# Learning with previously unseen features

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# References:

Learning with with Previously Unseen Features by YUAN SHI and CRAIG A. KNOBLOCK (IJCAI - 17):

https://www.ijcai.org/proceedings/2017/0379.pdf

#### **GITHUB LINK:**

https://github.com/akshay25vyas/learning from unseen features

### Problem Statement:

- Improving a machine learning model by identifying and using features that are not in training set.
- We propose a novel approach that learns a model over **both original** and new features.
- Author's result of LUF shows significant improvement over baselines.

# What is different?

- Our problem is a special case of semi-supervised learning.
- Existing semi-supervised learning algorithms focus on using unlabeled data from the same feature space of labeled data.
- But we are building a new machine learning model that models over both original and new-features.

Ex: Consider a model that predicts a job applicant's quality. Now qualities will be modeled using both qualities on resume and say applicant's social media such as facebook.

# Approach:

#### Given:

N Labeled samples  $\{(X_s, Y_s)\}_s^N$  and M Unlabeled samples  $\{(X_t, Z_t)\}_t^M$ 

#### Predict:

We want to learn a model  $f \theta (x, z)$  where  $\theta$  represents the model parameters, and the predicted label as  $\hat{y} = f \theta (X, Z)$ 

# Challenges:

• For each source-domain sample ( $X_s$ ,  $Y_s$ ), if we could estimate its  $\hat{z}_s$  reliably, we can simply train  $f\theta(x,z)$  on the source domain. However, estimating z from x can be challenging when their dependency is weak.

 Training on the target domain is very challenging as there are no labels available.

### Solutions:

- If our model predicts target-domain labels  $\{\hat{y}_t\}$  well, then  $\{\hat{y}_t\}$  should be consistent with the training labels. Consistency is expressed through the joint distribution of (x, y) such that  $\{(x_s, y_s)\}$  and  $\{(x_t, \hat{y}_t)\}$  are mixed as much as possible.
- When this happens, each source-domain sample (x<sub>s</sub>, y<sub>s</sub>) becomes close to its k-nearest neighbors in the target domain, and vise-versa. Therefore, we propose the following objective function to minimize the cross-domain k-nearest neighbor distances in the joint space of (x, y)

### Problem Formulation:

$$\begin{split} \min_{\theta} \sum_{s} \sum_{t \in \mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{T}}^{k}(s)} \mathsf{dist}[(\mathbf{x}_{s}, y_{s}), (\mathbf{x}_{t}, \hat{y}_{t})] \\ + \sum_{t} \sum_{s \in \mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{S}}^{k}(t)} \mathsf{dist}[(\mathbf{x}_{t}, \hat{y}_{t}), (\mathbf{x}_{s}, y_{s})] + \lambda \|\theta\|_{2}^{2} \end{split}$$

Where,

$$dist[(\mathbf{x}_s, y_s), (\mathbf{x}_t, \hat{y}_t)] = \|\mathbf{x}_s - \mathbf{x}_t\|_2^2 + \gamma \Delta(y_s, \hat{y}_t)$$

Regularized Linear Regression:

$$J(\theta) = \frac{1}{2m} \sum_{i=1}^{m} h_{\theta}(x^{(i)}) - y^{(i)}$$

$$+ \lambda \sum_{j=1}^{n} \theta_{j}^{2}$$

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$$\frac{1}{2\theta_{j}} \left( h_{\theta}(x^{(i)} - y^{(i)}) \right) \frac{1}{2\theta_{j}} h_{\theta}(x^{(i)})$$

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$$\min_{\theta} \sum_{s} \sum_{t \in \mathcal{N}_{\tau}^{k}(s)} \left[ v_{st}^{2} + \gamma \Delta \left( y_{s}, f_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_{t}, \mathbf{z}_{t}) \right) \right]$$

$$+ \sum_{t} \sum_{s \in \mathcal{N}_{s}^{k}(t)} \left[ v_{ts}^{2} + \gamma \Delta \left( y_{s}, f_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_{t}, \mathbf{z}_{t}) \right) \right] + \lambda \|\theta\|_{2}^{2}$$

For regression tasks, we simply set:

$$\Delta(y_s, \hat{y}_t) = \|y_s - \hat{y}_t\|^2.$$

For classification tasks with C classes, we use probabilistic classification models and set :

$$\Delta(y_s, \hat{y}_t) = 1 - \sum_{c=1}^{C} y_s(c) \hat{y}_t(c)$$

Where  $\hat{y}_t$  is a C-dimensional vector representing the probability in each class, and  $y_s$  is a C-dimensional binary vector.

# Alternating Optimization:

Let  $V_T^k(s)$  index  $(X_s, Y_s)$ 's any (not necessarily the nearest) k neighbors in the target domain, and  $V_s^k(t)$  index  $(x_t, y_t)$ 's any k neighbors in the source domain.

$$\sum_{t \in \mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{T}}^{k}(s)} \left[ v_{st}^{2} + \Delta(y_{s}, f_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_{t}, \mathbf{z}_{t})) \right]$$

$$= \min_{\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{T}}^{k}(s)} \sum_{t \in \mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{T}}^{k}(s)} \left[ v_{st}^{2} + \Delta(y_{s}, f_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_{t}, \mathbf{z}_{t})) \right]$$

This is equivalent to

$$\min_{\theta, \{\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{T}}^{k}(s)\}, \{\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{S}}^{k}(t)\}} \sum_{s} \sum_{t \in \mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{T}}^{k}(s)} \left[ v_{st}^{2} + \Delta(y_{s}, f_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_{t}, \mathbf{z}_{t})) \right]$$

$$+ \sum_{t} \sum_{s \in \mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{S}}^{k}(t)} \left[ v_{ts}^{2} + \Delta(y_{s}, f_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_{t}, \mathbf{z}_{t})) \right] + \lambda \|\theta\|_{2}^{2}$$

When  $\theta$  is fixed, we update  $\{V_{\tau}^{k}(s)\}$  and  $\{V_{s}^{k}(t)\}$  based on nearest neighbor search. When  $\{V_{\tau}^{k}(s)\}$  and  $\{V_{s}^{k}(t)\}$  are fixed, we optimize  $\theta$  by solving

$$\min_{\theta} \sum_{s} \sum_{t \in \mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{T}}^{k}(s)} \Delta(y_{s}, f_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_{t}, \mathbf{z}_{t}))$$

$$+ \sum_{t} \sum_{s \in \mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{S}}^{k}(t)} \Delta(y_{s}, f_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_{t}, \mathbf{z}_{t})) + \lambda \|\theta\|_{2}^{2}$$

This is easier to optimize than earlier equation when  $\theta$  is smooth in  $\theta$ .

#### Algorithm 1 Optimization algorithm for LUF

**Input**: source-domain samples  $\{(\mathbf{x}_s, y_s)\}_{s=1}^{N}$  and targetdomain samples  $\{(\mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{z}_t)\}_{t=1}^{M}$ , neighbor size k, weight parameter  $\gamma$ , and regularization parameter  $\lambda$ .

**Initialize**  $\theta$  by solving Eq. (8)

for  $iter = 1, 2, \cdots, T$  do

for  $s=1,2,\cdots,N$  do

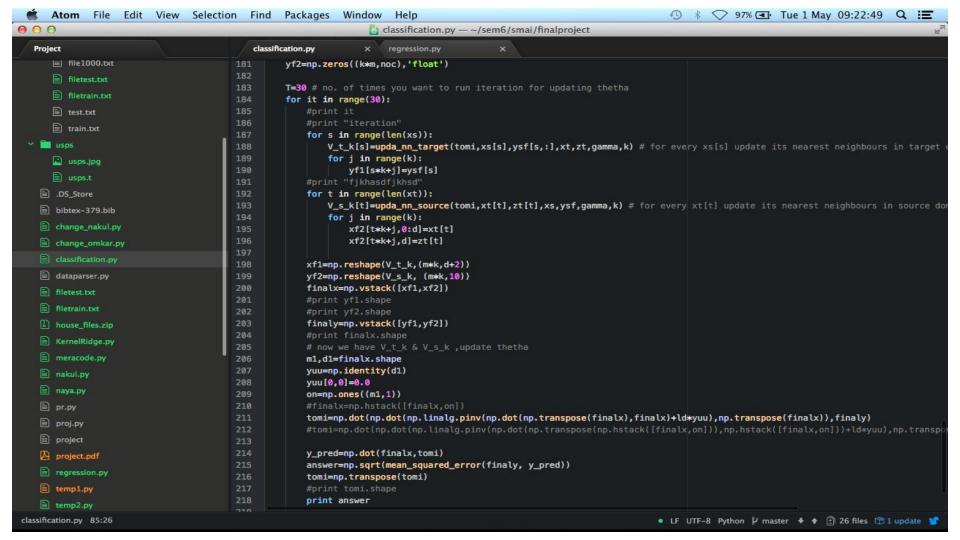
Fix  $\theta$ , update  $\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{T}}^k(s)$ 

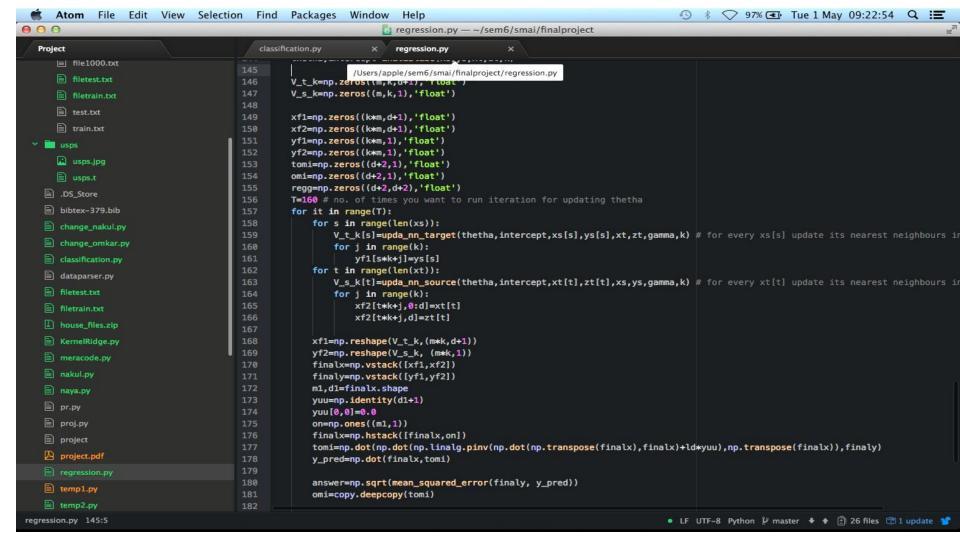
for  $t=1,2,\cdots,M$  do

Fix  $\theta$ , update  $\mathcal{V}_{S}^{k}(t)$ 

Fix  $\{\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{T}}^k(s)\}, \{\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{S}}^k(t)\}$ , optimize  $\theta$  by solving Eq. (6)

**Output**: a local optimal solution  $\theta^*$ .





### Initialization:

The quality of the solution depends on how we initialize  $\theta$ . If we could get a good estimate of z's based on each source-domain sample xs, we can initialize  $\theta$  by solving

$$\min_{\theta} \sum_{s} \Delta(y_s, f_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_s, \hat{\mathbf{z}}_s)) \tag{7}$$

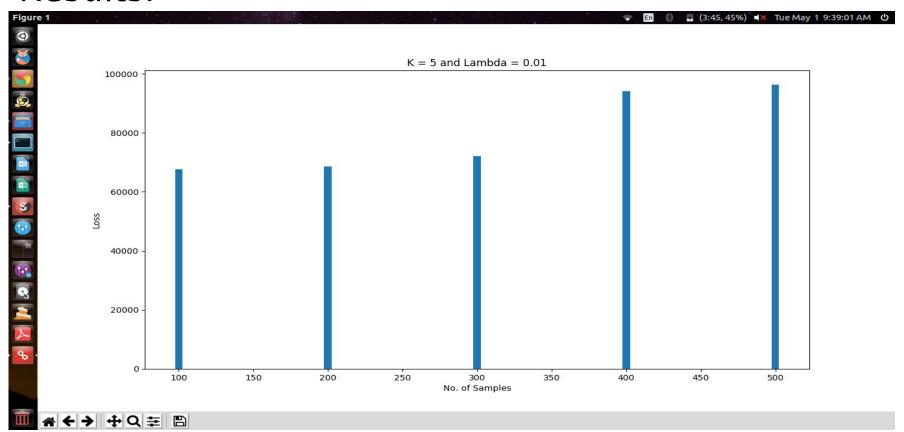
However, estimating z^s can be very challenging when the dependency between x and z is weak. for each xs, we find a set of its nearest neighbors in  $\{xt\}$ , and use the corresponding zt to form a candidate set Zs. We then minimize the model error by optimizing both  $\theta$  and  $\{z^s\}$ :

$$\min_{\theta} \sum_{\hat{\mathbf{z}}_s \in \mathcal{Z}_s} \Delta(y_s, f_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}_s, \hat{\mathbf{z}}_s)) \tag{8}$$

# Complexity Analysis:

- In our Algorithm, each iteration involves N updates on  $V_T^k(s)$  and M updates on  $V_s^k(t)$ .
- Each update on  $V_T^k(s)$  takes  $O(MD^2)$  and each update on  $V_s^k(t)$  takes  $O(ND^2)$ , where D is the dimensionality of original features. Therefore the complexity of updating  $\{V_T^k(s)\}$  and  $\{V_s^k(t)\}$  at each iteration is  $O(NMD^2)$ .
- Additionally, each iteration involves learning a linear regression or logistic regression function, whose complexity is O((D + W)²(N + M)) where W is the dimensionality of new features and we assume N > D + W.
- Further assuming W = O(D) and M = O(N), we have the overall complexity as  $O(D^2N^2)$ .

# Results:



#### Results:

For Regression phase:

% of increase as compared to diff model:-

We used kernel Regression: 164071.171593 was its rmse error.

Our model Rmse Error: 135234.050503 (for 500 samples)

% increase is: (164071.171593 - 135234.050503)/164071.171593 \* 100

I.e - 17.57% of improvement.

#### Results:

For Classification phase:

% of increase as compared to diff model:-

We used Logistic Regression: 13.256% was its classification error rate.

Our model classification error rate: 12.586% (for 500 samples)

% increase is : (13.256 - 12.586)/13.256 \* 100

I.e - 5.05% of improvement.

### Work Done:

- Implemented complete Model with Alternating optimization.
- Implemented both regression and classification model.
- Dataset used for calculating prediction error (RMSE) on
  - Regression: House, 8 for housing price prediction, contains 20,640 samples with 9 features.
  - Classification: USPS, which recognizes handwriting digits from images, contains 9,298
     samples from 10 classes.

### Conclusion

- We presented a novel machine learning approach that leverages
  previously unseen features in the training set. The approach is applicable
  to both classification and regression tasks. Supported by our empirical
  results, the approach can be used to improve a learning model when new
  features are accessible.
- We also plan to develop algorithms that can automatically determine when to explore new features and which features to select from a large pool of features in an open environment.

## Thank You

