# Tree-Sliced Approximation of Wasserstein Distances 

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#### Abstract

Optimal transport (OT) theory provides a useful set of tools to compare probability distributions. As a consequence, the field of OT is gaining traction and interest within the machine learning community. A few deficiencies usually associated with OT include its high computational complexity when comparing discrete measures, which is quadratic when approximating it through entropic regularization; or supercubic when solving it exactly. For some applications, the fact that OT distances are not usually negative definite also means that they cannot be used with usual Hilbertian tools. In this work, we consider a particular family of ground metrics, namely tree metrics, which yield negative definite OT metrics that can be computed in linear time. By averaging over randomly sampled tree metrics, we obtain a tree-sliced-Wasserstein distance. We illustrate that the proposed tree-sliced-Wasserstein distances compare favorably with other baselines on various benchmark datasets.


## 1. Introduction

Many tasks in machine learning involve the comparison of two probability distributions, or histograms. Several geometries in the statistics and machine learning literatures have been routinely used, such as the Kullback-Leibler divergence, Fisher information metric, the $\chi^{2}$ distance, or the Hellinger distance, to name a few. Among them, the optimal transport (OT) geometry, also known as Wasserstein (Villani, 2008), Monge-Kantorovich (Kantorovich, 1942), or Earth Mover's (Rubner et al., 2000), has gained traction in the machine learning community. OT plays an increasingly important role in machine learning (Cuturi \& Doucet, 2014; Solomon et al., 2014b; Frogner et al., 2015; Kusner et al., 2015; Genevay et al., 2016; Ho et al., 2017; Arjovsky

[^0]Preprint. Work in progress.
et al., 2017; Adler \& Lunz, 2018; Lee \& Raginsky, 2018; Ambrogioni et al., 2018; Gao et al., 2018), statistics (Panaretos et al., 2016; Ebert et al., 2017), or computer graphics (Solomon et al., 2014a; 2015; Bonneel et al., 2016; Lavenant et al., 2018).

Related work: The naive computation of OT between two discrete measures involves solving a network flow problem whose best known complexity scales super cubically in the size of these measures (Burkard \& Cela, 1999; Tarjan, 1997). There are two notable lines of work to reduce the time complexity of OT. (i) The first one is to leverage simple ground costs. For instance, if one uses the binary metric $\mathbb{1}_{x \neq z}$ between two points, the OT distance is equivalent to the total variation distance (Villani, 2003, p.7). When measures are supported on the line $\mathbb{R}$ and the cost $c$ is a convex function $f$ of the absolute difference $|x-z|$ between two points, namely for $x, z \in \mathbb{R}$ we have $c(x, z)=f(|x-z|)$, then the OT distance is equal to the integral of $f$ evaluated on the absolute difference between the generalized quantile functions of these two probability distributions (Santambrogio, 2015, §2). Other simplifications include thresholding the ground cost distance (Pele \& Werman, 2009) or considering for a ground cost the shortest-path metric on a graph (Peyré \& Cuturi, 2019, §6) (ii) The second one is to use regularization to approximate solutions of OT problems, notably entropy (Cuturi, 2013), which results in a problem that can be solved using Sinkhorn iterations. Genevay et al. (2016) extended this approach to the semi-discrete and discrete OT problems using stochastic optimization. Different variants of Sinkhorn algorithm have been proposed recently (Altschuler et al., 2017; Dvurechensky et al., 2018) and speed-ups are obtained when the ground cost is the quadratic Euclidean distance (Altschuler et al., 2018a;b; Tenetov et al., 2018) or more generally the heat kernel on geometric domains (Solomon et al., 2015). The convergence of Sinkhorn algorithm has been considered in (Franklin \& Lorenz, 1989; Linial et al., 2000; Kalantari et al., 2008; Altschuler et al., 2017; Dvurechensky et al., 2018).

Contributions: In this work, we follow the first line of work to provide fast algorithms to approximate OT. In particular, we consider tree metrics as ground costs for OT, to define the tree-Wasserstein distances. Then, we propose tree-sliced Wasserstein by averaging over randomly tree
metrics. We derive linear time algorithms for this class of OT with two practical families of tree metrics for both lowdimensional and high-dimensional data points. Moreover, this family of OT distances is also negative definite. Consequently, we propose positive definite kernels that use the OT geometry. Empirically, we show that averaging over random tree metrics for tree-sliced Wasserstein is essential for this proposed class of OT in applications.

## 2. Background

In this section, we briefly review definitions of optimal transport (OT) and tree metrics.

Let $(\Omega, d)$ be a measurable metric space. For any $x \in$ $\Omega, \delta_{x}$ is the Dirac unit mass on $x$. Define the probability simplex $\mathbb{S}_{n}=\left\{u \in \mathbb{R}_{+}^{n} \mid u^{T} \mathbf{1}_{n}=1\right\}$, where $\mathbf{1}_{n}$ is the $n$ dimensional vector of ones.

Optimal transport. In this work, we only consider either point clouds of the same finite cardinality or empirical measures with a finite number of supports for OT.

Point clouds. Let $X=\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots, x_{n}\right)$ and $Z=$ $\left(z_{1}, z_{2}, \ldots, z_{n}\right)$ be two families of points of cardinality $n$, where $x_{i}, z_{i} \in \Omega, \forall i \leq n$. Let $c$ be a ground cost metric, the OT problem between $X$ and $Z$ is defined as

$$
\begin{equation*}
d_{\mathrm{OT}}(X, Z)=\min _{\sigma \in \Sigma_{n}} \sum_{i=1}^{n} c\left(x_{i}, z_{\sigma(i)}\right) \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $\Sigma_{n}$ is the set of all permutations of $n$ elements.
Empirical measures. Consider two empirical measures $\mu=\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_{i} \delta_{x_{i}}$ and $\nu=\sum_{i=1}^{m} b_{i} \delta_{z_{i}}$, where $x_{i}, z_{j} \in \Omega$, $\forall i \leq n, \forall j \leq m, a=\left(a_{1}, a_{2}, \ldots, a_{n}\right) \in \mathbb{S}_{n}$, and $b=$ $\left(b_{1}, b_{2}, \ldots, b_{m}\right) \in \mathbb{S}_{m}$. Let $c$ be a ground cost metric, the OT between $\mu$ and $\nu$ is defined as

$$
\begin{equation*}
d_{\mathrm{OT}}(\mu, \nu)=\min _{P \in U(a, b)} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{m} P_{i j} c\left(x_{i}, z_{j}\right) \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $U(a, b)=\left\{P \in \mathbb{R}_{+}^{n \times m} \mid P \mathbf{1}_{m}=a, P^{T} \mathbf{1}_{n}=b\right\}$ is the transportation polytope of $a \in \mathbb{S}_{n}$ and $b \in \mathbb{S}_{m}$.

Tree metrics. A metric $\left(\mathbb{X}, d_{\mathrm{T}}\right)$ is a tree metric if there is a tree $\mathcal{T}$ with non-negative edge lengths whose nodes contain $\mathbb{X}$ and such that for every $x, z \in \mathbb{X}$, we have $d_{\mathrm{T}}(x, z)$ equals to the length of the path between $x$ and $z$ (Semple \& Steel, 2003) (Chapter 7, p.145-182).

## 3. Tree-Wasserstein Distances (TW Distances)

We call an optimal transport distance a tree-Wasserstein distance if the ground cost is a tree metric.

The tree-Wasserstein distance is built upon the UniFrac method (Lozupone \& Knight, 2005; Lozupone et al., 2007) in metagenomics community. We recall that the UniFrac method is used for comparing microbial communities by measuring the phylogenetic distance between sets of taxa in a phylogenetic tree as the fraction of the branch length of the tree that leads to descendants from either one environment or the other, but not both (Lozupone \& Knight, 2005).
In this section, we will lever-


Figure 1. An illustration for a tree with root $r$. For node $x$ on the lower left here, $\mathcal{P}(x)=\left\{e_{a}, e_{b}\right\}$. For an edge $e_{c}, h_{e_{c}}(x)=0$, $h_{e_{c}}(y)=1$. For a set $X=\{x, y\}, h_{e_{a}}(X)=$ 2 , $h_{e_{c}}(X)=1$, and $h_{e_{e}}(X)=0$.
age geometric structure of tree metrics on local spaces of OT, and rely on the optimal assignment formulation of OT (Equation 1) to derive a closed form for the tree-Wasserstein, which is similar as the UniFrac method (Lozupone et al., 2007). We further propose tree-sliced-Wasserstein distances by averaging over randomly sampled tree metrics, and use the tree-sliced-Wasserstein to build positive definite kernels on OT geometry.

Linear time computation for the TW distances: Let a tree metric $d_{\mathrm{T}}$ be the ground cost in the TW distance $d_{\text {TW }}$ between $X=\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots, x_{n}\right)$ and $Z=\left(z_{1}, z_{2}, \ldots, z_{n}\right)$ in $\mathbb{P}_{n}$. Following the definition of tree metrics, there exists a tree $\mathcal{T}$ where $\forall i \leq n, x_{i}, z_{i}$ are nodes of $\mathcal{T}$. Let $r$ be a root of $\mathcal{T}$, and $\mathcal{P}(x)$ be the set of edges of the unique path from the root $r$ to node $x, h_{e}(x)$ is 1 if the edge $e$ appears in the path between the root $r$ and $x$, and 0 otherwise. With a light abuse of notations, let $h_{e}(X)=\sum_{x \in X} h_{e}(x)$, as illustrated in Figure 1. We also denote $w(e)$ as a non-negative length (or weight) of an edge $e$ in $\mathcal{T}$. Then, the tree-Wasserstein has a closed form as showed in Theorem 3.1.
Theorem 3.1. Let $\mathbb{P}_{n}$ be a space of point clouds of cardinality $n$. Then, tree-Wasserstein distances between $X, Z \in \mathbb{P}_{n}$ has a following closed form:

$$
\begin{equation*}
d_{T W}(X, Z)=\sum_{e \in \mathcal{T}} w(e)\left|h_{e}(X)-h_{e}(Z)\right| \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

Proof. From the definition of tree metrics, $d_{\mathrm{T}}(x, z)$ equals to the length of the path between $x$ and $z$ in $\mathcal{T}$, so we have

$$
d_{\mathbb{T}}(x, z)=\sum_{e \in \mathcal{P}(x)} w(e)+\sum_{e \in \mathcal{P}(z)} w(e)-2 \sum_{e \in \mathcal{P}(x) \cap \mathcal{P}(z)} w(e) .
$$

Therefore, for any fixed $\sigma \in \Sigma_{n}$, consider the objective
function of Equation (1), and note that

$$
\sum_{e \in \mathcal{P}(x)} w(e)=\sum_{e \in \mathcal{T}} w(e) h_{e}(x)
$$

Then, we have:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\sum_{i=1}^{n} d_{\mathbb{T}}\left(x_{i}, z_{\sigma(i)}\right) & =\sum_{\substack{e \in \mathcal{T} \\
x \in X}} w(e) h_{e}(x)+\sum_{\substack{e \in \mathcal{T} \\
z \in Z}} w(e) h_{e}(z) \\
& -2 \sum_{e \in T} w(e) \sum_{i=1}^{n} \min \left\{h_{e}\left(x_{i}\right), h_{e}\left(z_{\sigma(i)}\right)\right\} .
\end{aligned}
$$

Additionally, we have

$$
\sum_{i=1}^{n} \min \left\{h_{e}\left(x_{i}\right), h_{e}\left(z_{\sigma(i)}\right)\right\} \leq \min \left\{h_{e}(X), h_{e}(Z)\right\}
$$

Moreover, let construct a greedy assignment $\bar{\sigma} \in \Sigma_{n}$ as follow: we run a bottom-up traversal for edges on tree $\mathcal{T}$ starting from edges which are farthest to the root $r$. For each edge $e$ in this order of the bottom-up traversal in $\mathcal{T}$, if it exists $x_{i} \in X$ and $z_{j} \in Z$ where $e \in \mathcal{P}\left(x_{i}\right)$ and $e \in \mathcal{P}\left(z_{j}\right)$, then we set $\bar{\sigma}(i)=j$, and remove $x_{i}, z_{j}$ in $X, Z$ respectively. When the bottom-up traversal is completed, if $X \neq \emptyset$, one can arbitrarily match for the rest. Since for any node $x$ in $\mathcal{T}$, there is a unique shortest path from the root $r$ to $x$, and the greedy assignment $\bar{\sigma}$ is constructed by the bottom-up traversal for edges in $\mathcal{T}$, we have

$$
\sum_{i=1}^{n} \min \left\{h_{e}\left(x_{i}\right), h_{e}\left(z_{\bar{\sigma}(i)}\right)\right\}=\min \left\{h_{e}(X), h_{e}(Z)\right\}
$$

Furthermore, note that

$$
\begin{gathered}
\sum_{\substack{e \in \mathcal{P}(x) \\
x \in X}} w(e)=\sum_{e \in \mathcal{T}} w(e) \sum_{x \in X} h_{e}(x)=\sum_{e \in \mathcal{T}} w(e) h_{e}(X), \\
h_{e}(X)+h_{e}(Z)-2 \min \left\{h_{e}(X), h_{e}(Z)\right\}=\left|h_{e}(X)-h_{e}(Z)\right| .
\end{gathered}
$$

Thus, the TW distance can be computed as

$$
d_{\mathrm{TW}}(X, Z)=\sum_{e \in \mathcal{T}} w(e)\left|h_{e}(X)-h_{e}(Z)\right|
$$

Moreover, let consider the smallest subtree $\tilde{\mathcal{T}}$ having the same root $r$ in $\mathcal{T}$ and containing all $x_{i} \in X$ and $z_{i} \in Z$. Without any loss, one can remove nodes of degree 2 , except the root node $r$, to construct a tree $\overline{\mathcal{T}}$ with root $r$ from $\tilde{\mathcal{T}} . \overline{\mathcal{T}}$ has at most $4 n$ nodes, consequently at most $(4 n-1)$ edges. Therefore, from Equation (3), the TW distance can be computed in linear time $O(n)$. We summarize a computation of the TW distance for point sets of a cardinality $n$ in $\mathbb{P}_{n}$ in Algorithm $1^{1}$.

[^1]Algorithm 1 Compute $d_{\text {TW }}$ for point clouds of cardinality $n$
Input: $X, Z \in \mathbb{P}_{n}$, a tree $\mathcal{T}$ corresponding to a ground tree metric in $d_{\text {TW }}$, and denote $m$ as the number of edges in tree $\mathcal{T}$.
Output: $d_{\text {TW }}(X, Z)$
1: Compute a count vector $u \in \mathbb{R}_{+}^{m}$ for $X$ where each coordinate of $u$ corresponds to an edge $e$ in $\mathcal{T}$, and equals to $h_{e}(X)$.
Compute a count vector $v \in \mathbb{R}_{+}^{m}$ for $Z$ similarly.
Compute a weighted vector $\bar{w} \in \mathbb{R}_{+}^{m}$ where each coordinate of $\bar{w}$ corresponds to an edge $e$ in $\mathcal{T}$, and equals to $w(e)$.
Compute $d_{\mathrm{TW}}(X, Z)=\bar{w}^{T}|u-v|$, where $|\cdot|$ is an element-wise absolute operator.

Remark 1. Evans \& Matsen (2012) showed a relation between the UniFrac and OT distance by relying on the Kantorovich duality of OT and total mass of phylogenetic subtrees. We note that this result was also implicitly showed in (Do Ba et al., 2011) based on network flow and total mass of subtrees. Later, it was noted in (McGregor \& Stubbs, 2013), also based on total mass of subtrees. Differently, in our work, we derive the TW distances based on general tree metrics, and optimal assignment formulation of OT (Equation (1)).

Remark 2. In literature, there are a few more work related to our proposed class of OT with tree metrics (Kloeckner, 2015; Sommerfeld \& Munk, 2018). In particular, Kloeckner (2015) studied geometric properties of OT space for measures on an ultrametric space, and Sommerfeld \& Munk (2018) focused on statistical inference for empirical OT on finite spaces including tree metrics.

## Negative definiteness for the TW distances:

Theorem 3.2. Let $\mathbb{P}_{n}$ be a space of point clouds of cardinality $n$. Then, the tree-Wasserstein distance $d_{T W}$ is negative definite on $\mathbb{P}_{n}$.

Proof. Let $m$ be the number of edges in tree $\mathcal{T}$. From Equation (3), $h_{e}(X)$ with $e \in \mathcal{T}$ can be considered as a feature map for point cloud $X$ from $\mathbb{P}_{n}$ to $\{0,1, \ldots, n\}^{m}$. Consequently, tree-Wasserstein distance is equivalent to a weighted $L_{1}$ distance, with positive weights $w(e)$, between these feature maps. Therefore, tree-Wasserstein is negative definite.

## Positive definite tree-Wasserstein kernels.

(i.e. $\mathcal{P}(x)$ ) along a tree construction procedure. Or, one can index those paths in a preprocessing phase by performing a bottom-up traversal over all edges in tree $\mathcal{T}$ in linear time with respect to the number of nodes in $\mathcal{T}$.

Lemma 3.3. Let $\mathbb{P}_{n}$ be a space of point sets of cardinality $n$. Given $t>0, X, Z \in \mathbb{P}_{n}$, we proposed tree-Wasserstein kernels, defined as $k_{T W}(X, Z)=\exp \left(-t d_{T W}(X, Z)\right)$. Then, the tree-Wasserstein kernels are positive definite on $\mathbb{P}_{n}$.

Proof. From Theorem 3.2, $d_{\text {TW }}$ is negative definite on $\mathbb{P}_{n}$. Following (Berg et al., 1984) (Theorem 3.2.2, p.74), the proposed TW kernels $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ are positive definite on $\mathbb{P}_{n}$.

## Practical families of tree metrics for general cases ${ }^{2}$.

- Partition-based tree metrics: For low-dimensional local spaces, one can construct a partition-based tree metric with a tree structure $\mathcal{T}$ as follows:

For simplicity, we use $\mathbb{R}^{2}$ as a running example. Assume that data points are in a square region of $\mathbb{R}^{2}$ with side $\lambda / 2$. We then randomly expand the square region into a bigger one with side at most $\lambda$. Inspired by Indyk \& Thaper (2003), we use a following recursive procedure to construct a tree $\mathcal{T}$ from the square region with side at most $\lambda$ : for each square region $s$ with side $\ell$, there are three cases: (i) if $s$ does not contain any data points, we discard it, (ii) if $s$ contains 1 data point, we use either this data point or the center of $s$ as a node in $\mathcal{T}$, and (iii) if $s$ contains more than 1 data point, we use its center to represent it as a node $x$ in tree $\mathcal{T}$, then equally partition $s$ into 4 smaller child square regions with side $\ell / 2$ to obtain potential child nodes of $x$ in $\mathcal{T}$, then we recursive the procedure for those child square regions with side $\ell / 2$. One can use any metrics in $\mathbb{R}^{2}$ to obtain a length for each edge in $\mathcal{T}$.

To reduce a quantization problem for the partition-based approach in $d_{\text {TW }}$, we use several different partition-based tree metrics, obtained by using different randomly expansions for the original square region, to compute several corresponding $d_{\mathrm{TW}}$, then we average them, namely the tree-sliced-Wasserstein distance.

- Clustering-based tree metrics: For high-dimensional local spaces, the number of partitioned regions, in the recursive procedure of partition-based tree metrics, grows exponentially with respect to the number of dimensions of local spaces. To overcome this high-dimension problem, we leverage a distribution of data points to adaptively partition a space via clustering, inspired by the clustering-based approach for a space subdivision in Improved Fast Gauss Transform (Yang et al., 2005; Morariu et al., 2009). We derive a similar recursive procedure as in partition-based tree metrics, but use the farthest clustering of Gonzalez (1985) to partition for data points. The complexity of the farthest clustering into $\kappa$ clusters for $n$ data points is $O(n \log \kappa)$ by

[^2]using Feder \& Greene algorithm (1988). So, the complexity to build a clustering-based tree metric is linear with respect to $n$.

Similarly, one can consider its corresponding tree-slicedWasserstein distance, where the TW distances are averaged over a several times of computations with different clustering-based tree metrics, obtained by using different initializations for the farthest clustering of Gonzalez (1985).

Remark 3. In practice, one can use a predefined highest level of tree as a stopping condition for a tree construction procedure. We note that the shortest path from the root to each node can be obtained along the tree construction procedure. Moreover, averaging over randomly tree metrics in tree-sliced-Wasserstein distances is necessary for applications as illustrated in our experiments.

A relation between the TW distance and OT with Euclidean ground metric: Given a modified partition-based tree metric $d_{\mathrm{T}}^{H}$, where a corresponding tree $\mathcal{T}$ is constructed as follow: assume that all data points are in a $m$-dimensional hypercube with side $\lambda$. At a height level 0 in $\mathcal{T}$, there is 1 hypercube with side $\lambda$. For each hypercube with side $\ell$, at a height level $i$ in $\mathcal{T}$, we partition it into $2^{m}$ child hypercubes with side $\ell / 2$, corresponding to $2^{m}$ child nodes in $\mathcal{T}$ at a height level $(i+1)$. Therefore, at a height level $i$ in $\mathcal{T}$, there are $\left(2^{i}\right)^{m}$ hypercubes with side $\lambda / 2^{i}$. Assume that at a height level $H$ in $\mathcal{T}$, all data points are separated into different hypercubes, then the partitioning procedure is stopped at that level. Each hypercube is represented by its center as a node in $\mathcal{T}$, and each edge in $\mathcal{T}$ is computed by Euclidean distance.

Let consider the OT with Euclidean ground metric, denoted as $d_{\text {OT }}\left(\cdot, \cdot ; L_{2}\right)$, and the TW distance with the partitionbased tree metric $d_{\mathrm{T}}^{H}$, denoted as $d_{\mathrm{TW}}\left(\cdot, \cdot ; d_{\mathrm{T}}^{H}\right)$, for $X=$ $\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots, x_{n}\right)$ and $Z=\left(z_{1}, z_{2}, \ldots, z_{n}\right)$ in $\mathbb{P}_{n}$. We show a relation between $d_{\mathrm{OT}}\left(\cdot, \cdot ; L_{2}\right)$ and $d_{\mathrm{TW}}\left(\cdot, \cdot ; d_{\mathrm{T}}^{H}\right)$ as in Lemma 3.4.

Lemma 3.4. Let $X, Z \in \mathbb{P}_{n}$, $\lambda$ be a side of a mdimensional hypercube containing all data points in $X$ and $Z$, and $H$ be the height level of tree $\mathcal{T}$ for $d_{T}^{H}$, then $d_{O T}\left(X, Z ; L_{2}\right) \leq d_{T W}\left(X, Z ; d_{T}^{H}\right) / 2+\lambda n \sqrt{m} / 2^{H}$.

Proof. At a height level $i$ in $\mathcal{T}$, the maximum Euclidean distance between any two data points in a same hypercube, denoted as $\Delta_{i}$, equals to $\lambda \sqrt{m} / 2^{i}$. Let $E_{i(i+1)}$ be a set of all edges between a height level $i$ and a height level $(i+1)$ in $\mathcal{T}$. So, for any $e \in E_{i(i+1)}, w(e)=\lambda \sqrt{m} / 2^{i+1}$. Let $q_{i}$ be the number of matched pairs at a height level $i$. So, $\left(q_{i}-q_{i+1}\right)$ is the number of pairs matched at a height level $i$, but unmatched at a height level $(i+1)$. Moreover, observe that the number of unmatched pairs at a height level $i$ is $n-q_{i}=$ $\frac{1}{2} \sum_{e \in E_{(i-1) i}}\left|h_{e}(X)-h_{e}(Z)\right|$. So, from Equation (3),

Table 1. Results on SVM classification for MPEG7 and Orbit datasets. For each dataset, two numbers in the parenthesis are corresponding to the number of persistence diagrams (PD) and the maximum number of points in PD respectively. For each kernel, the averaged accuracy (\%) and standard deviation are shown on its first line, and time consumption (seconds) is shown in a parenthesis on its second line. For a trade-off between speed and performance, we set $\left(n_{s}=6, H_{\mathcal{T}}=6\right)$, and ( $n_{s}=12, H_{\mathcal{T}}=5$ ) for tree-sliced-Wasserstein distances in $k_{\text {TW }}$ in MPEG7 and Orbit datasets respectively. We highlight our approach and its results in bold.

|  | $k_{\text {PSS }}$ | $k_{\text {PWG }}$ | $k_{\text {SW }}$ | $k_{\text {PF }}$ | $k_{\text {OT }}$ | $k_{\text {TW }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| MPEG7 | $73.33 \pm 4.17$ | $74.83 \pm 4.36$ | $76.83 \pm 3.75$ | $80.00 \pm 4.08$ | $69.17 \pm 5.40$ | $\mathbf{8 1 . 8 3} \pm \mathbf{3 . 1 5}$ |
| $(200 / 80)$ | $(7.51)$ | $(5.23)$ | $(1.55)$ | $(6.63)$ | $(7.98)$ | $(\mathbf{4 . 4 8})$ |
| Orbit | $72.38 \pm 2.41$ | $76.63 \pm 0.66$ | $83.60 \pm 0.87$ | $85.87 \pm 0.77$ | $77.57 \pm 0.75$ | $\mathbf{8 6 . 3 1} \pm \mathbf{1 . 0 1}$ |
| $(5 \mathrm{~K} / 300)$ | $(11024)$ | $(8756)$ | $(6473)$ | $(9891)$ | $(433752)$ | $(\mathbf{1 4 8 0})$ |

$d_{\mathrm{TW}}\left(X, Z ; d_{\mathrm{T}}^{H}\right)=\sum_{i=0}^{H-1} 2 w\left(e \mid e \in E_{i(i+1)}\right)\left(n-q_{i+1}\right)=$ $\sum_{i=0}^{H-1} \Delta_{i}\left(n-q_{i+1}\right)$. Additionally, note that $q_{0}=n$, $q_{H}=0$, and $\Delta_{i}=\Delta_{i-1} / 2$, then we have

$$
\begin{aligned}
& d_{\mathrm{OT}}\left(X, Z ; d_{L_{2}}\right) \leq \sum_{i=0}^{H-1} \Delta_{i}\left(q_{i}-q_{i+1}\right) \\
& \quad=d_{\mathrm{TW}}\left(X, Z ; d_{\mathrm{T}}^{H}\right)-\sum_{i=0}^{H-1} \Delta_{i}\left(n-q_{i}\right) \\
& \quad=d_{\mathrm{TW}}\left(X, Z ; d_{\mathrm{T}}^{H}\right)-\sum_{i=1}^{H} \Delta_{i-1}\left(n-q_{i}\right) / 2+n \Delta_{H} \\
& \quad=d_{\mathrm{TW}}\left(X, Z ; d_{\mathrm{T}}^{H}\right) / 2+\lambda n \sqrt{m} / 2^{H}
\end{aligned}
$$

Generalization for empirical measures. Let $\mathbb{M}$ be a space of empirical measures with a finite number of support. Consider a tree $\mathcal{T}$ corresponding to a ground tree metric in $d_{\text {TW }}$. For any $\mu=\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_{i} \gamma_{x_{i}}$ in $\mathbb{M}$ (Section 2), with a slight abuse of notations, we define

$$
h_{e}(\mu)=\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_{i} h_{e}\left(x_{i}\right)
$$

Moreover, empirical measures (e.g. $\mu=\sum_{i=1}^{n} a_{i} \gamma_{x_{i}}$ ) can be considered as a generalization of point clouds (e.g. $\left.X=\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots, x_{n}\right)\right)$ since $a_{i}$ can be regarded as a frequency of appearances of $x_{i}$. Therefore, all results of the TW distances on $\mathbb{P}_{n}$ (i.e. Theorem 3.1, Theorem 3.2, Lemma 3.3 and Lemma 3.4) are also hold for the TW distances on $\mathbb{M}$.

Special cases of the TW distances. We highlight some special cases of the TW distances which are either trivial and/or have similar spirits to other different tools, considered in literature.

- OT with a ground binary metric: For a binary metric $\mathbb{1}_{x \neq z}$ between two points on a set $\mathbb{X}$, one can construct a tree $\mathcal{T}$ where all points in $\mathbb{X}$ are leaves, an additional virtual point is its root, and all edges in $\mathcal{T}$ have a same length $1 / 2$.


Figure 2. The kernel Fisher discriminant ratio (KFDR) graphs on granular packing system and $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ datasets. For $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$, tree-slicedWasserstein distances are computed with $\left(n_{s}=12, H_{\mathcal{T}}=6\right)$.

Then, $\mathbb{1}_{x \neq z}$ equals to the length of the path between $x$ and $z$ in $\mathcal{T}$. Hence, binary metric is a tree metric.

- OT with ground metrics in 1-dimensional local spaces: For a metric $d$ in 1-dimensional local spaces of OT, all data points in the local spaces lay on a line which is a trivial case of trees. So, all data points are nodes in a tree, and a length of an edge equals to the distance $d$ between two nodes of the edge. Thus, $d$ is a tree metric.
- OT with ground ultrametrics: An ultrametric is also known as non-Archimedean metric or isosceles metric (Shkarin, 2004). Ultrametrics strengthen a triangle inequality to a strong inequality (i.e. for any $x, y, z$ in an ultrametric space, $d(x, z) \leq \max \{d(x, y), d(y, z)\})$. Note that binary metrics are a special case of ultrametrics since binary metrics satisfy the strong inequality. Following (Johnson, 1967) (§.1, p.245-247), ultrametric implies a tree structure which can be constructed by hierarchical clustering schemes. Therefore, ultrametric is a tree metric. Furthermore, we note that ultrametrics have similar spirits with strong kernels and hierarchy-induced kernels which are key components to form valid optimal assignment kernels for applications with

Table 2. Results of $k_{\text {TW }}$ with SVM on MPEG7 dataset over different parameters $\left(n_{s}, H_{\mathcal{T}}\right)$ for tree-sliced-Wasserstein distances. For each pair $\left(n_{s}, H_{\mathcal{T}}\right)$, the averaged accuracy (\%) and standard deviation are shown on its first line while time consumption (seconds) is shown in a parenthesis on its second line.

|  | $n_{s}=1$ | $n_{s}=6$ | $n_{s}=12$ | $n_{s}=18$ | $n_{s}=24$ | $n_{s}=30$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $H_{\mathcal{T}}=3$ | $58.00 \pm 3.75$ | $71.33 \pm 3.31$ | $73.33 \pm 2.83$ | $76.17 \pm 3.60$ | $79.00 \pm 4.17$ | $77.83 \pm 4.78$ |
|  | $(0.03)$ | $(0.15)$ | $(0.29)$ | $(0.52)$ | $(0.62)$ | $(0.83)$ |
|  | $71.17 \pm 3.69$ | $79.17 \pm 4.98$ | $80.17 \pm 2.54$ | $79.50 \pm 3.24$ | $79.67 \pm 4.18$ | $83.00 \pm 3.75$ |
| $H_{\mathcal{T}}=4$ | $(0.08)$ | $(0.44)$ | $(1.26)$ | $(1.68)$ | $(1.91)$ | $(2.57)$ |
| $H_{\mathcal{T}}=5$ | $74.17 \pm 3.36$ | $79.17 \pm 3.16$ | $80.00 \pm 4.39$ | $80.33 \pm 3.91$ | $80.83 \pm 3.95$ | $80.83 \pm 1.96$ |
|  | $(0.27)$ | $(1.68)$ | $(2.86)$ | $(3.97)$ | $(5.78)$ | $(7.32)$ |
| $H_{\mathcal{T}}=6$ | $78.00 \pm 3.22$ | $81.83 \pm 3.15$ | $81.50 \pm 2.58$ | $80.67 \pm 12.78$ | $83.00 \pm 2.92$ | $81.00 \pm 5.78$ |
|  | $(0.73)$ | $(4.48)$ | $(8.96)$ | $(12.78)$ | $(18.40)$ | $(22.86)$ |

graph classification (Kriege et al., 2016).

## 4. Experimental Results

In this section, we apply our proposed TW kernel on topological data analysis and word embedding-based document classification.

### 4.1. Topological Data Analysis (TDA)

Topological data analysis (TDA have recently gained interest within the machine learning community (Reininghaus et al., 2015; Kusano et al., 2016; Carriere et al., 2017; Le \& Yamada, 2018). TDA is a powerful tool for statistical analysis on geometric structured data such as linked twist maps, or material data. TDA employs algebraic topology methods, such as persistence homology, to extract robust topological features (i.e. connected components, rings, cavities) and output 2-dimensional point multisets, known as persistence diagrams (PD) (Edelsbrunner et al., 2000; Edelsbrunner \& Harer, 2008). Each 2-dimensional point in PD summarizes a lifespan, corresponding to birth and death time as its coordinates, of a particular topological feature.

Setup. We evaluated our proposed TW kernel $k_{\text {TW }}$ (Section 3) for orbit recognition and object shape classification with support vector machines (SVM), as well as change point detection for material data analysis with kernel Fisher discriminant ratio (KFDR) (Harchaoui et al., 2009). Generally, we used the same setting as in (Le \& Yamada, 2018) for these TDA experiments ${ }^{3}$. We consider five baseline kernels for persistence diagrams (PD): (i) Persistence Scale Space kernel ( $k_{\mathrm{PSS}}$ ) (Reininghaus et al., 2015), (ii) Persistence Weighted Gaussian kernel ( $k_{\text {PWG }}$ ) (Kusano et al., 2016), (iii) Sliced Wasserstein kernel ( $k_{\mathrm{SW}}$ ) (Carriere et al., 2017), (iv) Persistence Fisher kernel ( $k_{\mathrm{PF}}$ ) (Le \& Yamada, 2018), and (v) optimal transport (OT) ${ }^{4}$ kernel, defined as

[^3]$k_{\mathrm{OT}}=\exp \left(-t d_{\mathrm{OT}}\right)$ for $t>0$, as in (Zhang et al., 2007; Cuturi, 2013). Since $k_{\text {OT }}$ is indefinite, we regularize its corresponding kernel matrices by adding a sufficiently large diagonal term as in (Cuturi, 2013). We consider $n_{s}$ randomized partition-based tree metrics, built with a predefined highest level $H_{\mathcal{T}}$ of tree $\mathcal{T}$ as a stopping condition, corresponding to a tree-sliced-Wasserstein distance with $n_{s}$ tree-slices for $d_{\text {TW }}$ in $k_{\text {TW }}$. We typically use a cross validation to choose hyper-parameters, and follow corresponding authors of those baseline kernels to form set of candidates. For $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ and $k_{\mathrm{OT}}$, we choose $1 / t$ from $\left\{1, q_{10}, q_{20}, q_{50}\right\}$ where $q_{s}$ is the $s \%$ quantile of a subset of TW distances and OT distances respectively, observed on a training set. We use one-vs-one strategy with Libsvm (Chang \& Lin, 2011) for multi-class classification, $\left\{10^{-2: 1: 2}\right\}$ as a set of regularization candidates for SVM, and DIPHA toolbox ${ }^{5}$ to extract PD.

Orbit recognition. Adams et al. (2017) (§6.4.1) proposed a synthesized dataset for link twist map, a discrete dynamical system to model flows in DNA microarrays (Hertzsch et al., 2007). Given an initial position $\left(a_{0}, b_{0}\right) \in[0,1]^{2}$, and $t>0$, an orbit is modeled as $a_{i+1}=a_{i}+t b_{i}\left(1-b_{i}\right)$ $\bmod 1$, and $b_{i+1}=b_{i}+t a_{i+1}\left(1-a_{i+1}\right) \bmod 1$. There are 5 classes, corresponding to 5 different parameters $t=2.5,3.5,4,4.1,4.3$. For each class, we generated 1000 orbits with random initial positions. Each orbit contains 1000 points. We consider 1-dimensional topological features for PD, extracted with Vietoris-Rips complex filtration (Edelsbrunner \& Harer, 2008), and use a random split $70 \% / 30 \%$ for training and test with 100 repeats for SVM. Results of SVM, and computational time are shown in the third row of Table 1. The proposed $k_{\text {TW }}$ compares favorably with other baseline kernels. Moreover, $k_{\text {TW }}$ and $k_{\text {PF }}$ which enjoy OT geometry and Fisher information geometry respectively, without either approximation or regularization for PD, clearly outperform other approaches. Furthermore, the computational time of $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ is less than other baseline kernels. Especially, $k_{\text {TW }}$ is 293 times faster than $k_{\text {OT }}$. We also illustrate a trade-off of computational time and per-

[^4]Table 3. Results of $k_{\text {TW }}$ with SVM on Orbit dataset over different parameters $\left(n_{s}, H_{\mathcal{T}}\right)$ for tree-sliced-Wasserstein distances. For each pair $\left(n_{s}, H_{\mathcal{T}}\right)$, the averaged accuracy ( $\%$ ) and standard deviation are shown on its first line while time consumption (seconds) is shown in a parenthesis on its second line.

|  | $n_{s}=1$ | $n_{s}=6$ | $n_{s}=12$ | $n_{s}=18$ | $n_{s}=24$ | $n_{s}=30$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $H_{\mathcal{T}}=3$ | $75.96 \pm 0.67$ <br> $(9)$ | $83.12 \pm 0.60$ <br> $(53)$ | $83.33 \pm 0.80$ <br> $(103)$ | $83.84 \pm 0.85$ <br> $(150)$ | $84.53 \pm 0.83$ <br> $(193)$ | $83.56 \pm 0.83$ <br> $(244)$ |
| $H_{\mathcal{T}}=4$ | $79.37 \pm 0.86$ <br> $(24)$ | $84.55 \pm 0.41$ <br> $(143)$ | $85.58 \pm 1.01$ <br> $(294)$ | $85.37 \pm 0.84$ <br> $(456)$ | $85.64 \pm 0.65$ <br> $(604)$ | $85.72 \pm 0.88$ <br> $(799)$ |
| $H_{\mathcal{T}}=5$ | $80.63 \pm 1.00$ <br> $(109)$ | $85.34 \pm 0.86$ <br> $(685)$ | $86.31 \pm 1.01$ <br> $(1480)$ | $86.75 \pm 0.60$ <br> $(1943)$ | $86.57 \pm 0.71$ <br> $(2607)$ | $85.73 \pm 0.76$ <br> $(3670)$ |
| $H_{\mathcal{T}}=6$ | $82.73 \pm 0.90$ <br> $(541)$ | $85.62 \pm 0.63$ <br> $(3458)$ | $86.27 \pm 0.66$ <br> $(7757)$ | $86.62 \pm 0.42$ <br> $(11718)$ | $85.77 \pm 0.70$ <br> $(19752)$ | $85.73 \pm 0.59$ <br> $(22034)$ |

Table 4. Computational time (seconds) for granular packing system $(35 / 20.4 K)$ and $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}(80 / 30 K)$ datasets. For each dataset, the first number in the parenthesis is the number of persistence diagrams (PD) while the second one is the maximum number of points in PD. For $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$, tree-sliced-Wasserstein distances are computed with $\left(n_{s}=12, H_{\mathcal{T}}=6\right)$. Computation for OT is out of memory due to many points in PD. We highlight our approach and its computational time in bold.

|  | $k_{\text {PSS }}$ | $k_{\text {PWG }}$ | $k_{\text {SW }}$ | $k_{\text {PF }}$ | $\boldsymbol{k}_{\text {TW }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Granular | 38.14 | 17.44 | 8.30 | 22.70 | $\mathbf{2 . 0 1}$ |
| $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ | 515 | 288 | 249 | 318 | $\mathbf{6}$ |

formance for $\left(n_{s}, H_{\mathcal{T}}\right)$ in tree-sliced-Wasserstein distances for $k_{\text {TW }}$ in Table 3. Averaging over randomly tree metrics as in our proposed tree-sliced-Wasserstein is essential in Orbit dataset since the results of $k_{\text {TW }}$ with $n_{s}>1$ clearly outperforms those with $n_{s}=1$.

Object shape classification. We evaluated object shape classification on a 10-class subset of MPEG7 dataset (Latecki et al., 2000), containing 20 samples for each class as in (Le \& Yamada, 2018). For simplicity, we use the same procedure as in (Le \& Yamada, 2018) to extract 1-dimensional topological features for PD with Vietoris-Rips complex filtration ${ }^{6}$ (Edelsbrunner \& Harer, 2008). We also used a random split $70 \% / 30 \%$ for training and test with 100 repeats for SVM. Results of SVM and computational time are summarized in the second row of Table 1. The performances of the proposed $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ are comparative with $k_{\mathrm{PF}}$, and clearly outperform other baseline kernels. Therefore, geometry for PD plays an important role for kernel approaches in TDA. The computational time of $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ is slower than $k_{\mathrm{SW}}$, but faster than other baseline kernels. A trade-off of computational time and performance for $\left(n_{s}, H_{\mathcal{T}}\right)$ in tree-slicedWasserstein distances for $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ is shown in Table 2. Similarly, averaging over randomly tree metrics for MPEG7 dataset also helps to improve performances for $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$.

Change point detection for material data analysis. We consider granular packing system (Francois et al., 2013) and $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ (Nakamura et al., 2015) datasets for change point

[^5]detection problem with KFDR as a statistical score. We extracted 2-dimensional topological features for PD in granular packing system dataset, and 1-dimensional topological features for PD in $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ dataset, both with ball model filtration. Following (Kusano et al., 2018; Le \& Yamada, 2018), the regularization parameter in KFDR is set to $10^{-3}$. KFDR graphs for the granular packing system and $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ datasets are shown in Figure 2. For granular tracking system dataset, all kernel approaches obtain the change point as the $23^{\text {rd }}$ index, which support an observation result (corresponding $\mathrm{id}=23$ ) in (Anonymous, 1972) . For $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ dataset, results of all kernel methods are within a supported range ( $35 \leq$ id $\leq 50$ ), obtained by a traditional physical approach (Elliott, 1983). The KFDR results of $k_{\text {TW }}$ compare favorably with those of other baseline kernels. As shown in Table $4, k_{\text {TW }}$ is faster than other baseline kernels. We note that we omit the baseline $k_{\text {OT }}$ for this application since computation of OT is out of memory.

### 4.2. Word Embedding-based Document Classification

Kusner et al. (2015) proposed Word Mover's distances for document classification. Each document is regarded as an empirical measure where each word plays a role of a support, and its frequency is considered as a weight for the support. Kusner et al. (2015) used word embedding such as word2vec to map each word to a vector data point. Or, Word Mover's distances are optimal transport metrics between empirical measures (i.e. documents) where its ground cost is a metric on word embedding space.

Setup. We evaluated our proposed TW kernel on 4 datasets: TWITTER, RECIPE, CLASSIC and AMAZON, following the approach of Word Mover's distances (Kusner et al., 2015), for document classification with SVM. Statistical characteristics for those datasets are summarized in the first row of Table 6. We used the word2vec word embedding (Mikolov et al., 2013), pre-trained on Google News ${ }^{7}$, which contains about 3 million words/phrases. word2vec maps words/phrases into a vector in $\mathbb{R}^{300}$. For all datasets, we removed all SMART stop word (Salton \& Buckley, 1988),

[^6]Table 5. Results of SVM with different parameters $\left(n_{s}, H_{\mathcal{T}}\right)$ with $\kappa=4$ for $k_{\text {TW }}$ and different $n_{s}$ for $k_{\text {Tw }}$ on TWITTER dataset.

|  | $n_{s}=1$ | $n_{s}=5$ | $n_{s}=10$ | $n_{s}=20$ | $n_{s}=30$ | $n_{s}=50$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $69.74 \pm 0.41$ | $71.68 \pm 0.26$ | $71.66 \pm 0.50$ | $72.28 \pm 0.76$ | $72.94 \pm 0.80$ | $72.79 \pm 0.62$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=4, \kappa=4\right)$ | $(12)$ | $(56)$ | $(113)$ | $(239)$ | $(364)$ | $(605)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $71.57 \pm 0.71$ | $72.67 \pm 0.42$ | $72.86 \pm 0.78$ | $73.24 \pm 0.43$ | $73.37 \pm 0.35$ | $73.42 \pm 0.42$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=5, \kappa=4\right)$ | $(46)$ | $(231)$ | $(472)$ | $(939)$ | $(1469)$ | $(2400)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $72.81 \pm 0.65$ | $72.82 \pm 0.51$ | $73.09 \pm 0.37$ | $73.67 \pm 0.63$ | $73.37 \pm 0.39$ | $73.54 \pm 0.81$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=6, \kappa=4\right)$ | $(180)$ | $(929)$ | $(1914)$ | $(3703)$ | $(5569)$ | $(9166)$ |
|  | $68.86 \pm 0.13$ | $68.85 \pm 0.11$ | $68.89 \pm 0.14$ | $70.10 \pm 0.75$ | $69.61 \pm 0.47$ | $70.04 \pm 0.40$ |
| $k_{\text {SW }}$ | $(152)$ | $(669)$ | $(1316)$ | $(2746)$ | $(4097)$ | $(6635)$ |

and further dropped words in documents if they are not available in the pre-trained word2vec as in (Kusner et al., 2015). We used baseline kernels in the form of $\exp (-t d)$ where $d$ is a document distance and $t>0$. We considered 2 baseline document distances based on Word Mover's: (i) OT with Euclidean ground metric (Kusner et al., 2015), and (ii) 1D-sliced-Wasserstein. With a light abuse of notations, we denote those baselines as $k_{\text {OT }}$ and $k_{\text {SW }}$ for their corresponding kernels respectively. We consider $n_{s}$ randomized clustering-based tree metrics, built with a predefined highest level $H_{\mathcal{T}}$ of tree $\mathcal{T}$ as a stopping condition, corresponding to tree-sliced-Wasserstein distances with $n_{s}$ treeslices for $d_{\mathrm{TW}}$ in $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$. We also used a same regularization (Section 4.1) for kernel $k_{\text {OT }}$ matrices due to its indefiniteness. We randomly split each dataset into $70 \% / 30 \%$ for training and test with 100 repeats for SVM. We follow the same setup for multi-class classification with SVM as in Section 4.1: choose hyper-parameters through cross validation, choose $1 / t$ from $\left\{1, q_{10}, q_{20}, q_{50}\right\}$, use one-vs-one strategy with Libsvm for classification, and choose SVM regularization from $\left\{10^{-2: 1: 2}\right\}$. We ran experiments with Intel(R) Xeon(R) CPU E7-8891v3 (2.80GHz) with 256 GB RAM.

Results and discussion. The results of SVM for word embedding based document classification for TWITTER, RECIPE, CLASSIC and AMAZON are summarized in Table 6 . The performances of $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ is consistently comparative with those of $k_{\mathrm{OT}}$, and better than those of $k_{\mathrm{SW}}$. Moreover, the computational time of $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ is much less than that of $k_{\text {OT }}$. Especially, in CLASSIC dataset, the computation of $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ is less than 3 hours while that of $k_{\text {OT }}$ is more than 8 days. Averaging over $n_{s}$ slices (i.e. $n_{s}$ randomly tree metrics) for tree-slices-Wasserstein is important since $n_{s}=1$ for $k_{\text {TW }}$ does not work well for all those datasets. The dimension of the local word embedding space is 300 . So, it is very loose to approximate $\mathbb{R}^{300}$ with a line as in 1 D -sliced-Wasserstein for $k_{\text {SW }}$, which may cause $k_{\text {SW }}$ to perform worse on those datasets. We also illustrate a trade-off of performances and computational time for $\left(n_{s}, H_{\mathcal{T}}, \kappa\right)$ in tree-sliced-Wasserstein distances for $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ and $n_{s}$ slices for $k_{\text {SW }}$ in Table 5 for TWITTER dataset. Further results with different parameters $\left(n_{s}, H_{\mathcal{T}}, \kappa\right)$ for $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ and $n_{s}$ slices for $k_{\text {SW }}$ on all 4 datasets are placed in the appendix.

Table 6. Results of SVM for word embedding-based document classification on TWITTER, RECIPE, CLASSIC and AMAZON datasets. For each dataset, in the parenthesis the three numbers are corresponding to the number of classes, the number of documents and the maximum number of unique words for each document respectively. For each kernel, the averaged accuracy (\%) and standard deviation are shown on its first line while time consumption (seconds) is shown in a parenthesis on its second line. Results are reported for $k_{\mathrm{SW}}$ with $n_{s}=20$ slices, and for $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ with $n_{s}=10$ slices, $H_{\mathcal{T}}=6$, and $\kappa=4$ (parameter of the farthest clustering ). We highlight our approach and its results in bold.

|  | TWITTER <br> $(3 / 3108 / 26)$ | RECIPE <br> $(15 / 4370 / 340)$ | CLASSIC <br> $(4 / 7093 / 197)$ | AMAZON <br> $(4 / 8000 / 884)$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $k_{\mathrm{OT}}$ | $72.72 \pm 0.57$ <br> $(28522)$ | $52.05 \pm 0.61$ <br> $(305480)$ | $96.59 \pm 0.32$ <br> $(705780)$ | $94.43 \pm 0.38$ <br> $(936320)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{SW}}$ | $70.10 \pm 0.75$ <br> $(2746)$ | $46.07 \pm 0.81$ <br> $(28099)$ | $92.17 \pm 0.42$ <br> $(33491)$ | $86.28 \pm 0.65$ <br> $(42456)$ |
| $\boldsymbol{k}_{\text {TW }}$ | $\mathbf{7 3 . 0 9} \pm \mathbf{0 . 3 7}$ <br> $(\mathbf{1 9 1 4})$ | $\mathbf{5 2 . 2 5} \pm \mathbf{1 . 0 0}$ <br> $(\mathbf{4 7 6 5 )}$ | $\mathbf{9 6 . 8 5} \pm \mathbf{0 . 2 7}$ <br> $(\mathbf{9 4 2 3})$ | $\mathbf{9 4 . 2 4} \pm \mathbf{0 . 5 5}$ <br> $\mathbf{( 2 8 5 3 3 )}$ |

## 5. Conclusion

In this work, we proposed tree-sliced-Wasserstein distances which is an average of randomly ground tree metrics for optimal transport (OT). We showed that OT with tree metrics, can be not only computed in linear time, but is also negative definite, which supports to use kernel methods on OT geometry. Moreover, the proposed tree-Wasserstein kernel compares favorably with other baseline kernels on many benchmark datasets in topological data analysis and word embedding-based document classification.

## AcKnowledgments

TL acknowledges the support of JSPS KAKENHI Grant number 17K12745.

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Table 7. Computational time (seconds) for different parameters $\left(n_{s}, H_{\mathcal{T}}\right)$ for tree-sliced-Wasserstein distances in $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ on granular packing system dataset.

|  | $n_{s}=1$ | $n_{s}=6$ | $n_{s}=12$ | $n_{s}=18$ | $n_{s}=24$ | $n_{s}=30$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $H_{\mathcal{T}}=3$ | 0.06 | 0.33 | 0.75 | 1.07 | 1.59 | 1.99 |
| $H_{\mathcal{T}}=4$ | 0.08 | 0.47 | 0.95 | 1.52 | 2.16 | 2.98 |
| $H_{\mathcal{T}}=5$ | 0.12 | 0.76 | 1.40 | 2.13 | 2.89 | 3.83 |
| $H_{\mathcal{T}}=6$ | 0.17 | 1.09 | 2.01 | 3.03 | 3.85 | 4.01 |

## A. Optimal Transport for Persistence Diagrams

Let $\mathrm{Dg}_{i}=\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots, x_{n}\right)$ and $\mathrm{Dg}_{j}=\left(z_{1}, z_{2}, \ldots, z_{m}\right)$ be two persistence diagrams where $x_{i}, z_{j} \in \mathbb{R}^{2}$, and $\Theta=\{(a, a) \mid$ $a \in \mathbb{R}\}$ be the diagonal set. Denote $\mathrm{Dg}_{i \Theta}=\left\{\Pi_{\Theta}(x) \mid x \in \mathrm{Dg}_{i}\right\}$ where $\Pi_{\Theta}(x)$ is a projection of $x$ on $\Theta$.

In the bottle neck distance between two persistence diagrams $\mathrm{Dg}_{i}$ and $\mathrm{Dg}_{j}$, the transportation plan is bijective between $\left(\mathrm{Dg}_{i} \cup \Theta\right)$ and $\left(\mathrm{Dg}_{j} \cup \Theta\right)$ instead of between $\mathrm{Dg}_{i}$ and $\mathrm{Dg}_{j}$ since two persistence diagrams may have different masses. Additionally, (Carriere et al., 2017) use a transportation plan between $\left(\mathrm{Dg}_{i} \cup \mathrm{Dg}_{j \Theta}\right)$ and $\left(\mathrm{Dg}_{j} \cup \mathrm{Dg} g_{i \Theta}\right)$ for sliced-Wasserstein distance between $\mathrm{Dg}_{i}$ and $\mathrm{Dg}_{j}$. In our implementation for the tree-Wasserstein distance and optimal transport distance between $\mathrm{Dg}_{i}$ and $\mathrm{Dg} g_{j}$, we followed (Carriere et al., 2017) to use a transportation plan between $\left(\mathrm{Dg}_{i} \cup \mathrm{Dg} g_{j \Theta}\right)$ and $\left(\mathrm{Dg}_{j} \cup D g_{i \Theta}\right)$ for those distances ${ }^{8}$.

## B. Negative Definiteness of $L_{1}$ Distance

For two real numbers $u, v$, the function $(u, v) \mapsto(u-v)^{2}$ is obviously negative definite. Following (Berg et al., 1984) (Corollary 2.10, p.78), the function $(u, v) \mapsto|u-v|$ is negative definite. Therefore, $L_{1}$ distance is a sum of negative definite functions. Thus, $L_{1}$ distance is negative definite.

## C. More Experimental Results

We provide many more experimental results for our proposed tree-Wasserstein kernel on topological data analysis (TDA) and word embedding-based document classification.

## C.1. Change Point Detection for Material Data Analysis (TDA)

- Table 7 shows computational time for different parameters $\left(n_{s}, H_{\mathcal{T}}\right)$ for tree-sliced-Wasserstein distances in $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ on granular packing system dataset.
- Table 8 shows computational time for different parameters $\left(n_{s}, H_{\mathcal{T}}\right)$ for tree-sliced-Wasserstein distances in $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ on $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ dataset.


## C.2. Word Embedding-based Document Classification

- Table 9 shows SVM results and computational time for different parameters $\left(n_{s}, H_{\mathcal{T}}, \kappa\right)$ for tree-sliced-Wasserstein distances in $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$, and different $n_{s}$ for $k_{\mathrm{SW}}$ on TWITTER dataset.
- Table 10 shows SVM results and computational time for different parameters $\left(n_{s}, H_{\mathcal{T}}, \kappa\right)$ for tree-sliced-Wasserstein distances in $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$, and different $n_{s}$ for $k_{\mathrm{SW}}$ on RECIPE dataset.
- Table 11 shows SVM results and computational time for different parameters $\left(n_{s}, H_{\mathcal{T}}, \kappa\right)$ for tree-sliced-Wasserstein distances in $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$, and different $n_{s}$ for $k_{\mathrm{SW}}$ on CLASS IC dataset.
- Table 12 shows SVM results and computational time for different parameters $\left(n_{s}, H_{\mathcal{T}}, \kappa\right)$ for tree-sliced-Wasserstein distances in $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$, and different $n_{s}$ for $k_{\mathrm{SW}}$ on AMAZON dataset.

[^7]Table 8. Computational time (seconds) for different parameters $\left(n_{s}, H_{\mathcal{T}}\right)$ for tree-sliced-Wasserstein distances in $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ on $\mathrm{SiO}_{2}$ dataset.

|  | $n_{s}=1$ | $n_{s}=6$ | $n_{s}=12$ | $n_{s}=18$ | $n_{s}=24$ | $n_{s}=30$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $H_{\mathcal{T}}=3$ | 0.21 | 1.24 | 2.64 | 3.67 | 4.93 | 6.09 |
| $H_{\mathcal{T}}=4$ | 0.27 | 1.58 | 3.46 | 5.03 | 7.05 | 7.91 |
| $H_{\mathcal{T}}=5$ | 0.37 | 2.20 | 4.50 | 6.53 | 8.59 | 11.64 |
| $H_{\mathcal{T}}=6$ | 0.53 | 3.25 | 6.32 | 10.06 | 13.71 | 15.28 |

Table 9. Results of SVM with different parameters $\left(n_{s}, H_{\mathcal{T}}, \kappa\right)$ for $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ and different $n_{s}$ for $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ on TWITTER dataset. The averaged accuracy (\%) and standard deviation are shown on its first line while time consumption (seconds) is shown in a parenthesis on its second line.

|  | $n_{s}=1$ | $n_{s}=5$ | $n_{s}=10$ | $n_{s}=20$ | $n_{s}=30$ | $n_{s}=50$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $69.73 \pm 0.29$ | $71.65 \pm 0.42$ | $71.42 \pm 0.48$ | $72.19 \pm 0.56$ | $72.47 \pm 1.70$ | $72.95 \pm 0.49$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=8, \kappa=2\right)$ | $(10)$ | $(46)$ | $(98)$ | $(206)$ | $(316)$ | $(473)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $70.00 \pm 0.39$ | $71.66 \pm 0.61$ | $72.43 \pm 0.72$ | $72.96 \pm 0.50$ | $72.82 \pm 0.58$ | $73.13 \pm 0.49$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=9, \kappa=2\right)$ | $(21)$ | $(105)$ | $(208)$ | $(419)$ | $(624)$ | $(1066)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $70.61 \pm 0.52$ | $72.23 \pm 0.52$ | $72.79 \pm 0.58$ | $72.95 \pm 1.01$ | $72.86 \pm 0.45$ | $72.95 \pm 0.44$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=10, \kappa=2\right)$ | $(49)$ | $(255)$ | $(516)$ | $(1173)$ | $(1555)$ | $(2451)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $71.24 \pm 0.55$ | $72.42 \pm 0.62$ | $72.91 \pm 0.72$ | $72.85 \pm 0.91$ | $72.86 \pm 0.33$ | $73.37 \pm 0.60$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=11, \kappa=2\right)$ | $(129)$ | $(537)$ | $(1105)$ | $(2213)$ | $(3511)$ | $(6013)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $71.21 \pm 0.49$ | $72.44 \pm 0.61$ | $72.88 \pm 0.63$ | $73.27 \pm 0.71$ | $73.21 \pm 0.58$ | $73.46 \pm 0.67$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=12, \kappa=2\right)$ | $(324)$ | $(1613)$ | $(3299)$ | $(6469)$ | $(9862)$ | $(16542)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $70.75 \pm 0.58$ | $71.97 \pm 0.66$ | $71.68 \pm 0.51$ | $72.46 \pm 0.50$ | $72.70 \pm 0.57$ | $72.71 \pm 0.54$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=5, \kappa=3\right)$ | $(13)$ | $(52)$ | $(118)$ | $(256)$ | $(362)$ | $(434)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $70.49 \pm 0.48$ | $72.15 \pm 0.48$ | $72.47 \pm 0.58$ | $72.90 \pm 0.55$ | $73.35 \pm 0.35$ | $73.15 \pm 0.58$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=6, \kappa=3\right)$ | $(33)$ | $(169)$ | $(335)$ | $(674)$ | $(1016)$ | $(1687)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $71.68 \pm 0.65$ | $72.45 \pm 0.57$ | $73.08 \pm 0.55$ | $73.62 \pm 0.43$ | $73.25 \pm 0.34$ | $73.50 \pm 0.69$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=7, \kappa=3\right)$ | $(133)$ | $(633)$ | $(1294)$ | $(2509)$ | $(3785)$ | $(6134)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $72.01 \pm 0.55$ | $72.89 \pm 0.80$ | $72.35 \pm 0.57$ | $73.21 \pm 0.60$ | $73.33 \pm 0.71$ | $73.33 \pm 0.52$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=8, \kappa=3\right)$ | $(437)$ | $(2188)$ | $(4364)$ | $(8896)$ | $(13277)$ | $(21787)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $69.74 \pm 0.41$ | $71.68 \pm 0.26$ | $71.66 \pm 0.50$ | $72.28 \pm 0.76$ | $72.94 \pm 0.80$ | $72.79 \pm 0.62$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=4, \kappa=4\right)$ | $(12)$ | $(56)$ | $(113)$ | $(239)$ | $(364)$ | $(605)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $71.57 \pm 0.71$ | $72.67 \pm 0.42$ | $72.86 \pm 0.78$ | $73.24 \pm 0.43$ | $73.37 \pm 0.35$ | $73.42 \pm 0.42$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=5, \kappa=4\right)$ | $(46)$ | $(231)$ | $(472)$ | $(939)$ | $(1469)$ | $(2400)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $72.81 \pm 0.65$ | $72.82 \pm 0.51$ | $73.09 \pm 0.37$ | $73.67 \pm 0.63$ | $73.37 \pm 0.39$ | $73.54 \pm 0.81$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=6, \kappa=4\right)$ | $(180)$ | $(929)$ | $(1914)$ | $(3703)$ | $(5569)$ | $(9166)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $69.09 \pm 0.14$ | $71.40 \pm 0.48$ | $72.16 \pm 0.52$ | $72.19 \pm 0.64$ | $72.50 \pm 0.65$ | $72.99 \pm 0.49$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=3, \kappa=5\right)$ | $(5)$ | $(21)$ | $(43)$ | $(80)$ | $(116)$ | $(203)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $71.19 \pm 0.52$ | $72.26 \pm 0.68$ | $72.42 \pm 0.61$ | $73.14 \pm 0.72$ | $73.34 \pm 0.41$ | $73.30 \pm 0.38$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=4, \kappa=5\right)$ | $(29)$ | $(155)$ | $(307)$ | $(608)$ | $(927)$ | $(1527)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $71.87 \pm 0.57$ | $72.82 \pm 0.51$ | $73.13 \pm 0.33$ | $73.43 \pm 0.55$ | $73.31 \pm 0.38$ | $73.74 \pm 0.70$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=5, \kappa=5\right)$ | $(187)$ | $(966)$ | $(1785)$ | $(3248)$ | $(4842)$ | $(8089)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{SW}}$ | $68.86 \pm 0.13$ | $68.85 \pm 0.11$ | $68.89 \pm 0.14$ | $70.10 \pm 0.75$ | $69.61 \pm 0.47$ | $70.04 \pm 0.40$ |
|  | $(152)$ | $(669)$ | $(1316)$ | $(2746)$ | $(4097)$ | $(6635)$ |

Table 10. Results of SVM with different parameters $\left(n_{s}, H_{\mathcal{T}}, \kappa\right)$ for $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ and different $n_{s}$ for $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ on RECIPE dataset. The averaged accuracy (\%) and standard deviation are shown on its first line while time consumption (seconds) is shown in a parenthesis on its second line.

|  | $n_{s}=1$ | $n_{s}=5$ | $n_{s}=10$ | $n_{s}=20$ | $n_{s}=30$ | $n_{s}=50$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $43.98 \pm 0.66$ | $49.03 \pm 0.70$ | $50.23 \pm 0.45$ | $50.63 \pm 0.81$ | $50.90 \pm 0.60$ | $51.43 \pm 0.67$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=8, \kappa=2\right)$ | $(34)$ | $(178)$ | $(327)$ | $(388)$ | $(963)$ | $(1662)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $45.12 \pm 0.45$ | $50.27 \pm 0.52$ | $50.96 \pm 0.81$ | $51.13 \pm 0.71$ | $51.80 \pm 0.84$ | $52.58 \pm 0.80$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=9, \kappa=2\right)$ | $(63)$ | $(339)$ | $(624)$ | $(1254)$ | $(1991)$ | $(3273)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $44.48 \pm 0.50$ | $49.07 \pm 1.00$ | $50.37 \pm 0.42$ | $51.98 \pm 1.05$ | $51.81 \pm 0.62$ | $52.44 \pm 0.35$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=10, \kappa=2\right)$ | $(136)$ | $(696)$ | $(1431)$ | $(2878)$ | $(4230)$ | $(6957)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $46.19 \pm 0.73$ | $51.07 \pm 0.39$ | $51.98 \pm 0.80$ | $51.50 \pm 0.37$ | $52.45 \pm 0.40$ | $52.14 \pm 0.59$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=11, \kappa=2\right)$ | $(320)$ | $(1554)$ | $(3065)$ | $(5905)$ | $(8843)$ | $(14578)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $48.70 \pm 0.70$ | $51.63 \pm 0.56$ | $51.34 \pm 0.64$ | $52.08 \pm 0.70$ | $52.46 \pm 0.61$ | $52.79 \pm 0.49$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=12, \kappa=2\right)$ | $(719)$ | $(3569)$ | $(7193)$ | $(14091)$ | $(21462)$ | $(35654)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $42.94 \pm 0.94$ | $47.97 \pm 0.51$ | $50.82 \pm 0.64$ | $50.70 \pm 0.86$ | $51.78 \pm 0.75$ | $52.25 \pm 0.62$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=5, \kappa=3\right)$ | $(38)$ | $(218)$ | $(436)$ | $(733)$ | $(1363)$ | $(2050)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $44.63 \pm 0.90$ | $51.00 \pm 0.47$ | $52.10 \pm 0.64$ | $51.91 \pm 0.88$ | $51.95 \pm 0.58$ | $52.05 \pm 0.68$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=6, \kappa=3\right)$ | $(108)$ | $(503)$ | $(981)$ | $(1663)$ | $(2895)$ | $(5221)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $46.45 \pm 0.94$ | $49.80 \pm 0.67$ | $51.92 \pm 0.87$ | $51.92 \pm 0.60$ | $52.71 \pm 0.81$ | $52.78 \pm 0.83$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=7, \kappa=3\right)$ | $(281)$ | $(1530)$ | $(2952)$ | $(5922)$ | $(8764)$ | $(13835)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $48.21 \pm 0.90$ | $52.32 \pm 0.73$ | $52.88 \pm 0.55$ | $53.19 \pm 1.03$ | $52.53 \pm 0.68$ | $53.20 \pm 0.43$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=8, \kappa=3\right)$ | $(694)$ | $(3685)$ | $(7289)$ | $(14552)$ | $(21797)$ | $(37071)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $41.88 \pm 0.87$ | $50.57 \pm 0.73$ | $51.31 \pm 0.64$ | $51.59 \pm 0.79$ | $51.54 \pm 0.66$ | $52.37 \pm 0.63$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=4, \kappa=4\right)$ | $(25)$ | $(126)$ | $(249)$ | $(517)$ | $(764)$ | $(1252)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $46.54 \pm 0.87$ | $51.54 \pm 0.63$ | $52.04 \pm 0.56$ | $52.30 \pm 0.94$ | $52.05 \pm 0.65$ | $52.11 \pm 0.66$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=5, \kappa=4\right)$ | $(109)$ | $(551)$ | $(1100)$ | $(2204)$ | $(3277)$ | $(5511)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $49.47 \pm 0.67$ | $52.32 \pm 0.48$ | $52.25 \pm 1.00$ | $52.36 \pm 0.70$ | $52.91 \pm 0.85$ | $53.12 \pm 0.70$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=6, \kappa=4\right)$ | $(476)$ | $(2370)$ | $(4765)$ | $(9171)$ | $(14284)$ | $(23847)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $43.03 \pm 0.50$ | $48.54 \pm 0.90$ | $50.24 \pm 0.91$ | $51.46 \pm 0.16$ | $52.03 \pm 0.55$ | $51.26 \pm 0.62$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=3, \kappa=5\right)$ | $(17)$ | $(81)$ | $(193)$ | $(384)$ | $(536)$ | $(886)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $45.61 \pm 0.82$ | $50.72 \pm 0.57$ | $51.98 \pm 0.48$ | $51.97 \pm 0.85$ | $52.22 \pm 0.69$ | $52.24 \pm 0.63$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=4, \kappa=5\right)$ | $(71)$ | $(335)$ | $(705)$ | $(1414)$ | $(2123)$ | $(3453)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $48.25 \pm 0.88$ | $52.56 \pm 0.61$ | $52.55 \pm 0.56$ | $52.60 \pm 0.71$ | $53.20 \pm 0.80$ | $53.40 \pm 0.74$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=5, \kappa=5\right)$ | $(291)$ | $(1488)$ | $(3079)$ | $(5966)$ | $(8503)$ | $(15179)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{SW}}$ | $31.45 \pm 0.53$ | $39.42 \pm 1.22$ | $42.67 \pm 0.99$ | $46.07 \pm 0.81$ | $46.38 \pm 0.53$ | $47.85 \pm 0.51$ |
|  | $(1470)$ | $(7381)$ | $(14028)$ | $(28099)$ | $(41241)$ | $(73889)$ |

Table 11. Results of SVM with different parameters $\left(n_{s}, H_{\mathcal{T}}, \kappa\right)$ for $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ and different $n_{s}$ for $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ on CLASSIC dataset. The averaged accuracy (\%) and standard deviation are shown on its first line while time consumption (seconds) is shown in a parenthesis on its second line.

|  | $n_{s}=1$ | $n_{s}=5$ | $n_{s}=10$ | $n_{s}=20$ | $n_{s}=30$ | $n_{s}=50$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $90.05 \pm 0.35$ | $95.26 \pm 0.36$ | $96.00 \pm 0.32$ | $96.42 \pm 0.36$ | $96.75 \pm 0.30$ | $96.67 \pm 0.29$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=8, \kappa=2\right)$ | $(115)$ | $(481)$ | $(1016)$ | $(2046)$ | $(2882)$ | $(4893)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $92.27 \pm 0.34$ | $95.91 \pm 0.57$ | $96.38 \pm 0.22$ | $96.59 \pm 0.24$ | $96.53 \pm 0.31$ | $96.67 \pm 0.28$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=9, \kappa=2\right)$ | $(169)$ | $(882)$ | $(1755)$ | $(3454)$ | $(5157)$ | $(8594)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $93.84 \pm 0.52$ | $96.16 \pm 0.48$ | $96.26 \pm 0.39$ | $96.79 \pm 0.24$ | $96.71 \pm 0.43$ | $96.81 \pm 0.20$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=10, \kappa=2\right)$ | $(371)$ | $(1859)$ | $(3886)$ | $(7944)$ | $(11916)$ | $(19456)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $94.44 \pm 0.35$ | $95.15 \pm 0.30$ | $96.33 \pm 0.42$ | $96.77 \pm 0.33$ | $96.53 \pm 0.32$ | $96.77 \pm 0.30$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=11, \kappa=2\right)$ | $(818)$ | $(4033)$ | $(8483)$ | $(18037)$ | $(27099)$ | $(45963)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $94.61 \pm 0.52$ | $96.42 \pm 0.35$ | $96.63 \pm 0.29$ | $96.68 \pm 0.38$ | $96.85 \pm 0.38$ | $96.65 \pm 0.31$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=12, \kappa=2\right)$ | $(2919)$ | $(14963)$ | $(30308)$ | $(62199)$ | $(93383)$ | $(156010)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $93.06 \pm 0.32$ | $96.06 \pm 0.39$ | $96.27 \pm 0.39$ | $96.22 \pm 0.30$ | $96.54 \pm 0.33$ | $96.79 \pm 0.30$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=5, \kappa=3\right)$ | $(73)$ | $(389)$ | $(787)$ | $(1568)$ | $(2420)$ | $(3859)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $94.12 \pm 0.49$ | $96.12 \pm 0.30$ | $96.49 \pm 0.43$ | $96.83 \pm 0.24$ | $96.71 \pm 0.31$ | $96.76 \pm 0.37$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=6, \kappa=3\right)$ | $(223)$ | $(949)$ | $(1678)$ | $(3494)$ | $(4960)$ | $(8189)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $94.72 \pm 0.43$ | $96.35 \pm 0.45$ | $96.90 \pm 0.36$ | $96.79 \pm 0.23$ | $96.68 \pm 0.28$ | $96.81 \pm 0.25$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=7, \kappa=3\right)$ | $(484)$ | $(2378)$ | $(4744)$ | $(9523)$ | $(14250)$ | $(23751)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $95.25 \pm 0.51$ | $96.64 \pm 0.45$ | $96.63 \pm 0.30$ | $96.88 \pm 0.24$ | $96.71 \pm 0.43$ | $96.84 \pm 0.25$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=8, \kappa=3\right)$ | $(1364)$ | $(6973)$ | $(13235)$ | $(26449)$ | $(42520)$ | $(75548)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $92.47 \pm 0.54$ | $95.62 \pm 0.37$ | $96.36 \pm 0.33$ | $96.46 \pm 0.20$ | $96.77 \pm 0.34$ | $96.84 \pm 0.35$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=4, \kappa=4\right)$ | $(85)$ | $(397)$ | $(818)$ | $(1502)$ | $(2333)$ | $(3543)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $93.29 \pm 0.57$ | $96.46 \pm 0.32$ | $96.83 \pm 0.38$ | $96.82 \pm 0.23$ | $96.99 \pm 0.30$ | $96.92 \pm 0.36$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=5, \kappa=4\right)$ | $(273)$ | $(1363)$ | $(2631)$ | $(5399)$ | $(7970)$ | $(13320)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $95.69 \pm 0.31$ | $96.49 \pm 0.42$ | $96.85 \pm 0.27$ | $96.91 \pm 0.33$ | $96.74 \pm 0.37$ | $96.84 \pm 0.20$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=6, \kappa=4\right)$ | $(945)$ | $(4715)$ | $(9423)$ | $(18163)$ | $(26560)$ | $(43352)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $92.47 \pm 0.54$ | $95.62 \pm 0.37$ | $96.36 \pm 0.33$ | $96.46 \pm 0.20$ | $96.77 \pm 0.34$ | $96.84 \pm 0.35$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=3, \kappa=5\right)$ | $(29)$ | $(115)$ | $(236)$ | $(459)$ | $(740)$ | $(1183)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $93.29 \pm 0.57$ | $96.46 \pm 0.32$ | $96.83 \pm 0.38$ | $96.82 \pm 0.23$ | $96.99 \pm 0.30$ | $96.92 \pm 0.36$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=4, \kappa=5\right)$ | $(138)$ | $(744)$ | $(1456)$ | $(2744)$ | $(4391)$ | $(7370)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $95.69 \pm 0.39$ | $96.49 \pm 0.42$ | $96.85 \pm 0.27$ | $96.91 \pm 0.33$ | $96.74 \pm 0.37$ | $96.84 \pm 0.20$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=5, \kappa=5\right)$ | $(749)$ | $(3767)$ | $(7456)$ | $(14746)$ | $(22735)$ | $(37339)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{SW}}$ | $76.58 \pm 0.29$ | $86.19 \pm 0.46$ | $89.51 \pm 0.50$ | $92.17 \pm 0.42$ | $92.74 \pm 0.46$ | $94.13 \pm 0.35$ |
|  | $(1715)$ | $(8347)$ | $(16311)$ | $(33491)$ | $(47855)$ | $(79558)$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Table 12. Results of SVM with different parameters $\left(n_{s}, H_{\mathcal{T}}, \kappa\right)$ for $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ and different $n_{s}$ for $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ on AMAZON dataset. The averaged accuracy (\%) and standard deviation are shown on its first line while time consumption (seconds) is shown in a parenthesis on its second line.

|  | $n_{s}=1$ | $n_{s}=5$ | $n_{s}=10$ | $n_{s}=20$ | $n_{s}=30$ | $n_{s}=50$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $81.91 \pm 0.61$ | $91.40 \pm 0.56$ | $92.18 \pm 0.29$ | $93.17 \pm 0.40$ | $94.25 \pm 0.40$ | $94.38 \pm 0.31$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=8, \kappa=2\right)$ | $(201)$ | $(1001)$ | $(1927)$ | $(3050)$ | $(5733)$ | $(9308)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $85.28 \pm 0.61$ | $91.52 \pm 0.56$ | $93.28 \pm 0.46$ | $94.04 \pm 0.36$ | $94.24 \pm 0.66$ | $94.14 \pm 0.26$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=9, \kappa=2\right)$ | $(314)$ | $(1632)$ | $(3161)$ | $(6453)$ | $(96.28)$ | $(16355)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $87.10 \pm 0.41$ | $92.90 \pm 0.70$ | $93.49 \pm 0.43$ | $94.02 \pm 0.50$ | $94.54 \pm 0.58$ | $94.32 \pm 0.23$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=10, \kappa=2\right)$ | $(799)$ | $(4048)$ | $(8133)$ | $(16038)$ | $(24408)$ | $(41278)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $87.97 \pm 0.58$ | $93.04 \pm 0.49$ | $93.63 \pm 0.39$ | $94.24 \pm 0.45$ | $94.29 \pm 0.41$ | $94.30 \pm 0.44$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=11, \kappa=2\right)$ | $(2023)$ | $(9514)$ | $(18649)$ | $(37102)$ | $(56200)$ | $(94515)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $89.48 \pm 0.75$ | $93.24 \pm 0.44$ | $93.68 \pm 0.48$ | $94.19 \pm 0.44$ | $94.35 \pm 0.43$ | $94.61 \pm 0.36$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=12, \kappa=2\right)$ | $(4192)$ | $(20792)$ | $(40610)$ | $(80897)$ | $(122150)$ | $(206360)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $83.17 \pm 0.76$ | $91.78 \pm 0.48$ | $93.00 \pm 0.37$ | $93.83 \pm 0.39$ | $94.09 \pm 0.53$ | $94.34 \pm 0.50$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=5, \kappa=3\right)$ | $(316)$ | $(1573)$ | $(3011)$ | $(6208)$ | $(9580)$ | $(15060)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $86.90 \pm 0.46$ | $92.46 \pm 0.58$ | $93.63 \pm 0.45$ | $94.20 \pm 0.42$ | $94.20 \pm 0.37$ | $94.34 \pm 0.33$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=6, \kappa=3\right)$ | $(464)$ | $(2156)$ | $(4585)$ | $(8862)$ | $(12750)$ | $(20935)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $89.56 \pm 0.79$ | $93.06 \pm 0.62$ | $93.97 \pm 0.49$ | $94.37 \pm 0.35$ | $94.46 \pm 0.69$ | $94.20 \pm 0.20$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=7, \kappa=3\right)$ | $(1642)$ | $(8042)$ | $(15883)$ | $(31787)$ | $(47578)$ | $(81293)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $90.12 \pm 0.51$ | $93.67 \pm 0.30$ | $94.01 \pm 0.50$ | $94.40 \pm 0.48$ | $94.58 \pm 0.59$ | $94.35 \pm 0.28$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=8, \kappa=3\right)$ | $(5207)$ | $(25386)$ | $(51558)$ | $(101710)$ | $(147800)$ | $(244380)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $84.80 \pm 0.71$ | $91.78 \pm 0.37$ | $93.02 \pm 0.48$ | $94.02 \pm 0.47$ | $93.98 \pm 0.38$ | $94.31 \pm 0.65$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=4, \kappa=4\right)$ | $(226)$ | $(1022)$ | $(2025)$ | $(4192)$ | $(6473)$ | $(10548)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $87.90 \pm 0.45$ | $92.90 \pm 0.57$ | $93.99 \pm 0.35$ | $94.09 \pm 0.53$ | $94.67 \pm 0.39$ | $94.39 \pm 0.32$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=5, \kappa=4\right)$ | $(605)$ | $(2954)$ | $(5786)$ | $(11899)$ | $(18208)$ | $(26594)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $89.92 \pm 0.54$ | $93.57 \pm 0.51$ | $94.24 \pm 0.55$ | $94.34 \pm 0.42$ | $94.67 \pm 0.69$ | $94.48 \pm 0.29$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=6, \kappa=4\right)$ | $(2903)$ | $(14958)$ | $(28533)$ | $(57910)$ | $(89811)$ | $(145380)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $84.64 \pm 0.39$ | $91.01 \pm 0.38$ | $92.83 \pm 0.30$ | $93.92 \pm 0.27$ | $94.12 \pm 0.48$ | $94.41 \pm 0.68$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=3, \kappa=5\right)$ | $(44)$ | $(208)$ | $(427)$ | $(930)$ | $(1403)$ | $(2219)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $87.11 \pm 0.60$ | $92.73 \pm 0.41$ | $93.66 \pm 0.34$ | $94.19 \pm 0.49$ | $94.45 \pm 0.42$ | $94.35 \pm 0.46$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=4, \kappa=5\right)$ | $(154)$ | $(864)$ | $(1843)$ | $(3632)$ | $(5545)$ | $(9813)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{TW}}$ | $90.83 \pm 0.54$ | $93.32 \pm 0.53$ | $94.37 \pm 0.35$ | $94.42 \pm 0.31$ | $94.68 \pm 0.71$ | $94.40 \pm 0.33$ |
| $\left(H_{\mathcal{T}}=5, \kappa=5\right)$ | $(958)$ | $(4773)$ | $(9651)$ | $(18052)$ | $(27974)$ | $(48468)$ |
| $k_{\mathrm{SW}}$ | $68.29 \pm 0.77$ | $77.62 \pm 1.03$ | $82.27 \pm 0.69$ | $86.28 \pm 0.65$ | $87.78 \pm 0.45$ | $89.40 \pm 0.48$ |
|  | $(2390)$ | $(10825)$ | $(21048)$ | $(42456)$ | $(58084)$ | $(103640)$ |


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ RIKEN Center for Advanced Intelligence Project, Japan ${ }^{2}$ Kyoto University, Japan ${ }^{3}$ The Institute of Statistical Mathematics, Japan ${ }^{4}$ Google Brain, Paris, France ${ }^{5}$ CREST - ENSAE, France. Correspondence to: Tam Le[tam.le@riken.jp](mailto:tam.le@riken.jp).

[^1]:    ${ }^{1}$ In practice, one can obtain the path from root to each node $x$

[^2]:    ${ }^{2}$ General cases are meant that a tree structure is not known, and required to construct from data for computing the TW distances.

[^3]:    ${ }^{3}$ Le \& Yamada (2018) kindly helped us evaluate $k_{\text {TW }}$ and $k_{\text {OT }}$ on their system for a fair comparison on TDA.
    ${ }^{4}$ We used a fast OT implementation (e.g. on MPEG7 dataset, it took 7.98 seconds while the mex-file with Rubner's implementation requires 28.72 seconds).

[^4]:    ${ }^{5}$ https://github.com/DIPHA/dipha

[^5]:    ${ }^{6}$ Turner et al. (2014) proposed a more complicated and advanced filtration for this task.

[^6]:    ${ }^{7}$ https://code.google.com/p/word2vec

[^7]:    ${ }^{8}$ Le \& Yamada (2018) also followed this line of work to define Fisher information metric between two persistence diagrams.

