



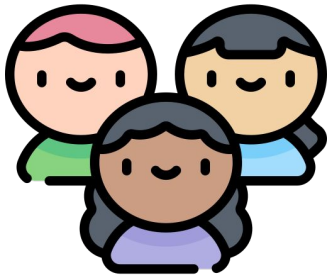
# Validating Labeling Functions in Domain Shift

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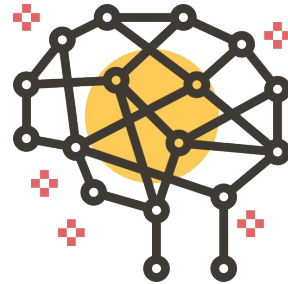
## To obtain more labeled training data, weak supervision leverages cheaper & noisy labels



**Get cheaper labels  
from non-experts**  
e.g., crowdsourcing



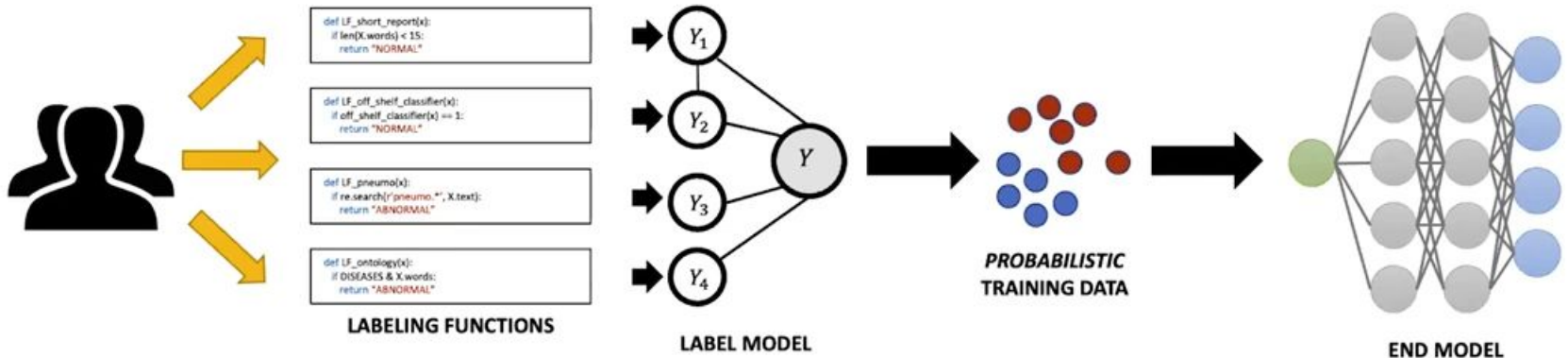
**Get higher-level  
supervision from experts**  
e.g., labeling functions



**Get pseudo-labels from  
pre-trained models**  
e.g., knowledge distillation



# Labeling function (LF) is a lightweight and cost effective way to generate labels in unlabeled data.



1. Users write **labeling functions** to create noisy labels

2. We **model and combine** these labels

3. The generated labels are used to **train a downstream model**

Source: <https://snorkel.ai/weak-supervision-modeling/>



# However, what if data distribution shifts?



## Developer side

```
^(?=.*\bkid\b)(?=.*\blike\b).*
```

## Data stream

time



Domain: toy

review/"My kid likes it"  
⇒ **positive**

Example scenario:  
sentiment analysis from review data



# However, what if data distribution shifts?



## Developer side

```
^(?=.*\bkid\b)(?=.*\blike\b).*
```

## Data stream

time →

Domain: toy

review/"My kid likes it"  
⇒ **positive**

Domain: book

review/"A true love story"  
⇒ ???

LFs are no longer valid;  
need to update!

Example scenario:  
sentiment analysis from review data



## However, what if data distribution shifts?



Accurately and timely **detecting the data shift** and **prompting engineers to update LFs** is crucial in order to ensure the reliable performance of an end model!

Example scenario:  
sentiment analysis from review data



## Our idea: Use the outputs from LFs to detect domain shift!

- Previous works: **observe an input  $x$  itself** to determine if it is out-of-distribution (OOD)
  - Specifically, define a score function  $s(x)$  and classify it as OOD if  $s(x) < \delta$  where  $\delta$  is a predefined threshold.
  - Score functions: e.g., language models
- Instead, we **observe outputs of LFs** to determine OOD
  - Outputs of LFs contain richer information as LFs are specifically designed to identify certain aspects of the data.
  - More efficient and scalable, as it does not necessarily require models to capture important features from raw data.

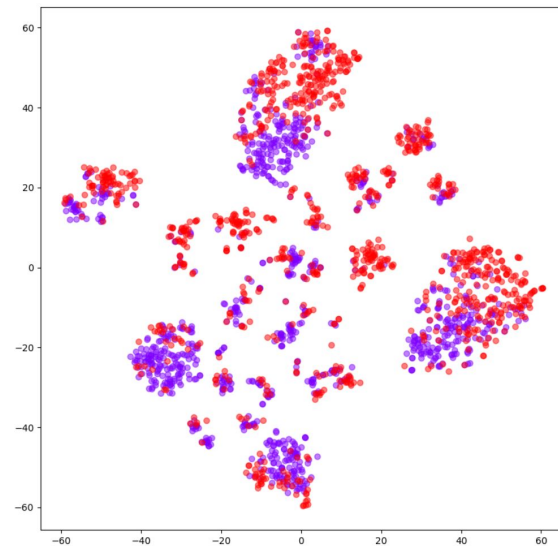
# Method: (1) Changing discrete LFs to continuous LFs

Example of **discrete** LF on NLP sentiment analysis:  
Keyword-based heuristic function

```
@labeling_function
def positive_keyword_lf(text, keyword):
    if keyword in text.lower():
        return POSITIVE
    return ABSTAIN
```

- Outputs **limited** values (POSITIVE, NEGATIVE, ABSTAIN)
- Information from discrete LFs are **not enough** to detect OOD

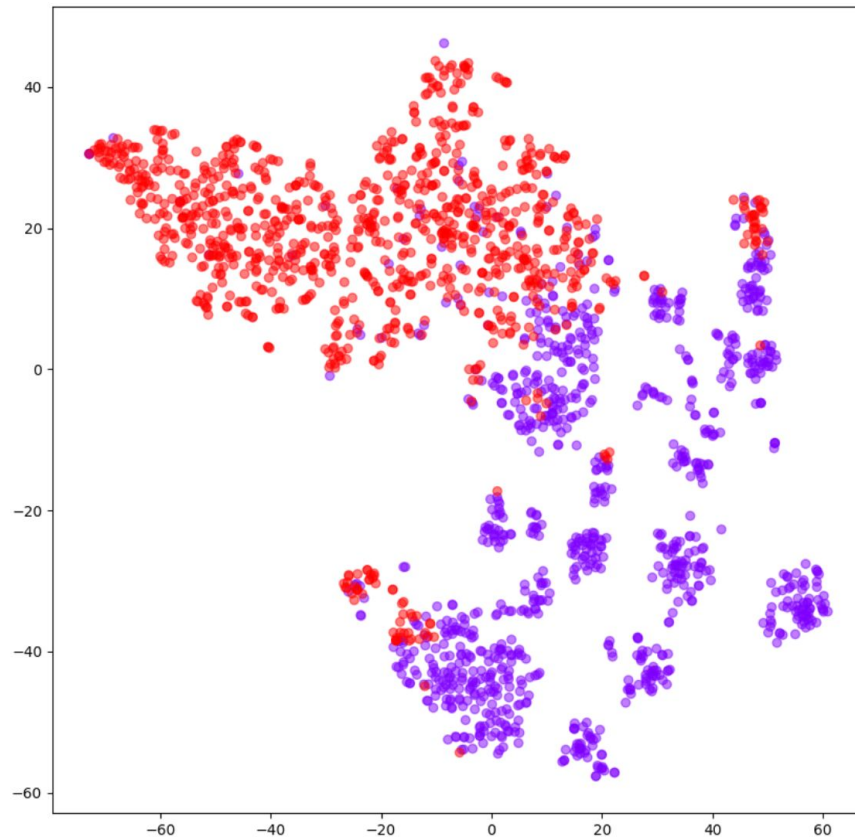
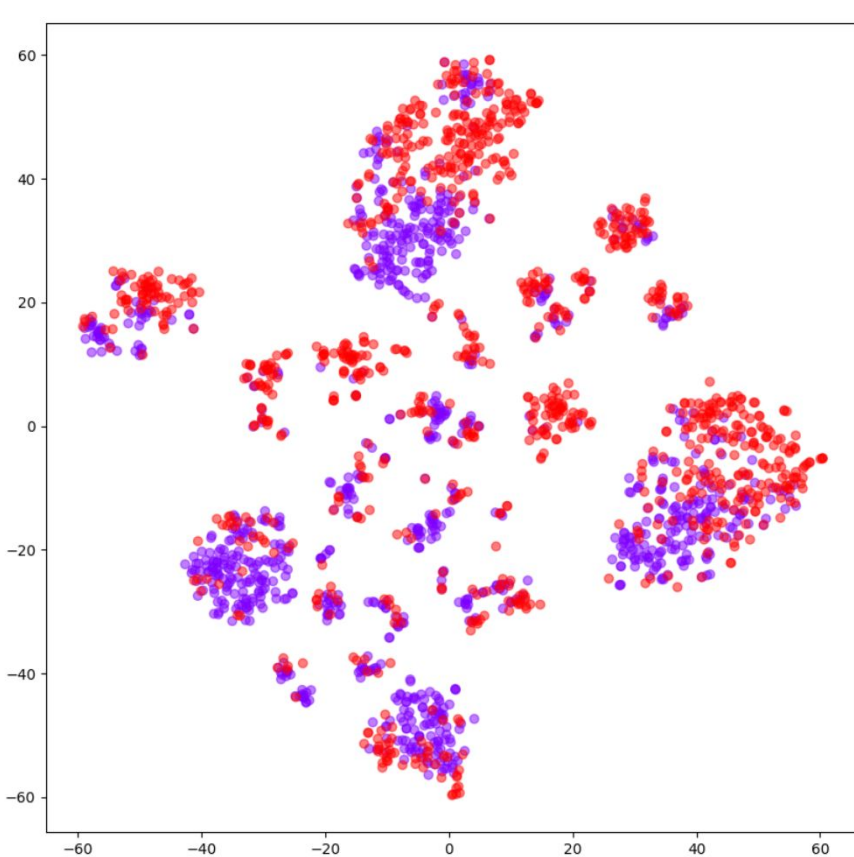
T-SNE result, 8 discrete LFs







## Method: (1) Changing discrete LFs to continuous LFs



# Method: (1) Changing discrete LFs to continuous LFs

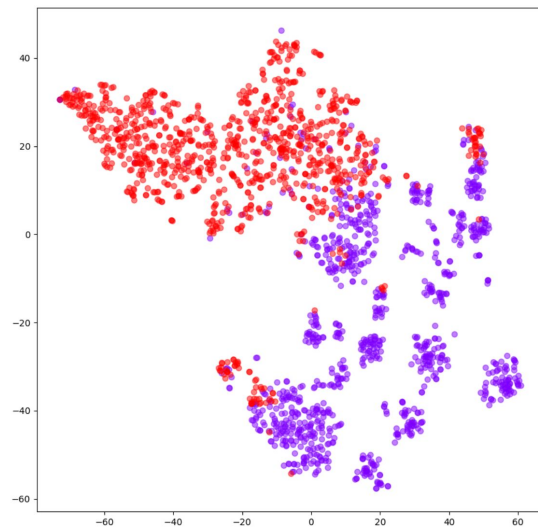
Example of **continuous** LF:  
Using **cosine similarity** of **GloVe** word embedding

```
@labeling_function
def positive_keyword_lf(text, keyword):
    text_emb = glove(text.lower().split())
    keyword_emb = glove([keyword])

    return get_cosine_similarity(text_emb, keyword_emb)
```

- Cosine similarity between passage and keyword
- Outputs **continuous** values → **dense** information

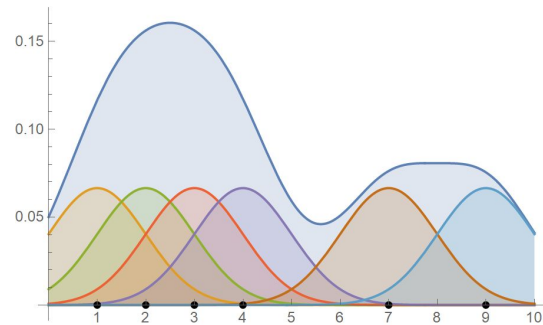
T-SNE result, 8 continuous LFs





## Method: (2) Kernel density estimation

Given an input  $x_i \in D_{ID}^{Tr}$  where  $D_{ID}^{Tr}$  is in-distribution (source) train data, let  $f_{x_i}$  be a vector of labeling function outputs from  $x_i$ . (=feature)



Estimate the marginal feature probability density function  $p(f)$  based on Gaussian kernel:

$$p(f) \approx \hat{p}(f) = \frac{1}{|D_{ID}^{Tr}|h} \sum_{j=1}^{|D_{ID}^{Tr}|} \mathcal{K}\left(\frac{f - f_j}{h}\right)$$

where  $h$  is a smoothing bandwidth (hyperparameter) and  $\mathcal{K}(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}}$  is a Gaussian kernel function.

Given  $\hat{p}(f)$  and a predefined threshold  $\delta$ , we can determine whether a new feature  $f'$  is OOD at test time.



# Overall pipeline : Training phase

Unlabeled training data



Discrete LFs

$$lf_1^d(x)$$

$$lf_2^d(x)$$

⋮

$$lf_N^d(x)$$



Continuous LFs

$$lf_1^c(x)$$

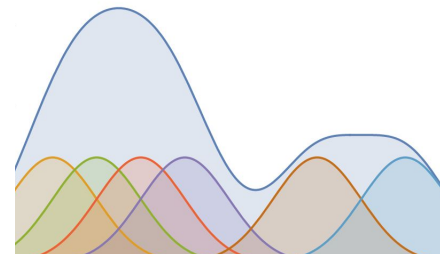
$$lf_2^c(x)$$

⋮

$$lf_N^c(x)$$



Kernel density estimation





# Overall pipeline : Testing phase

Unlabeled test data



$lf_1^c(x)$   
 $lf_2^c(x)$   
 $\vdots$   
 $lf_N^c(x)$

Continuous LFs

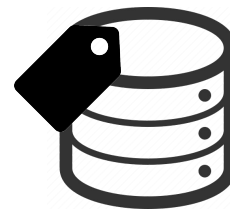


Discrete LFs

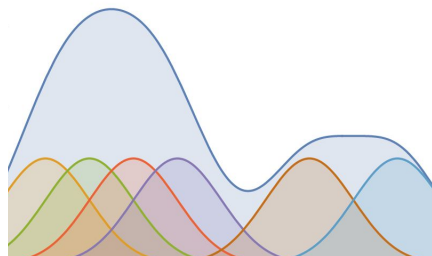
$lf_1^d(x)$   
 $lf_2^d(x)$   
 $\vdots$   
 $lf_N^d(x)$



Labeled data



OOD detection



Kernel density estimation



# Evaluation setup: task and dataset

Sentiment analysis task (binary classification); we used IMDB [1], Yelp [2], and Amazon reviews [3].

- Train : ID (20000) / Test : ID (5000) + OOD(5000)

In-distribution (ID)	Out-of-distribution (OOD)
IMDB	Yelp
	Amazon-baby
	Amazon-electronics
	Amazon-jewelry
	Amazon-home
	Amazon-sports

[1] Andrew L. Maas, Raymond E. Daly, Peter T. Pham, Dan Huang, Andrew Y. Ng, and Christopher Potts. (2011). [Learning Word Vectors for Sentiment Analysis](#). *The 49th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL 2011)*.

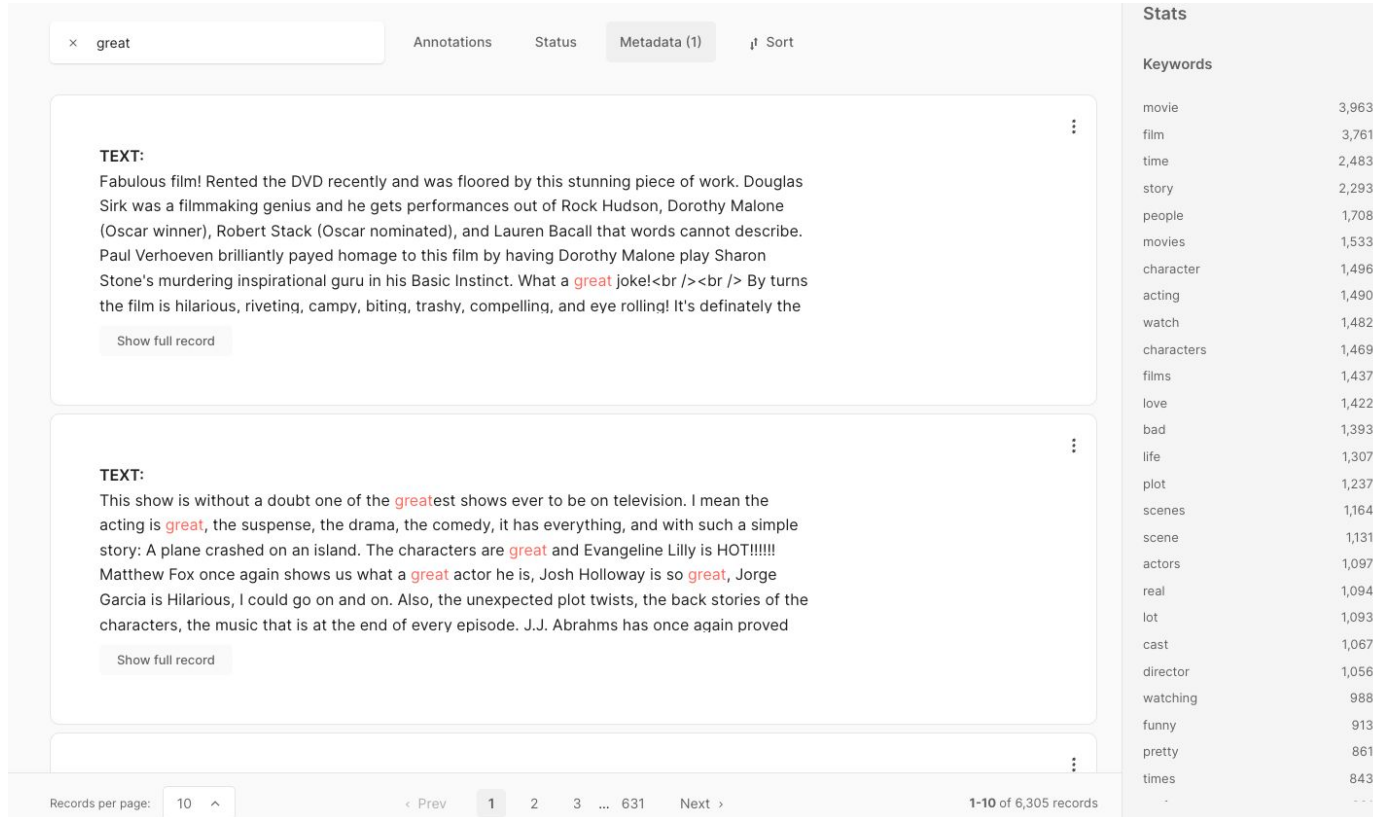
[2] Xiang Zhang, Junbo Zhao, Yann LeCun. Character-level Convolutional Networks for Text Classification. *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 28 (NIPS 2015)*.

[3] R. He, J. McAuley. Ups and downs: Modeling the visual evolution of fashion trends with one-class collaborative filtering. *WWW, 2016*



# Evaluation setup: LF development

- Keyword-based interactive LF generation using Argilla[1]



The screenshot shows the Argilla web interface. At the top, there is a search bar containing the word "great". Below the search bar, there are tabs for "Annotations", "Status", "Metadata (1)", and "Sort". The main content area displays two records, each with a "TEXT:" label and a paragraph of text. The word "great" is highlighted in red in both records. Below each text block is a "Show full record" button. On the right side, there is a "Stats" section with a "Keywords" list. The keywords list shows various terms and their corresponding counts, such as "movie" (3,963), "film" (3,761), "time" (2,483), "story" (2,293), "people" (1,708), "movies" (1,533), "character" (1,496), "acting" (1,490), "watch" (1,482), "characters" (1,469), "films" (1,437), "love" (1,422), "bad" (1,393), "life" (1,307), "plot" (1,237), "scenes" (1,164), "scene" (1,131), "actors" (1,097), "real" (1,094), "lot" (1,093), "cast" (1,067), "director" (1,056), "watching" (988), "funny" (913), "pretty" (861), and "times" (843).

Records per page: 10

< Prev 1 2 3 ... 631 Next >

1-10 of 6,305 records

[1] <https://docs.argilla.io/en/latest/>



## Evaluation setup: LF development

- Keyword-based interactive LF generation using Argilla[1]
  - 12 positive keywords, 20 negative keywords

Label	Keywords
Positive	impress, adorable, enjoy, excellent, beautiful, wonderful, recommend, best, masterpiece, performance * best, performance * good
Negative	terrible, poor, stupid, wrong, disappoint, painful, awful, boring, worse, worst, bad, cliché, killer, unnecessary, waste, least try, nothing * special, nothing * even, performance * worst, acting * bad





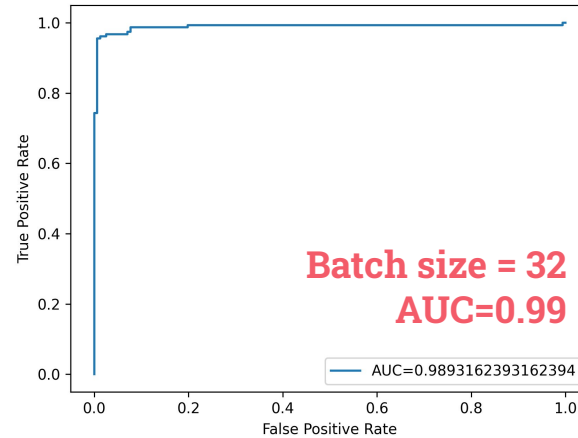
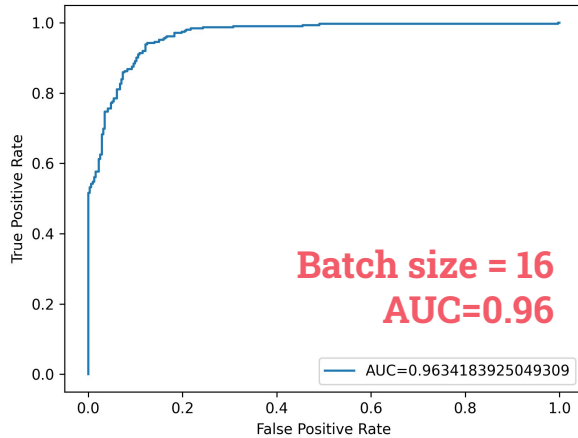
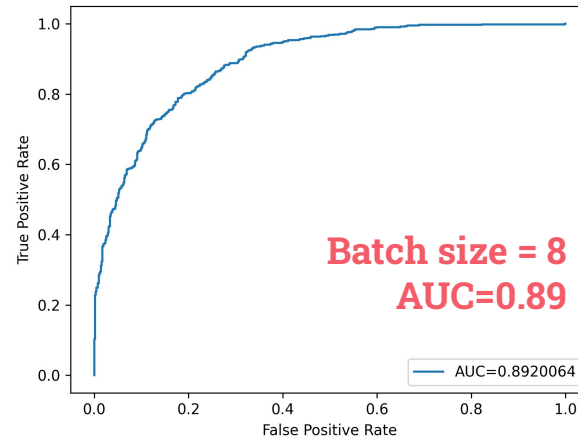
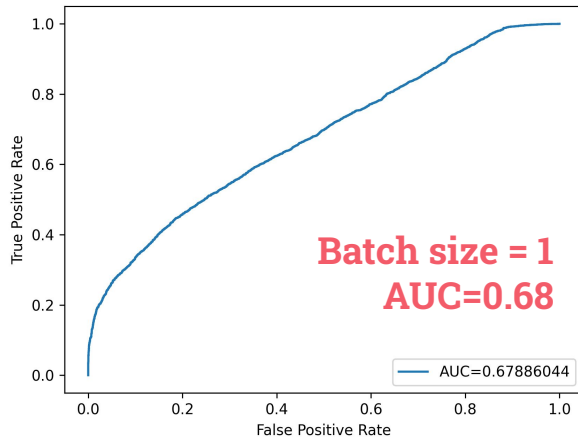
# Results: OOD Detection

KDE  $h = 0.05$ , batch 16 fixed

ID	OOD	AUROC	Accuracy	
			OOD (Coverage)	ID (Coverage)
IMDB	Yelp	0.93	0.78 (0.57)	0.74 (0.82)
	Amazon-baby	0.96	0.78 (0.41)	
	Amazon-electronics	0.95	0.75 (0.42)	
	Amazon-jewelry	1.00	0.86 (0.39)	
	Amazon-home	0.98	0.80 (0.39)	
	Amazon-sports	0.99	0.79 (0.33)	



# Batch-AUROC Tradeoff





# Discussion & Future work

- Providing **explainable** prompts to engineers
  - Train **separate** OOD detector for **each LF**
  - When the **OOD** detected, run **LF OOD detectors** to **find out wrong LFs**
- Other ways to convert discrete LFs to continuous LFs
- Using **coverage** as OOD predictor
  - **Coverage drops significantly** with OOD data
- Experiments on different **shift scenarios & domains**
  - Only IMDB is used as source distribution
  - Applying to **other NLP tasks**
  - Applying to other domains such as **vision**

OOD	Accuracy
	OOD (Coverage)
Yelp	0.78 ( <b>0.57</b> )
Amazon-baby	0.78 ( <b>0.41</b> )
Amazon-electronics	0.75 ( <b>0.42</b> )
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Amazon-home	0.80 ( <b>0.39</b> )
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