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APPENDIX A  
PROOF OF PROPOSITION 3

Considering the first-order optimality condition of problem (2), we have

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla \mathcal{L}(\hat{\mu}) &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(d_i^2(\hat{\mu})) \nabla d_i^2(\mu) \\ &= \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(d_i^2(\hat{\mu})) (\hat{\mu} - \mathbf{x}_i) = \mathbf{0},\end{aligned}\quad (6)$$

where  $\hat{\mu}$  denotes any stationary point. Then we have

$$\hat{\mu} = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\ell'(d_i^2(\hat{\mu}))}{\sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(d_i^2(\hat{\mu}))} \mathbf{x}_i. \quad (7)$$

Note that  $\sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(d_i^2(\hat{\mu})) \neq 0$ , since  $\ell'$  is strictly positive by Assumption 1. The right hand side (RHS) of (7) can be interpreted as a weighted average of the sample  $\{\mathbf{x}_i\}_{i=1}^n$ . (For robust functions,  $\ell'$  is a non-increasing function for large values, so outlying samples will receive smaller weights, which brings the robustness.)

Substitute  $\mathbf{x}_i = \mu^* + \varepsilon_i$  into (7), and we obtain

$$\hat{\mu} - \mu^* = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\ell'(d_i^2(\hat{\mu}))}{\sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(d_i^2(\hat{\mu}))} \varepsilon_i. \quad (8)$$

Taking Euclidean norm to both sides of (8) leads to

$$\begin{aligned}\|\hat{\mu} - \mu^*\| &= \left\| \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\ell'(d_i^2(\hat{\mu}))}{\sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(d_i^2(\hat{\mu}))} \varepsilon_i \right\| \\ &\leq \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(d_i^2(\hat{\mu}))}{\sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(d_i^2(\hat{\mu}))} \|\varepsilon_i\| \leq \kappa,\end{aligned}$$

where the second inequality follows from Assumption 2.

APPENDIX B  
PROOF OF THEOREM 5

Our goal is to prove  $\mathcal{L}$  is strongly convex and smooth in the interior of  $\mathcal{B}(\hat{\mu}, R)$ . We first prove the strong convexity of  $\mathcal{L}$ . Since  $\ell$  is twice differentiable according to Assumption 1, we can compute the Hessian of  $\mathcal{L}$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla^2 \mathcal{L}(\mu) &= \frac{4}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell''(d_i^2(\mu)) (\mu - \mathbf{x}_i) (\mu - \mathbf{x}_i)^\top \\ &\quad + \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(d_i^2(\mu)) \mathbf{I}.\end{aligned}$$

Then, it is equivalent to prove  $\nabla^2 \mathcal{L}(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r}) \succ \mathbf{0}$  for all  $\mathbf{r}$  within some ball.

We have

$$\begin{aligned}&\lambda_{\min}(\nabla^2 \mathcal{L}(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r})) \\ &= \lambda_{\min} \left( \frac{4}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell''(d_i^2(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r})) (\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{x}_i) (\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{x}_i)^\top \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(d_i^2(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r})) \mathbf{I} \right).\end{aligned}$$

Using Weyl's inequality, we get

$$\begin{aligned}&\lambda_{\min}(\nabla^2 \mathcal{L}(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r})) \\ &\geq \lambda_{\min} \left( \frac{4}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell''(d_i^2(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r})) (\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{x}_i) (\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{x}_i)^\top \right) \\ &\quad + \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(d_i^2(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r})), \quad (9)\end{aligned}$$

Consider the first term in (9). We have

$$\begin{aligned}&\lambda_{\min} \left( \frac{4}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell''(d_i^2(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r})) (\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{x}_i) (\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{x}_i)^\top \right) \\ &\geq \frac{4}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_{\min} \left( \ell''(d_i^2(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r})) (\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{x}_i) (\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{x}_i)^\top \right),\end{aligned}$$

where the inequality follows from the Weyl's inequality. We further have

$$\begin{aligned}&\frac{4}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_{\min} \left( \ell''(d_i^2(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r})) (\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{x}_i) (\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{x}_i)^\top \right) \\ &\geq -\frac{4}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |\ell''(d_i^2(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r}))| \|\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{x}_i\|^2 \\ &\geq -\frac{4}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |\ell''(d_i^2(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r}))| (\|\mathbf{r}\| + \|\hat{\mu} - \mu^*\| + \|\varepsilon_i\|)^2 \\ &\geq -\frac{4}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |\ell''(d_i^2(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r}))| (\|\mathbf{r}\| + 2\kappa)^2, \quad (10)\end{aligned}$$

where the first inequality is due to  $\lambda_{\min}(\omega \mathbf{a} \mathbf{a}^\top) = -|\omega| \|\mathbf{a}\|^2$  for any scalar  $\omega$ , and the last inequality follows from  $\|\varepsilon_i\| \leq \kappa$  by Assumption 2 and  $\|\hat{\mu} - \mu^*\| \leq \kappa$  by Proposition 3. Upon substituting (10) into (9), we get

$$\begin{aligned}&\lambda_{\min}(\nabla^2 \mathcal{L}(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r})) \\ &\geq -\frac{4}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |\ell''(d_i^2(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r}))| (\|\mathbf{r}\| + 2\kappa)^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(d_i^2(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r})) \\ &\geq -4U(r + 2\kappa)^2 + 2L,\end{aligned}\quad (11)$$

where we define  $\|\mathbf{r}\| = r$  and the second inequality follows from Lemma 6. The RHS of (11) is positive whenever

$$r < \sqrt{\frac{L}{2U}} - 2\kappa. \quad (12)$$

Denote the supremum of the solution of  $r$  to (12) as  $R$ . (Note that there always exists a solution  $r$  satisfying (12). Since  $\sqrt{\frac{L}{2U}} > 0$  always holds in (12). Thus, (12) can always be satisfied when  $\kappa$  and  $r$  are sufficiently small.) Then we have that in the interior of the ball  $\mathcal{B}(\hat{\mu}, R)$ ,  $\mathcal{L}$   $\alpha$ -strongly convex with  $\alpha = -4U(r + 2\kappa)^2 + 2L > 0$ .

Next, we prove the  $\beta$ -smoothness of  $\mathcal{L}$ . It is equivalent to show  $\nabla^2 \mathcal{L}(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r}) \preceq \beta \mathbf{I}$ , i.e.,  $\lambda_{\min}(\beta \mathbf{I} - \nabla^2 \mathcal{L}(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r})) \geq 0$  for a constant  $\beta > 0$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} & \lambda_{\min}(\beta \mathbf{I} - \nabla^2 \mathcal{L}(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r})) \\ &= \lambda_{\min} \left( \left( \beta - \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(d_i^2(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r})) \right) \mathbf{I} \right. \\ & \quad \left. - \frac{4}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell''(d_i^2(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r})) (\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{x}_i) (\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{x}_i)^\top \right) \\ &\geq -\frac{4}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_{\min} \left( \ell''(d_i^2(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r})) (\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{x}_i) (\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{x}_i)^\top \right) \\ & \quad + \beta - \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(d_i^2(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r})), \quad (13) \end{aligned}$$

where the inequality follows from Weyl's inequality. For the first term in (13), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & -\frac{4}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_{\min} \left( \ell''(d_i^2(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r})) (\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{x}_i) (\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{x}_i)^\top \right) \\ &\geq -\frac{4}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |\ell''(d_i^2(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r}))| \|\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{x}_i\|^2, \quad (14) \end{aligned}$$

where the first inequality is due to  $\lambda_{\min}(\omega \mathbf{a} \mathbf{a}^\top) = -|\omega| \|\mathbf{a}\|^2$  for any scalar  $\omega$ . Upon substituting (14) into (13), we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \lambda_{\min}(\beta \mathbf{I} - \nabla^2 \mathcal{L}(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r})) \\ &\geq \beta - \frac{4}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |\ell''(d_i^2(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r}))| \|\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{x}_i\|^2 \\ & \quad - \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(d_i^2(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r})) \\ &\geq \beta - \frac{4}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |\ell''(d_i^2(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r}))| (\|\mathbf{r}\| + \|\hat{\mu} - \mu^*\| + \|\varepsilon_i\|)^2 \\ & \quad - \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(d_i^2(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r})) \\ &\geq \beta - \frac{4}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |\ell''(d_i^2(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r}))| (\|\mathbf{r}\| + 2\kappa)^2 \\ & \quad - \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(d_i^2(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r})), \end{aligned}$$

where the second inequality follows from triangular inequality and the third inequality follows from Proposition 3 and

Assumption 2. By using Lemma 5, we then have

$$\begin{aligned} & \lambda_{\min}(\beta \mathbf{I} - \nabla^2 \mathcal{L}(\hat{\mu} + \mathbf{r})) \\ &\geq \beta - 4U(r + 2\kappa)^2 - 2\bar{G}(\kappa, r) \\ &\geq \beta - 2L - 2U \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

The RHS of (15) is positive whenever

$$\beta \geq 2(L + U).$$

And it is easy to see  $\alpha \leq \beta$ .

## APPENDIX C PROOF OF THEOREM 7

The gradient of  $\mathcal{L}$  is given by

$$\nabla \mathcal{L}(\mu) = \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(d_i^2(\mu)) (\mu - \mathbf{x}_i).$$

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \nabla \mathcal{L}(\mu)^\top (\mu - \hat{\mu}) \\ &= \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(d_i^2(\mu)) (\mu - \mathbf{x}_i)^\top (\mu - \hat{\mu}) \\ &= \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(d_i^2(\mu)) (\mu - \hat{\mu} + \hat{\mu} - \mu^* - \varepsilon_i)^\top (\mu - \hat{\mu}) \\ &= \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(d_i^2(\mu)) \|\mu - \hat{\mu}\|^2 \\ & \quad + \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(d_i^2(\mu)) (\hat{\mu} - \mu^* - \varepsilon_i)^\top (\mu - \hat{\mu}). \quad (16) \end{aligned}$$

For the second term in (16), by using the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality and the triangle inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(d_i^2(\mu)) (\hat{\mu} - \mu^* - \varepsilon_i)^\top (\mu - \hat{\mu}) \\ &\geq -\frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(d_i^2(\mu)) \|\hat{\mu} - \mu^* - \varepsilon_i\| \|\mu - \hat{\mu}\| \\ &\geq -\frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(d_i^2(\mu)) (\|\hat{\mu} - \mu^*\| + \|\varepsilon_i\|) \|\mu - \hat{\mu}\|. \quad (17) \end{aligned}$$

Upon substituting (17) into (16), we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \nabla \mathcal{L}(\mu)^\top (\mu - \hat{\mu}) \\ &\geq \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(d_i^2(\mu)) (\|\mu - \hat{\mu}\| - \|\hat{\mu} - \mu^*\| - \|\varepsilon_i\|) \|\mu - \hat{\mu}\| \\ &\geq \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(d_i^2(\mu)) (\|\mu - \hat{\mu}\| - 2\kappa) \|\mu - \hat{\mu}\|, \end{aligned}$$

where the last inequality follows from Proposition 3 and Assumption 2.

When  $\kappa = 0$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \nabla \mathcal{L}(\mu)^\top (\mu - \hat{\mu}) \geq \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(d_i^2(\mu)) \|\mu - \hat{\mu}\|^2 \\ & = \gamma_1 \|\mu - \hat{\mu}\|^2, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\gamma_1 = \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell' (d_i^2(\mu)) > 0$  is a positive constant.

When  $\kappa > 0$ , if  $\|\mu - \hat{\mu}\| \geq 4\kappa$ , we have  $\|\mu - \hat{\mu}\| - 2\kappa \geq 2\kappa$ . Then there exists a positive constant  $C_1 = \frac{2\kappa}{\|\mu - \hat{\mu}\|}$  such that  $\|\mu - \hat{\mu}\| - 2\kappa \geq C_1 \|\mu - \hat{\mu}\|$ . For the lower bound of  $C_1$ , we have

$$C_1 = \frac{2\kappa}{\|\mu - \hat{\mu}\|} \geq \frac{2\kappa}{\|\mu - \mu^*\| + \|\mu^* - \hat{\mu}\|}. \quad (18)$$

Consider term  $\|\mu - \mu^*\|$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mu - \mu^*\| &\leq \|\mu - x_i\| + \|x_i - \mu^*\| \\ &= \|\mu - x_i\| + \|\varepsilon_i\| \\ &\leq \max_{i=1, \dots, n} \|\mu - x_i\| + \kappa, \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

where the first inequality follows from the triangle inequality and the second inequality follows from  $\|\mu^* - \hat{\mu}\| \leq \kappa$  by Proposition 3. Upon substituting (19) into (18), we have

$$C_1 \geq \frac{2\kappa}{\max_{i=1, \dots, n} \|\mu - x_i\| + 2\kappa}.$$

Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \mathcal{L}(\mu)^\top (\mu - \hat{\mu}) &\geq \frac{2C_1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell' (d_i^2(\mu)) \|\mu - \hat{\mu}\|^2 \\ &\geq \gamma_2 \|\mu - \hat{\mu}\|^2, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\gamma_2 = \frac{4\kappa}{\max_{i=1, \dots, n} \|\mu - x_i\| + 2\kappa} L > 0$  when  $\kappa > 0$ . Then we have a positive constant

$$\gamma = \min \{\gamma_1, \gamma_2\}$$

such that

$$\nabla \mathcal{L}(\mu)^\top (\mu - \hat{\mu}) \geq \gamma \|\mu - \hat{\mu}\|^2.$$

Since we have  $\gamma > 0$ , we have  $\mathcal{L}$  is one-point strongly convex in  $\mathcal{B}(\hat{\mu}, r)$ , where  $r \geq 4\kappa$ .

#### APPENDIX D PROOF OF COROLLARY 8

From Theorem 6,  $\mathcal{L}$  is locally strong convex and smooth in the interior of the ball  $\mathcal{B}(\hat{\mu}, R)$ , so there is only one local minimum in  $\mathcal{B}(\hat{\mu}, R)$ . From Theorem 7,  $\mathcal{L}$  is one-point strong convex in the interior of the ball  $\mathcal{B}(\hat{\mu}, r)^c$ , so there is no local minimum in  $\mathcal{B}(\hat{\mu}, r)^c$ . If  $R > r$ , there is an overlap between  $\mathcal{B}(\hat{\mu}, R)$  and  $\mathcal{B}(\hat{\mu}, r)^c$ . Then we have  $\mathcal{L}$  has a unique local minimum, which is the global minimum.

Furthermore, we demonstrate that  $R > r$  can not have no solution. If  $R > r$ , it indicates that there exists an  $R$  satisfying  $R < \sqrt{\frac{L}{2U}} - 2\kappa$  and  $r \geq 4\kappa$ . Combining these two condition, we need  $\kappa < \frac{1}{6} \sqrt{\frac{L}{2U}}$ , which can be satisfied by a small enough  $\kappa$  since  $\sqrt{\frac{L}{2U}} > 0$ .