

# Appendix

## A Proofs of Local Convergence

We define a sequence of constants,  $\{C_J\}_{J=0,1,\dots}$ , that satisfy

$$C_0 = 1, C_1 = 3, \text{ and } C_J = C_{J-1} + (4J^2 + 2J)C_{J-2} \text{ for } J \geq 2. \quad (11)$$

By construction, we can upper bound  $C_J$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} C_J &\leq C_{J-2} + (4J^2 + 2J)C_{J-2} + (4(J-1)^2 + 2J-2)C_{J-3} \\ &\leq C_{J-2} + (4J^2 + 2J)C_{J-2} + (4(J-1)^2 + 2J-2)C_{J-2} \\ &\leq 8J^2 C_{J-2} \\ &\leq (3J)^J. \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

### A.1 Some Lemmata

We first introduce some lemmata, whose proofs can be found in Sec. A.4.

**Lemma 1** (Proposition 1.1 in [20]). *If  $\mathbf{x} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, I_d)$  and  $\Sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$  is a fixed positive semi-definite matrix, then for all  $t > 0$ , w. p.  $1 - e^{-t}$ , we have*

$$\mathbf{x}^T \Sigma \mathbf{x} \leq \text{tr}(\Sigma) + 2\sqrt{\text{tr}(\Sigma^2)t} + 2\|\Sigma\|t.$$

By taking  $t = P \log(d) + \log(n)$  for some  $n \geq d$  and some constant  $P \geq 1$ , we have the following corollary.

**Corollary 2.** *If  $\mathbf{x} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, I_d)$  and  $\Sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$  is a fixed positive semi-definite matrix, then for a fixed positive constant  $P \geq 1$ , we have, w. p.  $1 - \frac{1}{n}d^{-P}$ ,*

$$\mathbf{x}^T \Sigma \mathbf{x} \leq \text{tr}(\Sigma) + 2\sqrt{\text{tr}(\Sigma^2)(P \log(d) + \log(n))} + 2\|\Sigma\|(P \log(d) + \log(n)) \leq (4P+5) \text{tr}(\Sigma) \log(n).$$

Setting  $\Sigma = \beta\beta^T$  in Corollary 2, we have the following corollary.

**Corollary 3.** *If  $\mathbf{x} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, I_d)$  and  $P \geq 1$  is a constant, then given any fixed  $\beta \in \mathbb{R}^d$ , w. p.  $1 - \frac{1}{n}d^{-P}$ , we have*

$$(\beta^T \mathbf{x})^2 \leq (4P+5)\|\beta\|^2 \log n.$$

Setting  $\Sigma = I$  in Corollary 2, we have the following corollary.

**Corollary 4.** *If  $\mathbf{x} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, I_d)$  and  $P \geq 1$  is a constant, then w. p.  $1 - \frac{1}{n}d^{-P}$ , we have*

$$\|\mathbf{x}\|^2 \leq (4P+5)d \log n.$$

**Lemma 2** (Stein-type Lemma). *Let  $\mathbf{x} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, I_d)$  and  $f(\mathbf{x})$  be a function of  $\mathbf{x}$  whose second derivative exists. Then*

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}^T] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})]I + \mathbb{E}[\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x})]$$

**Lemma 3.** *Let  $\mathbf{x} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, I_d)$  and  $A_k \succeq 0$  for all  $k = 1, 2, \dots, K$ , then*

$$\Pi_{k=1}^K \text{tr}(A_k)I \preceq \mathbb{E}[\Pi_{k=1}^K (\mathbf{x}^T A_k \mathbf{x})\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}^T] \preceq C_K \Pi_{k=1}^K \text{tr}(A_k)I, \quad (13)$$

where  $C_K$  is a constant depending only on  $K$ , which is defined in Eq. (11).

**Lemma 4.** *Let  $\mathbf{x}_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, I_d)$  i.i.d., for all  $i \in [n]$  and  $A_k \succeq 0$  for all  $k = 1, 2, \dots, K$ . Let  $B := \mathbb{E}[\Pi_{k=1}^K (\mathbf{x}^T A_k \mathbf{x})\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}^T]$ ,  $B_i := \Pi_{k=1}^K (\mathbf{x}_i^T A_k \mathbf{x}_i)\mathbf{x}_i\mathbf{x}_i^T$  and  $\hat{B} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n B_i$ .*

*If  $n \geq O(\frac{1}{\delta^2} \log^K(\frac{1}{\delta})(PK)^K d \log^{K+1} d)$  and  $\delta > \frac{\sqrt{4KC_{2K+1}}}{\sqrt{nd^P}}$  for some  $0 < \delta \leq 1$  and  $P \geq 1$ , then w.p.  $1 - O(Kd^{-P})$ , we have*

$$\|\hat{B} - B\| \leq \delta \|B\|. \quad (14)$$

**Lemma 5.** Let  $\mathbf{x} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, I_d)$ . Then given  $\beta, \gamma \in \mathbb{R}^d$  and  $A_k \succeq 0$  for all  $k = 1, 2, \dots, K$ , we have

$$\|\beta\| \|\gamma\| \Pi_{k=1}^K \text{tr}(A_k) \leq \|\mathbb{E}[(\beta^T \mathbf{x})(\gamma^T \mathbf{x}) \Pi_{k=1}^K (\mathbf{x}^T A_k \mathbf{x}) \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}^T]\| \leq \sqrt{3C_{2K+1}} \|\beta\| \|\gamma\| \Pi_{k=1}^K \text{tr}(A_k) I. \quad (15)$$

**Lemma 6.** Let  $\mathbf{x}_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, I_d)$  i.i.d., for all  $i \in [n]$ ,  $\beta, \gamma \in \mathbb{R}^d$  and  $A_k \succeq 0$  for all  $k = 1, 2, \dots, K$ . Let  $B := \mathbb{E}[(\beta^T \mathbf{x})(\gamma^T \mathbf{x}) \Pi_{k=1}^K (\mathbf{x}^T A_k \mathbf{x}) \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}^T]$ ,  $B_i := (\beta^T \mathbf{x}_i)(\gamma^T \mathbf{x}_i) \Pi_{k=1}^K (\mathbf{x}_i^T A_k \mathbf{x}_i) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T$  and  $\hat{B} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n B_i$ .

If  $n \geq O(\frac{1}{\delta^2} \log^{K+1}(1/\delta)(PK)^K d \log^{K+2}(d))$ ,  $\delta > \frac{\sqrt{8KC_{2K+3}}}{\sqrt{nd^P}}$  for some  $0 < \delta \leq 1$  and  $P \geq 1$ , then w.p.  $1 - O(Kd^{-P})$ , we have

$$\|\hat{B} - B\| \leq \delta \|B\|. \quad (16)$$

**Lemma 7.** If  $n \geq c \log^{K+1}(c) K^{4K} d \log^{K+2}(d)$ , where  $c$  is a constant, then  $n \geq cd \log d \log^{K+1}(n)$ .

## A.2 Proof of Theorem 1

*Proof.* Denote the Hessian of Eq. (1),  $H \in \mathbb{R}^{Kd \times Kd}$ . Let  $H = \sum_i H_i$ , where

$$H_i := \begin{bmatrix} H_i^{11} & H_i^{12} & \dots & H_i^{1K} \\ H_i^{21} & H_i^{22} & \dots & H_i^{2K} \\ & & \ddots & \\ H_i^{K1} & H_i^{K2} & \dots & H_i^{KK} \end{bmatrix} \quad (17)$$

For diagonal blocks,

$$H_i^{jj} := 2(\Pi_{k \neq j}(y_i - (\mathbf{w}_k + \delta \mathbf{w}_k)^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \quad (18)$$

For off-diagonal blocks,

$$H_i^{jl} := 4(y_i - (\mathbf{w}_j + \delta \mathbf{w}_j)^T \mathbf{x}_i)(y_i - (\mathbf{w}_l + \delta \mathbf{w}_l)^T \mathbf{x}_i)(\Pi_{k \neq j, k \neq l}(y_i - (\mathbf{w}_k + \delta \mathbf{w}_k)^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \quad (19)$$

In the following we will show that when  $\mathbf{w}_k$  is close to the optimal solution  $\mathbf{w}_k^*$  and  $\delta \mathbf{w}_k$  is small enough for all  $k$ , then  $H$  will be positive definite w.h.p..

The main idea is to upper bound the off-diagonal blocks and lower bound the diagonal blocks because,

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{\min}(H) &= \min_{\sum_{j=1}^K \|\mathbf{a}_j\|^2 = 1} \sum_{j=1}^K \mathbf{a}_j^T H^{jj} \mathbf{a}_j + \sum_{j \neq l} 2 \mathbf{a}_j^T H^{jl} \mathbf{a}_l \\ &\geq \min_{\sum_{j=1}^K \|\mathbf{a}_j\|^2 = 1} \sum_{j=1}^K \sigma_{\min}(H^{jj}) \|\mathbf{a}_j\|^2 - \sum_{j \neq l} \|H^{jl}\| \|\mathbf{a}_j\| \|\mathbf{a}_l\| \\ &\geq \min_j \{\sigma_{\min}(H^{jj})\} - \max_{j \neq l} \{\|H^{jl}\|\} (K-1) \left( \sum_j \|\mathbf{a}_j\| \right) \\ &\geq \min_j \{\sigma_{\min}(H^{jj})\} - (K-1) \max_{j \neq l} \{\|H^{jl}\|\}. \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

First consider the diagonal blocks. The idea is to decompose the diagonal blocks into two parts. The first one only contains  $\mathbf{w}$  and doesn't contain  $\delta \mathbf{w}$ , so for this fixed  $\mathbf{w}$  we apply Lemma 4 to bound this term. The second one depends on  $\delta \mathbf{w}$ . We find an upper bound for this term which only depends on the magnitude of  $\delta \mathbf{w}$ . Therefore, the bound will hold for any qualified  $\delta \mathbf{w}$ . Let's first define

$$\{k_1, k_2, \dots, k_{K-1}\} = [K] \setminus \{j\}.$$

$$\begin{aligned}
H^{jj} &\succeq \sum_{i \in S_j} H_i^{jj} \\
&= \sum_{i \in S_j} 2(\Pi_{s=1}^{K-1}(y_i - \mathbf{w}_{k_s}^T \mathbf{x}_i - \delta \mathbf{w}_{k_s}^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \\
&\succeq \sum_{i \in S_j} 2((y_i - \mathbf{w}_{k_1}^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2 - 2|y_i - \mathbf{w}_{k_1}^T \mathbf{x}_i| \|\delta \mathbf{w}_{k_1}\| \|\mathbf{x}_i\|) (\Pi_{s=2}^{K-1}(y_i - \mathbf{w}_{k_s}^T \mathbf{x}_i - \delta \mathbf{w}_{k_s}^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \\
&\succeq \underbrace{\sum_{i \in S_j} 2(y_i - \mathbf{w}_{k_1}^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2 (\Pi_{s=2}^{K-1}(y_i - \mathbf{w}_{k_s}^T \mathbf{x}_i - \delta \mathbf{w}_{k_s}^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T}_{F_1} \\
&\quad - \underbrace{\sum_{i \in S_j} 4\|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{jk_1}^* - \Delta \mathbf{w}_{k_1}\| \|\delta \mathbf{w}_{k_1}\| \|\mathbf{x}_i\|^2 (\Pi_{s=2}^{K-1}(y_i - \mathbf{w}_{k_s}^T \mathbf{x}_i - \delta \mathbf{w}_{k_s}^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T}_{E_1}
\end{aligned} \tag{21}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
F_1 &\succeq \sum_{i \in S_j} 2(y_i - \mathbf{w}_{k_1}^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2 (y_i - \mathbf{w}_{k_2}^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2 (\Pi_{s=3}^{K-1}(y_i - \mathbf{w}_{k_s}^T \mathbf{x}_i - \delta \mathbf{w}_{k_s}^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \\
&\quad - \sum_{i \in S_j} 4(y_i - \mathbf{w}_{k_1}^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2 \|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{jk_2}^* - \Delta \mathbf{w}_{k_2}\| \|\delta \mathbf{w}_{k_2}\| \|\mathbf{x}_i\|^2 (\Pi_{s=3}^{K-1}(y_i - \mathbf{w}_{k_s}^T \mathbf{x}_i - \delta \mathbf{w}_{k_s}^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \\
&\succeq \underbrace{\sum_{i \in S_j} 2(y_i - \mathbf{w}_{k_1}^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2 (y_i - \mathbf{w}_{k_2}^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2 (\Pi_{s=3}^{K-1}(y_i - \mathbf{w}_{k_s}^T \mathbf{x}_i - \delta \mathbf{w}_{k_s}^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T}_{F_2} \\
&\quad - \underbrace{\sum_{i \in S_j} 4\|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{jk_1}^* - \Delta \mathbf{w}_{k_1}\|^2 \|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{jk_2}^* - \Delta \mathbf{w}_{k_2}\| \|\delta \mathbf{w}_{k_2}\| \|\mathbf{x}_i\|^4 (\Pi_{s=3}^{K-1}(y_i - \mathbf{w}_{k_s}^T \mathbf{x}_i - \delta \mathbf{w}_{k_s}^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T}_{E_2}
\end{aligned} \tag{22}$$

Similarly, we decompose  $F_n = F_{n+1} - E_{n+1}$ , for  $n = 1, 2, \dots, K-1$ . Then, recursively, we have

$$H^{jj} \succeq F_1 - E_1 \succeq F_2 - E_2 - E_1 \succeq \dots \succeq F_{K-1} - E_{K-1} - E_{K-2} - \dots - E_1 \tag{23}$$

So  $H^{jj}$  is decomposed into  $F_{K-1}$ , which contains only  $\mathbf{w}$ , and  $E_1, E_2, \dots, E_{K-1}$ , each of which contains a separate term of  $\|\delta \mathbf{w}\|$ .

By Lemma 3 and Lemma 4,

$$\begin{aligned}
E_1 &\preceq 4 \sum_{i \in S_j} \|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{jk_1}^* - \Delta \mathbf{w}_{k_1}\| \|\delta \mathbf{w}_{k_1}\| (\Pi_{s=2}^{K-1} \|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{jk_s}^* - \Delta \mathbf{w}_{k_s} - \delta \mathbf{w}_{k_s}\|^2) \|\mathbf{x}_i\|^{2(K-1)} \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \\
&\preceq 4c_f(1 + c_m + c_f)^{2K-3} \Pi_{k:k \neq j} \|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{jk}^*\|^2 \sum_{i \in S_j} \|\mathbf{x}_i\|^{2(K-1)} \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \\
&\preceq 6c_f(1 + c_m + c_f)^{2K-3} \Pi_{k:k \neq j} \|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{jk}^*\|^2 p_j N C_{K-1} d^{K-1} I
\end{aligned} \tag{24}$$

and similarly, for all  $r = 1, 2, \dots, K-1$ ,

$$E_r \preceq 6c_f(1 + c_m + c_f)^{2K-3} \Pi_{k:k \neq j} \|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{jk}^*\|^2 p_j N C_{K-1} d^{K-1} I. \tag{25}$$

For  $F_{K-1}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
F_{K-1} &= \sum_{i \in S_j} 2(\Pi_{k \neq j}(y_i - \mathbf{w}_k^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \\
&\stackrel{\xi_1}{\succeq} p_j N \Pi_{k \neq j} \|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{jk}^* - \Delta \mathbf{w}_k\|^2 I \\
&\succeq p_j N \Pi_{k \neq j} (\|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{jk}^*\| - \|\Delta \mathbf{w}_k\|)^2 I \\
&\succeq p_j N (1 - c_m)^{2(K-1)} \Pi_{k \neq j} \|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{jk}^*\|^2 I
\end{aligned} \tag{26}$$

where  $\xi_1$  is because of Lemma 3 and Lemma 4 by setting  $A_k = (\Delta \mathbf{w}_{jk}^* - \Delta \mathbf{w}_k)(\Delta \mathbf{w}_{jk}^* - \Delta \mathbf{w}_k)^T$  and  $\delta = 1/(2C_{K-1})$ .

Now combining Eq. (26), Eq. (23) and Eq. (25), we can lower bound the eigenvalues of  $H^{jj}$ ,

$$H^{jj} \succeq \left( (1 - c_m)^{2(K-1)} - 6c_f(K-1)(1 + c_m + c_f)^{2K-3} C_{K-1} d^{K-1} \right) p_j N \Pi_{k \neq j} \|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{jk}^*\|^2 I \quad (27)$$

Next consider the off-diagonal blocks for  $j \neq l$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{i \in S_q} H_i^{jl} \\ &= \sum_{i \in S_q} 4(y_i - (\mathbf{w}_j + \delta \mathbf{w}_j)^T \mathbf{x}_i)(y_i - (\mathbf{w}_l + \delta \mathbf{w}_l)^T \mathbf{x}_i) (\Pi_{k \neq j, k \neq l} (y_i - (\mathbf{w}_k + \delta \mathbf{w}_k)^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \\ &\preceq \sum_{i \in S_q} 4(y_i - \mathbf{w}_j^T \mathbf{x}_i)(y_i - (\mathbf{w}_l + \delta \mathbf{w}_l)^T \mathbf{x}_i) (\Pi_{k \neq j, k \neq l} (y_i - (\mathbf{w}_k + \delta \mathbf{w}_k)^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \\ &\quad + \sum_{i \in S_q} 4\|\delta \mathbf{w}_j^T \mathbf{x}_i\| \|y_i - (\mathbf{w}_l + \delta \mathbf{w}_l)^T \mathbf{x}_i\| (\Pi_{k \neq j, k \neq l} (y_i - (\mathbf{w}_k + \delta \mathbf{w}_k)^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \\ &\preceq \sum_{i \in S_q} 4(y_i - \mathbf{w}_j^T \mathbf{x}_i)(y_i - \mathbf{w}_l^T \mathbf{x}_i) (\Pi_{k \neq j, k \neq l} (y_i - (\mathbf{w}_k + \delta \mathbf{w}_k)^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \\ &\quad + \sum_{i \in S_q} 4|y_i - \mathbf{w}_j^T \mathbf{x}_i| \|\delta \mathbf{w}_l^T \mathbf{x}_i\| (\Pi_{k \neq j, k \neq l} (y_i - (\mathbf{w}_k + \delta \mathbf{w}_k)^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \\ &\quad + \sum_{i \in S_q} 4\|\delta \mathbf{w}_j\| \|\mathbf{w}_q^* - \mathbf{w}_l - \delta \mathbf{w}_l\| (\Pi_{k \neq j, k \neq l} \|\mathbf{w}_q^* - \mathbf{w}_k + \delta \mathbf{w}_k\|^2) \|\mathbf{x}_i\|^{2(K-1)} \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \\ &\preceq \\ &\quad \vdots \\ &\preceq \sum_{i \in S_q} 4(y_i - \mathbf{w}_j^T \mathbf{x}_i)(y_i - \mathbf{w}_l^T \mathbf{x}_i) (\Pi_{k \neq j, k \neq l} (y_i - \mathbf{w}_k^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \\ &\quad + 8(K-1)c_f(1 + c_m + c_f)^{2K-3} \Delta_{max}^{2K-2} \sum_{i \in S_q} \|\mathbf{x}_i\|^{2(K-1)} \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \\ &\preceq \sum_{i \in S_q} 4(y_i - \mathbf{w}_j^T \mathbf{x}_i)(y_i - \mathbf{w}_l^T \mathbf{x}_i) (\Pi_{k \neq j, k \neq l} (y_i - \mathbf{w}_k^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \\ &\quad + 12(K-1)c_f(1 + c_m + c_f)^{2K-3} \Delta_{max}^{2K-2} p_q N C_{K-1} d^{K-1} I \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

For the first term above,

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\| \sum_{i \in S_q} 4(\mathbf{w}_q^* - \mathbf{w}_j)^T \mathbf{x}_i (\mathbf{w}_q^* - \mathbf{w}_l)^T \mathbf{x}_i (\Pi_{k \neq j, k \neq l} ((\mathbf{w}_q^* - \mathbf{w}_k)^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \right\| \\ &\stackrel{\xi_1}{\leq} 6p_q N \|\mathbb{E}[(\mathbf{w}_q^* - \mathbf{w}_j)^T \mathbf{x}_i (\mathbf{w}_q^* - \mathbf{w}_l)^T \mathbf{x}_i (\Pi_{k \neq j, k \neq l} ((\mathbf{w}_q^* - \mathbf{w}_k)^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T]\| \\ &\stackrel{\xi_2}{\leq} 6p_q N \sqrt{3C_{2K-3}} \|\mathbf{w}_q^* - \mathbf{w}_j\| \|\mathbf{w}_q^* - \mathbf{w}_l\| (\Pi_{k \neq j, k \neq l} \|\mathbf{w}_q^* - \mathbf{w}_k\|^2) \\ &\leq 6p_q N \sqrt{3C_{2K-3}} \|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{qj}^* - \Delta \mathbf{w}_j\| \|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{ql}^* - \Delta \mathbf{w}_l\| (\Pi_{k \neq j, k \neq l} \|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{qk}^* - \Delta \mathbf{w}_k\|^2), \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

where  $\xi_1$  is because of Lemma 6 and  $\xi_2$  is because of Lemma 5.

We consider three cases:  $\{q \neq j, q \neq l\}$ ,  $q = j$  and  $q = l$ . When  $q \neq j$  and  $q \neq l$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{qj}^* - \Delta \mathbf{w}_j\| \|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{ql}^* - \Delta \mathbf{w}_l\| (\Pi_{k \neq j, k \neq l} \|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{qk}^* - \Delta \mathbf{w}_k\|^2) \\ &\leq (1 + c_m)^{2K-2} c_m^2 \|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{qj}^*\| \|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{ql}^*\| (\Pi_{k \neq j, k \neq l} \|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{qk}^*\|^2) \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

When  $q = j$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{qj}^* - \Delta \mathbf{w}_j\| \|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{ql}^* - \Delta \mathbf{w}_l\| (\Pi_{k \neq j, k \neq l} \|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{qk}^* - \Delta \mathbf{w}_k\|^2) \\ & \leq (1 + c_m)^{2K-1} c_m \|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{qj}^*\| \|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{ql}^*\| (\Pi_{k \neq j, k \neq l} \|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{qk}^*\|^2) \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

For  $q = l$ , we have similar results. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \|H^{jl}\| & \leq \sum_{q=1}^K \left\| \sum_{i \in S_q} H_i^{jl} \right\| \\ & \leq \sum_q (1 + c_m)^{2K-1} c_m 6p_q N \sqrt{3C_{2K-3}} \Delta_{max}^{2K-2} \\ & \quad + \sum_q 12(K-1)c_f(1 + c_m + c_f)^{2K-3} p_q N C_{K-1} d^{K-1} \Delta_{max}^{2K-2} \\ & \leq (1 + c_m)^{2K-1} c_m 6N \sqrt{3C_{2K-3}} \Delta_{max}^{2K-2} \\ & \quad + 12(K-1)c_f(1 + c_m + c_f)^{2K-3} N C_{K-1} d^{K-1} \Delta_{max}^{2K-2} \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

Now we obtain the lower bound for the minimal eigenvalue of the Hessian. When  $c_m \leq \frac{p_{min} \Delta_{min}^{2K-2}}{500K \sqrt{C_{2K-3}} \Delta_{max}^{2K-2}}$  and  $c_f \leq \frac{p_{min} \Delta_{min}^{2K-2}}{1000(K-1)^2 C_{K-1} d^{K-1} \Delta_{max}^{2K-2}}$ , we have  $(1 - c_m)^{2K-2} \geq (1 - \frac{1}{2K})^{2K-2} \geq \frac{1}{4}$ ,  $(1 + c_m + c_f)^{2K-2} \leq 3$ . Hence,

$$\|H^{jl}\| \leq \frac{1}{16(K-1)} p_{min} N \Delta_{min}^{2K-2}, \quad (33)$$

Combining Eq.(20), Eq.(27) and Eq.(33), we have

$$\sigma_{min}(H) \geq \frac{1}{8} p_{min} N \Delta_{min}^{2K-2}, \quad (34)$$

which is a positive constant.

In the following we upper bound the maximal eigenvalue of the Hessian.

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{max}(H) & = \max_{\sum_{j=1}^K \|\mathbf{a}_j\|^2 = 1} \sum_{j=1}^K \mathbf{a}_j^T H^{jj} \mathbf{a}_j + \sum_{j \neq l} 2\mathbf{a}_j^T H^{jl} \mathbf{a}_l \\ & \leq \max_{\sum_{j=1}^K \|\mathbf{a}_j\|^2 = 1} \sum_{j=1}^K \|(H^{jj})\| \|\mathbf{a}_j\|^2 + \sum_{j \neq l} \|H^{jl}\| \|\mathbf{a}_j\| \|\mathbf{a}_l\| \\ & \leq \max_j \{\|H^{jj}\|\} + \max_{j \neq l} \{\|H^{jl}\|\} (K-1) \left( \sum_j \|\mathbf{a}_j\| \right) \\ & \leq \max_j \{\|H^{jj}\|\} + (K-1) \max_{j \neq l} \{\|H^{jl}\|\}. \end{aligned} \quad (35)$$

Consider the diagonal blocks and define  $\{k_1, k_2, \dots, k_{K-1}\} = [K] \setminus \{j\}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} H_i^{jj} & = 2(\Pi_{s=1}^{K-1} (y_i - \mathbf{w}_{k_s}^T \mathbf{x}_i - \delta \mathbf{w}_{k_s}^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \\ & \leq 2((y_i - \mathbf{w}_{k_1}^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2 + 2|y_i - \mathbf{w}_{k_1}^T \mathbf{x}_i| |\delta \mathbf{w}_{k_1}^T \mathbf{x}_i| + (\delta \mathbf{w}_{k_1}^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2) (\Pi_{s=2}^{K-1} (y_i - \mathbf{w}_{k_s}^T \mathbf{x}_i - \delta \mathbf{w}_{k_s}^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \\ & \leq 2 \underbrace{(y_i - \mathbf{w}_{k_1}^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2 (\Pi_{s=2}^{K-1} (y_i - \mathbf{w}_{k_s}^T \mathbf{x}_i - \delta \mathbf{w}_{k_s}^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T}_{\tilde{F}_1} \\ & \quad + 2 \underbrace{(2\|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{jk_1}^* - \Delta \mathbf{w}_{k_1}\| + \|\delta \mathbf{w}_{k_1}\|) \|\mathbf{x}_i\|^2 (\Pi_{s=2}^{K-1} (y_i - \mathbf{w}_{k_s}^T \mathbf{x}_i - \delta \mathbf{w}_{k_s}^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T}_{\tilde{E}_1} \end{aligned} \quad (36)$$

For  $\tilde{E}_1$ ,

$$\tilde{E}_1 \leq 4c_f(1 + c_m + c_f)^{2K-3} \Delta_{max}^{2K-2} \|\mathbf{x}_i\|^{2K-2} \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \quad (37)$$

For  $\tilde{F}_1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{F}_1 &\preceq \underbrace{2(y_i - \mathbf{w}_{k_1}^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2 (y_i - \mathbf{w}_{k_2}^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2 (\Pi_{s=3}^{K-1} (y_i - \mathbf{w}_{k_s}^T \mathbf{x}_i - \delta \mathbf{w}_{k_s}^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T}_{\tilde{F}_2} \\ &\quad + \underbrace{2(y_i - \mathbf{w}_{k_1}^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2 (2\Delta \mathbf{w}_{jk_2}^* - 2\Delta \mathbf{w}_{k_2} - \delta \mathbf{w}_{k_2})^T \mathbf{x}_i \|\delta \mathbf{w}_{k_2}^T \mathbf{x}_i\| (\Pi_{s=3}^{K-1} (y_i - \mathbf{w}_{k_s}^T \mathbf{x}_i - \delta \mathbf{w}_{k_s}^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T}_{\tilde{E}_2} \end{aligned} \quad (38)$$

We also have for  $\tilde{E}_2$

$$\tilde{E}_2 \preceq 4c_f(1 + c_m + c_f)^{2K-3} \Delta_{max}^{2K-2} \|\mathbf{x}_i\|^{2K-2} \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \quad (39)$$

Therefore, recursively, we have

$$\begin{aligned} H_i^{jj} &\preceq \underbrace{2\Pi_{s=1}^{K-1} (y_i - \mathbf{w}_{k_s}^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2 \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T}_{\tilde{F}_{K-1}} \\ &\quad + 4Kc_f(1 + c_m + c_f)^{2K-3} \Delta_{max}^{2K-2} \|\mathbf{x}_i\|^{2K-2} \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \end{aligned} \quad (40)$$

Now applying Lemma 3 and Lemma 4,

$$\begin{aligned} H^{jj} &= \sum_q \sum_{i \in S_q} H_i^{jj} \\ &\preceq 6c_f K(1 + c_m + c_f)^{2K-3} NC_{K-1} d^{K-1} \Delta_{max}^{2K-2} I + \sum_q \sum_{i \in S_q} 2(\Pi_{k \neq q} ((\Delta \mathbf{w}_{jk}^* - \Delta \mathbf{w}_k)^T \mathbf{x}_i)^2) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \\ &\preceq 6c_f K(1 + c_m + c_f)^{2K-3} NC_{K-1} d^{K-1} \Delta_{max}^{2K-2} I + 3 \sum_q p_q NC_{K-1} (\Pi_{k \neq q} \|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{jk}^* - \Delta \mathbf{w}_k\|^2) \\ &= 6c_f K(1 + c_m + c_f)^{2K-3} NC_{K-1} d^{K-1} \Delta_{max}^{2K-2} I \\ &\quad + 3p_j NC_{K-1} (1 + c_m)^{2K-2} (\Pi_{k \neq j} \|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{jk}^*\|^2) \\ &\quad + 3 \sum_{q: q \neq j} p_q NC_{K-1} c_m^2 (1 + c_m)^{2K-4} (\Pi_{k: k \neq j} \|\Delta \mathbf{w}_{jk}^*\|^2) \\ &\preceq 9NC_{K-1} \Delta_{max}^{2K-2} I \end{aligned} \quad (41)$$

Combining the off-diagonal blocks bound in Eq. (33), applying union bound on the probabilities of the lemmata and Eq. (12) complete the proof.  $\square$

### A.3 Proof of Theorem 2

We first introduce a corollary of Theorem 1, which shows the strong convexity on a line between a current iterate and the optimum.

**Corollary 5** (Positive Definiteness on the Line between  $\mathbf{w}$  and  $\mathbf{w}^*$ ). *Let  $\{\mathbf{x}_i, y_i\}_{i=1,2,\dots,N}$  be sampled from the MLR model (3). Let  $\{\mathbf{w}_k\}_{k=1,2,\dots,K}$  be independent of the samples and lie in the neighborhood of the optimal solution, defined in Eq. (4). Then, if  $N \geq O(K^K d \log^{K+2}(d))$ , w.p.  $1 - O(Kd^{-2})$ , for all  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ ,*

$$\frac{1}{8} p_{\min} N \Delta_{\min}^{2K-2} I \preceq \nabla^2 f(\lambda \mathbf{w}^* + (1 - \lambda) \mathbf{w}) \preceq 10N(3K)^K \Delta_{\max}^{2K-2} I. \quad (42)$$

*Proof.* We set  $d^{K-1}$  anchor points equally along the line  $\lambda \mathbf{w}^* + (1 - \lambda) \mathbf{w}$  for  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ . Then based on these anchors, according to Theorem 1, by setting  $P = K + 1$ , we complete the proof.  $\square$

Now we show the proof of Theorem 2.

*Proof.* Let  $\alpha := \frac{1}{8}p_{\min}N\Delta_{\min}^{2K-2}$  and  $\beta := 10N(3K)^K\Delta_{\max}^{2K-2}$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\|\mathbf{w}^+ - \mathbf{w}^*\|^2 &= \|\mathbf{w} - \eta \nabla f(\mathbf{w}) - \mathbf{w}^*\|^2 \\ &= \|\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}^*\|^2 - 2\eta \nabla f(\mathbf{w})^T (\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}^*) + \eta^2 \|\nabla f(\mathbf{w})\|^2\end{aligned}\quad (43)$$

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla f(\mathbf{w}) &= \left( \int_0^1 \nabla^2 f(\mathbf{w}^* + \gamma(\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}^*)) d\gamma \right) (\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}^*) \\ &=: \hat{H}(\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}^*)\end{aligned}\quad (44)$$

According to Corollary 5,

$$\alpha I \preceq \hat{H} \preceq \beta I. \quad (45)$$

$$\|\nabla f(\mathbf{w})\|^2 = (\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}^*)^T \hat{H}^2 (\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}^*) \leq \beta (\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}^*)^T \hat{H} (\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}^*) \quad (46)$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}\|\mathbf{w}^+ - \mathbf{w}^*\|^2 &\leq \|\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}^*\|^2 - (-\eta^2 \beta + 2\eta) (\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}^*)^T \hat{H} (\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}^*) \\ &\leq \|\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}^*\|^2 - (-\eta^2 \beta + 2\eta) \alpha \|\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}^*\|^2 \\ &= \|\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}^*\|^2 - \frac{\alpha}{\beta} \|\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}^*\|^2 \\ &\leq (1 - \frac{\alpha}{\beta}) \|\mathbf{w} - \mathbf{w}^*\|^2\end{aligned}\quad (47)$$

where the third equality holds by setting  $\eta = \frac{1}{\beta}$ .  $\square$

#### A.4 Proof of the lemmata

##### A.4.1 Proof of Lemma 2

*Proof.* Let  $g(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{d/2}} e^{-\|\mathbf{x}\|^2/2}$  and we have  $\mathbf{x}g(\mathbf{x})d\mathbf{x} = -dg(\mathbf{x})$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}^T] &= \int \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}^T g(\mathbf{x})d\mathbf{x} \\ &= - \int \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})(dg(\mathbf{x}))\mathbf{x}^T \\ &= \int \nabla f(\mathbf{x})\mathbf{x}^T g(\mathbf{x})d\mathbf{x} + \int \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})g(\mathbf{x})Id\mathbf{x} \\ &= - \int \nabla f(\mathbf{x})(dg(\mathbf{x}))^T + \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})]I \\ &= \mathbb{E}[\nabla^2 f(\mathbf{x})] + \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})]I\end{aligned}\quad (48)$$

$\square$

##### A.4.2 Proof of Lemma 3

*Proof.* Let  $G_K := \mathbb{E}[\Pi_{k=1}^K(\mathbf{x}^T A_k \mathbf{x})\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}^T]$ . First we show the lower bound.

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{\min}(G_K) &= \min_{\|\mathbf{a}\|=1} \mathbb{E}[\Pi_{k=1}^K(\mathbf{x}^T A_k \mathbf{x})(\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{a})^2] \\ &\geq \Pi_{k=1}^K \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}^T A_k \mathbf{x}] \min_{\|\mathbf{a}\|=1} \mathbb{E}[(\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{a})^2] \\ &= \Pi_{k=1}^K \text{tr}(A_k)\end{aligned}\quad (49)$$

Next, we show the upper bound. As we know, when  $K = 1$ ,  $G_1 = \text{tr}(A_1)I + 2A_1$  and for any  $K > 1$ ,  $G_K$  should have an explicit closed-form. However, it is too complicated to derive and formulate it for general  $K$ . Fortunately we only need the property of Eq. (13) in our proofs. We

prove it by induction. First, it is obvious that Eq. (13) holds for  $K = 1$  and  $C_1 = 3$ . We assume that, for any  $J < K$ , there exists a constant  $C_J$  depending only on  $J$ , such that

$$G_J \preceq C_J \Pi_{k=1}^J \text{tr}(A_k) I \quad (50)$$

Then by Stein-type lemma, Lemma 2,

$$\begin{aligned} G_K &= \mathbb{E} \left[ \Pi_{k=1}^K (\mathbf{x}^T A_k \mathbf{x}) \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}^T \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E} \left[ \Pi_{k=1}^K (\mathbf{x}^T A_k \mathbf{x}) \right] I + 2 \sum_{j=1}^K \mathbb{E} \left[ (\Pi_{k \neq j}^K (\mathbf{x}^T A_k \mathbf{x})) A_j \right] \\ &\quad + 4 \sum_{j,l:j \neq l} A_j \mathbb{E} \left[ (\Pi_{k:k \neq j, k \neq l} (\mathbf{x}^T A_k \mathbf{x})) \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}^T \right] A_l \\ &\preceq C_{K-1} \Pi_{k=1}^K \text{tr}(A_k) I + 2 \sum_{j=1}^K C_{K-2} (\Pi_{k \neq j} \text{tr}(A_k)) A_j \\ &\quad + 4 \sum_{j,l:j \neq l} C_{K-2} \|A_j\| \|A_l\| \Pi_{k:k \neq j, k \neq l} \text{tr}(A_k) I \\ &\preceq (C_{K-1} + (2K + 4K^2) C_{K-2}) \Pi_{k=1}^K \text{tr}(A_k) I \end{aligned} \quad (51)$$

So  $C_K = C_{K-1} + (4K^2 + 2K) C_{K-2}$ . Note that  $C_0 = 1$ .  $\square$

#### A.4.3 Proof of Lemma 4

*Proof. Proof Sketch:* We use matrix Bernstein inequality to prove this lemma. However, the spectral norm of the random matrix  $B_i$  is not uniformly bounded, which is required by matrix Bernstein inequality. So we define a new random matrix,

$$M_i := \mathbf{1}(\mathcal{E}_i) \Pi_{k=1}^K (\mathbf{x}_i^T A_k \mathbf{x}_i) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T,$$

where  $\mathcal{E}_i$  is an event when  $\|B_i\|$  is bounded, which will hold with high probability and  $\mathbf{1}(\cdot)$  is the indicate function of value 1 and 0, i.e.,  $\mathbf{1}(\mathcal{E}) = 1$  if  $\mathcal{E}$  holds and  $\mathbf{1}(\mathcal{E}) = 0$  otherwise. Then

$$\|\hat{B} - B\| \leq \|\hat{B} - \hat{M}\| + \|\hat{M} - M\| + \|M - B\|,$$

where  $M = \mathbb{E}[M_i]$  and  $\hat{M} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n M_i$ . We show that

1.  $\hat{M} = \hat{B}$  w.h.p. by the union bound
2.  $\|\hat{M} - M\|$  is bounded by matrix Bernstein inequality
3.  $\|M - B\|$  is bounded because  $\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{1}(\mathcal{E}^c)]$  is small.

*Proof Details:*

**Step 1.** First we show that  $\|B_i\|$  is bounded w.h.p.. First,

$$\|B_i\| = \Pi_{k=1}^K (\mathbf{x}_i^T A_k \mathbf{x}_i) \|\mathbf{x}_i\|^2$$

Since  $\mathbf{x} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I_d)$ , by Corollary 4, we have  $\mathbb{P}[\|\mathbf{x}\|^2 \geq (4P + 5)d \log n] \leq n^{-1} d^{-P}$ . By Corollary 2,  $\mathbb{P}[\mathbf{x}^T A_k \mathbf{x} > (4P + 5) \text{tr}(A_k) \log n] \leq n^{-1} d^{-P}$ . Therefore w.p.  $1 - (K + 1)n^{-1} d^{-P}$ ,

$$\|B_i\| \leq (4P + 5)^{K+1} \times (\Pi_{k=1}^K \text{tr}(A_k)) d \log^{K+1}(n).$$

Define

$$m := (4P + 5)^{K+1} (\Pi_{k=1}^K \text{tr}(A_k)) d \log^{K+1}(n). \quad (52)$$

and the event

$$\mathcal{E}_i = \{\|B_i\| \leq m\},$$

Let  $\mathcal{E}^c$  be the complementary set of  $\mathcal{E}$ , thus  $\mathbb{P}[\mathcal{E}_i^c] \leq (K + 1)n^{-1} d^{-P}$ . By union bound, w.p.  $1 - (K + 1)d^{-P}$ ,  $\|B_i\| \leq m$  for all  $i \in [n]$  and  $\hat{M} = \hat{B}$ .

**Step 2.** Now we bound  $\|\hat{M} - M\|$  by Matrix Bernstein's inequality[26].



Set  $Z_i := M_i - M$ . Thus  $\mathbb{E}[Z_i] = 0$  and  $\|Z_i\| \leq 2m$ . And

$$\|\mathbb{E}[Z_i^2]\| = \|\mathbb{E}[M_i^2] - M^2\| \leq \|\mathbb{E}[M_i^2]\| + \|M^2\|$$

Since  $M$  is PSD,  $\|\mathbb{E}[M_i^2]\| \leq m\|M\|$ . Now by matrix Bernstein's inequality, for any  $\delta > 0$ ,

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\left\|\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n Z_i\right\| \geq \delta\|M\|\right] \leq 2d \exp\left(-\frac{\delta^2 n^2 \|M\|^2 / 2}{mn\|M\| + 2mn\delta\|M\|/3}\right) = 2d \exp\left(-\frac{\delta^2 n\|M\|/2}{m + 2m\delta/3}\right) \quad (53)$$

Setting

$$n \geq (P+1)\left(\frac{4}{3\delta} + \frac{2}{\delta^2}\right)m\|M\|^{-1} \log d, \quad (54)$$

we have w.p. at least  $1 - 2d^{-P}$ ,

$$\left\|\frac{1}{n}\sum M_i - M\right\| \leq \delta\|M\| \quad (55)$$

**Step 3.** Now we bound  $\|M - B\|$ . For simplicity, we replace  $\mathbf{x}_i$  by  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathcal{E}_i$  by  $\mathcal{E}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} & \|M - B\| \\ &= \|\mathbb{E}[B_i \mathbf{1}(\mathcal{E}_i^c)]\| \\ &= \max_{\|\mathbf{a}\|=1} \mathbb{E}[(\mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{x})^2 \Pi_{k=1}^K (\mathbf{x}^T A_k \mathbf{x}) \mathbf{1}(\mathcal{E}^c)] \\ &\stackrel{\zeta_1}{\leq} \max_{\|\mathbf{a}\|=1} \mathbb{E}[(\mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{x})^4 \Pi_{k=1}^K (\mathbf{x}^T A_k \mathbf{x})^2]^{1/2} \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{1}(\mathcal{E}^c)]^{1/2} \\ &= \max_{\|\mathbf{a}\|=1} \langle \mathbf{a} \mathbf{a}^T, \mathbb{E}[(\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{a} \mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{x}) \Pi_{k=1}^K (\mathbf{x}^T A_k \mathbf{x})^2 \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}^T] \rangle^{1/2} \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{1}(\mathcal{E}^c)]^{1/2} \\ &\stackrel{\zeta_2}{\leq} \max_{\|\mathbf{a}\|=1} \langle \mathbf{a} \mathbf{a}^T, C_{2K+1} \Pi_{k=1}^K \text{tr}(A_k)^2 I \rangle^{1/2} \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{1}(\mathcal{E}^c)]^{1/2} \\ &\stackrel{\zeta_3}{\leq} \frac{\sqrt{(K+1)C_{2K+1}}}{\sqrt{nd^P}} \Pi_{k=1}^K \text{tr}(A_k) \end{aligned} \quad (56)$$

where  $\zeta_1$  is from Holder's inequality,  $\zeta_2$  is because of Lemma 3 and  $\zeta_3$  is because  $\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{1}(\mathcal{E}^c)] = \mathbb{P}[\mathcal{E}^c]$ .

Assume  $n \geq 4(K+1)C_{2K+1}/d^P$ , we have  $\|M - B\| \leq \frac{1}{2}\|B\|$  and  $\frac{3}{2}\|B\| \geq \|M\| \geq \frac{1}{2}\|B\|$ . So combining this result with Eq. (52), Eq. (54), and Eq. (55), if

$$n \geq \max\{4(K+1)C_{2K+1}/d^P, c_1 \frac{1}{\delta^2} (4P+5)^{K+2} d \log^{K+1}(n) \log d\}, \quad (57)$$

we obtain

$$\left\|\frac{1}{n}\sum M_i - M\right\| \leq \frac{1}{3}\delta\|M\| \leq \frac{1}{2}\delta\|B\|. \quad (58)$$

According to Lemma 7,  $n \geq O(\frac{1}{\delta^2} \log^{K+1}(\frac{1}{\delta})(PK)^K d \log^{K+2} d)$  will imply Eq. (57). By further setting  $\delta > \frac{\sqrt{4(K+1)C_{2K+1}}}{\sqrt{nd^P}}$ , we have  $\|M - B\| \leq \frac{1}{2}\delta\|B\|$ , completing the proof.  $\square$

#### A.4.4 Proof of Lemma 5

*Proof.*

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\mathbb{E}[(\beta^T \mathbf{x})(\gamma^T \mathbf{x}) \Pi_{k=1}^K (\mathbf{x}^T A_k \mathbf{x}) \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}^T]\| \\ & \geq \mathbb{E}[(\beta^T \mathbf{x})^2 (\gamma^T \mathbf{x})^2 \Pi_{k=1}^K (\mathbf{x}^T A_k \mathbf{x})] / (\|\beta\| \|\gamma\|) \\ & \geq \|\beta\| \|\gamma\| \Pi_{k=1}^K \text{tr}(A_k). \end{aligned} \quad (59)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \|\mathbb{E}[(\beta^T \mathbf{x})(\gamma^T \mathbf{x})\Pi_{k=1}^K(\mathbf{x}^T A_k \mathbf{x})\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}^T]\| \\
&= \max_{\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}} \mathbb{E}[(\beta^T \mathbf{x})(\gamma^T \mathbf{x})(\mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{x})(\mathbf{b}^T \mathbf{x})\Pi_{k=1}^K(\mathbf{x}^T A_k \mathbf{x})]/(\|\mathbf{a}\|\|\mathbf{b}\|) \\
&\leq \mathbb{E}[(\mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{x})^2(\mathbf{b}^T \mathbf{x})^2]^{1/2} \mathbb{E}[(\beta^T \mathbf{x})^2(\gamma^T \mathbf{x})^2\Pi_{k=1}^K(\mathbf{x}^T A_k \mathbf{x})^2]^{1/2}/(\|\mathbf{a}\|\|\mathbf{b}\|) \\
&\leq \sqrt{3C_{2K+1}}\|\beta\|\|\gamma\|\Pi_{k=1}^K \text{tr}(A_k)
\end{aligned} \tag{60}$$

□

#### A.4.5 Proof of Lemma 6

*Proof.* Note that the matrix  $B_i$  is probably not PSD. Thus we can't apply Lemma 4 directly. But the proof is similar to that for Lemma 4.

Define

$$m := (4P + 5)^{K+2}\|\beta\|\|\gamma\|(\Pi_{k=1}^K \text{tr}(A_k))d \log^{K+1}(n), \tag{61}$$

and the event,  $\mathcal{E}_i := \{\|B_i\| \leq m\}$ . Then by Corollary 3,

$$\mathbb{P}[\mathcal{E}_i] \geq 1 - 2Kn^{-1}d^{-P}.$$

Define a new random matrix  $M_i := \mathbf{1}(\mathcal{E}_i)B_i$ , its expectation  $M := \mathbb{E}[M_i]$  and its empirical average

$$\hat{M} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n M_i.$$

**Step 1.** By union bound, we have w.p.  $1 - 2Kd^{-P}$ ,  $M_i = B_i$  for all  $i$ , i.e.,  $\hat{M} = \hat{B}$ .

**Step 2.** We now bound  $\|M - B\|$ . For simplicity, we replace  $\mathbf{x}_i$  by  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathcal{E}_i$  by  $\mathcal{E}$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
& \|M - B\| \\
&= \|\mathbb{E}[B_i \mathbf{1}(\mathcal{E}_i^c)]\| \\
&= \max_{\|\mathbf{a}\|=\|\mathbf{b}\|=1} \mathbb{E}[(\mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{x})(\mathbf{b}^T \mathbf{x})(\beta^T \mathbf{x})(\gamma^T \mathbf{x})\Pi_{k=1}^K(\mathbf{x}^T A_k \mathbf{x})\mathbf{1}(\mathcal{E}^c)] \\
&\stackrel{\zeta_1}{\leq} \max_{\|\mathbf{a}\|=\|\mathbf{b}\|=1} \mathbb{E}[(\mathbf{a}^T \mathbf{x})^2(\mathbf{b}^T \mathbf{x})^2(\beta^T \mathbf{x})^2(\gamma^T \mathbf{x})^2\Pi_{k=1}^K(\mathbf{x}^T A_k \mathbf{x})^2]^{1/2} \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{1}(\mathcal{E}^c)]^{1/2} \\
&= \max_{\|\mathbf{a}\|=\|\mathbf{b}\|=1} \langle \mathbf{a}\mathbf{a}^T, \mathbb{E}[(\mathbf{b}^T \mathbf{x})^2(\beta^T \mathbf{x})^2(\gamma^T \mathbf{x})^2\Pi_{k=1}^K(\mathbf{x}^T A_k \mathbf{x})^2\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}^T] \rangle^{1/2} \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{1}(\mathcal{E}^c)]^{1/2} \\
&\stackrel{\zeta_2}{\leq} \max_{\|\mathbf{a}\|=\|\mathbf{b}\|=1} \langle \mathbf{a}\mathbf{a}^T, C_{2K+3}\|\beta\|^2\|\gamma\|^2\Pi_{k=1}^K \text{tr}(A_k)^2 I \rangle^{1/2} \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{1}(\mathcal{E}^c)]^{1/2} \\
&\stackrel{\zeta_3}{\leq} \frac{\sqrt{2KC_{2K+3}}}{\sqrt{nd^P}} \|\beta\|\|\gamma\|\Pi_{k=1}^K \text{tr}(A_k)
\end{aligned} \tag{62}$$

where  $\zeta_1$  is from Holder's inequality,  $\zeta_2$  is because of Lemma 3 and  $\zeta_3$  is because  $\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{1}(\mathcal{E}^c)] = \mathbb{P}[\mathcal{E}^c]$ .

According to Eq. (62) and Lemma 5, if  $\frac{\sqrt{2KC_{2K+3}}}{\sqrt{nd^P}} \leq \delta/2$ , then

$$\|M - B\| \leq \frac{1}{2}\delta\|\beta\|\|\gamma\|\Pi_{k=1}^K \text{tr}(A_k) \leq \frac{1}{2}\delta\|B\| \tag{63}$$

Since  $\delta \leq 1$ , we also have  $\|M - B\| \leq \frac{1}{2}\|B\|$ , so by Lemma 5,

$$\frac{3}{2}\|B\| \geq \|M\| \geq \frac{1}{2}\|B\| \geq \frac{1}{2}\|\beta\|\|\gamma\|\Pi_{k=1}^K \text{tr}(A_k) \tag{64}$$

**Step 3.** Now we bound  $\|M - \hat{M}\|$ .  $\|M\| \leq m$  automatically holds. Since  $M$  is probably not PSD, we don't have  $\|\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{M}_i^2]\| \leq m\|M\|$ . However, we can still show that  $\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{M}_i^2] \leq O(m)\|M\|$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
& \|\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{M}_i^2]\| \\
& \leq \|\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{B}_i^2]\| \\
& = \|\mathbb{E}[(\beta^T \mathbf{x})^2 (\gamma^T \mathbf{x})^2 \Pi_{k=1}^K (\mathbf{x}^T A_k \mathbf{x})^2 \|\mathbf{x}\|^2 \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}^T]\| \\
& \leq C_{2K+3} d \times (\|\beta\| \|\gamma\| \Pi_{k=1}^K \text{tr}(A_k))^2 \\
& \leq \frac{2C_{2K+3}}{(4P+5)^{K+2}} m \|M\|
\end{aligned} \tag{65}$$

We can use matrix Bernstein inequality now. Let  $Z_i := M_i - M$ .  $\|Z_i\| \leq 2m$ .  $\|\mathbb{E}[Z_i^2]\| \leq (\frac{2C_{2K+3}}{(4P+5)^{K+2}} + 1)m\|M\|$ . Define  $\hat{C}_K := \frac{2C_{2K+3}}{(4P+5)^{K+2}} + 1$ , then

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\left\|\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n Z_i\right\| \geq \delta \|M\|\right] \leq 2d \exp\left(-\frac{\delta^2 n^2 \|M\|^2 / 2}{\hat{C}_K m n \|M\| + 2mn\delta \|M\| / 3}\right) \leq 2d \exp\left(-\frac{\delta^2 n \|M\| / 2}{\hat{C}_K m + 2m\delta / 3}\right) \tag{66}$$

Thus, when  $n \geq (P+1)(\frac{\hat{C}_K}{\delta^2} + \frac{2}{3\delta})m/\|M\| \log d$ , we have w.p.,  $1 - c_2 d^{-P}$ ,

$$\|\hat{M} - M\| \leq \frac{1}{3}\delta \|M\| \leq \frac{1}{2}\delta \|B\|.$$

By Eq. (61) and Eq. (64),

$$\begin{aligned}
(P+1)(\frac{\hat{C}_K}{\delta^2} + \frac{2}{3\delta})m/\|M\| \log d & \leq c_1 \frac{\hat{C}_K}{\delta^2} \times (4P+5)^{K+3} d \log^{K+1}(n) \log(d) \\
& \leq \frac{c_1}{\delta^2} (2C_{2K+3}(P+1) + (4P+5)^{K+2}) d \log^{K+1}(n) \log(d)
\end{aligned}$$

Applying the fact,  $\|\hat{B} - B\| \leq \|\hat{B} - \hat{M}\| + \|\hat{M} - M\| + \|M - B\|$ , and Lemma 7 completes the proof.  $\square$

## A.5 Proof of Lemma 7

*Proof.* Assume we require  $n \geq cd \log(d) \log^{K+1}(n)$  and we have  $n \geq bcd \log(d) \log^A(d)$ , where  $b, A$  depends only on  $K$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
& n \geq cd \log d \log^{K+1}(n) \\
& \uparrow \\
& \frac{n}{\log^{K+1}(n)} \geq cd \log d \\
& \uparrow \\
& \frac{bcd \log(d) \log^A(d)}{\log^{K+1}(bcd \log(d) \log^A(d))} \geq cd \log d \\
& \uparrow \\
& b \log^A(d) \geq \log^{K+1}(bcd \log(d) \log^A(d)) \\
& \uparrow \\
& \log b + A \log \log(d) \geq (K+1) \log(\log(b) + \log(c) + \log(d) + (A+1) \log \log(d)) \\
& \uparrow \\
& \log b + A \log \log(d) \geq (K+1) \log(4 \max\{\log(b), \log(c), \log(d), (A+1) \log \log(d)\}) \quad (67) \\
& \uparrow \\
& \begin{cases} \log b \geq (K+1) \log(4 \log(b)) \\ \log b \geq (K+1) \log(4 \log(c)) \\ \log b + A \log \log(d) \geq (K+1) \log(4 \log(d)) \\ \log b + A \log \log(d) \geq (K+1) \log(4(A+1) \log \log(d)) \end{cases} \\
& \uparrow \\
& \begin{cases} b \geq K^{4K} \\ b \geq 4^{K+1} \log^{K+1}(c) \\ A \geq K+1 \\ b \geq (4(A+1))^{K+1} \end{cases} \\
& \uparrow \\
& \begin{cases} b = K^{4K} \log^{K+1}(c) \\ A = K+1 \end{cases}
\end{aligned}$$

□

## B Proofs of Tensor Method for Initialization

### B.1 Some Lemmata

We will use the following lemma to guarantee the robust tensor power method. The proofs of these lemmata will be found in Sec. B.4.

**Lemma 8** (Some properties of thrid-order tensor). *If  $T \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d \times d}$  is a supersymmetric tensor, i.e.,  $T_{ijk}$  is equivalent for any permutation of the index, then the operator norm defined as*

$$\|T\|_{op} := \sup_{\|\mathbf{a}\|=1} |T(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{a})|$$

**Property 1.**  $\|T\|_{op} = \sup_{\|\mathbf{a}\|=\|\mathbf{b}\|=\|\mathbf{c}\|=1} |T(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{c})|$

**Property 2.**  $\|T\|_{op} \leq \|T_{(1)}\| \leq \sqrt{K} \|T\|_{op}$

**Property 3.** *If  $T$  is a rank-one tensor, then  $\|T_{(1)}\| = \|T\|_{op}$*

**Property 4.** *For any matrix  $W \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d'}$ ,  $\|T(W, W, W)\|_{op} \leq \|T\|_{op} \|W\|^3$*

**Lemma 9** (Approximation error for the second moment). *Let  $\{\mathbf{x}_i, y_i\}_{i \in [n]}$  be generated from the mixed linear regression model (3). Define  $M_2 := \sum_{k=[K]} 2p_k \mathbf{w}_k^* \otimes \mathbf{w}_k^*$  and  $\hat{M}_2 := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i \in [n]} y_i^2 (\mathbf{x}_i \otimes$*

$\mathbf{x}_i - I$ ). Then with  $n \geq c_1 \frac{1}{p_{\min} \delta_2^2} d \log^2(d)$ , we have w.p.  $1 - c_2 K d^{-2}$ ,

$$\|\hat{M}_2 - M_2\| \leq \delta_2 \sum_k p_k \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^2 \quad (68)$$

where  $c_1, c_2$  are universal constants.

And for any fixed orthogonal matrix  $Y \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times K}$ , with the same condition, we have

$$\|Y^T(\hat{M}_2 - M_2)Y\| \leq \delta_2 \sum_k p_k \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^2 \quad (69)$$

**Lemma 10** (Subspace Estimation). *Let  $M_2, M_3$  be*

$$M_2 = \sum_{k=[K]} 2p_k \mathbf{w}_k^* \otimes \mathbf{w}_k^*, \text{ and } M_3 = \sum_{k=[K]} 6p_k \mathbf{w}_k^* \otimes \mathbf{w}_k^* \otimes \mathbf{w}_k^*, \quad (70)$$

and  $\hat{M}_2$  be an estimate of  $M_2$ . Assume  $\|\hat{M}_2 - M_2\| \leq \delta \sigma_K(M_2)$  and  $\delta \leq \frac{1}{6}$ . Let  $Y$  be the returned matrix of the power method after  $O(\log(1/\delta))$  steps. Define  $R_2 = Y^T M_2 Y$  and  $R_3 = M_3(Y, Y, Y)$ . Then  $\|R_2\| \leq \|M_2\|$  and  $\|R_3\|_{op} \leq \|M_3\|_{op}$ . We also have

$$\|Y Y^T \mathbf{w}_k^* - \mathbf{w}_k^*\| \leq 3\delta \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|, \forall k \quad (71)$$

and

$$\sigma_K(R_2) \geq \frac{3}{4} \sigma_K(M_2)$$

**Lemma 11** (Approximation error for the third moment). *Let  $\{\mathbf{x}_i, y_i\}_{i \in [n]}$  be drawn from the mixed linear regression model (3). Let  $Y \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times K}$  be any fixed orthogonal matrix that satisfies,  $\|Y Y^T \mathbf{w}_k^* - \mathbf{w}_k^*\| \leq \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|, \forall k$ , and  $\mathbf{r}_i = Y^T \mathbf{x}_i$ , for all  $i \in [n]$ . Let*

$$\hat{R}_3 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i \in [n]} y_i^3 (\mathbf{r}_i \otimes \mathbf{r}_i \otimes \mathbf{r}_i - \sum_{j \in [K]} \mathbf{e}_j \otimes \mathbf{r}_i \otimes \mathbf{e}_j - \sum_{j \in [K]} \mathbf{e}_j \otimes \mathbf{e}_j \otimes \mathbf{r}_i - \sum_{j \in [K]} \mathbf{r}_i \otimes \mathbf{e}_j \otimes \mathbf{e}_j)$$

and

$$R_3 = \sum_{k=[K]} 6p_k (Y^T \mathbf{w}_k^*) \otimes (Y^T \mathbf{w}_k^*) \otimes (Y^T \mathbf{w}_k^*)$$

Then if  $n \geq c_3 \frac{1}{p_{\min} \delta_3^2} K^3 \log^4(d)$  and  $3\sqrt{C_5} n^{-1/2} d^{-1} \leq \frac{\delta_3}{4}$ , we have w.p.  $1 - c_4 K d^{-2}$

$$\|\hat{R}_3 - R_3\|_{op} \leq \delta_3 \sum_{k \in [K]} p_k \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^3,$$

where  $c_3$  and  $c_4$  are universal constant.

**Lemma 12** (Robust Tensor Power Method. Similar to Lemma 4 in [7]). *Let  $R_2 = \sum_{k=1}^K p_k \mathbf{u}_k \otimes \mathbf{u}_k$  and  $R_3 = \sum_{k=1}^K p_k \mathbf{u}_k \otimes \mathbf{u}_k \otimes \mathbf{u}_k$ , where  $\mathbf{u}_k \in \mathbb{R}^K$  can be any fixed vector. Define  $\sigma_K := \sigma_K(R_2)$ . Assume the estimations of  $R_2$  and  $R_3$ ,  $\hat{R}_2$  and  $\hat{R}_3$  respectively, satisfy  $\|R_2 - \hat{R}_2\|_{op} \leq \epsilon_2$  and  $\|R_3 - \hat{R}_3\|_{op} \leq \epsilon_3$  with*

$$\epsilon_2 \leq \sigma_K/3, \quad 8\|R_3\|_{op} \sigma_K^{-5/2} \epsilon_2 + 2\sqrt{2} \sigma_K^{-3/2} \epsilon_3 \leq c_T \frac{1}{K \sqrt{p_{\max}}}, \quad (72)$$

for some constant  $c_T$ . Let the whitening matrix  $\hat{W} = \hat{U}_2 \hat{\Lambda}_2^{-1/2} \hat{U}_2^T$ , where  $\hat{R}_2 = \hat{U}_2 \hat{\Lambda}_2 \hat{U}_2^T$  is the eigendecomposition of  $\hat{R}_2$ . Then w.p.  $1 - \eta$ , the eigenvalues  $\{\hat{a}_k\}_{k=1}^K$  and the eigenvectors  $\{\hat{\mathbf{v}}_k\}_{k=1}^K$  computed from the whitened tensor  $\hat{R}_3(\hat{W}, \hat{W}, \hat{W}) \in \mathbb{R}^{K \times K \times K}$  by using the robust tensor power method [2] will satisfy

$$\|(\hat{W}^T)^\dagger (\hat{a}_k \hat{\mathbf{v}}_k) - \mathbf{u}_k\| \leq \kappa_2 \epsilon_2 + \kappa_3 \epsilon_3$$

where  $\kappa_2 = 3\|R_2\|^{1/2} \sigma_K^{-1} + 200\|R_2\|^{1/2} \|R_3\|_{op} \sigma_K^{-5/2}$ ,  $\kappa_3 = 75\|R_2\|^{1/2} \sigma_K^{-3/2}$  and  $\eta$  is related to the computational time by  $O(\log(1/\eta))$ .

**Remark:** This lemma differs from Lemma 4 of [7] in the requirement on  $\epsilon_2, \epsilon_3$ . Lemma 4 in [7] treats  $\epsilon_2, \epsilon_3$  in the same order (that are bounded by the same value), however, they should have different order because one is for second-order moments and the other is for third-order moments.

## B.2 Proof of Theorem 3

**Proof Details.** We state the proof outline here,

1.  $\|\hat{M}_2 - M_2\| \leq \epsilon_{M_2}$  by Matrix Bernstein's inequality.
2.  $\|YY^T \mathbf{w}_k^* - \mathbf{w}_k^*\| \leq \epsilon_Y \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|$  for all  $k \in [K]$  by Davis-Kahan's theorem [10].
3.  $\|\hat{R}_2 - R_2\| \leq \epsilon_2$  by Matrix Bernstein's inequality.
4.  $\|\hat{R}_3 - R_3\|_{op} \leq \epsilon_3$  by Matrix Bernstein's inequality after matricizing tensor.
5. Let  $\hat{\mathbf{u}}_k = (\hat{W}^T)^\dagger(\hat{a}_k \hat{\mathbf{v}}_k)$ . Then  $\|\hat{\mathbf{u}}_k - Y^T \mathbf{w}_k^*\| \leq \epsilon_u$  by the robust tensor power method.
6. Finally,  $\|\mathbf{w}_k^{(0)} - \mathbf{w}_k^*\| \leq c_6 \Delta_{min}$  by combining the results of Step 2 and Step 5.

The lemmata in Appendix B.1 provide the bound for the above steps: Lemma 9 for Step 1, Lemma 10 for Step 2 and Step 3, Lemma 11 for Step 4, and Lemma 12 for Step 5. Now we show the details. Define

$$\bar{\kappa}_2 := 4\|M_2\|^{1/2} \sigma_K^{-1}(M_2) + 412\|M_2\|^{1/2} \|M_3\|_{op} \sigma_K^{-5/2}(M_2)$$

and

$$\bar{\kappa}_3 := 116\|M_2\|^{1/2} \sigma_K^{-3/2}(M_2).$$

By Lemma 10, we have  $\bar{\kappa}_3 \geq \kappa_3$  and  $\bar{\kappa}_2 \geq \kappa_2$  for any orthogonal matrix  $Y$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathbf{w}_k^{(0)} - \mathbf{w}_k^*\| &\stackrel{\xi_1}{\leq} \|Y\hat{\mathbf{u}}_k - YY^T \mathbf{w}_k^*\| + \|YY^T \mathbf{w}_k^* - \mathbf{w}_k^*\| \\ &\stackrel{\xi_2}{\leq} \bar{\kappa}_2 \|\hat{R}_2 - R_2\| + \bar{\kappa}_3 \|\hat{R}_3 - R_3\|_{op} + \frac{2}{3} \delta_{M_2} \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\| \sigma_K^{-1}(M_2) \sum_k p_k \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^2 \\ &\stackrel{\xi_3}{\leq} \bar{\kappa}_2 \delta_2 \sum_k p_k \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^2 + \bar{\kappa}_3 \delta_3 \sum_k p_k \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^3 + \frac{2}{3} \delta_{M_2} \sigma_K^{-1}(M_2) (\max_k \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|) \sum_k p_k \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^2 \end{aligned} \quad (73)$$

where  $\xi_1$  is due to triangle inequality,  $\xi_2$  is due to Lemma 12, Lemma 10 and Lemma 9, and  $\xi_3$  is due to Lemma 9 and Lemma 11. Therefore, we can set

$$\delta_2 \leq \frac{c_6 \Delta_{min}}{3\bar{\kappa}_2 \sum_k p_k \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^2},$$

$$\delta_3 \leq \frac{c_6 \Delta_{min}}{3\bar{\kappa}_3 \sum_{k \in [K]} p_k \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^3}$$

and

$$\delta_{M_2} \leq \frac{c_6 \Delta_{min}}{2\sigma_K^{-1}(M_2) (\max_k \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|) \sum_k p_k \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^2},$$

such that  $\|\mathbf{w}_k^{(0)} - \mathbf{w}_k^*\| \leq c_6 \Delta_{min}$ . Note that Lemma 12 also requires Eq. (72), which can be satisfied if

$$\|\hat{R}_2 - R_2\| \leq \min\left\{\frac{\sigma_K(M_2)}{4}, \frac{c_T \sigma_K(M_2)^{5/2}}{34\|M_3\|_{op} K \sqrt{p_{max}}}\right\}$$

and

$$\|\hat{R}_3 - R_3\|_{op} \leq \frac{c_T \sigma_K(M_2)^{3/2}}{6K \sqrt{p_{max}}}.$$

Therefore, we require

$$\delta_2 \leq \delta_2^* := \frac{1}{\sum_k p_k \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^2} \min\left\{\frac{\sigma_K(M_2)}{4}, \frac{c_T \sigma_K(M_2)^{5/2}}{34\|M_3\|_{op} K \sqrt{p_{max}}}, \frac{c_6 \Delta_{min}}{3\bar{\kappa}_2}\right\}$$

$$\delta_3 \leq \delta_3^* := \frac{1}{\sum_{k \in [K]} p_k \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^3} \min\left\{\frac{c_6 \Delta_{min}}{3\bar{\kappa}_3}, \frac{c_T \sigma_K(M_2)^{3/2}}{6K \sqrt{p_{max}}}\right\}$$

$$\delta_{M_2} \leq \delta_{M_2}^* := \frac{c_6 \Delta_{min}}{2\sigma_K^{-1}(M_2) (\max_k \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|) \sum_k p_k \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^2},$$

Now we analyze the sample complexity.  $\delta_{M_2}^*, \delta_2^*, \delta_3^*$  correspond to the sample sets,  $\Omega_{M_2}$ ,  $\Omega_2$  and  $\Omega_3$  respectively. By Lemma 9, Lemma 11, we require

$$|\Omega_{M_2}| \geq c_{M_2} \frac{1}{p_{\min} \delta_{M_2}^{*2}} d \log^2(d)$$

$$|\Omega_2| \geq c_2 \frac{1}{p_{\min} \delta_2^{*2}} d \log^2(d)$$

$$|\Omega_3| \geq c_3 \frac{1}{p_{\min} \delta_3^{*2}} K^3 \log^{11/2}(d),$$

and  $3\sqrt{C_5} n^{-1/2} d^{-1} \leq \frac{\delta_3}{4}$ . For the probability, we can set  $\eta = d^{-2}$  in Lemma 12 by scarifying a little more computational time, which is in the order of  $O(\log(d))$ . Therefore, the final probability is at least  $1 - O(Kd^{-2})$ .

### B.3 Proof of Theorem 4

According to Theorem 2, after  $T_0 = O(\log d)$  iterations, we arrive the local convexity region in Corollary 1. Then we just need one more set of samples, but still need  $O(\log(1/\epsilon))$  iterations to achieve  $1/\epsilon$  precision. By Theorem 1, Corollary 1, Theorem 2 and Theorem 3, we can partition the dataset into  $|\Omega^{(t)}| = O(d(K \log(d))^{2K+2})$  for all  $t = 0, 1, 2, \dots, T_0 + 1$  to satisfy their sample complexity requirement. This complete the proof.

### B.4 Proofs of Some Lemmata

#### B.4.1 Proof of Lemma 8

*Proof.* **Property 1.** See the proof in Lemma 21 of [19].

**Property 2.**

$$\|T_{(1)}\| = \max_{\|\mathbf{a}\|=1} \|T(\mathbf{a}, I, I)\|_F \leq \max_{\|\mathbf{a}\|=1} \sqrt{K} \|T(\mathbf{a}, I, I)\| = \max_{\|\mathbf{a}\|=\|\mathbf{b}\|=1} \sqrt{K} |T(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{b})| = \|T\|_{op}.$$

Obviously,  $\max_{\|\mathbf{a}\|=1} \|T(\mathbf{a}, I, I)\|_F \geq \|T\|_{op}$ .

**Property 3.** Let  $T = \mathbf{v} \otimes \mathbf{v} \otimes \mathbf{v}$ .

$$\|T_{(1)}\| = \max_{\|\mathbf{a}\|=1} \|T(\mathbf{a}, I, I)\|_F = \max_{\|\mathbf{a}\|=1} \|\mathbf{v}\|^2 (\mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{a})^2 = \|\mathbf{v}\|^3 = \max_{\|\mathbf{a}\|=1} |(\mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{a})^3| = \|T\|_{op}.$$

**Property 4.** There exists a  $\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^{d'}$  with  $\|\mathbf{u}\| = 1$  such that

$$\|T(W, W, W)\|_{op} = |T(W\mathbf{u}, W\mathbf{u}, W\mathbf{u})| \leq \|T\|_{op} \|W\mathbf{u}\|^3 \leq \|T\|_{op} \|W\|^3$$

□

#### B.4.2 Proof of Lemma 9

*Proof.* Define  $M_2^{(k)} := 2\mathbf{w}_k^* \mathbf{w}_k^{*T}$  and  $\hat{M}_2^{(k)} = \frac{1}{|S_k|} \sum_{i \in S_k} y_i^2 (\mathbf{x}_i \otimes \mathbf{x}_i - I)$ , where  $S_k \subset [n]$  is the index set for samples from the  $k$ -th model. Since we assume  $|S_k| = p_k n$ ,  $\hat{M}_2 = \sum_{k \in [K]} p_k M_2^{(k)}$ . We first bound  $\|\hat{M}_2^{(k)} - M_2^{(k)}\|$ . By Lemma 4 with  $K = 1$ ,  $A_1 = \mathbf{w}_k^* \mathbf{w}_k^{*T}$ , then if  $|S_k| \geq c_1 \frac{1}{\delta^2} d \log^2(d)$ , we have w.p.,  $1 - c_2 d^{-2}$ ,

$$\left\| \frac{1}{|S_k|} \sum_{i \in S_k} y_i^2 \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T - \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^2 I - 2\mathbf{w}_k^* \mathbf{w}_k^{*T} \right\| \leq \delta \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^2.$$

By Lemma 4 with  $K = 0$ , we have w.p. at least  $1 - d^{-2}$ ,

$$\left\| \frac{1}{|S_k|} \sum_{i \in S_k} \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T - I \right\| \leq \delta$$

Then

$$\left\| \frac{1}{|S_k|} \sum_{i \in S_k} (\mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{w}_k^*)^2 - \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^2 \right\| \leq \left\| \frac{1}{|S_k|} \sum_{i \in S_k} \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T - I \right\| \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^2 \leq \delta \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^2.$$

Thus

$$\left\| \frac{1}{|S_k|} \sum_{i \in S_k} y_i^2 (\mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T - I) - 2\mathbf{w}_k^* \mathbf{w}_k^{*T} \right\| \leq 2\delta \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^2.$$

And w.p.  $1 - O(Kd^{-2})$ ,

$$\|\hat{M}_2 - M_2\| \leq 2\delta \sum_k p_k \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^2.$$

□

#### B.4.3 Proof of Lemma 10

*Proof.*  $\|R_2\| \leq \|Y\|^2 \|M_2\| = \|M_2\|$ . By Property 4 in Lemma 8,  $\|R_3\|_{op} \leq \|Y\|^3 \|M_3\|_{op} = \|M_3\|_{op}$ . Let  $U$  be the top- $K$  eigenvectors of  $M_2$ . Then  $U = \text{span}(\mathbf{w}_1^*, \mathbf{w}_2^*, \dots, \mathbf{w}_K^*)$ . Let  $\bar{Y} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times K}$  be the top- $K$  eigenvectors of  $\hat{M}_2$ . By Lemma 9 in [19] (Davis-Kahan's theorem [10] can also prove it),

$$\|(I - \bar{Y} \bar{Y}^T) U U^T\| \leq \frac{3}{2} \delta.$$

According to Theorem 7.2 in [3], after  $t$  steps of the power method, we have

$$\|\bar{Y} \bar{Y}^T - Y^{(t)} Y^{(t)T}\| \leq \left( \frac{\sigma_{K+1}(\hat{M}_2)}{\sigma_K(\hat{M}_2)} \right)^t \|\bar{Y} \bar{Y}^T - Y^{(0)} Y^{(0)T}\|.$$

When  $\delta \leq 1/3$ , by Weyl's inequality, we have  $\sigma_{K+1}(\hat{M}_2) \leq \frac{1}{3} \sigma_K(M_2)$  and  $\sigma_K(\hat{M}_2) \geq \frac{2}{3} \sigma_K(M_2)$ . Therefore, after  $t = \log(2/(3\delta))$  steps of the power method, we have

$$\|\bar{Y} \bar{Y}^T - Y^{(t)} Y^{(t)T}\| \leq \frac{3}{2} \delta$$

Let  $Y = Y^{(t)}$ . We have

$$\|Y Y^T - U U^T\| \leq \|Y Y^T - \bar{Y} \bar{Y}^T\| + \|\bar{Y} \bar{Y}^T - U U^T\| \leq 3\delta$$

and

$$\|Y Y^T \mathbf{w}_k^* - \mathbf{w}_k^*\| \leq \|Y Y^T - U U^T\| \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\| \leq 3\delta \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|$$

Now we consider  $\sigma_K(R_2)$ . The proof is similar to that for Property 3 in Lemma 9 in [19].

$$\sigma_K(R_2) \geq \sigma_K(M_2) \sigma_K^2(Y^T U)$$

Note that  $\|Y_\perp^T U\| = \|Y Y^T - U U^T\|$ , where  $Y_\perp$  is the subspace orthogonal to  $Y$ . For any normalized vector  $\mathbf{v}$ ,

$$\|Y^T U \mathbf{v}\|^2 = \|U \mathbf{v}\|^2 - \|Y_\perp^T U \mathbf{v}\|^2 \geq 1 - (3\delta)^2 \geq \frac{3}{4}$$

Therefore, we have  $\sigma_K(R_2) \geq \frac{3}{4} \sigma_K(M_2)$ . □

#### B.4.4 Proof of Lemma 11

*Proof.* We prove it by matricizing the tensor. Define

$$G_i = y_i^3 (\mathbf{r}_i \otimes \mathbf{r}_i \otimes \mathbf{r}_i - \sum_{j \in [K]} \mathbf{e}_j \otimes \mathbf{r}_i \otimes \mathbf{e}_j - \sum_{j \in [K]} \mathbf{e}_j \otimes \mathbf{e}_j \otimes \mathbf{r}_i - \sum_{j \in [K]} \mathbf{r}_i \otimes \mathbf{e}_j \otimes \mathbf{e}_j).$$

Like in Lemma 9, we first bound  $\|\hat{R}_3^{(k)} - R_3^{(k)}\|_{op}$ , where  $\hat{R}_3^{(k)} = \frac{1}{|S_k|} \sum_{i \in S_k} G_i$ , and  $R_3^{(k)} = 6(Y^T \mathbf{w}_k^*) \otimes (Y^T \mathbf{w}_k^*) \otimes (Y^T \mathbf{w}_k^*)$ .

$$\|R_3^{(k)}\|_{op} = 6\|Y^T \mathbf{w}_k^*\|^3.$$



By Lemma 10,  $\frac{1}{2}\|\mathbf{w}_k^*\| \leq \|Y^T \mathbf{w}_k^*\| \leq \frac{3}{2}\|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|$ . Thus

$$\frac{3}{4}\|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^3 \leq \|R_3^{(k)}\|_{op} \leq \frac{81}{4}\|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^3. \quad (74)$$

Then

$$\|G_i\|_{op} \leq 4|\mathbf{x}_i^T \mathbf{w}_k^*|^3 \|\mathbf{r}_i\|^3, \quad (75)$$

By Corollary 4, we have w.p.,  $1 - n^{-1}d^{-2}$ ,  $\|\mathbf{r}_i\|^2 \leq 4K \log n$ . Thus, w.p.  $1 - 4n^{-1}d^{-2}$ ,

$$\|G_i\|_{op} \leq 4 \times 12^{3/2} \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^3 \log^3(n) (4K)^{3/2}$$

Define  $m := c_6 \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^3 K^{3/2} \log^3(n)$  for constant  $c_6 = 4 \times (48)^{3/2}$ , and the event

$$\mathcal{E}_i := \{\|G_i\|_{op} \leq m\}$$

Then  $\mathbb{P}[\mathcal{E}_i^c] \leq 4n^{-1}d^{-2}$ . Define a new tensor  $B_i = \mathbf{1}(\mathcal{E}_i)G_i$ , its expectation  $B = \mathbb{E}[B_i]$  (the expectation is over all samples from the  $k$ -th components) and its empirical average  $\hat{B} = \frac{1}{|S_k|} \sum_{i \in S_k} B_i$ .

**Step 1.** So we have  $B_i = G_i$  for all  $i \in S_k$  w.p.  $1 - 4d^{-2}$ , i.e.,

$$\hat{R}_3^{(k)} = \hat{B} \quad (76)$$

**Step 2.** We bound  $\|B - R_3^{(k)}\|_{op}$

$$\begin{aligned} \|B - R_3^{(k)}\|_{op} &= \|\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{1}(\mathcal{E}_i^c)G_i]\|_{op} \\ &= \max_{\|\mathbf{a}\|=1} |\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{1}(\mathcal{E}_i^c)G_i(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{a})]| \\ &\leq \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{1}(\mathcal{E}_i^c)]^{1/2} \max_{\|\mathbf{a}\|=1} |\mathbb{E}[G_i(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{a})^2]|^{1/2} \\ &\leq 2n^{-1/2}d^{-1} \max_{\|\mathbf{a}\|=1} |\mathbb{E}[(y_i^3((\mathbf{r}_i^T \mathbf{a})^3 - 3\mathbf{r}_i^T \mathbf{a}))^2]|^{1/2} \\ &\leq 2n^{-1/2}d^{-1} \max_{\|\mathbf{a}\|=1} |\mathbb{E}[(\mathbf{w}_k^{*T} \mathbf{x}_i)^6 ((\mathbf{x}_i^T Y \mathbf{a})^6 + 9(\mathbf{x}_i^T Y \mathbf{a})^2)]|^{1/2} \\ &\leq 2n^{-1/2}d^{-1} \sqrt{2C_5} \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^3 \\ &\stackrel{\xi}{\leq} 3\sqrt{C_5} n^{-1/2} d^{-1} \|R_3^{(k)}\|_{op}, \end{aligned} \quad (77)$$

where  $\xi$  is due to Eq. (74). Therefore, if  $3\sqrt{C_5} n^{-1/2} d^{-1} \leq \frac{\delta_3}{4}$ , we have

$$\|B - R_3^{(k)}\|_{op} \leq \frac{3\delta_3}{8} \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^3 \leq \frac{\delta_3}{2} \|R_3^{(k)}\|_{op} \quad (78)$$

And further if  $\delta_3 \leq 1$ , combining Eq. (74),

$$\frac{3}{8} \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^3 \leq \frac{1}{2} \|R_3^{(k)}\|_{op} \leq \|B\|_{op} \leq \frac{3}{2} \|R_3^{(k)}\|_{op} \leq 32 \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^3$$

**Step 3.** We bound  $\|\hat{B} - B\|_{op}$ . Let  $Z_i = (B_i - B)_{(1)}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \|B_{(1)}\| &\leq \max_{\|\mathbf{a}\|=1} \|B_{(1)} \mathbf{a}\| \\ &= \max_{\|\mathbf{a}\|=1} \|B(\mathbf{a}, I, I)\|_F \\ &\leq \max_{\|\mathbf{a}\|=1} K \|B(\mathbf{a}, I, I)\| \\ &\leq \max_{\|\mathbf{a}\|=1} \max_{\|\mathbf{b}\|=1} \sqrt{K} |B(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{b})| \\ &\stackrel{\xi}{\leq} \sqrt{K} \|B\|_{op} \\ &\leq 32\sqrt{K} \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^3 \end{aligned} \quad (79)$$

where  $\xi$  is due to Lemma 8.

$$\|Z_i\| \leq \|B_{i(1)}\| + \|B_{(1)}\| \leq \sqrt{K}(\|B_i\|_{op} + \|B\|_{op}) \leq 2\sqrt{K}m$$

Now consider  $\|\mathbb{E}[Z_i Z_i^T]\|$  and  $\|\mathbb{E}[Z_i^T Z_i]\|$ .

$$\mathbb{E}[Z_i Z_i^T] = \mathbb{E}[(B_{i(1)} - B_{(1)})(B_{i(1)} - B_{(1)})^T] = \mathbb{E}[B_{i(1)} B_{i(1)}^T] - B_{(1)} B_{(1)}^T$$

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathbb{E}[B_{i(1)} B_{i(1)}^T]\| &\leq \|\mathbb{E}[G_{i(1)} G_{i(1)}^T]\| \\ &\leq \|\mathbb{E}[(\mathbf{w}_k^{*T} \mathbf{x})^6 (\|\mathbf{r}\|^4 \mathbf{r} \mathbf{r}^T + 2\|\mathbf{r}\|^2 I + (K+6) \mathbf{r} \mathbf{r}^T - 6\|\mathbf{r}\|^2 \mathbf{r} \mathbf{r}^T)]\| \\ &\leq \|\mathbb{E}[(\mathbf{w}_k^{*T} \mathbf{x})^6 (\|Y^T \mathbf{x}\|^4 Y^T \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}^T Y + 2\|Y^T \mathbf{x}\|^2 I + (K+6) Y^T \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}^T Y)]\| \\ &\leq 2C_5 K^2 \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^6, \end{aligned} \tag{80}$$

where the last inequality is due to Lemma 3. Thus

$$\|\mathbb{E}[Z_i Z_i^T]\| \leq 3C_5 K^2 \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^6$$

Similarly  $\mathbb{E}[Z_i^T Z_i] = \mathbb{E}[B_{i(1)}^T B_{i(1)}] - B_{(1)}^T B_{(1)}$  and  $\|B_{(1)}^T B_{(1)}\| \leq \|B_{(1)}\|^2$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathbb{E}[B_{i(1)}^T B_{i(1)}]\| &\leq \|\mathbb{E}[G_{i(1)}^T G_{i(1)}]\| \\ &\leq \max_{\|A\|_F=1, A \text{ sym.}} \mathbb{E}[\mathcal{Y}_i^6 \|\mathbf{r}^T A \mathbf{r} \mathbf{r} - (2A \mathbf{r} + \text{tr}(A) \mathbf{r})\|^2] \\ &\leq \max_{\|A\|_F=1, A \text{ sym.}} \mathbb{E}[(\mathbf{w}_k^{*T} \mathbf{x})^6 ((\mathbf{r}^T A \mathbf{r})^2 \|\mathbf{r}\|^2 + 4\mathbf{r}^T A^2 \mathbf{r} + \text{tr}^2(A) \|\mathbf{r}\|^2 + |\text{tr}(A) \mathbf{r}^T A \mathbf{r}| (4 + 2\|\mathbf{r}\|^2))] \\ &\leq \max_{\|A\|_F=1, A \text{ sym.}} \mathbb{E}[(\mathbf{w}_k^{*T} \mathbf{x})^6 (\|\mathbf{r}\|^6 \|A\|_F^2 + 4\|\mathbf{r}\|^2 \text{tr}(A^2) + \text{tr}^2(A) \|\mathbf{r}\|^2 + (4 + 2\|\mathbf{r}\|^2) \|\mathbf{r}\|^2 |\text{tr}(A)| \|A\|_F)] \\ &\leq \mathbb{E}[(\mathbf{w}_k^{*T} \mathbf{x})^6 (\|\mathbf{r}\|^6 + 4\|\mathbf{r}\|^2 + K\|\mathbf{r}\|^2 + \sqrt{K}(4 + 2\|\mathbf{r}\|^2) \|\mathbf{r}\|^2)] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[(\mathbf{w}_k^{*T} \mathbf{x})^6 (\|Y^T \mathbf{x}\|^6 + 2\sqrt{K} \|Y^T \mathbf{x}\|^4 + 4(\sqrt{K} + 1) \|Y^T \mathbf{x}\|^2 + K \|Y^T \mathbf{x}\|^2)] \\ &\leq 2C_5 K^3 \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^6 \end{aligned} \tag{81}$$

Therefore,

$$\|\mathbb{E}[Z_i^T Z_i]\| \leq 3C_5 K^3 \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^6,$$

and

$$\max\{\|\mathbb{E}[Z_i^T Z_i]\|, \|\mathbb{E}[Z_i Z_i^T]\|\} \leq 3C_5 K^3 \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^6 \leq c_{m2} K^{3/2} m \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^3$$

Now we are ready to apply matrix Bernstein's inequality.

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\frac{1}{|S_k|} \left\| \sum_{i \in S_k} Z_i \right\| \geq t\right] \leq 2K^2 \exp\left(-\frac{|S_k| t^2 / 2}{c_{m2} K^{3/2} m \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^3 + 2\sqrt{K} m t / 3}\right) \tag{82}$$

Setting  $t = \delta_3 \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^3$ , we have when

$$|S_k| \geq \hat{c}_3 \frac{1}{\delta_3^2} K^3 \log^3(n) \log(d) \tag{83}$$

w.p.  $1 - d^{-2}$ ,

$$\|\hat{B} - B\|_{op} \leq \left\| \frac{1}{|S_k|} \sum_{i \in S_k} Z_i \right\| \leq \delta_3 \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^3, \tag{84}$$

for some universal constant  $\hat{c}_3$ . And there exists some constant  $c_3$ , such that  $|S_k| \geq \hat{c}_3 \frac{1}{\delta_3^2} K^3 \log^4(d)$  will imply (83). **Step 4.** Combing all the  $K$  components. With above three steps for  $k$ -th component, i.e., Eq. (76), Eq. (78) and Eq. (84), w.h.p., we have

$$\|\hat{R}_3^{(k)} - R_3^{(k)}\|_{op} \leq \delta_3 \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^3$$

Now we can complete the proof by combing all the  $K$  components, w.p.  $1 - O(Kd^{-2})$

$$\|\hat{R}_3 - R_3\|_{op} \leq \sum_{k \in [K]} p_k \|\hat{R}_3^{(k)} - R_3^{(k)}\|_{op} \leq \delta_3 \sum_{k \in [K]} p_k \|\mathbf{w}_k^*\|^3 \quad (85)$$

□

#### B.4.5 Proof of Lemma 12

*Proof.* Most part of the proof follows the proof of Lemma 4 in [7]. Let  $\hat{W}^T R_2 \hat{W} = U \Lambda U^T$ . Define  $W := \hat{W} U \Lambda^{-1/2} U^T$ , then  $W$  is the whitening matrix of  $R_2$ , i.e.,  $W^T R_2 W = I$ . Define the whitened tensor  $T = R_3(W, W, W)$ , i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned} T &:= \sum_{k=1}^K p_k W^T \mathbf{u}_k \otimes W^T \mathbf{u}_k \otimes W^T \mathbf{u}_k \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^K p_k^{-1/2} (p_k^{1/2} W^T \mathbf{u}_k) \otimes (p_k^{1/2} W^T \mathbf{u}_k) \otimes (p_k^{1/2} W^T \mathbf{u}_k) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^K p_k^{-1/2} \mathbf{v}_k \otimes \mathbf{v}_k \otimes \mathbf{v}_k, \end{aligned} \quad (86)$$

where  $\{\mathbf{v}_k := p_k^{1/2} W^T \mathbf{u}_k\}_{k=1}^K$  are orthogonal basis because  $\sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{v}_k \mathbf{v}_k^T = W^T R_2 W = I_K$ . In practice, we have  $\hat{T} := \hat{M}_3(\hat{W}, \hat{W}, \hat{W})$ , an estimation of  $T$ . Define  $\epsilon_T := \|\hat{T} - T\|_{op}$ . Similar to the proof of Lemma 4 in [7], we have

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon_T &= \|R_3(W, W, W) - \hat{R}_3(\hat{W}, \hat{W}, \hat{W})\|_{op} \\ &\leq \|R_3(W, W, W) - R_3(W, W, \hat{W})\|_{op} + \|R_3(W, W, \hat{W}) - R_3(W, \hat{W}, \hat{W})\|_{op} \\ &\quad + \|R_3(W, \hat{W}, \hat{W}) - R_3(\hat{W}, \hat{W}, \hat{W})\|_{op} + \|\hat{R}_3(\hat{W}, \hat{W}, \hat{W}) - \hat{R}_3(\hat{W}, \hat{W}, \hat{W})\|_{op} \\ &= \|R_3(W, W, W - \hat{W})\|_{op} + \|R_3(W, W - \hat{W}, \hat{W})\|_{op} \\ &\quad + \|R_3(W - \hat{W}, \hat{W}, \hat{W})\|_{op} + \|R_3(\hat{W}, \hat{W}, \hat{W}) - \hat{R}_3(\hat{W}, \hat{W}, \hat{W})\|_{op} \\ &\leq \|R_3\|_{op} (\|W\|^2 + \|W\| \|\hat{W}\| + \|\hat{W}\|^2) \epsilon_W + \|\hat{W}\|^3 \epsilon_3 \end{aligned} \quad (87)$$

where  $\epsilon_W = \|\hat{W} - W\|$ .

If  $\epsilon_2 \leq \sigma_K/3$ , we have  $|\sigma_K(\hat{R}_2) - \sigma_K| \leq \epsilon_2 \leq \sigma_K/3$ . Then  $\frac{2}{3}\sigma_K \leq \sigma_K(\hat{R}_2) \leq \frac{4}{3}\sigma_K$  and  $\|\hat{W}\| \leq \sqrt{2}\sigma_K^{-1/2}$ .

$$\epsilon_W = \|\hat{W} - W\| = \|\hat{W}(I - U \Lambda^{-1/2} U^T)\| \leq \|\hat{W}\| \|I - \Lambda^{-1/2}\| \quad (88)$$

Since we have  $\|I - \Lambda\| = \|\hat{W}^T R_2 \hat{W} - \hat{W}^T \hat{R}_2 \hat{W}\| \leq \|\hat{W}\|^2 \epsilon_2 = 2\sigma_K^{-1} \epsilon_2$ . Thus

$$\|I - \Lambda^{-1/2}\| \leq \max\{|1 - (1 + 2\epsilon_2/\sigma_K)^{-1/2}|, |1 - (1 - 2\epsilon_2/\sigma_K)^{-1/2}|\} \leq \epsilon_2/\sigma_K$$

Therefore,

$$\epsilon_W \leq \sqrt{2}\epsilon_2 \sigma_K^{-3/2} \quad (89)$$

Now we have

$$\epsilon_T \leq 8\|R_3\|_{op} \sigma_K^{-5/2} \epsilon_2 + 2\sqrt{2}\sigma_K^{-3/2} \epsilon_3 \quad (90)$$

Thus we can apply Theorem 5.1 [2] to show the guarantees of the robust tensor power method to recover  $\{\mathbf{v}_k\}_{k=1}^K$  and  $\{p_k\}_{k=1}^K$ . It can be stated as below, for some universal constant  $c_T$  and a small

value  $\eta$  (the computational complexity is related to  $\eta$  by  $O(\log(1/\eta))$ ), if  $\epsilon_T \leq c_T \frac{1}{K\sqrt{p_{max}}}$ , w.p.  $1 - \eta$  the returned eigenvectors  $\{\hat{\mathbf{v}}_k\}_{k=1}^K$  and eigenvalues  $\{\hat{a}_k\}_{k=1}^K$  satisfy

$$\|\hat{\mathbf{v}}_k - \mathbf{v}_k\| \leq 8\epsilon_T \sqrt{p_k} \leq 8\epsilon_T \sqrt{p_{max}}, \quad |\hat{a}_k - \frac{1}{\sqrt{p_k}}| \leq 5\epsilon_T \quad (91)$$

Let  $a_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{p_k}}$ . Now we show

$$\begin{aligned} \|(\hat{W}^T)^\dagger(\hat{a}_k \hat{\mathbf{v}}_k) - \mathbf{u}_k\| &= \|(\hat{W}^T)^\dagger(\hat{a}_k \hat{\mathbf{v}}_k) - W^\dagger a_k \mathbf{v}_k\| \\ &\leq \|(\hat{W}^T)^\dagger(\hat{a}_k \hat{\mathbf{v}}_k) - (\hat{W}^T)^\dagger(a_k \mathbf{v}_k)\| + \|(\hat{W}^T)^\dagger(a_k \mathbf{v}_k) - (W^T)^\dagger a_k \mathbf{v}_k\| \\ &\leq \|(\hat{W}^T)^\dagger\|(\|\hat{a}_k \hat{\mathbf{v}}_k - \hat{a}_k \mathbf{v}_k\| + \|\hat{a}_k \mathbf{v}_k - a_k \mathbf{v}_k\|) + \|(\hat{W}^T)^\dagger - (W^T)^\dagger\| \|a_k \mathbf{v}_k\| \\ &\leq \|(\hat{W}^T)^\dagger\|(\hat{a}_k 8\epsilon_T / a_k + 5\epsilon_T) + \|(\hat{W}^T)^\dagger - (W^T)^\dagger\| a_k \end{aligned} \quad (92)$$

If  $\epsilon_T \leq \frac{1}{10\sqrt{p_{max}}}$ , we have  $\hat{a}_k / a_k \leq 3/2$ . If  $\epsilon_2 \leq \sigma_K / 3$ ,

$$\|(\hat{W}^T)^\dagger\| = \|\hat{\Lambda}_2\|^{1/2} \leq \sqrt{2} \|R_2\|^{1/2} \quad (93)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \|(\hat{W}^T)^\dagger - (W^T)^\dagger\| &= \|(\hat{W}^T)^\dagger(I - U\Lambda^{1/2}U^T)\| \\ &= \|(\hat{W}^T)^\dagger\| \|I - \Lambda^{1/2}\| \\ &\leq 2\sqrt{2} \|R_2\|^{1/2} \epsilon_2 / \sigma_K \end{aligned} \quad (94)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \|(\hat{W}^T)^\dagger(\hat{a}_k \hat{\mathbf{v}}_k) - \mathbf{u}_k\| &\leq \|R_2\|^{1/2} (25\epsilon_T + 3\epsilon_2 / \sigma_K) \\ &\leq (3\|R_2\|^{1/2} \sigma_K^{-1} + 200\|R_2\|^{1/2} \|R_3\|_{op} \sigma_K^{-5/2}) \epsilon_2 + (75\|R_2\|^{1/2} \sigma_K^{-3/2}) \epsilon_3 \end{aligned} \quad (95)$$

□

## C Proofs of Subspace Clustering

### C.1 Some Properties of the Distance between Subspaces

According to [16],  $D(U, V) = \sqrt{r - \|U^T V\|_F^2} = \sqrt{\text{tr}(I_r - U^T V V^T U)} = \|U_\perp^T V\|_F = \|V_\perp^T U\|_F$ . We briefly give the proof.

$$\|UU^T - VV^T\|_F^2 = \|(I - VV^T)UU^T - VV^T(I - UU^T)\|_F^2$$

Since  $(I - VV^T)UU^T(VV^T(I - UU^T))^T = 0$  and  $(VV^T(I - UU^T))^T(I - VV^T)UU^T = 0$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\|(I - VV^T)UU^T - VV^T(I - UU^T)\|_F^2 \\ &= \|(I - VV^T)UU^T\|_F^2 + \|VV^T(I - UU^T)\|_F^2 \\ &= 2\text{tr}(VV^T - V^T UU^T V) \\ &= 2(r - \|V^T U\|_F^2) \end{aligned} \quad (96)$$

By the property of Frobenius norm we see  $D(\cdot, \cdot)$  is a metric, so we can use triangular inequality. We will also use the following inequality, which is due to the dual property of matrices, ref. Lemma 3.2 in [5]. Let  $A, B$  be two matrices.

$$\begin{aligned} \|AB\|_F &= \langle AB, AB \rangle^{1/2} \\ &= \langle BB^T, A^T A \rangle^{1/2} \\ &\leq \|BB^T\|^{1/2} \|A^T A\|_*^{1/2} \\ &= \|B\| \|A\|_F \end{aligned} \quad (97)$$

Similarly, we also have  $\|AB\|_F \leq \|A\| \|B\|_F$ .

## C.2 Proof of Theorem 5

*Proof.* For simplicity, we use  $U_j$  to denote  $U_j^t$  for  $j \in [K]$ . Consider fixing  $\{U_k\}_{k \neq j}$  and updating  $U_j$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{U}_j &= \sum_{i=1}^N (\Pi_{k \neq j} \langle I_d - U_k U_k^T, \mathbf{z}_i \mathbf{z}_i^T \rangle) \mathbf{z}_i \mathbf{z}_i^T U_j \\ &= \sum_{q=1}^K \sum_{i \in \Omega_q^{(t)}} (\Pi_{k \neq j} \langle I_d - U_k U_k^T, U_q^* \mathbf{s}_i \mathbf{s}_i^T U_q^{*T} \rangle) U_q^* \mathbf{s}_i \mathbf{s}_i^T U_q^{*T} U_j \\ &= \sum_{q=1}^K U_q^* \sum_{i \in \Omega_q^{(t)}} (\Pi_{k \neq j} \langle I_r - U_q^{*T} U_k U_k^T U_q^*, \mathbf{s}_i \mathbf{s}_i^T \rangle) \mathbf{s}_i \mathbf{s}_i^T U_q^{*T} U_j\end{aligned}\tag{98}$$

where  $\Omega_q^{(t)}$  is the set of data points belongs to  $q$ -th subspace in  $t$ -th iteration.

Define

$$B_{jq} := \mathbb{E} [\Pi_{k \neq j} (\mathbf{s}^T (I_r - U_q^{*T} U_k U_k^T U_q^*) \mathbf{s}) \mathbf{s} \mathbf{s}^T] \tag{99}$$

$$\hat{B}_{jq} := \frac{1}{|\Omega_q^{(t)}|} \sum_{i \in \Omega_q^{(t)}} \Pi_{k \neq j} (\mathbf{s}_i^T (I_r - U_q^{*T} U_k U_k^T U_q^*) \mathbf{s}_i) \mathbf{s}_i \mathbf{s}_i^T \tag{100}$$

According to Lemma 3, we have

$$\Pi_{k \neq j} \text{tr} (I_r - U_q^{*T} U_k U_k^T U_q^*) I \preceq B_{jq} \preceq C_{K-1} \Pi_{k \neq j} \text{tr} (I_r - U_q^{*T} U_k U_k^T U_q^*) I \tag{101}$$

Note that  $\text{tr} (I_r - U_q^{*T} U_k U_k^T U_q^*) = D(U_q^*, U_k)^2$ . We have

$$\Pi_{k \neq j} D(U_q^*, U_k)^2 I \preceq B_{jq} \preceq C_{K-1} \Pi_{k \neq j} D(U_q^*, U_k)^2 I \tag{102}$$

If the conditions about  $n$  and  $r$  in Theorem 5 are satisfied, because of Lemma 4 with  $\delta = \frac{1}{2C_{K-1}}$ , we have, w.p.  $1 - O(Kr^{-2})$ ,

$$\|B_{jq} - \hat{B}_{jq}\| \leq \frac{1}{2C_{K-1}} \|B_{jq}\| \leq \frac{1}{2} \Pi_{k \neq j} \text{tr} (I_r - U_q^{*T} U_k U_k^T U_q^*) \leq \frac{1}{2} \sigma_{\min}(B_{jq})$$

Therefore,

$$\frac{1}{2} \Pi_{k \neq j} \text{tr} (I_r - U_q^{*T} U_k U_k^T U_q^*) I \preceq \hat{B}_{jq} \preceq (C_{K-1} + 1) \Pi_{k \neq j} \text{tr} (I_r - U_q^{*T} U_k U_k^T U_q^*) I \tag{103}$$

Given the condition,  $D(U_k^*, U_k) \leq c_s \min_{q \neq j} \{D(U_q^*, U_j^*)\}$ , we have for  $q \neq k$

$$D(U_q^*, U_k)^2 \leq (D(U_q^*, U_k^*) + D(U_k^*, U_k))^2 \leq (1 + c_s)^2 D(U_q^*, U_k^*)^2$$

Similarly,

$$D(U_q^*, U_k)^2 \geq (1 - c_s)^2 D(U_q^*, U_k^*)^2$$

Therefore, for  $j \neq q$

$$\|\hat{B}_{jq}\| \leq (C_{K-1} + 1) (\Pi_{k: k \neq j, k \neq q} (1 + c_s)^2 D(U_q^*, U_k^*)^2) D(U_q^*, U_q)^2 \tag{104}$$

For  $j = q$

$$\sigma_{\min}(\hat{B}_{jj}) \geq \frac{1}{2} \Pi_{k: k \neq j} (1 - c_s)^2 D(U_j^*, U_k^*)^2 \tag{105}$$

Shown in Eq. (98),  $\bar{U}_j = \sum_{q=1}^K U_q^* p_q \hat{B}_{jq} U_q^{*T} U_j$ . Let  $[U_j^+, \bar{R}_j] := \text{QR}(\bar{U}_j)$

$$\begin{aligned}
& D(U_j^+, U_j^*) \\
&= \|U_{j\perp}^{*T} \bar{U}_j \bar{R}_j^{-1}\|_F \\
&\leq \|U_{j\perp}^{*T} \bar{U}_j\|_F \|\bar{R}_j^{-1}\| \\
&= \|U_{j\perp}^{*T} \sum_{q=1}^K U_q^* p_q \hat{B}_{jq} U_q^{*T} U_j\|_F \|\bar{R}_j^{-1}\| \\
&\leq \left( \sum_{q \neq j} p_q \|U_{j\perp}^{*T} U_q^*\|_F \|\hat{B}_{jq}\| \|U_q^{*T} U_j\| \right) \|\bar{R}_j^{-1}\| \\
&\leq \left( \sum_{q \neq j} p_q \|U_{j\perp}^{*T} U_q^*\|_F \|\hat{B}_{jq}\| \right) \|\bar{R}_j^{-1}\| \\
&\leq (C_{K-1} + 1) \left( \sum_{q \neq j} p_q D(U_j^*, U_q^*) \left( (1 + c_s)^{2(K-2)} \Pi_{k:k \neq j, k \neq q} D(U_q^*, U_k^*)^2 \right) D(U_q^*, U_q)^2 \right) \|\bar{R}_j^{-1}\| \\
&\leq (C_{K-1} + 1) (1 + c_s)^{2(K-2)} \left( \sum_{q \neq j} p_q D(U_j^*, U_q^*) \left( \Pi_{k:k \neq j, k \neq q} D(U_q^*, U_k^*)^2 \right) D(U_q^*, U_q)^2 \right) \|\bar{R}_j^{-1}\| \\
&\leq (C_{K-1} + 1) (1 + c_s)^{2(K-2)} p_{\max} (K-1) D_{\max}^{2K-3} D(U_q^*, U_q)^2 \|\bar{R}_j^{-1}\|
\end{aligned} \tag{106}$$

Now we show,

$$\begin{aligned}
\|\bar{R}_j^{-1}\| &\leq \sigma_{\min}^{-1}(\bar{R}_j) = \sigma_{\min}^{-1}(\bar{U}_j) \leq (p_j \sigma_{\min}(\hat{B}_{jj}))^{-1} \\
&\leq \left( (p_j/2) \Pi_{k:k \neq j} (1 - c_s)^2 D(U_j^*, U_k^*)^2 \right)^{-1} \\
&\leq \frac{2}{p_{\min} (1 - c_s)^{2K-2} D_{\min}^{2K-2}}
\end{aligned} \tag{107}$$

Combing Eq.(106), Eq. (107) and the condition on  $c_s$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
D(U_j^+, U_j^*) &\leq 2(C_{K-1} + 1) (K-1) (1 + c_s)^{2(K-2)} (1 - c_s)^{-2(K-1)} \frac{p_{\max} D_{\max}^{2K-3}}{p_{\min} D_{\min}^{2K-2}} D(U_q^*, U_q)^2 \\
&\leq \frac{1}{2c_s D_{\min}} \Delta_t^2
\end{aligned} \tag{108}$$

Using the initialization condition, we can easily obtain  $\frac{\Delta_t}{2c_s D_{\min}} \leq \frac{1}{2}$  by induction. Also, the condition,  $D(U_j^+, U_j^*) \leq c_s D_{\min}$ , still holds after each update. So we have super-linear convergence rate.  $\square$

## D More Experimental Results

In Fig. 2, we show that, to achieve an initial error  $\epsilon^{(0)} = c$  for some constant  $c < 1$ , our tensor method only requires  $N$  to be proportional to  $d$ . Note that the naive initialization methods, random initialization (using normal distribution) or all-zero initialization, will lead to  $\epsilon^{(0)} \approx 1.4$  and  $\epsilon^{(0)} = 1$  respectively.

In Fig. 3 we compare our methods with EM in terms of iterations. In Fig. 4 we compare EM and our methods for larger  $K$ ,  $K = 6$ . Note that the per-iteration cost of MLR will be  $K$  times more than the per-iteration cost of EM. So when  $K$  is larger, MLR will be slower than EM.

In Fig. 5, we show the sample complexities for different methods. Our methods (MLR) have a better sample complexity than EM. And the tensor initialization outperforms random initialization significantly.

Fig. 6 shows whatever the ambient dimension  $d$  is, the clusters will be exactly recovered when  $N$  is proportional to  $r$  by a constant factor.

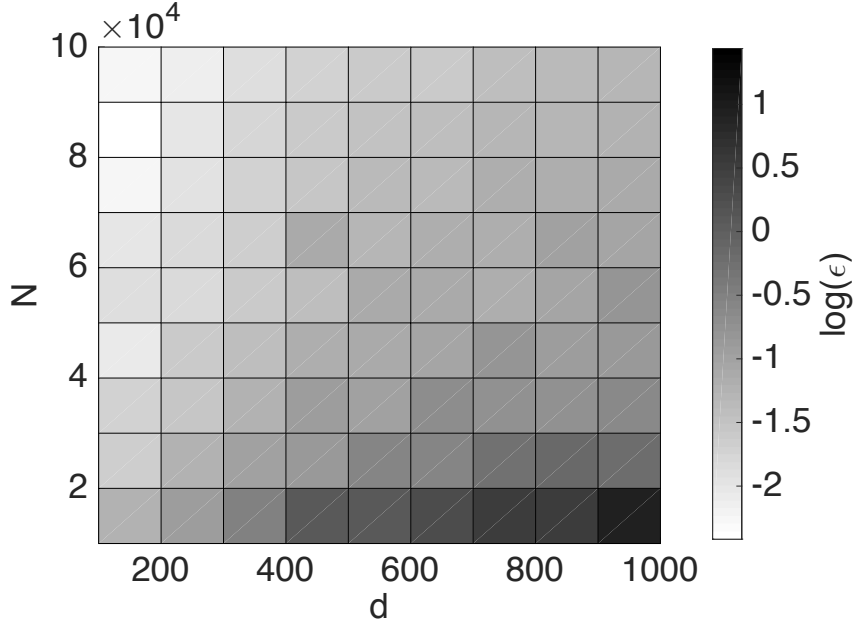


Figure 2: Initialization error for tensor method.

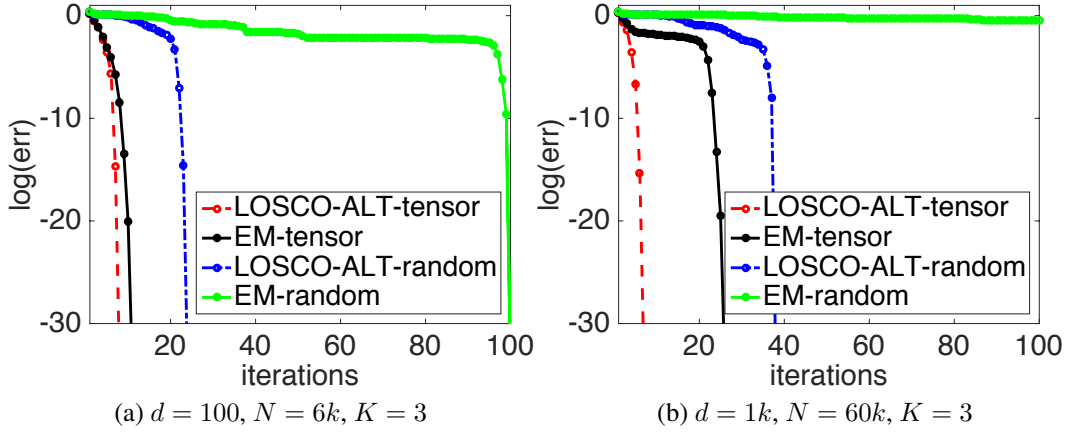


Figure 3: Comparison with EM in terms of iterations.

Table 2: Corresponding CE's for the results in Table 1

$N/K$	SSC	SSC-OMP	LRR	TSC	NSN+spectral	NSN+GSR	<b>PSC</b>
200	0	0.0190	0.0010	0.0650	0	0	0
400	0	0.0090	0.0015	0.0190	0	0	0
600	0	0.0027	0	0.0120	0	0	0
800	0	0.0027	0	0.0030	0	0	0
1000	0	0.0014	0	0.0022	0	0	0

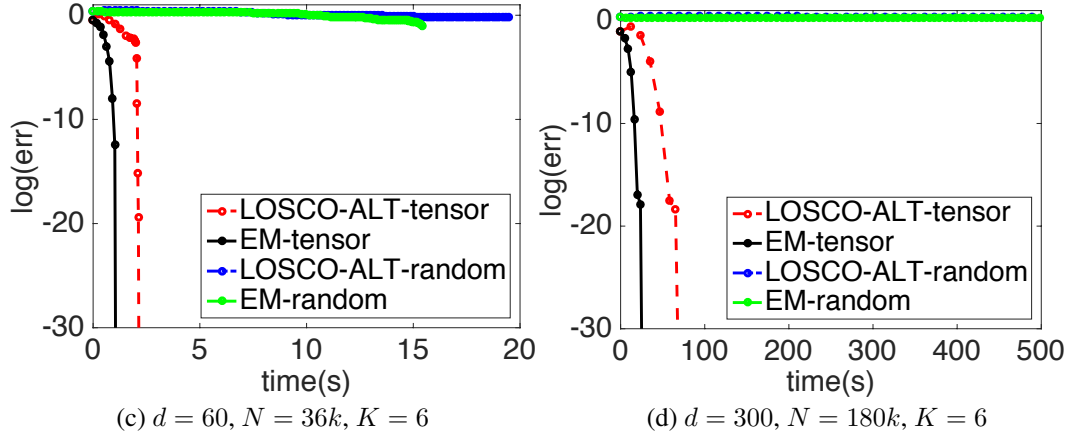


Figure 4: Comparison with EM for larger  $K$ ,  $K = 6$

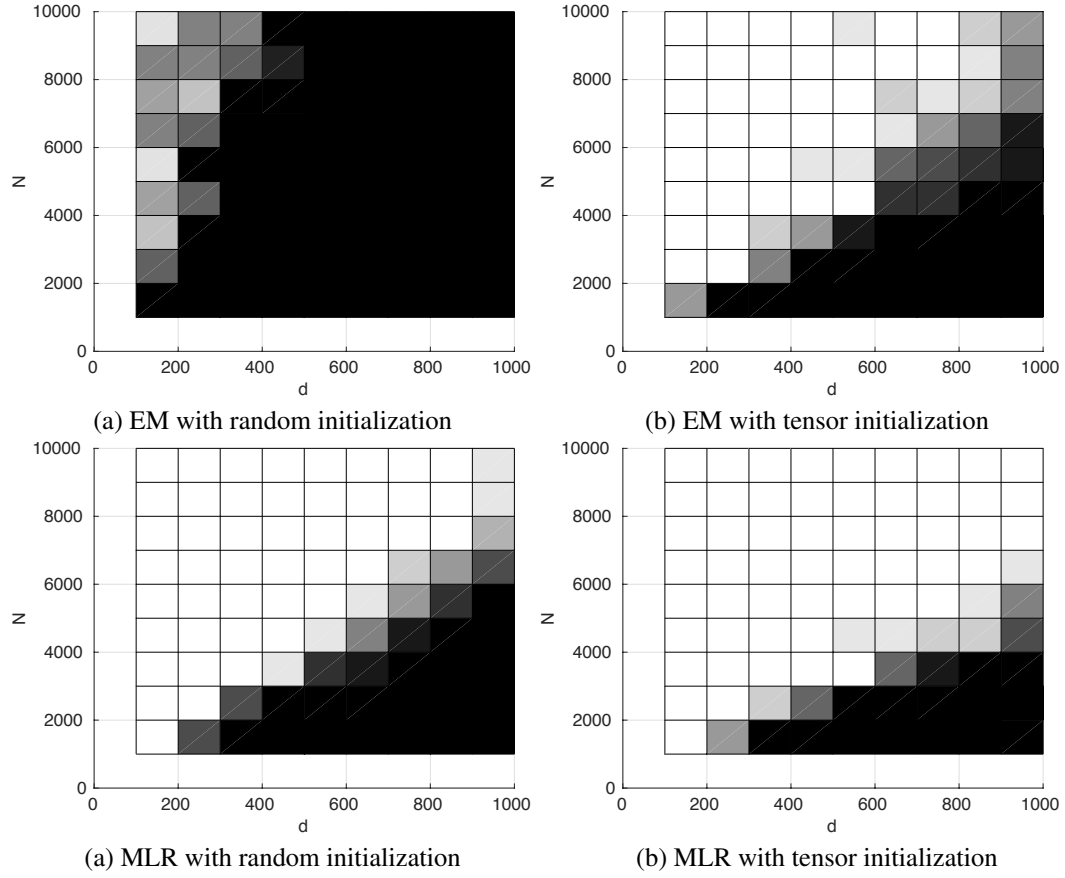


Figure 5: Sample complexities for different methods



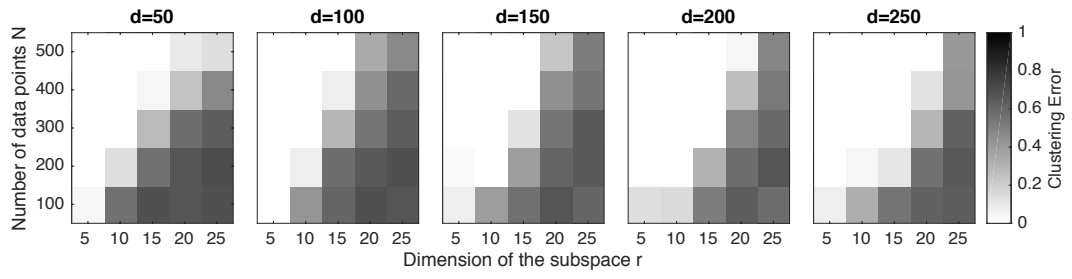


Figure 6: Subspace Clustering error for different  $N$ ,  $d$  and  $r$ .