Self-Supervised Anomaly Detection: A Survey and Outlook

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Abstract

Anomaly detection (AD) plays a crucial role in various domains, including cybersecurity, finance, and healthcare, by identifying patterns or events that deviate from normal behaviour. In recent years, significant progress has been made in this field due to the remarkable growth of deep learning models. Notably, the advent of self-supervised learning has sparked the development of novel AD algorithms that outperform the existing state-of-the-art approaches by a considerable margin. This paper aims to provide a comprehensive review of the current methodologies in self-supervised anomaly detection. We present technical details of the standard methods and discuss their strengths and drawbacks. We also compare the performance of these models against each other and other state-of-the-art anomaly detection models. Finally, the paper concludes with a discussion of future directions for self-supervised anomaly detection, including the development of more effective and efficient algorithms and the integration of these techniques with other related fields, such as multi-modal learning.

Keywords: Anomaly Detection, Self-Supervised Learning, Contrastive Learning, Representation Learning

1. Introduction

Anomaly detection (AD) is the task of identifying samples that differ significantly from the majority of data and often signals an irregular, fake,

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rare, or fraudulent observation (Wang et al., 2019). Anomaly detection is particularly useful in cases where we cannot define all existing classes during training. This makes AD algorithms applicable to a broad range of applications, including but not limited to intrusion detection in cybersecurity (Xin et al., 2018), fraud detection (Malaiya et al., 2018), acoustic novelty detection (Hojjati and Armanfard, 2022), and medical diagnosis (Latif et al., 2018).

In the past, anomaly detection relied on manual inspection of data by experts. However, with the proliferation of sensory systems, the volume of data has surged, making the traditional method impractical. As a result, automatic anomaly detection methods, including machine learning (ML)-based techniques, have gained significant popularity. Over the past few decades, numerous ML-based models have been developed for this purpose. Classical approaches like Kernel Density Estimation (KDE), One-Class Support Vector Machine (OCSVM), and Isolation Forests (IF) have been widely adopted. However, the performance of these algorithms often degrades when applied to higher-dimensional data. In recent years, deep learning models have shown significant improvements over traditional ML models since they have the capability to learn intricate patterns and representations from vast amounts of data, making them well-suited for anomaly detection. The utilization of deep learning for anomaly detection has yielded high accuracy and robust results, establishing it as a popular choice in various applications (Ruff et al., 2021; Hojjati and Armanfard, 2021).

Compared to typical deep learning tasks, anomaly detection poses unique challenges due to the characteristics of the data involved. Anomalies are typically rare occurrences or costly events in the real world. Consequently, the training data for anomaly detection is imbalanced, with a majority of normal data and only a small number of anomalies. Moreover, these anomalous samples can be contaminated with noise, further complicating the detection task. Additionally, anomalies cannot be treated as a single class, and a detection system may encounter new types of abnormalities that were not present in the training data. These challenges render a significant portion of deep learning algorithms ineffective for anomaly detection.

In general, deep learning models can be categorized into supervised, semi-supervised, and unsupervised methods. Supervised methods, which rely on labelled data, often achieve high performance. However, as previously mentioned, annotated data is not commonly available for anomaly detection tasks, making semi-supervised and unsupervised models the only practical options. Unfortunately, these algorithms generally do not perform as well

as their supervised counterparts. This limitation acts as a significant bottleneck, preventing deep anomaly detection algorithms from surpassing a certain performance threshold.

Recently, there has been a resurgence of hope for anomaly detection algorithms with the emergence of self-supervised learning (SSL). In SSL, similar to unsupervised learning, the model learns from unlabelled data without external annotation. It learns a generalizable representation from data by solving a supervised proxy task which is often unrelated to the target task but can help the network to learn a better embedding space. Depending on the nature of the data, a diverse set of tasks, such as colorization (Larsson et al., 2016), mutual information maximization (Hjelm et al., 2019), and predicting geometric transformations (Gidaris et al., 2018) can be used as the supervised proxy task. These methods showed promising results in various applications, such as speech representation learning (Ravanelli et al., 2020), visual feature learning (Jing and Tian, 2021), and healthcare applications (Azizi et al., 2021). Even in some cases, self-supervised algorithms have approached the performance of fully-supervised models (Chen et al., 2020).

Motivated by the recent success of SSL, anomaly detection researchers have started to incorporate the idea of self-supervision for developing effective algorithms. Their studies showed that the representation that is learned through self-supervision could be useful for anomaly detection if the anomaly score and the pretext task are defined appropriately (Tack et al., 2020; Reiss and Hoshen, 2021).

As a result, self-supervised algorithms have emerged as the new state-of-the-art in anomaly detection, outperforming other traditional methods. Recently, a wide range of SSL frameworks has been developed for anomaly detection. However, to the best of our knowledge, no paper conducted a comprehensive review of these methods. We aim to fill this gap by thoroughly reviewing and categorizing self-supervised learning approaches in anomaly detection. Our work provides a valuable resource for researchers and practitioners in this field and contributes to advancing state-of-the-art anomaly detection. In short, we can summarize the contribution of our work as follows:

- We briefly review the current approaches in anomaly detection to locate self-supervised anomaly detection in the context of AD research.
- We discuss the current approaches in self-supervised anomaly detection and its application areas.

- We divide the existing self-supervised anomaly detection algorithms into two high-level categories based on their requirement of negative samples during training. SSL-based models are different from each other based on their proxy tasks and architecture. Hence, it is essential to categorize these methods to cover all of them.

- For the first time, we extensively cover the self-supervised learning algorithms based on the data type that they are dealing with.

- For each type of method, we describe the techniques and assumptions and highlight their pros and cons. We also discuss the implementation details of some prominent algorithms in each category.

- We discuss possible future directions in self-supervised anomaly detection research.

2. Related Works

In recent decades, there has been significant research and exploration of the anomaly detection problem across various domains. Several survey articles attempted to group anomaly detection algorithms into distinctive categories. Hodge and Austin (2004) and Agyemang et al. (2006) are two examples of early studies that categorized the existing algorithms and extensively discussed the techniques that are used in each category. In another prominent work, Chandola et al. (2009) surveyed the existing anomaly detection algorithms and divided them into distinctive categories. In addition to describing the technical details of each method, they identified the underlying assumptions that are implicitly made regarding the anomalies. They also discussed the advantages, disadvantages and computational complexity of each technique. Furthermore, they extensively reviewed the application areas of the methods and highlighted the challenges faced in each domain.

More recently, deep learning methods have inspired researchers in anomaly detection, leading to the development of new algorithms in this domain. As a result, review papers focusing on deep anomaly detection have emerged. Chalapathy and Chawla (2019) was one of the first papers that presented a comprehensive review of deep anomaly detection methods. They categorized the existing algorithms based on their underlying assumptions and explained the pros and cons of each approach. Chalapathy and Chawla (2019) have also thoroughly explored applications of deep anomaly detection and assessed the

effectiveness of each method. In another similar survey, Pang et al. (2021) reviewed contemporary deep AD methods. They first discussed the challenges and complexities that anomaly detection faces, and then they categorized the existing deep methods into three high-level categories and eleven fine-grained subcategories. They emphasized how each category addresses challenges and identified key assumptions and intuitions. Notably, they also compiled a list of publicly available codes and datasets for benchmarking. While most review papers in recent years focused on specific sets of algorithms, Ruff et al. (2021) presented an extensive survey of anomaly detection methods, unifying classic shallow methods with recent deep approaches. They highlighted connections and similarities between these two types of algorithms, providing an in-depth description and taxonomy of common practices and challenges in anomaly detection. In addition to the mentioned studies, several other review papers in this field have been published, focusing on specific domains of application or particular types of methods. For example, the two survey papers Di Mattia et al. (2019) and Xia et al. (2022) are dedicated to reviewing the GAN-based anomaly detection methods. They discussed these models' theoretical bases and practical applications and provided a detailed description of existing challenges and future directions in GAN-based anomaly detection. Both of the papers also carried out empirical evaluations to compare the performance of different algorithms. In another study, Villa-Perez et al. (2021) empirically evaluated the performance of 29 semi-supervised AD algorithms.

While numerous survey papers have explored various aspects of anomaly detection, there remains a research gap concerning the thorough investigation of self-supervised methods, which have emerged as state-of-the-art in recent years. This paper aims to address this gap and provide a comprehensive analysis of self-supervised anomaly detection papers.

3. Anomaly Detection: Terminology and Common Practices

The term *anomaly detection* is commonly used to encompass all algorithms designed to identify samples that deviate from normal patterns. Needless to say, the development of anomaly detection models depends on factors such as the availability of data labels, types of anomalies, and specific applications. Furthermore, there is inconsistency in the nomenclature used in the literature. To ensure clarity and avoid confusion, we first define and describe the relevant terminologies used throughout the paper.

3.1. Anomaly, Outlier, Novelty, Out-of-Distribution Detection

Some studies use the terms *anomaly*, *novelty*, *outlier* and *out-of-distribution* interchangeably, while others distinguish them. Although most of the algorithms for detecting them are similar, their significance and application might differ. In this paper, we adopt the terminology proposed by previous studies and define each task as follows (Ruff et al., 2021):

- **Anomaly Detection:** *Anomaly detection* can be defined as the task of identifying samples that are drawn from a distribution other than the distribution of normal instances, denoted as $\mathbb{P}^+$. For instance, if we consider $\mathbb{P}^+$ as the distribution of horses, a zebra would be considered an anomaly in the context of anomaly detection.

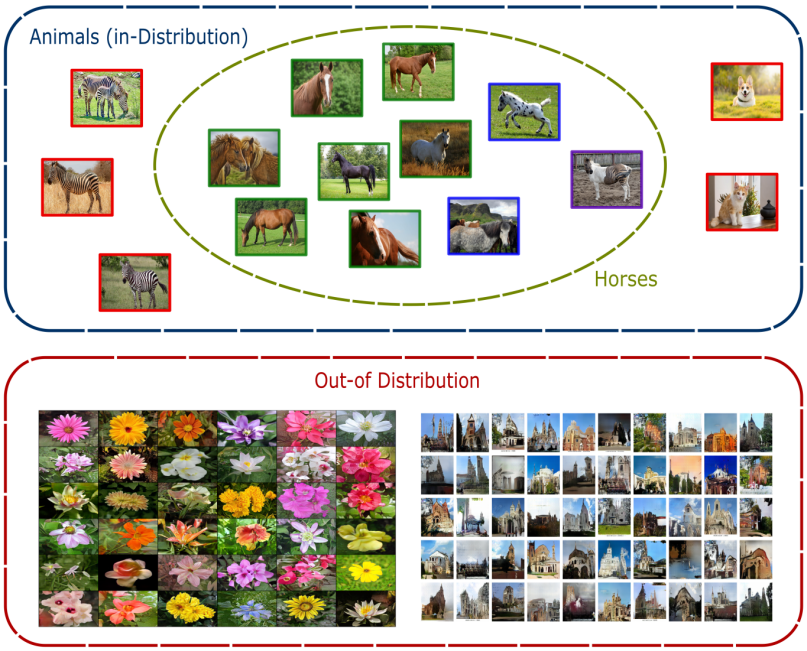
- **Outlier Detection:** An *outlier* is defined as a low-probability sample drawn from the distribution of normal instances, $\mathbb{P}^+$. For instance, in the context of horse detection, a Falabella (a small horse breed) would be considered an outlier among the various horse breeds.

- **Novelty Detection** A *novelty* is a sample that is drawn from a new region of a non-stationary distribution of normal samples $\mathbb{P}^+$. These samples are often encountered during the inference phase, but their counterparts were not present in the training data. For instance, a new breed of horses is considered a novelty in the horse detection task.

- **Out-of-Distribution Detection** In *out-of-distribution (OOD)* detection, the goal is to identify samples that do not belong to any of the training set classes. This problem, which is also referred to as *open category detection* (Liu et al., 2018), is often formulated as a supervised problem where we have the labelled data from K classes during training. We treat all the K classes as normal and aim to identify if a sample does not come from these classes during the inference phase. An example of the OOD detection task is using a classifier trained on an animal dataset to detect samples from other datasets, e.g. flowers.

Figure 1 illustrates an example of normal sample versus anomalies, outliers, novelty and out-of-distribution data.

Figure 1: Normal samples are shown in green, anomalies in red, outliers in blue and novelties in purple. The dataset of animals is denoted by a light-blue dashed box while a dashed dark-red box shows other out-of-distribution datasets.



3.2. Types of Anomalies

In the classic anomaly detection literature, anomalies are classified into three categories based on their nature (Chandola et al., 2009; Pang et al., 2021):

- **Point Anomalies:** A *point anomaly* refers to an individual sample that exhibits an irregularity or deviation from the standard pattern. A single cat image in the dataset of dog images or a fraudulent insurance claim are examples of point anomalies. Most studies in the anomaly detection literature focus on this type of anomaly (Chalapathy and Chawla, 2019).

- **Contextual Anomalies:** A *contextual anomaly*, also known as a *conditional anomaly*, is a data point deemed abnormal within a specific context. The context should be defined as a part of the problem formulation. For instance, a value of 120 km/h is considered an abnormal

recording of the speed of a bike, whereas it is not considered an abnormal recording of the speed of a car. The anomaly classification depends on the context in which the data point is evaluated.

- **Collective Anomalies:** *Collective anomalies*, also called *group anomalies*, are a subset of data points that exhibit collective abnormality when considered in relation to the entire dataset. While each sample within a collective anomaly may not be abnormal, their combined presence indicates an anomaly. For instance, a series of high-value credit card transactions that occur rapidly and consecutively might suggest a stolen credit card, even though each individual transaction might appear normal. The collective behavior or pattern highlights the anomaly in this case.

With the emergence of deep anomaly detection methods, recent studies proposed two additional anomaly types to distinguish between the various types of anomalies that deep models aim to detect (Ruff et al., 2021):

- **Sensory (Low-Level) Anomalies:** *Low-level* or *sensory anomalies* refer to the irregularities that occur in the low-level feature hierarchy, such as textures or edges of an image. An example of a low-level anomaly is a fractured texture. Low-level anomaly detection is helpful in detecting defects and artifacts in industrial applications. The recently introduced *MVTecAD* dataset (Bergmann et al., 2019) contains numerous examples of sensory anomalies and defects in industrial applications.

- **Semantic (High-Level) Anomalies:** *High-level* or *semantic anomalies* refer to samples that belong to a different class compared to the normal data. For example, if we train a network to classify cat images as normal samples, any image of an object other than a cat would be considered a semantic anomaly. In this context, the anomaly is determined based on the semantic content or class of the sample rather than low-level features.

It is important to note that both sensory and semantic anomalies might overlap with other types of anomalies. However, it is still essential to distinguish between semantic and sensory anomalies to avoid confusion in our discussions throughout the paper.

3.3. Availability of Data Labels

To design an appropriate algorithm for anomaly detection, it is crucial to consider the availability of labels. Based on the label availability, AD algorithms can be divided into three settings:

1. **Unsupervised Anomaly Detection:** In this setting, which is arguably the most common in anomaly detection, we assume that only unlabeled data is available for training the model (Ruff et al., 2021; Hodge and Austin, 2004). In the simplified form of unsupervised learning, we commonly assume that the data is noise-free and its distribution is the same as the normal data, e.g. $\mathbb{P} \equiv \mathbb{P}^+$. If noisy data or undetected anomalies are present in the training dataset, these assumptions are violated, hence the developed models are not robust. A more realistic approach can be to assume that the data distribution $\mathbb{P}$ is a mixture of normal data and anomalies with a pollution rate $\eta \in (0, 1)$, e.g. $\mathbb{P} = (1 - \eta)\mathbb{P}^+ + \eta\mathbb{P}^-$. In this approach, it is crucial to determine η and make a prior assumption about the distribution of anomalies $\mathbb{P}^-$, which may degrade the method generalization. Overall, the unsupervised settings for anomaly detection gained a great interest in learning commonalities of data from a complex and high-dimensional space without the need to access annotated training samples. Note that the self-supervised learning methods, that are the focus of this paper, can be considered as a subgroup of unsupervised learning techniques.
2. **Semi-supervised Anomaly Detection:** In this setting, we assume that the training dataset is partially labelled and includes both labelled and unlabeled samples. Semi-supervised algorithms are suitable for scenarios where it is costly to annotate the whole data. This setting is also prevalent in anomaly detection because commonly, both labelled and unlabelled data are present, but labelling the data often requires expert knowledge, or in some cases, such as industrial and biomedical applications, anomalies are costly to occur. Incorporating a small set of anomaly samples during training could significantly improve the detection accuracy and maximize the robustness of a model (Ruff et al., 2019; Min et al., 2018; Kiran et al., 2018), especially compared to the unsupervised learning techniques. However, due to the scarce availability of the labelled abnormal samples, a semi-supervised setting is likely prone to overfitting. Therefore, making the correct assumptions

about the distribution of anomalies, i.e. $\mathbb{P}^-$, is crucial for accurately incorporating the labelled anomalies in the training process.
It is important to note that Some existing papers refer to the task of *Learning from Positive and Unlabeled examples (LPUE)* as semi-supervised learning (Chandola et al., 2009). Note that based on the above definitions, LPUE is an unsupervised learning technique where the entire training data belongs to the normal class. LPUE is commonly used in the literature to benchmark the anomaly detection algorithms using popular datasets, such as CIFAR-10 and MNIST (Ruff et al., 2018; Golan and El-Yaniv, 2018). In this task, the samples of one class of the dataset are deemed normal and are used during the training, and samples of other classes are considered anomalous (Hojjati and Armanfard, 2021). *One-class AD* is another term which is used for referring to the LPUE task.

3. **Supervised Anomaly Detection:** In supervised anomaly detection, we assume that the dataset is fully labelled. When anomalies are easily annotated, it is more beneficial to adopt supervised methods(Feinman et al., 2017; Lee et al., 2018; Jumutc and Suykens, 2014; Kim et al., 2015). At this point, it is essential to distinguish between supervised anomaly detection and binary classification problems. One might claim that if the normal and abnormal data are available during the training phase, the problem can be formulated as a supervised binary classification problem and will no longer be an anomaly detection task. However, we should note that, formally speaking, an anomaly is a sample that does not belong to the normal class distribution $\mathbb{P}^+$. The anomaly class includes a broad range of data points that are not accessible/known during the training phase. The common practice anomaly detection is to assume that, in the training phase, there are enough labelled samples from the normal class that can reveal $\mathbb{P}^+$ while the limited available abnormal samples can only partially reveal $\mathbb{P}^-$. Hence, unlike binary classification, which aims to learn a decision boundary separating the two classes, AD seeks to discover the normal class boundaries. Although the supervised settings are more efficient and can achieve higher accuracy, they are rarely used to formulate anomaly detection problems compared to unsupervised and semi-supervised models. This is because, in most real-world applications, it is impossible to describe and have access to all existing anomaly classes.

4. Self-supervised Learning for Anomaly Detection

Self-supervised learning can leverage large amounts of unlabeled data to learn robust representations of normal behaviour, making it a scalable and cost-effective solution for anomaly detection. In the subsequent sections of this paper, we will delve into the general methodology and contributions of self-supervised anomaly detection papers. Table 1 and Table 2 provide a summary of the key aspects of these papers, including the task they aim to solve, the evaluation metrics used, and how they quantify the anomaly score from the representation. In addition, Figure 2 illustrates the methodologies employed by each group of methods.

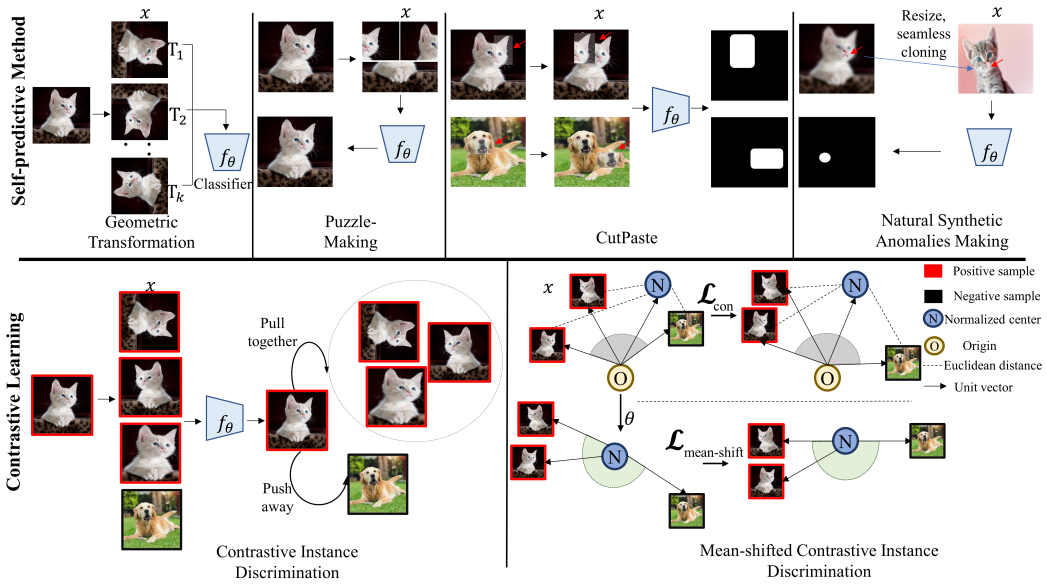
4.1. Problem Formulation

Based on the dataset's nature and the availability of data labels, the anomaly detection task can be formulated differently in past studies. The most common formulation is one-class anomaly detection (aka LPUE) (Golan and El-Yaniv, 2018; Sabokrou et al., 2019; Chen et al., 2020), in which one class of the dataset is trained as normal, while the remaining classes are considered abnormal. An example of this task is taking a class of the CIFAR-10 such as *Cat* as normal, and the rest as anomalies. On the other hand, in *multi-class anomaly detection*, multiple classes in the same datasets are considered normal during training, and one or multiple remaining classes are deemed anomalous (Zhang et al., 2022a; Tack et al., 2020).

4.2. Algorithms

Self-supervised anomaly detection models vary primarily based on the nature of their proxy tasks. The proxy task is designed to guide the model in learning a representation that is specifically suited for anomaly detection, as opposed to a generic representation learned by an unsupervised model. In recent years, contrastive learning methods have emerged as a significant component of self-supervised learning (Chen et al., 2020). The primary objective of contrastive learning is to develop effective data representations by bringing together different views of the same sample while pushing them apart from other points. To accomplish this, various loss functions have been proposed, such as contrastive loss (Chopra et al., 2005) and triplet loss (Schroff et al., 2015). Notably, several variants of contrastive learning models have demonstrated impressive accuracy levels comparable to those of fully-supervised models in specific tasks (Chen et al., 2020). Anomaly detection is one of

Figure 2: Several examples of pseudo-label generation processes that are associated with two main categories of SSL-AD. x is the pseudo-labeled input and f_θ is the feature extractor.



the tasks where SSL algorithms have demonstrated remarkable performance levels that were previously unattainable.

Inspired by earlier works, we categorize the self-supervised AD models based on their pretext task into two groups (Weng and Kim, 2021):

- **Self-predictive Methods:** These algorithms create the pretext task for each individual sample. Commonly, they apply a transformation to the input and try to either predict the applied transformation or reconstruct the original input. These models are effective even if only *positive* samples, *i.e.* in-distribution (IND) samples, are available. As a result, they do not necessarily require samples from other distributions, also known as *negatives*, during training.

- **Contrastive Methods:** *Contrastive models* define the proxy task on the relationship between pairs of samples. They commonly generate positive views of a sample by applying different geometric transformations. Then, they aim to pull together the positives while pushing them away from the negative ones. In contrastive learning, samples of the current batch other than the anchor sample and its augmentations are

considered *negative* while *positive* samples are the ones that are coming from augmentations of the anchor. Technically, contrastive algorithms can also be considered self-predictive. In essence, they also need to learn to predict the transformations to associate the same sample's augmentations with each other. However, the immense advancement of contrastive learning in recent years encouraged us to treat them as a stand-alone category.

Fig. 2 visually illustrates the representation learning process of these two categories. As shown in this figure, unlike self-predictive algorithms, contrastive learning methods incorporate negative samples. This figure also depicts the pseudo-label generation process for different SSL methods. Self-predictive models apply the transformations on positive samples and try to either predict the applied transformation or reconstruct the original input. Contrastive methods, on the other hand, do not explicitly predict the transformations or reconstruct the input and instead aim to distinguish between positive and negative samples. More details on the methods depicted in Fig. 2 are presented in Sections 5 and 6.

In the early stages, the primary focus of algorithms was on image and video anomaly detection. This emphasis was primarily due to the fact that self-supervised representation learning and the related proxy tasks were predominantly developed within the computer vision literature. Since a significant number of existing works concentrate on image anomaly detection, and this field is well-established, we first discuss the algorithms that were developed for visual anomaly detection, and subsequently, we will cover the papers that tried to tackle other data types in section 7.

4.3. Anomaly Scoring

Self-supervised models are capable of learning a good feature representation from the input data. However, this representation is not readily useful for anomaly detection. Defining a suitable scoring function to quantify the degree of abnormality from this representation is essential for designing an anomaly detection framework. Previous studies have used a flurry of scoring functions based on the downstream tasks to detect anomalies. For example, two widely used anomaly scores for one-class anomaly detection are normality score and reconstruction error: Normality scores estimate the normality of new samples at the inference time after applying different transformations (Sohn et al., 2020; Li et al., 2021; Hendrycks et al., 2019; Golan and El-Yaniv,

2018). Examples of this type of score include the Dirichlet score (Golan and El-Yaniv, 2018) and rotation score (Hendrycks et al., 2019). Reconstruction error, which is typically measured by the Euclidean distance between the original and the reconstructed input, is another category of scoring functions. The assumption behind using this score is that the reconstructed features of anomalies have higher errors than normal samples (Sabokrou et al., 2019; Salehi et al., 2020). For multi-class anomaly detection, scoring functions such as class-wise density estimation (negative Mahalanobis distance) (Sehwag et al., 2021) and data likelihood criterion (Zhang et al., 2021a) were also used. Finally, for tackling the out-of-distribution detection problem, several other measures, including probability-based measures, rotation score (Hendrycks et al., 2019), Confusion Log Probability (CLP) (Winkens et al., 2020), Weighting Softmax Probability (Mohseni et al., 2020), and Mahalanobis distance (Sehwag et al., 2021) are used in the self-supervised anomaly detection literature.

4.4. Performance Evaluation

To evaluate the performance of an anomaly detector, several criteria are used. In practical applications, the cost of false alarms (type I error) and missed-detected anomalies (type II error) are usually different. Most anomaly detectors define the decision function as

$$\text{Output} = \begin{cases} \text{normal}, & \text{if } Score(x) < \zeta \\ \text{abnormal}, & \text{if } Score(x) \geq \zeta \end{cases},$$

where $Score(x)$ is the anomaly score for new sample x, and the decision threshold ζ is chosen to minimize the costs corresponding to the type I and II errors and to accommodate other constraints imposed by the environment (Field et al., 2004). However, it is common that the costs and constraints are not stable over time or are not fully specified in various scenarios. As an example, consider a financial fraud detector that receives anomaly alarms to investigate potentially fraudulent activities. A detector can only handle a limited number of alarms, and its job is to maximize the number of anomalies containing these alarms based on the precision metric. Meanwhile, an anomaly alarm being wrongly reported can cause a credit card agency placing a hold on the customer's credit card. Thus, the goal is to maximize the number of true alarms, given a constraint on the percentage of false alarms by using the recall metric.

Area Under the Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) Curve (AUC or simply AUC) is known for its ability to evaluate the model's performance under a broad range of the decision threshold ζ (Fawcett, 2006). The AUROC curve is an indicator for all sets of precision-recall pairs at all possible thresholds. This makes AUC capable of interpreting the performance of models in various scenarios. As shown in Table 1, most anomaly detection methods use the AUC metric for evaluation. The random baseline achieves an AUC of 0.5, regardless of the imbalance between normal and abnormal subsets, while an excellent model achieves an AUC close to 1, demonstrating the robustness of the model in distinguishing normal from abnormal classes.

5. Self-Predictive Methods in Anomaly Detection

Self-Predictive methods can learn data embedding by defining the supervised proxy task on a single sample. This approach focuses on the innate relationship between a sample and its own contents or its augmented views. An example of a self-predictive task is masking a portion of an image and trying to reconstruct it using a neural network (Salehi et al., 2020).

In most self-predictive approaches, the objective is to predict the label of the applied transformation, such as predicting the degree of rotation of an image. In this case, the anomaly score is commonly defined based on the Softmax probabilities of a supervised classifier. However, the objective of some methods is to reconstruct the original input from its transformed version. Solving the Jigsaw puzzle and denoising autoencoders are examples of this approach. In this case, the reconstruction error of the model is often used as the anomaly score. Geometric transformations were one of the earliest types of transformations that are used for visual representation learning. Doersch et al. (2015) showed that predicting the relative position of image patches is a helpful pretext task for improving the representation for object detection. In a later work, Gidaris et al. (2018) used rotation prediction for learning a better representation.

Geometric transformation models first create a self-labelled dataset by applying different geometric transformations to normal samples. The applied transformation is served as the label of each sample. Let $\mathcal{T} = \{T_1, T_2, \ldots, T_K\}$ be the set of geometric transformations. The new labelled dataset S can be constructed from the original dataset $\mathcal{D}$ as below:

$$S := \{(T_j(x), j) | x \in \mathcal{D}, T_j \in \mathcal{T}\}, \tag{1}$$

Table 1: Widely-used Self-Supervised Anomaly Detection methods

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Category	Method	Task	Anomaly Score	Indicator
Self Predictive	GOEM (Golan and El-Yaniv, 2018)	OCAD	Dirichlet Normality	AUC
	NRE (Sabokrou et al., 2019)	OCAD	Reconstruction Error	EER
	SSL-OE (Hendrycks et al., 2019)	OCAD OOD	Rotation Score	AUC
	GOAD (Bergman and Hoshen, 2020)	OCAD	Softmax Probability	AUC
	Puzzle-AE (Salehi et al., 2020)	OCAD	Error Normalization	AUC
	CutPaste (Li et al., 2021)	OCAD	Density Estimator	AUC
	SLA^{2}P (Wang et al., 2021c)	OCAD	Uncertainty Score	AUC
	NAF-AL (Zhang et al., 2021a)	OCAD MCAD	Likelihoods	F1
	DAAD (Zhang et al., 2022a)	MCAD	Probabilistic scalars with majority voting	F1,AUC ACC
	Patch-Based (Tsai et al., 2022)	OCAD	L_2 Distance	AUC
Contrastive	CLP (Winkens et al., 2020)	OOD	CLP Score	AUC
	CSI (Tack et al., 2020)	OCAD	Cosine similarity, Representation Norm	AUC
	SSD (Sehwag et al., 2021)	OOD	Mahalanobis distance	AUC
	DROC (Sohn et al., 2020)	OCAD	Normality score	AUC
	MCL (Cho et al., 2021a)	MS AD	Mahalanobis distance	AUC
	NDA (Chen et al., 2021a)	ND	Reconstruction error	AUC
	Spatial CL (Kim et al., 2022)	OCAD	L_2 Distance	AUC
	Self-Distillation (Rafiee et al., 2022)	OOD	Temperature-Weighted Nonlinear Score	AUC

Table 2: Summary of Widely-used Self-Supervised Anomaly Detection methods

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Method	Summary
GOEM	GEOM applies on all the given normal images and encourages learning the features that are useful for detecting novelties.
NRE	Besides learning a reconstruction scheme, AE preserves the local geometric manifold based on NRE that leads to a discriminative neighborhood-guided SSL.
SSL-OE	An auxiliary rotation loss is added to improve the robustness and uncertainty of deep learning models.
GOAD	GOAD uses affine transforms which are suitable for general data. It tries to predict the applied transforms and uses the output of the classifier to detect anomalies.
Puzzle-AE	U-Net solves the puzzled inputs and the robust adversarial training is used as an automatic shortcut removal.
CutPaste	CutPaste augmentation creates local irregular patterns during training and identifies these local irregularity on unseen real defects at the test time.
SLA^2P	SLA^2P designs a discriminative anomaly score by employing feature-level self-supervised learning and adversarial perturbation.
NAF-AL	It employs data transformations in the SSL setting, and learns the data likelihood by Autoregressive Flow-based Active Learning with Marginal Strategy.
DAAD	It includes a classifier and an adversarial training model. It captures different data distributions and makes an evaluation using the majority voting.
Patch-Based	Incorporates relative feature similarity between patches of varying local distances to enhance information extraction from normal images.
CLP	A simple contrastive training-based approach for OOD detection is proposed. CLP captures the similarity of the inlier and outlier dataset(s).
CSI	A new detection score is introduced in the training phase that contrasts the sample with distributionally-shifted augmentations of itself.
SSD	An outlier detector is based on only unlabeled in-distribution data. SSD uses SSL followed by a Mahalanobis distance in the feature space.
DROC	One-class AD emphasizes the importance of decoupling building classifiers for learning representations.
MCL	MCL can shape dense class-conditional clusters by adding 2 components: class-conditional mask and stochastic positive attraction to boost the performance.
NDA	Negative augmentation generates negative samples closer to normal samples and helps separate normal and abnormal points.
Spatial CL	Incorporates autoencoder in conjunction with contrastive learning to reproduce the original image from cut-paste augmentation.
Self-Distillation	Employs the self-distillation of the in-distribution data, and contrasting against negative examples that are generated through shifting transformations of data.

where the original data point is shown by x. A multi-class network is trained over the dataset S to detect the transformation applied to the sample. During the inference phase, the trained models are applied to the transformed versions of the samples, and the distribution of the Softmax output is used for anomaly detection (Golan and El-Yaniv, 2018). Unlike the Autoencoders and GAN-based methods, the geometric transformation models are discriminative. The intuition behind these models is that the model learns to extract important features of the input by learning to identify the applied geometric transformations. These features can also be helpful for anomaly detection.

The paper by Golan and El-Yaniv (2018) was the first work that used geometric transformation learning for anomaly detection. They named their method as GEOM and showed that it can significantly outperform the state-of-the-art in anomaly detection. They showed that their model can beat the top-performing baseline in CIFAR-10 and CatsVSDogs datasets by 32% and 67%, respectively.

To calculate the anomaly score of a sample from the Softmax probabilities, Golan and El-Yaniv (2018) combined the log-likelihood of the conditional probability of each of the applied transformations:

$$n_S := \sum_{k=1}^{K} \log p(y(T_k(x))|T_k) \tag{2}$$

Then, they approximated $p(y(T_k(x))|T_k)$ by a Dirichlet distribution:

$$n_S = \sum_{k=1}^{K} (\tilde{\alpha}_k - 1). \log y(T_k(x)). \tag{3}$$

An important issue of GEOM is that the classifier $p(y(T_k(x))|T_k)$ is only valid for samples the network encountered during the training. For other samples which also includes anomalies, $p(y(T_k(x))|T_k)$ can have a very high variance. To address this problem, (Hendrycks et al., 2018) proposed to use some anomalous samples during the training to ensure that $p(y(T_k(x))|T_k) = \frac{1}{M}$ for anomalies. This method, which is also known as Outlier Exposure (OE), formulates the problem as a supervised task which might not be practical for some real-world applications as they do not have access to anomalies.

Even though self-predictive models showed promising results, their performance is still significantly poorer than fully-supervised models in out-of-distribution detection. However, some recent studies (Hendrycks et al., 2019)

hinted that using SSL models in conjunction with supervised methods can improve the robustness of the model in different ways. Therefore, even in cases where we have access to anomaly data and labels, using self-supervised proxy tasks can enhance the performance of the anomaly detector.

A significant downside of geometric models is that they only use transformations that are well-suited for image datasets and cannot be generalized to other data types, e.g. tabular data. To overcome this issue, Bergman and Hoshen (2020) proposed a method called GOAD. In GOAD, the data is randomly transformed by several affine transformations $\mathcal{T} = \{T_1, T_2, \ldots, T_K\}$. Unlike the geometric transformations, affine transforms are not limited to images and can be applied to any data type. Also, we can show that the geometric transformations are special cases of the affine transform, and the GEOM algorithm is a special case of GOAD. In GOAD, the network learns to map each of the transformations into one hypersphere by minimizing the below triplet loss:

$$L = \sum_i \max\left(\|f(T_m(x_i)) - c_m\|^2 + s \right.$$
$$\left. -min_{m' \neq m} \|f(T_m(x_i)) - c_{m'}\|^2, 0\right), \tag{4}$$

where $f(.)$ is the network, s is a regularizing term for the distance between hyperspheres, and c_m is the hypersphere center corresponding to the $m-$th transformation.

The above objective encourages the network to learn the hyperspheres with low intra-transformation and high inter-transformation variance. This is to provide a feature space, i.e. the last layer of $f(.)$, in which the different transformations are separated. During the inference phase, the test samples are transformed by all transformations and the likelihood of predicting the correct transform is used as the anomaly score.

Although classification-based methods showed significant improvement in semantic anomaly detection on datasets such as CIFAR-10, their performance is poor on real-world datasets such as MVTecAD (Salehi et al., 2020). This is because these models can learn high-level features of data by learning the patterns which are present both in the original data and its augmented versions, e.g. rotated instances. However, these algorithms might not be well-suited for sensory-level anomaly detection tasks, e.g. detecting cracks in an object. This is because some types of low-level anomalies, such as texture anomalies, are often invariant to the transformations. To alleviate

this issue, several other proxy tasks, that are more suitable for low-level anomaly detection, are proposed. For instance, Salehi et al. (2020) used the idea of solving the jigsaw puzzle for learning an efficient representation that can be used for pixel-level anomaly detection. Their proposed method, which they named as Puzzle-AE, trains a U-Net autoencoder to reconstruct the puzzled input. The reconstruction objective ensures that the model is sensitive to the pixel-level anomalies, while the pretext task of solving the puzzle enables the network to capture high-level semantic information, as shown in Fig. 2. They further boosted the performance of their model by incorporating adversarial training.

More recently, Li et al. (2021) developed a self-supervised method called CutPaste which significantly improves state-of-the-art in defect detection. CutPaste transformation randomly crops a local patch of the image and pastes it back to a different image location. The new augmented dataset is more representative of real anomalies. Thus, the model can be easily trained to identify and localize the local irregularity (shown by the white regions in the black background in Fig. 2). To detect the augmented samples from the un-transformed ones, the objective of the network is defined as follows:

$$\mathcal{L}_{CP} = \mathbb{E}_{x \in \mathcal{X}}\{\mathbb{CE}(g(x), 0) + \mathbb{CE}(g(\mathrm{CP}(x)), 1)\}, \tag{5}$$

where $CP(.)$ is the CutPaste augmentation, $\mathcal{X}$ is the set of normal data, $\mathbb{CE}(.,.)$ is a cross-entropy loss, and g is a binary classifier that can be parameterized by deep networks. In order to calculate the anomaly score from the representation, an algorithm like KDE or GDE can be used.

CutPaste can also learn a patch representation and compute the anomaly score of an image patch by cropping a patch before applying CutPaste augmentation. This facilitates localizing the defective area. In this case, the objective loss function is modified as:

$$\mathbb{E}_{x \in \mathcal{X}}\{\mathbb{CE}(g(c(x)), 0) + \mathbb{CE}(g(\mathrm{CP}(c(x))), 1)\}, \tag{6}$$

where $c(x)$ crops a patch at random location x.

In another similar work, Schlüter et al. (2021), introduced a new self-supervised task, called Natural Synthetic Anomalies (NSA) to detect and localize anomalies using only normal training data. Their proposed approach creates synthetic anomalies by seamlessly cloning a patch with various sizes from a source image into a destination image. In particular, NSA selects a random rectangular patch in the source image, randomly resizes the patch,

blends the patch into the destination location from a different image, and creates a pixel-level mask. The new samples that NSA generates are different in size, shape, texture, location, color, etc. In other words, NSA dynamically produces a wide range of anomalies, which are more realistic approximation of natural anomalies than the samples that CutPaste creates by pasting patches at different locations. An example of NSA is shown in Fig. 2, where a random patch from a source cat image is seamlessly cloned onto another cat image. The NSA method outperforms the state-of-the-art algorithms on several real-world datasets such as MVTecAD.

6. Contrastive Methods

The primary objective of contrastive self-supervised learning is to learn a feature space or a representation in which the positive samples are closer together and are further away from the negative points. Empirical evidence shows that contrastive learning models such as SimCLR (Chen et al., 2020) and MoCo (He et al., 2020) are particularly efficient in computer vision tasks. SimCLR, one of most popular recent contrastive learning algorithms, learns representations by maximizing the agreement between different augmented versions of the same image while repelling them from other samples in the batch. Each image x_i from randomly sampled batch $\mathcal{B} = (\{x_i, y_i\})_{i=1}^{N}$ is augmented twice, producing an independent pair of views $\{\hat{x}_{2i-1}, \hat{x}_{2i}\}$, and augmented batch $\hat{\mathcal{B}} = \{(\hat{x}_i, \hat{y}_i)\}_{i=1}^{2N}$, where the labels of augmented data $\{\hat{y}_{2i-1}, \hat{y}_{2i}\}$ are equal to the original label y_i. By performing independent transformation T and T$'$ drawn from a pre-defined augmentation function pool $\mathcal{T}$, the augmented pair of views $\{\hat{x}_{2i-1} = \mathrm{T}(x_i), \hat{x}_{2i} = \mathrm{T}'(x_i)\}$ are generated. Next, $\{\hat{x}_{2i-1}, \hat{x}_{2i}\}$ are passed sequentially through an encoder and a projection head to yield latent vectors $\{z_{2i-1}, z_{2i}\}$. SimCLR learns the representation by minimizing the following loss for a positive pair of examples (m, n):

$$l(m,n) = -\log \frac{\exp(sim(z_m, z_n)/\tau)}{\sum_{i=1}^{2N} \mathbf{1}_{\{i \neq m\}} \exp(sim(z_m, z_i)/\tau)} \tag{7}$$

where $sim(z_m, z_n)$ represents the cosine similarity between the pair of latent vectors (z_m, z_n), $\mathbf{1}_{i \neq m}$ is an indicator function which is equal to 1 if $i \neq m$ and zero otherwise, and τ indicates the temperature hyperparameter which determines the degree of repulsion. The final objective is to minimize the

contrastive loss, defined in (8), over all positive pairs in a mini-batch:

$$\mathcal{L}_{SimCLR} = \frac{1}{2N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \Big[l(2i-1, 2i) + l(2i, 2i-1) \Big]. \tag{8}$$

Contrastive learning models established themselves as powerful representation learning tools. Still, they face crucial challenges for anomaly detection. Most widely-used contrastive learning algorithms, such as SimCLR and MoCo, need negative samples to operate. However, we either only have access to the samples from one class in many anomaly detection tasks, or the distribution of classes is highly imbalanced. In addition, the learned representation is not readily suitable for the anomaly detection task, and we need to define a proper anomaly score.

Despite these challenges, several contrastive anomaly detection models have emerged in the recent years. The CSI method proposed by Tack et al. (2020) was the first attempt for using contrastive learning in anomaly detection. The CSI method is based on the idea of instance discrimination which considers every data point as a separate class and negative relative to other samples in the dataset (Wu et al., 2018). This idea is proven to be practical in visual representation learning for classification, but its performance in anomaly detection is unexplored (Chen et al., 2020). They also showed that if specific transformations are used for generating negative samples from a given point, the learned representation can be more appropriate for anomaly detection. These distribution-shifting transformations can be denoted by a set as $\mathcal{S}$. In contrast to SimCLR, which considers augmented samples as positive to each other, CSI attempts to consider them as negative if the augmentation is drawn from $\mathcal{S}$. A significant conclusion of the CSI method is that although using the shifted transformations does not improve and even in some cases hurts the performance of the representation in other downstream tasks such as classification, it can improve the performance for anomaly detection.

If we denote the set of shifting transformations by $\mathcal{S} = \{S_0 = I, S_1, ..., S_{K-1}\}$ with I being the identity function and K different (either random or deterministic) transformations, the CSI loss can be written as:

$$\mathcal{L}_{con-SI} := \mathcal{L}_{SimCLR}\Big(\bigcup_{S \in \mathcal{S}} \mathcal{B}_S; \mathcal{T} \Big) \tag{9}$$

in which $B_S := \{S(x_i)\}_{i=1}^{B}$. In simpler terms, the $\mathcal{L}_{con-SI}$ is essentially the

same as the SimCLR loss, but in the con-SI, the augmented samples are considered negative to each other.

In addition to discriminating each shifted instances, an auxiliary task is added with a Softmax classifier $p_{cls-SI}(y^S|x)$ that predicts which shifting transformation $y^S \in \mathcal{S}$ is applied for a given input x_i. The classifying shifted instances (cls-SI) loss is defined as below:

$$\mathcal{L}_{cls-SI} := \frac{1}{2B}\frac{1}{K}\sum_{S\in\mathcal{S}}\sum_{\hat{x}_S\in\hat{\mathcal{B}}_S} -\log p_{cls-SI}(y^S = S|\hat{x}_S) \tag{10}$$

The final loss of CSI is then defined as:

$$\mathcal{L}_{CSI} := \mathcal{L}_{con-SI} + \lambda\mathcal{L}_{cls-SI} \tag{11}$$

The authors of the CSI empirically showed that the norm of the representation $\|z(x)\|$ is indeed a good anomaly score, where z is the representation vector and $\|\cdot\|$ denotes the second norm. This can be explained intuitively by considering that the contrastive loss increases the norm of the in-distribution samples to maximize the cosine similarity of samples generating from the same anchor. Consequently, during the test time, in-distribution samples are mapped further from the origin of the z space, while the representation of other data points, i.e. anomalies, have a smaller norm hence are closer to the origin. This is an important observation as it helps to solve the problem of defining the anomaly score on a representation that is learned in an unsupervised fashion. The authors also found that the cosine similarity to the nearest training point in $\{x_m\}$ can be another good anomaly score. They defined the score of their model as a combination of these two metrics as below:

$$s_{con}(x;\{x_m\}) := \max_m \text{sim}(z(x_m), z_x).\|z(x)\| \tag{12}$$

where z_x is the representation vector of the test sample x and $z(x_m)$ is the closest representation vector in the training set.

Parallel to Tack et al. (2020), Winkens et al. (2020) developed a contrastive model for detecting out-of-distribution instances. They evaluated their approach on several benchmark OOD tasks and showed that contrastive models are also capable in OOD. The paper's key idea is that a fully supervised model might not be able to capture the patterns that can be useful for out-of-distribution detection. However, using contrastive learning techniques, the model learns high-level and task-agnostic features that can also

help detect OODs. When we combine these techniques with the supervised learning techniques, the resulting model can learn more reliable features for both semantic classification and OOD detection.

The CSI algorithm shows that the task-agnostic representation learned through contrastive learning is suitable for anomaly detection. However, a task-specific approach can be more suitable for anomaly detection. (The task may be defined as the AD task itself or another downstream task such as data classification.) The contrastive models, such as SimCLR, are quite helpful in learning a representation for individual data points. They can also learn separable clusters for each class without having access to any labels. However, the resulting clusters may have blurry boundaries, and they commonly require fine-tuning for the downstream tasks.

To overcome this obstacle, Cho et al. (2021a) developed a contrastive model which is tailored for anomaly detection. Their model, which is called Masked Contrastive Learning (MCL), modifies the degree of repulsion based on the labels of the data points. In vanilla SimCLR, all other batch samples, regardless of their class label, are considered negative relative to the anchor sample and are repelled with equal magnitude. However, in MCL, the repelling ratio is defined by the following class-conditional mask (CCM):

$$\mathrm{CCM}(m,n) = \begin{cases} \alpha & \text{if } \bar{y}_m = \bar{y}_n \\ \frac{1}{\tau} & \text{if } \bar{y}_m \neq \bar{y}_n \end{cases}, \tag{13}$$

where $0 < \alpha < \frac{1}{\tau}$. Basically, CCM adjusts the temperature τ for the same labelled views to a smaller value of α. This means that if the negative sample has the same class as the anchor, it is repelled with less magnitude compared to other data points. The SimCLR loss function is modified according to this mask as follows:

$$\mathcal{L}_{CCM} = \frac{1}{2N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \Big[l_{CCM}(2i-1, 2i) + l_{CCM}(2i, 2i-1) \Big], \tag{14}$$

$$p_{CCM}(m,n) = \frac{\exp(sim(z_m, z_n)/\tau)}{\sum_{i=1}^{2N} \mathbf{1}_{\{i \neq m\}} \exp(sim(z_m, z_i).\mathrm{CCM}(m,i)}, \tag{15}$$

$$l_{CCM}(m,n) = -\log p_{CCM}(m,n), \tag{16}$$

Although the proposed mask leads to a finer-grained representation space, the repulsive nature of the loss function may lead to the formation of scattered

clusters. To prevent this phenomenon, the MCL algorithm stochastically attracts each sample to the instances with the same class label.

To further improve the MCL model in (Cho et al., 2021a), an auxiliary classifier that predicts the applied transformation is also employed. The masking function is then modified based on the label of sample and its transformations. The repelling ratio is then smaller for the samples that simultaneously have the same class label and transformation labels, compared to the samples with the same class but different transformation labels. A sample with the latter property repels with a smaller magnitude than the negative points.

To score the anomalies in (Cho et al., 2021a), the Mahalanobis distance (Mahalanobis, 1936), shown in (17), is employed.

$$MD(x) = (z_x - \mu)^T \Sigma^{-1} (z_x - \mu), \tag{17}$$

where z_x is the representation of x, μ is the sample mean, and Σ is the sample covariance of features of the in-distribution training data. The Mahalanobis distance is a standard metric for scoring anomalies from their representation. It does not require any labelled data that makes it a common choice for many anomaly detection algorithms. In addition to this distance, the score of the auxiliary classifier is used to boost the model's robustness.

In another similar work, Sehwag et al. (2021) explored the applicability of contrastive self-supervised learning for out-of-distribution (OOD) and anomaly detection from unlabeled data, and proposed a method called SSD. They also extended their algorithm to work with labelled data in two scenarios: First is the scenario in which it is assumed that there are a few labelled out-of-distribution samples (i.e. a k-shot learning setting where k is set to 1 or 5), and the second scenario is the case in which labels of the in-distribution data are provided during the training phase.

In SSD (Sehwag et al., 2021), the SimCLR is used to learn the representation and the Mahalanobis Distance is incorporated to detect anomalies. For the cases where the labelled data is present, the authors suggested using the SupCon loss, defined in (18), which is a supervised variant of the contrastive loss (Khosla et al., 2020), to have a more effective selection of the positive and negative samples for each image. In SupCon, samples from the same

class are treated as positive and other samples as negatives.

$$\mathcal{L}_{SupCon} = \frac{1}{2N}\sum_{i=1}^{2N} -\log \frac{\frac{1}{2N_{y_m}-1}\sum_{i=1}^{2N}\mathbf{1}(i\neq m)\mathbf{1}(y_i=y_m)e^{u_m^T u_i/\tau}}{\sum_{i=1}^{2N}\mathbf{1}(i\neq m)e^{u_m^T u_i/\tau}}, \tag{18}$$

where N_{y_m} refers to the number of images with label y_m in the batch, and $u_i = \frac{h(f(x))}{\|h(f(x))\|_2}$ with a projection head $h(\cdot)$ and an encoder $f(\cdot)$. Using SupCon loss yielded better performance compared to the contrastive loss throughout their experiments for the OOD detection from a labelled dataset. Overall, (Sehwag et al., 2021) showed that the contrastive approach can outperform other methods in OOD detection in both labelled and unlabeled settings.

Contrastive models are also used in conjunction with one-class models for anomaly detection. One-class classifiers are one of the most widely used models in anomaly detection. They can detect anomalies after learning from a single class of examples. (Sohn et al., 2020) employed a two-stage framework for detecting anomalies using self-supervised learning models. In this framework, an SSL-based neural network is used to learn the representation of the input. A one-class classifier, such as OCSM or KDE, is applied to the learned representation to detect anomalies. The two-stage framework eliminates the need for defining an anomaly score and, as is empirically demonstrated in the paper, it can outperform other state-of-the-art methods.

Despite their promising empirical results, one-class classifiers suffer from a critical problem known as catastrophic collapse. This phenomenon happens when the network converges to the trivial solution of mapping all the inputs to a single point regardless of the input sample value x, i.e. $\phi(x) = c$ where $\phi(\cdot)$ denotes the network output. This trivial solution is obtained when minimizing the center-loss defined as $\mathcal{L} = ||\phi(x) - c||^2$ (Reiss et al., 2021; Ruff et al., 2018). The features that the network learns in such case are uninformative and cannot be used for distinguishing anomalies from normal data. This issue is also known as "hypersphere collapse".

To overcome the hypersphere collapse problem, Reiss and Hoshen (2021) proposed a new loss function, called Mean-shifted contrastive loss (MSCL). Unlike the conventional contrastive loss, where the angular distance is computed relative to the origin, MSCL measures the angular distance relative to the normalized center of the extracted features. An example of MSCL is shown in Fig. 2. Formally, for a sample x, the mean-shifted representation

is defined as:

$$\theta(x) = \frac{\phi(x) - c}{\|\phi(x) - c\|},$$

The mean-shifted contrastive loss is then given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{MSCL}(x', x'') &= \mathcal{L}_{CONS}(\theta(x'), \theta(x'')) \\ &= -\log \frac{exp((\theta(x').\theta(x''))/\tau)}{\sum_{i=1}^{2N} \mathbf{1}[x_i \neq x'].exp((\theta(x').\theta(x_i))/\tau)}, \end{aligned} \tag{19}$$

where $\mathcal{L}_{CONS}$ is the typical contrastive loss for a positive pair, shown in SimCLR (Chen et al., 2020), and x, x'' are the two augmentations of the input x.

One limitation of the MSCL loss is that it implicitly encourages the network to increase the distance of features from the center. Because of this, normal data lie in a region far away from the center. To solve this issue, the loss function is modified by adding the angular center loss, which shrinks the distance of normal samples from the center. Reiss et al. (2021) showed that the overall loss, which is a combination of the MSCL and the angular losses, can achieve a better training stability and higher accuracy in anomaly detection than the regular center-loss.

In summary, recent papers suggest that the representation that is learned through self-supervised learning is indeed very useful for anomaly detection. An interesting observation is that even a simple scoring function such as the norm of the representation $\|z\|$ can be used for detecting anomalies from the representations. This can be justified because, in CL-based models, the normal data is spread out on a hypersphere. This property can help to define the anomaly score as the distance of the representation from the center. A smaller distance means a higher probability of the point belonging to the anomaly class.

7. Self-Supervised Anomaly Detection Beyond Images

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in extending self-supervised anomaly detection techniques beyond image data. While the majority of early research in anomaly detection focused on image and video data, the need to detect anomalies in various other data types, such as text, audio, and time series, has become increasingly apparent. In this section,

Table 3: Self-Supervised Anomaly Detection for Non-Image Data

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Data Type	Paper	Type	Idea
Audio	Giri et al. (2020)	Self-Predictive	Machine ID Classification
	Kim et al. (2021)	Self-Predictive	Machine ID Classification
	Hojjati and Armanfard (2022)	Contrastive	Pitch Shift, Fade In/Out, Time-Stretch, etc.
	Guan et al. (2023)	Contrastive	Machine ID Classification Contrastive Pretraining
	Zeng et al. (2023)	Contrastive	Joint Generative/Contrastive Representation Learning
	Bai et al. (2023)	Self-Predictive	Time Masking and Machine ID Classification
Time-Series	Carmona et al. (2022)	Self-Predictive	Anomaly Injection
	Ho and Armanfard (2023)	Contrastive	Graph Contrastive Learning Masked Sensor Reconstruction
	Hojjati et al. (2023)	Contrastive	Contrastive Learning Between Time Blocks
	Wang et al. (2023)	Contrastive	Joint contrastive and one-class classification
	Jeong et al. (2023)	Self-Predictive	Synthetic Anomaly Injection
	Zhang et al. (2022b)	Self-Predictive	Intra-Sample Prediction Task
	Fu and Xue (2022)	Self-Predictive	Masked Data Reconstruction
	Jiao et al. (2022)	Contrastive	Pseudo-Negative Generation
	Huang et al. (2022a)	Self-Predictive	Detection the Downsampling Resolution
Graph	Liu et al. (2021b)	Contrastive	Sub-graph Contrastive Learning
	Zheng et al. (2021)	Contrastive	Sub-graph Contrastive Learning and Node Reconstruction
	Duan et al. (2022)	Contrastive	Graph Views with Node- and Sub-graph-level Contrastive Learning
	Chen et al. (2022)	Contrastive	Node-level Supervised Contrastive Learning
	Xu et al. (2022)	Contrastive	Graph-level Supervised Contrastive Learning and Reconstruction
	Zheng et al. (2022)	Contrastive	Graph-level Few-shot Contrastive Learning
	Huang et al. (2022b)	Self-Predictive	Node- and Graph-level based Hop Count Prediction
	Liu et al. (2021c)	Contrastive	Edge-level Contrastive Learning in Dynamic Graphs
	Luo et al. (2022)	Contrastive	Node- and Graph-level Contrastive Learning
	Ho and Armanfard (2023)	Contrastive	Node- and Sub-graph-level Contrastive Learning and Reconstruction
Other	Qiu et al. (2021)	Self-Predictive	Trainable Transformations
	Manolache et al. (2021a)	Self-Predictive	Text Anomaly Detection
	Shenkar and Wolf (2022)	Contrastive	Tabular Data Anomaly Detection

we delve into the advancements made in self-supervised anomaly detection methods that specifically target non-image data.

A crucial aspect of self-supervised learning methods is the selection of data-specific augmentations and proxy tasks. In the context of non-image self-supervised anomaly detection, a primary focus lies in defining a set of augmentations and proxy tasks that are effective for detecting anomalies. Inspired by image anomaly detection models, many algorithms have sought to adapt and extend these techniques for different data types. Table 3 summarizes the important papers in this field. In the following subsections, we explore various data types and their corresponding algorithms, shedding light on their augmentations and proxy tasks.

7.1. Audio Anomaly Detection

Audio data plays a significant role in various applications, including speech recognition, environmental monitoring, and acoustic anomaly detection. The detection of audio anomalies has been a longstanding research challenge. However, more recently, self-supervised methods have emerged as successful approaches for addressing this task. In the realm of audio data, much like in images and videos, the outcomes of augmenting transformations can be evaluated qualitatively. As a consequence, the literature has already established a robust set of positive and negative transformations that have proven effective. These include well-known techniques such as noise injection, pitch shifting, and fade in/fade out, among others. These established transformations have been used in conjunction with the ideas from self-supervised visual anomaly detection to develop new models for acoustic data. Another helpful aspect of audio data is that their spectrogram, which is an essential tool in anomaly detection, can be used as input to computer vision models such as CNNs. As a result, they can are compatible with existing image self-supervised representation learning tools.

Giri et al. (2020) was one of the first studies that adapted the idea of self-supervised learning for detecting abnormal machine conditions. They have incorporated augmentations such as linearly combining the audio and warping the spectrograms in order to learn a representation which is suitable for anomaly detection. Their research demonstrated that their proposed method surpasses existing baselines by a significant margin. In another similar work, Kim et al. (2021) introduced an innovative framework for acoustic anomaly detection that incorporates the concept of self-supervision. In this algorithm, accurately identifying the machine ID associated with a given sound is defined as the proxy task. Additionally, they leveraged phase continuity information

and employed the complex spectrum as input to their model. During the inference phase, any data that the model was unable to classify correctly with the corresponding machine ID has been deemed an anomaly. The experimental evaluations conducted in the paper demonstrated that the utilization of a simple proxy task yielded impressive results, significantly enhancing the model's ability to detect anomalies.

For the first time, Hojjati and Armanfard (2022) introduced a contrastive framework for acoustic anomaly detection. They defined a comprehensive set of transformations, such as time and frequency masking, pitch shift, and noise injection, specifically designed for audio data. These transformations were utilized to create positive and negative pairs for training a contrastive learning algorithm. They have shown that this approach significantly outperforms other existing methods and highlighted the remarkable improvement that could be achieved through contrastive learning in acoustic data. Following this work, Guan et al. (2023) proposed a method that combines contrastive learning with the proxy task of machine ID detection to improve accuracy.

These advancements have shown promise in detecting anomalous sounds, such as abnormal environmental sounds or audio events in surveillance systems.

7.2. Time-Series Anomaly Detection

Time series data arises in a wide range of domains, including finance, manufacturing, and healthcare. Detecting anomalies in time series is crucial for identifying unusual patterns or behaviours. Self-supervised learning techniques have been leveraged to capture temporal dependencies and detect anomalies in time series data.

Unlike images, videos, and audio data, defining suitable augmentations for time-series data is an exceptionally challenging task that heavily relies on the target application and characteristics of the data. Despite this inherent difficulty, researchers have proposed several ideas in recent years to adapt the self-supervised learning framework to time series. One particularly popular approach, which can be applied to a wide range of time series, involves injecting synthetic anomalies and training the network to distinguish them from positive samples. In an early attempt, Carmona et al. (2022) developed *Neural Contextual Anomaly Detection* (NCAD), which could learn the boundary between normal and abnormal samples by injecting pseudo-negative samples during training. To generate these anomalies, they drew inspiration from Hendrycks et al. (2019), and replaced segments of the original time series with

values obtained from another time series. To further enhance the diversity of the negative set, they also included synthetic point anomalies. A similar concept was employed by Jiao et al. (2022) to generate synthetic anomalies and train a representation using contrastive learning, which enables the discrimination between positive and negative samples. Very recently, Jeong et al. (2023) used the idea of synthetic anomaly injection in conjunction with the self-attention mechanism to detect abnormal sequences with high accuracy.

Another widely applicable and popular idea is the masking of a segment of the time-series data and training the network to reconstruct it. This concept has been successfully employed in image and audio anomaly detection. Notably, Fu and Xue (2022) demonstrated that this approach could also be effectively utilized for learning efficient representations in time-series data. The underlying assumption behind this idea is that by learning to reconstruct the masked segment, the network will learn the patterns that are present in normal data. In the case of multivariate time series, a possible implementation involves masking the data of one time series and using the data from other entities to reconstruct or predict it (Ho and Armanfard, 2023; Zhang et al., 2022b). This allows the model to capture the dependencies and relationships between different entities within the time-series data.

A notable trend in time-series anomaly detection involves leveraging temporal information of the data. This approach aims to capture meaningful patterns and enhance the learning of efficient representations. For example, Huang et al. (2022a) demonstrated that predicting the downsampling resolution of the data can significantly contribute to learning effective representations from time series. By incorporating the downsampling resolution prediction task, the network is encouraged to understand the underlying temporal structure and capture essential features at different resolutions. This enables the model to develop a comprehensive understanding of the time-series data, leading to improved anomaly detection performance. Additionally, researchers such as Hojjati et al. (2023) have utilized temporal adjacency information to generate positive and negative pairs for training contrastive learning models. This approach enhances the model's ability to capture contextual information and detect anomalies by comparing similar and dissimilar pairs of temporal instances.

In conclusion, self-supervised learning techniques offer promising avenues for time-series anomaly detection. The injection of synthetic anomalies, along with methods such as contrastive learning and resolution prediction, enables the network to learn efficient representations and distinguish between normal

and abnormal sequences.

7.3. Graph Anomaly Detection

Following the great success of SSL in the image/signal/text domains, very recently, SSL has gained significant attention in graph-structured data. A graph is a representation of a network, consisting of nodes that represent entities (e.g., objects, users, sensors) and edges that represent the interactions between entities. These interactions/relationships between nodes are known as structural dependencies and are expressed by the adjacency matrix (aka a square matrix) (Liu et al., 2022). Each row and column of the matrix is associated with a node in the graph. The non-zero value in the entry of the matrix indicates whether there is an edge between two nodes. Given this unique property, graphs are different from other domains since the samples (nodes) are dependent on each other in the graph, while the samples in images or texts are independent. Due to such dependencies, it is therefore non-trivial to adopt pretext tasks designed for images or texts directly to graphs.

Many recent SSL methods have provided well-designed pretext tasks based contrastive learning that are applicable for graphs to deal with graph anomaly detection, the task of detecting anomalies (e.g., anomalous nodes, edges, sub-graphs) in *static* graphs. Note that in a static graph, oftentimes seen in social networks, the sets of nodes/edges and their features, as well as the adjacency matrix are fixed. (Liu et al., 2021b) proposed a local sub-graph-based sampling, which pays attention to the relationship between a node and its neighbors in a static graph, to select constrastive pairs. A pair consists of a node and its neighboring sub-graph. A positive pair composes of a target node and its neighboring sub-graph, while a negative pair consists of a node and its corresponding sub-graph. Note that a target node can be any node in a graph, a selected node in a negative pair is different from the target node selected in a positive pair, hence there is mismatching between the target node and the sub-graph in a negative pair. A constrative-based module is designed to estimate the matching between the target node and sub-graphs in constrastive pairs and would assign the abnormality level for every node.

(Zheng et al., 2021) also aimed to compute the level of abnormality of every node in a static graph by designing an effective graph view sampling technique. Given a target node, two positive sub-graphs are sampled, and two negative sub-graphs are sampled randomly and guaranteed that they are

different from positive sub-graphs. They designed two pretext tasks, one is to determine the mismatching between the target node and its sub-graphs in contrastive pairs as similar to (Liu et al., 2021b), the other is to reconstruct the target node's features based on surrounding nodes in positive sub-graphs. As a result, by taking advantage of multiple pretext tasks, (Zheng et al., 2021) showed better detection performance on anomalous nodes than (Liu et al., 2021b).

Not limited to sub-graph-level sampling, (Duan et al., 2022) showed the effectiveness of combining various contrastive pair sampling strategies. Given the original graph input as the first view, they adopted edge modification to generate the second view of the graph. For each view, they combined node-subgraph, node-node and subgraph-subgraph sampling techniques. The first two techniques can capture sub-graph- and node-level anomalous information in each view, while the latter focuses on more global anomalous information between two views. They showed that a diversity of sampling techniques helps to learn more representative and intrinsic graph embeddings, which could further improve the anomaly detection performance.

While the above studies are unsupervised graph anomaly detection methods, i.e., no annotated labels are available in the training phase, several studies leveraged prior human knowledge on graph anomalies. For example, (Chen et al., 2022) took advantage of prior human knowledge, hence, they designed a contrastive loss and trained the model in a supervised manner, i.e., labeled normal and abnormal nodes are respectively treated as positive and negative samples. (Xu et al., 2022) also used human knowledge for helping the detection performance, but the way of building their contrastive pairs is different from (Chen et al., 2022). Given the actual anomalous static graph, they augmented a new graph by a knowledge modeling technique, then fed both original and augmented graphs to a Siamese graph neural network such that both graphs are encoded into the same latent space, making it feasible to contrast original and augmented graphs. After encoding, they designed a constrative loss that is integrated with the human knowledge of anomalies, i.e., the contrastive loss would guide the encoder to differently represent the nodes in the original graph and the nodes in the augmented graph. (Zheng et al., 2022) also verified the effectiveness of having prior human knowledge in graph anomaly detection by proposing to use few anomalous samples in the training phase. This technique is known as few-shot supervised learning that could enrich the supervision signals for the model, hence, the detection accuracy could be improved.

As is seen from the aforementioned studies, most of techniques used the local context of graphs (i.e., the sub-graph knowledge) and adopted contrastive learning, however, Huang et al. (2022b) showed that using only local information is insufficient to effectively detect anomalies. More specifically, they designed a self-predictive framework for hop count (aka the shortest path length between pairs of nodes) prediction task, which considers both local and global information. The intuition behind hop counts based on local and global information is that since node-level anomalies are different normal nodes at both the feature- and adjacency matrix-levels, the distance between an anomalous node and its surrounding nodes should be larger than that between a normal node and its neighboring nodes. Hence, computing hop counts based on both local and global information can be useful to construct an anomaly indicator.

SSL with well-designed pretext tasks has shown a capability to handle complex structural dependencies and detect graph anomalies in static graphs. However, detecting anomalous graph objects raises an even more difficult problem in a *dynamic* graph (aka a graph set), which consists of consecutive temporal graphs indexed in time, hence, the feature sets of nodes/edges and adjacency matrices change overtime. Time-series signals, edge streams in social networks, and videos are some of the examples that can be converted to dynamic graphs (Ho et al., 2023). Several studies have shown the potential of SSL to detect anomalies in dynamic graphs. For example, (Liu et al., 2021c) aimed to detect edge-level anomalies at different time steps in an edge stream by designing a dynamic graph transformer-based contrastive learning. Positive edges are sampled from the normal training set while negative edges are randomly sampled based on a random sampling technique and are guaranteed that these negative samples are different from positive samples.

Other additional examples have demonstrated the ability of SSL in dynamic graphs constructed from different data modalities. For example, (Luo et al., 2022) aimed to detect anomalies in molecular networks, protein networks and social networks. They first constructed dynamic graphs for these networks. Then, they leveraged contrastive learning to capture both node-level and graph-level representations by a dual-graph encoder, and aimed to detect graph-level anomalies. (Ho and Armanfard, 2023) aimed to effectively construct a graph set for time-series signal data, and then detect node-level and sub-graph-level anomalies in constructed graphs. To do so, they utilized the reconstruction-based and contrastive-based SSL pretext tasks to

effectively capture the local sub-graph information in graphs.

In conclusion, SSL have yielded promising results for detecting anomalous graph objects at the node-, edge-, sub-graph- and graph-levels in both static and dynamic graphs. Using the knowledge of the features sets of nodes/edges, the adjacency matrices, the local and global information in graphs, and more importantly designing a diversity of effective graph augmentation techniques for pretext tasks would significantly improve the method's detection performance.

7.4. Anomaly Detection in Other Non-Image Data Types

Beyond Graphs, audio, and time series data, self-supervised anomaly detection techniques have also been successfully applied to other data types. In particular, Shenkar et al. (2022) introduced an innovative contrastive learning algorithm specifically designed for tabular data. Their approach involved incorporating the concept of feature masking as a proxy task. During the training process, the model learns to create a mapping that maximizes the mutual information (MI) between the original samples and the masked features. To identify anomalies, the contrastive loss itself is directly used as the anomaly score. The findings of this study demonstrated the efficacy of self-supervised learning in tabular anomaly detection.

Another area that has recently garnered attention is text anomaly detection using self-supervision. Manolache et al. (2021b) introduced a novel proxy task called *Replaced Mask Detection* (RMD), which involves two steps: I) Masking a particular word in the input, and II) Replacing the masked word with an alternative. The model is trained to differentiate between the original and transformed versions of the text. Through extensive analysis, the authors demonstrated that the proposed framework achieved significant improvements in text anomaly detection.

Self-supervised models have indeed achieved remarkable success in various domains. However, their effectiveness is often dependent on the specific transformations they employ, which can limit their applicability. Fortunately, certain transformations, such as data masking, have proven to be adaptable across different data types. Drawing inspiration from this observation, a dedicated line of research has emerged with the goal of developing self-supervised methods for anomaly detection that can be applied to diverse data types. This research aims to create techniques that leverage self-supervision to detect anomalies effectively and efficiently in various domains, expanding the scope of self-supervised anomaly detection beyond specific data types. The

work of Qiu et al. (2021) is one of the most notable papers in this field. They have introduced the concept of trainable transformations that can be flexibly applied to any data type. The fundamental principle behind their approach involves mapping transformed data into a representation where distinct transformations can be discerned while still preserving the similarity between the transformed and original data. Remarkably, their framework demonstrates the capability to learn domain-specific transformations when applied to diverse datasets, including medical data and cyber-security data. This ability to adapt to different data types underscores the versatility and potential of their method in anomaly detection applications.

In conclusion, the field of self-supervised anomaly detection has expanded beyond image data, with significant progress made in detecting anomalies in non-image data types. By leveraging self-supervised learning techniques tailored to specific data modalities, researchers have demonstrated promising results in detecting anomalies in text, audio, time series, graphs, and IoT sensor data. These advancements open up new possibilities for anomaly detection in a wide range of applications, contributing to the development of robust and versatile anomaly detection systems.

8. Comparative Evaluation and Discussions

In this section, we focus on presenting the results reported by self-supervised image anomaly detection papers in a comparative manner to gain valuable insights into their performance. It is important to note that we have chosen to analyze only image data in this section, excluding other data types. This decision was made due to the inherent variations in datasets and backbones used across different studies, which could potentially introduce unfair comparisons. By focusing specifically on image data, we can provide a more meaningful and unbiased evaluation of the self-supervised anomaly detection methods.

A flurry of datasets is used to benchmark the self-supervised anomaly detection algorithms. CIFAR-10 (Krizhevsky et al.), and MVTecAD (Bergmann et al., 2019) are two of the most common dataset that recent anomaly detection papers used. CIFAR-10 includes images of ten different objects. To benchmark an AD algorithm on this dataset, we assume that we only have access to the data from one of the classes during the training. During the test time, other classes are considered to be anomalies.

Table 4: Performance of Self-Supervised Models on CIFAR-10 against shallow and deep baselines. The bold values denote the highest AUROC (%) result for each class

	Baseline					**Self-Predictive Method**							**Contrastive Learning**			
Class	KDE	OCSVM	DSVDD	OCGAN	DROCC	GEOM	RotNet	OE	GOAD	Puzzle	SSLOE	PANDA	CSI	SSD	NDA	MSCL
Plane	61.2	65.6	61.7	75.7	81.7	74.7	71.9	87.6	77.2	78.9	90.4	97.4	89.9	82.7	**98.5**	97.7
Car	64.0	40.9	65.9	53.1	76.7	95.7	94.5	93.9	96.7	78.2	99.3	98.4	**99.1**	98.5	76.5	98.9
Bird	50.1	65.3	50.8	64.0	66.7	78.1	78.4	78.6	83.3	69.9	93.7	93.9	93.1	84.2	79.6	**95.8**
Cat	56.4	50.1	59.1	62.0	67.1	72.4	70.0	79.9	77.7	54.9	88.1	90.6	86.4	84.5	79.1	**94.5**
Deer	66.2	75.2	60.9	72.3	73.6	87.8	77.2	81.7	87.8	75.5	97.4	**97.5**	93.9	84.8	92.4	97.3
Dog	62.4	51.2	65.7	62.0	74.4	87.8	86.8	85.6	87.8	66.0	94.3	94.4	93.2	90.9	71.7	**97.1**
Frog	74.9	71.8	67.7	72.3	74.4	83.4	81.6	93.3	90.0	74.8	97.1	97.5	95.1	91.7	97.5	**98.4**
Horse	62.6	51.2	67.3	57.5	71.4	95.5	93.7	87.9	96.1	73.3	98.8	97.5	**98.7**	95.2	69.1	98.3
Ship	75.1	67.9	75.9	82.0	80.0	93.3	90.7	92.6	93.8	83.3	**98.7**	97.6	97.9	92.9	98.5	**98.7**
Truck	76.0	48.5	73.1	55.4	76.2	91.3	88.8	92.1	92.0	70.0	**98.5**	97.4	95.5	94.4	75.2	98.4
Ave:	64.8	58.8	64.8	65.7	74.2	86.0	83.3	87.3	88.2	72.5	95.6	96.2	94.3	90.0	84.3	**97.5**

Table 4 presents the result of several state-of-the-art SSL models against the commonly-used shallow and deep baselines for one-class AD on the CIFAR-10 dataset. This task can evaluate the performance of algorithms in semantic (high-level) anomaly detection. It is important to note that for the sake of fair comparison, we included the methods that use the same backbone. Looking at this table, we can readily confirm that the self-supervised approaches can outperform other shallow and deep anomaly detection algorithms by a significant margin. This remarkable improvement leads to the emergence of SSL algorithms as a key category of anomaly detection.

Besides semantic anomaly detection, self-supervised methods show satisfactory performance for defect detection and spotting sensory anomalies (Song et al., 2021; Tsai et al., 2022; Kim et al., 2022). Fig. 3 shows the performance of the self-supervised models on the MVTecAD dataset against other widely-used algorithms including shallow models, deep models and generative models. More specifically, the compared shallow models are Gaussian (Ruff et al., 2021), MVE (Ruff et al., 2021), SVDD (Tax and Duin, 2004), KDE (Ruff et al., 2021), kPCA (Ruff et al., 2021), patch-SVDD (Yi and Yoon, 2020) and IGD (Chen et al., 2021b). The compared deep models are CAVGA (Venkataramanan et al., 2020), ARNet (Fei et al., 2020), SPADE (Cohen and Hoshen, 2020), MOCCA (Valerio Massoli et al., 2020), DSVDD (Ruff et al., 2018), FCDD (Liznerski et al., 2020), DFR (Shi et al., 2021), STFPM (Wang et al., 2021b), Gaussian-AD (Rippel et al., 2021), InTra (Pirnay and Chai,

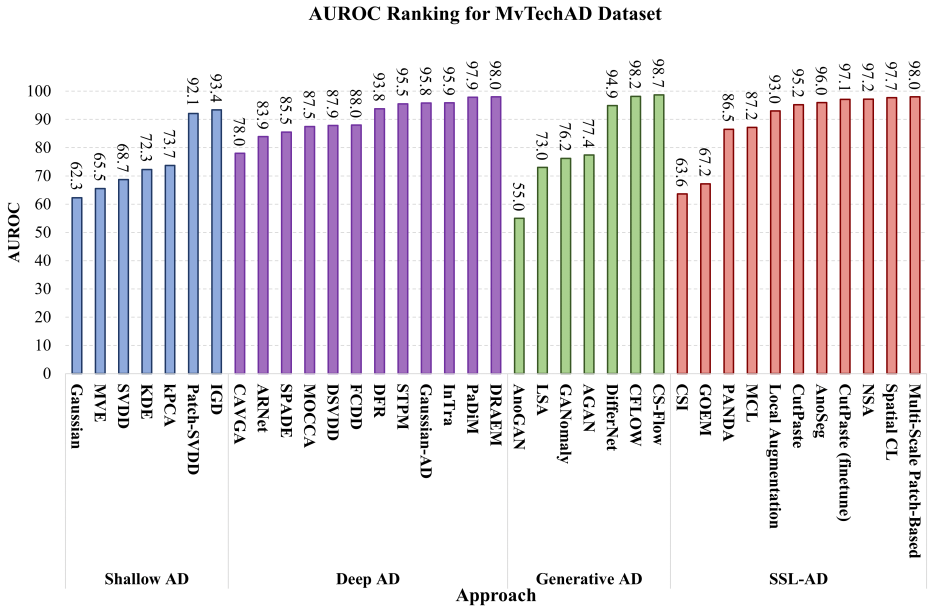
2021), PaDiM (Defard et al., 2021) and DREAM (Zavrtanik et al., 2021). The included generative models in Fig. 3 are AnoGAN (Schlegl et al., 2017), LSA (Abati et al., 2019), GANomaly (Akcay et al., 2018), AGAN (Ruff et al., 2021), Normalizing Flows-based DifferNet (Rudolph et al., 2021), CFLOW (Gudovskiy et al., 2022) and CS-Flow (Rudolph et al., 2022). Looking at the figure, we can infer that SSL-based models can achieve a good performance on this dataset. However, the superiority of self-supervised algorithms over other baselines is less evident in this task than in one-class AD. Also, some algorithms such as GEOM, and CSI, which show state-of-the-art performance on CIFAR-10, achieve a weak accuracy in this anomaly detection task.

The above argument manifests the importance of choosing the right pretext task in self-supervised learning. Methods such as GEOM and RotNet which are based on geometric transformations, and CSI and SSD which are based on contrastive methods, work well for detecting semantic anomalies, but they are not well-suited for defect detection. On the other hand, SSL approaches that are based on pixel-level transformations, such as CutPaste, can achieve good accuracy on the MVTecAD dataset. Choosing the right proxy task, depending on the downstream objective and types of anomalies, is the key to the success of the SSL models. This allows researchers to improve the state-of-the-art by coming up with effective pretext tasks.

Out-of-distribution detection is another task in which SSL models are widely applied. Table 5 shows the experimental results of some SSL models (shown in the top 10 rows) against a supervised method, shown in the last row of the table. The supervised method is in fact a ResNet-50 network that is trained to classify the data available in CIFAR-10 from the other OOD dataset – i.e., ResNet-50 is trained as an eleven-way classifier, ten for CIFAR-10 and one for the OOD dataset. To benchmark an OOD algorithm, it is common to train a model on the CIFAR-10 dataset and test the model using another dataset. If the samples of the test datasets are similar to the CIFAR-10 to some extent, the task is called near-OOD detection (e.g. CIFAR-10 vs. CIFAR-100). Otherwise, it is referred to as far-OOD detection (e.g. CIFAR-10 vs. SVHN, or CIFAR-10 vs. LSUN). We observe that SSL can even achieve better performance than the supervised baseline. This manifests that it is not necessary to have access to the data ground truths for the OOD detection task.

The results reported in Table 5 shows that all the SSL-based methods can achieve an accuracy above 94% on far-OOD detection (i.e. CIFAR-10 vs. SVHN). It can suggest that the SSL models can learn meaningful features

Figure 3: Performance of anomaly detection algorithms on the MVTecAD dataset. Each group of algorithm is denoted by a different colour.



of the dataset. Almost all algorithms perform well in near-OOD detection, and some can even beat the supervised baseline.

9. Application Domains

Anomaly detection systems are widely deployed in various domains, such as medicine, industry, infrastructure, social medical, financial security, etc. Despite the fact that self-supervised anomaly detection is a relatively new field, it is now widely employed in practical applications along with other popular methods such as Semi-supervised learning (Villa-Perez et al., 2021), and GAN and its variants (Xia et al., 2022).

Self-supervised learning algorithms are commonly used in medical research for detecting irregularities in patients' records. They are successfully employed for detecting epileptic seizures (Xu et al., 2020), pulmonary diseases (Bozorgtabar et al., 2020), Parkinson disease (Jiang et al., 2021), and retinal diseases(Burlina et al., 2022). In addition, they are applied to different modalities of medical data, including Computed Tomography (CT) scans (Venkatakrishnan et al., 2020), 3D volumetric CT data (Cho et al., 2021b), X-ray scans (Spahr et al., 2021), optical coherence tomography (OCT) (Zhao

Table 5: Performance of SSL models against a supervise-based method for OOD detection. The bold values denote the highest AUROC (%) result for each OOD dataset

Method	IND: CIFAR-10			IND: CIFAR-100		
	OOD:			OOD:		
	CIFAR-100	SVHN	LSUN	CIFAR-10	SVHN	LSUN
RotNet (Hendrycks et al., 2018)	93.3	94.4	**97.6**	75.7	86.9	**93.4**
CSI (Tack et al., 2020)	89.2	99.8	90.3	-	-	-
SSL-OE (Hendrycks et al., 2019)	93.3	98.4	93.2	-	-	-
CLP (Winkens et al., 2020)	92.9	99.5	-	**78.9**	95.4	-
SSL-OOD (Mohseni et al., 2020)	93.8	99.2	98.9	77.7	95.8	88.9
MCL (Cho et al., 2021a)	90.8	97.9	93.8	-	-	-
MCL-SEI (Cho et al., 2021a)	94.0	99.3	96.3	-	-	-
SSD (Sehwag et al., 2021)	90.6	99.6	96.5	69.6	94.9	79.5
SSD_k (k=5) (Sehwag et al., 2021)	93.1	99.7	97.8	78.3	**99.1**	93.4
SDNS (Rafiee et al., 2022)	**94.2**	**99.9**	97.5	67.6	97.2	74.6
ResNet-50 (Sehwag et al., 2021)	90.6	99.6	93.8	55.3	94.5	69.4

et al., 2021), Spectral Domain - optical coherence tomography images (SD-OCT) (Park et al., 2021), and MRI images (Zhang et al., 2021b; Hansen et al., 2022).

Self-supervised anomaly detection method are also employed in industrial applications for defect detection, and failure prediction (Bahavan et al., 2020; Hou et al., 2021), as well as for monitoring infrastructural facilities (Liu et al., 2021a; Jahan et al., 2021).

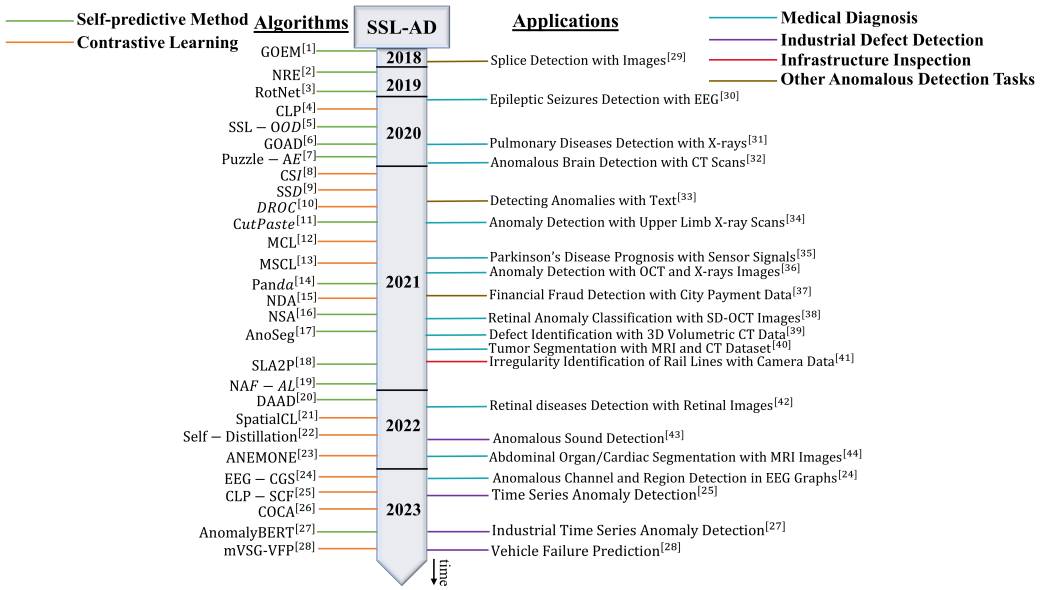
The application of self-supervised AD is not limited to the aforementioned areas. Several fields such as financial fraud detection (Schreyer et al., 2021; Wang et al., 2021a), text anomaly detection (Manolache et al., 2021b), and splice detection (Huh et al., 2018) are also benefited from the SSL algorithms.

Figure 4 depicts the timeline of papers focusing on self-supervised anomaly detection algorithms and their applications. This figure highlights the rapid growth of this field and its wide applicability in addressing real-world problems.

10. Future Directions

Although the self-supervised models have established themselves as state-of-the-art in anomaly detection, there is still much room for improvement in this research field. This section briefly discusses some critical challenges that SSL-based anomaly detectors suffer from and presents some high-level ideas for addressing them.

Figure 4: Timeline of Self-Supervised Anomaly Detection Papers. Papers concerning the algorithms are distinguished from the application papers. The category of each algorithm is denoted by a distinctive color.



[1](Golan and El-Yaniv, 2018); [2](Sabokrou et al., 2019); [3](Hendrycks et al., 2018); [4](Winkens et al., 2020); [5](Mohseni et al., 2020); [6](Bergman and Hoshen, 2020); [7](Salehi et al., 2020); [8](Tack et al., 2020); [9](Sehwag et al., 2021); [10](Sohn et al., 2020); [11](Li et al., 2021); [12](Cho et al., 2021a); [13](Reiss and Hoshen, 2021); [14](Reiss et al., 2021); [15](Chen et al., 2021a); [16](Schlüter et al., 2021); [17](Song et al., 2021); [18](Wang et al., 2021c); [19](Zhang et al., 2021a); [20](Zhang et al., 2022a); [21](Kim et al., 2022); [22](Rafiee et al., 2022); [23](Zheng et al., 2022); [24](Ho and Armanfard, 2023); [25](Wang et al., 2023); [26](Guan et al., 2023); [27](Jeong et al., 2023); [28](Hojjati et al., 2023); [29](Huh et al., 2018); [30](Xu et al., 2020); [31](Bozorgtabar et al., 2020); [32](Venkatakrishnan et al., 2020); [33](Manolache et al., 2021a); [34](Spahr et al., 2021); [35](Jiang et al., 2021); [36](Zhao et al., 2021); [37](Schreyer et al., 2021); [38](Park et al., 2021); [39](Cho et al., 2021b); [40](Zhang et al., 2021b); [41](Jahan et al., 2021); [42](Burlina et al., 2022); [43](Bai et al., 2023); [44](Hansen et al., 2022).

10.1. Negative Sampling in Contrastive Models

In recent years, contrastive models dominated self-supervised AD algorithms. To learn an efficient representation, CL algorithms require accessing negative samples. In the standard setting, it is assumed that other batch samples are negative, even though their class label is the same as that of the query sample. However, if the number of same-class samples increases, the quality of the learned representation degrades. In some anomaly detection tasks, where the training data comprises samples of one class, this negative sampling bias may turn into a big issue. This motivates researchers to design unbiased versions of the contrastive loss (Chuang et al., 2020).

Interestingly, previous studies showed that even in the one-class setting, the instance discrimination contrastive learning can lead to a suitable representation for anomalies. This can be because all the training data are spread out on a hypersphere, and the anomalies are mapped to the center of the space, as we discussed in section 6.

Following the success of SimCLR, several other contrastive models are developed. These methods can be good candidates for one-class anomaly detection since they can be trained using only positive samples. Some recent models, such as BYOL (Grill et al., 2020) and Barlow Twins (Zbontar et al., 2021), do not require negative samples during training. To the best of our knowledge, there is no study that evaluates the performance of these models for anomaly detection.

10.2. Incorporating Labelled Data

In the most anomaly detection studies, it is assumed that no labeled anomaly is available during the training phase. However, in some applications, we might be able to have a few labelled anomalies. These labelled samples can significantly improve the algorithm if incorporated appropriately. Recently, Sehwag et al. (2021) explored the problem of few-shot anomaly detection, where they assume a few labelled anomalies are present. They showed that even a few anomalies can significantly improve the detection accuracy. Zheng et al. (2022) proposed an extended algorithm of multi-scale contrastive learning, called ANEMONE, by incorporating it with a handful of ground-truth anomalies. Since the assumption of having access to a few anomaly samples during training time is feasible in many tasks, we believe that models with the capability to incorporate them have a great potential to improve the detection performance. Such methods also have more application in real-life problems.

10.2.1. Multi-Modal Anomaly Detection

In many applications, including medical imaging, cybersecurity, and surveillance systems, the datasets contain multiple sources of information or modalities. Detecting anomalies in such cases heavily depends on the quality and relevance of the information contained in each modality and the ability to effectively fuse this information to make a robust decision (**?**). Since self-supervised methods have already established themselves as powerful tools for learning representations, it would be interesting to study their application in multi-modal learning for anomaly detection. To this end, researchers

might pursue the direction of designing cross-modal proxy tasks that aid the model to fuse information from different modalities in an efficient manner.

10.2.2. Efficient Self-Supervised Learning

Currently, self-supervised models have shown superior performance over traditional algorithms. Yet, they face critical challenges such as their computational cost, which prevents their widespread use in many applications. Future research in self-supervised learning will likely focus on designing computationally effective models that can leverage the vast amounts of unannotated data available for training. Additionally, the use of transfer learning, meta-learning, and federated learning may become more widespread as a way to overcome the limitations of self-supervised algorithms and enable their deployment in resource-constrained environments. Furthermore, research may also investigate the scalability of self-supervised learning to handle large amounts of data and diverse domains, as well as its interpretability and robustness to adversarial attacks.

11. Conclusion

In this paper, we discussed the state-of-the-art methods in self-supervised anomaly detection and highlighted the strengths and drawbacks of each approach. We also compared their performance on benchmark datasets and pinpointed their applications. In summary, we can argue that self-supervised models are well suited for tackling the problem of anomaly detection. Yet, there are still a lot of under-explored issues and room for improvement. Still, the significant success of SSL algorithms offers a bright horizon for achieving new milestones in automatic anomaly detection.

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