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Particle Competition and Cooperation in Networks for Semi-Supervised Learning with Concept Drift

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Outline

- Motivation
- Proposed Method
- Computer Simulations
- Conclusions

Motivation

Data sets under analysis are no longer only static databases, but also data streams in which concepts and data distributions may not be stable over time.

□ Examples:

- Climate Prediction
- Fraud Detection
- Energy Demand
- Many other real-world applications

Motivation

Concept Drift

- Nonstationary learning problem over time.
- Learning algorithms have to handle conflicting objectives:
 - Retain previously learned knowledge that is still relevant.
 - Replace any obsolete knowledge with current information.

However, most learning algorithms produced so far are based on the assumption that data comes from a fixed distribution.

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Motivation

- Why Semi-Supervised Learning to handle concept drift?
 - Some concept drifts applications requires fast response, which means an algorithm must always be (re)trained with the latest available data.
 - Process of labeling data is usually expensive and/or time consuming when compared to unlabeled data acquisition, thus only a small fraction of the incoming data may be effectively labeled.

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[19] S. Abney, Semisupervised Learning for Computational Linguistics. CRC Press, 2008.

Proposed Method

- Particles competition and cooperation in networks.
 - Cooperation among particles representing the same team (label / class).
 - Competition for possession of nodes of the network.
- Each team of particles...
 - Tries to dominate as many nodes as possible in a cooperative way.
 - Prevents intrusion of particles from other teams.

Initial Configuration

- Each data item is transformed into an undirected network node and connected to its *k*-nearest neighbors.
- A particle is generated for each labeled node of the network.
- Particles with same label play for the same team.
- When network maximum size is reached, older nodes are labeled and removed as new nodes are created.
- When maximum amount of particles is reached, older particles are removed as new particles are created.



Initial Configuration

- Particles initial position are set to their corresponding nodes.
- Nodes have a domination vector.
 - Labeled nodes have ownership set to their respective teams.
 - Unlabeled nodes have levels set equally for each team.



Ex: [1.00 0.00 0.00 0.00] (4 classes, node labeled as class A)



Ex: [0.25 0.25 0.25 0.25] (4 classes, unlabeled node)



Node Dynamics

- When a particle selects a neighbor node to visit:
 - It decreases the domination level of the other teams.
 - It increases the domination level of its own team.



$$v_i^{\omega_\ell}(t+1) = \begin{cases} \max\{0, v_i^{\omega_\ell}(t) - \frac{\Delta_v \rho_j^{\omega}(t)}{c-1}\} \\ \text{if } y_i = 0 \text{ and } \ell \neq \rho_j^f \\ v_i^{\omega_\ell}(t) + \sum_{q \neq \ell} v_i^{\omega_q}(t) - v_i^{\omega_q}(t+1) \\ \text{if } y_i = 0 \text{ and } \ell = \rho_j^f \\ v_i^{\omega_\ell}(t) \text{ if } y_i \neq 0 \end{cases}$$

Particle Dynamics

A particle gets:

- stronger when it selects a node being dominated by its team.
- weaker when it selects node dominated by other teams.

$$\rho_j^{\omega}(t+1) = v_i^{\omega_\ell}(t+1)$$



Particles Walk

Random-greedy walk

The particle will prefer visiting nodes that its team already dominates.

$$p(v_i|\rho_j) = (1-\alpha) \frac{W_{qi}}{\sum_{\mu=1}^n W_{q\mu}} + \alpha \frac{W_{qi}v_i^{\omega_\ell}}{\sum_{\mu=1}^n W_{q\mu}v_i^{\omega_\ell}}$$



Particles Walk

Shocks

- A particle really visits the selected node only if the domination level of its team is higher than others;
- Otherwise, a shock happens and the particle stays at the current node until next iteration.





Computer Simulation 1 – Slow Concept Drift



- 50,000 data items.
- 500 batches.
- 100 data items in each batch.
- Data items generated around 4
 Gaussian kernels moving clockwise.
- 100,000 particle movements between each batch arrival.
- 10% labeled data items, 90% unlabeled.
- k = 5.

Computer Simulation 1 – Slow Concept Drift



Simulation 1: Slow Concept Drift. Correct Classification Rate with varying maximum network size (v_{max}) and maximum amount of particles (ρ_{max}). *n* **= 50,000**.

Computer Simulation 2 – Fast Concept Drift



Simulation 2: Fast Concept Drift. Correct Classification Rate with varying maximum network size (v_{max}) and maximum amount of particles (ρ_{max}). *n* **= 10,000**.

Conclusions

- New biologically inspired method for semi-supervised classification in nonstationary environments.
 - Specially suited for gradual or incremental changes in concept.
 - □ Passive concept drift algorithm.
 - Naturally adapts to changes.
 - No explicit drift detection mechanism.
 - Does not rely on base classifiers with explicit retraining process.
 - Built-in mechanisms provide a natural way of learning from new data, gradually "forgetting" older knowledge.
 - □ Single classifier approach.
 - Most other passive methods rely on classifier ensembles.

Future Work

- Build mechanisms to automatically select the parameters which control the sizes of the network and the set of particles, according to the data that is being fed to the algorithm.
 - This could highly improve the performance of the algorithm in scenarios where the concepts may be stable for sometime and/or have different drift speeds through time.

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