

# Domain Generalization via Multidomain Discriminant Analysis

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## Motivation

**Background:** distribution shift, which is ubiquitous in practice, is the major source of model performance reduction when applied on previously unseen data.

### Objective (general)

Incorporate the knowledge from multiple source domains to improve the generalization ability of classifiers on unseen target domains. [1]

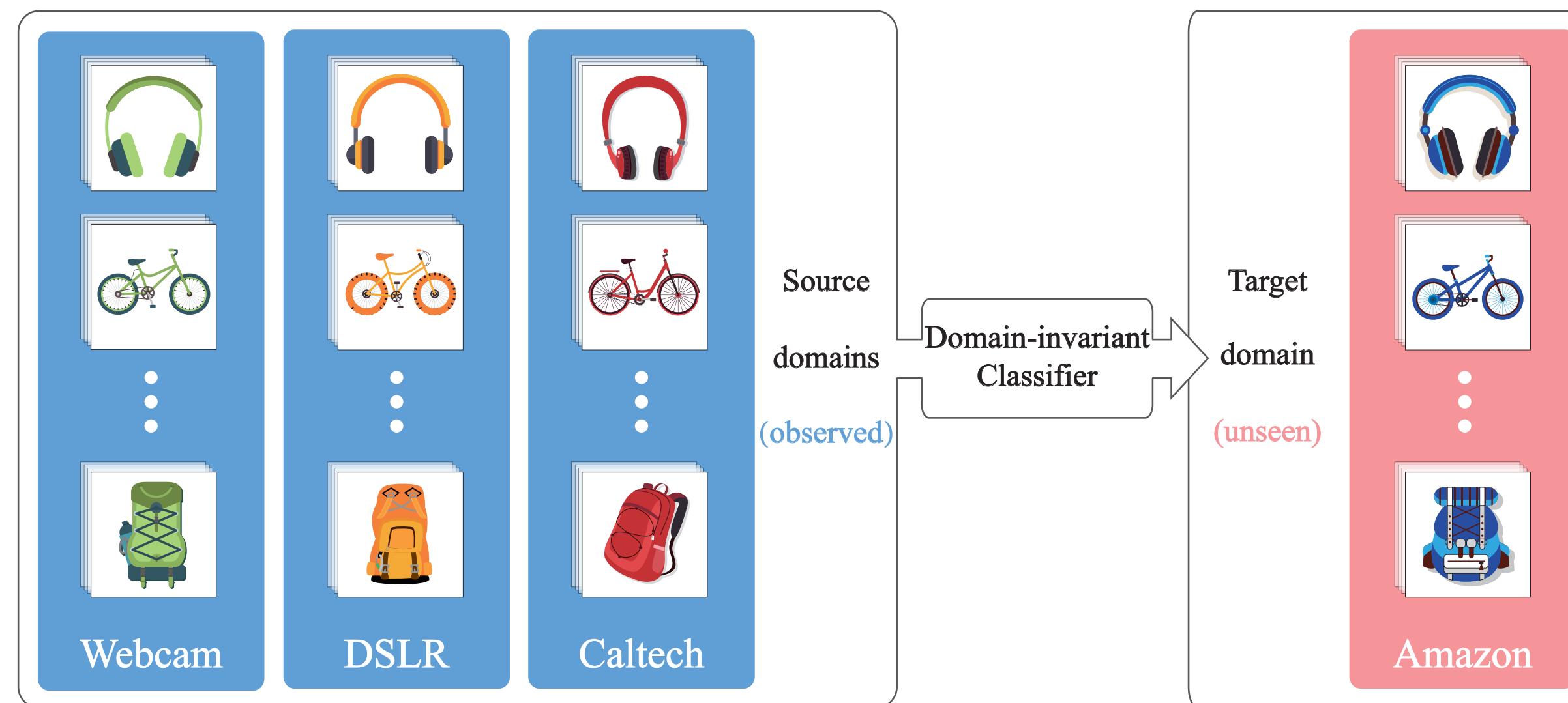


Figure: Illustration of DG on Office+Caltech Dataset. One is given source domains: Webcam, DSLR, Caltech, and aims to train a classifier generalizes well on target domain Amazon, which is unavailable in training.

## Problem Setup

| Notation         | Description                      | Notation  | Description                               |
|------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|---|
| $X, Y$           | feature/label variable           | $x, y$    | feature/label instance                    |
| $m, n$           | # domains/instances              | $Z$       | domain-invariant latent variable          |
| $\mathbb{P}_j^s$ | class-conditional distribution   | $\mu_j^s$ | kernel mean embedding of $\mathbb{P}_j^s$ |
| $u_j$            | mean representation of class $j$ | $\bar{u}$ | mean representation of $\mathcal{D}$      |

### Model assumptions

A domain is defined to be a joint distribution  $\mathbb{P}(X, Y)$ .

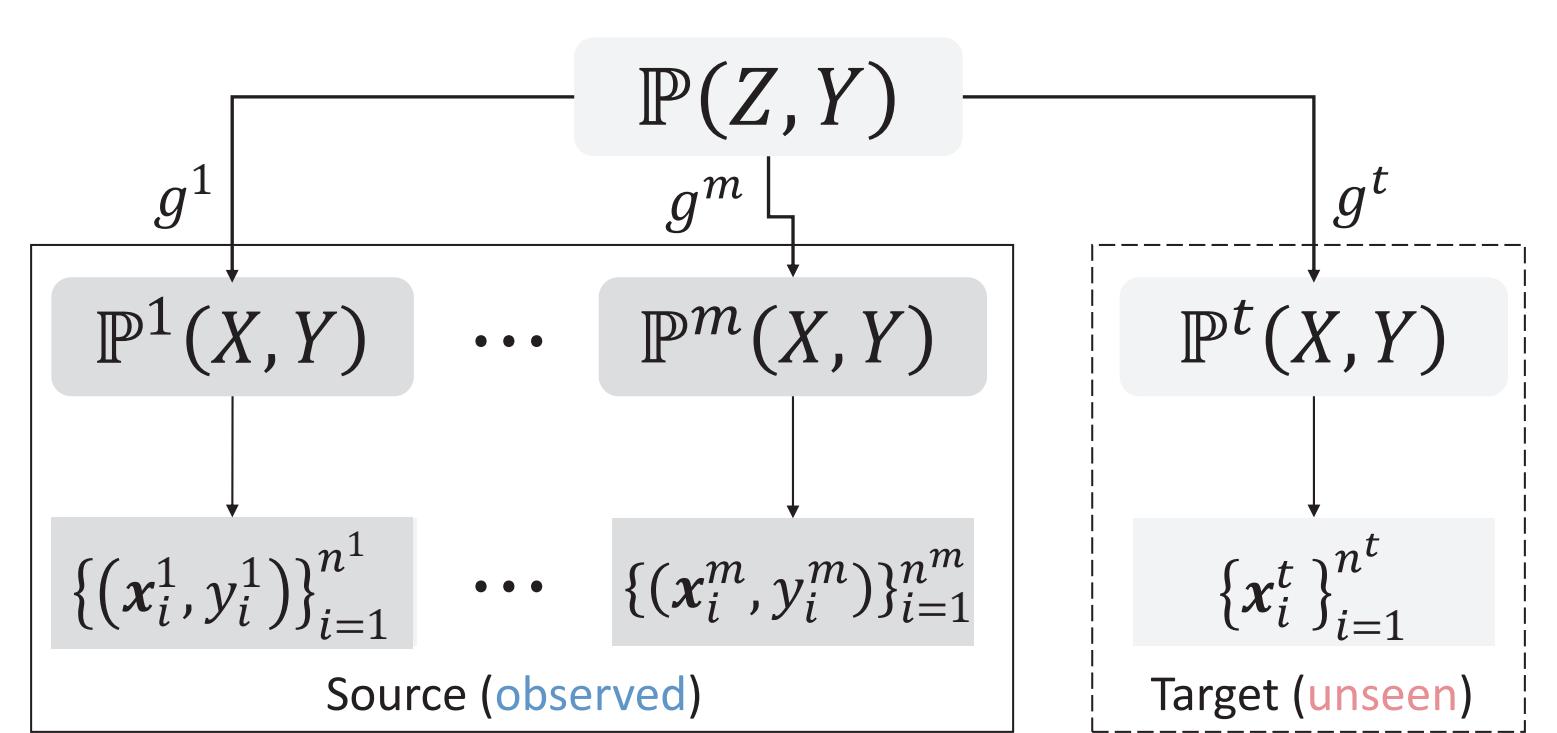


Figure: Domain generalization model assumption.  $m$  domains are uniformly sampled from a set of domains and are called the **source domains**. A model trained on  $m$  source domains is expected to generalize well on an unseen domain  $\mathbb{P}^t(X, Y)$ , which is called the **target domain**.

### Objective (our method)

We aim to learn a feature transformation,  $h(X) : \mathcal{X} \mapsto \mathbb{R}^q$ , from the input space to a  $q$ -dimensional transformed space  $\mathbb{R}^q$  such that

1. source instances of the same class are close in  $\mathbb{R}^q$ ;
2. source instances of different classes are distant in  $\mathbb{R}^q$ .

### Postulate 1. Independence of cause and mechanism [2]

If  $Y$  causes  $X$  ( $Y \rightarrow X$ ), then the marginal distribution of the cause,  $\mathbb{P}(Y)$ , and the conditional distribution of the effect given the cause,  $\mathbb{P}(X|Y)$ , are "independent" in the sense that  $\mathbb{P}(X|Y)$  contains no information about  $\mathbb{P}(Y)$ .

According to the postulate above, we factorize the joint distributions in the causal direction

$$\mathbb{P}(X, Y) = \mathbb{P}(Y)\mathbb{P}(X|Y), \quad (1)$$

and manipulate the class-conditional distributions  $\mathbb{P}^s(X|Y = j)$  for  $s = 1, \dots, m$  and  $j = 1, \dots, c$  instead of marginal distributions in most previous works [3].

## Regularization Measures

### Within-class measures (objective 1)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Average Domain Discrepancy} & \Psi^{add} := \frac{1}{c \binom{m}{2}} \sum_{j=1}^c \sum_{1 \leq s < s' \leq m} \|\mu_j^s - \mu_j^{s'}\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 \\ \text{Multidomain within-class scatter} & \Psi^{mws} := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^c \sum_{s=1}^m \sum_{i=1}^{n_j^s} \|\phi(\mathbf{x}_{i,j}^s) - u_j\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 \end{aligned}$$

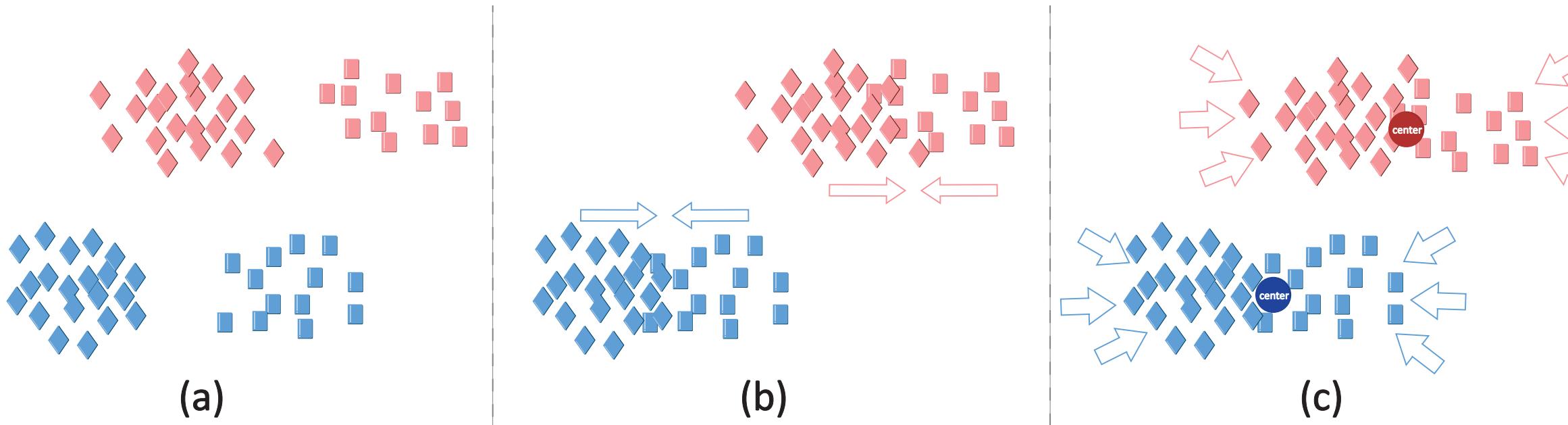


Figure: Illustration of  $\Psi^{add}$  and  $\Psi^{mws}$  (colors - classes; markers - domains). (a) The distribution of data in the subspace  $\mathbb{R}^q$  transformed by some  $\mathbf{W}^0$ . (b) Minimizing  $\Psi^{add}$  makes the means within each class closer. (c) Minimizing  $\Psi^{mws}$  makes the distribution of each class more compact towards its mean representation.

### Between-class measures (objective 2)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Average class discrepancy} & \Psi^{acd} := \frac{1}{\binom{c}{2}} \sum_{1 \leq j < j' \leq c} \|u_j - u_{j'}\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 \\ \text{Multidomain between-class scatter} & \Psi^{mbs} := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^c n_j \|u_j - \bar{u}\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 \end{aligned}$$

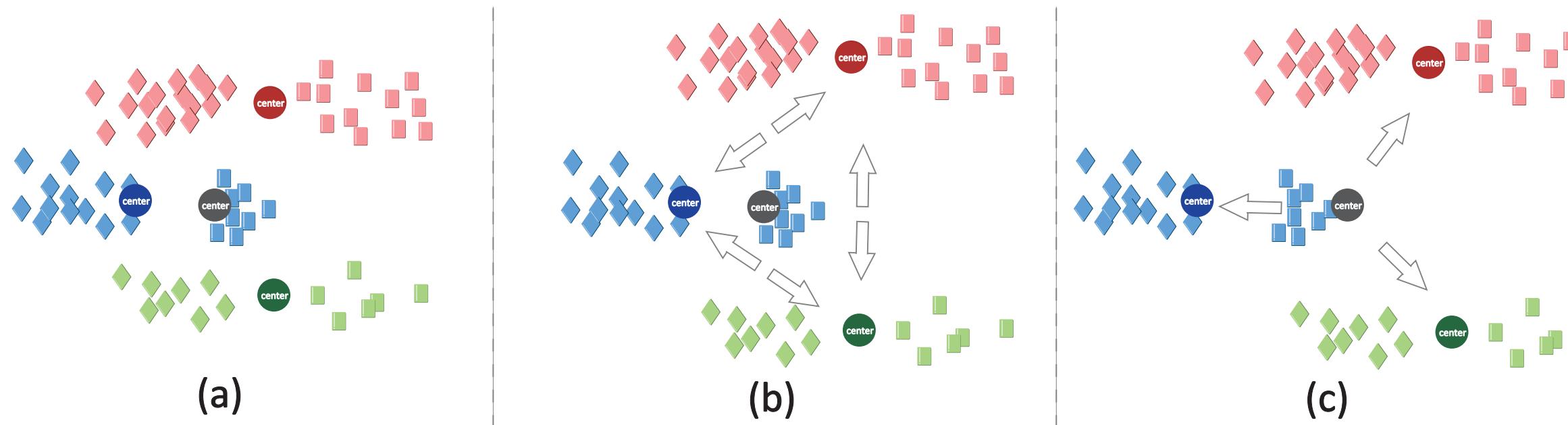


Figure: Illustration of  $\Psi^{acd}$  and  $\Psi^{mbs}$  (colors - classes; markers - domains). (a) The distribution of data in the subspace  $\mathbb{R}^q$  transformed by some  $\mathbf{W}^0$ . (b) Maximizing  $\Psi^{acd}$  makes the distances between each pair of mean representations larger. (c) Maximizing  $\Psi^{mbs}$  makes the average distance between the overall mean and the mean representation of different classes larger.

## Multidomain Discriminant Analysis

### The optimization problem

We unify regularization measures and solve the following optimization problem:

$$\arg \max \frac{\Psi^{acd} + \Psi^{mbs}}{\Psi^{add} + \Psi^{mws}} \quad (2)$$

We term the proposed method Multidomain Discriminant Analysis (MDA) and summarize the algorithm below

**Input:**  $\mathcal{D} = \{\mathcal{D}^s\}_{s=1}^m$  - the set of instances from  $m$  domains;  
 $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$  - trade-off parameters;

**Feature transformation learning**  
**Output:** Optimal projection  $\mathbf{B}_{n \times q}$ ;  
 corresponding eigenvalues  $\Gamma$ .

- Construct kernel matrix  $\mathbf{K}$ , whose entry on  $i$ th row and  $i'$ th column  $[\mathbf{K}]_{ii'} = k(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{x}_{i'})$ ;
- Compute matrices corresponding to regularization measures;
- Center the kernel matrix as  $\mathbf{K} \leftarrow \mathbf{K} - \mathbf{1}_n \mathbf{K} - \mathbf{K} \mathbf{1}_n + \mathbf{1}_n \mathbf{K} \mathbf{1}_n$ , where  $\mathbf{1}_n \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times 1}$  denotes a matrix with all entries equal to  $\frac{1}{n}$ ;
- Solve for the projection  $\mathbf{B}$  and corresponding eigenvalues  $\Gamma$ , then select  $q$  leading components.
- Denote the set of instances from the target domain by  $\mathcal{D}^t$ , one first constructs the kernel matrix  $\mathbf{K}^t$ , where  $[\mathbf{K}^t]_{ii'} = k(\mathbf{x}_i^t, \mathbf{x}_{i'})$ ,  $\forall \mathbf{x}_i^t \in \mathcal{D}^t$ ,  $\forall \mathbf{x}_i \in \mathcal{D}$ ;
- Center the kernel matrix as  $\mathbf{K}^t \leftarrow \mathbf{K}^t - \mathbf{1}_n \mathbf{K}^t - \mathbf{K}^t \mathbf{1}_n + \mathbf{1}_n \mathbf{K}^t \mathbf{1}_n$ , where  $n^t$  is the number of instances in  $\mathcal{D}^t$ ;
- Then the transformed features of the target domain are given by  $\mathbf{X}^t = \mathbf{K}^t \mathbf{B} \Gamma^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ .

## Learning Theory Analysis

**Theorem 3.** Under assumptions 2 - 4, and assuming that all source sample sets are of the same size, i.e.  $n^s = \bar{n}$  for  $s = 1, \dots, m$ , then with probability at least  $1 - \delta$  there is

$$\sup_{\|\mathbf{f}\|_{\mathcal{H}} \leq 1} \left| \frac{1}{m} \sum_{s=1}^m \frac{1}{n^s} \sum_{i=1}^{n^s} \ell(f(\hat{X}_i^s \mathbf{W}), y_i^s) - \mathcal{E}(f, \infty) \right| \leq U_\ell \left( \sqrt{\frac{\log 2\delta^{-1}}{2m\bar{n}}} + \sqrt{\frac{\log \delta^{-1}}{2m}} \right) + \sqrt{\text{tr}(\mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{K} \mathbf{B})} \left( c_1 \sqrt{\frac{\log 2\delta^{-1}}{\bar{n}}} + c_2 \left( \sqrt{\frac{1}{m\bar{n}}} + \sqrt{\frac{1}{m}} \right) \right). \quad (3)$$

The first term is of order  $O(m^{-1/2})$  and converges to zero as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ . The second term involves the size of the distortion  $\text{tr}(\mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{K} \mathbf{B})$  introduced by  $\mathbf{B}$ . Therefore, a poor choice of  $\mathbf{B}$  would lose the guarantee.

## Experiments

**Synthetic data.** Data: two-dimensional Gaussian. Domains: two source domains and one target domain. Classes: three classes in each domain.

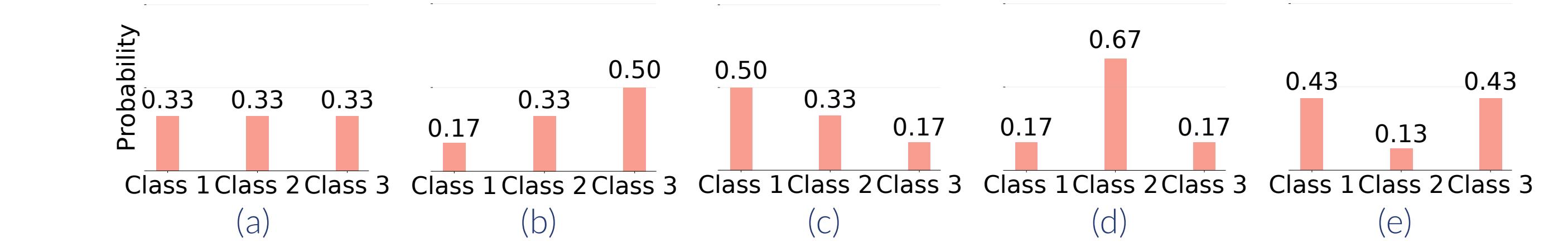


Figure: Class Prior Distributions  $\mathbb{P}(Y)$  in Synthetic Experiments.

Table: Accuracy (%) of Synthetic Experiments (bold red and bold indicate the best and second best).

| $\mathbb{P}^1(Y)$ | (a)          | (b)          | (c)          | (d)          | (e)          | (a)          | (b)          | (c)          | (d)          | (e) |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----|
| SVM               | 56.00        | 34.00        | 33.33        | 33.33        | 33.33        | 40.00        | 36.00        | 60.00        |              |     |
| KPCA              | 66.00        | 62.00        | 66.67        | 33.33        | 33.33        | 65.33        | 36.00        | 40.00        | 14.00        |     |
| KFD               | 78.67        | 38.67        | 46.00        | 74.67        | 47.33        | 49.33        | 34.00        | 19.33        | 76.00        |     |
| L-SVM             | 56.00        | 60.00        | 64.00        | 62.00        | 60.67        | 64.67        | 45.33        | 46.00        | 59.33        |     |
| DICA              | <b>93.33</b> | 84.67        | 76.00        | <b>84.00</b> | 84.67        | 54.00        | <b>95.33</b> | 71.33        | <b>88.67</b> |     |
| SCA               | 79.33        | 72.00        | <b>84.67</b> | 57.33        | 76.00        | 59.33        | 84.67        | 61.33        | 81.33        |     |
| CIDG              | 90.67        | <b>87.33</b> | 74.67        | 77.33        | <b>86.67</b> | 83.33        | 92.00        | 82.00        | 86.00        |     |
| MDA               | <b>96.67</b> | <b>96.00</b> | <b>97.33</b> | <b>94.00</b> | <b>94.00</b> | <b>91.33</b> | <b>95.33</b> | <b>94.00</b> | <b>94.00</b> |     |

**VLCS Dataset.** Data: DeCAF<sub>6</sub> features of 4096 dimensions. Domains: V(VOC2007), L(LabelMe), C(Caltech), and S(SUN09). Classes: five classes (bird, car, chair, dog, and person).

Table: Accuracy (%) of VLCS Dataset

| Target | V            | L            | C            | S            | V, L         | V, C         | V, S         | L, C  | L, S         | C, S         |
|--------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|--------------|--------------|
| 1NN    | 60.19        | 53.57        | 89.94        | 55.74        | 57.26        | 58.54        | 50.59        | 66.06 | 58.13        | 66.25        |
| SVM    | <b>68.57</b> | 59.26        | <b>93.99</b> | <b>65.27</b> | <b>61.80</b> | <b>64.39</b> | <b>55.89</b> | 70.08 | <b>64.10</b> | <b>71.09</b> |
| KPCA   | 60.69        | 54.86        | 83.89        | 55.61        | 57.54        | 57.50        | 49.46        | 67.48 | 56.05        | 66.15        |
| KFD    | 61.64        | <b>60.54</b> | 86.78        | 58.75        | 57.33        | 46.84        | 53.20        | 70.03 | 61.64        | 67.87        |
| L-SVM  | 58.14        | 39.87        | 75.56        | 52.92        | 52.25        | 56.64        | 48.27        | 61.24 | 56.65        | 66.27        |
| CCSA   | 60.39        | 58.80        | 86.88        | 59.87        | 59.27        | 55.02        | 51.56        | 69.94 | 61.41        | 68.49        |
| DICA   | 62.71        | 59.38        | 86.15        | 57.28        | 58.11        | 55.08        | 55.17        | 70.01 |              |              |