

# Appendix to A note on cross-validation for Lasso under measurement errors

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September 9, 2019

## A Appendix: Proofs

For any matrix  $M$ ,  $\|M\|_{\max}$  denotes the entrywise maximum norm,  $\|M\|_2$  denote the matrix  $\ell_2$  norm and  $\rho_{\min}(M)$  denote its minimum eigenvalue. Finally let  $X_j$  and  $Z_j$  denote the  $j^{th}$  columns of  $X$  and  $Z$  respectively.

*Proof of Lemma 1.* Recall that  $X^\top X/n \rightarrow \Sigma$ . Let  $S_{1n} = \{\omega : 1/(2\rho_{\max}(\Sigma)) \leq \rho_{\min}(Z^\top Z/n - \Gamma)^{-1} \leq 2/\rho_{\min}(\Sigma)\}$ . On  $S_{1n}$ ,  $Z^\top Z/n - \Gamma$  is invertible and the CoCoLasso estimate in (2) can be disguised as a Lasso equation as

$$\hat{\beta}_C(\lambda) = \arg \min_{\beta} (2n)^{-1} \|\tilde{y} - \tilde{Z}\beta\|_2^2 + \lambda \|\beta\|_1. \quad (1)$$

where  $\tilde{Z}/n$  is the Cholesky factor of  $Z^\top Z/n - \Gamma$  and  $\tilde{y}$  is the solution of  $\tilde{Z}^\top \tilde{y} = Z^\top y$ . The solution path is hence piecewise linear in  $\lambda$  (Tibshirani 2013, Lemma 8). If  $R = R(\lambda)$  denote the active set (set of indices corresponding to the non-zero entries of  $\hat{\beta}(\lambda)$ ), then the slope is given by  $\|(\tilde{Z}^\top \tilde{Z}/n)^{-1}_{R,R}\|_2 = \|((\frac{1}{n}Z^\top Z - \Gamma)_{R,R})^{-1}\|_2$ . So, the maximal slope is bounded by

$$\sup_{R \subset \{1, 2, \dots, p\}} \left\| \left( \left( \frac{1}{n} Z^\top Z - \Gamma \right)_{R,R} \right)^{-1} \right\|_2 \leq \left\| \left( \frac{1}{n} Z^\top Z - \Gamma \right)^{-1} \right\|_2 \leq 2/\rho_{\min}(\Sigma) \quad (2)$$

From Lemma A2,  $p(S_{in}^c) = o(n^{-1})$  which proves the Lipschitz continuity for the CoCoLasso estimate  $\hat{\beta}_{C,0}(\lambda)$ . Similar, result will hold if  $Z$  is replaced by  $Z_{-i}$  (i.e., the  $i^{th}$  observation is removed). Since  $no(n^{-1}) \rightarrow 0$ , the result holds uniformly for  $\hat{\beta}_C^{(i)}(\lambda)$  over  $i = 0, 1, \dots, n$ .  $\square$

*Proof of Lemma 2.* If  $X$  was observed,  $\hat{\beta}_L(\lambda) = 0$  for all  $\lambda \geq \|X^\top y/n\|_\infty$ . Equivalently,  $\hat{\beta}_C(\lambda) = 0$  if  $\lambda \geq \|\tilde{Z}^\top \tilde{y}/n\|_\infty = \|Z^\top y/n\|_\infty$ . We can expand  $Z^\top y = X^\top X\beta^* + X^\top w + A^\top X\beta^* + A^\top w$ . Using Lemma A1,  $P(\|Z^\top y/n\|_\infty \geq \|\Sigma\beta^*\|_\infty + 1) = o(n^{-1})$  and hence

$$p(\|\beta_{C,0}(\lambda)\|_2 \geq 2(\|\Sigma\beta^*\|_\infty + 1)/\rho_{\min}(\Sigma)) = o(n^{-1}). \quad (3)$$

Again, similar result will hold by replacing  $Z$  with  $Z_{-i}$  which proves the lemma.  $\square$

Before proving Lemma 3, we introduce some additional notation. Let  $\beta(\lambda)$  denote the minimizer of  $g(\beta)$  where  $g(\beta) = \frac{1}{2}(\beta - \beta^*)^\top \Sigma(\beta - \beta^*) + \lambda\|\beta\|_1 + \sigma^2$ . First note that as  $g(\beta)$  can be viewed as a noiseless version of the Lasso loss function (1). Hence,  $\|\beta(\lambda)\|_2$  is Lipschitz and uniformly stochastically bounded in  $\lambda \in [0, \Lambda]$ . For any  $\beta$ , let  $R(\beta, \epsilon)$  denote the closed  $\ell_2$ -ball of radius  $\epsilon$  and centered around  $\beta$ . Since  $g(\beta)$  is strictly convex, there is a  $\delta(\epsilon, \lambda) > 0$  such that  $\beta \notin R(\beta(\lambda), \epsilon) \Rightarrow g(\beta) > g(\beta(\lambda)) + \delta(\epsilon, \lambda)$ . Clearly,  $\delta(\epsilon, \lambda)$  is decreasing in  $\epsilon$  and goes to zero as  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ . We first prove the following result:

**Lemma 1.** For any fixed  $\lambda$ , and  $p(\|\hat{\beta}_C(\lambda) - \beta(\lambda)\|_2 > \epsilon) = o(n^{-1})$ .

*Proof.* The CoCoLasso estimate  $\hat{\beta}_C^{(n)}(\lambda)$  is obtained by minimizing  $g_n(\beta) = \frac{1}{2}(y^\top y/n - 2y^\top Z\beta/n + \beta^\top (Z^\top Z/n - \Gamma)_+ \beta) + \lambda\|\beta\|_1$ .

$$\begin{aligned} |g_n(\beta) - g(\beta)| &\leq |\beta^\top ((Z^\top Z/n - \Gamma)_+ - \Sigma)\beta|/2 + |\beta^{*\top} (X^\top X/n - \Sigma)\beta^*|/2 + \\ &\quad |\beta^\top (Z^\top X/n - \Sigma)\beta^*| + |\beta^\top Z^\top w/n| + |w^\top X^\top \beta^*/n| + |w^\top w/n| \end{aligned}$$

Using Lemmas A1 and A2, we have  $p(|g_n(\beta) - g(\beta)| > \delta(\epsilon, \lambda)/4) = o(n^{-1})$ .

Let  $K$  be the compact hypercube in  $\mathbb{R}^p$ , centered at zero and having edges of length  $L$  such that  $L = 5(\|\Sigma\beta^*\|_\infty + 1)/\rho_{\min}(\Sigma)$ . Using the bound of Equation (3) one can see that this choice of  $L$  ensures that  $K$  contains  $\cup_{\lambda \in [0, \Lambda]} R(\beta(\lambda), \epsilon)$  for small enough  $\epsilon$  and contains  $\{\hat{\beta}_{C,0}(\lambda) : \lambda \in [0, \Lambda]\}$  with probability  $1 - o(n^{-1})$ .

As  $\lambda \in [0, \Lambda]$ ,  $g(\beta)$  is also Lipschitz in  $\beta$  on  $K$  with constant  $\kappa = \|\Sigma\|_2 L + \sqrt{p}\Lambda$ . We use Lemma A3 (Equation 6) and conclude that for any  $\epsilon > 0$ ,

$$p(S) \leq (8\sqrt{2}L\kappa/\delta(\epsilon, \lambda) + 3)^p o(n^{-1}) \text{ where } S = \{\sup_{\beta \in K} |g_n(\beta) - g(\beta)| > \delta(\epsilon, \lambda)/4\}.$$

On  $S^c$ , we have  $g_n(\beta(\lambda)) < g(\beta(\lambda)) + \delta(\epsilon, \lambda)/4$ . Therefore on  $S^c$ , for  $\beta \in K \setminus R(\beta(\lambda), \epsilon)$ , we have  $g_n(\beta) > g(\beta) - \delta(\epsilon, \lambda)/4 > g(\beta(\lambda)) + 3\delta(\epsilon, \lambda)/4 > g_n(\beta(\lambda))$ . Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} p(\|\hat{\beta}_C(\lambda) - \beta(\lambda)\|_2 > \epsilon) &\leq p(S) + p(\hat{\beta}_C(\lambda) \in K^c) \\ &\leq (4\sqrt{2}L\kappa/\delta(\epsilon, \lambda) + 3)^p o(n^{-1}) + o(n^{-1}). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\delta(\epsilon, 4)$  does not depend on  $n$ , the right hand side is  $o(n^{-1})$ .  $\square$

*Proof of Lemma 3.* We emulate the proofs of Theorems 21.9 and 21.10 in Davidson (1994) with a more careful tracking of the probability bounds throughout to ensure that the results hold uniformly for all the leave-one-out estimators  $\hat{\beta}_C^{(i)}(\lambda)$ .

Let  $Q_n(\lambda) = \|\hat{\beta}_C(\lambda) - \beta(\lambda)\|_2$ . Since,  $|Q_n(\lambda) - Q_n(\lambda')| \leq \|\hat{\beta}_C(\lambda) - \hat{\beta}_C(\lambda')\|_2 + \|\beta(\lambda) - \beta(\lambda')\|_2$ , from Lemma 1,  $|Q_n(\lambda) - Q_n(\lambda')| \leq C_n|\lambda - \lambda'|$  with  $p(S_n) = o(n^{-1})$  for set  $S_n = \{|C_n| > 4/\rho_{\min}(\Sigma)\}$ . For any  $\epsilon > 0$ , let  $\lambda_0 = 0, \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m = \Lambda$  denote an increasing sequence of points such that  $\lambda_i - \lambda_{i-1} = \mu \leq \epsilon\rho_{\min}(\Sigma)/8$ . On  $S_n$  for any  $\lambda \in [0, \Lambda]$ ,  $Q_n(\lambda) \leq \epsilon/2 + \max_{i=1, \dots, m} Q_n(\lambda_i)$ . Then, we have

$$p\left(\sup_{\lambda \in [0, \Lambda]} |Q_n(\lambda)| > \epsilon\right) \leq \sum_{i=1}^m p(Q_n(\lambda_i) > \epsilon/2) + p(S_n^c) = \sum_{i=1}^m o(n^{-1}) + o(n^{-1}) = o(n^{-1}).$$

The analogous result also holds if we replace  $\hat{\beta}_C(\lambda)$  with the clean Lasso estimate  $\hat{\beta}_L(\lambda)$  in  $Q_n(\lambda)$  (a version of the clean Lasso result is provided in Theorem 1 of Knight & Fu (2000)). Hence, using triangular inequality we have,

$$p\left(\sup_{\lambda \in [0, \Lambda]} \|\hat{\beta}_C(\lambda) - \hat{\beta}_L(\lambda)\|_2 > \epsilon\right) = o(n^{-1}).$$

Summing over the  $n$  probabilities for all the leave-one-out estimates, Lemma 3 is proved.  $\square$

*Proof of Lemma 4.*  $R_X(\lambda)$  and  $\tilde{R}_X(\lambda)$  are identical quadratic forms with the only difference being  $\hat{\beta}_L(\lambda)$  in  $R_X(\lambda)$  gets replaced by  $\hat{\beta}_C(\lambda)$  in  $\tilde{R}_X(\lambda)$ . Hence, part (a) follows immediately from Lemmas 2 and 3. Similarly, to prove part (b) we once use Lemmas 2 and 3 to show that the difference of the quadratic forms  $\hat{\beta}_C(\lambda)^\top \Gamma \hat{\beta}_C(\lambda) - \hat{\beta}_L(\lambda)^\top \Gamma \hat{\beta}_L(\lambda)$  is  $o_p(1)$ . For part (c), we expand  $y_i - z_i^\top \hat{\beta}_C^{(i)}(\lambda) = \sum_{j=1}^4 t_{ij}$  where  $t_{i1} = x_i^\top (\beta^* - \hat{\beta}_L(\lambda))$ ,  $t_{i2} = w_i$ ,  $t_{i3} = -a_i^\top \hat{\beta}_L(\lambda)$  and  $t_{i4} = z_i^\top (\hat{\beta}_L(\lambda) - \hat{\beta}_C^{(i)}(\lambda))$ . Let

$$L_{n,X}(\lambda) = n^{-1} \|X(\beta^* - \hat{\beta}_L(\lambda))\|_2^2. \quad (4)$$

Hence  $|\hat{L}_{n,Z}(\lambda) - L_{n,X}(\lambda) - \sigma^2 - \hat{\beta}_L(\lambda)^\top \Gamma \hat{\beta}_L(\lambda)|_2^2$  is less than

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \left( \frac{1}{n} w^\top w - \sigma^2 \right) \right| + |\hat{\beta}_L(\lambda)^\top \left( \frac{1}{n} A^\top A - \Gamma \right) \hat{\beta}_L(\lambda)| + \left| \frac{1}{n} w^\top X(\beta^* - \hat{\beta}_L(\lambda)) \right| + \left| \frac{1}{n} w^\top A \hat{\beta}_L(\lambda) \right| + \\ & \left| \frac{1}{n} \hat{\beta}_L(\lambda)^\top A^\top X(\beta^* - \hat{\beta}_L(\lambda)) \right| + \max_{i=1, \dots, n} t_{i4}^2 + 2 \sum_{j=1}^3 \left( \max_{i=1, \dots, n} |t_{ij}| \right) \left( \max_{i=1, \dots, n} |t_{i4}| \right) \end{aligned}$$

Since from Lemma 3,  $t_{i4}$  is  $o_p(1)$  and  $t_{ij}$ 's, for  $j \leq 3$ , are  $O_p(1)$  uniformly over  $i$  and  $\lambda$ , the last two terms in the equation above are  $o_p(1)$ . The other terms are  $o_p(1)$  using Lemma A1.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 1.* Using triangular inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\hat{L}_{n,Z}(\lambda) - \tilde{R}_Z(\lambda)| & \leq |\hat{L}_{n,Z}(\lambda) - L_{n,X}(\lambda) - \hat{\beta}_L(\lambda)^\top \Gamma \hat{\beta}_L(\lambda) - \sigma^2| + \\ & |L_{n,X}(\lambda) + \sigma^2 - R_X(\lambda)| + |R_X(\lambda) - \tilde{R}_X(\lambda)| + \\ & |\hat{\beta}_L(\lambda)^\top \Gamma \hat{\beta}_L(\lambda) - \hat{\beta}_C(\lambda)^\top \Gamma \hat{\beta}_C(\lambda)| \end{aligned}$$

From Lemma 4, the first and third terms in the right hand side are  $o_p(1)$  uniformly in  $\lambda$ . Similarly, using Lemmas 2 and that  $\frac{1}{2}nX'X \rightarrow \Sigma$ , the second terms is  $o_p(1)$  uniformly in  $\lambda$ . Finally, Lemmas 2 and 3 ensure that the fourth term is uniformly  $o_p(1)$ . Hence, part (a) is proved.

For part (b), note that

$$\begin{aligned} |R_X(\lambda) - \widehat{L}_{n,Z}(\lambda)| &> |R_X(\lambda) - \sigma^2 - n^{-1}\|X(\beta^* - \widehat{\beta}_L(\lambda))\|_2^2 - \widehat{\beta}_L(\lambda)^\top \Gamma \widehat{\beta}_L(\lambda)| - \\ &\quad |\widehat{L}_{n,Z}(\lambda) - \sigma^2 - n^{-1}\|X(\beta^* - \widehat{\beta}_L(\lambda))\|_2^2 - \widehat{\beta}_L(\lambda)^\top \Gamma \widehat{\beta}_L(\lambda)| \\ &> |\widehat{\beta}_L(\lambda)^\top \Gamma \widehat{\beta}_L(\lambda)| - |R_X(\lambda) - \sigma^2 - L_{n,X}(\lambda)| - \\ &\quad |\widehat{L}_{n,Z}(\lambda) - \sigma^2 - n^{-1}\|X(\beta^* - \widehat{\beta}_L(\lambda))\|_2^2 - \widehat{\beta}_L(\lambda)^\top \Gamma \widehat{\beta}_L(\lambda)| \end{aligned}$$

The second term in the right hand side has already been shown to be uniformly  $o_p(1)$  in part (a). Using Lemma 4, the third term in the right hand side is also  $o_p(1)$  uniformly in  $\lambda$ . So, we only work with the first term  $t(\lambda) = \widehat{\beta}_L(\lambda)^\top \Gamma \widehat{\beta}_L(\lambda)$ . Note that

$$t(0) = y^\top X(X^\top X)^{-1} \Gamma (X^\top X)^{-1} X^\top y = \beta^{*\top} \Gamma \beta^* + v^\top \Gamma v ,$$

where  $v = (X^\top X)^{-1} X^\top w = o_p(1)$ . Hence,  $t(0) = \beta^{*\top} \Gamma \beta^* + o_p(1)$  and consequently,

$$\sup_{\lambda \in [0, \Lambda]} |R_X(\lambda) - \widehat{L}_{n,Z}(\lambda)| > \beta^{*\top} \Gamma \beta^* + o_p(1) .$$

So part (b) is proved for any  $\epsilon_0 < \beta^{*\top} \Gamma \beta^*$ . □

*Proof of Theorem 2.* Since,  $\widetilde{R}_X(\lambda)$  and  $R_X(\lambda)$  are asymptotically equivalent uniformly in  $\lambda$  (Lemma 4 part (a)), it is enough to prove only one of the statements.

$$\begin{aligned} |\widetilde{R}_X(\lambda) - \widetilde{L}_{n,Z}(\lambda)| &\leq |\widetilde{R}_Z(\lambda) - \widehat{L}_{n,Z}(\lambda)| + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |\widehat{\beta}_C^{(i)}(\lambda)^\top \Gamma \widehat{\beta}_C^{(i)}(\lambda) - \widehat{\beta}_L(\lambda)^\top \Gamma \widehat{\beta}_L(\lambda)| \\ &\leq |\widetilde{R}_Z(\lambda) - \widehat{L}_{n,Z}(\lambda)| + \|\Gamma\|_2 \max_{i=0, \dots, n} \|\widehat{\beta}_C^{(i)}(\lambda) - \widehat{\beta}_L(\lambda)\|_2 \left( \max_{i=0, \dots, n} \|\widehat{\beta}_C^{(i)}(\lambda)\|_2 + \|\widehat{\beta}_L(\lambda)\|_2 \right) \end{aligned}$$

The first term is  $o_p(1)$  uniformly in  $\lambda$  from Theorem 1, while an immediate consequence of Lemmas 2 and 3 is that the second term is also  $o_p(1)$  uniformly in  $\lambda$ , proving the result. □

*Proof of Theorem 3.* Combining Lemmas 3 and 4, we get  $\widetilde{L}_{n,Z}(\lambda) \rightarrow \frac{1}{n} \|X(\beta - \widehat{\beta}_C(\lambda))\|_2^2 + \sigma^2$  uniformly over  $\lambda$ . Hence, we have

$$P\left(\frac{1}{n} \|X(\beta - \widehat{\beta}_C(\widetilde{\lambda}))\|_2^2 - \widetilde{L}_{n,Z}(\widetilde{\lambda}) > \delta - \sigma^2\right) \rightarrow 0 \quad (5)$$

Let  $\lambda^*$  denote the value of  $\lambda$  for which the risk function (4) is minimized. Then,  $R_{n,X}(\lambda^*) \leq R_{n,X}(0)$ . As  $\widehat{\beta}_L(0)$  is the OLS estimate,  $R_{n,X}(0) \rightarrow \sigma^2$  and so does  $R_{n,X}(\lambda^*)$ . Using Theorem 2, we have  $\widetilde{L}_{n,Z}(\lambda^*) \rightarrow \sigma^2$  and hence  $P(\widetilde{L}_{n,Z}(\widetilde{\lambda}) > \sigma^2 + \delta) \rightarrow 0$ , as  $\widetilde{\lambda}$  minimizes  $\widetilde{L}_{n,Z}(\lambda)$ .

Combining, this with (5), we have

$$\begin{aligned} P\left(\frac{1}{n}\|X(\beta - \hat{\beta}_C(\tilde{\lambda}))\|_2^2 > 2\delta\right) &\leq P\left(\frac{1}{n}\|X(\beta - \hat{\beta}_C(\tilde{\lambda}))\|_2^2 - \tilde{L}_{n,Z}(\tilde{\lambda}) > \delta - \sigma^2\right) \\ &\quad + P(\tilde{L}_{n,Z}(\tilde{\lambda}) > \sigma^2 + \delta) \\ &\rightarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$

Since,  $X^\top X/n \rightarrow \Sigma > 0$ , this implies  $\|\hat{\beta}_C(\tilde{\lambda}) - \beta\|_2 \rightarrow 0$ .  $\square$

*Proof of Proposition 1.* Since  $\tau > \|\beta^*\|_2/\|\beta^*\|_\infty$ , without loss of generality we can pick  $1.001 > c > 1$  and  $\epsilon_0 > 0$  such that  $\tau > c\|\beta^*\|_2/(\|\beta^*\|_\infty - \epsilon_0)$ . Let  $\delta > 0$  be such that  $0 < 5\delta < c - 1$  and let  $c_1 = c - 2\delta$ . The choice of  $\delta$  ensures that  $c_1 > c_1 - 3\delta > 1$ .

Fix  $\epsilon > 0$ . For an orthogonal design the  $i^{th}$  component of the Lasso estimate is given by  $\hat{\beta}_L(\lambda)[i] = \text{sgn}(\frac{1}{n}|x_i^\top y|)(\frac{1}{n}|x_i^\top y| - \lambda)_+$ . As  $\frac{1}{n}\|X^\top y\|_\infty \xrightarrow{P} \|\beta^*\|_\infty$  in probability, given  $\epsilon > 0$  there exists  $n_0$  such that for all  $n \geq n_0$ , we have  $P(\mathcal{F}_\delta) \geq 1 - \epsilon/4$  where  $\mathcal{F}_\delta = \{\|\beta^*\|_\infty + \delta\|\beta^*\|_2/\tau \geq \frac{1}{n}\|X^\top y\|_\infty \geq \|\beta^*\|_\infty - \delta\|\beta^*\|_2/\tau\}$ .

Let  $\lambda_0 = \|\beta^*\|_\infty - c_1\|\beta^*\|_2/\tau$ . The choice of  $c_1$  ensures that  $\lambda_0 > 0$ . For any  $\lambda \leq \lambda_0$ , we now have on  $\mathcal{F}_\delta$ ,  $|\hat{\beta}_L(\lambda)[i]| \geq (c_1 - \delta)\|\beta^*\|_2/\tau$  for some  $i$ , and hence  $\|\hat{\beta}_L(\lambda)\|_\infty \geq (c_1 - \delta)\|\beta^*\|_2/\tau$ .

Also, on  $\mathcal{F}_\delta$ ,  $\hat{\beta}_L(\lambda^*) = 0$  and  $L_{n,X}(\lambda^*) = \|\beta^*\|_2^2$  where  $\lambda^* = \|\beta^*\|_\infty + \delta\|\beta^*\|_2/\tau$  and  $L_{n,X}(\lambda)$  is defined in (4). Now choose  $\mathcal{G}_\delta = \{\sup_{\lambda \in [0, \Lambda]} |\hat{L}_{n,Z}(\lambda) - L_{n,X}(\lambda) - \tau^2\|\hat{\beta}_L(\lambda)\|_2^2| \leq \delta^2\|\beta^*\|_2^2\}$ . By

Lemma 4, there exists  $n_1$  such that for  $n \geq n_1$ ,  $P(\mathcal{G}_\delta) \geq 1 - \epsilon/4$ . Hence, on  $\mathcal{F}_\delta \cap \mathcal{G}_\delta$ , for any  $\lambda \leq \lambda_0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{L}_{n,Z}(\lambda) - \hat{L}_{n,Z}(\lambda^*) &\geq L_{n,X}(\lambda) + \tau^2\|\hat{\beta}_L(\lambda)\|_2^2 - L_{n,X}(\lambda^*) - \tau^2\|\hat{\beta}_L(\lambda^*)\|_2^2 - \\ &\quad - 2 \sup_{\lambda \in [0, \Lambda]} |\hat{L}_{n,Z}(\lambda) - L_{n,X}(\lambda) - \tau^2\|\hat{\beta}_L(\lambda)\|_2^2| \\ &\geq ((c_1 - \delta)^2 - 1 - 2\delta^2)\|\beta^*\|_2^2 > 0 \quad (\text{as } 3\delta < c_1 - 1) \end{aligned}$$

Hence, on  $\mathcal{F}_\delta \cap \mathcal{G}_\delta$ ,  $\inf_{\lambda \leq \lambda_0} \hat{L}_{n,Z}(\lambda) > \hat{L}_{n,Z}(\lambda^*)$  which implies  $\hat{\lambda}_Z > \lambda_0$ . This means  $\|\hat{\beta}_L(\hat{\lambda}_Z)\|_\infty \leq (c_1 + \delta)\|\beta^*\|_2/\tau$ . Letting,  $\mathcal{H}_\delta = \{\sup_{\lambda \in [0, \Lambda]} \|\hat{\beta}_C(\lambda) - \hat{\beta}_L(\lambda)\|_\infty \leq \delta\|\beta^*\|_2/\tau\}$ , by Lemma 3, we can choose  $n_2$  such that  $n \geq n_2$  implies  $P(\mathcal{H}_\delta) \geq 1 - \epsilon/4$ .

For large  $n$ , on  $\mathcal{F}_\delta \cap \mathcal{G}_\delta \cap \mathcal{H}_\delta$ ,  $\|\hat{\beta}_C(\hat{\lambda}_Z)\|_\infty \leq (c_1 + 2\delta)\|\beta^*\|_2/\tau \leq c\|\beta^*\|_2/\tau < 1.001\|\beta^*\|_2/\tau$ . This proves part (a). Now, also observing that  $c\|\beta^*\|_2/\tau \leq \|\beta^*\|_\infty - \epsilon_0$ , we have for large  $n$ ,

$$P(\|\hat{\beta}_C(\hat{\lambda}_Z) - \beta^*\|_\infty \geq \|\beta^*\|_\infty - \|\hat{\beta}_C(\hat{\lambda}_Z)\|_\infty \geq \epsilon_0) \geq 1 - \epsilon$$

This proves the inconsistency result of Part (b).  $\square$

## B Appendix: Sub-Gaussian random variables

**Lemma A1.** If  $X$  denote a  $n \times p_1$  fixed matrix with  $\|x_i\|_2 \leq C_x$ ,  $A$  and  $B$  respectively denote independent  $n \times p_2$  and  $n \times p_3$  random matrices whose rows are iid sub-Gaussian with zero

means and covariance  $M_A$  and  $M_B$ . Then for any  $\epsilon > 0$  and fixed  $p_i, i = 1, 2, 3$ , we have  $p(\|A^\top A/n - M_A\|_{\max} > \epsilon)$ ,  $p(\|A^\top B/n\|_{\max} > \epsilon)$  and  $p(\|A^\top X/n\|_{\max} > \epsilon)$  are all  $o(n^{-1})$ .

The proof follows directly from Lemma B.1 of Datta & Zou (2017). Note that, since  $p$  is fixed the result in Lemma A1 remains true if we replace the max norm with the  $\ell_2$  norm.

**Lemma A2.** Let  $M = (Z^\top Z/n - \Gamma)$ , then  $p(\rho_{\min}(M) \leq \rho_{\min}(\Sigma)/2)$ ,  $p(\rho_{\max}(M) \geq 2\rho_{\max}(\Sigma))$  and  $p(\|M_+ - \Sigma\|_{\max} > \epsilon)$  are  $o(n^{-1})$ .

*Proof.* We expand  $M = \Sigma + B$  where  $B = (X^\top X/n - \Sigma) + A^\top X/n + X^\top A/n + (A^\top A/n - \Gamma)$ . Then we have

$$\rho_{\min}(M) = \inf_{\{u: \|u\|_2=1\}} u^\top M u \geq \rho_{\min}(\Sigma) - \sup_{\{u: \|u\|_2=1\}} |u^\top B u| \geq \rho_{\min}(\Sigma) - \sqrt{p}\|B\|_{\max}$$

Since from Lemma A1,  $P(\|B\|_{\max} > \epsilon) = o(n^{-1})$ , for large enough  $n$  we have with probability  $1 - o(n^{-1})$ ,  $\sqrt{p}\|B\|_{\max} \leq \rho_{\min}(\Sigma)/2$  and hence  $\rho_{\min}(M) \geq \rho_{\min}(\Sigma) - \sqrt{p}\|B\|_{\max} \geq \rho_{\min}(\Sigma)/2$  and the first result is proved. Similarly we can write  $\rho_{\max}(M) \leq \rho_{\max}(\Sigma) + \sqrt{p}\|B\|_{\max}$  and prove  $p(\rho_{\max}(M) \geq 2\rho_{\max}(\Sigma)) = o(n^{-1})$ . Also, as  $p(\|M_+ - \Sigma\|_{\max} > \epsilon) \leq p(\|M - \Sigma\|_{\max} > \epsilon) + p(\rho_{\min}(M) \leq \rho_{\min}(\Sigma)/2)$ , the third result follows immediately.  $\square$

**Lemma A3.** Let a sequence of random convex functions  $g_n(\beta)$  satisfy  $p(|g_n(\beta) - g(\beta)| > \epsilon) = o(n^{-1})$  for any  $\epsilon > 0$ , pointwise for every  $\beta$ . Also, let  $K \subset \mathbb{R}^p$  be any hypercube with edges of length  $L$  and assume that  $g(\beta)$  is Lipschitz continuous on  $K$  with Lipschitz constant  $\kappa$ . Then  $p(\sup_{\beta \in K} |g_n(\beta) - g(\beta)| > \epsilon) = o(n^{-1})$ .

*Proof.* This lemma is simply a more detailed version of the Convexity Lemma in Pollard (1991). The proof is identical with the only additional task being tracking the tail probabilities carefully throughout. We break  $K$  up into small hypercubes with edge length  $\epsilon/(\sqrt{2}\kappa)$ . We cover the boundary of  $K$  with an additional layer of such small hypercubes. Due to Lipschitz continuity, within each of these smaller boxes,  $g(\beta)$  differs at most by  $\epsilon$ . Let  $V$  denote the set of vertices of all these small boxes. Now, from the proof of the Convexity Lemma in Pollard (1991) we see that

$$-(p+1)(M_n + \epsilon) \leq \sup_{\beta \in K} |g_n(\beta) - g(\beta)| \leq (M_n + \epsilon)$$

where  $M_n = \sup_{\beta \in V} |g_n(\beta) - g(\beta)|$ . Since,  $V$  has  $(\sqrt{2}L\kappa/\epsilon + 3)^p$  points,

$$p(M_n > \epsilon) \leq (\sqrt{2}L\kappa/\epsilon + 3)^p o(n^{-1}) \quad (6)$$

and the result follows.  $\square$

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