THE LASSO FOR HIGH-DIMENSIONAL REGRESSION WITH A POSSIBLE CHANGE-POINT

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Abstract. We consider a high-dimensional regression model with a possible change-point due to a covariate threshold and develop the Lasso estimator of regression coefficients as well as the threshold parameter. Under a sparsity assumption, we derive nonasymptotic oracle inequalities for both the prediction risk and the ℓ_1 estimation loss for regression coefficients. Furthermore, we establish conditions under which the unknown threshold parameter can be estimated at nearly n^{-1} when the number of regressors can be much larger than the sample size (n). We illustrate the usefulness of our proposed estimation method via Monte Carlo simulations and an application to real data.

Key words. Lasso, oracle inequalities, sample splitting, sparsity, threshold models.

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1. Introduction

The Lasso and related methods have received rapidly increasing attention in statistics since the seminal work of Tibshirani (1996). For example, see a timely monograph by Bühlmann and van de Geer (2011) as well as a retrospective review by Tibshirani (2011) for general overview and recent developments.

In this paper, we develop a method for estimating a high-dimensional regression model with a possible change-point due to a covariate threshold, while selecting relevant regressors from a set of many potential covariates. In particular, we propose the ℓ_1 penalized least squares (Lasso) estimator of parameters, including the unknown threshold parameter, and analyze its properties under a sparsity assumption when the number of possible covariates can be much larger than the sample size.

To be specific, let $\{(Y_i, X_i, Q_i) : i = 1, \dots, n\}$ be a sample of independent observations such that

$$Y_i = X_i'\beta_0 + X_i'\delta_0 1\{Q_i < \tau_0\} + U_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, n, \tag{1.1}$$

where for each i, X_i is an $M \times 1$ deterministic vector, Q_i is a deterministic scalar, U_i follows $N(0, \sigma^2)$, and $1\{\cdot\}$ denotes the indicator function. The scalar variable Q_i is the threshold variable and τ_0 is the unknown threshold parameter. Note that since Q_i is a fixed variable in our setup, (1.1) includes a regression model with a change-point at unknown time (e.g. $Q_i = i/n$).

A regression model such as (1.1) offers applied researchers a simple yet useful framework to model nonlinear relationships by splitting the data into subsamples. Empirical examples include cross-country growth models with multiple equilibria (Durlauf and Johnson, 1995), racial segregation (Card et al., 2008), and financial contagion (Pesaran and Pick, 2007), among many others. Typically, the choice of the threshold variable is well motivated in applied work (e.g. initial per capita output in Durlauf and Johnson (1995), and the minority share in a neighborhood in Card et al. (2008)), but selection of other covariates is subject to applied researchers' discretion. However, covariate selection is important in identifying threshold effects (i.e., nonzero δ_0) since a piece of evidence favoring threshold effects with a particular set of covariates could be overturned by a linear model with a broader set of regressors. Therefore, it seems natural to consider Lasso as a tool to estimate (1.1).

The statistical problem we consider in this paper is to estimate unknown parameters $(\beta_0, \delta_0, \tau_0) \in \mathbb{R}^{2M+1}$ when M is much larger than n. For the classical setup (estimation of parameters without covariate selection when M is smaller than n), estimation of (1.1) has been well studied (see, e.g., Tong, 1990; Chan, 1993; Hansen, 2000). Also, a general method for testing threshold effects in regression (i.e. testing $H_0 : \delta_0 = 0$ in (1.1)) is available for the classical setup (see, e.g., Lee et al., 2011).

Although there are many papers on Lasso type methods and also equally many papers on change points, sample splitting, and threshold models, there seem to be only a handful of papers that intersect both topics. Wu (2008) proposed an information-based criterion for carrying out change point analysis and variable selection simultaneously in linear models with a possible change point; however, the proposed method in Wu (2008) would be infeasible in a sparse high-dimensional model. In change-point models without covariates, Harchaoui and Levy-Leduc (2008, 2010) proposed a method for estimating the location of change-points in one-dimensional piecewise constant signals observed in white noise, using a penalized least-square criterion with an ℓ_1-type penalty, and Zhang and Siegmund (2007) developed Bayes Information Criterion (BIC)-like criteria for determining the number of changes in the mean of multiple sequences of independent normal observations when the number of change-points can increase with the sample size. Ciuperca (2012) considered a similar estimation problem as ours, but the corresponding analysis is restricted to the case when the number of potential covariates is small.

In this paper, we consider the Lasso estimator of regression coefficients as well as the threshold parameter. Theoretical properties of the Lasso and related methods for high-dimensional data are examined by Bunea et al. (2007), Candès and Tao (2007), Bickel et al. (2009), Meinshausen and Yu (2009), and van de Geer and Bühlmann (2009), among many others. Most of the papers consider linear or nonparametric models with an additive mean zero error. Some exceptions are van de Geer (2008) who considered high-dimensional generalized linear models with Lipschitz loss functions; Belloni and Chernozhukov (2011a) who developed the Lasso estimator of quantile regressions in high-dimensional sparse models; and Bradic et al. (2012) who worked out nonconcave penalized methods, including Lasso, for Cox's proportional hazards model with high-dimensional censored data. We contribute to this literature by considering a regression model with a possible change-point and then deriving nonasymptotic oracle inequalities for both the prediction risk and ℓ_1 estimation loss for regression coefficients under a sparsity scenario. Since the Lasso estimator selects variables simultaneously, we show that oracle inequalities can be established without pretesting the existence of the threshold effect. Furthermore, we establish conditions under which the unknown threshold parameter can be estimated at nearly n^{-1} when the number of regressors can be much larger than the sample size (n).

The remainder of this paper is as follows. In Section 2 we propose the Lasso estimator, and in Section 3 we give a brief illustration of our proposed estimation method using a real-data example in economics. In Section 4 we establish the prediction consistency of our Lasso estimator. In Sections 5 - 8, we establish sparsity oracle inequalities in terms of both the prediction loss and the ℓ_1 estimation loss of (α_0, τ_0), while providing low-level sufficient conditions for three possible cases of threshold effects. In Section 9 we present results of some simulation studies. Section 10 concludes and Appendix A contains all the proofs.

2. Lasso Estimation

Let $\mathbf{X}_i(\tau)$ denote the $(2M \times 1)$ vector such that $\mathbf{X}_i(\tau) = (X_i', X_i' 1\{Q_i < \tau\})'$ and let $\mathbf{X}(\tau)$ denote the $(n \times 2M)$ matrix whose i-th row is $\mathbf{X}_i(\tau)'$. This is distinguished from $X(\tau)$, which denotes the $(n \times M)$ matrix whose i-th row is $X_i' 1\{Q_i < \tau\}$. Let $\alpha_0 = (\beta_0', \delta_0')'$. Then (1.1) can be written as

$$Y_i = \mathbf{X}_i(\tau_0)'\alpha_0 + U_i, \quad i = 1, \ldots, n. \tag{2.1}$$

Following Bickel et al. (2009), we use the following notation. For an L-dimensional vector a, let $|a|_p$ denote the ℓ_p norm of a, and $|J|$ denote the cardinality of J, where $J(a) = \{j \in \{1, \ldots, L\} : a_j \neq 0\}$. In addition, let $\mathcal{M}(a)$ denote the number of nonzero elements of a. Then,

$$\mathcal{M}(a) = \sum_{j=1}^{L} 1\{a_j \neq 0\} = |J(a)|.$$

The value $\mathcal{M}(\alpha_0)$ characterizes the sparsity of the model (2.1). Also, let a_J denote the vector in $\mathbb{R}^L$ that has the same coordinates as a on J and zero coordinates on the complement J^c of J. For any n-dimensional vector $W = (W_1, \ldots, W_n)'$, define the empirical norm as

$$\|W\|_n := \left(n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n} W_i^2 \right)^{1/2}.$$

Let $\mathbf{y} \equiv (Y_1, \ldots, Y_n)'$. For any fixed τ, consider the residual sum of squares

$$\begin{aligned} S_n(\alpha, \tau) &= n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(Y_i - X_i'\beta - X_i'\delta 1\{Q_i < \tau\} \right)^2 \\ &= \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}(\tau)\alpha\|_n^2, \end{aligned}$$

where $\alpha = (\beta', \delta')'$.

Indicating by the superscript $^{(j)}$ the j-th element of a vector or the j-th column of a matrix, define the following $(2M \times 2M)$ diagonal matrix:

$$\mathbf{D}(\tau) := \operatorname{diag}\left\{ \left\| \mathbf{X}(\tau)^{(j)} \right\|_n, \quad j = 1, ..., 2M \right\}.$$

For each fixed τ, define the Lasso solution $\widehat{\alpha}(\tau)$ by

$$\widehat{\alpha}(\tau) := \operatorname{argmin}_{\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^{2M}} \left\{ S_n(\alpha, \tau) + \lambda \left| \mathbf{D}(\tau)\alpha \right|_1 \right\}, \tag{2.2}$$

where λ is a tuning parameter that depends on n. It is important to note that for each fixed τ, $\widehat{\alpha}(\tau)$ is the weighted Lasso, which has advantages over the unweighted Lasso since different values of τ generate different dictionaries.

We now estimate τ_0 by

$$\widehat{\tau} := \operatorname{argmin}_{\tau \in \mathbb{T} \subset \mathbb{R}} \left\{ S_n(\widehat{\alpha}(\tau), \tau) + \lambda \left| \mathbf{D}(\tau)\widehat{\alpha}(\tau) \right|_1 \right\},$$

where $\mathbb{T} \equiv [t_0, t_1]$ is a parameter space for τ_0. In fact, for any finite n, $\widehat{\tau}$ is given by an interval and we simply define the maximum of the interval as our estimator. If we wrote the model using $1\{Q_i > \tau\}$, then the convention would be the minimum of the interval being the estimator. Then the estimator of α_0 is defined as $\widehat{\alpha} := \widehat{\alpha}(\widehat{\tau})$. In fact, our proposed estimator of (α, τ) can be viewed as the one-step minimizer such that:

$$(\widehat{\alpha}, \widehat{\tau}) := \operatorname{argmin}_{\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^{2M}, \tau \in \mathbb{T} \subset \mathbb{R}} \left\{ S_n(\alpha, \tau) + \lambda \left| \mathbf{D}(\tau)\alpha \right|_1 \right\}. \tag{2.3}$$

3. Empirical Illustration

In this section, we apply the proposed Lasso method to the growth regression models in economics. The neoclassical growth model predicts that economic growth rates would converge in the long run. This theory has been tested empirically by looking at the negative relationship between the long-run growth rate and the initial GDP given other covariates (see Barro and Sala-i-Martin (1995) and Durlauf et al. (2005) for literature reviews). Although empirical results confirmed the negative relationship of them, there has been some criticism that the results heavily depend on the selection of covariates. Recently, Belloni and Chernozhukov (2011b) show that the Lasso estimation can help select the covariates in the *linear* growth regression model and that the Lasso estimation results reconfirm the negative relationship between the long-run growth rate and the initial GDP.

We consider the growth regression model with a possible threshold. Durlauf and Johnson (1995) provide the theoretical background of the existence of multiple steady states and estimate the model with two possible threshold variables. They check the robustness by adding other available covariates in the model, but it is not still free from the criticism of the *ad hoc* variable selection. Our proposed Lasso method might be a good alternative in this situation. Furthermore, as we will show later, our method works well even if there is no threshold effect in the model. Therefore, one might expect more robust results from our approach.

The regression model we consider has the following form:

$$gr_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 lgdp60_i + X_i'\beta_2 + 1\{Q_i < \tau\} \left(\delta_0 + \delta_1 lgdp60_i + X_i'\delta_2\right) + \varepsilon_i \tag{3.1}$$

where gr_i is the annualized GDP growth rate of country i from 1960 to 1985, $lgdp60_i$ is the log GDP in 1960, and Q_i is a possible threshold variable for which we use the initial GDP and the adult literacy rate in 1960 following Durlauf and Johnson (1995). Finally, X_i is a vector of additional covariates related to education, market efficiency, political stability, market openness, demographic characteristics, and so on. The list of all covariates used and the description of each variable are given in Table 1. We include as many covariates as possible, which would mitigate the potential omitted variable bias. The data set mostly comes from Barro and Lee (1994), and the additional adult literacy rate is from Durlauf and Johnson (1995). Because of missing observations, we have 80 observations with 46 covariates (including a constant term) when Q_i is the initial GDP, and 70 observations with 47 covariates when Q_i is the literacy rate.

Tables 2 and 3 summarize the model selection and estimation results. To compare different model specifications, we also apply the Lasso procedure to a linear model, i.e. all δ's are zeros in Equation (3.1). In each case, the regularization parameter λ is chosen by the 'leave-one-out' least squares cross validation method.

Main empirical findings are as follows. First, note that the number of covariates in the threshold models is bigger than the number of observations. Thus, we cannot adopt the standard least squares method to estimate the threshold regression model. Second, the coefficients of *lgdp60* are negative in all models, which confirms the theory of the neoclassical growth models. Third, the coefficients of interaction terms between *lgdp60* and various education variables show the existence of threshold effects in both threshold model specifications. This result implies that the growth convergence rates can vary according to different education levels. Specifically, note that the interaction term between *lgdp* and '*educ*' implies the marginal effect of *lgdp* becomes

$$lgdp \times \Big(\beta_1 + \beta_2 educ + 1\{Q < \gamma\}(\delta_1 + \delta_2 educ)\Big).$$

In both threshold models, we have $\delta_1 = 0$, but some δ_2's are not zero. Thus, conditional on other covariates, there exist different technological diffusion effects according to the threshold point. In other words, a country with high education levels will converge faster by absorbing technology easily and quickly. Finally, the Lasso with the threshold model specification selects a more parsimonious model than that with the linear specification even though the former imposes more covariates.

Compared to the results by Durlauf and Johnson (1995), our estimation results show a couple of different points. The Lasso estimator does not confirm the threshold effect for the variable *lgdp60* itself. Different convergent rates are made only through the interaction with the education variables. It is also noteworthy that the threshold parameter estimates are much higher than those chosen by Durlauf and Johnson (1995). These differences show the importance of model selection and the advantage of the proposed Lasso estimation.

4. Prediction Consistency

In this section, we establish the prediction consistency of our Lasso estimator. For notational simplicity, we make the following convention, that is, $\widehat{\mathbf{D}} = \mathbf{D}(\widehat{\tau})$ and $\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{D}(\tau_0)$, and similarly, $\widehat{S}_n = S_n(\widehat{\alpha}, \widehat{\tau})$ and $S_n = S_n(\alpha_0, \gamma_0)$, and so on.

Define $f_{(\alpha,\tau)}(x,q) := x'\beta + x'\delta 1\{q < \tau\}$, $f_0(x,q) := x'\beta_0 + x'\delta_0 1\{q < \tau_0\}$, and $\widehat{f}(x,q) := x'\widehat{\beta} + x'\widehat{\delta}1\{q < \widehat{\tau}\}$. Let

$$V_{1j} := \left(n\sigma \left\|X^{(j)}\right\|_n\right)^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n} U_i X_i^{(j)},$$

$$V_{2j}(\tau) := \left(n\sigma \left\|X^{(j)}(\tau)\right\|_n\right)^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n} U_i X_i^{(j)} 1\{Q_i < \tau\}.$$

For a positive constant $\mu < 1$, define the events

$$\mathbb{A} := \bigcap_{j=1}^{M} \{2|V_{1j}| \le \mu\lambda/\sigma\},$$

$$\mathbb{B} := \bigcap_{j=1}^{M} \left\{2 \sup_{\tau\in\mathbb{T}} |V_{2j}(\tau)| \le \mu\lambda/\sigma\right\},$$

Also define $J_0 := J(\alpha_0)$ and $R_n := R_n(\alpha_0,\tau_0)$, where

$$R_n(\alpha,\tau) := 2n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n} U_i X_i'\delta \left\{1(Q_i < \widehat{\tau}) - 1(Q_i < \tau)\right\}.$$

The following lemma gives some useful basic inequalities that provide a basis for all our theoretical results.

Lemma 1 (Basic Inequalities)**.** *Conditional on the events* $\mathbb{A}$ *and* $\mathbb{B}$*, we have*

$$\left\|\widehat{f} - f_0\right\|_n^2 + (1-\mu)\lambda\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha} - \alpha_0)\right|_1 \le 2\lambda\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha} - \alpha_0)_{J_0}\right|_1 + \lambda\left|\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}\alpha_0\right|_1 - |\mathbf{D}\alpha_0|_1\right| + R_n \tag{4.1}$$

and

$$\left\|\widehat{f} - f_0\right\|_n^2 + (1-\mu)\lambda\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha} - \alpha_0)\right|_1 \le 2\lambda\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha} - \alpha_0)_{J_0}\right|_1 + \left\|f_{(\alpha_0,\widehat{\tau})} - f_0\right\|_n^2. \tag{4.2}$$

The basic inequalities in Lemma 1 involve more terms than that of the linear model (e.g. Lemma 6.1 of Bühlmann and van de Geer, 2011) because our model in (1.1) includes the unknown threshold parameter τ_0 and the weighted Lasso is considered in (2.2). Also, it helps prove our main results to have different upper bounds in (4.1) and (4.2) for the same lower bound.

We now establish conditions under which $\mathbb{A}\cap\mathbb{B}$ has probability close to one with a suitable choice of λ. Define

$$r_n := \min_{1\le j\le M} \frac{\left\|X^{(j)}(t_0)\right\|_n^2}{\left\|X^{(j)}\right\|_n^2},$$

where $X^{(j)}(\tau) \equiv (X_1^{(j)} 1\{Q_1 < \tau\}, \ldots, X_n^{(j)} 1\{Q_n < \tau\})'$ as before. Let Φ denote the cumulative distribution function of the standard normal.

Lemma 2 (Probability of $\mathbb{A} \cap \mathbb{B}$)**.** *Let $\{U_i : i = 1, \ldots, n\}$ be independent and identically distributed as $\mathbf{N}(0, \sigma^2)$. Then*

$$\mathbb{P}\{\mathbb{A} \cap \mathbb{B}\} \geq 1 - 6M\Phi\left(-\frac{\mu\sqrt{nr_n}}{2\sigma}\lambda\right).$$

We are ready to establish the prediction consistency of the Lasso. Define $X_{\max} := \max(\mathbf{D})$ and $X_{\min} := \min(\mathbf{D}(t_0))$. Also, let $\alpha_{\max}$ denote the maximum value that all the elements of α can take in absolute value.

Theorem 3 (Consistency of the Lasso)**.** *Let $(\widehat{\alpha}, \widehat{\tau})$ be the Lasso estimator defined by (2.3) with*

$$\lambda = A\sigma\Big(\frac{\log 3M}{nr_n}\Big)^{1/2} \tag{4.3}$$

for some constant $A > 2\sqrt{2}/\mu$. Then, with probability at least $1 - (3M)^{1-A^2\mu^2/8}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\left\|\widehat{f} - f_0\right\|_n^2 &\leq 6\lambda X_{\max}\alpha_{\max}\mathcal{M}(\alpha_0) + 2\mu\lambda X_{\max}\left|\delta_0\right|_1 \\ &< 8X_{\max}\alpha_{\max}\lambda\mathcal{M}(\alpha_0).\end{aligned}$$

The nonasymptotic upper bound on the prediction loss in Theorem 3 can be easily translated into asymptotic convergence. Specifically, if $X_{\max}$ and $\alpha_{\max}$ are bounded, then Theorem 3 gives

$$\left\|\widehat{f} - f_0\right\|_n^2 \lesssim \lambda\mathcal{M}(\alpha_0).$$

Hence, Theorem 3 implies the consistency of the Lasso, provided that $n \to \infty$, $M \to \infty$, and $\lambda\mathcal{M}(\alpha_0) \to 0$. The last condition requires that the sparsity of the model be of smaller order than $\sqrt{(nr_n)/\log 3M}$.

Remark 1. *Regarding consistency of the Lasso, see, among others, Corollary 6.1 of Bühlmann and van de Geer (2011) for high-dimensional linear models and Lemma 6.7 of Bühlmann and van de Geer (2011) for general convex loss functions. If r_n is bounded away from zero, then our result in Theorem 3 coincides with those of Bühlmann and van de Geer (2011).*

5. Oracle Inequalities

In this section, we establish sparsity oracle inequalities in terms of both the prediction loss and ℓ_1 estimation loss of α_0. First of all, we make the following assumption that was first introduced by Bickel et al. (2009).

Assumption 1 (Restricted Eigenvalue (RE) (s, c_0))**.** *For some integer s such that $1 \leq s \leq 2M$ and a positive number c_0, the following condition holds:*

$$\kappa(s, c_0) := \min_{\substack{J_0 \subseteq \{1,\ldots,2M\}, \\ |J_0| \leq s}} \min_{\substack{\gamma \neq 0, \\ \left|\gamma_{J_0^c}\right|_1 \leq c_0 |\gamma_{J_0}|_1}} \frac{|\mathbf{X}(\tau_0)\gamma|_2}{\sqrt{n}|\gamma_{J_0}|_2} > 0.$$

Assumption 1 is just a restatement of restricted eigenvalue assumption of Bickel et al. (2009) when τ_0 were known. Bickel et al. (2009) provide sufficient conditions for the restricted eigenvalue condition. In addition, van de Geer and Bühlmann (2009) show the relations between the restricted eigenvalue condition and other conditions on the design matrix.

Assumption 2 (Oracle Condition A)**.** *For some non-negative constant L_1, either one of the following two conditions holds:*

$$\left\|f_{(\alpha_0,\widehat{\tau})} - f_0\right\|_n^2 \leq L_1 \lambda \left|\hat{\mathbf{D}}\left(\hat{\alpha} - \alpha_0\right)_{J_0}\right|_1, \tag{5.1}$$

$$\lambda \left|\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}\alpha_0\right|_1 - |\mathbf{D}\alpha_0|_1\right| + R_n \leq L_1 \lambda \left|\hat{\mathbf{D}}\left(\hat{\alpha} - \alpha_0\right)_{J_0}\right|_1. \tag{5.2}$$

Assumption 3 (Oracle Condition B)**.** *For some positive constant L_2, the following condition holds:*

$$\left\|f_{(\widehat{\alpha},\tau_0)} - f_0\right\|_n^2 \leq L_2 \left\|\widehat{f} - f_0\right\|_n^2. \tag{5.3}$$

Assumptions 2 and 3 are useful to obtain an oracle inequality, in conjunction with Assumption 1. These tighten the bounds in Lemma 1.

Conditions (5.1) and (5.2) in Assumption 2 are rather high-level assumptions but useful to derive sparsity oracle inequalities. In next sections where we present main theorems of the paper, we verify Assumption 2 or dispense with it under more primitive conditions. Intuitively, Assumption 2 is satisfied if δ_0 is very small, or if the difference between $\widehat{\tau}$ and τ_0 is sufficiently small relative to the difference between $\widehat{\alpha}$ and α_0.

Remark 2. *It is worth noting that (5.1) holds when $\delta_0 = 0$, that is, when there is no threshold effect. Therefore, the oracle inequalities below hold regardless of the existence of threshold effect, implying that we can make prediction without knowing the presence of threshold effect or without pretesting it.*

Remark 3. *The smallest L_2 in Assumption 3 can be chosen as*

$$\frac{\left\|f_{(\widehat{\alpha},\tau_0)} - f_0\right\|_n^2}{\left\|\widehat{f} - f_0\right\|_n^2},$$

provided that the denominator is nonzero. It seems natural, as an important special case, to assume that the prediction loss is at least as large as an infeasible prediction risk replacing

$\widehat{\tau}$ with τ_0, which would imply that $L_2 = 1$. When we have $L_2 > 1$, this results in an increase in oracle inequalities below relative to the case when τ_0 were known.

The following lemma is useful to derive sparsity oracle inequalities of the Lasso.

Lemma 4 (Oracle Inequalities of the Lasso)**.** *Assume that Assumption 1 holds with $\kappa = \kappa(s, \frac{1+\mu+L_1}{1-\mu})$ for $\mu < 1$ and $\mathcal{M}(\alpha_0) \le s \le M$. Furthermore, let Assumptions 2 and 3 hold. Then conditional on the event $\mathbb{A} \bigcap \mathbb{B}$, we have*

$$\left\| \widehat{f} - f_0 \right\|_n^2 \le \frac{(2+L_1)^2 X_{\max}^2 L_2}{\kappa^2} \lambda^2 s.$$

and

$$|\widehat{\alpha} - \alpha_0|_1 \le \frac{(2+L_1)^2 X_{\max}^2 L_2}{(1-\mu) X_{\min} \kappa^2} \lambda s.$$

Remark 4. *Compared to the case when τ_0 were known (so that we can take $\mathbb{T} = \{\tau_0\}$) and thus $L_1 = 0$ and $L_2 = 1$, the upper bound is bigger by the multiple of $\sqrt{L_2}(2+L_1)/2$ for $\left\| \widehat{f} - f_0 \right\|_n$ and of $L_2 (2+L_1)^2/4$ for $|\hat{\alpha} - \alpha_0|_1$. These multipliers can be viewed as prices to pay to estimate unknown threshold parameter τ_0.*

We now provide a lemma to derive an oracle inequality regarding the sparsity of the Lasso estimator $\widehat{\alpha}$. To do so, we make the following assumption.

Assumption 4. *Assume that the largest eigenvalue of $\mathbf{X}(\tau)'\mathbf{X}(\tau)/n$ is bounded uniformly in $\tau \in \mathbb{T}$ by $\phi_{\max}$.*

Lemma 5 (Sparsity of the Lasso)**.** *Let Assumption 4 hold. Then conditional on the event $\mathbb{A} \bigcap \mathbb{B}$, we have*

$$\mathcal{M}(\widehat{\alpha}) \le \frac{4\phi_{\max}}{(1-\mu)^2 \lambda^2 X_{\min}^2} \left\| \widehat{f} - f_0 \right\|_n^2. \tag{5.4}$$

Lemma 5, combined with Lemma 4, implies that $\mathcal{M}(\widehat{\alpha})$ is a just constant multiple of $\mathcal{M}(\alpha_0)$, where the constant depends on $L_1, L_2, X_{\max}, X_{\min}, \phi_{\max}, \mu$ and κ (independent of λ).

6. Case I. No Threshold

We first consider the case that $\delta_0 = 0$. In other words, we estimate a threshold model via the Lasso, but the true model is simply a linear model $Y_i = X_i'\beta_0 + U_i$. This is an important case to consider since in applications, one may not be sure not only about covariates selection but also about the existence of the threshold in the model.

When $\delta_0 = 0$, then Assumption 2 (in particular, equation (5.1)) holds automatically with $L_1 = 0$. Then the following theorem can be proved easily, thanks to Lemmas 4 and 5.

Theorem 6. *Assume that* $\delta_0 = 0$ *and Assumption 1 with* $(s, c_0) = \left(s, \frac{1+\mu}{1-\mu}\right)$ *for some* $\mathcal{M}(\alpha_0) \le s \le M$ *and Assumption 3 hold. Let* U_i *follow* $N(0, \sigma^2)$ *and* $(\widehat{\alpha}, \widehat{\tau})$ *be the Lasso estimator defined by (2.3) with*

$$\lambda = A\sigma\Big(\frac{\log 3M}{nr_n}\Big)^{1/2}$$

and $A > 2\sqrt{2}/\mu$. *Then, with probability at least* $1 - (3M)^{1 - A^2\mu^2/8}$, *we have*

$$\begin{aligned}\left\|\widehat{f} - f_0\right\|_n &\le \frac{2A\sigma X_{\max}}{\kappa}\left(\frac{L_2 \log 3M}{nr_n}s\right)^{1/2},\\ |\widehat{\alpha} - \alpha_0|_1 &\le \frac{4A\sigma L_2}{(1-\mu)\,\kappa^2}\frac{X_{\max}^2}{X_{\min}}\left(\frac{\log 3M}{nr_n}\right)^{1/2} s.\end{aligned}$$

If Assumption 4 holds in addition, then

$$\mathcal{M}(\widehat{\alpha}) \le \frac{16\phi_{\max} L_2}{(1-\mu)^2\,\kappa^2}\frac{X_{\max}^2}{X_{\min}^2}s.$$

To appreciate the usefulness of the inequalities derived above, it is worth comparing inequalities in Theorem 6 with those in Theorem 7.2 of Bickel et al. (2009). The latter corresponds to the case that $\delta_0 = 0$ is known *a priori*, $\lambda = 2A\sigma(\log M/n)^{1/2}$, $\mu = 1/2$, and $X_{\max} = 1$ using our notation. It can be seen that if we take the same λ both in Theorem 6 and in Theorem 7.2 of Bickel et al. (2009), the bounds for the prediction risk, the ℓ_1 estimation loss of α_0, and the sparsity of $\widehat{\alpha}$ are larger only by the multiples of $L_2 X_{\max}$, $L_2 X_{\max}/X_{\min}$ and $L_2 X_{\max}^2/X_{\min}^2$, respectively. As mentioned in Remark 4, these multipliers can be viewed as prices to pay to estimate (α_0, τ_0) without knowing that $\delta_0 = 0$. Perhaps more importantly, when these multipliers are bounded uniformly in n, the main implication of Theorem 6 is that the our Lasso estimator in (2.3) gives qualitatively the same oracle inequalities as the Lasso estimator in the linear model, even though our model is much more overparametrized in that δ and τ are added to β as parameters to estimate.

7. Case II. Diminishing Threshold

We now consider the case when there is a nonzero δ_0, but the threshold parameter τ_0 is not well-identified though. We formulate this case by assuming that $\max_{j=1,\dots,M} |\delta_{0j}| = d_0 n^{-\nu}$, for some positive constants ν and d_0, and call this case the *diminishing threshold*. To establish oracle inequalities, we need to make the following additional assumption.

Assumption 5 (Smoothness of Design)**.** *For any* $\eta > 0$, *there exists* $C < \infty$ *such that*

$$\sup_j \sup_{|\tau - \tau_0| < \eta} \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n \left|X_i^{(j)}\right|^2 \left|1(Q_i < \tau_0) - 1(Q_i < \tau)\right| \le C\eta.$$

Assumption 5 has been assumed in the classical setup with a fixed number of stochastic regressors to exclude cases like Q_i has a point mass at τ_0 or $\mathbb{E}\left(X_i|Q_i=\tau_0\right)$ is unbounded. In our setup, Assumption 5 amounts to a deterministic version of some smoothness assumption with respect to the threshold variable Q_i.

Let L_1^* be the non-negative solution of the following equation (in terms of x):

$$f\left(x\right)=x\left(2+x\right)=Cd_0^2n^{-2\nu}\mathcal{M}\left(\delta_0\right)\left|t_1-t_0\right|\kappa^2\left(X_{\max}^2L_2\lambda^2\mathcal{M}\left(\alpha_0\right)\right)^{-1}=:C_{L_1}^*.$$

That is, $L_1^*=-1+\sqrt{1+C_{L_1}^*}$. We now give oracle inequalities for the diminishing threshold case.

Theorem 7. *Assume that*

$$\max_{j=1,\ldots,M}\left|\delta_{0j}\right|=d_0n^{-\nu},\tag{7.1}$$

for some positive constants ν and d_0. Also, let Assumption 1 with $(s,c_0)=\left(s,\frac{1+\mu+L_1^*}{1-\mu}\right)$ for some $\mathcal{M}\left(\alpha_0\right)\le s\le M$, Assumption 3, and Assumption 5 hold. Let U_i follow $N(0,\sigma^2)$ and $(\widehat{\alpha},\widehat{\tau})$ be the Lasso estimator defined by (2.3) with

$$\lambda=A\sigma\left(\frac{\log 3M}{nr_n}\right)^{1/2}$$

and $A>2\sqrt{2}/\mu$. Then, with probability at least $1-(3M)^{1-A^2\mu^2/8}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\left\|\widehat{f}-f_0\right\|_n &\le \frac{A\sigma\left(2+L_1^*\right)X_{\max}}{\kappa}\left(\frac{L_2\log 3M}{nr_n}s\right)^{1/2},\\ \left|\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0\right|_1 &\le \frac{A\sigma\left(2+L_1^*\right)^2L_2}{\left(1-\mu\right)\kappa^2}\frac{X_{\max}^2}{X_{\min}}\left(\frac{\log 3M}{nr_n}\right)^{1/2}s.\end{aligned}$$

If Assumption 4 holds in addition, then

$$\mathcal{M}(\widehat{\alpha})\le\frac{4\phi_{\max}\left(2+L_1^*\right)^2L_2}{\left(1-\mu\right)^2\kappa^2}\frac{X_{\max}^2}{X_{\min}^2}s.$$

Theorem 7 gives qualitatively equivalent inequalities as those in Theorem 6. Note that κ's in Theorems 6 and 7 can be different from each other, since different c_0 are assumed in the RE condition.

Remark 5. *The diminishing threshold case can be viewed as a local departure from the no-threshold case δ_0. In this view, it is interesting to know the situation when the positive constant L_1^* is close to zero. Note that L_1^* approaches zero if and only if $C_{L_1}^*$ gets close to zero. Suppose that $C,d_0,t_0,t_1,\kappa,X_{\max},L_2,A,$ and σ are independent of n. Then L_1^* converges to zero if and only if*

$$n^{-2\nu}\mathcal{M}(\delta_0)\mathcal{M}\left(\alpha_0\right)^{-1}\left(nr_n\right)/(\log 3M)\to 0.$$

Hence, if r_n is bounded away from zero and M diverges to infinity, then ν can be larger than or equal to $1/2$, which gives the lower limit for the diminishing δ_0 to be interpreted as the local departure from the no-threshold case.

8. Case III. Fixed Threshold

This section explores the case where the threshold effect is well-identified and discontinuous. We begin with the following assumption to reflect this.

Assumption 6 (Identifiability under Sparsity and Discontinuity of Regression)**.** *For a given $s \geq \mathcal{M}(\alpha_0)$, and for any η and τ such that $|\tau - \tau_0| \geq \eta \geq \min_{i \neq j} |Q_i - Q_j|$ and $\alpha \in \{\alpha : \mathcal{M}(\alpha) \leq s\}$, there exists a $c > 0$ such that*

$$\left\| f_{(\alpha,\tau)} - f_{(\alpha_0,\tau_0)} \right\|_n^2 \geq c\eta > 0.$$

Assumption 6 implies, among other things, that for some $s \geq \mathcal{M}(\alpha_0)$, and for any $\alpha \in \{\alpha : \mathcal{M}(\alpha) \leq s\}$ and τ such that $(\alpha, \tau) \neq (\alpha_0, \tau_0)$,

$$\left\| f_{(\alpha,\tau)} - f_{(\alpha_0,\tau_0)} \right\|_n \neq 0. \tag{8.1}$$

This condition can be regarded as identifiability of τ_0. If τ_0 were known, then a sufficient condition for the identifiability under the sparsity would be that $RE(s, c_0)$ holds for some $c_0 \geq 1$. Note that the RE condition is not required for other values of τ than τ_0 in our paper. Thus, the main point in (8.1) is that there is no sparse representation that is equivalent to f_0 when the sample is split by $\tau \neq \tau_0$. For the fixed threshold case, basically we replace Assumption 2 with Assumption 6, believing that the latter condition is easier to interpret than the former.

Remark 6. *Assumption 6 is stronger than just the identifiability of τ_0 as it specifies the rate of deviation in f as τ moves away from τ_0. The linear rate here is sharper than the quadratic one that is usually observed in more regular M-estimation problems and it reflects the fact that the limit criterion function, in the classical setup with a fixed number of stochastic regressors, has a kink at the true τ_0. For instance, suppose that $\{(Y_i, X_i, Q_i) : i = 1, \ldots, n\}$ are independent and identically distributed, and consider the case where only the intercept is included in X_i. Assuming that Q_i has a density function that is continuous and positive everywhere (so that $\mathbb{P}(\tau \leq Q_i < \tau_0)$ and $\mathbb{P}(\tau_0 \leq Q_i < \tau)$ can be bounded below by $c_1 |\tau - \tau_0|$*

for some $c_1 > 0$*), we have that*

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathbb{E}\left(Y_i - f_i\left(\alpha,\tau\right)\right)^2 - \mathbb{E}\left(Y_i - f_i\left(\alpha_0,\tau_0\right)\right)^2 \\
= & \mathbb{E}\left(f_i\left(\alpha_0,\tau_0\right) - f_i\left(\alpha,\tau\right)\right)^2 \\
= & \left(\alpha_1-\alpha_{10}\right)^2 \mathbb{P}\left(Q_i < \tau \wedge \tau_0\right) + \left(\alpha_2-\alpha_{20}\right)^2 \mathbb{P}\left(Q_i \geq \tau \vee \tau_0\right) \\
& + \left(\alpha_2-\alpha_{10}\right)^2 \mathbb{P}\left(\tau \leq Q_i < \tau_0\right) + \left(\alpha_1-\alpha_{20}\right)^2 \mathbb{P}\left(\tau_0 \leq Q_i < \tau\right) \\
\geq & c\left|\tau-\tau_0\right|,
\end{aligned}
$$

for some $c > 0$*, where* $f_i(\alpha,\tau) = X_i'\beta + X_i'\delta 1\{Q_i < \tau\}$*,* $\alpha_1 = \beta+\delta$ *and* $\alpha_2 = \beta$*, unless* $|\alpha_2 - \alpha_{10}|$ *is too small when* $\tau < \tau_0$ *and* $|\alpha_1 - \alpha_{20}|$ *is too small when* $\tau > \tau_0$*. However, when* $|\alpha_2 - \alpha_{10}|$ *is small, say smaller than* ε*,* $|\alpha_2 - \alpha_{20}|$ *is bounded above zero due to the discontinuity that* $\alpha_{10} \neq \alpha_{20}$ *and* $\mathbb{P}(Q_i \geq \tau \vee \tau_0) = \mathbb{P}(Q_i \geq \tau_0)$ *is also bounded above zero. This implies the inequality still holds. Since the same reasoning applies for the latter case, we can conclude our discontinuity assumption holds in the standard discontinuous threshold regression setup. In other words, the previous literature has typically imposed conditions sufficient enough to render this condition.*

Remark 7. *The restriction* $\eta \geq \min_{i\neq j}|Q_i - Q_j|$ *in Assumption 6 is necessary since we consider the fixed design for both* X_i *and* Q_i*. Throughout this section, we implicitly assume that the sample size* n *is large enough such that* $\min_{i\neq j}|Q_i - Q_j|$ *never binds in any of inequalities below. This is typically true for the random design case if* Q_i *is continuously distributed.*

To simplify notation, in this section, we assume without loss of generality that $Q_i = i/n$. Then $\mathbb{T} = [t_0, t_1] \subset [0,1]$. For some constant $\eta > 0$, define an event

$$
\mathbb{C}(\eta) = \left\{ \sup_{|\tau-\tau_0|<\eta} \left| \frac{2}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n} U_i X_i'\delta_0 \left[1\left(Q_i<\tau_0\right) - 1\left(Q_i<\tau\right)\right] \right| \leq \lambda\sqrt{\eta} \right\}.
$$

The following lemma gives the lower bound of the probability of the event $\mathbb{A}\cap\mathbb{B}\cap[\cap_{j=1}^m \mathbb{C}(\eta_j)]$ for a given m and some positive constants $\eta_1,\ldots,\eta_m$,. To deal with the event $\cap_{j=1}^m \mathbb{C}(\eta_j)$, an extra term is added to the lower bound of the probability, in comparison to Lemma 2.

Lemma 8 (Probability of $\mathbb{A}\cap\mathbb{B}\cap\{\cap_{j=1}^m \mathbb{C}(\eta_j)\}$)**.** *For a given* m *and some positive constants* $\eta_1,\ldots,\eta_m$,

$$
\mathbb{P}\left\{ \mathbb{A} \bigcap \mathbb{B} \bigcap \left[\bigcap_{j=1}^{m} \mathbb{C}\left(\eta_j\right) \right] \right\} \geq 1 - 6M\Phi\left(-\frac{\mu\sqrt{nr_n}}{2\sigma}\lambda\right) - 4\sum_{j=1}^{m}\Phi\left(-\frac{\lambda\sqrt{n}}{2\sqrt{2}\sigma h_n\left(\eta_j\right)}\right),
$$

where $h_n(\eta) = \left((2n\eta)^{-1}\sum_{i=[n(\tau_0-\eta)]}^{[n(\tau_0+\eta)]}\left(X_i'\delta_0\right)^2\right)^{1/2}$.

The following lemma gives an upper bound of $|\hat{\tau} - \tau_0|$ using only Assumption 6, conditional on the events $\mathbb{A}$ and $\mathbb{B}$.

Lemma 9. *Let* $\eta^* = \max\left\{\min_{i \neq j} |Q_i - Q_j|, c^{-1} 6\lambda X_{\max}\alpha_{\max}\mathcal{M}(\alpha_0) + c^{-1}2\mu\lambda X_{\max}|\delta_0|_1\right\}$. *Suppose that Assumption 6 holds. Then conditional on the events* $\mathbb{A}$ *and* $\mathbb{B}$,

$$|\hat{\tau} - \tau_0| \leq \eta^*.$$

Remark 8. *The nonasymptotic bound in Lemma 9 can be translated into the consistency of* $\widehat{\tau}$, *as in Theorem 3. That is, if* $n \to \infty$, $M \to \infty$, *and* $\lambda\mathcal{M}(\alpha_0) \to 0$, *Lemma 9 implies the consistency of* $\widehat{\tau}$, *provided that* $X_{\max}$, $\alpha_{\max}$, *and* c^{-1} *are bounded uniformly in* n.

We now provide a lemma for bounding the prediction risk as well as the ℓ_1 estimation loss for α_0. In particular, we state results without resorting to Assumption 5.1.

Lemma 10. *Suppose that Assumption 1 with* $(s, c_0) = \left(s, \frac{2+\mu}{1-\mu}\right)$ *for some* $\mathcal{M}(\alpha_0) \leq s \leq M$, *and Assumptions 3, 5 hold. If* $|\hat{\tau} - \tau_0| \leq c_\tau$ *for some* c_τ, *then conditional on* $\mathbb{A}$, $\mathbb{B}$ *and* $\mathbb{C}(c_\tau)$, *we have*

$$\left\|\widehat{f} - f_0\right\|_n^2 \leq 3\lambda\left[\sqrt{c_\tau} + c_\tau C 2^{-1} X_{\min}^{-1}|\delta_0|_1\right] \vee \frac{9X_{\max}^2 L_2}{\kappa^2}\lambda^2 s,$$

$$|\hat{\alpha} - \alpha_0|_1 \leq \frac{3\left[\sqrt{c_\tau} + c_\tau C 2^{-1} X_{\min}^{-1}|\delta_0|_1\right]}{(1-\mu) X_{\min}} \vee \frac{9L_2}{(1-\mu)\kappa^2}\frac{X_{\max}^2}{X_{\min}}\lambda s.$$

As can be seen in the proof of Lemma 10, both the prediction risk and the ℓ_1 estimation loss for α_0 can be small if $|\hat{\tau} - \tau_0|$ is small, even without Assumption 5.1. The following lemma shows that the bound for $|\hat{\tau} - \tau_0|$ can be further tightened if we combine results obtained in Lemmas 9 and 10.

Lemma 11. *Suppose that* $|\hat{\tau} - \tau_0| \leq c_\tau$ *and* $|\hat{\alpha} - \alpha_0|_1 \leq c_\alpha$ *for some* (c_τ, c_α). *Let* $\tilde{\eta} := c^{-1}\left(X_{\max}c_\alpha + \sqrt{c_\tau} + (2X_{\min})^{-1}|\delta_0|_1 C c_\tau\right)\lambda$. *If Assumption 6 holds, then conditional on the events* $\mathbb{A}$, $\mathbb{B}$, *and* $\mathbb{C}(c_\tau)$,

$$|\hat{\tau} - \tau_0| \leq \tilde{\eta}.$$

Lemmas 9, 10, and 11 suggest that we may be able to develop a chaining argument to obtain sharper bounds for the prediction risk and the ℓ_1 estimation loss of (α_0, τ_0), as we demonstrate in the following theorem. Before we state our main theorem, we first make an additional assumption. The following condition consists of inequality constraints on λ, s, $|\delta_0|_1$, and other constants.

Assumption 7 (Inequality Conditions)**.** *The following inequalities hold:*

$$|\delta_0|_1 \lambda < \frac{c}{C}\left(\frac{3X_{\max}}{(1-\mu)X_{\min}^2}+\frac{1}{X_{\min}}\right)^{-1}, \tag{8.2}$$

$$s > \left(\frac{3X_{\max}}{(1-\mu)X_{\min}}+1\right)^2\left(\frac{X_{\max}}{X_{\min}}+\frac{1-\mu}{3}\right)^{-1}\frac{4(1-\mu)\kappa^2}{9cL_2X_{\max}^2}, \tag{8.3}$$

$$s > \frac{4\kappa^2}{3cL_2X_{\max}^2}\left(\frac{3X_{\max}}{(1-\mu)X_{\min}}+1\right). \tag{8.4}$$

Remark 9. *It would be easier to satisfy Assumption 7 when the sample size n is large. To appreciate Assumption 7 in a setup when n is large, suppose that (1) $n\to\infty$, $M\to\infty$, $s\to\infty$, and $\lambda\to 0$; (2) $|\delta_0|_1$ may or may not diverge to infinity; (3) $X_{\min}$, $X_{\max}$, $\alpha_{\max}$, κ, c, C, and L_2 are independent of n. Then (8.2)-(8.4) can hold simultaneously for all sufficiently large n, provided that $|\delta_0|_1\lambda\to 0$.*

We now give the main result of this section.

Theorem 12. *Suppose that Assumption 1 with $(s,c_0)=\left(s,\frac{2+\mu}{1-\mu}\right)$ for some $\mathcal{M}(\alpha_0)\le s\le M$, and Assumptions 3, 5, 6, and 7 hold. Let U_i follow $N(0,\sigma^2)$ and $(\widehat{\alpha},\widehat{\tau})$ be the Lasso estimator defined by (2.3) with*

$$\lambda = A\sigma\left(\frac{\log 3M}{nr_n}\right)^{1/2}$$

and $A>2\sqrt{2}/\mu$. Then, there exist a sequence of constants $\eta_1,\ldots,\eta_{m^*}$ for some finite m^* such that, with probability at least $1-(3M)^{1-A^2\mu^2/8}-4\sum_{j=1}^{m^*}(3M)^{-A^2/(16r_nh_n(\eta_j))}$, we have

$$\left\|\widehat{f}-f_0\right\|_n \le \frac{3A\sigma X_{\max}}{\kappa}\left(\frac{L_2\log 3M}{nr_n}s\right)^{1/2},$$

$$|\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0|_1 \le \frac{9A\sigma L_2}{(1-\mu)\kappa^2}\frac{X_{\max}^2}{X_{\min}}\left(\frac{\log 3M}{nr_n}\right)^{1/2}s.$$

and

$$|\hat{\tau}-\tau_0| \le \left(\frac{X_{\max}}{X_{\min}}+\frac{1-\mu}{3}\right)\frac{9L_2X_{\max}^2}{(1-\mu)\kappa^2}\frac{A^2\sigma^2}{c}\frac{\log 3M}{nr_n}s.$$

If Assumption 4 holds in addition, then

$$\mathcal{M}(\hat{\alpha}) \le \frac{36\phi_{\max}L_2}{(1-\mu)^2\kappa^2}\frac{X_{\max}^2}{X_{\min}^2}s.$$

Theorem 12 gives the same inequalities (up to constants) as those in Theorems 6 and 7 for the prediction risk as well as the ℓ_1 estimation loss for α_0. Note that Assumption 5.1 is not needed to obtain Theorem 12. This is because we have used the result from the tight bound for $|\hat{\tau}-\tau_0|$. It is important to note that $|\hat{\tau}-\tau_0|$ is bounded by $\lambda^2 s$, whereas $|\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0|_1$ is bounded by λs. This can be viewed as a nonasymptotic version of the super-consistency of

$\widehat{\tau}$ to τ_0. One of main contributions of this paper is that we have extended the well-known super-consistency result of $\widehat{\tau}$ when $M < n$ (see, e.g. Chan, 1993) to the high-dimensional setup ($M \gg n$).

9. Monte Carlo Experiments

In this section we conduct some simulation studies and check the properties of the proposed Lasso estimator. The baseline model is the following threshold regression:

$$Y_i = X_i'\beta_0 + X_i'\delta_0 1\{Q_i < \tau_0\} + U_i,\ i = 1, \ldots, n,$$

where X_i is a M-dimensional vector generated from $N(0, I)$, Q_i is a scalar generated from the uniform distribution on the interval of $(0, 1)$, and the error term U_i is generated from $N(0, 0.5^2)$. The threshold parameter is set as $\tau_0 = 0.3, 0.4$, and 0.5 depending on the simulation design, and the coefficients are set as $\beta_0 = (1, 0, 1, 0, \ldots, 0)$, and $\delta_0 = c \cdot (0, -1, 1, 0, \ldots, 0)$ where $c = 0$ or 1. Note that there is no threshold effect when $c = 0$. The number of observations is set as $n = 200$. Finally, the dimension of X_i in each design is set as $M = 50, 100, 200$ and 400, so that the total number of regressors are 100, 200, 400 and 800, respectively. The range of τ is $\mathbb{T} = [0.15, 0.85]$.

We can estimate the parameters by the standard LASSO/LARS algorithm of Efron et al. (2004) without much modification. Given a regularization parameter value λ, we estimate the model for each grid point of τ that spans over 71 equi-spaced points on $\mathbb{T}$. This procedure can be conducted by using the standard linear Lasso. Next, we plug-in the estimated parameter $\widehat{\alpha}(\tau) := \left(\widehat{\beta}(\tau)', \widehat{\delta}(\tau)'\right)'$ for each τ into the objective function and choose $\widehat{\tau}$ by

$$\widehat{\tau} := \arg\min_{\tau\in\mathbb{T}\subset\mathbb{R}} \left\{ \widehat{S}\left(\widehat{\alpha}\left(\tau\right), \tau\right) + \lambda \left| D\left(\tau\right)^{1/2} \widehat{\alpha}\left(\tau\right)\right|_1 \right\} \tag{9.1}$$

and $\widehat{\alpha} := \widehat{\alpha}(\widehat{\tau})$. The regularization parameter λ is chosen by

$$\lambda := A \times \sigma \sqrt{\frac{\log\left(3M\right)}{n r_n}} \tag{9.2}$$

where $r_n = \min_j ||X^{(j)}(t_0)||_n^2 / ||X^{(j)}||_n^2$ and $\sigma = 0.5$ is assumed to be known. For the constant A, we use four different values: $A = 2.8, 3.2, 3.6$, and 4.0.

Tables 4 and Figures 1–2 summarize these simulation results. To compare the performance of the Lasso estimator, we also report the estimation results of the least squares (Least Squares) available only when $M = 50$ and two oracle models (Oracle 1 and Oracle 2, respectively). Oracle 1 assumes that the regressors with non-zero coefficients are known. In addition to that, Oracle 2 assumes that the true threshold parameter τ_0 is known. Thus, when $c \neq 0$, Oracle 1 estimates $(\beta^{(1)}, \beta^{(3)}, \delta^{(2)}, \delta^{(3)})$ and τ using the least squares while

Oracle 2 estimates only $(\beta^{(1)}, \beta^{(3)}, \delta^{(2)}, \delta^{(3)})$. When $c = 0$, both Oracle 1 and Oracle 2 estimate only $(\beta^{(1)}, \beta^{(3)})$. All results are based on 400 replications of each sample.

The reported mean-squared prediction error (PE) for each sample is calculated numerically as follows. For each sample s, we have the estimates $\widehat{\beta}_s$, $\widehat{\delta}_s$, and $\widehat{\tau}_s$. Given these estimates, we generate a new data $\{Y_j, X_j, Q_j\}$ of 400 observations and calculate the prediction error as

$$\widehat{PE}_s = \frac{1}{400} \sum_{j=1}^{400} \Big(f(x_j, q_j; \beta_0, \delta_0, \tau_0) - f(x_j, q_j; \widehat{\beta}_s, \widehat{\delta}_s, \widehat{\tau}_s) \Big)^2 \tag{9.3}$$

where $f(x, q; \beta, \delta, \tau) = x'\beta + x'\delta 1\{q < \tau\}$. The mean, median, and standard deviation of prediction errors are calculated from the 400 replications, $\{\widehat{PE}_s\}_{s=1}^{400}$. In Table 4, we also report mean of $\mathcal{M}(\widehat{\alpha})$ and ℓ_1-errors for α and τ when $M = 50$. For simulation designs with $M > 50$, Least Squares is not available. Figures 1–2 report the similar statistics only for the Lasso estimators.

First, the proposed Lasso estimator performs better than Least Squares in all designs. This result reveals more evidently when there is no threshold effect, i.e. $c = 0$, which shows the robustness of the Lasso estimator for whether or not there exists a threshold effect. We can reconfirm the robustness when $M = 100, 200$, and 400 from Figures 1–2. Second, as predicted by the theory developed in previous sections, the prediction errors and ℓ_1 errors for α and τ increase slowly as M increases. The graphs also show that the results are quite uniform across different regularization parameter values except $A = 4.0$. Finally,

We next consider different simulation designs. The M-dimensional vector X_i is now generated from a multivariate normal $N(0, \Sigma)$ with $(\Sigma)_{i,j} = \rho^{|i-j|}$, where $(\Sigma)_{i,j}$ denotes the (i,j) element of the $M \times M$ covariance matrix Σ. All other random variables are the same as above. We conducted the simulation studies for both $\rho = 0.1$ and 0.3; however, Tables 5 and Figures 3–4 only report the results of $\rho = 0.3$ to save space (the results with $\rho = 0.1$ are similar). They show very similar results as previous cases: Lasso outperforms Least Squares, and the prediction error, $\mathcal{M}(\widehat{\alpha})$, and ℓ_1-errors increase very slowly as M increases.

Figure 5 shows frequencies of selecting true parameters when both $\rho = 0$ and $\rho = 0.3$. When $\rho = 0$, the probability that the Lasso estimates include the true nonzero parameters is very high. In most cases, the probability is 100%, and even the lowest probability is as high as 98.25%. When $\rho = 0.3$, the corresponding probability is somewhat lower than the no-correlation case, but it is still high and the lowest value is 80.75%.

In sum, the simulation results confirm the theoretical results developed earlier and show that the proposed Lasso estimator will be useful for the threshold model with high-dimensional regressors.

10. Conclusions

We have considered a high-dimensional regression model with a possible change-point due to a covariate threshold and have developed the Lasso method. We have derived nonasymptotic oracle inequalities and have illustrated the usefulness of our proposed estimation method via simulations and a real-data application. It would be an interesting future research topic to extend the adaptive Lasso of Zou (2006) to our setup and to see whether we would be able to improve the performance of our estimation method.

Appendix A. Proofs

Proof of Lemma 1. Note that

$$\widehat{S}_n + \lambda \left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}\widehat{\alpha}\right|_1 \leq S_n(\alpha,\tau) + \lambda \left|\mathbf{D}(\tau)\alpha\right|_1 \tag{A.1}$$

for all $(\alpha,\tau) \in \mathbb{R}^{2M} \times \mathbb{T}$. Now write

$$\begin{aligned}
&\widehat{S}_n - S_n(\alpha,\tau) \\
&= n^{-1}\left|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}(\widehat{\tau})\widehat{\alpha}\right|_2^2 - n^{-1}\left|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}(\tau)\alpha\right|_2^2 \\
&= n^{-1}\sum_{i=1}^n \left[U_i - \left\{\mathbf{X}_i(\widehat{\tau})'\widehat{\alpha} - \mathbf{X}_i(\tau_0)'\alpha_0\right\}\right]^2 - n^{-1}\sum_{i=1}^n \left[U_i - \left\{\mathbf{X}_i(\tau)'\alpha - \mathbf{X}_i(\tau_0)'\alpha_0\right\}\right]^2 \\
&= n^{-1}\sum_{i=1}^n \left\{\mathbf{X}_i(\widehat{\tau})'\widehat{\alpha} - \mathbf{X}_i(\tau_0)'\alpha_0\right\}^2 - n^{-1}\sum_{i=1}^n \left\{\mathbf{X}_i(\tau)'\alpha - \mathbf{X}_i(\tau_0)'\alpha_0\right\}^2 \\
&\quad - 2n^{-1}\sum_{i=1}^n U_i\left\{\mathbf{X}_i(\widehat{\tau})'\widehat{\alpha} - \mathbf{X}_i(\tau)'\alpha\right\} \\
&= \left\|\widehat{f} - f_0\right\|_n^2 - \left\|f_{(\alpha,\tau)} - f_0\right\|_n^2 \\
&\quad - 2n^{-1}\sum_{i=1}^n U_i X_i'(\widehat{\beta} - \beta) - 2n^{-1}\sum_{i=1}^n U_i\left\{X_i'\widehat{\delta}1(Q_i < \widehat{\tau}) - X_i'\delta 1(Q_i < \tau)\right\}.
\end{aligned}$$

Further, write the last term above as

$$\begin{aligned}
&n^{-1}\sum_{i=1}^n U_i\left\{X_i'\widehat{\delta}1(Q_i < \widehat{\tau}) - X_i'\delta 1(Q_i < \tau)\right\} \\
&= n^{-1}\sum_{i=1}^n U_i X_i'(\widehat{\delta} - \delta)1(Q_i < \widehat{\tau}) + n^{-1}\sum_{i=1}^n U_i X_i'\delta\left\{1(Q_i < \widehat{\tau}) - 1(Q_i < \tau)\right\}.
\end{aligned}$$

Hence, (A.1) can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}\left\|\widehat{f}-f_0\right\|_n^2 \le \left\|f_{(\alpha,\tau)}-f_0\right\|_n^2 &+ \lambda\left|\mathbf{D}(\tau)\alpha\right|_1 - \lambda\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}\widehat{\alpha}\right|_1 \\ &+ 2n^{-1}\sum_{i=1}^n U_i X_i'(\widehat{\beta}-\beta) + 2n^{-1}\sum_{i=1}^n U_i X_i'(\widehat{\delta}-\delta)1(Q_i<\widehat{\tau}) \\ &+ 2n^{-1}\sum_{i=1}^n U_i X_i'\delta\left\{1(Q_i<\widehat{\tau})-1(Q_i<\tau)\right\}.\end{aligned}$$

Then on the events $\mathbb{A}$ and $\mathbb{B}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\left\|\widehat{f}-f_0\right\|_n^2 \le \left\|f_{(\alpha,\tau)}-f_0\right\|_n^2 &+ \mu\lambda\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha)\right|_1 \\ &+ \lambda\left|\mathbf{D}(\tau)\alpha\right|_1 - \lambda\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}\widehat{\alpha}\right|_1 + R_n(\alpha,\tau)\end{aligned} \tag{A.2}$$

for all $(\alpha,\tau)\in\mathbb{R}^{2M}\times\mathbb{T}$.

Note the the fact that

$$\left|\widehat{\alpha}^{(j)}-\alpha_0^{(j)}\right| + \left|\alpha_0^{(j)}\right| - \left|\widehat{\alpha}^{(j)}\right| = 0 \text{ for } j\notin J_0. \tag{A.3}$$

On the one hand, by (A.2) (evaluating at $(\alpha,\tau)=(\alpha_0,\tau_0)$), on the events $\mathbb{A}$ and $\mathbb{B}$,

$$\begin{aligned}&\left\|\widehat{f}-f_0\right\|_n^2 + (1-\mu)\lambda\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)\right|_1 \\ &\le \lambda\left(\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)\right|_1 + \left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}\alpha_0\right|_1 - \left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}\widehat{\alpha}\right|_1\right) \\ &+ \lambda\left|\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}\alpha_0\right|_1 - \left|\mathbf{D}\alpha_0\right|_1\right| + R_n(\alpha_0,\tau_0) \\ &\le 2\lambda\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)_{J_0}\right|_1 + \lambda\left|\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}\alpha_0\right|_1 - \left|\mathbf{D}\alpha_0\right|_1\right| + R_n(\alpha_0,\tau_0),\end{aligned}$$

which proves (4.1). On the other hand, again by (A.2) (evaluating at $(\alpha,\tau)=(\alpha_0,\widehat{\tau})$), on the events $\mathbb{A}$ and $\mathbb{B}$,

$$\begin{aligned}&\left\|\widehat{f}-f_0\right\|_n^2 + (1-\mu)\lambda\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)\right|_1 \\ &\le \lambda\left(\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)\right|_1 + \left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}\alpha_0\right|_1 - \left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}\widehat{\alpha}\right|_1\right) + \left\|f_{(\alpha_0,\widehat{\tau})}-f_0\right\|_n^2 \\ &\le 2\lambda\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)_{J_0}\right|_1 + \left\|f_{(\alpha_0,\widehat{\tau})}-f_0\right\|_n^2,\end{aligned}$$

which proves (4.2). □

Proof of Lemma 2. Since $U_i\sim\mathbf{N}(0,\sigma^2)$,

$$\mathbb{P}\{\mathbb{A}^c\} \le \sum_{j=1}^M \mathbb{P}\left\{\sqrt{n}|V_{1j}| > \mu\sqrt{n}\lambda/(2\sigma)\right\} = 2M\Phi\left(-\frac{\mu\sqrt{n}}{2\sigma}\lambda\right) \le 2M\Phi\left(-\frac{\mu\sqrt{r_n n}}{2\sigma}\lambda\right),$$

where the last inequality follows from $r_n\le 1$.

Now consider the event $\mathbb{B}$. Note that $\left\|X^{(j)}(\tau)\right\|_n$ is monotonically increasing in τ and $\sum_{i=1}^n U_i X_i^{(j)} 1\{Q_i < \tau\}$ can be rewritten as a partial sum process by the rearrangement of i according to the magnitude of Q_i. To simplify notation, we assume without loss of generality that $Q_i = i/n$. Then, by Lévy's inequality (see e.g. Proposition A.1.2 of van der Vaart and Wellner, 1996),

$$\mathbb{P}\left\{\sup_{\tau\in\mathbb{T}} \sqrt{n}\left|V_{2j}(\tau)\right| > \mu\sqrt{n}\lambda/(2\sigma)\right\} \leq \mathbb{P}\left\{\sup_{1\leq s\leq n}\left|\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}\sum_{i=1}^{s} U_i X_i^{(j)}\right| > \left\|X^{(j)}\left(t_0\right)\right\|_n \frac{\mu\sqrt{n}}{2\sigma}\lambda\right\}$$
$$\leq 2\mathbb{P}\left\{\sqrt{n}|V_{1j}| > \frac{\left\|X^{(j)}(t_0)\right\|_n}{\left\|X^{(j)}\right\|_n}\frac{\mu\sqrt{n}}{2\sigma}\lambda\right\}.$$

Therefore, we have

$$\mathbb{P}\{\mathbb{B}^c\} \leq \sum_{j=1}^{M} \mathbb{P}\left\{\sup_{\tau\in\mathbb{T}}\sqrt{n}|V_{2j}(\tau)| > \mu\sqrt{n}\lambda/(2\sigma)\right\}$$
$$\leq 4M\Phi\left(-\frac{\mu\sqrt{r_n n}}{2\sigma}\lambda\right).$$

Since $\mathbb{P}\{\mathbb{A}\cap\mathbb{B}\} \geq 1 - \mathbb{P}\{\mathbb{A}^c\} - \mathbb{P}\{\mathbb{B}^c\}$, we have proved the lemma. □

Proof of Theorem 3. Note that

$$R_n = 2n^{-1}\sum_{i=1}^{n} U_i X_i'\delta_0 \left\{1(Q_i < \widehat{\tau}) - 1(Q_i < \tau_0)\right\}.$$

Then on the event $\mathbb{B}$,

$$\text{(A.4)} \qquad |R_n| \leq 2\mu\lambda\sum_{j=1}^{M}\left\|X^{(j)}\right\|_n |\delta_0^{(j)}|$$
$$\leq 2\mu\lambda X_{\max}\left|\delta_0\right|_1.$$

Then, conditional on $\mathbb{A}\cap\mathbb{B}$, combining (A.4) with (4.1) gives

$$\text{(A.5)} \qquad \left\|\widehat{f} - f_0\right\|_n^2 + (1-\mu)\lambda\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha} - \alpha_0)\right|_1 \leq 6\lambda X_{\max}\alpha_{\max}\mathcal{M}(\alpha_0) + 2\mu\lambda X_{\max}\left|\delta_0\right|_1.$$

since

$$|\mathbf{D}(\tau)(\widehat{\alpha} - \alpha_0)_{J_0}|_1 \leq 2X_{\max}\alpha_{\max}\mathcal{M}(\alpha_0),$$
$$\left|\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}\alpha_0\right|_1 - |\mathbf{D}\alpha_0|_1\right| \leq 2X_{\max}\left|\alpha_0\right|_1.$$

Using the bound that $2\Phi(-x) \leq \exp\left(-x^2/2\right)$ for $x > 0$ as in equation (B.4) of Bickel et al. (2009), Lemma 2 with λ given by (4.3) implies that the event $\mathbb{A}\cap\mathbb{B}$ occurs with probability at least $1 - (3M)^{1-A^2\mu^2/8}$. Then the theorem follows from (A.5). □

Proof of Lemma 4. Combining (4.2) with (5.1) in Assumption 2 or combining (4.1) with (5.2) in Assumption 2 yields

$$\left\|\widehat{f}-f_0\right\|_n^2+(1-\mu)\,\lambda\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)\right|_1\le(2+L_1)\,\lambda\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)_{J_0}\right|_1, \tag{A.6}$$

which implies that

$$\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)_{J_0^c}\right|_1\le\frac{1+\mu+L_1}{1-\mu}\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)_{J_0}\right|_1.$$

This in turn allows us to apply Assumption 1, specifically RE$(s,\frac{1+\mu+L_1}{1-\mu})$, to yield

$$\begin{aligned}\kappa^2\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)_{J_0}\right|_2^2&\le\frac{1}{n}|\mathbf{X}(\tau_0)\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)|_2^2\\&=\frac{1}{n}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)'\widehat{\mathbf{D}}\mathbf{X}(\tau_0)'\mathbf{X}(\tau_0)\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)\\&\le\frac{\max(\widehat{\mathbf{D}})^2}{n}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)'\mathbf{X}(\tau_0)'\mathbf{X}(\tau_0)(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)\\&=\max(\widehat{\mathbf{D}})^2\left\|f_{(\widehat{\alpha},\tau_0)}-f_0\right\|_n^2,\end{aligned} \tag{A.7}$$

where $\kappa=\kappa(s,\frac{1+\mu+L_1}{1-\mu})$.

Combining (A.6) with (A.7) yields

$$\begin{aligned}\left\|\widehat{f}-f_0\right\|_n^2&\le(2+L_1)\,\lambda\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)_{J_0}\right|_1\\&\le(2+L_1)\,\lambda\sqrt{s}\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)_{J_0}\right|_2\\&\le\frac{(2+L_1)\,\lambda}{\kappa}\sqrt{s}\max(\widehat{\mathbf{D}})\left\|f_{(\widehat{\alpha},\tau_0)}-f_0\right\|_n\\&\le\frac{(2+L_1)\,\lambda\sqrt{L_2}}{\kappa}\sqrt{s}\max(\widehat{\mathbf{D}})\left\|\widehat{f}-f_0\right\|_n,\end{aligned}$$

where the last inequality follows from Assumption 3. Then the first conclusion of the lemma follows immediately.

In addition, combining the arguments above with the first conclusion of the lemma yields

$$\begin{aligned}
\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}\left(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0\right)\right|_1 &= \left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)_{J_0}\right|_1 + \left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)_{J_0^c}\right|_1 \\
&\le (2+L_1)\left(1-\mu\right)^{-1}\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)_{J_0}\right|_1 \\
&\le (2+L_1)\left(1-\mu\right)^{-1}\sqrt{s}\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)_{J_0}\right|_2 \\
&\le \frac{2+L_1}{\kappa\left(1-\mu\right)}\max(\widehat{\mathbf{D}})\left\|f_{(\widehat{\alpha},\tau_0)}-f_0\right\|_n\sqrt{s} \\
&\le \frac{(2+L_1)\sqrt{L_2}}{\kappa\left(1-\mu\right)}\max(\widehat{\mathbf{D}})\left\|\widehat{f}-f_0\right\|_n\sqrt{s} \\
&\le \frac{(2+L_1)^2\lambda L_2}{(1-\mu)\,\kappa^2}sX_{\max}^2,
\end{aligned}$$

which proves the second conclusion of the lemma since

$$\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}\left(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0\right)\right|_1 \ge \min(\widehat{\mathbf{D}})\left|(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)\right|_1. \tag{A.8}$$

□

Proof of Lemma 5. As in (B.6) of Bickel et al. (2009), for each τ, the necessary and sufficient condition for $\widehat{\alpha}(\tau)$ to be the Lasso solution can be written in the form

$$\begin{aligned}
&\frac{2}{n}[X^{(j)}]'(\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{X}(\tau)\widehat{\alpha}(\tau)) = \lambda\left\|X^{(j)}\right\|_n \operatorname{sign}(\widehat{\beta}^{(j)}(\tau)) && \text{if } \widehat{\beta}^{(j)}(\tau)\neq 0 \\
&\left|\frac{2}{n}[X^{(j)}]'(\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{X}(\tau)\widehat{\alpha}(\tau))\right| \le \lambda\left\|X^{(j)}\right\|_n && \text{if } \widehat{\beta}^{(j)}(\tau)= 0 \\
&\frac{2}{n}[X^{(j)}(\tau)]'(\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{X}(\tau)\widehat{\alpha}(\tau)) = \lambda\left\|X^{(j)}(\tau)\right\|_n \operatorname{sign}(\widehat{\delta}^{(j)}(\tau)) && \text{if } \widehat{\delta}^{(j)}(\tau)\neq 0 \\
&\left|\frac{2}{n}[X^{(j)}(\tau)]'(\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{X}(\tau)\widehat{\alpha}(\tau))\right| \le \lambda\left\|X^{(j)}(\tau)\right\|_n && \text{if } \widehat{\delta}^{(j)}(\tau)= 0,
\end{aligned}$$

where $j=1,\ldots,M$.

Note that conditional on events $\mathbb{A}$ and $\mathbb{B}$,

$$\frac{2}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}U_iX_i^{(j)} \le \mu\lambda\left\|X^{(j)}\right\|_n$$

$$\frac{2}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}U_iX_i^{(j)}1\{Q_i<\tau\} \le \mu\lambda\left\|X^{(j)}(\tau)\right\|_n$$

for any τ, where $j = 1, \ldots, M$. Therefore,

$$\left|\frac{2}{n}[X^{(j)}]'(\mathbf{X}(\tau_0)\alpha_0 - \mathbf{X}(\tau)\widehat{\alpha}(\tau))\right| \geq (1-\mu)\,\lambda\left\|X^{(j)}\right\|_n \qquad \text{if } \widehat{\beta}^{(j)}(\tau) \neq 0$$
$$\left|\frac{2}{n}[X^{(j)}(\tau)]'(\mathbf{X}(\tau_0)\alpha_0 - \mathbf{X}(\tau)\widehat{\alpha}(\tau))\right| \geq (1-\mu)\,\lambda\left\|X^{(j)}(\tau)\right\|_n \qquad \text{if } \widehat{\delta}^{(j)}(\tau) \neq 0.$$

Using inequalities above, write

$$\begin{aligned}
&\frac{1}{n^2}\left[\mathbf{X}(\tau_0)\alpha_0 - \mathbf{X}(\widehat{\tau})\widehat{\alpha}\right]' \mathbf{X}(\widehat{\tau})\mathbf{X}(\widehat{\tau})' \left[\mathbf{X}(\tau_0)\alpha_0 - \mathbf{X}(\widehat{\tau})\widehat{\alpha}\right] \\
&= \frac{1}{n^2}\sum_{j=1}^{M}\left\{[X^{(j)}]'[\mathbf{X}(\tau_0)\alpha_0 - \mathbf{X}(\widehat{\tau})\widehat{\alpha}]\right\}^2 + \frac{1}{n^2}\sum_{j=1}^{M}\left\{[X^{(j)}(\widehat{\tau})]'[\mathbf{X}(\tau_0)\alpha_0 - \mathbf{X}(\widehat{\tau})\widehat{\alpha}]\right\}^2 \\
&\geq \frac{1}{n^2}\sum_{j:\widehat{\beta}^{(j)}\neq 0}\left\{[X^{(j)}]'[\mathbf{X}(\tau_0)\alpha_0 - \mathbf{X}(\widehat{\tau})\widehat{\alpha}]\right\}^2 + \frac{1}{n^2}\sum_{j:\widehat{\delta}^{(j)}\neq 0}\left\{[X^{(j)}(\widehat{\tau})]'[\mathbf{X}(\tau_0)\alpha_0 - \mathbf{X}(\widehat{\tau})\widehat{\alpha}]\right\}^2 \\
&\geq \frac{(1-\mu)^2\lambda^2}{4}\left(\sum_{j:\widehat{\beta}^{(j)}\neq 0}\left\|X^{(j)}\right\|_n^2 + \sum_{j:\widehat{\delta}^{(j)}\neq 0}\left\|X^{(j)}(\widehat{\tau})\right\|_n^2\right) \\
&\geq \frac{(1-\mu)^2\lambda^2}{4}X_{\min}^2\mathcal{M}\left(\hat{\alpha}\right).
\end{aligned}$$

To complete the proof, note that

$$\begin{aligned}
&\frac{1}{n^2}\left[\mathbf{X}(\tau_0)\alpha_0 - \mathbf{X}(\widehat{\tau})\widehat{\alpha}\right]' \mathbf{X}(\widehat{\tau})\mathbf{X}(\widehat{\tau})' \left[\mathbf{X}(\tau_0)\alpha_0 - \mathbf{X}(\widehat{\tau})\widehat{\alpha}\right] \\
&\quad\leq \operatorname{maxeig}(\mathbf{X}(\widehat{\tau})\mathbf{X}(\widehat{\tau})'/n)\left\|\widehat{f} - f_0\right\|_n^2 \\
&\quad\leq \phi_{\max}\left\|\widehat{f} - f_0\right\|_n^2,
\end{aligned}$$

where $\operatorname{maxeig}(\mathbf{X}(\widehat{\tau})\mathbf{X}(\widehat{\tau})'/n)$ denotes the largest eigenvalue of $\mathbf{X}(\widehat{\tau})\mathbf{X}(\widehat{\tau})'/n$. □

Proof of Theorem 6. Since $\delta_0 = 0$, Assumption 2 holds with $L_1 = 0$. Then theorem follows by combining Lemmas 4 and 5 with the bound on $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{A}\cap\mathbb{B})$ as in the proof of Theorem 3. □

Proof of Theorem 7. First of all, recall the bound on $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{A}\cap\mathbb{B})$ be obtained as in the proof of Theorem 3. We consider the following two cases: (i) (5.1) holds with $L_1 = L_1^*$, and (ii) it does not hold.

Case (i). If (5.1) holds with $L_1 = L_1^*$, then the conditions of Lemma 4 are satisfied. In this case, the theorem can be proved as in the proof of Theorem 6 by combining Lemmas 4 and 5.

Case (ii). Thus, it remains to consider the case that (5.1) does not hold, that is,

$$L_1^* \lambda \left| \widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha} - \alpha_0)_{J_0} \right|_1 < \left\| f_{(\alpha_0, \widehat{\tau})} - f_0 \right\|_n^2 . \tag{A.9}$$

First, note that the fact that

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| f_{(\alpha_0, \hat{\tau})} - f_0 \right\|_n^2 &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left(X_i' \delta_0 \right)^2 \left| 1 \left\{ Q_i < \tau_0 \right\} - 1 \left\{ Q_i < \hat{\tau} \right\} \right| \\ &\leq d_0^2 n^{-2\nu} C \mathcal{M} \left(\delta_0 \right) \left| t_1 - t_0 \right| , \end{aligned} \tag{A.10}$$

where the last inequality follows from (7.1) and Assumption 5 with $\eta = |t_1 - t_0|$.

Now combining (4.2), (A.9), and (A.10) together yields that

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \hat{f} - f_0 \right\|_n^2 &\leq \left(\frac{2}{L_1^*} + 1 \right) \left\| f_{(\alpha_0, \hat{\tau})} - f_0 \right\|_n^2 \\ &\leq \left(\frac{2}{L_1^*} + 1 \right) C d_0^2 n^{-2\nu} \mathcal{M} \left(\delta_0 \right) \left| t_0 - t_1 \right| \\ &= \frac{\left(2 + L_1^* \right)^2}{C_{L_1}^*} C d_0^2 n^{-2\nu} \mathcal{M} \left(\delta_0 \right) \left| t_0 - t_1 \right| \\ &= \frac{\left(2 + L_1^* \right)^2 X_{\max}^2 L_2}{\kappa^2} \lambda^2 \mathcal{M}(\alpha_0), \end{aligned}$$

where the last two equalities follow from the construction of L_1^*. This proves the first conclusion of the theorem.

To obtain the bound on $|\widehat{\alpha} - \alpha_0|_1$, note that again using (4.2), (A.9), and (A.10) and repeating the same arguments as above, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \widehat{\mathbf{D}} \left(\widehat{\alpha} - \alpha_0 \right) \right|_1 &\leq \frac{1}{(1-\mu)\lambda} \left(\frac{2}{L_1^*} + 1 \right) \left\| f_{(\alpha_0, \hat{\tau})} - f_0 \right\|_n^2 \\ &\leq \frac{\left(2 + L_1^* \right)^2 X_{\max}^2 L_2}{(1-\mu)\kappa^2} \lambda \mathcal{M}(\alpha_0), \end{aligned}$$

which, combined with (A.8), proves the second conclusion of the theorem. The third conclusion follows immediately from Lemma 5. $\square$

Proof of Lemma 8. Given Lemma 2, it remains to examine the probability of $\mathbb{C}(\eta_j)$. As in the proof of Lemma 2, Lévy's inequality yields that

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}\{\mathbb{C}(\eta_j)^c\} &\leq \mathbb{P}\left\{\sup_{|\tau-\tau_0|\leq\eta_j}\left|\frac{2}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}U_iX_i'\delta_0\left[1(Q_i<\tau_0)-1(Q_i<\tau)\right]\right|>\lambda\sqrt{\eta_j}\right\}.\\ &\leq 2\mathbb{P}\left\{\left|\frac{2}{n}\sum_{i=[n(\tau_0-\eta_j)]}^{[n(\tau_0+\eta_j)]}U_iX_i'\delta_0\right|>\lambda\sqrt{\eta_j}\right\}\\ &\leq 4\Phi\left(-\frac{\lambda\sqrt{n}}{2\sqrt{2}\sigma h_n(\eta_j)}\right).\end{aligned}$$

Hence, we have proved the lemma since $\mathbb{P}\left\{\mathbb{A}\bigcap\mathbb{B}\bigcap\left[\bigcap_{j=1}^{m}\mathbb{C}(\eta_j)\right]\right\}\geq 1-\mathbb{P}\{\mathbb{A}^c\}-\mathbb{P}\{\mathbb{B}^c\}-\sum_{j=1}^{m}\mathbb{P}\{\mathbb{C}(\eta_j)^c\}$. □

Proof of Lemma 9. As in the proof of Lemma 1, we have, on the events $\mathbb{A}$ and $\mathbb{B}$,

$$\begin{aligned}&\widehat{S}_n-S_n(\alpha_0,\tau_0)\\ &=\left\|\widehat{f}-f_0\right\|_n^2-2n^{-1}\sum_{i=1}^{n}U_iX_i'(\widehat{\beta}-\beta_0)-2n^{-1}\sum_{i=1}^{n}U_iX_i'(\widehat{\delta}-\delta_0)1(Q_i<\widehat{\tau})-R_n\\ &\geq\left\|\widehat{f}-f_0\right\|_n^2-\mu\lambda\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha)\right|_1-R_n.\end{aligned}\tag{A.11}$$

Then using (A.3), on the events $\mathbb{A}$ and $\mathbb{B}$,

$$\begin{aligned}&\left[\widehat{S}_n+\lambda\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}\widehat{\alpha}\right|_1\right]-\left[S_n(\alpha_0,\tau_0)+\lambda\left|\mathbf{D}\alpha_0\right|_1\right]\\ &\geq\left\|\widehat{f}-f_0\right\|_n^2-\mu\lambda\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)\right|_1-\lambda\left[\left|\mathbf{D}\alpha_0\right|_1-\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}\widehat{\alpha}\right|_1\right]-R_n\\ &\geq\left\|\widehat{f}-f_0\right\|_n^2-2\lambda\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)_{J_0}\right|_1-\lambda\left[\left|\mathbf{D}\alpha_0\right|_1-\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}\alpha_0\right|_1\right]-R_n\\ &\geq\left\|\widehat{f}-f_0\right\|_n^2-\left[6\lambda X_{\max}\alpha_{\max}\mathcal{M}(\alpha_0)+2\mu\lambda X_{\max}\left|\delta_0\right|_1\right],\end{aligned}\tag{A.12}$$

where the last inequality follows from (A.4) and the following bounds:

$$2\lambda\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)_{J_0}\right|_1\leq 4X_{\max}\alpha_{\max}\lambda\mathcal{M}(\alpha_0),$$
$$\lambda\left[\left|\mathbf{D}\alpha_0\right|_1-\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}\alpha_0\right|_1\right]\leq 2X_{\max}\alpha_{\max}\lambda\mathcal{M}(\alpha_0).$$

Suppose now that $|\hat{\tau}-\tau_0|\geq\eta_2^*$. Then Assumption 6 and (A.12) together imply that

$$\left[\widehat{S}_n+\lambda\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}\widehat{\alpha}\right|_1\right]-\left[S_n(\alpha_0,\tau_0)+\lambda\left|\mathbf{D}\alpha_0\right|_1\right]>0,$$

which leads to contradiction as $\widehat{\tau}$ is the minimizer of the criterion function as in (2.3). Therefore, we have proved the lemma. □

Proof of Lemma 10. Recall the basic inequality in (4.1):

$$\begin{aligned}
&\left\|\widehat{f}-f_0\right\|_n^2+(1-\mu)\,\lambda\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)\right|_1\\
\leq\ & 2\lambda\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)_{J_0}\right|_1+\lambda\left|\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}\alpha_0\right|_1-\left|\mathbf{D}\alpha_0\right|_1\right|+R_n.
\end{aligned}$$

Note that on $\mathbb{C}$,

$$\begin{aligned}
|R_n| &= \left|2n^{-1}\sum_{i=1}^{n}U_iX_i'\delta_0\left\{1(Q_i<\widehat{\tau})-1(Q_i<\tau_0)\right\}\right|\\
&\leq \lambda\sqrt{c_\tau},
\end{aligned}$$

and due to the mean value theorem (applied to $f(x)=\sqrt{x}$) and Assumption 5,

(A.13)

$$\begin{aligned}
\left|\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}\alpha_0\right|_1-\left|\mathbf{D}\alpha_0\right|_1\right| &= \left|\sum_{j=1}^{M}\left(\left\|X(\hat{\tau})^{(j)}\right\|_n-\left\|X(\tau_0)^{(j)}\right\|_n\right)\left|\delta_0^{(j)}\right|\right|\\
&\leq \sum_{j=1}^{M}\frac{1}{2}\left\|X(t_0)^{(j)}\right\|_n^{-1}\left|\delta_0^{(j)}\right|\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}\left|X_i^{(j)}\right|^2\left|1\{Q_i<\hat{\tau}\}-1\{Q_i<\tau_0\}\right|\\
&\leq C2^{-1}X_{\min}^{-1}c_\tau\left|\delta_0\right|_1.
\end{aligned}$$

We now consider two cases: (i) $\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)_{J_0}\right|_1>\sqrt{c_\tau}+c_\tau C2^{-1}X_{\min}^{-1}\left|\delta_0\right|_1$ and case (ii) $\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)_{J_0}\right|_1\leq\sqrt{c_\tau}+c_\tau C2^{-1}X_{\min}^{-1}\left|\delta_0\right|_1$.

Case (i): In this case, note that (5.2) in Assumption 2 holds with $L_1=1$. Thus, we can repeat the proof of Lemma 4 with $L_1=1$, which gives that on on $\mathbb{A}$ and $\mathbb{B}$,

$$\begin{aligned}
\left|\hat{\alpha}-\alpha_0\right|_1 &\leq \frac{9L_2}{(1-\mu)\,\kappa^2}\frac{X_{\max}^2}{X_{\min}}\lambda s,\\
\left\|\widehat{f}-f_0\right\|_n^2 &\leq \frac{9X_{\max}^2L_2}{\kappa^2}\lambda^2 s.
\end{aligned}$$

Case (ii): If $\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)_{J_0}\right|_1\leq\sqrt{c_\tau}+c_\tau C2^{-1}X_{\min}^{-1}\left|\delta_0\right|_1$, then it follows from (4.1) that

$$\begin{aligned}
\left\|\widehat{f}-f_0\right\|_n^2 &\leq 3\lambda\left[\sqrt{c_\tau}+c_\tau C2^{-1}X_{\min}^{-1}\left|\delta_0\right|_1\right],\\
\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}(\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0)\right|_1 &\leq \frac{3}{1-\mu}\left[\sqrt{c_\tau}+c_\tau C2^{-1}X_{\min}^{-1}\left|\delta_0\right|_1\right],
\end{aligned}$$

which implies that

$$\left|\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0\right|_1\leq\frac{3}{(1-\mu)X_{\min}}\left[\sqrt{c_\tau}+c_\tau C2^{-1}X_{\min}^{-1}\left|\delta_0\right|_1\right].$$

Therefore, we have proved the lemma. ∎

Proof of Lemma 11. Note that on $\mathbb{A}$, $\mathbb{B}$ and $\mathbb{C}$,

$$\begin{aligned}&\left|\frac{2}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}\left[U_iX_i'\left(\hat{\beta}-\beta_0\right)+U_iX_i'1\left(Q_i<\hat{\tau}\right)\left(\hat{\delta}-\delta_0\right)\right]\right|\\ \leq\ & \mu\lambda X_{\max}\left|\hat{\alpha}-\alpha_0\right|_1\leq\mu\lambda X_{\max}c_\alpha\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\left|\frac{2}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}U_iX_i'\delta_0\left[1\left(Q_i<\hat{\tau}\right)-1\left(Q_i<\tau_0\right)\right]\right|\leq\lambda\sqrt{c_\tau}.$$

Suppose $\tilde{\eta}\leq|\hat{\tau}-\tau_0|<c_\tau$. Then, as in (A.11),

$$\widehat{S}_n-S_n(\alpha_0,\tau_0)\geq\left\|\widehat{f}-f_0\right\|_n^2-\mu\lambda X_{\max}c_\alpha-\lambda\sqrt{c_\tau}. \tag{A.14}$$

Furthermore, due to (A.13), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}&\left[\widehat{S}_n+\lambda\left|\widehat{\mathbf{D}}\widehat{\alpha}\right|_1\right]-\left[S_n(\alpha_0,\tau_0)+\lambda\left|\mathbf{D}\alpha_0\right|_1\right]\\ &\geq c\tilde{\eta}-\left(\mu X_{\max}c_\alpha+\sqrt{c_\tau}\right)\lambda-C2^{-1}X_{\min}^{-1}c_\tau\left|\delta_0\right|_1\lambda.\end{aligned}$$

Thus, since $c\tilde{\eta}=\left(X_{\max}c_\alpha+\sqrt{c_\tau}+(2X_{\min})^{-1}\left|\delta_0\right|_1Cc_\tau\right)\lambda$, we again use the contradiction argument as in the proof of Lemma 9 to prove the lemma. □

Proof of of Theorem 12. Here we use the chaining argument by iteratively applying Lemmas 10 and 11 to tighten the bounds for the prediction risk and the estimation errors in $\hat{\alpha}$ and $\hat{\tau}$.

In view of Lemma 9, we first start with

$$c_\tau:=c^{-1}8X_{\max}\alpha_{\max}\lambda s.$$

Suppose that

$$\frac{3\left[\sqrt{c_\tau}+c_\tau C2^{-1}X_{\min}^{-1}\left|\delta_0\right|_1\right]}{\left(1-\mu\right)X_{\min}}\leq\frac{9L_2}{\left(1-\mu\right)\kappa^2}\frac{X_{\max}^2}{X_{\min}}\lambda s=:c_\alpha^{(0)}, \tag{A.15}$$

which in turn implies from Lemma 10 that $\left|\hat{\alpha}-\alpha_0\right|_1$ and $\left\|\hat{f}-f_0\right\|_n^2$ achieve the bounds in the theorem given the choice of λ. Then Lemma 11 with $c_\alpha=c_\alpha^{(0)}$ yields that

$$\begin{aligned}\left|\hat{\tau}-\tau_0\right| &\leq c^{-1}\left(X_{\max}c_\alpha+\sqrt{c_\tau}+(2X_{\min})^{-1}\left|\delta_0\right|_1Cc_\tau\right)\lambda\\ &\leq\left(\frac{X_{\max}}{X_{\min}}+\frac{1-\mu}{3}\right)\frac{9L_2X_{\max}^2}{c\left(1-\mu\right)\kappa^2}\lambda^2s=:c_\tau^{(0)}.\end{aligned}$$

Thus, it remains to show that there is convergence in the iterated applications of Lemmas 10 and 11 toward the desired bound when (A.15) does not hold.

When (A.15) does not hold for $c_\tau^{(m)}$ for some m, where the superscript m indicates the m-th iteration, Lemmas 10 and 11 imply that

$$c_\alpha^{(m+1)} = \frac{3\left[\sqrt{c_\tau^{(m)}} + c_\tau^{(m)} C 2^{-1} X_{\min}^{-1} \left|\delta_0\right|_1\right]}{(1-\mu)\, X_{\min}},$$

and

$$c_\tau^{(m+1)} = c^{-1}\left(X_{\max} c_\alpha^{(m+1)} + \sqrt{c_\tau^{(m)}} + (2X_{\min})^{-1} \left|\delta_0\right|_1 C c_\tau^{(m)}\right)\lambda.$$

Whenever $c_\alpha^{(m)} \le c_\alpha^{(0)}$, we can stop the iteration and the desired bound is achieved as discussed in (A.15). Hence, it suffices to derive the fixed point when we start with the initial m such that $c_\alpha^{(m)} > c_\alpha^{(0)}$.

Next, we derive the fixed point as follows. First, suppose that $c_\tau^{(m)} > \left(C2^{-1}X_{\min}^{-1}\left|\delta_0\right|_1\right)^{-2}$. Recall that $\left|\delta_0\right|_1 \ne 0$ due to Assumption 6. Then we have

$$c_\alpha^{(m+1)} = \frac{3c_\tau^{(m)} C \left|\delta_0\right|_1}{(1-\mu)\, X_{\min}^2}$$

and thus

$$c_\tau^{(m+1)} = \frac{C}{c}\left(\frac{3X_{\max}}{(1-\mu)\, X_{\min}^2} + \frac{1}{X_{\min}}\right)\left|\delta_0\right|_1 \lambda c_\tau^{(m)},$$

which is strictly less than $c_\tau^{(m)}$ under (8.2). It implies that $c_\tau^{(m)}$ converges to zero as the iteration continues. Therefore, there exists a sufficiently large $\widetilde{m}$ such that $c_\tau^{(m)} \le \left(C2^{-1}X_{\min}^{-1}\left|\delta_0\right|_1\right)^{-2}$ holds for all $m \ge \widetilde{m}$.

Next assume that $c_\tau^{(m)} \le \left(C2^{-1}X_{\min}^{-1}\left|\delta_0\right|_1\right)^{-2}$. In this case, we have

$$c_\alpha^{(m+1)} = \frac{6\sqrt{c_\tau^{(m)}}}{(1-\mu)\, X_{\min}}$$

and

$$c_\tau^{(m+1)} = 2c^{-1}\left(\frac{3X_{\max}}{(1-\mu)\, X_{\min}} + 1\right)\lambda\sqrt{c_\tau^{(m)}}. \tag{A.16}$$

Recall that we are considering the case that when (A.15) does not hold, so that $c_\tau^{(0)} < c_\tau^{(m)} \le \left(C2^{-1}X_{\min}^{-1}\left|\delta_0\right|_1\right)^{-2}$. Let

$$c_\tau^{(\infty)} = 4c^{-2}\left(\frac{3X_{\max}}{(1-\mu)\, X_{\min}} + 1\right)^2 \lambda^2. \tag{A.17}$$

As long as $c_\tau^{(\infty)} < c_\tau^{(0)}$ (which is true under (8.3)), the fixed point of (A.16) is $c_\tau^{(\infty)}$ since the intial $c_\tau^{(m)}$ starts from the right-hand side of the fixed point and converges to $c_\tau^{(\infty)}$. Recall that we can stop the iteration as soon as $c_\tau^{(m)} < c_\tau^{(0)}$. Thus, the iteration continues only a finite number of times because $c_\tau^{(j)}$ is strictly decreasing. Each application of Lemmas 10 and 11 in the chaining argument requires conditioning on $\mathbb{C}(\eta_j)$, $j = 1, ..., m^*$, for some finite m^*.

Furthermore, (A.17) implies that

$$c_\alpha^{(\infty)} = \frac{12c^{-1}}{(1-\mu) X_{\min}} \left(\frac{3X_{\max}}{(1-\mu) X_{\min}} + 1 \right) \lambda.$$

Note that $c_\alpha^{(\infty)} < c_\alpha^{(0)}$ under (8.4). Therefore, for each case, we have shown that $|\widehat{\alpha} - \alpha_0|_1 \leq c_\alpha^{(0)}$ and $|\hat{\tau} - \tau_0| \leq c_\tau^{(0)}$. The bound for the prediction risk can be obtained similarly, and then the bound for the sparsity of the Lasso estimator follows from Lemma 5. $\square$

Table 1. List of Variables

Variable Names	Description
Dependent Variable	
gr	Annualized GDP growth rate in the period of 1960–85
Threshold Variables	
gdp60	Real GDP per capita in 1960 (1985 price)
lr	Adult literacy rate in 1960
Covariates	
lgdp60	Log GDP per capita in 1960 (1985 price)
lr	Adult literacy rate in 1960 (only included when $Q = lr$)
ls_k	Log(Investment/Output) annualized over 1960-85; a proxy for the log physical savings rate
lgr_{pop}	Log population growth rate annualized over 1960–85
pyrm60	Log average years of primary schooling in the male population in 1960
pyrf60	Log average years of primary schooling in the female population in 1960
syrm60	Log average years of secondary schooling in the male population in 1960
syrf60	Log average years of secondary schooling in the female population in 1960
hyrm60	Log average years of higher schooling in the male population in 1960
hyrf60	Log average years of higher schooling in the female population in 1960
nom60	Percentage of no schooling in the male population in 1960
nof60	Percentage of no schooling in the female population in 1960
prim60	Percentage of primary schooling attained in the male population in 1960
prif60	Percentage of primary schooling attained in the female population in 1960
pricm60	Percentage of primary schooling complete in the male population in 1960
pricf60	Percentage of primary schooling complete in the female population in 1960
secm60	Percentage of secondary schooling attained in the male population in 1960
secf60	Percentage of secondary schooling attained in the female population in 1960
seccm60	Percentage of secondary schooling complete in the male population in 1960
seccf60	Percentage of secondary schooling complete in the female population in 1960
llife	Log of life expectancy at age 0 averaged over 1960–1985
lfert	Log of fertility rate (children per woman) averaged over 1960–1985
edu/gdp	Government expenditure on eduction per GDP averaged over 1960–85
gcon/gdp	Government consumption expenditure net of defence and education per GDP averaged over 1960–85
revol	The number of revolutions per year over 1960–84
revcoup	The number of revolutions and coups per year over 1960–84
wardum	Dummy for countries that participated in at least one external war over 1960–84
wartime	The fraction of time over 1960-85 involved in external war
lbmp	Log(1+black market premium averaged over 1960–85)
tot	The term of trade shock
lgdp60 × *'educ'*	Product of two covariates (interaction of *lgdp60* and education variables from *pyrm60* to *seccf60*); total 16 variables

Table 2. Model Selection and Estimation Results with $Q = gdp60$

	Linear Model	Threshold Model $\widehat{\tau} = 2898$	
		$\widehat{\beta}$	$\widehat{\delta}$
const.	0.0232	0.0232	-
lgdp60	-0.0153	-0.0120	-
ls_k	0.0033	0.0038	-
lgr_{pop}	0.0018	-	-
pyrf60	0.0027	-	-
syrm60	0.0157	-	-
hyrm60	0.0122	0.0130	-
hyrf60	-0.0389	-	-0.0807
nom60	-	-	2.64×10^{-5}
prim60	-0.0004	-0.0001	-
pricm60	0.0006	-1.73×10^{-4}	-0.35×10^{-4}
pricf60	-0.0006	-	-
secf60	0.0005	-	-
seccm60	0.0010	-	0.0014
llife	0.0697	0.0523	-
lfert	-0.0136	-0.0047	-
edu/gdp	-0.0189	-	-
gcon/gdp	-0.0671	-0.0542	-
revol	-0.0588	-	-
revcoup	0.0433	-	-
wardum	-0.0043	-	-0.0022
wartime	-0.0019	-0.0143	-0.0023
lbmp	-0.0185	-0.0174	-0.0015
tot	0.0971	-	0.0974
lgdp60 × *pyrf60*	-	-3.81×10^{-6}	-
lgdp60 × *syrm60*	-	-	0.0002
lgdp60 × *hyrm60*	-	-	0.0050
lgdp60 × *hyrf60*	-	-0.0003	-
lgdp60 × *nom60*	-	-	8.26×10^{-6}
lgdp60 × *prim60*	-6.02×10^{-7}	-	-
lgdp60 × *prif60*	-3.47×10^{-6}	-	-8.11×10^{-6}
lgdp60 × *pricf60*	-8.46×10^{-6}	-	-
lgdp60 × *secm60*	-0.0001	-	-
lgdp60 × *seccf60*	-0.0002	-2.87×10^{-6}	-
λ	0.0004	0.0034	
$\mathcal{M}(\widehat{\alpha})$	28	26	
# of covariates	46	92	
# of obsesrvations	80	80	
R^2	0.85	0.80	

Note: The regularization parameter λ is chosen by the 'leave-one-out' least squares cross validation method. $\mathcal{M}(\widehat{\alpha})$ denotes the number of covariates to be selected by LASSO, and '-' indicates that the regressor is not selected. Recall that $\widehat{\beta}$ is the coefficient when $Q \geq \widehat{\gamma}$ and that $\widehat{\delta}$ is the change of the coefficient value when $Q < \widehat{\gamma}$.

Table 3. Model Selection and Estimation Results with $Q = lr$

	Linear Model	Threshold Model $\widehat{\tau} = 82$	
		$\widehat{\beta}$	$\widehat{\delta}$
const.	0.0224	0.0224	-
lgdp60	-0.0159	-0.0099	-
ls_k	0.0038	0.0046	-
syrm60	0.0069	-	-
hyrm60	0.0188	0.0101	-
prim60	-0.0001	-0.0001	-
pricm60	0.0002	0.0001	0.0001
seccm60	0.0004	-	0.0018
llife	0.0674	0.0335	-
lfert	-0.0098	-0.0069	-
edu/gdp	-0.0547	-	-
gcon/gdp	-0.0588	-0.0593	-
revol	-0.0299	-	-
revcoup	0.0215	-	-
wardum	-0.0017	-	-
wartime	-0.0090	-0.0231	-
lbmp	-0.0161	-0.0142	-
tot	0.1333	0.0846	-
lgdp60 × *hyrf60*	-0.0014	-	-0.0053
lgdp60 × *nof60*	1.49×10^{-5}	-	-
lgdp60 × *prif60*	-1.06×10^{-5}	-	-2.66×10^{-6}
lgdp60 × *seccf60*	-0.0001	-	-
λ	0.0011	0.0044	
$\mathcal{M}(\widehat{\alpha})$	22	16	
# *of covariates*	47	94	
# *of observations*	70	70	
R^2	0.82	0.80	

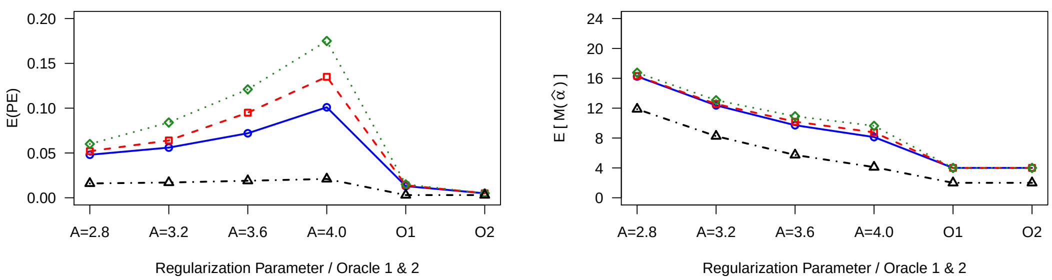
Note: The regularization parameter λ is chosen by the 'leave-one-out' least squares cross validation method. $\mathcal{M}(\widehat{\alpha})$ denotes the number of covariates to be selected by LASSO, and '-' indicates that the regressor is not selected. Recall that $\widehat{\beta}$ is the coefficient when $Q \geq \widehat{\gamma}$ and that $\widehat{\delta}$ is the change of the coefficient value when $Q < \widehat{\gamma}$.

TABLE 4. Simulation Results with $M = 50$

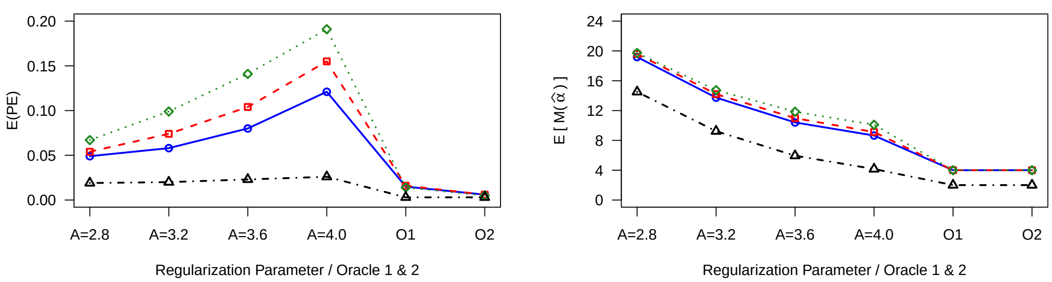
Threshold Parameter	Estimation Method	Constant for λ	Prediction Error (PE) Mean	Median	SD	$E\left[\mathcal{M}\left(\widehat{\alpha}\right)\right]$	$E\left\|\widehat{\alpha}-\alpha_0\right\|_1$	$E\left\|\widehat{\tau}-\tau_0\right\|_1$
			Jump Scale: $c = 1$					
$\tau_0 = 0.5$	Least Squares	None	0.285	0.276	0.074	100.00	7.066	0.008
	Lasso	$A = 2.8$	0.041	0.030	0.035	12.94	0.466	0.010
		$A = 3.2$	0.048	0.033	0.049	10.14	0.438	0.013
		$A = 3.6$	0.067	0.037	0.086	8.44	0.457	0.024
		$A = 4.0$	0.095	0.050	0.120	7.34	0.508	0.040
	Oracle 1	None	0.013	0.006	0.019	4.00	0.164	0.004
	Oracle 2	None	0.005	0.004	0.004	4.00	0.163	0.000
$\tau_0 = 0.4$	Least Squares	None	0.317	0.304	0.095	100.00	7.011	0.008
	Lasso	$A = 2.8$	0.052	0.034	0.063	13.15	0.509	0.016
		$A = 3.2$	0.063	0.037	0.083	10.42	0.489	0.023
		$A = 3.6$	0.090	0.045	0.121	8.70	0.535	0.042
		$A = 4.0$	0.133	0.061	0.162	7.68	0.634	0.078
	Oracle 1	None	0.014	0.006	0.022	4.00	0.163	0.004
	Oracle 2	None	0.005	0.004	0.004	4.00	0.163	0.000
$\tau_0 = 0.3$	Least Squares	None	2.559	0.511	16.292	100.00	12.172	0.012
	Lasso	$A = 2.8$	0.062	0.035	0.091	13.45	0.602	0.030
		$A = 3.2$	0.089	0.041	0.125	10.85	0.633	0.056
		$A = 3.6$	0.127	0.054	0.159	9.33	0.743	0.099
		$A = 4.0$	0.185	0.082	0.185	8.43	0.919	0.168
	Oracle 1	None	0.012	0.006	0.017	4.00	0.177	0.004
	Oracle 2	None	0.005	0.004	0.004	4.00	0.176	0.000
			Jump Scale: $c = 0$					
N/A	Least Squares	None	6.332	0.460	41.301	100.00	20.936	N/A
	Lasso	$A = 2.8$	0.013	0.011	0.007	9.30	0.266	
		$A = 3.2$	0.014	0.012	0.008	6.71	0.227	
		$A = 3.6$	0.015	0.014	0.009	4.95	0.211	
		$A = 4.0$	0.017	0.016	0.010	3.76	0.204	
	Oracle 1 & 2	None	0.002	0.002	0.003	2.00	0.054	

Note: M denotes the column size of X_i and τ denotes the threshold parameter. Oracle 1 & 2 are estimated by the least squares when sparsity is known and when sparsity and τ_0 are known, respectively. All simulations are based on 400 replications of a sample with 200 observations.

FIGURE 1. Mean Prediction Errors and Mean $\mathcal{M}(\widehat{\alpha})$



$M = 100$



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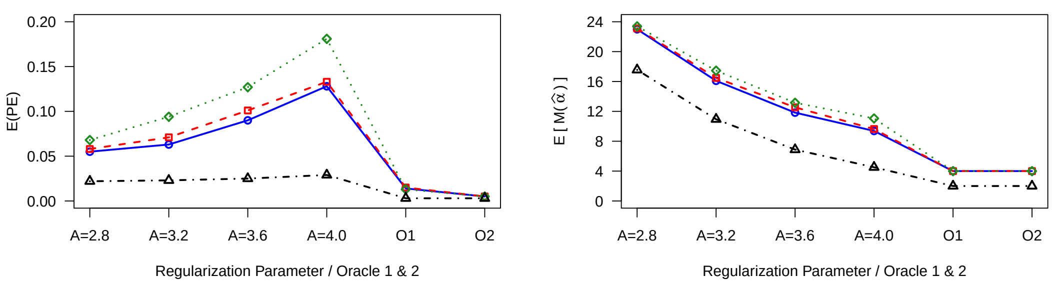

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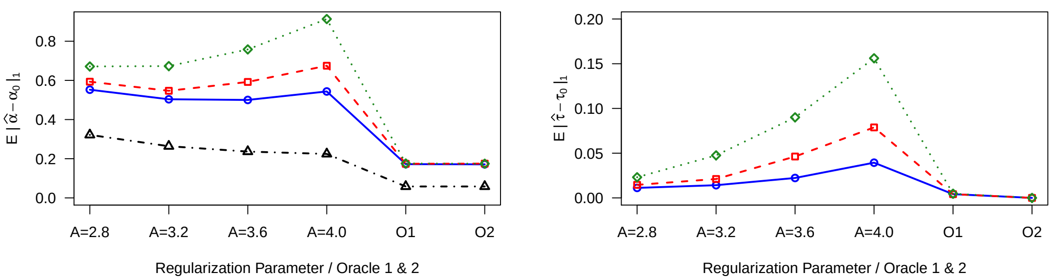
Figure 2. Mean ℓ_1-Errors for α and τ



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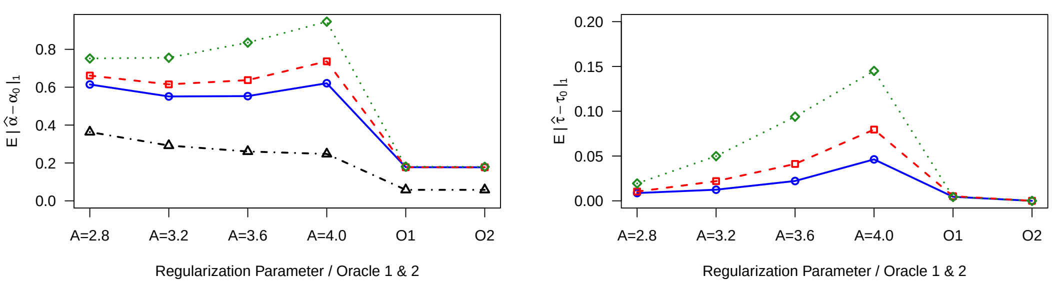

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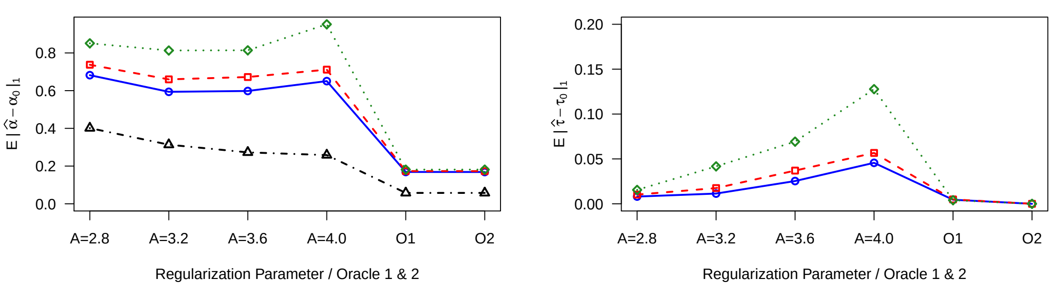


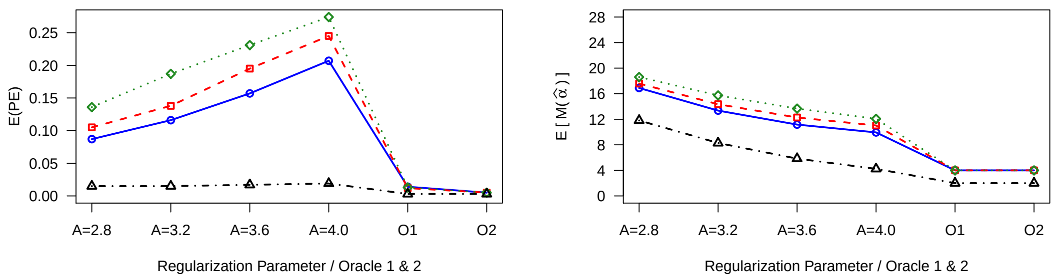
$M = 400$

TABLE 5. Simulation Results with $M = 50$ and $\rho = 0.3$

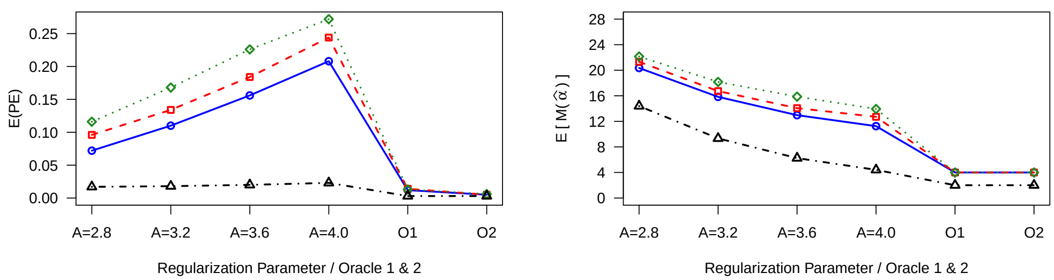
Threshold Parameter	Estimation Method	Constant for λ	Prediction Error (PE) Mean	Median	SD	$E[\mathcal{M}(\widehat{\alpha})]$	$E\lvert\widehat{\alpha} - \alpha_0\rvert_1$	$E\lvert\widehat{\tau} - \tau_0\rvert_1$
				Jump Scale: $c = 1$				
$\tau_0 = 0.5$	Least Squares	None	0.283	0.273	0.075	100.00	7.718	0.010
	Lasso	$A = 2.8$	0.075	0.043	0.087	12.99	0.650	0.041
		$A = 3.2$	0.108	0.059	0.115	10.98	0.737	0.071
		$A = 3.6$	0.160	0.099	0.137	9.74	0.913	0.119
		$A = 4.0$	0.208	0.181	0.143	8.72	1.084	0.166
	Oracle 1	None	0.013	0.006	0.017	4.00	0.169	0.005
	Oracle 2	None	0.005	0.004	0.004	4.00	0.163	0.000
$\tau_0 = 0.4$	Least Squares	None	0.317	0.297	0.099	100.00	7.696	0.010
	Lasso	$A = 2.8$	0.118	0.063	0.123	13.89	0.855	0.094
		$A = 3.2$	0.155	0.090	0.139	11.69	0.962	0.138
		$A = 3.6$	0.207	0.201	0.143	10.47	1.150	0.204
		$A = 4.0$	0.258	0.301	0.138	9.64	1.333	0.266
	Oracle 1	None	0.013	0.007	0.016	4.00	0.168	0.006
	Oracle 2	None	0.005	0.004	0.004	4.00	0.163	0.000
$\tau_0 = 0.3$	Least Squares	None	1.639	0.487	7.710	100.00	12.224	0.015
	Lasso	$A = 2.8$	0.149	0.080	0.136	14.65	1.135	0.184
		$A = 3.2$	0.200	0.233	0.138	12.71	1.346	0.272
		$A = 3.6$	0.246	0.284	0.127	11.29	1.548	0.354
		$A = 4.0$	0.277	0.306	0.116	10.02	1.673	0.408
	Oracle 1	None	0.013	0.006	0.017	4.00	0.182	0.005
	Oracle 2	None	0.005	0.004	0.004	4.00	0.176	0.000
				Jump Scale: $c = 0$				
N/A	Least Squares	None	6.939	0.437	42.698	100.00	23.146	N/A
	Lasso	$A = 2.8$	0.012	0.011	0.007	9.02	0.248	
		$A = 3.2$	0.013	0.011	0.008	6.54	0.214	
		$A = 3.6$	0.014	0.013	0.009	5.00	0.196	
		$A = 4.0$	0.016	0.014	0.010	3.83	0.191	
	Oracle 1 & 2	None	0.002	0.002	0.003	2.00	0.054	

Note: M denotes the column size of X_i and τ denotes the threshold parameter. Oracle 1 & 2 are estimated by the least squares when sparsity is known and when sparsity and τ_0 are known, respectively. All simulations are based on 400 replications of a sample with 200 observations.

FIGURE 3. Mean Prediction Errors and Mean $\mathcal{M}(\widehat{\alpha})$ when $\rho = 0.3$



$M = 100$



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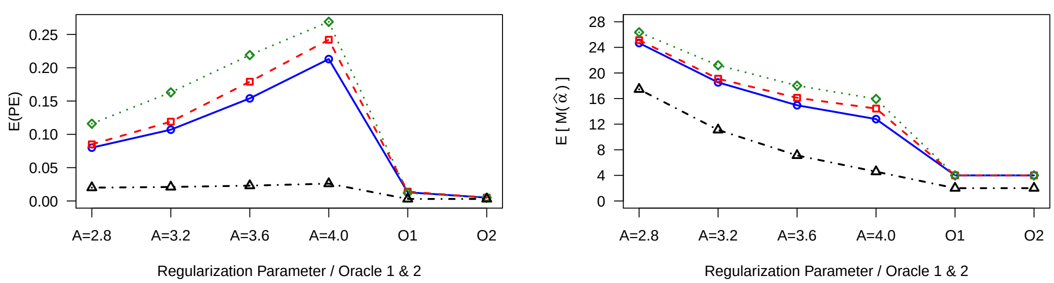
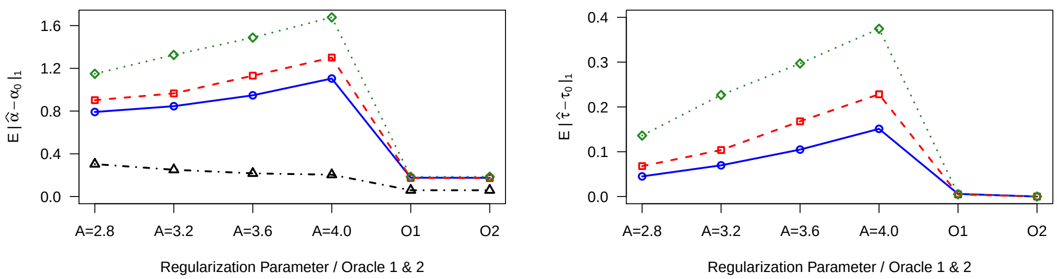
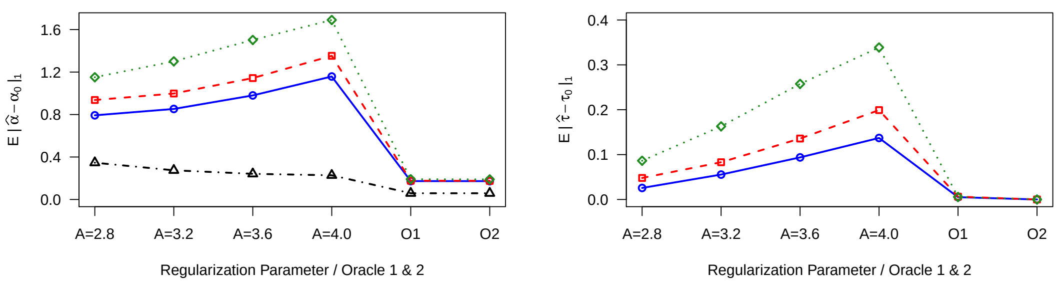


$M = 400$

FIGURE 4. Mean ℓ_1-Errors for α and τ when $\rho = 0.3$



$M = 100$



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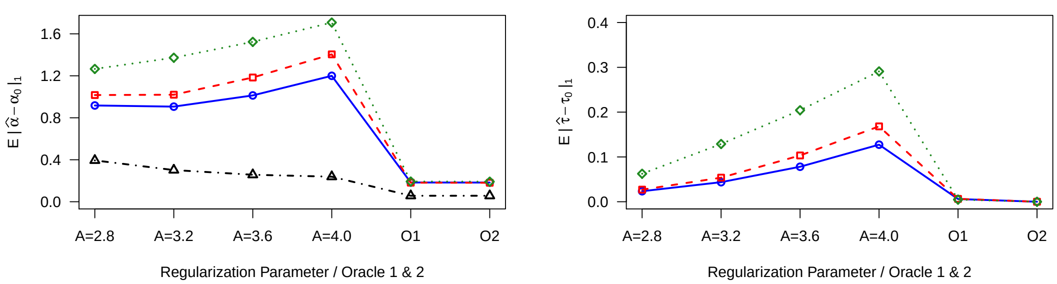
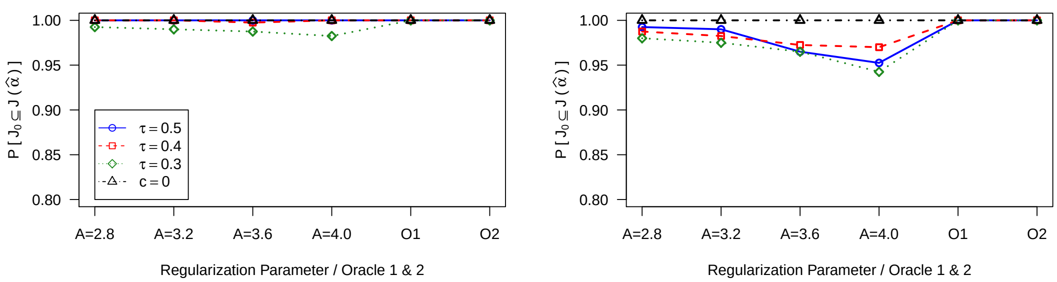
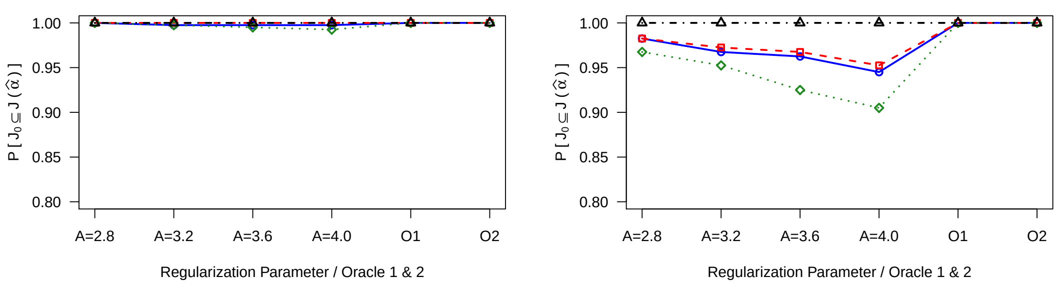


$M = 400$

FIGURE 5. Probability of Selecting True Parameters when $\rho = 0$ &$\rho = 0.3$



$M = 50$



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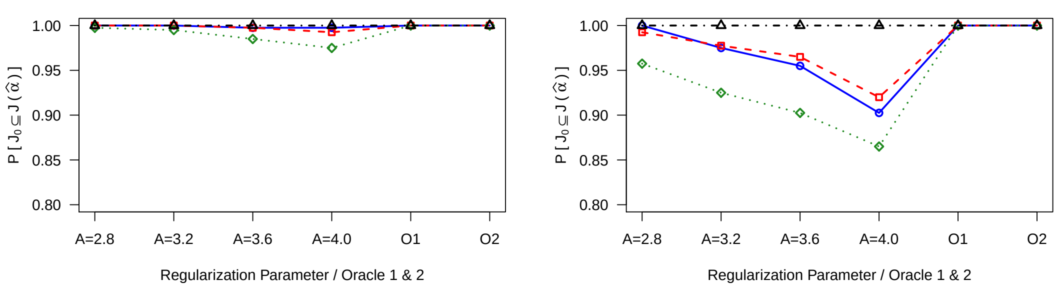

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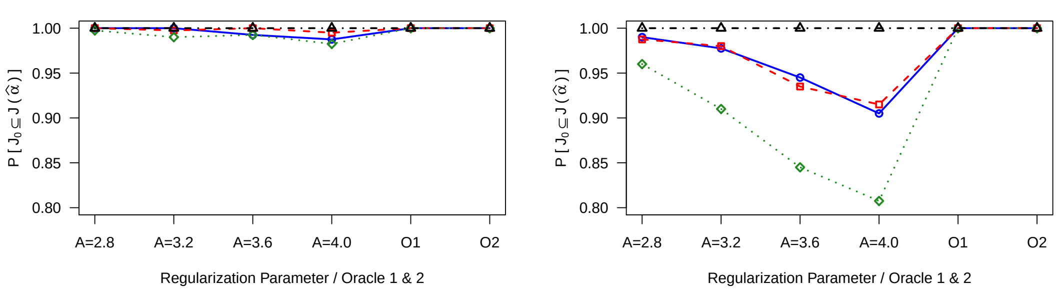

$M = 400$

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