Comparing Boosting and Cost-Sensitive Boosting With Imbalanced Data

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Abstract

Class imbalance problem has emerged as one of the crucial issues in machine learning and data mining communities since there is increasing growth and availability of real world data distributed skew or unequal misclassification costs of the minority and majority classes. This paper compares the performance of several boosting and cost-sensitive boosting methods in terms of their capabilities in dealing with the class imbalance problem by using evaluation metrics, precision, F-Measure, Geometric mean (G-mean), and the area under receiver operating characteristics curve (AUC) on five NASA benchmark imbalanced datasets (JM1, KC1, KC2, PC1 and CM1). The learning algorithms studied in this paper include Logistic regression, AdaBoost, AdaC1, AdaC2, AdaC3, and cost-sensitive classifiers based on the former two respectively. The experimental results show that it is difficult to say which one is the best for handling class imbalance without consideration of evaluation metrics.

Keywords: Classification, Class Imbalance, AdaBoost, Cost-Sensitive Learning

1. Introduction

With the increasing growth and availability of real world data distributed skew or unequal misclassification costs of the minority and majority classes, class imbalance problem has emerged as one of the crucial issues in machine learning and data mining communities [1-7]. Although the number of samples from minority classes is much smaller than from majority classes, classifiers have to identify a minor but important case, such as software fault-proneness analysis [1], credit card fraud detection, rare medical diseases diagnosis, and oil spill detection in satellite radar images.

Many methods have been developed to address this problem [8-19]. Among them, data sampling is a popular method, which contains majority undersampling and minority oversampling. The former creates a subset of the original data set by deleting instances from the majority class; conversely, the latter creates a superset of the original data set by copying or creating new instances into the minority class. Synthetic sampling with data generation (SMOTE) [9], adaptive synthetic sampling (Borderline-SMOTE) [10], RUSBoost [13], Ramoboost [14], IRUS [16], EDAOS [18] and SBoost [19] are famous data sampling approaches and have achieved satisfactory results.

In addition to data sampling, cost-sensitive extensions of existing algorithms are other kinds of methods proposed for handling class imbalance by adding costs, such as AdaCost [8], AdaC1 & AdaC2 & AdaC3 [11] and cost-sensitive variations of AdaBoost & RealBoost & LogitBoost [15].

Each method has its benefits and drawbacks. Some authors support boosting as being better than data sampling [13]. Others find there is no significant difference between bagging and boosting [4]. Still others discover that cost-sensitive learning outperforms data sampling [17], and oversampling performs better than undersampling [17]. However, there is no study focusing on comparing boosting and cost-sensitive learning. This paper will address this problem.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 provides an overview of AdaBoost and cost-sensitive AdaBoost. The components of our experimental design are discussed in Section 3. The experimental results are analyzed in Section 4. Conclusions are presented in Section 5.

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2. An overview of AdaBoost and Cost-Sensitive AdaBoost

AdaBoost is one of the most popular boosting algorithms, proposed by Yoav Freund and Robert Schapire [20]. It iteratively increases weights of misclassified instances, and decreases weights of correctly classified instances, thus constructing a "strong" classifier H:X→Y as a linear combination of "simple" "weak" classifiers on the condition that performances of "weak" classifiers are better than guesses (error rate is less than 0.5 for a binary classification problem), where X is the instance space, and contains n-tuple of attribute values; Y={-1, +1} is label set, where y_i returns the label for the instance x_i . Its pseudocode is described in Algorithm 1.

Algorithm 1 Pseudocode for AdaBoost [20]

Input: the training data set T, the test data set S, a "weak" classifiers h, and the maximum number of iterations N. Initialize the initial weight vector, that $D^1 = (\frac{1}{m}, \dots, \frac{1}{m})$, where m is the size of T. We allow users to specify the initial vector.

For t=1,...,N

1. Train base learner $h_t: X \to Y$ using distribution \mathbf{w}^t over T and the unlabeled data set S;

2. Set
$$\beta_t = \frac{1}{2} \log(\frac{\sum_{i, y_i = h_t(x_i)} D_i^t}{\sum_{i, y_i \neq h_t(x_i)} D_i^t})$$
, where $\sum_{i, y_i = h_t(x_i)} D_i^t > \sum_{i, y_i \neq h_t(x_i)} D_i^t$; (1)

1. Train base learner
$$h_t: X \to Y$$
 using distribution \mathbf{w}^t over T and the unlabeled data set S;
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3. Update the new weight vector: $D_i^{t+1} = \frac{D_i^t \exp(-\beta_t h_t(x_i) y_i)}{Z_t} = \begin{cases} \frac{D_i^t \exp(-\beta_t)}{Z_t} &, h_t(x_i) = y_i \\ \frac{D_i^t \exp(\beta_t)}{Z_t} &, h_t(x_i) \neq y_i \end{cases}$

Where Z_t is a normalization factor.

Output the final classifier $H(x) = sign(\sum_{t=1}^{N} \beta_t h_t(x)) = argmax(\sum_{t=1}^{N} \beta_t h_t(x))$

Yanmin Sun, Mohamed S. Kamel, Andrew K.C. Wong and Yang Wang extended AdaBoost for cost-sensitive learning by adding misclassification cost into the weight update strategy, and proposed three cost-sensitive boosting algorithms, namely AdaC1, AdaC2 and AdaC3 [11]. Formally, the problem that AdaC1, AdaC2 and AdaC3 solved is as followed. Given a number of labeled training data T, some unlabeled test data S and misclassification costs of the minority and majority classes, namely C_P and C_N , the objective is to train a "strong" classifier H: $X \rightarrow Y$ that reduce misclassification cost on the unlabeled data set S to a large extent.

AdaC1, AdaC2 and AdaC3 keep the same framework of AdaBoost, but update weights differently, namely adding misclassification costs of the minority and majority classes to the different places relative to the bracket of Eq.(2), either at the front of, or in, or outside of the

Yanmin Sun, Mohamed S. Kamel, Andrew K.C. Wong and Yang Wang pointed out [11] that AdaC2 and AdaC3 are sensitive to the cost setups. Furthermore, they conclude that AdaC2 is superior to its rivals.

3. Experiments

In this section, we set up experiments to investigate Logistic regression, AdaBoost, AdaC1, AdaC2, AdaC3, and cost-sensitive classifiers based on the former two respectively, also known as CSCLogistic and CSC AdaBoost, in terms of their capabilities in dealing with the class imbalance problem.

3.1 Data sets

In this paper, five NASA projects (JM1, KC1, KC2, PC1 and CM1) are selected as the class imbalance problems inherent in the data which hinder the learning from building an effective classification model to distinguish fault-prone modules from the non-fault-prone modules. They downloaded be from NASA metrics data program (http://promise.site.uottawa.ca/SERepository) [21]. They have 22 attributes, where 21 are metric attributes, and 1 is fault-proneness attribute. The former 21 metric attributes are more popular, such as lines of code (shortly LOC), McCabe cyclomatic complexity metric [22], Halstead metrics, Chidamber-Kemerer metrics suite [23]. The last attribute is label: label +1 denotes fault-proneness which is treated as the positive class and label -1 represents the non-fault-proneness which is treated as the negative class.

3.2 Weak Classifier

This paper uses the well-known Logistic regression as the weak classifier based on two reasons: (1) it is well-known and widely used; (2) it is a standard statistical technique for classification. Moreover, the default parameters for it are set as recommended in WEKA [24]. In most cases, the impact of varying the parameters is small. The default parameters of the Logistic regression include the following [24]: maxIts -1, ridge 1.0E-8.

3.3 Evaluation Criteria

A large number of evaluation criteria have been used to evaluate and compare classification models [25, 26]. Almost all evaluation criteria are represented on the basis of the confusion matrix, such as accuracy, precision, recall, TPR, FPR, F-measure, G-Mean, GMPR, and AUC. Yanmin Sun, Mohamed S. Kamel, Andrew K.C. Wong and Yang Wang stated that the learning objective of class imbalance problem is either to achieve high recognition success of the positive class or to balance recognition ability between positive class and negative class [11]. As recommended in Ref. [25], the classification performances are evaluated by precision, F-measure, G-Mean, and AUC in this paper.

4. Empirical results

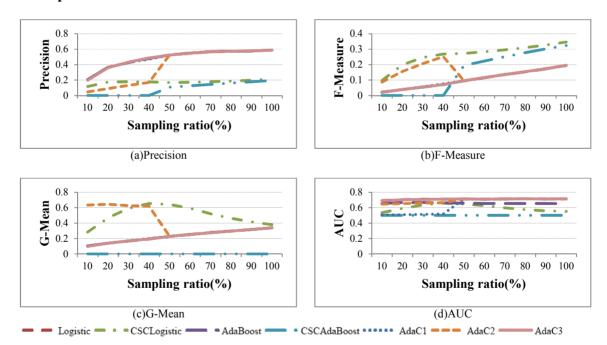


Figure 1. Performance of Logistic regression, AdaBoost, AdaC1, AdaC2, AdaC3, CSCLogistic and CSC AdaBoost across various class imbalanced ratios on the data set JM1, where $C_P=1$ and $C_N=0.1$.

The performances in term of evaluation criteria are the average results of 50 repeats by random. All performances are always generated by tenfold cross-validation of classification to avoid sampling bias. The number of iterations N is set to 10.

Our experiment is divided into three parts. The first is to observe by how many degrees different class imbalanced ratios affect classification performances. The second is to investigate by how many degrees different data sets affect classification performances. The last is to survey by how many degrees different cost setups of the minority and the majority classes, namely C_P and C_N , affect classification performances.

4.1 Various Class Imbalanced Ratios

In order to observe by how many degrees different class imbalanced ratios affect classification performances, the minority class of data set JM1 is sampled from 10% to 100%, at the same time as keeping its majority class the same. Moreover, $C_P=1$ and $C_N=0.1$. The result is shown in Figure 1.

From Figure 1, some general conclusions can be drawn as follows:

- (1) CSC AdaBoost always achieves the lowest precision, G-Mean, and AUC values regardless how many sampling ratios of the minority class of data set JM1.
- (2) AdaC2 varies precision, F-Measure, and G-Mean values largely at different sampling ratio of the minority class of data set JM1.
- (3) AdaC3 always achieves the highest precision and AUC values regardless how many sampling ratios of the minority class of data set JM1.
- (4) AdaC3 and Logistic regression nearly achieve the same Precision, F-Measure, G-Mean, and AUC values on the data set JM1.
- (5) With the decreasing sampling ratio of the minority class, class distribution is more skewed. Among three cost-sensitive AdaBoost algorithms, AdaC1 is the worst at dealing with the class imbalance problem, AdaC2 is modern, and AdaC3 is the best in term of AUC.

4.2 Different Data Sets

Table 1. Precision values of Logistic regression, AdaBoost, AdaC1, AdaC2, AdaC3, CSCLogistic and CSC AdaBoost across various data sets JM1, KC1, KC2, PC1 and CM1, where $C_P=1$ and $C_N=0.1$, $C_N=0.2$, $C_N=0.3$.

Costs	Datasets	Logistic	CSCLogistic	AdaBoost	CSCAdaBoost	AdaC1	AdaC2	AdaC3
	JM1	0.5886	0.2118	0.5886	0.1935	0.5873	0.5884	0.5865
	CM1	0.3390	0.2331	0.3390	0.0984	0.3052	0.2189	0.3433
$C_N = 0.1$	KC1	0.6097	0.2730	0.6097	0.1546	0.6096	0.6055	0.6089
	KC2	0.6146	0.3679	0.6145	0.2050	0.6160	0.6168	0.6192
	PC1	0.3301	0.2089	0.3301	0	0.3473	0.1940	0.3263
	JM1	0.5887	0.2943	0.5887	0.1935	0.5886	0.5869	0.5887
	CM1	0.3529	0.3052	0.3529	0	0.3402	0.2151	0.3523
$C_N = 0.2$	KC1	0.6068	0.3375	0.6068	0	0.6001	0.2948	0.6046
	KC2	0.6163	0.4438	0.6164	0.2050	0.6012	0.4106	0.6153
	PC1	0.3344	0.2335	0.3344	0	0.3234	0.1989	0.3121
	JM1	0.5886	0.3926	0.5886	0	0.5874	0.3197	0.5877
	CM1	0.3388	0.3154	0.3388	0	0.3373	0.2164	0.1619
$C_{N} = 0.3$	KC1	0.6078	0.4017	0.6078	0	0.6026	0.2992	0.6062
	KC2	0.6143	0.5078	0.6143	0	0.6176	0.4126	0.6150
	PC1	0.3407	0.2895	0.3407	0	0.3327	0.1906	0.1302

In order to investigate by how many degrees different data sets affect classification performances, five NASA projects (JM1, KC1, KC2, PC1 and CM1) are selected as data sets. Their imbalance ratio, namely the ratios between fault-prone and non-fault-prone modules vary largely, from 6.9432% to 20.4981%. That is to say, JM1 contains 10885 modules, in which

2106 are fault-prone; KC1 contains 2109 modules, in which 326 are fault-prone; KC2 contains 522 modules, in which 107 are fault-prone; CM1 contains 498 modules, in which 49 are fault-prone; PC1 contains 1109 modules, in which 77 are fault-prone. We set C_P =1 and change C_N from 0.1 to 0.3. The results are shown in Tables 1~4.

Table 2. F-Measure values of Logistic regression, AdaBoost, AdaC1, AdaC2, AdaC3, CSCLogistic and CSC AdaBoost across various data sets JM1, KC1, KC2, PC1 and CM1, where $C_P=1$ and $C_N=0.1$, $C_N=0.2$, $C_N=0.3$.

Costs	Datasets	Logistic	CSCLogistic	AdaBoost	CSCAdaBoost	AdaC1	AdaC2	AdaC3
	JM1	0.1953	0.3463	0.1953	0.3242	0.1949	0.1949	0.1945
	CM1	0.1907	0.3484	0.1907	0.1792	0.2738	0.3306	0.2011
$C_{N} = 0.1$	KC1	0.3165	0.4151	0.3165	0.2678	0.3175	0.3162	0.3172
	KC2	0.4913	0.5175	0.4911	0.3402	0.4922	0.4916	0.4944
	PC1	0.1385	0.2923	0.1385	0.0000	0.1640	0.3091	0.1362
	JM1	0.1948	0.4150	0.1948	0.3242	0.1948	0.1945	0.1951
	CM1	0.2079	0.3868	0.2079	0.0000	0.2042	0.3251	0.2017
$C_N = 0.2$	KC1	0.3162	0.4528	0.3162	0.0000	0.3203	0.4268	0.3148
	KC2	0.4909	0.5648	0.4908	0.3402	0.4976	0.5499	0.4919
	PC1	0.1431	0.2473	0.1431	0	0.1410	0.3144	0.1317
	JM1	0.1956	0.4269	0.1956	0	0.1953	0.4271	0.1949
	CM1	0.1982	0.3399	0.1982	0	0.1988	0.3261	0.2662
$C_{N} = 0.3$	KC1	0.3153	0.4672	0.3153	0	0.3168	0.4314	0.3170
	KC2	0.4907	0.5848	0.4907	0	0.4979	0.5524	0.4904
	PC1	0.1433	0.2425	0.1433	0	0.1436	0.3001	0.2282

Table 3. G-Mean values of Logistic regression, AdaBoost, AdaC1, AdaC2, AdaC3, CSCLogistic and CSC AdaBoost across various data sets JM1, KC1, KC2, PC1 and CM1, where C_P =1 and C_N =0.1, C_N =0.2, C_N =0.3.

Costs	Datasets	Logistic	CSCLogistic	AdaBoost	CSCAdaBoost	AdaC1	AdaC2	AdaC3
	JM1	0.3388	0.3807	0.3388	0	0.3384	0.3383	0.3381
	CM1	0.3582	0.7202	0.3582	0	0.4820	0.7052	0.3708
$C_N = 0.1$	KC1	0.4565	0.7076	0.4565	0	0.4574	0.4567	0.4572
	KC2	0.6181	0.7315	0.6180	0	0.6187	0.6179	0.6202
	PC1	0.2933	0.6477	0.2933	0	0.3244	0.7623	0.2908
	JM1	0.3383	0.6472	0.3383	0	0.3383	0.3380	0.3385
	CM1	0.3772	0.6772	0.3772	0	0.3751	0.6993	0.3699
$C_N = 0.2$	KC1	0.4565	0.7197	0.4565	0	0.4611	0.7153	0.4554
	KC2	0.6174	0.7627	0.6172	0	0.6274	0.7588	0.6186
	PC1	0.2988	0.4958	0.2988	0	0.2969	0.7618	0.2859
	JM1	0.3391	0.6218	0.3391	0	0.3388	0.6572	0.3385
	CM1	0.3678	0.5797	0.3678	0	0.3688	0.6988	0.6546
$C_N = 0.3$	KC1	0.4556	0.6880	0.4556	0	0.4575	0.7190	0.4573
	KC2	0.6177	0.7554	0.6177	0	0.6239	0.7611	0.6172
	PC1	0.2985	0.4478	0.2985	0	0.2995	0.7401	0.7058

Table 4. AUC values of Logistic regression, AdaBoost, AdaC1, AdaC2, AdaC3, CSCLogistic and CSC AdaBoost across various data sets JM1, KC1, KC2, PC1 and CM1, where $C_P=1$ and $C_N=0.1$, $C_N=0.2$, $C_N=0.3$.

Costs	Datasets	Logistic	CSCLogistic	AdaBoost	CSCAdaBoost	AdaC1	AdaC2	AdaC3
	JM1	0.7136	0.5508	0.6519	0.5	0.7135	0.7135	0.7136
	CM1	0.7819	0.7210	0.6903	0.5	0.5934	0.7060	0.7858
$C_{N} = 0.1$	KC1	0.7993	0.7221	0.7216	0.5	0.8000	0.7988	0.7989
	KC2	0.8163	0.7428	0.7717	0.5	0.8160	0.8151	0.8177
	PC1	0.8149	0.6746	0.7247	0.5	0.5462	0.7624	0.8142
$C_N = 0.2$	JM1	0.7136	0.6494	0.6515	0.5	0.7136	0.7136	0.7136
	CM1	0.7836	0.6986	0.6984	0.5	0.5576	0.7003	0.7875

	KC1	0.7991	0.7204	0.7209	0.5	0.5959	0.7174	0.7990
	KC2	0.8149	0.7629	0.7707	0.5	0.6760	0.7621	0.8160
	PC1	0.8149	0.5993	0.7259	0.5	0.5382	0.7620	0.8122
	JM1	0.7136	0.6471	0.6518	0.5	0.5487	0.6577	0.7137
	CM1	0.7829	0.6408	0.6996	0.5	0.5556	0.7000	0.6656
$C_{N} = 0.3$	KC1	0.7994	0.7031	0.7212	0.5	0.5945	0.7209	0.7997
	KC2	0.8159	0.7586	0.7713	0.5	0.6753	0.7644	0.8152
	PC1	0.8150	0.5853	0.7275	0.5	0.5390	0.7411	0.7314

From Tables 1~4, it can be seen that all classifiers achieve the highest precision, F-Measure, G-Mean, and AUC values on data set KC2 among five NASA projects (JM1, KC1, KC2, PC1 and CM1). However, both precision values of the positive class on PC1 and CM1 are less than 0.5.

4.2 Cost Setups

In order to observe by how many degrees different cost setups of the minority and majority classes, namely C_P and C_N , affect classification performances, we fix C_P =1, meantime change C_N from 0.1 to 0.9 on data set JM1. The result is shown in Figure 2.

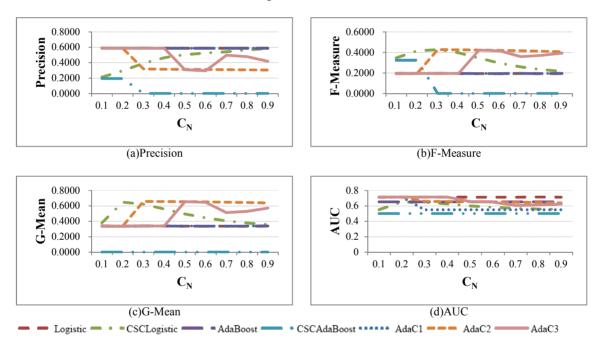


Figure 2. Performance of Logistic regression, AdaBoost, AdaC1, AdaC2, AdaC3, CSCLogistic and CSC AdaBoost across various cost setups on the data set JM1.

From Figure 2, the following statements can be made:

(1) AdaC2 and AdaC3 vary precision, F-Measure, and G-Mean values greatly at different C_N. By contrast, AdaC1 maintains almost the same precision, F-Measure, and G-Mean values regardless the values of C_N. For example, when C_P=1 and C_N=0.2, AdaC1 achieves its highest precision value 0.5886; when C_P=1 and C_N=0.1, it achieves its lowest precision value 0.5865. When C_P=1 and C_N=0.2, AdaC2 achieves its highest precision value 0.5884; when C_P=1 and C_N=0.9, it achieves its lowest precision value 0.3046. When C_P=1 and C_N=0.2, AdaC3 achieves its highest precision value 0.5887; when C_P=1 and C_N=0.6, it achieves its lowest precision value 0.2949. In this sense, AdaC2 and AdaC3 are more sensitive to the cost setups, which are consistent with Yanmin Sun, Mohamed S. Kamel, Andrew K.C. Wong and Yang Wang's viewpoint [11].

(2) AdaC1, AdaC2, and AdaC3 all vary AUC values greatly at different C_N , from 0.5486 to 0.7136, 0.6380 to 0.7136, 0.6119 to 0.7137 respectively. For example, when C_P =1 and C_N =0.2, AdaC1 achieves its highest AUC value 0.7136; when C_P =1 and C_N =0.5, it achieves its lowest AUC value 0.5485. When C_P =1 and C_N =0.2, AdaC2 achieves its highest AUC value 0.7136; when C_P =1 and C_N =0.9, it achieves its lowest AUC value 0.6380. When C_P =1 and C_N =0.3, AdaC3 achieves its highest AUC value 0.7137; when C_P =1 and C_N =0.7, it achieves its lowest AUC value 0.6064. In this sense, AdaC1, AdaC2 and AdaC3 are all sensitive to the cost setups.

5. Summary

This paper has presented the results of a comprehensive suite of experiments comparing the performance of several boosting and cost-sensitive boosting methods in the context of learning from imbalanced data on five NASA benchmark imbalanced datasets (JM1, KC1, KC2, PC1 and CM1). The experiments, in which three parts were trained and evaluated, varied key factors including class imbalanced distribution, data sets and cost setups of the minority and majority classes, namely C_P and C_N . All models were evaluated using precision, F-Measure, G-mean, and AUC, providing a complete perspective on classification performance. The experimental results demonstrate that it is difficult to say which one is the best among AdaC1, AdaC2, and AdaC3 in terms of their capabilities in dealing with the class imbalance problem.

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