

1 We thank the reviewers [R1](#), [R3](#) and [R4](#) for their time and for their feedback.

2 **Motivation:** [R1](#) expresses concern as to the ‘selling point’ of the signature transform, over other transformations; [R4](#)  
3 expresses a similar concern about scenarios in which one would use the signature transform. We propose to add the  
4 following paragraphs to Section 1.

5 *In multimodal data it can happen that the different channels represent linked information, and that the order of the*  
6 *events in the different channels is the feature of interest. For example, regularly seeing the sequence: phone call, trade,*  
7 *price movement in the stream of office data monitoring a trader might lead one to suspect insider trading.*

8 *Such occurrences are straightforward to detect with a regression on a few terms in the signature. This approach is*  
9 *non-parametric and makes no attempt to model the original signal. Modelling this signal using Fourier series or*  
10 *wavelets would be much more expensive: linearity of these transforms imply that each coordinate must be resolved*  
11 *accurately enough to see the order of events.*

12 *The fundamental difference between the signature transform and classical signal transforms such as Fourier trans-*  
13 *forms and wavelets is that the latter are used to model a parametrised version of a curve as a linear combination in*  
14 *a functional basis. The signature does not try to model or parameterise the curve itself, but instead provides a basis*  
15 *for functions on the space of curves. From a signal processing perspective, the signature can be thought of as a filter*  
16 *which is invariant to resampling of the input signal.*

17 Certainly other transformations may be worth embedding within neural networks; it is the purpose of our paper to  
18 demonstrate how this aim may be accomplished in this particular case. A full comparison of the different transforms  
19 that may be selected would be the domain of another paper entirely. Furthermore an understanding on how to embed  
20 the signature transform within neural networks, such as our paper, would be a prerequisite for such an investigation.

21 **Conclusion:** Both [R1](#) and [R4](#) requested a conclusion. We propose to add the following to the end of the paper.

22 *There is a strong corpus of theory motivating the use of the signature transform as a tool to understand streams of*  
23 *data. Meanwhile neural networks have enjoyed great empirical success. It is thus desirable to bring them together;*  
24 *in this paper we have laid out the theory describing how this may be done in a general fashion, and have provided*  
25 *examples of how this principle may be used in a variety of domains.*

26 *There are two key contributions. First, we discuss stream-preserving neural networks, which is what allows for using*  
27 *signature transforms deeper within a network, rather than as just a feature transformation. Second, we discuss lifts,*  
28 *which is what allows for the use of multiple signature transforms. In this way we have significantly extended the use*  
29 *of the signature transform in machine learning: rather than limiting its usage to data preprocessing, we demonstrate*  
30 *how the signature transform, as a univocal nonlinearity, may be used as a general layer within a neural network.*

31 **Related Work:** [R1](#) notes that our discussion of related work is essentially confined to the use of the signature trans-  
32 form, as opposed to other functional transformations. We agree that this is lacking, and propose to add references to  
33 the use of wavelets and Fourier transforms with neural networks to Section 2.

34 [R4](#) remarks that “If this is the first work which successfully integrates the signature transform into deep learning, the  
35 novelty is high”. To the best of the authors’ knowledge this is indeed the case. For completeness it is worth noting the  
36 existence of the unpublished paper *Learning stochastic differential equations using RNN with log signature features*  
37 by Liao, Ni, Lyons, and Yang, which was developed concurrently with our work. It uses a related transformation (the  
38 log-signature) in a similar differentiable manner, but lacks the generality with which we combine signatures and neural  
39 networks; they focus instead on a particular application.

40 **Experiments:** [R3](#) asks to restructure the presentation of the evaluation part. We are not certain precisely where their  
41 concerns lie, but will keep their concern in mind when incorporating the other changes.

42 [R4](#) comments that it would be nice to have more extensive experiments. We agree, but were space-limited, and  
43 decided to focus on demonstrating the breadth of applications - generative, supervised, reinforcement - rather than  
44 just producing the usual paper demonstrating good results on just supervised learning problems. Perhaps not directly  
45 applicable, but we would like to note that the related work cited within Sections 1 and 2 already demonstrate excellent  
46 results using the signature transform in multiple types of supervised learning problems, albeit whilst using the signature  
47 transform only in the feature transformation-based manner.

48 **Use of  $\sigma$ :** [R4](#) comments that the relationship between the  $\sigma$  in Section 6 is unclear. We believe they are referring to the  
49 derivation of the equation preceding line 244 from the equation preceding line 242. We propose to fix this by adding  
50 a brief reference to Chen’s identity, as described in Appendix A, from which this derivation follows immediately.

51 We thank [R3](#) for their positive support. We hope that the changes proposed above satisfy the improvements requested  
52 by [R1](#) and [R4](#).