# Supplementary material for 'Covariate-assisted spectral clustering' 

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## 1. Discontinuous Transitions in the Leading Eigenspace of $\tilde{L}$

Discontinuous changes in the leading eigenspace of $\tilde{L}(\alpha)$ are a major concern when determining an optimal $\alpha$ value since they have a large effect on the clustering results. They can be studied algebraically by expressing $\tilde{L}(\alpha)$ in terms of the eigenvectors of $L_{\tau} L_{\tau}$ and $X X^{T}$. This approach is motivated by Brand (2006).

Let $L_{\tau} L_{\tau}=V \Lambda V^{T}$ and $P$ be the orthogonal basis of the column space of $\left(I-V V^{T}\right) X X^{T}$, the component of $X X^{T}$ orthogonal to $V$. Let $X X^{T}=\tilde{V} \tilde{\Lambda} \tilde{V}^{T}$ and $\tilde{X}_{i}=\tilde{\lambda}_{i}^{1 / 2} \tilde{V}_{i}$, so $X X^{T}=$ $\tilde{X} \tilde{X}^{T}$. Then, $\tilde{L}$ can be written as follows.

$$
\begin{aligned}
\tilde{L} & =L_{\tau} L_{\tau}+\alpha X X^{T} \\
& =L_{\tau} L_{\tau}+\alpha \tilde{X} \tilde{X}^{T} \\
& =\left[\begin{array}{ll}
V & \tilde{X}
\end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{cc}
\Lambda & 0 \\
0 & \alpha I
\end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{ll}
V & \tilde{X}
\end{array}\right]^{T} \\
& =\left[\begin{array}{ll}
V & P
\end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{cc}
I & V^{T} \tilde{X} \\
0 & P^{T}\left(I-V V^{T}\right) \tilde{X}
\end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{cc}
\Lambda & 0 \\
0 & \alpha I
\end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{cc}
I & 0 \\
\tilde{X}^{T} V & \tilde{X}^{T}\left(I-V V^{T}\right) P
\end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{ll}
V & P
\end{array}\right]^{T} \\
& =\left[\begin{array}{ll}
V & P
\end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{c}
\Lambda+\alpha V^{T} \tilde{X} \tilde{X}^{T} V \\
\alpha P^{T}\left(I-V V^{T}\right) \tilde{X} \tilde{X}^{T} V \\
\alpha P^{T}\left(I-V V^{T} \tilde{X} \tilde{X}^{T}\left(I-V V^{T}\right) P\right. \\
\tilde{X} \tilde{X}^{T}\left(I-V V^{T}\right) P
\end{array}\right][V P]^{T} \\
& =\left[\begin{array}{ll}
V & P
\end{array}\right] S\left[\begin{array}{ll}
V & P
\end{array}\right]^{T} \\
& \left.=\left(\begin{array}{ll}
\left.\left[\begin{array}{ll}
V & P
\end{array}\right] V^{\prime}\right) \Lambda^{\prime}\left(V^{T}[V P\right.
\end{array}\right]^{T}\right) .
\end{aligned}
$$

Note that

$$
\left(\Lambda+\alpha V^{T} \tilde{X} \tilde{X}^{T} V\right)_{i j}=\lambda_{i} \delta_{i j}+\alpha \sum_{k}\left(V_{i}^{T} \tilde{X}_{k}\right)\left(\tilde{X}_{k}^{T} V_{j}\right)
$$

$$
P^{T}\left(I-V V^{T}\right) \tilde{X} \tilde{X}^{T} V=\left\{P^{T}\left(I-V V^{T}\right) \tilde{X}\right\}\left[\left(\tilde{X}_{i}^{T} V_{j}\right)_{i j}\right]
$$

Hence, for any $j$ such that $\tilde{X}_{i}^{T} V_{j}=0$, for all $i$, the $j$ th row and column of $S$ will be zero except for the diagonal element. This means that $U_{j}$ will not be rotated by $V^{\prime}$ and will be an eigenvector of $\tilde{L}$ for all values of $\alpha$. The eigenvalue $\lambda_{j}$ will not change either, but its position relative to the other eigenvalues will change with $\alpha$. The change in the relative position of $\lambda_{j}$ will result in a discontinuous transition in the leading eigenspace of $\tilde{L}$ if $j \geq K$.

For any $i$ such that $\tilde{X}_{i}^{T} V_{j}=0$ for all $j, \tilde{V}_{i}$ is a column in $P$ by construction. Row $i$ in the lower left block of $S$ is

$$
\begin{aligned}
\tilde{V}_{i}^{T}\left(I-V V^{T}\right) \tilde{X}\left[\left(\tilde{X}_{i}^{T} V_{j}\right)_{i j}\right]= & {\left[0, \ldots, \tilde{\lambda}_{i}^{1 / 2}, 0, \ldots\right]\left[\left(\tilde{X}_{i}^{T} V_{j}\right)_{i j}\right] } \\
& \quad-[0, \ldots, 1,0, \ldots] \operatorname{diag}\left(\tilde{\lambda}_{1}^{1 / 2}, \ldots, \tilde{\lambda}_{R}^{1 / 2}\right)\left[\left(\tilde{X}_{i}^{T} V_{j}\right)_{i j}\right] \\
= & {[0, \ldots, 0] }
\end{aligned}
$$

and, since $S$ is symmetric, this is also column $i$ in the upper right block of $S$. The lower right block of $S$ has row $i$, and by symmetry column $i$, given by

$$
\begin{aligned}
\tilde{V}_{i}^{T}\left(I-V V^{T}\right) \tilde{X} \tilde{X}^{T}\left(I-V V^{T}\right) P & =\tilde{v}_{i}^{T}\left(\tilde{X} \tilde{X}^{T}-\tilde{X} \tilde{X}^{T} V V^{T}\right) P \\
& =\tilde{\lambda}_{i} \tilde{V}_{i}^{T} P \\
& =\left[0, \ldots, \tilde{\lambda}_{i}, 0, \ldots\right]
\end{aligned}
$$

Thus, for any $i$ such that $\tilde{X}_{i}^{T} V_{j}=0$, for all $j$ the $i$ th row and column of $S$ will be zero except for the diagonal element. This means that $\tilde{V}_{i}$ and $\tilde{\lambda}_{i}$ will be an eigenvector and eigenvalue of $\tilde{L}$ for all values of $\alpha$, but will occupy different relative positions in the eigendecomposition based on the value of $\alpha$. The change in the relative position of $\tilde{\lambda}_{i}$ will result in a discontinuous transition in the leading eigenspace of $\tilde{L}$ if $i \geq K$.

Knowing the interval on which such discontinuous transitions are possible can reduce the computational burden of choosing an optimal $\alpha$. The values of $\alpha$ for which transitions occur can be identified as points at which the eigengap equals zero, $\lambda_{K}(\tilde{L})-\lambda_{K+1}(\tilde{L})=0$. First, consider the lowest possible value of $\alpha$ for which such a transition can occur, $\alpha=\operatorname{argmin}_{\alpha}\{\alpha$ : $\left.\lambda_{K}(\tilde{L})-\lambda_{K+1}(\tilde{L})=0\right\}$. Note that $\lambda_{K}(\tilde{L}) \geq \lambda_{K}\left(L_{\tau} L_{\tau}\right)$, where the equality holds when $V_{K}$ is orthogonal to $X$ and $\alpha$ is sufficiently small, and $\underset{\tilde{V}+1}{\lambda_{K+1}}(\tilde{L}) \leq \lambda_{K+1}\left(L_{\tau} L_{\tau}\right)+\alpha \lambda_{1}\left(X X^{T}\right)$, where the equality holds when $V_{K+1}$ is identical to $\tilde{V}_{1}$. Hence, the earliest possible transition occurs when

$$
\begin{aligned}
\lambda_{K}\left(L_{\tau} L_{\tau}\right) & -\left\{\lambda_{K+1}\left(L_{\tau} L_{\tau}\right)+\alpha_{\min } \lambda_{1}\left(X X^{T}\right)\right\}=0 \\
\alpha_{\min } & =\frac{\lambda_{K}\left(L_{\tau} L_{\tau}\right)-\lambda_{K+1}\left(L_{\tau} L_{\tau}\right)}{\lambda_{1}\left(X X^{T}\right)}
\end{aligned}
$$

For the highest value of $\alpha$ for which such a transition is possible, consider $\alpha^{-1} \tilde{L}$. Following the above argument for $\alpha^{-1}$ with $X X^{T}$ and $L_{\tau} L_{\tau}$ interchanged, a symmetric result is obtained with the additional dependence on the number of covariates, $R$. This result yields,

$$
\alpha_{\max }=\frac{\lambda_{1}\left(L_{\tau} L_{\tau}\right)}{\lambda_{R}\left(X X^{T}\right) \mathbf{1}_{(R \leq K)}+\left\{\lambda_{K}\left(X X^{T}\right)-\lambda_{K+1}\left(X X^{T}\right)\right\} \mathbf{1}_{(R>K)}}
$$

Therefore, discontinuous transitions in the leading eigenspace of $\tilde{L}(\alpha)$ can only occur in the interval $\left[\alpha_{\min }, \alpha_{\text {max }}\right]$.

## 2. Empirical Results for Choosing $\alpha$

Figure 1 presents some empirical details to demonstrate how the within cluster sum of squares and the mis-clustering rate vary with the tuning parameter $\alpha$. The simulations shown in the figure use the same model structure described in $\S 4$ of the paper. The results show the minimum of the within cluster sum of squares falls within the prescribed range of $\alpha,\left[\alpha_{\min }, \alpha_{\max }\right]$. Furthermore, the minimum of the within cluster sum of squares tends to align with the minimum of the misclustering rate. Similar results were observed for other parameter settings.


Fig. 1. The results of assortative covariate-assisted spectral clustering for a range of $\alpha$ values. The solid line in bottom graphs indicates the $\alpha$ value chosen by the optimization procedure and the dased lines indicate the interval $\left[\alpha_{\min }, \alpha_{\max }\right.$ ]. The fixed parameters are $N=1500, p=0.03, m_{1}=0.8$, and $m_{2}=0.2$.

## 3. Proof of Lemma 1

This proof follows the approach used in Rohe et al. (2011) to establish the equivalence between block membership and a subset of the population eigenvectors. Note that $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}=(\mathcal{D}+$ $\tau I)^{-1 / 2} Z B Z^{T}(\mathcal{D}+\tau I)^{-1} Z B Z^{T}(\mathcal{D}+\tau I)^{-1 / 2}+\alpha E\left(X X^{T}\right)$. Define $c_{l}=\sum_{i} \operatorname{var}\left(X_{i l} \mid Z_{i}=\right.$ l), a diagonal matrix $\tilde{C}$ such that $\tilde{C}_{l l}=c_{l}$, and a diagonal matrix $C$ such that $C Z=Z \tilde{C}$.

If we let $\mathcal{D}_{B}=\operatorname{diag}\left(B Z^{T} \mathbf{1}_{n}+\tau\right)$, then $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}=Z\left\{\mathcal{D}_{B}^{-1 / 2} B Z^{T}(\mathcal{D}+\tau I)^{-1} Z B \mathcal{D}_{B}^{-1 / 2}+\right.$ $\left.\alpha M M^{T}\right\} Z^{T}+\alpha C$. Recall that $B$ is symmetric and full rank by assumption. Let $\tilde{B}=$ $\mathcal{D}_{B}^{-1 / 2} B Z^{T}(\mathcal{D}+\tau I)^{-1} Z B \mathcal{D}_{B}^{-1 / 2}+\alpha M M^{T}$, which is positive definite for all $\alpha \geq 0$. Assume $\alpha$ is chosen such that $\tilde{B}$ is full rank, which is true for all $\alpha$ with the possible exception of a set of values of measure zero. Let $\tilde{P}=Z^{T} Z$ and note that $\operatorname{det}(\tilde{B} \tilde{P})=\operatorname{det}(\tilde{B}) \operatorname{det}(\tilde{P})>0$. Hence, $\tilde{B} \tilde{P}+\alpha \tilde{C}$ is symmetric and has real eigenvalues. By spectral decomposition, let

$$
\tilde{B} \tilde{P}+\alpha \tilde{C}=\mu \Lambda \mu^{T} .
$$

Then,

$$
\begin{aligned}
\tilde{\mathcal{L}} Z \mu & =\left(Z \tilde{B} Z^{T}+\alpha C\right) Z \mu \\
& =\left(Z \tilde{B} Z^{T} Z+\alpha C Z\right) \mu \\
& =(Z(\tilde{B} \tilde{P})+\alpha Z \tilde{C}) \mu \\
& =Z \mu \Lambda .
\end{aligned}
$$

Therefore, $Z \mu$ is the matrix of $K$ eigenvectors of $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}$, but not necessarily the top $K$. Also, $\operatorname{det}(\mu)>0$ so $\mu^{-1}$ exists and $Z_{i} \mu=Z_{j} \mu \Longleftrightarrow Z_{i}=Z_{j}$. This establishes the equivalence between block membership and a subset of the population eigenvectors. A condition will now be derived for which this equivalence holds for the top $K$ population eigenvectors. Let $x$ be a normalized eigenvector orthogonal to the span of $Z \mu$. Because $\mu$ has orthogonal columns, it is full rank. As such, $x^{T} Z=0$.

Define $\bar{c}=\sum^{K} c_{l} / K, \bar{C}=\bar{c} I$, and $\varkappa=\max _{l}\left|c_{l}-\bar{c}\right|$, then

$$
\begin{aligned}
x^{T} \tilde{\mathcal{L}} x & =x^{T}\left(Z \tilde{B} Z^{T}+\alpha C\right) x \\
& =\alpha x^{T} C x \\
& =\alpha x^{T}(\bar{C}+(C-\bar{C})) x \\
& =\alpha x^{T} \bar{c} I x+\alpha x^{T}(C-\bar{C}) x \\
& =\alpha \bar{c}+\alpha x^{T}(C-\bar{C}) x \\
& \leq \alpha \bar{c}+\alpha\|C-\bar{C}\| \\
& =\alpha(\bar{c}+\varkappa) .
\end{aligned}
$$

The $k$ th eigenvalue of $\tilde{B} \tilde{P}+\alpha \tilde{C}$ is given by

$$
\begin{aligned}
\lambda_{K}(\tilde{B} \tilde{P}+\alpha \tilde{C}) & =\min _{\|x\|=1} x^{T}(\tilde{B} \tilde{P}+\alpha \tilde{C}) x \\
& =\min x^{T}[(\tilde{B} \tilde{P}+\alpha \bar{c} I)+(\alpha \tilde{C}-\alpha \bar{c} I)] x \\
& \geq \min x^{T}(\tilde{B} \tilde{P}+\alpha \bar{c} I) x+\alpha \min x^{T}(\tilde{C}-\bar{c} I) x \\
& =\min x^{T} \tilde{B} \tilde{P} x+\alpha \bar{c}-\alpha \max x^{T}(\bar{c} I-\tilde{C}) x \\
& \geq \lambda_{K}(\tilde{B} \tilde{P})+\alpha \bar{c}-\alpha \max _{u}\left|c_{u}-\bar{c}\right| \\
& =\lambda_{K}(\tilde{B} \tilde{P})+\alpha(\bar{c}-\varkappa) .
\end{aligned}
$$

Hence, a positive eigengap exists between the eigenvectors in $Z \mu$ and $x$ if

$$
\begin{aligned}
0 & <\lambda_{K}(\tilde{B} \tilde{P}+\alpha \tilde{C})-\max _{x} x^{T}\left(Z \tilde{B} Z^{T}+\alpha C\right) x \\
& <\lambda_{K}(\tilde{B} \tilde{P})+\alpha(\bar{c}-\varkappa)-\alpha(\bar{c}+\varkappa) \\
& =\lambda_{K}(\tilde{B} \tilde{P})-2 \alpha \varkappa .
\end{aligned}
$$

Assume $(i) \lambda_{K}(\tilde{B} \tilde{P})>2 \alpha \varkappa$, then the top $K$ eigenvectors of $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}$ are given by $Z \mu$, where $Z_{i} \mu=$ $Z_{j} \mu \Longleftrightarrow Z_{i}=Z_{j}$. Hence, there is an equivalence between block membership and the top $K$ population eigenvectors.

## 4. Proof of Theorem 1

4.1. Triangle inequality bound

The spectral norm of the difference between the sample and population covariate-assisted Laplacians is bounded by first applying the triangle inequality and bounding the resulting terms individually.

$$
\begin{align*}
\|\tilde{L}-\tilde{\mathcal{L}}\| & \leq\left\|\alpha X X^{T}-E\left(\alpha X X^{T}\right)\right\|  \tag{1}\\
& +\left\|\mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} A \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1} A \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}-\mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} \mathcal{A} \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1} \mathcal{A D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}\right\|  \tag{2}\\
& +\left\|D_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} A D_{\tau}^{-1} A D_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}-\mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} A \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1} A \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}\right\| . \tag{3}
\end{align*}
$$

### 4.2. Bound for Equation (1)

For equation (1), use the matrix Bernstein inequality (Tropp, 2012). Note that $\alpha X X^{T}=$ $\sum_{k} \alpha X_{k} X_{k}^{T}$, where $X_{k}$ is the $k$ th column of $X$. Now bound the spectral norm of $\alpha X_{k} X_{k}^{T}-$ $E\left(\alpha X_{k} X_{k}^{T}\right)$.

$$
\begin{aligned}
\left\|\alpha X_{k} X_{k}^{T}-E\left(\alpha X_{k} X_{k}^{T}\right)\right\| & =\alpha\left\|X_{k} X_{k}^{T}-\mathcal{X}_{k} \mathcal{X}_{k}^{T}-\operatorname{diag}\left(\mathcal{X}_{k}^{(2)}-\mathcal{X}_{k}^{2}\right)\right\| \\
& \leq \alpha\left(\left\|X_{k} X_{k}^{T}\right\|+\left\|\mathcal{X}_{k} \mathcal{X}_{k}^{T}\right\|+\max \left|\mathcal{X}_{k}^{(2)}-\mathcal{X}_{k}^{2}\right|\right) \\
& \leq \alpha\left(N J^{2}+N J^{2}+J^{2}\right) \\
& \leq 3 \alpha N J^{2} \\
& \equiv S
\end{aligned}
$$

Next, find a bound on the spectral norm of the variance of $\alpha X X^{T}$. Let $\mathcal{X}_{k}^{(i)}$ be the $i$ th moment of $X_{k}$. Note that vector products are element-wise where dictated by vector dimensions.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& E\left(X_{k} X_{k}^{T}\right)=\mathcal{X}_{k} \mathcal{X}_{k}^{T}-\operatorname{diag}\left(\mathcal{X}_{k}^{2}-\mathcal{X}_{k}^{(2)}\right) . \\
& E\left(X_{k} X_{k}^{T}\right) E\left(X_{k} X_{k}^{T}\right)=\left\{\mathcal{X}_{k} \mathcal{X}_{k}^{T}-\operatorname{diag}\left(\mathcal{X}_{k}^{2}-\mathcal{X}_{k}^{(2)}\right)\right\}\left\{\mathcal{X}_{k} \mathcal{X}_{k}^{T}-\operatorname{diag}\left(\mathcal{X}_{k}^{2}-\mathcal{X}_{k}^{(2)}\right)\right\} \\
& =\mathcal{X}_{k} \mathcal{X}_{k}^{T} \mathcal{X}_{k} \mathcal{X}_{k}^{T}-\mathcal{X}_{k} \mathcal{X}_{k}^{T} \operatorname{diag}\left(\mathcal{X}_{k}^{2}-\mathcal{X}_{k}^{(2)}\right) \\
& -\operatorname{diag}\left(\mathcal{X}_{k}^{2}-\mathcal{X}_{k}^{(2)}\right) \mathcal{X}_{k} \mathcal{X}_{k}^{T}+\operatorname{diag}\left\{\left(\mathcal{X}_{k}^{2}-\mathcal{X}_{k}^{(2)}\right)^{2}\right\} \\
& =\left(\sum_{i} \mathcal{X}_{i k}^{2}\right) \mathcal{X}_{k} \mathcal{X}_{k}^{T}-\mathcal{X}_{k}\left\{\mathcal{X}_{k}\left(\mathcal{X}_{k}^{2}-\mathcal{X}_{k}^{(2)}\right)\right\}^{T} \\
& -\left\{\mathcal{X}_{k}\left(\mathcal{X}_{k}^{2}-\mathcal{X}_{k}^{(2)}\right)\right\} \mathcal{X}_{k}^{T}+\operatorname{diag}\left\{\left(\mathcal{X}_{k}^{2}-\mathcal{X}_{k}^{(2)}\right)^{2}\right\} . \\
& E\left(X_{k} X_{k}^{T} X_{k} X_{k}^{T}\right)=E\left\{\left(\sum_{i} X_{i k}^{2}\right) X_{k} X_{k}^{T}\right\} \\
& = \begin{cases}\mathcal{X}_{i k} \mathcal{X}_{j k} \sum_{l \neq i, j} \mathcal{X}_{l k}^{(2)}+\mathcal{X}_{i k} \mathcal{X}_{j k}^{(3)}+\mathcal{X}_{j k} \mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(3)} & i \neq j \\
\mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(2)} \sum_{l \neq i} \mathcal{X}_{l k}^{(2)}+\mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(4)} & i=j\end{cases} \\
& =\left(\sum \mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(2)}\right) \mathcal{X}_{k} \mathcal{X}_{k}^{T}-\mathcal{X}_{k}\left(\mathcal{X}_{k} \mathcal{X}_{k}^{(2)}\right)^{T}-\left(\mathcal{X}_{k} \mathcal{X}_{k}^{(2)}\right) \mathcal{X}_{k}^{T} \\
& +\mathcal{X}_{k} \mathcal{X}_{k}^{(3)^{T}}+\mathcal{X}_{k}^{(3)} \mathcal{X}_{k}^{T} \\
& +\operatorname{diag}\left\{\left(\mathcal{X}_{k}^{(2)}-\mathcal{X}_{k}^{2}\right)\left(\sum_{i} \mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(2)}\right)-\mathcal{X}_{k}^{(2)^{2}}+2 \mathcal{X}_{k}^{2} \mathcal{X}_{k}^{(2)}-2 \mathcal{X}_{k} \mathcal{X}_{k}^{(3)}+\mathcal{X}_{k}^{(4)}\right\} .{ }^{150}
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \operatorname{var}\left(X_{k} X_{k}^{T}\right)=\mathcal{X}_{k} \mathcal{X}_{k}^{T} \sum_{i}\left(\mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(2)}-\mathcal{X}_{i k}^{2}\right)+\mathcal{X}_{k}\left\{\mathcal{X}_{k}\left(\mathcal{X}_{k}^{2}-2 \mathcal{X}_{k}^{(2)}\right)+\mathcal{X}_{k}^{(3)}\right\}^{T}+\left\{\mathcal{X}_{k}\left(\mathcal{X}_{k}^{2}-2 \mathcal{X}_{k}^{(2)}\right)+\mathcal{X}_{k}^{(3)}\right\} \mathcal{X}_{k}^{T} \\
& +\operatorname{diag}\left\{\left(\mathcal{X}_{k}^{(2)}-\mathcal{X}_{k}^{2}\right)\left(\sum_{i} \mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(2)}\right)-\mathcal{X}_{k}^{(2)^{2}}+2 \mathcal{X}_{k}^{2} \mathcal{X}_{k}^{(2)}-2 \mathcal{X}_{k} \mathcal{X}_{k}^{(3)}+\mathcal{X}_{k}^{(4)}-\left(\mathcal{X}_{k}^{(2)}-\mathcal{X}_{k}^{2}\right)^{2}\right\} . \\
& { }^{155}| |\left|\sum_{k} \operatorname{var}\left(X_{k} X_{k}^{T}\right)\right|\left|\leq \sum_{k} \sum_{i}\right| \mathcal{X}_{i k}^{2} \sum_{l}\left(\mathcal{X}_{l k}^{(2)}-\mathcal{X}_{l k}^{2}\right)|+2| \mathcal{X}_{i k}^{4}-2 \mathcal{X}_{i k}^{2} \mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(2)}+\mathcal{X}_{i k} \mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(3)} \mid \\
& +\max _{i}\left|\left(\mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(2)}-\mathcal{X}_{i k}^{2}\right)\left(\sum_{l} \mathcal{X}_{l k}^{(2)}\right)-\mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(2)^{2}}+2 \mathcal{X}_{i k}^{2} \mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(2)}-2 \mathcal{X}_{i k} \mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(3)}+\mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(4)}-\left(\mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(2)}-\mathcal{X}_{i k}^{2}\right)^{2}\right| \\
& \leq \sum_{k} \sum_{i} \mathcal{X}_{i k}^{2} \sum_{l}\left(\mathcal{X}_{l k}^{(2)}-\mathcal{X}_{l k}^{2}\right)+2\left(\mathcal{X}_{i k}^{2} \mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(2)}-\mathcal{X}_{i k}^{4}\right)+2\left|\mathcal{X}_{i k}^{2} \mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(2)}-\mathcal{X}_{i k} \mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(3)}\right| \\
& +\max _{i}\left\{\left(\mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(2)}-\mathcal{X}_{i k}^{2}\right)\left(\sum_{l} \mathcal{X}_{l k}^{(2)}\right)+\left|2 \mathcal{X}_{i k} \mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(3)}-\mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(4)}-\mathcal{X}_{i k}^{4}\right|+2\left(\mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(2)}-\mathcal{X}_{i k}^{2}\right)^{2}\right\} \\
& \leq \sum_{k} \sum_{i} 3 \mathcal{X}_{i k}^{2} \sum_{l}\left(\mathcal{X}_{l k}^{(2)}-\mathcal{X}_{l k}^{2}\right)+2\left|\mathcal{X}_{i k}^{2} \mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(2)}-\mathcal{X}_{i k} \mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(3)}\right| \\
& +\max _{i}\left\{3\left(\mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(2)}-\mathcal{X}_{i k}^{2}\right)\left(\sum_{l} \mathcal{X}_{l k}^{(2)}\right)+\left|2 \mathcal{X}_{i k} \mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(3)}-\mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(4)}-\mathcal{X}_{i k}^{4}\right|\right\} \\
& \leq 8 \sum_{k}\left\{\sum_{i} \mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(2)} \sum_{l}\left(\mathcal{X}_{l k}^{(2)}-\mathcal{X}_{l k}^{2}\right)+\mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(4)}\right\} .
\end{aligned}
$$

Thus,

$$
\left\|\sum_{k} \operatorname{var}\left(\alpha X_{k} X_{k}^{T}\right)\right\| \leq 8 \alpha^{2} \sum_{k}\left\{\sum_{i} \mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(2)} \sum_{l}\left(\mathcal{X}_{l k}^{(2)}-\mathcal{X}_{l k}^{2}\right)+\mathcal{X}_{i k}^{(4)}\right\} \equiv \varpi
$$

Let $b=\{3 \varpi \log (8 N / \epsilon)\}^{1 / 2}$ and assume $($ iii $) \varpi / S^{2}>3 \log (8 N / \epsilon)$, then $b<\varpi / S$. Note that

$$
\left\|\alpha X X^{T}-E\left(\alpha X X^{T}\right)\right\| \leq b .
$$

### 4.3. Bound for Equation (2)

Equation (2) can be decomposed into three terms using properties of the spectral norm.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\|\mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} A \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1} A \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}-\mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} \mathcal{A} \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1} \mathcal{A} \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}\right\| \\
& \leq\left\|\mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} A \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1} A \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}-E\left(\mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} A \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}\right) E\left(\mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} A \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}\right)\right\| \\
& \leq\left\|\mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} A \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}-E\left(\mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} A \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}\right)\right\|\left\|\mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} A \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}+E\left(\mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} A \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}\right)\right\| .
\end{aligned}
$$

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The first term above can be bounded following the proof in the Supplement of Qin \& Rohe (2013). Under the assumption that (ii) $d+\tau>3 \log (8 N / \epsilon)$, where $d=\min \mathcal{D}_{i i}$, let $a=$ $[\{3 \log (8 N / \epsilon)\} /(d+\tau)]^{1 / 2}$, so $a<1$. Then, with probability at least $1-\epsilon / 4$,

$$
\left\|\mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} A \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}-E\left(\mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} A \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}\right)\right\| \leq a
$$

Using the fact that $\left\|\mathcal{L}_{\tau}\right\| \leq 1,\left\|L_{\tau}\right\| \leq 1$, and $\left\|\mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} D_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}\right\| \leq a+1$, with probability $1-$ $\epsilon / 4$, as shown in the Supplement of Qin \& Rohe (2013), the second term can be bounded with probability $1-\epsilon / 4$ as follows.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\|\mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} A \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}+E\left(\mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} A \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}\right)\right\| \\
& \leq\left\|\mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} D_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} L_{\tau} D_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}\right\|+\left\|\mathcal{L}_{\tau}\right\| \\
& \leq\left\|\mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} D_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}\right\|\left\|L_{\tau}\right\|\left\|D_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}\right\|+1 \\
& \leq(a+1)^{2}+1
\end{aligned}
$$

Hence, with with probability $1-\epsilon / 4$,

$$
\left\|\mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} A \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1} A \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}-E\left(\mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} A \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1} A \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}\right)\right\| \leq a(a+1)^{2}+a
$$

### 4.4. Bound for Equation (3)

Note that $\left\|\mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} D_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}-I\right\| \leq a$, with probability $1-\epsilon / 4$, as shown in the Supplement of Qin \& Rohe (2013), and $\left\|D_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1} D_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}-I\right\| \leq a$, which can be derived by the same approach. Using these results, equation (3) can be bounded with probability $1-\epsilon / 2$ as follows.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \left\|D_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} A D_{\tau}^{-1} A D_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}-\mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} A \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1} A \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}\right\| \\
& =\left\|L_{\tau} L_{\tau}-\mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} D_{\tau}^{1 / 2} L_{\tau} D_{\tau}^{1 / 2} \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1} D_{\tau}^{1 / 2} L_{\tau} D_{\tau}^{1 / 2} \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}\right\| \\
& =\left\|L_{\tau} L_{\tau}-L_{\tau} D_{\tau}^{1 / 2} \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1} D_{\tau}^{1 / 2} L_{\tau} D_{\tau}^{1 / 2} \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}+\left(I-\mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2} D_{\tau}^{1 / 2}\right) L_{\tau} D_{\tau}^{1 / 2} \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1} D_{\tau}^{1 / 2} L_{\tau} D_{\tau}^{1 / 2} \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}\right\| \\
& \leq\left\|L_{\tau}\left(L_{\tau}-D_{\tau}^{1 / 2} \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1} D_{\tau}^{1 / 2} L_{\tau} D_{\tau}^{1 / 2} \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}\right)\right\|+a(a+1)^{2} \\
& \leq\left\|D_{\tau}^{1 / 2} \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1} D_{\tau}^{1 / 2} L_{\tau}\left(D_{\tau}^{1 / 2} \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1 / 2}-I\right)-\left(D_{\tau}^{1 / 2} \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1} D_{\tau}^{1 / 2}-I\right) L_{\tau}\right\|+a(a+1)^{2} \\
& \leq a(a+1)+a+a(a+1)^{2} .
\end{aligned}
$$

Consequently, joining the results for the five terms, gives the desired bound. With probability 200 at least $1-\epsilon$,

$$
\begin{aligned}
\|\tilde{L}-\tilde{\mathcal{L}}\| & \leq 2 a^{3}+5 a^{2}+5 a+b \\
& \leq 12 a+b \\
& =\left\{\varpi^{1 / 2}+12(d+\tau)^{-1 / 2}\right\}\{3 \log (8 N / \epsilon)\}^{1 / 2} .
\end{aligned}
$$

Let $\delta \equiv \varpi^{1 / 2}+12(d+\tau)^{-1 / 2}$, then the bound becomes

$$
\|\tilde{L}-\tilde{\mathcal{L}}\| \leq \delta\{3 \log (8 N / \epsilon)\}^{1 / 2}
$$

## 5. Proof of Theorem 2

Using Lemma 9 from McSherry (2001), let $P_{\tilde{L}}$ be the projection onto the span of the first $K$ left singular eigenvectors of $\tilde{L}$. Then, $P_{\tilde{L}}$ is the optimal rank K approximation to $\tilde{L}$ and

$$
\left\|P_{\tilde{L}}-\tilde{\mathcal{L}}\right\|_{F}^{2} \leq 8 K\|\tilde{L}-\tilde{\mathcal{L}}\|^{2} .
$$

Next, apply the Davis-Kahan Theorem to $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}$ (Davis \& Kahan, 1970). Let $W \subset \mathbb{R}$ be an interval and define the distance between $W$ and the spectrum of $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}$ outside of $W$ as

$$
\Lambda=\min \{|\lambda-r| ; \lambda \text { eigenvalue of } \tilde{\mathcal{L}}, \lambda \notin W, r \in W\} .
$$

Choose $W=\left(\lambda_{K} / 2, \infty\right)$, where $\lambda_{K}$ is the $K$ th eigenvalue of $\tilde{L}$. Then, $\Lambda=\lambda_{K} / 2$. Let $\omega_{K}$ be the $K$ th largest eigenvalue of $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}$, then under the assumption that $\delta\{3 \log (8 N / \epsilon)\}^{1 / 2} \leq \lambda_{K} / 2$,

$$
\left|\lambda_{K}-\omega_{K}\right| \leq \delta\{3 \log (8 N / \epsilon)\}^{1 / 2} \leq \lambda_{K} / 2 .
$$

Hence, $\omega_{K} \in W$, and $U$ has the same dimension as $\mathcal{U}$. The Davis-Kahan Theorem implies,

$$
\begin{aligned}
\|U-\mathcal{U} O\|_{F} & \leq \frac{2^{1 / 2}\left\|P_{\tilde{L}} \tilde{L}-\tilde{\mathcal{L}}\right\|_{F}}{\Lambda} \\
& \leq \frac{8^{1 / 2}\left\|P_{\tilde{L}} \tilde{L}-\tilde{\mathcal{L}}\right\|_{F}}{\lambda_{K}} \\
& \leq \frac{8 K^{1 / 2}\|\tilde{L}-\tilde{\mathcal{L}}\|}{\lambda_{K}} \\
& \leq \frac{8 \delta\{3 K \log (8 N / \epsilon)\}^{1 / 2}}{\lambda_{K}}
\end{aligned}
$$

with probability at least $1-\epsilon$.

## 6. Proof of Theorem 3

This proof follows the arguments given in Qin \& Rohe (2013). Let $P=\max _{i}\left(Z^{T} Z\right)_{i i}$ and

$$
\begin{aligned}
\left\|\mathcal{C}_{i}-\mathcal{C}_{j}\right\|_{2} & \geq\left\|Z_{i}\left(Z^{T} Z\right)^{-1 / 2} V-Z_{j}\left(Z^{T} Z\right)^{-1 / 2} V\right\|_{2} \\
& \geq 2^{1 / 2}\left\|Z^{T} Z\right\|_{2} \\
& \geq\left(\frac{2}{P}\right)^{1 / 2} .
\end{aligned}
$$

For all $Z_{j} \neq Z_{i}$, a sufficient condition for one observed centroid to be closest to the population centroid is

$$
\left\|C_{i} \mathcal{O}^{T}-\mathcal{C}_{i}\right\|_{2}<\frac{1}{(2 P)^{1 / 2}} \Rightarrow\left\|C_{i} \mathcal{O}^{T}-\mathcal{C}_{i}\right\|_{2}<\left\|C_{i} \mathcal{O}^{T}-\mathcal{C}_{j}\right\|_{2}
$$

since

$$
\begin{aligned}
\left\|C_{i} \mathcal{O}^{T}-\mathcal{C}_{i}\right\|_{2}<\frac{1}{(2 P)^{1 / 2}} \Rightarrow\left\|C_{i} \mathcal{O}^{T}-\mathcal{C}_{j}\right\|_{2} & \geq\left\|\mathcal{C}_{i}-\mathcal{C}_{j}\right\|_{2}-\left\|C_{i} \mathcal{O}^{T}-\mathcal{C}_{i}\right\|_{2} \\
& \geq\left(\frac{2}{P}\right)^{1 / 2}-\left(\frac{1}{2 P}\right)^{1 / 2} \geq \frac{1}{(2 P)^{1 / 2}}
\end{aligned}
$$

Let $\mathcal{G}=\left\{i:\left\|C_{i} \mathcal{O}^{T}-\mathcal{C}_{i}\right\|_{2} \geq \frac{1}{(2 P)^{1 / 2}}\right\}$, so $\mathcal{M} \subset \mathcal{G}$. Define $Q \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times K}$ where the $i$ th row is $C_{i}$. By the definition of k-means, $\|U-Q\|_{2} \leq\|U-\mathcal{U O}\|_{2}$. Applying the triangle inequality gives

$$
\|Q-Z \mu \mathcal{O}\|_{2}=\|Q-\mathcal{U O}\|_{2} \leq\|U-Q\|_{2}+\|U-\mathcal{U O}\|_{2} \leq 2\|U-\mathcal{U O}\|_{2} .
$$

So,

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{\|\mathcal{M}\|}{N} \leq \frac{\|\mathcal{G}\|}{N} & =\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{G}} 1 \\
& \leq \frac{2 P}{N} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{G}}\left\|C_{i} \mathcal{O}^{T}-\mathcal{C}_{i}\right\|_{2}^{2} \\
& =\frac{2 P}{N} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{G}}\left\|C_{i}-Z_{i} \mu \mathcal{O}\right\|_{2}^{2} \\
& \leq \frac{2 P}{N}\|Q-Z \mu \mathcal{O}\|_{F}^{2} \\
& \leq \frac{8 P}{N}\|U-\mathcal{U O}\|_{F}^{2} .
\end{aligned}
$$

Thus, using the result from Theorem 2, with probability at least $1-\epsilon$,

$$
\frac{\|\mathcal{M}\|}{N} \leq \frac{c_{0} K P \delta^{2} \log (8 N / \epsilon)}{N \lambda_{k}^{2}},
$$

where $c_{0}=3 \times 2^{6}$.

## 7. Proof of Corollary 1

In order to investigate the mis-clustering bound and the accompanying conditions, we make some simplifying assumptions. Assume $B_{i, i}=p$, for all $i$ and $B_{i, j}=q$, for all $i \neq j$; in addition, $M_{i, i}=m_{1}$, for all $i ; M_{i, j}=m_{2}$, for all $i \neq j$; and $R>1$. For computational convenience, assume that each block has the same number of nodes $N / K$ and $R$ is a multiple of $K$. Recall, $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}=Z\left(\mathcal{D}_{B}^{-1 / 2} B Z^{T} \mathcal{D}_{\tau}^{-1} Z B \mathcal{D}_{B}^{-1 / 2}+\alpha M M^{T}\right) Z^{T}=Z \tilde{B} Z^{T}$. Therefore,

$$
\begin{aligned}
\tilde{B}= & {\left[\frac{1}{N\{p+(K-1) q\} / K+\tau}\right]^{2}\left(\frac{N}{K}\right)\left[(p-q)^{2} I+\{2 p q+(K-1) q\} \mathbf{1}_{K} \mathbf{1}_{K}^{T}\right] } \\
& +\alpha\left\{\left(m_{p}-m_{q}\right) I+m_{q} \mathbf{1}_{K} \mathbf{1}_{K}^{T}\right\},
\end{aligned}
$$

where $m_{p}=R\left\{m_{1}^{2}+(K-1) m_{2}^{2}\right\} / K$ and $m_{q}=R\left\{2 m_{1} m_{2}+(K-2) m_{2}^{2}\right\} / K$. For matrices of the form $a I+b \mathbf{1}_{K} \mathbf{1}_{K}^{T}, \lambda_{K}=a$. Note that $m_{p}-m_{q}=R\left(m_{1}-m_{2}\right)^{2} / K$. Thus,

$$
\lambda_{K}(\tilde{B})=\left[\frac{p-q}{N\{p+(K-1) q\} / K+\tau}\right]^{2}\left(\frac{N}{K}\right)+\alpha R\left(m_{1}-m_{2}\right)^{2} / K .
$$

Recall that $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}$ has the same eigenvalues as $\left(Z^{T} Z\right)^{1 / 2} \tilde{B}\left(Z^{T} Z\right)^{1 / 2}=$ $(N / K)^{1 / 2} I \tilde{B}(N / K)^{1 / 2} I=(N / K) \tilde{B}$. Hence, the population eigengap is

$$
\lambda_{K}(\tilde{\mathcal{L}})=\left\{\frac{p-q}{p+(K-1) q+K \tau / N}\right\}^{2}+\frac{\alpha N R\left(m_{1}-m_{2}\right)^{2}}{K^{2}} .
$$

Hence, the mis-clustering bound for a growing number of covariates is given by

$$
\frac{|\mathcal{M}|}{N} \leq \frac{\left\{(d+\tau)^{-1}+\alpha(d+\tau)^{-1 / 2} \Theta\left(N R^{1 / 2}\right)+\alpha^{2} \Theta\left(N^{2} R\right)\right\} \Theta(\log N)}{\alpha \Theta\left(N^{2} R^{2}\right)+\alpha \Theta(N R)+\Theta(1)} .
$$

Two conditions in Theorem 3 depend on $R$. Condition (iii) becomes $R>\Theta(\log N)$ and condition (iv) becomes $\left\{\alpha N R^{1 / 2}+(d+\tau)^{-1 / 2}\right\}(\log N)^{1 / 2} \leq \alpha N R+c_{0}$, which is satisfied for $R \geq \Theta(\log N)$.
Let $R=\Theta\left\{(\log N)^{a+1}\right\}, d+\tau=\Theta\left\{(\log N)^{b+1}\right\}$, and $\alpha=\Theta\left\{N^{-1}(\log N)^{-1-c}\right\}$, where $a, b, c \geq 0$, then the mis-clustering rate becomes

$$
\frac{|\mathcal{M}|}{N} \leq c_{2} \frac{(\log N)^{a-2 c}+(\log N)^{(a-b) / 2-c}+(\log N)^{-b}}{(\log N)^{2(a-c)}+(\log N)^{a-c}+\Theta(1)}
$$

If $c$ is chosen such that $a>c$, then $(\log N)^{2(a-c)}$ is the dominant term in the denominator and $|\mathcal{M}| / N=O\left\{(\log N)^{-a}\right\}+O\left\{(\log N)^{-(3 a+b) / 2-3 c}\right\}+O\left\{(\log N)^{2(c-a)-b}\right\}$. The misclustering rate is minimized when $c=0$, so the rate becomes $|\mathcal{M}| / N=O\left\{(\log N)^{-a}\right\}$.

If $c$ is chosen such that $a \leq c,|\mathcal{M}| / N=O\left\{(\log N)^{a-2 c}\right\}+O\left\{(\log N)^{(a-b) / 2-c}\right\}+$ $O\left\{(\log N)^{-b}\right\}$. The mis-clustering rate is minimized when $c=\frac{a+b}{2}$, so the rate becomes $\frac{|\mathcal{M}|}{N}=$ $O\left\{(\log N)^{-b}\right\}$.

Hence, to minimize the mis-clustering rate when $a \leq b$ choose $c=\frac{a+b}{2}$, which yields a misclustering rate of $O\left\{(\log N)^{-b}\right\}$, and when $a>b$ choose $c=0$, which gives a mis-clustering rate of $O\left\{(\log N)^{-a}\right\}$. If we consider the special case where $a=0$ or $R=\Theta(\log N)$ and $b=0$ or $d+\tau=\Theta(\log N)$. The theoretical results above suggest $\alpha=\Theta\left\{(N \log N)^{-1}\right\}$. This result agrees with the value suggested by the empirical procedure in $\S 2 \cdot 3$, which yields $\alpha_{\min }=\alpha_{\max }=$ $\Theta\left\{(N \log N)^{-1}\right\}$ when $R=\Theta(\log N)$ based on the population eigenvalues.

## 8. Proof of Corollary 2

Perfect clustering requires that $|\mathcal{M}|<1$. Based on the bound in Theorem 3, this corresponds to $\delta\left\{c_{0} K P \log (8 N / \epsilon)\right\}^{1 / 2}<\lambda_{K}$. Under the same simplifying assumptions as above, this becomes

$$
\begin{aligned}
c^{\prime}\left\{\alpha N R^{1 / 2}+(d+\tau)^{-1 / 2}\right\}(N \log N)^{1 / 2} & <\alpha N R+\Theta(1), \\
c^{\prime \prime} \alpha N R^{1 / 2}(N \log N)^{1 / 2} & <\alpha N R, \\
R & \geq \Theta(N \log N) .
\end{aligned}
$$

## 9. Proof of Theorem 4

This proof uses Fano's inequality to derive the lower bound following an approach similar to Chaudhuri et al. (2012). Let $G_{S}$ be a partition given by a specific $S$, the set of all nodes in the first block, and let $F$ be the family of all such partitions. Fano's inequality states

$$
\sup _{G_{S} \in F} P_{G_{S}}\left(\Psi \neq G_{S}\right) \geq 1-\frac{\beta+\log 2}{\log r}
$$

where $K L\left(G_{S}, G_{S^{\prime}}\right) \leq \beta, r=|F|-1$, and $\Psi$ is the estimated node partition based on the observed edges and node covariates.

First, by independence the KL-divergence can be written as follows,

$$
K L\left(G_{S}, G_{S^{\prime}}\right)=\sum_{e \in E} K L\left(\rho_{e}, \rho_{e}^{\prime}\right)+\sum_{v \in V} K L\left(\gamma_{v}, \gamma_{v}^{\prime}\right) .
$$

Let $\rho_{e}$ and $\rho_{e}^{\prime}$ be the distribution for edge $e$ and $\gamma_{v}$ and $\gamma_{v}^{\prime}$ be the covariate distribution for node $v$ in $G_{S}$ and $G_{S^{\prime}}$, respectively. Recall $B_{1,1} \geq B_{2,2} \geq B_{1,2}$ and let $b_{i} \in\left\{B_{1,1}, B_{2,2}, B_{1,2}\right\}$. For a single edge when $\rho_{e} \neq \rho_{e}^{\prime}$,

$$
\begin{aligned}
K L\left(\rho_{e}, \rho_{e}^{\prime}\right) & \in\left\{b_{i} \log \frac{b_{i}}{b_{j}}+\left(1-b_{i}\right) \log \frac{1-b_{i}}{1-b_{j}}\right\} \\
& \leq B_{1,1} \log \frac{B_{1,1}}{B_{1,2}}+\left(1-B_{1,1}\right) \log \frac{1-B_{1,1}}{1-B_{1,2}}+B_{1,2} \log \frac{B_{1,2}}{B_{1,1}}+\left(1-B_{1,2}\right) \log \frac{1-B_{1,2}}{1-B_{1,1}} \\
& =\left(B_{1,1}-B_{1,2}\right) \log \left\{1+\frac{B_{1,1}-B_{1,2}}{B_{1,2}\left(1-B_{1,1}\right)}\right\} \\
& \leq \frac{\left(B_{1,1}-B_{1,2}\right)^{2}}{B_{1,2}\left(1-B_{1,1}\right)} .
\end{aligned}
$$

Now find the KL-divergence of the covariates on a single node. For $\gamma_{v} \neq \gamma_{v}^{\prime}$,

$$
K L\left(\gamma_{v}, \gamma_{v}^{\prime}\right)=\sum_{j}^{R} K L\left(\gamma_{v_{j}}, \gamma_{v_{j}}^{\prime}\right) \equiv \Gamma .
$$

For the case of Bernoulli random variables where the $j$ th covariate has probability $M_{1, j}$ in block ${ }_{305}$ 1 and $M_{2, j}$ in block 2, this is

$$
\begin{aligned}
K L\left(\gamma_{v_{j}}, \gamma_{v_{j}}^{\prime}\right) & = \begin{cases}M_{1, j} \log \frac{M_{1, j}}{M_{2, j}}+\left(1-M_{1, j}\right) \log \frac{1-M_{1, j}}{1-M_{2, j}, j} & v \in \text { block 1 } \\
M_{2, j} \log \frac{M_{2, j}}{M_{1, j}}+\left(1-M_{2, j}\right) \log \frac{1-M_{2, j}}{1-M_{1, j}}, & v^{\prime} \in \text { block 1 }\end{cases} \\
& \leq\left(M_{1, j}-M_{2, j}\right) \log \frac{M_{1, j}\left(1-M_{2, j}\right)}{M_{2, j}\left(1-M_{1, j}\right)} .
\end{aligned}
$$

Therefore, the KL-divergence is bounded by

$$
K L\left(G_{S}, G_{S^{\prime}}\right) \leq\binom{ N}{2} \frac{\left(B_{1,1}-B_{1,2}\right)^{2}}{B_{1,2}\left(1-B_{1,1}\right)}+N \Gamma \leq \frac{N^{2}}{2} \frac{\left(B_{1,1}-B_{1,2}\right)^{2}}{B_{1,2}\left(1-B_{1,1}\right)}+N \Gamma .
$$

The number of partitions can be bounded as follows,

$$
\begin{aligned}
|F| & =\frac{1}{2}\binom{N}{N / 2}=\frac{N!}{2\{(N / 2)!\}^{2}} \\
& \geq \frac{(2 \pi N)^{1 / 2}(N / e)^{N}}{\left[e(N / 2)^{1 / 2}\{N /(2 e)\}^{N / 2}\right]^{2}} \\
& \geq \frac{2^{N-2.1}}{(N / 2)^{1 / 2}},
\end{aligned}
$$

where the first inequality uses $(2 \pi N)^{1 / 2}(N / e)^{N} \leq N!\leq e N^{1 / 2}(N / e)^{N}$. Now the log term is bounded by

$$
\begin{aligned}
\log (|F|-1) & \geq \log \left\{\frac{2^{N-2.1}}{(N / 2)^{1 / 2}}-1\right\} \\
& \geq(N-3) \log 2-\frac{1}{2} \log (N / 2) \\
& \geq \frac{\log 2}{2} N \text { for } N \geq 8 .
\end{aligned}
$$

Thus, by Fano's inequality, in order to correctly determine the block assignments with probability at least $1-\epsilon$ requires

$$
\begin{aligned}
\epsilon & \geq 1-\frac{N^{2}\left(B_{1,1}-B_{1,2}\right)^{2} /\left\{2 B_{1,2}^{2}\left(1-B_{1,1}\right)^{2}\right\}+N \Gamma+\log 2}{(N \log 2) / 2}, \\
B_{1,1}-B_{1,2} & \geq B_{1,2}\left(1-B_{1,1}\right)\left[\frac{2}{N}\left\{\frac{\log 2}{2}(1-\epsilon)-\Gamma-\frac{\log 2}{N}\right\}\right]^{1 / 2} .
\end{aligned}
$$

Fix $B_{1,1}$ and let $\Delta=B_{1,1}-B_{1,2}$, then rewrite this bound as

$$
\Delta \geq \frac{B_{1,1}\left(1-B_{1,1}\right)}{\left[\frac{2}{N}\left\{\frac{\log 2}{2}(1-\epsilon)-\Gamma-\frac{\log 2}{N}\right\}\right]^{-1 / 2}+\left(1-B_{1,1}\right)}
$$

## 10. Comparison of the General Lower Bound to Theorem 3

First, simplify the general lower bound given in Theorem 4 to make the comparison with Theorem 3 easier.

$$
\begin{aligned}
\Delta & \geq \frac{B_{1,1}\left(1-B_{1,1}\right)}{\left[\frac{2}{N}\left\{\frac{\log 2}{2}(1-\epsilon)-\mathcal{K}-\frac{\log 2}{N}\right\}\right]^{-1 / 2}+\left(1-B_{1,1}\right)} \\
& \geq \frac{B_{1,1}\left(1-B_{1,1}\right)}{3 / 2\left[\frac{2}{N}\left\{\frac{\log 2}{2}(1-\epsilon)-\mathcal{K}-\frac{\log 2}{N}\right\}\right]^{-1 / 2}} \\
& \geq B_{1,1}\left(1-B_{1,1}\right)\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)\left[\frac{2}{N}\left\{\frac{\log 2}{2}(1-\epsilon)-\mathcal{K}-\frac{\log 2}{8}\right\}\right]^{1 / 2} \\
& \geq \frac{c_{4}}{N^{1 / 2}} .
\end{aligned}
$$

According to Theorem 3 to achieve perfect clustering with probability $1-\epsilon$, requires $\delta\left\{c_{0} K P \log (8 N / \epsilon)\right\}^{1 / 2}<\lambda_{K}$. As shown in $\S 8$, this requires $R \geq \Theta(N \log N)$.

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