ASYMPTOTIC THEORY FOR ESTIMATING THE SINGULAR VECTORS AND VALUES OF A PARTIALLY-OBSERVED LOW RANK MATRIX WITH NOISE

Juhee Cho, Donggyu Kim and Karl Rohe

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Princeton University and University of Wisconsin-Madison

Abstract: Matrix completion algorithms recover a low rank matrix from a small fraction of the entries, each entry contaminated with additive errors. In practice, the singular vectors and singular values of the low rank matrix play a pivotal role for statistical analyses and inferences. This paper proposes estimators of these quantities and studies their asymptotic behavior. Under the setting where the dimensions of the matrix increase to infinity and the probability of observing each entry is identical, Theorem 1 gives the rate of convergence for the estimated singular vectors; Theorem 3 gives a multivariate central limit theorem for the estimated singular values. Even though the estimators use only a partially observed matrix, they achieve the same rates of convergence as the fully observed case. These estimators combine to form a consistent estimator of the full low rank matrix that is computed with a non-iterative algorithm. In the cases studied in this paper, this estimator achieves the minimax lower bound in Koltchinskii, Lounici and Tsybakov (2011). The numerical experiments corroborate our theoretical results.

Key words and phrases: Low rank matrices, matrix completion, matrix estimation, singular value decomposition

1. Introduction

The matrix completion problem arises in several different machine learning and engineering applications, ranging from collaborative filtering (Rennie and Srebro (2005)), to computer vision (Weinberger and Saul (2006)), to positioning (Montanari and Oh (2010)), and to recommender systems (Bennett and Lanning (2007)). The literature has established a sizable body of algorithmic research (Keshavan, Montanari and Oh (2009); Cai, Candès and Shen (2010); Mazumder, Hastie and Tibshirani (2010); Hastie et al. (2014); Rennie and Srebro (2005); Cho, Kim and Rohe (2016)) and theoretical results (Fazel (2002); Srebro, Rennie and Jaakkola (2004); Candès and Recht (2009); Candès and Plan (2010); Keshavan, Montanari and Oh (2010); Candès and Plan (2011); Gross (2011); Koltchinskii...
This extant literature is primarily focused on estimating the unobserved entries of the matrix. In several of these previous estimation techniques, the algorithms first estimate the singular vectors and singular values of the low rank matrix. Also, based upon classical multivariate statistics, these singular vectors and singular values can serve various types of statistical analyses and inferences. For example, the overarching aim in the Netflix problem was to predict the unobserved film ratings and the previous algorithms and theories served this purpose. However, if one wishes to interpret the resulting model predictions, then the estimated singular vectors and singular values can provide insights on (i) the main latent factors of film preferences and (ii) their relative strengths, respectively. In the Netflix example,

“The first factor has on one side lowbrow comedies and horror movies, aimed at a male or adolescent audience (Half Baked, Freddy vs. Jason), while the other side contains drama or comedy with serious undertones and strong female leads (Sophie’s Choice, Moonstruck). The second factor has independent, critically acclaimed, quirky films (Punch-Drunk Love, I Heart Huckabees) on one side, and mainstream formulaic films (Armageddon, Runaway Bride) on the other side.”

This inference is based upon the leading singular vectors of the estimated matrix. To the best of our knowledge, no previous research has studied the statistical properties of the estimated singular vectors and singular values.

This paper proposes estimators of the singular vectors and singular values of the low rank matrix as well as an estimator of the low rank matrix itself. First, Lemma 1 studies the singular vectors and singular values of a partially observed matrix that simply substitutes zeros for the unobserved entries; the resulting estimators are biased. The proposed estimators adjust for this bias. Theorem 1 finds the convergence rate for the bias-adjusted singular vector estimators and Theorem 3 gives a multivariate central limit theorem for the bias-adjusted singular value estimators. Despite the fact that the proposed estimators are built upon a partially observed matrix, they converge at the same rate as the standard estimators built from a fully observed matrix up to a constant factor which depends on the probability of observing each entry. Combining the proposed singular vector
and value estimators, Section 4.2 gives a one-step consistent estimator of the low rank matrix which does not iterate over several singular value decompositions or eigenvalue decompositions. The mean squared error of this estimator achieves the minimax lower bound in Theorems 5-7 (Koltchinskii, Lounici and Tsybakov (2011)).

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 describes the model setup. Section 3 shows that the singular vectors and singular values of a partially observed matrix are biased and suggests a bias-adjusted alternative. Section 4.1 finds (1) the convergence rates of the estimated singular vectors and (2) the asymptotic distribution of the estimated singular values. Section 4.2 proposes and studies a one-step consistent estimator of the full matrix. Section 5 corroborates the theoretical findings with numerical experiments. The Appendix A provides the proofs of our main theoretical results. The proofs of all other results are collected in the Supplement.

2. Model Setup

The underlying matrix that we wish to estimate is an $n \times d$ matrix $M_0$ with rank $r$. By singular value decomposition (SVD),

$$M_0 = UAV^T,$$

for orthonormal matrices $U = (U_1, \ldots, U_r) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times r}$ and $V = (V_1, \ldots, V_r) \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times r}$ containing the left and right singular vectors, and a diagonal matrix $\Lambda = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_r) \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times r}$ containing the singular values. $M_0$ is corrupted by noise $\epsilon \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$, where the entries of $\epsilon$ are i.i.d. sub-Gaussian random variables with mean zero and variance $\sigma^2$. Let $y \in \{0, 1\}^{n \times d}$ be such that $y_{kh} = 1$ if the $(k, h)$-th entry of $M_0 + \epsilon$ is observed and $y_{kh} = 0$ otherwise. The entries of $y$ are i.i.d. Bernoulli($p$) and independent of the entries of $\epsilon$. Thus, the total number of observed entries in $M_0 + \epsilon$ is a Binomial($nd, p$) random variable. We observe $y$ and the partially observed matrix $M \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$, where

$$M_{kh} = [y \cdot (M_0 + \epsilon)]_{kh} = \begin{cases} M_{0kh} + \epsilon_{kh} & \text{if observed } (y_{kh} = 1), \\ 0 & \text{otherwise } (y_{kh} = 0), \end{cases}$$

for $1 \leq k \leq n$ and $1 \leq h \leq d$. Throughout the paper, it is presumed that $r \ll d \leq n$. Moreover, the entries of $M_0$ are bounded in absolute value by a constant $L > 0$.

Remark 1. Depending on the case, the noise $\epsilon$ can be related to the measurement system so that assuming that there exist errors for unobserved entries does not
make sense. Hence, assume a hierarchical model as follows;
\[ \epsilon_{ij} | y_{ij} = 0 = 0 \quad \text{a.s.,} \]
\[ \epsilon_{ij} | y_{ij} = 1 \sim \text{subgaussian, and} \]
\[ y_{ij} \sim \text{i.i.d. Bernoulli}(p). \]
In this setting, the results obtained in this paper would still hold although it may require more techniques or minor changes in the proof. For simplicity of the paper, we only focus on the original setting.

3. Estimation of Singular Values and Vectors of $M_0$

The vast majority of previous estimators of $M_0$ have been initialized with $M$, in effect imputing the missing values with zero. In this section, we study the properties of singular vectors and values of $M$. This suggests alternative estimators of the singular vectors and values of $M_0$.

3.1. Properties of singular values and vectors of $M$

Define
\[ \hat{\Sigma} := M^T M \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{\Sigma}_t := MM^T. \]
Then, the eigenvectors of $\hat{\Sigma}$ and $\hat{\Sigma}_t$ are the same as the right and left singular vectors of $M$, respectively, and the squared root of eigenvalues of $\hat{\Sigma}$ are the same as the singular values of $M$. The following lemma shows that $\hat{\Sigma}$ and $\hat{\Sigma}_t$ are biased estimators of $M_0^T M_0$ and $M_0 M_0^T$, respectively.

**Lemma 1.** Under the model setup in Section 2, we have
\[ \mathbb{E} \hat{\Sigma} = p^2 M_0^T M_0 + p(1 - p) \text{diag}(M_0^T M_0) + npo^2 I_d, \] (3.1)
and similarly,
\[ \mathbb{E} \hat{\Sigma}_t = p^2 M_0 M_0^T + p(1 - p) \text{diag}(M_0 M_0^T) + dp^2 I_n, \] (3.2)
where $I_d$ and $I_n$ are $d \times d$ and $n \times n$ identity matrices, respectively.

The right-hand side of (3.1) contains terms beyond $p^2 M_0^T M_0$ and they make the singular vectors and singular values of $M$ biased estimators of the singular vectors and values of $M_0$. While the bias coming from $npo^2 I_d$ is manageable since it does not change the singular vectors of $\mathbb{E} \hat{\Sigma}$, the bias coming from $p(1 - p) \text{diag}(M_0^T M_0)$ is not. The same applies to $\hat{\Sigma}_t$ in (3.2).

To get rid of the terms producing unmanageable biases, we define $\hat{\Sigma}_p$ and $\hat{\Sigma}_{pt}$ and their eigenvectors and eigenvalues as follows,
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\[ \hat{\Sigma}_p := \hat{\Sigma} - (1 - p) \text{diag}(\hat{\Sigma}) \]
\[ = (V_p, V_{pc}) \text{diag}(\lambda^2_{p1}, \ldots, \lambda^2_{pd})(V_p, V_{pc})^T, \]
\[ \hat{\Sigma}_{pt} := \hat{\Sigma} - (1 - p) \text{diag}(\hat{\Sigma}) \]
\[ = (U_p, U_{pc}) \text{diag}(\lambda^2_{pt1}, \ldots, \lambda^2_{ptd})(U_p, U_{pc})^T, \]

where

\[ V_p = (V_{p1}, \ldots, V_{pr}) \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times r}, \quad V_{pc} = (V_{pr+1}, \ldots, V_{pdd}) \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times (d-r)}, \]
\[ U_p = (U_{p1}, \ldots, U_{pr}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times r}, \quad U_{pc} = (U_{pr+1}, \ldots, U_{pnn}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times (n-r)}. \]

The following proposition shows that \( \hat{\Sigma}_p \) and \( \hat{\Sigma}_{pt} \) adjust the bias.

**Proposition 1.** Under the model setup in Section 2, we have by eigendecomposition,

\[ \mathbb{E} \hat{\Sigma}_p = p^2 M_0^T M_0 + np^2 \sigma^2 I_d = (V_c, V_c) \hat{\Lambda}_p^2 (V_c, V_c)^T \]
\[ \mathbb{E} \hat{\Sigma}_{pt} = p^2 M_0^T M_0 + dp^2 \sigma^2 I_n = (U_c, U_c) \hat{\Lambda}_{pt}^2 (U_c, U_c)^T, \]

where \( V \) and \( U \) are as defined in (2.1), \( V_c \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times (d-r)}, U_c \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times (n-r)}, \)

\[ \hat{\Lambda}_p^2 = \text{diag}(\hat{\lambda}^2_{p1}, \ldots, \hat{\lambda}^2_{pd}) \]
\[ = \text{diag}(p^2[\lambda^2_1 + n\sigma^2], \ldots, p^2[\lambda^2_r + n\sigma^2], p^2n\sigma^2, \ldots, p^2n\sigma^2) \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}, \]
\[ \hat{\Lambda}_{pt}^2 = \text{diag}(p^2[\lambda^2_1 + d\sigma^2], \ldots, p^2[\lambda^2_r + d\sigma^2], p^2d\sigma^2, \ldots, p^2d\sigma^2) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}. \]

The proof of this proposition easily follows from Lemma 1 and (3.3).

Proposition 1 shows that the top \( r \) eigenvectors of \( \mathbb{E} \hat{\Sigma}_p \) and \( \mathbb{E} \hat{\Sigma}_{pt} \) are the same as the right and left singular vectors of \( M_0 \), respectively. Also, the top \( r \) eigenvalues of \( \mathbb{E} \hat{\Sigma}_p \) are easily adjusted to match the singular values of \( M_0 \) as follows,

\[ \lambda^2_i = \frac{1}{p^2} \hat{\lambda}^2_i - n\sigma^2, \quad \text{for } i = 1, \ldots, r. \]

### 3.2. Estimators of singular values and vectors of \( M_0 \)

The results in Proposition 1 suggest plug-in estimators using the leading eigenvectors and eigenvalues of \( \hat{\Sigma}_p \) and the leading eigenvectors of \( \hat{\Sigma}_{pt} \) as estimators of \( V, \Lambda, \) and \( U \), respectively. However, since \( p \) is an unknown parameter in practice, the proposed estimators use instead of \( p \) the proportion of observed entries in \( M \), \( \hat{p} \), which is defined as

\[ \hat{p} = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{n} \sum_{h=1}^{d} y_{kh}}{nd}. \]

Using \( \hat{p} \), define \( \hat{\Sigma}_{\hat{p}} \) and \( \hat{\Sigma}_{\hat{p}t} \) as
\[ \hat{\Sigma}_p := \hat{\Sigma} - (1 - \hat{p}) \text{diag}(\hat{\Sigma}) \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{\Sigma}_{pt} := \hat{\Sigma}_t - (1 - \hat{p}) \text{diag}(\hat{\Sigma}_t). \]

By eigendecomposition,
\[ \hat{\Sigma}_p = (\hat{V}, \hat{V}_c) \Lambda^2 \hat{p} (\hat{V}, \hat{V}_c)^T \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{\Sigma}_{pt} = (\hat{U}, \hat{U}_c) \Lambda^2_{pt} (\hat{U}, \hat{U}_c)^T, \]

where \( \hat{V} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times r} \), \( \hat{V}_c \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times (d-r)} \), \( \Lambda^2 \hat{p} = \text{diag}(\lambda^2_{\hat{p}1}, \ldots, \lambda^2_{\hat{pd}}) \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d} \), \( \hat{U} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times r} \), \( \hat{U}_c \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times (n-r)} \), and \( \Lambda^2_{pt} = \text{diag}(\lambda^2_{pt1}, \ldots, \lambda^2_{ptn}) \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \). Then, estimate the left and right singular vectors, \( U \) and \( V \), of \( M_0 \) by \( \hat{U} \) and \( \hat{V} \), respectively. Also, estimate the singular values, \( \lambda_i, i = 1, \ldots, r \), of \( M_0 \) by
\[ \hat{\lambda}_i = \sqrt{\frac{1}{\hat{p}^2} (\lambda^2_{\hat{pi}} - \hat{\tau}_p)} \quad \text{for} \quad i = 1, \ldots, r, \]

where \( \hat{\tau}_p = 1/(d-r) \text{tr}(\hat{V}_c^T \hat{\Sigma}_p \hat{V}_c) \).

For any \( A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d} \), let the \( i \)-th left singular vector of \( A \) be denoted by \( u_i(A) \), the \( i \)-th right singular vector of \( A \) by \( v_i(A) \), and the top \( i \)-th singular value of \( A \) by \( \lambda_i(A) \) for \( i = 1, \ldots, d \). Then, Algorithm 1 summarizes the steps to compute the proposed estimators of the singular values and vectors of \( M_0 \).

**Algorithm 1** Estimators of \( U_i, V_i, \) and \( \lambda_i \) for \( i = 1, \ldots, r \)

**Require:** \( M, y, \) and \( r \)

\[ \hat{p} \leftarrow 1/nd \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{h=1}^d y_{kh} \]
\[ \hat{\Sigma}_p \leftarrow M^T M - (1 - \hat{p}) \text{diag}(M^T M) \]
\[ \hat{\Sigma}_{pt} \leftarrow M M^T - (1 - \hat{p}) \text{diag}(M M^T) \]
\[ \hat{V}_i \leftarrow v_i(\hat{\Sigma}_p), \quad \forall i \in \{1, \ldots, r\} \]
\[ \hat{U}_i \leftarrow u_i(\hat{\Sigma}_{pt}), \quad \forall i \in \{1, \ldots, r\} \]
\[ \hat{\tau}_p \leftarrow 1/(d-r) \sum_{i=r+1}^d \lambda_i(\hat{\Sigma}_p) \]
\[ \hat{\lambda}_i \leftarrow 1/\hat{p} \sqrt{\lambda_i(\hat{\Sigma}_p) - \hat{\tau}_p}, \quad \forall i \in \{1, \ldots, r\} \]

**return** \( \hat{V}_i, \hat{U}_i, \) and \( \hat{\lambda}_i \) for \( i = 1, \ldots, r \)

**4. Asymptotic Theory**

This section investigates the statistical properties of the estimators proposed in (3.6) and (3.7).

4.1. Convergence rate of the estimated singular vectors and asymptotic distribution of the estimated singular values

Let \( x = (x_1, \ldots, x_n)^T \) be a \( n \)-dimensional vector and \( A = (A_{kh}) \) a \( n \times d \) matrix. Then, the \( \ell_p \)-norm is defined as follows,
The squared Frobenius norm is defined by
\[ \|x\|_p = \left( \sum_{i=1}^{p} |x_i|^p \right)^{1/p} \] , and \( \|A\|_p = \sup\{\|Ax\|_p : \|x\|_p = 1\} \), \( p = 1, 2, \infty \).

The spectral norm \( \|A\|_2 \) is a square root of the largest eigenvalue of \( AA^T \),
\[ \|A\|_1 = \max_{1 \leq k \leq n} \sum_{h=1}^{d} |A_{kh}|, \quad \text{and} \quad \|A\|_\infty = \max_{1 \leq k \leq n} \sum_{h=1}^{d} |A_{kh}|. \]

The squared Frobenius norm is defined by \( \|A\|_F^2 = \text{tr} \left( A^T A \right) \), the trace of \( A^T A \). We denote by \( c > 0 \) and \( C > 0 \) generic constants that are free of \( n, d, \) and \( p \), and different from appearance to appearance.

To measure how close the proposed estimator \( \hat{V} \) is to \( V \) (or, \( \hat{U} \) to \( U \)), we introduce a classical notion of distance between subspaces. Let \( \mathcal{R}(Z_1) \) denote a column space spanned by \( Z_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times r} \) and \( \mathcal{R}(Z_2) \) by \( Z_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times r} \). Then, to measure the dissimilarity between \( \mathcal{R}(Z_1) \) and \( \mathcal{R}(Z_2) \), consider the following loss function
\[ \| \sin(Z_1, Z_2) \|_F^2 = \| \sin(\mathcal{R}(Z_1), \mathcal{R}(Z_2)) \|_F^2, \]
where \( \sin(\mathcal{R}(Z_1), \mathcal{R}(Z_2)) \) is a diagonal matrix of singular values (canonical angles) of \( P_1 P_2^\perp \) with orthogonal projections \( P_1 \) and \( P_2 \) of \( Z_1 \) and \( Z_2 \), respectively. Here \( P^\perp = I - P \). The canonical angles generalize the notion of angles between lines and are often used to define the distance between subspaces. If the columns of \( Z_1 \) and \( Z_2 \) are singular vectors, \( \mathcal{R}(Z_1) \) and \( \mathcal{R}(Z_2) \) have projections \( P_1 = Z_1 Z_1^T \) and \( P_2 = Z_2 Z_2^T \), respectively, and \( \| \sin(Z_1, Z_2) \|_F^2 = \| Z_1 Z_1^T (Z_2 Z_2^T)^\perp \|_F^2 = 1/2 \| Z_1 Z_1^T - Z_2 Z_2^T \|_F^2 \).

Proposition 2.2 in [Vu and Lei (2013)] relates this subspace distance to the Frobenius distance
\[ \frac{1}{2} \inf_{\mathcal{O} \in \mathbb{V}_{r,r}} \| Z_1 - Z_2 \mathcal{O} \|_F^2 \leq \| \sin(Z_1, Z_2) \|_F^2 \leq \inf_{\mathcal{O} \in \mathbb{V}_{r,r}} \| Z_1 - Z_2 \mathcal{O} \|_F^2, \]
where \( \mathbb{V}_{r,r} = \{ O \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times r} : O^T O = I_r \text{ and } O O^T = I_r \} \) denotes the Stiefel manifold of \( r \times r \) orthonormal matrices. In other words, the distance between two subspaces corresponds to the minimal distance between their orthonormal bases.

**Assumption 1.**

1. \( \lambda_i = b_i \sqrt{nd}, i = 1, \ldots, r \), where \( 1/c \leq b_i \leq c \) for a constant \( c > 0 \);
2. there exists a constant \( m \in \{1, \ldots, r\} \) such that \( b_m > b_{m+1} \), where \( b_{r+1} = 0 \);
3. \( d \leq n \leq e^{d^r} \) for a constant \( \alpha < 1 \) free of \( n, d, \) and \( p \).

**Remark 2.** To motivate Assumption 1 (1), suppose that a non-vanishing proportion of entries of \( M_0 \) contains non-vanishing signals (i.e. \( M_{0kh}^2 \geq c_0 \) for some constant \( c_0 > 0 \)) and that the rank of \( M_0 \) is fixed. Then,
\[ \sum_{k=1}^{n} \sum_{h=1}^{d} M_{0kh}^2 = \| M_0 \|_F^2 \geq cnd \]

for some constant \( c > 0 \). Because the squared Frobenius norm is also the sum of the squared singular values of \( M_0 \), the order of the singular values of \( M_0 \) should be \( \sqrt{nd} \) (see also Fan, Liao and Mincheva (2013)). Assumption 1(1) may seem uncommon in the matrix completion literature, but consider the widely-used assumption (II.2) in Candès and Plan (2010),

\[ \max_{1 \leq k \leq n} |U_{ik}| \leq \sqrt{\frac{C}{n}} \quad \text{and} \quad \max_{1 \leq h \leq d} |V_{ih}| \leq \sqrt{\frac{C}{d}} \]

for \( i = 1, \ldots, r \) and a constant \( C \geq 1 \), which prevents spiky singular vectors. Under the model setup in Section 2 where the entries of \( M_0 \) are bounded in absolute value by a constant \( L > 0 \), this implies Assumption 1(1).

The following theorem shows the convergence of \( \hat{V} \) to \( V \) and \( \hat{U} \) to \( U \).

**Theorem 1.** Under the model setup in Section 2 and Assumption 1, let \( \hat{V}^{(m)} \) and \( \hat{U}^{(m)} \) be the first \( m \) columns of \( \hat{V} \) and \( \hat{U} \) defined in (3.6), respectively, and let \( V^{(m)} \) and \( U^{(m)} \) be the first \( m \) columns of \( V \) and \( U \) defined in (2.1), respectively. Then, for large \( n \) and \( d \),

\[ \mathbb{E} \left\| \sin (\hat{V}^{(m)}, V^{(m)}) \right\|_F^2 \leq \frac{C_1 n^{-1} p (b_m^2 - b_{m+1}^2)^2}{b_m^2 - b_{m+1}^2 + 1} \]

and

\[ \mathbb{E} \left\| \sin (\hat{U}^{(m)}, U^{(m)}) \right\|_F^2 \leq \frac{C_2 d^{-1} p (b_m^2 - b_{m+1}^2)^2}{b_m^2 - b_{m+1}^2 + 1}, \]

where \( C_1 \) and \( C_2 \) are generic constants free of \( n, d, \) and \( p \).

**Remark 3.** As long as \( pd/\log n \to \infty \), the convergence rates in Theorem 1 will hold. Hence, even though \( p \) goes to zero, if \( d/\log n \) diverges fast enough that \( pd/\log n \to \infty \), we can still obtain the same results.

**Remark 4.** Despite the fact that \( \hat{V}^{(m)} \) is built on a partially observed matrix \( M \), Theorem 1 gives the convergence rate \( n^{-1/2}/(b_m^2 - b_{m+1}^2) \) which is the standard convergence rate for eigenvectors (Anderson et al., 1958). The effect of the partial observations appears in the denominator of the right-hand side of (4.2) as \( p \). A similar discussion applies to \( \hat{U}^{(m)} \) in (4.3).

The next theorem shows the asymptotic distribution of \( \hat{\lambda}_i^2 \) centered around \( \lambda_i^2 \).
Theorem 2. Suppose \( nd^{-1} \to \infty \). Then, under the model setup in Section 2 and Assumption 1, we have

\[
\frac{\sum_{i=1}^m \hat{\lambda}_i^2 - \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i^2}{\sqrt{n d \sigma^2}} \to \mathcal{N}(0,1) \text{ in distribution, as } n \text{ and } d \to \infty,
\]

where

\[
\sigma^2 = \frac{4(1-p)}{p} \left( \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{h=1}^d M_{0kh} \left( \sum_{i=1}^m b_i U_{ik} V_{ih} \right)^2 - \left( \sum_{i=1}^m b_i^2 \right)^2 \right) + \frac{4 \sigma^2}{p} \sum_{i=1}^m b_i^2,
\]

\( U_{ik} \) is the \( k \)-th entry of \( U_i \), and \( V_{ih} \) is the \( h \)-th entry of \( V_i \).

Remark 5. As long as \( pd/\log n \to \infty \) and \( p n d^{-1} \to \infty \), the asymptotic normality result in Theorem 2 will hold. Hence, even though \( p \) goes to zero, if \( d/\log n \) and \( n/d \) diverge fast enough that \( pd/\log n \to \infty \) and \( pn/d \to \infty \), we can still obtain the same results.

Remark 6. Theorem 2 shows that the convergence rate of \( \sum_{i=1}^m \hat{\lambda}_i^2 \) is \( \sqrt{n d} \). Considering Assumption 1(1), it is an optimal rate. However, since the results are based on partially observed entries, the asymptotic variance, \( \sigma^2 \), increases with the rate \( p^{-1} \). For example, when we have a fully-observed matrix, \( \sigma^2 \) simply becomes \( 4 \sigma^2 \sum_{i=1}^m b_i^2 \) which is a lower bound for \( \sigma^2 \).

One of the main purposes of this paper is to investigate asymptotic behaviors of the estimators of the singular values of \( M_0 \). An application of the proof of Theorem 2 and the delta method provides a multivariate central limit theorem for \( \hat{\lambda}_1, \ldots, \hat{\lambda}_r \).

Theorem 3. Suppose that

\[
b_i > b_{i+1} \text{ for all } i \in \{1, \ldots, r\} \text{ and } nd^{-1} \to \infty.
\]

Then, under the model setup in Section 2 and Assumption 1, we have

\[
\Upsilon^{-1/2} \begin{pmatrix} \hat{\lambda}_1 - \lambda_1 \\ \vdots \\ \hat{\lambda}_r - \lambda_r \end{pmatrix} \to \mathcal{N}(0, I_r) \text{ in distribution, as } n \text{ and } d \to \infty,
\]

where \( \Upsilon = \Upsilon^T \in \mathbb{R}^{r \times r} \) consists of

\[
\Upsilon_{ij} = \begin{cases} 
\frac{(1-p)}{p} \left( \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{h=1}^d M_{0kh}^2 U_{ik}^2 V_{ih}^2 - b_i^2 \right) + \frac{\sigma^2}{p} & \text{if } i = j, \\
\frac{(1-p)}{p} \left( \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{h=1}^d M_{0kh}^2 U_{ik} V_{ih} V_{jh} U_{jk}^2 - b_i b_j \right) & \text{if } i \neq j.
\end{cases}
\]
Thus, $|\hat{\lambda}_i - \lambda_i| = O_p\left(1/\sqrt{p}\right)$.

**Remark 7.** As long as $pd/\log n \rightarrow \infty$ and $pnd^{-1} \rightarrow \infty$, the asymptotic normality result in Theorem 3 will hold. Note that Theorems 2 and 3 require an additional condition, $pd^{-1} \rightarrow \infty$, to the condition required for Theorem 1, $pd/\log n \rightarrow \infty$. Under the setting where $p$ is a constant, this additional condition implies that $d/n$ has to go to zero. The rationale behind this is as follows. In Theorems 2 and 3, we find the limiting distribution on the singular values of $M_0$ from a $d \times d$ matrix $\hat{\Sigma}_p$, while the total number of observations is $nd$. That is, the size of our parameter space is $d^2$ and the total amount of information we can use to find asymptotic properties on the parameters is $nd$. Since our observations are even noisy, we need an enough number of observations to achieve our goal. When $d/n \rightarrow 0$, we can make the approximation errors in the singular values of $\hat{\Sigma}_p$ negligible and find the limiting distribution on the singular values of $M_0$.

**Remark 8.** The results of Theorems 2 and 3 help us to make statistical inference on the singular values of $M_0$. For example, they open up possibilities for us to evaluate how many factors are significant or how influential each factor is, by providing the distribution of the singular values.

Theorems 1-3 show that the proposed estimators for $U, V,$ and $\lambda_i$’s are asymptotically unbiased and have optimal convergence rates. With these well-developed estimators for the singular values and vectors of $M_0$, the following section proposes a consistent estimator of $M_0$.

### 4.2. A consistent estimator of $M_0$

Suppose that $b_i > b_{i+1}$ for all $i = 1, \ldots, r$. Theorem 1 and (4.1) imply that $\hat{V}_i$ and $\hat{U}_i$ can estimate $V_i$ and $U_i$ up to constant factors $\text{sign}(\langle \hat{V}_i, V_i \rangle)$ and $\text{sign}(\langle \hat{U}_i, U_i \rangle)$, respectively. Let $s_0 = (s_{01}, \ldots, s_{0r}) \in \{-1, 1\}^r$ be

$$s_{0i} = \text{sign}(\langle \hat{V}_i, V_i \rangle) \text{sign}(\langle \hat{U}_i, U_i \rangle) \quad \text{for} \quad i \in \{1, \ldots, r\}. \quad (4.5)$$

Then, $\hat{M}(s_0) = \sum_{i=1}^r s_{0i} \hat{\lambda}_i \hat{U}_i \hat{V}_i^T$ becomes a consistent estimator of $M_0$. However, since $s_0$ is an unknown parameter in practice, we employ $\hat{s} = (\hat{s}_1, \ldots, \hat{s}_r) \in \{-1, 1\}^r$ as an estimator of $s_0$;

$$\hat{s} = \arg \min_{s \in \{-1, 1\}^r} \| \mathcal{P}_\Omega(\hat{M}(s)) - \mathcal{P}_\Omega(M) \|_F^2, \quad (4.6)$$

where $\Omega$ contains indices of the observed entries, $y_{kh} = 1 \iff (k, h) \in \Omega$, and $\mathcal{P}_\Omega(A)$ for any $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$ denotes the projection of $A$ onto $\Omega$,.
\[\mathcal{P}_\Omega(A)_{kh} = \begin{cases} A_{kh} & \text{if } (k,h) \in \Omega \\ 0 & \text{if } (k,h) \notin \Omega \end{cases} \quad \text{for } 1 \leq k \leq n \text{ and } 1 \leq h \leq d.\]

Hence, the proposed estimator of \(M_0\) is
\[
\hat{M}(\hat{s}) = \sum_{i=1}^{r} \hat{s}_i \hat{\lambda}_i \hat{U}_i \hat{V}_i^T.
\] (4.7)

**Remark 9.** Finding \(\hat{s}\) as in (4.6) requires \(2^r\) computations. Hence, it can be a computational bottleneck or even impossible for a large \(r\). In such cases, we suggest an alternate way to find \(\hat{s}\) as follows;
\[
\hat{s}_{i \text{ alternate}} = \text{sign}(\langle \hat{V}_i, v_i(M) \rangle) \text{ sign}(\langle \hat{U}_i, u_i(M) \rangle) \quad \text{for } i = 1, \ldots, r.
\]
Note that if we use \(V_i\) and \(U_i\) instead of \(v_i(M)\) and \(u_i(M)\), this gives us the true sign \(s_0\) in (4.5).

In the following we show that \(\hat{M}(\hat{s})\) is a consistent estimator of \(M_0\) under certain conditions. The steps to compute \(\hat{M}(\hat{s})\) using \(\{\hat{V}_i, \hat{U}_i, \hat{\lambda}_i\}_{i=1}^{r}\) from Algorithm 1 are summarized in Algorithm 2.

**Algorithm 2 Estimator of \(M_0\)**

**Require:** \(\hat{V}_i, \hat{U}_i,\) and \(\hat{\lambda}_i\) for \(i = 1, \ldots, r\)
\[
\hat{s} \leftarrow \arg\min_{s \in \{-1,1\}^r} \|\mathcal{P}_\Omega(\sum_{i=1}^{r} s_i \hat{\lambda}_i \hat{U}_i \hat{V}_i^T) - \mathcal{P}_\Omega(M)\|_F^2
\]
\[
\hat{M}(\hat{s}) \leftarrow \sum_{i=1}^{r} \hat{s}_i \hat{\lambda}_i \hat{U}_i \hat{V}_i^T
\]
return \(\hat{M}(\hat{s})\)

**Assumption 2.**

1. \(\lim_{n \to \infty, d \to \infty} P\left(\min_{s \in \{-1,1\}^r} \|\mathcal{P}_\Omega(\hat{M}(s)) - \mathcal{P}_\Omega(M)\|_F^2 < \|\mathcal{P}_\Omega(\hat{M}(s_0)) - \mathcal{P}_\Omega(M)\|_F^2\right) = 0;\)
2. \(b_i > b_{i+1}\) for all \(i = 1, \ldots, r.\)

**Remark 10.** When the rank \(r\) is 1, it is more straightforward to understand Assumption 2(1). Assuming that \(s_0 = 1\), it means that
\[
\lim_{n \to \infty, d \to \infty} P\left(\|\mathcal{P}_\Omega(-\hat{\lambda} \hat{U} \hat{V}^T) - \mathcal{P}_\Omega(M)\|_F^2 < \|\mathcal{P}_\Omega(\hat{\lambda} \hat{U} \hat{V}^T) - \mathcal{P}_\Omega(M)\|_F^2\right) = 0.
\]
That is, the probability that \(\hat{s}\) picks a different sign than the true sign \(s_0 = 1\) goes to zero with the dimensionality. Given the asymptotic properties of our estimators \(\hat{\lambda}, \hat{U},\) and \(\hat{V}\), this is not an unreasonable assumption to make.
Theorem 4. Under the model setup in Section 2 and Assumptions 1-2, for any given $\eta > 0$, there exists a constant $C_\eta > 0$ such that for sufficiently large $n$,

$$
P \left( \frac{p b_r^4}{n} \left\| \hat{M}(\hat{s}) - M_0 \right\|_F^2 \geq C_\eta \right) \leq \eta.
$$

Or alternatively,

$$
\left\| \hat{M}(\hat{s}) - M_0 \right\|_F^2 = \frac{1}{p b_r^4} o_p (h_n n),
$$

where $h_n$ can be anything that diverges very slowly with the dimensionality, for example, $\log (\log d)$.

Remark 11. As long as $p d / \log n \to \infty$, the convergence rates in Theorem 4 will hold. If we let $p = N/nd$ so that $N$ represents the number of observed entries in the population sense, this condition implies that $N/(n \log n) \to \infty$. Therefore, for $\hat{M}(\hat{s})$ to be consistent, the number of observed entries should increase at a faster rate than $n \log n$. This is a comparable result to Theorem 1 in Candes and Plan (2010).

Remark 12. The additional condition, $p d n^{-1} \to \infty$, required for Theorems 2 and 3 (see Remarks 5 and 7), is not needed for Theorems 1 and 4. It means that if $p$ is a constant, even though $d/n \to c$ for some $0 < c \leq 1$ or $d \leq n$, the results in Theorems 1 and 4 will still hold, but the results in Theorems 2 and 3 will not.

Remark 13. Theorem 4 shows that $1/nd \left\| \hat{M}(\hat{s}) - M_0 \right\|_F^2$ is bounded by $C p^{-1} d^{-1}$ for some constant $C > 0$. Under the setting where the rank of $M_0$ is fixed as in this paper, this is matched to the minimax lower bound in Theorems 5-7 (Koltchinskii, Lounici and Tsybakov (2011)). The previous estimators that obtain the minimax rate are computed via semidefinite programs that require iterating over several SVDs. However, the proposed estimator is a non-iterative algorithm.

Remark 14. Chatterjee (2014) established the minimax error rate for estimators of a general class of noisy incomplete matrices which extend beyond low rank matrix completion. In the regime studied herein, the convergence rate of our estimator of $M_0$ is faster than the convergence rate in Theorem 2.1 (Chatterjee (2014)). This is likely because we consider a smaller class of matrices, where the singular values of a low rank matrix have the divergence rate $\sqrt{nd}$ (Assumption 1(1)). Remark 2 justifies this assumption in the setting of low rank matrix completion.

Throughout this paper, we have assumed that the rank, $r$, of $M_0$ is known.
However, it is an unknown parameter and needs to be estimated. The following lemma proposes an estimator of $r$ and shows its consistency.

**Lemma 2.** Let $C_d > 0$ such that $C_d/d \to 0$ and $C_d \to \infty$, for example, $C_d = c \log d$ for any $c > 0$. Also, let \( \hat{r} = \{i \in \{1, \ldots, d\} \mid \lambda^2_{\hat{p}i} \geq p^2 n C_d\} \) where $\lambda^2_{\hat{p}i}$ is defined in (3.6). Then, for any given $\delta > 0$, we have
\[
P(\hat{r} = r) = 1 - O(n^{-\delta}).
\]

**Remark 15.** Empirically to find $C_d$ and $\hat{r}$ in Lemma 2, we suggest using a scree plot of the singular values of $\hat{\Sigma}_{\hat{p}}$ in (3.5).

**Remark 16.** As long as $C_d$ satisfies $\sigma^2 p^2 n < p^2 n C_d \leq (\sigma^2 + b^2 d) p^2 n$, consistency of $\hat{r}$ in Lemma 2 will hold. However, in the finite sample case, if the noise level $\sigma^2$ is larger than $b^2 d$, it can be difficult to observe a singular-value gap and determine $\hat{r}$ using the scree plot of the singular values of $\hat{\Sigma}_{\hat{p}}$.

5. Numerical Experiments

5.1. Simulations

This section studies the performance of the proposed estimators using several values of the dimension $n$ and the probability $p$. To simulate $M_0$, generate $A \in [-5, 5]^{n \times 2}$, $B \in [-5, 5]^{d \times 2}$ to contain i.i.d. Uniform$[-5, 5]$ random variables and define
\[
M_0 = AB^T \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}.
\]
Each entry of $M_0$ is observed with probability $p$ and unobserved with probability $1 - p$. The observed entries of $M_0$ are corrupted by noise $\epsilon$ as defined in Section 2, where $\epsilon_{kh}$ are i.i.d. $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$. The dimension $n$ varies from 100 to 1,000 and $p$ from 0.1 to 1, while $d = 2\sqrt{n}$. Each simulation was repeated 500 times and the errors were averaged.

Figures 1 and 2 summarize the resulting mean squared errors calculated by $1/nd\|M(\hat{s}) - M_0\|_F^2$, $\|\text{diag}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2) - \Lambda\|_F^2$, $\|\hat{V} - V\|_F^2$, and $\|\hat{U} - U\|_F^2$, when $n$ and $p$ increase along the x-axis, respectively. The MSE for $\hat{V}$ decreases more rapidly than the MSE for $\hat{U}$ and both MSEs decrease when $p$ increases; this is consistent with the results in Theorem 1. The MSE of $\hat{M}$ decreases with the increase of $n$ and $p$. The MSE of $\hat{\lambda}$ stays stable over the changes of $n$ since it is measured on $\lambda_i$ instead of $\lambda^2_i$ (see Theorem 3), but decreases with the increase of $p$.

We further studied the asymptotic normality of $\sum_{i=1}^2 \hat{\lambda}_i$ in Theorem 3. Figure 3 graphs the QQ plot of $\sum_{i=1}^2 \hat{\lambda}_i - \sum_{i=1}^2 \lambda_i$, where the dimension $n$ is fixed.
Figure 1. The mean squared errors for six different values of $p$ when $n$ increases. Each point on the plots correspond to an average over 500 replicates.

at 1,000 and $p$ varies from 0.1 to 1. This shows that the asymptotic normality holds across various values of $p$.

5.2. A data example

To illustrate the proposed estimation methods, this section analyzes the MovieLens 100k data (GroupLens (2015)). The data set consists of 100,000 ratings from 943 users and 1,682 movies and each user has rated at least 20 movies. Taking this partially observed data matrix as $M$, we computed $\hat{\Sigma}_p$ as in (3.5) and plotted the scree plot of the singular values of $\hat{\Sigma}_p$ to determine $\hat{r}$. Figure 4 shows the result. Since there exists a singular value gap between the 3rd and 4th singular values, we chose $\hat{r} = 3$. Then, we computed the estimators of the singular vectors and values and the estimator of the full low rank matrix
Figure 2. The same mean squared errors as the ones in Figure 1 plotted for four different values of $n$ when $p$ increases. Each point on the plots correspond to an average over 500 replicates.

as illustrated in Algorithms 1 and 2.

The estimated singular vectors help us understand what the main factors of movie preferences are. Table 1 shows lists of movies that characterize the top 3 singular vectors (factors of movie preferences). Particularly, it presents 5 movies that correspond to the largest values in each singular vector and 5 movies that correspond to the smallest values. The 1st factor has well-known and top-rated movies on one side and unknown and poorly-rated movies on the other side. The 2nd factor has box-office hit movies in 1990’s on one side and memorable classic movies in 1940’s-1960’s on the other side. The 3rd factor has action and thriller movies on one side and quieter and drama movies on the other side.

The estimated singular values help us see how influential the main factors
Figure 3. Asymptotic normality of \( \sum_{i=1}^{2} \hat{\lambda}_i - \sum_{i=1}^{2} \lambda_i \) as \( p \) varies from 0.1 to 1. Across the plots, we fixed \( n \) to be 1,000.

Figure 4. The singular values of \( \hat{\Sigma}_\rho \) computed by taking the MovieLens 100k data matrix as \( M \). From this scree plot, we choose \( \hat{r} \) to be 3.

of movie preferences are. Particularly, Figure 5 shows the estimated singular values and their 95% confidence intervals. For the standard deviation used in the confidence intervals, we used \( \Sigma_{ii}^{-1/2} \) from [4,4] in Theorem 4. Computing \( \Sigma_{ii}^{-1/2} \) requires information on the values of the parameters \( M_0, U, V, \lambda_i, p, \) and
Table 1. Lists of movies that characterize each of the top 3 singular vectors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st singular vector</th>
<th>One side (well-known, top-rated)</th>
<th>Silence of the Lambs, Fargo, Star Wars, Return of the Jedi, Raiders of the Lost Ark</th>
<th>A Further Gesture, Mat i syn, A Very Natural Thing, Hush, Office Killer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The other side (unknown, poorly-rated)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd singular vector</td>
<td>One side (box-office hit in 90’s)</td>
<td>Scream, Air Force One, The Rock, Contact, Liar Liar</td>
<td>Citizen Kane, The Graduate, Casablanca, The African Queen, Dr. Strangelove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The other side (classic in 40’s-60’s)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd singular vector</td>
<td>One side (action, thriller)</td>
<td>Jurassic Park, Top Gun, Speed, True Lies, Batman</td>
<td>Il Postino, Secrets &amp; Lies, English Patient, Full Monty, L.A. Confidential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The other side (drama)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 5. The 3 estimated singular values and their 95% confidence intervals.

From Figure 5, we observe that all 3 factors of movie preferences are significant.

To find the RMSE of our estimator of the full low rank matrix, $\hat{M}(\hat{s})$, we used 5 training and 5 test data sets from 5-fold cross validation which is publicly provided in GroupLens (2015). The RMSE was computed by

$$\sqrt{\frac{\|P_{\Omega_{test}}(\hat{M}(\hat{s})) - P_{\Omega_{test}}(\hat{M})\|_F^2}{|\Omega_{test}|}},$$

where $\Omega_{test}$ contains indices of observed entries that belong to the test set, $P_{\Omega_{test}}$ for a matrix $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$ denotes the projection of $A$ onto $\Omega_{test}$, and $|\Omega_{test}|$ denotes
the cardinality of $\Omega_{test}$. The average of the resulting RMSEs was 1.656.

**Supplementary Materials**

The proofs for all other results than the main theoretical results are collected in the Supplement.

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**Appendix**

A.1. Proofs for Theorem 1

**Proposition 2.** Under the model setup in Section 2 and Assumption 1, we have for large $n$ and $d$,

\[
\mathbb{E}\left\| \sin \left( V_p^{(m)}, V^{(m)} \right) \right\|^2_F \leq \frac{C_1 n^{-1}}{p \left( b_m^2 - b_{m+1}^2 \right)^2}, \quad \text{and}
\]

\[
\mathbb{E}\left\| \sin \left( U_p^{(m)}, U^{(m)} \right) \right\|^2_F \leq \frac{C_2 d^{-1}}{p \left( b_m^2 - b_{m+1}^2 \right)^2},
\]

where $V_p$ and $U_p$ are defined in (3.3) and $C_1$ and $C_2$ are generic constants free of $n, d$, and $p$.

**Lemma 3.** Under the model setup in Section 2 and Assumption 1, for any given $\mu_1 > 0$, there exists a large constant $C_{\mu_1} > 0$ such that

\[
\frac{1}{nd} \left\| \hat{\Sigma}_p - \mathbb{E} \hat{\Sigma}_p \right\|^2_2 \leq C_{\mu_1} \max \left\{ p \frac{\log n}{d}, p^{3/2} \sqrt{\frac{\log n}{n}} \right\}
\]

with probability at least $1 - O \left( n^{-\mu_1} \right)$, where $\hat{\Sigma}_p$ is defined in (3.3). Similarly, for any given $\mu_2 > 0$, there exists a large constant $C_{\mu_2} > 0$ such that

\[
\frac{1}{nd} \left\| \hat{\Sigma}_{pt} - \mathbb{E} \hat{\Sigma}_{pt} \right\|^2_2 \leq C_{\mu_2} \max \left\{ p \frac{\log n}{d}, p^{3/2} \sqrt{\frac{\log n}{d}} \right\}
\]

with probability at least $1 - O \left( n^{-\mu_2} \right)$, where $\hat{\Sigma}_{pt}$ is defined in (3.3).
Lemma 4. Under the model setup in Section 2 and Assumption 1, for any given $\nu_1 > 0$, there exists a large constant $C_{\nu_1} > 0$ such that
\[
\frac{1}{nd} \left\| \hat{\Sigma}_{\hat{p}} - \hat{\Sigma}_p \right\|_2 \leq C_{\nu_1} p^{3/2} \sqrt{\frac{\log n}{nd}} \tag{A.3}
\]
with probability at least $1 - O\left(n^{-\nu_1}\right)$, where $\hat{\Sigma}_{\hat{p}}$ and $\hat{\Sigma}_p$ are defined in (3.5) and (3.3), respectively. Similarly, for any given $\nu_2 > 0$, there exists a large constant $C_{\nu_2} > 0$ such that
\[
\frac{1}{nd} \left\| \hat{\Sigma}_{\hat{pt}} - \hat{\Sigma}_{pt} \right\|_2 \leq C_{\nu_2} p^{3/2} \sqrt{\frac{\log n}{nd}} \tag{A.4}
\]
with probability at least $1 - O\left(n^{-\nu_2}\right)$, where $\hat{\Sigma}_{\hat{pt}}$ and $\hat{\Sigma}_{pt}$ are defined in (3.5) and (3.3), respectively.

Lemma 5. Under the model setup in Section 2 and Assumption 1, we have for large $n$ and $d$,
\[
\mathbb{E} \left\| \frac{1}{nd} \left( \hat{\Sigma}_{\hat{p}} - \hat{\Sigma}_p \right) V_p^{(m)} \right\|_F^2 \leq C_1 \max \left\{ \frac{p^3(1-p)}{nd^3}, \frac{p^2(1-p)}{n^2d^{5/2}} \right\} \tag{A.5}
\]
and
\[
\mathbb{E} \left\| \frac{1}{nd} \left( \hat{\Sigma}_{\hat{pt}} - \hat{\Sigma}_{pt} \right) U_p^{(m)} \right\|_F^2 \leq C_2 \max \left\{ \frac{p^3(1-p)}{dn^3}, \frac{p^2(1-p)}{d^2n^{5/2}} \right\},
\]
where $\hat{\Sigma}_{\hat{p}}$ and $\hat{\Sigma}_{\hat{pt}}$ are defined in (3.5), $\hat{\Sigma}_p$, $\hat{\Sigma}_{pt}$, $V_p$, and $U_p$ are defined in (3.3), and $C_1$ and $C_2$ are generic constants free of $n, d,$ and $p$.

Proof of Theorem 1. We only prove (4.2) because (4.3) can be proved similarly.

By triangle inequality and Proposition 2, we have
\[
\mathbb{E} \left\| \sin \left( \hat{V}^{(m)}, V_p^{(m)} \right) \right\|_F^2 \\
\leq 4 \mathbb{E} \left\| \sin \left( \hat{V}^{(m)}, V_p^{(m)} \right) \right\|_F^2 + 4 \mathbb{E} \left\| \sin \left( V_p^{(m)}, V^{(m)} \right) \right\|_F^2 \\
\leq 4 \mathbb{E} \left\| \sin \left( \hat{V}^{(m)}, V_p^{(m)} \right) \right\|_F^2 + \frac{C n^{-1}}{p (b_m^2 - b_{m+1}^2)^2}. \tag{A.5}
\]
Now, consider $\mathbb{E} \left\| \sin \left( \hat{V}^{(m)}, V_p^{(m)} \right) \right\|_F^2$. Let
\[
E_1 = \left\{ \max_{1 \leq i \leq d} \frac{1}{nd} \left| \lambda_{p_i}^2 - \hat{\lambda}_{p_i}^2 \right| < t_1 \right\},
\]
where $t_1 = C'_1 \log n/d + C''_1 p^{3/2} \sqrt{\log n/n}$, and
\[
E_2 = \left\{ \frac{1}{nd} \left| \lambda_{p_m+1}^2 - \hat{\lambda}_{p_m+1}^2 \right| < t_2 \right\},
\]
where $t_2 = C_2 p^{3/2} \sqrt{\log n/nd1/d}$. Then, by Weyl’s theorem (Li (1998a)), Lemma...
3, and Lemma 4, we have for large constants $C_1', C_1''$, and $C_2$,
\[
\mathbb{P}(E_1') \leq \mathbb{P}
\left( \frac{1}{nd} \| \hat{\Sigma} - \mathbb{E} \hat{\Sigma} \|_2 \geq t_1 \right) = O(n^{-4}) \quad \text{and}
\]
\[
\mathbb{P}(E_2') \leq \mathbb{P}
\left( \frac{1}{nd} \| \hat{\Sigma} - \mathbb{E} \hat{\Sigma} \|_2 \geq t_2 \right) = O(n^{-4}).
\]
Thus, for large $n$ and $d$,
\[
\mathbb{E}\| \sin (\hat{V}(m), V_p^{(m)}) \|^2_F
\]
\[
= \mathbb{E}\left\{ \| \sin (\hat{V}(m), V_p^{(m)}) \|^2_F 1_{(E_1 \cap E_2)^c} \right\} + \mathbb{E}\left\{ \| \sin (\hat{V}(m), V_p^{(m)}) \|^2_F 1_{E_1 \cap E_2} \right\}
\]
\[
\leq m \left( \mathbb{E}(1_{E_2}) + \mathbb{E}(1_{E_1}) \right) + \mathbb{E}\left\{ \left\| \frac{(1/nd)(\hat{\Sigma} - \mathbb{E} \hat{\Sigma}) V_p^{(m)}}{\sqrt{\frac{(1/nd)|\lambda_{p_m}^2 - \lambda_{p_{m+1}}^2| - t_2 - 2t_1|^2}} \right\|_F 1_{E_1 \cap E_2} \right\}
\]
\[
\leq cn^{-4} + \mathbb{E}\left\{ \left\| \frac{(1/nd)(\hat{\Sigma} - \mathbb{E} \hat{\Sigma}) V_p^{(m)}}{\sqrt{\frac{(1/2nd)|\hat{\lambda}_{p_m}^2 - \hat{\lambda}_{p_{m+1}}^2|^2} \right\|_F \right\}
\]
\[
\leq cn^{-4} + \frac{C(1-p)}{(b_m^2 - b_{m+1}^2)^2} \max \left\{ \frac{1}{pmd^3}, \frac{1}{p^2n^2d^5/2} \right\}, \quad (A.6)
\]
where $1_E$ is an indicator function of an event $E$, the first inequality holds by the fact that $\| \sin(\hat{V}(m), V_p^{(m)}) \|^2_F \leq m$ and Davis-Kahan sin $\theta$ theorem (Theorem 3.1 in [Li (1998b)]), and the last inequality is due to Lemma 5.

By (A.5) and (A.6), the result (4.2) follows.

A.2. Proofs for Theorem 2

Proposition 3. Under the assumptions in Theorem 2, we have

\[
\sqrt{nd} \Gamma^{-1/2}_n \left[ \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{nd} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda_{p_i}^2 p & \sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda_{p_i}^2 \frac{1}{nd} \sum_{i=1}^{m} [\lambda_i^2 + n\sigma^2] \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{nd} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda_i^2 \frac{1}{p^3} \sum_{i=1}^{m} (\lambda_i^2 + n\sigma^2) \hat{p} \end{pmatrix} \right]
\]
\[
\rightarrow \mathcal{N}(0, I_2) \quad \text{in distribution, as } n, d \rightarrow \infty,
\]
where $\lambda_{p_i}$, $\lambda_i$, and $\hat{p}$ are defined in (3.3), (2.1), and (3.4), respectively, and

$\Gamma_n = \Gamma_n^T \in \mathbb{R}^{2 \times 2}$ consists of

\[
\]
Proposition 4. Under the model setup in Section 2 and Assumption 1, let
\[ \hat{\tau}_p = \frac{1}{d - r} \text{tr} \left( V_{pc}^T \hat{\Sigma}_p V_{pc} \right), \]
where \( \hat{\Sigma}_p \) and \( V_{pc} \) are defined in (3.3). Then, we have
\[ \hat{\tau}_p - np^2 \sigma^2 = O_p \left( p \sqrt{n} \right). \]

Proof of Theorem 2. We have
\[
\frac{1}{\sqrt{nd}} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{m} \hat{\lambda}_i^2 - \sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda_i^2 \right\} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{nd}} \left\{ \left( \frac{1}{p^2} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{m} \hat{\lambda}_i^2 - \sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda_i^2 \right] \right) + \sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda_i^2 + n \sigma^2 \right\} + \left( n \sigma^2 - \frac{1}{p^2} \hat{\tau}_p \right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{nd}} \{ (a) + (b) \}. \]

First, consider the term \((a)\). We have
\[
(a) = \frac{1}{p^2} \text{tr} \left( \hat{V}^{(m)} T \hat{\Sigma}_p \hat{V}^{(m)} \right) - \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left[ \hat{\lambda}_i^2 + n \sigma^2 \right]
\]
\[
= \left\{ \frac{1}{p^2} \text{tr} \left( \hat{V}^{(m)} T \hat{\Sigma}_p \hat{V}^{(m)} \right) - \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left[ \lambda_i^2 + n \sigma^2 \right] \right\}
\]
\[
+ \left\{ \frac{1}{p^2} \text{tr} \left( \hat{V}^{(m)} T \hat{\Sigma}_p \hat{V}^{(m)} \right) - \frac{1}{p^2} \text{tr} \left( \hat{V}^{(m)} T \hat{\Sigma}_p \hat{V}^{(m)} \right) \right\}
\]
\[
+ \left\{ \frac{1}{p^2} \text{tr} \left( \hat{V}^{(m)} T \hat{\Sigma}_p \hat{V}^{(m)} \right) - \frac{1}{p^2} \text{tr} \left( \hat{V}^{(m)} T \hat{\Sigma}_p \hat{V}^{(m)} \right) \right\}
\]
\[
= (i) + (ii) + (iii). \tag{A.7}
\]

By (4.1), there is \( \mathcal{O} \in \mathbb{V}_{m,m} \) such that
\[ \| \hat{V}^{(m)} - V_p^{(m)} \mathcal{O} \|_F^2 \leq 2 \| \sin \left( \hat{V}^{(m)}, V_p^{(m)} \right) \|_F^2 \]
and \( \mathcal{O}_i^T V_p^{(m)} T \hat{\Sigma}_p V_p^{(m)} \mathcal{O}_i = \lambda_{pi}^2 \), where \( \mathcal{O}_i \) is the \( i \)-th column of \( \mathcal{O} \). Then, the term \((i)\) is
\[
(i) = \frac{1}{p^2} \text{tr} \left( \mathcal{O}^T V_p^{(m)} T \hat{\Sigma}_p V_p^{(m)} \mathcal{O} \right) - \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left[ \lambda_i^2 + n \sigma^2 \right]
\]
\[
+ \frac{1}{p^2} \text{tr} \left( \hat{V}^{(m)} T \hat{\Sigma}_p \hat{V}^{(m)} - \mathcal{O}^T V_p^{(m)} T \hat{\Sigma}_p V_p^{(m)} \mathcal{O} \right) \]
\[
= \frac{1}{p^2} \text{tr} \left( V_p^{(m)T} \hat{\Sigma}_p V_p^{(m)} \right) - \sum_{i=1}^{m} [\lambda_i^2 + n\sigma^2] \\
+ \frac{1}{p^2} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left( \hat{V}_i^T \hat{\Sigma}_p \hat{V}_i - \mathcal{O}_i^T V_p^{(m)T} \hat{\Sigma}_p V_p \mathcal{O}_i \right) \\
= \frac{1}{p^2} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda_i^2 - \sum_{i=1}^{m} [\lambda_i^2 + n\sigma^2] + O_p \left( \frac{1}{p^d} \right), \quad (A.8)
\]
where the last equality holds by the fact that
\[
\left| \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left( \hat{V}_i^T \hat{\Sigma}_p \hat{V}_i - \mathcal{O}_i^T V_p^{(m)T} \hat{\Sigma}_p V_p \mathcal{O}_i \right) \right| \\
\leq 2\lambda_{p1}^2 \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left\| \hat{V}_i - V_p^{(m)} \mathcal{O}_i \right\|_2^2 \\
= 2\lambda_{p1}^2 \left\| \hat{V}^{(m)} - V_p^{(m)} \mathcal{O}_i \right\|_F^2 \\
= O_p \left( \frac{p}{d^2} \right), \quad (A.9)
\]
where the last equality is due to (4.1), (A.6), and (A.10) below; by the application of Weyl’s theorem \cite{Li1998} and Lemma 3, we can show
\[
\lambda_{p1}^2 = O_p(p^2nd). \quad (A.10)
\]

The term \((ii)\) is
\[
E \left| (ii) \right| = E \left| \frac{1}{p^2} \left( \hat{\rho} - p \right) \text{tr} \left( \hat{V}^{(m)T} \text{diag}(\hat{\Sigma}) \hat{V}^{(m)} \right) \right| \\
\leq \frac{m}{p^2} E \left| \left( \hat{\rho} - p \right) \max_{1 \leq i \leq m} \hat{V}_i^T \text{diag}(\hat{\Sigma}) \hat{V}_i \right| \\
\leq \frac{m}{p^2} \left[ E (\hat{\rho} - p)^2 \right]^{1/2} \left\{ E \left[ \max_{1 \leq i \leq m} \hat{V}_i^T \text{diag}(\hat{\Sigma}) \hat{V}_i \right]^2 \right\}^{1/2} \\
\leq \frac{m}{p^2} \left[ E (\hat{\rho} - p)^2 \right]^{1/2} \left\{ E \left[ \text{diag}(\hat{\Sigma}) \right]^2 \right\}^{1/2} \\
= \frac{m}{p^2} \sqrt{\frac{p(1 - p)}{nd}} \left\{ E \left[ \text{diag}(\hat{\Sigma}) \right]^2 \right\}^{1/2}
\]
where the second inequality is due to Hölder’s inequality and the last equality holds by the fact that

\[ E\left[\|\text{diag}(\hat{\Sigma})\|^2\right] \leq 4 \sum_{h=1}^{d} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \left( M_{kh}^2 - p(M_{0kh}^2 + \sigma^2) \right)^2 + 4 \left\{ \max_{1 \leq h \leq d} p \sum_{k=1}^{n} M_{0kh}^2 \right\}^2 \]

\[ = O \left( \max\{pnd, p^2 n^2\} \right). \]

The term (iii) in (A.7) is

\[ (iii) = \left( \frac{1}{p^2} - \frac{1}{p^2} \right) \left[ \text{tr} \left( \hat{V}^{(m)}T \hat{\Sigma}_p \hat{V}^{(m)} \right) - p^2 \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left( \lambda_i^2 + n\sigma^2 \right) \right] \]

\[ + \left( \frac{1}{p^2} - \frac{1}{p^2} \right) p^2 \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left( \lambda_i^2 + n\sigma^2 \right) \]

\[ = \left( \frac{1}{p^2} - \frac{1}{p^2} \right) \left[ \text{tr} \left( \hat{V}^{(m)}T \hat{\Sigma}_p \hat{V}^{(m)} \right) - \text{tr} \left( \hat{V}^{(m)}T \hat{\Sigma}_p \hat{V}^{(m)} \right) \right] \]

\[ + \text{tr} \left( \hat{V}^{(m)}T \hat{\Sigma}_p \hat{V}^{(m)} \right) - \text{tr} \left( O^T V_p^{(m)} T \hat{\Sigma}_p V_p^{(m)} O \right) \]

\[ + \text{tr} \left( O^T V_p^{(m)} T \hat{\Sigma}_p V_p^{(m)} O \right) - p^2 \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left( \lambda_i^2 + n\sigma^2 \right) \]

\[ + \left( \frac{1}{p^2} - \frac{1}{p^2} \right) p^2 \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left( \lambda_i^2 + n\sigma^2 \right) \]

\[ = O_p \left( \frac{1}{p^2} \right) \left[ O_p \left( \max\left\{ p, \sqrt{\frac{p^2 n d}{d^2}} \right\} \right) + O_p \left( \frac{p}{d^2} \right) + O_p \left( \sqrt{p^2 n d} \right) \right] \]

\[ + \left( \frac{1}{p^2} - \frac{1}{p^2} \right) p^2 \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left( \lambda_i^2 + n\sigma^2 \right) \]
\[
= O_p \left( \frac{1}{p} \right) + \left( \frac{1}{p^2} - \frac{1}{p^2} \right) p^2 \sum_{i=1}^{m} (\lambda_i^2 + n\sigma^2), \quad (A.12)
\]

where the third equality is due to (A.11), (A.9), Proposition 3, and the fact that

\[
\sqrt{n}d \left( \frac{1}{p^2} - \frac{1}{p^2} \right) \rightarrow N \left( 0, \frac{4(1 - p)}{p^5} \right) \text{ in distribution, as } n, d \rightarrow \infty,
\]

by CLT and Delta method. From (A.8), (A.11), and (A.12), we have

\[
(a) = \frac{1}{p^2} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda_{pi}^2 - \sum_{i=1}^{m} [\lambda_i^2 + n\sigma^2] + \left( \frac{1}{p^2} - \frac{1}{p^2} \right) p^2 \sum_{i=1}^{m} (\lambda_i^2 + n\sigma^2) + o_p \left( \sqrt{\frac{nd}{p}} \right).
\]

Second, the term \((b)\) is

\[
(b) = n\sigma^2 - \frac{1}{p^2} \tau_p \hat{\tau}_p
\]

\[
= \left( n\sigma^2 - \frac{1}{p^2} \hat{\tau}_p \right) + \left( \frac{1}{p^2} - \frac{1}{p^2} \right) \hat{\tau}_p + \frac{1}{p^2} (\hat{\tau}_p - \hat{\tau}_p)
\]

\[
= O_p \left( \sqrt{\frac{n}{p}} \right) + O_p \left( \sqrt{\frac{nd}{pd}} \right) + \frac{1}{p^2} (\hat{\tau}_p - \hat{\tau}_p)
\]

\[
= o_p \left( \sqrt{\frac{nd}{p}} \right),
\]

where the third equality is due to Proposition 4 and (A.13), and the last equality holds by the fact that there is \(\hat{\mathbf{O}} \in \mathbb{V}_{d-r,d-r} \) by (4.1) such that

\[
\| \hat{V}_{c}^{(m)} - V_{pc}^{(m)} \mathbf{\hat{O}} \|_F^2 \leq 2 \| \sin(\hat{V}_{c}^{(m)}, V_{pc}^{(m)}) \|_F^2 \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{\mathbf{O}}_{i}^{T} V_{pc}^{T} \hat{\Sigma}_{p} V_{pc} \hat{\mathbf{O}}_{i} = \lambda_{p_{r+i}}^2,
\]

where \(\hat{\mathbf{O}}_{i}\) is the \(i\)-th column of \(\hat{\mathbf{O}}\), and that

\[
\left| \hat{\tau}_p - \hat{\tau}_p \right|
\]

\[
= \frac{1}{(d-r)} \left| \text{tr} \left( \hat{\mathbf{O}}_{i}^{T} V_{pc}^{T} \hat{\Sigma}_{p} V_{pc} \hat{\mathbf{O}} \right) - \text{tr} \left( \hat{V}_{c}^{T} \hat{\Sigma}_{p} \hat{V}_{c} \right) \right|
\]

\[
\leq \frac{1}{(d-r)} \left| \text{tr} \left( \hat{V}_{c}^{T} \hat{\Sigma}_{p} \hat{V}_{c} \right) - \text{tr} \left( \hat{V}_{c}^{T} \hat{\Sigma}_{p} \hat{V}_{c} \right) \right|
\]

\[
\leq \frac{1}{(d-r)} 4\lambda_{p_{1}}^2 \| \sin(V_{pc}, \hat{V}_{c}) \|_F^2 + \frac{1}{(d-r)} (\hat{p} - p) \text{tr} \left( \hat{V}_{c}^{T} \text{diag}(\hat{\Sigma}) \hat{V}_{c} \right)
\]

\[
= \frac{1}{(d-r)} 4\lambda_{p_{1}}^2 \| \sin(V_{p}, \hat{V}) \|_F^2 + O_p \left( \max \left\{ p, p^{3/2} \sqrt{\frac{n}{d}} \right\} \right)
\]
\begin{align*}
&= O_p\left( \frac{p}{d^3} \right) + O_p\left( \max\left\{ p, p^{3/2} \sqrt{\frac{n}{d}} \right\} \right),
\end{align*}
where the second inequality can be derived similarly to (A.9), the second equality holds similarly to (A.11), and the last equality is due to (A.6) and (A.10).

Combining the results in (A.14) and (A.15), we have
\begin{align*}
\frac{1}{\sqrt{nd}} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{m} \hat{\lambda}^2_i - \sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda^2_i \right\} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{nd}} \{(a) + m(b) \}
= \frac{1}{\sqrt{nd}} \left\{ \frac{1}{p^2} \sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda^2_{pi} - \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left[ \lambda^2_i + n\sigma^2 \right] + \left( \frac{1}{p^2} - \frac{1}{p^2} \right) \right\} p^2 \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left( \lambda^2_i + n\sigma^2 \right) + o_p(1).
\end{align*}
Thus, by Proposition 3, Delta method and Slutsky’s theorem, we have
\begin{align*}
\frac{1}{\sqrt{nd} \sigma_\lambda} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{m} \hat{\lambda}^2_i - \sum_{i=1}^{m} \lambda^2_i \right\} &\to \mathcal{N}(0,1) \text{ in distribution, as } n, d \to \infty,
\end{align*}
where \( \sigma^2_\lambda = \left( 1 - 2p^{-3} \right) \Gamma_{nd} \left( -\frac{1}{2p^{-3}} \right) \).

### A.3. Proofs for Theorem 4

**Proposition 5.** Under the model setup in Section 2, Assumption 1, and Assumption 2(2), we have
\begin{align*}
\left\| \hat{M}(s_0) - M_0 \right\|_F^2 &= \frac{1}{p b^4} O_p(n),
\end{align*}
where \( \hat{M}(s_0) \) are defined in (4.5) and (4.7) and \( M_0 \) is defined in (2.1).

**Proof of Theorem 4.** For any given \( \eta > 0 \), we have for a large \( n \),
\begin{align*}
P \left( \min_{s \in \{-1,1\}} \| \mathcal{P}_\Omega(\hat{M}(s)) - \mathcal{P}_\Omega(M) \|_F < \| \mathcal{P}_\Omega(\hat{M}(s_0)) - \mathcal{P}_\Omega(M) \|_F \right) &\leq \frac{\eta}{2}
\end{align*}
by Assumption 2(1). Also, for any given \( \eta > 0 \), we can find \( C_\eta > 0 \), free of \( n, d, \) and \( p \), such that for large \( n \),
\begin{align*}
P \left( \frac{p b^4}{n} \left\| \hat{M}(s_0) - M_0 \right\|_F^2 \geq C_\eta \right) &\leq \frac{\eta}{2}
\end{align*}
by Proposition 5. Therefore, for any given \( \eta > 0 \), we can find \( C_\eta > 0 \) such that
\begin{align*}
P \left( \frac{p b^4}{n} \left\| \hat{M}(\hat{s}) - M_0 \right\|_F^2 \geq C_\eta \right) \\
= P \left( \frac{p b^4}{n} \left\| \hat{M}(s_0) - M_0 \right\|_F^2 \geq C_\eta, s_0 = \hat{s} \right) \\
+ P \left( \frac{p b^4}{n} \left\| \hat{M}(\hat{s}) - M_0 \right\|_F^2 \geq C_\eta, s_0 \neq \hat{s} \right) 
\end{align*}
\[
\begin{align*}
\leq \mathbb{P} & \left( \frac{p b^4}{n} \left\| \hat{M}(s_0) - M_0 \right\|_F^2 \geq C \eta \right) \\
+ & \mathbb{P} \left( \min_{s \in \{-1,1\}} \left\| \mathcal{P}_\Omega (\hat{M}(s)) - \mathcal{P}_\Omega (M) \right\|_F^2 < \left\| \mathcal{P}_\Omega (\hat{M}(s_0)) - \mathcal{P}_\Omega (M) \right\|_F^2 \right) \\
\leq & \frac{\eta}{2} + \frac{\eta}{2} \\
= & \eta.
\end{align*}
\]

Or, for any given \( \eta > 0 \) and \( \zeta > 0 \), there exists \( N_\zeta > 0 \) such that for all \( n \geq N_\zeta \),

\[
\begin{align*}
\mathbb{P} & \left( \frac{p b^4}{n} \left\| \hat{M}(\hat{s}) - M_0 \right\|_F^2 > \eta \right) \\
= & \mathbb{P} \left( \frac{p b^4}{n} \left\| \hat{M}(s_0) - M_0 \right\|_F^2 > \eta, s_0 = \hat{s} \right) \\
+ & \mathbb{P} \left( \frac{p b^4}{n} \left\| \hat{M}(\hat{s}) - M_0 \right\|_F^2 > \eta, s_0 \neq \hat{s} \right) \\
\leq & \mathbb{P} \left( \frac{p b^4}{n} \left\| \hat{M}(s_0) - M_0 \right\|_F^2 \geq \eta \right) \\
+ & \mathbb{P} \left( \min_{s \in \{-1,1\}} \left\| \mathcal{P}_\Omega (\hat{M}(s)) - \mathcal{P}_\Omega (M) \right\|_F^2 < \left\| \mathcal{P}_\Omega (\hat{M}(s_0)) - \mathcal{P}_\Omega (M) \right\|_F^2 \right) \\
\leq & \frac{\zeta}{2} + \frac{\zeta}{2} \\
= & \zeta,
\end{align*}
\]

where the second inequality holds due to Assumption 2(1) and Proposition 5.

References


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Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Public Health Sciences, 1100 Fairview Ave N, Seattle, WA 98109, USA.

E-mail: jcho23@fhcrc.org

Department of Operations Research & Financial Engineering, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544, USA.

E-mail: donggyu@princeton.edu

Department of Statistics, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706, USA.

E-mail: karlrohe@stat.wisc.edu

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