

# Transfer Learning with Applications

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# Outline

- Part I: An overview of transfer learning – (Sinno J. Pan)
- Part II: Transfer learning applications (Prof. Qiang Yang)
- Part III: Advanced research topics: heterogeneous transfer learning (Wei Fan)

# Transfer Learning Overview

**Sinno Jialin Pan (Ph.D.)**

Lab Head, Text Analytics,  
Data Analytics Department,  
Institute for Infocomm Research (I2R), Singapore

# Transfer of Learning

A psychological point of view

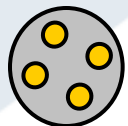
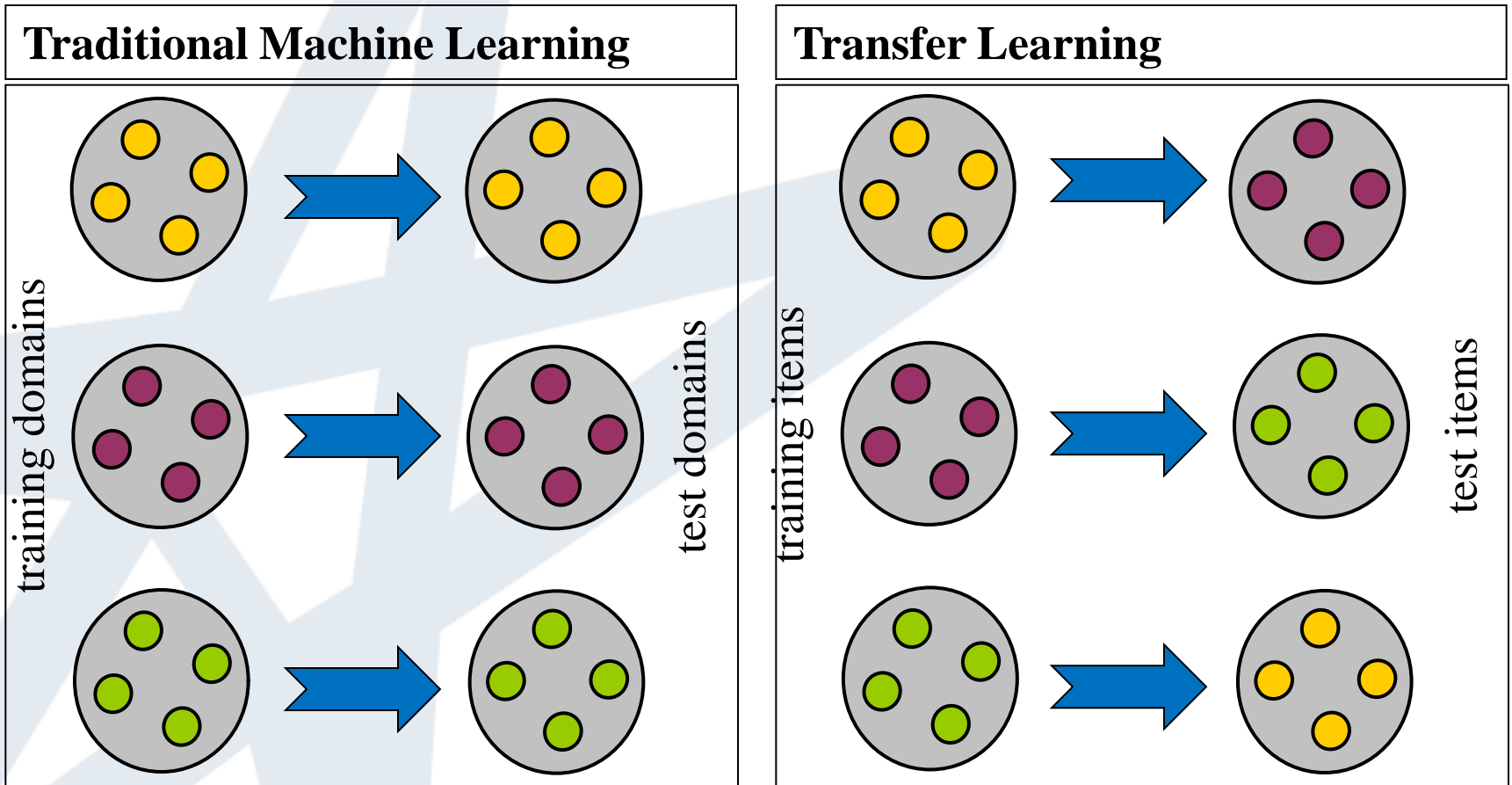
- The study of dependency of human conduct, learning or performance on prior experience.
  - [Thorndike and Woodworth, 1901] explored how individuals would transfer in one context to another context that share similar characteristics.
- C++ → Java
- Maths/Physics → Computer Science/Economics

# Transfer Learning

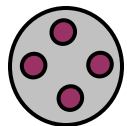
In the machine learning community

- The ability of a system to recognize and apply knowledge and skills learned in previous domains/tasks to novel tasks/domains, which share some commonality.
- Given a target domain/task, how to identify the commonality between the domain/task and previous domains/tasks, and transfer knowledge from the previous domains/tasks to the target one?

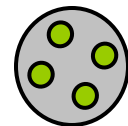
# Transfer Learning



domain A



domain B



domain C

# Transfer Learning

## Different fields

- Transfer learning for reinforcement learning.

[Taylor and Stone, Transfer Learning for Reinforcement Learning Domains: A Survey, JMLR 2009]

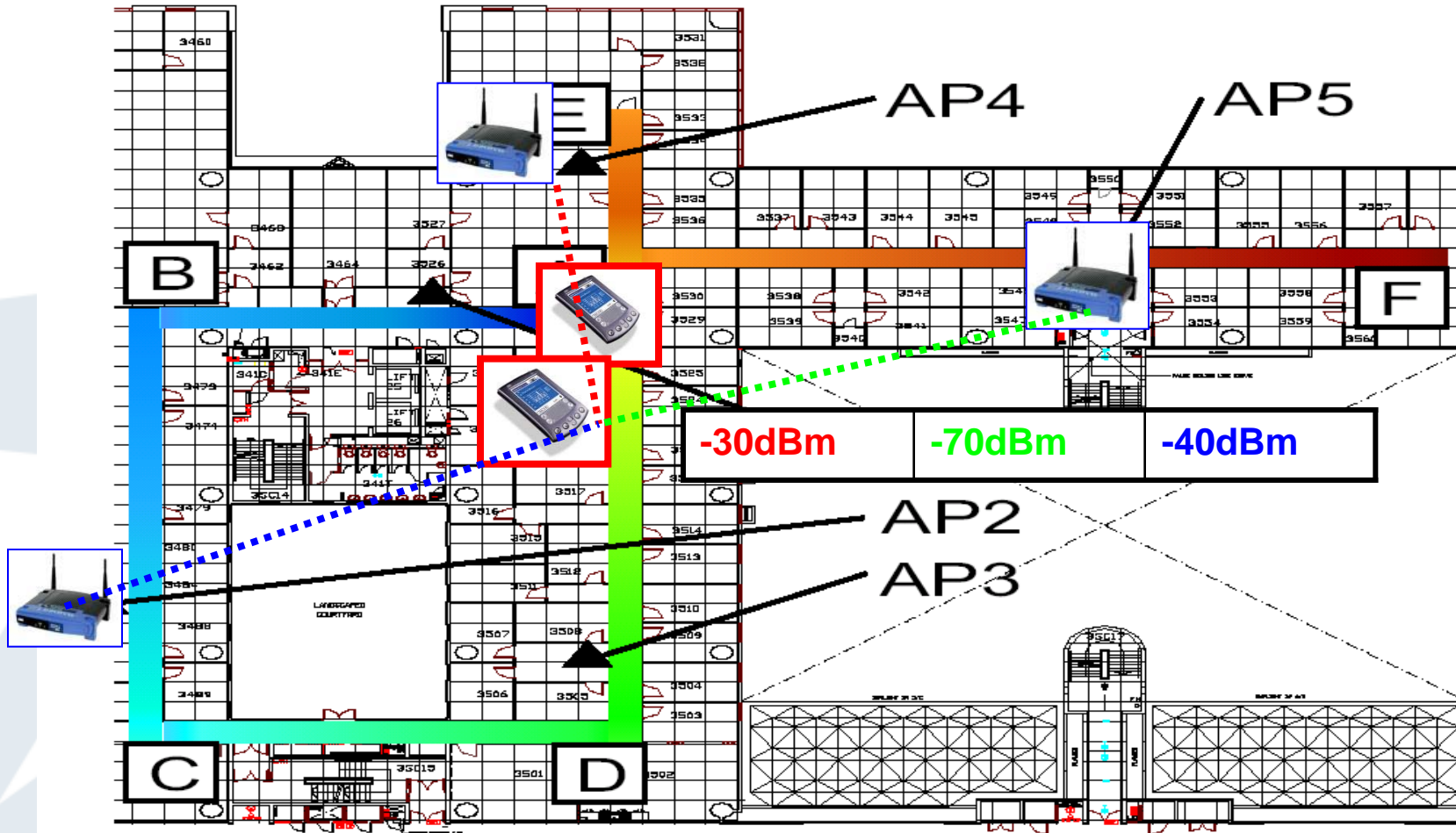
- Transfer learning for classification, and regression problems.



[Pan and Yang, A Survey on Transfer Learning, IEEE TKDE 2010]

# Motivating Example I:

## Indoor WiFi localization





# Indoor WiFi Localization (cont.)

**Training**

S=(-37dbm, .., -77dbm), L=(1, 3)  
S=(-41dbm, .., -83dbm), L=(1, 4)  
...  
S=(-49dbm, .., -34dbm), L=(9, 10)  
S=(-61dbm, .., -28dbm), L=(15,22)

Device A



**Localization model**

**Test**

S=(-37dbm, .., -77dbm)  
S=(-41dbm, .., -83dbm)  
...  
S=(-49dbm, .., -34dbm)  
S=(-61dbm, .., -28dbm)

Device A



Average Error Distance

~ 1.5 meters



**Training**

S=(-33dbm, .., -82dbm), L=(1, 3)  
...  
S=(-57dbm, .., -63dbm), L=(10, 23)

Device B



**Localization model**

**Test**

S=(-37dbm, .., -77dbm)  
S=(-41dbm, .., -83dbm)  
...  
S=(-49dbm, .., -34dbm)  
S=(-61dbm, .., -28dbm)

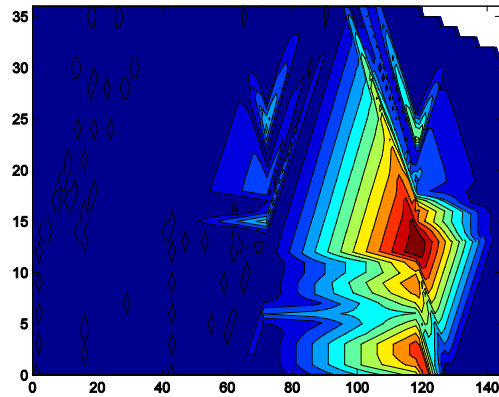
Device A



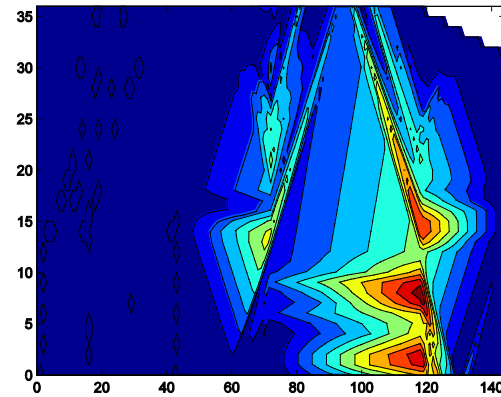
~10 meters

# Difference between Domains

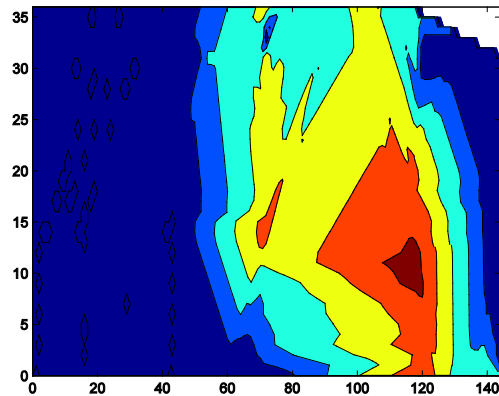
Time Period A



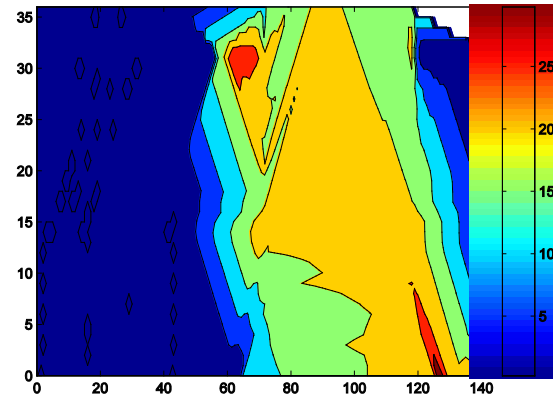
Time Period B



Device A



Device B



# Motivating Example II:

## Sentiment classification

10 hours ago

**Edward Priz**★ replied:



You know, this isn't the first time that "States Rights" has been used as a cover for racist policies. In fact, the whole "States Rights" thing has become a sort of code for heavy-handed racist policies. hasn't it? And it does provide a sort of contextual

10 hours ago

**RICH HIRTH**★ replied:



The issue here is probable cause. A police officer can question if he has probable cause, and he can document it. This law can be abused if being Latino is probable cause. That is license to harass for the police. As long as the law is applied fairly there

2 hours ago

**Julia Gomez** replied:



The Arizona law is so clearly unconstitutional that I do not think it will ever reach the point of being enforced. The article did not say so, but the Republican governor is afraid of a GOP primary electorate that is even more reactionary than usual. That is why she signed the bill, not because she thinks it is legally defensible.



# Sentiment Classification (cont.)

**Training**

10 hours ago  
Edward Pritz replied:

You know, this isn't the first time that 'States Rights' has been used as a cover for racist policies. In fact, the whole 'States Rights' thing has become a sort of code for heavy-handed racist policies, hasn't it? And it does provide a sort of contextual link with those heroic days when evil was confronted in places like Selma and Little Rock, doesn't it? Thanks for making that link explicit.



**Sentiment Classifier**

**Test**

10 hours ago  
Edward Pritz replied:

You know, this isn't the first time that 'States Rights' has been used as a cover for racist policies. In fact, the whole 'States Rights' thing has become a sort of code for heavy-handed racist policies, hasn't it? And it does provide a sort of contextual link with those heroic days when evil was confronted in places like Selma and Little Rock, doesn't it? Thanks for making that link explicit.

*Classification Accuracy*

~ 84.6%



Electronics



Electronics



**Training**

10 hours ago  
RICH HARTH replied:

The issue here is probable cause. A police officer can question if he has probable cause, and he can document it. This law can be abused if being Latino is probable cause. That is license to harass for the police. As long as the law is applied fairly there should not be a problem. As far as documentation, Most states have laws that citizens must carry valid state ID, and no one cares. There is no reason the Executive branch needed to get involved in what the court should decide.



**Sentiment Classifier**

**Test**

10 hours ago  
Edward Pritz replied:

You know, this isn't the first time that 'States Rights' has been used as a cover for racist policies. In fact, the whole 'States Rights' thing has become a sort of code for heavy-handed racist policies, hasn't it? And it does provide a sort of contextual link with those heroic days when evil was confronted in places like Selma and Little Rock, doesn't it? Thanks for making that link explicit.

~72.65%

DVD



Electronics



# Difference between Domains



Electronics	Video Games
(1) <b>Compact</b> ; easy to operate; very good picture quality; looks <b>sharp</b> !	(2) A very good game! It is action packed and full of excitement. I am very much <b>hooked</b> on this game.
(3) I purchased this unit from Circuit City and I was very excited about the quality of the picture. It is really nice and <b>sharp</b> .	(4) Very <b>realistic</b> shooting action and good plots. We played this and were <b>hooked</b> .
(5) It is also quite <b>blurry</b> in very dark settings. I will never buy HP again.	(6) The game is so <b>boring</b> . I am extremely unhappy and will probably never buy UbiSoft again.

# A Major Assumption in Traditional Machine Learning

- Training and future (test) data come from the same domain, which implies
  - Represented in the same feature spaces.
  - Follow the same data distribution.

# In Real-world Applications

- Training and testing data may come from different domains, which have:
  - Different marginal distributions, or different feature spaces:
  - Different predictive distributions, or different label spaces:

$$\mathcal{X}_S \neq \mathcal{X}_T, \text{ or } P_S(x) \neq P_T(x)$$

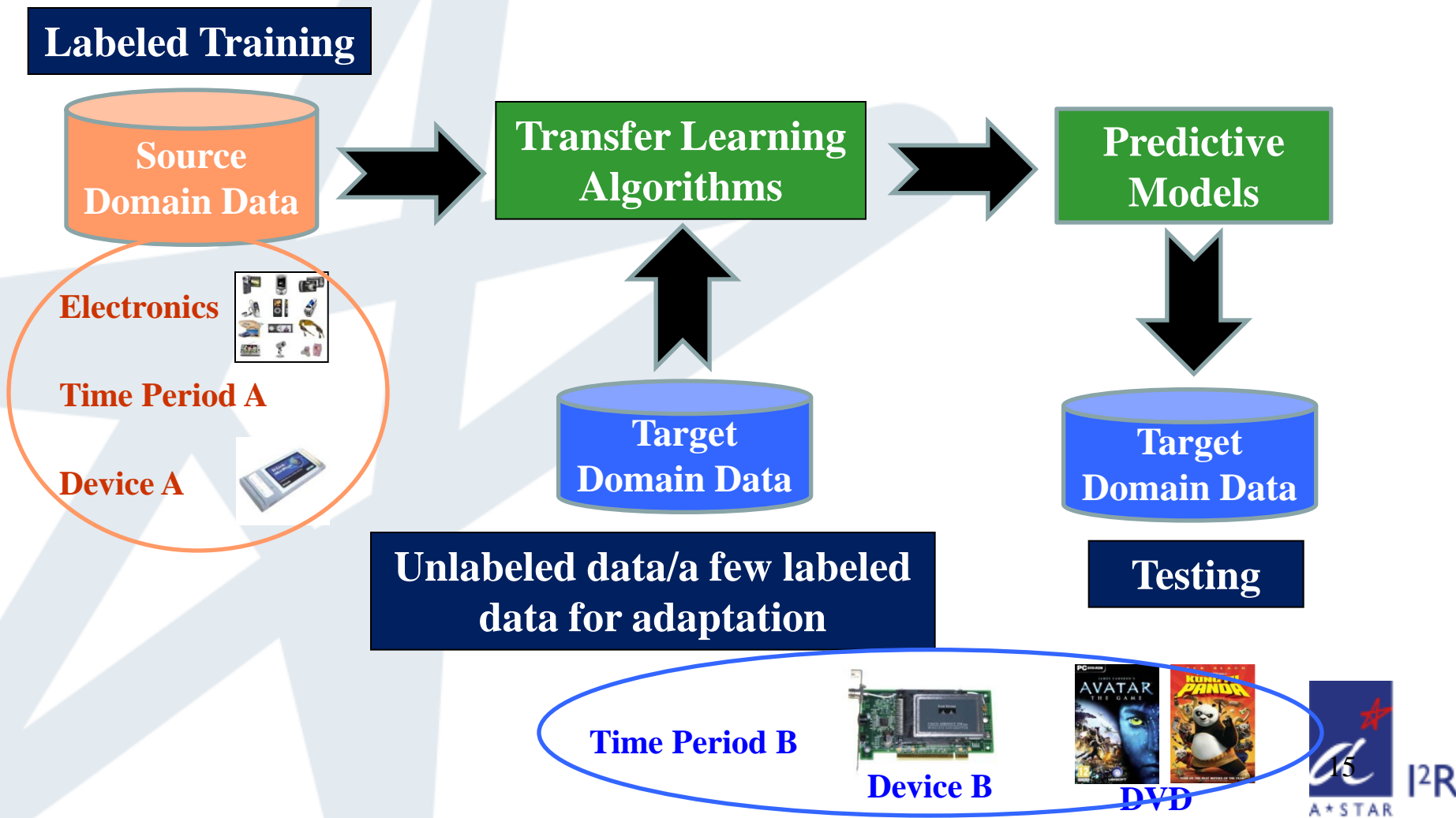
$$\mathcal{Y}_S \neq \mathcal{Y}_T, \text{ or } f_S \neq f_T \text{ (} P_S(y|x) \neq P_T(y|x) \text{)}$$

# How to Build Systems on Each Domain of Interest

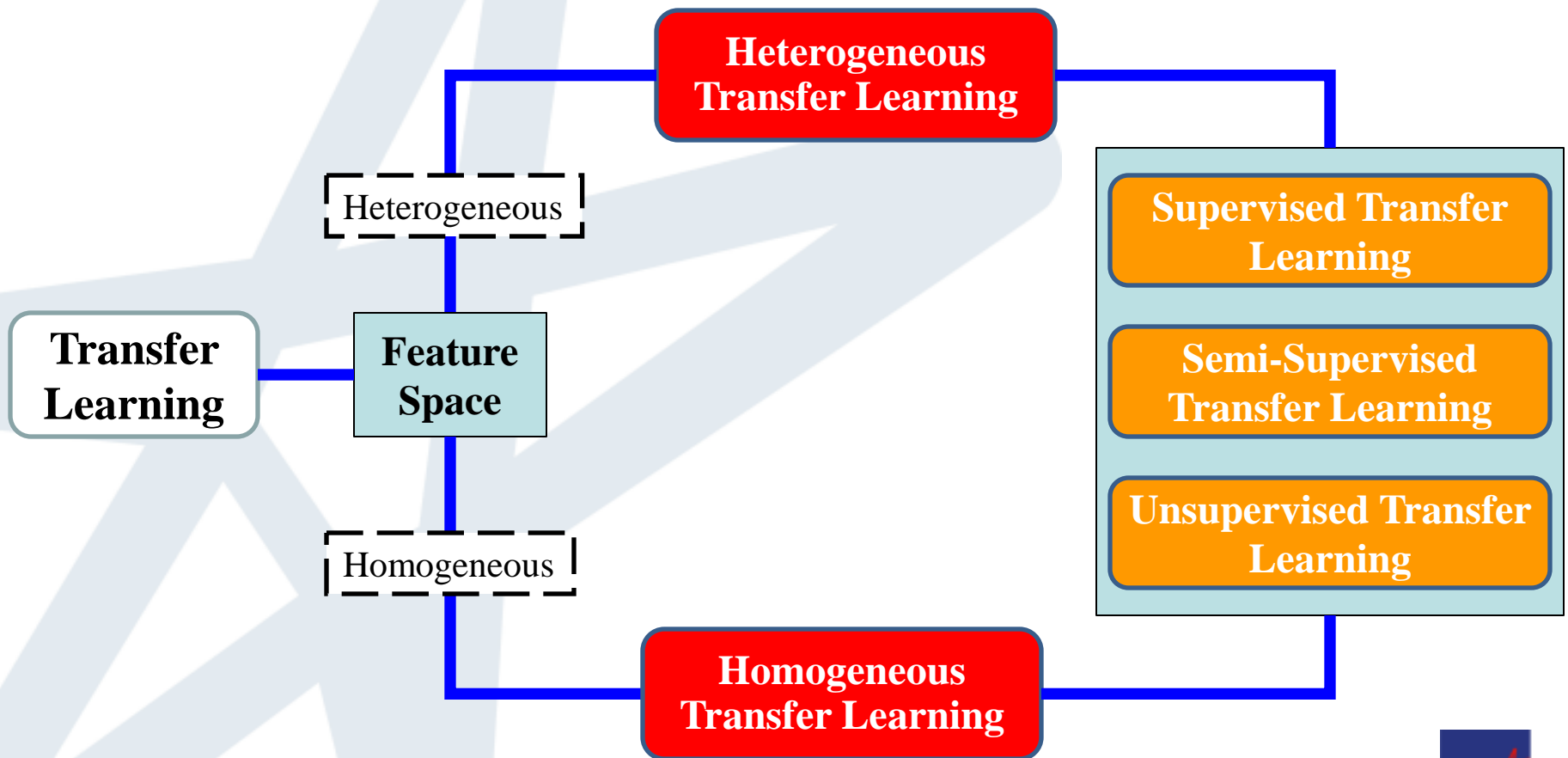
- Build every system from scratch?
  - ❑ Time consuming and expensive!
- Reuse common knowledge extracted from existing systems?
  - ❑ More practical!



# The Goal of Transfer Learning



# Transfer Learning Settings



# Transfer Learning Approaches

**Instance-based  
Approaches**

**Feature-based  
Approaches**

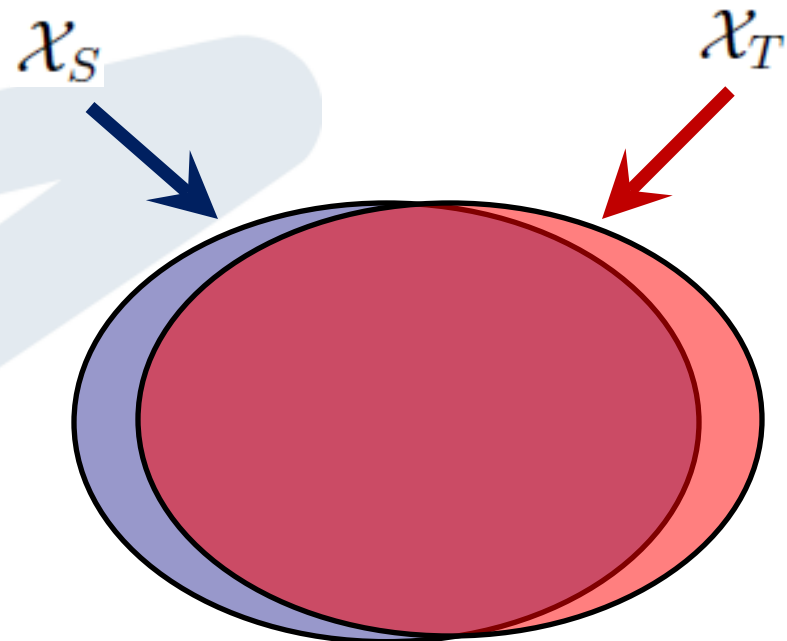
**Parameter-based  
Approaches**

**Relational  
Approaches**

# Instance-based Transfer Learning Approaches

## General Assumption

Source and target domains have a lot of overlapping features (domains share the same/similar support)



# Instance-based Transfer Learning Approaches

## Case I

### Problem Setting

Given  $\mathbf{D}_S = \{x_{S_i}, y_{S_i}\}_{i=1}^{n_S}$ ,  $\mathbf{D}_T = \{x_{T_i}\}_{i=1}^{n_T}$ ,

Learn  $f_T$ , s.t.  $\sum_i \epsilon(f_T(x_{T_i}), y_{T_i})$  is small,

where  $y_{T_i}$  is unknown.

### Assumption

- $\mathcal{Y}_S = \mathcal{Y}_T$ , and  $P(Y_S|X_S) = P(Y_T|X_T)$ ,
- $\mathcal{X}_S \approx \mathcal{X}_T$ ,
- $P(X_S) \neq P(X_T)$ .

## Case II

### Problem Setting

Given  $\mathbf{D}_S = \{x_{S_i}, y_{S_i}\}_{i=1}^{n_S}$ ,

$\mathbf{D}_T = \{x_{T_i}, y_{T_i}\}_{i=1}^{n_T}$ ,  $n_T \ll n_S$ ,

Learn  $f_T$ , s.t.  $\epsilon(f_T(x_{T_i}), y_{T_i})$  is small, and  $f_T$  has good generalization on unseen  $x_T^*$ .

### Assumption

- $\mathcal{Y}_S = \mathcal{Y}_T$ ,  
but  $f_S \neq f_T$  ( $P_S(y|x) \neq P_T(y|x)$ ).

# Instance-based Approaches

## Case I

Given a target task,

$$\theta^* = \arg \min \mathbb{E}_{(x,y) \sim P_T} [l(x, y, \theta)]$$

$$= \arg \min \mathbb{E}_{(x,y) \sim P_T} \left[ \frac{P_S(x, y)}{P_S(x, y)} l(x, y, \theta) \right]$$

$$= \arg \min \int_y \int_x P_T(x, y) \left( \frac{P_S(x, y)}{P_S(x, y)} l(x, y, \theta) \right) dx dy$$

$$= \arg \min \int_y \int_x P_S(x, y) \left( \frac{P_T(x, y)}{P_S(x, y)} l(x, y, \theta) \right) dx dy$$

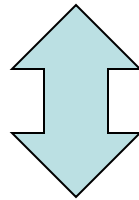
$$= \arg \min \mathbb{E}_{(x,y) \sim P_S} \left[ \frac{P_T(x, y)}{P_S(x, y)} l(x, y, \theta) \right]$$

# Instance-based Approaches

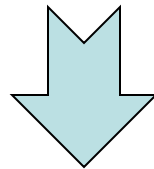
## Case I (cont.)

If  $P_S(x, y) = P_T(x, y)$

$$\theta^* = \arg \min \mathbb{E}_{(x_T, y_T) \sim P_T} [l(x_T, y_T, \theta)]$$



$$\theta^* = \arg \min \mathbb{E}_{(x_S, y_S) \sim P_S} [l(x_S, y_S, \theta)]$$



$$\theta^* = \arg \min \sum_{i=1}^{n_S} l(x_{S_i}, y_{S_i}, \theta) + \lambda \Omega(\theta)$$

# Instance-based Approaches

## Case I (cont.)

**Assumption:**  $\{P_S(x) \neq P_T(x), P_S(y|x) = P_T(y|x)\} \Rightarrow P_S(x, y) \neq P_T(x, y)$

$$\begin{aligned}\theta^* &= \arg \min \mathbb{E}_{(x,y) \sim P_S} \left[ \frac{P_T(x, y)}{P_S(x, y)} l(x, y, \theta) \right] \\ &= \arg \min \mathbb{E}_{(x,y) \sim P_S} \left[ \frac{P_T(x) P_T(y|x)}{P_S(x) P_S(y|x)} l(x, y, \theta) \right] \\ &= \arg \min \mathbb{E}_{(x,y) \sim P_S} \left[ \frac{P_T(x)}{P_S(x)} l(x, y, \theta) \right]\end{aligned}$$

Denote  $\beta(x) = \frac{P_T(x)}{P_S(x)},$

$$\theta^* = \arg \min \sum_{i=1}^{n_S} \beta(x_{S_i}) l(x_{S_i}, y_{S_i}, \theta) + \lambda \Omega(\theta)$$





# Instance-based Approaches

## Case I (cont.)

How to estimate  $\beta(x) = \frac{P_T(x)}{P_S(x)}$  ?

A simple solution is to first estimate  $P_T(x)$ ,  $P_S(x)$ , respectively,

and calculate  $\frac{P_T(x)}{P_S(x)}$ . 

An alternative solution is to estimate  $\frac{P_T(x)}{P_S(x)}$  directly. 

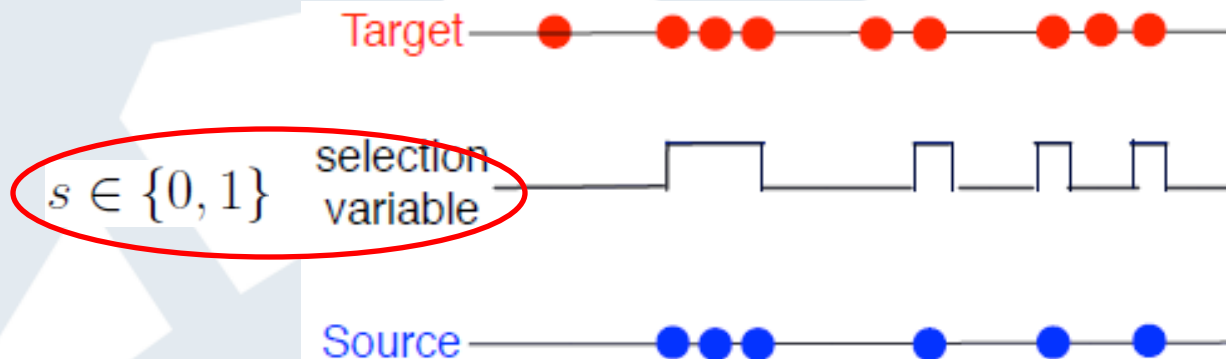
Correcting Sample Selection Bias / Covariate Shift

[Quionero-Candela, *etal*, Data Shift in Machine Learning, MIT Press 2009]

# Instance-based Approaches

Correcting sample selection bias

- Imagine a *rejection* sampling process, and view the source domain as samples from the target domain



**Assumption: sample selection bias is caused by the data generation process**

# Instance-based Approaches

Correcting sample selection bias (cont.)

- The distribution of the selector variable maps the target onto the source distribution

$$P_S(x) \propto P_T(x)P(s = 1|x)$$



$$\beta(x) = \frac{P_S(x)}{P_T(x)} \propto \frac{1}{P(s = 1|x)}$$

[Zadrozny, ICML-04]

- Label instances from the source domain with label 1
- Label instances from the target domain with label 0
- Train a binary classifier

# Instance-based Approaches

## Kernel mean matching (KMM)

### Maximum Mean Discrepancy (MMD)

Given  $\mathbf{X}_S = \{x_{S_i}\}_{i=1}^{n_S}$ ,  $\mathbf{X}_T = \{x_{T_i}\}_{i=1}^{n_T}$ , drawn from  $P_S(x)$  and  $P_T(x)$ , respectively,

$$\text{Dist}(P(X_S), P(X_T)) = \left\| \frac{1}{n_S} \sum_{i=1}^{n_S} \Phi(x_{S_i}) - \frac{1}{n_T} \sum_{j=1}^{n_T} \Phi(x_{T_j}) \right\|_{\mathcal{H}}$$

[Alex Smola, Arthur Gretton and Kenji Kukumizu, ICML-08 tutorial]

# Instance-based Approaches

## Kernel mean matching (KMM) (cont.)

[Huang *et al.*, NIPS-06]

$$\arg \min_{\beta} \left\| \frac{1}{n_S} \sum_{i=1}^{n_S} \beta(x_{S_i}) \Phi(x_{S_i}) - \frac{1}{n_T} \sum_{j=1}^{n_T} \Phi(x_{T_j}) \right\|$$
$$s.t. \quad \beta(x_{S_i}) \in [0, B] \text{ and } \left| \frac{1}{n_S} \sum_{i=1}^{n_S} \beta(x_{S_i}) - 1 \right| \leq \epsilon.$$

# Instance-based Approaches

## Direct density ratio estimation

[Sugiyama *et al.*, NIPS-07, Kanamori *et al.*, JMLR-09]

$$\text{Recall } \beta(x) = \frac{P_T(x)}{P_S(x)}$$

$$\text{Let } \tilde{\beta}(x) = \sum_{\ell=1}^b \alpha_{\ell} \psi_{\ell}(x), \text{ and denote } \tilde{P}_T(x) = \tilde{\beta}(x) P_S(x)$$

**KL divergence loss**

$$\arg \min_{\{\alpha_{\ell}\}_{\ell=1}^b} \text{KL}[P_T(x) || \tilde{P}_T(x)]$$

[Sugiyama *et al.*, NIPS-07]

**Least squared loss**

$$\arg \min_{\{\alpha_{\ell}\}_{\ell=1}^b} \int_{X_S \cup X_T} (\tilde{\beta}(x) - \beta(x))^2 P_S(x) dx$$

[Kanamori *et al.*, JMLR-09]

# Instance-based Approaches

## Case II

- $\mathcal{Y}_S = \mathcal{Y}_T$ ,  
but  $f_S \neq f_T$  ( $P_S(y|x) \neq P_T(y|x)$ ).
- Intuition: Part of the labeled data in the source domain can be reused in the target domain after re-weighting

# Instance-based Approaches

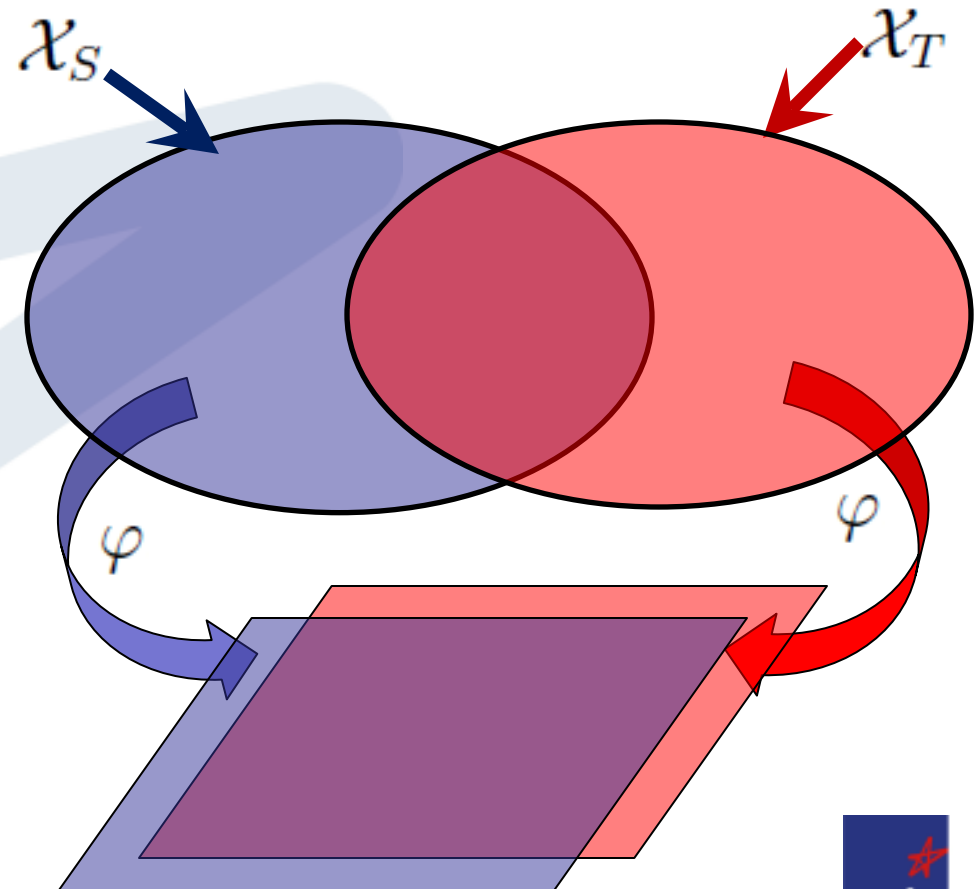
## Case II (cont.)

- **TrAdaBoost** [Dai *etal* ICML-07]
  - For each boosting iteration,
    - ❑ Use the same strategy as AdaBoost to update the weights of target domain data.
    - ❑ Use a new mechanism to decrease the weights of misclassified source domain data.



# Feature-based Transfer Learning Approaches

When source and target domains only have some overlapping features. (lots of features only have support in either the source or the target domain)



# Feature-based Transfer Learning Approaches (cont.)

How to learn  $\varphi$  ?

- Solution 1: Encode application-specific knowledge to learn the transformation.
- Solution 2: General approaches to learning the transformation.

# Feature-based Approaches

Encode application-specific knowledge






Electronics	Video Games
(1) <b>Compact</b> ; easy to operate; very good picture quality; looks <b>sharp</b> !	(2) A very good game! It is action packed and full of excitement. I am very much <b>hooked</b> on this game.
(3) I purchased this unit from Circuit City and I was very excited about the quality of the picture. It is really nice and <b>sharp</b> .	(4) Very <b>realistic</b> shooting action and good plots. We played this and were <b>hooked</b> .
(5) It is also quite <b>blurry</b> in very dark settings. I will never_buy HP again.	(6) The game is so <b>boring</b> . I am extremely unhappy and will probably never_buy UbiSoft again.

# Feature-based Approaches

Encode application-specific knowledge (cont.)

Electronics




	compact	sharp	blurry	hooked	realistic	boring
	1	1	0	0	0	0
	0	1	0	0	0	0
	0	0	1	0	0	0

Training

$$y = f(x) = \text{sgn}(w \cdot x^T), \quad w = [1, 1, -1, 0, 0, 0]$$

Prediction

Video Game

	compact	sharp	blurry	hooked	realistic	boring
	0	0	0	1	0	0
	0	0	0	1	1	0
	0	0	0	0	0	1

# Feature-based Approaches

Encode application-specific knowledge (cont.)

Electronics	Video Games
(1) <b>Compact</b> ; easy to operate; very <b>good</b> picture quality; looks <b>sharp</b> !	(2) A very <b>good</b> game! It is action packed and full of <b>excitement</b> . I am very much <b>hooked</b> on this game.
(3) I purchased this unit from Circuit City and I was very <b>excited</b> about the quality of the picture. It is really <b>nice</b> and <b>sharp</b> .	(4) Very <b>realistic</b> shooting action and <b>good</b> plots. We played this and were <b>hooked</b> .
(5) It is also quite <b>blurry</b> in very dark settings. I will <b>never_buy</b> HP again.	(6) The game is so <b>boring</b> . I am extremely <b>unhappy</b> and will probably <b>never_buy</b> UbiSoft again.



# Feature-based Approaches

Encode application-specific knowledge (cont.)

- Three different types of features
  - Source domain (*Electronics*) specific features, e.g.,  
*compact, sharp, blurry*
  - Target domain (*Video Game*) specific features, e.g.,  
*hooked, realistic, boring*
  - Domain independent features (pivot features), e.g.,  
*good, excited, nice, never\_buy*

# Feature-based Approaches

Encode application-specific knowledge (cont.)

- How to identify *pivot* features?
  - Term frequency on both domains
  - Mutual information between features and labels (source domain)
  - Mutual information on between features and domains
- How to utilize pivots to *align* features across domains?
  - Structural Correspondence Learning (SCL) [Biltzer *et al.* EMNLP-06]
  - Spectral Feature Alignment (SFA) [Pan *et al.* WWW-10]

# Feature-based Approaches

## Structural Correspondence Learning (SCL)

### ➤ Intuition

- ❑ Use *pivot* features to construct *pseudo* tasks that related to target classification task
- ❑ Model correlations between *pivot* features and other features using multi-task learning techniques
- ❑ Discover new shared features by exploiting the feature correlations



# Structural Correspondence Learning Algorithm

- Identify  $P$  *pivot* features
- Build  $P$  classifiers to predict the pivot features from remaining features
- Discover *shared* feature subspace
  - ❑ Compute top  $K$  *eigenvectors*
  - ❑ Project original features into eigenvectors to derive new shared features
- Train classifiers on the source using *augmented* features (original features + new features)

# Feature-based Approaches

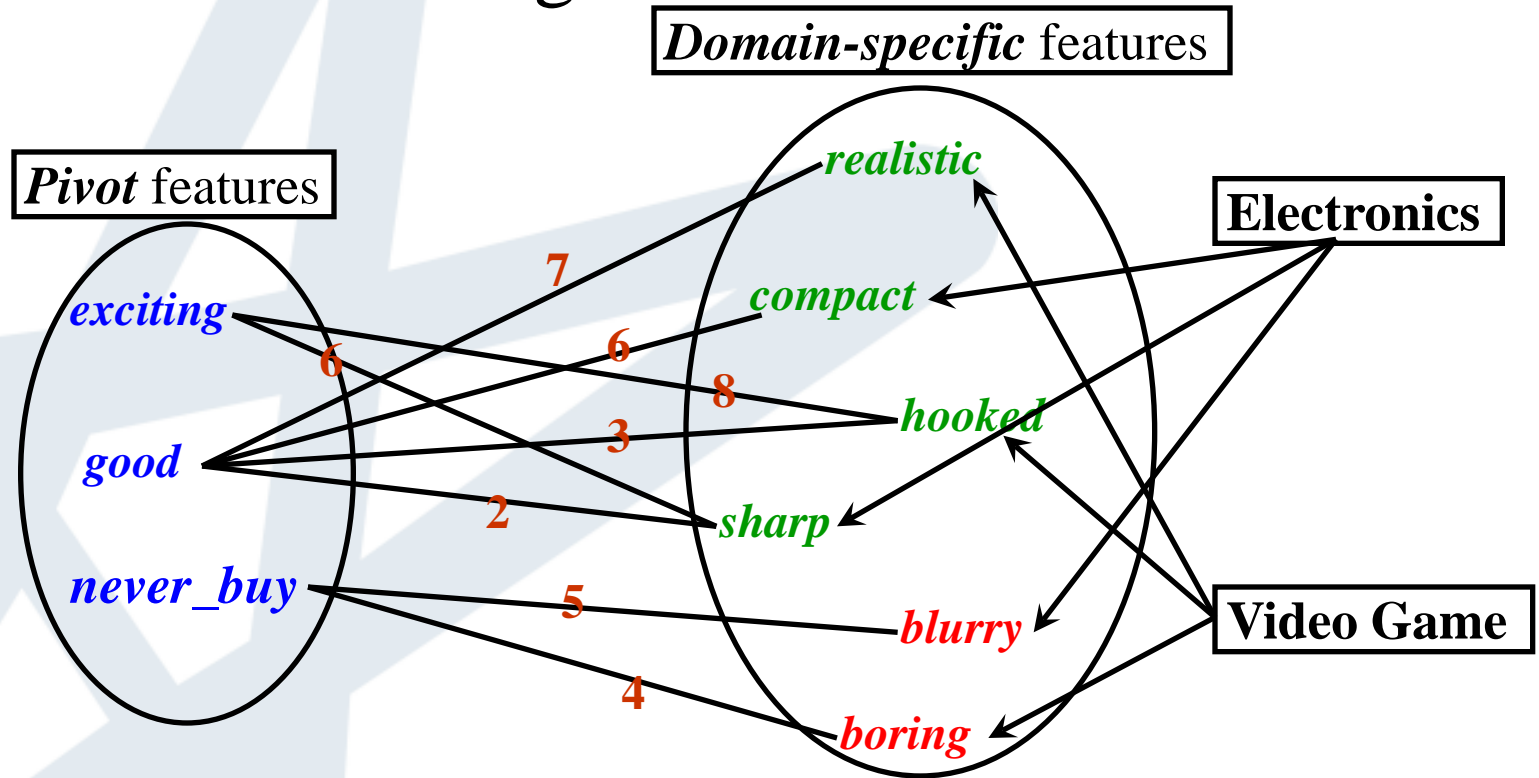
## Spectral Feature Alignment (SFA)

### ➤ Intuition

- ❑ Use a *bipartite* graph to model the correlations between *pivot* features and other features
- ❑ Discover new shared features by applying *spectral clustering* techniques on the graph

# Spectral Feature Alignment (SFA)

High level idea



- If two *domain-specific* words have connections to more common *pivot* words in the graph, they tend to be aligned or clustered together with a higher probability.
- If two *pivot* words have connections to more common *domain-specific* words in the graph, they tend to be aligned together with a higher probability.

# Derive new features

## Domain-specific features

### Pivot features



*realistic*

*compact*

*hooked*

*sharp*

*blurry*

*boring*

Electronics

Video Game

### Spectral Clustering



Video Game

*boring*

*blurry*

*compact*

*realistic*

Electronics

Electronics

*sharp*

*hooked*

Video Game




Electronics

Video Game

# Spectral Feature Alignment (SFA)

Derive new features (cont.)

Electronics

	sharp/hooked	compact/realistic	blurry/boring
	1	1	0
	1	0	0
	0	0	1






Training

$$y = f(x) = \text{sgn}(w \cdot x^T), \quad w = [1, 1, -1]$$



Prediction

Video Game

	sharp/hooked	compact/realistic	blurry/boring
	1	0	0
	1	1	0
	0	0	1

# Spectral Feature Alignment (SFA)

## Algorithm

- Identify  $P$  *pivot* features
- Construct a *bipartite* graph between the pivot and remaining features.
- Apply *spectral clustering* on the graph to derive new features
- Train classifiers on the source using *augmented* features (original features + new features)

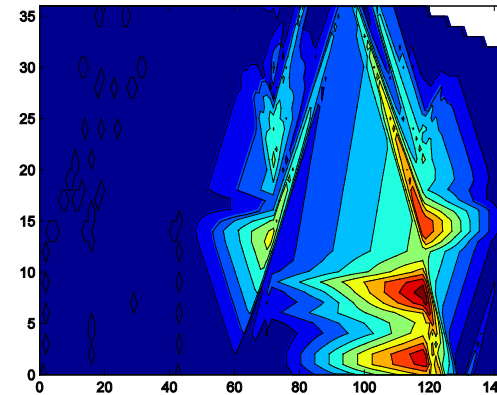
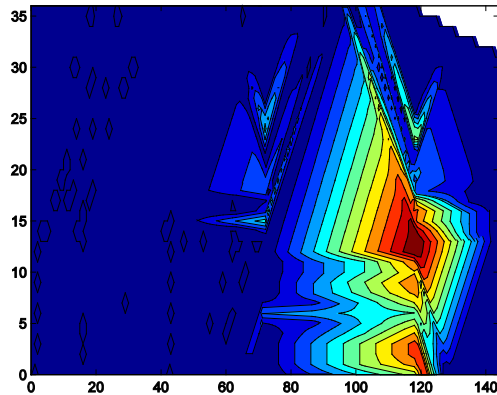
# Feature-based Approaches

Develop general approaches

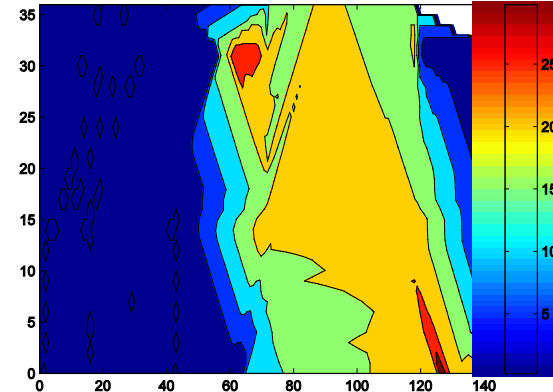
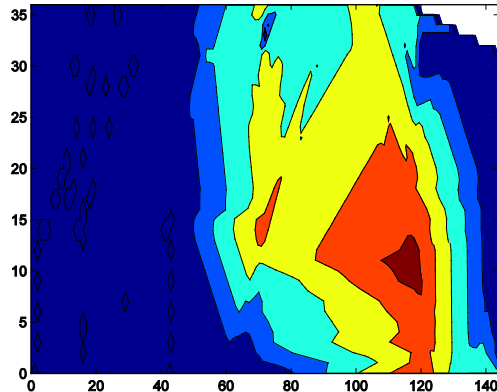
Time Period A

Time Period B

Device A



Device B



# Feature-based Approaches

## General approaches

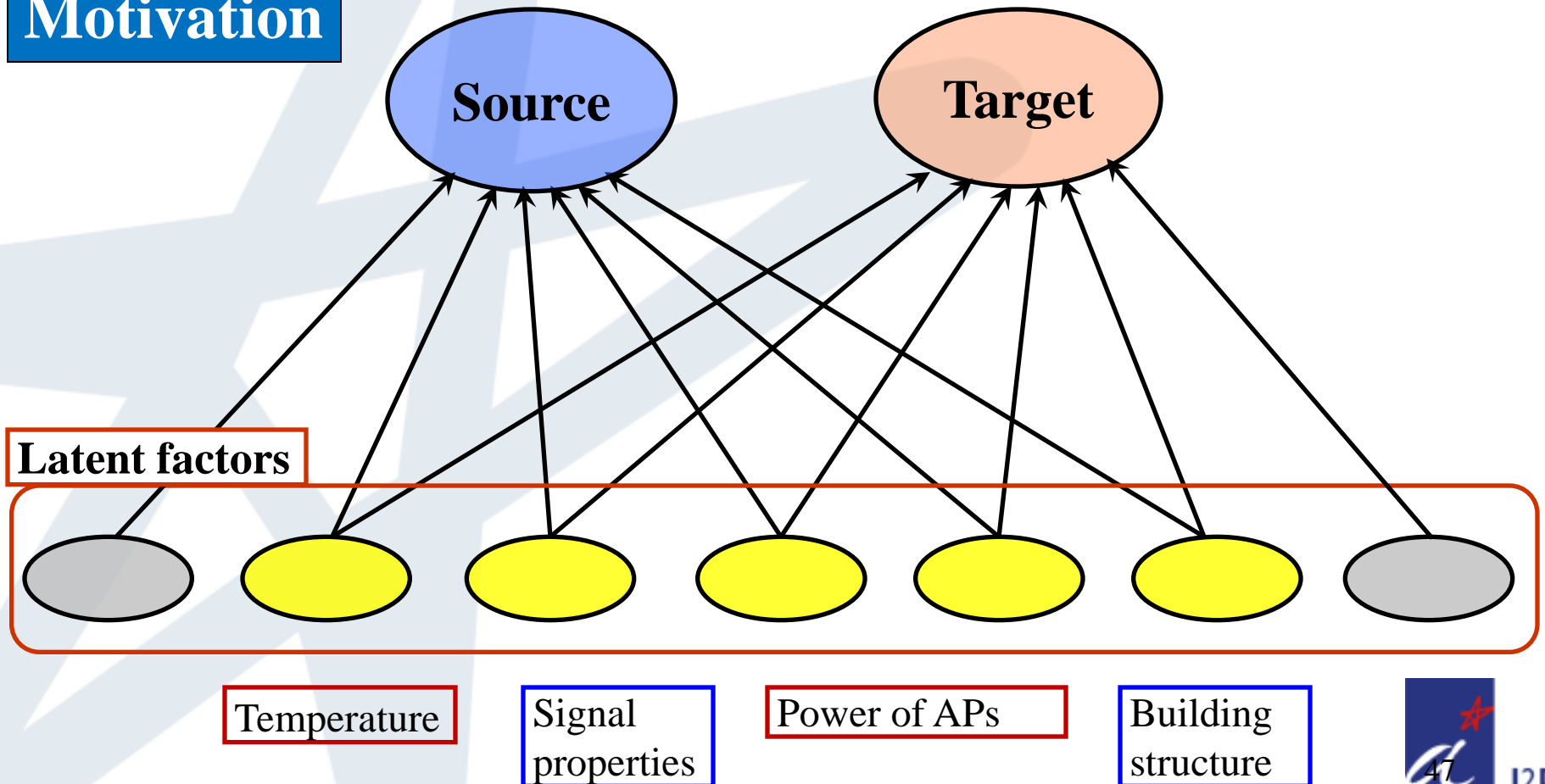
- Learning features by minimizing distance between distributions
- Learning features inspired by multi-task learning
- Learning features inspired by self-taught learning



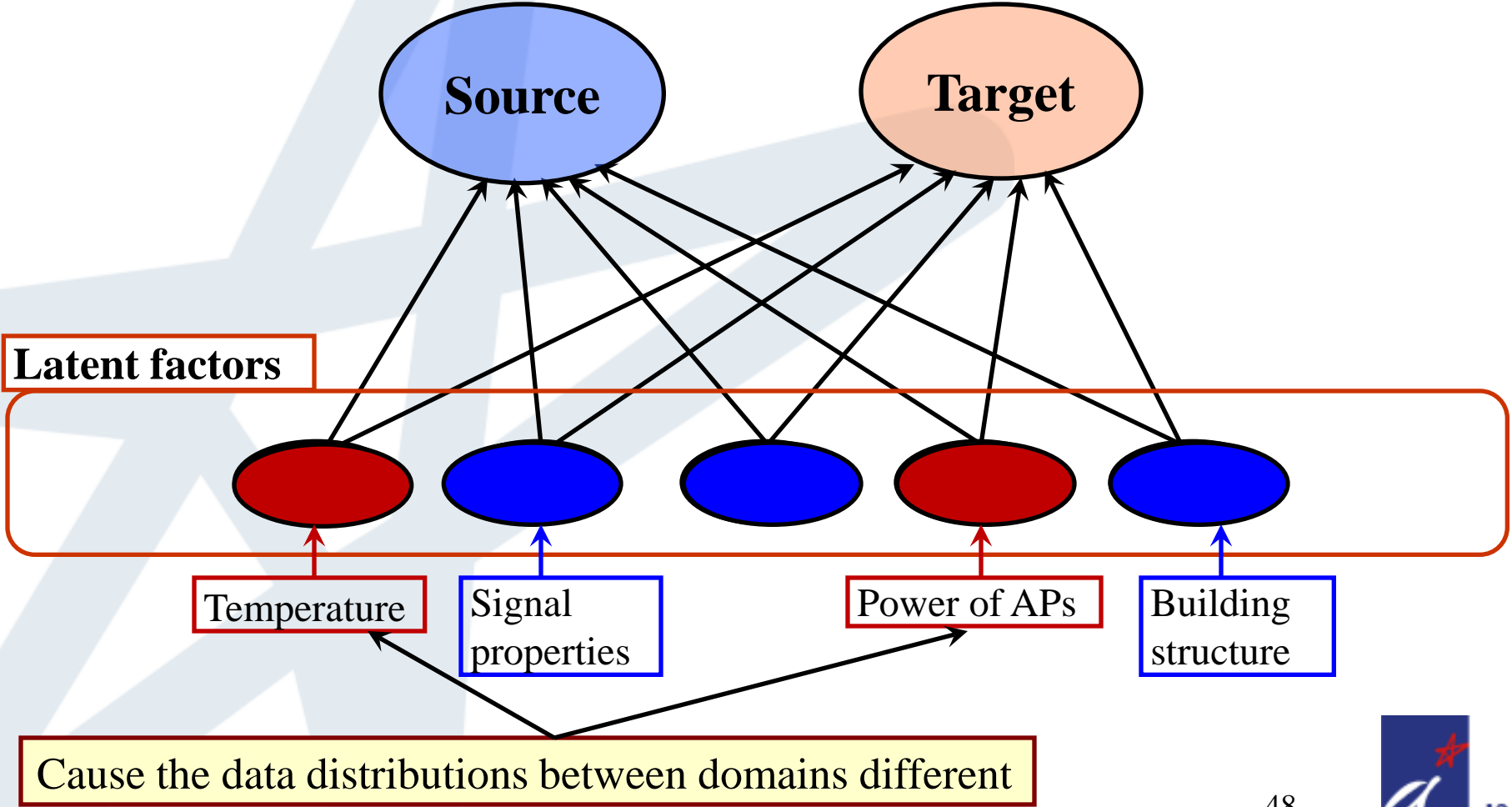
# Feature-based Approaches

Transfer Component Analysis [Pan *et al.*, IJCAI-09, TNN-11]

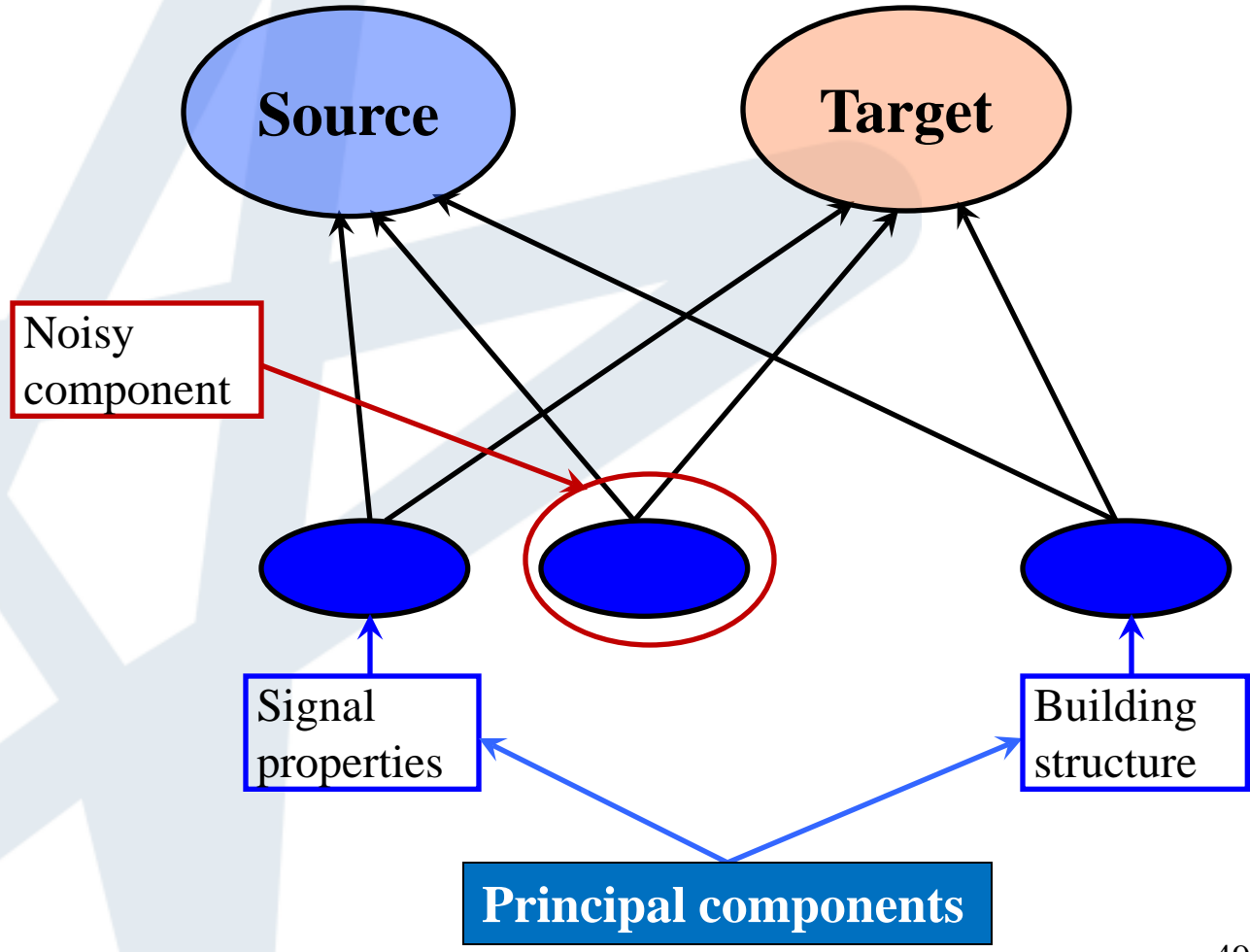
## Motivation



# Transfer Component Analysis (cont.)

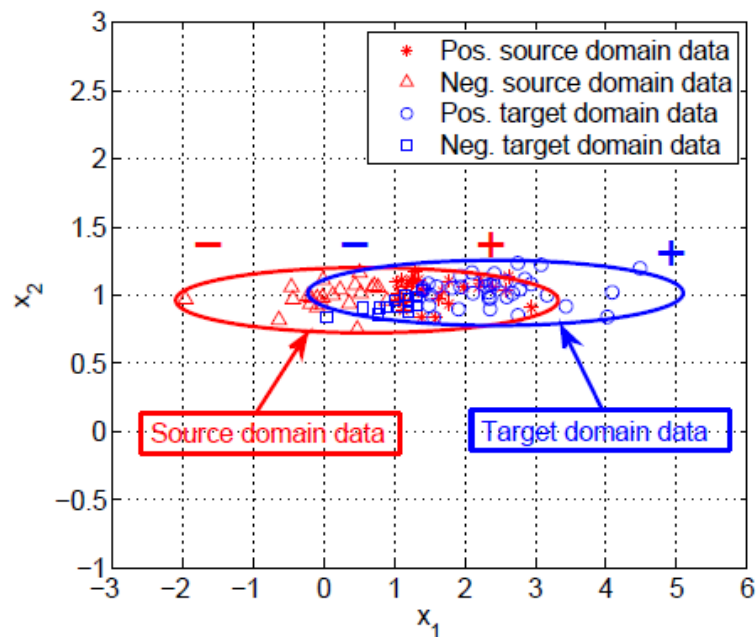


# Transfer Component Analysis (cont.)



# Transfer Component Analysis (cont.)

Learning  $\varphi$  by only minimizing distance between distributions may map the data onto noisy factors.



# Transfer Component Analysis (cont.)

**Main idea:** the learned  $\varphi$  should map the source and target domain data to the latent space spanned by the factors which can reduce domain difference and preserve original data structure.

## High level optimization problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\varphi} \quad & \text{Dist}(\varphi(\mathbf{X}_S), \varphi(\mathbf{X}_T)) + \lambda\Omega(\varphi) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \text{constraints on } \varphi(\mathbf{X}_S) \text{ and } \varphi(\mathbf{X}_T) \end{aligned}$$

# Transfer Component Analysis (cont.)

**Recall:** Maximum Mean Discrepancy (MMD)

Given  $\mathbf{X}_S = \{x_{S_i}\}_{i=1}^{n_S}$ ,  $\mathbf{X}_T = \{x_{T_i}\}_{i=1}^{n_T}$ , drawn from  $P_S(x)$  and  $P_T(x)$ , respectively,

$$\text{Dist}(P(X_S), P(X_T)) = \left\| \frac{1}{n_S} \sum_{i=1}^{n_S} \Phi(x_{S_i}) - \frac{1}{n_T} \sum_{j=1}^{n_T} \Phi(x_{T_j}) \right\|_{\mathcal{H}}$$

# Transfer Component Analysis (cont.)

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Dist}(\varphi(\mathbf{X}_S), \varphi(\mathbf{X}_T)) &= \left\| \mathbb{E}_{x \sim P_T(x)}[\Phi(\varphi(x))] - \mathbb{E}_{x \sim P_S(x)}[\Phi(\varphi(x))] \right\| \\ &\approx \left\| \frac{1}{n_S} \sum_{i=1}^{n_S} \Phi(\varphi(x_{S_i})) - \frac{1}{n_T} \sum_{i=1}^{n_T} \Phi(\varphi(x_{T_i})) \right\|\end{aligned}$$

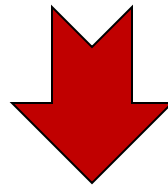
Assume  $\Psi = \Phi \circ \varphi$  a RKHS, with kernel  $k(x_i, x_j) = \Psi(x_i)^\top \Psi(x_j)$

$$\text{Dist}(\varphi(\mathbf{X}_S), \varphi(\mathbf{X}_T)) = \text{tr}(KL)$$

$$K = \begin{bmatrix} K_{S,S} & K_{S,T} \\ K_{T,S} & K_{T,T} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{(n_S+n_T) \times (n_S+n_T)}, L_{ij} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{n_S^2} & x_i, x_j \in X_S, \\ \frac{1}{n_T^2} & x_i, x_j \in X_T, \\ -\frac{1}{n_S n_T} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

# Transfer Component Analysis (cont.)

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\varphi} \quad & \text{Dist}(\varphi(\mathbf{X}_S), \varphi(\mathbf{X}_T)) + \lambda\Omega(\varphi) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \text{constraints on } \varphi(\mathbf{X}_S) \text{ and } \varphi(\mathbf{X}_T) \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\varphi} \quad & \text{tr}(KL) + \lambda\Omega(\varphi) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \text{constraints on } \varphi(\mathbf{X}_S) \text{ and } \varphi(\mathbf{X}_T) \end{aligned}$$

- The kernel function can be a highly nonlinear function of  $\varphi$
- A direct optimization of minimizing the quantity w.r.t.  $\varphi$  can get stuck in poor local minima



# Transfer Component Analysis (cont.)

Learning  $\varphi \Rightarrow$  (1) learning  $K$

[Pan *et al.*, AAAI-08]

To minimize the distance  
between domains

(2) low-dimensional reconstructions of  $\mathbf{X}_S$  and  $\mathbf{X}_T$

based on  $K$

To maximize the  
data variance

Learning  $K \Rightarrow \min_{K \succeq 0} \text{tr}(KL) - \lambda \text{tr}(K)$

To preserve the local  
geometric structure

s.t.  $K_{ii} + K_{jj} - 2K_{ij} = d_{ij}^2, \forall (i, j) \in \mathcal{N}$ .

$K\mathbf{1} = \mathbf{0}, K \succeq 0.$

Low-dimensional constructions of  $\mathbf{X}_S, \mathbf{X}_T \Rightarrow$  PCA on  $K$

- It is a SDP problem, expensive!
- It is transductive, cannot generalize on unseen instances!
- PCA is post-processed on the learned kernel matrix, which may potentially discard useful information.

# Transfer Component Analysis (cont.)

$$K = \tilde{K} W W^T \tilde{K} \text{ where } W \in \mathbb{R}^{(n_S+n_T) \times m} \text{ and } m \ll n_S + n_T.$$

Parametric kernel

Learning  $K \Rightarrow$  learning a low-rank matrix  $W$

Minimize distance  
between domains

$$\min_W \text{tr}(W^T \tilde{K} L \tilde{K} W) + \lambda \text{tr}(W^T W)$$

Regularization term

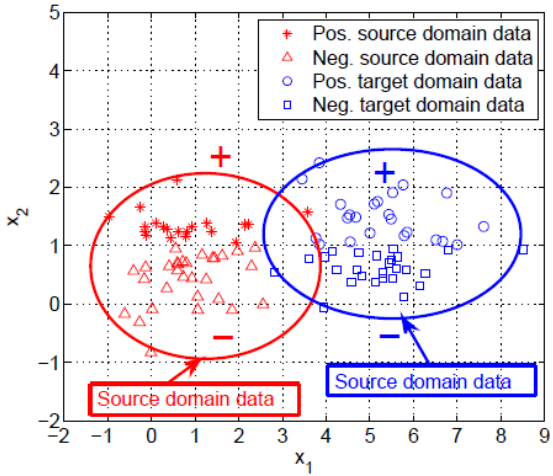
$$\text{s.t. } W^T \tilde{K} H \tilde{K} W = I$$

Maximize data variance

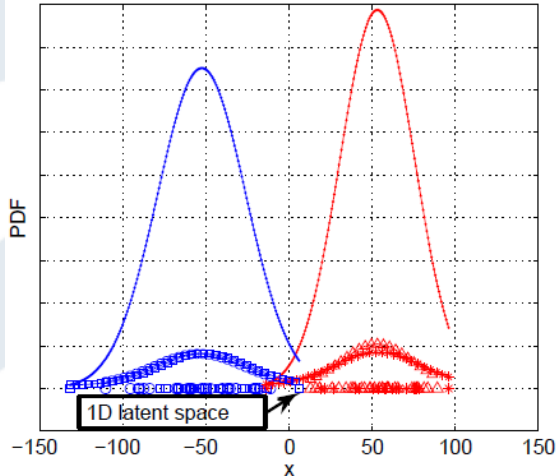
$$W^* \Leftrightarrow m \text{ leading eigenvectors of } (\tilde{K} L \tilde{K} + \lambda I)^{-1} \tilde{K} H \tilde{K}$$

# Transfer Component Analysis (cont.)

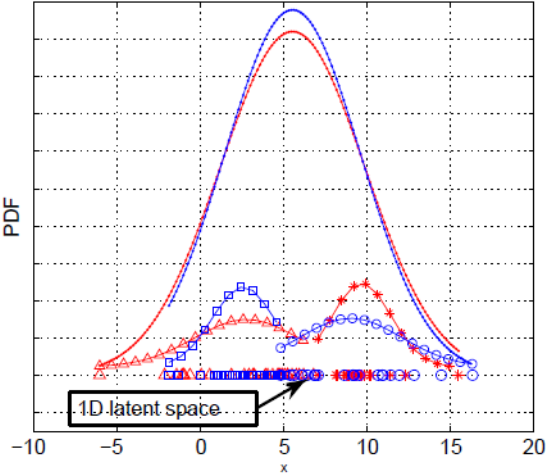
An illustrative example  
*Latent features learned by PCA and TCA*



Original feature space



PCA



TCA

# Feature-based Approaches

## Multi-task Feature Learning

### General Multi-task Learning Setting

Given  $\mathbf{D}_S = \{x_{S_i}, y_{S_i}\}_{i=1}^{n_S}$ ,  $\mathbf{D}_T = \{x_{T_i}, y_{T_i}\}_{i=1}^{n_T}$ ,

where  $n_S$  and  $n_T$  are small,

Learn  $f_S, f_T$ , s.t.  $\sum_{t \in \{S, T\}} \sum_i \epsilon(f_t(x_{t_i}), y_{t_i})$  is small.

- **Assumption:** If tasks are related, they should share some **good** common features.
- **Goal:** Learn a low-dimensional representation shared across related tasks.

# Feature-based Approaches

## Multi-task Feature Learning (cont.)

Assume  $f(x) = \langle \theta, (U^\top x) \rangle = \theta^\top (U^\top x)$ , where  $\theta \in \mathbb{R}^k$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}^m$ ,  $U \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times k}$

$$\{\Theta^*, U^*\} = \arg \min \sum_{t \in \{S, T\}} \sum_{i=1}^{n_t} l(U^\top x_{t_i}, y_{t_i}, \theta_t) + \lambda_1 \Omega(\Theta)$$

s.t. constraints on  $U$ .

$$\Theta = [\theta_S, \theta_T] \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times 2}$$

- $U$  is full rank ( $U \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times k}$ ,  $k = m$ ),  $\Theta$  is sparse. [Argyriou *et al.*, NIPS-07]
- $U$  is low rank ( $U \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times k}$ ,  $k \ll m$ ). [Ando and Zhang, JMLR-05]
- [Ji *et al.*, KDD-08]

# Feature-based Approaches

## Self-taught Feature Learning

- **Intuition:** There exist some higher-level features that can help the target learning task even only a few labeled data are given.
- **Steps:**
  - 1) Learn higher-level features from a lot of unlabeled data.
  - 2) Use the learned higher-level features to represent the data of the target task.
  - 3) Training models from the new representations of the target task with corresponding labels.

# Feature-based Approaches

## Self-taught Feature Learning

- **How to learn higher-level features**
  - ❑ Sparse Coding [Raina et al., 2007]
  - ❑ Deep learning [Glorot *et al.*, 2011]

# Parameter-based Transfer Learning Approaches

Assume  $f(x) = \langle \theta, x \rangle = \theta^\top x = \sum_{i=1}^m \theta_i x_i$ , where  $\theta, x \in \mathbb{R}^m$ .

$$\theta_S^* = \arg \min \sum_{i=1}^{n_S} l(x_{S_i}, y_{S_i}, \theta_S) + \lambda \Omega(\theta_S)$$

$$\theta_T^* = \arg \min \sum_{i=1}^{n_T} l(x_{T_i}, y_{T_i}, \theta_T) + \lambda \Omega(\theta_T)$$

Tasks are learned independently

**Motivation:** A well-trained model  $\theta_S^*$  has learned a lot of structure. If two tasks are related, this structure can be transferred to learn  $\theta_T^*$ .



# Parameter-based Approaches

## Multi-task Parameter Learning

### Assumption:

If tasks are related, they may share similar parameter vectors.

For example, [Evgeniou and Pontil, KDD-04]

Common part

$$\theta_S = \theta_0 + v_S$$
$$\theta_T = \theta_0 + v_T$$

Specific part for individual task

$$\{\theta_S^*, \theta_T^*\} = \arg \min \sum_{t \in \{S, T\}} \sum_{i=1}^{n_t} l(x_{t_i}, y_{t_i}, \theta_t) + \lambda \Omega(\theta_0, v_S, v_T)$$

# Parameter-based Approaches

## Multi-task Parameter Learning (cont.)

A general framework:

Denote  $\Theta = [\theta_S, \theta_T]$ ,

$$f(\Theta) = \sum_{t \in \{S, T\}} \left\| \theta_t - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s \in \{S, T\}} \theta_s \right\|^2$$

$$\Theta^* = \arg \min \sum_{t \in \{S, T\}} \sum_{i=1}^{n_t} l(x_{t_i}, y_{t_i}, \theta_t) + \lambda_1 \text{tr}(\Theta^\top \Theta) + \lambda_2 f(\Theta)$$

$\sum_{t \in \{S, T\}} \|\theta_t\|^2$

[Zhang and Yeung, UAI-10]

$$f(\Theta) = \text{tr}(\Theta^\top \Sigma^{-1} \Theta)$$

s.t.  $\Sigma \succeq 0$  and  $\text{tr}(\Sigma) = 1$ .

[Agarwal *et al*, NIPS-10]

$$f(\Theta) = \sum_{t \in \{S, T\}} \left\| \theta_t - \tilde{\theta}_t^M \right\|^2$$

# Relational Transfer Learning

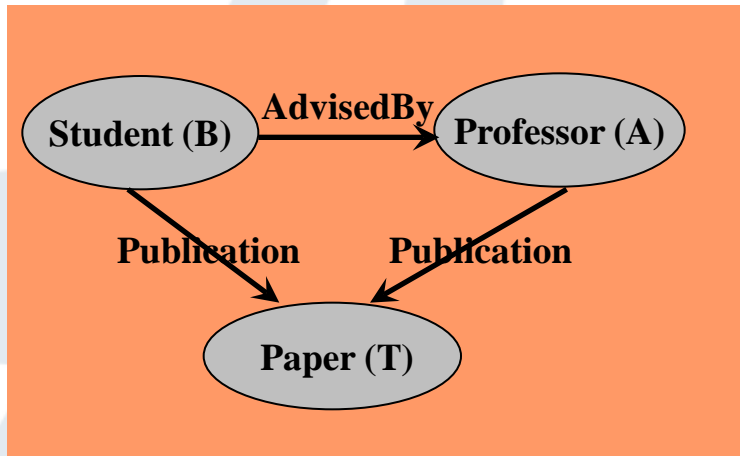
## Approaches

- **Motivation:** If two relational domains (data is non-i.i.d) are related, they may share some similar relations among objects. These relations can be used for knowledge transfer across domains.

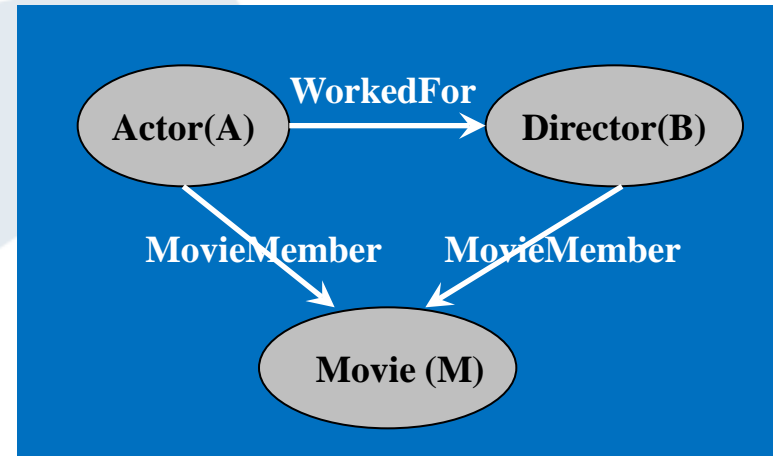
# Relational Transfer Learning Approaches (cont.)

[Mihalkova *et al.*, AAAI-07, Davis and Domingos, ICML-09]

Academic domain (source)



Movie domain (target)



$\text{AdvisedBy}(B, A) \wedge \text{Publication}(B, T) \Rightarrow \text{Publication}(A, T)$

$\text{WorkedFor}(A, B) \wedge \text{MovieMember}(A, M) \Rightarrow \text{MovieMember}(B, M)$

$P1(x, y) \wedge P2(x, z) \Rightarrow P2(y, z)$

# Relational Approaches

Relational Adaptive bootstraPping [Li *etal.*, ACL-12]

**Task:** sentiment summarization

- What is the opinion expressed on?
  - To construct lexicon of *topic* or *target* words
- How is the opinion expressed?
  - To construct lexicon of *sentiment* words

Sentiment lexicon (camera)

great, amazing, light  
recommend, excellent, etc.  
artifacts, noise, never but,  
boring, etc.

Topic lexicon (camera)

camera, product, screen,  
photo, size, weight, quality,  
price, memory, etc.

# Relational Approaches

## Relational Adaptive bootstraPping (RAP) (cont.)

### Reviews on cameras

The **camera** is **great**.

It is a very **amazing product**.

I highly **recommend** this **camera**.

**Photos** had some **artifacts** and **noise**.

### Reviews on movies

This **movie** has **good script**, **great casting**, **excellent acting**.

This **movie** is so **boring**.

The **Godfather** was the most **amazing movie**.

The **movie** is **excellent**.

# Relational Approaches

## RAP (cont.)

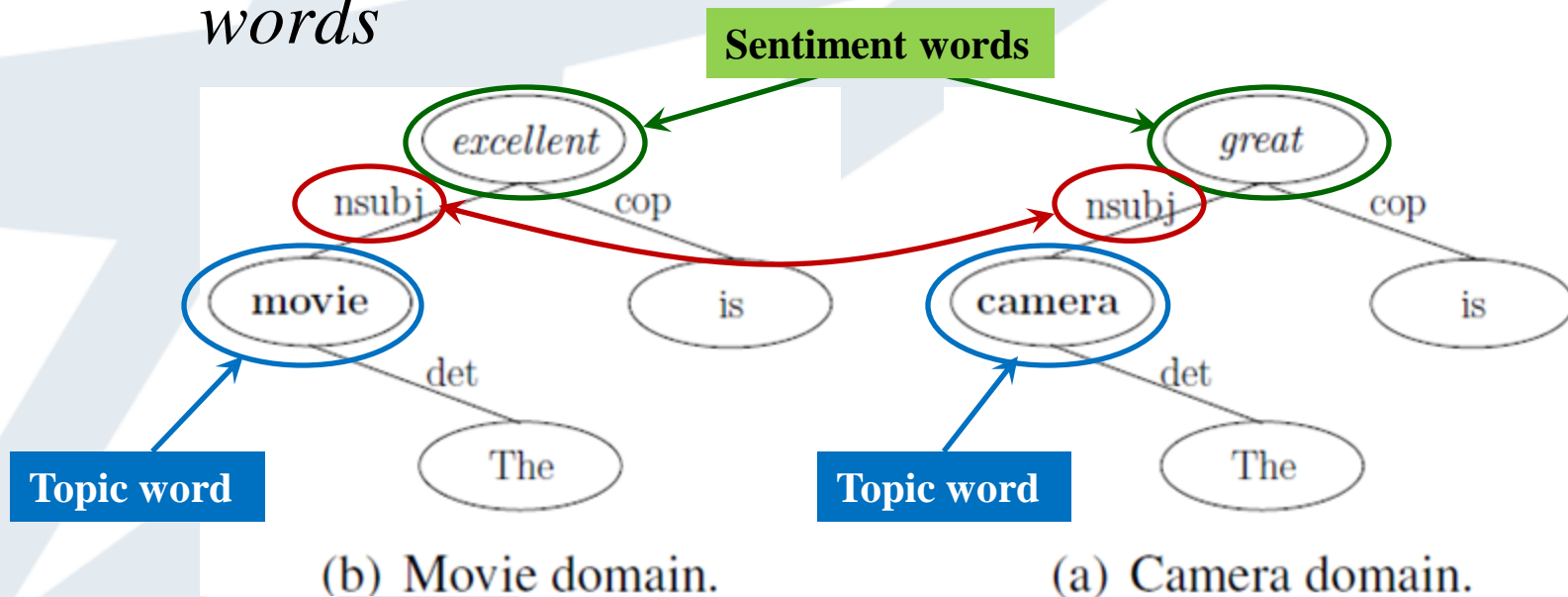
- Bridge between cross-domain sentiment words
  - *Domain independent (general) sentiment words*
- Bridge between cross-domain topic words



# Relational Approaches

## RAP (cont.)

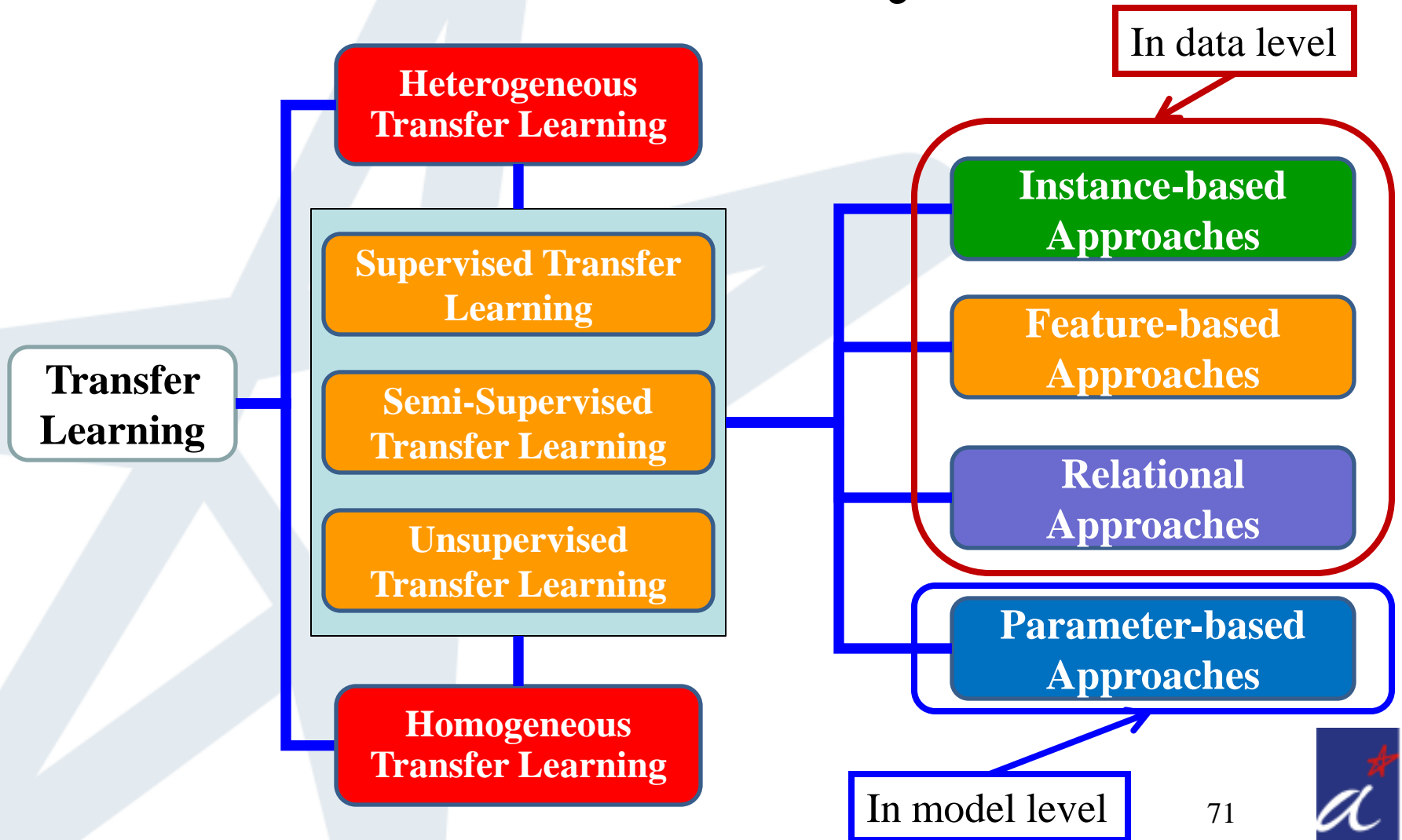
- Bridge between cross-domain topic words
  - *Syntactic structure between topic and sentiment words*



**Common syntactic pattern:** “*topic word*” – *nsubj* – “sentiment word”



# Summary



# Some Advanced Research Issues in Transfer Learning

- How to transfer knowledge across heterogeneous feature spaces
- Active learning meets transfer learning
- Transfer learning from multiple sources

# Reference

- [Thorndike and Woodworth, The Influence of Improvement in one mental function upon the efficiency of the other functions, 1901]
- [Taylor and Stone, Transfer Learning for Reinforcement Learning Domains: A Survey, JMLR 2009]
- [Pan and Yang, A Survey on Transfer Learning, IEEE TKDE 2009]
- [Quionero-Candela, *etal*, Data Shift in Machine Learning, MIT Press 2009]
- [Biltzer *etal.*, Domain Adaptation with Structural Correspondence Learning, *EMNLP* 2006]
- [Pan *etal.*, Cross-Domain Sentiment Classification via Spectral Feature Alignment, WWW 2010]
- [Pan *etal.*, Transfer Learning via Dimensionality Reduction, AAI 2008]

# Reference (cont.)

- [Pan *et al.*, Domain Adaptation via Transfer Component Analysis, IJCAI 2009]
- [Evgeniou and Pontil, Regularized Multi-Task Learning, KDD 2004]
- [Zhang and Yeung, A Convex Formulation for Learning Task Relationships in Multi-Task Learning, UAI 2010]
- [Agarwal *et al.*, Learning Multiple Tasks using Manifold Regularization, NIPS 2010]
- [Argyriou *et al.*, Multi-Task Feature Learning, NIPS 2007]
- [Ando and Zhang, A Framework for Learning Predictive Structures from Multiple Tasks and Unlabeled Data, JMLR 2005]
- [Ji *et al.*, Extracting Shared Subspace for Multi-label Classification, KDD 2008]

# Reference (cont.)

- [Raina *et al.*, Self-taught Learning: Transfer Learning from Unlabeled Data, ICML 2007]
- [Dai *et al.*, Boosting for Transfer Learning, ICML 2007]
- [Glorot *et al.*, Domain Adaptation for Large-Scale Sentiment Classification: A Deep Learning Approach, ICML 2011]
- [Davis and Domingos, Deep Transfer via Second-order Markov Logic, ICML 2009]
- [Mihalkova *et al.*, Mapping and Revising Markov Logic Networks for Transfer Learning, AAAI 2007]
- [Li *et al.*, Cross-Domain Co-Extraction of Sentiment and Topic Lexicons, ACL 2012]

# Reference (cont.)

- [Sugiyama *et al.*, Direct Importance Estimation with Model Selection and Its Application to Covariate Shift Adaptation, NIPS 2007]
- [Kanamori *et al.*, A Least-squares Approach to Direct Importance Estimation, JMLR 2009]
- [Cristianini *et al.*, On Kernel Target Alignment, NIPS 2002]
- [Huang *et al.*, Correcting Sample Selection Bias by Unlabeled Data, NIPS 2006]
- [Zadrozny, Learning and Evaluating Classifiers under Sample Selection Bias, ICML 2004]

**Thank You**

# Selected Applications of Transfer Learning

Qiang Yang and Sinno J. Pan

2013 PAKDD Tutorial

Brisbane, Australia



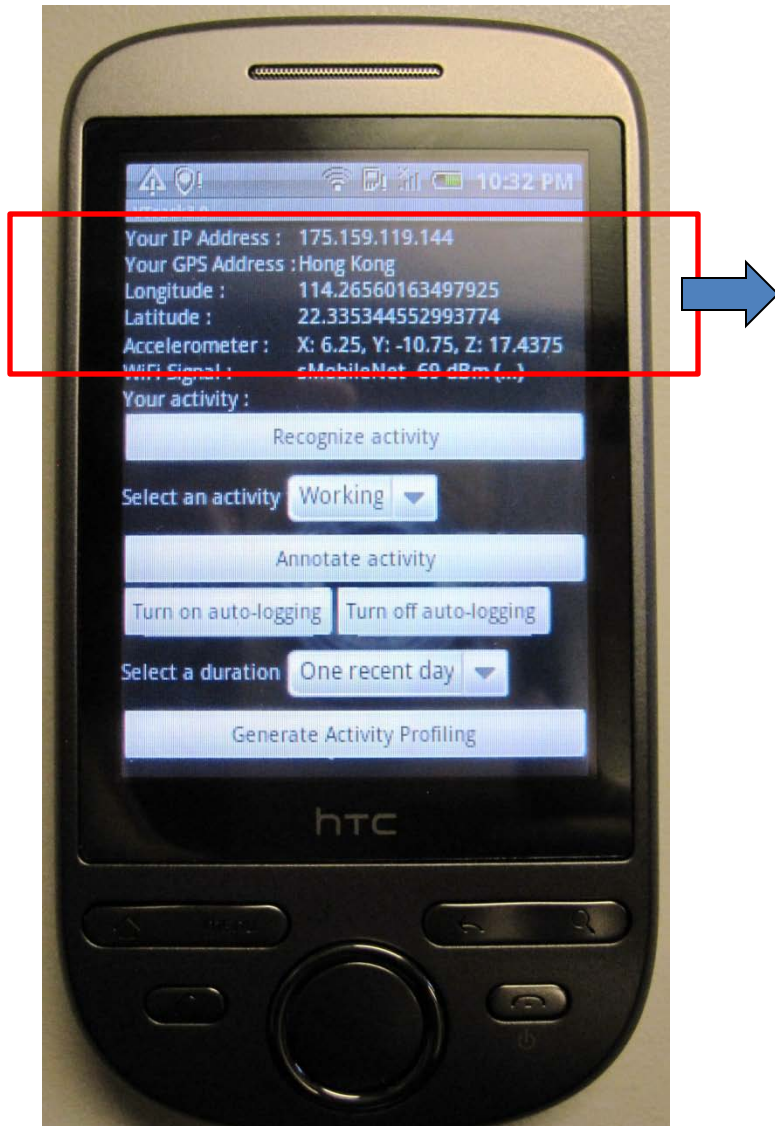
# Part I. Cross Domain Transfer Learning for Activity Recognition

- Vincent W. Zheng, Derek H. Hu and Qiang Yang. Cross-Domain Activity Recognition. In *Proceedings of the 11th International Conference on Ubiquitous Computing (UbiComp-09)*, Orlando, Florida, USA, Sept.30-Oct.3, 2009.
- Derek Hao Hu, Qiang Yang. Transfer Learning for Activity Recognition via Sensor Mapping. In *Proceedings of the 22nd International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI-11)*, Barcelona, Spain, July 2011

# Demo

- Annotation

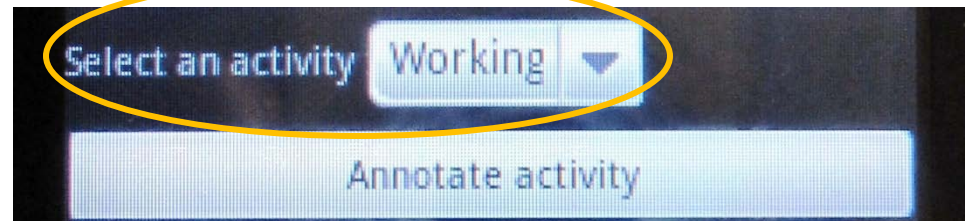
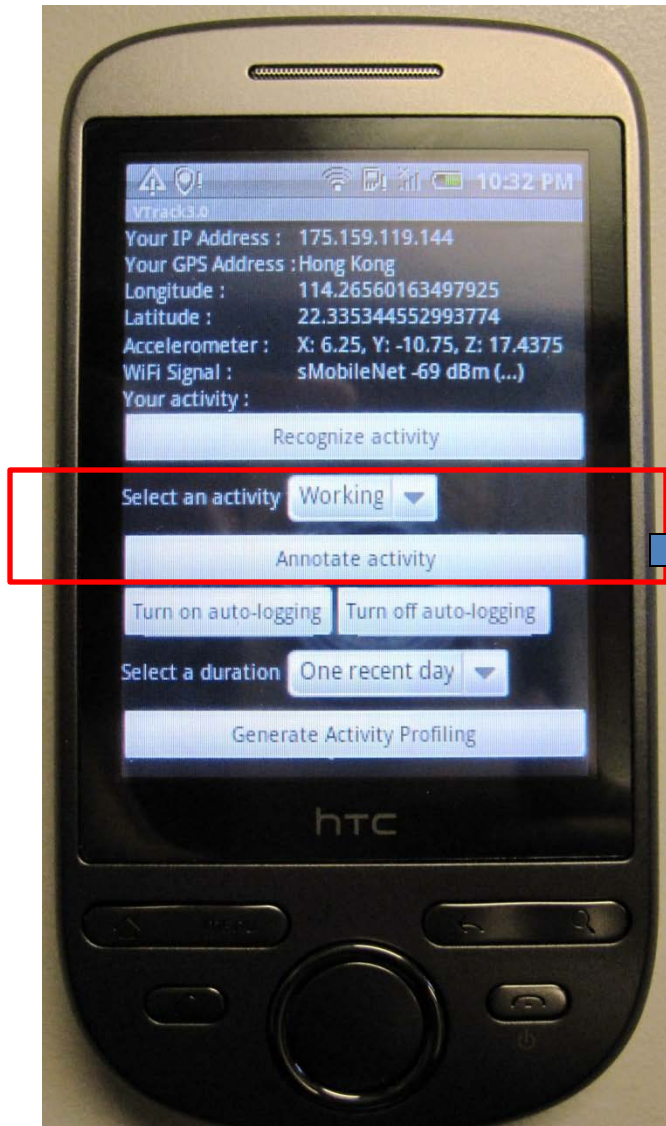
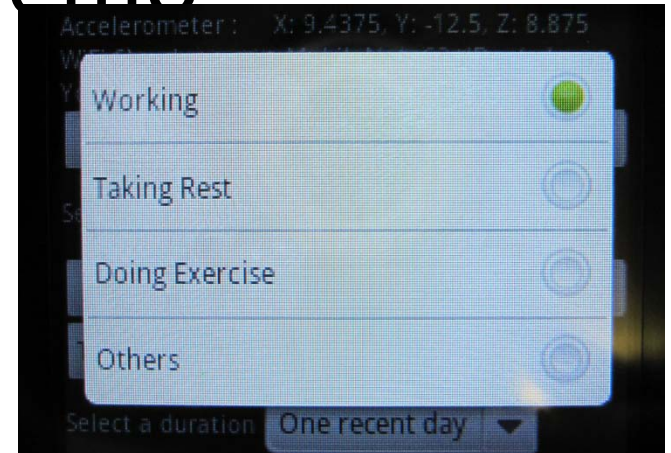
# eHealth Demo



Your IP Address : 175.159.119.144  
Your GPS Address : Hong Kong  
Longitude : 114.26560163497925  
Latitude : 22.335344552993774  
Accelerometer : X: 6.25, Y: -10.75, Z: 17.4375  
WiFi Signal : sMobileNet -69 dBm (...)

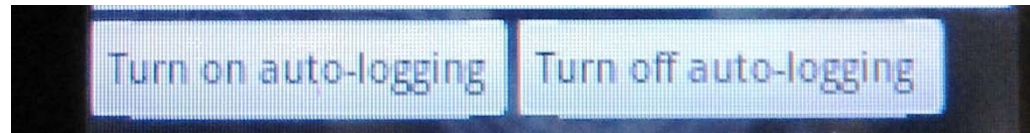
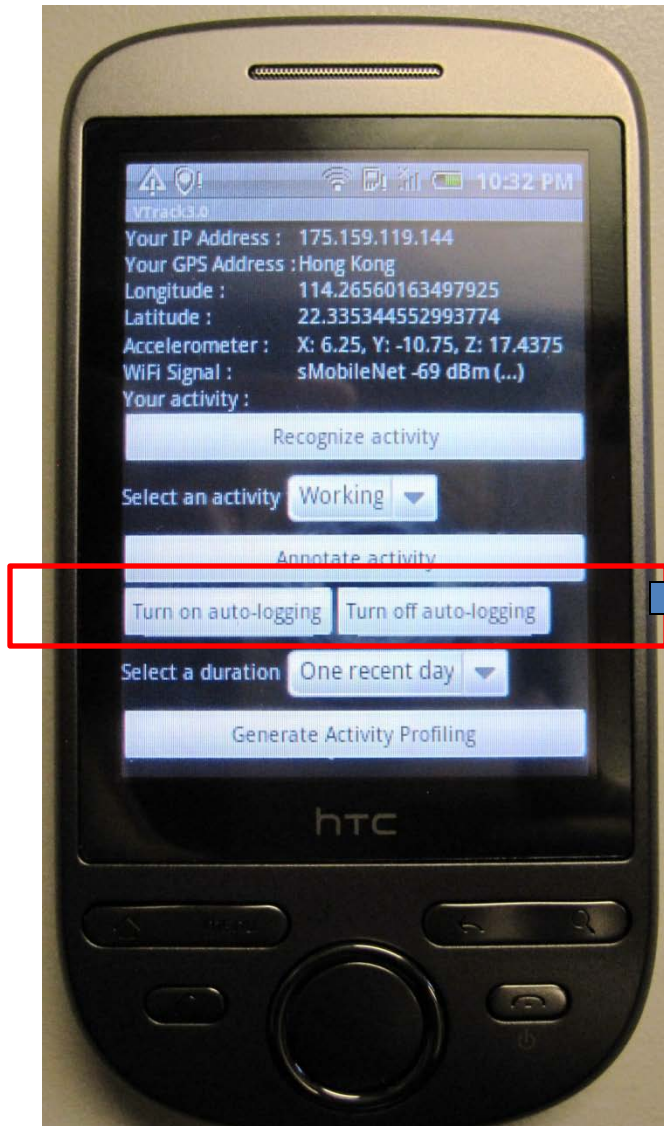
Sensor data

# eHealth demo



Activity annotation

# eHealth demo

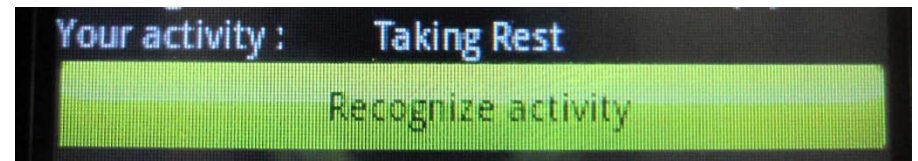
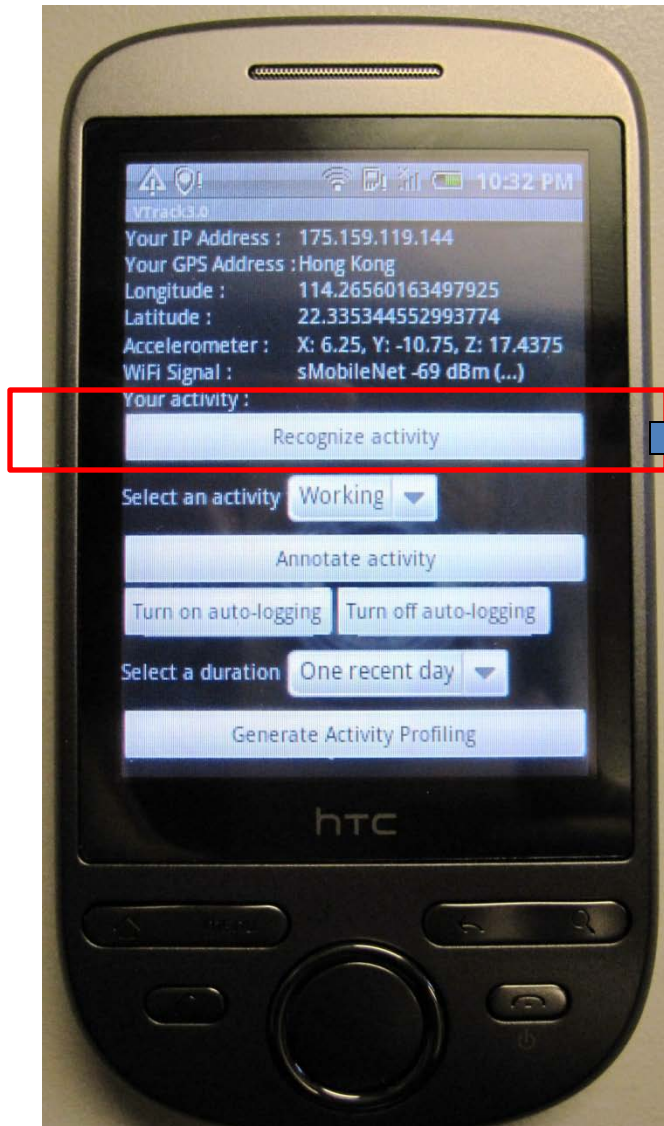


Auto logging / activity recognition  
(service in background)

# Demo

- [Recognition](#)

# eHealth demo



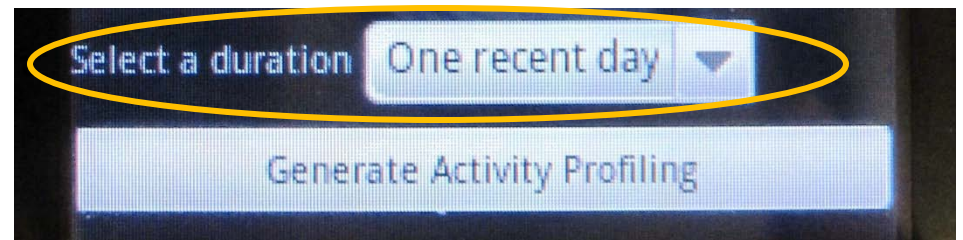
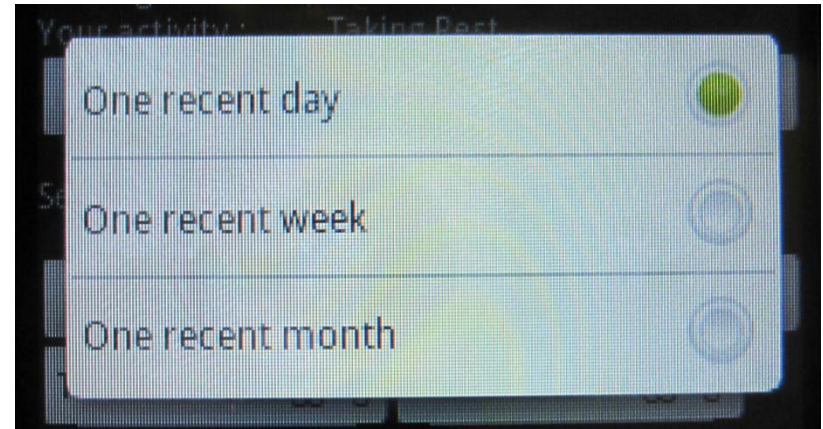
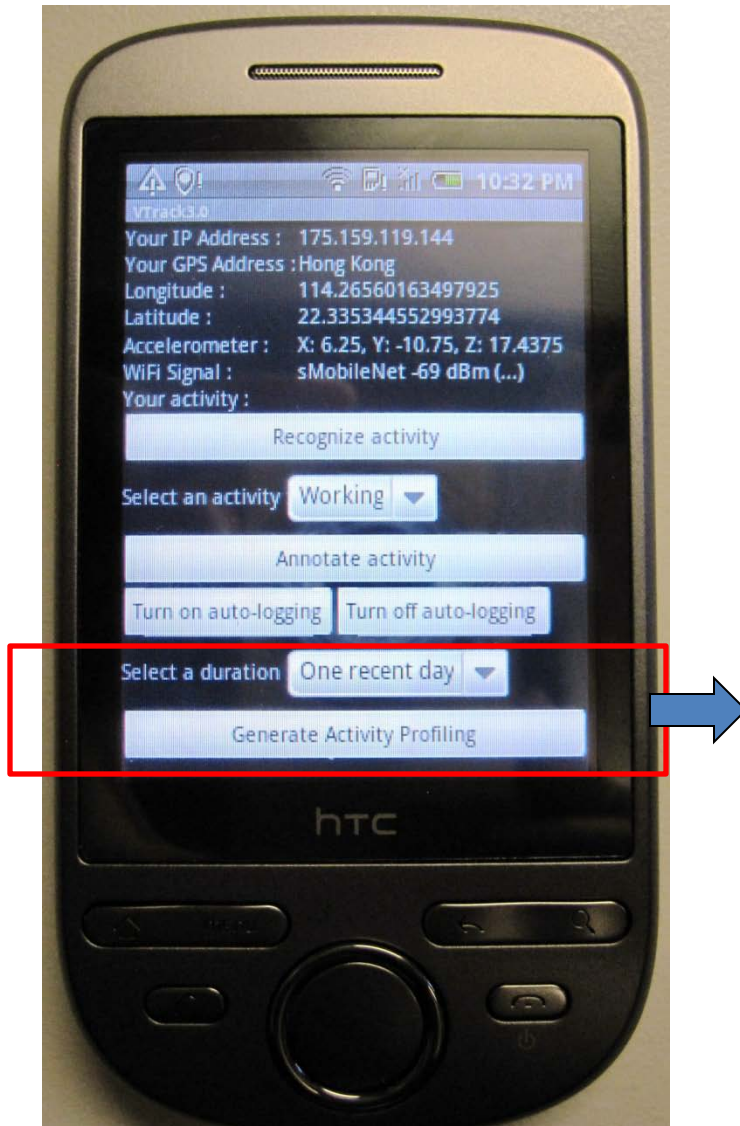
Real-time activity recognition

# Demo

- [Profiling](#)

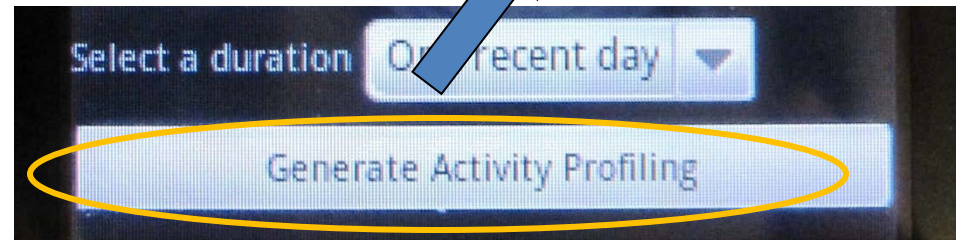
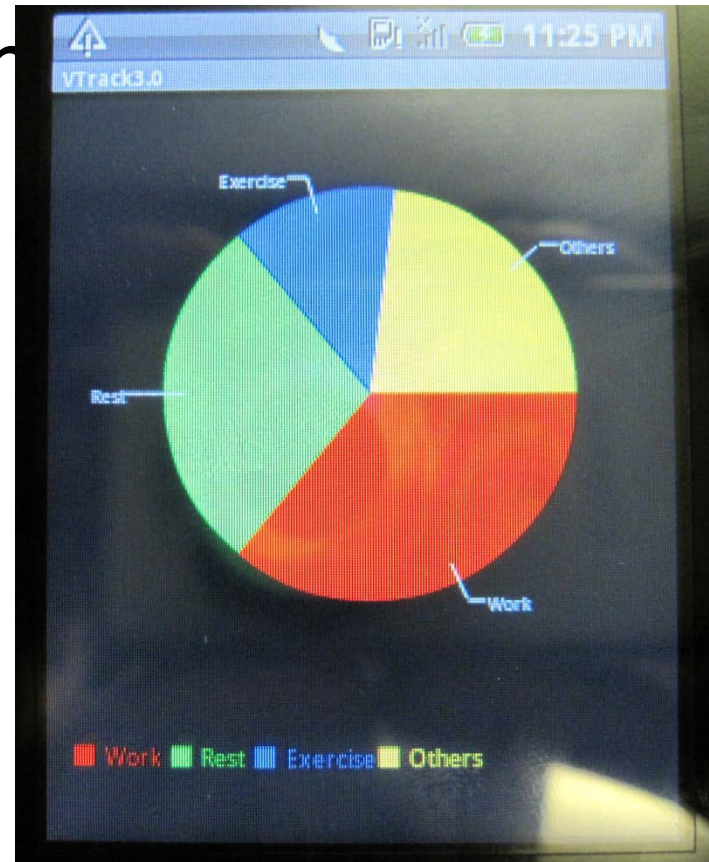
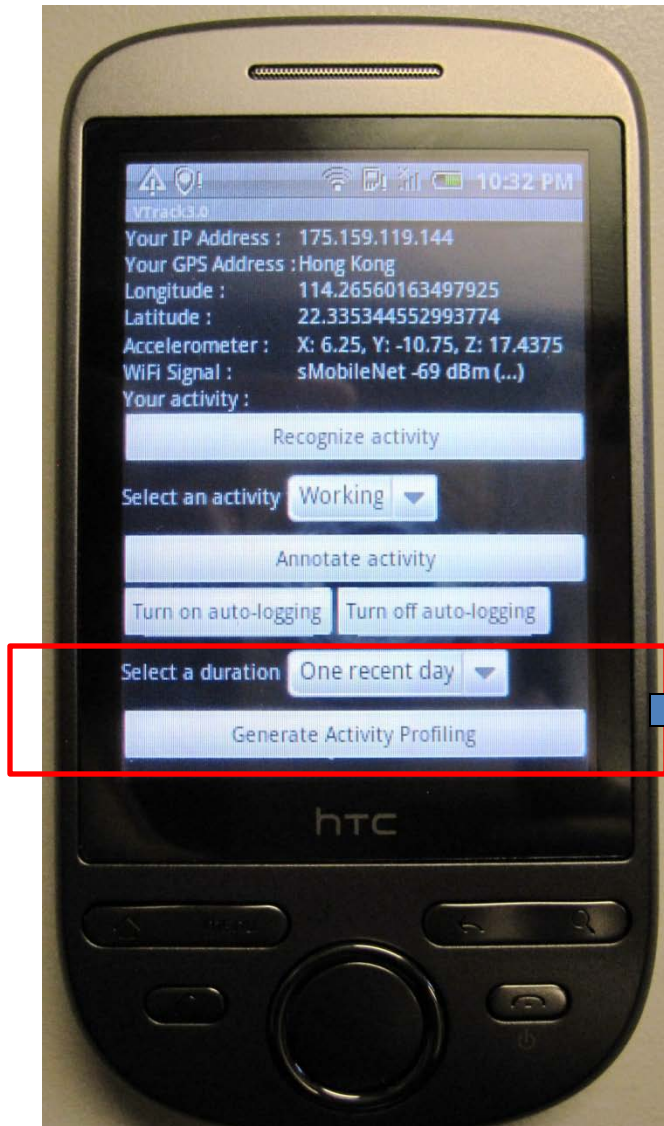


# eHealth demo



Activity profiling

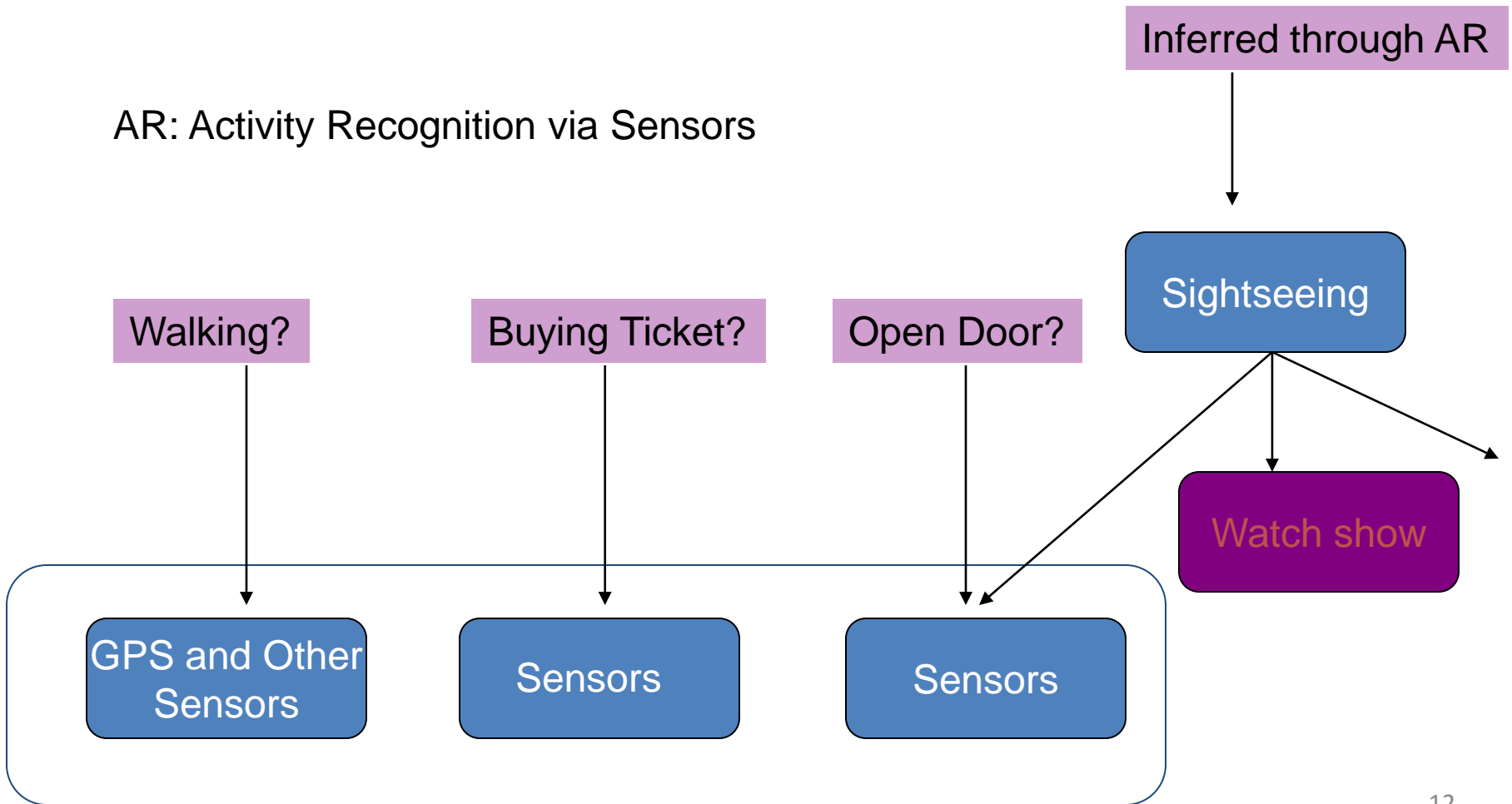
# eHealth



Activity profiling for health management

# Key Problem: Recognizing Actions and Context (Locations)

AR: Activity Recognition via Sensors



# 1. Cross-Domain Activity Recognition

[Zheng, Hu, Yang: UbiComp-2009, PCM-2011]

- Challenge:
  - Some activities without data (partially labeled)
- Cross-domain activity recognition
  - Use other activities with available labeled data



**Making coffee**

- Happen in kitchen
- Use cup, pot
- ...

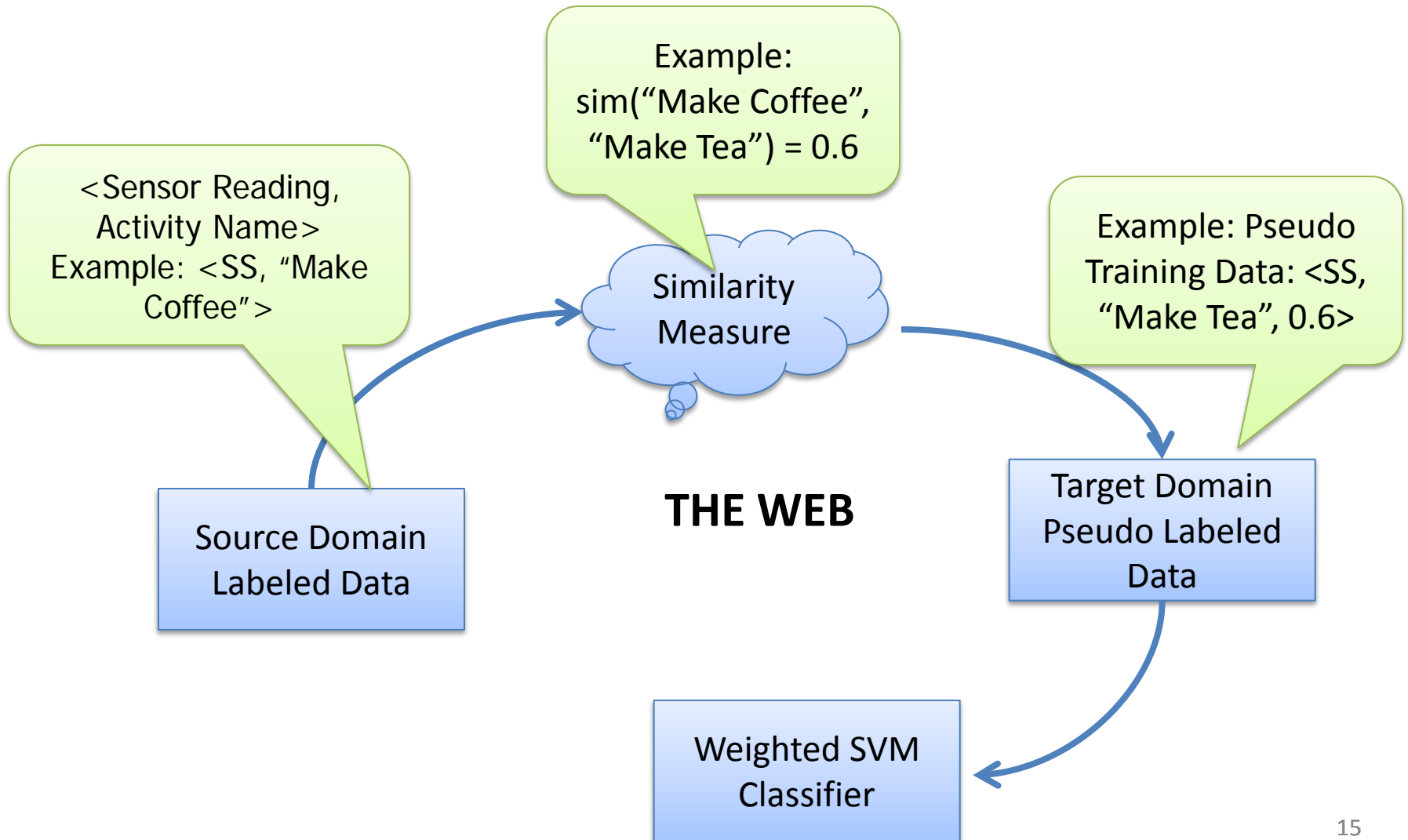


**Making tea**



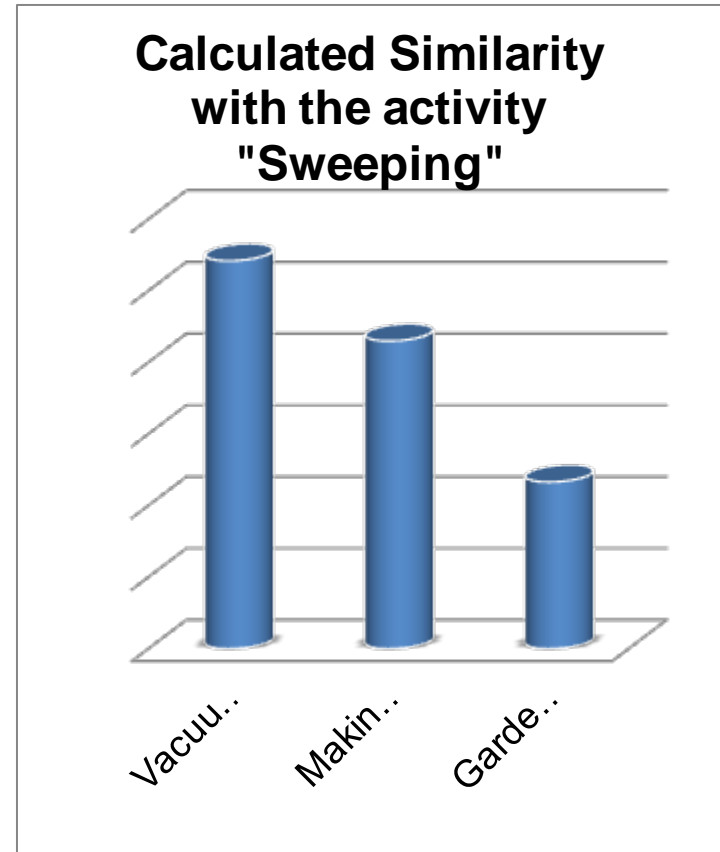
# Dishwashing

# System Workflow



# Calculating Activity Similarities

- How similar are two activities?
  - Use Web search results
  - TFIDF: Traditional IR similarity metrics (cosine similarity)
  - Example
    - Mined similarity between the activity “sweeping” and “vacuuming”, “making the bed”, “gardening”



# Datasets: MIT PlaceLab

[http://architecture.mit.edu/house\\_n/placelab.html](http://architecture.mit.edu/house_n/placelab.html)

- MIT PlaceLab Dataset (PLIA2) [Intille et al. Pervasive 2005]
- Activities: Common household activities

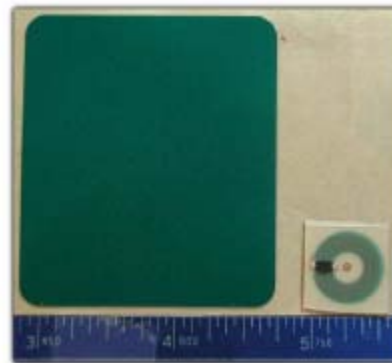




# Datasets: Intel Research Lab

- Intel Research Lab [Patterson, Fox, Kautz, Philipose, ISWC2005]
  - Activities Performed:  
11 activities
  - Sensors
    - RFID Readers & Tags
  - Length:
    - 10 mornings

1	Using the bathroom
2	Making oatmeal
3	Making soft-boiled eggs
4	Preparing orange juice
5	Making coffee
6	Making tea
7	Making or answering a phone call
8	Taking out the trash
9	Setting the table
10	Eating breakfast
11	Clearing the table



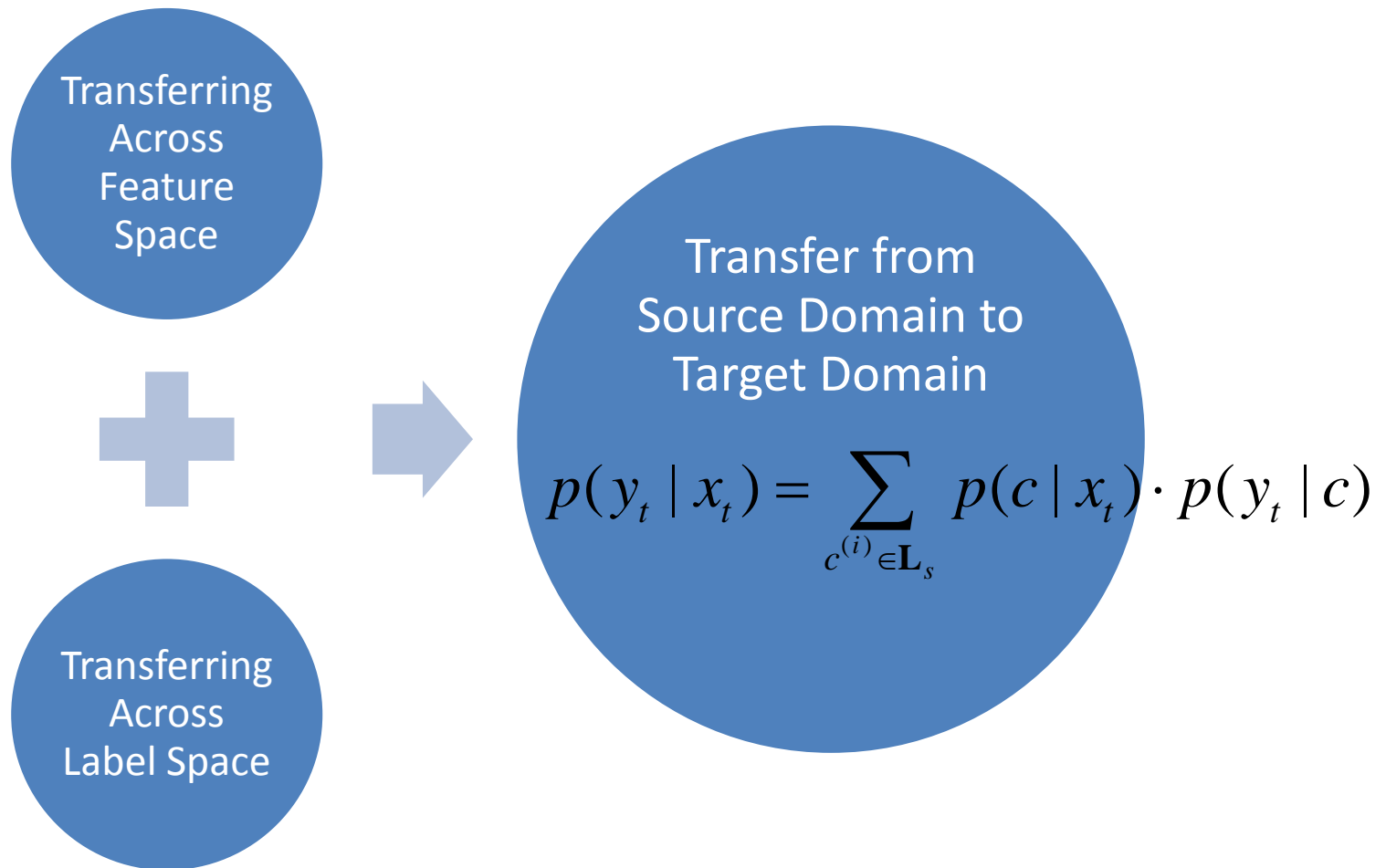
Picture excerpted from [Patterson, Fox, Kautz, Philipose, ISWC2005].

# Cross-Domain AR: Performance

	Accuracy with Cross Domain Transfer	# Activities (Source Domain)	# Activities (Target Domain)	Baseline (Random Guess)	Supervised (Upper bound)
Intel Research Lab Dataset	63.2%	5	6	16.7%	78.3%
Amsterdam Dataset	65.8%	4	3	33.3%	72.3%
MIT Dataset (Cleaning to Laundry)	58.9%	13	8	12.5%	-
MIT Dataset (Cleaning to Dishwashing)	53.2%	13	7	14.3%	-

- **Activities in the source domain and the target domain are generated from ten random trials, mean accuracies are reported.**

# Derek Hao Hu and Qiang Yang, IJCAI 2011



# Proposed Approach

- Final goal: Estimate  $p(y_t | \mathbf{x}_t)$

– We have 
$$p(y_t | \mathbf{x}_t) = \sum_{c^{(i)} \in \mathcal{L}_s} p(c | \mathbf{x}_t) \cdot p(y_t | c)$$

–  $p(y_t | \mathbf{x}_t) \approx p(\hat{c} | \mathbf{x}_t) \cdot p(y_t | \hat{c})$  ( $\hat{c} = \arg \max_{c \in \mathcal{L}_s} p(c | \mathbf{x}_t)$ ) e:

Feature Transfer

Label Transfer

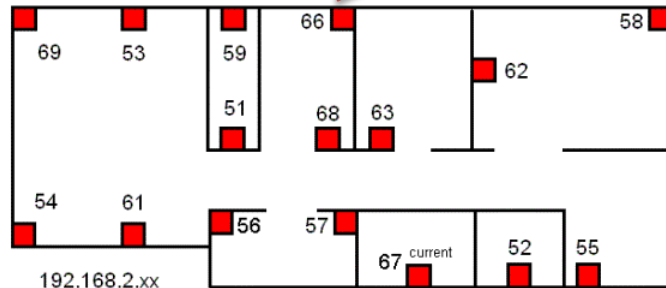
# Experiments

- Datasets
  - UvA dataset [van Kasteren et al. UbiComp 2008]
  - MIT Placelab (PLIA1) dataset [Intille et al. UbiComp 2006]
  - Intel Research Lab dataset [Patterson et al. ISWC 2005]
- Baseline
  - Unsupervised Activity Recognition Algorithm [Wyatt et al. 2005]
- Different sensors for different datasets

State-based sensors  
for UvA dataset



A series of different wired  
sensors for MIT dataset



RFID sensor for Intel  
Research Lab  
Dataset



# Experiments:

## Different Feature & Label Spaces

K	MIT $\rightarrow$ UvA Acc(Var)
K = 5	<b>59.8%</b> (4.2%)
K = 10	57.5% (4.1%)
K = 15	51.0% (4.8%)
K = 20	41.0% (4.1%)
Unsupervised	47.3%(4.1%)

Table 3: Algorithm performance of transferring knowledge from MIT PLIA1 to UvA dataset

K	MIT $\rightarrow$ Intel Acc(Var)
K = 5	60.5% (4.2%)
K = 10	<b>61.2%</b> (3.8%)
K = 15	53.2% (4.1%)
K = 20	42.0% (2.5%)
Unsupervised	42.8%(3.8%)

Table 4: Algorithm performance of transferring knowledge from MIT PLIA1 to Intel dataset

- Source: MIT PLIA1 dataset  
Target: UvA (Intel) datasets

# Part II

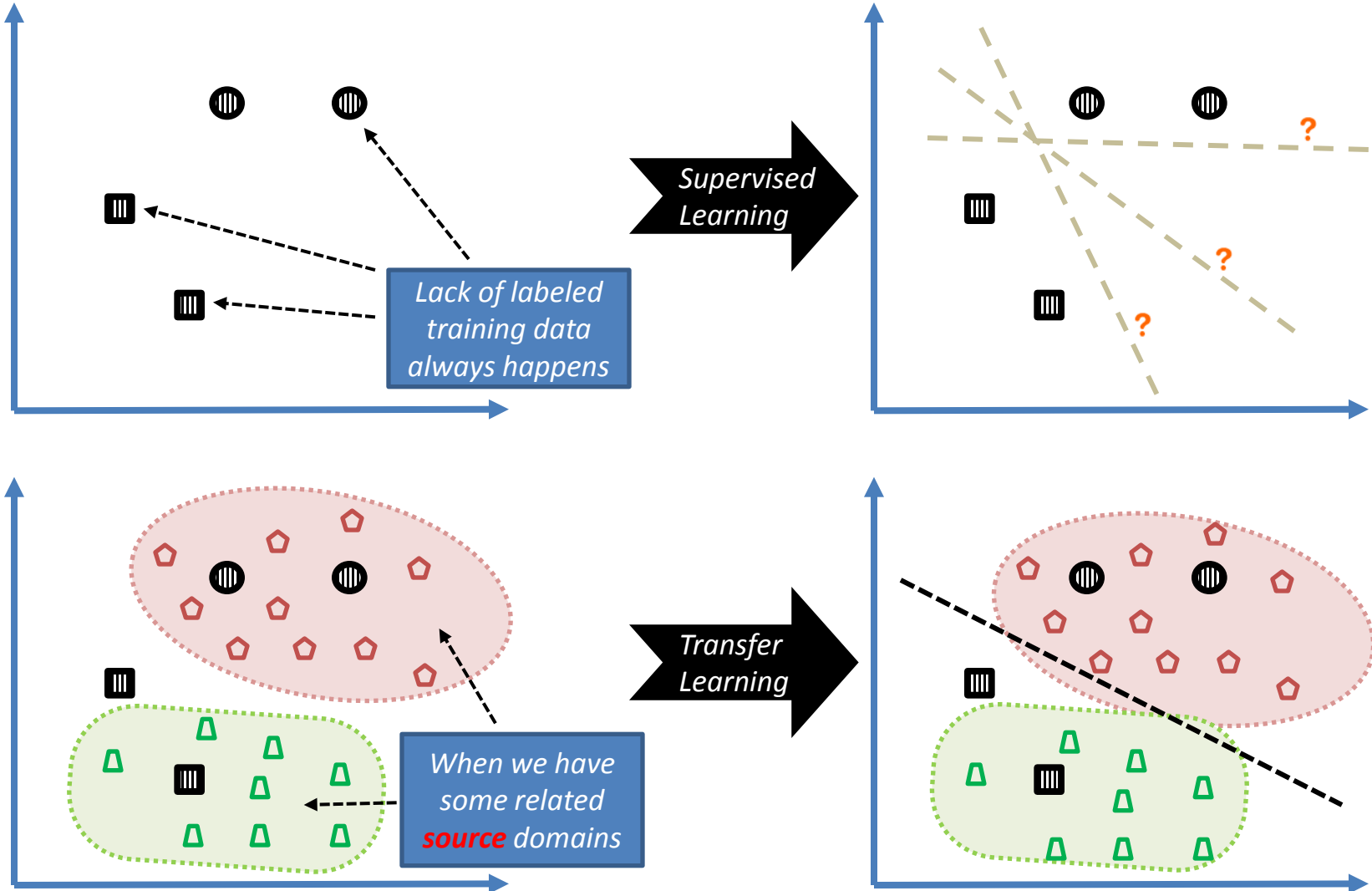
- Source Free Transfer Learning
- Evan Wei Xiang, Sinno Jialin Pan, Weike Pan, Jian Su and Qiang Yang. Source-Selection-Free Transfer Learning. In Proceedings of the 22nd International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI-11), Barcelona, Spain, July 2011.

# Source-Selection Transfer Learning

Evan Xiang, Sinno Pan, Weike Pan,  
Jian Su, Qiang Yang

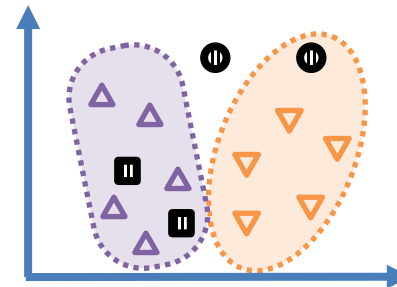
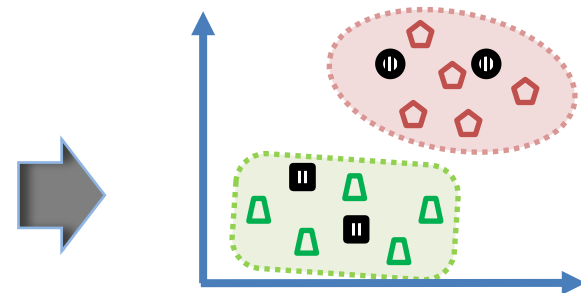
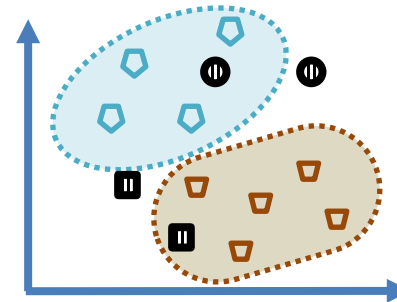
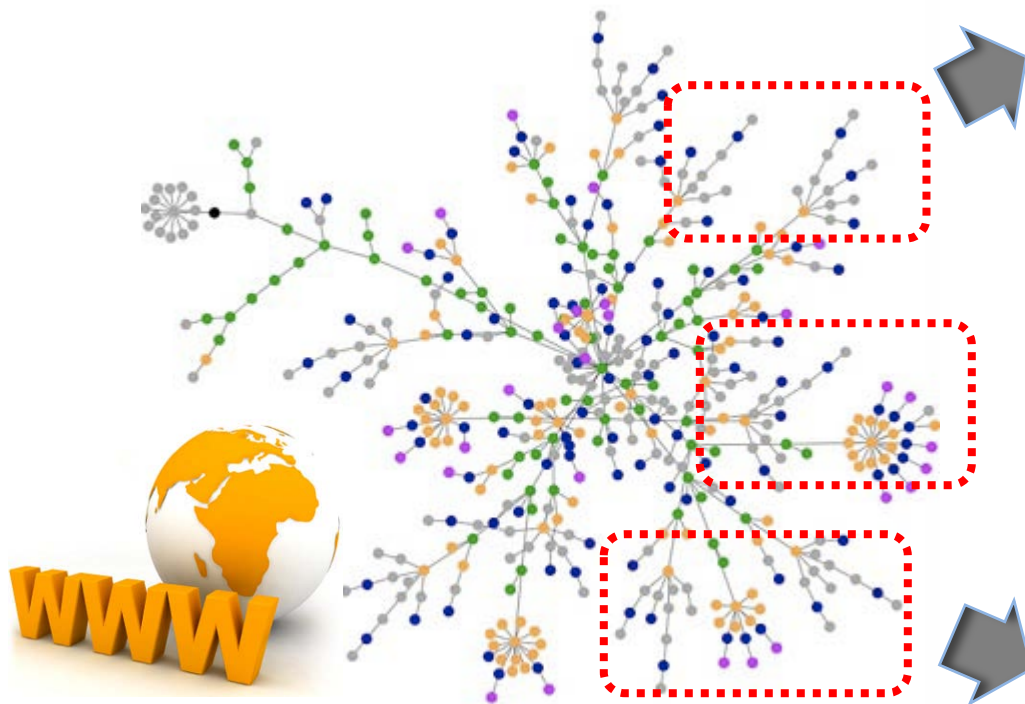


# Transfer Learning



# Where are the “right” source data?

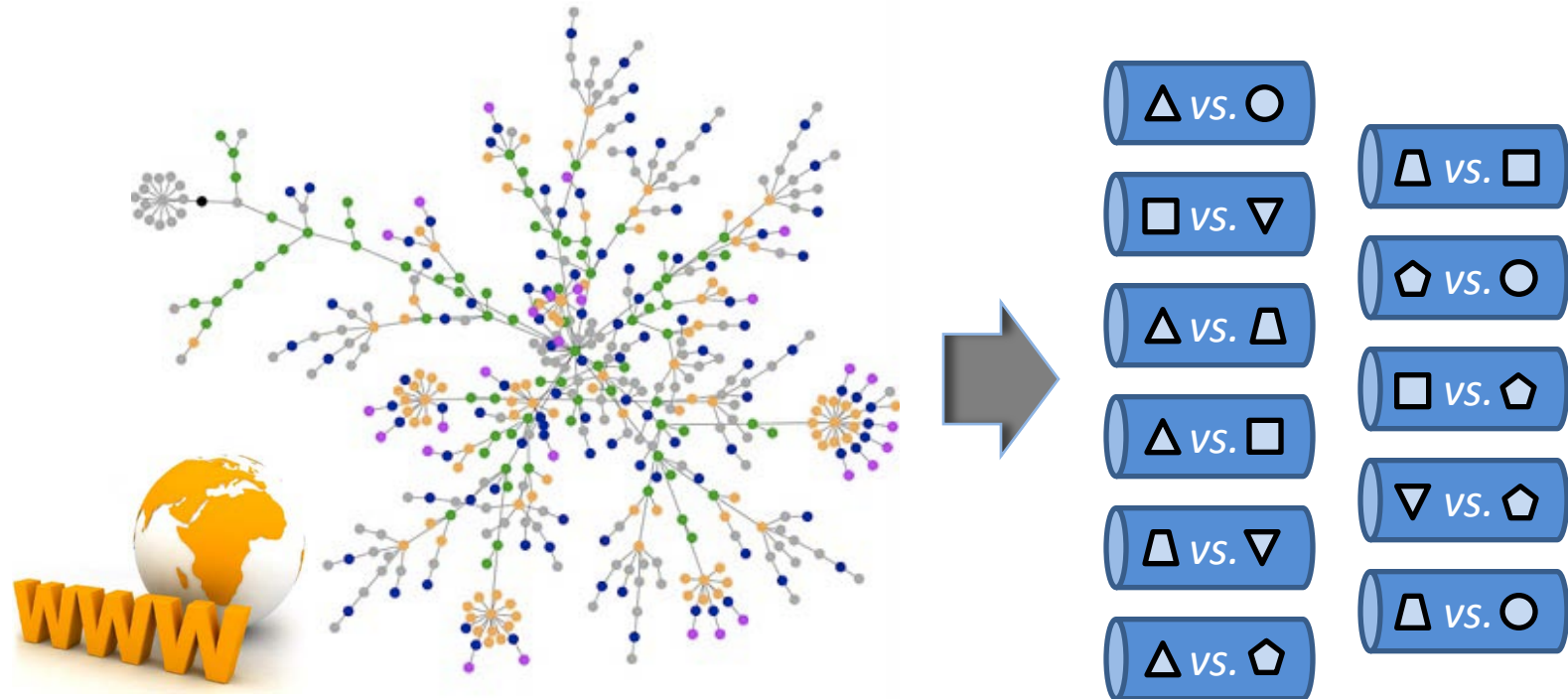
We may have an *extremely* large number of choices of potential sources to use.



# Outline of Source-Selection-Free Transfer Learning (SSFTL)

- ❖ *Stage 1: Building base models*
- ❖ *Stage 2: Label Bridging via Laplacian Graph Embedding*
- ❖ *Stage 3: Mapping the target instance using the base classifiers & the projection matrix*
- ❖ *Stage 4: Learning a matrix  $W$  to directly project the target instance to the latent space*
- ❖ *Stage 5: Making predictions for the incoming test data using  $W$*

# SSFTL – Building base models

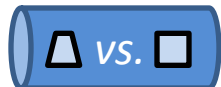
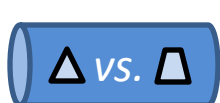
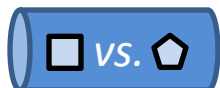
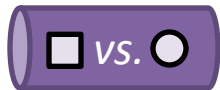


*From the taxonomy of the online information source, we can  
“**Compile**” a lot of base classification models*

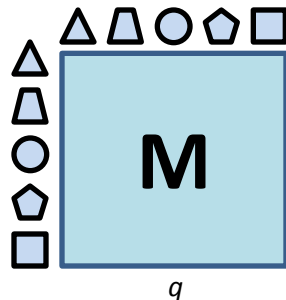
# SSFTL – Label Bridging via Laplacian Graph Embedding

## Problem

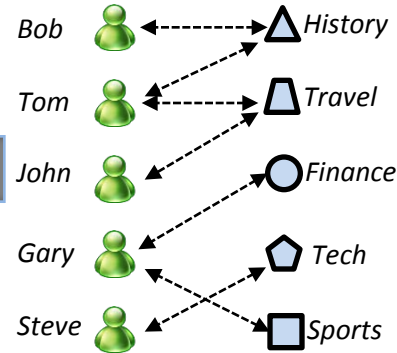
However, the *label spaces* of the based classification models and the target task can be *different*



Neighborhood matrix  
for label graph

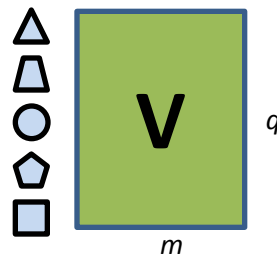


delicious

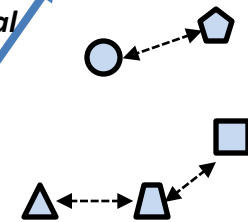


Laplacian Eigenmap  
[Belkin & Niyogi, 2003]

Projection matrix



*m*-dimensional  
latent space



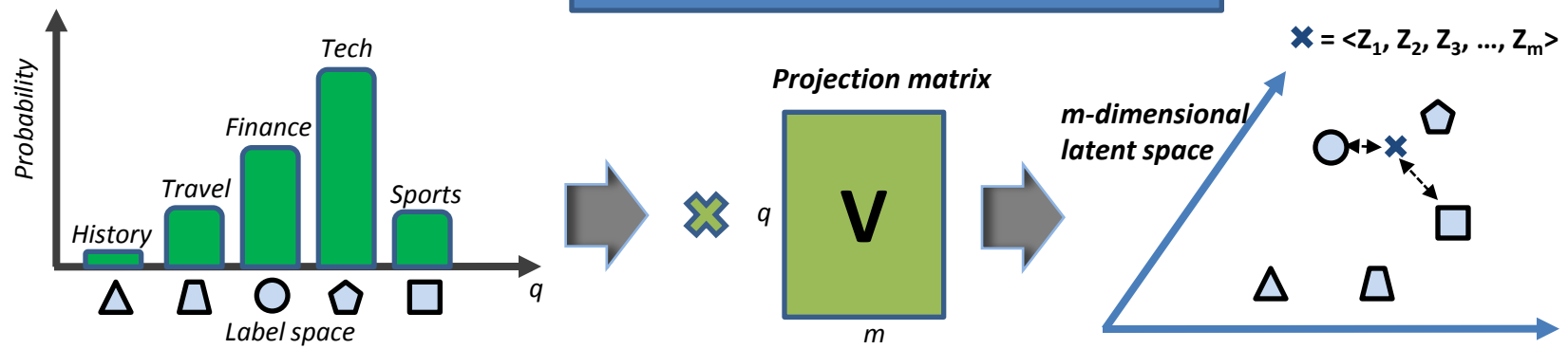
Since the label names are usually short and sparse, in order to uncover the intrinsic relationships between the target and source labels, we turn to some *social media* such as Delicious, which can help to bridge different label sets together.

The *relationships* between labels, e.g., similar or dissimilar, can be represented by the *distance* between their corresponding prototypes in the latent space, e.g., close to or far away from each other.

# SSFTL – Mapping the target instance using the base classifiers & the projection matrix $V$

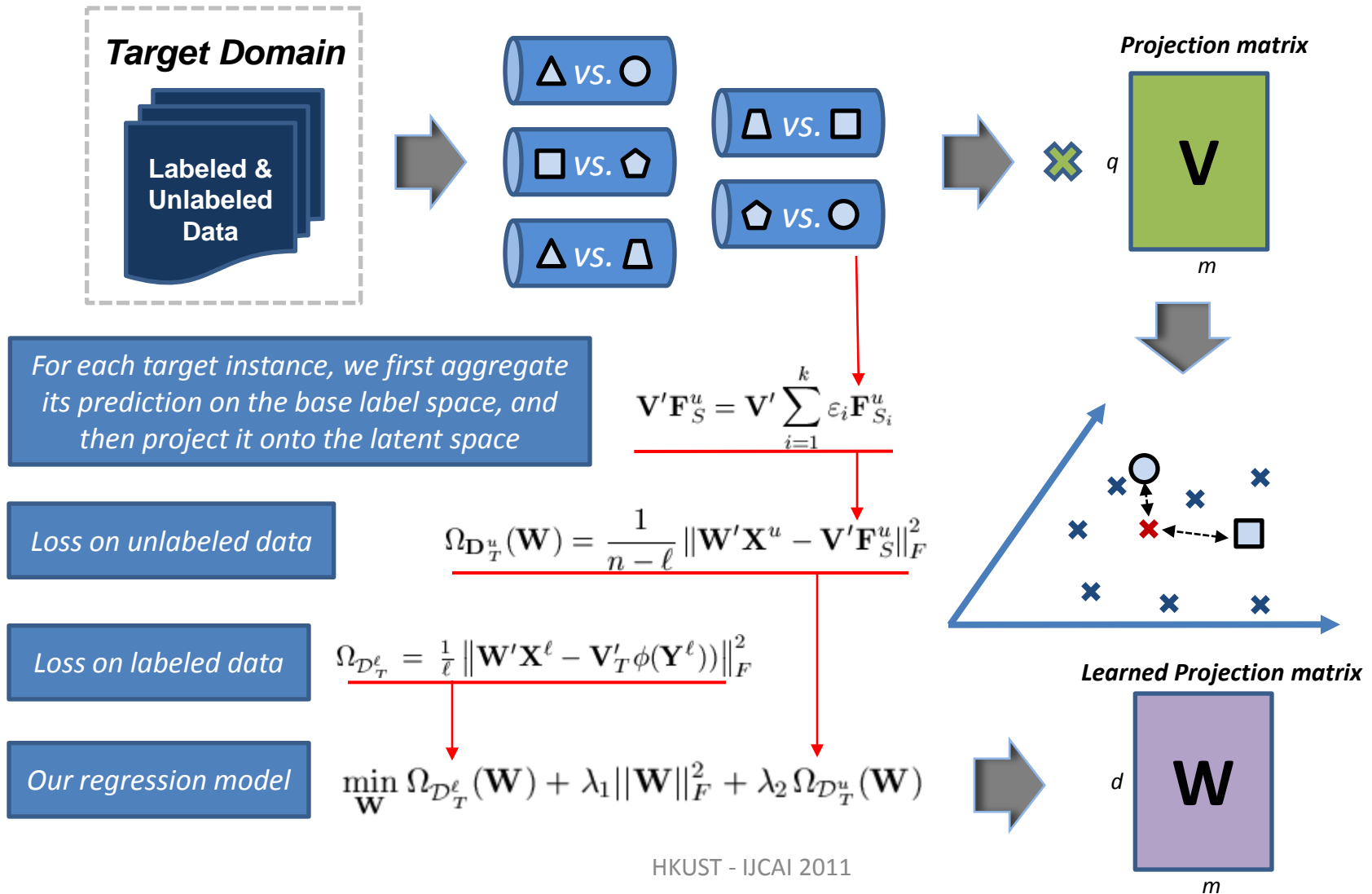


Then we can use the **projection matrix  $V$**  to transform such combined results from the **label space** to a **latent space**

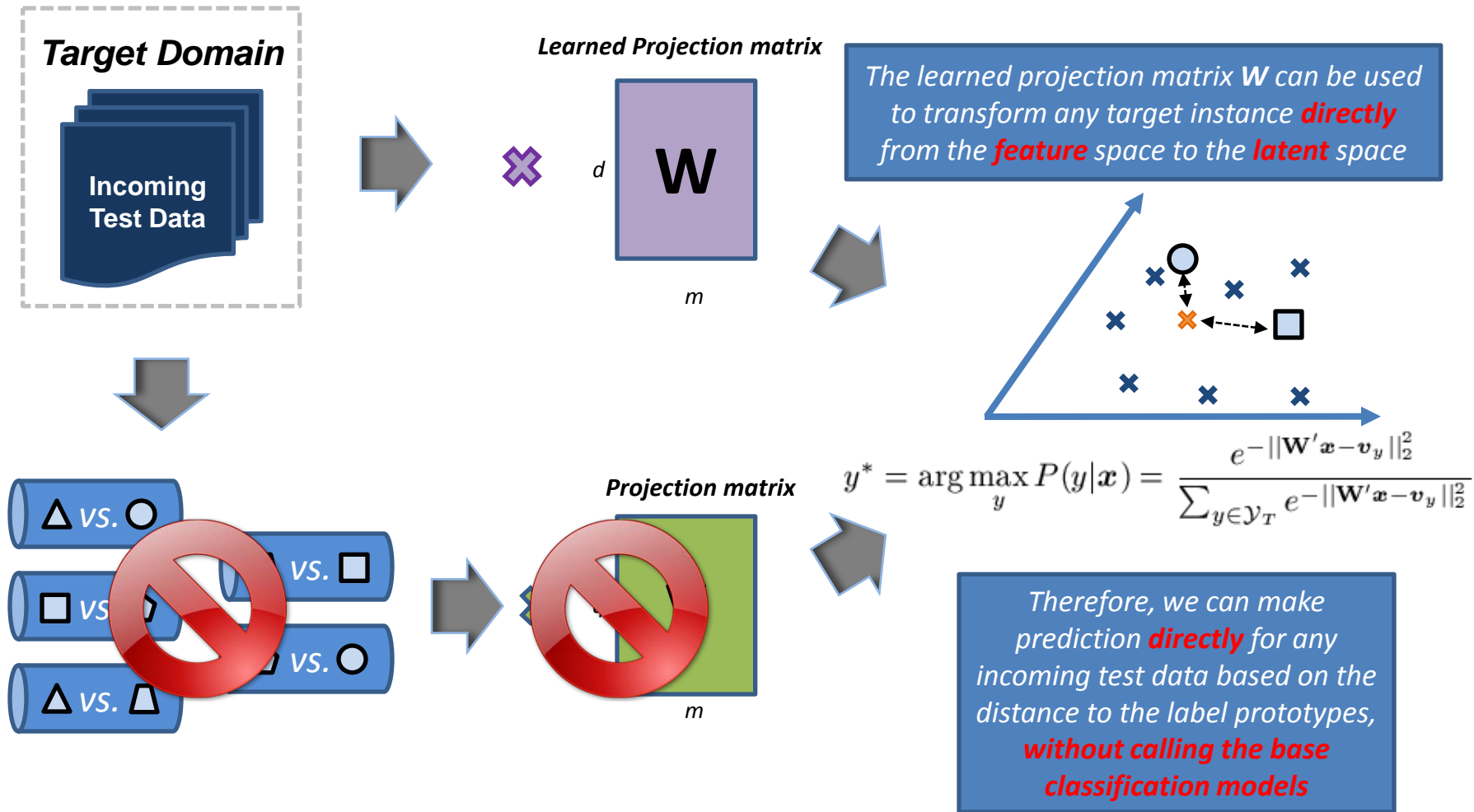


However, do we need to recall the base classifiers during the **prediction** phase?  
The answer is **No!**

# SSFTL – Learning a matrix $\mathbf{W}$ to directly project the target instance to the latent space



# SSFTL – Making predictions for the incoming test data





# Experiments - Datasets

## ❖ ***Building Source Classifiers with Wikipedia***

- ❖ 3M articles, 500K categories (mirror of Aug 2009)
- ❖ 50, 000 pairs of categories are sampled for source models

## ❖ ***Building Label Graph with Delicious***

- ❖ 800-day historical tagging log (Jan 2005 ~ March 2007)
- ❖ 50M tagging logs of 200K tags on 5M Web pages

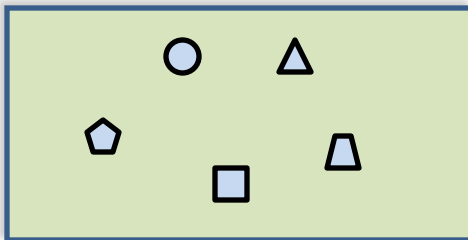
## ❖ ***Benchmark Target Tasks***

- ❖ 20 Newsgroups (190 tasks)
- ❖ Google Snippets (28 tasks)
- ❖ AOL Web queries (126 tasks)
- ❖ AG Reuters corpus (10 tasks)

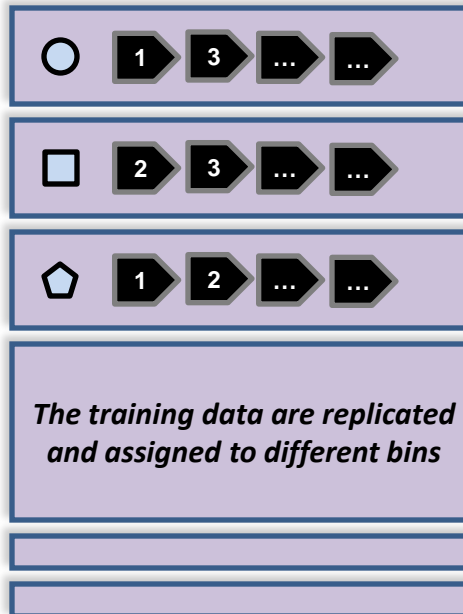
# SSFTL - Building base classifiers

## Parallelly using MapReduce

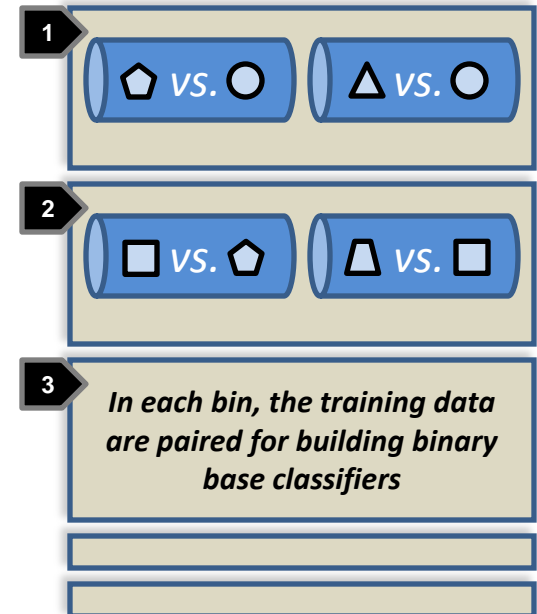
*Input*



*Map*



*Reduce*



If we need to build 50,000 base classifiers, it would take about **two days** if we run the training process on a **single server**.

Therefore, we distributed the training process to a cluster with **30 cores** using MapReduce, and finished the training within **two hours**.

These pre-trained source base classifiers are **stored** and **reused** for different incoming target tasks.

# Experiments - Results

Table 1: Comparison results under varying numbers of labeled data in the target task (accuracy in %).

Dataset	0		5			10			20		
	RG	SSFTL	SVM	TSVM	SSFTL	SVM	TSVM	SSFTL	SVM	TSVM	SSFTL
20NG	50.0	<b>80.3</b>	69.8	75.7	<b>80.6</b>	72.5	81.0	<b>81.6</b>	79.1	83.7	<b>84.5</b>
Google	50.0	<b>72.5</b>	62.1	69.7	<b>73.4</b>	64.5	73.2	<b>75.7</b>	67.3	73.8	<b>80.3</b>
AOL	50.0	<b>71.0</b>	72.1	74.1	<b>74.3</b>	73.7	76.8	<b>77.7</b>	79.2	77.8	<b>80.7</b>
Reuters	50.0	<b>72.7</b>	69.7	63.3	<b>74.3</b>	75.9	63.7	<b>76.9</b>	79.5	66.7	<b>80.1</b>

*Unsupervised SSFTL*

*Semi-supervised SSFTL*

*Our regression model*

$$\min_{\mathbf{W}} \Omega_{\mathcal{D}_T^\ell}(\mathbf{W}) + \lambda_1 \|\mathbf{W}\|_F^2 + \lambda_2 \Omega_{\mathcal{D}_T^u}(\mathbf{W})$$

*-Parameter settings-*

*Source models: 5,000*

*Unlabeled target data: 100%*

*lambda\_2: 0.01*

# Experiments - Results

Table 2: Comparison results on varying numbers of source classifiers (accuracy in %).

Dataset	Number of source classifiers for SSFTL						
	250	500	1K	2K	5K	10K	20K
20NG	76.3	78.2	80.3	82.5	84.5	85.1	<b>85.6</b>
Google	70.6	73.1	76.6	78.5	80.3	<b>80.4</b>	80.2
AOL	67.6	76.6	78.0	78.8	80.7	<b>81.2</b>	79.1
Reuters	72.2	74.0	76.7	78.0	<b>80.1</b>	79.6	78.1

For each target instance, we first aggregate its prediction on the base label space, and then project it onto the latent space

Loss on unlabeled data

Our regression model

$$\mathbf{V}'\mathbf{F}_S^u = \mathbf{V}' \sum_{i=1}^k \varepsilon_i \mathbf{F}_{S_i}^u$$

$$\Omega_{D_T^u}(\mathbf{W}) = \frac{1}{n - \ell} \|\mathbf{W}'\mathbf{X}^u - \mathbf{V}'\mathbf{F}_S^u\|_F^2$$

$$\min_{\mathbf{W}} \Omega_{D_T^\ell}(\mathbf{W}) + \lambda_1 \|\mathbf{W}\|_F^2 + \lambda_2 \Omega_{D_T^u}(\mathbf{W})$$

-Parameter settings-

Mode: Semi-supervised

Labeled target data: 20

Unlabeled target data: 100%

lambda\_2: 0.01

# Experiments - Results

Table 3: Comparison results on varying size of unlabeled data in the target task (accuracy in %).

Dataset	Unlabeled data involved in SSFTL				
	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
20NG	80.5	80.9	81.8	84.0	<b>84.5</b>
Google	74.5	74.9	76.4	77.9	<b>80.3</b>
AOL	73.4	75.7	77.1	78.2	<b>80.7</b>
Reuters	75.5	77.7	77.8	78.7	<b>80.1</b>

Our regression model

$$\min_{\mathbf{W}} \Omega_{\mathcal{D}_T^\ell}(\mathbf{W}) + \lambda_1 \|\mathbf{W}\|_F^2 + \lambda_2 \Omega_{\mathcal{D}_T^u}(\mathbf{W})$$

-Parameter settings-  
Mode: Semi-supervised  
Labeled target data: 20  
Source models: 5,000  
lambda\_2: 0.01

# Experiments - Results

Table 4: Overall performance of SSFTL under varying values of  $\lambda_2$  (accuracy in %).

Dataset	$\lambda_2$ of SSFTL						
	0	0.001	0.01	0.1	1	10	100
20NG	83.2	84.1	84.5	<b>85.3</b>	84.8	83.3	79.3
Google	76.6	79.1	<b>80.3</b>	78.7	78.2	77.4	74.3
AOL	78.3	79.5	<b>80.7</b>	79.1	78.8	76.3	73.4
Reuters	75.5	78.2	<b>80.1</b>	78.5	76.0	72.1	68.5

*Supervised SSFTL*

*Semi-supervised SSFTL*

*Our regression model*

$$\min_{\mathbf{W}} \Omega_{\mathcal{D}_T^\ell}(\mathbf{W}) + \lambda_1 \|\mathbf{W}\|_F^2 + \lambda_2 \Omega_{\mathcal{D}_T^u}(\mathbf{W})$$

*-Parameter settings-*

*Labeled target data: 20*

*Unlabeled target data: 100%*

*Source models: 5,000*

# Experiments - Results

Table 5: Analysis on weighted and uniform SSFTL under varying number of labeled data (accuracy in %).

Dataset	Uniform SSFTL				Weighted SSFTL			
	5	10	20	30	5	10	20	30
20NG	72.8	80.7	81.2	81.9	80.6	81.6	84.5	85.9
Google	64.1	67.0	70.8	77.2	73.4	75.7	80.3	81.1
AOL	69.8	71.7	72.1	74.8	74.3	77.7	80.7	82.5
Reuters	69.7	70.3	75.5	78.8	74.3	76.9	80.1	82.6

For each target instance, we first aggregate its prediction on the base label space, and then project it onto the latent space

Loss on unlabeled data

Our regression model

$$\mathbf{V}'\mathbf{F}_S^u = \mathbf{V}' \sum_{i=1}^k \varepsilon_i \mathbf{F}_{S_i}^u$$

$$\Omega_{\mathcal{D}_T^u}(\mathbf{W}) = \frac{1}{n - \ell} \|\mathbf{W}'\mathbf{X}^u - \mathbf{V}'\mathbf{F}_S^u\|_F^2$$

$$\min_{\mathbf{W}} \Omega_{\mathcal{D}_T^\ell}(\mathbf{W}) + \lambda_1 \|\mathbf{W}\|_F^2 + \lambda_2 \Omega_{\mathcal{D}_T^u}(\mathbf{W})$$

-Parameter settings-

Mode: Semi-supervised

Labeled target data: 20

Source models: 5,000

Unlabeled target data: 100%

lambda\_2: 0.01

# Related Works

Table 6: Summary of some related transfer learning works.

<i>Transfer learning methods</i>	<i>Scalability</i>	<i>Diff. label</i>
RSP [Shi <i>et al.</i> , 2009]	×	✓
EigenTransfer [Dai <i>et al.</i> , 2009]	×	✓
MTL-MI [Quadrianto <i>et al.</i> , 2010]	×	✓
DAM [Duan <i>et al.</i> , 2009]	✓	×
LWE [Gao <i>et al.</i> , 2008]	✓	×
<b>SSFTL</b>	✓	✓



# Conclusion

## ❖ ***Source-Selection-Free Transfer Learning***

❖ *When the potential auxiliary data is embedded in very large online information sources*

## ❖ ***No need for task-specific source-domain data***

❖ *We compile the label sets into a **graph Laplacian** for automatic label bridging*

## ❖ ***SSFTL is highly scalable***

❖ *Processing of the online information source can be done **offline** and **reused** for different tasks.*

# Q & A



# **Advance Research Topics in Transfer Learning**

Wei Fan

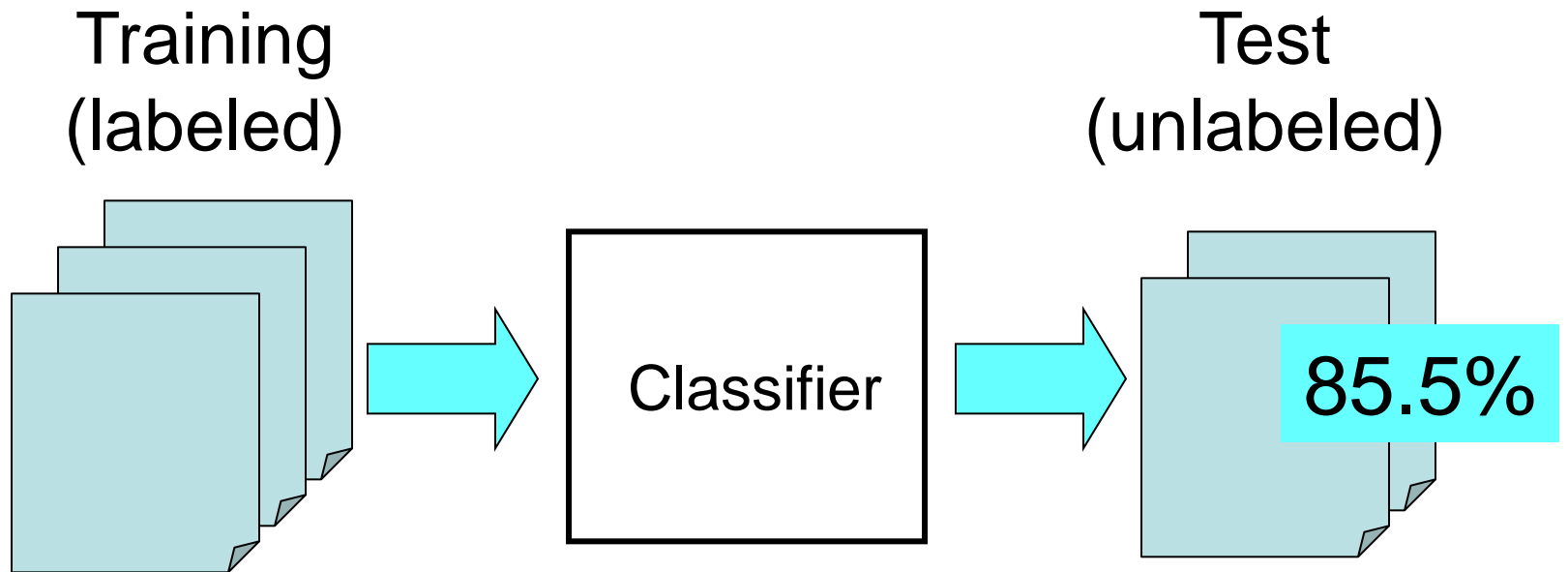
Huawei Noah's Ark Research Lab, Hong Kong

# Predictive Modeling with Heterogeneous Sources

Xiaoxiao Shi Qi Liu Wei Fan  
Qiang Yang Philip S. Yu

# Why learning with heterogeneous sources?

## Standard Supervised Learning



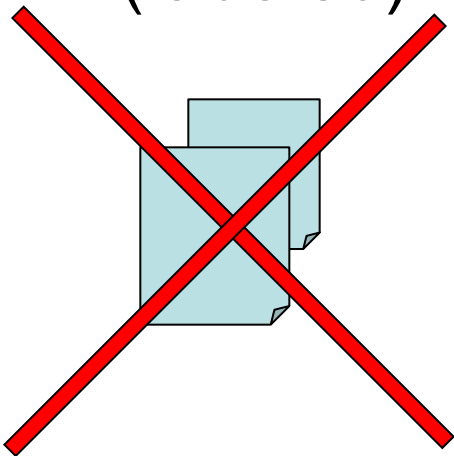
**New York Times**

**New York Times**

# Why heterogeneous sources?

In Reality...

Training  
(labeled)

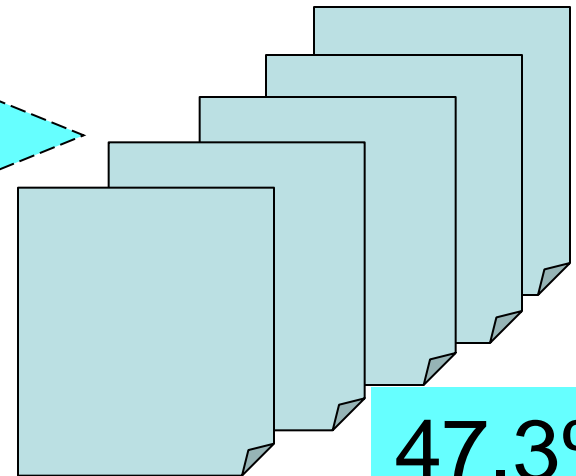
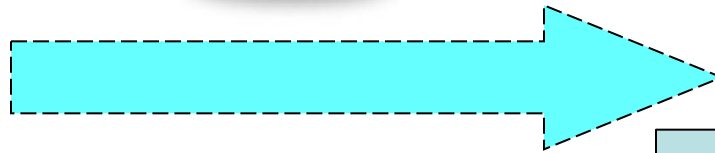


Labeled data are  
insufficient!



How to improve  
the performance?

Test  
(unlabeled)

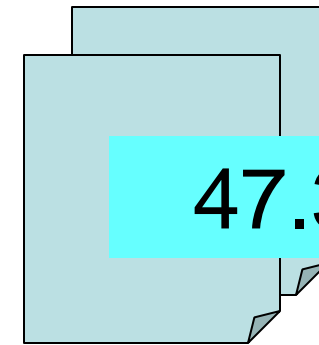
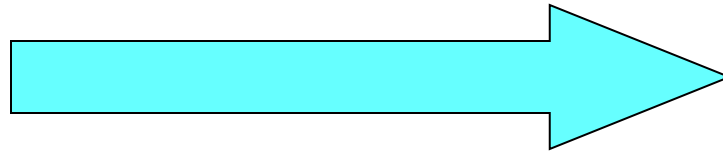
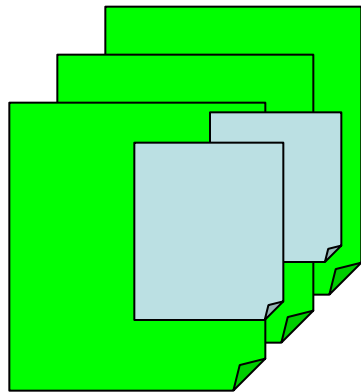


New York Times 2/18

# Why heterogeneous sources?

Labeled data from other sources

Target domain test (unlabeled)



47.3%

Reuters

**New York Times**

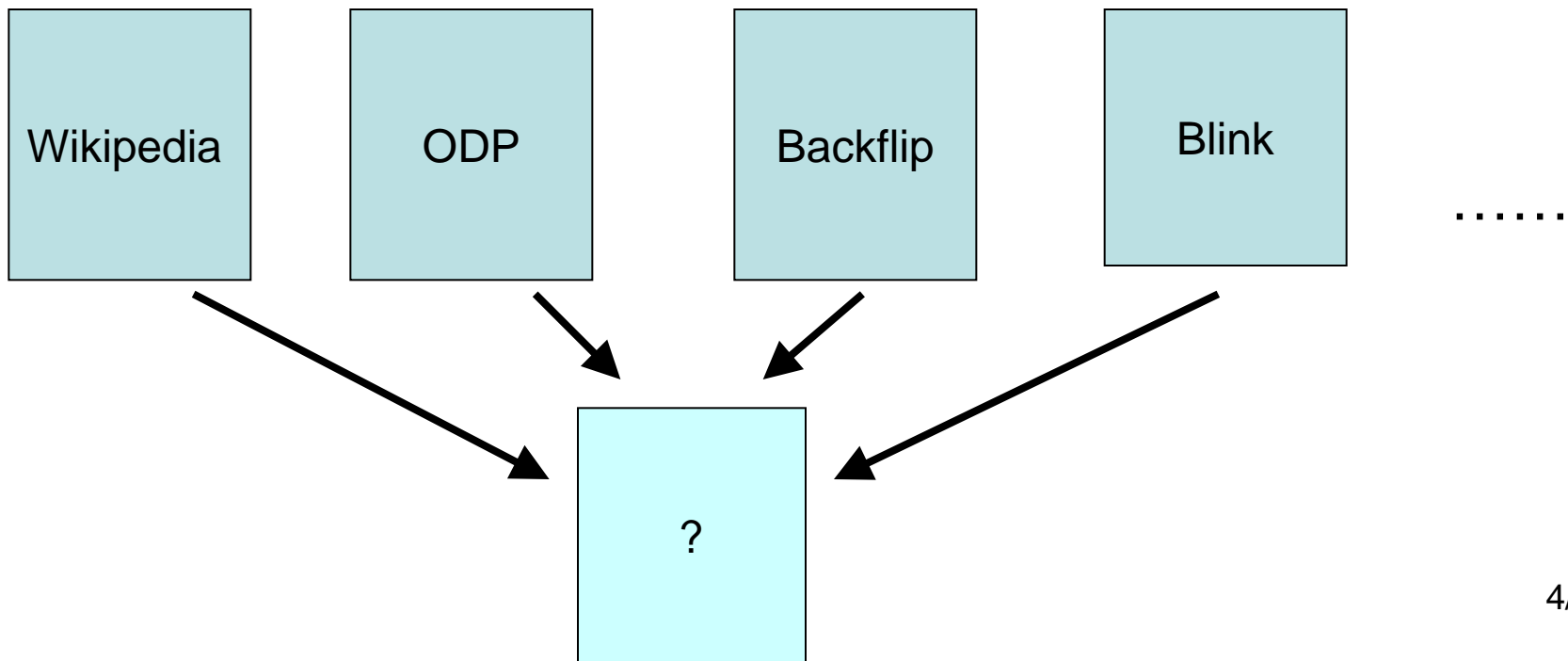
1. Different distributions

2. Different outputs

3. Different feature spaces

# Real world examples

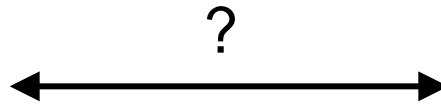
- Social Network:
  - Can various bookmarking systems help predict social tags for a new system given that their outputs (social tags) and data (documents) are different?





# Real world examples

- Applied Sociology:
  - Can the suburban housing price census data help predict the downtown housing prices?



#rooms #bathrooms #windows price

5 2 12 XXX

6 3 11 XXX

#rooms #bathrooms #windows price

2 1 4 XXXXX

4 2 5 XXXXX

# Other examples

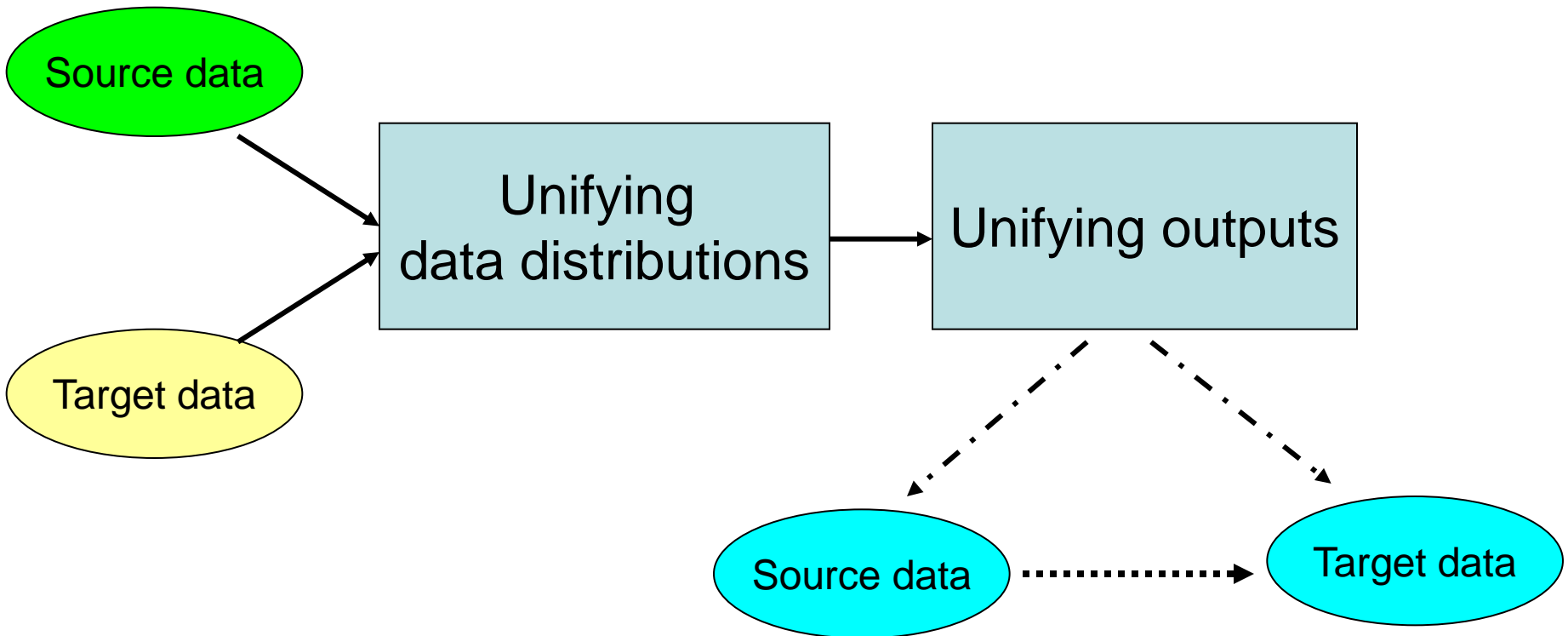
- Bioinformatics
  - Previous years' flu data → new swine flu
  - Drug efficacy data against breast cancer → drug data against lung cancer
  - .....
- Intrusion detection
  - Existing types of intrusions → unknown types of intrusions
- Sentiment analysis
  - Review from SDM → Review from KDD

# Learning with Heterogeneous Sources

- The paper mainly attacks two sub-problems:
  - Heterogeneous data distributions
    - Clustering based KL divergence and a corresponding sampling technique
  - Heterogeneous outputs (to regression problem)
    - Unifying outputs via preserving similarity.

# Learning with Heterogeneous Sources

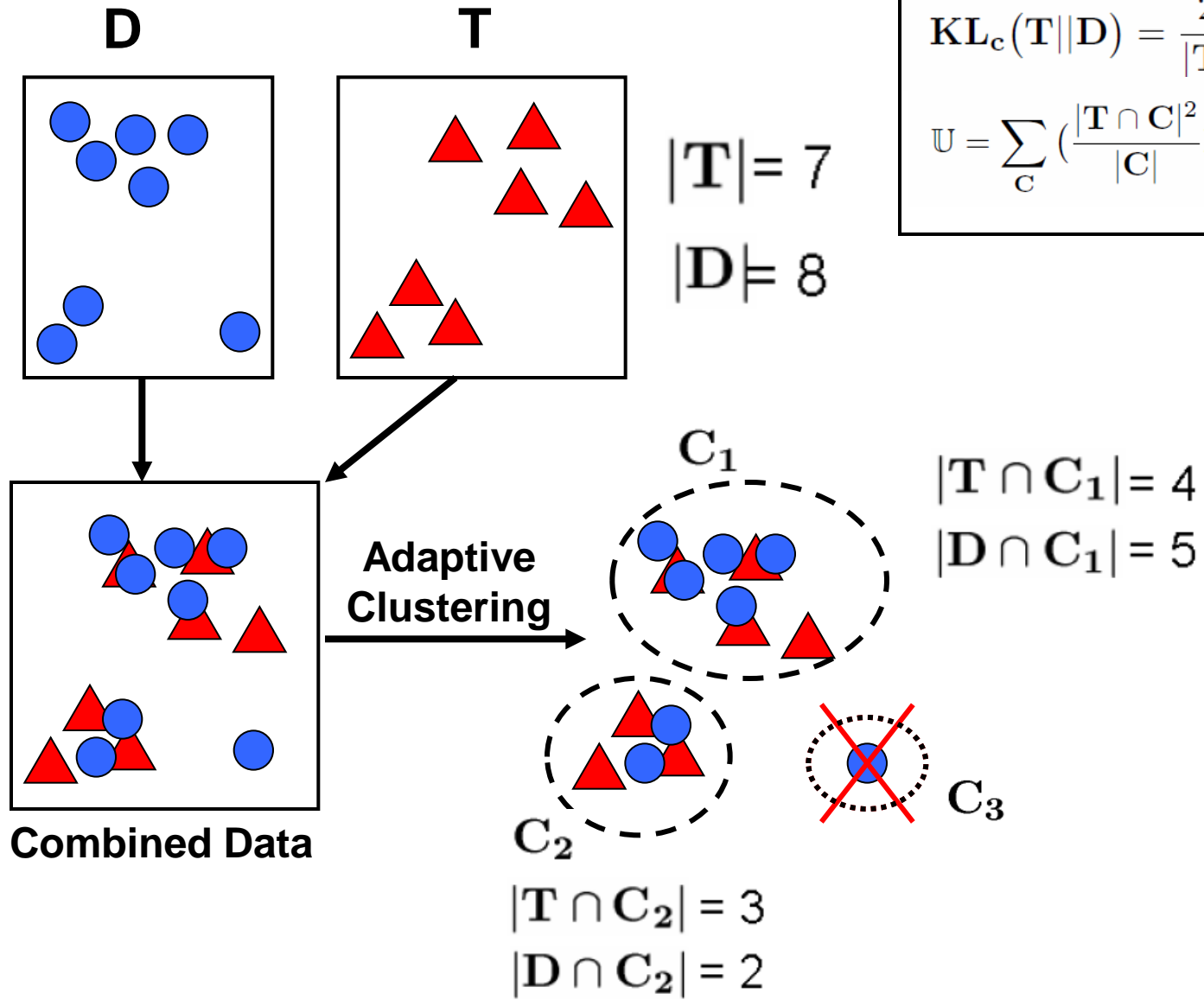
- General Framework



# Unifying Data Distributions

- Basic idea:
  - Combine the source and target data and perform clustering.
  - Select the clusters in which the target and source data are similarly distributed, evaluated by KL divergence.

# An Example

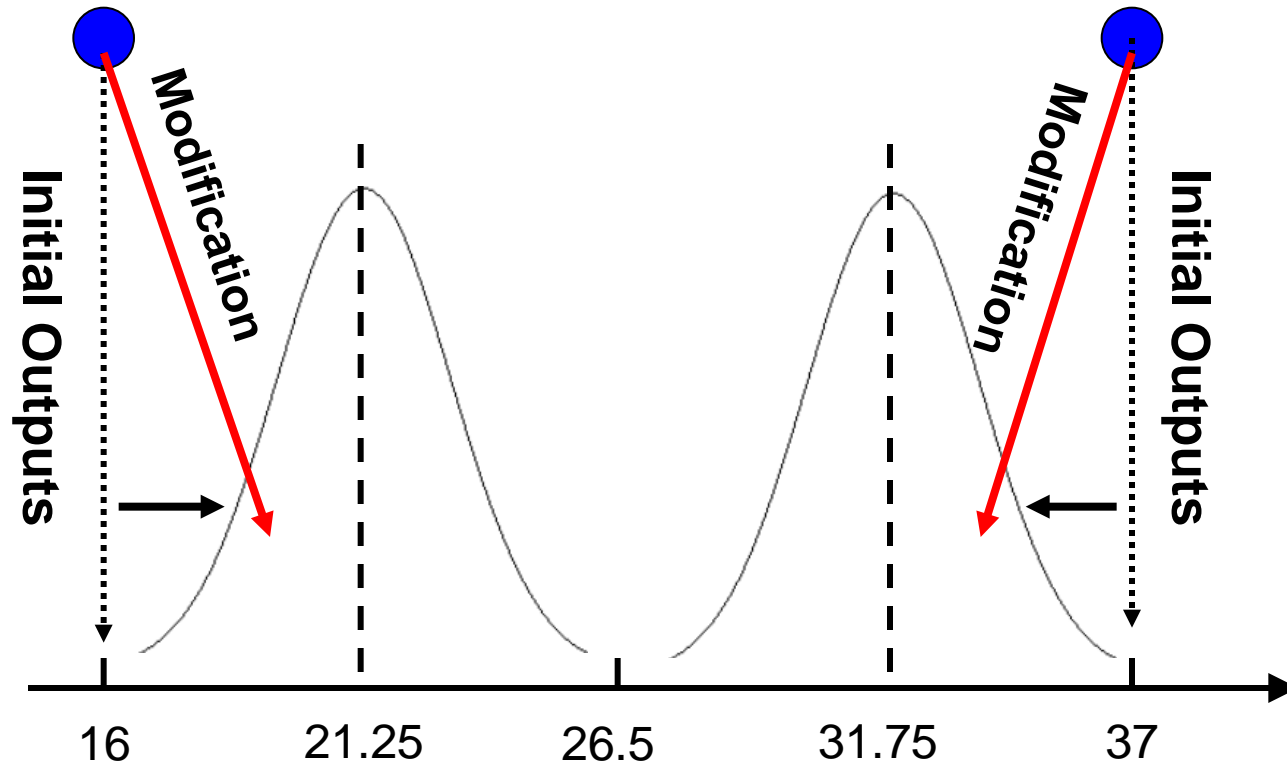


$$\text{KL}_c(\mathbf{T}||\mathbf{D}) = \frac{2}{|\mathbf{T}|} \mathbb{U} + \log \frac{|\mathbf{D}|}{|\mathbf{T}|}$$

$$\mathbb{U} = \sum_c \left( \frac{|\mathbf{T} \cap C|^2}{|C|} \log \frac{|\mathbf{T} \cap C|}{|\mathbf{D} \cap C|} \right)$$

# Unifying Outputs

- Basic idea:
  - Generate initial outputs according to the regression model
  - For the instances similar in the original output space, make their new outputs closer.





# Experiment

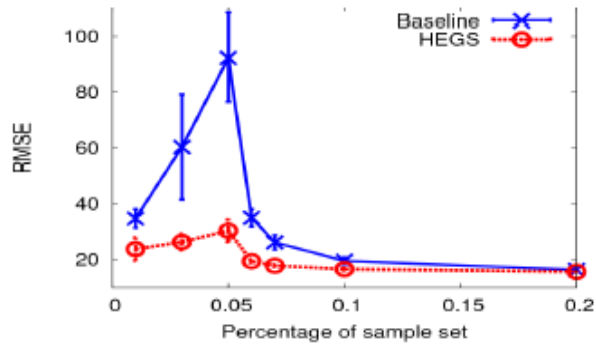
- Bioinformatics data set:

Table 1: Description of the data sets (#Feature =161)

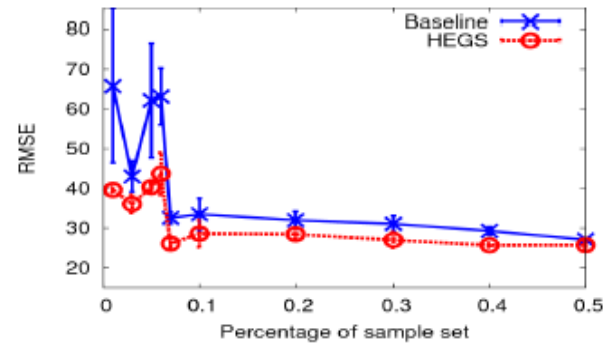
Order	Type	Size	Scale	References
1	Regression	2431	0~99.99	[8]
2	Regression	561	1~127.8	[8]
3	Regression	601	0~100	[8]
4	Regression	290	2.1~98	[15]
5	Regression	344	0.2~98.5	[15]
6	Classification	7443	4 classes	[10]
7	Classification	196	2 classes	[16]

Note: Some references, such as [8], refer to several data sets from different research groups

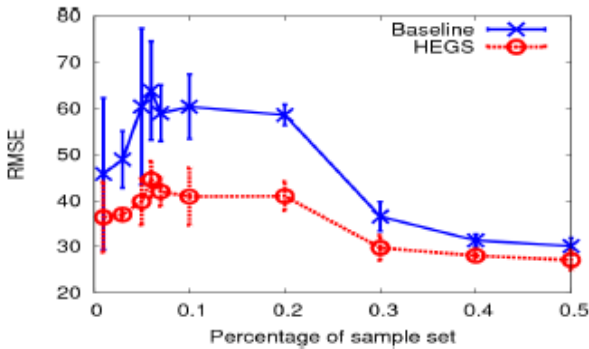
# Experiment



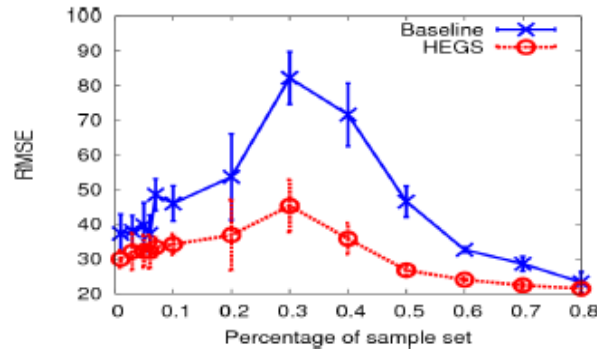
(a) Data set 1



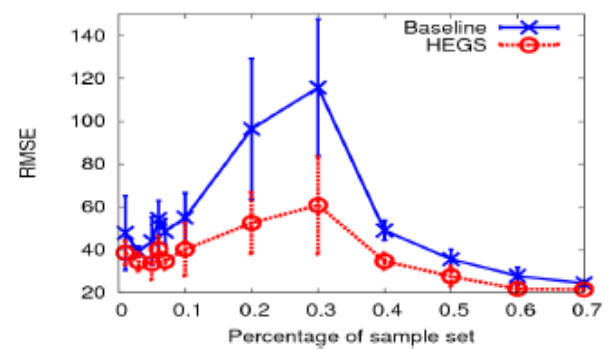
(b) Data set 2



(c) Data set 3



(d) Data set 4



(e) Data set 5

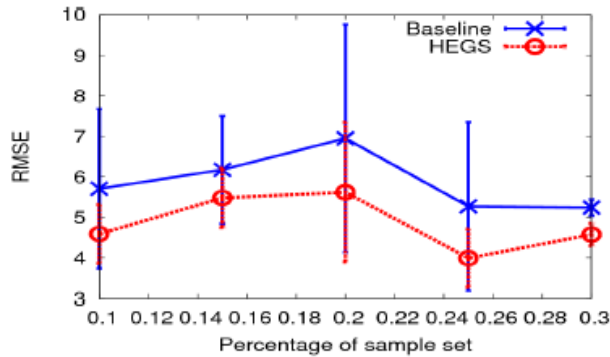
# Experiment

- Applied sociology data set:

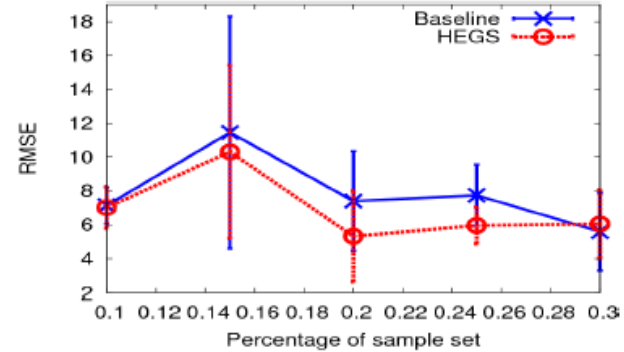
Table 2: Description of the data sets (#Feature =18)

Name	Size	Scale
Newton	18	2.47~21.46
Boston Roxbury	19	12.03~36.98
Lynn	22	6.58~27.71
Boston Savin Hill	23	15.17~34.02
Cambridge	30	1.73~29.53
Somerville	15	11.12~34.41
South Boston	10	3.53~18.46
Brookline	11	7.67~18.66
East Boston	11	10.29~19.01
Quincy	11	9.38~29.55

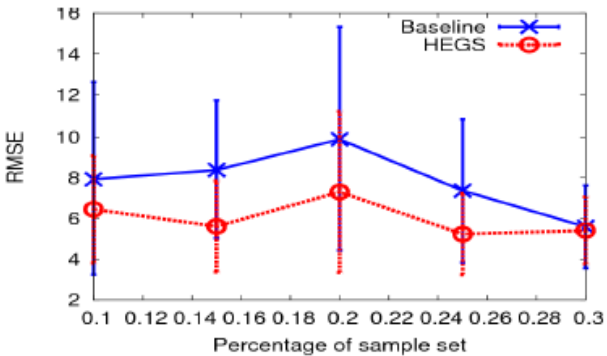
# Experiment



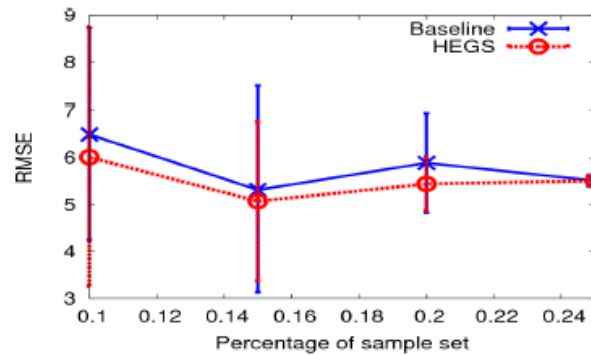
(a) Newton



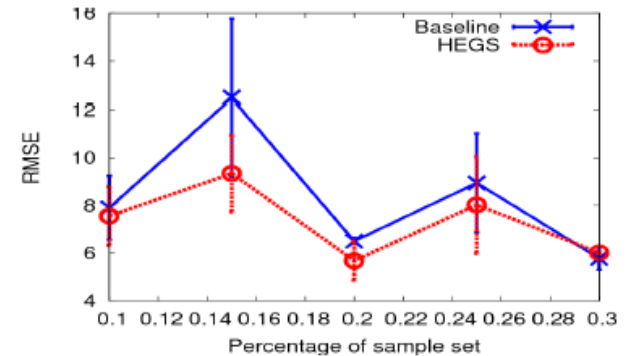
(b) Boston Roxbury



(c) Lynn



(d) Boston Savin Hill



(e) Cambridge

# Conclusions

- Problem: Learning with Heterogeneous Sources:
  - Heterogeneous data distributions
  - Heterogeneous outputs
- Solution:
  - Clustering based KL divergence help perform sampling
  - Similarity preserving output generation help unify outputs

# Transfer Learning on Heterogeneous Feature Spaces via Spectral Transformation

Xiaoxiao Shi, Qi Liu, Wei Fan,  
Philip S. Yu, and Ruixin Zhu

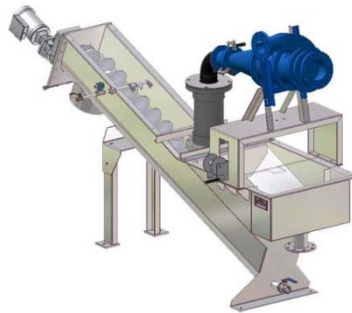
# Motivation

## Standard Supervised Learning

Training documents  
(labeled)



Classifier



Test documents  
(unlabeled)



The New York Times

The New York Times

# In Reality...

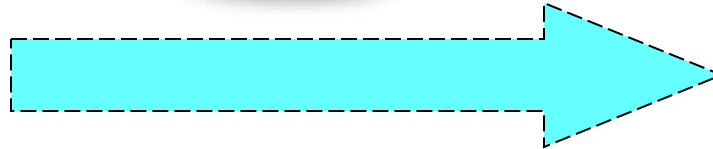
Training  
(labeled)



Labeled data are  
insufficient!



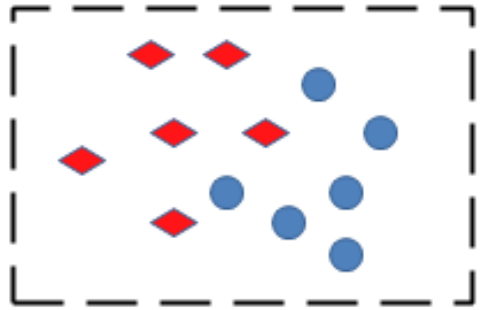
Huge set of unlabeled  
documents



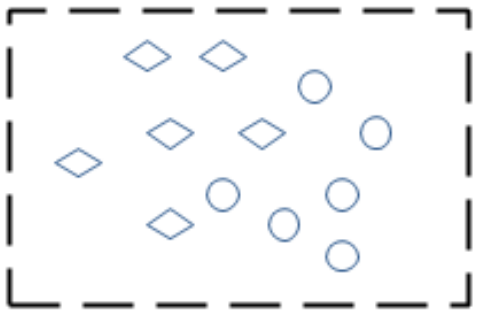
The New York 47.3%



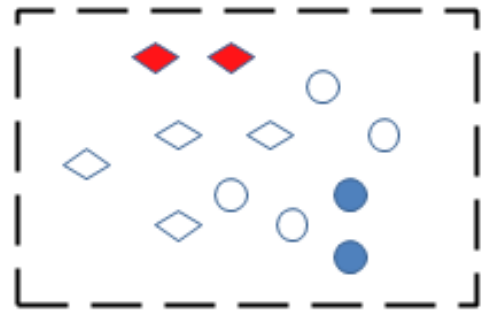
Supervised Learning



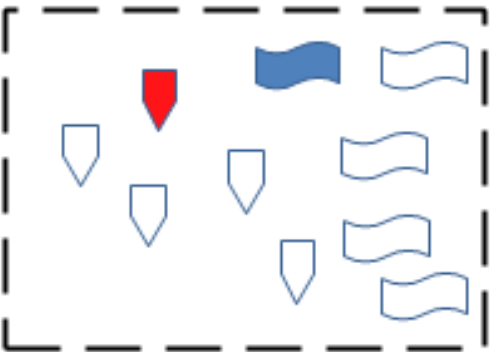
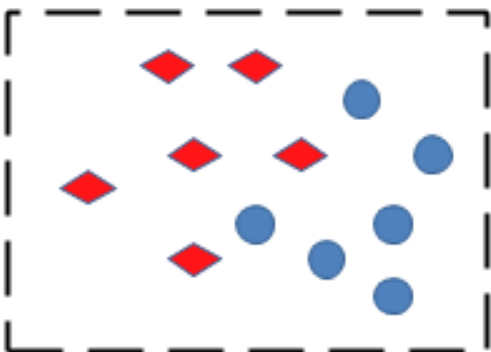
Unsupervised Learning



Semi-supervised Learning



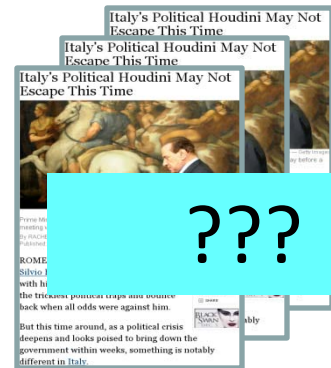
Transfer Learning



Labeled data from other sources



Target domain test (unlabeled)



Heterogeneous datasets:

1. Different data distributions:  $P(x_{\text{train}})$  and  $P(x_{\text{test}})$  are different
2. Different outputs:  $y_{\text{train}}$  and  $y_{\text{test}}$  are different
3. Different feature spaces:  $x_{\text{train}}$  and  $x_{\text{test}}$  are different

- WiFi-based localization tracking [Pan et al'08]
- Collaborative Filtering [Pan et al'10]
- Activity Recognition [Zheng et al'09]
- Text Classification [Dai et al'07]
- Sentiment Classification [Blitzer et al '07]
- Image Categorization [Shi et al'10]
- ....

# Issues

- Different data distributions:  $P(x_{\text{train}})$  and  $P(x_{\text{test}})$  are different

**Chicago Tribune**

focuses more on Chicago local news



focuses more on global news



**WIKIPEDIA**  
The Free Encyclopedia

focuses more on scientific/objective documents

# Issues

- Different outputs:  $y_{\text{train}}$  and  $y_{\text{test}}$  are different

Wikipedia

## Wiktionary:Topics

This page contains lists of major topical categories on

Business

Culture

Geography

History

Language

Nature

People

ODP



[Arts](#)

[Movies](#), [Television](#), [Music](#)...

[Games](#)

[Video Games](#), [RPGs](#), [Gambling](#)...

[Kids and Teens](#)

[Arts](#), [School Time](#), [Teen Life](#)...

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[Society](#)

[People](#), [Religion](#), [Issues](#)...

[Computers](#)

[Internet](#), [Software](#), [Hardware](#)...

[Home](#)

[Family](#), [Consumers](#), [Cooking](#)...

[Recreation](#)

[Travel](#), [Food](#), [Outdoors](#), [Humor](#)...

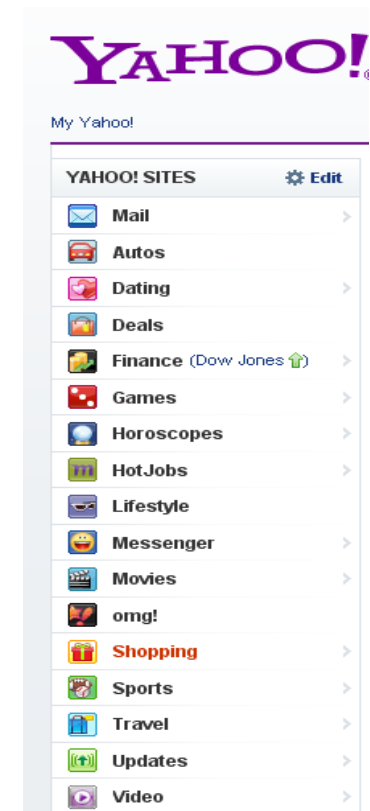
[Science](#)

[Biology](#), [Psychology](#), [Physics](#)...

[Sports](#)

[Baseball](#), [Soccer](#), [Basketball](#)...

Yahoo!

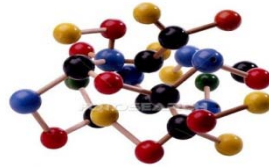


# Issues

- **Different feature spaces (the focus on the paper)**

- **Drug efficacy tests:**

- Physical properties
    - Toxicity properties

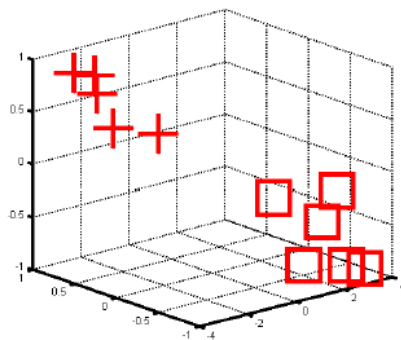


- **Image Classification**

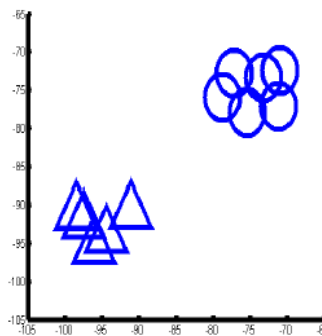
- Wavelet features
    - Color histogram

# Unify different feature spaces

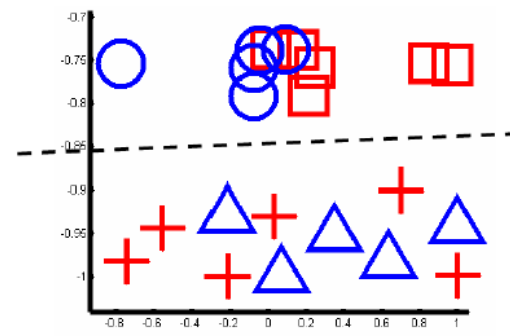
- Different number of features; different meanings of the features, **no common feature, no overlap**.
- Projection-based approach **HeMap**
  - Find a projected space where (1) the source and target data are similar in distribution; (2) the original



(a) 3-D data



(b) 2-D data



(c) Projected space

# Unify different feature spaces via HeMap

## Optimization objective of HeMap:

$$\min_{\mathbf{B}_T, \mathbf{B}_S} \underbrace{\ell(\mathbf{B}_T, \mathbf{T})}_{\text{The linear projection error}} + \underbrace{\ell(\mathbf{B}_S, \mathbf{S})}_{\text{The linear projection error}} + \beta \cdot \underbrace{\mathbf{D}(\mathbf{B}_T, \mathbf{B}_S)}_{\text{The difference between the projected data}} \quad (1)$$

$$\ell(\mathbf{B}_T, \mathbf{T}) = \|\mathbf{B}_T \mathbf{T} - \mathbf{T}\|_F, \quad \ell(\mathbf{B}_S, \mathbf{S}) = \|\mathbf{B}_S \mathbf{S} - \mathbf{S}\|_F, \quad \mathbf{D}(\mathbf{B}_T, \mathbf{B}_S) = \frac{1}{2} (\ell(\mathbf{B}_T, \mathbf{S}) + \ell(\mathbf{B}_S, \mathbf{T}))$$

The linear projection error

The linear projection error

The difference between the projected data

where  $\mathbf{B}_T \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times k}$ ,  $\mathbf{B}_S \in \mathbb{R}^{q \times k}$  are the projected matrices of  $\mathbf{T}$  and  $\mathbf{S}$  respectively.



# Unify different feature spaces via HeMap

**With some derivations, the objective can be reformulated as  
(more details can be found in the paper):**

*Theorem 1:* The minimization problem in Eq. (4) is equivalent to the following maximization problem:

$$\min_{\mathbf{B}_T^\top \mathbf{B}_T = \mathbf{I}, \mathbf{B}_S^\top \mathbf{B}_S = \mathbf{I}} G = \max_{\mathbf{B}^\top \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{I}} \text{tr}(\mathbf{B}^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{B}) \quad (6)$$

where

$$\mathbf{B} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{B}_T \\ \mathbf{B}_S \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}_1 & \mathbf{A}_2 \\ \mathbf{A}_3 & \mathbf{A}_4 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (7)$$

$$\mathbf{A}_1 = 2\mathbf{T}\mathbf{T}^\top + \frac{\beta^2}{2}\mathbf{S}\mathbf{S}^\top, \mathbf{A}_4 = \frac{\beta^2}{2}\mathbf{T}\mathbf{T}^\top + 2\mathbf{S}\mathbf{S}^\top$$

$$\mathbf{A}_2 = \mathbf{A}_3^\top = \beta(\mathbf{S}\mathbf{S}^\top + \mathbf{T}\mathbf{T}^\top)$$

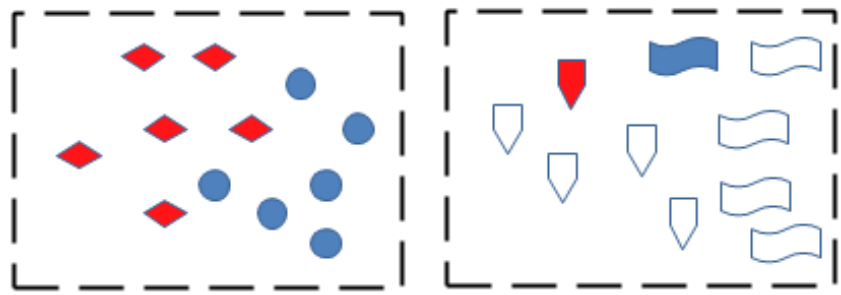
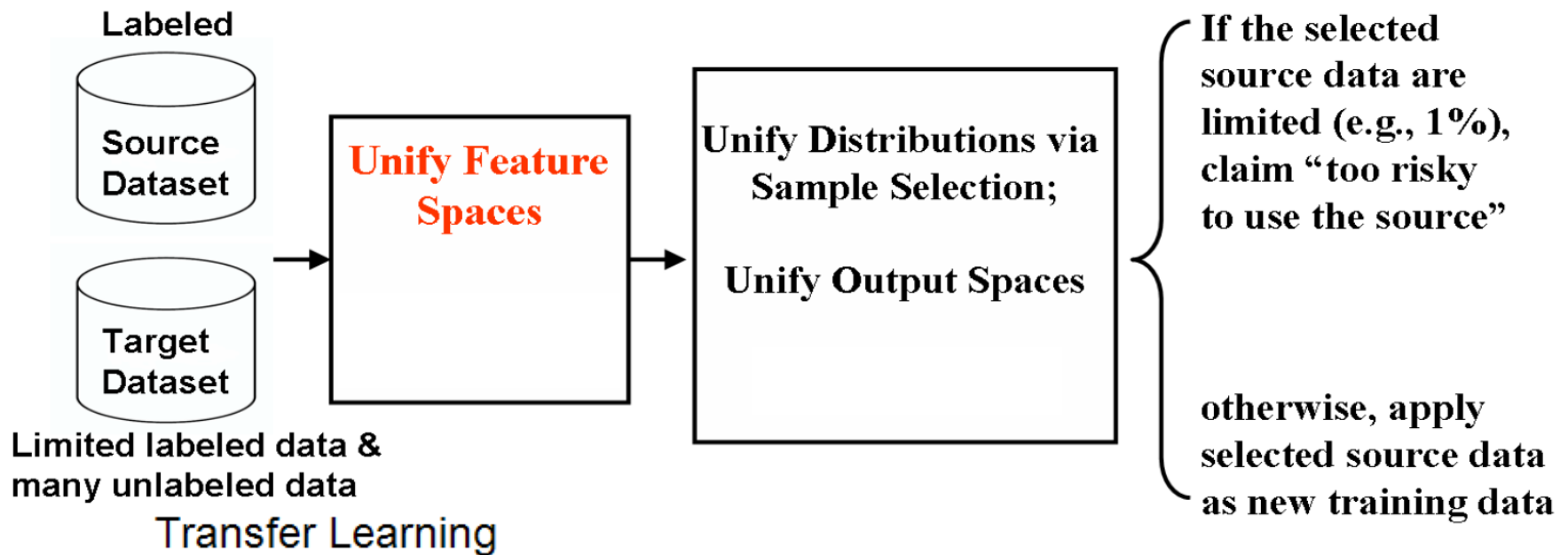
# Algorithm flow of HeMap

Construct matrix  $\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}_1 & \mathbf{A}_2 \\ \mathbf{A}_3 & \mathbf{A}_4 \end{bmatrix}$

$\mathbf{A}_1 = 2\mathbf{T}\mathbf{T}^\top + \frac{\beta^2}{2}\mathbf{S}\mathbf{S}^\top$ ,  $\mathbf{A}_4 = \frac{\beta^2}{2}\mathbf{T}\mathbf{T}^\top + 2\mathbf{S}\mathbf{S}^\top$   
Calculate the top-k eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{A}$ , and their corresponding eigenvectors  $\mathbf{U} = [\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_k]$ .

$\mathbf{B}_T$  is the first half rows of  $\mathbf{U}$ ;  $\mathbf{B}_S$  is the second half rows of  $\mathbf{U}$ .

# Generalized HeMap to handle heterogeneous data (different distributions, outputs and feature spaces)



# Unify different distributions and outputs

- Unify different distributions
  - Clustering based sample selection [Shi et al,09]
- Unify different outputs

Reveries-like scheme

$$p(y|\mathbf{x}) = \sum_v (p(v|\mathbf{x})p(y|v)) \quad (11)$$

where  $\mathbf{x}$  is the data to be predicted;  $y$  is the target label; and  $v$  denotes the output from the source task.

# Generalization bound

*Theorem 4:* Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a hypothesis space. Let  $\mathbf{T}$  be unlabeled samples of size  $r$ . Let  $\mathbf{S}$  be a labeled sample of size  $q$  generated by drawing  $\vartheta q$  points from target data and  $(1 - \vartheta)q$  points from source data. If  $\hat{h} \in \mathcal{H}$  is the empirical minimizer of the error on  $\mathbf{S}$  and  $h^* = \min_{h \in \mathcal{H}} \epsilon(h)$  is the target risk minimizer, then with probability at least  $1 - \delta$  (over the choice of the samples),

$$\epsilon(\hat{h}) \leq \epsilon(h^*) + 2\sqrt{\frac{\alpha^2}{\beta} + \frac{(1 - \alpha)^2}{1 - \beta}} \sqrt{\frac{g(\hat{h}) \log(2q) - \log \delta}{2q}}$$

$$+ 2(1 - \alpha) \left( \frac{1}{2} \underline{\text{d}(\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{S})} + 4\sqrt{\frac{2g(\hat{h}) \log r + \log \frac{4}{\delta}}{r}} + \underline{\xi} \right)$$

$\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are domain-specific parameters;  
 $g(\hat{h})$  is model complexity

**Principle I: minimize the difference between target and source datasets**

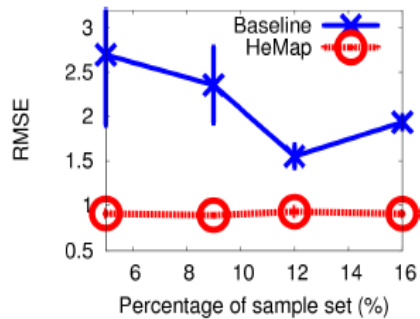
$$\xi = \min_{h \in \mathcal{H}} \epsilon_{\mathbf{T}}(h) + \epsilon_{\mathbf{S}}(h)$$

**Principle II: minimize the combined expected error by maintaining the original structure (minimize projection error)**

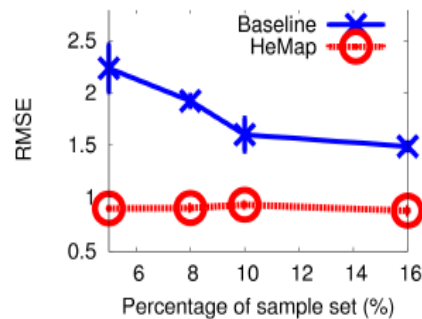
# Experiments

- Drug efficacy prediction
  - The dataset is collected by the College of Life Science and Biotechnology of Tongji University, China. It is to predict the efficacy of drug compounds against certain cell lines.
  - The data are generated in two different feature spaces
    - general descriptors: refer to **physical** properties of compounds
    - drug-like index: refer to simple **topological** indices of compounds.

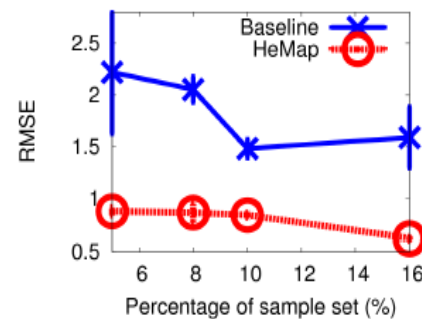
# Experiments



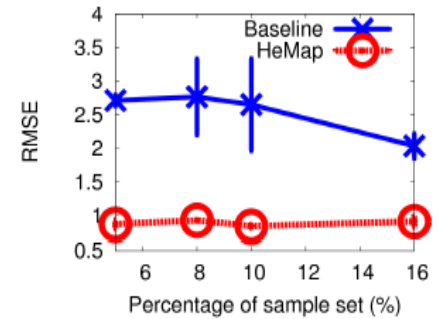
(a) Target is data set 1; source is data set 2



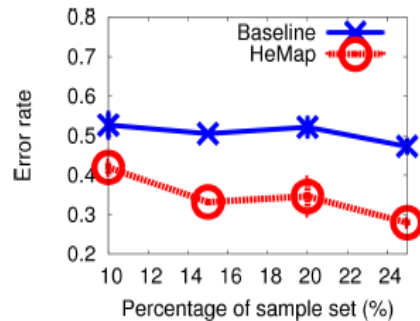
(b) Target is data set 2; source is data set 1



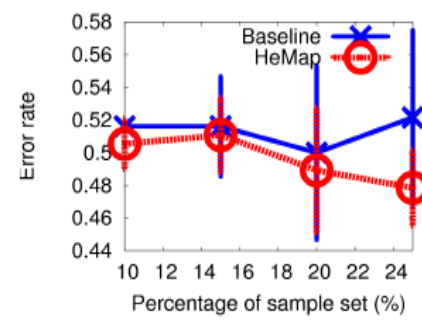
(c) Target is data set 3; source is data set 4



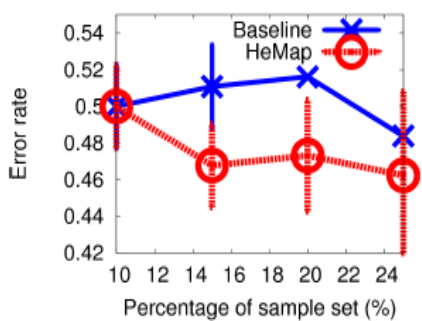
(d) Target is data set 4; source is data set 3



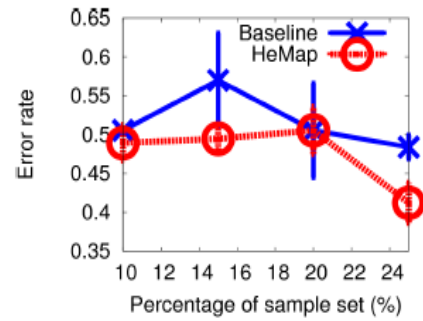
(e) Target is data set 5; source is data set 6



(f) Target is data set 6; source is data set 5



(g) Target is data set 7; source is data set 8



(h) Target is data set 8; source is data set 7

# Experiments

- Image classification

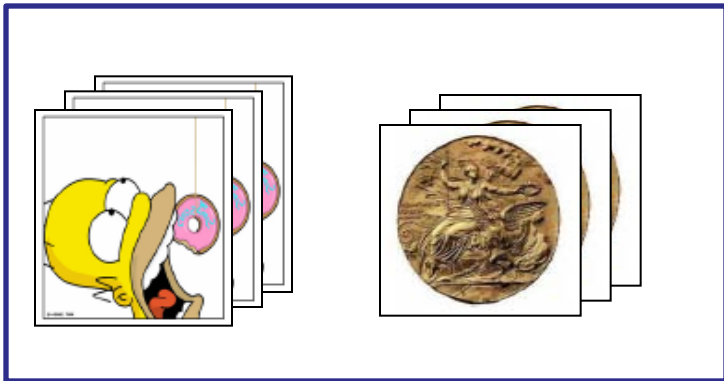
Cartman & Bonsai



Homer Simpson & Cactus



Homer Simpson & Coin

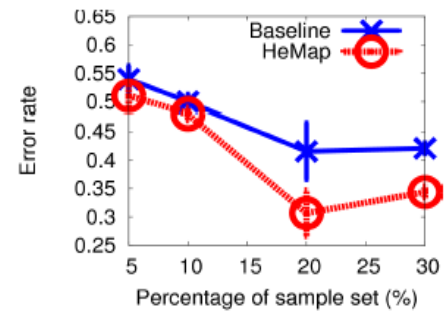
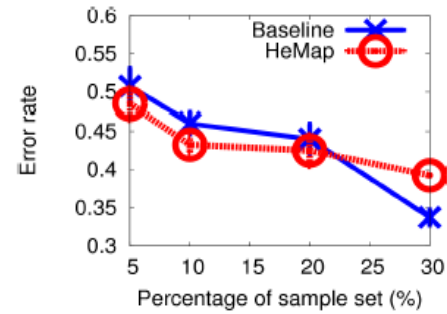
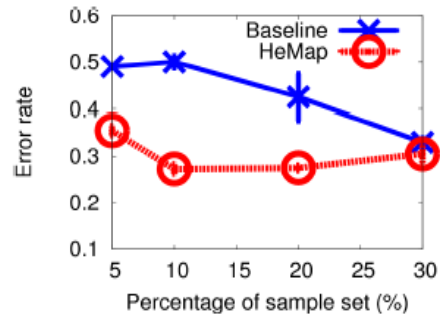
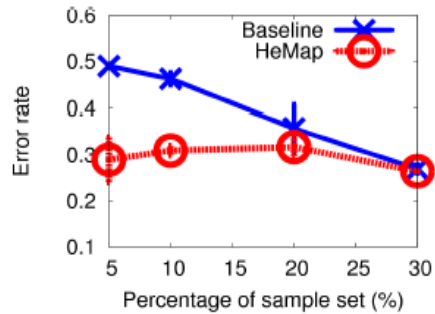


Superman & CD





# Experiments



(a) Target is Cartman and Bonsai; source is Homer Simpson and Cactus

(b) Target is Homer Simpson and Cactus; source is Cartman and Bonsai

(c) Target is Homer Simpson and CD; source is Superman and Coin

(d) Target is Superman and CD; source is Homer Simpson and Coin

# Conclusions

- Extends the applicability of supervised learning, semi-supervised learning and transfer learning by using heterogeneous data:
  - Different data distributions
  - Different outputs
  - **Different feature spaces**
- Unify different feature spaces via linear projection with two principles
  - Maintain the original structure of the data
  - Maximize the similarity of the two data in the projected space

# Cross Validation Framework to Choose Amongst Models and Datasets for Transfer Learning

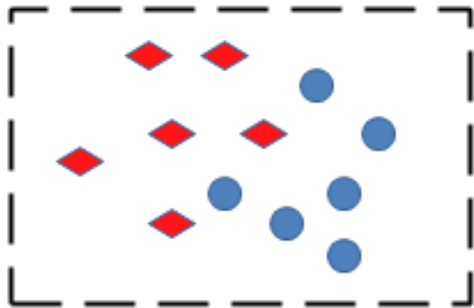
Erheng Zhong<sup>¶</sup>, Wei Fan<sup>‡</sup>, Qiang Yang<sup>¶</sup>,  
Olivier Verscheure<sup>‡</sup>, Jiangtao Ren<sup>†</sup>

# Transfer Learning: What is it

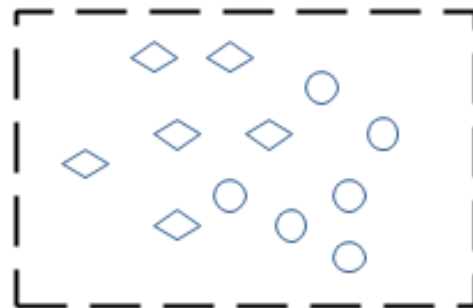
## Definition

“source-domains” to improve “target-domain”: short of labeled information.

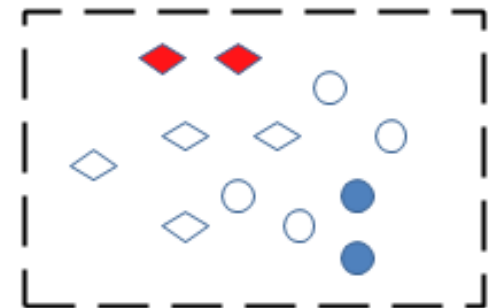
Supervised Learning



Unsupervised Learning

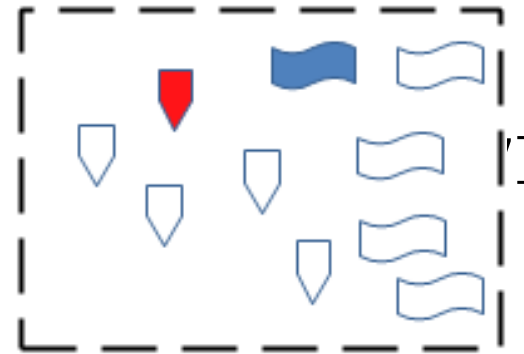
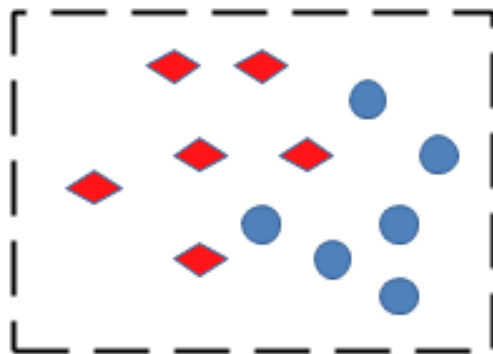


Semi-supervised Learning



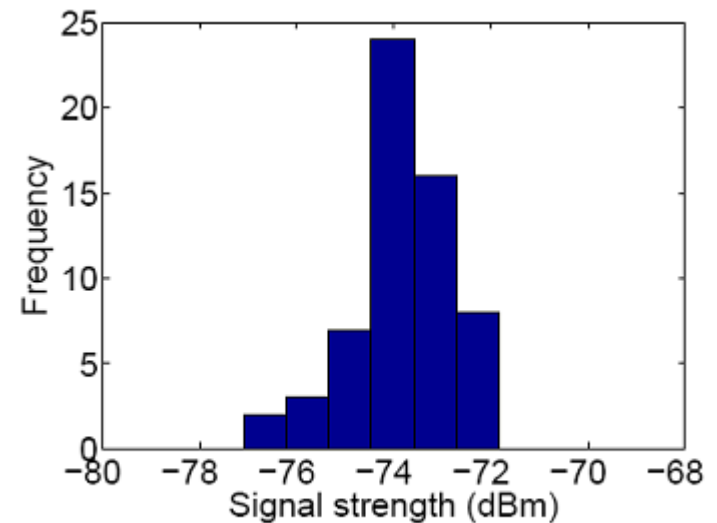
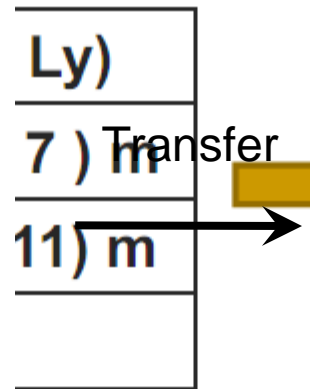
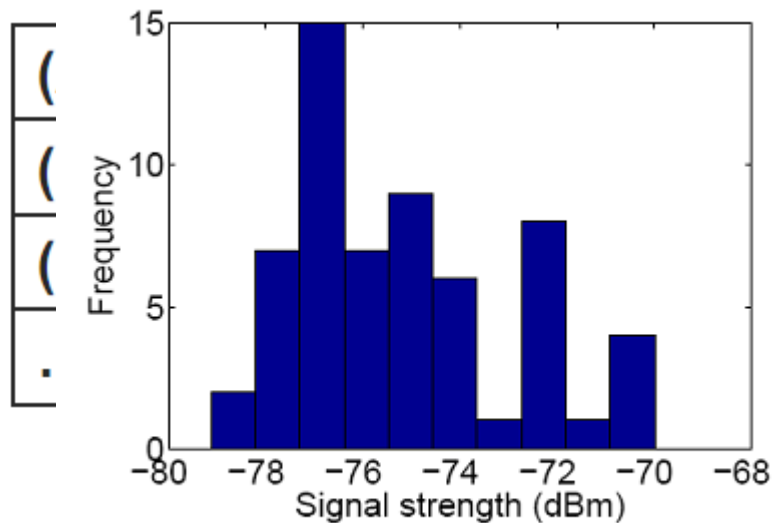
1. WiFi based localization tracking [Dop et al'08]

Transfer Learning



# Application

## Indoor WiFi localization tracking



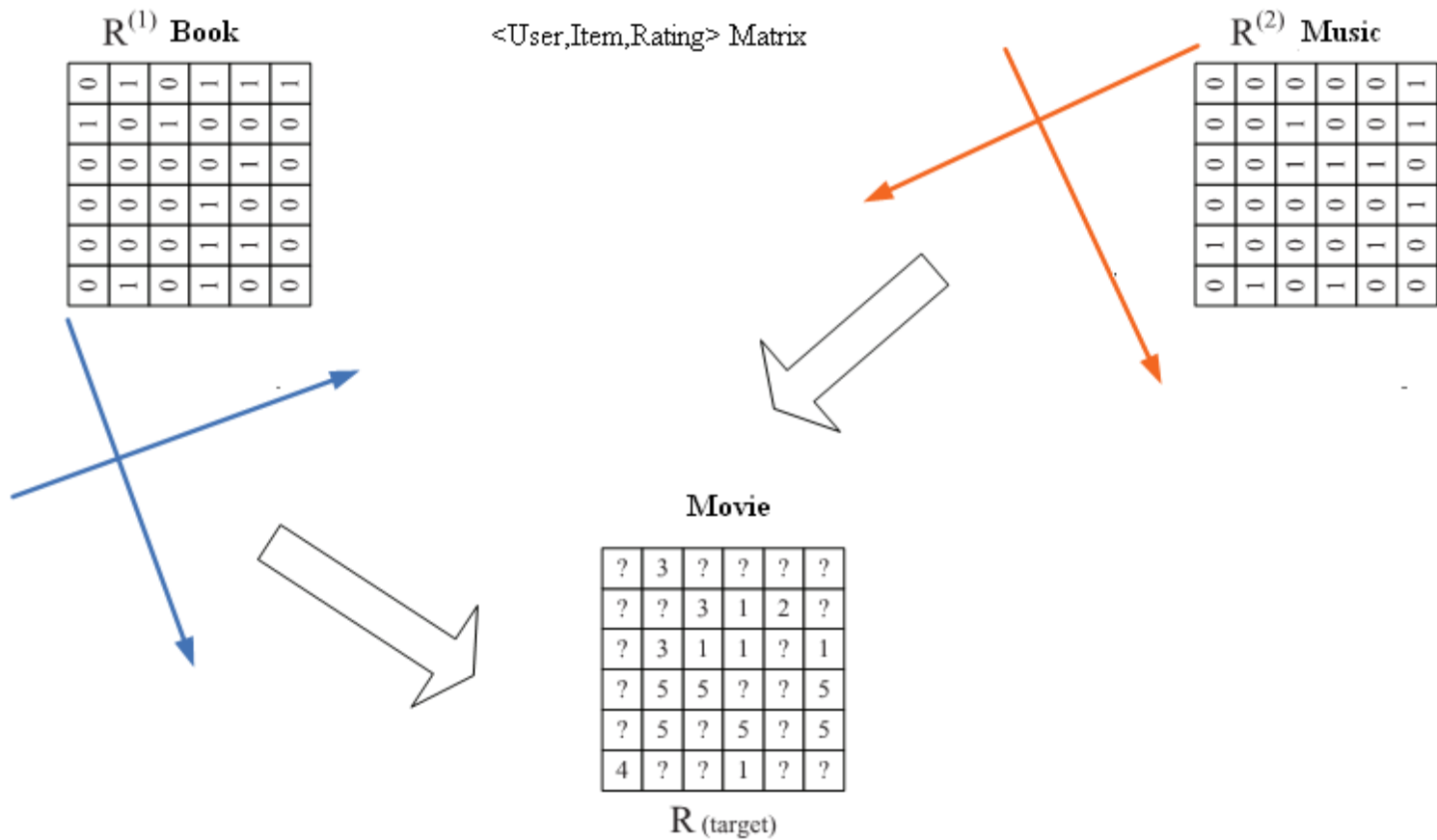
(a) WiFi signal at time period 1

(b) WiFi signal at time period 2

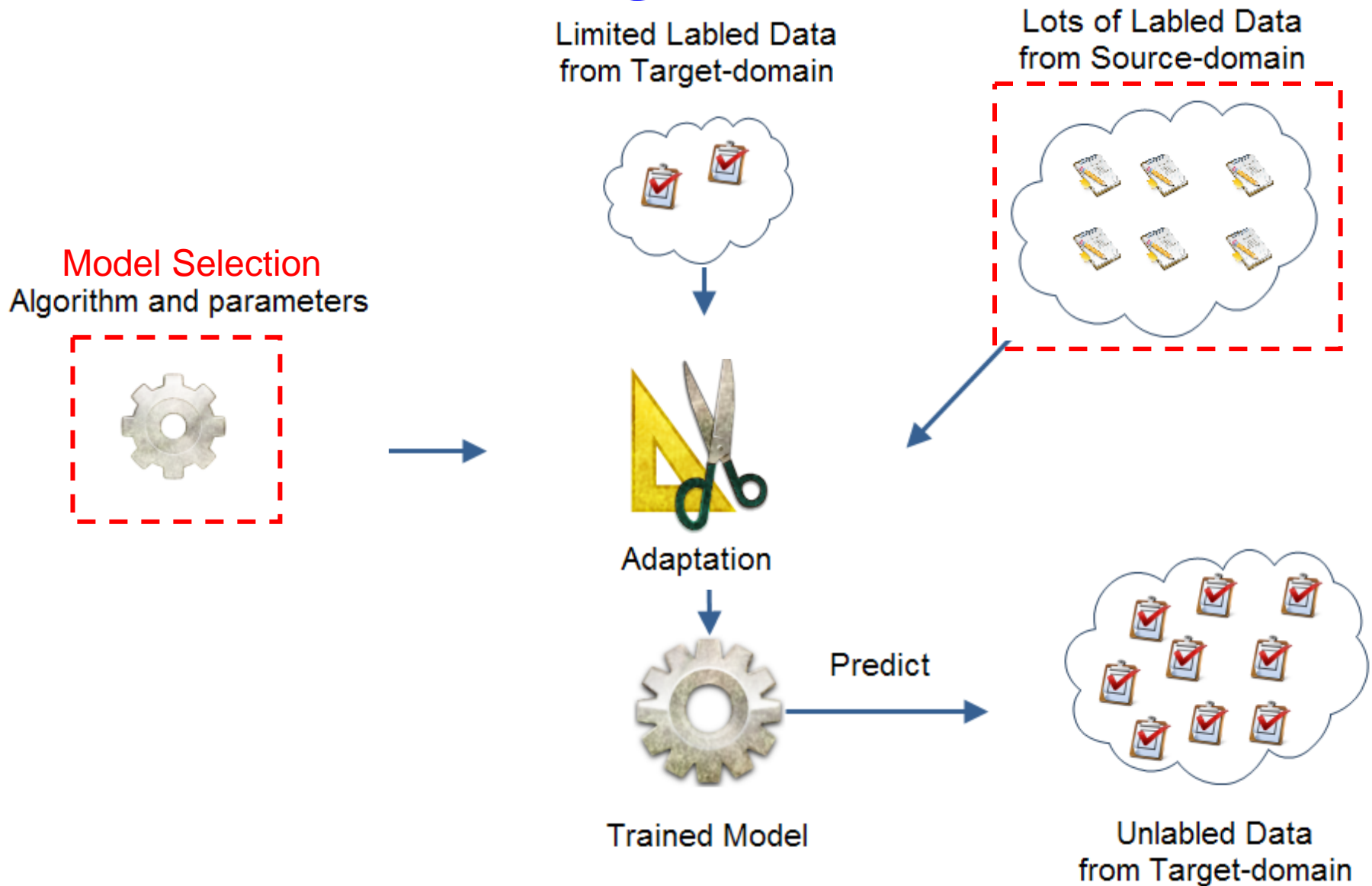
the access point  
 ( $L_x, L_y$ ) is the coordinate of location.

# Application

## Collaborative Filtering



# Transfer Learning: How it wo Data Selection

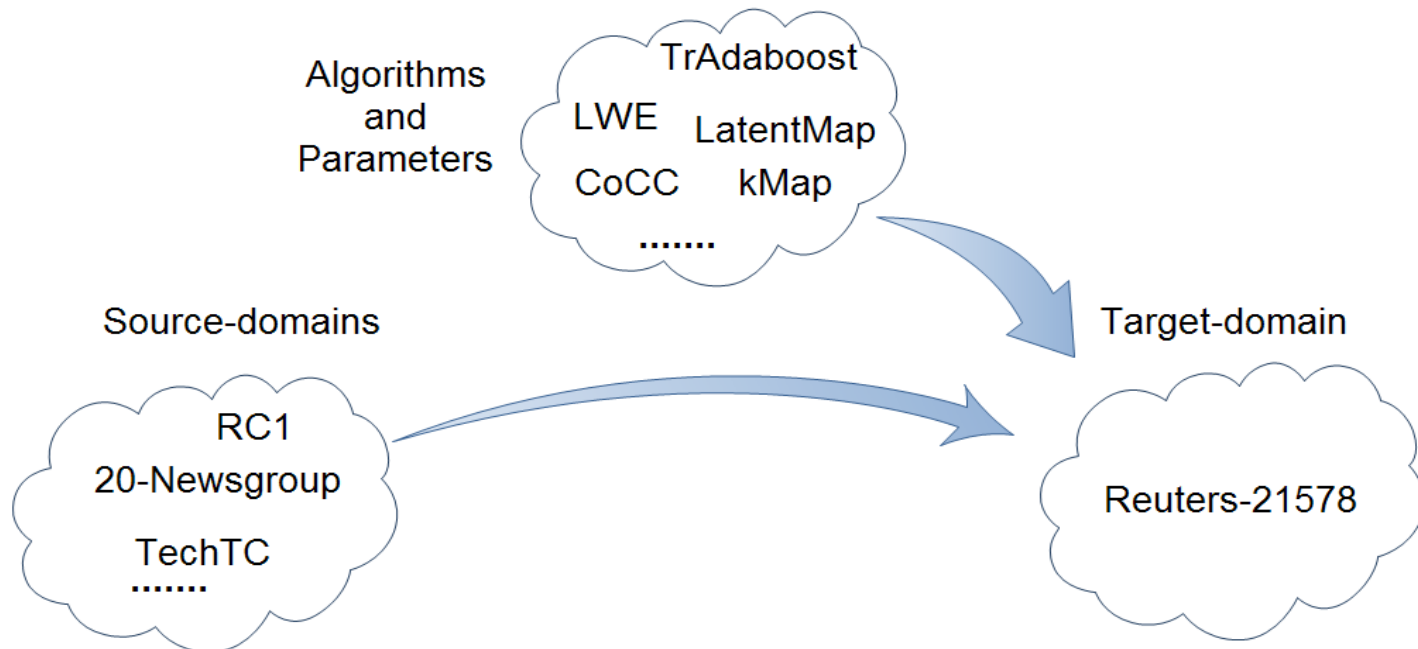


# Re-cast: Model and Data Selection

(1) How to select the right transfer learning algorithms?

(2) How to tune the optimal parameters?

(3) How to choose the most helpful source-domain from a large pool of datasets?





# Model & Data Selection Traditional Methods

1. Analytical techniques: AIC, BIC, SRM, etc.

$$\hat{f} = \arg \min_f \frac{1}{n} \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in X_s} \left| P_s(y|\mathbf{x}) - P(y|\mathbf{x}, f) \right| + \Theta_f$$

2. k-fold cross validation

$$\hat{f} = \arg \min_f \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k \sum_{(\mathbf{x}, y) \in S_j} \left| P_s(y|\mathbf{x}) - P(y|\mathbf{x}, f_j) \right|$$

# Model & Data Selection Issues

→  $P_s(x) \neq P_t(x)$

The estimation is not consistent  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\hat{f}) \neq f^*$

Ideal Hypothesis  $f^* = \arg \min_f \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim P_t(\mathbf{x})} \left| P_t(y|\mathbf{x}) - P(y|\mathbf{x}, f) \right| + \Theta_f$

→  $P_s(y|x) \neq P_t(y|x)$

A model approximating  $P_s(y|x)$  is not necessarily close to  $P_t(y|x)$

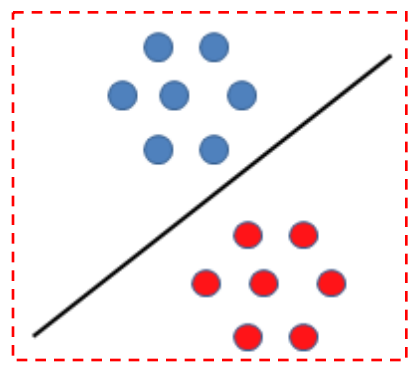
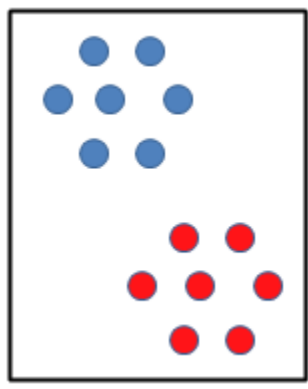
The number of labeled data in target domain is limited and thus the directly estimation of  $P_t(y|x)$  is not reliable.

# Model & Data Selection Model Selection Example

Algorithm-1

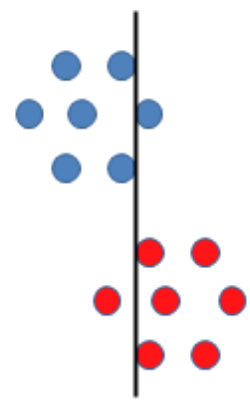
Train →

Source

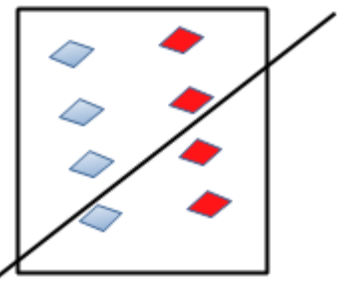


Train →

Algorithm-2



Target



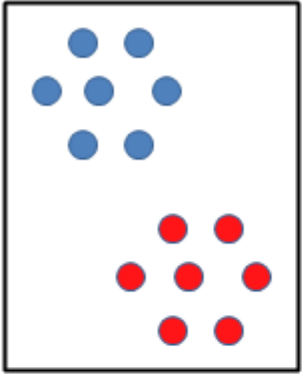
If we choose the wrong model....



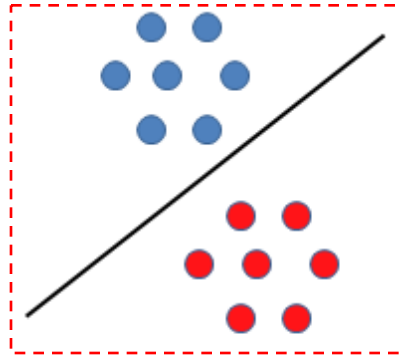
# Model & Data Selection

## Data Selection Example

Source-1

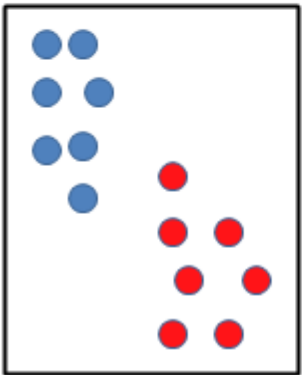


Train →

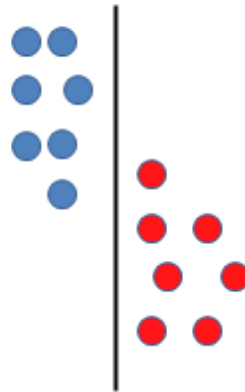


Algorithm

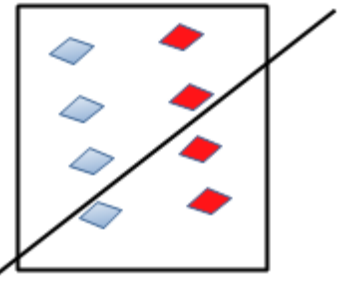
Source-2



Train →



Target



If we choose the wrong source-domain....



# Transfer Cross-Validation (TrCV)

New criterion for transfer learning

Hard to calculate in practice

$$\hat{f} = \arg \min_f \frac{1}{n} \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in X_s} \frac{P_t(\mathbf{x})}{P_s(\mathbf{x})} |P_t(y|\mathbf{x}) - P(y|\mathbf{x}, f)|$$

How to calculate this difference with limited labeled data?

Reverse Validation

estimation between the conditional distribution estimated by  $f$  and the true conditional distribution.

Practical method: Transfer Cross-Validation (TrCV)

$$\hat{f} = \arg \min_f \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k \sum_{(\mathbf{x}, y) \in S_j} \frac{P_t(\mathbf{x})}{P_s(\mathbf{x})} |P_t(y|\mathbf{x}) - P(y|\mathbf{x}, f)|$$

Density Ratio Weighting

# Density Ratio Weighting

- The selected model is an unbiased estimator to the ideal model  $f^*$

**Lemma 1.**  $\ell_w(\hat{f}) + \Theta_{\hat{f}} = \ell^*(f^*) + \Theta_{f^*}$ , when  $n \rightarrow \infty$  and  $f^*$  and  $\hat{f}$  belong to the same hypothesis class.

$\ell^*(f^*)$  is the expected loss to approximate  $P_t(y|\mathbf{x})$

$$\ell_w(\hat{f}) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in X_s} \frac{P_t(\mathbf{x})}{P_s(\mathbf{x})} \left| P_t(y|\mathbf{x}) - P(y|\mathbf{x}, \hat{f}) \right|$$

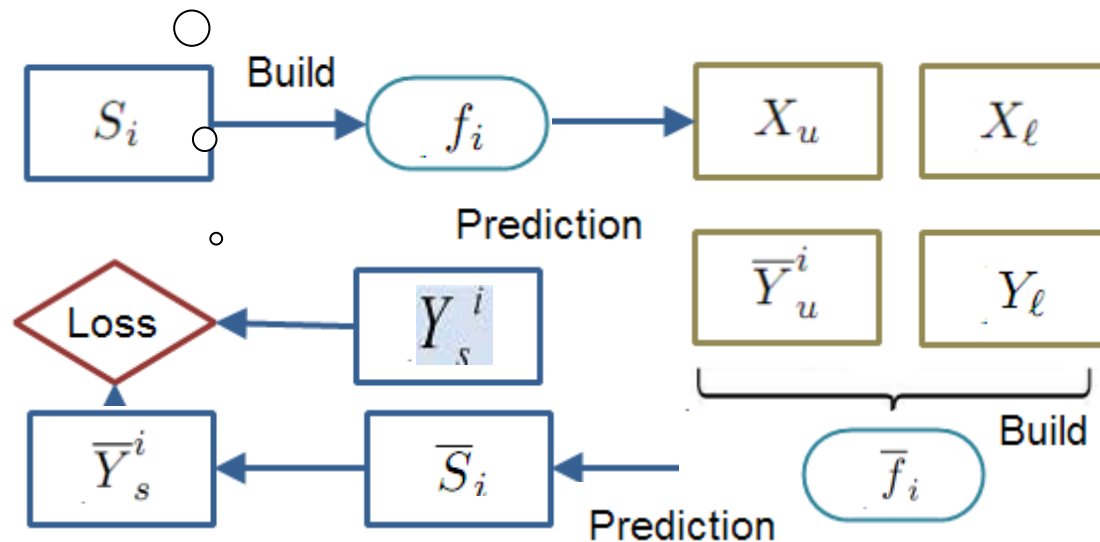
$\Theta_f$  is the model complexity

Important property to choose the right model even when  $P(\mathbf{x})$  and  $P(y|\mathbf{x})$  are different

- We adopt an existing method KMM (Huang et al'07) for density ratio weighting
- Reverse Validation to estimate  $P_t(y|\mathbf{x}) - P(y|\mathbf{x}, f)$  (next slide)

$$|P_t(y|\mathbf{x}) - P(y|\mathbf{x}, f_i)|$$

## Model Validation



$S_i$  The source-domain data in i-th fold

$\bar{S}_i$  The remaining data

$\bar{Y}_u^i$  The predicted label of  $X_u$  in i-th fold

$\bar{Y}_s^i$  The predicted label of  $S_i$  in i-th fold

$Y_s^i$  The true label of  $S_i$  in i-th fold

$X_u$   $X_\ell$  The unlabeled and labeled target-domain data

# Properties

- The selected model is an unbiased estimator to the ideal one. [Lemma 1]
- The model selected by the proposed method has a generalization bound over target-domain data. [Theorem 1]
- The value of reverse validation  $r(\mathbf{x})$  is related to the difference between true conditional probability and model  $|P(y|x, f_i) - P_t(y|\mathbf{x})|$ 
  - The confidence of TrCV has a bound.

$$Pr\left\{-z < \frac{\varepsilon_u(f) - \varepsilon(f)}{\sqrt{\varepsilon(f) \cdot (1 - \varepsilon(f))}/n} < z\right\} \approx \lambda$$

$\varepsilon_u(f)$  the accuracy estimated by TrCV

$\varepsilon(f)$  the true accuracy of  $f$

$z$   $(1 + \lambda)/2$ -th quantile point of the standard normal distribution



# Experiment Data Set

- Wine Quality: two subsets related to red and white variants of the Portuguese “Vinho Verde” wine.

Data Set	$ S $	$ T $	Description
Red-White(RW)	1599	4998	physicochemical variables
White-Red(WR)	4998	1599	

For algorithm and parameters selection

# Experiment Data Set

- Reuters-21578:the primary benchmark of text categorization formed by different news with a hierarchial structure.

Data Set	$ S $	$ T $	Description
orgs vs. people(ope)	1016	1046	Documents
orgs vs. places(opl)	1079	1080	from different
people vs. places(pp)	1239	1210	subcategories

For algorithm and parameters selection

# Experiment Data Set

- SyskillWebert: the standard dataset used to test web page ratings, generated by the HTML source of web pages plus the user rating. we randomly reserve “Bands-recording artists” as source-domain and the three others as target-domain data.

Data Set	$ S $	$ T $	Description
Sheep(Sp)	61	65	Web pages with different contents
Biomedical(BI)	61	131	
Goats(Gs)	61	70	

For algorithm and parameters selection

# Experiment Data Set

- 20-Newsgroup: primary benchmark of text categorization similar to Reuters-21578

Data Set	S	T	$ S $	$ T $
comp vs. rec	windows vs. motorcycles pc.hardware vs. baseball mac.hardware vs. hockey	graphics vs. autos	1596 1969 1954	1957
sci vs. talk	crypt vs. guns med vs. misc space vs. religion	electronics vs. mideast	1895 1761 1612	1924

For source-domain selection

# Experiment

## Baseline methods

- SCV: standard k-fold CV on source-domain
- TCV: standard k-fold CV on labeled data from target-domain
- STV: building a model on the source-domain data and validating it on labeled target-domain data
- WCV: using density ratio weighting to reduce the difference of marginal distribution between two domains, but ignoring the difference in conditional probability.

$$\hat{f} = \arg \min_f \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k \sum_{(\mathbf{x}, y) \in S_j} \frac{P_t(\mathbf{x})}{P_s(\mathbf{x})} \left| P_s(y|\mathbf{x}) - P(y|\mathbf{x}, f_j) \right|$$

# Experiment

## Other settings

- Algorithms:
  - Naive Bayes(NB), SVM, C4.5, K-NN and NNge(Ng)
  - TrAdaBoost(TA): instances weighting [Dai et al.'07]
  - LatentMap(LM): feature transform [Xie et al.'09]
  - LWE : model weighting ensemble [Gao et al.'08]
- Evaluation: if one criterion can select the better model in the comparison, it gains a higher measure value.

$$corr = C_{|\mathcal{H}|}^2 - \sum_{f,g \in \mathcal{H}} \left[ \left( \varepsilon(f) - \varepsilon(g) \right) \times \left( v(f) - v(g) \right) < 0 \right]$$

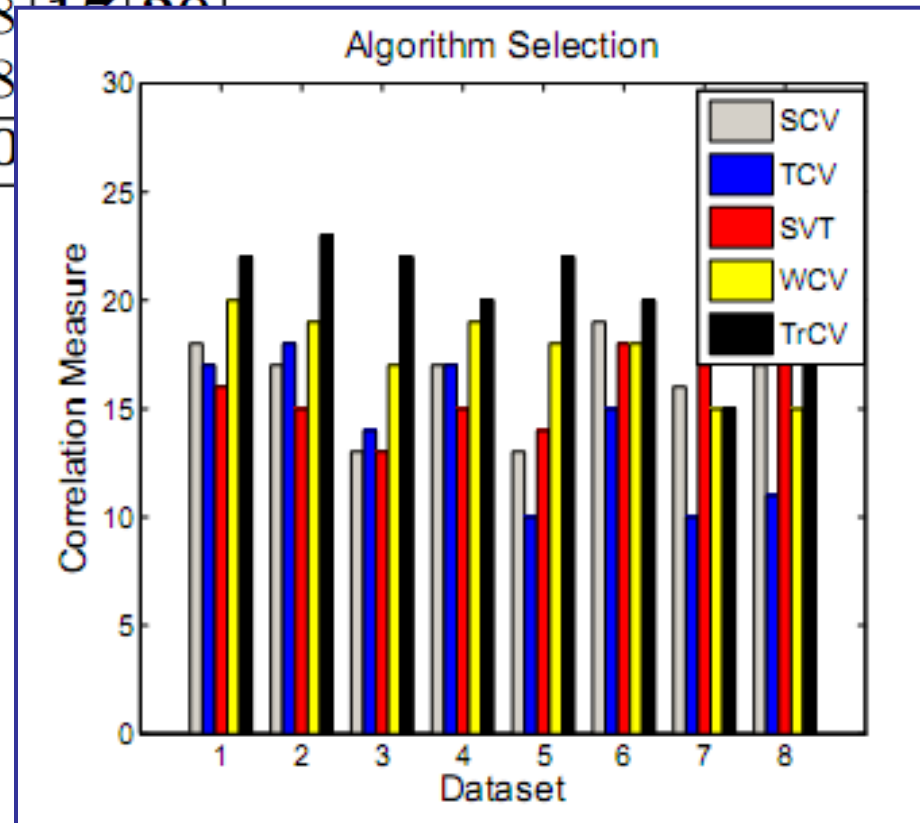
$\varepsilon(\cdot)$  and  $v(\cdot)$  The accuracy and value of criteria (e.g TrCV, SCV, etc)

$C_{|\mathcal{H}|}^2$  The number of comparisons between models

# Results Algorithm Selection

Method	RW	WR	ope	opl	pp	Sp	Bl	Gs
	Algorithm Selection							
SCV	18	17	13	17	13	19	16	17
TCV	17	18	14	17	10	15	10	11
STV	16	15	13	15	14	18	17	20
WCV	20	19	17	19	18	18	17	17
TrCV	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>

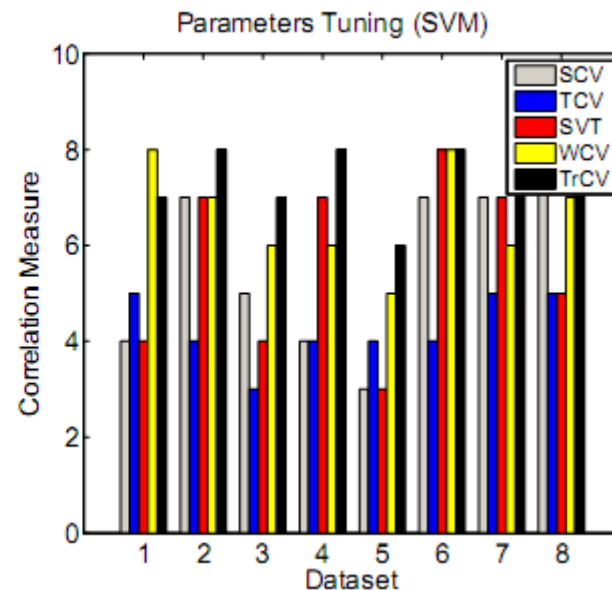
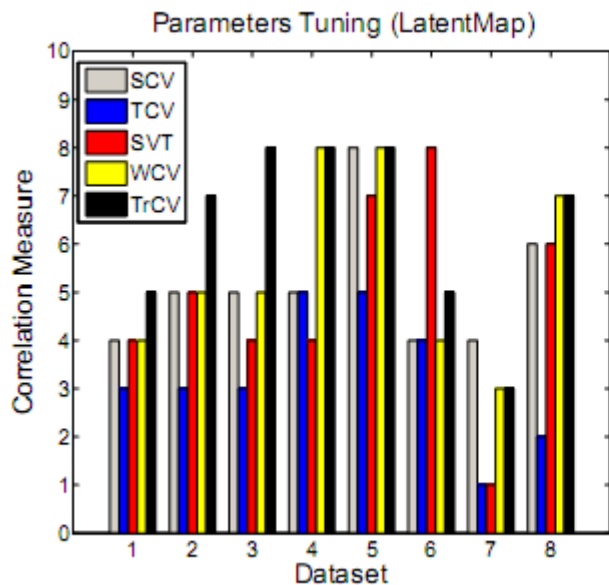
6 win and 2 lose!



# Results Parameter Tuning

Method	RW	WR	ope	opl	pp	Sp	Bl	Gs	RW	WR	ope	opl	pp	Sp	Bl	Gs
	Parameter Tuning (LatentMap)								Parameter Tuning (SVM)							
SCV	4	5	5	5	<b>8</b>	4	<b>4</b>	6	4	7	5	4	3	7	7	<b>8</b>
TCV	3	3	3	5	5	4	1	2	5	4	3	4	4	4	5	5
STV	4	5	4	4	7	<b>8</b>	1	6	4	7	4	7	3	<b>8</b>	7	5
WCV	4	5	5	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	4	3	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	7	6	6	5	<b>8</b>	6	7
TrCV	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	5	3	<b>7</b>	7	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>

13 win and 3 lose!

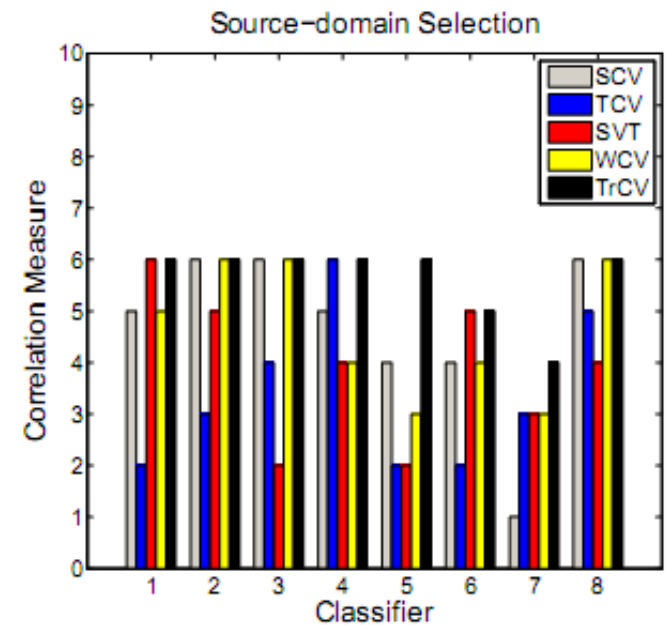




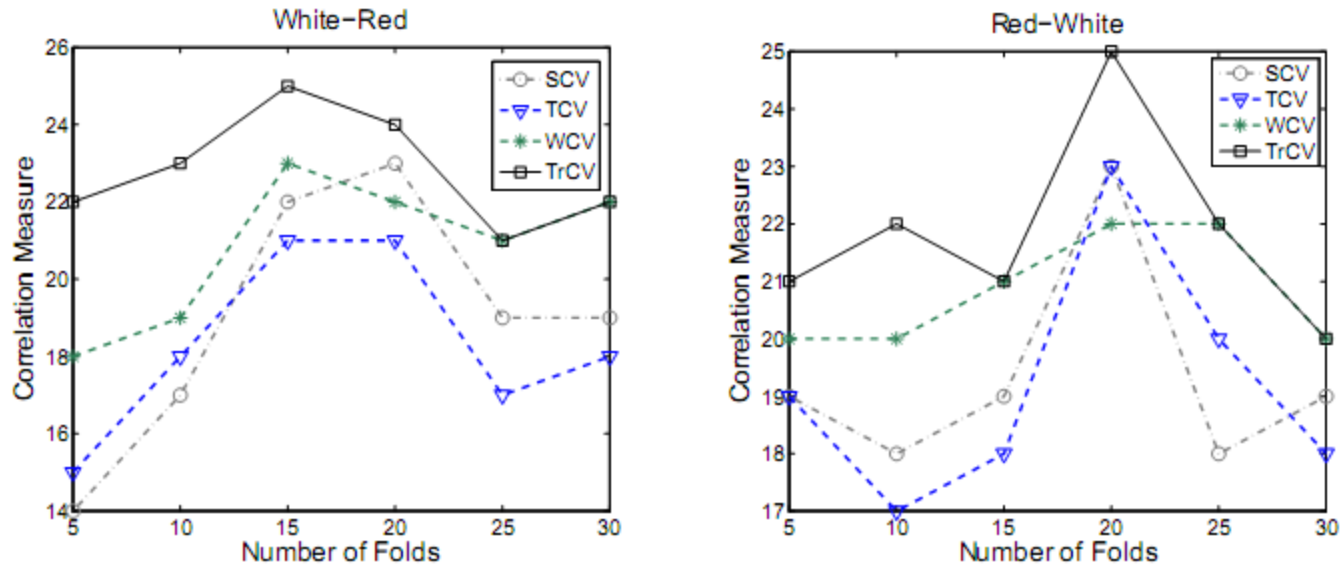
# Results Source-domain Selection

Method	NB	SVM	C45	KNN	Ng	TA	LM	LWE	$Pr$
SCV	5	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	5	4	4	1	<b>6</b>	436
STV	2	3	4	<b>6</b>	2	2	3	5	371
TCV	<b>6</b>	5	2	4	2	<b>5</b>	3	4	399
WCV	5	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	4	3	4	3	<b>6</b>	442
TrCV	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>512</b>

No lose!



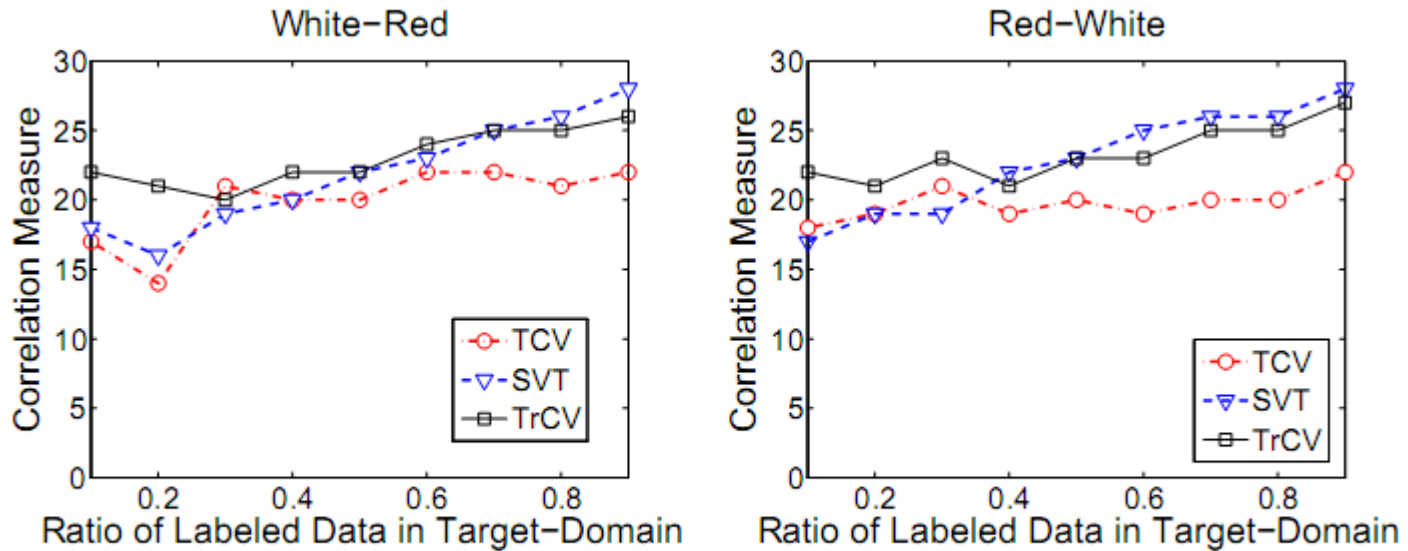
# Results Parameter Analysis



(a) Different number of folds

TrCV achieves the highest correlation value under different number of folds from 5 to 30 with step size 5 .

# Results Parameter Analysis



(b) Different number of labeled data in  $T$

When only a few labeled data ( $< 0.4 \times |T|$ ) can be obtained in the target-domain, the performance of TrCV is much better than both SVT and TCV.

# Conclusion

- Model and data selection when margin and conditional distributions are different between two domains.
- Key points
  - Point-1 Density weighting to reduce the difference between marginal distributions of two domains;
  - Point-2 Reverse validation to measure how well a model approximates the true conditional distribution of target-domain.
- Code and data available from the authors
  - [www.weifan.info](http://www.weifan.info)



**Thanks!**