Self-Training with Adaptive Regularization for $$\mathrm{S}^3\mathrm{VM}$$

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Abstract

The Semi-Supervised Support Vector Machine (S^3VM) solves a nonconvex, Mixed-Integer Program (MIP). Due to the difficulty of the problem, convex approximations have typically been used. However, existing approaches have suffered from poor scalability and struggle on *manifoldlike* datasets. The poor predictive performance suggests that for some datasets, convex approximations may not be a sufficiently accurate approximation to the problem. We present a self-training approach with self-adapting regularization parameters for S³VM formulations. At each iteration, the regularization parameters are adapted to better reflect label confidence, class proportion, and to gradually include more unlabeled points. We show that updating the S³VM framework iteratively, the proposed method can better capture the manifold assumption and achieve strong performance where S³VM methods typically struggle on benchmark datasets.