ADAS: A Simple Active-and-Adaptive Baseline for Cross-Domain 3D Semantic Segmentation

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Abstract

State-of-the-art 3D semantic segmentation models are trained on the off-the-shelf public benchmarks, but they often face the major challenge when these well-trained models are deployed to a new domain. In this paper, we propose an Active-and-Adaptive Segmentation (ADAS) baseline to enhance the weak cross-domain generalization ability of a well-trained 3D segmentation model, and bridge the point distribution gap between domains. Specifically, before the cross-domain adaptation stage begins, ADAS performs an active sampling operation to select a maximally-informative subset from both source and target domains for effective adaptation, reducing the adaptation difficulty under 3D scenarios. Benefiting from the rise of multi-modal 2D-3D datasets, ADAS utilizes a cross-modal attention-based feature fusion module that can extract a representative pair of image features and point features to achieve a bi-directional image-point feature interaction for better safe adaptation. Experimentally, ADAS is verified to be effective in many cross-domain settings including: 1) Unsupervised Domain Adaptation (UDA), which means that all samples from target domain are unlabeled; 2) Unsupervised Few-shot Domain Adaptation (UFDA) which means that only a few unlabeled samples are available in the unlabeled target domain; 3) Active Domain Adaptation (ADA) which means that the selected target samples by ADAS are manually annotated. Their results demonstrate that ADAS achieves a significant accuracy gain by easily coupling ADAS with self-training methods or off-the-shelf UDA works. Our code is available at https://github.com/Fayeben/ADAS

1. Introduction

In recent years, 3D semantic segmentation models [11, 14, 36] have achieved remarkable performance gains, owing to the large-scale annotated benchmarks, such as SemanticKITTI [1] and nuScenes [3], etc. But current 3D semantic segmentation models still suffer from a severe performance degradation issue when they are directly deployed to a novel domain. Actually, one straightforward method to alleviate such a performance drop issue is to build a specific dataset for the novel domain, by extensively collecting target-domain data and performing labour-intensive human annotation, and refine the segmentation model on the newly-constructed domain [8,30]. But this is impractical in many real-world applications such as autonomous driving.

Domain Adaptation (DA), as one of the typical techniques in the transfer learning community, aims to tackle
the above-mentioned performance drop issue by learning domain-invariant representations [23, 33, 40], which includes Unsupervised Domain Adaptation (UDA), Unsupervised Few-shot Domain Adaptation (UFDA), and Active Domain Adaptation (ADA) settings according to the condition of target domain. Recently, inspired by UDA study in 2D image recognition [2, 39, 46], some researchers [16, 20, 25] have tried to address the 3D point cloud-induced domain discrepancies under the UDA setting. The existing methods [20, 25], e.g., xMUDA [16], attempt to extract 2D and 3D features using two different network branches, exploiting the inter-modal feature complementarity by 2D-3D modal feature matching. Orthogonal to these UDA 3D segmentation works focusing on leveraging cross-modal data only under one DA setting (i.e., UDA), we aim to investigate how to exploit multi-modal features to achieve a high-efficient and safe 3D segmentation model adaptation from multiple DA settings.

To design a unified method that can be effective under multiple DA settings, we start from the perspective of sub-domain data sampling, which means that we are expected to pick up a maximally-informative subset from both source and target domains to reduce the difficulty of model transfer. Specifically, on the one hand, due to the intra-domain feature variations, some samples from the source domain may present a large data distribution difference with the target domain data, causing a severe model adaptation interference caused by these irrelevant source-domain samples. On the other hand, in autonomous driving scenarios, samples within the same target sequence have a similar data distribution, which may result in redundant target-domain adaptation by self-training UDA methods [22, 45, 47].

Motivated by this observation, we propose a simple Active-and-Adaptive Segmentation (ADAS) baseline to revisit the 3D cross-domain segmentation problem. For fully leveraging the multi-modal data from different domains, we design a cross-modal attention-based feature fusion module that can encode features from a single image or point cloud modality, and then perform an image-to-point and point-to-image feature-level information interaction by a symmetrical cross-branch attention structure. Furthermore, the learned cross-modal features are utilized as an important proxy for subsequent multi-modal subset sampling process, which is versatile to many DA settings. As illustrated in Fig. 1, such a subset sampling way can be easily combined with the off-the-shelf DA or UDA variants, achieving a better source-domain pre-trained performance only using the sampled source data and a promising target-domain performance using both the sampled source-and-target data.

We conduct extensive experiments on several public benchmarks, including nuScenes [3], A2D2 [10], and SemanticKITTI [1] under three DA settings: 1) UDA setting where all data from the target domain are unlabeled; 2) UFDA setting where we can only access few-shot unlabeled samples from the target domain; 3) ADA setting where a portion of unlabeled target data is selected to be annotated by an oracle. The experimental results demonstrate that our ADAS can be easily applied to the UDA, UFDA, and ADA settings, to enhance the model transferability, outperforming the existing UDA-based 3D segmentation works xMUDA [16], AUDA [20], and DsCML [25] by 7.75%, 7.92%, and 4.61% on USA-to-Singapore setting.

2. Related Works

2.1. Active Domain Adaptation

Active learning aims to develop annotation-efficient algorithms via sampling the most representative samples to be labeled by an oracle [28]. Most recently, active learning coupled with domain adaptation, termed as Active Domain Adaptation (ADA), has great practical significance. Nevertheless, only a few previous researchers focus on addressing the problem, pioneered by active adaptation in the area of sentiment classification for text data [27]. Rita et al. [4] choose target samples to learn importance weights for source instances by solving a convex optimization problem of minimizing Maximum Mean Discrepancy (MMD). Recently, Su et al. [31] try to study ADA problem in the context of Convolution Neural Networks (CNN), and instances are selected based on their designed uncertainty and “targetness”. However, these sampling strategies are designed based on the 2D image domain, and it is intractable to directly apply these 2D image-based sampling strategies to the 3D image-point multi-modal task. In our work, for the first time, we design a novel active-and-adaptive segmentation baseline to sample the most informative 2D-3D pairs to enhance the weak cross-domain generalization ability of a well-trained 3D segmentation model.

2.2. 3D Semantic Segmentation

In 3D semantic segmentation, 3D point clouds are often represented as voxels. For instance, SSCNs [11] and the following works [7, 15, 41] leverage hash tables to convolve only on sampled voxels, allowing for very high resolution with typically only one point per voxel. Point-based methods conduct computation in continuous 3D space and can directly take point clouds as input. PointNet++ [26] utilizes point-wise convolution and max-pooling to extract global features and local neighborhood aggregation for hierarchical learning with CNN. Following that, continuous convolutions [37] and deformable kernels [32] have been proposed. DGCNN [38] and LDGCNN [44] perform convolution on the edges of a point cloud. In this work, SparseConvNet [11] is chosen as a 3D backbone, which is widely utilized in the UDA methods [16, 20, 25].
3. The Proposed Method

Our method is proposed to enhance the adaptability of a 3D semantic segmentation model by assuming the presence of 2D images and 3D point clouds. In this section, we will first define the problem and illustrate the network architecture in Sec. 3.1. Following that, the ADAS framework is described in Sec. 3.2.

3.1. Preliminary

Problem Definition. Suppose that $S$ and $T$ define a source domain and a target domain, both of which contain different modalities including 2D images $x_{2D}^s$ and $x_{2D}^t$, and 3D point clouds $x_{3D}^s$ and $x_{3D}^t$. The purpose of cross-domain 3D semantic segmentation is to adapt a well-trained segmentation baseline from a labeled source domain $S$ to a new target domain $T$ with the data distribution shift.

To design a unified cross-domain 3D semantic segmentation pipeline under different target-domain conditions, we consider the following adaptation settings: 1) Unsupervised Domain Adaptation (UDA), where we can access all unlabeled 2D-3D sample pairs from the target domain; 2) Unsupervised Few-shot Domain Adaptation (UFDA), where only a few data (e.g., 5% target data) from the unlabeled target domain are available; 3) Active Domain Adaptation (ADA), where one can sample a subset from the full set of the unlabeled target domain and perform the manual annotation process.

3D Segmentation Architecture. Given the label in the source domain, the segmentation network is trained in a supervised manner with cross-entropy loss function for the 2D image $x_{2D}^s$ and 3D point cloud $x_{3D}^s$, which can be formulated as:

$$
\mathcal{L}_{seg}^{2D}(x_{2D}^s, \phi(y_{3D}^s)) = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{C} \phi(y_{n,c}^s) \log P_{2D}^{n,c},
$$

(1)

$$
\mathcal{L}_{seg}^{3D}(x_{3D}^s, y_{3D}^s) = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{C} y_{n,c}^s \log P_{3D}^{n,c},
$$

where $y_{n,c}^s$ and $P_{n,c}$ stand for the ground-truth label and prediction of the point $n$ for the class $c$, respectively. $\phi$ is the projection of the point cloud to the front view. Herein, the overall objective of the source domain can be formulated as:

$$
\min_{\theta_{2D}, \theta_{3D}} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{x, y \in S} \mathcal{L}_{seg}^{2D}(x_{2D}^s, \phi(y_{3D}^s)) + \mathcal{L}_{seg}^{3D}(x_{3D}^s, y_{3D}^s),
$$

(2)

where $\theta_{2D}$ and $\theta_{3D}$ are the parameters of the 2D sub-network and the 3D sub-network, respectively.

3.2. ADAS: Active-and-Adaptive 3D Segmentation Baseline

Previous works mainly focus on cross-model learning within a single dataset, facing unforeseen cross-model performance hurt when they are directly used in cross-domain applications. Thus, ADAS is proposed to reduce the domain discrepancies of multi-modality data from two aspects: 1) Active 3D Segmentation, meaning that we actively mine a subset of source-and-target data that are representative and transferable for dynamically changing target-domain distribution, and 2) Adaptive 3D Segmentation, meaning that we adapt a well-trained cross-modal baseline to the target domain according to the above-sampled subset of data.

Active 3D Segmentation: A Cross-modal Attention-based Feature Fusion Module. Although inter-domain differences exist, we found that many frames in the source domain have a similar data distribution to those in the target domain. This phenomenon motivates us to mine target-domain-like frames from the source domain to enhance the model adaptability, regarded as source-domain sampling. On the other hand, for 3D segmentation scenarios, there are many semantically-duplicated samples between adjacent frames. To this end, to reduce the cost of target data acquisition and annotation, we propose to select a maximally-informative subset of a given unlabeled target domain to perform the pseudo-label or manual annotation process regarded as target-domain sampling.

In this part, we study how to design a unified sampling strategy to pick up samples from both domains, to reduce the feature gaps between domains and enhance the model transferability. An effective method to alleviate the inter-domain data distribution differences of 3D point clouds is leveraging the multi-modality residing in the 3D segmentation dataset. Motivated by this, a cross-modal cross-attention-based feature fusion module is exploited to train a domain discriminator that can dynamically evaluate the representativeness of each sample from image-point cloud modalities. Given a pair of images and point clouds $(x_{2D}, x_{3D})$, the 2D and 3D backbones are respectively used to extract a pair of high-level features $(f_{2D}, f_{3D})$, where $f_{2D} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times F_{2D}}$ and $f_{3D} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times F_{3D}}$. Although the feature pairs $(f_{2D}, f_{3D})$ extracted by the backbone network contain rich semantic information of a single modal, the cross-modality semantic relations between the images and point clouds are not taken into consideration.

Different from previous works [16, 20, 25] that align cross-modal features using a well-designed KL divergence loss, ADAS aims to exploit the relations between modalities by Transformer [43]. This approach achieves better cross-modal feature fusion performance and thus is beneficial to pick up data representative for both image-and-point modalities. The feature maps from each modality $f \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times F_{3D}}$ can be described as $f = [f^1, f^2, \ldots, f^N]$, where $f_{2D} \in \mathbb{R}^{F_{2D}}$ and $f_{3D} \in \mathbb{R}^{F_{3D}}$. In our implementation, the $F_{2D}$ is equal to $F_{3D}$. Specifically, given feature maps with weight parameters $W_q^{2D}, W_k^{2D}, W_v^{2D}$ for the image branch $2D$, and parameters $W_q^{3D}, W_k^{3D}, W_v^{3D}$ for point
cloud branch 3D, the query vector $q^i$, key vector $k^i$, and value vector $v^i$ can be calculated as follows:

$$ q^{i_2D} := W_{2D} q^{i_2D}, \quad k^{i_2D} := W_{2D} k^{i_2D}, \quad v^{i_2D} := W_{2D} v^{i_2D}, \quad (3) $$

$$ q^{i_3D} := W_{3D} q^{i_3D}, \quad k^{i_3D} := W_{3D} k^{i_3D}, \quad v^{i_3D} := W_{3D} v^{i_3D}. \quad (4) $$

After that, the symmetrical cross-attention is leveraged in a bi-directional manner: 1) The 2D branch-related features are obtained using the value vector $v^{i_3D}$ from 3D backbone branch, formulated as $3D \rightarrow 2D$. 2) Similarly, the 3D branch-related features are acquired using the value vector $v^{i_2D}$ of the 2D backbone branch, formulated as $2D \rightarrow 3D$.

Specifically, for $3D \rightarrow 2D$, $A_{3D \rightarrow 2D} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ denotes the attention score matrix obtained via the matrix multiplication as follows:

$$ A_{3D \rightarrow 2D} = K_{2D} V_{3D}^T, \quad (5) $$

where $K_{2D} = [k_{2D}^1, \ldots, k_{2D}^N] \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times F_{2D}}$ and $V_{3D} = [v_{3D}^1, \ldots, v_{3D}^N] \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times F_{3D}}$, which can be obtained through Eq. 3, Eq. 4. Moreover, a softmax layer combined with a scaling operation is leveraged to carry out the normalization for attention scores and find the semantically-related regions according to information from another modality 3D branch, which can be calculated as follows:

$$ R_{3D \rightarrow 2D} = \text{Softmax} \left( \frac{A_{3D \rightarrow 2D}}{\sqrt{F_{2D}}} \right) V_{2D}, \quad (6) $$

where $V_{2D} = [v_{2D}^1, v_{2D}^2, \ldots, v_{2D}^N] \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times F_{2D}}$, and $R_{3D \rightarrow 2D} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times F_{2D}}$ represents the encoded semantic relations from 3D to 2D features. After that, the $R_{3D \rightarrow 2D}$ is reshaped to the same dimension as the backbone features $f_{2D} \in \mathbb{R}^{F_{2D} \times N}$ and then fused with $f_{2D}$ by an element-wise addition, in order to enhance the semantically similar backbone features.

For $2D \rightarrow 3D$, the $R_{2D \rightarrow 3D} \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times F_{3D}}$ can be easily obtained by performing a symmetrical process described above, which can be written as follows:

$$ A_{2D \rightarrow 3D} = K_{3D} V_{2D}^T, \quad (7) $$

$$ R_{2D \rightarrow 3D} = \text{Softmax} \left( \frac{A_{2D \rightarrow 3D}}{\sqrt{F_{3D}}} \right) V_{3D}. $$

Given single-modal features $(f_{2D}, f_{3D})$ and cross-modal features $(R_{3D \rightarrow 2D}, R_{2D \rightarrow 3D})$, the enhanced representations can be calculated as follows:

$$ \hat{f}_{2D} = \text{FFN} \left( \text{Norm} \left( f_{2D} \odot R_{3D \rightarrow 2D} \right) \right), \quad (8) $$

$$ \hat{f}_{3D} = \text{FFN} \left( \text{Norm} \left( f_{3D} \odot R_{2D \rightarrow 3D} \right) \right), $$

where $\odot$ denotes an element-wise multiplication operation. And the FFN module allows the backbone to focus on the cross-branch modality discrepancies over the predicted semantically-similar regions. Overall, $\hat{f}_{2D}$ and $\hat{f}_{3D}$ are defined as the output features and will be concatenated and
then fed into a well-designed domain discriminator, as illustrated in Fig. 2.

Furthermore, a 3-layer fully-convolutional domain discriminator $D$ with parameters $\theta_{D_{3D}}$ is constructed, which takes the cross-attention features $[\hat{f}_{2D}, \hat{f}_{3D}]$ as input and is trained to distinguish the source data from the target ones. We label the source domain and the target domain as ‘0’ and ‘1’, respectively. Let $L_D$ represent the domain classification loss of the discriminator. The training objective of the discriminator can be written as follows:

$$
L_{Dis} = \min_{\theta_{D_{3D}}} \frac{1}{N_s} \sum_{x_{2D}, x_{3D}} L_D \left( [\hat{f}_{2D}, \hat{f}_{3D}], [0, 1] \right) + \frac{1}{N_t} \sum_{x_{2D}, x_{3D}} L_D \left( [\hat{f}_{2D}, \hat{f}_{3D}], [1, 0] \right).
$$

(9)

Once the trained domain discriminator is obtained, we can leverage the output of the domain discriminator to score each frame, which represents the domainness of a sample belonging to the source or target domain. Since the active sampling strategy is one general approach, we can use it for both the source and target domains sampling. For the source domain, the higher score means that the frame complies with the distribution of the target domain. For the target domain, when the frame possesses the more informative characteristic, it will get a higher score. After the scoring stage is finished, all frames are sorted by the calculated scores, and the budget $B$ frames are chosen as the sampled source data and target data.

**Adaptive 3D Segmentation: Effective Model Adaptation Strategy.** When an informative subset jointly sampled from both source and target domains is determined, an effective adaptation strategy is designed to fully leverage these samples to enhance 3D segmentation model’s adaptability. In this part, we investigate two representative target-oriented adaptation strategies to explore how to perform an effective model transfer based on these informative samples.

1) **Self-training using pseudo-labels:** Cross-modal learning is complementary to the pseudo-labeling technique, which is originally employed in semi-supervised and unsupervised domain adaptation tasks [18, 42]. In detail, given a pre-trained source model, the pseudo-labels can be obtained by selecting a portion of highly confident predicted results according to the pre-trained model. It should be emphasized that the Pseudo-Labeling methods (PL) generate labels for the whole target domain data yet bring many label noises. By comparison, we can leverage the ADAS to pick up samples with high domainness scores. Then, we only pseudo-label those selected samples to perform the subsequent self-training process. Such a sampling-based pseudo-labeling method is termed as Active Pseudo-Labeling (APL). Based on those pseudo-labeled target frames, the model is further adapted to the target domain using the following segmentation loss:

$$
\min_{\theta} \left[ \frac{1}{|S|} \sum_{x^t} (L_{seg}(x^t, \hat{y}^3_{3D})) + \frac{1}{|T|} \sum_{x^t} (L_{seg}(x^t, y^3_{3D})) \right]
$$

(10)

where $y^3_{3D}$ represents the pseudo-labels.

2) **Off-the-shelf UDA techniques:** Furthermore, our cross-modal attention-based source-and-target sampling strategy can be easily integrated into the existing methods, such as xMUDA [16], AUDA [20], and the state-of-the-art DsCML [25], to further boost their cross-domain segmentation accuracy. Specifically, we first utilize the proposed sampling strategy to pick up the maximally-informative samples from both source and target domains, and construct a subset domain. Then, these UDA-based techniques are employed to adapt the baseline model using the constructed subset to achieve a more effective and safe adaptation result.

4. Experiments

4.1. Dataset Description

Our ADAS is evaluated under 3 real-to-real adaptation scenarios. The first setting is the day-to-night adaptation, which presents a domain gap caused by the illumination changes, where the laser beams are almost invariant to illumination conditions while the camera suffers from a low-light environment. The second scenario is the country-to-country adaptation, representing a large domain difference where the 3D shapes and images might change frequently. The last setting is the dataset-to-dataset adaptation, containing the variations in the sensor setup. The widely-used autonomous driving datasets nuScenes [3], A2D2 [10], and SemanticKITTI [1] are leveraged, where the LiDAR and camera are synchronized and calibrated to obtain the projection between a 3D point and its corresponding 2D image pixel. All these datasets consist of 3D annotations. And only the front camera images and the LiDAR points are utilized for simplicity and consistency across datasets. For nuScenes, the point-wise labels for 3D semantic segmentation are obtained by assigning the corresponding object label if that point lies inside an annotated 3D bounding box. If not, that point will be labeled as background. Following the works [16, 25], two scenarios of Day/Night and USA/Singapore are conducted. For the adaptation from A2D2 to SemanticKITTI, the point-wise labels on A2D2 are directly provided, and the 10 categories shared between the two datasets are selected.

4.2. The Designed Baselines

In order to validate the effectiveness of our ADAS, 5 baselines are designed: **Baseline 1** only leverages 2D features extracted by the 2D backbone. The 2D scores ob-
| Methods                        | USA/Singapore  | Day/Night       | A2D2/SemanticKITTI |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
|                               | 2D 3D Softmax avg. | 2D 3D Softmax avg. | 2D 3D Softmax avg. |
| Oracle                        | 66.4 63.8 71.6 | 48.6 47.1 55.2 | 58.3 71.0 73.7     |
| MinEnt (CVPR-19) [15]         | 53.4 47.0 59.7 | 44.9 43.5 51.3 | 38.8 38.0 42.7     |
| PL (CVPR-19) [19]             | 55.5 51.8 61.5 | 43.7 45.1 48.6 | 37.4 44.8 47.7     |
| CyCADA (ICML-18) [13]         | 54.9 48.7 61.4 | 45.7 42.4 49.7 | 38.2 44.3 43.9     |
| AdaptSegNet (CVPR-18) [34]    | 56.3 47.7 61.8 | 45.3 44.6 49.6 | 38.8 44.3 44.2     |
| CLAN (CVPR-19) [21]           | 57.8 51.2 62.5 | 46.6 43.7 49.2 | 39.2 44.7 44.5     |
| xMUDA (CVPR-20) [16]          | 59.3 52.0 62.7 | 46.2 44.2 50.0 | 36.8 43.3 42.9     |
| xMUDA + PL (CVPR-20) [16]     | 61.1 54.1 63.2 | 47.1 46.7 50.8 | 43.7 48.5 49.1     |
| AUDA [20]                     | 59.7 51.7 63.0 | 48.7 46.2 55.7 | 43.3 43.3 47.3     |
| AUDA + PL [20]                | 59.8 52.0 63.1 | 49.0 47.6 54.2 | 43.0 43.6 46.8     |
| DsCML (CVPR-21) [25]          | 61.3 53.3 63.6 | 48.0 45.7 51.0 | 39.6 45.1 44.5     |
| DsCML + CMAL (CVPR-21) [25]   | 63.4 55.6 64.8 | 49.5 48.2 52.7 | 46.3 50.7 51.0     |
| DsCML + CMAL + PL (CVPR-21)   | 63.9 56.3 65.1 | 50.1 48.7 53.0 | 46.8 51.8 52.4     |
| Source only                   | 53.4 46.5 61.3 | 42.2 41.2 47.8 | 34.2 35.9 40.4     |
| Source only + Source-domain sampling | +1.8 +3.2 +1.8 | +3.2 +0.4 +3.9 | +0.9 +2.1 +4.3     |
| Source only + Source-domain sampling + PL | +5.0 +7.1 +5.0 | +4.0 +1.4 +5.6 | +7.8 +5.4 +5.4     |
| Source only + Source-domain sampling + APL | +7.5 +6.6 +5.5 | +4.8 +1.0 +3.1 | +7.7 +5.5 +6.3     |
| xMUDA + Source-domain sampling | 55.9 50.1 63.4 | 45.6 42.2 51.2 | 43.6 47.6 50.8     |
| xMUDA + Source-domain sampling + PL | +0.7 +0.6 +0.7 | +2.1 +1.4 +1.5 | +7.9 +5.6 +1.5     |
| xMUDA + Source-domain sampling + APL | +0.6 +0.6 +0.6 | +1.4 +0.7 +0.7 | +1.5 +1.5 +1.5     |
| AUDA + Source-domain sampling + PL | +0.0 +0.0 +0.0 | +0.2 +0.2 +0.2 | +0.2 +0.2 +0.2     |
| AUDA + Source-domain sampling + APL | +0.1 +0.1 +0.1 | +0.2 +0.2 +0.2 | +0.3 +0.3 +0.3     |
| AUDA + Source-domain sampling + APL + Improvement | +0.5 +0.5 +0.5 | +0.0 +0.0 +0.0 | +1.1 +1.1 +1.1     |
| DsCML + CMAL + Source-domain sampling | 55.6 52.0 65.0 | 49.3 41.6 53.5 | 43.5 46.3 51.1     |
| DsCML + CMAL + Source-domain sampling + PL | +0.2 +0.2 +0.2 | +0.8 +0.8 +0.8 | +0.1 +0.1 +0.1     |
| DsCML + CMAL + Source-domain sampling + APL | +0.6 +0.6 +0.6 | +0.3 +0.3 +0.3 | +0.3 +0.3 +0.3     |
| DsCML + CMAL + Source-domain sampling + APL + Improvement | +1.1 +1.1 +1.1 | +0.4 +0.4 +0.4 | +1.9 +1.9 +1.9     |

| Ours + UFDA                    | 55.0 49.3 63.0 | 45.1 41.0 51.3 | 35.0 37.9 44.2     |
| Ours + UFDA-10%               | 54.6 48.9 62.2 | 43.7 40.7 50.5 | 34.5 37.2 43.6     |

Table 1. Segmentation results (mIoU) for different DA settings including UDA, UDA methods coupled with ADAS, and UFDA under three cross-modal domain adaptation scenarios. “Avg” represents the performance which is obtained by computing the mean of the predicted 2D and 3D probabilities after softmax operation. “PL” denotes the pseudo-labeling operation for all target data, while “APL” is proposed in this work to pseudo-label the actively sampled target-domain data.

Figure 3. Segmentation results (mIoU) under the UFDA setting, where we study the discriminator performance under different amounts of samples from the target domain: 100%, 10%, 5%, and 1% target domain samples.

Table 3, and please refer to the Appendix for the network visualization.
of all designed baselines.

### 4.3. Implementation Details

**Network Baseline.** For a fair comparison with the state-of-the-art multi-modal 3D domain adaptation frameworks, we leverage the ResNet34 [12] pre-trained on ImageNet [9] as the encoder for the 2D network branch and the SparseConvNet [11] with U-Net architecture for 3D network branch. Moreover, the voxel size is set to 5 cm in the 3D network to ensure that only one 3D point lies in a single voxel. The models are trained and evaluated with PyTorch toolbox [24]. We train ADAS with one Tesla A100 GPU.

**Parameter Settings.** In the training stage, the batch size is set to 8, and the Adaptive Moment Estimation (Adam) [17] is used as the optimizer with $\beta_1 = 0.9$ and $\beta_2 = 0.999$. We set the learning rate of $1 \times 10^{-3}$ initially and follow the poly learning rate policy [5] with a power of 0.9. We set the max training iteration as 100k.

### 4.4. Experimental Results

In this part, we conduct experiments on UDA, UFDA, and ADA tasks, and comprehensively show the generality and effectiveness in addressing 3D segmentation model’s domain discrepancies.

**Results on 3D UDA task.** 1) **The effectiveness of source-domain sampling:** As shown in Table 1, when the segmentation baseline model is deployed to a new domain (e.g., from USA to Singapore), its segmentation accuracy is seriously degraded (only 61.3% compared with 71.6% achieved by fully-supervised model). One cost-free solution provided by our ADAS is to use the designed source-domain sampling strategy, which can actually sample some target-domain-like source data to bridge the large domain shift from different modal data, achieving 1.8%, 3.9%, and 4.3% accuracy gains for different cross-domain scenarios. The accuracy gain achieved by only source sampling strategy even surpasses some representative uni-modal UDA methods such as MinEnt [35], PL [19], CyCADA [13], AdaptSegNet [34], and CLAN [21].

Furthermore, we would like to emphasize that another advantage of our ADAS is that it can be plugged and played into the existing UDA models (e.g., xMUDA [16], AUDA [20], and DsCML [25]), to further strengthen these UDA models’ adaptability. For example, xMUDA coupled with our ADAS achieves 0.7%, 1.2%, and 7.9% segmentation accuracy gain compared with xMUDA itself, for the USA/Singapore, Day/Night, and A2D2/SemanticKITTI scenarios. Also, we conduct extensive validations by inserting our ADAS into many UDA models, such as AUDA [20] and DsCML [25], and observe consistent segmentation accuracy gains.

2) **The effectiveness of target-domain sampling:** APL means that we only perform the pseudo-labeling process for the selected target samples by ADAS. Also, it can be seen from Table 1 that, compared with the widely-used Pseudo-Labeling (PL) strategy, APL can obtain a relatively high mIoU in A2D2/SemanticKITTI scenario. This is mainly because the selected target data (SemanticKITTI) by ADAS present less noise and can be pseudo-labeled more accurately. By merging the merits of the APL and self-training strategy, ADAS can further enhance the model adaptability.

**Results on 3D UFDA task.** Motivated by the outstanding performance of ADAS in UDA task, we try to reduce the number of unlabeled target data to check the domain-related representation ability of the designed discriminator with the cross-model attention-based feature fusion module. Such a task setting can be regarded as UFDA task. Specifically, we randomly select a small number of target data (e.g. 10%, 5%, and even 1%) to train the discriminator, and the results are shown in Fig. 3. It can be seen that owing to the robust source-domain sampling strategy, only a few-shot unlabeled target data also can effectively train the designed discriminator and achieve a comparable target-domain segmentation accuracy, providing an option to eliminate the need for unlabeled target data.

**Results on 3D ADA task.** In the above DA tasks, all samples from the target domain are unlabeled. Although performing the APL or PL based on self-training methods on the unlabeled target domain can improve the target-domain
segmentation accuracy, there is still a large accuracy gap between the unsupervised target-domain model and the fully-supervised one. To this end, in this work, we also study the ADA task, which assumes that a portion of unlabeled target data selected by an active learning algorithm can be annotated by an oracle or human expert. Instead of using pseudo-labeled target samples, we utilize an oracle to annotate all selected target samples to investigate if our ADAS can be applied to ADA task.

As shown in Table 2, the baseline model fine-tuned on the sampled source data and annotated target data can significantly enhance the model transferability, obtaining 67.4%, 53.6%, and 51.1% segmentation accuracies under different scenarios. Furthermore, we conduct experiments on changing the budget of the target-domain annotation. The results can be found in Fig. 4, and we observe that the model performance in the target domain is improved with the increase of the annotation budget. We also observe that the 5% annotation budget can be regarded as a good trade-off between the annotation cost and the model adaptability.

4.5. Further Analyses

Module-level Ablation Studies. To validate the effectiveness of the cross-attention module, ablation studies are conducted to gain insight into the cross-attention module. As shown in Table 3, the sampled source data by only the 2D scores tend to boost the accuracy of baseline on 2D metric, while the samples selected only by 3D scores are more beneficial to improve the 3D segmentation results. When the mean sampling strategy (Baseline 3) is utilized, the average accuracy is able to be improved. By employing the designed cross-attention module, satisfactory overall results can be obtained, showing the effectiveness and strength of our cross-attention based sampling strategy.

Segmentation Accuracy for Both Domains. To validate the multi-domain generalization ability of our ADAS, further experiments are conducted to observe the segmentation accuracy of the model on both source and target domains. As shown in Table 4, the source-only baseline, which means that the model is trained only on the source domain and directly tested on the target domain, has the best segmentation accuracy for the source domain, but it is hard to be general-
domain 3D semantic segmentation scenarios, and show the superiority of ADAS in many DA settings.

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