

AUC Maximization under Positive Distribution Shift

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AUC Maximization



- AUC is a standard evaluation metric for imbalanced binary classification.
- By maximizing the AUC with positive and negative training data, good classifiers can be learned even from imbalanced data.



$$AUC(s) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x}^{p} \sim p^{p}(\mathbf{x})} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x}^{n} \sim p^{n}(\mathbf{x})} \left[I(s(\mathbf{x}^{p}) > s(\mathbf{x}^{n})) \right],$$

AUC is the probability that a classifier *s* will rank a randomly drawn positive data higher than a randomly drawn negative data.

However, AUC maximization methods usually do not consider distribution shifts.

Positive Distribution Shift



We consider **Positive distribution shift**:

Negative-conditional density does not change, but positive-conditional density can vary between the training and testing phase.

 $p_{\mathrm{tr}}^{\mathrm{n}}(\mathbf{x}) = p_{\mathrm{te}}^{\mathrm{n}}(\mathbf{x}), \ p_{\mathrm{tr}}^{\mathrm{p}}(\mathbf{x}) \neq p_{\mathrm{te}}^{\mathrm{p}}(\mathbf{x}).$

Positive distribution shift often occurs in real-world imbalanced classification.

• Cyber security, medical care, visual inspection etc.



Our Main Results

Under the positive distribution shift, AUC on the test distribution can be maximized by using positive and unlabeled data in the training distribution and unlabeled data in the test distribution.
f(x^p, xⁿ) := σ(s(x^p) - s(xⁿ))

$$AUC_{\sigma}(s) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x}^{p} \sim p_{te}^{p}(\mathbf{x})} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x}^{n} \sim p_{te}^{n}(\mathbf{x})} \left[f(\mathbf{x}^{p}, \mathbf{x}^{n}) \right]$$

 $\propto \left[\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim p_{te}(\mathbf{x})} \mathbb{E}_{\bar{\mathbf{x}} \sim p_{tr}(\mathbf{x})} \left[f(\mathbf{x}, \bar{\mathbf{x}}) \right] - \pi_{tr} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim p_{te}(\mathbf{x})} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x}^{p} \sim p_{tr}^{p}(\mathbf{x})} \left[f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}^{p}) \right] \right] + C$ Positive class-prior in the training dist. (can be estimated)

Advantages of the derived AUC (objective func.)

- Requires only positive labels in the training dist. as supervision.
- Is a simple form, which is **easy to implement**.
- Can use any differentiable score functions such as linear models and neural networks.
- Does not require the positive class-prior in the test dist., which is difficult to obtain.



(to be learned)

Sigmoid func.

Experimental Results



Our method outperforms various existing methods in imbalanced classification

			Use PU data in the train dist.				Use PU data in the train dist. & U data in the test dist.				
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Data	$\pi_{ m te}$	Ours	CE	nnPU	puAUC	PULA	AnnPU	ApuAUC	APULA	CpuAUC	PURR
MNIST	0.1	0.723	0.796	0.782	0.801	0.802	0.782	0.798	0.793	0.804	0.815
	0.2	0.854	0.796	0.784	0.801	0.802	0.785	0.793	0.769	0.803	0.871
	0.3	0.902	0.796	0.783	0.800	0.802	0.780	0.786	0.745	0.802	0.914
Fashion	0.1	0.787	0.932	0.825	0.937	0.954	0.772	0.920	0.939	0.943	0.920
MNIST	0.2	0.891	0.930	0.825	0.937	0.955	0.771	0.890	0.911	0.943	0.929
	0.3	0.960	0.930	0.825	0.938	0.955	0.866	0.870	0.863	0.944	0.961
SVHN	0.1	0.554	0.504	0.501	0.518	0.494	0.501	0.512	0.492	0.524	0.511
	0.2	0.660	0.503	0.501	0.518	0.494	0.501	0.507	0.490	0.523	0.522
	0.3	0.736	0.503	0.501	0.518	0.494	0.501	0.507	0.490	0.523	0.519
CIFAR10	0.1	0.727	0.682	0.455	0.749	0.751	0.489	0.739	0.750	0.750	0.434
	0.2	0.825	0.679	0.467	0.741	0.739	0.491	0.732	0.742	0.744	0.536
	0.3	0.874	0.682	0.451	0.750	0.738	0.545	0.722	0.750	0.749	0.710
# best		11	2	1	3	5	1	2	4	3	5

Table: Average Test AUCs

When the class-prior in the test dist. is available, we can further boost our method's performance by using loss corrections. Please check the paper for details!