



# **Adaptive Knowledge Transfer on Evolving Domains**



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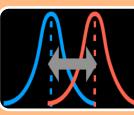


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## Background

- Dynamic transfer learning
- Assumptions





## Methodology

- $\bullet \ Label-informed \ {\cal C}-divergence$
- Generalization error bound
- Adversarial VAE framework

#### **Experiments**

- Performance comparison
- Ablation study



### Conclusion



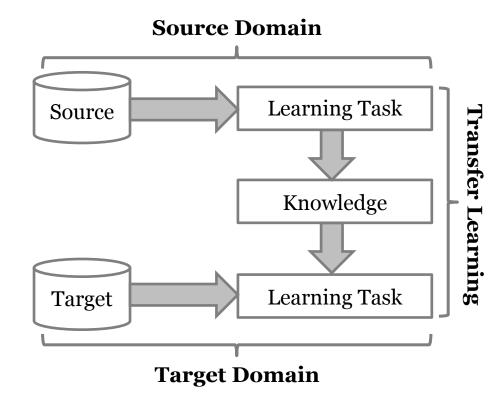
# Background

#### **Transfer Learning**

- **Input**: A source domain and a target domain Ο
- **Output**: Prediction function on the target domain Ο

#### Assumptions

- **Relatedness**: Domains are distributionally similar. Ο
- **Static domains**: All the domain data are static Ο





# Background



## □ Transfer Learning

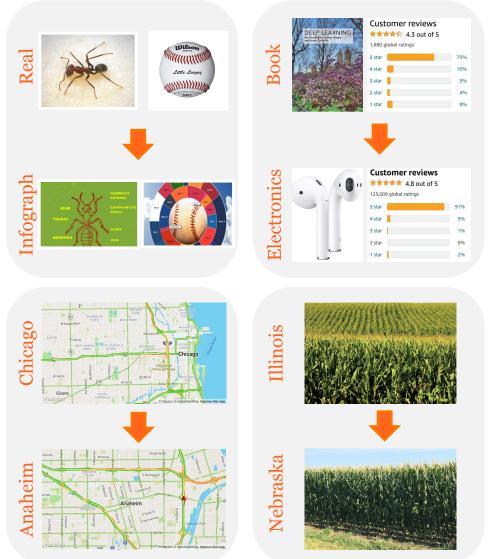
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## □ Assumptions

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# □ Applications

- **Computer vision**: Object recognition
- Natural language processing: Sentiment analysis
- **Graph mining**: Traffic flow prediction
- Agriculture analysis: Plant phenotyping



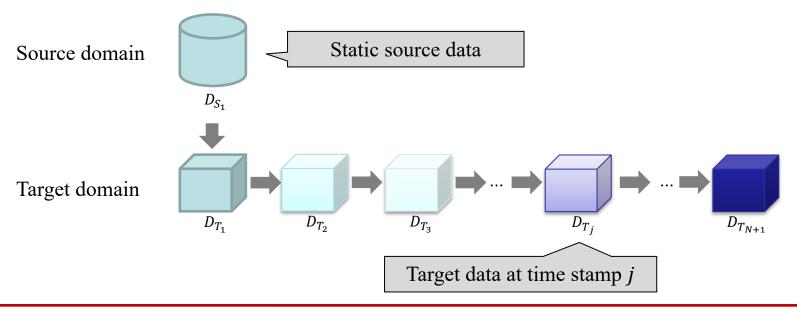
Ozan Sener, et al. "**Learning transferrable representations for unsupervised domain adaptation**." NeurIPS 2016. Junteng Jia, et al. "**Residual correlation in graph neural network regression**." KDD 2020. Jun Wu et al. "**Adaptive transfer learning for plant phenotyping**." MLCA 2021

# **Problem Definition**



## Dynamic transfer learning

- Input: A static source domain (fully labeled);
  - A time-evolving target domain (limited labeled and adequate unlabeled)
- Goal: Learn a prediction function for the newest target domain
- Assumptions
  - > **Relatedness**: The source and initial target domains are distributionally related.
  - **Evolvement**: The target domain is continuously evolving over time.



Judy Hoffman, et al. "**Continuous manifold based adaptation for evolving visual domains**." CVPR 2014. Ananya Kumar, et al. "**Understanding self-training for gradual domain adaptation**." ICML 2020.





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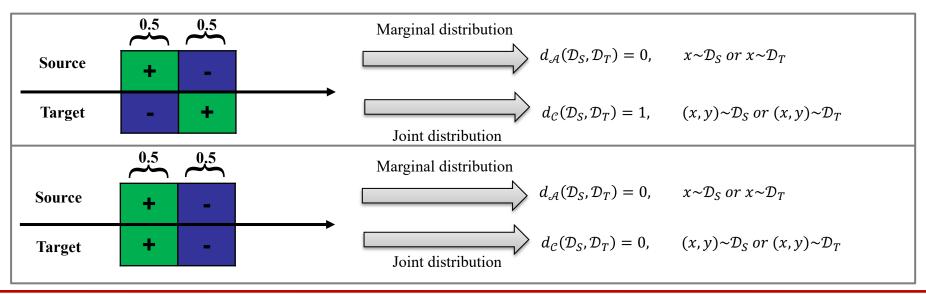
# Label-Informed Domain Discrepancy



- □ Label-informed domain discrepancy (*C*-divergence):
  - Key idea: Measure the **joint distribution difference** over both input and output spaces

$$d_{\mathcal{C}}(\mathcal{D}_S, \mathcal{D}_T) = \sup_{h \in \mathcal{H}} \left| \Pr_{\mathcal{D}_S}[\{I(h), y = 1\} \cup \{\overline{I(h)}, y = 0\}] - \Pr_{\mathcal{D}_T}[\{I(h), y = 1\} \cup \{\overline{I(h)}, y = 0\}] \right|$$

 $\Box$  Comparison with existing marginal discrepancy measures, e.g., A-distance [1]



[1] Shai Ben-David, et al. "A theory of learning from different domains." Machine learning 2010.



# **Theoretical Analysis**



□ The expected target error  $\epsilon_{T_{t+1}}$  on time stamp *t*+1 is bounded by

- (i) Empirical classification error  $\hat{\epsilon}_{T_0}$  on source data
- (ii) Empirical classification error  $\hat{\epsilon}_{T_i}$  (j = 1, ..., t) on historical target data
- o (iii) Label-informed domain discrepancy  $d_{\mathcal{C}}$  among domains

Theorem: Assume the loss function  $L(\cdot, \cdot)$  is bounded. Given a source domain  $\mathcal{D}_S$  (denoted as  $\mathcal{D}_{T_0}$ ) and historical target domain  $\left\{\mathcal{D}_{T_j}\right\}_{j=1}^t$ , for  $h \in \mathcal{H}$  and  $\delta \in (0,1)$ , with probability at least  $1 - \delta$ , the target domain error  $\epsilon_{T_{t+1}}$  on the newest target domain is bounded as follows.

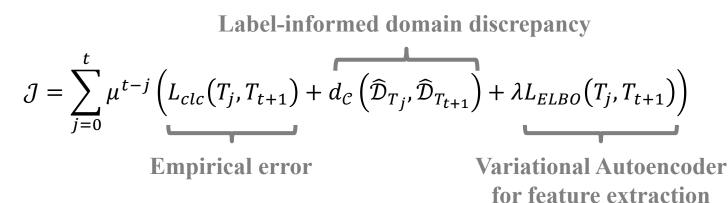
$$\epsilon_{T_{t+1}}(h) \leq \frac{1}{\bar{\mu}} \left( \sum_{j=0}^{t} \mu^{t-j} \hat{\epsilon}_{T_j}(h) + M \sum_{j=0}^{t} \mu^{t-j} d_{\mathcal{C}} \left( \widehat{\mathcal{D}}_{T_j}, \widehat{\mathcal{D}}_{T_{t+1}} \right) + M \Lambda \right)$$

where  $\Lambda$  is a Rademacher complexity term.



# **Proposed Algorithm: TransLATE**

- Annue funge
- □ TransLATE: <u>**Trans</u>fer** learning with <u>**la**</u>bel-informed dis<u></u>tribution alignm<u>e</u>nt</u>
- □ Objective function



- Assume data distribution is **continuously evolving**, i.e.,  $0 \le \mu \le 1$
- Variational autoencoder learns the common feature space
- The empirical error on historical target task is iteratively estimated

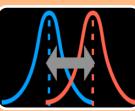




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# Experiments

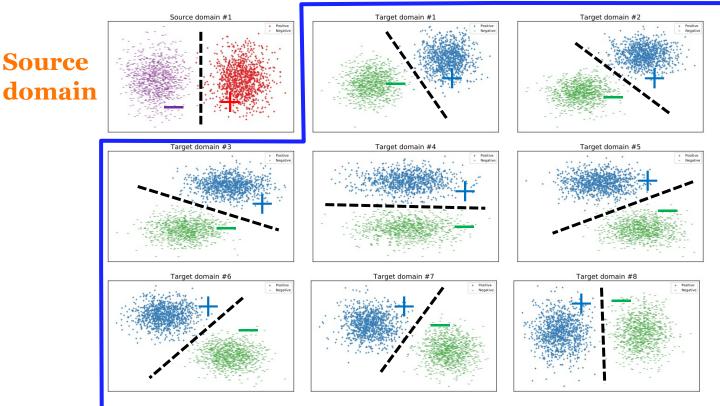


## Data sets

- Synthetic
- Office-31
- Office-Home

## □ Metric

• Classification accuracy



## Baselines

- Single domain: SourceOnly, TargetERM
- Static adaptation: DAN, DANN, and MDD
- o Dynamic adaptation: CUA, GST, and CIDA

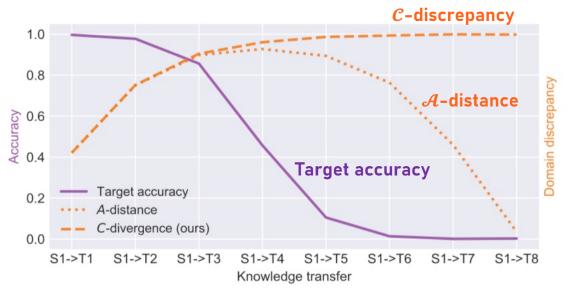
## Time evolving target domain



Ananya Kumar, et al. "**Understanding self-training for gradual domain adaptation**." ICML 2020. Hao Wang, et al. "**Continuously indexed domain adaptation**." ICML 2020. Yuchen Zhang, et al. "**Bridging theory and algorithm for domain adaptation**." ICML 2019.

# **Model Analysis**





Comparison of domain discrepancy and target error

#### **Observations**:

(a) Compared to  $\mathcal{A}$ -distance [1],  $\mathcal{C}$ -divergence better characterizes the transferability from the source to the target domains



### Comparison of different error bounds

(b) Our  $\mathcal{C}\text{-divergence}$  based error bound is much tighter than the baseline [1] based on  $\mathcal{A}\text{-distance}$ 



[1] Shai Ben-David, et al. "A theory of learning from different domains." Machine learning 2010.



# Results

	SourceOnly TargetERM DAN [9]	T1 0.7490 0.5584 0.8537	T2 0.2255 0.3933 0.5007	$\frac{\text{con} \rightarrow \text{We}}{\text{T3}}$ $0.2282$ $0.4215$ $0.4993$	T4 0.1275 0.3396 0.3638	T5 0.1503 0.3732 0.4470	T1 0.9651 0.4966 0.9772	T2 0.4309 0.4201 0.7302	$\frac{R \rightarrow Web}{T3}$ $0.3329$ $0.4188$ $0.6161$	T4 0.1611 0.3248 0.4765	T5 0.2027 0.4067 0.5302	Classification accuracy
ves er 9%) get	DANN [3] MDD [19] TransLATE $_{\infty}$	0.8389 0.8940 <b>0.9154</b>	0.4993 0.6738 0.6376	0.4121 0.5490 0.5758	0.3973 0.5141 0.4591	0.3382 0.4295 0.4846	0.9651 0.9724 0.9785	0.7356 0.8738 0.8591	0.6416 0.7315 0.7289	0.4510 0.5047 0.4926	0.5490 0.5289 0.5557	- Office-31
	CUA [2] GST [6] CIDA [14] TransLATE	0.8349 0.8456 0.8805 <b>0.9154</b>	0.6805 0.5987 0.7638 <b>0.8134</b>	0.6389 0.6013 0.7624 <b>0.8081</b>	0.6456 0.5584 0.7195 <b>0.7611</b>	0.6805 0.5960 0.7476 <b>0.7826</b>	<b>0.9852</b> 0.9739 0.9812 0.9785	0.8805 0.8376 0.8577 <b>0.9235</b>	0.8792 0.8134 0.8376 <b>0.9208</b>	0.8362 0.7570 0.7973 <b>0.8886</b>	0.8617 0.7865 0.7960 <b>0.9154</b>	
		Art $\rightarrow$ Real World					Clipart $\rightarrow$ Product					]
		T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	
	SourceOnly TargetERM	$0.7220 \\ 0.5643$	$0.3947 \\ 0.3297$	$0.3135 \\ 0.3010$	$0.2650 \\ 0.2582$	0.3512 0.3299	0.5944 0.6033	$0.1866 \\ 0.3805$	$0.1342 \\ 0.4232$	$0.1074 \\ 0.3061$	0.1550 0.3791	
	DAN [9] DANN [3] MDD [19] TransLATE <sub>∞</sub>	0.7341 0.7359 0.7435 <b>0.7560</b>	0.4901 0.5092 0.5056 0.5273	0.4193 0.4155 0.4331 0.4575	0.3686 0.3850 0.3874 0.4080	0.4597 0.4686 0.4686 0.4850	0.7186 0.7063 0.7264 <b>0.7411</b>	0.4201 0.4440 0.4765 0.5017	0.3921 0.3694 0.3886 0.4436	0.3352 0.3343 0.3514 0.3634	0.4113 0.4303 0.4294 0.4595	• Office-Home
	CUA [2] GST [6] CIDA [14] TransLATE	0.7370 0.7367 0.7420 <b>0.7560</b>	0.5732 0.5283 0.5643 <b>0.6046</b>	0.5181 0.4795 0.4983 <b>0.5447</b>	0.4932 0.4681 0.4896 <b>0.5097</b>	0.5372 0.4826 0.5130 <b>0.5459</b>	0.7143 0.7285 0.7226 <b>0.7411</b>	0.4922 0.5232 0.5076 <b>0.5747</b>	0.4431 0.4782 0.4334 <b>0.5318</b>	0.4310 0.4531 0.4030 <b>0.5009</b>	0.4879 0.4943 0.4362 <b>0.5422</b>	

**Observation**: TransLATE achieve

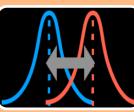
significantly better performance (+10%) on the newest target domain.



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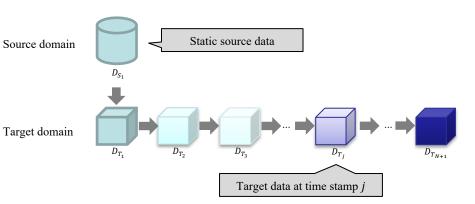
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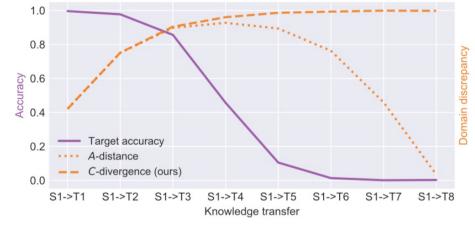




# Conclusion

- □ **Problem**: Dynamic transfer learning with time evolving target domain
- Analysis: Generalization error bounds with the proposed C-divergence
- □ Algorithm: Adversarial variational autoencoder framework based on empirical *C*-divergence
- Evaluation: Competitive performance on modeling the newest target domain











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