

# Taming False Positives in Out-of-Distribution Detection with Human Feedback

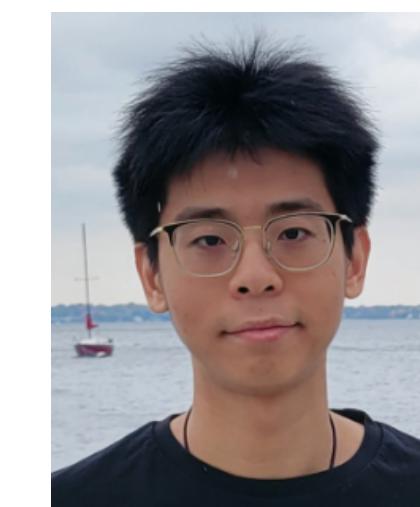
AISTATS 2024

Harit Vishwakarma

CS Ph.D. Student

[hvishwakarma@cs.wisc.edu](mailto:hvishwakarma@cs.wisc.edu)

Joint work with



Heguang Lin

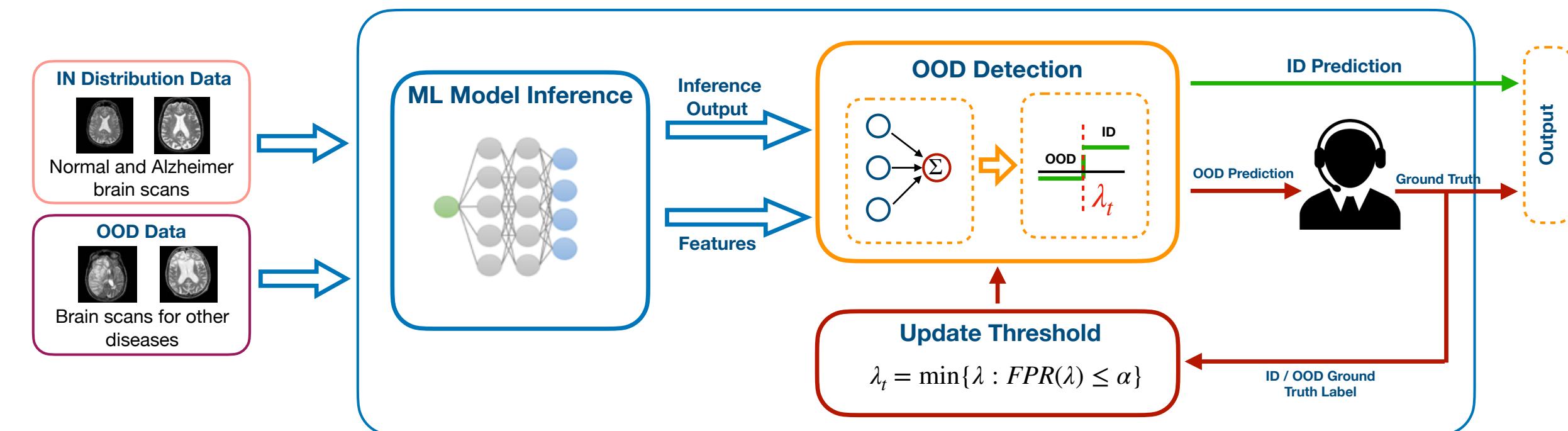


Ramya Korlakai Vinayak

# TL;DR

- ML models are subject to OOD points after deployment.
- Hard to anticipate all kinds of OOD data and prepare for that.
- Prior works, construct OOD scoring function and set threshold on the scores to achieve 95% TPR
  - We observe, this leads to high FPR.
- We propose to adapt the threshold to maintain FPR below 5% at all times.
  - Use any-time valid confidence sequences to guarantee this.
  - Validate empirically.

ID : Positive  
OOD : Negative



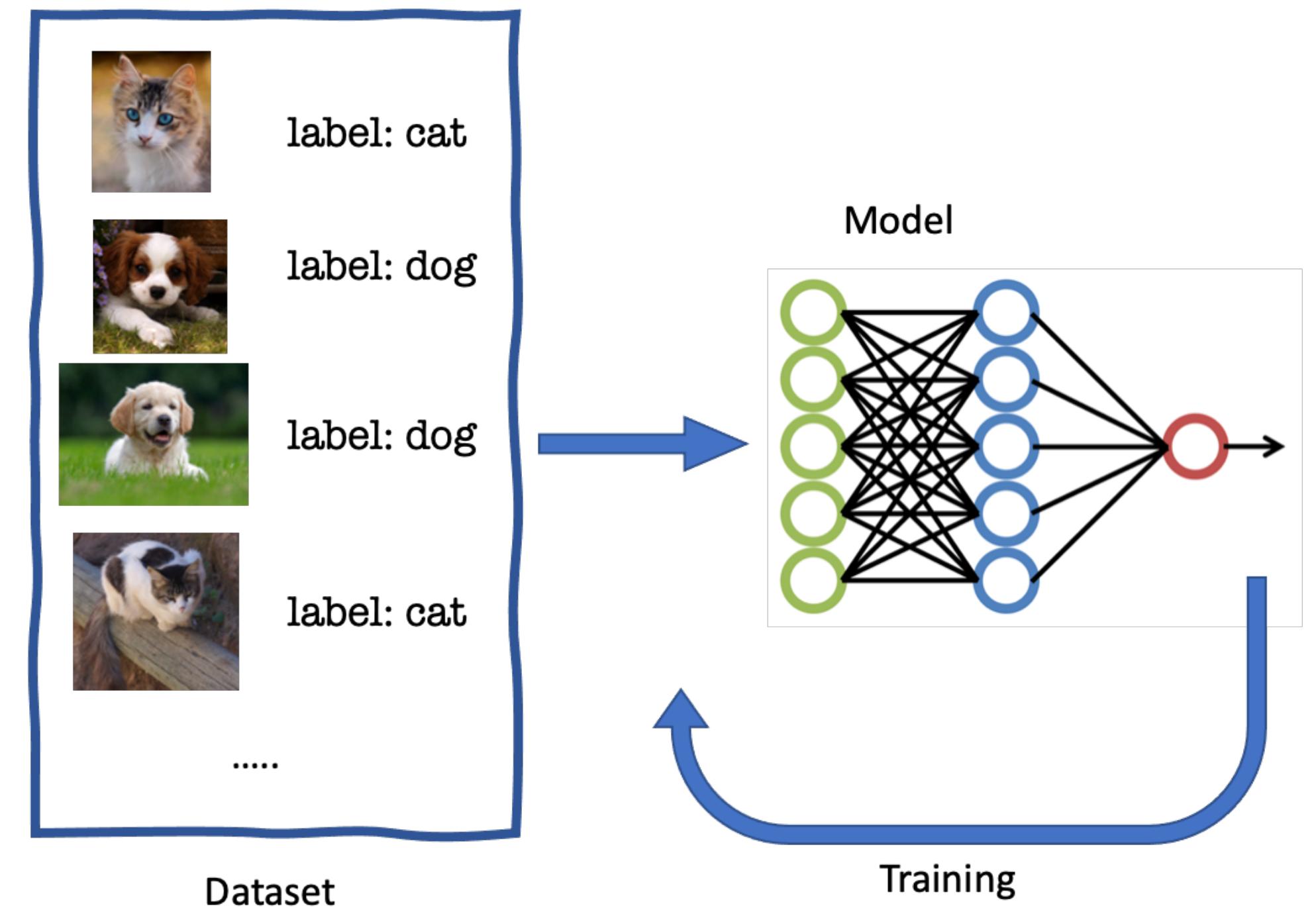
# Outline

- Motivation for OOD detection and FPR control
- Our framework for human-in-the-loop OOD detection
- Theoretical guarantees on controlling FPR
- Works well in practice — experiments on synthetic and real scoring functions

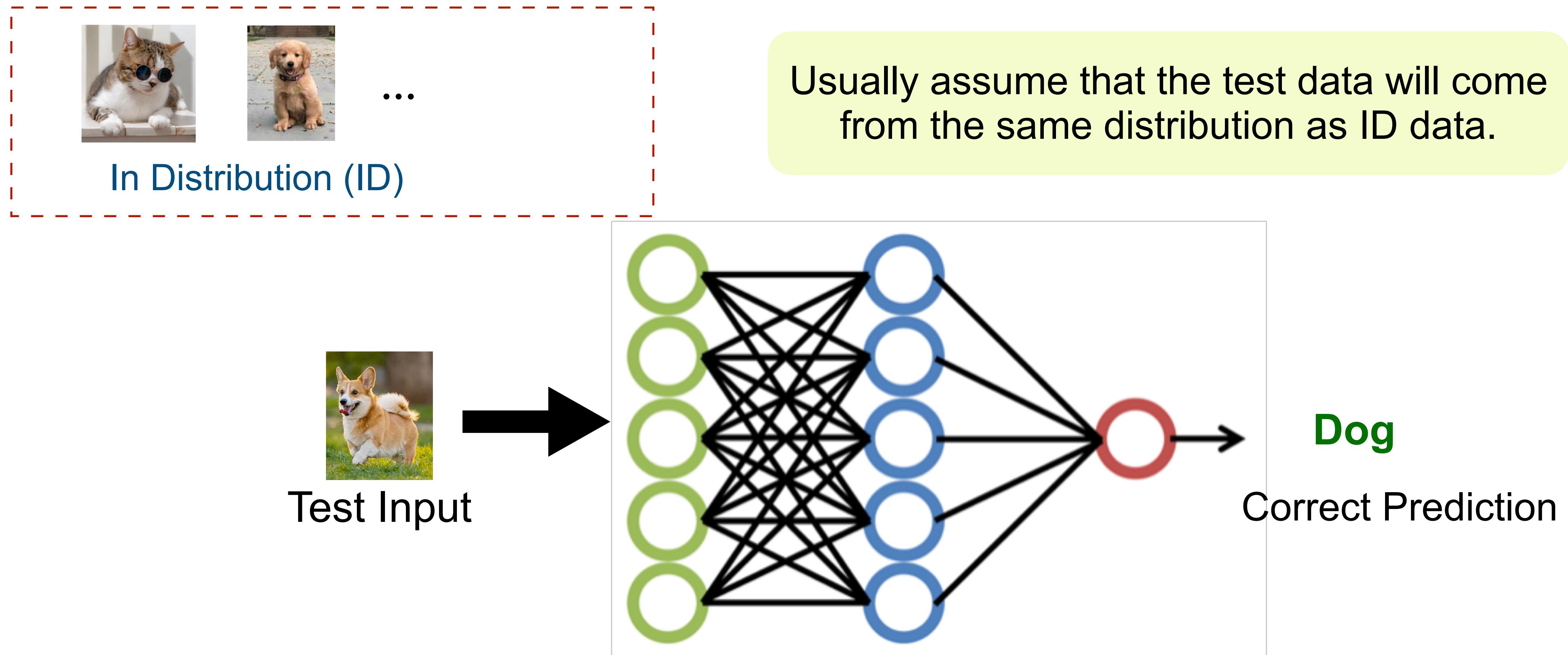
# Supervised machine learning (ML)

## Training to Deployment

- Supervised ML models are trained on labeled datasets
- Validation / Model selection on data from same distribution.
- Deploy the model after training and model selection.
- Generalization to unseen data is guaranteed when it is coming iid from the **same distribution as training data**



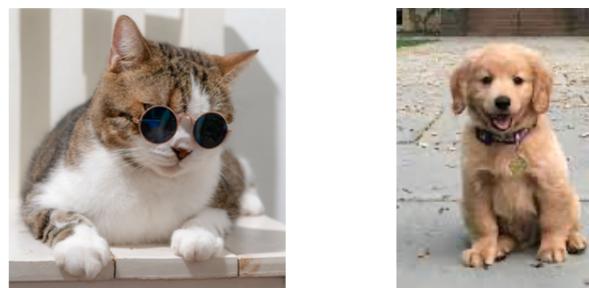
# Expectation: Test data matches training data



# Reality: (i) Test data might not match training data

The test data may have samples from different distributions.

$\mathcal{D}_{\text{in}}$  : distribution of ID data



...

**Expected Test Data**

$\mathcal{D}_{\text{ood}}$  : distribution of OOD data



...

$$x \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} (1 - \gamma) \mathcal{D}_{\text{in}} + \gamma \mathcal{D}_{\text{ood}}$$

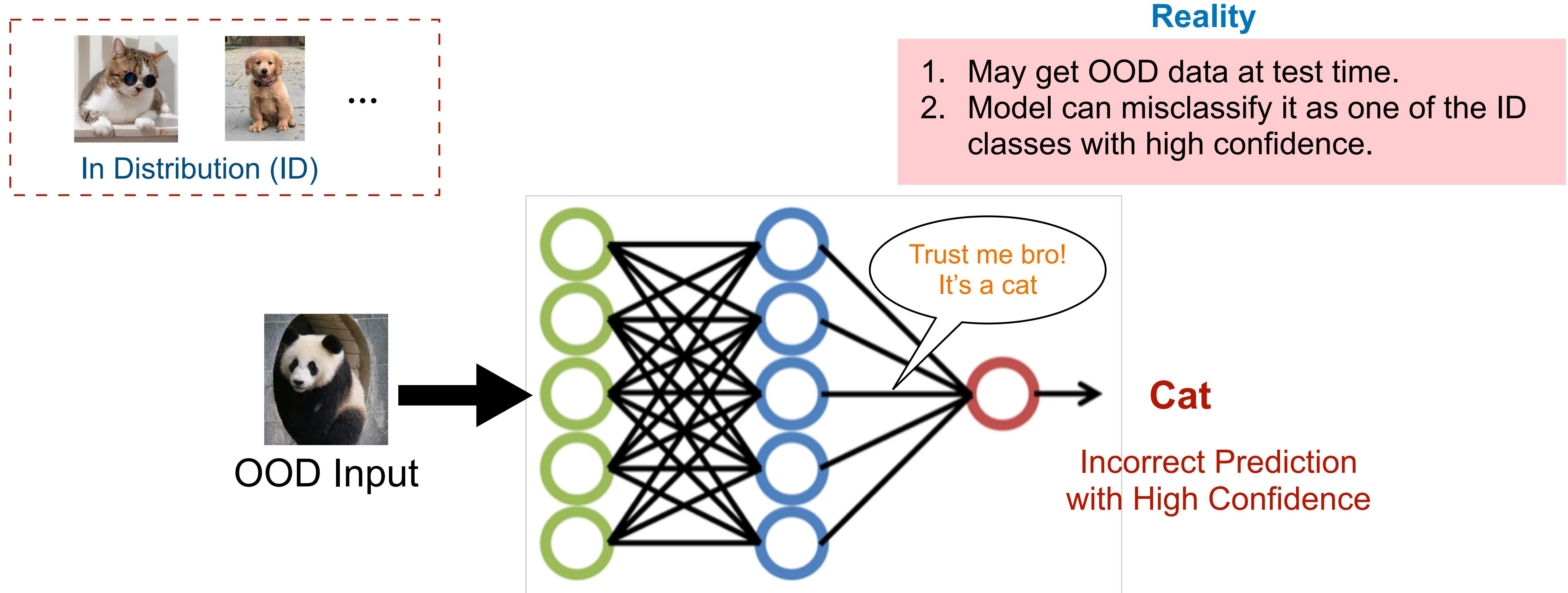


...

**Real Test Data**

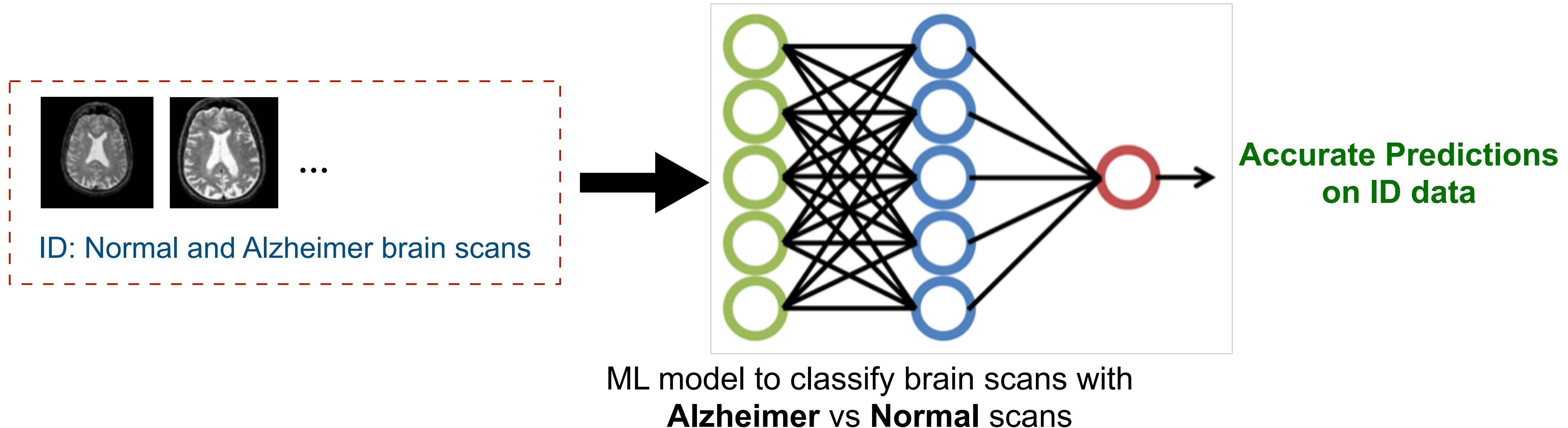
$$\gamma \in (0, 1) : \text{OOD fraction}$$

# Reality : (ii) Model makes mistakes on OOD points



Nguyen et. al, “Deep neural networks are easily fooled: High confidence predictions for unrecognizable images”, 2017

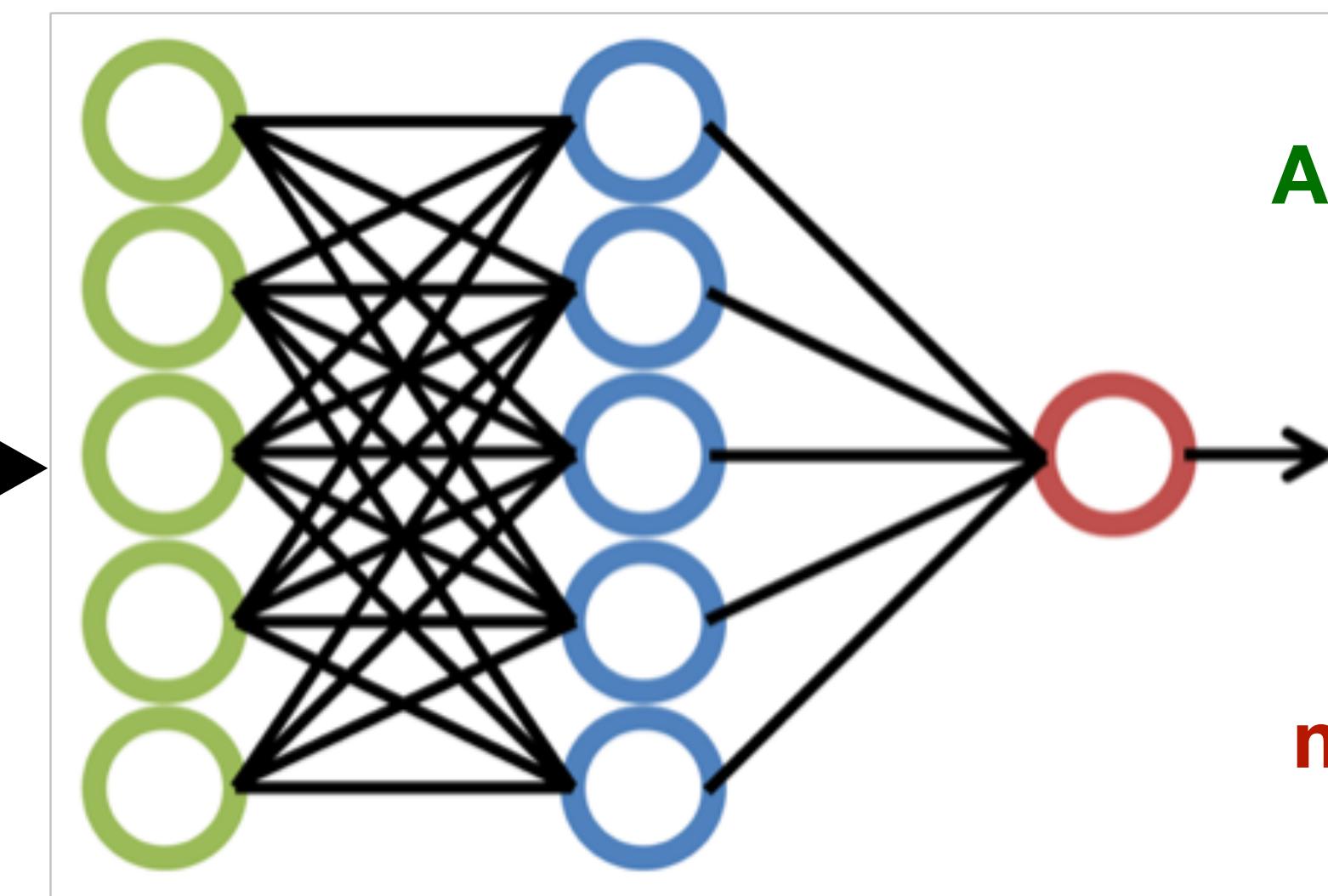
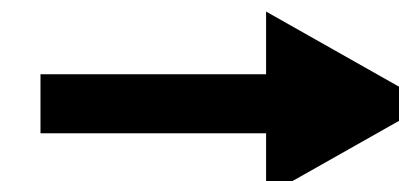
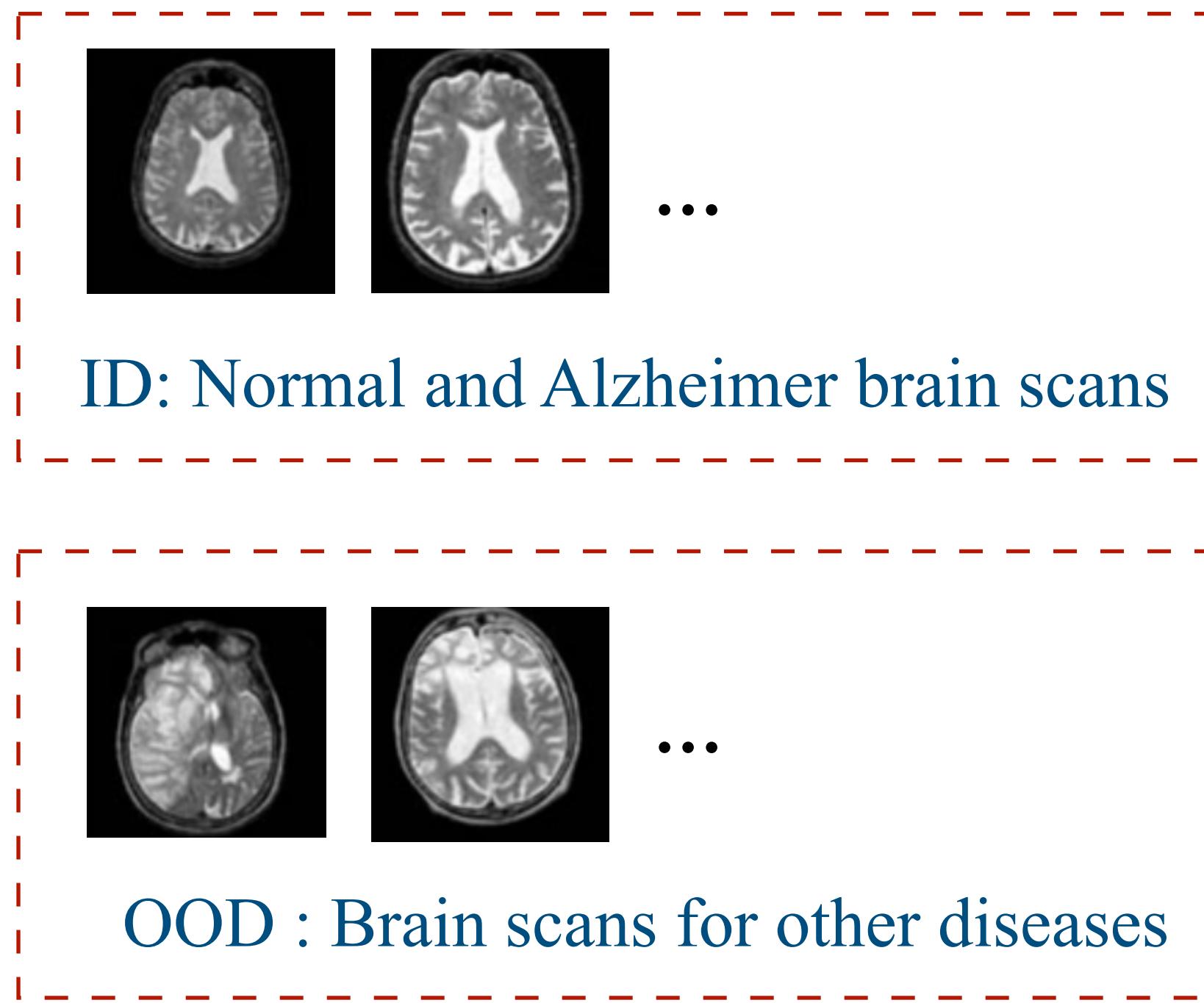
# A more safety critical example



Since it is trained on ID data, assume it is highly accurate on it.

# A more safety critical example

ID : Positive  
OOD : Negative



It would be catastrophic to misclassify a **scan of other disease (OOD)** as having Alzheimer or as a Normal scan (ID).

OOD misclassified as ID is a False Positive.

# Reality of ML model deployment

- ML models could be subject to OOD points

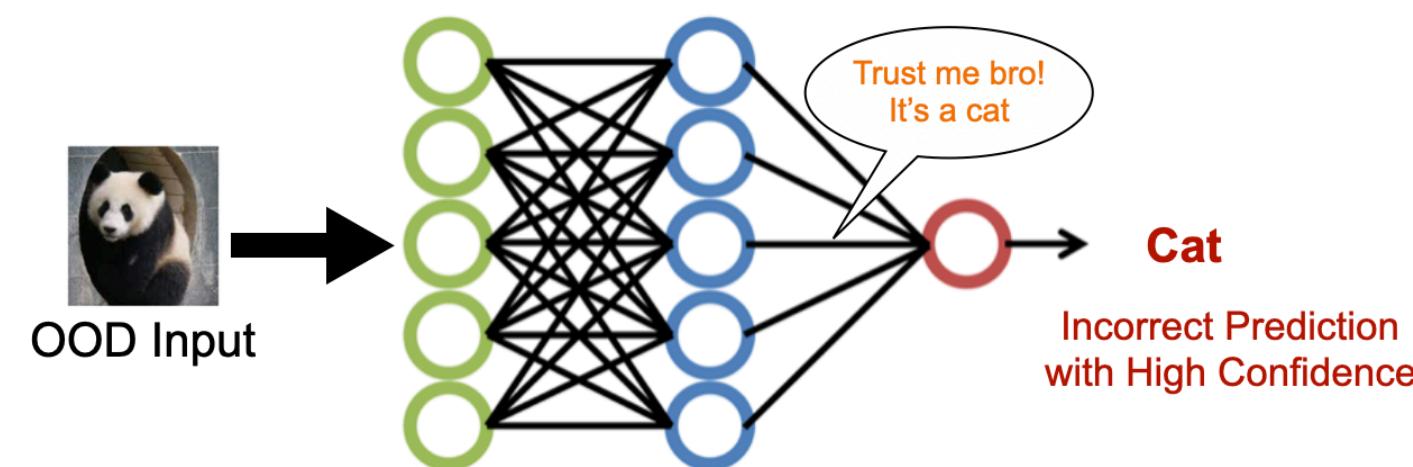


...

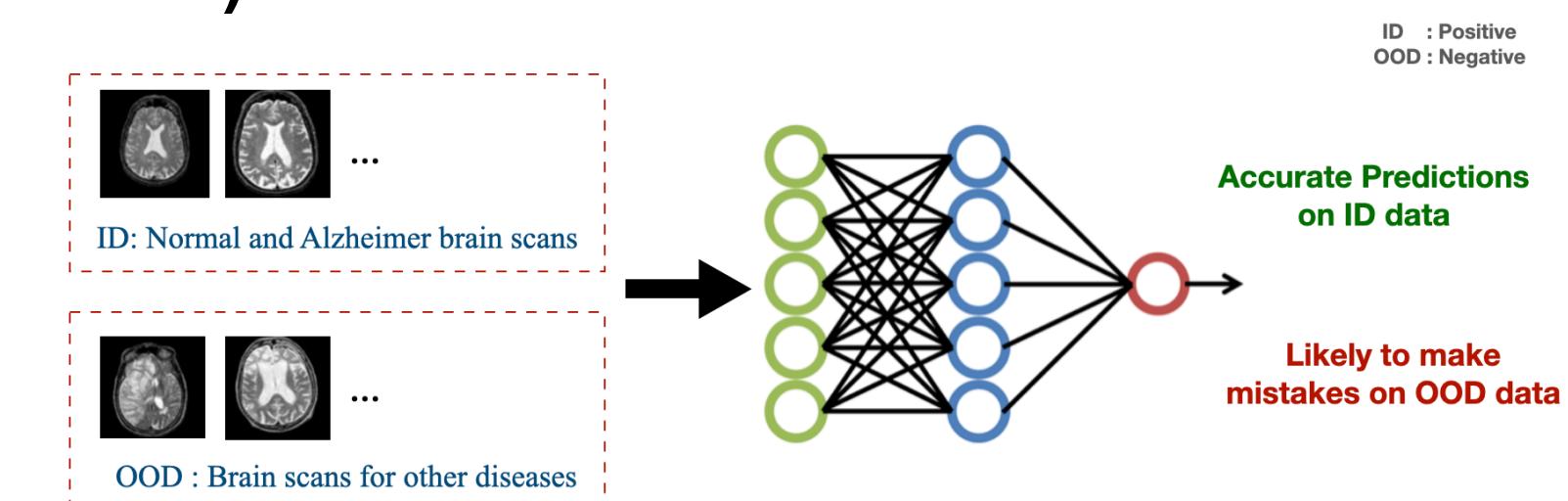
$$x \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} (1 - \gamma) \mathcal{D}_{\text{in}} + \gamma \mathcal{D}_{\text{ood}}$$

$\gamma \in (0, 1)$  : OOD fraction

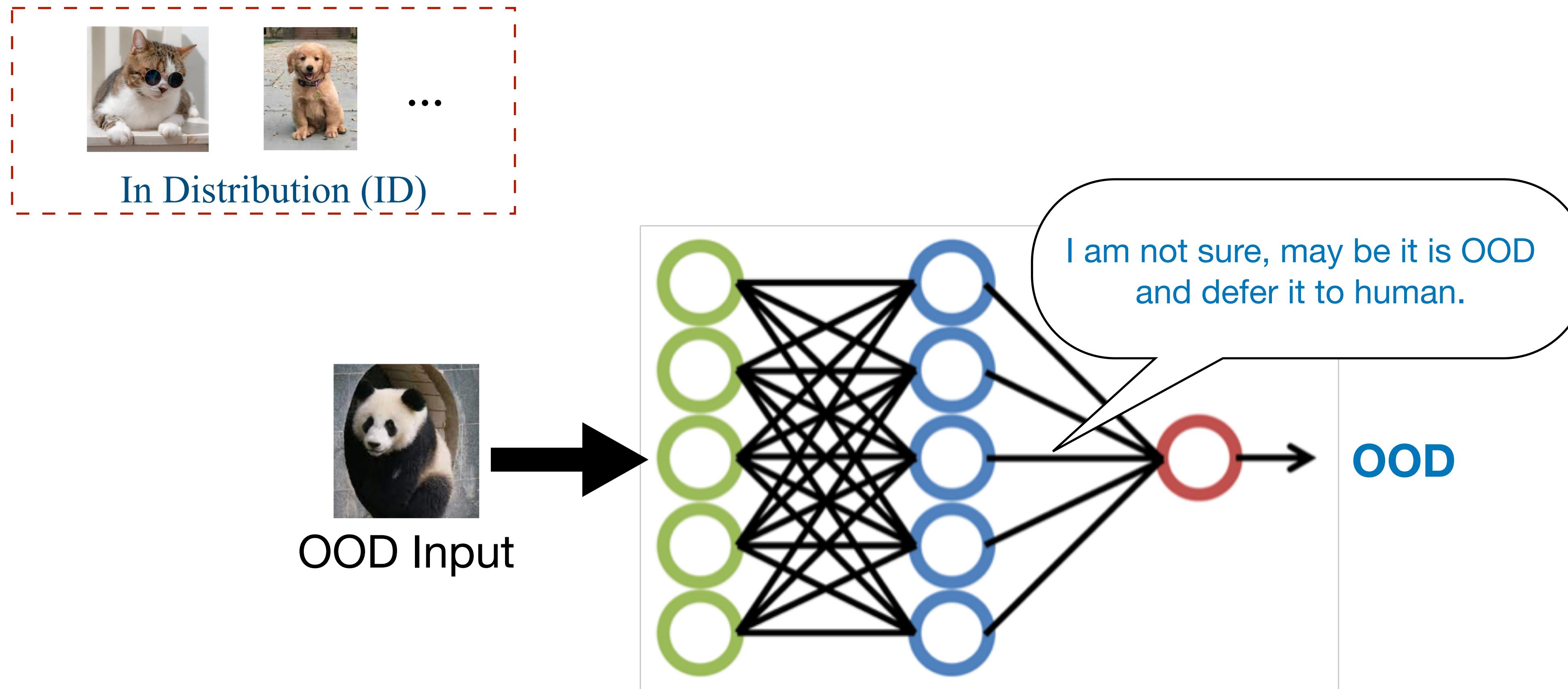
- They can misclassify OOD points as an ID class with high confidence



- The mistakes (false positives) could be serious.

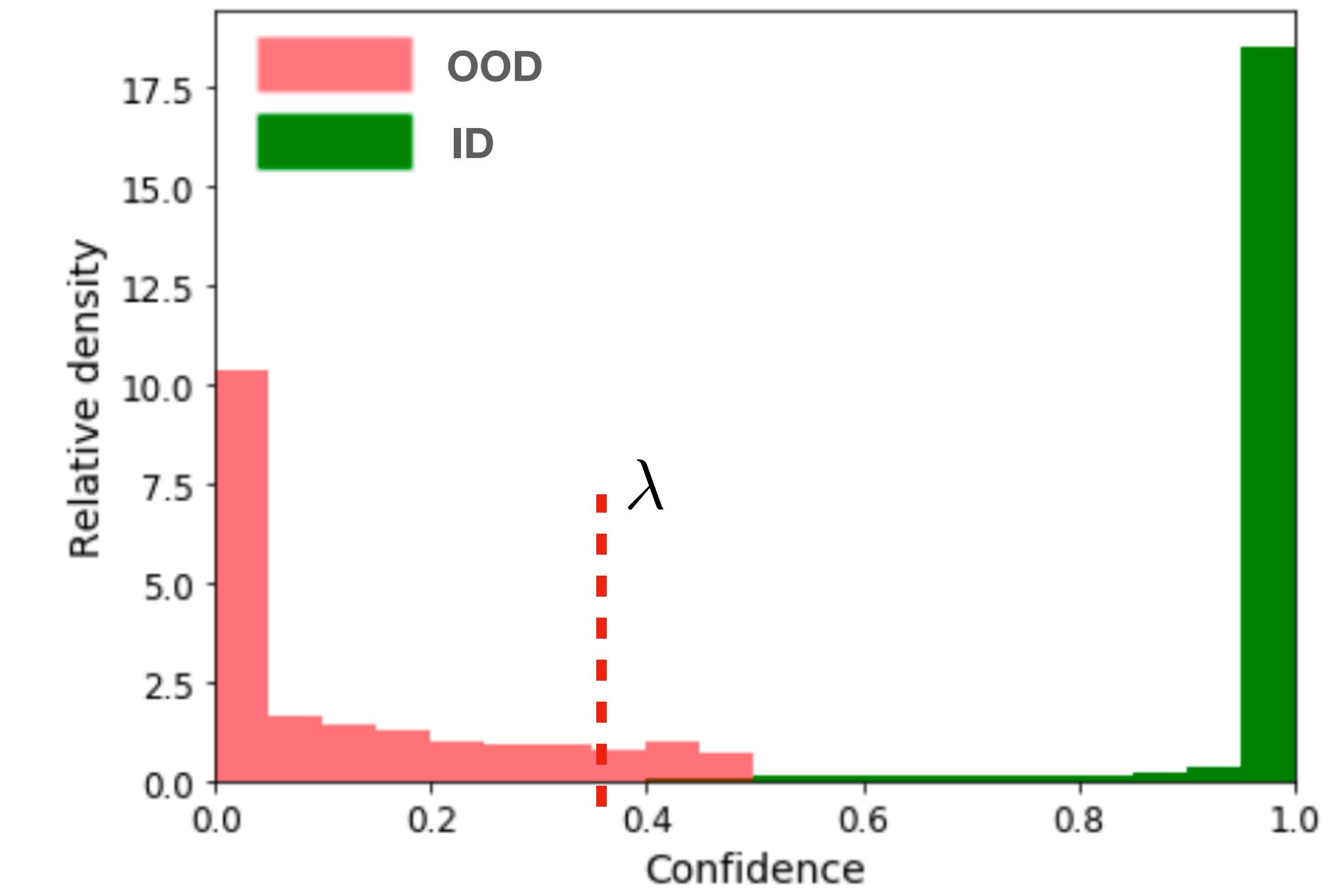
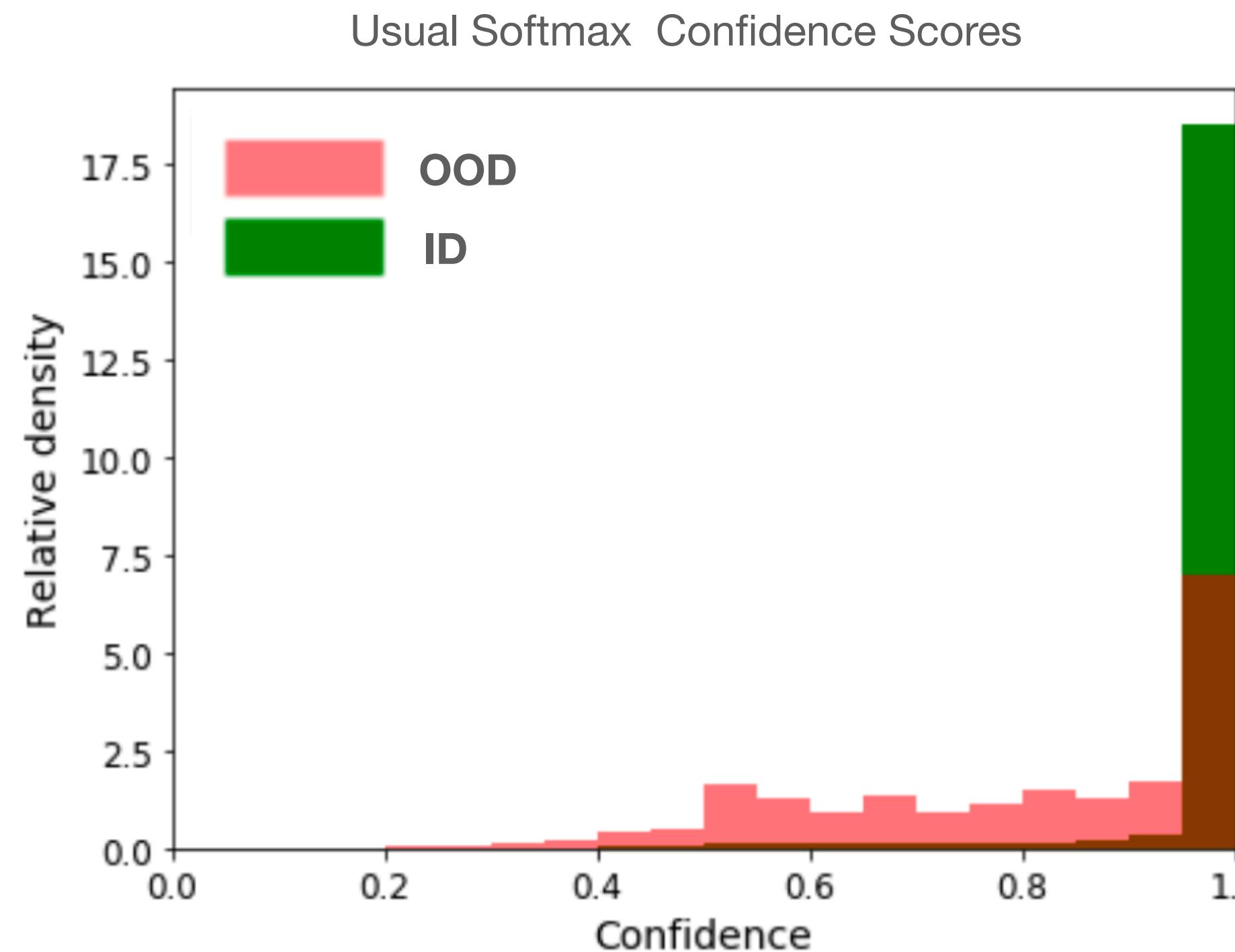


# What should we expect on OOD inputs?



# OOD detection with post-hoc methods

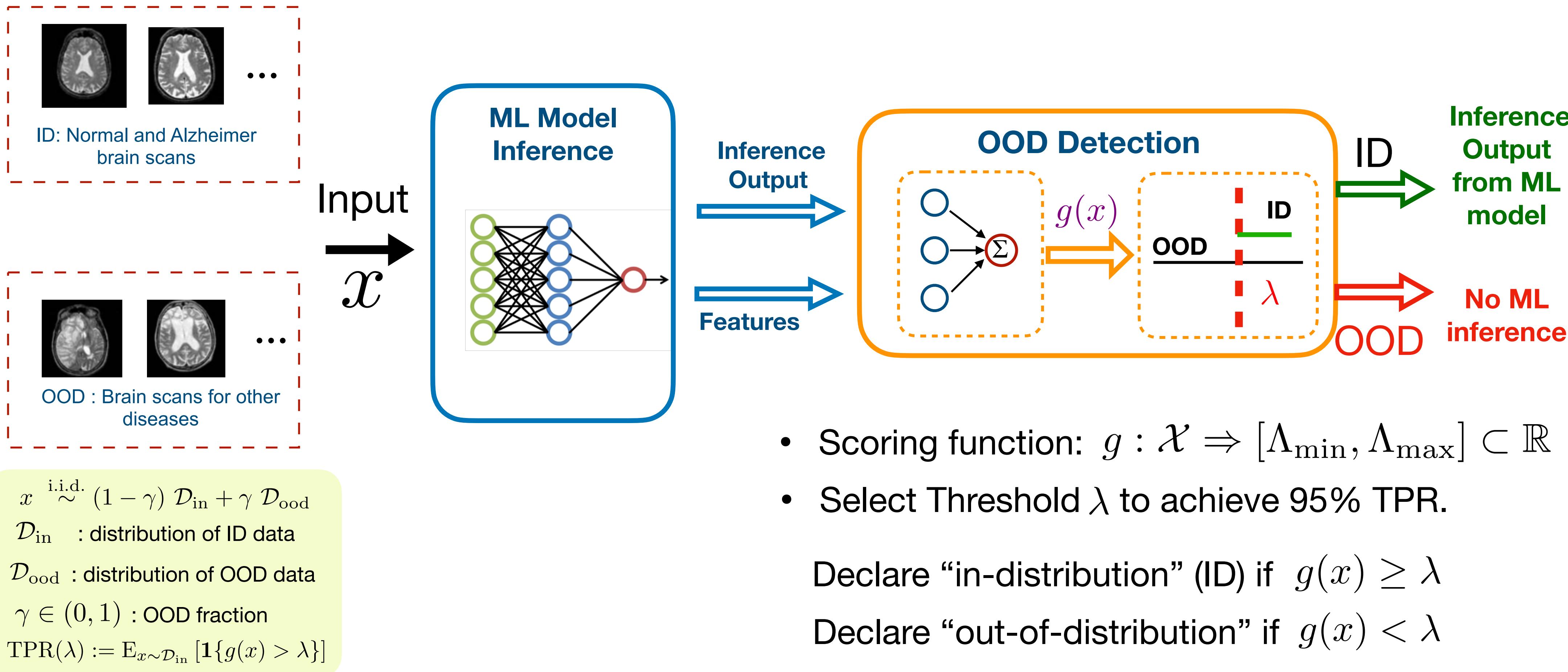
- Scoring function:  $g : \mathcal{X} \Rightarrow [\Lambda_{\min}, \Lambda_{\max}] \subset \mathbb{R}$
- Select Threshold  $\lambda$  to achieve 95% TPR.
  - Declare “in-distribution” (ID) if  $g(x) \geq \lambda$
  - Declare “out-of-distribution” if  $g(x) < \lambda$



Yang et. al, “Generalized OOD detection: A Survey”, 2021

Yang et. al, “OpenOOD: Benchmarking Generalized Out-of-Distribution Detection”, 2022

# OOD detection with post-hoc methods



Yang et. al, “Generalized OOD detection: A Survey”, 2021

Yang et. al, “OpenOOD: Benchmarking Generalized Out-of-Distribution Detection”, 2022

# False Positive and True Positive Rates

Scoring function  $g : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow [\Lambda_{\min}, \Lambda_{\max}] \subset \mathbb{R}$       Threshold:  $\lambda$

- **False Positive Rate**

$$\text{FPR}(\lambda) := \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{D}_{\text{ood}}} [\mathbf{1}\{g(x) > \lambda\}]$$

$\mathcal{D}_{\text{ood}}$  : distribution of OOD data

Fraction of OOD data that falsely get considered as “ID”

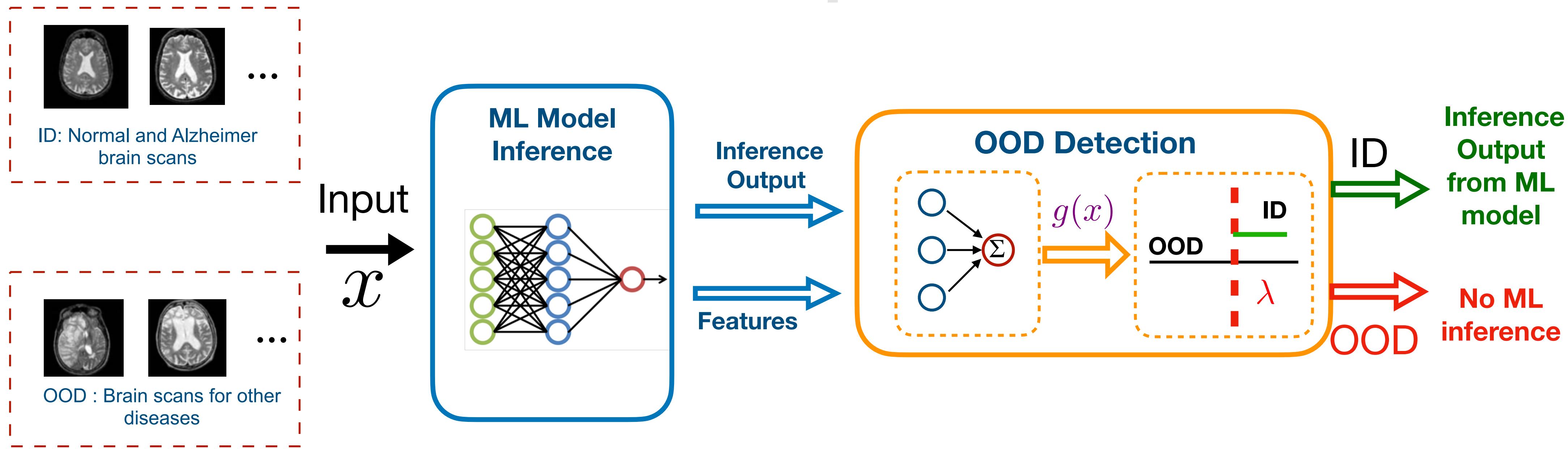
- **True Positive Rate**

$$\text{TPR}(\lambda) := \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{D}_{\text{in}}} [\mathbf{1}\{g(x) > \lambda\}]$$

$\mathcal{D}_{\text{in}}$  : distribution of ID data

Fraction of ID data that correctly get considered as “ID”

# Safe use in critical applications require guarantees on false positives



$$x \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} (1 - \gamma) \mathcal{D}_{\text{in}} + \gamma \mathcal{D}_{\text{ood}}$$

$\mathcal{D}_{\text{in}}$  : distribution of ID data  
 $\mathcal{D}_{\text{ood}}$  : distribution of OOD data  
 $\gamma \in (0, 1)$  : OOD fraction  
 $\text{TPR}(\lambda) := \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{D}_{\text{in}}} [\mathbf{1}\{g(x) > \lambda\}]$

It would be catastrophic to misclassify a scan of **other disease (OOD)** as having **Alzheimer** or as a **Normal scan (ID)**.

$$\Pr(\text{declare as "ID"} | x \text{ is "OOD"}) \leq \alpha$$
$$\text{FPR}(\lambda) := \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{D}_{\text{ood}}} [\mathbf{1}\{g(x) > \lambda\}] \leq \alpha$$

# Threshold selection and FPR

- Usually, threshold is picked such that 95% of ID data is correctly identified as ID, that is TPR is 95%. **But the FPR at this point can very large**

The screenshot shows a spreadsheet titled "OpenOOD Full Results (FPR/AUROC/AUPR)". The interface includes a menu bar with File, Edit, View, Insert, Format, Data, Tools, Extensions, and Help. There are also Share and Sign in buttons. The main area displays a table of results for 14 methods (OpenMax, MSP, ODIN, MDS, Gram, EBO, GradNorm, ReAct, MLS, KLM, VIM, KNN, DICE) across 8 datasets (CIFAR-100, TIN, NearOOD, MNIST, SVHN, Texture). The table has columns for Method, CIFAR-100, TIN, NearOOD, MNIST, SVHN, and Texture. Each row contains three values separated by slashes, representing FPR, AUROC, and AUPR respectively. Red boxes highlight the first three columns (Method, CIFAR-100, TIN) for all rows.

A1	Method	CIFAR-100	TIN	NearOOD	MNIST	SVHN	Texture
2	OpenMax	67.62 / 85.03 / 83.69	64.55 / 86.57 / 85.93	66.09 / 85.80 / 84.81	57.79 / 90.12 / 68.66	71.60 / 84.29 / 65.26	69.18 / 83.15 /
3	MSP	62.01 / 87.11 / 85.92	60.69 / 86.62 / 83.07	61.35 / 86.87 / 84.50	58.59 / 89.91 / 66.95	51.87 / 90.88 / 78.19	59.89 / 88.72 /
4	ODIN	59.09 / 77.68 / 73.24	59.06 / 77.33 / 70.07	59.07 / 77.51 / 71.66	36.23 / 90.91 / 64.74	67.92 / 73.32 / 42.13	51.10 / 80.70 /
5	MDS	81.63 / 66.30 / 63.74	83.76 / 66.79 / 63.28	82.70 / 66.54 / 63.51	0.00 / 99.52 / 99.24	19.69 / 95.78 / 91.00	19.61 / 95.42 /
6	Gram	100 / 39.76 / 59.04	92.43 / 58.11 / 54.72	91.09 / 58.57 / 56.18	76.04 / 77.59 / 43.97	73.21 / 79.28 / 55.46	89.01 / 57.72 /
7	EBO	51.46 / 86.15 / 83.21	45.02 / 88.58 / 86.37	48.24 / 87.36 / 84.79	44.50 / 90.59 / 63.28	44.94 / 88.39 / 66.29	48.32 / 86.85 /
8	GradNorm	82.00 / 54.80 / 52.39	82.07 / 54.75 / 49.54	82.03 / 54.78 / 50.97	77.27 / 59.84 / 20.83	82.38 / 48.96 / 22.78	83.07 / 48.49 /
9	ReAct	53.72 / 86.35 / 83.15	47.00 / 88.90 / 86.53	50.36 / 87.62 / 84.84	50.94 / 88.34 / 50.88	49.23 / 89.50 / 75.36	49.98 / 88.18 /
10	MLS	52.16 / 86.10 / 83.20	49.19 / 86.11 / 80.79	50.67 / 86.11 / 82.00	45.23 / 90.48 / 63.22	44.63 / 88.45 / 66.33	48.63 / 86.86 /
11	KLM	61.99 / 78.71 / 72.88	60.38 / 79.10 / 70.73	61.18 / 78.90 / 71.81	61.49 / 82.36 / 40.65	50.77 / 85.95 / 70.01	59.24 / 83.28 /
12	VIM	55.92 / 87.15 / 86.34	52.00 / 88.90 / 88.63	53.96 / 88.03 / 87.48	63.63 / 87.46 / 60.66	14.41 / 97.22 / 93.76	20.78 / 96.06 /
13	KNN	52.49 / 89.55 / 89.78	46.66 / 91.41 / 92.38	49.58 / 90.48 / 91.08	50.08 / 91.63 / 77.11	33.32 / 95.13 / 92.31	46.01 / 92.77 /
14	DICE	65.98 / 80.25 / 79.23	63.00 / 81.85 / 80.37	64.49 / 81.05 / 79.80	51.26 / 89.65 / 66.27	67.78 / 86.43 / 73.19	67.48 / 80.14 /

# Recap: Main Challenges

- ML models could be **subject to OOD points**
- They can **misclassify OOD points** as an ID class with high confidence
- We **do not have all type of OOD data during training / development**
  - It is observed after deployment
  - It could keep **changing over time**
- Safety critical applications demand **strict control over False Positives** i.e. misclassifying OOD as ID.

# Recap: Main Challenges

## Focus of prior works

- ML models could be **subject to OOD points**
- They can **misclassify OOD points** as an ID class with high confidence

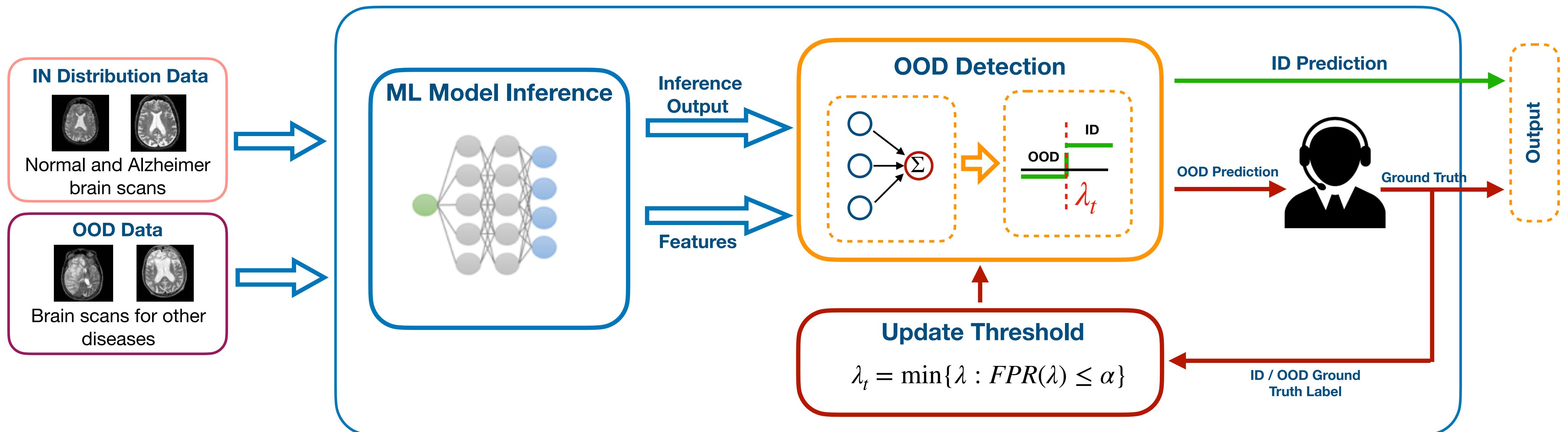
## Our work's focus

- We **do not have all type of OOD data during training / development**
  - It is observed after deployment
  - It could keep **changing over time.**
- Safety critical applications demand **strict control over False Positives** i.e. misclassifying OOD as ID.

# Our Solution

- Framework for **OOD detection with false positive rate control** with human-in-the-loop
- This framework **can work with any scoring functions g**
- **Theoretical guarantees for FPR control** for all time when OOD is not shifting
- **Window based approach** when OOD is shifting

# Human-in-the-loop OOD Detection



- Goal: Control FPR and maximize TPR
- Maximize TPR = minimize threshold

- True Positive Rate:

$$TPR(\lambda) := E_{x \sim \mathcal{D}_{in}} [1\{g(x) > \lambda\}]$$

# Ideal Threshold selection

$$\lambda_t := \arg \min_{\lambda} \lambda$$

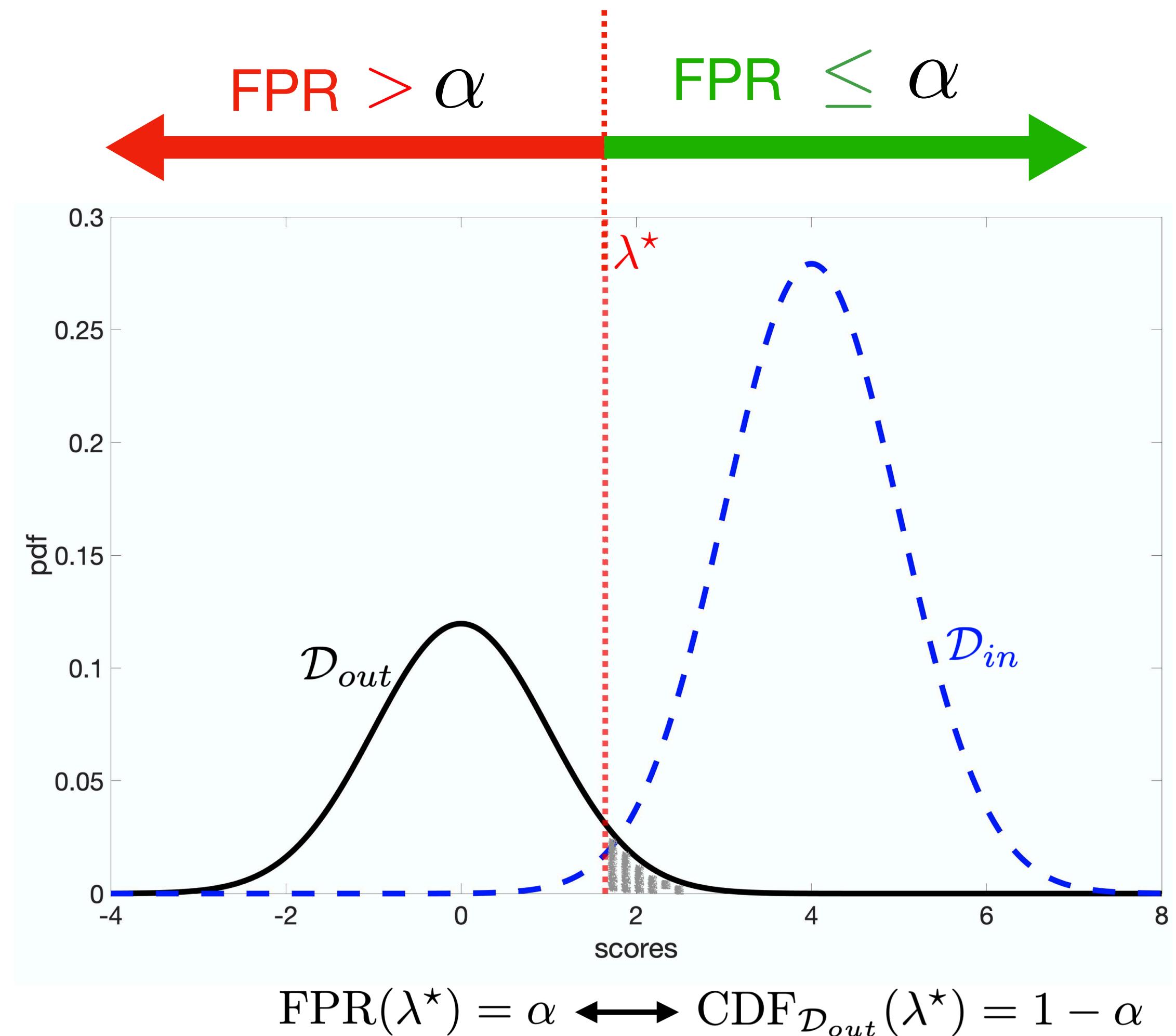
$$\text{s.t. } \text{FPR}(\lambda) \leq \alpha$$

$$\lambda_t := \arg \min_{\lambda} \lambda$$

$$\text{s.t. } \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{D}_{\text{ood}}} [\mathbf{1}\{g(x) > \lambda\}] \leq \alpha$$

$$\lambda^* := \arg \min_{\lambda} \lambda$$

$$\text{s.t. } \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{D}_{\text{ood}}} [\mathbf{1}\{g(x) > \lambda\}] \leq \alpha$$



# Updating threshold in each round

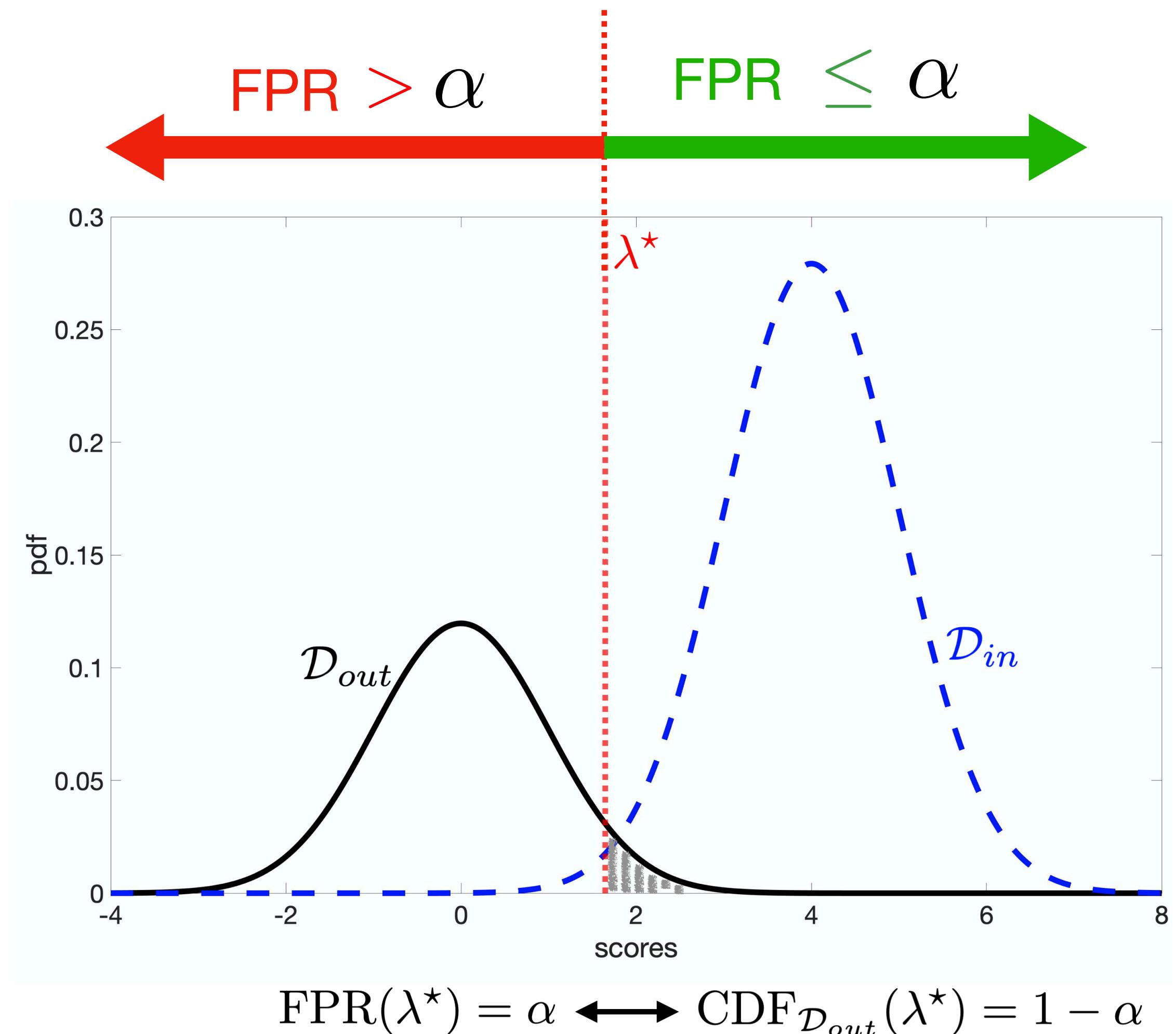
## Idea 1: Using empirical estimate of FPR

$$\lambda_t := \arg \min_{\lambda} \lambda$$

$$\text{s.t. } \widehat{\text{FPR}}(\lambda, t) \leq \alpha$$

Estimate of FPR at all  $\lambda$  at time t

Not good enough to provide guarantee on FPR since **empirical estimate can sometimes underestimate the true FPR**

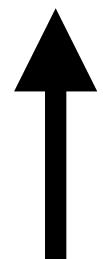


# Updating threshold in each round

## Idea 2: Empirical estimate with confidence

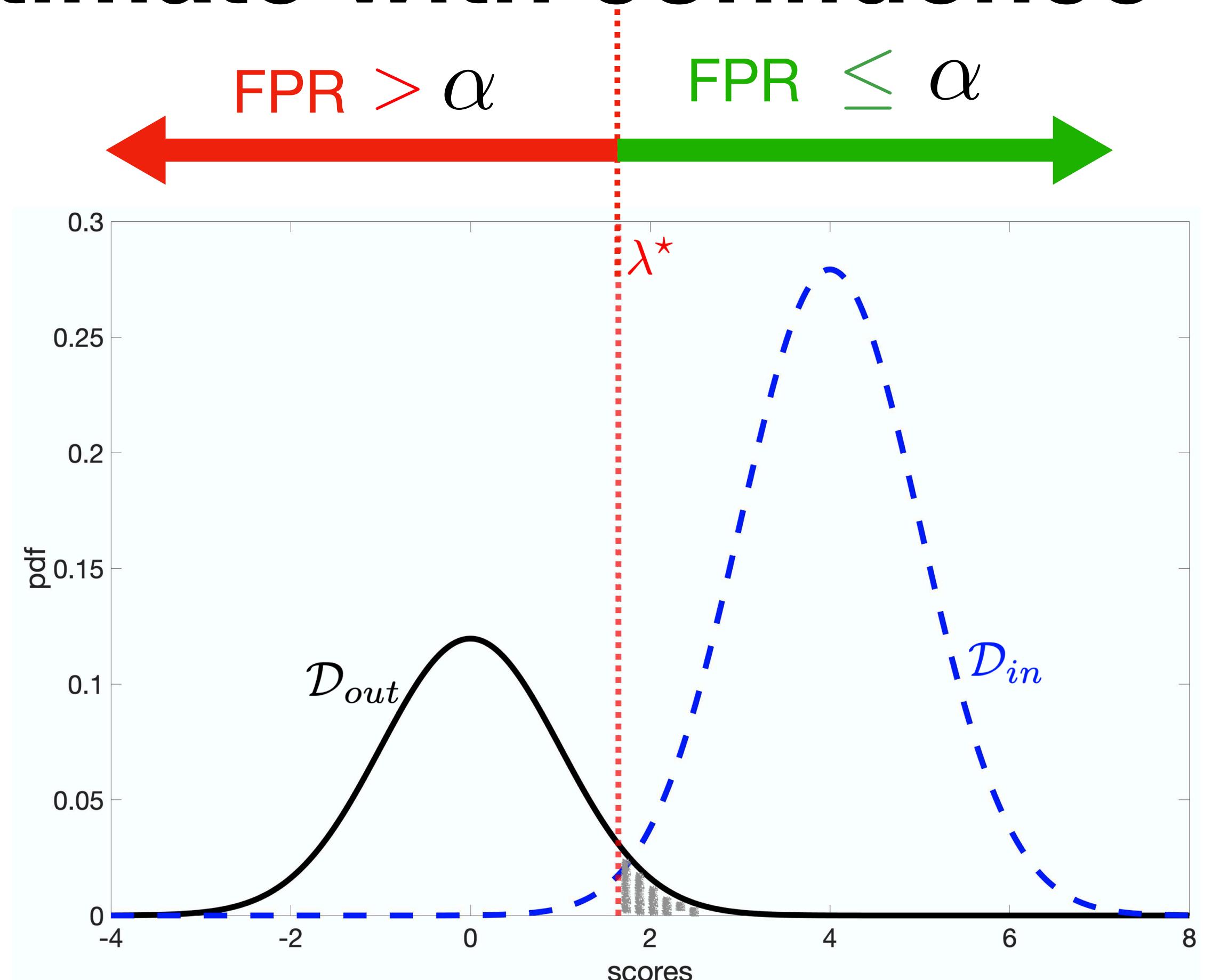
$$\lambda_t := \arg \min_{\lambda} \lambda$$

$$\text{s.t. } \widehat{\text{FPR}}(\lambda, t) + \boxed{\psi(t, \delta)} \leq \alpha$$



Time-varying confidence interval that is  
**valid for all time and all  $\lambda$**

**Guaranteed to approach optimal  
lambda from the right**, so the true FPR  
is always guaranteed to be below the  
required rate



$$\text{FPR}(\lambda^*) = \alpha \longleftrightarrow \text{CDF}_{D_{out}}(\lambda^*) = 1 - \alpha$$

# Setting threshold on the go

In the beginning, the threshold is set at  $\Lambda_{\max}$

At each time  $t$ :  $x_t \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} (1 - \gamma) \mathcal{D}_{\text{in}} + \gamma \mathcal{D}_{\text{ood}}$

- Compute the **score** for the input:  $s_t = g(x_t)$
- If  $s_t < \lambda_{t-1}$ , then predict OOD and send to human expert, get back true label
- If  $s_t \geq \lambda_{t-1}$ , then predict ID and query human expert for true label with probability  $p$
- Update threshold:  $\lambda_t := \arg \min_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \text{s.t. } \widehat{\text{FPR}}(\lambda, t) + \psi(t, \delta) \leq \alpha$



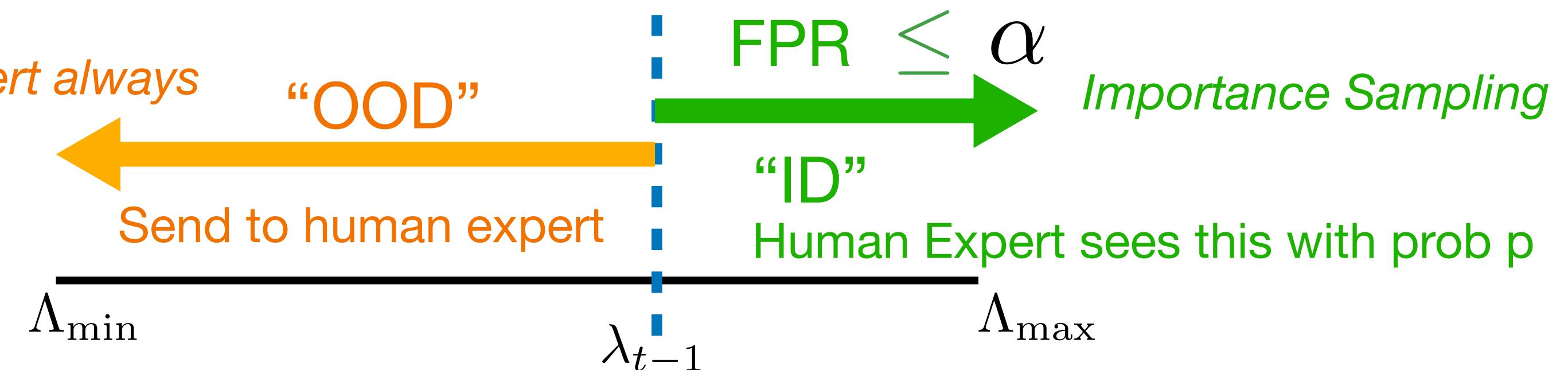
Estimate of FPR at **all**  $\lambda$  at time  $t$

Time-varying confidence interval that  
is **valid for all time and all**  $\lambda$

# Estimating FPR at all thresholds

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_t := \arg \min_{\lambda} \lambda \\ \text{s.t. } \widehat{\text{FPR}}(\lambda, t) + \psi(t, \delta) \leq \alpha\end{aligned}$$

*Human expert always sees this*



$$\widehat{\text{FPR}}(\lambda, t) = \frac{1}{N_t^{(o)}} \sum_{u \in I_t^{(o)}} Z_u(\lambda)$$

$$E[\widehat{\text{FPR}}(\lambda, t)] = \text{FPR}(\lambda, t)$$

*Unbiased estimate*

$$Z_u(\lambda) := \begin{cases} \mathbf{1}(s_u^{(o)} > \lambda), & \text{if } s_u^{(o)} \leq \hat{\lambda}_{u-1} \\ \frac{1}{p} \mathbf{1}(s_u^{(o)} > \lambda), & \text{w.p. } p \text{ if } s_u^{(o)} > \hat{\lambda}_{u-1} \\ 0, & \text{w.p. } 1 - p \text{ if } s_u^{(o)} > \hat{\lambda}_{u-1} \end{cases}$$

- Recall that human expert always sees a point that is declared OOD
- We also ask for human expert to look at ID points with prob p

$$S_t^{(o)} := \left\{ s_1^{(o)}, \dots, s_{N_t^{(o)}}^{(o)} \right\}$$

“Score”  $s := g(x)$

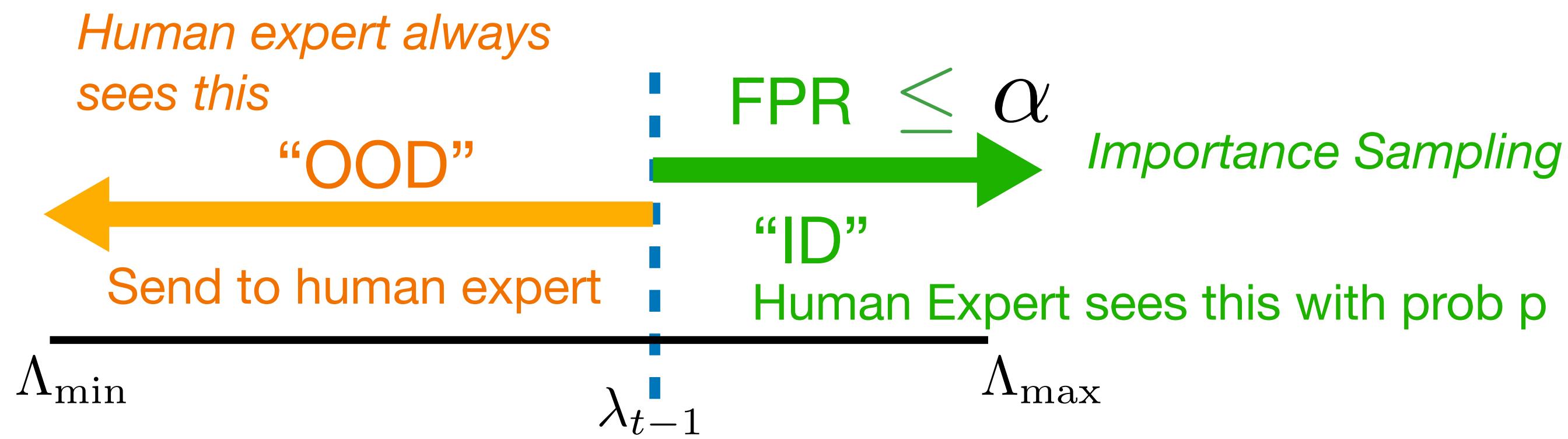
: set of scores for these ood points that are confirmed by human expert.

$N_t^{(o)}$  : Number of OOD points that are confirmed as OOD from human expert

# Valid Time-varying Confidence Intervals

- Law of iterated logarithms (LIL) based bounds for any time valid
- DKW-style bounds for all thresholds — but we do **not** have independent samples

$$\psi(t, \delta) = \sqrt{\frac{3c_t}{N_t^{(o)}} \left[ 2 \log \log \left( \frac{3c_t N_t^{(o)}}{2} \right) + \log \left( \frac{2}{\delta} \frac{|\Lambda_{\max} - \Lambda_{\min}|}{\nu} \right) \right]}$$



Khinchine 1924, Jamieson et. al., 2013, Balasubramani 2015,  
Howard & Ramdas 2022 .....

$$c_t = 1 - \beta_t + \frac{\beta_t}{p^2}$$

$$\beta_t = \frac{N_t^{(o,p)}}{N_t^{(o)}}$$

$p$  : sampling probability when declared “ID”

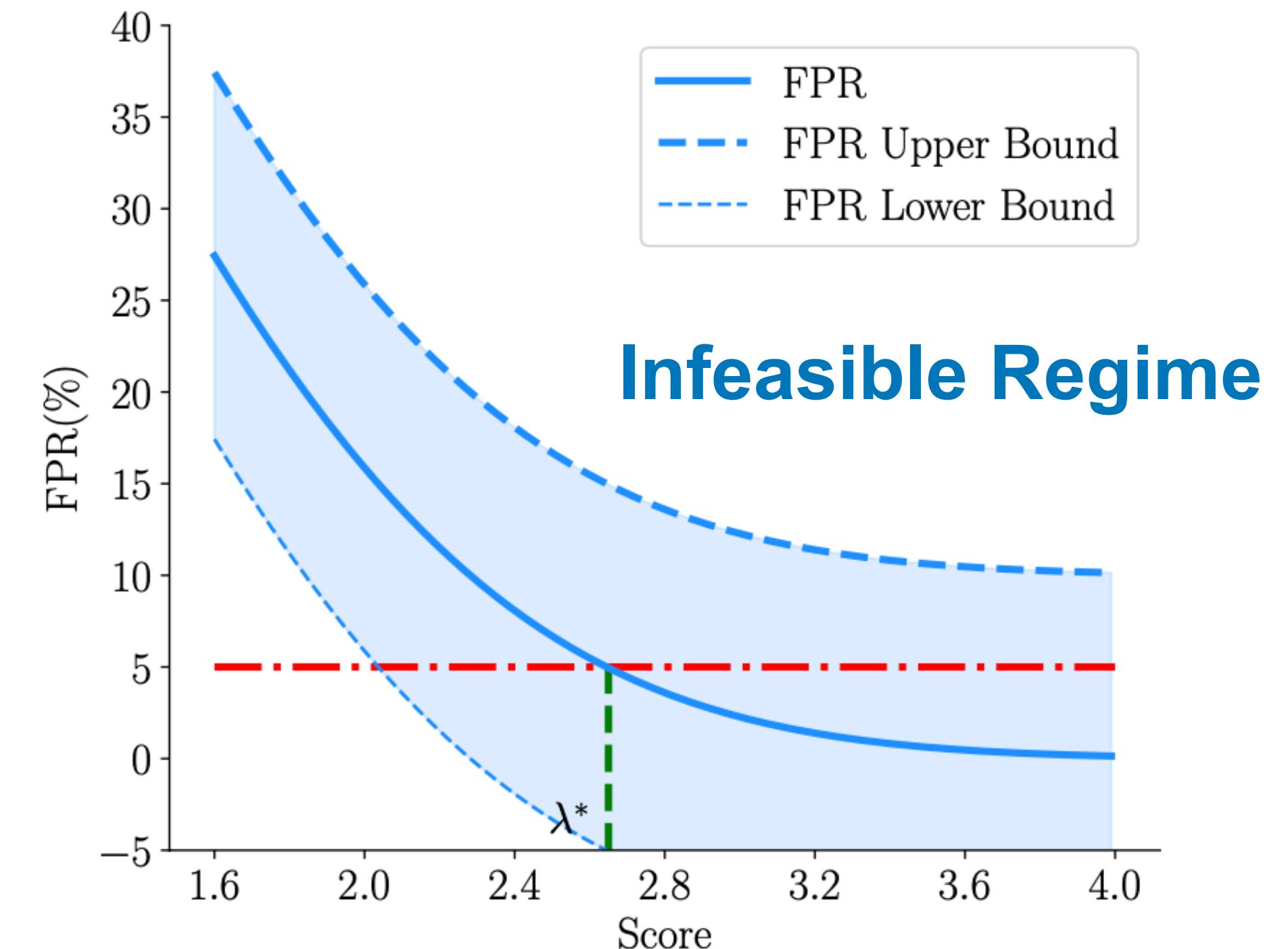
$N_t^{(o)}$  : Number of OOD points that are confirmed as OOD from human expert

$N_t^{(o,p)}$  : Number of points that are importance sampled to get human feedback even when they are declared “ID” by the system

$\nu$  : discretization

# Illustration of the confidence interval

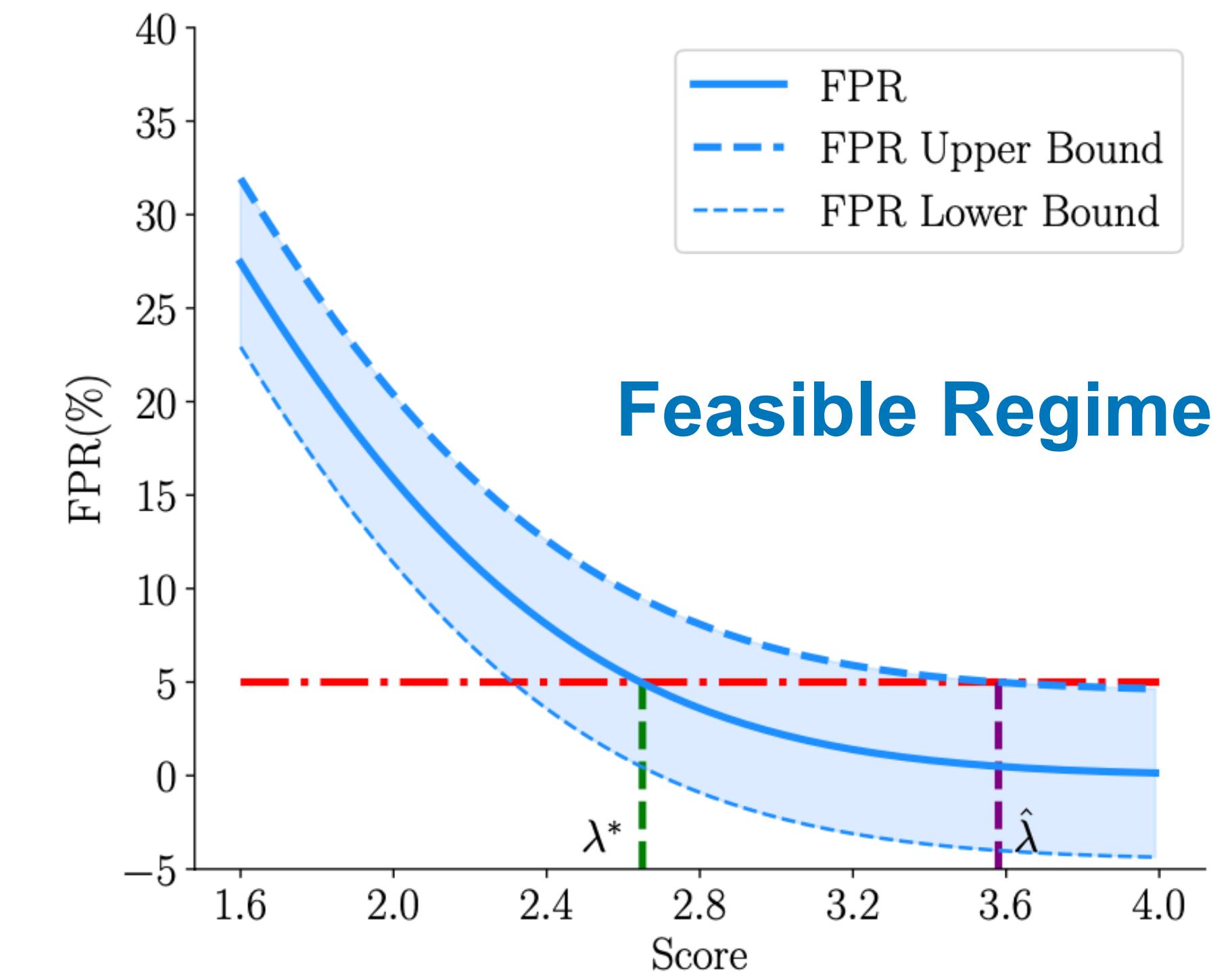
- In the beginning, the threshold is set at  $\Lambda_{\max}$
- For first few rounds, the confidence intervals are too wide for a feasible  $\lambda_t < \Lambda_{\max}$  to emerge



(a) No feasible solution, in the beginning

# Illustration of the confidence interval

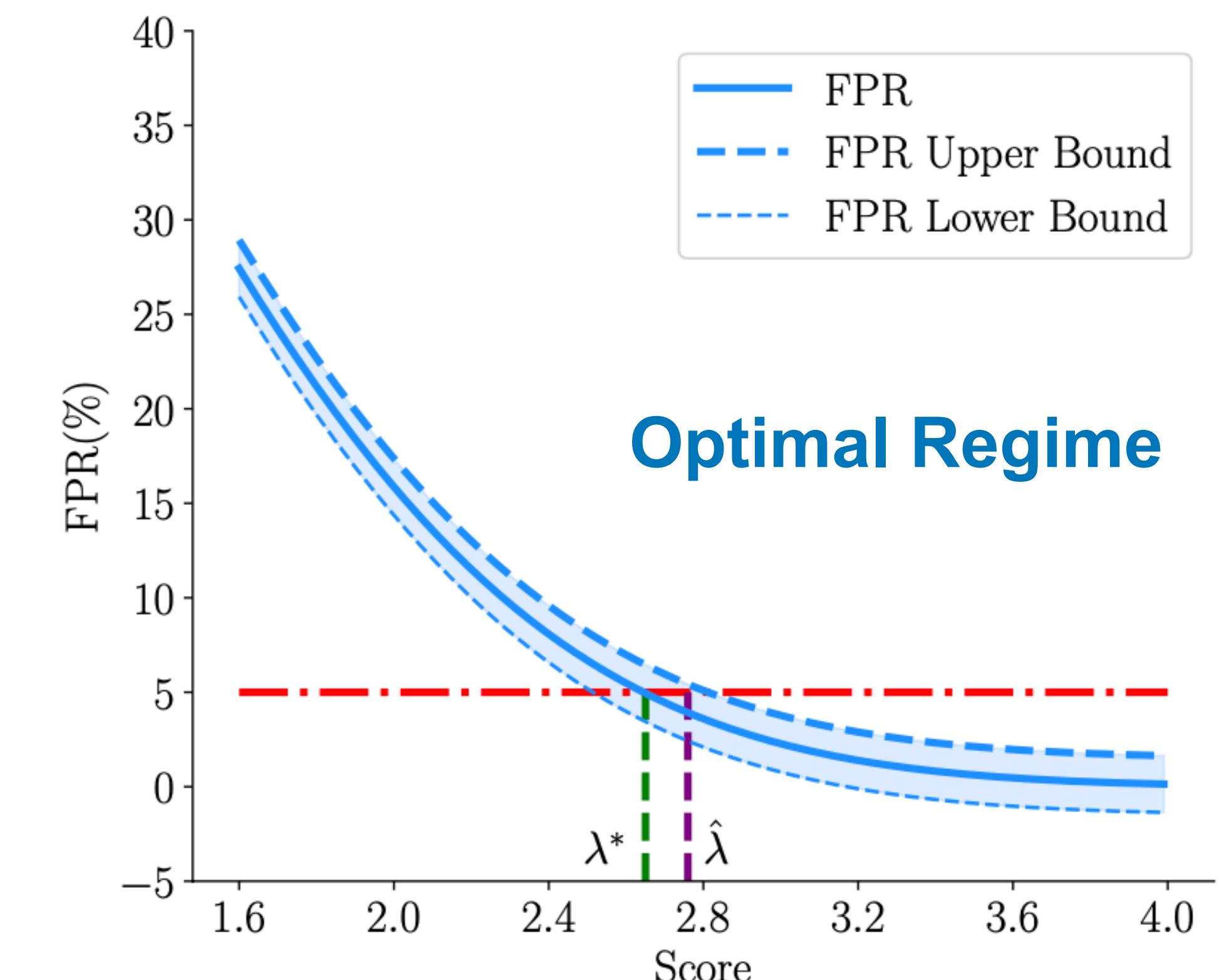
- In the beginning, the threshold is set at  $\Lambda_{\max}$
- For first few rounds, the confidence intervals are too wide for a feasible  $\lambda_t < \Lambda_{\max}$  to emerge
  - Recall that by construction,  $\lambda_t \geq \lambda^*$
- After a while, the confidence intervals get small enough to get a feasible  $\lambda_t < \Lambda_{\max}$  to emerge



(b) Feasible solution, after sometime

# Illustration of the confidence interval

- In the beginning, the threshold is set at  $\Lambda_{\max}$
- For first few rounds, the confidence intervals are too wide for a feasible  $\lambda_t < \Lambda_{\max}$  to emerge
  - Recall that by construction,  $\lambda_t \geq \lambda^*$
- After a while, the confidence intervals get small enough to get a feasible  $\lambda_t < \Lambda_{\max}$  to emerge
- As time progresses, the confidence intervals continue to shrink and the threshold gets closer and closer to the optimal



(c) Near optimal solution, eventually

# Theoretical Guarantees

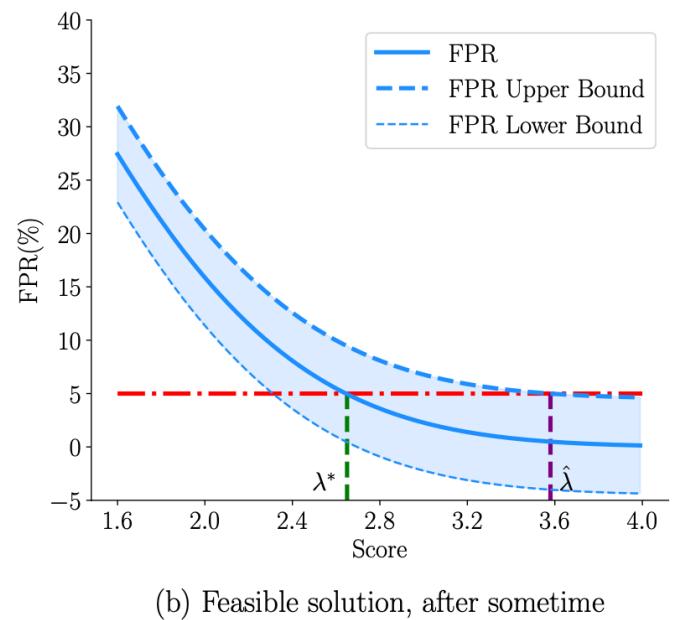
Under mild conditions, we can provide following guarantees for our procedure with probability  $1 - \delta$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_t &:= \arg \min_{\lambda} \lambda \\ \text{s.t. } \widehat{\text{FPR}}(\lambda, t) + \psi(t, \delta) &\leq \alpha \end{aligned}$$

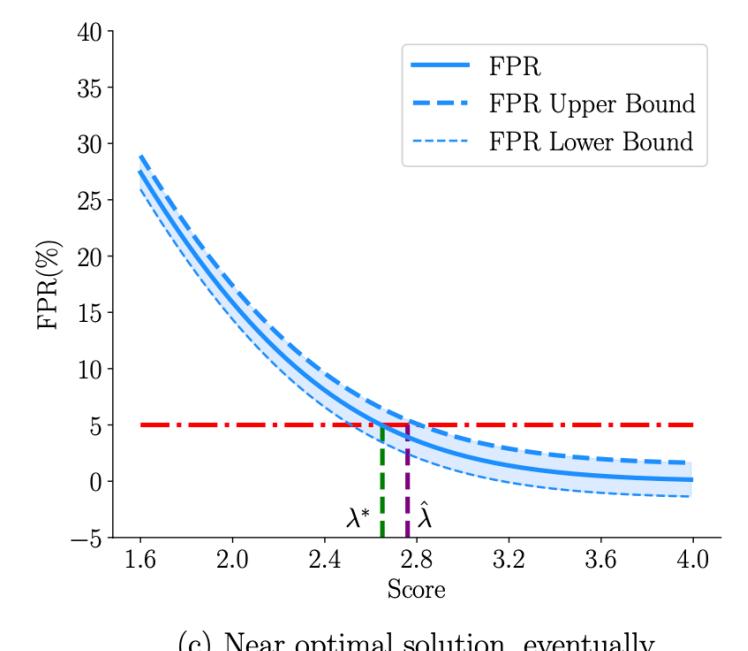
- **FPR is controlled at all times:** for all  $t$ ,  $\text{FPR}(\lambda_t) \leq \alpha$

- **Time to reach feasibility:** for all  $t \geq T_f := \frac{1}{\gamma \alpha^2} \log \left( \frac{1}{\delta} \log \left( \frac{1}{\alpha} \right) \right) + \frac{1}{\gamma^2} \log \left( \frac{1}{\delta} \right)$   

$$\widehat{\text{FPR}}(\lambda_t) + \psi(t, \delta) \leq \alpha \text{ and } \lambda_t < \Lambda_{\max}$$



- **Time to reach eta-optimality:** for all  $t \geq T_{\eta, \text{opt}} := \frac{1}{\gamma \eta^2} \log \left( \frac{1}{\delta} \log \left( \frac{1}{\alpha} \right) \right) + \frac{1}{\gamma^2} \log \left( \frac{1}{\delta} \right)$   
and  $\widehat{\text{FPR}}(\lambda_{T_{\eta, \text{opt}}}) \in \left[ \alpha - \frac{\eta}{2}, \eta \right]$ ,  $\text{FPR}(\lambda^*) - \text{FPR}(\lambda_t) \leq \eta$



# Empirical Evaluation

We evaluate our method to verify the following,

## **Stationary Setting: Distributions do not change.**

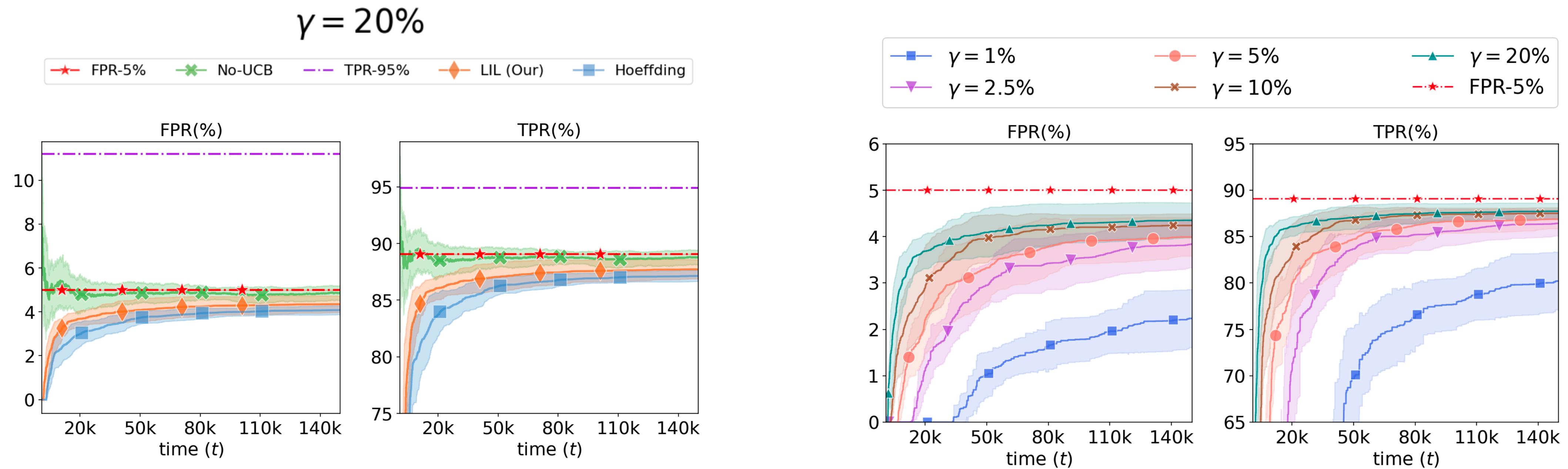
- C1. Compared to **non-adaptive baselines**, our approach achieves lower FPR while maximizing the TPR.
- C2. In the stationary setting, **our method satisfies the FPR constraint at all times** and produces high TPR.
- C3. The proposed framework is **compatible with any OOD scoring functions**.

## **Non-stationary Setting: Distribution(s) shift at some time.**

- C4. Our method continues to work with a simple adaption using **window based approach**

# Simulations : Stationary Setting (C1, C2)

- ID scores: Gaussian  $\mu = 5.5, \sigma = 4$
- OOD scores: Gaussian  $\mu = -6, \sigma = 4$



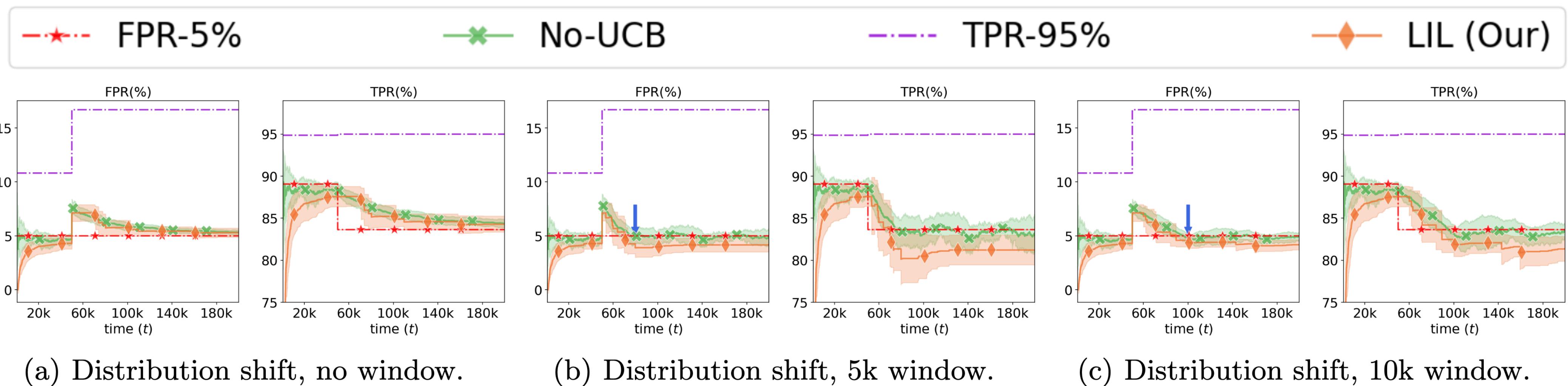
- Fixed threshold (non-adaptive) methods have high FPR.
- Not using UCB leads to FPR violation.
- With LIL, Hoeffding UCB the FPR constraint is maintained and it converges to optimal TPR over time.

- Convergence is faster with higher OOD fraction.
- It maintains FPR below 5% for all values of  $\gamma$

# Simulations: Non-stationary Setting (C4)

- ID scores: Gaussian  $\mu = 5.5, \sigma = 4$
- $\gamma = 20\%$
- OOD scores: Gaussian  $\mu = -6, \sigma = 4$  (till  $t=50k$ )
- OOD scores: Gaussian  $\mu = -5, \sigma = 4$  (after  $t=50k$ )

Only use most recent  $N_w$  (window size) samples to compute FPR and confidence intervals.



(a) Distribution shift, no window.

(b) Distribution shift, 5k window.

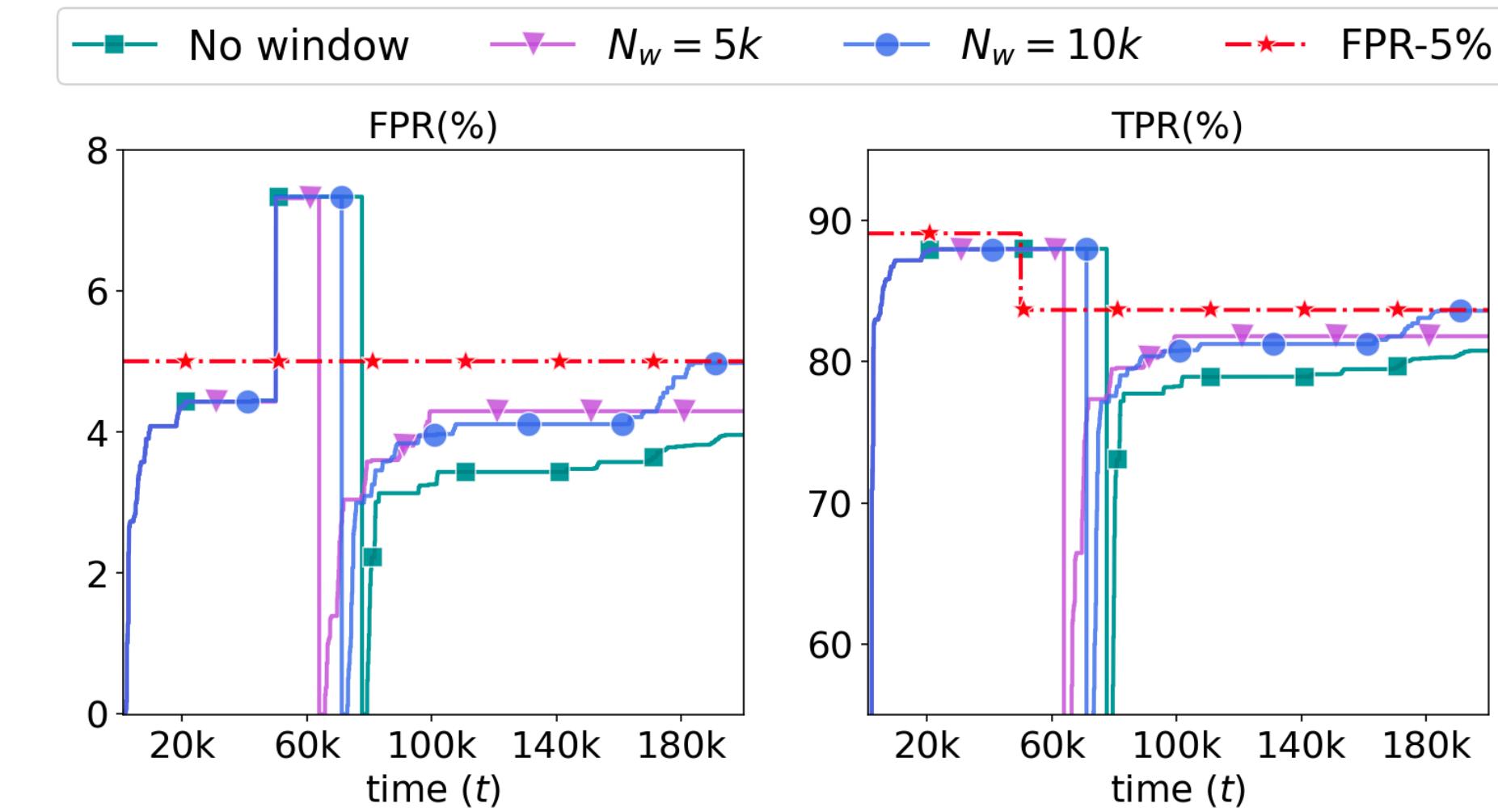
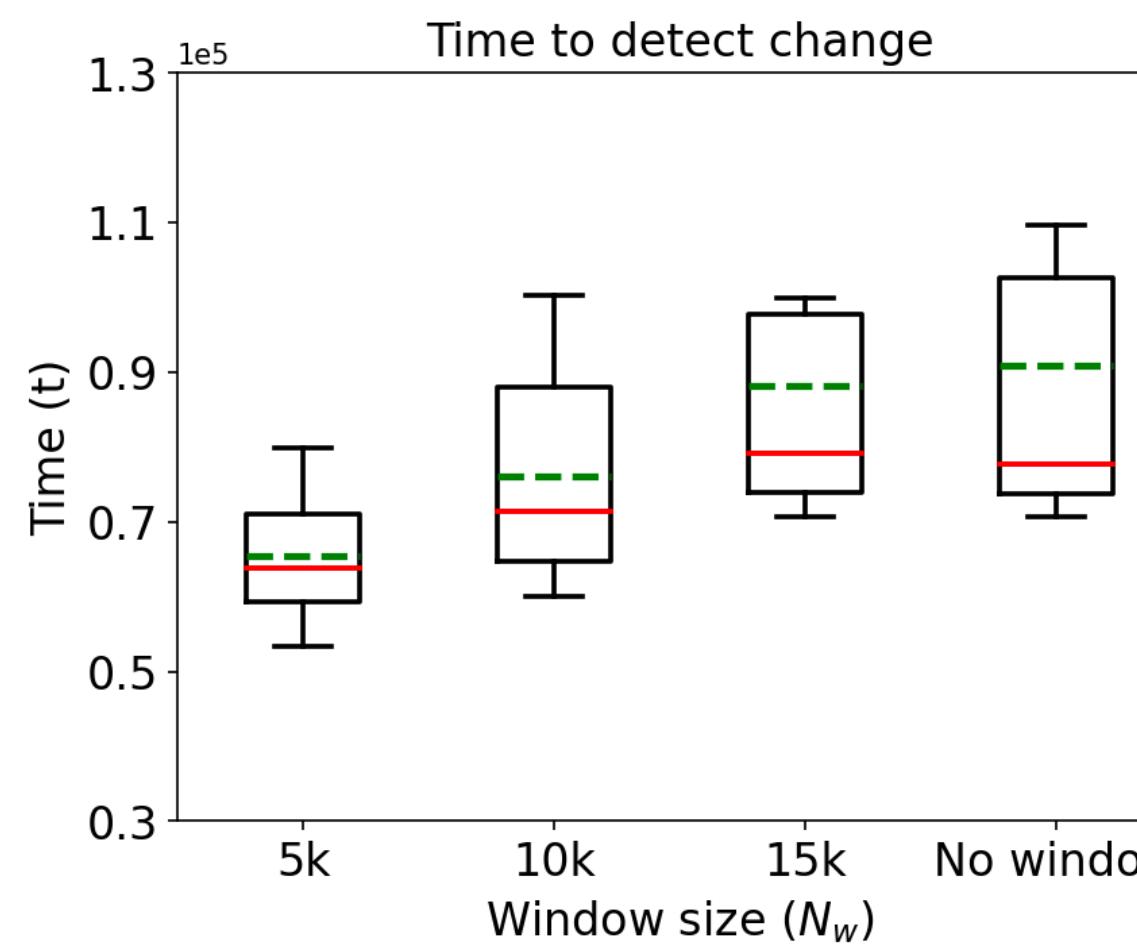
(c) Distribution shift, 10k window.

- Our method violates the FPR constraint for a short time and then comes back.
- Non-adaptive methods keep using the initial threshold and incur higher FPR.
- Method without UCB does adapt but takes longer time and has higher variance due to window size.

# Simulations: Window Size Trade-off

- ID scores: Gaussian  $\mu = 5.5, \sigma = 4$
- OOD scores: Gaussian  $\mu = -6, \sigma = 4$  (till  $t=50k$ )
- OOD scores: Gaussian  $\mu = -5, \sigma = 4$  (after  $t=50k$ )
- $\gamma = 20\%$

Only use most recent  $N_w$  (window size) samples to compute FPR and confidence intervals.



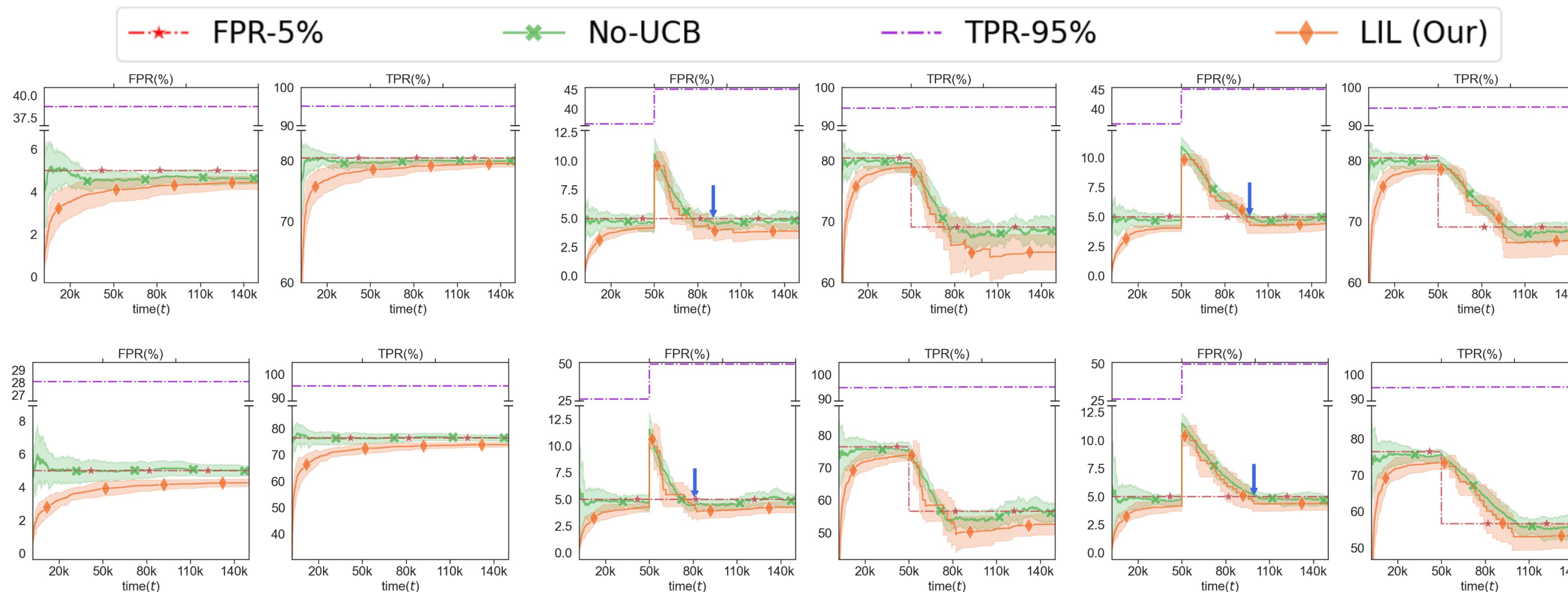
- Shorter window leads to faster change detection but limits optimality.
- With longer window we can reach closer to optimal threshold but it will take long time.
- Conservative approach: restart after detecting change.

# Can work with any scoring functions (C3)

- ID: CIFAR-10

$$\gamma = 20\%$$

- OOD1 : MNIST, SVHN, and Texture (till  $t=50k$ )
- OOD2 : TinyImageNet, Places365, CIFAR-100 (after  $t=50k$ )



(a) No distribution shift, no window.

(b) Distribution shift, 5k window.

(c) Distribution shift, 10k window.

- Methods work as expected from simulations.
- The best TPR achievable depends on scoring function and our method approaches it while maintaining FPR guarantee at all times.

KNN based scoring  
function Sun et. al. 2022

VIM (Virtual-logit Match)  
scoring function Wang et.  
al. 2022

# Summary

- Framework for human-in-the-loop OOD detection with false positive rate control
- This framework can work with any scoring function
- Guarantees for FPR control for all time when OOD is not shifting
- Windowed approach when OOD is shifting

**Thank you!**  
**Questions**

