

Maintaining Consistent Inter-Class Topology in Continual Test-Time Adaptation

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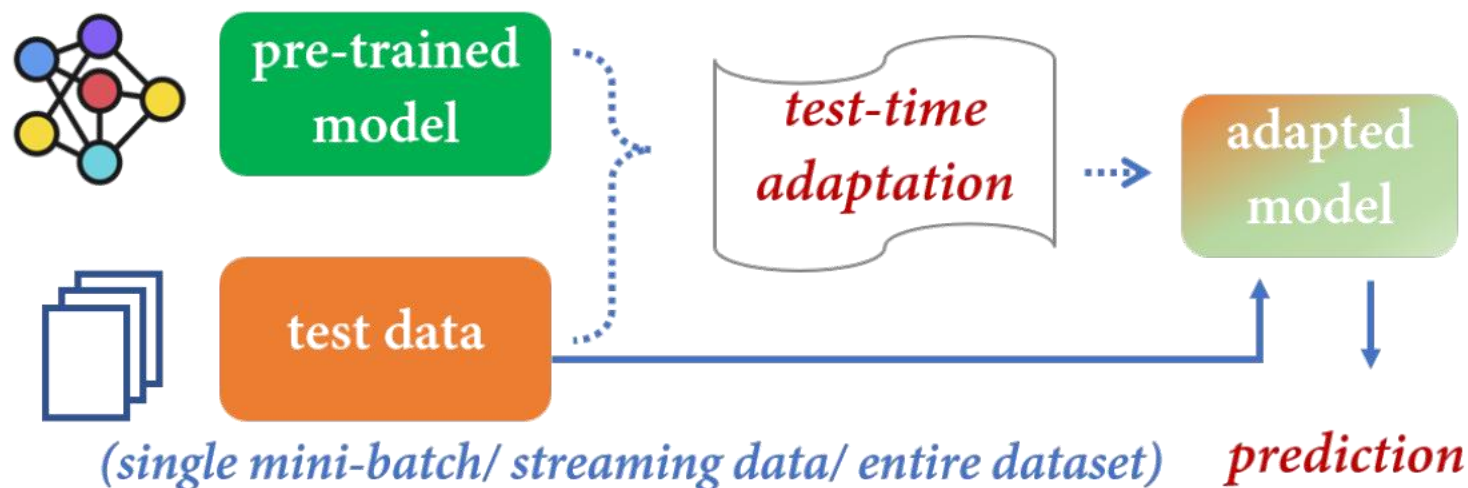
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➤ 测试时自适应 (Test-Time adaptation)

模型在测试阶段不依赖额外标注数据，仅利用**测试数据自身信息动态调整参数**，从而适配测试数据的分布或语义特征，提升泛化性能。



➤ 三大特点

- **源域数据不可访问**：测试阶段无法访问训练阶段的源域样本或特征，模型只能依赖预训练权重进行自适应更新。
- **无监督设定**：测试数据缺乏真实标签，模型需基于自身预测或伪标签进行优化，易受噪声与不确定性影响。
- **单次样本交互**：模型在流式推理中与每个测试样本仅交互一次，需在有限更新下实现快速且稳定的分布适应。



➤ 持续TTA（Continual Test-Time Adaptation）

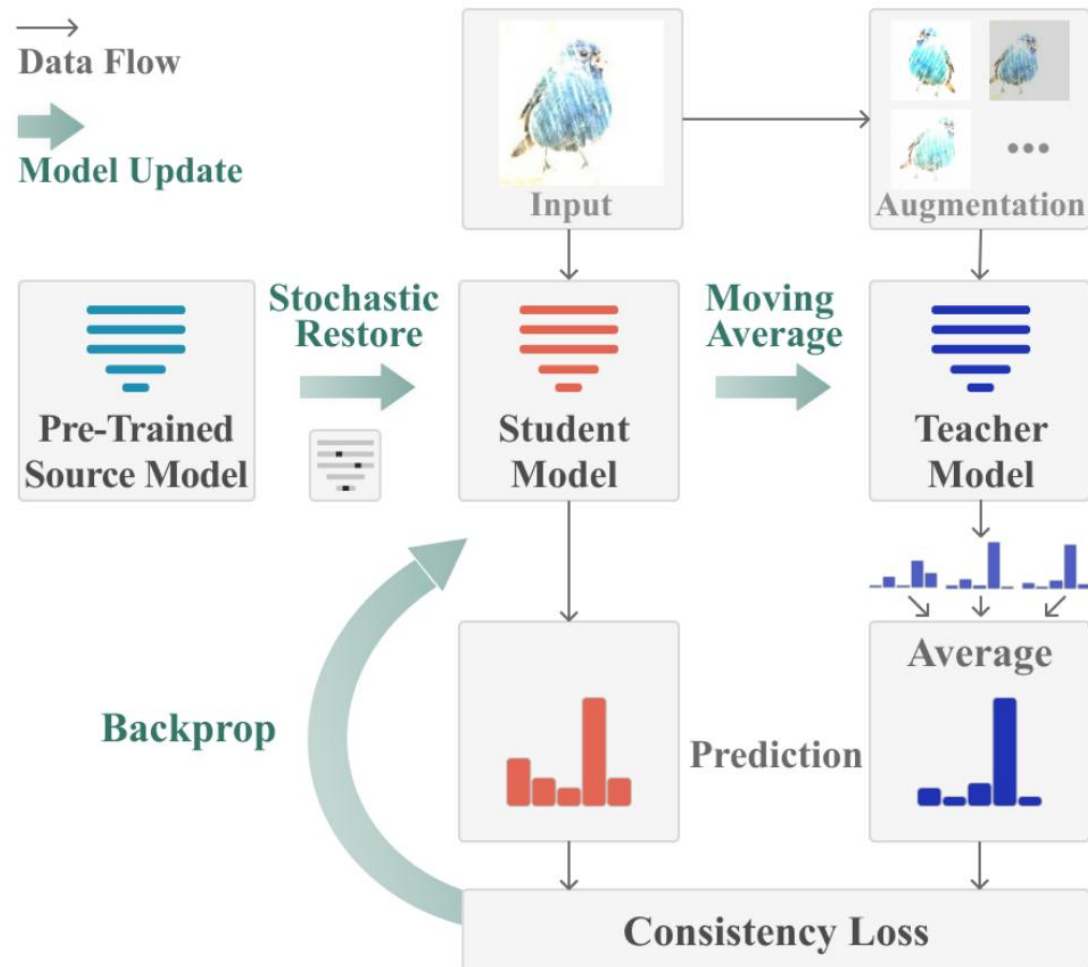
预训练源模型利用新环境未标记数据，**持续适应**动态目标域，缓解**域偏移**导致的性能下降。

➤ 难点

- 在不断变化的环境下，由于分布偏移，伪标签变得更加嘈杂和校准错误。因此，早期预测错误更有可能导致**误差累积**。
- 由于模型在很长一段时间内不断适应新的分布，源域的知识更难保存，导致**灾难性遗忘**。

设定	数据		学习阶段	
	源域	目标域	训练阶段	测试阶段
标准域自适应（DA）	是	固定	是	否
标准测试时训练	是	固定	是（辅助任务）	是
完全测试时自适应（TTA）	否	固定	否（预训练）	是
持续测试时自适应	否	持续变化	否（预训练）	是

Background



(1) Weight-Averaged Pseudo-Labels

$$\mathcal{L}_{\theta_t}(x_t^T) = - \sum_c \hat{y}'_{tc}^T \log \hat{y}_{tc}^T, \quad (1)$$

$$\theta'_{t+1} = \alpha \theta'_t + (1 - \alpha) \theta_{t+1}, \quad (2)$$

(2) Augmentation-Averaged Pseudo-Labels

$$\tilde{y}'_t^T = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} f_{\theta'_t}(\text{aug}_i(x_t^T)), \quad (3)$$

$$y'_t^T = \begin{cases} \hat{y}'_t^T, & \text{if } \text{conf}(f_{\theta_0}(x_t^T)) \geq p_{th} \\ \tilde{y}'_t^T, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

(3) Stochastic Restoration

$$M \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p), \quad (7)$$

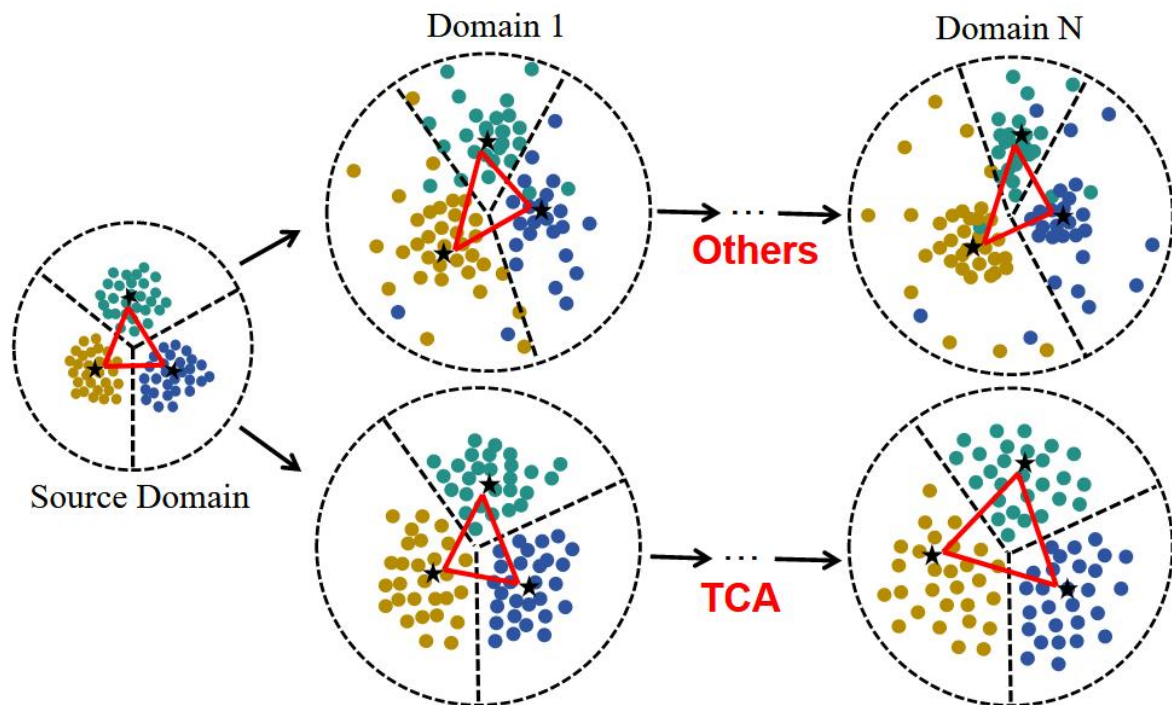
$$W_{t+1} = M \odot W_0 + (1 - M) \odot W_{t+1}, \quad (8)$$

➤ 挑战

误差的累积，这是由模型对未标记数据的**不稳定预测**产生的**错误伪标签**引起的。

➤ 根本原因

- **类间拓扑结构被破坏**：源域中学习的类间稳定拓扑结构被破坏，不同类别之间的特征分布不再保持原有的间隔与关系。
- **类内分布的均匀性变差**：类内特征分布的均匀性恶化，导致分类边界越来越模糊，同一类别的特征越来越散乱。



➤ 创新点

- (1) **类间关系**：引入了类间均匀性损失，使用类质心来防止连续域移位期间的拓扑崩溃。
- (2) **类内关系**：确保类内特征的合理紧凑性，间接支持类间稳定性。
- (3) **批不平衡拓扑加权**：该加权考虑了每个批内的类分布不平衡，进一步优化了质心距离，并确保了类间拓扑的稳定性。

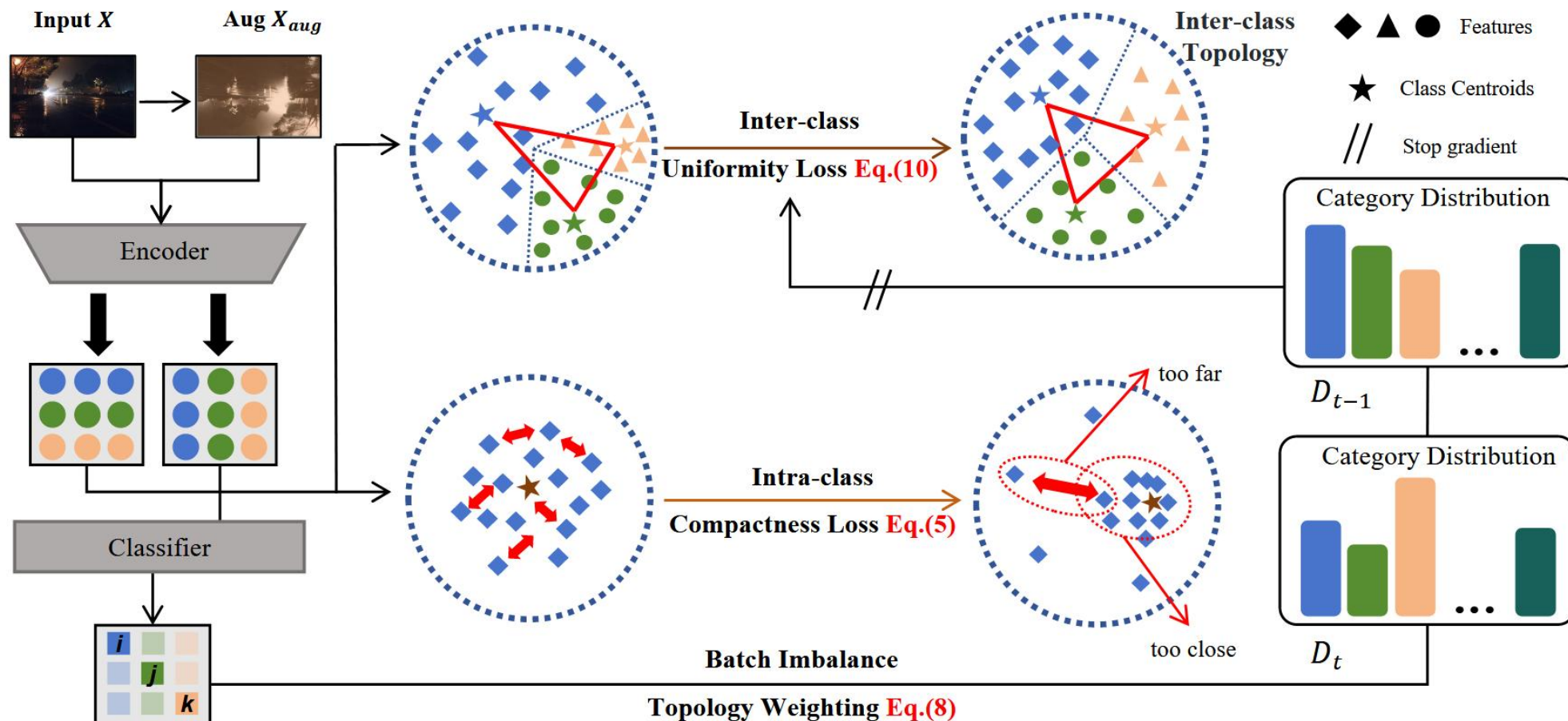


Figure 2. Framework overview. TCA first enhances the uniformity of inter-class feature distribution by leveraging improved pseudo-label prediction to **compute pseudo-centroid proxies**, thereby promoting inter-class feature alignment. Next, TCA ensures a compact **intra-class feature distribution**, mitigating imbalances within class representations. Finally, TCA dynamically **adjusts the weights of inter-class centroids based** on historical prediction distributions, preserving the latent topological relationships between classes.

➤ 类间拓扑图的构造

类拓扑关系是指特征空间内不同类之间的相对位置和距离。

将**类质心**作为类的代理、**质心的距离**作为类间的代理，构建类间拓扑图。

类间拓扑图定义：

$G = \langle V, E \rangle$

质心集合： $V = \{v_1, v_2, v_3, \dots, v_k\}$

质心间的邻域关系边： $E = \{(v_i, v_j) \mid w_{ij} = \|v_i - v_j\|_2\}$

权重 w_{ij} ：质心 v_i 和 v_j 之间的L2距离

$$\hat{y}_i = \operatorname{argmax}(g_s(\operatorname{Aug}(x_i))), \quad (1)$$

$$\mathbf{v}_k^{(t)} = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{I}_k|} \sum_{i=1}^B \mathbb{I}(\hat{y}_i = k) \cdot f_s(\operatorname{Aug}(x_i)), \quad (2)$$

$$\mathbf{v}_k^{(t)} = \alpha \cdot \mathbf{v}_k^{(t-1)} + (1 - \alpha) \cdot \mathbf{v}_k, \quad (3)$$

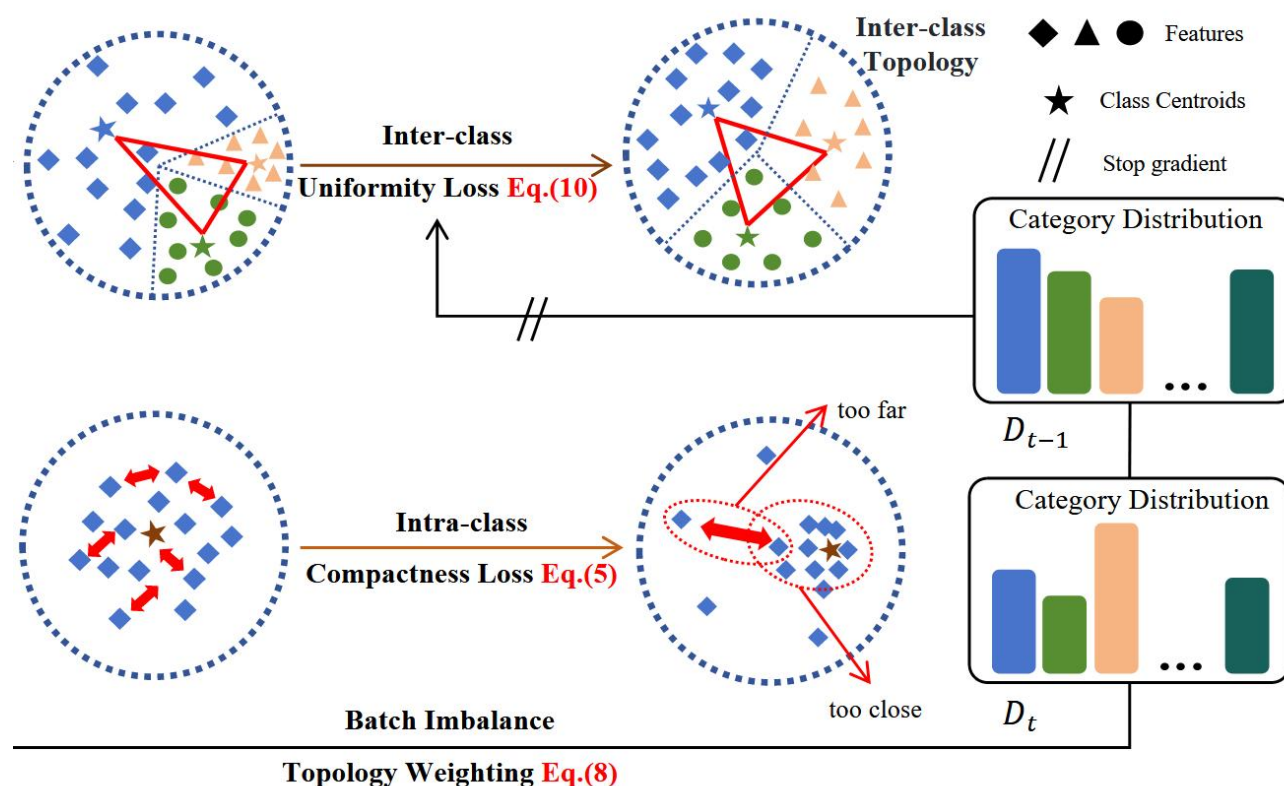
好处： 确保在不同批处理大小和不平衡数据分布之间保持稳定的类间拓扑，在某些类缺失时利用历史信息。

Methods



➤ 类拓扑一致性约束

目标：缓解域偏移造成的拓扑结构破坏，避免类间分离度下降和类内混乱，从而防止伪标签失准与后续的误差累积。



①类内聚合

同一类别内的特征分布更紧凑、均匀

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{intra}} = \log \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{v}_k \in \mathcal{V}} \left[e^{-t \mathbb{E}_{z_i, z_j \sim \mathbf{v}_k} (\|z_i - z_j\|^2)} \right], \quad (5)$$

参数含义

$\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{v}_k \in \mathcal{V}}$: 对数据集中的每一个 \mathbf{v}_k 取期望

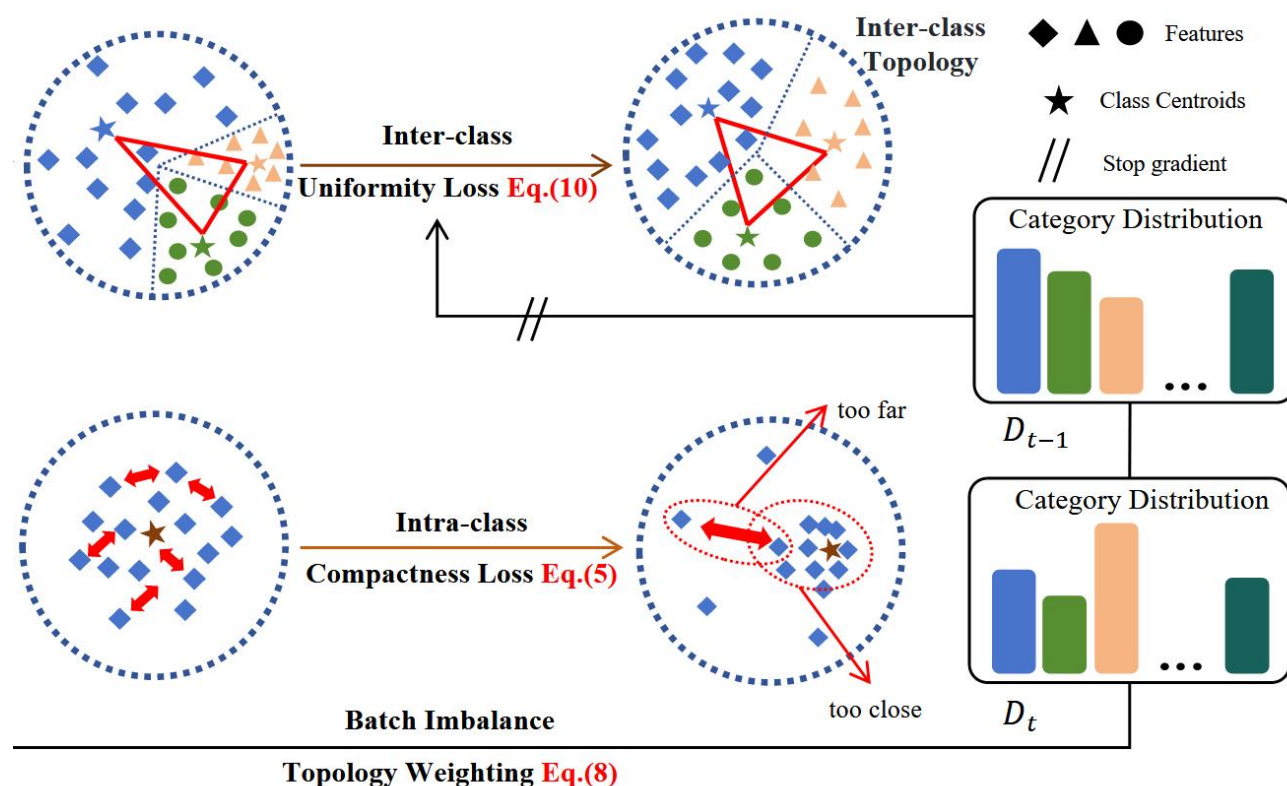
$\|z_i - z_j\|^2$: 两个特征向量的欧氏距离平方

t : 固定超参数,用于调节距离对损失的影响强度

$\mathbb{E}_{z_i, z_j \sim \mathbf{v}_k} (\|z_i - z_j\|^2)$: 对同一类别 \mathbf{v}_k 内的所有特征对, 计算他们的距离平方期望

➤ 类拓扑一致性约束

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②类间均匀

最小化不同类别中心对距离的平均指数衰减，促使类别中心均匀分布

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{inter}} = \log \left(\frac{2}{|\mathcal{V}|(|\mathcal{V}| - 1)} \sum_{\mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{v}_j \in \mathcal{V}, i < j} e^{-tw_{ij}^2} \right), \quad (4)$$

参数含义

$|\mathcal{V}|$: 类别数量

$\sum_{\mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{v}_j \in \mathcal{V}, i < j} e^{-tw_{ij}^2}$: 不同类别中心对的高斯势 (指数衰减项)

锐化类边界，稳定拓扑权重，提升质心精度，提高拓扑顶点的精度

➤ 批量不平衡拓扑加权

问题：未考虑实际测试场景中存在的**类间分布批次不平衡问题**（不同批次类别及样本量存在差异），无标签情况下这种不平衡会逐渐破坏类间拓扑结构。

解决办法：把类间拓扑距离和模型输出的类别频率结合起来，用于动态调整拓扑图中各边的权重。

①计算当前 batch 的类别频率 μ_k

$$\mu_k = \frac{\sqrt{|\mathcal{I}_k|}}{\sum_{k=1}^C \left(\sqrt{|\mathcal{I}_k|} + \epsilon \right)}, \quad (7)$$

②计算类间边权 μ_{ij}

$$\mu_{ij} = \frac{\mu_i + \mu_j}{2}. \quad (8)$$

③EMA 更新，保留历史信息

$$\mu_{ij}^{(t)} = \beta \mu_{ij}^{(t-1)} + (1 - \beta) \mu_{ij}. \quad (9)$$

④将 BTW 融入类间一致性损失

$$\mathcal{L}'_{\text{inter}} = \log \left(\frac{\sum_{\mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{v}_j \in \mathcal{V}, i < j} \mu_{ij} \cdot e^{-tw_{ij}^2}}{\sum_{\mathbf{v}_i, \mathbf{v}_j \in \mathcal{V}, i < j} \mu_{ij}} \right). \quad (10)$$

极端情况

batch=1, BTW仍然可以计算，类间边权不崩溃；

当前batch只有一个类别，类别边权自动反映类别缺失，拓扑结构可维持

➤ 损失函数

对称交叉熵损失函数：

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{SCE}} = - \sum_{c=1}^C g_t(x) \log g_s(x) - \sum_{c=1}^C g_s(x) \log g_t(x).$$

对齐损失函数： $\mathcal{L}_{\text{align}}(f; \alpha) \triangleq -\mathbb{E}_{(x,y) \sim p_{\text{pos}}} [\|f(x) - f(y)\|_2^2]$,

让“正样本对”的特征尽可能对齐

拓扑损失函数： $\mathcal{L}_{\text{topology}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{inter}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{intra}}$.

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SCE}} + \lambda_1 \cdot \mathcal{L}_{\text{align}} + \lambda_2 \cdot \mathcal{L}_{\text{topology}}.$$

Algorithm 1 Topological Consistency Adaptation (TCA).

Input: Pre-trained model $g = f \circ h$, self-training loss \mathcal{L}_{SCE} , Alignment Loss weight λ_1 , Uniformity Loss weight λ_2 .

```
1: for Batch data  $\mathcal{X}$  do
2:   Augment  $\mathcal{X}$  to construct the class topological graph  $\mathcal{G}$  using Eq. (3)
3:   if First Batch then
4:     Compute inter-class uniformity  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{inter}}$  via Eq. (4)
5:     Compute intra-class compactness  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{intra}}$  via Eq. (5)
6:     return  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{topology}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{inter}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{intra}}$ 
7:   else
8:     Compute category weights  $\mu_{ij}$  via Eq. (8)
9:     Update  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{inter}}$  to  $\mathcal{L}'_{\text{inter}}$  via Eq. (10)
10:    return  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{topology}} = \mathcal{L}'_{\text{inter}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{intra}}$ 
11:  end if
12:  Compute  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SCE}} + \lambda_1 \cdot \mathcal{L}_{\text{align}} + \lambda_2 \cdot \mathcal{L}_{\text{topology}}$ 
13:  Model  $g$  is updated using  $\mathcal{L}$ 
14: end for
```

Experiments



	Method	Gau.	shot	imp.	def.	glass	mot.	zoom	snow	fro.	fog	bri.	con.	ela.	pix.	jpeg	Mean
CIFAR10-C	Source only	72.3	65.7	72.9	46.9	54.3	34.8	42.0	25.1	41.3	26.0	9.3	46.7	26.6	58.5	30.3	43.5
	TENT [34]	24.8	20.6	28.6	14.4	31.1	16.5	14.1	19.1	18.6	18.6	12.2	20.3	25.7	20.8	24.9	20.7
	Ada [5]	29.1	22.5	30.0	14.0	32.7	14.1	12.0	16.6	14.9	14.4	8.1	10.0	21.9	17.7	20.0	18.5
	CoTTA [35]	24.3	21.3	26.6	11.6	27.6	12.2	10.3	14.8	14.1	12.4	7.6	10.6	18.3	13.4	17.3	16.2
	RMT [8]	24.0	20.4	25.6	12.6	25.4	14.2	12.2	15.4	15.1	14.1	10.3	13.7	17.1	13.5	16.0	16.7
	DSS [38]	24.1	21.3	25.4	11.7	26.9	12.2	10.5	14.5	14.1	12.5	7.8	10.8	18.0	13.1	17.3	16.0
	BeCoTTA [17]	22.9	19.1	26.9	10.2	27.5	12.7	10.4	14.7	14.3	12.4	7.2	9.4	20.9	15.2	20.2	16.3
	TCA	22.4	19.2	23.0	10.8	23.2	11.6	9.9	13.1	13.1	11.8	7.6	10.7	16.4	12.0	15.5	14.7
CIFAR100-C	Source only	73.0	68.0	39.4	29.3	54.1	30.8	28.8	39.5	45.8	50.3	29.5	55.1	37.2	74.7	41.2	46.4
	TENT [34]	37.2	35.8	41.7	37.9	51.2	48.3	48.5	58.4	63.7	71.1	70.4	82.3	88.0	88.5	90.4	60.9
	Ada [5]	42.3	36.8	38.6	27.7	40.1	29.1	27.5	32.9	30.7	38.2	25.9	28.3	33.9	33.3	36.2	33.4
	CoTTA [35]	40.1	37.7	39.7	26.9	38.0	27.9	26.4	32.8	31.8	40.3	24.7	26.9	32.5	28.3	33.5	32.5
	RMT [8]	40.5	36.1	36.3	27.7	33.9	28.5	26.4	29.0	29.0	32.5	25.1	27.4	28.2	26.3	29.3	30.4
	DSS [38]	39.7	36.0	37.2	26.3	35.6	27.5	25.2	31.4	30.0	37.8	24.2	26.0	30.0	26.3	31.3	30.9
	BeCoTTA [17]	42.1	38.0	42.2	30.2	42.9	31.7	29.8	35.1	33.9	38.5	27.9	32.0	36.7	31.6	39.9	35.5
	TCA	38.5	36.0	36.6	25.8	34.6	27.2	25.1	30.5	27.0	30.1	24.1	25.7	27.3	26.6	30.3	29.7
ImageNet-C	Source only	97.8	97.1	98.2	81.7	89.8	85.2	78.0	83.5	77.1	75.9	41.3	94.5	82.5	79.3	68.6	82.0
	TENT [34]	81.6	74.6	72.7	77.6	73.8	65.5	55.3	61.6	63.0	51.7	38.2	72.1	50.8	47.4	53.3	62.6
	Ada [5]	82.9	80.9	78.4	81.4	78.7	72.9	64.0	63.5	64.5	53.5	38.4	66.7	54.6	49.4	53.0	65.5
	CoTTA [35]	84.7	82.1	80.6	81.3	79.0	68.6	57.5	60.3	60.5	48.3	36.6	66.1	47.3	41.2	46.0	62.7
	RMT [8]	80.2	76.4	74.5	77.1	74.4	66.2	57.6	57.0	59.1	48.0	39.1	60.6	47.3	42.5	43.4	60.2
	DSS [38]	82.3	78.4	76.7	81.9	77.8	66.9	60.9	50.8	60.9	47.7	35.4	69.0	47.5	40.9	46.2	62.2
	BeCoTTA [17]	84.1	74.3	72.2	77.4	71.9	63.4	55.1	57.2	61.2	50.7	36.4	66.1	49.2	45.6	48.4	60.9
	TCA	78.3	71.8	73.5	74.4	73.5	63.3	56.5	56.9	59.4	48.1	39.6	59.6	47.2	42.9	44.7	59.3

Table 1. Classification error rate (%) on CIFAR10-to-CIFAR10-C, CIFAR100-to-CIFAR100-C, and ImageNet-to-ImageNet-C. All results are evaluated with the largest corruption severity level 5 in an online manner. We report the performance of our method averaged over 5 runs. Bold text indicates the best.

Experiments



CCC数据集：以从一个域到另一个域的平滑过渡为特征，模仿现实中环境的变化。

Method	CCC-Easy	CCC-Medium	CCC-Hard	Average
CoTTA [35]	14.9±0.88	7.7±0.43	1.1±0.16	7.9
ETA [26]	41.4±0.95	1.1±0.43	0.2±0.05	14.2
EATA [26]	48.2±0.60	35.4±1.02	8.7±0.80	30.8
SANTA [4]	47.8±0.46	32.7±0.80	9.1±0.60	29.9
RDumb [27]	49.3±0.88	38.9±1.40	9.6±1.60	32.6
TCA	49.1±0.35	39.5±0.53	10.1±0.22	32.9

小批量数据集的测试效果

	Batchsize	CIFAR10-C	CIFAR100-C	ImageNet-C
CoTTA	1	81.6	85.3	91.2
	50	18.1	38.5	65.3
	100	16.8	35.2	64.9
TCA	1	61.5	66.2	75.4
	50	15.2	32.6	65.2
	100	14.9	30.2	61.4
	150	14.8	30.1	60.1
	200	14.7	29.7	59.3
	300	14.8	29.8	59.4

消融实验

BTW	\mathcal{L}_{intra}	\mathcal{L}_{inter}	\mathcal{L}_{align}	CIFAR10-C	CIFAR100-C	ImageNet-C
-	-	-	-	16.05	32.11	63.14
-	-	-	✓	15.92	31.66	62.83
-	-	✓	-	15.57	31.38	62.08
-	✓	-	-	15.68	31.44	62.41
-	✓	✓	-	15.41	31.01	60.95
✓	✓	✓	-	14.85	29.83	59.51
✓	✓	✓	✓	14.70	29.72	59.31

Table 4. Ablation studies on four components (BTW, \mathcal{L}_{intra} , \mathcal{L}_{inter} , \mathcal{L}_{align}) across CIFAR10-C, CIFAR100-C, and ImageNet-C datasets.

Experiments



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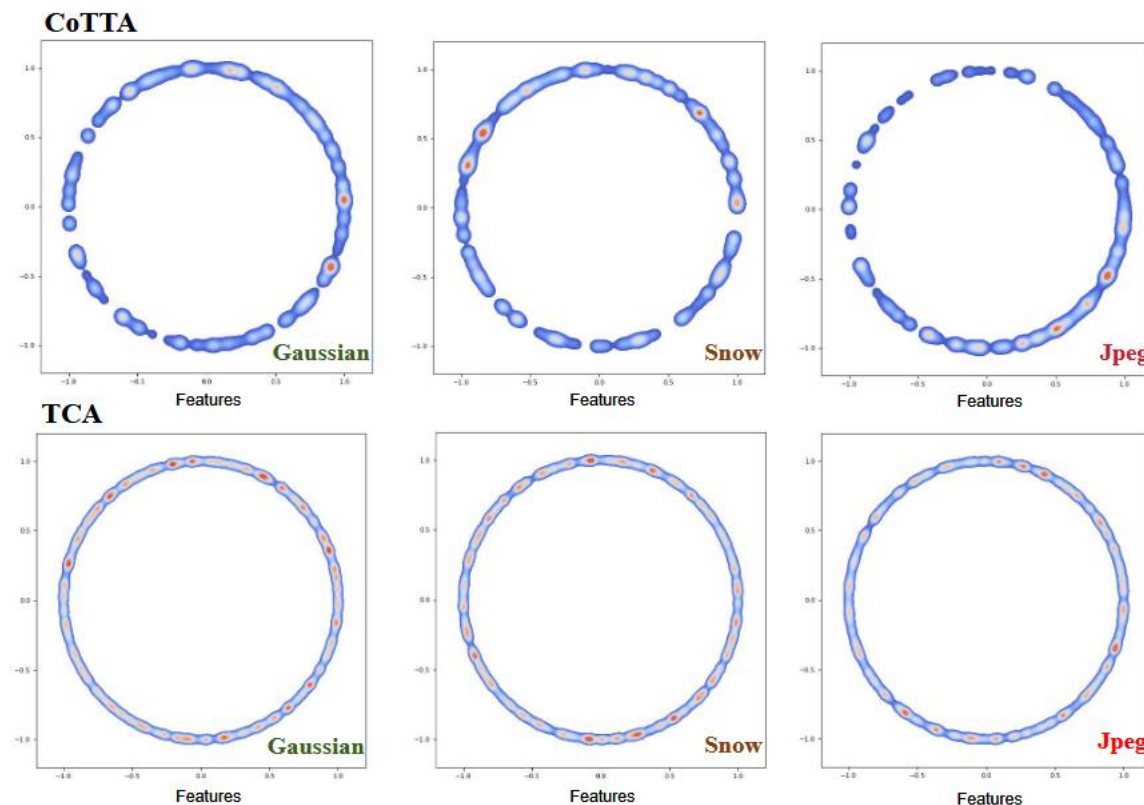


Figure 3. Feature visualizations from ten randomly selected batches of CIFAR10-C under three noise distributions: Gaussian, Snow, and JPEG. The upper panel illustrates the results of CoTTA, while the lower panel showcases those of TCA.

Inter-class Uniformity

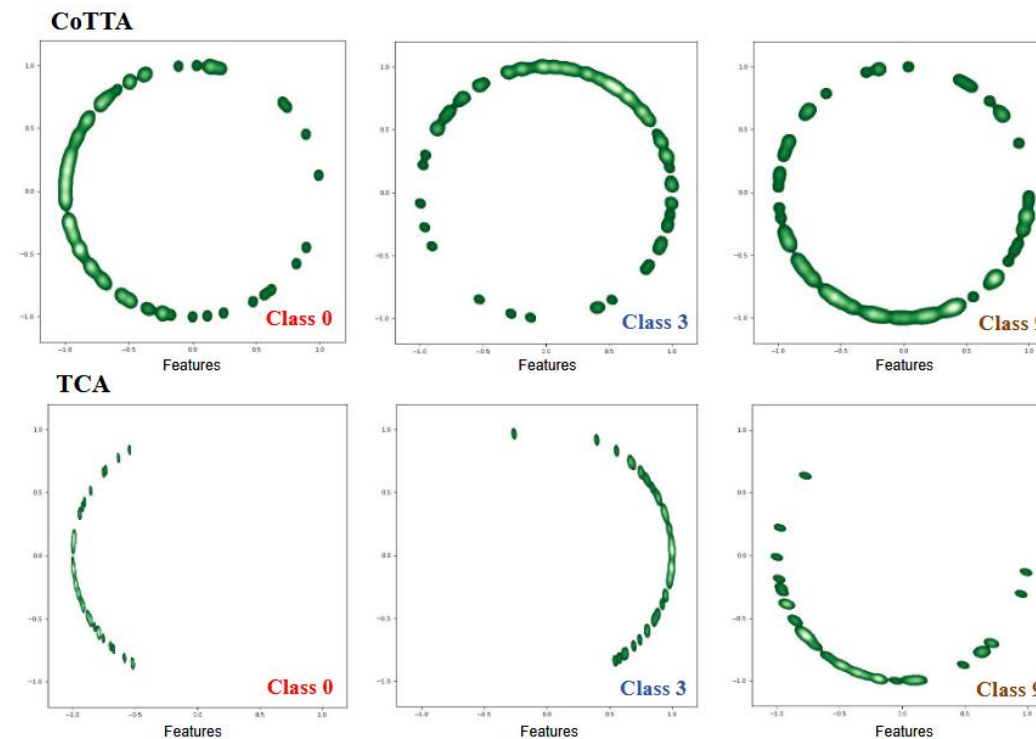


Figure 4. Visualization of intra-class feature distribution in CIFAR-10 under elastic noise conditions involved selecting class 0, class 3, and class 6 (from left to right) and randomly visualizing 10 batches for each. The upper figure illustrates CoTTA, whereas the lower figure depicts TCA.

Intra-class Uniformity



Thanks