

1 We thank the reviewers for the valuable time they have invested during this difficult period to review the paper and  
2 provide helpful suggestions for improving the manuscript. We also appreciate their complimentary comments, including  
3 "The paper presents novel theoretical results that are highly relevant for the machine learning community" (Reviewer  
4 1), "The paper provides the first efficient robust batch learning algorithm for several fundamental learning problems"  
5 (Reviewer 2), and "The paper seems to be of high-quality. The results are impressive, non-trivial and interesting"  
6 (Reviewer 4). The remainder of this response mostly addresses suggestions and questions raised by Reviewers 1 and 3.

7 Both Reviewers 1 and 3 ask us to elaborate on the differences between [JO19] and this paper. The differences fall in  
8 two categories: technique, and applications. In terms of technique, [JO19] does not leverage the distribution structure,  
9 it simply uses all domain subsets as filters. It therefore requires a sample size linear in the domain size, which is  
10 prohibitive for large domains and impossible for the all-important infinite and continuous domains.

11 By contrast, this paper utilizes the distribution's structure, or even rough proximity to a structure, to identify a much  
12 smaller class of filters that as we show, suffices to address adversarial batches. This significant improvement, that as  
13 Reviewer 1 writes, requires a "non-trivial" combination of VC theory and the filtering framework, allows us to remove  
14 the sample complexity's dependence on the domain size and to greatly extend the reach of the filtering algorithm. We  
15 then apply it to derive (1) robust estimation for whole range of distributions, including infinite and even continuous, that  
16 hitherto could not be learned robustly, (2) robustness results for vital learning tasks, most notably classification, that  
17 were not addressed in [JO19]. Note also that: (1) our information theoretic results on classification assume only that  
18 the classifier's hypothesis has a finite VC dimension – the most common assumption in learning theory, and (2) our  
19 efficient classification algorithm applies to the fundamental problem of 1-d interval classifiers.

20 Reviewers 1 and 3 also ask related questions about how the results will hold if the distributions are unstructured  
21 (Reviewer 3) or may vary by a small amount from each other (Reviewer 1). If the distribution is completely unstructured,  
22 then as pointed out in lines 49-53 of the paper, the sample complexity grows linearly with the domain size, hence one  
23 cannot learn the type of distributions addressed in this paper. If the distribution can be approximated by a structured  
24 distribution then it is covered by the "opt density estimation framework" utilized in the paper, see e.g., lines 194-196.

25 Regarding Reviewer 1's specific question whether the technique also applies when the distributions underlying genuine  
26 batches differ from a common target distribution by a small TV distance, say  $\eta > 0$ . For simplicity, we presented the  
27 analysis for  $\eta = 0$ , but as noted in [JO19] for unstructured distributions, the filtering technique easily adapts to  $\eta > 0$ .  
28 For example, in density estimation the trivial empirical estimator achieves  $\mathcal{O}(\eta + \beta)$  TV-error, or  $\mathcal{O}(\beta)$  when  $\eta = 0$ . Even  
29 for binary alphabets, the lower bound is  $\Omega(\eta + \beta/\sqrt{n})$ , hence no algorithm can reduce the effect of the disparity between  
30 the batches and target distributions. Filtering reduces the effect of adversarial batches from  $\mathcal{O}(\beta)$  to  $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}(\beta/\sqrt{n})$ . Since we  
31 cannot do anything sophisticated about  $\eta$ , the proof and algorithm easily extend to  $\eta > 0$ . For this reason we presented  
32 the simplest problem that captures the essence of the technique. We will add a similar explanation to the final version.

33 Reviewer 1 suggests that we elaborate on the relationship between filtering methods for Gaussian mean estimation  
34 derived e.g., in [DKK+16], and [JO19]. This relation was explained in [JO19]. Section 3 of this paper, mentions the  
35 many important contributions of [DKK+16, DKK+17, SCV17], the recent survey [DKK+19], and others, but for brevity  
36 does not repeat the explanation in [JO19]. To enhance the reader's understanding of the context, in the final version of  
37 the paper we will follow the reviewer's advice and expand this discussion and elaborate on the specific relation to [JO19].

38 Reviewer 1 similarly suggests that we elaborate on previous use of VC theory in structured density estimation (including  
39 [ADLS17]). Please note that Section 3 of the paper starts by stating that "The current results extend several long lines of  
40 work on estimating structured distributions, including [O'B16, Dia16, AM18, ADLS17]" and that we provide specific  
41 references to [ADLS17] in three additional locations in the main paper and several more times in the appendix. Also  
42 note that the previous applications of VC theory were for non-robust learning, hence somewhat different from the  
43 current application that requires several new ideas. For the reader's benefit we will follow the reviewer's advice and  
44 elaborate on the use of VC theory in density estimation in non-robust setting.

45 Reviewer 1 also suggested that we move some of the applications from the main paper to the appendix and some proofs  
46 from the appendix to the main paper. We fully sympathize with the reviewer's desire to see more hard proofs in the  
47 paper itself, but felt that one of the paper's main contributions is showing broad audiences that adversarial batches can be  
48 addressed efficiently for a large class of practical problems. We also note that Reviewer 4's response to question 2 seems  
49 to appreciate this information. We will try to accommodate Reviewer 1's request by including as much information  
50 about the proofs as we can in the extra page of the papers' final version.

51 Finally, Reviewer 3 asks about the time complexity of the paper's two efficient algorithms: learning piecewise  
52 polynomials, and interval classification. Both algorithms have very reasonable complexities. Learning  $t$ -piecewise,  
53 degree- $d$  polynomial distributions takes  $\mathcal{O}(m \cdot n^2(1 + t \cdot d \cdot \beta/\sqrt{n}))$  time, and  $t$ -interval classification takes  $\mathcal{O}(m \cdot$   
54  $n^2(1 + t \cdot \beta/\sqrt{n}))$  time. Since there is a total of  $m \cdot n$  samples, these complexities are not too high. We will mention  
55 these time complexities explicitly in the paper.