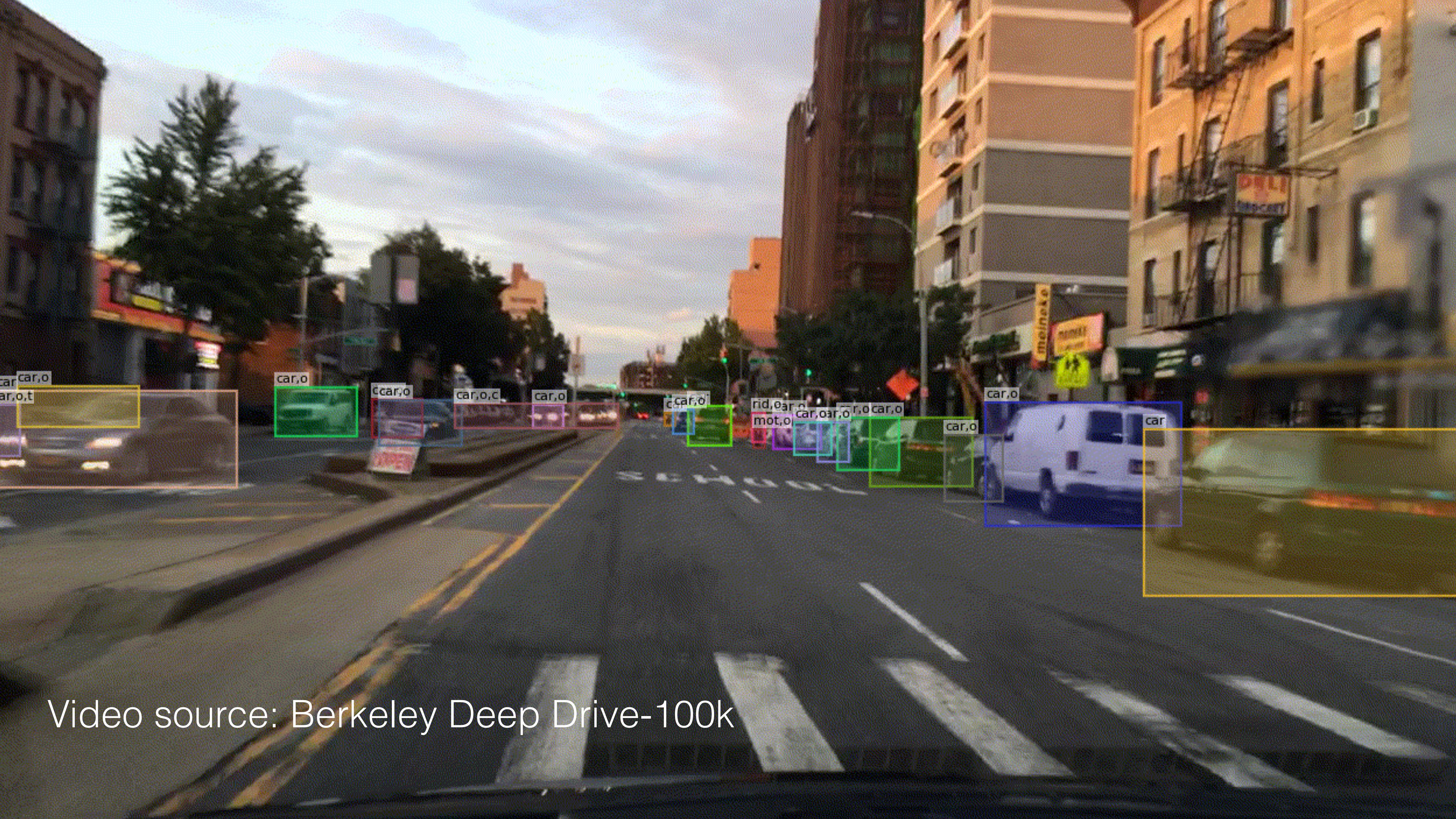




# A Tutorial on Out-of-Distribution Detection

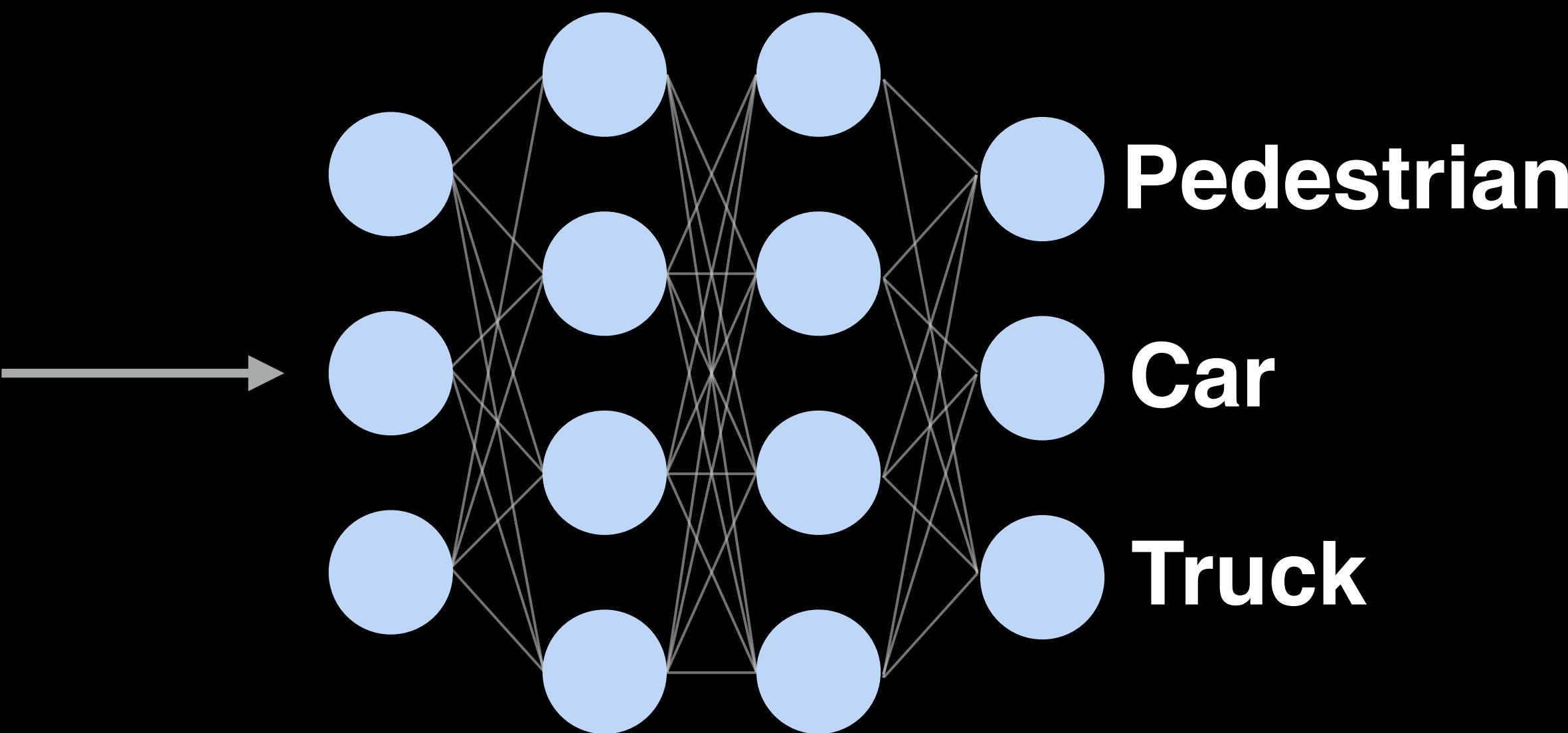
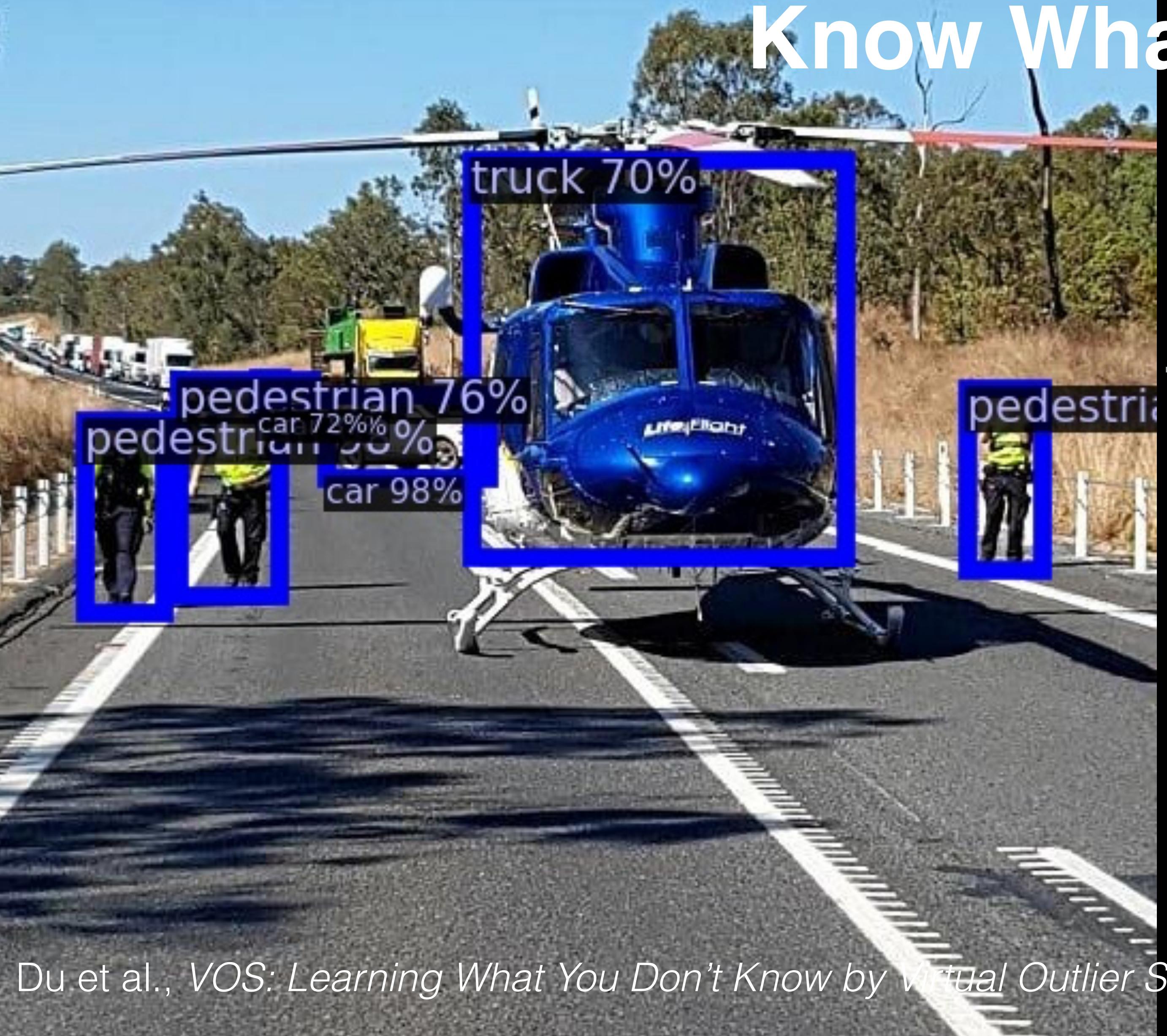
Sharon Yixuan Li  
Department of Computer Sciences  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

@ICCV 2023



Video source: Berkeley Deep Drive-100k

# Deep Networks Do Not Necessarily Know What They Don't Know...



Model trained on BDD dataset produces overconfident predictions for unknown object “helicopter”

111

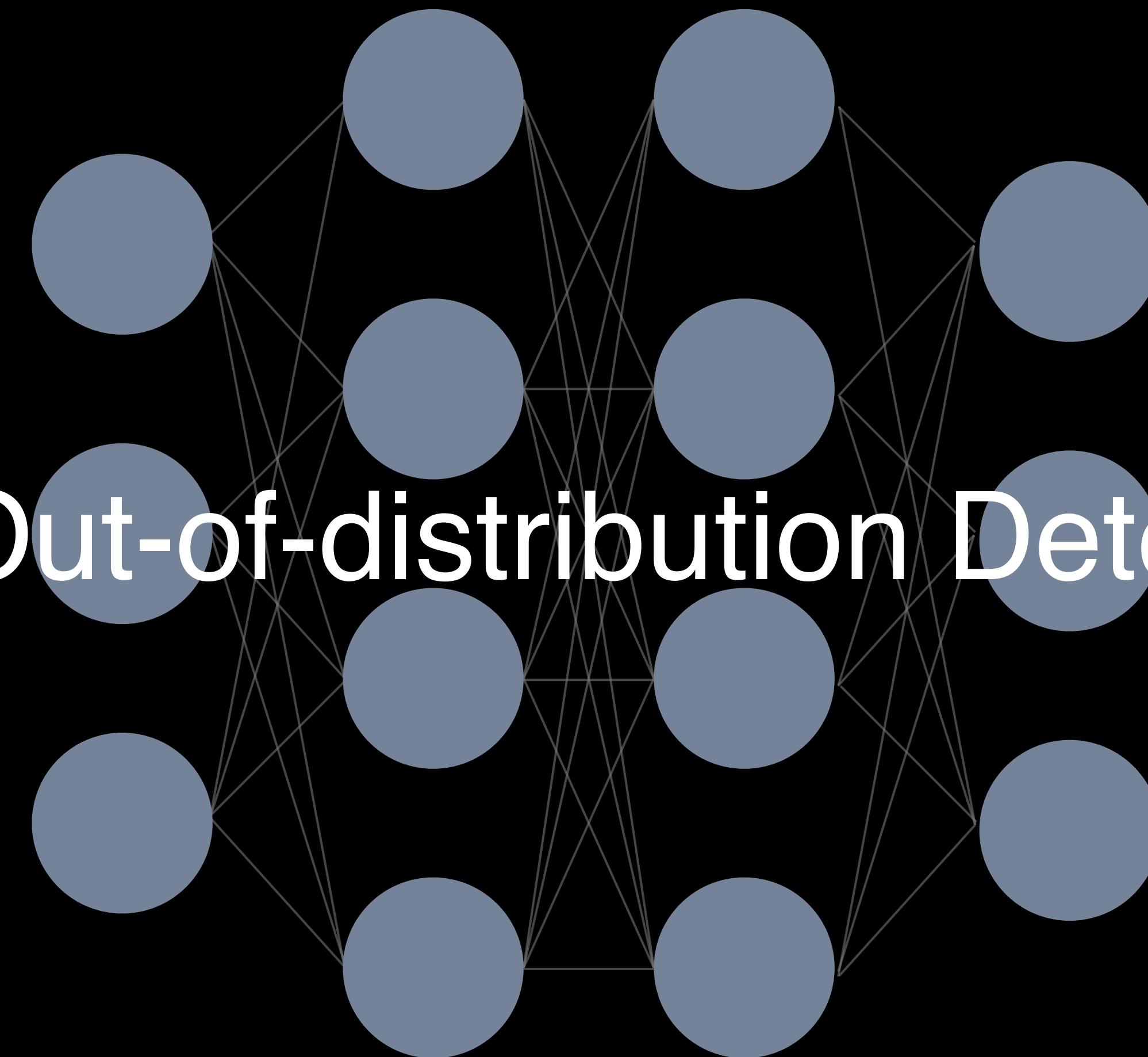
# A Tesla vehicle using 'Smart Summon' appears to crash into a \$3.5 million private jet

*More money, more problems*

By Andrew J. Hawkins | [@andyjayhawk](#) | Apr 22, 2022, 3:03pm EDT



# Out-of-distribution Detection



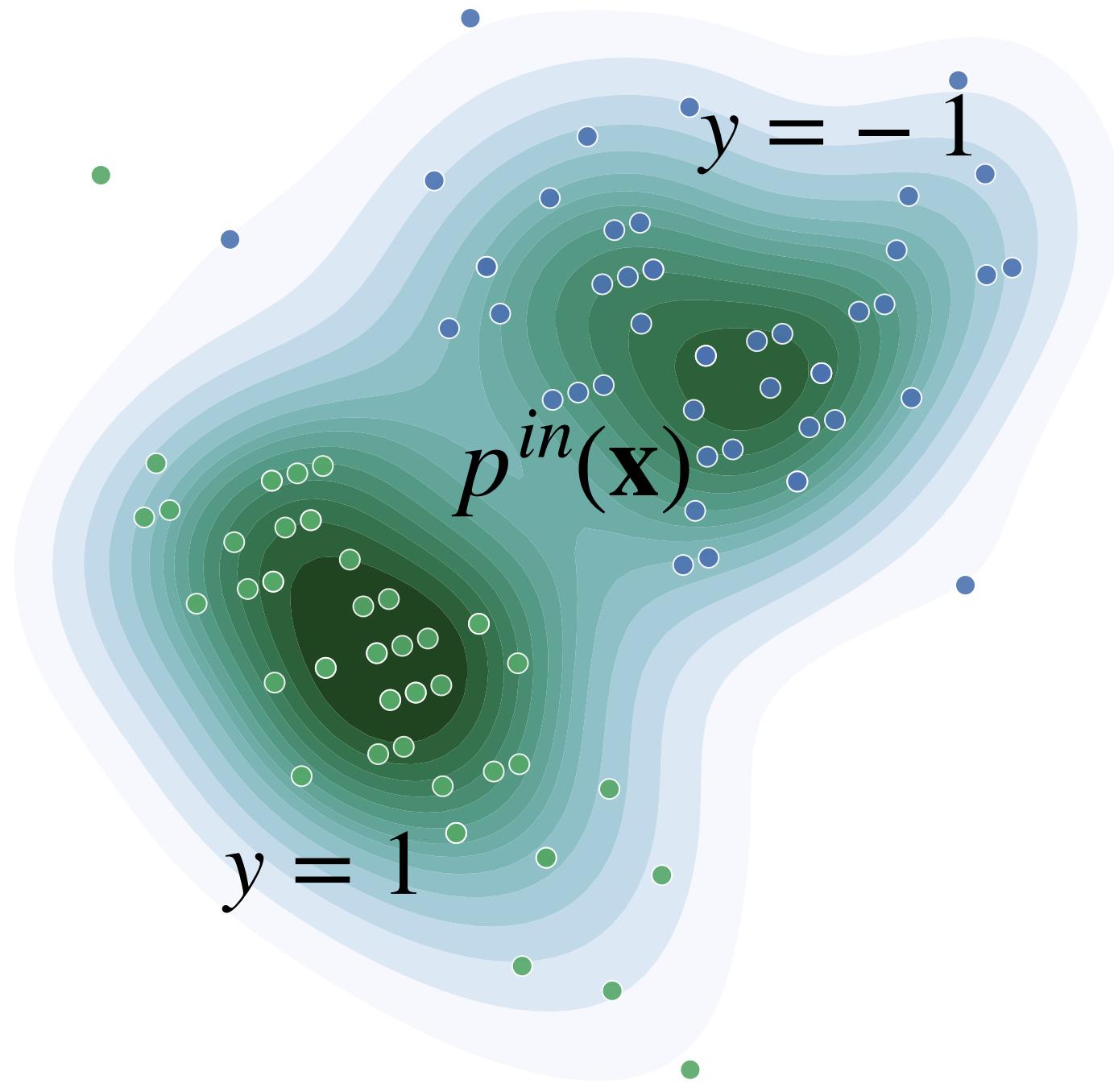
Pedestrian

Car

Truck

# Out-of-distribution Detection: A Simple View

Closed-world

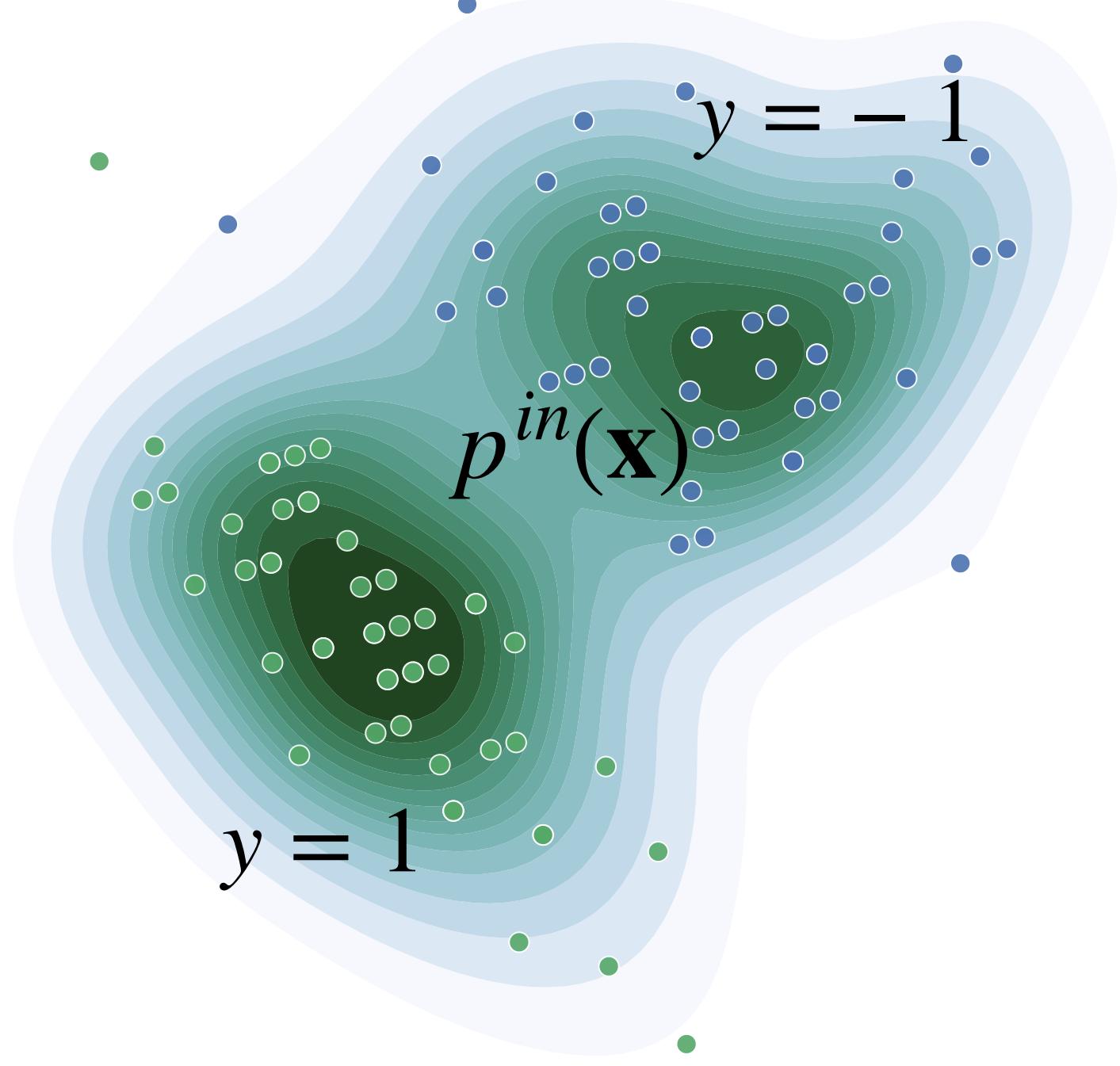


Input space:  $\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}^d$

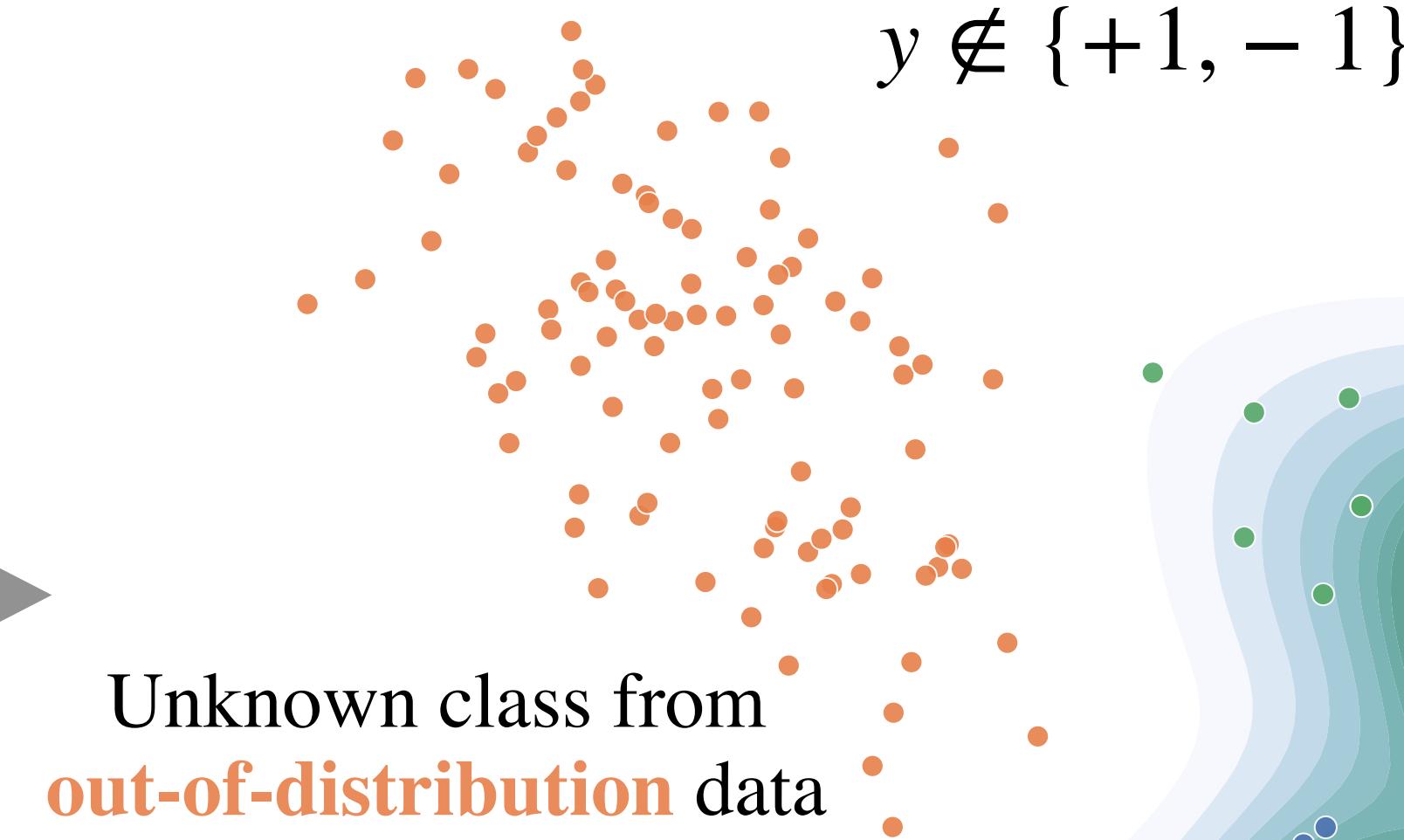
Label space:  $\mathcal{Y} = \{1, -1\}$

# Out-of-distribution Detection: A Simple View

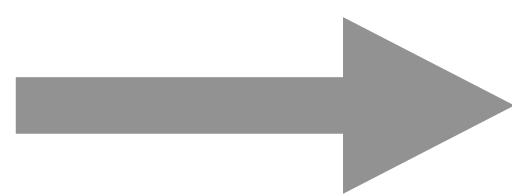
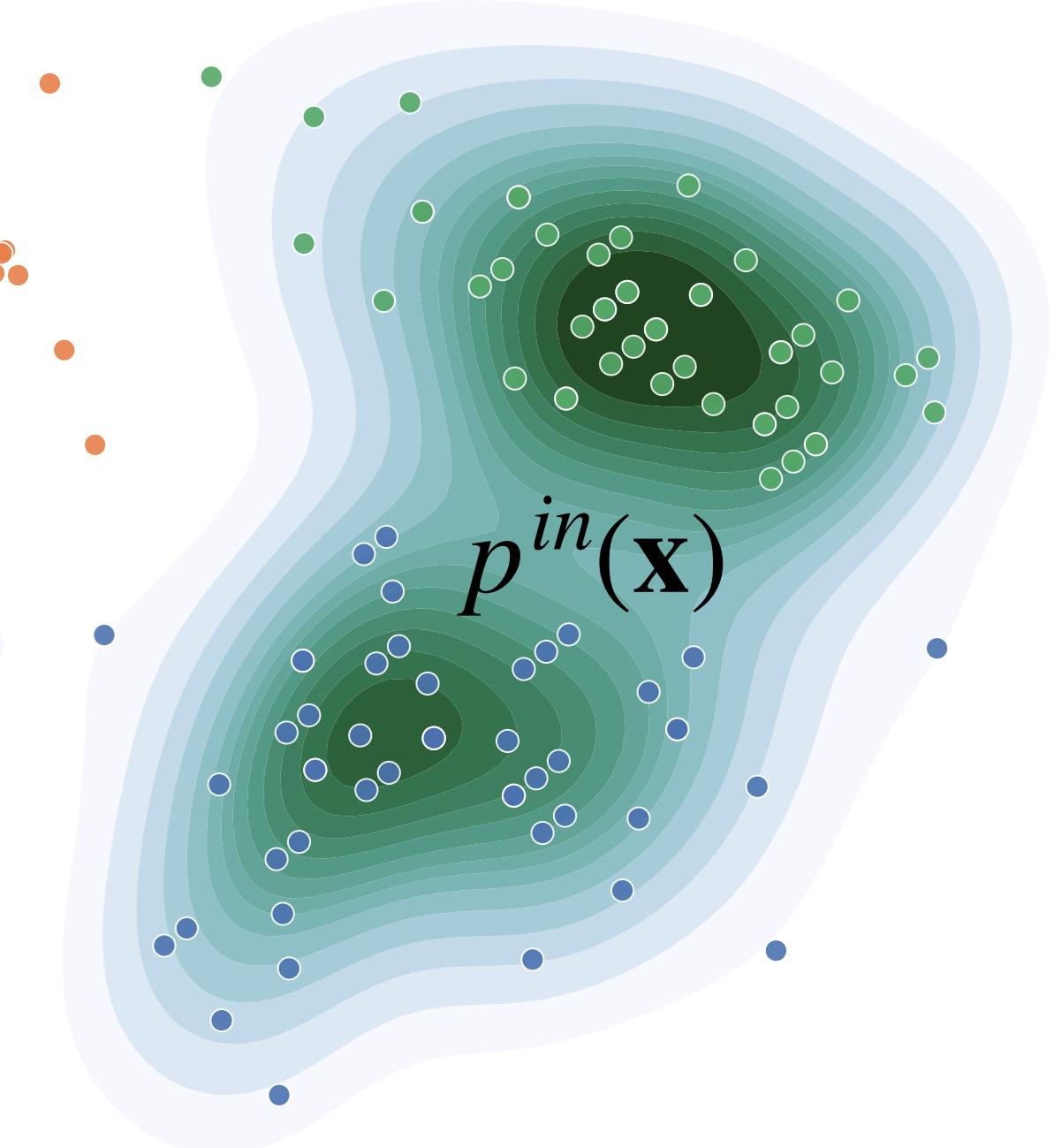
Closed-world



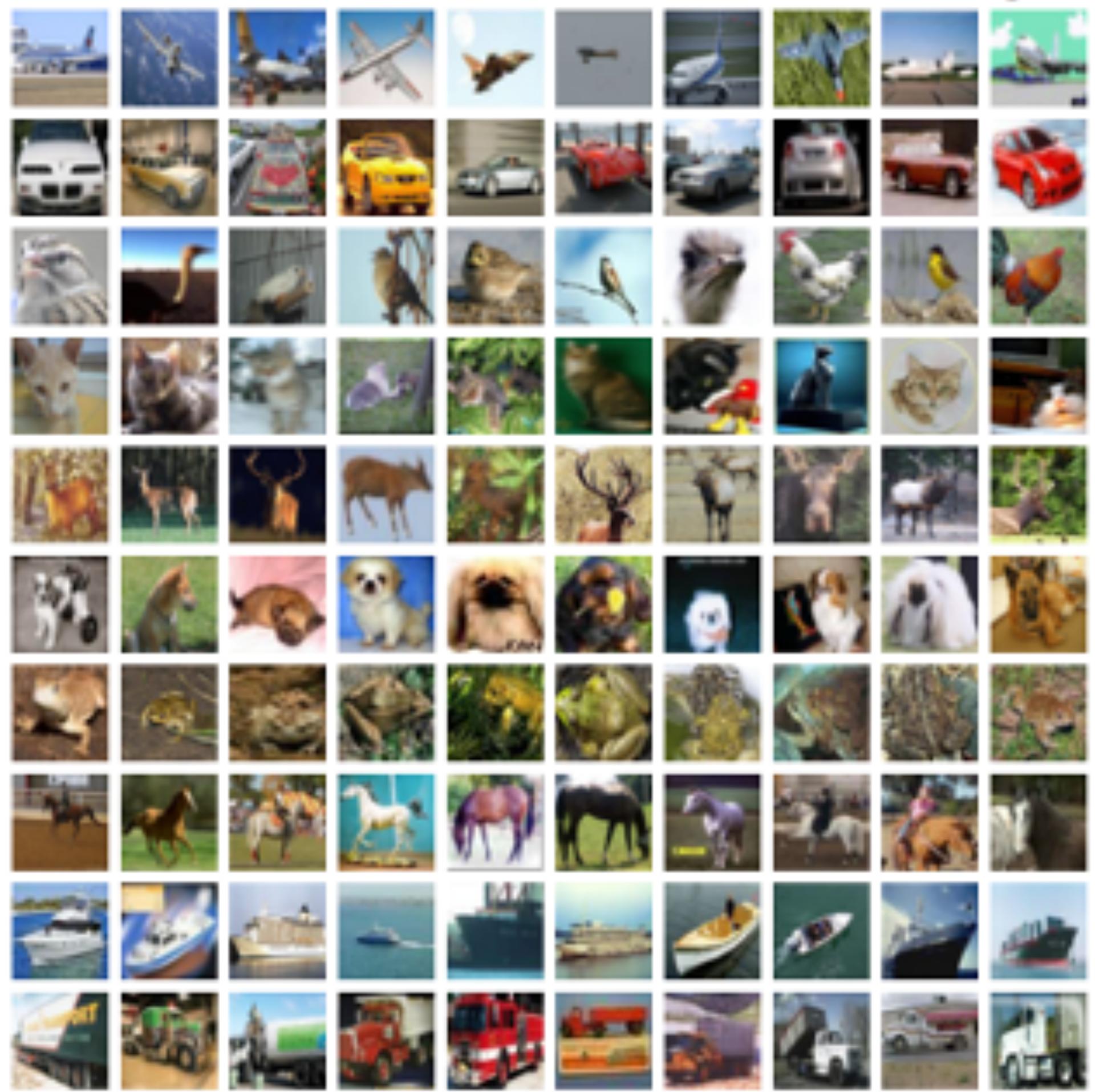
Open-world



Unknown class from  
**out-of-distribution** data



# Out-of-distribution Detection



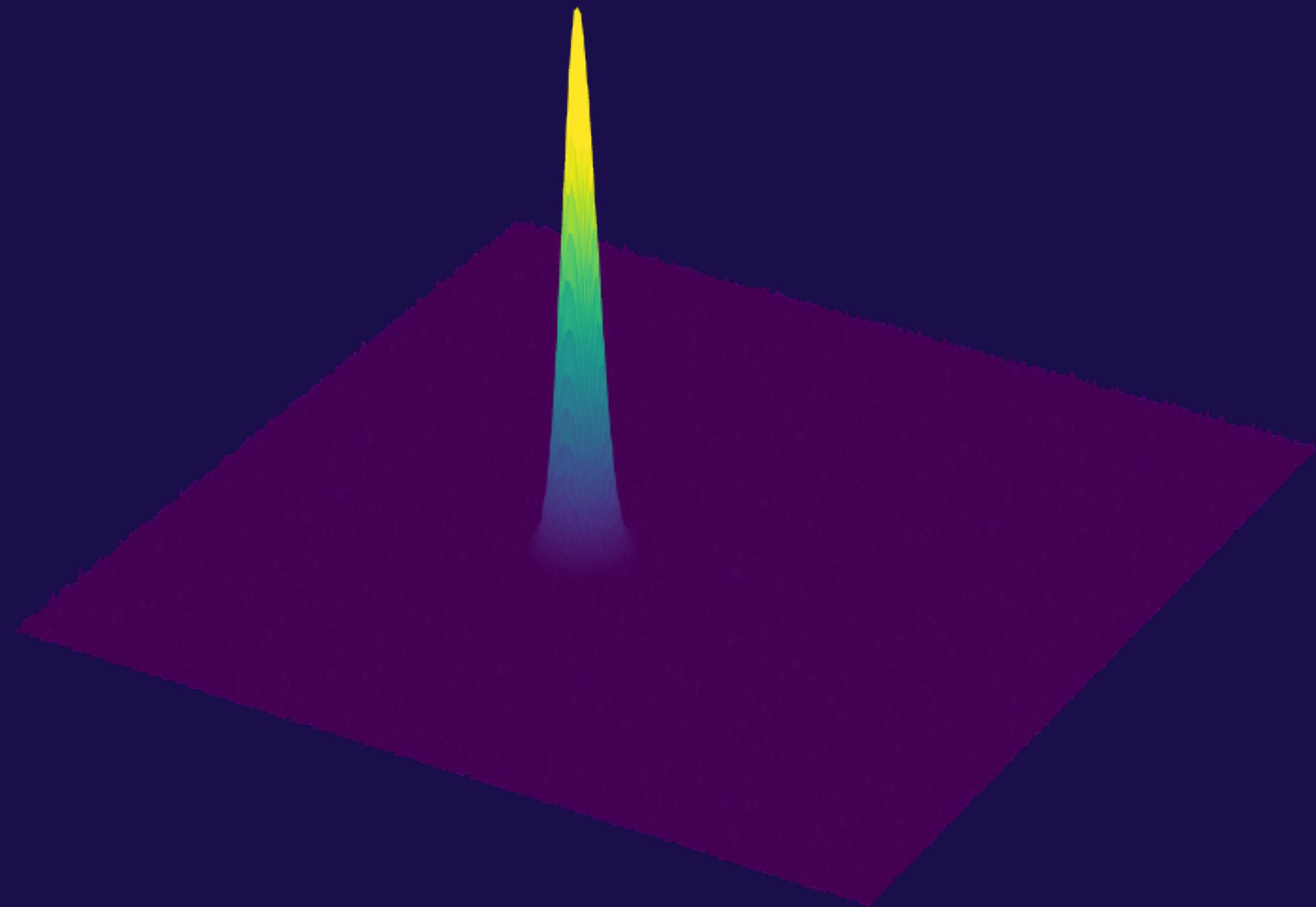
CIFAR-10 (in-distribution)



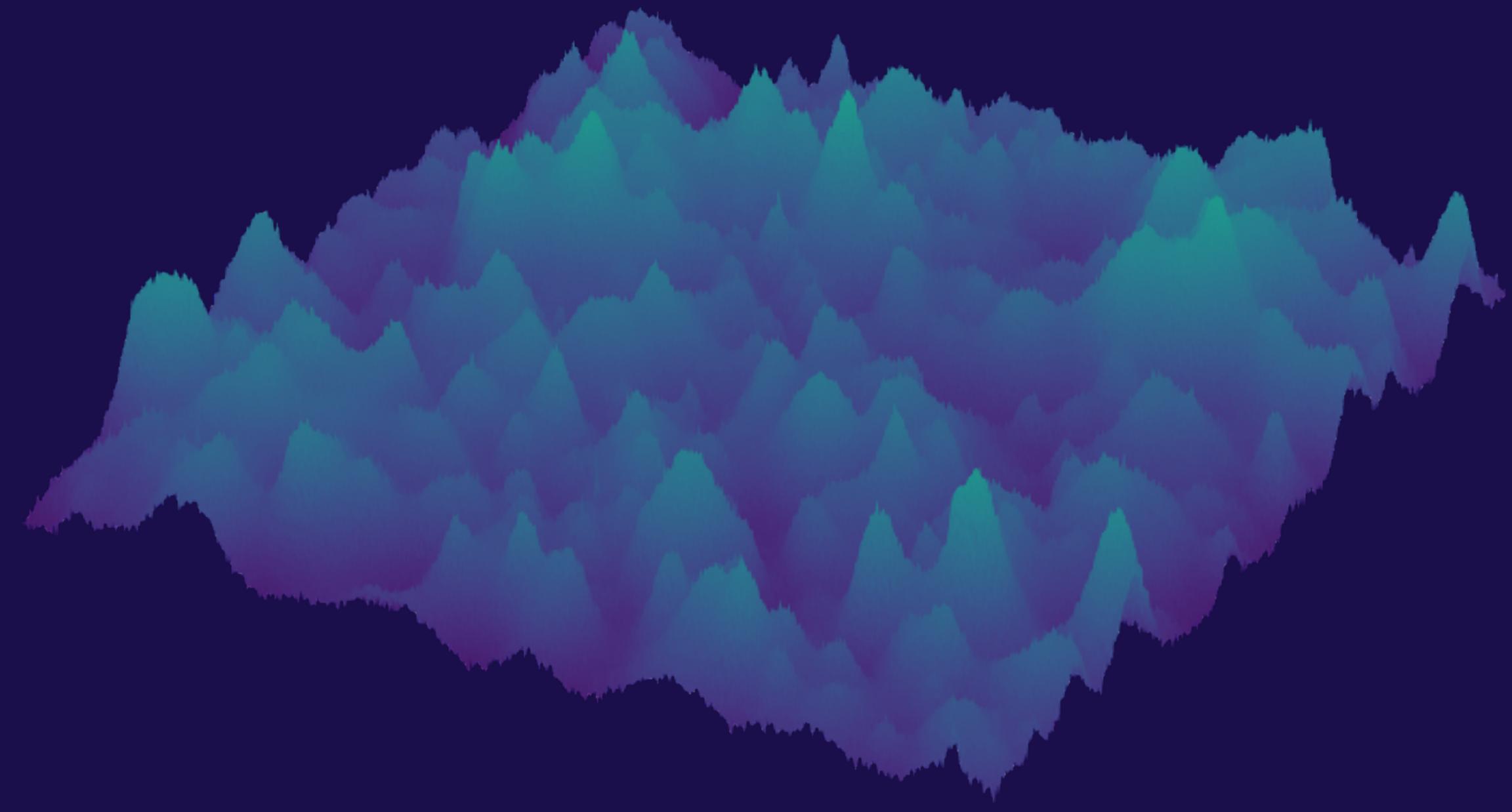
SVHN (OOD)

# Out-of-distribution Detection

CIFAR-10



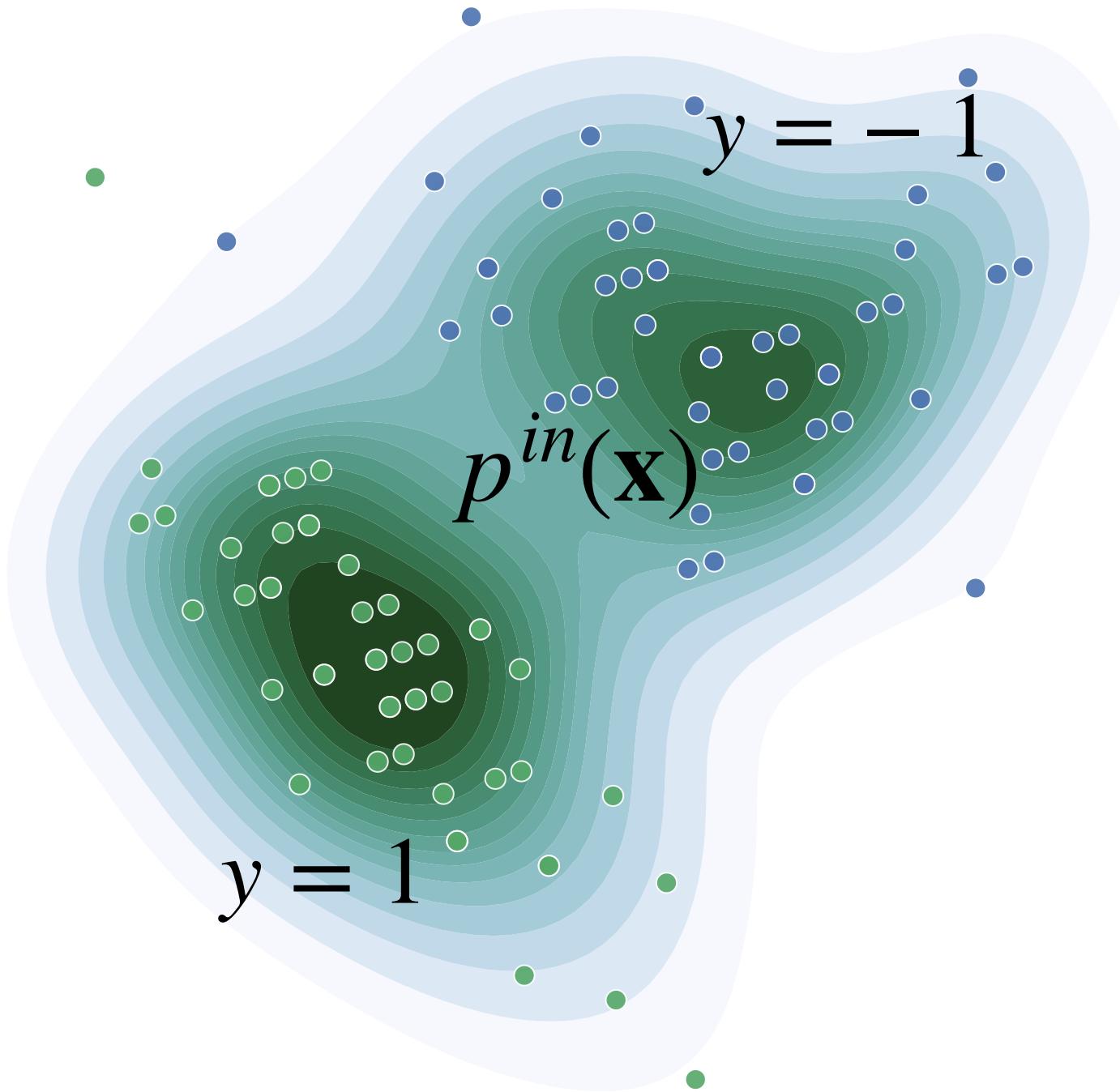
The Internet



Out-of-distribution detection is a hard problem. Why?

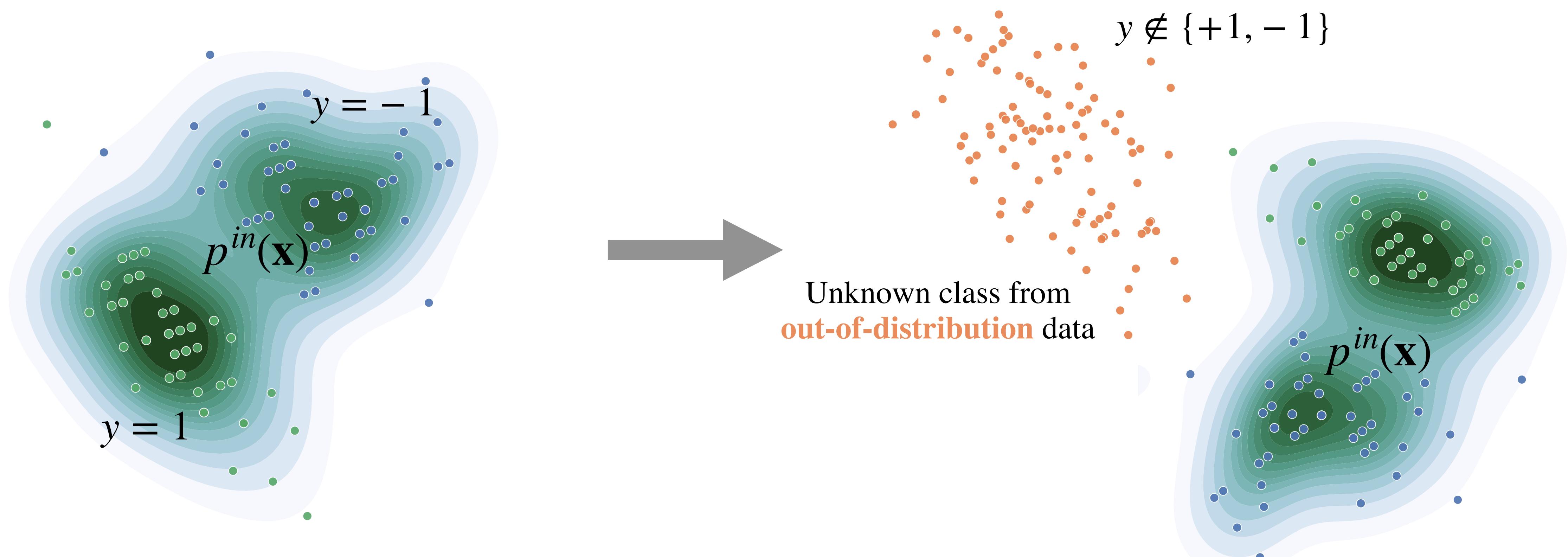
# Challenges

- ▶ Lack of supervision from unknowns during training  
**(model is trained only on the green and blue dots, using empirical risk minimization)**



# Challenges

- ▶ Lack of supervision from unknowns during training  
**(model is trained only on the green and blue dots, using empirical risk minimization)**
- ▶ Huge space of unknowns in the high-dimensional space  
**(hard to anticipate orange dots in advance)**

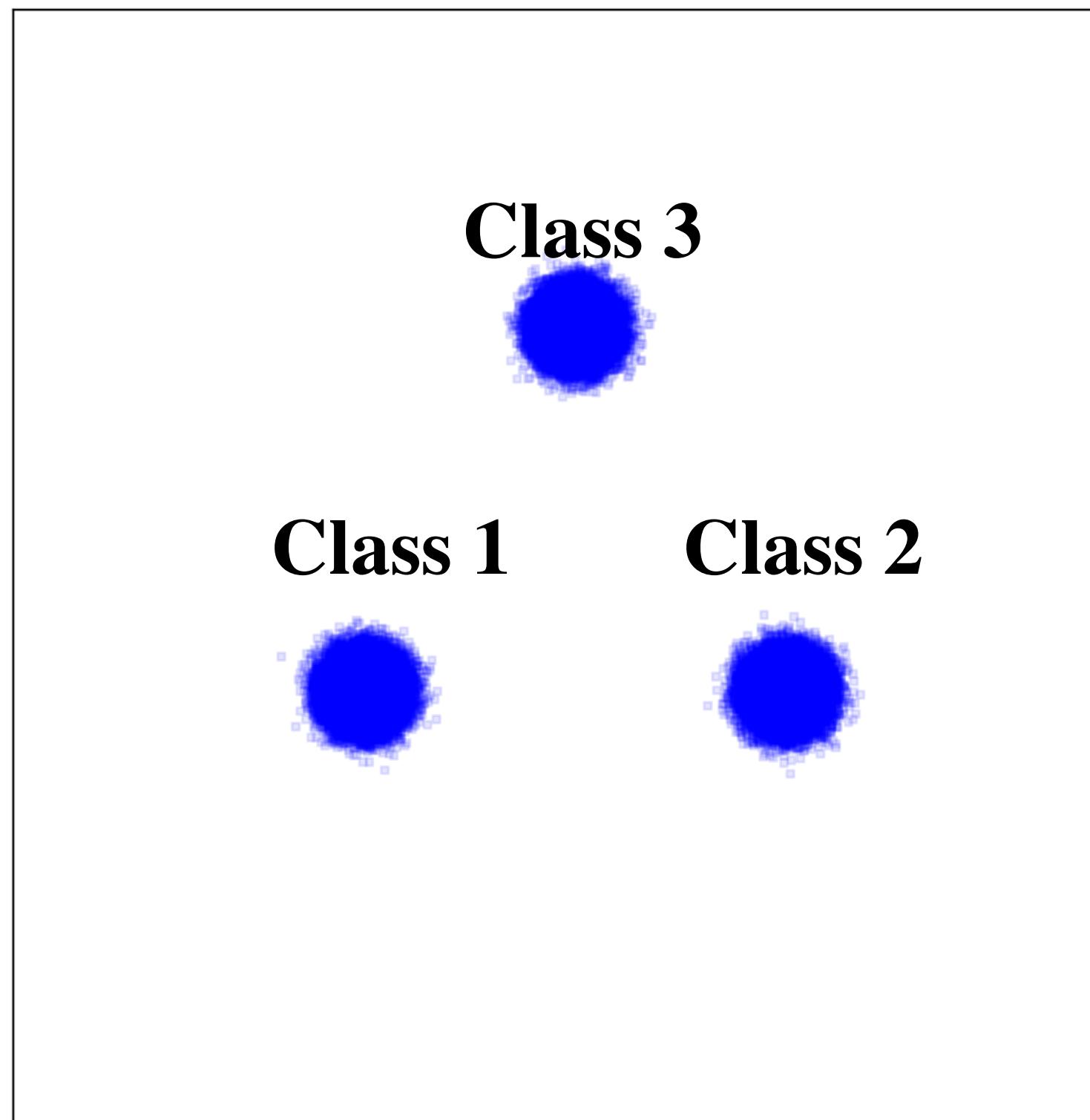


# Challenges

- ▶ High-capacity neural networks exacerbate over-confident predictions  
**(ill-fated decision boundary which cannot distinguish ID vs. OOD)**

# Challenges

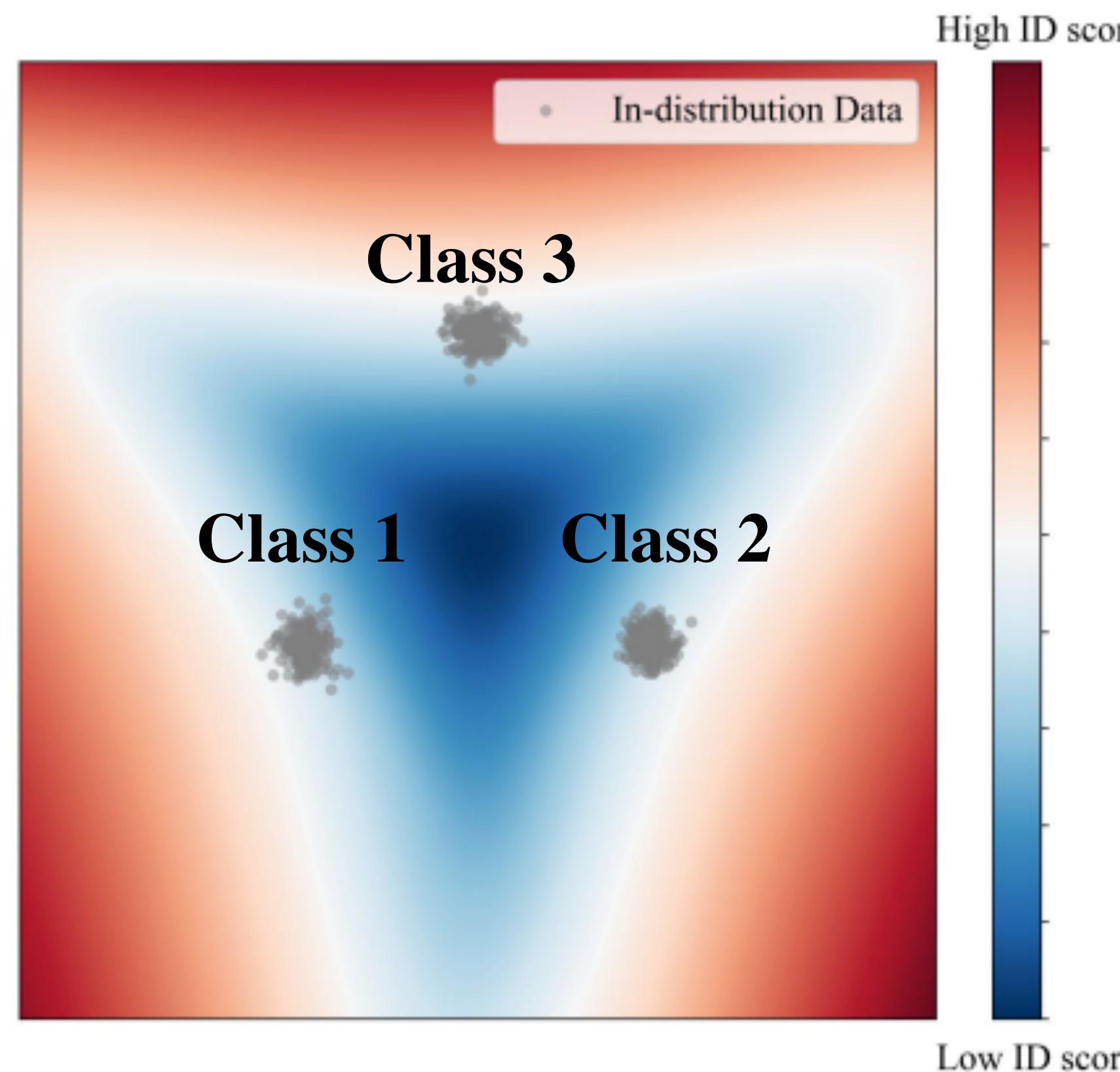
- ▶ High-capacity neural networks exacerbate over-confident predictions  
**(ill-fated decision boundary which cannot distinguish ID vs. OOD)**



In-distribution: mixture of 3 Gaussians

# Challenges

- High-capacity neural networks exacerbate over-confident predictions  
**(ill-fated decision boundary which cannot distinguish ID vs. OOD)**



Decision boundary learned by a simple MLP  
(Overconfident in red regions)

# Challenges

- Real-world images are composed of numerous objects and components.  
(Need finer-grained understanding of OOD at the **object-level**, not just image-level)



# Thriving literature on OOD detection

arXiv > cs > arXiv:2110.11334

Computer Science > Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition

[Submitted on 21 Oct 2021 (v1), last revised 3 Aug 2022 (this version, v2)]

## Generalized Out-of-Distribution Detection: A Survey

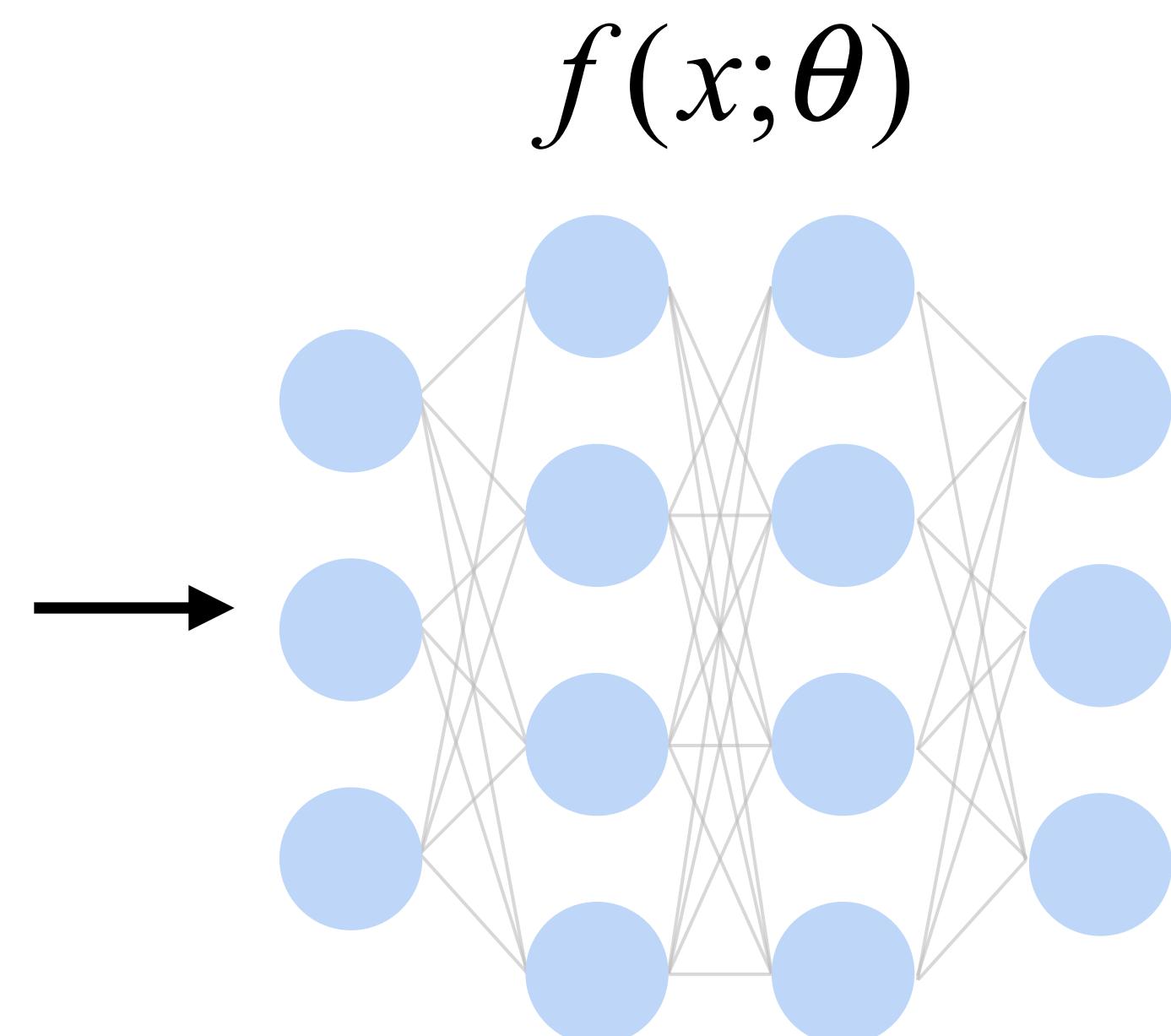
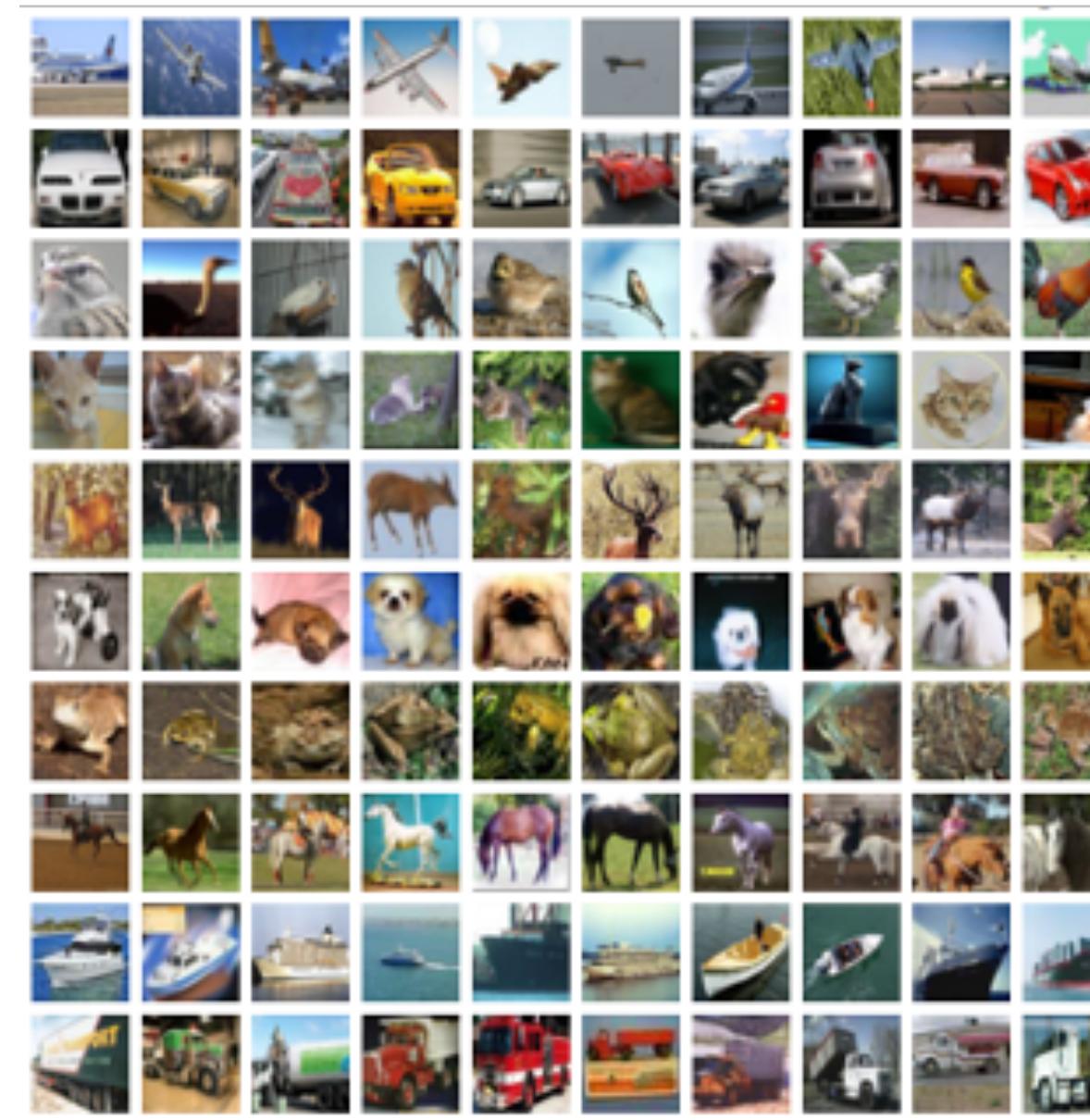
Jingkang Yang, Kaiyang Zhou, Yixuan Li, Ziwei Liu

Out-of-Distribution Detection	§ 5 Classification	§ 5.1.1.a: Post-hoc Detection	[55], [187], [188], [189], [190], [191], [192]
		§ 5.1.1.b: Conf. Enhancement	[58], [192], [193], [194], [195], [196], [197], [198], [199], [200], [201], [202], [203], [204], [205], [206], [207], [208], [209]
		§ 5.1.1.c: Outlier Exposure (OE)	[52], [210], [211], [212], [213], [214], [215], [216], [217], [218], [219]
		§ 5.1.2: OOD Data Generation	[220], [221], [222], [223]
		§ 5.1.3: Gradient-based Methods	[188], [191]
	§ 5.1.4: Bayesian Models	[224], [225], [226], [227], [228], [229]	
	§ 5.1.5: Large-scale OOD Detection	[168], [171], [230], [231]	
	§ 5.2: Density-based Methods	[87], [88], [89], [90], [92], [121], [207], [232], [233], [234], [235], [236], [237], [238], [239], [240]	
	§ 5.3: Distance-based Methods	[207], [241], [242], [243], [244], [245], [246]	

# Tutorial Outline

- **Inference-time OOD detection**
  - Output-based methods
  - Distance-based methods
- **Training-time regularization for OOD detection**
  - Safety-aware learning objective
  - Synthesizing virtual outliers
  - Leveraging wild unlabeled data

# Inference-Time Out-of-distribution Detection Method Overview



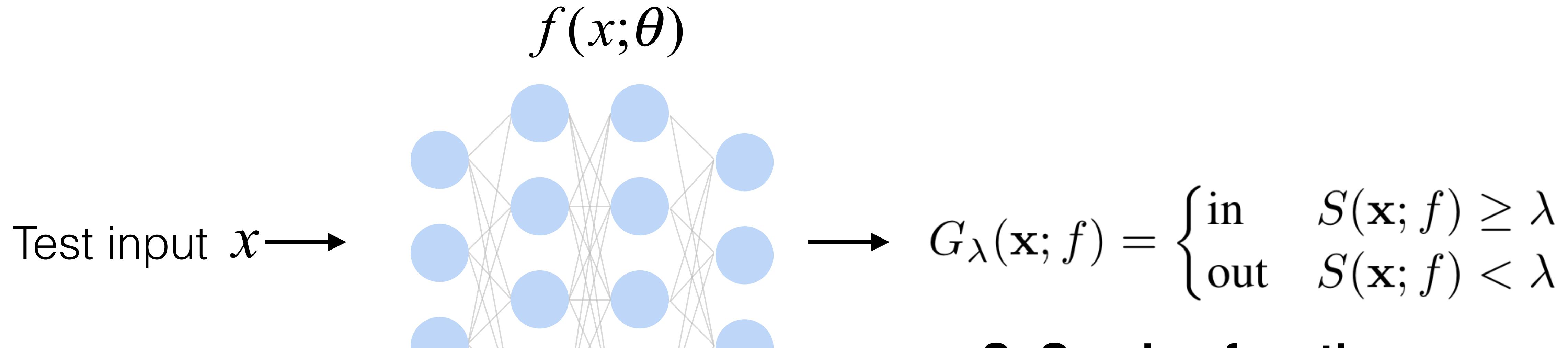
Empirical risk minimization:

$$R_{\text{closed}}(f) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell(f(\mathbf{x}_i), y_i)$$

$$f^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{f \in \mathcal{F}} R_{\text{closed}}(f).$$

Trained on in-distribution data  
(e.g., CIFAR-10), freeze parameters

# Out-of-distribution Detection Method Overview



Trained on in-distribution data  
(e.g., CIFAR-10), freeze parameters

# How to define OOD scoring function?

## A BASELINE FOR DETECTING MISCLASSIFIED AND OUT-OF-DISTRIBUTION EXAMPLES IN NEURAL NETWORKS

Dan Hendrycks\*  
University of California, Berkeley  
hendrycks@berkeley.edu

Published as a conference paper at ICLR 2018

## ENHANCING THE RELIABILITY OF OUT-OF-DISTRIBUTION IMAGE DETECTION IN NEURAL NETWORKS

**Shiyu Liang**  
Coordinated Science Lab, Department of ECE  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
sliang26@illinois.edu

**R. Srikant**  
Coordinated Science Lab, Department of ECE  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
rsrikant@illinois.edu

**Yixuan Li**  
University of Wisconsin-Madison\*  
sharonli@cs.wisc.edu

## Out-of-Distribution Detection with Deep Nearest Neighbors

Yiyou Sun<sup>1</sup> Yifei Ming<sup>1</sup> Xiaojin Zhu<sup>1</sup> Yixuan Li<sup>1</sup>

### Abstract

Out-of-distribution (OOD) detection is a critical task for deploying machine learning models in the open world. Distance-based methods have demonstrated promise, where testing samples are detected as OOD if they are relatively far away

A rich line of OOD detection algorithms has been developed recently, among which distance-based methods demonstrated promise (Lee et al., 2018; Tack et al., 2020; Sehwag et al., 2021). Distance-based methods leverage feature embeddings extracted from a model, and operate under the assumption that the test OOD samples are relatively far

## A Simple Unified Framework for Detecting Out-of-Distribution Samples and Adversarial Attacks

**Kimin Lee<sup>1</sup>, Kibok Lee<sup>2</sup>, Honglak Lee<sup>3,2</sup>, Jinwoo Shin<sup>1,4</sup>**  
<sup>1</sup>Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST)  
<sup>2</sup>University of Michigan  
<sup>3</sup>Google Brain  
<sup>4</sup>AItrics

## Energy-based Out-of-distribution Detection

**Weitang Liu**  
Department of Computer Science and Engineering  
University of California, San Diego  
La Jolla, CA 92093, USA  
we1022@ucsd.edu

**Xiaoyun Wang**  
Department of Computer Science  
University of California, Davis  
Davis, CA 95616, USA  
xiwang@ucdavis.edu

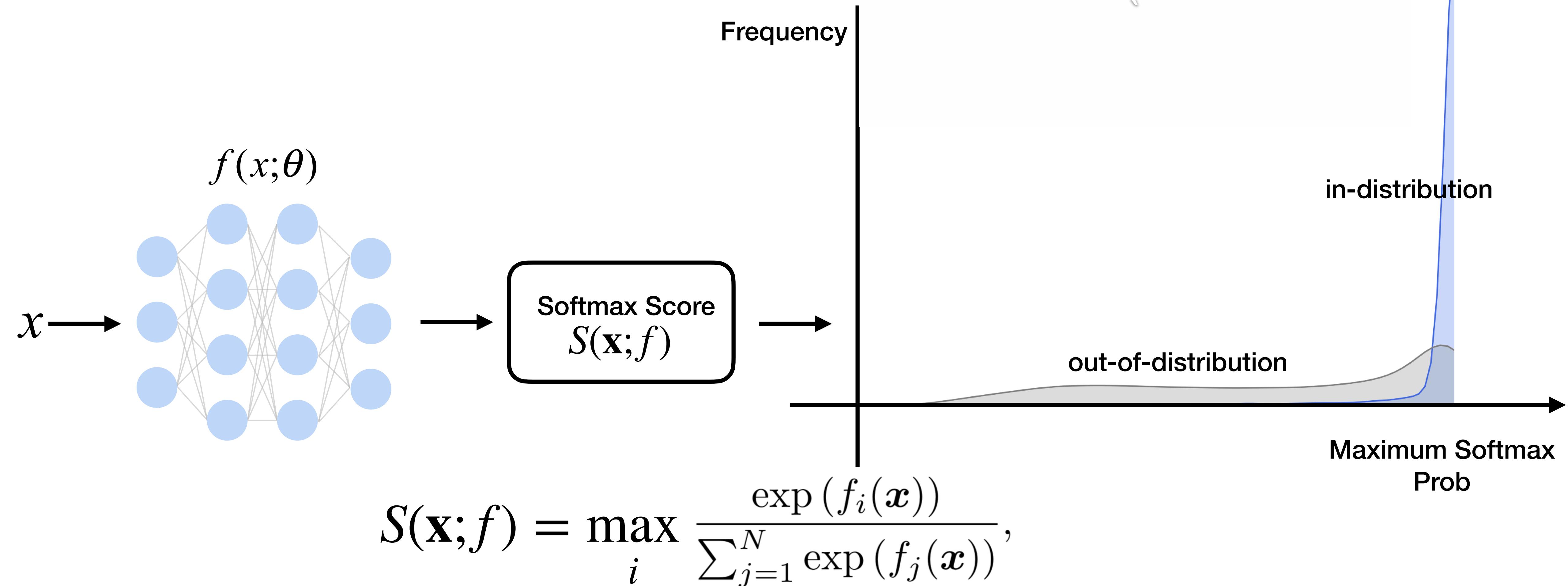
**John D. Owens**  
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering  
University of California, Davis  
Davis, CA 95616, USA  
jowens@ece.ucdavis.edu

**Yixuan Li**  
Department of Computer Sciences  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Madison, WI 53703, USA  
sharonli@cs.wisc.edu

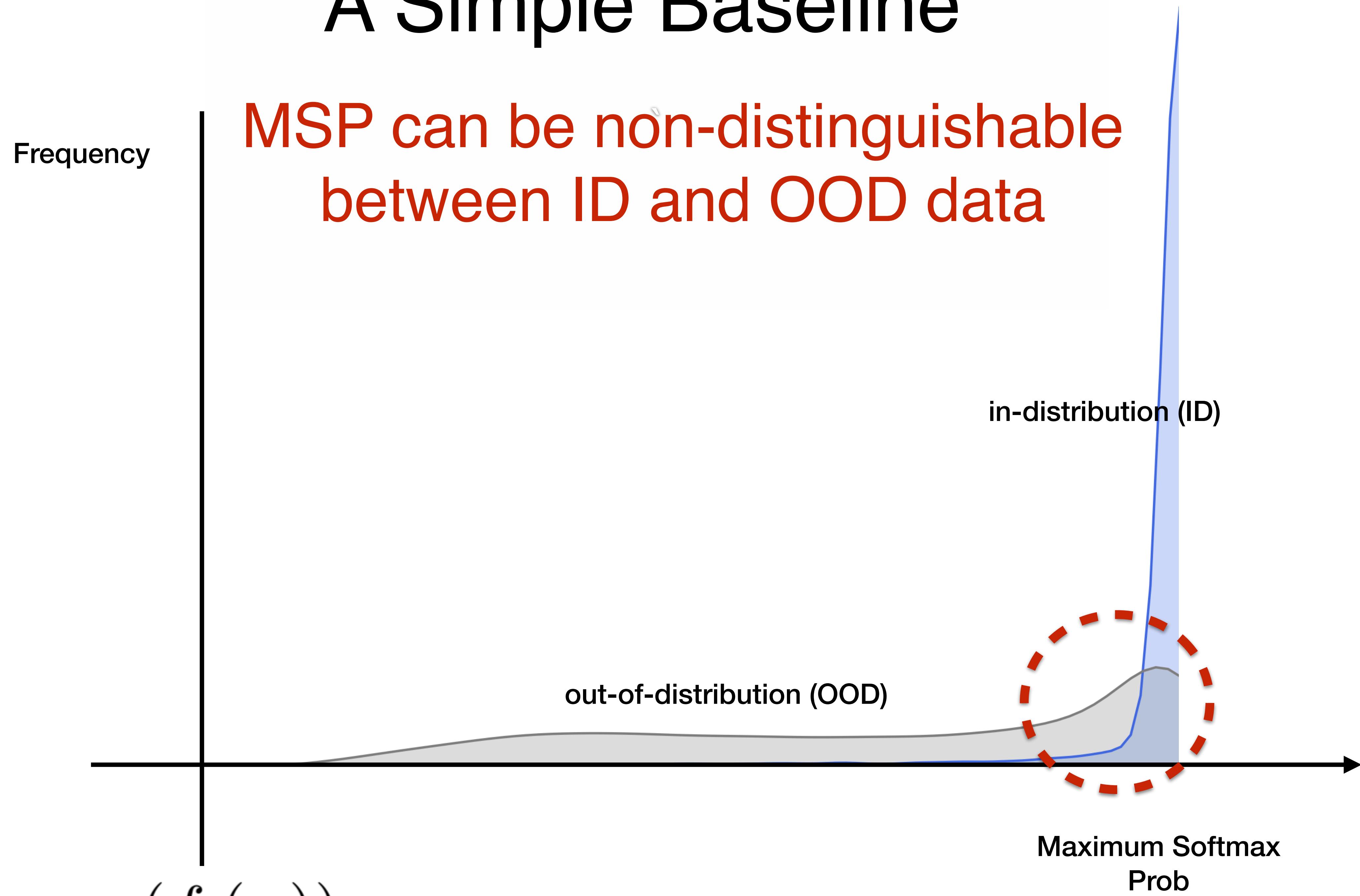
# Tutorial Outline

- **Inference-time OOD detection**
  - Output-based methods
  - Distance-based methods
- **Training-time regularization for OOD detection**
  - Safety-aware learning objective
  - Synthesizing virtual outliers
  - Leveraging wild unlabeled data

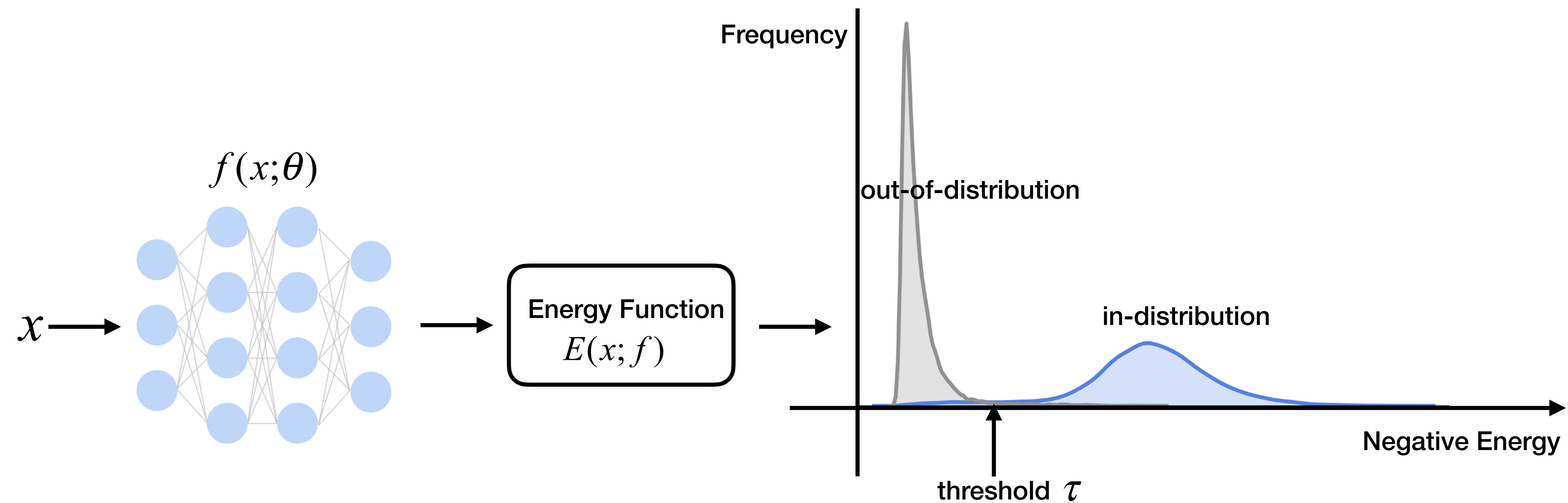
# A Simple Baseline



# A Simple Baseline

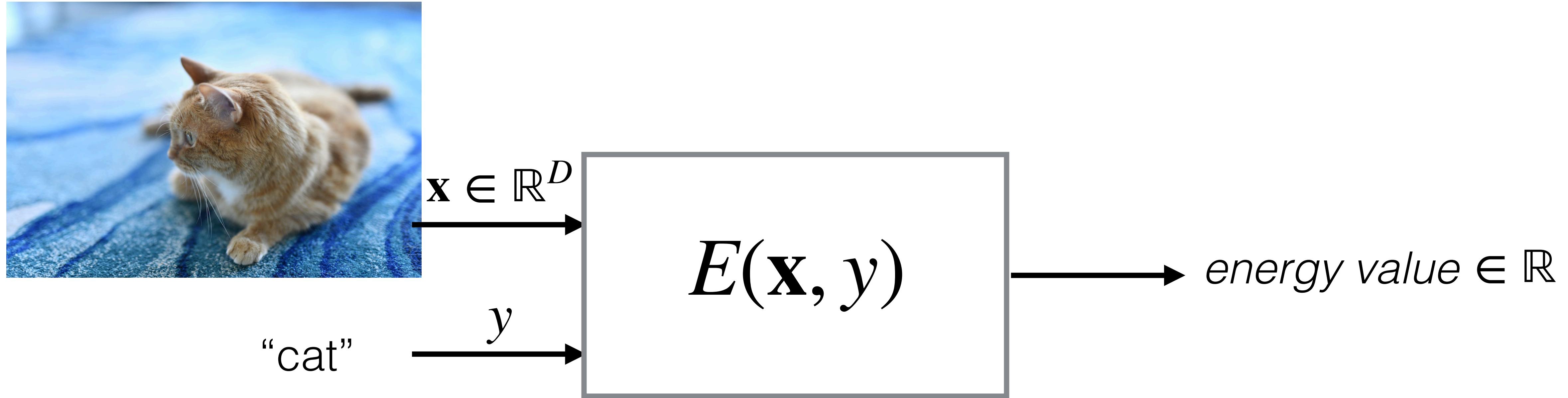


# Energy-based Out-of-distribution Detection



$$g(\mathbf{x}; \tau, f) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } -E(\mathbf{x}; f) \leq \tau, \\ 1 & \text{if } -E(\mathbf{x}; f) > \tau, \end{cases}$$

# Energy-based Model



**Energy** can be turned into **probability** through Gibbs distribution:

$$p(y | \mathbf{x}) = \frac{e^{-E(\mathbf{x}, y)/T}}{\int_{y'} e^{-E(\mathbf{x}, y')/T}} = \frac{e^{-E(\mathbf{x}, y)/T}}{e^{-E(\mathbf{x})/T}}$$

# Energy-based Model

Energy can be turned into probability through Gibbs distribution:

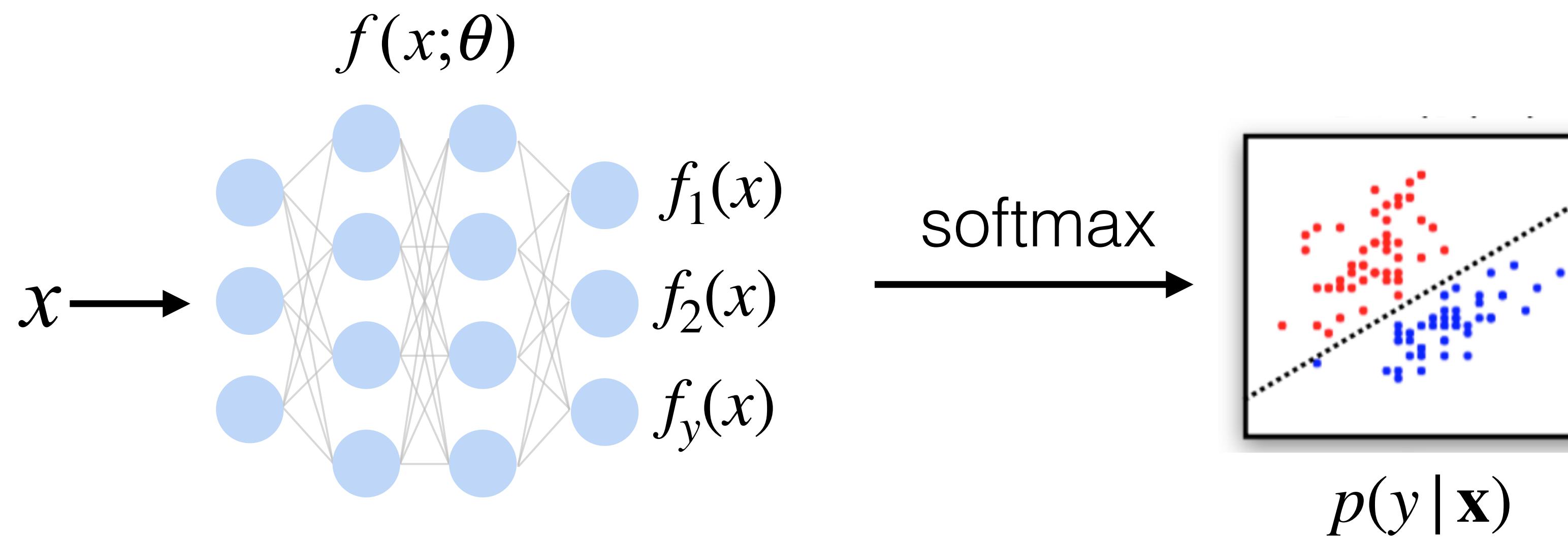
$$p(y \mid \mathbf{x}) = \frac{e^{-E(\mathbf{x}, y)/T}}{\int_{y'} e^{-E(\mathbf{x}, y')/T}} = \frac{e^{-E(\mathbf{x}, y)/T}}{e^{-E(\mathbf{x})/T}}$$

**Partition function**

**Free energy** can be expressed as the negative of the log partition function:

$$E(\mathbf{x}) = -T \cdot \log \int_{y'} e^{-E(\mathbf{x}, y')/T}$$

# Energy-based Interpretation of Classification Model

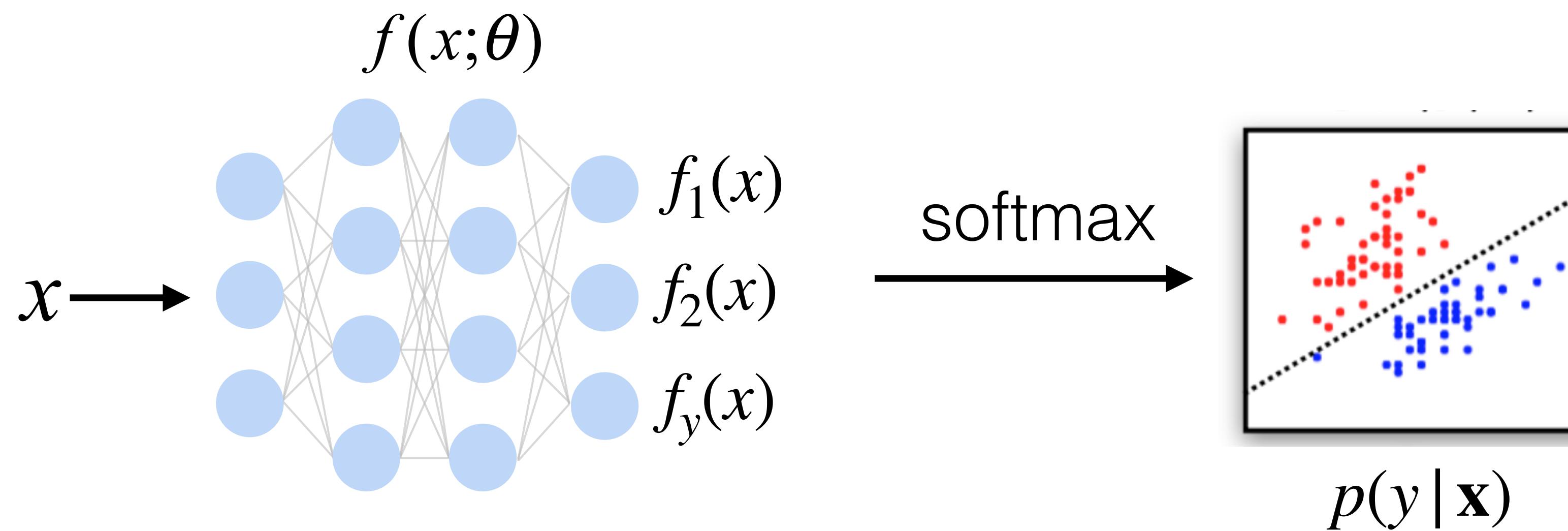


$$E(\mathbf{x}, y) = -f_y(\mathbf{x})$$

$$p(y | \mathbf{x}) = \frac{e^{f_y(\mathbf{x})/T}}{\sum_i^K e^{f_i(\mathbf{x})/T}}$$

$$p(y | \mathbf{x}) = \frac{e^{-E(\mathbf{x}, y)/T}}{\int_{y'} e^{-E(\mathbf{x}, y')/T}}$$

# Energy-based Interpretation of Classification Model

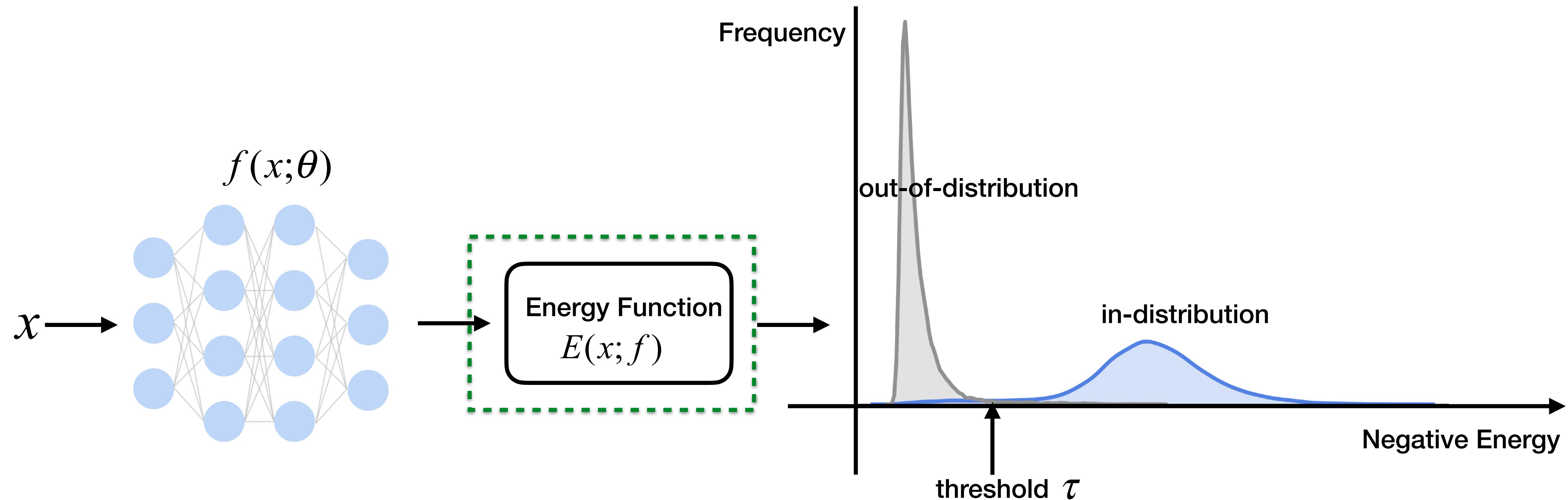


Free energy can be expressed as the negative of the **LogSumExp**:

$$E(\mathbf{x}) = -T \cdot \log \int_{y'} e^{-E(\mathbf{x}, y')/T}$$

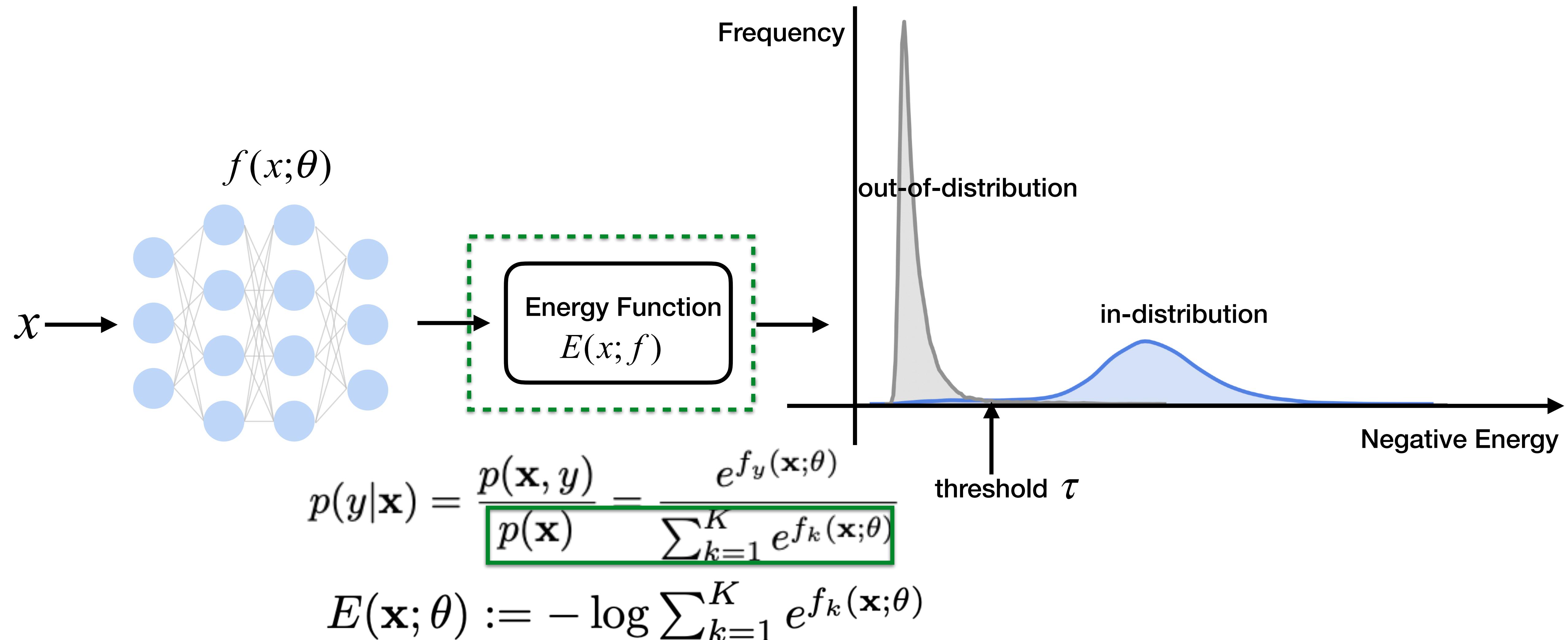
input      Neural nets

# Energy-based Out-of-distribution Detection



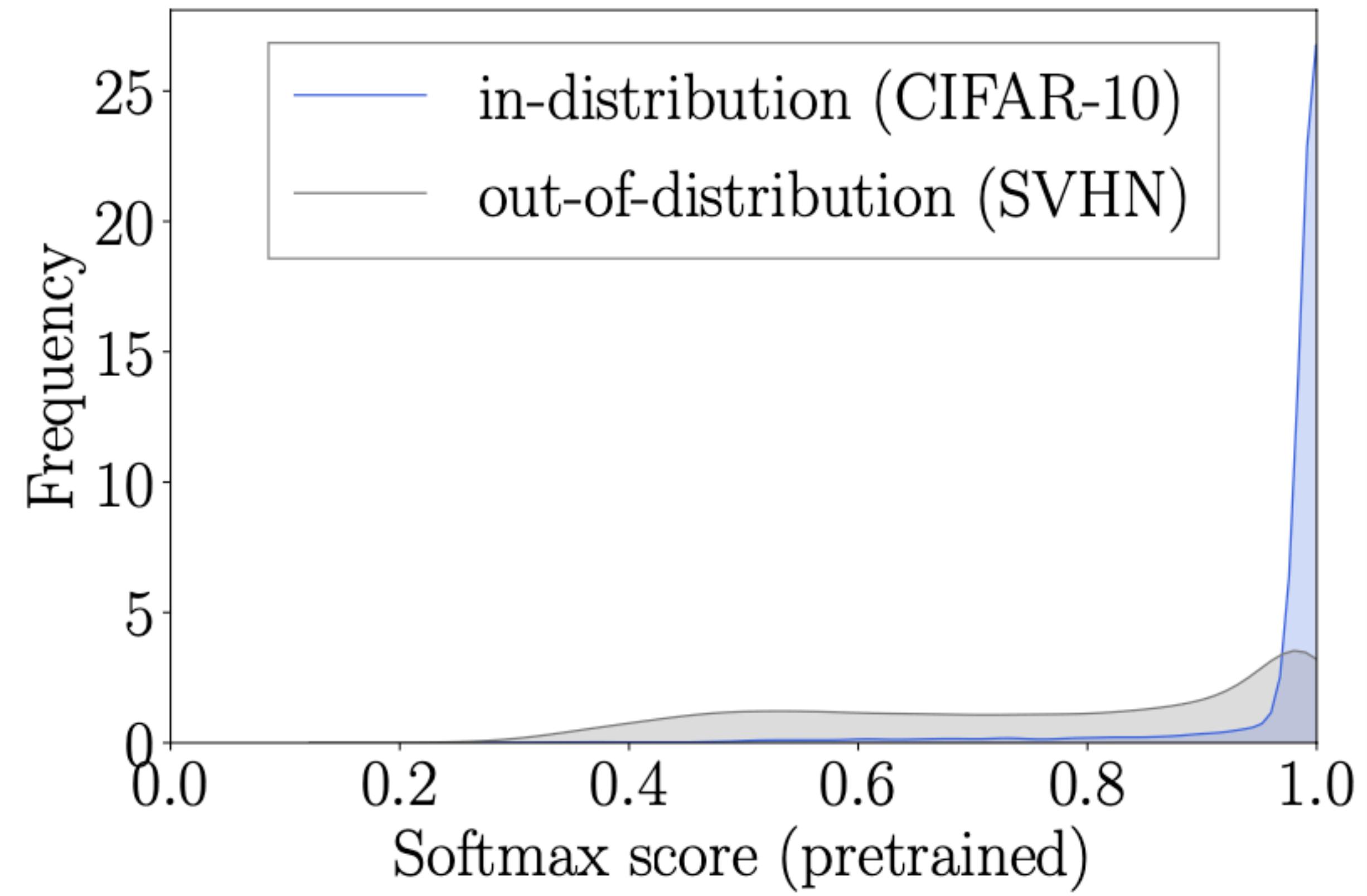
$$g(\mathbf{x}; \tau, f) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } -E(\mathbf{x}; f) \leq \tau, \\ 1 & \text{if } -E(\mathbf{x}; f) > \tau, \end{cases}$$

# Softmax vs. energy scores



Energy function has an inherent connection to the log likelihood  
(but not identical — will come back to this).

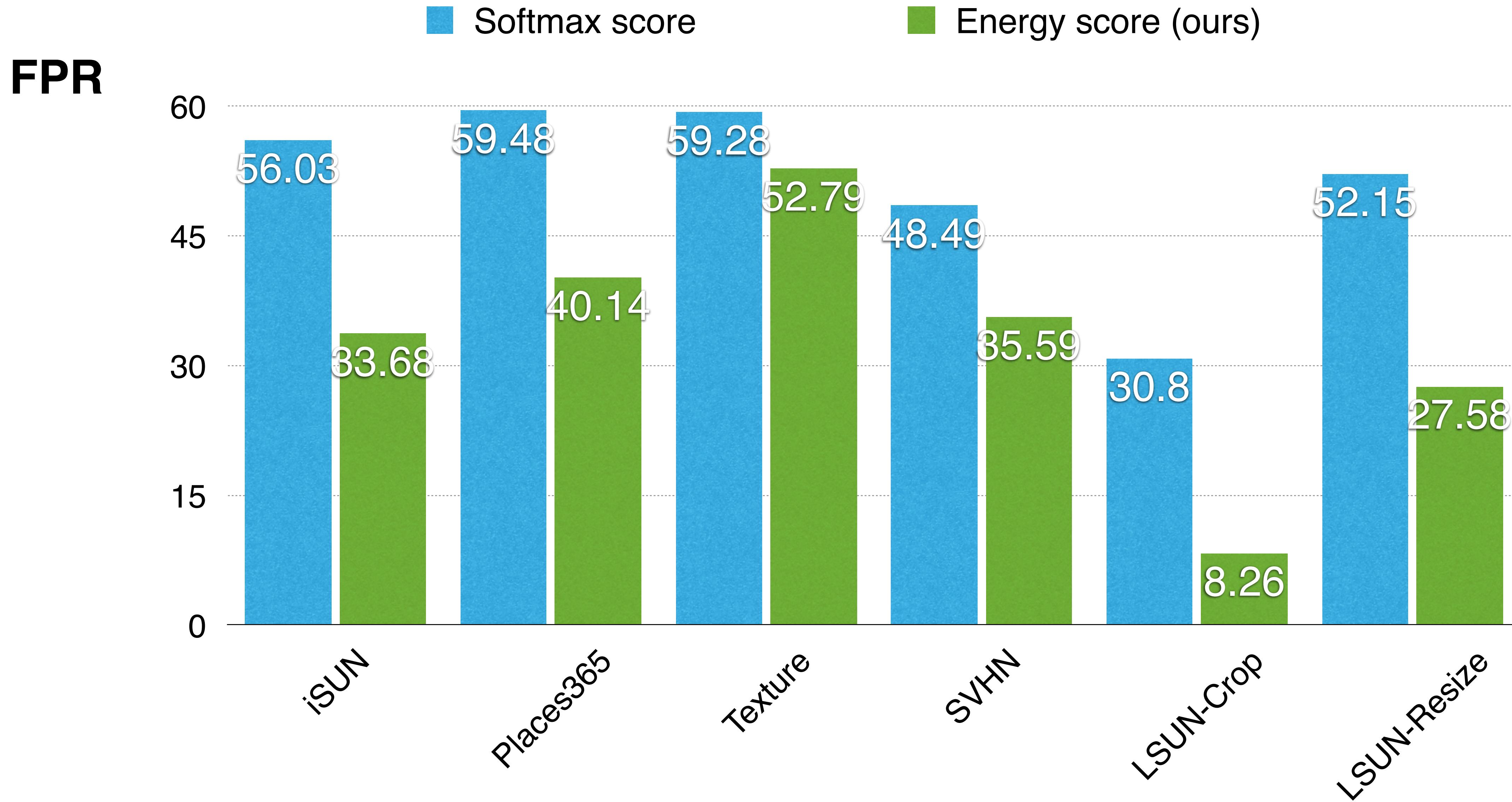
# Softmax vs. energy scores



(a) FPR95: 48.87



# More Results

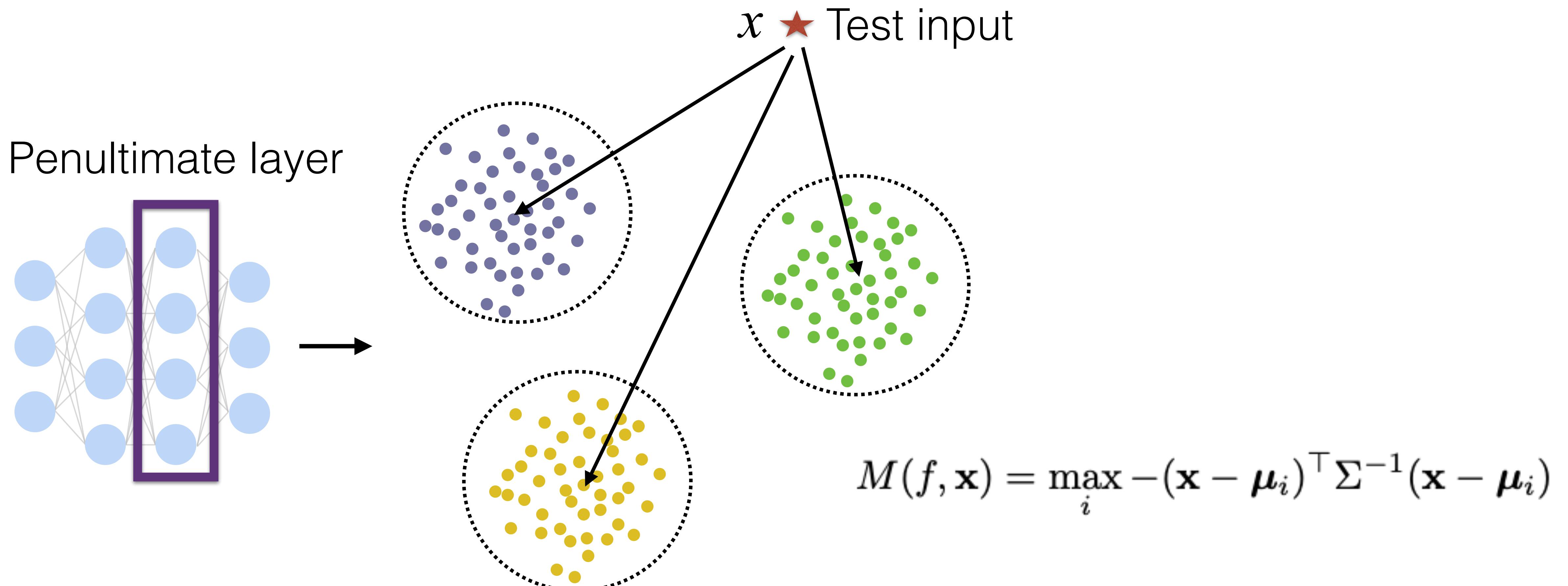


# Tutorial Outline

- **Inference-time OOD detection**
  - Output-based methods
  - Distance-based methods
- **Training-time regularization for OOD detection**
  - Safety-aware learning objective
  - Synthesizing virtual outliers
  - Leveraging wild unlabeled data

# Mahalanobis distance (parametric)

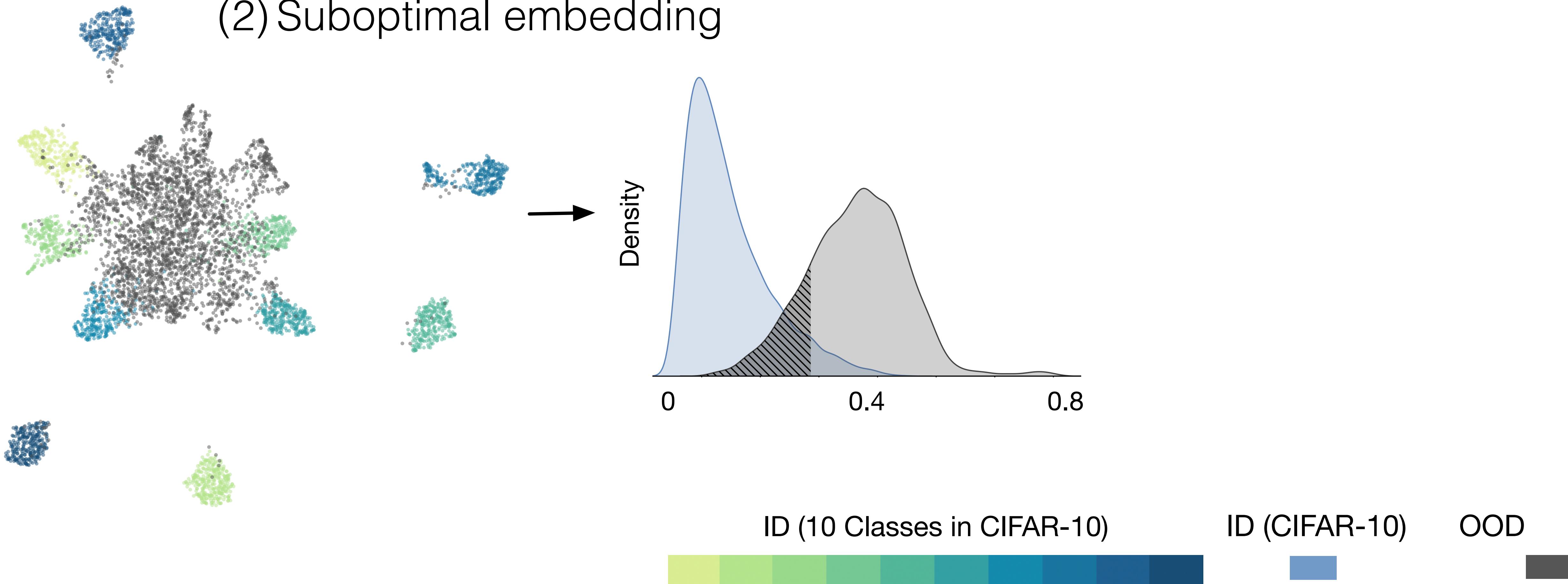
**Idea:** Model the feature space as a mixture of multivariate Gaussian distribution, one for each class. Use distance to the closest centroid as a proxy for OOD measure.



# Mahalanobis distance (parametric)

## Limitations:

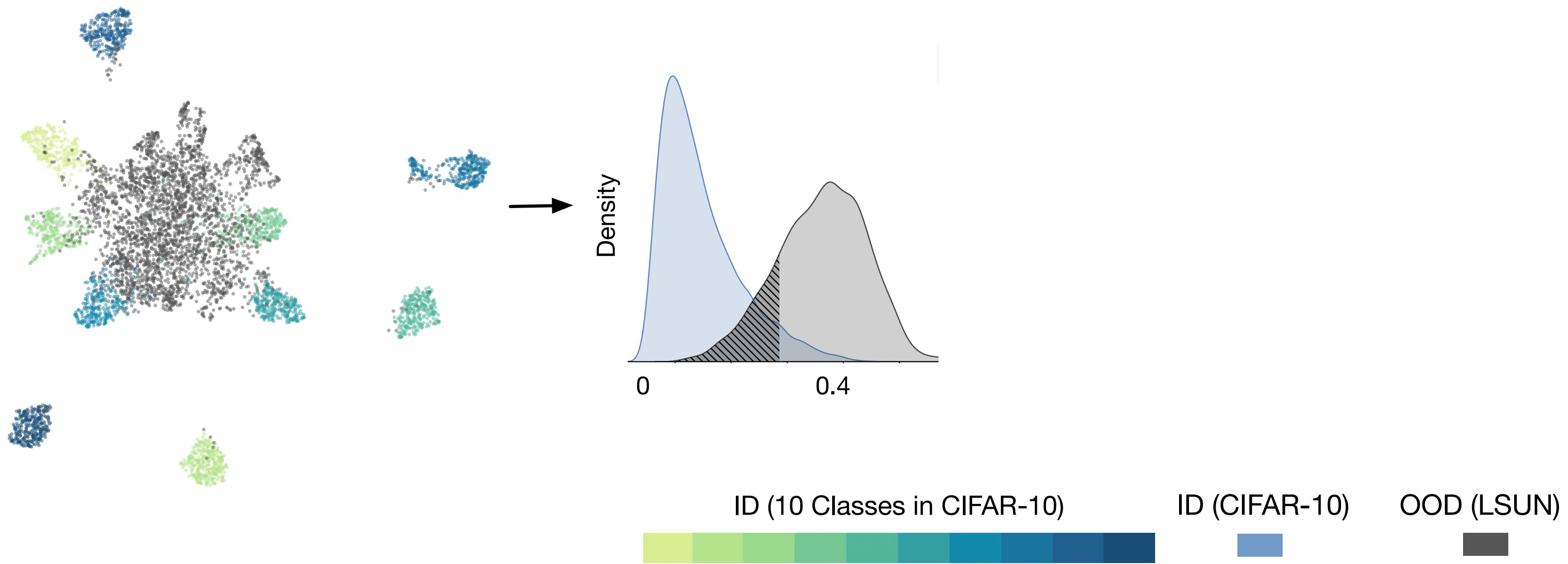
- (1) strong distributional assumption (features may not necessarily be Gaussian-distributed)
- (2) Suboptimal embedding



# Nearest Neighbor Distance (non-parametric)

## Limitations of Maha distance:

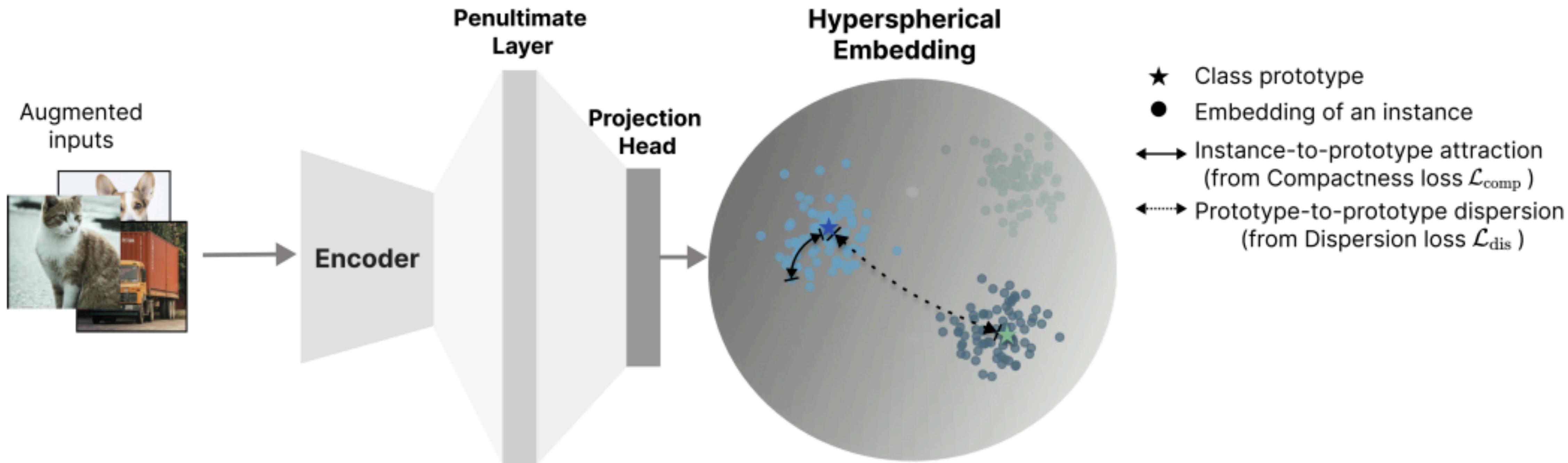
- (1) strong distributional assumption
- (2) Suboptimal embedding



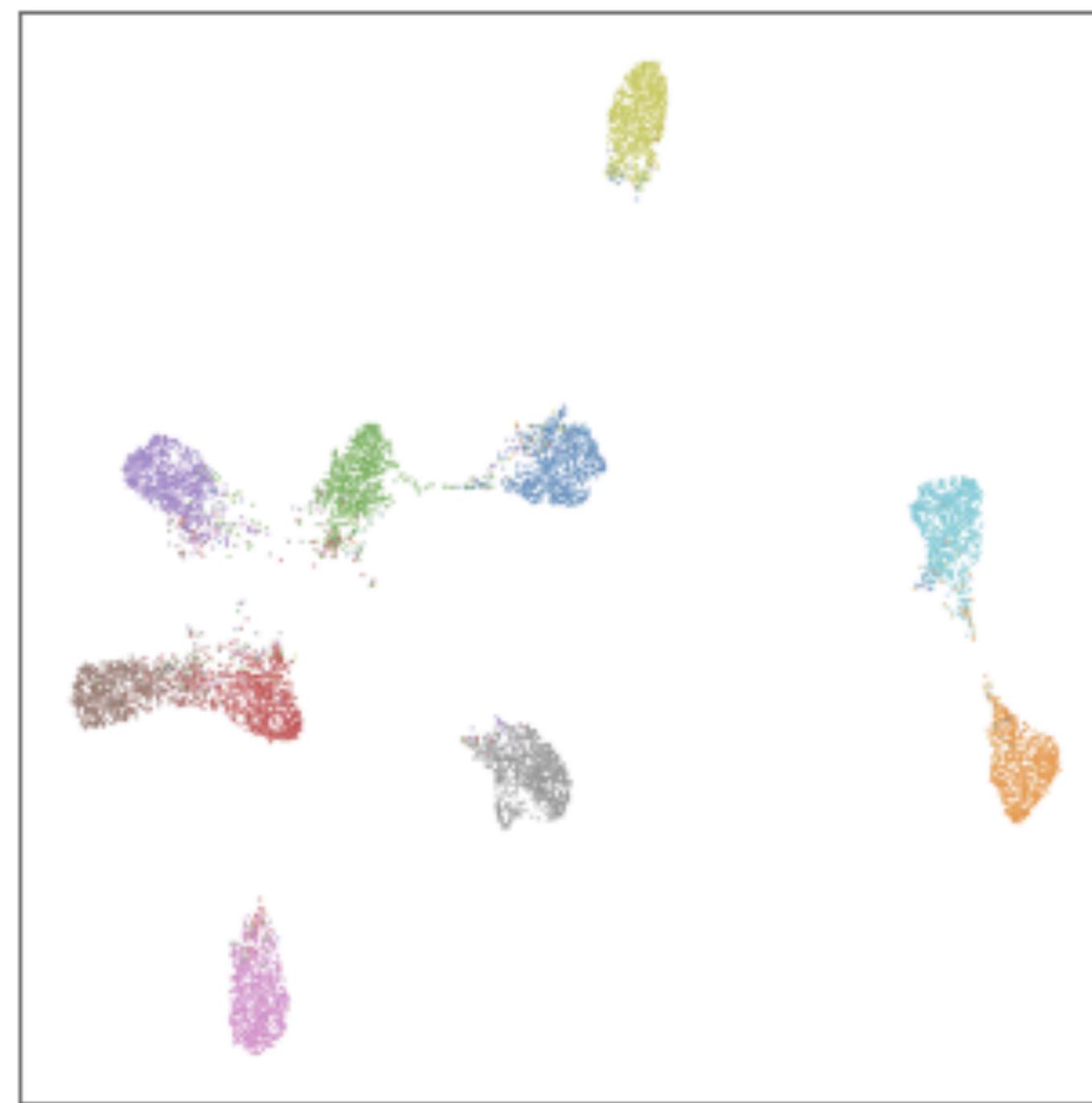
# CIDER

Learning optimal hyper-spherical embeddings for OOD detection

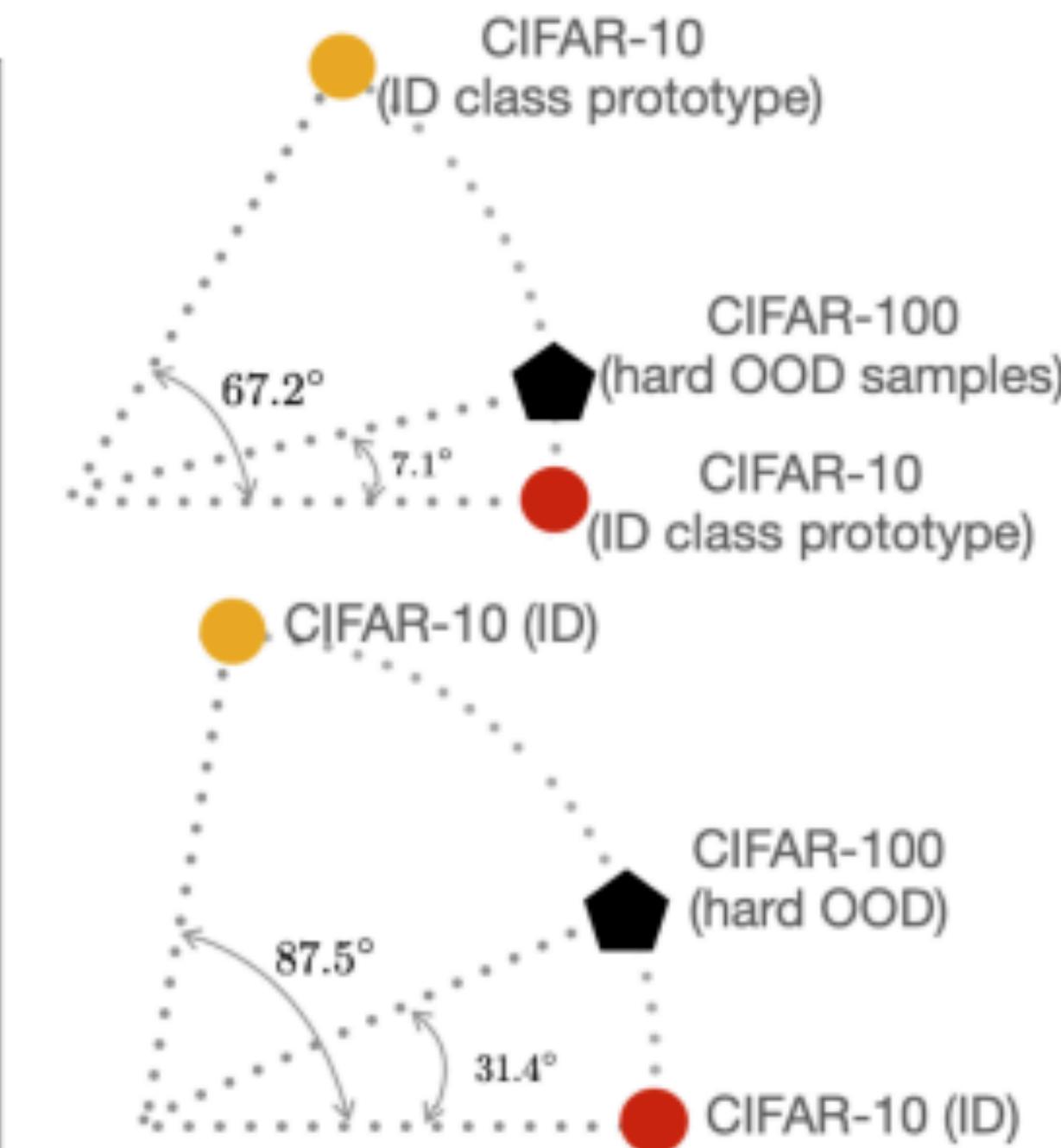
$$p_d(\mathbf{z}; \boldsymbol{\mu}_c, \kappa) = Z_d(\kappa) \exp \left( \kappa \boldsymbol{\mu}_c^\top \mathbf{z} \right),$$



# CIDER



(a) ID embeddings of CE (left) and CIDER (right)



(b) ID & OOD of CE (top)  
and CIDER (down)

Method	OOD Dataset					AVG FPR95
	SVHN	Places365	LSUN	iSUN	Texture	
SupCon+KNN (KNN+)	39.23	80.74	48.99	74.99	57.15	60.22
CIDER+KNN	<b>23.09</b>	<b>79.63</b>	<b>16.16</b>	<b>71.68</b>	<b>43.87</b>	<b>46.89</b>

Scoring function is only part of the solution...

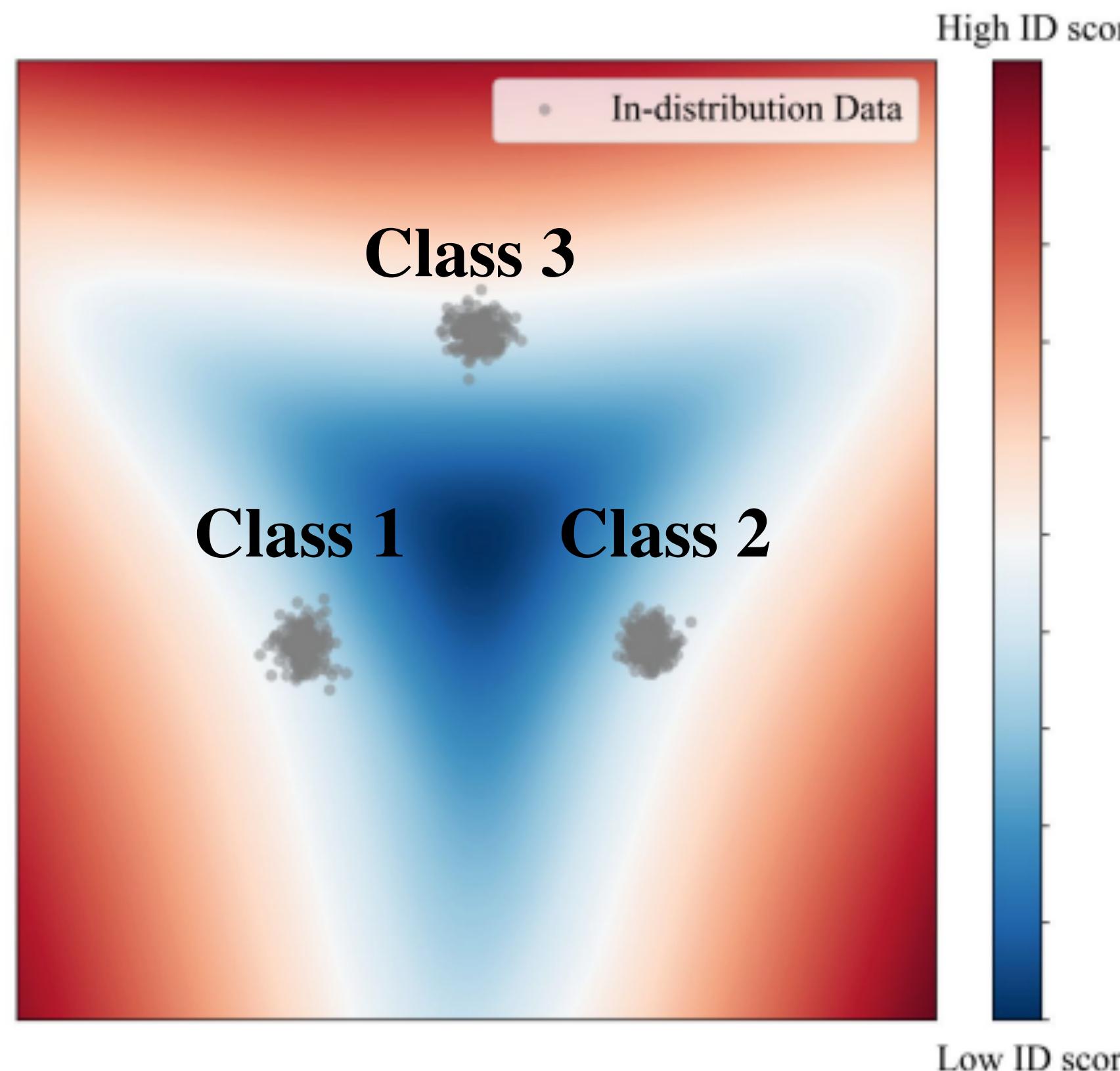
# Mitigating OOD Risk Requires Rethinking Learning Algorithm Design

# Tutorial Outline

- **Inference-time OOD detection**
  - Output-based methods
  - Distance-based methods
- **Training-time regularization for OOD detection**
  - Safety-aware learning objective
  - Synthesizing virtual outliers
  - Leveraging wild unlabeled data

# Insufficiency of ERM

- Existing learning algorithms are primarily driven by optimizing accuracy **only** on the ID data, but do not account for uncertainty from outside ID data.



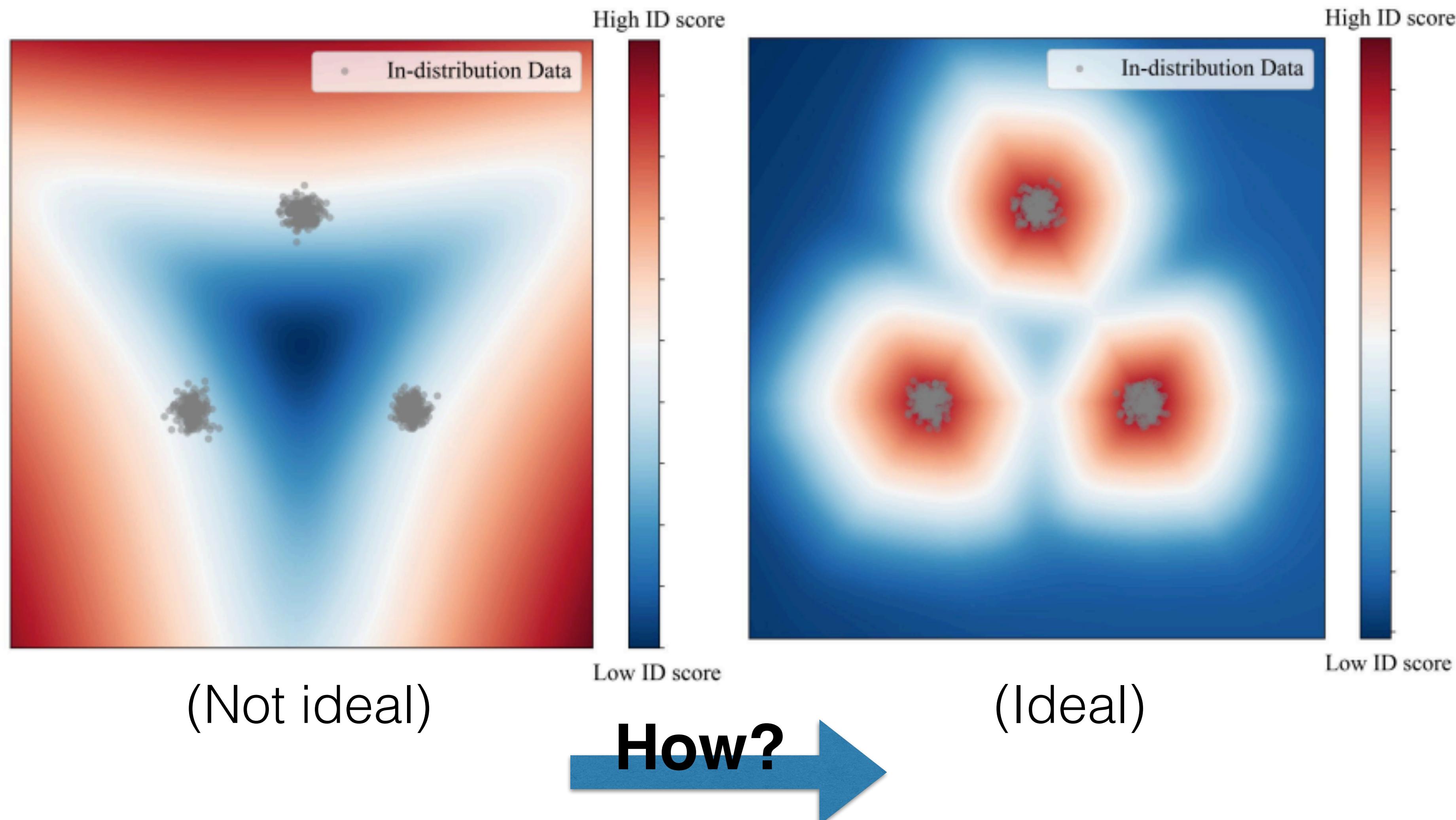
Uncertainty estimates of model  
trained using standard CE loss  
**(not ideal)**

Empirical risk minimization:

$$R_{\text{closed}}(f) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell(f(\mathbf{x}_i), y_i)$$
$$f^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{f \in \mathcal{F}} R_{\text{closed}}(f).$$

# Going beyond ERM

- We need training-time regularization that ***explicitly*** accounts for uncertainty outside ID data.



# Safety-aware learning objective

**Dual** objectives in learning (ID classification and OOD detection):

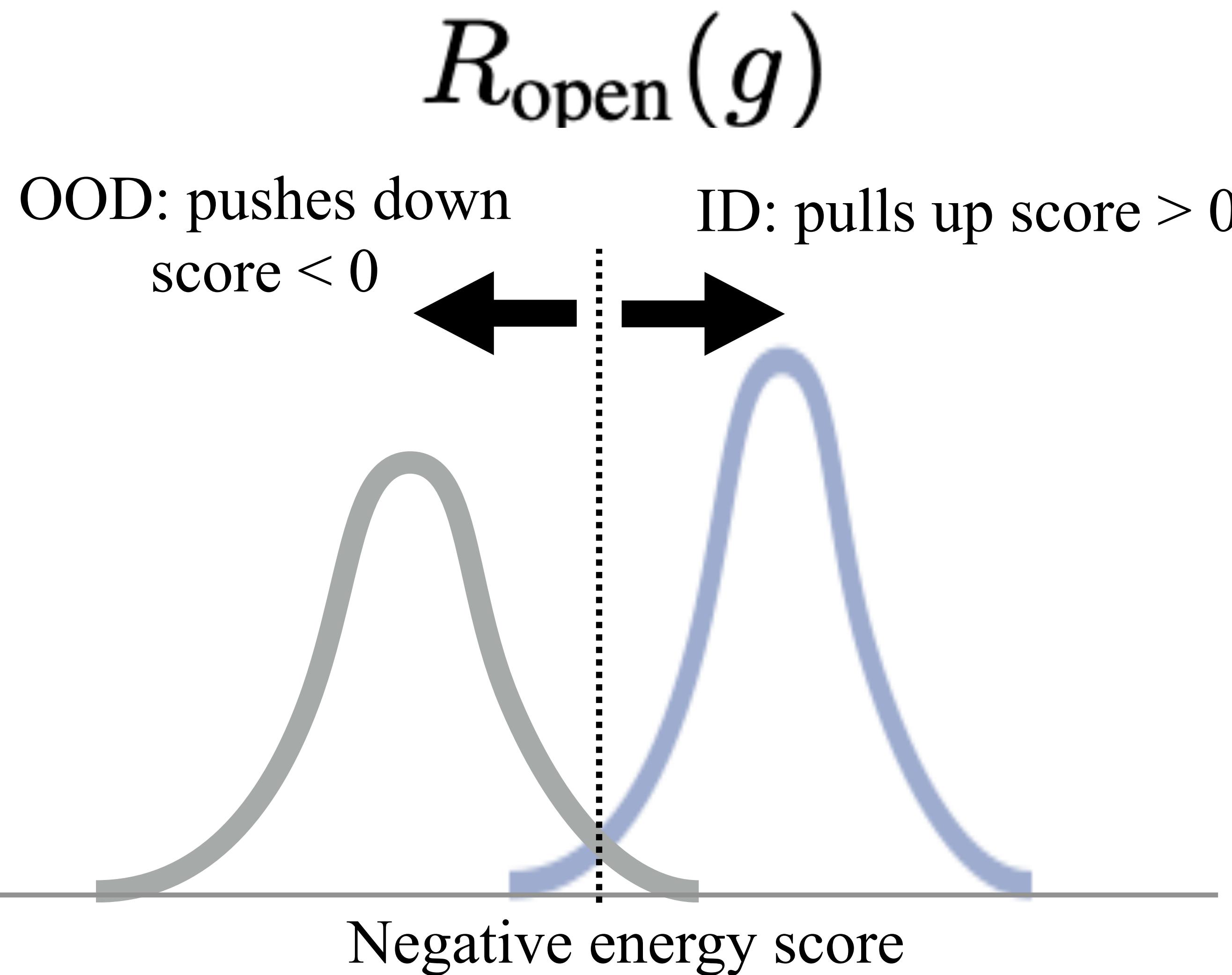
$$\operatorname{argmin} [ \underbrace{R_{\text{closed}}(f)}_{\text{Classification error on ID}} + \alpha \cdot \underbrace{R_{\text{open}}(g)}_{\text{Error of OOD detector}} ]$$

# Safety-aware learning objective

**Dual** objectives in learning (ID classification and OOD detection):

$$\operatorname{argmin} [ \underbrace{R_{\text{closed}}(f)}_{\text{Classification error on ID}} + \alpha \cdot \underbrace{R_{\text{open}}(g)}_{\text{Error of OOD detector}} ]$$

$$\operatorname{argmin} [ \underbrace{R_{\text{closed}}(f)}_{\text{Classification error on ID}} + \alpha \cdot \underbrace{R_{\text{open}}(g)}_{\text{Error of OOD detector}} ]$$



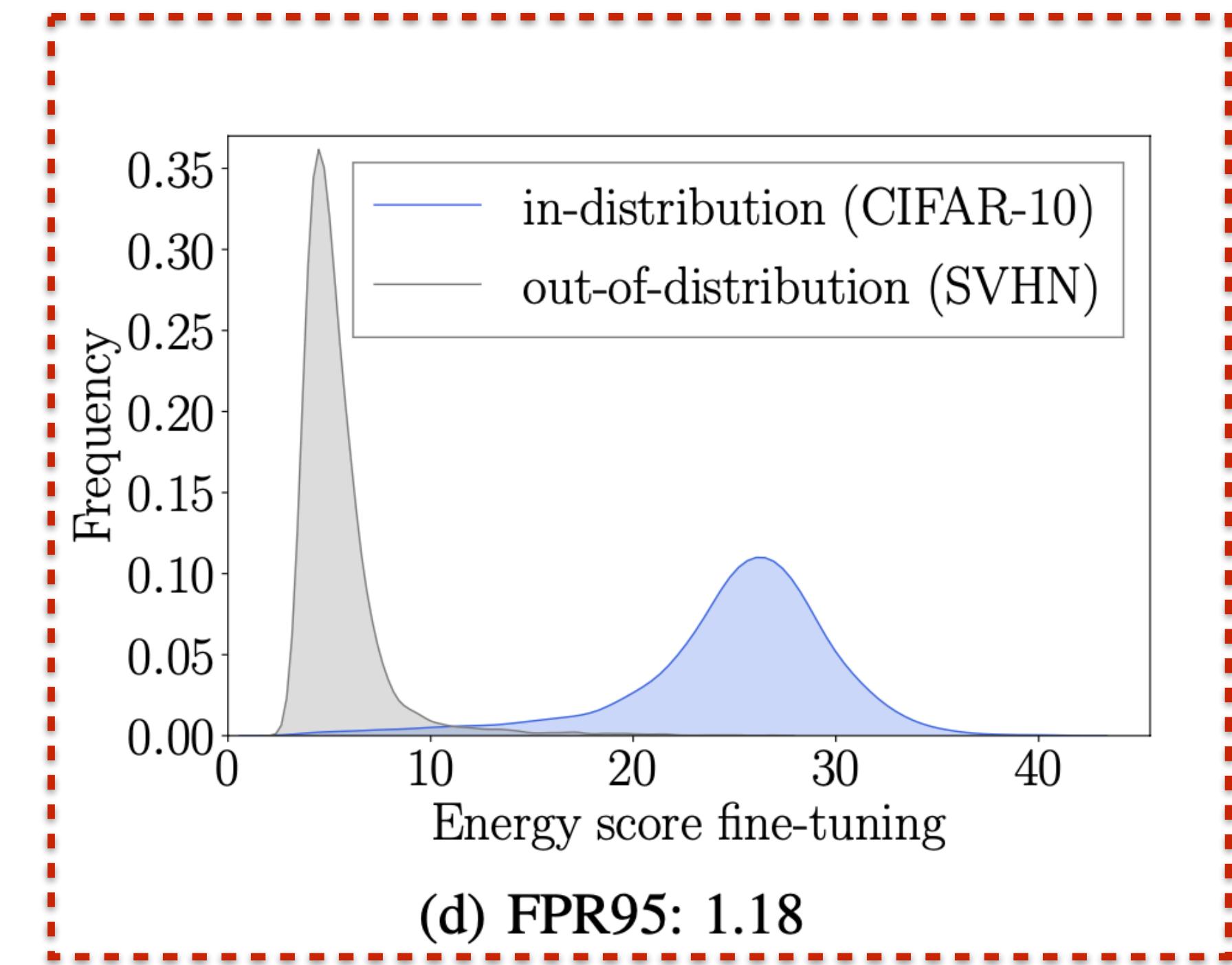
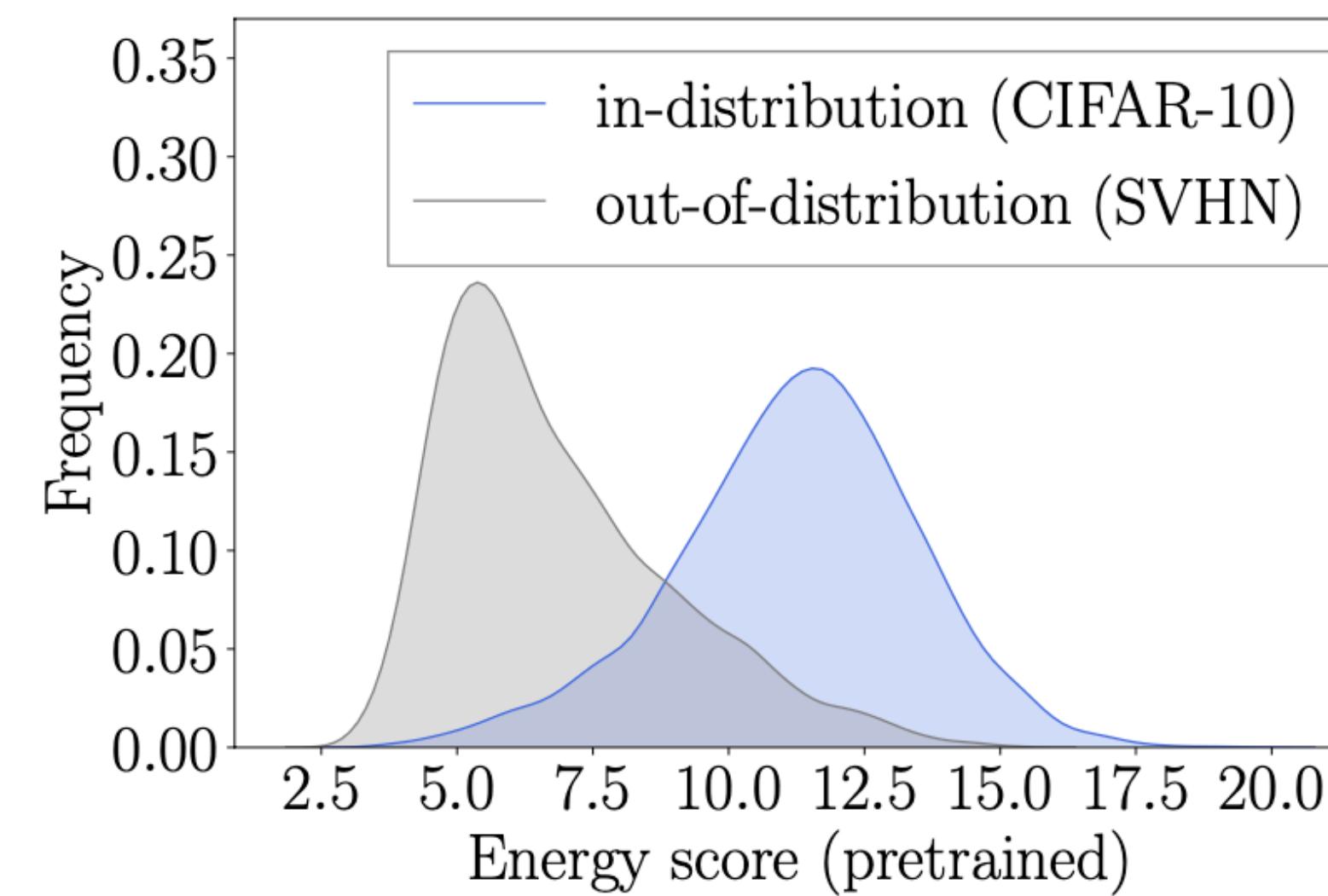
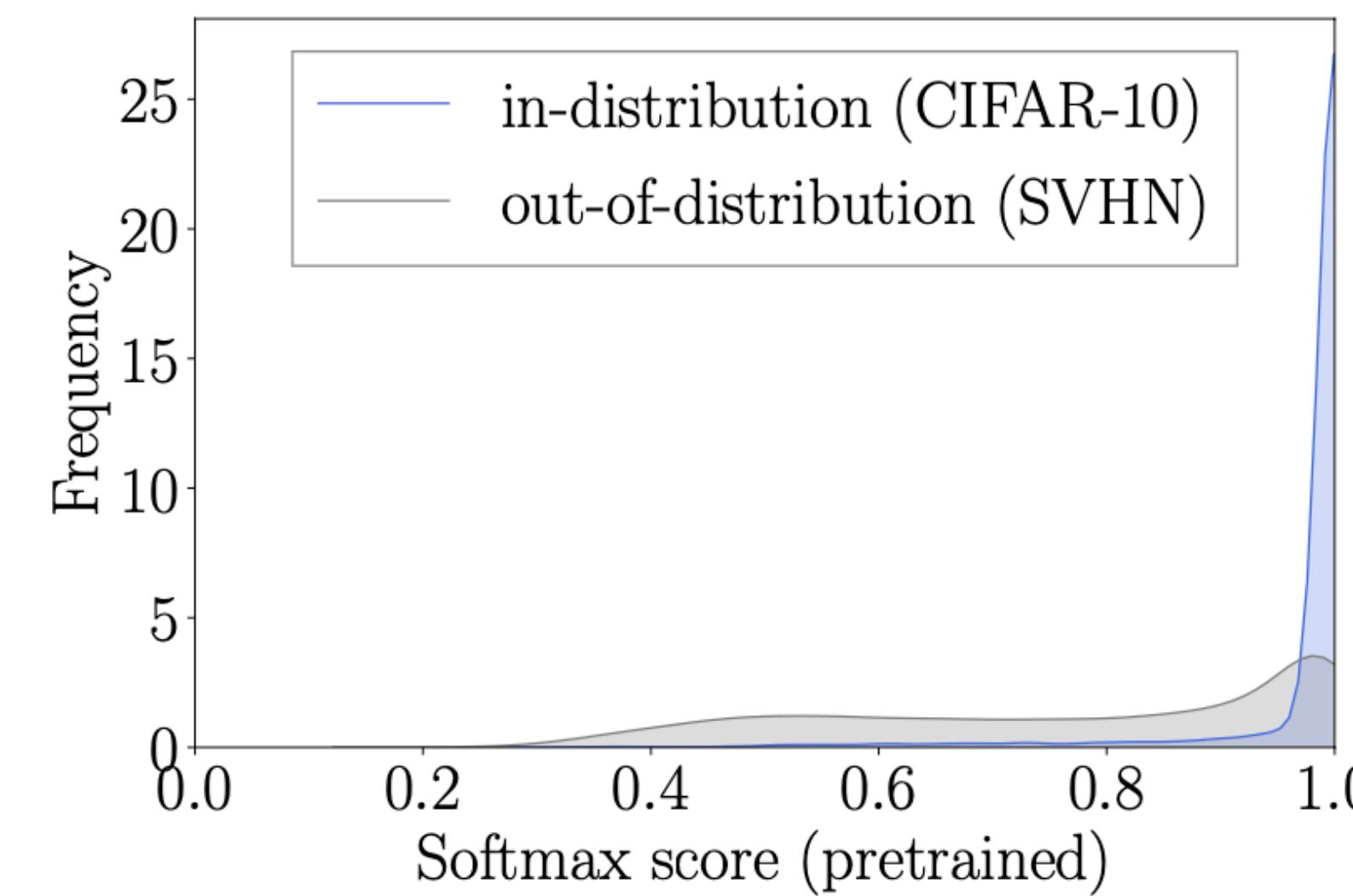
Recall that:

$$p(y|\mathbf{x}) = \frac{p(\mathbf{x}, y)}{p(\mathbf{x})} = \frac{e^{f_y(\mathbf{x}; \theta)}}{\sum_{k=1}^K e^{f_k(\mathbf{x}; \theta)}}$$

$$E(\mathbf{x}; \theta) := -\log \sum_{k=1}^K e^{f_k(\mathbf{x}; \theta)}$$

# Training-time Regularization Improves ID/OOD Separability

ID: CIFAR-10  
OOD: SVHN



**Caveat:** requires auxiliary outlier training data, which can be difficult to obtain

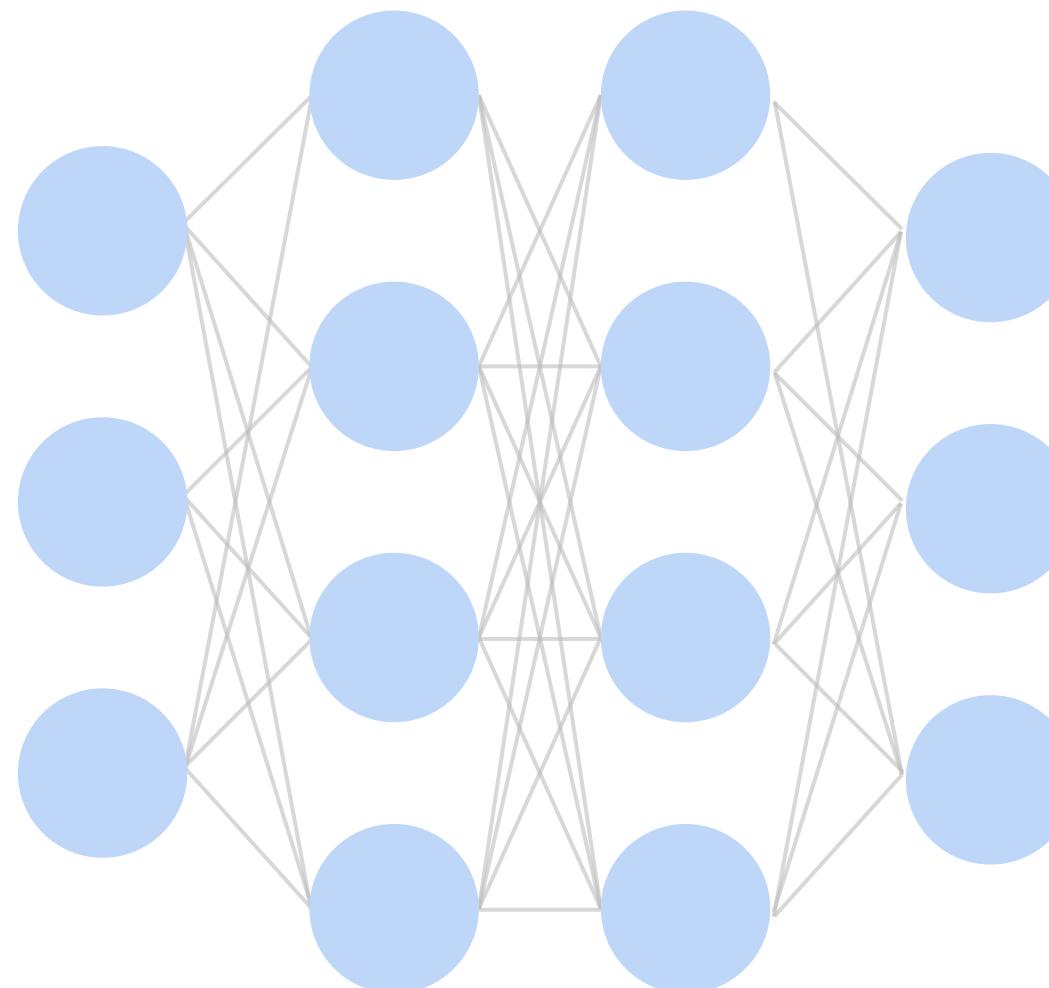
# How to obtain auxiliary OOD training data, for free?

# Tutorial Outline

- **Inference-time OOD detection**
  - Output-based methods
  - Distance-based methods
- **Training-time regularization for OOD detection**
  - Safety-aware learning objective
  - Synthesizing virtual outliers
  - Leveraging wild unlabeled data

# Virtual Outlier Synthesis

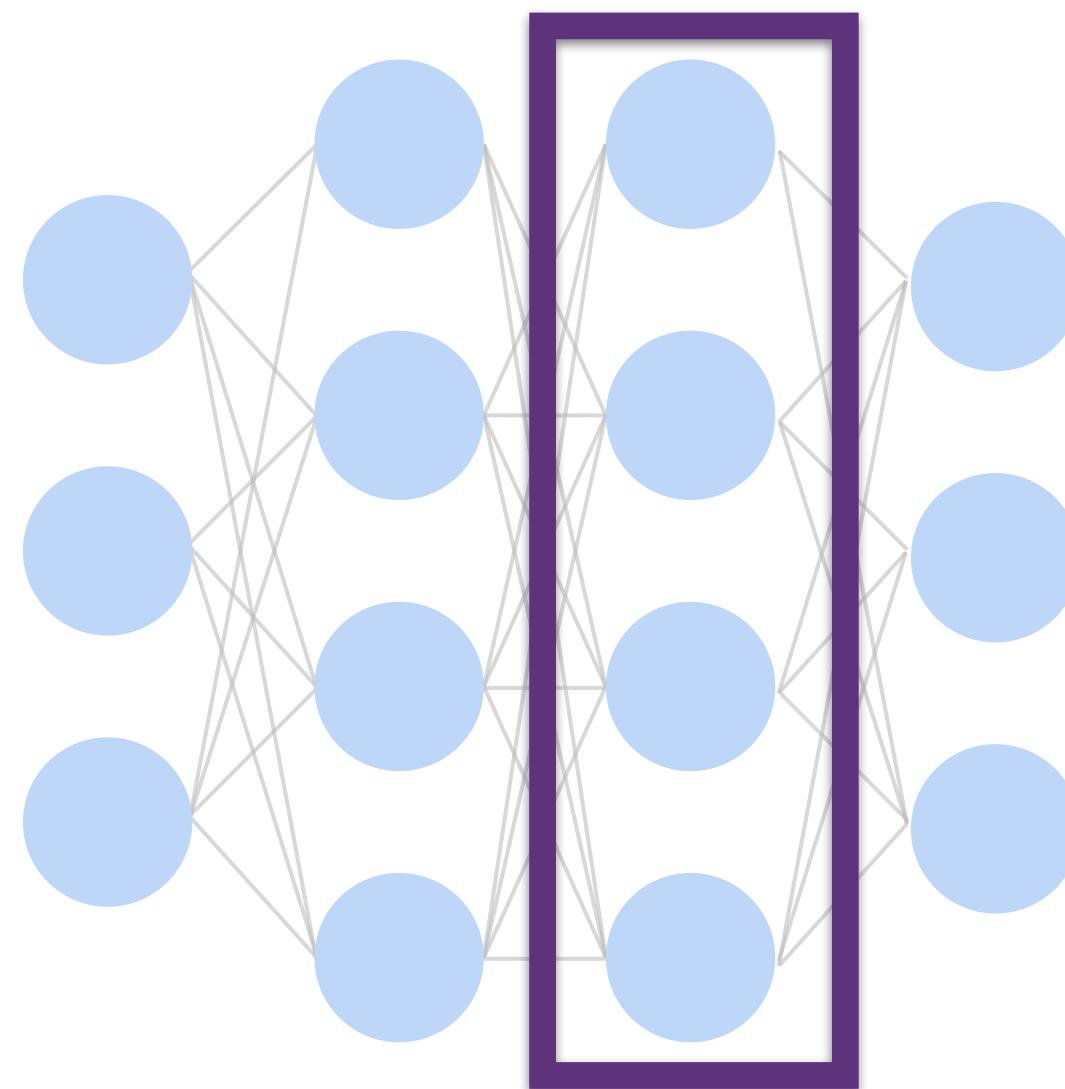
Sample low-likelihood data points in the **feature space** for model regularization



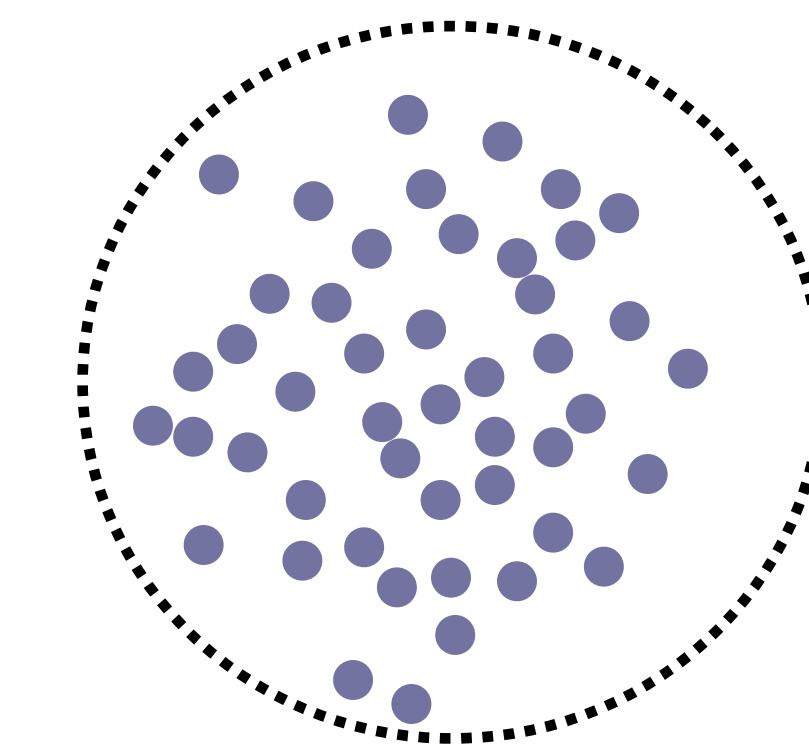
# Virtual Outlier Synthesis

Sample low-likelihood data points in the **feature space** for model regularization

Modeling feature representation as class-conditional Gaussian distribution



$$h(x; \theta)$$

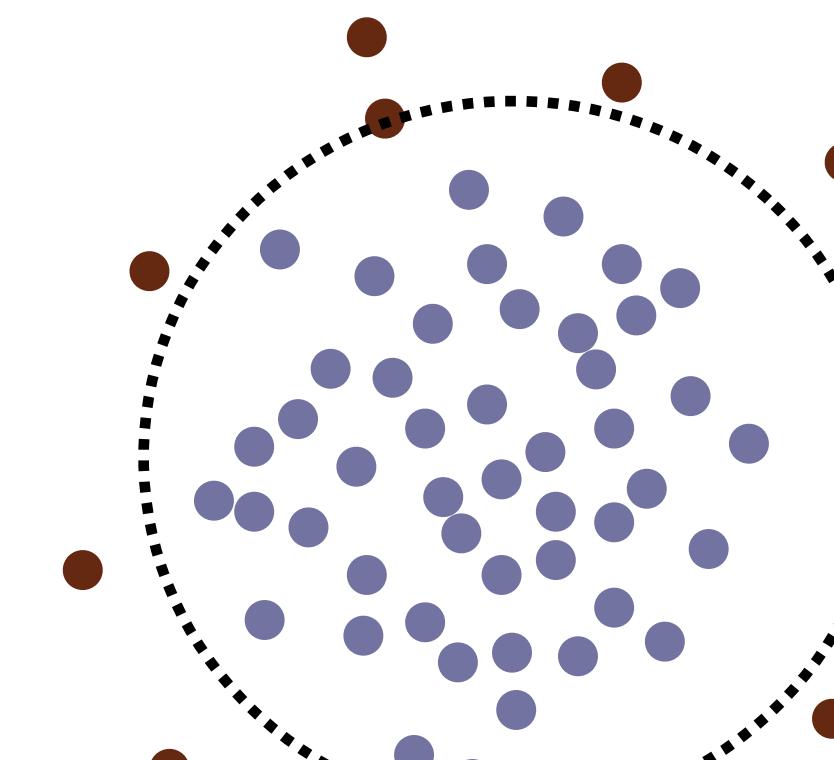
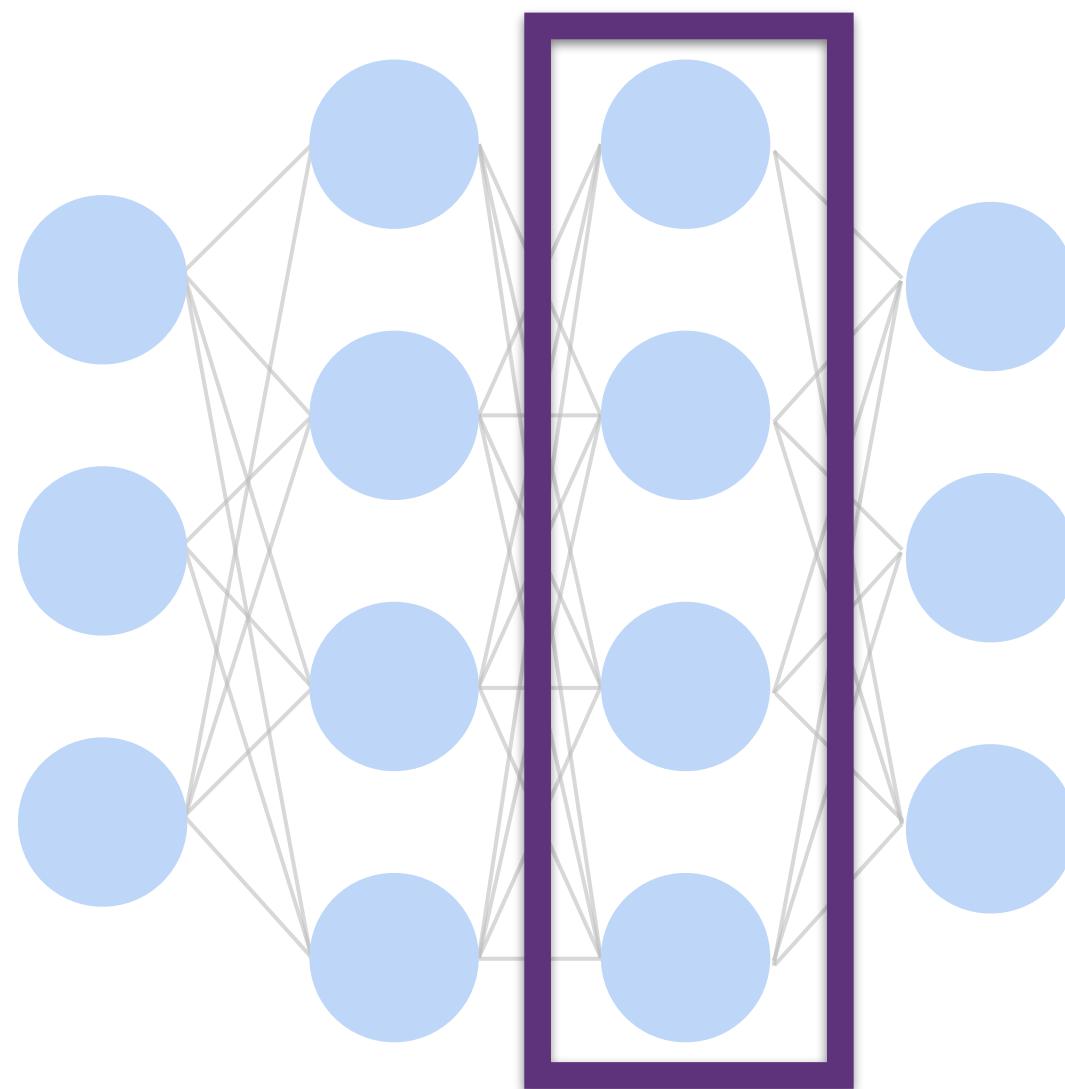


$$p_{\theta}(h(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{b}) | y = k) = \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$$

# Virtual Outlier Synthesis

Sample low-likelihood data points in the **feature space** for model regularization

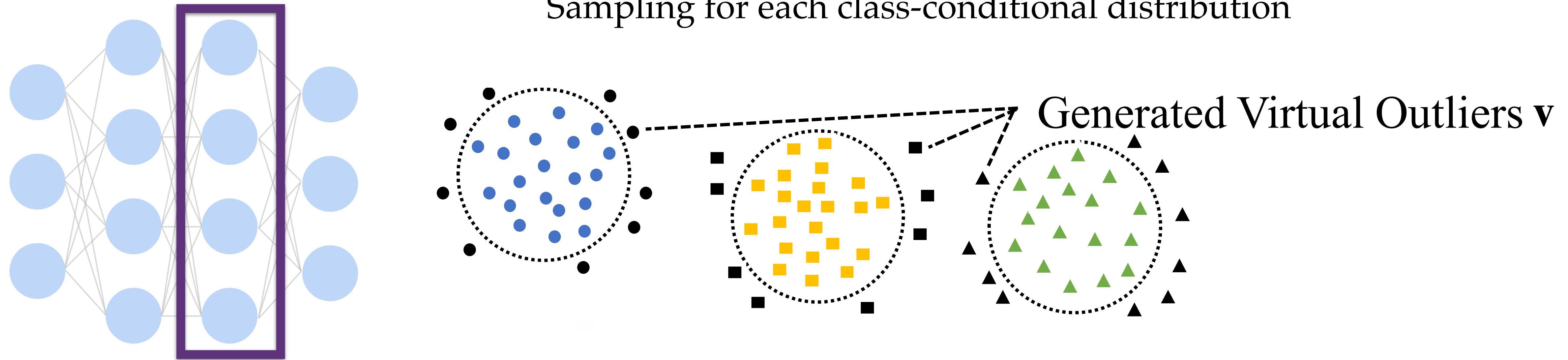
Sample virtual outliers from the class-conditional Gaussian distribution



$$\mathcal{V}_k = \{\mathbf{v}_k \mid \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{m/2} |\hat{\Sigma}|^{1/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{v}_k - \hat{\mu}_k)^\top \hat{\Sigma}^{-1} (\mathbf{v}_k - \hat{\mu}_k)\right) < \epsilon\}$$

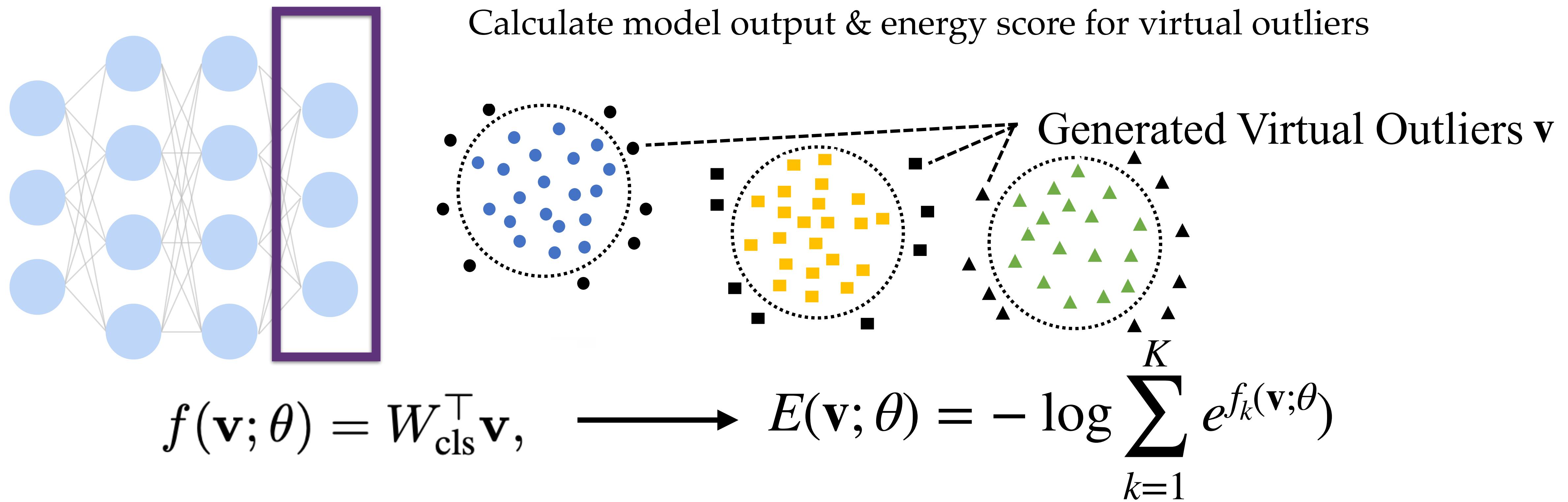
# Virtual Outlier Synthesis

Sample low-likelihood data points in the **feature space** for model regularization



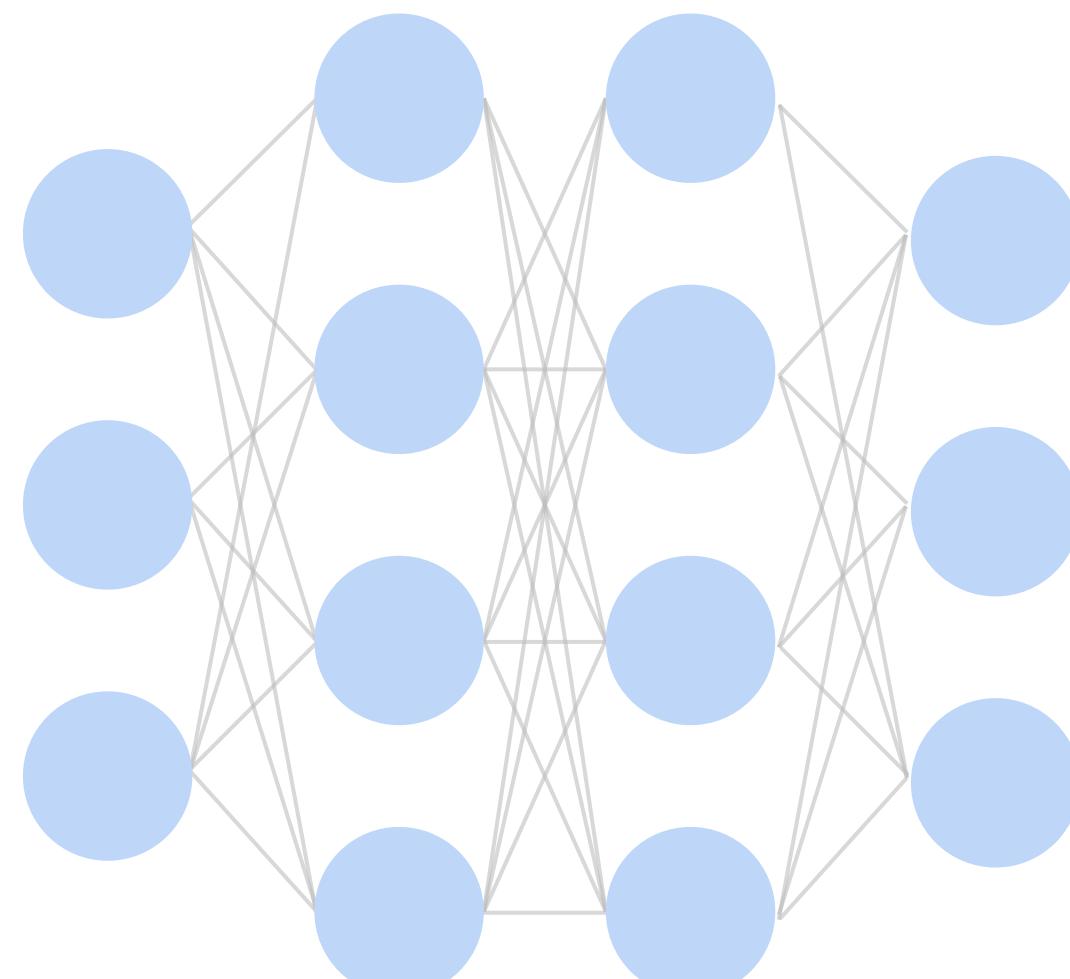
# Virtual Outlier Synthesis

Sample low-likelihood data points in the **feature space** for model regularization



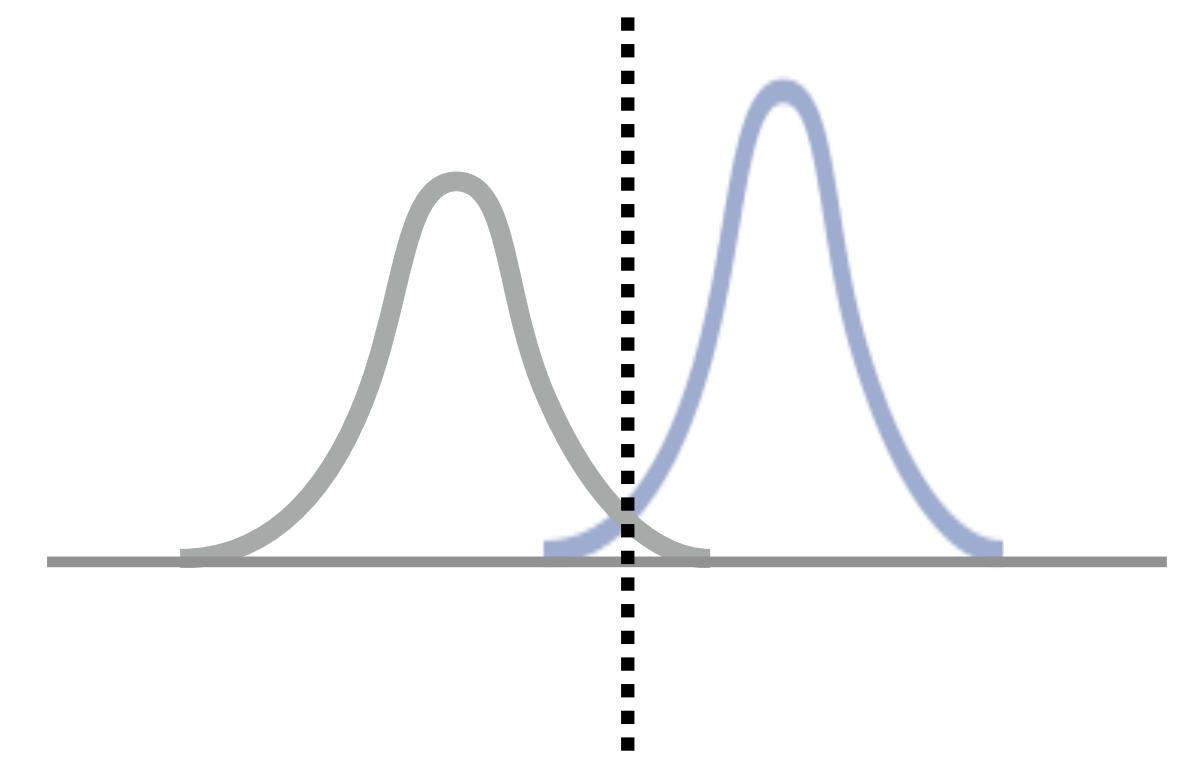
# Learning Objective with Virtual Outliers

Our learning framework **jointly** optimizes for both: (1) accurate classification of samples from ID, and (2) reliable detection of data from outside ID.

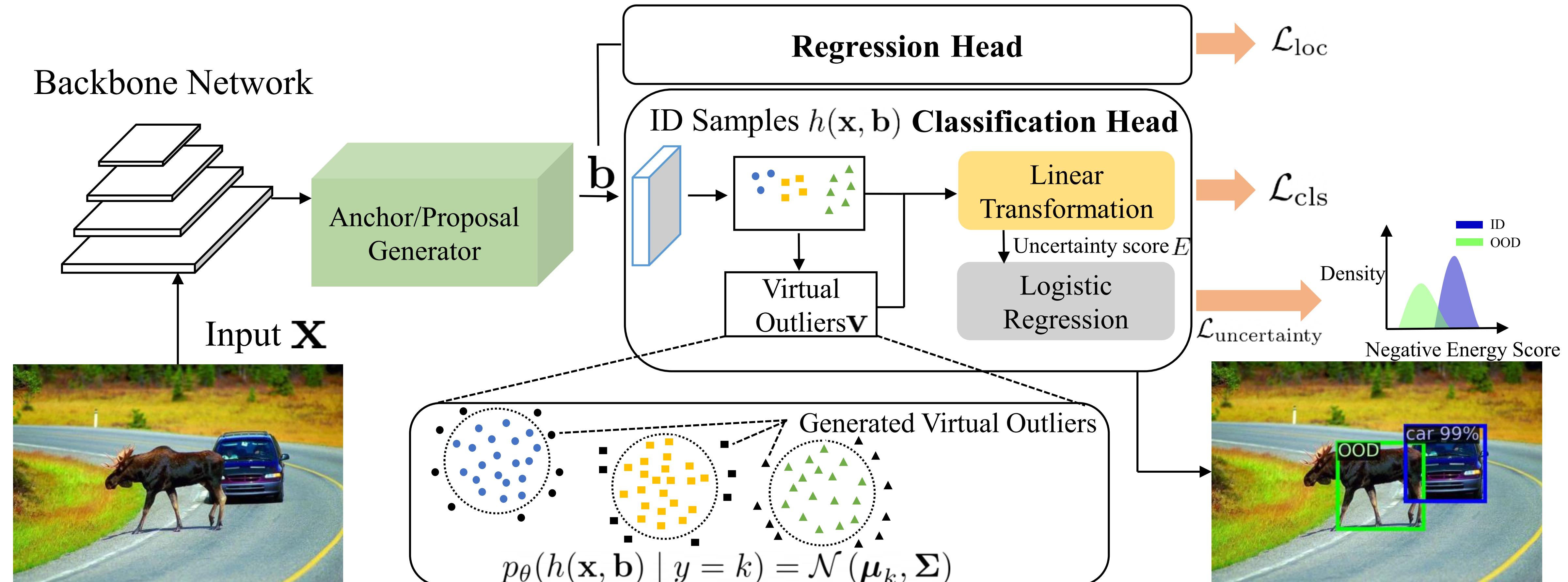


$$\operatorname{argmin} [ \underbrace{R_{\text{closed}}(f)}_{\text{Classification error on ID}} + \alpha \cdot \underbrace{R_{\text{open}}(g)}_{\text{Error of OOD detector}} ]$$

$$R_{\text{open}}(g) = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{v} \sim \mathcal{V}} \mathbb{1}\{E(\mathbf{v}; \theta) > 0\} + \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x} \sim \mathcal{D}} \mathbb{1}\{E(\mathbf{x}; \theta) \leq 0\}$$

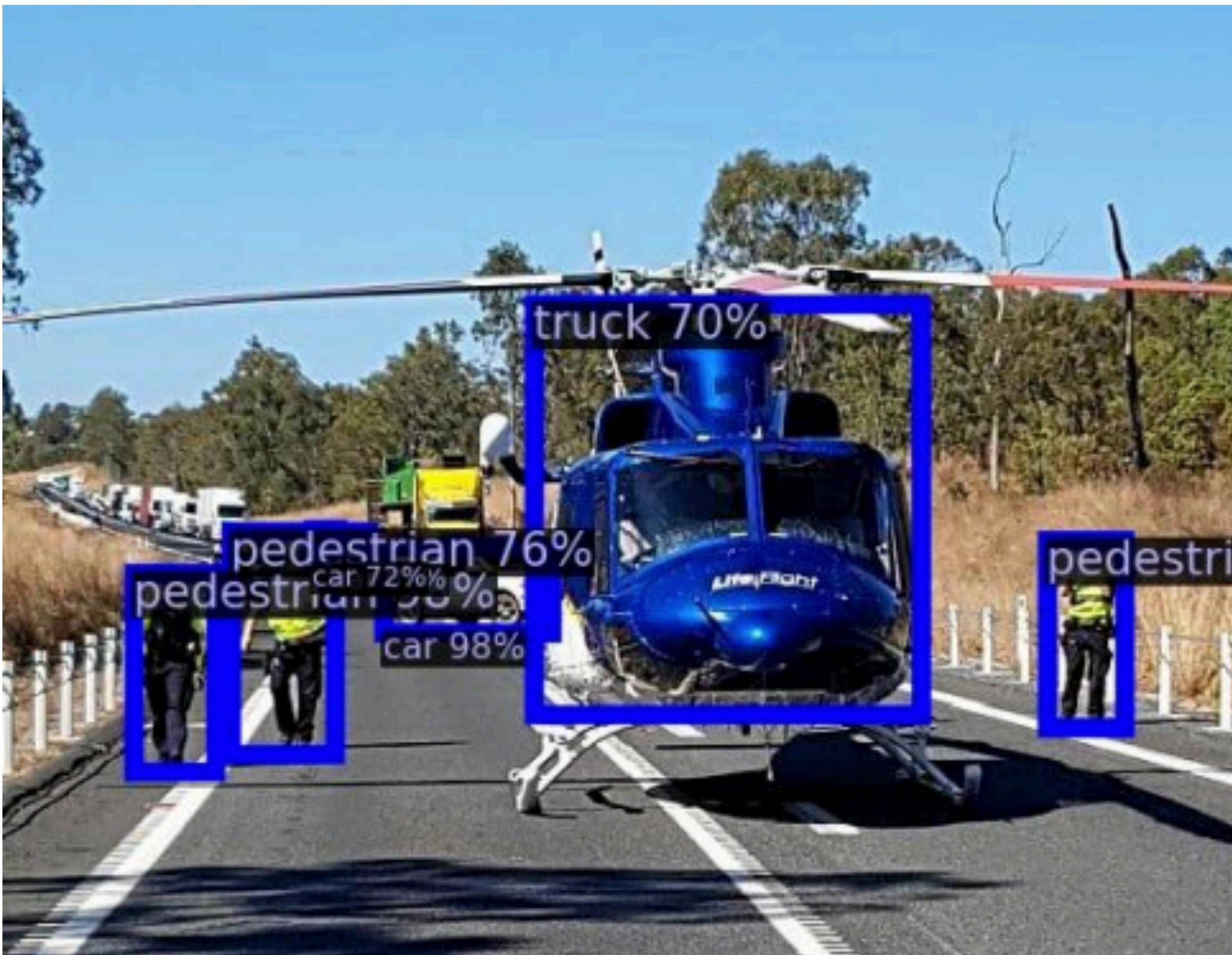


# Virtual Outlier Synthesis for Object Detection



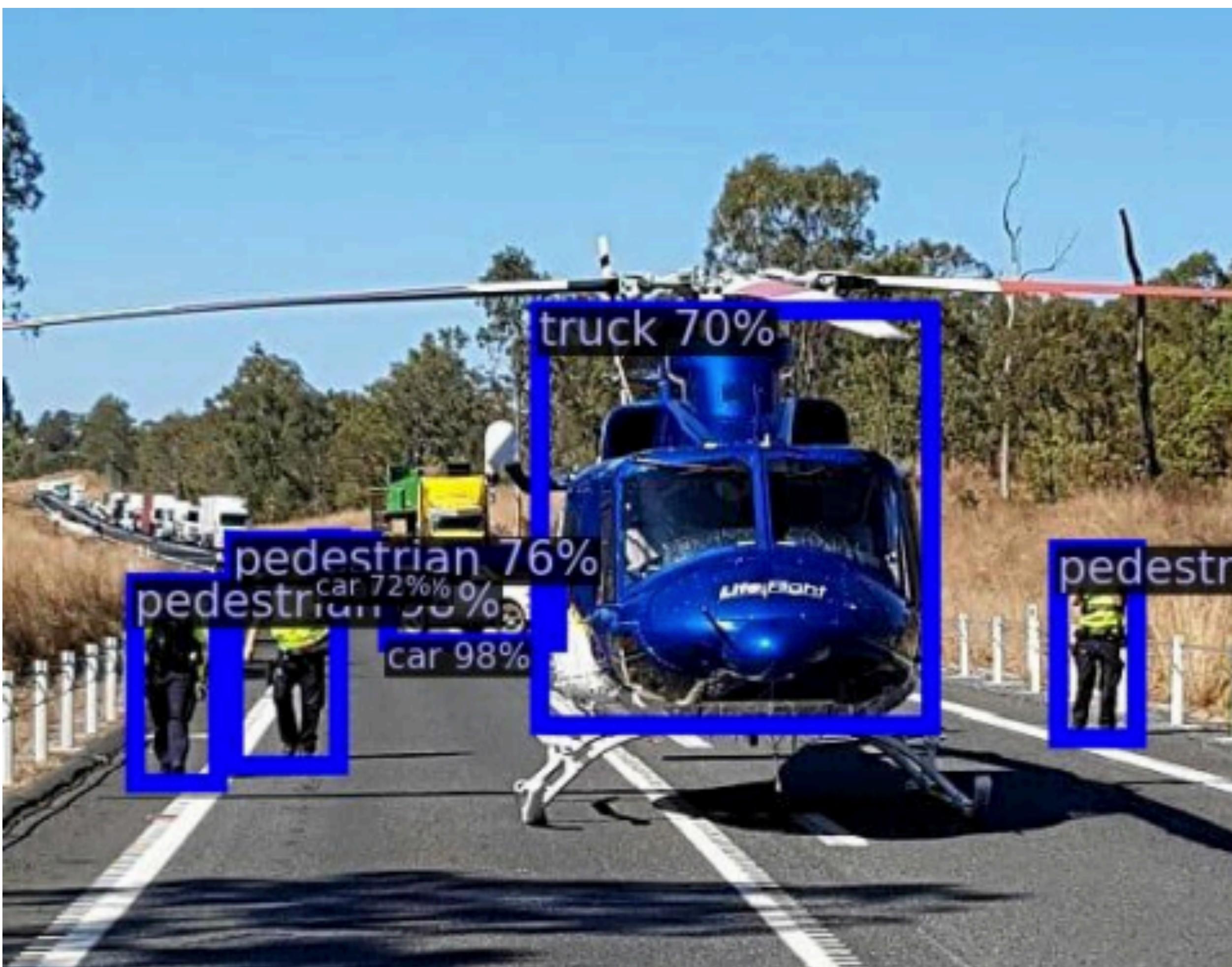
VOS is a general learning framework that is suitable for both object detection and image classification tasks.

# Results

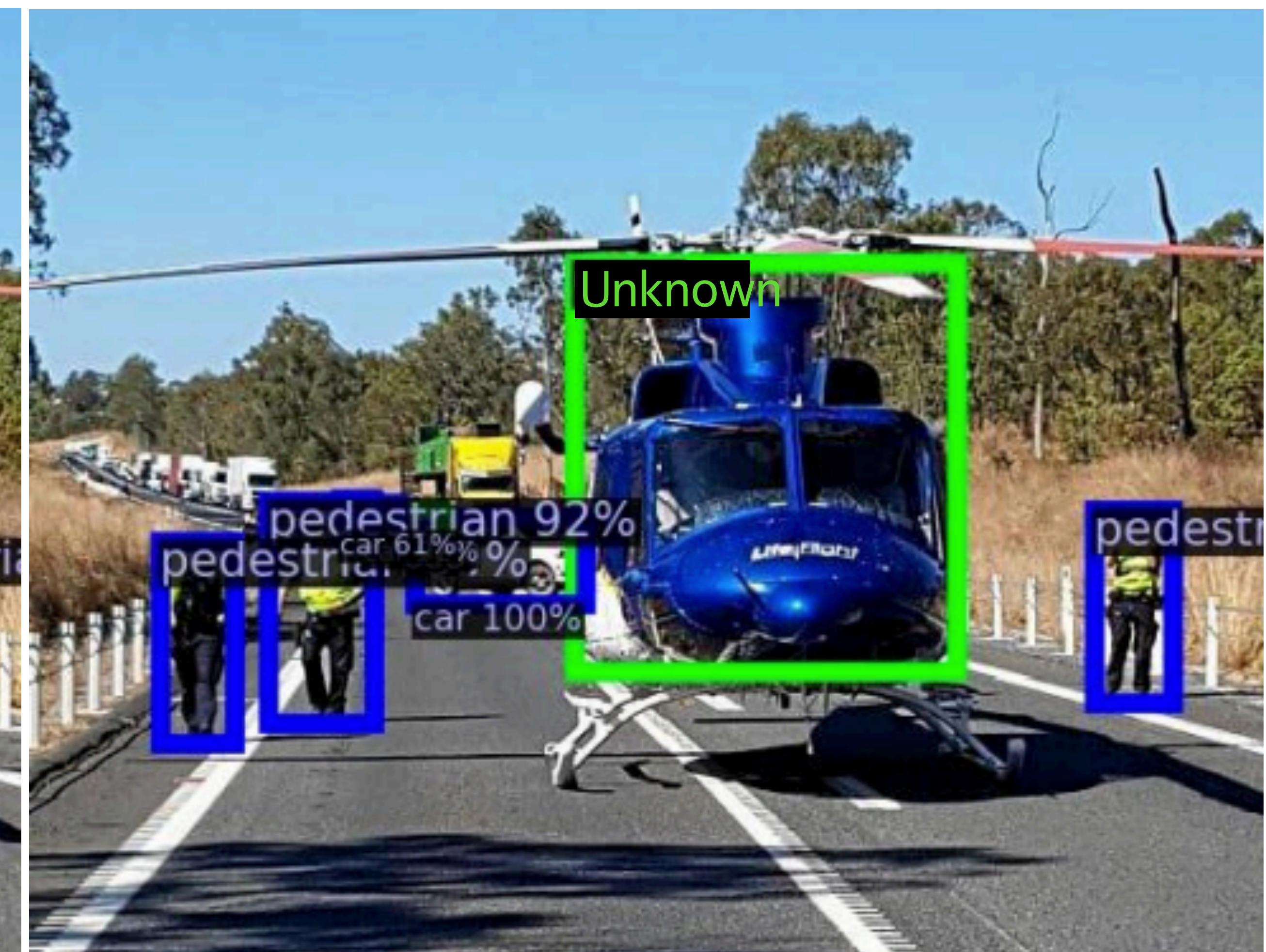


Without VOS

# Results



Without VOS



With VOS

# Non-Parametric Outlier Synthesis

## NON-PARAMETRIC OUTLIER SYNTHESIS

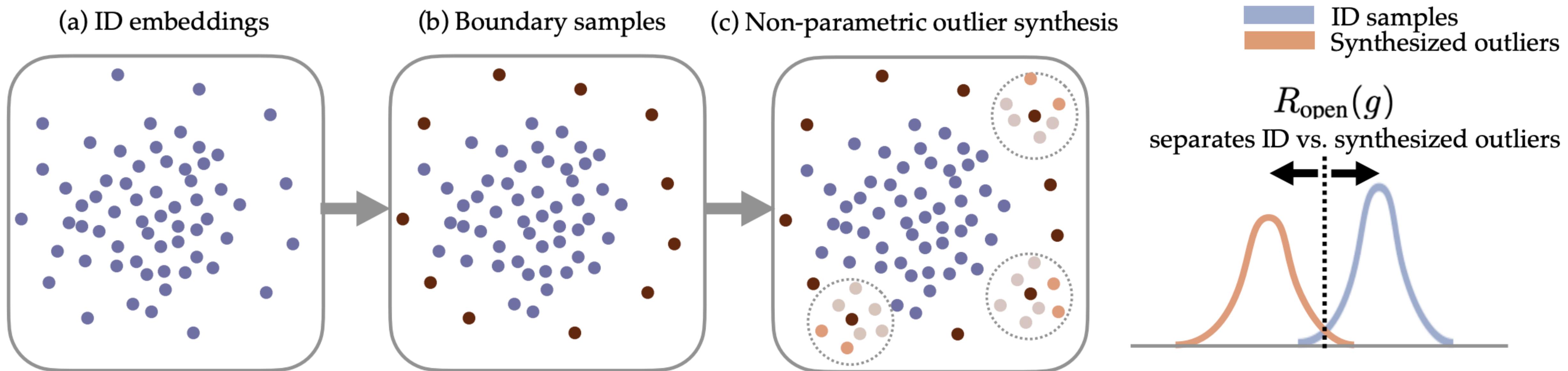
**Anonymous authors**

Paper under double-blind review

### ABSTRACT

Out-of-distribution (OOD) detection is indispensable for safely deploying machine learning models in the wild. One of the key challenges is that models lack supervision signals from unknown data, and as a result, can produce overconfident predictions on OOD data. Recent work on outlier synthesis modeled the feature space as parametric Gaussian distribution, a strong and restrictive assumption that might not hold in reality. In this paper, we propose a novel framework, *non-parametric outlier synthesis* (NPOS), which generates artificial OOD training data and facilitates learning a reliable decision boundary between ID and OOD data. Importantly, our proposed synthesis approach does not make any distributional assumption on the ID embeddings, thereby offering strong flexibility and generality. We show that our synthesis approach can be mathematically interpreted as a rejection sampling framework. Extensive experiments show that NPOS can achieve superior OOD detection performance, outperforming the competitive rivals by a significant margin.

# Non-Parametric Outlier Synthesis



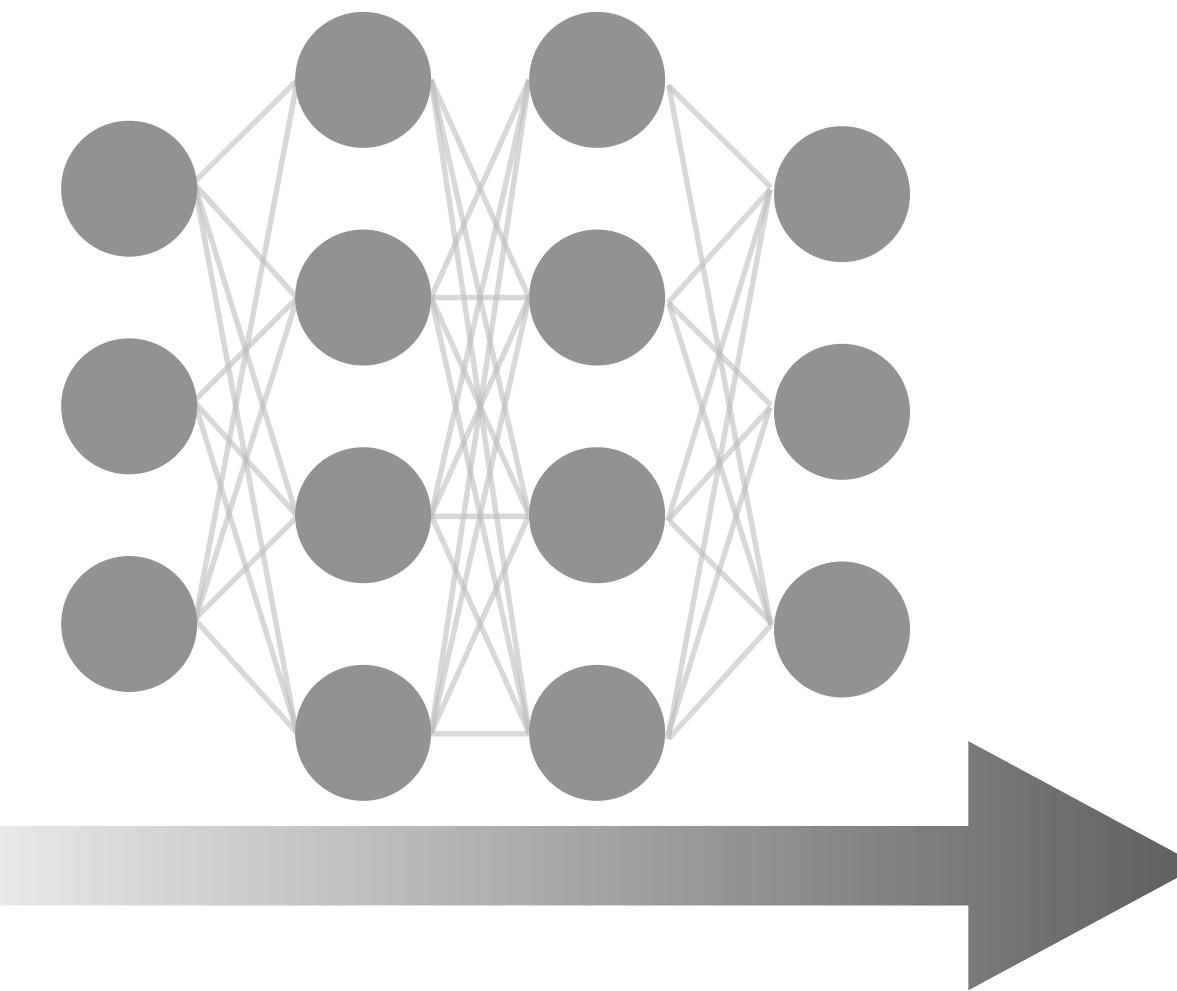
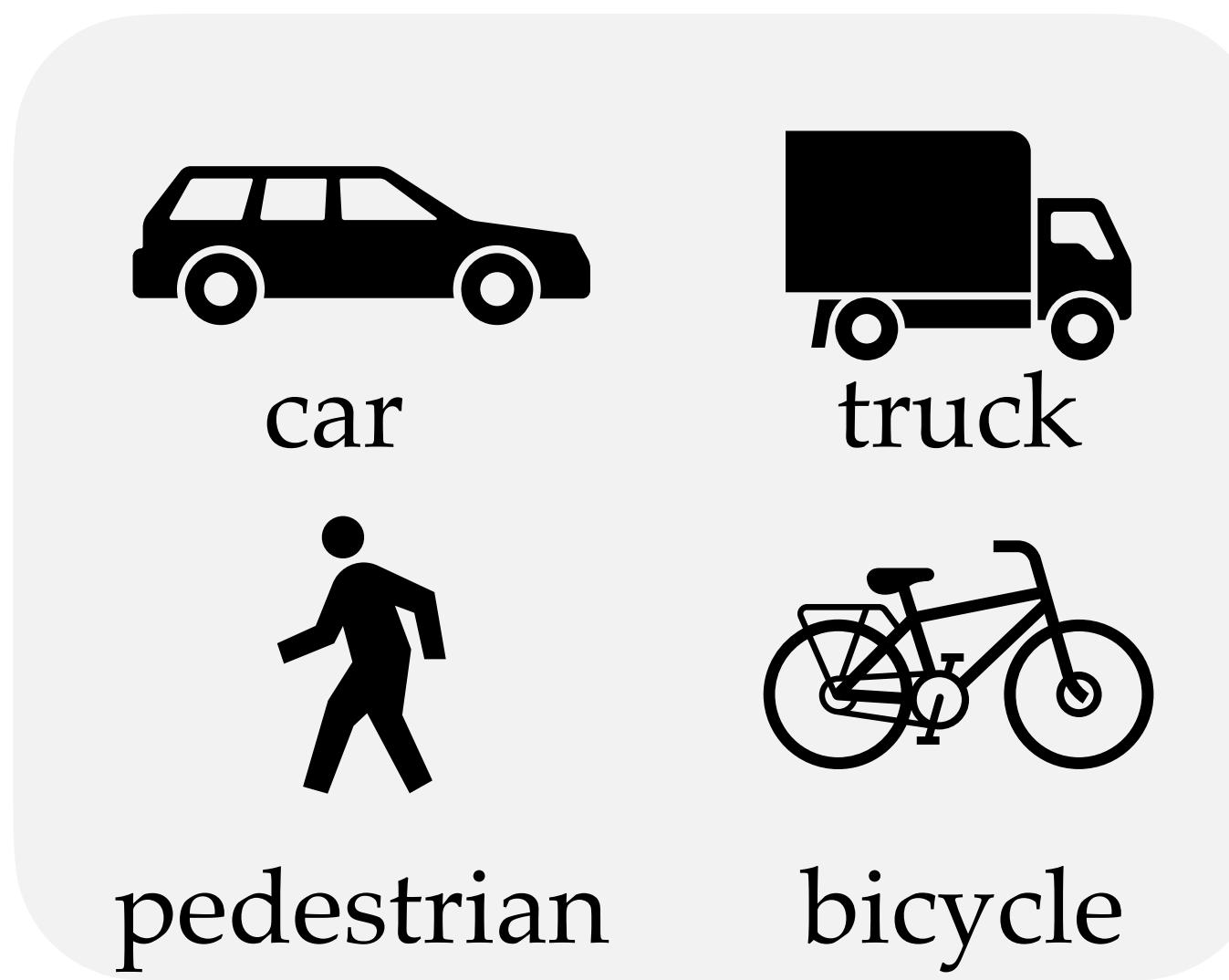
Sampling virtual outliers **without making distributional assumption** about feature embedding. Strong generality and flexibility.

How to obtain **natural** outlier training data, for free?

# Tutorial Outline

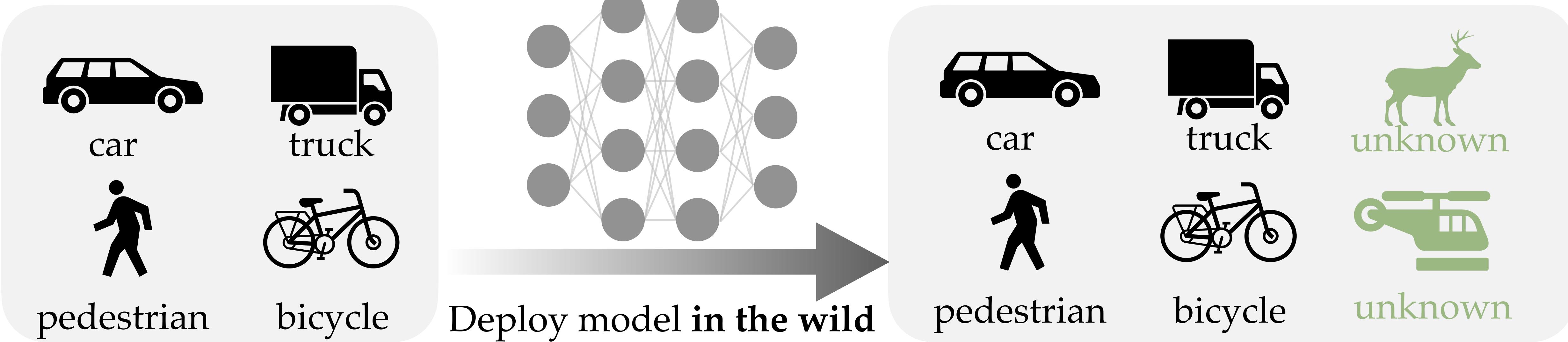
- **Inference-time OOD detection**
  - Output-based methods
  - Distance-based methods
- **Training-time regularization for OOD detection**
  - Safety-aware learning objective
  - Synthesizing virtual outliers
  - Leveraging wild unlabeled data

# Leveraging Wild Unlabeled Data for OOD Detection



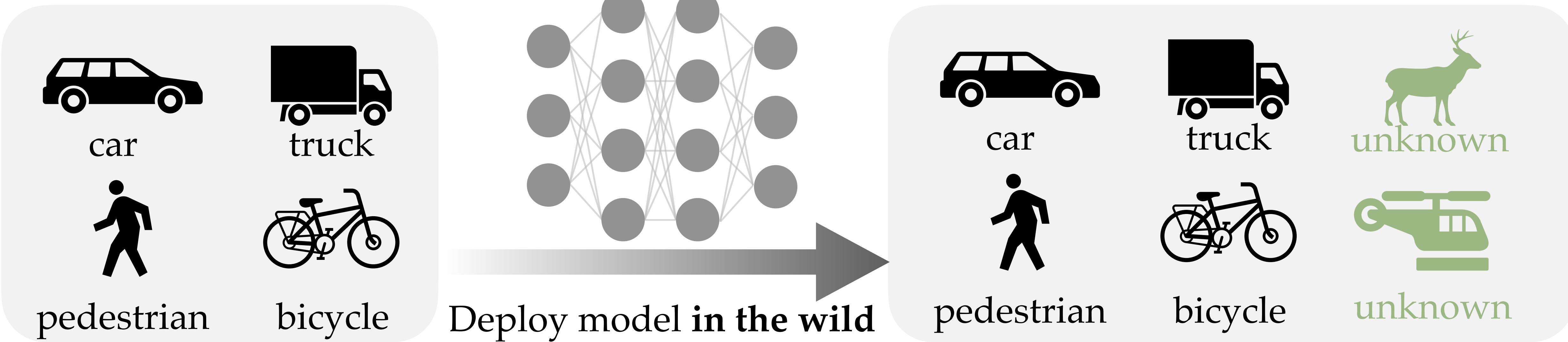
Deploy model **in the wild**

# Leveraging Wild Unlabeled Data for OOD Detection



**Advantages:** (1) data is available in abundance, (2) does not require any human annotation, and (3) is often a much better match to the true test time distribution than data collected offline.

# Leveraging Wild Unlabeled Data for OOD Detection



**Challenges:** Wild data is not pure, and consists of both ID data and OOD data

$$\mathbb{P}_{\text{wild}} := (1 - \pi)\mathbb{P}_{\text{in}} + \pi\mathbb{P}_{\text{out}}$$

# Training OOD Detectors in their Natural Habitats

Julian Katz-Samuels <sup>\* 1</sup> Julia Nakhleh <sup>\* 2</sup> Robert Nowak <sup>3</sup> Yixuan Li <sup>2</sup>

## Abstract

Out-of-distribution (OOD) detection is important for machine learning models deployed in the wild. Recent methods use auxiliary outlier data to regularize the model for improved OOD detection.

## Unknown-Aware Object Detection: Learning What You Don't Know from Videos in the Wild

Xuefeng Du<sup>1</sup>, Xin Wang<sup>2</sup>, Gabriel Gozum<sup>1</sup>, and Yixuan Li<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Wisconsin-Madison, <sup>2</sup>Microsoft Research

{xfdu, sharonli}@cs.wisc.edu, wanxin@microsoft.com, ggozum@wisc.edu

## Abstract

*Building reliable object detectors that can detect out-of-distribution (OOD) objects is critical yet underexplored. One of the key challenges is that models lack supervision signals from unknown data, producing overconfident predictions on OOD objects. We propose a new unknown-aware object detection framework through Spatial-Temporal Unknown Distillation (STUD), which dis-*



Figure 1. (a) Vanilla object detectors can predict OOD objects (e.g., deer) as an ID class (e.g., pedestrian) with high confidence.

[1] Katz-Samuels et al., *Training OOD Detectors in their Natural Habitats*, ICML 2022

[2] Du et al., *Unknown-Aware Object Detection: Learning What You Don't Know from Videos in the Wild*, CVPR 2022

[3] Bai et al., *Feed Two Birds with One Scone: Exploiting Wild Data for Both OOD Generalization and Detection*, ICML 2023

# Summary

- **Inference-time OOD detection**
  - Output-based methods
  - Distance-based methods
- **Training-time regularization for OOD detection**
  - Safety-aware learning objective
  - Synthesizing virtual outliers
  - Leveraging wild unlabeled data



**Thank you!**  
[sharonli@cs.wisc.edu](mailto:sharonli@cs.wisc.edu)