

# Are Anchor Points Really Indispensable in Label-Noise Learning ?

Xiaobo Xia<sup>1,2</sup> Tongliang Liu<sup>1</sup> Nannan Wang<sup>2</sup> Bo Han<sup>3</sup> Chen Gong<sup>4</sup>  
Gang Niu<sup>3</sup> Masashi Sugiyama<sup>3,5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Sydney <sup>2</sup>Xidian University <sup>3</sup>RIKEN

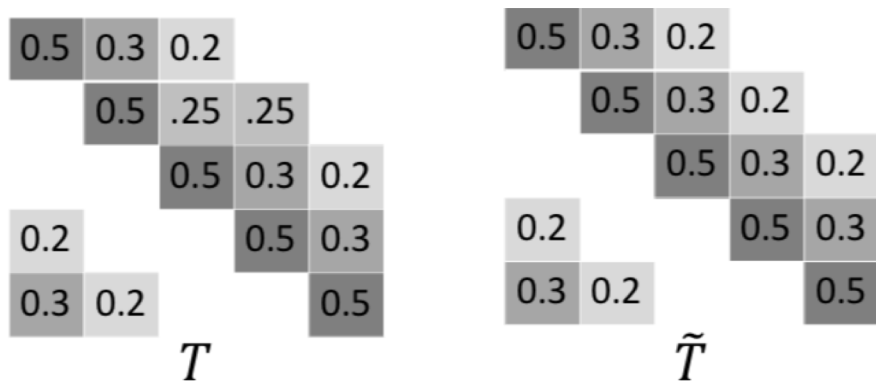
<sup>4</sup>Nanjing University of Science and Technology <sup>5</sup>University of Tokyo

## OVERVIEW

- A new paradigm called T-Revision combating with noisy labels is presented, which effectively learn transition matrices, leading to better classifier.
- The generalization error bound is derived to theoretically prove the effectiveness of our method.
- Experiments on simulated noisy dataset and real noisy dataset demonstrate the excellence of algorithm.

## MOTIVATION

Figure 3. Illustrative experimental results (using a 5-class classification problem as an example).



◆ Let an example have  $P(\bar{Y}|X) = [0.141; 0.189; 0.239; 0.281; 0.15]$ ;

◆ With the true transition matrix  $T$ ,  
 $P(Y|X) = (T^\top)^{-1}P(\bar{Y}|X)$   
 $= [0.15; \mathbf{0.28}; 0.25; 0.3; 0.02]$

◆ If the transition matrix is not accurately learned as  $\tilde{T}$ ,  
 $P(Y|X) = (\tilde{T}^\top)^{-1}P(\bar{Y}|X)$   
 $= [0.1587; 0.2697; \mathbf{0.2796}; 0.2593; 0.0325]$

## IMPORTANCE REWEIGHTING

$$\bar{R}_{n,w}(T, f) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{g_{\bar{Y}_i}(X_i)}{(T^\top g)_{\bar{Y}_i}(X_i)} l(f(X_i), \bar{Y}_i)$$

## QR CODE



Paper



Github

## ALGORITHM DESCRIPTION

Figure 1. An overview of the proposed method. The proposed method will learn a more accurate classifier because the transition matrix is renovated.

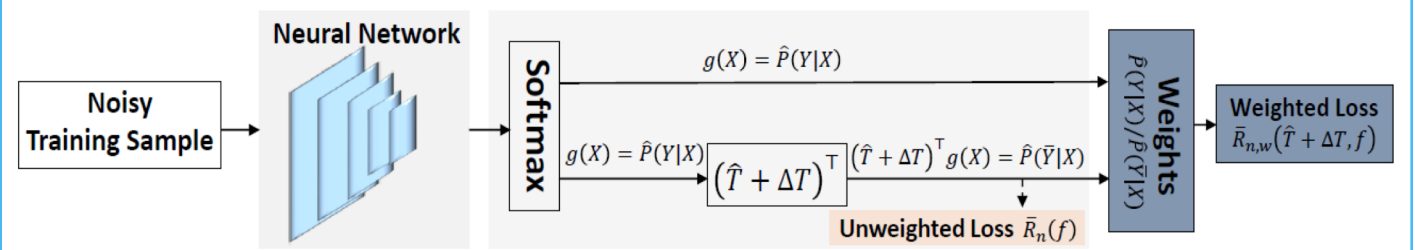


Figure 2. The process of Reweight-R Algorithm.

**Algorithm 1** Reweight T-Revision (Reweight-R) Algorithm.

**Input:** Noisy training sample  $\mathcal{D}_t$ ; Noisy validation set  $\mathcal{D}_v$ .

**Stage 1: Learn  $\hat{T}$**

1: Minimize the unweighted loss to learn  $\hat{P}(\bar{Y}|X)$  without a noise adaption layer

2: Initialize  $\hat{T}$  according to Eq. (1) by using instances with the highest  $\hat{P}(\bar{Y} = i|X)$  as anchor points

**Stage 2: Learn the classifier  $f$  and  $\Delta T$**

3: Initialize the neural network by minimizing the weighted loss with a noisy adaption layer  $\hat{T}^\top$

4: Minimize the weighted loss to learn  $f$  and  $\Delta T$  with a noisy adaption layer  $(\hat{T} + \Delta T)^\top$ ;  
//Stopping criterion for learning  $\hat{P}(\bar{Y}|X)$ ,  $f$  and  $\Delta T$ : when  $\hat{P}(\bar{Y}|X)$  corresponds the minimum classification error on the noisy validation set  $\mathcal{D}_v$

**Output:**  $\hat{T}$ ,  $\Delta T$ , and  $f$ .

## RESULTS

Figure 4. The estimation error of the transition matrix by employing classifier-consistent and risk-consistent estimators on CIFAR10 dataset.

(a) Sym-20 label noise. (b) Sym-50 label noise.

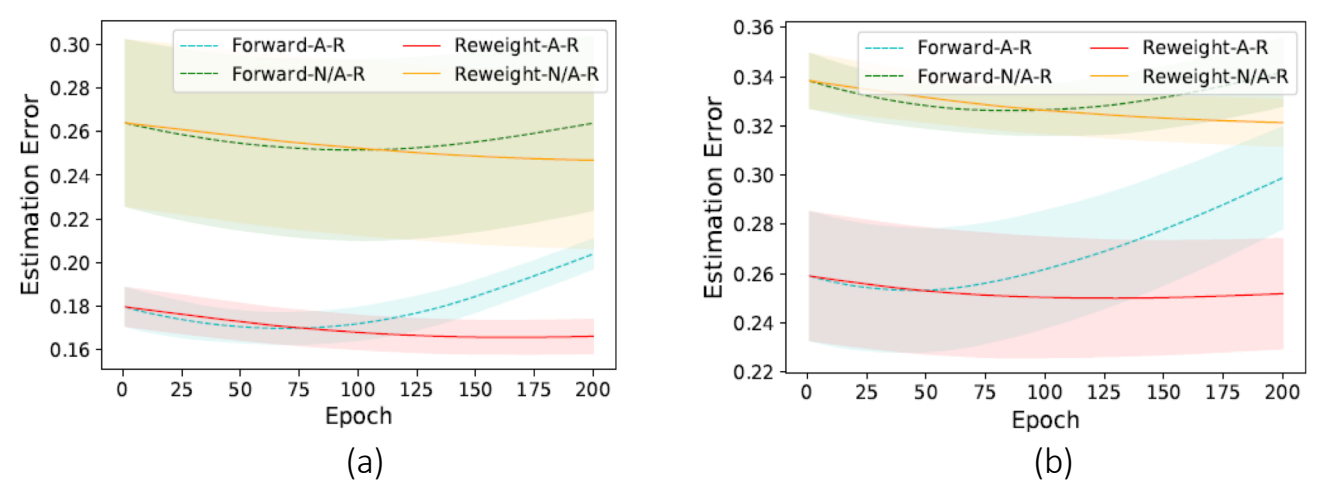


Table 1. Classification accuracy on synthetic noisy dataset and real noisy dataset.

(a) / (b) Means and Standard Deviations(Percentage) of classification accuracy on CIFAR10 dataset with / without anchor points.

(c) Classification Accuracy (Percentage) on Clothing1M.

| Models        | Sym-20     | Sym-50     | Models          | Sym-20     | Sym-50     |
|---------------|------------|------------|-----------------|------------|------------|
| Decoupling-A  | 79.85±0.30 | 52.22±0.45 | Decoupling-N/A  | 75.37±1.24 | 47.19±0.19 |
| MetorNet-A    | 80.49±0.52 | 70.71±0.24 | MetorNet-N/A    | 78.51±0.31 | 67.37±0.30 |
| Co-teaching-A | 82.38±0.11 | 72.80±0.45 | Co-teaching-N/A | 81.72±0.14 | 70.44±1.01 |
| Forward-A     | 85.63±0.52 | 77.92±0.66 | Forward-N/A     | 84.75±0.81 | 74.32±0.69 |
| Reweight-A    | 86.77±0.40 | 80.16±0.46 | Reweight-N/A    | 85.53±0.26 | 77.70±1.00 |
| Forward-A-R   | 88.10±0.21 | 81.11±0.74 | Forward-N/A-R   | 86.93±0.39 | 77.14±0.65 |
| Reweight-A-R  | 89.63±0.13 | 83.40±0.65 | Reweight-N/A-R  | 88.90±0.22 | 81.55±0.94 |

(a)

(b)

| Decoupling | MentorNet | Co-teaching | Forward | Reweight | Forward+R | Reweight+R |
|------------|-----------|-------------|---------|----------|-----------|------------|
| 53.98      | 56.77     | 58.68       | 71.79   | 70.95    | 72.25     | 74.18      |

(c)