

# Change-Point Detection in Time-Series Data by Direct Density-Ratio Estimation

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## Abstract

Change-point detection is the problem of discovering time points at which properties of time-series data change. This covers a broad range of real-world problems and has been actively discussed in the community of statistics and data mining. In this paper, we present a novel non-parametric approach to detecting the change of probability distributions of sequence data. Our key idea is to estimate the ratio of probability densities, not the probability densities themselves. This formulation allows us to avoid non-parametric density estimation, which is known to be a difficult problem. We provide a change-point detection algorithm based on direct density-ratio estimation that can be computed very efficiently in an online manner. The usefulness of the proposed method is demonstrated through experiments using artificial and real datasets.

**keywords:** change-point detection, direct density-ratio estimation, kernel methods, time-series data

## 1 Introduction.

The problem of discovering time points at which properties of time-series data change is attracting a lot of attention in the data mining community [5, 2, 12, 18]. This problem is referred to as change-point detection [34, 16, 22] or event detection [13], and covers a broad range of real-world problems such as fraud detection in cellular systems [24, 3], intrusion detection in computer networks [35], irregular-motion detection in vision systems [20], signal segmentation in data stream [5], and fault detection in engineering systems [10].

The problem of change-point detection has been actively studied over the last several decades in statistics. A typical statistical formulation of change-point detection is to consider probability distributions from which data in the past and present intervals are generated, and regard the target time point as a change point if two distributions are significantly different. Various approaches to change-point detection have been investigated within this statistical framework, including

the CUSUM (cumulative sum) [5] and GLR (generalized likelihood ratio) [11, 12] approaches. In these approaches, *the logarithm of the likelihood ratio* between two consecutive intervals in time-series data is monitored for detecting change points. In recent years, the above statistical framework has been extensively explored in the data mining community in connection with real-world applications, for example, approaches based on novelty detection [25, 26], maximum-likelihood estimation [13], and online learning of autoregressive models [34, 33]. Another line of research is based on analysis of subspaces in which time-series sequences are constrained [27, 16, 22]. This approach has a strong connection with a system identification method called *subspace identification*, which has been thoroughly studied in the area of control theory [28, 17].

A common limitation of the above-mentioned approaches is that they rely on pre-specified parametric models such as probability density models, autoregressive models, and state-space models. Thus, these methods tend to be less flexible in real-world change-point detection scenarios. The primal purpose of this paper is to present a more flexible non-parametric method that does not rely on a strong model assumption. In the community of statistics, some non-parametric approaches to change detection problems have been explored, in which non-parametric density estimation is used for calculating the likelihood ratio [6, 2]. However, since non-parametric density estimation is known to be a hard problem [14, 15], this naive approach may not be promising in practice.

Our key idea for alleviating this difficulty is to directly estimate the *ratio* of probability densities, not the probability densities themselves. Namely, we estimate the density ratio (which is also referred to as the *importance* in literature [8]) without going through density estimation. Recently, direct density-ratio estimation has been actively explored in the machine learning community, e.g., Kernel Mean Matching [15] and the Kullback-Leibler Importance Estimation Procedure (KLIEP) [31]. However, these conventional methods are batch algorithms and are not suitable for change-point detection due to the sequential nature of time-series data analysis.

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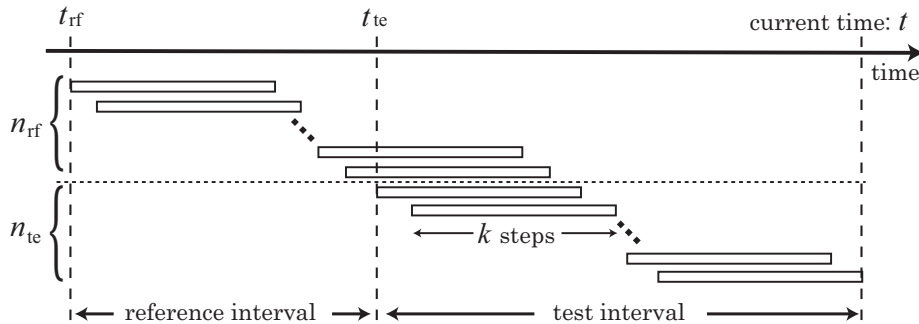


Figure 1: Definition of the reference and test intervals.

To cope with this problem, we give an online version of the KLIEP algorithm and develop a flexible and computationally efficient change-point detection method. An advantage of our method over existing non-parametric approaches such as the sequential one-class support vector machine [30, 7] is that our method is equipped with a natural cross validation procedure. Thus, the value of tuning parameters such as the kernel bandwidth can be objectively determined in our method. This is a highly useful property in unsupervised change detection scenarios.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we formulate the change-point detection problem of time-series data as a density-ratio estimation problem. In Section 3, we develop a new change-point detection algorithm based on an online extension of a direct density-estimation procedure. Finally, we report experimental results on artificial and real-world datasets in Section 4 and conclude by summarizing our contribution and possible future work in Section 5.

## 2 Problem Formulation and Basic Approach.

In this section, we formulate a change-point detection problem based on the density ratio in Section 2.1 and describe our basic approach to this problem in Section 2.2.

**2.1 Problem Formulation.** Let  $\mathbf{y}(t) (\in \mathbb{R}^d)$  be a  $d$ -dimensional time series sample at time  $t$ . Our task is to detect whether there exists a change point between two consecutive time intervals, called the *reference* and *test* intervals. The conventional algorithms [5, 12] consider the likelihood ratio over samples from the two intervals. However, time-series samples are generally not independent over time and therefore directly dealing with non-independent samples is cumbersome. To ease this difficulty, in this paper, we consider *sequences* of samples in each time intervals; let  $\mathbf{Y}(t) (\in \mathbb{R}^{dk})$  be the

forward subsequence of length  $k$  at time  $t$ :

$$\mathbf{Y}(t) = [\mathbf{y}(t)^T, \mathbf{y}(t+1)^T, \dots, \mathbf{y}(t+k-1)^T]^T,$$

where  $\bullet^T$  denotes the transpose of a vector or matrix. This is a common practice in subspace identification since it allows us to implicitly take time correlation into consideration in some degree [28, 17]. Thus, our algorithm stated in the remainder of this paper is based on the logarithm of the likelihood ratio of the *sequence sample*  $\mathbf{Y}$  defined by

$$s(\mathbf{Y}) = \ln \frac{p_{te}(\mathbf{Y})}{p_{rf}(\mathbf{Y})},$$

where  $p_{te}(\mathbf{Y})$  and  $p_{rf}(\mathbf{Y})$  are the probability density functions of the reference and test sequence samples, respectively.

Let  $t_{rf}$  and  $t_{te}$  ( $t_{rf} < t_{te}$ ) be respectively the starting time points of the reference and test intervals. Suppose we have  $n_{rf}$  and  $n_{te}$  sequence samples in the reference and test intervals, respectively. Then,

$$t_{te} = t_{rf} + n_{rf}.$$

The above formulation is summarized in Figure 1.

For brevity, we use the following shorthand notation in the sequel:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{Y}_{rf}(i) &= \mathbf{Y}(t_{rf} + i - 1), \\ \mathbf{Y}_{te}(i) &= \mathbf{Y}(t_{te} + i - 1). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the  $i$ -th reference and test samples are denoted by  $\mathbf{Y}_{rf}(i)$  and  $\mathbf{Y}_{te}(i)$ , respectively. Now, let us introduce the following hypotheses about the observations<sup>1</sup>:

$$\begin{aligned} H_0 : \quad & p(\mathbf{Y}(i)) = p_{rf}(\mathbf{Y}(i)) \quad \text{for } t_{rf} \leq i < t_{te}, \\ H_1 : \quad & p(\mathbf{Y}(i)) = p_{rf}(\mathbf{Y}(i)) \quad \text{for } t_{rf} \leq i < t_{te}, \\ & p(\mathbf{Y}(i)) = p_{te}(\mathbf{Y}(i)) \quad \text{for } t_{te} \leq i < t. \end{aligned}$$

<sup>1</sup>This formulation is slightly different from the original one used in the CUSUM or GLR algorithms, where the tested time point is not fixed at time  $t_{te}$ .

Then the likelihood ratio between the hypotheses  $H_0$  and  $H_1$  is

$$\Lambda = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^{n_{\text{rf}}} p_{\text{rf}}(\mathbf{Y}_{\text{rf}}(i)) \prod_{i=1}^{n_{\text{te}}} p_{\text{te}}(\mathbf{Y}_{\text{te}}(i))}{\prod_{i=1}^{n_{\text{rf}}} p_{\text{rf}}(\mathbf{Y}_{\text{rf}}(i)) \prod_{i=1}^{n_{\text{te}}} p_{\text{rf}}(\mathbf{Y}_{\text{te}}(i))} \\ = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^{n_{\text{rf}}} p_{\text{te}}(\mathbf{Y}_{\text{te}}(i))}{\prod_{i=1}^{n_{\text{rf}}} p_{\text{rf}}(\mathbf{Y}_{\text{te}}(i))}.$$

Thus, we can decide whether there is a change point between the reference and test intervals by monitoring the logarithm of the likelihood ratio:

$$(2.1) \quad S = \sum_{i=1}^{n_{\text{te}}} \ln \frac{p_{\text{te}}(\mathbf{Y}_{\text{te}}(i))}{p_{\text{rf}}(\mathbf{Y}_{\text{te}}(i))}.$$

Based on the logarithm of the likelihood ratio  $S$ , we conclude

$$(2.2) \quad \begin{cases} S \leq \mu & \longrightarrow \text{no change occurs,} \\ \text{otherwise} & \longrightarrow \text{a change occurs,} \end{cases}$$

where  $\mu (> 0)$  is a predetermined threshold for the decision of a change point.

The remaining question of this procedure is how to calculate the density ratio,

$$w(\mathbf{Y}) := \frac{p_{\text{te}}(\mathbf{Y})}{p_{\text{rf}}(\mathbf{Y})},$$

because, in practice, the above ratio is unknown and therefore we need to estimate it from samples. A naive approach to this would be to first estimate the reference and test densities separately from the reference and test sequence samples, and then estimate the density ratio by taking the ratio of the estimated densities. However, since non-parametric density estimation is known to be a hard problem [14, 15], this naive approach to change-point detection via non-parametric density estimation may not be effective—directly estimating the density ratio without estimating the densities would be more promising.

**2.2 Direct Density-Ratio Estimation.** As described above, we need to estimate the density ratio for solving the change-point detection problem. Here, we show how the density ratio could be directly estimated without going through density estimation based on the Kullback-Leibler Importance Estimation Procedure (KLIEP) [31].

Let us model the density ratio  $w(\mathbf{Y})$  by a non-parametric Gaussian kernel model:

$$(2.3) \quad \hat{w}(\mathbf{Y}) = \sum_{l=1}^{n_{\text{te}}} \alpha_l K_{\sigma}(\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{Y}_{\text{te}}(l)),$$

where  $\{\alpha_l\}_{l=1}^{n_{\text{te}}}$  are parameters to be learned from data samples and  $K_{\sigma}(\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{Y}')$  is the Gaussian kernel function with mean  $\mathbf{Y}'$  and standard deviation  $\sigma$ :

$$(2.4) \quad K_{\sigma}(\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{Y}') = \exp \left( -\frac{\|\mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{Y}'\|^2}{2\sigma^2} \right).$$

The parameters  $\{\alpha_l\}_{l=1}^{n_{\text{te}}}$  in the model (2.3) are determined so that the empirical Kullback-Leibler divergence from  $p_{\text{te}}(\mathbf{Y})$  to  $\hat{p}_{\text{te}}(\mathbf{Y}) (= p_{\text{rf}}(\mathbf{Y})\hat{w}(\mathbf{Y}))$  is minimized. The solution of this problem can be obtained by solving the following convex optimization problem:

$$(2.5) \quad \begin{cases} \max_{\{\alpha_l\}_{l=1}^{n_{\text{te}}}} \sum_{i=1}^{n_{\text{te}}} \log \left( \sum_{l=1}^{n_{\text{te}}} \alpha_l K_{\sigma}(\mathbf{Y}_{\text{te}}(i), \mathbf{Y}_{\text{te}}(l)) \right), \\ \text{s.t.} \quad \frac{1}{n_{\text{rf}}} \sum_{i=1}^{n_{\text{rf}}} \sum_{l=1}^{n_{\text{te}}} \alpha_l K_{\sigma}(\mathbf{Y}_{\text{rf}}(i), \mathbf{Y}_{\text{te}}(l)) = 1, \\ \text{and} \quad \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n_{\text{te}}} \geq 1. \end{cases}$$

The equality constraint in the above optimization problem comes from the requirement that  $\hat{w}(\mathbf{Y})$  should be properly normalized since  $p_{\text{rf}}(\mathbf{Y})\hat{w}(\mathbf{Y}) (= \hat{p}_{\text{te}}(\mathbf{Y}))$  is a probability density function. The non-negativity constraint comes from the non-negativity of the density ratio function.

A pseudo code of the KLIEP is described in Algorithm 1, which will be used for initialization purposes in the online setup discussed in the next section. In the Gaussian kernel model (2.3), we set the Gaussian centers at the test subsequences  $\{\mathbf{Y}_{\text{te}}(i)\}_{i=1}^{n_{\text{te}}}$ , not the reference sequences. The reason for this choice is as follows. The density-ratio  $w(\mathbf{Y})$  tends to take large values if the reference sequence density  $p_{\text{rf}}(\mathbf{Y})$  is small and the test sequence density  $p_{\text{te}}(\mathbf{Y})$  is large by definition. When a non-negative function is approximated by a Gaussian kernel model in general, many kernels may be needed in the region where the output of the target function is large. Thus, it would be effective to allocate many kernels at high reference density regions, which can be achieved by setting the centers at the test sequence points  $\{\mathbf{Y}_{\text{te}}(i)\}_{i=1}^{n_{\text{te}}}$ .

In Algorithm 1, the kernel width  $\sigma$  is an open tuning parameter and needs to be chosen appropriately for better estimation. As shown in the paper [31], the kernel width  $\sigma$  can be determined from data samples using *likelihood cross validation*. A pseudo code of likelihood cross validation is described in Algorithm 2.

### 3 Online Algorithm.

The above framework would be a suitable method for flexible change-point detection since it enables us to directly compute a non-parametric estimate of the density-ratio  $w(\mathbf{Y})$  without going through density estimation. However, it is a batch algorithm (i.e., all

**input:** Reference samples  $\mathcal{Y}_{\text{rf}} = \{\mathbf{Y}_{\text{rf}}(i)\}_{i=1}^{n_{\text{rf}}}$ , test samples  $\mathcal{Y}_{\text{te}} = \{\mathbf{Y}_{\text{te}}(i)\}_{i=1}^{n_{\text{te}}}$ , and the Gaussian width  $\sigma$ .

- 1  $K_{i,l} = K_{\sigma}(\mathbf{Y}_{\text{te}}(i), \mathbf{Y}_{\text{te}}(l))$  ( $l = 1, \dots, n_{\text{rf}}$ ).
- 2  $\mathbf{b}_l = \frac{1}{n_{\text{rf}}} \sum_{i=1}^{n_{\text{rf}}} K_{\sigma}(\mathbf{Y}_{\text{rf}}(i), \mathbf{Y}_{\text{te}}(l))$  ( $l = 1, \dots, n_{\text{rf}}$ ).
- 3 Initialize  $\boldsymbol{\alpha} (> \mathbf{0})$  and  $\epsilon$  ( $0 < \epsilon \ll 1$ ).
- 4 **Repeat**
- 5     Perform gradient ascent:
 
$$\boldsymbol{\alpha} \leftarrow \boldsymbol{\alpha} + \epsilon \mathbf{K}^T (\mathbf{1} / \mathbf{K} \boldsymbol{\alpha}).$$
- 6     Perform feasibility satisfaction:
 
$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{\alpha} &\leftarrow \boldsymbol{\alpha} + (1 - \mathbf{b}^T \boldsymbol{\alpha}) \mathbf{b} / (\mathbf{b}^T \mathbf{b}), \\ \boldsymbol{\alpha} &\leftarrow \max(\mathbf{0}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}), \\ \boldsymbol{\alpha} &\leftarrow \boldsymbol{\alpha} / (\mathbf{b}^T \boldsymbol{\alpha}). \end{aligned}$$
- 7 **Until** convergence;
- 8 Output  $\hat{w}(\mathbf{Y}) \leftarrow \sum_{l=1}^{n_{\text{te}}} \alpha_l K_{\sigma}(\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{Y}_{\text{te}}(l))$ .

Algorithm 1: The KLIEP algorithm in pseudo code. ‘./’ in Line 5 indicates the element-wise division. An inequality for a vector in Line 3 and the max operation for a vector in Line 6 are applied in the element-wise manner.

**input:** Reference samples  $\mathcal{Y}_{\text{rf}} = \{\mathbf{Y}_{\text{rf}}(i)\}_{i=1}^{n_{\text{rf}}}$ , test samples  $\mathcal{Y}_{\text{te}} = \{\mathbf{Y}_{\text{te}}(i)\}_{i=1}^{n_{\text{te}}}$ , and the Gaussian width candidates  $\{\sigma_i\}_{i=1}^s$ .

- 1 Split  $\mathcal{Y}_{\text{te}}$  into  $R$  disjoint subsets  $\{\mathcal{Y}_r\}_{r=1}^R$ .
- 2 **For** each Gaussian width  $\sigma_i$
- 3     **For** each split  $r = 1, \dots, R$
- 4         Call KLIEP with model  $\sigma_i$  and split  $r$ :
 
$$\hat{w}_r(\mathbf{Y}) \leftarrow \text{KLIEP}(\mathcal{Y}_{\text{rf}}, \{\mathcal{Y}_j\}_{j \neq r}, \sigma_i).$$
- 5         Compute out-of-sample log-likelihood:
 
$$\hat{J}_r(i) \leftarrow \frac{1}{|\mathcal{Y}_r|} \sum_{\mathbf{Y} \in \mathcal{Y}_r} \log \hat{w}_r(\mathbf{Y}).$$
- 6         Compute average out-of-sample log-likelihood:
 
$$\hat{J}(i) \leftarrow \frac{1}{R} \sum_{r=1}^R \hat{J}_r(i).$$
- 7 Choose the optimal Gaussian width:
 
$$\hat{i} \leftarrow \arg \max_i \hat{J}(i)$$
- 8 Output  $\hat{w}(\mathbf{Y}) \leftarrow \text{KLIEP}(\mathcal{Y}_{\text{rf}}, \mathcal{Y}_{\text{te}}, \sigma_{\hat{i}})$ .

Algorithm 2: Pseudo code of kernel width selection in KLIEP by likelihood cross validation.

samples are used for estimation) and therefore is not computationally efficient in the current setup since solutions need to be computed sequentially over time in change-point detection. To reduce the computational cost, we develop an online version of the above algorithm that recursively builds a new solution upon the previous solution (Section 3.1). We then describe the overall procedure of our proposed algorithm for change-point detection in Section 3.2.

**3.1 Online Density-Ratio Estimation.** Let  $\hat{w}(\mathbf{Y})$  be an estimate of the density ratio by the offline algorithm (Algorithm 1) from  $\{\mathbf{Y}_{\text{rf}}(i)\}_{i=1}^{n_{\text{rf}}}$  and  $\{\mathbf{Y}_{\text{te}}(i)\}_{i=1}^{n_{\text{te}}}$  and let  $\{\hat{\alpha}_l\}_{l=1}^{n_{\text{te}}}$  be the learned parameters:

$$\hat{w}(\mathbf{Y}) = \sum_{l=1}^{n_{\text{te}}} \hat{\alpha}_l K_{\sigma}(\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{Y}_{\text{te}}(l)).$$

Let us consider the case where a new sample point  $\mathbf{y}(t_{\text{te}} + k + n_{\text{te}})$  is observed—in the sequence representation,  $\mathbf{Y}(t_{\text{te}} + k + n_{\text{te}})$  is additionally obtained (see Figure 2). Let  $\hat{w}'(\mathbf{Y})$  be an estimate of the density ratio by Algorithm 1 after the new sample is given. Here we give an online method that computes the new solution  $\hat{w}'(\mathbf{Y})$  efficiently from the previous solution  $\hat{w}(\mathbf{Y})$  and the new sample  $\mathbf{Y}(t_{\text{te}} + k + n_{\text{te}})$ .

Our idea basically relies on *stochastic gradient descent* [1], which allows us to learn the parameters efficiently in an online manner. However, since the algorithm described in the previous section is a non-parametric kernel method and the basis functions vary over time, it is not straightforward to employ the techniques of stochastic gradient descent in the current setup. Recently, an online learning technique for kernel methods has been addressed [21]. Here, we apply this technique to the problem (2.5) and give an online version of the algorithm.

Let  $E_t(w)$  be the empirical error for  $\mathbf{Y}_{\text{te}}(t)$ :

$$E_i(w) = -\log w(\mathbf{Y}_{\text{te}}(i)).$$

Note that the solution  $\hat{w}$  is given as the minimizer of  $\sum_{i=1}^{n_{\text{te}}} E_i(w)$  under the normalization and non-negativity constraints (cf. Eq.(2.5)). Let us assume that  $w$  is searched within a reproducing kernel Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ . Then the following reproducing property holds:

$$\langle w(\cdot), K(\cdot, \mathbf{Y}') \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} = w(\mathbf{Y}'),$$

where  $K(\cdot, \cdot)$  is the reproducing kernel of  $\mathcal{H}$  and  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\mathcal{H}}$  denotes the inner product in  $\mathcal{H}$ . Let us consider the following regularized empirical error:

$$E'_i(w) = -\log w(\mathbf{Y}_{\text{te}}(i)) + \frac{\lambda}{2} \|w\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2,$$

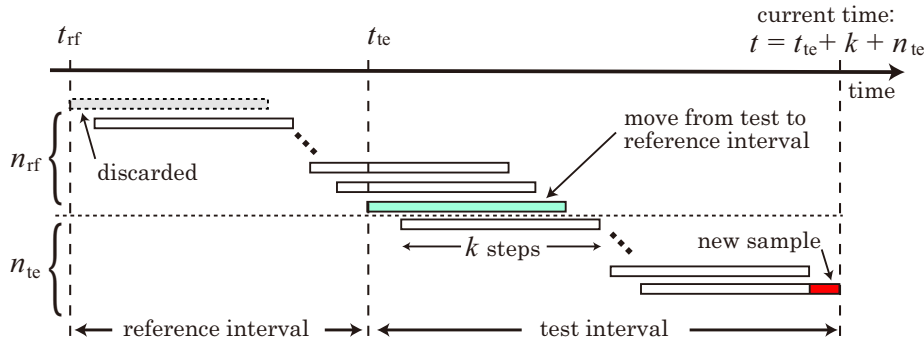


Figure 2: Online setup of change detection.

where  $\lambda(> 0)$  is the regularization parameter and  $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{H}}$  denotes the norm in  $\mathcal{H}$ .

The basic idea of online learning for kernel methods is to update the solution as

$$\hat{w}' \leftarrow \hat{w} - \eta \partial_w E'_{i+1}(\hat{w}),$$

where  $\partial_w$  denotes the partial derivative with respect to  $w$  and  $\eta(> 0)$  is the learning rate that controls the adaptation sensitivity to the new sample. Given the Gaussian kernel model (2.3), the above update rule is explicitly expressed as

$$\hat{w}' \leftarrow \hat{w} - \eta \left( -\frac{K_{\sigma}(\cdot, \mathbf{Y}_{\text{te}}(n_{\text{te}} + 1))}{\hat{w}(\mathbf{Y}_{\text{te}}(n_{\text{te}} + 1))} + \lambda \hat{w} \right).$$

This implies that the parameters are updated as

$$\begin{cases} \hat{\alpha}'_l \leftarrow (1 - \eta\lambda)\hat{\alpha}_{l+1} & \text{if } l = 1, \dots, n_{\text{te}} - 1 \\ \hat{\alpha}'_l \leftarrow \frac{\eta}{\hat{w}(\mathbf{Y}_{\text{te}}(n_{\text{te}} + 1))} & \text{if } l = n_{\text{te}} \end{cases}$$

Note that  $\eta\lambda$ , which should be chosen between zero and one, works as a *forgetting* factor for older samples. When the target time series is highly non-stationary, it is often useful to deemphasize the influence of older samples via the forgetting factor. If such weighting is not necessary, we merely set  $\lambda = 0$ .

In addition to reducing the empirical error, the constraints in the optimization problem (2.5) need to be fulfilled. This could be achieved in the same manner as the batch algorithm (Algorithm 1), but normalization is carried out over  $\{\mathbf{Y}_{\text{rf}}(t+1)\}_{t=1}^{n_{\text{rf}}}$  with Gaussian centers  $\{\mathbf{Y}_{\text{te}}(l+1)\}_{l=1}^{n_{\text{te}}}$ :

$$(3.6) \quad \frac{1}{n_{\text{rf}}} \sum_{t=1}^{n_{\text{rf}}} \sum_{l=1}^{n_{\text{te}}} \alpha_l K_{\sigma}(\mathbf{Y}_{\text{rf}}(t+1), \mathbf{Y}_{\text{te}}(l+1)) = 1.$$

Altogether, the pseudo code of the online update procedure is summarized in Algorithm 3.

**3.2 Change-Point Detection Algorithm.** The entire procedure for change-point detection based on direct density-ratio estimation is summarized in Algorithm 4. At the beginning, the batch algorithm with model selection (Algorithms 1 and 2) is called and the kernel width  $\sigma$  and initial estimate of parameters  $\alpha$  are calculated. Then, when a new sample  $\mathbf{y}(t)$  (or, equivalently, a new sequence  $\mathbf{Y}_{\text{te}}(n_{\text{te}} + 1)$ ) is given, the reference and test intervals are shifted one step to the future (see Figure 2) and the estimate of parameters  $\alpha$  is updated using Algorithm 3. With the estimated parameters, the logarithm of the likelihood ratio (2.1) is evaluated as the change-detection score. If this score is beyond the given threshold  $\mu$  (see Eq. (2.2)), the time point is reported as a change point and the current time  $t$  is updated as  $t \leftarrow t + (n_{\text{rf}} + n_{\text{te}})$ . This procedure is repeated until the end of data.

## 4 Experiments.

In this section, we experimentally investigate the performance of the proposed algorithm using artificial and real-world datasets. First, the proposed non-parametric direct density-ratio approach is compared with existing model-based likelihood-ratio approaches in Section 4.1. Then, the performance of the proposed algorithm is compared with several popular change-point detection algorithms using real-world datasets in Section 4.2.

**4.1 Artificial Datasets.** Here, we use the following three artificial datasets for illustration purposes.

**Dataset 1 (see Figure 3(a)):** The following autoregressive model (borrowed from the paper [34]) is used for generating 10000 time-series samples (i.e.,  $t = 1, \dots, 10000$ ):

$$y_t = 0.6y_{t-1} - 0.5y_{t-2} + \epsilon_t,$$

**input:** New sample  $\mathbf{y}(t)$ , the previous estimate of parameters  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$  and forgetting factors  $\eta$  and  $\lambda$ .

- 1 Create the new sequence sample  $\mathbf{Y}_{te}(n_{te} + 1)$ .
- 2 Update the parameters  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$ :

$$\boldsymbol{\alpha} \leftarrow \begin{pmatrix} (1 - \eta\lambda)\alpha_2 \\ (1 - \eta\lambda)\alpha_3 \\ \vdots \\ (1 - \eta\lambda)\alpha_{n_{te}} \\ \eta/c \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $c = \sum_{l=1}^{n_{te}} \alpha_l K_\sigma(\mathbf{Y}_{te}(n_{te} + 1), \mathbf{Y}_{te}(l))$ .

- 3 Perform feasibility satisfaction:

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{\alpha} &\leftarrow \boldsymbol{\alpha} + (1 - \mathbf{b}^T \boldsymbol{\alpha}) \mathbf{b} / (\mathbf{b}^T \mathbf{b}), \\ \boldsymbol{\alpha} &\leftarrow \max(\mathbf{0}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}), \\ \boldsymbol{\alpha} &\leftarrow \boldsymbol{\alpha} / (\mathbf{b}^T \boldsymbol{\alpha}), \end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathbf{b}_l = \frac{1}{n_{rf}} \sum_{i=1}^{n_{rf}} K_\sigma(\mathbf{Y}_{rf}(i), \mathbf{Y}_{te}(l))$  for  $l = 1, \dots, n_{rf}$ .

- 4 Update as  $\mathbf{Y}_{rf}(n_{rf} + 1) \leftarrow \mathbf{Y}_{te}(1)$ .

Algorithm 3: Online update of parameters  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$  in the Gaussian kernel model (2.3) in pseudo code.

**input:** Window size  $k$ , interval lengths  $n_{rf}$  and  $n_{te}$ , Gaussian width candidates  $\{\sigma_i\}_{i=1}^s$ , change-point detection threshold  $\mu$ , and, forgetting factors  $\eta$  and  $\lambda$ .

- 1 Set  $t_{rf} = 1$  ( $t = n_{rf} + n_{te} + k$ ),  $\mathcal{Y}_{rf}$  and  $\mathcal{Y}_{te}$ .
- 2 Run the batch KLIEP (Algorithm 1) with  $\mathcal{Y}_{rf}$ ,  $\mathcal{Y}_{te}$  and  $\sigma$  (in case of the first call, run the batch KLIEP with model selection (Algorithm 2)).
- 3 **while** not at the end of data **do**
- 4      $t \leftarrow t + 1$ .
- 5     Update the estimate of parameters  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}_t$  by Algorithm 3 with a new sample  $\mathbf{y}(t)$  and the previous estimate  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}_{t-1}$ .
- 6     Compute the change-detection score  $S$  (Eq.(2.1)).
- 7     **if**  $S > \mu$  **then**
- 8         Report change at time  $t$ .
- 9          $t \leftarrow t + n_{rf} + n_{te}$ .
- 10        GOTO step 2.

Algorithm 4: Pseudo code for the change-point detection algorithm based on the online density-ratio estimation.

where  $\epsilon_t$  is Gaussian noise with mean  $\mu$  and standard deviation 1. The initial values are set as  $y_1 = 0$  and  $y_2 = 0$ . We artificially create change points at every 1000 points: starting from  $\mu = 0$ , the noise mean is increased as  $\mu \leftarrow \mu + i$  at time  $t = 1,000 \times i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, 9$ .

**Dataset 2 (see Figure 3(b)):** The following autoregressive model (borrowed from the papers [27, 22]) is used for generating 1500 time-series samples:

$$y_t = e_t + \begin{cases} 0.97y_{t-1} + y_{t-2} - 0.5y_{t-3} + 0.97y_{t-4} & \text{if } t < 1000, \\ 0.97y_{t-1} + y_{t-2} - 0.7y_{t-3} + 0.97y_{t-4} & \text{if } t \geq 1000, \end{cases}$$

where  $e_t$  is Gaussian noise with mean 0 and standard deviation 0.2. The initial values are set as  $y_1 = 0$ ,  $y_2 = 8$ ,  $y_3 = 6$  and  $y_4 = 4$ . The change point exists at  $t = 1000$ .

**Dataset 3 (see Figure 3(c)):** The following state-space model (borrowed from the paper [22]) is used for generating 1500 time-series samples:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}_t &= \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_{t-1} + \mathbf{u}_t, \\ y_t &= \mathbf{C}\mathbf{x}_{t-1} + v_t, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathbf{x}$  is a two-dimensional state vector,  $\mathbf{u}$  is two-dimensional system noise following the uncorrelated Gaussian distribution with mean zero and variance (0.5, 0.1), and  $v$  is scalar-valued observation noise following the Gaussian distribution with mean zero and variance 0.02. The parameters  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{C}$  are set as

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.95 & c \\ 0.1 & 1.0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \mathbf{C} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

where

$$c = \begin{cases} -0.3 & \text{if } t < 1000, \\ 0.05 & \text{if } t \geq 1000. \end{cases}$$

The change point exists at  $t = 1000$ .

For the proposed algorithm, the parameters are set as  $k = 80$ ,  $n_{rf} = 100$ ,  $n_{te} = 50$ ,  $\eta = 1.0$  and  $\lambda = 0.01$  for all three datasets. The kernel width  $\sigma$  in KLIEP is chosen by cross validation described in Algorithm 2. The threshold  $\mu$  (see Eq.(2.2)) is set as

$$\mu = \begin{cases} 0.4 & \text{for the dataset 1,} \\ 0.2 & \text{for the dataset 2,} \\ 0.5 & \text{for the dataset 3.} \end{cases}$$

Figure 3 depicts time-series (upper graphs) samples as well as the change-detection score used in the

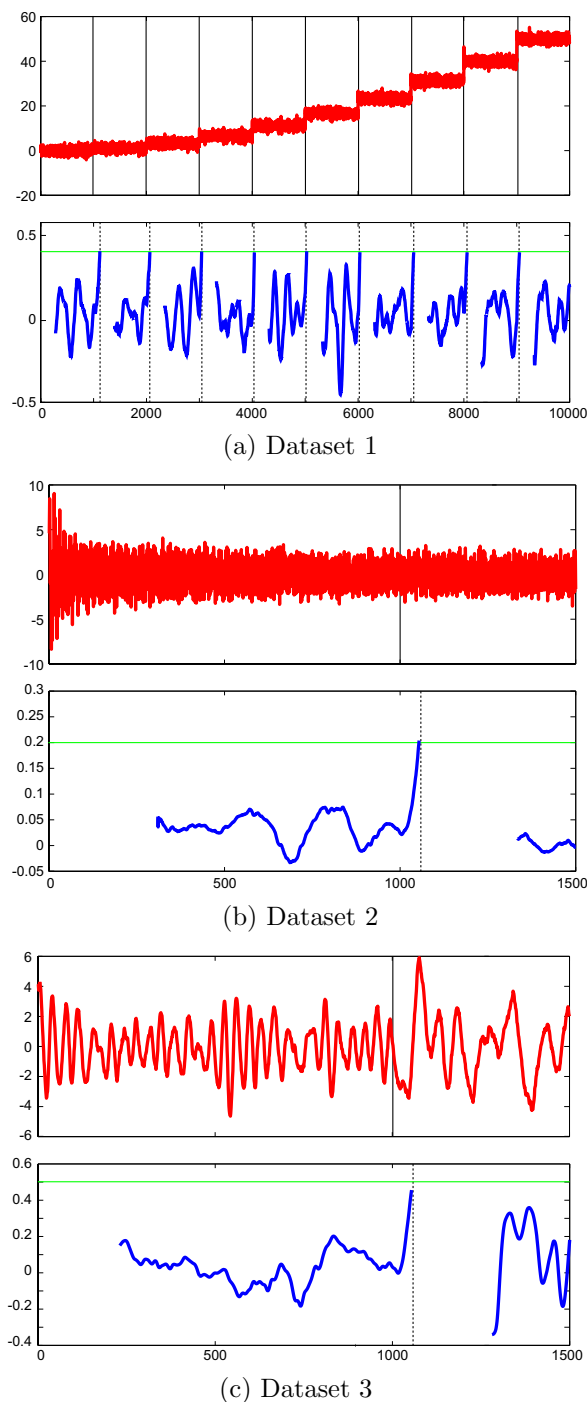


Figure 3: Illustrative time-series samples (upper graphs) and the change-detection score obtained by the proposed method. The vertical black solid lines in the upper graphs denote the true change points. The vertical black dotted lines in the lower graphs denote the change points detected by the proposed method. The horizontal green solid lines denote the threshold for detecting change points.

proposed algorithm (i.e., the logarithm of the likelihood ratio  $S$ ; see Eq.(2.1)) computed by the proposed method (lower graphs). The vertical black dotted lines in the graphs denote the detected change points (i.e., the change-detection score  $S$  goes beyond the threshold  $\mu$ ; which is denoted by the horizontal green solid lines in the graphs). The results show that after changes occur, the change-detection score of the proposed method increases rapidly and therefore the change points are detected accurately. Note that there is small delay in the detected changes—this is due to the data buffering process for constructing sequence samples. However, the amount of delay is systematic (in the current setup,  $k + n_{te} = 130$ ) and therefore the delay can be easily adjusted in practice.

As shown above, the proposed method, in which the likelihood-ratio is estimated directly without going through density estimation in a non-parametric fashion, seems to work reasonably well in the controlled setup. Next, we compare the performance of the proposed method with existing methods which are also based on the likelihood ratio but density estimation is explicitly involved in a parametric or non-parametric way.

**Autoregressive (AR) model [34]:** Time-series data is modeled by the following AR model:

$$\mathbf{y}(t) = \sum_{i=1}^b A_i \mathbf{y}(t-i) + \mathbf{v}(t),$$

where  $\{A_i\}_{i=1}^b$  are fixed parameters and  $\mathbf{v}(t)$  is the Gaussian noise model with mean zero and variance parameter  $\sigma^2$ . The order  $b$  of the AR model is determined by cross validation. Here, two AR models are trained for modeling time-series in the reference and test intervals, and the logarithm of the ratio of the predictive densities of the last sample in the reference and test intervals is used as the change-detection score.

**Kernel density estimation (KDE) [14]:** KDE is a non-parametric technique to estimate a probability density  $p(\mathbf{Y})$  from its i.i.d. samples  $\{\mathbf{Y}(i)\}_{i=1}^n$ . For the Gaussian kernel (2.4), the KDE solution is given as

$$\hat{p}(\mathbf{Y}) = \frac{1}{n(2\pi\sigma^2)^{dk/2}} \sum_{i=1}^n K_{\sigma}(\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{Y}(i)),$$

where  $dk$  is the dimensionality of  $\mathbf{Y}$  and  $K_{\sigma}(\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{Y}')$  is a kernel function. At each time step  $t$ , probability densities corresponding to reference and test intervals are estimated using KDE and then its logarithm of the likelihood ratio is used as the change-detection score.

Figure 4 depicts the false-alarm rate versus accuracy (true positive) rate curves for several different values of the detection threshold  $\mu$  and for different window size  $k$  using randomly generated 10 time-series data with the above models. More specifically, the horizontal axis of the graph corresponds to the false-alarm rate  $n_f/n_{al}$  ( $n_f$  denotes the number of times non-change points are detected by mistake and  $n_{al}$  denotes the number of all detection alarms), and the vertical axis corresponds to the accuracy rate  $n_{cr}/n_{cp}$  ( $n_{cr}$  denotes the number of times change points are correctly detected and  $n_{cp}$  denotes the number of all change points). Thus, a curve which is close to the left-upper corner means that the corresponding algorithm has good performance. Table 1 summarizes the best accuracy rate over the threshold  $\mu$  for different window size  $k$ . More specifically, the table contains the maximum value of  $n_{cr}/n_{cp}$  over  $\mu$  and its according accuracy degree  $(n_{cr} - n_f)/n_{cp}$ .

The results show that the AR model based method works well for the dataset 1 since the pre-specified AR model is correct. The AR model is still correct for the dataset 2, but the performance tends to be rather poor since the true data generation model is rather complex; thus it is difficult to choose the right order of the AR model using cross validation with a limited number of samples. The performance of the AR model based method also tends to be rather poor for the dataset 3 since the model is under-specified—the true data generation model is a state-space model which is substantially more complex than AR models.

The false-alarm rate versus accuracy rate curves of the KDE based and KLIEP based method are stably well for all the three datasets, thanks to the flexibility of non-parametric estimation. However, since non-parametric density estimation is a hard task and tends to be rather inaccurate when only a limited number of samples is available, the performance of the KDE based method can be degraded. On the other hand, the KLIEP based method can avoid this difficulty by directly estimating the density ratio without going through density estimation. Thus it tends to perform better. Indeed, the ROC curves of the KLIEP based method tends to be better than those of the KDE based method for the datasets 1 and 2; they are comparable for the dataset 3.

Another important finding from the experimental results is that the performance of all the methods tend to be degraded when the window size  $k$  is too small. This is because time-correlation of the series-samples is still strong for a small  $k$  and therefore it is not appropriate to regard them as independent. Thus our strategy of using subsequence samples for change detection would be a reasonable choice.

**4.2 Real-World Dataset.** As shown above, the proposed method works reasonably well for the illustrative change-detection problems. Next, we apply the proposed method to real-world datasets and investigate whether the good performance is still obtained in realistic circumstances.

In this experiment, we compare the performance of the proposed method the following four algorithms:

**Singular-spectrum analysis (SSA) [27]:** SSA evaluates the degree of changes between two consecutive sequences using the distance defined based on singular spectrums.

**Change finder (CF) [33, 34]:** CF first sequentially fits an AR model to time-series data and auxiliary time-series data is generated from the AR model. Then another AR model is fitted to the auxiliary time-series and its log-likelihood is used as the change-detection score.

**Subspace identification (SI) [22]:** SI identifies a subspace in which time-series sequences are constrained and evaluates the distance of target sequences from the subspace. A recursive subspace identification algorithm based on an instrumental variable method is used for estimating the subspace.

**One-class support vector machine (ONE) [7]:**

This algorithm iteratively compares the support of probability densities estimated by one-class support vector machine from samples in the reference and test intervals.

**4.2.1 Respiration Dataset** The first real-world dataset we use here is the *respiration dataset* in the UCR Time Series Data Mining Archive<sup>2</sup>. This dataset contains 15 time-series data—each of which records patients' respiration measured by thorax extension and every time period is manually annotated by a medical expert as 'awake', 'sleep' etc. [19]. Two examples of the original time-series as well as the annotation results are depicted in the top graphs of Figure 5. The task is to detect the time points at which the state of patients changes from *awake* to *sleep* or from *sleep* to *awake*.

Figure 5 illustrates the original time-series (upper) as well as the change-detection score (see Eq.(2.1)) of the proposed method (bottom). The change points detected for

$$\mu = \begin{cases} 1.0 & \text{for the nprs11 dataset,} \\ 0.5 & \text{for the nprm43 dataset,} \end{cases}$$

<sup>2</sup>Available from 'http://www.cs.ucr.edu/~eamonn/discords/'.



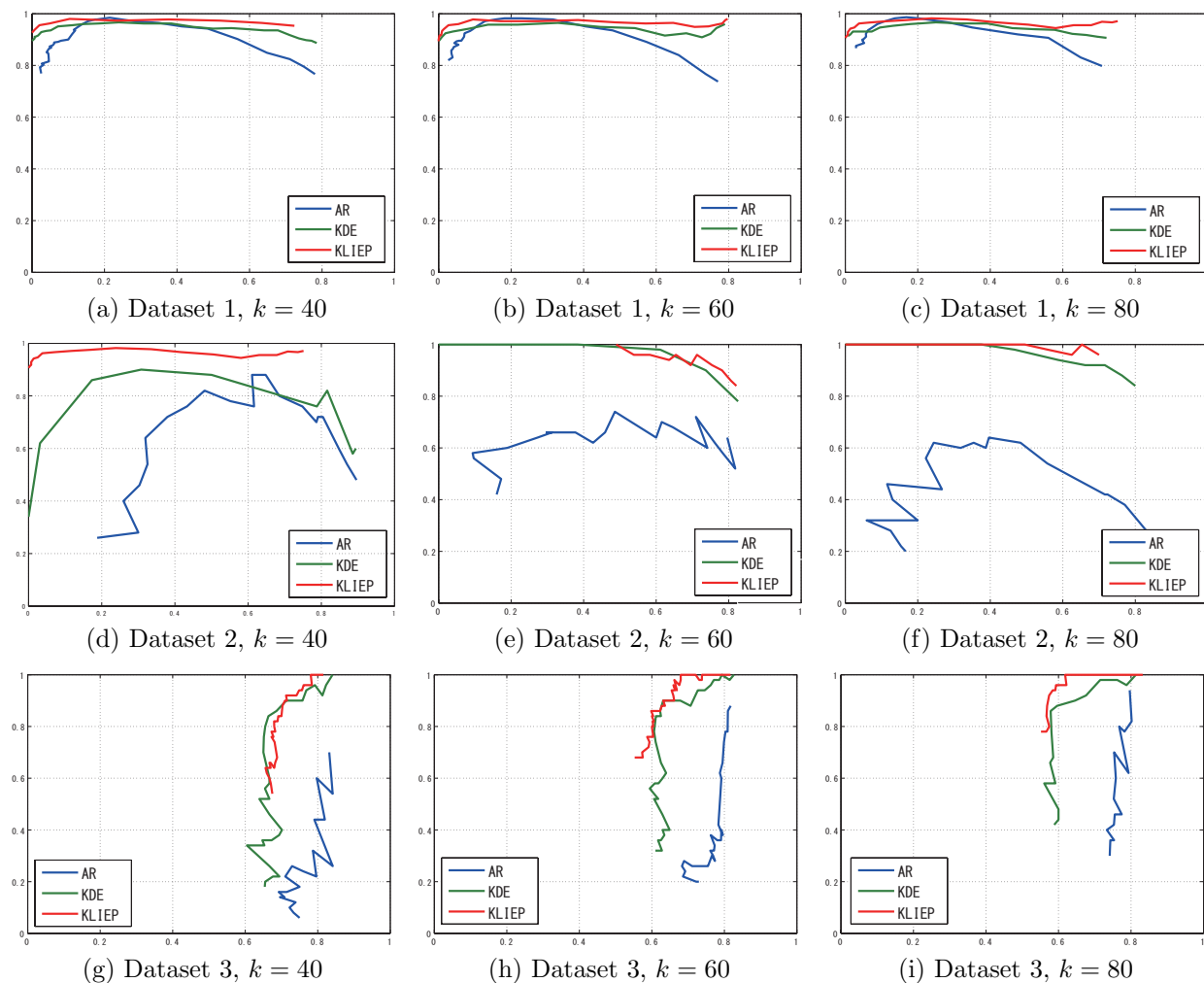


Figure 4: False-alarm rate versus accuracy rate curves for the artificial datasets for different window size  $k$ .

Table 1: The best accuracy rate and its accuracy degree for the artificial datasets. The results of the best methods are described in bold face.

(a) Accuracy rate					(b) Accuracy degree				
Dataset	Window size	AR	KDE	KLIEP	Dataset	Window size	AR	KDE	KLIEP
1	$k = 40$	<b>98.4</b>	96.7	98.0	1	$k = 40$	77.0	72.7	<b>87.6</b>
	$k = 60$	<b>98.2</b>	96.4	97.8		$k = 60$	80.1	63.5	<b>88.3</b>
	$k = 80$	<b>98.7</b>	96.7	98.2		$k = 80$	<b>81.8</b>	71.7	74.4
	Average	<b>98.4</b>	96.6	98.3		Average	79.6	69.3	<b>83.4</b>
2	$k = 40$	88.0	90.0	<b>98.2</b>	2	$k = 40$	26.9	59.2	<b>74.4</b>
	$k = 60$	74.0	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>		$k = 60$	25.4	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	$k = 80$	62.0	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>		$k = 80$	37.6	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	Average	74.7	96.7	<b>99.4</b>		Average	30.0	86.4	<b>91.5</b>
3	$k = 40$	70.0	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	3	$k = 40$	-13.2	15.9	<b>21.3</b>
	$k = 60$	88.0	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>		$k = 60$	6.3	20.1	<b>32.1</b>
	$k = 80$	94.0	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>		$k = 80$	14.4	18.7	<b>38.2</b>
	Average	84.0	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>		Average	7.5	18.2	<b>30.5</b>

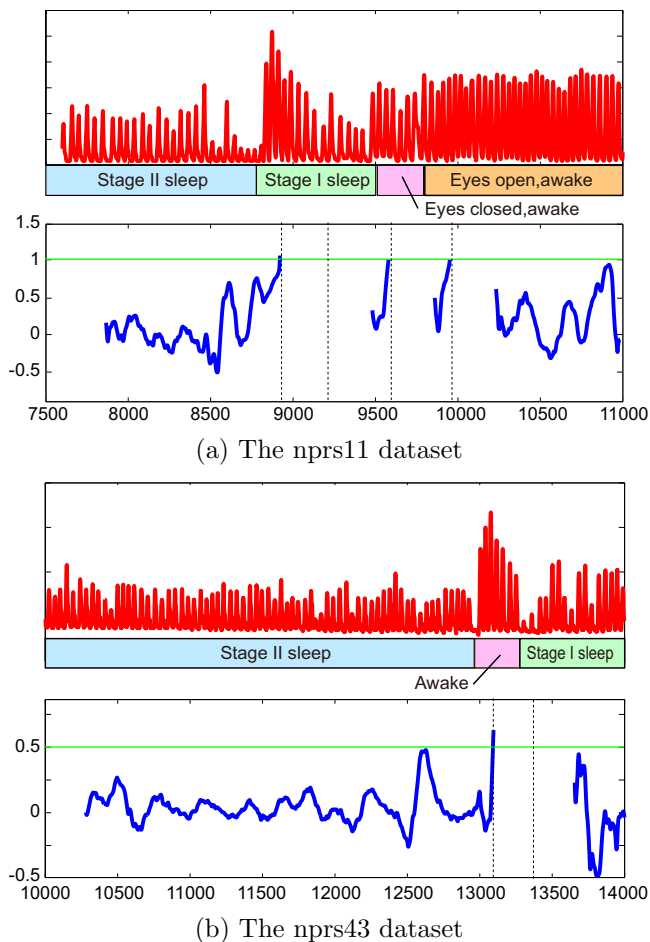


Figure 5: The raw time-series data of the respiration datasets (top) and the change-detection score (2.1) of the proposed method (bottom).

are indicated by the vertical dotted lines. We set  $k = 80$ ,  $n_{rf} = 100$ , and  $n_{te} = 100$ , and the kernel width  $\sigma$  is chosen by likelihood cross validation using Algorithm 2. The graphs show that, although the increase of the change-detection score is not so clear as that in the illustrative examples in Figure 3, the proposed algorithm still works reasonably well for the real-world respiration datasets. Note that in the nprs11 dataset, the time point around 9250 is detected incorrectly.

The comparison results are summarized in Table 2 (the best accuracy rate and its corresponding accuracy degree). All the results are averaged over the 15 datasets. The table shows that the best performance of the proposed method is better than the other methods.

**4.2.2 Speech Dataset** The second real-world dataset is the *speech dataset* CENSREC-1-C in the Speech Resource Consortium (SRC) corpora provided

Table 2: Accuracy rate (top) and degree (bottom) of change detection for the respiration dataset. The results of the best methods are described in bold face.

(a) Accuracy rate

	CF	SSA	SI	ONE	KLIEP
$k = 30$	22.1	46.5	47.5	49.7	<b>49.8</b>
$k = 50$	25.2	46.5	47.9	49.6	<b>50.0</b>
Average	23.7	46.5	47.7	49.7	<b>49.9</b>

(b) Accuracy degree

	CF	SSA	SI	ONE	KLIEP
$k = 30$	-59.0	-40.0	-42.3	-44.3	<b>-38.4</b>
$k = 50$	-54.5	-38.2	-39.4	-44.2	<b>-35.3</b>
Average	-56.8	-39.1	-40.9	-44.2	<b>-36.9</b>

by National Institute of Informatics (NII) <sup>3</sup>. This dataset contains dozens of time-series data – each of which records speech signals measured with microphones in several noise environments and the beginning and ending of every speech are manually annotated. One example of the original time-series data as well as the annotation results are depicted in the top graph of Figure 6. The task here is to detect the time points at which a speech begins or ends. Note that data is used after averaged per ten samples in this experiment.

Figure 6 illustrates a part of the original time-series data (upper) as well as change-detection score (see Eq.(2.1)) of the proposed method (bottom). The change points detected for  $\mu = 1.3$  are indicated by the vertical dotted lines. We set  $k = 100$ ,  $n_{rf} = 200$ ,  $n_{te} = 100$ , and the kernel width  $\sigma$  is chosen by likelihood cross validation using Algorithm 2. As we can see, the graphs show that the proposed algorithm still works reasonably well also for the real-world speech dataset. Note that the time points around 22200 and 28400 are detected incorrectly, and the change point around 28400 is not detected by the proposed method in this case.

The comparison results are summarized in Table 3 (the best accuracy rate and its corresponding accuracy degree). All results are averaged over the first 10 datasets (in the STREET\_SNR\_HIGH dataset). The table shows that the best performance of the proposed method is also competitive with the best existing algorithms.

Overall, we experimentally confirmed that the proposed method could be a useful alternative to the existing methods in practical change detection applications.

<sup>3</sup>Available from ‘<http://research.nii.ac.jp/src/eng/index.html>’.

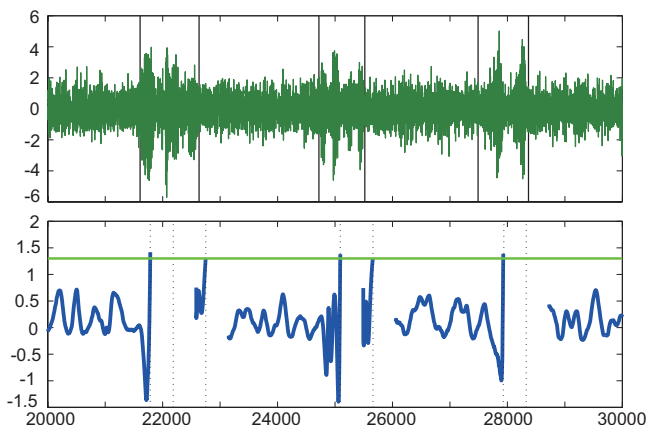


Figure 6: The raw time-series data of the speech dataset (top) and the change-detection score (2.1) of the proposed method (bottom).

## 5 Conclusions and Future Prospects.

We formulated the problem of change-point detection in time-series data as the problem of comparing probability distributions over two consecutive time intervals that generate the time-series data. Within this framework, we proposed a novel non-parametric algorithm for change-point detection. The key idea of the proposed method is that the *ratio* of two probability densities is directly estimated without going through density estimation. Thus, the proposed method can avoid non-parametric density estimation, which is known to be a hard problem in practice. We also derived an online algorithm that can update the density ratio estimator efficiently based on the previous estimation result. We experimentally showed the usefulness of the proposed algorithm using artificial and real-world datasets.

In our framework, the dimensionality of data samples tends to be high because not observations at each time point but sequences of observations are treated as samples for estimation. This can potentially cause performance degradation in density-ratio estimation. A possible measure for this would be to incorporate some *dimensionality reduction* scheme [9, 4, 29, 32] into the density-ratio estimation framework. We will pursue this direction in the future work.

Another important issue to be further investigated is model selection—the performance of change-point detection depends on the selection of the kernel width  $\sigma$ . In the current implementation of the proposed method, the width is chosen by cross validation in the beginning and the same fixed width is used over the entire online learning process. Although the current implementation showed a superior performance in experiments, its performance could be further improved if the kernel width

Table 3: Accuracy rate (top) and degree (bottom) of change detection for the speech dataset. The results of the best methods are described in bold face.

(a) Accuracy rate

	CF	SSA	SI	ONE	KLIEP
$k = 50$	34.0	<b>43.5</b>	39.0	<b>43.5</b>	42.5
$k = 100$	39.0	45.0	40.5	<b>53.0</b>	45.0
Average	36.5	44.3	39.8	<b>47.8</b>	43.8

(b) Accuracy degree

	CF	SSA	SI	ONE	KLIEP
$k = 50$	-54.3	<b>-34.6</b>	-35.0	-48.4	-34.7
$k = 100$	-47.6	<b>-24.4</b>	-25.8	-35.8	-28.1
Average	-51.0	<b>-29.5</b>	-30.4	-37.1	-31.4

is optimized through the online learning process. Another challenging future work along this line would be to develop a computationally efficient online density-ratio estimation method that can perform model selection also in an online manner.

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