



Skript zur Vorlesung  
**Knowledge Discovery in Databases**  
im Sommersemester 2015

# Kapitel 4: Outlier Detection

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basiert auf Tutorial von Hans-Peter Kriegel, Peer Kröger, Arthur Zimek: Outlier Detection Techniques  
(PAKDD-09, Bangkok, Thailand)

[http://www.dbs.ifi.lmu.de/cms/Knowledge\\_Discovery\\_in\\_Databases\\_I\\_\(KDD\\_I\)](http://www.dbs.ifi.lmu.de/cms/Knowledge_Discovery_in_Databases_I_(KDD_I))



## Was ist ein Outlier?

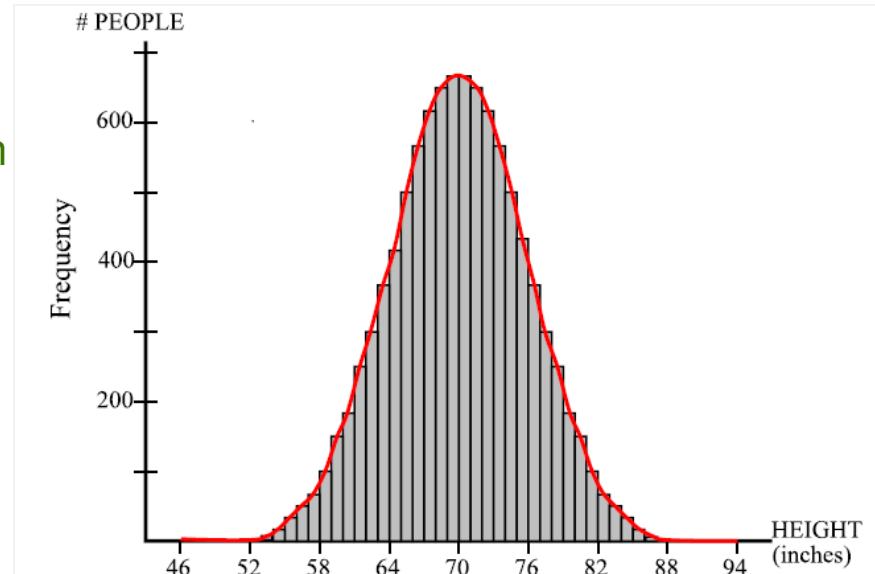
Definition nach Hawkins [Hawkins 1980]:

“Ein Outlier ist eine *Beobachtung*, die sich von den anderen *Beobachtungen* so deutlich unterscheidet, daß man denken könnte, sie sei von einem anderen Mechanismus generiert worden.”

Was meint “Mechanismus”?

Intuition aus der Statistik:  
“erzeugender Mechanismus” ist ein  
(statistischer) Prozess.

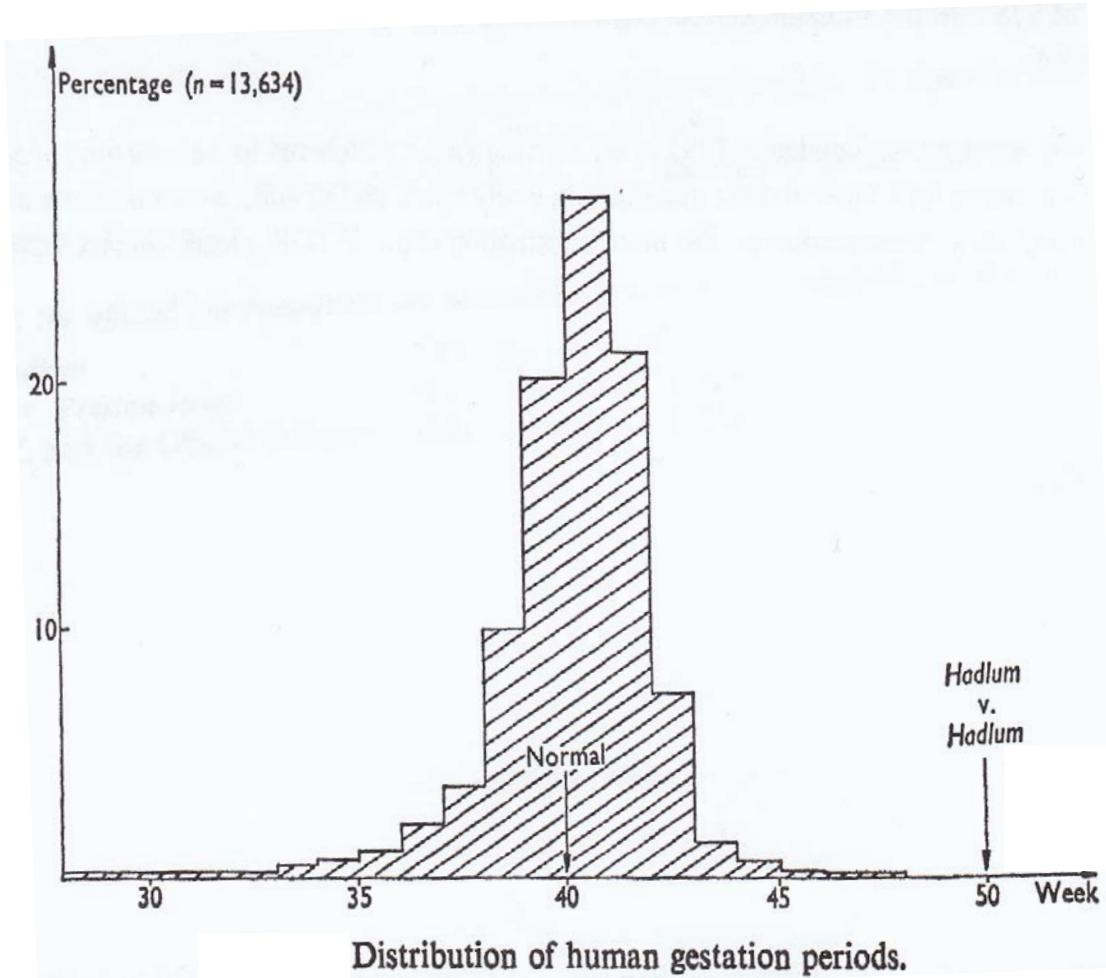
Abnormale Daten (outlier) zeigen  
eine verdächtig geringe  
Wahrscheinlichkeit, aus diesem  
Prozess zu stammen.





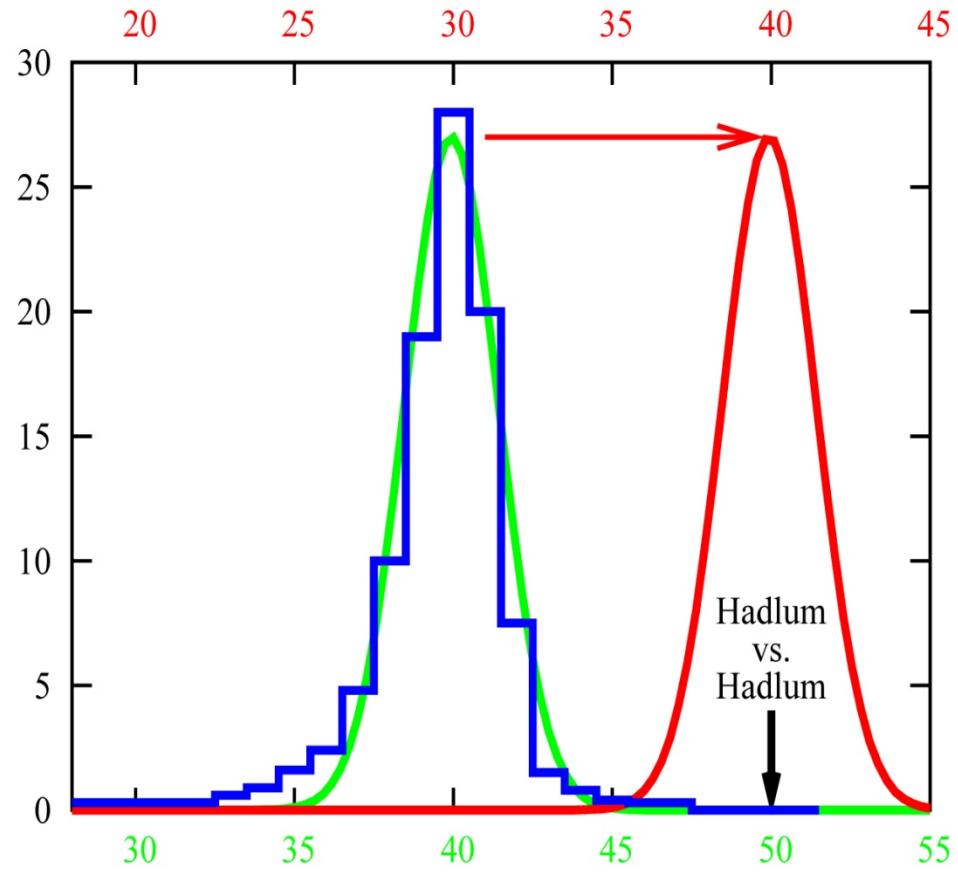
## Beispiel: Hadlum vs. Hadlum (1949) [Barnett 1978]

- Geburt eines Kindes von Mrs. Hadlum 349 Tage nachdem Mr. Hadlum zum Militärdienst abwesend war.
- Durchschnittliche Dauer einer menschlichen Schwangerschaft ist 280 Tage (40 Wochen)
- Ist eine Schwangerschaftsdauer von 349 Tagen ein Outlier?



## Beispiel: Hadlum vs. Hadlum (1949) [Barnett 1978]

- Blau: statistische Beobachtungsbasis (13634 erhobene Schwangerschaften)
- Grün: angenommener zugrundeliegender Gauss-Prozess
  - sehr geringe Wahrscheinlichkeit, dass die Geburt aus diesem Prozess stammt
- Rot: Annahme von Mr. Hadlum (ein anderer Gauss-Prozess, in dem die Schwangerschaft später beginnt, ist für die Geburt verantwortlich)
  - unter dieser Annahme hat die Schwangerschaftsdauer einen Durchschnittswert und höchst-mögliche Wahrscheinlichkeit





## Anwendungsgebiete:

- Betrugsentdeckung
  - Kaufverhalten mit einer Kreditkarte ändert sich, wenn die Karte gestohlen wurde
  - Ungewöhnliche Kauf-Muster können Kreditkarten-Mißbrauch anzeigen
- Medizin
  - Ungewöhnliche Symptome oder Test-Ergebnisse können mögliche gesundheitliche Probleme eines Patienten anzeigen
  - Ob ein bestimmtes Testergebnis ungewöhnlich ist, kann von anderen Eigenschaften des Patienten abhängen (z.B. Geschlecht, Alter, Gewicht, ...)
- Öffentliches Gesundheitswesen
  - Auftauchen einer bestimmten Krankheit (z.B. Tetanus) verstreut über verschiedene Krankenhäuser einer Stadt zeigt Probleme mit dem zugehörigen Impfprogramm an
  - Ob das Auftreten der Krankheit unnormal ist hängt von verschiedenen Aspekten ab, z.B. Häufigkeit, räumliche Korrelation etc.



## Anwendungsgebiete:

- Sport-Statistiken
  - In vielen Sportarten werden diverse Parameter aufgezeichnet, um die Leistung eines Spielers zu bewerten
  - Außergewöhnliche (in positivem wie negativem Sinne) Spieler können durch ungewöhnliche Werte bestimmt werden
  - Manchmal ist nur eine Teilmenge der Parameter ungewöhnlich
- Entdecken von Messfehlern
  - Daten aus Sensoren (z.B. in einem wissenschaftlichen Experiment) können Meßfehler enthalten
  - Ungewöhnliche Werte können ein Hinweis auf Meßfehler sein
  - Solche Meßfehler aus den Daten zu entfernen, kann wichtig sein für erfolgreiche Datenanalyse und Data Mining

„One person's noise could be another person's signal.“



## Diskussion der Intuition von Hawkins

- Daten sind gewöhnlich multivariat (mehr-dimensional)  
=> Basis-Modell ist univariat (ein-dimensional)
- Ein Datensatz stammt oft aus mehr als einem erzeugenden Prozess  
=> Basis-Model nimmt nur einen einzelnen genuinen erzeugenden Mechanismus an
- Anomalien können eine andere Klasse von Objekten sein (aus einem anderen Prozess erzeugt), die nicht besonders selten sind  
=> Basis-Model nimmt an, dass Outlier sehr selten sind

Eine große Zahl von Methoden wurde entwickelt, um über die Basis-Annahmen hinauszugelangen. Dabei liegen jedoch stets andere, oft nicht explizite Annahmen zugrunde.



## Generelle Szenarien der Anwendung:

- supervised
  - in manchen Anwendungsgebieten gibt es Trainingsdaten mit normalen und ungewöhnlichen Fällen
  - es kann mehrere normale und ungewöhnliche Klassen geben
  - meist ist das Klassifikationsproblem unbalanciert
- semi-supervised
  - in manchen Szenarien gibt es Trainingsdaten nur für die normale oder nur für die ungewöhnliche Klasse
- unsupervised
  - in den meisten Szenarien gibt es keine Trainingsdaten

In dieser Vorlesung konzentrieren wir uns auf das unsupervised Szenario.



## Erkennung von Outliern

- Nebenprodukt von Clustering?
- Manche Cluster-Algorithmen ordnen nicht jeden Punkt einem Cluster zu, sondern lassen “Noise” übrig.
- Idee: Wende Cluster-Verfahren an, betrachte Noise als Outlier.
  
- Problem:
  - Clustering Algorithmen sind daraufhin entwickelt und optimiert, Cluster zu finden.
  - Qualität der Outlier Detection hängt von Qualität der Cluster-Struktur und der Eignung des Clustering Algorithmus für diese Struktur ab.
  - Mehrere Outlier, die einander ähnlich sind, bilden eventuell auch selbst ein (kleines) Cluster, können also nicht entdeckt werden.



- Einleitung
- Statistische Modellierung
- Depth-based Outliers
- Distance-based Outliers
- Density-based Outliers und Local Outliers
- Angle-based Outliers
- Zusammenfassung



## General idea

- Given a certain kind of statistical distribution (e.g., Gaussian)
- Compute the parameters assuming all data points have been generated by such a statistical distribution (e.g., mean and standard deviation)
- Outliers are points that have a low probability to be generated by the overall distribution (e.g., deviate more than 3 times the standard deviation from the mean)

## Basic assumption

- Normal data objects follow a (known) distribution and occur in a high probability region of this model
- Outliers deviate strongly from this distribution



A huge number of different tests are available differing in

- Type of data distribution (e.g. Gaussian)
- Number of variables, i.e., dimensions of the data objects (univariate/multivariate)
- Number of distributions (mixture models)
- Parametric versus non-parametric (e.g. histogram-based)

Example on the following slides

- Gaussian distribution
- Multivariate
- 1 model
- Parametric



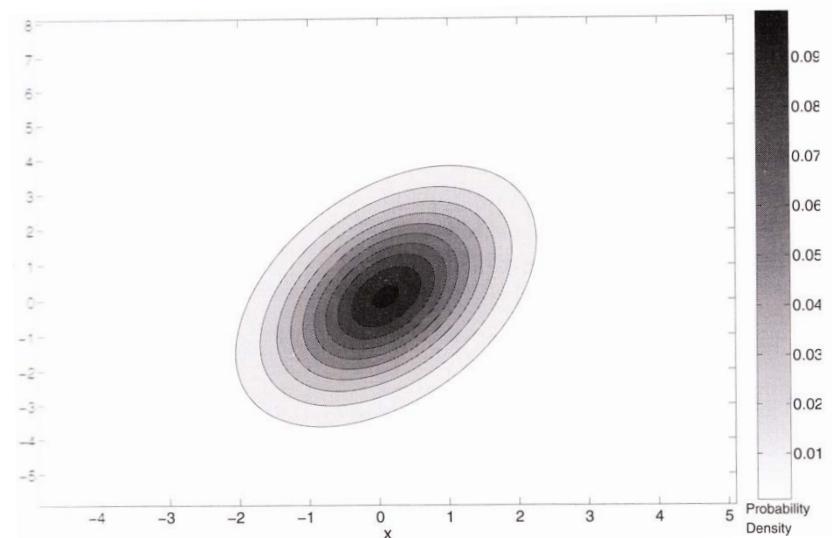
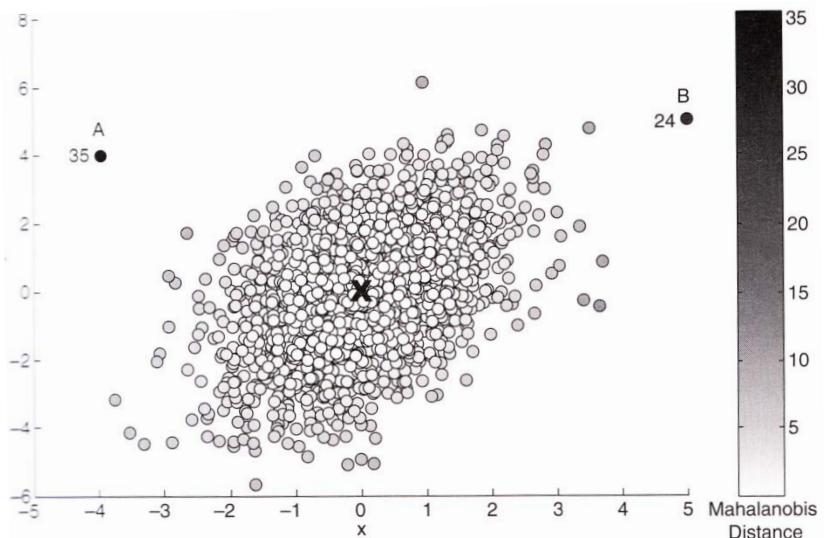
## Probability density function of a multivariate normal distribution

$$N(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^d |\Sigma|}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^T \Sigma^{-1} (x-\mu)}{2}}$$

- $\mu$  is the mean value of all points (usually data are normalized such that  $\mu=0$ )
- $\Sigma$  is the covariance matrix from the mean
- $MDist(x, \mu) = (x - \mu)^T \Sigma^{-1} (x - \mu)$  is the Mahalanobis distance of point  $x$  to  $\mu$
- $MDist$  follows a  $\chi^2$ -distribution with  $d$  degrees of freedom ( $d$  = data dimensionality)
- All points  $x$ , with  $MDist(x, \mu) > \chi^2(0, 975)$  [ $\approx 3\sigma$ ]



## Visualization (2D) [Tan et al. 2006]

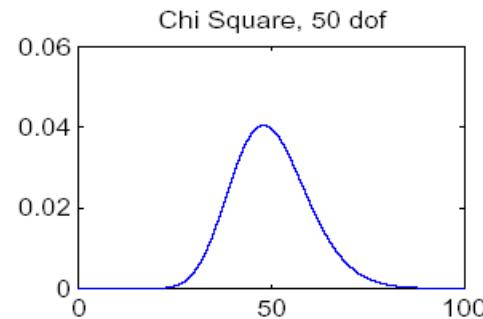
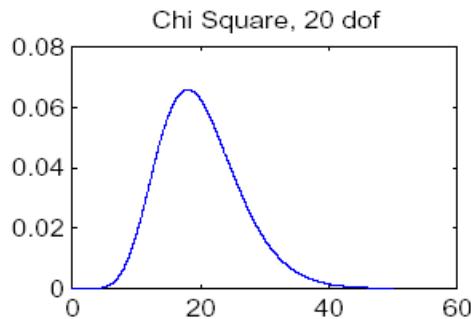
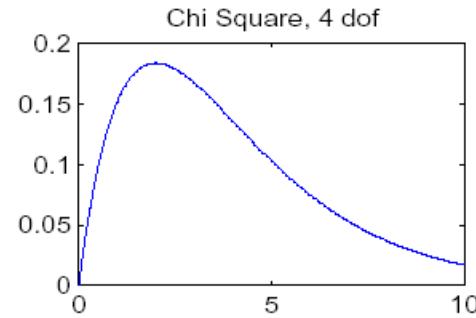
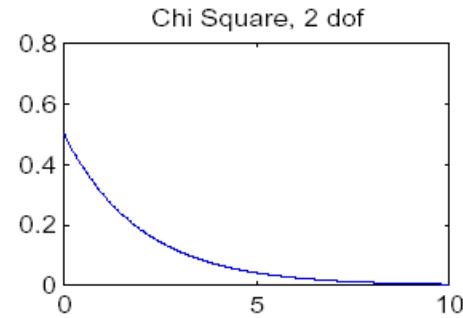




# Statistical Tests

## Problems

- Curse of dimensionality
  - The larger the degree of freedom, the more similar the  $MDist$  values for all points



x-axis: observed  $MDist$  values  
y-axis: frequency of observation

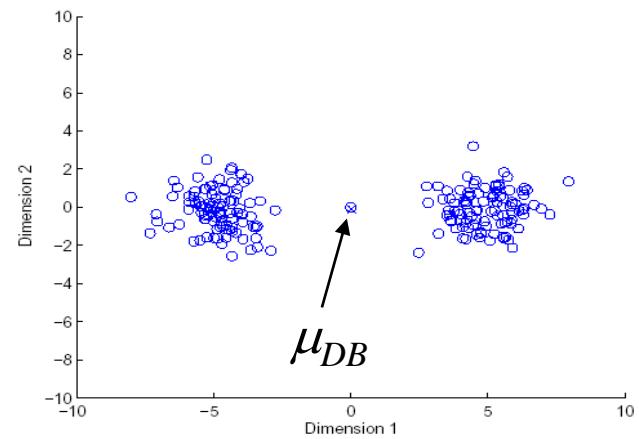


## Problems (cont.)

- Robustness
    - Mean and standard deviation are very sensitive to outliers
    - These values are computed for the complete data set (including potential outliers)
    - The *MDist* is used to determine outliers although the *MDist* values are influenced by these outliers
- => Minimum Covariance Determinant [Rousseeuw and Leroy 1987]  
minimizes the influence of outliers on the Mahalanobis distance

## Discussion

- Data distribution is fixed
- Low flexibility (no mixture model)
- Global method
- Outputs a label but can also output a score



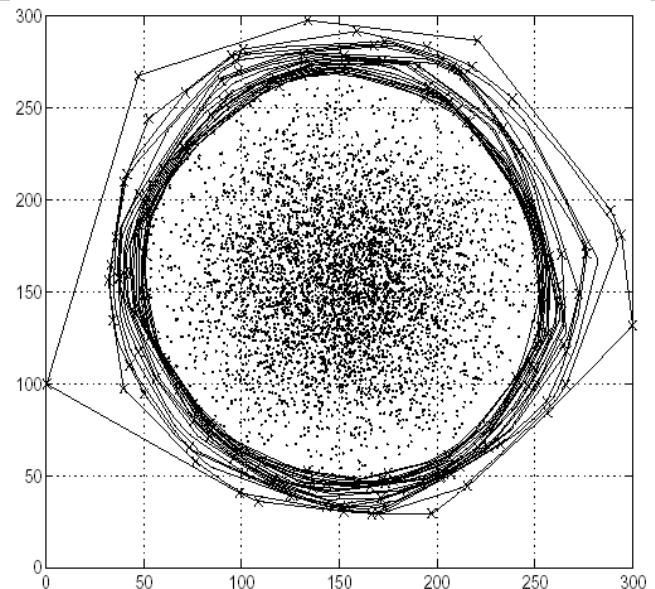


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## General idea

- Search for outliers at the border of the data space but independent of statistical distributions
- Organize data objects in convex hull layers
- Outliers are objects on outer layers



Picture taken from [Johnson et al. 1998]

## Basic assumption

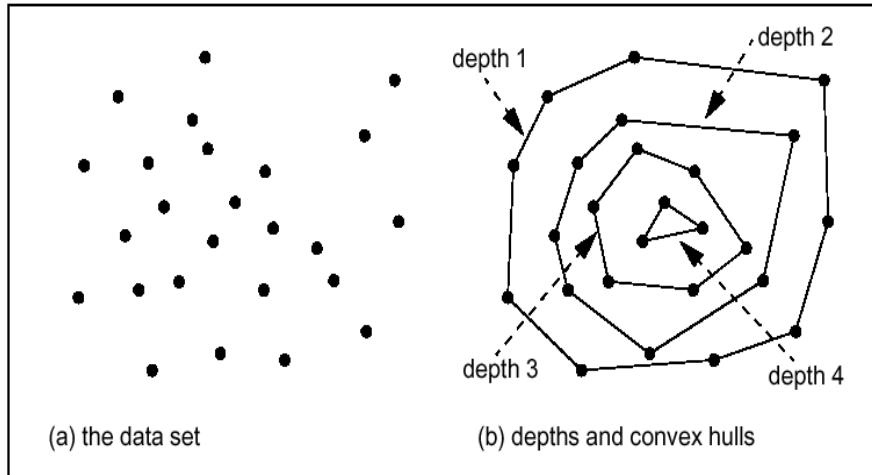
- Outliers are located at the border of the data space
- Normal objects are in the center of the data space



# Depth-based Approaches

## Model [Tukey 1977]

- Points on the convex hull of the full data space have depth = 1
- Points on the convex hull of the data set after removing all points with depth = 1 have depth = 2
- ...
- Points having a depth  $\leq k$  are reported as outliers



Picture taken from [Preparata and Shamos 1988]



## Sample algorithms

- ISODEPTH [Ruts and Rousseeuw 1996]
- FDC [Johnson et al. 1998]

## Discussion

- Similar idea like classical statistical approaches ( $k = 1$  distributions) but independent from the chosen kind of distribution
- Convex hull computation is usually only efficient in 2D / 3D spaces
- Originally outputs a label but can be extended for scoring easily (take depth as scoring value)
- Uses a global reference set for outlier detection



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## General Idea

- Judge a point based on the distance(s) to its neighbors
- Several variants proposed

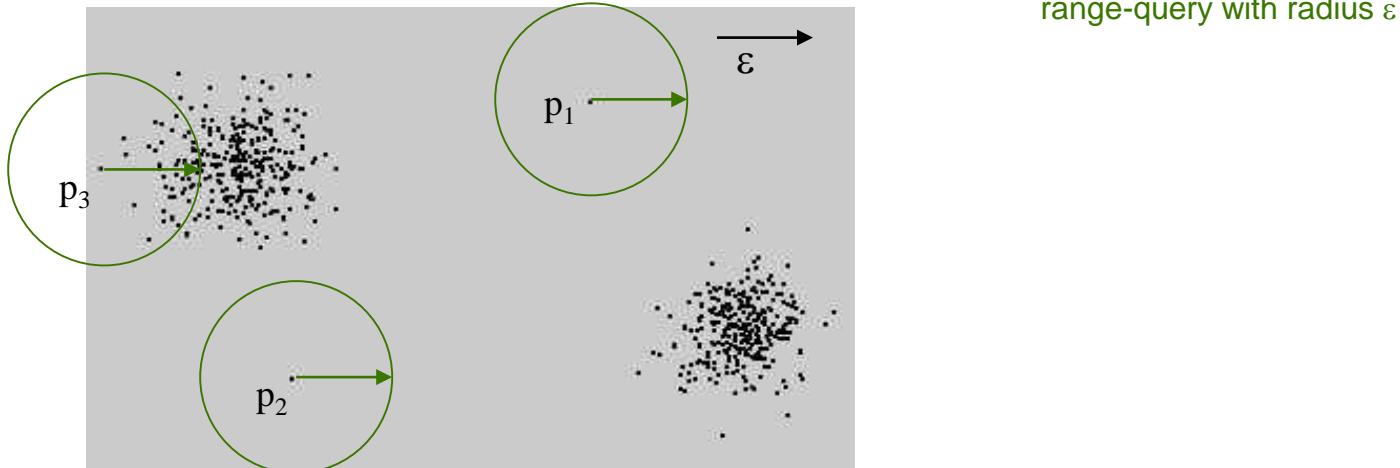
## Basic Assumption

- Normal data objects have a dense neighborhood
- Outliers are far apart from their neighbors, i.e., have a less dense neighborhood

## DB( $\varepsilon, \pi$ )-Outliers

- Basic model [Knorr and Ng 1997]
  - Given a radius  $\varepsilon$  and a percentage  $\pi$
  - A point  $p$  is considered an outlier if at most  $\pi$  percent of all other points have a distance to  $p$  less than  $\varepsilon$

$$\text{OutlierSet}(\varepsilon, \pi) = \{p \mid \frac{\text{Card}(\{q \in DB \mid \text{dist}(p, q) < \varepsilon\})}{\text{Card}(DB)} \leq \pi\}$$

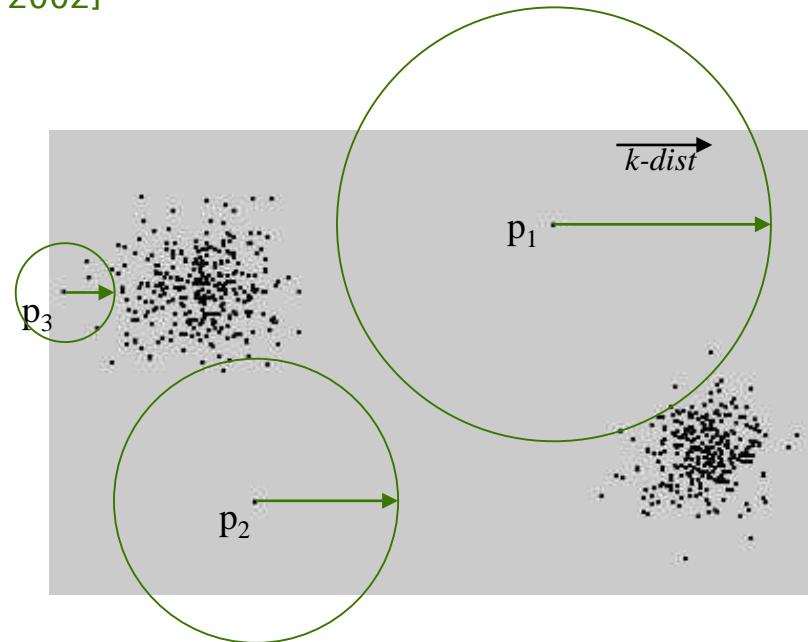




## Outlier scoring based on $k$ NN distances

- General models
  - Take the  $k$ NN distance of a point as its outlier score [Ramaswamy et al 2000]
  - Aggregate the distances of a point to all its 1NN, 2NN, ...,  $k$ NN as an outlier score [Angiulli and Pizzuti 2002]

- DB-Outlier:  
binary-decision
- $k$ NN-Outlier:  
ranking



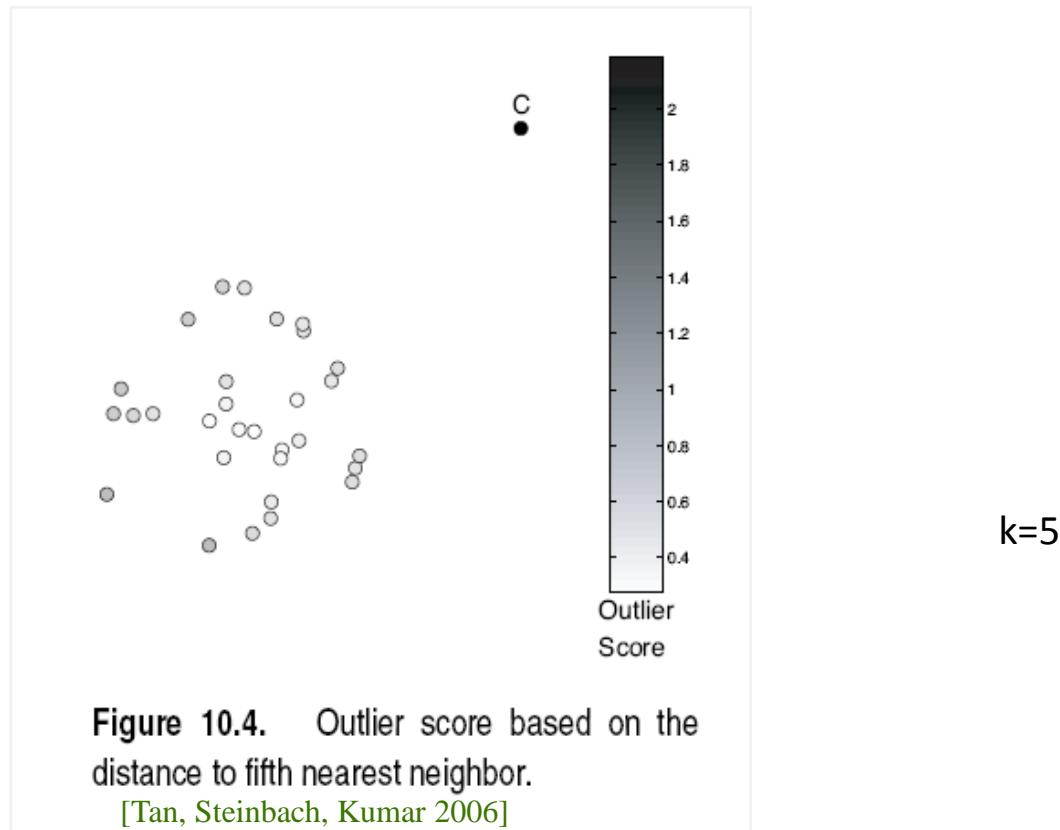
- $k$ NN-Outlier can be roughly considered Schönfinkled or Curried version of DB-Outlier



## *k<sup>th</sup> nearest neighbor based I*

The outlier score of an object is given by the distance to its  $k$ -nearest neighbor.

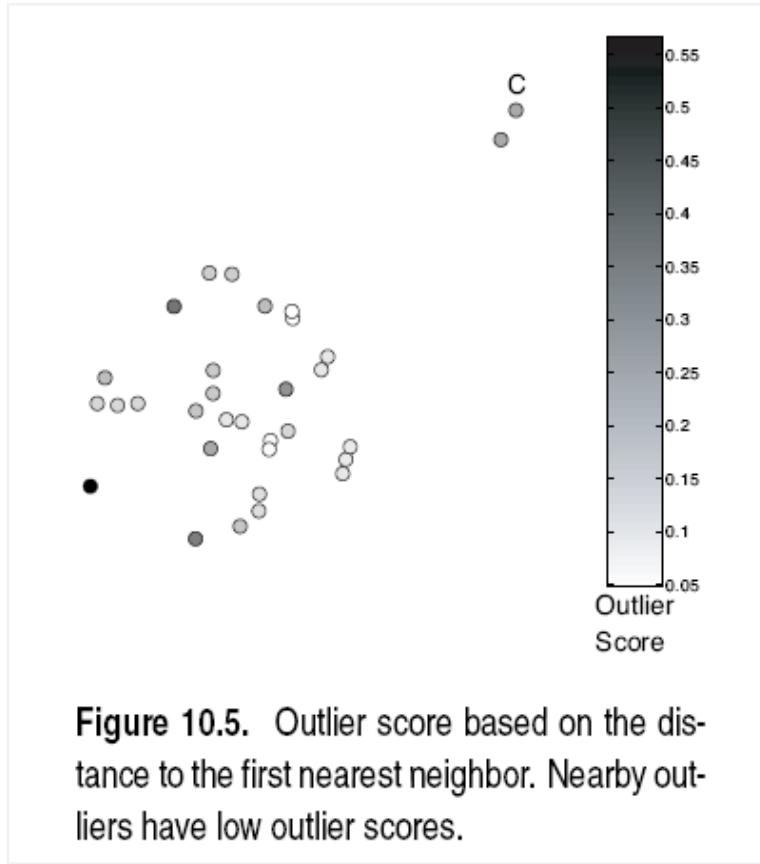
- theoretically lowest outlier score: 0





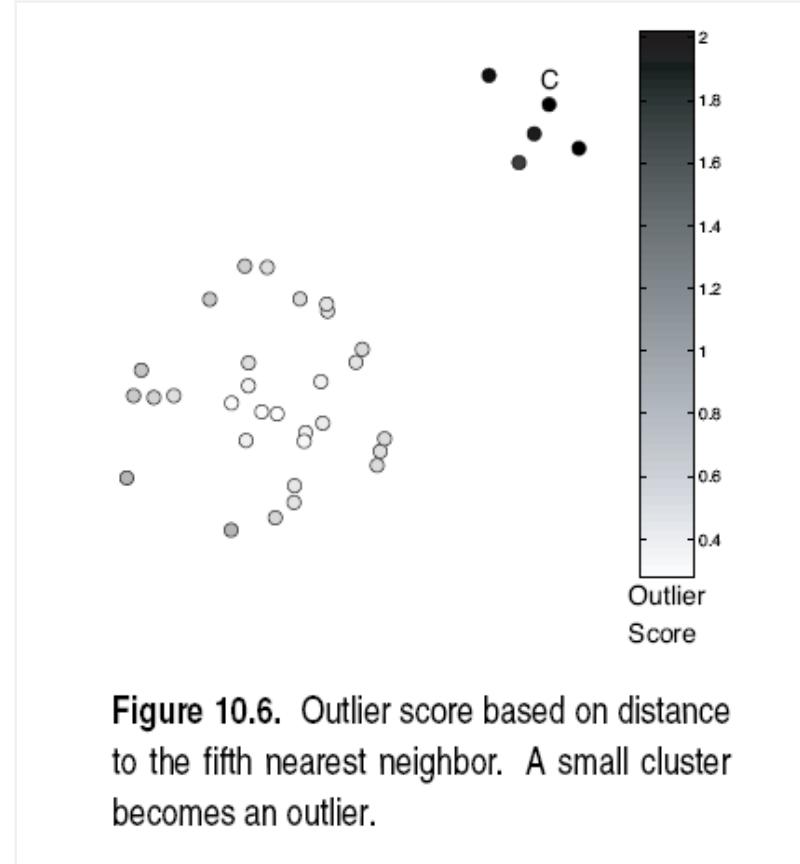
## *k<sup>th</sup> nearest neighbor based II*

- The outlier score is highly sensitive to the value of k



**Figure 10.5.** Outlier score based on the distance to the first nearest neighbor. Nearby outliers have low outlier scores.

If k is too small, then a small number of close neighbors can cause low outlier scores.



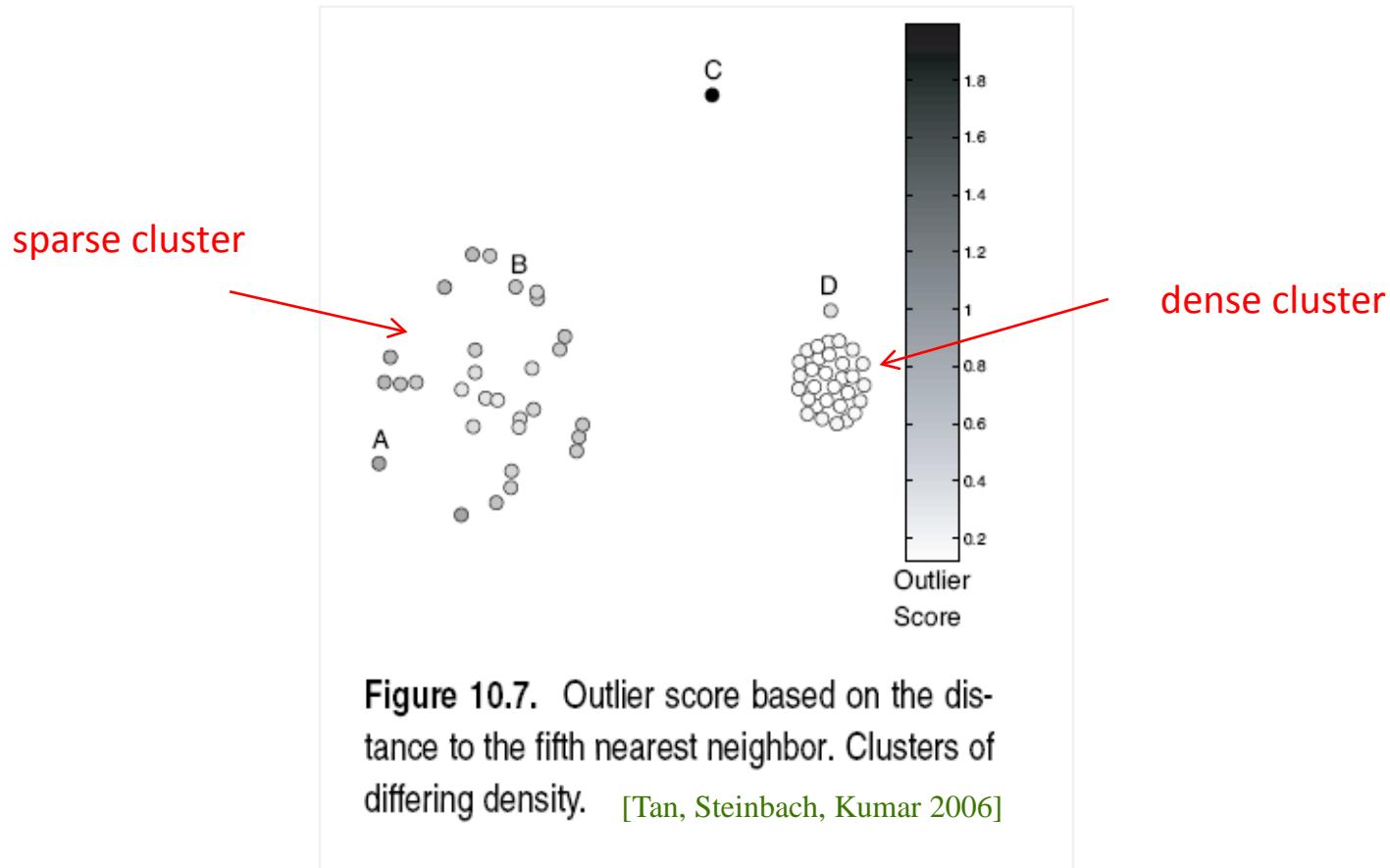
**Figure 10.6.** Outlier score based on distance to the fifth nearest neighbor. A small cluster becomes an outlier.

If k is too large, then all objects in a cluster with less than k objects might become outliers.



## *k<sup>th</sup> nearest neighbor based III*

- cannot handle datasets with regions of widely different densities due to the global threshold





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## General idea

- Compare the density around a point with the density around its local neighbors.
- The relative density of a point compared to its neighbors is computed as an outlier score.
- Approaches also differ in how to estimate density.

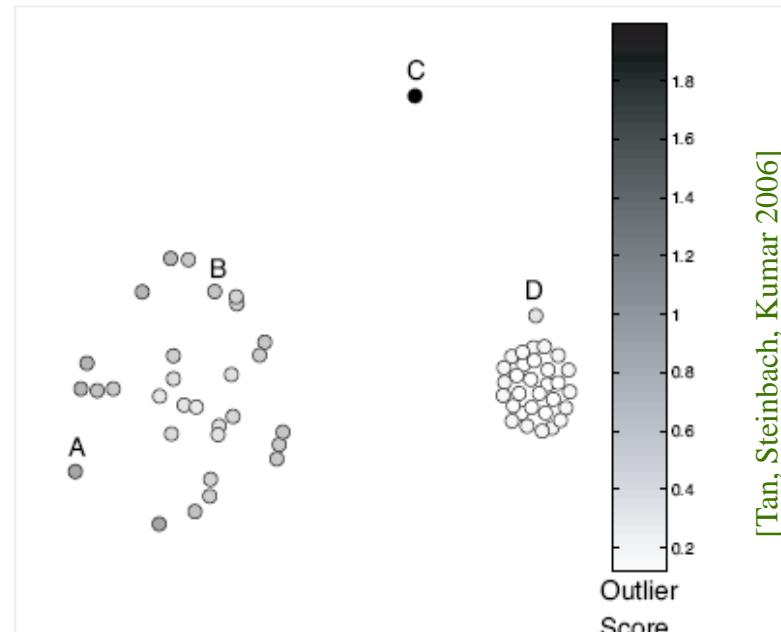
## Basic assumption

- The density around a normal data object is similar to the density around its neighbors.
- The density around an outlier is considerably different to the density around its neighbors.



# Density-based Approaches

- Different definitions of density:
  - e.g., # points within a specified distance  $d$  from the given object
- The choice of  $d$  is critical
  - If  $d$  is too small many normal points might be considered outliers
  - If  $d$  is too large, many outlier points will be considered as normal
- A global notion of density is problematic (as it is in clustering)
  - fails when data contain regions of different densities
- Solution: use a notion of density that is relative to the neighborhood of the object



**Figure 10.7.** Outlier score based on the distance to the fifth nearest neighbor. Clusters of differing density.

D has a higher absolute density than A but compared to its neighborhood, D's density is lower.

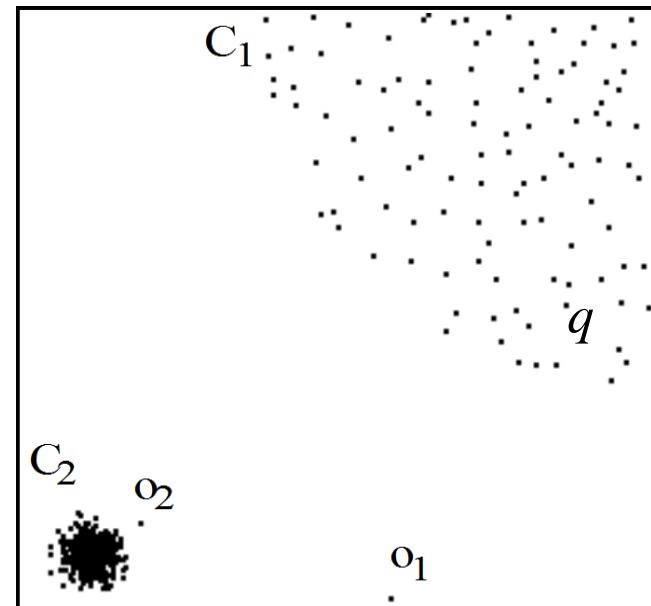


## Local Outlier Factor (LOF) [Breunig et al. 1999, 2000]

### – Motivation:

- Distance-based outlier detection models have problems with different densities
- How to compare the neighborhood of points from areas of different densities?
- Example
  - DB( $\varepsilon, \pi$ )-outlier model
    - » Parameters  $\varepsilon$  and  $\pi$  cannot be chosen so that  $o_2$  is an outlier but none of the points in cluster  $C_1$  (e.g.  $q$ ) is an outlier
  - Outliers based on kNN-distance
    - » kNN-distances of objects in  $C_1$  (e.g.  $q$ ) are larger than the kNN-distance of  $o_2$

### – Solution: consider relative density





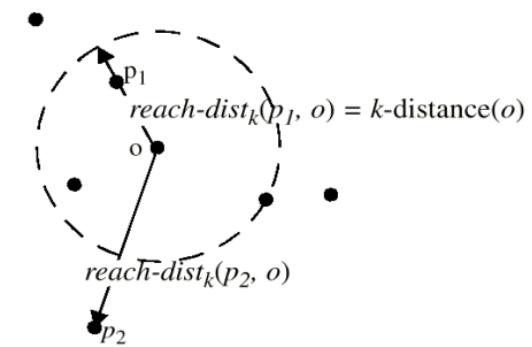
# Density-based Approaches

## – Model

- Reachability “distance”

- Introduces a smoothing factor

$$\text{reach-dist}_k(p, o) = \max\{\text{k-distance}(o), \text{dist}(p, o)\}$$



- Local reachability density (*lr*d) of point *p*

- Inverse of the average reach-dists of the *k*NNs of *p*

$$\text{lr}d_k(p) = \left( \frac{\sum_{o \in kNN(p)} \text{reach-dist}_k(p, o)}{\text{Card}(kNN(p))} \right)^{-1}$$

- Local outlier factor (LOF) of point *p*

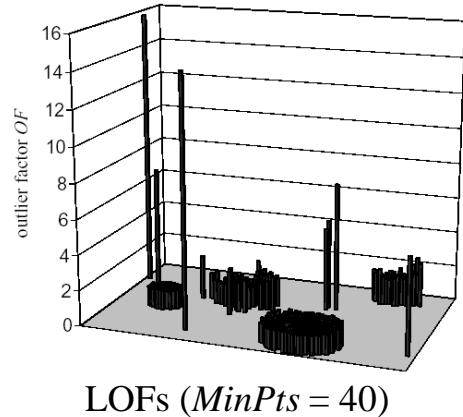
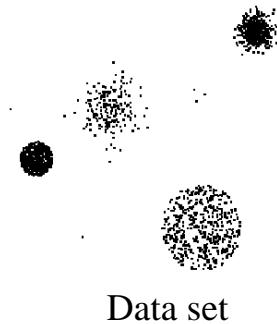
- Average ratio of *lrds* of neighbors of *p* and *lr*d of *p*

$$\text{LOF}_k(p) = \frac{\sum_{o \in kNN(p)} \frac{\text{lr}d_k(o)}{\text{lr}d_k(p)}}{\text{Card}(kNN(p))}$$



## – Properties

- $\text{LOF} \approx 1$ : point is in a cluster (region with homogeneous density around the point and its neighbors)
- $\text{LOF} \gg 1$ : point is an outlier

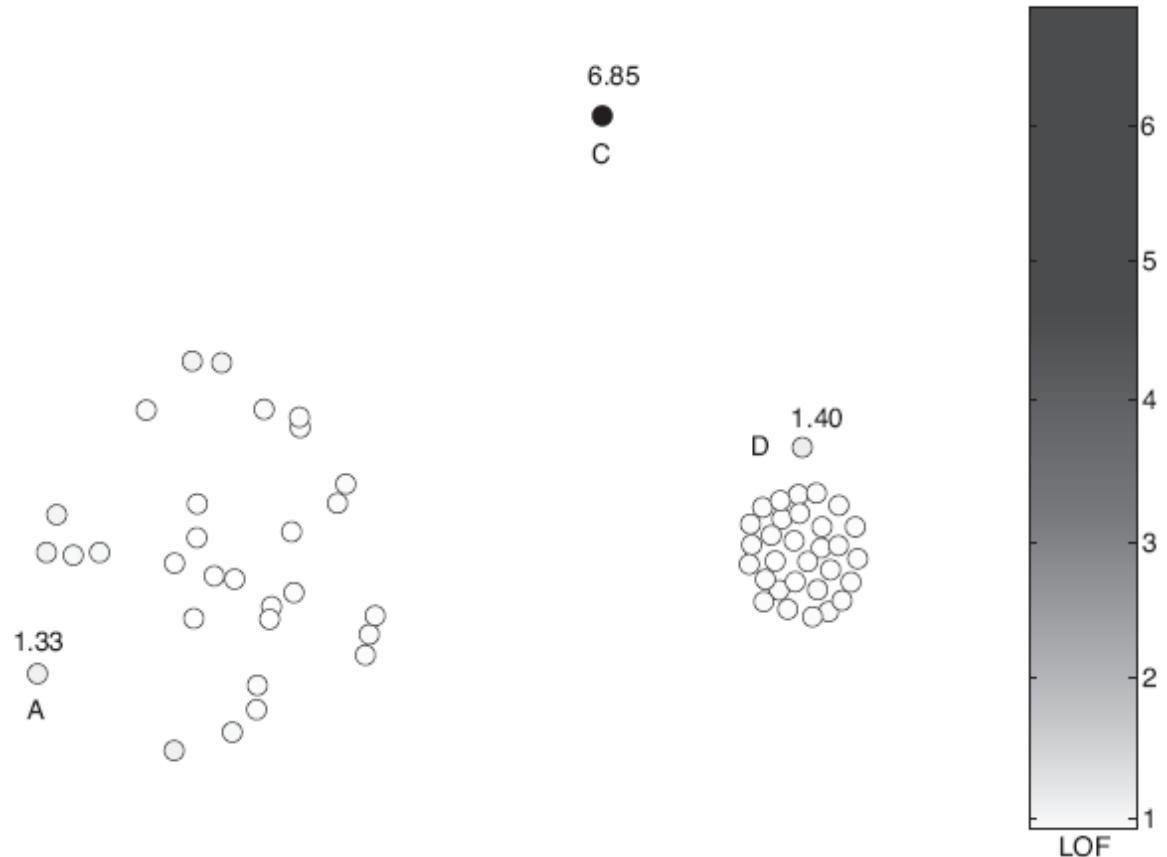


## – Discussion

- Choice of  $k$  ( $\text{MinPts}$  in the original paper) specifies the reference set
- Originally implements a local approach (resolution depends on the user's choice for  $k$ )
- Outputs a scoring (assigns an LOF value to each point)



# Density-based Approaches



[Tan, Steinbach, Kumar 2006]

Figure 10.8. Relative density (LOF) outlier scores for two-dimensional points of Figure 10.7.



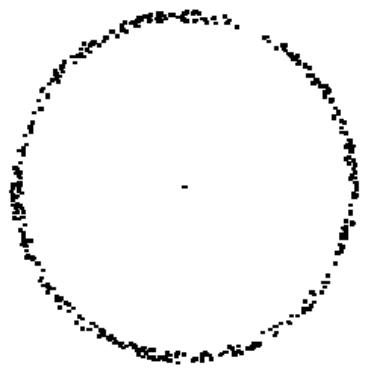
## Variants of LOF

- Mining top- $n$  local outliers [Jin et al. 2001]
  - Idea:
    - Usually, a user is only interested in the top- $n$  outliers
    - Do not compute the LOF for all data objects => save runtime
  - Method
    - Compress data points into micro clusters using the CFs of BIRCH [Zhang et al. 1996]
    - Derive upper and lower bounds of the reachability distances, lrd-values, and LOF-values for points within a micro clusters
    - Compute upper and lower bounds of LOF values for micro clusters and sort results w.r.t. ascending lower bound
    - Prune micro clusters that cannot accommodate points among the top- $n$  outliers ( $n$  highest LOF values)
    - Iteratively refine remaining micro clusters and prune points accordingly

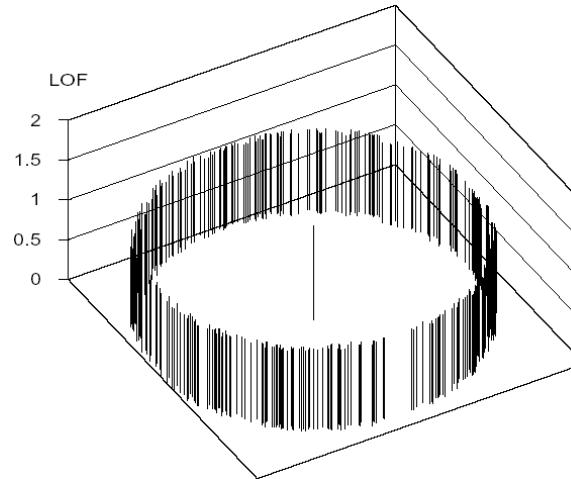


## Variants of LOF (cont.)

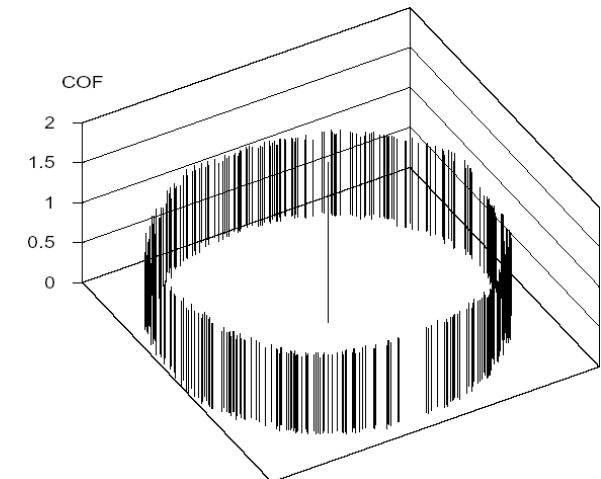
- Connectivity-based outlier factor (COF) [Tang et al. 2002]
  - Motivation
    - In regions of low density, it may be hard to detect outliers
    - Choose a low value for  $k$  is often not appropriate
  - Solution
    - Treat “low density” and “isolation” differently
  - Example



Data set



LOF



COF

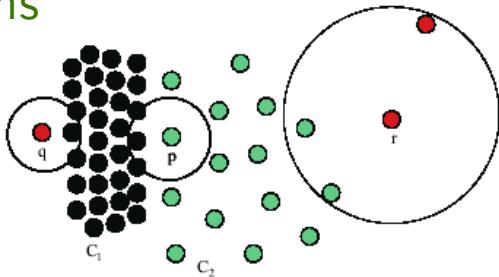


# Density-based Approaches

## Influenced Outlierness (INFLO) [Jin et al. 2006]

### – Motivation

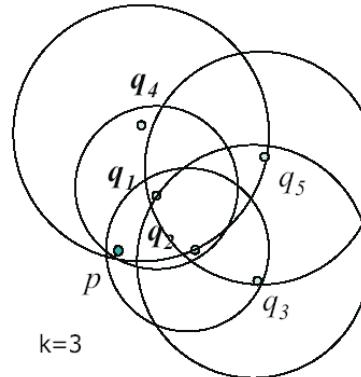
- If clusters of different densities are not clearly separated, LOF will have problems



Point  $p$  will have a higher LOF than points  $q$  or  $r$  which is counter intuitive

### – Idea

- Take symmetric neighborhood relationship into account
- Influence space ( $kIS(p)$ ) of a point  $p$  includes its kNNs ( $kNN(p)$ ) and its reverse kNNs ( $RkNN(p)$ )



$$\begin{aligned} kIS(p) &= kNN(p) \cup RkNN(p) \\ &= \{q_1, q_2, q_4\} \end{aligned}$$



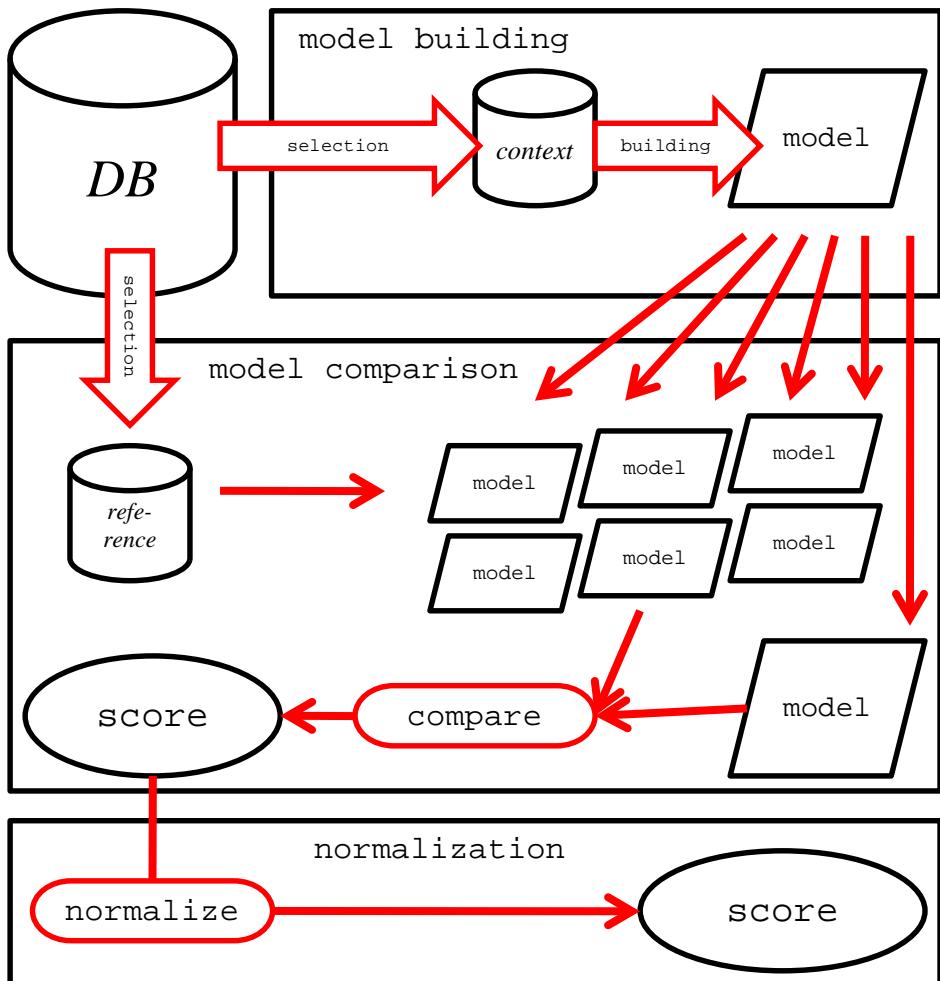
- Model
  - Density is simply measured by the inverse of the  $k$ NN distance, i.e.,  
$$den(p) = 1/k\text{-distance}(p)$$
  - Influenced outlierness of a point  $p$   
$$INFLO_k(p) = \frac{\sum_{o \in kIS(p)} den(o)}{Card(kIS(p))} / den(p)$$
  - INFLO takes the ratio of the average density of objects in the neighborhood of a point  $p$  (i.e., in  $kNN(p) \cup RkNN(p)$ ) to  $p$ 's density



# Local vs. Global Approaches

general scheme [Schubert et al. 2012]:

- context set for model building
- reference set for model comparison
- both, context set and reference set, could be:
  - identical
  - local
  - global
- outlier models come in degrees of “locality”



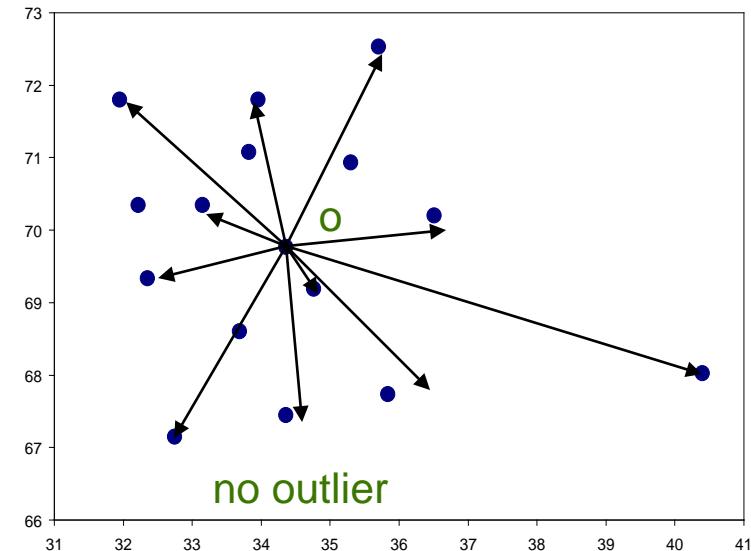
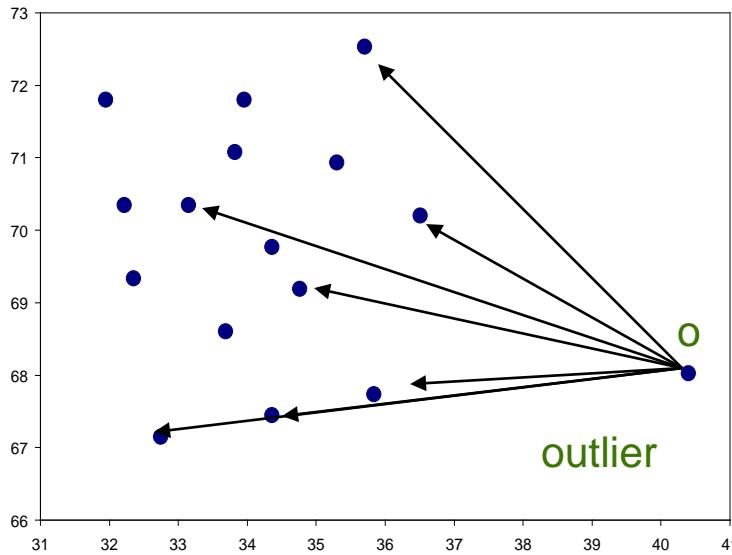


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## ABOD – angle-based outlier degree [Kriegel et al. 2008]

### – Rational

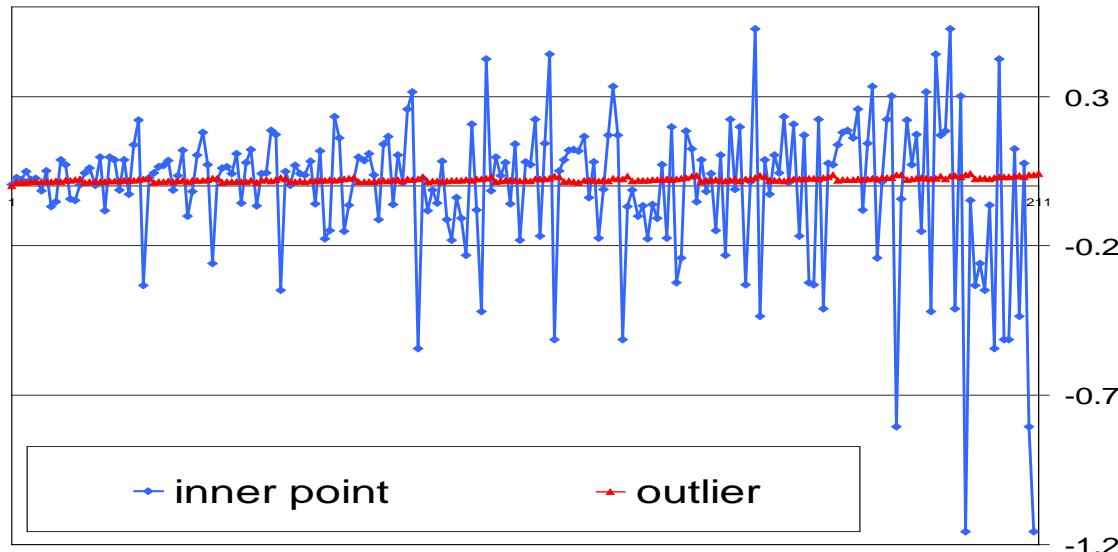
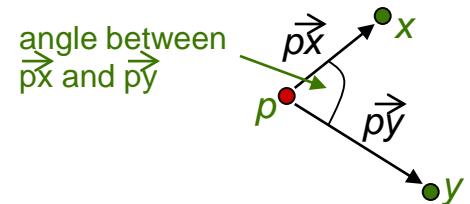
- Angles are more stable than distances in high dimensional spaces (cf. e.g. the popularity of cosine-based similarity measures for text data)
- Object o is an outlier if most other objects are located in similar directions
- Object o is no outlier if many other objects are located in varying directions





# Angle-based Approach

- Basic assumption
  - Outliers are at the border of the data distribution
  - Normal points are in the center of the data distribution
- Model
  - Consider for a given point  $p$  the angle between  $\vec{px}$  and  $\vec{py}$  for any two  $x,y$  from the database
  - Consider the spectrum of all these angles
  - The broadness of this spectrum is a score for the outlierness of a point





- Model (cont.)
  - Measure the variance of the angle spectrum
  - Weighted by the corresponding distances (for lower dimensional data sets where angles are less reliable)

$$ABOD(p) = \text{VAR}_{x, y \in DB} \left( \frac{\langle \vec{xp}, \vec{yp} \rangle}{\|\vec{xp}\|^2 \cdot \|\vec{yp}\|^2} \right)$$

- Properties
  - Small ABOD  $\Rightarrow$  outlier
  - High ABOD  $\Rightarrow$  no outlier



- Algorithms
  - Naïve algorithm is in  $O(n^3)$
  - Approximate algorithm based on random sampling for mining top- $n$  outliers
    - Do not consider all pairs of other points  $x, y$  in the database to compute the angles
    - Compute ABOD based on samples => lower bound of the real ABOD
    - Filter out points that have a high lower bound
    - Refine (compute the exact ABOD value) only for a small number of points
- Discussion
  - Global approach to outlier detection
  - Outputs an outlier score
    - (inversely scaled:
      - high ABOD score => inlier,
      - low ABOD score => outlier)



- Einleitung
- Statistische Modellierung
- Depth-based Outliers
- Distance-based Outliers
- Density-based Outliers und Local Outliers
- Angle-based Outliers
- Zusammenfassung



## Klassifikation von Outlier Detection Algorithmen

- Globaler vs. lokaler Ansatz:  
Wird die “Outlierness” bestimmt bezüglich des gesamten Datensatzes (global) oder nur bezüglich einer Auswahl?
- Labeling vs. Scoring  
Bestimmt der Algorithmus den Outlier-Grad eines Punktes (Scoring) oder wird für jeden Punkt eine Entscheidung getroffen (Label: Outlier/kein Outlier)
- Eigenschaften des Outlier Modells  
Auf welchen Eigenschaften beruht die Modellierung von “Outlierness”



- Global vs. Lokal
  - bezieht sich auf die Auflösung der Referenzmenge bezüglich derer die “Outlierness” bestimmt wird
  - Globale Ansätze:
    - Referenzmenge enthält gesamten Datensatz
    - Basis-Annahme: nur ein einziger (normaler) erzeugender Mechanismus
    - Grundlegendes Problem: Outlier sind auch in Referenzmenge und verfälschen die Ergebnisse
  - Lokale Ansätze:
    - Referenzmenge enthält nur eine (kleine) Teilmenge des Datensatzes
    - Meist keine Annahme über Anzahl der Mechanismen
    - Grundlegendes Problem: wie ist eine geeignete Referenzmenge zu bestimmen?
  - Beachte: Manche Ansätze liegen dazwischen
    - Auflösung der Referenzmenge wird im Verfahren variiert



- Labeling vs. Scoring
  - bezieht sich auf das Ergebnis, das der Algorithmus liefert
  - Labeling Ansätze:
    - binäre Entscheidung
    - Daten-Objekt wird als Outlier markiert oder als normal
  - Scoring Ansätze:
    - kontinuierlicher Output: für jedes Objekt wird ein Score geliefert (z.B. die Wahrscheinlichkeit, ein Outlier zu sein)
    - Objekte können nach ihrem Score geordnet werden
  - Beachte:
    - Viele Scoring-Ansätze bestimmen nur die top- $n$  Outlier (Parameter  $n$  wird durch Benutzer angegeben)
    - Scoring-Ansätze können grundsätzlich in Labeling-Ansätze transformiert werden, wenn ein geeigneter Grenzwert angegeben werden kann, dessen Überschreitung zum Label "Outlier" führt



# Zusammenfassung

- Klassen von zugrundeliegenden Modellen
  - Statistisches Modell
    - Überlegung:
      - Wende ein Modell an, das die normalen Daten statistisch beschreibt (z.B. Gauss-Verteilung)
      - Outlier sind Punkte, die nicht gut zu diesem Modell passen (eine geringe Erzeugungswahrscheinlichkeit haben)
    - Beispiele:
      - Wahrscheinlichkeitstests basierend auf statistischen Modellen
      - Tiefen-basierte Ansätze
      - Deviation-based Ansätze
      - Manche Subspace Outlier Detection Ansätze



- Modellierung durch räumliche Nähe
  - Überlegung:
    - Untersuche die räumliche Nachbarschaft jedes Punktes im Datenraum
    - Wenn die Nachbarschaft deutlich andere Struktur (z.B. geringere Dichte) aufweist als die Nachbarschaften von anderen Punkten, kann der betreffende Punkt als Outlier angesehen werden.
  - Beispiele:
    - Distanz-basierte Ansätze
    - Dichte-basierte Ansätze
    - Manche Subspace Outlier Detection Ansätze



# Zusammenfassung

- Modellierung durch Winkel-Spektrum
  - Überlegung:
    - Bestimme das Spektrum paarweiser Winkel zwischen einem gegebenen Punkt und anderen (alle? Auswahl?) Punkten
    - Outlier sind Punkte, die eine geringe Varianz haben



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# Was haben Sie gelernt?

- Outlier: Intuition, aber auch Vagheit des Konzepts
- Kategorien, Eigenschaften von Outlier-Modellen
- Probabilistisches Modell
- Tiefen-basierte Modelle
- Distanz-basierte Modelle
  - DB-Outlier
  - kNN-basierte Modelle
- Dichte-basierte Modelle
  - LOF: Motivation, Modell
  - Varianten von LOF ( $\text{top-}n$ , connectivity, influence set)
- Lokalität
- Winkel-basiertes Modell