Anomaly Detection

Lecture Notes for Chapter 9

Introduction to Data Mining, 2nd Edition
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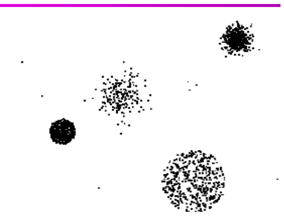
Anomaly/Outlier Detection

- What are anomalies/outliers?
  – The set of data points that are considerably different than the remainder of the data



- Natural implication is that anomalies are relatively rare
  – One in a thousand occurs often if you have lots of data
  – Context is important, e.g., freezing temps in July
- Can be important or a nuisance
  – 10 foot tall 2 year old
  – Unusually high blood pressure

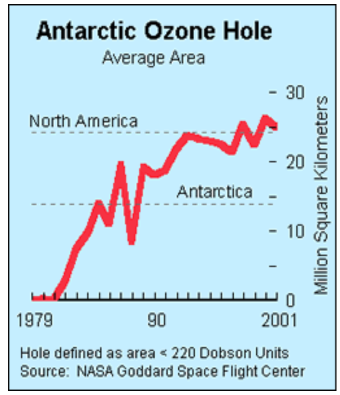
Importance of Anomaly Detection

Ozone Depletion History

- In 1985 three researchers (Farman, Gardinar and Shanklin) were puzzled by data gathered by the British Antarctic Survey showing that ozone levels for Antarctica had dropped 10% below normal levels

- Why did the Nimbus 7 satellite, which had instruments aboard for recording ozone levels, not record similarly low ozone concentrations?

- The ozone concentrations recorded by the satellite were so low they were being treated as outliers by a computer program and discarded!



Sources:
http://exploringdata.cqu.edu.au/ozone.html
http://www.epa.gov/ozone/science/hole/size.html

Causes of Anomalies

- Data from different classes
  – Measuring the weights of oranges, but a few grapefruit are mixed in

- Natural variation
  – Unusually tall people

- Data errors
  – 200 pound 2 year old

Distinction Between Noise and Anomalies

- Noise is erroneous, perhaps random, values or contaminating objects
  – Weight recorded incorrectly
  – Grapefruit mixed in with the oranges

- Noise doesn't necessarily produce unusual values or objects
- Noise is not interesting
- Anomalies may be interesting if they are not a result of noise
- Noise and anomalies are related but distinct concepts

General Issues: Number of Attributes

- Many anomalies are defined in terms of a single attribute
  – Height
  – Shape
  – Color

- Can be hard to find an anomaly using all attributes
  – Noisy or irrelevant attributes
  – Object is only anomalous with respect to some attributes

- However, an object may not be anomalous in any one attribute

General Issues: Anomaly Scoring

- Many anomaly detection techniques provide only a binary categorization
  - An object is an anomaly or it isn't
  - This is especially true of classification-based approaches
- Other approaches assign a score to all points
  - This score measures the degree to which an object is an anomaly
  - This allows objects to be ranked
- In the end, you often need a binary decision
  - Should this credit card transaction be flagged?
  - Still useful to have a score
- How many anomalies are there?

Other Issues for Anomaly Detection

- Find all anomalies at once or one at a time
  - Swamping
  - Masking
- Evaluation
  - How do you measure performance?
  - Supervised vs. unsupervised situations
- Efficiency
- Context
  - Professional basketball team

Variants of Anomaly Detection Problems

- Given a data set D, find all data points **x** ∈ D with anomaly scores greater than some threshold t
- Given a data set D, find all data points **x** ∈ D having the top-n largest anomaly scores
- Given a data set D, containing mostly normal (but unlabeled) data points, and a test point **x**, compute the anomaly score of **x** with respect to D

Model-Based Anomaly Detection

- Build a model for the data and see
  - Unsupervised
    - Anomalies are those points that don't fit well
    - Anomalies are those points that distort the model
    - Examples:
      - Statistical distribution
      - Clusters
      - Regression
      - Geometric
      - Graph
  - Supervised
    - Anomalies are regarded as a rare class
    - Need to have training data

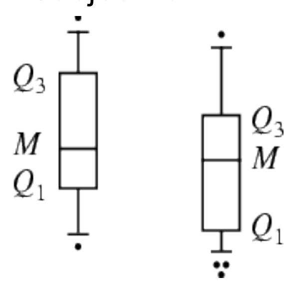
Additional Anomaly Detection Techniques

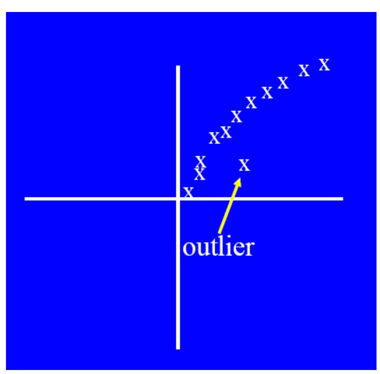
- Proximity-based
  - Anomalies are points far away from other points
  - Can detect this graphically in some cases
- Density-based
  - Low density points are outliers
- Pattern matching
  - Create profiles or templates of atypical but important events or objects
  - Algorithms to detect these patterns are usually simple and efficient

Visual Approaches

- Boxplots or scatter plots

- Limitations
  - Not automatic
  - Subjective



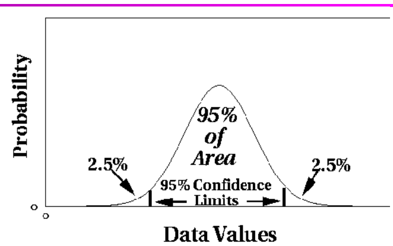


Statistical Approaches

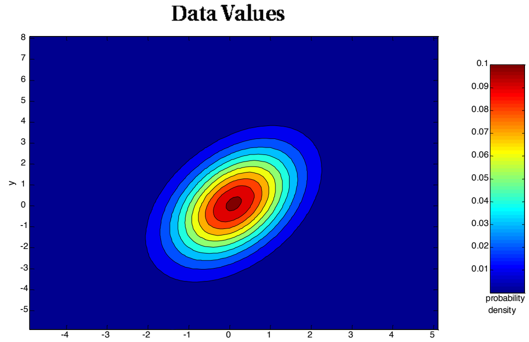
Probabilistic definition of an outlier: An outlier is an object that has a low probability with respect to a probability distribution model of the data.

- Usually assume a parametric model describing the distribution of the data (e.g., normal distribution)
- Apply a statistical test that depends on
  - Data distribution
  - Parameters of distribution (e.g., mean, variance)
  - Number of expected outliers (confidence limit)
- Issues
  - Identifying the distribution of a data set
    - Heavy tailed distribution
  - Number of attributes
  - Is the data a mixture of distributions?

Normal Distributions



One-dimensional Gaussian



Two-dimensional Gaussian

Grubbs' Test

- Detect outliers in univariate data
- Assume data comes from normal distribution
- Detects one outlier at a time, remove the outlier, and repeat
  - H_0: There is no outlier in data
  - H_A: There is at least one outlier
- Grubbs' test statistic: $$G = \frac{\max\left|X - \overline{X}\right|}{s}$$
- Reject H_0 if: $$G > \frac{(N-1)}{\sqrt{N}} \sqrt{\frac{t^2_{(\alpha/N, N-2)}}{N - 2 + t^2_{(\alpha/N, N-2)}}}$$

Statistical-based – Likelihood Approach

- Assume the data set D contains samples from a mixture of two probability distributions:
  - M (majority distribution)
  - A (anomalous distribution)
- General Approach:
  - Initially, assume all the data points belong to M
  - Let $L_t(D)$ be the log likelihood of D at time t
  - For each point x_t that belongs to M, move it to A
    - Let L_{t+1} (D) be the new log likelihood.
    - Compute the difference, $\Delta = L_t(D) – L_{t+1}(D)$
    - If $\Delta > c$ (some threshold), then x_t is declared as an anomaly and moved permanently from M to A

Statistical-based – Likelihood Approach

- Data distribution, D = (1 – λ) M + λ A
- M is a probability distribution estimated from data
  - Can be based on any modeling method (naïve Bayes, maximum entropy, etc)
- A is initially assumed to be uniform distribution
- Likelihood at time t:

$$L_t(D) = \prod_{i=1}^{N} P_D(x_i) = \left((1-\lambda)^{|M_t|} \prod_{x_i \in M_t} P_{M_t}(x_i) \right) \left(\lambda^{|A_t|} \prod_{x_i \in A_t} P_{A_t}(x_i) \right)$$

$$LL_t(D) = |M_t| \log(1-\lambda) + \sum_{x_i \in M_t} \log P_{M_t}(x_i) + |A_t| \log \lambda + \sum_{x_i \in A_t} \log P_{A_t}(x_i)$$

Strengths/Weaknesses of Statistical Approaches

- Firm mathematical foundation
- Can be very efficient
- Good results if distribution is known
- In many cases, data distribution may not be known
- For high dimensional data, it may be difficult to estimate the true distribution
- Anomalies can distort the parameters of the distribution

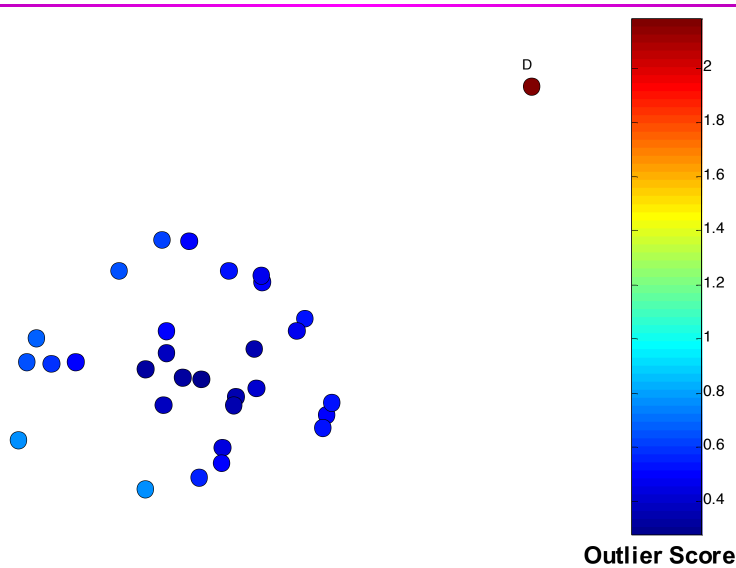
Distance-Based Approaches

- Several different techniques

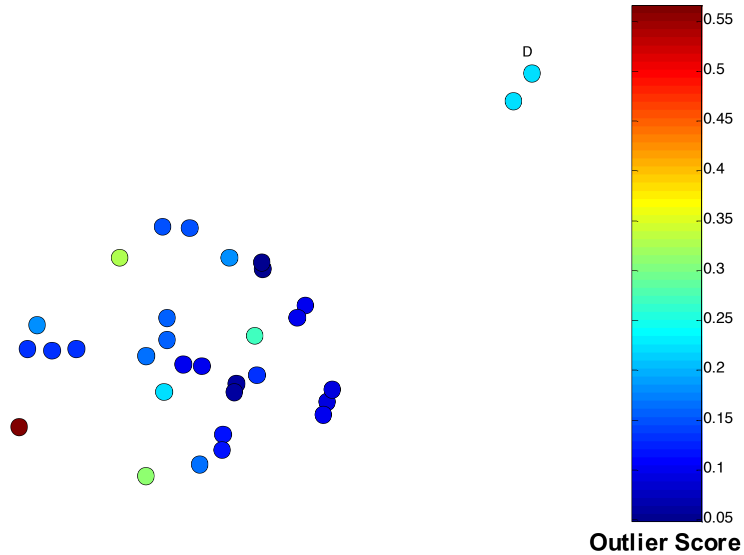
- An object is an outlier if a specified fraction of the objects is more than a specified distance away (Knorr, Ng 1998)
  - Some statistical definitions are special cases of this

- The outlier score of an object is the distance to its kth nearest neighbor

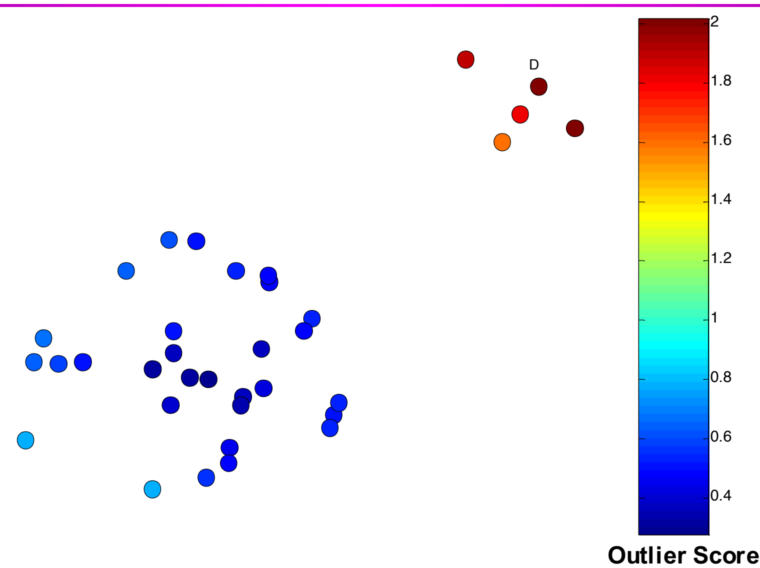
One Nearest Neighbor - One Outlier



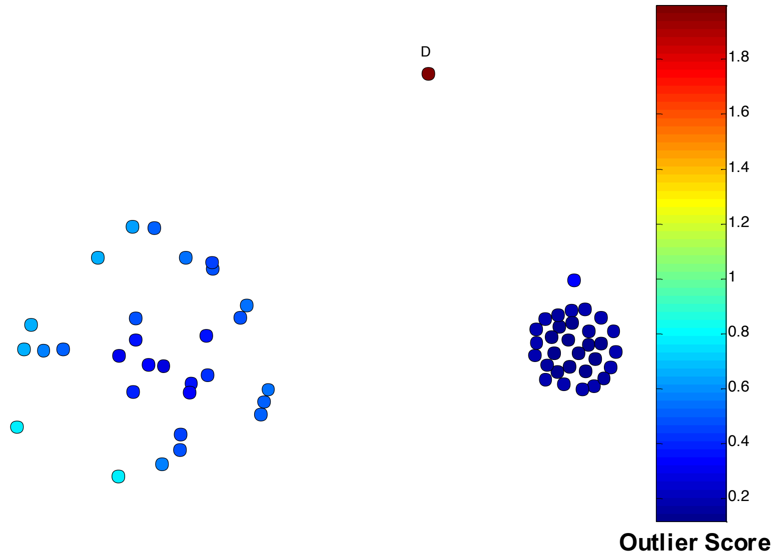
One Nearest Neighbor - Two Outliers



Five Nearest Neighbors - Small Cluster



Five Nearest Neighbors - Differing Density



Strengths/Weaknesses of Distance-Based Approaches

- Simple
- Expensive – $O(n^2)$
- Sensitive to parameters
- Sensitive to variations in density
- Distance becomes less meaningful in high-dimensional space

Density-Based Approaches

- **Density-based Outlier:** The outlier score of an object is the inverse of the density around the object.
  - Can be defined in terms of the k nearest neighbors
  - One definition: Inverse of distance to kth neighbor
  - Another definition: Inverse of the average distance to k neighbors
  - DBSCAN definition

- If there are regions of different density, this approach can have problems

Relative Density

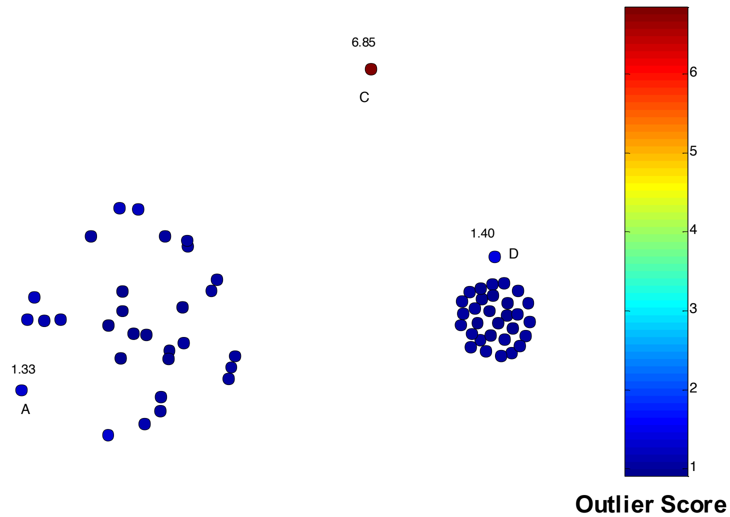
- Consider the density of a point relative to that of its k nearest neighbors

$$average\ relative\ density(\mathbf{x}, k) = \frac{density(\mathbf{x}, k)}{\sum_{\mathbf{y} \in N(\mathbf{x},k)} density(\mathbf{y}, k)/|N(\mathbf{x}, k)|}. \quad (10.7)$$

Algorithm 10.2 Relative density outlier score algorithm.

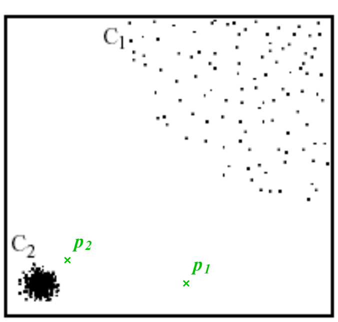
1: $\{k$ is the number of nearest neighbors$\}$
2: **for all** objects $\mathbf{x}$ **do**
3: Determine $N(\mathbf{x}, k)$, the k-nearest neighbors of $\mathbf{x}$.
4: Determine $density(\mathbf{x}, k)$, the density of $\mathbf{x}$, using its nearest neighbors, i.e., the objects in $N(\mathbf{x}, k)$.
5: **end for**
6: **for all** objects $\mathbf{x}$ **do**
7: Set the $outlier\ score(\mathbf{x}, k) = average\ relative\ density(\mathbf{x}, k)$ from Equation 10.7.
8: **end for**

Relative Density Outlier Scores



Density-based: LOF approach

- For each point, compute the density of its local neighborhood
- Compute local outlier factor (LOF) of a sample *p* as the average of the ratios of the density of sample *p* and the density of its nearest neighbors
- Outliers are points with largest LOF value



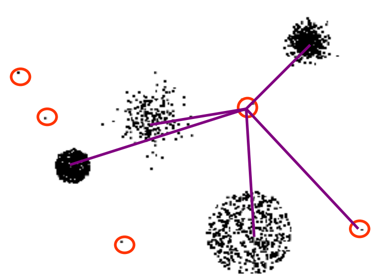
In the NN approach, p_2 is not considered as outlier, while LOF approach find both p_1 and p_2 as outliers

Strengths / Weaknesses of Density-Based Approaches

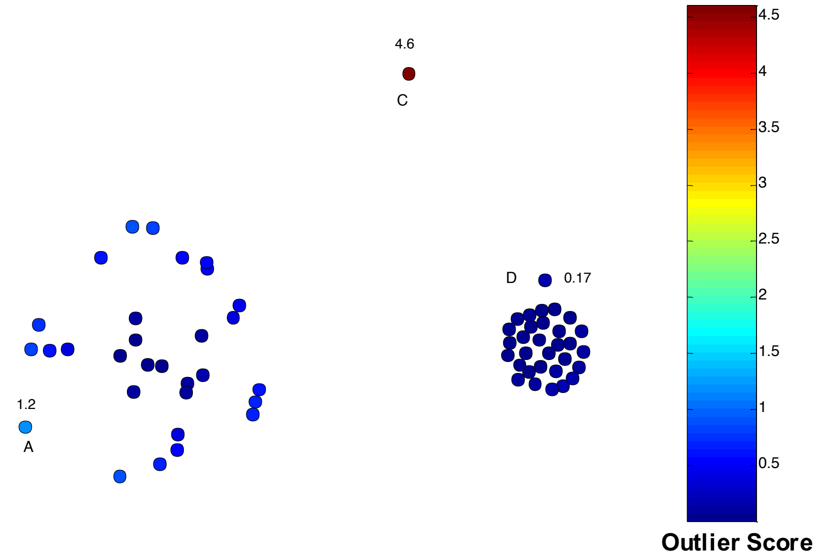
- Simple
- Expensive – $O(n^2)$
- Sensitive to parameters
- Density becomes less meaningful in high-dimensional space

Clustering-Based Approaches

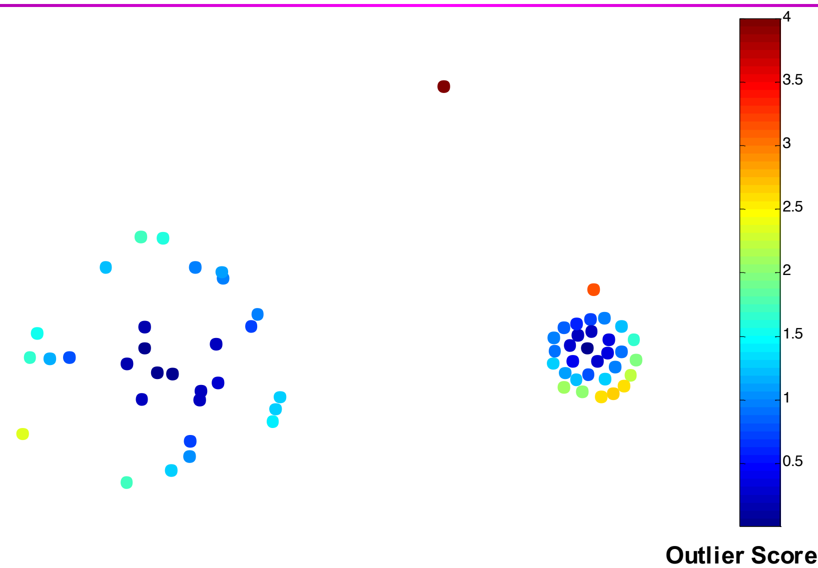
- **Clustering-based Outlier:** An object is a cluster-based outlier if it does not strongly belong to any cluster
  - For prototype-based clusters, an object is an outlier if it is not close enough to a cluster center
  - For density-based clusters, an objec is an outlier if its density is too low
  - For graph-based clusters, an object is an outlier if it is not well connected
- Other issues include the impact of outliers on the clusters and the number of clusters



Distance of Points from Closest Centroids



Relative Distance of Points from Closest Centroid



Strengths/Weaknesses of Distance-Based Approaches

- Simple

- Many clustering techniques can be used

- Can be difficult to decide on a clustering technique

- Can be difficult to decide on number of clusters

- Outliers can distort the clusters