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# Supplementary Documents for “Semi-Crowdsource Clustering: Generalizing Crowd Labeling by Robust Distance Metric Learning”

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## 1 Theoretical Analysis for Perfect Recovery using Equation (2)

The following discussion about the perfect recovery result using Eq. (2) comes from [3]. We repeat it in the supplementary document for the completeness of this study.

To discuss the perfect recovery result for using Eq. (2), we first need to make a few assumptions about  $A^*$  besides its low rank. Let  $A^*$  be a low-rank matrix of rank  $r$ , with a singular value decomposition  $A^* = U\Sigma V^\top$ , where  $U = (\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_r) \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times r}$  and  $V = (\mathbf{v}_1, \dots, \mathbf{v}_r) \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times r}$  are the left and right eigenvectors of  $A^*$ , satisfying the following incoherence assumptions.

- **A1** The row and column spaces of  $A^*$  have coherence bounded above by some positive number  $\mu_0$ , i.e.,

$$\max_{i \in [N]} \|P_U(\mathbf{e}_i)\|_2^2 \leq \frac{\mu_0 r}{N}, \quad \max_{i \in [N]} \|P_V(\mathbf{e}_i)\|_2^2 \leq \frac{\mu_0 r}{N}$$

where  $\mathbf{e}_i$  is the standard basis vector.

- **A2** The matrix  $E = UV^\top$  has a maximum entry bounded by  $\frac{\mu_1 \sqrt{r}}{N}$  in absolute value for some positive  $\mu_1$ , i.e.  $|E_{i,j}| \leq \frac{\mu_1 \sqrt{r}}{N}, \forall (i, j) \in [N] \times [N]$ ,

where  $P_U$  and  $P_V$  denote the orthogonal projections on the column space and row space of  $A^*$ , respectively, i.e.

$$P_U = UU^\top, \quad P_V = VV^\top$$

To state our theorem, we need to introduce a few notations. Let  $\xi(A')$  and  $\mu(A')$  denote the low-rank and sparsity incoherence of matrix  $A'$  defined by [1], i.e.

$$\xi(A') = \max_{E \in T(A'), \|E\| \leq 1} \|E\|_\infty \tag{1}$$

$$\mu(A') = \max_{E \in \Omega(A'), \|E\|_\infty \leq 1} \|E\| \tag{2}$$

where  $T(A')$  denotes the space spanned by the elements of the form  $\mathbf{u}_k \mathbf{y}^\top$  and  $\mathbf{x} \mathbf{v}_k^\top$ , for  $1 \leq k \leq r$ ,  $\Omega(A')$  denotes the space of matrices that have the same support to  $A'$ ,  $\|\cdot\|$  denotes the spectral norm and  $\|\cdot\|_\infty$  denotes the largest entry in magnitude.

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $A^* \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$  be a similarity matrix of rank  $r$  obeying the incoherence properties (A1) and (A2), with  $\mu = \max(\mu_0, \mu_1)$ . Suppose we observe  $m_1$  entries of  $A^*$  recorded in  $\tilde{A}$*

with locations sampled uniformly at random, denoted by  $S$ . Under the assumption that  $m_0$  entries randomly sampled from  $m_1$  observed entries are corrupted, denoted by  $\Omega$ , i.e.  $A_{ij}^* \neq \hat{A}_{ij}$ ,  $(i, j) \in \Omega$ . Given  $\mathcal{P}_S(\hat{A}) = \mathcal{P}_S(A^* + E^*)$ , where  $E^*$  corresponds to the corrupted entries in  $\Omega$ . With

$$\mu(E^*)\xi(A^*) \leq \frac{1}{4r+5}, \quad m_1 - m_0 \geq C_1\mu^4 n(\log n)^2,$$

and  $C_1$  is a constant, we have, with a probability at least  $1 - N^{-3}$ , the solution  $(A', E) = (A^*, E^*)$  is the unique optimizer to (2) provided that

$$\frac{\xi(A^*) - (2r-1)\xi^2(A^*)\mu(E^*)}{1 - 2(r+1)\xi(A^*)\mu(E^*)} < \lambda < \frac{1 - (4r+5)\xi(A^*)\mu(E^*)}{(r+2)\mu(E^*)}$$

## 2 Proof of Theorem 1

To prove Theorem 1, we need the following theorem for matrix concentration.

**Lemma 2.** (Lemma 2 from [2]) Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a Hilbert space and  $\xi$  be a random variable on  $(Z, \rho)$  with values in  $\mathcal{H}$ . Assume  $\|\xi\| \leq M < \infty$  almost surely. Denote  $\sigma^2(\xi) = \mathbb{E}(\|\xi\|^2)$ . Let  $\{z_i\}_{i=1}^m$  be independent random drawers of  $\rho$ . For any  $0 < \delta < 1$ , with confidence  $1 - \delta$ ,

$$\left\| \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m (\xi_i - \mathbb{E}[\xi_i]) \right\| \leq \frac{4M \ln(2/\delta)}{\sqrt{m}}$$

Using the assumption that  $\|\mathbf{x}\|_2 \leq 1$  and Lemma 2, we have, with a probability  $1 - n^{-3}$ ,

$$\left| \frac{1}{m} \hat{X} \hat{X}^\top - C_X \right|_2 \leq \frac{12 \ln n}{\sqrt{n}}$$

and therefore

$$\left| \left( \frac{1}{m} \hat{X} \hat{X}^\top + \lambda I \right)^{-1} - (C_X + \lambda I)^{-1} \right|_2 \leq \frac{12 \ln n}{\lambda \sqrt{n}}$$

Second, according to Lemma 1, with a probability  $1 - n^{-3}$ , we have  $\hat{A} = YY^\top$  and therefore  $\hat{X} \hat{A} \hat{X}^\top = \hat{X} Y Y^\top \hat{X}^\top$ . Again, using the matrix concentration theory, we have, with a probability  $1 - n^{-3}$ ,

$$\left| \frac{1}{m} \hat{X} Y - B \right|_2 \leq \frac{12 \ln n}{\sqrt{n}}$$

Finally, we rewrite  $\|M_s - \hat{M}_s\|_2$  as

$$\begin{aligned} & \|M_s - \hat{M}_s\|_2 \\ & \leq \left| M_s - \left( \frac{1}{m} \hat{X} \hat{X}^\top + \lambda I \right)^{-1} B B^\top C_X \right|_2 + \\ & \quad \left| \left( \frac{1}{m} \hat{X} \hat{X}^\top + \lambda I \right)^{-1} B B^\top C_X - \left( \frac{1}{m} \hat{X} \hat{X}^\top + \lambda I \right) B B^\top \left( \frac{1}{m} \hat{X} \hat{X}^\top + \lambda I \right)^{-1} \right|_2 + \\ & \quad \left| \left( \frac{1}{m} \hat{X} \hat{X}^\top + \lambda I \right)^{-1} B B^\top \left( \frac{1}{m} \hat{X} \hat{X}^\top + \lambda I \right)^{-1} - \left( \frac{1}{m} \hat{X} \hat{X}^\top + \lambda I \right)^{-1} \frac{\hat{X} Y}{m} B^\top \left( \frac{1}{m} \hat{X} \hat{X}^\top + \lambda I \right)^{-1} \right|_2 + \\ & \quad \left| \left( \frac{1}{m} \hat{X} \hat{X}^\top + \lambda I \right)^{-1} \frac{\hat{X} Y}{m} B^\top \left( \frac{1}{m} \hat{X} \hat{X}^\top + \lambda I \right)^{-1} - \hat{M}_s \right|_2 \end{aligned}$$

It is easy to see that with a probability  $1 - 3n^{-3}$ , each term on the right hand side of the above inequality is bounded by  $\frac{12 \ln n}{\lambda^2 \sqrt{n}}$ , leading to the result of the theorem.

## References

- [1] V. Chandrasekaran, S. Sanghavi, P. A. Parrilo, and A. S. Willsky. Rank-sparsity incoherence for matrix decomposition. volume 21, pages 572–596, 2011.
- [2] S. Smale and D.-X. Zhou. Geometry on probability spaces. *Constr Approx*, 30:311–323, 2009.
- [3] J. Yi, R. Jin, A. K. Jain, and S. Jain. Crowdclustering with sparse pairwise labels: A matrix completion approach. In *AAAI Workshop on Human Computation*, 2012.