

# Summary of R-Learner and DR-Learner Analysis using Orthogonal Statistical Learning

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We give a step-by-step review of empirical excess risk for Neyman-orthogonal losses. Each technical statement is followed by two working examples: a DR-learner for the ATE (AIPW squared loss) and a constant-effect R-learner.

## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Setup &amp; Preliminaries</b>	<b>2</b>
1.1	Examples (R- and DR-learners)	2
1.1.1	R-Learner	3
1.1.2	DR-Learner	3
<b>2</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1	Assumption checks for the examples	4
2.1.1	R-Learner: assumptions hold	4
2.1.2	DR-Learner: assumptions hold	4
<b>3</b>	<b>Main Result</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1	Nuisance Leakage: R-learner	6
3.2	Nuisance Leakage: DR-learner	7
<b>4</b>	<b>Universal Analysis with Orthogonality</b>	<b>7</b>

# 1 Setup & Preliminaries

We study a population risk  $L(\tau, \eta)$ , where the *target*  $\tau \in \mathcal{T}$  and the *nuisance*  $\eta \in \mathcal{H}$  live in normed spaces  $(\mathcal{T}, \|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{T}})$  and  $(\mathcal{H}, \|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{H}})$ , respectively. Throughout,  $\eta_0$  denotes the true nuisance. We define the (possibly non-unique) *oracle minimizer*

$$\tau_0 \in \arg \min_{\tau \in \mathcal{T}} L(\tau, \eta_0), \quad (1)$$

which we assume is nonempty.

**Directional derivatives.** For a functional  $F$  and direction  $h$ , the (Gâteaux) derivative with respect to a variable  $x$  at  $x_0$  is

$$\nabla_x F(x_0)[h] \triangleq \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{F(x_0 + th) - F(x_0)}{t}, \quad (2)$$

and second derivatives  $\nabla_x^2 F(x_0)[h_1, h_2]$  are defined analogously; mixed derivatives such as  $\nabla_\eta \nabla_\tau L$  will be used for orthogonality.

**Sample splitting and plug-in.** We assume a two-way split into independent folds of approximately equal size: one to learn  $\hat{\eta}$  (using data  $\mathcal{D}_\eta$ ), and one to learn  $\hat{\tau}$  by minimizing  $L(\tau, \hat{\eta})$  over  $\tau$ , i.e.,

$$\tau_{\hat{\eta}}^* \triangleq \arg \min_{\tau} L(\tau, \hat{\eta}), \quad \text{so that} \quad \tau_0 = \tau_{\eta_0}^*.$$

This separation prevents overfitting-induced bias when we later linearize around  $(\tau_0, \eta_0)$ .

**Target-class statistical term.** Let  $R_{\mathcal{T}}(\tau; \eta, \epsilon) \geq 0$  be a data-dependent rate function such that, with probability at least  $1 - \epsilon$ ,

$$L(\tau, \eta) - L(\tau_{\eta}^*, \eta) \leq R_{\mathcal{T}}(\tau; \eta, \epsilon). \quad (3)$$

You may instantiate  $R_{\mathcal{T}}$  via localized complexity (e.g., critical radius) or algorithm-specific bounds; we keep it abstract to highlight how nuisance error propagates into target error.

**Goal and norms.** Our goal is to upper bound the *target error*  $\|\tau - \tau_0\|_{\mathcal{T}}^2$ . When we write  $\|\cdot\|_p$  we mean the  $L_p(P)$  norm with respect to the underlying distribution.

## 1.1 Examples (R- and DR-learners)

We use standard notation:  $T \in \{0, 1\}$  (treatment),  $X$  (covariates),  $Y$  (outcome). The estimand is the CATE

$$\tau_0(X) \triangleq \mathbb{E}[Y(1) - Y(0) \mid X], \quad (4)$$

under the usual *positivity* ( $c \leq \pi_0(X) \leq 1 - c$  a.s.) and i.i.d. sampling. We assume

$$Y(t) \perp\!\!\!\perp T \mid X \implies \mathbb{E}[Y(t) \mid X] = \mathbb{E}[Y \mid t, X], \quad \forall t \in \{0, 1\}. \quad (5)$$

### 1.1.1 R-Learner

The Robinson decomposition posits

$$Y = f_0(X) + T\tau_0(X) + \epsilon_Y, \quad \mathbb{E}[\epsilon_Y \mid T, X] = 0, \quad (6)$$

$$T = \pi_0(X) + \epsilon_X, \quad \mathbb{E}[\epsilon_X \mid X] = 0, \quad (7)$$

and with  $m_0(X) \triangleq \mathbb{E}[Y \mid X]$  we have  $m_0(X) = f_0(X) + \pi_0(X)\tau_0(X)$ . Hence

$$Y - m_0(X) = (T - \pi_0(X))\tau_0(X) + \epsilon_Y. \quad (8)$$

Thus, viewing  $\tau_0$  as an OLS-type coefficient in a residualized regression, we define

$$L_R(\tau, \eta_0 \triangleq \{m_0, \pi_0\}) \triangleq \mathbb{E}\left[\{Y - m_0(X) - (T - \pi_0(X))\tau(X)\}^2\right], \quad (9)$$

so that  $\tau_0 \in \arg \min_{\tau} L_R(\tau, \eta_0)$ .

### 1.1.2 DR-Learner

We define following nuisances:

$$\mu_0(T, X) \triangleq \mathbb{E}[Y \mid T, X], \quad \omega_0(T, X) \triangleq \frac{2T - 1}{P(T \mid X)}. \quad (10)$$

Define the pseudo-outcome

$$\varphi(V; \eta_0 \triangleq \{\mu_0, \pi_0\}) \triangleq \omega_0(T, X)\{Y - \mu_0(T, X)\} + \mu_0(1, X) - \mu_0(0, X), \quad (11)$$

and the squared-loss objective

$$L_{DR}(\tau, \eta) \triangleq \mathbb{E}\left[\{\varphi(V; \eta) - \tau(X)\}^2\right]. \quad (12)$$

This loss is centered at the CATE in virtue of  $\mathbb{E}[\varphi(V; \eta_0) \mid X] = \tau_0(X)$ .

## 2 Assumptions

We now state structural conditions that yield fast rates. The exposition follows the orthogonal-statistical-learning (OSL) template: first-order optimality at truth, curvature in  $\tau$ , and orthogonality to damp the impact of nuisance error.

**Assumption 1 (First-order optimality in  $\tau$ ).** Moving away from  $\tau_0$  cannot reduce the population risk at the true nuisance:

$$\nabla_{\tau} L(\tau_0, \eta_0)[h_{\tau}] \geq 0 \quad \text{for all feasible directions } h_{\tau} \text{ from } \tau_0. \quad (13)$$

**Assumption 2 (Strong convexity (quadratic growth) in  $\tau$ ).** There exist constants  $\lambda > 0$ ,  $\kappa \geq 0$ , and  $r \in [0, 1)$  such that, for any  $\bar{\tau}$  on the line segment between  $\tau$  and  $\tau_0$ ,

$$\nabla_{\tau}^2 L(\bar{\tau}, \eta)[\tau - \tau_0, \tau - \tau_0] \geq \lambda \|\tau - \tau_0\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 - \kappa \|\eta - \eta_0\|_{\mathcal{H}}^{\frac{4}{1+r}}. \quad (14)$$

*Rationale:* The risk function  $L(\tau, \eta)$  is in a bowl-shape over  $\tau$ . The  $\kappa$  term allows mild curvature deterioration when  $\eta \neq \eta_0$ ; the exponent  $4/(1+r)$  is chosen to balance mixed terms via Young's inequality later.

## 2.1 Assumption checks for the examples

We verify that the R- and DR-losses satisfy the above, clarifying how positivity yields curvature and how residualization/DR construction yields orthogonality.

### 2.1.1 R-Learner: assumptions hold

**First-order optimality.** With  $\tilde{Y} \triangleq Y - m_0(X)$ ,  $\tilde{T} \triangleq T - \pi_0(X)$ ,

$$\nabla_{\tau} L_R(\tau_0, \eta_0)[h_{\tau}] = -2 \mathbb{E}[(\tilde{Y} - \tilde{T}\tau_0) \tilde{T} h_{\tau}(X)] = -2 \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[\epsilon_Y | T, X] \tilde{T} h_{\tau}(X)] = 0. \quad (15)$$

Hence Assumption 1 holds.

**Strong convexity.** We have

$$\nabla_{\tau}^2 L(\bar{\tau}, \eta)[\tau - \tau_0, \tau - \tau_0] = 2 \mathbb{E}[\{\tau(X) - \tau_0(X)\}^2 \{T - \pi(X)\}^2], \quad (16)$$

where

$$\mathbb{E}[(T - \pi(X))^2 | X] = \underbrace{\text{Var}(T | X)}_{=\pi_0(X)(1-\pi_0(X))} + (\pi_0(X) - \pi(X))^2 \geq \pi_0(X)(1 - \pi_0(X)). \quad (17)$$

Therefore,

$$\nabla_{\tau}^2 L(\bar{\tau}, \eta)[\tau - \tau_0, \tau - \tau_0] = 2 \mathbb{E}[\{\tau(X) - \tau_0(X)\}^2 \{T - \pi(X)\}^2] \quad (18)$$

$$\geq 2 \mathbb{E}[\{\tau(X) - \tau_0(X)\}^2 \text{Var}(T | X)] \quad (19)$$

$$= 2 \mathbb{E}[\{\tau(X) - \tau_0(X)\}^2 \pi_0(X) \{1 - \pi_0(X)\}] \quad (20)$$

$$\geq 2 \mathbb{E}[\{\tau(X) - \tau_0(X)\}^2 c \{1 - c\}] \quad (21)$$

$$= 2c(1 - c) \|\tau - \tau_0\|_2^2. \quad (22)$$

Hence, Assumption 2 holds with  $\lambda = 2c(1 - c)$  and  $\kappa = 0$  (taking  $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{T}} = \|\cdot\|_2$ ).

### 2.1.2 DR-Learner: assumptions hold

**First-order optimality.**

$$\nabla_{\tau} L_{\text{DR}}(\tau_0, \eta_0)[h_{\tau}] = -2 \mathbb{E}[\{\varphi(V; \eta_0) - \tau_0(X)\} h_{\tau}(X)] = 0, \quad (23)$$

since  $\mathbb{E}[\varphi(V; \eta_0) | X] = \tau_0(X)$ .

**Strong convexity.** We first note that

$$\nabla_{\tau} L_{\text{DR}}(\tau_0, \eta_0)[\tau - \tau_0] = -2 \mathbb{E}[\{\varphi(V; \eta) - \tau(X)\} \{\tau(X) - \tau_0(X)\}]. \quad (24)$$

This gives

$$\nabla_{\tau}^2 L_{\text{DR}}(\tau, \eta)[\tau - \tau_0, \tau - \tau_0] = 2\|\tau - \tau_0\|_2^2, \quad (25)$$

which shows that  $\kappa = 0$  and  $\lambda = 2$  (taking  $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{T}} = \|\cdot\|_2$ ).

### 3 Main Result

**Theorem 1 (Fast Rate Convergence).** Suppose Assumption 1 and 2 hold. Then,

$$\|\tau - \tau_0\|_{\mathcal{T}}^2 \leq \frac{2}{\lambda} R_{\mathcal{T}}(\hat{\tau}; \hat{\eta}, \epsilon) + \frac{2}{\lambda} \{\nabla_{\tau} L(\tau_0, \eta_0)[\hat{\tau} - \tau_0] - \nabla_{\tau} L(\tau_0, \hat{\tau})[\hat{\tau} - \tau_0]\} + \frac{\kappa}{\lambda} \|\eta - \eta_0\|_{\mathcal{H}}^{\frac{4}{1+r}}. \quad (26)$$

**Proof of Thm. 1.** By applying the Taylor's expansion and rearranging, we have

$$\frac{1}{2} \nabla_{\tau}^2 L(\bar{\tau}, \hat{\eta})[(\hat{\tau} - \tau_0)^2] = L(\hat{\tau}, \hat{\eta}) - L(\tau_0, \hat{\eta}) - \nabla_{\tau} L(\tau_0, \hat{\tau})[\hat{\tau} - \tau_0],$$

where  $\bar{\tau}$  is on the line segment between  $\hat{\tau}$  and  $\tau_0$ .

Using Assumption 2, we have

$$\frac{\lambda}{2} \|\tau - \tau_0\|_{\mathcal{T}}^2 \leq \underbrace{L(\hat{\tau}, \hat{\eta}) - L(\tau_0, \hat{\eta})}_{R_{\mathcal{T}}(\hat{\tau}; \hat{\eta}, \epsilon)} - \nabla_{\tau} L(\tau_0, \hat{\tau})[\hat{\tau} - \tau_0] + \frac{\kappa}{2} \|\eta - \eta_0\|_{\mathcal{H}}^{\frac{4}{1+r}}.$$

Since  $\nabla_{\tau} L(\tau_0, \eta_0)[\hat{\tau} - \tau_0] \geq 0$  by Assumption 1, we have

$$\frac{\lambda}{2} \|\tau - \tau_0\|_{\mathcal{T}}^2 \leq R_{\mathcal{T}}(\hat{\tau}; \hat{\eta}, \epsilon) + \{\nabla_{\tau} L(\tau_0, \eta_0)[\hat{\tau} - \tau_0] - \nabla_{\tau} L(\tau_0, \hat{\tau})[\hat{\tau} - \tau_0]\} + \frac{\kappa}{2} \|\eta - \eta_0\|_{\mathcal{H}}^{\frac{4}{1+r}}. \quad (27)$$

□

The middle difference

$$\{\nabla_{\tau} L(\tau_0, \eta_0) - \nabla_{\tau} L(\tau_0, \hat{\eta})\}[\hat{\tau} - \tau_0] \quad (28)$$

is the *nuisance leakage of the first-order optimality condition*. It is the main channel through which nuisance error affects the target. Under Neyman orthogonality, the leakage is *higher than first order* in  $\|\hat{\eta} - \eta_0\|$  (typically quadratic or a product of nuisance errors), so  $\hat{\tau}$  inherits only a higher-order remainder rather than linear bias. In particular, for the DR-learner it factors into a product of nuisance errors (yielding *double robustness*), whereas for the R-learner it enables *fast rates* once the nuisances are sufficiently accurate. We quantify these forms below for each loss.

### 3.1 Nuisance Leakage: R-learner

**Theorem 2 (Error Analysis: R-learner).** Suppose Assumption 1 and 2 hold with  $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{T}} = \|\cdot\|_2$ . Let  $a \triangleq \|\tau_0\|_{\infty}^2$  and  $\lambda \triangleq 2c(1-c)$ , where  $c$  is a constant satisfying  $c \leq \pi_0(X) \leq 1-c$ . Then, with probability  $1-\epsilon$ ,

$$\|\hat{\tau} - \tau_0\|_2^2 \leq \frac{4}{\lambda} \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{T}}(\hat{\tau}; \hat{\eta}, \epsilon) + \frac{32a}{\lambda^2} \|\hat{\pi} - \pi_0\|_4^4 + \frac{32}{\lambda^2} \|\hat{m} - m_0\|_4^2 \|\hat{\pi} - \pi_0\|_4^2. \quad (29)$$

**Proof of Thm. 2.** Let  $h_{\tau}(X) \triangleq \hat{\tau}(X) - \tau_0(X)$ . Let  $\delta_m(X) \triangleq (m(X) - m_0(X))$  and  $\delta_{\pi}(X) \triangleq (\pi(X) - \pi_0(X))$ .

Note, the first-order risk function is the following:

$$\nabla_{\tau} L_{\mathcal{R}}[\tau, \eta](h_{\tau}) = -2\mathbb{E}[\{Y - m(X) - \tau(X)(T - \pi(X))\} \cdot \{T - \pi(X)\} \cdot h_{\tau}(X)], \quad (30)$$

We note that  $\nabla_{\tau} L_{\mathcal{R}}[\tau_0, \eta_0](h_{\tau}) = 0$ , as shown in the first-order optimality condition analysis. To analyze the leakage, we rewrite a few terms here:

$$Y - m - \tau_0(T - \pi) = \underbrace{Y - m_0 - \tau_0(T - \pi_0)}_{\epsilon_Y} - \delta_m + \tau_0\delta_{\pi} \quad (31)$$

$$T - \pi = T - \pi_0 - \delta_{\pi}. \quad (32)$$

Then, we can rewrite the first-order risk as follows:

$$\nabla_{\tau} L_{\mathcal{R}}[\tau_0, \eta](h_{\tau}) = -2\mathbb{E}[\{\epsilon_Y - \delta_m + \tau_0\delta_{\pi}\} \cdot (T - \pi_0 - \delta_{\pi}) \cdot h_{\tau}] \quad (33)$$

$$= 2\mathbb{E}[\{\tau_0\delta_{\pi}^2 - \delta_m\delta_{\pi}\}h_{\tau}] \quad (34)$$

$$\leq 2|\mathbb{E}[\tau_0\delta_{\pi}^2 h_{\tau}]| + 2|\mathbb{E}[\delta_m\delta_{\pi} h_{\tau}]| \quad (35)$$

$$\leq 2\|\delta_{\pi}\|_4^2 \cdot \|\tau_0\|_{\infty} \cdot \|h_{\tau}\|_2 + 2\|\delta_m\|_4 \cdot \|\delta_{\pi}\|_4 \cdot \|h_{\tau}\|_2 \quad (36)$$

$$= 2\|h_{\tau}\|_2 \cdot \left( \|\tau_0\|_{\infty} \|\delta_{\pi}\|_4^2 + \|\delta_m\|_4 \cdot \|\delta_{\pi}\|_4 \right). \quad (37)$$

Then, for any  $\alpha > 0$ , Young's inequality (with  $p = q = 2$ ) gives

$$\nabla_{\tau} L(\tau_0, \eta_0)[\hat{\tau} - \tau_0] - \nabla_{\tau} L(\tau_0, \hat{\eta})[\hat{\tau} - \tau_0] \quad (38)$$

$$\leq 2\|h_{\tau}\|_2 \cdot \left( \|\tau_0\|_{\infty} \|\delta_{\pi}\|_4^2 + \|\delta_m\|_4 \cdot \|\delta_{\pi}\|_4 \right) \quad (39)$$

$$\leq \alpha \|h_{\tau}\|_2^2 + \frac{1}{\alpha} \left( \|\tau_0\|_{\infty} \|\delta_{\pi}\|_4^2 + \|\delta_m\|_4 \cdot \|\delta_{\pi}\|_4 \right)^2 \quad (40)$$

$$= \alpha \|h_{\tau}\|_2^2 + \frac{2}{\alpha} \|\tau_0\|_{\infty}^2 \|\delta_{\pi}\|_4^4 + \frac{2}{\alpha} \|\delta_m\|_4^2 \|\delta_{\pi}\|_4^2. \quad (41)$$

Choose  $\alpha = \lambda/4$ . Let  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{T}} \triangleq \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{T}}(\hat{\tau}; \hat{\eta}, \epsilon)$ . Then, by Thm. 1, we have

$$\|h_{\tau}\|_2^2 \leq \frac{2}{\lambda} \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{T}} + \frac{2}{\lambda} \frac{\lambda}{4} \|h_{\tau}\|_2^2 + \frac{16a}{\lambda^2} \|\delta_{\pi}\|_2^2 + \frac{16}{\lambda^2} \|\delta_m\|_4^2 \|\delta_{\pi}\|_4^2, \quad (42)$$

$$\implies \frac{1}{2} \|h_{\tau}\|_2^2 \leq \frac{2}{\lambda} \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{T}} + \frac{16a}{\lambda^2} \|\delta_{\pi}\|_2^2 + \frac{16}{\lambda^2} \|\delta_m\|_4^2 \|\delta_{\pi}\|_4^2, \quad (43)$$

which completes the proof.  $\square$

### 3.2 Nuisance Leakage: DR-learner

**Theorem 3 (Error Analysis: DR-learner).** Suppose Assumption 1 and 2 hold with  $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{T}} = \|\cdot\|_2$ . Then, with probability  $1 - \epsilon$ ,

$$\|\hat{\tau} - \tau_0\|_2^2 \leq 2\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{T}}(\hat{\tau}; \hat{\eta}, \epsilon) + 8\|\omega - \omega_0\|_4^2 \|\mu_0 - \mu\|_4^2. \quad (44)$$

**Proof of Thm. 3.** Let  $h_{\tau}(X) \triangleq \hat{\tau}(X) - \tau_0(X)$ . Let  $\delta_{\mu}(XZ) \triangleq (\mu(XZ) - \mu_0(XZ))$  and  $\delta_{\omega}(X) \triangleq (\omega(X) - \omega_0(X))$ .

Note

$$\nabla_{\tau} L_{\text{DR}}(\tau, \eta)[h_{\tau}] = -2\mathbb{E}[\{\varphi(V; \eta) - \tau\}h_{\tau}] \leq 2|\mathbb{E}[\{\varphi(V; \eta) - \tau\}h_{\tau}]|. \quad (45)$$

We note  $\nabla_{\tau} L_{\text{DR}}(\tau_0, \eta_0)[h_{\tau}] = 0$ , as shown in the first-order optimality condition analysis. Also,

$$|\mathbb{E}[\{\varphi(V; \eta) - \tau_0\}h_{\tau}]| \quad (46)$$

$$= |\mathbb{E}[\{\omega(TX)\{Y - \mu(TX)\} + \omega_0(TX)\mu(TX) - \omega_0(TX)\mu_0(TX)\}h_{\tau}(X)]| \quad (47)$$

$$= |\mathbb{E}[\{\omega(TX)\{\mu_0(TX) - \mu(TX)\} + \omega_0(TX)\{\mu(TX) - \mu_0(TX)\}\}h_{\tau}(X)]| \quad (48)$$

$$= |\mathbb{E}[\{\omega(TX) - \omega_0(TX)\}\{\mu_0(TX) - \mu(TX)\}h_{\tau}(X)]| \quad (49)$$

$$\leq \|h_{\tau}\|_2 \|(\omega - \omega_0)(\mu_0 - \mu)\|_2 \quad (50)$$

$$\leq \|h_{\tau}\|_2 \|\omega - \omega_0\|_4 \|\mu_0 - \mu\|_4. \quad (51)$$

Then, for any  $\alpha > 0$ , Young's inequality (with  $p = q = 2$ ) gives

$$2|\mathbb{E}[\{\varphi(V; \eta) - \tau_0\}h_{\tau}]| \quad (52)$$

$$\leq \alpha \|h_{\tau}\|_2^2 + \frac{1}{\alpha} \|\omega - \omega_0\|_4^2 \|\mu_0 - \mu\|_4^2. \quad (53)$$

Choose  $\alpha = \lambda/4$ . Let  $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{T}} \triangleq \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{T}}(\hat{\tau}; \hat{\eta}, \epsilon)$ . Then, by Thm. 1, we have

$$\|h_{\tau}\|_2^2 \leq \frac{2}{\lambda} \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{T}} + \frac{2}{\lambda} \frac{\lambda}{4} \|h_{\tau}\|_2^2 + \frac{16}{\lambda^2} \|\omega - \omega_0\|_4^2 \|\mu_0 - \mu\|_4^2 \quad (54)$$

$$\implies \frac{1}{2} \|h_{\tau}\|_2^2 \leq \frac{2}{\lambda} \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{T}} + \frac{16}{\lambda^2} \|\omega - \omega_0\|_4^2 \|\mu_0 - \mu\|_4^2, \quad (55)$$

which completes the proof.  $\square$

## 4 Universal Analysis with Orthogonality

In this section, we present a general result: fast rate convergence can be achieved whenever the risk function satisfies certain smoothness conditions and, at the same time, its first-order condition remains stable under small errors in nuisance estimation. To formalize this idea, we introduce the following assumptions together with their rationales.

**Assumption 3 (Orthogonality at the truth (Neyman orthogonality)).** Small errors in the nuisance  $\eta$  do not change the first-order optimality condition in  $\tau$  (i.e.,

$\nabla_\tau L(\tau_0, \cdot)$  at the true nuisance  $\eta_0$ .

$$\nabla_\eta \nabla_\tau L(\tau_0, \eta_0)[h_\tau, h_\eta] = 0 \quad \text{for all directions } h_\tau \in \mathcal{T}, h_\eta \in \mathcal{H}. \quad (56)$$

**Assumption 4 (Curvature Bound).** There exist constants  $b_1 > 0$  such that,

$$\nabla_\tau^2 L(\bar{\tau}, \eta)[\tau - \tau_0, \tau - \tau_0] \leq b_1 \|\tau - \tau_0\|_{\mathcal{T}}^2. \quad (57)$$

*Rationale:* (with Assumption 2), the curvature of the risk function a quadratic function of  $\tau - \tau_0$ .

**Assumption 5 (Smoothness on Nuisance).** There exist constants  $b_2 > 0$  and  $r \in [0, 1]$  defined in Assumption 2 such that,

$$|\nabla_\eta^2 \nabla_\tau L(\tau_0, \bar{\eta})[\tau - \tau_0, \eta - \eta_0, \eta - \eta_0]| \leq b_2 \|\tau - \tau_0\|_{\mathcal{T}}^{1-r} \|\eta - \eta_0\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 \quad (58)$$

*Rationale:* The curvature of the first-order function of the risk is  $O(\|\eta - \eta_0\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2)$ , allowing mild deterioration when  $\tau \neq \tau_0$ .

Under these conditions, we obtain the following universal fast rate result.

**Theorem 4 (Fast Rate Convergence - Universal).** Suppose Assumption 1 to 5 hold. Let  $\beta_1 = 2/\lambda$  and  $\beta_2 = \frac{\lambda}{2} \left( \frac{b_2(1+r)}{4} \left( \frac{b_2(1-r)}{\lambda} \right)^{\frac{1-r}{1+r}} + \frac{\kappa}{2} \right)$ . Then, with probability  $1 - \epsilon$ ,

$$\|\hat{\tau} - \tau_0\|_{\mathcal{T}}^2 \leq \beta_1 R_{\mathcal{T}}(\hat{\tau}; \hat{\eta}, \epsilon) + \beta_2 \|\hat{\eta} - \eta_0\|_{\mathcal{H}}^{\frac{4}{1+r}}. \quad (59)$$

**Proof of Thm. 4.** By applying the Taylor's expansion and rearranging, we have

$$\frac{1}{2} \nabla_\tau^2 L(\bar{\tau}, \hat{\eta})[h_\tau, h_\tau] = L(\hat{\tau}, \hat{\eta}) - L(\tau_0, \hat{\eta}) - \nabla_\tau L(\tau_0, \hat{\tau})[h_\tau],$$

where  $\bar{\tau}$  is on the line segment between  $\hat{\tau}$  and  $\tau_0$ .

Using Assumption 2, we have

$$\frac{\lambda}{2} \|h_\tau\|_{\mathcal{T}}^2 \leq \underbrace{L(\hat{\tau}, \hat{\eta}) - L(\tau_0, \hat{\eta}) - \nabla_\tau L(\tau_0, \hat{\tau})[h_\tau]}_{R_{\mathcal{T}}(\hat{\tau}; \hat{\eta}, \epsilon)} + \frac{\kappa}{2} \|h_\tau\|_{\mathcal{T}}^{\frac{4}{1+r}}.$$

By applying Taylor's expansion,

$$-\nabla_\tau L(\tau_0, \hat{\tau})[h_\tau] = \underbrace{-\nabla_\tau L(\tau_0, \eta_0)[h_\tau]}_{\leq 0, \text{ by Assumption 1}} - \underbrace{\nabla_\eta \nabla_\tau L(\tau_0, \eta_0)[h_\tau, h_\eta]}_{=0, \text{ by Assumption 3}} - \frac{1}{2} \nabla_\eta^2 \nabla_\tau L(\tau_0, \bar{\eta})[h_\tau, h_\eta, h_\eta]. \quad (60)$$

Continuing,

$$-\nabla_\tau L(\tau_0, \hat{\tau})[h_\tau] = -\nabla_\tau L(\tau_0, \eta_0)[h_\tau] - \frac{1}{2} \nabla_\eta^2 \nabla_\tau L(\tau_0, \bar{\eta})[h_\tau, h_\eta, h_\eta] \quad (61)$$

$$\leq -\frac{1}{2} \nabla_\eta^2 \nabla_\tau L(\tau_0, \bar{\eta})[h_\tau, h_\eta, h_\eta] \quad (62)$$

$$\leq \frac{b_2}{2} \|\tau - \tau_0\|_{\mathcal{T}}^{1-r} \|\eta - \eta_0\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2, \text{ by Assumption 5.} \quad (63)$$



Invoking Young's inequality, for any constant  $\alpha > 0$ ,

$$\frac{b_2}{2} \|\tau - \tau_0\|_{\mathcal{T}}^{1-r} \|\eta - \eta_0\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 \leq \frac{b_2 \alpha}{2p} \|\tau - \tau_0\|_{\mathcal{T}}^{p(1-r)} + \frac{b_2}{2q\alpha^{q/p}} \|\eta - \eta_0\|_{\mathcal{H}}^{2q}. \quad (64)$$

Choose  $p = \frac{2}{1-r}$  and  $q = \frac{2}{1+r}$ . Then, it becomes

$$\frac{b_2}{2} \|\tau - \tau_0\|_{\mathcal{T}}^{1-r} \|\eta - \eta_0\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 \leq \frac{b_2 \alpha (1-r)}{4} \|\tau - \tau_0\|_{\mathcal{T}}^2 + \frac{b_2 (1+r) \alpha^{\frac{r-1}{1+r}}}{4} \|\eta - \eta_0\|_{\mathcal{H}}^{\frac{4}{1+r}}. \quad (65)$$

Choose  $\alpha = \frac{\lambda}{b_2(1-r)}$ . Then, the upper bound will be

$$\frac{b_2}{2} \|\tau - \tau_0\|_{\mathcal{T}}^{1-r} \|\eta - \eta_0\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 \leq \frac{\lambda}{4} \|h_{\tau}\|_{\mathcal{T}}^2 + \frac{b_2(1+r)}{4} \left( \frac{b_2(1-r)}{\lambda} \right)^{\frac{1-r}{1+r}} \|h_{\eta}\|_{\mathcal{H}}^{\frac{4}{1+r}}. \quad (66)$$

Combining, we have

$$-\nabla_{\tau} L(\tau_0, \hat{\tau})[h_{\tau}] \leq \frac{\lambda}{4} \|h_{\tau}\|_{\mathcal{T}}^2 + \frac{b_2(1+r)}{4} \left( \frac{b_2(1-r)}{\lambda} \right)^{\frac{1-r}{1+r}} \|h_{\eta}\|_{\mathcal{H}}^{\frac{4}{1+r}}. \quad (67)$$

Then,

$$\frac{\lambda}{2} \|h_{\tau}\|_{\mathcal{T}}^2 \leq R_{\mathcal{T}}(\hat{\tau}; \hat{\eta}, \epsilon) + \frac{\lambda}{4} \|h_{\tau}\|_{\mathcal{T}}^2 + \frac{b_2(1+r)}{4} \left( \frac{b_2(1-r)}{\lambda} \right)^{\frac{1-r}{1+r}} \|h_{\eta}\|_{\mathcal{H}}^{\frac{4}{1+r}} + \frac{\kappa}{2} \|h_{\eta}\|_{\mathcal{H}}^{\frac{4}{1+r}}, \quad (68)$$

which implies that

$$\frac{\lambda}{2} \|h_{\tau}\|_{\mathcal{T}}^2 \leq R_{\mathcal{T}}(\hat{\tau}; \hat{\eta}, \epsilon) + \left( \frac{b_2(1+r)}{4} \left( \frac{b_2(1-r)}{\lambda} \right)^{\frac{1-r}{1+r}} + \frac{\kappa}{2} \right) \|h_{\eta}\|_{\mathcal{H}}^{\frac{4}{1+r}}. \quad (69)$$

□

## References