

Adversarial Bayesian Augmentation for Single-Source Domain Generalization

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Abstract

Generalizing to unseen image domains is a challenging problem primarily due to the lack of diverse training data, inaccessible target data, and the large domain shift that may exist in many real-world settings. As such data augmentation is a critical component of domain generalization methods that seek to address this problem. We present Adversarial Bayesian Augmentation (ABA), a novel algorithm that learns to generate image augmentations in the challenging single-source domain generalization setting. ABA draws on the strengths of adversarial learning and Bayesian neural networks to guide the generation of diverse data augmentations – these synthesized image domains aid the classifier in generalizing to unseen domains. We demonstrate the strength of ABA on style shift. ABA outperforms all previous state-of-the-art methods, including pre-specified augmentations, pixel-based and convolutional-based augmentations. Full paper: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2307.09520>. Code: <https://github.com/shengcheng/ABA>.

1. Introduction

Improving the generalization of deep neural networks to out-of-distribution samples is a fundamental yet challenging problem in machine learning and computer vision [21, 10, 15]. Typically, neural networks are trained and tested on data samples from the same distribution (under the *i.i.d.* assumption); under this setting, image classifiers have achieved impressive performances. However, in real-world applications, the distribution of test samples can drastically differ from the training samples [20, 17]. This is especially problematic when the process of acquiring labeled samples from the target test domain is expensive or infeasible, making it difficult to apply semi-supervised learning for domain adaptation [26, 25]. Therefore, there is a need to develop techniques that enable deep neural networks to capture the domain-invariant patterns in the data [15, 23], facilitating improved generalization to out-of-distribution samples.

In the multi-source domain generalization (MSDG) set-

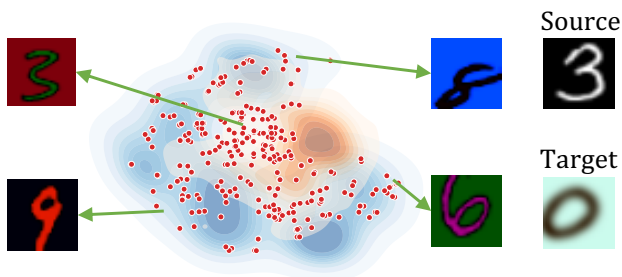


Figure 1: An illustration of the diversity introduced by Adversarial Bayesian Augmentations. The blue and orange surfaces represent the source (seen) and target (unseen) domains respectively. The red dots represent the samples augmented by ABA; these augmentations expose the classifier to regions closer to the target domain, thereby improving image classifiers’ generalization to unseen domains.

ting, where there are multiple source domains for training, domain label information can be leveraged to learn the domain shift [15, 4, 23]. Prior information about the target domain is also useful to design specific data augmentation methods to tackle domain shift. However, in the single-source domain generalization (SSDG) setting, where only one domain is available for training, it is more challenging to address the domain shift issue. In this paper, we focus on the strict SSDG setting, where only one source domain is available for training and no prior knowledge is available about the target domain. Recent work in SSDG focuses on augmenting the data to simulate the presence of out-of-distribution domains. One way involves learning-free data augmentation methods, such as RandConv [24], Augmix [9] and JiGen [1] – here the data augmentation is pre-specified and does not evolve or adapt during training. Another approach is based on adversarial perturbations, which involves generating adversarial samples to improve generalization, such as Augmax [22], ADA [20], M-ADA [18], and ALT [7]. Although the Bayesian neural networks as the backbone of the classifier show good generalization ability

to out-of-distribution samples intrinsically [14, 23, 2], and some papers [19] use Bayesian neural networks for generating images, none of the work directly augments the data by Bayesian neural network for domain generalization.

In this paper, we present a novel approach called Adversarial Bayesian Augmentation, dubbed *ABA*, which draws on the strengths of adversarial learning and Bayesian neural networks to generate more diverse data and improve generalization on different domains. Specifically, the adversarial learning-based methods, which explore a wider augmentation space, already outperforms learning-free methods [7, 22] on SSDG. The introduction of weight uncertainty by the Bayesian neural network further enhances the strength of data augmentation, as shown in Figure 1. Our experimental results demonstrate ABA’s superior performance compared to existing methods.

The key contributions and findings of the paper thus are:

- We introduce a novel data augmentation method, dubbed ABA, which combines adversarial learning and Bayesian neural network, to improve the diversity of training data for single-source domain generalization setting.
- We empirically validate the effectiveness of our proposed method on style generalization. Our method outperforms all existing state-of-art methods.

2. Proposed Method

Let \mathcal{S} and \mathcal{T} represent the source and target domains respectively, which share the same label space. The training set is a subset in the source domain and contains N training pairs, denoted as $\{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^N \subset \mathcal{S}$. The objective of SSDG is to use \mathcal{S} to learn parameters θ of a classifier f which also can generalize well to target domain \mathcal{T} .

2.1. Adversarial Bayesian Augmentation

To accomplish SSDG, since no information is available from the target domain \mathcal{T} , previous works focus on data augmentation, denoted as g . In this paper, we design g as a L -layer Bayesian convolutional neural network, parameterized by $\Phi = \{\phi_l\}_{l=1}^L$, where $\phi_l \in \mathbb{R}^{k_l \times k_l \times C_{in(l)} \times C_{out(l)}}$ are the parameters of each Bayesian convolutional layer. Following the setting in [24], we randomly sample k_l from $\mathcal{K} = \{1, 3, \dots, n\}$. $C_{in(l)}$ and $C_{out(l)}$ represent the number of input and output channels for each layer convolutional kernel. Since g is an image augmentation function, the number of input channels for the first and last layer are equal to the number of image channels (3 for color images and 1 for grayscale images).

To perform Bayesian inference, we need to estimate the posterior distribution $p(\phi_l|x, y)$, which is intractable in closed form. To approximate it, we adopt the variational Bayesian inference approach and use a variational distribution $q(\phi_l)$. This distribution is obtained by minimizing the KL divergence between $q(\phi_l)$ and true posterior distribution

Algorithm 1: Learning with Adversarial Bayesian Augmentation (ABA)

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Input :  $\{x_i, y_i\}_{i=1}^N$ 
Output : Classifier  $f$  parameters  $\theta^*$ 
1 for  $t \leftarrow 1$  to  $T$  do
2   if  $t < T_{warmup}$  then
3      $\theta \leftarrow \theta - \gamma \nabla \mathcal{L}_{cls}$ 
4   else
5     /* Training ABA */
6      $\Phi \leftarrow \Phi_0$ 
7     for  $m \leftarrow 1$  to  $T_{adv}$  do
8        $y_g = f(g(x, \Phi), \theta)$ 
9        $\Phi \leftarrow \Phi - \eta \nabla \mathcal{L}_{ELBO}$  // See (1)
10    end for
11    /* Train classifier */
12     $\Phi \leftarrow \mu + \sigma \odot \epsilon$  // Sample parameters
13     $\theta \leftarrow \theta - \gamma \nabla (\mathcal{L}_{cls} + \alpha \mathcal{L}_{KL})$  // See (2), (3)
14  end if
15 end for
16 Return  $\theta$ 

```

$p(\phi_l|x, y)$. To enable efficient sampling of the variational distribution, we re-parameterize as $\phi_l = \mu_l + \sigma_l \epsilon_l$, where ϵ_l is a sample from the standard normal distribution, which allows us to compute the gradients of μ_l and σ_l . We denote $\mu = \{\mu_l\}_{l=1}^L$ and $\sigma = \{\sigma_l\}_{l=1}^L$. So $\Phi = \{\mu, \sigma\}$.

The optimization of ABA is formulated as a min-max problem. Initially, we optimize the g network using adversarial optimization to augment images that can fool the classifier f . To achieve this, we use the evidence lower bound (ELBO) of the variational Bayesian network as the loss function. ELBO is a lower bound on the log marginal likelihood of the observed data and is defined as follows:

$$\mathcal{L}_{ELBO} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{E}_{g \sim q(\Phi)} [\log(y_i | g(x_i), \theta)] - \beta \sum_{l=1}^L \text{KL}(q(\phi_l) || p(\phi_l)), \quad (1)$$

where the prior distribution $p(\phi_l)$ of each layer follows $\mathcal{N}(0, \frac{1}{k_l \times k_l \times C_{in(l)}})$, which is used in network initialization [8]. Theoretically, the coefficient β for the KL term should be 1. However, in practice, for small datasets or large models, smaller β ($0 < \beta < 1$) is preferred [13].

Starting from a random initialization, the parameters of g are iteratively updated by maximizing the negative of ELBO. In contrast to adv-BNN [13], which constrains the adversarial samples bounded by ℓ_p norm, we control the strength of adversarial samples by adjusting the learning rate η and the number of adversarial steps T_{adv} . The final augmented images x_g are obtained through Bayesian inference using the optimized parameters Φ^* and clamped to the

Method	MNIST-10K	MNIST-M	SVHN	USPS	SYNTH	Target Avg.
ERM	98.40 (0.84)	58.87 (3.73)	33.41 (5.28)	79.27 (2.70)	42.43 (5.46)	53.50 (4.23)
ADA	N/A	60.41	35.51	77.26	45.32	54.62
M-ADA	99.30	67.94	42.55	78.53	48.95	59.49
ESDA	99.30 (0.10)	81.60 (1.60)	48.90 (5.20)	84.00 (1.20)	62.20 (1.30)	69.12 (2.33)
AdvBNN	98.23 (0.08)	71.79 (0.69)	44.85 (0.55)	46.05 (0.53)	44.99 (0.54)	51.92 (0.51)
Augmix	98.53 (0.18)	53.36 (1.59)	25.96 (0.80)	96.12 (0.72)	42.90 (0.60)	54.59 (0.50)
<i>1-layer convolutional-based augmentations</i>						
RandConv	98.85 (0.04)	87.76 (0.83)	57.62 (2.09)	83.36 (0.96)	62.88 (0.78)	72.88 (0.58)
ALT ₁ -layer	98.41 (0.15)	72.80 (2.06)	47.07 (1.88)	94.79 (0.88)	66.27 (1.56)	70.23 (1.22)
ALT ₁ -layer+RandConv	98.54 (0.10)	75.77 (1.51)	49.90 (1.62)	95.64 (0.62)	68.61 (1.75)	72.47 (1.18)
ABA ₁ -layer	98.82 (0.09)	78.81 (1.64)	51.88 (1.93)	96.22 (0.26)	71.25 (1.27)	74.57 (0.52)
ABA ₁ -layer+RandConv	98.78 (0.09)	78.62 (0.92)	52.04 (1.13)	96.16 (0.16)	71.23 (0.93)	74.51 (0.70)
<i>3-layer convolutional-based augmentations</i>						
ABA ₃ -layers	98.73 (0.10)	80.94 (0.39)	55.88 (0.70)	96.34 (0.54)	73.09 (0.34)	76.56 (0.06)
ABA ₃ -layers+RandConv	98.67 (0.11)	80.05 (0.81)	56.87 (1.05)	96.55 (0.34)	73.40 (0.19)	76.72 (0.41)
<i>5-layer convolutional-based augmentations</i>						
ALT ₅ -layer	98.46 (0.27)	74.28 (1.36)	52.25 (1.54)	94.99 (0.68)	68.44 (0.98)	72.49 (0.87)
ALT ₅ -layer+RandConv	98.46 (0.25)	76.90 (1.42)	53.78 (1.97)	95.40 (0.72)	69.40 (1.07)	73.87 (1.03)
ALT ₅ -layer+Augmix	98.55 (0.11)	75.98 (0.89)	55.01 (1.34)	96.17 (0.45)	68.93 (2.17)	74.38 (0.86)
ABA ₅ -layer	98.78 (0.06)	80.54 (0.53)	52.45 (1.21)	95.81 (0.47)	70.25 (1.21)	74.76 (0.52)
ABA ₅ -layer+RandConv	98.76 (0.12)	79.69 (0.35)	54.09 (1.27)	96.42 (0.35)	71.55 (0.96)	75.44 (0.61)
ABA ₅ -layer+Augmix	98.66 (0.16)	80.24 (0.51)	56.43 (0.59)	96.14 (0.64)	70.91 (0.83)	75.93 (0.60)

Table 1: **SSDG accuracy on Digits dataset.** The source domain is MNIST-10K. The target domains are MNIST-M, SVHN, USPS, SYNTH. We report the mean (and standard deviation) of 5 runs.

Method	Photo	Cartoon	Art	Sketch	Avg.
ERM	38.93	70.00	68.83	39.36	54.28
JiGen	41.70	72.23	67.70	36.83	54.61
SagNet	48.53	75.66	73.20	50.06	61.86
ADA	44.63	71.96	72.43	45.73	58.68
AdvBNN	45.93 (0.41)	60.24 (0.95)	75.33 (0.95)	26.19 (1.23)	51.92 (1.15)
Augmix	45.24 (1.12)	74.66 (1.09)	71.47 (0.64)	47.72 (1.72)	60.51 (1.14)
<i>1-layer convolutional-based augmentations</i>					
RandConv	49.80 (4.23)	67.90 (1.55)	69.63 (2.15)	54.06 (1.96)	60.34 (2.47)
ALT ₁ -layer	50.83 (2.13)	75.00 (0.62)	73.87 (1.31)	47.83 (1.95)	61.88 (1.50)
ALT ₁ -layer+RandConv	52.24 (0.82)	75.16 (0.67)	73.46 (1.29)	49.21 (2.14)	62.51 (1.23)
ABA ₁ -layer	54.49 (1.35)	75.61 (0.89)	75.59 (1.56)	52.84 (2.80)	64.63 (1.65)
ABA ₁ -layer+RandConv	52.32 (1.82)	76.01 (0.56)	75.77 (1.64)	50.20 (1.93)	63.58 (1.49)
<i>3-layer convolutional-based augmentations</i>					
ABA ₃ -layers	58.86 (0.83)	77.49 (0.57)	75.34 (0.89)	53.76 (2.46)	66.36 (1.19)
ABA ₃ -layers+RandConv	56.95 (0.80)	77.21 (0.85)	75.34 (0.52)	53.52 (0.90)	65.76 (0.15)
<i>5-layer convolutional-based augmentations</i>					
ALT ₅ -layer	54.33 (1.08)	75.96 (1.12)	74.06 (1.09)	50.03 (2.41)	63.60 (1.43)
ALT ₅ -layer+RandConv	55.66 (0.50)	76.23 (0.80)	73.96 (0.54)	50.86 (0.79)	64.18 (0.66)
ALT ₅ -layer+Augmix	55.09 (1.87)	77.36 (0.73)	75.69 (1.21)	50.72 (1.41)	64.72 (1.30)
ABA ₅ -layer	59.04 (1.43)	77.16 (0.35)	74.71 (0.76)	53.18 (2.07)	66.02 (1.15)
ABA ₅ -layer+RandConv	57.59 (1.26)	76.66 (0.24)	75.61 (1.02)	54.12 (1.33)	66.00 (0.96)
ABA ₅ -layer+Augmix	57.87 (0.22)	77.29 (0.78)	74.70 (0.96)	52.35 (0.03)	65.55 (0.49)

Table 2: **SSDG accuracy on PACS.** Each column is the average accuracy on the target domains trained on the given source domain. We report the mean (and standard deviation) of 5 runs. More details about the accuracy of the source domain to each target domain are in the Appendix.

image range. Note that we can sample multiple augmented images from Bayesian inference, and we sample twice denoted as x_{g_1} and x_{g_2} . These augmented images can be used for classifier learning in the presence of domain shift.

Next, we optimize the classifier f with a loss function consisting of two terms: a cross-entropy loss, which is

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{cls}} = \text{CrossEntropy}(f(x_{g_1}, \theta), y), \quad (2)$$

and a consistency regularization loss, which helps to keep the prediction consistent on augmented data, defined as:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{KL}} = \text{KL}(p_c || \bar{p}) + \text{KL}(p_{g_1} || \bar{p}) + \text{KL}(p_{g_2} || \bar{p}), \quad (3)$$

where p_c, p_{g_1}, p_{g_2} denotes the softmax prediction of f on clean image x and augmented images x_{g_1}, x_{g_2} respectively. \bar{p} is the average of p_c, p_{g_1} , and p_{g_2} .



Figure 2: Qualitative comparison of PACS images augmented by RandConv, ALT and our ABA.

Implementation. Algorithm 1 depicts the implementation details. For network design, the activation of multiple layers ABA is LeakyRelu. The second augmented image x_{g_2} can be obtained not only through Bayesian inference, but also obtained from other data augmentation techniques, such as RandConv [24], Augmix [9]. We train the classifier for a total of T iterations. At first T_{warmup} iterations, we train the classifier without any data augmentation methods. After T_{warmup} , for each iteration, we randomly initialize the g and update its parameters by adversarial Bayesian training. The learning rate of adversarial learning is η . After T_{adv} steps learning, we sample the augmented images via Bayesian inference and clamp them to the image range. We then use the augmented images, along with the clean image, to train the classifier f using the classification loss and consistency regularization. The learning rate of the classifier is γ and the weight of consistency regularization is α . The implementation details of each dataset are in Appendix.

3. Experiments

In this section, we validate our method on two popular style-shift benchmark datasets: (1) **Digits** is composed of digit images from MNIST-10K [11], MNIST-M [6], SVHN [16], USPS [3], SYNTH [5]. Following the setting in [20], MNIST-10K is the source domain containing 10,000 images from MNIST, and the other four datasets are target domains. (2) **PACS** [12] consists of images from four domains: photo, art painting, sketch, and cartoon, and 7 classes. We select one domain as the source domain and the other three as the target domains.

We compare our approach against several state-of-the-art methods ¹ using seven variants. For fair comparison

¹In Tabs. 1 and 2 we highlight the previous best model in gray, variants

with RandConv [24], we use $ABA_{1\text{-layer}}$, *i.e.* ABA with a 1-layer Bayesian convolutional neural network. To match the number of convolutional layers in ALT [7], we use $ABA_{5\text{-layer}}$, *i.e.* ABA with a 5-layer Bayesian convolutional neural network. In the variants $ABA_{5\text{-layer}+RandConv}$ and $ABA_{5\text{-layer}+Augmix}$, the second augmented image is generated by RandConv or Augmix instead of Bayesian inference.

Results.

For Digits dataset, Table 1 shows that pixel-level adversarial perturbation methods such as ADA and M-ADA, and the composition of image augmentation method like Augmix, only marginally improve SSDG performance, while AdvBNN even downgrades the performance. However, convolutional-based augmentations, even with just one layer, can significantly enhance performance. Among the 1-layer convolutional augmentations, ALT do not perform better than RandConv. However, our 1-layer ABA outperforms both. A 5-layer ABA performs better than 1-layer ABA and adding a RandConv or Augmix module can further improve performance. We achieve state-of-art results by 3-layer ABA with RandConv to 76.72%.

Our experiments on the PACS dataset are summarized in Table 2. As PACS contains images with different styles, methods such as SagNet and RandConv that preserve shape and texture information can improve performance. In comparison, JiGen and ADA only marginally improve accuracy, while AdvBNN downgrades the performance. Similarly to the Digits dataset, leveraging convolutional-based augmentations provides significant performance improvements, with four variants of ALT performing better than other baseline models. However, our proposed ABA method outperforms ALT on both 1-layer and 5-layer cases. The addition of RandConv or Augmix modules does not yield further performance improvement, but it still outperforms the corresponding ALT models, respectively. We achieve the state-of-art results by 3-layer ABA, with an accuracy of 66.36%. We show the qualitative results of augmented images by RandConv, ALT and ABA in Figure 2.

4. Conclusion

In this paper, we demonstrate how adversarial learning combined with Bayesian convolutional neural network can generate more diverse samples, leading to an improvement in the performance of image classifiers on the single-source domain generalization task. Our method, ABA, outperforms all existing methods on style shift. The promising results from this work spark potential future research, such as exploring whether the Bayesian neural network as a feature extractor can improve SSDG.

of ABA better than the previous best in blue, and the best accuracy in bold.

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