Revisiting Contrastive Learning through the Lens of Neighborhood Component Analysis: an Integrated Framework

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Background

• A Simple Framework for Contrastive Learning of Visual Representations —— SimCLR[1]

$$\min_{f} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{D}, x^+ \sim \mathcal{D}_x^{\text{aug}}, x_i^- \sim \mathcal{D}_{\backslash x}^{\text{aug}}} \left[-\log\left(\frac{e^{f(x)^T f(x^+)}}{e^{f(x)^T f(x^+)} + Ng_0(x, \{x_i^- x_i^- x_i^-$$

- Neighborhood components analysis (NCA) [2] is a supervised learning method that learns a transformation A such that the average leaveone-out (LOO) classification performance is maximized in the transformed space.
- Maximizing the LOO performance is equivalent to minimizing the L_1 distance or KL-divergence between the predicted class distribution and the true class distribution.

Motivations

 The reduction from the NCA formulation to SimCLR requires:

1. Estimating the expectation over the D_x^{aug} by only 1 sample

$\rightarrow L_{VAR}$

2. The expected relative density of positives in the underlying data distribution is 1/N

$\rightarrow L_{BIAS}$

 $\rightarrow L_{MIXUP}$

3. The probability induced by representation network are all equal to 1

