



# Anomaly Detection in the Open World: Normality Shift Detection, Explanation, and Adaptation

Dongqi Han, Zhiliang Wang, Wenqi Chen, Kai Wang, Rui Yu, Su Wang,  
Han Zhang, Zhihua Wan, Minghui Jin, Jiahai Yang, Xingang Shi, and Xia Yin



清华大学  
Tsinghua University



# Anomaly Detection for Network Security

Cyber crimes are becoming more professional and coordinated

- Skilled cyber attackers can **bypass** approximately all the defense systems



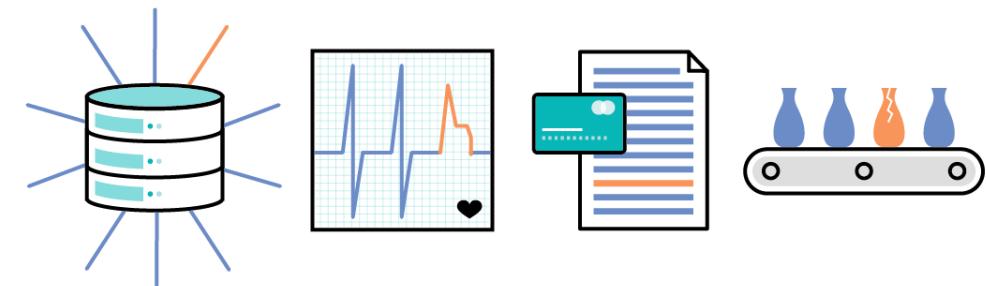
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Anomaly Detection has been widely used in diverse network security applications

- Learning **without knowledge of anomalies**
- Ability to detect **unforeseen threats**



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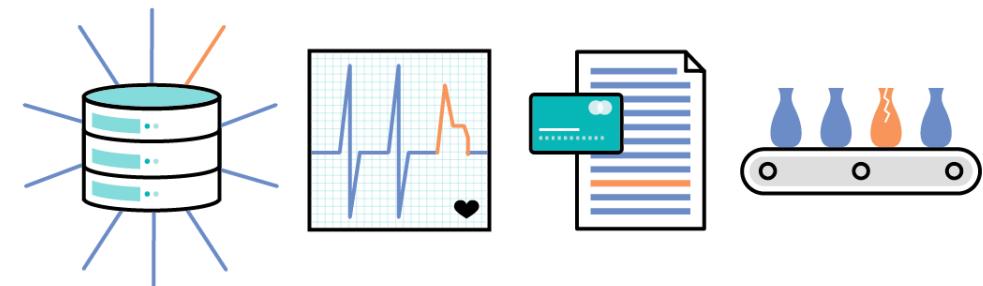
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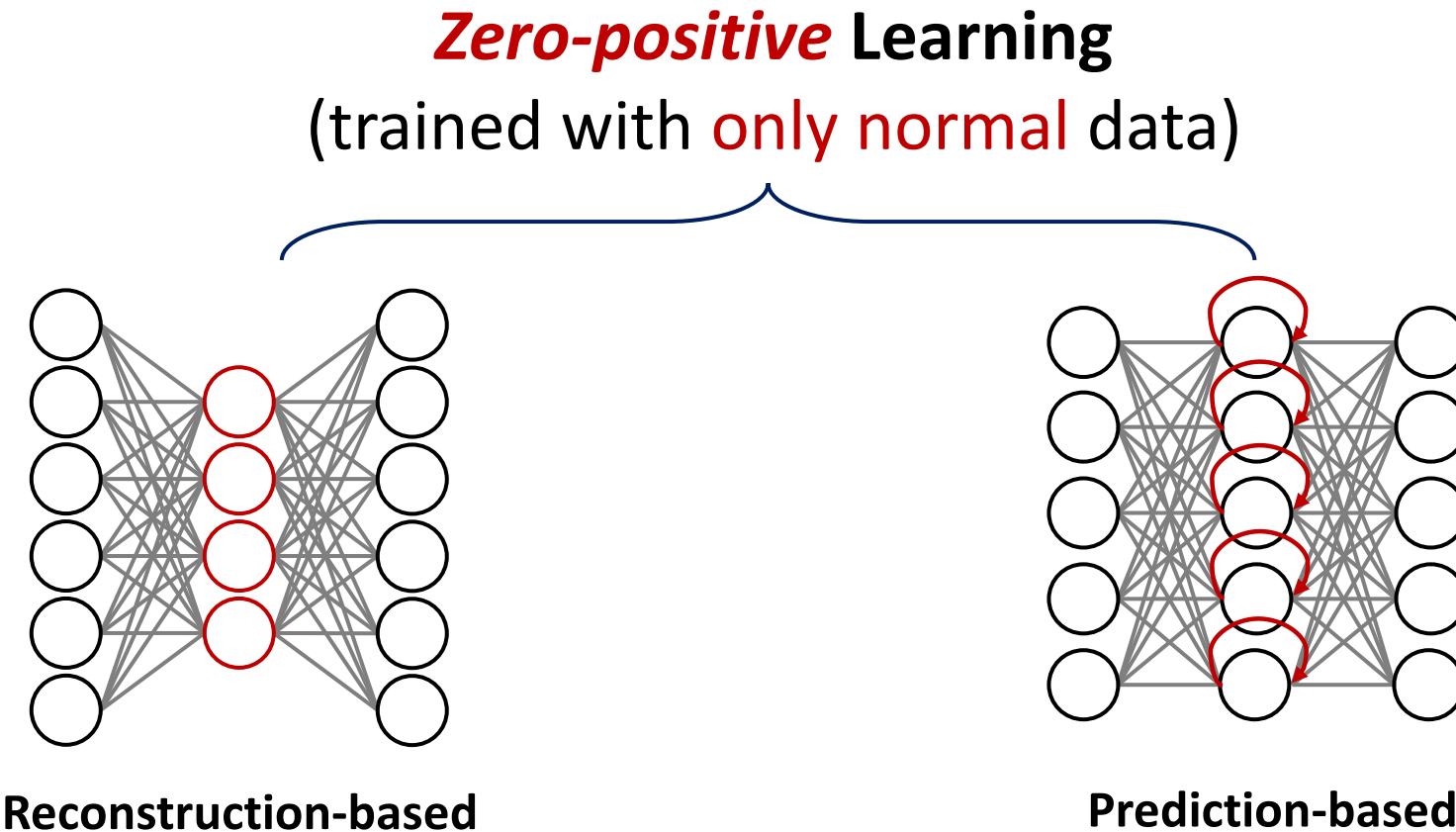
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Deep Learning has shown a great potential to build network security applications

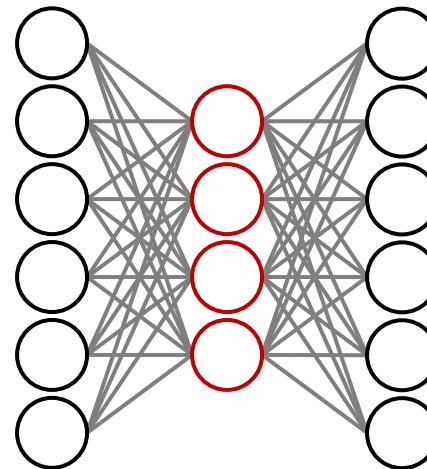
- Learn better **nonlinear and hierarchical** features
- Capture **complex and high-dimensional** structures



# Deep Learning based Anomaly Detection

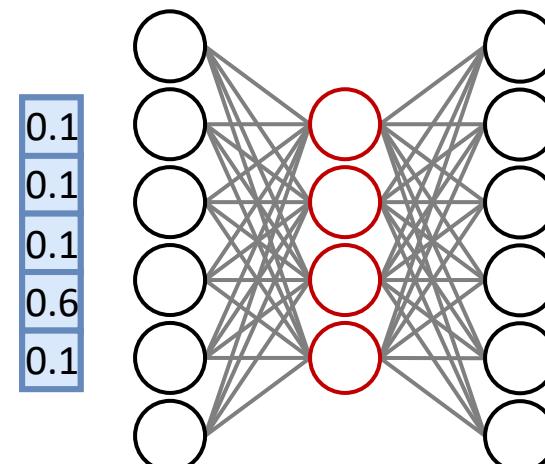


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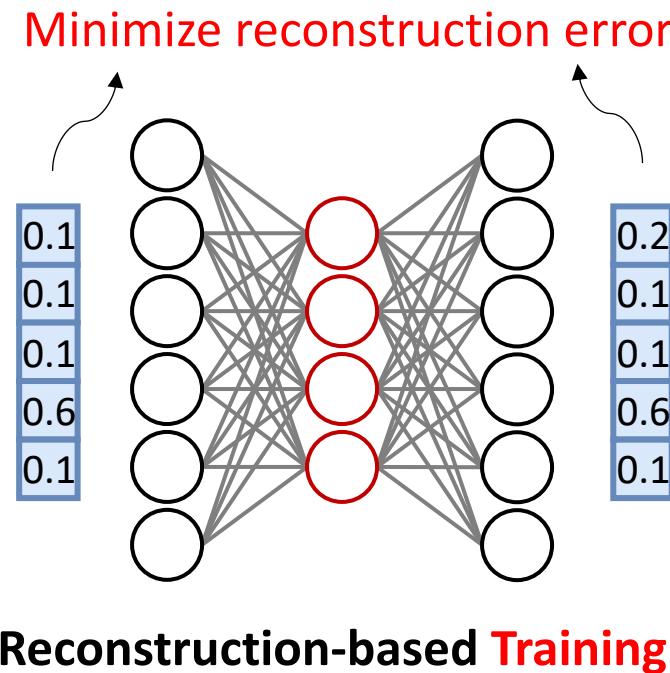
**Reconstruction-based**

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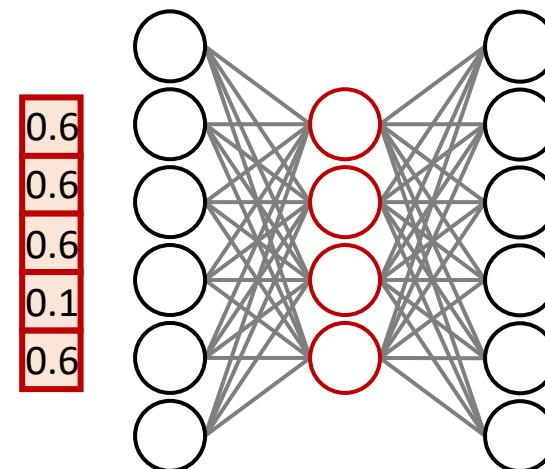


**Reconstruction-based Training**

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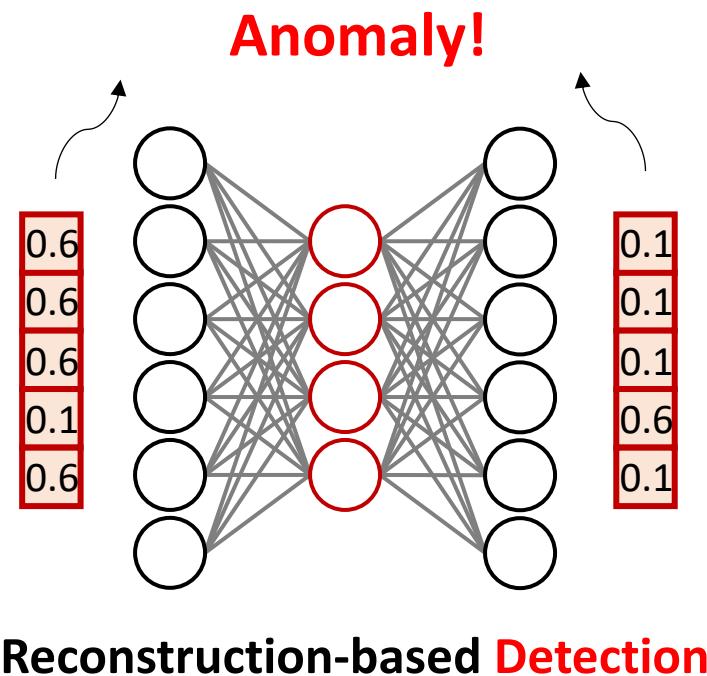


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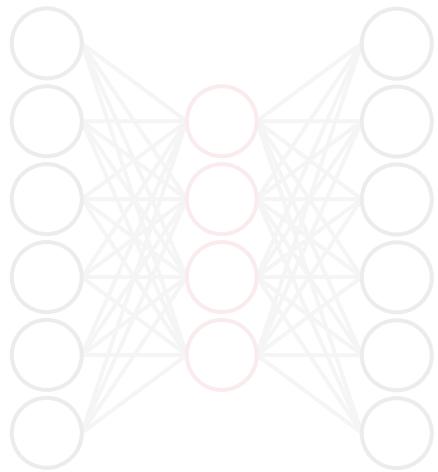


**Reconstruction-based Detection**

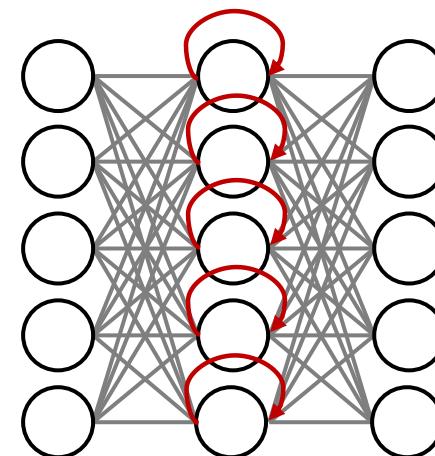
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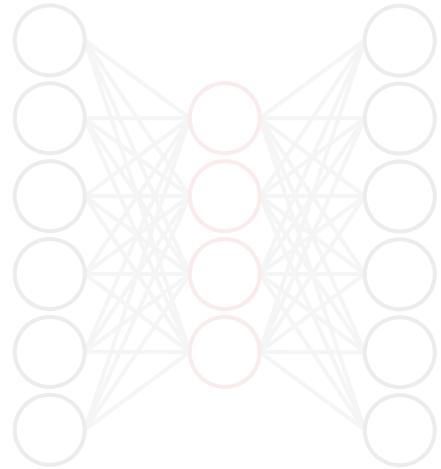


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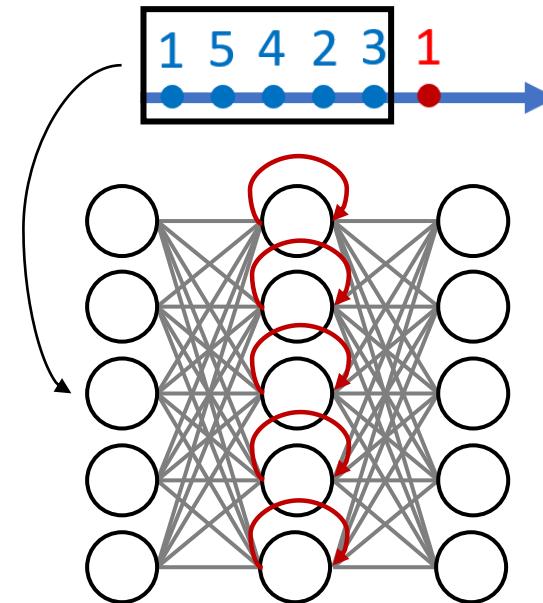


**Prediction-based**

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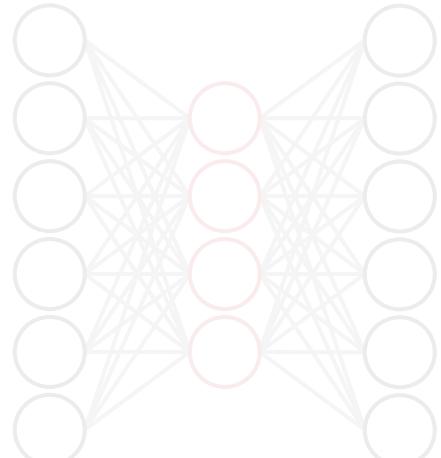


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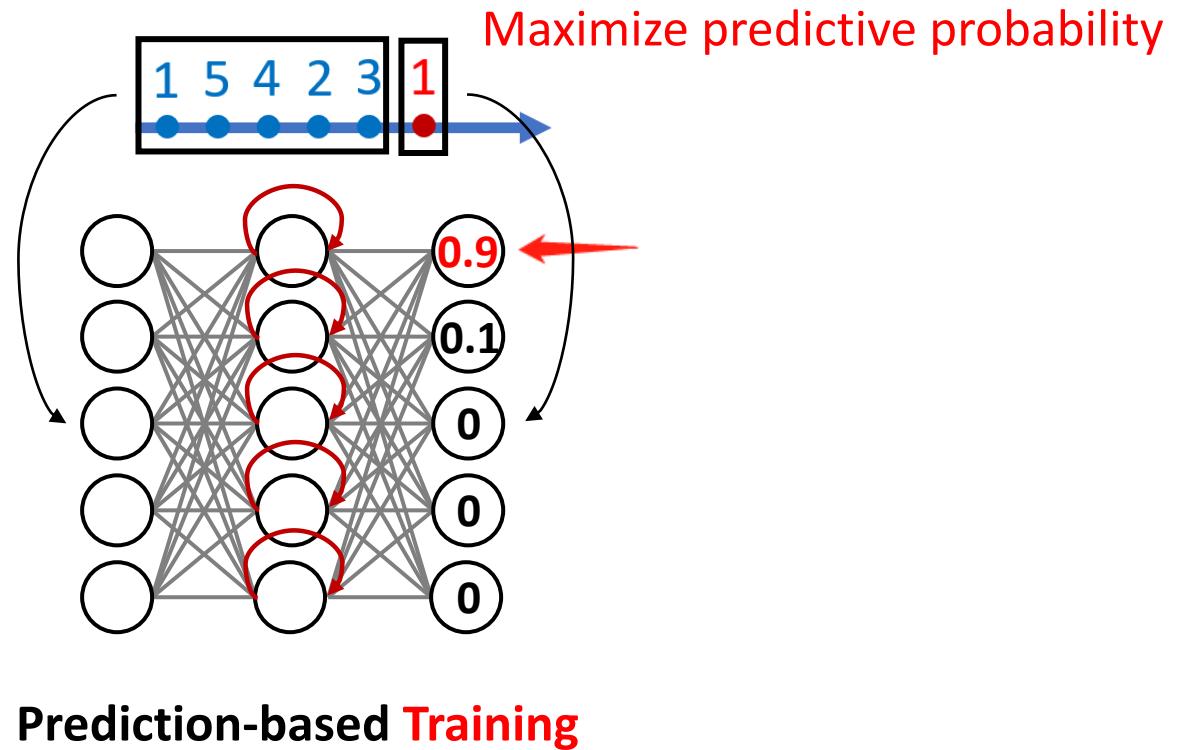


Prediction-based **Training**

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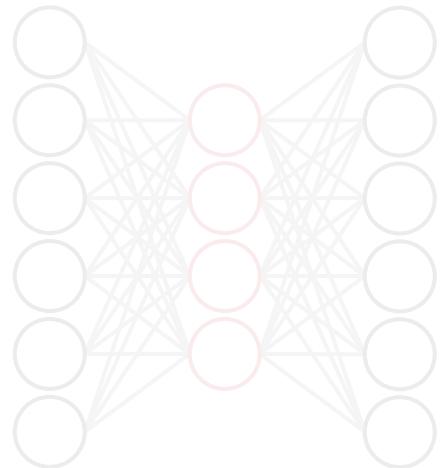


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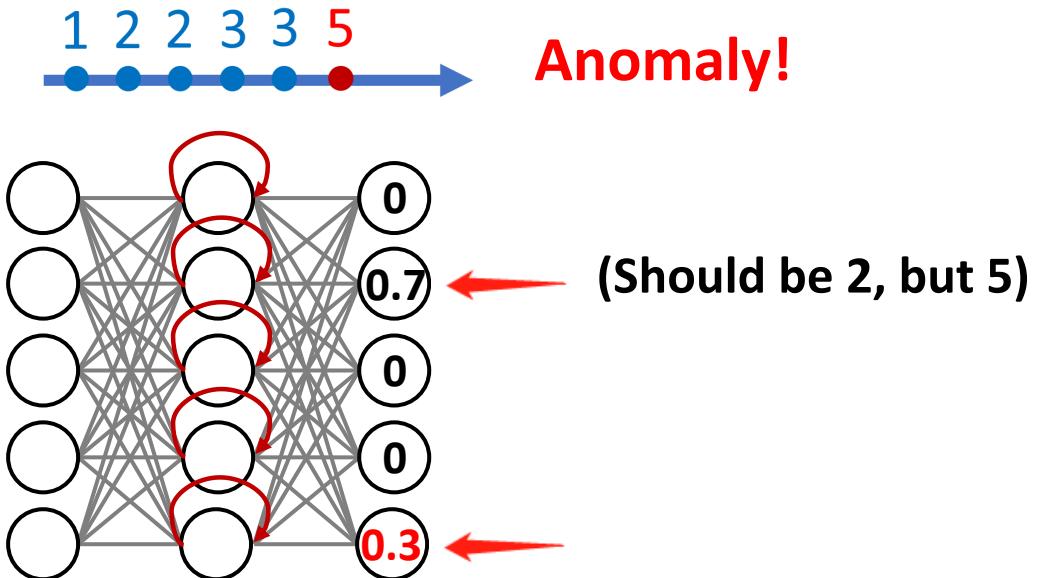


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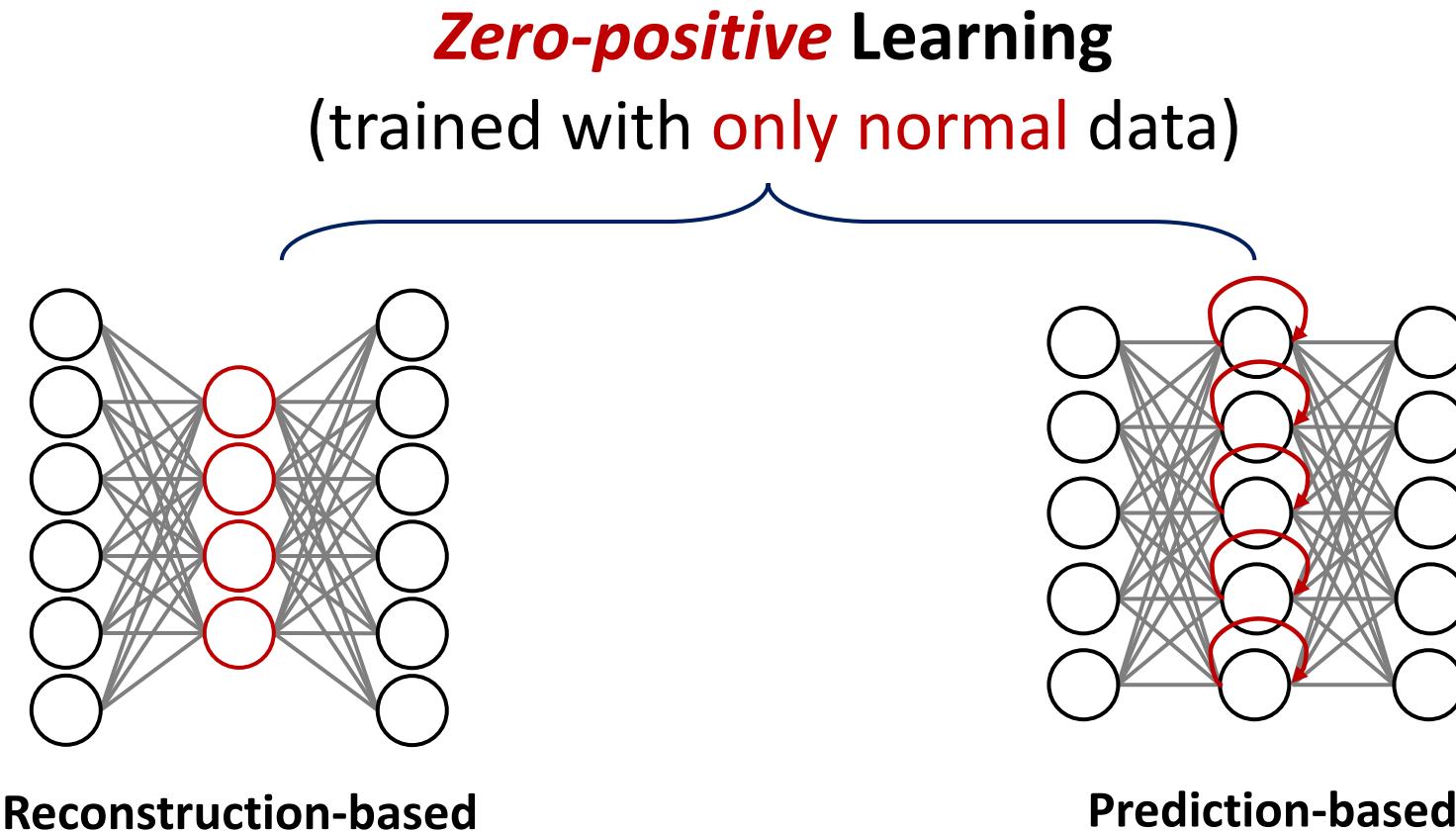


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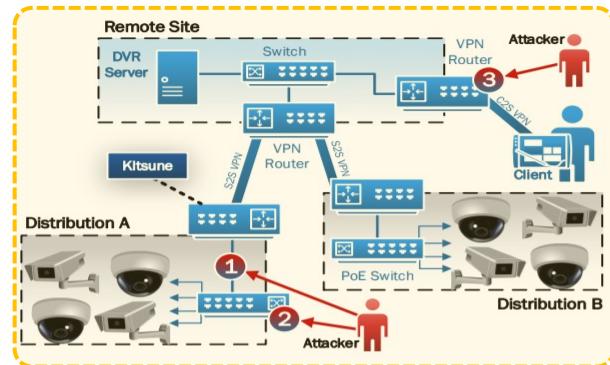
Prediction-based **Detection**

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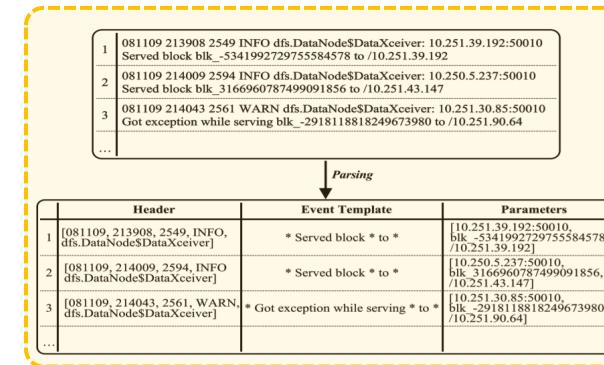


# Anomaly Detection in Security Applications

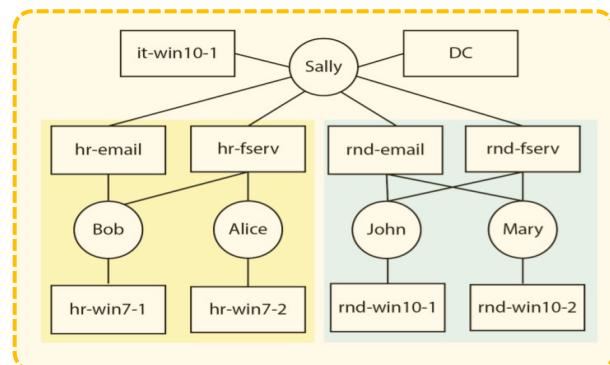
## Security Applications with Deep Learning based Anomaly Detection:



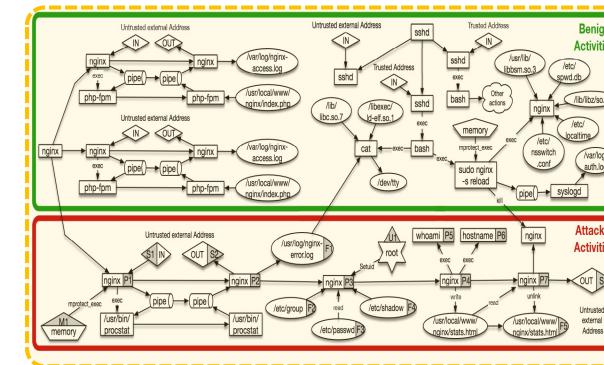
Network Intrusion Detection ([NDSS'18](#), [CCS'23](#))



Log Anomaly Detection ([CCS'17](#), [CCS'19](#))



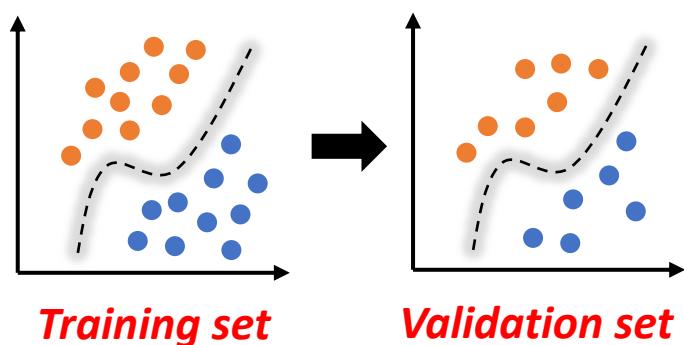
Lateral Movement Detection ([CCS'19](#), [Security'23](#))



Host-based Threat Detection ([NDSS'20](#), [S&P'23](#))

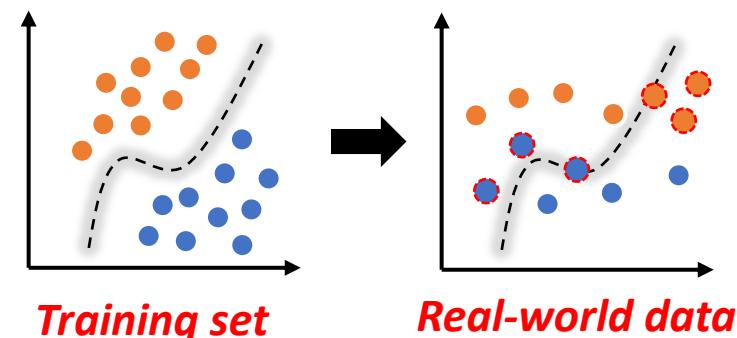
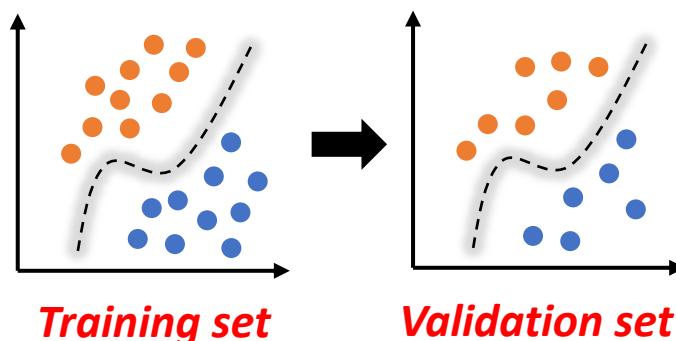
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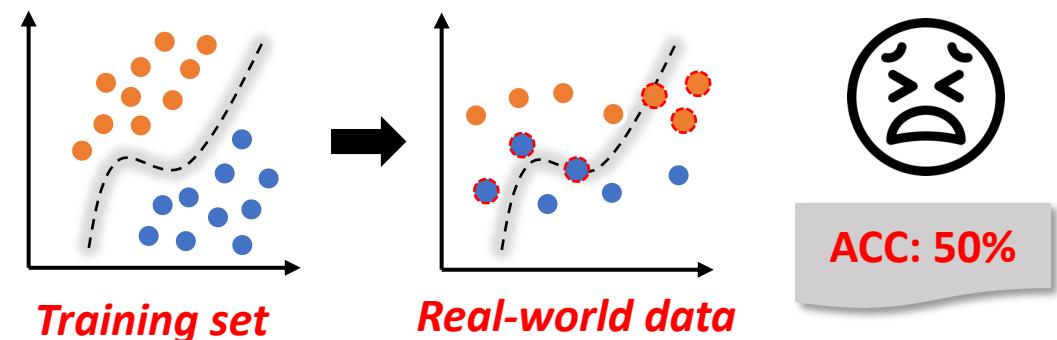
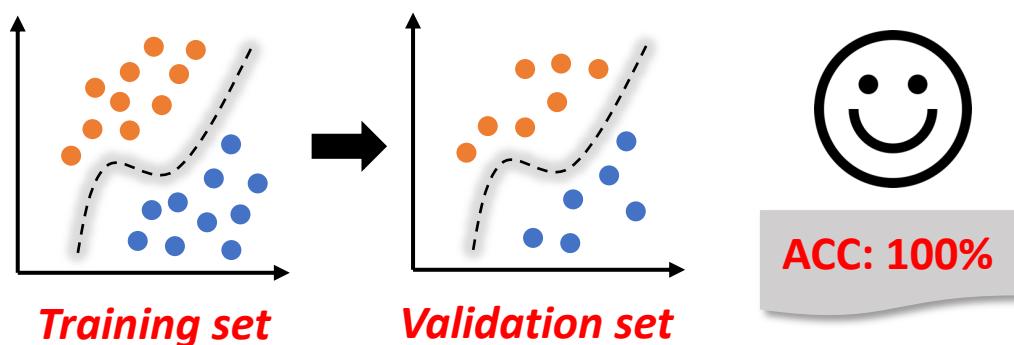
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  - **Concept Drift** Problem
  - Example in security: the evolution of malware



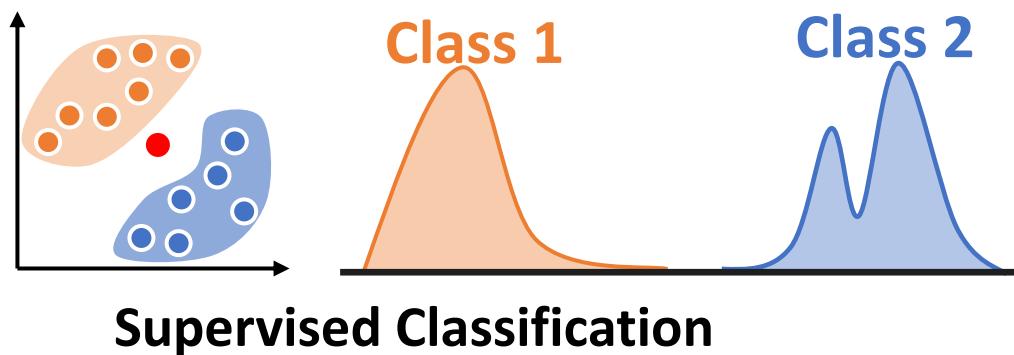
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  - Model performance aging!**



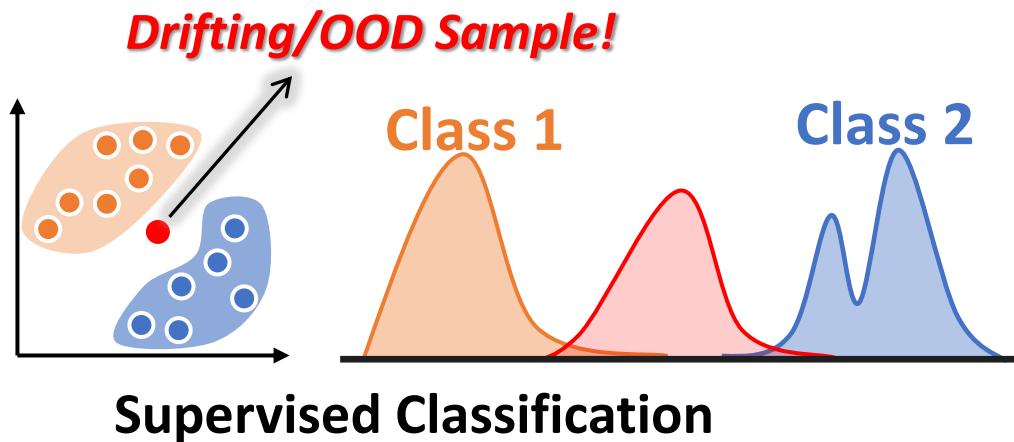
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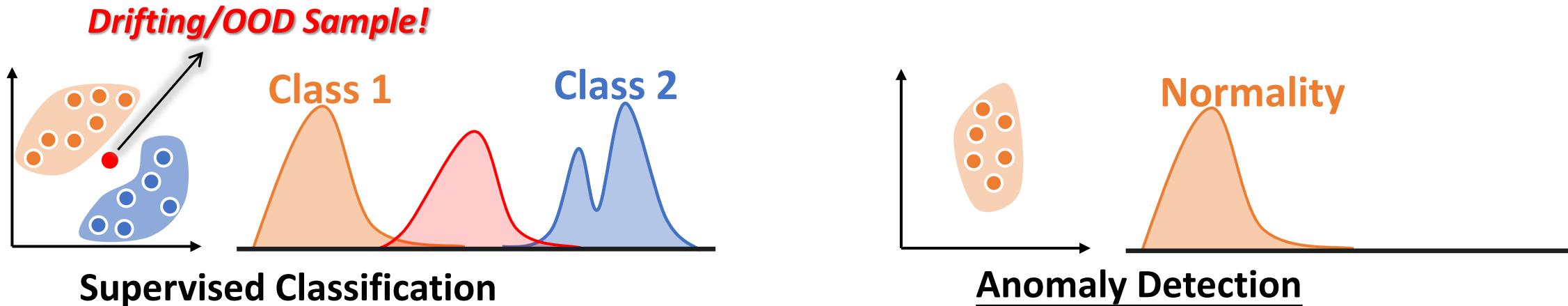
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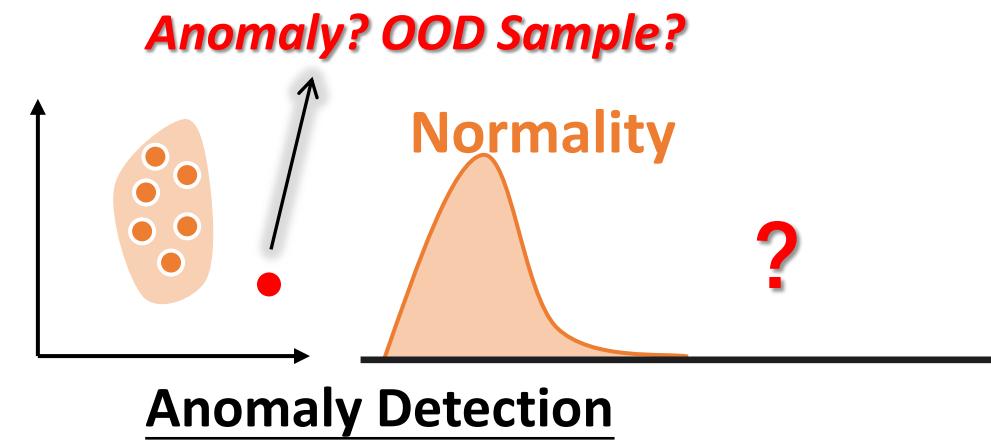
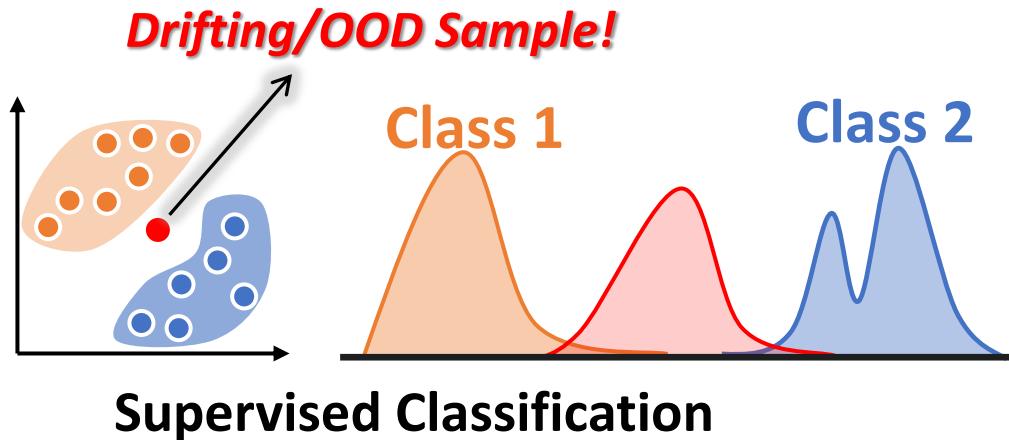
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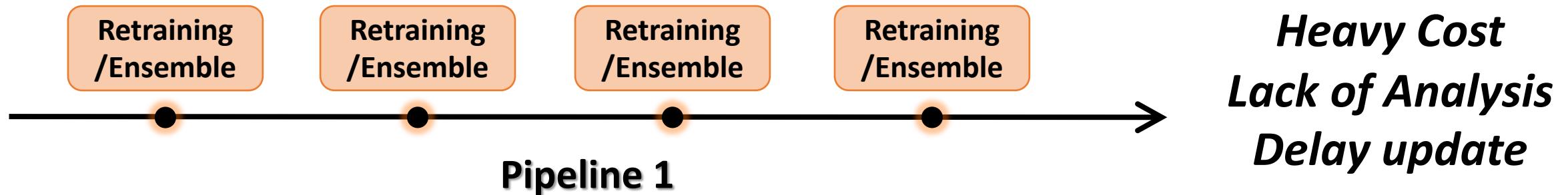


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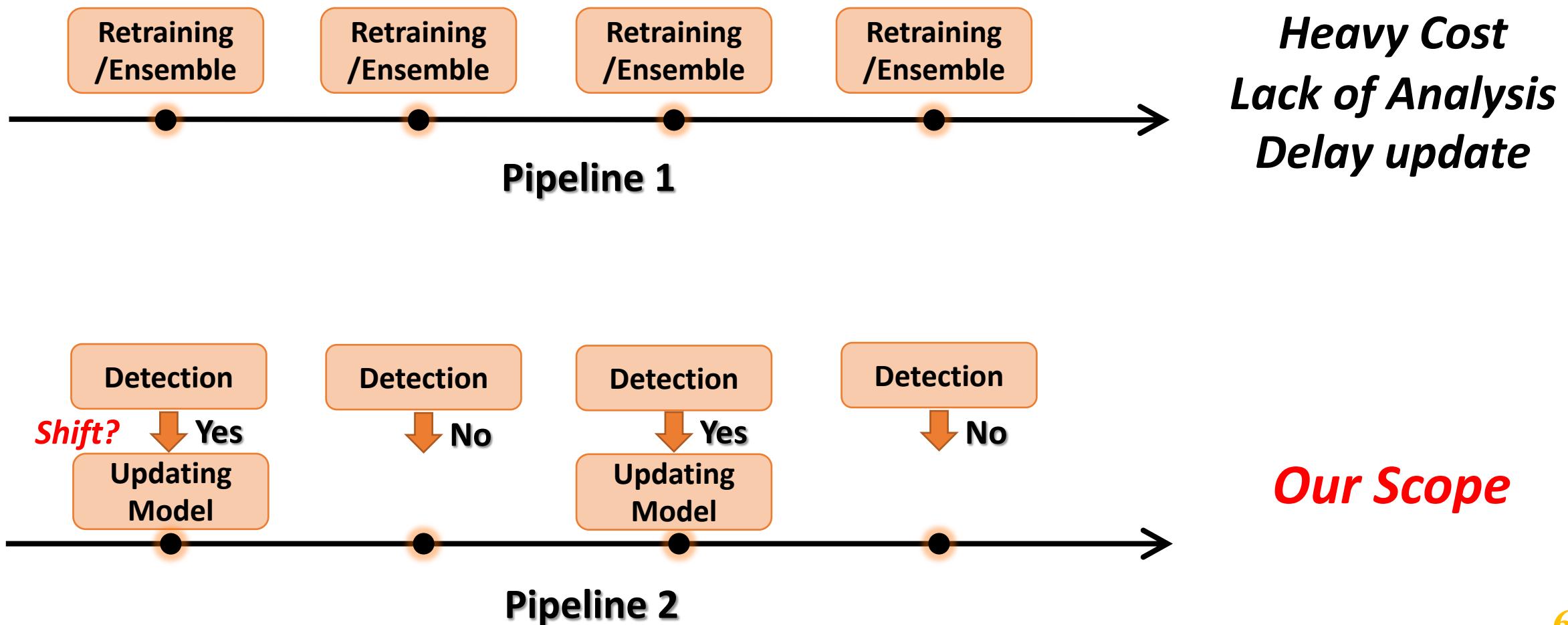
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***Key Insight 1 – Without ground-truth label, a **normality shift** and **real anomaly** is not distinguishable for anomaly detection!***

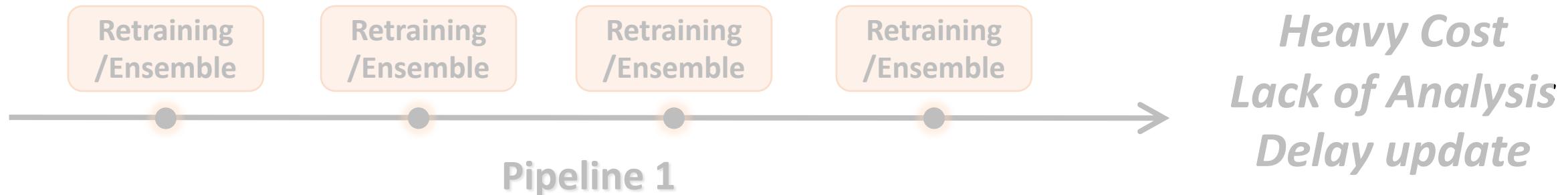
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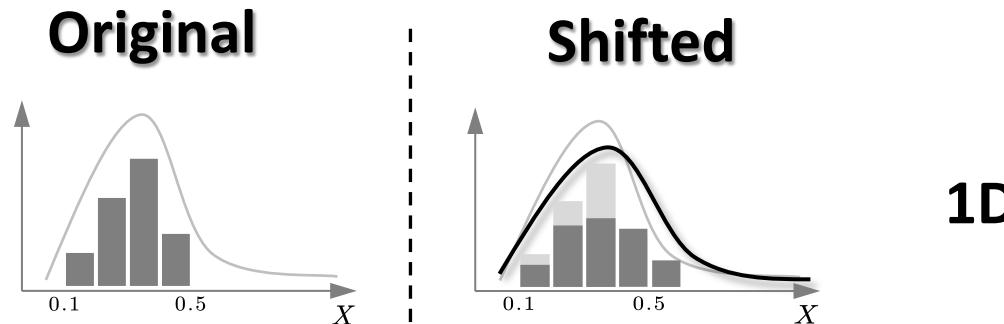


***Key Insight 2 – We need to decide whether, when, and how shift occurs before adapting models to the shift!***

# Detecting Shift in Statistics

**Question:** How to represent the distribution of normality?

Distribution of  
feature-space data



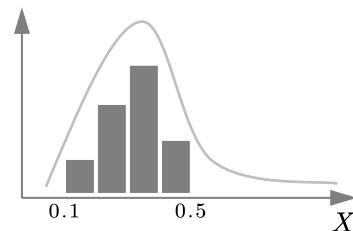
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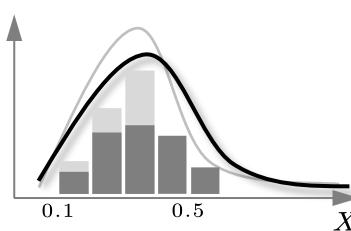
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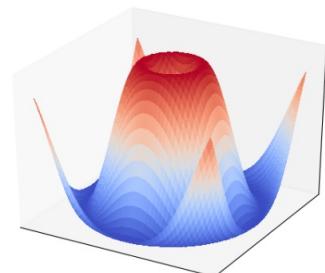
Original



Shifted



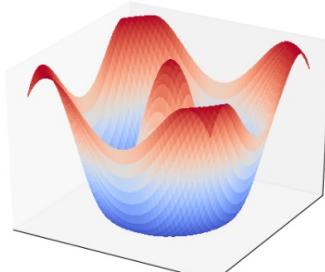
1D



2D

...

?



?

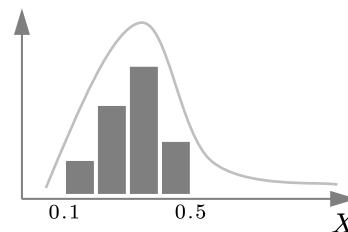
1000D?

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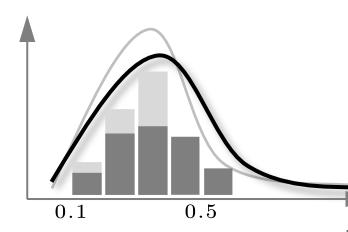
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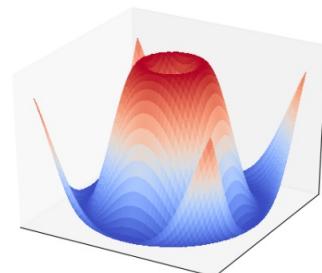
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Shifted



1D



2D

*Intractable for high-dimensional data!*

?

?

1000D?

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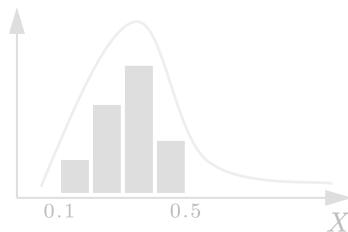
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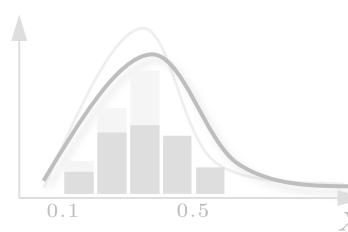


**Distribution of  
model outputs**

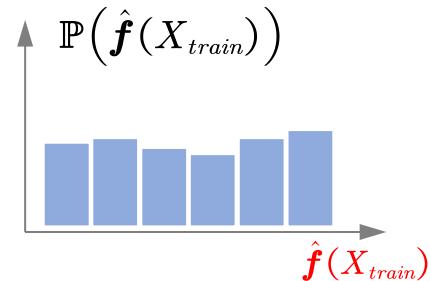
**Original**



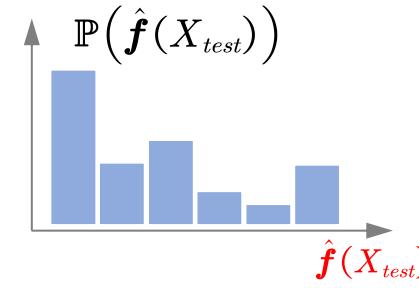
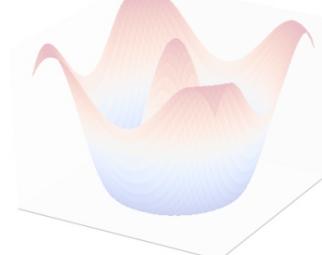
**Shifted**



**1D**



**2D**



*Intractable for high-dimensional data!*

**Our Scope**

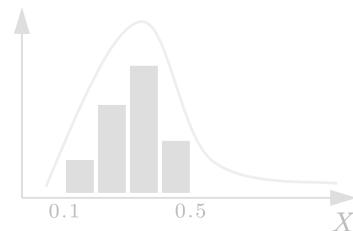
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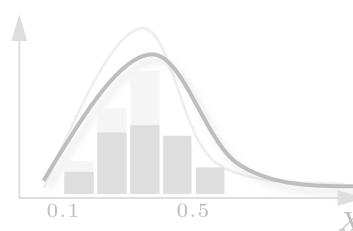
Distribution of  
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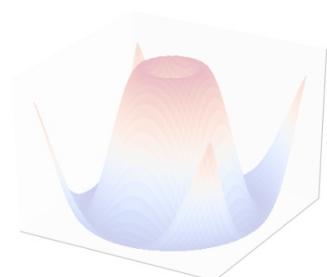
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1D



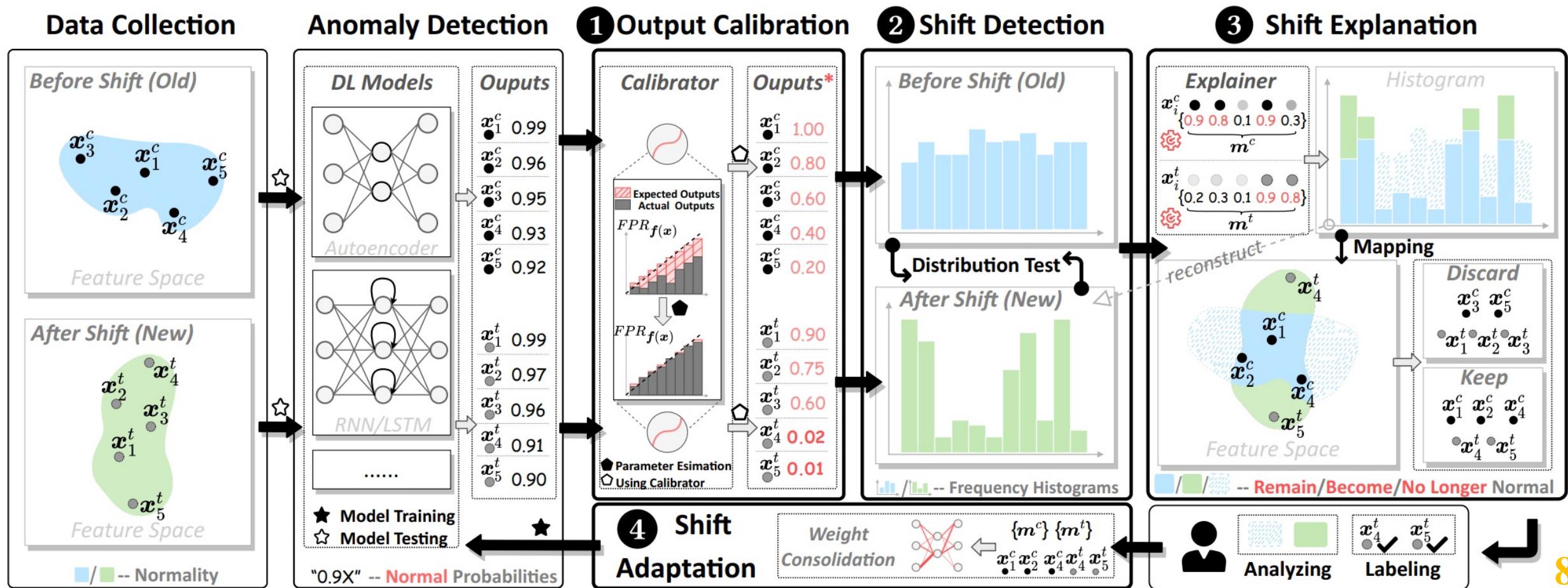
2D

Intractable for high-dimensional data!

**Key Insight 3 – Distribution of normality can be represented by the distribution of model outputs!**

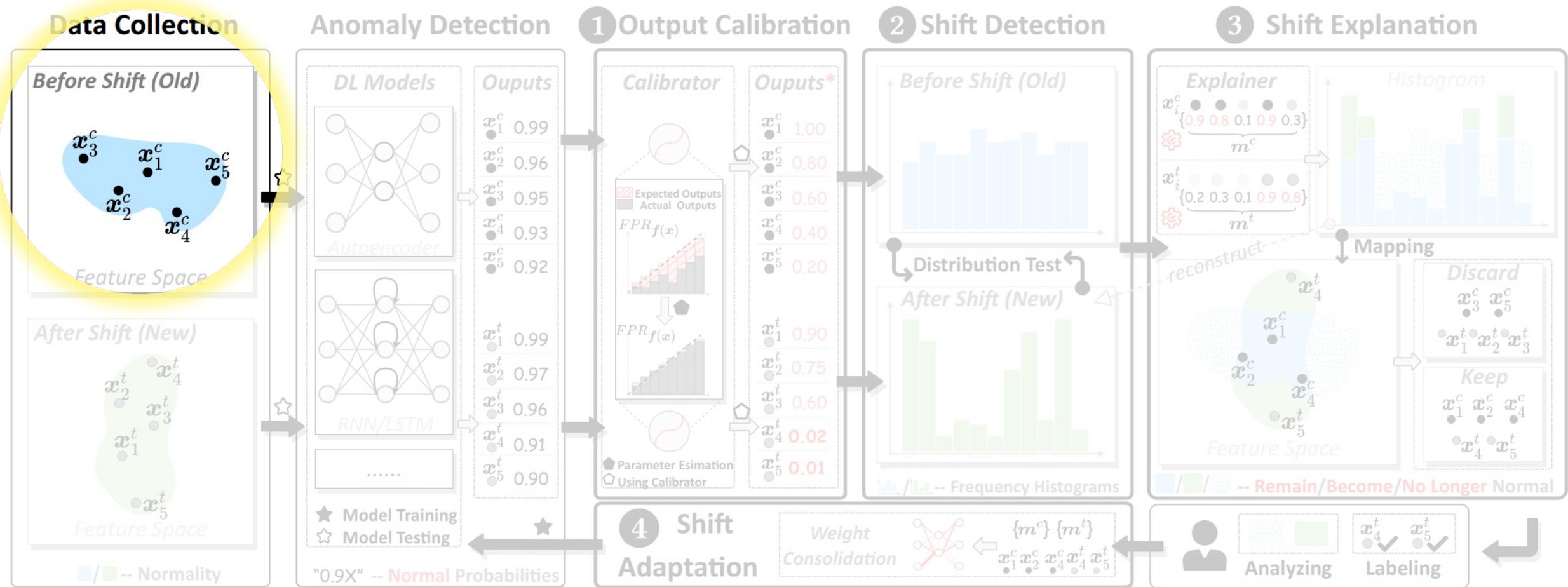
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  - Detecting, Explaining, and Adapting to normality shift for DL-based anomaly detection.



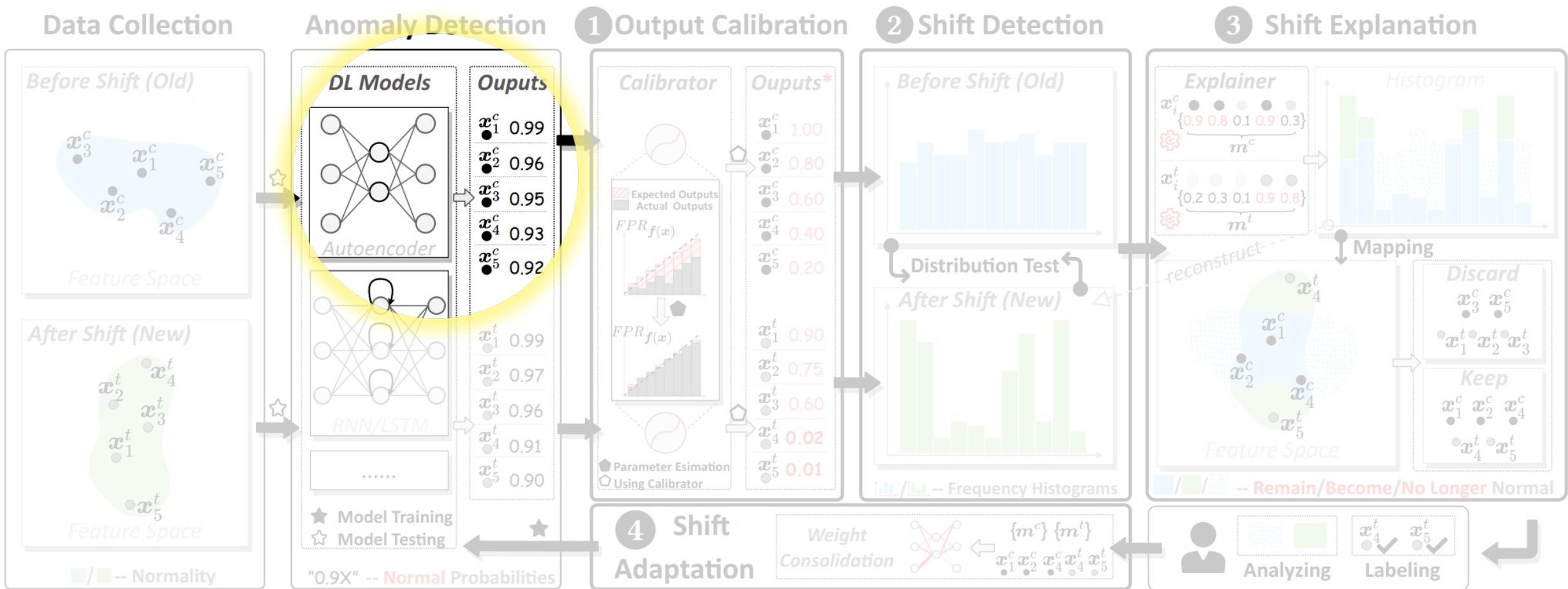
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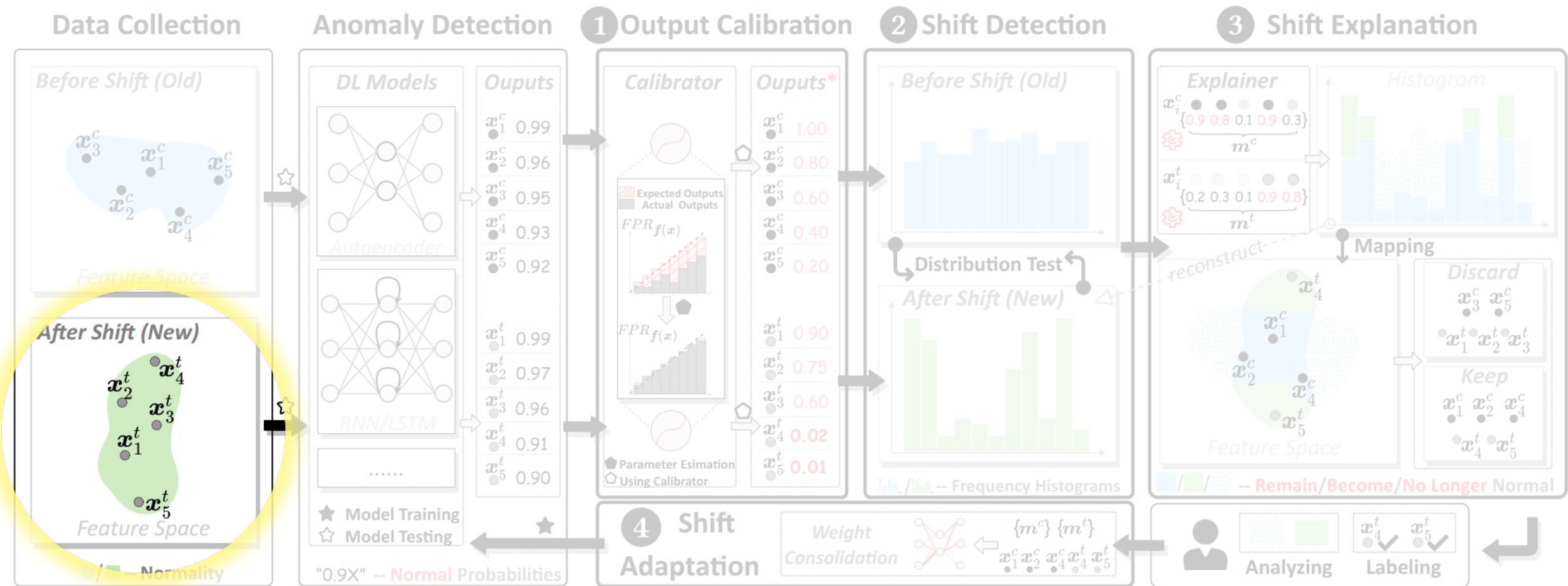
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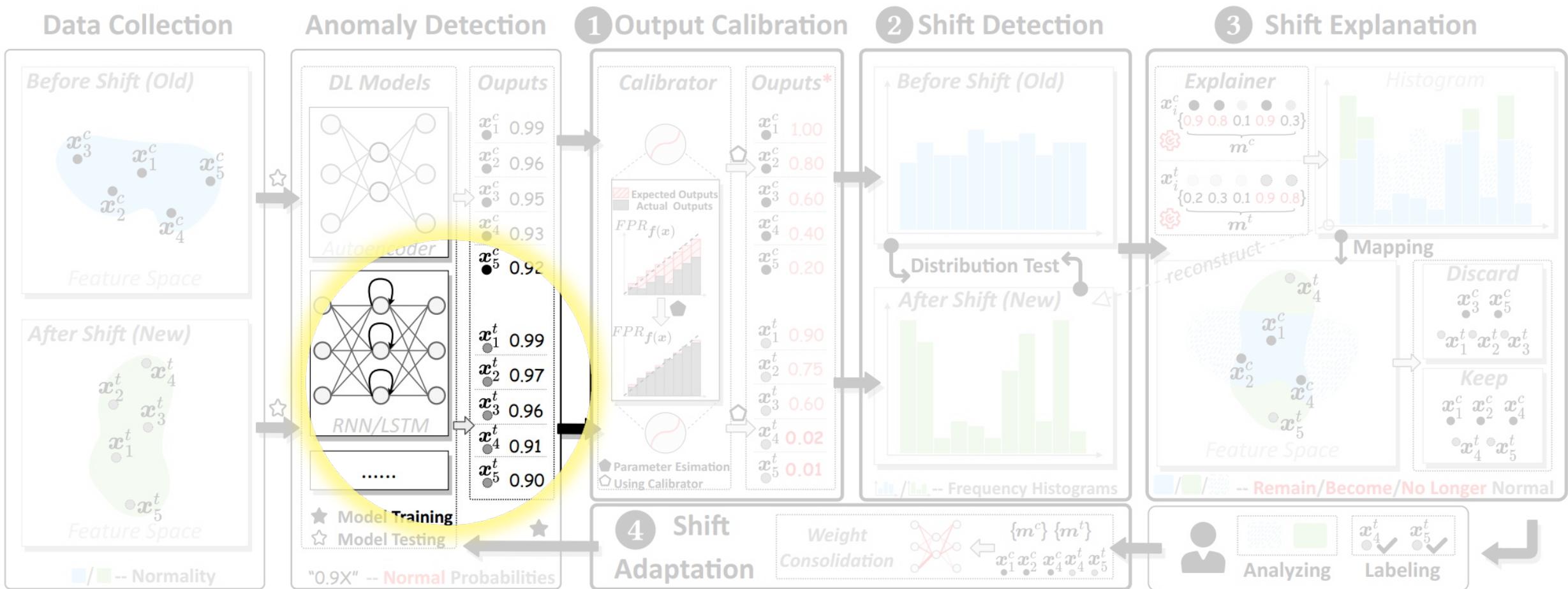
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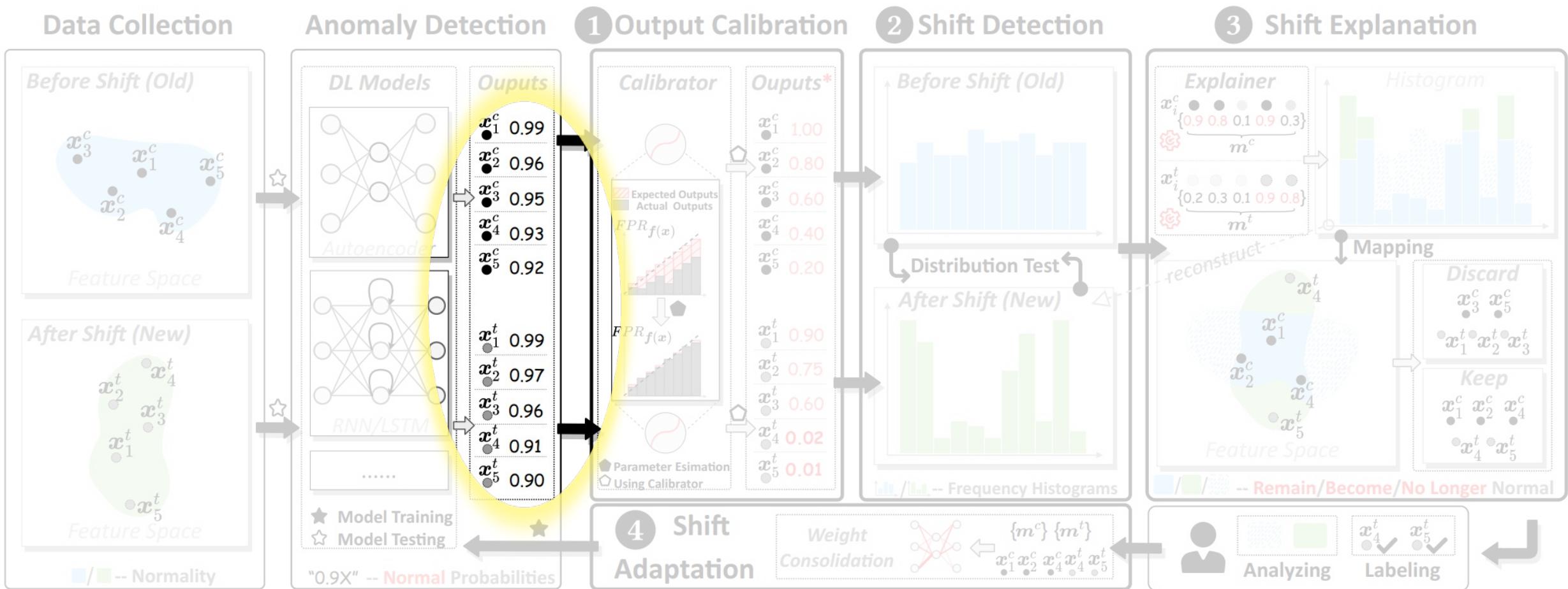
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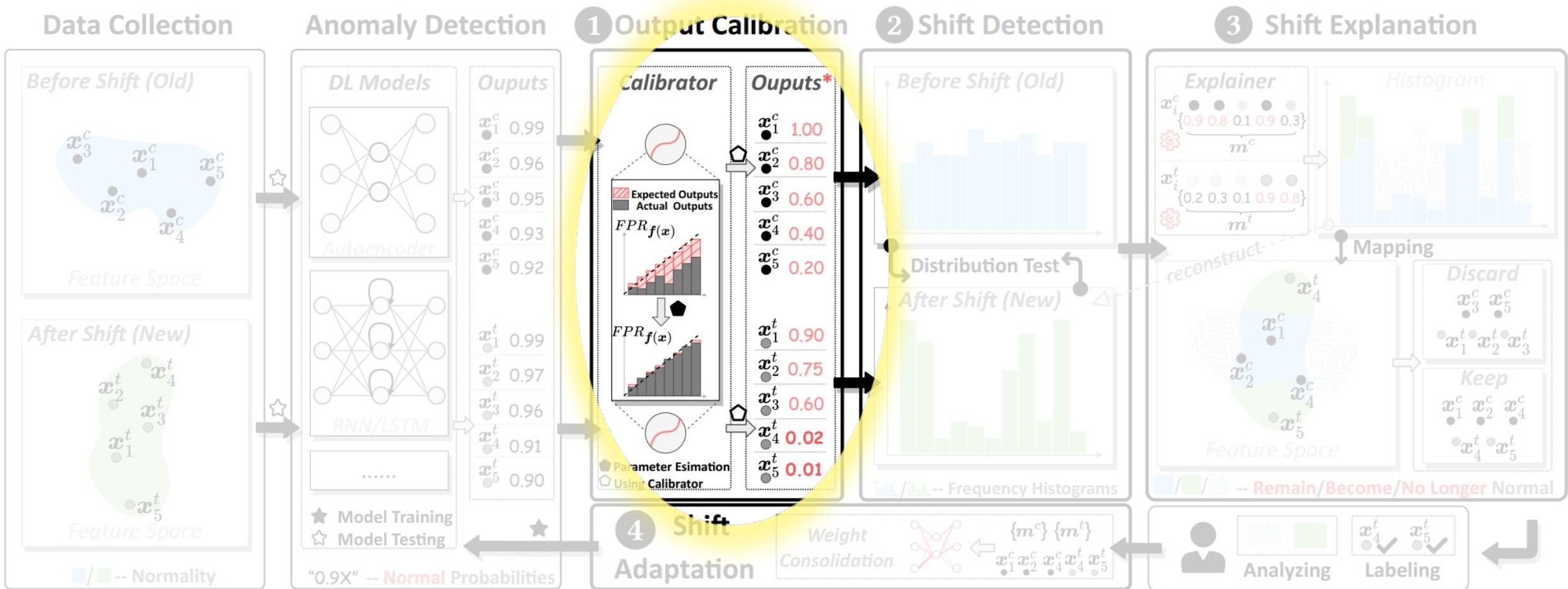
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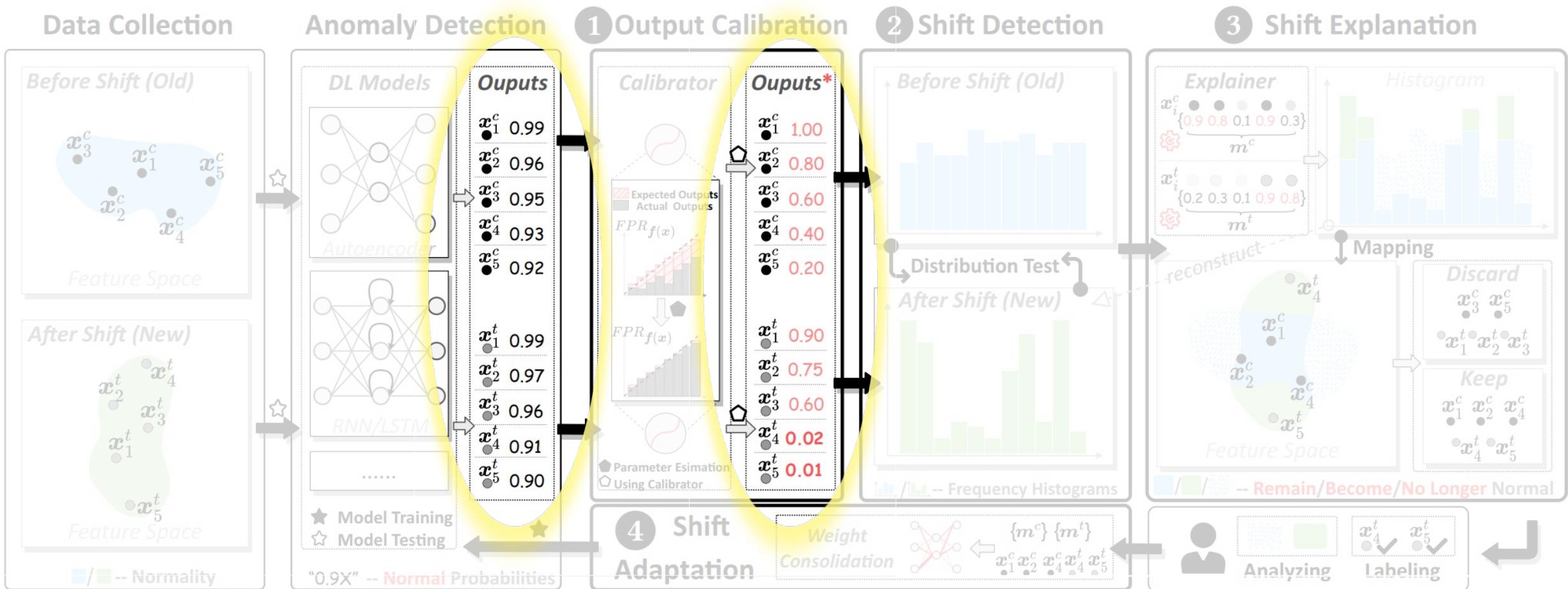
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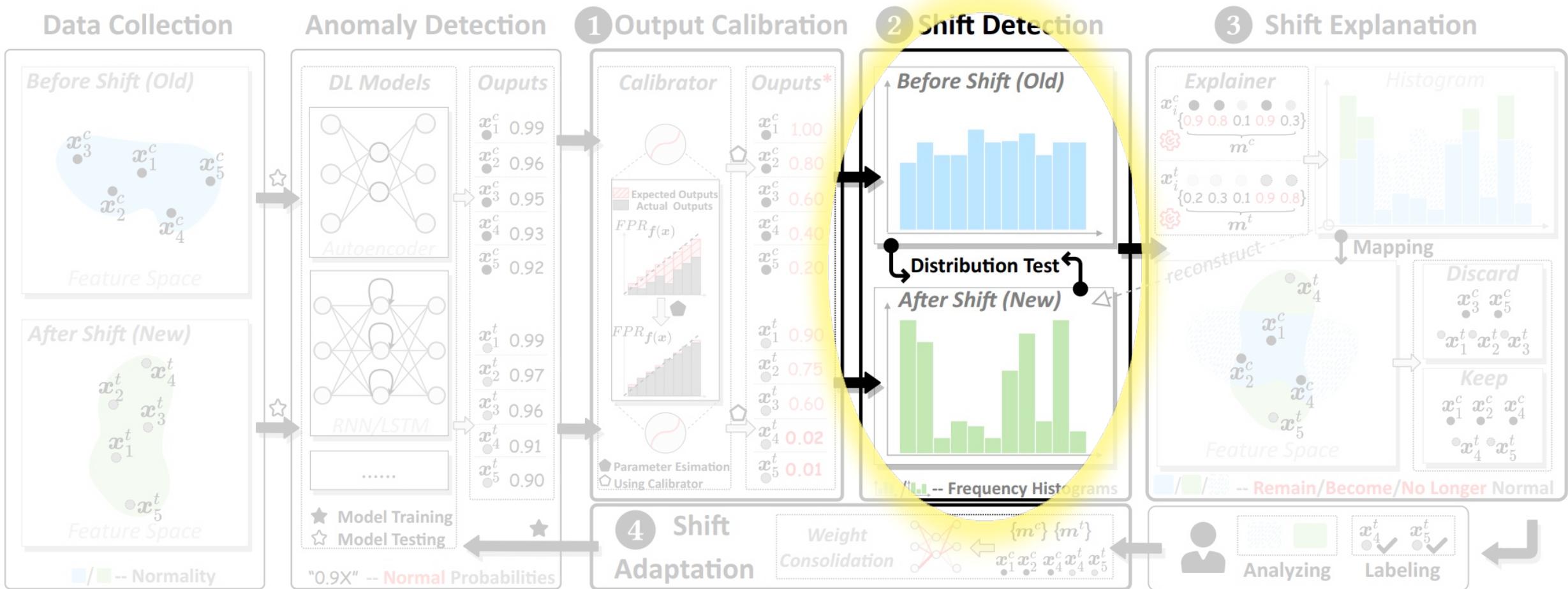
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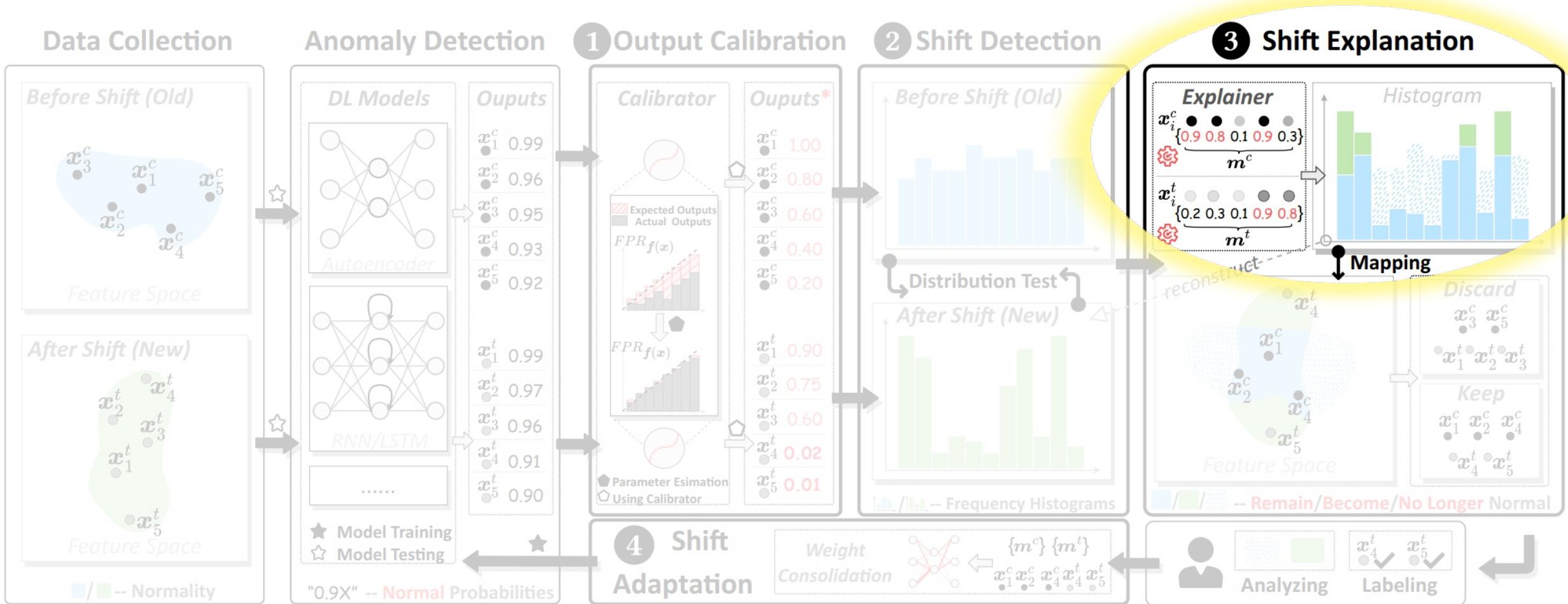
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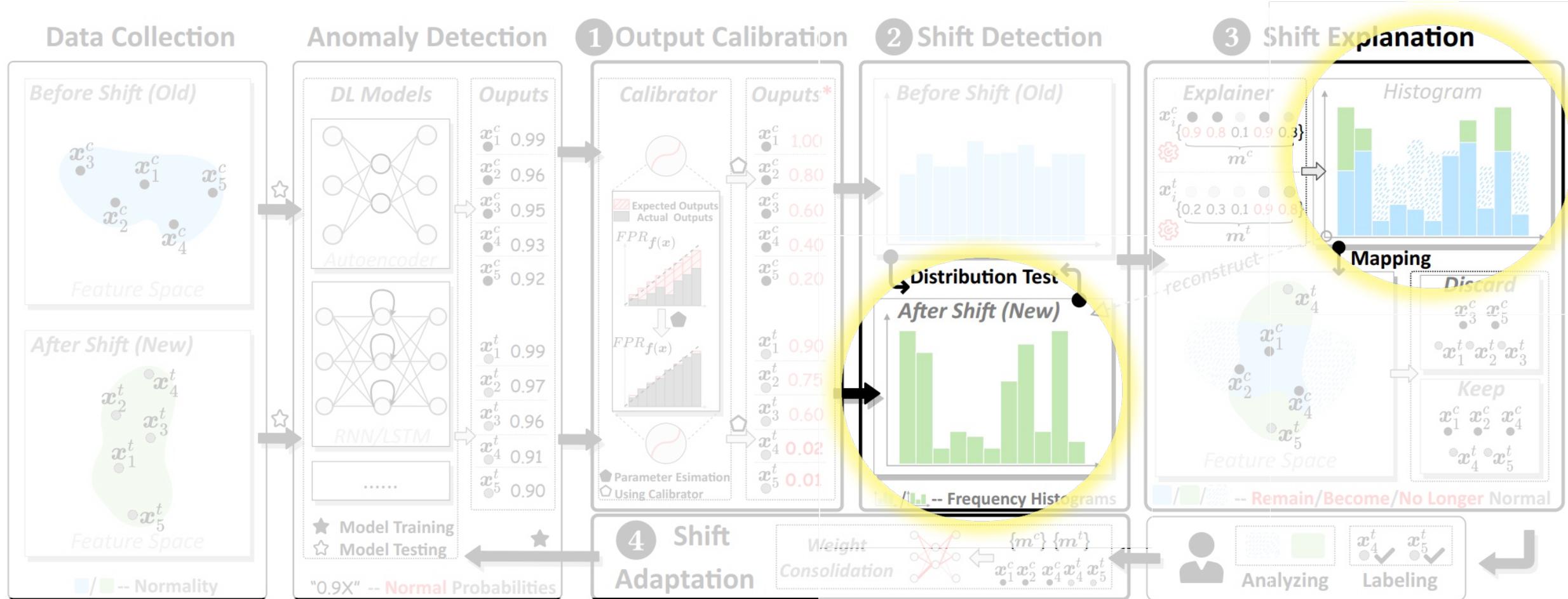
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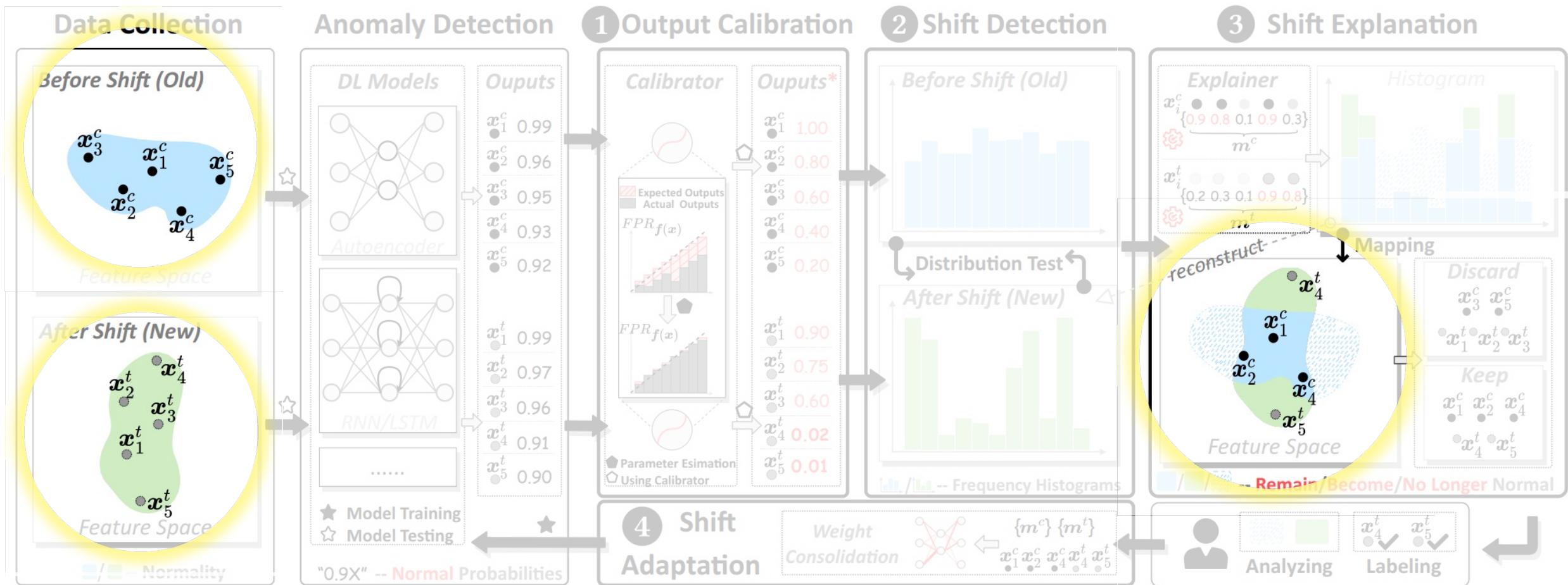
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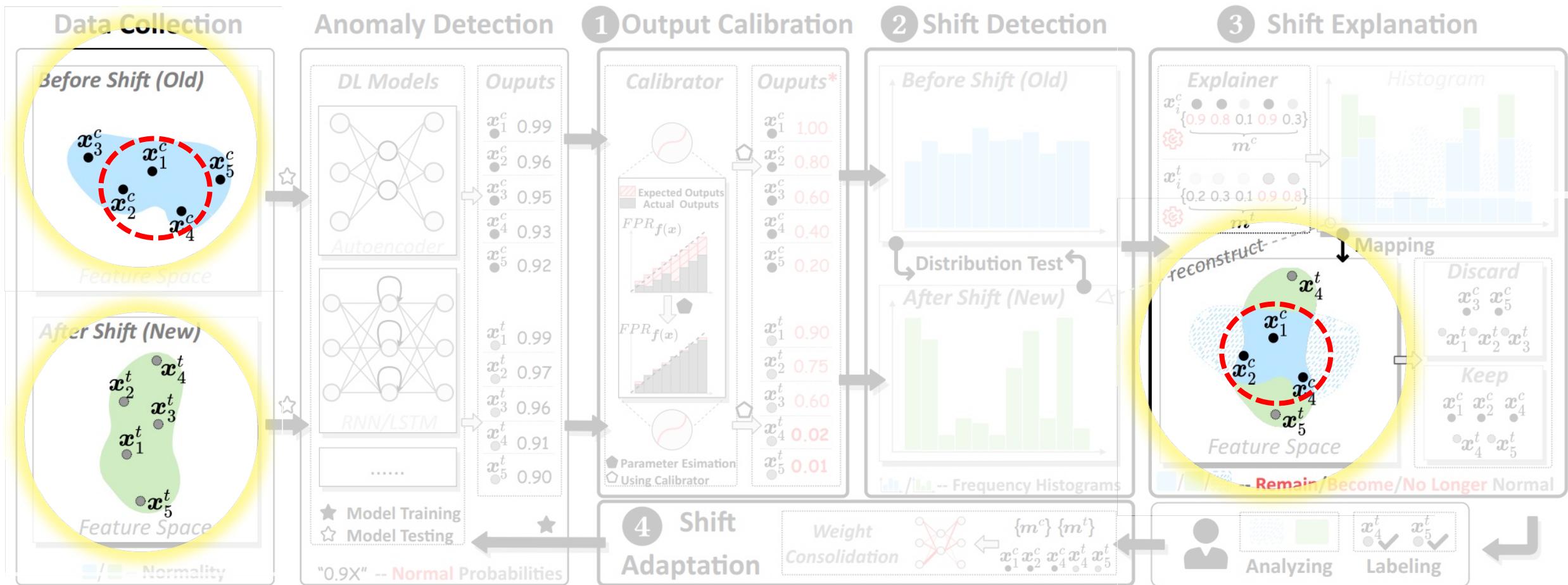
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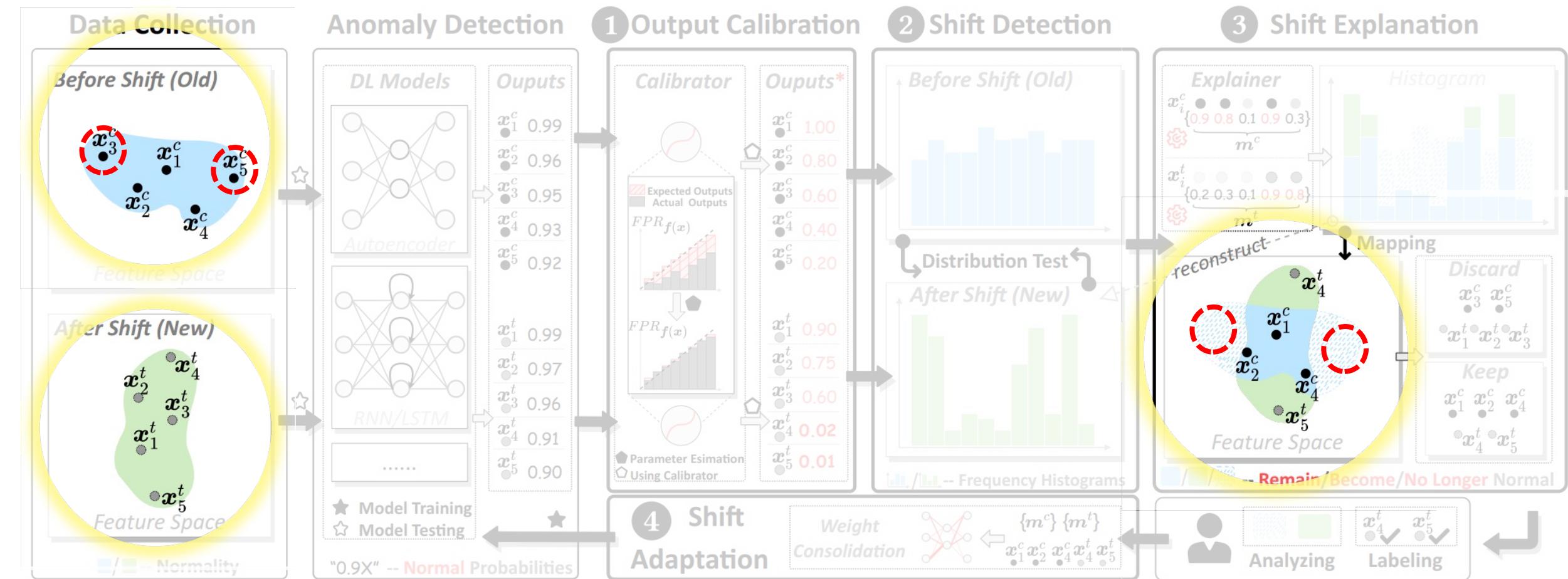
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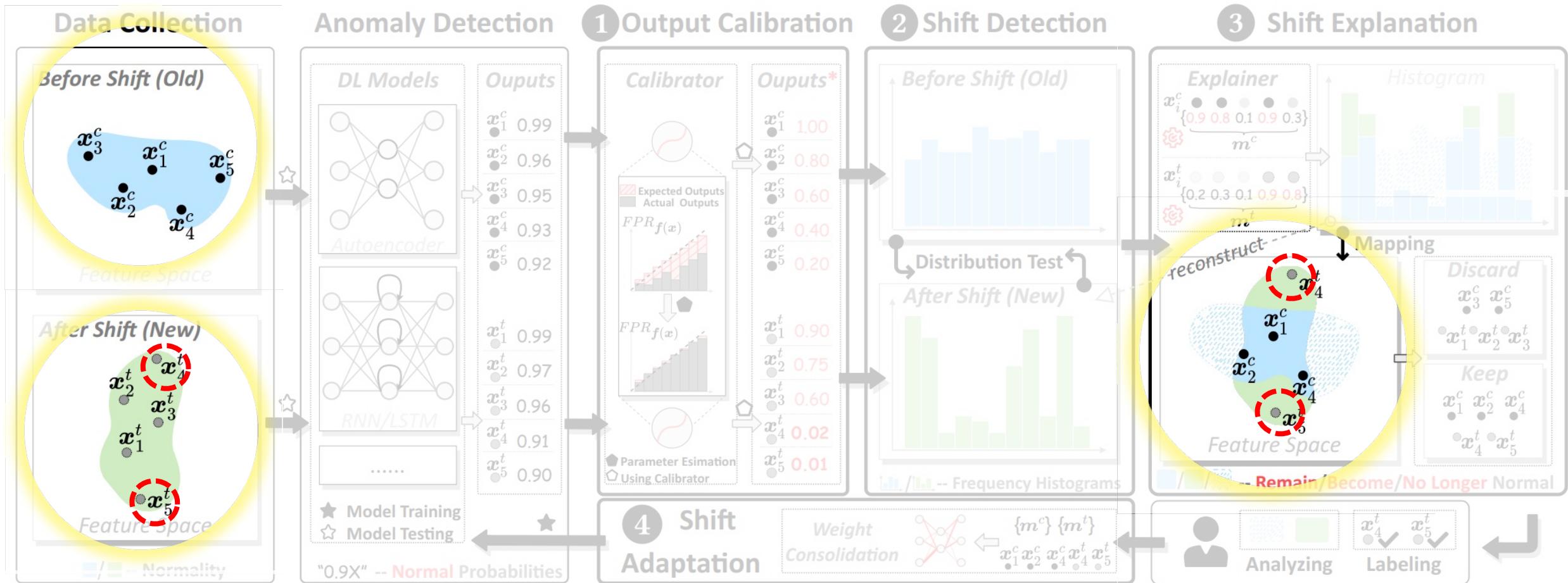
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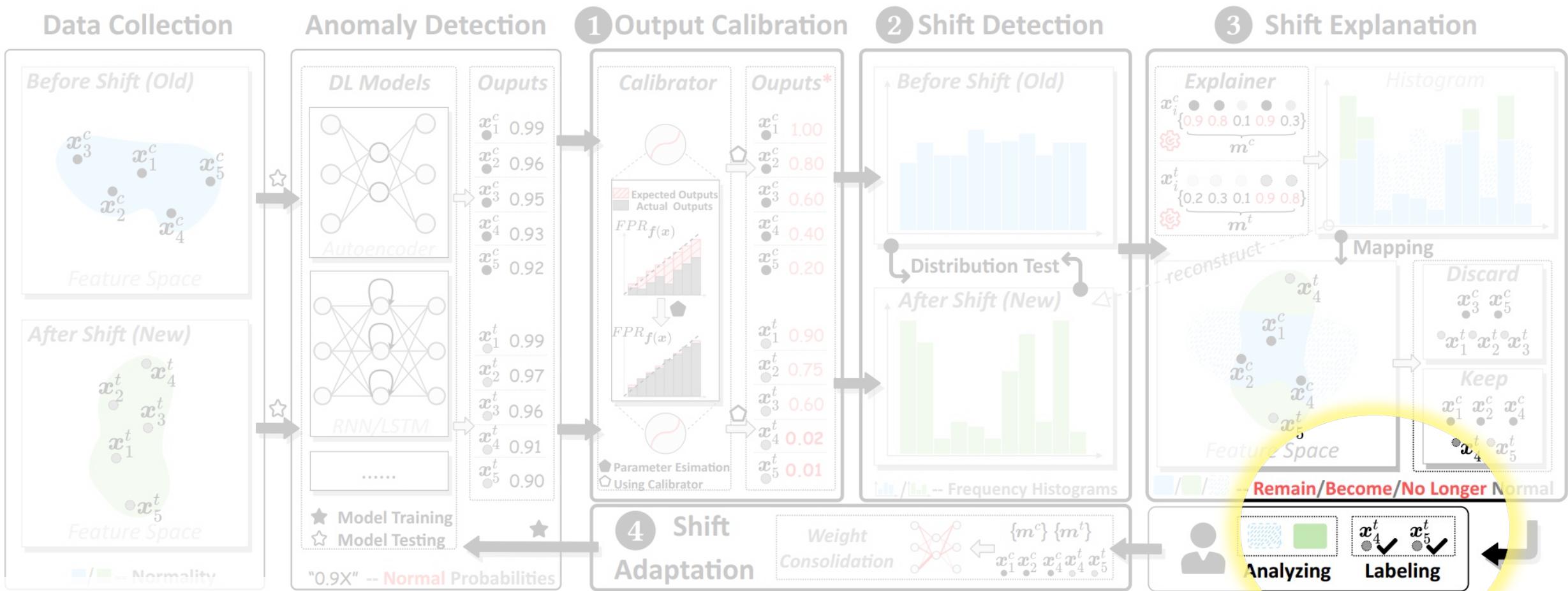
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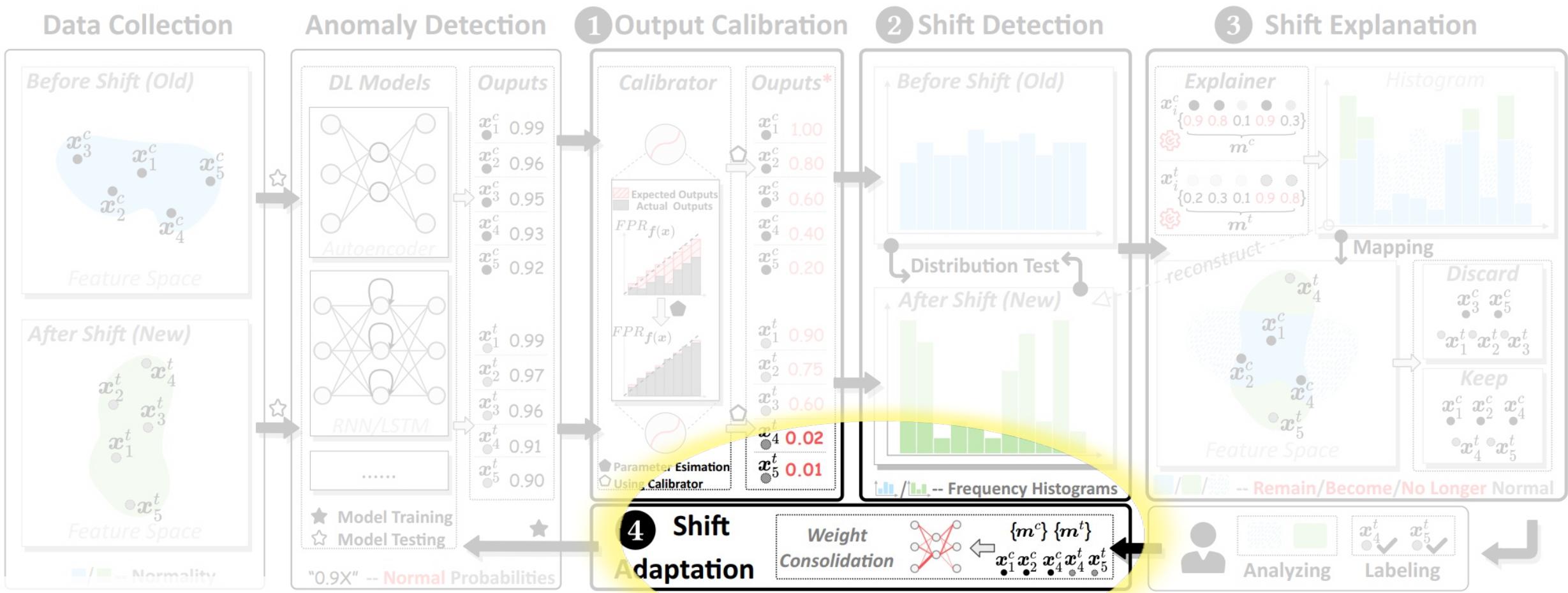
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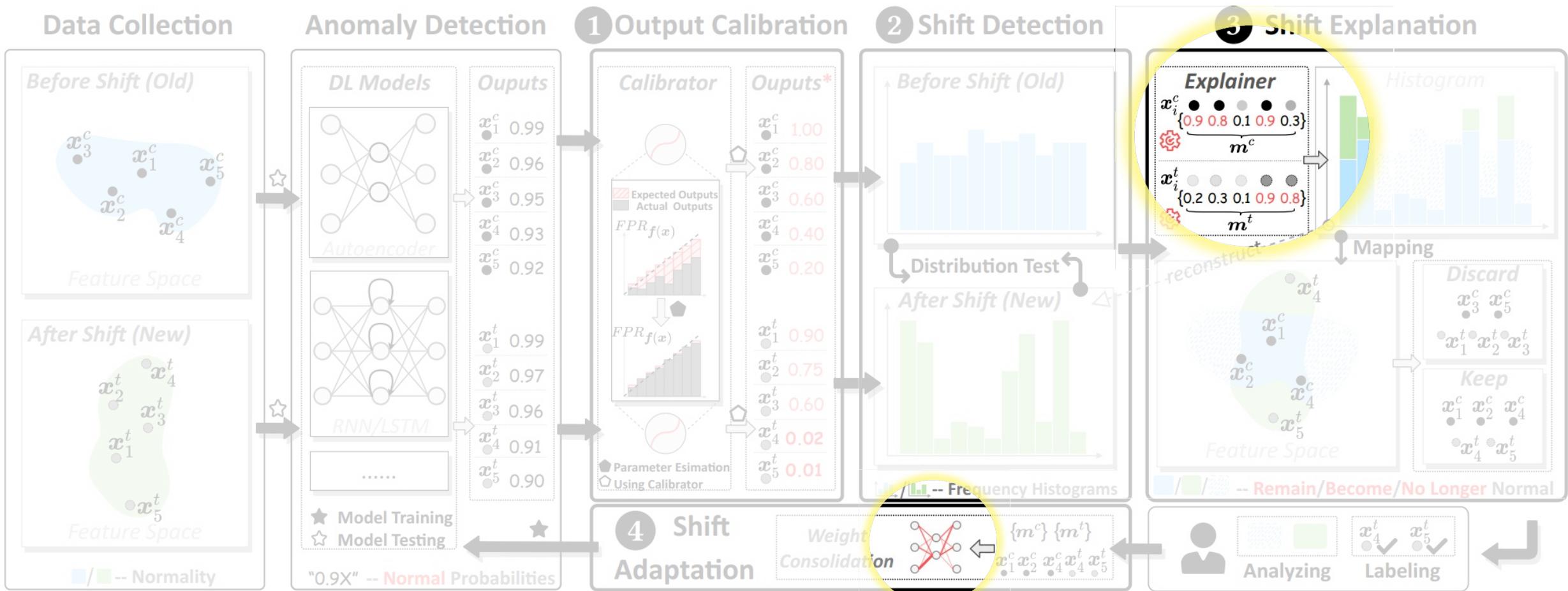
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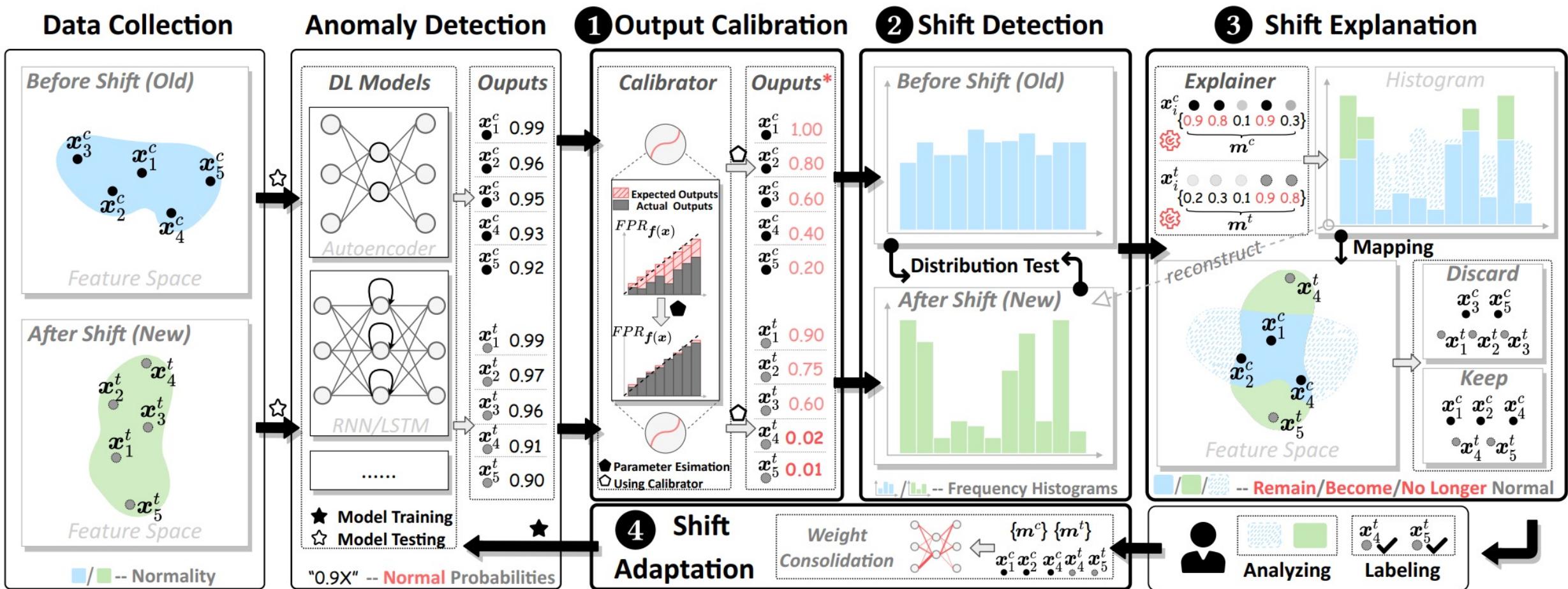
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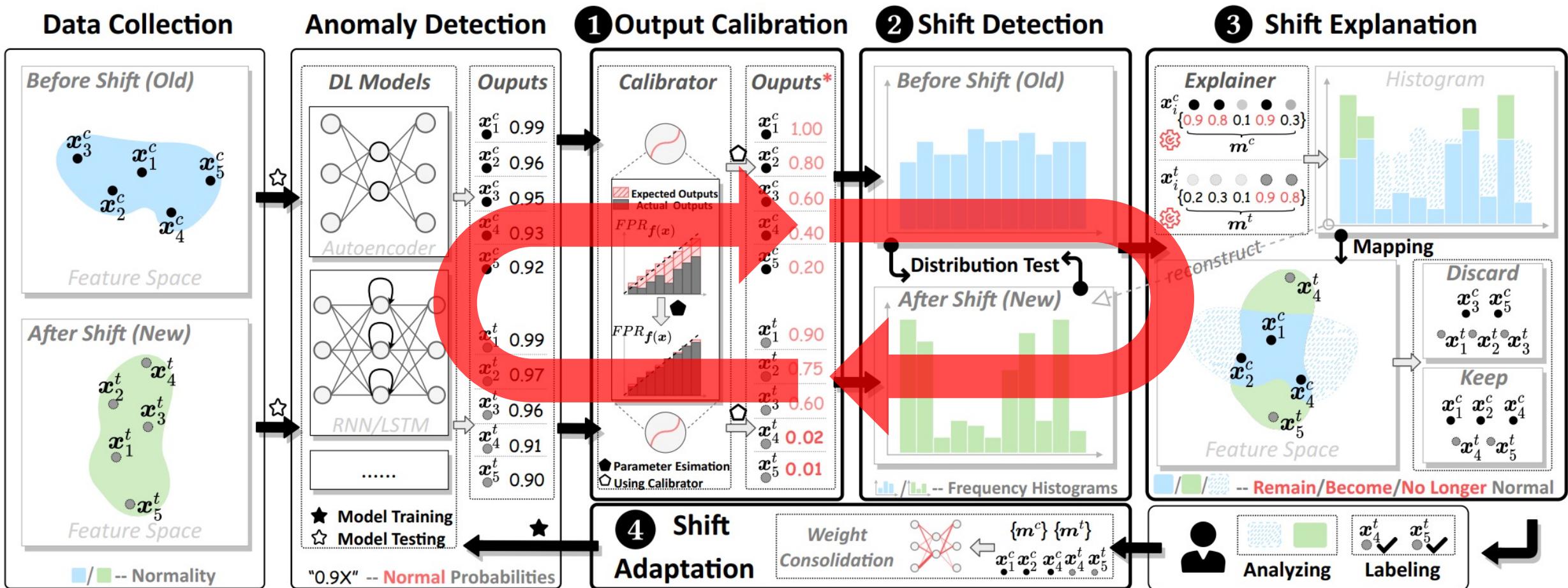
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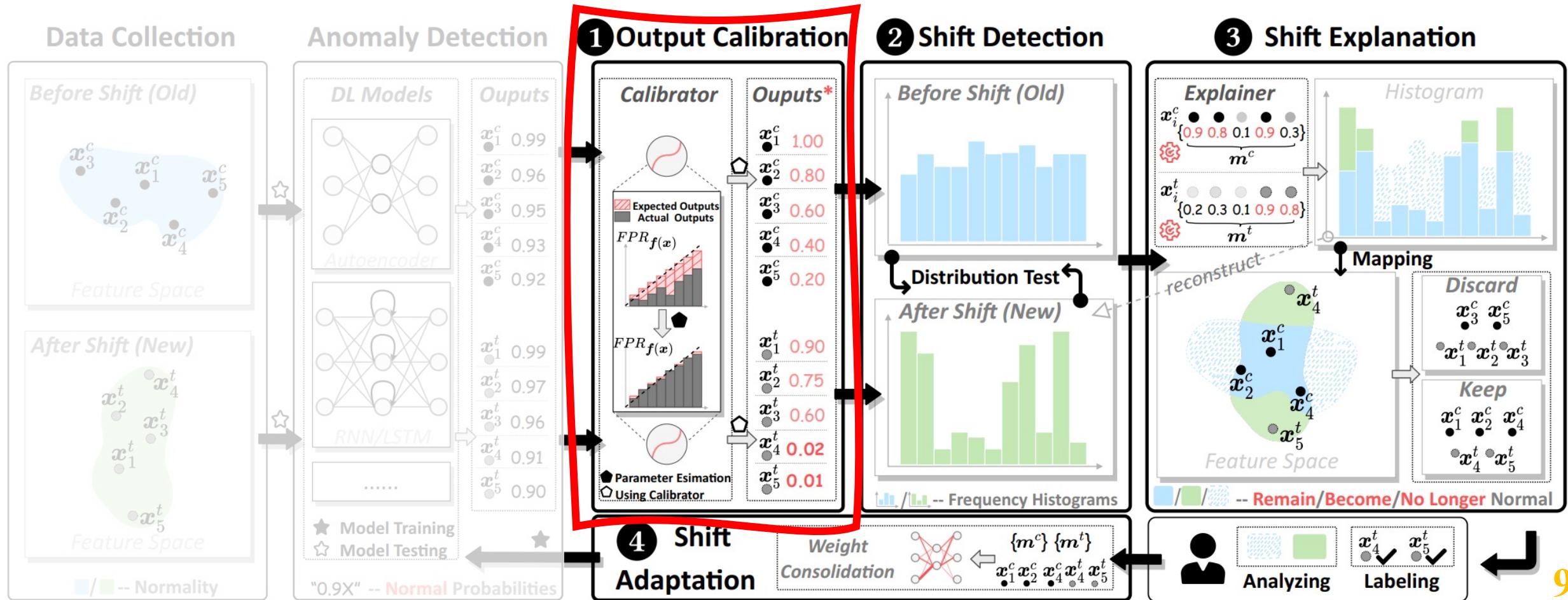
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# Step 1 – Output Calibration

## Model Calibration for Classification

- Transform classifier scores into class membership probabilities
- E.g., given 100 predictions, each with confidence of 0.8, we expect that 80 should be correctly classified.

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- E.g., Original: [0.7, 0.8, 0.9, 1.0], Calibrated: [0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 1.0]

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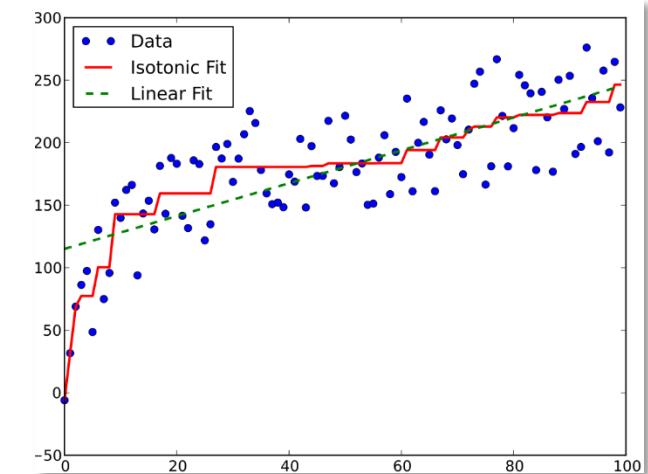
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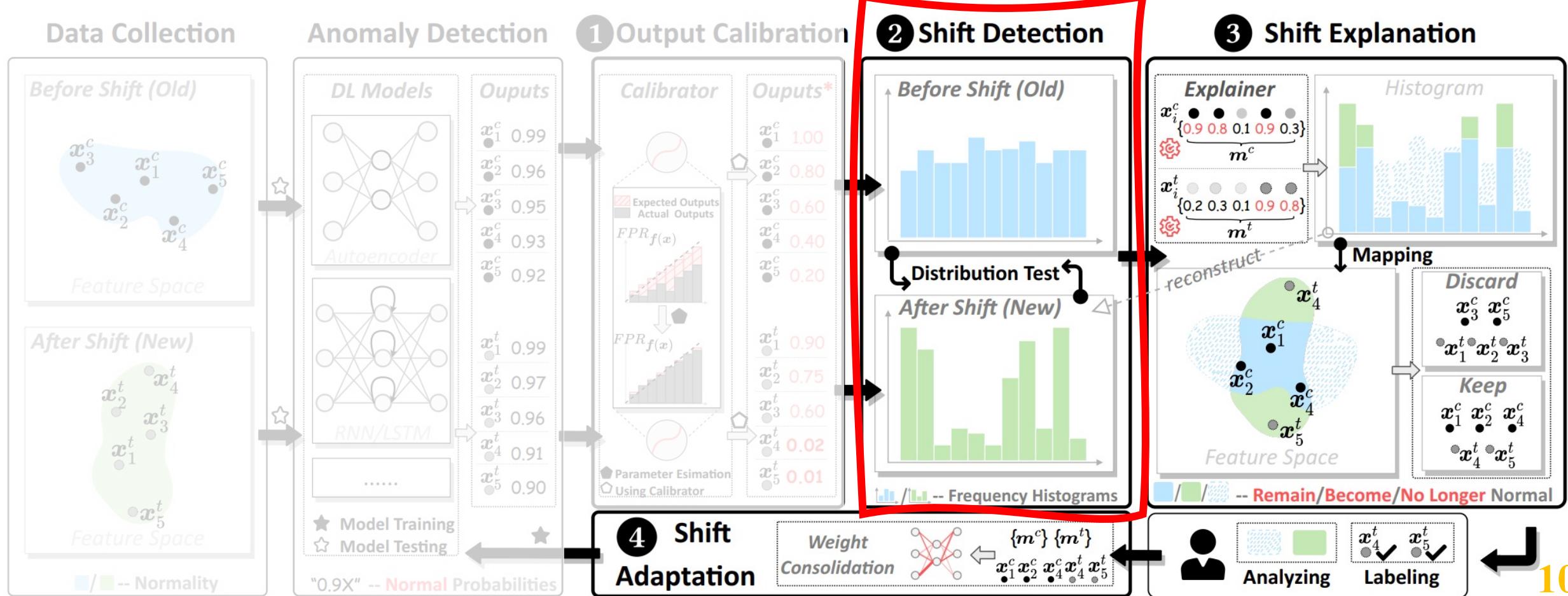
## Calibration Function – Isotonic Regression

- **Probabilistic** legality: Convert Anomaly Score into [0,1]
- **Monotonicity**: Without affecting detection performance
- **Non-linear**: Linear transformation of distribution is meaningless



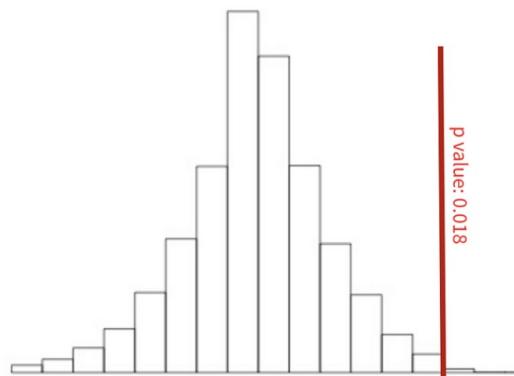
# OWAD Design

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# Step 2 — Shift Detection

- **Hypothesis Test**
  - **H0:** Two data follow the same distribution (No drift happen)
  - **H1:** Two data do not follow same distribution (drift happens)



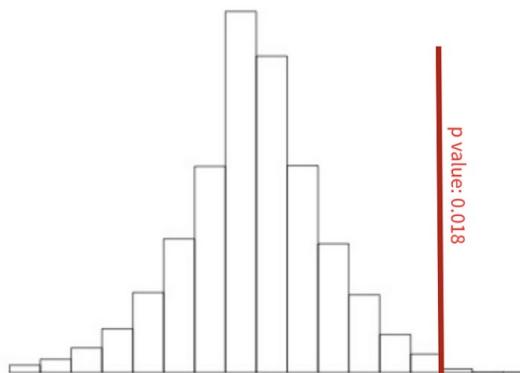
pvalue: 0.018

Ref:<https://towardsdatascience.com/how-to-use-permutation-tests-bacc79f45749>

10

# Step 2 — Shift Detection

- **Hypothesis Test**
  - **H0:** Two data follow the same distribution (No drift happen)
  - **H1:** Two data do not follow same distribution (drift happens)
- **Permutation Test**
  - **Pros:** Distribution-free, support any test statistic, and suitable for small set
  - **Test Statistic:** *KL divergence* of original and shifted distribution
  - **P-value:**  $\frac{1 + \sum_i^N [KL(P||Q) < \Delta]}{N+1} < \delta$



**Algorithm 1:** Procedure for shift detection

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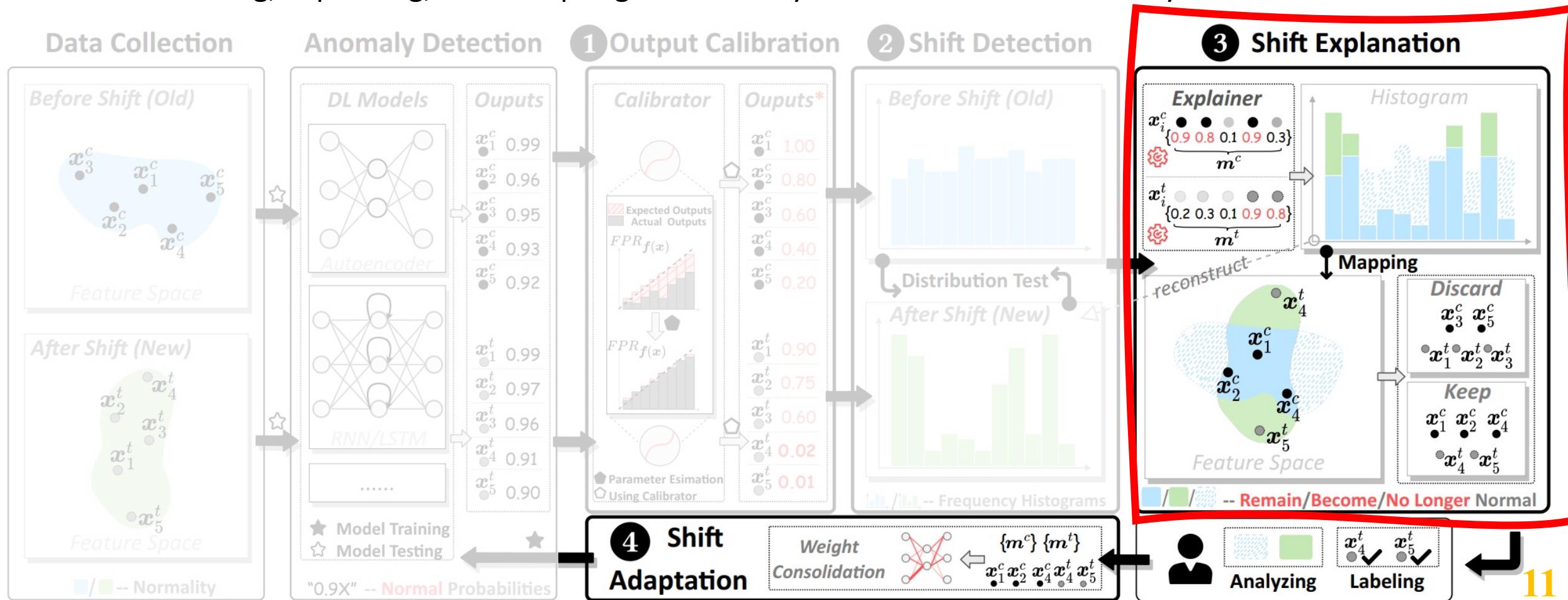
**Input:**  $\mathbf{x}^c \in \mathcal{X}_N^c$ ,  $\mathbf{x}^t \in \mathcal{X}^t$ ;  $K$ ; permutation number  $N_p$   
**Output:** P-value  $p$  indicating the probability of non-shift  
▽ getting original discrete distributions (histograms)  
1  $P_{org} \leftarrow \mathbb{H}_K(\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}^c)))$ ;  $Q_{org} \leftarrow \mathbb{H}_K(\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}^t)))$ ;  
2  $s_{org} \leftarrow D_{KL}(P_{org} || Q_{org})$  ; ▽ original test statistics  
3  $\{\mathbf{P}'_i, \mathbf{Q}'_i\}_{i=1}^{N_p} \leftarrow$  Permutating/Resampling and recomputing  
two histograms ( $\mathbb{H}_K$ ) from  $\{\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}^c))\} \cup \{\mathcal{C}(\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}^t))\}$ ;  
4  $p \leftarrow \frac{1 + \sum_{i=1}^{N_p} \mathbb{1}[s_{org} \leq D_{KL}(P'_i || Q'_i)]}{N_p + 1}$  ; ▽ p-value of test  
5 **return**  $p$  ▽ confidence of non-shift

---

Ref:<https://towardsdatascience.com/how-to-use-permutation-tests-bacc79f45749>

# OWAD Design

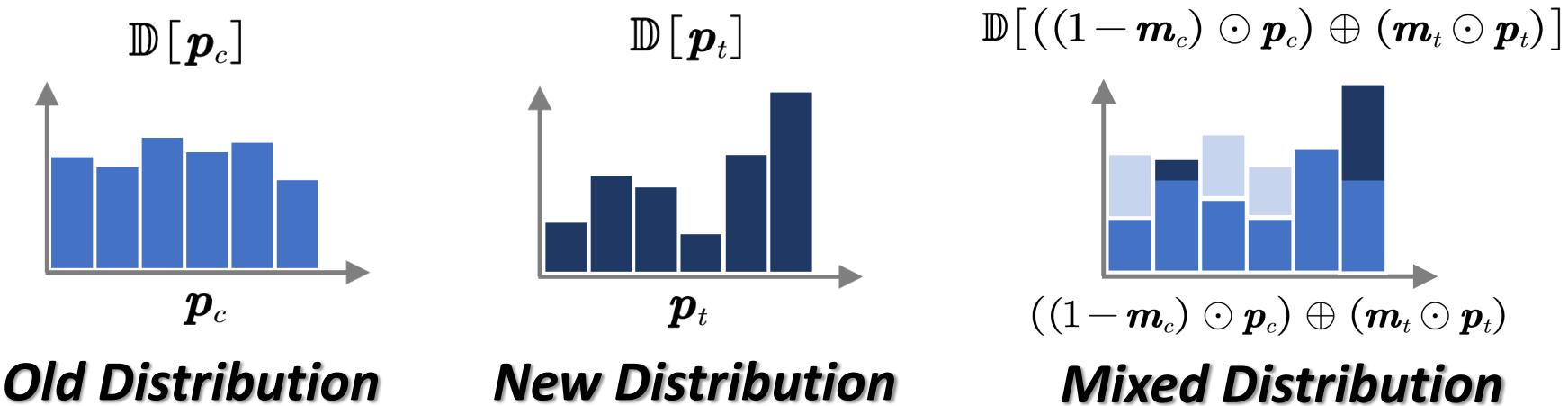
- We present **OWAD (Open World Anomaly Detection)** Framework
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# Step 3 – Shift Explanation

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{m}_{c \oplus t} = \mathbf{m}_c \oplus \mathbf{m}_t} & \mathcal{L}\{\mathbb{D}\left[((1 - \mathbf{m}_c) \odot \mathbf{p}_c) \oplus (\mathbf{m}_t \odot \mathbf{p}_t)\right], \mathbb{D}[\mathbf{p}_t]\} \\ & + \lambda_1 \|\mathbf{m}_{c \oplus t}\| - \lambda_2 \mathbb{E}_{m \in \mathbf{m}_{c \oplus t}} [m \log m + (1 - m) \log(1 - m)] \end{aligned}$$

( $\odot$ :hadamard product,  $\oplus$  :vector concatenation)



# Step 3 – Shift Explanation

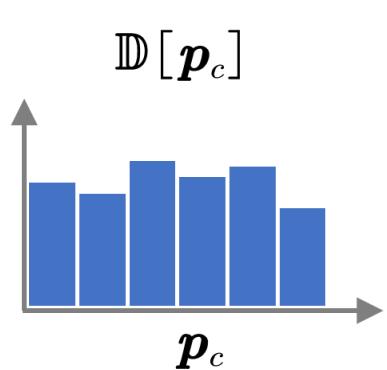
$$\min_{\mathbf{m}_{c \oplus t} = \mathbf{m}_c \oplus \mathbf{m}_t} \mathcal{L}\{\mathbb{D}\left[((1 - \mathbf{m}_c) \odot \mathbf{p}_c) \oplus (\mathbf{m}_t \odot \mathbf{p}_t)\right], \mathbb{D}\left[\mathbf{p}_t\right]\}$$

Accuracy Loss

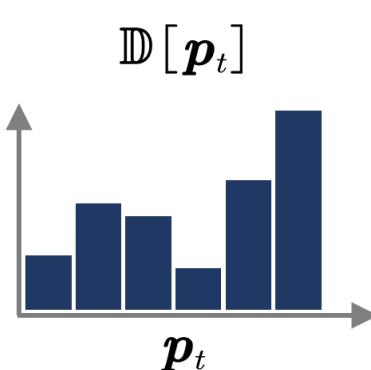
$$+ \lambda_1 \|\mathbf{m}_{c \oplus t}\| - \lambda_2 \mathbb{E}_{m \in \mathbf{m}_{c \oplus t}} [m \log m + (1 - m) \log(1 - m)]$$

*Mixed samples should accurately reconstruct the new distribution*

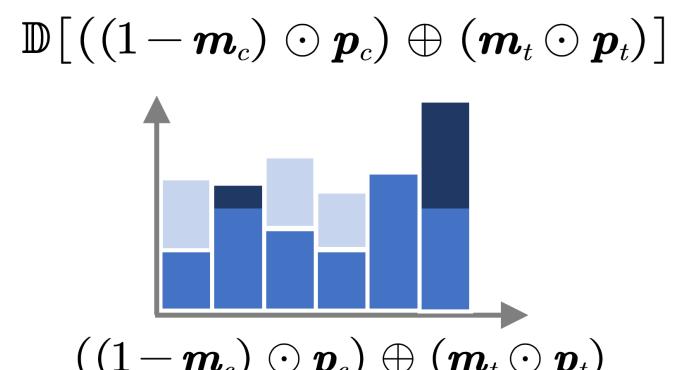
( $\odot$ :hadamard product,  $\oplus$  :vector concatenation)



**Old Distribution**



**New Distribution**



**Mixed Distribution**

# Step 3 – Shift Explanation

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Accuracy Loss

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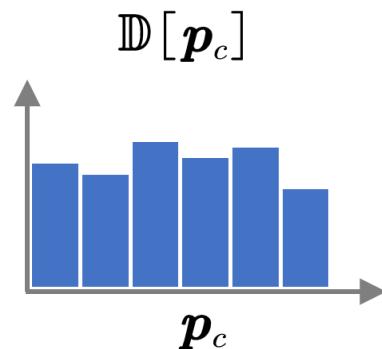
$$- \lambda_2 \mathbb{E}_{m \in \mathbf{m}_{c \oplus t}} [m \log m + (1 - m) \log(1 - m)]$$

Mixed samples should accurately reconstruct the new distribution

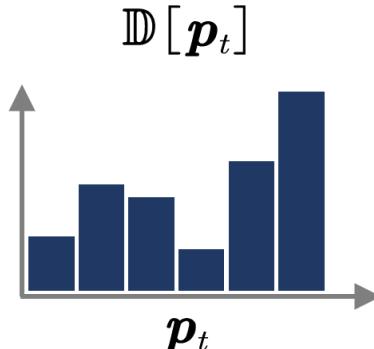
Choose as few samples from the new distribution as possible

Overhead Loss

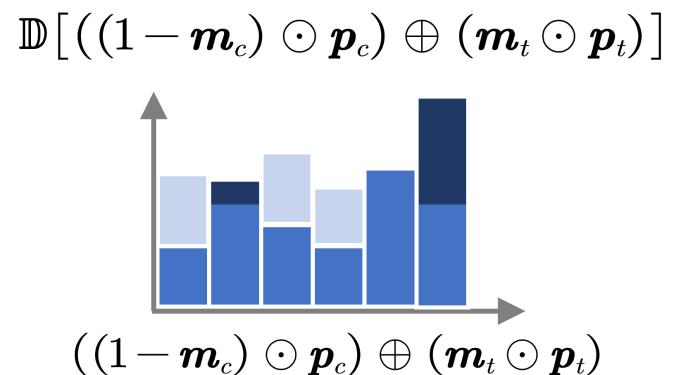
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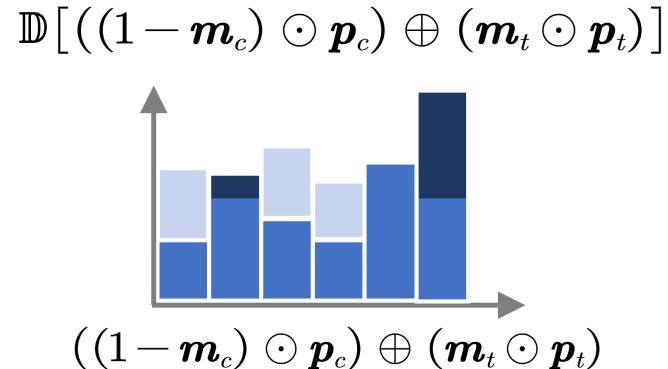
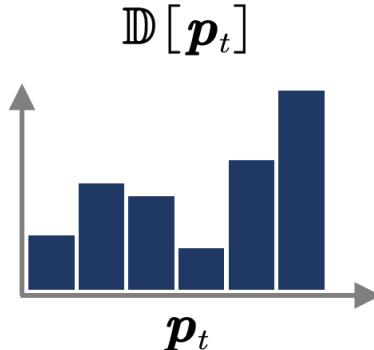
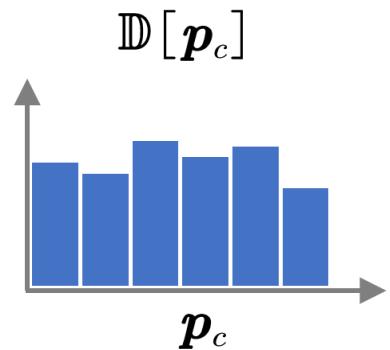
Determinism Loss

Mixed samples should accurately reconstruct the new distribution

Expect  $\mathbf{m}_c$  or  $\mathbf{m}_t$  to be deterministic (either close to 0 or close to 1)

Choose as few samples from the new distribution as possible

( $\odot$ :hadamard product,  $\oplus$ :vector concatenation)



# Step 3 – Shift Explanation

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Accuracy Loss

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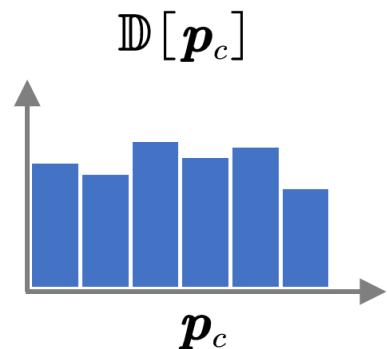
**Choose as few samples from the new distribution as possible**

Overhead Loss

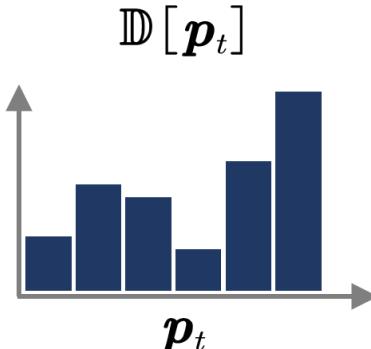
( $\odot$ :hadamard product,  $\oplus$ :vector concatenation)

**Mixed samples should accurately reconstruct the new distribution**

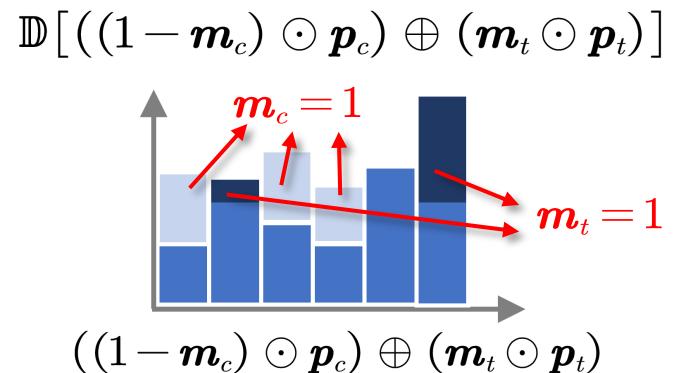
**Expect  $\mathbf{m}_c$  or  $\mathbf{m}_t$  to be deterministic (either close to 0 or close to 1)**



**Old Distribution**



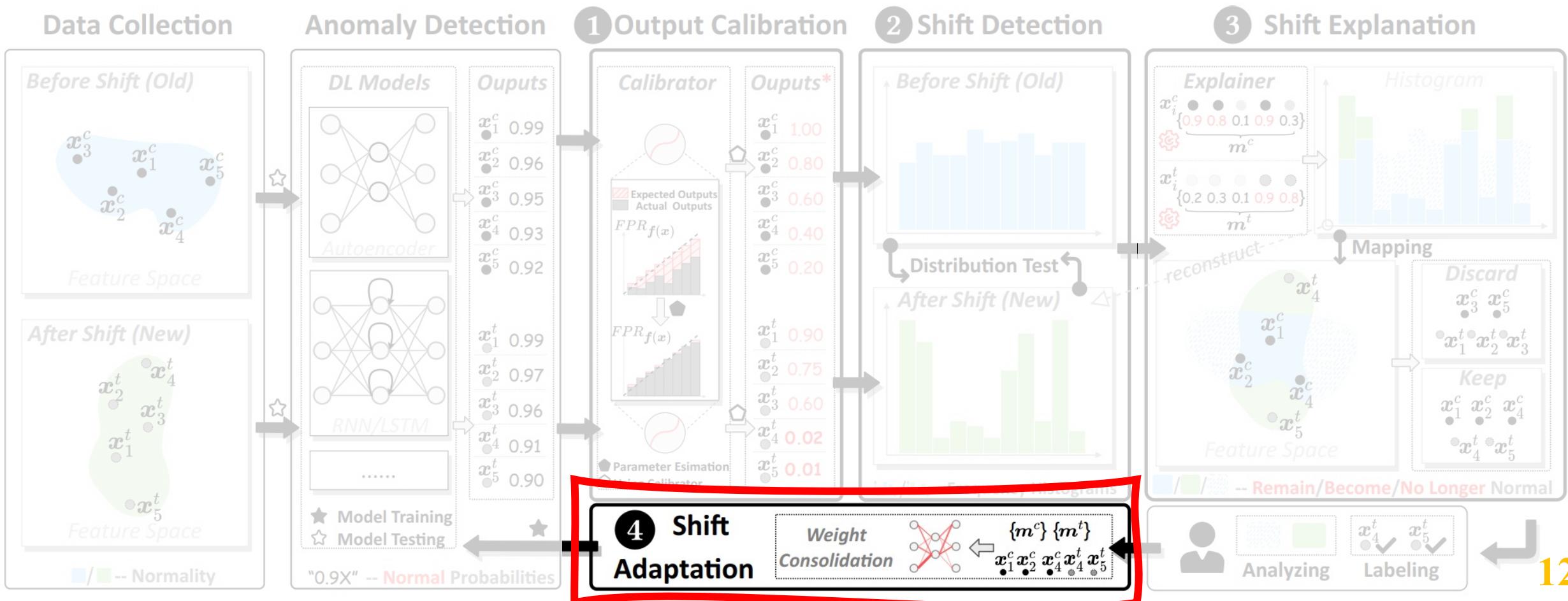
**New Distribution**



**Mixed Distribution**

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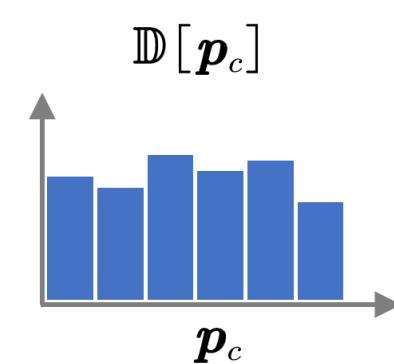
# Step 4 – Shift Adaptation

$$\min_{\theta^*} \mathcal{L}\{\mathbb{D}\left[((1 - \mathbf{m}_c) \odot \mathbf{p}_c(\theta^*)) \oplus (\mathbf{m}_t \odot \mathbf{p}_t(\theta^*))\right], \mathbb{D}[\mathbf{p}_c(\theta)]\}$$

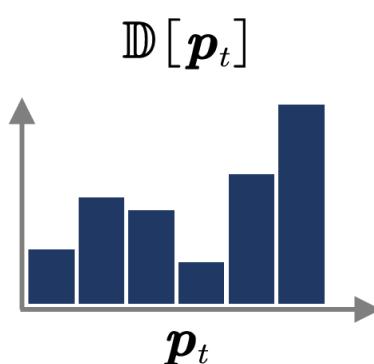
$$+ \lambda \sum_{i,j} \Omega_{ij} (\theta_{ij} - \theta_{ij}^*)^2$$

$$\text{where } \Omega_{ij} = \sum_{P(\mathbf{x}) \sim \mathbf{p}_c} \left\| \frac{\partial [\ell_2^2(F(\mathbf{x}; \theta))]}{\partial \theta_{ij}} \right\| \cdot \mathbf{m}_c(\mathbf{x})$$

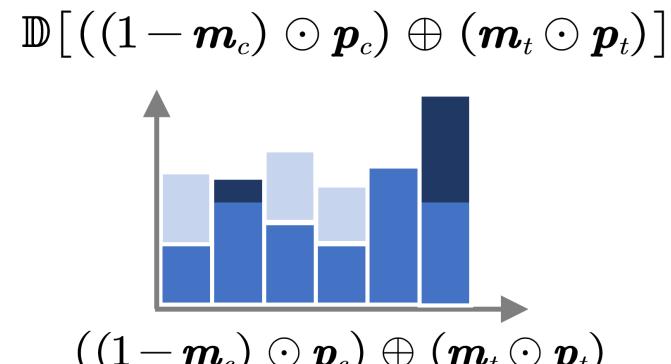
( $\odot$ :hadamard product,  $\oplus$ :vector concatenation)



**Old Distribution**



**New Distribution**



**Mixed Distribution**

# Step 4 – Shift Adaptation

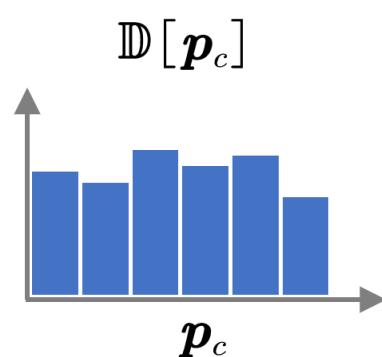
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Distributional Shift  
Adaptation

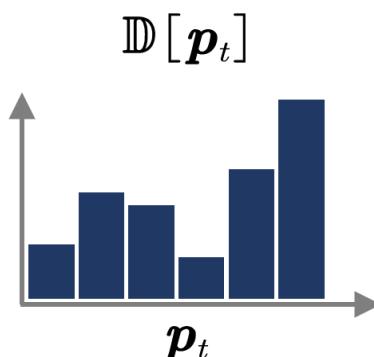
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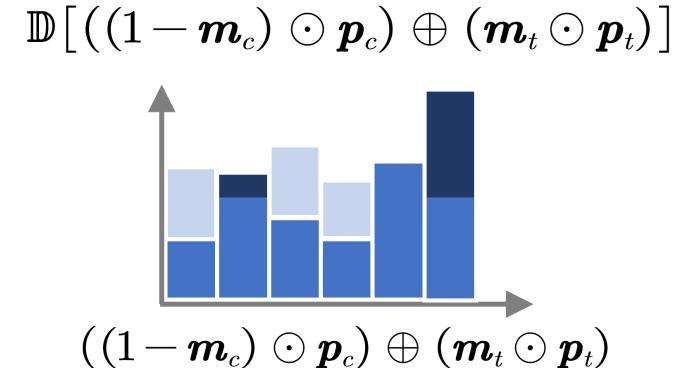
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**Old Distribution**



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**Mixed Distribution**

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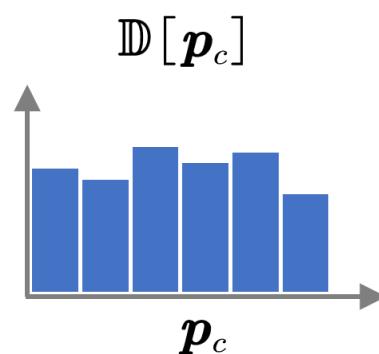
Distributional Shift  
Adaptation

Elastic Weight  
Consolidation

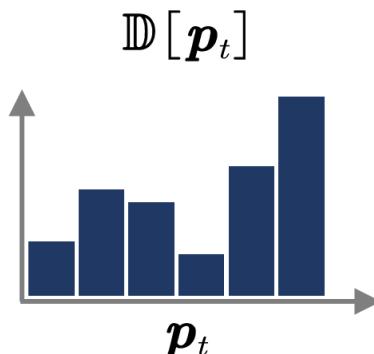
$$\text{where } \Omega_{ij} = \sum_{P(\mathbf{x}) \sim \mathbf{p}_c} \left\| \frac{\partial [\ell_2^2(F(\mathbf{x}; \theta))]}{\partial \theta_{ij}} \right\| \cdot \mathbf{m}_c(\mathbf{x})$$

*Evaluate the importance of  
model parameters*

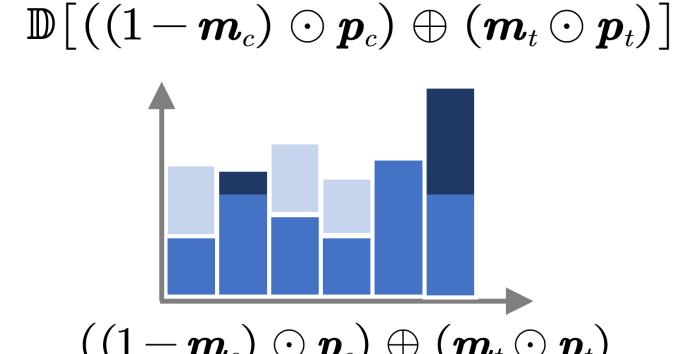
( $\odot$ :hadamard product,  $\oplus$ :vector concatenation)



**Old Distribution**



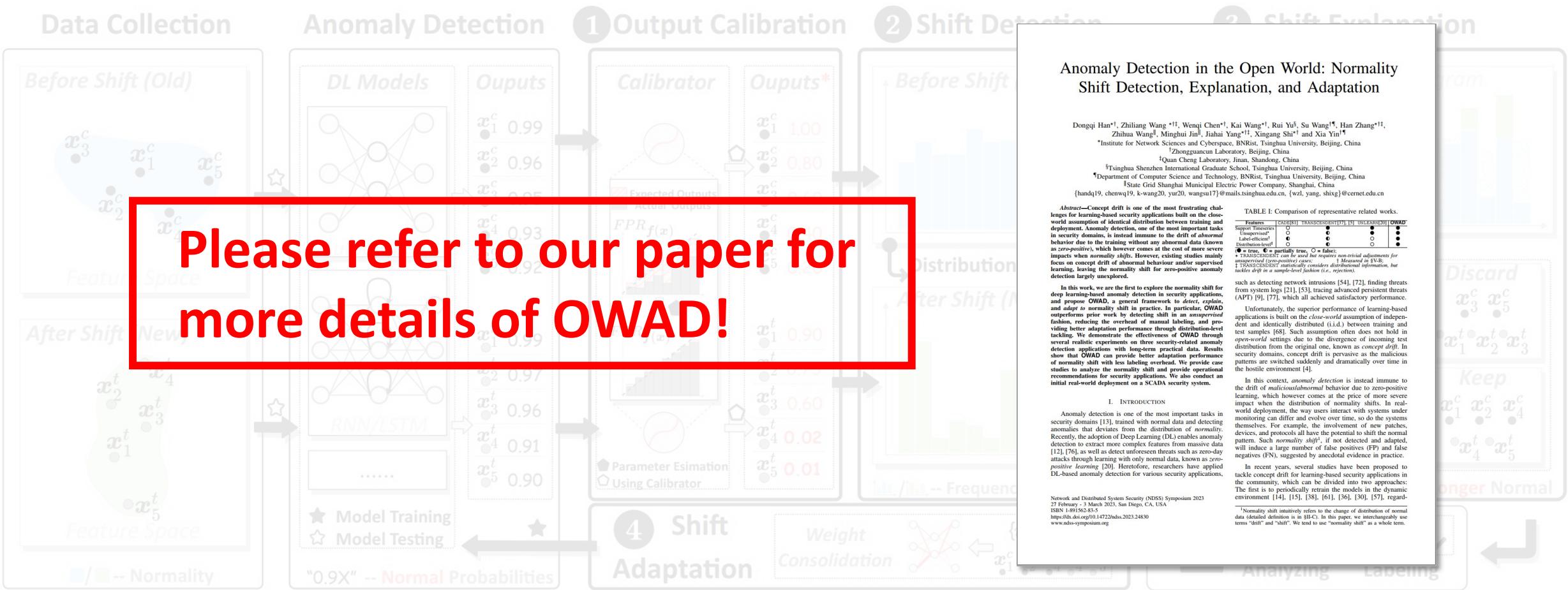
**New Distribution**



**Mixed Distribution**

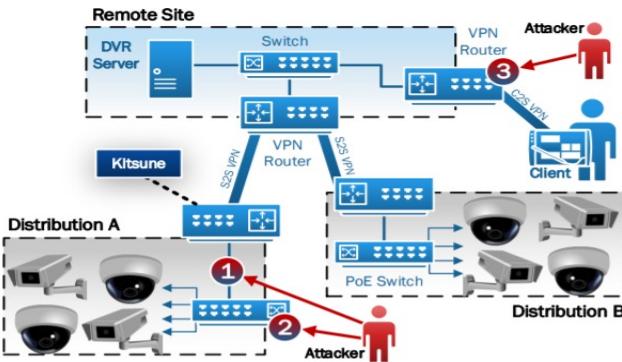
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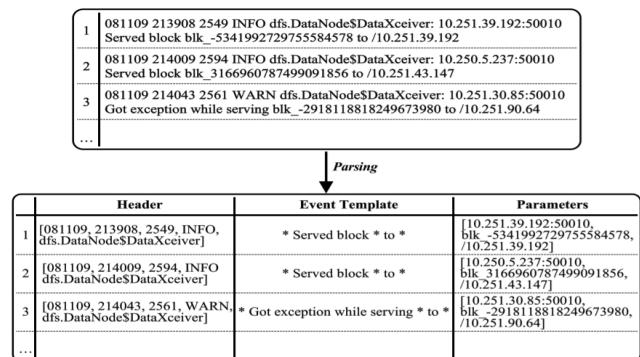
# Evaluation

## Network Intrusion



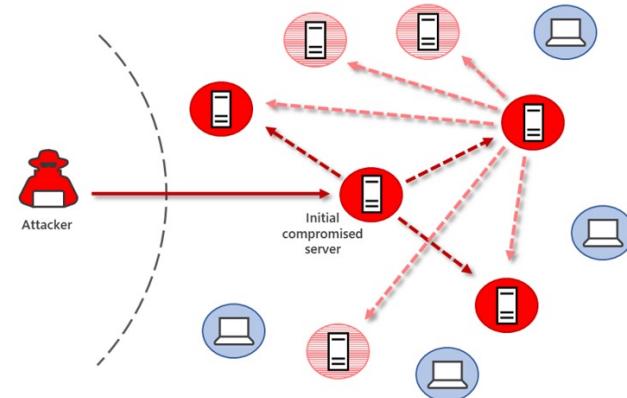
- Kitsune [NDSS'18]

## Log Anomaly



- DeepLog [CCS'17]

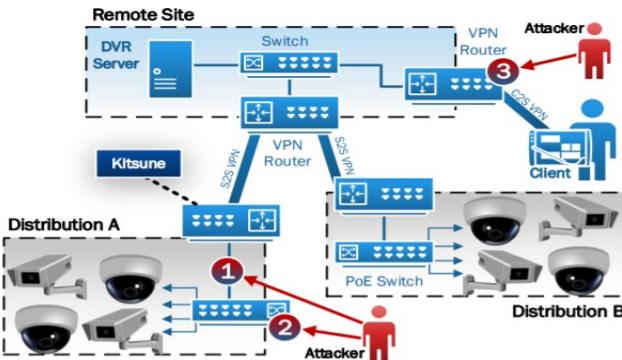
## Lateral Movement



- GL-GV [RAID'20]

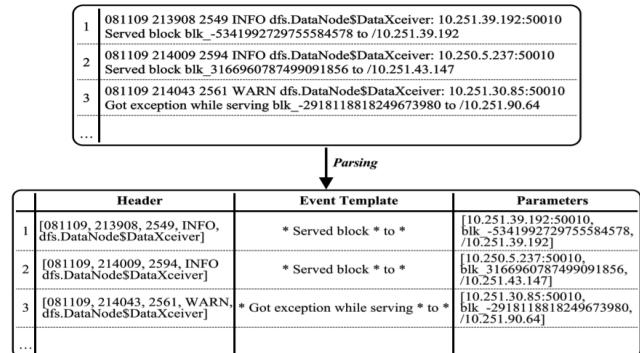
# Evaluation

## Network Intrusion



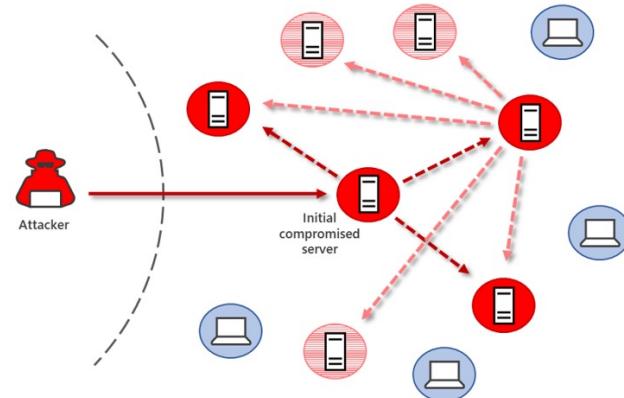
- Kitsune [NDSS'18]
- Anoshift Benchmark [NIPS'22]
- honey pot and campus network traffic

## Log Anomaly



- DeepLog [CCS'17]
- BGL Dataset [DSN'07]
- BlueGene/L supercomputer group Logs

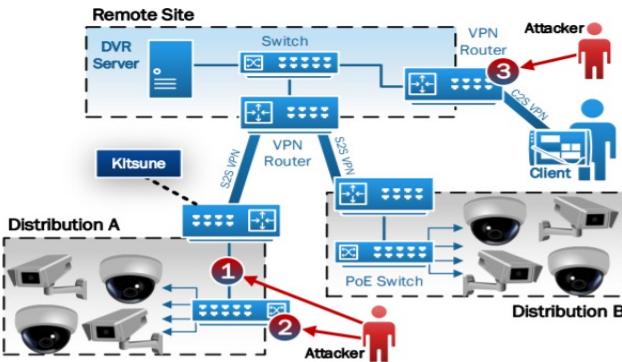
## Lateral Movement



- GL-GV [RAID'20]
- LANL-CMSCSE Dataset
- login events from corporate internal network

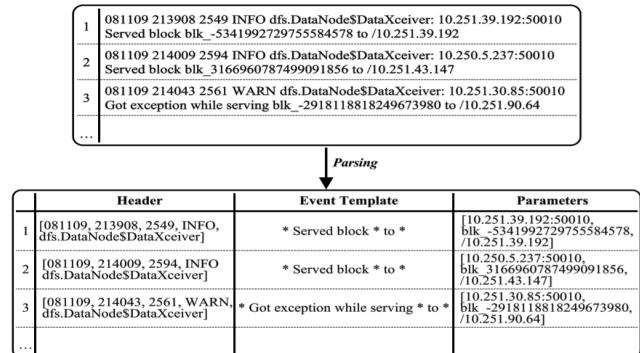
# Evaluation

## Network Intrusion



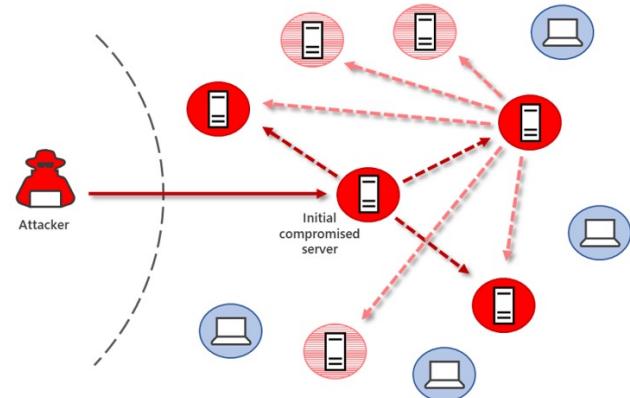
- Kitsune [NDSS'18]
- Anoshift Benchmark [NIPS'22]
- honey pot and campus network traffic
- 10 years
- detect once a year

## Log Anomaly



- DeepLog [CCS'17]
- BGL Dataset [DSN'07]
- BlueGene/L supercomputer group Logs
- 7 months
- detect once a month

## Lateral Movement

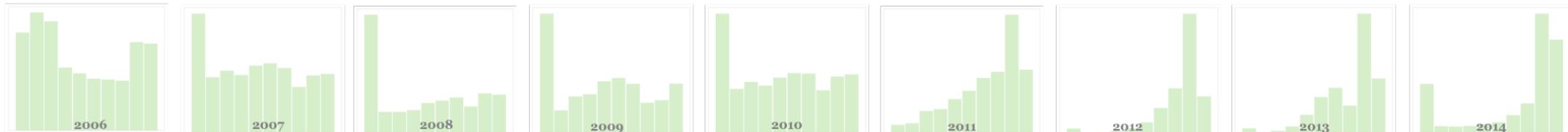
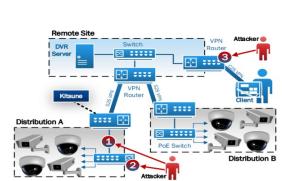


- GL-GV [RAID'20]
- LANL-CMSCSE Dataset
- login events from corporate internal network
- 58 days
- detect once a week

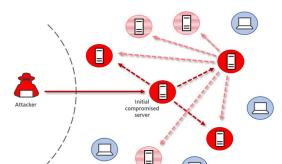
# Normality Shift in Security Applications



# Normality Shift in Security Applications



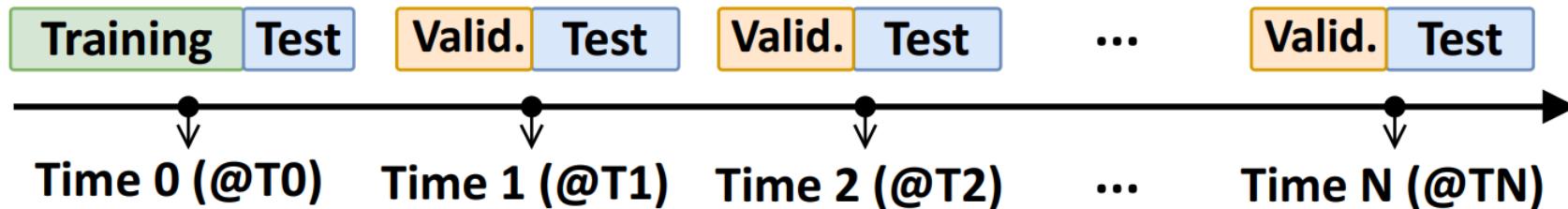
	Header	Error Template	Possible Fixes
1	<code>DE1100-19941254-2344-(INDEF)</code>	"Served Block to *"	<code>10.21.11.251.10250010</code> <code>10.21.11.251.10250011</code>
2	<code>DE1100-19941254-2504-(INDEF)</code>	"Served Block to *"	<code>10.21.11.251.10250010</code> <code>10.21.11.251.10250011</code>
3	<code>DE1100-19941254-2614-(INDEF)</code>	"Served Block to *"	<code>10.21.11.251.10250010</code> <code>10.21.11.251.10250011</code>
4	<code>DE1100-19941254-2640-(INDEF)</code>	"Got exception while serving * to *"	<code>10.21.11.188.0000007990</code>



**Normality shift in security domain is quite common and different for each applications (case-by-case)**

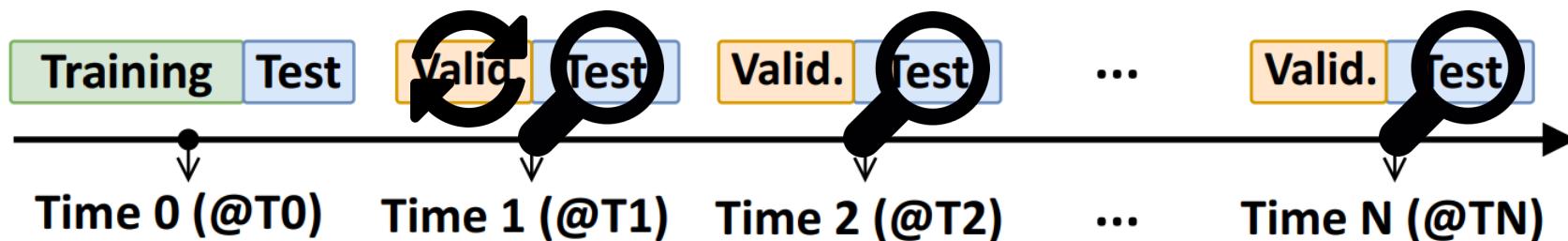
# End-to-end Performance Evaluation

- Data selection and split
  - Train anomaly detection model with **Training set** at Time 0
  - Detect shift and update model with **Validation set** at Time 1, 2, 3, ..., N
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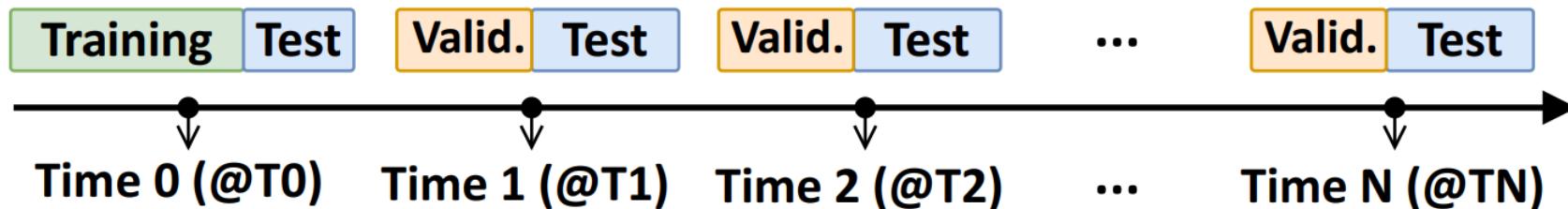
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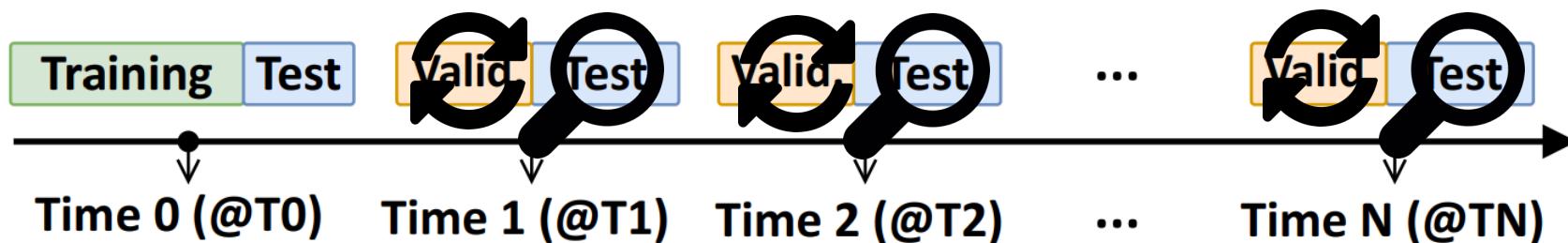
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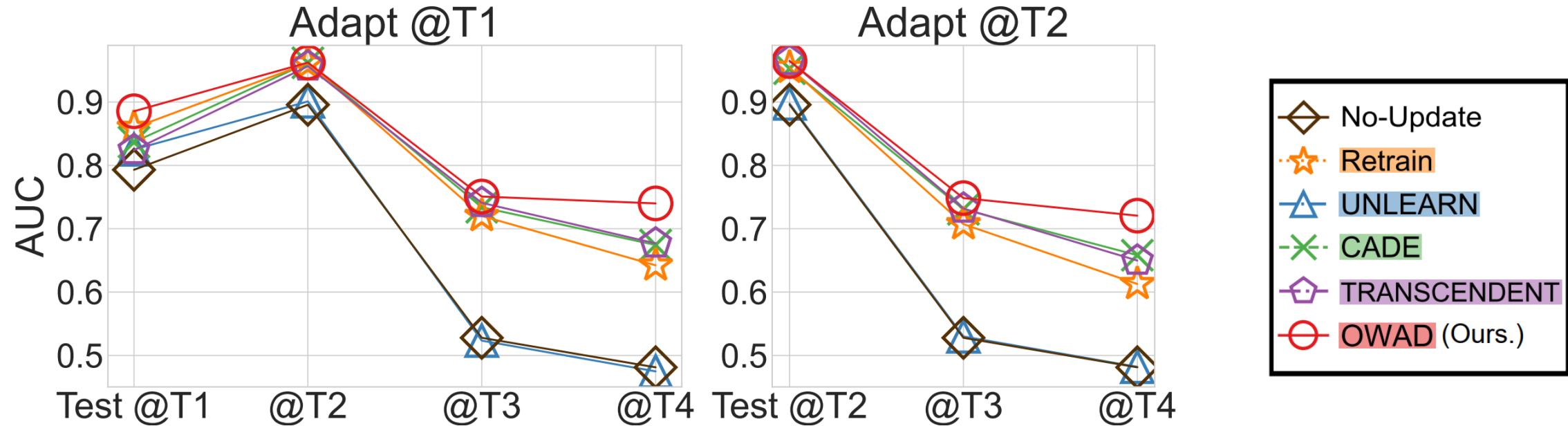


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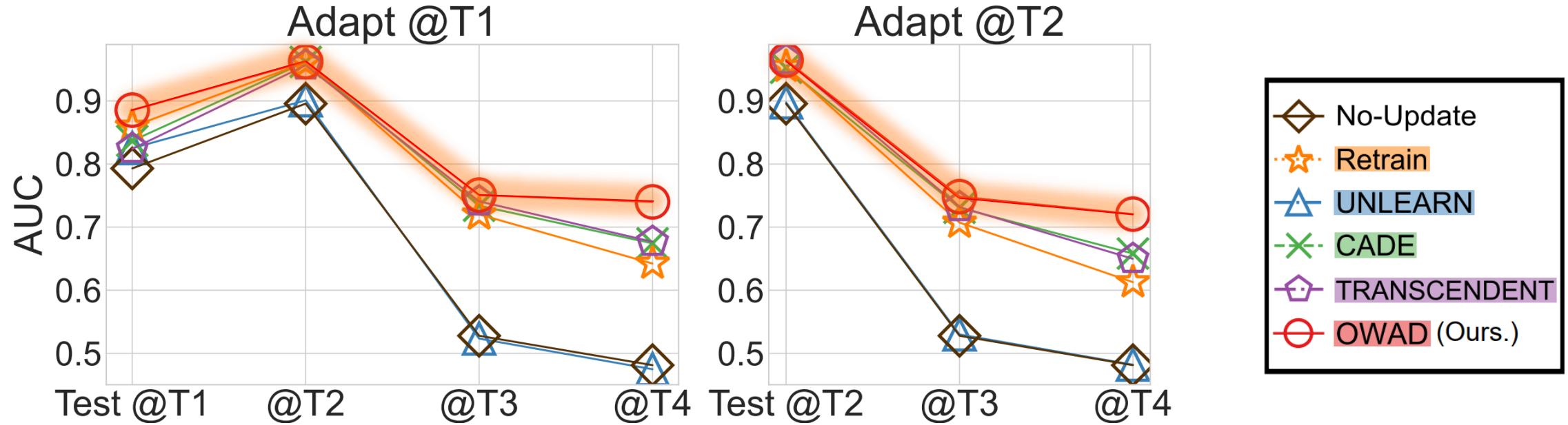
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- **Experimental setup**
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  - **Multiple Adaptations:** Update model at Time 1, 2, 3, ..., Test mode at the same time



# Performance of Single Adaptation

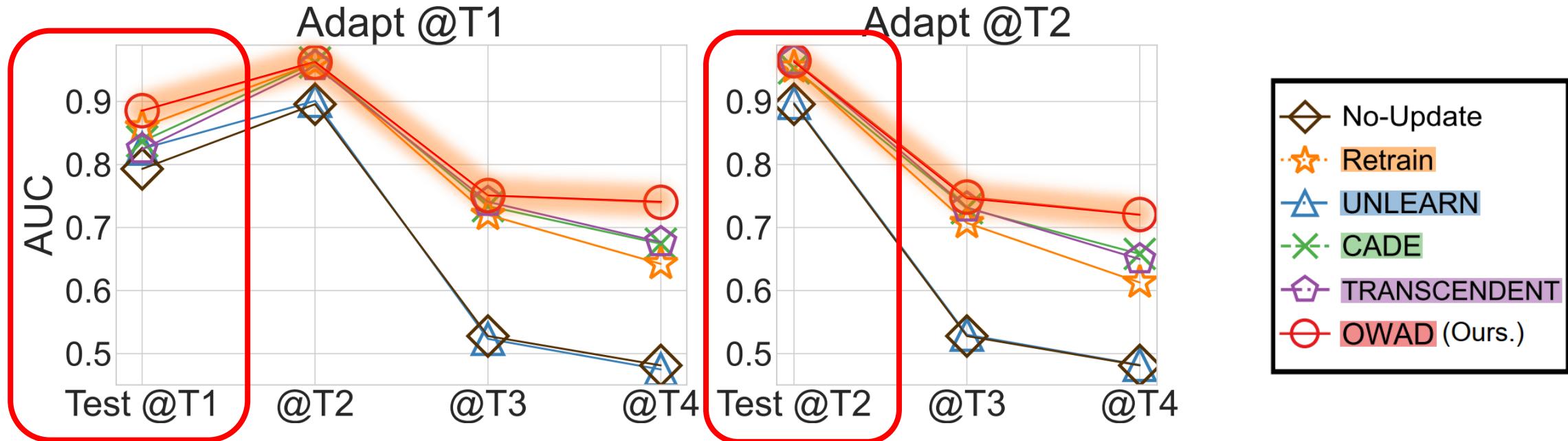


# Performance of Single Adaptation



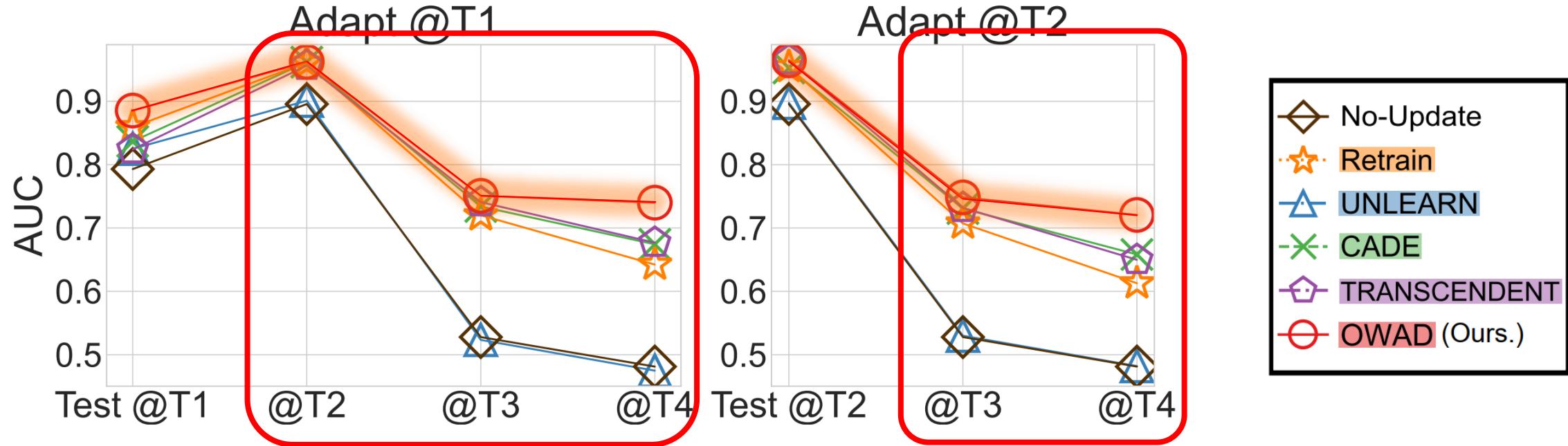
OWAD outperforms other approaches at the adaptation time, and can also mitigate the performance degradation in subsequent time

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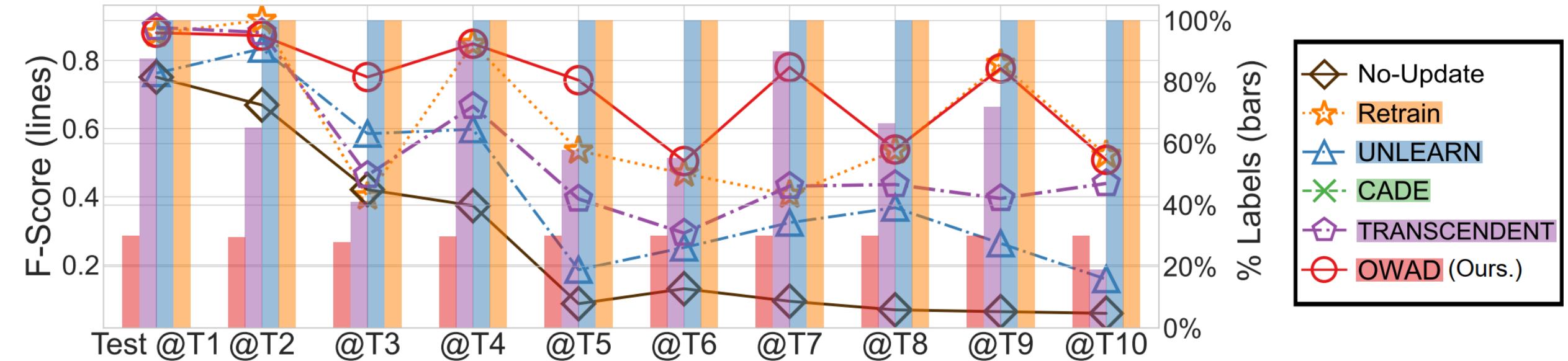
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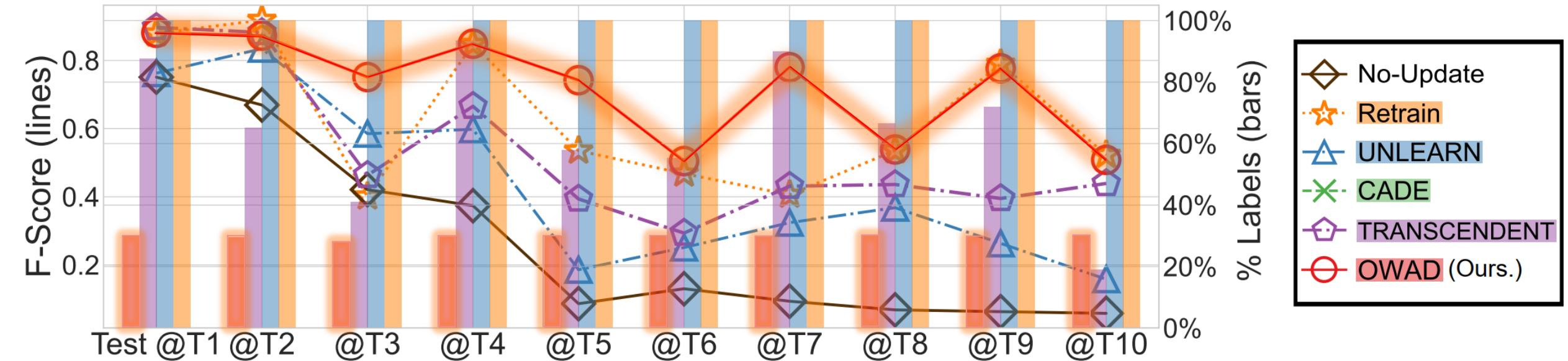


OWAD outperforms other approaches at the adaptation time, and can also mitigate the performance degradation in subsequent time

# Performance of Multiple Adaptations



# Performance of Multiple Adaptations



OWAD can achieve better results with significantly less required labels

# Performance of FP/FNs

Methods	# FPs (Lower is Better)			# FNs (Lower is Better)		
	@T1	@T2	@T3	@T1	@T2	@T3
No-Update	2404	903	6585	135	34	39
Retrain	2238	933	6213	233	32	28
UNLEARN	3350	1293	7369	<b>105</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>26</b>
TRANS.	1508	849	3237	552	197	106
<b>OWAD</b>	<b>1491</b>	<b>701</b>	<b>2519</b>	120	34	35

# Performance of FP/FNs

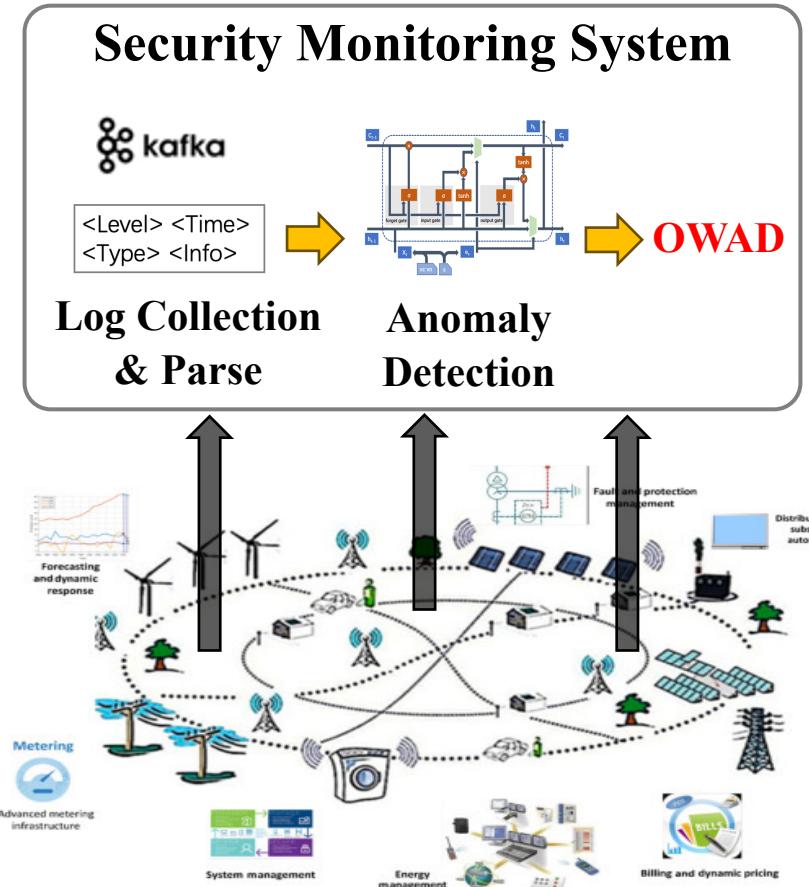
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**OWAD is the only approach that can reduce both FPs and FNs**

# Real-world Deployment

- **Background**

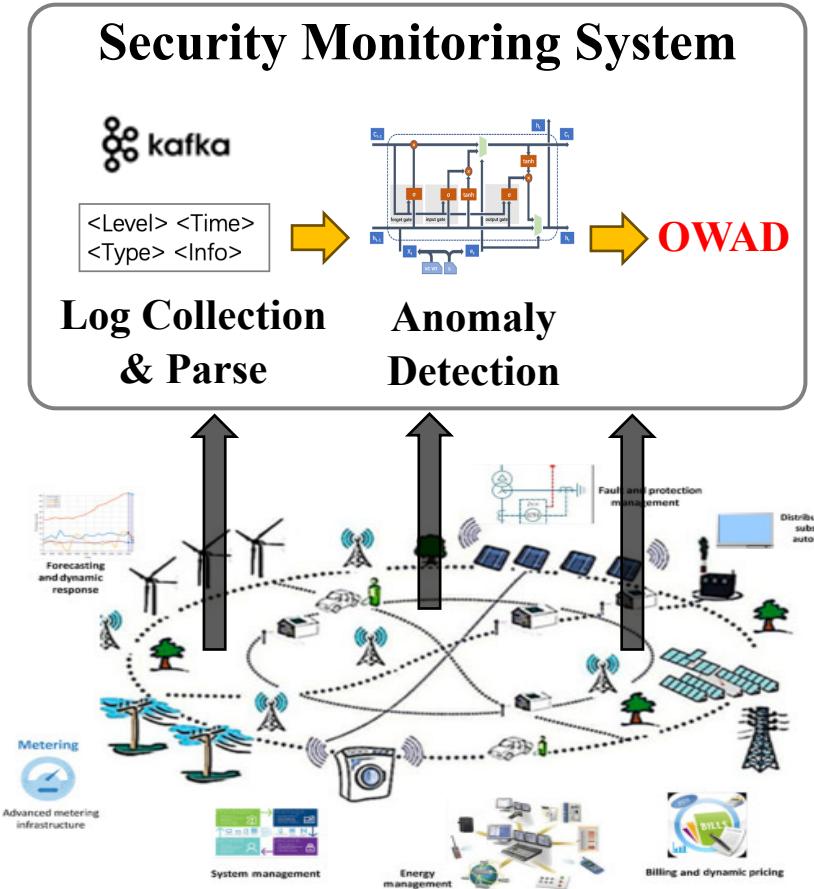
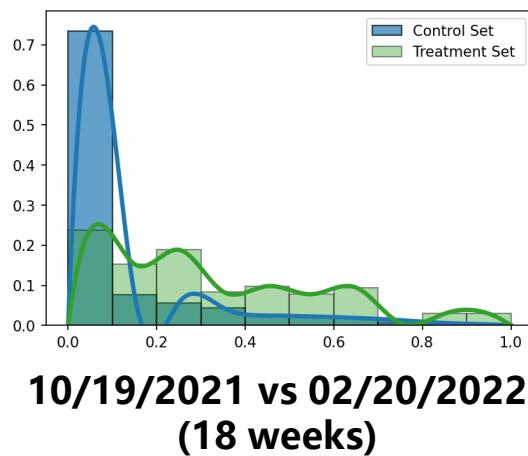
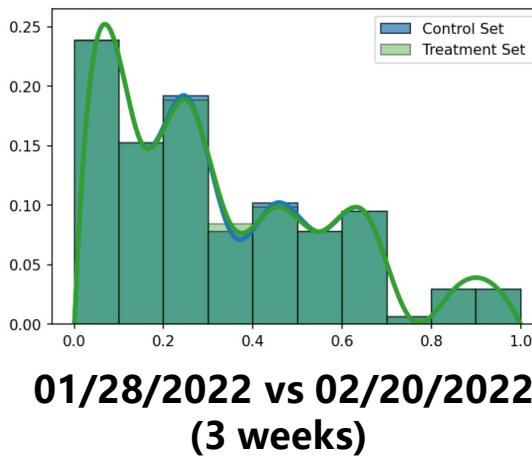
- SCADA in State Grid Shanghai Electric Power Company
- Security Monitoring System (device logs and events)
- LSTM-based Log Anomaly Detection
- Performance degradation in long-term deployment
- **Data:** >10M logs from 20 devices in 5 months (2022)



Ref:<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/19>  
780128053430000188

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- **OWAD Shift Detection**

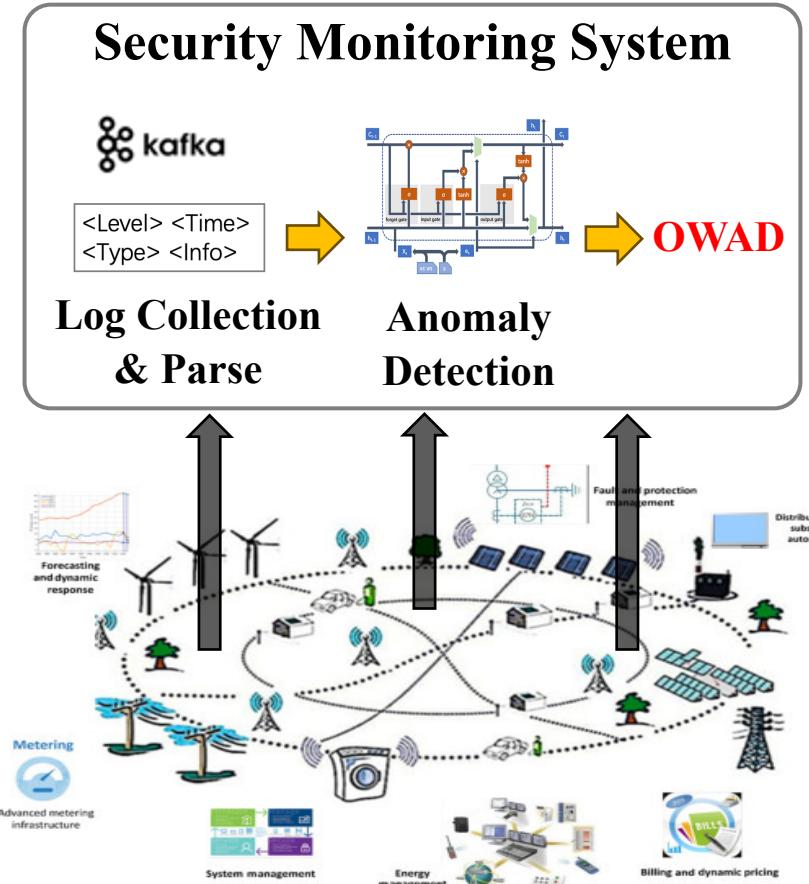


Ref:<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/19780128053430000188>

# Real-world Deployment

- OWAD Shift Explanation

- Identify 2 key logs inducing the normality shift
- 1) network volume increases for specific devices
  - > SVR 4 4 eth3 0 0 0 eth2 1 29098502414 30822806215 eth0 1 752064 2107538
- 2) new service continuously launches
  - > SVR 4 13 tcp 0.0.0.0 36387 0.0.0.0 0 LISTEN 1129 rpc.statd
- Find the key reason of shift:
  - FTP service error due to system update & restart (Jan. 2022)



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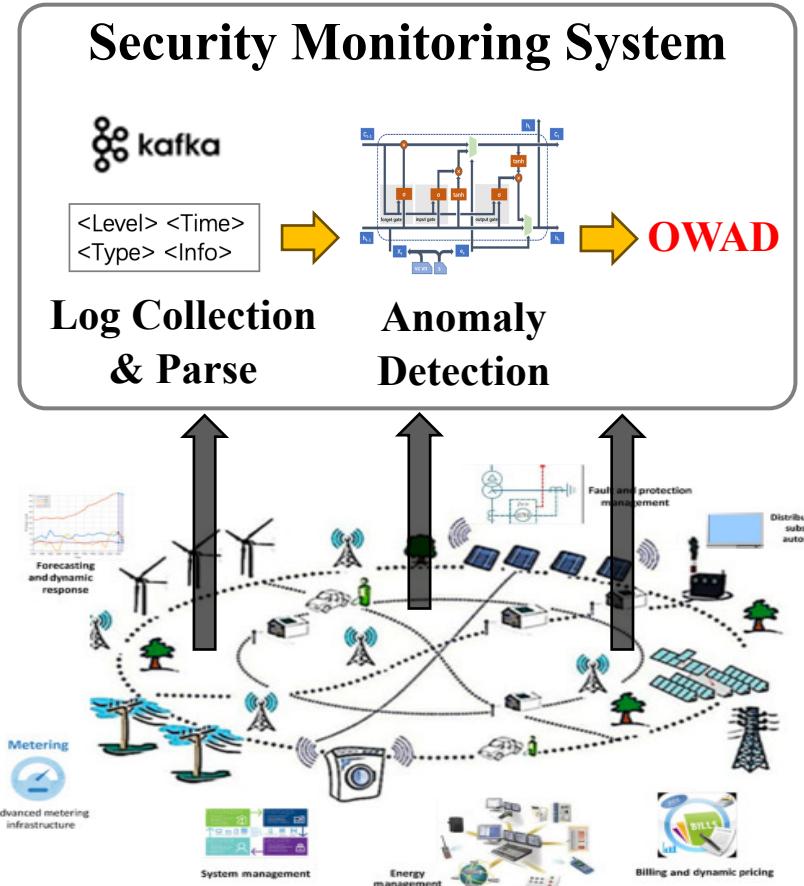
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## • OWAD Shift Adaptation

- Reduce >90% False Positives

	Week 1		Week 9 (@T1)		Week 18 (@T2)		Test @T2 (Adapt@T1)	
	#FP		#FP	P-value	#FP	P-value	#FP	
Device A	14		25	0.999	79	0.257		Unshift
Device B	45		1,027	0.000	1,678	0.000		154
Device C	68		3,071	0.000	3,103	0.000		98



Ref: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/1980128053430000188>

# Takeaways

- Normality shift is quite common and complicated in network security domains
- After calibration, model outputs can effectively represent the normality distribution
- Labeling is inevitable for handling normality shift.  
Nevertheless, OWAD can achieve better performance with lower labels
- OWAD is shown to be able to reduce both False Positives and False Negatives



<https://github.com/dongtsi/OWAD>





清华大学  
Tsinghua University



## Anomaly Detection in the Open World: Normality Shift Detection, Explanation, and Adaptation

# Thank you! Questions?

Presenter: Dongqi Han

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handq19@mails.tsinghua.edu.cn

[www.dongqihan.top](http://www.dongqihan.top)

# OWAD Design

- We present **OWAD (Open World Anomaly Detection)** Framework
  - Detecting, Explaining, and Adapting to normality shift for DL-based anomaly detection.

