ANISH AGARWAL, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA MUHAMMAD JEHANGIR AMJAD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA DEVAVRAT SHAH, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA DENNIS SHEN, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA

We propose an algorithm to impute and forecast a time series by transforming the observed time series into a matrix, utilizing matrix estimation to recover missing values and de-noise observed entries, and performing linear regression to make predictions. At the core of our analysis is a representation result, which states that for a large class of models, the transformed time series matrix is (approximately) low-rank. In effect, this generalizes the widely used Singular Spectrum Analysis (SSA) in the time series literature, and allows us to establish a rigorous link between time series analysis and matrix estimation. The key to establishing this link is constructing a Page matrix with non-overlapping entries rather than a Hankel matrix as is commonly done in the literature (e.g., SSA). This particular matrix structure allows us to provide finite sample analysis for imputation and prediction, and prove the asymptotic consistency of our method. Another salient feature of our algorithm is that it is model agnostic with respect to both the underlying time dynamics and the noise distribution in the observations. The noise agnostic property of our approach allows us to recover the latent states when only given access to noisy and partial observations a la a Hidden Markov Model; e.g., recovering the time-varying parameter of a Poisson process without knowing that the underlying process is Poisson. Furthermore, since our forecasting algorithm requires regression with noisy features, our approach suggests a matrix estimation based method-coupled with a novel, non-standard matrix estimation error metric-to solve the error-in-variable regression problem, which could be of interest in its own right. Through synthetic and real-world datasets, we demonstrate that our algorithm outperforms standard software packages (including R libraries) in the presence of missing data as well as high levels of noise.

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# **1 INTRODUCTION**

Time series data is of enormous interest across all domains of life: from health sciences and weather forecasts to retail and finance, time dependent data is ubiquitous. Despite the diversity of applications, time series problems are commonly confronted by the same two pervasive obstacles: interpolation and extrapolation in the presence of noisy and/or missing data. Specifically, we

Authors' addresses: Anish Agarwal, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 32-D666 Vassar St. Cambridge, MA, 02139, USA, anish90@mit.edu; Muhammad Jehangir Amjad, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 32-D560 Vassar St. Cambridge, MA, 02139, USA, mamjad@mit.edu; Devavrat Shah, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 32-D670 Vassar St. Cambridge, MA, 02139, USA, devavrat@mit.edu; Dennis Shen, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 32-D560 Vassar St. Cambridge, MA, 02139, USA, deshen@mit.edu.

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consider a discrete-time setting with  $t \in \mathbb{Z}$  representing the time index and  $f : \mathbb{Z} \to \mathbb{R}^1$  representing the latent discrete-time time series of interest. For each  $t \in [T] := \{1, ..., T\}$  and with probability  $p \in (0, 1]$ , we observe the random variable X(t) such that  $\mathbb{E}[X(t)] = f(t)$ . While the underlying mean signal f is of course strongly correlated, we assume the per-step noise is independent across t and has uniformly bounded variance. Under this setting, we have two objectives: (1) interpolation, i.e., estimate f(t) for all  $t \in [T]$ ; (2) extrapolation, i.e., forecast f(t) for t > T. Our interest is in designing a generic method for interpolation and extrapolation that is applicable to a large model class while being agnostic to the time dynamics and noise distribution.

We develop an algorithm based on matrix estimation, a topic which has received widespread attention, especially with the advent of large datasets. In the matrix estimation setting, there is a "parameter" matrix M of interest, and we observe a sparse, corrupted signal matrix X where  $\mathbb{E}[X] = M$ . The aim then is to recover the entries of M from noisy and partial observations given in X. For our purposes, the attractiveness of matrix estimation derives from the property that these methods are fairly model agnostic in terms of the structure of M and distribution of X given M. We utilize this key property to develop a model and noise agnostic time series imputation and prediction algorithm.

## 1.1 Overview of contributions.

**Time series as a matrix.** We transform the time series of observations X(t) for  $t \in [T]$  into what is known as the Page matrix (cf. [23]) by placing contiguous segments of size L > 1 (an algorithmic hyper-parameter) of the time series into non-overlapping columns; see Figure 1 for a caricature of this transformation.

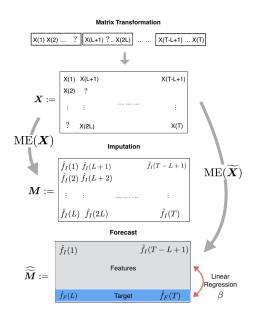
As the key contribution, we establish that—in expectation—this generated matrix is either exactly or *approximately* low-rank for a large class of models f. Specifically, f can be from the following families:

Linear Recurrent Formulae (LRF):  $f(t) = \sum_{g=1}^{G} \alpha_g f(t-g)$ . Compact Support:  $f(t) = g(\varphi(t))$ , where  $\varphi : \mathbb{Z} \to [0, 1]$  and  $g : [0, 1] \to \mathbb{R}$  is  $\mathcal{L}$ -Lipschitz<sup>2</sup>. Sublinear:  $f(t) = g(t), g : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}, \left| \frac{dg(s)}{ds} \right| \le Cs^{-\alpha}, \alpha, C > 0, \forall s \in \mathbb{R}.$ 

Over the past decade, the matrix estimation community has developed a plethora of methods to recover an exact or approximately low-rank matrix from its noisy, partial observations in a noise and model agnostic manner. Therefore, by applying such a matrix estimation method to this transformed matrix, we can recover the underlying mean matrix (and thus f(t) for  $t \in [T]$ ) accurately. In other words, we can interpolate and de-noise the original corrupted and incomplete time series without any knowledge of its time dynamics or noise distribution. Theorem 4.1 and Corollary 4.1 provide finite-sample analyses for this method and establish the consistency property of our algorithm, as long as the underlying f satisfies Property 4.1 and the matrix estimation method satisfies Property 2.1. In Section 5, we show that any additive mixture of the three function classes listed above satisfies Property 4.1. Effectively, Theorem 4.1 establishes a *statistical reduction* between time series imputation and matrix estimation. Our key contribution with regards to imputation lies in establishing that a large class of time series models (see Section 5) satisfy Property 4.1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>We denote  $\mathbb{R}$  as the field of real numbers and  $\mathbb{Z}$  as the integers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>We say  $g : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$  is  $\mathcal{L}$ -Lipschitz if there exists a  $\mathcal{L} \ge 0$  such that  $||g(x) - g(y)|| \le \mathcal{L} ||x - y||$  for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $|| \cdot ||$  denotes the standard Euclidean norm on  $\mathbb{R}$ .



**Fig. 1.** Caricature of imputation and forecast algorithms. We first transform the noisy time series X(t) (with ? indicating missing data) into a matrix, X, with non-overlapping entries. For imputation, we apply a matrix estimation (ME) algorithm to X to get estimates,  $\hat{f}_I(t)$ , for the de-noised and filled-in entries. For forecasting, we first apply ME to  $\tilde{X}$  (i.e. X not including the last row) and then fit a linear model,  $\beta$ , between with last row and all other rows, to get forecast estimates,  $\hat{f}_F(t)$ .

It is clear that for LRF, the mean transformed matrix is such that its last row can be expressed as a linear combination of the other rows. An important representation result we make, that generalizes this notion, is that an *approximate* LRF relationship holds for the other two model classes. Therefore, we can forecast f(t), say for t = T + 1, as follows: apply matrix estimation to the transformed data matrix as done in imputation; then, linearly regress the last row with respect to the other rows in the matrix; finally, compute the inner product of the learnt regression vector with the vector containing the previous L - 1 values that were estimated via the matrix estimation method. Theorem 4.2 and Corollary 4.2 imply that the mean-squared error of our predictions decays to zero provided the matrix estimation method satisfies Property 2.2 and the underlying model f satisfies Property 4.2. Similar to the case of imputation, establishing that Property 4.2 holds for the three function classes is novel (see Section 5).

**Noisy regression.** Our proposed forecasting algorithm performs regression with noisy and incomplete features. In the literature, this is known as error-in-variable regression. Recently, there has been exciting progress to understand this problem especially in the *high-dimensional* setting [11, 24, 39]. Our algorithm offers an alternate solution for the high-dimensional setting through the lens of matrix estimation: first, utilize matrix estimation to de-noise and impute the feature observations, and then perform least squares with the pre-processed feature matrix. We demonstrate that if the true, underlying feature matrix is (approximately) low-rank, then our algorithm provides a consistent estimator to the true signal (with finite sample guarantees). Our analysis further suggests the usage of a non-standard error metric, the max row sum error (MRSE) (see Property 2.2 for details).

**Class of applicable models.** As aforementioned, our algorithm enjoys strong performance guarantees provided the underlying mean matrix induced by the time series f satisfies certain structural properties, i.e., Properties 4.1 and 4.2. We argue that a broad class of commonly used time series models meet the requirements of the three function classes listed above.

LRFs include the following important family of time series -f which can be represented as a finite sum of products of exponentials  $(\exp\{\alpha t\})$ , harmonics  $(\cos(2\pi\omega t + \phi))$  and finite degree polynomials  $(P_m(t))$  [29], i.e.,  $f(t) = \sum_{g=1}^{G} \exp\{\alpha_g t\} \cos(2\pi\omega_g t + \phi_g) P_{m_g}(t)$ . Further, since stationary processes and  $L_2$  integrable functions are well approximated by a finite summation of harmonics (i.e., sin and cos), LRFs encompass a vitally important family of models. For this model, we show that indeed the structural properties required from the time series matrix for both imputation and forecasting are satisfied.

However, there are many important time series models that do not admit a finite order LRF representation. A few toy examples of such f include  $\cos(\sin(t))$ ,  $\exp\{\sin^2(t)\}$ ,  $\log t$ ,  $\sqrt{t}$ . Time series model with compact support, on the other hand, include models composed of a finite summation of periodic functions (e.g.,  $\cos(\sin(t))$ ,  $\exp\{\sin^2(t)\}$ ). Utilizing our low-rank representation result, we establish that models with compact support possess the desired structural properties. We further demonstrate that sub-linear functions, which include models that are composed of a finite summation of non (super-)linear functions (e.g.,  $\log t$ ,  $\sqrt{t}$ ), also possess the necessary structural properties. Importantly, we argue that the finite mixture of the above processes satisfy the necessary structural properties.

**Recovering the hidden state.** Our algorithm, being noise and time-dynamics agnostic, makes it relevant to recover the hidden state from its noisy, partial observations as in a Hidden Markov-like Model. For example, imagine having access to partial observations of a time-varying truncated Poisson process<sup>3</sup> without knowledge that the process is Poisson. By applying our imputation algorithm, we can recover time-varying parameters of this process accurately and, thus, the hidden states. If we were to apply an Expectation-Maximization (EM) like algorithm, it would require knowledge of the underlying model being Poisson, and even then theoretical guarantees are not clear for such an approach.

**Sample complexity.** Given the generality and model agnostic nature of our algorithm, it is expected that its sample complexity for a specific model class will be worse than model aware optimal algorithms. Interestingly, our finite sample analysis suggests that for the model classes stated above, the performance loss incurred due to this generality is minor. See Section 5.6 for a detailed analysis.

**Experiments.** Using synthetic and real-world datasets, our experiments establish that our method *outperforms existing standard software packages* (including R) for the tasks of interpolation and extrapolation in the presence of noisy and missing observations. When the data is generated synthetically, we "help" the existing software package by choosing the correct parametric model and algorithm while our algorithm remains oblivious to the underlying model; despite this disadvantage, our algorithm continues to *outperform* the standard packages with missing data.

Further, our empirical studies demonstrate that our imputation algorithm accurately recovers the hidden state for Hidden Markov-like Models, verifying our theoretical imputation guarantees (see Theorem 4.1). All experimental findings can be found in Section **??**.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Let *C* denote a positive, bounded constant, and *X* a Poisson random variable. We define the *truncated* Poisson random variable *Y* as  $Y = \min\{X, C\}$ .

## 1.2 Related works

There are two related topics: matrix estimation and time series analysis. Given the richness of both fields, we cannot do justice in providing a full overview. Instead, we provide a high-level summary of known results with references that provide details.

**Matrix estimation**. Matrix estimation is the problem of recovering a data matrix from an incomplete and noisy sampling of its entries. This has become of great interest due to its connection to recommendation systems (cf. [18–20, 25, 34–36, 38, 41]), social network analysis (cf. [1–3, 8, 32]), and graph learning (graphon estimation) (cf. [5, 14, 15, 54]). The key realization of this rich literature is that one can estimate the true underlying matrix from noisy, partial observations by simply taking a low-rank approximation of the observed data. We refer an interested reader to recent works such as [14, 19] and references there in.

**Time series analysis.** The question of time series analysis is potentially as old as civilization in some form. Few textbook style references include [16, 17, 30, 43]. At the highest level, time series modeling primarily involves viewing a given time series as a function indexed by time (integer or real values) and the goal of model learning is to identify this function from observations (over finite intervals). Given that the space of such functions is complex, the task is to utilize function form (i.e. "basis functions") so that for the given setting, the time series observation can fit a sparse representation. For example, in communication and signal processing, the harmonic or Fourier representation of a time series has been widely utilized, due to the fact that signals communicated are periodic in nature. The approximation of stationary processes via harmonics or ARIMA has made them a popular model class to learn stationary-like time series, with domain specific popular variations, such as 'Autoregressive Conditional Heteroskedasticity' (ARCH) in finance. To capture non-stationary or "trend-like" behavior, polynomial bases have been considered. There are rich connections to the theory of stochastic processes and information theory (cf. [22, 28, 42, 47]). Popular time series models with latent structure are Hidden Markov Models (HMM) in probabilistic form (cf. [10, 33] and Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN) in deterministic form, cf. [44]).

The question of learning time series models with missing data has received comparatively less attention. A common approach is to utilize HMMs or general State-Space-Models to learn with missing data (cf. [26, 48]). To the best of the authors' knowledge, most work within this literature is restricted to such class of models (cf. [27]). Recently, building on the literature in online learning, sequential approaches have been proposed to address prediction with missing data (cf. [9]).

**Time series and matrix estimation.** The use of a matrix structure for time series analysis has roughly two streams of related work: SSA for a single time series (as in our setting), and the use of multiple time series. We discuss relevant results for both of these topics.

*Singular Spectrum Analysis (SSA)* of time series has been around for some time. Generally, it assumes access to time series data that is not noisy and fully observed. The core steps of SSA for a given time series are as follows: (1) create a Hankel matrix from the time series data; (2) perform a Singular Value Decomposition (SVD) of it; (3) group the singular values based on user belief of the model that generated the process; (4) perform diagonal averaging for the "Hankelization" of the grouped rank-1 matrices outputted from the SVD to create a set of time series; (5) learn a linear model for each "Hankelized" time series for the purpose of forecasting.

At the highest level, SSA and our algorithm are cosmetically similar to one another. There are, however, several key differences: (i) *matrix transformation*—while SSA uses a Hankel matrix (with repeated entries), we transform the time series into a Page matrix (with non-overlapping structure); (ii) *matrix estimation*—SSA heavily relies on the SVD while we utilize general matrix estimation procedures (with SVD methods representing one specific procedural choice); (iii) *linear* 

*regression*—SSA assumes access to fully observed and noiseless data while we allow for corrupted and missing entries.

These differences are key in being able to derive theoretical results. For example, there have been numerous recent works that have attempted to apply matrix estimation methods to the Hankel matrix inspired by SSA for imputation, but these works do not provide any theoretical guarantees [45, 46, 49]. In effect, the Hankel structure creates strong correlation of noise in the matrix which is an impediment for proving theoretical results. Our use of the Page matrix overcomes this challenge and we argue that in doing so we still retain the underlying structure in the matrix. With regards to forecasting, the use of matrix estimation methods that provide guarantees with respect to MRSE rather than standard MSE is needed (which SSA provides no theoretical analysis for). While we do not explicitly discuss such methods in this work, such methods are explored in detail in [4]. With regards to imputation, SSA does not provide direction on how to group the singular values, which is instead done based on user belief of the generating process. However, due to recent advances in matrix estimation literature, there exist algorithms that provide data-driven methods to perform spectral thresholding (cf. [19]). Finally, it is worth nothing that to the best of authors' knowledge, the classical literature on SSA seem to be lacking finite sample analysis in the presence of noisy observations, which we do provide for our algorithm.

*Multiple time series viewed as matrix.* In a recent line of work [6, 7, 21, 40, 51, 53], multiple time series have been viewed as a matrix with the primary goal of imputing missing values or de-noising them. Some of these works also require prior model assumptions on the underlying time series. For example in [53], as stated in Section 1, the second step of their algorithm changes based on the user's belief in the model that generated the data along with the multiple time series requirement.

In summary, to the best of our knowledge, ours is the first work to give rigorous theoretical guarantees for a matrix estimation inspired algorithm for a *single, univariate* time series.

**Recovering the hidden state.** The question of recovering the hidden state from noisy observations is quite prevalent and a workhorse of classical systems theory. For example, most of the system identification literature focuses on recovering model parameters of a Hidden Markov Model. While Expectation-Maximization or Baum-Welch are the go-to approaches, there is limited theoretical understanding of it in generality (for example, see a recent work [52] for an overview) and knowledge of the underlying model is required. For instance, [13] proposed an optimization based, statistically consistent estimation method. However, the optimization "objective" encoded knowledge of the precise underlying model.

It is worth comparing our method with a recent work [6] where the authors attempt to recover the hidden time-varying parameter of a Poisson process via matrix estimation. Unlike our work, they require access to multiple time series. In a sense, our algorithm provides the solution to the same question *without* requiring access to any other time series!

#### 1.3 Notation.

For any positive integer *N*, let  $[N] = \{1, ..., N\}$ . For any vector  $v \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , we denote its Euclidean  $(\ell_2)$  norm by  $||v||_2$ , and define  $||v||_2^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n v_i^2$ . In general, the  $\ell_p$  norm for a vector v is defined as  $||v||_p = \left(\sum_{i=1}^n |v_i|^p\right)^{1/p}$ .

For a  $m \times n$  real-valued matrix  $\mathbf{A} = [A_{ij}]$ , its spectral/operator norm, denoted by  $||\mathbf{A}||$ , is defined as  $||\mathbf{A}||_2 = \max_{1 \le i \le k} |\sigma_i|$ , where  $k = \min\{m, n\}$  and  $\sigma_i$  are the singular values of  $\mathbf{A}$  (assumed to be in decreasing order and repeated by multiplicities). The Frobenius norm, also known as the Hilbert-Schmidt norm, is defined as  $||\mathbf{A}||_F^2 = \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n A_{ij}^2 = \sum_{i=1}^k \sigma_i^2$ . The max-norm, or sup-norm,

is defined as  $\|A\|_{\max} = \max_{i,j} |A_{ij}|$ . The Moore-Penrose pseudoinverse  $A^{\dagger}$  of A is defined as

$$\mathbf{A}^{\dagger} = \sum_{i=1}^{k} (1/\sigma_i) y_i x_i^T$$
, where  $\mathbf{A} = \sum_{i=1}^{k} \sigma_i x_i y_i^T$ ,

with  $x_i$  and  $y_i$  being the left and right singular vectors of A, respectively.

For a random variable, *X*, we define its sub-gaussian norm as

$$||X||_{\psi_2} = \inf \{ t > 0 : \mathbb{E} \exp(X^2/t^2) \le 2 \}.$$

If  $\|X\|_{\psi_2}$  is bounded by a constant, we call X a sub-gaussian random variable.

Let *f* and *g* be two functions defined on the same space. We say that f(x) = O(g(x)) if and only if there exists a positive real number *M* and a real number  $x_0$  such that for all  $x \ge x_0$ ,  $|f(x)| \le M|g(x)|$ . Similarly  $f(x) = \Omega(g(x))$  if there exists a positive real number *M* and a real number  $x_0$  such that for all  $x \ge x_0$ ,  $|f(x)| \le M|g(x)|$ 

#### 1.4 Organization

In Section 2, we list the desired properties needed from matrix estimation estimation methods to achieve our theoretical guarantees for imputation and forecasting. In Section 3, we formally describe the matrix estimation based algorithms we utilize for time series analysis. In Section 4, we identify the required properties of time series models f under which we can provide finite sample analysis for imputation and forecasting performance. In Section 5, we list out a broad set of time series models that satisfy the properties in Section 4 and we analyze the sample complexity of our algorithm for each of these models. Lastly, in Section ??, we corroborate our theoretical findings with detailed experiments.

#### 2 MATRIX ESTIMATION

## 2.1 Problem setup

Consider an  $m \times n$  matrix M of interest. Suppose we observe a random subset of the entries of a noisy signal matrix X, such that  $\mathbb{E}[X] = M$ . For each  $i \in [m]$  and  $j \in [n]$ , the (i, j)-th entry  $X_{ij}$  is a random variable that is observed with probability  $p \in (0, 1]$  and is missing with probability 1 - p, independently of all other entries. Given X, the goal is to produce an estimator  $\widehat{M}$  that is "close" to M. We use two metrics to quantify the estimation error:

(1) entry-wise mean-squared error,

$$MSE(\widehat{\boldsymbol{M}}, \boldsymbol{M}) := \mathbb{E}\Big[\frac{1}{mn}\sum_{i=1}^{m}\sum_{j=1}^{n}(\widehat{M}_{ij}-M_{ij})^{2}\Big];$$

(2) max row sum error,

$$\mathrm{MRSE}(\widehat{\boldsymbol{M}}, \boldsymbol{M}) \coloneqq \mathbb{E}\Big[\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \max_{i \in [m]} \Big(\sum_{j=1}^{n} (\widehat{M}_{ij} - M_{ij})^2\Big)^{1/2}\Big].$$

Here,  $\hat{M}_{ij}$  and  $M_{ij}$  denote the (i, j)-th elements of  $\widehat{M}$  and M, respectively. We highlight that the MRSE is a non-standard matrix estimation error metric, but we note that it is a stronger notion than the RMSE $(\widehat{M}, M)^4$ ; in particular, it is easily seen that MRSE $(\widehat{M}, M) \ge \text{RMSE}(\widehat{M}, M)$ . Hence, for any results we prove in Section 4 regarding the MRSE, any known lower bounds for RMSE

<sup>4</sup>RMSE(
$$\widehat{\boldsymbol{M}}, \boldsymbol{M}$$
) :=  $\mathbb{E}\left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{mn}}\left(\sum_{i=1}^{m}\sum_{j=1}^{n}(\hat{M}_{ij}-M_{ij})^{2}\right)^{1/2}\right]$ .

of matrix estimation algorithms immediately hold for our results. We now give a definition of a matrix estimation algorithm, which will be used in the following sections.

**Definition 2.1.** A matrix estimation algorithm, denoted as  $ME : \mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \to \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ , takes as input a noisy matrix X and outputs an estimator  $\widehat{M}$ .

## 2.2 Required properties of matrix estimation algorithms

As aforementioned, our algorithm (Section 3.3) utilizes matrix estimation as a pivotal "blackbox" subroutine, which enables accurate imputation and prediction in a model and noise agnostic setting. Over the past decade, the field of matrix estimation has spurred tremendous theoretical and empirical research interest, leading to the emergence of a myriad of algorithms including spectral, convex optimization, and nearest neighbor based approaches. Consequently, as the field continues to advance, our algorithm will continue to improve in parallel. We now state the properties needed of a matrix estimation algorithm ME( $\cdot$ ) to achieve our theoretical guarantees (formalized through Theorems 4.1 and 4.2); refer to Section 1.3 for matrix norm definitions.

**Property 2.1.** Let ME satisfy the following: Define  $Y = [Y_{ij}]$  where  $Y_{ij} = X_{ij}$  if  $X_{ij}$  is observed, and  $Y_{ij} = 0$  otherwise. Then, for all  $p \ge \max(m, n)^{-1+\zeta}$  for some  $\zeta \in (0, 1]$ , the produced estimator  $\widehat{M} = ME(X)$  satisfies

$$\left\|\hat{p}\widehat{\boldsymbol{M}}-p\boldsymbol{M}\right\|_{F}^{2}\leq\frac{1}{mn}C_{1}\left\|\boldsymbol{Y}-p\boldsymbol{M}\right\|\left\|p\boldsymbol{M}\right\|_{*}.$$

Here,  $\hat{p}^{5}$  denotes the proportion of observed entries in *X* and *C*<sub>1</sub> is a universal constant.

We argue the two quantities in Property 2.1, ||Y - pM|| and  $||M||_*$ , are natural. ||Y - pM|| quantifies the amount of noise corruption on the underlying signal matrix M; for many settings, this norm concentrates well (e.g. a matrix with independent zero-mean sub-gaussian entries scales as  $\sqrt{m} + \sqrt{n}$ with high probability [50]).  $||M||_*$  quantifies the inherent model complexity of the latent signal matrix; this norm is well behaved for an array of situations, including low-rank and Lipschitz matrices (e.g. for low-rank matrices,  $||M||_*$  scales as  $\sqrt{rmn}$  where r is the rank of the matrix, see [19] for bounds on  $||M||_*$  under various settings). We note the universal singular value thresholding algorithm proposed in [19] is one such algorithm that satisfies Property 2.1. We provide more intuition for why we choose Property 2.1 for our matrix estimation methods in Section 4.2, where we bound the imputation error.

**Property 2.2.** Let ME satisfy the following: For all  $p \ge p^*(m, n)$ , the produced estimator  $\widehat{M} = ME(X)$  satisfies

$$MRSE(\widehat{M}, M) \leq \delta_3(m, n)$$

where  $\lim_{m,n\to\infty} \delta_3(m,n) = 0$ .

Property 2.2 requires the normalized max row sum error to decay to zero as we collect more data. While spectral thresholding and convex optimization methods accurately bound the average mean-squared error, minimizing norms akin to the normalized max row sum error require matrix estimation methods to utilize "local" information, e.g., nearest neighbor type methods. For instance, [54] satisfies Property 2.2 for generic latent variable models (which include low-rank models) with  $p^*(m, n) = 1$ ; [36] also satisfies Property 2.2 for  $p^*(m, n) \gg \min(m, n)^{-1/2}$ ; [14] establishes this for low-rank models as long as  $p^*(m, n) \gg \min(m, n)^{-1}$ .

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Precisely, we define  $\hat{p} = \max\{\frac{1}{mn}\sum_{i=1}^{m}\sum_{j=1}^{n}\mathbb{1}_{X_{ij} \text{ observed}}, \frac{1}{mn}\}$ .

## 3 ALGORITHM

## 3.1 Notations and definitions.

Recall that X(t) denotes the observation at time  $t \in [T]$  where  $\mathbb{E}[X(t)] = f(t)$ . We shall use the notation  $X[s:t] = [X(s), \ldots, X(t)]$  for any  $s \le t$ . Furthermore, we define L > 1 to be an algorithmic hyperparameter and  $N = \lfloor T/L \rfloor - 1$ . For any  $L \times N$  matrix A, let  $A_L = [A_{Lj}]_{j \le N}$  represent the the last row of A. Moreover, let  $\widetilde{A} = [A_{ij}]_{i < L, j \le N}$  denote the  $(L - 1) \times N$  submatrix obtained by removing the last row of A.

### 3.2 Viewing a univariate time series as a matrix.

We begin by introducing the crucial step of transforming a single, univariate time series into the corresponding Page matrix. Given time series data X[1:T], we construct L different  $L \times N$  matrices  $X^{(k)}$ , defined as

$$X^{(k)} = [X_{ij}^{(k)}] = [X(i + (j-1)L + (k-1))]_{i \le L, j \le N},$$

where  $k \in [L]^{6}$ . In words,  $X^{(k)}$  is obtained by dividing the time series into N non-overlapping contiguous intervals each of length L, thus constructing N columns; for  $k \in [L]$ ,  $X^{(k)}$  is the k-th shifted version with starting value X(k). For the purpose of imputation, we shall only utilize  $X^{(1)}$ . In the case of forecasting, however, we shall utilize  $X^{(k)}$  for all  $k \in [L]$ . We define  $M^{(k)}$  analogously to  $X^{(k)}$  using f(t) instead of X(t).

# 3.3 Algorithm description.

We will now describe the imputation and forecast algorithms separately (see Figure 1).

**Imputation.** Due to the matrix representation  $X^{(1)}$  of the time series, the tasks of imputing missing values and de-noising observed values translates to that of matrix estimation.

- (1) Transform the data X[1:T] into the matrix  $X^{(1)}$  via the method outlined in Subsection 3.2.
- (2) Apply a matrix estimation method (as in Definition 2.1) to produce  $\widehat{M}^{(1)} = ME(X^{(1)})$ .
- (3) Produce estimate:  $\widehat{f}_{I}(i + (j 1)L) := \widehat{M}_{ij}^{(1)}$  for  $i \in [L]$  and  $j \in [N]$ .

**Forecast.** In order to forecast future values, we first de-noise and impute via the procedure outlined above, and then learn a linear relationship between the the last row and the remaining rows through linear regression.

(1) For  $k \in [L]$ , apply the imputation algorithm to produce  $\widetilde{\widetilde{M}}^{(n)}$  from  $\widetilde{X}^{(k)}$  (recall from Section 3.2 that  $\widetilde{A}$  refers to the submatrix of the first L - 1 rows of A).

(2) For 
$$k \in [L]$$
, define  $\hat{\beta}^{(k)} := \arg \min_{v \in \mathbb{R}^{L-1}} \left\| X_L^{(k)} - (\widetilde{\widetilde{\widetilde{M}}}^{(k)})^T v \right\|_{L^2}^2$ 

(3) Produce the estimate at time t > T as follows: (i) Let  $v_t := [X(t - L + 1) : X(t - 1)]$  and  $k = (t \mod L) + 1$ . (ii) Let  $v_t^{\text{proj}} := \arg\min_{v \in \mathbb{R}^{L-1}} \left\| v_t - (\widehat{\widetilde{M}}^{(k)})^T v \right\|_2^2$ .

(iii) Produce estimate:  $\hat{f}_F(t) := (v_t^{\text{proj}})^T \cdot \hat{\beta}^{(k)}$ .

Why  $X^{(k)}$  is necessary for forecasting: For imputation, we are attempting to de-noise all observations made up to time *T*; hence, it suffices to only use  $X^{(1)}$  since it contains all of the relevant information. However, in the case of making predictions, we are only creating an estimator for the last row. If we take  $X^{(1)}$  for instance, then it is not hard to see that our prediction algorithm only

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>Technically to define each  $X^{(k)}$ , we need access to T' = T + L time steps of data. To reduce notational overload and since it has no bearing on our theoretical analysis, we let T' = T.

produces estimates for X(L), X(2L), X(3L), ..., and so on. Therefore, we must repeat this procedure L times in order to produce an estimate for each entry.

**Choosing the number of rows** *L*: Theorems 4.1 and 4.2 (and the associated corollaries) suggest *L* should be as large as possible, with the requirement L = o(N). Thus, it suffices to let  $N = L^{1+\delta}$  for any  $\delta > 0$ , e.g.,  $N = L^2 = T^{2/3}$ .

# 4 MAIN RESULTS

## 4.1 Properties.

We now introduce the required properties for the matrices  $X^{(k)}$  and  $M^{(k)}$  to identify the time series models f for which our algorithm provides an effective method for imputation and prediction. Under these properties, we state Theorems 4.1 and 4.2, which establish the efficacy of our algorithm. The proofs of these theorems can be found in Appendices B and C, respectively. In Section 5, we argue these properties are satisfied for a large class of time series models.

## **Property 4.1.** $(r, \delta_1)$ -imputable

Let matrices  $X^{(1)}$  and  $M^{(1)}$  satisfy the following:

**A.** For each  $i \in [L]$  and  $j \in [N]$ :

1.  $X_{ij}^{(1)}$  are independent sub-gaussian random variables<sup>7</sup> satisfying  $\mathbb{E}[X_{ij}^{(1)}] = M_{ij}^{(1)}$  and  $\|X_{ij}^{(1)}\|_{\psi_2} \leq \sigma$ .

2.  $X_{ii}^{(1)}$  is observed with probability  $p \in (0, 1]$ , independent of other entries.

**B.** There exists a matrix  $M_{(r)}$  of rank r such that for  $\delta_1 \ge 0$ ,

$$\left\|\boldsymbol{M}^{(1)}-\boldsymbol{M}_{(r)}\right\|_{\max}\leq\delta_{1}.$$

# **Property 4.2.** ( $C_{\beta}, \delta_2$ )-forecastable

For all  $k \in [L]$ , let matrices  $X^{(k)}$  and  $M^{(k)}$  satisfy the following:

- **A.** For each  $i \in [L]$  and  $j \in [N]$ :
- 1.  $X_{ij}^{(k)} = M_{ij}^{(k)} + \epsilon_{ij}$ , where  $\epsilon_{ij}$  are independent sub-Gaussian random variables satisfying  $\mathbb{E}[\epsilon_{ij}] = 0$ and  $Var(\epsilon_{ij}) \le \sigma^2$ .
- 2.  $X_{ii}^{(k)}$  is observed with probability  $p \in (0, 1]$ , independent of other entries.
- **B.** There exists a  $\beta^{*(k)} \in \mathbb{R}^{L-1}$  with  $\|\beta^{*(k)}\|_1 \leq C_\beta$  for some constant  $C_\beta > 0$  and  $\delta_2 \geq 0$  such that

$$\left\|M_L^{(k)} - (\widetilde{\boldsymbol{M}}^{(k)})^T \beta^{*(k)}\right\|_2 \le \delta_2.$$

For forecasting, we make the more restrictive additive noise assumption since we focus on linear forecasting methods. Such methods generally require additive noise models. If one can construct linear forecasters under less restrictive assumptions, then we should be able to lift the analysis of such a forecaster to our setting in a straightforward way.

## 4.2 Imputation.

The imputation algorithm produces  $\hat{f}_I = [\hat{f}_I(t)]_{t=1:T}$  as the estimate for the underlying time series  $f = [f(t)]_{t=1:T}$ . We measure the imputation error through the relative mean-squared error:

$$MSE(\hat{f}_{I}, f) := \frac{\mathbb{E} \left\| \hat{f}_{I} - f \right\|_{2}^{2}}{\|f\|_{2}^{2}}.$$
(1)

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>Recall that this condition only requires the per-step noise to be independent; the underlying mean time series f remains highly correlated.

Recall from the imputation algorithm in Section 3.3 that  $M^{(1)}$  is the Page matrix corresponding to f and  $\widehat{M}^{(1)}$  is the estimate ME produces; i.e.  $\widehat{M}^{(1)} = ME(X^{(1)})$ . It is then easy to see that for any matrix estimation method we have

$$MSE(\hat{f}_{I}, f) = \frac{\mathbb{E} \left\| \widehat{M}^{(1)} - M^{(1)} \right\|_{F}^{2}}{\left\| M^{(1)} \right\|_{F}^{2}}.$$
 (2)

Thus, we can immediately translate the (un-normalized) MSE of *any* matrix estimation method to the imputation error MSE( $\hat{f}_I$ , f) of the corresponding time series.

However to highlight how the rank and the low-rank approximation error  $\delta_1$  of the underlying mean matrix  $M^{(1)}$  (induced by f) affect the error bound, we rely on Property 2.1, which make these dependencies clear through the quantity  $\|pM\|_*$ . We thus have the following theorem then establishes a precise link between time series imputation and matrix estimation methods.

**Theorem 4.1.** Assume Property 4.1 holds and ME satisfies Property 2.1. Then for some  $C_1, C_2, C_3, c_4 > 0$ ,

$$MSE(\hat{f}_{I}, f) \leq \frac{C_{1}\sigma}{p} \left( \frac{LN\delta_{1}}{\|f\|_{2}^{2}} + \frac{\sqrt{rLN}\delta_{1}}{\|f\|_{2}^{2}} + \frac{\sqrt{rN}}{\|f\|_{2}} \right) + \frac{C_{2}(1-p)}{pLN} + C_{3}e^{-c_{4}N}.$$
(3)

Theorem 4.1 states that any matrix estimation subroutine ME that satisfies Property 2.1 will accurately filter noisy observations and recover missing values. This is achieved provided that the rank of  $M_{(r)}$  and our low-rank approximation error  $\delta_1$  are not too large. Note that knowledge of r is not required apriori for many standard matrix estimation algorithms. For instance, [19] does not utilize the rank of M in its estimation procedure; instead, it performs spectral thresholding of the observed data matrix in an adaptive, data-driven manner. Theorem 4.1 implies the following consistency property of  $\hat{f}_I$ .

**Corollary 4.1.** Let the conditions for Theorem 4.1 hold. Let  $||f||_2^2 = \Omega(T)^8$ . Further, suppose f is  $(C_5L^{1-\epsilon_2}, C_6L^{-\epsilon_1})$ -imputable for some  $\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2 \in (0, 1)$  and  $C_5, C_6 > 0$ . Then for  $p \gg L^{-\min(2\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2)}$ 

$$\lim_{T\to\infty} \mathrm{MSE}(\hat{f}_I, f) = 0.$$

We note that Theorem 4.1 follows in a straightforward manner from Property 2.1 and standard results from random matrix theory [50]. However, we again highlight that our key contribution lies in establishing that the conditions of Corollary 4.1 hold for a large class of time series models (Section 5).

## 4.3 Forecast.

Recall  $\hat{f}_F(t)$  can only utilize information till time t - 1. For all  $k \in [L]$ , our forecasting algorithm learns  $\hat{\beta}^{(k)}$  with the previous L - 1 time steps. We measure the forecasting error through:

$$MSE(\hat{f}_{F}, f) := \frac{1}{T - L + 1} \mathbb{E} \left\| \hat{f}_{F} - f \right\|_{2}^{2}.$$
(4)

Here,  $\hat{f}_F = [\hat{f}_F(t)]_{t=L:T}$  denotes the vector of forecasted values. The following result relies on a novel analysis of how applying a matrix estimation pre-processing step affects the prediction error of error-in-variable regression problems (in particular, it requires analyzing a non-standard error metric, the MRSE).

<sup>8</sup>Note the condition  $||f||_2^2 = \Omega(T)$  is easily satisfied for any time series f by adding a constant shift to every observation f(t).

**Theorem 4.2.** Assume Property 4.2 holds and ME satisfies Property 2.2, with  $p \ge p^*(L, N)^9$ . Let  $\hat{r} := \max_{k \in [L]} \operatorname{rank}(\widetilde{M}^{(k)})$ . Then,

$$MSE(\hat{f}_F, f) \le \frac{1}{N-1} \Big( (\delta_2 + \sqrt{C_\beta N} \delta_3)^2 + 2\sigma^2 \hat{r} \Big).$$

Note that  $\hat{r}$  is trivially bounded by L = o(N) by assumption (see Section 3). If the underlying matrix M is low-rank, then ME algorithms such as the USVT algorithm (cf. [19]) will output an estimator with a small  $\hat{r}$ . However, since our bound holds for general ME methods, we explicitly state the dependence on  $\hat{r}$ .

In essence, Theorem 4.2 states that any matrix estimation subroutine ME that satisfies Property 2.2 will produce accurate forecasts from noisy, missing data. This is achieved provided the linear model approximation error  $\delta_2$  is not too large (recall  $\delta_3 = o(1)$  by Property 2.2). Additionally, Theorem 4.2 implies the following consistency property of  $\hat{f}_F$ .

**Corollary 4.2.** Let the conditions for Theorem 4.2 hold. Suppose f is  $(C_1, C_2\sqrt{N}L^{-\epsilon_1})$ -forecastable for any  $\epsilon_1, C_1, C_2 > 0$  and  $N = L^{1+\delta}$  for any  $\delta > 0$ . Then for  $p \ge p^*(L, N)$ , such that  $\lim_{L, N\to\infty} \delta_3(L, N) = 0$  for  $p^*(L, N)$ ,

$$\lim_{T\to\infty} \mathrm{MSE}(\hat{f}_F, f) = 0.$$

Similar to the case of imputation, a large contribution of this work is in establishing that the conditions of Corollary 4.2 hold for a large class of time series models (Section 5). Effectively, Corollary 4.2 demonstrates that learning a simple linear relationship among the singular vectors of the de-noised matrix is sufficient to drive the empirical error to zero for a broad class of time series models. The simplicity of this linear method suggests that our estimator will have low generalization error, but we leave that as future work. We should also note that for auto-regressive processes (i.e.,  $f(t) = \sum_{g=1}^{G} \alpha_g f(t-1) + \epsilon(t)$  where  $\epsilon(t)$  is mean-zero noise), previous works (e.g., [37]) have already shown that simple linear forecasters are consistent. For such models it is easy to see that the underling mean matrix  $M^{(k)}$  is not (approximately) low-rank and so it is not necessary to do the pre-processing matrix estimation step as we do in Section 3.3.

## 5 FAMILY OF TIME SERIES THAT FIT OUR FRAMEWORK

In this section, we list out a broad set of time series models that satisfy Properties 4.1 and 4.2, which are required for the results stated in Section 4. The proofs of these results can be found in Appendix D. To that end, we shall repeatedly use the following model types for our observations.

*Model Type 1.* For any  $t \in \mathbb{Z}$ , let X(t) be independent sub-gaussian random variables such that  $\mathbb{E}[X(t)] = f(t)$  and  $||X(t)||_{\psi_2} \leq \sigma$ . Note the noise on f(t) is generic (e.g. non-additive).

*Model Type 2.* For  $t \in \mathbb{Z}$ , let  $X(t) = f(t) + \epsilon(t)$ , where  $\epsilon(t)$  are sub-gaussian independent random variables with  $\mathbb{E}[\epsilon(t)] = 0$  and  $\operatorname{Var}(\epsilon(t)) \leq \sigma^2$ .

#### 5.1 Linear Recurrent Functions (LRFs).

For  $t \in \mathbb{Z}$ , let

$$f^{\text{LRF}}(t) = \sum_{g=1}^{G} \alpha_g f(t-g).$$
(5)

#### **Proposition 5.1.**

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>Refer to Section 2.2 for lower bounds on  $p^*(L, N)$  for various ME algorithms. The dependence of the bound on p is implicitly captured in  $\delta_3$ .

- (i) Under Model Type 1,  $f^{\text{LRF}}$  satisfies Property 4.1 with  $\delta_1 = 0$ ,  $r = G^{10}$ .
- (ii) Under Model Type 2,  $f^{LRF}$  satisfies Property 4.2 with  $\delta_2 = 0$  and  $C_\beta = CG$  for  $k \in [L]$  where C is an absolute constant.

By Proposition 5.1, Theorems 4.1 and 4.2 give the following corollaries:

**Corollary 5.1.** Under Model Type 1, let the conditions of Theorem 4.1 hold. Let  $N = L^{1+\delta}$  for any  $\delta > 0$ . Then for some C > 0, if

$$T \ge C \cdot \left(\frac{G}{\delta_{error}^2}\right)^{2+\delta},$$

we have  $MSE(\hat{f}_I, f^{LRF}) \leq \delta_{error}$ .

**Corollary 5.2.** Under Model Type 2, let the conditions of Theorem 4.2 hold. Let  $N = L^{1+\delta}$  for any  $\delta > 0$ . Then for some C > 0, if

$$T > C \cdot \left(\frac{\sigma^2}{\delta_{error} - G\delta_3^2}\right)^{\frac{2+\delta}{\delta}}$$

we have  $MSE(\hat{f}_F, f^{LRF}) \leq \delta_{error}$ .

We now provide the rank, *G*, of an important class of time series methods, a finite sum of the product of polynomials, harmonics and exponential time series functions.

**Proposition 5.2.** Let  $P_{m_a}$  be a polynomial of degree  $m_a$ . Then,

$$f(t) = \sum_{a=1}^{A} \exp\{\alpha_a t\} \cos(2\pi\omega_a t + \phi_a) P_{m_a}(t)$$

admits a representation as in (5). Further the order G of f(t) is independent of T, the number of observations, and is bounded by

$$G \le A(m_{\max} + 1)(m_{\max} + 2)$$

where  $m_{\max} = \max_{a \in A} m_a$ .

#### 5.2 Functions with Compact Support.

For  $t \in \mathbb{Z}$ , let

$$f^{\text{Compact}}(t) = g(\varphi(t)) \tag{6}$$

where  $\varphi : \mathbb{Z} \to [0, 1]$  and  $g : [0, 1] \to \mathbb{R}$  is  $\mathcal{L}$ -Lipschitz.

#### **Proposition 5.3.** For any $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$ ,

- (i) Under Model Type 1,  $f^{\text{Compact}}$  satisfies Property 4.1 with  $\delta_1 = \frac{\mathcal{L}}{L^{\epsilon}}$ ,  $r = L^{\epsilon}$ .
- (ii) Under Model Type 2,  $f^{\text{Compact}}$  satisfies Property 4.2 with  $\delta_2 = 2\delta_1 \sqrt{N}$  and  $C_\beta = 1$  for  $k \in [L]$ .

Using Proposition 5.3, Theorems 4.1 and 4.2 immediately lead to the following corollaries.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup>To see this, take G = 2 for example. WLOG, let us consider the first column. Then f(3) = f(2) + f(1), which in turn gives f(4) = f(3) + f(2) = 2f(2) + f(1) and f(5) = f(4) + f(3) = 3f(2) + 2f(1). By induction, it is not hard to see that this holds more generally for any finite *G*.

**Corollary 5.3.** Under Model Type 1, let the conditions of Theorem 4.1 hold. Let  $N = L^{1+\delta}$  for any  $\delta > 0$ . Then for some C > 0 and any  $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$ , if

$$T \ge C \cdot \left( \left( \frac{1}{\delta_{error}} \right)^{\frac{2}{1-\epsilon}} + \left( \frac{\mathcal{L}}{\delta_{error}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\epsilon}} \right)^{2+\delta},$$

we have  $MSE(\hat{f}_I, f^{LRF}) \leq \delta_{error}$ .

**Corollary 5.4.** Under Model Type 2, let the conditions of Theorem 4.2 hold. Let  $N = L^{1+\delta}$  for any  $\delta > 0$ . Then for some C > 0 and any  $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$ , if

$$T \ge C \cdot \left(\frac{\sigma^2}{\delta_{error} - (\frac{\mathcal{L}}{L^{\epsilon}} + \delta_3)^2}\right)^{\frac{2+\delta}{\delta}}$$

we have  $MSE(\hat{f}_F, f^{LRF}) \leq \delta_{error}$ .

As the following proposition makes precise, any Lipschitz function of a periodic time series, falls into this family.

#### **Proposition 5.4.**

$$f^{\text{Harmonic}}(t) = \sum_{g=1}^{G} \varphi_g \Big( \sin \Big( 2\pi \omega_g t + \phi \Big) \Big)$$

where  $\varphi_g$  is  $\mathcal{L}_g$ -Lipschitz and  $\omega_g$  is rational, admits a representation as in (6). Let  $x_{lcm}$  denote the fundamental period. <sup>11</sup> Then the Lipschitz constant,  $\mathcal{L}$ , of  $f^{\text{Harmonic}}(t)$  is bounded by

$$\mathcal{L} \leq 2\pi \cdot \max_{g \in G} (\mathcal{L}_g) \cdot \max_{g \in G} (\omega_g) \cdot x_{lcm}.$$

# 5.3 Finite sum of Sublinear Trends.

Consider  $f^{\text{Trend}}(t)$  such that

$$\left|\frac{df^{Trend}(t)}{dt}\right| \le C_* t^{-\alpha} \tag{7}$$

for some  $\alpha$ ,  $C_* > 0$ .

**Proposition 5.5.** Let  $\left|\frac{df^{\text{Trend}}(t)}{dt}\right| \leq C_* t^{-\alpha}$  for some  $\alpha, C_* > 0$ . Then for any  $\epsilon \in (0, \alpha)$ ,

- (i) Under Model Type 1,  $f^{\text{Trend}}$  satisfies Property 4.1 with  $\delta_1 = \frac{C_*}{L^{\epsilon/2}}, r = L^{\epsilon/\alpha} + \frac{L-L^{\epsilon/\alpha}}{L^{\epsilon/2}}$ .
- (ii) Under Model Type 2,  $f^{\text{Trend}}$  satisfies Property 4.2 with  $\delta_2 = 2\delta_1 \sqrt{N}$  and  $C_\beta = 1$  for  $k \in [L]$ .

By Proposition 5.5 and Theorems 4.1 and 4.2, we immediately have the following corollaries on the finite sample performance guarantees of our estimators.

**Corollary 5.5.** Under Model Type 1, let the conditions of Theorem 4.1 hold. Let  $N = L^{1+\delta}$  for any  $\delta > 0$ . Then for some C > 0, if

$$T \ge C \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\delta_{error}^{2(\alpha+1)/\alpha}}\right)^{2+\delta},$$

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup>The "fundamental period",  $x_{lcm}$ , of  $\{\omega_1, \ldots, \omega_G\}$  is the smallest value such that  $x_{lcm}/(q_a/p_a)$  is an integer for all  $a \in A$ . Let  $S \equiv \{q_a/p_a : g \in G\}$  and let  $p_{lcm}$  be the least common multiple (LCM) of  $\{p_1, \ldots, p_G\}$ . Rewriting S as  $\{\frac{q_1 * p_{lcm}/p_1}{p_{lcm}}, \ldots, \frac{q_G * p_{lcm}/p_G}{p_{lcm}}\}$ , we have the set of numerators,  $\{q_1 * p_{lcm}/p_1, \ldots, q_G * p_{lcm}/p_A\}$  are all integers and we define their LCM as  $d_{lcm}$ . It is easy to verify that  $x_{lcm} = d_{lcm}/p_{lcm}$  is indeed a fundamental period. As an example, consider  $x = \{n, n/2, n/3, \ldots, n/n - 1\}$ , in which case the above computation results in  $x_{lcm} = n$ .

we have  $MSE(\hat{f}_I, f^{LRF}) \leq \delta_{error}$ .

**Corollary 5.6.** Under Model Type 2, let the conditions of Theorem 4.2 hold. Let  $N = L^{1+\delta}$  for any  $\delta > 0$ . Then for some C > 0 and for any  $\epsilon \in (0, \alpha)$ , if

$$T \ge C \cdot \left(\frac{\sigma^2}{\delta_{error} - (L^{-\epsilon/2} + \delta_3)^2}\right)^{\frac{2+O}{\delta}},$$

we have  $MSE(\hat{f}_F, f^{LRF}) \leq \delta_{error}$ .

**Proposition 5.6.** *For*  $t \in \mathbb{Z}$  *with*  $\alpha_b < 1$  *for*  $b \in [B]$ *,* 

$$f^{Trend}(t) = \sum_{b=1}^{B} \gamma_b t^{\alpha_b} + \sum_{q=1}^{Q} \log(\gamma_q t)$$

admits a representation as in (7).

## 5.4 Additive Mixture of Dynamics.

We now show that the imputation results hold even when we consider an additive mixture of any of the models described above. For  $t \in \mathbb{Z}$ , let

$$f^{\text{Mixture}}(t) = \sum_{q=1}^{Q} \rho_q f_q(t).$$

Here, each  $f_q$  is such that under *Model Type 1* with  $\mathbb{E}[X(t)] = f_q(t)$ , Property 4.1 is satisfied with  $\delta_1 = \delta_q$  and  $r = r_q$  for  $q \in [Q]$ .

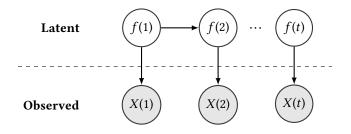
**Proposition 5.7.** Under Model Type 1,  $f^{\text{Mixture}}$  satisfies Property 4.1 with  $\delta_1 = \sum_{q=1}^{Q} \rho_q \delta_q$  and  $r = \sum_{q=1}^{Q} r_q$ .

Proposition 5.7 and Corollary 4.1 imply the following.

**Corollary 5.7.** Under Model Type 1, let the conditions of Theorem 4.1 hold. For each  $q \in [Q]$ , let  $\delta_q \leq C'_q L^{-\epsilon_q}$  and  $r_q = o(L)$  for some  $\epsilon_q, C'_q > 0$ . Then,  $\lim_{T \to \infty} \text{MSE}(\hat{f}_I, f^{\text{Mixture}}) = 0$ .

In summary, Corollaries 5.1, 5.3, 5.5 and 5.7 imply that for any additive mixture of time series dynamics coming from  $f^{\text{LRF}}$ ,  $f^{\text{Compact}}$  and  $f^{\text{Trend}}$ , the algorithm in Section 3.2 produces a consistent estimator for an appropriate choice of L.

## 5.5 Hidden State.



**Fig. 2.** Hidden State Model with  $\mathbb{E}[X(t)] = f(t)$  and  $||X(t)||_{\psi_2} \leq \sigma$ .

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A common problem of interest is to uncover the hidden dynamics of latent variables given noisy observations. For example, consider the problem of estimating the true weekly demand rate of umbrellas at a retail store given its weekly sales of umbrellas. This can be mathematically described as uncovering the underlying parameters of a time varying truncated Poisson process <sup>12</sup> whose samples are the weekly sales reports, (cf. [6]). In general, previous methods to learn the hidden states either require multiple time series as inputs or require that the underlying noise model is known (refer to Section 1.2 for a detailed overview).

In contrast, by viewing f(t) as the time-varying latent variables (see Figure 2), we are well equipped to handle more generic noise distributions and complicated hidden dynamics. Specifically, our imputation and forecast algorithms can uncover the latent dynamics if: (i) per-step noise is subgaussian (additive noise is needed for forecasting); (ii)  $\mathbb{E}[X(t)] = f(t)$ . Moreover, our algorithm is model and noise agnostic, robust to missing entries, and comes with strong theoretical consistency guarantees (Theorems 4.1 and 4.2). Given these findings, our approach is likely to become a useful gadget in the toolkit for dealing with scenarios pertinent to uncovering latent states a la Hidden Markov-like models. We corroborate our findings through experiments in Section ??.

# 5.6 Sample complexity.

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As discussed, our algorithm operates for a large class of models – it is not tailored for a specific model class (e.g. sum of harmonics). In particular, for a variety of model classes, our algorithm provides consistent estimation for imputation while the forecasting MSE scales with the quality of the matrix estimation algorithm (i.e.  $\delta_3$ ). Naturally, it is expected that to achieve accurate performance, the number of samples (i.e. *T*) required will scale relatively poorly compared to model specific optimal algorithms. Corollaries 5.1 to 5.6 provide finite sample analysis, which quantify this "performance loss", which indicate that this performance loss is minor. As an example, consider imputation for any periodic time series with periods between [*n*]. By proposition 5.2, it is easy to see that the order, *G*, of such a time series is 2*n*. Thus corollary 5.1 indicates that the MSE goes to 0 with  $T \sim n^{2+\delta}$  for any  $\delta > 0$  as  $n \to \infty$ . For such a time series, one expects such a result to require  $T \sim n \log n$  even for a model aware optimal algorithm.

# 6 CONCLUSION

In this paper, we introduce a novel algorithm for time series imputation and prediction using matrix estimation methods, which allows us to operate in a model and noise agnostic setting. Further, we identify generic conditions on the time series model class under which the algorithm provides consistent estimation. As a key contribution, we establish that many popular model classes and their mixtures satisfy these generic conditions. Using synthetic and real-world data, we exhibit the efficacy of our algorithm with respect to a state-of-the-art software implementation available through R. Our finite sample analysis agrees with these experimental results. Lastly, we demonstrate our method can provably recover the hidden state of dynamics, which could be of interest in its own right.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup>Recall a *truncated* Poisson random variable Y(t) is defined as  $Y(t) = \min\{X(t), C\}$ , where C denotes a positive, bounded constant, and X(t) = Poisson(f(t)).

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#### A USEFUL THEOREMS

## Theorem A.1. Bernstein's Inequality. [12]

Suppose that  $X_1, \ldots, X_n$  are independent random variables with zero mean, and M is a constant such that  $|X_i| \leq M$  with probability one for each *i*. Let  $S := \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$  and v := Var(S). Then for any  $t \geq 0$ ,

$$\mathbb{P}(|S| \ge t) \le 2 \exp\left(-\frac{3t^2}{6\nu + 2Mt}\right).$$

#### Theorem A.2. Norm of matrices with sub-gaussian entries. [50]

Let **A** be an  $m \times n$  random matrix whose entries  $A_{ij}$  are independent, mean zero, sub-gaussian random variables. Then, for any t > 0, we have

$$\|\boldsymbol{A}\| \le CK(\sqrt{m} + \sqrt{n} + t)$$

with probability at least  $1 - 2 \exp(-t^2)$ . Here,  $K = \max_{i,j} ||A_{ij}||_{\psi_2}$ .

#### **B** IMPUTATION ANALYSIS

**Lemma B.1.** Let X be an  $L \times N$  random matrix (with  $L \leq N$ ) whose entries  $X_{ij}$  are independent sub-gaussian entries where  $\mathbb{E}[X_{ij}] = M_{ij}$  and  $||X_{ij}||_{\psi_2} \leq \sigma$ . Let Y denote the  $L \times N$  matrix whose entries  $Y_{ij}$  are defined as

$$Y_{ij} = \begin{cases} X_{ij} & w.p. \ p, \\ 0 & w.p. \ 1-p, \end{cases}$$

for some  $p \in (0, 1]$ . Let  $\hat{p} = \max\left\{\frac{1}{LN}\sum_{i=1}^{L}\sum_{j=1}^{N}\mathbb{1}_{X_{ij} \text{ observed}}, \frac{1}{LN}\right\}$ . Define events  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  as

$$E_1 := \left\{ |\hat{p} - p| \le p/20 \right\},$$
(8)

$$E_2 := \left\{ \|\boldsymbol{Y} - \boldsymbol{p}\boldsymbol{M}\| \le C_1 \sigma \sqrt{N} \right\}.$$
(9)

Then, for some positive constant  $c_1$ 

$$\mathbb{P}(E_1) \ge 1 - 2e^{-c_1 LNp} - (1-p)^{LN},\tag{10}$$

$$\mathbb{P}(E_2) \ge 1 - 2e^{-N}. \tag{11}$$

PROOF. Let  $\hat{p}_0 = \frac{1}{LN} \sum_{i=1}^{L} \sum_{j=1}^{N} \mathbb{1}_{X_{ij} \text{ observed}}$ , which implies  $\mathbb{E}[\hat{p}_0] = p$ . We define the event  $E_3 := \{\hat{p}_0 = \hat{p}\}$ . Thus, we have that

$$\begin{split} \mathbb{P}(E_1^c) &= \mathbb{P}(E_1^c \cap E_3) + \mathbb{P}(E_1^c \cap E_3^c) \\ &= \mathbb{P}(|\hat{p}_0 - p| \ge p/20) + \mathbb{P}(E_1^c \cap E_3^c) \\ &\le \mathbb{P}(|\hat{p}_0 - p| \ge p/20) + \mathbb{P}(E_3^c) \\ &= \mathbb{P}(|\hat{p}_0 - p| \ge p/20) + (1 - p)^{LN}, \end{split}$$

where the final equality follows by the independence of observations assumption and the fact that  $\hat{p}_0 \neq \hat{p}$  only if we do not have any observations. By Bernstein's Inequality, we have that

$$\mathbb{P}(|\hat{p}_0 - p| \le p/20) \ge 1 - 2e^{-c_1 LNp}$$

Furthermore, since  $\mathbb{E}[Y_{ij}] = pM_{ij}$ , Theorem A.2 yields

$$\mathbb{P}(E_2) \ge 1 - 2e^{-N}$$

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**Corollary B.1.** Let  $E := E_1 \cap E_2$ . Then,

$$\mathbb{P}(E^c) \le C_1 e^{-c_2 N},\tag{12}$$

where  $C_1$  and  $c_2$  are positive constants independent of L and N.

PROOF. By DeMorgan's Law and the Union Bound, we have that

$$\mathbb{P}(E^{c}) = \mathbb{P}(E_{1}^{c} \cup E_{2}^{c})$$

$$\leq \mathbb{P}(E_{1}^{c}) + \mathbb{P}(E_{2}^{c})$$

$$\leq C_{1}e^{-c_{2}N}, \qquad (13)$$

where  $C_1, c_2 > 0$  are appropriately defined, but are independent of *L* and *N*.

**Lemma B.2.** Let  $M^{(1)}$  be defined as in Section 4.1 and satisfy Property 4.1. Then,

$$\left\|\boldsymbol{M}^{(1)}\right\|_{*} \leq L\sqrt{N}\delta_{1} + \sqrt{rLN}\delta_{1} + \sqrt{r}\left\|\boldsymbol{M}\right\|_{F}.$$

**PROOF.** By the definition of  $M^{(1)}$  and the triangle inequality property of nuclear norms,

$$\begin{split} \left\| \boldsymbol{M}^{(1)} \right\|_{*} &\leq \left\| \boldsymbol{M}^{(1)} - \boldsymbol{M}_{(r)} \right\|_{*} + \left\| \boldsymbol{M}_{(r)} \right\|_{*} \\ &\stackrel{(a)}{\leq} \sqrt{L} \left\| \boldsymbol{M}^{(1)} - \boldsymbol{M}_{(r)} \right\|_{F} + \left\| \boldsymbol{M}_{(r)} \right\|_{*} \\ &\stackrel{(b)}{\leq} L \sqrt{N} \delta_{1} + \left\| \boldsymbol{M}_{(r)} \right\|_{*}. \end{split}$$

Note that (a) makes use of the fact that  $||Q||_* \leq \sqrt{\operatorname{rank}(Q)} ||Q||_F$  for any real-valued matrix Q and (b) utilizes Property 4.1. Since  $\operatorname{rank}(M_{(r)}) = r$ , we have  $||M_{(r)}||_* \leq \sqrt{r} ||M_{(r)}||_F$ . Applying triangle inequality and Property 4.1 again further yields

$$\left\|\boldsymbol{M}_{(r)}\right\|_{F} \leq \left\|\boldsymbol{M}_{(r)} - \boldsymbol{M}\right\|_{F} + \left\|\boldsymbol{M}\right\|_{F} \leq \sqrt{LN}\delta_{1} + \left\|\boldsymbol{M}\right\|_{F}.$$

This completes the proof.

**Theorem** (4.1). Assume Property 4.1 holds and ME satisfies Property 2.1. Then for some  $C_1, C_2, C_3, c_4 > 0$ ,

$$MSE(\hat{f}_{I}, f) \leq \frac{C_{1}\sigma}{p} \left( \frac{LN\delta_{1}}{\|f\|_{2}^{2}} + \frac{\sqrt{rL}N\delta_{1}}{\|f\|_{2}^{2}} + \frac{\sqrt{rN}}{\|f\|_{2}} \right) + \frac{C_{2}(1-p)}{pLN} + C_{3}e^{-c_{4}N}.$$

**PROOF.** By (2), it suffices to analyze the time series imputation error by measuring the relative mean-squared error of  $\widehat{M}^{(1)}$ . For notational simplicity, let us drop the superscripts on  $\widehat{M}^{(1)}$  and  $M^{(1)}$ . Let  $E := E_1 \cap E_2$ , where  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are defined as in Lemma B.1. By the law of total probability, we have that

$$\mathbb{E}\left\|\widehat{M} - M\right\|_{F}^{2} \leq \mathbb{E}\left[\left\|\widehat{M} - M\right\|_{F}^{2} \mid E\right] + \mathbb{E}\left[\left\|\widehat{M} - M\right\|_{F}^{2} \mid E^{c}\right]\mathbb{P}(E^{c}).$$
(14)

We begin by bounding the first term on the right-hand side of (14). By Property 2.1 and assuming E occurs, we have that

$$\left\|\hat{p}\widehat{M}-pM\right\|_{F}^{2}\leq C_{1}\|Y-pM\|\left\|pM\right\|_{*}\leq C_{2}\sigma\sqrt{N}\|M\|_{*}.$$

Therefore,

$$p^{2} \left\| \widehat{\boldsymbol{M}} - \boldsymbol{M} \right\|_{F}^{2} \leq C_{3} \hat{p}^{2} \left\| \widehat{\boldsymbol{M}} - \boldsymbol{M} \right\|_{F}^{2}$$
$$\leq C_{3} \left\| \hat{p} \widehat{\boldsymbol{M}} - p \boldsymbol{M} \right\|_{F}^{2} + C_{3} (\hat{p} - p)^{2} \left\| \boldsymbol{M} \right\|_{F}^{2}$$
$$\leq C_{4} p \sigma \sqrt{N} \left\| \boldsymbol{M} \right\|_{*} + C_{3} (\hat{p} - p)^{2} \left\| \boldsymbol{f} \right\|_{2}^{2}$$

for an appropriately defined  $C_4$ . Observe that  $\mathbb{E}(\hat{p}-p)^2 = p(1-p)/LN$ . Thus using Corollary B.1 and taking expectations, we obtain

$$\mathbb{E}\left\|\widehat{\boldsymbol{M}}-\boldsymbol{M}\right\|_{F}^{2} \leq C_{4}p^{-1}\sigma\sqrt{N}\left\|\boldsymbol{M}\right\|_{*} + \frac{C_{3}(1-p)\|f\|_{2}^{2}}{pLN} + C_{5}\|f\|_{2}^{2}e^{-c_{6}N}.$$

Normalizing by  $||f||_2^2$  gives

$$MSE(\hat{f}_{I}, f) \leq \frac{C_{4}\sigma\sqrt{N} \|\boldsymbol{M}\|_{*}}{p \|f\|_{2}^{2}} + \frac{C_{3}(1-p)}{pLN} + C_{5}e^{-c_{6}N}.$$

Invoking Lemma B.2, we obtain

$$MSE(\hat{f}_{I}, f) \leq \frac{C_{4}\sigma}{p} \left( \frac{LN\delta_{1}}{\|f\|_{2}^{2}} + \frac{\sqrt{rL}N\delta_{1}}{\|f\|_{2}^{2}} + \frac{\sqrt{rN}}{\|f\|_{2}} \right) + \frac{C_{3}(1-p)}{pLN} + C_{5}e^{-c_{6}N}.$$

The proof is complete after relabeling constants.

## C FORECAST ANALYSIS

Let us begin by analyzing the forecasting error for any  $k \in [L]$ .

**Lemma C.1.** For each  $k \in [L]$ , assume Property 4.2 holds and ME(·) satisfies Property 2.2. Then,

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{t\in S_k} \left(\hat{f}_F(t) - f(t)\right)^2\right] \le \left(\delta_2 + \sqrt{C_\beta N}\delta_3\right)^2 + 2\sigma^2 \hat{r}_k.$$
(15)

Here,  $S_k := \{t \in [T] : (t \mod L) + 1 = k\}$  and  $\hat{r}_k := rank(\widetilde{M}^{(k)})$ .

PROOF. Observe that we can write

$$\mathbb{E}\left\|M_{L}^{(k)} - (\widehat{\widetilde{M}}^{(k)})^{T} \hat{\beta}^{(k)}\right\|_{2}^{2} \equiv \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{t \in S_{k}} \left(\widehat{f}_{F}(t) - f(t)\right)^{2}\right].$$
(16)

For notational simplicity, let  $Q := (\widetilde{M}^{(k)})^T$  and  $\widehat{Q} := (\widetilde{\widetilde{M}}^{(k)})^T$ . Similarly, we will drop all superscripts (*k*) throughout this analysis for notational ease. Recall  $X_L = M_L + \epsilon_L$ . Then note that by the definition of the optimization in step 2 of the forecast algorithm,

$$\left\|X_L - \widehat{Q}\widehat{\beta}\right\|_2^2 \le \left\|X_L - \widehat{Q}\beta^*\right\|_2^2$$
$$= \left\|M_L - \widehat{Q}\beta^*\right\|_2^2 + \|\epsilon_L\|_2^2 + 2\epsilon_L^T(M_L - \widehat{Q}\beta^*).$$
(17)

Moreover,

$$\left\|X_L - \widehat{Q}\widehat{\beta}\right\|_2^2 = \left\|M_L - \widehat{Q}\widehat{\beta}\right\|_2^2 + \|\epsilon_L\|_2^2 - 2\epsilon_L^T(\widehat{Q}\widehat{\beta} - M_L).$$
(18)

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Combining (17) and (18) and taking expectations, we have

$$\mathbb{E}\left\|M_L - \widehat{Q}\widehat{\beta}\right\|_2^2 \le \mathbb{E}\left\|M_L - \widehat{Q}\beta^*\right\|_2^2 + 2\mathbb{E}[\epsilon_L^T \widehat{Q}(\widehat{\beta} - \beta^*)].$$
(19)

Let us bound the final term on the right hand side of (19). Under our independence assumptions, observe that

$$\mathbb{E}[\epsilon_L^T \widehat{Q}]\beta^* = \mathbb{E}[\epsilon_L^T]\mathbb{E}[\widehat{Q}]\beta^* = 0.$$
<sup>(20)</sup>

Recall  $\hat{\beta} = \widehat{Q}^{\dagger} X_L = \widehat{Q}^{\dagger} M_L + \widehat{Q}^{\dagger} \epsilon_L$ . Using the cyclic and linearity properties of the trace operator (coupled with similar independence arguments), we further have

$$\mathbb{E}[\epsilon_L^T \widehat{Q} \widehat{\beta}] = \mathbb{E}[\epsilon_L^T \widehat{Q} \widehat{Q}^{\dagger}] M_L + \mathbb{E}[\epsilon_L^T \widehat{Q} \widehat{Q}^{\dagger} \epsilon_L] 
= \mathbb{E}\Big[ \operatorname{Tr} \Big( \epsilon_L^T \widehat{Q} \widehat{Q}^{\dagger} \epsilon_L \Big) \Big] 
= \mathbb{E}\Big[ \operatorname{Tr} \Big( \widehat{Q} \widehat{Q}^{\dagger} \epsilon_L \epsilon_L^T \Big) \Big] 
= \operatorname{Tr} \Big( \mathbb{E}[\widehat{Q} \widehat{Q}^{\dagger}] \cdot \mathbb{E}[\epsilon_L \epsilon_L^T] \Big) 
\leq \sigma^2 \mathbb{E}\Big[ \operatorname{Tr} \Big( \widehat{Q} \widehat{Q}^{\dagger} \Big) \Big].$$
(21)

Let  $\widehat{Q} = USV^T$  be the singular value decomposition of  $\widehat{Q}$ . Then

$$\widehat{Q}\widehat{Q}^{\dagger} = USV^{T}VS^{\dagger}U^{T}$$
$$= U\widetilde{I}U^{T}.$$
 (22)

Here,  $\tilde{I}$  is a block diagonal matrix where its nonzero entries on the diagonal take the value 1. Plugging in (22) into (21), and using the fact that the trace of a square matrix is equal to the sum of its eigenvalues,

$$\sigma^{2}\mathbb{E}\left[\mathrm{Tr}\left(\widehat{Q}\widehat{Q}^{\dagger}\right)\right] = \sigma^{2}\mathbb{E}[\mathrm{rank}(\widehat{Q})].$$
(23)

We now turn our attention to the first term on the right hand side of (19). By Property 4.2, we obtain

$$\begin{split} \left\| M_L - \widehat{Q} \beta^* \right\|_2 &= \left\| M_L - (Q - Q + \widehat{Q}) \beta^* \right\|_2 \\ &\leq \left\| M_L - Q \beta^* \right\|_2 + \left\| (Q - \widehat{Q}) \beta^* \right\|_2 \\ &\leq \delta_2 + \left\| (Q - \widehat{Q}) \beta^* \right\|_2. \end{split}$$

Thus we have that

$$\mathbb{E}\left\| (Q - \widehat{Q})\beta^* \right\|_2 = \mathbb{E}\left\| (\widetilde{M} - \widehat{\widetilde{M}})^T \beta^* \right\|_2$$
(24)

$$\leq \sum_{i=1}^{L-1} \left| \beta_i^* \right| \cdot \mathbb{E}\left[ \left( \sum_{j=1}^N (\hat{M}_{ij} - M_{ij})^2 \right)^{1/2} \right]$$
(25)

$$\leq \|\beta^*\|_1 \cdot \mathbb{E}\left[ \left( \max_{1 \leq i < L} \sum_{j=1}^N (\hat{M}_{ij} - M_{ij})^2 \right)^{1/2} \right]$$
(26)

$$=: C_{\beta} \sqrt{N} \cdot \text{MRSE}(\widetilde{\widetilde{M}}, \widetilde{M}).$$
(27)

Putting everything together, we obtain our desired result.

**Theorem** (4.2). Assume Property 4.2 holds and ME satisfies Property 2.2, with  $p \ge p^*(L, N)$ . Let  $\hat{r} := \max_{k \in [L]} \operatorname{rank}(\widetilde{\widetilde{M}}^{(k)})$ . Then,

$$MSE(\hat{f}_F, f) \le \frac{1}{N-1} \Big( (\delta_2 + \sqrt{C_\beta N} \delta_3)^2 + 2\sigma^2 \hat{r} \Big).$$

PROOF. For simplicity, define  $\delta(k) := (\delta_2 + \sqrt{N}\delta_3)^2 + 2\sigma^2 \hat{r}_k$ . By Lemma C.1, for all  $k \in [L]$  we have

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{t\in S_k} \left(\hat{f}_F(t) - f(t)\right)^2\right] \le \delta(k).$$
(28)

Let  $\delta_{\max} := (\delta_2 + \sqrt{C_\beta N} \delta_3)^2 + 2\sigma^2 \hat{r}$ . Recall  $S_k := \{t \in [T] : (t \mod L) + 1 = k\}$ . Then, it follows that

$$MSE(\hat{f}_F, f) \le \frac{\delta_{\max}}{N-1}$$

#### D MODEL ANALYSIS

We first define a somewhat technical Property D.1, that will aid us in proving that the various models in Section 5 satisfy Property 4.1 and 4.2. Recall f is the underlying time series we would like to estimate. Define  $\eta_k : \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} \to \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$\eta_k(\theta_i, \rho_j) := f(i + (j - 1)L + (k - 1)).$$
(29)

where  $\theta_i = i$ ,  $\rho_j = (j - 1)L + (k - 1)$ .

Intuitively, (29) is representing f(t) as a function of two parameters,  $\eta_k(\theta_i, \rho_j)$  where  $\theta_i = i$ ,  $\rho_j = (j - 1)L + (k - 1)$ . By doing so we can express f as a latent variable model, a representation which is very amenable to theoretical analysis in the matrix estimation literature; specifically,  $[M_{ij}^{(k)}] = [\eta_k(\theta_i, \rho_j)]$  by construction of  $M^{(k)}$ . Effectively, the latent parameters,  $\theta_i, \rho_j$  encode the amount of shift in the argument to f(t), so as to obtain the appropriate entry in the matrix,  $M^{(k)}$ .

**Property D.1.** Let matrices  $X^{(k)}$  and  $M^{(k)}$  satisfy the following:

**A.** For each  $i \in [L], j \in [N]$ :

1.  $X_{ii}^{(k)}$  are independent across i, j, and each have variance at most  $\sigma^2$ .

2.  $X_{ii}^{(k)}$  is observed with probability  $p \in (0, 1]$ , independently.

**B.** There exists  $p : [L] \rightarrow [L]$  such that:

1. Define  $\mathcal{P}(\theta) := \{p(\theta_i) : i \in [L]\} \subset \{\theta_1, \dots, \theta_L\}$ . Let it be such that  $|\mathcal{P}(\theta)| = r_4 < L$ .

2. Define  $L \times N$  matrix,  $\mathbf{M}_{(r)}$ , as  $[M_{ij}^{(r)}] = [\eta_k(p(\theta_i), \rho_j)]$ . Then for  $\delta_4 \ge 0$ ,

$$\left\|\boldsymbol{M}^{(k)}-\boldsymbol{M}_{(r)}\right\|_{\max}\leq\delta_4.$$

We begin with Proposition D.1, which motivates the use of linear methods in forecasting.

**Proposition D.1.** For all  $k \in [L]$ , let  $M^{(k)}$ , defined as in Section 4.1, satisfy Property D.1. Then there exists  $\beta^*$  such that

$$\left\|M_L^{(k)} - (\widetilde{\boldsymbol{M}}^{(k)})^T \beta^*\right\|_2 \le 2\delta_4 \sqrt{N},$$

where  $\|\beta^*\|_0 = 1$ .

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PROOF. We drop the dependence on k from  $M^{(k)}$  and  $\eta_k$  for notational convenience. Furthermore, we prove it for the case of k = 1 since the proofs for general k follow identical arguments by first making an appropriate shift in the entries of the matrix of interest. Assume we have access to data from  $X[1:T+r_4-1]$ . Let us first construct a matrix with overlapping entries,  $\overline{M} = [\overline{M}_{ij}] = [f(i+j-1)]$ , of dimension  $L \times (T + r_4 - 1)$ . We have  $\overline{M}_{ij} = \eta(\overline{\theta}_i, \overline{\rho}_j)$  with  $\overline{\theta}_i = i$  and  $\overline{\rho}_j = [j - 1, \gamma]$ , where  $\eta$  is as defined in (29). By construction, the skew-diagonal entries from left to right of  $\overline{M}$  are constant, i.e.

$$\overline{M}_{ki} := \{ \overline{M}_{k-j,i+j} : 1 \le k-j \le L, 1 \le i+j \le T+r-1 \}.$$
(30)

Under this setting, we note that the columns of M are subsets of the columns of  $\overline{M}$ . Specifically, for all  $0 \le j < N$  and  $k \le L$ ,

$$\overline{M}_{k,jL+1} = M_{k,j+1}.$$
(31)

By construction, observe that every entry within  $\overline{M}$  exists within M. Hence,  $\overline{M}_{ij} = M_{i',j'}$  for some i', j', and

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \eta(\theta_i, \bar{\rho}_j) - \eta(p(\theta_i), \bar{\rho}_j) \right| &= \left| \eta(\theta_{i'}, \rho_{j'}) - \eta(p(\theta_{i'}), \rho_{j'}) \right| \\ &\leq \left\| \boldsymbol{M} - \boldsymbol{M}_{(r)} \right\|_{\max} \\ &\leq \delta_4, \end{aligned}$$

where the inequality follows from Condition B.2 of Property D.1. In light of this, just as we defined  $M_{(r)}$  with respect to M, we define  $\overline{M}_{(r)}$  from  $\overline{M}$ . Specifically, the (i, j)th element of  $\overline{M}_{(r)}$  is

$$\overline{M}_{ij}^{(r)} = \eta(p(\bar{\theta}_i), \bar{\rho}_j).$$
(32)

By Condition B.1 of Property D.1 and applying the Pigeonhole Principle, we observe that within the last  $r_4 + 1$  rows of  $M_{(r)}$ , at least two rows are identical. Without loss of generality, let these two rows be denoted as  $M_{L-r_1}^{(r)} = [M_{L-r_1,i}^{(r)}]_{i \le N}$  and  $M_{L-r_2}^{(r)} = [M_{L-r_2,i}^{(r)}]_{i \le N}$ , respectively, where  $r_1 \in \{1, \ldots, r_4 - 1\}$ ,  $r_2 \in \{2, \ldots, r_4\}$ , and  $r_1 < r_2$ . Since  $\bar{\theta}_i = i = \theta_i$ , we trivially have that  $p(\bar{\theta}_i) = p(\theta_i)$ . Consequently, it must be the case that the same two rows in  $\overline{M}_{(r)}$  are also identical, i.e. for all  $i \le T + r_4 - 1$ ,

$$\overline{M}_{L-r_1,i}^{(r)} = \overline{M}_{L-r_2,i}^{(r)}.$$
(33)

Using this fact, we have that for all  $i \leq T + r - 1$ ,

$$\left|\overline{M}_{L-r_{1},i} - \overline{M}_{L-r_{2},i}\right| \leq \left|\overline{M}_{L-r_{1},i} - \overline{M}_{L-r_{1},i}^{(r)}\right| + \left|\overline{M}_{L-r_{2},i} - \overline{M}_{L-r_{2},i}^{(r)}\right| + \left|\overline{M}_{L-r_{1},i}^{(r)} - \overline{M}_{L-r_{1},i}^{(r)}\right|$$

$$(34)$$

$$\leq 2\delta_4,$$
 (35)

where the last inequality follows from (33) and the construction of  $\overline{M}_{(r)}$ . Additionally, by the skew-diagonal property of  $\overline{M}$  as described above by (30), we necessarily have the following two equalities:

$$\overline{M}_{Li} = \overline{M}_{L-r_1, r_1+i} \tag{36}$$

$$\overline{M}_{L-\Delta_r,i} = \overline{M}_{L-r_2,r_1+i},\tag{37}$$

where  $\Delta_r = r_2 - r_1$ . Thus, by (34), (36), and (37), we obtain for all  $i \leq T$ ,

$$\left|\overline{M}_{Li} - \overline{M}_{L-\Delta_r,i}\right| = \left|\overline{M}_{L-r_1,r_1+i} - \overline{M}_{L-r_2,r_1+i}\right| \le 2\delta_4.$$
(38)

Thus, applying (31) and (38), we reach our desired result, i.e. for all  $i \leq N$ ,

$$\left|M_{Li} - M_{L-\Delta_r,i}\right| \le 2\delta_4. \tag{39}$$

Recall  $\widetilde{M} = [M_{ij}]_{i < L, j \le N}$  excludes the last row of M. From above, we know that there exists some row  $\ell := L - \Delta_r < L$  such that  $||M_L - M_\ell||_2 \le 2\delta_4 \sqrt{N}$ . Clearly, we can express

$$M_{\ell} = \widetilde{\boldsymbol{M}}^T \boldsymbol{\beta}^*, \tag{40}$$

where  $\beta^* \in \mathbb{R}^{L-1}$  is a 1-sparse vector with a single nonzero component of value 1 in the  $\ell$ th index. This completes the proof.

**Corollary D.1.** For all  $k \in [L]$ , let  $M^{(k)}$ , defined as in Section 4.1, satisfy Property D.1 with  $\delta_4$ ,  $r_4$ . Then  $M^{(k)}$  obeys,

- (i) Under Model Type 1, Property 4.1 is satisfied with  $\delta_1 = \delta_4$ ,  $r = r_4$ .
- (ii) Under Model Type 2, Property 4.2 is satisfied with  $\delta_2 = 2\delta_4 \sqrt{N}$ .

PROOF. Condition A of both Property 4.1 and 4.2 is satisfied by definition. (i) Condition B.1, B.2 of Property D.1 together imply Condition B of Property 4.1 for the same  $\delta_1$ ,  $r_4$ . (ii) Proposition D.1 implies Condition B of Property 4.2 by scaling  $\delta_4$  with  $2\sqrt{N}$ .

# D.1 Proof of Proposition 5.1

#### **Proposition** (5.1).

- (i) Under Model Type 1,  $f^{LRF}$  satisfies Property 4.1 with  $\delta_1 = 0$ , r = G;
- (ii) Under Model Type 2,  $f^{LRF}$  satisfies Property 4.2 with  $\delta_2 = 0$  and  $C_\beta = C \cdot G$  where C is an absolute constant.

PROOF. Let  $f(t) = f^{\text{LRF}}$ . By definition of f(t), we have that for  $\forall i \in \{G + 1, \dots, L\}, j \in \{1, \dots, N\}$ ,

$$\begin{split} M_{ij}^{(k)} &= f(i+(j-1)L+(k-1)) \\ &= \sum_{g=1}^G \alpha_g f((i-g)+(j-1)L+(k-1)) \\ &= \sum_{g=1}^G \alpha_g M_{(i-g)j}^{(k)}. \end{split}$$

In particular,  $M_{Lj}^{(k)} = \sum_{g=1}^{G} \alpha_g M_{(L-g)j}^{(k)} \forall j \in \{1, \dots, N\}$ , and so we immediately have condition (ii) of the Proposition with  $C = \max_{g \in G} \alpha_g$ . Since every row from  $G + 1, \dots, L$  is a linear combination of the rows above, the rank of  $M^{(k)}$  is at most G. Ergo, we have condition (i) of the Proposition.  $\Box$ 

**Corollary** (5.1). Under Model Type 1, let the conditions of Theorem 4.1 hold. Let  $N = L^{1+\delta}$  for any  $\delta > 0$ . Then for some C > 0, if

$$T \ge C \left(\frac{G}{\delta_{error}^2}\right)^{2+\delta}$$

we have  $MSE(\hat{f}_I, f^{LRF}) \leq \delta_{error}$ .

**PROOF.** By Proposition 5.1, we have for some  $C_1, C_2, C_3, c_4 > 0$ 

$$MSE(\hat{f}_{I}, f^{LRF}) \leq C_{1} \frac{1}{p} \sqrt{\frac{G}{L}} + C_{2} \frac{(1-p)}{LNp} + C_{3} e^{-c_{4}N}.$$

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We require the r.h.s of the term above to be less than  $\delta_{\text{error}}$ . We have,

$$\begin{split} C_1 \frac{1}{p} \sqrt{\frac{G}{L}} + C_2 \frac{(1-p)}{LNp} + C_3 e^{-c_4 N} \stackrel{(a)}{\leq} C \left( \sqrt{\frac{G}{L}} + \frac{1}{LN} + e^{-c_4 N} \right) \\ \stackrel{(b)}{\leq} C \left( \sqrt{\frac{G}{L}} \right) \end{split}$$

where (a) follows for appropriately defined C > 0 and by absorbing p into the constant; (b) follows since  $\frac{1}{LN} \leq \frac{G}{L}$  and  $e^{-c_4N} \leq \sqrt{\frac{G}{L}}$  for sufficiently large L, N and by redefining C. Hence, it suffices that  $\delta_{\text{error}} \geq C\left(\sqrt{\frac{G}{L}}\right) \implies T \geq C\left(\frac{G}{\delta_{\text{error}}^2}\right)^{2+\delta}$ .

**Corollary** (5.2). Under Model Type 2, let the conditions of Theorem 4.2 hold. Let  $N = L^{1+\delta}$  for any  $\delta > 0$ . Then for some C > 0, if  $(\sigma^2 - \lambda)^{\frac{2+\delta}{\delta}}$ 

$$T > C \left(\frac{\sigma^2}{\delta_{error} - G\delta_3^2}\right)^{\frac{2+2}{d}}$$

we have  $MSE(\hat{f}_F, f^{LRF}) \leq \delta_{error}$ .

PROOF. By Proposition 5.1, we have

$$MSE(\hat{f}_F, f^{LRF}) \leq \frac{1}{N-1} (G\delta_3^2 N + 2\sigma^2 \hat{r}).$$

We require the r.h.s of the term above to be less than  $\delta_{\text{error}}$ . Since  $\frac{1}{N}\sigma^2 \hat{r} \leq \frac{1}{L^{\delta}}\sigma^2$ , it suffices that

$$\delta_{\text{error}} \stackrel{(a)}{\geq} C \left( G \delta_3^2 + \frac{1}{L^{\delta}} \sigma^2 \right)$$
$$\implies L^{\delta} \stackrel{(b)}{\geq} C \frac{\sigma^2}{\delta_{\text{error}} - G \delta_3^2}$$
$$\implies T \ge C \left( \frac{\sigma^2}{\delta_{\text{error}} - G \delta_3^2} \right)^{\frac{2+\delta}{\delta}}$$

where (a) and (b) follow for appropriately defined C > 0.

## D.2 Proof of Proposition 5.2

**Proposition** (5.2). Let  $P_{m_a}$  be a polynomial of degree  $m_a$ . Then,

$$f(t) = \sum_{a=1}^{A} \exp\{\alpha_a t\} \cos(2\pi\omega_a t + \phi_a) P_{m_a}(t)$$

admits a representation as in (5). Further the order G of f(t) is independent of T, the number of observations, and is bounded by

$$G \le A(m_{\max} + 1)(m_{\max} + 2)$$

where  $m_{\max} = \max_{a \in A} m_a$ .

PROOF. This proof is adapted from [29]. We state it here for completeness.

First, observe that if there exists latent functions  $\psi_l : \{1, \ldots, L\} \to \mathbb{R}$  and  $\rho_l : \{1, \ldots, N\} \to \mathbb{R}$ for  $l \in [G]$  such that we can write,

$$f(i+j) = \sum_{l=1}^{G} \psi_l(i)\rho_l(j), \ i \in [L], j \in [N]$$
(41)

then each  $M^{(k)}$  (induced by f for  $k \in [L]$ ) has rank at most G.

Second, observe that time series that admit a representation of the form in (41) form a linear space which is closed with respect to term-by-term multiplication, i.e.,

$$f(i+j) = f^{(1)} \circ f^{(2)} = \left(\sum_{l=1}^{G_1} \psi_l^{(1)}(i) \ \rho_l^{(1)}(j)\right) \left(\sum_{l=1}^{G_2} \psi_l^{(2)}(i) \ \rho_l^{(2)}(j)\right)$$
(42)

where  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  are the orders of the  $f^{(1)}$  and  $f^{(2)}$  respectively.

Given the two observations above, it suffices to show separately that  $f^{(1)}(t) = \exp{\{\alpha t\}} \cos(2\pi\omega t + \phi)$ and  $f^{(2)}(t) = P_m(t)$  have a representation of the form in (41).

We begin with  $f^{(1)}(t) = \exp{\{\alpha t\}} \cos(2\pi\omega t + \phi)$ . For  $i \in [L], j \in [N]$ ,

$$f^{(1)}(i+j) = \exp\{\alpha(i+j)\}\cos(2\pi\omega(i+j)+\phi)$$

$$\stackrel{(a)}{=} \exp\{\alpha i\}\cos(2\pi\omega i) \cdot \exp\{\alpha j\}\cos(2\pi\omega j+\phi)$$

$$- \exp\{\alpha i\}\sin(2\pi\omega i) \cdot \exp\{\alpha j\}\sin(2\pi\omega j+\phi)$$

$$:= \psi_1(i)\rho_1(j) + \psi_2(i)\rho_2(j)$$

where in (a) we have used the trigonometric identity  $\cos(a + b) = \cos(a)\cos(b) - \sin(a)\sin(b)$ . Thus for  $f^{(1)}(t)$ , G = 2.

For  $f^{(2)}(t) = P_m(t)$ , with  $i \in [L]$ ,  $j \in [N]$ , we have  $P_m(i+j) = \sum_{l=0}^m c_l(i+j)^l$ . By expanding  $(i+j)^l$ , it is easily seen (using the Binomial theorem) that there are l+1 unique terms involving powers of i and j. Hence for  $f^{(2)}(t)$ ,  $G \leq \sum_{l=1}^{m+1} l = \frac{(m+1)(m+2)}{2}$ <sup>13</sup>

i and j. Hence for  $f^{(2)}(t)$ ,  $G \leq \sum_{l=1}^{m+1} l = \frac{(m+1)(m+2)}{2}$ <sup>13</sup> Now we bound G for  $f(t) = \sum_{a=1}^{A} \exp\{\alpha_a t\} \cos(2\pi\omega_a t + \phi_a) P_{m_a}(t)$ . For  $f^{(1)}(t) = \exp\{\alpha t\} \cos(2\pi\omega t + \phi)$ , we have  $G^{(1)} = 2$ . For  $f^{(2)}(t) = P_{m_a}(t)$ , we have  $G^{(2)} \leq \frac{(m_{a+1})(m_{a+2})}{2} \leq \frac{(m_{max}+1)(m_{max}+2)}{2}$ . By (42), it is clear that the order,  $G^{(1,2)}$ , for  $f^{(1)} \circ f^{(2)}$  is bounded by  $G^{(1)} \cdot G^{(2)} \leq (m_{max} + 1)(m_{max} + 2)$ . Since there are A such terms, it follows immediately that for f(t), we have  $G \leq A(m_{max} + 1)(m_{max} + 2)$ , which completes the proof.

#### D.3 Proof of Proposition 5.3

**Proposition** (5.3). *For any*  $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$ *,* 

- (i) Under Model Type 1,  $f^{\text{Compact}}$  satisfies Property 4.1 with  $\delta_1 = \frac{f}{L^{\epsilon}}$ ,  $r = L^{\epsilon}$ .
- (ii) Under Model Type 2,  $f^{\text{Compact}}$  satisfies Property 4.2 with  $\delta_2 = 2\delta_1 \sqrt{N}$  and  $C_\beta = 1$ .

PROOF. Without loss of generality, we drop the dependence of k on  $\eta_k$  to decrease notational overload. Recall that  $\eta$  as defined in (29) has row and column parameters  $\{\theta_1 \cdots \theta_L\}$  and  $\{\rho_1 \cdots \rho_N\}$ , which denote shifts in the time index. Let R and D refer to the set of row and column parameters respectively. Since  $f = g(\varphi(t))$  where  $\varphi : \mathbb{Z} \to [0, 1]$  and g is  $\mathcal{L}$ -Lipschitz, rather than considering the set of time steps  $\{1, \ldots, T\}$ , it suffices to consider instead the set  $\{g(\varphi(1)), \ldots, g(\varphi(T))\} \in [0, \mathcal{L}]$ . Because  $\theta_i$  is simply an index to a time step, it is sufficient to consider an alternate, compact set of row parameters,  $\overline{R}$ , where  $\theta_i \in \overline{R} \subset [0, \mathcal{L}]$ . Crucially, we highlight that  $\overline{R}$  is independent of L.

From here onwards, the arguments we make follow directly from arguments in [19]. We provide it here for completeness. For any  $\delta > 0$ , we first define a partition  $P(\delta)$  of  $\overline{R}$  where the following holds: for any  $A \in P(\delta)$ , whenever  $\theta, \theta'$  are two points such that  $\theta, \theta' \in A$ , we have  $|\eta(\theta, \rho_j) - \eta(\theta', \rho_j)| \le \delta$  for all  $j \in [N]$ .

Due to the Lipschitzness property of the function  $\eta$  (with Lipschitz constant  $\mathcal{L}$ ) and the compactness of  $[0, x_{\text{lcm}}]$ , it can be shown that  $|P(\delta)| \leq x_{\text{lcm}} \mathcal{L} \delta^{-1}$ .

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup>To build intuition, consider  $f(t) = t^2$ , in which case  $f(i + j) = i^2 + j^2 + (2i)(j) := \psi_1(i)\rho_1(j) + \psi_2(i)\rho_2(j) + \psi_3(i)\rho_3(j)$ . Here, G = 3.

Let T be a subset of  $\overline{R}$  that is constructed by selecting exactly one element from each partition in  $P(\delta)$ , i.e.  $|T| = |P(\delta)|$ . Let  $p : [L] \to [L]$  be the mapping from  $\overline{R}$  to T. Therefore, it follows that for each  $\theta \in \overline{R}$ , we can find  $p(\theta) \in T$  so that  $\theta$  and  $p(\theta)$  belong to the same partition of  $P(\delta)$ . Let  $M_{(r)}$  be the matrix whose (i, j)th element is  $f(p(\theta_i), \rho_j)$ . Then by construction  $\forall k$ ,

$$\left\|\boldsymbol{M}^{(k)}-\boldsymbol{M}_{(r)}\right\|_{\max}\leq\delta.$$

Now, if  $\theta_i$  and  $\theta_j$  belong to the same element of  $P(\delta)$ , then  $p(\theta_i)$  and  $p(\theta_j)$  are identical. Therefore, there are at most  $|P(\delta)|$  distinct rows in  $M_{(r)}$ . Let  $\mathcal{P}(\theta) := \{p(\theta_i) : i \in [L]\} \subset \{\theta_1, \ldots, \theta_L\}$ . By construction, we have that  $|\mathcal{P}(\theta)| = |P(\delta)|$ . Choosing  $\delta = \mathcal{L}L^{-\epsilon}$ , then  $|\mathcal{P}(\theta)| = L^{\epsilon}$ .

Hence Property D.1 is satisfied with  $\delta_4 = \frac{\mathcal{L}}{L^{\epsilon}}$ ,  $r_4 = L^{\epsilon}$ . By Corollary D.1, we have: under Model Type 1, Property 4.1 is satisfied with  $\delta_1 = \delta_4$  and  $r = r_4$ ; under Model Type 2, Property 4.2 is satisfied with  $\delta_2 = 2\delta_1 \sqrt{N}$ . This completes the proof. 

**Corollary** (5.3). Under Model Type 1, let the conditions of Theorem 4.1 hold. Let  $N = L^{1+\delta}$  for any  $\delta > 0$ . Then for some C > 0 and any  $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$  if

$$T \geq \left( (\frac{1}{\delta_{error}})^{\frac{2}{1-\epsilon}} + (\frac{\mathcal{L}}{\delta_{error}})^{\frac{1}{\epsilon}} \right)^{2+\delta}$$

we have MSE( $\hat{f}_I, f^{\text{LRF}}$ )  $\leq \delta_{error}$ .

PROOF. By Proposition 5.3, for any  $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$  and some  $C_1, C_2, C_3, c_4 > 0$ ,

$$MSE(\hat{f}_{I}, f^{Compact}) \leq C_{1} \left(\frac{\mathcal{L}}{\sqrt{p}L^{\epsilon}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{p}L^{(1-\epsilon)/2}}\right) + C_{2} \frac{(1-p)}{LNp} + C_{3} e^{-c_{4}N}$$

We require the r.h.s of the term above to be less than  $\delta_{\text{error}}$ . We have,

$$C_1 \left( \frac{\mathcal{L}}{\sqrt{p}L^{\epsilon}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{p}L^{(1-\epsilon)/2}} \right) + C_2 \frac{(1-p)}{LNp} + C_3 e^{-c_4 N}$$

$$\stackrel{(a)}{\leq} C \left( \frac{\mathcal{L}}{L^{\epsilon}} + \frac{1}{L^{(1-\epsilon)/2}} + \frac{1}{LNp} + e^{-c_4 N} \right)$$

$$\stackrel{(b)}{\leq} C \left( \frac{\mathcal{L}}{L^{\epsilon}} + \frac{1}{L^{(1-\epsilon)/2}} \right)$$

where (a) follows for appropriately defined C > 0 and by absorbing p into the constant; (b) follows since  $\frac{1}{LN} \leq \frac{L}{L^{\epsilon}}$ ,  $e^{-c_4N} \leq \frac{L}{L^{\epsilon}}$  for sufficiently large *L*, *N* and by redefining *C*. Let  $x = 1 - \epsilon$ . To have  $\frac{C}{L^{x/2}} \leq \delta_{\text{error}}/2$ , it suffices that  $L \geq (\frac{C}{\delta_{\text{error}}^{2/x}})$ . Similarly, we solve  $\frac{L}{L^{1-x}} \leq \delta/2$ 

to get  $L \ge C(\frac{\mathcal{L}}{\delta_{nmax}})^{\frac{1}{1-x}}$ . Thus we require *L* to be

$$L \ge C \left( \left( \frac{1}{\delta_{\text{error}}} \right)^{\frac{2}{x}} + \left( \frac{\mathcal{L}}{\delta_{\text{error}}} \right)^{\frac{1}{1-x}} \right)$$
(43)

$$\implies T \ge \left( \left(\frac{1}{\delta_{\text{error}}}\right)^{\frac{2}{1-\epsilon}} + \left(\frac{\mathcal{L}}{\delta_{\text{error}}}\right)^{\frac{1}{\epsilon}} \right)^{2+\delta}$$
(44)

**Corollary** (5.4). Under Model Type 2, let the conditions of Theorem 4.2 hold. Let  $N = L^{1+\delta}$  for any  $\delta > 0$ . Then for some C > 0 and any  $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$  if

$$T \ge C \left( \frac{\sigma^2}{\delta_{error} - \left(\frac{\underline{\mathcal{L}}}{L^{\epsilon}} + \delta_3\right)^2} \right)^{\frac{2+\delta}{\delta}}$$

we have  $MSE(\hat{f}_F, f^{LRF}) \leq \delta_{error}$ .

**PROOF.** By Proposition 5.3, for any  $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$ ,

$$MSE(\hat{f}_F, f^{Compact}) \leq \frac{1}{N-1} \Big( (\frac{2\mathcal{L}}{L^{\epsilon}} + \delta_3)^2 N + 2\sigma^2 \hat{r} \Big).$$

We require the r.h.s of the term above to be less than  $\delta_{\text{error}}$ . Since  $\frac{1}{N}\sigma^2 \hat{r} \leq \frac{1}{N}\sigma^2$ , it suffices that

$$\delta_{\text{error}} \stackrel{(a)}{\geq} C\left(\left(\frac{\mathcal{L}}{L^{\epsilon}} + \delta_{3}\right)^{2} + \frac{1}{L^{\delta}}\sigma^{2}\right)$$
$$\implies L^{\delta} \stackrel{(b)}{\geq} C \frac{\sigma^{2}}{\delta_{\text{error}} - \left(\frac{\mathcal{L}}{L^{\epsilon}} + \delta_{3}\right)^{2}}$$
$$\implies T \geq C\left(\frac{\sigma^{2}}{\delta_{\text{error}} - \left(\frac{\mathcal{L}}{L^{\epsilon}} + \delta_{3}\right)^{2}}\right)^{\frac{2+\delta}{\delta}}$$

where (a) and (b) follow for appropriately defined C > 0.

**Proposition** (5.4).

$$f^{\text{Harmonic}}(t) = \sum_{g=1}^{G} \varphi_g(\sin\bigl(2\pi\omega_g t + \phi\bigr)\bigr)$$

where  $\varphi_g$  is  $\mathcal{L}_g$ -Lipschitz and  $\omega_g$  is rational, admits a representation as in (6). Let  $x_{lcm}$  denote the fundamental period. Then the Lipschitz constant,  $\mathcal{L}$ , of  $f^{\text{Harmonic}}(t)$  is bounded by

$$\mathcal{L} \leq 2\pi \cdot \max_{g \in G} (\mathcal{L}_g) \cdot \max_{g \in G} (\omega_g) \cdot x_{lcm}.$$

PROOF. That  $f^{Harmonic}$  has a representation as in (6) is immediate. It remains to show the explicit dependence of  $\mathcal{L}$  on the parameters of  $f^{Harmonic}$ . Observe that

$$f^{Harmonic}(t) = f^{Harmonic}(\psi(t))$$

where  $\psi(t) = t \mod x_{lcm}$ .

By bounding the derivative of  $f^{Harmonic}(t)$ , it is easy to see that

$$\mathcal{L} \leq 2\pi \cdot \max_{g \in G} (\mathcal{L}_g) \cdot \max_{g \in G} (\omega_g) \cdot x_{\rm lcm}$$

## D.4 Proof of Proposition 5.5

**Proposition** (5.5). Let  $\left| \frac{df^{\text{Trend}}(t)}{dt} \right| \le C_* t^{-\alpha}$  for some  $\alpha, C_* > 0$ . Then for any  $\epsilon \in (0, \alpha)$ ,

(i) Under Model Type 1,  $f^{\text{Trend}}$  satisfies Property 4.1 with  $\delta_1 = \frac{C_*}{L^{\epsilon/2}}$ ,  $r = L^{\epsilon/\alpha} + \frac{L-L^{\epsilon/\alpha}}{L^{\epsilon/2}}$ (ii) Under Model Type 2,  $f^{\text{Trend}}$  satisfies Property 4.2 with  $\delta_2 = 2\delta_1 \sqrt{N}$  and  $C_\beta = 1$ .

**PROOF.** Without loss of generality, we drop the dependence of k on  $\eta_k$  to decrease notational overload.

Let  $f(t) = f^{\text{Trend}}$ . We construct our mapping  $p : [L] \rightarrow [L]$  in two steps:

Step 1: For  $j < L^{\epsilon/\alpha}$ , with  $\epsilon \in (0, \alpha)$ , let p(j) = j (i.e. *j*-th row of  $M_{(r)}$  be equal to the *j*-th row of  $M^{(k)}$ ).

Step 2: For rows  $j \ge L^{\epsilon/\alpha}$ , the mapping we construct is an adaptation of the argument in [19]. Let R and D refer to the set of row and column parameters of the sub-matrix of  $M^{(k)}$  corresponding to its last L - j + 1 rows,  $\{\theta_{L^{\epsilon/\alpha}} \cdots \theta_L\}$  and  $\{\rho_1 \cdots \rho_N\}$  respectively.

Through a straightforward application of the Mean Value Theorem, observing that the derivative is decreasing in t, and the condition  $\left|\frac{df(t)}{dt}\right| \leq C_* t^{-\alpha}$ , we have that for all  $\theta_1, \theta_2 \in R$  (with appropriately defined constants)

$$|\eta(\theta_1, \rho_j) - \eta(\theta_2, \rho_j)| \le \eta'(\theta_3) \cdot |\theta_1 - \theta_2|$$
(45)

$$\leq f'(L^{\epsilon/\alpha}) \cdot |\theta_1 - \theta_2| \tag{46}$$

$$\leq C_* (L^{\epsilon/\alpha})^{-\alpha} \cdot |\theta_1 - \theta_2| \tag{47}$$

$$\leq C_* L^{-\epsilon} \cdot |\theta_1 - \theta_2|, \tag{48}$$

where  $\eta'$  and f' are the derivatives with respect to  $\theta$  and t, respectively, and  $\theta_3 \in (\theta_1, \theta_2)$ .

Define a partition,  $P(\epsilon)$ , of *R* into continuous intervals of length  $L^{\epsilon/2}$ . Observe that since  $\theta_i = i$ , for any  $A \in P(\epsilon)$ , whenever  $\theta, \theta' \in A$ , we have  $|\theta - \theta'| \le L^{\epsilon/2}$ . It follows that  $|P(\epsilon)| = (L - L^{\epsilon/\alpha})/L^{\epsilon/2} = L^{\epsilon/\alpha}$  $L^{1-\epsilon/2} - L^{\epsilon(\frac{1}{\alpha}-\frac{1}{2})}$ 

Let T be a subset of R that is constructed by selecting exactly one element from each partition in  $P(\epsilon)$ . That is,  $|T| = |P(\epsilon)|$ . For each  $\theta \in R$ , let  $p(\theta)$  be the corresponding element from the same partition in T. Therefore, it follows that for each  $\theta \in R$ , we can find  $p(\theta) \in T$  so that  $\theta$  and  $p(\theta)$ belong to the same partition of  $P(\epsilon)$ .

Hence, we can define the (i, j)-th element of  $M_{(r)}$  in the following way: (1) for all  $j < L^{\epsilon/\alpha}$ , let  $p(\theta_i) = \theta_i$  such that  $M_{ij}^{(r)} = \eta(\theta_i, \rho_j)$ ; (2) for  $j \ge L^{\epsilon/\alpha}$ , let  $M_{ij}^{(r)} = \eta(p(\theta_i), \rho_j)$ . Consequently  $\forall k$ ,

$$\begin{split} \left\| \boldsymbol{M}^{(k)} - \boldsymbol{M}_{(r)} \right\|_{\max} &\leq \max_{i \in [L]} \left| \eta(\theta_i, \rho_j) - \eta(p(\theta_i), \rho_j) \right| \\ &\leq \max_{i \in [j \geq L^{\epsilon/\alpha}]} \left| \eta(\theta_i, \rho_j) - \eta(p(\theta_i), \rho_j) \right| \\ &\leq \max_{i \in [j \geq L^{\epsilon/\alpha}]} \left| \theta_i - p(\theta_i) \right| L^{-\epsilon} C_* \\ &\leq C_* L^{-\epsilon/2}. \end{split}$$

Now, if  $\theta_i$  and  $\theta_j$  belong to the same element of  $P(\epsilon)$ , then  $p(\theta_i)$  and  $p(\theta_j)$  are identical. Therefore, there are at most  $|P(\epsilon)|$  distinct rows in the last  $L - L^{\epsilon/\alpha}$  rows of  $M_{(r)}$  where  $|P(\epsilon)| = L^{1-\epsilon/2} - L^{\epsilon(\frac{1}{\alpha} - \frac{1}{2})}$ . Let  $\mathcal{P}(\theta) := \{p(\theta_i) : i \in [L]\} \subset \{\theta_1, \dots, \theta_L\}$ . By construction, since  $\epsilon \in (0, \alpha)$ , we have that  $|\mathcal{P}(\theta)| = L^{\epsilon/\alpha} + |P(\epsilon)| = o(L).$ 

Hence Property D.1 is satisfied with  $\delta_1 = \frac{C_*}{L^{\epsilon/2}}$ ,  $r = L^{\epsilon/\alpha} + \frac{L-L^{\epsilon/\alpha}}{L^{\epsilon/2}}$ . By Corollary D.1, we have: under Model Type 1, Property 4.1 is satisfied with  $\delta_1 = \delta_4$  and  $r = r_4$ ; under Model Type 2, Property 4.2 is satisfied with  $\delta_2 = 2\delta_1 \sqrt{N}$ . This completes the proof.

**Corollary** (5.5). Under Model Type 1, let the conditions of Theorem 4.1 hold. Let  $N = L^{1+\delta}$  for any  $\delta > 0$ . Then for some C > 0 if

$$T \ge C \left(\frac{1}{\delta_{error}^{(2(\alpha+1)/\alpha)}}\right)^{2+}$$

we have  $MSE(\hat{f}_I, f^{LRF}) \leq \delta_{error}$ .

**PROOF.** By Proposition 5.5, for any  $\epsilon \in (0, \alpha)$  and some  $C_1, C_2, C_3, c_4 > 0$ ,

$$MSE(\hat{f}_{I}, f^{Trend}) \leq C_{1} \left( \frac{C_{*}}{\sqrt{p}L^{\epsilon/2}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{p}(L^{1-\epsilon/\alpha} + L^{\epsilon/2})^{1/2}} \right) \\ + C_{2} \frac{(1-p)}{LNp} + C_{3}e^{-c_{4}N}.$$

We require the r.h.s of the term above to be less than  $\delta_{\text{error}}$ . We have,

$$\begin{split} C_1 & \left( \frac{C_*}{\sqrt{p}L^{\epsilon/2}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{p}(L^{1-\epsilon/\alpha} + L^{\epsilon/2})^{1/2}} \right) + C_2 \frac{(1-p)}{LNp} + C_3 e^{-c_4 N} \\ & \stackrel{(a)}{\leq} C \left( \frac{1}{L^{\epsilon/2}} + \frac{1}{(L^{1-\epsilon/\alpha} + L^{\epsilon/2})^{1/2}} + \frac{1}{LN} + e^{-c_4 N} \right) \\ & \stackrel{(b)}{\leq} C \left( \frac{1}{L^{\epsilon/2}} + \frac{1}{(L^{1-\epsilon/\alpha} + L^{\epsilon/2})^{1/2}} \right) \\ & \leq C \left( \frac{1}{L^{\epsilon/2}} + \frac{1}{(L^{1-\epsilon/\alpha})^{1/2}} \right) \end{split}$$

where (a) follows for appropriately defined C > 0 and by absorbing p into the constant; (b) follows since  $\frac{1}{LN} \leq \frac{1}{L^{\epsilon/2}}$ ,  $e^{-c_4N} \leq \frac{1}{L^{\epsilon/2}}$  for sufficiently large L, N and by redefining C.

Setting  $\frac{\epsilon}{2} = \frac{1-\epsilon/\alpha}{2}$ , we get  $\epsilon = \frac{\alpha}{\alpha+1} < \alpha$ , hence satisfying the condition that  $\epsilon \in (0, \alpha)$  in Proposition 5.5. Hence, it suffices that  $\delta_{\text{error}} \ge CL^{\frac{\alpha}{2(\alpha+1)}} \implies T \ge C\left(\frac{1}{\delta_{\text{error}}^{\frac{2(\alpha+1)}{\alpha}}}\right)^{2+\delta}$ .

**Corollary** (5.6). Under Model Type 2, let the conditions of Theorem 4.2 hold.. Let  $N = L^{1+\delta}$  for any  $\delta > 0$ . Then for some C > 0 and for any  $\epsilon \in (0, \alpha)$  if

$$T \ge C \left( \frac{\sigma^2}{\delta_{error} - \left( \frac{1}{L^{\epsilon/2}} + \delta_3 \right)^2} \right)^{\frac{2+\delta}{\delta}}$$

we have  $MSE(\hat{f}_F, f^{LRF}) \leq \delta_{error}$ .

**PROOF.** By Proposition 5.5, for any  $\epsilon \in (0, \alpha)$ ,

$$MSE(\hat{f}_F, f^{Trend}) \leq \frac{1}{N-1} \Big( (\frac{C_*}{L^{\epsilon/2}} + \delta_3)^2 N + 2\sigma^2 \hat{r} \Big).$$

We require the r.h.s of the term above to be less than  $\delta_{\text{error}}$ . Since  $\frac{1}{N}\sigma^2 \hat{r} \leq \frac{1}{V^{\delta}}\sigma^2$ , it suffices that

$$\delta_{\text{error}} \stackrel{(a)}{\geq} C \left( \left( \frac{1}{L^{\epsilon/2}} + \delta_3 \right)^2 + \frac{1}{L^{\delta}} \sigma^2 \right)$$

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$$\implies L^{\delta} \stackrel{(b)}{\geq} C \frac{\sigma^2}{\delta_{\text{error}} - \left(\frac{1}{L^{\epsilon/2}} + \delta_3\right)^2}$$
$$\implies T \ge C \left(\frac{\sigma^2}{\delta_{\text{error}} - \left(\frac{1}{L^{\epsilon/2}} + \delta_3\right)^2}\right)^{\frac{2+\delta}{\delta}}$$

where (a) and (b) follow for appropriately defined C > 0. **Proposition** (5.6). *For*  $t \in \mathbb{Z}$  *with*  $\alpha_b < 1$  *for*  $b \in [B]$ ,

$$f^{Trend}(t) = \sum_{b=1}^{B} \gamma_b t^{\alpha_b} + \sum_{q=1}^{Q} \log(\gamma_q t).$$

admits a representation as in (7).

Proof. The proof is immediate from the definition of  $f^{\text{Trend}}$ .

# D.5 Proof of Proposition 5.7

**Proposition** (5.7). Under Model Type 1,  $f^{\text{Mixture}}$  satisfies Property 4.1 with  $\delta_1 = \sum_{q=1}^{Q} \rho_q \delta_q$  and  $r = \sum_{q=1}^{Q} r_q$ .

PROOF. Let  $M_g^{(1)}$  refer to the underlying mean matrix induced by each  $X_g(t)$ . Similarly, as defined in Property 4.1, let  $M_{g,(r)}$  be the low rank matrix associated with  $M_g^{(1)}$ . We have

$$\boldsymbol{M}^{(1)} = \sum_{g}^{G} \alpha_{g} \boldsymbol{M}_{g}^{(1)}.$$

Let us define  $M_{(r)}$  in the following way,

$$\boldsymbol{M}_{(r)} = \sum_{g}^{G} \alpha_{g} \boldsymbol{M}_{g,(r)}.$$

We then have rank( $M_{(r)}$ )  $\leq \sum_{q}^{G} r_{q}$ , and

$$\begin{split} \left\| \boldsymbol{M}^{(1)} - \boldsymbol{M}_{(r)} \right\|_{\max} &= \left\| \sum_{g}^{G} \alpha_{g} \boldsymbol{M}_{g}^{(1)} - \sum_{g}^{G} \alpha_{g} \boldsymbol{M}_{g,(r)} \right\|_{\max} \\ &\leq \sum_{g}^{G} \alpha_{g} \left\| \boldsymbol{M}_{g}^{(1)} - \boldsymbol{M}_{g,(r)} \right\|_{\max} \\ &= \sum_{g}^{G} \alpha_{g} \delta_{g}. \end{split}$$

This completes the proof.

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