# Derandomized novelty detection with FDR control via conformal e-values

Kyungseon Lee February 25, 2025

Seoul National University







### Introduction

# Derandomized novelty detection with FDR control via conformal e-values

- Novelty detection = Anomaly detection = Outlier detection
- Conformal inference = Conformal prediction
- Conformity score = Anomaly score

# Derandomized novelty detection with FDR control via conformal e-values

- Problem The results of conformal inference change because it has randomness in train-calibration set splitting.
  - ► Solution : A weighted sum of p-values.
- Problem The traditional method has difficulty controlling the False Discovery Rate (FDR).

► Solution : Instead of the traditional p-value that depends on the rank of the calibration set, a conformal e-value is used.

#### Traditional conformal anomaly detection

 $H_{0k}$ : The point  $x_k$  of test set is also an inlier

• If  $p_k < \alpha$ , then  $H_{0k}$  is rejected. So,  $x_k$  is outlier.

Conformal p-value

$$p_i = rac{1 + \sum_{j \in \mathcal{C}} \mathbb{1} \left( s_j \geq s_i 
ight)}{|\mathcal{C}| + 1}$$

- $\mathcal{C}$  : Calibration set
- $s_j$  and  $s_i$ : The conformity scores for callibration and test points
- f(·): A conformity score function trained so that inlier data has a label of 0 and outlier data has a label of 1, s<sub>i</sub> = f(x<sub>i</sub>)

#### A weighted sum of conformal e-values

$$\bar{e}_j = \sum_{k=1}^K w^{(k)} e_j^{(k)}, \quad \sum_{k=1}^K w^{(k)} = 1$$

• 
$$e_j^{(k)}$$
 : The k-th conformal e-value

- $w^{(k)}$  : The k-th weight
- k : The k-th split repetition

#### Main contributions

#### Conformal e-value

$$\begin{split} e_j^{(k)} &= \left(1 + n_{\mathsf{cal}}\right) \cdot \frac{\mathbb{I}\left\{\hat{S}_j^{(k)} \ge \hat{t}^{(k)}\right\}}{1 + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{D}_{\mathsf{cal}}^{(k)}} \mathbb{I}\left\{\hat{S}_i^{(k)} \ge \hat{t}^{(k)}\right\}}\\ \hat{t}^{(k)} &= \min\left\{t \in \tilde{\mathcal{D}}_{\mathsf{cal-test}}^{(k)} : \widehat{\mathrm{FDP}}^{(k)}(t) \le \alpha\right\} \text{ where } \tilde{\mathcal{D}}_{\mathsf{cal-test}}^{(k)} = \left\{\hat{S}_i^{(k)}\right\}_{i \in \mathcal{D}_{\mathsf{test}} \cup \mathcal{D}_{\mathsf{cal}}^{(k)}} \end{split}$$

$$\widehat{\text{FDP}}^{(k)}(t) = \frac{n_{\text{test}}}{n_{\text{cal}}} \cdot \frac{\sum_{i \in \mathcal{D}_{\text{cal}}^{(k)}} \mathbb{I}\left\{\widehat{S}_i^{(k)} \ge t\right\}}{\sum_{j \in \mathcal{D}_{\text{test}}} \mathbb{I}\left\{\widehat{S}_j^{(k)} \ge t\right\}}$$

- $\mathcal{D} = \{1, \dots, n\}$  : The index set of the observed samples.
- k : The k-th split repetition

#### Main contributions

#### Conformal e-value - FDP : The empirical FDR

$$FDR = \mathbb{E}\left[\left(\sum_{j \in \mathcal{D}_{test}^{null}} R_j\right) / \max\left\{1, \sum_{j \in \mathcal{D}_{test}} R_j\right\}\right]$$
$$\widehat{FDP}(t) = \frac{n_{test}}{n_{cal}} \cdot \frac{\sum_{i \in \mathcal{D}_{cal}} \mathbb{I}\left\{\hat{S}_i \ge t\right\}}{\sum_{j \in \mathcal{D}_{test}} \mathbb{I}\left\{\hat{S}_j \ge t\right\}}$$

- $\mathcal{D} = \{1, \dots, n\}$ : The index set of the observed samples.
- $\mathcal{D}_{test}^{null}$  : The set of true inlier test points.
- $R_j$ : Whether it was predicted as an outlier.
- k : The k-th split repetition.

#### Conformal e-value

$$e_{(1)} \ge e_{(2)} \ge \cdots \ge e_{(n)}$$

$$x_{(i)}$$
 is outlier when  $\bar{e}_{(i)} \geq \frac{1}{\alpha} \cdot \frac{i}{n_{\text{test}}}$ 

- *ē*<sub>(i)</sub>: The i-th value in the weighted sum of e-values sorted in descending order.
- $n_{\text{test}}$  : The number of points in the test set.
- $\mathcal{D} = \{1, \dots, n\}$ : The index set of the observed samples.
- $\alpha$  : The significance level.

#### Theorem

If the inliers in  $\mathcal{D}$  and the null test points are exchangeable conditional on the non-null test points, then weighted e-value method guarantees FDR  $\leq \alpha$ .

- $\mathcal{D} = \{1, \dots, n\}$ : The index set of the observed samples.
- $\alpha$  : The significance level.

## Experiment

- Baseline : AdaDetect
- Our method : E-AdaDetect
- $X_{inlier} \sim \mathcal{N}\left(0, I_{100}\right)$
- $X_{outlier} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, I_{100})$

#### Experiment



**Figure 1:** The two graphs above show how power and FDR change with variations in  $\mu$ . The two graphs below show how power and FDR change with the number of train-calibration split repetitions.

### Conclusion

- While e-values are less powerful than p-values for single tests, they allow FDR control in multiple testing and efficiently combine non-independent tests.
- This study remove randomness in split-conformal inference and AdaDetect.