Graphic Lasso: Clustering Accuracy

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The precision model is stated as

$$\mathbb{E}[S^k] = \Omega^k = \sum_{l=1}^r u_{kl} \Theta^l, \quad k \in [K].$$

Consider the following penalized optimization problem

$$\max_{\{\boldsymbol{U},\Theta^l\}} \mathcal{L}_S(\boldsymbol{U},\Theta^l) = -\sum_{k=1}^K \operatorname{tr}(S^k \Omega^k) + \log \det(\Omega^k) + \lambda \left\| \Omega^k \right\|,$$

where U is a membership matrix, and $\{\Theta^l\}$ are irreducible and invertible.

1 Notations

Notations.

- 1. $I'_l = \{k : u'_{kl} \neq 0\}$ is the index set for the *l*-th group based on the membership U'.
- 2. δ be the minimal gap between Θ^l . That is

$$\min_{k,l \in [r]} \left\| \Theta^l - \Theta^k \right\|_F^2 = \delta^2.$$

3. Let $l(\boldsymbol{U}, \boldsymbol{\Theta}^l)$ be the population-based loss function. That is

$$l(\boldsymbol{U}, \Theta^l) = \mathbb{E}_S[\mathcal{L}_S(\boldsymbol{U}, \Theta^l)] = -\sum_{k=1}^K \operatorname{tr}(\Sigma^k \Omega^k) + \log \det(\Omega^k) - \lambda \sum_{k=1}^K \left\| \Omega^k \right\|_1.$$

4. Given the membership U', let $\hat{\Theta}^l(U') = \arg \max_{\Theta^l \in \mathcal{P}_{\Theta,\alpha}} \mathcal{L}_S(U',\Theta)$. Particularly, for each $l \in [r]$, we have

$$\hat{\Theta}^l(\boldsymbol{U}') = \mathop{\arg\max}_{\boldsymbol{\Theta}} - \sum_{k \in I_l'} \langle S^k, \boldsymbol{\Theta} \rangle + |I_l'| \log \det(\boldsymbol{\Theta}) - \lambda |I_l'| \left\| \boldsymbol{\Theta} \right\|_1,$$

5. Given the membership U', let $\tilde{\Theta}^l(U') = \arg \max_{U', \Theta^l}$. Particularly, for each $l \in [r]$, we have

$$\tilde{\Theta}^l(\boldsymbol{U}') = \mathop{\arg\max}_{\boldsymbol{\Theta}} - \sum_{k \in I_l'} \langle \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^k, \boldsymbol{\Theta} \rangle + |I_l'| \log \det(\boldsymbol{\Theta}) - \lambda |I_l'| \left\| \boldsymbol{\Theta} \right\|_1.$$

6. Define functions

$$F(\mathbf{U}') = \mathcal{L}_S(\mathbf{U}', \hat{\Theta}^l(\mathbf{U}')), \quad G(\mathbf{U}') = l(\mathbf{U}', \tilde{\Theta}^l(\mathbf{U}')).$$

- 7. τ be the maximal singular value of the true precision matrix, i.e., $\tau = \max_{l \in [r]} \varphi_{\max}(\Theta^l)$.
- 8. τ_l be the minimal singular value of the true precision matrix, i.e., $\tau_l = \min_{l \in [r]} \varphi_{\min}(\Theta^l)$.

2 Main Result

Theorem 2.1 (Clustering accuracy). Let $\{U, \Theta^l\}$ denote the true parameters. Consider an estimation of membership \hat{U} such that $F(\hat{U}) \geq F(U)$. Assume $\lambda \leq \mathcal{O}(n^{-1/2})$. Then, with high probability tends to 1 as $n \to \infty$, we have the following bound

$$\mathbb{P}(MCR(\hat{\boldsymbol{U}}, \boldsymbol{U}) \ge \epsilon) \le C_1 \exp\left\{-C_2 \frac{\epsilon \delta^2 n}{K p^2 \tau^4}\right\},\,$$

where C_1, C_2 are two positive constants.

Remark 1. Let $\epsilon = \frac{Kp^2\tau^4\log n}{\delta^2n}$. Then, with probability $1 - C_1\exp\{-C_2\log n\}$, we have

$$MCR(\hat{U}, U) \le \frac{Kp^2\tau^4 \log n}{\delta^2 n} \approx \mathcal{O}(n^{-1}).$$

This result implies that the MCR of MLE decays at the rate of $\mathcal{O}(n^{-1})$.

Proof. Since the estimate \hat{U} satisfies $F(\hat{U}) \geq F(U)$, we have

$$F(\hat{U}) - F(U) = F(\hat{U}) - G(\hat{U}) + G(\hat{U}) - G(U) + G(U) - F(U) \ge 0.$$

By Lemma 4, for any $\epsilon > 0$, we have

$$\mathbb{P}(MCR(\hat{\boldsymbol{U}}, \boldsymbol{U}) \ge \epsilon) = \mathbb{P}\left(G(\hat{\boldsymbol{U}}) - G(\boldsymbol{U}) \le \epsilon\delta\left(-\frac{1}{8\tilde{\tau}}\delta + \lambda\sqrt{p}\right)\right)$$
$$\le \mathbb{P}\left(0 \le \epsilon\delta\left(-\frac{1}{8\tilde{\tau}}\delta + \lambda\sqrt{p}\right) + 2m\right),$$

where $m = \sup_{\boldsymbol{U}} |F(\boldsymbol{U}) - G(\boldsymbol{U})|$. Let $\tilde{t} = \frac{\epsilon \delta}{2} \left(\frac{1}{8\tilde{\tau}} \delta - \lambda \sqrt{p} \right)$ By Lemma 3, we obtain that

$$\mathbb{P}(MCR(\hat{\boldsymbol{U}}, \boldsymbol{U}) \ge \epsilon) \le \mathbb{P}(m \ge \tilde{t})$$

$$\le \begin{cases} C_1 \exp\left\{-C_2 n a(\lambda, \tilde{t})^2\right\} & |a(\lambda, \tilde{t})| \le 4\tau_l^{-1} \\ C_1 \exp\left\{-C_2 n a(\lambda, \tilde{t})\right\} & |a(\lambda, \tilde{t})| > 4\tau_l^{-1} \end{cases},$$

where $a(\lambda, t) = \frac{-(2\lambda+1)+\sqrt{(2\lambda+1)^2-4(2\lambda^2-t/Kp^2\tilde{\tau})}}{2}$.

Consider the Taylor Expansion of $a(\lambda, t)$ around (0,0). We have

$$a(\lambda, t) \approx \nabla a(\lambda, t)(\lambda, t)^T = \left(-2 + \frac{-4\lambda + 2}{\sqrt{-4\lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 1 + 4t/Kp^2\tilde{\tau}}}\right)\lambda + \left(\frac{2/Kp^2\tilde{\tau}}{\sqrt{-4\lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 1 + 4t/Kp^2\tilde{\tau}}}\right)t$$
$$= \mathcal{O}(-\lambda) + \mathcal{O}\left(\sqrt{\frac{t}{Kp^2\tilde{\tau}}}\right).$$

Note that $\tilde{t} = \mathcal{O}(\frac{\epsilon \delta^2}{\tilde{\tau}} - \epsilon \delta \lambda \sqrt{p})$. Plug \tilde{t} in $a(\lambda, t)$. We have

$$a(\lambda, \tilde{t}) = \mathcal{O}(-\lambda) + \mathcal{O}\left(\sqrt{\frac{\epsilon\delta^2}{Kp^2\tilde{\tau}^2} - \frac{\epsilon\delta\lambda}{Kp^{3/2}\tilde{\tau}}}\right).$$

Note that $\lambda = \mathcal{O}(n^{-1/2})$. Therefore, as $n \to \infty$, we have

$$a(\lambda, \tilde{t}) \to \mathcal{O}\left(\sqrt{\frac{\epsilon \delta^2}{Kp^2 \tilde{\tau}^2}}\right).$$

When K, p^2 are sufficient large, we can consider $a(\lambda, \tilde{t}) \leq 4\tau_l^{-1}$. Then, we have

$$\mathbb{P}(MCR(\hat{\boldsymbol{U}}, \boldsymbol{U}) \ge \epsilon) \le C_1 \exp\left\{-C_2 \frac{\epsilon \delta^2 n}{K p^2 \tilde{\tau}^2}\right\},\,$$

where $\mathbb{P}(MCR(\hat{\boldsymbol{U}}, \boldsymbol{U}) \geq \epsilon) \to 0$ as $n \to \infty$.

3 Useful Lemmas

Lemma 1. Let $Z_i \sim_{i.i.d.} \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma)$ and $\varphi_{max}(\Sigma) \leq \tau_0 < \infty$. Let $\Sigma = [\![\Sigma_{ij}]\!]$, then

$$P\left(\left|\sum_{i=1}^{n} Z_{ij} Z_{ik} - n \Sigma_{jk}\right| \ge n\nu\right) \le \begin{cases} c_1 e^{-c_2 n\nu^2}, & |\nu| \le \delta \\ c_1 e^{-c_2 n\nu}, & |\nu| > \delta \end{cases}$$

where c_1, c_2 depend on τ_0 only, and $\delta = 4\tau_0$.

Proof of Lemma 1. See A.J. Rothman et al. Lemma 1.

Lemma 2. Let $\tau = \max \varphi_{\max}(\Theta)$. We have

$$vec(\Delta)^T \int_0^1 (1-v)(\Theta+v\Delta)^{-1} \otimes (Theta+v\Delta)^{-1} dv vec(\Delta) \geq \frac{1}{2(\tau^2+\|\Delta\|_F^2)} \|\Delta\|_F^2.$$

Proof of 2. Consider the integral

$$\begin{split} \operatorname{vec}(\Delta)^T \int_0^1 (1-v)(\Theta+v\Delta)^{-1} &\otimes (\Theta+v\Delta)^{-1} dv \operatorname{vec}(\Delta) \\ &\geq \|\Delta\|_F^2 \, \varphi_{\min} \left(\int_0^1 (1-v)(\Theta+v\Delta)^{-1} \otimes (\Theta+v\Delta)^{-1} dv \right) \\ &\geq \|\Delta\|_F^2 \int_0^1 (1-v) \varphi_{\min}^2 \left((\Theta+v\Delta)^{-1} \right) dv \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2} \min_{\nu \in [0,1]} \varphi_{\min}^2 \left((\Theta+v\Delta)^{-1} \right). \end{split}$$

Note that

$$\min_{\nu \in [0,1]} \varphi_{\min}^2 \left((\Theta + v\Delta)^{-1} \right) \ge \min_{\nu \in [0,1]} \varphi_{\max}^{-2} (\check{\Theta} + v\Delta) \ge (\|\Theta\|_2 + \|\Delta\|_2)^{-2} \ge \frac{1}{(\tau^2 + \|\Delta\|_F^2)},$$

where the last inequality follows the fact that $\|\Delta\|_2^2 \leq \|\Delta\|_F^2$

Lemma 3 (Estimation error). Given a membership U', assume $\lambda \leq \mathcal{O}(n^{-1/2})$. With high probability, we have the following probability

$$p(t) = \mathbb{P}\left(|F(\mathbf{U}') - G(\mathbf{U}')| \ge t\right) \le \begin{cases} C_1 \exp\left\{-C_2 n a(\lambda, t)^2\right\} & |a(\lambda, t)| \le 4\tau_l^{-1} \\ C_1 \exp\left\{-C_2 n a(\lambda, t)\right\} & |a(\lambda, t)| > 4\tau_l^{-1} \end{cases},$$

where $a(\lambda,t)=\frac{-(2\lambda+1)+\sqrt{(2\lambda+1)^2-4(2\lambda^2-t/Kp^2\tau^2)}}{2}$, , C_1,C_2 are two constants, and $p(t)\to 0$ as $t\to\infty$.

Proof of Lemma 3. With given membership U', we have estimations $\hat{\Theta}^l(U')$ and $\tilde{\Theta}^l(U')$, which we use $\hat{\Theta}^l$ and $\tilde{\Theta}^l$ refer to them for simplicity, respectively. By the definition, we have

$$|F(\mathbf{U}') - G(\mathbf{U}')| = |\mathcal{L}_S(\mathbf{U}', \hat{\Theta}^l) - l(\mathbf{U}', \tilde{\Theta}^l)|$$

$$\leq \sum_{l=1}^r |f^l(\hat{\Theta}^l) - g^l(\tilde{\Theta}^l)|,$$

where

$$f^{l}(\Theta) = -\sum_{k \in I'_{l}} \langle S^{k}, \Theta \rangle + |I'_{l}| \log \det(\Theta) - \lambda |I'_{l}| \|\Theta\|_{1},$$

and

$$g^{l}(\Theta) = -\sum_{k \in I'_{l}} \langle \Sigma^{k}, \Theta \rangle + |I'_{l}| \log \det(\Theta) - \lambda |I'_{l}| \|\Theta\|_{1}.$$

Note that the functions $f^l(\cdot)$ and $g^l(\cdot)$ for $l \in [r]$ depends on the membership U', and $\hat{\Theta}^l$, $\tilde{\Theta}^l$ are unique maximizers for $f^l(\Theta)$, $g^l(\Theta)$, respectively.

Next, for an arbitrary $l \in [r]$, we try to find the upper bound for $|f^l(\hat{\Theta}^l) - g^l(\tilde{\Theta}^l)|$. For simplicity, we use $f, g, \hat{\Theta}, \tilde{\Theta}$ denote $f^l, g^l, \hat{\Theta}^l$ and $\tilde{\Theta}^l$. Consider a new estimation $\check{\Theta}$ such that

$$\check{\Theta} = \underset{\Theta}{\operatorname{arg\,max}} - \sum_{k \in I'_l} \langle \Sigma^k, \Theta \rangle + |I'_l| \log \det(\Theta).$$

By a straight calculation, we have the closed form of $\check{\Theta}$, which is equal to

$$\check{\Theta} = \left(\frac{\sum_{k \in I_l'} \Sigma^k}{|I_l'|}\right)^{-1}.$$

Note that $\check{\Theta}$ is the inverse of a combination of true covariance matrices. Thus $\check{\Theta}$ does not violet the singular value constrain.

Then, we have

$$|f(\hat{\Theta}) - g(\tilde{\Theta})| \le |f(\hat{\Theta}) - f(\tilde{\Theta})| + |f(\tilde{\Theta}) - g(\tilde{\Theta})| + |g(\tilde{\Theta}) - g(\tilde{\Theta})|$$

= $M_1 + M_2 + M_3$.

1. For M_1 , we have

$$f(\hat{\Theta}) - f(\check{\Theta}) = \sum_{k \in I_l'} \langle S^k, \check{\Theta} - \hat{\Theta} \rangle + |I_l'| \left(\log \det(\hat{\Theta}) - \log \det(\check{\Theta}) \right) - \lambda |I_l'| \left(\left\| \hat{\Theta} \right\|_1 - \left\| \check{\Theta} \right\|_1 \right).$$

Define $\Delta_1 = \hat{\Theta} - \check{\Theta}$ and consider the function $m(t) = \log \det(\check{\Theta} + t\Delta_1)$. By Taylor expansion and Lemma 2, we have

$$\begin{split} \log \det(\hat{\Theta}) - \log \det(\check{\Theta}) &= m(1) - m(0) \\ &= \langle \check{\Theta}^{-1}, \Delta_1 \rangle - \operatorname{vec}(\Delta_1)^T \int_0^1 (1 - v) (\check{\Theta} + v \Delta_1)^{-1} \otimes (\check{\Theta} + v \Delta_1)^{-1} dv \operatorname{vec}(\Delta_1) \\ &\leq \langle \check{\Theta}^{-1}, \Delta_1 \rangle - \frac{1}{2\tau^2 + 2 \|\Delta_1\|_F^2} \|\Delta_1\|_F^2, \end{split}$$

Note that $f(\hat{\Theta}) - f(\check{\Theta}) \ge 0$, we have

$$0 \leq \sum_{k \in I'_{l}} \langle S^{k} - \Sigma^{k}, \Delta_{1} \rangle - \frac{1}{2\tau^{2} + 2 \|\Delta_{1}\|_{F}^{2}} |I'_{l}| \|\Delta_{1}\|_{F}^{2} + \lambda |I'_{l}| \|\Delta_{1}\|_{1}$$

$$\leq |I'_{l}| \max_{(i,j),k \in I'_{l}} |S^{k}_{ij} - \Sigma^{k}_{ij}| \|\Delta_{1}\|_{1} - \frac{1}{2\tau^{2} + 2 \|\Delta_{1}\|_{F}^{2}} |I'_{l}| \|\Delta_{1}\|_{F}^{2} + \lambda |I'_{l}| \|\Delta_{1}\|_{1}$$

$$\leq |I'_{l}| \left(-\frac{1}{2\tau^{2} + 2 \|\Delta_{1}\|_{F}^{2}} \|\Delta_{1}\|_{F}^{2} + (\lambda + \max_{(i,j),k \in I'_{l}} |S^{k}_{ij} - \Sigma^{k}_{ij}|) p \|\Delta_{1}\|_{F} \right),$$

which implies that

$$0 \le 2(\lambda + \max_{(i,j),k \in I_i'} |S_{ij}^k - \Sigma_{ij}^k|) p \|\Delta_1\|_F^2 - \|\Delta_1\|_F + 2(\lambda + \max_{(i,j),k \in I_i'} |S_{ij}^k - \Sigma_{ij}^k|) p \tau^2.$$
 (1)

By the assumption that $\lambda = \mathcal{O}(n^{-1/2})$ and the Lemma 1, we know have $\lim_{n\to\infty} \lambda = \lim_{n\to\infty} \max_{(i,j),k\in I_l'} |S_{ij}^k - \Sigma_{ij}^k| = 0$. Hence, to satisfies the condition (1), we have

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} \|\Delta_1\|_F = 0.$$

Therefore, for n sufficient large, we have

$$|f(\hat{\Theta}) - f(\check{\Theta})| \le |I'_l| \left(-\frac{1}{4\tau^2} \|\Delta_1\|_F^2 + (\lambda + \max_{(i,j),k \in I'_l} |S^k_{ij} - \Sigma^k_{ij}|) p \|\Delta_1\|_F \right)$$

$$\le |I'_l| \tau^2 p^2 (\lambda + \max_{(i,j),k \in I'_l} |S^k_{ij} - \Sigma^k_{ij}|)^2$$

where the third inequality follows by the fact the $\|\Delta\|_1 \leq p \|\Delta\|_F$, and the last inequality follows by the property of quadratic function.

2. For M_2 , we have

$$\begin{split} |f(\check{\Theta}) - g(\check{\Theta})| &= |\sum_{k \in I_l'} \langle S^k - \Sigma^k, \check{\Theta} \rangle| \\ &\leq |I_l'| \left\| S^k - \Sigma^k \right\|_2 \left\| \check{\Theta} \right\|_2 \\ &\leq p^2 \tau^2 |I_l'| \max_{(i,j),k \in I_l'} |S_{ij}^k - \Sigma_{ij}^k|. \end{split}$$

3. For M_3 , we have

$$g(\check{\Theta}) - g(\tilde{\Theta}) = \sum_{k \in I_l'} \langle \Sigma^k, \tilde{\Theta} - \check{\Theta} \rangle + |I_l'| \left(\log \det(\check{\Theta}) - \log \det(\tilde{\Theta}) \right) - \lambda |I_l'| (\left\| \check{\Phi} \right\|_1 - \left\| \tilde{\Theta} \right\|_1).$$

Let $\Delta_2 = \tilde{\Theta} - \check{\Theta}$. By Taylor Expansion and the fact that $g(\check{\Theta}) - g(\tilde{\Theta}) \leq 0$, with similar procedures for M_1 , we have

$$g(\check{\Theta}) - g(\check{\Theta}) \ge \sum_{k \in I'_l} \langle \Sigma^k, \Delta_2 \rangle - |I'_l| (\langle \check{\Theta}^{-1}, \Delta_2 \rangle - \frac{1}{4\tau^2} \|\Delta_2\|_F^2) - \lambda |I'_l| \|\Delta_2\|_1$$

$$= \frac{1}{4\tau^2} |I'_l| \|\Delta_2\|_F^2 - \lambda |I'_l| \|\Delta_2\|_1.$$

Thus, we have

$$\begin{split} |g(\check{\Theta}) - g(\tilde{\Theta})| &\leq -\frac{1}{4\tau^2} |I_l'| \, \|\Delta_2\|_F^2 + \lambda |I_l'| \, \|\Delta_2\|_1 \\ &\leq -\frac{1}{\tilde{\tau}} |I_l'| \, \|\Delta_2\|_F^2 + \lambda |I_l'| p \, \|\Delta_2\|_F \\ &\leq \tau^2 \lambda^2 p^2 |I_l'| \end{split}$$

Therefore, we have the upper bound

$$|f(\hat{\Theta}) - g(\tilde{\Theta})| \le M_1 + M_2 + M_3$$

$$\le |I_l'| p^2 \tau^2 \left[(\lambda + \max_{(i,j),k \in I_l'} |S_{ij}^k - \Sigma_{ij}^k|)^2 + \max_{(i,j),k \in I_l'} |S_{ij}^k - \Sigma_{ij}^k| + \lambda^2 \right],$$

and thus we have

$$|F(U') - G(U')| \le \sum_{l=1}^{r} |f^{l}(\hat{\Theta}^{l}) - g^{l}(\tilde{\Theta}^{l})|$$

$$\le Kp^{2}\tau^{2} \left[(\lambda + \max_{(i,j),k \in K} |S_{ij}^{k} - \Sigma_{ij}^{k}|)^{2} + \max_{(i,j),k \in K} |S_{ij}^{k} - \Sigma_{ij}^{k}| + \lambda^{2} \right].$$

Intuitively, if λ tends to 0, the error only related to the gap between population and sample $\max_{(i,j),k\in K} |S_{ij}^k - \Sigma_{ij}^k|$.

Last, we obtain the probability

$$\begin{split} \mathbb{P}(|F(U') - G(U')| \geq t) \leq \mathbb{P}\left((\lambda + \max_{(i,j),k \in K} |S_{ij}^k - \Sigma_{ij}^k|)^2 + \max_{(i,j),k \in K} |S_{ij}^k - \Sigma_{ij}^k| + \lambda^2 \geq \frac{t}{Kp^2\tau^2} \right) \\ &= \mathbb{P}\left(\max_{(i,j),k \in K} |S_{ij}^k - \Sigma_{ij}^k|^2 + (2\lambda + 1) \max_{(i,j),k \in K} |S_{ij}^k - \Sigma_{ij}^k| + 2\lambda^2 - \frac{t}{Kp^2\tau^2} \geq 0 \right) \\ &= \mathbb{P}\left(\max_{(i,j),k \in K} |S_{ij}^k - \Sigma_{ij}^k| \geq \frac{-(2\lambda + 1) + \sqrt{(2\lambda + 1)^2 - 4(2\lambda^2 - t/Kp^2\tau^2)}}{2} \right). \end{split}$$

Let $a(\lambda,t) = \frac{-(2\lambda+1)+\sqrt{(2\lambda+1)^2-4(2\lambda^2-t/Kp^2\tau^2)}}{2}$. Since $\lambda = \mathcal{O}(-1/n)$, $a(\lambda,t)$ is well-defined with large n. By the Lemma 1, we have

$$\begin{aligned} p(t) &= \mathbb{P}(|F(\boldsymbol{U}') - G(\boldsymbol{U}')| \ge t) \\ &\leq \mathbb{P}\left(\max_{(i,j),k \in K} |S_{ij}^k - \Sigma_{ij}^k| \ge a(\lambda,t)\right) \\ &\leq \begin{cases} C_1 \exp\left\{-C_2 n a(\lambda,t)^2\right\} & |a(\lambda,t)| \le 4\tau_l^{-1} \\ C_1 \exp\left\{-C_2 n a(\lambda,t)\right\} & |a(\lambda,t)| > 4\tau_l^{-1} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 4 (Self-consistency of U). Suppose $MCR(U', U) \ge \epsilon$ and the minimal gap between $\{\Theta^l\}$ denoted δ is positive. For $\lambda = \mathcal{O}(n^{-1/2})$, we have the perturbation version of the self-consistency.

$$G(U') - G(U) \le \epsilon \delta \left(-\frac{1}{8\tau^2} \delta + \lambda \sqrt{p} \right) < 0.$$

Proof. See note 0228. \Box