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SELF-AVERAGING IN A CLASS OF GENERALIZED HOPFIELD MODELS[#]

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Abstract: We prove the almost sure convergence to zero of the fluctuations of the free energy, resp. local free energies, in a class of disordered mean-field spin systems that generalize the Hopfield model in two ways: 1) Multi-spin interactions are permitted and 2) the random variables ξ_i^μ describing the 'patterns' can have arbitrary distributions with mean zero and finite $4 + \epsilon$ -th moments. The number of patterns, M , is allowed to be an arbitrary multiple of the systemsize. This generalizes a previous result of Bovier, Gayraud, and Picco [BGP3] for the standard Hopfield model, and improves a result of Feng and Tirozzi [FT] that required M to be a finite constant. Note that the convergence of the mean of the free energy is *not* proven.

Keywords: Hopfield model, neural networks, self-averaging, law of large numbers.

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I. Introduction

Over the last years some interesting properties of ‘self-averaging’ have been observed in two classes of ‘spin-glass’ type models of the mean field type, the Sherrington-Kirkpatrick model [SK] and the Hopfield model [FP, Ho]. The latter, largely used in the context of neural networks, is maybe particularly interesting, as it contains a parameter, the number M of stored patterns as a function of the size of the system, N which can be adjusted to alter the properties of the model. In a paper of Pastur and Shcherbina [PS], it was observed that the variance of the free energy of a finite system of size N in the SK-model tends to zero like $1/N$, implying the convergence to zero in probability of the difference between the free energy and its mean. This result was later generalized to the Hopfield model by Shcherbina and Tirozzi [ST] under the assumption that the ratio $\alpha = M/N$ remains bounded as $N \uparrow \infty$. Further results of this type can be found in an interesting paper by Pastur, Shcherbina and Tirozzi [PST]. Self-averaging properties of the large deviation rate function as a function of the macroscopic parameters of the model (the so called ‘overlap-parameters’, see below) were used crucially in two papers by Bovier, Gayraud and Picco [BGP2, BGP3]. There, sharper than variance estimates were needed, and as a consequence [BGP3] contains in particular a proof of the almost sure convergence to zero of the difference between the free energy and its mean, both in the Hopfield model under the assumption the M/N be bounded, and in the SK-model. Independently, Feng and Tirozzi [FT] have recently proven such a result in a class of generalized Hopfield models, however under the very restrictive assumption that M itself be a bounded function of N . The purpose of the present note is to show that such a condition is in fact unnecessary.

Let us describe the class of models we will consider. We denote by $\mathcal{S}_N = \{-1, 1\}^N$ the space of functions $\sigma : \Lambda \rightarrow \{-1, 1\}$. We call σ a *spin configuration* on Λ . $\mathcal{S} \equiv \{-1, 1\}^{\mathbb{N}}$ denotes the space of half infinite sequences equipped with the product topology of the discrete topology on $\{-1, 1\}$. We denote by \mathcal{B}_Λ and \mathcal{B} the corresponding Borel sigma algebras. We will define a random Hamiltonian function on the spaces \mathcal{S}_Λ as follows. Let $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, IP)$ be an abstract probability space. Let $\xi \equiv \{\xi_i^\mu\}_{i, \mu \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a two-parameter family of independent, random variables on this space. We will specify we assumptions on their distribution later. In the context of neural networks, one assumes usually that $IP(\xi_i^\mu = 1) = IP(\xi_i^\mu = -1) = \frac{1}{2}$, but here we aim for more general distributions. We consider Hamiltonians of the form

$$H_N(\sigma) \equiv -\frac{1}{N^{r-1}} \sum_{\mu=1}^{M(N)} \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_r=1}^N \xi_{i_1}^\mu \dots \xi_{i_r}^\mu \sigma_{i_1} \dots \sigma_{i_r} \quad (1.1)$$

Here $r \geq 2$ is some chosen integer. The case $r = 2$ corresponds to the usual Hopfield model, and models with general r were introduced by Lee et al. [Lee] and Peretto and Niez [PN]. Feng and Tirozzi [FT] also studied these models, but removed the terms in the sum where two or more indices

coincide, which actually amounts to adding a term of the order of a constant to H which does not alter the free energy. One may actually consider more general models in which the Hamiltonian is given as a linear combination of terms of the type (1.1) with different values of r . This only complicates but not really alters the proofs, and our results can easily be extended to this situation.

Let us introduce the so-called ‘overlap-parameters’. This is the M -dimensional vector $m_N(\sigma)$ whose components are given by

$$m_N^\mu(\sigma) \equiv \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \xi_i^\mu \sigma_i \quad (1.2)$$

In terms of these quantities, the Hamiltonian can be written in the very pleasant form

$$H_N(\sigma) = -N \|m_N(\sigma)\|_r^r \quad (1.3)$$

Let us introduce a family $\chi_{\rho,\delta}$ of smooth functions satisfying

- (1) $\chi_{\rho,\delta}(x) \geq 0$,
- (2) $\left| \frac{d}{dx} \chi_{\rho,\delta}(x) \right| \leq \delta^{-1}$,
- (3) $\mathbb{I}_{\{|x| \leq \rho\}} \leq \chi_{\rho,\delta}(x) \leq \mathbb{I}_{\{|x| \leq \rho + \delta\}}$,
- (4) $\ln \chi_{\rho,\delta}(x)$ is a concave function of x (where we use the convention $\ln 0 \equiv -\infty$). (This condition actually only plays a rôle in the case $r = 2$). We define

$$Z_N(\tilde{m}) \equiv Z_{N,\beta,\rho,\delta}(\tilde{m}) \equiv \frac{1}{2^N} \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_N} e^{-\beta H_N(\sigma)} \chi_{\rho,1/\sqrt{N}}(\|m_N(\sigma) - \tilde{m}\|_2^2) \quad (1.4)$$

and

$$f_{N,\rho}(\tilde{m}) \equiv -\beta^{-1} \ln Z_{N,\rho}(\tilde{m}) \quad (1.5)$$

Observe that since we have chosen $\delta = 1/\sqrt{N}$, the function ξ in (1.4) is essentially a characteristic function. Note that the free energy is given in terms of these quantities as

$$F_N(\beta) \equiv \frac{1}{N} f_{N,\infty}(0) \quad (1.6)$$

We will prove

Theorem 1: Assume that $\lim \frac{M(N)}{N} = \alpha < \infty$ and that $\mathbb{E} \xi_i^\mu = 0$, $\mathbb{E} (\xi_i^\mu)^2 = 1$ and $\mathbb{E} (\xi_i^\mu)^{4+\epsilon} < \infty$, for some $\epsilon > 0$. Let ρ and $\|\tilde{m}\|_2$ be bounded.

(i) If $r = 2$, for all $n < \infty$ there exists $\tau_n < \infty$, such that for all $\tau \geq \tau_n$, and for N large enough,

$$\mathbb{P} \left[|f_{N,\rho}(\tilde{m}) - \mathbb{E} f_{N,\rho}(\tilde{m})| \geq \tau (\ln N)^{3/2} N^{\frac{1}{2}} \right] \leq N^{-n} \quad (1.7)$$

(ii) If $r \geq 3$, then there exist constants $C, c, c' > 0$ s.t.

$$\mathbb{P} [|f_{N,\rho}(\tilde{m}) - \mathbb{E}f_{N,\rho}(\tilde{m})| \geq zN] \leq \begin{cases} e^{-cNz^2}, & \text{if } 0 \leq z < C \\ e^{-Nc'z}, & \text{if } z \geq C \end{cases} \quad (1.8)$$

We prove Theorem 1 in the next section. Before doing that, we will show that it implies

Theorem 2: Under the assumptions of Theorem 1,

$$\lim_{N \uparrow \infty} |F_N(\beta) - \mathbb{E}F_N(\beta)| = 0, \quad a.s. \quad (1.9)$$

Remark: Theorem 2 was proven under the additional assumption that $\xi_i^\mu = \pm 1$ for the case $r = 2$ in [BGP3]. In [FT] Theorem 2 was proven under the hypothesis $M(N) \leq M_0 < \infty$ and that $\mathbb{E}(\xi_i^\mu)^4 < \infty$.

Remark: Theorem 2 may in some way be regarded as a *strong law of large numbers*. We are, however, reluctant to employ this term, because the convergence of $\mathbb{E}F_N(\beta)$ to a limit is in general not proven. In the standard Hopfield model this was proven under the assumption $\lim_{N \uparrow \infty} \frac{M(N)}{N} = 0$ by Koch [K] (see also [BG]).

Theorem 2 would be immediate from Theorem 1, if we were allowed to set $\tilde{m} = 0$ and $\rho = \infty$. The latter is not really possible, since the constants τ , resp. c depend on ρ . However, essentially, $F_N(\beta)$ and $Nf_{N,\rho}(0)$ differ only by an asymptotically negligible amount, if ρ is chosen somewhat large. To see this, note first that

$$\|m_N(\sigma)\|_2^2 \leq \|A(N)\| \quad (1.10)$$

where $A(N)$ is the $N \times N$ -matrix whose elements are

$$A_{ij}(N) \equiv \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\mu=1}^M \xi_i^\mu \xi_j^\mu \quad (1.11)$$

The crucial element linking Theorem 2 to Theorem 1 are bounds on the maximal eigenvalues of this matrix. The eigenvalue distribution of this matrix was first analyzed by Marchenko and Pastur [MP]. Girko [Gi] proved that under the hypothesis of Theorem 1, the maximal eigenvalue of $A(N)$ converges to $(1 + \alpha)^2$ in probability. Adding the ideas used by Bai and Yin [BY] one can easily show that this convergence takes also place almost surely, and even in the case where only the 4-th moment of ξ_i^μ is finite. We will need additional estimates on the moments of $\|A(N)\|$ which we are only able to prove if we have a little more than four moments. The relevant estimate is formulated in the following lemma.

Lemma 3: Assume that ξ satisfies the hypothesis stated in Theorem 1. Then, for any $0 < \eta \leq 1/6$ and any $\delta > 0$, if N is sufficiently large,

$$\mathbb{P} [\|A(N)\| \geq (1 + \sqrt{\alpha})^2(1 + z)] \leq N(1 + z)^{-N^{\eta/\eta} \delta^{-1/\eta}} + \frac{c\alpha}{N^{\epsilon/4} \delta^{4+\epsilon}} \quad (1.12)$$

where $\alpha = \frac{M}{N}$, $\gamma = \frac{\epsilon}{4(4+\epsilon)}$.

Remark: The proof of Lemma 3 is in fact an adaptation of the the truncation idea in [BY] and fairly standard estimates on the traces of powers of A , as in [BY] (but see also [BGP1]). We will therefore not give the details of the proof of Lemma 3, but only mention that the second term is a bound on the probability that any of the ξ_i^μ exceeds the value $\sqrt{N}\delta$, while the first is a bound one would obtain if all ξ_i^μ satisfied this condition.

We conclude the introduction by giving the proof of Theorem 2, assuming Theorem 1.

Proof: (of Theorem 2) Let us fix $\rho = 2(1 + \sqrt{\alpha})^2$. Notice first that

$$\ln Z_N \mathbb{I}_{\{\|A(N)\| \leq \rho\}} = \ln Z_{N,\rho}(0) \mathbb{I}_{\{\|A(N)\| \leq \rho\}} \quad (1.13)$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \ln Z_N &= \ln Z_{N,\rho}(0) \mathbb{I}_{\{\|A(N)\| \leq \rho\}} + \ln Z_N \mathbb{I}_{\{\|A(N)\| > \rho\}} \\ &= \ln Z_{N,\rho}(0) + \ln Z_{N,\rho}(0) \mathbb{I}_{\{\|A(N)\| > \rho\}} + \ln Z_N \mathbb{I}_{\{\|A(N)\| > \rho\}} \end{aligned} \quad (1.14)$$

By Theorem 1 and the first Borel-Cantelli lemma it follows that

$$\lim_{N \uparrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} |\ln Z_{N,\rho}(0) - \mathbb{E} \ln Z_{N,\rho}(0)| = 0, \quad a.s. \quad (1.15)$$

Thus Theorem 2 will be proven if we can show that $(\ln Z_{N,\rho}(0) + \ln Z_N) \mathbb{I}_{\{\|A(N)\| > \rho\}} \downarrow 0$ both almost surely and in mean. The almost sure convergence follows easily, since

$$\mathbb{P} [(\ln Z_{N,\rho}(0) + \ln Z_N) \mathbb{I}_{\{\|A(N)\| > \rho\}} \neq 0 \text{ i.o.}] \leq \mathbb{P} [\|A(N)\| > \rho \text{ i.o.}] = 0 \quad (1.16)$$

where the last equality follows from applying Lemma 3.1 from Bai and Yin [BY]. Finally, to prove convergence of the mean, we use that first of all

$$\begin{aligned} |H_N(\sigma)| &\leq N \|m_N(\sigma)\|_2^2 \|m_N(\sigma)\|_\infty^{r-2} \\ &\leq N \|m_N(\sigma)\|_2^r \\ &\leq N \|A(N)\|^{r/2} \end{aligned} \quad (1.17)$$

and therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} |\ln Z_{N,\rho}(0) + \ln Z_N| \mathbb{I}_{\{\|A(N)\| > \rho\}} &\leq 2 \ln Z_N \mathbb{I}_{\{\|A(N)\| > \rho\}} \\ &\leq 2N\beta \|A(N)\|^{r/2} \mathbb{I}_{\{\|A(N)\| > \rho\}} \end{aligned} \quad (1.18)$$

But

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \|A(N)\|^x \mathbb{I}_{\{\|A(N)\| > \rho\}} &= \rho^x \mathbb{P} [\|A(N)\| > \rho] + \int_\rho^\infty x y^{x-1} \mathbb{P} [\|A(N)\| > y] dy \\ &\leq 2^x (1 + \sqrt{\alpha})^{2x} \left(N 2^{-N^{\gamma/\epsilon}} + \frac{c\alpha}{N^{\epsilon/4}} \right) \\ &\quad + 2^x (1 + \sqrt{\alpha})^{2x} \int_1^\infty x (1+y)^{x-1} \left(N e^{-yN^{\gamma/\eta(\epsilon)}} y^{-\epsilon/(4\eta(\epsilon))} + \frac{c\alpha}{N^{\epsilon/4} y^{x+\epsilon/4}} \right) dy \end{aligned} \quad (1.19)$$

To obtain the last expression we used Lemma 3 and made the choice $\delta = \delta(y, x) = y^{x/4}$ and $\eta(x) = \max(6, x/8)$. Obviously, the right hand side of (1.19) tends to zero as $N \uparrow \infty$, as desired. This concludes the proof of Theorem 2, assuming Theorem 1. \diamond

Remark: Note that the estimate in (1.19) implies in particular that

$$\mathbb{E}\|A(N)\| \leq C(1 + \sqrt{\alpha})^2 \quad (1.20)$$

for some constant depending only on ϵ . This is relevant for proving Theorem 1 in the case $r = 2$ (see [BGP3]).

2. Proof of Theorem 1

The basic idea of the proof is the same as in [BGP3] where the case $r = 2$ has been considered. The case $r \geq 3$ turns out to be considerably simpler, and we will only present this case here. Since the only properties of the random variables ξ_i^μ that are used in [BGP3] are estimates on the expectations of the norms of matrices of the type of $A(N)$, the generalization to random variables satisfying only the hypothesis of Theorem 1 is straightforward from the results presented in Section 1. We thus consider part (i) of Theorem 1 as proven.

The fact that in the case $r \geq 3$ sharper estimates can be obtained may justify the presentation of the details of the proof in that case. We fix ρ and write for simplicity

$$f_N(m) \equiv f_{N,\rho}(m) \quad (2.1)$$

We now introduce the decreasing sequence of sigma-algebras \mathcal{F}_k that are generated by the random variables $\{\xi_i^\mu\}_{i \geq k}^{\mu \in \mathbb{N}}$ and the corresponding martingale difference sequence (first introduced by Yurinskii [Yu])

$$\tilde{f}_N^{(k)}(\tilde{m}) \equiv \mathbb{E}[f_N(\tilde{m})|\mathcal{F}_k] - \mathbb{E}[f_N(\tilde{m})|\mathcal{F}_{k+1}] \quad (2.2)$$

Notice that we have the identity

$$f_N(\tilde{m}) - \mathbb{E}f_N(\tilde{m}) \equiv \sum_{k=1}^N \tilde{f}_N^{(k)}(\tilde{m}) \quad (2.3)$$

To get the sharpest possible estimates, we want to use an exponential inequality. To this end we observe that [BGP3]

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P} \left[\left| \sum_{k=1}^N \tilde{f}_N^{(k)}(\tilde{m}) \right| \geq Nz \right] &\leq 2 \inf_{t \in \mathbb{R}} e^{-|t|Nz} \mathbb{E} \exp \left\{ t \sum_{k=1}^N \tilde{f}_N^{(k)}(\tilde{m}) \right\} \\ &= 2 \inf_{t \in \mathbb{R}} e^{-|t|Nz} \mathbb{E} \left[\mathbb{E} \left[\dots \mathbb{E} \left[e^{t\tilde{f}_N^{(1)}(\tilde{m})} | \mathcal{F}_2 \right] e^{t\tilde{f}_N^{(2)}(\tilde{m})} | \mathcal{F}_3 \right] \dots e^{t\tilde{f}_N^{(N)}(\tilde{m})} | \mathcal{F}_{N+1} \right] \right] \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

To make use of this inequality, we need bounds on the conditional Laplace transforms; namely, if we can show that, for some function $\mathcal{L}^{(k)}(t)$, $\ln \mathbb{E} \left[e^{t \tilde{f}_N^{(k)}(\tilde{m})} | \mathcal{F}_{k+1} \right] \leq \mathcal{L}^{(k)}(t)$, uniformly in \mathcal{F}_{k+1} , then we obtain that

$$\mathbb{P} \left[\left| \sum_{k=1}^N \tilde{f}_N^{(k)}(\tilde{m}) \right| \geq Nz \right] \leq 2 \inf_{t \in \mathbb{R}} e^{-|t|Nz + \sum_{k=1}^N \mathcal{L}^{(k)}(t)} \quad (2.5)$$

Note that this construction, so far, is completely model independent. In the estimation of the conditional Laplace transforms, a conventional trick [PS] is to introduce a continuous family of Hamiltonians, $\tilde{H}_N^{(k)}(\sigma, u)$, that are equal to the original one for $u = 1$ and are independent of ξ_k for $u = 0$. We will do this in a slightly different form than in [ST, BGP2, BGP3, FT]. We first introduce the $M(N)$ -dimensional vectors

$$m_N^{(k)}(\sigma, u) \equiv \frac{1}{N} \left(\sum_{i \neq k} \xi_i \sigma_i + u \xi_k \sigma_k \right) \quad (2.6)$$

and then define

$$\tilde{H}_N^{(k)}(\sigma, u) = -N \left\| m_N^{(k)}(\sigma, u) \right\|_r^r \quad (2.7)$$

Note that this procedure can of course be used in all cases where the Hamiltonian is a function of the macroscopic order parameters. Naturally, we set

$$Z_N^{(k)}(\tilde{m}, u) \equiv \frac{1}{2^N} \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{S}_N} e^{-\beta \tilde{H}_N^{(k)}(\sigma, u)} \chi_{\delta, \rho} \left(\|m_N^{(k)}(\sigma, u) - \tilde{m}\|_2^2 \right) \quad (2.8)$$

and finally

$$f_N^{(k)}(\tilde{m}, u) = -\beta^{-1} \left(\ln Z_N^{(k)}(\tilde{m}, u) - \ln Z_N^{(k)}(\tilde{m}, 0) \right) \quad (2.9)$$

Since for the remainder of the proof, \tilde{m} as well as N will be fixed values, to simplify our notations we will write $f_k(u) \equiv f_N^{(k)}(\tilde{m}, u)$. Notice that

$$\tilde{f}_N^{(k)}(\tilde{m}) = \mathbb{E} [f_k(1) | \mathcal{F}_k] - \mathbb{E} [f_k(1) | \mathcal{F}_{k+1}] \quad (2.10)$$

and that, since

$$\mathbb{E} [f_k(0) | \mathcal{F}_k] - \mathbb{E} [f_k(0) | \mathcal{F}_{k+1}] = 0 \quad (2.11)$$

this implies

$$\tilde{f}_N^{(k)}(\tilde{m}) = \int_0^1 du \left(\mathbb{E} [f_k'(u) | \mathcal{F}_k] - \mathbb{E} [f_k'(u) | \mathcal{F}_{k+1}] \right) \quad (2.12)$$

To bound the Laplace transform, we use that, for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$e^x \leq 1 + x + \frac{1}{2} x^2 e^{|x|} \quad (2.13)$$

so that

$$\mathbb{E} \left[e^{t \tilde{f}_N^{(k)}(\tilde{m})} | \mathcal{F}_{k+1} \right] \leq 1 + \frac{1}{2} t^2 \mathbb{E} \left[\left(\tilde{f}_N^{(k)}(\tilde{m}) \right)^2 e^{t \tilde{f}_N^{(k)}(\tilde{m})} | \mathcal{F}_{k+1} \right] \quad (2.14)$$

Our strategy in [BGP3] was to use a rather *poor* uniform bound on $\tilde{f}_N^{(k)}(\tilde{m})$ in the exponent but to prove a better estimate on the remaining conditioned expectation of the square. Here it will turn out that the uniform bound is already sufficiently good to be used throughout in (2.14).

Namely

$$f'_k(u) = \mathcal{E}_{k,u} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial u} H_N^{(k)}(\sigma, u) + \frac{2}{\beta N} \frac{\chi'_{\rho,\delta}(\|m_N^{(k)}(\sigma, u) - \tilde{m}\|_2^2)}{\chi_{\rho,\delta}(\|m_N^{(k)}(\sigma, u) - \tilde{m}\|_2^2)} \sum_{\mu} \left(m_N^{(k),\mu}(\sigma, u) - \tilde{m}^{\mu} \right) \xi_k^{\mu} \sigma_k \right) \quad (2.15)$$

where $\mathcal{E}_{k,u}$ denotes the expectation w.r.t. the probability measure

$$\frac{1}{Z_N^{(k)}(\tilde{m}, u)} \chi_{\rho,\delta}(\|m_N^{(k)}(\sigma, u) - \tilde{m}\|_2^2) e^{-\beta \tilde{H}_N^{(k)}(\sigma, u)} d\sigma \quad (2.16)$$

Obviously,

$$|f'_k(u)| \leq \mathcal{E}_{k,u} \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial u} H_N^{(k)}(\sigma, u) \right| + \frac{2}{\beta \sqrt{N}} \mathcal{E}_{k,u} \left[\left| \sum_{\mu} \left(m_N^{\mu}(\sigma, u) - \tilde{m}^{\mu} \right) \xi_k^{\mu} \sigma_k \right| \right] \quad (2.17)$$

The second term in (2.17) is easy:

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{2}{\beta \sqrt{N}} \mathcal{E}_{k,u} \left[\left| \sum_{\mu} \left(m_N^{\mu}(\sigma, u) - \tilde{m}^{\mu} \right) \xi_k^{\mu} \sigma_k \right| \right] \\ & \leq \frac{2}{\beta \sqrt{N}} \mathcal{E}_{k,u} \left[\sum_{\mu} |m_N^{\mu}(\sigma, u) - \tilde{m}^{\mu}| \right] \\ & = \frac{2}{\beta \sqrt{N}} \mathcal{E}_{k,u} \|m_N(\sigma, u) - \tilde{m}\|_1 \leq \frac{2\sqrt{M}}{\beta \sqrt{N}} \mathcal{E}_{k,u} \|m_N(\sigma, u) - \tilde{m}\|_2 \\ & \leq \frac{2\sqrt{M}}{\beta \sqrt{N}} \sqrt{\rho + N^{-1/2}} \end{aligned} \quad (2.18)$$

so under our hypothesis it is bounded by a constant. What remains is to bound the expectation of the modulus of $\frac{\partial}{\partial u} H_N^{(k)}(\sigma, u)$. This is the only estimate that is model-dependent. Computing the derivative we get

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial u} H_N^{(k)}(\sigma, u) \right| &= \left| \sum_{\mu=1}^{M(N)} r \xi_k^{\mu} \sigma_k \left[m_N^{(k),\mu}(\sigma, u) \right]^{r-1} \right| \\ &\leq r \left| \sum_{\mu=1}^{M(N)} \xi_k^{\mu} \sigma_k \left[m_N^{(k),\mu}(\sigma, u) \right]^{r-1} \right| \\ &\leq r \left\| m_N^{(k)}(\sigma, u) \right\|_{\infty}^{r-3} \sum_{\mu=1}^{M(N)} \left[m_N^{(k),\mu}(\sigma, u) \right]^2 \\ &\leq r \left\| m_N^{(k)}(\sigma, u) \right\|_{\infty}^{r-3} \left\| m_N^{(k)}(\sigma, u) \right\|_2^2 \end{aligned} \quad (2.19)$$

In the usual case, where $|\xi_i^\mu| \leq 1$, we can bound the sup-norms appearing in (2.19) by $\|m_N^{(k)}(\sigma, u)\|_\infty \leq 1$; in the case of unbounded ξ , we can still use that $\|m_N^{(k)}(\sigma, u)\|_\infty \leq \|m_N^{(k)}(\sigma, u)\|_2$. (Note that to get (2.19) we need that $r \geq 3$. In the case $r = 2$, we could only get a bound in terms of the L^1 -norm of $m_N^{(k)}(\sigma, u)$, which is typically a factor of \sqrt{M} larger than the L^2 -norm). Hence we get

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E}_{k,u} \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial u} H_N^{(k)}(\sigma, u) \right| &\leq r \mathcal{E}_{k,u} \|m_N^{(k)}(\sigma, u)\|_2^2 \\ &\leq r \left(\|\tilde{m}\|_2 + \sqrt{\rho + N^{-1/2}} \right)^2 \end{aligned} \quad (2.20)$$

if $|\xi_i^\mu| \leq 1$, and

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E}_{k,u} \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial u} H_N^{(k)}(\sigma, u) \right| &\leq r \mathcal{E}_{k,u} \|m_N^{(k)}(\sigma, u)\|_2^{r-1} \\ &\leq r \left(\|\tilde{m}\|_2 + \sqrt{\rho + N^{-1/2}} \right)^{r-1} \end{aligned} \quad (2.21)$$

in general. In both bounds we used the fact that the measure $\mathcal{E}_{k,u}$ has support on those σ for which χ does not vanish. Putting (2.21) and (2.18) together, we see that indeed

$$\left| \tilde{f}_N^{(k)}(\tilde{m}) \right| \leq C \quad (2.22)$$

where $C \equiv C(\tilde{m}, \rho, \frac{M}{N})$ is same finite constant depending on \tilde{m} , ρ and $\frac{M}{N}$. Using this bound in (2.14) we see that

$$\mathcal{L}^{(k)}(t) \leq \frac{C^2}{2} t^2 e^{C|t|} \quad (2.23)$$

To obtain (1.8), we insert this bound into (2.5) and bound the infimum over t by its value for $t = \frac{z}{C^2}$, if $z < \ln 2C$, and by its value for $t = C^{-1}$, if $z \geq C \ln 2$. This concludes the proof of Theorem 1. \diamond

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