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# **Classification-aware Semi-supervised Domain Adaptation**

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# Abstract

Deep neural networks are usually data-starved, but manually annotation can be costly in many specific tasks. For instance, the emotion recognition from the audio. However, there is a large amount of public available labeled imagebased facial expression recognition datasets. How could these images help for the audio emotion recognition with limited labeled data according to their inherent correlations can be a meaningful and challenging task. In this paper, we propose a semi-supervised adversarial network that allows the knowledge transfer from the labeled videos to the heterogeneous labeled audio domain hence enhancing the audio emotion recognition performance. Specifically, face image samples are translated to the spectrograms classwisely. To harness the translated samples in a sparsely distributed area and construct a tighter decision boundary, we propose to precisely estimate the density on feature space and incorporate the reliable low-density sample with an annealing scheme. Moreover, the unlabeled audios are collected with the high-density path in a graph representation.

As a possible "recognition via generation" framework, we empirically demonstrated its effectiveness on several audio emotional recognition benchmarks. We also demonstrated its generality on recent large-scaled semisupervised domain adaptation tasks.

# 1. Introduction

Sufficiently large-scale labeled data required by deep neural networks can be rarely available in many practical scenarios [39]. The advancement of emotion recognition with the modalities other than facial image is largely hindered by the available labeled data [1, 2].

In the meantime, the available image data for facial expression recognition (IFER) are relatively richer [37, 33]. Hence, a worthwhile research question is can we facilitate the audio emotion recognition (AER) with IFER data. Many recognitive psychology studies evidenced the correlation of a person's facial expression and the emotional state content in their voice [10, 52]. This could because the in-



(a) IFER

(b) Audio Spectrogram

Figure 1: Audio emotion recognition with IFER data by transferring the IFER in CK+ dataset (a) to the corresponding audio spectrograms (b).

fants develop their visual and auditory perceptions by fusing visual sense with audio cues [18, 43]. Therefore, a mapping of these two heterogeneous domains can be potentially attained.

From the generation perspective, many works have been proposed for visual-audio transfer. For example, [8] use the conditional generative adversarial networks (GAN) [16], and [19] propose to apply the Cycle GAN, which are typically style transfer methods. However, these methods target for generating realistic samples with good visual/auditory quality, and not specially designed from the recognition with data augmentation perspective.

Conventionally, the GAN frameworks are not wellmatched to supervised/semi-supervised recognition tasks [39, 32, 35]. This is because of the GAN-generated results are expected to align with the central part of the real data distribution. For instance, the class-conditioned style transfer method tires to generate several samples with different appearance or background environment but keep the same class label. Those inner-class samples are generated according to the distribution of the training set and expected to be similar to them. This is achieved by decoding the high-density area points in the shared feature space that follows the real training data distribution [33]. However, the tight decision boundary highly relies on the reliable samples distributed in the low-density areas of the feature space [40, 36, 29, 26, 38, 25, 28, 27]. Thus, the generated samples usually cannot support the network to adjust the boundary.

Recently, [2] propose to generate AER training data with labeled paired visual-audio data. However, this setting is somewhat weird considering the number of labeled visualaudio pairs is even more limited than labeled audio data since the latter is a subset of the former. The deformation or variance of generated samples is originated from an additional random noise input. Without the noise injection, it can degrade to a simple autoencoder to regenerate the existed labeled audio data. Therefore, [2] does not utilize the information of additional large scale labeled image-only IFER data. Besides, the extended semi-supervised setting in [2] indicates the unavailable of some source visual (i.e., face image) label, and propose to predict the label of source sample using an IFER network pretrained with the labeled part of source visual image.

In this paper, we propose to augment the audio-based emotion recognition with the large scale labeled visual IFER data following an unpaired semi-supervised heterogeneous data augmentation manner. Specifically, we achieve the vicinal risk minimization using a semi-supervised classification-aware face-spectrogram translator with the GAN [16, 55, 34, 24] and variational autoencoder (VAE) [14, 7] as its backbone. The facial expression images and spectrograms are not necessary to be paired for our training of the translator, which enables us to resort widely available IFER data.

Our setting can also be regarded as the semi-supervised domain adaptation problem [57]. The typical adversarial method improves generalization on unlabeled part of target data with feature level GAN [48]. However, we play the adversarial game on high dimensional generation and produce more training data for the semi-supervised task. Hence it not only be able to improve the accuracy of AER in our experiments but also to expend or create a new AER dataset for all of the other advanced AER methods.

To summarize, our contributions are: 1) We evidenced that it is possible to facilitate audio emotion recognition with limited labeled data using a large amount of labeled IFER data by exploring the visual-audio correlation in an unpaired manner. 2) We propose a novel classificationaware semi-supervised translator that can well address the large gap of heterogeneous domains on pixel-level. 3) We give a more precisely density estimation to incorporate reliable low-density generation with an annealing scheme and explore the usability of unlabeled target samples following the high-density path on a graph.

# 2. Related works

Semi-supervised domain adaptation Domain adaptation is a form of transfer learning, in which the task remains the same, but there is a domain shift or a distribution change between the source and the target [57]. In our setting, the visual face expression image is the source domain and the audio modality is the target domain.

With a problem-oriented taxonomy, we are targeting to the heterogeneous and semi-supervised domain adaptation [57]. Most recent researches focus on unsupervised domain adaptation where the target domain is totally unlabeled [59]. However, the limited labeled target data can be a more realistic scenario in many real-world tasks. The adversarial semi-supervised domain adaptation has not been fully explored [49]. Recently, [49] propose a feature-level game with entropy maximization to align the feature distribution. In contrast, we align two domains with the pixel-level game and explicitly generate the transferred data. Moreover, the utilization of the labeled target domain is based on the density that is essentially different from the entropy used in [49].

**Semi-supervised Learning** Our work is also closely related to the semi-supervised learning which makes use of unlabeled data for training, typically a small amount of labeled data with a large amount of unlabeled data. Noticing that the labeled and unlabeled data are independent identically distributed (i.i.d.). Generative model [11, 50], model-ensemble [22], and adversarial approaches [44] have contributed to the performance improvements of semi-supervised learning, but do not address domain shift in semi-supervised domain adaptation. We are exploring the usability of both the unlabeled data in the same domain and labeled data in the different domains.

Visual-Audio Correlation and Translation The related audio-visual studies have a large progress in recent years. An interesting study of cross-modal relationships of audio and visual cues was introduced in [8] where conditional GANs were applied to generate one modality while another modality was given as an input. To do so, the authors introduced two separate networks (image-to-sound and sound-to-image) to perform cross-modal generations in both ways. Inspired by this work, authors in [19], built a model called Cross-Modal Cycle Generative Adversarial Model to perform cross-modal mappings between image and audio. Authors in [9] introduced a system that performs audio-video synchronization between mouth and speech in a video. To facilitate the task, a two-stream network was implemented by having one network dedicated for audio and one for video and coupled together by using the constructive loss that is judging whether or not the embedding from the two streams belong to a synchronized video pair or not. Similarly in [21], an audio-visual study was performed to perform temporal synchronization. Likewise in



Figure 2: An overview of the model architecture. An example in the source domain is translated to the target domain in the translation unit. Meanwhile translated examples are categorized by density. Low-density samples are used in the adversarial setting. High-density samples are utilized as augmented examples.

[9] a two-stream network using constructive loss function was implemented.

pervised objective:

$$\max_{Dis \ x, y \sim p} \mathbb{E} \log P(y|x) \tag{1}$$

# 3. Proposed methods

For the semi-supervised domain adaptation setting, there is a totally labeled source domain  $\mathcal{D}_s = \{(x_i^s, y_i^s)\}_{i=1}^{m_s}$  and a partially labeled target domain. We denote the labeled part as  $\mathcal{D}_t = \{(x_i^t, y_i^t)\}_{i=1}^{m_t}$  while the unlabeled part as  $\mathcal{D}_u = \{(x_i^u)\}_{i=1}^{m_u}$ .  $m_s, m_t$  and  $m_u$  are the number of samples in each domains, and usually the available  $m_s, m_u$  is larger than  $m_t$ . We have the shared K classes in all domains, for example the shared K expression in audio and visual datasets. Our objective is learning on  $\mathcal{D}_s, \mathcal{D}_t$  as well as the training set of  $\mathcal{D}_u$ , and evaluate on the test set of  $\mathcal{D}_u$ .

# 3.1. Recap: Good Semi-supervised Learning that Requires a Bad GAN

[50] proposed a method to share the knowledge of the unlabeled data modeled by GAN with the classifier. [50] argues that the classifier should be able to play the role of the discriminator of a GAN in addition to the classification. [12] explores what does the classifier learns from the adversarial training in the setting of [50]. The first finding is if the generator distribution  $p_G$  exactly matches the true data distribution p, then for any optimal solution Dis of the su-

there exists an optimal solution  $Dis^*$  of the GAN based semi-supervised objective:

$$\max_{Dis} \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{x \sim p_g} logP(fake|x) + \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{x,y \sim p} logP(y|x) + \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{x \sim p} logP(true|x)$$
(2)

such that Dis and  $Dis^*$  share the same generalization error. In another word, the joint parameterzied discriminatorclassifier does not learn from the high density examples generated by GAN.

The second finding is, under mild assumptions, the GAN based semi-supervised classifier can strongly correctly classify the high-density subsets of the examples by learning to discriminate the data points generated in the low-density areas. If classifier can label training data and true-fake data correctly, under one extra mild assumption that the true-fake belief is also strong, [12] theoretically guaranteed that the joint classifier can encourage to place the K classes decision boundaries at the low-density region.

### 3.2. Classification-Aware augmentation

In the SSDA setting, target labeled examples are relatively limited. We propose to generate the new target example that we are confident of its label. We generate a new



Figure 3: Graph-based manifold representation. Dark blue represents labeled, light blue represents unlabeled.

target example according to the learned conditional distribution p(x|z) based on a latent code z. The latent code space of z is constrained to be shared among the source and target domain and the latent component is also constrained to have the same semantic meanings in the two domains.

The latent feature distribution of data points from the source and the target domain are expected to align with each other class-wisely. In the feature space, these data are expected to present the properties of a certain class of real source domain data points clustering and form a highdensity region.

Based on the work of [23], our proposed translation unit has two VAEGANs,  $(Enc_s, Dec_s, Dis_s)$  and  $(Enc_t, Dec_t, Dis_t)$  for the target domain and the source domain respectively [39, 33, 32, 7]. The two autoencoders  $(Enc_s, Dec_s)$  and  $(Enc_t, Dec_t)$  share parameters weight at a few layers near the latent vector so that the source domain and the target domain share the latent space [56, 55, 30, 31].

 $Dis_t$  joint parameterizes the classifier and the true-fake discriminator [12]. The class K + 1 refers to the new class representing generated data.

#### **3.3.** Low density sample annealing

The translation unit is co-trained with the classifier  $Dis_t$ in a round-based training manner. During the training process, the translation unit generates target data points of higher density in the later batch. We propose to incorporate only the reliable generated target data points  $\tilde{x}^t$  to  $\mathcal{D}_t$ at each batch. The low-density portion is used in the adversarial training in the translation unit. The set of all the generated low-density examples is denoted as  $D_g$  hereinafter. The high-density portion is used as new labeled training data in  $D_t$ .

In the proposed annealing scheme, we have a hyperparameter  $\epsilon$  that increases as the training proceeds. For every batch, the  $\epsilon\%$  generated target data points with the highest density are added to  $D_l$ , the rest are added to  $D_g$ . At the beginning of the training, all the generations are set to  $D_g$ . When the training converges,  $\epsilon\%$  increase to 0.8.

**Density estimation**. Because the  $\tilde{x}^t$  is generated by the decoder  $Dec_t$  in a trained  $VAE_t$ . We are able to estimate a pretty tight bound of the density of  $\tilde{x}^t$ . Recall, in a variational auto-encoderas, the evidence lower bound is a lower bound of the density  $\log p(x):\log p(x) \ge \mathbb{E}_{q(z|x)} \left[\log \frac{p(x|z)p(z)}{q(z|x)}\right]$  where z is the latent variable. We can approximate the density of a generated target example x with importance sampling methods on the distribution of q(z|x). In fact there are many well established methods to do more computationally efficient estimation [5][45][13].

#### 3.4. Reliability path

We assume, in the feature space, similar points are likely to share the same label and we adopt a regularizer to enforce this assumption. We propose to approximate the manifold by constructing a graph representation of all the examples in  $D_t$  and  $D_u$  in the feature space. We first construct a reliability path on the graph representation that all the nodes on it share the same label whenever the node's label is known. Then, the unlabeled examples on a reliability path is assigned with the path's label.

**Graph representation**. [3] Given *n* points  $x_1, ..., x_n$  in  $\mathbb{R}^l$ , we construct a weighted graph with *N* nodes, one for each point in the  $D_t$  and  $D_u$ , and a set of edges connecting neighboring nodes. Nodes *i* and *j* are connected by an edge if  $||f(x_i) - f(x_j)||^2 \leq \beta$ , parameter  $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$ . Weight the edge with a Gaussian radial basis function: $W_{ij} = e^{-\gamma ||f(x_i) - f(x_j)||^2}$ . An example of graph representation construction is shown in Fig. 3.

We define the smoothness of a graph representation  $S = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij} (y_i - y_j)^2 W_{ij}$  where  $y_i, y_j$  are the labels of node

i, j, they are either known or predicted with  $Dis_t$ . S measures the smoothness. The lesser S is, the more smoothy the graph is. S can be computed with the Laplacian Eigenmaps  $S = y^T Ly$  where y is the labels on the graph who depends on  $Dis_t$  and L is graph laplacian [3]. According to [54], we add S to the objective function as a regularization term.

#### **3.5.** Training objective and its interpretation

There are three sources of data augmentation in our method: the generated target data points with high density, they are the new supplement to  $D_t$ ; the generated low density data points are added to  $D_g$  and help  $dis_t$  learn the low-density separation, and those examples in  $D_u$  who are provided with label via the reliability path.

In the translation unit, let  $GAN_{s \to t}$  denote the GAN consists of the encoder  $Enc_s$ , generator  $Dec_t$  and the discriminator  $Dis_t$ .  $GAN_{s \to t}$  converts data points from source domain to target domain. In this generation path,  $P_{Dis_t}(K+1|x)$  is the true or fake signal for the adversarial training. Similarly we denote  $GAN_{t \to s}$  as the GAN consists of  $Enc_t$ ,  $Dec_s$  and the discriminator  $Dis_s$ .  $Dis_s$  is a regular discriminator.  $VAE_s$ ,  $VAE_t$ ,  $GAN_{s \to t}$ ,  $GAN_{t \to s}$  together are the translation unit. The learning objective includes three components: the examples in source and target domain can be reconstructed in  $VAE_s$  and  $VAE_t$  respectively; minimization of the GAN loss of the translation in both directions between the source domain and the target domain; the cycle-reconstruction loss of the two direction of translation  $\mathcal{L}_{s \to t}$ ,  $\mathcal{L}_{t \to s}$ :

 $\min_{\substack{(Enc_s, Enc_t, Dec_s, Dec_t, Dis_s, Dis_t)(Dis_s, Dis_t)(Ds_s, Dt, Du)}} \max_{\substack{(Enc_s, Enc_t, Dec_s, Dec_s) + GAN_t \to s}} \sum_{\substack{(Enc_t, Dec_s, Dec_s) + \mathcal{L}_{VAE_t}(Enc_t, Dec_s, Dis_s) + \mathcal{L}_{VAE_t}(Enc_t, Dec_t) + \mathcal{L}_{S \to t}(Enc_s, Dec_t, Dis_t) + \mathcal{L}_{s \to t}(Enc_s, Dec_t, Enc_t, Dec_s)]}$ 

For the paired training data from source and target domain are available or, in another word, we know the ground truth translation of the input example, we follow the philosophy of fix point learning [51] to replace the objective function  $GAN_{t\to s}(Enc_t, Dec_s, Dis_s)$  and  $GAN_{s\to t}(Enc_s, Dec_t, Dis_t)$  in Equation (8) to the L1 loss between the ground truth translation and the generated one:

$$GAN_{t \to s}(Enc_t, Dec_s, Dis_s) : \mathcal{L}_{l_1}(G(Enc_t, Dec_s), GT_S)$$
$$GAN_{s \to t}(Enc_s, Dec_t, Dis_t) : \mathcal{L}_{l_1}(G(Enc_s, Dec_t), GT_T)$$

where  $\mathcal{L}_{l_1}$  indicates the  $l_1$  loss,  $G(Enc_s, Dec_t)$  denotes the generation of the target dexample.  $G(Enc_t, Dec_s)$  means similarly.  $GT_T$  and  $GT_S$  represent the ground truth examples in both domain respectively.

Lastly, the smoothness regularizer S encourages the examples of the same class from  $D_t$  and  $D_u$  clustering in the features space. The overall objective function for  $Dis_t$  is:

$$\max_{Dis_{t}} \underset{x \in D_{g}}{\mathbb{E}} log P_{Dis_{t}}(K+1|x) + \underset{x,y \in D_{t}}{\mathbb{E}} log P_{Dis_{t}}(y|x)$$
$$+ \underset{x \in D_{u}}{\mathbb{E}} [log P_{Dis_{t}}(y < K+1|x)$$
$$+ \underset{k=1}{\overset{K}{\sum}} P_{Dis_{t}}(k|x) log P_{Dis_{t}}(k|x)] - \lambda S$$

where  $S = y^T L y$ ,  $\lambda$  is a hyper-parameter to control a tradeoff between smoothness term and classification.

#### 4. Experiments

### 4.1. Augmenting Audio from Visual

We evaluate the proposed classification-aware visual to audio data augmentation in this section. To evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed method, extensive experiments have been conducted on two publicly available multimodal emotion expression datasets.

CREMA-D [6] is a multi-modal emotion data set with both facial and audio expressions. 91 actors and actresses are participated to generate the six universal emotions: Happy, Sad, Anger, Fear, Disgust and Neutral in 7442 clips.

RAVDESS [41] includes 24 gender-balanced professional actors vocalizing two statements in Neutral, Calm, Happy, Sad, Angry, Fearful, Disgust and Surprised emotions. There are a totally of 2452 trials as Audio-Visual files.

[2] separate both CREMA-D and RAVDESS to four parts, i.e., S1 for classifier training, S2 and S3 for the additional network structure's training, and S4 for testing. We follow their setting and use S1 for thee labeled training set, S2 and S3 as the unlabeled training data, while leave S4 as testing set.

The large scale audio clips are hard to collect, especially the number of the actor is very limited. To augment the audio recognition, we propose to utilize the facial image in both of these multi-modal datasets and the large scale IFER datasets: CMU Multi-PIE, CK + [42], MMI Dataset [53], Oulu-CASIA VIS Dataset [58].

For these IFER datasets, we only use the data with shared emotions with CREMA-D or RAVDESS datasets. All of these IFER datasets are merged into a large one. We do not use the video-based facial expression recognition version of IFER datasets is because the expression development (from neutral to the apex of expression) of these datasets is essentially different from the AER which has the same emotion from the start to the end. Moreover, the correlation of paired facial expression image and audio data has been evidenced by many prior works.



Figure 4: Sample preprocessed IFER data.

(a) CK+

(b) RAVDESS

(c) CREMA-D

**Data Preparation** For the visual modal datasets we follow the [33] to locate the 49 facial landmarks. Then, face alignment is done to reduce in-plane rotation and crop the region of interest based on the coordinates of these landmarks to a size of  $64 \times 64$ . Augmentation procedures such as flipping and grayscale are employed to increase the number of training images and alleviate the chance of over-fitting.

All the images are processed with the standard histogram equalization and linear plane fitting to remove unbalanced illumination. Finally, we normalize them to have zero mean and unit variance. In the testing phase, a single center crop with a size of  $60 \times 60$  is used as input data.

For the audio modal of CREMA-D, RAVDESS, we make use of spectrogram representation of the raw audio signals. We resize the spectrograms to  $156 \times 64$  in 2-D array.

**Quantitative evaluations** We measure the classification accuracy gains from data augmentation. The supposed high-quality generation (which are those samples of high density in our setting) should contain features not presented in the labeled training examples thus improve the accuracy on the testing set. The classifier should also learn from the unlikely examples to place the decision boundaries better. The main results are shown in Table 1. We have four sets of experiments.

The first experiments with IFER datasets and RAVESS. In Experiment 1 we do not utilize the pairing information between the visual and audio modal of each RAVDESS clip. The second experiment works with the same dataset as Experiment 1, but we consider the pairing information in this case which means we calculate the  $l_1$  loss of the visual to audio and audio to visual translation in the training objective. Experiments 3 and 4 are based on IFER datasets and CREMA-D with a similar setting as Experiments 1 and 2.

First, all three data augmentation techniques are validated to effectively improve the performance of the classifier on the testing set. The high-density samples of generated spectrograms are convincingly useful new labeled training examples in the spectrogram domain. The pairing information in visual-audio examples do improve classification performance but is not significant. This may be because the translation unit already learns to guess likely example in the distribution of audio spectrograms that keeps the emotion feature of the input IFER.

In addition to the metric above. We adopt the evaluation metric for generated samples proposed by [50], the Inception Score (IS). We quantify the quality of generated spectrograms with  $exp(\mathbb{E}_x KL(p(y|x)||p(y)))$  and make use of an Inception network pre-trained on performing emotion recognition in real spectrogram datasets, e.g., the learned classifier in our framework as [2]. The higher the IS is the better the quality of the generated samples. Another applied qualitative metric is the Frechet Inception Distance (FID) [20]. It compares the statistics of generated samples to the real ones, instead of only evaluating generated ones. Lower FID values mean better image quality and diversity.

The translation quality metric is reported in Table 1 lower part. To reflect the comparative goodness of the generated samples, we use the spectrogram representa-

	UP IFER CRE	P IFER CRE	UP IFER RAV	P IFER RAV
Base	30.81%	-	30.65%	-
- Low - Rel	49.2%	51.17%	50.34%	53.12%
- Low	51.83%	54.68%	52.74%	53.55%
- High - Rel	41.1%	43.82 %	42.9%	42.71%
All	54.53%	58.71%	53.34%	56.12%
IS BaseScore	3.12	-	3.24	-
IS Low	2.65	2.63	2.77	2.80
IS High	2.72	2.84	2.87	2.89
FID Low	64.2	63.7	59.1	57.5
FID High	61.3	60.4	57.5	56.2

Table 1: Classification accuracy and generation quality metric. UP denotes not using pairing information in bi-modal datasets. P means using pairing information. CRE, RAV mean the two multi-modal datasets. IFER means the merged large IFER dataset. Base refers to learn to classify the spectrograms only with labeled examples and there is no knowledge transferring from IFER data sets. - Low - Rel refers to learn to classify with labeled target examples  $D_t$  that are supplemented with the new spectrograms generated from IFER data. - Low refers to we further supplement  $D_t$  by assigning labels to data in  $D_u$  with the reliability path. - High - Rel means we do not supplement  $D_t$  with data augmentation. All means adopting all the proposed techniques.

tions of real audio in the comparison which are denoted as BaseScore.

tion and to search for more discriminative feature extractor.

# 4.2. Bench marking with other Semi-supervised Domain Adaption Methods

Our framework is also a general-purpose semisupervised domain adaptation solution. The benchmark focus on the accuracy comparison as the number of labeled target example changes. The comparison is based on DomainNet [46], we randomly choose some labeled target domain examples per class as labeled training target examples. [46] has 345 classes in 24 divisions. We conduct the study on 4 domains: *Real* (R), *Clipart* (C), *Painting* (P), *Sketch* (S). We adopt the same experiment setting as [49] for fair comparison: we use 126 classes that have largest number of examples and construct 7 adaptation scenarios:  $R \rightarrow C$ ,  $R \rightarrow P$ ,  $P \rightarrow C$ ,  $C \rightarrow S$ ,  $S \rightarrow P$ ,  $R \rightarrow S$  and  $P \rightarrow R$ . We also provide testing results of classification by the 23 divisions (excluding the 'others' division).

**Baseline.** S+T [47] is the distance-based classification that has been extensively used in few-shot learning. The model is trained with labeled examples in the source and target domain. Unlabeled examples in the target domain is not used. ENT [17] is a model trained with labeled source and target and unlabeled target using standard entropy minimization. Entropy is calculated on unlabeled target examples and the entire network is trained to minimize it. MME [49] assumes domain invariant prototypes per class. The unlabeled target examples are used to align prototypes dominated by source examples to target domain feature distribu-

Results We report the results of the benchmark study of the 126 class classification in DomianNet in Figure. 5 (a). Even if the labeled target examples are very limited our method still able to achieve similar accuracy as compared to other methods. This finding may evidence that the generated target domain examples do posses class-specific features. As the number of target examples increases, our method tends to perform better than the other methods, this is an expected result for two reasons: some other methods are designed for prototype-based few-shot learning, they can not fully utilize the additional target examples; our method learns a better decision boundary with the help of the low-density examples. The next finding is the proposed reliability path effectively guess the label of the unlabeled target example. The performance gain is lesser initially when the number of labeled examples is small and tends to increase as we have more target labeled examples. Figure. 5 (b) shows a similar result in 23 divisions classification. When the number of labeled target examples is small, our method achieves a better result than the 126 class classification case.

**Quantitative Feature Analysis** We quantitatively estimate the features representation of the target domain in each method. Following the analysis of [15], the co-variance matrix of features in the target domain can measure if the features representation is discriminative. Each eigenvector of the covariance matrix corresponds to a component of the feature and the associated eigenvalue represents the contri-



(a) The avg accuracy of 126 classes classification of 7 transfer scenarios.



80





Figure 5: Accuracy vs number of target labeled examples: a) and b). Quantitative feature analysis: c) and d).

bution. If the feature is discriminative, we will need few components to summarize the feature hence the first few eigenvalues are expected to be large. Figure 5. (c) shows that our feature representation's eigenvalues decreases more quickly. Next, following [4], we computed the A-distance of feature distribution in the source and target domain. In the benchmark, only MME is designed for the feature alignment. Figure 5. (d) shows the result.

# 5. Conclusions

We proposed a novel unpaired semi-supervised data augmentation method which can also be regard as a image-level heterogeneous semi-supervised domain adaptation framework. It is based on a GAN and VAE backbone with joint parameterized discriminator and classifier. The modules are optimized with a serials of semi-supervised objective. Other than explicitly class-aware conditional alignment, we also propose to give a tighter support of decision boundary in semi-supervised setting by exploring the lowdensity area. We encourage the generation of low-density sample with precisely density estimation while selecting the reliable samples following the high density-path in a graph. We empirically demonstrated the superiority of our method over many baselines and shown its generality on semi-supervised domain adaptation benchmarks.

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