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Semi-supervised Learning for Medical Image Segmentation

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Learning with unlabeled images

Labeled images (few)

. . .









Unlabeled images (many)





Learning with unlabeled images

Labeled images (few)





. . .







How can we use this information to learn segmentation?

Outline

- 1) Adversarial learning
- 2) Consistency regularization
- 3) Unsupervised representation learning

Adversarial learning

for semi-supervised segmentation

Adversarial learning

Basic idea:

Learn the data distribution using a classifier (the discriminator)



Adversarial learning

Basic idea:

Learn the data distribution using a classifier (the discriminator)



Objective: Generate samples in the distribution of real data

Real training images



Real training images



How to make sure that generated images look real?

Real training images



Training the discriminator (cross-entropy):

$$\max_{D} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim p_{\text{data}}(x)} \left[\log D(x) \right] + \mathbb{E}_{z \sim p_{z}(z)} \left[\log(1 - D(G(z))) \right]$$

Output '1' for real images

Output '0' for generated images

Real training images



Training the generator:

$$\min_{G} \mathbb{E}_{z \sim p_z(z)} \left[\log(1 - D(G(z))) \right]$$

Fool the discriminator into predicting '1' for fake images

Real training images



Training the whole architecture:

$$\min_{G} \max_{D} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim p_{\text{data}}(x)} \left[\log D(x) \right] + \mathbb{E}_{z \sim p_{z}(z)} \left[\log(1 - D(G(z))) \right]$$

Corresponds to a minimax problem (more on this later...)

GANs for segmentation

GAN for image generation:



GANs for segmentation

GAN for image generation:





GANs for segmentation

GAN for image generation:



We are now modeling the distribution of *segmentation masks*

The generator is a segmentation network (encoder-decoder)

Basic idea: Learn to generate segmentation masks which can't be differentiated from ground-truth (GT)



Data =





Basic idea: Learn to generate segmentation masks which can't be differentiated from ground-truth (GT)





 $\mathcal{L}_{\sup}(G) = \mathbb{E}_{(x_l, y_l) \sim \mathcal{X}_l, \mathcal{Y}_l} \left[\mathcal{L}_{\operatorname{seg}}(G(x_l), y_l) \right]$

Basic idea: Learn to generate segmentation masks which can't be differentiated from ground-truth (GT)



 $\mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{adv}}(G,D) = \mathbb{E}_{x_u \sim \mathcal{X}_u} \left[\mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{dis}} \left(D(G(x_u)), 0 \right) \right] + \mathbb{E}_{x_l \sim \mathcal{X}_l} \left[\mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{dis}} \left(D(G(x_l)), 1 \right) \right]$

Basic idea: Learn to generate segmentation masks which can't be differentiated from ground-truth (GT)



Both labeled and unlabeled:

$$\underset{G}{\min} \underset{D}{\min} \underset{D}{\max} \mathcal{L}(G, D) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{X}_{l}|} \sum_{l=1}^{|\mathcal{X}_{l}|} \mathcal{L}_{seg}(G(x_{l}), y_{l}) - \frac{\lambda}{|\mathcal{X}_{l}| + |\mathcal{X}_{u}|} \left(\sum_{l=1}^{|\mathcal{X}_{l}|} \mathcal{L}_{dis}(D(G(x_{l})), 1) + \sum_{u=1}^{|\mathcal{X}_{u}|} \mathcal{L}_{dis}(D(G(x_{u})), 0)\right)$$
Supervised loss
Adversarial loss

Adversarial network for semi-supervised segmentation of histological images



Image from Zhang, Y., et al. "Deep adversarial networks for biomedical image segmentation utilizing unannotated images." *Int. Conf. on Medical Image Computing and Computer-Assisted Intervention*. 2017.

Domain adaptation



Domain adaptation



Objective

Align the distributions (input, output or representation) so that a model trained on Source data also works on Target data

$$p_S(x) = p_T(x)$$





Tsai, Y.-H., et al. "Learning to adapt structured output space for semantic segmentation." IEEE Conf. on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition. 2018.



Like semi-supervised segmentation except target images are from a different domain

Tsai, Y.-H., et al. "Learning to adapt structured output space for semantic segmentation." IEEE Conf. on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition. 2018.

Adversarial domain adaptation for brain lesion segmentation



Source domain (Database 1):

• GE, FLAIR, T2, MPRAGE, PD

Target domain (Database 2):

• SWI, FLAIR, T2, MPRAGE, PD



Image from Kamnitsas, K., et al. "Unsupervised domain adaptation in brain lesion segmentation with adversarial networks." *Int. Conf. on Information Processing in Medical Imaging*, 2017.

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Adaptation on feature representation or softmax output. What else ?

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Adversarial entropy minimization

- The discriminator must differentiate between source and target examples using the entropy spatial maps
- Forces the segmentation model to be consistent in its <u>confidence</u> across different semantic regions

How can we leverage discriminator predictions at the pixel-level ?

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- The discriminator must discriminate between prediction and ground-truth (GT) at each pixel
- Consider the discriminator GT-class probabilities as confidence scores
- Use high-confidence predictions on unlabeled images as <u>pseudo-labels for self-training</u>

How can we leverage discriminator predictions at the pixel-level ?



How can we leverage discriminator predictions at the pixel-level ?



How can we learn a model to segment target images without paired images or GT?

Source domain



Image

Ground-truth

Target domain



Unlabeled Image

Hoffman, J., et al. "CyCADA: Cycle-Consistent Adversarial Domain Adaptation." Int. Conf. on Machine Learning (ICML). 2018.

How can we learn a model to segment target images without paired images or GT?

Image stylized as target

Target domain



Unlabeled Image

Learn an unpaired style transfer model from source to target domain

Hoffman, J., et al. "CyCADA: Cycle-Consistent Adversarial Domain Adaptation." Int. Conf. on Machine Learning (ICML). 2018.

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Target domain



Unlabeled Image

How can we learn a model to segment target images without paired images or GT?



Target domain

Source domain

How can we learn a model to segment target images without paired images or GT?



How can we learn a model to segment target images without paired images or GT?



Cycle consistency loss: $L_{\text{cycle}}(G_{S \to T}, G_{T \to S}) = \mathbb{E}_{x \sim p_S(x)} \Big[\|x - G_{T \to S}(G_{S \to T}(x))\|_1 \Big]$

Hoffman, J., et al. "CyCADA: Cycle-Consistent Adversarial Domain Adaptation." Int. Conf. on Machine Learning (ICML). 2018.

How can we learn a model to segment target images without paired images or GT?



Semantic consistency loss: Segmentation for the source image and its stylized target version should be consistent

How can we learn a model to segment target images without paired images or GT?



Discriminator loss: Target images generated from source should look like real target ones

Hoffman, J., et al. "CyCADA: Cycle-Consistent Adversarial Domain Adaptation." Int. Conf. on Machine Learning (ICML). 2018.

Challenges of adversarial learning



1) Unstable optimization of minimax problem

Ghosh, A., et al. "Multi-agent diverse generative adversarial networks." Proceedings of the IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition. 2018. Chang, Mark. "Generative Adversarial Networks", published online, 2016

Challenges of adversarial learning



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Consistency regularization for semi-supervised segmentation

Consistency regularization for SSL

How to better use <u>unlabeled data</u>?

Vanilla supervised learning



- Consider only *labeled* samples
- Overfits when few training samples

Consistency regularization for SSL

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Data augmentation

- Transform *labeled* samples to augment the training set
- Better generalization, but not enough for semi-supervised learning

Consistency regularization for SSL

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Consistency regularization



- Perturb <u>unlabeled</u> samples with noise or guided transformations
- Impose the network to have consistent outputs for perturbed samples

Basic transformation consistency (F-model)

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta; \mathcal{D}_l, \mathcal{D}_u) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{D}_l|} \sum_{(x,y)\in\mathcal{D}_l} \ell_{\sup}(f(x), y) + \frac{\lambda}{|\mathcal{D}_u|} \sum_{x\in\mathcal{D}_u} \mathbb{E}_{T\sim p_T} \left[\ell_{\operatorname{reg}}(T(f(x)), f(T(x))) \right]$$

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Cross-entropy, Dice, etc.

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Random transformation:
rotation, flip, crop, etc.
Regularization loss
imposing transformation
equivariance

L2 regularization loss:

$$\ell_{\rm reg}(T(f(x)), f(T(x))) = \|T(f(x)) - f(T(x))\|_2^2$$

Application to chest X-ray segmentation:



Transformations are random elastic deformations

Bortsova, G., et al.. "Semi-supervised medical image segmentation via learning consistency under transformations." MICCAI, 2019.

Self-ensembling (□-model):



- Applying <u>different dropouts</u> on the <u>same network</u> gives an ensemble of models
- Also leverages random image transformations

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- Consistency between the predictions of a Teacher and a Student network
- The Teacher's weights are an EMA of the Student's at previous training iterations (lphapprox 1)
- <u>Note</u>: original Temporal Ensembling computes the EMA on outputs for each sample



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- *Note*: original Temporal Ensembling computes the EMA on outputs for each sample

Application of Mean Teacher to segmenting MRI spinal cord gray matter



Perone, C.S. and Cohen-Adad, J. "Deep semi-supervised segmentation with weight-averaged consistency targets." Deep learning in medical image analysis and multimodal learning for clinical decision support, 2019 (*extended version in Neuroimage*)

Uncertainty-aware self-ensembling



Uncertainty-aware self-ensembling



Muti-view co-training



- Supposes the existence of separate, complementary views of the data
- Use high-confidence predictions for a given view as pseudo-labels in other views



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Application of multi-view co-training for pancreas and liver tumor segmentation



Unsupervised representation learning for weakly-supervised segmentation

Unsupervised representation learning (URL)

Traditional SSL



• Train a model simultaneously with both labeled and unlabeled data

Unsupervised representation learning (URL)



Traditional SSL

• Train a model simultaneously with both labeled and unlabeled data



- In an upstream step, use <u>only unlabeled</u> <u>data</u> to learn a representation useful to downstream tasks
- Examples:
 - Self-supervised learning
 - Contrastive learning

Unsupervised representation learning (URL)



Traditional SSL

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- Examples:
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 - Contrastive learning

Approaches for URL



Self-supervised learning:

Basic idea:

- Learn to solve a pretext task which does not require annotations
- <u>Example</u>: find the correct order of permuted patches (*see above*)

Taleb, A., et al. "Multimodal self-supervised learning for medical image analysis." arXiv preprint (2019).

Approaches for URL



Contrastive learning:

Basic idea:

- Train with pairs of images that <u>match</u> (e.g., same position in volume, same image under different transformations, etc.) or not
- Find a representation that is similar for matching pairs and different for non-matching ones

Chaitanya, K., et al. "Contrastive learning of global and local features for medical image segmentation with limited annotations." NeurIPS 2020.

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Thank you Any questions ?