

Anomaly Detection in Flight Operational Data Using Deep Learning

Milad Memarzadeh, Bryan Matthews, and Daniel Weckler
Data Sciences Group, NASA Ames Research Center





In this presentation

Learn about the literature in anomaly detection in flight operational data

Dive deep into two developed deep learning models:

1. **Convolutional Variational Auto-Encoder (CVAE)**: an **unsupervised** encoder-decoder model for anomaly detection in multivariate time-series
 - Demonstration of CVAE: Fuser Streaming Data Prototype.
2. **Robust and Explainable Semi-supervised Anomaly Detection (RESAD)**: a semi-supervised deep learning architecture capable of detecting multiple anomalies with **limited number of labeled data**.
 - Demonstration of RESAD: Interactive Data Visualization Walkthrough.

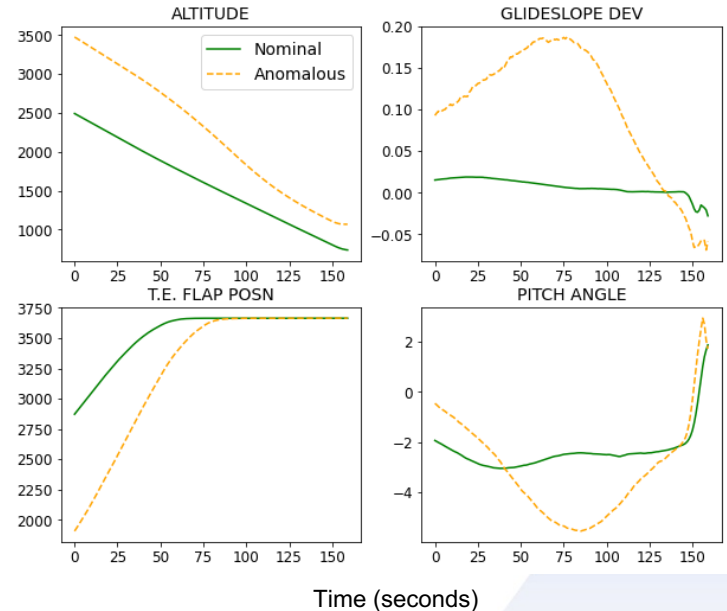
Aviation anomaly detection literature



Exceedance detection:

Comparing against the **pre-defined thresholds**, which are identified by subject-matter experts.

Example of unstable approach to landing



Aviation anomaly detection literature



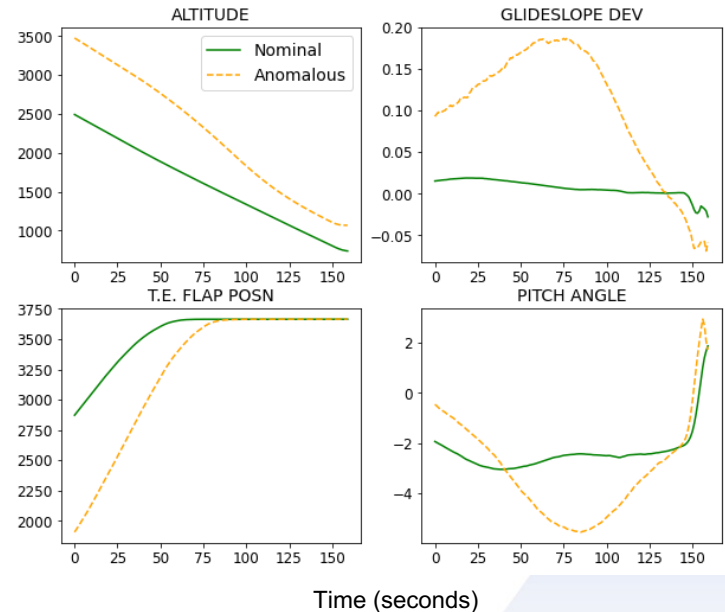
Exceedance detection:

Comparing against the **pre-defined thresholds**, which are identified by subject-matter experts.

Cons:

- Complete reliance on domain knowledge.
- Requires extensive reviews of entire data.
- Can only identify known anomalies.

Example of unstable approach to landing



Aviation anomaly detection literature

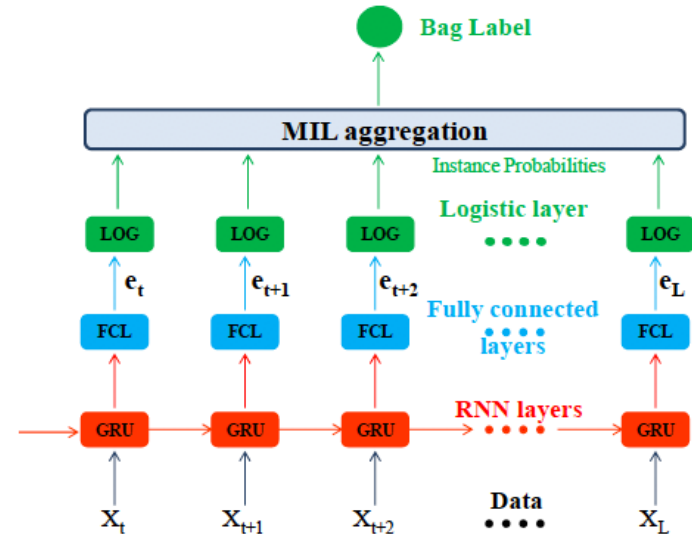


Supervised learning:

Produces inference using only labeled data.

Pros:

- It demonstrates amazing performance when a sufficient number of labeled data is available.



Aviation anomaly detection literature



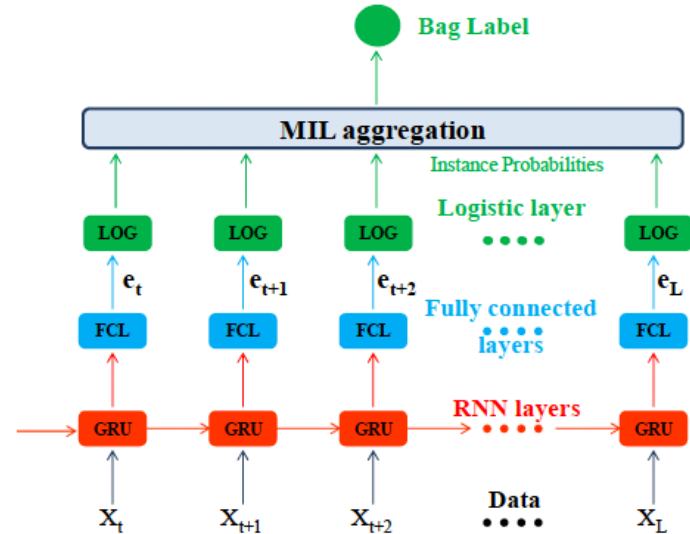
Supervised learning:

Produces inference using only labeled data.

Cons:

- Can only identify **known anomalies**.
- **Creating labels** for data requires huge effort from subject-matter experts and is largely expensive and impractical.

Hence, **unsupervised** learning or **semi-supervised** learning are the only feasible choices.



Convolutional Variational Auto-Encoder - CVAE



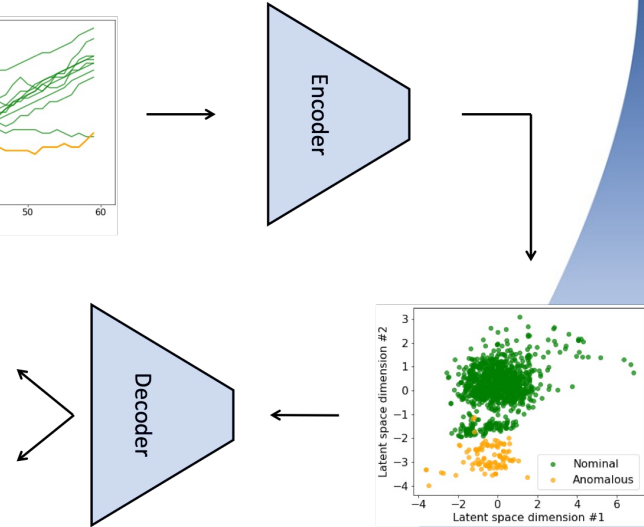
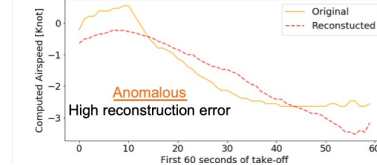
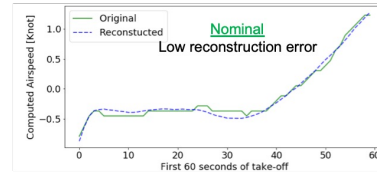
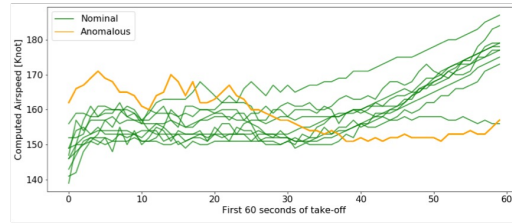
Using deep auto-encoders to identify anomalies without the need for labels.

reconstruction fidelity

$$\mathcal{J}_{\text{CVAE}} = \mathbb{E}_{q_{\phi}(z|x)} [\log p_{\theta}(x | z)] -$$

$$\beta \text{KL} (q_{\phi}(z | x) || p_{\theta}(z))$$

distance between posterior and prior



Aviation anomaly detection literature



Using deep auto-encoders to identify anomalies without the need for labels.

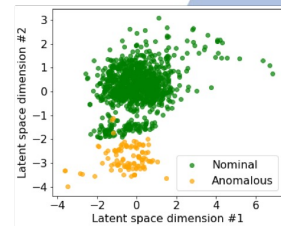
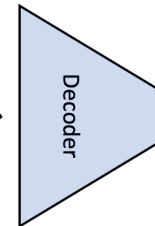
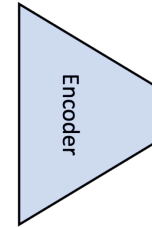
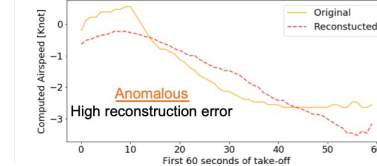
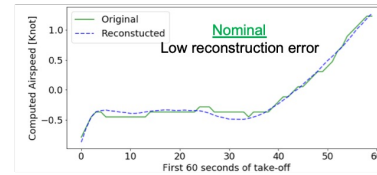
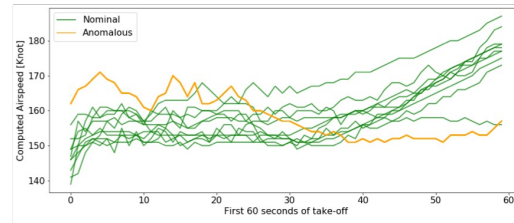
$$\mathcal{J}_{\text{CVAE}} = \mathbb{E}_{q_{\phi}(z|x)} [\log p_{\theta}(x | z)] - \beta \text{KL}(q_{\phi}(z | x) || p_{\theta}(z))$$

reconstruction fidelity
distance between posterior and prior

Identifying anomalies:

$$\zeta_i = \|x_i - \hat{x}_i\|_2^2, i \in \{1, \dots, N\}$$

$$thr = \mathbb{E}[\zeta] + \alpha\sigma(\zeta)$$



Performance comparison

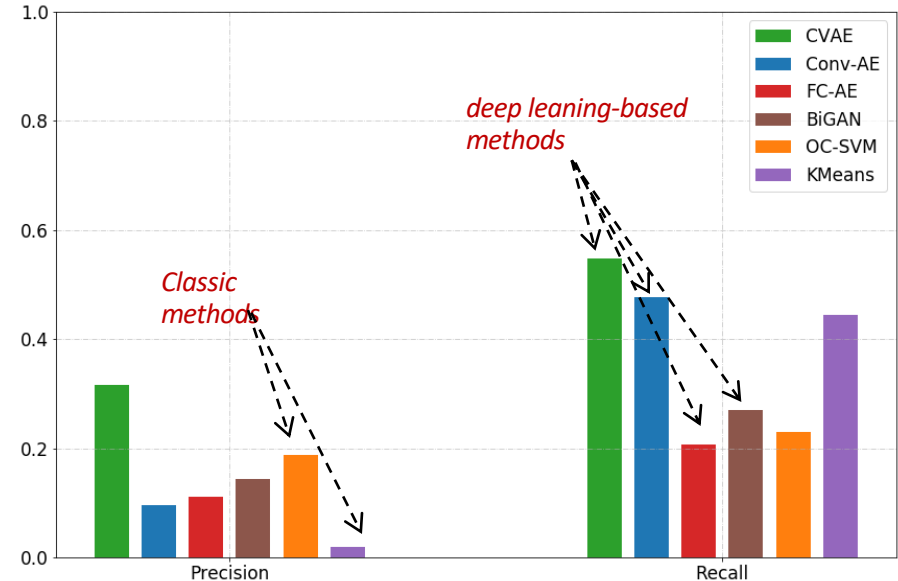


Pros:

- Does not require labels to make inference.

Cons:

- **Low precision**, which means a high number of false positives and low reliability.
- It is not easy to extend to **multi-class** anomaly detection.



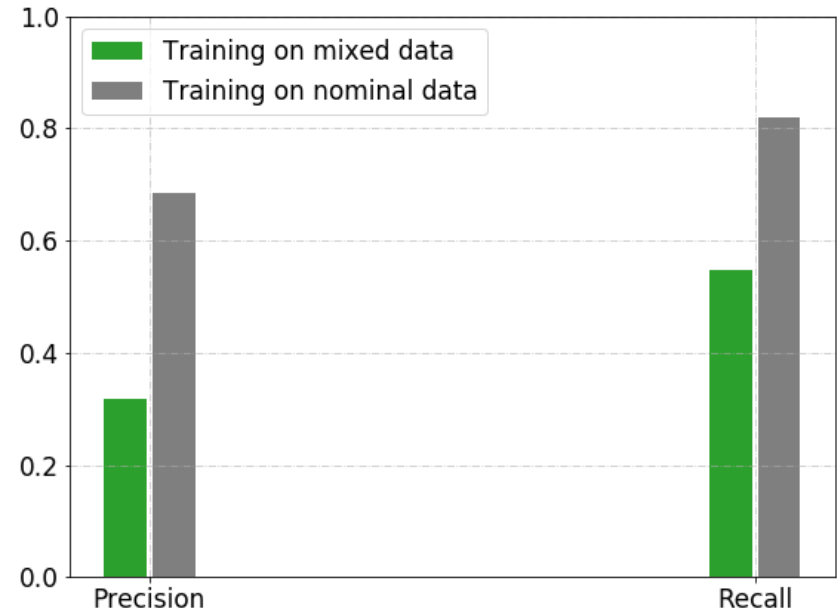
How to improve the reliability of unsupervised learning



Training CVAE (our model) only on nominal data improved the performance significantly:

- 36.8pp higher precision
- 27.3pp higher recall

Takeaway: how to take advantage of **minimally labelled data** that are available?





NASA's Digital Information Platform (DIP)

CVAE USE CASE: STREAMING FUSER DATA

Deploying CVAE on DIP Platform



- Data Source: Fuser
- Streaming radar track data:
 - TFM/ASDE-X
 - lat/lon, altitude, ground speed
- Focus on the last 20NM before landing at core 30 airports.
- Identify anomalous flight track.
- Generate anomaly report.

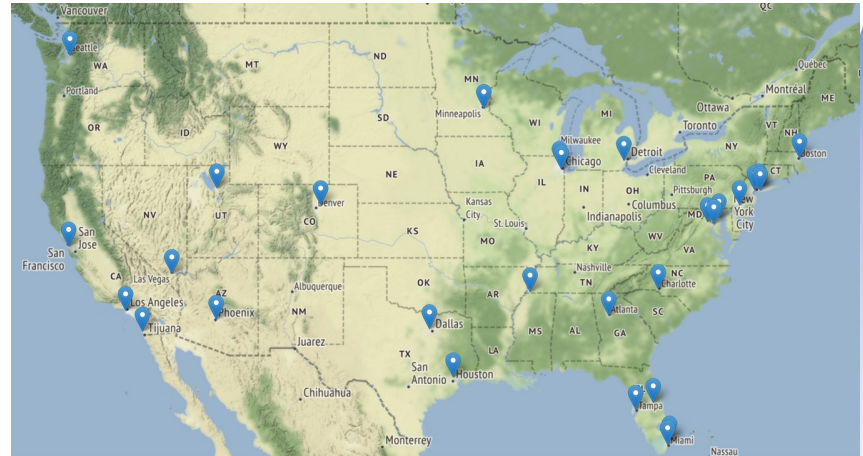
My Subscriptions



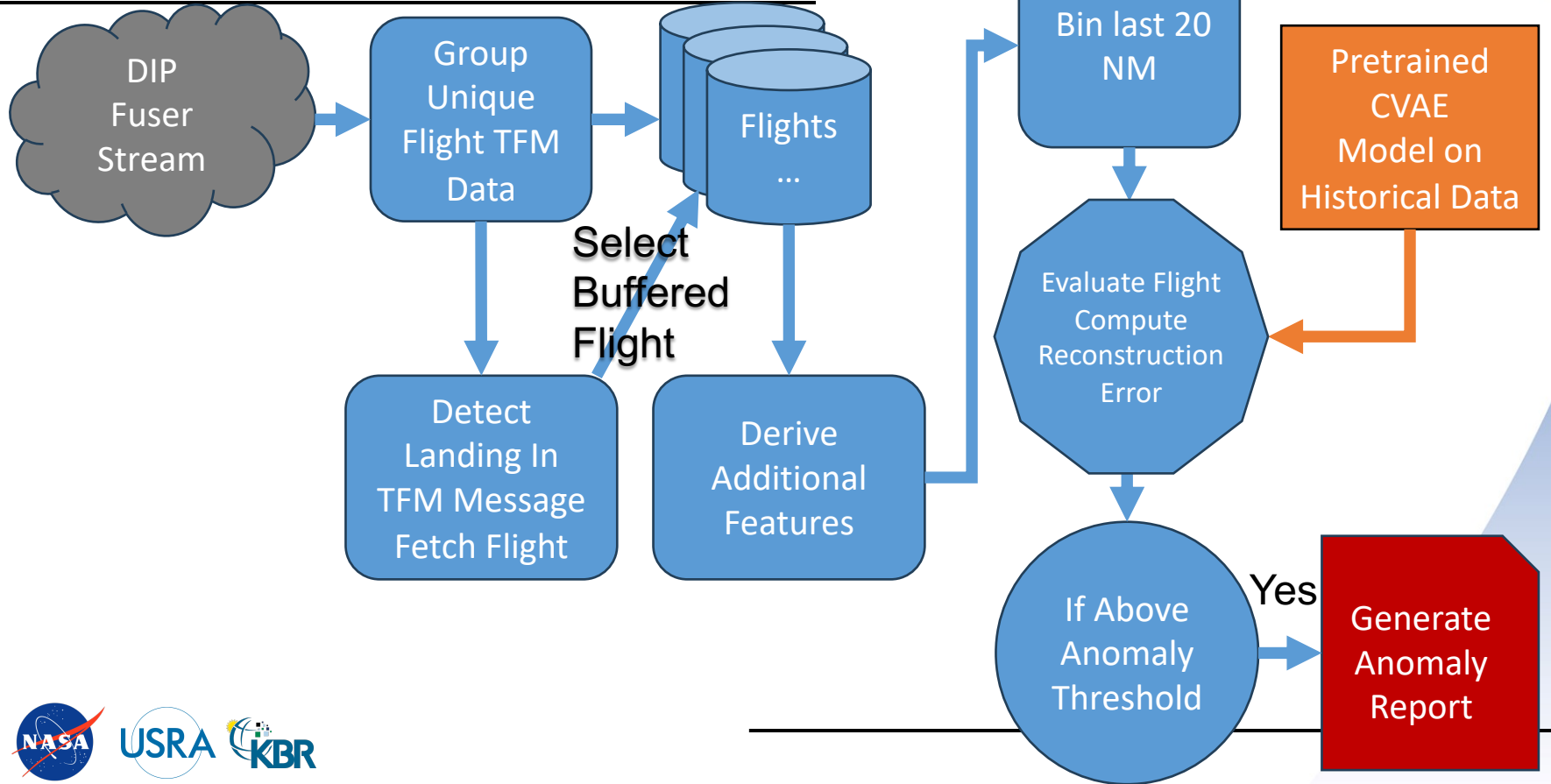
NASA
Fuser Public SFTP



NASA
Fuser Public Stream

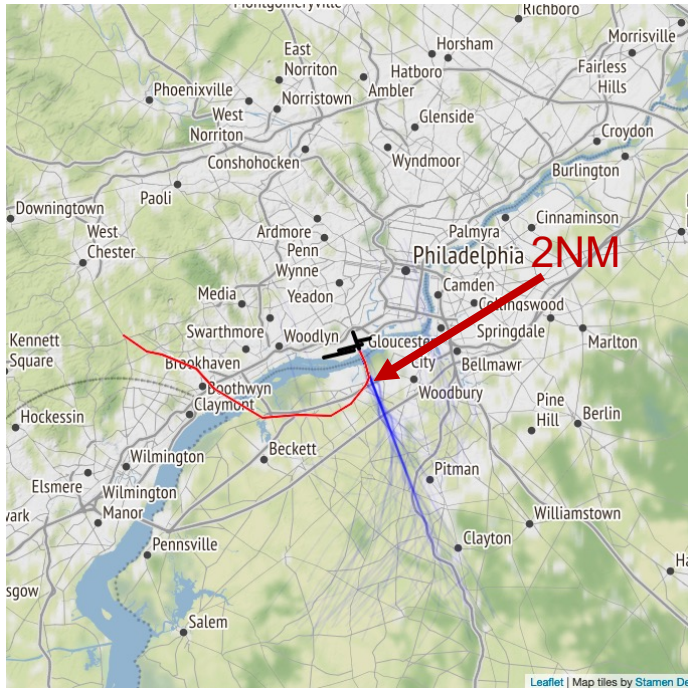


CVAE on Streaming DIP Fuser Data



DIP Fuser TFM Anomalies

- Candidate: Short Turn to Final



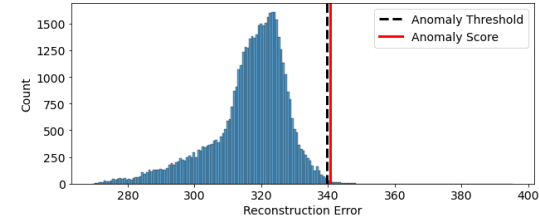
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National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

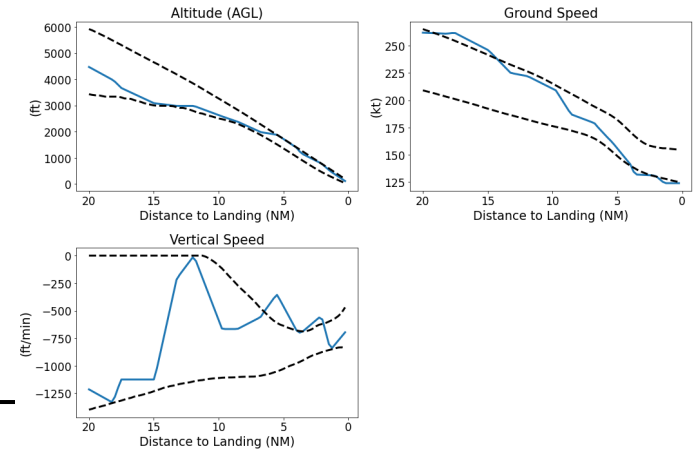


Date: 06/04/23
GUFID: 807.RST.PHL.230604.1540.0091.TMA
Dest. Airport: KPHL
Runway: 35
AC Type: E55P

Anomaly Score: 340.673

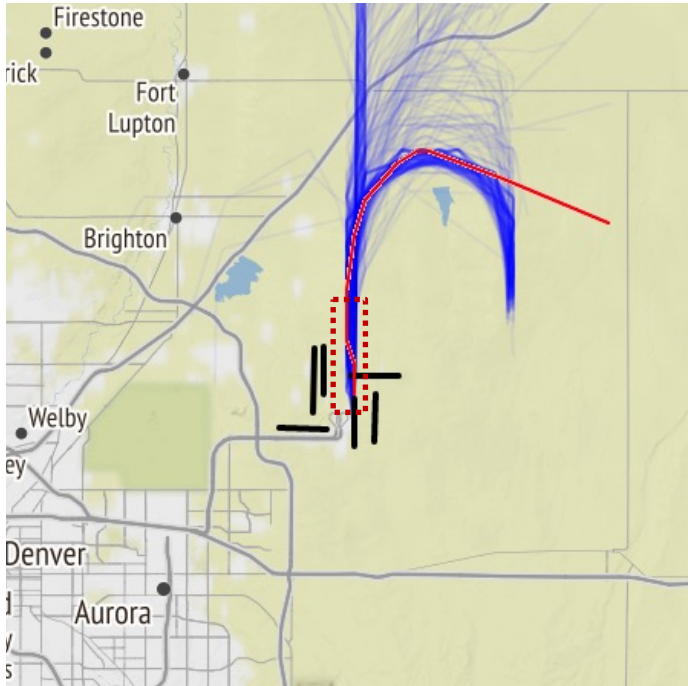


Variables:



DIP Fuser TFM Anomalies

- Candidate: Potential Misalignment



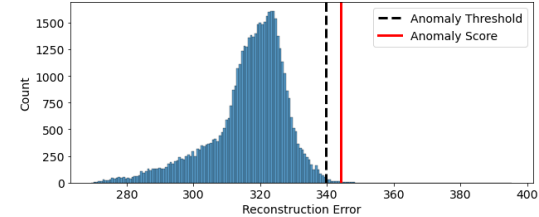
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National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

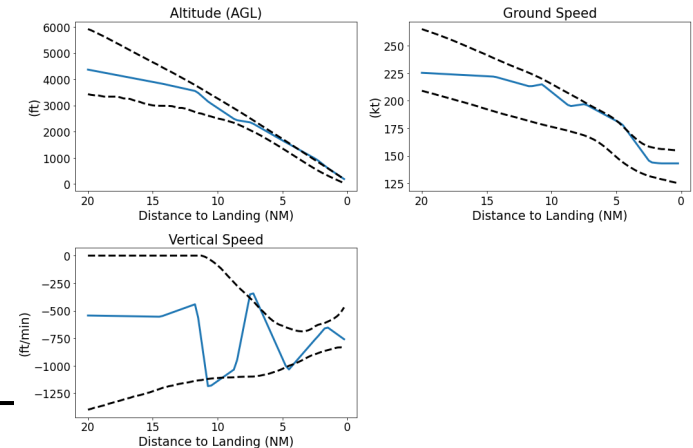


Date: 04/25/23
GUFID: 736.ATL.DEN.230424.1045.0031.TFM
Dest. Airport: KDEN
Runway: 17R
AC Type: A321

Anomaly Score: 344.143



Variables:





DEMO STREAMING CVAE

Multi-class anomaly detection case study based on real flight data

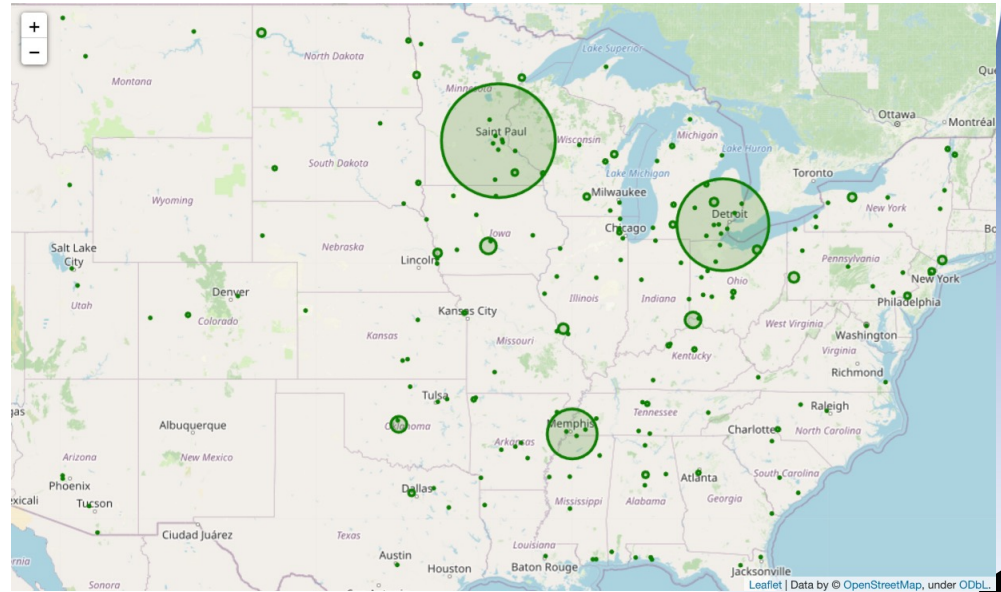


Each data instance is 160-s recording of 19 variables during **approach of a commercial aircraft to landing**. Attributes cover a variety of systems, including the state and orientation of the aircraft, positions and inputs of the control surfaces, engine parameters, and auto pilot modes and corresponding states.

Training data consists of 18,313 samples falling into four classes:

1. **Nominal** (66.7%)
2. **Speed Anomaly** (22.9%)
3. **Path Anomaly** (7.2%)
4. **Control Anomaly** (3.2%)

Separate **test data** of 6105 samples is used for evaluating the models.



Robust and Explainable Semi-supervised Anomaly Detection (RESAD)

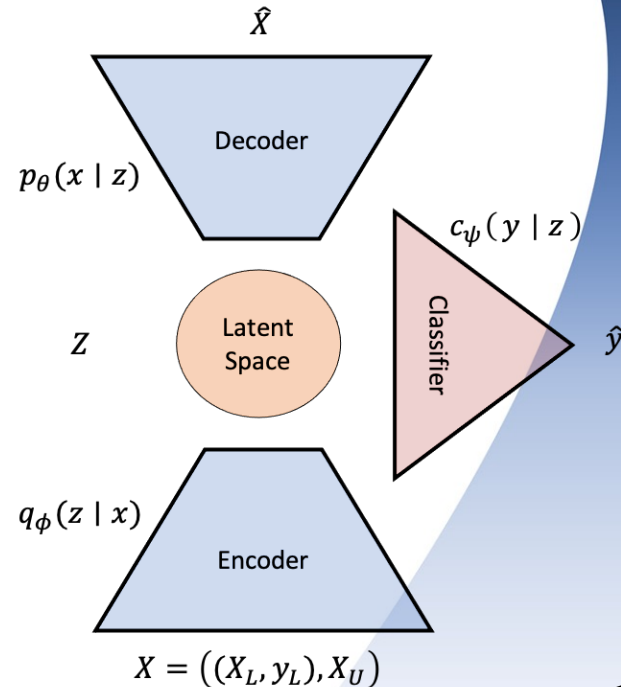


Objective = $w_c \mathbb{E}_{(X_L, y_L)}$ [classification performance] +

$w_e \mathbb{E}_{(x \in (X_L \cup X_U), y_L)}$ [latent space configuration/explainability] +

$w_r \mathbb{E}_{x \in (X_L \cup X_U)}$ [reconstruction fidelity]

Unsupervised learning ignores y_L , while **supervised** learning ignores X_U .



RESAD: performance comparison

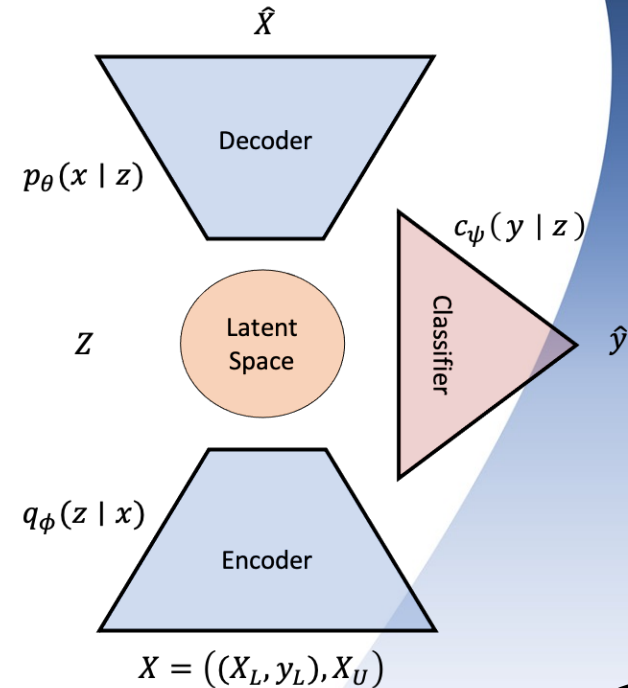
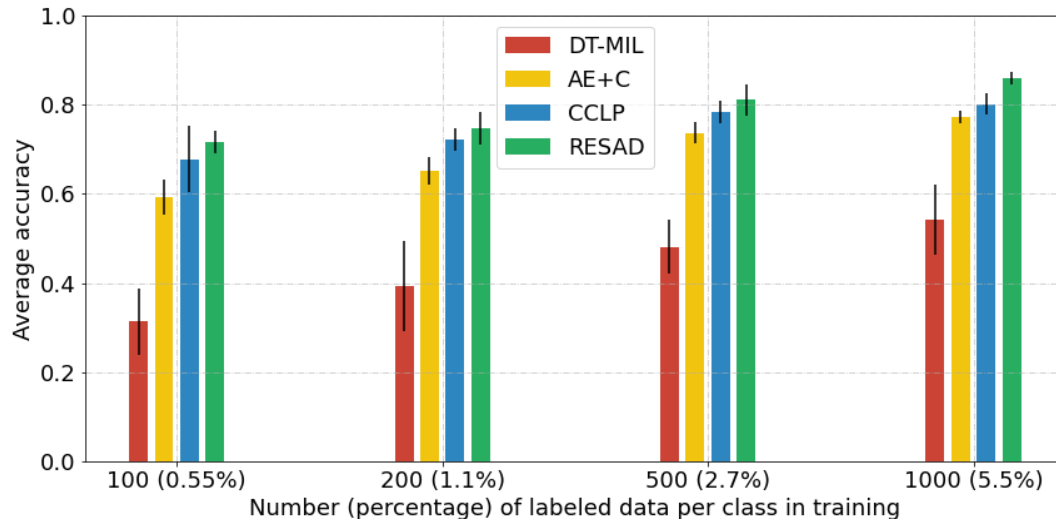


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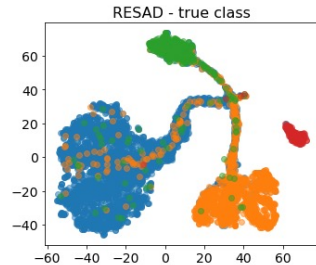
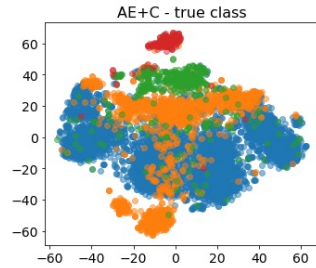
Unsupervised learning ignores y_L , while **supervised** learning ignores X_U .



Latent space configuration: the superiority of the CCLP approach



Figures show **2D visualization of the 256D latent space** of each model using t-Distributed Stochastic Neighbor Embedding (t-SNE), color-coded based on the actual class of the data.

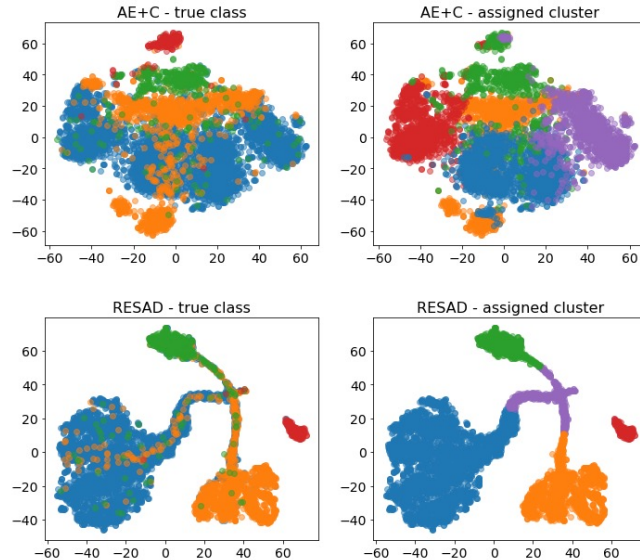


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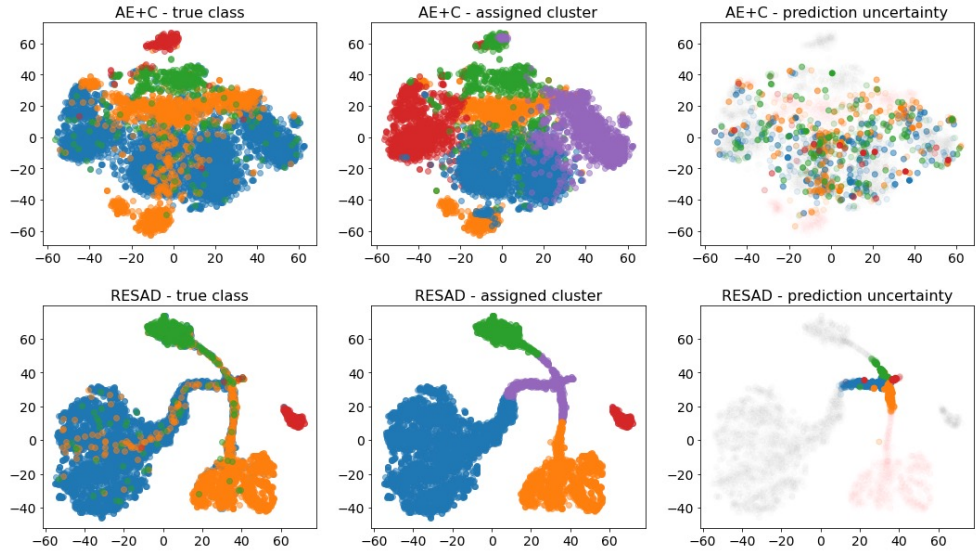
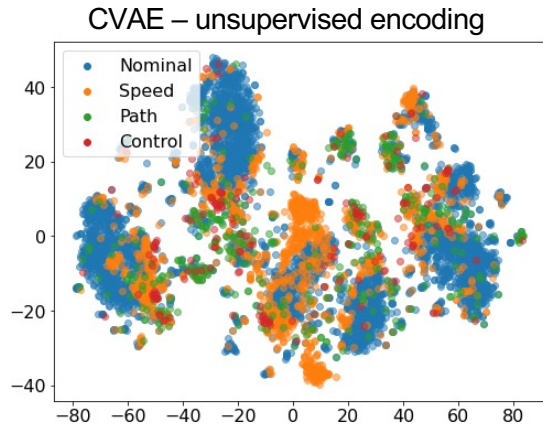
Second column shows the results of K-Means clustering applied to the 256D latent space dividing the space into $n_c + 1$ clusters.



Latent space configuration: the superiority of the CCLP approach



We evaluate the relationship between clusters shaped in the latent space and the prediction uncertainty of the classifier. These results suggest a **novel active learning strategy** for selecting the **most informative data** to be labeled in future efforts.



Acknowledgement and references



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