

# Graphic Lasso: Clustering accuracy for precision matrix model

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## 1 Accuracy

Consider the optimization problem.

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{U}, \{\Theta^l\}} \quad & Q(\mathbf{U}, \{\Theta^l\}) = \sum_{k=1}^K \text{tr}(S^k \Omega^k) - \log \det(\Omega^k), \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \Omega^k = \sum_{l=1}^r u_{kl} \Theta^l, \\ & |\Theta^l|_1 < b, \quad \text{for } l \in [r], \\ & \mathbf{U} \in \{0, 1\}^{K \times r} \text{ is a membership matrix,} \\ & \{\Theta^l\} \text{ are irreducible and invertible.} \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

### Notations

Note that the definitiona of confusion matrix and MCR differ with the definitions in tensor block model (TBM) by a factor  $K$  ( $d$  in TBM). Therefore, the final result includes a  $K$  in the dominator in this model.

1.  $\Sigma^l$  for  $l = 1, \dots, r$ : the true covariance matrices, where  $(\Theta^l)^{-1} = \Sigma^l$
2.  $D = \llbracket D_{ij} \rrbracket \in [0, 1]^{r \times r}$ : the confusion matrix between the true membership matrix  $\mathbf{U}$  and the estimation  $\hat{\mathbf{U}}$ , where  $D_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{I}(u_{ki} = \hat{u}_{kj} = 1)$ .
3.  $I_l = \{k : u_{kl} = 1\}$  for  $l = 1, \dots, r$ : the index set of the categories belong to the group  $l$ . The sets  $I_l$  rely on the membership  $\mathbf{U}$ . Note that  $\sum_{l=1}^r |I_l| = K$ . Let  $\hat{I}_l$  denote the index sets according to the estimation  $\hat{\mathbf{U}}$ .
4.  $MCR(\hat{\mathbf{U}}, \mathbf{U}) = \max_{l, a \neq a' \in [r]} \min\{D_{al}, D_{a'l}\}$ : the misclassification rate.
5.  $\delta = \min_{k \neq l \in [r]} \min_{(i,j)} (\Sigma_{ij}^k - \Sigma_{ij}^l)^2$ : the minimal gap between the true covariance matrices.
6.  $\varphi \min(\cdot)$ : the minimal singular value of the matrix.
7.  $\varphi \max(\cdot)$ : the maximal singular value of the matrix,
8.  $n_k > 0$  for  $k \in [K]$ : the  $n_k$  is the sample size for the  $k$ -th category.

**Theorem 1.1.** Suppose the singular value for the true precision matrices are bounded, i.e.,  $0 < s < \min_{l \in [r]} \varphi_{\min}(\Theta^l) \leq \max_{l \in [r]} \varphi_{\max}(\Theta^l) < \tau < \infty$ , where  $s < \tau$  are positive constants. The minimal gap between the precision matrices  $\delta = \min_{k \neq l \in [r]} \min_{(i,j)} (\Sigma_{ij}^k - \Sigma_{ij}^l)^2$  is larger than 0. Let  $\hat{\mathbf{U}}$  denote the minimizer of the objective function (1). Then, for any  $\epsilon \in [0, 1]$ , we have

$$\mathbb{P}(MCR(\hat{\mathbf{U}}, \mathbf{U}) \geq \epsilon) \leq C_1 \exp \left( -\frac{C_2 \min_{k \in [K]} n_k \epsilon^2 \delta^2}{s^2 K^2 r^2 b^2 \max_{l \in [r]} \|\Theta^l\|_{\max}^2} \right),$$

where  $C_1, C_2$  are two constants only depend on  $\tau$ .

*Proof.* Recall the objective function

$$Q(\mathbf{U}, \{\Theta^l\}) = \sum_{k=1}^K \text{tr}(S^k \Omega^k) - \log \det(\Omega^k) = \sum_{k=1}^K \langle S^k, \Omega^k \rangle - \log \det(\Omega^k).$$

The deviation between the true parameters  $\{\mathbf{U}, \{\Theta^l\}\}$  and estimations  $\{\hat{\mathbf{U}}, \{\hat{\Theta}^l\}\}$  comes from two aspects: the estimation of  $\{\Theta^l\}$  and the misclassification (estimation of  $\mathbf{U}$ ). We tease apart these two parts.

1. First, we suppose the membership  $\mathbf{U}$  is given. We now assess the stochastic error due to the estimation of  $\{\Theta^l\}$ , conditional on  $\mathbf{U}$ . Note that the objective function is convex. The optimal  $\{\Theta^l\}$  satisfies the first order condition.

$$\frac{\partial Q}{\partial \Theta_{ij}^l} = \sum_{k \in I_l} S_{ij}^k - |I_l| \frac{C(\Theta^l)_{ij}}{\det(\Theta^l)} = 0,$$

However, the L1-constraint is non-convex  
So the entire problem is nonconvex

where  $C(A)_{ij}$  is the cofactor of matrix  $A$  corresponding to the element  $A_{ij}$ . Note that  $\Theta^l$  should be a symmetric matrix. The cofactor matrix  $C(\Theta^l) = C^T(\Theta^l)$ . Then, the derivation of the matrix  $\Theta^l$  is equal to

$$\frac{\partial Q}{\partial \Theta^l} = \sum_{k \in I_l} S^k - |I_l| \frac{C^T(\Theta^l)}{\det(\Theta^l)} = 0,$$

which implies that

$$\hat{\Theta}^l = \left( \frac{\sum_{k \in I_l} S^k}{|I_l|} \right)^{-1}, \quad \text{for } l \in [r].$$

does not hold when we consider  
constrained optimization

Therefore, the estimation of  $\{\Theta^l\}$  is a function of  $\mathbf{U}$ . Consider the function  $F(\mathbf{U}) = Q(\mathbf{U}, \{\hat{\Theta}^l\})$ . By a straightforward calculation, we have

$$\begin{aligned} F(\mathbf{U}) &= \sum_{l=1}^r \sum_{k \in I_l} \langle S^k, \left( \frac{\sum_{k \in I_l} S^k}{|I_l|} \right)^{-1} \rangle - |I_l| \log \det \left( \left( \frac{\sum_{k \in I_l} S^k}{|I_l|} \right)^{-1} \right) \\ &= \sum_{l=1}^r \langle \sum_{k \in I_l} S^k, \left( \frac{\sum_{k \in I_l} S^k}{|I_l|} \right)^{-1} \rangle - |I_l| \log \det \left( \left( \frac{\sum_{k \in I_l} S^k}{|I_l|} \right)^{-1} \right) \\ &= \sum_{l=1}^r |I_l| p - |I_l| \log \det \left( \frac{\sum_{k \in I_l} S^k}{|I_l|} \right)^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Note that  $\sum_{l=1}^r |I_l| p = Kp$  is independent with the membership. We only need to consider the second term. For simplicity, we define

$$F(\mathbf{U}) = - \sum_{l=1}^r |I_l| \log \det \left( \left( \frac{\sum_{k \in I_l} S^k}{|I_l|} \right)^{-1} \right).$$

Note that  $\mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{\sum_{k \in I_l} S^k}{|I_l|} \right] = \frac{\sum_{a=1}^r D_{al} \Sigma^l}{|I_l|}$ . Correspondingly, we define the **population version of**  $F(\mathbf{U})$  as following.

$$G(\mathbf{U}) = - \sum_{l=1}^r |I_l| \log \det \left( \left( \frac{\sum_{a=1}^r D_{al} \Sigma^a}{|I_l|} \right)^{-1} \right),$$

where  $\Sigma^k = \mathbb{E}[S^k]$  is the true covariance matrices. Therefore, the deviation  $F(\mathbf{U}) - G(\mathbf{U})$  quantifies the stochastic error due to the estimation of  $\{\Theta^l\}$ .

2. Next, we free  $\mathbf{U}$  and quantify the total deviation. Considering the maximizer,

$$\hat{\mathbf{U}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{U}} F(\mathbf{U}).$$

The corresponding  $G(\hat{\mathbf{U}})$  is

$$G(\hat{\mathbf{U}}) = - \sum_{l=1}^r |\hat{I}_l| \log \det \left( \left( \frac{\sum_{a=1}^r D_{al} \Sigma^a}{|\hat{I}_l|} \right)^{-1} \right),$$

and the function  $G(\mathbf{U})$  with true membership is

$$G(\mathbf{U}) = - \sum_{l=1}^r |I_l| \log \det \left( \left( \frac{\sum_{k \in I_l} \Sigma^l}{|I_l|} \right)^{-1} \right) = \sum_{l=1}^r |I_l| \log \det(\Sigma^l).$$

Then, the deviation  $G(\hat{\mathbf{U}}) - G(\mathbf{U})$  measures the stochastic error of the misclassification.

Now back to the probability of misclassification rate. By Lemma 1, we have

$$\mathbb{P}(MCR(\hat{\mathbf{U}}, \mathbf{U}) \geq \epsilon) \leq \mathbb{P}(G(\hat{\mathbf{U}}) - G(\mathbf{U}) \leq -\frac{1}{4s} \epsilon \delta).$$

Notice that the total deviation between  $\hat{\mathbf{U}}$  and  $\mathbf{U}$  is able to be decomposed into three parts.

$$\begin{aligned} F(\hat{\mathbf{U}}) - F(\mathbf{U}) &= [F(\hat{\mathbf{U}}) - G(\hat{\mathbf{U}})] + [G(\hat{\mathbf{U}}) - G(\mathbf{U})] + [G(\mathbf{U}) - F(\mathbf{U})] \\ &\leq 2m - \frac{1}{4s} \epsilon \delta, \end{aligned}$$

where  $m = \sup_{\mathbf{U}} |F(\mathbf{U}) - G(\mathbf{U})|$ . Since  $\hat{\mathbf{U}}$  is the minimizer of the objective function, we know that  $F(\hat{\mathbf{U}}) - F(\mathbf{U}) \leq 0$ . Therefore, we obtain the accuracy of misclassification rate

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(MCR(\hat{\mathbf{U}}, \mathbf{U}) \geq \epsilon) &\leq \mathbb{P}(F(\hat{\mathbf{U}}) - F(\mathbf{U}) \leq 2m - \frac{1}{4s}\epsilon\delta) \\ &\leq \mathbb{P}(m \geq \frac{1}{8s}\epsilon\delta) \\ &\leq \mathbb{P}\left(\max_{k, (i,j)} |S_{(i,j)}^k - \mathbb{E}[S_{(i,j)}^k]| \geq \frac{\epsilon\delta}{8sKr b \max_{l \in [r]} \|\Theta^l\|_{\max}}\right), \\ &\leq C_1 \exp\left(-\frac{C_2 \min_{k \in [K]} n_k \epsilon^2 \delta^2}{s^2 K^2 r^2 b^2 \max_{l \in [r]} \|\Theta^l\|_{\max}^2}\right) \end{aligned}$$

where the third inequality follow by Lemma 2, the last inequality follows by the Lemma 3, and  $C_1, C_2$  are two constants.

Useful lemma.

may need tailor down to L0-constrained estimate  $\square$

**Lemma 1.** Assume the minimal singular-value of the true precision matrices is lower bounded  $\min_{l \in [r]} \varphi_{\min}(\Theta^l) > s$ , where  $s$  is a positive constant, and the minimal gap between covariance matrices  $\delta > 0$ . For any fixed  $\epsilon > 0$ , suppose the misclassification rate  $MCR(\hat{\mathbf{U}}, \mathbf{U}) \geq \epsilon$ , we have

$$G(\hat{\mathbf{U}}) - G(\mathbf{U}) \leq -\frac{1}{4s}\epsilon\delta.$$

*Proof.* Note that for an invertible matrix  $A$ ,  $\det(A^{-1}) = \frac{1}{\det(A)}$ . Recall the formula of  $G(\mathbf{U})$  and  $G(\hat{\mathbf{U}})$ . We have

$$G(\mathbf{U}) = \sum_{l=1}^r |I_l| \log \det(\Sigma^l), \quad \text{and} \quad G(\hat{\mathbf{U}}) = \sum_{l=1}^r |\hat{I}_l| \log \det\left(\frac{\sum_{a=1}^r D_{al} \Sigma^a}{|\hat{I}_l|}\right).$$

Note that

$$\sum_{l=1}^r |\hat{I}_l| \left( \frac{\sum_{a=1}^r D_{al} \log \det(\Sigma^a)}{|\hat{I}_l|} \right) = \sum_{a=1}^r \sum_{l=1}^r D_{al} \log \det(\Sigma^a) = G(\mathbf{U}),$$

where the second equality follows by the fact that  $\sum_{l=1}^r D_{al} = |I_a|$ . Since  $MCR(\hat{\mathbf{U}}, \mathbf{U}) \geq \epsilon$ , there exist  $l, k \neq k' \in [r]$  such that  $\min\{D_{kl}, D_{k'l}\} \geq \epsilon$ . Let  $\tilde{\Sigma} = \frac{\sum_{a=1}^r D_{al} \Sigma^a}{|\hat{I}_l|}$ , and  $\Delta = \Sigma - \tilde{\Sigma}$  for some matrix  $\Sigma$ . Consider the function  $f(t) = \log \det(\tilde{\Sigma} + t\Delta)$ . By Taylor Expansion, we have

$$\log \det(\Sigma) - \log \det(\tilde{\Sigma}) = f(1) - f(0) = f'(0) + \frac{f''(\xi)}{2}, \quad \text{for some } \xi \in [0, 1], \quad (2)$$

where

$$f'(0) = \langle \tilde{\Sigma}, \Delta \rangle, \quad \text{and} \quad f''(\xi) = \text{vec}(\Delta)^T (\tilde{\Sigma} + \xi\Delta)^{-1} \otimes (\tilde{\Sigma} + \xi\Delta)^{-1} \text{vec}(\Delta). \quad (3)$$

Particularly, by the definition of singular value, we have the lower bound of the second derivative

$$f''(\xi) = \text{vec}(\Delta)^T (\tilde{\Sigma} + \xi\Delta)^{-1} \otimes (\tilde{\Sigma} + \xi\Delta)^{-1} \text{vec}(\Delta) \geq \|\Delta\|_F^2 s, \quad (4)$$

where  $\|\cdot\|_F$  is the matrix Frobenius norm.

Let  $\Delta^l = \Sigma^l - \tilde{\Sigma}$ ,  $l \in [r]$ . Combining the Taylor Expansion (2) with the lower bound (4), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \frac{\sum_{a=1}^r D_{al} \log \det(\Sigma^a)}{|\hat{I}_l|} \right) - \log \det(\tilde{\Sigma}) &= \sum_{a=1}^l \frac{D_{al}}{|\hat{I}_l|} \left[ \log \det(\Sigma^a) - \log \det(\tilde{\Sigma}) \right] \\ &\geq \sum_{a=1}^r \frac{D_{al}}{|\hat{I}_l|} \left( \langle \tilde{\Sigma}, \Delta^a \rangle + \frac{1}{2} s \|\Delta^a\|_F^2 \right) \\ &\geq \frac{D_{kl}}{2|\hat{I}_l|} s \|\Delta^k\|_F^2 + \frac{D_{k'l}}{2|\hat{I}_l|} s \|\Delta^{k'}\|_F^2, \end{aligned}$$

where the last inequality follows by the fact that  $\sum_{a=1}^r \frac{D_{al}}{|\hat{I}_l|} \langle \tilde{\Sigma}, \Delta^a \rangle = 0$ . By the inequality  $\frac{1}{2} \|A + B\|_F^2 \leq \|A\|_F^2 + \|B\|_F^2$ , we obtain that

$$\left( \frac{\sum_{a=1}^r D_{al} \log \det(\Sigma^a)}{|\hat{I}_l|} \right) - \log \det(\tilde{\Sigma}) \geq \frac{\min\{D_{kl}, D_{k'l}\} s}{|\hat{I}_l|} \|\Sigma^k - \Sigma^{k'}\|_F^2 \geq \frac{\epsilon}{4s|\hat{I}_l|} \delta. \quad (5)$$

For other  $l' \in [r]/l$ , since  $\log \det(\cdot)$  is a convex function, by Jensen's inequality, we have

$$\left( \frac{\sum_{a=1}^r D_{al'} \log \det(\Sigma^a)}{|\hat{I}_{l'}|} \right) - \log \det \left( \frac{\sum_{a=1}^r D_{al'} \Sigma^a}{|\hat{I}_{l'}|} \right) \geq 0. \quad (6)$$

Combining the the inequality (5) and (6), we obtain the misclassification error

$$G(\hat{\mathbf{U}}) - G(\mathbf{U}) = \sum_{l=1}^r |\hat{I}_l| \log \det \left( \frac{\sum_{a=1}^r D_{al} \Sigma^a}{|\hat{I}_l|} \right) - \sum_{l=1}^r |\hat{I}_l| \left( \frac{\sum_{a=1}^r D_{al} \log \det(\Sigma^a)}{|\hat{I}_l|} \right) \leq \frac{1}{4s} \epsilon \delta.$$

□

**Lemma 2.** Suppose we have  $|\Theta^l|_1 < b$  for all  $l \in [r]$ , where  $|A|_1$  is the number of nonzero elements in matrix  $A$ . Then, we have

$$|F(\mathbf{U}) - G(\mathbf{U})| \leq Krb \max_{l \in [r]} \|\Theta^l\|_{\max} \max_{k, (i,j)} |S_{(i,j)}^k - \mathbb{E}[S_{(i,j)}^k]|$$

*Proof.* Recall the formula of  $F(\mathbf{U})$  and  $G(\mathbf{U})$ , where  $\mathbf{U}$  may not be the true membership matrix. We have

$$|F(\mathbf{U}) - G(\mathbf{U})| \leq \sum_{l=1}^r |I_l| \left| \log \det \left( \frac{\sum_{k \in I_l} S^k}{|I_l|} \right) - \log \det \left( \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{\sum_{k \in I_l} S^k}{|I_l|} \right] \right) \right|.$$

Consider the function  $f(t) = \log \det \left( \frac{\sum_{k \in I_l} S^k}{|I_l|} + t\Delta \right)$ , where  $\Delta = \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{\sum_{k \in I_l} S^k}{|I_l|} \right] - \frac{\sum_{k \in I_l} S^k}{|I_l|}$ . By the previous calculation (3), we know that  $f(t)$  is a convex function. Then, the function is locally Lipschitz with  $L = \sup_t |f'(t)|$ . Therefore, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |F(\mathbf{U}) - G(\mathbf{U})| &\leq \sum_{l=1}^r |I_l| |f(1) - f(0)| \\ &\leq \sum_{l=1}^r |I_l| |f'(1)| \\ &\leq K \sup \left| \left\langle \left( \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{\sum_{k \in I_l} S^k}{|I_l|} \right] \right)^{-1}, \frac{\sum_{k \in I_l} S^k}{|I_l|} - \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{\sum_{k \in I_l} S^k}{|I_l|} \right] \right\rangle \right|. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $(A)^{-1}$  is convex function of  $A$ , we have

$$\left\| \left( \mathbb{E} \left[ \frac{\sum_{k \in I_l} S^k}{|I_l|} \right] \right)^{-1} \right\|_{\max} \leq \left\| \left( \frac{\sum_{k \in I_l} \mathbb{E}[S^k]^{-1}}{|I_l|} \right) \right\|_{\max} \leq \max_{l \in [r]} \left\| \Theta^l \right\|_{\max}.$$

We also have the sparsity

$$\left| \left( \frac{\sum_{k \in I_l} \mathbb{E}[S^k]^{-1}}{|I_l|} \right) \right|_1 \leq rb.$$

Therefore, we obtain the upper bound

$$|F(\mathbf{U}) - G(\mathbf{U})| \leq Krb \max_{l \in [r]} \left\| \Theta^l \right\|_{\max} \max_{k, (i,j)} |S_{(i,j)}^k - \mathbb{E}[S_{(i,j)}^k]|.$$

□

**Lemma 3.** Let  $Z_i \sim_{i.i.d.} \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma)$  and  $\varphi_{\max}(\Sigma) \leq \tau < \infty$ . Let  $\Sigma = \llbracket \Sigma_{ij} \rrbracket$ , then

$$P \left( \left| \sum_{i=1}^n Z_{ij} Z_{ik} - n \Sigma_{jk} \right| \geq n\nu \right) \leq c_1 e^{-c_2 n \nu^2}, \text{ for } |\nu| \leq \delta,$$

where  $c_1, c_2, \delta$  depends on  $\tau$  only.

*Proof.* See Lemma 1 of Rothman et.al.

□