

L21: Anomaly Detection

Nov 12, 2025
Data Mining
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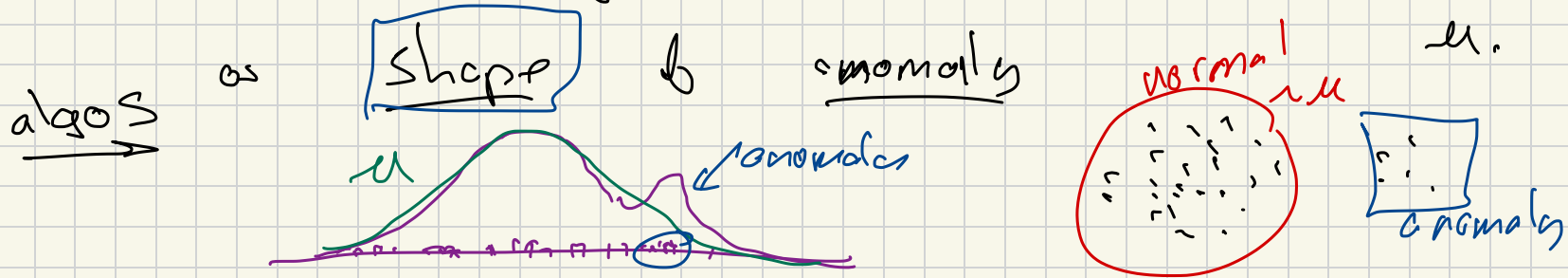
Anomalies

Data X

$$\text{anomaly} \leq cX$$

1. What to export from your data X .
unsupervised. $X \sim \text{iid } \mathcal{U}$

2. How what you observe can differ from $\mathcal{U}$.



3. Determine if the most anomalous subset S found, is interesting or not.

1. What to expect from data?

$$X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\} \sim_{\text{iid}} \mathcal{U}(\theta)$$

parameter(s)

Likelihood $L(X; \mathcal{U}(\theta)) = \prod_{x_i \in X} L(x_i; \mathcal{U}(\theta))$

$$L(X) = \max_{\theta} L(X; \mathcal{U}(\theta))$$

Goal: Define subset $S \subset X$

$$\frac{L(S) \cdot L(X \setminus S)}{L(X)}$$

likelihood ratio

$$\eta(\theta) = N(\mu, \sigma) \quad \leftarrow \sigma \text{ is known} \quad \theta = \mu$$

$$\Pr[x_i | \theta] = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} \cdot \sigma} \cdot \exp\left(-(x_i - \mu)^2 / (2\sigma^2)\right)$$

↓
 $\theta = \mu$

$$\Pr[X | \mu] = \prod_{x_i \in X} \Pr[x_i | \mu] = \prod_{x_i \in X} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} \sigma} \cdot \exp\left(-(x_i - \mu)^2 / (2\sigma^2)\right)$$

proportional
to

$$\propto \prod_{x_i \in X} \exp\left(-(x_i - \mu)^2 / (2\sigma^2)\right) = L(x; \mu)$$

log Likelihood

$$\ln(L(x; \mu))$$

$$\prod_{x_i \in X} \exp(-(x_i - \mu)^2 / 2\sigma^2) = L(x; \mu)$$

$$\ln(L(x; \mu)) = \ln\left(\prod_{x_i \in X} \exp(-(x_i - \mu)^2 / 2\sigma^2)\right)$$

$$\arg \max_{\mu} \ln(L(x; \mu)) = \sum_{x_i \in X} \ln(\exp(-(x_i - \mu)^2 / 2\sigma^2))$$

$$= \arg \min_{\mu} - \sum_{x_i \in X} (x_i - \mu)^2 / 2\sigma^2$$

$$= \arg \min_{\mu} \sum_{x_i \in X} (x_i - \mu)^2 = -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{x_i \in X} (x_i - \mu)^2$$

$$= \bar{\mu} = \frac{1}{|X|} \sum_{x_i \in X} x_i$$

$$X \sim \text{ind } N(\mu, \sigma)$$

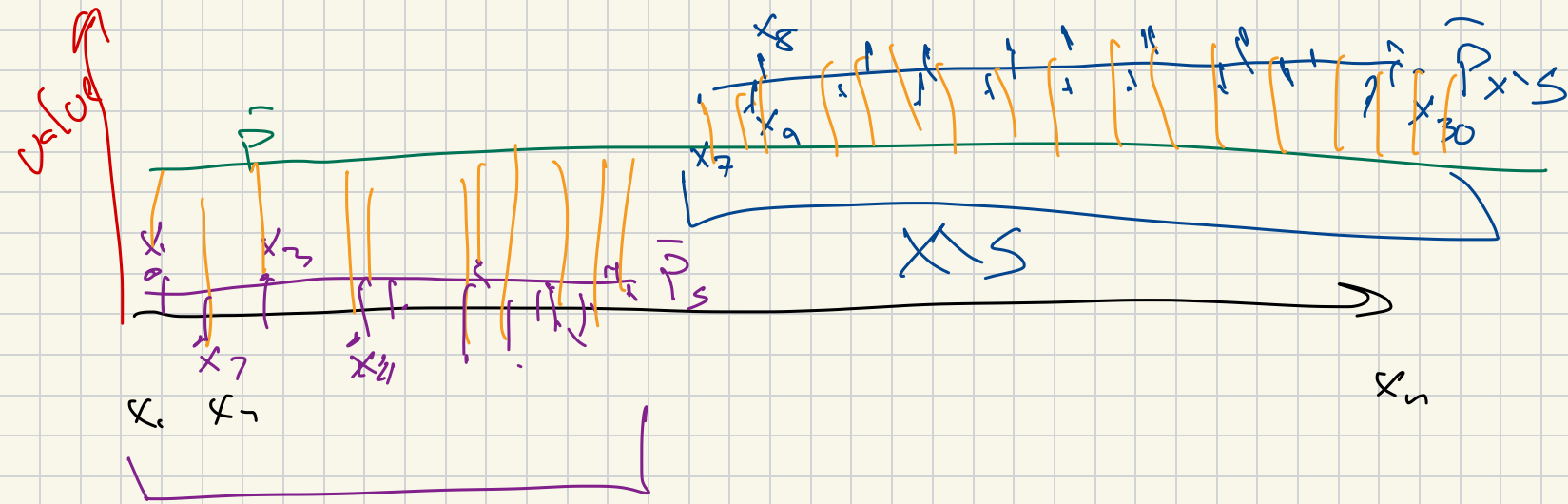
$$L(x; N(\mu, \sigma)) = \dots$$

$$L(x) = \max_{\mu \in \mathbb{R}} L(x; N(\mu, \sigma))$$

$$\mu^* = \bar{\mu} = \frac{1}{n} \sum x_i$$

$$LR = \frac{L(S) \cdot L(X|S)}{L(X)} = \frac{L(S; \bar{\mu}_S) \cdot L(X|S; \bar{\mu}_{X|S})}{L(X; \bar{\mu})}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{LLR} &= \ln \left(\frac{L(S) \cdot L(X|S)}{L(X)} \right) = \ln(L(S)) + \ln(L(X|S)) \\ \text{LLR}(S, X) &\quad - \ln(L(X)) \end{aligned}$$



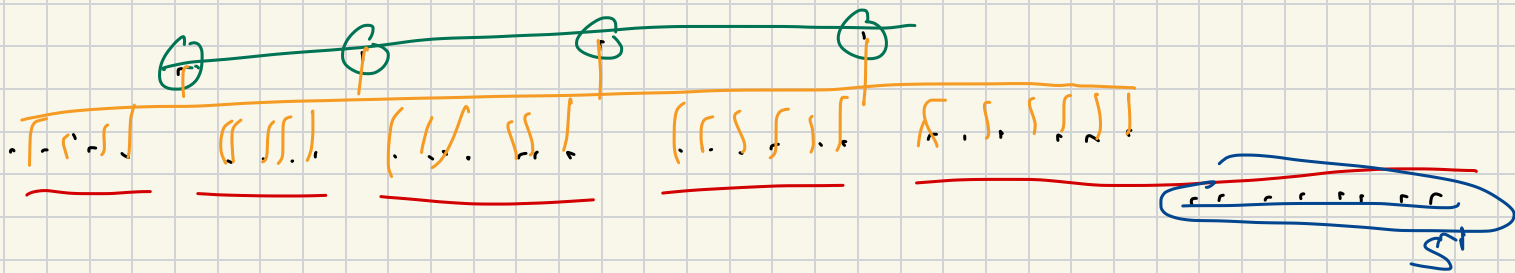
Most anomalous region S

$$S^* = \arg \max_S LLR(S, X)$$

Most anomalous region S

$$S^* = \arg \max_S LLR(S, X)$$

S - larger LLR score.



What steps of anomaly to consider?

S' - interval subset

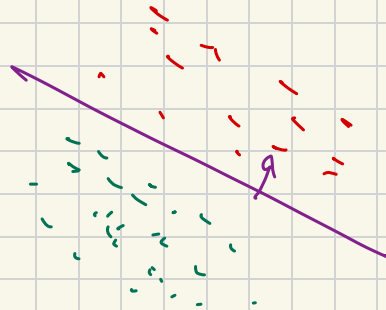
- more points
- close together

2. Finding Anomalies

$\mathcal{S}$

Define class of possible anomaly shapes

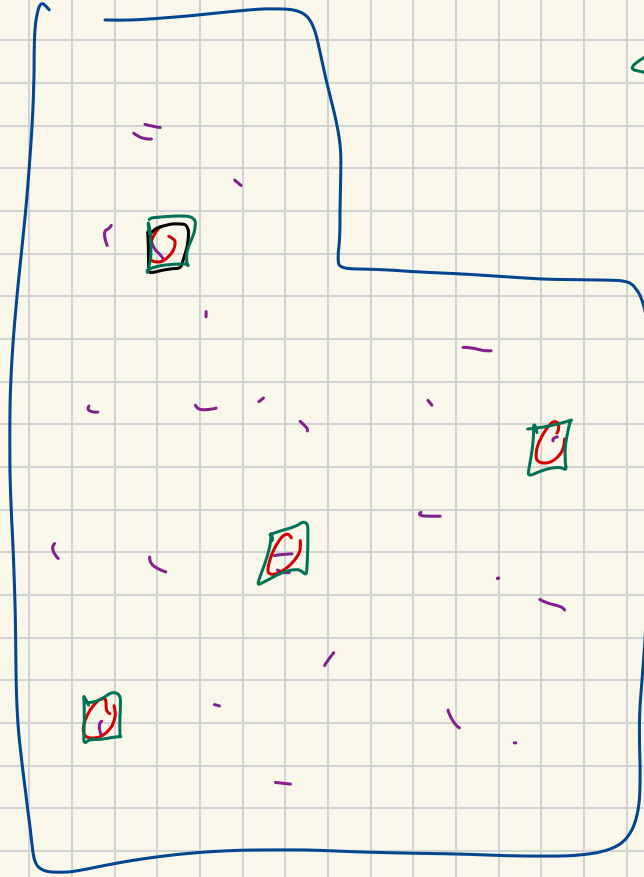
$$S^* = \underset{S \in \mathcal{S}}{\operatorname{arg\,max}} \quad LLR(S, X)$$



- intervals in time series

- days of the week

- spatial regions (circles, rectangles)
halfspaces



SCK

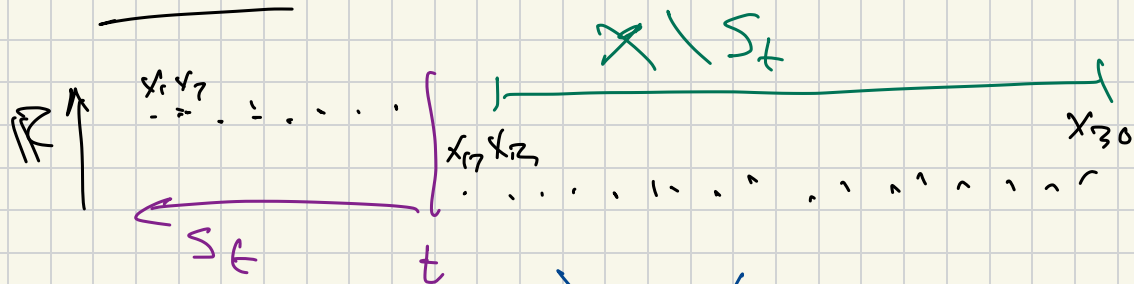
if no restriction
to class $\sum$

$\rightarrow$ does not
provide useful
understanding.

Example 1

$$X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\} \subset \mathbb{R}$$

$$\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} x_i < \lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} x_{i+1}$$



$$\text{choose } \mathcal{S} = \{S_t \text{ s.t. } S_t = i \leq t\}$$

one-sided interval $\rightarrow \frac{S}{t}$

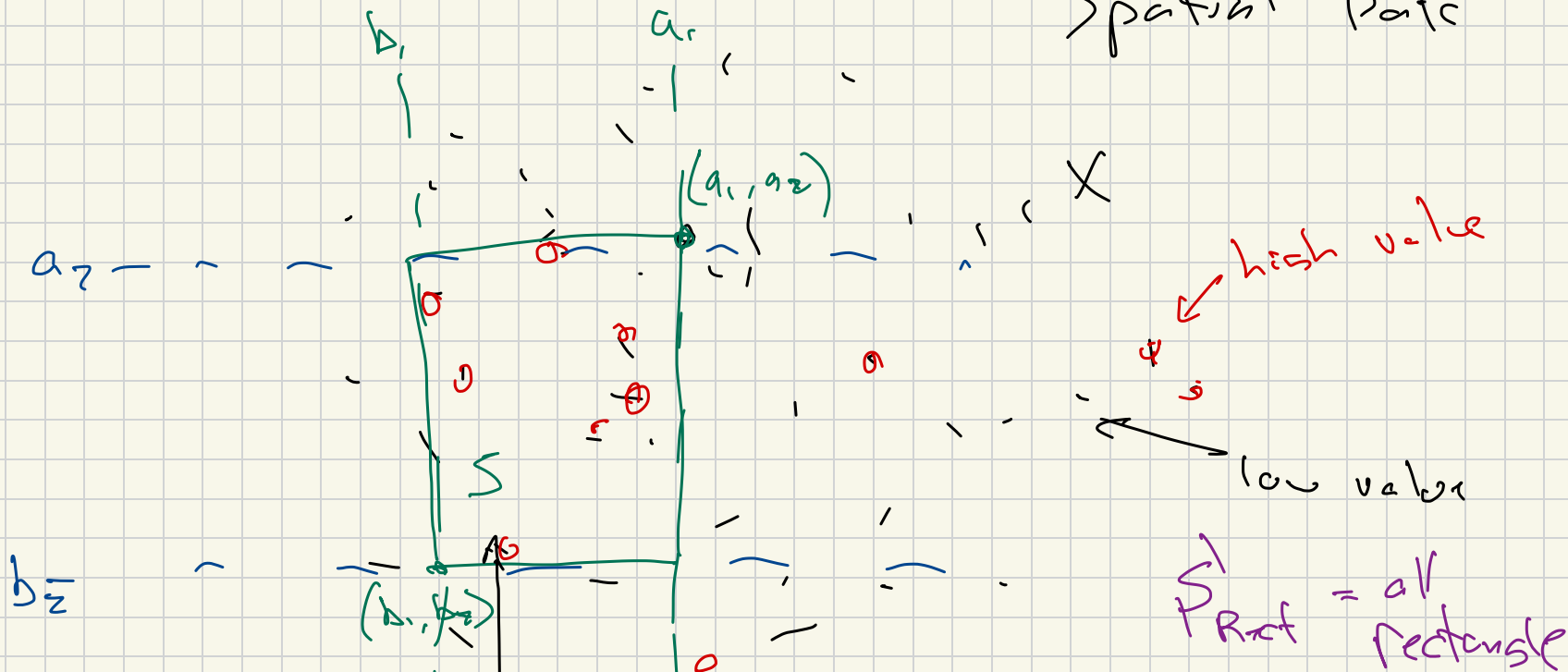
Solve $S^* = \underset{S_t \in \mathcal{S}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \operatorname{LLR}(S_t, X)$

change point model

in $O(n)$ time.

- streaming algo
mean
variance

Spatial Data



Find: $s^* = \arg \max_{s \in S_{Ret}} LLR(s, x)$

3. How to Quantify in Anomals is interesting

$$S^* = \underset{\text{code}}{\underset{S \in \mathcal{S}'}{\operatorname{argmax}}} \operatorname{LLR}(S, x) \quad \text{always exists!}$$

Found something S^* , is it interesting?

option A: trust the LLR.

$$\operatorname{LLR} \geq 2.5 \quad \text{or} \quad \operatorname{LLR} \leq 0.2$$

↪ make $\mathcal{S}$ larger ↪ LLR ↪ larger, ↪ interesting.

option B : Resample

$$X \sim u$$

if I know u

generate m more data sets

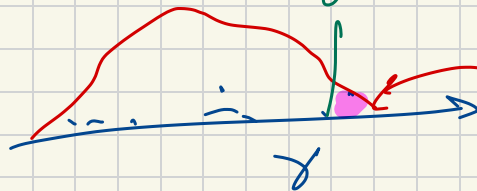
$$X_1, X_2, \dots, X_m \sim u$$

total $m+1$ pts

$$s_j = \underset{S \in \mathcal{S}}{\operatorname{argmax}} LLR(S, x_j)$$

$$y_j = LLR(s_j, x_j)$$

$$\Rightarrow \{y_1, y_2, \dots, y_m\}$$
$$y^* = LLR(s^*, x)$$



$f < c$ $\Rightarrow$ y^*
 $\Rightarrow$ p-value