# ASE o MLqE Story Latest

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## 1 Problem Description

#### 1.1 Uncontaminated Model

Let F be a distribution on  $\mathcal{X} \in \mathbb{R}^d$ , satisfying  $x^Ty \geq 0$  for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{X}$ . We now generate m i.i.d. graphs under the RDPG(F) model. First sample  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  independently from distribution F, and define  $X = [X_1, \dots, X_n]^T \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}, P = XX^T \in [0, R]^{n \times n}$ , where R is a constant. Then we can sample m conditionally i.i.d. symmetric and hollow graphs  $G^{(1)}, \dots, G^{(m)}$ , such that conditioned on X,  $G_{ij}^{(t)} \stackrel{ind}{\sim} \operatorname{Exp}(P_{ij})$  for each  $1 \leq t \leq m, 1 \leq i < j \leq n$ .

Note: We are now considering the SBM model as a RDPG.

#### 1.2 Contaminated Observations

Now we assume the observed edges are contaminated with probability  $\epsilon$ .

Let G be a distribution on  $\mathcal{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^{d'}$ , satisfying  $x^Ty \geq 0$  for all  $x, y \in \mathcal{Y}$ . First sample X from F and Y from G. Then we sample m conditionally i.i.d. symmetric and hollow graphs  $A^{(1)}, \dots, A^{(m)}$  such that conditioning on X and Y,  $A_{ij}^{(t)} \stackrel{ind}{\sim} (1 - \epsilon) \operatorname{Exp}(P_{ij}) + \epsilon \operatorname{Exp}(C_{ij})$  for each  $1 \leq t \leq m$ ,  $1 \leq i < j \leq n$ , where the contamination is a rank-d' matrix  $C = YY^T \in [0, R]^{n \times n}$ ,  $Y \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d'}$ .

#### 1.3 Goal

Given the contaminated observation of adjacency matrices of m graphs, i.e.  $A^{(1)}, \dots, A^{(m)}$ , we want to estimate the mean of the collection of uncontaminated graphs P.

### 2 Candidate Estimators

After observing contaminated adjacency matrices of m graphs  $A^{(1)}, \dots, A^{(m)}$ , we want to propose a good estimator for the mean of the collection of graphs P.

## 2.1 $\hat{P}^{(1)}$ based on entry-wise MLE

Under the independent edge setting, we can simplify the problem to finding an entry-wise estimate of P. And MLE is always our first choice, which exists and

happen to be  $\bar{A}$ , the entry-wise mean in this case. For consistency, we define  $\hat{P}^{(1)} = \bar{A}$ .

## $\hat{P}^{(q)}$ based on entry-wise MLqE

Since the observations are contaminated, robust estimators are preferred. A modified MLE estimator, the maximum likelihood L-q estimator [2, 5], is considered in this case. Note that there might be multiple solution to the MLq equation, we define the MLqE to be the largest solution (which is still less than MLE when the model is exponential distribution). Denote  $\hat{P}^{(q)}$  as the entry-wise MLqE.

**Remark:** MLE is a special case of MLqE when q = 1. So we notate the entry-wise MLE to be  $\hat{P}^{(1)}$  in consistent with entry-wise MLqE  $\hat{P}^{(q)}$ .

# 2.3 $\widetilde{P}^{(1)}$ based on ASE of entry-wise MLE

By taking advantages of the graph structure, we expect a better performance after applying a rank-reduction procedure to the entry-wise MLE  $\hat{P}^{(1)}$  under the SBM. So we first apply ASE to  $\hat{P}^{(1)}$  to get the latent positions  $\hat{X}^{(1)}$  in dimension  $d^{(1)}$ , and then define  $\tilde{P}^{(1)} = (\hat{X}^{(1)}\hat{X}^{(1)T})_{\rm tr}$ , where each element is a projection of  $\hat{X}_i^{(1)}\hat{X}_j^{(1)T}$  onto  $[0, \max(\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)}, R)]$ .

# 2.4 $\widetilde{P}^{(q)}$ based on ASE of entry-wise MLqE

Similarly, we also expect a better performance after applying a rank-reduction procedure to the entry-wise MLqE  $\hat{P}^{(q)}$  under the SBM. So we first apply ASE to  $\hat{P}^{(q)}$  to get the latent positions  $\hat{X}^{(q)}$  in dimension  $d^{(q)}$ , and then define  $\tilde{P}^{(q)} = (\hat{X}^{(q)}\hat{X}^{(q)T})_{\rm tr}$ , where each element is a projection of  $\hat{X}_i^{(q)}\hat{X}_j^{(q)T}$  onto  $[0, \max(\hat{P}_{ij}^{(q)}, R)]$ .

### 2.5 Summary

Thus, we should choose the estimator  $\widetilde{P}^{(q)}$ .

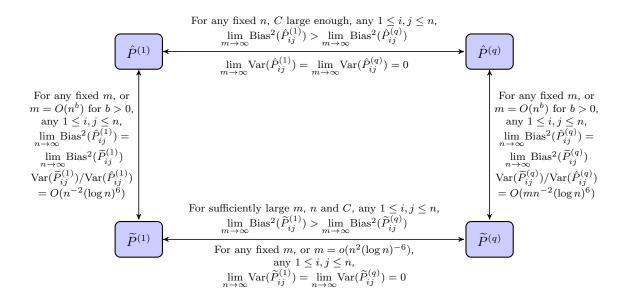


Figure 1: Relationship between four estimators.

## 3 Proof

# 3.1 $\hat{P}^{(q)}$ better than $\hat{P}^{(1)}$

**Lemma 3.1** Consider the model  $X_1, \dots, X_m \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \operatorname{Exp}(\theta)$  with  $m \geq 2$  and  $E[X_1] = \theta$ . Given any data  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_m)$  such that  $x_{(1)} > 0$  and not all  $x_i$ 's are the same, then no matter how the data is sampled, we have

- There exists at least one solution to the MLq equation;
- All the solutions to the MLq equation are less than the MLE.

Thus the MLqE  $\hat{P}_q$  is well defined.

**Proof:** The MLE is

$$\hat{\theta}_1(x) = \bar{x}.$$

Consider the continuous function  $g(\theta, x) = \sum_{i=1}^{m} e^{-\frac{(1-q)x_i}{\theta}} (x_i - \theta)$ . Then the MLq equation is  $g(\theta, x) = 0$ .

Let  $x_{(1)} \leq \cdots \leq x_{(l)} \leq \bar{x} \leq x_{(l+1)} \leq \cdots \leq x_{(m)}$ . Define  $s_i = \bar{x} - x_{(i)}$  for  $1 \leq i \leq l$ , and  $t_i = x_{(l+i)} - \bar{x}$  for  $1 \leq i \leq m - l$ . Note that  $\sum_{i=1}^{l} s_i = \sum_{i=1}^{m-l} t_i$ .

Then for any  $\theta \geq \bar{x}$ , we have

$$\begin{split} g(\theta,x) &= \sum_{i=1}^{m} e^{-\frac{(1-q)x_{(i)}}{\theta}} \left( x_{(i)} - \theta \right) = \sum_{i=1}^{m} e^{-\frac{(1-q)x_{(i)}}{\theta}} \left( x_{(i)} - \bar{x} + \bar{x} - \theta \right) \\ &= -\sum_{i=1}^{l} e^{-\frac{(1-q)x_{(i)}}{\theta}} s_i + \sum_{i=1}^{m-l} e^{-\frac{(1-q)x_{(i+l)}}{\theta}} t_i + \sum_{i=1}^{m} e^{-\frac{(1-q)x_{(i)}}{\theta}} (\bar{x} - \theta) \\ &\leq -\sum_{i=1}^{l} e^{-\frac{(1-q)x_{(i)}}{\theta}} s_i + \sum_{i=1}^{m-l} e^{-\frac{(1-q)x_{(i+l)}}{\theta}} t_i \\ &\leq -e^{-\frac{(1-q)x_{(l+1)}}{\theta}} \sum_{i=1}^{l} s_i + \sum_{i=1}^{m-l} e^{-\frac{(1-q)x_{(i+l)}}{\theta}} t_i \\ &\leq -e^{-\frac{(1-q)x_{(l+1)}}{\theta}} \sum_{i=1}^{m-l} t_i + \sum_{i=1}^{m-l} e^{-\frac{(1-q)x_{(i+l)}}{\theta}} t_i \\ &\leq -\sum_{i=1}^{m-l} e^{-\frac{(1-q)x_{(i+l)}}{\bar{x}}} t_i + \sum_{i=1}^{m-l} e^{-\frac{(1-q)x_{(i+l)}}{\bar{x}}} t_i \\ &= 0, \end{split}$$

and equality holds if and only if all  $x_i$ 's are the same, which is excluded by the assumption. Thus  $g(\theta, x) < 0$  for any  $\theta \ge \bar{x}$ .

Denote any solution to the MLq equation to be  $\hat{\theta}_q(x)$ , then we also know:

- $g(\hat{\theta}_q(x), x) = 0$ ;
- $\lim_{\theta \to 0^+} g(\theta, x) = 0$ ;
- $g(\theta, x) > 0$  when  $\theta < x_{(1)}$ ;

Thus there exists at least one solution to the MLq equation. And all solutions to the MLq equation are between  $x_{(1)}$  and  $\bar{x}$ , i.e. less than the MLE.

**Lemma 3.2** For any 0 < q < 1, there exists  $C_0(P_{ij}, \epsilon, q) > 0$  such that under the contaminated model with  $C > C_0(P_{ij}, \epsilon, q)$ ,

$$\lim_{m \to \infty} \left| E[\hat{P}_{ij}^{(q)}] - P_{ij} \right| < \lim_{m \to \infty} \left| E[\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)}] - P_{ij} \right|,$$

for  $1 \le i, j, \le n$  and  $i \ne j$ .

**Proof:** For the MLE  $\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)} = \bar{A}_{ij}$ 

$$E[\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)}] = E[\bar{A}_{ij}] = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{t=1}^{m} E[A_{ij}^{(t)}] = E[A_{ij}^{(1)}] = (1 - \epsilon)P_{ij} + \epsilon C_{ij}.$$

For the MLqE  $\hat{P}_{ij}^{(q)}$ , according to Equation (3.2) in [2], the expectation  $E[\hat{P}_{ij}^{(q)}]$ , denoted as  $\theta$  for simplicity, satisfies

$$\frac{\epsilon C_{ij}}{(C_{ij}(1-q)+\theta)^2} - \frac{\epsilon}{C_{ij}(1-q)+\theta} + \frac{(1-\epsilon)P_{ij}}{(P_{ij}(1-q)+\theta)^2} - \frac{(1-\epsilon)}{P_{ij}(1-q)+\theta} = 0,$$

i.e.

$$\frac{\epsilon(\theta - C_{ij}q)}{(C_{ij}(1-q) + \theta)^2} = \frac{(1-\epsilon)(P_{ij}q - \theta)}{(P_{ij}(1-q) + \theta)^2}.$$

Thus  $\theta - C_{ij}q$  and  $\theta - P_{ij}q$  should have different signs. Combined with  $C_{ij} > P_{ij}$ , we have

$$qP_{ij} < \theta$$
.

To have a smaller bias in absolute value, we need

$$|\theta - P_{ij}| < \epsilon (C_{ij} - P_{ij}).$$

Thus combined with Lemma 3.1, we need

$$qP_{ij} > P_{ij} - \epsilon (C_{ij} - P_{ij}),$$

i.e.

$$C_{ij} > P_{ij} + \frac{(1-q)P_{ij}}{\epsilon} = C_0(P_{ij}, \epsilon, q).$$

#### Lemma 3.3

**Proof:** According to Lemma 3.1, the expectation  $E[\hat{P}_{ij}^{(q)}]$ , denoted as  $\theta$  for simplicity, satisfies

$$\frac{\epsilon(\theta - C_{ij}q)}{(C_{ij}(1-q) + \theta)^2} = \frac{(1-\epsilon)(P_{ij}q - \theta)}{(P_{ij}(1-q) + \theta)^2},$$

i.e.

$$\epsilon(\theta - C_{ij}q)(P_{ij}(1-q) + \theta)^2 = (1-\epsilon)(P_{ij}q - \theta)(C_{ij}(1-q) + \theta)^2.$$

Define

$$g(\theta) = (1 - \epsilon)(P_{ij}q - \theta)(C_{ij}(1 - q) + \theta)^2 - \epsilon(\theta - C_{ij}q)(P_{ij}(1 - q) + \theta)^2,$$
  
then  $g(0) = (1 - \epsilon)P_{ij}q(C_{ij}(1 - q))^2 + \epsilon(C_{ij}q)(P_{ij}(1 - q))^2.$ 

#### Lemma 3.4

$$\lim_{m \to \infty} \operatorname{Var}(\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)}) = \lim_{m \to \infty} \operatorname{Var}(\hat{P}_{ij}^{(q)}) = 0,$$

for 1 < i, j < n.

**Proof:** MLE simply follows a central limit theorem, which means the variance goes to 0 as  $m \to \infty$ . For MLqE,

# 3.2 $\widetilde{P}^{(1)}$ better than $\widehat{P}^{(1)}$

**Theorem 3.5** (Matrix Bernstein: Subexponential Case). Consider a finite sequence  $\{X_k\}$  of independent, random, self-adjoint matrices with dimension d. Assume that

$$E[X_k] = 0$$
 and  $E[X_k^p] \leq \frac{p!}{2} R^{p-2} A_k^2$  for  $p = 2, 3, 4, ...$ 

Compute the variance parameter

$$\sigma^2 := \| \sum_k A_k^2 \|.$$

Then the following chain of inequalities holds for all  $t \geq 0$ .

$$P\left(\lambda_{\max}\left(\sum_{k} X_{k}\right) \ge t\right) \le d \cdot \exp\left(\frac{-t^{2}/2}{\sigma^{2} + Rt}\right).$$

Remark: Theorem 6.2 in [8].

**Theorem 3.6** Let P and C be two n-by-n symmetric matrices satisfying element-wise conditions  $0 < P_{ij} \le C_{ij} \le R$  for some constant R > 0. For  $0 < \epsilon < 1$ , we define m symmetric and hollow matrices as

$$A^{(t)} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} (1 - \epsilon) \operatorname{Exp}(P) + \epsilon \operatorname{Exp}(C),$$

for  $1 \le t \le m$ . Let  $\hat{P}^{(1)}$  be the element-wise MLE based on exponential distribution with m observations. Define  $H_{ij}^{(1)} = E[\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)}] = (1 - \epsilon)P_{ij} + \epsilon C_{ij}$ , then for any constant c > 0, there exists another constant  $n_0(c)$ , independent of n, P, C and  $\epsilon$ , such that if  $n > n_0$ , then for all  $\eta$  satisfying  $n^{-c} \le \eta \le 1/2$ ,

$$P\left(\|\hat{P}^{(1)} - H^{(1)}\|_{2} \le 4R\sqrt{n\ln(n/\eta)/m}\right) \ge 1 - \eta.$$

**Remark:** This is the extended version of Theorem 3.1 in [4].

**Proof:** Let  $\{e_i\}_{i=1}^n$  be the canonical basis for  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . For each  $1 \leq i, j \leq n$ , define a corresponding matrix  $G_{ij}$ :

$$G_{ij} \equiv \begin{cases} e_i e_i^T + e_j e_i^T, & i \neq j; \\ e_i e_i^T, & i = j. \end{cases}$$

Thus

$$\hat{P}^{(1)} = \sum_{1 \le i < j \le n} \hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)} G_{ij} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{t=1}^{m} \sum_{1 \le i < j \le n} A_{ij}^{(t)} G_{ij}$$

and

$$H^{(1)} = \sum_{1 \le i < j \le n} H_{ij}^{(1)} G_{ij}.$$

Then we have  $\hat{P}^{(1)} - H^{(1)} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{1 \le t \le m, 1 \le i < j \le n} X_{ij}^{(t)}$ , where  $X_{ij}^{(t)} \equiv \left( A_{ij}^{(t)} - H_{ij}^{(1)} \right) G_{ij}$  for  $1 \le t \le m$  and  $1 \le i < j \le n$ .

First bound the k-th moment of  $X_{ij}$  for  $1 \le i < j \le n$  as following:

$$E[(A_{ij}^{(t)} - H_{ij}^{(1)})^{k}] \leq (1 - \epsilon) \cdot \exp(-H_{ij}/P_{ij}) P_{ij}^{k} \Gamma(1 + k, -H_{ij}/P_{ij})$$

$$+ \epsilon \cdot \exp(-H_{ij}/C_{ij}) C_{ij}^{k} \Gamma(1 + k, -H_{ij}/C_{ij})$$

$$\leq ((1 - \epsilon) \cdot \exp(-H_{ij}/P_{ij}) P_{ij}^{k} + \epsilon \cdot \exp(-H_{ij}/C_{ij}) C_{ij}^{k}) k!$$

$$\leq ((1 - \epsilon) \cdot P_{ij}^{k} + \epsilon \cdot C_{ij}^{k}) k!$$

$$\leq R^{k} k!,$$

$$(1)$$

Combined with

$$G_{ij}^k \equiv \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} e_i e_i^T + e_j e_j^T, & \text{k is even;} \\ e_i e_j^T + e_j e_i^T, & \text{k is odd,} \end{array} \right.$$

thus we have

1. When k is even,

$$E[(X_{ij}^{(t)})^k] = E[(A_{ij}^{(t)} - H_{ij}^{(1)})^k]G_{ij}^2 \le k!R^kG_{ij}^2;$$

2. When k is odd,

$$E[(X_{ij}^{(t)})^k] = E[(A_{ij}^{(t)} - H_{ij}^{(1)})^k]G_{ij} \le k!R^kG_{ij}^2.$$

So

$$E[(X_{ij}^{(t)})^k] \le k! R^k G_{ij}^2.$$

Let

$$\sigma^2 := \left\| \sum_{1 \le t \le m, 1 \le i < j \le n} (\sqrt{2}RG_{ij})^2 \right\|_2 = 2R^2 m \|(n-1)I\|_2 = 2R^2 m (n-1).$$

Notice that random matrices  $X_{ij}^{(t)}$  are independent, self-adjoint and have mean zero, apply Theorem 3.5 we have

$$P\left(\lambda_{\max}(\hat{P}^{(1)} - H^{(1)}) \ge t\right) = P\left(\lambda_{\max}\left(\frac{1}{m} \sum_{1 \le t \le m, 1 \le i < j \le n} X_{ij}^{(t)}\right) \ge t\right)$$

$$= P\left(\lambda_{\max}\left(\sum_{1 \le t \le m, 1 \le i < j \le n} X_{ij}^{(t)}\right) \ge mt\right)$$

$$\le n \exp\left(-\frac{(mt)^2/2}{\sigma^2 + Rmt}\right)$$

$$\le n \exp\left(-\frac{mt^2/2}{2R^2n + Rt}\right).$$

Now consider  $Y_{ij}^{(t)} \equiv \left(H_{ij}^{(1)} - A_{ij}^{(t)}\right) G_{ij}$ , for  $1 \le t \le m$  and  $1 \le i < j \le n$ . Then we have  $H^{(1)} - \hat{P}^{(1)} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{1 \le t \le m, 1 \le i < j \le n} Y_{ij}^{(t)}$ . Since

$$E[(H^{(1)} - \hat{P}^{(1)})^k] = (-1)^k E[(\hat{P}^{(1)} - H^{(1)})^k],$$

1. When k is even,

$$E[(Y_{ij}^{(t)})^k] = E[(\hat{P}^{(1)} - H^{(1)})^k]G_{ij}^2 \preceq k!R^kG_{ij}^2;$$

2. When k is odd,

$$E[Y_{ij}^k] = -E[(\hat{P}^{(1)} - H^{(1)})^k]G_{ij} \leq k!R^kG_{ij}^2.$$

Thus by similar arguments,

$$P\left(\lambda_{\min}(\hat{P}^{(1)} - H^{(1)}) \le -t\right) = P\left(\lambda_{\max}(H^{(1)} - \hat{P}^{(1)}) \ge t\right)$$

$$\le n \exp\left(-\frac{mt^2/2}{2R^2n + Rt}\right).$$

Therefore we have

$$P\left(\|\hat{P}^{(1)} - H^{(1)}\|_{2} \ge t\right) \le n \exp\left(-\frac{mt^{2}/2}{2R^{2}n + Rt}\right).$$

Now let c > 0 be given and assume  $n^{-c} \le \eta \le 1/2$ . Then there exists a  $n_0(c)$  independent of n, P, C and  $\epsilon$  such that whenever  $n > n_0(c)$ ,

$$t = 4R\sqrt{n\ln(n/\eta)/m} \le 6Rn.$$

Plugging this t into the equation above, we get

$$P(\|\hat{P}^{(1)} - H^{(1)}\|_2 \ge 4R\sqrt{n\ln(n/\eta)/m}) \le n\exp\left(-\frac{t^2}{16R^2n}\right) = \eta.$$

Define  $H^{(1)} = E[\hat{P}^{(1)}] = (1 - \epsilon)P + \epsilon C$ , where  $P = XX^T$ ,  $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d}$ ,  $C = YY^T$ ,  $Y \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d'}$ . Let  $d^{(1)} = \operatorname{rank}(H^{(1)})$  be the dimension in which we are going to embed  $\hat{P}^{(1)}$ . Then we can define  $H^{(1)} = ZZ^T$  where  $Z \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d^{(1)}}$ . Since  $H^{(1)} = [\sqrt{1 - \epsilon}X, \sqrt{\epsilon}Y][\sqrt{1 - \epsilon}X, \sqrt{\epsilon}Y]^T$ , we have  $d^{(1)} \leq d + d'$ .

For simplicity, from now on, we will use  $\hat{P}$  to represent  $\hat{P}^{(1)}$ , use H to represent  $H^{(1)}$  and use k to represent the dimension  $d^{(1)}$  we are going to embed. Assume  $H = USU^T = ZZ^T$ , where  $Z = [Z_1, \cdots, Z_n]^T$  is a n-by-k matrix. Then our estimate for Z up to rotation is  $\hat{Z} = \hat{U}\hat{S}^{1/2}$ , where  $\hat{U}\hat{S}\hat{U}^T$  is the rank-k spectral decomposition of  $|\hat{P}| = (\hat{P}^T\hat{P})^{1/2}$ .

Furthermore, we assume that the second moment matrix  $E[Z_1Z_1^T]$  is rank k and has distinct eigenvalues  $\lambda_i(E[Z_1Z_1^T])$ . In particular, we assume that there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that

$$\delta < \min \left( \min_{i \neq j} |\lambda_i(E[Z_1 Z_1^T]) - \lambda_j(E[Z_1 Z_1^T])|, \lambda_k(E[Z_1 Z_1^T]) \right)$$

**Lemma 3.7** Under the above assumptions,  $\lambda_i(H) = \Theta(n)$  with high probability when  $i \leq k$ , i.e. the largest k eigenvalues of H is of order n. Moreover, we have  $||S||_2 = \Theta(n)$  and  $||\hat{S}||_2 = \Theta(n)$  with high probability.

**Remark:** This is a extended version of Proposition 4.3 in [7].

**Proof:** Note that  $\lambda_i(H) = \lambda_i(ZZ^T) = \lambda_i(Z^TZ)$  when  $i \leq k$ . Since each entry of  $Z^TZ$  is a sum of n independent random variables each in [0, R], i.e.  $(Z^TZ)_{ij} = \sum_{l=1}^n Z_{li}Z_{lj}$ . By Hoeffding's inequality,

$$P(|(Z^TZ - nE[Z_1Z_1^T])_{ij}| \ge t) \le 2\exp(-\frac{2t^2}{nR^2}).$$

Now let c > 0 and assume  $n^{-c} \le \eta \le 1/2$ . Let

$$t = R\sqrt{n\ln(\sqrt{2/\eta})},$$

we have

$$P(|(Z^T Z - nE[Z_1 Z_1^T])_{ij}| \ge R\sqrt{n\ln(\sqrt{2/\eta})}) \le \eta.$$

By the union bound, we have

$$P(\|Z^TZ - nE[Z_1Z_1^T]\|_F \ge kR\sqrt{n\ln(\sqrt{2/\eta})}) \le k^2\eta.$$

Then by Weyl's Theorem [3], we have

$$|\lambda_i(H) - n\lambda_i(Z_1Z_1^T)| \le ||Z^TZ - nE[Z_1Z_1^T]||_2 = O(\sqrt{n\log n})$$

with probability at least  $1 - k^2 \eta$ . Thus  $\lambda_i(H) = S_{ii} = \Theta(n)$  with probability at least  $1 - \frac{2k^2}{n^2}$  when  $i \le k$ . Moreover,

$$||H||_2 - ||H - \hat{P}||_2 \le ||\hat{S}||_2 \le ||\hat{P} - H||_2 + ||H||_2.$$

Combined with Theorem 3.6, with high probability we have  $\|\hat{S}\|_2 = \Theta(n)$ .

**Lemma 3.8** Let  $W_1\Sigma W_2^T$  be the singular value decomposition of  $U^T\hat{U}$ . Then for sufficiently large n,

$$||U^T \hat{U} - W_1 W_2^T||_F = O(m^{-1} n^{-1} \log n)$$

with high probability.

**Proof:** Let  $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_d$  denote the singular values of  $U^T \hat{U}$ . Then  $\sigma_i = \cos(\theta_i)$ where the  $\theta_i$  are the principal angles between the subspaces spanned by  $\hat{U}$  and U. Furthermore, by the Davis-Kahan  $\sin(\Theta)$  theorem [1], combined with Theorem 3.6 and Lemma 3.7,

$$\|\hat{U}\hat{U}^T - UU^T\|_2 = \max_i |\sin(\theta_i)| \le \frac{\|\hat{P} - H\|_2}{\lambda_k(H)} \le \frac{C\sqrt{n\log n/m}}{n} = O(m^{-1/2}n^{-1/2}\sqrt{\log n})$$
(2)

for sufficiently large n. Here  $\lambda_k(H)$  denotes the k-th largest eigenvalue of H. We thus have

$$||U^T \hat{U} - W_1 W_2^T||_F = ||\Sigma - I||_F = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^k (1 - \sigma_i)^2}$$

$$\leq \sum_{i=1}^k (1 - \sigma_i) \leq \sum_{i=1}^k (1 - \sigma_i^2)$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^k \sin^2(\theta_i) \leq k ||\hat{U}\hat{U}^T - UU^T||_2^2$$

$$= O(m^{-1}n^{-1}\log n).$$

We will denote the orthogonal matrix  $W_1W_2^T$  by  $W^*$ .

**Lemma 3.9** For sufficiently large n,

$$||W^*\hat{S} - SW^*||_F = O(m^{-1/2}\log n),$$
  
$$||W^*\hat{S}^{1/2} - S^{1/2}W^*||_F = O(m^{-1/2}n^{-1/2}\log n)$$

and

$$||W^*\hat{S}^{-1/2} - S^{-1/2}W^*||_F = O(m^{-1/2}n^{-3/2}\log n)$$

with high probability.

**Proof:** By Proposition 2.1 in [6] and Equation (2), we have for some orthogonal matrix W,

$$\|\hat{U} - UW\|_F^2 \le \frac{2\|\hat{U}\hat{U}^T - UU^T\|_F^2}{\delta^2} \le \frac{8k^2\|\hat{U}\hat{U}^T - UU^T\|_2^2}{\delta^2} = O(m^{-1/2}n^{-1/2}\sqrt{\log n}).$$

Let  $Q = \hat{U} - UU^T\hat{U}$ . And Q is the residual after projecting  $\hat{U}$  orthogonally onto the column space of U, we have

$$||Q||_F = ||\hat{U} - UU^T \hat{U}||_F \le ||\hat{U} - UT||_F = O(m^{-1/2}n^{-1/2}\sqrt{\log n}).$$
 (3)

for all  $k \times k$  matrices T.

Then

$$\begin{split} W^* \hat{S} = & (W^* - U^T \hat{U}) \hat{S} + U^T \hat{U} \hat{S} = (W^* - U^T \hat{U}) \hat{S} + U^T \hat{P} \hat{U} \\ = & (W^* - U^T \hat{U}) \hat{S} + U^T (\hat{P} - H) \hat{U} + U^T H \hat{U} \\ = & (W^* - U^T \hat{U}) \hat{S} + U^T (\hat{P} - H) Q + U^T (\hat{P} - H) U U^T \hat{U} + U^T H \hat{U} \\ = & (W^* - U^T \hat{U}) \hat{S} + U^T (\hat{P} - H) Q + U^T (\hat{P} - H) U U^T \hat{U} + S U^T \hat{U}. \end{split}$$

Combined with Theorem 3.6, Lemma 3.7, Lemma 3.8, we have

$$||W^*\hat{S} - SW^*||_F$$

$$= ||(W^* - U^T\hat{U})\hat{S} + U^T(\hat{P} - H)Q + U^T(\hat{P} - H)UU^T\hat{U} + S(U^T\hat{U} - W^*)||_F$$

$$\leq ||W^* - U^T\hat{U}||_F (||\hat{S}||_2 + ||S||_2) + ||U^T||_F ||\hat{P} - H||_2 ||Q||_F + ||U^T(\hat{P} - H)U||_F$$

$$\leq O(m^{-1}\log n) + O(m^{-1/2}\log n) + ||U^T(\hat{P} - H)U||_F$$

with high probability. And we know  $U^T(\hat{P}-H)U$  is a  $k\times k$  matrix with ij-th entry to be

$$u_i^T(\hat{P} - H)u_j = \sum_{s=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^n (\hat{P}_{st} - H_{st})u_{is}u_{jt} = 2\sum_{s < t} (\hat{P}_{st} - H_{st})u_{is}u_{jt}$$

where  $u_i$  and  $u_j$  are the *i*-th and *j*-th columns of U. Thus, conditioned on H, U is fixed and  $u_i^T(\hat{P}-H)u_j$  is a sum of independent mean 0 random variables. By Equation (1), we have

$$E\left[\left((A_{st}^{(t')} - H_{st})u_{is}u_{jt}\right)^{k}\right]$$

$$\leq k!R^{k}u_{is}^{k}u_{jt}^{k}$$

$$\leq \frac{k!}{2}R^{k-2}(\sqrt{2}u_{is}u_{jt}R)^{2}.$$

Also we have

$$\sigma^2 := |\sum_{t', s \le t} 2R^2 u_{is}^2 u_{jt}^2| \le mR^2,$$

then by Theorem 3.5, we have

$$P\left(\left|2\sum_{s< t}(\hat{P}_{st}-H_{st})u_{is}u_{jt}\right| \ge t\right) \le \exp\left(\frac{-mt^2/8}{R^2+Rt/2}\right).$$

Let  $t = cRm^{-1/2} \log n$  for any c > 0, we have

$$P\left(\left|2\sum_{s< t}(\hat{P}_{st} - H_{st})u_{is}u_{jt}\right| \ge Cm^{-1/2}\log n\right) \le n^{-c}.$$

Thus each entry of  $U^T(\hat{P}-H)U$  is of order  $O(m^{-1}\log n)$  with high probability and

$$||U^{T}(\hat{P} - H)U||_{F} = O(m^{-1}\log n)$$
(4)

with high probability. Hence

$$||W^*\hat{S} - SW^*||_F = O(m^{-1/2}\log n)$$

with high probability. Also, since

$$W_{ij}^*(\lambda_j^{1/2}(\hat{P}) - \lambda_i^{1/2}(H)) = W_{ij}^* \frac{\lambda_j(\hat{P}) - \lambda_i(H)}{\lambda_j^{1/2}(\hat{P}) + \lambda_i^{1/2}(H)}$$

and the eigenvalues  $\lambda_j^{1/2}(\hat{P})$  and  $\lambda_i^{1/2}(H)$  are both of order  $\Theta(\sqrt{n})$ , we have

$$||W^* \hat{S}^{1/2} - S^{1/2} W^*||_F = O(m^{-1/2} n^{-1/2} \log n).$$

Similarly, since

$$W_{ij}^*(\lambda_j^{-1/2}(\hat{P}) - \lambda_i^{-1/2}(H)) = W_{ij}^* \frac{\lambda_i(H) - \lambda_j(\hat{P})}{(\lambda_j^{-1/2}(\hat{P}) + \lambda_i^{-1/2}(H))\lambda_j(\hat{P})\lambda_i(H)}$$

and the eigenvalues  $\lambda_j(\hat{P})$  and  $\lambda_i(H)$  are both of order  $\Theta(n)$ , we have

$$\|W^*\hat{S}^{-1/2} - S^{-1/2}W^*\|_F = O(m^{-1/2}n^{-3/2}\log n).$$

**Lemma 3.10** There exists a rotation matrix W such that for sufficiently large n,

$$\|\hat{Z} - ZW\|_F = \|(\hat{P} - H)US^{-1/2}\|_F + O(m^{-1/2}n^{-1/2}(\log n)^{3/2})$$

with high probability.

**Proof:** Let  $Q_1 = UU^T\hat{U} - UW^*$ ,  $Q_2 = W^*\hat{S}^{1/2} - S^{1/2}W^*$  and  $Q_3 = \hat{U} - UW^* = \hat{U} - UU^T\hat{U} + Q_1 = Q + Q_1$ . Then since  $UU^TP = P$  and  $\hat{U}\hat{S}^{1/2} = \hat{P}\hat{U}\hat{S}^{-1/2}$ ,

$$\begin{split} \hat{Z} - U S^{1/2} W^* = & \hat{U} \hat{S}^{1/2} - U W^* \hat{S}^{1/2} + U (W^* \hat{S}^{1/2} - S^{1/2} W^*) \\ = & (\hat{U} - U U^T \hat{U}) \hat{S}^{1/2} + Q_1 \hat{S}^{1/2} + U Q_2 \\ = & (\hat{P} - H) \hat{U} \hat{S}^{-1/2} - U U^T (\hat{P} - H) \hat{U} \hat{S}^{-1/2} + Q_1 \hat{S}^{1/2} + U Q_2 \\ = & (\hat{P} - H) U W^* \hat{S}^{-1/2} - U U^T (\hat{P} - H) U W^* \hat{S}^{-1/2} \\ & + (I - U U^T) (\hat{P} - H) Q_3 \hat{S}^{-1/2} + Q_1 \hat{S}^{1/2} + U Q_2. \end{split}$$

By Lemma 3.8,

$$||Q_1||_F \le ||U||_F ||U^T \hat{U} - W^*||_F = O(m^{-1}n^{-1}\log n).$$

By Lemma 3.9,

$$||Q_2||_F = O(m^{-1/2}n^{-1/2}\log n).$$

By Equation (3),

$$||Q_3||_F \le ||Q||_F + ||Q_1||_F = O(m^{-1/2}n^{-1/2}(\log n)^{1/2}).$$

By Equation (4),

$$||UU^{T}(\hat{P}-H)UW^{*}\hat{S}^{-1/2}||_{F} \le ||U^{T}(\hat{P}-H)U||_{F}||\hat{S}^{-1/2}||_{2} = O(m^{-1}n^{-1/2}\log n).$$

By Lemma 3.9,

$$||W^*\hat{S}^{-1/2} - S^{-1/2}W^*||_F = O(m^{-1/2}n^{-3/2}\log n).$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{split} &\|\hat{Z} - US^{1/2}W^*\|_F \\ = &\|(\hat{P} - H)UW^*\hat{S}^{-1/2}\|_F + O(m^{-1}n^{-1/2}\log n) + \|I - UU^T\|_2\|\hat{P} - H\|_2O(m^{-1/2}n^{-1}(\log n)^{1/2}) \\ &+ O(m^{-1}n^{-1/2}\log n) + O(m^{-1/2}n^{-1/2}\log n) \\ = &\|(\hat{P} - H)UW^*\hat{S}^{-1/2}\|_F + O(m^{-1/2}n^{-1/2}\log n) \\ \leq &\|(\hat{P} - H)US^{-1/2}W^*\|_F + \|(\hat{P} - H)U(W^*\hat{S}^{-1/2} - S^{-1/2}W^*)\|_F + O(m^{-1/2}n^{-1/2}\log n) \\ = &\|(\hat{P} - H)US^{-1/2}\|_F + O(m^{-1}n^{-1}(\log n)^{3/2}) + O(m^{-1/2}n^{-1/2}(\log n)^{3/2}) \\ = &\|(\hat{P} - H)US^{-1/2}\|_F + O(m^{-1/2}n^{-1/2}(\log n)^{3/2}). \end{split}$$

Note that  $Z = US^{1/2}W$  for some orthogonal matrix W. As  $W^*$  is also orthogonal, therefore  $Z\tilde{W} = US^{1/2}W^*$  for some orthogonal  $\tilde{W}$ , which completes the proof.

**Theorem 3.11** There exists a rotation matrix W such that for sufficiently large n,

$$\max_{i} \|\hat{Z}_{i} - WZ_{i}\|_{2} = O(m^{-1/2}n^{-1/2}(\log n)^{3/2})$$

with high probability.

**Proof:** By Lemma 3.10, we have

$$\|\hat{Z} - ZW\|_F = \|(\hat{P} - H)US^{-1/2}\|_F + O(m^{-1/2}n^{-1/2}(\log n)^{3/2})$$

and similarly we could have the bound for each column vector

$$\max_{i} \|\hat{Z}_{i} - WZ_{i}\|_{2} \leq \frac{1}{\lambda_{k}^{1/2}(H)} \max_{i} \|((\hat{P} - H)U)_{i}\|_{2} + O(m^{-1/2}n^{-1/2}(\log n)^{3/2}) 
\leq \frac{k^{1/2}}{\lambda_{k}^{1/2}(H)} \max_{j} \|(\hat{P} - H)u_{j}\|_{\infty} + O(m^{-1/2}n^{-1/2}(\log n)^{3/2})$$

where  $((\hat{P}-H)U)_i$  represents the *i*-th row of  $(\hat{P}-H)U$  and  $u_j$  denotes the *j*-th column of U. Now given i and j, the i-th element of the vector  $(\hat{P}-H)u_j$  is of the form

$$\sum_{s=1}^{n} (\hat{P}_{is} - H_{is}) u_{js} = \sum_{s \neq i} (\hat{P}_{is} - H_{is}) u_{js}.$$

Thus, conditioned on H, the *i*-th element of the vector  $(\hat{P} - H)u_j$  is a sum of independent mean 0 random variables. By Equation (1), we have

$$E\left[\left((A_{is}^{(t)} - H_{is})u_{js}\right)^{k}\right]$$

$$\leq k!R^{k}u_{js}^{k}$$

$$\leq \frac{k!}{2}R^{k-2}(\sqrt{2}Ru_{js})^{2}.$$

Also we have

$$\sigma^2 := |\sum_{t,s \neq i} 2R^2 u_{js}^2| \le 2R^2 m,$$

then by Theorem 3.5, we have

$$P\left(\left|\sum_{s\neq i}(\hat{P}_{is}-H_{is})u_{js}\right|\geq t\right)\leq \exp\left(\frac{-mt^2/2}{2R^2+Rt}\right).$$

Let  $t = 3cRm^{-1/2}\log n$ , we have

$$P\left(\left|\sum_{s\neq i} (\hat{P}_{is} - H_{is})u_{js}\right| \ge 3cRm^{-1/2}\log n\right) \le n^{-c},$$

i.e. it is of order  $O(m^{-1/2} \log n)$  with high probability. Taking the union bound over all i and j, with high probability we have,

$$\max_{i} \|\hat{Z}_{i} - WZ_{i}\|_{2} \leq \frac{Ck^{1/2}}{\lambda_{k}^{1/2}(H)} m^{-1/2} (\log n)^{3/2} + O(m^{-1/2}n^{-1/2}(\log n)^{3/2}) 
= O(m^{-1/2}n^{-1/2}(\log n)^{3/2}).$$

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**Lemma 3.12**  $\left| \hat{Z}_i^T \hat{Z}_j - Z_i^T Z_j \right| = O(m^{-1/2} n^{-1} (\log n)^3)$  with high probability.

**Proof:** Let W be the rotation matrix in Theorem 3.11, then

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \hat{Z}_{i}^{T} \hat{Z}_{j} - Z_{i}^{T} Z_{j} \right| &= \left| \hat{Z}_{i}^{T} \hat{Z}_{j} - \hat{Z}_{i}^{T} W Z_{j} + \hat{Z}_{i}^{T} W Z_{j} - (W Z_{i})^{T} W Z_{j} \right| \\ &\leq \left| \hat{Z}_{i}^{T} (\hat{Z}_{j} - W Z_{j}) + (\hat{Z}_{i}^{T} - (W Z_{i})^{T}) W Z_{j} \right| \\ &\leq \|\hat{Z}_{i}\|_{2} \|\hat{Z}_{i} - W Z_{j}\|_{2} + \|Z_{j}\|_{2} \|\hat{Z}_{i}^{T} - (W Z_{i})^{T}\|_{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $||Z_i||_2^2 = Z_i^T Z_i = H_{ii}^{(1)} = E[\hat{P}_{ii}^{(1)}] = (1 - \epsilon)P_{ij} + \epsilon C_{ij} \leq R$ , we have  $||Z_i||_2 = O(1)$ . Combined with Theorem 3.11,

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \hat{Z}_i^T \hat{Z}_j - Z_i^T Z_j \right| &= (\|\hat{Z}_i\|_2 + \|Z_j\|_2) O(n^{-1/2} (\log n)^{3/2}) \\ &\leq (\|\hat{Z}_i - W Z_i\|_2 + \|W Z_i\|_2 + \|Z_j\|_2) O(m^{-1/2} n^{-1/2} (\log n)^{3/2}) \\ &= O(m^{-1/2} n^{-1} (\log n)^3) \end{aligned}$$

with high probability.

**Corollary 3.13** For fixed m, the estimator based on ASE of MLE has the same entry-wise asymptotic bias as MLE, i.e.

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \text{Bias}(\tilde{P}_{ij}^{(1)}) = \lim_{n \to \infty} E[\tilde{P}_{ij}^{(1)}] - P_{ij} = \lim_{n \to \infty} E[\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)}] - P_{ij} = \lim_{n \to \infty} \text{Bias}(\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)}).$$

**Proof:** Direct result from Lemma 3.12 by noticing

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} E[\widetilde{P}_{ij}^{(1)}] = \lim_{n \to \infty} E[\widehat{P}_{ij}^{(1)}].$$

Define  $(\hat{Z}_i^T \hat{Z}_j)_{tr}$ , our estimator for  $P_{ij}$ , to be a projection of  $\hat{Z}_i^T \hat{Z}_j$  onto  $[0, \max(\hat{P}_{ij}, R)]$ .

**Theorem 3.14** Assuming that  $m = O(n^b)$  for any b > 0, then  $Var((\hat{Z}_i^T \hat{Z}_j)_{tr}) = O(m^{-1}n^{-2}(\log n)^6)$ .

**Proof:** By Lemma 3.12,

$$\begin{aligned} & \operatorname{Var}((\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\operatorname{tr}}) = & E[((\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\operatorname{tr}} - E[(\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\operatorname{tr}}])^{2}] \\ & = & E[((\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\operatorname{tr}} - Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j} + Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j} - E[(\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\operatorname{tr}}])^{2}] \\ & = & E[((\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\operatorname{tr}} - Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j})^{2}] + E[(Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j} - E[(\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\operatorname{tr}}])^{2}] \\ & + 2E[((\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\operatorname{tr}} - Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j})(Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j} - E[(\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\operatorname{tr}}])] \\ & \leq & E[((\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\operatorname{tr}} - Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j})^{2}] + E[(Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j} - E[(\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\operatorname{tr}}])^{2}] \\ & + 2\sqrt{E[((\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\operatorname{tr}} - Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j})^{2}]E[(Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j} - E[(\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\operatorname{tr}}])^{2}]} \\ \leq & 4E[((\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\operatorname{tr}} - Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j})^{2}] \end{aligned}$$

Fix some a > 0, we have

$$E[((\hat{Z}_i^T \hat{Z}_j)_{\text{tr}} - Z_i^T Z_j)^2]$$

$$= E[((\hat{Z}_i^T \hat{Z}_i)_{\text{tr}} - Z_i^T Z_j)^2 \mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij} \le a\}] + E[((\hat{Z}_i^T \hat{Z}_i)_{\text{tr}} - Z_i^T Z_j)^2 \mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij} > a\}]$$

For the first term, we have

$$\begin{split} &E[((\hat{Z}_i^T\hat{Z}_j)_{\mathrm{tr}} - Z_i^TZ_j)^2\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij} \leq a\}] \\ \leq &E[((\hat{Z}_i^T\hat{Z}_j)_{\mathrm{tr}} - Z_i^TZ_j)^2\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij} \leq a\}\mathbb{I}\{\mathrm{Lemma4.11holds}\}](1 - n^{-c}) \\ &+ E[((\hat{Z}_i^T\hat{Z}_j)_{\mathrm{tr}} - Z_i^TZ_j)^2\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij} \leq a\}\mathbb{I}\{\mathrm{Lemma4.11doesnothold}\}]n^{-c} \\ \leq &O(m^{-1}n^{-2}(\log n)^6)(1 - n^{-c}) + 2n^{-c}E[((\hat{Z}_i^T\hat{Z}_j)_{\mathrm{tr}} - \hat{P}_{ij})^2\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij} \leq a\}] \\ &+ 2n^{-c}E[(\hat{P}_{ij} - Z_i^TZ_j)^2\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij} \leq a\}] \\ \leq &O(m^{-1}n^{-2}(\log n)^6) + 2n^{-c}E[\hat{P}_{ij}^2\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij} \leq a\}] + 2n^{-c}E[(\hat{P}_{ij} + R)^2\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij} \leq a\}] \\ \leq &O(m^{-1}n^{-2}(\log n)^6) + 2a^2n^{-c} + 2(a + R)^2n^{-c} \\ \leq &O(m^{-1}n^{-2}(\log n)^6) + 4n^{-c}(a + R)^2 \end{split}$$

Notice that

$$\begin{split} E[\hat{P}_{ij}^2 \mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij} > a\}] &= E[(\frac{1}{m} \sum_{1 \leq t \leq m} A_{ij}^{(t)})^2 \mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij} > a\}] \\ &\leq \frac{1}{m} E[\sum_{1 \leq t \leq m} A_{ij}^{(t)2} \mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij} > a\}] \leq \frac{1}{m} E[\sum_{1 \leq t \leq m} A_{ij}^{(t)2} \mathbb{I}\{\max_{1 \leq s \leq m} A_{ij}^{(s)} > a\}] \\ &\leq \frac{1}{m} E[\sum_{1 \leq t \leq m} A_{ij}^{(t)2} (\sum_{1 \leq s \leq m} \mathbb{I}\{A_{ij}^{(s)} > a\})] = E[A_{ij}^{(1)2} (\sum_{1 \leq s \leq m} \mathbb{I}\{A_{ij}^{(s)} > a\})] \\ &= E[A_{ij}^{(1)2} \mathbb{I}\{A_{ij}^{(1)} > a\})] + (m-1) E[A_{ij}^{(1)2} \mathbb{I}\{A_{ij}^{(2)} > a\})] \\ &= E[A_{ij}^{(1)2} \mathbb{I}\{A_{ij}^{(1)} > a\})] + (m-1) E[A_{ij}^{(1)2}] P(A_{ij}^{(1)} > a), \end{split}$$

and similarly

$$\begin{split} &E[(\hat{P}_{ij}+R)^2\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij}>a\}]\\ =&E[\hat{P}_{ij}^2\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij}>a\}] + 2R\cdot E[\hat{P}_{ij}\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij}>a\}] + R^2P(\hat{P}_{ij}>a)\\ \leq &E[A_{ij}^{(1)2}\mathbb{I}\{A_{ij}^{(1)}>a\})] + (m-1)E[A_{ij}^{(1)2}]P(A_{ij}^{(1)}>a)\\ &+ 2R\left(E[A_{ij}^{(1)}\mathbb{I}\{A_{ij}^{(1)}>a\})] + (m-1)E[A_{ij}^{(1)}]P(A_{ij}^{(1)}>a)\right)\\ &+ R^2\cdot m\cdot P(A_{ij}^{(1)}>a). \end{split}$$

Thus for the second term,

$$\begin{split} &E[((\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\mathrm{tr}}-Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j})^{2}\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij}>a\}]\\ \leq&2E[((\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\mathrm{tr}}-\hat{P}_{ij})^{2}\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij}>a\}]+2E[(\hat{P}_{ij}-Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j})^{2}\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij}>a\}]\\ \leq&2E[\hat{P}_{ij}^{2}\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij}>a\}]+2E[(\hat{P}_{ij}+R)^{2}\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij}>a\}]\\ \leq&4E[A_{ij}^{(1)2}\mathbb{I}\{A_{ij}^{(1)}>a\})]+4(m-1)E[A_{ij}^{(1)2}]P(A_{ij}^{(1)}>a)\\ &+4R\cdot E[A_{ij}^{(1)}\mathbb{I}\{A_{ij}^{(1)}>a\})]+2R(m-1)E[A_{ij}^{(1)}]P(A_{ij}^{(1)}>a)\\ &+2R^{2}\cdot m\cdot P(A_{ij}^{(1)}>a)\\ \leq&4e^{-a/R}\left(a^{2}+3Ra+3(m+1)R^{2}\right)\\ \leq&4e^{-a/R}(a+2m^{1/2}R)^{2} \end{split}$$

Thus,

$$\operatorname{Var}((\hat{Z}_i^T \hat{Z}_j)_{\operatorname{tr}}) \le O(m^{-1}n^{-2}(\log n)^6) + 16(a+R)^2 n^{-c} + 16(a+2m^{1/2}R)^2 e^{-a/R}.$$

Let  $a = m^{-1/2}n^b$  for any b > 0, and c = 2b + 3, combined with the assumption  $m = O(n^b)$ , we have

$$\operatorname{Var}((\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\operatorname{tr}}) = O(m^{-1}n^{-2}(\log n)^{6}) + O(m^{-1}n^{-3}) + O(m^{-1}n^{2b}) \cdot O(e^{-m^{-1/2}n^{b}})$$

$$= O(m^{-1}n^{-2}(\log n)^{6}) + O(m^{-1}n^{-3}) + O(m^{-1}n^{2b}) \cdot O(e^{-n^{b/2}})$$

$$= O(m^{-1}n^{-2}(\log n)^{6}) + O(m^{-1}n^{-3}) + O(m^{-1}n^{2b}) \cdot O(n^{-2b-3})$$

$$= O(m^{-1}n^{-2}(\log n)^{6}) + O(m^{-1}n^{-3})$$

$$= O(m^{-1}n^{-2}(\log n)^{6}).$$

Corollary 3.15 For fixed  $n, 1 \le i, j \le n, Var(\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)}) = \Theta(m^{-1}).$ 

**Proof:** Direct result from central limit theorem.

**Theorem 3.16** For fixed m,  $1 \le i, j \le n$  and  $i \ne j$ ,

$$\frac{\text{Var}(\widetilde{P}_{ij}^{(1)})}{\text{Var}(\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)})} = O(n^{-2}(\log n)^6).$$

Thus

$$\mathrm{ARE}(\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)}, \widetilde{P}_{ij}^{(1)}) = 0.$$

Furthermore, as long as m goes to infinity of order  $O(n^b)$  for any b > 0,

$$ARE(\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)}, \tilde{P}_{ij}^{(1)}) = 0.$$

**Proof:** The results are direct from Theorem 3.14 and Corollary 3.15.

### 3.3 $\widetilde{P}^{(q)}$ better than $\hat{P}^{(q)}$

**Theorem 3.17** Let P and C be two n-by-n symmetric and hollow matrices satisfying element-wise conditions  $0 < P_{ij} \le C_{ij} \le R$  for some constant R > 0. For  $0 < \epsilon < 1$ , we define m symmetric and hollow matrices as

$$A^{(t)} \stackrel{iid}{\sim} (1 - \epsilon) \operatorname{Exp}(P) + \epsilon \operatorname{Exp}(C)$$

for  $1 \le t \le m$ . Let  $\hat{P}^{(q)}$  be the entry-wise MLqE based on exponential distribution with m observations. Define  $H^{(q)} = E[\hat{P}^{(q)}]$ , then for any constant c > 0 there exists another constant  $n_0(c)$ , independent of n, P, C and  $\epsilon$ , such that if  $n > n_0$ , then for all  $\eta$  satisfying  $n^{-c} \le \eta \le 1/2$ ,

$$P\left(\|\hat{P}^{(q)} - H^{(q)}\|_{2} \le 8R\sqrt{2n\ln(n/\eta)}\right) \ge 1 - \eta.$$

**Remark:** This is the extended version of Theorem 3.1 in [4]. **Proof:** Let  $\{e_i\}_{i=1}^n$  be the canonical basis for  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . For each  $1 \leq i, j \leq n$ , define a corresponding matrix  $G_{ij}$ :

$$G_{ij} \equiv \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} e_i e_j^T + e_j e_i^T, & i \neq j; \\ e_i e_i^T, & i = j. \end{array} \right.$$

Thus  $\hat{P}^{(q)} = \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \hat{P}^{(q)}_{ij} G_{ij}$  and  $H^{(q)} = \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} H^{(q)}_{ij} G_{ij}$ . Then we have  $\hat{P}^{(q)} - H^{(q)} = \sum_{1 \le i < j \le n} X_{ij}, \text{ where } X_{ij} \equiv \left(\hat{P}^{(q)}_{ij} - H^{(q)}_{ij}\right) G_{ij}, 1 \le i < j \le n.$ First consider the k-th moment of  $X_{ij}$  for  $1 \le i < j \le n$ . By Lemma 3.1 we

have

$$\begin{split} \left| \hat{P}_{ij}^{(q)} - H_{ij}^{(q)} \right| &= \left| \hat{P}_{ij}^{(q)} - \hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)} + \hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)} - H_{ij}^{(1)} + H_{ij}^{(1)} - H_{ij}^{(q)} \right| \\ &\leq \left| \hat{P}_{ij}^{(q)} - \hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)} \right| + \left| \hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)} - H_{ij}^{(1)} \right| + \left| H_{ij}^{(1)} - H_{ij}^{(q)} \right| \\ &\leq \hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)} + \left| \hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)} - H_{ij}^{(1)} \right| + H_{ij}^{(1)} \\ &\leq 2 \left( \left| \hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)} - H_{ij}^{(1)} \right| + H_{ij}^{(1)} \right). \end{split}$$

Since

$$\begin{split} E[(\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)} - H_{ij}^{(1)})^k] \leq & (1 - \epsilon) \exp(-H_{ij}/P_{ij}) P_{ij}^k \Gamma(1 + k, -H_{ij}/P_{ij}) \\ & + \epsilon \exp(-H_{ij}/C_{ij}) C_{ij}^k \Gamma(1 + k, -H_{ij}/C_{ij}) \\ \leq & \left( (1 - \epsilon) \exp(-H_{ij}/P_{ij}) P_{ij}^k + \epsilon \exp(-H_{ij}/C_{ij}) C_{ij}^k \right) k! \\ \leq & \left( (1 - \epsilon) P_{ij}^k + \epsilon C_{ij}^k \right) k! \\ \leq & C_{ij}^k k!, \end{split}$$

Then

$$E[(\hat{P}_{ij}^{(q)} - H_{ij}^{(q)})^{k}] \leq E\left[\left|\hat{P}_{ij}^{(q)} - H_{ij}^{(q)}\right|^{k}\right]$$

$$\leq 2^{k} E\left[\left(\left|\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)} - H_{ij}^{(1)}\right| + H_{ij}^{(1)}\right)^{k}\right]$$

$$\leq 2^{k} \sum_{s=0}^{k} \binom{k}{s} E\left[\left|\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)} - H_{ij}^{(1)}\right|^{s}\right] \left(H_{ij}^{(1)}\right)^{k-s}$$

$$\leq 2^{k} \sum_{s=0}^{k} \binom{k}{s} C_{ij}^{s} s! \left(H_{ij}^{(1)}\right)^{k-s}$$

$$\leq 2^{k} k! \sum_{s=0}^{k} \binom{k}{s} C_{ij}^{s} \left(H_{ij}^{(1)}\right)^{k-s}$$

$$= 2^{k} k! \left(C_{ij} + H_{ij}^{(1)}\right)^{k}. \tag{5}$$

Combined with for  $i \neq j$ ,

$$G_{ij}^k \equiv \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} e_i e_i^T + e_j e_j^T, & \text{k is even;} \\ e_i e_j^T + e_j e_i^T, & \text{k is odd,} \end{array} \right.$$

thus we have

1. When k is even,

$$E[X_{ij}^k] = E[(\hat{P}_{ij}^{(q)} - H_{ij}^{(q)})^k]G_{ij}^2 \le 2^{2k}k!R^kG_{ij}^2;$$

2. When k is odd,

$$E[X_{ij}^k] = E[(\hat{P}_{ij}^{(q)} - H_{ij}^{(q)})^k]G_{ij} \le 2^{2k}k!R^kG_{ij}^2.$$

So

$$E[X_{ij}^k] \leq 2^{2k} k! R^k G_{ij}^2$$
.

Let

$$\sigma^2 := \left\| \sum_{1 \le i < j \le n} (4\sqrt{2}RG_{ij})^2 \right\| = 32R^2 \|(n-1)I\| = 32R^2(n-1),$$

notice that random matrices  $X_{ij}$  are independent, self-adjoint and have mean zero, apply Theorem 3.5 we have

$$\begin{split} P\left(\lambda_{\max}(\hat{P}^{(q)} - H^{(q)}) \geq t\right) \leq n \exp\left(-\frac{t^2/2}{\sigma^2 + 4Rt}\right) \\ \leq n \exp\left(-\frac{t^2/2}{32R^2n + Rt}\right). \end{split}$$

Now consider  $Y_{ij} \equiv \left(H^{(q)} - \hat{P}^{(q)}\right) G_{ij}$ ,  $1 \leq i < j \leq n$ . Then we have  $H^{(q)} - \hat{P}^{(q)} = \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} Y_{ij}$ . Since

$$E[(H^{(q)} - \hat{P}^{(q)})^k] = (-1)^k E[(\hat{P}^{(q)} - H^{(q)})^k],$$

1. When k is even,

$$E[Y_{ij}^k] = E[(\hat{P}^{(q)} - H^{(q)})^k]G_{ij}^2 \preceq 2^{2k}k!R^kG_{ij}^2;$$

2. When k is odd,

$$E[Y_{ij}^k] = -E[(\hat{P}^{(q)} - H^{(q)})^k]G_{ij} \le 2^{2k}k!R^kG_{ij}^2.$$

Thus

$$P\left(\lambda_{\min}(\hat{P}^{(q)} - H^{(q)}) \le -t\right) = P\left(\lambda_{\max}(H^{(q)} - \hat{P}^{(q)}) \ge t\right)$$
$$\le n \exp\left(-\frac{t^2/2}{32R^2n + Rt}\right).$$

Therefore we have

$$P\left(\|\hat{P}^{(q)}-H^{(q)}\|\geq t\right)\leq n\exp\left(-\frac{t^2/2}{32R^2n+Rt}\right).$$

Now let c > 0 be given and assume  $n^{-c} \le \eta \le 1/2$ . Then there exists a  $n_0(c)$  independent of n, P, C and  $\epsilon$  such that whenever  $n > n_0(c)$ ,

$$t = 8R\sqrt{2n\ln(n/\eta)} \le 32Rn.$$

Plugging this t into the equation above, we get

$$P(\|\hat{P}^{(q)} - H^{(q)}\| \ge 8R\sqrt{2n\ln(n/\eta)}) \le n\exp\left(-\frac{t^2}{64R^2n}\right) = \eta.$$

As we define  $H^{(q)} = E[\hat{P}^{(q)}]$ , let  $d^{(q)} = \operatorname{rank}(H^{(q)})$  be the dimension in which we are going to embed  $\hat{P}^{(q)}$ . Notice that it is less than or equal to K since the SBM assumption. Then we can define  $H^{(q)} = ZZ^T$  where  $Z \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times d^{(q)}}$ .

For simplicity, from now on, we will use  $\hat{P}$  to represent  $\hat{P}^{(q)}$ , use H to represent  $H^{(q)}$  and use k to represent the dimension  $d^{(q)}$  we are going to embed. Assume  $H = USU^T = ZZ^T$ , where Z is a n-by-k matrix. Then our estimate for Z up to rotation is  $\hat{Z} = \hat{U}\hat{S}^{1/2}$ , where  $\hat{U}\hat{S}\hat{U}^T$  is the rank-d spectral decomposition of  $|\hat{P}| = (\hat{P}^T\hat{P})^{1/2}$ .

**Lemma 3.18** Under the above assumptions,  $\lambda_i(H) = \Theta(n)$  with high probability when  $i \leq k$ , i.e. the largest k eigenvalues of H is of order n. Moreover, we have  $||S||_2 = \Theta(n)$  and  $||\hat{S}||_2 = \Theta(n)$  with high probability.

**Remark:** This is a extended version of Proposition 4.3 in [7]. **Proof:** Exactly the same as proof for Lemma 3.7.

**Lemma 3.19** Let  $W_1\Sigma W_2^T$  be the singular value decomposition of  $U^T\hat{U}$ . Then for sufficiently large n,

$$||U^T \hat{U} - W_1 W_2^T||_F = O(n^{-1} \log n)$$

with high probability.

**Proof:** Exactly the same as proof for Lemma 3.8. We will denote the orthogonal matrix  $W_1W_2^T$  by  $W^*$ .

**Lemma 3.20** For sufficiently large n,

$$||W^*\hat{S} - SW^*||_F = O(\log n),$$
  
$$||W^*\hat{S}^{1/2} - S^{1/2}W^*||_F = O(n^{-1/2}\log n)$$

and

$$||W^*\hat{S}^{-1/2} - S^{-1/2}W^*||_F = O(n^{-3/2}\log n)$$

with high probability.

#### **Proof**:

By Proposition 2.1 in [6] and Equation (2), we have for some orthogonal matrix W,

$$\|\hat{U} - UW\|_F^2 \le \frac{2\|\hat{U}\hat{U}^T - UU^T\|_F^2}{\delta^2} \le \frac{8k^2\|\hat{U}\hat{U}^T - UU^T\|_2^2}{\delta^2} = O(n^{-1/2}\sqrt{\log n}).$$

Let  $Q = \hat{U} - UU^T\hat{U}$ . And Q is the residual after projecting  $\hat{U}$  orthogonally onto the column space of U, we have

$$||Q||_F = ||\hat{U} - UU^T \hat{U}||_F \le ||\hat{U} - UT||_F = O(n^{-1/2}\sqrt{\log n}).$$
 (6)

for all  $k \times k$  matrices T. Then

$$\begin{split} W^* \hat{S} = & (W^* - U^T \hat{U}) \hat{S} + U^T \hat{U} \hat{S} = (W^* - U^T \hat{U}) \hat{S} + U^T \hat{P} \hat{U} \\ = & (W^* - U^T \hat{U}) \hat{S} + U^T (\hat{P} - H) \hat{U} + U^T H \hat{U} \\ = & (W^* - U^T \hat{U}) \hat{S} + U^T (\hat{P} - H) Q + U^T (\hat{P} - H) U U^T \hat{U} + U^T H \hat{U} \\ = & (W^* - U^T \hat{U}) \hat{S} + U^T (\hat{P} - H) Q + U^T (\hat{P} - H) U U^T \hat{U} + S U^T \hat{U}. \end{split}$$

Combined with Theorem 3.17, Lemma 3.18, Lemma 3.19, we have

$$\begin{split} & \|W^*\hat{S} - SW^*\|_F \\ = & \|(W^* - U^T\hat{U})\hat{S} + U^T(\hat{P} - H)Q + U^T(\hat{P} - H)UU^T\hat{U} + S(U^T\hat{U} - W^*)\|_F \\ \leq & \|W^* - U^T\hat{U}\|_F (\|\hat{S}\|_2 + \|S\|_2) + \|U^T\|_F \|\hat{P} - H\|_2 \|Q\|_F + \|U^T(\hat{P} - H)U\|_F \\ \leq & O(\log n) + O(\log n) + \|U^T(\hat{P} - H)U\|_F \end{split}$$

with high probability. And we know  $U^T(\hat{P}-H)U$  is a  $k\times k$  matrix with ij-th entry to be

$$u_i^T(\hat{P} - H)u_j = \sum_{s=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^n (\hat{P}_{st} - H_{st})u_{is}u_{jt} = 2\sum_{s< t} (\hat{P}_{st} - H_{st})u_{is}u_{jt}$$

where  $u_i$  and  $u_j$  are the *i*-th and *j*-th columns of U. Thus, conditioned on H,  $u_i^T(\hat{P}-H)u_j$  is a sum of independent mean 0 random variables.

By Equation (5), we have

$$E\left[\left((\hat{P}_{st} - H_{st})u_{is}u_{jt}\right)^{k}\right]$$

$$\leq 2^{k}k!(C_{st} + H_{st}^{(1)})^{k}u_{is}^{k}u_{jt}^{k}$$

$$\leq \frac{k!}{2}(4R)^{k-2}(4\sqrt{2}Ru_{is}u_{jt})^{2}.$$

Also we have

$$\sigma^2 := |\sum_{s < t} 32R^2 u_{is}^2 u_{jt}^2| \le 32R^2,$$

then by Theorem 3.5, we have

$$P\left(\left|2\sum_{s \le t} (\hat{P}_{st} - H_{st})u_{is}u_{jt}\right| \ge t\right) \le \exp\left(\frac{-t^2/8}{32R^2 + 2Rt}\right),$$

thus each entry of  $U^T(\hat{P} - H)U$  is of order  $O(\log n)$  with high probability and thus

$$||U^T(\hat{P} - H)U||_F = O(\log n) \tag{7}$$

with high probability. Hence

$$||W^*\hat{S} - SW^*||_F = O(\log n)$$

with high probability. Also, since

$$W_{ij}^*(\lambda_j^{1/2}(\hat{P}) - \lambda_i^{1/2}(H)) = W_{ij}^* \frac{\lambda_j(\hat{P}) - \lambda_i(H)}{\lambda_i^{1/2}(\hat{P}) + \lambda_i^{1/2}(H)}$$

and the eigenvalues  $\lambda_i^{1/2}(\hat{P})$  and  $\lambda_i^{1/2}(H)$  are both of order  $\Theta(\sqrt{n})$ , we have

$$||W^*\hat{S}^{1/2} - S^{1/2}W^*||_F = O(n^{-1/2}\log n).$$

Similarly, since

$$W_{ij}^*(\lambda_j^{-1/2}(\hat{P}) - \lambda_i^{-1/2}(H)) = W_{ij}^* \frac{\lambda_i(H) - \lambda_j(\hat{P})}{(\lambda_j^{-1/2}(\hat{P}) + \lambda_i^{-1/2}(H))\lambda_j(\hat{P})\lambda_i(H)}$$

and the eigenvalues  $\lambda_i(\hat{P})$  and  $\lambda_i(H)$  are both of order  $\Theta(n)$ , we have

$$||W^*\hat{S}^{-1/2} - S^{-1/2}W^*||_F = O(n^{-3/2}\log n).$$

**Lemma 3.21** There exists a rotation matrix W such that for sufficiently large n,

$$\|\hat{Z} - ZW\|_F = \|(\hat{P} - H)US^{-1/2}\|_F + O(n^{-1/2}(\log n)^{3/2})$$

with high probability.

**Proof:** Exactly the same as proof for Lemma 3.10.

**Theorem 3.22** There exists a rotation matrix W such that for sufficiently large n,

$$\max_{i} \|\hat{Z}_{i} - WZ_{i}\|_{2} = O(n^{-1/2}(\log n)^{3/2})$$

with high probability.

**Proof:** By Lemma 3.21, we have

$$\|\hat{Z} - ZW\|_F = \|(\hat{P} - H)US^{-1/2}\|_F + O(n^{-1/2}(\log n)^{3/2})$$

and similarly we could have the bound for each row vector

$$\max_{i} \|\hat{Z}_{i} - WZ_{i}\|_{2} \leq \frac{1}{\lambda_{k}^{1/2}(H)} \max_{i} \|((\hat{P} - H)U)_{i}\|_{2} + O(n^{-1/2}(\log n)^{3/2})$$
$$\leq \frac{k^{1/2}}{\lambda_{k}^{1/2}(H)} \max_{j} \|(\hat{P} - H)u_{j}\|_{\infty} + O(n^{-1/2}(\log n)^{3/2})$$

where  $u_j$  denotes the j-th column of U. Now given i and j, the i-th element of the vector  $(\hat{P} - H)u_i$  is of the form

$$\sum_{s=1}^{n} (\hat{P}_{is} - H_{is}) u_{js} = \sum_{s \neq i} (\hat{P}_{is} - H_{is}) u_{js}.$$

Thus, conditioned on H, the *i*-th element of the vector  $(\hat{P} - H)u_j$  is a sum of independent mean 0 random variables. By Equation (5), we have

$$E\left[\left((\hat{P}_{is} - H_{is})u_{js}\right)^{k}\right]$$

$$\leq 2^{k}k!(C_{is} + H_{is}^{(1)})^{k}u_{js}^{k}$$

$$\leq \frac{k!}{2}(4R)^{k-2}(4\sqrt{2}Ru_{js})^{2}.$$

Also we have

$$\sigma^2 := |\sum_{s \neq i} 32R^2 u_{js}^2| \le 32R^2,$$

then by Theorem 3.5, we have with high probability,

$$P\left(\left|\sum_{s\neq i} (\hat{P}_{is} - H_{is})u_{js}\right| \ge t\right) \le \exp\left(\frac{-t^2/2}{32R^2 + Rt}\right).$$

Let  $t = 2cR \log n$ , we have

$$P\left(\left|\sum_{s\neq i} (\hat{P}_{is} - H_{is})u_{js}\right| \ge 2cR\log n\right) \le n^{-c},$$

i.e. it can be bounded by  $O(\log n)$  with high probability. Taking the union bound over all i and j, with high probability, we have

$$\max_{i} \|\hat{Z}_{i} - WZ_{i}\|_{2} \le \frac{Cd^{1/2}}{\lambda_{d}^{1/2}(H)} (\log n)^{3/2} + O(n^{-1/2}(\log n)^{3/2}) = O(n^{-1/2}(\log n)^{3/2}).$$

**Lemma 3.23**  $\left|\hat{Z}_i^T\hat{Z}_j - Z_i^TZ_j\right| = O(n^{-1}(\log n)^3)$  with high probability.

**Proof:** Let W be the rotation matrix in Theorem 3.22, then

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \hat{Z}_{i}^{T} \hat{Z}_{j} - Z_{i}^{T} Z_{j} \right| &= \left| \hat{Z}_{i}^{T} \hat{Z}_{j} - \hat{Z}_{i}^{T} W Z_{j} + \hat{Z}_{i}^{T} W Z_{j} - (W Z_{i})^{T} W Z_{j} \right| \\ &\leq \left| \hat{Z}_{i}^{T} (\hat{Z}_{j} - W Z_{j}) + (\hat{Z}_{i}^{T} - (W Z_{i})^{T}) W Z_{j} \right| \\ &\leq \|\hat{Z}_{i}\|_{2} \|\hat{Z}_{j} - W Z_{j}\|_{2} + \|Z_{j}\|_{2} \|\hat{Z}_{i}^{T} - (W Z_{i})^{T}\|_{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $||Z_i||_2^2 = Z_i^T Z_i = H_{ii}^q = E[\hat{P}_{ii}^{(q)}] \le E[\hat{P}_{ii}^{(1)}] = (1 - \epsilon)P_{ij} + \epsilon C_{ij} \le R$ , we have  $||Z_i||_2 = O(1)$ . Combined with Theorem 3.22,

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \hat{Z}_i^T \hat{Z}_j - Z_i^T Z_j \right| &= (\|\hat{Z}_i\|_2 + \|Z_j\|_2) O(n^{-1/2} (\log n)^{3/2}) \\ &\leq (\|\hat{Z}_i - W Z_i\|_2 + \|W Z_i\|_2 + \|Z_j\|_2) O(n^{-1/2} (\log n)^{3/2}) \\ &= O(n^{-1} (\log n)^3) \end{aligned}$$

with high probability.

**Corollary 3.24** For fixed m, the estimator based on ASE of MLqE has the same entry-wise asymptotic bias as MLqE, i.e.

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} \operatorname{Bias}(\widetilde{P}_{ij}^{(q)}) = \lim_{n\to\infty} E[\widetilde{P}_{ij}^{(q)}] - P_{ij} = \lim_{n\to\infty} E[\widehat{P}_{ij}^{(q)}] - P_{ij} = \lim_{n\to\infty} \operatorname{Bias}(\widehat{P}_{ij}^{(q)}).$$

**Proof:** Direct result from Lemma 3.23 by noticing

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} E[\widetilde{P}_{ij}^{(q)}] = \lim_{n \to \infty} E[\widehat{P}_{ij}^{(q)}].$$

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**Theorem 3.25** Assuming that  $m = O(n^b)$  for any b > 0, then  $Var((\hat{Z}_i^T \hat{Z}_j)_{tr}) = O(n^{-2}(\log n)^6)$ .

**Proof:** By Lemma 3.23,

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Var}((\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\operatorname{tr}}) = & E[((\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\operatorname{tr}} - E[(\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\operatorname{tr}}])^{2}] \\ = & E[((\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\operatorname{tr}} - Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j} + Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j} - E[(\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\operatorname{tr}}])^{2}] \\ = & E[((\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\operatorname{tr}} - Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j})^{2}] + E[(Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j} - E[(\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\operatorname{tr}}])^{2}] \\ & + 2E[((\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\operatorname{tr}} - Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j})(Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j} - E[(\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\operatorname{tr}}])] \\ \leq & E[((\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\operatorname{tr}} - Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j})^{2}] + E[(Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j} - E[(\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\operatorname{tr}}])^{2}] \\ & + 2\sqrt{E[((\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\operatorname{tr}} - Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j})^{2}]E[(Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j} - E[(\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\operatorname{tr}}])^{2}]} \\ \leq & 4E[((\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\operatorname{tr}} - Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j})^{2}] \end{aligned}$$

Fix some a > 0, we have

$$E[((\hat{Z}_i^T \hat{Z}_j)_{\text{tr}} - Z_i^T Z_j)^2]$$

$$= E[((\hat{Z}_i^T \hat{Z}_j)_{\text{tr}} - Z_i^T Z_j)^2 \mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)} \le a\}] + E[((\hat{Z}_i^T \hat{Z}_j)_{\text{tr}} - Z_i^T Z_j)^2 \mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)} > a\}]$$

Note that we are thresholding according to  $\hat{P}^{(1)}$  instead of  $\hat{P}^{(q)}$ . By Lemma 3.1, we know  $\hat{P}^{(q)} < \hat{P}^{(1)}$  given any data. For the first term, we have

$$\begin{split} &E[((\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\mathrm{tr}}-Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j})^{2}\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)}\leq a\}]\\ \leq &E[((\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\mathrm{tr}}-Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j})^{2}\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)}\leq a\}\mathbb{I}\{\mathrm{Lemma3.22holds}\}](1-n^{-c})\\ &+E[((\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\mathrm{tr}}-Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j})^{2}\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)}\leq a\}\mathbb{I}\{\mathrm{Lemma3.22doesnothold}\}]n^{-c}\\ \leq &O(n^{-2}(\log n)^{6})(1-n^{-c})+2n^{-c}E[((\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\mathrm{tr}}-\hat{P}_{ij}^{(q)})^{2}\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)}\leq a\}]\\ &+2n^{-c}E[(\hat{P}_{ij}^{(q)}-Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j})^{2}\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)}\leq a\}]\\ \leq &O(n^{-2}(\log n)^{6})+2n^{-c}E[\hat{P}_{ij}^{(q)2}\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)}\leq a\}]+2n^{-c}E[(\hat{P}_{ij}^{(q)}+R)^{2}\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)}\leq a\}]\\ \leq &O(n^{-2}(\log n)^{6})+2n^{-c}E[\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)2}\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)}\leq a\}]+2n^{-c}E[(\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)}+R)^{2}\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)}\leq a\}]\\ \leq &O(n^{-2}(\log n)^{6})+2a^{2}n^{-c}+2(a+R)^{2}n^{-c}\\ \leq &O(n^{-2}(\log n)^{6})+4n^{-c}(a+R)^{2} \end{split}$$

For the second term, we have

$$\begin{split} &E[((\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\mathrm{tr}} - Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j})^{2}\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)} > a\}] \\ \leq &2E[((\hat{Z}_{i}^{T}\hat{Z}_{j})_{\mathrm{tr}} - \hat{P}_{ij}^{(q)})^{2}\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)} > a\}] + 2E[(\hat{P}_{ij}^{(q)} - Z_{i}^{T}Z_{j})^{2}\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)} > a\}] \\ \leq &2E[\hat{P}_{ij}^{(q)2}\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)} > a\}] + 2E[(\hat{P}_{ij}^{(q)} + R)^{2}\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)} > a\}] \\ \leq &2E[\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)2}\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)} > a\}] + 2E[(\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)} + R)^{2}\mathbb{I}\{\hat{P}_{ij}^{(1)} > a\}] \\ \leq &4e^{-a/R}(a + 2m^{1/2}R)^{2} \end{split}$$

Similarly, assuming  $m = O(n^b)$  for any b > 0, we have

$$\operatorname{Var}((\hat{Z}_i^T \hat{Z}_i)_{\operatorname{tr}}) = O(n^{-2}(\log n)^6).$$

**Theorem 3.26** Let  $u_q(\theta) = E_{\theta}[\hat{\theta}_{q,n}], \ \phi_q(x;\theta) = \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} L_q(f(x;\theta)), \ and \ \phi'_q(x;\theta) = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2} L_q(f(x;\theta)).$  Then the asymptotic distribution of  $\hat{\theta}_{q,n}$  is  $\sqrt{n}(\hat{\theta}_{q,n} - u_q(\theta)) \sim \mathcal{N}(0, V_q(\theta)), \ where \ V_q(\theta) = E[\phi_q(X;\theta)^2]/E[\phi'_q(X;\theta)]^2.$ 

Remark: See Theorem 1 in http://arxiv.org/pdf/1310.7278.pdf.

Corollary 3.27  $\operatorname{Var}(\hat{P}_{ij}^{(q)}) = \Theta(m^{-1}).$ 

**Proof:** Direct result from Theorem 3.26.

**Theorem 3.28** For fixed m,  $1 \le i, j \le n$ ,

$$\frac{\operatorname{Var}(\widetilde{P}_{ij}^{(q)})}{\operatorname{Var}(\widehat{P}_{ij}^{(q)})} = O(mn^{-2}(\log n)^6).$$

Thus

$$ARE(\hat{P}_{ij}^{(q)}, \widetilde{P}_{ij}^{(q)}) = 0.$$

Furthermore, as long as m goes to infinity of order  $o(n^2(\log n)^{-6})$ ,

$$ARE(\hat{P}_{ij}^{(q)}, \widetilde{P}_{ij}^{(q)}) = 0.$$

**Proof:** The results are direct from Theorem 3.25 and Corollary 3.27.

## 3.4 $\widetilde{P}^{(q)}$ better than $\widetilde{P}^{(1)}$

**Theorem 3.29** For sufficiently large n and C, any  $1 \le i, j \le n$ ,

$$\lim_{m \to \infty} \operatorname{Bias}(\widetilde{P}_{ij}^{(1)}) > \lim_{m \to \infty} \operatorname{Bias}(\widetilde{P}_{ij}^{(q)})$$

**Proof:** Direct result from Lemma 3.1, Corollary 3.13 and Corollary 3.24.

**Theorem 3.30** For any fixed m, any  $1 \le i, j \le n$ ,

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \operatorname{Var}(\widetilde{P}_{ij}^{(1)}) = \lim_{n \to \infty} \operatorname{Var}(\widetilde{P}_{ij}^{(q)}) = 0.$$

Furthermore, as long as m goes to infinity of order  $o(n^2(\log n)^{-6})$ , any  $1 \le i, j \le n$ ,

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \operatorname{Var}(\widetilde{P}_{ij}^{(1)}) = \lim_{n \to \infty} \operatorname{Var}(\widetilde{P}_{ij}^{(q)}) = 0$$

**Proof:** Direct result from Theorem 3.14 and Theorem 3.25.

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