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# Sharp oracle inequalities for high-dimensional matrix prediction

Stéphane Gaïffas<sup>1,3</sup> and Guillaume Lécué<sup>2,3</sup>

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## Abstract

We observe  $(X_i, Y_i)_{i=1}^n$  where the  $Y_i$ 's are real valued outputs and the  $X_i$ 's are  $m \times T$  matrices. We observe a new entry  $X$  and we want to predict the output  $Y$  associated with it. We focus on the high-dimensional setting, where  $mT \gg n$ . This includes the matrix completion problem with noise, as well as other problems. We consider linear prediction procedures based on different penalizations, involving a mixture of several norms: the nuclear norm, the Frobenius norm and the  $\ell_1$ -norm. For these procedures, we prove sharp oracle inequalities, using a statistical learning theory point of view. A surprising fact in our results is that the rates of convergence do not depend on  $m$  and  $T$  directly. The analysis is conducted without the usually considered incoherency condition on the unknown matrix or restricted isometry condition on the sampling operator. Moreover, our results are the first to give for this problem an analysis of penalization (such nuclear norm penalization) as a regularization algorithm: our oracle inequalities prove that these procedures have a prediction accuracy close to the deterministic oracle one, given that the regularization parameters are well-chosen.

*Keywords.* High-dimensional matrix ; Matrix completion ; Oracle inequalities ; Schatten norms ; Nuclear norm ; Empirical risk minimization ; Empirical process theory ; Sparsity

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 The model and some basic definitions

Let  $(X, Y)$  and  $D_n = (X_i, Y_i)_{i=1}^n$  be  $n + 1$  i.i.d random variables with values in  $\mathcal{M}_{m,T} \times \mathbb{R}$ , where  $\mathcal{M}_{m,T}$  is the set of matrices with  $m$  rows and  $T$  columns with

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entries in  $\mathbb{R}$ . Based on the observations  $D_n$ , we have in mind to predict the real-valued output  $Y$  by a linear transform of the input variable  $X$ . We focus on the high-dimensional setting, where  $mT \gg n$ . We use a “statistical learning theory point of view”: we do not assume that  $\mathbb{E}(Y|X)$  has a particular structure, such as  $\mathbb{E}(Y|X) = \langle X, A_0 \rangle$  for some  $A_0 \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T}$ , where  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  is the standard Euclidean inner product given for any  $A, B \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T}$  by

$$\langle A, B \rangle := \text{tr}(A^\top B). \quad (1)$$

The statistical performance of a linear predictor  $\langle X, A \rangle$  for some  $A \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T}$  is measured by the quadratic risk

$$R(A) := \mathbb{E}[(Y - \langle X, A \rangle)^2]. \quad (2)$$

If  $\hat{A}_n \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T}$  is a statistic constructed from the observations  $D_n$ , then its risk is given by the conditional expectation

$$R(\hat{A}_n) := \mathbb{E}[(Y - \langle X, \hat{A}_n \rangle)^2 | D_n].$$

A natural candidate for the prediction of  $Y$  using  $D_n$  is the *empirical risk minimization procedure*, namely any element in  $\mathcal{M}_{m,T}$  minimizing the empirical risk  $R_n(\cdot)$  defined for all  $A \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T}$  by

$$R_n(A) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \langle X_i, A \rangle)^2.$$

It is well-known that the excess risk of this procedure is of order  $mT/n$ . In the high dimensional setting, this rate is not going to zero. So, if  $X \mapsto \langle A_0, X \rangle$  is the best linear prediction of  $Y$  by  $X$ , we need to know more about  $A_0$  in order to construct algorithms with a small risk. In particular, we need to know that  $A_0$  has a “low-dimensional structure”. In this setup, this is usually done by assuming that  $A_0$  is low rank. A first idea is then to minimize  $R_n$  and to penalize matrices with a large rank. Namely, one can consider

$$\hat{A}_n \in \underset{A \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T}}{\text{argmin}} \{R_n(A) + \lambda \text{rank}(A)\}, \quad (3)$$

for some regularization parameter  $\lambda > 0$ . But  $A \mapsto \text{rank}(A)$  is far from being a convex function, thus minimizing (3) is very difficult in practice, see [18] for instance on this problem. Convex relaxation of (3) leads to the following convex minimization problem

$$\hat{A}_n \in \underset{A \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T}}{\text{argmin}} \{R_n(A) + \lambda \|A\|_{S_1}\}, \quad (4)$$

where  $\|\cdot\|_{S_1}$  is the 1-Schatten norm, also known as *nuclear norm* or *trace norm*. This comes from the fact that the nuclear norm is the convex envelope of the rank

on the unit ball of the spectral norm, see [17]. For any matrix  $A \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T}$ , we denote by  $s_1(A), \dots, s_{\text{rank}(A)}(A)$  its nonincreasing sequence of singular values. For every  $p \in [1, \infty]$ , the  $p$ -Schatten norm of  $A$  is given by

$$\|A\|_{S_p} := \left( \sum_{j=1}^{\text{rank}(A)} s_j(A)^p \right)^{1/p}. \quad (5)$$

In particular, the  $\|\cdot\|_{S_\infty}$ -norm is the *operator norm* or *spectral norm*. The  $\|\cdot\|_{S_2}$ -norm is the *Frobenius norm*, which satisfies

$$\|A\|_{S_2}^2 = \sum_{i,j} A_{i,j}^2 = \langle A, A \rangle.$$

## 1.2 Motivations

A particular case of the matrix prediction problem described in Section 1.1 is the problem of (*noisy*) *matrix completion*, see [39, 40], which became very popular because of the buzz surrounding the Netflix prize<sup>1</sup>. In this problem, it is assumed that  $X$  is uniformly distributed over the set  $\{e_{p,q} : 1 \leq p \leq m, 1 \leq q \leq T\}$ , where  $e_{p,q} \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T}$  is such that  $(e_{p,q})_{i,j} = 0$  when  $i \neq q$  or  $j \neq p$  and  $(e_{p,q})_{p,q} = 1$ . If  $\mathbb{E}(Y|X) = \langle A_0, X \rangle$  for some  $A_0 \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T}$ , then the  $Y_i$  are  $n$  noisy observations of the entries of  $A_0$ , and the aim is to denoise the observed entries and to fill the non-observed ones.

*First motivation.* Quite surprisingly, for matrix completion without noise ( $Y_i = \langle X_i, A_0 \rangle$ ), it is proved in [13] and [14] (see also [20], [33]) that nuclear norm minimization is able, with a large probability (of order  $1 - (m \wedge T)^{-3}$ ) to recover *exactly*  $A_0$  when  $n > cr(m+T)(\log n)^6$ , where  $r$  is the rank of  $A_0$ . This result is proved under a so-called *incoherency* assumption on  $A_0$ . This assumption requires, roughly, that the left and right singular vectors of  $A_0$  are well-spread on the unit sphere. Using this incoherency assumption [12], [22] give results concerning the problem of matrix completion with noise. However, recalling that this assumption was introduced in order to prove *exact* completion, and since in the noisy case it is obvious that exact completion is impossible, a natural goal is then to obtain results for noisy matrix completion without the incoherency assumption. This is a first motivation of this work: we derive oracle inequalities without any assumption on  $A_0$ , not even that it is low-rank. More than that, we don't need to assume that  $\mathbb{E}(Y|X) = \langle X, A_0 \rangle$  for some  $A_0$ , since we use a statistical learning point-of-view in the statement of our results. More precisely, we construct procedures  $\hat{A}_n$  satisfying *sharp oracle inequalities* of the form

$$R(\hat{A}_n) \leq \inf_{A \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T}} \{R(A) + r_n(A)\} \quad (6)$$

that hold with a large probability, where  $r_n(A)$  is a *residue* related to the penalty used in the definition of  $\hat{A}_n$  that we want as small as possible. By “sharp” we mean

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.netflixprize.com/>

that in the right hand side of (6), the constant in front of the infimum of  $R(A)$  is equal to one. As shown below, considering the prediction problem (6) allows to remove assumptions which are usually mandatory for exact reconstruction, like the incoherency assumption.

A *surprising fact* in our results is that, for penalization procedures that involve the 1-Schatten norm (and also for penalizations involving other norms), the residue  $r_n(\cdot)$  does not depend on  $m$  and  $T$  directly: it only depends on the 1-Schatten norm of  $A_0$ , see Section 2 for details. This was not, as far as we know, previously noticed in literature (all the upper bounds obtained for  $\|\hat{A}_n - A_0\|_{S_2}^2$  depend directly on  $m$  and  $T$  and on  $\|A_0\|_{S_1}$  or on its rank and on  $\|A_0\|_{S_\infty}$ , see the references above and below). This fact points out an interesting difference between nuclear-norm penalization (also called ‘‘Matrix Lasso’’) and the Lasso for vectors. In [35], which is a work close to ours, upper bounds for  $p$ -Schatten penalization procedures for  $0 < p \leq 1$  are given in the same setting as ours, including in particular the matrix completion problem. The results are stated without the incoherency assumption for matrix completion. But for this problem, the upper bounds are given using the empirical norm  $\|\hat{A}_n - A_0\|_n^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \langle X_i, \hat{A}_n - A_0 \rangle^2 / n$  only. An upper bound using this empirical norm gives information only about the denoising part and not about the filling part of the matrix completion problem. Our results have the form (6), which entails when  $\mathbb{E}(Y|X) = \langle X, A_0 \rangle$  for some  $A_0 \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T}$  that

$$\mathbb{E}\langle X, \hat{A}_n - A_0 \rangle^2 \leq \inf_{A \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T}} \{ \mathbb{E}\langle X, A - A_0 \rangle^2 + r_n(A) \},$$

and taking  $A_0$  in the infimum leads to the upper bound

$$\mathbb{E}\langle X, \hat{A}_n - A_0 \rangle^2 \leq r_n(A_0).$$

Note that  $\mathbb{E}\langle X, \hat{A}_n - A_0 \rangle^2 = \|\hat{A}_n - A_0\|_{S_2}^2 / (mT)$  in the uniform matrix completion problem (see Example 1 below).

*Second motivation.* In the setting considered here, an assumption called *Restricted Isometry* (RI) on the sampling operator

$$\mathcal{L}_n(A) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} (\langle X_1, A \rangle, \dots, \langle X_n, A \rangle)$$

has been introduced in [34] and used in a series of papers, see [35], [11], [29, 30]. This assumption is the matrix version of the restricted isometry assumption for vectors introduced in [15]. Note that in the high-dimensional setting ( $mT \gg n$ ), this assumption is not satisfied in the matrix completion problem, see [35] for instance, which provides results with and without this assumption. The RI assumption is very restrictive and is, up to now, only satisfied by some special random matrices (cf. [37, 21, 28, 27] and references therein). However, after the submission of this paper was submitted a preprint [31] introducing the *Restricted Strong Convexity* (RSC) assumption, which is satisfied with a large probability even in the matrix completion

problem, on a restricted class of matrices with small “spikiness” (consisting of matrices such that the ratio between the  $\ell_\infty$  and  $S_2$  norms is small enough). A second motivation for this work is that our results do not require any RI or RSC assumption. Our assumptions on  $X$  are very mild, see Section 2, and are satisfied in the matrix completion problem, as well as other problems, such as the multi-task learning, see Section 2 below.

*Third motivation.* Our results are the first to give an analysis of nuclear-norm penalization (and of other penalizations as well, see below) as a regularization algorithm. Indeed, an oracle inequality of the form (6) proves that these penalization procedures have a prediction accuracy close to the deterministic oracle one, given that the regularization parameters are well-chosen.

*Fourth motivation.* We give oracle inequalities for penalization procedures involving a mixture of several norms:  $\|\cdot\|_{S_1}$ ,  $\|\cdot\|_{S_2}^2$  and the  $\ell_1$ -norm  $\|\cdot\|_1$ . Indeed, if  $\mathbb{E}(Y|X) = \langle X, A_0 \rangle$ , the matrix  $A_0$  may enjoy the following properties: low-rank, many zeros entries or well-spread eigenvalues. As far as we know, no result for penalization using several norms was previously given in literature for high-dimensional matrix prediction.

Procedures based on 1-Schatten norm penalization have been considered by many authors recently, with applications to multi-task learning and collaborative filtering. The first studies are probably the ones given in [39, 40], using the hinge loss for binary classification. In [6], it is proved, together with some other asymptotic results, that under some condition on the  $X_i$ , the nuclear norm penalization can consistently recover  $\text{rank}(A_0)$  when  $n \rightarrow +\infty$ . Let us recall also the references we mentioned above and close other ones [17, 34], [11, 10, 13, 12, 14], [23, 22], [35], [20], [33, 34], [29, 30], [4, 3, 5], [1], and let us cite also two very recent preprints [31], [24], which were submitted after this paper. A precise comparison with some of these references is given in Section 2.4 below.

### 1.3 The procedures studied in this work

If  $\mathbb{E}(Y|X) = \langle X, A_0 \rangle$  where  $A_0$  is low rank, in the sense that  $\text{rank}(A_0) \ll n$ , nuclear norm penalization (4) is likely to enjoy some good prediction performances. But, if we know more about the properties of  $A_0$ , then some additional penalization can be considered. For instance, if we know that the non-zero singular values of  $A_0$  are “well-spread” (that is almost equal) then it may be interesting to use the “regularization effect” of a penalty based on the  $S_2$  norm in the same spirit as a “ridge” penalty for vectors or functions. Moreover, if we know that many entries of  $A_0$  are close or equal to zero, then using also a  $\ell_1$ -penalization on the entries

$$A \mapsto \|A\|_1 = \sum_{\substack{1 \leq p \leq m \\ 1 \leq q \leq T}} |A_{p,q}| \quad (7)$$

may improve even further the prediction. As a consequence, we consider in this paper a penalization that uses a mixture of several norms: for  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3 > 0$ , we consider

$$\text{pen}_{\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3}(A) = \lambda_1 \|A\|_{S_1} + \lambda_2 \|A\|_{S_2}^2 + \lambda_3 \|A\|_1 \quad (8)$$

and we will study the prediction properties of

$$\hat{A}_n(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3) \in \underset{A \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T}}{\text{argmin}} \left\{ R_n(A) + \text{pen}_{\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3}(A) \right\}. \quad (9)$$

Of course, if more is known on the structure of  $A_0$ , other penalty functions can be considered.

We obtain sharp oracle inequalities for the procedure  $\hat{A}_n(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3)$  for any values of  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3 \geq 0$  (excepted for  $(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3) = (0, 0, 0)$  which provides the well-studied empirical risk minimization procedure). In particular, depending on the ‘‘a priori’’ knowledge that we have on  $A_0$  we will consider different values for the triple  $(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3)$ . If  $A_0$  is only known to be low-rank, one should choose  $\lambda_1 > 0$  and  $\lambda_2 = \lambda_3 = 0$ . If  $A_0$  is known to be low-rank with many zero entries, one should choose  $\lambda_1, \lambda_3 > 0$  and  $\lambda_2 = 0$ . If  $A_0$  is known to be low-rank with well-spread non-zero singular values, one should choose  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 > 0$  and  $\lambda_3 = 0$ . Finally, one should choose  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3 > 0$  when a significant part of the entries of  $A_0$  are zero, that  $A_0$  is low rank and that the non-zero singular values of  $A_0$  are well-spread.

**Remark 1.** *We propose in Section 2 below several oracle inequalities for procedures involving the low-rank inducing  $S_1$ -norm, and mixtures of it with the  $S_2$  and  $\ell_1$ -norms on the entries. These results guarantee the statistical performance of each of these procedures with mixed norm. However, the theory proposed here is too general to prove that one of the mixed penalizations improves upon the pure  $S_1$  penalization on some restricted class of matrix. Such results (that are of different nature) deserves another work, to be considered later on.*

## 2 Results

We will use the following notation: for a matrix  $A \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T}$ ,  $\text{vec}(A)$  denotes the vector of  $\mathbb{R}^{mT}$  obtained by stacking its columns into a single vector. Note that this is an isometry between  $(\mathcal{M}_{m,T}, \|\cdot\|_{S_2})$  and  $(\mathbb{R}^{mT}, |\cdot|_{\ell_2^{mT}})$  since  $\langle A, B \rangle = \langle \text{vec } A, \text{vec } B \rangle$ . We introduce also the  $\ell_\infty$  norm  $\|A\|_\infty = \max_{p,q} |A_{p,q}|$ . Let us recall that for  $\alpha \geq 1$ , the  $\psi_\alpha$ -norm of a random variable  $Z$  is given by  $\|Z\|_{\psi_\alpha} := \inf\{c > 0 : \mathbb{E}[\exp(|Z|^\alpha/c^\alpha)] \leq 2\}$  (cf. [25], p. 10) and a similar norm can be defined for  $0 < \alpha < 1$ .

### 2.1 Assumptions and examples

The first assumption concerns the ‘‘covariate’’ matrix  $X$ .

**Assumption 1** (Matrix  $X$ ). *There are positive constants  $b_{X,\infty}, b_{X,\ell_\infty}$  and  $b_{X,2}$  such that  $\|X\|_{S_\infty} \leq b_{X,\infty}$ ,  $\|X\|_\infty \leq b_{X,\ell_\infty}$  and  $\|X\|_{S_2} \leq b_{X,2}$  almost surely. Moreover, we assume that the “covariance matrix”*

$$\Sigma := \mathbb{E}[\text{vec } X(\text{vec } X)^\top]$$

*is invertible.*

This assumption is very mild. It is met in the matrix completion and the multitask-learning problems, defined below.

**Example 1** (Uniform matrix completion). *The matrix  $X$  is uniformly distributed over the set  $\{e_{p,q} : 1 \leq p \leq m, 1 \leq q \leq T\}$  (see Section (1.2)), so in this case  $\Sigma = (mT)^{-1}I_{mT}$  (where  $I_{mT}$  stands for the identity matrix on  $\mathbb{R}^{mT}$ ) and  $b_{X,2} = b_{X,\infty} = b_{X,\ell_\infty} = 1$ .*

**Example 2** (Weighted matrix completion). *The distribution of  $X$  is such that  $\mathbb{P}(X = e_{p,q}) = \pi_{p,q}$  where  $(\pi_{p,q})_{1 \leq p \leq m, 1 \leq q \leq T}$  is a family of positive numbers such that  $\sum_{1 \leq p \leq m, 1 \leq q \leq T} \pi_{p,q} = 1$ . In this situation  $\Sigma$  is invertible and again  $b_{X,2} = b_{X,\infty} = b_{X,\ell_\infty} = 1$ .*

**Example 3** (Multitask-learning, or “column-masks”). *The distribution of  $X$  is uniform over a set of matrices with only one non-zero column (all the columns have the same probability to be non-zero). The distribution is such that the  $j$ -th column takes values in a set  $\{x_{j,s} : s = 1, \dots, k_j\}$ , each vector having the same probability. So, in this case  $\Sigma$  is equal to  $T^{-1}$  times the  $mT \times mT$  block matrix with  $T$  diagonal blocks of size  $m \times m$  made of the  $T$  matrices  $k_j^{-1} \sum_{s=1}^{k_j} x_{j,s} x_{j,s}^\top$  for  $j = 1, \dots, T$ .*

*If we assume that the smallest singular values of the matrices  $k_j^{-1} \sum_{s=1}^{k_j} x_{j,s} x_{j,s}^\top \in \mathcal{M}_{m,m}$  for  $j = 1, \dots, T$  are larger than a constant  $\sigma_{\min}$  (note that this implies  $k_j \geq m$ ), then  $\Sigma$  has its smallest singular value larger than  $\sigma_{\min} T^{-1}$ , so it is invertible. Moreover, if the vectors  $x_{j,s}$  are normalized in  $\ell_2$ , then one can take  $b_{X,\infty} = b_{X,\ell_\infty} = b_{X,2} = 1$ .*

The next assumption deals with the regression function of  $Y$  given  $X$ . It is standard in regression analysis.

**Assumption 2** (Noise). *There are positive constants  $b_Y, b_{Y,\infty}, b_{Y,\psi_2}, b_{Y,2}$  such that  $\|Y - \mathbb{E}(Y|X)\|_{\psi_2} \leq b_{Y,\psi_2}$ ,  $\|\mathbb{E}(Y|X)\|_{L_\infty} \leq b_{Y,\infty}$ ,  $\mathbb{E}[(Y - \mathbb{E}(Y|X))^2|X] \leq b_{Y,2}^2$  almost surely and  $\mathbb{E}Y^2 \leq b_Y^2$ .*

In particular, any model  $Y = \langle A_0, X \rangle + \varepsilon$  where  $\|A_0\|_{S_\infty} < +\infty$  and  $\varepsilon$  is a centered sub-gaussian noise satisfies Assumption 2. Note that in the matrix completion problem, if  $\sigma^2 = \mathbb{E}(\varepsilon^2)$ , the signal-to-noise ratio is given by  $\mathbb{E}(\langle X, A_0 \rangle^2) / \sigma^2 = \|A_0\|_{S_2}^2 / (\sigma^2 mT)$ , so that  $\sigma^2$  has to scale like  $1/(mT)$  for the signal-to-noise ratio to have a reasonable value.

Note that by using the whole strength of Talagrand’s concentration inequality on product spaces for  $\psi_\alpha$  ( $0 < \alpha \leq 1$ ) random variables obtained in [2], other type of tail decay of the noise could be considered (yet leading to slower decay of the residual term) depending on this assumption.



## 2.2 Main results

In this section we state our main results. We give sharp oracle inequalities for the penalized empirical risk minimization procedure

$$\hat{A}_n \in \operatorname{argmin}_{A \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T}} \left\{ \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \langle X_i, A \rangle)^2 + \operatorname{pen}(A) \right\}, \quad (10)$$

where  $\operatorname{pen}(A)$  is a penalty function which will be either a pure  $\|\cdot\|_{S_1}$  penalization, or a “matrix elastic-net” penalization  $\|\cdot\|_{S_1} + \|\cdot\|_{S_2}^2$  or other penalty functions involving the  $\|\cdot\|_1$  norm.

**Theorem 1** (Pure  $\|\cdot\|_{S_1}$  penalization). *There is an absolute constant  $c > 0$  for which the following holds. Let Assumptions 1 and 2 hold, and let  $x > 0$  be some fixed confidence level. Consider any*

$$\hat{A}_n \in \operatorname{argmin}_{A \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T}} \{R_n(A) + \lambda_{n,x} \|A\|_{S_1}\},$$

for

$$\lambda_{n,x} = c_{X,Y} \frac{(x + \log n) \log n}{\sqrt{n}},$$

where  $c_{X,Y} := c(1 + b_{X,2}^2 + b_Y b_X + b_{Y,\psi_1}^2 + b_{Y,\infty}^2 + b_{Y,2}^2 + b_{X,\infty}^2)$ . Then one has, with a probability larger than  $1 - 5e^{-x}$ , that

$$R(\hat{A}_n) \leq \inf_{A \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T}} \{R(A) + \lambda_{n,x}(1 + \|A\|_{S_1})\}.$$

When there is an underlying model, namely if  $\mathbb{E}(Y|X) = \langle X, A_0 \rangle$  for some matrix  $A_0$ , an immediate corollary of Theorem 1 is that for any  $x > 0$ , we have

$$\mathbb{E} \langle X, \hat{A}_n - A_0 \rangle^2 \leq c_{X,Y} \frac{(x + \log n) \log n}{\sqrt{n}} (1 + \|A_0\|_{S_1})$$

with a probability larger than  $1 - 5e^{-x}$ . The rate obtained here involves the nuclear norm of  $A_0$  and not the rank. In particular, this rate is not deteriorated if  $A_0$  is of full rank but close to a low rank matrix, and it is also still meaningful when  $m+T$  is large compared to  $n$ . This is not the case for rates of the form  $\operatorname{rank}(A_0)(m+T)/n$ , obtained before the submission of this paper for the same procedure, see [22] and [35], which are obtained under stronger assumptions. However, high-dimension matrix recovery is a very active field of research, and two preprints were submitted only very recently (at the time of the revision of this paper), where one can find results that don't need rank constraints, see [31] and [24]. Theorem 1 and these results are compared in Section 2.4.

Concerning the optimality of Theorem 1, the following lower bound can be proved by using the classical tools of [43]. Consider the model

$$Y = \langle A_0, X \rangle + \sigma \zeta \quad (11)$$

where  $\zeta$  is a standard Gaussian variable and  $X$  is distributed like the  $m \times T$  diagonal matrix  $\text{diag}[\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_{m \wedge T}]$  where  $\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_{m \wedge T}$  are i.i.d. Rademacher variables. Then, there exists absolute constants  $c_0, c_1 > 0$  such that the following holds. Let  $n, m, T \in \mathbb{N} - \{0\}$  and  $R > 0$ . Assume that  $m \wedge T \geq \sqrt{n}$ . For any procedure  $\hat{A}$  constructed from  $n$  observations in the model (11) (and denote by  $\mathbb{P}_{A_0}^{\otimes n}$  the probability distribution of such a sample), there exists  $A_0 \in RB(S_1)$  such that with  $\mathbb{P}_{A_0}^{\otimes n}$ -probability greater than  $c_1$ ,

$$R(\hat{A}) - R(A_0) \geq c_0 \sigma R \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \log \left( \frac{c_0 \sigma m \wedge T}{R \sqrt{n}} \right)}.$$

This shows that, up to some logarithmic factor, the residual term obtained in Theorem 1 is optimal. The only point is that the  $S_2$  norm of the design in (11) is not nicely upper bounded ( $\|X\|_{S_2} = m \wedge T$  a.s.) as it is required in Assumption 1. Nevertheless, the assumption  $\|X\|_{S_2} \leq b_{X,2}$  a.s. is mostly technical: it comes from the fact that we use the weak inclusion  $B(S_1) \subset B(S_2)$  for the computation of the complexity of  $B(S_1)$  w.r.t. the norm coming out of our method (cf. Subsection 3.5 below). This inclusion is clearly a source of looseness and we believe that Theorem 1 is also valid if we only assume that  $\|X\|_{S_\infty} \leq b_{X,\infty}$  a.s. in place of  $\|X\|_{S_2} \leq b_{X,2}$  a.s..

We now state three sharp oracle inequalities for procedures of the form (10) where the penalty function is a mixture of norms.

**Theorem 2** (Matrix Elastic-Net). *There is an absolute constant  $c > 0$  for which the following holds. Let Assumptions 1 and 2 hold. Fix any  $x > 0$ ,  $r_1, r_2 > 0$ , and consider*

$$\hat{A}_n \in \underset{A \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T}}{\text{argmin}} \left\{ R_n(A) + \lambda_{n,x} (r_1 \|A\|_{S_1} + r_2 \|A\|_{S_2}^2) \right\},$$

where

$$\lambda_{n,x} = c_{X,Y} \frac{\log n}{\sqrt{n}} \left( \frac{1}{r_1} + \frac{(x + \log n) \log n}{r_2 \sqrt{n}} \right),$$

where  $c_{X,Y} = c(1 + b_{X,2}^2 + b_{X,2} b_Y + b_{Y,\psi_1}^2 + b_{Y,\infty}^2 + b_{Y,2}^2)$ . Then one has, with a probability larger than  $1 - 5e^{-x}$ , that

$$R(\hat{A}_n) \leq \inf_{A \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T}} \left\{ R(A) + \lambda_{n,x} (1 + r_1 \|A\|_{S_1} + r_2 \|A\|_{S_2}^2) \right\}.$$

Theorem 2 guarantees the performances of the Matrix Elastic-net estimator (mixture of the  $S_1$ -norm and the  $S_2$ -norm to the square). The use of this algorithm is particularly relevant for matrices with a spectra spread out on the few first singular values, namely for matrices with a singular value decomposition of the form

$$U \text{diag}[a_1, \dots, a_r, \epsilon_{r+1}, \dots, \epsilon_{m \wedge T}] V^\top, \quad (12)$$

where  $U$  and  $V$  are orthonormal matrices, where  $(a_1, \dots, a_r)$  is well-spread (roughly speaking, the  $a_i$ 's are of the same order) and where the  $\epsilon_i$  are small compared to the  $a_i$ .

**Theorem 3** ( $\|\cdot\|_{S_1} + \|\cdot\|_1$  penalization). *There is an absolute constant  $c > 0$  for which the following holds. Let Assumptions 1 and 2 hold. Fix any  $x, r_1, r_3 > 0$ , and consider*

$$\hat{A}_n \in \operatorname{argmin}_{A \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T}} \{R_n(A) + \lambda_{n,x}(r_1\|A\|_{S_1} + r_3\|A\|_1)\}$$

for

$$\lambda_{n,x} := c_{X,Y} \left( \frac{1}{r_1} \wedge \frac{\sqrt{\log(mT)}}{r_3} \right) \frac{(x + \log n)(\log n)^{3/2}}{\sqrt{n}},$$

where  $c_{X,Y} = c(1 + b_{X,2}^2 + b_{X,2}b_Y + b_{Y,\psi_1}^2 + b_{Y,\infty}^2 + b_{Y,2}^2 + b_{X,\infty}^2 + b_{X,\ell_\infty}^2)$ . Then one has, with a probability larger than  $1 - 5e^{-x}$ , that

$$R(\hat{A}_n) \leq \inf_{A \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T}} \{R(A) + \lambda_{n,x}(1 + r_1\|A\|_{S_1} + r_3\|A\|_1)\}.$$

Theorem 3 guarantees the statistical performances of a mixture of the  $S_1$ -norm and the  $\ell_1$ -norm. This mixed penalization shall improve upon the pure  $S_1$  penalization when the underlying matrix contains many zeros. Note that, in the matrix completion case, the term  $\sqrt{\log mT}$  can be removed from the regularization (and thus the residual) term thanks to the second statement of Proposition 1 below, see Section 3.5.

**Theorem 4** ( $\|\cdot\|_{S_1} + \|\cdot\|_{S_2}^2 + \|\cdot\|_1$  penalization). *There is an absolute constant  $c > 0$  for which the following holds. Let Assumptions 1 and 2 hold. Fix any  $x, r_1, r_2, r_3 > 0$ , and consider*

$$\hat{A}_n \in \operatorname{argmin}_{A \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T}} \{R_n(A) + \lambda_{n,x}(r_1\|A\|_{S_1} + r_2\|A\|_{S_2}^2 + r_3\|A\|_1)\}$$

for

$$\lambda_{n,x} := c_{X,Y} \frac{(\log n)^{3/2}}{\sqrt{n}} \left( \frac{1}{r_1} \wedge \frac{\sqrt{\log(mT)}}{r_3} + \frac{x + \log n}{r_2\sqrt{n}} \right),$$

where  $c_{X,Y} = c(1 + b_{X,2}^2 + b_{X,2}b_Y + b_{Y,\psi_1}^2 + b_{Y,\infty}^2 + b_{Y,2}^2)$ . Then one has, with a probability larger than  $1 - 5e^{-x}$ , that

$$R(\hat{A}_n) \leq \inf_{A \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T}} \{R(A) + \lambda_{n,x}(1 + r_1\|A\|_{S_1} + r_2\|A\|_{S_2}^2 + r_3\|A\|_1)\}.$$

It is interesting to note that the techniques used in this paper allow to handle very general penalty functions as long as the set  $\{A \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T} : \operatorname{pen}(A) \leq r\}$  is convex for any  $r > 0$ . The parameters  $r_1, r_2$  and  $r_3$  in the above procedures are completely free and can depend on  $n, m$  and  $T$ . Intuitively, it is clear that  $r_2$  should be smaller than  $r_1$  since the  $\|\cdot\|_{S_2}$  term is used for “regularization” of the non-zero singular values only, while the term  $\|\cdot\|_{S_1}$  makes  $\hat{A}_n$  of low rank, as for the elastic-net for vectors

(see [45]). Indeed, for the  $\|\cdot\|_{S_1} + \|\cdot\|_{S_2}^2$  penalization, any choice of  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  such that  $r_2 = r_1 \log n / \sqrt{n}$  leads to a residual term smaller than

$$c_{X,Y}(1+x+\log n)\left(\frac{(\log n)^2}{r_2 n} + \frac{\log n}{\sqrt{n}}\|A\|_{S_1} + \frac{(\log n)^2}{n}\|A\|_{S_2}^2\right).$$

Note that the rate related to  $\|A\|_{S_1}$  is (up to logarithms)  $1/\sqrt{n}$  while the rate related to  $\|A\|_{S_2}^2$  is  $1/n$ . The choice of  $r_3$  depends on the number of zeros in the matrix. Note that in the  $\|\cdot\|_{S_1} + \|\cdot\|_1$  case, any choice  $1 \leq r_3 \leq r_1$  entails a residue smaller than

$$c_{X,Y}\frac{(x+\log n)\log n}{\sqrt{n}}(1+\|A\|_{S_1}+\|A\|_1),$$

which makes again the residue independent of  $m$  and  $T$ .

### 2.3 Why we don't need the incoherency assumption

So far, results obtained in the matrix completion problem require a model of the form  $\mathbb{E}(Y|X) = \langle X, A_0 \rangle$  for some  $A_0 \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T}$ , where  $A_0$  satisfies the incoherency assumption (see Section 1.2). The incoherency assumption is natural and somehow mandatory when one wants to reconstruct *exactly*  $A_0$  from non-noisy observations (that is for the model  $Y = \langle X, A_0 \rangle$  in Example 1 above). In this paper, we don't need this assumption, since we don't consider the problem of exact reconstruction. Instead, we give upper bounds on the prediction error  $\mathbb{E}(Y - \langle \hat{A}_n, X \rangle)^2$  with a residue of the form  $c/\sqrt{n}$ . Let us recall a simple example given in [13] where the incoherency assumption is not satisfied, and where exact reconstruction typically fails. Assume that  $Y = \langle X, A_0 \rangle$ , where  $X$  is the design of the matrix completion problem, and where  $A_0$  is a matrix with every entries equal to 0 excepted for the top-left one, which is equal to  $(A_0)_{1,1}$ . If each  $X_i$  is different from  $e_{1,1}$ , then every observed output is zero:  $Y_1 = \dots = Y_n = 0$ . Note that this happens with probability  $1 - (mT)^{-n}$ , which is very large. In this situation, it is obviously impossible to recover  $A_0$ , namely to find back the unobserved top-left entry: in this case we have  $\hat{A}_n = 0$  whatever the penalization is, so we predict  $Y$  by 0 whatever the input  $X$ . The aim of the incoherency assumption is to exclude such situations. The risk of this prediction is  $R(0) = \mathbb{E}Y^2 = \mathbb{E}\langle A_0, X \rangle^2 = (A_0)_{1,1}^2 / (mT) \neq 0$  whereas the best possible risk is 0. This does not contradict our oracle inequalities, since  $1/(mT) \ll 1/\sqrt{n}$  in the high-dimensional setting considered here. Actually, in this scaling  $1/(mT)$  is very close to 0 (the risk of the oracle), so predicting  $Y$  by 0 is almost as good as predicting  $Y$  by the oracle  $\langle X, A_0 \rangle$ , and actually, for the matrix completion design, this is not very bad to say that  $e_{11}$  is close to the null matrix.

### 2.4 Comparison with recent results

In this section we compare Theorem 1 (and only this theorem since other papers consider  $S_1$ -penalization only) with the results from recent papers: [35], which was

submitted a year before our paper and [31], [24], which are preprints submitted after this paper, the latter being submitted at the time of the revision. In order to compare our results with these close references, we assume that  $\mathbb{E}(Y|X) = \langle A_0, X \rangle$  for some matrix  $A_0$ , and that  $m = T$  for simplicity.

In [31], the problem of matrix completion with noise is considered, where the distribution of  $X$  can be different from the uniform law on the entries of the matrix (note that our paper includes this case as well, since there is barely no restriction on the distribution of  $X$ , see Assumption 1 above). In this case the authors propose to replace the nuclear norm by a weighted nuclear norm (which depends on the distribution of  $X$ ). Two upper bounds are proposed for this algorithm, assuming that  $A_0$  belongs to a  $S_q$ -Schatten ball for  $0 < q \leq 1$  (see Corollaries 1 and 2 herein), and that the “spikiness” of  $A_0$ , namely the ratio between the  $\ell_\infty$ -norm and  $\ell_2$ -norm of its entries, is smaller than some constant  $\alpha_*^2$ . For  $q = 0$ , assuming that  $A_0$  belongs to a  $q$ -Schatten ball with radius  $r$  simply means that the rank of  $A_0$  is smaller than  $r$ . In this case, the authors prove that (using our notations):

$$\mathbb{E}\langle X, \tilde{A}_n - A_0 \rangle^2 \leq c_1 \alpha_*^2 \frac{rm \log m}{n} \quad (13)$$

with a probability larger than  $1 - c_2 \exp(-c_3 \log m)$ , where  $\tilde{A}_n$  is a weighted nuclear-norm penalized estimator with an additional weighted  $\ell_\infty$ -constraint, where the weights involve directly the distribution of  $X$ . When  $A_0$  is not exactly low-rank, but is known to belong to the 1-Schatten ball with radius  $\rho$ , the authors prove that

$$\mathbb{E}\langle X, \tilde{A}_n - A_0 \rangle^2 \leq c\rho\alpha_* \sqrt{\frac{rm \log m}{n}}. \quad (14)$$

Theorem 1 improves these results at several levels. Indeed, let us recall that Theorem 1 entails that, for every  $\|A_0\|_{S_1} \leq \rho$  and every  $x > 0$ :

$$\mathbb{E}\langle X, \hat{A}_n - A_0 \rangle^2 \leq c(\rho + 1) \frac{(x + \log n) \log n}{\sqrt{n}} \quad (15)$$

with a probability larger than  $1 - e^{-x}$ . From a practical point of view, we use a purely data-driven procedure: we don’t need to know the distribution of  $X$  for the computation of  $\hat{A}_n$ , while  $\tilde{A}_n$  needs to know it (this problem is also present in the very recent preprint [24]). From a theoretical point of view, (15) is strictly better than (14) since the rate is faster by a factor  $\sqrt{m}$ , which is a large quantity in this problem, and since we do not need the spikiness assumption. Moreover, note that the spikiness constant may be close to  $m$  for a spiky matrix (with large isolated entries). So, Theorem 1 proves in particular that the spikiness assumption is not necessary. Finally, (15) is also better than (13) when  $A_0$  has rank  $r$ , since  $m/n \geq 1/\sqrt{n}$  when  $n \leq m^2$  (which is true in the high-dimensional scaling we are interested in) and since again, the spikiness constant  $\alpha_*$  may be large.

In an interesting paper [24], which was submitted at the time of the revision of this paper, the authors consider a simplified estimator: they assume that the

distribution of  $X$  is known, so instead of minimizing the empirical risk  $R_n(A)$ , they minimize  $\mathbb{E}\langle X, A \rangle_{S_2} - 2 \sum_{i=1} \langle X_i, A \rangle / n$ . In the matrix completion problem, this leads to an estimator with a particularly simple form, giving rise to the optimal rates for this problem, which were actually previously unknown. Indeed, they prove that the correct rate of convergence is  $1/\sqrt{mn}$  (up to logarithms), while the rate in (15) is  $1/\sqrt{n}$ . When the distribution of  $X$  is known, this is a strong improvement of our results. However, note that the question of whether the rate  $1/\sqrt{mn}$  is achievable in our more realistic setting, where the distribution of  $X$  is unknown is still open, and currently investigated.

### 3 Proof of the main results

#### 3.1 Some definitions and notations

Here we gather some definitions used throughout the proof of the Theorems. For any  $r, r_1, r_2, r_3 \geq 0$ , we consider the ball

$$B_{r,r_1,r_2,r_3} := \{A \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T} : r_1 \|A\|_{S_1} + r_2 \|A\|_{S_2}^2 + r_3 \|A\|_1 \leq r\}, \quad (16)$$

and we denote by  $B_{r,1} = B_{r,1,0,0}$  the *nuclear norm* ball, by  $B_{r,r_1,r_2} = B_{r,r_1,r_2,0}$  the *matrix elastic-net* ball. In what follows,  $B_r$  will be either  $B_{r,1}$ ,  $B_{r,r_1,r_2}$ ,  $B_{r,r_1,r_2,r_3}$  or  $B_{r,r_1,0,r_3}$ , depending on the penalization. We consider an oracle matrix in  $B_r$  given by:

$$A_r^* \in \operatorname{argmin}_{A \in B_r} \mathbb{E}(Y - \langle X, A \rangle)^2$$

and the following excess loss function over  $B_r$  defined for any  $A \in B_r$  by

$$\mathcal{L}_{r,A}(X, Y) := (Y - \langle X, A \rangle)^2 - (Y - \langle X, A_r^* \rangle)^2. \quad (17)$$

Define also the class of excess loss functions

$$\mathcal{L}_r := \{\mathcal{L}_{r,A} : A \in B_r\}, \quad (18)$$

and its localized set at level  $\lambda > 0$ :

$$\mathcal{L}_{r,\lambda} := \{\mathcal{L}_{r,A} : A \in B_r, \mathbb{E}\mathcal{L}_{r,A} \leq \lambda\}. \quad (19)$$

The star-shaped-hull at 0 of  $\mathcal{L}_r$  is given by

$$V_r := \operatorname{star}(\mathcal{L}_r, 0) = \{\alpha \mathcal{L}_{r,A} : A \in B_r \text{ and } 0 \leq \alpha \leq 1\}$$

and its localized set at level  $\lambda > 0$

$$V_{r,\lambda} := \{g \in V_r : \mathbb{E}g \leq \lambda\}. \quad (20)$$

### 3.2 Scheme of proof of Theorems 1, 2, 3, and 4

The proof of Theorems 1 to 4 rely on the recently developed *isomorphic penalization method*, introduced by P. Bartlett, S. Mendelson and J. Neeman: it has improved several results on penalized empirical risk minimization procedures for the Lasso [9] and for regularization in reproducing kernel Hilbert spaces [26], see also [7]. This approach relies on a sharp analysis of the complexity of the set  $V_{r,\lambda}$ . Indeed, an important quantity appearing in statistical learning theory is the maximal deviation of the empirical distribution around its mean uniformly over a class of functions. If  $V$  is a class of functions, we define the supremum of the deviation of the empirical mean around its expectation over  $V$  by

$$\|P_n - P\|_V = \sup_{h \in V} \left| \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n h(X_i, Y_i) - \mathbb{E}h(X, Y) \right|.$$

For the analysis given below, we will need strong deviation results for  $\|P_n - P\|_V$  compared with its mean and precise upper bounds for  $\mathbb{E}\|P_n - P\|_V$ . The former is achieved using a new version (see Theorem 4 in [2]) of Talagrand’s concentration inequality (see [41]) since the class of excess losses  $V_{r,\lambda}$  is not bounded but  $\psi_1$  (sub-exponential). The latter is obtained using the generic-chaining mechanism developed in [42].

Before going into the details of the proofs, let us described the general scheme. The *isomorphic penalization method* is described in details in Section 3.7 below. It requires the following steps:

1. the first step (cf. Lemma 5 from Section 3.3 below) is to study the Bernstein property (cf. [8]) of the problem. This is a geometric property (naturally satisfied by convex sets such as the balls  $B_{r,r_1,r_2,r_3}$ ) at the heart of the concentration properties of  $P_n \mathcal{L}_{r,A}$  around  $P \mathcal{L}_{r,A}$  for every  $r \geq 0$  and  $A \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T}$ ;
2. the second step deals with the complexity of the models  $B_{r,r_1,r_2,r_3}$  for every radius  $r \geq 0$ . This complexity is “adapted” to the learning problem, that is, it is measured through the fixed point

$$\lambda^*(r) = \inf \left( \lambda > 0 : \mathbb{E}\|P - P_n\|_{V_{r,\lambda}} \leq \lambda/8 \right),$$

also called *Rademacher complexity* after symmetrization of the process. An upper bound of such quantities is usually obtained using a chaining technique (cf. Section 3.5);

3. the third step is to apply a general result from [7], [26] and [9] (cf. Theorem 11 in Section 3.7 below) in order to derive a first version of the oracle inequalities. Note that the penalizations obtained at these stage are not yet the correct ones, because of some residual terms coming out of this method.
4. the final step is to remove these extra terms from the penalty function (cf. Section 3.8).

### 3.3 On the importance of convexity

An important parameter driving the quality of concentration of  $\|P_n - P\|_V$  around its expectation is the so-called Bernstein's parameter (cf. Definition 2.6 in [8]). We are studying this parameter in our context without introducing its general definition.

For every matrix  $A \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T}$ , we consider the random variable  $f_A := \langle X, A \rangle$  and the following subset of  $L_2(\mathbb{P})$ :

$$\mathcal{C}_r := \{f_A : A \in B_r\}, \quad (21)$$

where  $B_r = B_{r,r_1,r_2,r_3}$  is given by (16). Because of the convexity of the norms  $\|\cdot\|_{S_1}$ ,  $\|\cdot\|_{S_2}$  and  $\|\cdot\|_1$ , the set  $\mathcal{C}_r$  is convex, for any  $r, r_1, r_2, r_3 \geq 0$ . Now, consider the following minimum

$$f_r^* \in \operatorname{argmin}_{f \in \mathcal{C}_r} \mathbb{E}(Y - f)^2 \quad (22)$$

and

$$C_r := \min \left( b_{X,\infty} \frac{r}{r_1}, b_{X,2} \sqrt{\frac{r}{r_2}}, b_{X,\ell_\infty} \frac{r}{r_3} \right), \quad (23)$$

with the convention  $1/0 = +\infty$ .

**Lemma 5** (Bernstein's parameter). *Let assumptions 1 and 2 hold. There is a unique  $f_r^*$  satisfying (22) and a unique  $A_r^* \in B_r$  such that  $f_r^* = f_{A_r^*}$  almost surely. Moreover, any  $A \in B_r$  satisfies*

$$\mathbb{E}\mathcal{L}_{r,A} \geq \mathbb{E}\langle X, A - A_r^* \rangle^2,$$

and the class  $\mathcal{L}_r$  satisfies the following Bernstein's condition: for every  $A \in B_r$

$$\mathbb{E}\mathcal{L}_{r,A}^2 \leq 4(b_{Y,2}^2 + (b_{Y,\infty} + C_r)^2)\mathbb{E}\mathcal{L}_{r,A}.$$

*Proof.* By convexity of  $\mathcal{C}_r$  and classical analysis in Hilbert spaces, we have  $\langle Y - f_r^*, f - f_r^* \rangle_{L^2} \leq 0$  for any  $f \in \mathcal{C}_r$ . Thus, we have, for any  $f \in \mathcal{C}_r$

$$\|Y - f\|_{L_2}^2 - \|Y - f_r^*\|_{L_2}^2 = 2\langle f_r^* - f, Y - f_r^* \rangle + \|f - f_r^*\|_{L_2}^2 \geq \|f - f_r^*\|_{L_2}^2. \quad (24)$$

In particular, the minimum is unique. Moreover,  $\mathcal{C}_r$  is a closed set and since  $\Sigma$  is invertible under Assumption 1, there is a unique  $A_r^* \in B_r$  such that  $f_r^* = f_{A_r^*}$ . By the trace duality formula and Assumption 1, we have, for any  $A \in B_{r,r_1,r_2,r_3}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} |f_A| &\leq \|X\|_{S_\infty} \|A\|_{S_1} \leq b_{X,\infty} \frac{r}{r_1}, \quad |f_A| \leq \|X\|_{S_2} \|A\|_{S_2} \leq b_{X,2} \sqrt{\frac{r}{r_2}}, \\ \text{and } |f_A| &\leq \|X\|_\infty \|A\|_1 \leq b_{X,\ell_\infty} \frac{r}{r_3} \end{aligned}$$

almost surely, so that  $|f_A| \leq C_r$  for any  $A \in B_r$  a.s.. Moreover, for any  $A \in B_r$ :

$$\mathcal{L}_{r,A} = 2(Y - \mathbb{E}(Y|X))\langle X, A_r^* - A \rangle + (2\mathbb{E}(Y|X) - \langle A + A_r^*, X \rangle)\langle X, A_r^* - A \rangle. \quad (25)$$



Thus, using Assumption 2, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}\mathcal{L}_{r,A}^2 &= \mathbb{E}\left[4(Y - \mathbb{E}(Y|X))^2\langle X, A - A_r^* \rangle^2 + (2\mathbb{E}(Y|X) - \langle X, A + A_r^* \rangle)^2\langle X, A - A_r^* \rangle^2\right] \\ &\leq 4\mathbb{E}\left[\langle X, A - A_r^* \rangle^2\mathbb{E}\left[(Y - \mathbb{E}(Y|X))^2|X\right]\right] + 4(b_{Y,\infty} + C_r)^2\mathbb{E}\langle X, A - A_r^* \rangle^2 \\ &\leq 4(b_{Y,2}^2 + (b_{Y,\infty} + C_r)^2)\mathbb{E}\langle X, A - A_r^* \rangle^2,\end{aligned}$$

which concludes the proof using (24).  $\square$

### 3.4 The isomorphic property of the excess loss functions class

The *isomorphic property* of a class of functions has been introduced in [8] and is a consequence of Talagrand's concentration inequality (cf. [41]) applied to a localization of the class together with the Bernstein property (given here in Lemma 5 above). We recall here the argument in our special case. Note that we use here a new version of Talagrand's inequality (see Theorem 4 in [2]) since the class of excess losses is not bounded but only  $\psi_1$  (sub-exponential).

**Theorem 6.** *There exists an absolute constant  $c > 0$  such that the following holds. Let Assumptions 1 and 2 hold. Let  $r > 0$  and  $\lambda(r) > 0$  be such that*

$$\mathbb{E}\|P_n - P\|_{V_{r,\lambda(r)}} \leq \frac{\lambda(r)}{8}.$$

*Then, with probability larger than  $1 - 4e^{-x}$ : for all  $A \in B_r$*

$$\frac{1}{2}P_n\mathcal{L}_{r,A} - \rho_n(r, x) \leq P\mathcal{L}_{r,A} \leq 2P_n\mathcal{L}_{r,A} + \rho_n(r, x),$$

where

$$\rho_n(r, x) := c\left(\lambda(r) + [b_{Y,\psi_1} + b_{Y,\infty} + b_{Y,2} + C_r]^2\left(\frac{x \log n}{n}\right)\right),$$

and  $C_r$  has been introduced in (23).

*Proof.* We follow the line of the proof of Theorem 2.2 in [26]. Let  $\lambda > 0$  and  $x > 0$ . Thanks to Theorem 4 from [2], with probability larger than  $1 - 4\exp(-x)$ ,

$$\|P - P_n\|_{V_{r,\lambda}} \leq 2\mathbb{E}\|P - P_n\|_{V_{r,\lambda}} + c_1\sigma(V_{r,\lambda})\sqrt{\frac{x}{n}} + c_2b_n(V_{r,\lambda})\frac{x}{n} \quad (26)$$

where, by using the Bernstein's properties of  $\mathcal{L}_r$  (cf. Lemma 5)

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma^2(V_{r,\lambda}) &:= \sup_{g \in V_{r,\lambda}} \text{Var}(g) \leq \sup\left(\mathbb{E}(\alpha\mathcal{L}_{r,A})^2 : 0 \leq \alpha \leq 1, A \in B_r, \mathbb{E}(\alpha\mathcal{L}_{r,A}) \leq \lambda\right) \\ &\leq \sup\left(4(b_{Y,2}^2 + (b_{Y,\infty} + C_r)^2)\mathbb{E}(\alpha\mathcal{L}_{r,A}) : 0 \leq \alpha \leq 1, A \in B_r, \mathbb{E}(\alpha\mathcal{L}_{r,A}) \leq \lambda\right) \\ &\leq 4(b_{Y,2}^2 + (b_{Y,\infty} + C_r)^2)\lambda,\end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

and using Pisier's inequality (cf. [44]):

$$\begin{aligned}
b_n(V_{r,\lambda}) &:= \left\| \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \sup_{g \in V_{r,\lambda}} g(X_i, Y_i) \right\|_{\psi_1} \leq \log n \left\| \sup_{g \in V_{r,\lambda}} g(X, Y) \right\|_{\psi_1} \\
&= \log n \left\| \sup \left( \alpha(2Y - \langle X, A + A_r^* \rangle) \langle X, A_r^* - A \rangle : 0 \leq \alpha \leq 1, A \in B_r \right) \right\|_{\psi_1} \\
&\leq 4(\log n)(b_{Y,\psi_1} + b_{Y,\infty} + C_r)C_r,
\end{aligned} \tag{28}$$

where we used decomposition (25) and Assumption 2 together with the uniform bound  $|\langle A, X \rangle| \leq C_r$  holding for all  $A \in B_r$ .

Moreover, for any  $\lambda > 0$ ,  $V_{r,\lambda}$  is star-shaped so  $G : \lambda \mapsto \mathbb{E}\|P - P_n\|_{V_{r,\lambda}}/\lambda$  is non-increasing. Since  $G(\lambda(r)) \leq 1/8$  and  $\rho_n(r, x) \geq \lambda(r)$ , we have

$$\mathbb{E}\|P - P_n\|_{V_{r,\rho_n(r,x)}} \leq \rho_n(r, x)/8,$$

which yields, in Equation (26) together with the variance control of Equation (27) and the control of Equation (28), that there exists an event  $\Omega_0$  of probability measure greater than  $1 - 4\exp(-x)$  such that, on  $\Omega_0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
\|P - P_n\|_{V_{r,\rho_n(r,x)}} &\leq \frac{\rho_n(r, x)}{4} + c_1(b_{Y,\infty} + b_{Y,2} + C_r) \sqrt{\frac{\rho_n(r, x)x}{n}} \\
&\quad + c_2(b_{Y,\psi_1} + b_{Y,\infty} + C_r)C_r \frac{x \log n}{n} \\
&\leq \frac{\rho_n(r, x)}{2}
\end{aligned} \tag{29}$$

in view of the definition of  $\rho_n(r, x)$ . In particular, on  $\Omega_0$ , for every  $A \in B_r$  such that  $P\mathcal{L}_{r,A} \leq \rho_n(r, x)$ , we have  $|P\mathcal{L}_{r,A} - P_n\mathcal{L}_{r,A}| \leq \rho_n(r, x)/2$ . Now, take  $A \in B_r$  such that  $P\mathcal{L}_{r,A} = \beta > \rho_n(r, x)$  and set  $g = \rho_n(r, x)\mathcal{L}_{r,A}/\beta$ . Since  $g \in V_{r,\rho_n(r,x)}$ , Equation (29) yields, on  $\Omega_0$ ,  $|Pg - P_n g| \leq \rho_n(r, x)/2$  and so  $(1/2)P_n\mathcal{L}_{r,A} \leq P\mathcal{L}_{r,A} \leq (3/2)P_n\mathcal{L}_{r,A}$  which concludes the proof.  $\square$

A function  $r \mapsto \lambda(r)$  such that  $\mathbb{E}\|P_n - P\|_{V_{r,\lambda(r)}} \leq \lambda(r)/8$  is called an *isomorphic function* and is directly connected to the choice of the penalization used in the procedure which was introduced in Section 2. The computation of this function is related to the complexity of Schatten balls, computed in the next section.

### 3.5 Complexity of Schatten balls

The *generic chaining* technique (see [42]) is a powerful technique for the control of the supremum of empirical processes. For a subgaussian process, such a control is achieved using the  $\gamma_2$  functional recalled in the next definition.

**Definition 7** (Definition 1.2.5, [42]). *Let  $(F, d)$  be a metric space. We say that  $(F_j)_{j \geq 0}$  is an admissible sequence of partitions of  $F$  if  $|F_0| = 1$  and  $|F_j| \leq 2^{2^j}$  for all*

$j \geq 1$ . The  $\gamma_2$  functional is defined by

$$\gamma_2(F, d) = \inf_{(F_j)_j} \sup_{f \in F} \sum_{j \geq 0} 2^{j/2} d(f, F_j),$$

where the infimum is taken over all admissible sequence  $(F_j)_{j \geq 1}$  of  $F$ , and where  $d(f, F_j) = \inf_{g \in F_j} d(f, g)$ .

A classical upper bound on the  $\gamma_2$  functional is the Dudley's entropy integral:

$$\gamma_2(F, d) \leq c_0 \int_0^\infty \sqrt{\log N(F, d, \epsilon)} d\epsilon, \quad (30)$$

where  $N(B, \|\cdot\|, \epsilon)$  is the minimal number of balls with respect to the metric  $d$  of radius  $\epsilon$  needed to cover  $B$ . There is in general a logarithmic loss between the  $\gamma_2$  function and the Dudley entropy integrals. This gap is illustrated in Theorem 8 below. Let  $(E, \|\cdot\|)$  be a Banach space. We denote by  $B(E)$  its unit ball. We say that  $(E, \|\cdot\|)$  is 2-convex if there exists some  $\rho > 0$  such that for all  $x, y \in B(E)$ , we have

$$\|x + y\| \leq 2 - 2\rho \|x - y\|^2.$$

In the case of 2-convex bodies, the following theorem gives an upper bound on the  $\gamma_2$  functional that can improve the one given by Dudley's entropy integral.

**Theorem 8** (Theorem 3.1.3, [42]). *For any  $\rho > 0$ , there exists  $c(\rho) > 0$  such that if  $(E, \|\cdot\|)$  is a 2-convex Banach space and  $\|\cdot\|_E$  is another norm on  $E$ , then*

$$\gamma_2(B(E), \|\cdot\|_E) \leq c(\rho) \left( \int_0^\infty \epsilon \log N(B(E), \|\cdot\|_E, \epsilon) d\epsilon \right)^{1/2}.$$

The generic chaining technique provides the following upper bound on Gaussian processes.

**Theorem 9** (Theorem 1.2.6, [42]). *There is an absolute constant  $c > 0$  such that the following holds. If  $(Z_f)_{f \in F}$  is a subgaussian process for some metric  $d$  (i.e.  $\|Z_f - Z_g\|_{\psi_2} \leq c_0 d(f, g)$  for all  $f, g \in F$ ) and if  $f_0 \in F$ , then one has*

$$\mathbb{E} \sup_{f \in F} |Z_f - Z_{f_0}| \leq c \gamma_2(F, d).$$

The pseudo-metric used to measure the complexity of the excess loss classes is empirical, and defined for any  $A \in \mathcal{M}_{m, T}$  by

$$\|A\|_{\infty, n} := \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} |\langle X_i, A \rangle|. \quad (31)$$

This pseudo-metric comes out of the so-called  $L_{\infty, n}$ -method of M. Rudelson introduced in [36] and first used in learning theory in [26]. We denote by  $B(S_p)$  the unit ball of the Banach space  $S_p$  of matrices in  $\mathcal{M}_{m, T}$  endowed with the Schatten norm  $\|\cdot\|_{S_p}$ . We denote also by  $B_1$  the unit ball of  $\mathcal{M}_{m, T}$  endowed with the  $\ell_1$ -norm  $\|\cdot\|_1$ . In the following, we compute the complexity of the balls  $B(S_1)$ ,  $B(S_2)$  and  $B_1$  with respect to the empirical pseudo-metric  $\|\cdot\|_{\infty, n}$ .

**Proposition 1.** *There exists an absolute constant  $c > 0$  such that the following holds. Assume that  $\|X_i\|_{S_2}, \|X_i\|_\infty \leq 1$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . Then, we have*

$$\gamma_2(rB(S_1), \|\cdot\|_{\infty,n}) \leq \gamma_2(rB(S_2), \|\cdot\|_{\infty,n}) \leq cr \log n$$

and

$$\gamma_2(rB_1, \|\cdot\|_{\infty,n}) \leq cr(\log n)^{3/2} \sqrt{\log(mT)}.$$

Moreover, if we assume that  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  have been obtained in the matrix completion model then

$$\gamma_2(rB_1, \|\cdot\|_{\infty,n}) \leq cr(\log n)^{3/2}.$$

*Proof.* The first inequality is obvious since  $B(S_1) \subset B(S_2)$ . By using Dual Sudakov's inequality (cf. Theorem 1, [32]), we have for all  $\epsilon > 0$ ,

$$\log N(B(S_2), \|\cdot\|_{\infty,n}, \epsilon) \leq c_0 \left( \frac{\mathbb{E}\|G\|_{\infty,n}}{\epsilon} \right)^2,$$

where  $G$  is a  $m \times T$  matrix with i.i.d. standard Gaussian random variables for entries. A Gaussian maximal inequality and the fact that  $\|X_i\|_{S_2} \leq 1$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, n$  provides  $\mathbb{E}\|G\|_{\infty,n} = \mathbb{E} \max_{i=1, \dots, n} |\langle G, X_i \rangle| \leq c_1 \sqrt{\log n}$ , since  $\langle G, X_i \rangle$  is a Gaussian variable with variance  $\|X_i\|_{S_2} \leq 1$ , hence

$$\log N(B(S_2), \|\cdot\|_{\infty,n}, \epsilon) \leq \frac{c_2 \log n}{\epsilon^2}.$$

Denote by  $B_{\infty,n}$  the unit ball of  $(\mathcal{M}_{m,T}, \|\cdot\|_{\infty,n})$  in  $V_n = \text{span}(X_1, \dots, X_n)$ , the linear subspace of  $\mathcal{M}_{m,T}$  spanned by  $X_1, \dots, X_n$ . The volumetric argument provides

$$\begin{aligned} \log N(B(S_2), \|\cdot\|_{\infty,n}, \epsilon) &\leq \log N(B(S_2), \|\cdot\|_{\infty,n}, \eta) + \log N(\eta B_{\infty,n}, \epsilon B_{\infty,n}) \\ &\leq \frac{c_2 \log n}{\eta^2} + n \log \left( \frac{3\eta}{\epsilon} \right) \end{aligned}$$

for any  $\eta \geq \epsilon > 0$ . Thus, for  $\eta_n = \sqrt{\log n/n}$ , we have, for all  $0 < \epsilon \leq \eta_n$

$$\log N(B(S_2), \|\cdot\|_{\infty,n}, \epsilon) \leq c_3 n \log \left( \frac{3\eta_n}{\epsilon} \right).$$

Since  $B(S_2)$  is the unit ball of a Hilbert space, it is 2-convex. We can thus apply Theorem 8 to obtain the following upper bound

$$\gamma_2(rB(S_2), \|\cdot\|_{\infty,n}) \leq c_4 r \log n.$$

Now, we prove an upper bound on the complexity of  $B_1$  with respect to  $\|\cdot\|_{\infty,n}$ . Recall that  $\text{vec} : \mathcal{M}_{m,T} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{mT}$  concatenates the columns of a matrix into a single vector of size  $mT$ . Obviously,  $\text{vec}$  is an isometry between  $(\mathcal{M}_{m,T}, \|\cdot\|_{S_2})$  and  $(\mathbb{R}^{mT}, \|\cdot\|_2)$ , since  $\langle A, B \rangle = \langle \text{vec}(A), \text{vec}(B) \rangle$ . Using this mapping, we see that, for any  $\epsilon > 0$ ,

$$N(B_1, \|\cdot\|_{\infty,n}, \epsilon) = N(b_1^{mT}, \|\cdot\|_{\infty,n}, \epsilon)$$

where  $b_1^{mT}$  is the unit ball of  $\ell_1^{mT}$  and  $|\cdot|_{\infty,n}$  is the pseudo norm on  $\mathbb{R}^{mT}$  defined for any  $x \in \mathbb{R}^{mT}$  by  $|x|_{\infty,n} = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} |\langle y_i, x \rangle|$  where  $y_i = \text{vec}(X_i)$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . Note that  $y_1, \dots, y_n \in b_2^{mT}$ , where  $b_2^{mT}$  is the unit ball of  $\ell_2^{mT}$ . We use the Carl-Maurey's empirical method (or "probabilistic method") to compute the covering number  $N(b_1^{mT}, |\cdot|_{\infty,n}, \epsilon)$  for "large scales" of  $\epsilon$  and the volumetric argument for "small scales". Let us begin with the Carl-Maurey's argument. Let  $x \in b_1^{mT}$  and  $Z$  be a random variable with values in  $\{\pm e_1, \dots, \pm e_{mT}, 0\}$  - where  $(e_1, \dots, e_{mT})$  is the canonical basis of  $\mathbb{R}^{mT}$  - defined by  $\mathbb{P}[Z = 0] = 1 - |x|_1$  and for all  $i = 1, \dots, mT$ ,

$$\mathbb{P}[Z = \text{sign}(x_i)e_i] = |x_i|.$$

Note that  $\mathbb{E}Z = x$ . Let  $s \in \mathbb{N} - \{0\}$  to be defined later and take  $s$  i.i.d. copies of  $Z$  denoted by  $Z_1, \dots, Z_s$ . By the Giné-Zinn symmetrization argument and the fact that Rademacher processes are upper bounded by Gaussian processes, we have

$$\mathbb{E} \left| \frac{1}{s} \sum_{i=1}^s Z_i - \mathbb{E}Z \right|_{\infty,n} \leq c_0 \mathbb{E} \left| \frac{1}{s} \sum_{i=1}^s g_i Z_i \right|_{\infty,n} \leq c_1 \sqrt{\frac{\log n}{s}} \quad (32)$$

where the last inequality follows by a Gaussian maximal inequality and the fact that  $|y_i|_2 \leq 1$ . Take  $s \in \mathbb{N}$  to be the smallest integer such that  $\epsilon \geq c_1 \sqrt{(\log n)/s}$ . Then, the set

$$\left\{ \frac{1}{s} \sum_{i=1}^s z_i : z_1, \dots, z_s \in \{\pm e_1, \dots, \pm e_{mT}, 0\} \right\} \quad (33)$$

is an  $\epsilon$ -net of  $b_1^{mT}$  with respect to  $|\cdot|_{\infty,n}$ . Indeed, thanks to (32) there exists  $\omega \in \Omega$  such that  $|s^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^s Z_i(\omega) - x|_{\infty,n} \leq \epsilon$ . This implies that there exists an element in the set (33) which is  $\epsilon$ -close to  $x$ . Since the cardinality of the set introduced in (33) is, according to [16] (see p. 85) at most

$$\binom{2mT + s - 1}{s} \leq \left( \frac{e(2mT + s - 1)}{s} \right)^s,$$

we obtain for any  $\epsilon \geq \eta_n := ((\log n)(\log mT)/n)^{1/2}$  that

$$\log N(b_1^{mT}, |\cdot|_{\infty,n}, \epsilon) \leq s \log \left( \frac{e(2mT + s - 1)}{s} \right) \leq \frac{c_2(\log n) \log(mT)}{\epsilon^2},$$

and a volumetric argument gives

$$\log N(b_1^{mT}, |\cdot|_{\infty,n}, \epsilon) \leq c_3 n \log \left( \frac{3\eta_n}{\epsilon} \right)$$

for any  $0 < \epsilon \leq \eta_n$ . Now we use the upper bound (30) and compute the Dudley's entropy integral to obtain

$$\gamma_2(rB_1, \|\cdot\|_{\infty,n}) \leq c_4 r (\log n)^{3/2} \sqrt{\log(mT)}.$$

For the “matrix completion case”, we have

$$N(b_1^{mT}, |\cdot|_{\infty, n}, \epsilon) \leq N(b_1^n, \epsilon b_\infty^n)$$

where  $N(b_1^n, \epsilon b_\infty^n)$  is the minimal number of balls  $\epsilon b_\infty^n$  needed to cover  $b_1^n$ . We use the following proposition from [38] to compute  $N(b_1^n, \epsilon b_\infty^n)$ .

**Proposition 2** (Theorem 1, [38]). *For any  $\epsilon > 0$ , we have*

$$\log N(b_1^n, \epsilon b_\infty^n) \sim \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \epsilon \geq 1 \\ \epsilon^{-1} \log(\epsilon n) & \text{if } n^{-1} \leq \epsilon \leq 1 \\ n \log(1/(\epsilon n)) & \text{if } 0 < \epsilon \leq n^{-1}. \end{cases}$$

Then the result follows from (30) and the computation of the Dudley’s entropy integral using Proposition 2.  $\square$

### 3.6 Computation of the isomorphic function

Introduce the ellipsoid

$$D := \{A \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T} : \mathbb{E}\langle X, A \rangle^2 \leq 1\}.$$

A consequence of Equation (24) in Lemma 5 is the following inclusion, of importance in what follows. Indeed, since  $B_r$  is convex and symmetrical, one has:

$$\{A \in B_r : \mathbb{E}\mathcal{L}_{r,A} \leq \lambda\} \subset A_r^* + K_{r,\lambda}, \quad (34)$$

where  $\mathcal{L}_{r,A}$  is given by (17), and where

$$K_{r,\lambda} := 2B_r \cap \sqrt{\lambda}D.$$

Hence, the complexity of  $\{A \in \mathcal{M}_{m,T} : \mathcal{L}_{r,A} \in \mathcal{L}_{r,\lambda}\}$  (recall that  $\mathcal{L}_{r,\lambda}$  is given by (19)) will be smaller than the complexity of  $B_r$  and  $\sqrt{\lambda}D$ . This will be of importance in the analysis below. The next result provides an upper bound on the complexity of  $V_{r,\lambda}$ , where we recall that

$$V_{r,\lambda} := \{\alpha \mathcal{L}_{r,A} : 0 \leq \alpha \leq 1, A \in B_r, \mathbb{E}(\alpha \mathcal{L}_{r,A}) \leq \lambda\}.$$

The embedding (34) allows to derive corollaries that provide the shape of the penalty functions considered in Theorems 1 to 4. Let us introduce, for some set  $K \subset \mathcal{M}_{m,T}$  the functional

$$U_n(K) := (\mathbb{E}\gamma_2(K, \|\cdot\|_{n,\infty})^2)^{1/2}. \quad (35)$$

**Proposition 3.** *There exists two absolute constants  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  such that the following holds. Let Assumptions 1 and 2 hold. For any  $r > 0$  and  $\lambda > 0$ , we have*

$$\mathbb{E}\|P - P_n\|_{V_{r,\lambda}} \leq c_1 \sum_{i \geq 0} 2^{-i} \phi_n(r, 2^{i+1}\lambda),$$

where

$$\phi_n(r, \lambda) := c_2 \left( U_n(K_{r,\lambda}) \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{n}} + U_n(K_{r,\lambda}) \sqrt{\frac{R(A_r^*)}{n} + \frac{U_n(K_{r,\lambda})^2}{n}} \right),$$

for  $K_{r,\lambda} = 2B_r \cap \sqrt{\lambda}D$ .

*Proof.* Recall that  $\mathcal{L}_{r,\lambda}$  is given by (19). Using the Giné-Zinn symmetrization [19] and the inclusion of (34), one has, for any  $r > 0$  and  $\lambda > 0$ ,

$$\mathbb{E} \|P - P_n\|_{\mathcal{L}_{r,\lambda}} \leq \mathbb{E} \mathbb{E}_\epsilon \frac{2}{n} \sup_{A \in A_r^* + K_{r,\lambda}} \left| \sum_{i=1}^n \epsilon_i \mathcal{L}_{r,A}(X_i, Y_i) \right|,$$

where  $\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_n$  are  $n$  i.i.d Rademacher variables. Introduce the Rademacher process  $Z_A := \sum_{i=1}^n \epsilon_i \mathcal{L}_{r,A}(X_i, Y_i)$ , and note that for any  $A, A' \in A_r^* + K_{r,\lambda}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_\epsilon |Z_A - Z_{A'}|^2 &= \sum_{i=1}^n \langle X_i, A - A' \rangle^2 (2Y_i - \langle X_i, A + A' \rangle)^2 \\ &= 4 \sum_{i=1}^n \langle X_i, A - A' \rangle^2 (Y_i - \langle X_i, A_r^* \rangle - \langle X_i, \frac{A + A'}{2} - A_r^* \rangle)^2 \\ &\leq 8 \|A - A'\|_{n,\infty}^2 \left( \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \langle X_i, A_r^* \rangle)^2 + \sup_{A \in K_{r,\lambda}} \sum_{i=1}^n \langle X_i, A \rangle^2 \right), \end{aligned}$$

where we recall that  $\|A\|_{n,\infty} = \max_{i=1,\dots,n} |\langle X_i, A \rangle|$ . So, using the generic chaining mechanism (cf. Theorem (9)), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \|P - P_n\|_{\mathcal{L}_{r,\lambda}} &\leq \frac{c}{n} \mathbb{E} \left[ \gamma_2(K_{r,\lambda}, \|\cdot\|_{n,\infty}) \left( \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \langle X_i, A_r^* \rangle)^2 + \sup_{A \in K_{r,\lambda}} \sum_{i=1}^n \langle X_i, A \rangle^2 \right)^{1/2} \right] \\ &\leq \frac{c}{\sqrt{n}} (\mathbb{E} \gamma_2(K_{r,\lambda}, \|\cdot\|_{n,\infty})^2)^{1/2} \left( R(A_r^*) + \mathbb{E} \sup_{A \in K_{r,\lambda}} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \langle X_i, A \rangle^2 \right)^{1/2}. \end{aligned}$$

Using (35) and Theorem 1.2 from [21], we obtain:

$$\mathbb{E} \sup_{A \in K_{r,\lambda}} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \langle X_i, A \rangle^2 \leq \lambda + c \max \left( \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{n}} U_n(K_{r,\lambda}), \frac{U_n(K_{r,\lambda})^2}{n} \right),$$

and so, we arrive at

$$\mathbb{E} \|P - P_n\|_{\mathcal{L}_{r,\lambda}} \leq c \phi_n(r, \lambda),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_n(r, \lambda) &:= c \frac{U_n(K_{r,\lambda})}{\sqrt{n}} \left( \lambda + R(A_r^*) + \frac{\sqrt{\lambda} U_n(K_{r,\lambda})}{\sqrt{n}} + \frac{U_n(K_{r,\lambda})^2}{n} \right)^{1/2} \\ &\leq c \left( U_n(K_{r,\lambda}) \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{n}} + U_n(K_{r,\lambda}) \sqrt{\frac{R(A_r^*)}{n} + \frac{U_n(K_{r,\lambda})^2}{n}} \right). \end{aligned}$$

We conclude with the peeling argument provided in Lemma 4.6 of [26]:

$$\mathbb{E}\|P - P_n\|_{V_{r,\lambda}} \leq c \sum_{i \geq 0} 2^{-i} \mathbb{E}\|P - P_n\|_{\mathcal{L}_{r,2^{i+1}\lambda}}. \quad \square$$

Now, we can derive the following corollary. It gives several upper bounds for  $\mathbb{E}\|P - P_n\|_{V_{r,\lambda}}$ , depending on what  $B_r$  is (i.e. which penalty function is used).

**Corollary 1** ( $\|\cdot\|_{S_1}$  penalization). *Let Assumptions 1 and 2 hold and assume that  $B_r = B_{r,1,0,0}$  for  $r > 0$ , see (16). Then, we have*

$$\mathbb{E}\|P - P_n\|_{V_{r,\lambda_1(r)}} \leq \frac{\lambda_1(r)}{8}$$

for any  $r > 0$ , where

$$\lambda_1(r) = c \left( \frac{b_{X,2}^2 r^2 (\log n)^2}{n} + \frac{b_{X,2} b_Y r \log n}{\sqrt{n}} \right).$$

*Proof.* If  $B_r = rB(S_1)$ , we have using the embedding  $K_{r,\lambda} \subset 2B_r$  and Proposition 1 that  $U_n(K_{r,\lambda}) \leq c b_{X,2} r \log n$ , so

$$\phi_n(r, \lambda) \leq c \left( b_{X,2} r \log n \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{n}} + b_{X,2} r \log n \sqrt{\frac{R(A_r^*)}{n}} + \frac{b_{2,X}^2 r^2 (\log n)^2}{n} \right) =: c\phi_{n,1}(r, \lambda).$$

Hence, using Proposition 3 we obtain

$$\mathbb{E}\|P - P_n\|_{V_{r,\lambda}} \leq c \sum_{i \geq 0} 2^{-i} \phi_{n,1}(r, 2^{i+1}\lambda) \leq c\phi_{n,1}(r, \lambda),$$

where we used the fact that the sum is comparable to its first term because of the exponential decay of the summands. Thus, one has  $\mathbb{E}\|P - P_n\|_{V_{r,\lambda}} \leq \lambda/8$  when  $\lambda \geq c\phi_{n,1}(r, \lambda)$ . In particular, since  $R(A_r^*) \leq \mathbb{E}Y^2 \leq b_Y^2$  (see Assumption 2), for values of  $\lambda$  such that

$$\lambda \geq c \left( \frac{b_{X,2}^2 r^2 (\log n)^2}{n} + \frac{b_{X,2} b_Y r \log n}{\sqrt{n}} \right),$$

we have  $\mathbb{E}\|P - P_n\|_{V_{r,\lambda}} \leq \lambda/8$ , which proves the Corollary.  $\square$

**Corollary 2** ( $\|\cdot\|_{S_1} + \|\cdot\|_1$  penalization). *Let Assumptions 1 and 2 hold and assume that  $B_r = B_{r,r_1,0,r_3}$  for  $r, r_1, r_3 > 0$ , see (16). Then, we have*

$$\mathbb{E}\|P - P_n\|_{V_{r,\lambda_{r_1,0,r_3}(r)}} \leq \frac{\lambda_{r_1,0,r_3}(r)}{8}$$

for any  $r > 0$ , where

$$\lambda_{r_1,0,r_3}(r) = c \left[ \left( \frac{1}{r_1^2} \wedge \frac{\log(mT)}{r_3^2} \right) \frac{b_{X,2}^2 r^2 (\log n)^2}{n} + \left( \frac{1}{r_1} \wedge \frac{\sqrt{\log(mT)}}{r_3} \right) \frac{b_{X,2} b_Y r (\log n)^{3/2}}{\sqrt{n}} \right].$$



*Proof.* The proof follows the same steps as the proof of Corollary 1.  $\square$

**Corollary 3** ( $\|\cdot\|_{S_1} + \|\cdot\|_{S_2}^2$  penalization). *Let Assumptions 1 and 2 hold and assume that  $B_r = B_{r,r_1,r_2,0}$  for  $r, r_1, r_2 > 0$ , see (16). Then, we have*

$$\mathbb{E}\|P - P_n\|_{V_{r,\lambda_{r_1,r_2}(r)}} \leq \frac{\lambda_{r_1,r_2}(r)}{8}$$

for any  $r > 0$ , where

$$\lambda_{r_1,r_2}(r) = c\left(\frac{b_{X,2}^2 r (\log n)^2}{r_2 n} + \frac{b_{X,2} b_Y r \log n}{r_1 \sqrt{n}}\right).$$

*Proof.* Use the inclusion

$$B_r \subset \sqrt{\frac{r}{r_2}} B(S_2) \cap \frac{r}{r_1} B(S_1)$$

to obtain using Proposition 1 that

$$\phi_n(r, \lambda) \leq c\left(b_{X,2} \sqrt{\frac{r}{r_2}} \log n \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{n}} + b_{X,2} \frac{r}{r_1} \log n \sqrt{\frac{R(A_r^*)}{n}} + \frac{b_{X,2}^2 r (\log n)^2}{r_2 n}\right).$$

The remaining of the proof is the same as the one of Corollary 1 so it is omitted.  $\square$

**Corollary 4** ( $\|\cdot\|_{S_1} + \|\cdot\|_{S_2}^2 + \|\cdot\|_1$  penalization). *Let Assumptions 1 and 2 hold and assume that  $B_r = B_{r,r_1,r_2,r_3}$  for  $r, r_1, r_2, r_3 > 0$ , see (16). Then, we have*

$$\mathbb{E}\|P - P_n\|_{V_{r,\lambda_{r_1,r_2,r_3}(r)}} \leq \frac{\lambda_{r_1,r_2,r_3}(r)}{8}$$

for any  $r > 0$ , where

$$\lambda_{r_1,r_2,r_3}(r) = c\left[\frac{b_{X,2}^2 r (\log n)^2}{r_2 n} + \left(\frac{1}{r_1} \wedge \frac{\sqrt{\log(mT)}}{r_3}\right) \frac{b_{X,2} b_Y r (\log n)^{3/2}}{\sqrt{n}}\right].$$

*Proof.* The proof follows the same steps as the proof of Corollary 3.  $\square$

The main difference between  $\lambda_1(r)$ ,  $\lambda_{r,r_1,0,r_3}(r)$  and  $\lambda_{r_1,r_2}(r)$ ,  $\lambda_{r_1,r_2,r_3}(r)$  is that  $\lambda_{r_1,r_2}(r)$  and  $\lambda_{r_1,r_2,r_3}(r)$  are linear in  $r$  while  $\lambda_1(r)$  and  $\lambda_{r_1,0,r_3}(r)$  are quadratic. The analysis of the isomorphic functions with quadratic terms will require an extra argument in the proof, in order to remove them from the penalty (see below).

**Remark 2** (Localization does not work here). *Note that, in Corollaries 1 to 2, we don't use the fact that  $K_{r,\lambda} \subset \sqrt{\lambda}D$ , that is, we don't use the localization argument which usually allows to derive fast rates in statistical learning theory. Indeed, for the matrix completion problem, one has  $\mathbb{E}\langle X, A - A_r^* \rangle^2 = \frac{1}{mT} \|A - A_r^*\|_{S_2}^2$ , so when  $\mathbb{E}\langle X, A - A_r^* \rangle^2 \leq \lambda$ , we only know that  $A \in A_r^* + \sqrt{mT\lambda}B(S_2)$ , leading to a term of order  $mT/n$  (up to logarithms) in the isomorphic function. This term is way too large, since one has typically in matrix completion problems that  $mT \gg n$ .*

### 3.7 Isomorphic penalization method

We introduce the *isomorphic penalization method* developed by P. Bartlett, S. Mendelson and J. Neeman in the following general setup. Let  $(\mathcal{Z}, \sigma_{\mathcal{Z}}, \nu)$  be a measurable space endowed with the probability measure  $\nu$ . We consider  $Z, Z_1, Z_2, \dots, Z_n$  i.i.d. random variables having  $\nu$  for common probability distribution. We are given a class  $\mathcal{F}$  of functions on a measurable space  $(\mathcal{X}, \sigma_{\mathcal{X}})$ , a loss function and a risk function

$$Q : \mathcal{Z} \times \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}; \quad R(f) = \mathbb{E}Q(Z, f).$$

For the problem we have in mind, we will use  $Q((X, Y), A) = (Y - \langle X, A \rangle)^2$  for every  $A \in \mathcal{M}_{m, T}$ .

Now, we go into the core of the isomorphic penalization method. We are given a model  $F \subset \mathcal{F}$  and a family  $\{F_r : r \geq 0\}$  of subsets of  $F$ . We consider the following definition.

**Definition 10** (Definition 2.4, [26]). *Let  $\rho_n$  be a non-negative function defined on  $\mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}_+^*$  (which may depend on the sample). We say that the family  $\{F_r : r \geq 0\}$  of subsets of  $F$  is an ordered, parameterized hierarchy of  $F$  with isomorphic function  $\rho_n$  when the following conditions are satisfied:*

1.  $\{F_r : r \geq 0\}$  is non-decreasing (that is  $s \leq t \Rightarrow F_s \subseteq F_t$ );
2. for any  $r \geq 0$ , there exists a unique element  $f_r^* \in F_r$  such that  $R(f_r^*) = \inf\{R(f) : f \in F_r\}$ ; we consider the excess loss function associated with the class  $F_r$

$$\mathcal{L}_{r, f}(\cdot) = Q(\cdot, f) - Q(\cdot, f_r^*); \quad (36)$$

3. the map  $r \mapsto R(f_r^*)$  is continuous;
4. for every  $r_0 \geq 0$ ,  $\bigcap_{r \geq r_0} F_r = F_{r_0}$ ;
5.  $\bigcup_{r \geq 0} F_r = F$ ;
6. for every  $r \geq 0$  and  $u > 0$ , with probability at least  $1 - \exp(-u)$

$$(1/2)P_n \mathcal{L}_{r, f} - \rho_n(r, u) \leq P \mathcal{L}_{r, f} \leq 2P_n \mathcal{L}_{r, f} + \rho_n(r, u), \quad (37)$$

for any  $f \in F_r$  and  $P_n \mathcal{L}_{r, f} = (1/n) \sum_{i=1}^n \mathcal{L}_{r, f}(Z_i)$ .

In the context of learning theory, ordered, parametrized hierarchy of a set  $F$  with isomorphic function  $\rho_n$  provides a very general framework for the construction of penalized empirical risk minimization procedure. The following result from [26] proves that the isomorphic function is a “correct penalty function”.

**Theorem 11** (Theorem 2.5, [26]). *There exists absolute positive constants  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  such that the following holds. Let  $\{F_r : r \geq 0\}$  be an ordered, parameterized hierarchy*

of  $F$  with isomorphic function  $\rho_n$ . Let  $u > 0$ . With probability at least  $1 - \exp(-u)$  any penalized empirical risk minimization procedure

$$\hat{f} \in \operatorname{argmin}_{f \in F} \left( R_n(f) + c_1 \rho_n(2(r(f) + 1), \theta(r(f) + 1, u)) \right), \quad (38)$$

where  $r(f) = \inf(r \geq 0 : f \in F_r)$  and  $R_n(f) = (1/n) \sum_{i=1}^n Q(Z_i, f)$  is the empirical risk of  $f$ , satisfies

$$R(\hat{f}) \leq \inf_{f \in F} \left( R(f) + c_2 \rho_n(2(r(f) + 1), \theta(r(f) + 1, u)) \right)$$

where for all  $r \geq 1$  and  $x > 0$ ,

$$\theta(r, x) = x + \ln(\pi^2/6) + 2 \ln \left( 1 + \frac{R(f_0^*)}{\rho_n(0, x + \log(\pi^2/6))} + \log r \right).$$

### 3.8 End of the proof of Theorems 1 and 2

First, we need to prove that the family of models  $\{B_r : r \geq 0\}$  is an ordered, parametrized hierarchy of  $\mathcal{M}_{m,T}$ . First, fourth and fifth points of Definition 10 are easy to check. The second point follows from Lemma 5. For the third point, we consider  $0 \leq q < r < s$ ,  $\beta := q/r$  and  $\alpha := r/s$ . Since  $\alpha A_s^* \in B_r$ , we have

$$0 \leq R(A_r^*) - R(A_s^*) \leq R(\alpha A_s^*) - R(A_s^*) \leq (\alpha^2 - 1) \|\langle X, A_s^* \rangle\|_{L^2}^2 + 2(1 - \alpha) \|Y\|_2 \|\langle X, A_s^* \rangle\|_{L^2}.$$

As  $s \rightarrow r$ , the right hand side goes to zero (because  $\langle X, A_s^* \rangle$  is uniformly bounded in  $L_2$  for  $s \in [r, r + 1]$ ). So  $r \mapsto R(A_r^*)$  is upper semi-continuous on  $(0, \infty)$ . The continuity at  $r = 0$  follows the same line. In the other direction,

$$0 \leq R(A_q^*) - R(A_r^*) \leq R(\beta A_r^*) - R(A_r^*) \leq (\beta^2 - 1) \|\langle X, A_r^* \rangle\|_{L^2}^2 + 2(1 - \beta) \|Y\|_2 \|\langle X, A_r^* \rangle\|_{L^2}$$

and the right hand side tends to zero for the same reason as before.

Now, we turn to the sixth point of Definition 10. That is the computation of the isomorphic function  $\rho_n$  associated with the family  $\{B_r : r \geq 0\}$ . Using Theorem 6 we obtain that, with a probability larger than  $1 - 4e^{-x}$ :

$$\frac{1}{2} P_n \mathcal{L}_{r,A} - \rho_n(r, x) \leq P \mathcal{L}_{r,A} \leq 2 P_n \mathcal{L}_{r,A} + \rho_n(r, x) \quad \forall A \in B_r,$$

where

$$\rho_n(r, x) := c \left[ \lambda(r) + (b'_Y + C_r)^2 \left( \frac{x \log n}{n} \right) \right],$$

where  $b'_Y := b_{Y, \psi_1} + b_{Y, \infty} + b_{Y, 2}$ , where  $C_r$  and  $\lambda(r)$  are defined depending on the considered penalization (see (23) and Corollaries 1 to 4). Now, we apply Theorem 11 to the hierarchy  $F_r = B_r$  for  $r \geq 0$ . First of all, note that, for every  $x > 0$  and  $r \geq 1$

$$\begin{aligned} \theta(r, x) &= x + \ln(\pi^2/6) + 2 \ln \left( 1 + \frac{\mathbb{E}Y^2}{\rho_n(0, x + \log(\pi^2/6))} + \log r \right) \\ &\leq x + c(\log n + \log \log r), \end{aligned}$$

so  $\rho_n(2(r+1), \theta(r+1, x)) \leq \rho'_n(r, x)$ , with:

$$\rho'_n(r, x) := c \left[ \lambda(2(r+1)) + (b'_Y + C_r)^2 \frac{(x + \log n + \log \log r) \log n}{n} \right].$$

From now on, the analysis depends on the penalization, so we consider them separately.

### 3.8.1 The $\|\cdot\|_{S_1}$ case

Recall that in this case

$$\lambda(r) = c \left( \frac{b_{X,2}^2 r^2 (\log n)^2}{n} + \frac{b_{X,2} b_Y r \log n}{\sqrt{n}} \right)$$

and  $C_r = b_{X,\infty} r$ , see (23). An easy computation gives  $\rho'_n(r, x) \leq \tilde{\rho}_{n,1}(r, x)$  where

$$\tilde{\rho}_{n,1}(r, x) := c_{X,Y} \frac{(r+1)^2 (x + \log n \vee \log \log r) \log n}{n} \vee p_{n,1}(r, x),$$

where  $c_{X,Y} := c(1 + b_{X,2}^2 + b_Y b_X + b_{Y,\psi_1}^2 + b_{Y,\infty}^2 + b_{Y,2}^2 + b_{X,\infty}^2)$  and where

$$p_{n,1}(r, x) := c_{X,Y} \frac{(r+1)(x + \log n) \log n}{\sqrt{n}}.$$

Note that  $p_{n,1}(r, x)$  is the penalty we want (the one considered in Theorem 1). Let us introduce for short  $r(A) = \|A\|_{S_1}$  and the following functionals:

$$\begin{aligned} \Lambda_1(A) &= R(A) + \text{pen}_1(A), & \Lambda_{n,1}(A) &= R_n(A) + \text{pen}_1(A), \\ \tilde{\Lambda}_1(A) &= R(A) + \tilde{\text{pen}}_1(A), & \tilde{\Lambda}_{n,1}(A) &= R_n(A) + \tilde{\text{pen}}_1(A), \end{aligned}$$

where  $\text{pen}_1(A) := p_{n,1}(r(A), x)$  and where  $\tilde{\text{pen}}_1(A) := \tilde{\rho}_{n,1}(r(A), x)$  is a penalization that satisfies that, if  $\hat{A} \in \text{argmin}_A \tilde{\Lambda}_{n,1}(A)$ , then we have  $R(\hat{A}) \leq \inf_A \tilde{\Lambda}_1(A)$  with a probability larger than  $1 - 4e^{-x}$ . Recall that we want to prove that if  $\hat{A} \in \text{argmin}_A \Lambda_{n,1}(A)$ , then we have  $R(\hat{A}) \leq \inf_A \Lambda_1(A)$  with a probability larger than  $1 - 5e^{-x}$ . This will follow if we prove

$$\inf_A \tilde{\Lambda}_1(A) \leq \inf_A \Lambda_1(A) \quad \text{and} \quad (39)$$

$$\text{argmin}_A \Lambda_{n,1}(A) \subset \text{argmin}_A \tilde{\Lambda}_{n,1}(A), \quad (40)$$

so we focus on the proof of these two facts. First of all, let us prove that if  $\tilde{\rho}_{n,1}(r, x) > p_{n,1}(r, x)$  then both  $r$  and  $p_{n,1}(r, x)$  cannot be small.

If  $\log n < \log \log r$  we have  $r > e^n$  and  $p_{n,1}(r, x) > c_{X,Y} e^n (\log n)^2 / \sqrt{n}$ . If  $\log n \geq \log \log r$  and  $\tilde{\rho}_{n,1}(r, x) > p_{n,1}(r, x)$ , then

$$\frac{(r+1)^2 (x + \log n) \log n}{n} > \frac{(r+1)(x + \log n) \log n}{\sqrt{n}},$$

so  $r > \sqrt{n} - 1$  and  $p_{n,1}(r, x) > c_{X,Y}(\log n)^2$ . Hence, we proved that if  $\tilde{\rho}_{n,1}(r, x) > p_{n,1}(r, x)$ , then  $r > 1$  and  $p_{n,1}(r, x) > c_{X,Y}(\log n)^2$ . Note also that  $p_{n,1}(r, x) > 2(x + \log n) \log n / \sqrt{n}$  since  $r > 1$ .

Let us turn to the proof of (39). Let  $A'$  be such that  $\tilde{\Lambda}_1(A') > \Lambda_1(A')$ . Then  $\tilde{\text{pen}}_1(A') > \text{pen}_1(A')$ , ie  $\tilde{\rho}_{n,1}(r(A'), x) > p_{n,1}(r(A'), x)$ , so that  $r(A') > 1$ ,  $p_{n,1}(r(A'), x) > c_{X,Y}(\log n)^2$  and  $p_{n,1}(r(A'), x) > 2c_{X,Y}(x + \log n) \log n / \sqrt{n}$ . On the other hand, we have  $\inf_A \Lambda_1(A) \leq b_Y^2 + \text{pen}_1(0) = b_Y^2 + p_{n,1}(0, x)$ . But  $p_{n,1}(r(A'), x) > c_{X,Y}(\log n)^2 > 2b_Y^2$  and  $p_{n,1}(r(A'), x) > 2p_{n,1}(0, x)$  since  $r(A') > 1$ , so that  $b_Y^2 + p_{n,1}(0, x) < p_{n,1}(r(A'), x)$  and then

$$\inf_A \Lambda_1(A) < p_n(r(A'), x) \leq \Lambda_1(A').$$

Hence, we proved that if  $A'$  is such that  $\Lambda_1(A') \leq \inf_A \Lambda_1(A)$ , we have  $\tilde{\Lambda}_1(A') \leq \Lambda_1(A')$ , so  $\inf_A \tilde{\Lambda}_1(A) \leq \tilde{\Lambda}_1(A') \leq \Lambda_1(A') \leq \inf_A \Lambda_1(A)$ , which proves (39).

The proof of (40) is almost the same. Let  $A'$  be such that  $\tilde{\Lambda}_{n,1}(A') > \Lambda_{n,1}(A')$ , so as before we have  $r(A') > 1$ ,  $p_{n,1}(r(A'), x) > c_{X,Y}(\log n)^2$  and  $p_{n,1}(r(A'), x) > 2c_{X,Y}(x + \log n) \log n / \sqrt{n}$ . This time we have  $\inf_A \Lambda_{n,1}(A) \leq n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i^2 + p_{n,1}(0, x)$ , so we use some concentration for the sum of the  $Y_i^2$ 's. Indeed, we have, as a consequence of Theorem 4 from [2], that

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i^2 \leq \mathbb{E}Y^2 + c_1 \sqrt{\mathbb{E}(Y^4)} \frac{x}{n} + c_2 \log n \frac{\|Y^2\|_{\psi_1} x}{n} \quad (41)$$

with a probability larger than  $1 - e^{-x}$ . But then, it is easy to infer that for  $n$  large enough, the right hand side of (41) is smaller than  $p_{n,1}(r(A'), x)/2$ , so that we have, on an event of probability larger than  $1 - e^{-x}$ , that

$$\inf_A \Lambda_{n,1}(A) \leq \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i^2 + p_{n,1}(0, x) < p_{n,1}(r(A'), x) < \Lambda_{n,1}(A').$$

So, we proved that if  $\Lambda_{n,1}(A') < \tilde{\Lambda}_{n,1}(A')$ , then  $A' \notin \text{argmin}_A \Lambda_{n,1}(A)$ , or equivalently that  $\text{argmin}_A \Lambda_{n,1}(A) \subset \{A : \tilde{\Lambda}_{n,1}(A) \leq \Lambda_{n,1}(A)\}$ . But  $\Lambda_{n,1}(A) \leq \tilde{\Lambda}_{n,1}(A)$  for any  $A$  (since  $p_{n,1}(r, x) \leq \tilde{\rho}_{n,1}(r, x)$ ), so (40) follows. This concludes the proof of Theorem 1.

### 3.8.2 The $\|\cdot\|_{S_1} + \|\cdot\|_1$ case

Recall that in this case

$$\lambda(r) = c \left[ \left( \frac{1}{r_1} \wedge \frac{\sqrt{\log(mT)}}{r_3} \right) \frac{2b_{X,2}^2 r^2 (\log n)^2}{n} + \left( \frac{1}{r_1} \wedge \frac{\sqrt{\log(mT)}}{r_3} \right) \frac{b_{X,2} b_Y r (\log n)^{3/2}}{\sqrt{n}} \right],$$

and that

$$C_r = \min \left( b_{X,\infty} \frac{r}{r_1}, b_{X,\ell_\infty} \frac{r}{r_3} \right),$$

see (23). An easy computation gives that  $\rho'_n(r, x) \leq \tilde{\rho}_{n,2}(r, x)$ , where

$$\tilde{\rho}_{n,2}(r, x) := c_{X,Y} \left( \frac{1}{r_1} \wedge \frac{\sqrt{\log(mT)}}{r_3} \right)^2 \frac{(r+1)^2 (x + \log n \vee \log \log r) \log n}{n} \vee p_{n,2}(r, x),$$

where  $c_{X,Y} = c(1 + b_{X,2}^2 + b_{X,2}b_Y + b_{Y,\psi_1}^2 + b_{Y,\infty}^2 + b_{Y,2}^2 + b_{X,\infty}^2 + b_{X,\ell_\infty}^2)$  and

$$p_{n,2}(r, x) := c_{X,Y} \left( \frac{1}{r_1} \wedge \frac{\sqrt{\log(mT)}}{r_3} \right) \frac{(r+1)(x + \log n)(\log n)^{3/2}}{\sqrt{n}}.$$

Note that  $p_{n,2}(r, x)$  is the penalization we want (the one considered in Theorem 3). Introducing  $r(A) = r_1 \|A\|_{S_1} + r_3 \|A\|_1$ , the remaining of the proof follows the lines of the pure  $\|\cdot\|_{S_1}$  case, so it is omitted.

### 3.8.3 The $\|\cdot\|_{S_1} + \|\cdot\|_{S_2}^2$ case

This is easier than what we did for the  $\|\cdot\|_{S_1}$  case, since we only have a  $\log \log r$  term to remove from the penalization. Recall that

$$\lambda(r) = c \left( \frac{b_{X,2}^2 r (\log n)^2}{r_2 n} + \frac{b_{X,2} b_Y r \log n}{r_1 \sqrt{n}} \right),$$

and

$$C_r = \min \left( b_{X,\infty} \frac{r}{r_1}, b_{X,2} \sqrt{\frac{r}{r_2}} \right) \leq b_{X,2} \sqrt{\frac{r}{r_2}},$$

so that  $\rho'_n(r, x) \leq \tilde{\rho}_{n,3}(r, x)$  where

$$\tilde{\rho}_{n,3}(r, x) = c_{X,Y} \frac{(r+1) \log n}{\sqrt{n}} \left( \frac{1}{r_1} + \frac{(x + \log n \vee \log \log r) \log n}{r_2 \sqrt{n}} \right),$$

where  $c_{X,Y} = c(1 + b_{X,2}^2 + b_{X,2}b_Y + b_{Y,\psi_1}^2 + b_{Y,\infty}^2 + b_{Y,2}^2)$ . This is almost the penalty we want, up to the  $\log \log r$  term, so we consider.

$$p_{n,3}(r, x) = c_{X,Y} \frac{(r+1) \log n}{\sqrt{n}} \left( \frac{1}{r_1} + \frac{(x + \log n) \log n}{r_2 \sqrt{n}} \right),$$

Let us introduce for short

$$r(A) := r_1 \|A\|_{S_1} + r_2 \|A\|_{S_2}^2 = \inf \{ r \geq 0 : A \in B_r \}$$

and the following functionals:

$$\begin{aligned} \Lambda_3(A) &= R(A) + \text{pen}_3(A), & \Lambda_{n,3}(A) &= R_n(A) + \text{pen}_3(A), \\ \tilde{\Lambda}_3(A) &= R(A) + \text{p}\tilde{\text{e}}\text{n}_3(A), & \tilde{\Lambda}_{n,3}(A) &= R_n(A) + \text{p}\tilde{\text{e}}\text{n}_3(A), \end{aligned}$$

where  $\text{pen}_3(A) := p_{n,3}(r(A), x)$  and where  $\tilde{\text{pen}}_3(A) := \tilde{\rho}_{n,3}(r(A), x)$ . We only need to prove that

$$\inf_A \tilde{\Lambda}_3(A) \leq \inf_A \Lambda_3(A) \quad \text{and} \quad (42)$$

$$\text{argmin}_A \Lambda_{n,3}(A) \subset \text{argmin}_A \tilde{\Lambda}_{n,3}(A). \quad (43)$$

Obviously, if  $\tilde{\rho}_{n,3}(r, x) > p_{n,3}(r, x)$ , then  $r > e^n$ , so following the arguments we used for the  $S_1$  penalty, it is easy to prove both (42) and (43). This concludes the proof of Theorem 2.

### 3.8.4 The $\|\cdot\|_{S_1} + \|\cdot\|_{S_2}^2 + \|\cdot\|_1$ case

Recall that in this case

$$\lambda(r) = c \left[ \frac{b_{X,2}^2 r (\log n)^2}{r_2 n} + \left( \frac{1}{r_1} \wedge \frac{\sqrt{\log(mT)}}{r_3} \right) \frac{b_{X,2} b_Y r (\log n)^{3/2}}{\sqrt{n}} \right].$$

and that

$$C_r = \min \left( b_{X,\infty} \frac{r}{r_1}, b_{X,2} \sqrt{\frac{r}{r_2}}, b_{X,\ell_\infty} \frac{r}{r_3} \right) \leq b_{X,2} \sqrt{\frac{r}{r_2}}, \quad (44)$$

see (23). An easy computation gives that  $\rho'_n(r, x) \leq \tilde{\rho}_{n,4}(r, x)$ , where

$$\tilde{\rho}_{n,4}(r, x) := c_{X,Y} \frac{(r+1)(\log n)^{3/2}}{\sqrt{n}} \left( \frac{1}{r_1} \wedge \frac{\sqrt{\log(mT)}}{r_3} + \frac{x + \log n \vee \log \log r}{r_2 \sqrt{n}} \right)$$

where  $c_{X,Y} = c(1 + b_{X,2}^2 + b_{X,2} b_Y + b_{Y,\psi_1}^2 + b_{Y,\infty}^2 + b_{Y,2}^2)$ . The penalization we want is

$$p_{n,4}(r, x) := c_{X,Y} \frac{(r+1)(\log n)^{3/2}}{\sqrt{n}} \left( \frac{1}{r_1} \wedge \frac{\sqrt{\log(mT)}}{r_3} + \frac{x + \log n}{r_2 \sqrt{n}} \right),$$

so introducing  $r(A) = r_1 \|A\|_{S_1} + r_2 \|A\|_{S_2}^2 + r_3 \|A\|_1$  and following the lines of the proof of the  $S_1 + S_2$  case to remove the  $\log \log r$  term, it is easy to conclude the proof of Theorem 4.

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