To Reviewer 1
Thanks for your comments and questions. It seems you misunderstood some key points and details. Hope our explanation below could help to clarify some misunderstandings and confusion.

(1) Theorem 2 in [Maurer 2005] is totally different for our Theorem 2, although they may look similar. Theorem 2 in [Maurer 2005] is the generalization bound for Single Task Learning (ordinary supervised learning), which certainly depends on the sample size \( m \) (number of samples in the task). Actually, this bound is from [Bousquet and Elisseeff 2002]. In contrast, Theorem 2 in our paper is the generalization bound for Meta-Learning with S/Q training, which is independent of the sample size \( m \) of each task but depends on the total number of tasks \( n \). To our knowledge, this is the first sample-size-free bound for meta-learning.

(2) The empirical evaluation corroborates our theoretical claims. By “specific learning rate schedule”, we think you meant the learning rate should satisfy \( \zeta_t \leq c/t \) for a constant \( c \) and \( t = \{1, \ldots, T\} \) where \( T \) is the total number of training steps, as stated in Theorem 3 in the Appendix. Notice that this condition can be easily satisfied with a fixed learning rate in practice. For example, ProtoNets with a fixed learning rate \( \zeta_t = 1e-3 \) converges in 24,000 episodes \((T = 24,000)\) and satisfies the condition with \( c = 240 \). Actually, Hardt et al. (2016) also conducted experiments with a fixed learning rate \( 1e-2 \) and a constant number of training steps to verify their theory.

We would like to reiterate that our empirical evaluation is conducted with most popular meta-algorithms including MAML [Finn et al. 2017], ProtoNets [Snell et al. 2017] and Bilevel programming [Franceschi et al. 2018] by strictly following their training details on standard benchmarks (few-shot classification on miniImageNet and sinusoidal few-shot regression). We think the empirical evidence is sufficient to verify our theoretical claims.

(3) Our results are not contradictory to those in [Triantafillou et al. 2020]. Notice that generalization gap \( \neq \) test error. In fact, generalization gap = test error – training error (see [1] [2] for further reading). It is entirely possible that test error keeps decreasing while generalization gap remains unchanged, because training error can also be decreasing. This is exactly the case here. Fig. 2(b) in [Triantafillou et al. 2020] shows that the increase of shots (inner-task sample size) reduces test error, which is evidently true. However, the increase of shots also reduces training error, and both our theoretical bound and empirical evaluation show that the generalization gap keeps unchanged for S/Q training.

To Reviewer 2
Thanks for your comments and suggestion. The results of LOO training were previously put in a separate section, but due to space limitation, we merged them with the results of S/Q training. We will reorganize the paper in the final version where more space will be given.

To Reviewer 3
Thanks for your comments and feedback. Reptile is an inspiring meta-algorithm which does not need a S/Q split for training but still achieves comparable performance with MAML. To make the traditional generalization bound apply to Reptile, we may first need to derive the randomized uniform stability of Reptile w.r.t. its update rule, which is not equivalent to “meta-level SGD”. We think it would be very interesting to study the generalization of Reptile and will add more discussion in the revised version. Thank you for bringing that up.

To Reviewer 4
Thanks for your comments and feedback. Indeed the discussion of LOO meta-training is not related to Theorem 4 in our paper, but we introduce LOO meta-training because it is “a surrogate to the traditional scheme that is compatible with gradient-based and metric-based meta-learning algorithms” (Reviewer 3 said it nicely and we quote). Besides, it is a nice comparison to S/Q training in terms of generalization bounds. We will further clarify this in the final version.