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Adversarial Multi-View Domain Adaptation for Regression

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Abstract—In this paper, we address the problem of domain adaptation in a regression setting, where only a few labeled samples are available in the source domain, and no labeled samples in the target domain. In addition, we consider that source data have different representations (multiple views). In this work, we investigate an original method to take advantage of different representations using a weighted combination of views. Besides, we use a co-training approach to include information from unlabeled instances by ensuring that models trained on different views make similar predictions. For this purpose, we introduce a novel formulation of the optimization objective for domain adaptation that relies on a discrepancy distance. Then, we develop an adversarial network domain adaptation algorithm adjusting weights given to each view, ensuring that those related to the target receive higher weights. Finally, we evaluate our method on different public datasets and compare it to other domain adaptation baselines to demonstrate the improvement for regression tasks.

Index Terms—Domain adaptation, Multi-view, Co-training, Regression

I. INTRODUCTION

In most industrial problems, data are collected from various domains or devices, or are captured by different processes. Commonly, in industry, data are labeled during a test phase in which the sturdiness of the machine parts is tested. In this context, an algorithm trained for predictive maintenance for one specific machine cannot be generalize correctly to the same machine under different usage conditions. Therefore, it is common practice to retrain the predictive maintenance models. However, this retraining leads to delayed prognostics actions until enough data are available for accurate prediction.

To address this issue, predictive models, trained with a specific machine, have to adapt to data with different data distributions and limited or non-existing fault information, \textit{i.e.} different domains. In machine learning, this situation is often referred to as \textit{domain adaptation} or covariate shift \cite{1}. In general, domain adaptation methods attempt to solve the learning problem when the main learning task is the same but the domains have different feature spaces or different marginal conditional probabilities \cite{2, 3, 4, 5}.

On the other hand, data can be represented by several independent sets of features. For instance, in the example of the aforementioned predictive maintenance, data are collected from diverse sensors and exhibit heterogeneous properties. Thus, data from different sensors can be naturally partitioned into independent groups \cite{6}. Each group is naturally partitioned into independent groups \cite{6}. Each group is generally divided into independent or different views. In the domain adaptation context, views are generally concatenated into one single view to adapt to the learning task. However, this concatenation might cause negative transfer \cite{8}, \textit{i.e.} introduce source domain data/knowledge undesirably) because each view has a specific statistical property. This will result in decrease in learning performance in the target domain. Nevertheless, we can find little research on multi-view domain adaptation \cite{9, 10} where considerable attention has been given on the classification problem, while regression remains largely under-studied.

Furthermore, in this same context of predictive maintenance, data labeling is expensive and remains extremely time-consuming and/or cannot be taken for granted. Thus, the amount of labeled source data is very limited and it becomes difficult to training the models. In this case, co-training based approaches could be envisaged to exploit the information conveyed by both labeled and unlabeled data.

In this paper, we propose a novel co-training based approach to improve the alignment of the source domain and the target domain for multi-view domain adaptation in regression where a few data are labeled in the source domain. To the best of the authors’ knowledge, no research was conducted for co-training multi-view domain adaptation in the regression context. This work makes two main contributions: first, we adapt a distance between distributions with multi-view, Co-Regression Discrepancy. The second main contribution is a new algorithm optimizing both representations and weights of each view for multi-view domain adaptation. We conduct experiments on real-world datasets and improve on state-of-the-art results for multi-view adversarial domain adaptation for regression.
II. RELATED WORK

A. Co-training

The co-training style approach is a technique largely used in multiple-view learning [6]. This method aims to enforce similar outcomes of multiple predictor functions by training them alternately to maximize their mutual agreement on unlabeled examples. The authors in [11] was the first to observe the relationship between the consensus of multiple hypotheses and their error rate for semi-supervised problems. The authors in [12] introduced the co-training algorithm for semi-supervised learning that greedily augments the training sets of two classifiers. Alternatively, a variant of the AdaBoost algorithm was suggested in [13] by boosting the agreement between two views on unlabeled data. Nevertheless, most studies consider classification problems, and the authors in [14] were the first to tackle regression problems by applying co-training with the $k$NN regressor. Instead of using two disjoint views, they use distinct distance measures for the two hypotheses. Zhou and Li [14] came up with a single-view variant of co-training that to some extent can be regarded as the bridge to co-regression. Inspired by the co-regularization algorithm [15], Brefeld, Gärtner, Scheffer and Wrobel [16] proposed a co-regression algorithm. Later, the authors in [17] extended this idea to kernel support vector regression and defined co-regularized support vector regression (CoSVR) as an $\epsilon$-insensitive version of co-regularization.

The related ideas of co-training were extended to domain adaptation by Chen, Weinberger and Blitzer [18]. The authors used the idea of co-training for semi-supervised domain adaptation (assuming a few target labeled samples are available) by finding a suitable split of the features into two sets based on the notion of $\epsilon$-expansibility [19]. A related work [20] used the idea of co-regularization [15] for semi-supervised domain adaptation where they learn different classifiers for source and target, making their predictions agree on the unlabeled target samples. More recently, Saito, Ushiku and Harada [21] proposed asymmetric tri-training for unsupervised domain adaptation where one of the three models is learned only on pseudo-labeled target examples. Asymmetric tri-training, similar to [22], works with a single feature generator which feeds different classifiers. The authors in [23] followed the same idea, but also added a second generator and minimized the variance form of the Jensen-Shannon divergence between source and target feature distributions. Complementary to the agreement between classifiers, the authors encourage source feature distributions induced by the first generator and the second generator to be different from each other.

B. Discrepancy minimization.

The present work is in line with discrepancy minimization methods, which were first introduced in [24], and further developed in [25], [26], [27], [28], [29]. Discrepancy is the key measure of the difference between two distributions in the context of domain adaptation and has several advantages over other common divergence measures such as the $l_1$ distance. Besides, several generalizations bound for adaptation in terms of discrepancy were proposed [25], [26], [27] [30], including pointwise guarantees in the case of kernel-based regularization, kernel ridge regression or support vector regression. Following on from the work on discrepancy, the authors in [31] proposed hypothesis-discrepancy where the bound is tighter. In our work, we use discrepancy distance, but we include the concept of co-regression multi-view learning to enforce this distance.

III. CO-REGRESSION DISCREPANCY ADVERSARIAL NEURAL NETWORK METHOD

In this section, we present the details of our proposed method. First, we introduce the notation. Second, we give the overall idea of our method, as well as explaining the loss function we used in experiments. Finally, we explain the entire training procedure of our method.

A. Notation

This section introduces the definitions and concepts needed for the following sections. Given $\mathcal{X} \in \mathbb{R}^p$ and $\mathcal{Y} \in \mathbb{R}$, in the scenario of multi-view domain adaptation regression setting that we consider, the data instances from source domain $X_s$ can be represented in $M$ different views, where each view is separated into labeled and unlabeled parts. More formally, for $v \in \{1, ..., M\}$, $X_s = \{X_v^{(l)}, X_v^{(z)}\}$ where $X_v^{(l)} = \{(x_v^{(l)}_{1}, y_v_{1}), ..., (x_v^{(l)}_{m_l}, y_v_{m_l})\} \in (\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y})^{m_l}$ of size $m_l$. In the same way, we consider an unlabeled source sample of size $m_z$ such as $X_v^{(z)} = \{x_v^{(z)}_{1}, ..., x_v^{(z)}_{m_z}\} \in \mathcal{X}^{m_z}$. In this setting, the sample size $m_l$ of $X_v^{(l)}$ is typically much smaller than $m_z$ ($m_l << m_z$). Similarly, we define unlabeled samples from the target domain, $T = X_t^{(z)} = \{x_t^{(z)}_{1}, ..., x_t^{(z)}_{n}\} \in \mathcal{X}^n$ of size $n$. Unlike the source domain, we have no prior knowledge about views in the target domain.

B. Overall Idea

The goal of Domain Adaptation is to minimize the target risk $L(h, f_t) = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim X_t}[L(h(x), f_t(x))]$, where $f_t : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ is the true labeling function of the target domain, $L : \mathcal{Y} \times \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ a loss function, and a hypothesis class $\mathcal{H}$ of hypotheses $h : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$. In this way, we aim to align the source and target features, in other words, we want to discover a new representation of the input features where source and target instances cannot be distinguished by any domain predictor. The question is how to find this subspace. We propose to utilize the disagreement of the multiple predictors. Consider $M$ predictors $h_v \in \mathcal{H}_v$, for $v \in \{1, ..., M\}$ (for reasons of simplification we abbreviate $h_1 \in \mathcal{H}_1, ..., h_M \in \mathcal{H}_M$ with $h_v \in \mathcal{H}_v$), we train the $v^{th}$ predictor on the $v^{th}$ view source samples. This step is feasible because we have access to a few labeled source samples $X_v^{(l)}$. This training phase will allow us to predict the labels of unlabeled samples on both domains with an error for each predictor. Our task is to discover a subspace that minimizes those errors by maximizing their
mutual agreement. Our aim is for models trained on different views to make similar predictions. Therefore, we train a feature generator \( \phi \), which takes as inputs \( X_s \) or \( X_l^{(2)} \), and where the predictor networks take features from the generator. The goal of the generator is to generate a subspace feature where the disagreement between predictors is small. Consequently, the generator tries to discover a consensus between the multiple predictors of both domains and multiple views. Thereby, we propose to train discriminators \( h_v \) to maximize their disagreement, before training the generator to fool discriminators by minimizing their disagreement.

### C. Discrepancy Loss

As mentioned above, we are seeking a consensus between predictors for which we need to define an error function which will allow us to measure this consensus, or in another way, measure their disagreement on their outputs. The \( L_p \) losses commonly used in regression, are defined by: \( L_p(y, y') = |y - y'|^p \), \( p > 1 \). These losses may be good candidates to measure the disagreement. In [17], [14], [16], we principally use \( L_p \) losses where \( p = 2 \), also mentioned like the squared loss \( \ell_2(y, y') = (y - y')^2 \). Thus, we define the disagreement loss between the predictors:

**Definition 1.** For \( 0 < v < M \), any \( h_v \in \mathcal{H}_v, h_u \in \mathcal{H}_u \):

\[
d_{\mathcal{H},L_2}(h_v, h_u; x) = \sum_{u=v+1}^{M-1} \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \ell_2(h_v(x), h_u(x))
\]  

(1)

Now we have defined a loss for the disagreement, we can define a distance to measure the difference between the disagreement on labeled instances and the disagreement on unlabeled instances. Inspired by [24], the discrepancy methods, coupled with disagreement loss can give a variant measure distance named Co-Regression Discrepancy, CoDisc:

**Definition 2.** For any \( h_v \in \mathcal{H}_v, h_u \in \mathcal{H}_u \):

\[
CoDisc_{\mathcal{H},L_2}(h_v, h_u; x^{(l)}, x^{(z)}) = \max_{h_v \in \mathcal{H}_v, h_u \in \mathcal{H}_u} |d_{\mathcal{H},L}(h_v, h_u; x^{(l)}) - d_{\mathcal{H},L}(h_v, h_u; x^{(z)})|
\]  

(2)

### D. Adversarial algorithm for optimization

To sum up the earlier discussion, we need to train multiple predictors, which take inputs from the generator and maximize CoDisc, and the generator which tries to mimic the predictors. We will show how this can be achieved. Similarly to most other adversarial methods, we sequentially optimize different parameters of our networks according to different objectives. At a given iteration, losses are minimized/maximized sequentially:

**Step 1:** First, we train the predictors and generator on labeled source data with the different views. Our aim is for the \( v^{th} \) predictor to predict correctly the \( v^{th} \) view, for \( v \in \{1, ..., M\} \):

\[
\min_{h_v \in \mathcal{H}_v} \mathcal{L}(X_v^{(l)}, Y_v).
\]  

(3)

**Step 2:** In this second step, our aim is to maximize the mutual agreement between the predictors on source unlabeled instances and find a subspace between different views. Thus, we train the predictors \( h_v \) as a discriminator for a fixed generator. We increase the CoDisc loss between \( X_v^{(l)} \) and \( X_v^{(z)} \). Then, we train the generator to minimize the discrepancy loss for fixed predictors:

\[
\min_{\phi} \max_{h_v \in \mathcal{H}_v, h_u \in \mathcal{H}_u} CoDisc_{\mathcal{H},L_2}(h_u, h_v; X_v^{(l)}, X_v^{(z)}).
\]  

(4)

\[
CoDisc_{\mathcal{H},L_2}(h_u, h_v; X_v^{(l)}, X_v^{(z)}) = \max_{u=v+1}^{M-1} \sum_{i=1}^{m_i} \ell_2(h_v \circ \phi(x_v^{(l)}), h_u \circ \phi(x_v^{(z)})).
\]  

(5)

**Step 3:** In this third step, our aim is to maximize the mutual agreement between the predictors on target unlabeled instances and to align feature representation between target and source domain. Thus, we train the predictors \( h_v \) as a discriminator for fixed generators. We increase the CoDisc loss between \( X_v^{(l)} \) and \( X_v^{(z)} \). We add a trade-off parameter \( \beta \) to moderate the adaptation between \( X_v^{(z)} \) and \( X_t^{(z)} \). During the adaptation between target domain and source domain, we note that the generator struggles to reach a consensus between all predictors. We will thus weight each predictor according to its contribution with the parameter \( \alpha \). We will see in the next step how to train that parameter. Then, we train the generator to minimize the discrepancy loss for fixed predictors:

\[
\min_{\phi} \max_{h_v \in \mathcal{H}_v, h_u \in \mathcal{H}_u} CoDisc_{\mathcal{H},L_2}(h_u, \alpha_v h_v; x_v^{(l)}, X_t^{(z)})
\]  

(6)

\[
\min_{\phi} \max_{h_v \in \mathcal{H}_v, h_u \in \mathcal{H}_u} -\beta CoDisc_{\mathcal{H},L_2}(h_u, \alpha_v h_v; x_v^{(l)}, X_t^{(z)}).
\]  

(7)

\[
CoDisc_{\mathcal{H},L_2}(h_u, \alpha_v h_v; x_v^{(l)}, X_t^{(z)}) = \max_{u=v+1}^{M-1} \sum_{i=1}^{m_i} \ell_2(h_v \circ \phi(x_v^{(l)}), h_u \circ \phi(x_v^{(z)}))
\]  

(8)

\[
CoDisc_{\mathcal{H},L_2}(h_u, \alpha_v h_v; x_v^{(l)}, X_t^{(z)}) = \max_{u=v+1}^{M-1} \sum_{i=1}^{m_i} \ell_2(h_v \circ \phi(x_v^{(l)}), h_u \circ \phi(x_t^{(z)}))
\]  

(9)
**Step 4:** In this step we train the parameter  to select the best predictor:

\[
\min_{|\alpha|_1=1} \mathcal{L}(X^{(t)}_v, X_t, \alpha_v). \tag{10}
\]

\[
\mathcal{L}(X^{(t)}_v, X_t, \alpha_v) = |\alpha_v| \ell_2(h_u \circ \phi(x^{(t)}_v), h_u \circ \phi(x^{(t)}_v)) - \ell_2(h_v \circ \phi(x_t), h_u \circ \phi(x_t)) + \lambda |\alpha|_2. \tag{11}
\]

**IV. EXPERIMENTS**

In this section, we evaluate our CoDisc method. It should be noted that unsupervised Domain Adaptation with multi-view for regression is hard to evaluate as we have no real public database that corresponds entirely to the problem we described in the introduction. Consequently, we build scenarios and, for each one, we will describe the protocol.

In this section, we report the results of the CoDisc algorithm compared to other domain adaptation methods. The experiments are conducted on two public datasets. The following competitors are selected to compare the performance of the CoDisc algorithm:

- Weighting Adversarial Neural Network (WANN) [32] is a semi-supervised domain adaptation method based on the empirical $\mathcal{Y}$-discrepancy [26].
- Discriminative Adversarial Neural Network (DANN) [33] is an unsupervised domain adaptation method based on the $H$-divergence. It is used here for regression tasks by considering the mean squared error as task loss instead of the binary cross-entropy proposed in the original algorithm.
- Adversarial Discriminative Domain Adaptation (ADDA) [34] performs a DANN algorithm in two-stage: it first learns a source encoder and a task hypothesis using labeled data and then learns the target encoder with adversarial training.
- Deep Correlation Alignment (Deep-CORAL) [35] is an unsupervised domain adaptation method that aligns the second-order statistics of the source and target distributions with a linear transformation.
- Margin Disparity Discrepancy (MDD) [36] is a multi-source domain adaptation, it learns a new feature representation by minimizing the disparity discrepancy.
- TrAdaBoostR2 [37] is based on a reverse-boosting principle where the weight of source instances poorly predicted are decreased at each boosting iteration. A 5 fold cross-validation is performed at each first stage and the best hypothesis is returned.
- Kullback-Leibler Importance Estimation Procedure (KLIEP) [38] is a sample bias correction method minimizing the KL-divergence between a reweighted source and target distributions.
- Kernel Mean Matching (KMM) [39] reweights source instances in order to minimize the MMD between domains.
- Multiple Source Domain Adaptation (MDANN) [40] is a multi-source domain adaptation based on the $d_{2\ell}$ distance proposed in [22]. It gives high weights to sources far from the target (we used the soft version).

- Adversarial Hypothesis-Discrepancy Multi-Source Domain Adaptation (AHD-MSDA) [31] is a multi-source unsupervised domain adaptation based on the hypothesis-discrepancy.

**A. Experiments on real datasets**

1) **Dataset Superconductivity:** We propose here to demonstrate the efficiency of CoDisc on the UCI dataset superconductivity [41], [42]. The goal is to predict the critical temperature of superconductors. In this dataset there are 81 features extracted from 21263 superconductors.

**B. Experiments on synthetic datasets**

2) **Dataset UCI:** We proposed an UCI dataset that belongs to regression problem in industry, as industrialists are particularly interested in modeling the relationship between a material and its properties.

**C. Experiments on semi-supervised datasets**

3) **Dataset ADAPT:** We also report the average MSE over the 12 experiments. We conducted the experiments for 10%-and 15% source labeled instances. 10 target labeled instances are used in the training except for our method CoDisc, AHD-MSDA and MDAN, which benefit multi-view/multi-source learning method. The other target data are used to compute the results. For the multi-source methods such as AHD-MSDA and MDAN, we consider a view to be a source, while for the other baseline methods that do not consider multi-source learning, we merge the views. We reported the results in tables I, II. We also report the average MSE over the 12 experiments. In the second experiments we fix the size of source labeled instances at 5% and a pair of domains. Then, we gradually augment the target labeled instances used in training. The results are exported to table III. The presented results of this section are computed on a (2.7 GHz, 16 G RAM) computer. For all base line methods implementation except AHD-MSDA, the python library ADAPT is used [43]. The optimization parameters used in the presented experiments for baseline methods are $\ell_r = 0.001$, and the loss function is the mean squared error (MSE). The base hypothesis used to learn the task is a neural network with two hidden fully-connected layers of 100 neurons each, ReLU activation functions, weights clipping $C = 1$ and Adam optimizer; 200 epochs with a batch size of 128 are performed. Cross-validation is also applied to select best parameters and best scores for each baseline method. Our method and AHD-MSDA have been implemented using the Pytorch library, and the network architecture is:

- **Feature extractor:**
  - Linear(size(input features), 50, ReLU)
2) Dataset Ligand prediction: In the second scenario we use the dataset Ligand prediction from [17]. Ligand affinity prediction is an important learning task in the chemoinformatics sector since many drugs act as protein ligands. The aim of affinity prediction is to determine binding affinities for small molecular compounds with respect to a bigger protein using computational methods. Besides a few labeled protein-ligand pairs, millions of small compounds are gathered in molecular databases as ligand candidates. Many different data representations or views exist that can be used for learning.
Affinity prediction and other applications suffer from scant label information and the need to choose the most appropriate view for learning. The strength of a protein-compound binding interaction is characterized by the real-valued binding affinity. Our aim is to predict binding strength of binding using regression techniques from machine learning. In this section we evaluate the performance of CoDisc for predicting the affinity values of small compounds. Our experiments are performed on 24 datasets consisting of ligands and their affinity to one particular human protein per dataset, gathered from BindingDB [44]. Every ligand is a single molecule in the sense of a connected graph, and all ligands are available in the standard molecular fingerprint formats ECFP4, GpiDAPH3, and Maccs. All three formats are binary and high-dimensional, and each format is considered to be a view. To create domains we follow the same method described in the superconductivity experiments and we also repeat the same experiments with the same parameters optimisation. The results are exported in tables IV, V and VI.

### Discussion:
Overall, we find that our method performs better than baseline methods in the target domain with 10% and 15% source labeled instances. However, with 15% source labeled instances, our method performs as well as or less well than some baseline methods such as Deep-CORAL for a pair of domains. The reason for this is that some baseline methods leverage information from a few target labeled instances during training, thus penalizing our performance. We can make the same observation with tables III, VI, thus, the more we increase the number of target labeled instances, the less efficient we are. However, our approach outperforms, for the different settings, the baseline methods which not benefit from the information from target domain such as AHD-MSDA, DANN (considered as our main competitor). As far as the ligand prediction dataset considered, we observe similar result as for the superconductivity dataset. Our method performs well for 10% and 15% source labeled instances and decrease when the baseline method receive more target labeled instances.
TABLE V
LIGAND PREDICTION EXPERIMENTS MSE (15% SOURCE LABELED INSTANCES)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expe.</th>
<th>l</th>
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<th>h</th>
<th>l</th>
<th>m</th>
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TABLE VI
LIGAND PREDICTION EXPERIMENTS MSE (5% SOURCE LABELED INSTANCES), PAIR DOMAINS: h → mh

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<th>Number of target labeled</th>
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V. Conclusion
In this work, we proposed an adversarial domain adaptation algorithm based on a new discrepancy, CoDisc, tailored for multi-view regression where a few data are labeled in the source domain.

We demonstrated the efficiency of our method in real datasets especially with a few source labeled instances. Nevertheless, the main problem we face in our work stems from the aggregation of multiple predictors. To control the synchronization of the generator, we must choose the appropriate learning rate of the discriminator for the context, as well as empirically adapt the parameter β. In our future work, we intend to investigate the self-supervised learning and active learning settings, to try to label target data with a high degree of confidence.

REFERENCES


