



THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO



# Multi-label Ranking from Positive and Unlabeled Data

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# Background

## Label incompleteness in the multi-label dataset

creating dataset

Label **all objects** in this image



man, woman, network, smart  
phone, chair, table, window,  
paper, etc...



annotator

**Too much cost !**

# Background

## Label incompleteness in the multi-label dataset

creating dataset

Label **at least one object**  
in this image



man, chair, table



annotator

Created dataset



assigned labels

man, chair  
table

absent but positive labels

pet-bottle, smart  
Phone, window,  
etc...

# Goal

## □ Training a classifier from data with incomplete labels

### Problem setting

1. assigned labels are definitely positive,
2. absent labels are **Not** necessarily negative,
3. samples are allowed to take more than one labels

PU (Positive and Unlabeled)  
classification



Multi-label  
classification



Multi-label PU  
classification



assigned labels

man, chair  
table

absent but positive labels

pet-bottle, smart  
Phone, window,  
etc...

# Formulation

## □ Formulation of multi-label ranking

$$\min L_{\text{true}} = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}} [R(f(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{y})]$$

$$R(f(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{y}) = p(f_i < f_j | y_i = 1, y_j = 0) \text{ (mis-rank rate)}$$

$\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d$  : sample,  $\mathbf{y} \in \{0, 1\}^m$  : true label

where  $d$  is feature dimension and  $m$  is the number of classes

mis-rank rate

$$f_{\text{dog}} \left( \text{img\_dog} \right) < f_{\text{cat}} \left( \text{img\_dog} \right)$$

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[mis-rank rate](#)

$$f_{\text{dog}}(\text{img}) < f_{\text{cat}}(\text{img})$$

# Formulation

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where  $d$  is feature dimension and  $m$  is the number of classes

mis-rank rate

$$f_{\text{dog}} \left( \text{img\_dog} \right) < f_{\text{cat}} \left( \text{img\_cat} \right)$$

# Formulation

## □ Formulation of multi-label **PU** ranking

$$\min L_{\text{true}} = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}} [R(f(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{y})]$$

$$R(f(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{y}) = p(f_i < f_j | y_i = 1, y_j = 0) \text{ (mis-rank rate)}$$

$\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d$  : sample,  ~~$\mathbf{y} \in \{0, 1\}^m$  : true label~~ unknown

$s \in \{0, 1\}^m$  : observed label known

where  $d$  is feature dimension and  $m$  is the number of classes



minimizing ranking loss, with only *observed*  $s$



# Relationship between two variables

$s \in \{0, 1\}^m$  : observed label

$s_i=1$  (assigned)

$s_i=0$  (assigned)

$y \in \{0, 1\}^m$  : true label

$y_i=1$  (positive)

$y_i=0$  (negative)



assigned labels

man, chair  
table

absent but positive labels

pet-bottle, smart  
Phone, window,  
etc...

# Analysis of multi-label PU ranking

$$\min L_{\text{true}} = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}} [R(f(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{y})]$$

$$R(f(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{y}) = p(f_i < f_j | y_i = 1, y_j = 0) \text{ (mis-rank rate)}$$



We can't estimate mis-rank rate  
because it depends on true (unknown) label

➤ Instead, we can observe

$$R_X(f(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{s}) = p(f_i < f_j | s_i = 1, s_j = 0) \text{ (pseudo mis-rank rate)}$$

➤ set loss function as

$$L_{\text{PU}} = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{s}} [c_{ij} R_X(f(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{s})] \quad \left( \text{where } c_{ij} = \frac{p(y_i = 1)}{p(s_i = 1, s_j = 0)} \right)$$

$$= L_{\text{true}} - \text{const}$$

Conclusion ①

Loss function should be weighted properly

# Surrogate loss

□ optimization of  $L_{\text{PU}} = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{s}}[c_{ij} R_X(f(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{s})]$

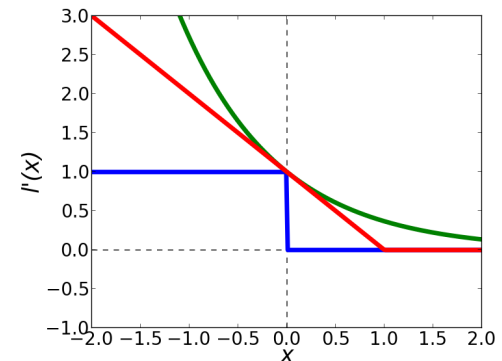
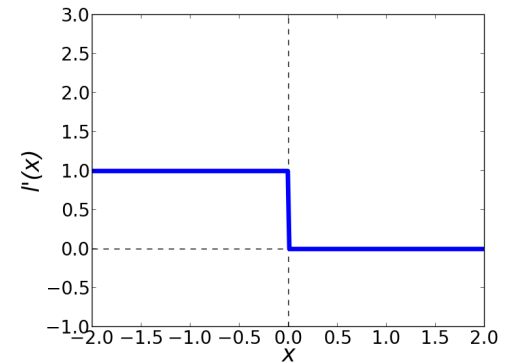
$$\begin{aligned} R_X(f(\mathbf{x}), y) &= p(f_i < f_j | s_i = 1, s_j = 0) \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} | s_i=1, s_j=0} [l_{0-1}(f_i - f_j)] \end{aligned}$$

Due to computational complexity,  
surrogate loss (e.g. hinge) is usually used.

$$= \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} | s_i=1, s_j=0} [l'_{\text{sur}}(f_i - f_j)]$$

Using surrogate loss,

$$L_{\text{PU}} \approx L'_{\text{PU}}$$

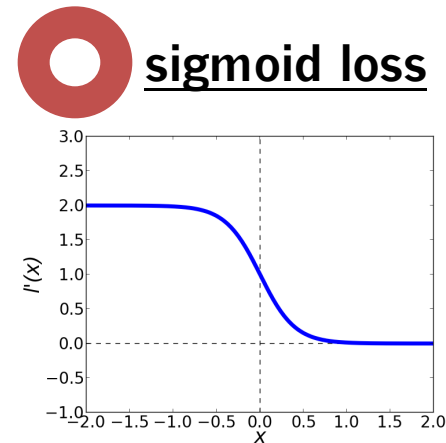
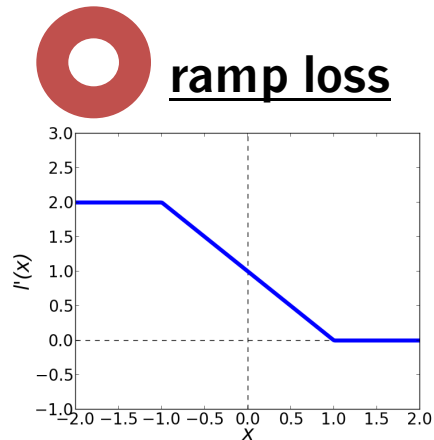


# Analysis of multi-label PU ranking

## □ Bias with surrogate loss

$$L'_{\text{PU}} = L'_{\text{true}} + \cancel{p(y_i = 1, y_j = 1) \mathbb{E}_{x|y_i=1, y_j=1} [l'(f_i - f_j) + l'(f_j - f_i)]}$$

If we select surrogate loss to meet  $l'(f_i - f_j) + l'(f_j - f_i) = \text{const}$   
bias term can be cancelled



Conclusion ②

Symmetric surrogate loss should be used

# Proposed Conditions

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## □ We showed

1. loss function should be weighted properly, and
2. symmetric surrogate loss should be used.

(similar to “Analysis of learning from Positive and Unlabeled Data” [du Plessis, NIPS 2014])

# Experiment (setting)

## ❑ Experiment with synthetic dataset

- train : 8000 samples, test: 2000 samples, class :40
- 0%~80% label noise in positive labels
- Optimize linear classifier with SGD

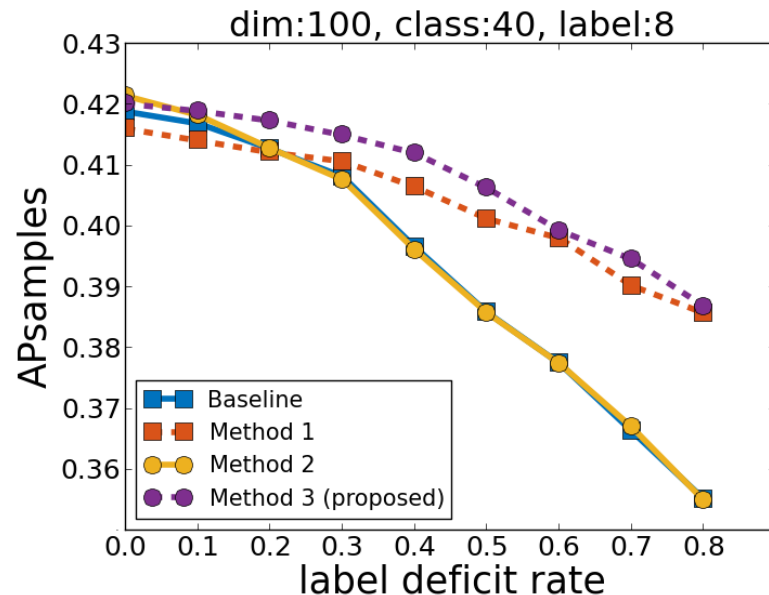
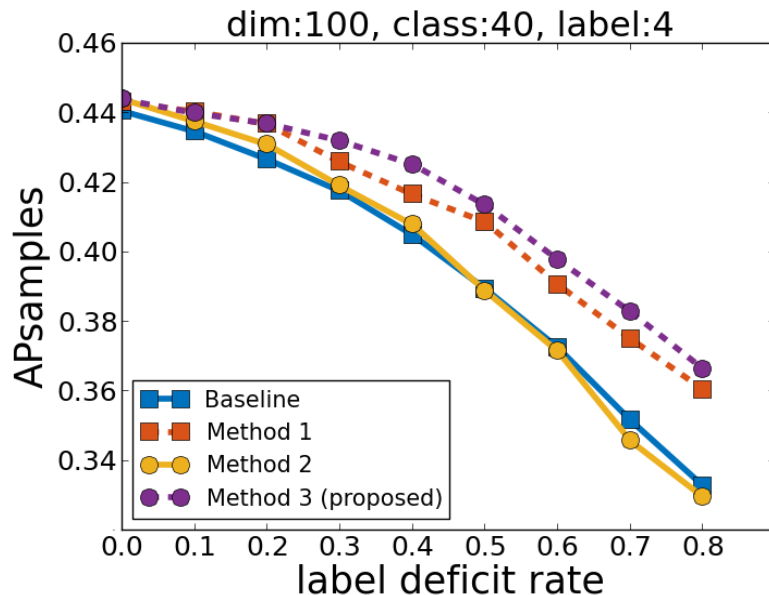
Condition 1. weigh loss function properly

Condition 2. use symmetric surrogate loss

		Surrogate loss	
		Not symmetric (hinge loss)	Symmetric (ramp loss)
weight	no	Baseline	Method ②
	yes	Method ①	Method ③(proposed)

# Experimental (results)

Method with proposed conditions outperform others



# Conclusion

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- ✓ We showed two conditions, which should be met in multi-label PU ranking
- ✓ We demonstrated the effectiveness of these condition by experimental results