

Learning Generalizable Visual Representations

Kate Saenko

Boston University & MIT-IBM Watson AI

Successes of AI



2015

2020





Automate tasks previously only done by humans



Driving scene segmentation Project at BU



ZeroWaste Project at BU

What is Machine Learning?

What is Machine Learning?

- Machine learning powers Artificial Intelligence
- Software algorithm that "learns" to make decisions from examples



What is Machine Learning?

- Machine learning powers Artificial Intelligence
- Software algorithm that "learns" to make decisions from examples



"Deep" Learning == Neural Networks

- a popular algorithm is a deep Neural Network
- It learns features (patterns) from data does not rely on hand-coded ones



Kate Saenko -- Boston University

Neurons in the brain...



...inspired "Artificial Neural Networks"



Neurons are cells that process chemical and electrical signals and transmit these signals to neurons and other types of cells

Real vs Artificial Neural Network



- Artificial neural networks: consist of many inter-connected neurons organized in layers
- Neurons: each neuron receives inputs from neurons in previous layer, passes its output to next layer
- Activation: neuron's output between 1 (excited) and 0 (not excited)

Neural Networks learn features (patterns)



edges

Neural Networks learn hierarchical features



Talk outline

- What are AI and machine learning?
- Dataset bias
- Solutions to dataset bias
- Trash
- Language to the rescue

AI makes mistakes...



You're certainly entitled to that opinion, Katie.



August 2018 Accuracy on Facial Analysis Pilot Parliaments Benchmark



amazon





DARKER MALES

LIGHTER **FEMALES** MALES

Amazon Rekognition Performance on Gender Classification

FEMALES



Dataset Bias

Problem: dataset bias



What your AI is trained on



What it's asked to label



"Dataset Bias" "Domain Shift"



Adapting visual category models to new domains K Saenko, B Kulis, M Fritz, T Darrell, ECCV, 2010

When does dataset bias happen?

From one city to another



From web to robot



From simulated to real control



When does dataset bias happen?

From one city to another



From web to robot



From simulated to real control



From one demographic to another



https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/09/technology/facial-recognition-race-artificial-intelligence.html

From one culture to another





Dataset bias reduces accuracy



target domain

Dataset bias reduces accuracy



Dataset bias reduces accuracy

11% – 14%

accuracy

drop!



Do ImageNet Classifiers Generalize to ImageNet? [Recht et al. 2019]

test

Poor

Why does dataset bias affect machine learning?



Problem: dataset bias







Poor accuracy

Solutions to dataset bias

- Collect and label more representative data
- Cons: \$\$\$, time
- Long-tailed distribution of labels



A learning solution to dataset bias

Problem: dataset bias





lots of labeled data

Target Domain





 $D_S = \{ (\mathbf{x}_i, y_i), \forall i \in \{1, \dots, N\} \} \qquad D_T = \{ (\mathbf{z}_j, ?), \forall j \in \{1, \dots, M\} \}$

Goal: learn a classifier h that achieves low expected loss under distribution D_T

Theorem: target error is bounded by the source error, the difference between labeling functions f_S and f_T , and the divergence between the distributions D_S and D_T

$$\epsilon_T(h) \le \epsilon_S(h) + d_1(\mathcal{D}_S, \mathcal{D}_T) + \min\left\{ \mathsf{E}_{\mathcal{D}_S} \left[|f_S(\mathbf{x}) - f_T(\mathbf{x})| \right], \mathsf{E}_{\mathcal{D}_T} \left[|f_S(\mathbf{x}) - f_T(\mathbf{x})| \right] \right\}$$

We expect the first and third terms to be small, the problem is the second

Divergence between two distributions; B is the set of measurable subsets under D and D'

$$d_1(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{D}') = 2 \sup_{B \in \mathcal{B}} |\Pr_{\mathcal{D}}[B] - \Pr_{\mathcal{D}'}[B]|$$

A theory of learning from different domains, Shai Ben-David et al. 2009

5/23/2022

What causes poor performance?



Problem: features are different

ADDA: Tzeng, Eric, et al. "Adversarial discriminative domain adaptation." CVPR 2017.

What causes poor performance?

- Train and test data distributions are different
- Model lacks discriminative features



IDEA 1: Adversarial domain alignment



Goal: align distributions

ADDA: Tzeng, Eric, et al. "Adversarial discriminative domain adaptation." CVPR 2017.

IDEA 1: Adversarial domain alignment



Goal: align distributions

ADDA: Tzeng, Eric, et al. "Adversarial discriminative domain adaptation." CVPR 2017.

IDEA 1: Adversarial domain alignment



Goal: align distributions

ADDA: Tzeng, Eric, et al. "Adversarial discriminative domain adaptation." CVPR 2017.

Domain alignment: feature visualization on digits



Effect of adaptation on features in MNIST \rightarrow MNIST-M shift (top feature extractor layer)

Figure from Ganin, Yaroslav, and Victor Lempitsky. "Unsupervised domain adaptation by backpropagation." ICML 2015

IDEA 2: Pixel-space domain alignment



IDEA 2: Pixel-space domain alignment



Does domain alignment improve o.o.d accuracy?

i.i.d testing overestimates generalization

- The vast majority of datasets have i.i.d test sets
- This over-estimates generalization of models
- Solution: evaluate on out-of-distribution (o.o.d) data



O.O.D datasets



WILDS Dataset (Koh et al., 2021)



Wilds dataset (Koh et al., 2021) contains labeled data from the source domains (for training), validation domains (for hyperparameter selection), and target domains (for held-out evaluation). In Wilds 2.0, we extend these datasets with unlabeled data

Results on image classification



ADDA: Tzeng, Eric, et al. "Adversarial discriminative domain adaptation." CVPR 2017.

(a) Non-adapted (b) Adapted

[Ganin, ICML 2015]

Takeaway:

Domain adaptation can improve accuracy on target data without any labels; *"unsupervised fine-tuning"*

Results on image classification

- Example: syn2real object recognition
- 6 categories missing in target ("partial" shift)
- improves accuracy compared to SOTA



Source Only	49.9	1
DANN (Ganin et al., 2016)	38.7	
ETN (Zhangjie Cao, 2019)	59.8	
STA (Liu et al., 2019)	48.2	
UAN (You et al., 2019)	39.7	+14%
DANCE (ours)	73.7	1

Application: Image segmentation for driving

- Labeled data is very expensive
- Learn from simulation?



Alignment: make training data look like test data



Segmentation Results: Train on GTA game, test on real city









Pixel-level alignment with CyCADA [Hoffman'18]



Takeaway:

Unsupervised image-to-image translation can change the image style to match the target domain

CyCADA, Hoffman, Tzeng, Park, Zhu, Isola, Saenko, Efros, Darrell, ICML 2018

A Real-world Small Data Problem

Classifying recyclables

Only 30% of waste is recycled

- The EPA estimates that 75% of the American waste stream is recyclable, but we only recycle about **30%** of it.
- Dull, dirty, dangerous job



ZeroWaste Dataset: Towards Deformable Object Segmentation in Cluttered Scenes



Dina Bashkirova, Mohamed Abdelfattah, Ziliang Zhu, James Akl, Fadi Alladkani, Ping Hu, Vitaly Ablavsky, Berk Calli, Sarah Adel Bargal and Kate Saenko

CVPR 2022



https://github.com/dbash/zerowaste

Real MRF facility (our setup)

TACO dataset



Labeled Waste in the Wild dataset



ReSortIT dataset





our ZeroWaste dataset









ZeroWaste: Overview

- Task: remove non-paper objects from the conveyor belt;
- Annotated objects of four classes: cardboard, soft plastic, rigid plastic and metal;
- 4503 fully annotated frames (ZeroWaste-f)
- 6212 unlabeled frames (ZeroWaste-s);
- 1410 frames before and after collection (ZeroWaste-w)



ZeroWaste: key differences

- A lot of background clutter and occlusions
- Objects out of context







ZeroWaste: key differences

- A lot of background clutter and occlusions
- Objects out of context
- Highly deformable objects



ZeroWaste: key difference

- A lot of background clutter and occlusions ۲
- Objects out of context .
- Highly deformable objects **Translucent objects**



Summary: Learning Generalizable Visual Representations

- O.o.d testing is more realistic than i.i.d
- Can learn domain invariance using self supervision, "bridge" domain
- Real-world small data problem: recycling dataset
- Learning from language helps