

Advancements and Challenges in Transfer Learning and Domain Adaptation: A Comprehensive Survey on Mitigating Negative Transfer

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This literature survey reviews recent advancements in transfer learning and domain adaptation, focusing on methodologies aimed at mitigating negative transfer and enhancing system performance across various domains. The survey analyzes 18 key papers published in 2023, highlighting the proposed systems, methodologies, performance metrics, advantages, limitations, and future research directions. Key findings include the development of meta-learning and adversarial networks for optimizing source domain selection, integrating generative models to improve detection accuracy, and applying domain-specific representation learning in challenging scenarios such as medical imaging, fault diagnosis, and energy forecasting. Despite all these improvements, some research gaps still require addressing, such as more generalized and computationally efficient techniques, improved handling of diverse and dynamic datasets, and simplifying complex models for real-time applications. This survey aims to fill these gaps and further develop the field of transfer learning and domain adaptation.

Keywords: Transfer Learning, Domain Adaptation, Negative Transfer, Meta-Learning, Adversarial Networks, Generative Models, Feature Extraction, Machine Learning, Fault Diagnosis, Medical Imaging.

1. Introduction

Instead both transfer learning and domain adaptation are now recognized as vital components of machine learning, which allows models to apply knowledge from a source domain to another domain (target domain), in particular where data may be scarce or difficult to obtain. Medical imaging, fault diagnosis, energy forecasting and other fields have shown these techniques to have considerable potential. Yet the usefulness of transfer learning is often

affected by negative transfer, when knowledge from the source domain has a negative influence on the target task's performance. The primary reason lies in varying data distributions, label spaces or objective functions between source and target domains. Recent work has sought to develop methods to detect and alleviate negative transfer, therefore improving transfer learning model performance overall. Several approaches like meta-learning, adversarial training and generative models have been put forward for source domain selection optimization, feature enhancement extraction and models having capability across complex and diverse domains. This survey of the literature seeks to give a comprehensive review on modern transfer learning and domain adaptation technologies, but especially those published in the year 2023. It examines 18 key papers that are introducing novel systems and methodologies to deal with negative transfer difficulties. Each paper is explained, first in terms of its proposed system and secondly in the methodologies used to implement it; thirdly its performance metrics for instance those given by ROC curves; fourthly what advantages it has compared with other methods available in this area? The paper is then points out any limits restricting use of the method to some situations as well as potential directions for future research on this subject matter. In addition this survey touches on the diverse span of applications where transfer learning and domain adaptation are being applied. It also reviews recent efforts to improve their robustness and efficiency. In identifying any existing research gaps and future research questions, this study helps to provide a view of the current landscape of progress in transfer learning and domain adaptation. Such insights can be used as a guide for future developments.

2. Related Work

Significant progress has been made in the area of transfer learning and domain adaptation, particularly on negative-transfer discovery and alleviation. It happens when the knowledge from source domain adversely affects performance in target domain. All of the 18 reference papers that this literature survey considers utilize different techniques in order to tackle some aspect or other of transferring knowledge across domains.

2.1. Meta-Learning for Source Domain Optimization

An interesting variation of this, meta-learning to learn the selection of a source domain in transfer learning. PACOR deals with this problem by using only local information to adapt, it models all the static TCP properties but also internalizes a model of adapting to specific tasks which is further optimized in resource constrained environment like smartphones, Wi-Fi has CPU-limited too and many other high-priority activities are performed. The same holds true for optical fibre nonlinear equalization, where the worst negative transfer can successfully be eliminated with significantly lower convergence time and still maintaining a slightly better Q-factor [1]. Future work in the domain could instead investigate different meta-learning tactics to tune system's generalization abilities even under challenging settings.

2.2. Multiview Predictive Local Adversarial Network (MPLAN) in Fault Diagnostics

One other creative approach is that of Multiview Predictive Local Adversarial Network (MPLAN) used for partial transfer learning in cross-domain fault diagnostics. To align the source and target domains without causing negative transfer because of outlier classes, simply

enables a local adversarial training (LAT) following dual classifiers in MPLAN. This does not imply that the system is recommended for sentence simplification tasks, but it shows a performance boost of 10% over baseline methods since we used off-the-shelf segmentation and latent-space representations. However, the use of generative adversarial networks introduces a significant computational cost and therefore needs to be addressed by optimizing it further [2].

2.3. Multi-round Transfer Learning and Generative Adversarial Networks (MTL-MGAN) for Lung Cancer Detection

Multi-round transfer learning-mixed GAN (MTL-MGAN) is a potential solution in the scope of medical for early detection in lung cancer. This system gives priority to source domains and adapts loss functions in order not to have negative transfer, showing an important improvement of accuracy, sensitivity and specificity. Although effective for maintaining Cervical Adjacent Segment Degeneration, the complicated system limits its clinical application in real-time and may be simplified accordingly to enhance user convenience in future research [3].

2.4. Discriminative Manifold Distribution Alignment (DMDA) for Domain Adaptation

The author introduce Discriminative Manifold Distribution Alignment (DMDA) that replaces the target domain data with generated samples, which enables to align both global and local distributions between different domains effectively in supervised learning scenario via manifold-based ideal separators. Experimental results on disparate domain adaptation tasks demonstrate that DMDA achieves state-of-the-art performance in classification accuracy, at the same time preserving local geometrical structures. That being said, this (computation) might need to become more efficient for high-dimensional data splitting, and hence one of the future research directions is on how to reduce computations in such settings [4].

2.5. Cross-Subject Emotion Recognition Using EEG Signals

In the CSDS method, which is called Cross-Subject Source Domain Selection, source domain would be dynamically selected based on time slot for emotion recognition with EEG signals. The approach has been demonstrated as providing 2.8% improved classification accuracy and a corresponding runtime reduction of almost two-thirds on average compared to the state-of-the-art reference method. While effective, this likely makes the method less suitable for a broader range of environments where quality in initial data may not be as good. Further work may be able to improve the robustness of this method across different conditions [5].

2.6. Dual Transfer Learning in Medical Image Classification

In medical imaging, source and target domains which utilizes both the dual-transfer learning approach as well as the intersection of stock imagery patterns. In this variety of approach, the actual degree of performance improvement is above 10%. And when combined with data augmentation techniques, that level will be As it could be applied to a wide variety of models, including those like VGG16 and Xception Etc., then in the end the performance improvement may simply be viewed from either an exceedingly broad rather than very narrow perspective However, the dual transfer learning approach requires large labelled datasets, which can be a restriction on its use. In the future, new research should give direct attention to more efficient fine-tuning techniques that lessen the danger of over-fitting in smaller datasets while retaining a high level of predictive capacity. [6]

2.7. Deep Domain-Adversarial Anomaly Detection

The challenge of anomaly detection is effectively met by a deep domain-adversarial approach with one-class transfer learning, especially for those cases where the difference between distributions is larger in scale. However, this method may raise detections and resistance to attack, yet it's lack of data that can make adjustments or adaptations in the face of such large distribution differences. Future work in this area will thus concentrate on finding ways to deal with such differences more effectively so as to reduce chances for overfitting [7].

2.8. Complementary Attention-Driven Contrastive Learning (CACHE) for Person Re-Identification

Person re-identification is a new area of unsupervised machine vision research. Traditional approaches to this problem rely heavily on high-quality labeled data. Social media images, the most common source for training deep learning based person re-identification models currently in vogue, are often a displeasing environment. The CACHE algorithm attempts to improve unsupervised domain adaptive person re-identification. One method used in the CACHE framework is designed to greatly enhance clustering accuracy and reduce the number of noisy pseudo-labels. It also significantly improves mean Average Precision (mAP) and Cumulative Matching Characteristics (CMC). When applied to larger datasets, however, the algorithm may need help with scalability. Feature extraction processes optimized to ensure scalability without sacrificing performance are an important goal for future research [8].

2.9. Active Broad-Transfer Learning for Class-Imbalanced Fault Diagnosis

Addressing class imbalance is a key open problem in fault diagnosis research. Active Broad-Transfer Learning technique achieves high algorithm classification performance by improving feature space representation; however, when it comes to the face of immediate kind. When the system is used in class-imbalance scenes, although its practicality is definitely there, its complexity and dependence on the accuracy pseudo-labelling of samples introduce that not so simple questions are raised up. Enhances the System's Practicality. Future research aims at simplifying feature selection processes, he suggested [9].

2.10. Multisource Domain Adaptation for Process Fault Diagnosis

Introduce a multisource domain adaptation network for process fault diagnosis which varies according to load conditions. By employing both feature-level and class-level adaptation to minimize the influence of negative transfer, results from nine industrial cases can be obtained with high accuracy. However, implementation of such a system in real-world settings is complicated by its dependence on multiple source domains. It might be possible to streamline this process and make it more user-friendly in the future, thereby making it practical for deployment in industrial applications [10].

2.11. Weighted Domain Adaptation with Double Classifiers for Open Set Fault Diagnosis

To do fault diagnosis in an open environment, a method of dual weighted domain adaptation classifiers (abbreviated as WDADC) is offered. This method solves the open set recognition problem by doing what it can to induce positive transfer between the learned partial classifier and the target classes in false positives problem really exist in the cases. Thus the methodology has general advantages but may still encounter some risk of negative transfer in unsupportive

environments. The extension of the method's range in applications to still more dynamic scenarios is a key problem for further study [11].

2.12. Domain Adaptation for Electronic Nose Drift Compensation

A complex domain adaptation technique combines dictionary learning, canonical correlation analysis, and locality-preserving projection to address asymmetric shift changes in electronic nose drift calibration. This method accomplishes great classification precision yet may require substantial computation, constraining its utilization in real-time situations. Subsequent analyses could concentrate on streamlining these processes for real-time purposes without sacrificing result quality, possibly by employing approximation methods or parallelizing segments of the calculations. The system shows promise but would benefit from optimization to better serve rapidly evolving real-world needs [12].

2.13. Transformer-Based Domain-Specific Representation for Vehicle Re-Identification

A self-taught neural network analyzed vehicle footage across domains autonomously. It customized its representations according to each location's idiosyncrasies, surpassing all unsupervised domain adaptation techniques for vehicle identification. However, the network's demands were considerable, implying future work must maximize results while minimizing requirements like this system. Additionally, researchers should investigate how to impart this network's cross-domain learning prowess to other contexts so all autonomous systems can benefit from its versatile vision [13].

2.14. LSTM-TL for Building Energy Demand Forecasting

While long short-term memory networks equipped with transfer learning capabilities demonstrate promising potential for energy demand prediction in the face of weather fluctuations, their dependence on historical data renders the system less nimble against the backdrop of abrupt changes. Looking ahead, enhancing the model's reactivity to sudden shifts through mechanisms like online training may strengthen its forecasting acuity even under conditions marked by unpredictability. Namely, continuing model self-updates rooted in streaming observations could help the architecture stay one step ahead of capricious environmental factors. For now, leveraging past knowledge remains pivotal for enhancing forecast precision when circumstance veer off course gradually [14].

2.15. Combining MAML with Transfer Learning for Regression Problems:

Integrating model-agnostic meta-learning (MAML) with transfer learning has shown promise for improving regression performance across varying datasets. Nevertheless, the complexity of current ensemble techniques threatens practical implementation. Future work should aim to simplify these approaches while preserving effectiveness, possibly through clever modularization or pruning of less impactful components [15].

2.16. Double-Stage Transfer Learning for Brain-Computer Interfaces (BCIs)

A double-stage transfer process was proposed to enhance brain-computer interface decoding accuracy via adaptive trial alignment and weighting of electroencephalography signals. However, overreliance on precise alignments may limit functionality in noisier environments outside tightly-controlled studies. Continued exploration of robust alternatives, like incorporating alignment uncertainty or exploiting commonalities across diverse signal

patterns, could help extend this system's utility to real-world scenarios encompassing greater inter-subject and intra-subject variability [16].

2.17. Generative Inference Network for Imbalanced Domain Generalization

While generative inference networks show promise for addressing imbalanced domain generalization by augmenting minority domain samples, their effectiveness remains constrained by the diversity and availability of source data used to train the model. GINets introduce a novel approach for improving model generalization through sample generation to balance underrepresented domains. Future research exploring techniques to expand the applicability of this method to an even broader range of data presentations, regardless of source variances, could help unlock its full potential for tackling domain imbalances. The development of strategies for enriching a GINet's knowledge beyond limited initial training datasets may strengthen its capacity to generalize across disparate domains [17].

2.18. PEACE: Domain-Adaptive Retrieval Framework

The PEACE framework capitalizes on label embedding's along with adversarial training to bolster cross-domain retrieval across divergent datasets. While highly proficient, the system could benefit from approaches to accommodate noisy and diverse annotation metadata more gracefully. Prospective analysis may refine how the algorithm interprets multifaceted labels to provide steadier results regardless of domain specifics within the data. Moreover, integrating mechanisms to leverage label correlations when such tags are less than well-defined holds promise for enhancing dependability [18].

Table 1. Literature review

SI. No	Proposed System	Methods	Metrics	Cons	Limitations	Future Work
[1]	Meta-learning for optical fibre equalization	Dataset construction, neural network training	Q-factor improvement, convergence time	Efficient adaptation	High complexity	Exploration of other meta-learning strategies
[2]	MPLAN for fault diagnostics	Adversarial training, dual classifiers	10% improvement	Avoids negative transfer	Computationally intensive	Optimizing adversarial network
[3]	MTL-MGAN for lung cancer detection	Multiround TL, GAN	Accuracy, sensitivity, specificity	High accuracy	Complexity	Simplification for real-time use
[4]	DMDA for domain adaptation	Manifold learning, alignment	Classification accuracy	Maintains local structures	Inefficiency in high-dimensional data	Application to broader domains

[5]	CSDS for emotion recognition	Dynamic data selection, Copula model	2.8% accuracy gain	Improved classification	Data selection dependency	Generalization to diverse datasets
[6]	Dual transfer learning for medical images	Pattern convergence, pre-trained models	Performance improvement	Effective with data augmentation	Needs large datasets	Fine-tuning optimization
[7]	Domain-adversarial anomaly detection	Hypersphere adaptation, neural network	Detection accuracy	Robust detection	Potential overfitting	Addressing distribution differences
[8]	CACHE for person re-ID	Contrastive learning, attention module	mAP, CMC	Improved clustering accuracy	Scalability issues	Enhancing feature extraction
[9]	ABTCI for fault diagnosis	Time-frequency features, pseudo-labeling	Performance in class-imbalanced tasks	Handles class imbalance	Complexity	Simplifying feature selection
[10]	FC-MSDA for fault diagnosis	Feature-level, class-level adaptation	High accuracy	Effective across domains	Implementation complexity	Streamlining multisource adaptation
[11]	WDADC for open set diagnosis	Weighted loss, double classifiers	Open set recognition accuracy	Promotes positive transfer	May not fully mitigate negative transfer	Extending to dynamic environments
[12]	Domain adaptation for EN drift	Dictionary learning, projection	Recognition accuracy	High accuracy in drift scenarios	Computational intensity	Real-time application optimization
[13]	TDSR for vehicle re-ID	Transformer-based learning	Outperforms SOTA	Effective domain-specific learning	Requires significant resources	Reducing computational demands
[14]	LSTM-TL for energy forecasting	Transfer learning, LSTM	Improved prediction accuracy	Accurate under varying conditions	Data dependency	Adapting to rapidly changing environments
[15]	MAML with TL for regression	Ensemble methods	Superior Performance	Handles diverse distributions	Complexity	Simplifying implementation
[16]	DSTL for BCI	EEG alignment, feature extraction	Improved classification	Effective transfer	Alignment dependency	Enhancing robustness in noisy environments
[17]	GINet for domain generalization	Generative inference, sample augmentation	Model generalization	Addresses imbalance	Source dependency data	Extending to diverse data

[18]	PEACE retrieval	for	Label embeddings, adversarial learning	Cross-domain retrieval performance	Effective retrieval	Pseudo-label challenges	Enhancing diversity handling
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The literature summarized in table 1 outlines 18 reference papers examining proposed systems, employed methodologies, evaluated performance metrics, noted advantages, limitations, and recommendations for future work. Approaches ranged from utilizing efficient and robust transfer learning to address domain challenges. One paper designed a system that transferred knowledge across domains using self-supervised learning to overcome distribution shifts while maintaining state-of-the-art performance. However, the model struggled with significant differences between source and target domains. Alternatively, a second effort used adversarial training to align feature representations in an unsupervised manner without requiring paired data. While demonstrating strong generalization capabilities, the approach was complex and computationally expensive. Going forward, developing simplified yet effective transfer learning methods for diverse applications remains an important area for additional study.

3. Existing Research Gaps

The literature indicates progress has been made regarding transfer learning and domain adaptation, particularly addressing negative transfer. Nonetheless, gaps persist. Many proposed systems necessitate sizable labelled datasets for effective training, which may only sometimes be feasible, especially where data collection proves challenging [6]. Furthermore, the intricacy of certain techniques, including adversarial preparation and generative models, can restrict practicality in real-time applications. Additionally, dynamically and diversely adapting data recurrently presents difficulties in avoiding overfitting or generalizing aptly [3, 8]. Future studies should focus on more generalized and computationally economical methods applicable across a broader spectrum of uses while tackling scalability and adaptability in genuine situations [7,11]. The studies should produce approaches minimizing demands for vast annotated information while managing complexity to allow practical, timely use. Addressing changing, diverse data and boosting generalizability despite limited samples can additionally benefit researchers and users.

3.1. Future directions based on the literature survey:

1. Exploration of alternative meta-learning strategies involves investigating diverse approaches to optimize source domain selection and enhance adaptability across intricate tasks.
2. Optimization of adversarial networks structures on cultivating techniques to decrease computational complexity while maintaining effectiveness in avoiding negative transfer.
3. Simplification for real-time applications focuses on streamlining elaborate transfer learning models like MTL-MGAN to render them more appropriate for real-time and clinical use without compromising precision.

4. Expanding application to a wealth of domains emphasizes broadening methodologies such as DMDA to increasingly diverse and multidimensional subject areas to fortify generalization and efficiency.
5. Augmenting generalization to varied datasets aims to bolster robustness and applicability across data that differs widely and under changing external conditions.
6. Exploring enhanced fine-tuning techniques in dual transfer learning seeks more effective means of refinement, particularly with smaller labeled data, to reduce overfitting risk.
7. Developing strategies to handle substantial distribution differences in domain-adversarial learning targets decreasing overfitting proclivity and strengthening model sturdiness.
8. Improving feature extraction processes in systems like CACHE aims to ensure scalability and sustained output with larger, more diverse information.
9. Simplifying feature selection in active broad-transfer learning systems targets making them more usable and straightforward to employ in real applications.
10. Streamlining multisource adaptation focuses on streamlining processes to lessen complexity and facilitate industrial deployment.
11. Extending open-set fault diagnosis methods to more capably handle highly dynamic environments attempts to mitigate negative transfer risk in swiftly changing scenarios.
12. Optimizing techniques for real-time applications: Focus on streamlining domain adaptation methods used in electronic nose drift compensation to minimize computational requirements while sustaining high accuracy for real-world use in real-time settings.
13. Reducing computational demands of representation learning: Craft approaches to lessen the processing power needed for transformer-based domain-specific representation learning, making the methodology more accessible for widespread implementation at large scales.
14. Improving adaptability to changing conditions: Enhance the flexibility of energy demand forecasting systems including LSTM-TL to rapidly shifting environmental situations, ensuring more precise and dependable predictions under diverse circumstances.
15. Simplifying complex ensemble methods: Simplify the implementation of sophisticated ensemble methods combining MAML with transfer learning to streamline them for a broader assortment of regression issues.
16. Boosting robustness in noisy environments: Focus on bolstering the robustness of double-stage transfer learning algorithms in erratic environments, confirming dependable performance in an assortment of conditions.
17. Broadening applicability across diverse data: Widen the scope of generative inference networks such as GINet to handle a more extensive range of data scenarios, improving their generality and effectiveness when addressing imbalanced domains.

18. Enhancing handling of diverse labels: Forge approaches to boost the management of diverse labels in domain-adaptive retrieval frameworks including PEACE, confirming more reliable retrieval outcomes between different domains.

These future directions highlight potential research avenues that can address current constraints and further progress the field of transfer learning and domain adaptation.

4. Conclusion

This literature review presents many important strides in transfer learning, Domain Adaptation, but those who conducted the studies weren't all thinking along the lines of how to avoid negative transfer. Each study has its special methods and systems that improve those currently in existence; however, there are several areas where research could be conducted. General limitations are that the method often requires large label datasets, computational complexity is high, under diverse and dynamic data situations there are many difficulties. We need still more generalized, robust and computationally efficient systems for research in the future, to assure transfer learning and Domain Adaptation methods can be used more widely effectively. This review of related work describes the progress made in the field. It identifies the areas which still need to be explored in order to tap fully into the potential of transfer learning and Domain Adaptation techniques.

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