CLASSIFICATION-BASED ANOMALY DETECTION FOR GENERAL DATA

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ABSTRACT

Anomaly detection, finding patterns that substantially deviate from those seen previously, is one of the fundamental problems of artificial intelligence. Recently, classification-based methods were shown to achieve superior results on this task. In this work, we present a unifying view and propose an open-set method to relax current generalization assumptions. Furthermore, we extend the applicability of transformation-based methods to non-image data using random affine transformations. Our method is shown to obtain state-of-the-art accuracy and is applicable to broad data types. The strong performance of our method is extensively validated on multiple datasets from different domains.

1 INTRODUCTION

Detecting anomalies in perceived data is a key ability for humans and for artificial intelligence. Humans often detect anomalies to give early indications of danger or to discover unique opportunities. Anomaly detection systems are being used by artificial intelligence to discover credit card fraud, for detecting cyber intrusion, alert predictive maintenance of industrial equipment and for discovering attractive stock market opportunities. The typical anomaly detection setting is a one class classification task, where the objective is to classify data as normal or anomalous. The importance of the task stems from being able to raise an alarm when detecting a different pattern from those seen in the past, therefore triggering further inspection. This is fundamentally different from supervised learning tasks, in which examples of all data classes are observed.

There are different possible scenarios for anomaly detection methods. In supervised anomaly detection, we are given training examples of normal and anomalous patterns. This scenario can be quite well specified, however obtaining such supervision may not be possible. For example in cyber security settings, we will not have supervised examples of new, unknown computer viruses making supervised training difficult. On the other extreme, fully unsupervised anomaly detection, obtains a stream of data containing normal and anomalous patterns and attempts to detect the anomalous data. In this work we deal with the semi-supervised scenario. In this setting, we have a training set of normal examples (which contains no anomalies). After training the anomaly detector, we detect anomalies in the test data, containing both normal and anomalous examples. This supervision is easy to obtain in many practical settings and is less difficult than the fully-unsupervised case.

Many anomaly detection methods have been proposed over the last few decades. They can be broadly classified into reconstruction and statistically based methods. Recently, deep classification-based methods have achieved superior results. The prominent approaches include: Deep-SVDD (Ruff et al., 2018) - one-class classification using a learned deep space, and transformation classification based methods (Golan & El-Yaniv, 2018). Transformation classification-based methods have been proposed with the object of image anomaly detection, but we show that by generalizing the class of transformations they can apply to all data types.

In this paper, we introduce a novel technique for anomaly detection which unifies current classification-based approaches. Our method first transforms the data into M subspaces, and learns a feature space such that inter-class separation is larger than intra-class separation. For the learned features, the distance from the cluster center is correlated with the likelihood of anomaly. We use this criterion to determine if a new data point is normal or anomalous. We also generalize the class of transformation functions to include affine transformation which allows our method to generalize to non-image data. This is significant as tabular data is probably the most important for applications

of anomaly detection. Our method is evaluated on anomaly detection on image and tabular datasets (cyber security and medical) and is shown to significantly improve over the state-of-the-art.

1.1 Previous Works

Anomaly detection methods can be generally divided into the following categories:

Reconstruction Methods: Some of the most common anomaly detection methods are reconstruction-based. The general idea behind such methods is that every normal sample should be reconstructed accurately using a limited set of basis functions, whereas anomalous data should suffer from larger reconstruction costs. The choice of features, basis and loss function differentiate between the different methods. Some of the earliest methods use: nearest neighbors (Eskin et al., 2002), low-rank PCA (Jolliffe, 2011; Candès et al., 2011) or K-means (Hartigan & Wong, 1979) as the reconstruction basis. Most recently, neural networks were used Sakurada & Yairi (2014); Xia et al. (2015) for learning deep basis functions for reconstruction. Another set of recent methods (Schlegl et al., 2017; Deecke et al., 2018) use GANs to learn a reconstruction basis function. GANs suffer from mode-collapse and are difficult to invert, which limits the performance of such methods.

Distributional Methods: Another set of commonly used methods are distribution-based. The main theme in such methods is to model the distribution of normal data. The expectation is that anomalous test data will have low likelihood under the probabilistic model while normal data will have higher likelihoods. Methods differ in the features used to describe the data and the probabilistic model used to estimate the normal distribution. Some early methods used Gaussian or Gaussian mixture models. Such models will only works if the data under the selected feature space satisfies the probabilistic assumptions implicit by the model. Another set of methods used non-parametric density estimate methods such as kernel density estimate (Parzen, 1962). Recently, deep learning methods (autoencoder or variational autoencoders) were used to learn deep features which are sometimes easier to model than raw features (Yang et al., 2017). ADGMM introduced by Zong et al. (2018) learn the probabilistic model jointly with the deep features therefore shaping the features space to better conform with the probabilistic assumption.

Classification-Based Methods: Another paradigm for anomaly detection is separation between space regions containing normal data from all other regions. An example of such approach is One-Class SVM (Scholkopf et al., 2000), which trains a classifier to perform this separation. Learning a good feature space for performing such separation is performed both by the classic kernel methods as well as by the recent deep learning approach (Ruff et al., 2018). One of the main challenges in unsupervised (or semi-supervised) learning is providing an objective for learning features that are relevant to the task of interest. One method for learning good representations in a self-supervised way is by training a neural network to solve an auxiliary task for which obtaining data is free or at least very inexpensive. Auxiliary tasks for learning high-quality image features include: video frame prediction (Mathieu et al., 2016), image colorization (Zhang et al., 2016; Larsson et al., 2016), puzzle solving Noroozi & Favaro (2016) (predicting the correct order of random permuted image patches). Recently, Gidaris et al. (2018) used a set of image processing transformations (rotation by $0, 90, 180, 270$ degrees around the image axis, and predicting the true image orientation has been used to learn high-quality image features. Golan & El-Yaniv (2018), have used similar image-processing operation prediction for detecting anomalies in images. This method has shown good performance on detecting images from anomalous classes. In this work, we overcome some of the limitations of previous classification-based methods and extend their applicability of transformation-based methods to general data types. We also show that our method is more robust to adversarial attacks.

2 Classification-Based Anomaly Detection

Classification-based methods have dominated supervised anomaly detection. In this section we will analyse semi-supervised classification-based methods:

Let us assume all data lies in space R^L (where L is the data dimension). Normal data lie in subspace $X \subset R^L$. We assume that all anomalies lie outside X. To detect anomalies, we would therefore like to build a classifier C, such that $C(x) = 1$ if $x \in X$ and $C(x) = 0$ if $x \in R^L/X$.

One-class classification methods attempt to learn C directly as $P(x \in X)$. Classical approaches have learned a classifier either in input space or in a kernel space. Recently, Deep-SVDD Ruff et al. (2018) learned end-to-end to i) transform the data to an isotropic feature space $f(x)$ ii) fit the minimal hypersphere of radius R around the features of the normal training data. Test data is classified as anomalous if the following normality score is positive: $\|f(x) - d_0\|^2 - R^2$. Learning an effective feature space is not a simple task, as the trivial solution of $f(x) = 0 \ \forall \ x$ results in the smallest hypersphere, various tricks are used to avoid this possibility.

Geometric-transformation classification (GEOM), proposed by Golan & El-Yaniv (2018) first transforms the normal data subspace X into M subspaces $X_1..X_M$. This is done by transforming each image $x \in X$ using M different geometric transformations (rotation, reflection, translation) into $T(x, 1)..T(x, M)$. Although these transformations are image specific, we will later extend the class of transformations to all affine transformations making this applicable to non-image data. They set an auxiliary task of learning a classifier able to predict the transformation label m given transformed data point $T(x, m)$. As the training set consists of normal data only, each sample is $x \in X$ and the transformed sample is in $\cup_m X_m$. The method attempts to estimate the following conditional probability:

$$P(m'|T(x, \tilde{m})) = \frac{P(T(x, \tilde{m}) \in X_{m'})P(m')}{\sum_m P(x, \tilde{m} \in X_m)P(m)} = \frac{P(T(x, \tilde{m}) \in X_{m'})}{\sum_m P(T(x, \tilde{m}) \in X_m)} \tag{1}$$

Where the second equality follows by design of the training set, and where every training sample is transformed exactly once by each transformation leading to equal priors.

For anomalous data, $x \in R^L/X$, if the transformations T are one-to-one, it follows that the transformed sample does not fall in the appropriate subspace: $T(x, \tilde{m}) \in R^L/X_m$. GEOM uses $P(m|T(x, m))$ as a score for determining if x is anomalous i.e. that $x \in R^L/X$. GEOM gives samples with low probabilities $P(m|T(x, m))$ high anomaly scores.

A significant issue with this methodology, is that the learned classifier $P(m'|T(x, \tilde{m}))$ is only valid for samples $x \in X$ which were found in the training set. For $x \in R^L/X$ we should in fact have $P(T(x, \tilde{m}) \in X_{m'}) = 0$ for all $m = 1..M$ (as the transformed x is not in any of the subsets). This makes the anomaly score $P(m'|T(x, \tilde{m}))$ undefined for anomalies.

One way to overcome this issue is by using examples of anomalies x_a and training $P(m|T(x, \tilde{m})) = \frac{1}{M}$ on anomalous data. This corresponds to the supervised scenario and was recently introduced as Outlier Exposure Hendrycks et al. (2018). Although getting such supervision is possible for some image tasks (where large external datasets can be used) this is not possible in the general case e.g. for tabular data which exhibits much more variation between datasets.

3 Distance-Based Multiple Transformation Classification

We propose a novel method to overcome the generalization issues highlighted in the previous section by using ideas from open-set classification (Bendale & Boult, 2016). Our approach unifies one-class and transformation-based classification methods. Similarly to GEOM we transform X to $X_1..X_M$. We learn a feature extractor $d = f(x)$ using a neural network, which maps the original input data into a feature representation. Similarly to deep OC methods, we model each subspace X_m mapped to the feature space $\{f(x)|x \in X_m\}$ as a sphere with center c_m. The probability of data point x after transformation m is parameterized by $P(T(x, \tilde{m}) \in X_m) = const * e^{-(f(T(x,\tilde{m}))-c_m)^2}$. The classifier predicting transformation m given a transformed point is therefore:

$$P(m'|T(x, \tilde{m})) = \frac{e^{-(f(T(x,\tilde{m}))-c_{m'})^2})}{\sum_m e^{-(f(T(x,\tilde{m}))-c_m)^2}} \tag{2}$$

The centers c_m are given by the average feature over the training set for every transformation i.e. $c_m = \frac{1}{N}\sum_{x \in X} f(T(x, m))$. One option is to directly learn f by optimizing cross-entropy between $P(m'|T(x, \tilde{m}))$ and the correct label on the normal training set. Note, that it is defined everywhere. In practice we obtained better results by training f using the center triplet loss He et al. (2018), which

learns supervised clusters with low intra-class variation, and high-inter-class variation by optimizing the following loss function (where s is a margin regularizing the distance between clusters):

$$L = \max(\|f(T(x,m)) - c_m\|^2 + s - min_{m' \neq m}\|f(T(x,m)) - c_{m'}\|^2, 0) \tag{3}$$

Having learned a feature space in which the different transformation subspaces are well separated, we use the probability is Eq. 2 as a normaility score. However, for data far away from the normal distributions, the distances from the means will be large. A small difference in distance will make the classifier unreasonably certain of a particular transformation. To add a general prior for uncertainty far from the training set, we add a small regularizing constant ϵ to the probability of each transformation. This ensures equal probabilities for uncertain regions:

$$\tilde{P}(m'|T(x,\tilde{m})) = \frac{e^{-(f(T(x,\tilde{m}))-c_{m'})^2}) + \epsilon}{\sum_m e^{-(f(T(x,\tilde{m}))-c_m)^2} + M \cdot \epsilon} \tag{4}$$

At test time we transform each sample by the M transformations. By assuming independence between transformations, the probability that x is normal (i.e. $x \in X$) is the product of the probabilities that all transformed samples are in their respective subspace. For log-probabilities the total score is given by:

$$Score(x) = -\log P(x \in X) = -\sum_m \log \tilde{P}(T(x,m) \in X_m) = -\sum_m \log \tilde{P}(m|T(x,m)) \tag{5}$$

The score computes the degree of anomaly of each sample. Higher scores indicate a more anomalous sample.

4 Parameterizing the Set of Transformations

Geometric transformations have been used previously for unsupervised feature learning by Gidaris et al. (2018) as well as by GEOM Golan & El-Yaniv (2018) for classification-based anomaly detection. This set of transformations is hand-crafted to work well with convolutional neural networks (CNNs) which greatly benefit from preserving neighborhood between pixels. This is however not a requirement for fully-connected networks.

Anomaly detection often deals with non-image datasets e.g. tabular data. Tabular data is very commonly used on the internet e.g. for cyber security or online advertising. Such data consists of both discrete and continuous attributes with no particular neighborhoods or order. The data is one-dimensional and rotations do not naturally generalize to it. To allow transformation-based methods to work on general data types, we therefore need to extend the class of transformations.

We propose to generalize the set of transformations to the class of affine transformations (where we have a total of M transformations):

$$T(x,m) = W_m x + b_m \tag{6}$$

It is easy to verify that all geometric transformations in Golan & El-Yaniv (2018) (rotation by a multiple of 90 degrees, flips and translations) are a special case of this class (x in this case is the set of image pixels written as a vector). The affine class is however much more general than mere permutations, and allows for dimensionality reduction, non-distance preservation and random transformation by sampling W, b from a random distribution.

Apart from reduced variance across different dataset types where no apriori knowledge on the correct transformation classes exists, random transformations are important for avoiding adversarial examples. Assume an adversary wishes to change the label of a particular sample from anomalous to normal or vice versa. This is the same as requiring that $\tilde{P}(m|T(x,\tilde{m}))$ has low or high probability for $m = \tilde{m}$. If T is chosen deterministicaly, the adversary may create adversarial examples against the known class of transformations (even if the exact network parameters are unknown).

Conversely, if T is unknown, the adversary must create adversarial examples that generalize across different transformations, which reduces the effectiveness of the attack.

To summarize, generalizing the set of transformations to the affine class allows us to: generalize to non-image data, use an unlimited number of transformations and choose transformations randomly which reduces variance and defends against adversarial examples.

5 EXPERIMENTS

We perform experiments to validate the effectiveness our distance-based approach and the performance of our extending the class of transformations when applied to non-image data.

5.1 CIFAR10 EXPERIMENTS

Image Experiments: To verify the good performance of our method, we perform experiments on the Cifar10 dataset. We use the same same architecture and parameter choices of Golan & El-Yaniv (2018), with our distance-based approach. We use the standard protocol of training on all training images of a single digit and testing on all test images. Results are reported in terms of AUC. In our method, we used a margin of $s = 0.1$. We compare our method with the deep one-class method of Ruff et al. (2018) as well as Golan & El-Yaniv (2018) without and with Dirichlet weighting. We believe the correct comparison is without Dirichlet post-processing, as we also do not use it in our method. Our distance based approach outperforms the SOTA approach by Golan & El-Yaniv (2018), both with and without Dirichlet (which seems to improve performance on a few classes). This gives evidence for the importance of considering the generalization behavior outside the normal region used in training.

Adversarial Robustness: Let us assume an attack model where the attacker knows the architecture and the normal training data and is trying to minimally modify anomalies to look normal. We examine the merits of two settings i) the adversary knows the transformations used (non-random) ii) the adversary uses another set of transformations. To measure the benefit of the randomized transformations, we train three networks A, B, C. Networks A and B use exactly the same transformations but random parameter initialization prior to training. Network C is trained using other randomly selected transformations. The adversary creates adversarial examples using PGD (Madry et al., 2017) based on network A (making anomalies appear like normal data). On Cifar10, we randomly selected 8 transformations from the full set of 72 for A and B, another randomly selected 8 transformations are used for C. We measure the increase of false classification rate on the adversarial examples using the three networks. The average increase in performance of classifying transformation correctly on anomalies (causing lower anomaly scores) on the original network A was 12.8%, the transfer performance for B causes an increase by 5.0% on network B which shared the same set of transformation, and 3% on network C that used other rotations. This shows the benefits of using random transformations.

5.2 TABULAR DATA EXPERIMENTS

We evaluate our method against SOTA anomaly detection techniques on an extensive set of tabular data sets:

Datasets

Following the evaluation protocol of Zong et al. Zong et al. (2018), 4 datasets are used in this comparison:

Arrhythmia: A cardiology dataset from the UCI repository Asuncion & Newman (2007) containing attributes related to the diagnosis of cardiac arrhythmia in patients. The datasets consists of 16 classes: class 1 are normal patients, 2-15 contain different arrhythmia conditions, and class 16 contains undiagnosed cases. Following the protocol established by ODDS Rayana (2016), the smallest classes: $3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15$ are taken to be anomalous and the rest normal. Also following ODDS, the categorical attributes are dropped, the final attributes total 274.

Thyroid: A medical dataset from the UCI repository Asuncion & Newman (2007), containing attributes related to whether a patient is hyperthyroid. Following ODDS Rayana (2016), from the 3

Table 1: Anomaly Detection Accuracy on Cifar10 (%)

Class	Method			
	Deep-SVDD	GEOM (no Dirichlet)	GEOM (w. Dirichlet)	Ours
0	61.7 ± 1.3	76.0 ± 0.8	74.7 ± 0.4	**77.7** ± 0.6
1	65.9 ± 0.7	83.0 ± 1.6	95.7 ± 0.0	**96.7** ± 0.2
2	50.8 ± 0.3	79.5 ± 0.7	78.1 ± 0.4	**83.1** ± 1.4
3	59.1 ± 0.4	71.4 ± 0.9	72.4 ± 0.5	**77.7** ± 0.7
4	60.9 ± 0.3	83.5 ± 1.0	87.8 ± 0.2	**89.0** ± 0.6
5	65.7 ± 0.8	84.0 ± 0.3	87.8 ± 0.1	**88.0** ± 0.6
6	67.7 ± 0.8	78.4 ± 0.7	83.4 ± 0.5	**89.8** ± 0.6
7	67.3 ± 0.3	89.3 ± 0.5	95.5 ± 0.1	**96.3** ± 0.3
8	75.9 ± 0.4	88.6 ± 0.6	93.3 ± 0.0	**94.6** ± 0.9
9	73.1 ± 0.4	82.4 ± 0.7	91.3 ± 0.1	**92.4** ± 0.6

classes of the dataset, we designate hyperfunction as the anomalous class and the rest as normal. Also following ODDS only the 6 continuous attributes are used.

KDD: The KDD Intrusion Detection dataset was created by an extensive simulation of a US Airforce LAN network. The dataset consists of the normal and 4 simulated attack types: denial of service, unauthorized access from a remote machine, unauthorized access from local superuser and probing. The dataset consists of around 5 million TCP connection records. Following the evaluation protocol in Zong et al. (2018), we use the UCI KDD 10% dataset, which is a subsampled version of the original dataset. The dataset contains 41 different attributes. 34 are continuous and 7 are categorical. Following Zong et al. (2018), we encode the categorical attributes using 1-hot encoding.

Following Zong et al. (2018), we evaluate two different settings for the KDD dataset:

KDDCUP99: In this configuration we use the entire UCI 10% dataset. As the non-attack class consists of only 20% of the dataset, it is treated as the anomaly in this case, while attacks are treated as normal.

KDDCUP99-Rev: To better correspond to the actual use-case, in which the non-attack scenario is normal and attacks are anomalous, Zong et al. (2018) also evaluate on the reverse configuration, in which the attack data is subsampled to consist of 25% of the number of non-attack samples. The attack data is in this case designated as anomalous (the reverse of the KDDCUP99 dataset).

In all the above datasets, the methods are trained on 50% of the normal data. The methods are evaluated on 50% of the normal data as well as all the anomalies.

Methods

OC-SVM, E2E-AE and DA-GMM results are directly taken from those reported by Zong et al. (2018). LOF was computed by us.

OC-SVM: One-class SVM Scholkopf et al. (2000) , a maximal-margin method that attempts to differentiate between high and low density regions. This method used a radial basis function (RBF) kernel.

LOF: Local Outlier Factor (Breunig et al., 2000) measure the local deviation of a given data point with respect to its neighbours.

DAGMM: Deep Autoencoding Gaussian Mixture Model, introduced by Zong et al. (2018). This method jointly learns features with the mixture of Gaussian density models. They propose multiple variants of this technique, we compare against the main (and strongest) variant, DAGMM.

We compare the baselines to our method. We randomly sampled transformation matrices using the normal distribution for each element. Each matrix has dimensionality $L \times r$, where L is the data dimension and r is a reduced dimension (we used $r = 4$). We set the bias term to 0.

Implementation: For C we used fully-connected hidden layers with 128 nodes and leakyReLU activations. We optimized using ADAM with a learning rate of 0.001.

Table 2: Anomaly Detection Accuracy on Arrhythmia and Thyroid (%)

Method	Dataset							
	Arrhythmia		Thyroid		KDD		KDDRev	
	F_1 Score	σ	F_1 Score	σ				
OC-SVM	45.8		38.9		79.5		83.2	
E2E-AE	45.9		11.8		0.3		74.5	
LOF	50.0	0.0	52.7	0.0	83.8	5.2	81.6	3.6
DAGMM	49.8		47.8		93.7		93.8	
Ours	**51.05**	1.73	**71.18**	7.0	**98.4**	0.2	**98.4**	0.1

Each experiment was repeated 5 times. We report the mean and standard deviation (σ). Following the protocol in Zong et al. (2018), the decision threshold value is chosen to result in the correct number of anomalies e.g. if the test set contains N_a anomalies, the threshold is selected so that the highest N_a scoring examples are classified as anomalies. True positives and negatives are evaluated in the usual way.

Results

Arrhythmia: The Arrhythmia dataset was the smallest examined. A quantitative comparison on this dataset can be seen in Tab. 2. OC-SVM and DAGMM performed reasonably well. Our method outperformed all baselines. A linear classifier C performed better than deeper networks (which suffered from overfitting). Early stopping after a single epoch generated the best results.

Thyroid: Thyroid is a small dataset, with a low anomally to normal ratio and low feature dimensionality. A quantitative comparison on this dataset can be seen in Tab. 2. Most baselines performed about equally well, probably due to the low dimensionality. On this dataset, we also found that early stopping after a single epoch gave the best results. The best results on this dataset, were obtained with a linear classifier. Our method beat all baselines by a wide margin.

KDDCUP99: The UCI KDD 10% dataset is the largest dataset examined. A quantitative comparison on this dataset can be seen in Tab. **??**. E2E-AE failed on this dataset. OC-SVM performed better, reaching around 0.8. The strongest baseline, DAGMM achieved 0.937. Our method significantly outperformed all baselines. We found that large datasets have different dynamics from very small datasets. On this dataset, large networks performed the best. We also, did not need early stopping. The results are reported after 25 epochs.

KDD-Rev: The KDD-Rev dataset is a large dataset, but smaller than KDDCUP99 dataset. A quantitative comparison on this dataset can be seen in Tab. **??**. Similarly to KDDCUP99, the two best baselines are OC-SVM and DAGMM, where DAGMM significantly outperforms OC-SVM. Our method significantly outperformed all baselines. Due to the size of the dataset, we did not need early stopping. The results are reported after 25 epochs.

Adversarial Robustness: Due to the large number of transformations and relatively small networks, adversarial examples are less of a problem for tabular data. PGD generally failed to obtain adversarial examples on these datasets. On KDD, transformation classification accuracy on anomalies was increased by 3.7% for the network the adversarial examples were trained on, 1.3% when transferring to the network with the same transformation and only 0.2% on the network with other randomly selected transformations. This again shows increased adversarial robustness due to random transformations.

Further Analysis

Contaminated Data: This paper deals with the semi-supervised scenario i.e. when the training dataset contains only normal data. In some scenarios, such data might not be available but instead we might have a training dataset that contains a small percentage of anomalies. To evaluate the robustness of our method to this unsupervised scenario, we analysed the KDDCUP99 dataset, when $X\%$ of the training data is anomalous. To prepare the data, we used the same normal training data as before and added further anomalous examples. The test data consists of the same proportions

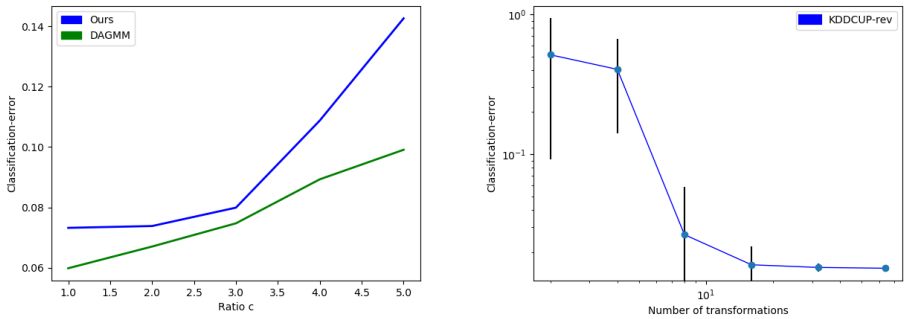

Figure 1: Left: Classification error for our method and DAGMM as a function of percentage of the anomalous examples in the training set (on the KDDCUP99 dataset). Our method consistently outperforms the baseline. Right: Classification error as a function of the number of transformations (on the KDDRev dataset). The error and instability decrease as a function of the number of transformations. For both, lower is better.

as before. The results are shown in Fig. 1. Our method significantly outperforms DAGMM for all impurity values, and degrades more graceful than the baseline. This attests to the effectiveness of our approach.

Number of operations: One of the advantages of our approach, is the ability to generate any number of operations. We investigated the effect of the number of operations on the accuracy of the results. The experiment was carried on the KDD-Rev dataset (due to its large but manageable size). The results can be seen in Fig. 1. We note that a small number of operations (less than 16) leads to poor results. From 16 operations, the mean accuracy does not change, however the results become increasingly more stable with a greater number of operations. A direct tradeoff between runtime and stability of results, needs to be taken into account when applying our technique in practice.

6 Discussion

Generating many tasks: As illustrated in Sec.5.2, increasing the number of tasks above a certain threshold significantly increases the performance of our method. Beyond this threshold it mainly improves the stability of the results. This is one of the strengths of our approach, which allows generating an arbitrary number of tasks.

Unsupervised training: Although most of our results are semi-supervised i.e. assume that no anomalies exist in the training set, we have shown results showing that our method is more robust than strong baselines to a small percentage of anomalies in the training set. Our method might therefore be used in fully unsupervised settings.

Deep vs. shallow classifiers: Our experiments show that for large datasets deep networks are beneficial (particularly for the full KDDCUP99), but are not needed for smaller datasets. For performance critical operations, our approach may be used in a linear setting. This may also aid future theoretical analysis of our method.

7 Conclusion

In this paper, we presented a method for detecting anomalies for general unstructured data. This was achieved by training a classifier on a set of random auxiliary tasks. Our method does not require knowledge of the data domain, and we are able to generate an arbitrary number of random tasks. We show that our method significantly improved over the state-of-the-art and even linear classifiers do so for most datasets. Future work will extend this approach to generate arbitrary randomized tasks for time-series and image data.

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