

Anomaly Detection

Density Based Methods

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- ▶ clustering, distance and density
- ▶ k-Nearest Neighbors
- ▶ Local Outlier Factor
- ▶ Local Correlation Integral

The course references are Aggarwal 2017, Ch.4 with initial papers for K-NN by Cover and Hart 1967 and LOF by Breunig et al. 2000.



Algorithm Types

Given a data point, discriminate based on

- ▶ Clustering
 - ▶ non-membership to any data cluster of the data point
 - ▶ distance to other clusters
 - ▶ size of the closest cluster
 - ▶ binary: either belongs to cluster else is an anomaly
- ▶ Distance
 - ▶ proximity: distance to its k -nearest neighbor (KNN)
 - ▶ variants change distance type or average the distance score
 - ▶ large KNN distances define the anomalies
 - ▶ high granularity results
 - ▶ high algorithmic complexity (e.g. $O(N^2)$)
- ▶ Density
 - ▶ split data space into regions
 - ▶ compute the local density of each region
 - ▶ data density is turned into anomaly score for each point
 - ▶ clustering partitions data-points, density partitions data-space



Data Points vs Data Space

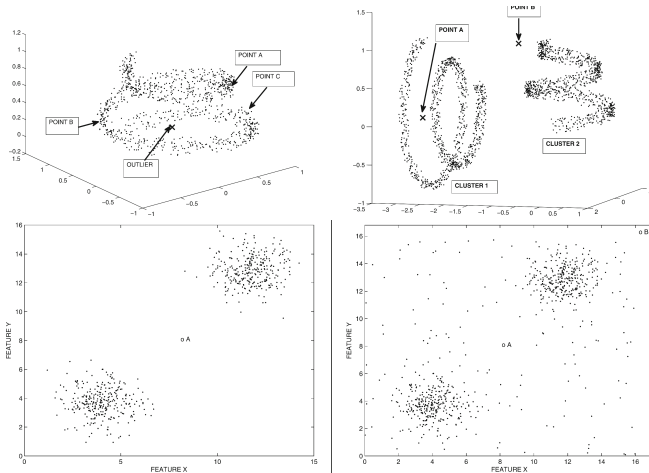


Figure: Data points and data space (Aggarwal 2017)



k -Nearest Neighbors



Nearest Neighbors

Definition

Exact KNN. The anomaly score of a point x is given by its distance to its k -th nearest neighbor.

Assumption: anomalous data points are further away than normal data points.

Example

We can identify small isolated clusters of k_0 anomalous data-points by selecting a value $k \geq k_0$ in the KNN algorithm.



KNN: the choice of k_0

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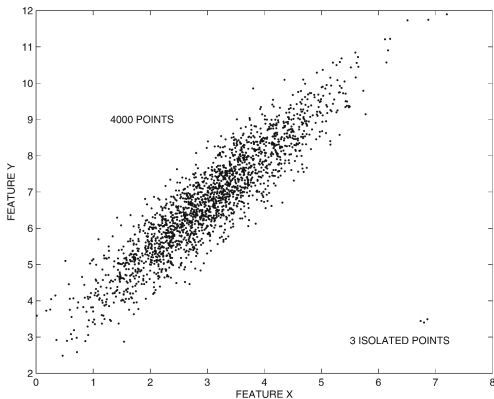


Figure: The choice of $k \geq k_0$ (Aggarwal 2017)



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3. Compute the distances:
 $dist(x) = \{s \mid s = \|x - y\|_2, \forall y \in X, y \neq x\}$.
4. Set the anomaly score:



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3. Compute the distances:
 $dist(x) = \{s \mid s = \|x - y\|_2, \forall y \in X, y \neq x\}$.
4. Set the anomaly score: $knn(x) = min_k(dist(x))$ where $min_k(\cdot)$ is the function computing the k -th smallest number in a set.
5. Repeat steps 1–4 for all points in X .



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What is the complexity of the above?



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Granularity. Distance-based methods have a higher granularity compared to cluster based methods. We compare each point to the rest of the points, whereas for clusters we only compare with the centroids.



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Mitigations:

- ▶ pre-select a sample of data points $\tilde{N} \ll N$
- ▶ all N points are scored based on these \tilde{N} scores
- ▶ smoothing or averaging techniques can be applied post-processing to reduce sensibility to choice of \tilde{N}
- ▶ converges to a sort of clustering method



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General approach. Naturally we train multiple KNN models where we vary k and create an ensemble where voting methods are employed in order to decide which data is anomalous.

Particular approach. Smoothen the anomaly score so that it is less sensible to a particular choice of k .



KNN Variants: Average KNN Scores

Definition

Average KNN score. The anomaly score of $x \in X$ is its average distance to its k -nearest neighbors.

Average KNN is:

- ▶ better suited for unsupervised grid-search where a range of k 's are used
- ▶ it is less sensitive to the particular choices for k
- ▶ averages Exact-KNN over a range of k
- ▶ provides worse results than the true k value in the Exact-KNN variant

Formally, $avgknn(x) = \mu_k(dist(X))$, where $\mu_k(\cdot)$ is the average of the smallest k numbers in the set.



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Local Outlier Factor



Problems: Density and Cluster Orientation

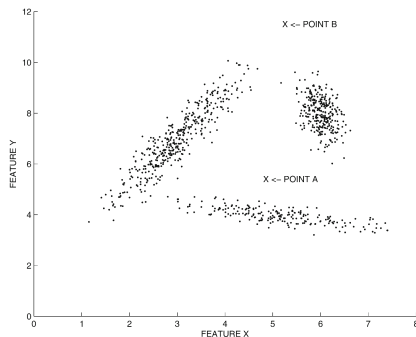


Figure: Data Locality (Aggarwal 2017)

- ▶ impacts data density and cluster orientation
- ▶ varying density across data space
- ▶ distance-based limitations when density variation is high



Example: Distance versus Locality

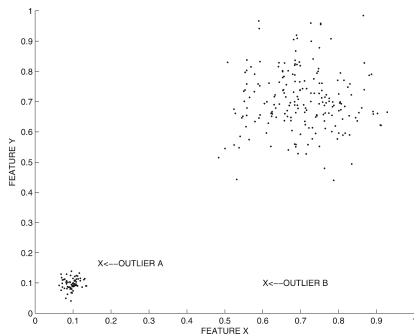


Figure: Distance versus Locality (Aggarwal 2017)

- ▶ two cluster with different sparsity
- ▶ A requires small distance threshold
- ▶ if k is small, then lots of false-positives in the sparse cluster
- ▶ need multiple distance thresholds in heterogeneous data distributions



Local Outlier Factor (LOF)

Let $L_k(\cdot)$ be the set of points that are the knn of a given point:

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this can contain more than k points, but not less!



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- ▶ reachability distances become similar with large k 's
- ▶ reachability is not symmetric!



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Proof in class



LOF: Average Reachability Distance

We now define the average reachability of a point in regards to its KNN's:

$$AR_k(x) = \mu_{y \in L_k(x)} R_k(x, y)$$

where μ is the average of each pair $R_k(x, y)$ with $y \in L_k(x)$.

The inverse of AR_k is defined as the reachability density.



The local outlier factor is the mean average reachability of x compared to its neighbors average:

$$LOF_k(x) = \mu_{y \in L_k(x)} \frac{AR_k(x)}{AR_k(y)} = AR_k(x) \mu_{y \in L_k(x)} \frac{1}{AR_k(y)}$$



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- ▶ anomalous points have $LOF \gg 1$



Example: LOF Scoring

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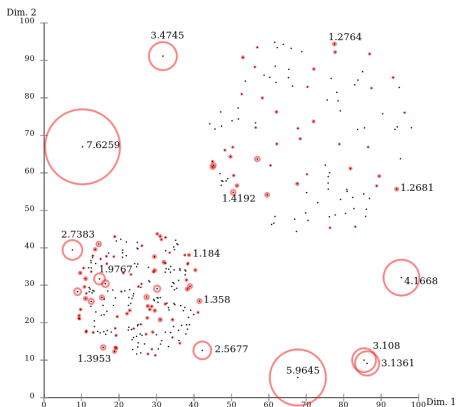
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Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Local_outlier_factor



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- ▶ raw distances instead of reachability distances
- ▶ arithmetic mean instead of harmonic mean
- ▶ local distance-based outlier factor (LDOF) by Zhang, Hutter, and Jin 2009 uses averaged pairwise distances from L_k



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Then the average density in the δ -neighborhood of x

$$AM(x, \varepsilon, \delta) = \mu_{y:\|x-y\|\leq\delta} M(y, \varepsilon)$$

where $\delta > \varepsilon$ is the sampling neighborhood of x .



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where $|\cdot|$ is the sets cardinality operator.

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$$AM(x, \varepsilon, \delta) = \mu_{y:\|x-y\|\leq\delta} M(y, \varepsilon)$$

where $\delta > \varepsilon$ is the sampling neighborhood of x .

In practice we choose $\varepsilon = c\delta$ where $c = \frac{1}{2}$ is a popular choice.



Let us now define the equivalent neighborhood-aware averaging score of a point

$$MDEF(x, \varepsilon, \delta) = 1 - \frac{M(x, \varepsilon)}{AM(X, \varepsilon, \delta)}$$

called *multip-granularity deviation factor*.



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In practice $MDEF \geq k\sigma$ is used with $k = 3$ being a popular choice inspired from statistics.



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- ▶ sub-sample considered neighborhoods based on invariance to δ choice



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