.
Main idea: the learned $\varphi$ should map the source and target domain data to the latent space spanned by the factors which can reduce domain difference and preserve original data structure.

High level optimization problem

$$\min_{\varphi} \text{Dist}(\varphi(X_S), \varphi(X_T)) + \lambda \Omega(\varphi)$$

s.t. constraints on $\varphi(X_S)$ and $\varphi(X_T)$
Recall: Maximum Mean Discrepancy (MMD)

Given $X_S = \{x_{S_i}\}_{i=1}^{n_S}$, $X_T = \{x_{T_i}\}_{i=1}^{n_T}$, drawn from $P_S(x)$ and $P_T(x)$, respectively,

$$\text{Dist}(P(X_S), P(X_T)) = \left\| \frac{1}{n_S} \sum_{i=1}^{n_S} \Phi(x_{S_i}) - \frac{1}{n_T} \sum_{j=1}^{n_T} \Phi(x_{T_j}) \right\|_{\mathcal{H}}$$
Transfer Component Analysis (cont.)

\[
\text{Dist}(\varphi(X_S), \varphi(X_T)) = \left\| \mathbb{E}_{x \sim P_T(x)}[\Phi(\varphi(x))] - \mathbb{E}_{x \sim P_S(x)}[\Phi(\varphi(x))] \right\|
\approx \left\| \frac{1}{n_S} \sum_{i=1}^{n_S} \Phi(\varphi(x_{S_i})) - \frac{1}{n_T} \sum_{i=1}^{n_T} \Phi(\varphi(x_{T_i})) \right\|
\]

Assume \( \Psi = \Phi \circ \varphi \) a RKHS, with kernel \( k(x_i, x_j) = \Psi(x_i) \top \Psi(x_j) \)

\[
\text{Dist}(\varphi(X_S), \varphi(X_T)) = \text{tr}(KL)
\]

\[
K = \begin{bmatrix} K_{S,S} & K_{S,T} \\ K_{T,S} & K_{T,T} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{(n_S+n_T) \times (n_S+n_T)},
L_{ij} = \begin{cases} 
\frac{1}{n_S} & x_i, x_j \in X_S, \\
\frac{1}{n_T} & x_i, x_j \in X_T, \\
-\frac{1}{n_S n_T} & \text{otherwise}.
\end{cases}
\]

53
Transfer Component Analysis (cont.)

\[
\begin{align*}
\min_{\varphi} & \quad \text{Dist}(\varphi(X_S), \varphi(X_T)) + \lambda \Omega(\varphi) \\
\text{s.t.} & \quad \text{constraints on } \varphi(X_S) \text{ and } \varphi(X_T) \\
\min_{\varphi} & \quad \text{tr}(KL) + \lambda \Omega(\varphi) \\
\text{s.t.} & \quad \text{constraints on } \varphi(X_S) \text{ and } \varphi(X_T)
\end{align*}
\]

- The kernel function can be a highly nonlinear function of \( \varphi \).
- A direct optimization of minimizing the quantity w.r.t. \( \varphi \) can get stuck in poor local minima.
Transfer Component Analysis (cont.)

Learning $\varphi \Rightarrow$ (1) learning $K$ 

(2) low-dimensional reconstructions of $X_S$ and $X_T$

based on $K$

Learning $K \Rightarrow \min_{K \geq 0} \text{tr}(KL) - \lambda \text{tr}(K)$

s.t. $K_{ii} + K_{jj} - 2K_{ij} = d^2_{ij}, \forall (i, j) \in \mathcal{N}$,

$K1 = 0$, $K \succeq 0$.

Low-dimensional constructions of $X_S$, $X_T \Rightarrow$ PCA on $K$

- It is a SDP problem, expensive!
- It is transductive, cannot generalize on unseen instances!
- PCA is post-processed on the learned kernel matrix, which may potentially discard useful information.

[Pan et al., AAAI-08]
Transfer Component Analysis (cont.)

\[ K = \tilde{K} W W^T \tilde{K} \]

where \( W \in \mathbb{R}^{(n_s+n_T) \times m} \) and \( m \ll n_s + n_T \).

Learning \( K \) \( \Rightarrow \) learning a low-rank matrix \( W \)

\[
\begin{align*}
\min_W & \quad \text{tr}(W^T \tilde{K} L \tilde{K} W) + \lambda \text{tr}(W^T W) \\
\text{s.t.} & \quad W^T \tilde{K} H \tilde{K} W = I
\end{align*}
\]

\[
W^* \iff m \text{ leading eigenvectors of } (\tilde{K} L \tilde{K} + \lambda I)^{-1} \tilde{K} H \tilde{K}
\]

- Parametric kernel
- Regularization term
- Minimize distance between domains
- Maximize data variance
Transfer Component Analysis (cont.)

An illustrative example

Latent features learned by PCA and TCA

Original feature space

PCA

TCA
Feature-based Approaches

Multi-task Feature Learning

General Multi-task Learning Setting

Given \( D_S = \{x_{S_i}, y_{S_i}\}_{i=1}^{n_S} \), \( D_T = \{x_{T_i}, y_{T_i}\}_{i=1}^{n_T} \),
where \( n_S \) and \( n_T \) are small,
Learn \( f_S, f_T \), s.t. \( \sum_{t \in \{S,T\}} \sum_i \epsilon(f_t(x_{t_i}), y_{t_i}) \) is small.

- **Assumption:** If tasks are related, they should share some **good** common features.
- **Goal:** Learn a low-dimensional representation shared across related tasks.
Feature-based Approaches

Multi-task Feature Learning (cont.)

Assume $f(x) = \langle \theta, (U^T x) \rangle = \theta^T (U^T x)$, where $\theta \in \mathbb{R}^k$, $x \in \mathbb{R}^m$, $U \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times k}$.

\[
\{ \Theta^*, U^* \} = \arg \min_{t \in \{S,T\}} \sum_{i=1}^{n_t} l(U^T x_{t_i}, y_{t_i}, \theta_t) + \lambda_1 \Omega(\Theta)
\]

\[
\Theta = [\theta_S, \theta_T] \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times 2}
\]

s.t. constraints on $U$.

$U$ is full rank ($U \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times k}, k = m$), $\Theta$ is sparse. [Argyriou et al., NIPS-07]

$U$ is low rank ($U \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times k}, k \ll m$). [Ando and Zhang, JMLR-05]

[Ji et al., KDD-08]
Feature-based Approaches
Self-taught Feature Learning

- **Intuition:** There exist some higher-level features that can help the target learning task even only a few labeled data are given.

- **Steps:**
  1) Learn higher-level features from a lot of unlabeled data.
  2) Use the learned higher-level features to represent the data of the target task.
  3) Training models from the new representations of the target task with corresponding labels.
Feature-based Approaches

Self-taught Feature Learning

➢ How to learn higher-level features
  ❑ Sparse Coding [Raina et al., 2007]
  ❑ Deep learning [Glorot et al., 2011]
Parameter-based Transfer Learning Approaches

Assume $f(x) = \langle \theta, x \rangle = \theta^\top x = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \theta_i x_i$, where $\theta, x \in \mathbb{R}^m$.

\[
\begin{align*}
\theta_S^* &= \arg \min \sum_{i=1}^{n_S} l(x_{S_i}, y_{S_i}, \theta_S) + \lambda \Omega(\theta_S), \\
\theta_T^* &= \arg \min \sum_{i=1}^{n_T} l(x_{T_i}, y_{T_i}, \theta_T) + \lambda \Omega(\theta_T)
\end{align*}
\]

Motivation: A well-trained model $\theta_S^*$ has learned a lot of structure. If two tasks are related, this structure can be transferred to learn $\theta_T^*$.
Parameter-based Approaches

Multi-task Parameter Learning

Assumption:
If tasks are related, they may share similar parameter vectors.
For example, [Evgeniou and Pontil, KDD-04]

Common part

\[ \theta_S = \theta_0 + \nu_S \]
\[ \theta_T = \theta_0 + \nu_T \]

Specific part for individual task

\[ \{\theta_S^*, \theta_T^*\} = \arg\min \sum_{t \in \{S,T\}} \sum_{i=1}^{n_t} l(x_{ti}, y_{ti}, \theta_t) + \lambda \Omega(\theta_0, \nu_S, \nu_T) \]
Parameter-based Approaches
Multi-task Parameter Learning (cont.)

A general framework:

\[ f(\Theta) = \sum_{t \in \{S,T\}} \left[ \theta - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s \in \{S,T\}} \theta_s \right]^2 \]

\[ \Theta^* = \arg \min_{\Theta} \sum_{t \in \{S,T\}} \sum_{i=1}^{n_t} l(x_{ti}, y_{ti}, \theta_t) + \lambda_1 \text{tr}(\Theta^\top \Theta) + \lambda_2 f(\Theta) \]

\[ \sum_{t \in \{S,T\}} \|\theta_t\|^2 \]

\[ [\text{Zhang and Yeung, UAI-10}] \]

\[ f(\Theta) = \text{tr}(\Theta^\top \Sigma^{-1} \Theta) \]

s.t. \( \Sigma \succeq 0 \) and \( \text{tr}(\Sigma) = 1. \)

\[ [\text{Agarwal et al., NIPS-10}] \]

\[ f(\Theta) = \sum_{t \in \{S,T\}} \|\theta_t - \tilde{\theta}_t^M\|^2 \]
Relational Transfer Learning Approaches

- **Motivation:** If two relational domains (data is non-i.i.d) are related, they may share some similar relations among objects. These relations can be used for knowledge transfer across domains.
Relational Transfer Learning Approaches (cont.)

[Mihalkova et al., AAAI-07, Davis and Domingos, ICML-09]

Academic domain (source)

Student (B) \rightarrow\text{AdvisedBy} \rightarrow\text{Professor (A)}

Publication \rightarrow\text{Paper (T)}

Movie domain (target)

Actor(A) \rightarrow\text{WorkedFor} \rightarrow\text{Director (B)}

MovieMember \rightarrow\text{Movie (M)}

AdvisedBy (B, A) \land\text{Publication (B, T)} \Rightarrow\text{Publication (A, T)}

WorkedFor (A, B) \land\text{MovieMember (A, M)} \Rightarrow\text{MovieMember (B, M)}

P_1(x, y) \land P_2(x, z) \Rightarrow P_2(y, z)
Relational Approaches

Relational Adaptive bootstrapping [Li et al., ACL-12]

Task: sentiment summarization

- What is the opinion expressed on?
  - To construct lexicon of topic or target words
- How is the opinion expressed?
  - To construct lexicon of sentiment words

Sentiment lexicon (camera)
- great, amazing, light
- recommend, excellent, etc.
- artifacts, noise, never but, boring, etc.

Topic lexicon (camera)
- camera, product, screen, photo, size, weight, quality, price, memory, etc.
Relational Approaches
Relational Adaptive bootstrapping (RAP) (cont.)

Reviews on cameras
The **camera** is **great**.
It is a very **amazing** **product**.
I highly **recommend** this **camera**.
**Photos** had some **artifacts** and **noise**.

Reviews on movies
This **movie** has **good script**, **great casting**, **excellent acting**.
This **movie** is so **boring**.
The **Godfather** was the most **amazing** **movie**.
The **movie** is **excellent**.
Relational Approaches

RAP (cont.)

- Bridge between cross-domain sentiment words
  - *Domain independent (general) sentiment words*

- Bridge between cross-domain topic words
Relational Approaches

RAP (cont.)

➤ Bridge between cross-domain topic words

– Syntactic structure between topic and sentiment words

Common syntactic pattern: “topic word” – \textit{nsubj} – “sentiment word”
Summary

Transfer Learning

Heterogeneous Transfer Learning

Supervised Transfer Learning

Semi-Supervised Transfer Learning

Unsupervised Transfer Learning

Homogeneous Transfer Learning

Instance-based Approaches

Feature-based Approaches

Relational Approaches

Parameter-based Approaches

In data level

In model level

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Some Advanced Research Issues in Transfer Learning

- How to transfer knowledge across heterogeneous feature spaces
- Active learning meets transfer learning
- Transfer learning from multiple sources
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Thank You