
ODEEL: A Holistic Library for Unified Post-Hoc OOD Detection Research And Application

Paul Novello*

Yannick Prudent*

Corentin Friedrich

Joseba Dalmau

IRT Saint Exupéry (DEEL Team), Artificial and Natural Intelligence Toulouse Institute (ANITI)
Toulouse, France. * **Equal contributors**

Abstract

1 We present OODEEL, an open-source Post-hoc Out-of-Distribution (OOD) detection
2 library. OODEEL is designed as a highly customizable tool that supports a
3 wide range of OOD detectors and can be applied to any model classifier architectures
4 from both PyTorch and TensorFlow. It implements unified abstractions so
5 that every building block, such as activation shaping and layer-wise aggregation,
6 can be used seamlessly by any detector. It also provides a user-friendly API that
7 allows for easy integration of new OOD detectors, which can then benefit from all
8 these building blocks, and native compatibility with most TensorFlow and PyTorch
9 models. OODEEL seamlessly handles standard OOD evaluation settings for bench-
10 marking, including multiple ID/OOD datasets (both near- and far-OOD). Hence,
11 we leverage its holistic implementation to address several critical aspects of OOD
12 evaluation that are often overlooked in current benchmarks: robustness to model
13 variability, effect of aggregation of layer-wise scores, effect of activation shaping,
14 and link between in-distribution accuracy and OOD detection performances.

15 1 Introduction

16 Out-of-distribution (OOD) detection has become increasingly crucial for deploying robust machine
17 learning systems in real-world applications. Neural network models, although effective, often exhibit
18 overconfidence when encountering inputs outside their training distribution, which can lead to
19 significant safety and reliability issues. To mitigate this, post-hoc OOD detection methods have
20 emerged as attractive solutions, as they require no retraining and can readily be applied to existing
21 pretrained models. These approaches typically operate by assigning OOD scores to inputs based on
22 either model logits or internal layer feature values.

23 Some libraries, such as OpenOOD [21] and PyTorch OOD [6], have been developed to foster research,
24 benchmarking, and adoption of OOD detection. Despite their popularity, these libraries have notable
25 limitations. Firstly, they implement OOD detectors separately, often ignoring the potential benefits
26 of combining components such as activation shaping [15, 19, 2] and layer-wise score aggregation
27 [5, 1, 3] across different OOD methods. Secondly, these libraries tend to restrict their usability to
28 predefined models, neglecting the broader applicability of post-hoc methods to arbitrary user-provided
29 classifiers. Lastly, they are generally restricted to a single deep learning framework, typically PyTorch,
30 excluding TensorFlow practitioners from easy access to state-of-the-art OOD detection tools.

31 In this paper, we introduce OODEEL, an open-source, highly flexible, and holistic library that
32 addresses these limitations. By supporting seamless integration with arbitrary pretrained models
33 from both PyTorch and TensorFlow, it provides a unified implementation of post-hoc OOD detectors
34 and components such as activation shaping and layer-wise aggregation. Moreover, its intuitive and
35 unified API enables effortless application to many OOD detection test cases. OODEEL also includes

36 a benchmarking functionality that allows for easy testing of implemented OOD detectors on the
37 OpenOOD benchmark.

38 Leveraging the versatility of OODEEL, we conduct extensive experiments to rigorously assess several
39 underexplored aspects of OOD detection, including the sensitivity of methods to model variability, the
40 impact of aggregating scores across multiple layers, and the influence of activation shaping strategies.
41 We also provide additional insights from our experiments about the link between ID accuracy and
42 AUROC, disparate performances on small-scale and large-scale datasets, and correlation between near
43 and far OOD. Our findings not only reveal critical insights into the performance and robustness of
44 current OOD methods but also highlight the practical advantages of a unified approach in developing
45 and evaluating future OOD detection techniques. OODEEL¹ is available on GitHub, and we release
46 an accompanying platform² for a comprehensive visualization of experiment results.

47 2 Background

Out-of-distribution detection can be interpreted as a binary classification problem. The most common way of constructing an OOD detector is by using an OOD scoring function $s : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and a threshold $\tau \in \mathbb{R}$:

$$\begin{cases} x \text{ predicted ID} & \text{if } s(x) \leq \tau, \\ x \text{ predicted OOD} & \text{if } s(x) > \tau. \end{cases}$$

48 Throughout the paper we adopt the convention that OOD scoring functions are designed so that they
49 give higher scores to OOD data and lower scores to ID data. Given a pair of datasets \mathcal{D}^- for ID data
50 and \mathcal{D}^+ for OOD data, and an OOD detector (s, τ) , we can define the following metrics:

- 51 • *False Positive Rate (FPR)*. The fraction of ID data that is incorrectly classified as being
52 OOD, i.e. $FPR(\tau) = |\{x \in \mathcal{D}^- : s(x) > \tau\}|/|\mathcal{D}^-|$.
- 53 • *True Positive Rate (TPR)*. The fraction of OOD data that is correctly classified as being
54 OOD, i.e. $TPR(\tau) = |\{x \in \mathcal{D}^+ : s(x) > \tau\}|/|\mathcal{D}^+|$.

55 In the context of OOD benchmarking, it is customary to measure the separation power of a scoring
56 function s independently of the chosen threshold τ . The most popular such metric is the *AUROC* or
57 area under the ROC curve, which is the parametric curve given by $\{(FPR(\tau), TPR(\tau)), \tau \in \mathbb{R}\}$.

58 Classical benchmarks in OOD research evaluate a score s by computing its AUROC with respect to a
59 bunch of different pairs of ID/OOD datasets, where the ID/OOD pairs are usually chosen so that they
60 have semantically non-overlapping classes.

61 2.1 Post-hoc OOD

Post-hoc OOD is a popular class of OOD detection methods (the library OpenOOD [21] implements
24) that apply to already trained models without requiring training or fine-tuning. Let f denote a
classifier neural network whose weights have already been fixed through a training process. We
assume the classifier f is obtained as a composition of different parametric functions called *layers*,

$$f(x) = h^\ell \circ h^{\ell-1} \circ \dots \circ h^1(x).$$

62 Assume that the values $f(x) \in \mathbb{R}^{d_\ell}$ represent the (unnormalized) logits and let us denote by $g^l(x) =$
63 $h^l \circ \dots \circ h^1(x) \in \mathbb{R}^{d_l}$ the l -th layer features. Traditional post-hoc OOD detection methods can be
64 split into two main families:

65 **Logit-based.** The OOD score $s : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is obtained by applying a scoring function $\sigma : \mathbb{R}^{d_\ell} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
66 on the logit space: $s = \sigma \circ f$.

67 **Feature-based.** The OOD score $s : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is obtained by applying a scoring function $\sigma : \mathbb{R}^{d_l} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$
68 on an intermediate feature space: $s = \sigma \circ g^l$ for some $1 \leq l < \ell$. The most common choice is to take
69 the penultimate layer features, i.e. $l = \ell - 1$.

70 Moreover, in the OOD literature, some techniques have been applied to some of the previous OOD
71 detectors to augment their performances:

¹OODEEL: <https://github.com/deel-ai/oodeel>

²Visualization platform: <https://oodeel-benchmark.streamlit.app/>

72 **Activation shaping.** This methods can be seen as *add-ons* to logit-based scores: an additional
73 (clipping, normalization,...) transformation $\tau : \mathbb{R}^{d_{\ell-1}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{d_{\ell-1}}$ is applied to the penultimate layer
74 $g^{\ell-1}$ before applying the last layer. The scoring function becomes $s = \sigma \circ h^{\ell} \circ \tau \circ g^{\ell-1}$.

75 **Layer-wise score aggregation.** This method can be seen as an *add-on* to feature-based scores. It
76 aggregates the scores computed on different internal layers. For a given example x , a set (or a subset)
77 of $\ell - 1$ different scores are computed from the different feature spaces $s_l(x) = \sigma_l \circ g^l(x)$, which
78 are then aggregated together into a single score via an aggregation function $\mathcal{A} : \mathbb{R}^{\ell} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, i.e. the
79 final score is $s(x) = \mathcal{A}(s_1(x), \dots, s_{\ell-1}(x))$.

80 Note that some of the OOD methods require *fitting* the functions σ , τ , or \mathcal{A} on the ID training data,
81 while others do not. We give references to such techniques in Section 3.3 for conciseness.

82 2.2 Motivations for (Another) Post-hoc OOD Detection Library

83 Post-hoc OOD is convenient because it theoretically applies to any pre-trained model and does not
84 need any specific training procedure. Moreover, it has been shown by the OpenOOD benchmark
85 that this class of OOD detectors is on par with other training-based methods [21]. Hence, some
86 libraries such as OpenOOD and Pytorch OOD implement a large set of post-hoc OOD detectors.
87 However, (1) these libraries implement OOD detectors separately, as in the original papers, whereas
88 some ideas from one could be applied to others. For instance, activation shaping techniques can be
89 applied to all logit-based methods, and layer-wise score aggregation to all feature-based methods.
90 In OODEEL, we use abstractions that allow us to apply these components to any OOD detector,
91 when appropriate. Moreover, (2) they restrict the application of these methods to predefined models,
92 which are manually overloaded one by one to be equipped with OOD detection capabilities. We
93 believe that the strength of post-hoc OOD detection lies in its broad applicability to any pre-trained
94 model. Hence, in OODEEL, we developed a tool to build OOD detectors on top of any user-provided
95 pre-trained model. Finally (3) these libraries are developed in PyTorch only, missing the TensorFlow
96 community. As we shall see, OODEEL’s engine is built to make OOD detectors available for both
97 backends, without duplicating code.

98 3 A Library for Unified Post-hoc OOD Detection

99 In this section, we give an overview of OODEEL’s usage and features. We first emphasize the
100 simplicity of its API and how to use it for any model in both TensorFlow and PyTorch. Then, we
101 describe its core abstractions and how they enable a unified and broad application of Post-hoc OOD
102 detection. We also provide a list of implemented OOD detectors. Finally, we describe some additional
103 quality-of-life features that are bundled in OODEEL. All the described features are explained in
104 detail, together with API documentation and Jupyter tutorials, in OODEEL’s documentation.

105 3.1 User API

106 The basic workflow of using OODEEL can be broken down into three main steps:

107 1 **Data preparation:** Load and prepare the dataset using the `DataHandler` object. A Ten-
108 sorFlow `tf.data.Dataset` or a PyTorch `torch.data.Dataset` is loaded either from the
109 pre-specified hub (`tensorflow-datasets` for TensorFlow and `torchvision` for PyTorch
110 by default, but both can load data from HuggingFace with the argument `hub=huggingface`),
111 or from custom input data (`tuple` or `dict` of `np.ndarray`, or existing TensorFlow or Py-
112 Torch `Dataset`). Then, `data_loader.prepare()` prepares the Dataset for scoring, and
113 returns a prepared `tf.data.Dataset` or a `torch.data.DataLoader`.

114 2 **OOD Detector instantiation and scoring:** Instantiate the detector with appropriate hyper-
115 parameters depending on the chosen detector. Note that all the logit-based detectors can
116 be used with implemented activation-shaping techniques, ReAct, ASH, and SCALE, with
117 the arguments `use_react/ash/scale=True`. Then, fit the detector to the provided `keras`
118 or `torch.nn` pretrained classifier. Feature-based detectors (like DKNN or Mahalanobis)
119 leverage internal representations of neural network classifiers. For these detectors, the user
120 has to indicate what layer(s) the detector will use to compute the score through the argument
121 `feature_layers_id`, which is a list of names of such layers. The names can be easily
122 found using `.summary()` functions or convenient graph visualization tools such as Netron
123 app. When several layers are given as input, the detector aggregates the scores for each

```
1
from oodeel.datasets import load_data_handler
data_handler = load_data_handler("torch")

# 1a- Load in-distribution dataset: CIFAR-10
ds_fit = data_handler.load_dataset(
    "CIFAR10", load_kwargs={"root": data_path, "train": True, "download": True}
)
ds_in = data_handler.load_dataset(
    "CIFAR10", load_kwargs={"root": data_path, "train": False, "download": True}
)
# 1b- Load out-of-distribution dataset: SVHN
ds_out = data_handler.load_dataset(
    "SVHN", load_kwargs={"root": data_path, "split": "test", "download": True}
)

# 2- Prepare data (preprocess, shuffle, batch)
# define preprocessing function "preprocess_fn"
# define batch_size

ds_fit = data_handler.prepare(
    ds_fit, batch_size, preprocess_fn, shuffle=True, columns=["input", "label"]
)
ds_in = data_handler.prepare(
    ds_in, batch_size, preprocess_fn, columns=["input", "label"]
)
ds_out = data_handler.prepare(
    ds_out, batch_size, preprocess_fn, columns=["input", "label"]
)

2
from oodeel.methods import Mahalanobis
from oodeel.aggregator import StdNormalizedAggregator

mahalanobis = Mahalanobis(
    eps=0.05,
    aggregator=StdNormalizedAggregator() # alternatively,
) # FisherAggregator()
mahalanobis.fit(
    model,
    feature_layers_id=[
        "layer1.2.relu",
        "layer2.2.relu",
        "layer3.2.relu",
    ],
    fit_dataset=ds_fit,
)
scores_in, _ = mahalanobis.score(ds_in)
scores_out, _ = mahalanobis.score(ds_out)

# === metrics ===
# auroc / fpr95
metrics = bench.metrics(
    (scores_in, scores_out),
    metrics=[ "auroc", "fpr95ptr" ],
)

```

Figure 1: User API for using Mahalanobis detector with Cifar10/SVHN as ID/OOD datasets. **(1) Data preparation:** Instantiate a `DataHandler` depending on the backend, load the ID dataset from the default hub. **(2) Detector instantiation and scoring:** Instantiate the detector, fit it to the user-provided pretrained classifier, and score the datasets. **(3) Compute OOD metrics.**

layer using an `aggregator` object. Often, these feature-based detectors need a third ID fit dataset, which can be built out of the ID training dataset. In such cases, the user needs to specify it with the argument `fit_dataset`.

127 3 **Computing OOD metrics:** Compute the selected OOD metrics from the scores computed
128 in the previous step. Note that it is possible to give any metrics from `sklearn.metrics` as
129 an argument when relevant.

130 **The APIs are the same for TensorFlow and Pytorch**, from data loading to computing metrics. All
131 these steps are illustrated for the Mahalanobis detector in Figure 1.

132 3.2 Core Structure

133 OODEEL is built on four main core abstractions we outline in this Section. The interactions between
134 these abstractions for a detection workflow are illustrated in Figure 2.

135 **DataHandler** From the user’s point of view, this abstraction instantiates data from dataset hubs
136 Torchvision, Tensorflow Datasets, or Hugging Face, or from user-provided datasets. It also pre-
137 pares datasets for scoring (prepared datasets can also be used for training). It is instantiated using
138 `load_data_handler()`, which either loads `TFDataHandler` or `TorchDataHandler` automatically
139 depending on the backend. The two child classes share the same API, which does not depend on the
140 backend, so all this is transparent to the user.

141 **FeatureExtractor** This abstraction runs completely under the hood, and extracts internal features
142 of any pretrained models in `keras` (with `KerasFeatureExtractor` child class) or `torch.nn` (with
143 `TorchFeatureExtractor` child class) based on layer names or indices. It is fit on a model when
144 using `OODBaseDetector.fit()` and can be used in place of the original model. Its `.predict()`
145 method returns the model outputs with its internal features.

146 **Operator** This abstraction also runs under the hood and provides a single API for tensor operations, regardless of the backend. When instantiating a detector, the backend is detected and either
147 **TorchOperator** or **TFOperator** is loaded. All the detectors' calculations are implemented with
148 the **Operator**'s API and hence do not need a separate implementation to work with PyTorch or
149 Tensorflow. The spirit of this abstraction is the same as `keras.ops`³ for Keras 3, or EagerPy [11].
150

151 **ODDBaseDetector** It is the main engine of the library, and all detectors inherit from this class.
152 It manages the use of activation-shaping and layer aggregation techniques, and loads appropriate
153 **DataHandler**, **FeatureExtractor**, and **Operator** that will be used at runtime.

154 Some key practical advantages of the OODEEL implementation deserve to be highlighted.

³<https://keras.io/api/ops/>

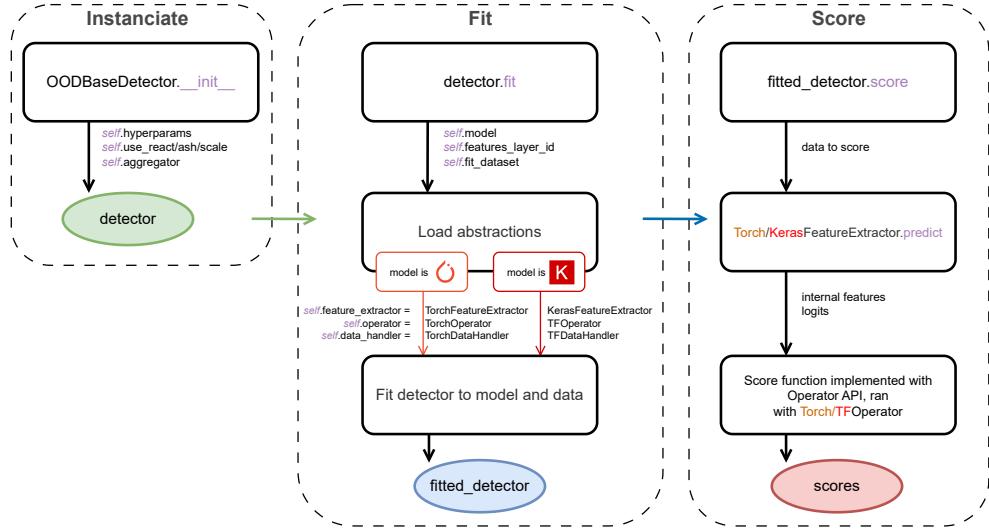


Figure 2: Details on interactions between `OODBaseDetector`, `DataHandler`, `FeatureExtractor` and `Operator` when using OODEEL. Note that for simplicity, we omit to represent `HFFeatureExtractor`

155 **Compatibility with both PyTorch and Tensorflow:** The implementation of a common API for
 156 PyTorch and TensorFlow specific classes allows us to write code using this API, without worrying
 157 about which class, and therefore which backend will be used.

158 **Seamless data loading:** Using `DataHandler`, data can be loaded from main datasets hubs: Torchvi-
 159 sion, Tensorflow Datasets, and HuggingFace datasets, or from custom Datasets, with a backend-
 160 agnostic API.

161 **Compatibility with any pretrained Keras and torch.nn classifier models:** `FeatureExtractor`
 162 and its child classes allow the extraction of internal features from all pretrained models solely using
 163 the layer names. This is a key advantage compared to other OOD libraries that reimplement common
 164 models to make them compatible with their code.

165 **Unified implementation:** `OODBaseDetector` is implemented so that, when it is applicable, every
 166 detector's component that can be used with other detectors, even if it was not the case in these
 167 detectors' initial implementation. Hence, we can apply activation shaping techniques such as ReAct
 168 to every logit-based detector, and aggregate the scores of several layers for all feature-based detectors.

169 **Easy implementation of new custom detectors:** Using `Operator`, it takes only a few class overrides
 170 to implement a new detector that enjoys all the previous features. A tutorial in the documentation is
 171 provided to guide practitioners through such an implementation.

172 3.3 Implemented OOD detectors

173 OODEEL is not to be compared with benchmarking software like OpenOOD. It implements fewer
 174 OOD detection techniques since our focus is to unify their implementations and make them applicable
 175 to any model in both TensorFlow and PyTorch. Hence, we selected OOD detection techniques that are
 176 either the most cited or among the best of the OpenOOD benchmark. The included OOD detection
 177 techniques, sorted by category, are as follows. **Feature-based detectors:** Mahalanobis [7], DKNN
 178 [16], VIM [18], RMDS [12], SHE [20], Gram [14]. **Logit-based detectors:** MLS [17], MSP [4],
 179 Energy [9], Entropy [13], GEN [10], ODIN [8]. **Activation-shaping techniques:** ReAct [15], ASH
 180 [2], SCALE [19]. **Layer-wise aggregation techniques:** Fisher [1, 3], Normalized [14].

181 3.4 Additional features

182 OODEEL comes with additional Visualization and benchmarking features that we describe in the
 183 Appendix. We use the benchmarking feature in the following section.

184 **4 A Unified Benchmark for Post-hoc OOD Detection**

185 OpenOOD is the reference benchmark for OOD detection. However, the leaderboard they provide
 186 suffers from limitations. **(1)** No generic feature aggregation techniques are tested with feature-based
 187 detectors. **(2)** Activation shaping is only applied to energy, whereas it could be applied to any
 188 logit-based methods. These two limitations are design choices that are perfectly legitimate when
 189 the intention is to provide a benchmark faithful to the methods presented in the original papers. **(3)**
 190 More problematically, each experiment is run on very few different neural networks. As an example,
 191 OOD detectors are tested on Cifar10 and Cifar100 with only one model, and on Imagenet with three
 192 models, whereas, as we shall see, the OOD detector’s performance rank can change a lot depending
 193 on the underlying model.

194 Motivated by these limitations, we leverage the holistic and interoperable implementation of OODEEL
 195 OOD detectors to comprehensively test the **impact of layer-wise score aggregation**, the **impact**
 196 **of activation shaping**, and the **effect of the model** (including on activation shaping and layer-wise
 197 aggregation). We also leverage our experiments to provide additional insights into the link between ID
 198 accuracy and AUROC, disparate performances on small-scale and large-scale datasets, and correlation
 199 between near and far OOD

200 **4.1 Setting**

201 We test all the implemented OOD detectors following OpenOOD benchmark settings, with Cifar10,
 202 Cifar100, and Imagenet as ID datasets and corresponding near-OOD and far-OOD sets of OOD
 203 datasets. For Cifar10, Cifar100, we test the detectors on 11 different models, and for Imagenet,
 204 on 7 different models. We select the best hyperparameters for each OOD detector using a simple
 205 grid search. Logit-based detectors are all assessed with and without activation-shaping, and feature-
 206 based detectors with three levels of score aggregations: no aggregation, partial aggregation, where
 207 we aggregate the last layers, and full aggregation, where we aggregate all the layers. We use
 208 the Fisher aggregation technique. As a result, a total of 42 different detectors are tested on 29
 209 different models. All the following figures are extracted from our visualization platform <https://odeel-benchmark.streamlit.app/>. The full results of our experiments can be found in the
 210 Appendix and in the platform. Below we give a summary of the main results and takeaways by
 211 displaying only a subset of the results, for the sake of readability.

213 **4.2 Impact of the model**

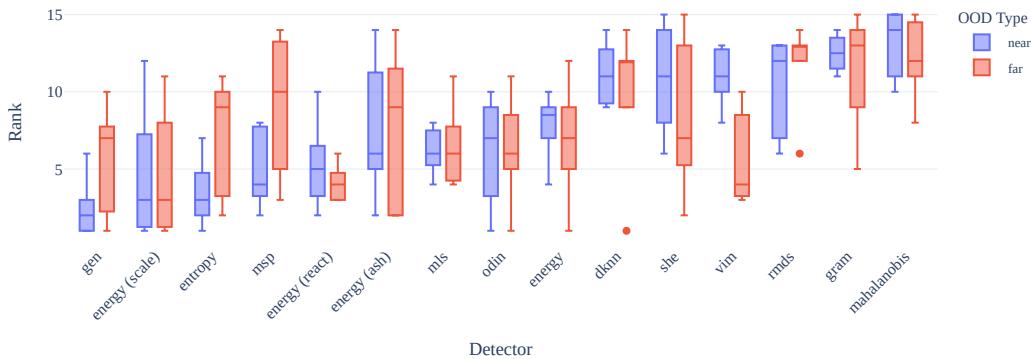


Figure 3: Box plots of the rank for each detector on Imagenet. Methods are sorted according to their mean rank on near-OOD.

214 For each model, we rank the different OOD detectors according to their AUROC. We then produce
 215 a box plot of these ranks with respect to the models for each OOD detector. The results of this
 216 experiment for the Imagenet benchmark and the most common OOD detectors are reported in 3. As
 217 we can see, the rank varies greatly with the model, and there is no clear winner: for the near-OOD
 218 experiments, GEN is the best detector on average, but DKNN is the best detector for one particular
 219 model while it ranks 10th on average. We also provide rank correlation heatmaps between OOD
 220 detectors for each models in Appendix to corroborate this finding.

221 **Takeaway 1** Results on OOD detectors reported on only one or few models should be interpreted
 222 with care, and might not be representative of the real behavior on a wider range of models.

223 **4.3 Impact of Layer-wise Score Aggregation**

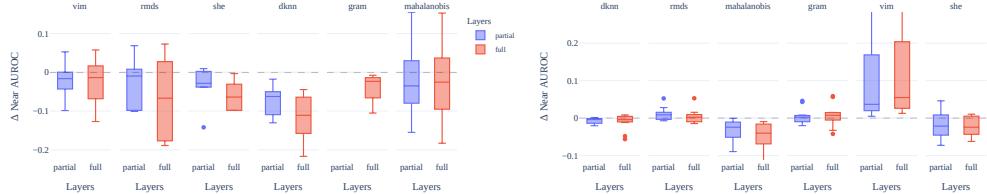


Figure 4: Box plot of the Δ in AUROC between feature-based detector applied on the penultimate layer and either a subset of the internal layers (partial) or all internal layers (full). **Left:** Imagenet, **Right:** Cifar10.

224 Several recent papers suggest building OOD detectors by aggregating feature-based OOD scores
 225 computed layer-wise. We illustrate the impact of layer-wise score aggregation with the following
 226 experiment. For each model and feature-based OOD detectors, we compute the gain/loss in AUROC
 227 from using layer-wise aggregation with respect to the vanilla version (i.e. computed from the
 228 penultimate layer only). For each OOD detector, we produce the box plot of these gains/losses for
 229 different levels of aggregation (partial and full) with respect to the models. The results on Imagenet
 230 and Cifar10 Near-OOD are reported in Figure 4. For Imagenet, score aggregation can improve the
 231 AUROC but hurts more often than it helps. For Cifar10 the results are more positive: it helps more
 232 often than it hurts, and greatly boosts VIM’s detection capabilities.

233 **Takeaway 2** Score aggregation can have a positive impact, but this positive impact is not systematic.
 234 For small-scale tasks, it helps most of the time, but for large-scale tasks, it tends to deteriorate the
 235 performance for most models.

236 **4.4 Impact of Activation Shaping**

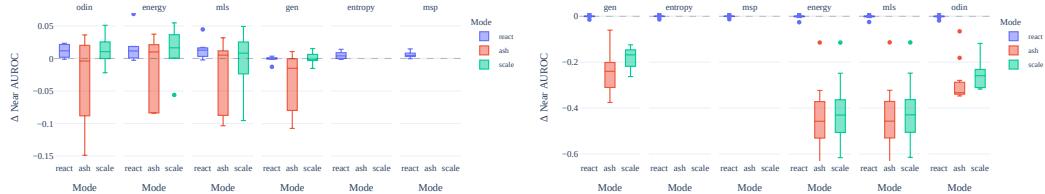


Figure 5: Box plot of the Δ in AUROC between logit-based detectors and their augmentation with activation-shaping techniques (ReAct, SCALE, and ASH). **Left:** Imagenet, **Right:** Cifar10.

237 Activation shaping techniques transform the penultimate layer features before applying the last linear
 238 layer and computing logit-based scores. In the original papers of the ReAct, ASH and SCALE
 239 methods, results are reported by combining these activation shaping techniques with the Energy
 240 logit-based score alone. In order to evaluate the impact of activation shaping on other logit-base
 241 scores, we perform the following experiment. For each model and feature-based OOD detectors, we
 242 compute the gain/loss in AUROC from using activation shaping with respect to the vanilla version, i.e.
 243 without activation shaping. For each OOD detector, we produce the box plot of these gains/losses for
 244 React, ASH and SCALE with respect to the models. The results on Imagenet and Cifar10 Near-OOD
 245 are reported in Figure 5. As we can see, activation shaping is mostly beneficial on Imagenet: it is
 246 systematically so for the ReAct method, while for ASH and SCALE greater care should be taken, as
 247 there are models for which they have negative effects. These results are in great contrast to those
 248 obtained for Cifar-10: ASH and SCALE have a nefarious effect on most logit-based scores and
 249 models, losing up to 0.6 in AUROC, while the effect of using ReAct is negligible.

250 **Takeaway 3** Using Activation shaping helps on large-scale tasks (for React, consistently, and for
 251 ASH and SCALE, more randomly). For small-scale tasks, it has little effect in most cases, while
 252 SCALE and ASH have the potential to greatly damage the original detectors.

253 **4.5 Additional Insights**

254 **4.5.1 Link Between ID Accuracy and OOD Detection Performances**

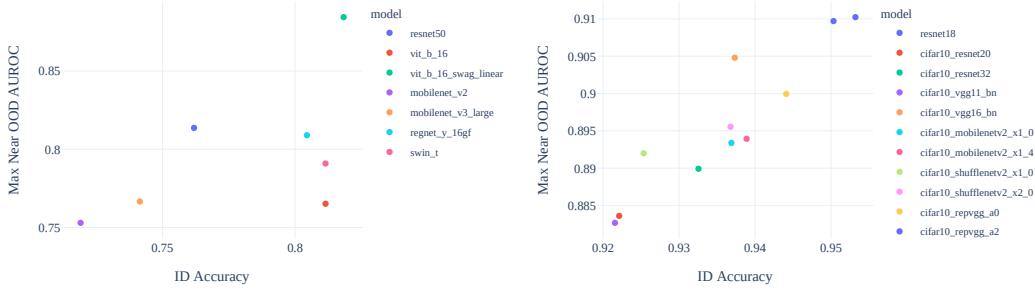


Figure 6: Scatter plot with in-distribution accuracy on x-axis and AUROC on y-axis. Each point is a model, whose assigned AUROC is the best among all OOD detectors applied to this model. **Left:** Imagenet, **Right:** Cifar10.

255 OODEEL allows for a thorough evaluation of ID accuracy versus OOD detection performance across
 256 different neural network architectures. In 5 we report the results of testing multiple different model
 257 architectures on the Imagenet and Cifar10 Near-OOD benchmarks. For each model architecture,
 258 the AUROC of the best OOD detector (for that model and setting) is reported. As we can see, ID
 259 accuracy and OOD detection are linearly correlated in the case of Cifar-10, while there is no clear
 260 pattern emerging from the Imagenet experiment: the four best models achieve similar ID accuracy
 261 while having very different OOD detection performances. This conclusion contrasts with [17], which
 262 observed that improving ID accuracy was an efficient way of enhancing OOD detection performances.

263 **Takeaway 4** Correlation between ID accuracy and OOD detection seems to be near linear for
 264 small-scale tasks and absent for large-scale tasks.

265 **4.5.2 Disparate Performances for detectors on Small-scale and Large-scale tasks**

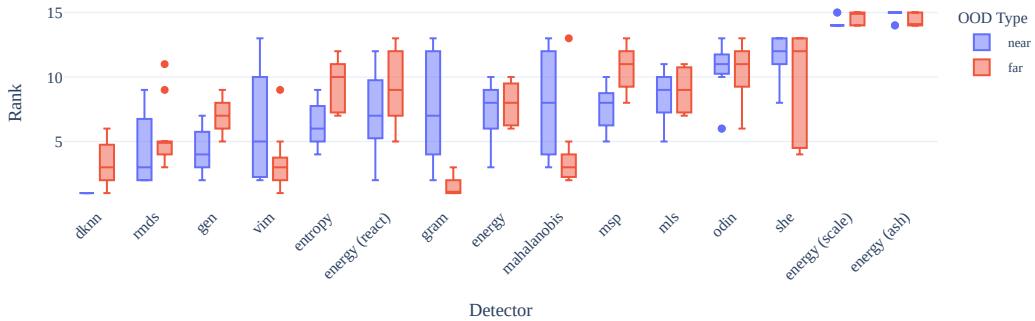


Figure 7: Box plots of the rank with standard deviation for each method (OOD detector) on Cifar10. Methods are sorted according to their mean rank on near-OOD.

266 By comparing the ranks of the different detectors on Imagenet as displayed in Figure 3 with those
 267 obtained by performing the equivalent experiment on Cifar10 (Figure 7), we can conclude that
 268 logit-based detectors perform better for large scale models while feature-based detectors perform

269 better the winners for small-scale tasks. This might explain why activation shaping dedicated to
270 logit-based helps for Imagenet but not for Cifar10, and conversely for feature aggregation.

271 **Takeaway 5** Logit-based detectors perform better on large-scale tasks, and feature-based detectors
272 perform better on small-scale tasks.

273 **4.5.3 Trade-off Between Near-OOD and Far-OOD**

274 We can also observe from Figure 8 that for some ID datasets, there is a tradeoff between performing
275 well on the Near-OOD datasets and performing well on the Far-OOD datasets. This is particularly
276 clear in the case of the Cifar-100 dataset, and even if less so, it remains true for Imagenet and Cifar-10.

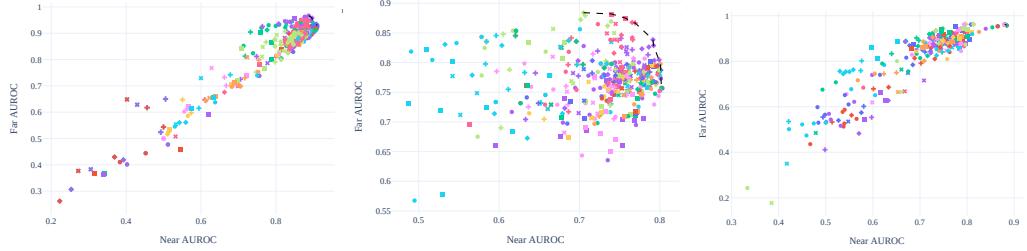


Figure 8: Scatter plot with near-OOD AUROC on x-axis and far-OOD AUROC on y-axis. Each point is a pair model / OOD detector. **Left:** Cifar10, **Middle:** Cifar100, **Right:** Imagenet.

277 **Takeaway 6** For some tasks, Near-OOD and Far-OOD might not be correlated.

Overall Takeaway

Perhaps the most important takeaway of this work is that in Post-Hoc OOD detection, detector performances greatly depend on the task (dataset and model). Benchmarking their performance appropriately requires testing it on at least several models, which is not classically done in post-hoc OOD detection research. But it can at most mitigate the issue. For post-hoc OOD detection on real-world applications, i.e., with user-specific datasets and models, it is crucial to be able to test detectors on the specific task at hand, hence the value of OODEEL, which can be applied to any model and datasets.

278

279 **5 Conclusion and Future Works**

280 We introduced OODEEL, a holistic and extensible library for post-hoc OOD detection, designed
281 to work seamlessly across PyTorch and TensorFlow models. By unifying key components—such
282 as activation shaping and layer-wise score aggregation—OODEEL provides a powerful platform
283 for both practical application and rigorous experimentation. Our large-scale benchmarking reveals
284 important nuances in post-hoc OOD detection performance, including the impact of model choice, the
285 varying utility of aggregation and activation shaping techniques, the context-dependent relationship
286 between ID accuracy and OOD detection efficacy, the disparate performances of OOD detectors on
287 different tasks and on near-OOD and far-OOD detection. These findings emphasize the need for
288 careful, context-aware evaluation of OOD detectors. With its open-source release and accompanying
289 benchmarking interface, OODEEL aims to support reproducible, extensible, and insightful OOD
290 research for the broader machine learning community.

291 While OODEEL offers a comprehensive and modular framework for post-hoc OOD detection, some
292 areas of improvement remain. First, the library currently implements a subset of the most cited
293 and best-performing OOD detectors from OpenOOD, prioritizing compatibility and unification
294 over exhaustiveness. Consequently, newer or more experimental detectors may not be readily
295 available. Second, although our benchmark expands beyond existing evaluations by testing across
296 many models and configurations, it remains limited to image classification tasks. Since OODEEL’s
297 [FeatureExtractor](#) class can be applied to any model, this is the most direct follow-up of our work.

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