Core Signatures and Inversions

Marcos Costa Santos Carreira*
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Abstract

The signature method allows transformations of the original data (either as a mathematical function or as irregularly sampled data) into a feature space with several interesting properties, allowing for models and controls to be developed into this feature space. Because the full signature (even truncated) is still redundant, it is usual to calculate the log signature, which has a lower size. In this paper we introduce core signatures, which are subsets of the original signatures with the same size as log signatures and a faster and easier calculation algorithm (systematic shuffle product leading to a sparse linear system). Because the core signatures are subsets of the original signatures, we can use Chen's Identity to invert a given core signature in order to easily find 4 or 5 line segments that, when concatenated, reproduce enough of the original core signature, improving interpretability. We discuss briefly the use of time-ordered paths for term structure modeling in finance (to be discussed in depth in a subsequent paper). Mathematica code is available on GitHub at https://github.com/MarcosCarreira/CoreSignatures.

Keywords: Signatures; log signatures; inversion of signatures; term structure modeling

^{*}marcoscscarreira@gmail.com

1 Introduction

"E com cinco ou seis retas é fácil fazer um castelo"

Excerpt from the song Aquarela, by Antonio Pecci Filho (Toquinho), 1983

Signatures are one of the best ways to understand the behavior of paths.

What are paths? Mathematically, we can define paths as functions that map an interval (generally defined as [a, b], which will later be reparametrized to [0, 1] without problems) to the multidimensional space \mathbb{R}^d . Going forward we will assume that the paths are of bounded variation and piecewise differentiable. For a more complete definition and mathematical subtleties, the standard reference is [Lyons et al (2007)].

This signature representation is useful to analyze term structures because we compare the shapes of different curves at different points in time and scale, and some behaviors like inversions, humps, steepenings and others are quite common among different asset classes and have similar reasons. In feature space it is easier to compare the US Treasury yields (up to 30 years ahead) with Brazil's DIxPré Interest Rate Curve implied from futures (up to 10 years, but 20 years ago liquid up to 2 years).

We would like to share two practical results:

In the first result we show how to substitute log signatures (a more compressed representation of the signatures, but harder to calculate) with core signatures, which show the same compression; but a core signature is a subset of the signature, so it is easier to calculate using the shuffle product; the reconstruction of the full signature (now unnecessary) is also easier.

The second result is an inversion algorithm using Chen's Identity to find which concatenation of two (or, when necessary, three) signatures of line segments can generate the same core signature (up to a truncation level). We can either solve a more complex system involving the concatenation of a larger number of line segments or we apply the same (2/3) breakdown to find the indices of the breaking points (on time-indexed paths) and recalculate the estimated values given these indices.

This work relied heavily on: (i) [Chevryev and Kormilitzin (2016)], an excellent primer on signatures; we will provide the Mathematica code to some of the examples of this paper; (ii) [Fermanian (2021a)], a great and comprehensive PhD Thesis that collects several of Adeline Fermanian's papers on signatures, applications and inversion algorithms (we will quote the individual papers like [Fermanian (2021b)] and [Fermanian et al (2023)] when possible/applicable); (iii) [Reizenstein (2018)], [Reizenstein and Graham (2020)], [Reizenstein (2016)] and [Reizenstein (2015)], papers and documents that support Jeremy Reizenstein's work with the iisignature Python package.

Two papers ([Améndola, Friz and Sturmfels (2019)] and [Pfeffer, Seigal and Sturmfels (2018)]) discuss similar goals; [Améndola, Friz and Sturmfels (2019)] is focused on polynomial and piecewise linear paths, with the degree of prime ideals corresponding to the size of log signatures and core signatures; [Pfeffer, Seigal and Sturmfels (2018)] is focused on what can be learned from the third signature assuming polynomial paths, piecewise linear paths and a dictionary of paths. Although our results were derived in the same mathematical detail and completeness as those two papers, we think they are practical enough to be useful for signatures coming from more general paths, as we hope to show. Further work linking our results to these papers is probably worth pursuing.

Section 2 (Signatures) will describe signatures and provide plenty of examples; the idea is for the reader to become familiar with the structure of the signatures.

Section 3 (Core Signatures) will describe how to find which terms of the signature are independent (and therefore store the information about the path) and how the other terms depend on these core terms.

Section 4 will describe an inversion procedure where we approximate a path with linear segments which possess the same signature at increasing levels. There are other papers on the insertion algorithm for signature inversion, but [Fermanian et al (2023)] is the most recent.

Section 5 will preview an application of signatures - term structure modeling in finance.

2 Signatures

2.1 Definitions

2.1.1 Paths

Let's start by following [Chevryev and Kormilitzin (2016)] and showing the Mathematica code that can produce the plots and results.

Figure 1 shows two 2d smooth paths, defined by:

$$X_t = \{X_t^1, X_t^2\} = \{t, t^3\}, t \in [-2, +2]$$
 (1)

And:

$$X_{t} = \left\{ X_{t}^{1}, X_{t}^{2} \right\} = \left\{ \cos(t), \sin(t) \right\}, \ t \in [0, +2\pi]$$
 (2)

We can reproduce this with ParametricPlot (Figure 1):

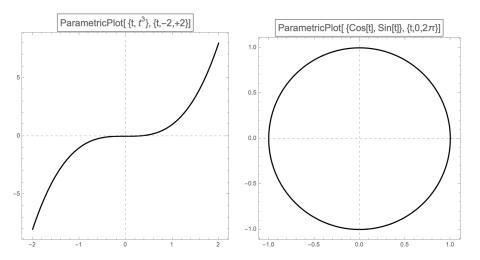


Figure 1: 2d smooth paths using ParametricPlot

And we can look at piecewise functions as well:

$$X_{t} = \left\{ X_{t}^{1}, X_{t}^{2} \right\} = \begin{cases} \left\{ t, t^{2} \right\} & t \in [-2, 0] \\ \left\{ t, t^{3} \right\} & t \in (0, +2] \end{cases}$$
 (3)

And piecewise linear functions (which will be used a lot); both are shown in Figure 2:

$$X_{t} = \left\{ X_{t}^{1}, X_{t}^{2} \right\} = \begin{cases} \left\{ t, 3 + 2t \right\} & t \in [-2, -1] \\ \left\{ t, -t \right\} & t \in (-1, 0] \\ \left\{ t, 3t \right\} & t \in (0, +1] \\ \left\{ t, 5 - 2t \right\} & t \in (+1, +2] \end{cases}$$

$$(4)$$

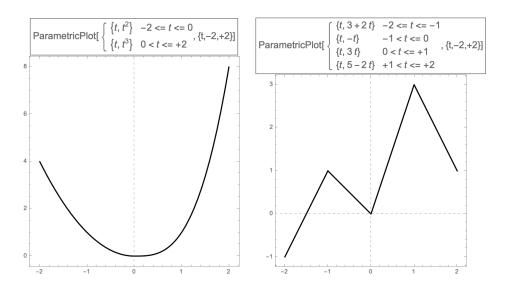


Figure 2: 2d piecewise smooth paths using ParametricPlot

2.1.2 Iterated Integrals

Following again [Chevryev and Kormilitzin (2016)], looking at the Example 3 in 1.1.2 (Path integrals):

$$X_t = \left\{ X_t^1, X_t^2 \right\} = \left\{ t^2, t^3 \right\} , \ t \in [0, +1]$$

We can also calculate the iterated integral:

$$\int_0^1 X_t^1 dX_t^2 = \int_0^1 t^2 3t^2 dt = \frac{3}{5}$$

As:

LineIntegrate
$$\left[t^2, \{x\} \in \text{ParametricRegion}\left[\left\{t^3\right\}, \left\{\left\{t, 0, 1\right\}\right\}\right]\right] = \frac{3}{5}$$

We will automate the iterated integrals with:

With the signature defined as an infinite collection of iterated integrals:

$$S(X)_{a,b} = \{1, S(X)_{a,b}^{1}, \dots, S(X)_{a,b}^{d}, S(X)_{a,b}^{1,1}, S(X)_{a,b}^{1,2}, \dots, S(X)_{a,b}^{d,d}, \dots \}$$
 (5)

With each term $S(X)_{a,b}^{i_1,\ldots,i_k}$ is defined by the iterated integrals:

$$S(X)_{a,t}^{i_1,\dots,i_k} = \int_{a}^{t} \dots \int_{a}^{t_2} dX_{t_1}^{i_1} \dots dX_{t_k}^{i_k}$$
(6)

It might be useful to view them grouped by level and folded as tensors, as shown in [Reizenstein (2016)]:

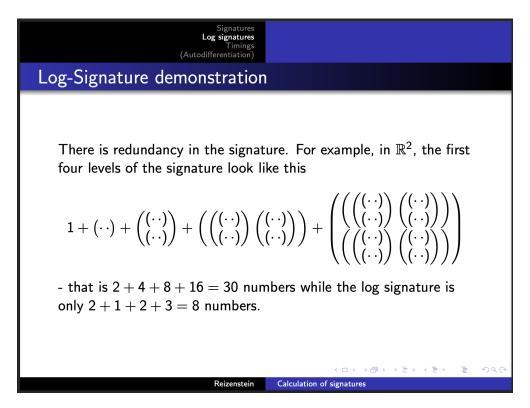


Figure 3: Signatures with d=2

Where the set W of all multi-indexes is (mirroring Figure 3):

21 22

```
111 112 211
                 212
  121
      122
           221
                 222
1111 1112 1211 1212
1121
     1122
           1221
                  1222
2111
      2112
           2211
                  2212
2121
     2122 \quad 2221
                  2222
```

And the total number of terms in the signature of dimension d up to level k (excluding the 1 at level 0) is equal to:

$$\begin{cases} \sum_{k=0}^{K} d^k = \frac{d^{K+1} - d}{d - 1} & d > 1\\ K & d = 1 \end{cases}$$
 (7)

So with a helper function to "fold" each level in the correct tensor shape:

We define the SIGNAT function in 1, which takes as inputs a list of *paths*, the domain (a, b) and the optional value *level*, which is the level at which we truncate the signature (going forward we will always work with the truncated signatures, and we might refer to them as signatures):

Algorithm 1 The SIGNAT function

```
signat[paths_, limits_, level_:3]:= Module[
  {dpaths, dpathsf, integrands, illimits, iassump, results},
  dpaths = D[paths, t];
  dpathsf= Map[Function[t, #]&, dpaths, {2}];
  integrands = Table [Map | Tuples, Transpose [
    Table [Map[#[Subscript[t,j]]&,dpathsf,\{2\}],\{j,1,k\}]]],
    \{k, 1, level\};
  ilimits = Table [Table [{ Subscript [t, j], limits [[1]],
    If [j=k, limits [[2]], Subscript [t, j+1]] \}, \{j, 1, k\}],
    {k,1,level}];
  iassump = Fold[(#1 \&\& (limits[[1]] \le Subscript[t,#2] \le limits])
     [[2]]) \&,
    ( limits [[1]] \le Subscript [t,1] \le limits [[2]] ), Range [2, level] ];
  results = Table [Map[iterinteg[#,ilimits[[k]],iassump]&,
     integrands [[k]], \{2\}],
    \{k, 1, level\}\};
  Map[tensorfold, Map[Prepend[#, {1}]&, Transpose[results]], {2}]];
```

And look at Example 6 at 1.2.2 in [Chevryev and Kormilitzin (2016)]:

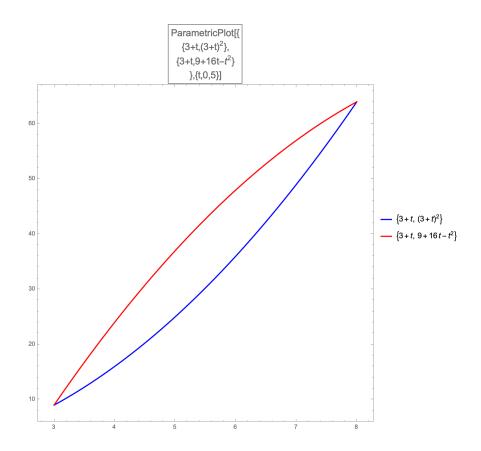


Figure 4: Two 2d paths with the same chord

We can see their truncated signatures up to level 3 on Table 1, where path 1 is the original $\{3+t,(3+t)^2\}$ path from [Chevryev and Kormilitzin (2016)] and path 2 is the "inverted" $\{3+t,9+16\cdot t-t^2\}$:

Level	Path	Signature				
1	1	(5,55)				
1	2	(5, 55)				
2	1	$\left(\begin{array}{cc} 25/2 & 475/3 \\ 350/3 & 3025/2 \end{array}\right)$				
2	2	$\left(\begin{array}{cc} 25/2 & 350/3 \\ 475/3 & 3025/2 \end{array}\right)$				
3	1	$ \begin{pmatrix} 125/6 & 1125/4 \\ 1375/6 & 18875/6 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2125/12 & 7250/3 \\ 2000 & 166375/6 \end{pmatrix} $				
3	2	$ \begin{pmatrix} 125/6 & 2125/12 \\ 1375/6 & 2000 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1125/4 & 7250/3 \\ 18875/6 & 166375/6 \end{pmatrix} $				

Table 1: Signatures of the 2d paths up to level 3

We can see how level 2 is flipped around the diagonal $(12 \leftrightarrow 21)$, and if we think of the tensors on level 3 as a cube, we can see this flip on a diagonal also $(1x2 \leftrightarrow 2x1)$.

We can calculate the signature of other functions, like $\sin(k \cdot \pi \cdot t^q)$, shown in Figure 5 and Tables 2 and 3 (it's implicit that the 2d path is defined as $\{t, \sin(k \cdot \pi \cdot t^q)\}$).

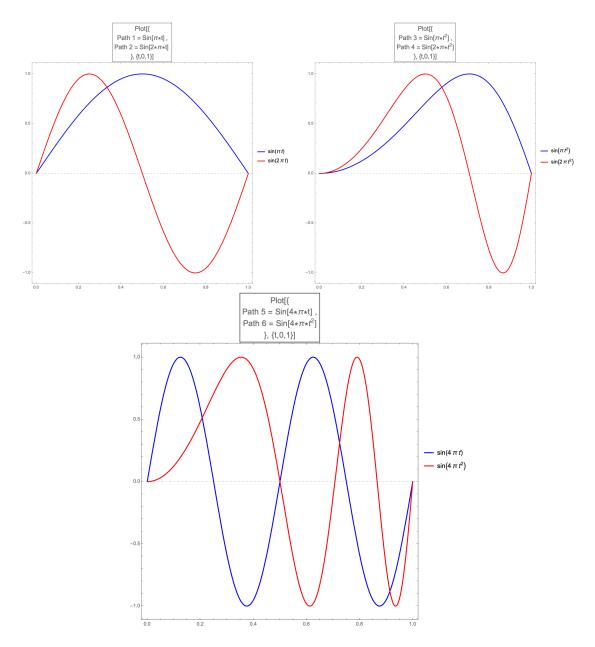


Figure 5: 2d smooth paths with different argument for $\{t, \sin(k \cdot \pi \cdot t^q)\}$

The $\{t, \sin(k \cdot \pi \cdot t)\}$ paths might be seen as adversarial paths, since you need to get more levels on the signature to be able to get the details of the path and they're not piecewise linear. In Tables 2 and 3, FS(x) is the FresnelS integral evaluated at x, and FC(x) is the FresnelC integral evaluated at x.

Level	Path	Signature
1	1	1 0
1	2	1 0
1	3	1 0
1	4	1 0
1	5	1 0
1	6	1 0
2	1	$\frac{1}{2} \qquad -\frac{2}{\pi}$ $\frac{2}{\pi} \qquad 0$
2	2	$\frac{1}{2}$ 0
2	3	$ \begin{array}{ccc} 0 & 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{FS(\sqrt{2})}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{FS(\sqrt{2})}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{FS(2)}{2} \end{array} $
2	4	$ \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{\frac{FS(2)}{2}} - \frac{FS(2)}{2} $ $ \frac{FS(2)}{2} = 0 $
2	5	$\frac{FS(2)}{2}$ 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ 0 0 0 0
2	6	$ \begin{array}{cccc} 0 & 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{FS(2\sqrt{2})}{2\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{FS(2\sqrt{2})}{2\sqrt{2}} & 0 \\ \frac{1}{6} & -\frac{1}{\pi} & \frac{1}{\pi} & -\frac{1}{2} \end{array} $
3	1	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
3	2	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
3	3	$ \frac{1}{6} \qquad -\frac{1}{\pi} \qquad -\frac{1}{\pi} + \frac{FS(\sqrt{2})}{\sqrt{2}} \qquad -\frac{1}{2} + \frac{FC(2)}{4} $ $ \frac{2}{\pi} - \frac{FS(\sqrt{2})}{\sqrt{2}} \qquad \frac{1}{4} - \frac{FC(2)}{8} \qquad \frac{1}{4} - \frac{FC(2)}{8} \qquad 0 $
3	4	$ \frac{1}{6} \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{1}{2\pi} -\frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{\pi} \frac{1}{4} 0 $ $ \frac{1}{6} -\frac{1}{\pi} -\frac{1}{\pi} -\frac{1}{\pi} + \frac{FS(\sqrt{2})}{\sqrt{2}} -\frac{1}{2} + \frac{FC(2)}{4} $ $ \frac{2}{\pi} - \frac{FS(\sqrt{2})}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{1}{4} - \frac{FC(2)}{8} \frac{1}{4} - \frac{FC(2)}{8} 0 $ $ \frac{1}{6} 0 FS(2) -\frac{1}{2} + \frac{FC(2\sqrt{2})}{4\sqrt{2}} $ $ -\frac{FS(2)}{2} \frac{1}{4} - \frac{FC(2\sqrt{2})}{8\sqrt{2}} \frac{1}{4} - \frac{FC(2\sqrt{2})}{8\sqrt{2}} 0 $ $ \frac{1}{6} \frac{1}{4\pi} \frac{1}{4\pi} -\frac{1}{2} $ $ -\frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{4} 0 $
3	5	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
3	6	$ \begin{array}{c ccccc} & -\frac{1}{2\pi} & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{4} & 0 \\ \hline & \frac{1}{6} & 0 & \frac{FS(2\sqrt{2})}{2\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{2} + \frac{FC(4)}{8} \\ & -\frac{FS(2\sqrt{2})}{2\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{4} - \frac{FC(4)}{16} & \frac{1}{4} - \frac{FC(4)}{16} & 0 \end{array} $

Table 2: Signatures of the \sin paths up to level 3

Level	Path	Sign	ature
4	1	$ \frac{\frac{1}{24}}{\frac{2}{\pi^3}} - \frac{\frac{1}{2\pi}}{\frac{1}{2\pi}} - \frac{\frac{1}{6\pi^3}}{\frac{1}{8}} - \frac{\frac{1}{8}}{\frac{1}{2\pi}} - \frac{\frac{2}{\pi^3}}{\frac{2}{\pi^3}} - \frac{\frac{2}{\pi^2}}{\frac{2}{3\pi}} $ $ \frac{\frac{2}{\pi^2} - \frac{1}{4}}{\frac{2}{3\pi}} - \frac{\frac{2}{3\pi}}{\frac{2}{3\pi}} $	$ \frac{1}{4} - \frac{2}{\pi^2} - \frac{2}{9\pi} $ $ \frac{1}{8} - \frac{2}{3\pi} $ $ \frac{2}{9\pi} 0 $
4	2	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
4	3	$\frac{1}{24} \qquad \qquad -\frac{FC\left(\sqrt{2}\right)}{4\sqrt{2}\pi} - \frac{1}{4\pi}$ $\frac{3FC\left(\sqrt{2}\right)}{4\sqrt{2}\pi} - \frac{1}{4\pi}$	$-\frac{3FC\left(\sqrt{2}\right)}{4\sqrt{2}\pi} - \frac{FS\left(\sqrt{2}\right)}{2\sqrt{2}} + \frac{5}{4\pi} \qquad \frac{FS\left(\sqrt{2}\right)^2}{4} - \frac{1}{4}$ $-\frac{FC(2)}{8} - \frac{FS\left(\sqrt{2}\right)^2}{4} + \frac{1}{4} \qquad \frac{FS\left(\sqrt{6}\right)}{24\sqrt{6}} - \frac{FS\left(\sqrt{2}\right)}{8\sqrt{2}}$ $\frac{1}{8} - \frac{FC(2)}{8} \qquad \frac{FS\left(\sqrt{6}\right)}{8\sqrt{6}} - \frac{3FS\left(\sqrt{2}\right)}{8\sqrt{2}}$ $\frac{FS\left(\sqrt{2}\right)}{8\sqrt{2}} - \frac{FS\left(\sqrt{6}\right)}{24\sqrt{6}} \qquad 0$
4	4	$ \frac{4\sqrt{2}\pi}{FC(\sqrt{2})} + \frac{FS(\sqrt{2})}{2\sqrt{2}} - \frac{3}{4\pi} \qquad \frac{FS(\sqrt{2})^2}{4} - \frac{FS(\sqrt{2})^2}{4} - \frac{FS(\sqrt{2})^2}{4} - \frac{FS(\sqrt{2})^2}{4} - \frac{FS(\sqrt{2})^2}{4} - \frac{FS(\sqrt{2})^2}{8\sqrt{2}} - \frac{FS(\sqrt{6})}{8\sqrt{6}} $ $ \frac{1}{24} \qquad \frac{1}{8\pi} - \frac{FC(2)}{16\pi} $ $ \frac{3FC(2)}{16\pi} - \frac{3}{8\pi} \qquad \frac{1}{8} $ $ \frac{FC(2)}{16\pi} + \frac{FS(2)}{4} - \frac{1}{8\pi} \qquad -\frac{FS(2)^2}{8} $ $ \frac{FC(2\sqrt{2})}{4\sqrt{2}} + \frac{FS(2)^2}{8} - \frac{1}{4} \qquad \frac{3FS(2)}{16} - \frac{FS(2\sqrt{3})}{16\sqrt{3}} $	$-\frac{3FC(2)}{16\pi} - \frac{FS(2)}{4} + \frac{3}{8\pi} \qquad \frac{FS(2)^2}{8} - \frac{1}{4}$ $-\frac{FC(2\sqrt{2})}{8\sqrt{2}} - \frac{FS(2)^2}{8} + \frac{1}{4} \qquad \frac{FS(2\sqrt{3})}{48\sqrt{3}} - \frac{FS(2)}{16}$ $\frac{1}{8} - \frac{FC(2\sqrt{2})}{8\sqrt{2}} \qquad \frac{FS(2\sqrt{3})}{16\sqrt{3}} - \frac{3FS(2)}{16}$ $\frac{FS(2)}{16} - \frac{FS(2\sqrt{3})}{48\sqrt{3}} \qquad 0$
4	5	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
4	6	$\frac{\frac{1}{24}}{\frac{3FC\left(2\sqrt{2}\right)}{32\sqrt{2}\pi} - \frac{3}{16\pi}} \qquad \frac{\frac{1}{16\pi} - \frac{FC\left(2\sqrt{2}\right)}{32\sqrt{2}\pi}}{\frac{FC\left(2\sqrt{2}\right)}{32\sqrt{2}\pi} + \frac{FS\left(2\sqrt{2}\right)}{4\sqrt{2}} - \frac{1}{16\pi}} \qquad \frac{1}{8}$ $\frac{\frac{FC\left(2\sqrt{2}\right)}{32\sqrt{2}\pi} + \frac{FS\left(2\sqrt{2}\right)}{4\sqrt{2}} - \frac{1}{16\pi}}{\frac{FC\left(4\right)}{8} + \frac{FS\left(2\sqrt{2}\right)^2}{16} - \frac{1}{4}} \qquad \frac{3FS\left(2\sqrt{2}\right)}{16\sqrt{2}} - \frac{FS\left(2\sqrt{6}\right)}{16\sqrt{6}}$	$-\frac{3FC\left(2\sqrt{2}\right)}{32\sqrt{2}\pi} - \frac{FS\left(2\sqrt{2}\right)}{4\sqrt{2}} + \frac{3}{16\pi} \qquad \frac{FS\left(2\sqrt{2}\right)^2}{16} - \frac{1}{4}$ $-\frac{FC(4)}{16} - \frac{1}{16}FS\left(2\sqrt{2}\right)^2 + \frac{1}{4} \qquad \frac{FS\left(2\sqrt{6}\right)}{48\sqrt{6}} - \frac{FS\left(2\sqrt{2}\right)}{16\sqrt{2}}$ $\frac{1}{8} - \frac{FC(4)}{16} \qquad \frac{FS\left(2\sqrt{6}\right)}{16\sqrt{6}} - \frac{3FS\left(2\sqrt{2}\right)}{16\sqrt{2}}$ $\frac{FS\left(2\sqrt{2}\right)}{16\sqrt{2}} - \frac{FS\left(2\sqrt{6}\right)}{48\sqrt{6}} \qquad 0$

Table 3: Signatures of the sin paths - level 4

Of special interest is the signature of a line segment described by:

$$\{\alpha_1 + \beta_1 \cdot t, \alpha_2 + \beta_2 \cdot t, \dots, \alpha_d + \beta_d \cdot t\}$$

Over the domain $t \in [a, b]$. If some paths exhibit high-frequency components that force us to dig deeper to find the information that describes the path, a line segment reveals itself on the first level:

$$\{b_1 \cdot (b-a), b_2 \cdot (b-a), \dots, b_d \cdot (b-a)\}$$

All levels are defined by:

$$S(X)_{a,b}^{i_1,\dots,i_k} = \frac{\beta_{i_1} \cdot \beta_{i_2} \cdot \dots \cdot \beta_{i_k} \cdot (b-a)^k}{k!}$$
 (8)

2.2 Properties

2.2.1 Translation invariance

From the definition of the signature of a line segment, we can see that we lost information about the initial level; the signature encoded the shape of the path but not the initial location. This is helpful for the composition of the paths, but it also means that we will need to keep the initial value stored outside the signature.

2.2.2 Shuffle product

Let's start with the formal definitions (and some informal definitions as well):

A (a, b)-shuffle of a set with size a + b is a permutation that keeps the relative order of the two blocks with sizes a and b of the set. We can also talk about one of the shuffles of the blocks A and B to describe the same thing.

So given $\{1,2\}$ and $\{3,4\}$ as the two pieces of the set, $\{1,3,2,4\}$ is a valid shuffle; $\{3,1,2,4\}$ is a valid shuffle as well; but $\{2,1,3,4\}$ is not a valid shuffle. This example uses different values to make it easier to see the relative positions, but it's all about the relative positions.

Consider two multi-indexes I and J with sizes k_i and k_j , respectively:

$$I = \{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_{k_i}\}$$

$$J = \left\{ j_1, j_2, \dots, j_{k_j} \right\}$$

For d=2 an example is:

$$I = \{1, 2\}$$

$$J = \{2, 1\}$$

We define the shuffle product of I and J ($I \sqcup J$) as the set of all multi-indexes of length $k_i + k_j$ that are valid shuffles of I and J.

In our example:

```
\begin{split} I & \sqcup \{3\} = \{\{1,2,3\}\,, \{1,3,2\}\,, \{3,1,2\}\} \\ I & \sqcup \{3,4\} = \{\{1,2,3,4\}\,, \{1,3,2,4\}\,, \{1,3,4,2\}\,, \{3,1,2,4\}\,, \{3,1,4,2\}\,, \{3,4,1,2\}\} \\ I & \sqcup J = \{\{1,2,2,1\}\,, \{1,2,2,1\}\,, \{1,2,1,2\}\,, \{2,1,2,1\}\,, \{2,1,1,2\}\} \end{split}
```

There are many ways to generate these shuffles (Shuffle product of two lists (Mathematica Stack Exchange)). We will use the top answer, which uses the recursive properties below (ε is the empty list, a and b are single elements, u and v are arbitrary lists), but inverted (the single element comes first in the function):

```
u \sqcup \varepsilon = u \sqcup \varepsilon = u

ua \sqcup vb = (u \sqcup vb) a + (ua \sqcup v) b
```

Algorithm 2 The shuffle product function

$$\begin{array}{l} {\rm shp}\left[u\!:\!\left\{a_{_},\!x_{__}\right\},\ v\!:\!\left\{b_{_},\ y_{__}\right\},\ c_{__}\right]\!:=\\ {\rm Join}\left[{\rm shp}\left[\left\{x\right\},\ v,\ c\,,\ a\right],\ {\rm shp}\left[u\,,\ \left\{y\right\},\ c\,,\ b\right]\right];\\ {\rm shp}\left[\left\{x_{__}\right\},\ \left\{y_{__}\right\},\ c_{__}\right]\,:=\,\left\{\left\{c\,,\ x\,,\ y\right\}\right\}\ ; \end{array}$$

The Shuffle product identity for a path $X:[a,b]\to\mathbb{R}^d$ and two multi-indexes I and J is defined as:

$$S(X)_{a,b}^{I} \cdot S(X)_{a,b}^{J} = \sum_{K=I \cup I} S(X)_{a,b}^{K}$$
(9)

As an example, take Path 1 on Table 1:

$$S(X)_{0.5}^{2} \cdot S(X)_{0.5}^{1,2} = S(X)_{0.5}^{2,1,2} + S(X)_{0.5}^{1,2,2} + S(X)_{0.5}^{1,2,2}$$

Because:

$$\{2\} \sqcup \{1,2\} = \{\{2,1,2\},\{1,2,2\},\{1,2,2\}\}$$

Substituting:

$$55 \cdot \frac{475}{3} = \frac{7250}{3} + \frac{18875}{6} + \frac{18875}{6}$$
$$\frac{26125}{3} = \frac{26125}{3}$$

As expected.

2.2.3 Chen's Identity

Given two paths $X:[a,b]\to\mathbb{R}^d$ and $Y:[b,c]\to\mathbb{R}^d$ with the same dimension d and consecutive intervals, we can define the concatenated path Z:

$$Z = X * Y : [a,c] \to \mathbb{R}^d$$

With:

$$\begin{cases} Z_t = X_t & t \in [a, b] \\ Z_t = X_b + (Y_t - Y_b) & t \in [b, c] \end{cases}$$

Chen's Identity defines the signature of the concatenated path as the product \otimes of the two signatures:

$$S(Z)_{a,c} = S(X * Y)_{a,c} = S(X)_{a,b} \otimes S(Y)_{b,c}$$
 (10)

Let's define the shortcuts:

$$S(X)_{a,b}^{i_1,\dots,i_k} = x_{i_1,\dots,i_k}$$
 (11)

$$S(Y)_{b,c}^{i_1,\dots,i_k} = y_{i_1,\dots,i_k}$$
 (12)

$$S(Z)_{a,c}^{i_1,\dots,i_k} = z_{i_1,\dots,i_k}$$
 (13)

This product \otimes of the two signatures can be better seen in Table 4 (for d=2):

	1	y_1 y_2	$y_{1,1}$ $y_{1,2}$ $y_{2,1}$ $y_{2,2}$	$S(Y)_{a,b}^{i_1,i_2,i_3}$
1	1	y_1 y_2	$y_{1,1}$ $y_{1,2}$ $y_{2,1}$ $y_{2,2}$	$S\left(Y\right)_{a,b}^{i_{1},i_{2},i_{3}}$
x_1 x_2	x_1 x_2	$x_1 x_2 \; \otimes \; y_1 y_2$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$x_1 x_2 \otimes S\left(Y\right)_{a,b}^{i_1,i_2,i_3}$
$x_{1,1}$ $x_{1,2}$ $x_{2,1}$ $x_{2,2}$	$x_{1,1}$ $x_{1,2}$ $x_{2,1}$ $x_{2,2}$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
$S\left(X\right)_{a,b}^{i_{1},i_{2},i_{3}}$	$S(X)_{a,b}^{i_1,i_2,i_3}$	$S\left(X\right)_{a,b}^{i_{1},i_{2},i_{3}}\otimes y_{1}\qquad y_{2}$	$S\left(X\right)_{a,b}^{i_{1},i_{2},i_{3}} \otimes \begin{array}{c} y_{1,1} & y_{1,2} \\ \\ y_{2,1} & y_{2,2} \end{array}$	$S(X)_{a,b}^{i_1,i_2,i_3} \otimes S(Y)_{a,b}^{i_1,i_2,i_3}$

Table 4: The product \otimes of the two signatures (sums on the top-right to bottom-left diagonals)

This develops into Table 5 (for d = 2):

	1	y_1 y_2	$y_{1,1}$ $y_{1,2}$
		01 02	$y_{2,1} = y_{2,2}$
1	1	y_1 y_2	$y_{1,1} = y_{1,2}$
		01 02	$y_{2,1}$ $y_{2,2}$
$x_1 - x_2$	$x_1 x_2$	$x_1y_1 \qquad x_1y_2$	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
-1 -2		$x_2y_1 \qquad x_2y_2$	$x_1 y_{2,1}$ $x_1 y_{2,2}$ $x_2 y_{2,1}$ $x_2 y_{2,2}$
$x_{1,1} x_{1,2}$	$x_{1,1}$ $x_{1,2}$	$x_{1,1}y_1 \qquad x_{1,1}y_2 \qquad x_{2,1}y_1 \qquad x_{2,1}y_2$	$x_{1,1}$ $x_{1,2}$ $y_{1,1}$ $y_{1,2}$
$x_{2,1} x_{2,2}$	$x_{2,1}$ $x_{2,2}$	$x_{1,2}y_1 \qquad x_{1,2}y_2 \qquad x_{2,2}y_1 \qquad x_{2,2}y_2$	$x_{2,1}$ $x_{2,2}$ $y_{2,1}$ $y_{2,2}$
$S(X)_{a,b}^{i_1,i_2,i_3}$	$S(X)_{a,b}^{i_1,i_2,i_3}$	$S\left(X ight)_{a,b}^{i_{1},i_{2},i_{3}}\otimes y_{1} \qquad y_{2}$	$S\left(X ight)_{a,b}^{i_{1},i_{2},i_{3}} \otimes egin{array}{ccc} & y_{1,1} & y_{1,2} \ & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & $

Table 5: The product \otimes of the two signatures developed (sums on the top-right to bottom-left diagonals)

So for each level of Z we have:

$$S(Z)_{a,c}^{i_1} = S(X)_{a,b}^{i_1} + S(Y)_{b,c}^{i_1}$$
(14)

$$S(Z)_{a,c}^{i_1,i_2} = S(X)_{a,b}^{i_1,i_2} + S(X)_{a,b}^{i_1} \cdot S(Y)_{b,c}^{i_2} + S(Y)_{b,c}^{i_1,i_2}$$
(15)

$$S(Z)_{a,c}^{i_{1},i_{2},i_{3}} = S(X)_{a,b}^{i_{1},i_{2},i_{3}} + S(X)_{a,b}^{i_{1},i_{2}} \cdot S(Y)_{b,c}^{i_{3}} + S(X)_{a,b}^{i_{3}} \cdot S(Y)_{b,c}^{i_{2},i_{3}} + S(Y)_{b,c}^{i_{1},i_{2},i_{3}}$$
(16)

$$S(Z)_{a,c}^{i_1,\dots,i_k} = \sum_{j=0}^k S(X)_{a,b}^{i_1,\dots,i_j} \cdot S(Y)_{b,c}^{i_{j+1},\dots,i_k}$$
(17)

Where:

$$S(X)_{a,b}^{i_1,\dots,i_0} = S(Y)_{b,c}^{i_{k+1},\dots,i_k} = 1$$
 (18)

Using Formula 17 frees us from computing the whole signature of the concatenated path if we just want some particular terms; it is valid for any kind of path, as we can see in the example below (Figure 6):

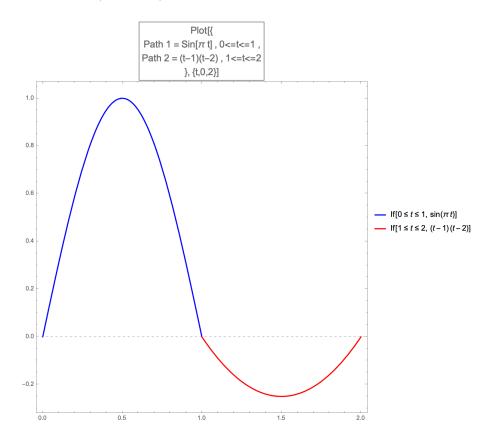


Figure 6: Concatenation of paths

The signature of the first path is full of πs , because of the Sin function; the signature of the second path is full of fractions of the form $\pm \frac{1}{m}$; but Formula 6 holds:

$$S(Z)_{0,2}^{1,1,2} = \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{\pi}$$
$$S(Z)_{0,2}^{2,1,1,2} = -\frac{1}{72} + \frac{1}{3\pi} - \frac{2}{\pi^2}$$

We get the same results from the signature of the concatenated path (applying the SIGNAT function) and from Formula 6. The Mathematica notebook has this example and other examples can be checked easily.

3 Core Signatures

3.1 Log signatures

An useful transform of the signatures are the log signatures. Without going into the details of formal power series and Lie brackets (please refer to [Reizenstein (2018)], [Reizenstein and Graham (2020)], [Reizenstein (2016)] and [Reizenstein (2015)], and the iisignature Python package in general for all the details that go into an efficient computation of log signatures), we're interested in the dimensionality reduction shown. We reproduce Table 2 from [Reizenstein (2015)] (Table 6) and adding an approximation for d = 2:

$$core2app = 2 + \sum_{n=2}^{m} \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \left\lfloor \frac{1}{n} \binom{n}{k} \right\rfloor$$
 (19)

level m	d=2		d=3		d=4		d=5		
	sig	core2app	log	sig	log	sig	log	sig	log
1	2	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5
2	6	3	3	12	6	20	10	30	15
3	14	5	5	39	14	84	30	155	55
4	30	8	8	120	32	340	90	780	205
5	62	14	14	363	80	1364	294	3905	829
6	126	23	23	1092	196	5460	964	19530	3409
7	254	41	41	3279	508	21844	3304	97655	14569
8	510	71	71	9840	1318	87380	11464	488280	63319
9	1022	127	127	29523	3502	349524	40584	2441405	280319
10	2046	228	226	88572	9382	1398100	145338	12207030	1256567
11	4094	414	412	265719	25486	5592404	526638	61035155	5695487
12	8190	753	747	797160	69706	22369620	1924378	305175780	26039187

Table 6: Sizes of signatures and log signatures from [Reizenstein (2015)], and the approximation core2app

Remember that Formula 7 gives us the size of the signature.

How do we get a reduction of approximately 1/n of dimensionality? Do we really need the log to get this reduction? [Améndola, Friz and Sturmfels (2019)] hints that no, we might not need logs.

3.2 Shuffle products and core signatures

Formula 9 helps us to define higher level terms of the signature in terms of the lower level terms, but there are not enough equations to map one level to another; every new level is expected to have new information.

Let's start with d=2:

3.2.1 d=2, level 1

Level 1 starts with 2 new variables, where V_m is the set of the values of the signature at level m:

$$V_1 = \{s_1, s_2\}$$

 V_1 is new information (the chord); let's define C_m the set of core variables up to level m:

$$C_1 = \{s_1, s_2\}$$

3.2.2 d=2, level 2

Level 2 starts with 4 new variables:

$$V_2 = \{s_{1,1}, s_{1,2}, s_{2,1}, s_{2,2}\}$$

And we have 4 equations coming from the shuffle product:

$2s_{1,1} = s_1^2$
$s_{1,2} + s_{2,1} = s_1 s_2$
$s_{1,2} + s_{2,1} = s_1 s_2$
$2s_{2,2} = s_2^2$

But there's symmetry involved; the 2nd and 3rd equations are the same. Solving the system (more on this later) yields the solution set P_2 , where P_m is the set of solutions found on level m and Q_m is the complete set of substitution rules up to level m:

Yes, we could have expressed it in terms of $s_{2,1}$ instead of $s_{1,2}$, but we will discuss the structure of the solutions later. We can scan the right side of the substitution rules to find C_2 :

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|}\hline s_1,s_2\\ \hline s_{1,2}\\ \end{array}$$

3.2.3 d=2, level 3

Level 3 starts with 8 new variables, and we have 8 equations coming from the shuffle product (levels 1 vs 2).

Solving the system yields the solution set P_3 , with 6 elements (we'll list Q_6 in the Appendix).

Scanning $Q_3 = Q_2 \cup P_3$, we find C_3 :

s_1, s_2
$s_{1,2}$
$s_{1,1,2}, s_{1,2,2}$

3.2.4 d=2, level 4

Level 4 starts with 16 new variables and we have 32 equations (not unique) coming from the shuffle product (levels 1 vs 3 and 2 vs 2).

Solving the system yields the solution set P_4 , with 13 elements.

Scanning $Q_4 = Q_3 \cup P_4$, we find C_4 :

s_1, s_2
$s_{1,2}$
$s_{1,1,2}, s_{1,2,2}$
$s_{1,1,1,2}, s_{1,1,2,2}, s_{1,2,2,2}$

3.2.5 d=2, level 5

Level 5 starts with 32 new variables and we have 64 equations (not unique) coming from the shuffle product (levels 1 vs 4 and 2 vs 3).

Solving the system yields the solution set P_5 , with 26 elements.

Scanning $Q_5 = Q_4 \cup P_5$, we find C_5 :

s_1, s_2
$s_{1,2}$
$s_{1,1,2}, s_{1,2,2}$
$s_{1,1,1,2}, s_{1,1,2,2}, s_{1,2,2,2}$
$s_{1,1,1,1,2},s_{1,1,1,2,2},s_{1,1,2,1,2},s_{1,1,2,2,2},s_{1,2,1,2,2},s_{1,2,2,2,2}$

3.2.6 d=2, level 6

Level 6 starts with 64 new variables and we have 192 equations (not unique) coming from the shuffle product (levels 1 vs 5, 2 vs 4 and 3 vs 3).

Solving the system (we solve the partial system on the 1 vs 5 equations first, then 2 vs 4 and then 3 vs 3) yields the solution set P_6 , with 55 elements.

Scanning $Q_6 = Q_5 \cup P_6$, we find C_6 :

s_1, s_2
$s_{1,2}$
$s_{1,1,2}, s_{1,2,2}$
$s_{1,1,1,2}, s_{1,1,2,2}, s_{1,2,2,2}$
$s_{1,1,1,1,2}, s_{1,1,1,2,2}, s_{1,1,2,1,2}, s_{1,1,2,2,2}, s_{1,2,1,2,2}, s_{1,2,2,2,2}$
$\boxed{s_{1,1,1,1,1,2},s_{1,1,1,1,2,2},s_{1,1,1,2,1,2},s_{1,1,1,2,2,2},s_{1,1,2,1,2,2},s_{1,1,2,2,2,2},s_{1,1,2,2,2,2},s_{1,2,2,2,2,2}}$

So our core sets have sizes:

Matching the log signatures.

3.2.7 d=3

We can make similar calculations for d=3 to find core sizes:

Also matching the log signatures.

3.3 Gröbner basis and the structure of the solutions

Let's look in depth at the structure of the solutions for d=2.

3.3.1 Level 1

We have two core variables, s_1 and s_2 .

3.3.2 Level 2

Our 4 equations are in fact 3:

$$2s_{1,1} = s_1^2$$

$$s_{1,2} + s_{2,1} = s_1 s_2$$

$$2s_{2,2} = s_2^2$$

We can find the Gröbner basis for this polynomial system to group the variables (we use Mathematica's GroebnerBasis with $Method \rightarrow "Buchberger"$, which for this problem is much faster than the default "GroebnerWalk"):

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
2s_{2,2} - s_2^2 \\
s_{1,2} + s_{2,1} - s_1 s_2 \\
2s_{1,1} - s_1^2
\end{array}$$

We see that components like $s_{j,j,j,...}$ don't bring new information - they all are functions of s_j . We can start to group the number of core variables by the number of 1s on the multi-index). So s_1 and $s_{1,2}$ have one 1, and s_2 has none.

	Core variables				
	Number of 1s				
Level	2	1	0		
1		1	1		
2		1			

3.3.3 Level 3

The Gröbner basis is:

$3s_{2,2,2} - s_2 s_{2,2}$
$-s_2s_{2,1} + s_{2,1,2} + 2s_{2,2,1}$
$-s_2s_{1,2} + s_2s_{2,1} + 2s_{1,2,2} - 2s_{2,2,1}$
$-s_1 s_{2,1} + s_{1,2,1} + 2s_{2,1,1}$
$-s_2s_{1,1} + s_1s_{2,1} + s_{1,1,2} - s_{2,1,1}$
$3s_{1,1,1} - s_1 s_{1,1}$

We see now that components where the multi-indexes are permutations of each other get grouped together: $s_{2,1,2}$ and $s_{2,2,1}$ are alone in one equation, and the same happens with $s_{1,2,2}$ and $s_{2,2,1}$. So for each group of 3 variables there's only one term with new information, and, as expected, there's no new information in $\{s_{1,1,1}, s_{2,2,2}\}$.

	Co	Core variables				
	N.	Number of 1s				
Level	2	1	0			
1		1	1			
2		1				
3	1	1				

3.3.4 Level 4

We see now 3 permutation components and, surprisingly, there's no new information in $\{s_{1,2,2,1}, s_{2,1,1,2}\}$. So 4 of the 16 points are isolated, and we have 3 star-like isolated graphs (Figure 7):

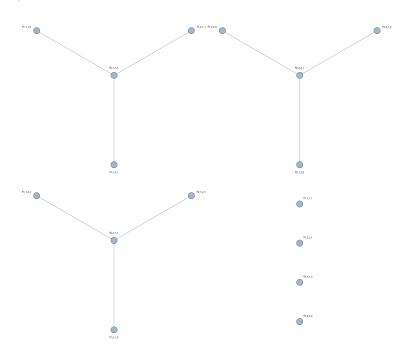


Figure 7: Graph of the Groebner basis, d=2, m=4

And updating our table:

	Core variables				
	N	Number of 1s			
Level	3	2	1	0	
1			1	1	
2			1		
3		1	1		
4	1	1	1		

3.3.5 Level 5

We see now 4 permutation components, with 2 of them exhibiting loops. So 2 of the 32 points are isolated, we have 2 star-like isolated graphs with 5 points each (Figure 8):

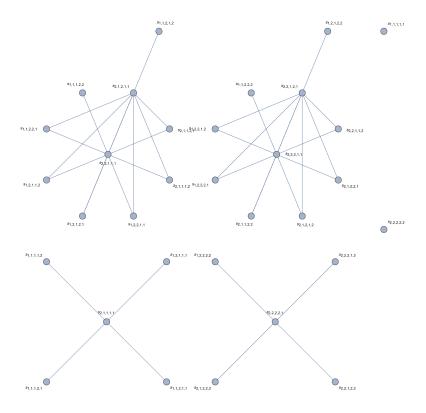


Figure 8: Graph of the Groebner basis, d=2, m=5

. So the structure of the groups seems to follow quite well Pascal's Triangle:

	С	Core variables				
	N	um	ber	of i	1s	
Level	4	3	2	1	0	
1				1	1	
2				1		
3			1	1		
4		1	1	1		
5	1	2	2	1		

3.3.6 Level 6

We run the GroebnerBasis function for the equations arising from the 1 vs 5 shuffle, as it is the most sparse of the resulting systems (Figure 9). We have similar results running the GroebnerBasis function for the other shuffles.



Figure 9: ArrayPlot of the system of equations arising from the 1 vs 5 shuffle

We see now 5 permutation components, with 3 of them exhibiting loops. So 2 of the 64 points are isolated, we have 2 star-like isolated graphs with 6 points each (Figure 10):

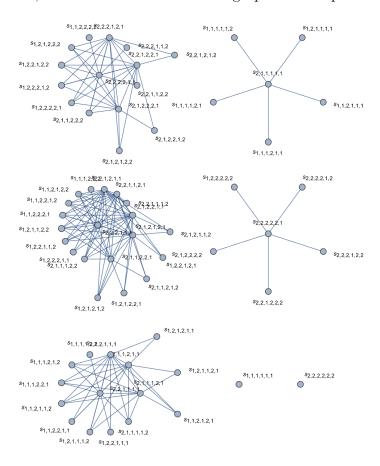


Figure 10: Graph of the Groebner basis of the 1 vs 5 shuffle, d=2, m=6

Now we can look at the results and suggest a rule for the number of solutions in each permutation group. We can group the solutions we found before:

$s_{1,1,1,1,1,2}$
$s_{1,1,1,1,2,2}, s_{1,1,1,2,1,2}$
$s_{1,1,1,2,2,2}, s_{1,1,2,1,2,2}, s_{1,1,2,2,1,2}$
$s_{1,1,2,2,2,2}, s_{1,2,1,2,2,2}$
$s_{1,2,2,2,2,2}$

Defining Formula 20, which we saw inside the sums on Formula 19:

$$core2app(m,k) = \left\lfloor \frac{1}{m} {m \choose k} \right\rfloor, \ m \ge 2$$
 (20)

And applying it to Pascal's Triangle:

level m	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
1						1	1
2						1	
3					1	1	
4				1	1	1	
5			1	2	2	1	
6		1	2	3	2	1	

level m	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
1						1	1
2						1	
3					1	1	
4				1	1	1	
5			1	2	2	1	
6		1	2	3	2	1	

Table 7: Distribution of core variables (d=2) by the number of 1s in the index vs the approximation 20

This helps to explain why we get a reduction of approximately 1/n of dimensionality. This approximation starts to overestimate the number of core variables for m = 10, but it is very helpful to understand the structure of the solutions.

And we have a choice (or some choices) within each permutation group for the multiindex of the core signatures. We chose the lowest numbers (1, 2 instead of 2, 1) as per Mathematica's solutions.

4 Inversion of Core Signatures

4.1 Time-ordered paths

4.1.1 Chen's Identity for two pieces

Let's start with a simple (but useful) case: a 2d-path $Z : [0,T] \to \mathbb{R}^2$ where $Z(t) = \{t, z_t\}$, so $Z_1(t)$ goes from 0 to T (no loops or retrograde movements): a term structure defined as a function of t.

We have the truncated signature $S(Z)_{0,T}$ up to a level m. Can we find a piecewise linear approximation for Z? What is our criteria for what constitutes a good approximation?

Let's assume we do not have an adversarial case like $\{t, \sin(2 \cdot \pi \cdot t)\}\$ or $\{t, \sin(4 \cdot \pi \cdot t)\}\$. We want to find an approximation that:

1. Follows the chord (ie, starts and ends at the same points of the original path) - this means the signature of the concatenated path has the same first level as the original signature

- 2. No backtracking: the midpoint is located at $\{t_1, z_{t_1}\}$ with $0 < t_1 < T$
- 3. Has the same Levy area (the signature of the concatenated path has the same second level as the original signature); this is our "global" curvature
- 4. Has the same value for one of the core elements of the third level (more details below)

This means we're looking for the concatenation of two line segments $X(t)_{0,t_1} = \{t, \beta_1 \cdot t\}$ and $Y(t)_{t_1,T} = \{t, \beta_1 \cdot T + \beta_2 \cdot t\}$; the signature of Y will not depend on the $\beta_1 \cdot T$ term, so let's think about finding the solutions for $\{T, t_1, \beta_1, \beta_2\}$ given the core elements of the signature $S(Z)_{0,T}$ up to level 3: $\{z_1, z_2, z_{1,1,2}, z_{1,2,2}\}$.

Applying Chen's Identity for the concatenation of X and Y, we have the following equations (Table 8):

Level	Eq#	Equation
1	1	$T = z_1$
1	2	$\beta_1 t_1 + \beta_2 \left(T - t_1 \right) = z_2$
2	3	$\frac{1}{2}\beta_1 t_1^2 + \frac{1}{2}\beta_2 (T - t_1)^2 + \beta_2 t_1 (T - t_1) = z_{1,2}$
3	4	$\frac{1}{6}\beta_1 t_1^3 + \frac{1}{6}\beta_2 (T - t_1)^3 + \frac{1}{2}\beta_2 t_1 (T - t_1)^2 + \frac{1}{2}\beta_2 t_1^2 (T - t_1) = z_{1,1,2}$
3	5	$\frac{1}{6}\beta_1^2 t_1^3 + \frac{1}{6}\beta_2^2 (T - t_1)^3 + \frac{1}{2}\beta_2^2 t_1 (T - t_1)^2 + \frac{1}{2}\beta_1 \beta_2 t_1^2 (T - t_1) = z_{1,2,2}$

Table 8: System of equations for two pieces of a term structure

So, 4 variables and 5 equations (we used a shortcut and substituted $(T - t_1)$ for t_2 . Let's solve the system without equation #5 first and then solve it again but without equation #4 (Table 9):

Variable	Solution 1 (without Eq $\#5$)	Solution 2 (without Eq #4)
T	z_1	z_1
t_1	$\frac{2(z_1z_{1,2}-3z_{1,1,2})}{z_1z_2-2z_{1,2}}$	$\frac{2\left(3z_1z_{1,2,2}-2z_{1,2}^2\right)}{z_2(z_1z_2-2z_{1,2})}$
β_1	$\frac{-2z_{1,2}(z_1z_2-2z_{1,2})-6z_2z_{1,1,2}+z_1^2z_2^2}{2z_1(z_1z_{1,2}-3z_{1,1,2})}$	$\frac{z_2^2(z_1z_2-2z_{1,2})+6z_2z_{1,2,2}-2z_2^2z_{1,2}}{2\left(3z_1z_{1,2,2}-2z_{1,2}^2\right)}$
eta_2	$\frac{2(3z_2z_{1,1,2}-2z_{1,2}^2)}{z_1^2(z_1z_2-2z_{1,2})-2z_1(z_1z_{1,2}-3z_{1,1,2})}$	$\frac{2z_2(z_2z_{1,2}-3z_{1,2,2})}{-2z_{1,2}(z_1z_2-2z_{1,2})-6z_1z_{1,2,2}+z_1^2z_2^2}$

Table 9: Solutions for two pieces of a term structure

Nice symmetries all around. Substituting the solutions on the respective dropped equations (ie, the solutions on the first column applied on Equation #5, the solutions on the second column applied on Equation #4), we find the same consistency condition:

$$2z_{1,2}^2 + z_1 z_2 z_{1,2} = 3z_1 z_{1,2,2} + 3z_2 z_{1,1,2}$$
(21)

Because a concatenation of two line segments doesn't have a lot of freedom.

We can also determine the two points (assuming the origin is at $\{0,0\}$). The final point is, as expected, at:

$$P_2 = \{z_1, z_2\} \tag{22}$$

We have the chord, let's use it!

The middle point for Solution #1 (without equation #5) is:

$$P_{1} = \left\{ \frac{2(z_{1}z_{1,2} - 3z_{1,1,2})}{(z_{1}z_{2} - 2z_{1,2})}, \frac{-2z_{1,2}(z_{1}z_{2} - 2z_{1,2}) - 6z_{2}z_{1,1,2} + z_{1}^{2}z_{2}^{2}}{z_{1}(z_{1}z_{2} - 2z_{1,2})} \right\}$$
(23)

The middle point for Solution #2 (without equation #4) is:

$$P_{1} = \left\{ \frac{2\left(3z_{1}z_{1,2,2} - 2z_{1,2}^{2}\right)}{z_{2}\left(z_{1}z_{2} - 2z_{1,2}\right)}, \frac{z_{2}\left(z_{1}z_{2} - 2z_{1,2}\right) - 2\left(z_{2}z_{1,2} - 3z_{1,2,2}\right)}{\left(z_{1}z_{2} - 2z_{1,2}\right)} \right\}$$
(24)

Let's try it on the core signature of $\{t, \sin(\pi \cdot t)\}$

$$\left\{z_{1}, z_{2}, z_{1,2}, z_{1,1,2}, z_{1,2,2}\right\} = \left\{1, 0, -\frac{2}{\pi}, -\frac{1}{\pi}, \frac{1}{4}\right\}$$

Solution 1 is:

$$\{T, t_1, \beta_1, \beta_2\} = \left\{1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{8}{\pi}, -\frac{8}{\pi}\right\}$$

$${P_{1a}, P_{2}} = \left\{ \left\{ \frac{1}{2}, \frac{4}{\pi} \right\}, \{1, 0\} \right\}$$

Solution 2 has a problem with $z_2 = 0$.

Now we check $\{t, \sin(\pi \cdot t^2)\}$:

$$\left\{z_{1}, z_{2}, z_{1,2}, z_{1,1,2}, z_{1,2,2}\right\} = \left\{1, 0, -\frac{FS\left(\sqrt{2}\right)}{\sqrt{2}}, -\frac{1}{\pi}, \frac{2 - FC(2)}{8}\right\}$$

Solution 1 is:

$$\{T, t_1, \beta_1, \beta_2\} = \left\{1, \frac{\frac{6}{\pi} - \sqrt{2} \cdot FS\left(\sqrt{2}\right)}{\sqrt{2} \cdot FS\left(\sqrt{2}\right)}, \frac{2 \cdot FS\left(\sqrt{2}\right)^2}{\frac{6}{\pi} - \sqrt{2} \cdot FS\left(\sqrt{2}\right)}, -\frac{2 \cdot FS\left(\sqrt{2}\right)^2}{2\sqrt{2} \cdot FS\left(\sqrt{2}\right) - \frac{6}{\pi}}\right\}$$

$$\{P_{1a}, P_2\} = \left\{ \left\{ \frac{\frac{6}{\pi} - \sqrt{2} \cdot FS\left(\sqrt{2}\right)}{\sqrt{2} \cdot FS\left(\sqrt{2}\right)}, \sqrt{2} \cdot FS\left(\sqrt{2}\right) \right\}, \{1, 0\} \right\}$$

Solution 2 has the same problem with $z_2 = 0$.

Figures 11 and 12 show how these triangles compare with the original curves.

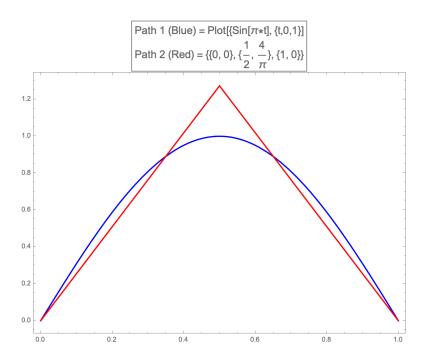


Figure 11: 2 segments fit to $\{t, \sin(\pi \cdot t)\}$

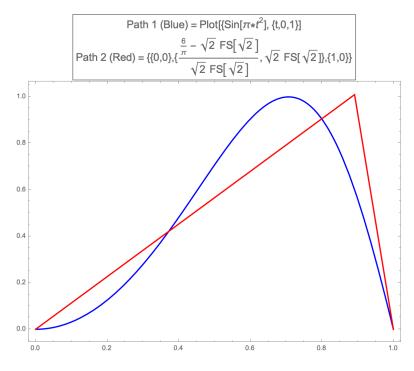


Figure 12: 2 segments fit to $\{t, \sin(\pi \cdot t^2)\}$

Not bad; we're fitting the Levy Area, so we're not going to "fill" the area as the number of points increase; we're going to cut protruding corners in one place and "use the material" to fill missing parts in another place (we have "scissors congruent" forms).

Let's try another path with $z_2 \neq 0$, like $\{t, \sin(\pi \cdot t^2) + 1 - t\}$. The core signature is:

$$z_{1} = 1$$

$$z_{2} = -1$$

$$z_{1,2} = -\frac{FS(\sqrt{2})}{\sqrt{2}} - \frac{1}{2}$$

$$z_{1,1,2} = -\frac{6+\pi}{6\pi}$$

$$z_{1,2,2} = -\frac{FC(2)}{8} + \frac{FS(\sqrt{2})}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{5}{12} - \frac{1}{\pi}$$

Solution 1 is:

$$T = 1$$

$$t_1 = \frac{3\sqrt{2}}{\pi \cdot FS(\sqrt{2})} - 1 \approx 0.891494$$

$$\beta_1 = \frac{6 - \pi \cdot FS(\sqrt{2})(2 \cdot FS(\sqrt{2}) + \sqrt{2})}{\sqrt{2}\pi \cdot FS(\sqrt{2}) - 6} \approx 0.132603$$

$$\beta_2 = \frac{3 - \pi \cdot FS(\sqrt{2})(FS(\sqrt{2}) + \sqrt{2})}{\sqrt{2}\pi \cdot FS(\sqrt{2}) - 3} \approx -10.3056$$

$$P_{1a} \approx \{0.8915, 1.1182\}$$

Solution 2 is:

$$T = 1$$

$$t_1 = \frac{\pi \left(3 \cdot FC(2) + 8 \cdot FS\left(\sqrt{2}\right)^2 - 4\sqrt{2} \cdot FS\left(\sqrt{2}\right) - 6\right) + 24}{4\sqrt{2}\pi \cdot FS\left(\sqrt{2}\right)} \approx 0.778296$$

$$\beta_1 = \frac{8\pi \cdot FS\left(\sqrt{2}\right)^2}{\pi \left(3 \cdot FC(2) + 8 \cdot FS\left(\sqrt{2}\right)^2 - 4\sqrt{2} \cdot FS\left(\sqrt{2}\right) - 6\right) + 24} - 1 \approx 0.297333$$

$$\beta_2 = \frac{8\pi \cdot FS\left(\sqrt{2}\right)^2}{\pi \left(3 \cdot FC(2) + 8 \cdot FS\left(\sqrt{2}\right)\left(FS\left(\sqrt{2}\right) - \sqrt{2}\right) - 6\right) + 24} - 1 \approx -5.55432$$

$$P_{1a} \approx \{0.7783, 1.2314\}$$

What do they look like? Let's look at Figure 13:

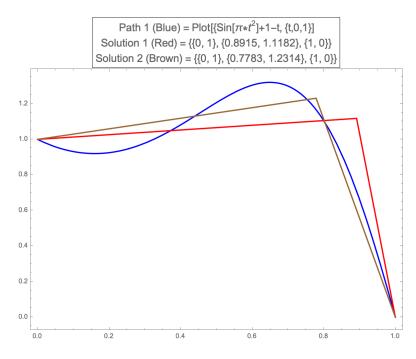


Figure 13: The two fits of 2 segments to $\{t, \sin(\pi \cdot t^2) + 1 - t\}$

The 2 values of t_1 (0.89 and 0.78) bracket the value where 2nd derivative of the path is maximum in absolute value ($t \approx 0.832$), and the two approximations cross on a point very close to the path (≈ 0.801). If we tilt the chart such that the chord is horizontal, it is easier to see the two solutions as triangles with very similar heights and the same base.

In fact, Solution 1 (the red path) has the same value for t_1 as the approximation for $\{t, \sin{(\pi \cdot t^2)}\}$, because the core terms z_2 , $z_{1,2}$ and $z_{1,1,2}$ of the $\{t, \sin{(\pi \cdot t^2)} + 1 - t\}$ path are equivalent to the sum of their respective terms on the $\{t, \sin{(\pi \cdot t^2)}\}$ and $\{t, +1 - t\}$ paths. This is true for any addition of paths $\{t, \alpha \cdot t^a\}$ and $\{t, \beta \cdot t^b\}$ where a, b > 0:

$$z_{1} = 1$$

$$z_{2} = [\alpha] + [\beta]$$

$$z_{1,2} = \left[\frac{\alpha \cdot a}{1+a}\right] + \left[\frac{\beta \cdot b}{1+b}\right]$$

$$z_{1,1,2} = \left[\frac{\alpha \cdot a}{2(2+a)}\right] + \left[\frac{\beta \cdot b}{2(2+b)}\right]$$

$$z_{1,2,2} = \left[\frac{\alpha^{2} \cdot a^{2}}{(1+a)(1+2a)}\right] + \left[\frac{\beta^{2} \cdot b^{2}}{(1+b)(1+2b)}\right] + \frac{\alpha \cdot a \cdot \beta \cdot b \cdot (2+a+b)}{(1+a)(1+b)(1+a+b)}$$

Where the terms inside the brackets correspond to the core signatures of each isolated path. Only $z_{1,2,2}$ presents other cross terms in the core of $\{t, \alpha \cdot t^a + \beta \cdot t^b\}$. This is why the fit of Solution 2 (without equation #4) is better.

It would be interesting to know more about the other levels of the core signatures of the sum of paths $\{t, f(t)\}$ and $\{t, \beta \cdot t\}$ on the same interval as a function of each core signature.

And at last, what happens on the obvious case of two consecutive line segments? Let the path be defined by:

$$\left\{ t, \left\{ \begin{array}{cc} [\alpha_1 + \beta_1 t] & 0 \le t \le t_1 \\ [\alpha_2 + \beta_2 t] & t_1 < t \le t_2 \end{array} \right\}$$

The core signature is:

$z_1 = t_1 + t_2$
$z_2 = \beta_1 t_1 + \beta_2 t_2$
$z_{1,2} = \frac{1}{2}\beta_1 t_1^2 + \beta_2 t_2 t_1 + \frac{1}{2}\beta_2 t_2^2$
$z_{1,1,2} = \frac{1}{6}\beta_1 t_1^3 + \frac{1}{2}\beta_2 t_2 t_1^2 + \frac{1}{2}\beta_2 t_2^2 t_1 + \frac{1}{6}\beta_2 t_2^3$
$z_{1,2,2} = \frac{1}{6}\beta_1^2 t_1^3 + \frac{1}{2}\beta_1 \beta_2 t_2 t_1^2 + \frac{1}{2}\beta_2^2 t_2^2 t_1 + \frac{1}{6}\beta_2^2 t_2^3$

And both solutions (1 and 2) are equal to:

$$\{T, t_1, \beta_1, \beta_2\} = \{t_1 + t_2, t_1, \beta_1, \beta_2\}$$

$${P_0, P_1, P_2} = {\{0, 0\}, \{t_1, \beta_1 t_1\}, \{t_1 + t_2, \beta_1 t_1 + \beta_2 t_2\}}$$

So there's no ambiguity there, we recover the original parameters easily.

We will explore more interesting curves below, when we will try to use a larger number of pieces.

4.1.2 Adversarial Cases

We have problems when:

$$z_1 z_2 - 2z_{1,2} = 0$$

Because the Levy Area is equal to zero, and we don't know how far from the chord to put our intermediate point.

Also when:

$$z_2 = 0$$

We don't have a second solution.

With 3 pieces we might address these problems (corresponding to the $\{t, \sin(2 \cdot \pi \cdot t)\}$ path), but higher frequencies will demand more points/pieces.

4.1.3 Chen's Identity for three pieces

Applying Chen's Identity for the concatenation of A, B and C, we have the following equations (Table 10):

Level	Eq#	Equation
1	1	$t_1 + t_2 + t_3 = z_1$
1	2	$\beta_1 t_1 + \beta_2 t_2 + \beta_3 t_3 = z_2$
2	3	$\begin{array}{l} +\frac{1}{2}\beta_{1}t_{1}^{2}+\beta_{2}t_{2}t_{1}+\beta_{3}t_{3}t_{1} \\ +\frac{1}{2}\beta_{2}t_{2}^{2}+\frac{1}{2}\beta_{3}t_{3}^{2}+\beta_{3}t_{2}t_{3} &=z_{1,2} \end{array}$
3	4	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
3	5	$ \begin{aligned} &+\frac{1}{6}\beta_{1}^{2}t_{1}^{3} + \frac{1}{6}\beta_{2}^{2}t_{2}^{3} + \frac{1}{6}\beta_{3}^{2}t_{3}^{3} \\ &+\frac{1}{2}\beta_{1}\beta_{2}t_{2}t_{1}^{2} + \frac{1}{2}\beta_{1}\beta_{3}t_{3}t_{1}^{2} + \frac{1}{2}\beta_{2}^{2}t_{2}^{2}t_{1} \\ &+\frac{1}{2}\beta_{3}^{2}t_{3}^{2}t_{1} + \frac{1}{2}\beta_{3}^{2}t_{2}t_{3}^{2} + \frac{1}{2}\beta_{2}\beta_{3}t_{2}^{2}t_{3} \\ &+\beta_{2}\beta_{3}t_{2}t_{3}t_{1} = z_{1,2,2} \end{aligned} $
4	6	$\begin{array}{c} +\frac{1}{24}\beta_{1}t_{1}^{4}+\frac{1}{24}\beta_{2}t_{2}^{4}+\frac{1}{24}\beta_{3}t_{3}^{4} \\ +\frac{1}{6}\beta_{2}t_{2}t_{1}^{3}+\frac{1}{6}\beta_{3}t_{3}t_{1}^{3}+\frac{1}{6}\beta_{2}t_{2}^{3}t_{1} \\ +\frac{1}{6}\beta_{3}t_{3}^{3}t_{1}+\frac{1}{6}\beta_{3}t_{2}t_{3}^{3}+\frac{1}{6}\beta_{3}t_{2}^{3}t_{3} \\ +\frac{1}{4}\beta_{2}t_{2}^{2}t_{1}^{2}+\frac{1}{4}\beta_{3}t_{3}^{2}t_{1}^{2}+\frac{1}{4}\beta_{3}t_{2}^{2}t_{3}^{2} \\ +\frac{1}{2}\beta_{3}t_{2}t_{3}t_{1}^{2}+\frac{1}{2}\beta_{3}t_{2}t_{3}^{2}t_{1}+\frac{1}{2}\beta_{3}t_{2}^{2}t_{3}t_{1} &=z_{1,1,1,2} \end{array}$
4	7	$ \frac{1}{24}\beta_{1}^{2}t_{1}^{4} + \frac{1}{24}\beta_{2}^{2}t_{2}^{4} + \frac{1}{24}\beta_{3}^{2}t_{3}^{4} + \frac{1}{6}\beta_{1}\beta_{2}t_{2}t_{1}^{3} + \frac{1}{6}\beta_{1}\beta_{3}t_{3}t_{1}^{3} + \frac{1}{6}\beta_{2}^{2}t_{2}^{3}t_{1} + \frac{1}{6}\beta_{3}^{2}t_{3}^{3}t_{1} + \frac{1}{6}\beta_{3}^{2}t_{2}t_{3}^{3} + \frac{1}{6}\beta_{2}\beta_{3}t_{2}^{3}t_{3} + \frac{1}{4}\beta_{2}^{2}t_{2}^{2}t_{1}^{2} + \frac{1}{4}\beta_{3}^{2}t_{2}^{2}t_{1}^{2} + \frac{1}{4}\beta_{3}^{2}t_{2}^{2}t_{3}^{2} + \frac{1}{2}\beta_{2}\beta_{3}t_{2}t_{3}t_{1}^{2} + \frac{1}{2}\beta_{3}^{2}t_{2}t_{3}^{2}t_{1} + \frac{1}{2}\beta_{2}\beta_{3}t_{2}^{2}t_{3}t_{1} = z_{1,1,2,2} $
4	8	$\begin{array}{c} +\frac{1}{24}\beta_{1}^{3}t_{1}^{4}+\frac{1}{24}\beta_{2}^{3}t_{2}^{4}+\frac{1}{24}\beta_{3}^{3}t_{3}^{4}\\ +\frac{1}{6}\beta_{1}^{2}\beta_{2}t_{2}t_{1}^{3}+\frac{1}{6}\beta_{1}^{2}\beta_{3}t_{3}t_{1}^{3}+\frac{1}{6}\beta_{2}^{3}t_{2}^{3}t_{1}\\ +\frac{1}{6}\beta_{3}^{3}t_{3}^{3}t_{1}+\frac{1}{6}\beta_{3}^{3}t_{2}t_{3}^{3}+\frac{1}{6}\beta_{2}^{2}\beta_{3}t_{2}^{3}t_{3}\\ +\frac{1}{4}\beta_{1}\beta_{2}^{2}t_{2}^{2}t_{1}^{2}+\frac{1}{4}\beta_{1}\beta_{3}^{2}t_{2}^{2}t_{1}^{2}+\frac{1}{4}\beta_{2}\beta_{3}^{2}t_{2}^{2}t_{3}^{2}\\ +\frac{1}{2}\beta_{1}\beta_{2}\beta_{3}t_{2}t_{3}t_{1}^{2}+\frac{1}{2}\beta_{2}\beta_{3}^{2}t_{2}t_{3}^{2}t_{1}+\frac{1}{2}\beta_{2}^{2}\beta_{3}t_{2}^{2}t_{3}t_{1}&=z_{1,2,2,2} \end{array}$

Table 10: System of equations for three pieces of a term structure

This can be solved numerically, adding restrictions of positive t_j s, using a low value for WorkingPrecision in NSolve, (like 5 or 6) and choosing two equations to take out: one from level 3 and one from level 4. We have then 6 possible solutions.

As discussed above, it's more informative about the non-linearities to drop equation #4.

We can also attribute weights for the equations and instead of solving them exactly minimize the weighted sum of squared errors. In this case we would like really high weights on levels 1 and 2, high weights on level 3 and so on.

Let's try these weights (attributing more weight to equation #5 than to equation #4 because of the non-linearities:

$$\{z_1: 50, z_2: 50\} \tag{25}$$

$$\{z_{1,2}:30\}\tag{26}$$

$$\{z_{1,1,2} = 5, z_{1,2,2} = 10\} \tag{27}$$

$${z_{1,1,1,2} = 3, z_{1,1,2,2} = 3, z_{1,2,2,2} = 3}$$
 (28)

$$\{z_{1,1,1,1,2} = 2, z_{1,1,1,2,2} = 2, z_{1,1,2,1,2} = 2, z_{1,1,2,2,2} = 2, z_{1,2,1,2,2} = 2, z_{1,2,2,2,2} = 2\}$$
 (29)

Figures 14 and 15 show the inversions for the $\{t, \sin(k \cdot \pi \cdot t)\}$ paths.

For the $\{t, \sin(\pi \cdot t)\}$ path, dropping equations #4 and #8 yields the lower β_2 and therefore the most symmetrical approximation, which is the same that we get from the minimization (this is the solution plotted).

For the $\{t, \sin(2 \cdot \pi \cdot t)\}$ path, dropping equations #4 and #6 or equations #5 and #7 results in an undetermined system. All the other combinations deliver the same values, which are equal to the minimization.

For the $\{t, \sin(\pi \cdot t^2)\}$ path, dropping equations #4 and #8, equations #5 and #6 or equations #5 and #7 results in no solutions. Two of the other three combinations deliver very similar values close to the minimization result.

For the $\{t, \sin(2 \cdot \pi \cdot t^2)\}$ path, dropping equations #4 and #6 or equations #5 and #7 results in no solutions. The other four combinations look similar, spread out around the minimization result.

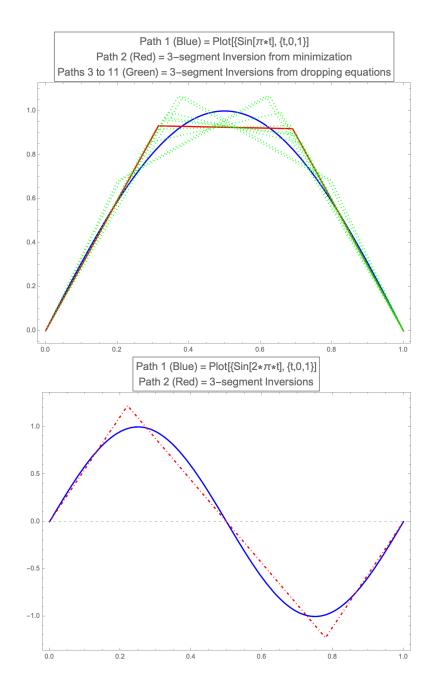


Figure 14: Selected fits of 3 segments to $\{t,\sin{(k\cdot\pi\cdot t)}\}$

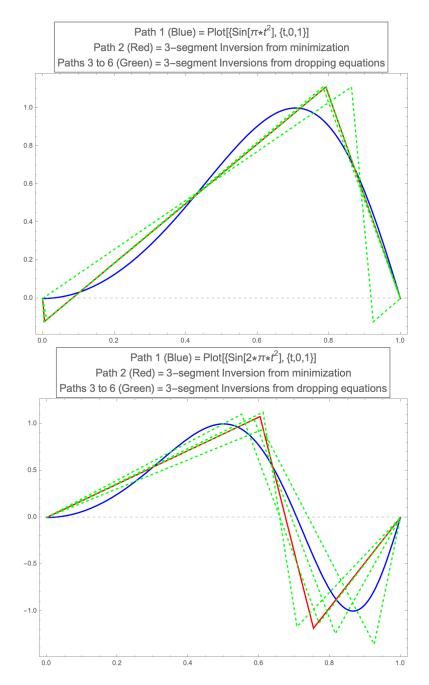


Figure 15: Fits of 3 segments to $\{t, \sin(k \cdot \pi \cdot t^2)\}$

For only two intermediate points we're not doing so bad on the signatures of continuous functions.

And we can check that on the concatenation of 3 segments all 6 possible exclusions we recover the original parameters, as expected.

4.1.4 More than three pieces

We now need to go to to level 5 of the signature (again, we are assuming that the signature comes from a smooth function). But there are more choices of equations to ignore in order to solve consistently the system and even with a lower precision the non-

linearity of the equations results in much larger solving times. Figure 16 shows some results for $\{t, \sin(k \cdot \pi \cdot t)\}$:

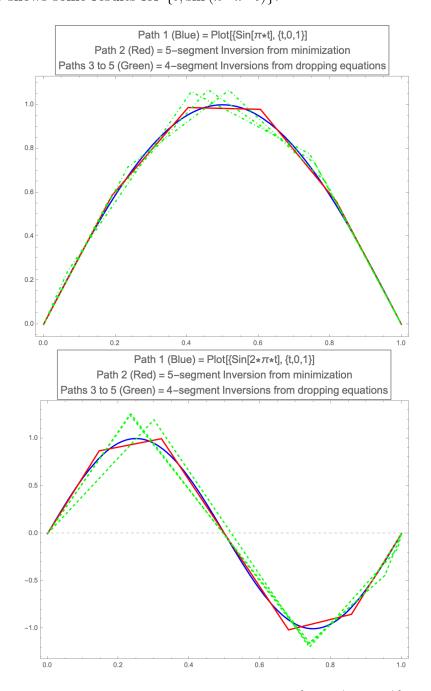


Figure 16: Fits of 4 and 5 segments to $\{t, \sin(k \cdot \pi \cdot t)\}\$

Figure 17 shows some results for $\{t, \sin{(k \cdot \pi \cdot t^2)}\}$:

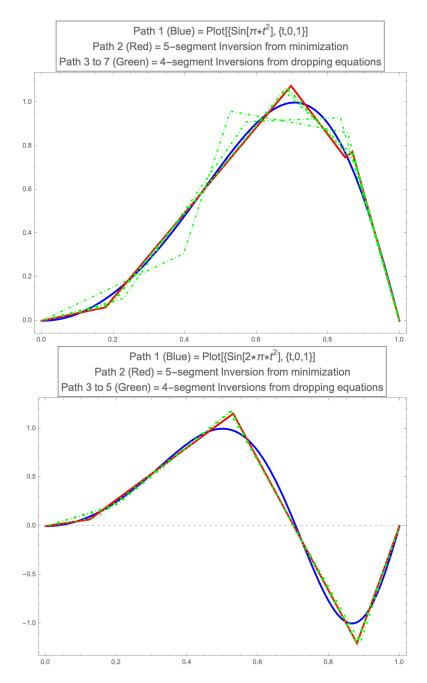


Figure 17: Fits of 4 and 5 segments to $\{t, \sin(k \cdot \pi \cdot t^2)\}$

While solving these non-linear systems might seem problematic, the structure of the equations is always the same; so there's no reason why strategies to solve these systems (where solving could be also seen as minimizing the weighted sum of the squared errors) up the level 6 of the signatures cannot be developed, including interpolations using DNNs.

And we can check that on the concatenation of 4 segments we recover the original parameters, as expected, with all reasonable exclusions (but some exclusions take much longer to converge).

4.2 General 2d paths

Now we have functions of t in both coordinates ($\{f(t), g(t)\}$ instead of $\{t, f(t)\}$). That makes it harder; we can have loops and the typical ratios between the length of the path and the length of the chord might be much higher than in the previous case, so we will need comparatively more information. This means that, while it is always easy to check how close the signature we want to invert is to a line segment's signature, we will not focus on the 2-segment case (closed loops are definitely a problem, and oscillating paths also present challenges).

Following some of the examples of [Fermanian et al (2023)], we will start with the semi-circle (Figure 18), which is closer to our $\{t, \sin{(\pi \cdot t)}\}$ example. We will assume $t \in [0,1]$ and line segments $\{a_j \cdot t, b_j \cdot t\}$. We filtered out reconstructed paths where $Length(Path) \geq 4$, since we found paths with $Length(Path) \approx 3.4$ in 5 of the 6 possible exclusions for 3 segments.

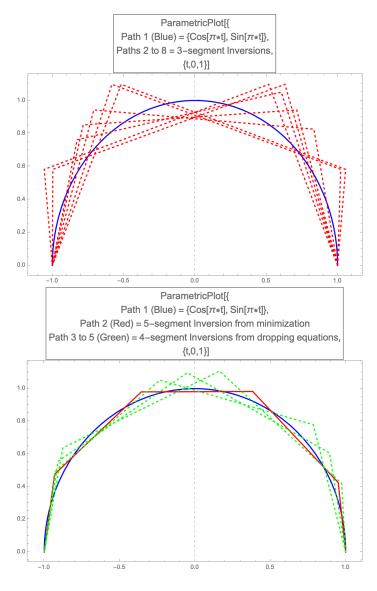


Figure 18: The semicircle $\{\cos(\pi \cdot t), \sin(\pi \cdot t)\}\$ starting at $\{1, 0\}$ and the inversions

Next we looked at the digit 5 (Figures 19), given by the points:

$$\begin{pmatrix}
0 & 0 \\
20 & -3 \\
64 & 13 \\
79 & 47 \\
35 & 54 \\
37 & 77 \\
71 & 96 \\
100 & 93
\end{pmatrix}$$

This is closer to our $\{t, \sin{(2 \cdot \pi \cdot t)}\}$ example rotated. We filtered out reconstructed paths where $Length\left(Path\right) \geq 300$, since we found paths with $Length\left(Path\right) \approx 230$ in all the 6 possible exclusions for 3 segments. For the 5 segments chart, we used NMinimize with RandomSearch.

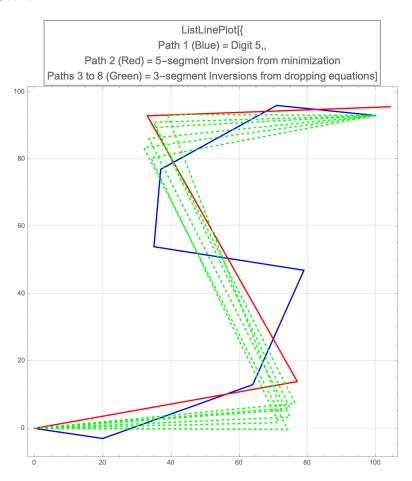


Figure 19: The 3-segment inversions of the digit 5

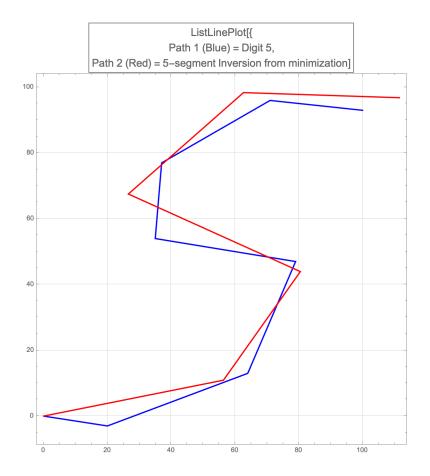


Figure 20: The 5-segment inversion of the digit 5

Which is satisfying - given a signature from a concatenation of 7 line segments, we should be able to get most of it with 5 segments.

The choice of the error function and weights can definitely be improved, but overall we should be able to get good results by inverting truncated (at level 6) signatures from 2d paths and getting something like 8 points with good confidence.

5 Term structures in finance

5.1 Interest rates

Signatures seem to be designed to model interest rate curves:

- 1. IR curves have shapes that change while the initial value (the overnight rate) stays constant for a period
- 2. Unexpected changes in this initial value change the shape of the curve
- 3. We can build the signatures of both spot and forward rates from traded contracts or bonds and we don't need an interpolating function for daily rates beyond 3 or 6 months

- 4. We can correlate changes in the short slope with past moves by the central bank (upward sloping short rates are more likely to happen in the middle of a tightening circle)
- 5. The difference between the short rate and the implied long term rate is on level 1
- 6. We can also plot rates vs \sqrt{t} , so the parts where the curve bends more are more spread out (so the 30y will get closer to the 10y, but the 3m and 6m will get comparatively further apart)
- 7. When a "hump" appears, it changes drastically the hedging portfolio, so knowing which maturity is driving the hump and how the curve adjusted afterwards is easier with signatures
- 8. It becomes easier to compare different countries, as the time scales become relative

5.2 Commodities

Although there is not the logic of the short rate and Central Banks, it becomes easy to identify seasonality patterns and apply them to stress scenarios. We can stress one particular point in time and use different response functions for the rest of the curve. We might keep the original timescale here.

5.3 Volatility

Again we have the short term slope influenced by the recent past; we can also have humps (e.g. earnings calendars) and the difference between current volatility and long-term volatility, which is a feature in some models, is one of the first points (z_2) of the signature. Here we might again switch to a square root timescale, ie, plot implied and realized volatilities vs \sqrt{t} .

We expect to apply the results of this paper to term structures in a subsequent paper.

6 Conclusions

In this paper we introduced core signatures, which are subsets of the original signatures with the same size as log signatures and a faster and easier calculation algorithm (systematic shuffle product leading to a sparse linear system). Because the core signatures are subsets of the original signatures, we can use Chen's Identity to invert a given core signature in order to easily find 4 or 5 line segments that, when concatenated, reproduce enough of the original core signature, improving interpretability.

We would like to thank Sam Cohen (Oxford) for his help.

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Appendix

A Appendix

Solutions for the complete signatures as functions of the core signatures, up to level 5 (Q_5) . Q_6 for dimensions 2 and 3 can be found in the companion Mathematica notebook. Remembering that the core is:

Level	Core variables
1	s_1, s_2
2	$s_{1,2}$
3	$s_{1,1,2}, s_{1,2,2}$
4	$s_{1,1,1,2}, s_{1,1,2,2}, s_{1,2,2,2}$
5	$s_{1,1,1,1,2}, s_{1,1,1,2,2}, s_{1,1,2,1,2}, s_{1,1,2,2,2}, s_{1,2,1,2,2}, s_{1,2,2,2,2}$
6	$s_{1,1,1,1,1,2}, s_{1,1,1,1,2,2}, s_{1,1,1,2,1,2}, s_{1,1,1,2,2,2}, s_{1,1,2,1,2,2}, s_{1,1,2,2,2,1,2}, s_{1,1,2,2,2,2}, s_{1,2,1,2,2,2}, s_{1,2,2,2,2,2}$

A.1 Level 2

$s_{1,1}$	$\frac{s_1^2}{2}$
$s_{2,1}$	$s_1s_2 - s_{1,2}$
$s_{2,2}$	$\frac{s_2^2}{2}$

A.2 Level 3

We can see how we could exchange $s_{1,1,2}$ for either $s_{1,2,1}$ or $s_{2,1,1}$.

$s_{1,1,1}$	$\frac{s_1^3}{6}$
$s_{1,2,1}$	$s_1 s_{1,2} - 2 s_{1,1,2}$
$s_{2,1,1}$	$-s_1s_{1,2} + s_{1,1,2} + \frac{1}{2}s_2s_1^2$
$s_{2,1,2}$	$s_2 s_{1,2} - 2 s_{1,2,2}$
$s_{2,2,1}$	$-s_2s_{1,2} + s_{1,2,2} + \frac{1}{2}s_1s_2^2$
$s_{2,2,2}$	$\frac{s_2^3}{6}$

A.3 Level 4

	4
$s_{1,1,1,1}$	$\frac{s_1^4}{24}$
$s_{1,1,2,1}$	$s_1 s_{1,1,2} - 3 s_{1,1,1,2}$
$s_{1,2,1,1}$	$\frac{1}{2}s_1^2s_{1,2} - 2s_1s_{1,1,2} + 3s_{1,1,1,2}$
$s_{2,1,1,1}$	$-\frac{1}{2}s_1^2s_{1,2} + s_1s_{1,1,2} - s_{1,1,1,2} + \frac{1}{6}s_2s_1^3$
$s_{1,2,2,1}$	$s_1 s_{1,2,2} - \frac{s_{1,2}^2}{2}$
$s_{2,1,1,2}$	$s_1s_{1,2,2} - rac{s_{1,2}^2}{2} \ s_2s_{1,1,2} - rac{s_{1,2}^2}{2}$
$s_{1,2,1,2}$	$\frac{s_{1,2}^2}{2} - 2s_{1,1,2,2}$
$s_{2,1,2,1}$	$\left \frac{s_{1,2}^2}{2} + s_1 s_2 s_{1,2} - 2 s_2 s_{1,1,2} - 2 s_1 s_{1,2,2} + 2 s_{1,1,2,2} \right $
$s_{2,2,1,1}$	$-s_1 s_2 s_{1,2} + s_2 s_{1,1,2} + s_1 s_{1,2,2} - s_{1,1,2,2} + \frac{1}{4} s_1^2 s_2^2$
$s_{2,1,2,2}$	$s_2 s_{1,2,2} - 3 s_{1,2,2,2}$
$s_{2,2,1,2}$	$\frac{1}{2}s_2^2s_{1,2} - 2s_2s_{1,2,2} + 3s_{1,2,2,2}$
$s_{2,2,2,1}$	$-\frac{1}{2}s_2^2s_{1,2} + s_2s_{1,2,2} - s_{1,2,2,2} + \frac{1}{6}s_1s_2^3$
$s_{2,2,2,2}$	$\frac{s_2^4}{24}$

A.4 Level 5

	s_1^5
$s_{1,1,1,1,1}$	$\frac{s_1^s}{120}$
$s_{1,1,1,2,1}$	$s_1 s_{1,1,1,2} - 4 s_{1,1,1,1,2}$
$s_{1,1,2,1,1}$	$\frac{1}{2}s_1^2s_{1,1,2} - 3s_1s_{1,1,1,2} + 6s_{1,1,1,1,2}$
$s_{1,2,1,1,1}$	$\frac{1}{6}s_1^3s_{1,2} - s_1^2s_{1,1,2} + 3s_1s_{1,1,1,2} - 4s_{1,1,1,1,2}$
$s_{2,1,1,1,1}$	$-\frac{1}{6}s_{1}^{3}s_{1,2} + \frac{1}{2}s_{1}^{2}s_{1,1,2} - s_{1}s_{1,1,1,2} + s_{1,1,1,1,2} + \frac{1}{24}s_{2}s_{1}^{4}$
$s_{1,1,2,2,1}$	$s_1 s_{1,1,2,2} - 3 s_{1,1,1,2,2} - s_{1,1,2,1,2}$
$s_{1,2,1,1,2}$	$s_{1,2}s_{1,1,2} - 6s_{1,1,1,2,2} - 3s_{1,1,2,1,2}$
$s_{1,2,1,2,1}$	$\frac{1}{2}s_1s_{1,2}^2 - 2s_{1,1,2}s_{1,2} - 2s_1s_{1,1,2,2} + 12s_{1,1,1,2,2} + 4s_{1,1,2,1,2}$
$s_{1,2,2,1,1}$	$\frac{1}{2}s_1^2s_{1,2,2} - \frac{1}{2}s_1s_{1,2}^2 + s_{1,2}s_{1,1,2} - 3s_{1,1,1,2,2} - s_{1,1,2,1,2}$
$s_{2,1,1,1,2}$	$-s_{1,2}s_{1,1,2} + s_2s_{1,1,1,2} + 4s_{1,1,1,2,2} + 2s_{1,1,2,1,2}$
$s_{2,1,1,2,1}$	$-\frac{1}{2}s_1s_{1,2}^2 + 2s_{1,1,2}s_{1,2} + s_1s_2s_{1,1,2} - 3s_2s_{1,1,1,2} - 6s_{1,1,1,2,2} - 3s_{1,1,2,1,2}$
$s_{2,1,2,1,1}$	$\frac{1}{2}s_2s_1^2s_{1,2} - s_1^2s_{1,2,2} + \frac{1}{2}s_1s_{1,2}^2 - 2s_2s_1s_{1,1,2} + 2s_1s_{1,1,2,2} - s_{1,2}s_{1,1,2} + 3s_2s_{1,1,1,2} + s_{1,1,2,1,2}$
\$2,2,1,1,1	$-\frac{1}{2}s_2s_1^2s_{1,2} + \frac{1}{2}s_1^2s_{1,2,2} + s_2s_1s_{1,1,2} - s_1s_{1,1,2,2} - s_2s_{1,1,1,2} + s_{1,1,1,2,2} + \frac{1}{12}s_2^2s_1^3$
$s_{1,2,2,1,2}$	$s_{1,2}s_{1,2,2} - 6s_{1,1,2,2,2} - 3s_{1,2,1,2,2}$
\$1,2,2,2,1	$-s_{1,2}s_{1,2,2} + s_1s_{1,2,2,2} + 4s_{1,1,2,2,2} + 2s_{1,2,1,2,2}$
$s_{2,1,1,2,2}$	$s_2 s_{1,1,2,2} - 3 s_{1,1,2,2,2} - s_{1,2,1,2,2}$
$s_{2,1,2,1,2}$	$\frac{1}{2}s_2s_{1,2}^2 - 2s_{1,2,2}s_{1,2} - 2s_2s_{1,1,2,2} + 12s_{1,1,2,2,2} + 4s_{1,2,1,2,2}$
$s_{2,1,2,2,1}$	$-\frac{1}{2}s_2s_{1,2}^2 + 2s_{1,2,2}s_{1,2} + s_1s_2s_{1,2,2} - 3s_1s_{1,2,2,2} - 6s_{1,1,2,2,2} - 3s_{1,2,1,2,2}$
$s_{2,2,1,1,2}$	$\frac{1}{2}s_2^2s_{1,1,2} - \frac{1}{2}s_2s_{1,2}^2 + s_{1,2}s_{1,2,2} - 3s_{1,1,2,2,2} - s_{1,2,1,2,2}$
$s_{2,2,1,2,1}$	$\frac{1}{2}s_1s_2^2s_{1,2} - s_2^2s_{1,1,2} + \frac{1}{2}s_2s_{1,2}^2 - 2s_1s_2s_{1,2,2} + 2s_2s_{1,1,2,2} - s_{1,2}s_{1,2,2} + 3s_1s_{1,2,2,2} + s_{1,2,1,2,2}$
$s_{2,2,2,1,1}$	$-\frac{1}{2}s_1s_2^2s_{1,2} + \frac{1}{2}s_2^2s_{1,1,2} + s_1s_2s_{1,2,2} - s_2s_{1,1,2,2} - s_1s_{1,2,2,2} + s_{1,1,2,2,2} + \frac{1}{12}s_1^2s_2^3$
$s_{2,1,2,2,2}$	$s_2 s_{1,2,2,2} - 4 s_{1,2,2,2,2}$
$s_{2,2,1,2,2}$	$\frac{1}{2}s_2^2s_{1,2,2} - 3s_2s_{1,2,2,2} + 6s_{1,2,2,2,2}$
$s_{2,2,2,1,2}$	$\frac{1}{6}s_2^3s_{1,2} - s_2^2s_{1,2,2} + 3s_2s_{1,2,2,2} - 4s_{1,2,2,2,2}$
$s_{2,2,2,2,1}$	$-\frac{1}{6}s_{2}^{3}s_{1,2} + \frac{1}{2}s_{2}^{2}s_{1,2,2} - s_{2}s_{1,2,2,2} + s_{1,2,2,2,2} + \frac{1}{24}s_{1}s_{2}^{4}$
$s_{2,2,2,2,2}$	$\frac{s_2^5}{120}$