

Multi-Target Prediction: A Unifying View on Problems and Methods

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Oranje verslaat Zweden, maar gaat niet naar WK

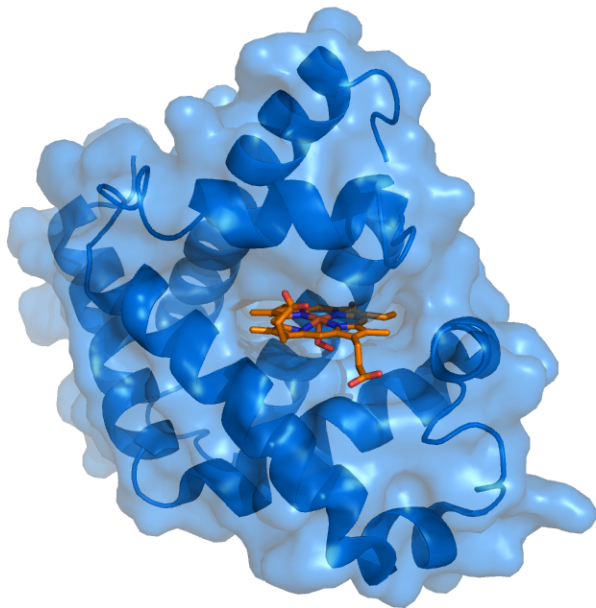
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Het Nederlands elftal heeft zich zoals verwacht niet geplaatst voor de play-offs om de laatste vier Europese WK-tickets. Oranje won in Amsterdam met 2-0 van Zweden, maar het verschil had zeven of meer doelpunten moeten zijn.









Multi-label classification: the example of document categorization

		Tennis	Football	Biking	Movies	TV	Belgium
01101	Text1	0	1	0	0	1	1
00111	Text2	1	0	0	0	0	1
01110	Text3	0	0	0	1	1	0
10001	Text4	0	0	1	0	1	0
01011	Text5	1	0	0	1	0	0
11110	Text6	?	?	?	?	?	?









Multivariate regression: the example of protein-ligand interaction prediction

		Mol1	Mol2	Mol3	Mol4	Mol5	Mol6
01101		1,3	0,2	1,4	1,7	3,5	1,3
00111		2	1,7	1,5	7,5	8,2	7,6
01110		0,2	0	0,3	0,4	1,2	2,2
10001		3,1	1,1	1,3	1,1	1,7	5,2
01011		4,7	2,1	2,5	1,5	2,3	8,5
11110		?	?	?	?	?	?



Multi-task learning: the example of predicting student marks

		School1	School2	School3
01101		7		
00111		9		
01110			5	
10001			8	
01011				9
11110		?	?	?

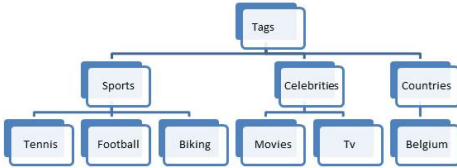
There are a lot of multi-target prediction problems around...



Overview of this talk







- 1 A unifying view on MTP problems
- 2 A unifying view on MTP methods
- 3 Loss Functions in Multi-target Prediction
- 4 Conclusions

Let's assume a document hierarchy:
How would you call this machine learning problem?















01101	Text1	0	0	0	0	0	1
00111	Text2	0	0	1	0	1	1
01110	Text3	0	0	0	1	1	0
10001	Text4	0	0	1	0	1	0
01011	Text5	1	0	0	1	0	0
11110	Text6	?	?	?	?	?	?

Let's assume a target representation:
How would you call this machine learning problem?














		0011	1100	0110
		School1	School2	School3
01101		7		
00111		9		
01110			5	
10001			8	
01011				9
11110		?	?	?

Let's assume a target representation:
How would you call this machine learning problem?

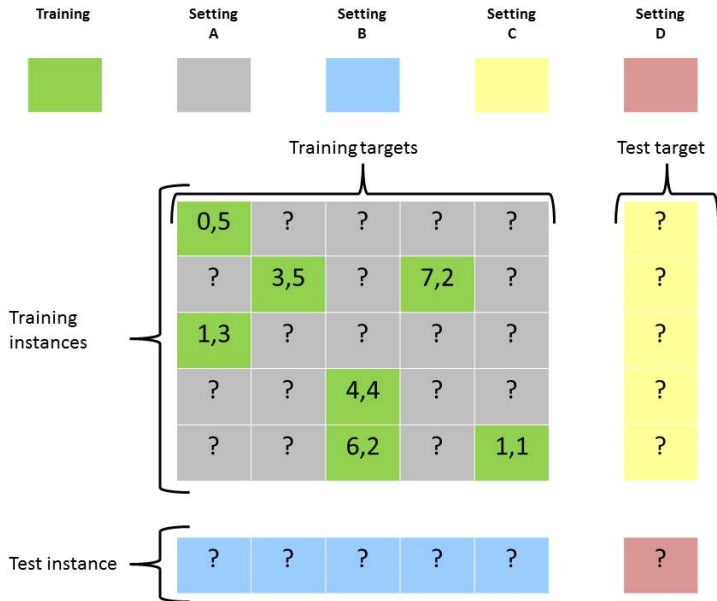
							
	Mol1	Mol2	Mol3	Mol4	Mol5	Mol6	
01101		1,3	0,2	1,4	1,7	3,5	1,3
00111		2	1,7	1,5	7,5	8,2	7,6
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10001		3,1	1,1	1,3	1,1	1,7	5,2
01011		4,7	2,1	2,5	1,5	2,3	8,5
11110		?	?	?	?	?	?

Generalizing to new targets

$g(.,.)$: target similarity

								
		Mol1	Mol2	Mol3	Mol4	Mol5	Mol6	Mol7
01101		1,3	0,2	1,4	1,7	3,5	1,3	?
00111		2	1,7	1,5	7,5	8,2	7,6	?
01110		0,2	0	0,3	0,4	1,2	2,2	?
10001		3,1	1,1	1,3	1,1	1,7	5,2	?
01011		4,7	2,1	2,5	1,5	2,3	8,5	?
11110		?	?	?	?	?	?	?

Important subdivision of different learning settings



General framework

Definition

A multi-target prediction setting is characterized by instances $x \in \mathcal{X}$ and targets $t \in \mathcal{T}$ with the following properties:

1. A training dataset consists of triplets (x_i, t_j, y_{ij}) , where $y_{ij} \in \mathcal{Y}$.
2. In total n instances and m targets are observed during training, with n and m finite numbers.
3. As such, the scores y_{ij} of the training data can be arranged in an $n \times m$ matrix Y .
4. The score set \mathcal{Y} is one-dimensional. It consists of nominal, ordinal or real values.
5. The goal consists of making predictions for any instance-target couple $(x, t) \in \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{T}$.

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A unifying view on MTP methods









Group of methods	Applicable setting
Independent models	B and C
Similarity-enforcing methods	B and C
Relation-exploiting methods	B, C and D
Relation-constructing methods	B and C
Representation-exploiting methods	B, C and D
Representation-constructing methods	B and C
Matrix completion and hybrid methods	A







A baseline method:
learning a model for each target independently

		Mol1	Mol2	Mol3	Mol4	Mol5	Mol6
01101		1,3	0,2	1,4	1,7	3,5	1,3
00111		2	1,7	1,5	7,5	8,2	7,6
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A baseline: Independent Models

		Mol1	Mol2	Mol3	Mol4	Mol5	Mol6
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01011		4,7	2,1	2,5	1,5	2,3	8,5
11110		?	?	?	?	?	?

A baseline: Independent Models

Linear basis function model for i -th target:

$$f_i(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{a}_i^T \phi(\mathbf{x}),$$

Solving as a joint optimization problem:

$$\min_A ||Y - XA||_F^2 + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i ||\mathbf{a}_i||^2,$$

With the following notations:

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} \phi(\mathbf{x}_1)^T \\ \vdots \\ \phi(\mathbf{x}_n)^T \end{bmatrix} \quad A = [\mathbf{a}_1 \quad \cdots \quad \mathbf{a}_m].$$

Hamming loss as alternative for binary labels:

$$L_{Ham}(\mathbf{y}, \hat{\mathbf{y}}) = \sum_{j=1}^m I(y_j \neq \hat{y}_j)$$

Learning a model for each target independently is still state-of-the-art in extreme multi-label classification¹:

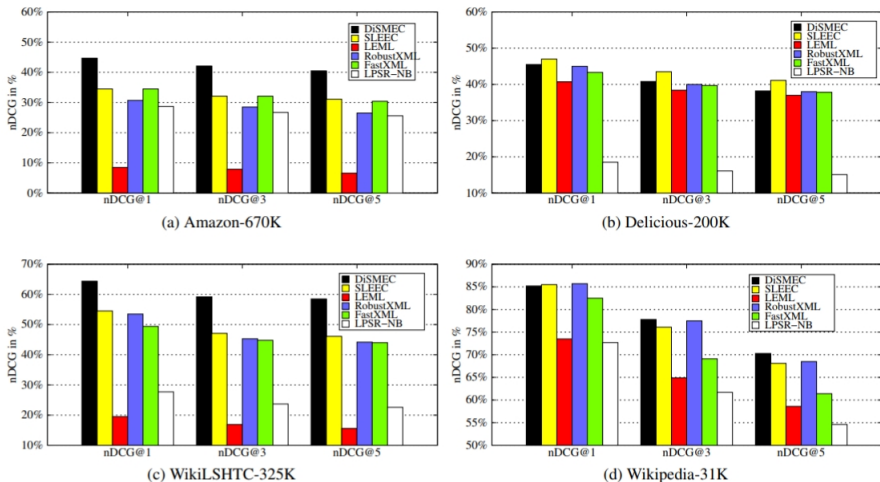


Figure 3: nDCG@k for k=1, 3 and 5

¹Babbar and Schölkopf, DISMEC: Distributed Sparse Machines for Extreme Multi-label classification, WSDM 2017

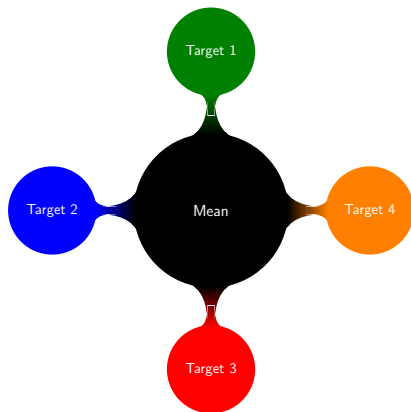
A unifying view on MTP methods



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Mean-regularized multi-task learning²

- *Simple assumption*: models for different targets are related to each other.
- *Simple solution*: the parameters of these models should have similar values.
- *Approach*: bias the parameter vectors towards their mean vector.



$$\min_A ||Y - XA||_F^2 + \lambda \sum_{i=1}^m ||\mathbf{a}_i - \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^m \mathbf{a}_j||^2,$$

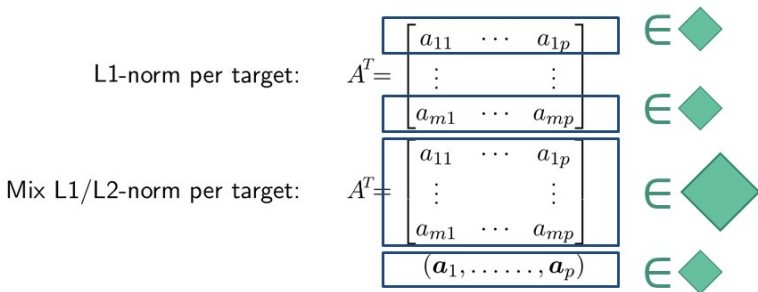
²Evgeniou and Pontil, Regularized multi-task learning, KDD 2004.

Joint feature selection

- Enforce that the same features are selected for different targets³:

$$\min_A \|Y - XA\|_F^2 + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^p \|\mathbf{a}_j\|^2$$

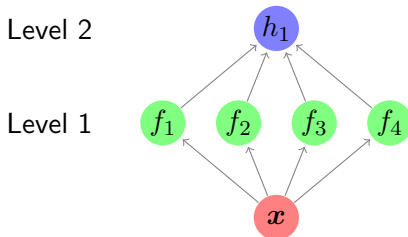
- The vectors \mathbf{a}_j now represent the rows of matrix A^T :



³Obozinski et al. Joint covariate selection and joint subspace selection for multiple classification problems. Statistics and Computing 2010

Stacking (Stacked generalization)

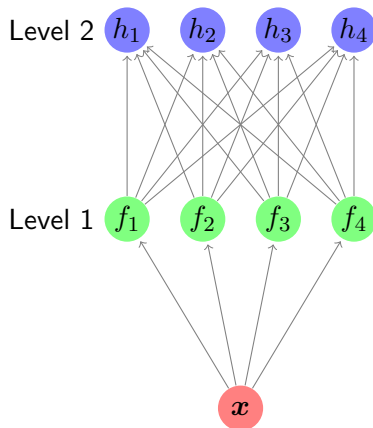
- Originally introduced as a general ensemble learning or blending technique.⁴
- Level 1 classifiers: apply a series of ML methods on the same dataset (or, one ML method on bootstrap samples of the dataset)
- Level 2 classifier: apply an ML method to a new dataset consisting of the predictions obtaining at Level 1



⁴Wolpert, Stacked generalization. Neural Networks 1992

Stacking applied to multi-target prediction⁵

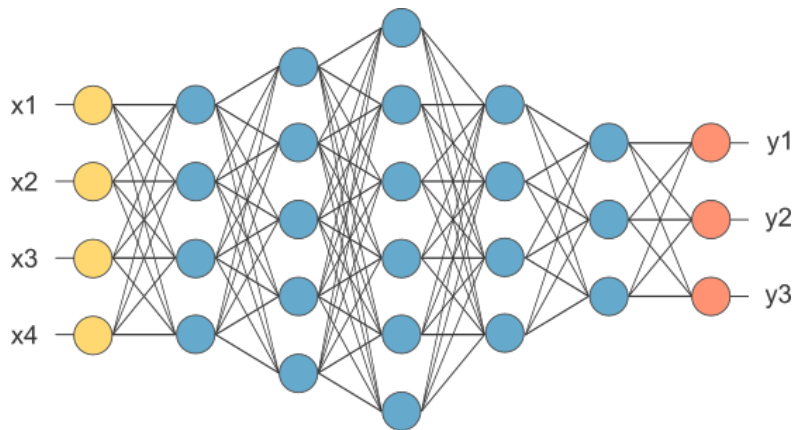
- Level 1 classifiers: learn a model for every target independently
- Level 2 classifier: learn again a model for every target independently, using the predictions of the first step as features



⁵Cheng and Hüllermeier, Combining Instance-based learning and Logistic Regression for Multi-Label classification, Machine Learning, 2009

MTP in (Deep) Neural Networks

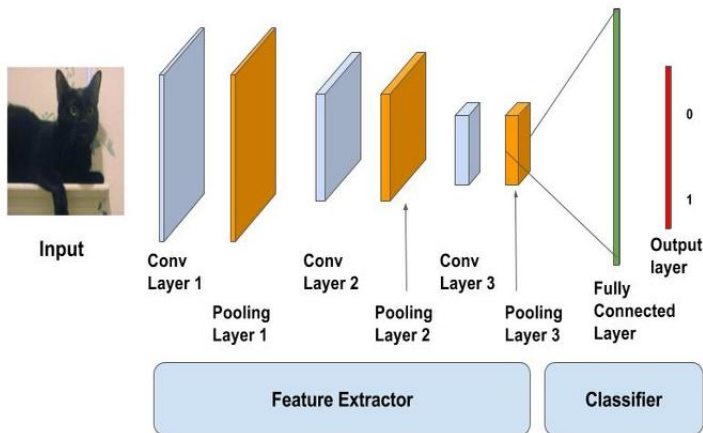
Commonly-used architecture: weight sharing among targets⁶



⁶Caruana, Multitask learning: A knowledge-based source of inductive bias. Machine Learning 1997

Re-using Pretrained Models in (Deep) Neural Networks

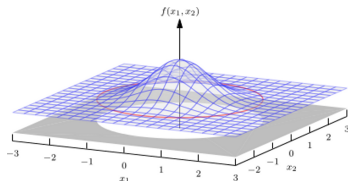
Commonly-used training method: first train on targets that have a lot of observations, only train some parameters for targets that have few observations ⁷



⁷Keras Tutorial: Transfer Learning using pre-trained models

An intuitive explanation: James-Stein estimation

- Consider a multivariate normal distribution $\mathbf{y} \sim N(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \sigma^2 \mathbf{I})$.

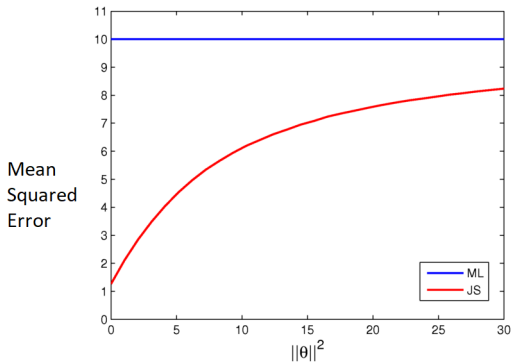


- What is the best estimator of the mean vector $\boldsymbol{\theta}$?
- Evaluation w.r.t. MSE: $\mathbb{E}[(\boldsymbol{\theta} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}})^2]$
- Single-observation maximum likelihood estimator: $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^{\text{ML}} = \mathbf{y}$
- James-Stein estimator⁸:

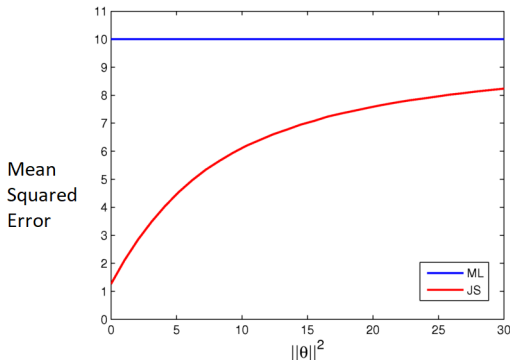
$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}^{\text{JS}} = \left(1 - \frac{(m-2)\sigma^2}{\|\mathbf{y}\|^2}\right) \mathbf{y}$$

⁸W. James and C. Stein. Estimation with quadratic loss. In Proc. Fourth Berkeley Symp. Math. Statist. Prob. 1, pages 361-379, 1961

- Works best when the norm of the mean vector is close to zero:



- Works best when the norm of the mean vector is close to zero:



- Regularization towards other directions is also possible:

$$\hat{\theta}^{\text{JS}+} = \left(1 - \frac{(m-2)\sigma^2}{\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{v}\|^2}\right) (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{v}) + \mathbf{v}$$

- Only outperforms the maximum likelihood estimator w.r.t. the sum of squared errors over all components.

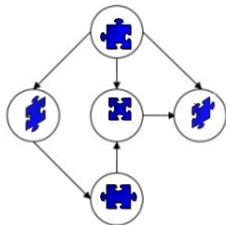
A unifying view on MTP methods



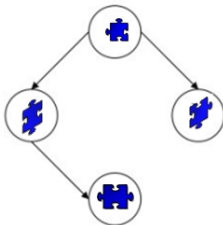
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Exploiting relations in regularization terms

Graph



Tree



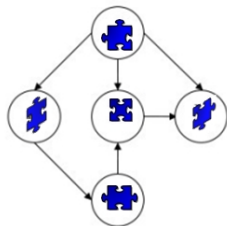
Similarity

	1	0.26	0.26	0.04
	0.26	1	0.7	0.57
	0.26	0.7	1	0.44
	0.04	0.57	0.44	1

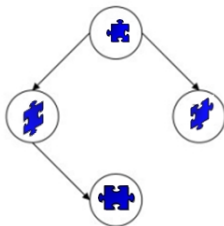
⁹Gopal and Yang, Recursive regularization for large-scale classification with hierarchical and graphical dependencies, KDD 2013

Exploiting relations in regularization terms

Graph



Tree



Similarity

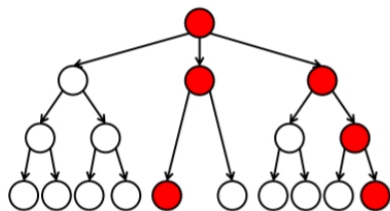
	1	0.26	0.26	0.04
	0.26	1	0.7	0.57
	0.26	0.7	1	0.44
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Graph-based regularization is an approach that can be applied to the three types of relations⁹:

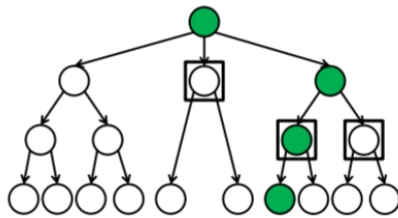
$$\min_A ||Y - XA||_F^2 + \lambda \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} ||\mathbf{a}_i - \mathbf{a}_j||^2$$

⁹Gopal and Yang, Recursive regularization for large-scale classification with hierarchical and graphical dependencies, KDD 2013

Hierarchical multi-label classification



(a) Ground truth.



(b) Prediction A.









In addition to performance gains in general, hierarchies can also be used to define specific loss functions, such as the H-loss¹⁰:

$$L_H(\mathbf{y}, \hat{\mathbf{y}}) = \sum_{i: y_i \neq \hat{y}_i} c_i I(\text{anc}(y_i) = \text{anc}(\hat{y}_i))$$

c_i depends on the depth of node i

¹⁰Bi and Kwok, Bayes-optimal hierarchical multi-label classification, IEEE Transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering, 2014

Exploiting similarity measures among targets

				
	1	0.26	0.26	0.04
	0.26	1	0.7	0.57
	0.26	0.7	1	0.44
	0.04	0.57	0.44	1

Can be done within the framework of vector-valued kernel functions¹¹:

$$f(\mathbf{x}, t) = \mathbf{w}^T \Psi(\mathbf{x}, t) = \sum_{(\bar{\mathbf{x}}, \bar{t}) \in \mathcal{D}} \alpha_{(\bar{\mathbf{x}}, \bar{t})} \Gamma((\mathbf{x}, t), (\bar{\mathbf{x}}, \bar{t}))$$

Model the joint kernel as a product of an instance kernel $k(\cdot, \cdot)$ and a target kernel $g(\cdot, \cdot)$:

$$\Gamma((\mathbf{x}, t), (\bar{\mathbf{x}}, \bar{t})) = k(\mathbf{x}, \bar{\mathbf{x}}) \cdot g(t, \bar{t})$$

¹¹Alvarez et al., Kernels for vector-valued functions: a review, Foundation and Trends in Machine Learning

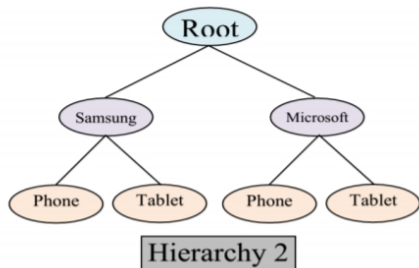
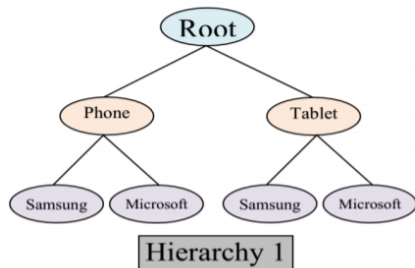
A unifying view on MTP methods



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Relation-constructing methods (B and C)

Example: learning target hierarchies¹³



- It might be difficult for a human expert to define a hierarchy
- Perhaps one can try to learn the hierarchy from data?
- Algorithms: level flattening, node removal, hierarchy modification, hierarchy generation, etc.

¹³Rangwala and Naik, Tutorial on Large-Scale Hierarchical Classification, KDD 2017.

A unifying view on MTP methods



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Methods that use target representations (B, C and D)

Example: Kronecker kernel ridge regression¹⁴

Pairwise model representation in the primal:

$$f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t}) = \mathbf{w}^T (\phi(\mathbf{x}) \otimes \psi(\mathbf{t}))$$

Kronecker product pairwise kernel in the dual:

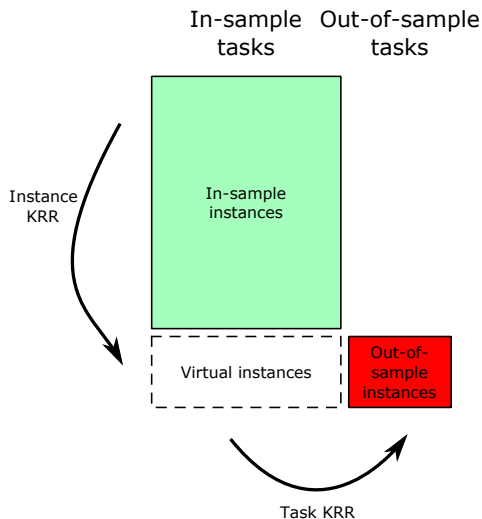
$$f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t}) = \sum_{(\bar{\mathbf{x}}, \bar{\mathbf{t}}) \in \mathcal{D}} \alpha_{(\bar{\mathbf{x}}, \bar{\mathbf{t}})} k(\mathbf{x}, \bar{\mathbf{x}}) \cdot g(\mathbf{t}, \bar{\mathbf{t}}) = \sum_{(\bar{\mathbf{x}}, \bar{\mathbf{t}}) \in \mathcal{D}} \alpha_{(\bar{\mathbf{x}}, \bar{\mathbf{t}})} \Gamma((\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t}), (\bar{\mathbf{x}}, \bar{\mathbf{t}}))$$

Least-squares minimization with $\mathbf{z} = \text{vec}(Y)$:

$$\min_{\boldsymbol{\alpha}} \|\mathbf{\Gamma}\boldsymbol{\alpha} - \mathbf{z}\|_2^2 + \lambda \boldsymbol{\alpha}^T \mathbf{\Gamma} \boldsymbol{\alpha}$$

¹⁴Waegeman et al., A kernel framework for learning graded relations from data, IEEE Transaction on Fuzzy Systems, 2012

Two-step zero-shot learning^{15 16}
















- 1 Build a kernel ridge regression model to generalize to **new instances**
- 2 Build a kernel ridge regression model to generalize to **new tasks**

¹⁵Pahikkala et al. A two-step approach for solving full and almost full cold-start problems in dyadic prediction, ECML/PKDD 2014.

¹⁶Romero-Paredes and Torr, An embarrassingly simple approach to zero-shot learning, ICML 2015







Two-step zero-shot learning^{17 18}

								
		Mol1	Mol2	Mol3	Mol4	Mol5	Mol6	Mol7
01101		1,3	0,2	1,4	1,7	3,5	1,3	?
00111		2	1,7	1,5	7,5	8,2	7,6	?
01110		0,2	0	0,3	0,4	1,2	2,2	?
10001		3,1	1,1	1,3	1,1	1,7	5,2	?
01011		4,7	2,1	2,5	1,5	2,3	8,5	?
11110		?	?	?	?	?	?	?

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Two-step zero-shot learning^{19 20}

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Two-step zero-shot learning^{21 22}

						
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2	1,7	1,5	7,5	8,2	7,6	1,4
0,2	0	0,3	0,4	1,2	2,2	3,8
3,1	1,1	1,3	1,1	1,7	5,2	1,1
4,7	2,1	2,5	1,5	2,3	8,5	1,5
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²¹Pahikkala et al. A two-step approach for solving full and almost full cold-start problems in dyadic prediction, ECML/PKDD 2014.

²²Romero-Paredes and Torr, An embarrassingly simple approach to zero-shot learning, ICML 2015.

Two-step kernel ridge regression

- Kernel evaluations for new test instance:

$$\mathbf{k}(\mathbf{x}) = (k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_1), \dots, k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_n))^{\top}$$

$$\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{t}) = (g(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{t}_1), \dots, g(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{t}_q))^{\top}$$

Two-step kernel ridge regression

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$$\mathbf{k}(\mathbf{x}) = (k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_1), \dots, k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_n))^{\top}$$

$$\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{t}) = (g(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{t}_1), \dots, g(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{t}_q))^{\top}$$

- Step 1: prediction for \mathbf{x} on all the training targets

$$\mathbf{f}_T(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{k}(\mathbf{x})^{\top} A^{IT} = \mathbf{k}(\mathbf{x})^{\top} (\mathbf{K} + \lambda_d \mathbf{I})^{-1} Y$$

Two-step kernel ridge regression

- Kernel evaluations for new test instance:

$$\mathbf{k}(\mathbf{x}) = (k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_1), \dots, k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_n))^{\top}$$

$$\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{t}) = (g(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{t}_1), \dots, g(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{t}_q))^{\top}$$

- Step 1: prediction for \mathbf{x} on all the training targets

$$\mathbf{f}_T(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{k}(\mathbf{x})^{\top} A^{IT} = \mathbf{k}(\mathbf{x})^{\top} (\mathbf{K} + \lambda_d \mathbf{I})^{-1} Y$$

- Step 2: generalizing to new targets

$$f^{\text{TS}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t}) = \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{t})^{\top} (\mathbf{G} + \lambda_t \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{f}_T(\mathbf{x})^{\top}$$

Two-step kernel ridge regression

- Kernel evaluations for new test instance:

$$\mathbf{k}(\mathbf{x}) = (k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_1), \dots, k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_n))^{\top}$$

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- Step 1: prediction for \mathbf{x} on all the training targets

$$\mathbf{f}_T(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{k}(\mathbf{x})^{\top} A^{IT} = \mathbf{k}(\mathbf{x})^{\top} (\mathbf{K} + \lambda_d \mathbf{I})^{-1} Y$$

- Step 2: generalizing to new targets

$$\begin{aligned} f^{\text{TS}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t}) &= \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{t})^{\top} (\mathbf{G} + \lambda_t \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{f}_T(\mathbf{x})^{\top} \\ &= \mathbf{k}(\mathbf{x})^{\top} (\mathbf{K} + \lambda_d \mathbf{I})^{-1} Y (\mathbf{G} + \lambda_t \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{t}) \end{aligned}$$

Two-step kernel ridge regression

- Kernel evaluations for new test instance:

$$\mathbf{k}(\mathbf{x}) = (k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_1), \dots, k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_n))^T$$

$$\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{t}) = (g(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{t}_1), \dots, g(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{t}_q))^T$$

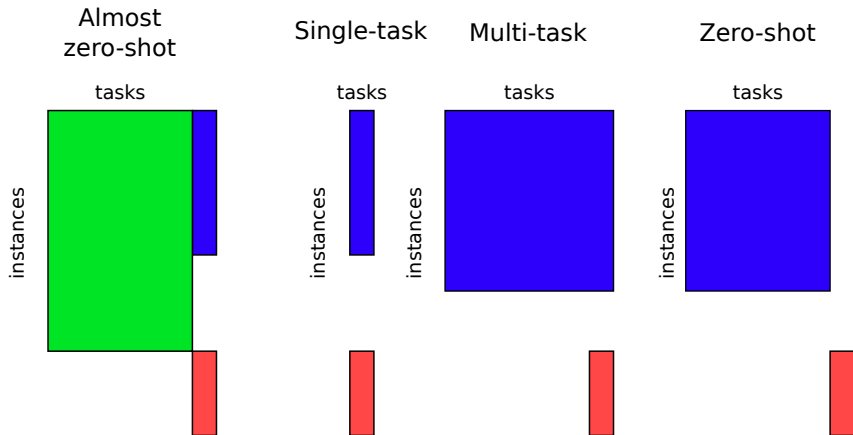
- Step 1: prediction for \mathbf{x} on all the training targets

$$\mathbf{f}_T(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{k}(\mathbf{x})^T A^{IT} = \mathbf{k}(\mathbf{x})^T (\mathbf{K} + \lambda_d \mathbf{I})^{-1} Y$$

- Step 2: generalizing to new targets

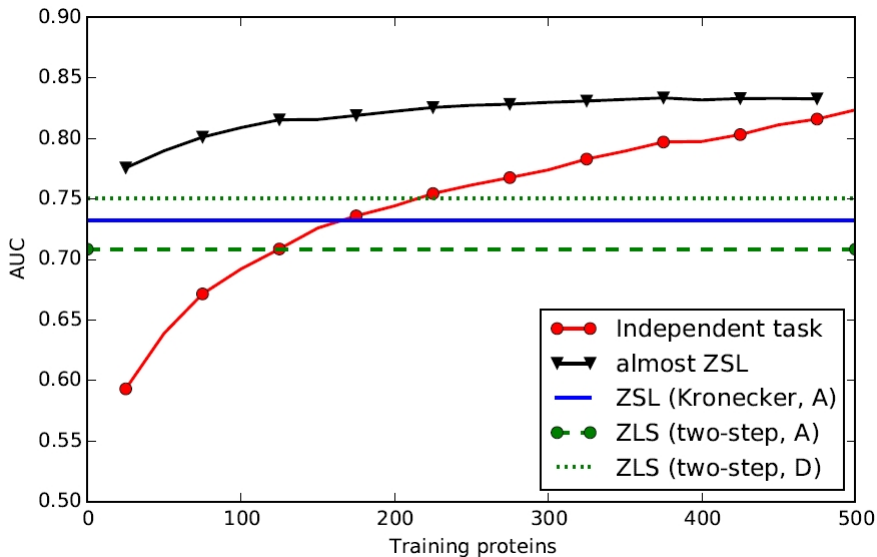
$$\begin{aligned} f^{\text{TS}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t}) &= \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{t})^T (\mathbf{G} + \lambda_t \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{f}_T(\mathbf{x})^T \\ &= \mathbf{k}(\mathbf{x})^T (\mathbf{K} + \lambda_d \mathbf{I})^{-1} Y (\mathbf{G} + \lambda_t \mathbf{I})^{-1} \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{t}) \\ &= \mathbf{k}(\mathbf{x})^T A^{\text{TS}} \mathbf{g}(\mathbf{t}) \\ &= \mathbf{w}^T (\phi(\mathbf{x}) \otimes \psi(\mathbf{t})) \end{aligned}$$

Almost zero-shot learning: definition and experimental setup

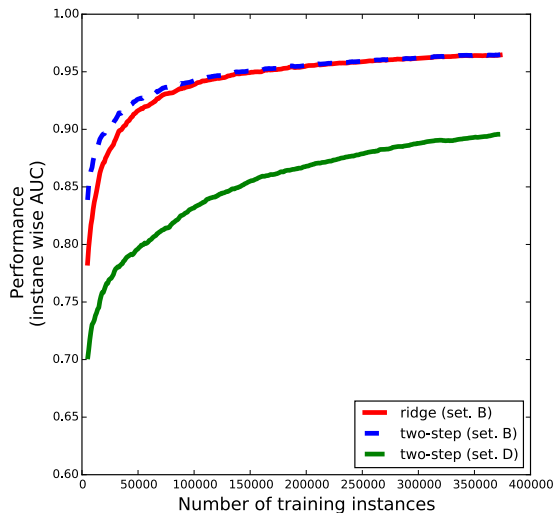


Gradually increase the number of training instances for the “new” task

Almost zero-shot learning: results for protein-ligand interaction prediction



Zero-shot learning of document categorization



12,000 labels: from 5,000 to 350,000 instances

A unifying view on MTP methods

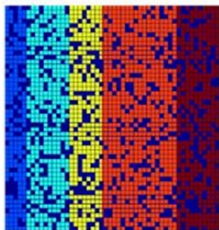


Group of methods	Applicable setting
Independent models	B and C
Similarity-enforcing methods	B and C
Relation-exploiting methods	B, C and D
Relation-constructing methods	B and C
Representation-exploiting methods	B, C and D
Representation-constructing methods	B and C
Matrix completion and hybrid methods	A

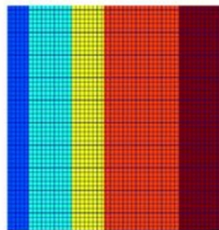
Methods that learn target representations (B and C)

Example: low-rank parameter matrix approximation²³

High rank matrix



Low rank matrix



$$\min_A ||Y - XA||_F^2 + \lambda \text{rank}(A)$$

²³Chen et al., A convex formulation for learning shared structures from multiple tasks, ICML 2009.

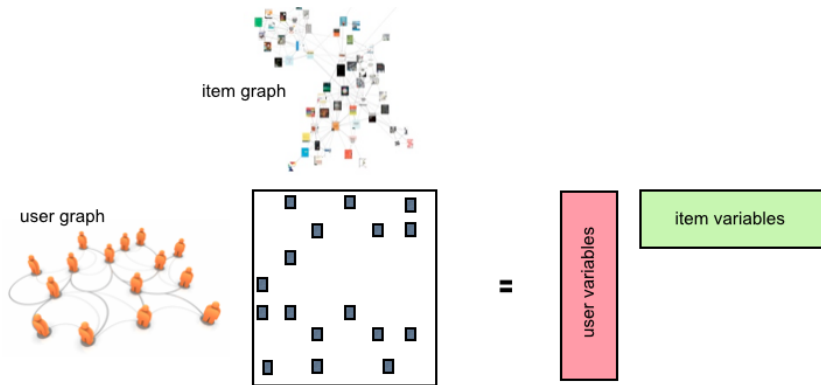
A unifying view on MTP methods



Group of methods	Applicable setting
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Matrix completion and hybrid methods	A

Matrix completion and hybrid methods (A)

Example: matrix factorization + bilinear models²⁴



$$f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{t}) = \mathbf{w}^T (\phi(\mathbf{x}) \otimes \psi(\mathbf{t}))$$

²⁴Menon and Elkan, A log-linear model with latent features for dyadic prediction, ICDM 2010.

Overview of this tutorial

- 1 A unifying view on MTP problems
- 2 A unifying view on MTP methods
- 3 Loss Functions in Multi-target Prediction
- 4 Conclusions

Conclusions

- Multi-target prediction is an active field of research that connects different types of machine learning problems
- In the corresponding subfields of machine learning, problems have typically been solved in isolation, without establishing connections between methods
- Two-step zero-shot learning is a simple MTP method with a lot of interesting properties

Upcoming paper:

Waegeman et al.

Multi-Target Prediction:

A Unifying View on Problems and Methods